

## CHITINOZOANS OF RIBEIRA DA LAJE FORMATION, AMÊNDOA-MAÇÃO SYNCLINE (UPPER ORDOVICIAN, PORTUGAL)

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Young (1985, 1988) established the lithostratigraphy of the Upper Ordovician of the Amêndoa-Mação Syncline (central Portugal). In this region three formations were defined with, in ascending order, the Cabeço do Peão, the Ribeira da Laje and the Casal Carvalhal formations.

The type section for the Ribeira da Laje Formation was defined in the Ribeira da Laje valley, near Sanguinheira region, on the northern limb of the Amêndoa/Mação Syncline. The lower part of this formation is composed of micaceous mudstones and bioturbated silty sandstones. Its upper part registers an increase, in frequency and thickness, of discrete sandstone beds, culminating with 9 m of quartzite beds, up to 1,5 m thick. These quartzites are overlain by 5 m of thinly bedded bioturbated sandstones (Young, 1985, 1988).

The Ribeira da Laje Formation contains very few macrofossils and Young (1985, 1988) proposed a middle Ashgill age based on correlation with the Buçaco Syncline. Ten samples were collected in the type section of the Ribeira da Laje Formation for chitinozoan investigation. In different samples, two key species were recovered, that allowed the determination of the diagnostic taxa, *Euconochitina tanvillensis* (Paris) (in Robardet et al., 1972) and *Acanthochitina barbata* Eisenack 1931 (Vaz, 2010). They document the *E. tanvillensis* Biozone (Paris, 1990, 1999) and *A. barbata* Biozone (Paris, 1999; Paris and Verniers, 2005) of early to mid Katian age, respectively.

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