

Tectonics of the Kurosegawa terrane in Japan: disrupted remnants of Gondwanaland

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The Kurosegawa terrane in Japan is a disrupted, composite terrane of Paleozoic and Mesozoic ages which is bounded by, and separates, two distinctly different Mesozoic terranes both of which are widely interpreted as oceanic subduction complex.

It is composed of fragments of a Ordovician crystalline basement complex, a Permian and Triassic continental margin assemblages with melange, and the Permian to Jurassic covering strata which unconformably overlie the former two assemblages. The Kurosegawa terrane was possibly originated as a stratigraphic terrane of East Gondwanaland, drifted with close to the eastern margin of the South China and the Indochina/East Malaya blocks, and finally accreted to the Asian continent.

The present-day Kurosegawa terrane is a serpentinite melange zone among the Jurassic oceanic terranes. The original elements of the stratigraphic Kurosegawa terrane have been disrupted in earliest Cretaceous time and overlain by nappes originated from the Median Tectonic Line in Paleogene. These facts indicate that a part of collage zone of eastern margin of Asia was later transpressed, dispersed, and displaced from the southeastern peripheral zone of Asia towards the north.