
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OCCUPATIONS IN THE ARAGUAIA-PEIXE INTERFLUVE, GOIÁS, CENTRAL BRAZIL

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Résumé

Recent researches carried out in the Brazilian Central Plateau indicate that the human settlement of the region began with the establishment of hunter-gatherer groups in late Pleistocene and early Holocene, between 12,000 and 10,000 years BP. Data from December 2014 indicate that in the State of Goiás there are more than 1,246 Archaeological sites registered in the Cerrado biome, which has a high diversity of fauna and flora and is thought to be the second largest Brazilian biome in diversity. This research is located in the center of the country in the State of Goiás, with an extension of 340,257 km², called the Brazilian Central Plateau in which the Araguaia river basin is located. The archaeological sites are located in the interfluvium of the Araguaia and Peixe rivers, in the so-called Brazilian Mesopotamia. The Araguaia River is one of the main rivers of South America with 2,115 km of extension. In the 1940s more than twenty indigenous villages were listed along the river. Researches carried out in the 1970s indicate that these indigenous villages varied between 8 and 115 thousand square meters in circular, semicircular and linear forms. In view of this, it became fundamental to understand how these groups occupied the banks of the rivers of the region. This research deals with the contextual study of archaeological occupations in the Araguaia and Peixe rivers, their locations and chronology. Eight sites and six archaeological occurrences have been identified, all close to rivers and lakes. The general aim of this research is to test hypotheses about pre-colonial occupation, space occupation, formation of archaeological sites and settlement systems in river interfluvium, with emphasis on formation (depositional) and modifiers (post-depositional) of the archaeological record. In order to achieve this, it was necessary to use theoretical approaches, methods and techniques of geochemistry, geology, geomorphology, geography and archaeology. The focus is on the contexts of human occupations and their surrounding environment, taking not only material culture as a means of analysis, but all the variables to be thought for the construction of these dwellings. In this way, we used micromorphological analysis, chemical analysis of sediments, X-ray fluorescence analysis (pXRF), apparent electrical conductivity (EC) and magnetic susceptibility (K). The purpose of this article is to present the preliminary results obtained and how these results contribute to the cultural contextualization of the human groups that occupied the area.

Mots-Clés: Cerrado biome, Brazilian Central Plateau, Araguaia River

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