
Foreword

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This volume “**New advances in Eocene biostratigraphy (IGCP Project 393). A contribution from the Southeastern Pyrenean Foreland Basin**”, which is published as a tribute to Dr Salvador Reguant, contains results of the 2nd Meeting of the IGCP 393 “**Neritic events at the Middle-Upper Eocene Boundary**” held in Vic (Barcelona, Spain) in September of 1997.

The 2nd Meeting of the IGCP 393 was held in the *Universitat de Vic*. The decision to meet in Vic was determined mainly by the facilities offered by this new university with which Dr Salvador Reguant is associated. The university’s publishing house, EUMO, undertook the publication of the papers that the Spanish Working Group presented during the symposium, and has facilitated the publication of this volume of papers written by various colleagues of Dr Salvador Reguant and coordinated by Dr Consol Blanch Colet (*Universitat de Vic*). We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the *Departament de Cultura* of the Vic City Council for the help given in organising the social activities that took place alongside the scientific aspects of the meeting. We would also like to thank the *Universitat de Barcelona*, the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* and the *Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya (Servei Geològic de Catalunya)* for their support.

The decision to hold the Meeting in Vic was also influenced by two other factors. The location of the city allowed easy access to the outcrops visited during the meeting. In addition, the Doctoral Thesis of Dr Salvador Reguant dealt precisely with the marine sediments of the Vic area.

This volume is composed of two parts. The first part, “**Professor Salvador Reguant: Man and Scientist**”, contains a series of articles written by Drs Jaume Truyols i Santonja, Carmina Virgili i Rodón, Oriol Riba i Arderiu, Marcos A. Lamolda, Giampietro Braga and Amos Salvador, which deal with different aspects of the academic and scientific career of Dr Salvador Reguant and its historical context.

The second part, **Contributions to the Middle Eocene Biostratigraphy**, includes the scientific contribu-

tions made by the Spanish Working Group of the IGCP Project 393 in his 2nd International Meeting. The paper, **Marine and Transitional Middle/Upper Eocene Units of the Southeastern Pyrenean Foreland Basin (NE Spain)** is presented with the single common objective of presenting the sedimentary and biostratigraphic characteristics of the marine units of the Middle Eocene (Lutetian and Bartonian) in the southeastern sector of the Ebro Foreland Basin. In this paper the introductory parts aim to introduce to the reader the objectives of IGCP 393 and the geological setting of the studied area. The Marine Lutetian Cycles, describes the lithological and sedimentary characteristics of the four transgressive-regressive cycles in the Lutetian units, and the differences to be found between these four sequences in two distinct sectors, Empordà and Vic. The Marine Bartonian Cycles in the Igualada Area, describes the lithological and sedimentary characteristics of the two transgressive-regressive cycles in the Bartonian of the Igualada area. Concluding Remarks. Chronostratigraphical Framework, presents the correlation between the Middle Eocene transgressive-regressive cycles in this sector of the Ebro Foreland Basin and the biozones of larger foraminifers. This correlation was plotted on the basis of biostratigraphic data on larger foraminifers, together with data on planktic foraminifers and, in some cases, magnetostratigraphic information. These “Concluding Remarks. Chronostratigraphical Framework”, are the conclusions of the Spanish Working Group of IGCP Project 393, and the results allowed the elaboration of the Shallow Benthic Zones (SBZ) of larger foraminifers for the Middle Eocene (Lutetian and Bartonian). This new biozoning of larger foraminifers was published following the 2nd Meeting of IGCP Project 393, and covers the Paleocene-Eocene interval.

The second paper in this part “**An Inventory of the Marine and Transitional Middle/Upper Eocene Deposits of the Southeastern Pyrenean Foreland Basin (NE Spain)**”, presents an extensive listing and description of the outcrops and stratigraphic sections of the Lutetian and Bartonian in the eastern sector of the Ebro Foreland Basin. This paper is intended as an inventory for those who wish to visit the localities and collect material that is representative of the sedimentary characteristics of the

litho- and biofacies of the Lutetian and Bartonian transgressive-regressive cycles. Much of the lithological, sedimentary and biostratigraphical information presented here is supplementary to the litho- and biostratigraphic data presented in the second part of this volume.

These papers enabled us to characterise biostratigraphically the marine deposits of the Lutetian-Bartonian (Middle Eocene) in the Pyrenean Basin, on the basis of larger foraminifers. These results were used to define the new biozones SBZ 13 to SBZ 18 within the larger foraminifers general biozonation in the Tethyan realm (Shallow Benthic Zones, Appendix I).

We would like to thank the Editorial Board of *Geologica Acta* for publishing this volume. We would also like to put on record our gratitude to Dr L. Cabrera, editor of the journal, who guided and aided us throughout the preparation. We hope this volume will be of use to other researchers in the study of the Lutetian and Bartonian marine deposits of the Ebro Foreland Basin.

The Editors