

QUATERNARY MAMMALS FROM THE GOIÁS STATE, AS TOOLS TO PALEOENVIRONMENTAL INFERENCES

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RESUMO: Previous survey on the fossil vertebrates occurrences from the Goiás State authorized recognition of the paleontological / paleobiological investigation potential for this federative unity, considering especially the Pleistocene / Holocene boundary. This chronological interval has revealed an expressive amount of fossil and sub-fossil vertebrates, exhibiting a great variety of groups and taxons, especially micromammals remains. Remains of small size mammals were previously collected in caves situated on Northern and Southwestern Goiás State. Caves from Northern Goiás permitted to recognize varied groups, among them remains associated to Didelphimorphia and Rodentia, including new morphotypes. Additionally numerous remains, from the same region, authorized recognition of six different groups of Chiroptera, Mormoopidae, Natalidae, Phyllostomidae, Molossidae, Emballonuridae, Vespertilionidae, also including identification of new undescribed morphotypes. The presence of Chiroptera groups, typical to humid environments, but scarce and / or absent to the modern Northern Goiás State, suggests more humid paleoenvironments during Pleistocene / Holocene boundary, around 10.000 to 11.000 years. Caves from Southwestern Goiás State permitted recognition of varied mammals groups, small to medium sizes, casually used as food source, in the last 11.000 years, by primitive "Cerrado" inhabitants. Remains of medium and large sizes mammals were also recorded to some Goiás State localities, for instance represented by Xenarthra (Eremotherium), Proboscidea (Stegomastodon), Perissodactyla (Tapirus), Artiodactyla (Platygonus). These data, related to diverse mammal occurrences from the Goiás State Quaternary admitted, in association to available palynological data, interpretations of paleoclimatic fluctuations, during the Pleistocene / Holocene chronological interval. In the same manner they authorize inferences about responses from these various groups, to particular climatic changes, disposing perception of their life paleoenvironment. Supplementary use of these paleoenvironmental and paleoclimatical data can offer a better comprehension of the modern biogeographical pattern of distribution to these mammal groups, as well as the evolution of the "Cerrado" during upper Pleistocene and lower Holocene. These data certainly would become preservation, protection, sustainable utilization programs, related to the "Cerrado", much more efficient. Appropriate creation and maintenance of these programs are indispensable, once "Cerrado" is considered profoundly affected by many human activities, especially the expansion of the agricultural frontiers.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: QUATERNARY; GOIÁS STATE; MAMMALS.