The Rodeo de la Bordalesa Tonalite Dykes as a Lower Devonian Magmatic Event: Geochemical and Isotopic Age Constraints

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Abstract One of the ‘pre-Carboniferous units’ from the San Rafael Block is the sedimentary Río Seco de los Castaños Formation, which is distributed in isolated outcrops within the Block. At the Rodeo de la Bordalesa area two small intrusives in the mentioned unit were mapped, composed of tonalitic rocks, lamprophyre (‘spessartite-kersantite’) and aplite dykes. We present in this paper, geochemical and isotopic data from the gray tonalitic rocks with abundant mafic enclaves and late magmatic aplite veins. The country rocks are a folded sequence of feldspathic sandstones, wackes, and shales. The Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite dykes are characterized by high to medium potassium concentration, with metaluminous composition and I-type calc-alkaline signature. The 401 ± 4 Ma U–Pb zircon age corresponds to the emplacement time and it is confirmed by the K–Ar biotite age.

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© Springer International Publishing AG 2017
C.A. Cingolani (ed.), Pre-Carboniferous Evolution of the San Rafael Block, Argentina, Springer Earth System Sciences, DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-50153-6_12
The Rb–Sr whole rocks and biotite age of 374 ± 4 Ma could be related to deformation during the ‘Chanic’ tectonic phase. Nd model ages ($T_{DM}$) show an interval between 1 and 1.6 Ga, indicating Mesoproterozoic age derivation, whereas the negative $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ is typical from crustal sources. The crystallization age for the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite corresponds to a Lower Devonian time and suggests that part of the Late Famatinian magmatic event is present in the San Rafael Block. The dykes are contemporaneous with the large peraluminous batholith in Pampeanas Ranges, with the transpressional shear belts during ‘Achalian’ event and could be correlated with the Devonian magmatism present in the southern part of the Frontal Cordillera. The geochemical and geochronological data allow us to differentiate the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite from the mafic rocks exposed at the El Nihuil area.

Keywords San Rafael Block · Tonalite dykes · Geochronology · Lower Devonian · Magmatic event

1 Introduction

The San Rafael Block (SRB) lies in west-central Mendoza province, Argentine (35° S–68°30′W), and has SSE-NNW structural Cenozoic trend in the pre-Andean region. To the North and South the Cuyo and Neuquén sedimentary basins bound it, respectively. To the East the SRB passes into the Pampean plains vanishing under the modern basaltic back arc volcanism and sedimentary cover; the boundary to the West is defined by the Andean foothill (Fig. 1). Paleontological and geological

![Fig. 1](image-url) Regional geological sketch map of the San Rafael Block and location of the Rodeo de la Bordalesa study region
evidence allow interpreting the SRB as a southern extension of the Cuyania terrane (Ramos 2004 and references there in). Diverse igneous-metamorphic and sedimentary units of Precambrian to Middle Paleozoic age are present and are known as ‘pre-Carboniferous units’ since they are located below the Upper Paleozoic regional unconformity (Dessanti 1956).

One of these units is the sedimentary Río Seco de los Castaños Formation, which is distributed in isolated outcrops within the SRB (Fig. 1). At the Rodeo de la Bordalesa area, Dessanti (1956) mapped two small intrusives composed of tonalitic rocks, lamprophyre (‘spessartite-kersantite’), and aplite dykes.

We present here, geochemical and isotopic data from Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite intrusive rocks that contribute to characterize and constrain the emplacement of these magmatic rocks, as well as to the knowledge of the correlation of the Late Famatinian event in western Argentina. The sample locations are shown in Fig. 2.

2 Geological Background

The Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite was first described as intruded in the ‘La Horqueta Series’ by Dessanti (1956) and mentioned by Davicino and Sabalúa (1990) as tonalite dikes (‘trondjhemites’) emplaced in La Horqueta sequence. After González Díaz (1964, 1981), Cuerda and Cingolani (1998) and Cingolani et al. (2003) works, the area was remapped and tonalites host rocks were assigned to the Río Seco de los Castaños Formation (Manassero et al. 2009; Cingolani et al. 2011, this volume). The Río Seco de los Castaños Formation (RSC) outcrops at (Fig. 1):

a. Road 144-Rodeo de la Bordalesa: locations, where Rubinstein (1997) found Silurian acritarchs and other microfossils, and trace fossils were mentioned by several authors (Criado Roqué and Ibáñez 1979; Poiré et al. 1998; Pazos et al. 2015). Cingolani et al. (2003) as preliminary work, constraints the isotopic age and composition of the tonalitic intrusive body;

b. Atuel River creek: this is the type section of the sequence, near Valle Grande area (González Díaz 1964). The beds are folded and show dipping of 50°–72° to the SE or NE. c. El Nihuil area: comprise a sedimentary sequence close to the Mesoproterozoic basement and to the Ordovician mafic rocks called ‘El Nihuil Mafic Unit’ (Cingolani et al. 2003). d. Lomitas Negras and Agua del Blanco areas: comprise the southern outcrops of RSC, where Di Persia (1972) mentioned a coral (Pleurodactyum) of Devonian age and conglomerates with limestone clasts bearing Ordovician fossils.

The Rodeo de la Bordalesa intrusive rock crops out near the deactivated railroad tracks (‘Ferrocarril General San Martín’), as a gray tonalitic body with abundant mafic enclaves (less than 30 cm) and comprising 10–30 cm thick late magmatic aplite veins (Fig. 2a–d). At this area the RSC is a folded sequence of feldspathic sandstones, wackes, and shales (Cingolani et al. 2003; Manassero et al. 2009).
Fig. 2 Image showing the geological sketch map with stratigraphic column of Rodeo de la Bordalesa region. **a, c** Intrusive field relationship between the tonalite (RBT) and Río Seco de los Castaños Formation (RSC). **b** Inclusions in the tonalite. **d** The tonalite rocks intruded by aplite veins. FCGSM: railroad tracks
Previous geochronological data yielded biotite K–Ar ages of 475 ± 17 Ma and 452 ± 8 Ma (González 1971; González Díaz 1981) for the intrusive rocks, which are in disagreement with the intrusive character into Silurian-Lower Devonian country rocks.

3 Petrography and Geochemistry Aspects

The Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite consists of small laminar bodies intruded into the RSC unit; these intrusives are either parallel or crosscut the stratification, and although their composition is similar, they have different textures. The largest one (ca. 70 m thick) is close to the old railroad tracks and its country rocks (feldspathic sandstones, wackes and shales) develop a metamorphic contact characterized by recrystallized biotite and minor muscovite (Fig. 3). The tonalite shows a medium-grained equigranular texture and it is composed of zoned plagioclase (average An40), green amphibole (sometimes with a core of clinopyroxene), biotite, and interstitial quartz. Zircon and apatite are present as accessory minerals (Fig. 4). The other body also intrudes the RSC and crops out northward of the previously described; it consists of dykes and small irregular bodies of porphyritic tonalite. Phenocrysts consist of zoned plagioclase (average An 50), scarce clinopyroxene surrounded by amphibole and biotite. The groundmass is composed of plagioclase, scarce biotite, and interstitial quartz.

Five samples (Table 1) were analyzed for major, trace and rare earth elements (ACTLABS, Canada). They plot in the TAS diagram adapted to plutonic rocks by Bellieni et al. (1995) into the field of tonalites (Fig. 5). Modal composition indicates an I-type signature and in the AFM diagram (Irvine and Baragar 1971) samples show a calc-alkaline trend (Fig. 6a). They are characterized by high to medium potassium concentrations (after Peccerillo and Taylor 1976); with A/CK index ranging from 0.90 to 0.95 they are regarded as metaluminous rocks (Fig. 6b).

The extended multielement diagram normalized to primitive mantle (Taylor and McLennan 1985) show depression of Nb and Ti and low enrichment of HFSE, typical of calc-alkaline series (Fig. 7a). The REE patterns show LREE enrichment and flat HREE behavior, also characteristic of calc-alkaline rocks (Fig. 7b).

To constrain the tectonic environment of emplacement three discrimination diagrams were applied (Fig. 8), from which it is deduced that the tonalites intruded within an active continental margin since they plot in the field of volcanic arc granitoids (Fig. 8a) from Pearce et al. (1984), while in the Whalen et al. (1987) diagram plot into the I-type field (Fig. 8b). Furthermore, Harris et al. (1986) diagram allows the discrimination of pre-collisional calc-alkaline arc-related granitoids from syn- to post-collisional intrusions and within plate intrusions. In this regard, the late- and post-collisional character of samples from the Rodeo de la Bordalesa (Fig. 8c) agree well with an emplacement within the RSC folded sedimentary rocks afterwards the ‘Chanic’ tectonic phase.
Fig. 3 Representative photomicrographs of the RSC hornfels at the contact with the tonalite rocks. *Pl* plagioclase; *Qz* quartz; *Fd* K-feldspar; *B* biotite. *Zr* zircon. The abundance of recrystallized biotite is evident.
Fig. 4 Photomicrographs of the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite samples showing equigranular texture. Pl zoned plagioclase; Hb hornblende; Qz quartz; Fd K-feldspar; B biotite, Zr zircon
Table 1 Geochemical data (ACTLABS, Canada) of the studied samples. Major elements in wt% and trace elements (including REE) in ppm.

| Sample | SiO₂ | TiO₂ | Al₂O₃ | Fe₂O₃ | MnO | MgO | CaO | Na₂O | K₂O | P₂O₅ | LOI | Total | SiO₂an | Na₂Oan | KOan | TAS | FeOt |
|--------|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-------|--------|--------|------|-----|-----|
| LRB1   | 60.08| 0.67 | 16.48 | 5.91  | 0.1 | 3.74| 5.16| 3.15 | 2.55| 0.17 | 1.85| 99.86  | 60.16  | 3.15  | 2.55 | 5.71| 5.32|
| LRB2   | 57.1 | 0.81 | 16.04 | 7.11  | 0.12| 4.85| 5.73| 3.26 | 2   | 0.17 | 2.77| 99.96  | 57.12  | 3.26  | 2.00 | 5.26| 6.40|
| LRB3   | 54.9 | 0.71 | 17.2  | 6.7   | 0.11| 4.32| 6.35| 3.12 | 2.18| 0.18 | 4.65| 100.4 | 54.68  | 3.11  | 2.17 | 5.28| 6.03|
| LRB4   | 58.81| 0.79 | 16.44 | 7.18  | 0.11| 4.46| 5.77| 3.27 | 2.2  | 0.2  | 1.66| 100.9 | 58.30  | 3.24  | 2.18 | 5.42| 6.46|
| RB5    | 57.4 | 0.73 | 18.19 | 6.79  | 0.12| 2.76| 6.44| 3.41 | 1.79| 0.25 | 0.92| 98.79  | 58.10  | 3.45  | 1.81 | 5.26| 6.11|

| Sample | Sr | Cs | Rb | Ba | Th | U | Ta | Nb | Ce | Zr | Hf | Y | V | Cr | Co | Ni | Ga | Tl | Pb | Sc |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| LRB1   | 432 | 7.6 | 98 | 662 | 8.14 | 2.52 | 1.16 | 8.9 | 50.5 | 137 | 3.8 | 20 | 124 | 116 | 23 | 28 | 20 | 0.56 | 16 | 20 |
| LRB2   | 469 | 4.6 | 68 | 618 | 5.7 | 1.52 | 0.96 | 7.2 | 41.4 | 116 | 3.3 | 20 | 172 | 141 | 33 | 33 | 18 | 0.44 | -5 | 25 |
| LRB3   | 449 | 4.7 | 74 | 589 | 5.53 | 1.72 | 0.86 | 6.5 | 39.2 | 116 | 3.2 | 19 | 140 | 73 | 24 | 22 | 18 | 0.59 | 13 | 22 |
| LRB4   | 409 | 5.1 | 72 | 522 | 6.15 | 1.64 | 1.05 | 7.2 | 39.4 | 112 | 3.1 | 19 | 141 | 112 | 17 | 22 | 15 | 0.13 | -5 | 21 |
| RB5    | 474 | 1.5 | 48 | 594 | 2.91 | 0.79 | 1.4  | 7.5 | 33.6 | 120 | 2.9 | 17 | 92  | 34  | 17 | 17 | 0.07 | 15 |    |

| Sample | La | Ce | Pr | Nd | Sm | Eu | Gd | Tb | Dy | Ho | Er | Tm | Yb | Lu |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| LRB1   | 25.3 | 50.5 | 5.793 | 23 | 4.76 | 1.141 | 4.03 | 0.62 | 3.4 | 0.67 | 2.1 | 0.321 | 1.89 | 0.291 |
| LRB2   | 20 | 41.4 | 4.868 | 20.1 | 4.33 | 1.153 | 3.68 | 0.6 | 3.36 | 0.68 | 2.12 | 0.324 | 1.9 | 0.299 |
| LRB3   | 19.1 | 39.2 | 4.599 | 19.2 | 4.25 | 1.141 | 3.45 | 0.56 | 3.29 | 0.66 | 2.08 | 0.301 | 1.88 | 0.301 |
| LRB4   | 20.1 | 39.4 | 4.625 | 19.1 | 4.02 | 1.038 | 3.41 | 0.57 | 3.22 | 0.65 | 2.03 | 0.301 | 1.8 | 0.288 |
| RB5    | 16.7 | 33.6 | 3.96 | 16.4 | 3.36 | 1.21 | 3.3 | 0.5 | 2.92 | 0.61 | 1.82 | 0.275 | 1.72 | 0.265 |
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Fig. 5 TAS diagram modified by Bellieni et al. (1995)

Fig. 6 a Ternary AFM diagram. b A/CNK discrimination diagram after Maniar and Piccoli (1989)

Fig. 7 a Multielements spider-diagram normalized to primitive mantle. SiO₂ content of each sample is shown. b Chondrite normalized REE diagram for the five samples
All these characteristics allowed us to differentiate the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite from the tholeiitic mafic rocks (mainly gabbros, amphibolites and porphyritic dolerites) exposed at the El Nihuil area (Cingolani et al. 2000).

4 Isotopic Data

To constrain the age of the Rodeo de la Bordalesa intrusive rocks new U–Pb, K–Ar, Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd data have been obtained, in addition to the Ordovician biotite K–Ar dates reported by González (1971) and González Díaz (1981) and Middle Devonian age (whole rock 380 ± 20 Ma) by Linares et al. (1987).

a. U–Pb (ID-TIMS): The procedure for U–Pb zircon analyses at Centro de Pesquisas Geocronológicas, Instituto de Geociencias, USP (Brazil) is as follow: After 10 kg of sample were crushed and reduced to 140–200-mesh grain-sizes the portion rich in heavy minerals was treated with bromoform ($d = 2.89$ g/cm³) and methyl iodide ($d = 3.3$ g/cm³), and the fraction containing the heavy minerals was processed in the Frantz separator at 1.5 A and split in several zircon-rich magnetic fractions. The final purification of each fraction was done by handpicking. The dissolution of the zircon crystals was carried out with HF and HNO₃ in Teflon micro bombs in which a mixed $^{205}$Pb/$^{235}$U spike was added. A set of 15 micro bombs arranged in a metal jacket is left for three days in a stove at 200 °C. Then, the HF is evaporated and HCl (6 N) added to the micro bombs, replaced in the stove for 24 h. After the evaporation of HCl 6 N, the residue is dissolved in HCl (3 N). U and Pb are concentrated and purified by passing the solution in an anionic exchange resin column. The solution enriched in U and Pb is, after addition of phosphoric acid, evaporated until the formation of a microdrop. The sample is deposed in a rhenium filament and the isotopic composition is determined with Finnigan MAT 262 solid source mass spectrometer. After reduction of the data (PBDAT), the results (Table 2) are plotted in appropriate diagrams using the software ISOPLOT/EX (Ludwig 1999, 2001).
Table 2  U–Pb (ID-TIMS) analytical data from CPGeo, Sao Paulo, Brazil. The studied sample is LRB1

| SPU | 207/235# | Error (%) | 206/238# | Error (%) | 207/206# | Error (%) | 206/204* Pb (ppm) | U (ppm) | Weight (mg) | 206/238 Age |
|-----|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| 1927| 0.498825 | 0.81      | 0.064676 | 0.79      | 0.05594  | 0.160     | 882               | 17.1    | 251.5       | 0.0703      | 404         |
| 1928| 0.497372 | 0.99      | 0.06454  | 0.97      | 0.05589  | 0.174     | 754               | 13.3    | 196.4       | 0.0672      | 403         |
| 1929| 0.488365 | 0.55      | 0.064299 | 0.54      | 0.05509  | 0.109     | 2482              | 17.8    | 269.7       | 0.0727      | 402         |
| 1930| 0.492999 | 1.03      | 0.064428 | 0.99      | 0.05550  | 0.245     | 886               | 12.2    | 183.2       | 0.0703      | 403         |

SPU Laboratory number
(M-5) Magnetic fractions Numbers in parentheses indicated the tilt used on Frantz at 1.5 amp. current
# Radiogenic Pb corrected for blank and initial Pb; U corrected for blank
*Not corrected for blank or nonradiogenic Pb
Total U and Pb concentrations corrected for analytical blank
Ages given in Ma using Ludwig Isoplot/Ex program (2000), decay constants by Steiger and Jager (1977)
As we can see on the Concordia diagram (Fig. 9) the U–Pb average age obtained in four zircon fractions by ID-TIMS is $401 \pm 4$ Ma and that corresponds to Early Devonian (Emsian) time (IUGS International Stratigraphic Chart 2015).

b. K–Ar: Biotite fresh minerals were separated from one tonalite sample (RB-04) and dated using the K–Ar methodology at the Centro de Pesquisas Geocronológicas, Instituto de Geociencias, USP (Brazil), and the duplicate obtained data are presented in Table 3. The biotite gave an age of $401 \pm 17$ Ma. This value is very close and confirms the zircon U–Pb (ID-TIMS) age.

c. Rb–Sr: The Rb–Sr method was applied using five whole rock samples from the main tonalite outcrop near de railroad tracks. The biotite separate from one whole rock was also used. Rb and Sr XRF analyses as well as the mass spectrometry for Sr were carried out at the Laboratorio de Geologia Isotópica, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (Brazil). The sample preparation and extraction of natural Sr through cation exchange columns were performed at the Centro de Investigaciones Geológicas, Universidad Nacional de

![U-Pb Concordia diagram](image)

**Fig. 9** U–Pb Concordia diagram. The inset show photographs under microscope of some dated zircon crystals with 300–450 µ size

| Lab No | Field No. | Mineral | Rock type | K (%) | Error (%) | $^{40}\text{ArRad}$ | $^{40}\text{ArAtm}$ (%) | Age (Ma) | Error (Ma) |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| 7731   | RB-04A21  | Biotite | Tonalite   | 6.2488| 3.0413    | 108.95          | 6.24           | 401.30  | 17.10     |

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**Table 3** K–Ar analytical data from CPGeo, São Paulo, Brazil

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La Plata. As it is shown in Table 4, the samples show low Rb (40–60 ppm) and high Sr contents (300–500 ppm), with a low Rb/Sr ratio (0.10–0.20). Rb–Sr whole rock diagram (Fig. 10) shows an alignment of five samples within a very low range of $^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ (0.24–0.61), and defines an ‘age’ of 600 ± 100 Ma with an IR: 0.7043. Because the error is too high we utilized a biotite separation as Rb-rich mineral. For the biotite sample the Rb/Sr ratio is 26. The age obtained with the five whole rocks and the biotite is 374 ± 4 Ma, with an IR: 0.7056 ± 0.0006 as we can see on the diagram from Fig. 10.

d. Sm–Nd: To apply the Sm–Nd method, five whole rock tonalitic samples (RB1–RB 5) were used (Table 5). The isotope dilution technique for Sm–Nd analyses (using a combined $^{149}$Sm–$^{150}$Nd spike) as well as the mass spectrometry for Sm and Nd were carried out at the Laboratorio de Geología Isotópica, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (Brazil). The isotopic ratios were measured using the VG 354 mass spectrometer with multiple collector system. The samples do not define an acceptable alignment. The model ages ($T_{DM}$) calculated according to DePaolo (1981) for the whole rock samples are in the range of 1 and 1.6 Ga. The $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ (400 Ma) for these samples is in between −4.45 and −10.20, indicating crustal source (Fig. 11).

Table 4  Rb–Sr analytical data

| Field No. | Lab. No. | Rb (ppm) | Sr (ppm) | $^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ | Error | $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ | Error |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 01LRB1    | CIG 1248 | 52.9     | 506.6    | 0.3023                        | 0.006 | 0.707074                      | 0.000021 |
| 01LRB2    | CIG1249  | 40.8     | 488      | 0.242                         | 0.0048 | 0.706387                      | 0.000019 |
| 01LRB10   | CIG1251  | 54.7     | 464      | 0.3413                        | 0.0068 | 0.70719                       | 0.00002 |
| 01LRB16   | CIG 1252 | 64.6     | 306.6    | 0.6101                        | 0.0122 | 0.709615                      | 0.000021 |
| 01LRB21   | CIG1253  | 52.3     | 415.5    | 0.3644                        | 0.0073 | 0.707392                      | 0.000023 |
| Biotite   | CIG 1268 | 313.07   | 19.49    | 47.64                         | 0.24   | 0.959464                      | 0.000294 |

Fig. 10  Rb–Sr isochron diagram using whole rock samples and biotite
5 Concluding Remarks

Based on the newly obtained data the following statements can be made:

- The Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite dykes at San Rafael Block are characterized by high to medium potassium contents, with a metaluminous character and I-type calc-alkaline signature. It forms part of a magmatism that could be related to a post-collisional tectonic event.

- We interpret the ca. 400 Ma U–Pb zircon age obtained within a concordia diagram, as the crystallization age which corresponds to the emplacement time. This data are confirmed by the K–Ar biotite age. The Ordovician K–Ar ages (González 1971) are not supported by our geochronological data and are also not consistent with the RSC paleontological record (Cingolani et al. this volume).

![Fig. 11 The εNd evolution diagram of samples at t = 400 Ma](image)

Table 5 Sm–Nd analytical data

| Field No. | Sm  | Nd  | $^{147}$Sm/$^{144}$Nd | $^{147}$Nd/$^{144}$Nd | Error | $\varepsilon_{Nd}$ (0) | Age | $\varepsilon_{Nd}$ (t) | $T_{DM}$ (Ga) |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|---------------|
| RB-1      | 4.02| 18.66| 0.130219             | 0.512406             | 10    | −4.52                | 400 | −0.70                | 1.2           |
| RB-2      | 2.93| 15.06| 0.117629             | 0.512410             | 25    | −4.45                | 400 | 0.10                 | 1.0           |
| RB-3      | 3.79| 19.15| 0.119617             | 0.512354             | 15    | −5.55                | 400 | −1.12                | 1.1           |
| RB-4      | 3.88| 18.92| 0.124118             | 0.512115             | 240   | −10.20               | 400 | −6.04                | 1.6           |
| RB-5      | 3.78| 18.78| 0.121827             | 0.512381             | 20    | −5.02                | 400 | −0.72                | 1.1           |
The Rb–Sr whole rocks and biotite age of 374 ± 4 Ma, could be linked to the ‘Chanic’ tectonic phase, in agreement with other geochronological data (Toubes and Spikermann 1976, 1979). Cingolani and Varela (2008) presented a Rb–Sr isochronic whole rock age of 336 ± 23 Ma for the anchimetamorphic event that affected the Río Seco de los Castaños unit, implying an Early Carboniferous (Mississippian) low-grade metamorphism for the RSC. Tickyj et al. (2001), based on similar isotopic studies determined isochronic whole rock ages ranging from 371 ± 62 to 379 ± 15 Ma for the La Horqueta sequence, from which suggested an Upper Devonian low-grade metamorphism. Similar data were obtained in metasedimentary rocks from Precordillera (Cucchi 1971; Buggish et al. 1994; Ramos et al. 1998; Davis et al. 1999) that strongly suggests Upper Devonian-Lower Carboniferous age for the synmetamorphic ductile deformation in the western side of Cuyania terrane in connection with the ‘Chanic’ tectonic phase.

– Nd model ages (TDM) show an interval between 1 and 1.6 Ga that corresponds to Mesoproterozoic age derivation and the negative εNd is in accordance to crustal sources.

– The crystallization age for the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite dykes corresponds to a Lower Devonian time (Pragian-Emsian boundary) according to IUGS time scale and suggests that part of the Late Famatinian magmatic event is present in the San Rafael Block. The tonalite rocks are contemporaneous with the large peraluminous batholith exposed in Pampean Ranges (Rapela et al. 1992; Dahlquist et al. 2014), with the transpressional shear belts during ‘Achalian’ event (Sims et al. 1998); it could be as well correlated with the Devonian magmatism present in Pampa de los Avestruces (Tickyj et al. 2009) in the southern part of the Frontal Cordillera and some places studied recently by Tickyj et al. (2015) near Agua Escondida Mine District in the southern sector of the SRB.

– The geochemical and geochronological data allow us to differentiate the Rodeo de la Bordalesa tonalite from the mafic rocks (mainly porphyritic dolerites with tholeiitic signature) exposed at the El Nihuil area.

Acknowledgements Field and laboratory work was financed by PIP-CONICET grants 647 and 199. We thank Ricardo Varela for Rb–Sr whole rock laboratory preparation. Diego Licitra, Leonardo Ortiz and Natalia Hernández helped us in field work, mineralogical separation, and petrographical descriptions. We acknowledge to Mario Campaña for technical assistance. To Alejandro Capelli for kind permission to access at the outcrops near the deactivated railroad tracks (‘Ferrocarril General San Martín’). Domingo Solorza from Puesto Cortaderas, helped us in a field work activities.

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