

NEOPROTEROZOIC GLACIATION IN CENTRAL BRAZIL: A NEW LIGHT ON THE SEDIMENTARY FEATURES IN JEQUITAÍ, MINAS GERAIS

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The Neoproterozoic glaciation, Which affected large portions of central-eastern Brazil, left its, up to date, best known traces in the Jequitaí region and vicinities. A thin tillite on top of the Espinhaço quartzites, only some decimeters in thickness and very poor in clasts, mark the first ice advance. After ice retreat a new advancement, documented by the superbly preserved intertillite striated pavement, and indicating that the clast poor tillite forming the substratum, was not yet lithified, deposited a clast rich tillite, some decameter in thickness. In this latter tillite with excellent exposures, some well preserved features are: striated and faceted pebbles, subglacial channel deposits (eskers), glacio-lacustrine deposits (varvites) locally with dropstones, and in distal regions towards the east interfingering with glacio-marine sediments. Stratigraphic comparisons, as well as isotopic and paleomagnetic data point towards only one ice age, which took place between 1000 and 750 Ma. The superbly preserved glacial sedimentary features, their variety and the easy access to outcrops justify the term paradigm for this area with traces of a Precambrian continental glaciation in central-eastern Brazil.