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THE ICHNOFOSSILS FROM THE BAURU GROUP (BAURU BASIN, CRETACEOUS), BRAZIL

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The Cretaceous Bauru Group (Bauru Basin, southeast Brazil) is up to 300 m in thickness and ranges from the Turonian to the Maastrichtian. It comprises three formations, namely Adamantina, Uberaba and Marília. The Adamantina Formation (Turonian - Santonian) consists of fine-grained sandstones, mudstones, siltstones and clayey sandstones. The Uberaba Formation (Coniacian - Campanian) is composed of fine-grained greenish sandstones interbedded with siltstones, coarse-grained sandstones, mudstones and volcanoclastics. The Marília Formation (Maastrichtian) consists of gravelly to coarse-grained sandstones, mudstones and carbonates. Throughout the Upper Cretaceous, there was an alternation between severely hot dry and rainy seasons, and a diverse fauna and flora was established in the basin. Ichnofossils mostly occurred in fine-grained sandstones and include *Arenicolites* Salter, 1857, *Macanopsis* MacSotay, 1967, *Planolites* Nicholson, 1873 and *Taenidium* Heer, 1877. There are also other biogenic structures, such as plant root traces, coprolites and vertebrate fossil eggs. The oldest sediments in this basin (Adamantina Formation) were deposited in a lacustrine environment. Progressive increase in aridity, due to the persistence of a hot climate and the presence of topographic heights surrounding the basin, allowed the establishment of alluvial plains, braided rivers and small temporary ponds (Uberaba and Marília Formations).