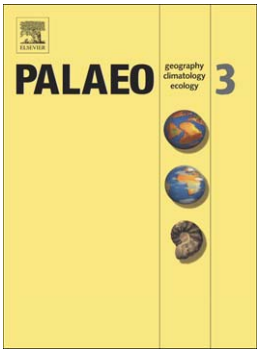

Early seed plants from western Gondwana: Palaeobiogeographical and ecological implications based on Tournaisian (Lower Carboniferous) records from Argentina

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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 generas, *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