

NUEVA EVIDENCIA PARA UNA PLACA ALOCTONA EN ARGENTINA CENTRAL-SUR OCCIDENTAL

NEW EVIDENCE FOR AN ALLOCTONOUS PLATE IN CENTRAL-SOUTH WESTERN ARGENTINA

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Preliminary paleomagnetic data for rocks from the Choiyoi Formation, exposed at the Cerro Chachil and Sierra de Catan-Lil (39.1°S, 70.5°W, Cordillera Principal, República Argentina), assigned sensu lato to the Permo-Triassic, are discussed. The directions of the stable remanent magnetization obtained for samples from these rocks have been submitted to the fold-test. This demonstrates that those directions correspond to a pre-folding remanent magnetization of the Choiyoi rocks.

The preliminary paleomagnetic pole (PP) for these rocks and the PPs for Portezuelo del Cenizo and Yalguaraz Formations (32.1°S, 69.3°W, Cordillera Frontal, República Argentina) define an apparent polar wandering path different from that for the Western Gondwana in the Late Paleozoic. This suggests that these sites integrated a zone which would have been an alloctonous plate in Late Paleozoic time. This alloctonous plate would have been situated in the Pacific, at lower latitudes than those of the stable zones of South America, in Late Paleozoic.