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CONODONT BIOSTRATIGRAPHY FROM THE UPPER SAN JUAN FORMATION (MIDDLE ORDOVICIAN) AT NIQUIVIL, ARGENTINE PRECORDILLERA

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ABSTRACT

The present work deals with the conodont biostratigraphy from the upper San Juan Formation in the section of Niquivil, Central Precodillera of San Juan, Argentina. We study the upper 129.45 m of the San Juan Formation, starting from the upper strata of the second reef horizon up to the top of the formation. Digested limestone samples yielded 20 conodont species. The presence of *Tripodus laevis* Bradshaw not associated to *Baltoniodus navis* (Lindström) allows the recognition of the *Baltoniodus triangularis-Tripodus laevis* Zone, which is interpreted as correlative with the "*Parapanderodus*" *nogamii*/*Parapanderodus gracilis*/*Ansella jemtlandica* Association of Lehnert (1993, 1995; Lehnert and Keller, 1993), conversely to previous interpretations that suggested the latter as correlative to the *Baltoniodus navis* Zone. The zonal identification is supported by the associated conodonts *Protopanderodus rectus* (Lindström), *Juanognathus jaanussoni* Serpagli, *Juanognathus* n. sp., *Protopanderodus gradatus* (Serpagli), *Rossodus barnesi* Albanesi, *Paltodus subaequalis* Pander, *Drepanodus arcuatus* (Pander), *Cornuodus longibasis* (Lindström), *Protopanderodus elongatus* Serpagli, *Oistodus lanceolatus* Pander, *Periodon flabellum* (Lindström),

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