Definition of Habana group and Mariano group

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STRATIGRAPHY

Definition of Habana group and Marianao group

Several attempts have been made to establish a reliable stratigraphic sequence of the sediments of the Habana area. But because of the complicated tectonics and of the inadequate outcrop pattern in the core of the Habana-Matanzas uplift, the results were generally unsatisfactory. Even the stratigraphy of the better exposed and tectonically relatively simple rim-rock was not clearly understood, mainly because of the difficulty to recognize certain lithologic units in isolated outcrops, and also because of the rather poor correlation between field-stratigraphic and paleontological work.

Most of the geologists who studied this area, proposed on structural grounds a stratigraphic subdivision into a rim-rock of gently folded strata of Tertiary age and a core of highly disturbed Upper Cretaceous to Lower Eocene sediments and of igneous rocks. We also distinguished two structurally different stratigraphic series, the one forming the core of the uplift and the other restricted to the rim-rock extending in our area along the north coast from Jaimanitas to Cojímar and along the north flank of the Vento syncline. But moreover we were impressed by the lithologic differences between the two series. The older series of lithologies, here termed *Habana group*, overlies the ultramafics and consists mainly of clastics which range from bentonitic clays and shales and very fine graywacke silts and calcilutites to graywacke conglomerates and calcirudites. The maximum thickness does not exceed 1200 m.

The Neocomian limestones encountered at an isolated exposure west of Santa María del Rosario and for which no formation name is proposed, are lithologically not part of the Habana group.

The younger series of lithologies is here termed *Marianao group*. It overlies the Habana group and consists mostly of carbonates. Its total thickness does not exceed 250 m, or about one fifth of the estimated thickness of the Habana group.

The correlation chart, plate I, illustrates our concept of the stratigraphy of the Habana area. It is based on detailed and coordinated field and laboratory studies and in its essential elements believed to be well founded. In this chart, the base of the Eocene epoch is defined by the advent of the first globorotalias with true carina formed by clear imperforate shell substance. This moment in geological time can clearly be recognized. It represents as far as planktonic Foraminifera and discoasterids are concerned a major incision in the faunal evolution of the Paleogene and should be recognized as such.