

NANNOFOSSIL BIOSTRATIGRAPHY OF ALBIAN TO SANTONIAN CYCLOTHEMS - MIDDLE NORTH AMERICA

K.R. KRUMBACH

Gulf Oil Co.

P.O. Box 36506, Houston, Texas 77236

Three major marine cyclothems were deposited during Albian to Santonian times in middle North America. Wide-spread organic marine shales were deposited during times of transgression and high sea-level stand. Open marine

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conditions supported an algae population which produced nannofossils. These nannofossils have been incorporated into a bio-zonation which has been correlated with spores, pollen and in some cases marine dinoflagellates. Four sections have been studied from the Overthrust Belt of Wyoming and the Book Cliffs of central Utah.

This zonation was conceived as a practical exploration tool. Although this study is limited in scope, it appears that nannofossils provide a reliable, useful tool for bio-stratigraphy in these areas.