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XI REUNIÃO DE PALEOBOTÂNICOS E PALINÓLOGOS



**BOLETIM
DE
RESUMOS**

**SPHENOPSIDS FROM THE LATE EARLY CARBONIFEROUS OF PARACAS
(PERU)**

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Sphenopsids achieved their highest diversity in the Late Paleozoic but the relationship of the different families, their evolution in the Mesozoic, and their relationship to the one surviving genus are still being debated. We report and analyze six Sphenopsid organ taxa, three of which are new, from the late Lower Carboniferous of the Paracas Peninsula, Peru. The family Archaeocalamitaceae is represented by stems, foliage, and two types of cones. A distinct new cone shows very complex and advanced characters. The structure of all these cones shows greater similarity with extant *Equisetum* than most other sphenopsid cones known from the Carboniferous. A new foliage type occurs in the same beds. A highly dissected *Sphenophyllum*-like form is also present. This flora grew in a warm-temperate floral and climatic Paraca belt of Gondwana. The mixture of taxa that are new (endemic) with others known from the Carboniferous tropical realm confirms that the climate of this locality was frost-free and therefore opened to migrations from the tropics but at the same time phytogeographically distinct.

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