

ANDEAN GEODYNAMIC SETTING AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE CALINGASTA-IGLESIA INTERMONTANE VALLEY (31°-31° 40' S), ARGENTINA

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RESUMEN: El extremo austral del Valle intermontano Calingasta-Iglesia está caracterizado por una tectónica andina (Plio-Pleistocena) compresiva con una componente transcurrente dextral subordinada. En esta latitud (aproximadamente 31° S), la Precordillera se superpone por retrocabalgamiento al relleno de edad triásica y neógena del Valle Calingasta-Iglesia, contrastando con el menor acortamiento expresado en el extremo septentrional del mismo valle.

KEY WORDS: Andean geodynamics, Calingasta-Iglesia Valley, ramp basin, western Argentina

The Calingasta-Iglesia Valley (**CIV**) is a N-S trending intermontane depression between the Frontal Cordillera (Paleozoic marine rocks and Permo-Triassic volcanics and associated granitoids) and the Precordillera (Paleozoic to Triassic clastic sediments and metasediments) morphostructural provinces. The **CIV** fill is mainly constituted by a Neogene sedimentary pile deposited in a foreland setting during crustal shortening and uplift of the Frontal Cordillera and the Precordillera. The preserved section, characterized by non-marine, often tuffaceous, clastic deposits, locally exceeds 4 km of thickness. The Miocene to Quaternary sediments, along with Triassic fluvial and lacustrine deposits, are extensively exposed on the western flank of the Precordillera.

In the southern part of the **CIV**, at the latitude of Calingasta (31° 30' S),

1988) or shortening contrast due to cross-strike dextral transfer (Dewey & Lamb, 1992).

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