CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGE DETERMINATION OF THE NAJMAH FORMATION, FROM SURFACE OUTCROPS IN THE IRAQI WESTERN DESERT

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ABSTRACT

The Najmah Formation was known only from subsurface sections in Iraq. But, the regional and detailed geological surveys in the Iraqi Western Desert revealed its presence as surface outcrops, widely distributed along the Eastern and Northeastern rims of Rutbah Uplift. It extends from east of Rutbah to about 140 Km, crossing Wadi Amij, and then northeastwards crossing Wadi Hauran near Qasir Muhaiwir. Lithologically, the Najmah Formation consists of two parts. The lower part consists of clastics, whereas the upper part consists of carbonates.

Fauna like: *Clypeina jurassica* FAVRE, *Calponella* sp., *Conicospirillina basiliensis* MOHLER, *Salpinoporella selli (CRESENTI), Coscinoconus alpinus* LEOPOLD, *Kurnubia palastiniensis* HENSON, *K. wellingsi* HENSON, *Haurania deserti* HENSON, *H.amiji* HENSON, *Pfenderina trochoidea* SMOUT, *Valvulina jurassica* HENSON and P*rotoglobigerina* sp. are present and are indications of Late Jurassic (Malm) age. The exposed sequence indicates deepening upward cycle starting with shoreline facies and ending with middle shelf facies.

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