

MIDDLE CRETACEOUS PALEOENVIRONMENTS FROM THE BAHAMAS PALEOMARGIN IN CENTRAL CUBA

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In northern central Cuba Mesozoic representatives from the meridional margin of Bahamas platform and its continental slope are found. The Middle Cretaceous deposits are characterized by facial variations, because of relative rise of the sea level, beginning in Aptian and the siliciclastic material from the incipient volcanic arc.

Considering the lito-biofacial characteristics observed in cores from deep wells, the deposition environment analysis in Tecto - Units found in the Bahamas paleomargin is given, which from north to south are: Cayo Coco, Remedios, Colorados, Camajuaní and Placetas.

During Albian - Cenomanian, the growing of carbonate platform that begun in Upper Jurassic, continues to the north in which several paleoenvironments: subtidal, back - reef and bioconstruction are distinguished.

The result of the relative rise of sea level in Aptian is the retrogradation of the platform, taking place the occurrence of a paleochannel in continuous subsidence, which characterize the sediments in Cayo Coco Tecto-Unit.

Deep water facies in anoxic basin to the south were developed, giving us slope and basin facies. Colorados Tecto-Unit Colorados is recognized by slope facies with pelagic and hemipelagic sediments which enclosed debris flows with fauna both from platform and Albian-Cenomanian pelagites. The sediments in Camajuaní Tecto-Unit are formed by rhythmic alternations of micrites, clays, calcarenites, silicites and intraformational conglomerates, typical of turbidites deposited at the base of the slope basis. In Placetas Tecto-Unit, pelagites with planktonic fauna were formed by, corresponding to the basinal deepest facies, with clastic limestones in association with turbidity currents.