

3. - "REEF-LIKE STRUCTURES OF QUATERNARY AGE IN THE GULF OF MANFREDONIA (ADRIATIC SEA / SOUTH ITALY)".

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During a sedimentological survey (1, 2, 3) of the Gulf of Manfredonia (Adriatic Sea) reef-like structures have been found which consist exclusively of the calcareous framework of marine organisms, mainly calcareous algae, Serpulid worms, and Bryozoa.

The structures occur at a waterdepth of 8 - 29 m as a main constituent of a zone subparallel to the coast which is called "Scogliera" (=reef) by the local fishermen. The so-called Scogliera-zone differs distinctly from the surrounding flat and muddy sea floor by its high content of organic debris and terrigenous sand in the sediments and its rough relief caused by rocky bottom, mud banks, and the mentioned organic structures. Within the Scogliera-zone the size of the reefs increases with waterdepth. The largest ones occurring in waterdepth greater than 15 m off the mouth of the Ofanto river are more or less round, up to 4 m high, more than 5 m in diameter, and mostly flat at the top. They are comparable in configuration and general appearance to small patch reefs. Up to now similar features have not been reported from the Mediterranean Sea.

The age of the reef structures is unknown. However, there is evidence that they formed during a lower sea level. Thus, a post-glacial, probably Atlantic age is likely. At present only the reefs situated in shallow (< 15 m) are still active. Those in deeper water are modified by incrustation of calcareous algae and buried by the recent sedimentation.

References :

- (1) Oeltzschner, H. (1973), Senckenbergiana maritima, Bd. 5
- (2) Oeltzschner, H. & Sigl, W. (1970), Geol. Rundschau, 60, 1, 131-144
- (3) Sigl, W. (1973), Senckenbergiana maritima, Bd. 5

NESTEROFF -

- 1) Jusqu'à quelle profondeur avez-vous pu échantillonner l'intérieur de ces structures ?

Réponse : Quelques dizaines de centimètres.

- 2) Il faudrait plutôt les comparer aux "corraligènes de roche" décrits par PERES, PICARD et moi-même, qui couvrent les affleurements ou les parois rocheux et non aux "corraligènes" de fonds plats. COUSTEAU et DUMAS ont dynamité ces structures sur 2 m sans atteindre le substrat rocheux. Mais ces corraligènes sont essentiellement construits par des algues ce qui les différencie de vos structures qui sont des "récifs à serpules".

GOEDICKE -

We have discovered very similar reef-like structures in water depth of from 20 - 30 meters offshore from the harbor of Beirut, Lebanon.