

The Machinchang - Setul Transition in Langkawi and Tarutao.

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The sedimentary contact between the Machinchang Formation (Tarutao Formation in Thailand) clastics and the overlying Setul Formation (Thung Song Formation in Thailand) carbonates is not well exposed in northwestern Pulau Langkawi. However, there are several localities in Pulau Terutao, the large Thai island about 6.5 km north of Pulau Langkawi, where the transition zone sediments are exposed.

A study of the transition zone outcrops from Pulau Terutao and Pulau Langkawi has revealed that the sedimentary contact between these two Lower Paleozoic formations to be a gradational one. There is a distinct trend of increasing density and thickness of carbonate intercalations gradually replacing fine clastics as we trace the sequence upsection from the Upper Cambrian Machinchang Formation sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, shales and tuffs into the Ordovician Setul Formation argillaceous limestones.

The transition zone sediments are largely shallow marine because of the presence of typical shallow water markers such as kinneyia (a small scale ripple-like pseudotrache-fossil), storm deposits with oscillation ripple marks and marine because of trilobite and brachiopod fossils in the sediments.
