# SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY AND SEDIMENTOLOGY OF THE TERRY (SUSSEX) SANDSTONE IN A PORTION OF THE DENVER BASIN COLORADO

by

MAGALY C. QUINTERO A.

ProQuest Number: 10794611

### All rights reserved

#### INFORMATION TO ALL USERS

The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.



### ProQuest 10794611

Published by ProQuest LLC (2018). Copyright of the Dissertation is held by the Author.

All rights reserved.

This work is protected against unauthorized copying under Title 17, United States Code

Microform Edition © ProQuest LLC.

ProQuest LLC. 789 East Eisenhower Parkway P.O. Box 1346 Ann Arbor, MI 48106 – 1346

A thesis submitted to the Faculty and the Board of Trustees of the Colorado School of Mines in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science (Geology).

Golden, Colorado

Date 12 10 2001

Signed: Magaly C. Quintero A.

Approved:

Dr. Roger Slatt Thesis Advisor

Golden, Colorado

Date 12/10/0)

Dr. Murray Hitzman Professor and Head,

Department of Geology

and Geological Engineering

#### **ABSTRACT**

The 180 ft (60m) thick Upper Cretaceous Terry Sandstone in the Denver Basin area, Wattenberg Field, was studied to evaluate its origin and depositional environments. Based on analysis of physical and biogenic sedimentary structures in nine cores, seven sedimentary facies were distinguished in the Terry Sandstone in the study area: 1) bioturbated mudstone; 2) storm sandstone with bioturbated mudstone; 3) burrowed to bioturbated muddy sandstone; 4) hummocky cross stratified sandstone without burrows; 5) rippled sandstone; 6)glauconite sandstone with rip up clasts; 7) interbedded sandstone and shale. The different associations and succession of the facies make possible the interpretation of Terry Sandstone as a shoreface depositional system. The sharp, erosional base of the Terry Sandstone is a forced regression sequence boundary.

Applying sequence stratigraphic principles to the cores and to 120 well logs, the Terry Sandstone is divided into three parasequences. Facies tracts boundaries between successively younger parasequences step landward, indicating an overall transgressive system tract. A fourth, offshore parasequence underlies the base of the Terry Sandstone (Sequence Boundary).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	Page iii
CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF PLATES	X
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xi
Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
1.1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2. GEOLOGY FRAMEWORK AND PREVIOUS MODELS	7
2.1 Introduction 2.2 Structure and Stratigraphy. 2.3 Previous Depositional Models. 2.3.1 Introduction 2.3.2 Offshore shelf ridges. 2.3.2 Shoreface deposit.	7 9 9
Chapter 3. CORE DESCRIPTION	27
3.1 Methodology 3.2 Facies recognition and Facies Associations 3.2.1 Bioturbated Mudstone (F1)	27

3.2.2 Storm Sandstone with bioturbated mudstone (F2)	29
3.2.3 Burrowed to bioturbated muddy sandstone (F3)	
3.2.4 Hummocky cross stratified sandstone (F4)	
3.2.5 Rippled sandstone (F5)	
3.2.6 Glauconite sandstone with rip up clasts (F6)	43
3.2.7 Interbedded sandstone and shale	
3.2.8 Facies Associations	49
3.2.9 Interpretation	51
3.3 Trace fossils and Interpretation	54
3.3.1 Trace fossils of the Terry Sandstone	.54
3.3.1.1 Anconichnus	56
3.3.1.2 Chondrites	.56
3.3.1.3 Ophiomorpha	.56
3.3.1.4 Planolites	
3.3.1.5 Rhizocorallium.	
3.3.1.6 Skolithos	
3.3.1.7 Teichichnus.	
3.3.1.8 Terebellina.	
3.3.1.9 Thalassinoides	
3.3.1.10 Zoophycos	
3.3.2 Discussion and Interpretation of traces fossils	
3.4 Core description	
3.4.1 Well Core Jack Mlyneck	
3.4.2 Well Core Mountain Fuel E	
3.4.3 Well Core Premium Turkey	
3.4.4 Well Core Dutcher Unit B	
3.4.5 Well Core Appel 1	
3.4.6 Well Core Ursula	
3.4.7 Well Core Olive	
3.4.8 Well Core 1-41-5 Reeve Champlin Petrole	
3.4.9 Well Core Machi Rossi Aristocrat Angus 14-4	
3.4.10 Discussion of core description	.00
Chapter 4. SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY, WELL LOG INTERPRETATION, AND	
MAPS	68
4.1 Introduction         4.2 Terry Sandstone Sequence Stratigraphy	

Chapter 5. CONCLUSIONS	72
REFERENCES	73

### LIST OF FIGURES.

Figure 1.1 Location of the Hambert-Aristocrat Field	2
Figure 1.2 Stratigraphic column of the Denver Basin.	3
Figure 1.3 Map showing paleostructure trends of the Denver basin	4
Figure 1.4 Typical well logs though the Terry Sandstone	6
Figure 2.1 Epicontinental seaway during Campanian	11
Figure 2.2 Shannon Sandstone and the ridge morphology model	13
Figure 2.3 Diagram showing steps of lowstand shoreface formation	16
Figure 2.4 Wave-dominated shoreface successions	17
Figure 2.5 Shoreface interpretation of Cardium Formation	18
Figure 2.6 Alternative geologic interpretations as a function of the datum	20
Figure 2.7 Schematic wells logs across a succession of lowstand shorelines	22
Figure 2.8 Geometries and exploration of isolated shallow marine sand bodies	24
Figure 2.9 Differing log response and production of isolated shallow sand bodies	25
Figure 3.1 Photograph of bioturbated mudstone facies	31
Figure 3.2 Photograph of mudstone and rippled sandstone facies	32
Figure 3.3 Photograph of storm sandstone with bioturbated mudstone	33
Figure 3.4 Stylolites and microfaults	34
Figure 3.5 Photograph of storm sandstone with ophiomorpha trace fossil	35
Figure 3.6 Photograph of very bioturbated sandstone with glauconite	36
Figure 3.7 Typical associations of the ichnofacies of lower shoreface deposits	38
Figure 3.8 Hummocky cross stratified sandstone	39
Figure 3.9 Hummocky cross stratified sandstone without burrows	40
Figure 3.10 Burrowed to bioturbated muddy sandstone	41
Figure 3.11 Sharp contact between burrowed and hummocky cross stratified	
sandstone	42
Figure 3.12 Thalassinides, Teichichnus and Anconichnus trace fossils	43

Figure 3.13 Swaly, hummocky cross stratification and combined flow ripples	45
Figure 3.14 Escape burrows and combined flow ripples	46
Figure 3.15 Skolithos, Rhizocorallium, Planolites trace fossils	47
Figure 3.16 Rippled sandstone and Skolithos trace fosils	48
Figure 3.17 Glauconite sandstone with rip up clasts	49
Figure 3.18 Interbedded sandstone and shale	51
Figure 3.19 Facies proportions within lower shoreface and middle shoreface facie	
Figure 3.20 Distribution of the <i>Cruziana</i> and <i>Skolitho</i> s ichnofacies	54
Figure 3.21 Idealized shoreface model of ichnofacies successions	57
Figure 4.1 Retrogradational parasequence set	70
Figure 4.2 Schematic illustration of interpretation of the Terry Sandstone deposequence	

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Recent interpretations of ancient isolated shallow marine deposits	10
Table 3.1 Name and location of the cored wells analyzed in Terry Sandstone	29
Table 3.3 Ichnological and sedimentological characteristics of a wave dominated	
shoreface succession	55
Table 3.2 Classification of trace fossils identified from Terry Sandstone	58

### LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1.1 Detail map of the study area with positions of cross sections A- A'Pocket
Plate 1.2 Structure contour map of the top of the Terry SandstonePocket
Plate 3.1 Core description, well Jack Mlyneck
Plate 3.2 Core description, well Rocky Mountain Fuel E
Plate 3.3 Core description, well Premium Turkey l
Plate 3.4 Core description, well Dutcher Unit B
Plate 3.5 Core description, well Appel 1
Plate 3.6 Core description, well Ursula
Plate 3.7 Core description, well Olive
Plate 3.8 Core description, well 1-41-5 Reeve Champlin PetroleumPocket
Plate 3.9 Core description, well Machi Rossi Aristocrat Angus 14 – 4
Plate 4.1 Correlation cross section A-A'
Plate 4.2 Parasequencence PB showing trends and corresponding well log patterns
Plate 4.3 Parasequencence PC showing trends and corresponding well log patterns
Plate 4.4 Parasequencence PD showing trends and corresponding well log patterns

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The author would like to express her appreciation to Dr. Roger M. Slatt, thesis advisor, for suggesting the study, and for his advice and valuable guidance thoughout the course of this study. Equal appreciation is also extended to the other members of the thesis committee, Dr. John Warme, Dr. Neil Hurley and Dr. Sandra Mark. Dr. Mark also provided her valuable suggestions and advice in the use of Geographix software.

I would like to express my acknowledgments to the software companies: Neuralog, Geographix and Landmark for the use of their programs, and my acknowledgments to PI Dwights/INS Energy for the well data donation.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Intevep, Petroleum of Venezuela (PDVSA), for providing financial support for all my studies at Colorado School of Mines.

I am extremely grateful to all members of my family for their love, support and prayers, specially to my little kids, Cesar Mauricio and Gabriela Ines, who were my best encouragement to do my studies.

Lastly, and not least, thanks to all my friends especially, Elizabeth Hernandez.

The original material for this dissertation includes a significant number of oversized pages. The full text can be viewed by accessing the supplement file.

