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***Cymopolia eochoristosporica* Elliott, 1968 (green alga, Dasycladale) from the upper Maastrichtian of the Tarbur Formation (SW Iran) and its calcification pattern**

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**Abstract**

The poorly known dasycladalean alga *Cymopolia eochoristosporica* Elliott, 1968 is reported for the first time from the upper part of the Tarbur Formation (Zagros Zone, SW Iran) assigned to a late Maastrichtian age. It was reported so far from the Maastrichtian Aruma Formation of Saudi Arabia (type-locality), the Maastrichtian Simsim Formation of Oman, and the Maastrichtian (e.g., Zongshan Formation) of Tibet. All these Maastrichtian occurrences belong to the southern Tethyan margin, with special concentration within the Arabian plate, evidencing its palaeobiogeographic as well as biostratigraphic importance. *C. eochoristosporica* occurs in algal-foraminiferan wackestones together with other dasycladaleans (e.g., *Salpingoporella pasmanica* Radoičić) and halimedaceans, benthic foraminifera (*Broeckina*, *Tarburina*, *Laffiteina*, *Gyroconulina*, *Loftusia*, *Omphalocyclus*), rudists, gastropods, as well as corals. As a peculiarity, the calcification of the alga is made up of light-brownish calcite, presumably replacement of the original aragonitic composition. The dasyclad-bearing deposits are assigned to an internal infralittoral, possibly polyhaline depositional setting.

**Keywords:** Calcareous Algae, Dasycladales, Systematics, Palaeobiogeography, Micropalaeontology

**Introduction**

The Upper Cretaceous Tarbur Formation, named after the village of Tarbur (Fars Province), and cropping out in the SW Zagros basin, represents a predominantly carbonate lithostratigraphic unit that contains rich microfauna and microflora associated with rudists

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