

## REVISITING THE TYPE-LOCALITY OF *DISCOCYCLINA RANIKOTENSIS* DAVIES, 1927: IT'S IMPLICATIONS FOR BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOBIOGEOGRAPHY

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### Abstract

Biostratigraphic zonation of the carbonate platforms based on the larger benthic foraminifera (LBF) in the Paleocene/Eocene succession of the Indus Basin has been a problem since long, while it is well established in other Tethyan/global sections. This problem is mainly due to species endemism effect. This study attempts to revisit an important site i.e., the type locality of *Discocyclina ranikotensis* Davies. The study is based on the isolated orthofragminid tests from the Patala Formation from Thal area (Upper Indus Basin, Pakistan). The associations of genera *Discocyclina* Gümbel and *Orbitoclypeus* Silvestri have been reported from the eastern Tethys for the first time. This study also confirms that the *Discocyclina ranikotensis* Davies a controversial species is endemic to the Indo-Pakistan region. Important orthofragminid taxa of Peri-Mediterranean Tethys including *Discocyclina archiachi* (Schlumberger) and spars *Orbitoclypeus schopeni* (Cecchia-Rispoli) are also found in association with *Discocyclina ranikotensis*. Species showing connection to the western Tethys such as *Discocyclina fortisi* and few specimens showing *Discocyclina dispansa* affinity are also present. The encountered orthofragminid assemblage suggest orthofragminid zone (OZ3) of the western Tethyan zonal scheme. The geographical range of the Peri-Mediterranean *Discocyclina archiachi* is extended to eastern Tethys. The index species of the Paleocene/Eocene boundary in the western Tethys such as asterocyclinids, nemkovellids and ribbed orbitoclypeids were not encountered in this study.