SCIENCESPRINGDAY



Earth Sciences Department

Paleontology - Paleopalynology



CICEGe





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Objectives

Studies in Palynology (mainly dinoflagellate cysts), stratigraphic distribution, paleoecology, paleogeography during Miocene (main lithologies: sands, marls and biocalcarenites) in the distal part of the Lower Tagus Basin.



Distal part of the Lower Tagus Basin

Methodology

Standard palynological laboratory procedures applied to all samples.

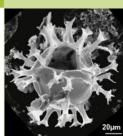
Light (LM) and scanning electronic microscopy (SEM) allows the identification of dinoflagellates cysts, acritarchs cysts, spores families, gimnosperms and angiosperms pollen families; international studies and indexes used for the identification of palynomorphs.



Laboratory where the samples are treated

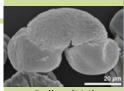
Expected Results

Review of the temporal distributions of the identified groups and characterization of the associations. Paleoecologic and paleogeographic evolutions. Identification of the transgressive and the minor sea level episodes of the distal region of Lower Tagus Basin. Correlation with the global eustatic curves. Paleogeographic maps are presented for each Miocene Stage, based upon environmental distributions (from continental to oceanic) of palynomorphs. Variations of marine environments (with the presence of dinoflagellate cysts) and the proximity of land to the marine depositional environment (reflection of pollen and spores assemblages). The oscillations in the sporomorph/dinocyst ratio allow to analyse sealevel changes. Comparison of the associations identified with international biozonations, in order to establish a valid biostratigraphic scale for the Portuguese Miocene.

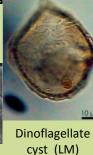


Dinoflagellate cyst (SEM)





Pollen (LM)



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