The Biostratigraphy of the Saqiye Group in the Til 1 Borehole

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with 3 plates, 3 figures and 1 table

Abstract. A detailed biostratigraphic zonation of the Saqiye Group, Late Eocene to Pleistocene, based mainly on planktonic foraminifera, is proposed for the Til 1 borehole offshore of Gaza.

Four hiatuses were found:

a. between the layers of Middle Eocene and Middle Oligocene ages;
b. between the Globigerinoides primordius Zone of earliest Miocene and the Globigerinatella insueta Zone of late Early Miocene age;
c. between the Middle Miocene Unnamed Interval and the Globorotalia mayeri Zone;
d. at the end of the Miocene age, between the Cyprideis Interval and the Globorotalia margaritae Zone.

Introduction

The aim of the present work is to check offshore the biostratigraphic zonation of the Saqiye Group, Late Eocene to Pleistocene, which was established in the Israeli coastal plain.

The Til 1 borehole is located about 30 km offshore of Gaza, coord. E 065461, N 099395, Israeli grid (Fig. 1). It was chosen because of the relatively abundant samples taken at regular intervals. All the samples are drill-cuttings.

The biozonation introduced in this work is based on the distribution of planktonic foraminifera, following the biozonation of the Ashqelon 2 borehole (Martinotti, 1981 a, Fig. 3). However, two modifications are proposed here:

a. The entire Globorotalia kugleri Zone is included within the Oligocene, following Bolfi & Saunders (1985, Figs. 6, 7).

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