OCCURRENCE OF THE INCRUSTING FORAMINIFERA HOMOTREMA RUBRUM IN INTER-REEFAL SEDIMENTS

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Samples of Homotrema rubrum were collected from two different reef sites: the Forte's Beach Reef at the north coast of the state of Bahia, in Eastern Brazil (12o30'S – 38o00'W), and Touros and Rio do Fogo Reefs, at the coast of the state of Rio Grande do Norte, in Northeastern Brazil (5o15'S –35o20'W). Foraminifera specimens occur as irregular fragments, with varied sizes, some polished and some with sharpen points and hollow chambers. Whole individuals showing the areolate chambers ranged in concentric layers, with not perforated edges were also found. Most of the studied specimens are colored, but whitish samples occur. Surrounding the shallow nearshore reefs of Forte's Beach, an area strongly influenced by the action of the waves, Homotrema samples incrust either fragments of coralline algae (mostly) or coral, while in the inter-reefal areas of the submerged inner-shelf reefs of Touros and Rio do Fogo, a region in where currents are very strong, all samples were found incrusting coralline algae debris. The characteristics of the analyzed specimens suggest that the distribution of Homotrema rubrum in the studied reefs is controlled by the type of substrate (animal habitat) and the transport of bottom sediments under the influence of the energy of currents and waves.