

PALEOTECTONICS AND PALEOGEOGRAPHY OF EARLY PALEOZOIC OF IRAN

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Palaeomagnetic reconstruction of Iran and its position relative to Africa and Arabia are poorly constrained, and the data have been interpreted in different ways. For instance, Schemidt and Soffel 1984 concluded that in the Ordovician and Silurian, Iran was located between 0-15° N latitude; Vaslet 1990 indicated a palaeolatitude of about 40° for East-central Iran; and li et al. 1993 showed Iran located at a palaeolatitude of about 30°S during the Cambro Ordovician, and on the equator in the mid-Silurian and Early Devonian. Similar faunas from Kerman region and Afghanistan strongly support proximity in the Early palaeozoic for sequences flanking the Lut Block and Farah Block. Consequently the most consistant reconstruction based on palaeomagnetism, stratigraphy and faunal evidence links Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan into a microcontinent with a lower palaeolatitude than Saudi Arabia and Oman during the Early Palaeozoic.