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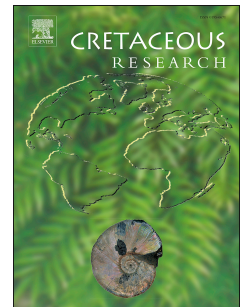
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Coniacian-Santonian Planktic Stratigraphy in central Tunisia 1**Sherif Farouk*, Mahmoud Faris**, Zaineb Elamri***** 2

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Abstract 7

In this study, we describe a new stratigraphy of three exposed sections in central Tunisia, integrating Coniacian and Santonian planktic foraminifera and calcareous nannoplankton, supported by ammonite and inoceramid bioevents. In the three sections, the Coniacian/Santonian (C/S) boundary lies slightly above the lowest occurrence (LO) of the calcareous nannofossil *Lucianorhabdus cayeuxii*, which marks nannofossil Zone CC16 and matches well with the LO of the planktic foraminifera *Dicarinella asymetrica*. It also lies ~4 to 7 m below the LO of the inoceramid *Platyceramus cycloides* and the ammonite *Texanites (Texanites)* sp. Comparing these marker C/S bioevents with the global stratotype section, the Olazagutia section (Spain) shows that the stratigraphic range of the bioevents are variable. This observation must be taken into consideration when making regional chronostratigraphic correlations.

Keywords: Coniacian-Santonian, calcareous nannofossils, planktic foraminifera, bioevents, Tunisia.

1. Introduction

In northern Tunisia, the Upper Cretaceous successions are characterized by thick and continuous hemipelagic outcrops that are rich in macro-, micro- and nannofossils. Several authors have also discussed the planktic foraminiferal biostratigraphy across

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