

Outline of the Stratigraphy of the Cuba Continental Margin and Major Transgressive Episodes. Contribution to the SAMC IGCP Project 381

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Deposition of syn-rift terrigenous sediments in Cuba occurred from the Early Jurassic to Early Oxfordian and are about 3,000 m thick. A comparison between the Lower to Middle Jurassic floras of Mexico, Cuba and Honduras, suggests a continuous progradation from inland to shallow marine within a single Jurassic basin.

Pre-marine evaporite strata were deposited in the Callovian with no less than 1,500 m thick. Elsewhere in the southern Gulf of Mexico basin, the salt has only be reached in diapiric structures as the same in northern Cuba.

The deposits of the passive margin conform excellent source rocks in starved basins whose sediments attain a thickness about 1,200-1,500 m and 4,000 m for the carbonate banks. Basin-platform transitional facies were recognized exhibiting closed affinities with the prolific Tamabra Formation of southeast Mexico.

Two flooding events during the Upper Jurassic are recorded on continental margin: 1) during the Middle to Late Oxfordian, which is considered to be equivalent to the establishment of the Smackover and Zuloaga ramps in the Florida Panhandle and central / northeast Mexico respectively, and 2) during the Late Tithonian, relating to the drowning out of Kimmeridgian platforms. The Aptian represents a period when an important transgression occurred. It represents a third flooding event. Regional comparisons with coeval events in southeast Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas Bank and northern South Atlantic were reviewed.