

N and S margins of Late Palaeozoic-Mesozoic Tethys in the E. Mediterranean region

A H F ROBERTSON (1), T USTAOMER, (2) E PICKETT (3), S BROWN (1), I SHARP (4) and J E DIXON(1)

¹Dept. of Geology & Geophysics, Edinburgh, EH9 3JW, UK;
²Dept. of Geology, Istanbul Univ.;³British Geological Surv., Edinburgh; ⁴ Norsk Hydro, Bergen, Norway

The S-Tethyan margin was mainly passive. However, along the N margin of the Taurus platform and further W (Karaburun/Chios) the presence of inferred Late Palaeozoic accretionary melange implies a phase of southward subduction, assuming Tethys remained open. By contrast, the N-Tethyan margin was mainly active. The Kure ophiolite and Cangalidag arc (Central Pontides) record pre-mid Jurassic northward subduction. Late Triassic, Cimmerian collision did not affect W Turkey/N Greece (cf. Iran). Collision of continental fragments/oceanic seamounts with Eurasia in NW Turkey emplaced the Karakaya accretionary complex, followed by opening of Jurassic trans-tensional? marginal basins (Armutlu/Svoula). Northward subduction formed the Mid-Jurassic Paikon arc/Guevgueli marginal basin, N Greece, on Eurasian basement. Localised, pre-Tithonian collision of the Pelagonian microcontinent with Eurasia was followed by U. Jurassic-L. Cretaceous transtensional? oceanic basin opening (Almopias). Northward subduction later created the U Cretaceous Pontide continental margin arc.