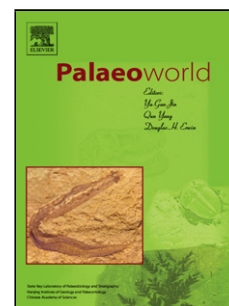


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<AT>Turonian–Santonian radiolarians and planktonic foraminifers of the Upper Cretaceous sequences between Trabzon and Giresun areas in the Eastern Pontides, NE Turkey

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<ABS-HEAD>Abstract

<ABS-P>In the "Eastern Pontides" (NE Turkey), the intense volcanic activity accompanying carbonate-siliceous sedimentation during the Late Cretaceous period ensured the occurrence of thick volcano-sedimentary sequences. Seventy-one radiolarian species belonging to 26 genera were identified from five stratigraphic sections of the Upper Cretaceous sequences between Trabzon and Giresun areas in NE Turkey. These species were obtained from the lower Turonian–lower Coniacian strata of the Çeşmeler Formation, the Coniacian–lower Santonian strata of the Elmalı Dere Formation and the upper Santonian strata of the Çağlayan Formation. Coniacian–Campanian fauna, consisting of planktonic foraminifera *Hedbergella*, *Marginotruncana*, *Globotruncana*, *Whiteinella* and biserial heterohelids as well as radiolarians, was recovered from the red pelagic limestones of the Elmalı Dere Formation known as marker horizon.

<KWD>Keywords: Radiolarians; Planktonic foraminifera; Turonian–Coniacian–Santonian; Biostratigraphy; Trabzon; Giresun

<H1>1. Introduction

The "Eastern Pontides", one of the four major tectonic units in Turkey, has been subdivided into different zones based on its lithological and tectonical features (Ketin, 1966; Özsayar et al., 1981; Şengör and Yılmaz, 1981; Bektaş et al., 1995, 1999; Eyüboğlu, 2010; Akbayram et al., 2016). Özsayar et al. (1981) divided the Eastern Pontides into the northern and southern zones. Whereas the northern zone consists of Mesozoic and Cenozoic volcanic sequences, the southern zone includes sedimentary rocks. Besides, Bektaş et al. (1995) have defined a new zone: the axis zone consisting of the mafic-ultramafic rocks. In the northern zone of the "Eastern Pontides", the Late Cretaceous was an interval of intense volcanic activity. During this interval, the region was an island arc setting, and there were sedimentary rocks towards east-west direction, which emerged as a result of land loss throughout the severe submarine volcanism and the pause of it (Bektaş et al., 1995; Eyüboğlu, 2010).

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