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20 - 24 de Setiembre 2016, Lima - Perú
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MACROALGAE OCCURRENCE IN TAMENGO FORMATION, EDIACARAN, BRAZIL

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The Corumbá Group is characterized for presenting the largest assemblage of forms of Neoproterozoic life recorded in South America. In recent decades, paleontological research, performed in Tamengo Formation (Corumbá Group), Ediacaran, Mato Grosso do Sul, revealed the existence of fossils represented by metazoans with biomineralized carapace as *Cloudina*, *Corumbella* and *Paraconularia*. In this work the morphological characteristics and affinities of two samples of macroalgae are presented. It has been already reported the possible occurrence of algae in the Tamengo Formation, however there was no confirmation about the classification and affinity. The first specimen was found at 5cm below a level of *Corumbella*. This specimen is 1.5 cm long, with filamentous morphology and presents dichotomy. The filaments are thicker at the base and thinner in the apical part. At the top of the filaments, they overlap one another. At the end of the filaments are likely preserved gametangium or sporangia with spores inside and around. The second sample is 3.5 cm long, with regular dichotomous branches that occur twice in the same segment. The stalks are less thick at the base than at the top. The stalks may present structures on their side like thorns and in the apical part a pseudo-parenchyma like membrane that connects dichotomized filaments. Neither of the two specimens had been reported or observed in the studied region. Probably these fossils have affinities with macroalgae found in Lantian Formation in South China. It is believed that one of the specimens is related to a group of red algae due to the similar characteristics as the stalk structure, its size and the presence of a probable pseudo-parenchyma. The occurrence of macroalgae in Tamengo Formation confirms the importance of the transition Neoproterozoic/Phanerozoic in Brazil in a global context.