

Tentaculita mass-mortality horizons in the Ponta Grossa Formation (Devonian, Paraná Basin, Brazil) and their stratigraphic significance.

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A pelitic section of the Devonian Ponta Grossa Formation, ca. 100 m thick, cropping out near Jaguaraíva town (State of Paraná, SE Brazil) has been studied for its Tentaculita fauna. A significant number of these fossils was identified in the course of a detailed survey along the Jaguariaíva section. Intervals with accumulation of Tentaculita are probably related to storm action in a shallow marine shelf. Mass-mortality intervals present facies characterized by thin-bedded or wave-truncated, dark gray or black silty shales. These facies are located at the base of coarsening-upward or thinning-upward asymmetrical cycles, 20 m thick, parasequential in nature. It is concluded that accumulations of Tentaculita can be related to marine flooding horizons in the lower part of parasequences.