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Foraminiferal assemblage from estuarine deposits of the Iguape Bay, Bahia Brazil

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The Iguape Bay is an indentation of Todos os Santos Bay, state of Bahia, delimited by fault scarps that suggest significant tectonic control of the geomorphology. The Paraguaçu River drains to the central part of the bay, which is separated in north and south part. Shallow vibra-cores used for identification of facies analyses allowed the study of the benthonic foraminifera fauna of six cores (02, 06, 07, 09, 10 and 11) from central and south part of the Iguape Bay. The samples were taken at 20 cm intervals. A total of 9,104 specimens were identified from 160 samples. The sediment samples with foraminifera are constituted predominantly by mud (> 70%) and contain quartz grains, plants remains, sponge spicules, echinoids spicules, and shells of mollusks and ostracod carapaces. The studied samples come from two sedimentary facies: lower intertidal (samples of cores 06 and 11) and subtidal (samples of cores 02, 06, 07, 09 and 11) mud. The foraminifera fauna of the Iguape Bay is characterized by 32 species: *Amoastuta inepta*, *A. inflata*, *Ammobaculites americanus*, *Ammonia beccarii*, *Ammotium salsum*, *Bolivina* sp., *Cancris sagra*, *Cibicides pseudoungerianus*, *Elphidium discoidale*, *E. poeyanum*, *E. galvestonense*, *E. sagrum*, *Gypsina vesicularis*, *Hanzawaia bertheloti*, *Lagena perlucida*, *L. striatula*, *Nonion grateloupi*, *Nonionela atlantica*, *Poroeponides lateralis*, *Pyrgo nasuta*, *P. subsphaerica*, *Quinqueloculina* sp., *Rolshausenia rolshauseni*, *Siphogenerina raphanus*, *Siphonina reticulata*, *Textularia agglutinans*, *T. candeiana*, *Triloculina trigonula*, *Trochammina advena*, *T. nana*, *T. inflata* and *Uvigerina peregrina*. *Elphidium poeyanum* and *Ammonia beccarii* are the more frequent species. *E. poeyanum* is most abundant species in the cores 6 and 7. However, *Trochamina advena* is more abundant than *E. poeyanum* in the core 11. Foraminifera tests filled with pyrite and pyritized molds were found in samples from four cores (02, 07, 09 and 11). Two types of pyrite were found: the gold and the black iridescent, in thirteen species, being that specimens of *E. poeyanum* were most abundant.