

PRELIMINARY DATA ON THE CORAL DISTRIBUTION IN THE VISÉAN FROM ADAROUCHE AREA, CENTRAL MESSETE (MOROCCO)

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The Early Carboniferous sequences of the Adarouch area (NE Central Morocco) crop out in a broad area at South from the city of El-Hajeb. They are subdivided into four lithostratigraphic units: the Oued Amhars Formation, the Tizra Formation, the Mouarhaz Formation and the Akerchi Formation, comprising Upper Viséan to Serpukhovian sediments. Rugose corals are present along most succession, but they are locally abundant only in the Tizra and Akerchi Formations. Additionally, a small locality located at East from the main outcrops called Id Marrach yielded very abundant corals.

The Tizra Formation is subdivided into three members (TZ1-3). Only the two upper members yielded abundant corals. The upper beds of TZ2 yielded an assemblage composed of *Lithostrotion*, *Siphonodendron* and *Palaeosmia*. The total assemblage could be late Asbian in age. Two different assemblages were recorded in the type section of TZ3. The lowest beds yielded abundant specimens of *Lithostrotion*, *Siphonodendron*, *Siphonophyllia* and *Palaeosmia* together with syringoporoids and michelinids. Upper beds in the same section provided *Lithostrotion*, *Dibunophyllum*, *Arachnolasma*, *Koninckophyllum*, *Haplolasma*, *Clisiophyllum* and *Diphyphyllum*. A section measured southward from the previously mentioned yielded two assemblages. The lower assemblage is located in an intermediate position between the two cited in the type section and yielded *Palastraea*, *Siphonophyllia*, undissepimented rugose corals and michelinids indicating a Brigantian age. The upper assemblage is approximately located at the same level that the upper assemblage of the type section and yielded *Palastraea*, *Siphonophyllia*, *Diphyphyllum*, *Siphonodendron* and a colonial new genus.

Corals are very abundant in the lower beds of the Akerchi Formation. The assemblage is composed of *Siphonodendron*, *Diphyphyllum*, *Lithostrotion*, *Palastraea*, *Palaosmia*, *Clisiophyllum*, *Dibunophyllum*, *Axophyllum*, *Arachnolasma* and *Koninckophyllum*. This assemblage proves that the lower beds from the Akerchi Formation are Brigantian, as stated by Berkli and Vachard (2001).

Three main sequences have been identified in Id Marrach, all of them containing abundant corals. The assemblages of these sequences show small differences at the species level, but they are similar at the generic level; they are mainly composed of *Lithostrotion*, *Siphonodendron*, *Diphyphyllum*, *Palastraea*, *Palaeosmia*, *Dibunophyllum*, *Arachnolasma*, *Clisiophyllum*, *Koninckophyllum*, *Aulophyllum*, *Auloclisia*, *Siphonophyllia*, *Axophyllum* and common syringoporoids. The presence of *Palastraea regia* proves that Id Marrach outcrop belongs to the Brigantian.

Reference

Berkli, M & Vachard, D. (2001). New biostratigraphical data from the early Carboniferous sequences of the Adarouch area (NE Central Morocco). *Newsletter of Stratigraphy* 39(1): 33-54.