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L.C.A. Martínez, E.G. Ottone, A.E. Artabe



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## A new cycad trunk from the Paleocene in the Neuquén Basin, Patagonia (Argentina)

MARTÍNEZ, L.C.A.<sup>1,3</sup>, OTTONE, E.G.<sup>2</sup> and ARTABE, A.E.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Instituto de Botánica Darwinion (CONICET-ANCEFN), Labarden 200, San Isidro, B1642HYD, Buenos Aires, Argentina. gesaghi@gmail.com.

<sup>2</sup> Instituto de Estudios Andinos Don Pablo Groeber-CONICET, Departamento de Ciencias Geológicas, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Pabellón n° 2, Ciudad Universitaria, C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina: ottone@gl.fcen.uba.ar.

<sup>3</sup> Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo. Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Paseo del Bosque s/n. La Plata (B1900FWA). Argentina.

### Abstract

To date only two genera of cycad stems have been described from Cenozoic strata (*Bororoa* and *Menucoa*). We describe a new species of *Wintucycas*, *W. beatrizae* sp. nov. (Encephalartoideae), from the basal Paleogene of Patagonia. The new species is based on anatomically preserved mature cycadalean stems which have been recovered from the Pichaihue Limestones (Neuquén Basin, Patagonia, Argentina). The new species is characterized by the presence of a columnar stem with an armor of persistent leaf bases, vascular bundles displaying an omega pattern, the absence of cataphylls, a wide pith with medullary vascular bundles, mucilage canals and idioblasts, a polyxylic vascular cylinder, inverted xylem, and manoxylic wood. The presence of *Wintucycas beatrizae* sp. nov. in the Pichaihue Limestones suggests warm climate conditions during the early Paleogene in the

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