

**ORÍGEN DEL HIDROTHERMALISMO CRETÁCICO AL SUR DEL LAGO FONTANA,
CORDILLERA PATAGÓNICA ARGENTINA**

Ariel P. Rolando¹⁺², Ricardo O. Etcheverry², Leo A. Hartmann¹, Raúl R. Fernandez²,
Moacir B. Macambira³, Isidoro A. Schalamuk², Andre S. Mexias¹

¹ Instituto de Geociencias (UFRGS) Porto Alegre, Brasil.
E mail: ariel@if.ufrgs.br; afraneo@if.ufrgs.br

²Instituto de Recursos Minerales (UNLP) La Plata, Argentina.
E mail: inremi@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

³Instituto de Geociencias (UFPA) Beiem, Brasil. E mail: moamac@ufpa.br

Abstract

A polymetallic vein system (Pb, Zn, Ag, Cu and Au) and an intensely altered area formed near the Lago Fontana, Argentine Patagonia, in a time interval of ten million years. The Cerro Bayo hydrothermally altered region formed at about 132 ± 4 Ma, temperatures of 185-145 °C and argillic alteration of medium intensity. A carbonaceous-silicic sinter during this event. The Ferrocarrilera alteration system formed at about 114 ± 4 Ma, temperatures about 250-180 °C, and shows higher sulphidation; alteration is mostly chloritic. Marine and continental sedimentary rocks formed during the time interval of deposition of the two altered regions, along with voluminous volcanism, which is the country-rock of the Ferrocarrilera deposit. Based on field relations, geochronology and Pb isotopes, these two hydrothermally altered regions are related to epizonal granitic intrusions from the Patagonian Batholith. The two deposits are of low sulphidation, epithermal type.