

NEOGENE PLANKTIC FORAMINIFERAL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF SOUTHWESTERN ILOILO BASIN, PHILIPPINES

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The Neogene sedimentary rocks in southwestern Iloilo Basin in Panay Island have been investigated by planktic foraminiferal distribution, planktic/benthic foraminiferal ratios and facies analysis. The studied rock units consist of reefal limestone, flysch deposits and near shore conglomerates distributed in five formations namely: Singit, Tarao, Iday, Ulian and Cabatuan in descending order. Results of foraminiferal studies conducted on samples taken from these lithologic units first confirmed the age range of middle Miocene (N15) to early Pleistocene (N22) in which seven zones were recognized. In descending order they are: *Globorotalia menardii* Interval Zone, *Globorotalia acostaensis* Interval Zone, *Globorotalia humerosa* Interval Zone, *Globorotalia margaritae* Range Zone, *Globoquadrina altispira* Interval Zone, *Globorotalia tosaensis* Interval Zone and *Globorotalia truncatulinoides* Range Zone. Based on the compiled evidences it shows that the limestone was deposited during a brief appearance of a shallow sea environment during the middle Miocene (N14). This was followed by subsidence of the western part of the basin in the late Miocene (N17) through the early Pliocene (N18-N19) resulting in the accumulation of the flysch type sediments. The younger sediments were deposited during the shallowing in the basin that occurred after the early Pliocene (N19).