

FREEZING INDEX AND FREQUENCY IN THE PATAGONIA AND IN THE PIEDMONT CORDILLERAN REGION

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PIEDMONT CORDILLERAN REGION Enrique BukCRICYT-CONICETAbstractThe
patagonic area is below the 14° C annual mean isotherm, boundary below which it
is necessary to take into account the effects of freezing and thawing. With
information from 23 meteorological stations, the patagonic region is zoned in areas
of freezing index and frequencies, with forms and distributions depending mainly
on the latitude, altitude and the marine influence of the Pacific Ocean. In both
cases the isolines have a northern-southern trend, and the maximum values are
centered in the mid-west patagonic region (Esquel-Perito Moreno). This zonation is
a first attempt to give an schematic idea about the division in regions of the
freezing indexes and frequencies that can be used in road design, in works of civil
engineering and, eventually, for agriculture.