# ARCHIPELAGO-ACCRETIONARY OROGENESIS IN NORTHERN XINJIANG: PALEOZOIC CONTINENTAL GROWING OF CENTRAL ASIA

Wenjiao Xiao, Shu Sun, Kezhang Qin, Zhihong Wang, Jiliang Li

The deformation styles and accretionary process of Northern Xinjiang, China, are characterized by various kinds of geological terranes with intervening ophiolites or tectonic melanges. Among those terranes, arc terranes are the considerable features. Particularly noteworthy are those ophiolites which mostly are remnants of back-arc or arc-related basins. By integrating tectonic facies analysis and paleomagnetic data, this paper reports the tectonic units in the study area, and examines the accretionary history, in a working hypothesis of archipelago-accretionary orogenesis, in which the authors think both the growing arc and the back-arc collapse mechanism play key roles in continental growing. Some of the mineral resources of tectonically related environments are also highly agreement with the tectonic facies distribution pattern. This type of orogenesis is typical in central Asia and its investigation has produced understanding of continental orogenic process that is probably applicable to other orogenic belts.