



**RCMNS Interim Colloquium "Continental-marine interactions during the Neogene in the Mediterranean area"**

Granada, Spain, 9-12 September 2019

**ABSTRACT BOOK**



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## HOTSPOT OF BIVALVE (MOLLUSCA) DIVERSITY IN THE MESSINIAN OF ORANIE (NORTH WESTERN OF ALGERIA)

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**Keywords:** *bivalves, hotspot, Messinian, Oranie, Lower Chelif, Tafna, diversity.*

The Neogene deposits of Oranie (Lower Chelif, Tafna) have revealed the presence of significant bivalve macrofauna. The maximum of bivalve diversity is recorded exclusively in the Messinian calcareous carbonate facies. Indeed, two standard sections (Barrage of Gargar and Sidi Safi) will be taken into consideration to show the evolution of diversity of this group of molluscs in two different basins (Lower Chelif and Tafna). However, the peri reef limestones at the top of the barrage of the Gargar section (southern edge of the Lower Chelif Basin) contain 10 families of bivalves (Arcidae, Glycymerdidae, Mytilidae, Isognomonidae, Pectinidae, Spondylidae, Ostreidae, Gryphaeidae, Veneridae, Carditidae), with large, well preserved shells, sometimes showing a clear tendency toward gigantism. In addition, in the section of the Sidi Safi quarry (Tafna Basin), 12 families of bivalves (Arcidae, Mytilidae, Isognomonidae, Pectinidae, Spondylidae, Ostreidae, Chamidae, Veneridae, Carditidae, Lucinidae, Veneridae, Tellinidae) have been identified in the reef limestone facies. In spite of their recrystallization stage, which is quite advanced for the majority of shells, they showed large or even gigantic sizes. The warm climate during the Messinian has favoured the development of a tropical to subtropical malacofauna.

