

Pollen from the K–Pg boundary of the La Colonia Formation, Patagonia, Argentina

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Abstract

The La Colonia Formation, outcropping in northern Chubut Province (Patagonia, Argentina), is a Maastrichtian–Danian sequence deposited during a marine transgression of the South Atlantic Ocean. Its fine-grained sediments are associated with lagoon systems that preserved a very rich and diverse biota composed of invertebrates, vertebrates, plants, algae, and fungi. A palynological study was carried out based on 157 samples collected from four representative stratigraphic sections of this geological unit. The plant communities were dominated in terms of richness by ferns and angiosperms, but algae and gymnosperms were also well-represented. About 250 palynomorphs are recognized. The gymnosperms comprise 20 species including representatives of Araucariaceae, Cheirolepidiaceae, Ephedraceae, and Podocarpaceae while the angiosperms include 67 species within the families Araceae, Arecaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Asteraceae, Cannabaceae, Chlorantaceae, Cunoniaceae, Ericaceae, Gunneraceae, Juncaceae,

Liliaceae, Malvaceae, Nelumbonaceae, Nothofagaceae, Proteaceae, and Typhaceae and several taxa of uncertain affinities. Here, we present the systematic study of the gymnosperm and angiosperm pollen components of the flora. Two new gymnosperm species and 22 new angiosperm species are erected. Additionally, we introduce the southernmost records of Triprojectacites and Normapolles groups even though their botanical relationships and origin remain unknown. The highly diverse palynoflora of the La Colonia Formation provides critical evidence for understanding the evolution of Southern Hemisphere floras and of certain clades and families and support the hypothesis that the effect of the mass extinction event was less significant at the southernmost portion of South America than in other parts of Earth.

Keywords: Angiosperms; Gymnosperms; K–Pg boundary; Late Cretaceous; Palynology; Patagonia.

1. Introduction

There are no doubts that a mass extinction event occurred during the Cretaceous–Paleogene boundary (~ 66 Ma; Raup and Sepkoski, 1982; Bambach, 2006). The most accepted hypothesis (e.g., Alvarez et al., 1980; Schulte et al., 2010) is that this event was caused by the impact of an asteroid in the Yucatan Peninsula, while intense volcanism associated with the Deccan Traps in India would have contributed to shaping biomes during the extinction aftermath (Schoene et al., 2019; Hull et al., 2020). The biostratigraphic record of extinction dynamics and recovery from a mass extinction event provides a critical window into understanding biotic resilience globally and locally. Patterns of extinction and recovery have been studied worldwide (Schulte et al.,

2010). Nevertheless, because confirmed records of the K–Pg boundary in the Southern Hemisphere are scarce, little is known about those patterns for Southern South America.

Towards the end of the Cretaceous period and the beginning of the Paleogene, a marine transgression from the Atlantic Ocean took place in Patagonia, generating shallow epicontinental seas on indented coasts, although the Somuncurá and Deseado Massifs remained emerged (Scasso et al., 2012). This transgressive episode led to the deposition of several coastal sedimentary units, with greater or lesser terrestrial influence (Scasso et al., 2012; Cúneo et al., 2014). Among them, the La Colonia Formation represents coastal deposits dominated by tides with the development of barrier/lagoon complexes of Maastrichtian–Danian age (Cúneo et al., 2014; Clyde et al., 2021). The formation is characterized by its highly diverse and rich biota that comprises vertebrates (dinosaurs, plesiosaurs, turtles, mammals, birds, marine and freshwater fishes), invertebrates (bivalves, ostracods, and foraminifera), plants (bryophytes, pteridophytes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms), algae (dinoflagellates and green algae), and fungi. The presence of freshwater green algae (e.g., Cúneo et al., 2014), water ferns (e.g., Cúneo et al., 2013; De Benedetti et al., 2018, 2020, 2021; Hermesen et al., 2019), a species of the free-floating Araceae clade (Gallego et al., 2014) and *Nelumbo* Adamson (Gandolfo and Cúneo, 2005), reveals the occurrence of wetland communities in a diverse freshwater to brackish paleoecosystem thriving in warm to warm-temperate and humid climatic conditions (Cúneo et al., 2014; Clyde et al., 2021 and cites therein).

Here, we present the results of a palynological study carried out from samples collected at four localities from the La Colonia Fm., outcropping at the Arroyo Mirasol Chico Creek area, Chubut Province, Patagonia, Argentina (Fig. 1), that represents one of the few records of the K–Pg boundaries in southern South America. Preliminary palynological studies on these localities

were presented by Cúneo et al. (2014, 2021) and Clyde et al. (2021). The present study comprises the systematic treatment of the gymnosperm and angiosperm pollen and increases the knowledge of the K–Pg boundary palynological diversity in Patagonia that furthers our evolutionary, biogeographic, paleoecological, and stratigraphic comprehension of the Earth’s biota during the last mass extinction event.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Stratigraphy and fossil specimens sampling, preparation, and curation

The La Colonia Fm. outcrops at the central north of the Chubut Province, Patagonia, Argentina (Fig. 1). Stratigraphically, it overlies the fluvial deposits of the Campanian–Maastrichtian Puntudo Chico Formation (Ardolino and Franchi, 1996). Overlying units include brackish paludal siliciclastic facies of the Paleocene Cerro Bororó Formation, the Paleocene–Eocene El Buitre Formation basalts, and the Oligocene pyroclastic rocks of the Sarmiento Formation (Ardolino and Franchi, 1996; Sacomani et al., 2007). Biostratigraphic estimates (Ardolino and Franchi, 1996; Page et al., 1999; Nández and Malumián, 2008; Guler et al., 2014) and recent paleomagnetic analyses (Clyde et al., 2021) support a Maastrichtian to Danian age for the La Colonia deposits.

A total of 157 samples were collected from four stratigraphic sections located at the El Buitre Hill and the Mirasol Chico Creek area: 1- Quebrada del Helecho/Cañadón del Irupé (QH/CI), 2- Cerro Bosta (CBO), 3- Cerro Buitre Norte (CBN = Plesiosaurio locality ‘LCP’ of De Benedetti et al., 2021), and 4- Chiva Muerta (CHM) (Fig. 1). The first two sections were described in Cúneo et al. (2014) and the two others in Clyde et al. (2021). The stratigraphic sections are provided in Appendix A. The K–Pg boundary is recognized in the CBN section based on

magnetostratigraphic and palynological data provided in Clyde et al. (2021). The other three sections (QH/CI, CBO, CHM) are interpreted as Maastrichtian in age throughout.

The samples were processed following standard palynological techniques (Traverse, 2007). Light microscope (LM) observations were made with a Nikon Eclipse 80i microscope coupled with a Nikon DS-L4 camera (Nikon Corp., Minato, Tokyo, Japan) at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio (MEF), Trelew, Chubut Province, Argentina. Coordinates of each photographed palynomorph correspond to the mentioned microscope. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) observations were made with a desktop Phenom XL SEM (Phenom-World B. V., Eindhoven, The Netherlands) at the L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S. Images were edited using Adobe Photoshop CS6 (Adobe, San José, California, USA). Microscope slides and SEM stubs are housed at the palynological collection of the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio under the repository acronyms MPEF-PA 125–999.

3. Results

Of the 157 processed samples, 83 were palynologically fertile. About 250 palynomorphs (including megaspores) were identified; among them, 20 belong to gymnosperms, and 67 to angiosperms (Table 1).

.....**INSERT TABLE 1 HERE**.....

New pollen species are described below, are arranged alphabetically per family (when possible), and are grouped in gymnosperms, monocots, and eudicots. Elements commonly found in Patagonian palynofloras and those that could only be assigned at the generic level (either because of their poor preservation and/or because of the few specimens recovered) are only

114 illustrated. Some species with different taxonomic assignments mentioned in Clyde et al. (2021)
115 are listed in Appendix B.

116

117 **Systematic palynology**

118 GYMNOSPERMS

119 *Family:* CHEIROLEPIDIACEAE Takhtajan 1963

120 *Genus:* **Classopollis** (Pflug) Pocock and Jansonius 1961

121 *Type species:* *Classopollis classoides* (Pflug) Pocock and Jansonius 1961

122 *Classopollis patagonicus* De Benedetti sp. nov.

123 Plate I, Figs. 10–16

124 2014. *Classopollis* sp., in Cúneo et al. (2014), PLoS ONE, 9(8), e104749, fig. 10, F.

125 2021. *Classopollis* sp. 1., in Clyde et al. (2021), Cretaceous Research, 126, 104889, fig. 3, O.

126 *Etymology:* The epithet “patagonicus” refers to the Patagonian region.

127 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

128 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 472 (Plate I, 10).

129 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 472 (Plate I, 11).

130 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 145, 147, 150, 151, 168–171, 453, 457, 470–472, 582, 608, 611,

131 621, 622, 652, 662, 663, 678–680, 690, 691, 693, 752, 819, 857, 864, 922, 923, 966, 978.

132 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

133 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain oblate, equatorial outline circular. Distal pole with a subcircular

134 cryptopore ca. 7–16 µm diameter. Proximal pole sometimes with a triradiate scar and a thin

135 triangular area. Subequatorial circular furrow ca. 1–2 µm wide. Equatorial thickening with 5–11

striations, often anastomosed. Exine two layered; sexine with a vermiculate to pseudoreticulate structure and a microechinate sculpture; microechinae ca. 0.1–0.4 μm long.

Description: The pollen grains are oblate, with a circular equatorial outline (Plate I, 10–13). The distal pole has a subcircular cryptopore ca. 7–16 μm diameter (Plate I, 11 and 13). The proximal pole sometimes has a triradiate scar (Plate I, 10) and a triangular area of thinner exine (Plate I, 12) with a maximum width of ca. 6–9 μm but is usually absent or difficult to recognize. Proximal pole lacks exinal protuberances. Equatorial thickening ca. 6–9 μm wide and formed by striae running parallel around the equator. Striae of up to 0.5 μm wide and muri of up to 0.8 μm wide (Plate I, 14, 15). The exine is 1.5–2.0 μm thick in the equator; sexine with a columellate layer of fused verrucae, bacula and rugulae, forming a vermiculate to pseudoreticulate structure with narrow lumina, and a tectate layer with a microechinate sculpture of densely distributed microechinae or hair-like elements ca. 0.1–0.4 μm long, microechinae usually wide at the base and thinly tapered toward the tip (Plate I, 16). Small granules and papillae are intercalated among the microechinae in some specimens. The columellate layer is absent in the cryptopore and subequatorial furrow, either absent or reduced drastically in the proximal triangular area, and thicker in the equator where the columellae are larger and fuse completely or partially forming the muri of the striate equatorial band. There is some interdigitation at the boundary between the proximal columellae and the striations of the equatorial band (Plate I, 15).

Dimensions: Maximum equatorial diameter 22 (35) 54 μm (84 specimens); polar diameter 22 (28) 32 μm (4 specimens).

Occurrence: Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

Comparisons: As indicated by Villar de Seoane (2014) most *Classopollis* species from Jurassic to Paleocene deposits of Argentina have been described based on LM observations. Next, we

compare *C. patagonicus* with those Argentinean species that have an echinate to microechinate sculpture and were described based on both LM and SEM. Villar de Seoane (2014) described twelve species from the Lower Cretaceous Anfiteatro de Ticó Formation, south Patagonia. Of these, *C. asper* Villar de Seoane, *C. grandis* Villar de Seoane, *C. kieseri* Reyre, *C. pujoli* Reyre, and *C. rarus* Reyre are comparable. *C. asper* is 28–41 μm in diameter, has a vermiculate structure, and microechinae of similar sizes but with rounded tips. *C. grandis* has spines of 1.5–2.5 μm long. *C. kieseri* is smaller and has smaller microechinae. *C. pujoli* is also smaller and has sculptural elements (including bacula) of up to 1 μm long. *C. rarus* is similar in the number of striae and the vermiculate structure, but the equatorial diameter is smaller and the microechinae are larger. In addition, all the Lower Cretaceous species described by Villar de Seoane (2014) have exinal protuberances in the proximal triangular area, a feature that was not observed in *C. patagonicus*. *C. martinottii* Reyre from the Lower Cretaceous of Israel (Reyre, 1970), USA (Srivastava, 1976), and Lebanon (Zavialova et al., 2010) is similar to *C. patagonicus* in the sculpture, number of striae, and dimensions of the cryptopore but it is smaller. *C. mirabilis* Reyre from the Jurassic of France is also smaller and has larger echinae (Reyre, 1970).

Family: PODOCARPACEAE Endl. 1847

Genus: **Podocarpidites** Cookson 1947

Type species: *Podocarpidites ellipticus* Cookson 1947

Podocarpidites rectangularis De Benedetti sp. nov.

Plate II, Figs. 6–8

2020. *Podocarpidites otagoensis* Couper, in Llorens et al. (2020), Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 273, 104137, plate II, 9.

182 *Etymology*: Referring to the subrectangular corpus shape in polar and equatorial view.

183 *Type locality*: Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

184 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 817 (Plate II, 6 and 8).

185 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 454 (Plate II, 7).

186 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 450, 454, 458, 472, 613, 671, 817, 821, 925.

187 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian.

188 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain bisaccate, diploxylonoid. Corpus subrectangular to elliptical in polar and
189 equatorial view, with major axis along grain length. Corpus exine up to 2 μm thick, columellate,
190 tectum psilate to perforate. Sacci about the same width and half in length than the corpus, with
191 an irregular intrareticulum. Leptoma large.

192 *Description*: The pollen grains are bisaccate and diploxylonoid (Plate II, 6 and 7). The corpus is
193 subrectangular to elliptical in polar and equatorial view, with major axis along grain length.
194 Proximally the corpus exine is up to 2 μm thick, with a psilate to perforate tectum and a dense
195 infrareticulum with muri < 1 μm width and lumina up to twice the width of muri (Plate II, 8). In
196 optical section, the exine has two layers of similar thickness separated by columellae. The sacci
197 are distally inserted surrounding a large subrectangular leptoma whose major axis extends along
198 corpus width. The sacci are about the same width and half the length of the corpus, with an
199 irregular intrareticulum. The bases of the sacci do not touch on the equatorial contour.

200 *Dimensions*: Total length 46 (65) 93 μm (12 specimens); total height ~ 30–40 μm (6 specimens);
201 corpus length 38 (47) 55 μm (12 specimens); corpus width 28–38 μm (3 specimens); corpus
202 height ~ 20–30 μm (5 specimens); sacci length 14 (26) 36 μm (8 specimens); sacci width 21–42
203 μm (3 specimens); sacci height 17–26 μm (3 specimens); lateral height of sacci 24–33 μm (3
204 specimens). Measurements based on the scheme proposed by Romero (1977).

205 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.
206 *Comparisons:* The large subrectangular to elliptical corpus with a psilate to perforate tectum
207 distinguished *Podocarpidites rectangularis* from other *Podocarpidites* species. *P. elegans*
208 Romero from the Eocene of Patagonia (Romero, 1977) and *P. exiguous* Harris from the
209 Paleocene of Australia (Harris, 1965), are smaller. *P. otagoensis* Couper from the Late
210 Cretaceous of New Zealand is smaller and has a thicker exine (Couper, 1953). *P. marwickii*
211 Couper from the Early Cretaceous–Oligocene of New Zealand has a subcircular to elliptical
212 corpus in polar view and is smaller (Couper, 1953).
213 *Distribution:* Argentina, Patagonia: Aptian (Llorens et al., 2020).

214

215 ANGIOSPERMS

216 MONOCOTS

217 *Family:* ARECACEAE Bercht. and J. Presl 1820

218 Genus *Arecipites* Wodehouse emend. Anderson 1960

219 *Type species:* *Arecipites punctatus* Wodehouse 1933

220 *Arecipites botrus* De Benedetti and Zamaloa sp. nov.

221 Plate II, Figs. 21–24

222 *Etymology:* From the Latin “*botrus*” which means cluster, as this species is typically found in
223 clumps.

224 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

225 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 470 (Plate II, 21).

226 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 452 (Plate II, 22).

227 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 149, 170, 452–454, 456, 460, 470–472, 580, 587, 611, 631, 925.

228 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian.

229 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain monosulcate, amb elliptical, sulcus long, reaching to margin. Exine ~ 0.5

230 μm thick, psilate to finely perforate.

231 *Description:* The pollen grains are monosulcate, with an elliptical amb and rounded to pointed

232 ends (Plate II, 21 and 22). The sulcus is usually narrow and long, extended to the margins and

233 with tapered ends, sometimes overlapping and with marginal folds. Specimens with flared or

234 rounded ends or with one end tapered and the other flared were also observed. A weak margo is

235 sometimes present (Plate II, 22). The exine is ~ 0.5 μm thick, columellae indistinct. The surface

236 is psilate at LM and finely perforate at SEM, with lumina < 0.2 μm diameter (Plate II, 24). The

237 specimens are commonly found in clumps (Plate II, 23).

238 *Dimensions:* Longer equatorial diameter 14 (17.2) 26 μm (104 specimens); shorter equatorial

239 diameter 6.5 (10.3) 15 μm (54 specimens).

240 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.

241 *Comparisons:* *Arecipites* has a worldwide distribution with more than 50 species ranging from

242 Early Cretaceous to Cenozoic age (e.g., Palynodata Inc.; White, 2006). The type species *A.*

243 *punctatus* from the Eocene of the USA is distinguished by having a ticker columellate exine, a

244 coarser sculpture, and a more conspicuous margo (Wodehouse, 1933; Nichols, 2010). *A.*

245 *scabratus* Simoncsics from the Miocene of Hungary is similar in size but has a thicker exine

246 (Simoncsics, 1969). *A. asymmetricus* (Frederiksen) Frederiksen from the Eocene of USA has a

247 similar size but has an asymmetrically oval outline and a slightly thicker exine (Frederiksen,

248 1983). *A. otagoensis* (Couper) Mildenhall and Pocknall from the Oligocene–Pliocene of New

249 Zealand is larger and has a thicker exine (Couper, 1960; Mildenhall and Pocknall, 1989). *A.*

250 *polaris* da Silva-Caminha et al. from the Neogene of Brazil has a similar size but it has a thicker

251 exine and a dense punctate sculpture (da Silva-Caminha et al., 2010). *A. rousei* Frederiksen from
 252 the Eocene of USA is similar in size but it has a slightly thicker exine which is scabrate to
 253 punctate and with distinctive columellae (Frederiksen, 1983).
 254 *Botanical affinity:* *A. botrus* is similar to the pollen produced by modern *Phoenix dactylifera* L.
 255
 256 *Genus:* **Gemmamonocolpites** Van der Hammen and García de Mutis 1965
 257 *Type species:* *Gemmamonocolpites gemmatus* (Van der Hammen) Van der Hammen and García
 258 de Mutis 1965
 259 *Gemmamonocolpites chubutensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 260 Plate II, Figs. 26–28
 261 *Etymology:* The epithet “chubutensis” refers to the Chubut Province, Argentina.
 262 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 263 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 826 (Plate II, 26)
 264 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 828 (Plate II, 27).
 265 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 170, 679, 828, 841, 930.
 266 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.
 267 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain monosulcate, amb subcircular to elliptical. Exine 1.0–1.5 µm thick,
 268 columellate, tectate perforate, gemmate. Supratectal gemmae of up to 5.5 µm diameter and 4 µm
 269 high, irregularly distributed over the entire surface.
 270 *Description:* The pollen grains are monosulcate, with a subcircular to elliptical amb (Plate II, 26–
 271 28). The exine is 1.0–2.0 µm thick (excluding supratectal elements), columellate. The tectum is
 272 perforate (microfoveolate to microreticulate), with lumina of < 0.5 µm diameter and muri of
 273 equal or slightly larger size, and with supratectal gemmae of 1.0–5.5 µm diameter and up to 4

274 μm high, irregularly distributed over the entire surface (Plate II, 28). The gemmae can be of
 275 similar or variable sizes in the same grain. Small protuberances and low rugulae are sometimes
 276 interspersed between the gemmae. The sulcus is generally obscured by the gemmae.
 277 *Dimensions:* Maximum equatorial diameter 26 (33) 40 μm (5 specimens).
 278 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN, CHM.
 279 *Comparisons:* The most similar species to *G. chubutensis* are *G. amicus* González Guzmán, *G.*
 280 *barmerensis* Parmar et al., *G. dispersus* Sarmiento Perez, and *G. macrogemmatus* Muller et al.
 281 *G. amicus* from the Eocene of Colombia has similar size and columellate microreticulate exine
 282 with lumina of 0.5 μm diameter, but the gemmae are smaller (González Guzmán, 1967). *G.*
 283 *barmerensis* from the Paleocene–Eocene of India has smaller gemmae (Parmar et al., 2023). *G.*
 284 *dispersus* from the Maastrichtian–Danian of Colombia also has smaller gemmae (Sarmiento
 285 Perez, 1992). *G. macrogemmatus* Muller et al. from the Maastrichtian–Paleocene of Venezuela
 286 (e.g., Muller et al., 1987), Maastrichtian of Egypt (e.g., Schrank and Ibrahim, 1995), and
 287 Maastrichtian–Paleocene of Sudan (e.g., Cole et al., 2017), has a non-perforated exine and
 288 densely distributed gemmae of up to 3 μm diameter (Muller et al., 1987).
 289
 290 *Genus:* **Spinizonocolpites** Muller emend. Muller et al. 1987
 291 *Type species:* *Spinizonocolpites echinatus* Muller 1968
 292 *Spinizonocolpites coloniensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 293 Plate III, Figs. 6–10
 294 *Etymology:* The epithet “coloniensis” refers to the La Colonia Formation.
 295 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 296 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 926 (Plate III, 6 and 8).

297 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 951 (Plate III, 7).
 298 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 169, 926, 927, 942, 947, 951.
 299 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.
 300 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain zonosulcate, amb subcircular to elliptical. Exine up to 1.5 μm thick,
 301 hyaline, psilate. Surface with densely distributed bacula with rounded or blunt ends usually with
 302 multiple papillae. Sculptural elements up to 8 μm high and 2.5 μm diameter,
 303 *Description*: The pollen grains are zonosulcate, with a subcircular to elliptical amb, flattened
 304 along the polar axis (Plate III, 6 and 7). The sulcus divides the grain into two almost equal parts.
 305 The exine is up to 1.5 μm thick, hyaline, and psilate. The sculptural elements include bacula that
 306 are ca. 2.5–8.0 μm high and 1.5–2.5 μm diameter, densely distributed over the entire surface,
 307 mostly straight but occasionally curved (Plate III, 8), and with rounded or blunt ends which
 308 commonly have 2 to 5 papillae (Plate III, 9 and 10).
 309 *Dimensions*: Longest equatorial diameter 36 (45) 72 μm (7 specimens).
 310 *Occurrence*: Section CBN.
 311 *Comparisons*: The distinctive hyaline exine of *S. coloniensis* also occurs in the Late Cretaceous
 312 and Paleocene Patagonian *S. hialinus* Archangelsky and Zamaloa and *S. riochiquensis* Vallati
 313 and De Sosa Tomas. However, *S. hialinus* includes forms with sparsely distributed spines, coni,
 314 and/or bacula (Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986), and *S. riochiquensis* includes forms having
 315 only densely distributed rounded bacula (Vallati et al., 2020). The presence of sculptural
 316 elements with multiple apical papillae is apparently unique to *S. coloniensis*.
 317
 318 *Spinizonocolpites variabilis* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 319 Plate III, Figs. 11–14

320 *Etymology*: From the Latin “*variabilis*” which means variable, it refers to the variety of
321 sculptural elements.

322 *Type locality*: Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

323 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 874 (Plate III, 11).

324 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 865 (Plate III, 12).

325 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 168, 169, 865, 870, 874, 922, 947, 977.

326 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

327 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain zonosulcate, amb subcircular to elliptical. Exine <1 µm thick, hyaline,
328 psilate. Sculpture includes densely distributed spines and sparse bacula, clavae, verrucae, and
329 granules. Sculptural elements up to 1.8 µm high and 1 µm diameter. Surface with dispersed
330 microgranules and microechinae.

331 *Description*: The pollen grains are zonosulcate, with an elliptical amb, flattened along the polar
332 axis (Plate III, 11–13). The sulcus divides the grain into two almost equal parts. The exine is < 1
333 µm thick, hyaline, and psilate. The sculptural elements include densely distributed spines (up to
334 1.8 µm high), which can be straight or curved, cylindrical, conical, bulbous to slender, but also
335 sparse bacula and clavae with rounded or blunt ends (up to 1.8 µm high), and scattered granules
336 and verrucae (up to 1 µm diameter). Microgranules and microechinae of 0.2–0.5 µm diameter are
337 distributed among the larger elements (Plate III, 14).

338 *Dimensions*: Longest equatorial diameter 26 (43) 58 µm (10 specimens).

339 *Occurrence*: Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

340 *Comparisons*: The presence of clavae, verrucae, and granules distinguish *S. variabilis*. *S.*
341 *coloniensis* and *S. riochiquensis* both have larger sculptural elements. *S. variabilis* is similar to *S.*

342 *hialinus* in the structure of the exine but has smaller and more densely arranged sculptural
343 elements and more variable morphologies.

344

345 *Family:* LILIACEAE Juss. 1789

346 *Genus:* **Liliacidites** Couper 1953

347 *Type species:* *Liliacidites kaitangataensis* Couper 1953

348 *Liliacidites buitrensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.

349 Plate III, Figs. 22–25

350 *Etymology:* The epithet “buitrensis” refers to the El Buitre Hill located near the studied outcrops.

351 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

352 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 819 (Plate III, 22).

353 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 821 (Plate III, 23).

354 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 146, 685, 819, 821, 931.

355 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

356 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain monosulcate, amb elliptical. Sulcus wide, extended almost the full
357 length of the grain. Exine 2.0–2.5 μm thick, two-layered, sexine thicker than nexine; nexine
358 psilate; sexine semitectate, simplicolumellate, reticulate, homobrochate. Columellae up to 1.5 μm
359 high; muri up to 0.5 μm high, flat, tectum psilate; lumina rounded polygonal, elongate to
360 irregular, 1.5–4.5 μm diameter.

361 *Description:* The pollen grains are monosulcate, with rounded elliptical amb (Plate III, 22 and
362 23). The sulcus is wide and extended almost the full length of the grain. The exine is 2.0–2.5 μm
363 thick, two-layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine; nexine psilate; sexine semitectate,
364 simplicolumellate, reticulate, homobrochate (Plate III, 24). The columellae are conspicuous, 0.5–

365 0.8 μm in diameter, and up to 1.5 μm high. The muri are relatively flat and psilate, up to 0.5 μm
366 high and 1 μm wide. The lumina are rounded polygonal, elongate to irregular, 1.5–4.5 (usually 2
367 to 3) μm in maximum diameter. Smaller lumina of up to 0.5 μm diameter are sometimes
368 interspersed at the intersections of the muri (Plate III, 25).

369 *Dimensions*: Longest equatorial diameter 32 (43) 53 μm (5 specimens); shortest equatorial
370 diameter 31 (35) 40 μm (4 specimens).

371 *Occurrence*: Sections CBO, CBN.

372 *Comparisons*: *Liliacidites* comprises more than 80 species (e.g., Palynodata Inc.; White, 2006).

373 *L. variegatus* Couper originally described from the Late Cretaceous to Oligocene of New
374 Zealand has smaller lumina (Couper, 1953). *L. kaitangataensis* Couper from the Late Cretaceous
375 to Eocene of New Zealand is larger and has larger lumina that strongly decrease in size towards
376 the ends of the grain (Couper, 1953). *L. intermedius* Couper from the Late Cretaceous to
377 Miocene of New Zealand has smaller lumina (Couper, 1953). *L. waitunaensis* Couper from the
378 Oligocene of New Zealand has a thicker exine and clavate-baculate columellae (Couper, 1960).
379 *L. vermireticulatus* Archangelsky and Zamaloa first described from the Paleocene of Argentina
380 has smaller lumina and the reticulum is incomplete (Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986). *L.*
381 *regularis* Archangelsky from the Paleocene of Argentina has smaller lumina at the ends of the
382 grain and the columellae are smaller (Archangelsky, 1973; Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986).

383

384 *Liliacidites lacunosus* De Benedetti sp. nov.

385 Plate III, Figs. 26–30

386 *Etymology*: The epithet “lacunosus” refers to the wavy lumina of the reticulum.

387 *Type locality*: Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

388 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 667 (Plate III, 26 and 27).

389 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 701 (Plate III, 28).

390 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 655, 666, 667, 675, 690, 700, 701, 803, 976.

391 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

392 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain monosulcate, amb subcircular to elliptical. Sulcus extended almost the
393 full length of the grain. Exine 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two-layered, sexine thicker than nexine; nexine
394 psilate; sexine semitectate, simplicolumellate, reticulate, heterobrochate. Columellae up to 0.5
395 μm high; muri up to 0.8 μm high, narrow, undulate, sharp-crested; lumina wavy to irregular, 1.5–
396 3.5 μm diameter, strongly diminishing toward the sulcus.

397 *Description*: The pollen grains are monosulcate, with a subcircular to elliptical amb (Plate III,
398 26–29). The sulcus is usually open, extended almost the full length of the grain. The exine is
399 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two-layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine; nexine psilate; sexine
400 semitectate, simplicolumellate, reticulate, heterobrochate. The columellae are short and variable
401 in height, ca. 0.1–0.4 μm diameter and ca. 0.1–0.5 μm high, although they can be occasionally
402 inconspicuous. The muri are narrow, undulate or sinuous, sharp-crested and relatively high
403 compared with the columellae (ca. 0.5–0.8 μm high) (Plate III, 30). The lumina are wavy to
404 irregular, ca. 1.5–3.5 μm diameter, strongly diminishing in size toward the sulcus (reaching 0.5
405 μm diameter or less) (Plate III, 30), although this is sometimes difficult to distinguish as sulcus
406 edges are often folded.

407 *Dimensions*: Longest equatorial diameter 18 (27) 33 μm (18 specimens); shortest equatorial
408 diameter 18 (22) 26 μm (10 specimens).

409 *Occurrence*: Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

410 *Comparisons:* *L. aviemoensis* McIntyre from the Oligocene–Miocene of New Zealand is similar
411 in having wavy lumina but has an incomplete reticulum (McIntyre, 1968). *L. waitunaensis*
412 Couper from the Oligocene of New Zealand has lumina of similar sizes but has a thicker exine
413 (Couper, 1960). *L. altimurus* Leffingwell from the Maastrichtian of USA has taller wavy and
414 sharp-crested muri and the reticulum is incomplete on the proximal face (Leffingwell, 1970). *L.*
415 *dictyotus* Singh from the Cenomanian of Canada also has sharp-crested muri with relatively
416 indistinct columellae and lumina of similar sizes but strongly reduced toward the ends of the
417 grain (Singh, 1983).

418

419 *Family:* TYPHACEAE Juss. 1789

420 *Genus:* **Sparganiaceapollenites** Thiergart ex Potonié 1960

421 *Type species:* *Sparganiaceapollenites polygonalis* Thiergart ex Potonié 1960

422 *Sparganiaceapollenites annulatus* De Benedetti sp. nov.

423 Plate IV, Figs. 1–5

424 2014. “Typhaceous pollen grain”, in Cúneo et al. (2014), PLoS ONE, 9(8), e104749, fig. 10, G.

425 2021. *Sparganiaceapollenites* sp., in Clyde et al. (2021), Cretaceous Research, 126, 104889,
426 fig. 4, Q.

427 2021. *Sparganiaceapollenites* sp., in Cúneo et al. (2021), XXI Congreso Geológico Argentino,
428 126, p. 266, fig. 5, j.

429 *Etymology:* Referring to the presence of a conspicuous annulus.

430 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

431 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 874 (Plate IV, 1).

432 *Paratypes:* MPEF-PA 580 (Plate IV, 2).

433 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 149–151, 168, 171, 388, 396, 454, 456, 460, 580, 611, 628, 633,
 434 685, 870, 874, 922, 928–931, 976, 978.

435 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

436 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain monoporate, amb circular to subcircular. Pore circular, ca. 1.5–4.0 μm
 437 diameter, annulate. Annulus 1.0–2.5 μm wide. Exine < 1 μm thick, two layered, nexine thinner
 438 than sexine. Sexine semitectate, simplicolumellate, columellae fused laterally and apically
 439 forming a delicate reticulum; lumina subcircular, polygonal to irregular, up to 2 μm diameter;
 440 muri membranous, up to 0.3 μm wide and 0.5 μm high, with supratectal ridges or microechinae.

441 *Description:* Pollen grains are mostly in dyads (Plate IV, 1, 3, and 4) and monads (Plate IV, 2).
 442 Grains are anisopolar, monoporate, spheroidal, with a circular to subcircular outline. The pore is
 443 circular, annulate, and ca. 1.5–4.0 μm diameter. The annulus is ca. 1.0–2.5 μm wide, formed by a
 444 thickening of the nexine. A reticulate operculum was observed in a few specimens (Plate IV, 4).
 445 The exine is ca. 0.5–0.7 μm thick, two layered, nexine thinner than sexine. The sexine is
 446 semitectate, simplicolumellate, the columellae are fused laterally and apically forming a delicate
 447 membranous reticulum. Only the bases of the columellae distinguish at SEM (Plate IV, 5). The
 448 lumina are subcircular, polygonal to irregular, ca. 0.5–1.2 (up to 2) μm in diameter, but
 449 sometimes smaller lumina ca. 0.1–0.3 μm are intercalated or surround the pore; muri of 0.2–0.3
 450 μm wide and 0.3–0.5 μm high, with supratectal ridges or microechinae (Plate IV, 5). Pollen
 451 grains of monads can reach larger dimensions than those of dyads. This species was also found
 452 in clumps.

453 *Dimensions:* Monads 15.0 (22.0) 32.0 μm diameter (38 specimens); longest dimension of dyads
 454 20–39 μm (15 specimens); single grain of a dyad 15.0 (18.0) 21.0 μm diameter (31 specimens).

455 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

Comparisons: *S. annulatus* is easily distinguished from other species of the genus because it is usually dispersed as dyads. The specimens are probably conspecific with those recorded as dyads of “*Typha* pollen” from the Late Cretaceous of the Jagüel and Roca formations, Mendoza Province, Argentina (Papú, 2006). *S. barungensis* Harris first described for the Tertiary of Australia has a thicker exine and the muri of the reticulum lack tectal ridges or microechinae (Harris, 1972). *S. delicata* Mautino and Anzótegui from the Miocene of northern Argentina has a microreticulum with smaller lumina (Mautino and Anzótegui, 2002). *S. hospahensis* Jameossanaie from the Campanian of Mexico has a larger pore (Jameossanaie, 1987). *S. microreticulatus* Kar and Jain from the Miocene of India is larger and has smaller lumina (Kar and Jain, 1978). *S. neogenicus* Krutzsch from the Miocene–Pliocene of Europe has a thicker exine and the pore lacks annulus (Krutzsch, 1970; Ziemińska-Tworzydło, 1974). *S. reticulatus* (Doktorowicz-Hrebicka) Roche from the Tertiary of Europe is larger and lacks annulus (Roche, 1968; Krutzsch and Vanhoorne, 1977). *S. robustiporis* Martin from the Eocene–Oligocene of Australia is larger and has a coarser reticulum (Martin, 1973). *S. reticulatus* Samant et al. from the Maastrichtian of India is a later homonym of *S. reticulatus* (Doktorowicz-Hrebicka) Roche and it is distinguished from *S. annulatus* by having larger lumina and a larger pore (Samant et al., 2022).

Botanical affinity: *S. annulatus*, like several species of *Sparganiaceapollenites*, is similar to the pollen produced by *Typha* L. and *Sparganium* L., within Typhaceae Juss. (Thiergart, 1937; Harris, 1972). Affinities with other families such as Potamogetonaceae Rchb. has been also suggested (Gandolfo et al., 2009).

EUDICOTS

479 *Family:* ERICACEAE Juss. 1789

480 *Genus:* **Ericipites** Wodehouse 1933

481 *Type species:* *Ericipites longisulcatus* Wodehouse 1933

482 *Ericipites verrucatus* De Benedetti and Zamaloea sp. nov.

483 Plate IV, Figs. 12–15

484 *Etymology:* The epithet “verrucatus” refers to the verrucate sculpture of the grains.

485 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

486 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 622 (Plate IV, 12).

487 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 993 (Plate IV, 13).

488 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 149, 150, 165, 582, 621–623, 827, 993.

489 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian.

490 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grains in tetrahedral tetrads. Individual grains tricolporoidate/tricolporate,

491 oblate, amb rounded subtriangular to subcircular. Colpi marginate, pore obscure. Exine 1.5–2.0

492 μm thick, nexine and sexine of similar sizes. Tectum incomplete at the mesocolpia forming

493 granules, verrucae, and rugulae of up to 1 μm wide.

494 *Description:* The pollen grains are in obligate tetrahedral tetrads (Plate IV, 12–14). The

495 individual grains are oblate, with a rounded subtriangular to subcircular amb,

496 tricolporoidate/tricolporate. The colpi are marginate, extended 3/4 or more the length of the polar

497 diameter. Pore characteristics are not clear. The exine is ca. 1.5–2.0 μm thick, two layered, the

498 nexine and sexine are of similar sizes. The exine surface is warty on the mesocolpia (where the

499 tectum is incomplete), and psilate on the apocolpia and next to the colpi (where the tectum is

500 complete) (Plate). The sculptural elements include small granules and verrucae (usually less than

501 1 μm diameter), and rugulae of up to 1 μm wide, which are more or less fused (Plate IV, 15). The

502 nexine surface is psilate to scabrate and is distinguished in those specimens with loosely
 503 distributed sculptural elements. Colpi of adjacent grains meet at the junctures of the grains two
 504 by two (Fischer's law).
 505 *Dimensions:* Individual grains 14 (20.5) 27 μm equatorial diameter (27 specimens); tetrads 22
 506 (29) 41 μm maximum length (20 specimens).
 507 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN, CHM.
 508 *Comparisons:* A coarsely granulate-verrucate and rugulate ornamentation on the mesocolpia,
 509 which is absent on the apocolpia and colpi margins distinguishes *E. verrucatus* from other
 510 species in the genus. Most *Ericipites* species are characterized by having a relatively
 511 homogeneous sculpture from psilate to scabrate or granulate (e.g., Wodehouse, 1933;
 512 Ramanujam, 1966; González Guzmán, 1967; Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986). *E. taiwanensis*
 513 Huang from the Miocene of Taiwan also has a distinctive margo but is larger and the sculpture is
 514 finer (Huang, 1980). Several forms from the Paleogene and Neogene of Europe were described
 515 as modern genera of Ericaceae (e.g., Hofmann, 2018; Grímsson et al., 2020). Among them, the
 516 *Erica*-type from the Eocene of Germany is similar in having mesocolpia with a differentiated
 517 sculpture, but the tectum is faintly fossulate and perforate in the polar areas (Hofmann, 2018).
 518 *Botanical affinity:* *E. verrucatus* is similar to the pollen produced by some species of *Gaultheria*
 519 Kalm ex L. as those illustrated by Lu et al. (2009).
 520
 521 *Family:* NELUMBONACEAE A. Rich.
 522 *Genus:* **Nelumbopollenites** Skawińska 1994
 523 *Type species:* *Nelumbopollenites europaeus* (Tarasevich) Skawińska in Ziemińska-Tworzydło
 524 et al. 1994

525 *Nelumbopollenites patagonicus* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 526 Plate IV, Figs. 21–27
 527 *Etymology*: The epithet “patagonicus” refers to the South American Patagonia region.
 528 *Type locality*: Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 529 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 622 (Plate IV, 21).
 530 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 622 (Plate IV, 22).
 531 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 149, 150, 165, 168, 580, 582–586, 621–625, 752, 753, 772, 788,
 532 801, 873, 922.
 533 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.
 534 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain tricolpate, prolate, amb circular, oval in equatorial view. Colpi long,
 535 extended to the poles. Exine up to 3 µm thick, two-layered, sexine thicker than nexine,
 536 semitectate. Tectum thick, supported by short columellae. Sexine rugulate-foveolate/reticulate.
 537 *Description*: The pollen grains are tricolpate, prolate, oval in equatorial view (Plate IV, 21, 23,
 538 and 26), circular to three-lobed when compressed from the pole (Plate IV, 22 and 24). The colpi
 539 are long and pointed and extend near the polar region. The exine is 2.0–3.0 µm thick, two
 540 layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine, columellate, semitectate, rugulate-
 541 foveolate/reticulate. The tectum is thick, up to 2.5 µm, supported by short columellae that fuse
 542 apically forming a sinuous reticulum with muri ca. 0.6–1.8 µm wide and subcircular lumina ca.
 543 0.3–1.6 µm (Plate IV, 27) that are sometimes fused forming long fossulae up to 2.5 µm (Plate IV,
 544 25). A weak margo, ca. 2 µm wide, with small and narrow lumina (< 0.5 µm) was recognized in
 545 some specimens (Plate IV, 22 and 24).
 546 *Dimensions*: Polar diameter 34 (58) 78 µm (27 specimens); equatorial diameter 18 (32) 53 µm
 547 (26 specimens); equatorial diameter with polar compression 32 (54) 66 µm (15 specimens).

548 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

549 *Comparisons:* *Nelumbopollenites* is a monotypic genus. *N. europaeus* from the Miocene–

550 Pliocene of Europe is distinguished by having a thicker exine, longer columellae, and a more

551 homogeneous rugulate-reticulate sculpture (Ziemińska-Tworzydło et al., 1994).

552 *Foveotricolpites giganteus* (Jardiné and Magloire) Jan du Chêne et al. from the Late Cretaceous

553 of northwest Africa is notably similar, it comprises large tricolpate pollen grains with long colpi,

554 a thick exine, but it has a more homogeneous foveolate surface with occasionally elongated

555 fossulae, and the lumina are smaller (Jardiné and Magloire, 1965; Jan du Chêne et al., 1978). *F.*

556 *tienabaensis* (Jardiné and Magloire) Schrank from the Late Cretaceous of northeast Africa has a

557 similar rugulate-foveolate/reticulate or vermiculate ornamentation but is smaller (Schrank,

558 1987). *Retitricolpites magloirae* Kedves from the Maastrichtian of Egypt is similar in having an

559 elliptical equatorial outline, small polar areas, and a thick exine but it has a reticulum with

560 thinner muri (Kedves, 1999). *Retitricolpites simplex* González Guzmán from the Eocene of

561 Colombia is also similar in size and exine thickness, but the sculpture is microreticulate

562 (González Guzmán, 1967; Guimarães and Nogueira, 2015).

563

564 *Family:* PROTEACEAE Juss. 1789

565 *Genus:* **Proteacidites** Cookson ex Couper 1953

566 *Type species:* *Proteacidites adenantoides* Cookson ex Couper 1953

567 *Proteacidites baibianae* De Benedetti sp. nov.

568 Plate V, Figs. 6–10

569 *Etymology:* The epithet “baibianae” honors the Baibíán family for allowing access to some of the

570 studied outcrops.

571 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

572 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 853 (Plate V, 6).

573 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 928 (Plate V, 7).

574 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 145, 147, 168, 169, 679, 688–692, 750–753, 803, 804, 817, 820,

575 853, 871, 922, 928, 951, 965, 976.

576 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

577 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain triporate, angulaperturate, isopolar, amb triangular, sides straight to

578 slightly concave or convex, apices truncate. Pores subcircular, ca. 3–11 μm diameter. Exine ca.

579 1.2–3.0 μm thick, two layered, nexine equal or thicker than sexine. Nexine homogeneous. Sexine

580 columellate, tectate perforate. Columellae short, mostly indistinct, relatively thick tectum

581 composed of small, low, closely spaced rugulae and verrucae, with scattered puncta.

582 *Description:* The pollen grains are triporate, angulaperturate, isopolar, with a triangular amb and

583 straight to slightly concave or convex sides, and truncate apices (Plate V, 6–8). The equatorial

584 pores are ca. 3–11 μm diameter, subcircular, slightly concave in polar view. The exine is ca. 1.2–

585 3.0 μm thick; the nexine is homogeneous; the sexine is columellate, tectate perforate. The nexine

586 is more than twice or equal the thickness of the sexine. The columellae are short, mostly

587 indistinct, and fused apically forming a relatively thick tectum composed of small and low

588 closely spaced rugulae (ca. 1 μm x 2.5 μm) and verrucae (ca. 1 μm) (Plate V, 9).

589 *Dimensions:* Equatorial diameter 28 (41) 60 μm (40 specimens).

590 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN, CHM.

591 *Remarks:* The sexine is readily affected by corrosion and other taphonomic processes and

592 therefore the surface appearance varies considerably (Plate V, 10), with some grains having a

593 more pitted or reticulated appearance and others even having completely lost the sexine.

594 *Comparisons:* *P. scaboratus* Couper from the Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic of New Zealand has
 595 smaller pores and a psilate, scabrate, or punctate sculpture (Couper, 1960). In Patagonia,
 596 proteaceous pollen and particularly genus *Proteacidites* have been widely recorded in Cretaceous
 597 and Cenozoic deposits. However, most of these specimens were described and/or illustrated with
 598 informal names or were assigned to species previously reported in Cretaceous and Cenozoic
 599 deposits of Australia and New Zealand. Some of them are apparently conspecific with *P.*
 600 *baibianae*, for example those reported from Maastrichtian deposits of Chubut Province as *P.*
 601 *scaboratus* (Vallati et al., 2016, 2020). However, SEM studies are required to ensure the correct
 602 assignment of most of the Cretaceous and Tertiary proteaceous Patagonian species. *P. minimus*
 603 Couper from the Miocene of New Zealand is smaller (Couper, 1954). *P. rectomarginis* Cookson
 604 from the Eocene–Miocene of Australia has a coarser sculpture that sometimes forms a negative
 605 reticulum (Cookson, 1950). *P. rectus* Pocknall and Mildenhall from the Eocene–Miocene of
 606 New Zealand has small pores (Pocknall and Mildenhall, 1984). *P. stipplatus* Partridge is similar
 607 at LM, but it has a thicker exine that is densely granulate to rugulate (Stover and Partridge,
 608 1973).
 609
 610 *Proteacidites mirasolensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 611 Plate V, Figs. 11–14
 612 *Etymology:* The epithet “mirasolensis” refers to the Arroyo Mirasol Chico, a creek in the vicinity
 613 of the studied outcrops.
 614 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 615 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 951 (Plate V, 11).
 616 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 930 (Plate V, 12).

617 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 169, 874, 922, 926, 928–930, 933, 946, 951, 972, 977.

618 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

619 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain triporate, angulaperturate, isopolar, amb triangular, sides straight to
620 slightly convex, apices truncate. Pores subcircular, ca. 3–5 μm diameter. Exine ca. 1.2–2.0 μm
621 thick, two layered, nexine slightly thicker than sexine. Nexine homogeneous. Sexine columellate,
622 reticulate. Columellae short, mostly indistinct, reticulum with low contorted muri up to 0.8 μm
623 wide and irregular lumina of up to 1.7 μm . Lumina diameter reduced around the pores, where the
624 sexine is tectate perforate.

625 *Description:* The pollen grains are triporate, angulaperturate, isopolar, with a triangular amb and
626 straight to slightly convex sides, and truncate apices (Plate V, 11–13). The equatorial pores are
627 ca. 3–5 μm diameter, subcircular. The exine is ca. 1.2–2.0 μm thick, two layered, thinner to the
628 pores; the nexine is homogeneous; the sexine is columellate, reticulate. The nexine is slightly
629 thicker than the sexine. The columellae are short, mostly indistinct, fused apically forming a
630 reticulum composed of low highly contorted psilate muri (up to 0.8 μm wide) and irregular
631 lumina (up to 1.7 μm) (Plate V, 14). The reticulum reduces to the pores where the exine is
632 thinner and tectate or tectate perforate (Plate V, 13). Floor of the lumina psilate (Plate V, 14).

633 *Dimensions:* Equatorial diameter 26 (31) 37 μm (12 specimens).

634 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBN, CHM.

635 *Comparisons:* Similar forms were described from the Late Cretaceous and Tertiary of Australia
636 and New Zealand: *P. angulatus* Stover has smaller lumina (Stover and Partridge, 1973); *P.*
637 *campbellensis* Wanntorp et al. has a reticulum with uniform and smaller lumina (Wanntorp et al.
638 2011); *P. hortisinus* Wanntorp et al. has a similar sculpture but the lumina are of uniform size all
639 over the grain (Wanntorp et al. 2011); *P. kopiensis* Harris also has a similar sculpture but the

640 lumina are slightly larger at the central part of the grain (Harris, 1972); *P. reticuloscabratus*
641 Harris and *P. pseudomoides* Stover differ in possessing pronounced exinal thickenings around
642 the apertures (Stover and Partridge, 1973; Harris, 1974); *P. retiformis* Couper has larger lumina
643 (Couper, 1960); *P. sp. cf. P. pseudomoides* has a similar sculpture with smaller lumina around
644 the apertures but muri are not contorted (Mildenhall et al., 2018); and finally *P. scitus* Stover and
645 Partridge is similar in size and exine thickness, but it has slightly larger lumina and thinner muri
646 (Stover and Partridge, 1982).

647

648 *Family:* INCERTAE SEDIS

649 *Genus:* **Ailanthipites** Wodehouse 1933

650 *Type species:* *Ailanthipites berryi* Wodehouse 1933

651 *Ailanthipites diminutus* De Benedetti sp. nov.

652 Plate V, Figs. 20–23

653 1933. *Ailanthipites mulleri* (Kemp) Milne 1988, in Baldoni and Askin (1993), *Palynology*, 17(1),
654 p. 247, plate 1, fig. 13.

655 *Etymology:* The epithet “diminutus” refers to the small overall size of the grains.

656 *Type locality:* Quebrada del Helecho/Cañadón del Irupé locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut
657 Province, Argentina.

658 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 608 (Plate V, 20)

659 *Paratypes:* MPEF-PA 388 (Plate V, 21), MPEF-PA 625 (Plate V, 22).

660 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 388, 450, 452, 470, 471, 608, 625.

661 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian.

662 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, prolate spheroidal to prolate. Colpi long, extended nearly to
663 the poles, with costae endocolpi, pores lalongate. Exine 1–2 μm thick, semitectate, suprastrate-
664 inframicroreticulate. Muri ca. 0.15–0.25 μm wide, longitudinal, subparallel, dichotomous,
665 anastomosed, closely spaced. Lumina < 0.3 μm diameter.

666 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, prolate spheroidal to prolate, with a rounded
667 triangular amb, elliptical in equatorial view (Plate V, 20–22). The colpi extend nearly to the
668 poles, with costae endocolpi, pores lalongate $\sim 1.5\text{--}2.0 \times 3.0\text{--}4.0 \mu\text{m}$, sometimes poorly defined.
669 The exine is 1–2 μm thick, semitectate, suprastrate-inframicroreticulate (Plate V, 23). The muri
670 are 0.15–0.25 μm wide, longitudinally aligned, subparallel, dichotomous, anastomosed, and
671 more closely spaced at the poles and colpi margins (Plate V, 23). The inframicroreticulum has
672 lumina < 0.3 μm diameter.

673 *Dimensions:* Polar diameter 12 (17) 21 μm (8 specimens); equatorial diameter 10 (15) 20 μm (15
674 specimens).

675 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO.

676 *Comparisons:* *A. diminutus* is easily distinguished from most species of the genus by its small
677 size and small ornamentation. *A. berryi* from the Eocene of USA has a very similar sculpture but
678 it is larger (Wodehouse, 1933). *A. pseudostriatus* (McIntyre) Mildenhall from the Cenozoic of
679 New Zealand is slightly larger and has larger lumina (Mildenhall et al., 2018). *A. nonprolatus*
680 from the Eocene of USA is also slightly larger and has larger lumina and larger pores
681 (Frederiksen, 1983). *A. mulleri* from the Oligocene of the Indian Ocean has coarser muri and the
682 inframicroreticulum is less evident (Kemp and Harris, 1977; Milne, 1988). *Striatricolporites*
683 *poloreticulatus* da Silva-Caminha et al. from the Neogene of Brazil is larger and has wider muri
684 and larger lumina (da Silva-Caminha et al., 2010).

685

686 *Ailanthipites feruglioi* De Benedetti sp. nov.

687 Plate V, Figs. 24–27

688 2008. *Striatricolporites* sp., in Narváez and Sabino (2008), *Ameghiniana*, 45(2), fig. 5, 2.

689 *Etymology*: The epithet “feruglioi” honors the distinguished Italian geologist Egidio Feruglio,

690 who spent most of his career in Argentina.

691 *Type locality*: Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

692 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 803 (Plate V, 24).

693 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 933 (Plate V, 25).

694 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 168, 803, 933.

695 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian.

696 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain tricolporate, oblate to oblate spheroidal. Colpi long, extended nearly to

697 the poles, with margo, pores diffuse. Exine ca. 1–2 μm thick, semitectate, suprastrate-

698 inframicroreticulate. Muri ca. 0.2–0.3 μm wide, longitudinal, subparallel, dichotomous,

699 anastomosed, closely spaced, rounded in cross section, psilate. Lumina < 0.5 μm diameter.

700 *Description*: The pollen grains are tricolporate, oblate to oblate spheroidal, with a subcircular

701 amb (Plate V, 24–26). The colpi are extended nearly to the poles, with margo. Pores are diffuse.

702 The exine is 1–2 μm thick, semitectate, suprastrate-inframicroreticulate. The longitudinal muri

703 are ca. 0.2–0.3 μm wide, rounded in cross section, subparallel, dichotomous, anastomosed,

704 leaving spaces of up to 0.5 μm between them in the mesocolpia at the equator, and have a psilate

705 surface (Plate V, 27). The lumina of the inframicroreticulum are < 0.5 μm diameter. The muri are

706 more closely spaced at the colpi margins (forming the margo) and sometimes at the poles where

707 lumina and/or spaces between muri are absent (Plate V, 26).

708 *Dimensions:* Equatorial diameter 23 (25) 26 μm (3 specimens).

709 *Occurrence:* Section CBN.

710 *Comparisons:* The material described here is conspecific with the specimen described by

711 Narváez and Sabino (2008) as “*Striatricolporites* sp.” for the Campanian–Maastrichtian of

712 northern Argentina. *A. berryi* is prolate (Wodehouse, 1933). *A. gamerroi* (Archangelsky)

713 Mautino and Anzotegui, which is widely distributed from the Maastrichtian to the Pliocene of

714 Argentina (e.g., Mautino and Anzotegui, 2014), has a similar sculpture but is subprolate to

715 prolate. *A. mulleri* was reported in Maastrichtian deposits of Patagonia (Baldoni and Askin,

716 1993) but it is subprolate to prolate spheroidal and has coarser muri. *A. paenestriatus* (Stover)

717 Milne from the Eocene of Australia has larger pores and slightly larger size (Milne, 1988). *A.*

718 *pseudostriatus* has larger lumina (Mildenhall et al., 2018). *Striatricolporites conspicuus* Muller

719 and *S. minor* Muller from the Eocene of Malaysia both are larger (Muller, 1968). *S.*

720 *archangelskyi* Herngreen from the Senonian of Brazil is larger and has a thicker exine

721 (Herngreen, 1975).

722

723 *Ailanthipites hexagonalis* De Benedetti sp. nov.

724 Plate V, Figs. 28–30

725 *Etymology:* The epithet “hexagonalis” refers to the hexagonal outline of the grains in equatorial

726 view.

727 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

728 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 799 (Plate V, 28).

729 *Paratypes:* MPEF-PA 700 (Plate V, 29), MPEF-PA 830 (Plate V, 30).

730 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 685, 841, 972.

731 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

732 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, prolate, outline hexagonal in equatorial view. Colpi long,
 733 pores lalongate. Exine ca. 1.0–1.5 μm thick, semitectate, suprastrate-inframicroreticulate. Muri
 734 radially disposed of up to 0.4 μm wide and 0.5 μm height, subparallel, dichotomous,
 735 anastomosed, closely spaced.

736 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, prolate, with a conspicuous hexagonal outline in
 737 equatorial view (Plate V, 28–30). The “equatorial zone” is occasionally narrower than the non-
 738 equatorial zones owing to the varying thickness of the exine (Plate V, 29 and 30). The “polar
 739 zones” are blunt. The colpi are long, extended to the poles, with small apocolpia. The pores are
 740 lalongate, ca. 4–6 μm x 2.5–3.0 μm (Plate V, 28). The exine is ca. 1.0–1.5 μm thick at the poles,
 741 two layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine. The sexine is semitectate, suprastrate-
 742 inframicroreticulate. The muri are radially disposed, ca. 0.2–0.4 μm wide and up to 0.5 μm high,
 743 subparallel, dichotomous, anastomosed, and closely spaced.

744 *Dimensions:* Polar diameter 30 (34) 38 μm ; equatorial diameter 19 (20) 23 (6 specimens).

745 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN.

746 *Comparisons:* The distinctive hexagonal outline characterizes *A. hexagonalis*. No comparable
 747 forms have been found in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic palynofloras worldwide.

748

749 *Genus:* **Krutzschipollis** Góczán emend. Polette and Batten 2017

750 *Type species:* *Krutzschipollis spatiosus* Góczán in Góczán et al. 1967

751 *Krutzschipollis argentinum* De Benedetti and Zamaloa sp. nov.

752 Plate VI, Figs. 4–7

753 *Etymology:* The epithet “argentinum” refers to the country Argentina.

754 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

755 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 804 (Plate VI, 4 and 5).

756 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 861 (Plate VI, 6).

757 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 145, 677, 679, 688, 691, 804, 861, 874, 947.

758 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

759 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, oblate, amb rounded triangular. Colpi short, with ektannuli,
 760 ca. 2.5 μm wide in the equator, tapering to the poles. Pores indistinct. Exine 3.5–5.0 μm thick,
 761 two layered, sexine thicker than nexine, columellae indistinct. Sculpture of poorly defined
 762 rugulae, longitudinally oriented in the equator, delimiting central polar areas of smaller granulate
 763 to verrucate sculpture.

764 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, oblate, with a triangular rounded amb (Plate VI,
 765 Figs. 4–7). The colpi are short, beak-shaped in polar view, extended ca. 5–9 μm from the equator
 766 to the poles, with a distinctive psilate ektannulus ca. 2.5 μm wide in the equator, with protruding
 767 margins, tapering to the poles (Plate VI, Figs. 4, 5, and 7). The pores are mostly indistinct. The
 768 exine is 3.5–5.0 μm thick in the interradian regions, two layered, the sexine is thicker than the
 769 nexine. The nexine is ca. 1 μm thick, homogeneous. The sexine is 2.5–4.0 μm thick, columellae
 770 indistinct. The sculpture consists of more or less defined rugulae of up to 1.5 μm wide that are
 771 longitudinally oriented in the equator, grading to granulate and verrucate sculpture in polar areas
 772 (Plate VI, Fig. 7). In some specimens, the sexine is strongly folded and apparently separated
 773 from the nexine delimiting a distinctive central body (Plate VI, Fig. 6).

774 *Dimensions:* Equatorial diameter 23 (29) 34 μm (10 specimens).

775 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN, CHM.

776 *Comparisons:* Most *Krutzschipollis* species are distinguished from *K. argentinum* by having a
777 thicker nexine with conspicuous endopores that are usually associated with a wide atrium
778 (Polette and Batten, 2017). The most similar species is *K. crassis* (Góczán) Góczán emend.
779 Polette and Batten from the Campanian of Hungary, but it is larger and has a thicker nexine and
780 conspicuous endopores associated with shallow to moderately deep atria (e.g., Góczán et al.,
781 1967; Polette and Batten, 2017).

782

783 *Genus:* **Nyssapollenites** Thiergart 1937

784 *Type species:* *Nyssapollenites pseudocruciatus* (Potonié) Thiergart 1937

785 *Nyssapollenites scabratus* De Benedetti and Zamaloa sp. nov.

786 Plate VI, Figs. 8–12

787 *Etymology:* The epithet “scabratus” refers to the scabrate surface of the grains.

788 *Type locality:* Quebrada del Helecho/Cañadón del Irupé locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut
789 Province, Argentina.

790 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 470 (Plate VI, 8).

791 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 471 (Plate VI, 9).

792 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 149, 210, 450–454, 457, 458, 470–472, 980.

793 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

794 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, oblate spheroidal to subprolate, amb subcircular to rounded
795 subtriangular, outline subcircular to elliptical in equatorial view. Colpi extended nearly to the
796 poles, with costae endocolpi, pores lalongate. Exine < 1 µm thick, two-layered, scabrate, and
797 sparsely punctate.

798 *Description:* The pollen grains are isopolar, oblate spheroidal to subprolate, with a subcircular to
799 subtriangular rounded amb, and a subcircular to elliptical outline in equatorial view, tricolporate
800 (Plate VI, 8–10). The colpi are costate, extended nearly to the poles. The pores are lalongate. The
801 exine is < 1 µm thick and two-layered. The exine surface is scabrate at LM (Plate VI, 8) and
802 bullate (irregular protrusions) at SEM with numerous evenly distributed microgranules (~ 0.1–
803 0.2 µm diameter and height) and less numerous puncta (~ 0.1 µm diameter) (Plate VI, 11 and
804 12). The grains are commonly found in clumps (Plate VI, 10).

805 *Dimensions:* Polar diameter 7.0 (10.2) 15.0 µm (43 specimens); equatorial diameter 5.5 (10.4)
806 15.0 µm (68 specimens).

807 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CHM, CBN.

808 *Comparisons:* *N. scabratus* distinguishes for its small dimensions. Somewhat similar forms have
809 been described from a fossil inflorescence of Euphorbiaceae affinity carrying in situ pollen of *N.*
810 *endobalteus* (McIntyre) Kemp and Harris emend. Mildenhall and Pocknall from the Miocene of
811 New Zealand (Lee et al., 2010; Kaulfuss et al., 2023). *N. endobalteus* shares with *N. scabratus* a
812 scabrate exine composed of irregular protrusions with microgranules and puncta. However, *N.*
813 *endobalteus* is slightly larger and has shorter colpi and a thickened nexine around the
814 endoapertures (Lee et al., 2010).

815

816 *Genus:* **Parviprojectus** Mtchedlishvili emend. Wu and Li 2022

817 *Type species:* *Parviprojectus reticulatus* Mtchedlishvili 1961

818 *Parviprojectus archangelskyi* De Benedetti and Zamaloea sp. nov.

819 Plate VI, Figs. 13–18

1986. *Callistopollenites* sp., in Archangelsky and Zamaloea (1986), *Ameghiniana*, 23 (1–2), p. 39
and 40, lám. 2, figs. 24–27.

Etymology: The epithet “archangelskyi” honors the distinguished Argentinean paleobotanist and
palynologist Dr. Sergio Archangelsky.

Type locality: Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

Holotype: MPEF-PA 967 (Plate VI, 13 and 14).

Paratype: MPEF-PA 701 (Plate VI, 15).

Additional material: MPEF-PA 170, 396, 972.

Stratigraphic horizon: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

Diagnosis: Pollen grain isopolar, tricolpate, prolate ellipsoidal, equatorial projections lingulate.
Exine ca. 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two layered, sexine thicker than nexine. Sexine semitectate
striate/striate-reticulate. Muri spindle shaped, aligned latitudinally along colpi edges,
meridionally along the central part of mesocolpia, and concentrically around the equatorial
projections.

Description: The pollen grains are isopolar, tricolpate, with an ellipsoidal body and three short
and rounded to slightly conical equatorial projections (Plate VI, 13–16). The colpi are long and
narrow, extended across projections onto the body and nearly to the poles. The exine is about
1.0–1.5 μm thick (measured in the poles), two layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine. The
three equatorial projections have endexinous thickenings (usually difficult to distinguish) from
their base to near the tip, where the exine is thinnest. The sexine is semitectate striate (Plate VI,
17 and 18). The striae are aligned latitudinally along the colpi borders, meridionally along the
central part of the mesocolpia, and concentrically around the equatorial projections. The muri are
spindle shaped or fusiform, ca. 0.2–1.5 μm wide and up to 1 μm high, occasionally bifurcated,

larger in the central part of the mesocolpia and smaller towards the polar areas and colpi. In the polar areas and next to the colpi the exine is striate-microreticulate with lumina ca. 0.1–0.4 μm (Plate VI, 18).

Dimensions: Body: length 26 (32) 36 μm , width 17 (20) 24 μm , length/width ratio 1.5–1.75. Projection: length 5.8–7.7 μm , base width 8.5–12 μm , terminal width 4.8–5.6 μm , length/width ratio 0.5–0.7. (4 specimens). Terminology follows Wu and Li (2022).

Occurrence: Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.

Comparisons: Archangelsky and Zamaloa (1986) described from the Paleocene of Patagonia similar specimens to *Parviprojectus archangelskyi* and assigned them to the genus *Callistopollenites* Srivastava. *Callistopollenites* comprises seven species, all of them reported from Campanian–Maastrichtian deposits of the Northern Hemisphere (e.g., Srivastava, 1969, 1972; Takahashi, 1984; Prasad and Pundeer, 2002; Li et al., 2011). However, *Callistopollenites* is characterized by being almost spheroidal and by having aspidate pores while *P. archangelskyi* is subprolate to prolate and tricolpate with equatorial projections, so the new species has characteristics of *Parviprojectus*, which has a stratigraphic and geographic distribution restricted to the Campanian–Danian of the Northern Hemisphere (Wu and Li, 2022). The type species *P. reticulatus*, originally described from the Maastrichtian–Danian of Russia, has larger lanceolate equatorial projections and the ornamentation is striate-reticulate with a conspicuous and larger reticulum (Mchedlishvili, 1961; Wu et al., 2022). Other species of *Parviprojectus* are distinguished from *P. archangelskyi* by having larger equatorial projections and a reticulate or a thinner striate-reticulate sculpture (e.g., Braman, 2013, 2018; Wu et al., 2022).

Distribution: Danian of Chubut Province, Argentina (Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986). This constitutes the first record of the genus for the Southern Hemisphere.

866

867 *Genus: Periporopollenites* Pflug and Thomson 1953

868 *Type species: Periporopollenites stigmosus* (Potonié) Pflug and Thomson 1953

869 *Periporopollenites delicatus* De Benedetti sp. nov.

870 Plate VI, Figs. 19–22

871 *Etymology:* The epithet “*delicatus*” refers to the delicate muri of the reticulum.

872 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

873 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 460 (Plate VI, 19 and 20).

874 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 471 (Plate VI, 21).

875 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 151, 457, 461, 470, 575, 577, 582, 688, 946.

876 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

877 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain pantoporate, outline circular to subcircular. Pores circular, annulate, 6 to

878 9 or more, ca. 1–4 μm diameter, occasionally operculate. Exine < 1 μm thick, two layered,

879 nexine thinner than sexine. Sexine semitectate, simplicolumellate, reticulate; lumina subcircular,

880 polygonal to irregular, ca. 0.5–1.5 μm diameter, muri ca. 0.2–0.3 μm wide and 0.3–0.5 μm high,

881 with supratectal ridges or microechinae.

882 *Description:* The pollen grains are pantoporate, with a circular to subcircular outline (Plate VI,

883 19–21). The pores are circular, annulate, variable in number from 6 to 9 or maybe more,

884 sometimes indistinct but probably fewer than 12, variable in size in the same grain, ca. 1–4 μm

885 diameter (usually 1.5 to 2.5 μm), occasionally operculate. The distance between pores is greater

886 than the pore diameter. The annulus is ca. 1.0–2.0 μm wide, formed by a thickening of the nexine

887 (Plate VI, 20). The exine is < 1 μm thick, two layered, nexine thinner than sexine. The sexine is

888 semitectate, simplicolumellate, the columellae are short and fused laterally to form a

889 membranous reticulum. The lumina are subcircular, polygonal to irregular, ca. 0.5–1.5 μm
890 diameter; muri ca. 0.2–0.3 μm wide and 0.3–0.5 μm high, with supratectal ridges or
891 microechinae. Occasionally, the lumina are smaller (ca. 0.1–0.3 μm) over the opercula and
892 around the pores (Plate VI, 22). Sometimes operculate pores are difficult to distinguish in both
893 LM and SEM and therefore the minimum number of pores may be undercounted. This species is
894 commonly found in clumps.

895 *Dimensions*: Maximum equatorial diameter 15 (26) 34 μm (26 specimens).

896 *Occurrence*: Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.

897 *Comparisons*: *Periporopollenites* comprises about 40 species (e.g., Palynodata Inc.; White,
898 2006). The type species *P. stigmosus* originally described from the Oligocene–Miocene of
899 Germany is larger, has a finer reticulum, and larger pores without opercula (Thomson and Pflug,
900 1953). *P. asiaticus* Takahashi from the Eocene–Miocene of Japan has a delicate reticulate
901 sculpture but it has larger pores and thicker exine (Takahashi, 1961). *P. reticulatus* Jan du Chêne
902 from the Eocene of Nigeria has larger pores and thicker exine (Jan du Chêne et al., 1978).

903 *Multiporopollenites intermedius* D’Apolito et al. from the Miocene of Brazil has a similar
904 sculpture but with slightly coarser muri and up to 16 pores (D’Apolito et al., 2021).

905

906 *Genus*: **Retitricolporites** (Van der Hammen) Van der Hammen and Wymstra 1964

907 *Type species*: *Retitricolporites guianensis* Van der Hammen and Wymstra 1964

908 *Retitricolporites ganganensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.

909 Plate VI, Figs. 26–30

910 *Etymology*: The epithet “*ganganensis*” refers to Gan Gan, a small town near the La Colonia Fm.
911 outcrops.

912 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

913 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 620 (Plate VI, 26).

914 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 942 (Plate VI, 27).

915 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 145, 168, 169, 381, 383, 584, 620, 625, 932, 942, 947.

916 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

917 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, subspheroidal to prolate. Colpi extended nearly to the poles.

918 Pores lalongate, usually indistinct. Exine 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two layered, sexine thicker than

919 nexine. Sexine simplicolumellate, semitectate, reticulate. Lumina polygonal, rounded to

920 irregular, up to 1.8 μm diameter in the mesocolpia, smaller lumina in the apocolpia and colpi

921 margins. Muri up to 0.6 μm wide.

922 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, subspheroidal to prolate (Plate VI, 26–29). The

923 colpi extend nearly to the poles. The pores are lalongate, ca. 4–8 μm in long, but usually

924 indistinct (Plate VI, 27). The exine is 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two-layered. The nexine is ca. 0.5 μm .

925 The sexine is ca. 1 μm , columellate, semitectate. The columellae are fused apically forming a

926 reticulum. The lumina are polygonal, rounded to irregular, ca. 0.8–1.8 μm diameter in the

927 mesocolpia, decreasing gradually or strongly towards the apocolpia and colpi margins up to ~ 0.5

928 μm or less (Plate VI, 28 and 29). The muri are ca. 0.3–0.6 μm wide, occasionally with small

929 perforations (ca. 0.1–0.2 μm) in the conjunction of several lumina (Plate VI, 30).

930 *Dimensions:* Polar diameter 24 (30) 35 μm (13 specimens); equatorial diameter 14 (20) 28 μm

931 (14 specimens).

932 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN.

933 *Comparisons:* The type species *R. guianensis* from the Eocene–Oligocene of Guiana is similar in

934 size but has larger lumina (Van der Hammen and Wymstra, 1964). *R. chubutensis* Archangelsky

935 from the Paleocene of Patagonia has larger lumina and thicker exine (Archangelsky, 1973). *R.*
 936 *lachkarii* Kedves from the Maastrichtian of Egypt has homogeneous lumina (Kedves, 1999). *R.*
 937 *saskiae* González Guzmán from the Eocene of Colombia is larger, has shorter colpi, and a
 938 thicker exine (González Guzmán, 1967). *R. maculatus* Kedves from the Eocene of Hungary is
 939 larger and it has mostly polygonal lumina (Kedves, 1978).
 940
 941 *Retitricolporites irupensis* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 942 Plate VII, Figs. 1–5
 943 *Etymology:* The epithet “irupensis” refers to the Cañadón del Irupé locality.
 944 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 945 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 820 (Plate VII, 1 and 2).
 946 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 663 (Plate VII, 3).
 947 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 171, 663, 820, 822, 830, 926, 949.
 948 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.
 949 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, suboblate to subprolate, amb subcircular to semilobate.
 950 Colpi extended nearly to the poles. Pores usually indistinct. Exine 3.0–4.5 μm thick, two layered,
 951 reduced towards the colpi margins. Nexine up to 2 μm thick. Sexine up to 3 μm thick,
 952 columellate, semitectate, reticulate. Lumina polygonal, rounded to irregular, up to 4.5 μm
 953 diameter in the mesocolpia, slightly smaller at the apocolpia, and strongly reduced in the colpi
 954 margins. Muri up to 1 μm wide.
 955 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, isopolar, suboblate, to subprolate (Plate VII, 1–
 956 4). The colpi are slightly sunken, producing an elliptic outline in equatorial view and subcircular
 957 to semilobate in polar view. The colpi are long, costate, extended nearly to the poles, and

958 delimiting a small polar area. The pores are apparently lalongate but generally indistinct. The
959 exine is ca. 3.0–5.0 μm thick in the equatorial area of the mesocolpia (nexine 1–2 μm , sexine 2–
960 3 μm including a tectum of less than 1 μm thick) and thinner towards the colpi margins,
961 reticulate. The reticulum is simplicolumellate, with columellae ca. 0.6–1.0 μm diameter (Plate
962 VII, 1). The lumina are polygonal to irregular, ca. 2.0–4.5 μm diameter in the mesocolpia,
963 slightly smaller in the apocolpia (ca. 1.5–2.5 μm), and strongly reduced in the colpi margins (up
964 to ca. 0.5 μm diameter) (Plate VII, 2–4). The muri are ca. 0.4–1.0 μm wide (Plate VII, 5). The
965 foot layer is smooth and lacks free columellae.

966 *Dimensions:* Polar diameter 23(47) 55 μm (7 specimens); equatorial diameter 28 (39) 60 μm (6
967 specimens).

968 *Occurrence:* Sections CBO, CBN.

969 *Comparisons:* Larger dimensions, a thicker exine with long columellae, and larger lumina
970 distinguished *R. irupensis* from *R. ganganensis* and *R. chubutensis*. The type species *R.*
971 *guianensis* is smaller and has a thinner exine (Van der Hammen and Wymstra, 1964). *R.*
972 *marianis* González Guzmán from the Eocene of Colombia is smaller and has smaller lumina
973 (González Guzmán, 1967).

974

975 *Genus:* **Rousea** Srivastava 1969

976 *Type species:* *Rousea subtilis* Srivastava 1969

977 *Rousea robusta* De Benedetti sp. nov.

978 Plate VII, Figs. 11–13

979 *Etymology:* The epithet “robusta” refers to the robustness of the muri of the reticulum.

980 *Type locality:* Cerro Buitre Norte locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.

981 *Holotype*: MPEF-PA 819 (Plate VII, 11).

982 *Paratype*: MPEF-PA 822 (Plate VII, 12).

983 *Additional material*: MPEF-PA 819, 820, 822.

984 *Stratigraphic horizon*: La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

985 *Diagnosis*: Pollen grain oblate, tricolpate, amb subtriangular, sides straight to slightly convex.

986 Colpi long, with a finely punctate margo. Exine up to 2 μm thick, semitectate, reticulate. Lumina

987 up to 3.6 μm diameter in the mesocolpia, elongated, rounded, to irregular in outline, slightly

988 smaller to strongly reduced in the apocolpia. Muri up to 2 μm wide.

989 *Description*: The pollen grains are tricolpate, oblate, with a subtriangular amb and with straight

990 to slightly convex sides (Plate VII, 11–13). The colpi are long, extended nearly to the poles,

991 wedge shaped, and with a finely punctate margo ca. 2 μm wide. The exine is 1.3–2.0 μm thick,

992 two layered, the sexine is thicker than the nexine. The nexine is mostly indistinct. The sexine is

993 semitectate, reticulate. The reticulum has robust columella and a thick tectum. The lumina are

994 1.0–3.6 μm diameter at the center of the mesocolpia, elongated, rounded, to irregular in outline,

995 and slightly smaller to strongly reduced in the apocolpia, which can be punctate in some

996 specimens (lumina ca. 0.1 μm) (Plate VII, 13). Muri ca. 0.6–2.0 μm wide.

997 *Dimensions*: Equatorial diameter 30 (35) 44 μm (4 specimens).

998 *Occurrence*: Section CBN.

999 *Comparisons*: *R. microreticulata* Archangelsky and Zamaloa, *R. minuscula* Archangelsky and

1000 Zamaloa, and *R. patagonica* Archangelsky from the Danian of Patagonia are all distinguished by

1001 having thinner muri (Archangelsky, 1973; Archangelsky and Zamaloa, 1986). The type species

1002 *R. subtilis* from the Maastrichtian of Canada has larger lumina and a thicker exine (Srivastava,

1003 1969). *R. georgensis* (Brenner) Dettmann from Albian to Cenomanian of North America,

1004 Europe, and Australia is prolate and has smaller lumina and thinner muri (e.g., Ward, 1986; and
1005 cites therein). *R. crassimurina* Pocknall and Nichols from the Paleocene of USA is
1006 duplicolumellate (Pocknall and Nichols, 1996). *R. wilsonii* (Kimyai) Singh from the Cenomanian
1007 of USA is subprolate to prolate and has thinner muri (Singh, 1983).

1008

1009 *Genus: Stellatopollis* Doyle et al. 1975

1010 *Type species: Stellatopollis barghoornii* Doyle et al. 1975

1011 *Stellatopollis crassibaculata* (Freile) Ward 1986 emend. De Benedetti

1012 Plate VII, Figs. 14–17

1013 1972. *Liliacidites crassibaculatus* Freile, in Freile (1972), Revista del Museo de La Plata (n. s.),
1014 Paleontología 6 (38), p. 49 and 50, lam II, figs. 11 and 12.

1015 1986. *Stellatopollis crassibaculata* (Freile) Ward, in Ward (1986), Palaeontographica Abteilung
1016 B, 202 (1–6), p. 36.

1017 *Original diagnosis (translated from Spanish):* “Pollen grain monocolpate. Outline elliptical to
1018 subspherical in polar view. Colpus extended the entire longitudinal axis in its polar view.

1019 Proximal exine thick, 1.5–2 μm thick, more delicate distally; composed of two layers: endexine
1020 thinner than ectexine. The exine has a reticulated ornamentation, with small lumina (1 μm or
1021 less) and simplibaculate muri with thick columellae of irregular bases. Lumina somewhat smaller
1022 at the ends of the grain.”

1023 *Emended diagnosis:* Pollen grain monosulcate, amb elliptical to subcircular. Sulcus long, poorly
1024 defined. Exine 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two layered, columellae indistinct. Nexine smooth, thinner than
1025 sexine. Sexine semitectate, reticulate. Reticulum composed of low muri and polygonal to
1026 subcircular lumina ca. 0.5–2.8 μm diameter. Muri with short club-like supratectal projections up

1027 to 1.2 μm height and 1.6 μm width, 5 to 9 clubs per lumina, forming a crotonoid or stellate
 1028 pattern. Heads of the projections mostly polygonal, but also elliptical, subcircular, to irregular in
 1029 surface view. Projections in contact or separated up to 0.8 μm apart.

1030 *Description:* The pollen grains are monosulcate, with an elliptical to subcircular amb (Plate VII,
 1031 14–16). The sulcus extends 3/4 to the entire length of the grain, with the margins poorly defined.
 1032 The exine is ca. 1.0–1.5 μm thick, two layered, columellae indistinct. The nexine is smooth and
 1033 thinner than the sexine. The sexine is semitectate, with a reticulum composed of low muri (< 0.3
 1034 μm high and 0.3–0.5 μm wide) and polygonal to subcircular lumina (ca. 0.5–2.8 μm). The muri
 1035 bear short (0.5–1.2 μm high) and relatively large (0.3–1.6 μm wide) club-like supratectal
 1036 projections, about 5 to 9 per lumina, forming a crotonoid or stellate pattern (Plate VII, 17). The
 1037 heads of the projections are mostly polygonal, but also triangular, elliptical, subcircular, to
 1038 irregular in surface view. Heads in contact or separated by as much as 0.8 μm . There is a wide
 1039 range in sculpture size and density. Sometimes smaller supratectal projections are densely
 1040 disposed along the sulcus.

1041 *Dimensions:* Longest equatorial diameter 28 (33) 44 μm (28 specimens); shortest equatorial
 1042 diameter 16 (24) 35 μm (25 specimens).

1043 *Studied material:* MPEF-PA 168, 171, 388, 611, 628, 666, 685, 689–691, 701, 800, 801, 830,
 1044 872, 927, 930, 946, 947, 957, 962, 972.

1045 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.

1046 *Comparisons:* The relatively thin exine and small supratectal projections distinguished *S.*
 1047 *crassibaculata* from other species in the genus. *S. barghoornii* from the Lower Cretaceous of
 1048 USA is larger, has a thicker exine and larger sculpture (Doyle et al., 1975). TEM studies of *S.*
 1049 *barghoornii* demonstrated that the projections are supratectal sculptural elements on top of a

1050 perforate tectum supported by short columellae (Doyle et al., 1975). *S. araripensis* (De Lima)
 1051 Ward, *S. densiornata* (De Lima) Ward, and *S. dubia* (De Lima) Ward, from the Lower
 1052 Cretaceous of Brazil are distinguished by being larger and/or by having mostly triangular
 1053 projections in groups of six (De Lima, 1989; Ward, 1986). *S. bituberensis* Penny from the
 1054 Barremian of Egypt has larger lumina and thicker exine (Penny, 1986). *S. dejaxii* Ibrahim from
 1055 the Barremian of Egypt has larger lumina, wider muri, and dense larger suprategal projections
 1056 with mostly globular heads (Ibrahim, 2002). *S. doylei* Ibrahim from the Barremian–Aptian of
 1057 Egypt has mostly triangular suprategal projections (Ibrahim, 2002). *S. grandis* (Rao and
 1058 Ramanujam) Ward from the Neogene of India has a thicker exine (Rao and Ramanujam, 1976).
 1059 *S. hughesii* Penny from the Barremian–Aptian of Egypt has about 14 suprategal projections
 1060 around each lumina (Penny, 1986). *S. largissimus* Singh from the Cenomanian of Canada has
 1061 larger size and thicker exine (Singh, 1983). *S. limai* Ibrahim from the Aptian of Egypt has larger
 1062 lumina and the projections differ in morphology (Ibrahim, 2002).
 1063 *Distribution:* Argentina, Patagonia: Maastrichtian–Paleocene (Freile, 1972).
 1064
 1065 *Genus:* **Symplocoipollenites** Potonié ex Potonié emend. Słodkowska 1994
 1066 *Type species:* *Symplocoipollenites vestibulum* (Potonié) Potonié ex Potonié 1960
 1067 *Symplocoipollenites microechinatus* De Benedetti sp. nov.
 1068 Plate VII, Figs. 21–24
 1069 *Etymology:* The epithet “microechinatus” refers to the microechinate surface of the grains.
 1070 *Type locality:* Cerro Bosta locality, La Colonia Fm., Chubut Province, Argentina.
 1071 *Holotype:* MPEF-PA 454 (Plate VII, 21).
 1072 *Paratype:* MPEF-PA 453 (Plate VII, 22).

1073 *Additional material:* MPEF-PA 453–458, 460, 461, 580, 582, 628.

1074 *Stratigraphic horizon:* La Colonia Formation, Maastrichtian to early Danian.

1075 *Diagnosis:* Pollen grain tricolporate, oblate, amb rounded triangular, sides straight or slightly
1076 concave or convex. Colpi short, pores circular to elliptic, vestibulate. Exine < 1 µm thick, two
1077 layered, microechinate.

1078 *Description:* The pollen grains are tricolporate, oblate, with a rounded triangular amb and with
1079 straight or slightly concave or convex sides (Plate VII, 21 and 22). The colpi are short,
1080 occasionally slit-like. The pores are circular to elliptic, with vestibulum. The exine is < 1 µm
1081 thick, two layered, tectate-columellate, with the columellae mostly indistinct (Plate VII, 23),
1082 scabrate at LM (Plate VII, 21–23) and microechinate at SEM (Plate VII, 24). The microechinae
1083 are irregularly distributed, and ca. 0.1–0.3 µm in height and diameter (Plate VII, 24). These
1084 grains are commonly found in clumps.

1085 *Dimensions:* Equatorial diameter 9 (12) 17 µm (32 specimens).

1086 *Occurrence:* Sections QH/CI, CBO, CBN.

1087 *Comparisons:* *S. microechinatus* is the only species of *Symplocoipollenites* known to have a
1088 microechinate sculpture. Most species included in the genus are larger and differ in sculpture. *S.*
1089 *austellus* Partridge from the Maastrichtian and Cenozoic of Patagonia is larger, and it has thicker
1090 exine (Baldoni and Askin, 1993; Barreda, 1997). *Symplocoipollenites* sp. cf. *S. kutchensis*
1091 Venkatachala and Kar from the Cenomanian of Patagonia has similar size but it has annulate
1092 pores and thicker exine (Santamarina et al., 2020).

1093

1094 **4. Discussion**

1095 *4.1. Palynological diversity, living analogs, and paleoenvironment*

Approximately 250 palynomorphs were identified in the studied assemblages of the La Colonia Fm. Pollen grains comprise 35 % of the diversity (8 % gymnosperms and 27 % angiosperms), spores of bryophytes, lycophytes, and ferns represent another 35 %, and the remaining 30 % includes algal and fungal remains. Among the species described above, some are of particular interest for evolutionary, biostratigraphic, and paleoenvironmental interpretations.

Gymnosperms include members of the extinct family Cheirolepidiaceae and of the families Araucariaceae, Ephedraceae, and Podocarpaceae, and *Cycadopites* sp. of uncertain taxonomic placement (Table 1). All gymnosperm taxa found in the La Colonia samples, except for the two new species and *Classopollis* sp. 1, are known from contemporaneous deposits of Patagonia.

The angiosperm component comprises more than 16 families (Table 1); the most diverse are the monocot Arecaceae and eudicot Proteaceae with 11 and 10 species respectively.

Among the monocots, the Araceae *Pandaniidites* pollen has been previously reported for the La Colonia Fm. in co-occurrence with macrofossil remains of *Aquaephyllum auriculatum* Gallego et al., evidencing the presence of lemnaceous representatives in the freshwater aquatic paleocommunity of this unit (Gallego et al., 2014). The specimens described in Gallego et al. (2014) and the one illustrated in Cúneo et al. (2021) as *Pandaniidites* sp. are conspecific to *P. radicus* Leffingwell. This species has been reported from the Campanian–Eocene of North America (e.g., Leffingwell, 1970; Nichols et al., 1986). This is the first record of *P. radicus* for the Maastrichtian–Danian of the Southern Hemisphere.

Arecaceae (palm) pollen is represented by several genera including *Arecipites*, *Confertisulcites*, *Gemmamonocolpites*, *Longapertites*, *Proxapertites*, and *Spinizonocolpites*. In addition to *Spinizonocolpites hialinus* and *S. riochiquensis*, the new species *S. coloniensis* and *S. variabilis*, were discovered in the La Colonia Fm. The oldest records of *Spinizonocolpites* are

1119 from the Early Cretaceous (Barremian–Albian) of Patagonia (Martínez et al., 2016). In the Late
1120 Cretaceous (Campanian–Maastrichtian), it is known from Central and South America, Africa,
1121 and Asia (e.g., Muller, 1968; Schrank, 1987; Gee, 2001; Vallati et al., 2020) and has been mostly
1122 related to the tropical mangrove *Nypa fruticans* Wurm (e.g., Frederiksen, 1994). *Nypa* is one of
1123 the oldest and more widely distributed palm found in the fossil record with representatives of
1124 leaves, seeds, fruits, and pollen (Lenz et al., 2020). Currently, *Nypa* is restricted to tropical to
1125 subtropical coasts of southeast Asia, growing in tidal mudflats in quiet estuaries along waters of
1126 lower salinity or shallow lagoons having freshwater rather than hypersaline influence (Collinson,
1127 1993; Lenz et al., 2020). Cretaceous *Spinizonocolpites* parent plants were probably not restricted
1128 to tropical intertidal environments as they also lived in lacustrine environments (e.g., Singh,
1129 1999; Lenz et al., 2020). The new species *Arecipites botrus* is notably like the pollen produced
1130 by the modern palm *Phoenix dactylifera*, which is native to tropical to subtropical regions of
1131 North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and India (Chao and Krueger, 2007). *Gemmamonocolpites*
1132 *chubutensis* resembles the modern pollen of *Borassus* L. and *Hyphaene* Gaertn. of the subfamily
1133 Coryphoideae Burnett, which are native to tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Papua New
1134 Guinea (e.g., Parmar et al., 2023). The high diversity of palm pollen reported from the
1135 Maastrichtian–Danian of Patagonia provides important evidence for the paleogeographic history
1136 of Arecaceae in high southern latitudes.

1137 Another interesting discovery is the first record of *Inaperturotetradites scabratus* in the
1138 Southern Hemisphere. This species has been widely recorded in Cenomanian to Paleocene
1139 deposits of North America (e.g., Tschudy, 1973; Braman, 2001; Bercovici et al., 2009). *I.*
1140 *scabratus* exhibits minutely granulate sculpture, probably inaperturate or with obscure apertures,

and it is dispersed as tetrahedral tetrads, a set of characters found in the pollen of extant Juncaceae as illustrated in Halbritter and Berger (2018) and Passarini Lopes et al. (2021).

Pollen monoporate reticulate of *Sparganiaceapollenites* type has been related to Typhaceae (Thiergart, 1937; Harris, 1972). Modern pollen of *Typha angustifolia* L. is dispersed as monads while pollen of *Typha latifolia* L. is dispersed in tetrads (Shih and Finkelstein, 2008).

Interestingly, the hybrids between these species produce mixtures of monads, dyads, triads, and tetrads (Finkelstein, 2003) similar to the dispersion units found in *Sparganiaceapollenites annulatus*.

The botanical affinity of the new species *Nelumbopollenites patagonicus* within Nelumbonaceae is supported by its morphology but also by the presence of fossil leaves and fruits of *Nelumbo puertae* Gandolfo and Cúneo recovered from the La Colonia Fm. outcrops at the Cañadón del Irupé locality (Gandolfo and Cúneo, 2005). Today, the family is restricted to tropical and subtropical areas of North and Central America, Asia, and Australia (Williamson and Schneider, 1993). Nevertheless, the macrofossil record of the Nelumbonaceae is quite extensive, ranging from the Albian to Miocene of both hemispheres and indicates that the family had a nearly cosmopolitan distribution during the Late Cretaceous (e.g., Gandolfo and Cúneo, 2005; Li et al., 2014). However, pollen grains related to *Nelumbo* have not been previously registered from Late Cretaceous deposits (e.g., Kuprianova and Tarasevich, 1983). Nevertheless, similar forms to *N. patagonicus* have been reported as species of *Foveotricolpites* from the Late Cretaceous of Africa, and as *Retitricolpites simplex* from Paleogene and Neogene of northern South America (see references above). The new species is the first confirmed record of pollen of the family for the SH contributing to further understanding of its biogeographical past distribution and the changes over time.

The fossil record of Ericaceae extends back to the Late Cretaceous and consists mostly of leaf impressions, seeds, and pollen (Nixon and Crepet, 1993; Kubitzki, 2004). The new species *Ericipites verrucatus* increases the pollen diversity knowledge of the family in the Late Cretaceous. The family Ericaceae is represented mainly by evergreen shrubs and shrublets (Thiele-Pfeiffer, 1980), sometimes deciduous, rarely lianas, small trees, or herbs (Stevens et al., 2004). *E. verrucatus* is particularly similar to the pollen produced by some species of *Gaultheria*, which includes shrubs widespread in temperate regions and tropical montane habits and it has extant representatives in Patagonia (Luteyn, 2002).

Based on the modern analogs of the pollen recovered from the La Colonia samples, we suggest that the environment in which the paleocommunity grew is consistent with a warm tropical to subtropical freshwater to brackish low energy lagoon, supporting the paleoenvironment previously proposed by Gandolfo et al. (2014) and Cúneo et al. (2014) for the La Colonia Fm. The assemblage is composed of elements that are autochthonous herbs (e.g., Araceae, Juncaceae, Typhaceae, and Nelumbonaceae), while others are parautochthonous or allochthonous herbs, shrubs, and trees (e.g., Araucariaceae, Cheirolepidiaceae, Podocarpaceae, Arecaceae, Cunoniaceae, Ericaceae, Gunneraceae, Liliaceae, Malvaceae, and Proteaceae).

4.2. Iconic Northern Hemisphere Triprojectacites and Normapolles pollen groups recorded in Patagonia

Triprojectacites: The extinct Triprojectacites pollen complex is largely known since the mid-20th century when Rouse (1957) described the genus *Aquilapollenites*. This pollen group, also known as Aquilapolles or Triprojectates (Farabee, 1991), is characterized by a distinctive morphology consisting of three (occasionally four or five) equatorial projections which exhibit

1187 colpate apertures and endexinous thickenings (Wu and Li, 2022). With more than 300 species in
1188 about 39 genera (Wu and Li, 2022), members of the Triprojectacites complex are highly
1189 heterogeneous morphologically (e.g., sculpture and body types). Recently Wu and Li (2022)
1190 proposed a new generic classification system for Triprojectacites and reduced the number of
1191 genera to eight. Triprojectacites is not a natural group but a cluster of morphologically similar
1192 pollen grains whose botanical origin remains enigmatic. A wide range of botanical affinities with
1193 angiosperms families has been proposed, at least for part of the species, including Santalaceae,
1194 Loranthaceae, Olacaceae, Proteaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Apiaceae, Elaeagnaceae, and Surianaceae
1195 (Farabee, 1991).

1196 Triprojectacites were recorded from the Turonian in Asia and persisted until the Oligocene in
1197 Arctic areas reaching the highest diversity and abundance in the Northern Hemisphere during the
1198 Campanian–Maastrichtian. They dominated the palynological assemblages to the extent that this
1199 circumboreal region is commonly referred to as the *Aquilapollenites* Palynofloral Province
1200 (Farabee, 1993; Herngreen and Chlonova, 1981; Vajda and Bercovici, 2014).

1201 While Triprojectacites were widely distributed in the Late Cretaceous–Paleogene of the
1202 Northern Hemisphere (Herngreen et al., 1996; Polette and Batten, 2017; Wu et al., 2022), the
1203 records in the Southern Hemisphere, and especially in South America are extremely scarce,
1204 including: *Aquilapollenites magnus* Regali et al. from the Maastrichtian of Brazil (e.g., Regali et
1205 al., 1974), Bolivia (e.g., Vajda-Santivanez, 1999), and northern Argentina (e.g., Llorens et al.,
1206 2022); and *Mtchedlishvilia saltenia* Moroni from the Danian of North and Central Argentina
1207 (e.g., Moroni, 1984; Quattrocchio and Volkheimer, 2000; Quattrocchio, 2006; Llorens et al.,
1208 2022). *Parviprojectus archangelskyi* sp. nov. from the La Colonia Fm. has the morphological

1209 characters of Triprojectacites members, and it is the southernmost representative of the complex
1210 recorded so far.

1211 Interestingly, some authors proposed hypotheses on the paleoecology of some members of the
1212 Triprojectacites group. Among them, Srivastava (1973) suggested their preference for marshy or
1213 paludal environments while Tekleva et al. (2020) proposed an aquatic or semiaquatic
1214 environment for some species. The La Colonia Fm. sediments containing water ferns (e.g., De
1215 Benedetti et al., 2021; Hermsen et al., 2019), were probably deposited in a similar scenario of
1216 wetland environments.

1217 **Normapolles:** The Normapolles complex, defined by its characteristic oblate triporate or
1218 brevitricolp(or)ate pollen often with elaborate apertural wall structure (Pflug, 1953), was an
1219 important and diverse component of many Late Cretaceous and Early Paleocene palynofloras of
1220 the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes where they constituted the Normapolles Phytogeographic
1221 Province. This region extended from eastern and southern North America and Europe to western
1222 Siberia and China (e.g., Herngreen et al., 1996; Vajda and Bercovici, 2014). They comprise a
1223 heterogeneous polyphyletic group not directly comparable with pollen of any living
1224 angiosperms. These plants probably occupied diverse environments and although there are no
1225 conclusive botanical affinities for most taxa, some of them are proposed to exhibit morphological
1226 similarities with members of the Fagales, Betulaceae, Myricaceae, and Juglandaceae (e.g., Friis
1227 et al., 2006; Daly and Jolley, 2015). The Normapolles group first appeared during the
1228 Cenomanian, diversified rapidly reaching the acme during the Santonian-Maastrichtian, with
1229 new forms appearing during the Paleogene, and becoming extinct by the late Eocene to
1230 Oligocene (Friis et al., 2006). The high diversity and frequently constrained stratigraphic ranges
1231 of many Normapolles pollen make them good index fossils. The final extinction of the

1232 Normapolles took place later and more gradually than that of the *Aquilapollenites* plants and
1233 associates (Batten, 1981).

1234 The Normapolles were abundant and diverse and represented a major proportion of
1235 angiosperms in northern mid-latitudes during the Late Cretaceous and early Danian. They are not
1236 recorded so far in South America; so, the presence in Patagonia of *Krutzschipollis argentineana*
1237 sp. nov., a species morphologically related to the group, represents the first record of the
1238 complex in high southern latitudes.

1239 In summary, although the iconic Cretaceous–Paleogene Triprojectacites and Normapolles
1240 groups were widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere they were also found in the Southern
1241 Hemisphere. Clearly, their origin and evolution are still unknown but it is possible that the SH
1242 members of these groups could have arrived from southern North America to northern South
1243 America during the Late Cretaceous and then spread and reached Patagonia where they have
1244 sporadic presence or, alternatively, the plants that produced the SH Triprojectacites and
1245 Normapolles pollen could have had a completely different origin and evolution patterns from
1246 those of the NH.

1247

1248 4.3. *K–Pg transition*

1249 Patterns of extinction and recovery from the K/Pg mass extinction event have been studied
1250 worldwide; however, records of the K–Pg boundary in the SH are scarce (Schulte et al., 2010),
1251 resulting in a poor understanding of its effects. U–Pb geochronologic, biostratigraphic, and
1252 magnetostratigraphic data indicate that the La Colonia Formation is Maastrichtian to early
1253 Danian in age and preserves Chron C29r which is the ~700,000 year-long interval of reversed
1254 polarity containing the K–Pg boundary (Clyde et al., 2021). The Cerro Buitre Norte locality

preserves Maastrichtian and Danian deposits providing valuable information on the taxa that crossed the boundary and those that did not.

Remarkably, no significant changes in the diversity and/or abundance of gymnosperm and angiosperm pollen have been recorded between the La Colonia Maastrichtian and Danian palynofloras (Clyde et al., 2021). Most gymnosperm pollen has a wide geographic distribution and has been found in other Mesozoic and Cenozoic deposits in Patagonia. Exceptions are *Classopollis* sp. 1, *Podocarpidites rectangularis*, and *Microcachryidites cesariae*. *Classopollis* sp. 1 and *P. rectangularis* were only recorded in La Colonia Maastrichtian samples. *M. cesariae* has been previously reported from the Early Cretaceous of Argentina (Llorens, 2012; Olivo et al., 2019) and its stratigraphic range is here extended to the Maastrichtian.

Out of the 67 angiosperm pollen taxa 17 of them are restricted to Maastrichtian samples while only one species to Danian samples (i.e., *Dryadopollis* sp. 3, which is a singleton; Table 1). Four of the 17 Maastrichtian taxa (*B. brevis*, *Confertisulcites* sp., *S. exiguus*, and *V. labyrinthus*) have been also recorded in other Paleogene deposits of Patagonia and/or South America, and several others are based on singletons or doubletons (i.e., *Proteacidites* sp. 2, *P.* sp. 3, *Ailanthipites* sp. 1, *Rhoipites* sp., and *Tricolporites* sp.). If all these species are excluded from the analysis the percentage of angiosperms that did not cross the K–Pg boundary locally is approximately 12 %.

Thus, there is no evidence of a mass extinction across the K–Pg boundary in the studied sections, which is consistent with other Patagonian palynological records (e.g., Barreda et al., 2012).

5. Conclusions

In summary, the highly diverse palynoflora of the La Colonia Fm. provides critical evidence for understanding the evolution of Southern Hemisphere floras while the newly described species enhance our knowledge of gymnosperms and angiosperm fossil taxa in Patagonia and worldwide. Within the La Colonia paleopalynoflora, the conifer family Podocarpaceae was the most diverse among the gymnosperms and the monocot family Arecaceae and the eudicot family Proteaceae were the most diverse among the angiosperms. The presence of several ecological markers, such as Araceae, Juncaceae, Typhaceae, and Nelumbonaceae, supports the previous interpretation of a freshwater/brackish environment for the analyzed sequence.

Additionally, evidence presented here indicates the presence of Triprojectacites and Normapolles groups in southernmost latitudes during the Maastrichtian–Danian even though their botanical relationships and origin remain unknown. The comparison between the Maastrichtian and Danian palynofloras of the studied sections of the La Colonia Fm. supports the hypothesis that the effect of the mass extinction event marking the K/Pg boundary was less significant in the southernmost portion of South America than in other parts of Earth.

Data availability

Supplementary photographs for the fossil species described herein are available in a Figshare collection at <http>.

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1304

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1713

1714 **Figure 1.** Geologic map showing the studied area where the La Colonia Formation outcrops, in
1715 the vicinity of the El Buitre Hill and Mirasol Chico Creek, Chubut Province, Patagonia,
1716 Argentina (modified from Clyde et al., 2021).

1717

1718 **Table 1.** Gymnosperm and angiosperm pollen recovered from the La Colonia Formation.

1719

1720 **Plate I.** 1–3. *Araucariacites australis* Cookson 1947. 1. MPEF-PA 652 (113.2/45.9). 2, 3.
1721 MPEF-PA 147. 3. Detail of sculpture. 4, 5. *Callialasporites trilobatus* (Balme) Dev 1961. 4.
1722 MPEF-PA 803 (106.4/33). 5. MPEF-PA 147. 6–8. *Dilwynites granulatus* Harris 1965. 6. MPEF-
1723 PA 828 (99.5/23). 7, 8. MPEF-PA 165. 8. Detail of sculpture. 9. *Dilwynites tuberculatus* Harris

1724 1965. MPEF-PA 472 (106.5/34.4). 10–16. *Classopollis patagonicus* sp. nov. 10. Holotype.
 1725 MPEF-PA 472 (92.8/36.4). 11. MPEF-PA 472 (100.3/33.3). 12. MPEF-PA 170. 13. MPEF-PA
 1726 151. 14, 15. MPEF-PA 171. 16. MPEF-PA 168. 14 and 15. Longitudinal section. Note the
 1727 interdigitation at the boundary between the proximal columellae and the striations of the
 1728 equatorial band (black arrowhead), and the subequatorial furrow (white arrowhead). 16. Detail of
 1729 sculpture. 17–19. *Classopollis* sp. 1. 17. MPEF-PA 820 (100.7/37.7). 18, 19. MPEF-PA 168. 19.
 1730 Detail of sculpture. 20. *Ephedripites jansonii* (Pocock) Muller 1968. MPEF-PA 471 (98.8/20.2).
 1731 21. *Ephedripites multicostatus* Brenner 1963. MPEF-PA 929 (95.5/36.8). 22. *Gamerroites*
 1732 *psilasaccus* (Archangelsky and Romero) Archangelsky 1988. MPEF-PA 608 (105.5/24.8). 23,
 1733 24. *Lygistipollenites florinii* (Cookson and Pike) Stover and Evans 1973. 23. MPEF-PA 454
 1734 (103.8/23.2). 24. MPEF-PA 147. 25, 26. *Microcachrydites antarcticus* Cookson 1947. 25.
 1735 MPEF-PA 460 (104/30.4). 26. MPEF-PA 147. 27, 28. *Microcachrydites cesariae* Llorens 2012.
 1736 27. MPEF-PA 457 (95.8/21.4). 28. MPEF-PA 145. 29, 30. *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* Cookson
 1737 1947 ex Couper 1953. 29. MPEF-PA 452 (114.4/41.2). 30. MPEF-PA 147.
 1738 Scale bars: 1, 2, 4–7, 9–14, 17, 18, 20–30 = 10 µm; 3, 8, 15, 16, 19 = 1 µm.
 1739
 1740 **Plate II.** 1. *Podocarpidites ellipticus* Cookson 1947. MPEF-PA 458 (106.3/25). 2.
 1741 *Podocarpidites marwickii* Couper 1953. MPEF-PA 827 (102.7/32.5). 3, 4. *Podocarpidites*
 1742 *rugulosus* Romero 1977. 3. MPEF-PA 609 (113.3/34.8). 4. MPEF-PA 151. 5. *Podocarpidites*
 1743 *verrucosus* Volkheimer 1972. MPEF-PA 820 (95.2/33). 6–8. *Podocarpidites rectangularis* sp.
 1744 nov. 6, 8. Holotype. MPEF-PA 817 (107.2/34.8). 7. MPEF-PA 454 (93.3/32.3). 8. Detail of
 1745 sculpture. 9, 10. *Trichotomosulcites microsaccatus* (Couper) Schrank 2010. 9. MPEF-PA 454
 1746 (95.6/32.7). 10. MPEF-PA 150. 11. *Cycadopites* sp. MPEF-PA 451 (99.6/27.2). 12. *Rosannia*

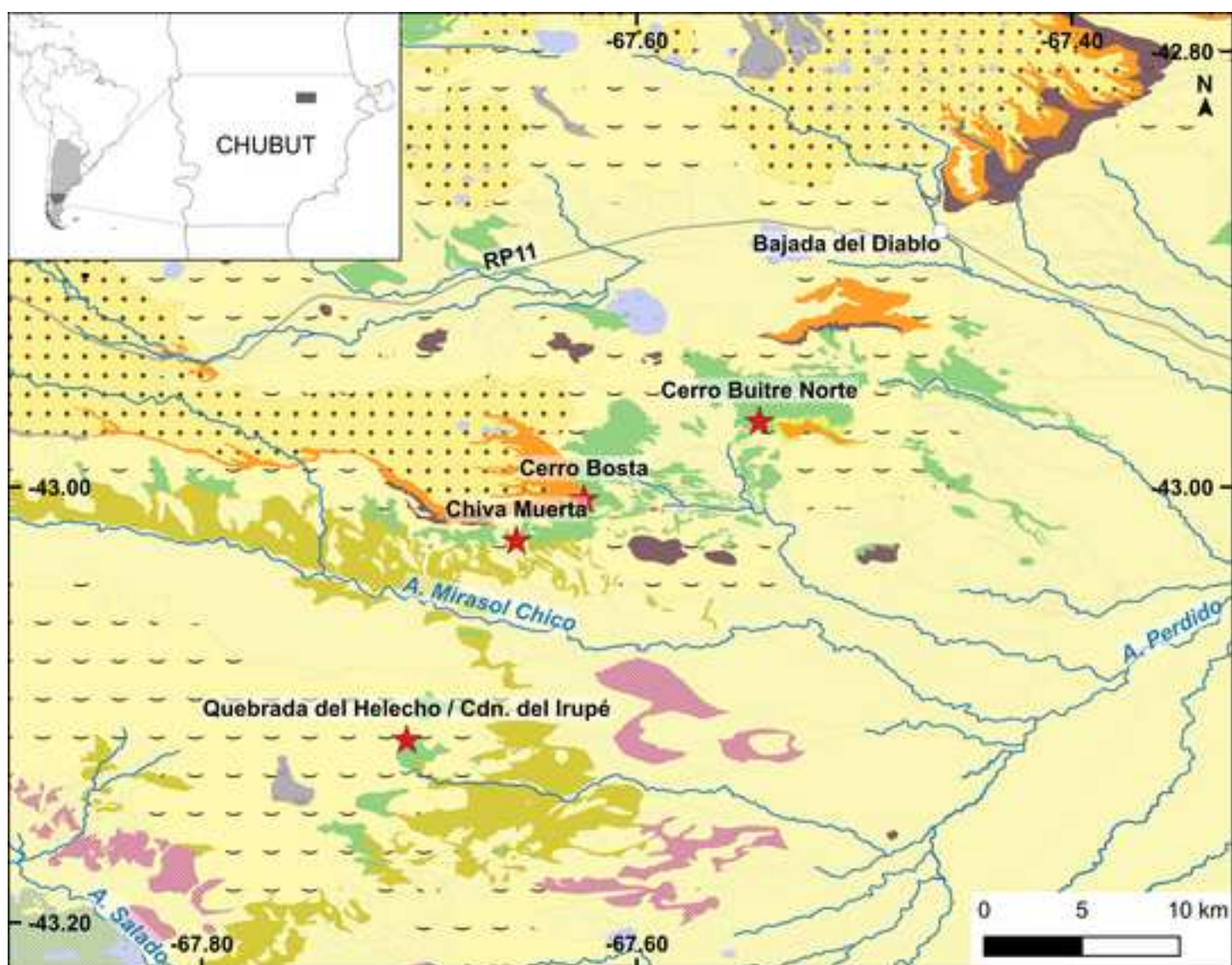
1747 *manika* Srivastava emend. Srivastava and Braman 2010. MPEF-PA 171. 13–15.
 1748 *Clavatipollenites* sp. 13. MPEF-PA 453 (102/40.7). 14, 15. MPEF-PA 170. 15. Detail of
 1749 sculpture. 16, 17. *Pandaniidites radicus* Leffingwell 1970. 16. MPEF-PA 452 (108.5/37.3). 17.
 1750 MPEF-PA 150. 18–20. *Arecipites minutiscabratus* (McIntyre) Milne 1988. 18. MPEF-PA 608
 1751 (95.5/41.7). 19, 20. MPEF-PA 170. 20. Detail of sculpture. 21–24. *Arecipites botrus* sp. nov. 21.
 1752 Holotype. MPEF-PA 470 (108.1/31.2). 22. MPEF-PA 452 (96.4/47). 23, 24. MPEF-PA 149. 23.
 1753 Clump. 24. Detail of sculpture. 25. *Confertisulcites* sp. MPEF-PA 453 (100/39.4). 26–28.
 1754 *Gemmamonocolpites chubutensis* sp. nov. 26. Holotype. MPEF-PA 826 (102.2/44.2). 27. MPEF-
 1755 PA 828 (99.6/25.9). 28. MPEF-PA 170. 29, 30. *Longapertites andreisii* Archangelsky 1973. 29.
 1756 MPEF-PA 388 (103/29). 30. MPEF-PA 170.
 1757 Scale bars: 1–7, 9–14, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25–30 = 10 μm ; 8, 15, 20, 24 = 1 μm ; 17, 21, 22 = 5 μm .
 1758
 1759 **Plate III.** 1. *Proxapertites operculatus* Van der Hammen 1956. MPEF-PA 667 (112.7/27.6). 2,
 1760 3. *Spinizonocolpites hialinus* Archangelsky and Zamaloa 1986. 2. MPEF-PA 611 (106.9/29.1). 3.
 1761 MPEF-PA 169. 4, 5. *Spinizonocolpites riochiquensis* Vallati and De Sosa Tomas 2020. 4, 5.
 1762 MPEF-PA 578 (98.6/35.6). 5. Detail of sculpture. 6–10. *Spinizonocolpites coloniensis* sp. nov. 6,
 1763 8. Holotype. MPEF-PA 926 (100.7/34.7). 7. MPEF-PA 951 (102.5/24.6). 9, 10. MPEF-PA 169.
 1764 8, 10. Detail of sculpture. 11–14. *Spinizonocolpites variabilis* sp. nov. 11. Holotype. MPEF-PA
 1765 874 (92.5/27.3). 12. MPEF-PA 865 (115.2/24.2). 13, 14. MPEF-PA 169. 14. Detail of sculpture.
 1766 15–17. *Inaperturotetradites scabratus* Tschudy 1973. 15. MPEF-PA 460 (94.8/34). 16, 17.
 1767 MPEF-PA 149. 17. Detail of sculpture. 18, 19. *Liliacidites regularis* Archangelsky 1973. 18.
 1768 MPEF-PA 472 (103.4/41.5). 19. MPEF-PA 168. 20, 21. *Liliacidites variegatus* Couper 1953. 20.
 1769 MPEF-PA 453 (99/32). 21. MPEF-PA 145. 22–25. *Liliacidites buitrensis* sp. nov. 22. Holotype.

1770 MPEF-PA 819 (111.6/44.5). 23. MPEF-PA 821 (95.8/28.6). 24, 25. MPEF-PA 146. 25. Detail of
 1771 sculpture. 26–30. *Liliacidites lacunosus* sp. nov. 26, 27. Holotype. MPEF-PA 667 (112.4/32.1).
 1772 28. MPEF-PA 701 (96.2/23.2). 29, 30. MPEF-PA 168. 30. Detail of sculpture.
 1773 Scale bars: 1–3, 5, 7–9, 11–13, 15, 16, 18–24, 26–29 = 10 μm ; 4, 6 = 20 μm ; 8, 25 = 5 μm ; 10,
 1774 14, 30 = 2 μm ; 17 = 1 μm .
 1775
 1776 **Plate IV.** 1–5. *Sparganiaceapollenites annulatus* sp. nov. 1. Holotype. MPEF-PA 874
 1777 (94.7/27). 2. MPEF-PA 580 (94/34). 3–5. MPEF-PA 168. 4. Note the operculum (arrowhead). 5.
 1778 Detail of sculpture. 6, 7. *Cricotriporites minutiporus* (Muller) Jaramillo and Dilcher 2001. 6.
 1779 MPEF-PA 454 (94.1/32). 7. MPEF-PA 170. 8. *Dryadopollis* sp. 1. MPEF-PA 171. 9.
 1780 *Dryadopollis* sp. 2. MPEF-PA 151. 10. *Dryadopollis* sp. 3. MPEF-PA 173. 11. *Ericipites*
 1781 *scabratus* Harris 1965. MPEF-PA 801 (97.8/23). 12–15. *Ericipites verrucatus* sp. nov. 12.
 1782 Holotype. MPEF-PA 622 (103.9/45.9). 13. MPEF-PA 993 (102.8/41.7). 14, 15. MPEF-PA 150.
 1783 15. Detail of sculpture. 16, 17. *Tricolpites reticulatus* Cookson ex Couper emend. Jarzen and
 1784 Dettmann 1989. 16. MPEF-PA 622 (103.7/30.8). 17. MPEF-PA 168. 18, 19. *Bombacacidites*
 1785 *brevis* (Dueñas) Muller et al. 1987. 18. MPEF-PA 452 (110.2/45.3). 19. MPEF-PA 150. 20.
 1786 *Intratриporopollenites* sp. MPEF-PA 803 (109.1/43.1). 21–27. *Nelumbopollenites patagonicus*
 1787 sp. nov. 21. Holotype. MPEF-PA 622 (94.2/27.1). 22. MPEF-PA 622 (93.9/34.5). 23. MPEF-PA
 1788 149. 24, 25. MPEF-PA 165. 26, 27. MPEF-PA 150. 25, 27. Detail of sculpture. 28.
 1789 *Nothofagidites saraensis* Menéndez and Caccavari 1975. MPEF-PA 614 (99.7/34.5). 29.
 1790 *Peninsulapollis gillii* (Cookson) Dettmann y Jarzen 1988. MPEF-PA 455 (97.1/43.5). 30.
 1791 *Peninsulapollis* sp. 1. MPEF-PA 628 (109.5/20.1).

1792 Scale bars: 6, 11–14, 16–24, 26, 28–30 = 10 μm ; 1–4, 7 = 5 μm ; 8–10, 15 = 2 μm ; 5, 25, 27 = 1
1793 μm .
1794
1795 **Plate V.** 1, 2. *Propylipollis lateflexus* (Archangelsky) Baldoni and Askin 1993. 1. MPEF-PA 752
1796 (111/40.8). 2. MPEF-PA 170. 3–5. *Proteacidites scaboratus* Couper 1960. 3. MPEF-PA 874
1797 (92.9/36.1). 4, 5. MPEF-PA 169. 5. Detail of sculpture. 6–10. *Proteacidites baibianae* sp. nov. 6.
1798 Holotype. MPEF-PA 853 (93.5/29.1). 7. MPEF-PA 928 (99.6/32.8). 8, 9. MPEF-PA 145. 10.
1799 MPEF-PA 168. 9. Detail of sculpture. 11–14. *Proteacidites mirasolensis* sp. nov. 11. Holotype.
1800 MPEF-PA 951 (101.2–22.8). 12. MPEF-PA 930 (102.9/31.6). 13, 14. MPEF-PA 169. 14. Detail
1801 of sculpture. 15. *Proteacidites* sp. 1. MPEF-PA 654 (110.5/41.2). 16. *Proteacidites* sp. 2. MPEF-
1802 PA 700 (102.6/25). 17. *Proteacidites* sp. 3. MPEF-PA 690 (100.6/38.2). 18, 19.
1803 *Triporopollenites ambiguus* (Stover) Stover and Partridge 1973. 18. MPEF-PA 653 (115/33). 19.
1804 MPEF-PA 168. 20–23. *Ailanthipites diminutus* sp. nov. 20. Holotype. MPEF-PA 608
1805 (98.6/33.2). 21. MPEF-PA 388 (102.4/17.5). 22. MPEF-PA 625 (97.2/35.7). 23. MPEF-PA 150.
1806 24–27. *Ailanthipites feruglioi* sp. nov. 24. Holotype. MPEF-PA 803 (109.5/48). 25. MPEF-PA
1807 933 (108.5/30.9). 26, 27. MPEF-PA 168. 27. Detail of sculpture. 28–30. *Ailanthipites*
1808 *hexagonalis* sp. nov. 28. Holotype. MPEF-PA 799 (109.4/28.5). 29. MPEF-PA 700 (103.9/16.4).
1809 30. MPEF-PA 830 (102.8/34.9).
1810 Scale bars: 1–4, 6–8, 10–13, 15–19, = 10 μm ; 5, 27 = 1 μm ; 9, 14 = 2 μm ; 20–26, 28–30 = 5 μm .
1811
1812 **Plate VI.** 1–3. *Ailanthipites* sp. 1. 1. MPEF-PA 874 (112.9/22.8). 2, 3. MPEF-PA 169. 3. Detail
1813 of sculpture. 4–7. *Krutzschipollis argentinum* sp. nov. 4, 5. Holotype. MPEF-PA 804 (96.1/38.3).
1814 6. MPEF-PA 861 (104.2/37.3). 7. MPEF-PA 145. 8–12. *Nyssapollenites scabratus* sp. nov. 8.

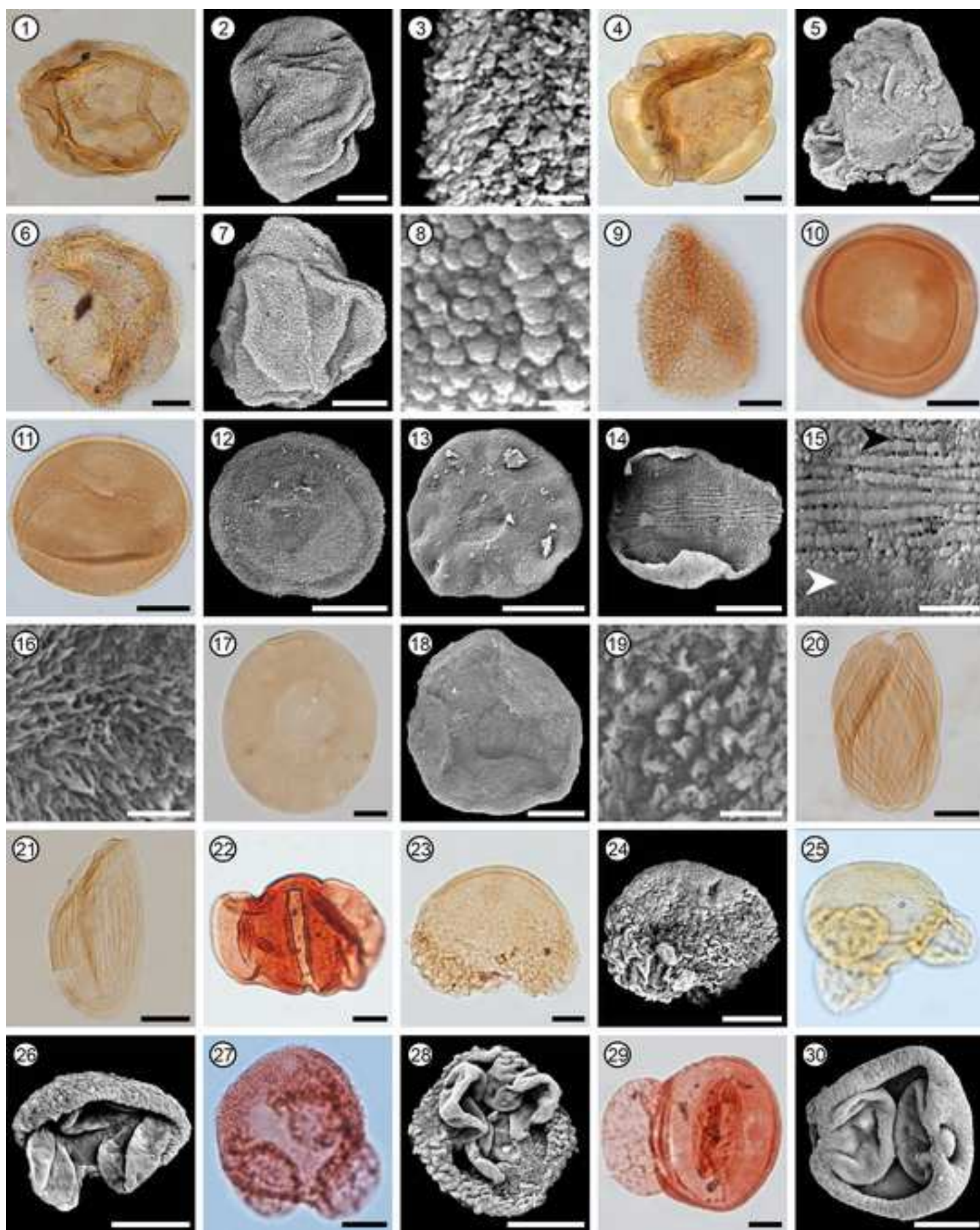
1815 Holotype. MPEF-PA 470 (95.5/42.2). 9. MPEF-PA 471 (107.6/33.3). 10. MPEF-PA 470
 1816 (102.8/33.9). 11, 12. MPEF-PA 149. 10. Clump. 12. Detail of sculpture. 13–18. *Parviprojectus*
 1817 *archangelskyi* sp. nov. 13, 14. Holotype. MPEF-PA 967 (113/27.2). 15. MPEF-PA 701
 1818 (92.6/18.5). 16. MPEF-PA 145. 17, 18. MPEF-PA 170. 18. Detail of sculpture. 19–22.
 1819 *Periporopollenites delicatus* sp. nov. 19, 20. Holotype. MPEF-PA 460 (94.6/31.2). 21. MPEF-
 1820 PA 471 (97.3/27.7). 22. MPEF-PA 151. Note the operculate pores (arrowheads). 23, 24.
 1821 *Psilatricolpites psilascabratus* (Norton) Archangelsky 1973. 23. MPEF-PA 929 (98.2/27.7). 24.
 1822 MPEF-PA 169. 25. *Retitricolporites chubutensis* Archangelsky 1973. MPEF-PA 700
 1823 (102.7/34.8). 26–30. *Retitricolporites ganganensis* sp. nov. 26. Holotype. MPEF-PA 620
 1824 (110/22.5). 27. MPEF-PA 942 (99.7/42.8). 28. MPEF-PA 168. 29, 30. MPEF-PA 169. 30. Detail
 1825 of sculpture.
 1826 Scale bars: 1, 2, 17 = 5 μm ; 3, 12, 30 = 1 μm ; 4–10, 13–16, 19–29 = 10 μm ; 11, 18 = 2 μm .
 1827
 1828 **Plate VII.** 1–5. *Retitricolporites irupensis* sp. nov. 1, 2. Holotype. MPEF-PA 820 (114.1/25.8).
 1829 3. MPEF-PA 663 (105.2/27.1). 4, 5. MPEF-PA 171. 5. Detail of sculpture. 6, 7. *Rhoipites*
 1830 *baculatus* Archangelsky 1973. 6. MPEF-PA 381 (110.5/15.2). 7. MPEF-PA 145. 8. *Rhoipites* sp.
 1831 1. MPEF-PA 582 (94.3/40.8). 9. *Rousea minuscula* Archangelsky and Zamaloa 1986. MPEF-PA
 1832 460 (92.2/44.5). 10. *Rousea patagonica* Archangelsky 1973. MPEF-PA 750 (111.7/31.5). 11–13.
 1833 *Rousea robusta* sp. nov. 11. Holotype. MPEF-PA 819 (97.5/33.5). 12. MPEF-PA 822 (97/36.6).
 1834 13. MPEF-PA 168. 14–17. *Stellatopollis crassibaculata* (Freile) Ward 1986 emend. 14. MPEF-
 1835 PA 930 (100.9/30.6). 15. MPEF-PA 628 (95.5/35.2). 16. MPEF-PA 168. 17. MPEF-PA 171. 17.
 1836 Detail of sculpture. 18–20. *Striatopollis exiguus* Archangelsky and Zamaloa 1986. 18. MPEF-PA
 1837 952 (96.4/26.1). 19, 20. MPEF-PA 168. 20. Detail of sculpture. 21–24. *Symplocoipollenites*

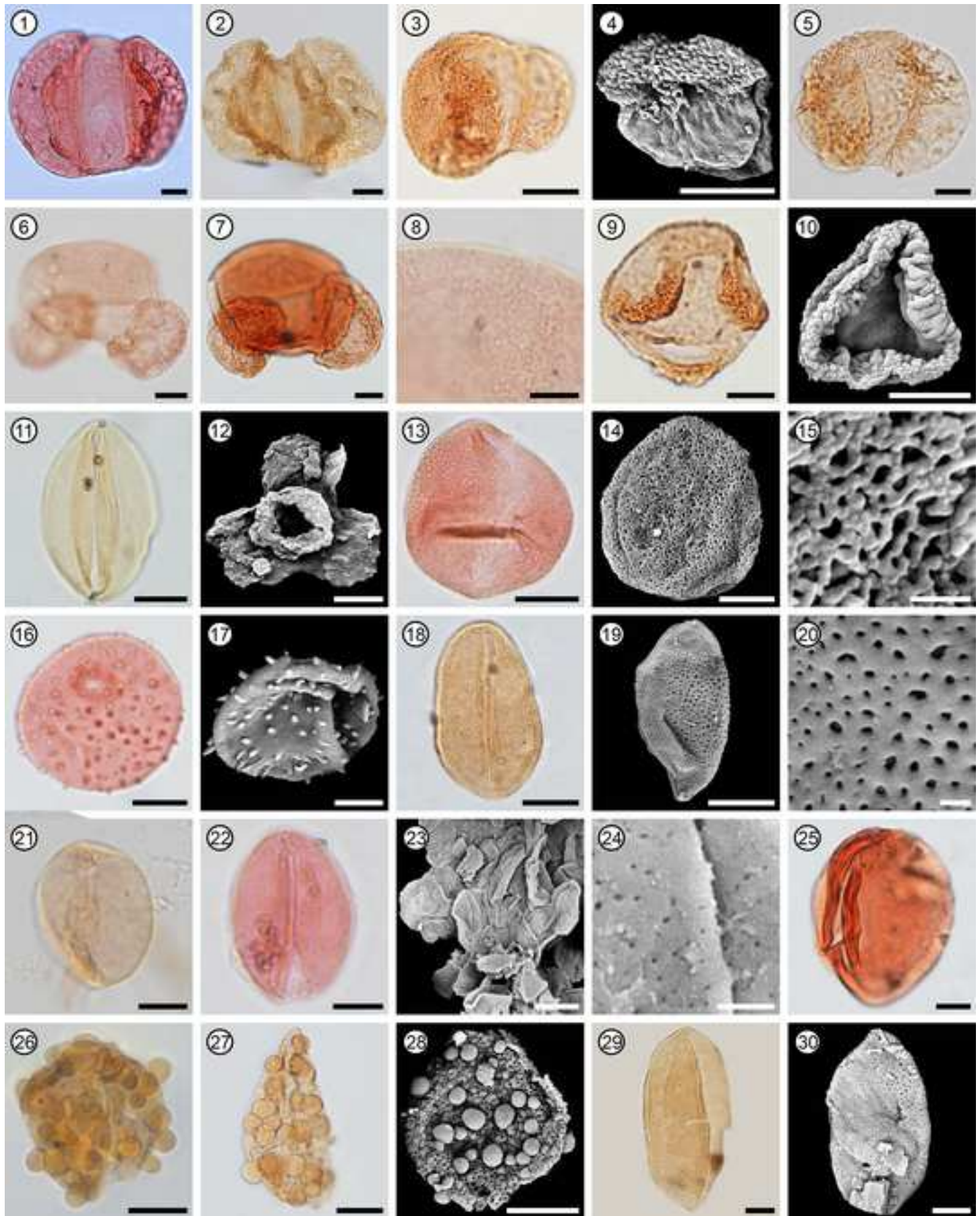
1838 *microechinatus* sp. nov. 21. Holotype. MPEF-PA 454 (102.1/39.1). 22. MPEF-PA 453
 1839 (102.6/44.3). 23. MPEF-PA 580 (94.7/29.8). 24. MPEF-PA 151. 23, 24. Clumps. Note the
 1840 columellate exine in 23 (arrowhead) and the microechinate sculpture in 24. 25. *Tetracolpites*
 1841 *reticulatus* Srivastava 1966. MPEF-PA 930 (99.3/39.2). 26. *Tricolporites* sp. MPEF-PA 150. 27,
 1842 28. *Tubulifloridites lilliei* (Couper) Farabee and Canright 1986. 27. MPEF-PA 472 (112.5/42.7).
 1843 28. MPEF-PA 165. 29. *Tubulifloridites* sp. 1. MPEF-PA 972 (109.2/37.9). 30. *Volkheimerites*
 1844 *labyrinthus* Narváez et al. 2021. MPEF-PA 388 (97.3/37.4).
 1845 Scale bars: 1–4, 10–16, 18, 19, 21–23, 25, 27–30 = 10 μm ; 5, 17, 20, 24 = 2 μm ; 6–9 = 5 μm ; 26
 1846 = 3 μm .

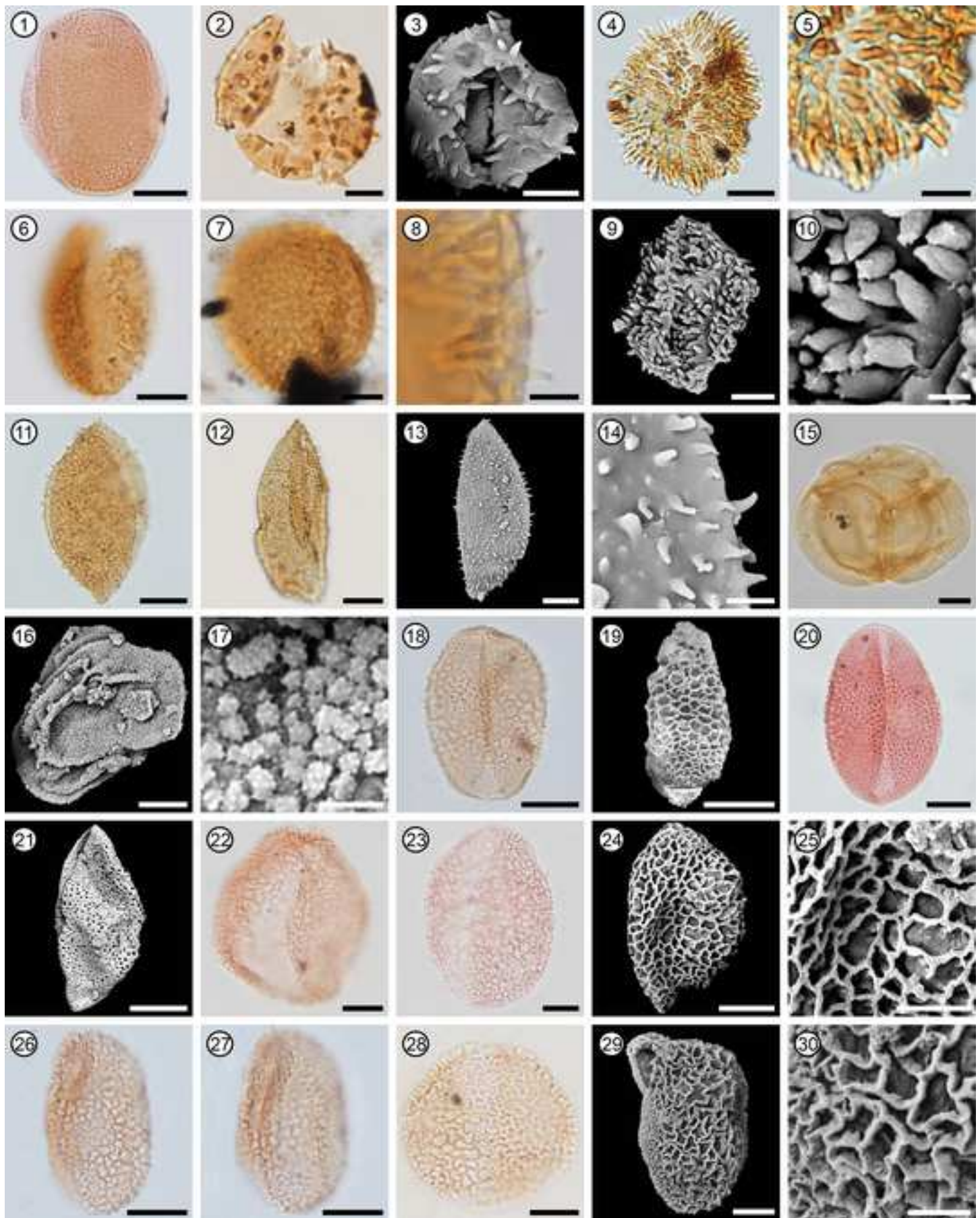


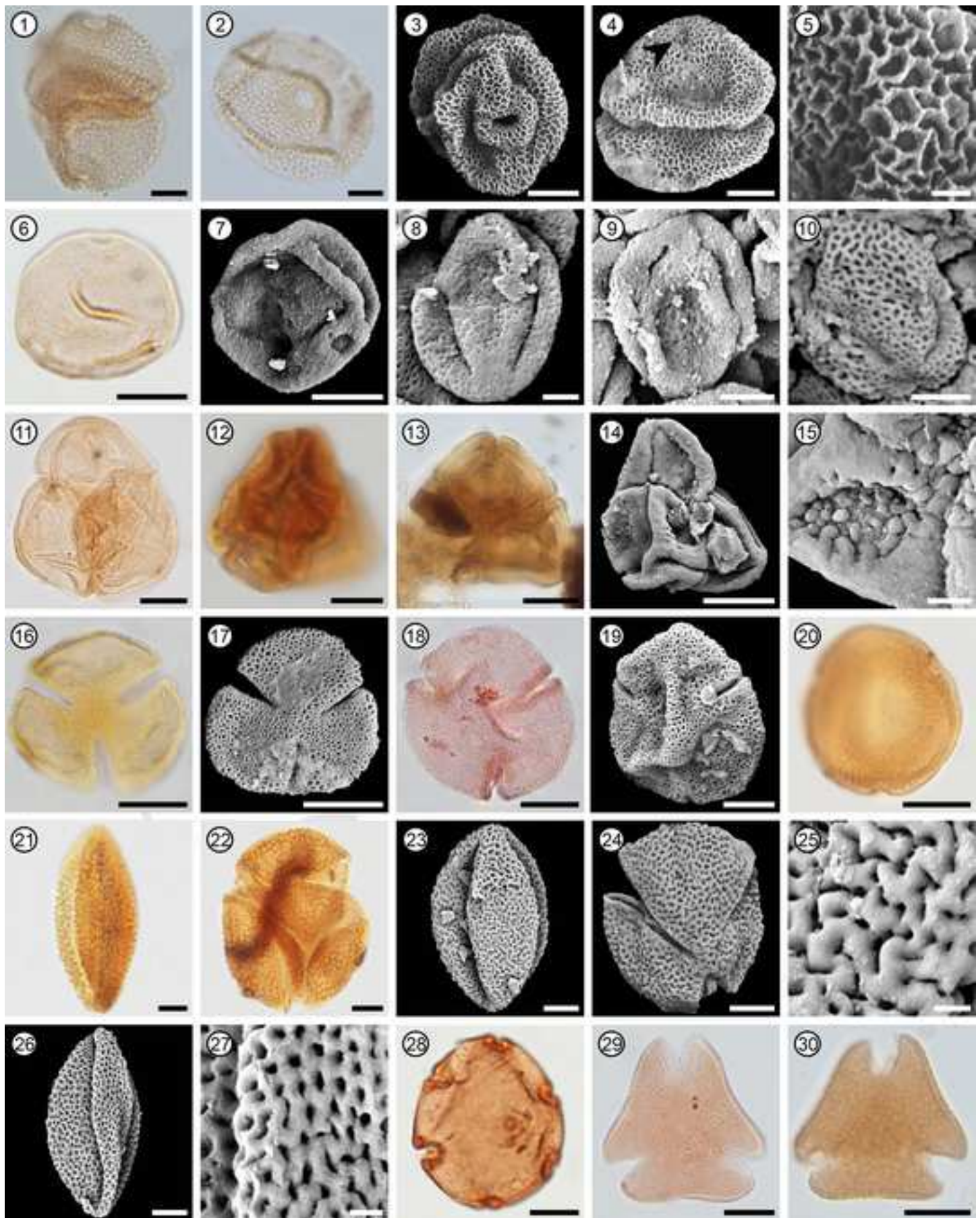
References

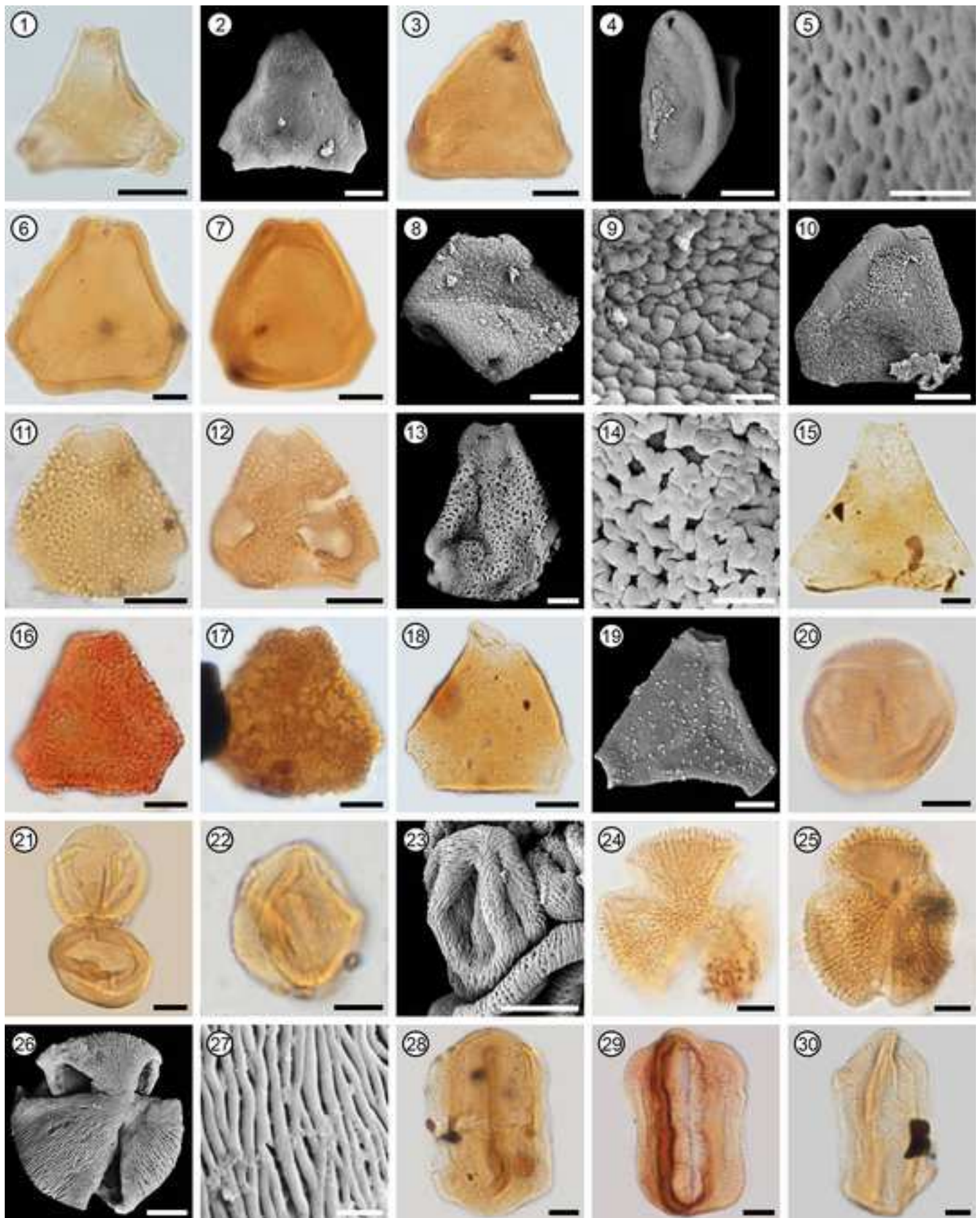
- | | |
|--|--|
| Quaternary deposits
(alluvial, coluvial, eolic, and foothills deposits) | Cero Bororó Fm. (Paleocene) |
| Shallow deposits and lagoons (Holocene) | La Colonia Fm. (Maastrichtian - Paleocene) |
| Slumps deposits (Holocene) | Puntudo Chico Fm. (Campanian - Maastrichtian) |
| Pampa Sastre Fm. (Pliocene) | Cerro Barcino Fm. (Mb. Cerro Castaño)(Aptian - Albian) |
| Somuncurá Fm. (Oligocene) | Cerro Barcino Fm. (Mb. Puesto La Paloma)(Aptian) |
| Sarmiento Fm. (Eocene - Oligocene) | Geographic localities |
| El Buitre Fm. (Eocene) | Studied localities |
| | Creeks |
| | Routes |

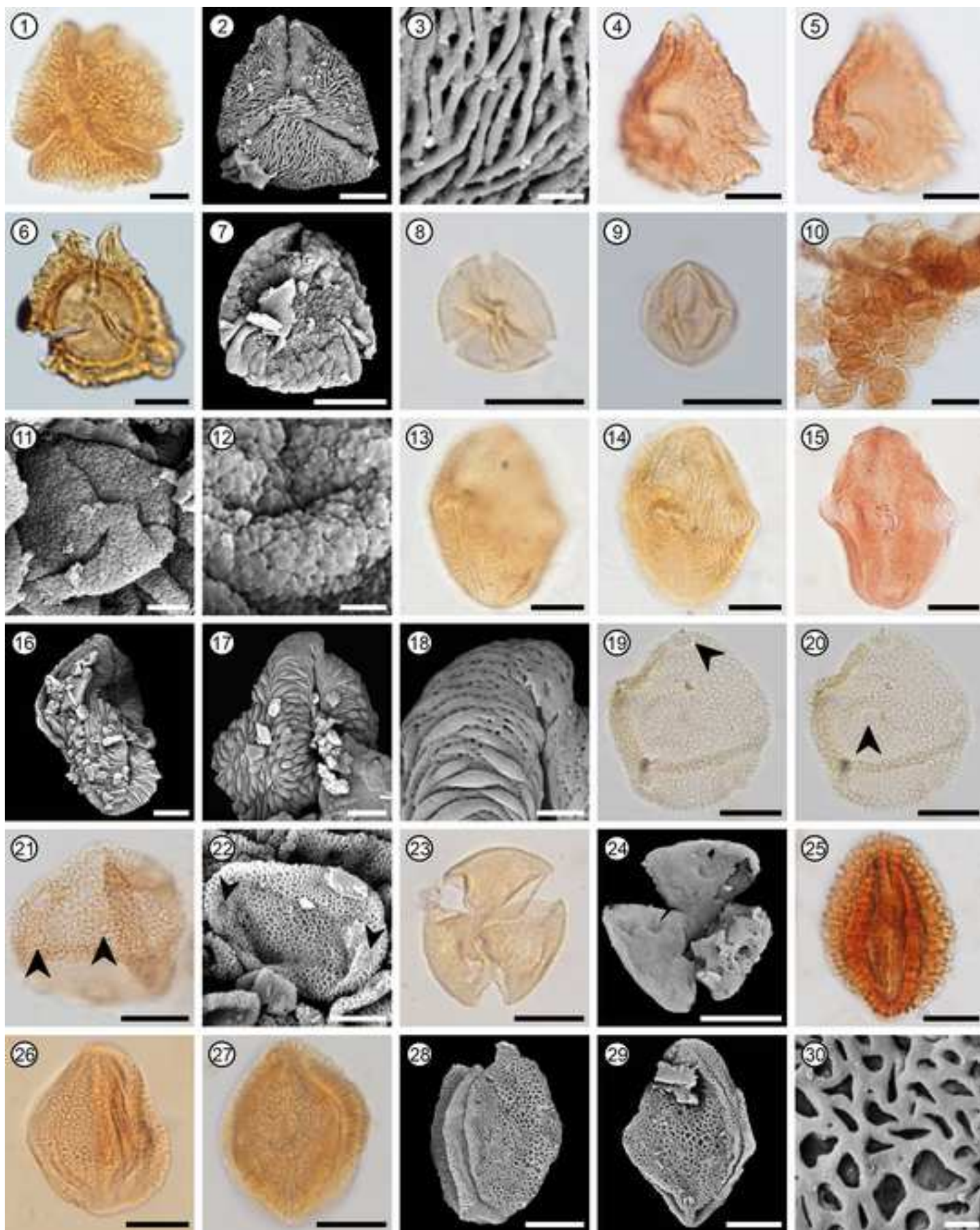


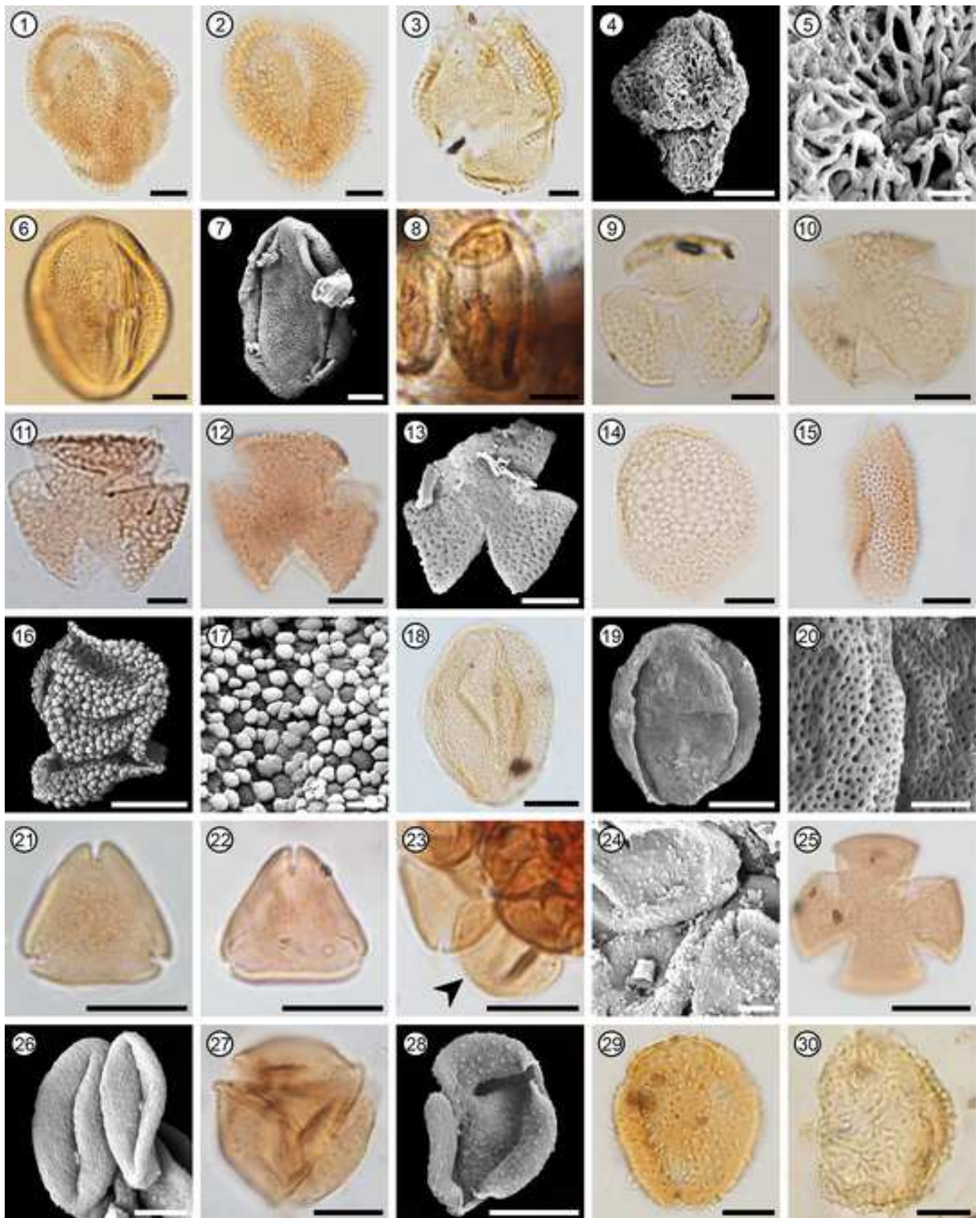












Botanical affinity	Taxa ¹	Illustration	QH/CI	Sections ²			Maast.	Dan.
				CBO	CBN	CHM		
GYMNOSPERMAE								
ARAUCARIACEAE <i>Araucaria/Agathis</i>	<i>Araucariacites australis</i> Cookson 1947	Pl. I, 1–3	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Callialasporites trilobatus</i> (Balme) Dev 1961	Pl. I, 4, 5	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Wollemia/Agathis</i>	<i>Dilwynites granulatus</i> Harris 1965	Pl. I, 6–8	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Wollemia/Agathis</i>	<i>Dilwynites tuberculatus</i> Harris 1965	Pl. I, 9	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHEIROLEPIDACEAE	<i>Classopollis patagonicus</i>	Pl. I, 10–16	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Classopollis</i> sp. 1	Pl. I, 17–19	x	x	x	–	x	–
EPHEDRACEAE	<i>Ephedripites jansonii</i> (Pocock) Muller 1968	Pl. I, 20	x	x	x	–	x	x
	<i>Ephedripites multicostatus</i> Brenner 1963	Pl. I, 21		x	x	x	x	x
PODOCARPACEAE	<i>Gameroites psilasaccus</i> (Archangelsky & Romero) Archangelsky 1988	Pl. I, 22	x	x	x	–	x	x
<i>Dacrydium</i>	<i>Lygistepollenites florinii</i> (Cookson & Pike) Stover & Evans 1973	Pl. I, 23, 24	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Microcachrys</i>	<i>Microcachrydites antarcticus</i> Cookson 1947	Pl. I, 25, 26	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Microcachrys</i>	<i>Microcachrydites cesariae</i> Llorens 2012	Pl. I, 27, 28	x		x	x	x	–
<i>Lagarostrobos</i>	<i>Phyllocladites mawsonii</i> Cookson ex Couper 1953	Pl. I, 29, 30	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Podocarpus</i>	<i>Podocarpidites ellipticus</i> Cookson 1947	Pl. II, 1	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Podocarpus</i>	<i>Podocarpidites marwickii</i> Couper 1953	Pl. II, 2	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Podocarpus</i>	<i>Podocarpidites rugulosus</i> Romero 1977	Pl. II, 3, 4	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Podocarpus</i>	<i>Podocarpidites verrucosus</i> Volkheimer 1972	Pl. II, 5	x	x	x	–	x	x
<i>Podocarpus</i>	<i>Podocarpidites rectangularis</i>	Pl. II, 6–8	x	x	x	–	x	–
	<i>Trichotomosulcites microsaccatus</i> (Couper) Schrank 2010	Pl. II, 9, 10	x	x	x	x	x	x
INCERTAE SEDIS	<i>Cycadopites</i> sp.	Pl. II, 11	x	x	x	–	x	x
ANGIOSPERMAE								
ARISTOLOCHIACEAE <i>Lactoris</i>	<i>Rosannia manika</i> Srivastava emend. Srivastava & Braman 2010	Pl. II, 12	–	x	x	–	x	x
CHLORANTHACEAE	<i>Clavatipollenites</i> sp.	Pl. II, 13–15	x	x	x	–	x	x
Monocots								
ARACEAE	<i>Pandaniidites radicus</i> Leffingwell 1971	Pl. II, 16, 17	x	x	x	x	x	x
ARECACEAE	<i>Arecipites minutiscabratus</i> (McIntyre) Milne 1988	Pl. II, 18–20	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Arecipites botrus</i>	Pl. II, 21–24	x	x	x	–	x	–
	<i>Confertisulcites</i> sp.	Pl. II, 25	x	x	x	x	x	–
	<i>Gemmamonocolpites chubutensis</i>	Pl. II, 26–28		x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Longapertites andreisii</i> Archangelsky 1973	Pl. II, 29, 30	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Longapertites patagonicus</i> Archangelsky 1973	–	x	x	x	–	x	x
	<i>Proxapertites operculatus</i> Van der Hammen 1956	Pl. III, 1	x	x	x	–	x	x
<i>Nypa fruticans</i>	<i>Spinizonocolpites hialinus</i> Archangelsky & Zamaloa 1986	Pl. III, 2, 3	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Nypa fruticans</i>	<i>Spinizonocolpites riochiquensis</i> Vallati & De Sosa Tomas 2020	Pl. III, 4, 5	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Nypa fruticans</i>	<i>Spinizonocolpites coloniensis</i>	Pl. III, 6–10	–	–	x	–	x	x
	<i>Spinizonocolpites variabilis</i>	Pl. III, 11–14	x	x	x	x	x	x
JUNCACEAE?	<i>Inaperturotetradites scabratus</i> Tschudy 1973	Pl. III, 15–17	x	–	x	–	x	–
LILIACEAE?	<i>Liliacidites regularis</i> Archangelsky 1973	Pl. III, 18, 19	x	x	x	–	x	x
	<i>Liliacidites variegatus</i> Couper 1953	Pl. III, 20, 21	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Liliacidites buitrensis</i>	Pl. III, 22–25	–	x	x	–	x	x
	<i>Liliacidites lacunosus</i>	Pl. III, 26–30	x	x	x	x	x	x
TYPHACEAE; <i>Typha</i>	<i>Sparganiaceapollenites annulatus</i>	Pl. IV, 1–5	x	x	x	x	x	x
Eudicots								
CANNABACEAE	<i>Cricotriporites minutiporus</i> (Muller) Jaramillo & Dilcher 2001	Pl. IV, 6, 7	x	x	x	–	x	x
CUNONIACEAE	<i>Dryadopollis</i> sp. 1	Pl. IV, 8	–	x	x	–	x	x
	<i>Dryadopollis</i> sp. 2	Pl. IV, 9	–	x	–	–	x	–

	<i>Dryadopolis</i> sp. 3	Pl. IV, 10	—	—	x	—	—	x
ERICACEAE	<i>Ericipites scabratus</i> Harris 1965	Pl. IV, 11	—	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Ericipites verrucatus</i>	Pl. IV, 12–15	—	x	x	x	x	—
GUNNERACEAE	<i>Tricolpites reticulatus</i> Cookson ex Couper emend. Jarzen & Dettmann 1989	Pl. IV, 16, 17	x	x	x	x	x	x
MALVACEAE	<i>Bombacacidites brevis</i> (Dueñas) Muller et al. 1987	Pl. IV, 18, 19	x	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Intratropipollenites</i> sp.	Pl. IV, 20	x	x	x	x	x	x
NELUMBONACEAE	<i>Nelumbopollenites patagonicus</i>	Pl. IV, 21–27	x	x	x	x	x	x
NELUMBO								
NOTHOFAGACEAE	<i>Nothofagidites saraensis</i> Menéndez & Caccavari 1975	Pl. IV, 28	—	x	x	—	x	x
NOTHOFAGUS								
PROTEACEAE	<i>Peninsulapollis gillii</i> (Cookson) Dettmann & Jarzen 1988	Pl. IV, 29	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Peninsulapollis</i> sp. 1	Pl. IV, 30	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Propylipollis lateflexus</i> (Archangelsky) Baldoni & Askin 1993	Pl. V, 1, 2	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Proteacidites scaboratus</i> Couper 1960	Pl. V, 3–5	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Proteacidites baibianae</i>	Pl. V, 6–10	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Proteacidites mirasolensis</i>	Pl. V, 11–14	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Proteacidites</i> sp. 1	Pl. V, 15	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Proteacidites</i> sp. 2	Pl. V, 16	—	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Proteacidites</i> sp. 3	Pl. V, 17	—	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Tripopollenites ambiguus</i> Stover, in Stover & Partridge 1973	Pl. V, 18, 19	x	x	x	x	x	x
INCERTAE SEDIS	<i>Ailanthipites diminutus</i>	Pl. V, 20–23	x	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Ailanthipites feruglioi</i>	Pl. V, 24–27	—	—	x	—	x	—
	<i>Ailanthipites hexagonalis</i>	Pl. V, 28–30	—	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Ailanthipites</i> sp. 1	Pl. VI, 1–3	—	—	x	—	x	—
	<i>Krutzschipollis argentinum</i>	Pl. VI, 4–7	—	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Nyssapollenites scabratus</i>	Pl. VI, 8–12	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Parviprojectus archangelskyi</i>	Pl. VI, 13–18	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Periporopollenites delicatus</i>	Pl. VI, 19–22	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Psilatricolpites psilascabratus</i> (Norton) Archangelsky 1973	Pl. VI, 23, 24	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Quadruplanus brossus</i> Stover in Stover & Partridge 1973	—	x	x	x	—	x	—
	<i>Retitricolporites chubutensis</i> Archangelsky 1973	Pl. VI, 25	—	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Retitricolporites ganganensis</i>	Pl. VI, 26–30	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Retitricolporites irupensis</i>	Pl. VII, 1–5	—	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Rhoipites baculatus</i> Archangelsky 1973	Pl. VII, 6, 7	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Rhoipites</i> sp. 1	Pl. VII, 8	—	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Rousea minuscula</i> Archangelsky & Zamaloea 1986	Pl. VII, 9	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Rousea patagonica</i> Archangelsky 1973	Pl. VII, 10	x	x	x	x	x	x
	<i>Rousea robusta</i>	Pl. VII, 11–13	—	—	x	—	x	x
	<i>Stellatopollis crassibaculata</i> (Freile) Ward 1986 emend.	Pl. VII, 14–17	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Striatopollis exiguus</i> Archangelsky & Zamaloea 1986	Pl. VII, 18–20	x	—	x	x	x	—
	<i>Symplocoipollenites microechinatus</i>	Pl. VII, 21–24	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Tetracolpites reticulatus</i> Srivastava 1966	Pl. VII, 25	x	x	x	—	x	x
	<i>Tricolporites</i> sp.	Pl. VII, 26	—	x	—	—	x	—
	<i>Tubulifloridites lilliei</i> (Couper) Farabee & Canright 1986	Pl. VII, 27, 28	x	x	x	x	x	—
	<i>Tubulifloridites</i> sp. 1	Pl. VII, 29	—	—	x	x	x	x
	<i>Volkheimerites labyrinthus</i> Narváez et al. 2021	Pl. VII, 30	x	x	—	—	x	—

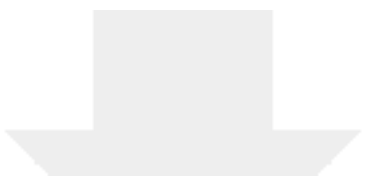
¹ New species are in bold.

² Stratigraphic sections: QH/CI (Quebrada del Helecho/Cañadón del Irupé), CBO (Cerro Bosta), CBN (Cerro Buitre Norte), and CHM (Chiva Muerta). Presence (X); Absence (–).

Declaration of interests

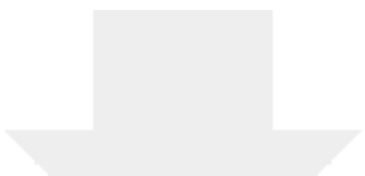
☒The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

☐The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

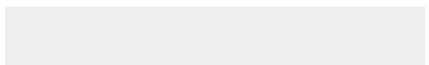
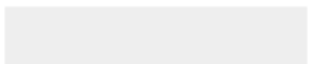


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