



Depositional cycles in upper absheron substage succession in the Western flank of the South Caspian depression

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The Caspian Sea, the largest land locked basin in the world, isolated from ParaTethys at the end of Messinian. Since that time sedimentation there took place under conditions of isolated basin temporarily connected with Black Sea in Upper Pliocene (Akchagyl). For the first time very detailed study (centimeter scale) of outcrop was carried out for sequence stratigraphy of the Upper absheron substage deposits cropped out in the Western flank of the South Caspian depression (Shikhovo exposure). The data obtained demonstrated the high-frequency cyclicity in sedimentation accompanied by rapid lateral and vertical depositional environment change. The depositional setting during accumulation of this succession has changed within shore face-shelf environment. Some information contained in this document is the new data, due to more recent observations and interpretations.

It is possible to observe several full depositional sequences developed from transgressive system tract to low stand system tract, to high stand system tract and return to sedimentation under conditions of sea level rise. The studied successions are characterized by steep foresets, about 12°, which is evidence of steep slope existed during the sediment accumulation.

The results of the field works on exposures of the Eopleistocene deposits exposed in the Western flank of the South Caspian depression (Shikhovo outcrop) demonstrated the high-frequency cyclicity in sedimentation.