

LA ESFINGE PALEONTOLOGICAL SITE (GRAN CANARIA). NEW CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE EASTERN CANARIES PALEOCLIMATIC HISTORY

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Abstract: Pliocene marine deposits are widely represented in the Eastern Canary Islands. They are present at varied elevations in Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote Islands, with characteristic sedimentary facies and a number of fossil species, standing out among them: *Grypahea virleti* (Deshayes, 1832), *Nerita emiliana* (Mayer, 1872), *Persististrombus coronatus* (Defrance, 1827), *Siderastraea miocenica* (Osasco, 1897), *Isognomon soldanii* (Deshyès, 1836), *Clypeaster altus* (Lamarck, 1816) and *Otodus megalodon* (Agassiz, 1843).

The La Esfinge site, at La Isleta, NE Gran Canaria, shows a complex geological succession with, bottom to top: Pliocene submarine lavas in the form of pillow lavas and hyaloclastite, dated ca. 4.2 Myr (Meco et al., 2015); Pliocene sandy sedimentary beds bearing abundant marine fossil fauna; and Pleistocene lava flows and pyroclasts (Figure1). A new stratigraphic section has been done, 6 strata has been drawn and 42 different taxa has been classified. It is specially outstanding the presence of a sedimentary bed with a huge number of *Lutraria oblonga* (Gmelin, 1791) which are in life position and a sedimentary bed bearing (Bronn, 1860), a planktonic gastropod (Meco et al., 2016; Almenara Perera, 2021).

Key words: Pliocene, marine sediments, Gran Canaria, *Lutraria lutraria*, *Janthina typica*

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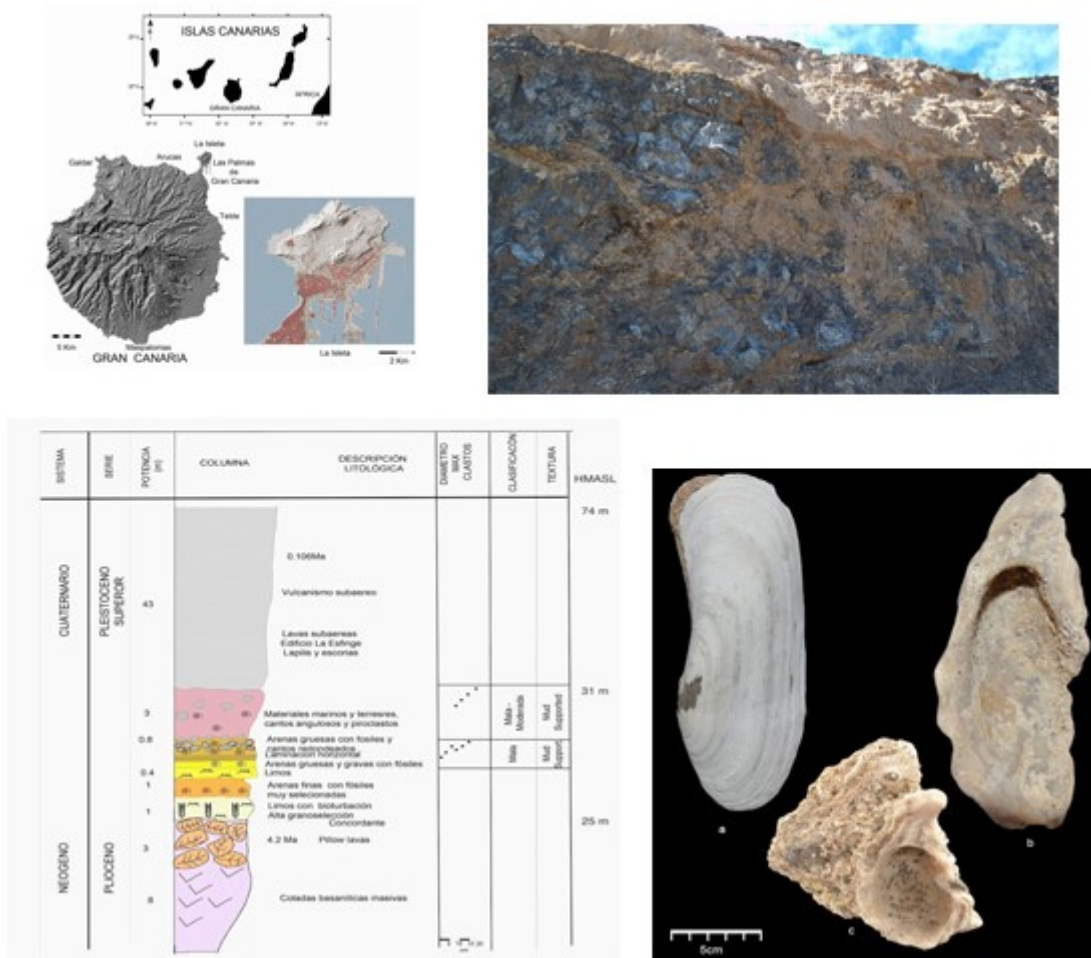


Figure 1. Location, view and stratigraphic section of La Esfinge, La Isleta, Gran Canaria. a.- *Lutraria oblonga* (Gmelin, 1791), b.- *Gryphaea virleti* (Deshayes, 1832).