

RIBEIRA BELT AT THE RIBEIRA VALLEY, BRAZIL: A REVIEW IN THE APIAÍ FOLDED BELT (AFB)

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The AFB is in the south-eastern part of the Ribeira belt between the Três Córregos batholithic complex and the Curitiba block. The AFB is made mainly of supracrustal rocks, with diverse regional names. A new geological map of the belt: São Paulo and Paraná region, has been presented in a digital version, which was compiled in a 1:125.000 scale using several published and unpublished sources followed by field checking. Recent structural, stratigraphic, geochemistry and isotopic data has been considered. The intense overthrusting, weak metamorphism and calcalkaline granite batholith intrusions, around 700-650 Ma, modified the original stratigraphy. These events were followed by large transcurrent faults with fold and thrust associated structures, coeval with generalized small granite body intrusions at 650-550 Ma. The several tectono-stratigraphic units are found in many blocks and have as a common feature the imprinted Brasiliano Cycle. Tectonic puzzled Mesoproterozoic units were put together with Neoproterozoic ones. The units correlation and discrimination have been made by: lithologic facies and sequence similarities, structural imprint, and geochemical and isotopic characteristic of associated mafic intrusions. The AFB in the Ribeira valley is poorly known, mainly because of intense relief, rain forest and thick soils. It is known as mineral province with SEDEX and MV type deposits already exploited, as well as sedimentary Mn and Fe, vein type gold and nonmetallic mineral mines (Ba, F, Talc etc). The belt constitutes an attractive zone for mineral research because they are located near industrial centers.