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The Chadian sedimentary series from final Miocene to today: sequences eolian–fluviatile–lacustrine

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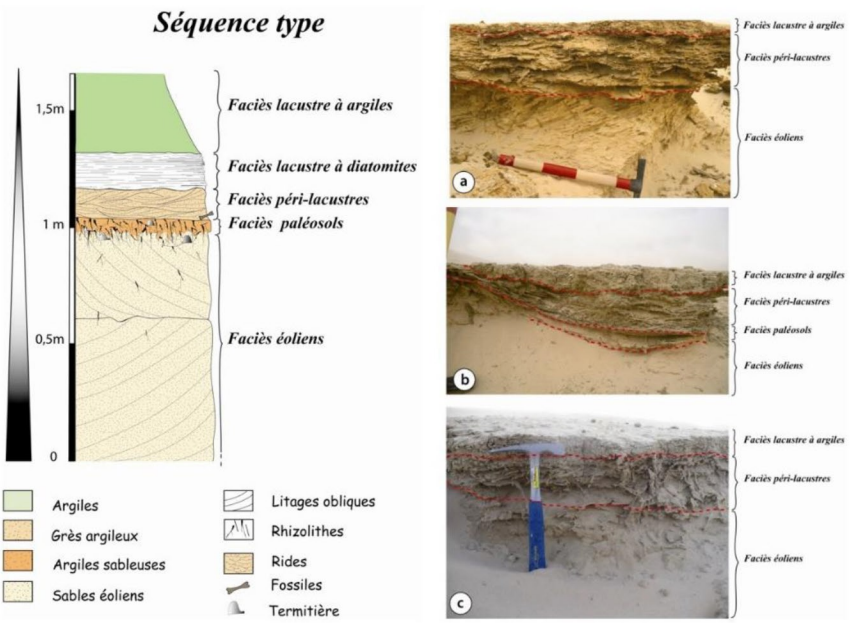
In Chad, the sedimentological and paleoenvironmental study of the hominid-bearing fossiliferous sites, and more particularly those of TM (Toros-Ménalla) focuses on a series of continental deposits made from sands, clays, sandstones, and diatomites. The oldest sites are dated to the latest Miocene. These sites delivered reamins of the oldest currently known hominid to date (Toumaï, Sahelanthropus tchadensis, Brunet et al. 2002). The type sequence of these fossiliferous sites display a progressive transition from eolian facies to Sahelian facies (with paleosoils), peri-lacustrine facies, then lacustrine facies. The ideal sequence shows a vertical evolution between facieses along the climatic drift. In the field, imporant lateral variations of this type sequence are observed.



Moussa Abderamane *is assistant professor at the University of N'Djamena and works since his PhD on the geology of the Djurab paleontological sites and other sedimentary sequences in Africa. He is currently the head of the Paleontology Department at N'Djamena, and at the origin of a new Earth Sciences master curriculum in Chad.*