

PALAEOBIOGEOGRAPHIC AFFINITIES OF THE UPPER CENOMANIAN–LOWER TURONIAN (CRETACEOUS) BIVALVE FAUNA OF THE SERGIPE BASIN, NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

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At the generic level the Cenomanian–Turonian bivalve fauna of Sergipe shows little or no endemism. All recorded genera are known from other regions and in many cases are widely distributed. Among the bivalve species endemism is generally low but increases slightly from the Cenomanian to the lower Turonian. The Sergipe bivalves represent a southern Tethyan fauna, with many species occurring in other Tethyan regions, e.g. *Neithea* (*Neithea*) *hispanica*, *Plicatula* *auressensis*, *Limea* (*Pseudolimea*) *interplicosa*, *Protocardia* (*Protocardia*) *pauli* and many Cenomanian exogyrine oysters. The fauna also includes cosmopolitan species, for example the lower Turonian species of the inoceramid genus *Mytiloides*, *Astartemya* (*Freiastarte*) *similis* and *Paraesa* *fabia*. Palaeogeographical affinities are strongest with the northern (e.g., Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria) and central-western to western (e.g., Niger, Nigeria, Cameroun, Congo, Angola) African regions. It is possible that many upper Cenomanian–lower Turonian species found in Sergipe migrated along an at least partly open Trans-Saharan Seaway, connecting the southern mediterranean region and the northern South Atlantic Ocean. Affinities with other regions (e.g., southern Europe, U.S. Western Interior, India) are less pronounced. This is a contribution to IGCP-Project 381 'South Atlantic Mesozoic Correlations'.