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# ABSTRACTS



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# BRACKISH WATER CRETACEOUS CONCHOSTRACA FROM NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

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Although conchostracofaunas are common in ephemeral freshwater ponds of terrestrial environments, they can occur even in brackish waters of nearshore lagoons and tidally-influenced zones. This is presumed to be the life environments of Late Cretaceous conchostracans in the Potiguar Basin, Northeastern Brazil. The *Estheriina astartoides* fauna occurs in the lower section of the Iandara Formation. This rock unit ranges from Lower Turonian to Middle Campanian and consists mainly in a carbonate marine facies. The monospecific conchostracofauna was found in marls of the basal Jandara Formation exposed at the gypsite quarry of Governador Dix-Sept Rosado county, Rio Grande do Norte State. The fossils are very well-preserved, composed by entire and undamaged carapaces of the acensust population. There is no evidence of transport and reworking of the carapaces. The paleoenvironmental context of the gypsite quarry of Dix-Sept Rosado along with taphonomic aspects of the conchostracofauna, suggest that some Late Cretaceous conchostracans were euryhaline forms, certainly capable of tolerating at least brackish water conditions. Corroborative evidence for *Estheriina astartoides* being a halotolerant species comes from the analysis of the associated palynofacies. The organic residue consists of amorphous, ablockyt organic matter, and is further characterized by the unequivocal occurrence of palynoforaminifera.