

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# TAXONOMIC CONSIDERATION OF THE SOUTHERN TETHYAN ROTALIID BENTHIC FORAMINIFERAL MEMBERS OF THE GENUS *Cibicidoides*

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## ABSTRACT

Eighteen *Cibicidoides* Rotaliid benthic foraminiferal species were erected from three localities in the Southern Tethys Chile, Egypt and Pakistan. An American diagnostic west hemisphere species *C. vulgaris* is added to the assemblage, which was later is also recorded from another localities in the eastern hemisphere in the Southern Tethys: Egypt and Iran . One of the identified species is believed here to be new: *C. chilensis*. Environmental conditions of the identified species of the genus *Cibicidoides* represent middle-outer neritic environment (100-200 m) and show an affinity with Midway-Type Fauna "MTF".

## KEYWORDS

Paleontology, Stratigraphy, *Cibicidoides*, benthic foraminifera, Tethys

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The author has examined eighteen species belonging to the Maastrichtian-Neogene Rotaliid benthic foraminiferal genus *Cibicidoides*, which were originally erected from the Southern Tethys (Egypt, Pakistan and Chile), which is distinguished by its biconvex lenticular trochospiral calcareous test, angular or keeled periphery, depressed or raised limbate sutures, interiomarginal and equatorial arch aperture at the base of the apertural face on the periphery which bordered by a small lip. Another American diagnostic species *C. vulgaris* is added to the assemblage, which was erected originally from USA (west hemisphere) and later had been recorded in some localities in the Southern Tethys (east hemisphere). The present study aims at throwing light on: 1) present together many data scattered in the literature for the different members of this genus

*Cibicidoides* under a unifying theme, 2) detect its modern taxonomic consideration, stratigraphy and paleogeography of them, 3) present a new species: *C. chilensis*.

## 2. MATERIAL OF STUDY

Eighteen small Maastrichtian-Neogene benthic foraminiferal species of the Rotaliid genus *Cibicidoides* Thalmann were originally erected from three localities in the Southern Tethys (Egypt, Pakistan and Chile), and some of them are also recorded in the other localities in the Southern Tethys (e. g. Argentina, Tunisia, Libya, Palestine, UAE, Iran, India), and also Northern Tethys (e.g. Spain, France) (Figure 1). Following the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a taxonomic revision of the assemblage, and one species of them is considered here as a new species.



Figure 2: The paleogeographic distribution of the identified Maastrichtian-Neogene members of the genus *Cibicidoides* in the world: North and South America, west Europe, north Africa and south Asia.

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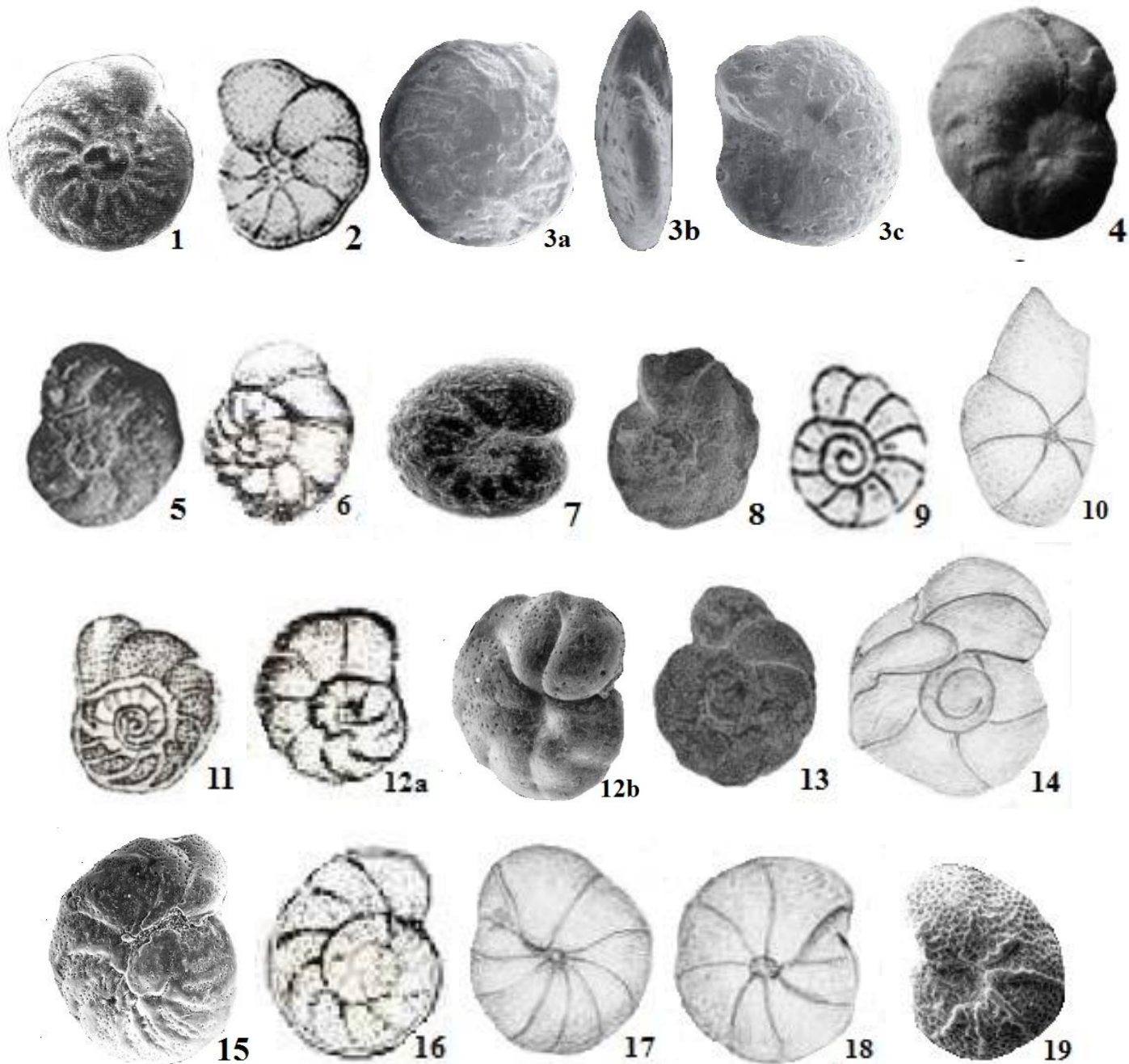
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## 2. SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

The genus *Cibicidoides* Thalmann is characterized mainly by its smaller chambers of inner whorl than those of succeeding whorl, and have a very small boss in the center. It differs from the genus *Gavelinella* Brotzen by its biconvex, biumbonate test and angular periphery than rounded in the other, and it also differs from *Angulogavelinella* Hofker by its dorsally extended aperture than elevated interiomarginal arch. The taxonomy of the identified species of the genus *Cibicidoides* follows that of Loeblich & Tappan (1988), and the illustrated taxa have been shown in Plate 1.

### Plate 1

Fig. 1. *Cibicidoides abudurbensis* (Nakkady, 1950), 2. *C. beadnelli* (LeRoy, 1953), 3a-c. *C. chilensis* Anan, n. sp. (a. dorsal view, b. side view, c. ventral view), 4. *C. decoratus* (LeRoy, 1953), 5. *C. farafraensis* (LeRoy, 1953), 6. *C. ghalebi* (Haque, 1956), 7. *C. grandis* (LeRoy, 1953), 8. *C. libycus* (LeRoy, 1953), 9. *C. loeblichii* (Said & Kenawy, 1956), 10. *C. megaloperforatus* (Said & Kenawy, 1956), 11. *C. nammalensis* Haque, 1956, 12a,b. *C. patalensis* (Haque, 1956) (a. after Haque, 1956; b. after Jannou, 2009), 13. *C. pharaonis* (LeRoy, 1953), 14. *C. praecursorius* (Schwager, 1883), 15. *C. pseudoacutus* (Nakkady, 1950), 16. *C. punjabensis* (Haque, 1960), 17. *C. vulgaris* (Plummer, 1927) (all x 100).



Order Foraminiferida Eichwald, 1830

Suborder Rotaliina Eichwald, 1830

Superfamily Discorbinellacea Sigal, 1952

Family Parrelloididae Hofker, 1956

Genus *Cibicidoides* Thalmann, 1939

Type species *Truncatulina mundula* Brady, Parker & Jones, 1890

**1) *Cibicidoides abudurbensis* (Nakkady, 1950)** (= *Cibicides abudurbensis* Nakkady, 1950, p. 691, pl. 90, figs. 35-38). Maastrichtian-Paleocene, Egypt

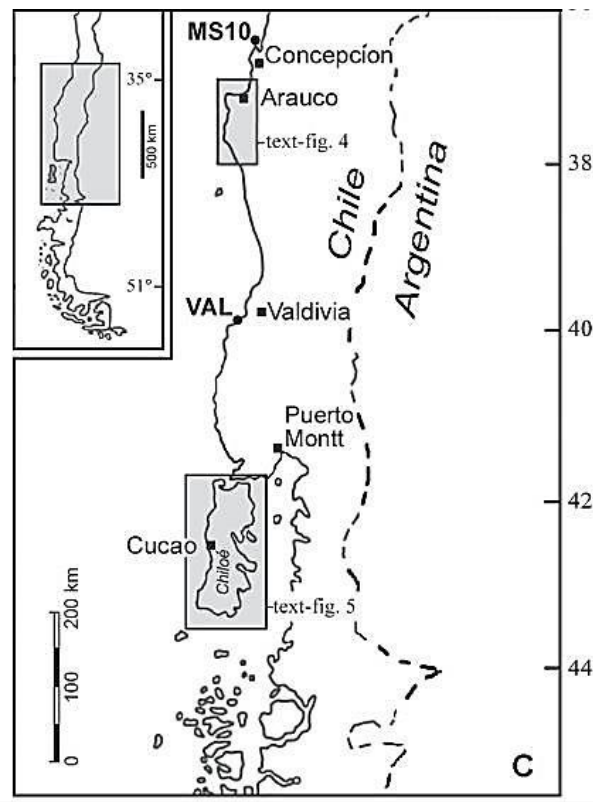
(Nakkady, 1950), Palestine (Almogi-Labin et al., 1990), UAE (Anan, 1993), Tunisia (Speijer, 1994), Spain (Alegret et al., 2003) and France (Sztrákos, 2005).

**2) *Cibicidoides beadnelli* (LeRoy, 1953)** (= *Cibicides beadnelli* LeRoy, 1953, p. 23, pl. 10, figs. 6-8). Ypresian, Egypt (LeRoy, 1953) and Tunisia (Keller, 1988).

**3) *Cibicidoides chilensis* Anan, n. sp.** (= *Cibicidoides* sp. Finger, 2013, p. 457, pl. 19, fig. 7).

Holotype: Illustrated specimen in Plate 1, Figure 3.

Etymology: After the State of Chile (Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** A. Location map of Chile, west South America, B. The study area in the central Chile, C. The location of the Lacui Formation, south Chile (Finger, 2013).

Type locality: Chiloé, Cucao, South Chile, Lacui Formation, CHO, CHE, CUC (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Stratigraphic level of *Cibicidoides chilensis* Anan, n. sp. (= *Cibicidoides* sp., Finger, 2013, pl.1-, figure. 7) in the Lacui Formation, Chile (VR = very rare, 1-5 specimens).

SECTOR	North											Central				South											
	Las Cruces		Navidad											Conc	Arauco			Valid	Chiloé								
GEOLOGIC UNIT	El Peral beds		Navidad Fm.											Ranquil Fm.				SDerm	Lacui Fm.								
LOCALITY	NLP	LPER	MOS	RAP	PPP	PPT	PPN	LBZ	PTA	MAT	NAV5	MPUP	CPUP	MS10	FRA	FRM	RQT	ROK	RAN	MIB	LEB	VAL	CHO	PCB	PNH	CHE	CUC
																							VR			VR	VR

Stratigraphic level: Miocene.

Diagnosis: Test low trochospiral compressed, coarsely punctate, 9–10 chambers in last whorl, oblique and slightly curved limbate sutures connected to bluntly rounded peripheral carina.

Remarks: The new species differs from the other members of the genus by its coarsely punctate surface, curved limbate sutures, and bluntly rounded periphery.

- 4) *Cibicidoides decoratus* (LeRoy, 1953) (= *Cibicides decoratus* LeRoy, 1953, p. 23, pl. 6, figs. 15-17). Ypresian, Egypt (LeRoy, 1953) and Tunisia (Speijer, 1994).
- 5) *Cibicidoides farafraensis* (LeRoy, 1953) (= *Cibicides farafraensis* LeRoy, 1953, p. 24, pl. 10, figs. 1-3). Ypresian, Egypt (LeRoy, 1953) and Tunisia (Berggren and Aubert, 1975).
- 6) *Cibicidoides ghalebi* (Haque, 1956) (= *Cibicides multifaria* (Schwager) *limbata* Haque, 1956, p. 205, pl. 16, fig. 5; *Cibicides multifaria ghalebi* Haque -Thalman, 1959, p. 130). Paleocene, Pakistan.
- 7) *Cibicidoides grandis* (LeRoy, 1953) (= *Anomalina grandis* LeRoy, 1953, p. 18, pl. 9, figs. 6-8). Maastrichtian-Ypresian, Egypt.
- 8) *Cibicidoides libycus* (LeRoy, 1953) (= *Cibicides libycus* LeRoy, 1953, p. 24, pl. 5, figs. 1-3). Paleocene-Ypresian, Egypt (LeRoy, 1953), Libya and Tunisia (Berggren & Aubert, 1975), France (Sztrákos, 2005), Turkmenia and Soviet Union (Saperson & Janal, 1980).

- 9) *Cibicidoides loeblichii* (Said & Kenawy, 1956) (= *Cibicides loeblichii* Said and Kenawy, 1956, p. 155, pl. 7, fig. 11). Maastrichtian-Paleocene, Egypt.
- 10) *Cibicidoides megaloperforatus* (Said & Kenawy, 1956) (= *Cibicides megaloperforatus* Said & Kenawy, 1956, p. 155, pl. 7, fig. 13). Paleocene, Egypt.
- 11) *Cibicidoides nammalensis* (Haque, 1956) (= *Cibicides mensilla* (Schwager) var. *nammalensis* Haque, 1956, p. 205, pl. 20, fig. 10). Paleocene-Ypresian, Pakistan (Haque, 1956) and France (Sztrákos, 2005).
- 12) *Cibicidoides patalensis* Haque, 1956 (= *Cibicides lobatulus* (Walker and Jacob) var. *patalensis* Haque, 1956, p. 209, pl. 16, fig. 6; *Cibicides* sp. cf. *lobatulus* (Walker and Jacob) var. *patalensis* Haque - Jannou, 2009, p. 111, fig. 12F). Paleocene-Ypresian, Pakistan (Haque, 1956), India (Symphonia & Senthil, 2019) and Argentina (Jannou, 2009).
- 13) *Cibicidoides pharaonis* (LeRoy, 1953) (= *Cibicides pharaonis* LeRoy, 1953, p. 24, pl. 7, figs. 9-11). Paleocene-Ypresian, Egypt.
- 14) *Cibicidoides praecursorius* (Schwager, 1883) (= *Cibicides praecursorius* Schwager, 1883, p. 125, pl. 27, figs. 12, 13). Ypresian, Egypt (Schwager, 1883) and Tunisia (Karoui-Yaakoub, 2006).
- 15) *Cibicidoides pseudoacutus* (Nakkady, 1950) (= *Anomalina pseudoacuta* Nakkady, 1950, p. 691, pl. 90, figs. 29-32). Maastrichtian-

Ypresian, Egypt (Nakkady, 1950), Tunisia (Galeotti and Coccioni, 2002), France (Sztrákos, 2005).

**16) *Cibicoides punjabensis* (Haque, 1960)**(=*Cibicides punjabensis* Haque,1960, p. 42, pl. 6, fig.1). Ypresian, Pakistan (Haque,1960) and India (Khanolkar & Saraswati, 2019).

**17) *Cibicoides schwageri* (Said & Kenawy, 1956)**(=*Cibicides schwageri* Said & Kenawy, 1956, p. 155, pl. 7, fig. 10). Paleocene, Egypt (Said & Kenawy, 1956).

**18) *Cibicoides tappanae* (Said & Kenawy, 1956)**(=*Cibicides tappanae* Said & Kenawy, 1956, p. 155, pl. 7, fig. 12). Maestrichtian, Egypt (Said & Kenawy, 1956).

**19) *Cibicoides vulgaris* (Plummer, 1927)** (= *Truncatolina vulgaris* Plummer, 1927, p. 146, pl. 10, fig. 3). Paleocene-Ypresian, USA (Plummer, 1927), Argentina and Turkmenia (Berggren & Aubert, 1975), Egypt (Anan & Sharabi, 1988) and Iran (VahdatiRad et al., 2016).

### 3. PALEO GEOGRAPHY

According to many authors (e.g. Rögl, 1999; Aubry et al., 2007; Abed, 2013; Anan, 2020), the Tethys had been connected from west Atlantic Ocean to east with the Indian Ocean via the Mediterranean Sea during the Maastrichtian-Neogene time. The identified species have wide stratigraphic distribution from many parts of the Southern and also Northern Tethys (Table 2).

**Table 2:** The paleogeographic distribution of the identified species of the genus *Cibicoides* in the Tethys: U=USA, C=Chile, A=Argentina, F=France, S=Spain, T= Tunisia, L=Libya, E=Egypt, N=Palestine, A=UAE, R=Iran, P=Pakistan, I=India, K = Turkmenia, (Sp. no. = species number; ○=illustrated species, x = recorded species).

Sp. no.	Species of <i>Cibicoides</i>	Countries															
		U	C	A	F	S	T	L	E	N	A	R	P	I	K		
1	<i>abudurbensis</i>				x	x	x		○	x	x						
2	<i>beadnelli</i>					x	x	x	○								
3	<i>chilensis</i>		○														
4	<i>decoratus</i>						x		○								
5	<i>farafraensis</i>						x		○								
6	<i>ghalebi</i>												○				
7	<i>grandis</i>								○								
8	<i>libycus</i>				x		x	x	○							x	
9	<i>loeblichii</i>								○								
10	<i>megaloperforatus</i>								○								
11	<i>nammalensis</i>				x								○				
12	<i>patalensis</i>			x									○	x			
13	<i>pharaonis</i>								○								
14	<i>praecursorius</i>						x		○								
15	<i>pseudoacutus</i>				x		x		○								
16	<i>punjabensis</i>												○	x			
17	<i>schwageri</i>								○								
18	<i>tappanae</i>								○								
19	<i>vulgaris</i>	○		x					x						x	x	

The nineteen small benthic foraminiferal species belong to the diagnostic calcareous Rotaliid benthic foraminiferal genus *Cibicoides* were identified from many localities in the Southern Tethys (Argentina, Chile, Tunisia, Egypt, UAE, Pakistan, India), and also Northern Tethys (USA, France, Spain). Some remarks of the paleogeographic distribution of the recorded species can be added:

- Thirteen of the identified species were erected from the Southern Tethys, Egypt: 13/18 (about 72%), Pakistan 4/18 (about 22%), Chile 1/18 (about 0.05 %).
- C. abudurbensis* is recorded from six localities in the Southern and Northern Tethys (see Table 2).
- C. vulgaris* was erected from USA and recorded in Argentina (west hemisphere), and later on in three localities in the east hemisphere: Turkmenia, Egypt and Iran (Fig. 3).
- C. libycus* is recorded from four localities in the Tethys.
- C. patalensis* and *C. pseudoacutus* are recorded from three localities in the Tethys.
- C. beadnelli*, *C. decoratus*, *C. farafraensis*, *C. nammalensis*, *C. praecursorius*, *C. punjabensis* are recorded only from two localities in the Tethys.
- C. chilensis*, *C. ghalebi*, *C. grandis*, *C. loeblichii*, *C. megaloperforatus*, *C. pharaonis*, *C. schwageri*, *C. tappanae* are, so far, an endemic to their original

erection.

### 4. PALEOENVIRONMENT

Most recorded species in this study were erected from the Southern Tethys in Egypt and Pakistan, indicate open connection of the both sides of the Tethys and represent middle-outer neritic environment (100-200 m) and show an affinity with Midway-Type Fauna "MTF" of Berggren & Aubert (1975) which is characterized by the species of the genus *Cibicoides*, and the flow of the Tethys Sea and its continuation as the North Equatorial Current transported various Tethyan, tropical, faunal elements to the Caribbean-Gulf Coast region (Figure 4).

Has a noted that the analysis of coiling direction preference in the benthic foraminifera *Cibicoides pseudoacutus* (Nakkady) has been carried out across the K-T (Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary) from some Tunisian sections representing a palaeobathymetric transect from a middle-outer neritic to lower upper bathyal depositional setting, and this species developed a preference for sinistral coiling in a short time period during the lowermost (Danian Galeotti and Coccioni, 2002). Adatte et al. (2002) figured a comparison between the Tethys (El Kef section, Tunisia) and the South Atlantic of the sea level, climate and major event around the K-T transition, which the bolide impact had a relatively incidental short-term effect on climate in the Tethys region (Figure 5), and they added that the high sea-levels generally correspond to increasing seasonality and drier conditions, whereas low sea-levels correspond to increasing humidity and possibly warmer conditions (Figure 6).

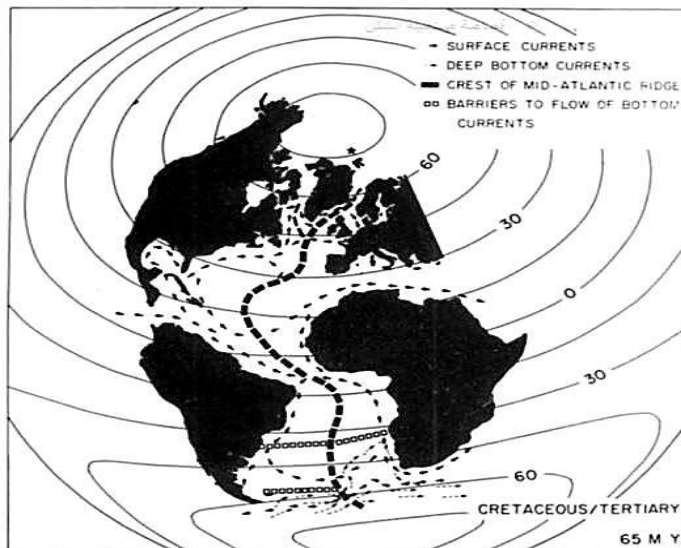


Figure 4: The paleocirculation patterns (65 M.Y. ago) of the Atlantic Ocean (Berggren and Aubert, 1975).

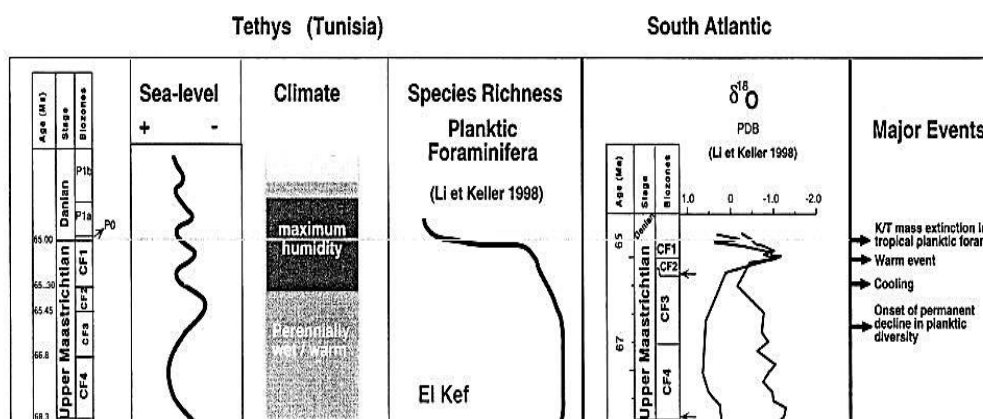


Figure 5: Fluctuation of the sea level, climate (alternating of the warm and cooling sea water), and major events of P/B ratio around the K/T boundary in the Tethys and South Atlantic (Adatte et al., 2002).

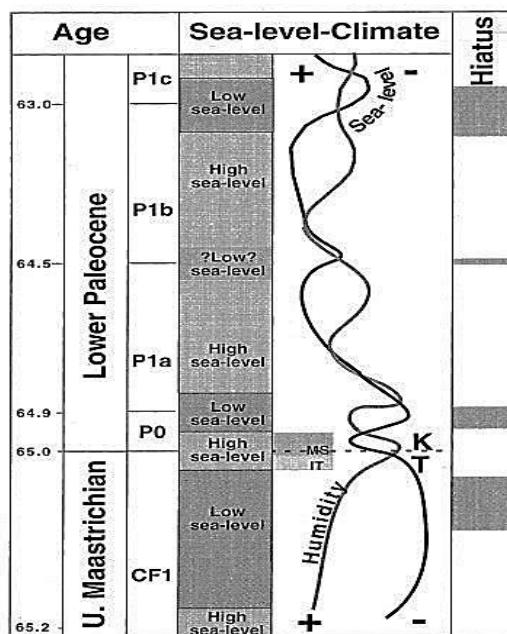


Figure 6: Relationships between the sea-level and climate in El Kef section (represents the Southern Tethys) explained increasing humidity and possibly warmer conditions during the low sea-level (Adatte et al., 2002).

5. CONCLUSIONS

The present study deals with the recording of eighteen identified species of the calcareous Rotaliid foraminifera genus *Cibicoides* were originally erected from many localities in the Southern Tethys (Chile, Egypt, Pakistan). Another American diagnostic specie *C. vulgaris* includes to this

assemblage due to its distinguished paleogeographic distribution in the west and also east hemispheres. Some of the identified species are also recorded far than its original erection in other localities in the South America (Argentina), West Europe (Spain, France) and Southern Tethys (Tunisia, Palestine, UAE, Iran and India). The Tethyan realm had been connected with the Atlantic Ocean from west to the Indo-Pacific Ocean to

the east, via Mediterranean Sea, which crossing the Middle East region during the Maastrichtian-Neogene time. Environmental conditions of the identified species represent middle-outer neritic environment (100-200m) and show an affinity with Midway-Type Fauna "MTF". The direction of coiling of *C. pseudoacutus* help to define the major faunal changing around K-T transition.

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