

MORPHOMETRIC STUDY OF KARSTIC FEATURES IN IRECÊ BASIN, BAHIA, BRAZIL

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The area around Iraquara city situated in Chapada Diamantina Region, Central Bahia is characterised by a karstic plateau between 600 and 800m in altitude, near to Santo Antônio River, surrounded by terrigenous hills, some higher than 1000m, without a continuous and organized network of fluvial channels. A geomorphologic mapping (1:25,000) of southern part of Irecê Basin revealed closed depressions, poljes, surges, dry valleys and sink streams as the main features of the landscapes. Morphometric analysis of closed depressions allow to quantify planimetric parameters such as density, preferred main axis orientation, width/length ratio, planimetric area and perimeter, pitting and circularity indexes on a superficial area of 492km² and 1.7 depressions per km². The indexes described for these parameters showed a considerable degree of influence of conduits and geologic structures in the distribution, form and size of the features in different parts of studied area.