



Tribute to Teodoro Palacios

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Teodoro Palacios was a brilliant student in the second promotion of geologists at the University of Zaragoza (1973–1978). His Bachelor Thesis dealt with the Cambrian of La Rioja (N Spain). Part of his results on the Upper Cambrian were published in the journal “Palaeontology” and those on the Middle Cambrian in a monograph.

Already assigned as an assistant at the University of Extremadura (UEX), he chose as the topic of his PhD Thesis the stratigraphy and palaeontology (acritarchs and trace fossils) of the Precambrian-Cambrian of Central Iberia. A topic of great interest for the definition of the Precambrian-Cambrian boundary, then under study by the Subcommittee on Cambrian Stratigraphy. The conclusions of his PhD Thesis made it possible to set the PC-Cambrian boundary in Spain and its intercontinental correlation, being published in international journals and fully collected in a monograph published by the University of Zaragoza. A progress where he always had the special support of his wife Valvanera.

Since his arrival at the beginning of the eighties at the Department of Geology of the Faculty of Sciences in Badajoz, his project was the creation of a palaeontology center, which as a Professor at the UEX he was able to achieve thanks to his scientific personality and tenacity. The new Área of Paleontology of the UEX was soon a center of recognized prestige, until today, visited by numerous researchers among whom I would like to mention here the late Gonzalo Vidal and his wife Malgorzata Moczydlowska with whom we shared research and pleasant moments.

Teodoro was wise enough to carry out a large part of his research in multidisciplinary teams to better address the challenges of the Precambrian and Cambrian of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) and later those of Avalonia and Baltica. The geological sheets (Magna) at a scale of 1:

50,000 related to Sierra Morena and Central Iberia were also the result of this cooperation. They were published between the eighties and nineties in which he participated as a micropalaeontological advisor within large teams; as well as the Geological Map of Extremadura in 2013 a project he directed. In summary, a scientific career with numerous reference publications in various fields of geology.

To his extensive teaching and research career, must be added his concern for the conservation of geological heritage that led to his appointment as Scientific Director of the Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO World Geopark. Finally, in fair recognition of his paleontological work, he was dedicated the trilobite species *Serrania palaciosi* of the lower Ovetian times, one of the oldest in the fossil record.

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Declarations

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