

Cretaceous planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy of NE Brazil: The framework.

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The Cretaceous strata of northeastern Brazil (Sergipe and Pernambuco-Paraíba basins) yield abundant and diversified planktonic foraminiferal assemblages which allow a detailed biostratigraphic subdivision of the sequence. The upper Aptian, at the base of the full marine cycle, is subdivided into the *Globigerinelloides barri*-*Hedbergella gorbachikae* and *Globigerinelloides* ex gr. *maridalensis*-*H. similis* zones. The overlying lower Albian is represented by the *Globigerinelloides cushmani*-*Ticinella bejaouaensis* and *T. bejaouaensis* zones, followed by the middle-upper Albian with the *Ticinella* ex gr. *primula*-*T. bejaouaensis*, *Biticinella breggiensis*-*T. ex gr. primula*, *Globigerinelloides texomaensis*-*B. beggiensis* and *H. gorbachikae*-*T. raynaudi* zones. The Cenomanian is represented by the *Rotalipora brotzeni*, *Praeglobotruncana delrioensis*-*Rotalipora appenninica*, *Whiteinella baltica*-*W. brittonensis* and *W. aprica*-*Globigerinelloides bentonensis* zones. The overlying *W. archaeocretacea*-*Heterohelix reussi* Zone spans the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary, and is followed by the lower-upper Turonian with the *W. aprica*-*W. baltica* and *Dicarinella primitiva* zones, and the lower-middle Coniacian characterized by the *Archaeoglobigerina cretacea*-*D. primitiva* Zone, ending the carbonate-dominated cycle. The upper Coniacian-upper Santonian interval is represented by the *Dicarinella concavata*-*Marginotruncana sinuosa* and *D. asymetrica* zones, marking the base of the oceanic silicilastic-dominated cycle. The Campanian is subdivided into the *Contusotruncana patelliformis*-*Globotruncanita elevata-stuartiformis* plexus and *Globotruncana orientalis*-*G. ventricosa* zones. The Maastrichtian is represented by the *C. ex gr. fornicata*-*Globotruncana linneiana*, *G. gansseri*-*Globotruncanita stuartiformis* and *Contusotruncana contusa*-*G. aegyptiaca* zones, the latter including the uppermost Maastrichtian *Plummerita hantkeninoides*-*Racemiguembelina fructicosa*-*Rugoglobigerina scotti* Subzone.