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ANAIS DE RESUMOS

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PUTATIVE EUDICOTYLEDON ANGIOSPERMS FROM THE EARLY CRETACEOUS OF BRAZIL

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During the late Early Cretaceous rapid radiation of basal eudicotyledon clades seems to have taken place, as evidenced by the pollen record. While Albian sediments clearly contain unequivocal eudicot macrofossils, such as Platanaceae, in Aptian strata eudicots are much more rare and partly difficult to interpret. The Crato flora of late Aptian to earliest Albian age contains a relatively diverse angiosperm flora, dominated by basal angiosperm taxa. These comprise members of Nymphaeales, Magnoliales, and monocotyledons, possibly also Chlorantales and Laurales. Eudicots were certainly also present, as evidenced by tricolpate pollen. Small herbaceous plant fossils with irregularly segmented leaves and relatively large flowering structures consisting of several apocarpous carpels of up to 2 cm in length with well preserved fibers and clearly visible suture, may be considered to belong to the Ranunculales. Nelumbonales may have been also preserved. One specimen, most likely a herbaceous aquatic plant, seems to have horizontal rhizomes with attached roots. The leaves are large and (sub)peltate. Single flowering structures sit on a well developed pedicel. Platanaceae also may have been present. The putative Platanaceae fossil consists of axes that exhibit several clusters of small flowers. It is not clear whether the clusters may represent male or female flowers. * Contribution to de FAPESP Project 03/09407-4 : Estudo paleoflorístico do Membro Crato, Formação Santana, Eocretáceo da bacia do Araripe, Nordeste do Brasil.