**Palynology and palaeogeography of the JLMD-EW8 borehole from Saudi Arabia**

**Philippe Steemans 1, Pierre Breuer 2, Sa’id Al-Hajri 2, Alain Le Hérissé 3, Florentin Paris 4, Jacques Verniers 5, Charles H. Wellman 6**

1 NFSR Senior Research Associate, Department of Geology, Unit PPP, Liège University, Belgium. [p.steemans@ulg.ac.be](p.steemans%40ulg.ac.be)

2 Saudi Aramco, Exploration Technical Services Department, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia [Said.hajri.1@aramco.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CPhilippe%5CDesktop%5CPPMB%202016%5CSaid.hajri.1%40aramco.com)

3 Université de Brest, CNRS UMR6538, Domaines Océaniques, Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer, Brest, France. [alain.le.herisse@univ-brest.fr](alain.le.herisse%40univ-brest.fr)

4 Thorigné-Fouillard, France. florentin.paris@orange.fr

5 Research Unit of Paleontology, Department of Geology and Soil Sciences, Ghent University, Belgium.

6 Department of Animal & Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, *UK*

**Abstract**

A distinctive, rich and diverse marginal marine palynological assemblage from the Tawil Formation occurs in several wells from northwestern and eastern Saudi Arabia. The composition of this assemblage strongly indicates a middle Přídolí age. The assemblage encountered contains abundant, miospores, chitinozoans, acritarchs, tasmanites, freshwater algae, scolecodonts, eurypterid cuticle and other organic remains. Many taxa from this assemblage are of taxonomic interest and useful for regional and intercontinental correlation. The palaeogeographic distribution of this assemblage is also discussed as acritarchs, chitinozoans and miospores encountered in the studied samples correlate well with similar assemblages from various Algerian, Libyan, and Ibero-armorican localities (i.e. Ibarmaghian regions). This corresponds to what is considered a transgressive mid-Přídolí event in the Algerian Sahara, with non-marine intervals bracketing this brief marine sea level rise. This event is likely to have extended into all of north Gondwana including Arabia