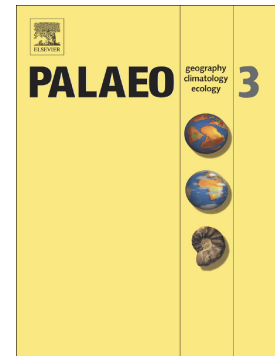


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A diverse deep-sea trace fossil assemblage from the Adriatic Flysch Formation (middle Eocene – middle Miocene), Montenegro (central Mediterranean)

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Abstract

Our study of ichnofossils in the Adriatic Flysch suggests that mid-fan environments, with 30 ichnospecies and 13 architectural designs, provided most productive and best preservation conditions in the fine-grained turbidite system of the Dinarides-Albanides-Hellenides deep foreland basin. The Adriatic Flysch Formation at its type section in Crnjak Cove (Montenegro) represents a 300-m-thick turbidite succession deposited from the middle Eocene to the middle Miocene. The flysch is exposed in an asymmetrical syncline in a 750-m-long outcrop. The conglomerates, sandstones, and mudstones are arranged in seven distinct turbidite facies, which represent three superimposed submarine fans. The inner-, mid-, and outer-fan facies of the submarine fans contain sixteen ichnogenera and thirty three ichnospecies, which exhibit thirteen architectural designs. The inner fan conglomerates and coarse-grained sandstones contain a low diversity (*Ophiomorpha rudis*, *Ophiomorpha annulata*, and *Halopoa imbricata*), a low disparity (two architectural designs), and a low-density post-depositional trace fossil assemblages of the *Ophiomorpha rudis* ichnosubfacies of the *Nereites* ichnofacies. The mid-fan greywackes contain very diverse pre-depositional trace fossils (*Belorhapha zickzack*, *?Cosmorhapha* isp., *Desmograpton dertonensis*, *Gordia* isp., *Helminthopsis* isp., *Helminthorhapha flexuosa*, *?Megagrapton* isp., *Paleodictyon arvense*, *Paleodictyon hexagonum*,
Keywords: Eocene, Graphoglyptids, *Paleodictyon*, *Ophiomorpha*, Dinarides, Mediterranean

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