

THE ORDOVICIAN SILICICLASTIC FROM THE SAN RAFAEL BLOCK, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA: STRATIGRAPHY, PROVENANCE, GRAPTOLITE FAUNA AND CORRELATIONS WITH PRECORDILLERA.

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Investigations carried out in the Ordovician belt nearby the Eastern slope of the Cerro Bola, San Rafael Block, allowed to enlarge the outcrops area of the Pavon Fm. This unit as a sandy turbidite, is composed of 700 m of tabular sandstones, silstones and shales and it is intruded by Permo-Triassic rhyolites. Special attention was focused to elucidate the stratigraphy, biostratigraphy, sedimentology and structural aspects in close relationship with the regional tectonic framework. Detrital modes points out to a recycled orogen and continental block provenance. Paleocurrents suggest that the source area was located Eastwards. The structure is characterized by an asymmetrical anticline and regional faulting. A rich graptolite fauna made up of 23 taxa was also found. It were recognized three graptolite assemblages: the lower is characterized by *Cl. bicornis* and *Cl. bicornis tridentatus*. In some levels these specimens could reach the 80% of the graptolite population. The second assemblage is composed only by dicranograptids of *longicaulis* type. The third assemblage is characterized by the sudden entrance of large orthograptids. *Cl. bicornis* and *bicornis tridentatus* are also present but its populations diminishes. The age of the Pavon Fm. is referred to the lower Caradoc: *Cl. bicornis* Biozone. As this Biozone is also present in the Ordovician of the Precordillera the correlation can be establish with paleogeographical implications.