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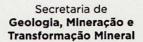


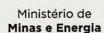




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The Água Bonita Basin: an Early Paleozoic transcontinental seaway in central Brazil

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The Agua Bonita Basin is located in central Brazil, halfway between the large Paraná and Parnaíba intracratonic basins. With about 10 km wide and 90 km long, the basin follows the general NE-oriented trend of the Transbrasiliano Fault System (TBFS). A recent investigation of the basin has revealed facies distribution consistent with a marine incursion from northeast to southwest, an idea corroborated by paleocurrent data, which preferred orientation parallels the orientation of the basin suggesting that sediment transport followed a trough controlled by the TBFS. The sedimentary fill of the basin was divided into two units: the Agua Bonita Formation, a basal, essentially rudaceous-psamitic unit with aeolian, transitional and marine deposits, partly under glacial influence; and the overlying, pelitic. Vereda Verde Formation, with deltaic and marine deposits. In the region of the basin occurs the Araguaçu Formation, with glacial diamictites, which are also related to the new recognized occurrence of a subglacial pavement. The two units of the Água Bonita Basin were considered as correlated to the sequences of the Ordovician-Silurian cycle of the Paraná (Rio Ivaí Group) and Parnaíba (Serra Grande Group) basins, while the Araguaçu Formation as a record of the Permo-Carboniferous glaciation, as suggested by the sense of movement of the glacier. The presence of marine sediments corroborates the idea that this tectonic depression in central Brazil has been a transcontinental seaway which connected the north and south coasts of Gondwana during the Llandoverian marine transgression, in congruence with previous models supported by paleofaunistic data.

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