

MIOCENE TO PLIOCENE BENTHIC AND PLANKTIC FORAMINIFERA OF THE EASTERN VENEZUELA BASIN: BIOFACIES, PALEOENVIRONMENTS AND SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY.

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Foraminiferal faunas along the Piedritas field of the Eastern Venezuela Basin, based on five subsurface sections through coastal plain till slope environments, are characterized by changes in the condition of sedimentation.

Faunal abundance and diversity histograms provide critical information to make a reproductive chronostratigraphic framework and permitted to identify ten biofacies and about 150 species. High and low fossil abundance and diversity peaks were useful to recognize seven maximum flooding surfaces and eight sequence boundaries of the third order between 5.5 Ma and 16.5 Ma.

The foraminiferal record for the Miocene and Pliocene reflect a shallowing tendency toward the western part of the basin. A prograding system toward the east, reflects the migration of the Proto-Orinoco delta from Lower Miocene till Pliocene.