

**COMPLEX RESEARCHES IN SOUTHERN DOBROGEA,
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES ON THE MOESIAN REGION**

(FIRST PART)

**PALAEOGEOGRAPHY OF DOBROGEA BASED
ON LITHOFACIES MAPS OF THE MOESIAN COVER**

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Based on the lithological and palaeontological record from outcrops and boreholes, several lithofacies maps have been designed in order to illustrate the palaeogeographic evolution of the Dobrogea area since the Palaeozoic. Geological evidence indicates that since the end of the Proterozoic, the areas of Central and South Dobrogea were repeatedly subject to periods of uplift and erosion, followed by deposition and subsidence. Sedimentation took place in normal marine environments from Ordovician to Early Devonian and during the Givetian-Visean, while paralic sedimentation prevailed in the Namurian-Westphalian. During Permian-Triassic the area was an emerged land, where tectonically controlled continental sedimentation took place upon restricted areas. The marine environment was re-established in the Middle Jurassic and shallow marine (carbonate platform to coastal) environments prevailed throughout Late Jurassic to Cretaceous, with sedimentation controlled by sea-level changes. Late Jurassic carbonate deposition was replaced by Aptian rift-related continental clastics and further by Albian shallow marine detrital sedimentation. Following the Santonian-Maastrichtian period of uplift, a shallow sea rich in carbonates invaded South Dobrogea in the Paleogene (Ypresian). The Miocene Sea retreated in the Meotian, and the emerged land was covered by continental sediments especially in the western part.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Moesian Platform (or Moesia) is a large structural unit of the Carpathian foreland west of the Black Sea, in direct relations with important segments of the Alpine belt and with the Cimmerian orogenic belt of North Dobrogea. This location raises questions not only regarding the geological history of Moesia, but also concerning palaeocontinental reconstructions, geodynamics of the alpine belt of SE Europe and formation and evolution of the Black Sea. The present study tries to review the geological information of the eastern part of Moesia – the Dobrogean sector – in order to reconstruct the paleogeographic evolution of this area throughout the Phanerozoic.

2. GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Moesian Platform is the flat area surrounded by the South Carpathians and Balkans and confined by the PeriCarpathian and North preBalkan Faults. The North