



# LATE PALEOZOIC OF SOUTH AMERICA

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## **GEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CARBONIFEROUS OF PARACAS, SOUTHERN PERU.**

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The fossil flora of Paracas consists of species which seemed to be largely endemic and were described by various paleobotanists under different names. Eight generic names were used for two species of lycopods and none of the names is applicable. In the past the age assignment has been based on inadequately preserved specimens and has been based on inadequately preserved specimens which show anatomical features necessary for proper identification. A detailed investigation of the lycopods demonstrated that one species can be assigned to the genus *Tomiodendron* but requires the establishment of a new subgenus (*Tomiodendron* (subgen.n.) *peruvianum* GOTHAN, 1928). No validly published specific name is necessary. *Tomiodendron* is known from the Serpukhovian of the Angara Floral Realm and very tentatively we can assign a similar age at the Mississippian-Pennsylvanian boundary to the Paracas flora. *Tomiodendron* combines a ligula with an infrafoliar bladder, anatomical features which are common in the Amerosinian (tropical) and Gondwana Realm (cool temperate) respectively. In addition, stem diameters of Paracas lycopods are intermediate in size between mean diameters in the tropics (60 cm.) and cool temperate climate (5 cm.)- We conclude that the Paracas flora represents the warm temperate flora of the southern hemisphere of Carboniferous time and propose the name Hauri Floral Realm.