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## Editorial

# Foreword

This is the second issue of the “Simposio Jurásio de América del Sur”, a series of contributions on the Jurassic of South America and paleogeographically related areas. Originally planned as a meeting at Salta, Argentina during the XIV Congreso Geológico Argentino (CGA), it was finally prepared as a set of contributions to be published in a first-level journal.

The six contributions in the present volume include some of the latest advances in the earth sciences concerning the Jurassic of South America and the Atlantic Tethys. The knowledge on the South American Jurassic has grown since the pioneer works of the 19th century. A variety of disciplines are represented in the present volume. Today we are in need of much interdisciplinary work in order to integrate the vast number of specialized advances, and to work out a more homogeneous and comprehensive body of knowledge on the interpretation of the geobiologic history of America.

F. Olóriz and collaborators have updated the interpretation of geobiologic records in North–Central Mexico. Based on an extensive compilation of data, these authors provide a dynamic framework which integrates stratigraphic, biostratigraphic, tectonic and eustatic signals in North–Central Mexico. They present a sequence-stratigraphic interpretation and correlate geobiologic records in this key area with records in other areas related to the evolving Central–North Atlantic Basin.

Matilde S. Beresi has contributed one of the first updated studies on sponges of the Upper Jurassic of South America from Mendoza, Argentina, describing an Upper Jurassic association of siliceous sponges from Rio Potimalal. In a worldwide perspective the Upper Jurassic carbonates are interpreted as deposits of a highstand systems tract, similar to other Oxfordian sequences found around the world.

E. Aragón and collaborators present a petrologic study of large Jurassic volcanic province of the Patagonian Massif erupted during the breakup of Gondwana. Their interpretation involves mixing and crystallization in chambers at the brittle–ductile transition in the crust, followed by rapid extrusion in a transtensional environment.

F. Etayo-Serna and collaborators have re-evaluated the stratigraphy and fossil content of the Batá Formation of Colombia. Their study indicates a Cretaceous age for

the Batá Formation, not the Jurassic age previously accepted for the unit.

J. Auajjar and J. Boulegne have contributed a petrographic and geochemical study of Jurassic dolomitic facies of Eastern Morocco, concluding the synsedimentary, diagenetic, and hydrothermal processes were involved in the formation of the dolomites of the Tazekka district. The paleogeographic setting of the area, close to the Central Atlantic–Hispanic Corridor, makes this study of great importance for improving present knowledge of local paleogeography.

Finally the contribution by H. Parent gives a comprehensive review of an important group of Tithonian perisphinctid ammonites. Some of these ammonites were originally described by A. Steuer and C. Burckhardt, but were sometimes misinterpreted from the original hand-drawn pictures. This new systematic approach facilitates the interpretation of both taxonomy and biostratigraphy of these ammonites.

We acknowledge the cordial invitation of the President of the XIV CGA, Dr Gustavo Bonorino, to go ahead with the failed meeting of this symposium. The Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Ingeniería y Agrimensura (Universidad Nacional de Rosario) gave invaluable support to begin work on this issue. Reviewers of the contributions in this volume include: *Luis H. Dalla Salda* (La Plata, Argentina), *Estela Poma de Page* (Buenos Aires, Argentina), *Alessandro Rottura* (Bologna, Italy), *Hermann Duque Caro* (Bogotá, Colombia), *Gustavo Gonzalez Bonorino* (Salta, Argentina), *Gerd E.G. Westermann* (Ontario, Canada), *Luba N. Jansa* (Dalhousie, Canada), *José María Tavera* (Granada, Spain), *Andrzej Pisera* (Warsaw, Poland), *Keith J. Rigby* (Brigham, USA), *Manfred Krautter* (Stuttgart, Germany), *Günter Schweigert* (Stuttgart, Germany), *François Atrops* (Lyon, France), *José Fernandez Carmona* (La Habana, Cuba), *Andrzej Pszczolkowski* (Warsaw, Poland), *Wolfgang Stinnesbeck* (Karlsruhe, Germany). The editorial staff of the JSAES has been a great help during our work.

Rosario, 12/10/2002

Horacio Parent

Guillermo Meléndez

Federico Olóriz