

## Upper Barremian- Lower Aptian Foraminiferal Record of the Shallow Water Carbonates (Taft Formation) in North of Isfahan, Central Iran

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A complete section including Barremian- Aptian carbonates cropping out 90 Km north of Isfahan, in Soh area was measured and sampled in detail. These strata are informally subdivided into two lithostratigraphic units ( Sangestan and Taft formations). The section studied starts with a polymictic conglomerate and red sandstones (Sangestan Formation), characterizing unconformable contact between Lower Jurassic shale and sandstones (Shemshak Formation) and Lower Cretaceous marine carbonates ( Taft Formation). The Taft Formation consists of thick bedded to massive carbonates interbedded with marine marl and marly limestones . The Formation is conformably topped by green to gray calcareous shale interbedded with thin to medium bedded argillaceous limestones being of ?Late Aptian age. The limestones of the Taft Formation are characterized by presence of agglutinating larger benthic foraminifera, among them orbitolinids are the main and more important representatives of the foraminiferal association. The identified taxa belong to 12 genera including *Montseciella arabica*, *Palorbitolina lenticularis*, *Praeorbitolina wienandsi*, *Mesorbitolina lotzei*, *Orbitolinopsis simplex*, *Trocholina odukpaniensis*, *Neotrocholina aptiensis*, *Vercorsella arenata*, *Haplophragmoides globosus*, *Charentia cuvillieri* and *Arenobulimina corniculum*.

Based on chronostratigraphic value of the identified taxa, the Late Barremian- Early Aptian age was ascribed to the carbonate sedimentary sequence of the Taft Formation in the area investigated.

**Keyword:** *Orbitolinids, Barremian, Aptian, , Taft Formation, Central Iran,*