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GÊNESE DE CONCENTRAÇÕES DENSAMENTE FOSSILÍFERAS DO EOCENO MÉDIO, FORMAÇÃO MAN AIKE, BACIA FORELAND MAGALLANES (PATAGÔNIA CHILENA)

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RESUMO

Nos depósitos marinhos do Eoceno-médio da região de Magallanes, Província de Última Esperanza (Chile), encontram-se concentrações fossilíferas associadas a depósitos siliciclásticos marinho raso. Durante este período, oscilações climáticas e mudanças globais de circulação marinha ocorreram registrando variações do nível relativo do mar na região sul da Placa Sul Americana e na Antártica. Na borda noroeste da Bacia de Magallanes, na localidade de El Puesto (Vale do Rio de Las Chinas, Patagonia Chilena), afloram depósitos de granulometria grossa, siliciclástica, intercalados com concentrações fossilíferas densas representando parte da deposição do Eoceno-médio. Buscando apresenta uma aprimorar interpretações paleoambientais, o presente estudo caracterização multi-proxy, baseada em análises de fácies, tafonomia e análise de FRX (Flurescência de Raio-X), a fim de entender a gênese das concentrações densamente fossilíferas da Formação Man Aike. A base da Formação Man Aike apresenta como depósitos transgressivos de shoreface. Os resultados corroboram com as interpretações prévias de uma deposição em ambiente marinho raso de shoreface superior transicionando para shoreface inferior, sob influência de processos de alta energia com deposição controlada por correntes e ondas. As concentrações fossilíferas indicam uma deposição sob a ação de ondas de tempo bom e ondas de tempestades, relacionados a tempestitos proximais e distais. Os depósitos proximais são interpretados como lag concentrations. Outro registro diz respeito a depósitos hiatais com formação de event concentrations (associações fossilíferas do tipo senso ecológico) e depósitos episódicos relacionados a debris flows. Os registros das razões de terrígenos/Ca, Al/Ca, Ti/Al e Sr/Ca, sugerem uma tendência transgressiva para o topo da seção. Os padrões sedimentares de empilhamento e dados geoquímicos obtidos estão relacionados com eventos de ótimo climático ocorrido no Eoceno, que causou uma consequente subida relativa do nível do mar iniciado a aproximadamente 45 Ma.

APRESENTAÇÃO

Concentrações fossilíferas densas podem ser geradas através de três processos principais: a) sedimentológicos, b) biogênicos, e/ou c) diagenéticos (e.g., Kidwell et al., 1986). Concentrações densas apresentam padrões característicos relacionados aos processos envolvidos durante sua gênese (Brett and Baird, 1986; Speyer and Brett, 1986, Fürsich e Oschmann, 1993; Kidwell, 1986, 1991; Parras and Casadío, 2005; Mclaughlin and Brett, 2007; Brett, 2007; Conti et al., 2008; Dattilo et al., 2008, 2012; Hendy et al., 2009; Bressan and Palma, 2010; Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2013; Quaglio et al., 2014; Garcia-Ramos and Zuschin, 2019; Rigueti et al., 2020). Podendo fornecer informações paleoambientais e paleogeográficas, além de indicar mudanças relativas no nível do mar e superficies estratigráficas (Brett e Baird, 1986; Speyer and Brett, 1986; Kidwell, 1991; Fürsich e Oschmann, 1993; Fürsich 1995; Abbott, 1997; Boyer et al., 2004; Holland, 2000, 2001; Tomašovych, 2006; Puga-Bernabéu and Aguirre; 2017).

A Formação Man Aike, depositada durante o Eoceno-médio (45 Ma, George et al., 2020), tendo sido as dinâmicas ambientais, vigentes a sua sedimentação, atribuídas a variações climáticas regionais e globais (Miller and Gornitz, 2008; Ivany et al., 2008; Huyghe et al., 2012; Payros et al., 2012; Westerhold et al., 2017; Fosdick et al., 2020). No Vale do Rio de las Chinas, a base dos depósitos siliciclásticos marinhos do Eoceno médio representa como deposição em ambiente de *shoreface* superior formado em trato de sistema transgressivo (TST), com abundante fauna marinha (e.g., bivalves, briozoários, braquiópodes, dentes de tubarão e gastrópodes) e restos vegetais (ver Manríquez et al., 2019 para detalhes da flora).

Apesar de não haver um levantamento geocronológico da unidade ou de seu conteúdo fossilífero para a Formação Man Aike, ou ainda do significado dos acúmulos fossilíferos presentes nos depósitos Eocênicos da região do Vale do Rio de las Chinas, ela oferece uma oportunidade única de estudar os acúmulos fossilíferos gerados em uma bacia de antepaís de retroarco (*retroarc foreland basin*). O atual trabalho tem como objetivo compreender a gênese dos depósitos fossilíferos da Formação Man Aike, reconhecendo padrões que permitam correlacioná-los com variações de nível do mar e mudanças paleoclimáticas (regionais e globais) registradas durante o Eoceno.

Neste sentido, a hipótese apresentada nesse trabalho é de que as condições paleogeográficas, paleoclimáticas e mudanças relativas do nível do mar ocorridas durante o Eoceno Médio, registram assinaturas tafonômicas importantes para o reconhecimento

dos processos sedimentares, como camadas tempestiticas distais mais possantes e presença dominante de concentrações episódicas de fluxos de massa. Os resultados obtidos neste estudo foram submetidos ao periódico *Journal of South American Earth Sciences* conceito Qualis-CAPES B1.

| 2 | (Magallanes Foreland Basin, Chilean Patagonia). | | | | |
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| 21 | Highlights | | | | |
| 22 | Fossil accumulated as lag shell, hiatal, episodic and event concentrations. | | | | |
| 23 | Marine Eocene fossil accumulation in foreland basin | | | | |
| 24 25 | Storm-influenced shallow marine siliciclastic deposits | | | | |
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Genesis of dense shell accumulation of the middle Eocene Man Aike Formation

Abstract

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In El Puesto locality (Magallanes Basin, Chile), the Middle Eocene is represented by coarse siliciclastic deposits interbedded with dense fossiliferous (shell-dominated) accumulations of the Man Aike Formation. This study presents a multi-proxy characterization of Man Aike Formation, based on facies, taphonomic and XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) analysis of bulk sediments. In the study area, the base of the sedimentary succession is interpreted as transgressive facies stacking deposits in the shoreface zone. Taphonomic signatures as articulation, fragmentation, dissolution and bioincrustation suggests that shell accumulations are related to lag concentrations and mass flow started by gravitational effects, influenced by weather- and storm-wave actions and currents. Shell concentrations mostly characterize episodic deposits, which we interprete as proximal and distal tempestites. Lowest shell concentrations are interpreted as fossiliferous lags, suggesting the onset of the transgression in the Magallanes Basin. Shelly deposits composed of closed and articulated bivalves, observed in the middle portion of succession, were interpreted as episodic generated by mass flow deposits. In the middle-upper portion a hiatal concentration fallowed by an event concentration is observed, marked by abruption deposits of articulated and concordant shell. Results of geochemical analyses (terrigenous elements/Ca, Al/Ca, Ti/Al and Sr/Ca ratios) support the interpretation of a deepening trend upward for the sedimentary succession. The results observed in this study is related to warming events of the middle Eocene, and influence of the regional tectonic activity (Drake Straight opening).

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- 48 **Keywords**: Taphonomy, geochemistry, shell concentrations, retroarc foreland deposits,
- 49 Eocene warming events.

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1. Introduction

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Dense accumulations (or concentrations) of biologic hard parts, more than 2 mm in size, irrespective of taxonomic composition, state of preservation, or degree of postmortem modification are generally defined as skeletal (or fossil) concentrations (sensu Kidwell, 1986; Kidwell and Holland, 1991). They provide critical data for sedimentary and stratigraphic analyses in siliciclastic successions (Kidwell et al., 1986; Beckvar and Kidwell, 1988; Simões and Kowalewski, 1998; Parras and Casadío, 2005; Hendy et al., 2006; Patzkowsky and Holland., 2012; Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2013; Garcia-Ramos and Zuschin, 2019). Skeletal concentrations can be formed during intervals of sediment starvation, winnowing, dynamic bypassing and/or erosional reworking under specific energy conditions, or by increased input of bioclast (Brett and Baird, 1986; Kidwell, 1986; Kidwell et al., 1986; Beckvar and Kidwell, 1988; Kidwell, 1989; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993; Simões and Kowalewski, 1998; Bressan and Palma, 2010; Hendy et al 2006; Fick et al., 2018; Rigueti et al., 2020). In this sense, such concentrations provide significant information about important stratigraphic boundaries in sequences (e.g., Banerjee and Kidwell, 1991; Brett, 1995; Holland, 1995; Abbott, 1997; Holland, 2000; Holland, 2001; Fürsich and Pandey, 2003; Parras and Casadío, 2005; Holz and Simões, 2005; Tomašovych, 2006; Hendy et al., 2009; Zabini et al., 2012; Puga-Bernabéu and Aguirre, 2017; Garcia-Ramos and Zuschin, 2019), storms effects, biological interaction and energy dissipation in shallow marine environments, also provide paleoenvironmental features about paleogeography configuration and costal profile (e.g., Speyer and Brett, 1986; Kidwell, 1990; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993; Fürsich, 1995; Kidwell and Brenchley, 1994; Boyer et al., 2004; Tomašovych, 2006; Schmidt-Neto et al., 2018a,b).

Changes in the sedimentary regime, hydrodynamic processes related to storm events and relative sea level changes creates unique taphonomic patterns in dense fossil accumulation, and is used to infer the input of hardparts, cyclicity in accumulation patterns, and environmental energy (Kidwell et al., 1986; Kidwell, 1986, 1991; Speyer and Brett, 1986, 1988; Miller et al., 1988; Davies et al.,1989; Holland, 1995; Myrow, 2005; Dattilo et al., 2008, 2012; Quaglio, et al., 2014; Puga-Bernabéu and Aguirre, 2017; Fick et al., 2018; Rigueti et al., 2020). The geometry of the deposits is also used to distinguish environmental characteristics and dynamics, such as energy regimes, paleogeographic characteristics, sedimentation rates, and water oxygenation (Kidwell et al., 1986; Brett and Baird, 1986; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993; Schmidt-Neto et al., 2018).

Relative sea level changes, kinetic potential, sedimentation rate, and geomorphology have been recognized as the main controlling factors on the geneses of dense fossiliferous deposits (Brett and Baird, 1986; Speyer and Brett, 1986; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993; Brett et al., 2007; McLaughlin and Brett, 2007; Hendy et al., 2009; Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2013; Horodyski et al., 2019; Erthal and Ritter, 2020; Rigueti et al., 2020). Therefore, it is crucial to integrate paleogeographic and paleoenvironmental reconstruction, as well as sedimentary and petrographic analyses, to improve our understanding about the genesis of fossiliferous accumulations (Shoup, 2001; Simões and Torello, 2003; Bressan and Palma, 2010; Quaglio et al., 2014; Samira et al., 2018; Garcia-Ramos and Zuschin, 2019; Chinellato et al., 2020; Erthal and Ritter, 2020; Rigueti et al., 2020).

The Magallanes Basin offers an unique opportunity to understand the processes that influenced the deposition of dense fossiliferous concentrations accumulated in a retroarc foreland basin, displaying a large continuous side and vertical succession. The

foreland basin paleogeographic setting during the Eocene developed a unprotected coast subject to high energy depositional processes and transgressive-regressive events (Marenssi et al., 2002; Nullo et al., 2006; Manríquez et al., 2019). Moreover, shallow marine sediments generated in a foreland basin tend to experience the effects of storms events and currents more effectively. Due the lack of taphonomic studies in retroarc foreland basins, and the genesis nature, the objective is understand the genesis of dense marine fossiliferous accumulations of the Man Aike Formation, as well as and their environmental and climatic significance during the Middle Eocene (Lutetian).

2. Geological Settings

The Magallanes/Austral Basin (MAB) is a north-south elongated retroarc foreland basin, covering the southern regions of Chile and Argentina (Figure 1). The MAB emplacement was related with the Late Cretaceous to Neogene uplift of the southern Andean orogen (Wilson, 1991; Fildani et al., 2008; Fosdick et al., 2011; Fosdick et al., 2020; Daniels et al., 2018). This retro-arc foreland basin recorded Early Cretaceous to Miocene paleoenvironmental changes that occurred in high southern paleolatitude, after the break-up of Gondwana (Mella, 2001; Manríquez et al., 2019; Sames, 2020).

Figure 1

During the Cretaceous, the Magallanes region (Chile) was subject to deformation of the Pacific margin, product of a compressive regime associated with the rupture of Gondwana and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean (Biddle et al., 1986; Harambour and Soffia, 1988; Mella, 2001). This geological event was responsible for generating a flexure

deformation giving rise to the foreland Magallanes/Austral Basin (Natland et al., 1974; Wilson, 1991; Fildani et al., 2003; Malkowski et al., 2017).

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The sedimentary succession of Magallanes Basin is composed of Upper 128 Cretaceous to middle Paleogene deposits. During the Late Cretaceous (Campanian Age) the sedimentary environment was characterized by a high relief shelf and slope system (Tres Pasos Formation) (Shultz et al., 2005; Romans et al., 2011; Schawartz and Graham 2015; Auchter et al., 2016; Manríquez et al 2019). Shallow marine and deltaic deposits (Dorotea Formation) recorded the boundary between Late Cretaceous (Campanian-133 Maastrichtian) and the early Paleogene (Romans et al., 2011; Gutiérrez et al., 2017; Daniels et al., 2018; George et al., 2020). Fluvial, deltaic, marine, and tide deposits 136 represent the Dorotea Formation in northern sector of the Rio de las Chinas Valley (Vogh et al. 2014; Schwartz and Graham, 2015; Manríquez et al., 2019). These deposits contain invertebrates, plant impressions and vertebrate remains (Manríquez et al., 2019; Alarcón-138 Muñoz et al., 2020; Goin et al., 2020; Martinelli et al., 2021). Finally, during the middle 140 Paleogene (Lutetian-Bartonian) shallow marine and estuarine facies were deposited, characterizing the Man Aike Formation (Malumián, 1990; Camacho et al., 2000; 141 Marenssi et al., 2002; Nullo and Combina, 2011). The Man Aike Formation is interpreted 142 143 to record the drowning of continental areas within a transgressive systems tract (Malumián, 1990; Camacho et al., 2000; Marenssi et al., 2002; Manríquez et al., 2019). At the study area, abundant marine fauna (bivalves, bryozoans, brachiopods, shark teeth 145 and gastropods) and wood debris occur (Manríquez et al., 2019). In El Puesto locality, 146 the maximum depositional age for the lowermost portion of the Man Aike Formation date 147 from 45.7 ± 0.6 Ma (middle Eocene) based on detrital U-Pb zircon (George et al., 2020). 148 Several studies recognized a Paleocene unconformity at the base of the Man Aike 149 Formation, expressed by ~ 20 Myr hiatus (Casadío et al., 2009; Vogt et al., 2014; Gutierrez 150

et al., 2017; Schwartz et al., 2016; Daniels et al., 2018 George et al., 2020; Manríquez et al., 2019). This widespread erosion is interpreted as a consequence of the Paleocene uplift of the Patagonian Andes (e.g Biddle et al., 1986; Malumian et al., 1996; Kraemer et al., 2002; Ramos, 2002; Fosdick et al., 2015a; Fosdick et al., 2015b; George et al., 2020; Rivera et al., 2020). In the Rio de las Chinas Valley, Manríquez et al., (2019) interpreted that the base of the Man Aike Formation recorded a shoreface environment formed during a transgressive systems tract (TST), associated with a minor order retrogradational stacking overprinted by an aggradational stacking of higher order.

This formation is interpreted in other localities as shallow marine to estuarine deposits, dating from middle to upper Eocene (Casadío et al., 2009; Le Roux et al., 2010; Ugalde, 2014; Gutiérrez et al., 2017). In the El Calafate region (Argentine) is interpreted as infill of incised valleys during a transgressive period, composed of conglomerates and sandstones intercalated with coal layers, with fossil content composed of marine invertebrates and wood debris (Marenssi et al., 2002, 2003). The Man Aike Formation has been correlated with Río Turbio Formation (Figure 2) (Malumián and Caramés, 1997; Malumián and Panza., 2000; Pearson et al., 2012; Fosdick et al., 2015; Fosdick et al., 2020).

Figure 2

3. Materials and Methods

Sedimentological and paleontological studies were developed during the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) expedition caried out in the summer season of 2020. Three sections have been described in the middle Eocene deposits of the Man Aike Formation, at the Rio de las Chinas Valley. The main profile (Profile 1) was complemented by data from other two profiles and unified in a composite profile (Figure 3).

Fieldwork consisted in descriptions of sedimentary facies with stratigraphic control, dense fossil concentrations and taphonomic signatures. Codes for sedimentary facies were adapted from Miall (1996). Deposits with significant fossil accumulations (above 10% of the volume of the deposit composed of bioclasts) were classified as hybrid facies (sensu Mount, 1985; see Kern et al., 2019). For hybrid facies the letter 'H' was employed at the beginning of the code, characterizing a fossil accumulation in siliciclastic rocks. Our sedimentologic description took into account thickness, geometry and lateral extent of strata, bedding plane features, packing of shells, matrix, trace fossils, and sedimentary structures.

In the taphonomic analysis, we adopted the conceptual framework for field description of dense fossil concentrations proposed by Kidwell and Holland (1991). Paleoenvironmental and biostratinomic interpretations follow Brett (1990), Brett (1995), Brett and Baird (1986), Fürsich and Oschmann (1993) and Speyer and Brett (1988). Our taphonomic descriptions applied qualitative criteria taking into account: a) geometry; b) packing of bioclasts: dense/loose/disperse; c) taxonomic composition; d) size-sorting of bioclasts: well sorted / moderated sorted / poorly sorted; d) type of matrix for bioclasts greater than 2 mm in diameter (Kidwell et al., 1986; Kidwell and Holland, 1991). Taphonomic features like orientation in plan-view, orientation in cross section

(concordant / perpendicular / oblique), degree of articulation (high / moderate / low), fragmentation degree (high / moderate / low), bioencrustation / bioerosion, and corrosion (sensu Brett and Baird, 1986) were observed.

Three distinct hybrid facies were described from five (5) fossiliferous accumulations. Five (5) samples were collected from the skeletal accumulations to carry out thin section petrographic descriptions. Petrographic analysis was performed with a ZEISS AXIO optical microscope at UNISINOS University. We follow criteria by Dickinson (1885) and Folk (1980) for describing fossil-bearing rocks.

Figure 3

3.1 X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analysis

Environmental interpretations were complemented with geochemical analyses of 32 unaltered rock samples collected at a stratigraphic resolution of 1 m. Intensities of both major and trace elements were measured on the bulk sediment samples using an Epsilon 1/PanAlytical XRF spectrometer at itt Fossil (UNISINOS University). Measurements were performed on 10 g of loose powder samples (previously ground and dried) using the same settings described by Krahl et al. (2020). Results were expressed in counts per second (cps) and the main elemental ratios utilized in this work are summarized in the Table 1.

Table 1

| 4. 1 | Results | and | Inter | pretation |
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4.1 Lithofacies and Facies Association

The Eocene sedimentary succession in the study area reach ~32 m tick, displaying a continuous sedimentary (Figure 4). These deposits are represented by conglomerates and medium to very-coarse grained sandstones interbedded with fossiliferous accumulations. The sedimentary facies were divided into five (5) siliciclastic facies and three (3) hybrid facies with marine fossils (Figure 5). These facies reach kilometers of lateral expression. In Man Aike Formation are recognized facies associations related to upper shoreface, middle shoreface, and lower shoreface (Table 2).

Figure 4

Figure 5

Tabela 2

4.1.1 – Upper Shoreface facies association

This facies association comprise \sim 17 m thick interval, occurring in the lowest portion of the sedimentary succession encompasses four siliciclastic facies (Gmg, St, Sp, Sm) and one hybrid facies (Hsm) (Table 2, Figure 6). The conglomerate facies (Gmg) varies between 0.5 and 3 m in thickness, and presents hundreds of meters of lateral extension. The Gmg facies is characterized as a matrix to clast-supported conglomerate

with inverse grading, diffuse trough cross-bedding and scattered bioclasts and wood fossil (Figure 6 A).

The sandstones facies are represented by tabular beds composed of coarse-grained massive sandstones (Sm facies), sandstones with dispersed pebbles and granules with medium to large scale planar through cross-bedding (Sp facies), lenticular co-set beds composed of medium to coarse-grained sandstones, and laterally continuous beds composed of medium to very coarse-grained sandstone with small to medium-scale trough cross -bedding (St facies) (Figure 6 A, B, C, E, F). These facies can reach up to 2 m in thickness and tens of meters in lateral extension (Figure 6 G).

Hybrid facies are represented by two centimetric to metric beds (Hsm facies) (Figure 6 C, D). These beds display pebbly massive coarse-grained sandstones with hundreds of meters of laterally extension, ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 m thickness, with irregular and erosive basal boundaries, and are vertically associated with the Sp and Sm facies. Fossil accumulations show polytypic assemblages with bimodally sorted bioclasts, varying from loose to densely packed, with bioclasts in concordant to oblique position in relation to the bedding plane. The biofabric is internally complex and composed of an allochthonous assemblage of articulated and disarticulated shells (Pectinids and *LahillIa*).

4.1.1.1 Interpretation

The proximal setting within the studied sequence is expressed by the basal Gmg facies, showing signs of grain shock (inverse grading) as the result of dune bedload migration under unidirectional traction flow, generating 3D-dunes (see Dasgupta and Manna, 2011). The Sp and St facies represent the migration of straight and sinuous crested dunes, respectively. In this sense, the Gmg St and Sp facies were related to upper

shoreface deposits generated by coastal drift currents (Harms et al., 1982; McCubbin, 1982; Hart and Plint, 1989; Johnson and Baldwin, 1996; Reading and Collinson, 1996).

The Sm facies, represented by massive sandstones beds, was likely deposited during high sedimentary discharge periods (Rossi et al., 2016) or affected by post-depositional fluidization process (De Souza et al., 2019). Finally, the hybrid facies (Hsm) represented by extensive beds is interpreted as fossiliferous lags formed during high frequency transgressive pulses, suggesting a wave-ravinement surface (Kidwell et al., 1986; Kidwell 1989; Cattaneo and Steel, 2003; Fursich and Oschmann, 1993; Hendy et al., 2006; Yang, 2007; Alván and Von Eynatten, 2014; Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2012; Zecchin et al., 2017; Kern et al., 2019).

Figure 6

4.1.2 – Middle-Lower shoreface facies association

This facies association occurs on the upper portion of the study area and encompasses one siliciclastic facies (Scs) and two hybrid facies (Hgmg and Hgmm) (Table 2, Figure 7). The Scs facies is represented by amalgamated swaley cross-stratified sandstones varying from 2 to 6 m in thickness and hundreds of meters of lateral extension (Figure 7A). Interbedded with these sandstones, thre are lenticular and wedge-shaped gravelly sandstones ranging from 0.5 to 5 m in thickness and extending laterally for tens to hundreds of meters. Sparse burrows represented by *Skolithos* and *Thalassinoides* are observed at the base of the Scs facies that rests over the hybrid facies (Supplementary Figure S1). Subordinated hummocky cross-stratifications were also noted (Supplementary Figure S2 G).

Thalassinoides subvertical burrowns show bifurcation and compactation, with passive infilling of the burrow (intergrowing of carbonate mineral) (Supplementary Figure S1 D). Finally, *Skolithos* vertical burrows, active infill (material similar to the surrounding matrix) with sizes about 5 to 20 cm (Supplementary Figure S1 A, B, C).

The hybrid facies include gravelly sandstones wedges, grading from gravel to coarse-grained sandstones, with increase of sand matrix upward and decrease of gravel and pebble (Hgmg facies, Table2) (Figure 7 C, D). Also, lenses of massive pebble sandstones with inverse graded bioclasts, with decrease of matrix content upward and increasing in close-packing is noted (Hgmm facies, Table 2) (Figure 7 B).

The Hgmg facies is represented by wedge-shaped gravelly sandstones, ranging between 0.5 and 6 m in thickness and hundreds of meters of lateral extension, being often interbed with Scs facies (Figure 7 C, D). These deposits are bounded by erosive surfaces at the base and the top. The lower portion of the beds show a gravel lithology with normal gradation, and coarse bioclasts concentration arranged in lenticular shell accumulations (Supplementary Figure S2 A, C). The intermediate portion characterized by gravel deposits with sand-rich matrix and dispersed packed bioclasts, grading laterally from massive to planar bedding. Finally, the uppermost portion of these deposits is represented by medium to coarse-grained massive sandstones and show dispersedly packed bioclasts. Punctual occurrences of open-articulated valves have been observed in the shell concentrations of the uppermost interval (Supplementary Figure S2 D).

The Hgmm facies occurs as a punctual laterally discontinuous lens, ranging from 0.5 to 2 m in thickness, and extending laterally for tens of meters (Supplementary Figure 7 B). The Hgmm facies contains polytypic assemblages, complex internal concentrations of articulated and disarticulated shells with an increasing upward trend of close-packing (Figure 7 B). Punctual pavements occur in the uppermost portion of beds, usually showing

closed and concretional shells (Supplementary Figure S2 B, D, E). The Hgmm facies occurs interbedded with the Scs and Hgmg facies.

4.1.2.1 Interpretation

The swaley cross-stratification is assigned to be formed under storm waves by oscillatory high-energy combined-flow regime (Duke, 1985; Dumas and Arnott, 2006). Dumas and Arnott (2006) hypothesized that swaley cross-stratification tend to be deposited by an aggrading hummocky bed between fair-weather and storm wave base, however, in shallower water where aggradation rates are low enough to cause preferential preservation of swales. Therefore, these mud-free swaley cross-stratification deposits are interpreted as middle shoreface tempestite deposits (Aigner and Reineck, 1982; Aigner, 1985; Seilacher and Aigner, 1991; Plint, 2010). The middle shoreface usually is strongly influenced by oscillatory wave energy, storms waves and currents (Leckie and Walker, 1982; Pemberton et al., 2012).

Thalassinoides and Skolithos are preserved under low densities, only in the lowermost portion of the bed. These ichnofossils normally indicate the boundary between the lower and middle shoreface, represent by the presence of suites to those that correspond to the Skolithos Ichnofacies (MacEachern and Pemberton, 1992; MacEachern et al., 1999b; Peberton et al., 2001; 2004; 2012). Thalassinoides could point the change in the consistence of substrate that became more plastic and consistent than shallower portions (Bromley, 1996). Overall, the occurrence of these trace-fossils in amalgamated tempestites (swaley cross stratified sandstones) are indicative of storm-dominated systems, usually assigned to middle shoreface (e.g., Greenwood and Sherman, 1986; Dumas and Arnott, 2006; Pemberton et al., 2012; Maahs et al., 2019).

The Hgmg facies, which occurs interbedded with the sandstones with swaley cross-stratification, is interpreted as the result of gravitational concentrated (granular) flows characterized by dispersive pressure, normally associated with steep slopes (see Zavala, 2020). In this case, the sedimentation from the incipient basal granular mass flow decanted due to loss of flow capacity (Lowe, 1979, 1982; Manville and White, 2003; Zavala et al., 2011, 2014). Imbricated shells in the lowermost portion of the beds within the gravel fraction is indicative of unidirectional flows and tractive processes, which were able to carry shells into the low cohesiveness matrix (sandy matrix). These concentrated granular flows have low capacity to transport heavy particles over long distances and require steep slopes to accelerate (Dasgupta, 2003; Manville and White, 2003; Zavala et al., 2011, 2014; Conti et al., 2019; Zavala, 2020).

These graded beds are consistent with non-cohesive flows, here is interpreted as concentrated granular flows (e. g., Zavala 2020). This type of sedimentary gravity flow was previously classified as grain flows (see Lowe, 1979; Lowe, 1982) or cohesionless debris flows (*sensu* Nemec and Steel, 1984). According to Zavala (2020), when the fast-moving inertia flow stops, the slower moving segregated suspension cloud bypasses the coarse-grained concentrated flow deposits, sometimes showing lens-shaped sand bodies and often exhibiting cross-bedding.

The Hgmm facies is represented by lenticular beds interspersed between the Hgmg and the Scs facies, along with glauconite, and *Thalasinoides* passively filled with well-formed calcite minerals by precipitation. Cohesive unconsolidated sediments are necessary to formation of *Thalassinoides* isp. suggesting distal zones near to the slope. In this sense, the Hgmm facies is interpreted as deposits distal zones of the middle shoreface, while the top of the sequence would be have been deposited between fair-weather and storm-wave base levels. Pavements with bioclast randomly distributed, on the upper

erosive contact, associated with swaley cross-stratified beds, point a zone with dynamic-bypass process triggered by storm events (see Kidwell 1986; Miller et al., 1988; Dattilo et al., 2008, 2012; Fick et al., 2018).

Figure 7

4.2 X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and Petrography analysis

The terrigenous/Ca and Al/Ca ratios were used to infer terrigenous input and runoff intensity (Beil et al., 2018; Spofforth et al., 2008). Both ratios depict overall decreasing-upward trends within the studied succession, with markedly low values within the shell beds at 4 and 6 m (Figure 8 A, B).

The Ti/Al ratio is used to infer environmental energy and proximity to the source area (Bourget at al., 2008; Spofforth et al., 2008; Kwiecien et al., 2009; Berg et al., 2010; Henrich et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2013). This ratio presents peaks within the lowermost 10 m of the studied succession and decreases upward (Figure 8 C).

High Sr/Ca ratios are usually associated with precipitation of authigenic carbonates at shallow marine settings (Rothwell et al., 2006; Thomson et al., 2006; Grove et al., 2010). Within the studied succession, the Sr/Ca ratio is high from 0 to 15 m and decreases upward. (Figure 8 D).

The Log (Zr/Rb) ratio has been used as a sediment grain-size and high energy process proxy in marine environments (Dypvik and Harris, 2001; Rothwell et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2001). Within the studied succession, the Log (Zr/Rb) presents marked peaks and high values within the lowermost 15 m of the studied succession and a well-marked decreasing upward trend (Figure 8 E).

Figure 8

Petrographic analyses of selected samples enabled us to identify immature pebble and gravel bearing sandstones, with carbonate and ferric cementation, and high amount of glauconite (Supplementary Figure S3 B). Heavy minerals increase in relative abundances in the Hsm facies. Calcite cement is present throughout the interval not being restricted to the fossil and shell bearing rocks, as observed in the field due to the reaction of rocks with a weak HCl solution. Therefore, all samples are identified as sublitharenite according to Folk (1980). In general, the grain size is coarse along the sequence, with total absence of claystones and siltstones. Therefore, low values of Log (Zr/Rb) within lowermost 10 m of the sequence probably reflect a "clay effect" caused by the presence of high amount of glauconite in these beds (see Kennedy, 2015).

In general, samples show high amount of volcanic, metamorphic, and sedimentary grains, indicating low mineralogical and textural maturity and proximity to source areas (Dickinson, 1980). Despite incipient dissolution can be found in feldspar grains, K-feldspar and plagioclase grains with twinning and well-preserved volcanic grains were also found indicating an immature and mixed sedimentary source (Supplementary Figure S3 A). Grains are overall well-preserved, showing only incipient dissolution. Glauconite is present in major quantities in the lowermost part of the sequence associated with Hsm facies (Supplementary Figure S3 B), and in less quantity through the top (Hgmm facies). Low compaction is indicated by predominant punctual and subordinated concave-convex grain contacts (Supplementary Figure S3 C). Bioclasts normally show silicification, well-preserved structures, and are infilled by the sedimentary matrix (Supplementary Figure

S3 D, G, H). The primary detrital composition is similar in all fossil concentrations, suggesting a conservative provenance (see Dickinson, 1985; Weltje and Evhatten, 2004).

4.3 Taphonomic Description of Fossil Concentrations

Five densely packed fossil concentrations preserved in a siliciclastic matrix were described to Man Aike Formation. All fossil material found along the succession were classified as bivalved shells (Bivalvia), univalved shells (Gastropod) and multi-element skeletons (Bryozoan) (Supplementary Figure S2).

Three genetic types of fossil concentrations were identified and are detailed below. For the genetic classification, biofabric, geometry and lateral distribution was considered, as well the biostratinomic features. The fossil concentrations are coded as 1-3, relative to the stratigraphic position of the succession.

4.3.1 Fossil concentration 1 - Facies Hsm (Figure 9)

This fossil concentration is preserved as the Hsm facies, and occurs as two 0.2-0.3 m thick beds positioned at 2 and 5 m within Profile 1. This levels are laterally correlated with the shell bed observed at 6 m (1.5 m thick) in supplementary Profile 2 (Figure 3), and are laterally continuous for hundreds of meters (Figure 9 A). The close-packing degree of fossils is classified as loose to densely packed (25% - 50%). Coarse siliciclastic grains characterize the matrix, being poorly sorted and ranging in size from coarse sand to pebble with low compositional maturity (Supplementary Figure S3 A, C). Glauconite grains and calcite cementation is verified in thin section (Supplementary Figure S3 B). Bivalved-type skeletons *Lahillia* sp. and pectinids (Figure 9 B, D and E)

are present. Bioclasts displays bimodal size-sorting with pectinids ranging in size from 2 to 3 cm, associated with the *Lahillia* ranging in size from 7 to 9 cm.

Bioclasts show concordant preferential orientation in cross-section, with subordinated shells in perpendicular position related to the bedding planes. Predominantly, convex-down shell positions were noted (Figure 9 D). Despite the fact that few bivalves have been preserved articulated, the majority was preserved disarticulated whole shell (Figure 9 B, E). Moderate degree of abrasion and high degree of disarticulation also were observed. No bioerosion and encrustation were observed.

Figure 9

4.3.1.1 Interpretation

Taphonomic characteristics of these concentration, such as different degrees of completeness, abrasion, rare articulated shells, and convex-down shells suggest the bioclasts were subject to reworking generated by currents or waves. The lack of bioeroded and encrusted shells suggest low periods of exposure in the sediment/water interface. In this sense, the taphonomic damage observed have been generated in a proximal environment, under moderate to high energy conditions, and having been subjected to repeated exhumation and burial processes generated by waves and currents. As a consequence, hydraulic and biogenic amalgamation of many different generations are observed in these deposits.

Fossil concentrations formed during transgressive pulses tend to show reworking of buried shells and clasts, well preserved shells along with poorly preserved, mostly concordant, relative wide lateral distribution, and erosive contacts (e.g., Kidwell et al.,

1986; Cattaneo and Steel, 2003, Yang, 2007). These taphonomic features are interpreted as signatures of sedimentary environments close to the fair-weather wave base (Alván and Von Eynatten, 2014). According to Einsele (2000), proximal tempestites with highly erosive bases are formed in the middle shoreface, and their occurrence is rare in the upper shoreface.

High energy events like storms tend to cause high sedimentation rates, preventing reworking and exposure of bioclasts, and reducing physical damages on shell, after reworked by transgressive pulses (e.g., Anderson and McBride 1996; Schmidt-Neto et al., 2018). Additionally, changes in sedimentation tend to be more accentuated in gravel-dominanted shallow marine transgressive successions (Clifton, 2003).

Gutter cast are common features on these beds (Facies Hsm). According to Tucker (2001), gutter casts are typically associate with shallow marine sediments under storms currents, corroborating our interpretations that the fossil concentrations were subject to storm-related processes during their genesis. On the other hand, the bulk of the coarse-grained lithologies represents amalgamated proximal lag-type tempestites containing reworked shells and glauconite grains, pointing to quiescent periods (Engelbrecht, 2000).

4.3.2 Fossil concentration 2 - Facies Hgmg (Figure 10)

Fossil concentration 2 is preserved within the Hgmg facies. They are expressed as wedges-shaped gravelly sandstone bedforms at the mid-upper portion of Profile 1, between 19 and 22 m, and at 32 m. They are laterally correlated with Profile 3 (Figure 3). These fossil concentrations are expressed as boxed-up lens concentration, a couple of meters wide and thicknesses ranging from 0.5 to 1 m. Locally distributed in the lowermost

part of the beds, displaying erosive boundaries with the Scs facies below (Figure 10 A, B, C). Localized gradational upper boundary, associated with Hgmm facies, was noted.

Close-packing degree ranges from loosely to densely packed (25% to >75%), decreasing upward within the beds. Matrix is characterized by gravelly sandstones, with grain sizes ranging from coarse sand to cobble size with subangular to subrounded granules and pebbles of polymictic fragments (gneiss, schist, granite, quartz, bioclast and feldspars), and silicified bioclast (Supplementary Figure S3 G, H). Bioclasts are poorly sorted with pectinids ranging from 2 to 10 cm in size. This concentration contains well preserved fossils, identified as *Lahillia*, *Venericardia*, *Ostrea*, and bryozoan and bivalve casts (Figure 10 E) (Supplementary Figure S2 A, C, F). Bryozoans are loose in the matrix, no incrusted in the shells.

Bioclasts are randomly oriented in plain view, and occur in obliquely and/or vertical position in relation to the bedding plane, with subordinated concordant orientation. Occurrence of shells disposed in preferential convex-down position is predominant. Also, open-articulated *Lahillia* with no preferential orientation and locally distributed were observed (Supplementary Figure S2 D). Despite the occurrence of bivalve fragments, most fossils were preserved as whole shells. Articulated and disjointed shells are present (Figure 10 B, C, D). In the lower portion of the beds, locally distributed bioclast-supported lens displays imbricated disarticulated shells, as well as clustering patterns like imbrication, staking and edgewise (Figure 10 B, C) (Supplementary Figure S2 C). No abrasion and bioerosion were observed.

Figure 10

4.3.2.1 Interpretation

Shell's box-up lenses in the lowermost part of the bed, often with oblique and perpendicular orientation of shells suggest extraordinary depositional processes like debris flows (Speyer and Brett, 1986, 1988). Taphonomic signatures that indicates a rapid-burial of shell includes low degree of fragmentation, abrasion, and preservation of articulated shells in life orientation (Speyer and Brett, 1986; 1988; Kidwell; 1991; Shoup, 2001; Hendy et al., 2006).

The nested and stacked disarticulated bivalves point to high amounts of bioclasts available in the environment, as well as their deposition by high energy events like high-density turbulent flows (e.g., Middleton, 1967; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1986, 1993; Kidwell and Bosence, 1991; Kidwell and Holland, 1991; Simões et al., 1996). Furthermore, grouping of bioclasts forming clustering patterns, such as imbrication and stacking, is probably the result of shell/shell interferences (see Futterer, 1978).

These fossil concentrations are distributed in these gravelly subaqueous debris deposits as product of tractive flow of sediment-laden water with dispersive pressions, which graded the matrix by grain size (Lewis et al., 1980; Lowe, 1979, 1982; Nemec and Steel, 1984; Miall, 2006; Zavala, 2020). These shell concentrations represent episodic deposits formed by rapid burial generated by debris flows (Kidwell, 1991; Hendy et al., 2006; Garcia-Ramos et al., 2020; Quaglio et al., 2014). This kind of shell concentration reflects deposits generated on high gradient slope areas (Conti et al., 2009; Quaglio et al., 2014; Zavala et al., 2011; 2014; Zavala, 2020). The lateral interdigitation of these deposits (Facies Hgmg) with Scs facies, is an indicative for storm-influenced depositional settings in the middle shoreface (Myrow, 2005).

4.3.3 Fossil concentration 3 - Facies Hgmm (Figure 11)

This fossil concentration is preserved within the Hgmm facies, expressed as thin lenticular laterally discontinuous (tens of meters long) beds, ranging from 0.15 to 1.20 m in thickness, and occurring at 27 m in Profile 1 and at 1 to 7 m in the Profile 3 (Figure 3). The lower boundary is gradational while the upper boundary is erosive. The Scs facies display an erosional basal contact with these beds (Figure 11 A).

Upward, the packing degree of bioclasts increases (15%-50%) (Figure 11 A, C). Matrix is characterized by pebbly sandstones with coarse bioclasts. Vulcanic and metamorphic siliciclastic grains like gneiss, schist, granite, quartzite, and feldspar are identified in the rock (Supplementary Figure S3 D, E, F). Glauconite grains and carbonate cementation is noted. Bivalve-type skeletons and univalve-type skeletons occur (Figure 11 B, D). The fossils are mainly preserved as replaced silicified shells (Supplementary Figure S3 D). Bioclasts sizes range between 2 and 8 (cm).

Bioclasts are disposed randomly in the plane view (Figure 11 B, C, D). Broken shells of pectinids and gastropods are dominant. Despite few bivalves have been preserved articulated (at the top boundary of the beds), the majority was preserved disjointed, and varying from moderated to highly fragmented shells (Figure 11 B, C). Articulated bivalves, in oblique and perpendicular position relative to the bedding plane was noted on the top of the beds, mostly in concretions (Figure 11A, E) (Supplementary Figure S2 E). Moderate dissolution and abrasion were noted in some shells. No signs of encrustation or bioerosion were observed.

Figure 11

4.3.3.1 Interpretation

Tempestites are formed by combined flows associated with unidirectional rip currents and oscillatory flows, commonly generated by storms and hurricanes (Aigner, 1985; Seilacher and Aigner, 1991; Fürsich and Oschmann 1993; Clifton, 2006). Shell concentration 3 is interpretated as distal tempestites deposited immediately above the effective storm wave base (SWB).

At the bottom of the beds, most of the observed taphonomic characteristics (e.g., fragmented and dispersed bioclasts) are typically generated above the SWB (Brett 1995; Simões and Torello, 2003; Bressan and Palma, 2010). However, their final preservation is facilitated by the absence of background traction, suggesting a rise and change in the SWB (e.g., Brett, 1990; Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993).

Massive to diffuse undulating cross stratification, interbedding with beds with swaley stratification (facies Scs) point to a storm-dominated environment in the middle shoreface (e. g. Myrow 2005). Shell concentrations range from loose to densely packed toward to top of the beds, ending with larger shells forming pavement accumulations at the upper boundary. This pattern of shell accumulation signals to reduction of net sedimentation until total omission (see Kidwell, 1986 - Type I shell beds). In this sense, the observed characteristics in shell concentration 3 are similar to those described for the R-sediment model of Kidwell (1986).

According to Alván and Von Eynatten (2014), intermediate and distal tempestites are intimately related to rapid waning of fine-grained particles below the fair-weather wave base. The articulated closed shells preserved in the top of the biofabric (Figure 11 A) are interpreted as event concentrations (*sensu* Kidwell, 1998). Such shell

5 Discussion

5.1 Fossil concentration remarks

Manríquez et al. (2019) interpreted the base of the Man Aike Formation as a shallow marine sequence under a transgressive system tract (TST). Their interpretation agrees with the genetic processes suggested for fossil concentrations described in this study. The fossiliferous lag concentration (Hsm), episodic concentration (Hgmg), and the storm-wave reworking deposits (Hgmm - distal tempestites) are deposited by strictly sedimentologic concentrations.

The fossiliferous lag concentrations are formed during sediment reworking within a transgressive erosion, normally associated with the initial phase of TST in shoreface to inner shelf environments (Kidwell, 1986;1989;1991; Bressan and Palma, 2010; Fick et al., 2018; Fürsich and Oschmann 1993; Brett, 1995; Hendy et al., 2006; Parras and Casadío, 2005; Yang 2007, Rigueti et al., 2020, Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2012). Transgressive system tract typically preserve mixed and within-habitat transported assemblages, reflecting high-energy environments with variable time-averaging and species richness (Kidwell, 1998; Fürsich and Pandey, 2003; Zecchin and Catuneanu 2013; Earthal and Ritter, 2020). Thus, transgressive fossil concentrations are unlikely to represent paleocommunities.

Taphonomic signatures such as polytypic infaunal-dominated assemblages, within-habit time-averaged assemblages, disrupted biological patchiness upward within beds, upward packing of bioclasts and pristine shells, as well as occurrence of glauconite, are typical proxies for fossiliferous lags (Kidwell, 1989; Garcia-Ramos and Zuschin, 2019). The mixed features in lag concentrations of the Man Aike Formation (Hsm facies) imply that they were exposed to numerous processes of erosion, reworking, winnowing and deposition before the final burial. This would lead to skeletal concentrations with

high degree of temporal mixture. These deposits generated in upper to middle shoreface are formed during shoreface erosion by waves and currents (Swift et al., 1986; Cattaneo and Steel, 2003; Yang, 2007).

These fossiliferous lags can also accumulate in sites of persistent transport, and episodic or continuous reworking processes in shoreface to inner shelf environments (Kidwell et al., 1986; Kidwell, 1991; Bressan and Palma, 2010; Cattaneo and Steel, 2003; Engelbrecht, 2000; Hendy et al., 2006; Parras and Casadío, 2005; Zecchin and Catuneanu, 2012). The absence of encrustation and bioeroded shells may also indicates high sedimentation rates, related to high energy events like storms or strong currents (Kidwell, 1991; Hendy et al., 2006).

Better preservation is observed in the debris flow concentration of the Man Aike Formation (Hgmg facies), indicating brief permanence in the taphonomically active zone (TAZ). The polytypic composition, mixing of taxa from different habitats and structures diagnostic of storms activity suggest a sedimentological (hydraulic) build-up of skeletal parts (Kidwell et al., 1986). In this case, the shell concentrations associated with debris flow deposits was interpreted as episodic accumulations. Although, articulated bioclasts infill with the same matrix as the rock, indicating close provenance for these bioclast. The articulated shells, mixing of infaunal and epifaunal species (arborescent skeletons) is an evidence of capture of infaunal skeletons by these erosive flows, followed by a rapid burial of these parautochthonous assemblages (Brett and Baird, 1986; Kidwell, 1986; Rigueti et al., 2020).

Sediment gravity flow-type facies characterize the overlaying mid/outer-shelf deposits (Facies Hgmg) of the Man Aike Formation, where associated with multiple storm events, followed by post-tempestite deposition, producing hybrid sandstone layers (Facies Hgmm). The strong cementation affecting the coarser tempestite layers is

consistent with reworking and amalgamation of storm events under low average sedimentation rates. Upward the succession, oscillatory currents prevail, recorded in swaley cross-stratified sandstones (Facies Scs), suggesting an increasing control of storm activity (Swift et al., 1983; Greenwood and Sherman, 1986; Myrow, 2005; Dattilo et al., 2012).

The storm-wave generated concentrations interpreted as distal tempestite. The tempestite classification includes proximal shallow water settings (e.g., shoreface) to deeper water (offshore transition to offshore) deposits (see Fürsich and Oschmann, 1993). Proximal tempestites are composed of amalgamated thick deposits, commonly coarse-grained and bioclastic supported. The bioclasts tend to show a good preservation (Einsele, 2000; Simões and Torello, 2003). Intermediate and distal tempestites are commonly few cm to mm thick, with fine-grained amalgamated layers that commonly occur in the offshore transition zone and may extend to the offshore shelf (Alvan and Von Eynatten, 2012). Shell beds in the distal tempestites tend to form thin pavements, well mixed and with poorly preserved bioclasts (Aigner, 1985; Kidwell and Aigner, 1985; Seilacher and Aigner, 1991; Simões and Torello, 2003; Dattilo et al., 2008; Schmidt-Neto et al., 2014). However, in the Man Aike Formation the distal tempestite beds display a thicker layer. This unusual characteristic is related to topographical features of this foreland basin. In this sense, storms events can be able to rework deeper portions of the sea floor and generate thicker beds in this type of basin.

The differences observed in the shell concentrations of the Eocene Man Aike Formation are attributed to basin feature as well as the local environmental dynamic. Eocene siliciclastic shallow water fossil concentrations of the Man Aike Formation are interpreted as a deepening-trend cycle. Therefore, the basal deposits of the Man Aike Formation are preserved above the ravinement surface that corresponds to begging of

TST (Figure 9). Toward to the top of the succession, fossil concentrations were deposited in shoreface environment and middle to lower shoreface environment are observed, respectively.

No significative taphonomic changes in the assemblage's were observed along the studied interval. All fossil concentrations described here are infaunal-dominated with large bivalves, along with subordinated multielements and gastropods. Therefore, changes in patterns of taxa diversity, distribution and geometry of concentrations are controlled by a complex interplay of large and small-scale environmental factors and basin-scale processes (Hendy et al 2009; Leighton & Schneider, 2004).

5.2 Implications for Foreland Magallanes Basin

The coarse-grained lithologies, scarcity of bioturbation and the absence of fine grained lithologies could be indicative of predominant bypass, reworking and winnowing processes associated with high sedimentation rates and shelf construction processes (Swift et al., 1987; Van de Meene et al., 1996). These could be indicative of a storm-influenced reflective beach (Hamblin. & Walker, 1979; James and Mountjoy, 1983; Myrow and Southard, 1991; Myrow, 2005; Naylor and Sinclair, 2008).

High energy and high relief coasts, near source area and slope settings, are typically associated with foreland basin systems near wedge-top depositional zones (Chiang and Chou, 2004; Conti et al., 2008; Pepe and Gallicchio, 2013). Such a setting can explain the absence of fine-grained lithologies and the deposition of gravity flow-type facies in the Man Aike Formation. Furthermore, thick distal tempestites can be expected in this configuration, once slope steepening and width of the shelf are significantly different from shallow open shelfs. Additionally, short intertidal zones

would promote the alluvial discharges into the shoreface, producing shell concentrations like those observed in the Fossil concentration 2 – Hgmg Facies (Figure 10) (McLaughlin and Brett, 2007; Quaglio et al., 2014; Rivera et al., 2020). Therefore, studies reveal complex interplay of sedimentation, tectonism, and base-level changes in Magallanes-Austral Basin.

5.3 Paleoenvironmental evolution

Calcium content is relatively constant in the studied succession, without displaying clear increases associate with the fossiliferous accumulations (shell beds). This could be explained by the presence of Ca-rich minerals, such as plagioclases, and carbonate cementation widespread along the succession (Figure 8 A, C, E, F, and I). This pattern led us to infer that increased terr./Ca and Al/Ca ratios within the lowermost 10 m of the studied succession were mainly driven by enhanced supply of terrigenous sediments in the system. Therefore, decreasing-upward trends in the terr./Ca, Al/Ca and Ti/Al suggest decreasing influx of land-derived material. These patterns may be related with variations in riverine runoff intensity and/or relative sea-level rise (Bahr et al., 2008; Spofforth et al., 2008; Itambi et al., 2009; Lebreiro et al., 2009; Nizou et al., 2010, 201 Beil et al., 2018). We favor that these trends were driven by a rise in relative sea level, based on evidence from other proxy records, such as the Sr/Ca and the Ti/Al ratios.

Sr/Ca ratios also show a decreasing-upward trend. In Mediterranean Sea sediments, Sr/Ca peaks in shallow marine settings, since high-Sr aragonite is preferentially formed in these settings (Thomson et al., 2004; Rothwell et al., 2006; Grove et al., 2010). The Ti/Al ratio is often used as a proxy for changes in the energy of depositional processes, as well as riverine input intensity changes (Spofforth et al., 2008).

The decreasing-upward trend of Ti/Al in the studied section can be interpreted as a decrease in the energy of depositional events upward in the section (Itambi et al., 2009; Dickson et al., 2010). Chen et al. (2013) also showed that the Ti/Al molar ratio tends to increase in locations closer the sediments sources. Therefore, we suggest that relatively proximal (closer to the sediment sources) conditions were likely recorded by the lowermost strata of the Man Aike Formation in the studied area. The decreasing upward trend in log(Zr/Rb) at the studied succession, indicate decreasing sediment grain sizes (e.g. Spofforth et al., 2008; Beil et al., 2018), thus supporting the interpretation of a deepening upward trend.

One open question, however, is whether this relative sea level change would be related to global eustasy or to regional tectonic uplift. Since a foreland basin tends to experience abrupt shift in sedimentation patterns, mainly when the deposition occurs near to the orogenic wedge (see Dickinson, 1985), the conservative provenance of the sediments assigned to the Man Aike Formation does not suggest the occurrence of any major tectonic environmental events that could lead to a change in sedimentary sources sources (Dickinson, 1985; Weltje and Evhatten, 2004). Conversely, global sea level reconstruction during the Eocene point to transgressive episodes, coupled with warming episodes, marked by a significant marine incursion over parts of southern South American and the Antarctica Peninsula (Hag et al., 1987; Ivany et al., 2008; Malumián, 2002, Miller and Gornitz, 2008; Huyghe et al., 2012; Payros et al., 2012; Westerhold et al., 2017; Fosdick et al., 2020) during the middle Eocene. Furthermore, there is a correspondence between high abundances of glauconite and the occurrence of warm climates during the Paleogene (Zachos et al., 2001; Royer, 2006; Zachos et al., 2008; Benerjee et al., 2020). Taken together, these observations make us favor a climatic forcing for the sea level rising recorded by the Man Aike Formation

6. Conclusion

High resolution taphonomic, sedimentological, petrographic and geochemical analyses of the lowermost Man Aike Formation enable to reconstruct depositional, environmental and hydrodynamic settings of shallow marine middle Eocene strata deposited at high latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere. Our data support previous interpretations of a transgressive systems tract in shallow marine environment for the lowermost part of the sequence, under influence of high energy process. The identified deepening-upward trend may be linked with a larger accommodation space generated at that time than the tectonic uplift, caused by the elevation of the Andes. Data suggest that its primary cause was the middle Eocene high latitude warming, which was associated with relative sea level rise. Sedimentary and taphonomic features indicate depositional process related to mass flows in a steep shallow marine environment with coarse-grained sediments, identified as concentrated granular flows. Also lag concentration formed in proximal settings along the shoreface, displaying a wide lateral size and showing time averaging, observed in taphonomic data. Tempestites also are identified formed in more distal context by storms events, displaying thicker beds, here associated with the paleogeography of the foreland basin under.

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SÍNTESE INTEGRADORA

O desenvolvimento deste estudo tafonômico-sedimentar das concentrações fossilíferas possibilitou contribuir com o conhecimento estratigráfico e paleoambiental da deposição Eocênica da Formação Man Aike na Bacia de Magallanes além de contribuições com novos *insights* sobre a abordagem e o uso destas concentrações fossilíferas. O estudo sedimentológico e tafonômico corrobora com a interpretação prévia para a base desta sequência como sendo deposição em ambiente de *shoreface* superior formado sob trato de sistema transgressivo (TST), previamente interpretado por Manríquez et al., (2019).

O estudo mostrou padrões e assinaturas bem distintas na formação dessas concentrações fossilíferas. Essas concentrações se distribuem conforme a variação do nível do mar, paleogeografia e processos dinâmicos associados a costa. A análise tafonômica destas concentrações densas juntamente com a análise geoquímica de sedimentos e o controle sedimentar e petrográfico, nos permitiu caracterizar uma tendência de aprofundamento da lâmina da água e maior influência de tempestades em direção ao topo da seção. Essa variação relativa do nível do mar na região pode ser ligada a eventos climáticos que ocorreram no Lutetiano, ou processos tectônicos incidentes nessa bacia de retro foreland.

Três tipos de concentrações foram registrados. Concentrações de *lags*, ligadas a subida de nível do mar e início de transgressões. Essas concentrações estão associadas a regiões mais proximais a costa (Upper Shoreface). Concentrações de episódicas de *debris flows* gerando depósitos retrabalhados, porém de soterramento rápido, para fora da Zona Tafonomicamente Ativa (TAZ). E por fim, concentrações hiatais com evidências de *event concentration*, ou associações de censo ecológico, aqui interpretadas causados por tempestades em regiões mais distais gerando depósitos de soterramento rápido marcado por pavimentos de conchas.

Devido a variação e complexidade do balanço entre sedimentação, processos biológicos, paleogeografía e influência de fatores externos a bacia de sedimentação, mais estudos são necessários nesse período para melhor compreensão da relação eustasia e eventos costeiros atuantes durante a formação e deposição das concentrações fossilíferas da Formação Man Aike.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

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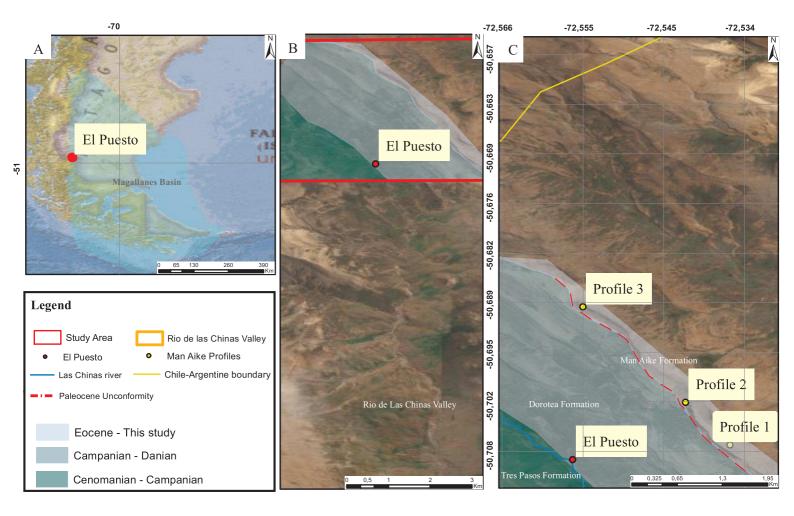
Figure 1 - (A) Map of Southern portion of South America with the location (red point) 1557 of the study area (Rio de las Chinas Valley, Magallanes Region, Chile). (B) Eocene 1558 deposits in the northern portion of the valley. (C) Distribution and location of the three 1559 sedimentary profiles described for the Man Aike Formation in the study area. 1560 Figure 2 - Stratigraphic chart for the region of the Rio de las Chinas Valley (Modified 1561 from Malumián and Caramés, 1997; Pearson et al., 2012; Manriquez et al., 2019). 1562 Figure 3 - A) Satellite imagery with the location of the Man Aike Formation outcrops 1563 described in the El Puesto locality. Three profiles were described (Profile 1, 2 and 3) and 1564 1565 later compiled into a composite profile. Source: Source: Google Earth Pro. 1566 Figure 4 - A) The Man Aike Formation overlapping the Dorotea Formation in the Ultima Esperanza province, Rio the Las Chinas valley, Chilean Patagonia. B) Profile 1 outcrop. 1567 Figure 5 - Composed profile showing main sedimentary facies, boundary contacts, fossil 1568 content and geometry of the dense fossil concentration (Man Aike Formation). 1569 Figure 6 - Upper shoreface facies observed in the sequence. (A) Inverse graded 1570 conglomerate (Gmg facies) showing diffuse trough cross -bedding (B) Massive sandstone 1571 beds (Sm facies). (C) Planar cross-bedding sandstone facies (Sp facies) and pebbly 1572 1573 sandstones (Hsm facies). (D) Lateral expression of facies Sp, Hgm and Sm. (E) and (F) Through cross-bedding sandstones (St Facies). (G) Upper shoreface facies arrangement. 1574 Figure 7 - Middle shoreface facies observed in the studied interval of the Man Aike 1575 1576 Formation. (A) Swaley cross stratified sandstones (Scs facies). (B) Massive pebbly sandstones showing increasing upward trend in bioclasts close-packing (Hgmm facies). 1577 (C) Massive gravelly bioclastic sandstone (Hgmg facies). (D) Massive gravelly bioclastic 1578 sandstones displaying erosive bottom boundary (Hgmg facies). 1579

1580 Figure 8 - Geochemical analysis of the studied section of the Man Aike Formation. (A) Terrigenous elements influx. (B) Fluvial Input (runoff episodes). (C) Ti/Al- proxy for 1581 environmental energy conditions. (D) Sr/Ca-for proxy for Authigenic carbonate 1582 precipitation and shallow-water source. (E) Log (Zr/Rb) Grain-size proxy. Terrigenous 1583 (Terr) elements = Si + Al + Ti + Fe + K. The sedimentary section of samples collected in 1584 their relative stratigraphic position. Grayish red shadings indicating stratigraphic intervals 1585 characterized by proximal patterns in the sedimentary record. 1586 Figure 9 - Types of fossil-concentrations observed in Hsm facies from Man Aike 1587 Formation. (A) Gravelly sandstone beds with coarse bioclasts and erosive boundaries, 1588 1589 locally displaying diffuse contacts. (B) Large Lahillia shells (C) Highly erosive and 1590 discontinuous boundaries. (D) Shells displaying preferential concordant orientation, articulated and disarticulated Lahillia shells (with circles). (E) Bioclasts showing 1591 bimodal size-sorting with pectinid ranging from 2-3 cm associated with Lahillia shells 1592 ranging in size 7-9 cm (with circles). 1593 Figure 10 - Types of fossil-concentrations observed in Hgmg facies of the Man Aike 1594 Formation. (A) Massive conglomeratic sandstones with dense fossil concentration. (B) 1595 1596 Bioclasts lens accumulations in cross-view showing imbrication. (C) Clustering patterns 1597 observed in the fossil concentrations (D). Localized dense concentration with articulated bivalves. (E) Lowermost portion of the bed showing subordinated bivalve molds and 1598 1599 arborescent skeletal types (bryozoan) (white circle). 1600 Figure 11 - Types of fossil-concentrations observed in Hgmm facies from Man Aike Formation. (A) Discontinuous lens with pebble grained sandstone with erosive top 1601 boundary and gradational lower boundary. (B) Bivalve showing splayed valves. (C) 1602 Complex concentrations showing bioclastic close-packing increasing upward (dotted 1603 white line indicate the upper boundary). (D) Complex concentrations showing bivalved 1604

1606 orientation. (E) Marked top boundary by articulated shells. Figure S1 – Ichnofossil found in the Man Aike Formation. A) Skolithos burrow 1607 associated with Scs facies. B) Skolithos dwelling structure detail. C) Ichnofossil in the 1608 boundary between Hgmm and Scs facies. D) Thalassinoides within Scs facies. 1609 Figure S21 - Dense concentrations fossil examples, Man Aike Formation. (A) Mult-1610 1611 element skeletons associated with the lowermost portion of the Hgmg facies. 1612 (B)Articulated bivalve (Hgmm facies). (C) Imbricated Venericardia shells within Hgmg facies. (D) Open-articulated Lahillia. (E) Articulated shells from the top boundary of 1613 1614 Hgmm facies. (F) Bryozoan fragments found associated with the Hgmg facies. (G) 1615 Hummockys cross-stratification in a middle o lower shoreface environment interspersed with episodic concentrations and distal tempestites concentrations. 1616 1617 Figure S32 - Photomicrograph of thin-sections from samples collected directly from the shell accumulations beds. (A) Hsm facies showing poorly sorted siliciclastic grains with 1618 well-preserved twinning in FK grains (blue arrow) (cross-polarized light). (B) Hsm facies 1619 showing poorly-sorted grains, low maturity, quartz grains, feldspars, and high presence 1620 of ferruginous minerals. Calcite cementation and glauconite indicated by blue arrows 1621 1622 (plane polarized light). (C) Hsm facies showing concave-convex contacts, calcite cementation, large volcanic rock fragments (blue arrow) (plane polarized light). (D) 1623 Hgmm facies showing volcanic rock fragments, sedimentary rock fragments and bioclasts 1624 1625 fragments (blue arrow) and subordinated glauconite (plane polarized light). (E) Hgmm facies showing poorly-sorted siliciclastic grains, large quartz grain, well developed calcite 1626 cementation (blue arrow), volcanic and sedimentary fragments (plane polarized light). (F) 1627 Hgmm facies showing volcanic rock fragments (blue arrows) and polycrystalline quartz 1628 (cross-polarized light). (G) Hgmg facies showing closed bioclast radial ribs well 1629

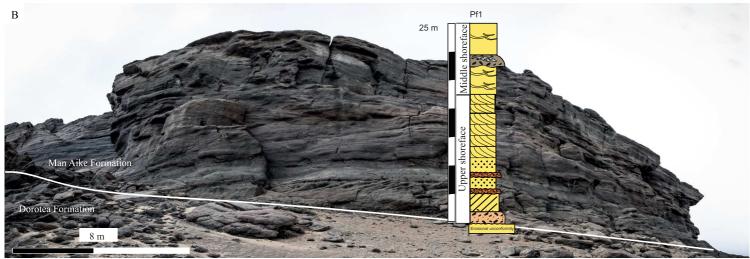
and univalved shells preserved as broken and fragmented shells with no preferential

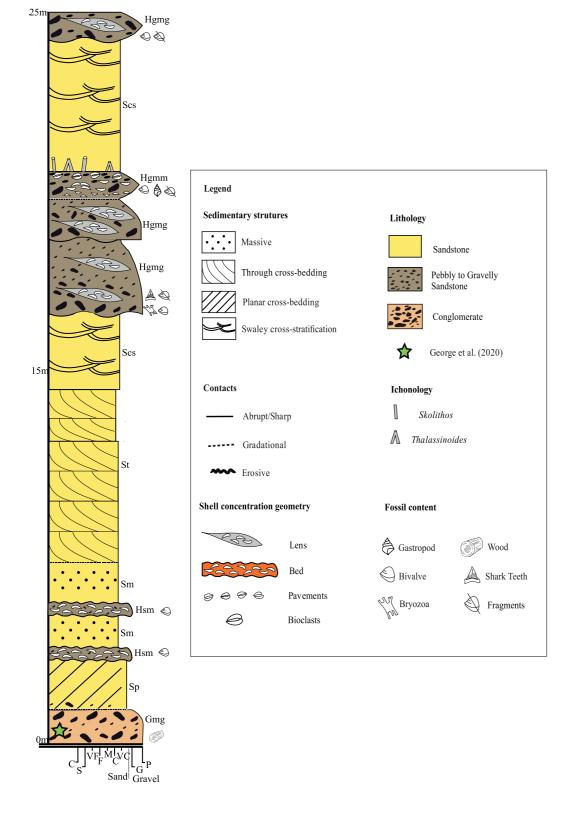
| 1630 | preserved in poorly-sorted siliciclastic grains, large volcanic rock fragments and |
|------|--|
| 1631 | monocrystalline quartz, punctual contacts between grains, bioclasts infilled by the |
| 1632 | sedimentary matrix (blue arrow) (plane polarized light). (H) Hgmg facies showing poorly |
| 1633 | sorted siliciclastic grains and silicified bioclast umbo (blue arrow) (cross-polarized light). |
| 1634 | (I) Hgmg facies showing poorly sorted siliciclastic grains and well-preserved volcanic |
| 1635 | grains (blue arrow) (cross-polarized light). |
| 1636 | |
| 1637 | TABLE CAPTIONS |
| 1638 | Table 1 - Elemental ratios used as paleoenvironmental proxies. |
| 1639 | Table 2 - Summarized facies of the Man Aike Formation. |

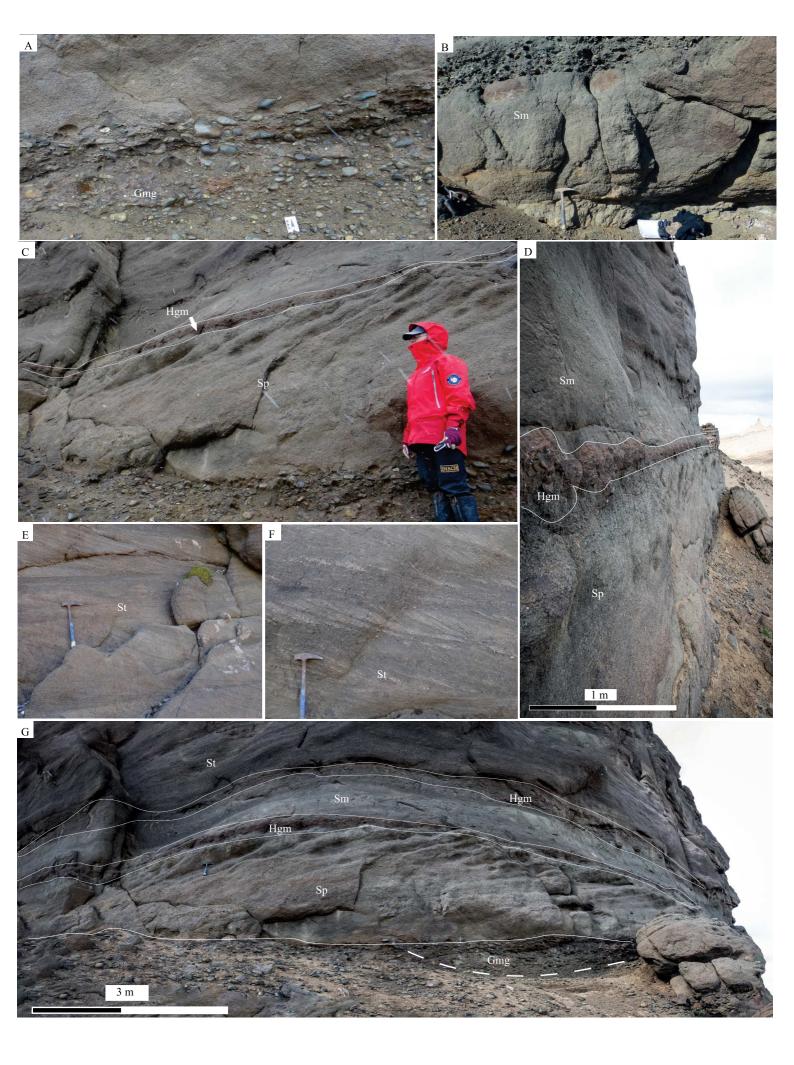


| | | Magallanes / Austral Basin | | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| Locality | | Argentina | | Chile | |
| | | NORTHERN | WESTERN | | |
| Age | | Lago Argentino Area | Río Turbio Area | Última Esperanza | |
| Paleo- gene | Eocene 33.9 | Man Aike | Rio Túrbio | Man Aike | |
| | Paleocene 66 | ? | ? | ? | |
| Upper Cretaceous | | Calafate | Cerro Dorotea | | |
| | Maastrichtian | Chorrillo | | Dorotea | |
| | 72.1 ± 0.2 | La Irene Cerro | Cerro Cazador | | |
| | Campanian | Fortaleza La Anita | | Tres Pasos | |
| | | Alta Vista | Cerro Toro | | |
| Ď | 83.6 ± 0.2 Santonian 86.3 ± 0.5 | Cerro Toro | Cerro Toro | | |





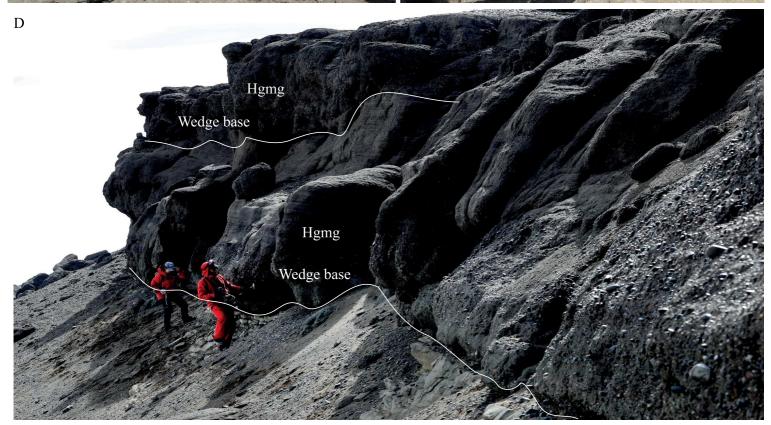


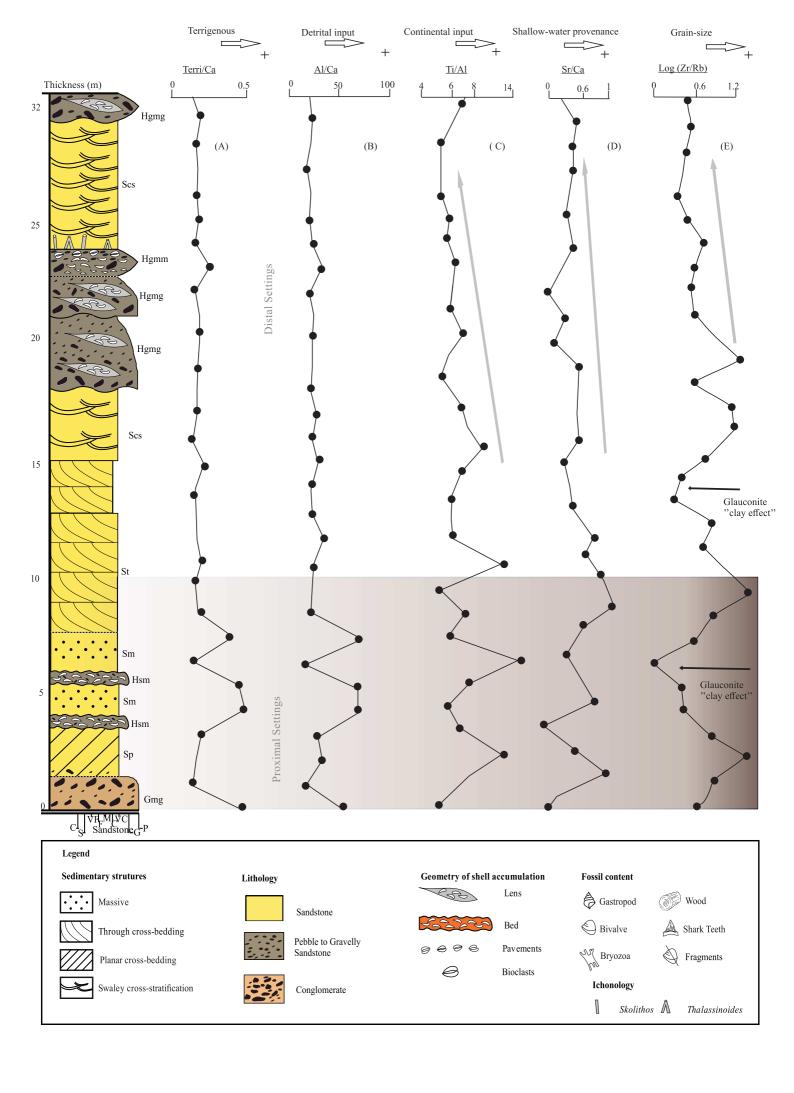


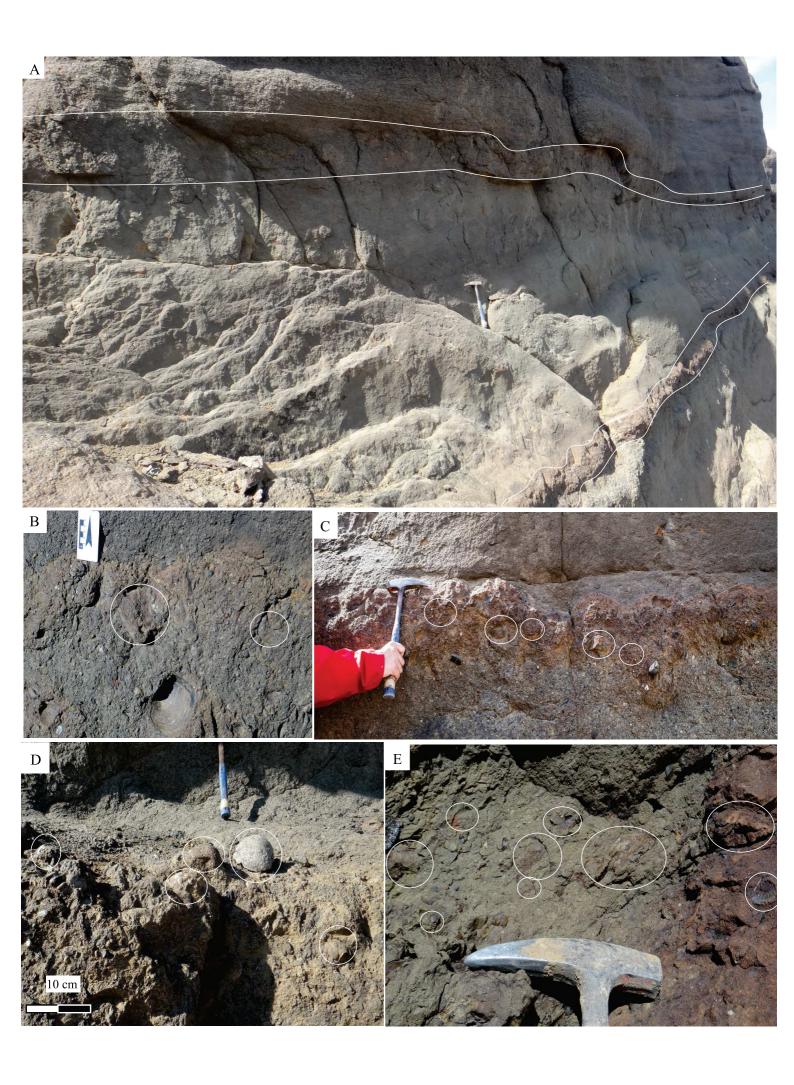


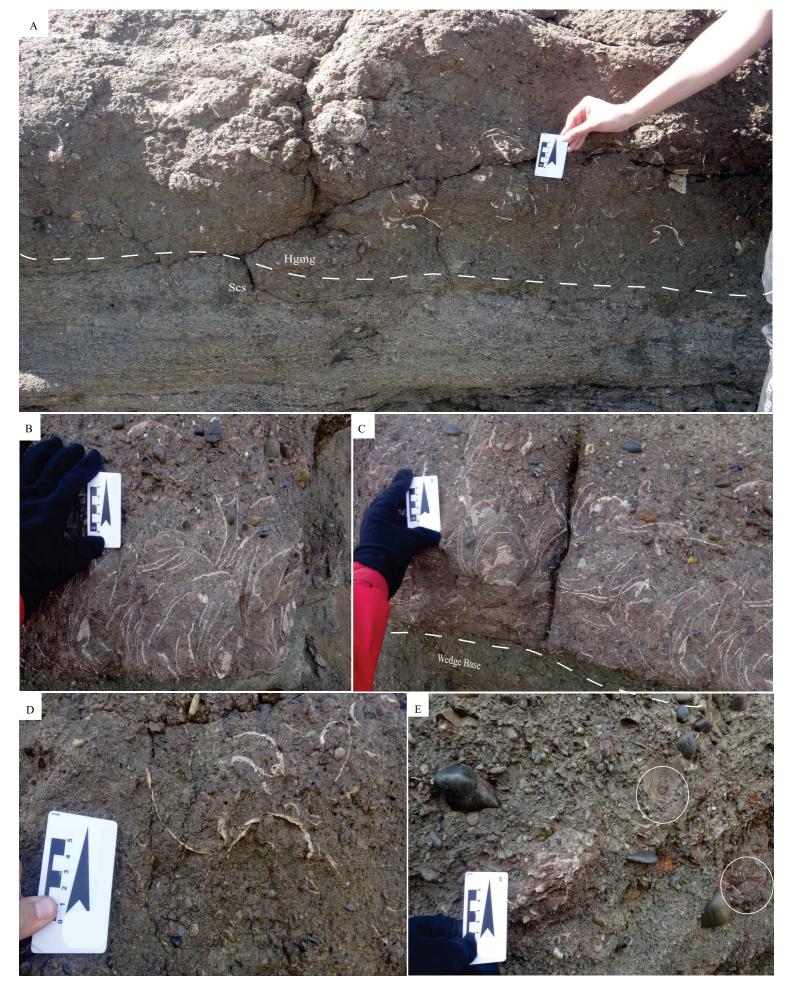


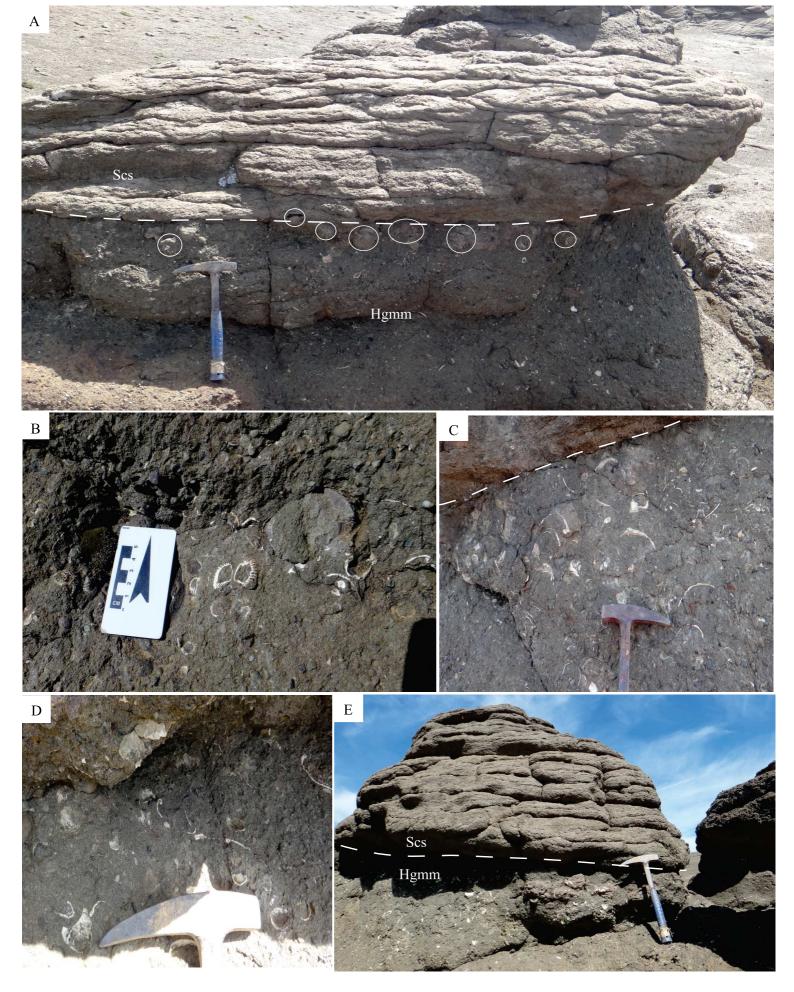


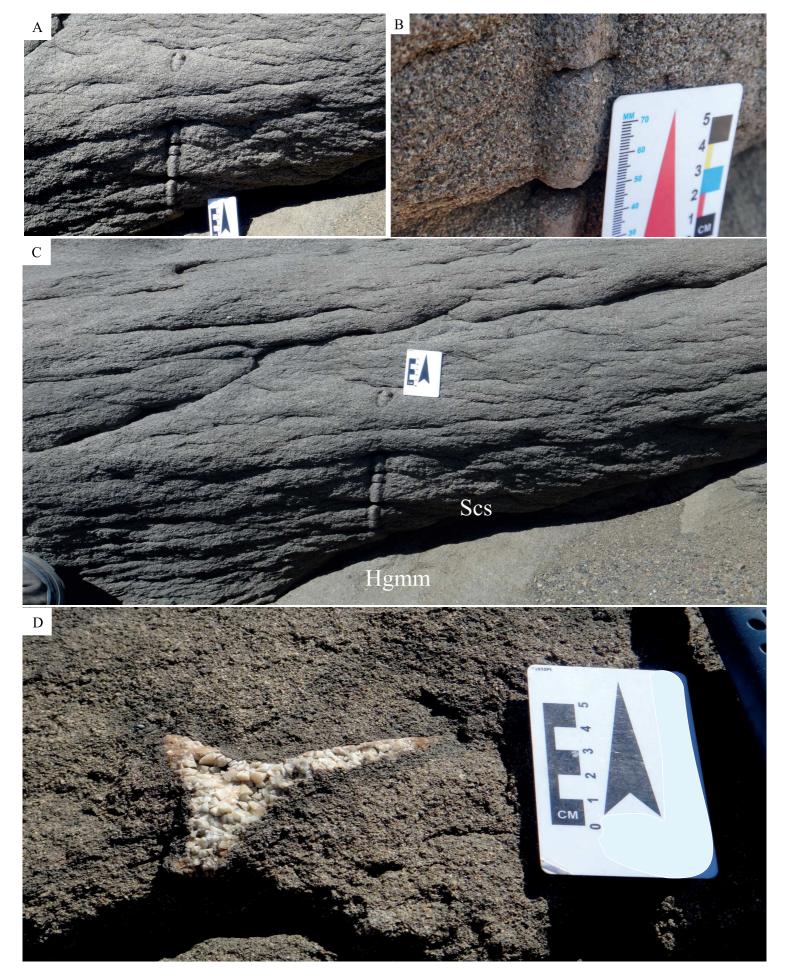


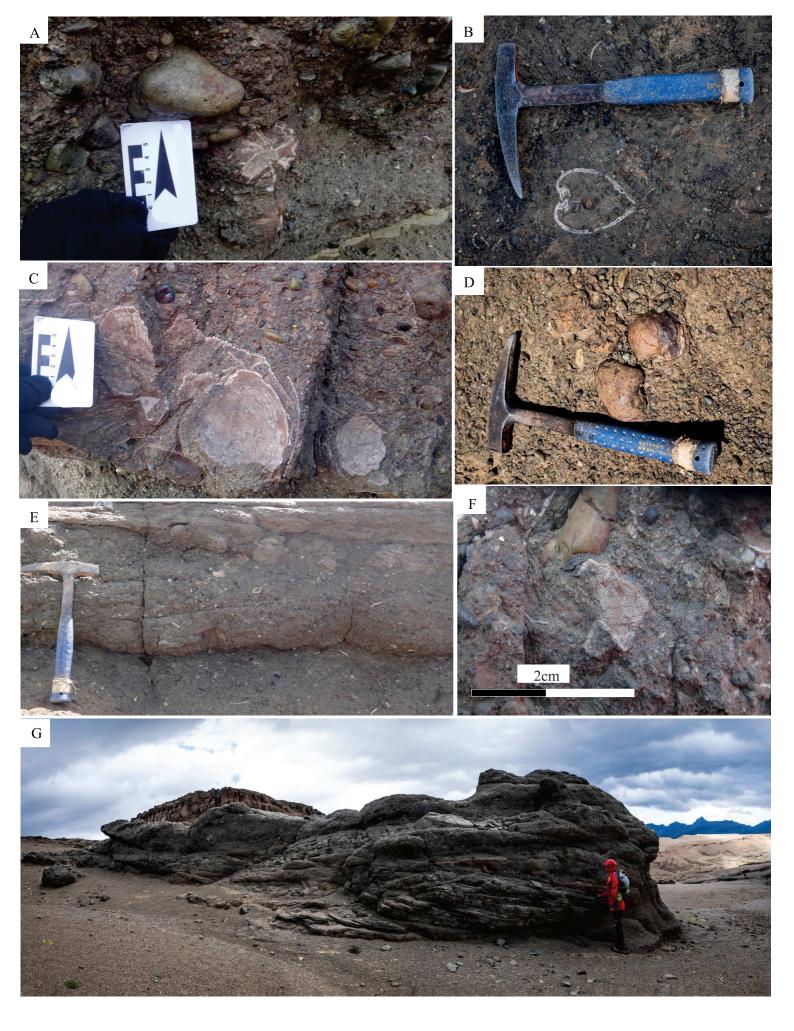












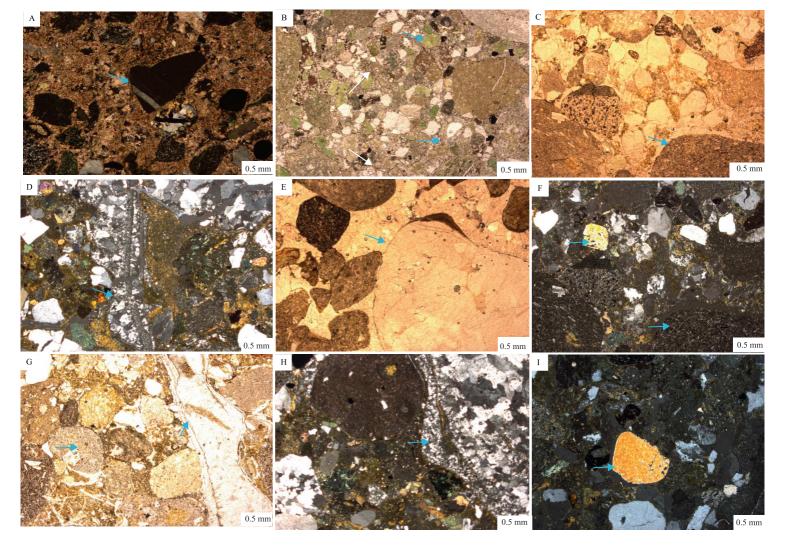


 Table 1- Elemental ratios used as paleoenvironmental proxies.

| Proxy | Elements | References |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| Terrigenous elements | Terrigenous/Ca | Bahr et al., (2008); Beil et al., (2018); Lebreiro et al., (2009) |
| Environmental energy | Ti/Al | Berg et al., (2010); Bourget at al. (2008); Dickson et al., (2010); Henrich et al., (2010); Itambi et al., 2009; Kwiecien et al., (2009); Chen et al., (2013) |
| Detrital input | Al/Ca | Nizou et al., (2010); (2011), Spofforth et al., (2008) |
| Shallow-water provenance | Sr/Ca | Grove et al., (2010); Rothwell et al., (2006); Thomson et al. (2006) |
| Grain-Size | Log (Zr/Rb) | Beil et al., (2018). Dypvik and Harris, (2001) Rothwell et al., (2006) Wang et al., (2001); Spofforth et al., (2008) |

Table 2 - Summarized facies from Man Aike formation.

| FACIES CODE | Description | Geometry/Dimensions | Depositional Process | Depositional environment | Fossil/ Ichnofossil | Reference |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gmg | Conglomerate, clast-supported, polymictic, poorly sorted showing diffuse trough crossbedding exhibit inverse grading, clasts imbrication. Erosive lower contact and gradational upper boundary | Tabular beds, 0.5-1.5 m thick and hundreds of meters laterally continuous. | Unidirectional current flow. Lower flow-regimes 3-D dunes | Upper shoreface | Wood Fragments | Saunders et al. (1994). Lima and Boas (1994) Reading and Collinson (1996) Clifton (2003) |
| Sp | Corse to very coarse-grained sandstone with medium to large planar cross-bedding, dispersed pebbles, and granules. Gradational lower boundary and abrupt-erosive upper boundary. | Tabular laterally extensive beds, 1 – 2 m thick. | Unidirectional current flow. Lower-flow regimes 2-D dunes | Upper Shoreface | Dispersed shells | Harms et al. (1982) Allen (1963) Clifton (2006) |
| Sm | Massive sandstone, medium- to coarse- grained, poorly sorted, with sparse granules and pebbles. | Tabular Bed 0.5 to 1 m thick with hundreds of meters laterally extensive. | Post depositional fluidization processes or high sedimentary discharge periods | Upper shoreface | Absent | De Souza et al. (2019) Mulder and Alexander (2001) Rossi et al. (2017) |
| St | Medium to-coarse-grained sandstone with small trough cross-bedding showing abrupt lower and upper boundary | Tabular bed 1-2 meters thick, hundreds of meters laterally extensive, locally lenticular coset. | Unidirectional current Lower flow regime current 3-D dunes | Upper shoreface | Absent | Allen (1963) Myrow and Southard (1999) Plint (2010) |
| Scs | Coarse to very coarse-grained sandstones, moderately sorted, swaley cross-stratification, Abrupt to erosive boundaries and subordinated hummockys cross-stratification | Discontinuous lenticular beds, 2 to 7 m thick and hundreds of meters wide. | Combined oscillatory and unidirectional flow generated by storm | Middle shoreface - Lower shoreface | Skolithos isp Thalassinoides isp. | Arnott and Southard (1990) Duke (1985, 1987) Duke et al (1991) Dumas and Arnott (2006) |

| Hsm | Massive gravelly sandstone with very coarse matrix, calcite cementation, carbonate, and ferric concretion. Bioclasts (25%) exhibiting bimodal size-sorted, with 3 and 9 (cm). Highly erosive boundaries. | Beds 0.5 m tick, hundreds of meters laterally extensive. | Wave reworking | Upper shoreface | Bivalved (<i>Lahillia</i>) Small Pectinaceous | Hart and Plint (1995) Cattaneo and Steel (2003) Zecchin et al. (2017) Kern et al. (2019) |
|------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Hgmg | Gravely bioclastic sandstone, normally graded very-coarse grained matrix ranging grain to matrix-supported. Laterally grade to coarse grained sandstones showing cross bedding. Bioclasts (10%) poorly sorted, size ranging from 3 – 10 (cm) | Wedges 1 – 6-m thick, hundreds to thousands of meters wide | Unidirectional concentrated flow generated by debris flows | Middle-Lower - shoreface | Bivalved (Pectinaceous, Lahillia) Multielements (Bryozoans, Shark theet, Corals) | Lowe (1979, 1982) Conti et al. (2019) Zavala (2020) |
| Hgmm | Pebbly sandstone, massive to diffuse wavy bedding with coarse grained matrix, calcite cementation, carbonate, and ferric concretion. Bioclasts (15%) are poorly sorted, size range about 3 – 7 (cm) and show content increasing upward the bed | Discontinuous lens, 0.5-1.5 meters thick and 2 -4 meters wide | Oscillatory and unidirectional flow generated by storms | Middle-Lower shoreface | Univalved (Gastropod) Bivalved (Pectinids) | Clifton (2003) Plint (2010) Amorim et al. (2020) |

