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D. UNDETERMINED FORMATION

Bed 12*a) Bibliographic history*

KUGLER (1938, p. 220–221) described as Bed 12 the low bank of oil-bearing sandstone that emerges from the sea off the North shore of Soldado Rock. Its strike is oblique to the general strike of the Soldado beds themselves, perhaps as a result of unconformable overlap.

b) Type section

Outcrop on the North shore.

c) Stratigraphic relationship

The nature of this sandstone is quite different from the “underlying” Bed 11, and no direct relationship could be established between the two. Their contact is strongly eroded and remains below the water level at low tide.

d) Thickness

Unknown; about 4 meters exposed.

e) Lithology

Near the contact with Bed 11, Bed 12 consists of fine-grained brown-weathering sandstone with a bluish calcareous core when fresh. This sandstone has nothing in common with the sandstones found in streaks and lenses on Soldado Rock itself: K.1497(C-1), for instance, is a very fine-grained dark-grey sandstone, totally different from such gritty white sandstones as K.905(D-3) or K.1495(D-4). Upwards, the calcareous sandstone changes into a dark-brown non-calcareous oilsand (K.1498, D-1).

f) Paleontology

The deposit is barren.

g) Age

Bed 12 shows affinities with sandstones known from the San Fernando (Mount Moriah) Formation of Trinidad, and also resembles the Nariva Sandstone and some of the sandstones of the Karamat Formation in that Island, but the total absence of fossils does not permit a definite comparison with any of these formations.

E. MIOCENE BEDS

Dr. P. Jung and Mr. R. Panchaud of the Natural History Museum, Basel, stayed on Soldado Rock from 25–28 February 1973 for the purpose of collecting additional fossils and to check some previous statements. On the first day they were accompanied by Messrs J. B. Saunders of Texaco Trinidad, Inc., and by P. L. Percharde of Trinmar Ltd. During the time Saunders assisted Jung and Panchaud in carrying out a short reconnaissance of the Rock, Percharde did some Scuba diving with a short core barrel to take sea-bottom samples. He started about 80 meters NW of the West end of Bed 2 and extracted ten samples, roughly 8 meters apart. Saunders examined the contents of these samples and, starting from the Rock in a NW direction (see map), he reported in a private letter the following results: