HOLOCE PALEOGEOGRAPHY OF THE RÍO DE LA PLATA

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The Río de la Plata is considered as a geomorphological unit represented by a subaqueous and a subaerial delta extended both underwater and in the coastal plains superposed over estuarine deposits. It represents a depositional sequence composed of three system tracks evolved during the Holocene transgression which sedimentary dynamic was conditioned by sea-level fluctuations, directions of wave approach and geometry of the plio- pleistocene substrate. Low-stand system track formed whensea-level was about 100 m below present (18.000 years b.p.) and erosive processes occurred in a former paleovalley, which was deepened so that fluvial and deltaic deposition occurred at the shelf edge. Transgressive system track originated as a consequence of landward migration of an estuarine muddy depocenter when the sea invaded the paleovalley and drowned its flooding plane before reaching its higher level, about 6,5 m above present around 6000 years ago. High-stand system track developed when the sea stayed at its maximum level and during the subsequent sea-level fall to its present position in the last 6000 years, when coastal progradation occurred givin origin to the clastic coastal wedge; coastal plains developed within this stage under a northwestward littoral drift induced by waves coming from the southeast; at about 3000 years b.p. environmental conditions changed from estuarine to fluvial and the Paraná delta, whose submerged facies occupy the entire lengh of the Río de la Plata, developed.