

LOWER TERTIARY PLANKTONIC BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF THE SALT RANGE, NORTHERN PAKISTAN

¹Jamil, A. and ²BUTT, A.A. ¹Hydrocarbon Development of Pakistan (HDIP), Islamabad, Pakistan. ²Institute of Geology, Punjab University, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Lahore-54590, Pakistan.

Planktonic foraminifera from the closely sampled sections of the Patala Formation and the Nammal Formation from the western Salt Range, namely Chichali Pass, Khairabad section, Nammal Gorge and the Patala Nala have been examined to establish the planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy of the Salt Range and its intergration into the standard planktonic zonation.

Six planktonic foraminiferal zones, *Muricoglobigerina soldadoensis* zone, *Acarinina wilcoxensis berggreni* zone, *Morozovella formosa* zone, *Morozovella aragonensis* zone, *subbotina inaequispira* zone and *subbotina frontosa* zone have been established.

The Paleocene-Eocene boundary straddles along the *Muricoglobigerina soldadoensis* zone and the *Acarinina wilcoxensis berggreni* zone.

The Patala Formation which is essentially of Upper Paleocene age does extend into the Lower Eocene.