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Manuscript ID: PSR-2212-1198

Manuscript Title: **Geochemistry of brown detrital limestone within Sarmord Formation, Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region, Iraq: Implication for depositional environment, provenance and tectonic setting**

Date: 2022-12-17

Dear **Dr. Ahmed Aqrawi**

I cordially invite you to review the manuscript which has been submitted to the .

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MANUSCRIPT DETAILS

TITLE: Geochemistry of brown detrital limestone within Sarmord Formation, Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region, Iraq: Implication for depositional environment, provenance and tectonic setting

ABSTRACT:

Abstract

Fifteen samples of brown detrital limestone beds within Sarmord Formation from the Imbricated Zone (Qaiwan and Barzinjah sections) and High Folded Zone (Zewe section) Kurdistan region, NE-Iraq were analyzed for the major oxides, trace elements and REE's to find out their provenance, tectonic setting and depositional environment. These beds are mainly composed of detrital limestone in which calcite and traces of quartz are confirmed by XRD and the microscopic study. Al_2O_3/TiO_2 , La/Sc, La/Co, Th/Sc, Cr/Th and Th/Cr ratios and $\{(TiO_2+V_2O_3)-(MgO/(MgO+Al_2O_3))\}$, (TiO₂-Ni), (La/Th-Hf), (La/Sc-Co/Th) diagrams reveal sourcing from the mixed carbonate platform and felsic rocks. The ratios of major, trace and REE with PAAS values fall within the range of felsic rocks which agree with the Cretaceous western desert as a source of these beds. The (Rb-Sr-Ba) ternary diagram and (Sr/Ba-Sr/Rb) diagram display distribution of the samples between the continental margin and inland field, tectonically these detrital limestones are transported from the erosion of the interior of Arabian platform into deep marine and interbedded with the green marl. The V/Cr, U/Th, Ni/Co and Sr/Ca ratios and diagram of (Al₂O₃-V) indicate deposition under shallow marine oxic to the dysoxic environment and transported to the deep marine. The paleoclimate index C-value, Sr/Cu ratio and SiO₂-(Al₂O₃+K₂O+Na₂O) diagram indicates hot arid conditions. paleosalinity ratios Rb/K and Sr/Ba imply brackish to marine water conditions.

Keywords: Imbricated zone, geochemical data, grainstone microfacies, source rocks, discrimination diagram

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