

The *P. acuminatus* Biozone in the Silurian of Barrancos Region (Ossa Morena Zone, South Portugal)

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The graptolite assemblage indicating the basal Silurian *P. acuminatus* Zone has been found in the Barrancos region (south Portugal) in the Ossa Morena Zone.

Badly tectonized lydites intercalated by black shales and, in the lowermost part of the sequence, with subordinate sandy levels, yielded determinable graptolites: *Parakidograptus acuminatus*, *Normalograptus trifilis*, *Normalograptus* cf. *medius*, and *Neodiplograptus* sp. (aff. *elongatus*). Owing to the presence of *Normalograptus trifilis* the assemblage may be referred to about the middle of the *P. acuminatus* Zone.

This is the first record of the *P. acuminatus* Zone in Portugal and the third one in the whole Iberian Peninsula. Wherever the graptolites of the *P. acuminatus* Zone were found, they were either at shaly intercalation near the top of the underlying sandstone unit. Both the graptolite assemblage of the *P. acuminatus* Zone and the facies development of the earliest Silurian of Barrancos region can be well compared with the corresponding sections in Spain, Germany, Bohemia, Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, and Sardinia.

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