

The Devonian in the Compte sections

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The set of outcrops located along the former National Road N-260 and on the hill directly above the right bank of the Noguera Pallaresa river and on the forest track and hill on the left bank of the river constitutes one of the best and continues, but tectonically disrupted, Devonian successions in the Compte Subfacies (Fig. 1).

Dalloni (1913) already dated the Middle Devonian and Schmidt (1931) outlined the section and provided a tectono-stratigraphic scheme showing the relations between the Lower, Middle and Upper Devonian. Subsequently, Ziegler (1959) took 14 conodont samples along the previous scheme of Schmidt (1931) and was able to date the Emsian, the Middle Devonian and the Upper Devonian. The first detailed conodont study was undertaken by Boersma (1973). He focused only in the Compte Fm. and its three members (A-C) that roughly are equivalents of the modern Comabella, La Mena and Barousse Fms. respectively. His conodont record spanned from the *Icriodus obliquimarginatus* Zone through the *Scaliognathus anchoralis* Zone (Givetian-Tournaisian). Modern and more detailed conodont studies were accomplished by Valenzuela-Ríos et al. (2005), Valenzuela-Ríos & Liao (2012), Valenzuela-Ríos et al. (2015) and Slavík et al. (2016) for the Lochkovian and Pragian, Martínez-Pérez (2010), Martínez-Pérez et al. (2011) and Martínez-Pérez & Valenzuela-Ríos (2014) for the Emsian and Liao (2014), Liao & Valenzuela-Ríos (2008) and Gouwy et al. (2016) for the Givetian and Lower Frasnian.

The Lower Devonian in Compte is exposed in a fairly continuous section that is only moderately disturbed tectonically (section CP-I). The Lochkovian conodont record is essential for reinforcing the Pyrenean biostratigraphical framework, starts already in the *woschmidti* Zone and contains all the indexes of the overlain conodont zones up to the uppermost Lochkovian *gilberti-steinachensis* Zone (Valenzuela-Ríos et al., 2005; 2015; Valenzuela-Ríos & Liao, 2012). The Lochkovian/Pragian boundary is bracketed by the combination of conodont and fish records between Beds 49-55 (Valenzuela-Ríos et al., 2005). The Pragian is poor in conodont records and the Pragian/Emsian boundary cannot be yet identified in CP-I Section. The upper part of the section yielded Emsian conodonts of the Middle *excavatus* and *nothoperbonus* Zones (Martínez-Pérez, 2010; Martínez-Pérez et al., 2011; Martínez-Pérez & Valenzuela-Ríos, 2014).

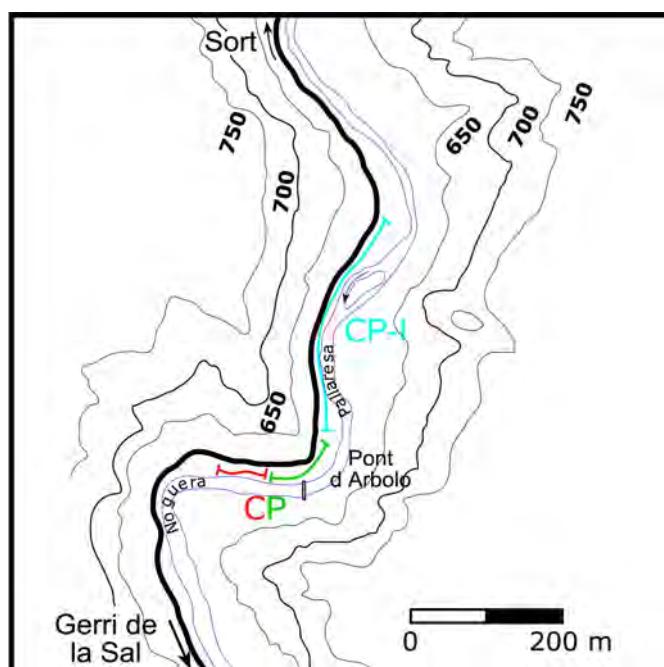


Figure 1. Location map of Compte sections, CP-I (Lower Devonian) and CP (Middle and Upper Devonian).

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The Givetian (Middle Devonian) and early Frasnian (upper Devonian) is compiled from five sections along the road an in the hill (CP Section, Liao & Valenzuela-Ríos, 2008). The conodont record starts in the *timorensis* Zone and reaches, at least, to the Famennian *Pa. rhomboidea* Zone. Liao & Valenzuela-Ríos (2008) and Liao (2014) reported the detailed succession from the *hemiansatus-timorensis* to the Frasnian F3 Zone. Subsequent, sampling yielded conodonts of several Frasnian and Famennian Zones.

The sections at Compte exhibit probably one of the most complete Devonian successions in the Pyrenees and contain one of the best conodont records for several Stages (Lochkovian, part of Emsian, Givetian, Frasnian and Famennian). Ongoing research in new sections on the left bank of the Noguera Pallaresa river demonstrates the presence of Eifelian conodonts and would help to bridge the knowledge's gap around the Eifelian/Givetian transition in the Compte area. Besides conodonts other groups are also recorded in great numbers (fish microremains, lingulate brachiopods, dacryoconinids, ostracods, trilobites...) increasing the potential of these sections for correlations and reinforce their scientific value.

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