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Pilar Navas-Parejo, R. Aaron Lara-Peña, Miguel Angel Torres-Martínez, Michelangelo  
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# BIOSTRATIGRAPHY AND PETROGRAPHY OF UPPER PALEOZOIC ROCKS OF SIERRA LAS PINTAS, NORTHERN BAJA CALIFORNIA

Pilar Navas-Parejo<sup>a\*</sup>, R. Aaron Lara-Peña<sup>b</sup>, Miguel Angel Torres-Martínez<sup>c</sup>, Michelangelo Martini<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Estación Regional de Noroeste, Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 83000 Hermosillo, Mexico; pilarnpg@geologia.unam.mx

<sup>b</sup> Posgrado en Ciencias de la Tierra, Estación Regional de Noroeste, Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 83000 Hermosillo, Mexico; ra.lara.pena@gmail.com

<sup>c</sup> Departamento de Paleontología, Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 04510 Mexico City, Mexico; miguelatm@geologia.unam.mx

<sup>d</sup> Departamento de Geología Regional, Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 04510 Mexico City, Mexico; mmartini@geologia.unam.mx

\*corresponding author

## Abstract

A transported crinoid fauna is herein described for the first time in the Paleozoic succession cropping out in the Sierra Las Pintas, northern Baja California, northwestern Mexico. The fossil association includes *Heterostelechus texanus* Moore and Jeffords, *Preptopremnum laeve*? Moore and Jeffords, and *Mooreanteris perforatus* Moore and Jeffords, which indicates a Middle Pennsylvanian-early Permian time-averaged age. The studied area corresponds with the northernmost outcrop of definitely late Paleozoic deep-water facies in northwestern Mexico and the southern United States. Petrographic analyses indicate that the studied metasandstones were primarily derived from high-grade metamorphic rocks and from a shallow-water platform environment dominated by crinoid meadows. These results allow the correlation of the studied metasedimentary rocks with the Carboniferous Rancho Nuevo Formation of the Sonora allochthon, which crops out in central Sonora. The Sonora allochthon includes an Early Ordovician-Late Pennsylvanian sedimentary succession that

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