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THE ANGIOSPERM COMPONENTS OF THE CRATO FORMATION, LOWER CRETACEOUS, NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

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Angiosperms are relatively diverse in the Crato Formation, with probably more than 30 taxa. However, compared to the remains of ferns and gymnosperms they are rare. The preservation of these angiosperms is unusual in that besides detached leaves, also axes with attached leaves and flowers are present, and in rare cases organic tissue is preserved that allows detailed studies on floral organs and cellular structures. Several groups of angiosperms are well represented, mainly belonging to the magnoliids. Members of the ANITA grade, e.g. the Nymphaeales, are clearly present with two or more taxa, most likely belonging to the Cabombaceae and the Nymphaeaceae. Monocotyledons seem to be present as well. One taxon, previously described as *Trifurcatia flabellata* (now *Klitzschophyllites flabellata*) might have been a monocot adapted to extreme environmental conditions. A second new taxon might be with affinities to the Bromeliaceae. Magnolian angiosperms seem to dominate the macroflora. Among these, *Endressinia brasiliiana* shows several characters, such as apocarpous carpels, and glanduliferous staminodes that are seen today in the Eupomatiaceae. Another taxon, *Araripia florifera*, exhibits features that are consistent with those of basal Laurales and/or basal magnolianians. Eudicots are most likely present as well. According to the pollen record, several taxa of tricolpate pollen, typical for the eudicots were recorded, such as *Tricolpites vulgaris*, *Penetrapites incipiens* and *Quadricolpites reticulata*. *Contribution to the Project FAPESP 03/09407-4