

THE GENUS *ERODONA* BOSC, 1801 (MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA: MYOIDEA) IN THE PARANÁ FORMATION (LATE MIOCENE), ENTRE RÍOS, ARGENTINA

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The genus *Erodona* Bosc (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Myoidea) is represented in South America by the type species *Erodona mactroides* Bosc, which lives mainly in brackish environments from the Antilles south to Bahía Samborombón, province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. This species is also known from Pleistocene and Holocene deposits in the same region. Other species of this genus have also been mentioned from Tertiary rocks (as far back as the late Eocene). These mentions need confirmation, but at least part of them may belong in other genera. In this contribution we describe a new species of *Erodona* from rocks referable to the Paraná Formation exposed along the left margin of the Paraná River between Paraná and Diamante, in the province of Entre Ríos, Argentina. The outcrop where the material was collected carries a rich assemblage of marine taxa that has been assigned to the late Miocene. The bearing rocks were deposited during the Entrerriense ingressión that covered part of central-northern Argentina, reaching as far north as Bolivia, Paraguay and southern Brazil. The outcrops lie along the Paraná River at Estancia La Juanita, about 4 km upstream from the town of Aldea Brasileira. The section comprises 8 m of alternate fine sands and silts, covered by a tabular shell bed that carries an abundant bivalve fauna. The material collected includes very well preserved right and left valves of *Erodona*, covering a wide range of growth stages. Comparison with recent specimens of *E. mactroides* from the Río de la Plata estuary suggests that the differences observed between the Miocene and Quaternary species, in both shell shape and hinge morphology, are enough to warrant specific identity. The new species from the Paraná Formation confirms the existence of this genus in the area since at least the late Miocene. The associate fauna at La Juanita suggests normal salinity, contrasting with the brackish environment preferred by *E. mactroides*, a fact that still needs a satisfactory explanation.