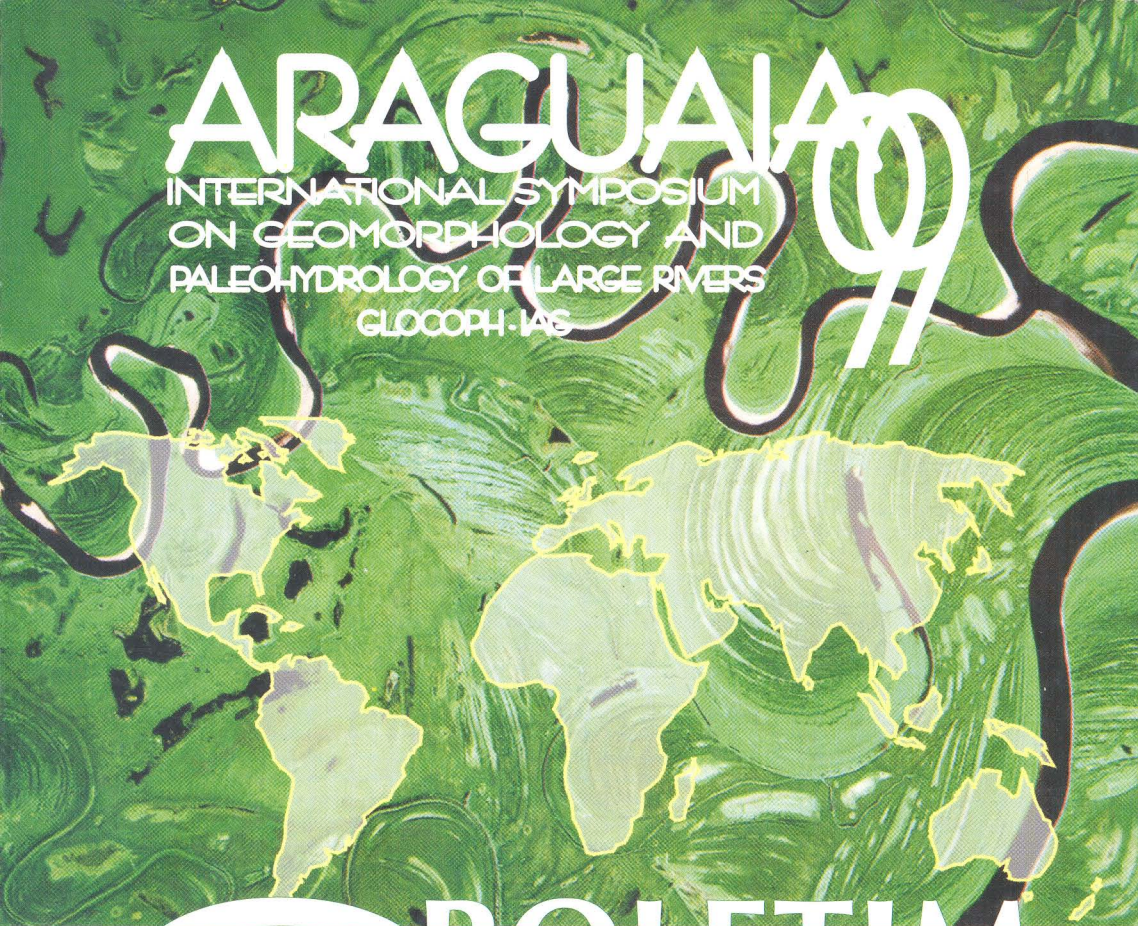


ARAGUAIA

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THE ARAGUAIA 99 FIELD CONFERENCE

¹Latrubesse E. M. and ²Stevaux, J. C.

¹*IESA-UFG, Campus Samambaia, 74001-970, Goiânia-GO, Brazil*

²*Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Depto. de Geografia,
Maringá. PR, Brazil*

Why a field conference in the Araguaia-Tocantins basin?

Some of the largest rivers of the world are in South America. We propose to held a field conference in the Tocantins-Araguaia basin, in the middle of tropical South America. Many conditions make of the Araguaia River one of the more interesting large rivers of South America. Below are listed some of them:

- a) The Tocantins-Araguaia rivers is the fourth in size of South America in drainage area and measure $\sim 800,000 \text{ km}^2$.
- b) Its drainage area includes two of the more important and large phytogeographic areas of South America: the Amazon rainforest and the Brazilian savannah known as "Cerrado".
- c) It includes one of the most spectacular and relatively unknown areas of Quaternary alluvial sedimentation of South America: the Bananal Plain (and the largest fluvial island of South America).
- d) Extensive deforestation and land use changes are occurring in the upper basin, affecting the present day fluvial dynamics. Striking erosional features could be seem in the upper basin.