Late Valanginian Foraminifera and Ammonite from the Taraises Formation of the Cuencamé Region, Durango, NE Mexico

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In the central-east part of the Durango State a section was measured 6.28 m thick from the base of the upper member of the Taraises Formation. This sequence consists of grey limestone, shale and white marl that provides a rich paleontological material which allow to study of the ammonite and the microfossils (foraminifera) associated to them.

The examined section contains several species of ammonite as Oosterella begastrensis, O. gaudryi, O. cultrata, O. cultrataeformis, Ceratotuberculus linguituberculatus, Rodighieroites belimelensis, Olcostephanus (Olcostephanus) balestrai, O. (Jeannoticeras) colorinensis, Karakaschiceras sp. and Bochianites spp. that are regarded as the Late Valanginian (Peregrinus Zone) of the standard biozonal scheme for the Mediterranean Faunal Province.

With respect of the planktic foraminifera, they display small size and low diversity. Hedbergella sigali, Caucasella hoterivica, Globigerinelloides sp and Gorbachikella sp. are identified.

On the basis of the planktic foraminiferal assemblage is defined the Hedbergella sigali-Hedbergella intermedia Zone of the Late Valanginian.

The occurrence of the hedbergellids suggested an epipelagic setting of an open-shelf water mass. Also the Olcostephaniids and the Neocomitids could have lived in the upper part of the water column.

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