

New aspects of the geology of the Belo Horizonte sheet, scale 1:250.000 (Minas Gerais, Brazil)

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A compilation of geologic data of the Belo Horizonte sheet, scale 1:250.000 (19°-20°S; 43°30'-45°W) is presented. It comprises several important sequences and features of Precambrian geology at the SE-margin of the São Francisco Craton, such as parts of the Quadrilátero Ferrífero and the Serra do Espinhaço as well as many important mineral deposits. It is built up by Late Archean TTG-terrains, part of the Rio das Velhas greenstone-belt which includes important primary gold-deposits, such as Morro Velho and Cuiabá mines; the northern part of the Paleoproterozoic Minas Supergroup (about 2.6 - 2.0 Ga), which hosts the well known itabirite (BIF)-deposits, including also the famous jacutinga-gold deposit of Gongo Soco. The eastern margin is occupied by the Late Paleo- to Midproterozoic Espinhaço Supergroup (<1.8 Ga) built up by continental to shallow marine quartzites and phyllites, to the west bordered by continental to glaciogenic deposits of the Macaúbas Group and finally Neoproterozoic platform sediments (carbonates and pelites) of the Bambui Group, principal source of industrial rocks, such as limestone and slates. Several aspects of structural geology, such as Archean collisional tectonics and emplacement of Archean to Early Paleoproterozoic granites are emphasised. The Minas Super-group is divided in three major depositional sequences, corresponding to i) the Caraça + Itabira, ii) the Piracicaba and iii) the Sabará groups. A new stratigraphic column of the basal part of the Bambui Group is presented, drawing special attention on clastic sediments, up to date not considered in the classical stratigraphy.