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**Presentation Title:**
Correlation of the newly Defined Jezzinian Regional Stage in Lebanon with a Prolific Oil Reservoir in Abu Dhabi, Thamama II (ADMA) - Thamama B (ADCO)

**Abstract:**
“Falaise de Blanche” forms a limestone cliff that runs throughout the mountain chains of Mount Lebanon, Anti-Lebanon, and passes into the Southern Alawite Mountains (Syria) and in Galilee. This geomorphologic unit spans several facies-driven lithostratigraphic units, namely the Abeih and Mdeirij formations in Lebanon, Palmyra and Zbeideh formations in Syria, and Ein-El-Assad and Nabi Said formations in Galilee, which are diachronous per definition. In addition, due to the contradictory opinions and views expressed by earlier authors, this unit required a full modern holostratigraphic re-evaluation.

Until recently (Maksoud et al., in press), this unit was lacking a type-locality and clear definitions for its lower and upper boundaries. Jezzine, where it has a notable exposure (70 m), was selected as the type-locality. On the base of its litho- and bio-stratigraphic distinctiveness and because it is bounded by unconformities, we redefined it as the Jezzine Unconformity Bounded Unit (UBU), the Jezzine Alloformation or the Jezzinian Regional Stage (we favour the latter though all these labellings are almost equivalent). Its lower boundary corresponds to the sequence boundary at the top of the siliciclastic coastal and estuarine deposits of the "Grès de Base"; its upper boundary corresponds to another sequence boundary at the top of the muddy facies (at the base of the Cardium Beds): “Locally this upper surface is encrusted by oysters and bored by worms and pholadids, indicative of an early lithification of the muddy sediment.”

The micropaleontological assemblages of the Jezzinian (consisting mostly of benthic foraminifers and calcareous algae) matches with the one in the Persian Gulf area, on the opposite part of the Arabian Plate. The distribution of Montsechiella arabica, among other microfossils, led us to correlate the Jezzine type-section in Lebanon with the Kharaiabian Regional Stage of the Persian Gulf and to exclude both the Hawarian and the Shuaibaian (Thamama I reservoir of ADMA’s nomenclature): the Jezzinian "falls" into the Kharaiab interval (Thamama II and III-A reservoirs of ADMA; Thamama B and C reservoirs of ADCO). Moreover, the occurrence of Rectodictyoconus giganteus can narrow the interval to the upper Kharaiab interval. The Jezzinian is also indirectly correlated with the Northern Tethyan series: there it falls in a rather short interval encompassing the standard Barremian - Bedoulian stage boundary. Locally the upper discontinuity corresponds to a significant intra-Bedoulian hiatus. The macrofossil assemblages found in the Jezzinian (echinids) and above it (ammonites) agree with our micropaleontological dating.

**Keywords:** Lebanon; Lower Cretaceous; Barremian; Bedoulian; Falaise de Blanche; Jezzinian Regional Stage; Kharaiabian; foraminifers; Dasycladales.
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