

PALYNOMORPHS FROM THE GORSTIAN (SILURIAN) OF SAZES FORMATION (BUÇACO SYNCLINE), CENTRAL IBERIAN ZONE, PORTUGAL – PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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Occuring in a complex syncline that extends from Buçaco to Penedo de Góis, the studied area is located in the Central Iberian Zone of the Iberian Massif. In this region outcrops a well-preserved and complete stratigraphic succession of Lower Paleozoic age. At the top of the Buçaco Syncline stratigraphic succession, the Silurian Sazes Formation (Paris, 1981), is currently being studied at a palynological (miospores and chitinozoans) and macrofossil (graptolites) level, allowing a preliminary revision and completion of the initial biostratigraphy of this area. This studies will also provide information to support the undergoing surveying mapping project (1:50 000) that is being undertaken by the “Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia” (Portuguese Geological Survey) (Sequeira, *in prep*). The Silurian age of the Sazes Formation was provided by graptolites faunas (e.g. Piçarra & Sequeira, *in press*), and consists of highly deformed dark carbonaceous shales with nodules intercalated with quartzites beds. The

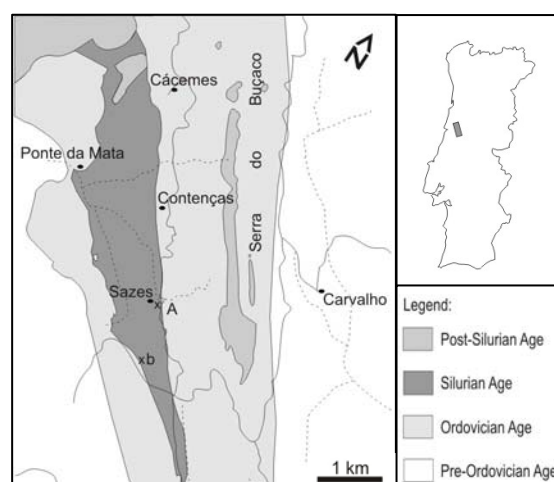


Figure 1 – Simplified geological map of the Sazes area (N Buçaco Syncline) showing the studies trench (A). Adapt . Piçarra & Sequeira (*in press*) from original geology of N. Delgado published by Costa (1950).

samples for the present work were collected in the road cuts of EN 235 (km 51.6 – km 51.7) where the Sazes Formation contacts by fault with the Upper Ordovician Porto de Santa Ana Formation (Fig. 1) (Young, 1988).

From the seven samples that were studied, six of them were barren in miospores and acritarchs and only sample BU.H/S7 yielded a very poor preserved miospore assemblage, which allowed the identification of the *Synorisporites libycus* – *Lophozonotriletes? poecilomorphus* Miospore Biozone (Richardson & McGregor, 1986), and *Chelinospora obscura* Sub-zone of Burgess & Richardson (1995), that indicates an upper Gorstian age. In this study no index species of chitinozoans were recovered, but it was identified a species that first occurs in the Gorstian (Verniers *et al.*, 1995), *Angochitina echinata* Eisenack, 1931. For the first time cryptospores were identified in this section. The graptolites samples collected at base of the stratigraphic succession, allowed the confirmation of the *Monograptus belophorus*, *Gothograptus nassa* and *Colonograptus praedeubeli* - *Colonograptus deubeli* Biozones of Wenlock age. A more detailed palynostratigraphic study from this road cut and other sections of Ordovician and Silurian ages of the Buçaco region is currently in progress.

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