

## BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC STUDY OF CALCAREOUS NANNOFOSSILS OF THE LA LUNA FORMATION AND ITS LATERAL EQUIVALENTS IN WESTERN VENEZUELA.

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A detailed biostratigraphic and lithostratigraphic study of the Cretaceous Aguardiente to Colon Formations exposed in the Guarurios River, western Venezuela is presented. The section lies on the northern flank of the Venezuelan Andes. We compare it with the Maraca River section to the west, in the eastern Perija.

The results of biostratigraphic analysis of nannoplankton and foraminifers show the section to span the Cenomanian to the Campanian. Much of the Campanian is represented by a condensed section, the Tres Esquinas Member at the top of the La Luna Formation. This member shows diachronism between the Maraca River section and the Guarurios River section. In the Maraca River section the age of uppermost La Luna Formation limestones are Santonian, as indicated by *L. floralis* and *R. anthophorus* and in the Guarurios River Section these beds are early Campanian as indicated by the presence of *M. furcatus*, above the last occurrence of *L. floralis*.

The sedimentation of the Tres Esquinas Member in the Maraca River section terminated in the early Maastrichtian. In the Guarurios River section the lower Campanian is followed by barren samples in the upper Tres Esquinas Member; we speculate that these are no younger than 'mid' Campanian.

We explain the diachronism of the condensed section in relation with the development of a migrating, sub aquatic peripheral bulge during the evolution of the Pacific-Caribbean Foreland Basin.