

PALEOGEOGRAPHY OF THE NEOGENE AND THE QUATERNARY IN THE MARITSA RIVER BASIN (BULGARIA)

ANGELOVA, D. Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria, e-mail: doraang@geology.bas.bg

The Maritsa river basin has the largest watershed area from all the river basins in Bulgaria. The region represents an active area with frequent tectonic movements and considerable environmental changes. Complex investigations were carried out during the last years, including geological, geomorphological and borehole studies for practical purposes. Considerable amount of new data about the lithological-facial peculiarities of the sediments, their distribution, interrelationships, weathering crusts and new faunistic and floristic data were collected during this study. They provided the grounds to make new revisions of the established lithostratigraphic units on the basis of the formation analysis. The Maritsa river basin was formed in different environments during the Neogene and the Quaternary, most of them being tectonically predetermined. The different stages, cycles and rhythms of the geodynamic development of this part of the country created the prerequisites for the wholesome or partial rearrangement of the Maritsa river basin and its effluent valleys. These rearrangements were in close connection with those of the Tethys and Paratethys basins as a result of the predominating regional extension under beyond-arch conditions. Local thrusts occurred during single stages which were the main reason for the change of the Major Watershed of the Balkan Peninsula, as well as for the changes in the direction of the outflow of the Maritsa river and its effluents - Topolnitsa, Stryama, Louda Yana, Pyasachnik, Omourovaska, Sazlika and Chepelarska rivers. Original paleogeographic maps reflecting the results of long-years of investigations for more than one third of the Bulgarian territory are presented.