

Preface

The information provided herein is the result of research conducted specifically for this work; from own research projects sponsored by the Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la provincia de Buenos Aires (CICPBA); Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo de La Plata, and from cooperation with interdisciplinary research groups, mainly with researchers from the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), through the Centro de Tecnología de Recursos Minerales y Cerámica (CETMIC), the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), the Centro de Investigaciones Geológicas (CIG), international cooperation projects with the University of Poitiers, France, and from the international and local geological literature of researchers who worked on the study area, available at the end of each chapter.

Photographs, stratigraphic sections, drawings, chemical and technological analyses, mineralogical analyses by optical and scanning electron microscopy of our own, as well as some obtained from the literature, are offered. Besides, a glossary has been included to facilitate understanding of geological and technological terms to the reader.

The book is organized after a synthesis of the geology and stratigraphy of Tandilia, being the clay deposits of economic importance arranged in accordance to the counties and the sectors where they outcrop as follows:

Azul County	Chillar Sector
Benito Juárez County	El Ferrugo and Constante 10-El Cañón Sector
	Villa Cacique Sector
	La Juanita Sector
	Cuchilla de Las Aguilas-Sierra de LaTinta Sector
Lobería County	San Manuel Sector
Olavarría County	Sierras Bayas Sector
General Pueyrredón, Balcarce and Necochea counties	Mar del Plata (Chapadmalal)-Balcarce-Necochea Sector

Researchers immersed in the study of geological problems often disagree on the interpretation of occurring processes. But this is normal and specifically occurs in Tandilia because of the complexity and overlapping of physico-chemical and structural phenomena whose interpretation is even more difficult because of the antiquity of the deposits. As Prof. Walter Keller (†), eminent researcher on clay mineralogy of the University of Missouri, USA, said once: “if several expert scientists meet in an outcrop and their interpretation of the geology of the area was requested, one would obtain as many versions as geologists are involved.” In this precise case, numerous and accurate observations, and a scientific demonstration of the processes that took place, shall cooperate in the development of the knowledge of this complex geology. That is why working as a team, confronting and discussing results among colleagues, in national and international forums, will bring closer hypothesis to reality, but this approximation will never be definitive. There will always be new discoveries, new theories, new techniques, which will allow us to evolve in the right direction, toward a greater conviction. And this is the challenge of geology.

We are deeply indebted to Springer for publishing our book which will reach a wider audience via its English version. As the book is a review of the research carried out for more than 30 years by the authors parts of it were only published in Spanish. Our special thanks to Dr. Jorge Rabassa, Springer editor, for his encouragement and useful aid when performing the organization and content of the manuscript.

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Gondwana Industrial Clays

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