

INTRUSIONS NEAR ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

By

Evans B. Mayo

Department of Geology, University of Arizona

Recent field work by Robert E. Colby, graduate student in the Department of Geology, University of Arizona, has disclosed three small andesitic intrusions and a somewhat larger basaltic one in the vicinity of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson Mountain Park. The basaltic intrusion is distant about 400 yards northwest of the Museum; the andesitic ones are from a quarter to perhaps one-half a mile southwest of the Museum enclosure.

Because of their interest as examples of intrusive action, and because the exposures are reasonably good, the writer has made a preliminary investigation of the andesitic intrusions, mapping them on a scale of approximately fifty feet to the inch. The two larger intrusions average perhaps 300 feet in length, northwest-southeast, and 100 feet in maximum width. They are lens-shaped in horizontal section, and seem to have the form of elongated, asymmetrical domes, overturned toward the east.

These little masses were intruded into coarse-grained, gray, pinkish gray and purplish gray sandstones that appear to be part of the Cretaceous Recreation red beds. Measurements of the attitudes of bedding marginal to the intrusions yield a pattern that strongly suggests that the intrusions have lifted the sediments and have forced them aside.

It is hoped that further studies of these interesting features will continue as opportunity allows.