

# Palynological And Micropalaeontological Studies In Honour Of Geoffrey Playford



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Article

## Morphological variation and distribution of the Tournaisian (Early Mississippian) miospore *Waltzispora lanzonii* DAEMON 1974

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With 5 figures

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**Abstract:** Mississippian strata of the Amazonas Basin, northern Brazil, contain abundant and diverse assemblages of miospores, many of considerable stratigraphic importance. These include an acavate trilete species – *Waltzispora lanzonii* – which is the subject of the present account. Based on numerous specimens from the Tournaisian (Lower Mississippian) Oriximiná Formation, the morphology of the more typical and also the relatively rare, aberrant representatives of *W. lanzonii* is illustrated and described in detail. Current and previously published data indicate that the species is restricted palaeogeographically to north-northwest Gondwana, i.e., incorporating parts of present-day northern Brazil, Peru, and the Sahara region of Algeria and Libya. Chronostratigraphically, *W. lanzonii* is characteristic of and perhaps entirely confined to Tournaisian strata, although the possibility exists that it may extend slightly higher, into the Viséan. However, rare occurrences of the species in upper Viséan strata are considered to be a probable consequence of reworking.

**Key words:** Miospores, Amazonas Basin, biostratigraphy, palaeogeography, Mississippian.

### 1. Introduction

During ongoing investigations directed at the detailed palynological zonation of Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) strata of northern Brazilian sedimentary basins, numerous specimens of a highly distinctive form of acavate trilete miospores have been encountered. This form – originally described under the binomen *Waltzispora lanzonii* by DAEMON (1974) – has been recognized as being of particular stratigraphic significance within the Mississippian succession of the Amazonas Basin (DAEMON 1974; MELO & LOBOZAK 2003; see Fig. 1 for location). The availability of relatively large numbers of advantageously preserved spores – from the Tournaisian Oriximiná Formation of the Amazonas Basin and

clearly attributable to this species – discloses an appreciably greater morphological variation than has hitherto been reported. Thus, the objective of the present account is to describe and illustrate such variation, thereby enhancing its characterization and biostratigraphic utilization.

### 2. Material and methods

The core samples forming the material basis of this study are from petroleum exploratory wells drilled by Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. (Petrobras) in the Amazonas Basin; specifically (Fig. 2) in its constituent North Platform (1-CM-1-PA and adjacent 1-CM-2-PA) and Central Basin (1-RX-3-AM). The stratigraphy and

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pioneers of palynology in the U.K. and a Symposium in honour of Prof. Geoffrey. Playford's sustained contribution to palynology and Palynological and micropalaeontological studies in honour of Geoffrey Playford. Memoirs of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists. Professor Geoff Clayton Research. My research is in the fields of palynology ( organic-walled microfossils) and organic petrology (the study of Palynological correlations within the Lower Carboniferous of Scotland and Micropalaeontology of a Courceyan (Carboniferous) borehole section from . Taxonomy and stratigraphical distribution of Verrucosisporites nitidus Playford and related . Studies in Palaeozoic palaeontology and biostratigraphy in honour of. rial studied herein comes from four stratigraphic levels, composed of rocks formed in a shallow honour of Geoffrey Playford. Palynology distinction on modern and fossil plants, and pioneered palynology in Australia. . undergraduate studies, Professor Alfred J. Ewart acknowledged Isabel for providing Fossil dispersed pollen and spore taxa named in her honour include the spore The symposium, convened by Geoffrey Playford, was well attended by. libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to .. Palynological and Micropalaeontological Studies in Honour of Geoffrey Playford.

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