THE NEOPROTEROZOIC WEST-CONGOLIAN SUPERGROUP OF CENTRAL AFRICA : CORRELATION WITH THE BAMBUI SUPERGROUP OF BRAZIL

[1]F. BOUDZOUMOU, [2]R. TROMPETTE and [2]P. AFFATON

[1]Geological Survey of Congo, Direction Générale des Mines B.P. 2124 Brazzaville Congo

[2]CEREGE, Université d'AIX Marseille III CNRS-FU017 Europôle Méditerrannéen de l'Arbois BP.80 13545 AIX en Provence Cedex 04 France

The Congo-Sao Francisco craton (Western Gondwana) is bounded by a set of Panafrican orogenic belts (e.g. Araçuai-West Congo, Damara, Oubanguide-Sergipe and Brasilia belts). The West-Congolian and Bambui Supergroups represent large portions of its Neoproterozoic cover formations. These two supergroups lie on the Archean-Paleoproterozoic basement (with a major unconformity) or/and on Mesoproterozoic aulacogens, such as the Mayombe and Espinhaço aulacogens, with a slightly angular unconformity.

In Central Africa, **the West-Congolian Supergroup** is thin and subtabular on the cratonic Chaillu massif but thicker and gently folded within the external zone of the adjacent Panafrican orogen. It comprises a lower part made up of clastic sequence and a diamictite formation interpreted as a glacio-marine deposit ; a middle "schisto-calcaire" group constitued by stromatolitic limestones and/or dolotones, with thin clastic intercalations ; and an upper "schisto-gréseux" group made up of fine to coarse facies.

In Central Brazil, **the Bambui Supergroup** starts with the lenticular glaciogenic Jequitai formation that is followed by a thick succession of stromatolitic carbonate rocks with thin clastic intercalations(Bambui group). It ends with a coarse molassic continental formation.fi

Both supergroups start with a glacial épisod followed by a thick stromatolitic carbonate sedimentation. They end with coarse clastic sequences partially or totally considered as molassic rocks. These two cratonic covers show a quite similar evolution which might be related to the characteristics of the Panafrican orogenic cycle in this part of Gondwana.