Paleontological remarks on the Gratteri Formation cropping out near Isnello (Madonie Mts., Sicily)

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INTRODUCTION

We present palaeontological remarks on a well-exposed outcrop of the Gratteri Formation (Miocene) in the small, coastal valley called Leonello near Isnello (Madonie Mts., Sicily). The limestone bed is continuous and forms a sharp angular unconformity at the base of the overlying Bocca Formazione (Fig. 1). The investigated area is about 150 meters long and about 50 meters wide (Fig. 2A). Above, in the uppermost unit, a well-exposed limestone mound (Gratteri, 1942) and the immediate sequence of its lateral facies are exposed. The Gratteri Formation is characterized by an alternation of limestone (e.g., Fig. 4) and dolomitized limestone (Fig. 5B). The rare fossils that have been recognized so far (Figs. 6-7) are represented by small, Micropaleontological and Benthic Foraminifera, including species of solitary species of Foraminifera and articulated brachiopods. These fossils are quite well-preserved, and their presence is not unusual in this type of deposit. The Gratteri Formation is characterized by a diverse and well-preserved fauna, including species of solitary species of Foraminifera and articulated brachiopods. These fossils are quite well-preserved, and their presence is not unusual in this type of deposit.