

CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSIL STUDIES OF UPPER CRETACEOUS AND PALEOGENE SECTIONS FROM THE DAHOMEY BASIN (NIGERIA)

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A thorough qualitative and quantitative study of the calcareous nannofossil assemblages recovered from selected well sections of the Dahomey Basin, Nigeria, is currently being carried out in order to establish a refined biostratigraphic framework and to contribute with the paleoceanographic reconstruction of the area. Four cored sections have been studied to date (wells ILARO-1, ILARO-3, ARAROMI and WASIMI), with a biostratigraphic zonation spanning the Maastrichtian to Eocene time interval: well ILARO-3, with biozones *Rhomboaster orthostylus* (NP12), *Discoaster lodoensis* (NP13), *Discoaster sublodoensis* (NP14), and *Nannotetrina fulgens* (NP15); well ILARO-1, with biozones *Markalius inversus* (NP01), *Cruciplacolithus tenuis* (NP02)-*Ellipsolithus macellus* (NP04), *Fasciculithus tympaniformis* (NP05)-*Heliolithus kleinpellii* (NP06), *Discoaster mohleri* (NP07)-*Heliolithus riedelii*/*Discoaster nobilis* (NP08), *Discoaster multiradiatus* (NP09), and *Tribrachiastus contortus* (NP10); well ARAROMI, with biozones *Nephrolithus frequens* (CC26), *Markalius inversus* (NP01), *Ellipsolithus macellus* (NP04), *Fasciculithus tympaniformis* (NP05), *Heliolithus kleinpellii* (NP06), *Discoaster mohleri* (NP07)-*Heliolithus riedelii*/*Discoaster nobilis* (NP08), *Discoaster multiradiatus* (NP09), and *Rhomboaster contortus* (NP10); and well WASIMI, with biozone *Nephrolithus frequens* (CC26). This work is part of an international multidisciplinary research project (<http://www.historischegeologie.tu-berlin.de/vw/>) to study the Upper Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian) to Paleogene (Paleocene-Eocene) sedimentary succession of Potiguar (NE Brazil) and Dahomey (Nigeria/Togo) basins, aiming to reconstruct and correlate the sequence of stratigraphic events and the paleoceanographic evolution during the studied time interval across the equatorial South Atlantic. The project is jointly coordinated and carried out by PETROBRAS-CENPES, Rio de Janeiro, the Technische Universität Berlin (TUB), Germany, and the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, supported by the Volkswagen-Stiftung Program of Partnerships. The present calcareous nannofossil study is being sponsored by a doctorate scholarship of the program of qualification of human resources in petroleum geology – PRH-ANP/MCT 18/UFRJ, which is gratefully acknowledged.