

THE FISH FAUNA OF THE TERESINA FORMATION (UPPER PERMIAN, BRAZIL) AND ITS PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

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The ichthyofauna of the Teresina Formation (Passa Dois Group) in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil is poorly known. Recently, hammocky deposits in São Gabriel yielded very abundant disarticulated skeletal remains which increased the number of taxonomic groups recorded.

The fauna is dominated by lower actinopterygians and xenacanth sharks, followed by spenacanthid, ctenacanthid, eugeneodontid and hybodont chondrichthyans. Indisputable remains of Acanthodii are reported for the first time for the Paraná Basin, representing the youngest geochronological record of this group so far. Both growing and non-growing scales of Chondrichthyes are also described for the first time for the basin, some showing distinctive features not found in other sharks.

The palaeoenvironment of the Teresina Formation is investigated in the light of its fish fauna compared with the Palaeozoic faunas from other continents.