ACTA PALAEONTOLOGICA POLONICA

Preliminary investigation of marine phytoylankton from the Middle Jurassic coal deposits of El-Maghara, Central Sinai, Egypt

N.M. Aboul Ela and M.F. Aly
Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 33 (4), 1988: 343-352

Nineteen species of Dinoflagellate have been found in the coal deposits of El-Maghara, Safa Formation, north central Sinai. The dominant recorded species are: *Lithodinia jurassica*, *Leptodinium antigonium*, *Gonyaulacysta* sp., *Chytroeisphaeridia* cf. *mantellii*, *Sentusidinium echinatum* , *Cassiculosphaeridia magna* apd *Exiguisphaera* cf. *phragma*. Bajocian-Bathonian age of the coal deposits of El-Maghara could be confirmed. The data suggest a paralic origin for the coal of El-Maghara.

Key words: Dinoflagellate, coal deposits, Sinai, Egypt, Middle Jurassic.

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