

FISSION TRACK THERMOCHRONOLOGY AND DENUDATION HISTORY OF THE ARGENTERA MASSIF (WESTERN ALPS, FRANCE-ITALY).

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We dated by fission tracks the hercynian basement of the southernmost External Crystalline Massif of the Western Alps. In the NW part of the Argentera 80-50 Ma zircon ages indicate a cooling below $\sim 330^{\circ}\text{C}$ since the Upper Cretaceous. Elsewhere ages in the 29-20 Ma range linearly correlated with altitude may be related to post-oligocene nappes cooling. Apatite ages suggest a fast denudation of the NW part of the massif around 6 Ma. Elsewhere the exhumation of a paleo-PAZ with ages up to 12 Ma started 3.5 Ma ago and was followed by a late reverse southward motion along the Bersezio fault zone. The Pliocene uplift/denudation is coeval with the North-ligurian basin subsidence.