Record Nr.	UNINA9910437785203321
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Titolo	Biogeography of the quaternary molluscs of the southwestern Atlantic Ocean / / Sergio Martinez, Claudia J. del Rio, Alejandra Rojas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Springer, 2013
ISBN	94-007-6055-8
Edizione	[1st ed. 2013.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (40 p.)
Collana	SpringerBriefs in Earth System Sciences, , 2191-589X
Altri autori (Persone)	RioClaudia J. del RojasAlejandra <1958->
Disciplina	564
Soggetti	Mollusks - Atlantic Ocean Biogeography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction Present oceanographic conditions Present biogeographical units Neogene roots Quaternary mollusks Outline and MethodsPrevious studiesSpecies distribution Faunal boundaries during the Quaternary Final remarks.
Sommario/riassunto	The Quaternary comprises a brief time in the Earth's history, and apart from a few exceptions, molluscan assemblages recovered from exposures along the coast of Southwestern South America (Southern Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina) are essentially the same than those that inhabit the region today, leading to the assumption that no important change in the distribution of the faunas since Pleistocene times has occurred. However, the good taxonomic and temporal resolution reached in the last years, allowed us to detect some biogeographic changes, although traditional biogeographic units remain the same (i.e. Magellanic and Argentinean Provinces). These modifications involve mainly variations in the taxonomic composition of the assemblages and in the southern boundaries of some species distributions (extralimital species), today retracted northwards. These changes are related to southward shifts of the warm waters of the Brazilian Current, correlated with global warm peaks. This phenomenon was more intense in the Late Pleistocene (MIS 5e) and in the Holocene between ca. 6500-3500 14C yr.

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