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ABSTRACT

**COARSE CLASTIC INTERVALS ACROSS THE CENTRAL RANGE OF
TRINIDAD: PIECING TOGETHER THE PUZZLE**

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Coarse grained clastic intervals have long been recognized in outcrops across the Central Range of Trinidad associated with several positive topographic features such as Mount Harris, Corbeaux Hill and Kelly Hill. They have been attributed to the Chaudiere, Pointe a Pierre and Nariva formations ranging from the Paleocene to the Oligocene. (Kugler 1959), (Figure 1). These intervals are discontinuous and poorly exposed, hindering correlations both in the field and in the subsurface. This is exacerbated by lithological similarities, the likely cause of miscorrelations in the field. Early workers have long classified these coarse clastics as ‘flysch’ deposits associated with an early stage of basin fill and associated tectonic uplift.

The paper will review early stratigraphic literature and the development of sedimentological ideas surrounding these coarse grained clastic intervals. Despite the advances made by earlier workers, these clastics remain among the most enigmatic within the Trinidadian stratigraphy, with one earning the title of “the most controversial formation” on the island (Suter 1960). The historical review will be complemented by sections from outcrops across the Central Range. Stratigraphic logs will be presented that highlight the similarities and differences between these units which may prove useful to recognize these formations in outcrop and core (Figure 2).

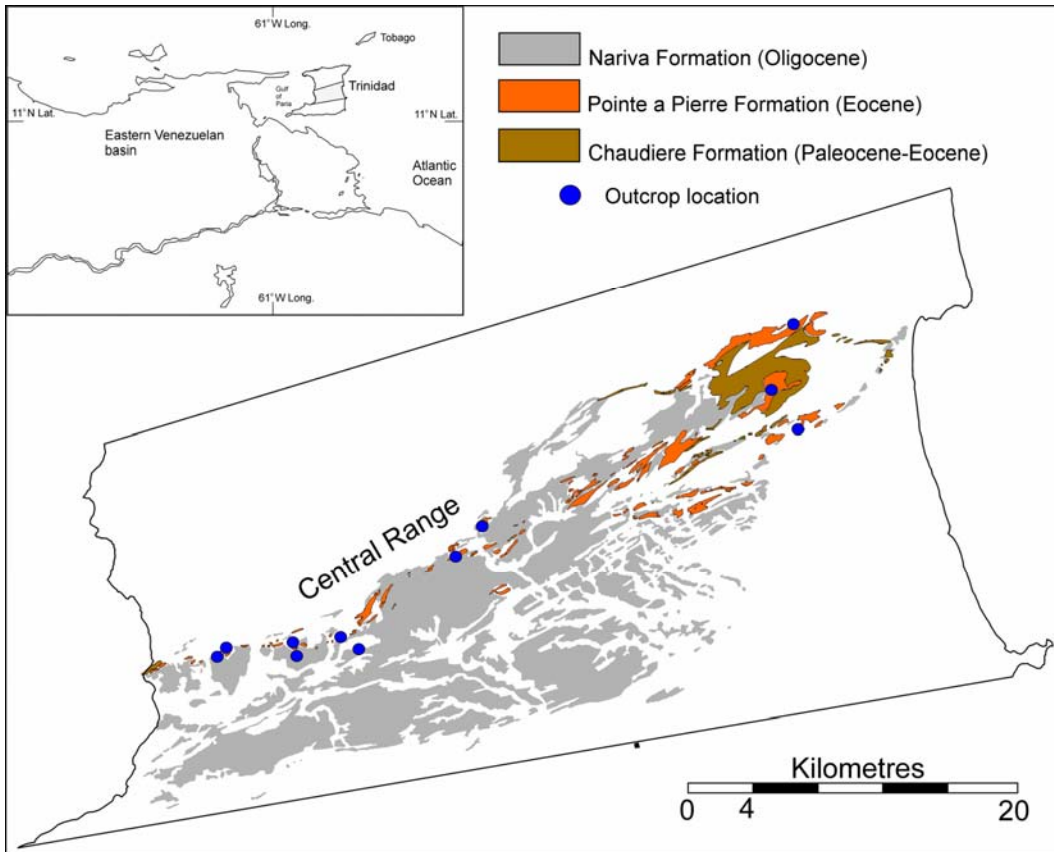


Figure 1 Location map of Trinidad (inset) showing the location of coarse clastic Paleogene outcrops across the Central Range (stippled in inset map). Geology modified after Kugler (1959).

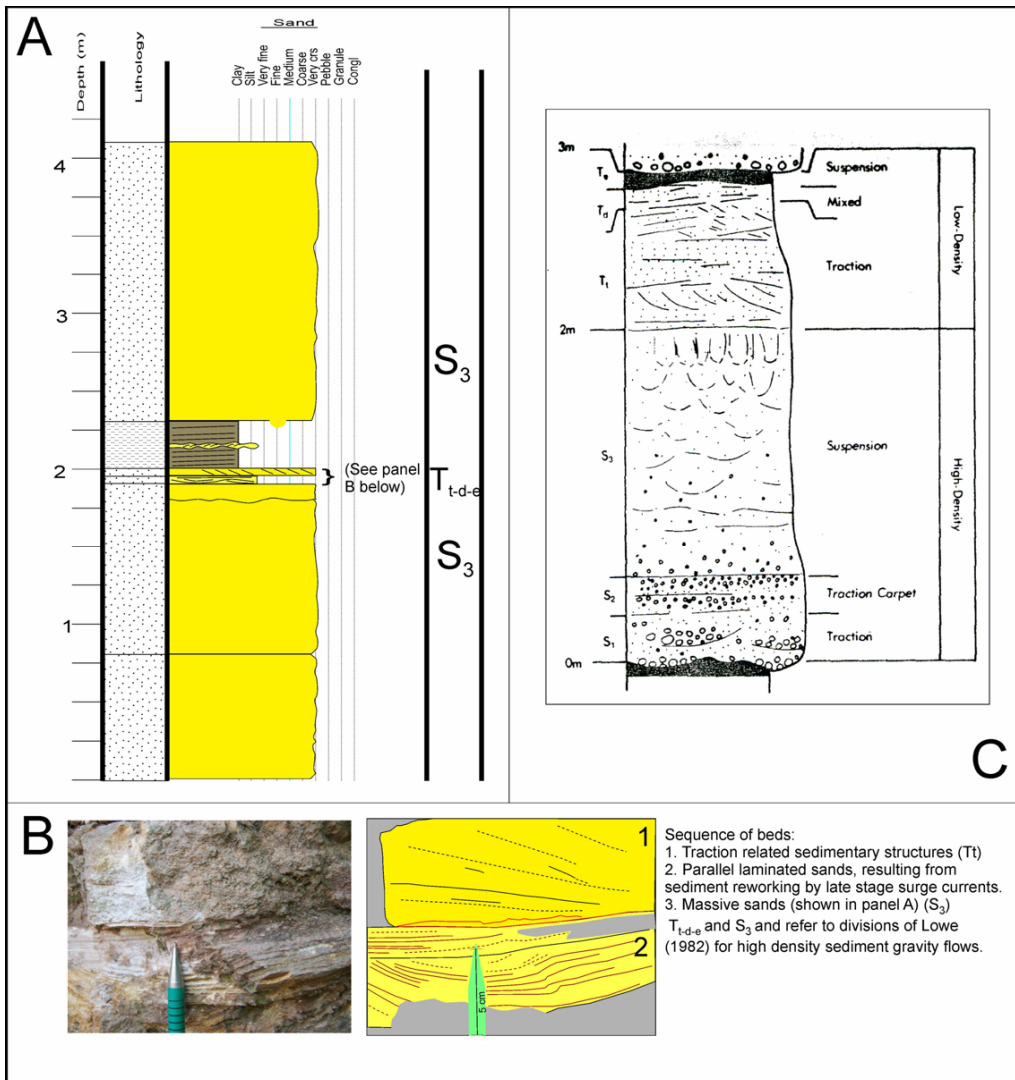


Figure 2. (A) Stratigraphic section of coarse grained sandstone within the Pointe a Pierre Formation showing a typical character of bedding **(A&B)** and classification **(C)**. Classification after Lowe (1982).

References

- Kugler, H.G. 1959. Geologic map of Trinidad. Petroleum Association of Trinidad, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Lowe, D. 1982, Sediment gravity flows II, Depositional models with special reference to the deposits of high-density turbidity currents. *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, 52, 1, 279-297, United States.
- Suter H.H. 1960. The general and economic geology of Trinidad, B.W.I. Overseas Geological Survey Min. Resour. Div.