



OPTIMA

Organization for the Phyto - Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area
Organisation pour l'Etude Phyto - Taxonomique de la Région Méditerranéenne

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME COLLOQUE

PALERMO (ITALY)
6 - 14 JUNE / JUIN 1983



ABSTRACTS - RESUMES

**SYMPOSIUM III (ORG.: W. GREUTER, Chair:
D. BERTOLANI MARCHETTI)**

**"Polynostratigraphical and paleobotanical contributions to
the history of the Mediterranean flora"**

**"Contributions polynostratigraphiques et paleobotaniques
à la genèse de la flora méditerranéenne"**

INTRODUCTION AND SOME DATA ON THE MESSINIAN.

D. Bertolani Marchetti. Istituto e Orto Botanico dell'Università.
Viale Caduti in Guerra, 127 - MODENA (Italy).

The NATO-ARI International Conference of Erice, Sicily (November 18/28, 1982) on the "Geological Evolution of the Mediterranean Basin", with palynological paleoclimatological implications, and the Mediterranean Neogene Interim-Colloquium (April 18-27, 1983), produced very interesting reports and discussions.

Thus we have today an every more detailed picture of the important events taking place in the Mediterranean basin, i.e. upper Miocene glacial events, identification of Plio-Pleistocene boundary, beginning of "Mediterranean" climate and vegetation conditions, different features of glacial and interglacial periods in the North and South Mediterranean, etc..

Problems of the Messinian (Upper Miocene) are for palynologists the ones most recently investigated: "salinity crisis", with partial desertification of the Mediterranean area and with probable presence of cool, or wet/warm climatic conditions; probable connections with glacial waves; palynological identification of some vegetation belts; etc. Sedimentological, chronological, and paleontological studies provide a precious support.