THIN SECTION FORAMINIFERAL ANALYSIS AND ITS APPLICATION TO HIGH RESOLUTION STRATIGRAPHY OF UPPER ALBIAN - LOWER TURONIAN OF CAMPOS BASIN, BRAZIL

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The preliminary results of the analysis of planktonic foraminifers examined in thin sections from over 150 core samples from 3 wells of Campos Basin, southeastern Brazil are presented here. Due to recrystalization, recovering of isolated specimens of foraminifers after standard processing is poor, resulting in loss of biostratigraphic resolution in the studied interval. The present study aims to improve the resolution of the biostratigraphic zonation traditionally applied to the aproximately 200m section of hemipelagic calcimudstones and marls deposited during the middle Albian/ early Turonian. This interval corresponds to zones *Ticinella primula* to *Whiteinella archaeocretacea* (Sliter, 1997).

Five local biozones were defined, based on the stratigraphic distribution of 29 planktonic foraminifera species recognized in thin sections. The scarcity of keeled forms (4 species identified) leads to the utilization of other planktic forms to define the biozones. A major hiatuse from uppermost *Rotalipora appenninica* Zone to *Rotalipora reicheli* Zone (Sliter, op.cit.) separates upper Albian and Cenomanian sections. Minor gaps occur in the section, associated with sand bodies. In addition, the occurrence of benthic foraminifera, pitonelloids and relative abundance events of radiolaria, interpreted as representing local maximum flooding events, provide additional criteria for regional correlation and palaeoecological interpretations. These interpretations indicate the predominance of a middle neritic to upper bathyal environment in the studied area.