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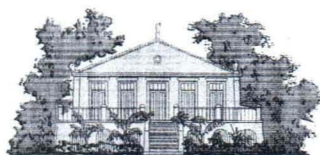
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ABSTRACTS

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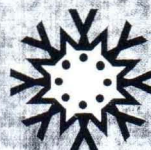
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NEOPROTEROZOIC-CAMBRIAN CARBONATE-SILICICLASTIC DEEP-SEA DEPOSITS AND MICROFOSSILS OF THE ARAGUAIA BELT, SOUTHEASTERN AMAZONIAN CRATON, BRAZIL

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Precambrian sedimentary deposits are described along the Brasiliano/Pan-African Araguaia Belt (Hasui *et al.*, 1984, Alvarenga *et al.*, 2000), situated on the southeastern margin of the Amazonian Craton. Preliminary facies and micropaleontological analysis were carried out in cores provided by WMC Resources Ltd., drilled in carbonate and siliciclastic rocks from the São Martim region, northern Brazil. These rocks rest unconformably on Archaean banded iron deposits and are attributable to the Couto Magalhães Formation (Tocantins Group). They are interpreted as platform slope apron deposits that consist in three facies associations: i) basin floor, constituted mostly of pelagic nodular lime mudstones and shales, ii) lower slope turbidites, represented by predominantly fine-grained sandstone and mudstone; and iii) upper slope turbidites comprising rudaceous carbonates (floatstones and rudstones) and coarse- to fine-grained sandstones. Most of the sediments were accumulated by suspension settling processes and gravity flows. Recurrence of brittle and plastic deformational structures within the succession could be explained by multiple seismic events. The investigation of 26 palynologic slides of the basin floor deposits identified a planktonic microfossiliferous assemblage that corroborates the deep-sea interpretation for these rocks. The assemblage suggests a Neoproterozoic to Lower Cambrian age and comprises: i) *Leiosphaeridia*, ii) cyanobacteria, iii) *Obruchevella*, and possibly iv) foraminifera. The succession from the São Martim region is here tentatively correlated with the one described southward, along the Paraguay Belt (Hidalgo *et al.*, this volume) and permits to extend the Terminal Proterozoic carbonate sedimentation to the entire eastern margin of the Amazonian Craton. These results have strong implications for the understanding of the tectonic and sedimentary evolution of the Amazonian Craton.

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