

SOURCE-AREA, PALEOWEATHERING AND PROVENANCE OF THE LATE CRETACEOUS SEQUENCES OF THE BAURU BASIN (SE BRAZIL)

ÁREA FONTE, PALEOINTEMPERISMO E PROVENIÊNCIA DAS SEQUÊNCIAS DO CRETÁCEO SUPERIOR DA BACIA BAURU (SUDESTE DO BRASIL)

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ABSTRACT - Geochemical and mineralogical analyses of sandstones and mudstones from the Bauru Basin (SE Brazil) were undertaken to determine the provenance, tectonic setting and weathering during the Late Cretaceous. X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis indicate that samples comprise of quartz, microcline and hematite. Illite, montmorillonite and palygorskite are the main clay minerals. X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) analyses determined the main chemical composition of the rocks from the Bauru Basin. Predominant major elements include SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, MgO, K₂O and TiO₂, and were used to determine the rock composition and classify them as Fe-sands, litharenites, sublitharenites, wackes and shales. Trace elements, including the rare earth elements and the ratios among them determined the source area and its tectonic setting. A correlation matrix including major and trace elements and plots of major and trace elements and values for the ratios such as La/Sc (1.47-4.86), (La/Yb)_c (3.86-20.44) and the Eu anomaly (Eu/Eu* = 0.62-0.92), compared to data from the literature indicate the source rock is associated with a continental passive margin tectonic setting. The sedimentary succession of the Bauru Basin derived from quartzitic to granitic-gneissic rocks of stable continental areas. Chemical Index of Alteration (CIA) and Chemical Index of Weathering (CIW) values range, respectively, from 64.83 to 92.3 and 84 to 98.2, indicating a moderate to intense weathering in the source area in a semiarid climate conditions.

Keywords: Late Cretaceous; Bauru Basin; Tectonic setting; Provenance; Geochemistry.

RESUMO - Análises geoquímicas e mineralógicas de arenitos e lamitos da Bacia do Bauru (SE Brasil) foram realizadas para determinar a proveniência, a configuração tectônica e o intemperismo durante o final do Cretáceo. A análise por difração de raios X (DRX) indica que as amostras são compostas por quartzo, microclina e hematita. Illita, montmorilonita e paligorskita são os principais argilominerais. As análises de fluorescência de raios X (XRF) e espectrometria de massa de plasma indutivamente acoplada (ICP-MS) determinaram a principal composição química das rochas da Bacia Bauru. Os principais elementos predominantes incluem SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, MgO, K₂O e TiO₂ e foram usados para determinar a composição das rochas e classificá-las como areias ferruginosas, litoarenitos, sublitoarenitos, grauvacas e folhelhos. Os elementos traços, incluindo os elementos de terras raras e as razões entre eles, determinaram a área fonte e sua configuração tectônica. Uma matriz de correlação incluindo elementos maiores e traços e gráficos de elementos maiores e traços e valores para as proporções de La / Sc (1,47-4,86), (La / Yb)_c (3,86-20,44) e a anomalia de Eu (Eu / Eu * = 0,62-0,92), comparados com os dados da literatura, indicam que a rocha-fonte está associada a um ambiente tectônico de margem passiva continental. A sucessão sedimentar da Bacia do Bauru deriva de rochas quartzíticas a graníticas-gnáissicas de áreas continentais estáveis. Os valores do Índice Químico de Alteração (CIA) e do Índice Químico de Intemperismo (CIW) variam, respectivamente, de 64,83 a 92,3 e 84 a 98,2, indicando um intemperismo moderado a intenso na área de origem em condições climáticas semiáridas.

Palavras-chave: Cretáceo Superior; Bacia Bauru; Ambiente tectônico; Proveniência; Geoquímica.

INTRODUCTION

The reconstruction and interpretation of the sedimentary input from the source rock weathering to deposition is the primary purpose of provenance studies (Cox et al., 1995; Jarvis et al., 1998; Nesbitt et al., 1990; Pearce & Jarvis,

1995). Sedimentary evolution is recorded in the geochemical characteristics of rocks at the sedimentary basin and allows the deduction of the geographical location and the mineralogical composition of the source rocks (Roser &

Korsch, 1988; Taylor & McLennan, 1985), the chemical weathering and erosion dynamics (McLennan, 1993; Nesbitt & Young (1982). Tectonic setting of sedimentary basins (Bhatia & Crook, 1986; Roser & Korsch, 1986), sorting processes during transport and sedimentation, and post-depositional diagenetic reactions (McLennan, 1989; Nesbitt & Young, 1996) also influence sedimentary rocks composition.

As terrigenous fine sediments such as clay and fine-grained sandstones are transported, immobile trace elements including Y, Sc, Th, Zr, Hf, Nb, Cr and Co and rare earth elements (REE) tend to remain in the particulate load during erosion, transport and sedimentation. Thus, the characteristic trace-element distribution of the source rocks is preserved, being an effective indicator of geological processes, tectonic settings and provenance (Bhatia & Crook, 1986; Condie et al., 2001; Cullers et al., 1979, 1988; Cullers, 2000; Fedo et al., 1995; McLennan et al., 1990; Mongelli et al., 2006; Taylor & McLennan, 1985).

Crustal exposition of the source area is also reflected on ratios between trace and rare earth elements and the whole-rock geochemistry (Akarish & El-Gohary, 2011; Bauluz et al., 2000; Condie & Wronkiewicz, 1990; Condie et al.,

2001; Cullers, 2000; Fedo et al., 1995; McLennan et al., 1990; McLennan & Taylor, 1991; Mongelli et al., 2006), allowing the identification of the depositional setting at the time of deposition (Roser & Korsch, 1988; Taylor & McLennan, 1985).

Mobile major elements can be used to discriminate the tectonic setting of the source area (Roser & Korsch, 1988) and to estimate the chemical weathering degree, characterizing paleoclimates in the source area during deposition (Nesbitt & Young, 1982).

The stratigraphic interval selected for geochemical analysis of the Bauru Basin is located in the Triângulo Mineiro area, Minas Gerais State (SE Brazil). The main objective of this paper is the mineralogical and geochemical characterization of Late Cretaceous intervals of the Bauru Basin, represented by lacustrine, fluvial and alluvial deposits.

The main results obtained from this study included the classification of dominant types of sediments in the studied area and the determination of highly-graded metamorphic rocks weathered in arid- to semi-arid conditions as the main source for the basin infill, confirming its relationship with the uplift of the Alto Parnaíba pre-Cambrian basement.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Bauru Basin is a Late Cretaceous continental basin developed in the southeast of South America after the breakup of Gondwana, as a response to thermal subsidence related both to the cooling of the Early Cretaceous Serra Geral Formation basaltic lavas (Milani, 1997) and a Late Cretaceous tectonic restructuring related to the Alto Parnaíba Uplift (Batezelli, 2010) (Figure 1). This basin occupies approximately 370.000 Km² between the SE-SW regions of Brazil, with sedimentary deposition reaching a maximum thickness of 300 m.

Based on the integration of paleontological data, stratigraphic relationships, and tectonic and magmatic events that occurred in the northern and northeastern portions of the Bauru Basin, it is proposed an Aptian-Maastrichtian age to its units (Batezelli, 2015).

The Bauru Group has been interpreted as alluvial fans and ephemeral lacustrine systems, braided, river-dominated alluvial systems (Batezelli (2003 and 2010) and Batezelli et al. (2007), megafan systems (Batezelli, 2015), and

distributive fluvial system (Batezelli & Ladeira, 2016 and Batezelli et al., 2019).

The aeolian deposits from the Caiuá unconformably underlies the Bauru Group deposits, which consists of three facies associations from the base to the top: Lacustrine Facies Association, Fluvial Facies Association and Alluvial Facies Association, which constitute lacustrine, fluvial and alluvial system tracts (Figures 2 and 3; Batezelli, 2015 and Batezelli et al., 2019).

The basal Lacustrine Facies Association consists of greenish- to reddish-gray, very fine-grained silty sandstones and sandy siltites that present normal gradation and planar-parallel stratifications. Sandstones are generally massive, although some present root marks, desiccation cracks, salt crystal molds and small- to medium-sized trough cross stratifications (as much as 1.5 m in length).

The thickness and sedimentological characteristics indicate a shallow lacustrine environment (playa-lake) with high sedimen-

tation rates dominated by the suspension settling in the more internal portions. Density flows amid flood periods are responsible for the fining upwards rhythmic deposits. The root marks, salt

crystal molds and contraction cracks associated with fine-grained sandy deposits with cross-stratification indicate subaerial exposure in the more arid periods.

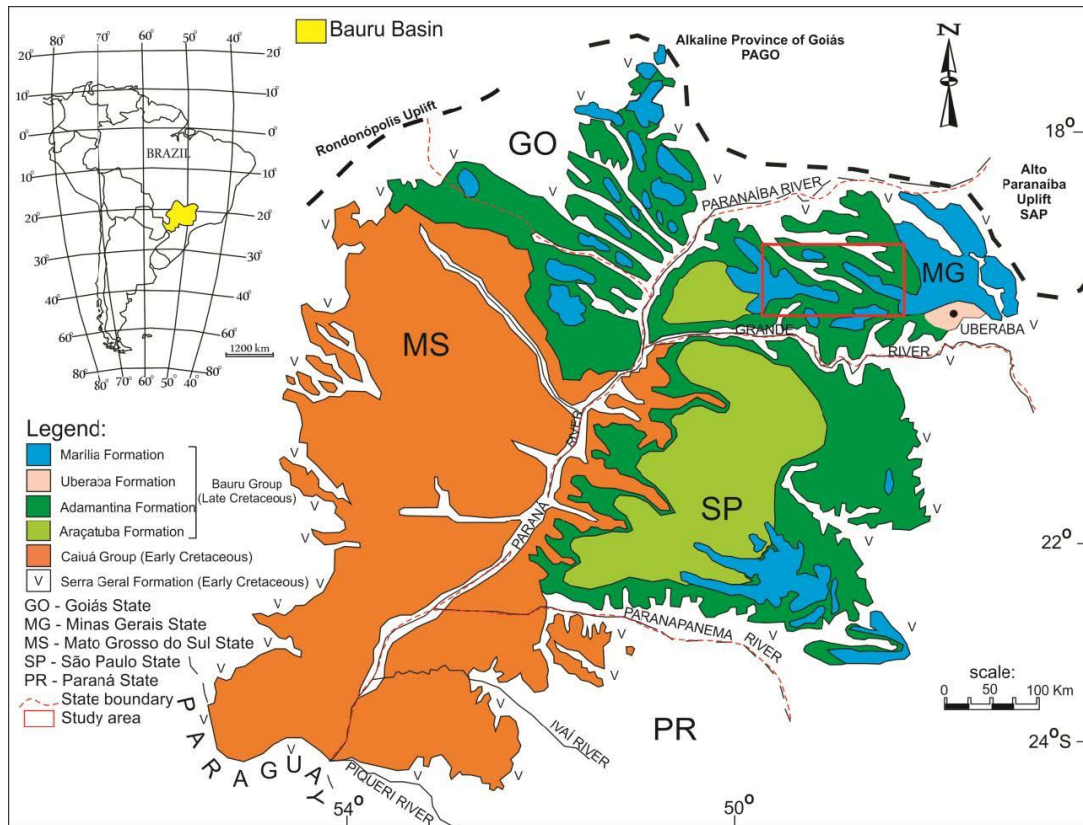


Figure 1 - Map of the Bauru Basin showing the main geological formations and the States boundaries. The red rectangle indicates the studied area, located in the Triângulo Mineiro, Minas Gerais State and dominated by sediments from the Marília and Adamantina formations.

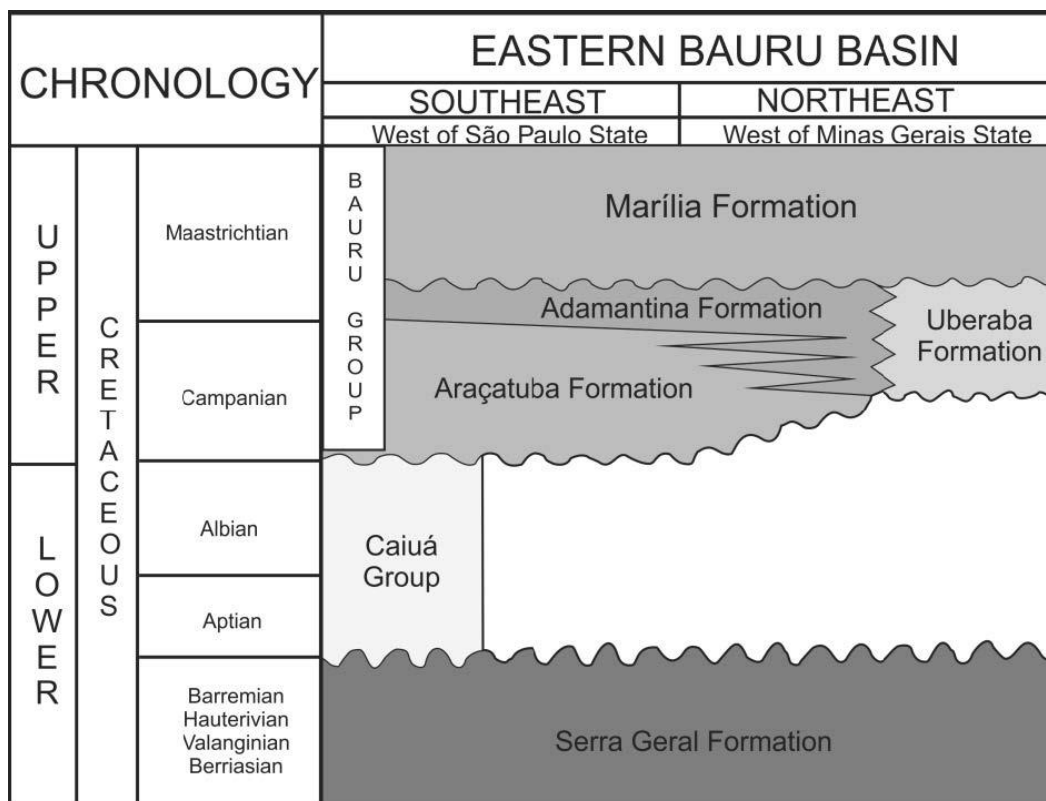


Figure 2 - Lithostratigraphic and facies associations of the Bauru Basin (Modified from Batezelli, 2003).

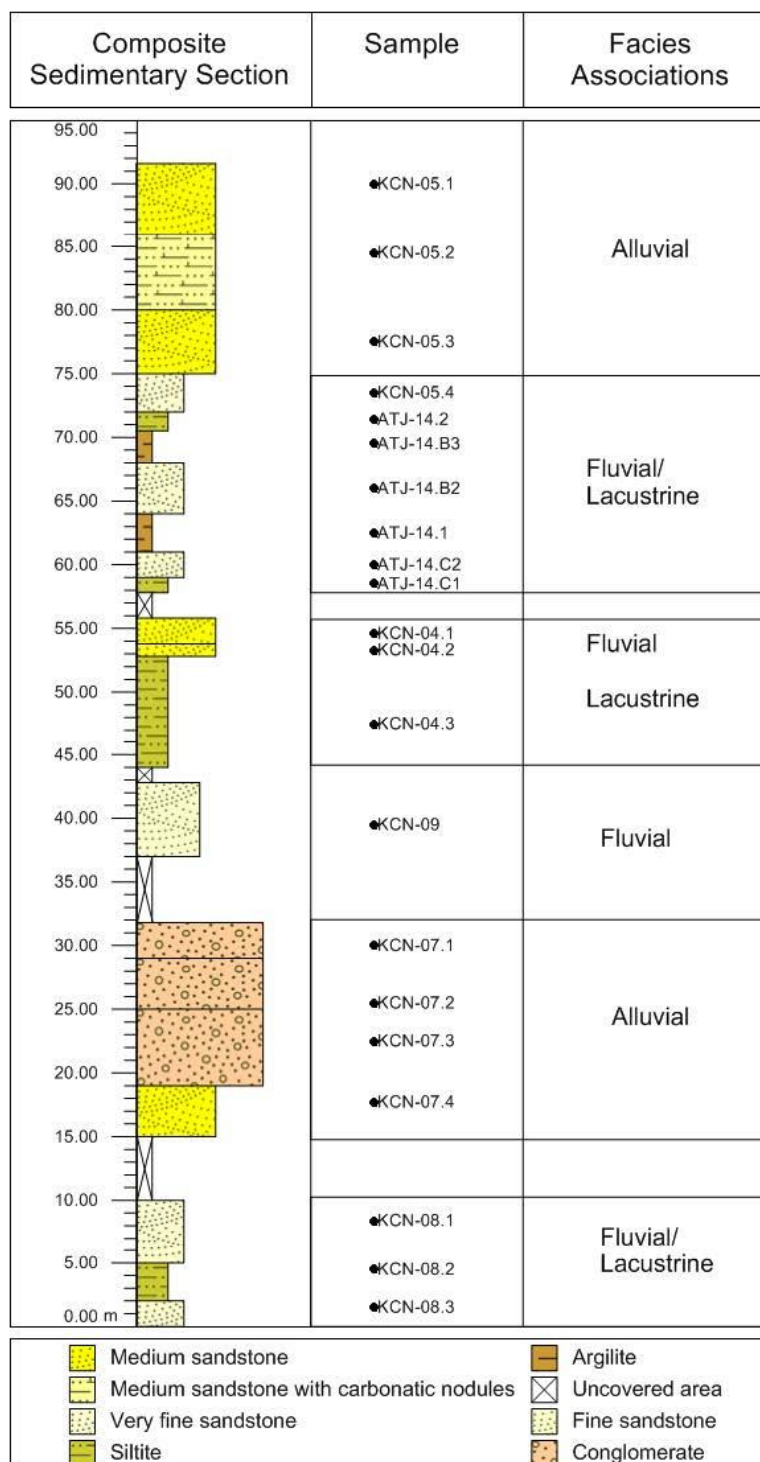


Figure 3 - Composite sedimentary section showing the location of samples and the facies associations of the studied area.

The intermediate Fluvial Facies Association overlies the Lacustrine facies association and the Serra Geral Formation basalts and comprises reddish muddy sandstones and subordinate conglomerates consisting of low to moderate-sorted, rounded to sub-rounded quartz and hematite grains interbedded with mud. Moderately to weakly sorted sandy bodies vary from one to two meters in thickness and are lenticular and tabular, interbedded with centimeter-sized muddy layers.

Internally, these sandstones present cross-stratification, root marks and calcium carbonate cementation. Massive sandstones and bioturbation layers are common in this unit. Channeled excavation features filled with well-sorted, very fine to fine sandstone with low-angle cross-stratification and sub-millimeter- to centimeter-sized clay and basaltic rock intraclasts are also frequent. The presence of carbonate nodules or calcium carbonate sedimentation is common.

Clast-supported conglomerates consisting of sub-angular to sub-rounded mud-pebbles exhibit lenticular geometry and thickness of up to 1.5 meters, and length of tens of meters. Those conglomerates occur at the base of fining upward

sandstones, or as isolated bodies in palaeochannels.

Alluvial Facies Association comprises sandstones; paleosoils and clast-supported conglomerates (Ponte Alta and Echaporã members), based on their lithology and carbonate content.

SAMPLING AND METHODS

Twenty-one (21) samples were collected from a 78 m thick composite sedimentary section in the SE Bauru Basin and individually identified and packed in tightly closed polyethylene bags prior to the strongly cemented by CaCO_3 and SiO_2 (calcretes and silcretes) (Pereira et al., 2015; Nascimento et al., 2016; Silva et al., 2015, 2016, 2017a, 2017b, Delgado et al., 2019). Sandstones are generally massive, with minor small- to medium-scale cross stratifications (up to 3-m-sized foresets). Sandy and conglomerate facies are organized as channels, lenticular bars and downstream accretion macroforms composing a multi-story, multilateral story and large channel complexes, interbedded with paleosols and aeolian deposits. In terms of lithostratigraphy, this facies is divided into three members (Serra da Galga, creation of thin-sections for petrographic analysis and the preparation for mineralogical and geochemical analyses, following the methods described in. Analyses were carried out at the XRD, Analytical Geochemistry and the Mass Spectrometry laboratories at the Institute of Geosciences of Unicamp (Brazil).

X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) determined the

mineralogy of the whole-rock and the clay-sized fraction ($<2 \mu\text{m}$), separated from bulk samples by centrifugation. This analysis was performed using a Bruker D2 Phaser diffractometer with $\text{K}\alpha\text{Cu}$ radiation and operated at 40 kV and 50 mA. The oriented clay-sized fraction went through examination under three separate conditions: air-dried; saturated in ethylene glycol and heated at 250°C for 8 hours.

Samples were prepared as fused glass discs and analysed on a Philips PW2400 X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Spectrometer for the identification of major rock elements. The instrument was calibrated using certified rock standards RGM-1, OU-6 and BRP-1. All elements gave an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$ relative error or better for certified reference rocks.

For the trace and Rare Earth Elements analysis through Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), samples of 100 mg were digested following the procedures of Yu et al. (2001) and diluted to 20 g of ultrapure water and sent to analysis. The samples were analysed in a quadrupolar ICP-MS Thermo Xseries II model, calibrated using the international certified rock standard BRP-1.

WHOLE-ROCK AND CLAY MINERAL COMPOSITION

Petrographic analysis of eleven selected samples from Bauru Basin in the study area indicate a basic mineralogy comprised by quartz (50%), feldspars (15%), lithic fragments (27%), carbonates (5%) and heavy minerals (3%). Samples plot into litharenite and sublitharenite fields at the McBride (1963) diagram (Figure 4). Using the geochemical classification diagram for siliciclastic rocks (Herron, 1998) and XRD data (Table 2), these samples were classified as Fe-sands, shale, litharenite, sublitharenite and wackes (Figure 5). According to this classification criterion, samples classified as Fe-sands, litharenites and sublitharenites are enriched in quartz and depleted in Al_2O_3 , K_2O and TiO_2 when compared with wackes and shales (Table 3). Microcline (K-feldspar) corresponds to the second or third most common mineral in

those samples, while Na-plagioclase (albite) occurs mainly on wackes and shales. Calcite and dolomite occurs in most of the samples as cements and correspond to the second most significant component in litharenite and sublitharenites.

Hematite concentrates mainly on Fe-sandstones, although this mineral is also found on litharenite, wackes and shales.

The major clay minerals are illite, montmorillonite and palygorskite. Illite and montmorillonite occur in most of the samples, with concentrations of these clay minerals being variable with predominance of higher peaks of illite or montmorillonite. Illite has its main peak at $d(001)$: 10.1 \AA and secondary peaks at $d(002)$: 5.0 \AA and $d(003)$: 3.32 \AA . Under air-dried, after saturation with ethylene glycol and after heating

to 250°C conditions, illite peaks were the same, highlighting its occurrence. Montmorillonite main peak under air-dried conditions occurs at d(001): 15 Å. After saturation with ethylene glycol this peak shifts to d(001): 17.8 Å.

Palygorskite main peak occurs at d(001): 10.4 Å. After saturation with ethylene glycol, this peak shifts to d(001): 10.7 Å. Other peaks found for palygorskite are d(002): 6.34 Å and d(003): 3.18 Å.

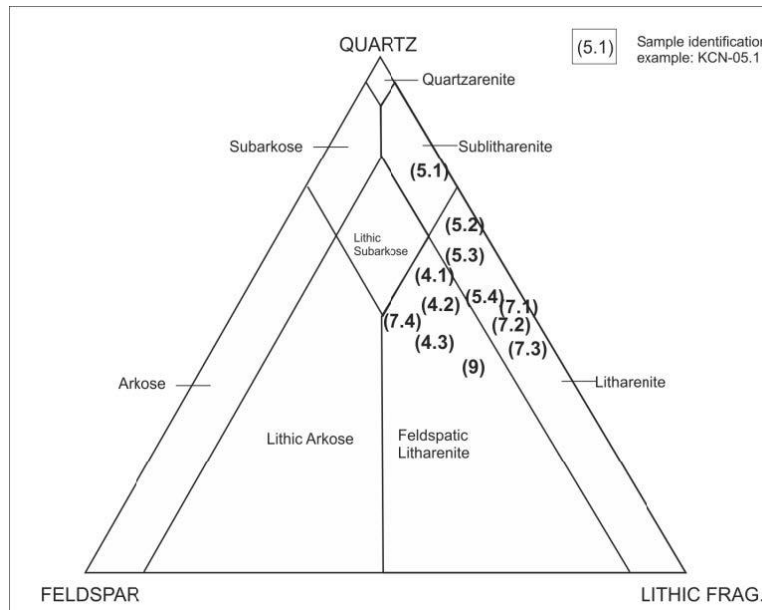


Figure 4 - Petrographic classification of selected rocks from Bauru Basin through the McBride (1963) diagram.

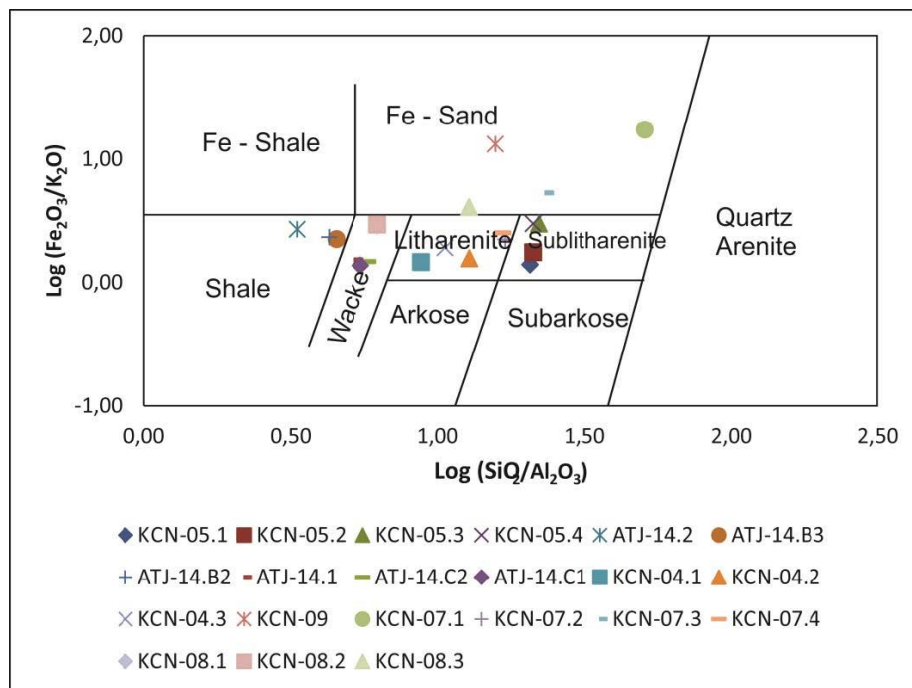


Figure 5 - Herron (1988) geochemical classification of the Bauru Basin samples in the study area, indicating the studied rocks are Litharenites, Sublitharenites, Fe-sands, wackes and shales.

GEOCHEMISTRY

The elemental concentrations of rocks from the Bauru Basin are given in Table 2. Average data of Post-Archean Australian Shale (PAAS – Taylor & McLennan 1985), considered representative of the upper continental crust composition, are also included in Table 1 and Figures 6 to 8, as a reference for the elemental

distribution of the samples during weathering and transport. A correlation matrix for all elements is shown in Table 2.

Major Elements

X-Ray Fluorescence analysis for the study area shows high SiO₂ contents for Fe-sands and sublitharenites reflecting a mineralogy consti-

tuted by high quartz contents (Table 3). In addition, most of the shales and wackes have high Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, MgO, K₂O and TiO₂ contents, associated with their high content in phyllosilicates and clay phases. For all the samples, the Al₂O₃/SiO₂ ratio ranges from 0.020 to 0.301 (Table 1). For shales and wackes this ratio is higher (0.250 and 0.173, respectively)

than for samples classified as sandstones. Fe₂O₃+MgO is also common in the composition of shales and wackes, with values ranging from 7.86 to 13.57%. Intermediate to very high K₂O/Na₂O contents for all samples (from 3 to 47.5) are consistent with XRD data (Table 3), indicating that microcline predominates over albite on the sediment composition.

Table 1 - Chemical composition of the classified sample groups and the PAAS (Taylor & McLennan, 1985) values. Major elements are in weight percent and trace and rare earth elements in µg/g. The major, trace and rare earth elements distributions normalized to PAAS are shown in Figures 6 to 8. The correlation coefficients obtained from the matrix correlations are reported in Table 3.

	Fe-Sands (n=4)	Shale (n=3)	Wacke (n=5)	Litharenite (n=5)	Sublitharenite (n=4)	PAAS
SiO ₂	81.55±1.48	55.40±2.53	66.32±1.06	71.47±3.59	75.20±3.50	62.80
Al ₂ O ₃	4.18±1.03	13.84±0.68	11.48±0.24	5.80±0.80	3.37±0.15	18.90
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.86±1.14	8.64±0.43	6.07±0.66	3.18±0.34	1.87±0.18	7.40
MgO	1.86±0.64	3.35±0.36	2.76±0.21	2.16±0.17	1.71±0.52	2.20
K ₂ O	0.62±0.29	3.57±0.05	3.11±0.20	1.70±0.23	0.87±0.09	3.70
TiO ₂	0.96±0.44	1.80±0.03	1.51±0.30	0.87±0.14	0.48±0.04	1.00
CaO	2.00±1.85	1.00±0.16	0.85±0.21	6.65±2.65	7.72±1.77	1.300
Na ₂ O	0.04±0.01	0.37±0.10	0.36±0.08	0.26±0.08	0.11±0.01	1.20
P ₂ O ₅	0.05±0.01	0.20±0.02	0.10±0.01	0.08±0.00	0.04±0.01	0.160
MnO	0.08±0.03	0.12±0.03	0.12±0.03	0.06±0.01	0.06±0.01	0.110
PF	4.26±1.41	11.37±0.98	6.85±1.15	7.25±2.08	7.99±1.70	6.00
Rb	19.53±8.59	97.53±2.78	85.86±9.89	51.16±6.48	23.53±2.24	160.0
Cs	0.45±0.16	3.20±0.23	2.68±0.39	1.14±0.20	0.43±0.03	15.0
Ba	218.13±78.85	541.23±223.61	564.62±46.19	348.88±29.38	188.70±14.83	650.0
Sr	63.33±31.03	194.67±1.67	139.04±11.27	390.60±125.43	254.35±69.49	200.0
Th	2.90±0.94	10.70±0.50	7.54±0.72	7.06±2.13	3.53±0.34	14.6
U	0.53±0.11	1.27±0.09	1.24±0.12	0.82±0.05	0.53±0.03	3.1
Zr	198.10±37.63	260.20±12.65	325.04±20.23	258.98±19.81	169.65±17.44	210.0
Hf	5.03±1.05	7.33±0.43	7.94±0.48	6.82±0.50	4.60±0.50	5.0
Y	12.53±5.47	22.33±2.33	20.96±3.20	14.74±2.10	13.28±0.87	27.0
Nb	18.65±8.98	39.33±2.03	37.86±4.52	20.26±2.13	7.58±0.39	19.0
Cr	174.73±47.49	243.33±38.44	256.80±28.23	137.74±18.71	121.80±22.34	110.0
Co	9.53±3.46	120.40±80.05	64.34±11.84	8.06±1.26	3.73±0.28	23.0
Ni	20.38±8.58	109.33±3.84	60.70±18.14	22.36±3.66	9.10±0.79	55.0
V	63.30±26.84	175.33±8.29	126.28±14.46	50.70±6.13	31.75±6.07	150.0
Sc	10.65±3.00	14.00±1.53	12.84±1.41	9.86±1.38	6.20±0.84	16.0
Cu	9.65±4.59	47.67±6.47	35.66±7.72	13.98±2.55	4.40±0.52	50.0
La	17.90±4.30	55.17±2.82	46.70±6.91	23.92±2.04	17.25±2.82	38.0
Ce	36.73±14.39	104.70±10.39	84.88±14.55	51.76±10.43	26.63±3.30	80.0
Pr	4.20±0.97	12.63±0.98	10.98±2.56	5.06±0.22	3.80±0.58	8.9
Nd	16.03±3.51	47.80±3.48	41.54±11.94	19.30±1.04	14.78±2.34	32.0
Sm	2.78±0.54	7.83±0.54	7.12±1.96	3.32±0.24	2.68±0.39	5.6
Eu	0.68±0.17	2.00±0.25	1.72±0.57	0.78±0.10	0.58±0.10	1.1
Gd	2.53±0.60	6.40±0.75	5.74±1.50	2.98±0.33	2.55±0.32	4.7
Tb	0.40±0.12	0.87±0.12	0.80±0.19	0.44±0.05	0.38±0.05	0.8
Dy	2.55±0.99	4.50±0.42	4.42±0.95	2.80±0.36	2.50±0.19	4.4
Ho	0.50±0.21	0.83±0.09	0.82±0.15	0.54±0.08	0.50±0.04	1.0
Er	1.55±0.72	2.37±0.20	2.30±0.38	1.68±0.21	1.50±0.11	2.9
Tm	0.23±0.09	0.37±0.07	0.32±0.05	0.22±0.04	0.20±0.00	0.4
Yb	1.60±0.77	2.30±0.20	2.32±0.24	1.76±0.18	1.53±0.11	2.8
Lu	0.23±0.09	0.33±0.03	0.32±0.02	0.24±0.04	0.23±0.03	0.4

Table 3: Resultant mineralogical composition of the analysed samples.

Sample	Mineralogy	Clay Minerals	Classification
KCN-05.1	Quartz, calcite, microcline	Montmorillonite/Illite	Sublitharenite
KCN-05.2	Quartz, dolomite, calcite, microcline	Palygorskite/Montmorillonite/Illite	Sublitharenite
KCN-05.3	Quartz, calcite, microcline	Palygorskite/Illite/Montmorillonite	Sublitharenite
KCN-05.4	Quartz, calcite, microcline	Palygorskite/Montmorillonite/Illite	Sublitharenite
ATJ-14.2	Quartz, microcline, calcite, hematite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Shale
ATJ-14.B3	Quartz, microcline, calcite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Shale
ATJ-14.B2	Quartz, microcline, albite, calcite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Shale
ATJ-14.1	Quartz, albite, microcline, calcite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Wacke
ATJ-14.C2	Quartz, microcline, albite, dolomite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Wacke
ATJ-14.C1	Quartz, microcline, albite, calcite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Wacke
KCN-04.1	Quartz, microcline, calcite	Montmorillonite	Litharenite
KCN-04.2	Quartz, microcline, calcite, dolomite	Montmorillonite/Illite	Litharenite
KCN-04.3	Quartz, calcite, microcline	Illite/Montmorillonite	Litharenite
KCN-09	Quartz, microcline, hematite	Illite/Montmorillonite	Fe-sand
KCN-07.1	Quartz, calcite, hematite	Palygorskite/Illite	Fe-sand
KCN-07.2	Quartz, calcite, microcline	Montmorillonite/Palygorskite	Litharenite
KCN-07.3	Quartz, hematite, microcline	Palygorskite	Fe-sand
KCN-07.4	Quartz, calcite, microcline, hematite, albite	Palygorskite/Illite	Litharenite
KCN-08.1	Quartz, hematite, microcline	Illite/Montmorillonite	Wacke
KCN-08.2	Quartz, hematite, microcline	Illite/Montmorillonite	Wacke
KCN-08.3	Quartz, hematite, microcline	Montmorillonite	Fe-sand

The elemental correlation matrix (Table 2) indicates a strong negative correlation between SiO₂ and Al₂O₃, K₂O and P₂O₅ (-0.73, -0,75 and -0.78, respectively). Moderate negative correlations occur between SiO₂ and Fe₂O₃, MgO and TiO₂. While Na₂O and MnO do not show a clear correlation with SiO₂, CaO has a very small negative correlation with SiO₂ (r= -0.065).

A negative correlation for Al₂O₃ versus SiO₂ and CaO and Sr was also observed (Table 2). Strong positive correlations between Al₂O₃ and Fe₂O₃, K₂O, TiO₂ Na₂O and P₂O₅ reflect the occurrence of feldspars and illite and montmorillonite in the sediment composition. Fe-sands, sublitharenites and litharenites are enriched in CaO, which has a moderate correlation with the loss on ignition (LOI) (r=0.54, Table 2), suggesting that LOI and CaO are incorporated into these sands as a calcite cement. High LOI percentages are due to the intensive volatile CO₂ releasing during the calcination of samples at 1000 °C.

Those samples are also enriched in SiO₂ when compared with the upper continental crust composition (Figure 6). The SiO₂ values for wackes and shales are similar to slightly depleted

in relation to the reference values. There is an overall Al₂O₃ depletion related to PAAS contents for all the samples, with a very small amount of Al₂O₃ in litharenites, Fe-sands, and sublitharenites (Figure 6).

Only shales are enriched in Fe₂O₃ when compared with the PAAS composition. Shales and wackes are also enriched in MgO and TiO₂. Fe-sands, litharenites and sublitharenites are depleted in MgO, P₂O₅ and MnO while shales and wackes show values enriched to slightly depleted in relation to the upper continental crust composition.

Trace elements

Results of ICP-MS analysis for study area indicate a depletion of large ion lithophile Elements (LILE: Rb, Cs, Ba, Sr, Th and U) when compared with the upper continental crust composition (Figure 7). The only exception is Strontium, which occurs in a higher amount in litharenites and sublitharenite samples when compared with the PAAS composition. Wackes and Fe-sand also show Sr values in their composition higher than the PAAS. Sr has a high positive correlation coefficient with MgO and CaO, and a low correlation with Al₂O₃, indicating its distribution is mainly controlled by post-

depositional carbonates. Other LILE have significant correlation coefficients with Al_2O_3 , including Cs, Rb and U, suggesting the distribution of those elements control the

occurrence of phyllosilicates and clay minerals. Depletion of LILE respective to the PAAS composition also reflects the role of weathering in the source area.

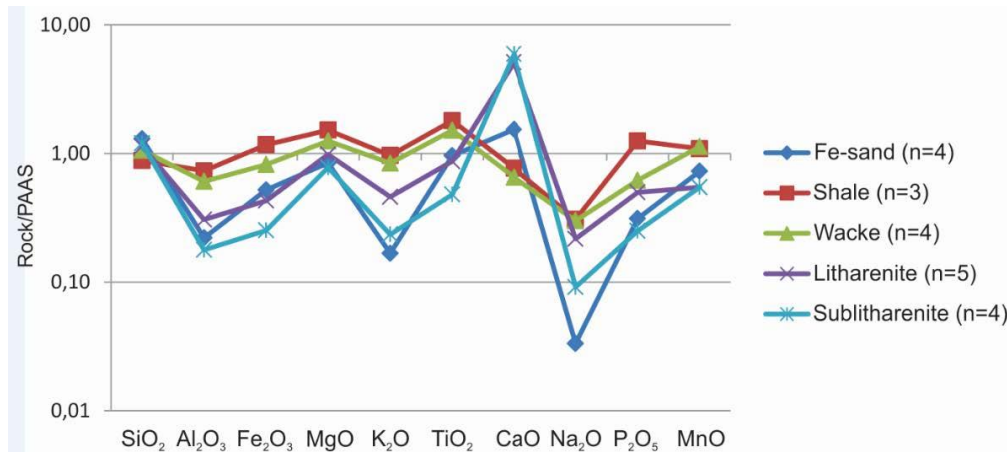


Figure 6 - Post-Archean Australian shale (PAAS) normalized values for the major elements from the Bauru Basin rocks in the studied area.

When considering the high field strength elements (HFSE: Y, Zr, Nb, Hf), sediments classified as shales, wackes and litharenites are enriched in Zr and Hf, while Fe-sands and sublitharenites have average values similar to the composition of the upper continental crust (Figure 7). Zr has a positive correlation with Hf, Y and Nb and Rare Earth Elements. All lithologies are depleted in Y, while sublitharenites shows a Nb depletion pattern (Figure 7). Average Nb contents for shales and wackes differ considerably from the upper continental crust composition while Fe-sands and litharenites have average Nb values similar to PAAS. The concentrations of transition trace elements (TTE: Cr, Co, Ni, V, Sc, Cu) vary in shales, wackes, Fe-sands, litharenites and sublitharenites. The amount of Cr are higher than

the PAAS composition for most of the sediments, with shales and wackes having strikingly higher values than the observed for the composition of the continental crust (Figure 7). Fe-sands, litharenites and sublitharenites tend to be depleted in Co and Ni, while the presence of those elements are more common for the studied shales and wackes than for the post-archean Australian shale. Shales and wackes have V, Sc and Cu values in their composition similar to slightly depleted in relation to the PAAS composition.

Other sediments in the study area are depleted in Sc and highly depleted in V and Cu. A strong positive correlation coefficient between Ni, V, Sc and Cu and Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 and K_2O (Table 3) indicates those elements are mainly concentrated in the phyllosilicates and clay minerals.

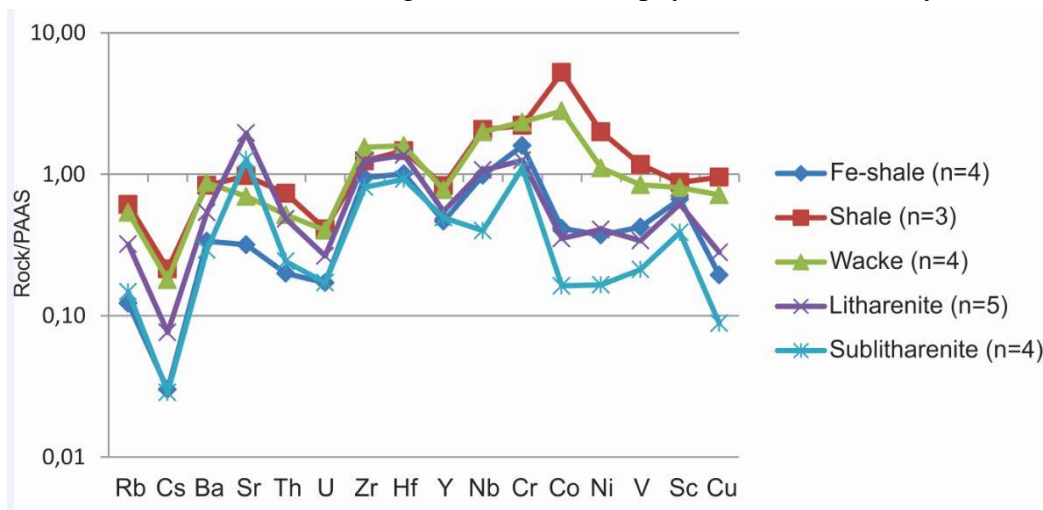


Figure 7 - Post-Archean Australian shale (PAAS) normalized values for the trace elements from the Bauru Basin rocks in the studied area

Rare Earth Elements (REE)

In general, Fe-sands, litharenites and sublitharenites are depleted in rare earth elements (REE) when compared with the PAAS composition. Light Rare Earth Elements (LREE) are more available in the composition of shales and wackes than in the upper continental crust composition, whereas the Heavy Rare Earth

Elements (HREE) are more present in the post-archean Australian shale than in the sediments of the Bauru Basin in the study area (Table 3). Rare Earth Elements are positively correlated with Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 and K_2O . As for the trace elements, the positive relation between REE and those major elements points towards a main concentration in phyllosilicates (Figure 8).

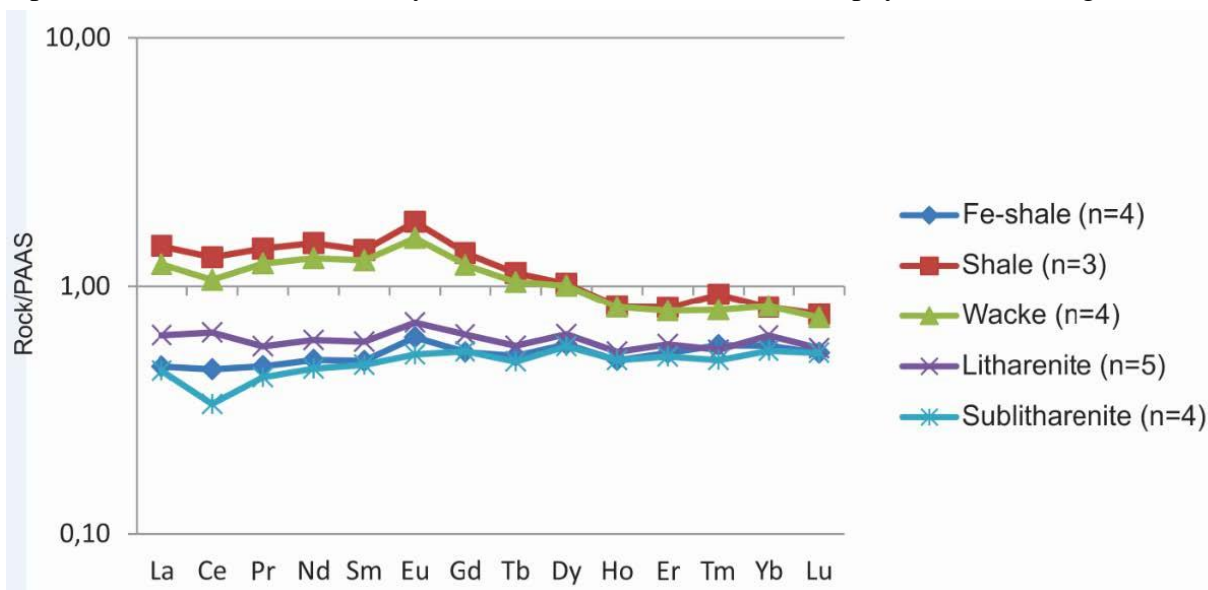


Figure 8 - Post-Archean Australian shale (PAAS) normalized values for the Rare Earth elements from the Bauru Basin rocks in the studied area.

TECTONIC SETTING, PROVENANCE AND WEATHERING IN THE BAURU BASIN

Sediments and sedimentary rocks composition are affected by three interrelated components: tectonic setting, climate and the depositional system nature (Cox et al., 1995; Fralick & Kronberg, 1997; McLennan, 1989; Nesbitt & Young, 1996). Since their composition also varies with time, geochemical characteristics may be applied to a comprehension of the evolving mechanisms of the Earth (Taylor & McLennan, 1985), being useful for the determination of depositional setting and associated provenance.

This section aims to describe the main influence of the geochemistry in the tectonic setting, provenance and composition of sedimentary rocks in the Bauru Basin, which suggest that even if the interaction of these factors is complex, the sedimentary behaviour is similar in certain geological settings (Akarish & El-Gohary, 2011; Dickinson & Suczek, 1979; Dickinson et al., 1983; Mishra & Sen, 2012).

Tectonic Setting

Major and trace elements were used in this work to discriminate the source area related to its tectonic setting (Figures 9 to 12) (Bhatia &

Crook, 1986; Roser & Korsch, 1986; Hossain et al. 2010, Akarish & El-Gohary 2011, Mishra & Sen, 2012 and Roy & Roser, 2013). Figure 9 shows a Th-Sc-Zr/10 diagram (Bhatia & Crook, 1986).

The interpretation of this tectonic setting diagram is expanded, as the passive continental margin field can also represent sedimentary rocks derived from stable continental areas and deposited in intracratonic basins (Mishra & Sen, 2012). A K_2O/Na_2O versus SiO_2 diagram also determined the tectonic setting for sediments deposited in the Bauru Basin (Figure 10) (Roser & Korsch, 1986; Roser & Korsch, 1988). Both plots indicate that studied samples plot into the continental passive margin field, indicating they derive from a stable tectonic setting such as an intracratonic basin.

Provenance

Major elements were used to determine the sedimentary provenance through a Discrimination Function Analysis diagram, representing four possible source rocks for the Bauru Basin: mafic igneous (P1), intermediate (P2), felsic (P3) and quartzose sedimentary rocks

(P4) (Figure 11) (Roser & Korsch, 1988). The term “Quartzose Recycled sediments”, originally proposed for P4, was substituted by Quartzose Sedimentary Rocks (Meinhold et al., 2007; Hossain et al., 2010; Roy & Roser, 2013). Most of Bauru Basin samples plot in the P4 field, equivalent to a quartzitic or an intensely

weathered granitic-gneissic terrane, or a recycled sedimentary source area (Roser & Korsch, 1988). Recycling effects represent a progressive loss of phyllosilicatic minerals such as feldspars and an increase in quartz contents. This observation also rules a minimal possibility of the mafic rocks role as a source rock for the studied samples.

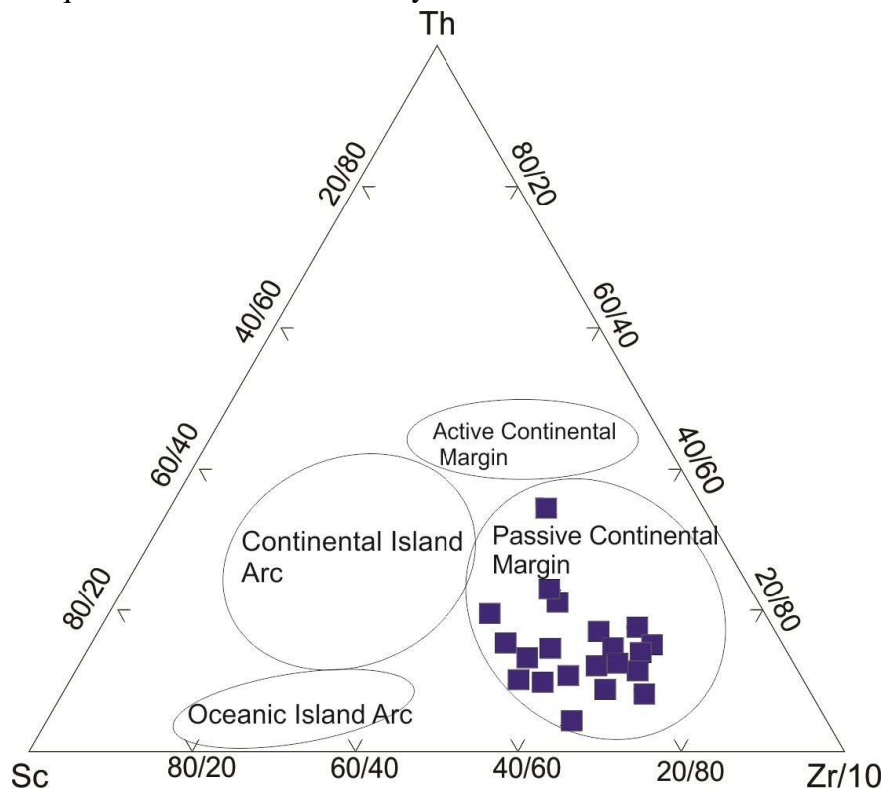


Figure 9 - Plot of the mean compositions of the samples from Bauru Basin in the Th-Sc-Zr/10 diagram (after Bhatia & Crook, 1986). All the samples plot into the Passive Continental Margin field.

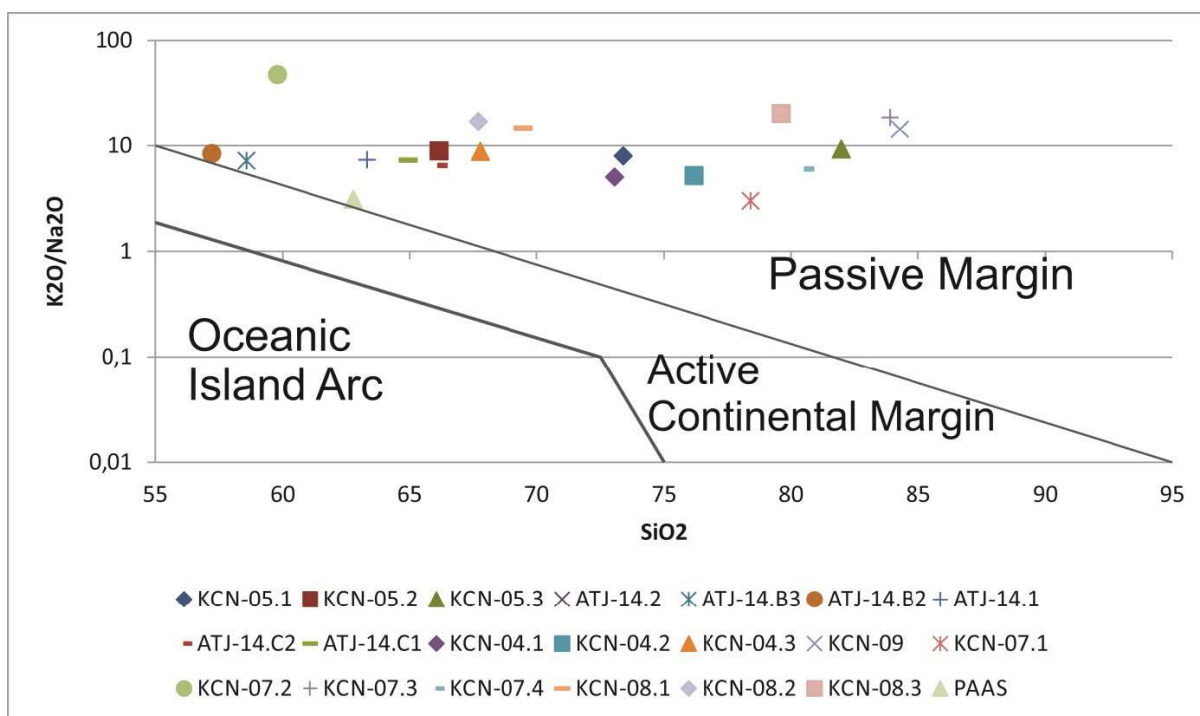


Figure 10 - K_2O/Na_2O versus SiO_2 tectonic setting discrimination diagram (after Roser & Korsch, 1986) evidencing that samples from Bauru Basin plot on the continental passive margin field.

Trace and Rare Earth elements tend to be immobile during weathering, transportation and deposition and are not affected by secondary processes after deposition such as diagenesis and metamorphism. Sediments from the Bauru Basin have high concentrations of Zr and Hf.

Those elements have a high positive correlation coefficient, suggesting a zircon abundance in the studied area, which along with the mineralogical maturity relate to a felsic or

reworked sediment source (Bauluz et al., 2000). A Zr/Hf ratio ranging between 31.89 to 46.84 for the Bauru Basin rocks contrasts with the average ratio for the post-archean Australian Shale (42), which also indicate that sediments from the Bauru Basin derive either from felsic source or from sediment recycling during transportation. Hf abundance was also analysed through a La/Th versus Hf diagram (Figure 12) (Floyd & Leveridge, 1987).

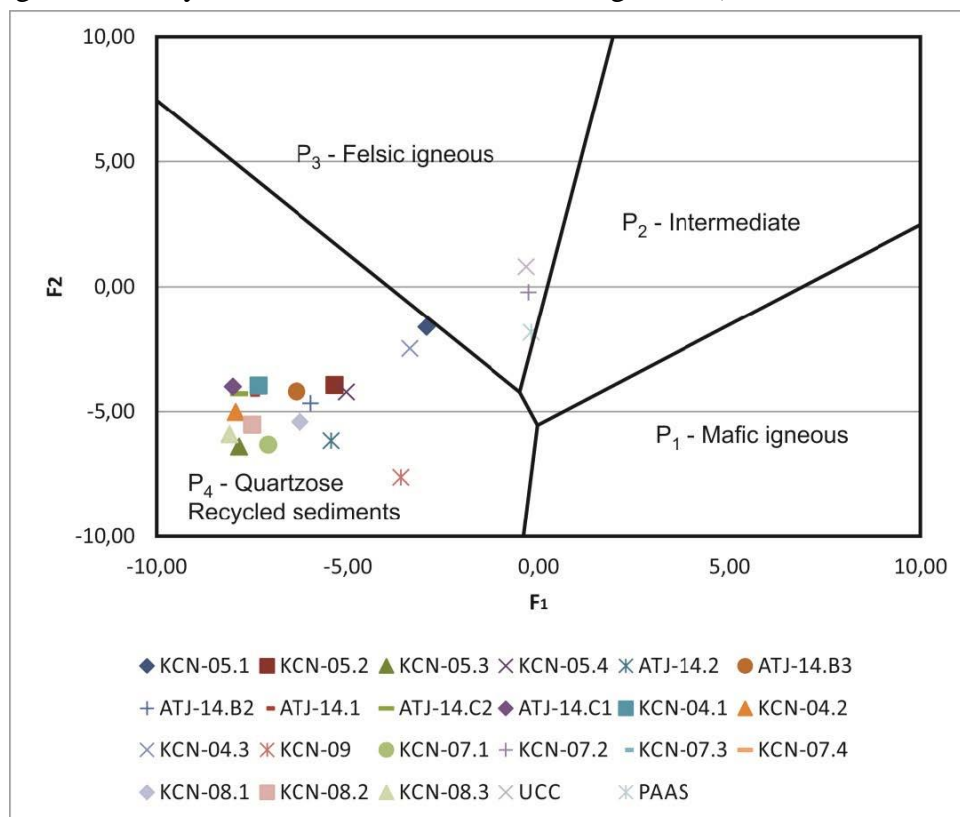


Figure 11 - Discriminant function analysis plot (Roser & Korsch, 1988) for the Bauru Basin sediments. It is possible to observe that most of studied rocks and sediments plot into the Quartzose Recycled sediment (P4) field.

Values of Hf for Bauru Basin samples in the studied area vary from 3.1 to 9.5 $\mu\text{g/g}$, while sediments show a low La/Th ratio values. Results from this diagram indicate the sediments from the Bauru Basin derive from an ancient recycled sedimentary component and points to a minor influence of felsic rocks. Ratios including Ba/Co (Cullers et al., 1988; Taylor & McLennan, 1985), Zr/Sc (McLennan, 1989), Cr/Ni (Garver et al., 1996), and Th/Sc, Th/Co and Th/Cr (Cullers, 1994; Cullers et al., 1988; Hossain et al., 2010; McLennan et al., 1990; Wronkiewicz & Condie, 1987) also indicate that sediments from the Bauru Basin are derived from felsic rocks exposed to weathering and undergone sediment recycling when transported to basin.

Rare Earth Elements have low residence time (<1000 years) and low solubility at sea and river

waters (Piper, 1974; Taylor & McLennan, 1985), being mainly transported as particulate material, and suggesting these elements are mainly transferred to clastic sedimentary rocks (Taylor et al., 1981). REE ratios as $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_c$, La/Sc, Eu/Eu* and LREE/HREE (Table 4) are significantly differentiated among mafic and felsic source rocks, thus offering information related to the sedimentary provenance and allowing the source rock discrimination even when sedimentary recycling is an important factor to consider (Armstrong-Altrin et al., 2004; Cox et al., 1995; Cullers, 2000, 1994; Cullers et al., 1988; McLennan et al., 1990; Rudnick & Gao, 2003; Wronkiewicz & Condie, 1987). Values for the $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_c$ and La/Sc in the studied area relate to the values from Cullers (1994, 2000) and Cullers et al. (1988) for felsic rocks.

Felsic rocks have high LREE/HREE ratios and negative Eu anomalies (Cullers, 1994; Cullers et al., 1988). Eu depletion is a result of intracrustal differentiation, associated with the felsic rocks

production (McLennan, 1989). In the Bauru Basin, Eu/Eu^* , $(La/Yb)_c$, La/Sc and LREE/HREE ratios are similar to sediments derived from felsic sources.

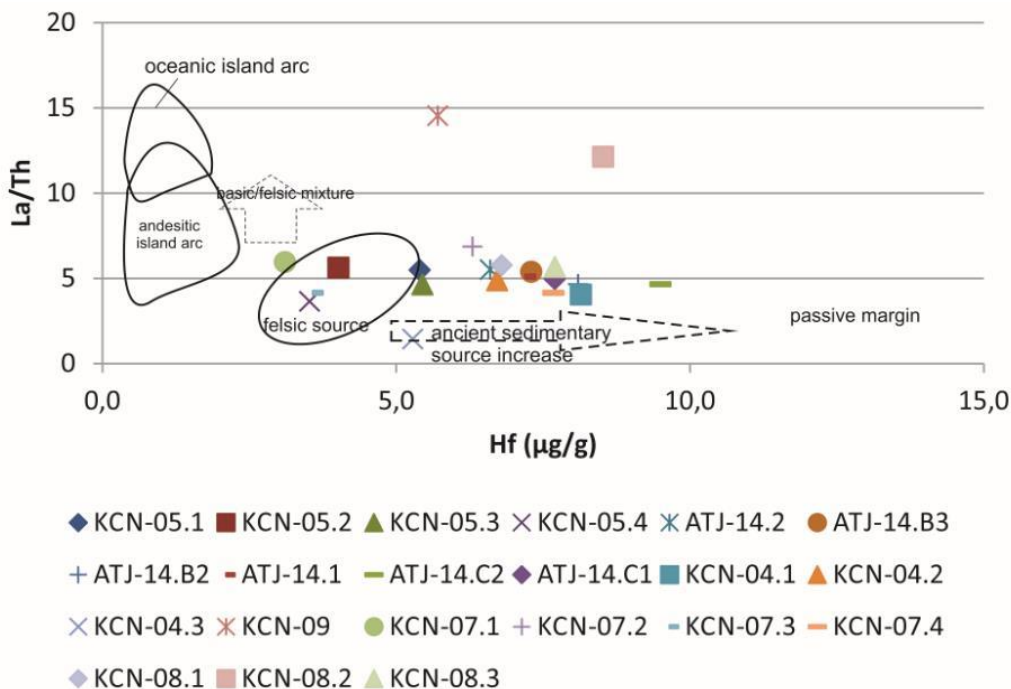


Figure 12 - Compositional and tectonic discrimination diagram using the La/Th ratio in relation to Hf (Floyd & Leveridge, 1987), showing that samples from Bauru Basin are mainly influenced by the increase of ancient sedimentary component and a felsic content.

Table 4 - Elemental ratios for sedimentary rocks from Bauru Basin at the study area compared to PAAS, felsic and mafic rocks values.

	Th/Sc	Th/Co	Th/Cr	$(La/Yb)_c$	La/Sc	Eu/Eu*	LREE/HREE
PAAS(a)	0,75	0,63	0,13	9,2	2,37	0,65	8,89
Variation for felsic rocks(b)	0,84-20,5	0,67-19,4	0,13-2,7	3,0-27,0	2,5-16,3	0,40-0,94	---
Variation for mafic rocks(b)	0,05-0,22	0,04-1,4	0,018-0,046	1,1-7,0	0,43-0,86	0,71-0,95	---
Obtained values(c)	0,1-1,91	0,04-1,92	0,008-0,14	3,86-120,44	1,47-4,86	0,62-0,92	2,75-13,95
Average values (n= 21)(c)	0,62±0,08	0,53±0,10	0,037±0,005	52,26±7,34	3,0±0,26	0,76±0,02	9,40±0,60

(a) Taylor & McLennan (1985)

(b) Cullers (1994, 2000), Cullers *et al.* (1988)

(c) This work

From the geochemical analysis of major, trace and Rare Earth Elements, the provenance of the sediments in the Bauru Basin are explained by a system dominated by detritus originated from highly weathered granite-gneissic materials, which also agrees with the recent literature for the Bauru Basin.

Weathering

The Chemical Index of Alteration (CIA; Nesbitt & Young, 1982) evaluates the progressive alteration of plagioclase and K-feldspars to clay minerals. This index works when Ca, Na and K decreases as the intensity of

weathering increases (Nesbitt & Young, 1984). CIA values are obtained by the equation: $CIA = [Al_2O_3 / (Al_2O_3 + CaO^* + Na_2O + K_2O)] \times 100$, where CaO^* is the quantity of CaO assimilated in the silicate portion of the rock, with all major oxides expressed in molar proportions.

As there is no direct method to discriminate and quantify the CaO from the silicate fraction and non-silicate fractions, corrections of the CaO amount on Ca in carbonates and phosphates are calculated from measured CO_2 and P_2O_5 contents. Due to the absence of CO_2 , $CaO^* = CaO - 10/3 \times P_2O_5$. CaO^* are accepted when the molar

proportion is smaller than the values of Na_2O . When CaO^* is greater than Na_2O , it is assumed to be equivalent to Na_2O values in the silicate fraction (McLennan, 1993).

The CIA values for the average shale ranges from 70 to 75, indicating a moderately weathered source and reflecting the occurrence muscovite, illite and smectite clays.

Intensely weathered rocks have a CIA value close to 100 and reflect kaolinite and chlorite content and a complete depletion in alkaline and alkaline earth elements (McLennan, 1993; Nesbitt & Young, 1982). The calculated CIA for the study area in the Bauru Basin varies from 64, 83 to 92,3 with an average of 74,34. These values indicate a moderate to intense level of weathering. In the $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 - (\text{CaO}^* + \text{Na}_2\text{O}) - \text{K}_2\text{O}$ ternary diagram (Figure 13) most of values from the Bauru Basin plot in a tight group next to the A-K axis close to muscovite and illite points, suggesting Al-enrichment during diagenesis and

the conversion of unstable minerals, for example, feldspars and mica, in clay minerals (McLennan et al., 1993).

The Chemical Index of Weathering (CIW; Harnois, 1988) includes only the major elements with a consistent geochemical behaviour during weathering, with the following equation: $\text{CIW} = [\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 / (\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{CaO}^* + \text{Na}_2\text{O})] \times 100$, with all major oxides expressed in molar proportions. Alteration profiles derived from granitic rocks have CIW values ranging from 59 (fresh rock) to 98 (most weathered rock), while those values of sandstones and mudstones from the Bauru Basin range from 84.0 to 98.2 (average = 91.6).

This result indicates a moderate to intense weathering degree in the source areas, corresponding to a semiarid climate and agrees with another geochemical dataset from rocks and paleosols from the Bauru Basin (Pereira et al., 2015; Silva et al., 2016; 2017a e b; Delgado et al., 2019).

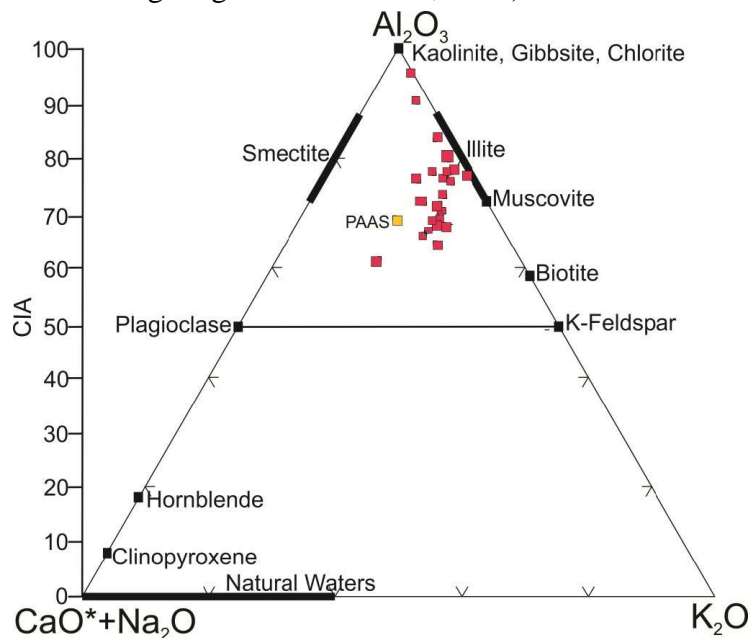


Figure 13 - Ternary $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 - (\text{CaO}^* + \text{Na}_2\text{O}) - \text{K}_2\text{O}$ plot (after Nesbitt & Young, 1984; McLennan, 1993). Plotted are estimates of Bauru Basin sedimentary rocks considered in this study. Also plotted is the average Post-Archean Australian Shale (PAAS - Taylor & McLennan, 1985). Shown at the left side is the CIA scale.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

During the Mesozoic alkaline intrusions in this now recognized as the limits between the Bauru Basin and the Sanfranciscan Basin to the NE, the pre-Cambrian basement comprised essentially by rocks attributed to a granitic complex at W; by the metasediments (paragneiss, schists, quartzites and fillites) from Araxá Group at the northeast and central portions and Bambuí Group rocks at the eastern was undergone a reactivation episode denominated Alto Paranaíba

Uplift (Hasui, 1968; Hasui & Haralyi, 1981; Batezelli & Ladeira, 2016).

The Uplift of the E and NE edges generated accommodation space and resulted in the initial configuration of Bauru Basin. The deformation of the NE edge exposed rocks from Serra Geral and Botucatu formations and the alkaline intrusions from Alto Paranaíba Uplift and Goiás Alkaline Province, constituting the sedimentary filling of the outermost Uberaba Formation

(Gravina et al., 2002; Batezelli, 2010). The source area of sediments from the Bauru Basin passed through constant modifications during its

evolution, as demonstrated in the palaeoenvironmental evolution model to the study area (Figure 14).

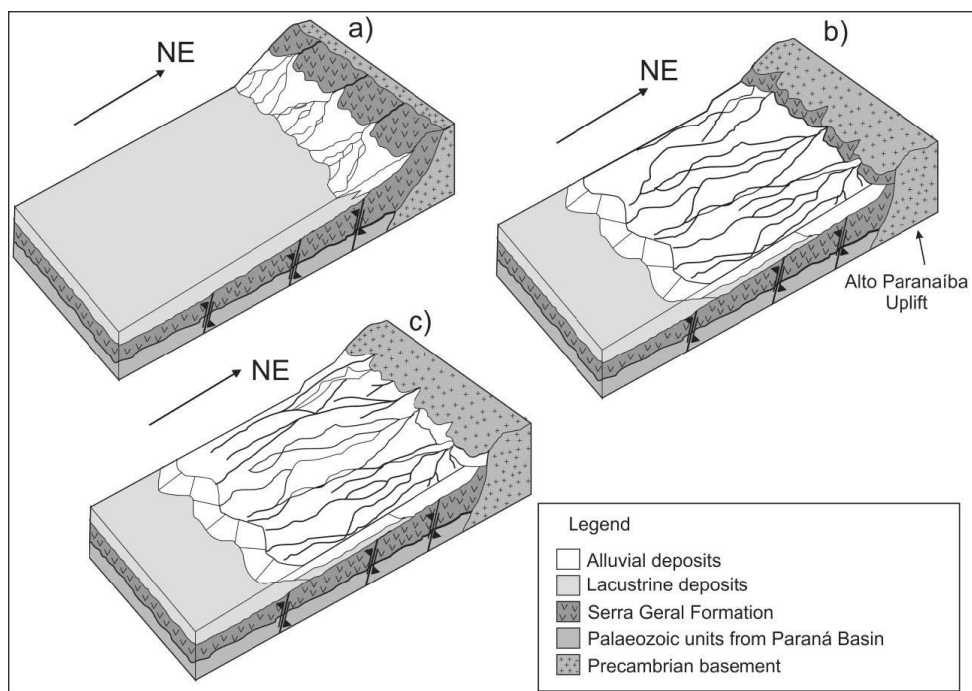


Figure 14 - Palaeoenvironmental evolution model for Bauru Basin at the study area. a) Beginning of alkaline intrusions on the E and NE edges, generating accommodation space for Bauru Basin sediments. Alkaline intrusions also resulted in the cropping of rocks from Serra Geral Formation and the Precambrian Basement. b) Alto Paranaíba Arc Uplift and the establishment of alluvial systems tract over the lacustrine deposits. c) Complete erosion of alkaline rocks, revealing that rocks from the granitic-gneiss Precambrian Basement is the main sedimentary source for the study area.

Progressively, rocks constituting the edges of Bauru Basin have been susceptible to weathering and erosional processes.

Sedimentary rocks analysed in this study and corresponding to the fluvial, and alluvial facies associations (Adamantina and Marília formations) exhibit a felsic nature, compatible with the outcropping of rocks from the quartzose Precambrian basement. Compositional maturity of sandstones deposited in Bauru Basin came either from the siliceous nature of source rocks from the basement and recycle of sediments in the sedimentary basin by ephemerals or perennial fluxes, as determined by the geochemical analysis for the studied area. Petrographic analysis of rocks from the fluvial and alluvial facies association in the northern and central Bauru Basin (Batezelli, 2003; Batezelli et al., 2005), and paleocurrent data from cross stratification on sandstones (Batezelli et al. 2007, Batezelli 2010; Batezelli, 2015; Batezelli & Ladeira, 2016; Batezelli et al., 2019) indicates a sedimentary inflow coming from the NE portion of Bauru Basin. Mudstones deposition through temporary streams flow into a depression and

carry with them a suspended load of clay and silt which was deposited in the still water. Sedimentary deposition of Bauru Basin reflects an interaction of aeolian and lacustrine processes similar to those from the mid-Holocene Gobi Mongolia Basin (Grunert et al., 2009) and the Permian Rotliegend Group from the Netherlands (McKie, 2011).

The main results from this paper proves that the geochemical fingerprint of sediment and sedimentary rocks is a reliable source for understanding the evolution and infill of a sedimentary basin. Here, sediments from the Bauru Basin were classified into Fe-sands, litharenites, sublitharenites, shales and wackes, with a chemical composition that either correlated or not with the post-Archean Australian shale. Ratios between major trace and Rare Earth elements and diagrams showed that rocks for the studied area had a strong affiliation with recycled sedimentary rocks, quartzose rocks and felsic rocks, weathered at semi-arid conditions. Those results are aligned with the literature on the evolution of the Bauru Basin during the Late Cretaceous.

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