

## **Mollusks of the Santana Formation, Araripe Basin, NE Brazil.**

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The mollusks (gastropods and bivalves) of the Romualdo Member, Santana Formation occur in coquinas and shales and represent the incursion of the sea in the Araripe Basin during the mid-Cretaceous. Herein we proposed to identify, describe, and figure these mollusks which were not studied previously. Systematic studies of mollusks fauna will permit to obtain paleoecological, biostratigraphic, cronostratigraphic, and biogeographic information from this stratigraphic unit. The material studied is housed in the *Museu Ciências da Terra-DNPM* and *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro*. The gastropods constitutes the most abundant mollusk, predominating the specimens of the Cassiopidae. They form extensive coquinas which were recrystallized and are not well preserved making the taxonomic identification of the specimens difficult. Nevertheless this material indicates the presence of taxa that are characteristic of desaerobic environments and of a muddy bottom from a shallow epicontinental sea. The bivalves are found disarticulated and are represented as shells in the coquinas and as moulds in the shales. The species of the coquinas belong to Arcidae, Isognomidae, Mytilidae, and Veneridae, while the material preserved in the shales indicate the presence of Corbulidae. The small size of the individuals present in this assemblage characterize a stress environment. Fish scales were found associated with the mollusks preserved in the coquinas