

Accepted Manuscript

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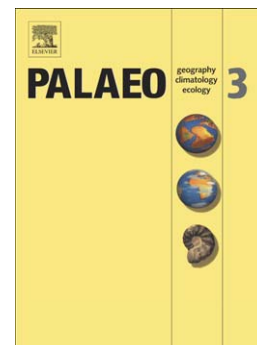
PII: S0031-0182(14)00555-0
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.palaeo.2014.10.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2014.10.039)
Reference: PALAEO 7076

To appear in: *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*

Received date: 28 May 2014
Revised date: 21 October 2014
Accepted date: 29 October 2014

Please cite this article as: Prestianni, C., Rustán, J.J., Balseiro, D., Vaccari, E., Sterren, A.F., Steemans, P., Rubinstein, C., Astini, R.A., Early seed plants from western Gondwana: Palaeobiogeographical and ecological implications based on Tournaisian (Lower Carboniferous) records from Argentina, *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* (2014), doi: [10.1016/j.palaeo.2014.10.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2014.10.039)

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Early seed plants from western Gondwana: palaeobiogeographical and ecological implications based on Tournaisian (Lower Carboniferous) records from Argentina.

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ABSTRACT

The oldest seed occurrences in western Gondwana have been recognized in a new stratigraphic section located in western Argentina (Precordillera Basin). Palynological evidence indicates an Early Mississippian (probably Tournaisian) age for this new succession. The two identified early seeds genera, *Pseudosporogonites* cf. *hallei* and *Warsteinia sancheziae* n. sp. were up to now considered as restricted to the Devonian of Laurussia. This finding suggests a dispersal of earliest spermatophytes between Laurussia and Gondwana during Devonian/Tournaisian times, thus accounting for the Rheic Ocean as a surmountable biogeographic barrier for continental

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