

## **Depositional Environment of the Asmari Formation, Central Zagros Basin, Iran.**

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The Asmari Formation was deposited during Oligocene to Early Miocene. It is present throughout the Zagros Basin. Lithologically the Asmari Formation is characterized by massive limestone, dolomitic limestone and argillaceous limestone.

The predominant microfacies of the exposed upper Asmari Formation are: bentic foraminifera corallinacea packstone, pelagic foraminifera packstone and coral boundstone. These microfacies reflects an open to margin platform environment prevailed during Upper Oligocene. The predominant microfacies of the exposed middle Asmari Formation are: bentic foraminifera corallinacea packstone, corallinacea boundstone and foraminifera grainstone to packston. These microfacies reflects a fore-slope to normal marine environment existed during Aquitanian. Finally, the predominant microfacies of the exposed upper Asmari Formation are: Globigerinid bioclastic wackestone to packstone, foraminifera coralline algal packstone and lime-mudstone. These microfacies reflects a regressive cycle from basin to fore-slope to reef and to semi-restricted marine environment dominated during Burdigalian.

As a result, lithological characteristics of the Asmari Formation in Central Zagros Basin may range from restricted to shallow marine and to deeper marine environment of deposition.