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Geology and Paleontology of Soldado Rock, Trinidad (West Indies)

Part 1 : Geology and Biostratigraphy¹⁾

By HANS G. KUGLER²⁾ and C. M. BRAMINE CAUDRI³⁾

ABSTRACT

The little islet called Soldado Rock, off the Southwest tip of Trinidad, is but a Paleocene and Eocene olistostrome mélange in Miocene turbidites. Compared with the former interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence of beds (KUGLER 1938), showing a gap between Paleocene and Late Eocene rocks, there is now clear evidence also of the presence of the Lower Middle Eocene (or very high Lower Eocene = Boca de Serpiente Formation), and of the Lower Upper Eocene.

Soldado Rock is the type locality of 11 Smaller Foraminifera, 20 Larger Foraminifera, 54 mullusks, 2 brachiopods, 3 echinoids and 5 ostracods.

In the paleontological part of this monographic study¹⁾ forty-nine species and varieties of Larger Foraminifera from the Paleocene, early Middle Eocene and Upper Eocene of the Soldado Rock are described, ten of them new: *Operculinoides trinitatensis* var. *granulata*, *Operculinoides spiralis*, *Neodiscocyclina mauryae*, *Asterocyclina soldadensis*, *Amphistegina undecima*, *Amphistegina pauciseptata*, *Amphistegina grimsdalei*, *Lepidocyclina peruviana* var. *nana*, *Lepidocyclina pustulosa* var. *compacta* and *Lepidocyclina spatiosa*. Special attention has been paid to the stratigraphical significance of *Helicostegina soldadensis* GRIMSDALE [here renamed *Helicosteginopsis soldadensis* (GRIMSDALE)] and to the fauna and general nature of the Boca de Serpiente Formation, which at the moment is known only from this islet, in the form of a remnant slump mass. The recognition of heavy reworking in the upper part of the section has changed older ideas about the vertical range of several of the species described before.

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¹⁾ Part 2: “*The Larger Foraminifera*” will appear towards the end of this year, in *Eclogae geol. Helv.*, Vol. 68, No. 3.

²⁾ Naturhistorisches Museum, Augustinergasse 2, 4051 Basel, Switzerland.

³⁾ Avenue des Alpes 29, 1814 La Tour de Peilz, Switzerland.