Stratigraphy of Palawan Island, Philippines

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with 5 figures

Abstract. Geologic reconnaissance work performed by the authors on Palawan Island (1982 and 1983) yielded more than 115 fossiliferous samples of sedimentary rocks. The biostratigraphic evaluation of the various fossil groups resulted in several new completed or changed conceptions concerning the biostratigraphic classification and correlation of the rock units of Palawan. Biostratigraphically valuable fossil groups are foraminifera and calcareous nannoplankton of Cretaceous and Tertiary age as well as conodonts, radiolaria, foraminifera, and pelecypods of Permo-Triassic age.

In North Palawan, the lower part of the Miniloc Limestone contains fusulinids and other foraminifera of the Late Permian, the upper part yielded Early/Middle Triassic conodonts. The overlying Liminangcong Formation bears a strange rich radiolarian assemblage mixed of genera of Middle Triassic (Anisian/Ladinian) and Middle Jurassic age, respectively. *Triassocampe* (Middle to Late Triassic? and Early Jurassic) and *Tricolocapsa* – so far considered to be Middle Jurassic in age – are apparently associated in one radiolarian assemblage. *Triasina* (foraminifera) and the pelecypod *Paramegalodus* are known from the newly established Coron Formation which follows above the Liminangcong Formation. The fossils suggest a Late Triassic (Rhaetian) age. In marginal areas of North Palawan, the marine sedimentation terminated with the Early Miocene St. Paul Limestone.

In South and Central Palawan, the succession of sedimentary rocks is comparatively young and distinctly different from that one in North Palawan. The name “Espina Formation” was transferred from the Balabac Island to South/Central Palawan. It is used for a sequence of chert and shale (associated with some volcanic rocks) being Late Cretaceous/earliest Tertiary in age. Thus the Espina Formation represents the oldest rock unit in South/Central Palawan. Marine sedimentation continued with more or less significant interruptions until Pliocene/Pleistocene.


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