

# MARINE CALCAREOUS MICROFOSSILS FROM WEST CENTRAL ARGENTINA AND THE J/K BOUNDARY

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In West-Central Argentina the stratigraphic succession belonging to the Neuquén Basin, which includes the Tth/Ber boundary, is now considered on the basis of its nannofossils. Further information provided by forams and ostracods is added.

The nannofossils of the Tithonian - Berriasian interval do not exhibit great diversity. The Berriasian levels at Covunco, Mallín Quemado, Cuesta del Chihuido and Cara Cura have provided a relatively monotonous nannofossils microflora of wide distributed taxa, both in space and time; most of them are shared with Tithonian assemblages. The forams reduce their abundance and diversity in calcareous facies of shallow water environment, near the Tith/Ber boundary. As in other parts of the world this interval coincides here with a relative decrease in the water depth.

In Cara Cura (Mendoza Province), a change in composition and diversity of the nannoflora is recognized at the end of the Berriasian. The first appearance of *Eiffellithus windii*, which approximately coincides with the disappearance of the Berriasian ammonoid *Cuyaniceras transgrediens* assemblage, is emphasized in order to outline the local Ber/Val boundary. The significance of these biohorizons is strengthened by the first appearance of cytheraceans ostracods and benthonic foraminifer species.

In the El Marucho Section (southern part of the basin) the first record of *Nannoconus bucheri* and new cytheraceans ostracods taxa suggests the beginning of the Hauterivian age.

The present evidences are in agreement with the point of view supported by different authors that select the Ber/Val as preferred boundary between the Jurassic and the Cretaceous.