

Early land plants from Paraná Basin (Brazil) palaeogeographic implications

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Extensive earliest Devonian (early Lochkovian) plant assemblages are described from the Paraná Basin (Brazil). Five localities yielded several hundred specimens of a new *Cooksonia* species, and representatives of 7 other taxa, 5 of which being new. All plants consist of isotomously branched axes with terminal sporangia. This simple grade of organization is consistent with the evolutionary level reached by early land plants of coeval assemblages from Wales and England. This confirms that plant evolution rates in southern Gondwana and in Europe during earliest Devonian times were not significantly different. The taxonomic status of the genus *Cooksonia*, and the paleogeographic implications of the Brazilian assemblages are discussed.