MAIN BIOEVENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF LARGER PALEOGENE FORAMINIFERA FROM CUBA

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The larger foraminifera of Cuba are present in the most part of litoestratigrphic units of Paleogene, represented mainly by nummulitids, obitoidals and rotalids. These units are mostly turbiditic and were very frequent during the orogeny (until the upper most part of Lower Eocene in western Cuba and Upper Eocene in Eastern Cuba). Carbonates and terrigenous-carbonate sequences of open carbonate shelf represent the flat lying post-orogenic cover.

First reports of larger foraminifera are coincident with the ***Planorotalites pseudomenardii*** biozone. The evolution of this fossil group includes successive episodes of appearance and extinction after the drastic disappearance in the Creteaceous-Tertiary boundary. The most important moments of biodiversity are in Paleocene, Middle Eocene (in genera and species) and Oligocene.. All these moments of biodiversity are coincident with eustatic highs of sea level that allowed the development of larger foraminifera and more specialized planctic forams. The oligotrophics environments of high levels of the sea expanded the niches for the development of new forms. (Hallock, P. ***et. al***, 1991).

In the present paper the distribution chart includes more than 50 tax related to planctonic forams biozones. The diagram of appearance and extinction of taxa allowed us to determine the moments of crisis and biodiversity.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S2475262200000381 Published online by Cambridge University Press