ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *NEOGLOBOQUADRINA ACOSTAEINSIS* IN UPPER SERRAVALLIAN SEDIMENTS OF SICILY

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*Riassunto.* Alcuni esemplari di *Neogloboquadrina acostaensis* sono stati rinvenuti in sedimenti tardo-serravalliani di una carota prelevata nell’offshore della Sicilia meridionale. Questo ritrovamento potrebbe rimettere in discussione la data di comparsa di tale taxon.

*Summary.* *Neogloboquadrina acostaensis,* typical Tortonian taxon, was found in Upper Serravallian sediments in a core collected in the southern offshore of Sicily. Whether the FAD of this taxon is to be considered older is here questioned.


Among these forms, several typical *Neogloboquadrina acostaensis* specimens were found. They show low trochospire, 5–5 1/2, to 6 chambers in the last whorls, ovate to subspherical in shape, that gradually increase in size; last chamber usually rather reduced in size, sometimes slightly displaced towards

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the umbilicus; equatorial outline subcircular or grossly inscribable within a polygon, axial outline parallel—sides, both with rounded periphery; umbilicus narrow and rather deep; sutures straight or slightly curved on spiral side, radial on umbilical side; aperture a low slit, that stretches from the umbilicus to the periphery, with well developed sinuous lip; test wall distinctly perforate, all but in the last chamber that is generally characterized by smoother and less perforate surface.

Conclusions.

The presence of Neogloboquadrina acostaensis in these upper Middle Miocene sediments of Sicily is rather noteworthy. First of all, it could indicate a possible southern way of immigration of this taxon within the Mediterranean area. On the other hand, its co—occurrence with typical Serravallian forms makes its FAD older than commonly known. This disagrees with what universally acknowledged up to now (Blow, 1969; Bizon G. & Bizon J.J., 1972; D’Onofrio et al., 1975; Stainforth et al., 1975; Colalongo et al., 1979; Lozano, 1979; Keller, 1980, 1981; Poore, 1981; Srinivasan & Kennett, 1981 a,b; Thunell, 1981; Berggren et al., 1983; etc.).

There is also the possibility that the anomalous distribution of Neogloboquadrina acostaensis could be due to a generalized reworking of all the other distinctive taxons of these sediments. However, by a strict paleontological and biostratigraphical point of view, I find it more parsimonious to believe the Neogloboquadrina acostaensis FAD older than to consider the possibility of a so strong reworking. This seems furtherly suggested both by the consistency of the Serravallian faunal assemblage that goes with these few Neogloboquadrina acostaensis specimens and, at last, by the same overall preservation of these foraminifers.

Acknowledgments.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY


Fig. 1 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Umbilical view; x 250.

Fig. 2 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Spiral view; x 250.

Fig. 3 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Umbilical view; x 250.

Fig. 4 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Lateral view; x 250.

Fig. 5 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Umbilical view; x 250.

Fig. 6 - Neogloboquadrina acostaensis Blow. Umbilical view; x 250.

Fig. 7 - Globorotalia siakensis Le Roy. Umbilical view; x 200.

Fig. 8 - Globorotalia siakensis Le Roy. Umbilical view; x 200.

Fig. 9 - Globorotalia continuosa Blow. Umbilical view; x 300.

Fig. 10 - Globoquadrina baroemoenensis (Le Roy). Umbilical view; x 150.

Fig. 11 - Globoquadrina baroemoenensis (Le Roy). Umbilical view; x 150.

Fig. 12 - Globorotalia siakensis Le Roy. Umbilical view; x 200.

Fig. 13 - Globorotalia continuosa Blow. Umbilical view; x 250.

Fig. 14 - Globorotalia praemenardii Cushman & Stainforth. Umbilical view; x 200.

Fig. 15 - Globorotalia praemenardii Cushman & Stainforth. Spiral view; x 150.

Fig. 16 - Globorotalia praemenardii Cushman & Stainforth. Spiral view; x 150.