

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

Analysis of a late Aptian high-stress ecosystem: the Romualdo Formation of the Araripe Basin, northeastern Brazil

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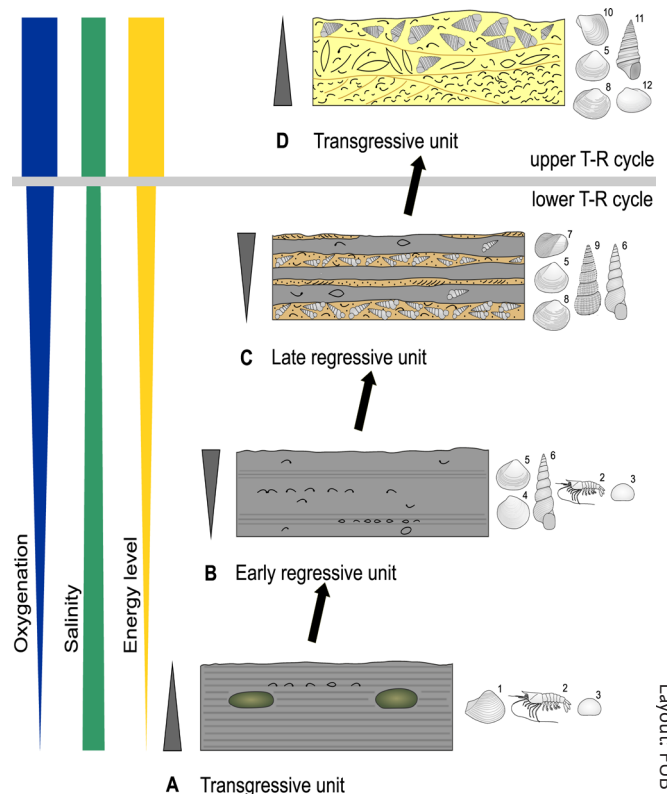
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The low-diversity benthic fauna of the Romualdo Formation with its famous Santana fossils, is an excellent target to explore the potential of palaeontological data for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. A palaeoecological and taphonomic analysis identifies lowered salinity conditions in combination with anoxia to dysoxia as main limiting parameters. The sedimentary and faunal history of the basin indicates a restricted marine influence, coupled with increasing freshwater input during phases of sea-level lowstand, and low-energy conditions offshore that led to widespread anoxia, the latter supporting the preservation of soft parts.



Prof. Fürsich studied geology and palaeontology in Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Tübingen and Oxford and subsequently worked at universities in Munich, Bremen, Copenhagen, Boulder, Tucson, Würzburg and Erlangen, from where he retired six years ago. In his research he tries to explore the limits and potential of benthic faunas for the palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of Mesozoic basins in Europe, Asia and South America.



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