

The Geohistory of the Saquarema Region, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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The region of Saquarema, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, is formed by Pre-Cambrian and Eopaleozoic igneous and metamorphic rocks. They were submitted to regional and local tectonic forces. The magma intrusions are evidenced by basic dikes of the Cretaceous/Tertiary.

During the Cenozoic the material removed from the weathered rocks was deposited in the lower regions, producing sedimentary plains. During the Quaternary the sea level changed many times.

The region was populated by Man at least 4520 years ago. The human populations collected, hunted and fished in different ecosystems which was necessary for their existence. The mineral raw material was obtained in rock outcrops, colluvial deposits, soils and in the alluvium deposits.

When Man arrived in Saquarema he used part of the material available in the biodiversity and lithodiversity and constructed the deposits called shell mounds (*sambaquis*). The study of *sambaquis* contributed to the reconstruction of the Quaternary geohistory of Saquarema. Five geoarchaeological events named Beirada, Moa, Madressilva, Saquarema and Pontinha are proposed and explained.

Habitants of more modern tribes replaced the more primitive populations, the later subsequently contacted by the Europeans during the colonial period.

The expulsion of the natives and the consequent European colonization completely changed the ecosystems of the region.