Abstract
The first topic discussed in this paper is the actual morphology of the Tehuelche living spaces in the Patagonian landscape and their variants (summer and winter leather shelters in their original and derived forms). It is accepted that the cupula-form model is the original, which consists of two large symmetrical halves that join in an ideal plane in a north-south orientation, known as "transversal". From this, two further models were derived: the atenuated symmetrical model with a reduced western side, proper to South Patagonia, and the Pampean leather shelter. The latter case is the result of the expansion of the transversal plane that would have been translated into a relative shortening of the primitive form of a half leather shelter. Furthermore, lateral leather covers were added as a complement to the large, single covers of the original Patagonian leather shelter. Hence, the so-called "original" (primario) model would have been equivalent to the wind shelters (paravientos) documented by the first chroniclers, especially on the Atlantic coast and the Magallanes Strait, which were considered to be summer leather shelters. Complementarily, the relationships between other models are also discussed, such as those related to Ona, Yamana and Alacalufe living spaces and, in continental Patagonia, the Pehuelches' leather shelters in the Andean mountain range. Aspects of their cosmovision, symbolised by the morphology of the leather shelters under study, are given special consideration.