



Sandstone and carbonate concretions in the middle Miocene rocks in Tenes area (Lower Chelif Basin, Nord-West Algeria): anatomy and origin.

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Study of carbonate concretions is mostly employed to understand the circulation, the migration and the evolution of fluids in their environments. The middle Miocene rocks of Tenes area, situated in the North-East of Lower Chelif Basin, in the North-West of Algeria, expose locally two types of concretions newly investigated: calcite-cemented sandstone concretions "CCSC", and carbonate concretions "CC". In this work, these concretions have been studied in two easily accessible localities: Ounsour Anhas and Vieux Tenes outcrops. The goal is to understand the overriding mechanisms responsible for the formation of these carbonate concretions.

Calcite-cemented sandstone concretions "CCSC" are recorded in very thick sandstones (sandstone unit). According to their morphology, they can be distinguished into two types: (i) nodular concretion (spheroidal ellipsoidal, and irregular nodule shape), and (ii) stratiform concretions. These "CCSC" are made up mainly by quartz, and green glauconite grains embedded within microsparry calcite cement. The biogenic contents are represented by dissolved shell fragments and microfauna (essentially foraminifera). Isotopic analysis of "CCSC" show depleted values of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (-10,71 to -9,81 ‰) and slightly depleted values of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (-2,32 to -3,03). These results reflect meteoric pore water influence during concretion growth in diagenetic conditions.

Carbonate concretions "CC" were observed hosted in the marls (marls unit). They exhibit three types: nodular concretions (spheroidal ellipsoidal, disk and irregular nodule shape), stratiform concretions and tubular concretions. Most of tubular concretions are characterized by central conduit. These "CC" are associated with the synsedimentary instability features (synsedimentary faults, slumps) and normal faults, which are well pronounced in Ounsour Anhas outcrop.

They consist of silt-sized and very fine-sand sized grains of quartz interspersed within cemented micritic matrix. The positive to negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (-9.82 to +5.85‰ PDB) are interpreted as the result of the balance between the ^{13}C -enriched (residual CO_2 from methanogenesis) and ^{13}C -depleted (microbial organic-matter decomposition) added to the pore solutions in the active methanogenesis zone. The low enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in these "CC" indicate that carbonates have been mainly precipitated in low to moderately low temperature normal marine pore fluids whereas the low depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values reflect relatively higher temperatures or periods of gas hydrate formation. Consequently, the "CC" were formed by the precipitation of carbonate micrite cement within the host marls at shallow burial depth in the active methanogenesis zone.

Mots-Clés: Calcite, cemented sandstone concretions, meteoric pore water, carbonate concretions, synsedimentary instability, methanogenesis zone, middle Miocene, Algeria.

•Intervenant