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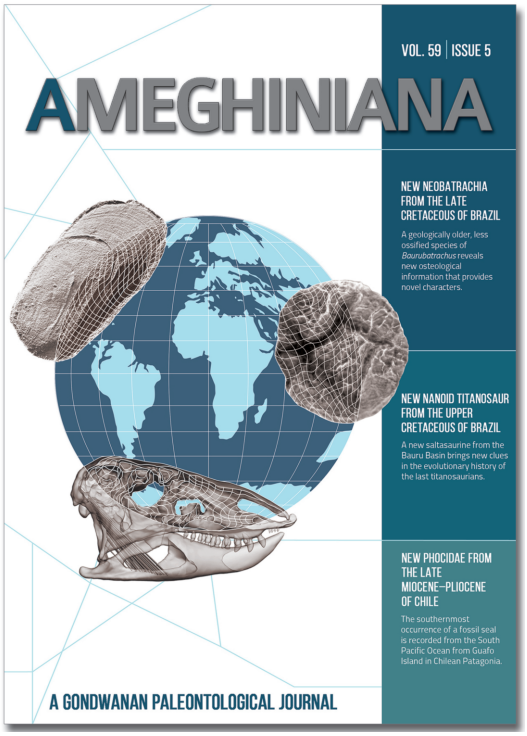

NORA M. SABATTINI (1941-2021)

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NEW NEOBATRACHIA FROM THE LATE CRETACEOUS OF BRAZIL

A geologically older, less ossified species of *Baurubatrachus* reveals new osteological information that provides novel characters.

NEW NANOID TITANOSAUR FROM THE UPPER CRETACEOUS OF BRAZIL

A new saltasaurine from the Bauru Basin brings new clues in the evolutionary history of the last titanosaurians.

NEW PHOCIDAE FROM THE LATE MIOCENE–PLIOCENE OF CHILE

The southernmost occurrence of a fossil seal is recorded from the South Pacific Ocean from Guafo Island in Chilean Patagonia.

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On April 1, 2021, Dr. Nora María Sabattini, one of the most outstanding specialists in invertebrate faunas of the Upper Paleozoic of Argentina, passed away in La Plata.

She was born in Tapalqué, province of Buenos Aires, on January 30, 1941, conducted her primary studies in González Chaves, and continued her secondary studies at the National College of Tres Arroyos. She graduated with a bachelor in 1958 while obtaining the title of superior piano teacher.

In 1959 she began studies at the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, intending to study Zoology, leaving aside, due to maternal influence, her original vocation for Medical Sciences. When she completed the first year, common to all the orientations dictated there, she decided to study Geology.

During the following years, she developed a special interest in Mineralogy, Petrography, and Invertebrate Paleontology. She began to work as a Student Assistant in Petrography I (Igneous Rocks) and Paleontology I (Invertebrates and Paleobotany) but gradually became increasingly interested in fossil invertebrates. On November 29, 1965, she completed her bachelor's degree in Geology.

At that time, Arturo J. Amos had become head of the División Paleozoología Invertebrados, Museo de La Plata and Professor of Invertebrate Paleontology. Amos had worked on invertebrate faunas of the Upper Paleozoic and introduced Nora to the study of a significant collection that had been donated to the Museum by Tomas Suero from the region of the Tepuel and Languiñeo mountain ranges, province of Chubut.

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Amos suggested to Nora the study of the bryozoans of that collection, to which material of similar age from the region of Barreal, province of San Juan, was added. The study required patience and dedication due to the size and characteristics of the material. It was enthusiastically approached by Nora and resulted in a Doctoral Thesis entitled "The Fenestellidae, Acanthocladiidae, and Rhabdomesidae (Bryozoa, Treptostomata) of the Upper Paleozoic of San Juan and Chubut", which was approved on August 11, 1971, with the highest qualification and led to an essential publication in the Revista of the Museum of La Plata.

This study, whose characteristics in the country had no previous antecedents and which, about fossil bryozoans, has not been surpassed to date, demanded a remarkable microscopy work. The material was studied with a microscope making 20 measurements for each of the 14 elements considered of taxonomic importance. These measurements were compared with the different species of each genus known worldwide.

The detailed observation of the bryozoans led Nora to be interested in the representatives of other groups of invertebrates of the same collection such as brachiopods, goniatites, trilobites, gastropods, bivalves, conularids, and even other less known groups, studies in which she showed her observation ability.

In this way, while carrying out her doctoral thesis, Nora faced the study of some representatives of these groups for which she interested other students, both of her generation and later ones. One of the first studies carried out was the reconstruction of a colony of cnidarians of the genus *Cladochonus*, belonging to the Tabulata, from the Carboniferous of Sierra de Languiñeo. Of the same genus, she also described, in later years, a new species from the Carboniferous of the province of San Juan.

In the same way, she undertook the study of gastropods of similar age from the provinces of San Juan and Mendoza. On the same subject, Nora would continue her studies throughout her career, making several publications in the following decades until her last work was published in 2013.

Concerning the fauna of invertebrates of the Upper Paleozoic, she participated in the following decade of studies developed by other students of Amos, such as C. R. González with whom she made the first description in Argentina of a representative of the Calyptoptomatida, and studied, in collaboration with M. O. Manceñido gastropods from the Upper Paleozoic of San Juan.

She undertook the first study in the country on Upper Paleozoic cephalopods, a topic that led her to reinterpret remains attributed to coleoids as actually belonging to fish scales. She also dealt with other groups of Carboniferous–Permian mollusks, such as the oldest representatives of Scaphopoda in Argentina.

Her studies on gastropods and hyolithids of the Paleozoic led her to participate in publications on Cambrian representatives of both groups.

Among her many contributions was the discovery of different types of opercula and opening slits in gastropods and internal structures in Permian conularids of the Tepuel-Genoa Basin. She also discovered polyplacophore plates in the lower Permian of Chubut that would lead to the introduction of a new genus.

In addition to dealing with the biostratigraphy and biogeography of all these fossils, she discussed paleoecological topics, including the presence of epizoic corals on gastropods and the life habits of conularids.

Her studies on fossil invertebrates culminated in her participation in a book on fossil invertebrates, published in 2007, in which she was responsible for the chapters dedicated to Conularids, Hyolithids, and Bryozoa.

Of the c. 100 works she published, 8 were related to bryozoans, 23 to gastropods, 3 to cephalopods, 9 to other groups of mollusks, 4 to cnidarians, and 1 to echinoderms.

She proposed 7 genera new to science, 2 of cephalopods, 3 of gastropods, 1 of helcionellids, and 1 of polyplacophores, and described 50 new species of bryozoans, gastropods, and cephalopods.

These studies were also encouraged by a particular interest, of a geological nature, in their eventual use for dating the bearing strata to obtain a detailed stratigraphy. The results of these biostratigraphic studies were made known from the 1980s onwards in various works and led her to actively collaborate in several chapters in two books on the Carboniferous and Permian Systems in Argentina and the volumes of the Stratigraphic Lexicon of Argentina dedicated to the Carboniferous and Permian.

About all these topics, she participated in several projects funded by CONICET, the Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica, and the International Geological Correlation Program promoted by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and UNESCO, some of them encompassing a multidisciplinary approach that involved fossil invertebrates and floras.

With an excellent teaching capacity, she began as a Student Assistant. She went through all the categories of university teaching from Assistant in practical labs to Assistant and Associate Professor until she became Full Professor, positions with which she taught in all paleontological courses of the degree programs of Geology and Zoology, such as Paleontology I, Paleontology Invertebrates, and Paleozoology, the last of which she chaired for several years.

She supervised several doctoral and postdoctoral fellows and assistant researchers from CONICET, some of whom carried out important theses on fossil invertebrates, mainly gastropods, brachiopods, echinoderms, and bivalves of the Upper Paleozoic of Argentina.

In November 2007, she retired after almost fifty years of teaching, and in 2009 she was appointed Extraordinary Professor. She also collaborated in the activities of the División Paleozoología Invertebrados, Museo de La Plata, both in the collections and in the planning and elaboration of exhibitions, especially on Upper Paleozoic faunas.

In October 1996, she was appointed Principal Researcher in CONICET. She was also a member of the Advisory board of Biology of the Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas, of the Province of Buenos Aires (1992-1999).

Starting as a University student, she was a member of the Paleontological and Geological Associations of Argentina. In the first she became Member of the Board of Directors in the biennium's 1967-1969 and 1969-1971, Secretary of the Board of Di-

rectors in 1985-1987, member of the Editorial Committee of Ameghiniana in 1993-1994 and full member of the Supervisory Body from 1995 to 1999.

She was a member since 1984 of the Carboniferous and Permian Subcommittees of the Argentine Committee of Stratigraphy, and she was also a Corresponding Member of the International Subcommittee on Carboniferous Stratigraphy of the International Union of Geological Sciences (1992).

She participated in organizing the XII International Congress of Stratigraphy and Geology of the Carboniferous and Permian held in Buenos Aires in 1991, in which she was member of several commissions and the editorial committee.

With an innate skill for drawing, she participated in vocational painting workshops and produced numerous oleo paintings.

With a quiet and measured temperament, she had cordial treatment with students, disciples, and colleagues, and her good-natured, helpful, and generous personality will remain in the memory of all those who knew and treated her.

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SOME IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS OF NORA SABATTINI IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

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