

THE "KARROO SYSTEM" IN ANGOLA (WESTERN AFRICA)

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Rocks considered equivalent to the "Karoo System" in Angola occupy an area of about 110,000 km², with thickness reaching upto about 500 m.

They occur extensively in the Baixa do Cassanje graben and as narrow strips generally included along tectonic valleys in the northeastern part of Angola, which seem to be part of the huge Congo Basin.

On basis of mapping and measurement of stratigraphic sections the Karroo sequence of the Baixa do Cassanje area may be subdivided into three lithologic units as follows (bottom to top) :

- a. Unit A : composed of red diamictites and sandstones, some with "dropped" clasts bearing impressions of *Glossopteris* flora (= Lutôe Series, Mouta, 1954) ;
- b. Unit B : made up of light green-gray, medium to fine sandstone, siltstone, shales, and medium gray laminites bearing fossil plants and fish and conchostracan faunas (= Lower and Upper Cassanje Stages, Cassanje Series, Mouta, 1954) ;
- c. Unit C : made up of red, medium to fine sandstones, siltstones and shales with conchostracans (= Upper Cassanje Stage, Cassanje Séries, Mouta, 1954).

The facies of the sedimentary sequence is entirely continental including deposition in glacial environment (Unit A), lacustrine and flood plain (Unit B) and flood plain (Unit C). The interpretation of a glacial mode of origin for Unit A is based on the occurrence of diamictites with clasts bearing striae of the glacial type, at one locality concentrated between two diamictites as a boulder pavement. Available data on the sense of movement of Gondwaná glaciers in Angola indicate flow towards NW.

Paleontological data on the age of the sequence is still insufficient and the sequence may span the interval Upper Carboniferous-Lower Permian.