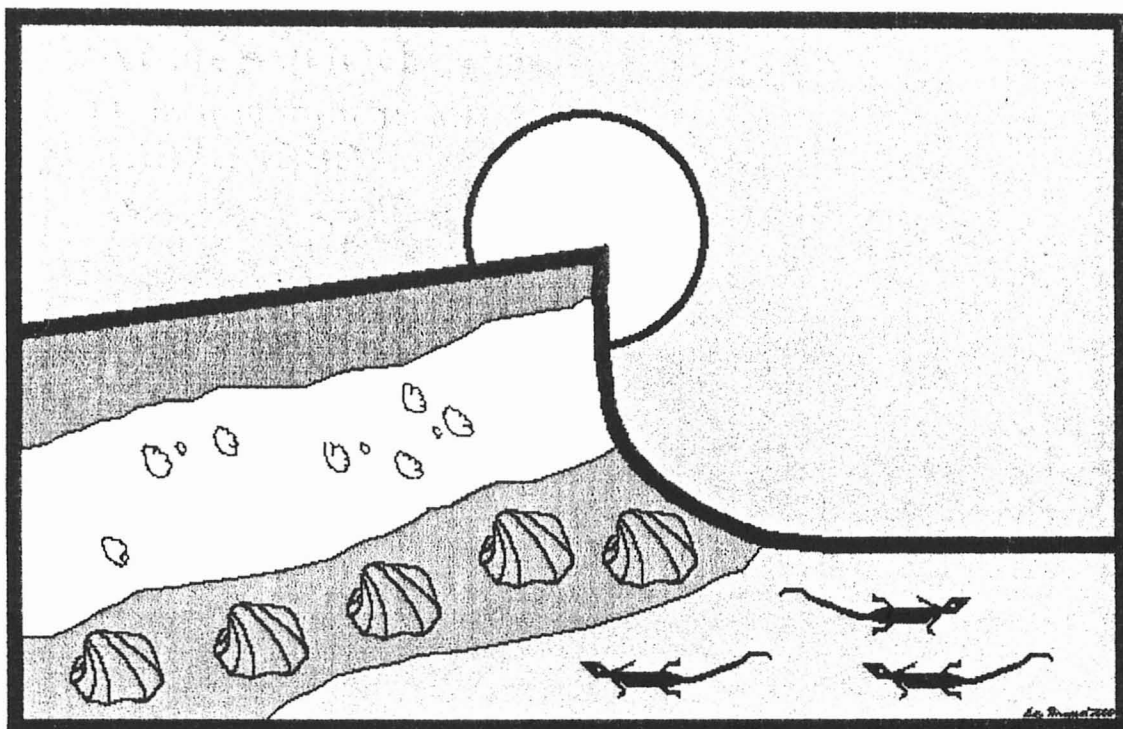


BOLETIM DE RESUMOS



**Sociedade Brasileira de Paleontologia
Núcleo de São Paulo**

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OFICINA DE RÉPLICAS (REPLICA WORKSHOP) OF THE INSTITUTE OF
GEOSCIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO

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Considering its great extent and the quality and quantity of fossils in neighboring countries, Brazil's fossil record is relatively poor for most of the Phanerozoic. The exception to this is the region around Crato, Ceará, in Northeast Brazil, where the local population knows and appreciates the wonderfully preserved fish, pterosaurs, insects and plants of the Cretaceous Santana Formation. In the western portion of the states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais, the discovery of dinosaurs and other fossil reptiles has led to the founding and popular support of local museums that have rapidly gained regional and national attention. But these two cases are not the rule. Great expanses of the country are deeply weathered or covered by largely unfossiliferous Precambrian and Phanerozoic rocks, so that for the greatest part of the population, the science of Paleontology is merely a curious adventure carried out by strange people in other lands. Consequently, students of middle and high schools in Brazil rarely have any opportunity to examine fossil displays illustrating the rich variety of concepts involving past biodiversity, evolution and extinction that Paleontology teaches. The Oficina de Réplicas (Replica Workshop) was created in order to provide accurate and varied fossil replicas to help teachers, students and other interested citizens understand and promote Paleontology where fossils are rare or altogether lacking. The present collection includes replicas of invertebrates (trilobites, bivalves, equinoderms), vertebrates (*Mesosaurus*, *Smilodon* tooth, various plates and teeth), microfossils (tubes, Devonian and Mesozoic footprints, coprolites) and plants (*Betulites*, *Pecopteris*), totaling more than 90 different items representing nearly all the periods of the Phanerozoic. The teaching of evolution, paleogeography, taphonomy and paleoecology in Brazilian schools may now be properly illustrated by this broad sampling of the great variety of past life. Contact us by e-mail at replicas@edu.usp.br and visit us at www.igc.usp.br/replicas.

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