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**Book of Abstracts**

**Palaeontology in the virtual era**

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# A new way to make science

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# New plant fossil records and palaeocology of the Uspallata Group (Late Triassic) at Cacheuta Hill, Cuyo Basin, west-central Argentina

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The Triassic sedimentary rocks outcropping in the Cacheuta Hill (Precordillera, Mendoza province, Argentina) correspond to the upper part of the Uspallata Group (Late Triassic) comprising the younger levels of Potrerillos Formation, and the Cacheuta and Río Blanco formations. In this contribution, new fossil plant records in the Uspallata Group are described, the systematic palaeontology of previously described taxa is revised, and the plant-palaeocommunities are reconstructed. In addition, the studied unit is correlated with other Triassic formations of Gondwana. Our revision of the plant-fossil record from the Uspallata Group provides: the first record of the genus *Androstrobus* (Cycadales) and the genus *Odyssianthus* (Voltziales) in the Argentinean Triassic, the description of *Rissikianthus* as a new element of the Cacheuta palaeoflora, the transfer of *Baiera rollerii* to *Rochipteris rollerii*, and the presence of *Hamshawvia* and *Stachyopitys* in the Argentinean Triassic, which confirm the record of these reproductive structures as related to the ginkgoalean lineage. The most diverse plant fossil group in the Triassic of Cacheuta Hill is the seed fern order Umkomasiales (= Crystospermales). Four types of plant palaeocommunities were inferred for Uspallata Group: conifer-dominated deciduous forests, crystosperm-dominated deciduous forests, crystosperm-dominated evergreen forests, and crystosperm-dominated shrubby-arboreal. These palaeocommunities were developed in mixed load meandering fluvial, palustrine and meromictic lacustrine systems under seasonal or oceanic subtropical climates, varying from semiarid to humid environments. The plant fossil assemblages present in the Uspallata Group at Cacheuta Hill shows similarities with the Molteno Formation from South Africa, indicating a Late Triassic (Carnian–Norian) age for the unit.



Paleofloras  
Paleocommunities  
Carnian  
Norian



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