

Accepted Manuscript

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zonal schemes and correlation

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PII: S1464-343X(16)30363-6

DOI: [10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2016.11.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2016.11.014)

Reference: AES 2727

To appear in: *Journal of African Earth Sciences*

Received Date: 6 June 2015

Revised Date: 25 October 2016

Accepted Date: 9 November 2016

Please cite this article as: Maalaoui, K., Zargouni, F., Biostratigraphical study around the Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary in Central Tunisia zonal schemes and correlation, *Journal of African Earth Sciences* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2016.11.014.

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1 **Biostratigraphical study around the Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary in**
2 **Central Tunisia**
3 **Zonal schemes and correlation**
4

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12 **ABSTRACT**

13 The fossil data from Central Tunisia has led to the recognition of ten calpionellid and
14 ammonite zones and subzones in the Upper Tithonian-Middle Berriasian interval. The results
15 of this revision are congruent with local interval zones and they were tested with the
16 Mediterranean zonal schemes.

17 Six subzones of calpionellids constitute the basis of our investigations in this study. We
18 recognized the A2+A3, B1, B2, B3, C1 and C2 Subzones. These subzones are calibrated with
19 the ammonite biozones: *Berriasella jacobii* and *Subthurmannia occitanica* Zones. Integration
20 of the biostratigraphy of ammonites and calpionellids has allowed us to define the J/K
21 boundary interval and the Middle/Upper Berriasian boundary. Biostratigraphic data provided
22 by the two sections in Central Tunisia allowed the revision of the biostratigraphic attribution
23 of Sidi Kralif Formation. These faunas suggest a late Tithonian to mid Berriasian age for the
24 Jebel Rheouis section, and early Berriasian to mid Berriasian age for Jebel Meloussi section ;
25 correlating with their equivalents in other regions of the Tethyan Realm.

26
27 **Keywords:** Ammonites, Calpionellids, Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary, Biozones, Sidi Kralif
28 Formation. Central Tunisia.

29
30 **1. Introduction**

31 The Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary presents always problems in spite of many international
32 symposia held in this framework, it is the only Phanerozoic system boundary that is not yet
33 fixed by GSSP (e.g. Remane, 1991; Zakharov et al., 1996; Wimbledon, 2008; Pessagno et al.,
34 2009; Wimbledon et al., 2011; Wimbledon, 2014). Through its location in western Tethys and
35 Southern Mediterranean, Tunisia may be considered as one of the test sites in this research.
36 Many good successions across the Tithonian/Berriasian boundary interval are well-exposed in

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