

New lithostratigraphic data about the Formations of Upper Jurassic of Ouarsenis Mountains in North-West of Algeria

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Abstract. On the basis of published and unpublished data and our recent investigations of
ancient sections and new ones in the Upper Jurassic of the Ouarsenis Mountains (North-West
of Algeria), we propose an integrated biostratigraphy (ammonites, calpionellids, biomicrofac-
cies) in the southern border and the center of the Ouarsenis Mountains. The synthesized data
allowed us to do a lithostratigraphic revision of the previous subdivisions and a comparison
between different nomenclatures proposed by a variety of authors for the different formations.
The lithological variations between the southern border and the center of the Ouarsenis Moun-
tains, especially in the Tithonian, led to the creation of a new Formation.

Keywords: Lithostratigraphic revision, Ouarsenis, Algeria, Upper Jurassic.

1 Introduction

The Upper Jurassic of the Ouarsenis Mountains was the subject of many studies, es-
pecially regarding their biostratigraphic framework: Mattauer (1958), Polvêche
(1960), Atrops & Benest (1986, 1988, 1994), Atrops *et al.* (1991) and Tchoumatchen-
co *et al.* (1992, 1995). Independently, but almost simultaneously, two main groups
came with different formations nomenclatures: those of French team (1986, 1988,
1994) and those of Bulgarian team (1992, 1995). Although the papers were published
by both the French and the Bulgarians, nearly one after the other, no group cited the
work of the other team. This compromises the reader and may lead to confusion. Our
work concerns the litho and biostratigraphic study of the Upper Jurassic of Ouarsenis
Mountains, which is located in the western part of the Algerian Tell. Seven sections
have been studied. We re-examined the classic sections (Bou Rheddou "BRD", Bech-
toute "BCHT" and Kef Sidi Amar "KSA"). Many ammonites have been collected,
which allowed the identification of the global biostratigraphic framework. An update
has been realized with the old collections of ammonites (Atrops. coll). Therefore, in
the present work, we unified the different nomenclatures.