

Neotectonic along the Amazon river

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There are several remnant landforms of the Miocene-Pliocene transpression in the Manaus- Nhamunda and Baixo Tapajós regions with the aligned hills and the Monte Alegre dome, which are interpreted as a fold in advanced stage of erosion on the hanging-wall of a reverse fault, this being the best examples associated with folds and reverse faults. The mountains and hill remnants of Gurupá and adjacent areas are probably features of the shoulder of the transtensive basin filled by shallow marine water, transitional and fluvial sequences of Miocene-Pliocene age. The rectangular drainage pattern of Tupinambarana region and the large-scale linear segments of the Amazon river of Comandá and Gurupá regions are strongly controlled by the trend of the transcurrent faults which have been active since the Upper Tertiary.

The modern landscape is largely the result of extension and transtension along or between the propagation of large-scale transcurrent faults throughout the Quaternary. Extensional normal faults control the trend of the lower courses of the large rivers: Urubu, Preto da Eva, Negro, Uatumã, Nhamundá, Tapajós, Xingu rivers while the transcurrent faults define the orientation of those of Amazon and Tocantins river. Paleochannels (e.g. Marajó Island), aligned hills in the NW-SE direction, river lakes and abandoned meanders widespread in the flood plains are features of vertical displacements along the normal or transcurrent faults. It should also be emphasised that Tupinambarana and Gurupá shapes appear to be associated with interactions (stepover) of right-hand strike-slip faults.