



2nd Palaeontological **Virtual** Congress

May 1st–15th, 2020

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Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

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A new way to make science

2nd Palaeontological Virtual Congress

Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

From an original idea of Vicente D. Crespo

Published by Evangelos Vlachos, Esther Manzanares, Vicente D. Crespo, Carlos Martínez-Pérez, Humberto G. Ferrón, José Luis Herráiz, Arturo Gamonal, Fernando Antonio M. Arnal, Francesc Gascó, and Paolo Citton

Layout Evangelos Vlachos

Conference logo Hugo Salais

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ISBN 978-84-09-20283-6

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Ostracod and gastropod fauna of the Alagöz Section (Central Anatolia): new fossil data for the Neogene lacustrine deposits of Ankara region

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The study area is located 45 km southwest of Ankara (Central Anatolia, Turkey) where the Alagöz Formation crops out around Alagöz district. The Alagöz Formation consists mainly of coarse to fine clastics such as conglomerates, sandstones, and mudstones with thin fossiliferous limestone intercalations indicating fluvial to lacustrine conditions.

A 200 m long stratigraphic section was measured along the Alagöz Formation and twenty-nine samples were collected to determine the ostracod and gastropod fauna assemblages and to interpret the paleoenvironmental conditions prevailed during the deposition. Moreover, mineral analyses were realized to determine the source of the clastics along with the composition of the fossil steinkerns (internal casts). The Alagöz section is represented by clastics (sandstones, mudstones) in the lower and upper parts while fluvial to lacustrine carbonates (limestones, marls) are dominant in the middle part.

A low-diverse faunal assemblage is recorded, with a monospecific ostracod fauna being only represented by the genus *Virgatocypris* and three taxa of gastropods (*Melanopsis praemorsa* Linnaeus, 1758, *Falsipyrgula* sp. and *Planorbarius* sp.).

The fossil genus *Virgatocypris* is known from Late Cretaceous and its species (esp. type species *V. virgata*) have been frequently recorded from upper Oligocene (Germany and Switzerland)-lower Miocene (Germany, Czechia and Turkey) lacustrine successions. In Turkey, the genus was only reported from lower Miocene sequences of the Çankırı and Iğın (Konya) basins and for the first time in this study, it has been obtained in Ankara (Central Anatolia). The genus *Planorbarius* is known from Oligocene-Quaternary deposits of the Palearctic ecozone, and it has been frequently reported from the Miocene. The fossil forms of the genus *Melanopsis* have been reported from Oligocene and Miocene deposits of Turkey. *Falsipyrgula* spp. are known from the Quaternary deposits of the Turkish Lakes Region in southwestern Anatolia. The ostracod and gastropod fauna point towards very shallow freshwater lacustrine conditions during the deposition of the carbonate-dominated part of the Alagöz Formation. Moreover, the discovery of the genus *Virgatocypris* suggests that the age of the Alagöz Formation is probably older (early-middle? Miocene) than the late Miocene-Pliocene suggested in previous studies.

The minerals identified by X-ray diffractograms are mainly clay minerals (smectite, illite), quartz, and feldspar and carbonate minerals. The SEM-EDX data along with the clay-size fraction analysis show that fossil steinkerns are made of smectite. Consequently, the presence of aluminosilicate minerals (e.g., feldspars, smectite, illite/mica) suggests clastic input from adjacent volcanic rocks (e.g. lower Miocene Ballıkuyumcu volcanic deposits).



Ostracoda
Gastropoda
Virgatocypris sp.
Paleoenvironment
Central Anatolia



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