

Dear All,

Hereafter are the last news regarding the Lebanese field trip scheduled from Monday 2006/09/04 to Monday 09/11 (I remember you that a week-long stay is necessary to get cheap air fares).

Late registration is still possible. Do not hesitate to contact colleagues that could be interested.

The field-trip is organized jointly by the GFC (French Group for the Cretaceous) and the Lebanese University of Beirut (Mustapha Mroueh, Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy). Field data have been acquired through the MEBE (Middle East Basins Evolution) Programme led by the Paris VI University (Dr. Eric Barrier), and with the financial and logistic support of the Lebanese University.

Plane reservations have to be made individually by each participant. And the sooner the better. Fares are still low but they will quickly increase in the coming weeks. We ask you to arrive in Beirut if possible before 7 p.m. in order to try to organize shuttles from the airport to the hotel downtown. So, please, make us know ASAP by e-mail your arrival time in Beirut airport.

Visas can be purchased upon arrival at the airport.

Our hotel in Beirut: Marble Tower Hotel, Hamra quarter (downtown), Makdisi street (parallel to the Hamra str.).

We will stay all the week in this hotel because of price arrangements through the Lebanese University. The major inconvenience will be travel times by bus needed to reach the field trip stops. So, we will quit the hotel every morning as soon as possible, say by 7 or 7.30 a.m. at the latest.

There will be no problem to get cash as cash machines are easily available everywhere in Beirut.

Lodging will be on the basis of double occupancy, or single if requested.

Excursion cost is 400 euros (double occupancy) or 570 euros (single) to be paid to the GFC (French Group for the Cretaceous)

Price includes lodging and breakfast, transportation by bus and other items like guide-book,... Evening meals are not included. Cheap (and good, Lebanese style) meals can be found in chops close to the hotel. A little supermarket is also open late in the evening close to the hotel.

Programme: (see attached map)

Mo 04: Plane transfers (arrival time if possible before 7 p.m.)

Tu 05: northern Lebanon (Ehden area)

- Cenomanian-Turonian platform carbonates near Ehden
- Cretaceous volcanism episodes (Beit Monzer)
- Incised valleys and paleokarst from Beit Monzer to Tannourine and Laklouk
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We 06: northern Lebanon (Kartaba - Laklouk - Nahr Ibrahim gorge)

- Wedging of the Lower Cretaceous in synsedimentary grabens (panoramas)
- Albian to Cenomanian carbonates of Mount Lebanon (transgressive domal geometries after the Albian-Cenomanian boundary emersion)
- Aptian to Cenomanian platform carbonates in the coastal area (Nahr Ibrahim). The Cenomanian-Turonian boundary in laminated chalky lms.
- time permitting, Nahr el Kelb section (Aptian to lower Cenomanian succession)

Th 07: tourism day. Possibility to spend the day in Jbail (Byblos) and to visit the Cenomanian fossil fish sites nearby.

Fr 08: Central Lebanon (Jezzine area) and southern Anti-Lebanon (Aït El Foukhar)

- Chouf sandstones (deltaic facies, fluvial to tide-influenced)
- Jezzine section (Aptian « Blanche » Fm. to upper Albian intrashelf basinal carbonates. *Knemiceras* marls.

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Sa 09: Faraya to northern Anti-Lebanon (Ain Bounaya)

- Valanginian Salima Fm. encased in synsedimentary grabens
- Panorama of the Cretaceous succession (Chouf ss. to upper Albian carbonates at the Chabrouh dam)
- Onlap of the Lower Cretaceous series to the East. Upper Albian nodular carbonates.
- The major emersion surface at the Albian – Cenomanian boundary in intrashelf basinal carbonates.
- Progradation clinofolds of the Turonian carbonate platform.

Su 10: free tourism day in Beirut (or plane transfers for people wanting to quit early)

Mo 11: Plane transfers

Contacts:

Should any problem arise, do not hesitate to contact us by phone or e-mail

Registration, fees payment:

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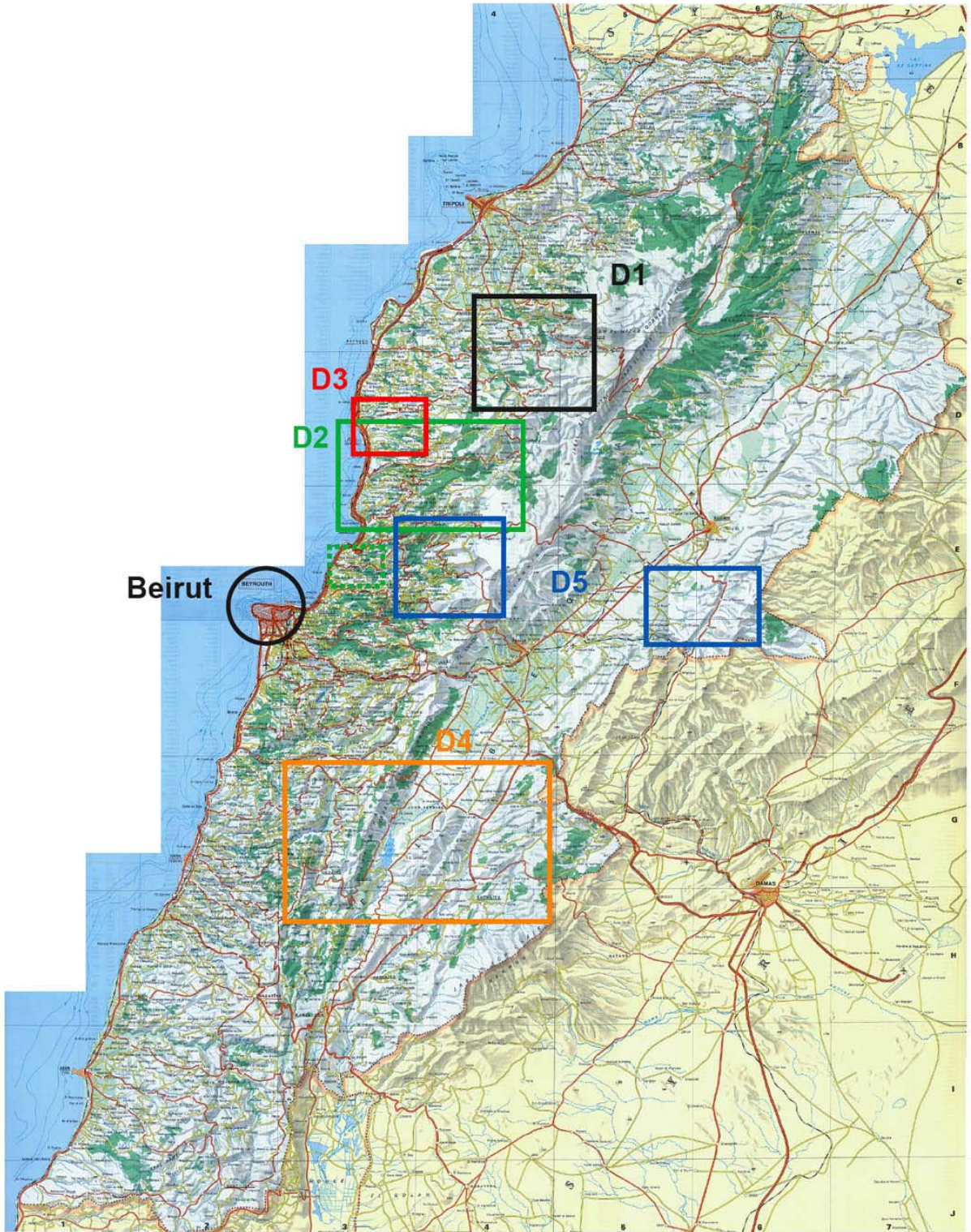
About the programme:

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Beirut

50 km

Summary about the Cretaceous of Lebanon:

There has been few improvements since the works of Dubertret and Saint-Marc in the '50 and the '70, due to the war that shackled the country for so many long years.

We used facies sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy concepts to bring a new light on the earlier stratigraphic works. New formations have been defined for a future cartographic programme. A new sequence stratigraphic scheme is proposed.

The Lower Cretaceous is made of a number of depositional sequences separated by emersion periods that may have lasted over long periods of time. For instance, the Upper Albian is transgressive on Upper Aptian deposits. A major break is known everywhere close to the Albian-Cenomanian boundary, with a transgressive beach facies resting on intra-shelf basinal carbonates close to Syrian border in Anti-Lebanon. And so on. During emersions, deposition was shifted in present-day offshore settings, as is suggested by correspondences with offshore Israel. Transgressions were accompanied by volcanism, as most of Lower Cretaceous deposits were emplaced in an extensional regime that started in Berriasian to Valanginian times and finished in the late Albian. Lowering of base level during emersions (sequence boundaries) created incised valley networks that may have superimposed from one sequence to the next. These valleys were mostly filled by « transgressive » volcanoclastics.

The period covering the Late Albian to the Turonian included correspond to the main flooding episode of the Levant platform, as all around the Arabic craton. It is the time of the development of large carbonate platforms. But the paleogeography of these platforms may have been somewhat complicated by differential subsidence inherited from the previous period. So, in some area (northern Lebanon for instance) a classical progradational mechanism is found. But in large saddles (intra-shelf basins), like in Mont-Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, the instalment of shallow-water carbonates on « deep »-water mudstones (locally anoxic and laminated) may have been sharp.

A general flooding occurred in post-Turonian times, as in other regions of the Arabic plate. Chalks or chalky lms. were deposited. And this kind of deposits lasted in the Paleocene. A possible K/T boundary site could be found just south of Tripoli. This period has not been studied.

The field trip will be a mix of observations from large panoramas and of facies along roads or sometimes through some walks in the hills. It will cover all the succession from the Valanginian Salima Fm. to the Turonian Abou Ali (new) Fm.