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## Integrated stratigraphy of the Bartonian-Priabonian Urtsadzor section, Armenia

COTTON, Laura J.<sup>1</sup>, ZAKREVSKAYA, Elena Y.<sup>2</sup>, BOON, Annique van der<sup>3</sup>, ASATRYAN, Gayane<sup>4</sup>, HAYRAPETYAN, Flora<sup>4</sup>, ISRAYELYAN, Arsen<sup>4</sup>, KRIJGSMAN, Wout<sup>3</sup>, LESS, György<sup>5</sup>, MONECHI, Simonetta<sup>6</sup>, MUSATOV, Vladamir<sup>7</sup>, PAPAZZONI, Cesare A.<sup>8</sup>, PEARSON, Paul N.<sup>9</sup> RAZUMOVSKIY, Anatoly<sup>10</sup>, RENEMA, Willem<sup>1</sup>, SHCHERBININA, Ekaterina<sup>10</sup>, VASILYEVA, Olga<sup>7</sup>, WADE, Bridget<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Naturalis Biodiversity Center, PO Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands

<sup>2</sup> Vernadsky State Geological Museum RAS, Москва, Mokhovaya 11, bl.11 Moscow 125009 Russia

<sup>3</sup> Fort Hoofddijk Paleomagnetic Laboratory, University of Utrecht, Budapestlaan 17, 3584 CD Utrecht, the Netherlands

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Geological Sciences, Armenian National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia

<sup>5</sup> University of Miskolc, H-3515, Miskolc–Egyetemváros, Hungary

<sup>6</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra Via LaPira 4, I-50121 Firenze, Italy

<sup>7</sup> Nizhnevolzhsky geology and geophysics research institute (NVNIIGG), Moskovskaya str. 70 Saratov, 410012 Russia

<sup>8</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche e Geologiche, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia Via Campi 103, I-41125 Modena, Italy

<sup>9</sup> School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University, Main Building, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT, U.K.

<sup>10</sup> Geological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 7 Pyzhevsky per., 119017 Moscow, Russia

<sup>11</sup> Department of Earth Sciences, University College London, Gower Street WC1E 6BT, London

The uppermost Bartonian to lowermost Priabonian transition is associated with several rapid extinctions across microfossil groups. However, the marker for the Bartonian-Priabonian boundary is not formally defined and currently under discussion. The planktonic foraminifera *Acarinina* and *Morozovelloides* suffer a rapid global extinction and calcareous nannofossils show several assemblage changes including the last occurrences of *Sphenolithus obtusus* and *Chiasmolithus grandis*, the acme of *Cribocentrum erbae* and first occurrences of *Chiasmolithus oamaruensis*, *Isthmolithus recurvus* and *Cribocentrum isabellae* around this interval. Within the shallow water, larger foraminifera also show an extinction of the large species of the genus *Nummulites*, as well as the first occurrences of important genera, such as *Spiroclypeus* and *Pellatispira* the upper middle Eocene. However, the exact correlation between shallow and deep water records remains uncertain, as do the mechanisms driving these extinction events.

Here we present the first results of a new integrated stratigraphical study (calcareous nannofossils, planktonic foraminifera, larger benthic foraminifera, and magnetostratigraphy) of the Urtsadzor section in south-western Armenia which appears to be continuous through this interval. The Urtsadzor section consists of marlstones rich in micro- and nannofossils, with interbedded limestones containing abundant larger foraminifera. Our new data enable us to correlate larger foraminiferal events with global planktonic biostratigraphy, in a section outside of southwest Europe where most previous correlations have been based. At Urtsadzor, the large *Nummulites* species *N. millecaput*, appear to decrease in abundance toward the top of the section. The first occurrence of *Spiroclypeus* occurs in the uppermost limestone bed. These larger foraminiferal events occur well above the planktonic foraminiferal extinction level and nannofossil assemblage changes indicating the event is not synchronous across all groups, and has important implications for biostratigraphy.