

## **EVIDENCE OF TECTONIC ACTIVITY DURING THE DEPOSITION OF THE MARIZAL FORMATION, THE POST-RIFT UNIT OF THE RECÔNCAVO BASIN, NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL**

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This paper attempts to show some evidence of the tectonic events that occurred after rifting stopped at the Recôncavo Basin, a Lower Cretaceous intracontinental rift that opened prior to the Atlantic Ocean. An angular unconformity separates the syn-rift megasequence from the alluvial conglomerates and sandstones with occasional shales and limestones of the Marizal Formation. This unit covers almost three-quarters of the rift, ranging from 50 meters in the Recôncavo Basin to almost 500 meters in the northernmost part of the rift. It was probably deposited in a sag basin that overlapped the present rift limits during post-rifting thermal subsidence. New evidence taken from coarse siliciclastics of the Marizal Formation suggest that the Recôncavo Basin had its border uplifted after rifting. The tectonism responsible for this uplift generated small but measurable faults in the post-rift package. The lack of a significant post-rift section in the rift may be related to removal of the sedimentary register after regional massive erosion. In fact, the truncation of the sedimentary section toward the flexural border suggests that the rift occupied a much broader area than presently preserved. The exhumation probably occurred during two main periods: the first, at the end of rifting, possibly as a consequence of elastic rebound of the continental break up; the second, probably in Early Tertiary, indicated by generalized peneplanation in northeastern Brazil.