



VIII GeoSciEd 2018 – 8<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Conference of the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO)

– *Geosciences for Everyone* –

VIII Simpósio Nacional de Ensino e História de Ciências da Terra / EnsinoGEO-2018

– *Geociências para Todos* –

Campinas – Sao Paulo – Brazil, July 2018



EnsinoGEO  
2018

# Geology & relief of South America: Phanerozoic seas, glaciers, deserts...

**Celso Dal Ré Carneiro**



Graduate Program of Teaching and History of Earth Sciences  
Geosciences Institute



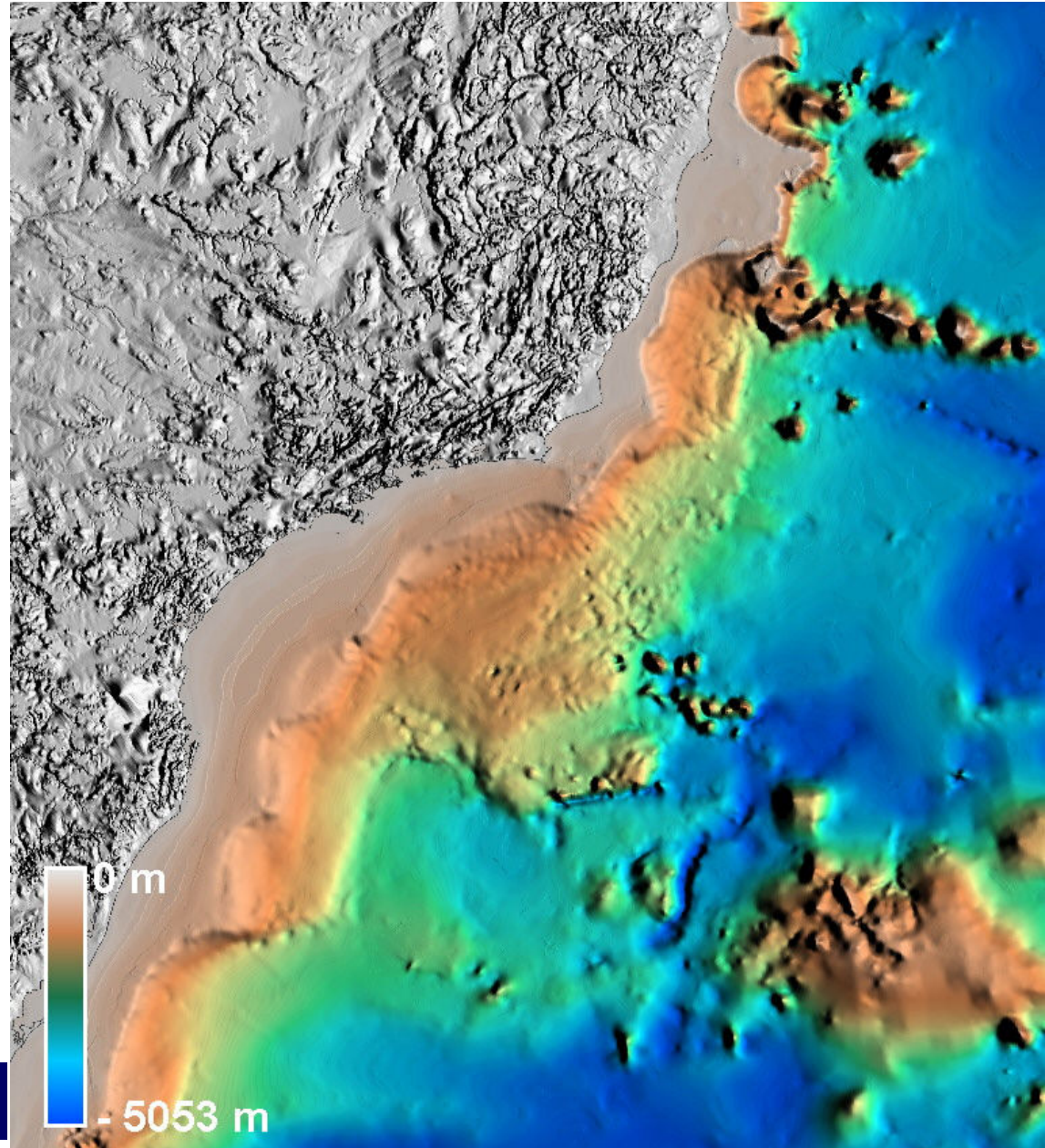
University of Campinas

# International Geological Monument



**Great News!**  
**Pre-Salt,**  
how to explain  
the origin of it?

Topo-bathymetry and relief of Southeastern South America (Mohriak 2004, modif. C. Bentz)

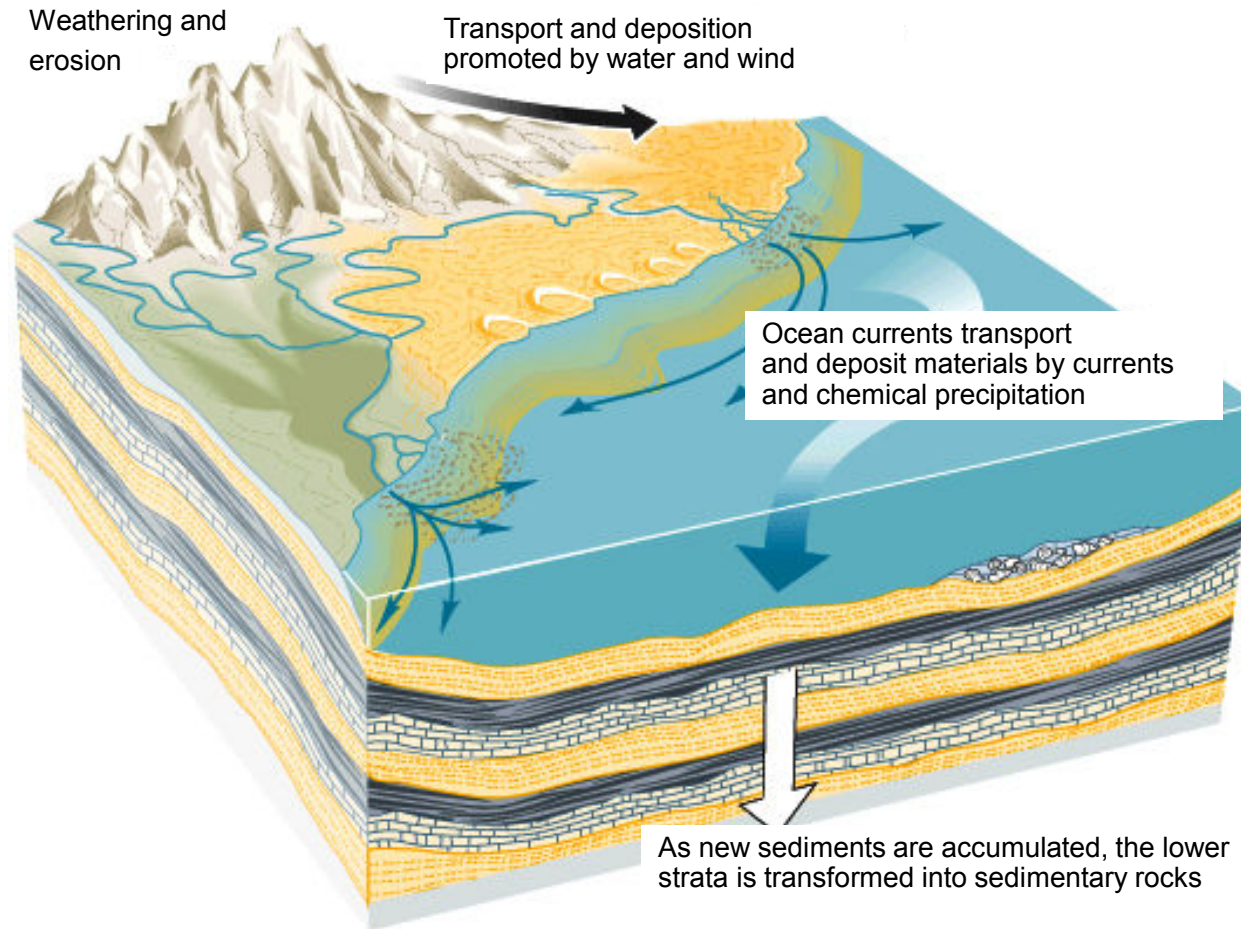


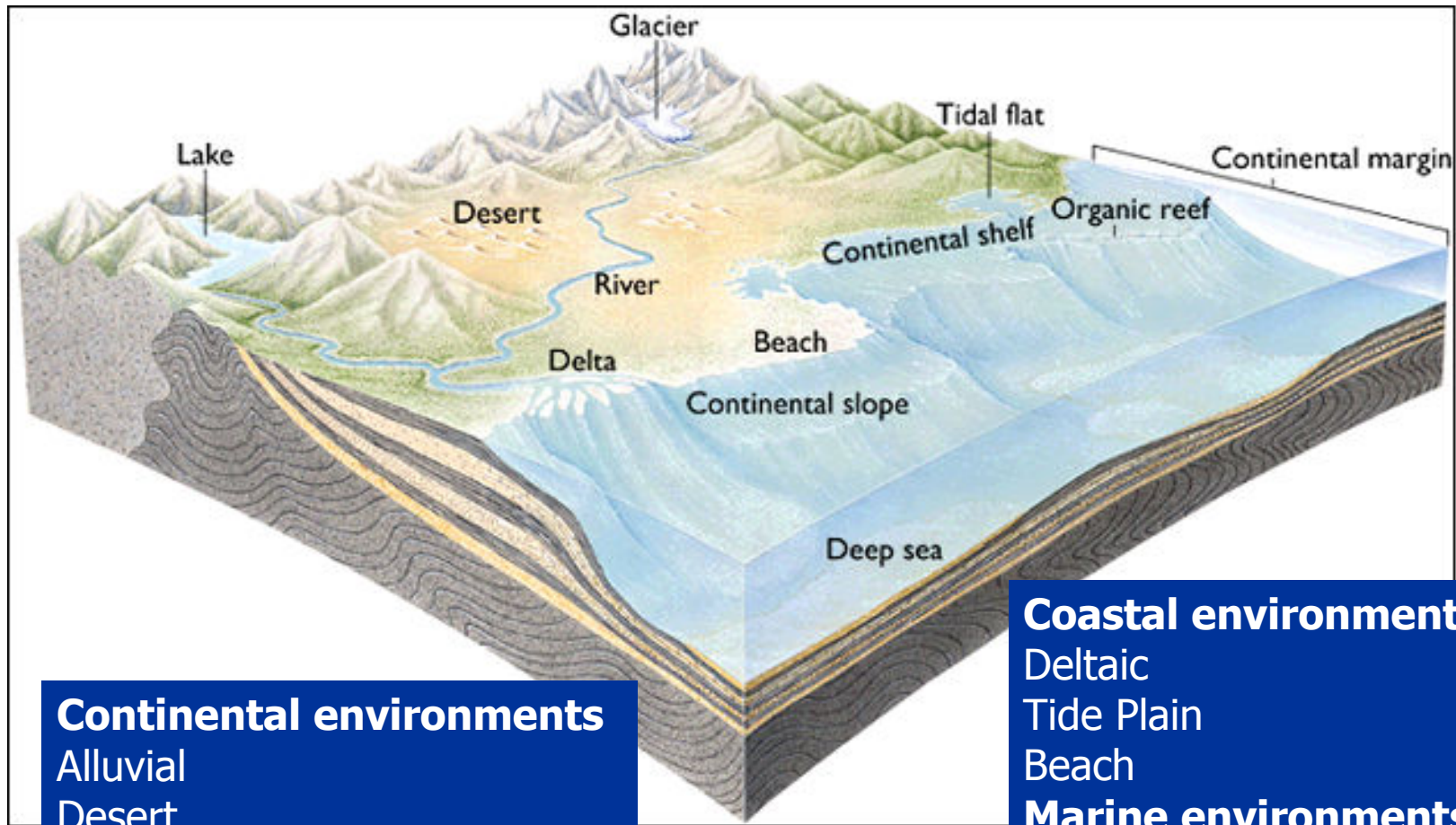
A photograph of a river with eroded banks. The water is brown and murky. The banks are made of light-colored soil and are heavily eroded, with some exposed roots and debris. There are green trees and bushes on both sides of the river. In the background, a small town or village is visible on a hillside. A person is sitting under a tree on the right bank. The sky is clear and blue.

**The present is key to  
the past...**

*Sir Archibald Geikie (1897)*

# How do sedimentary rocks form?





### Continental environments

Alluvial  
Desert  
Lake  
Glacial

### Coastal environments

Deltaic  
Tide Plain  
Beach

### Marine environments

Continental platform  
Continental slope  
Organic reefs  
Deep sea



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# Presentation objectives

- A review of basic concepts
  - Elements of Plate Tectonics
  - South American Geology
    - Origin of basement rocks (Proterozoic)
  - Evolution of sedimentary basins, focusing on the Parana Basin
    - Giant mafic volcanism (Lower Cretaceous)
      - Relationship with break-up of tectonic plates
  - Relief of South America
- Sharing ideas and proposals for the classroom



**Brazil and its continental geographical expression, its complex but still unknown Geology, (...) have an infinite horizon of applied research**  
*Geologia Humana*, 2018, Luis Manoel Siqueira



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## Image credits

ALMEIDA, F. F. M. de 1986. Distribuição regional e relações tectônicas do magmatismo pós-Paleozóico no Brasil. *Revista Brasileira de Geociências* **16**(4).

GABAGLIA G.P.R. & MILANI E.J. coords. 1991. *Origem e evolução de bacias sedimentares*. Rio de Janeiro. PETROBRÁS. p. 361-374.

HASUI Y., et al. (eds.). 2012. *Geologia do Brasil*. São Paulo: Ed. Beca. 900p.

MANTESSO-NETO et al. (eds.). 2004. *Geologia do Continente Sul-Americano: Evolução da Obra de Fernando Flávio Marques de Almeida*.





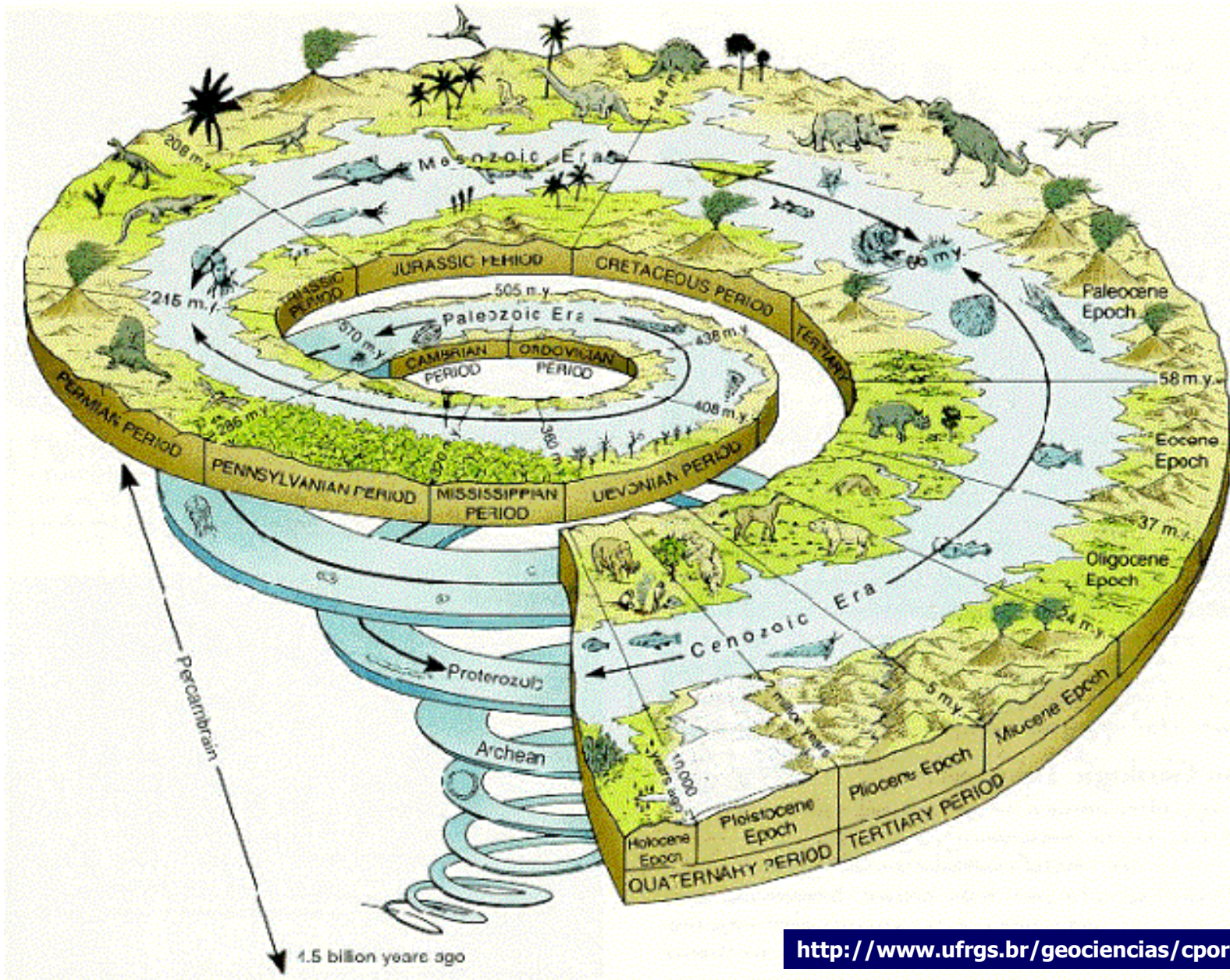
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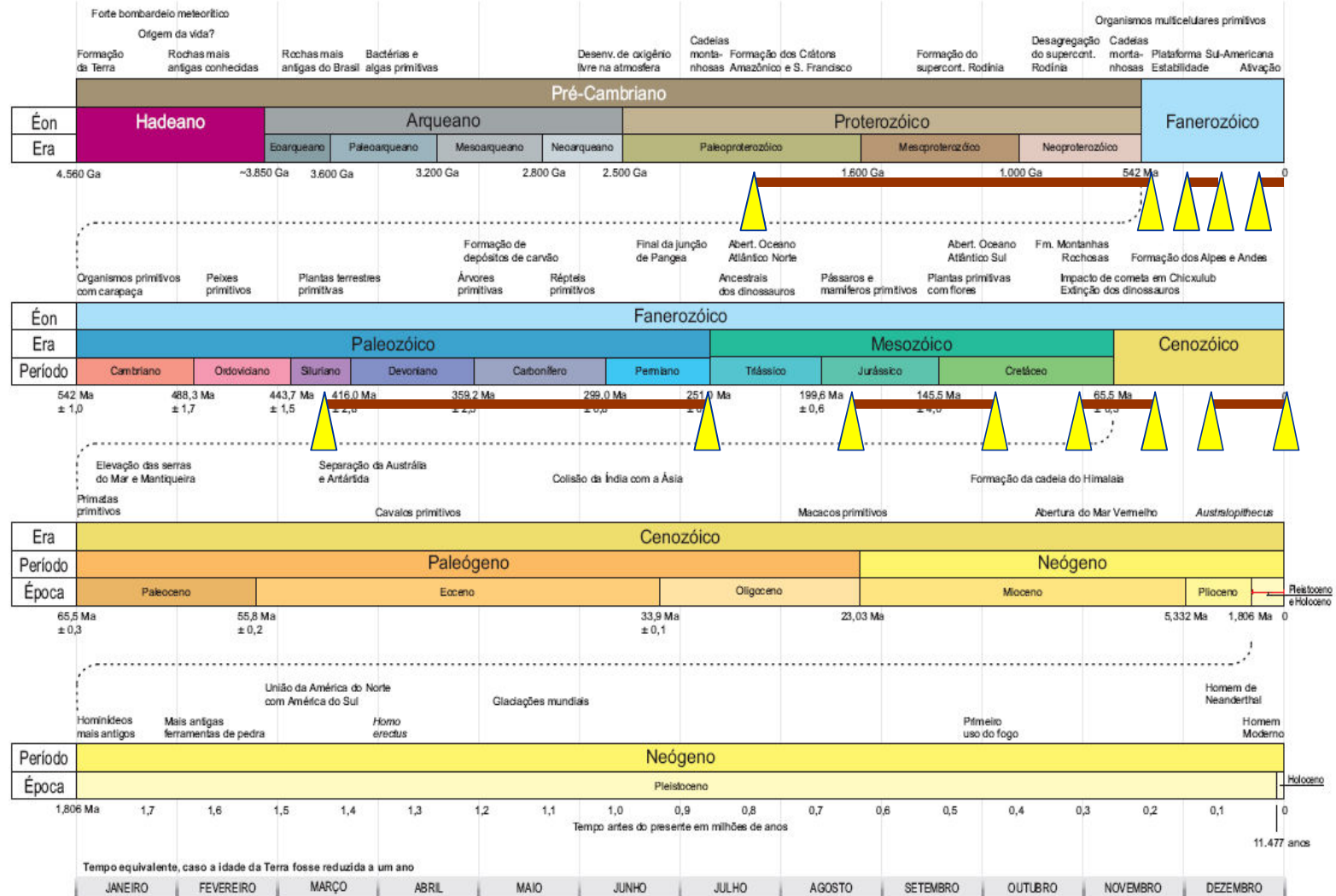
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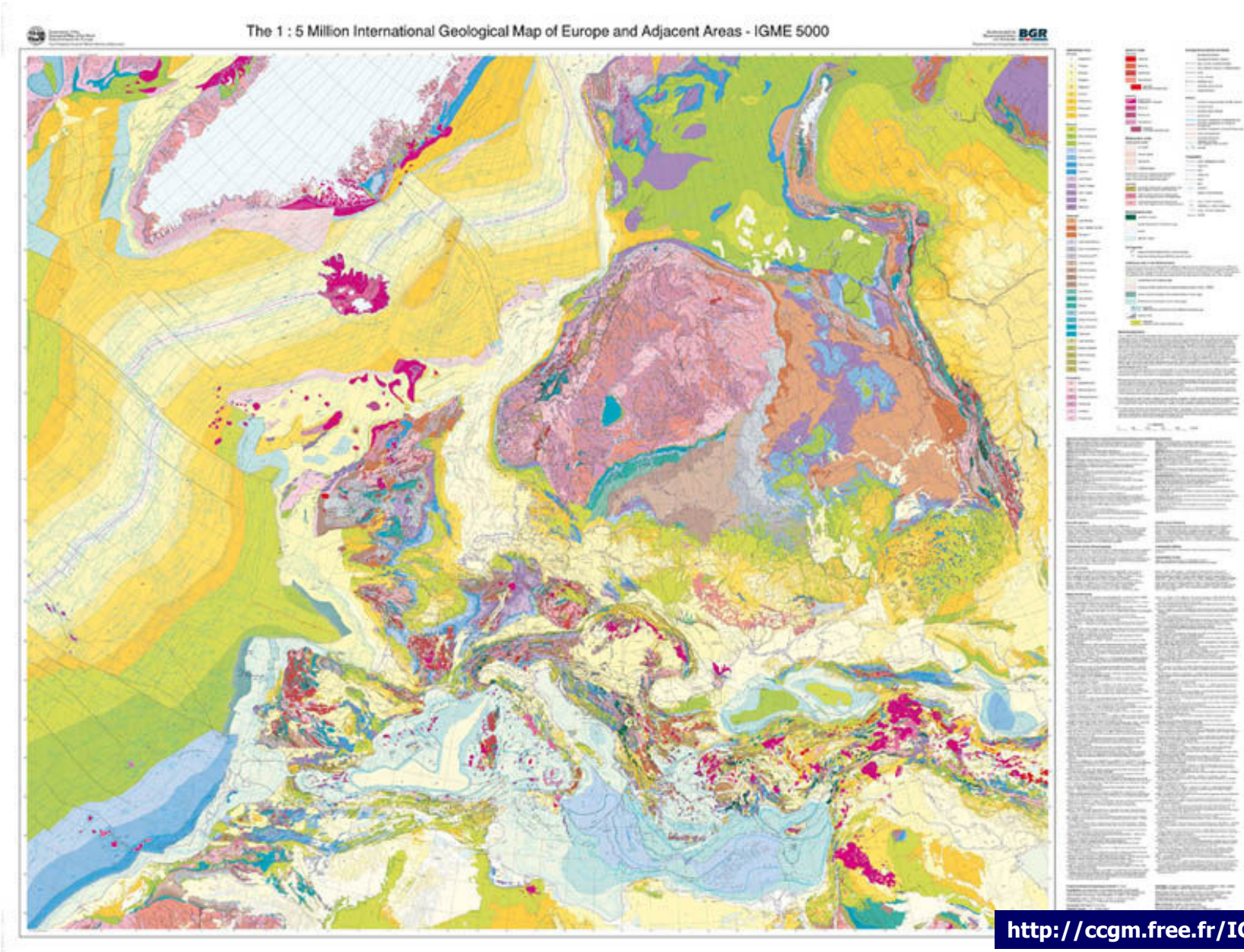
# Geologic Time Scale

Putting events on time order...



# Geologic Time Scale, 2004: time intervals of interest

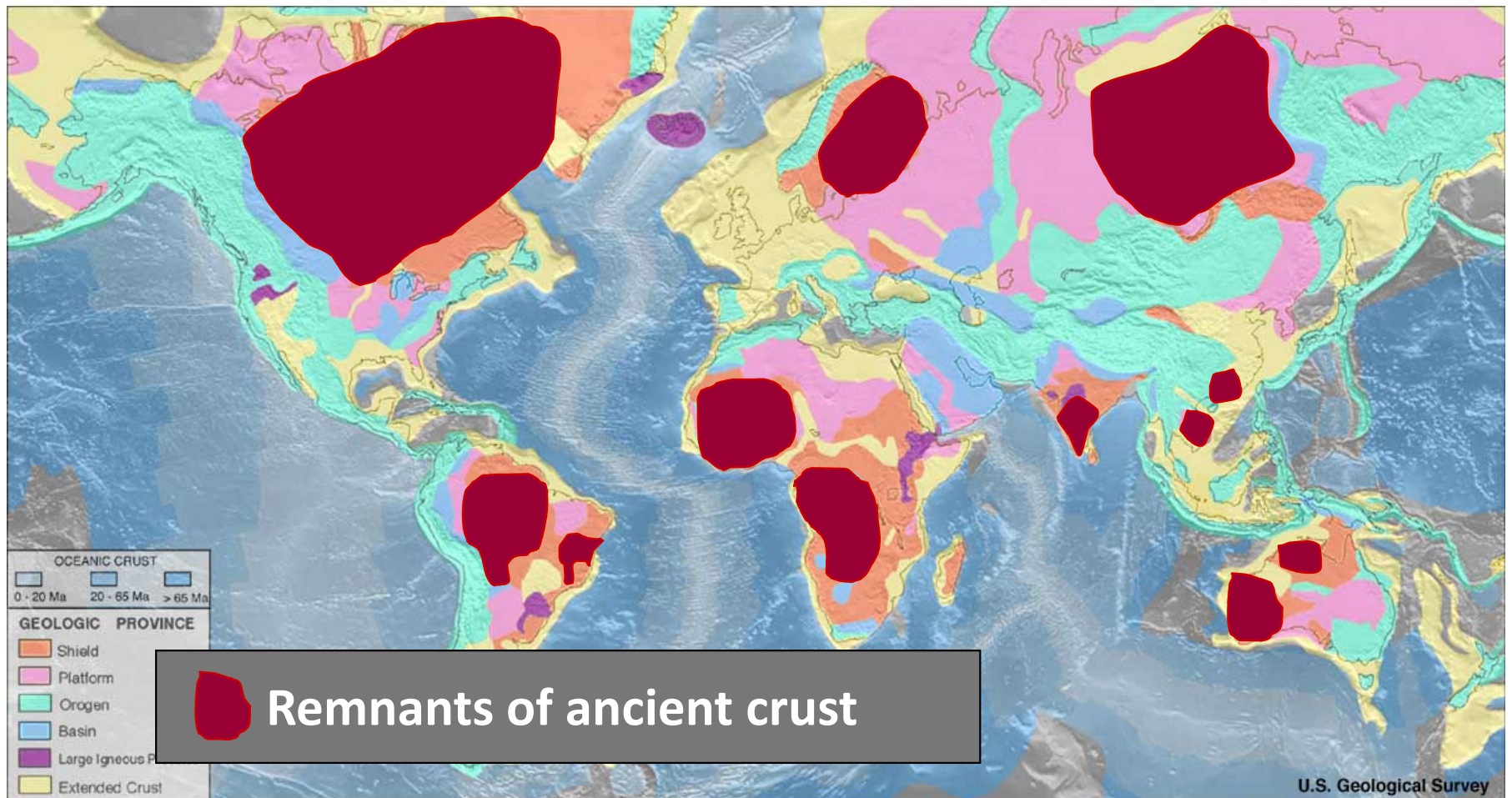




EnsinoGEO  
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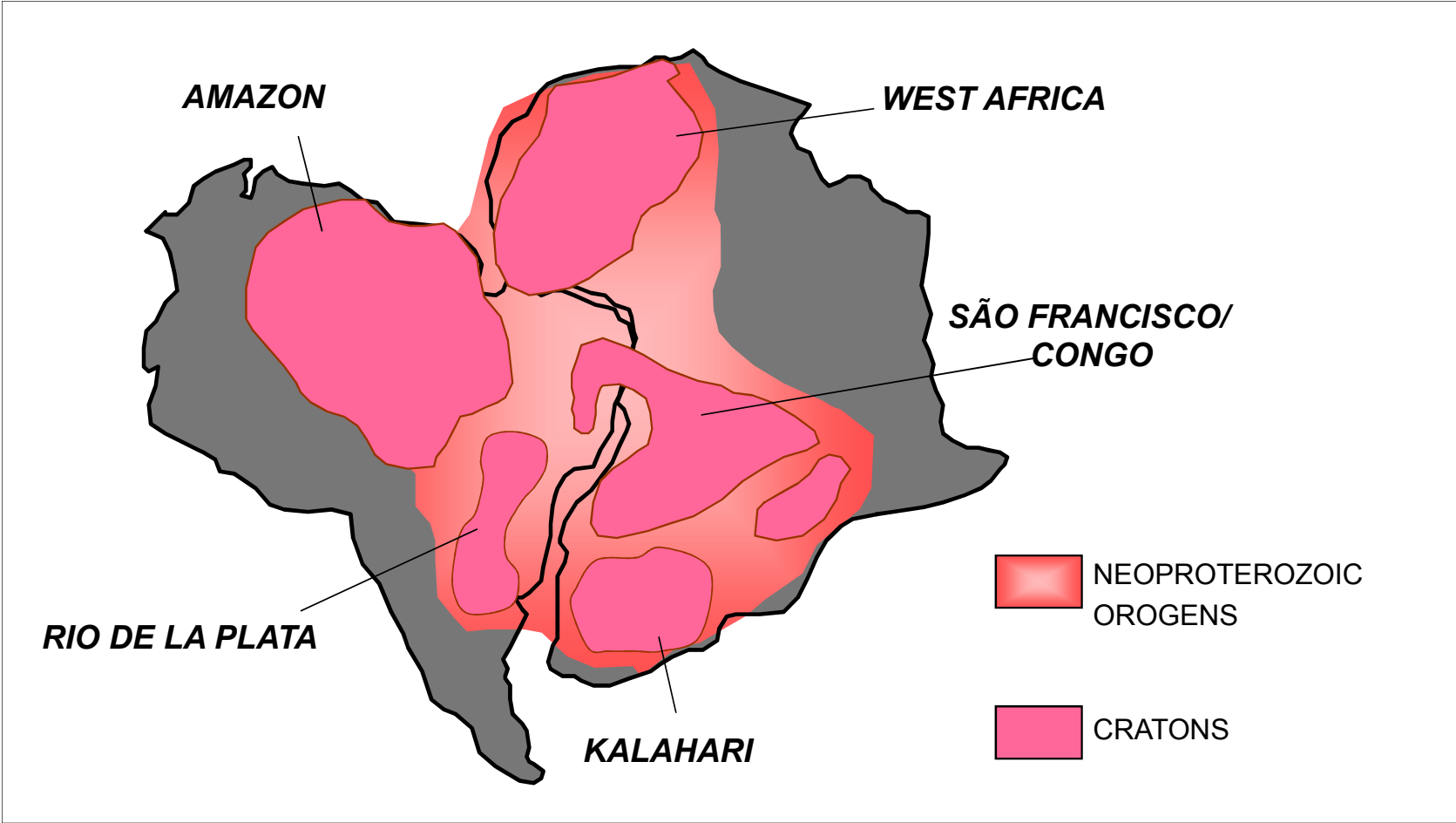
[http://ccgm.free.fr/IGME\\_image\\_gb.html](http://ccgm.free.fr/IGME_image_gb.html)

# Where are the ancient platforms of the globe?



Remnants of ancient crust

# Cratons composing Gondwanaland



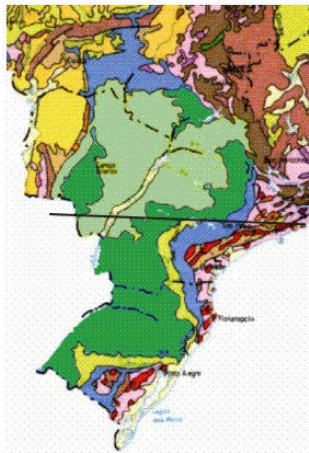
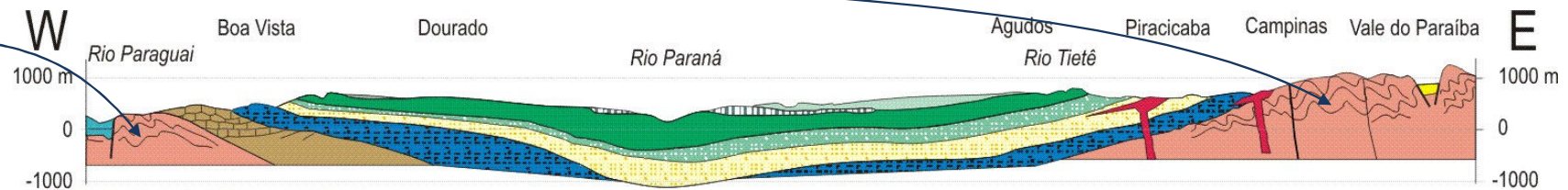
A topographic map of South America showing elevation. The Andes mountain range is visible along the western coast, colored in shades of grey and white. The Amazon basin is shown in green. A red line is drawn across the continent from the eastern coast of Brazil to the western coast of Argentina, indicating a cross-section line.

# Relief of South America

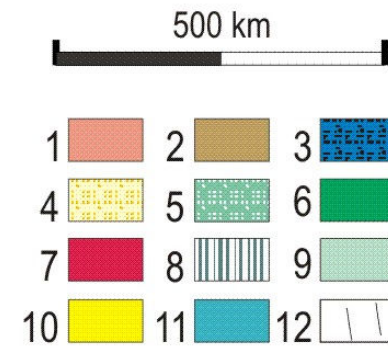
A cut of **South America** along the red line would yield a profile like the following slide

# Ancient thrust-and-fold belts

# Geologic profile



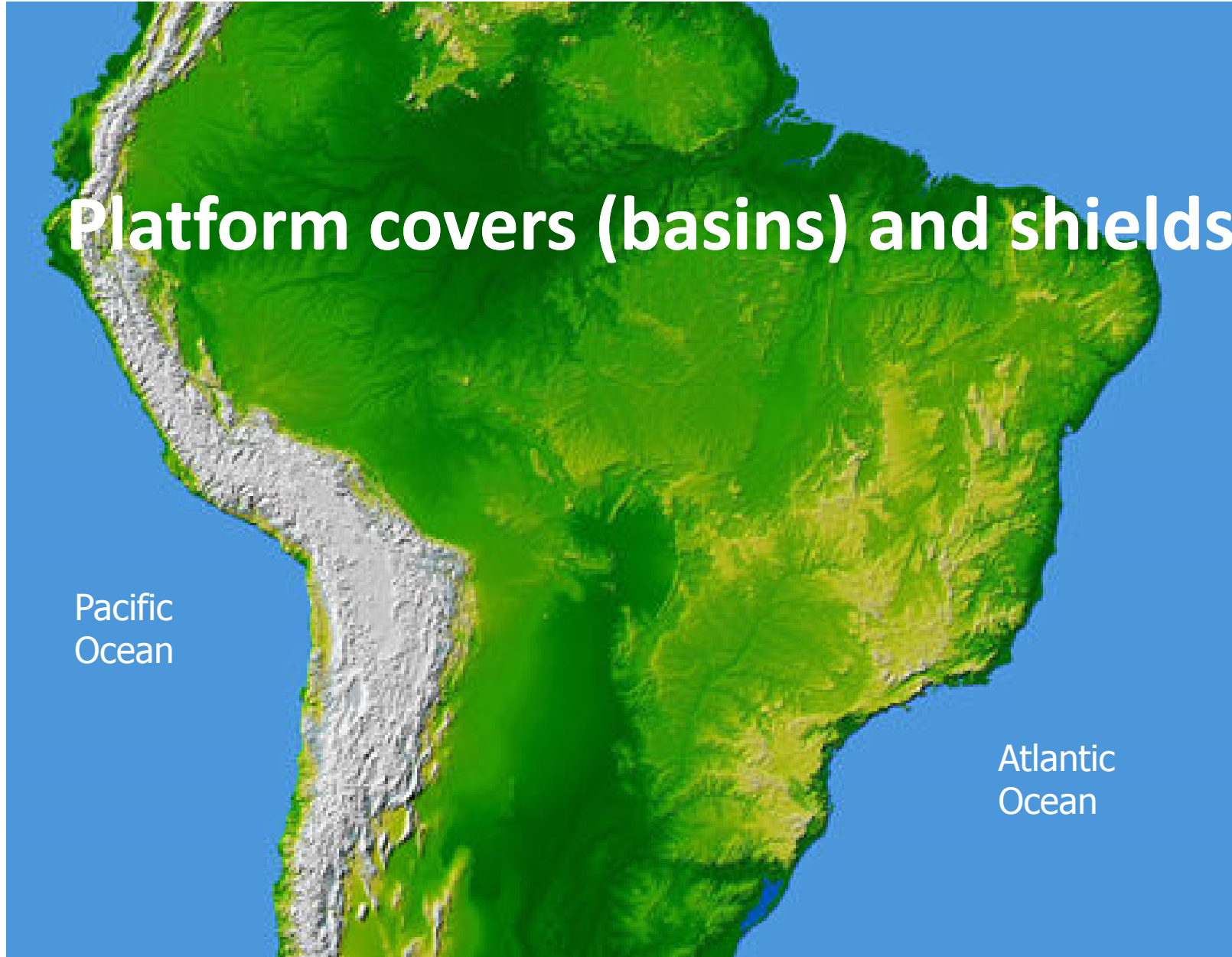
1. Embasamento Cristalino
2. Grupo Serra da Bodoquena, calcários
3. Formação Aquidauana (W) e Grupo Tubarão (E) - glacial e pós-glacial
4. Formação Independência (W) e Grupo Passa Dois - marinho
5. Formações Pirambóia e Botucatu - arenitos fluviais a desérticos
6. Formação Serra Geral - basaltos de inundação
7. Intrusivas básicas
8. Grupo Caiuá - arenitos fluviais
9. Grupo Bauru - arenitos fluviais
10. Sedimentos terciários
11. Sedimentos quaternários
12. Falhas



1-2 = Exposed basement (shields)  
 3-11 = Platform covers

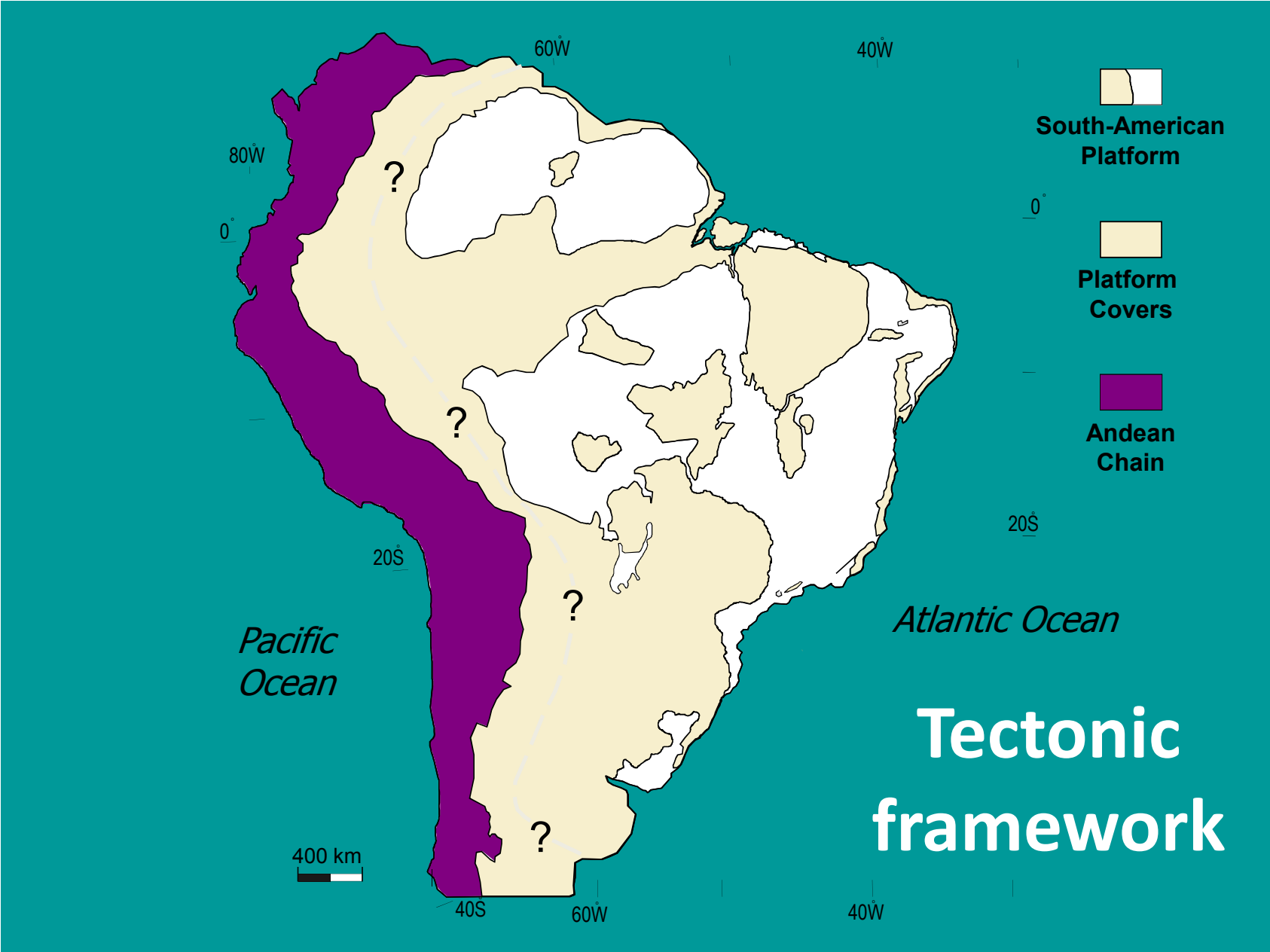


# Platform covers (basins) and shields

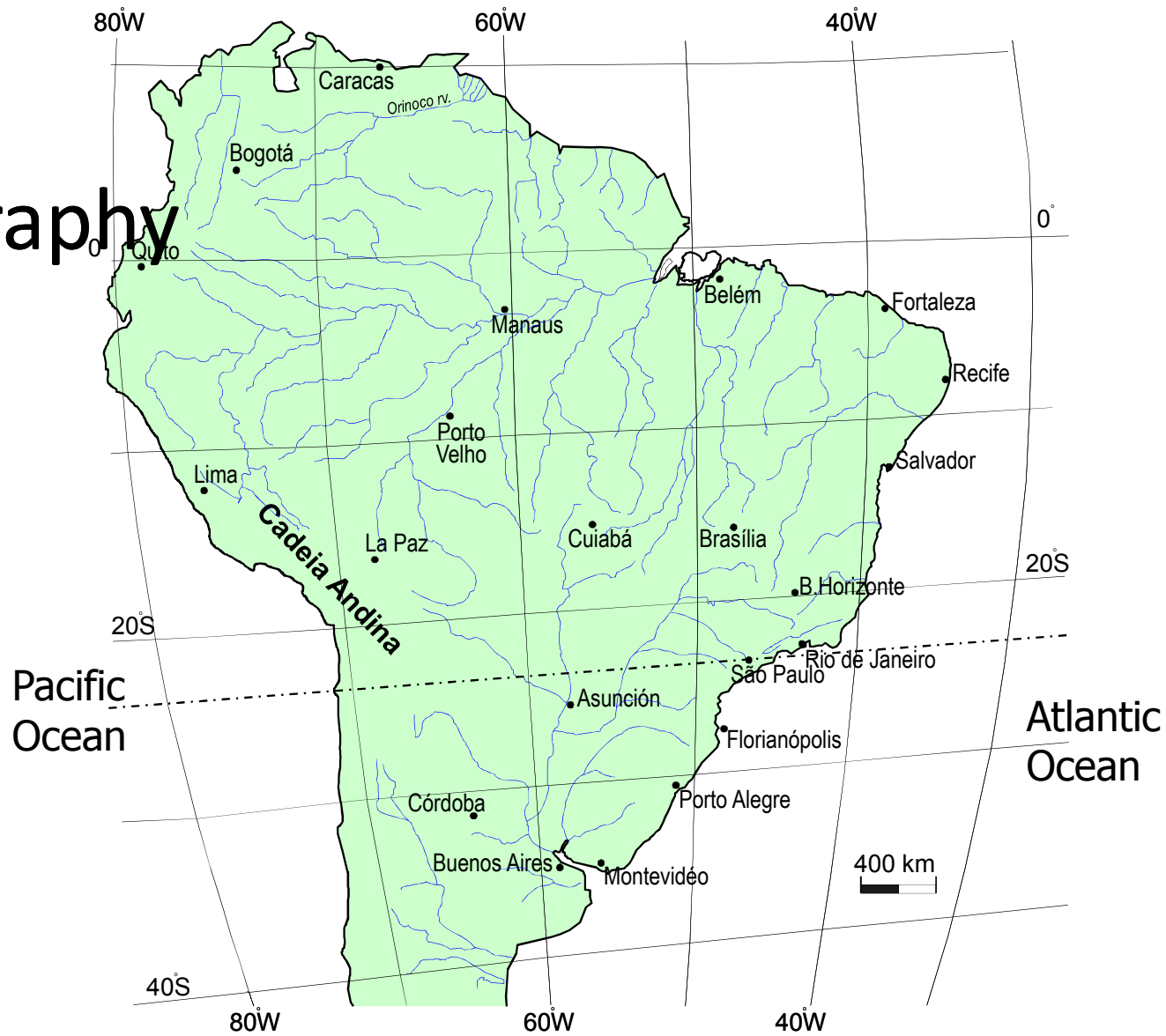


Pacific  
Ocean

Atlantic  
Ocean



# Hydrography



Anti-Atlas Mountains near Tilemsoun, Morocco

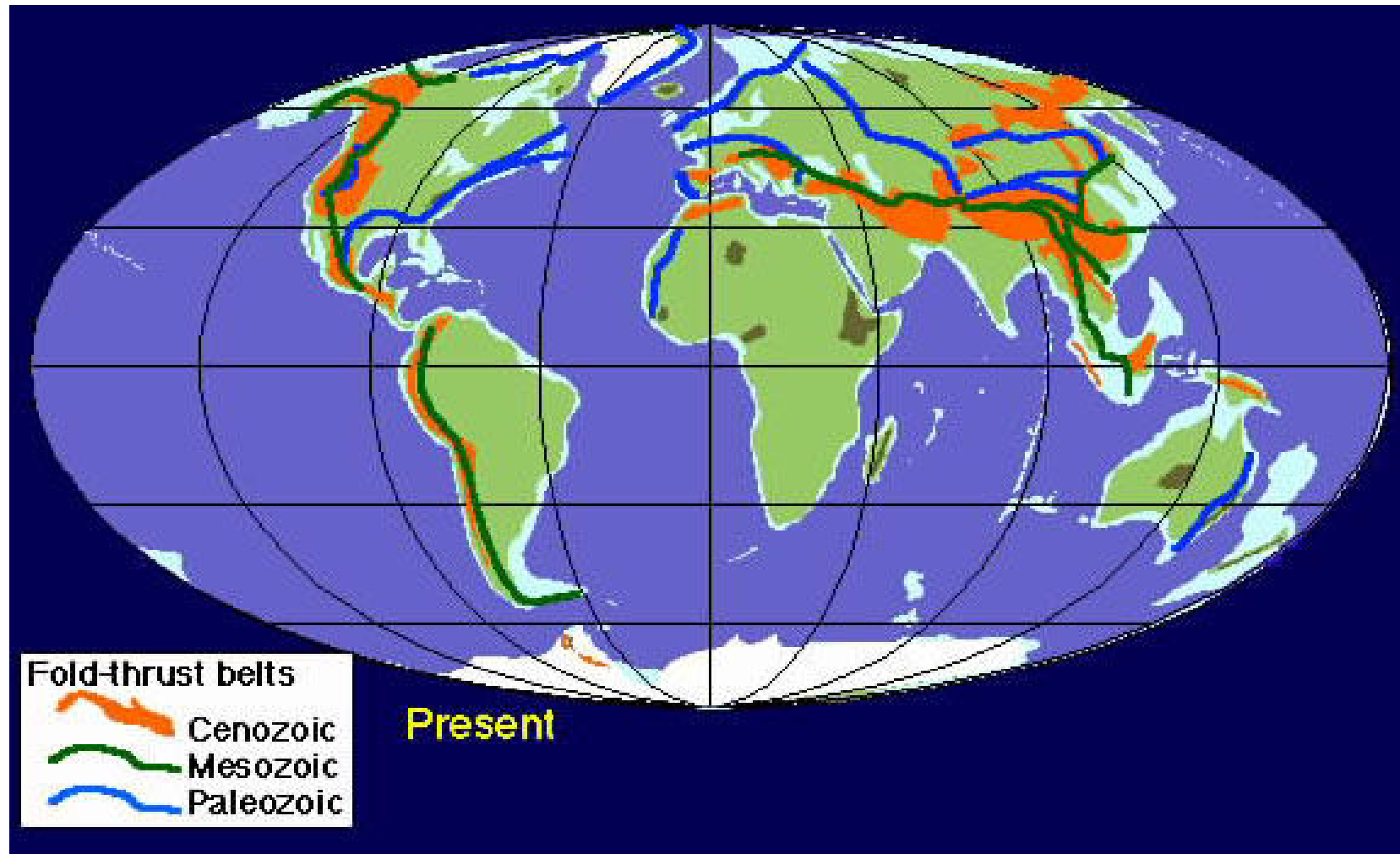
Subduction zones and collision of tectonic plates

# FOLDS ACCOMMODATE STRAIN IN THE EARTH'S CRUST

[http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/structure/google\\_earth\\_mapping\\_locations.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/structure/google_earth_mapping_locations.html)

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe

# Orogens are linked to the limits of lithospheric plates



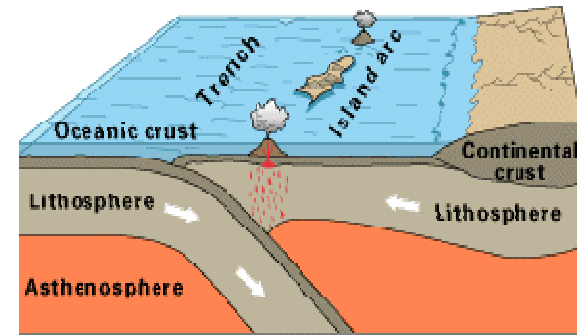
# Many continental structures are controlled by folds...



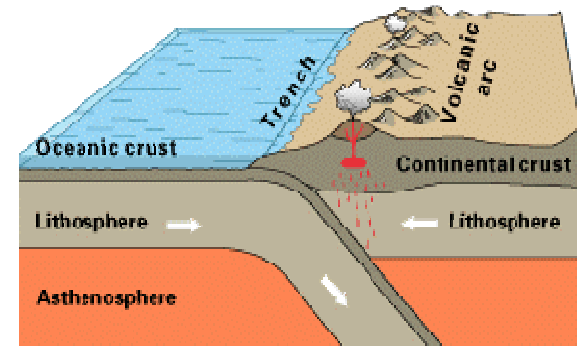
Folds south of In Salah, Algeria, [https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/structure/google\\_earth\\_mapping\\_locations.html](https://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/structure/google_earth_mapping_locations.html)

# Types of tectonic convergence

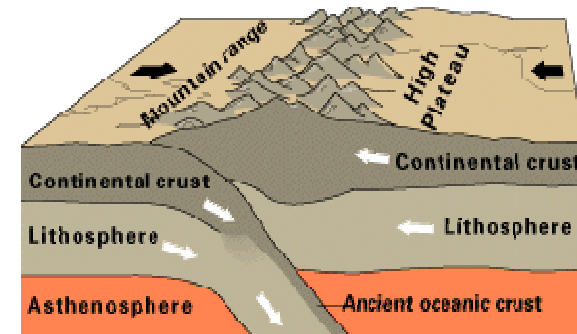
- Subduction
  - Lithosphere
    - Ocean X Ocean
    - Ocean X Continental
- Collision
  - Lithosphere
    - Continental X Continental



Oceanic-oceanic convergence



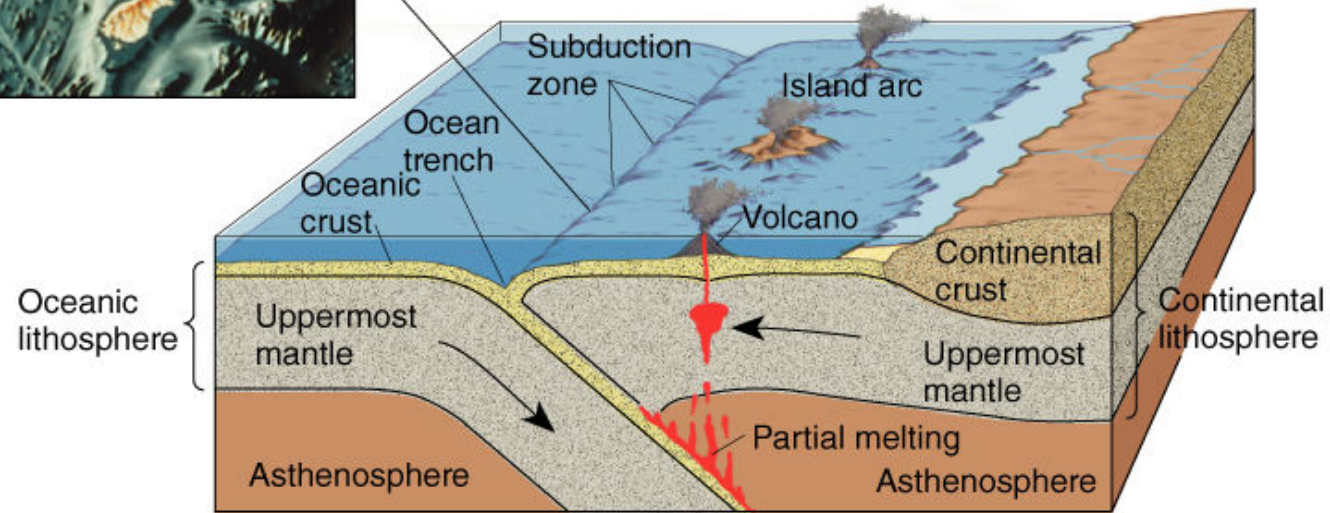
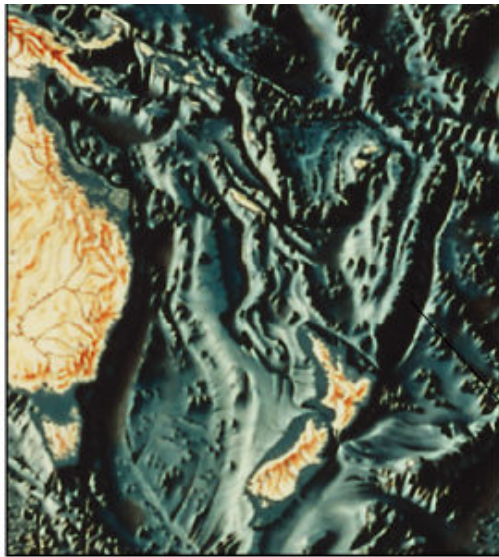
Oceanic-continental convergence



Continental-continental convergence

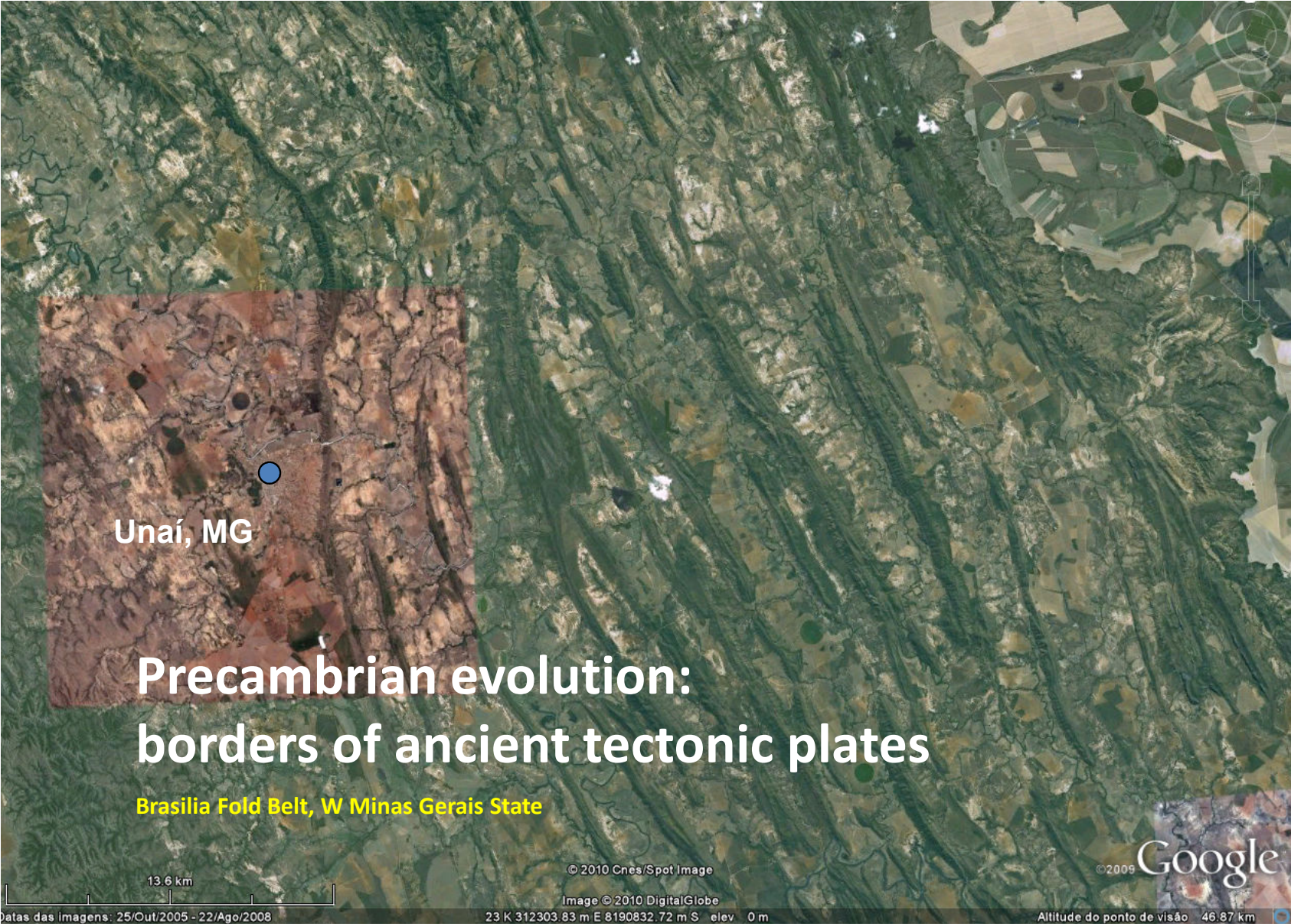
# Subduction: ocean-ocean plates

- Result
  - Formation of volcanic island arcs



(b)





Unai, MG

# Precambrian evolution: borders of ancient tectonic plates

Brasilia Fold Belt, W Minas Gerais State

13.6 km  
Data das imagens: 25/Out/2005 - 22/Ago/2008

© 2010 Cnes/Spot Image  
Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe  
23 K 312303.83 m E 8190832.72 m S elev 0 m

© 2009 Google  
Altitude do ponto de visão 46.87 km

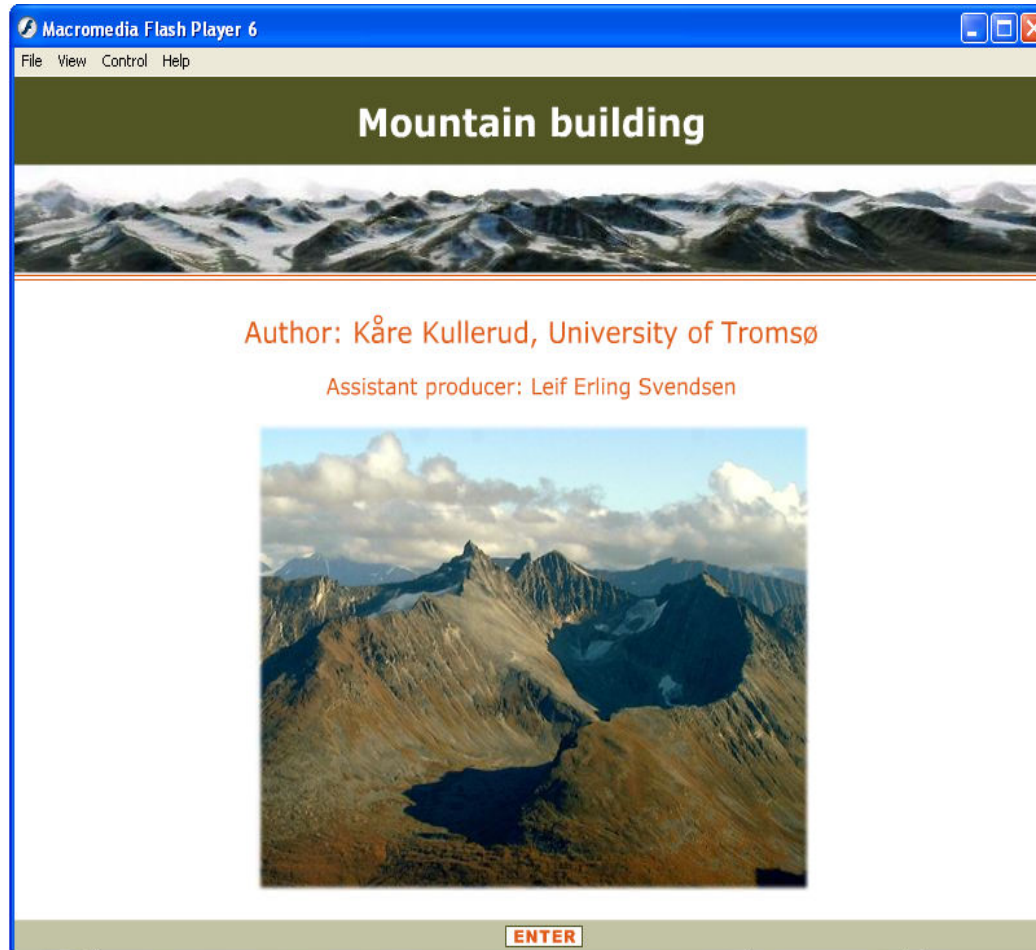
# Structure of a region: south of MG, SP-RJ

**Cover**

**Basement (shield)**



# Animation mountains.swf

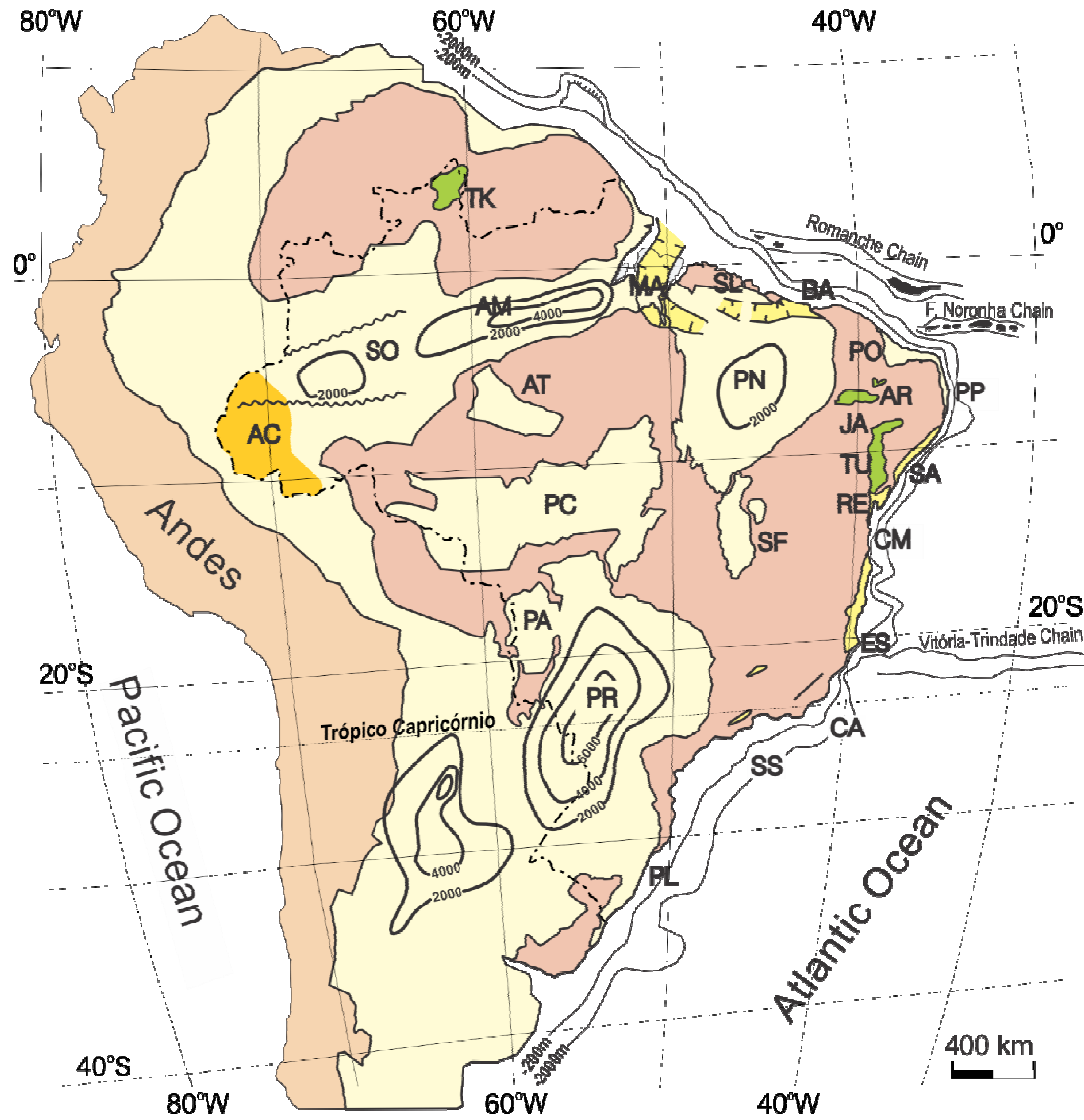








Source <http://www.geographyalltheway.com/in/gcse-plate-tectonics/imagesetc/mountains.swf>

A wide, powerful waterfall cascading over a rocky ledge. The water is white and foamy as it falls. In the background, a large rainbow is visible in the mist. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The surrounding landscape is lush with green vegetation.

Geology & relief of South America

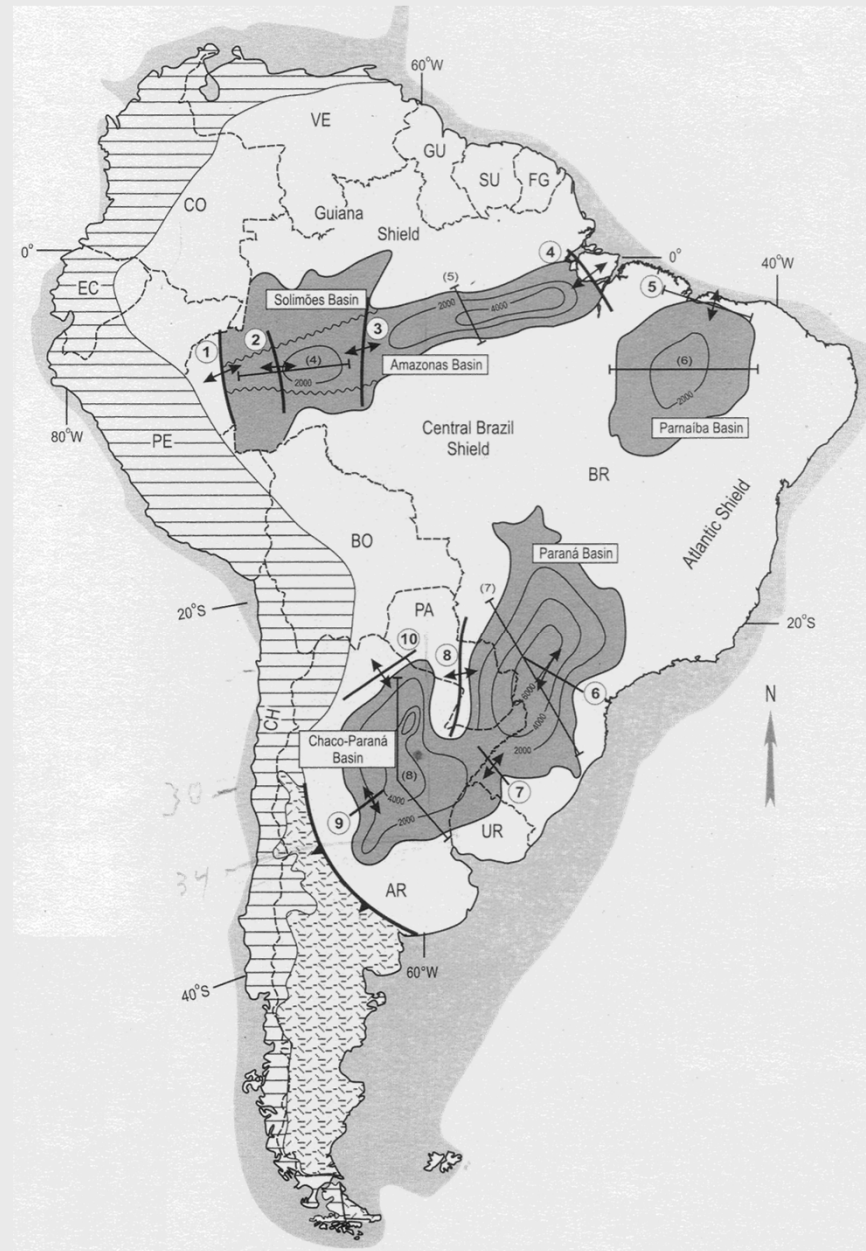
# PHANEROZOIC EVOLUTION: SEDIMENTARY BASINS

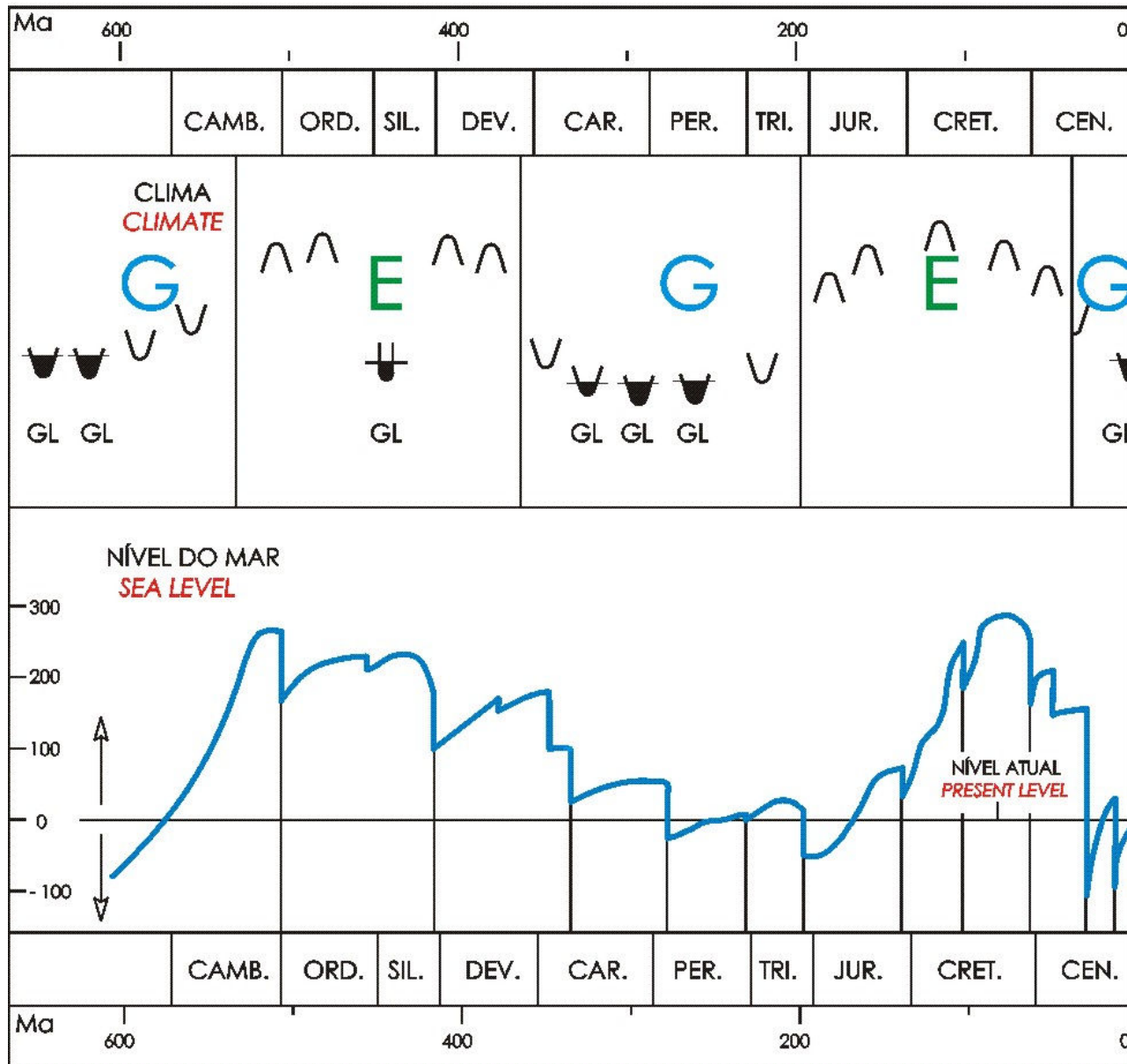


- |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Basement   | 2. Andean Chain   | 3. Sineclise and Interior Basin  | 4. Rift Basin   | 5. Pre-Andean Basin   | 6. Marginal Basin   |

# Sedimentary basins

Total thickness of accumulated materials

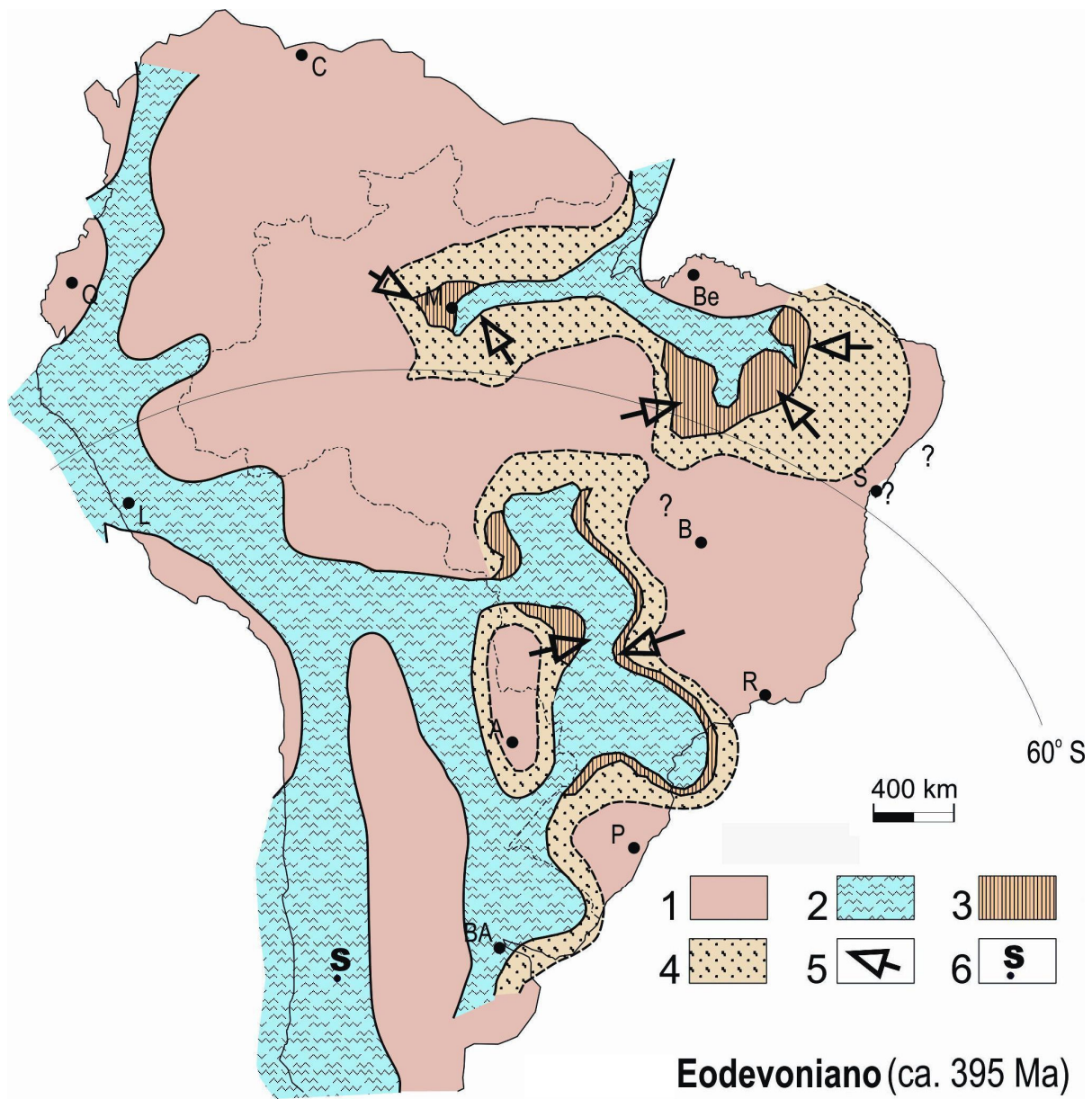


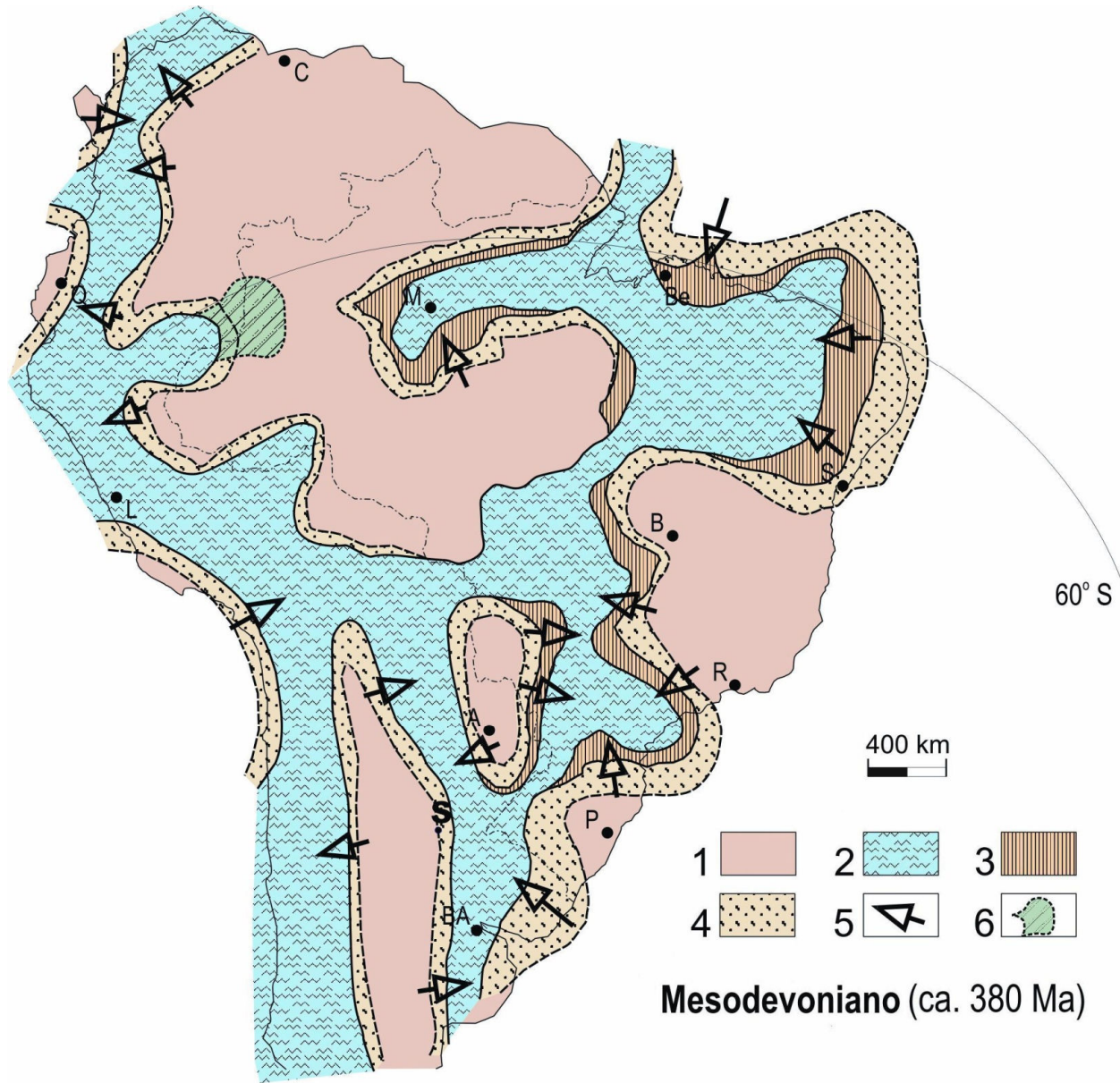


# Ancient seas...



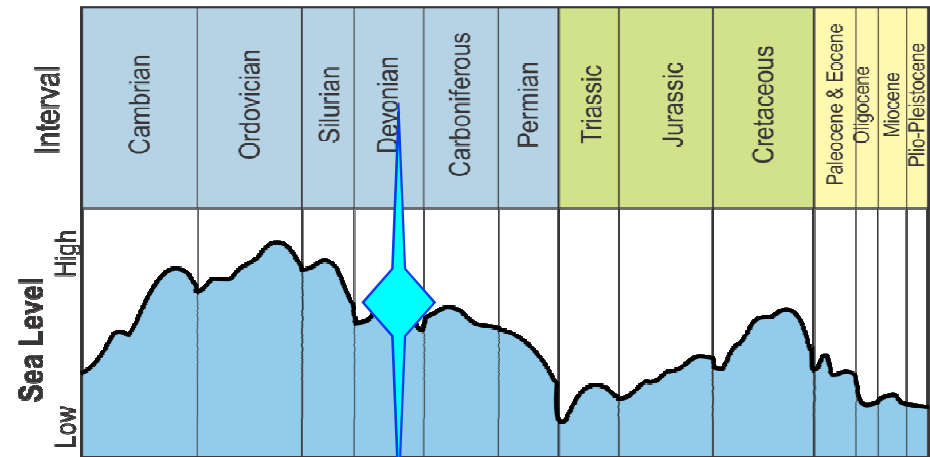






# Devonian marine transgression

- Epicontinental seas covered  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Brazil
  - Modified from Melo (1989)

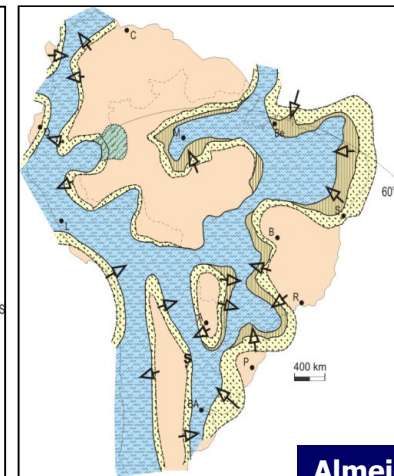
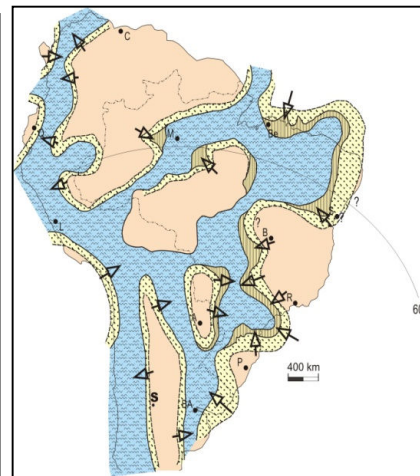
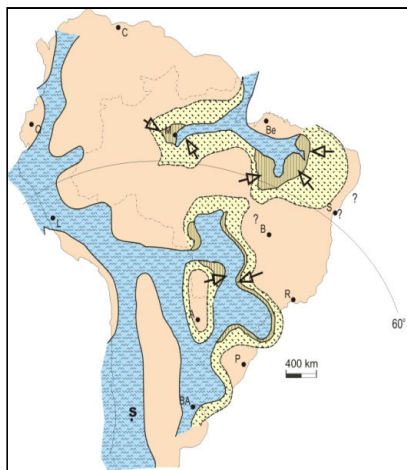
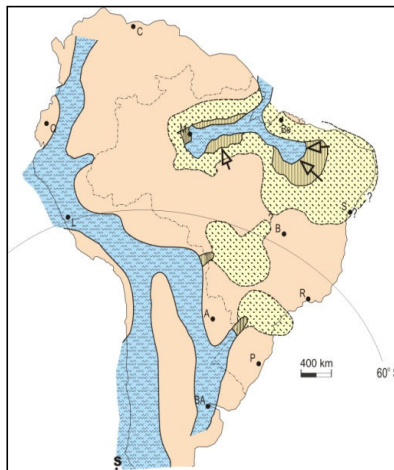


*Aprox. 400 Ma*

*Aprox. 395 Ma*

*Aprox. 390 Ma*

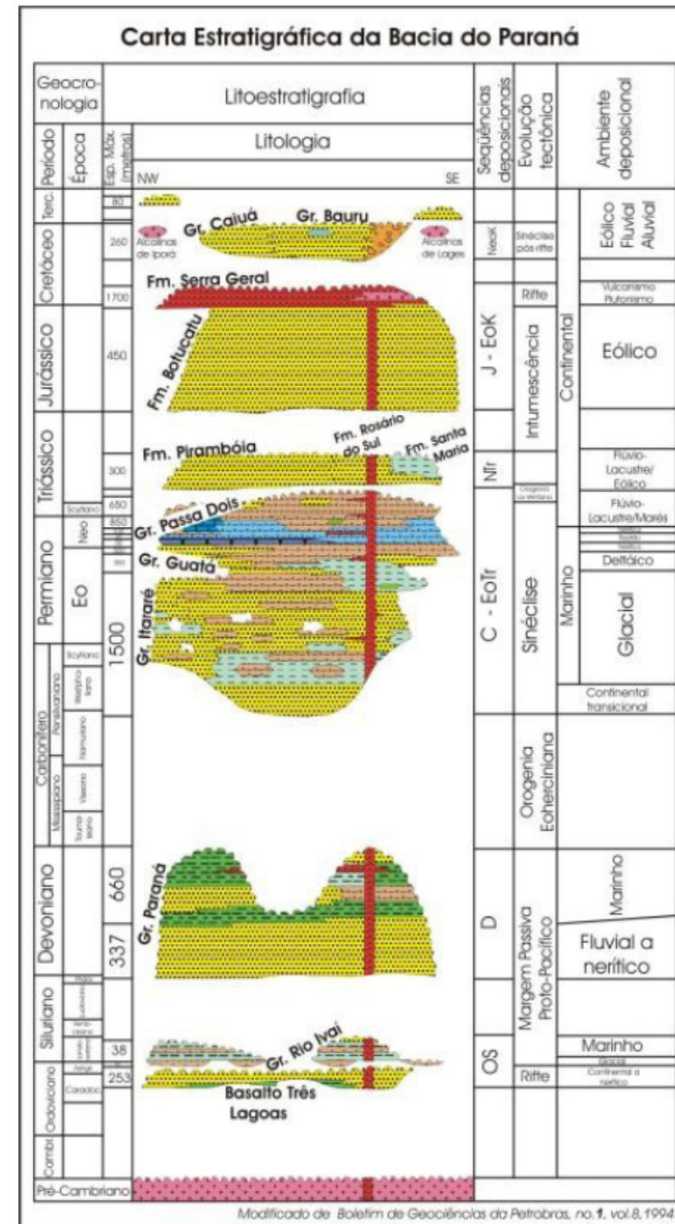
*Aprox. 380 Ma*



# Supersequences

## Paraná Basin

- **Bauru**
- **Gondwana III**
  - Sandstones / conglomerates
    - Sand desert and basalt flows (South-Atlantic rift)
- **Gondwana II**
- **Gondwana I**
  - Marine siltstones and shales / continental sandstones
    - Glaciation
- **Paraná**
  - Shales and marine sandstones
- **Rio Ivaí**



# Varvite beds, Itu, SP



# Athabasca Glacier, Jasper National Park, Canada



**Altitude: 2,700 m**  
**Area: 6 km<sup>2</sup>**  
**Mean**  
**thickness: 300 m**  
**Velocity:**  
**125 m/yr (top) X 25 m/yr (base)**

# Peyto Lake



# Peyto Lake: flow of sediments from glacier

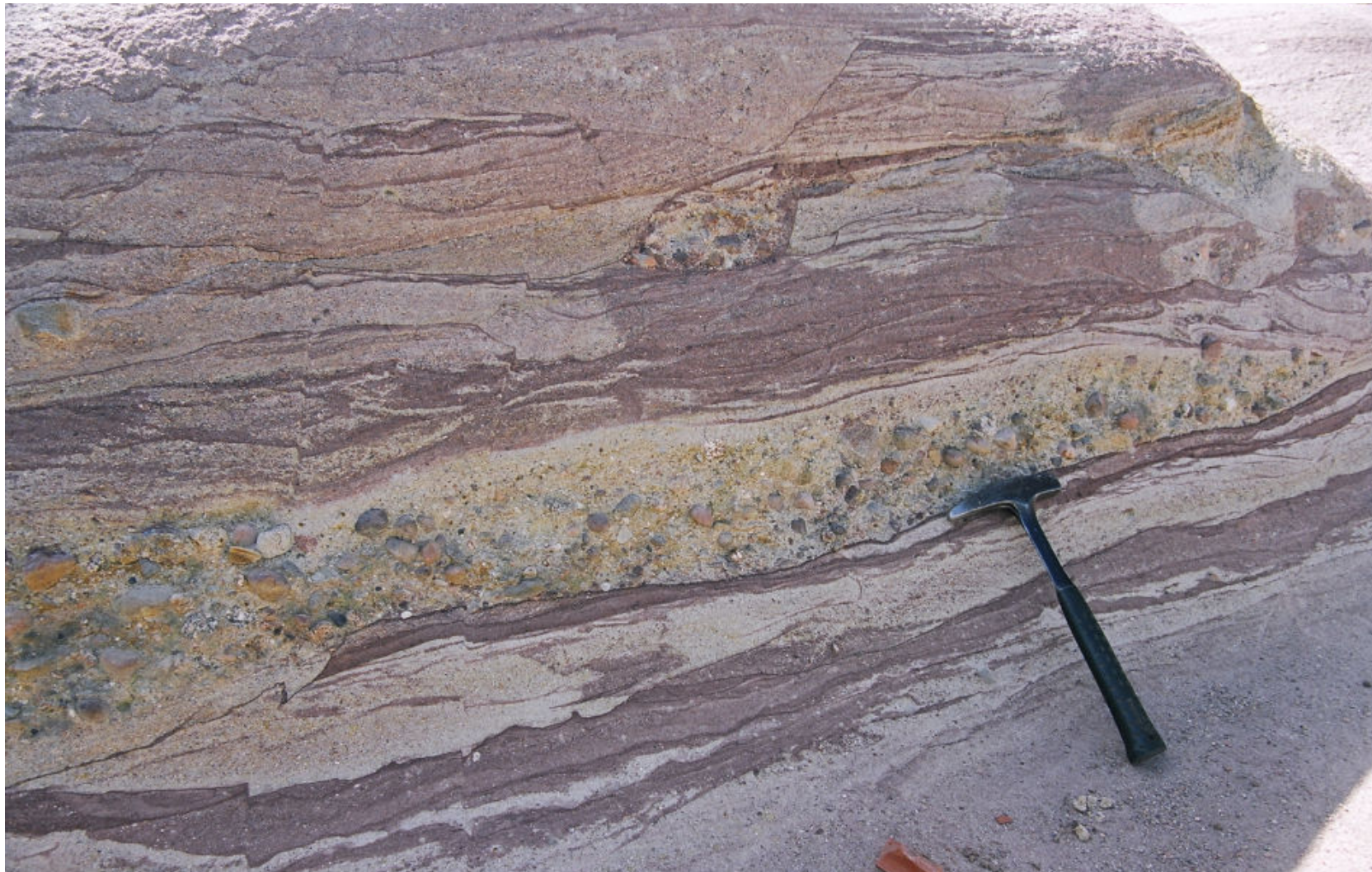




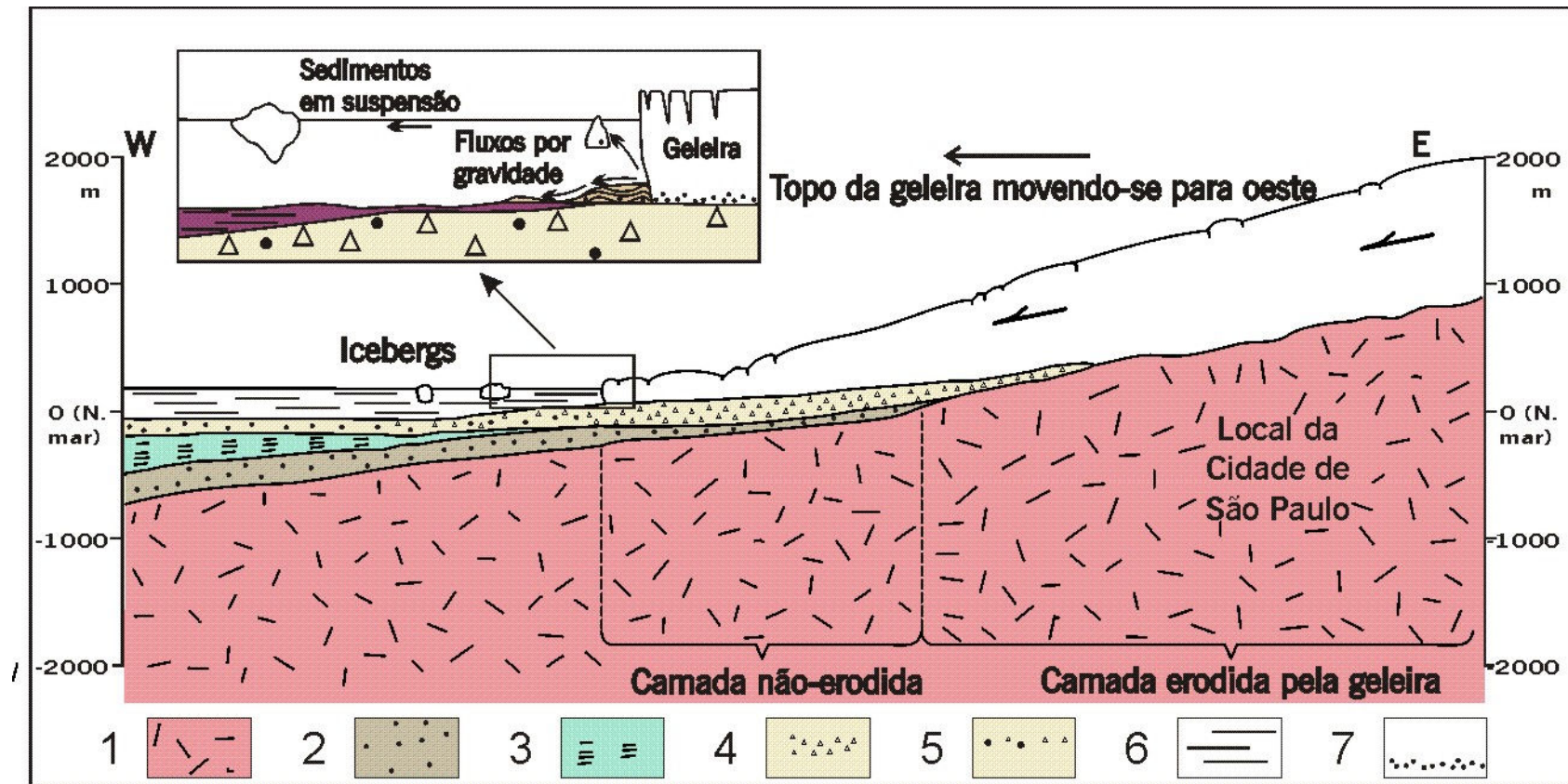
# P-C sandstone beds, Campinas (SP)



# Itararé Group: sandstones and conglomerates



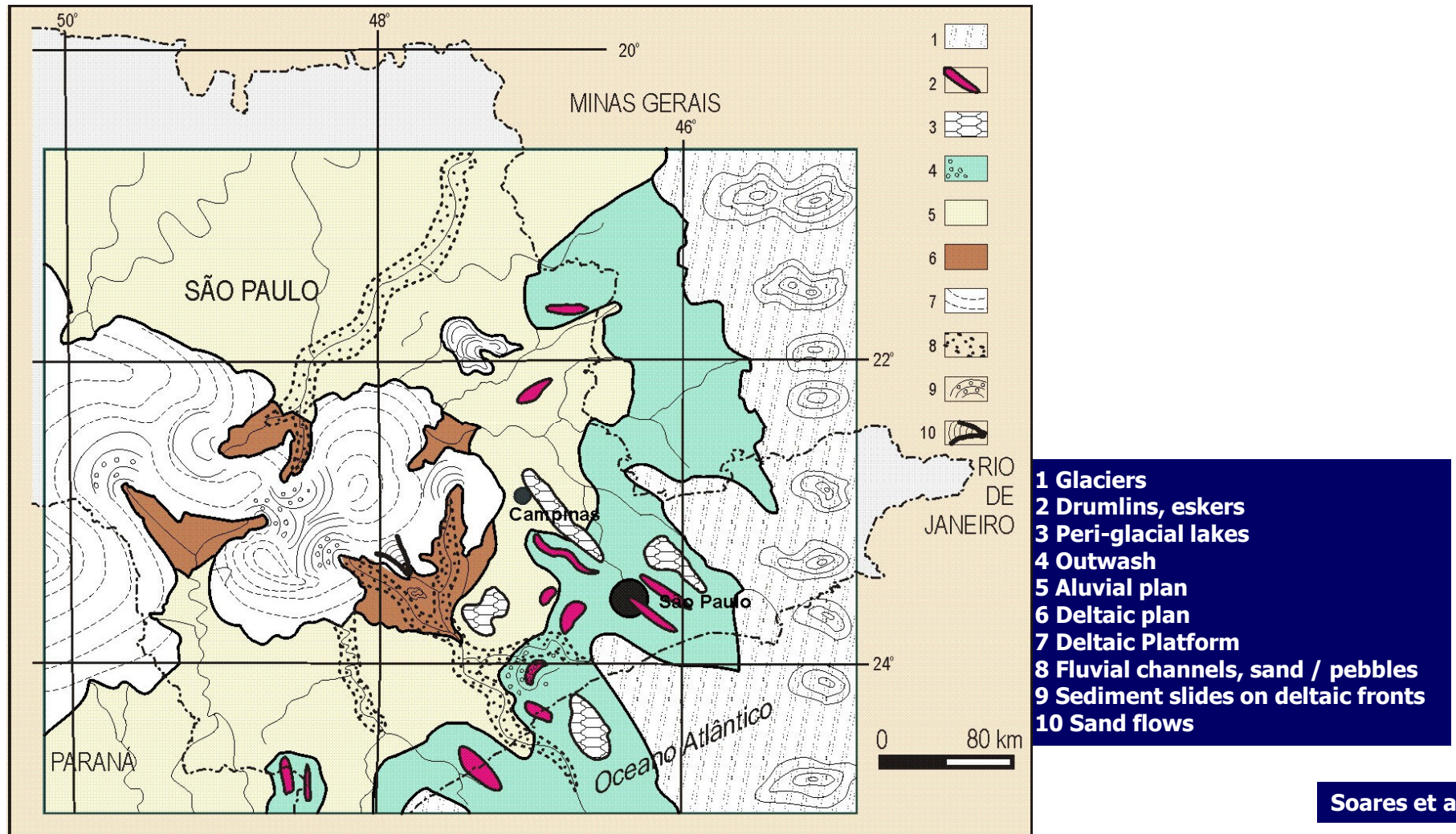
# A Permian-Carboniferous glacier



Hypothetic profiles: 1 - Basement; 2 – Furnas Sandstone; 3 – Ponta Grossa Shale; 4 – glacial sandstone; 5 – Till; 6 – Pellites; 7 – Icebergs transporting pebbles

Washburne (1930); box from Vesely & Assine (2004)

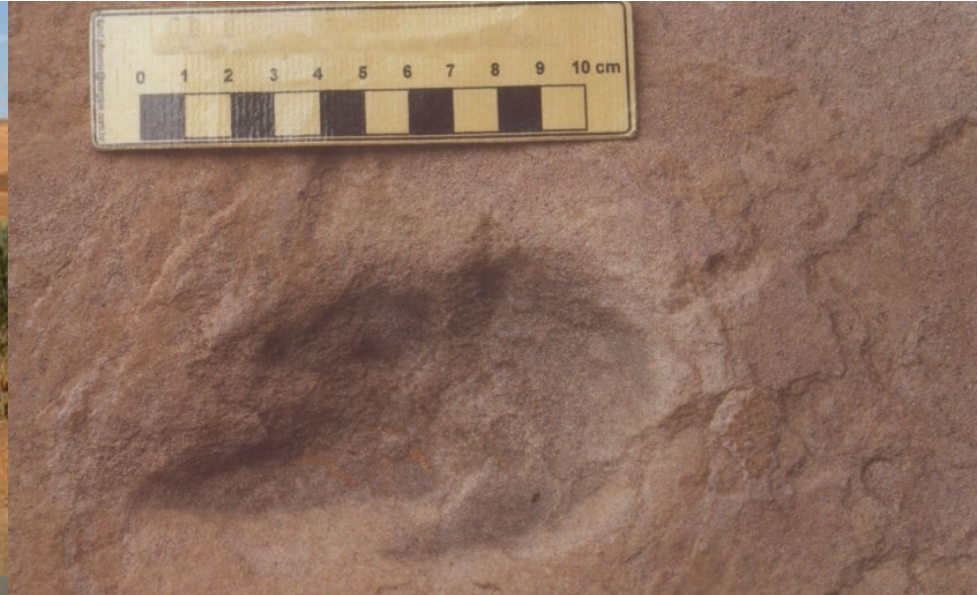
# Permian-Carboniferous Glaciation







Oasis, Marrocos

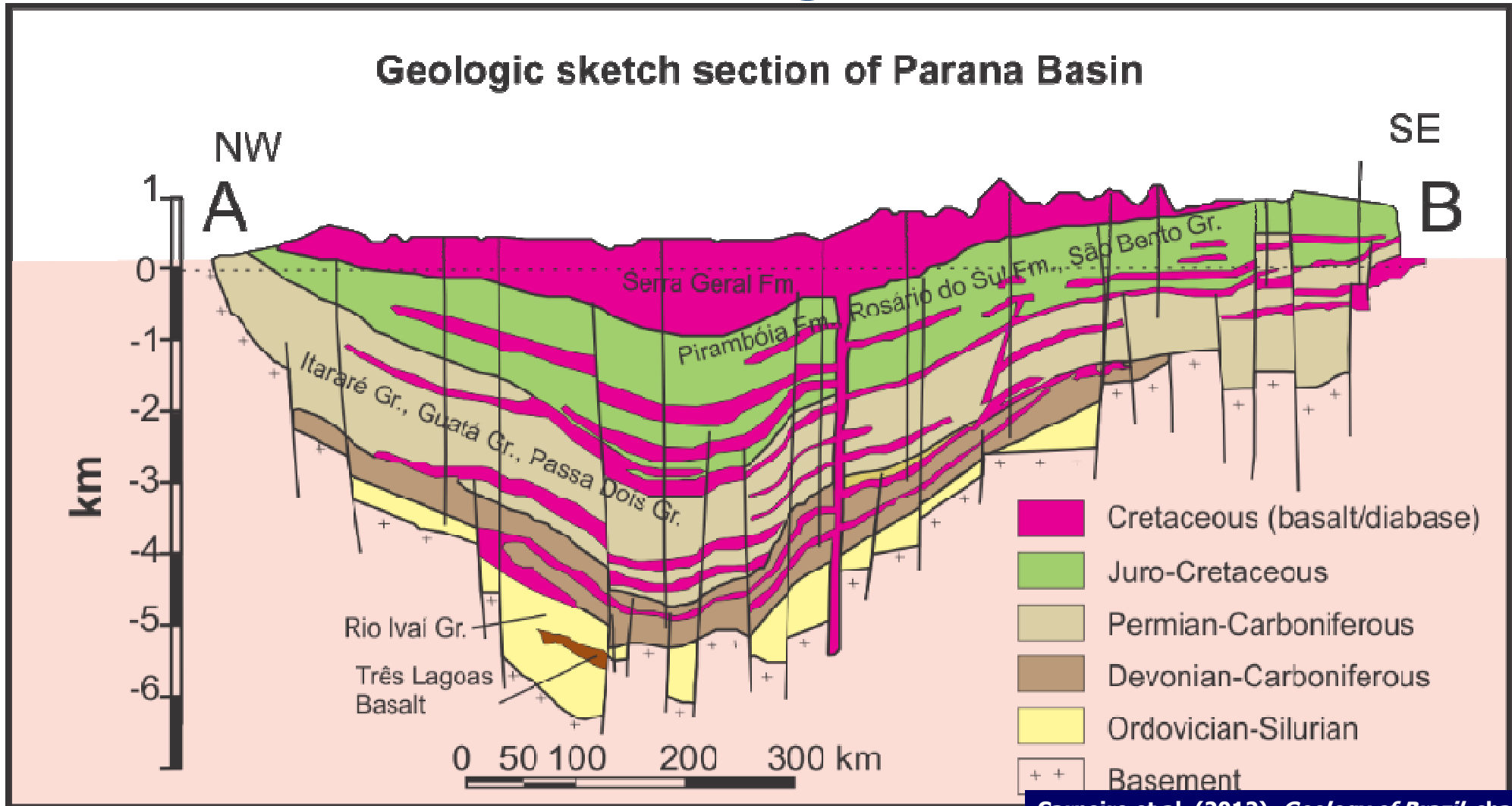


Sands, Sahara Desert



Dinosaur footprints, Botucatu (SP)

# Serra Geral lavas covering Botucatu sandstones





Geology & relief of South America

# BREAK-UP OF GONDWANA

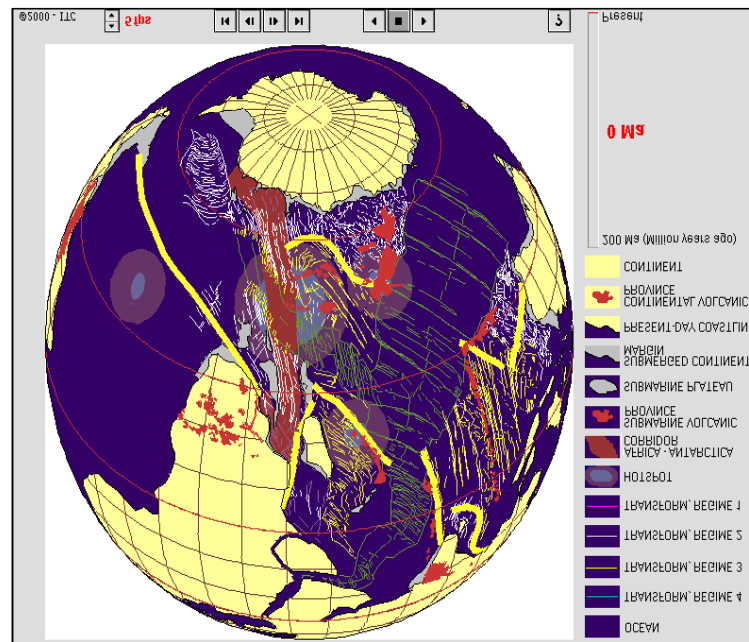


# Volcanism covering deserts...



Art: Wladimir Parrilo

# Animation Gondwana.exe



Source: [http://www.geophysik.tu-freiberg.de/~spitzer/download/vorlesungen/Grundlagen\\_der\\_Geophysik/gondwana.exe](http://www.geophysik.tu-freiberg.de/~spitzer/download/vorlesungen/Grundlagen_der_Geophysik/gondwana.exe)

# Basalt flows (Lower Cretaceous)



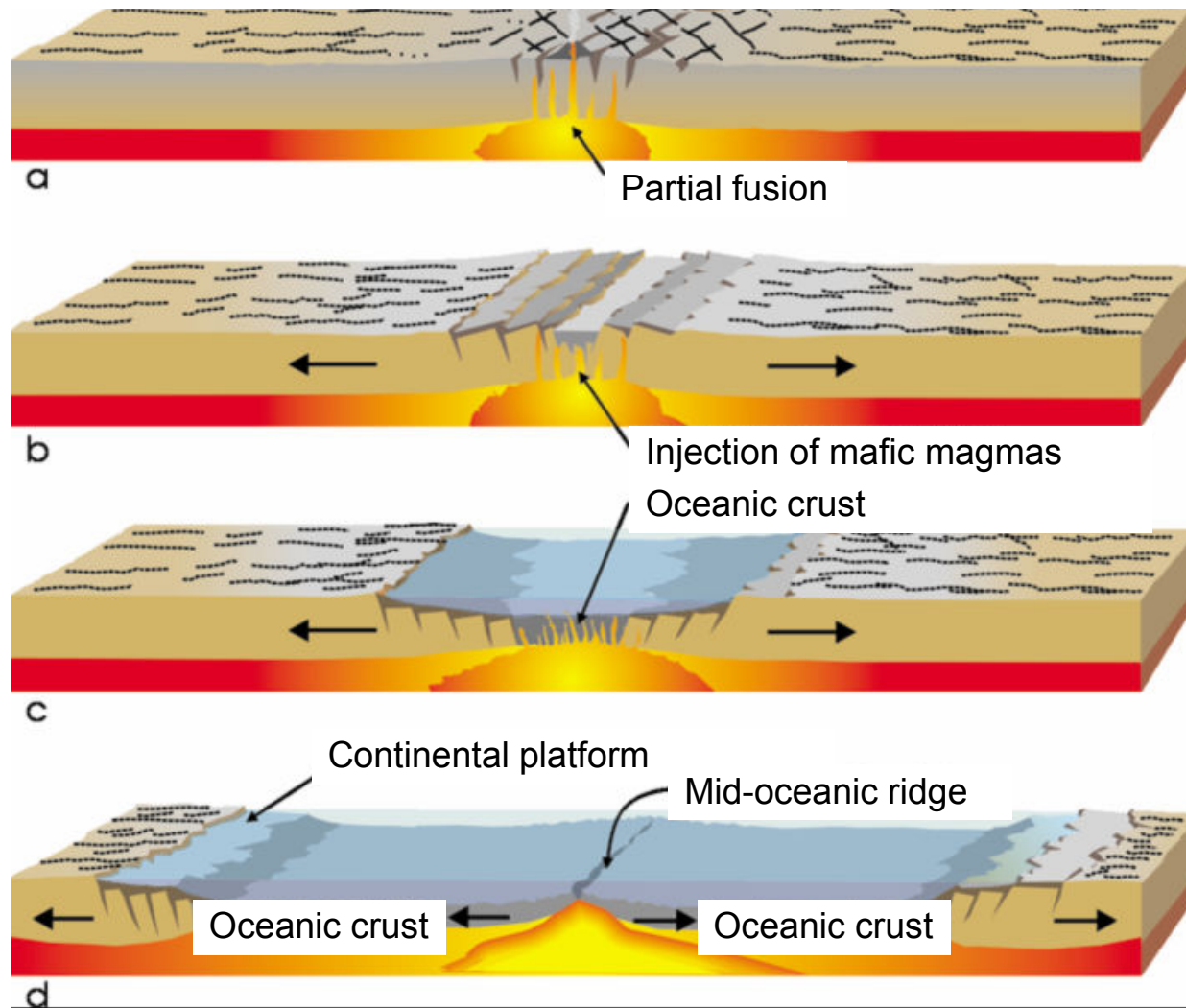
<http://www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?p=30696266>

## “Terra Roxa”: weathering of basalt / diabase

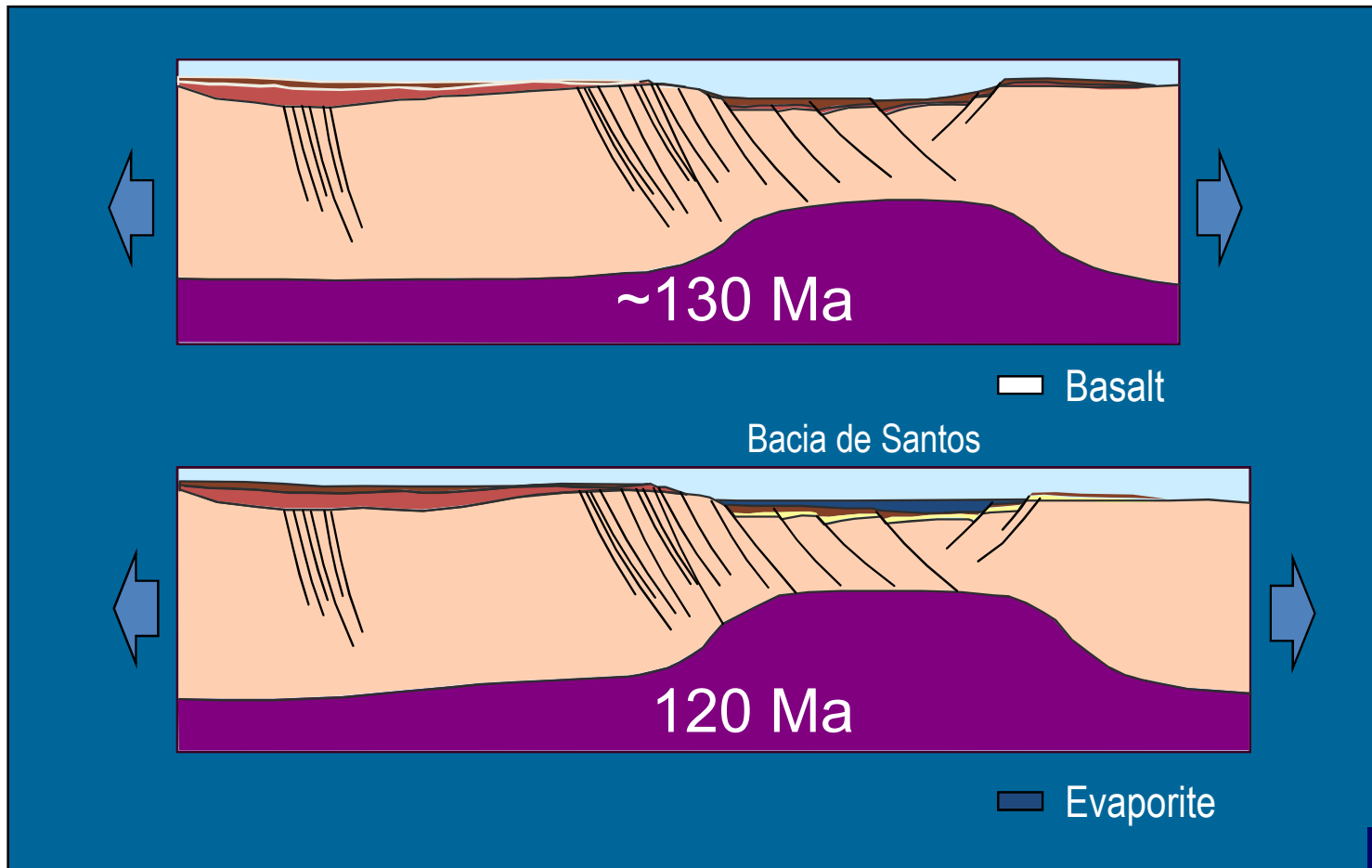


<http://www.codem.org.br/investe/>

# Phases of Gondwana break-up



# Thinning stage of the crust



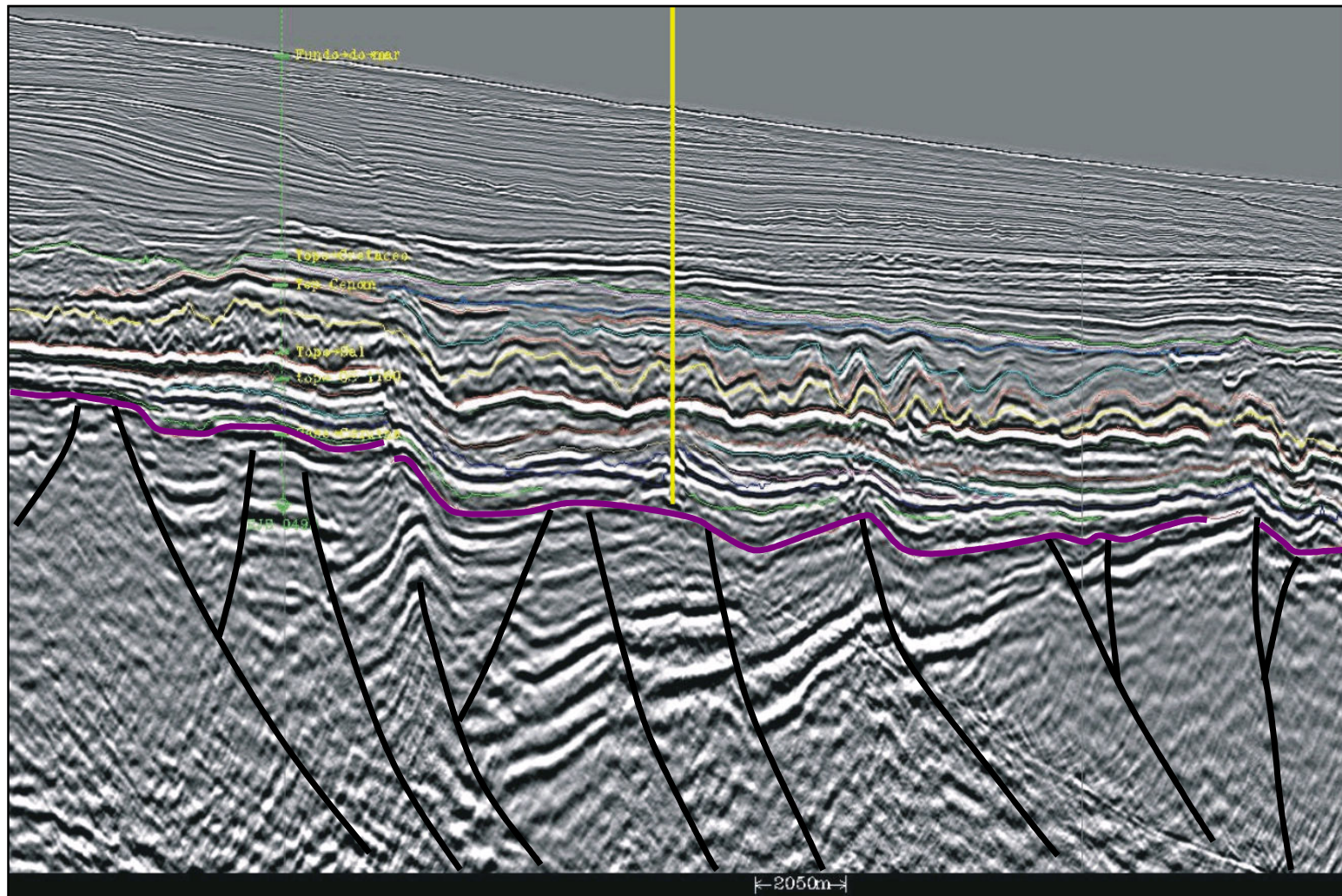
Source: Macedo (1991)

# Lacustrine sediments of Recôncavo Graben



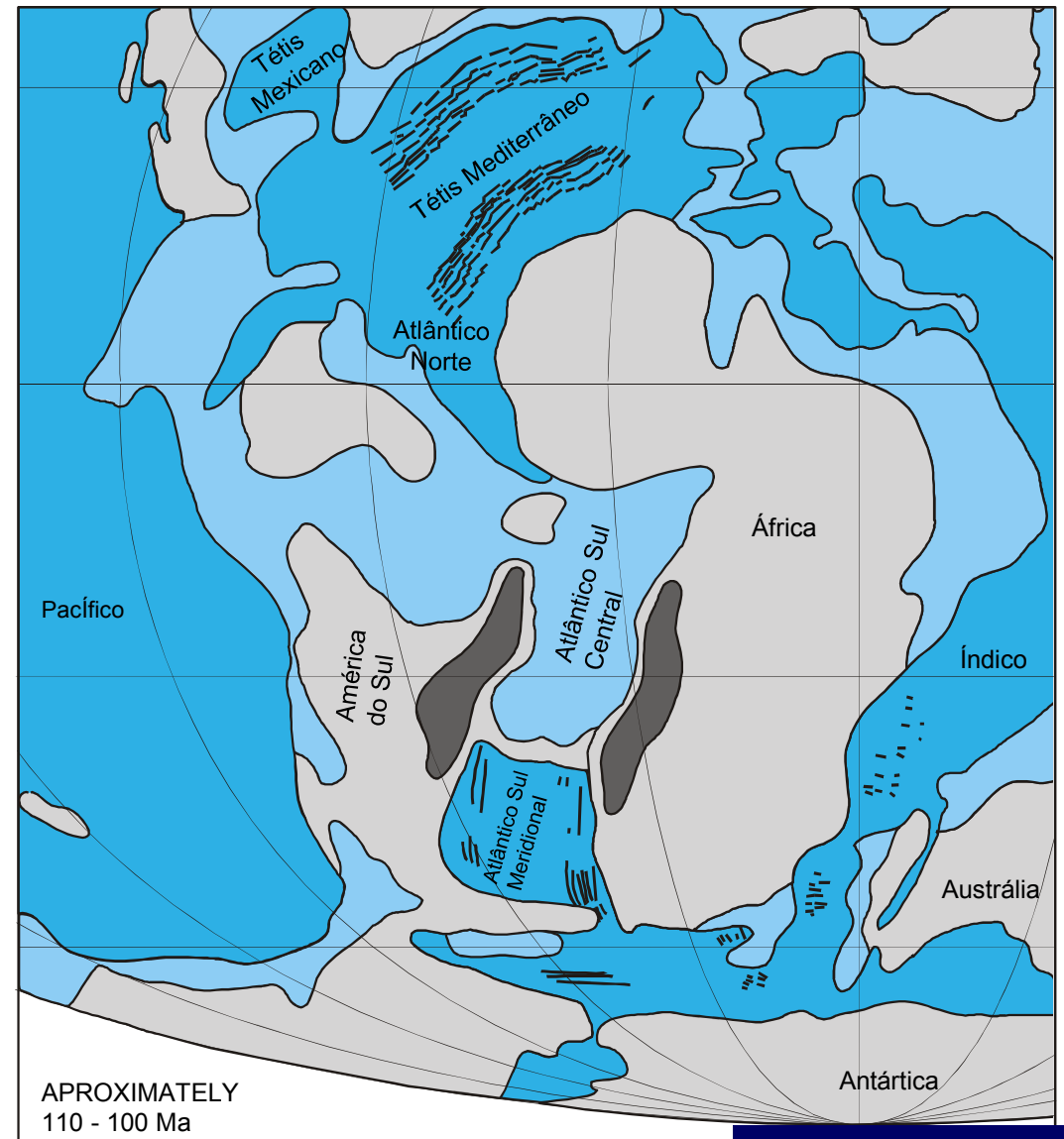
Image credit: Pedro Victor Zalán

# Pre-salt rifts of Campos Basin



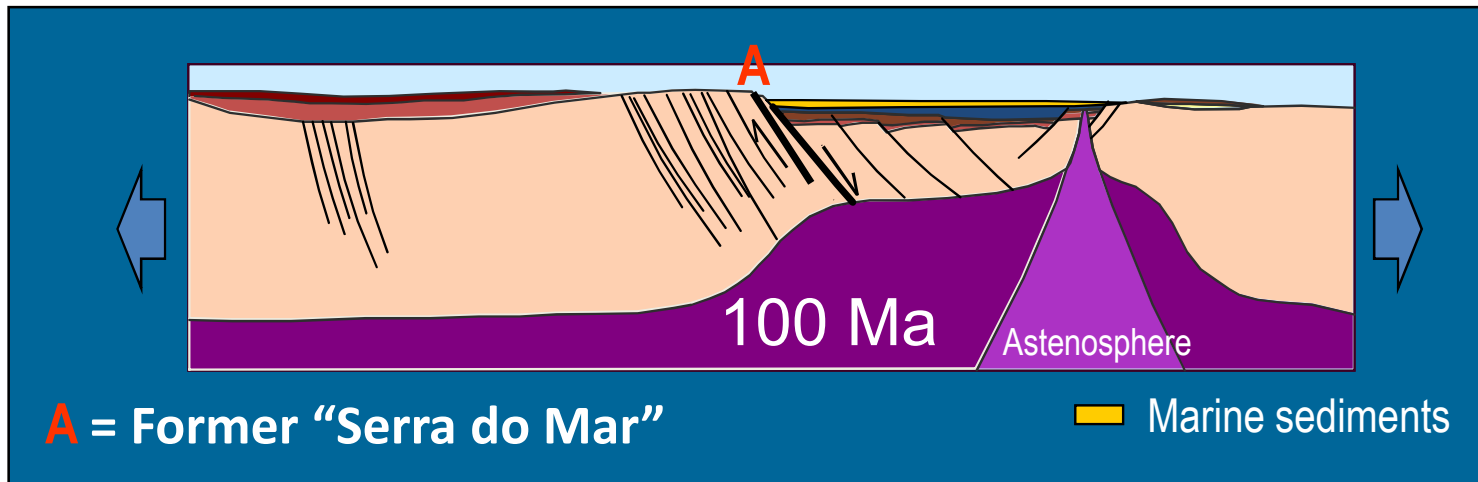


# Paleogeographic reconstruction of South Atlantic and adjoining seas during the Albian

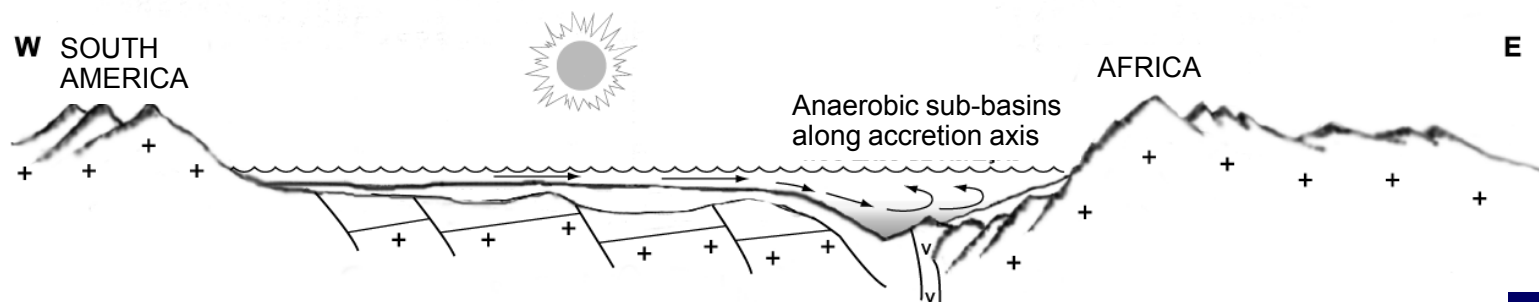


Source: Azevedo (2004)

# Forming the first oceanic floor

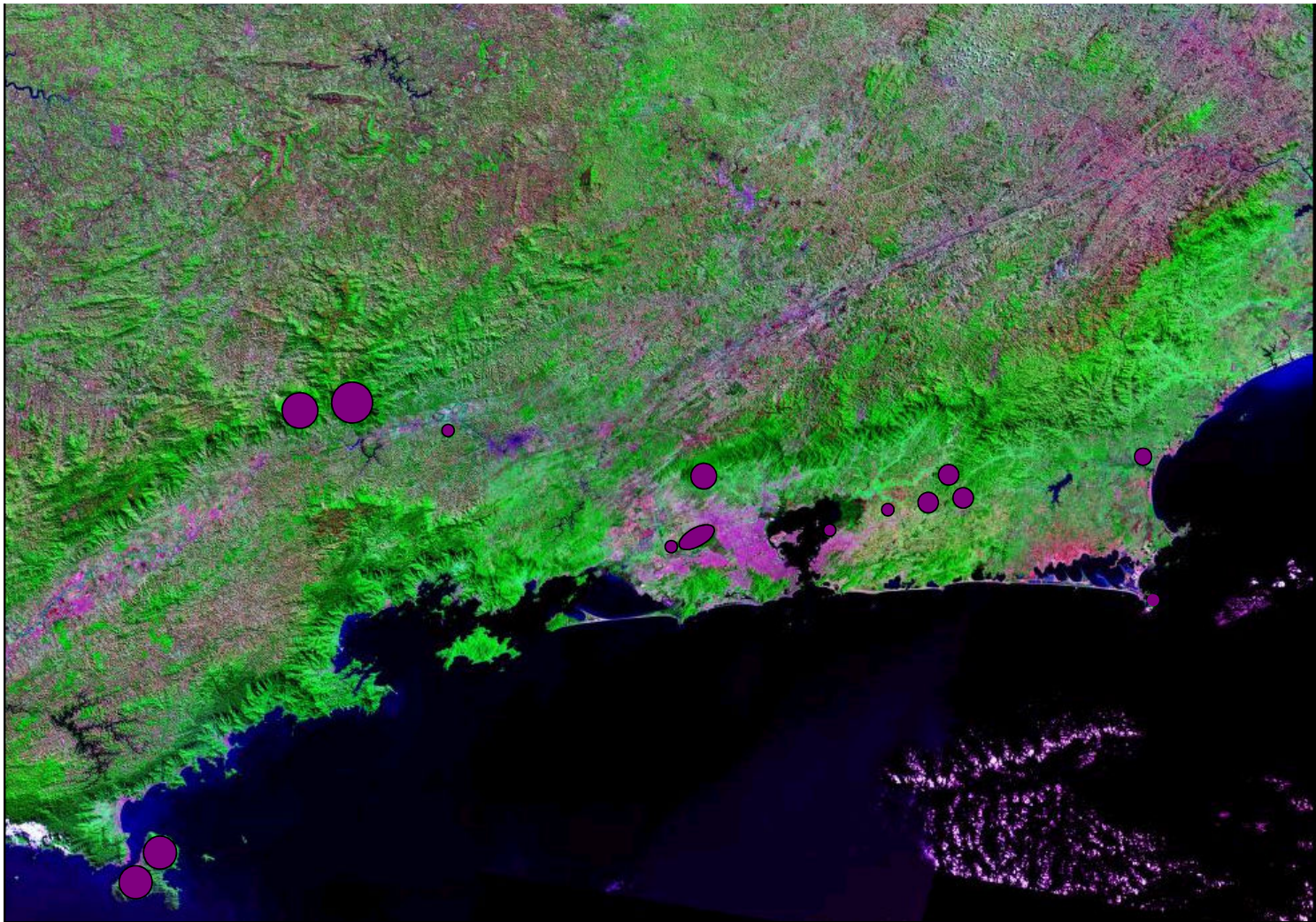


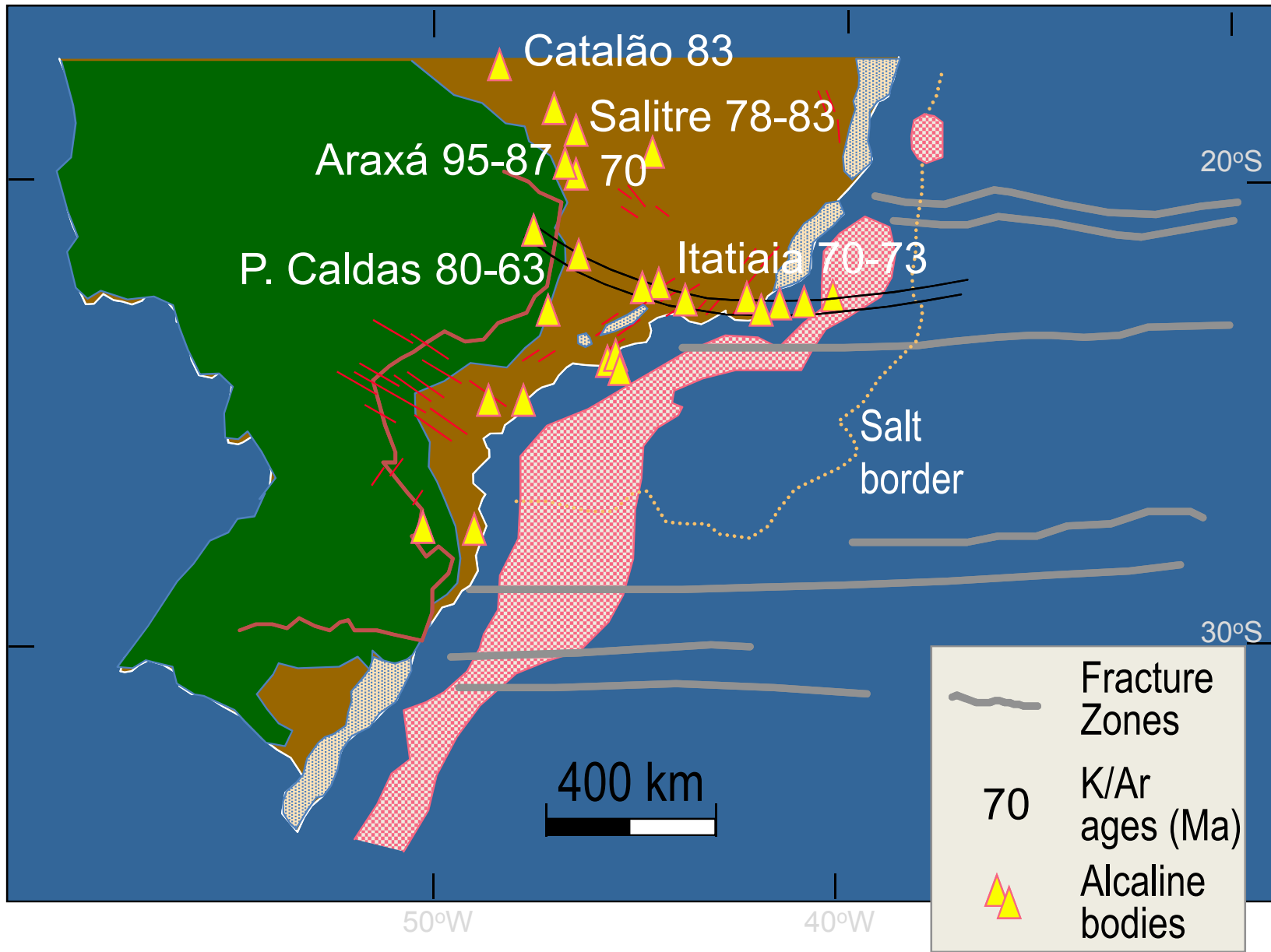
## Transversal profile of Central South Atlantic



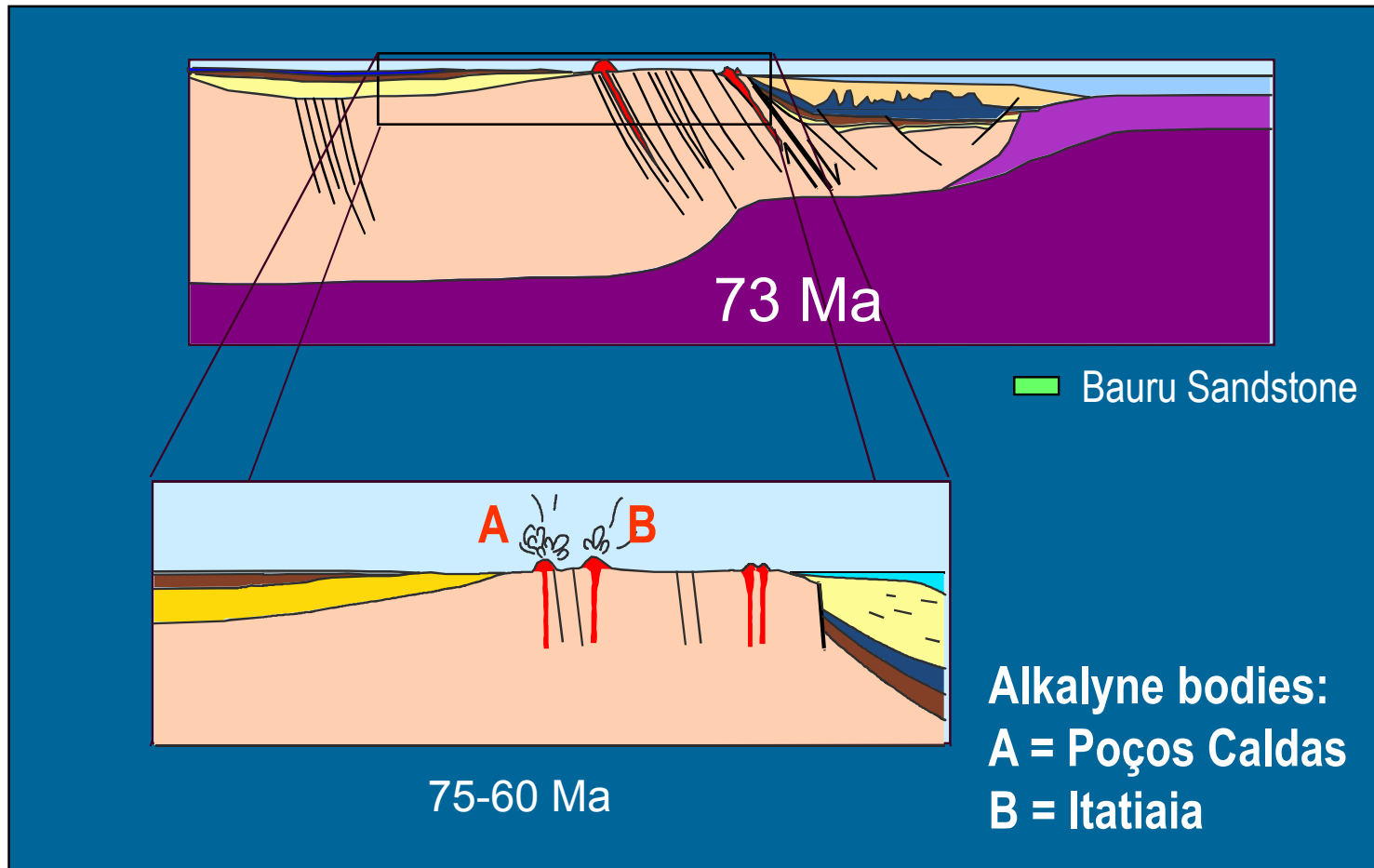
Source: Macedo (1991)

# Alkaline intrusions: Upper Cretaceous / Paleogene

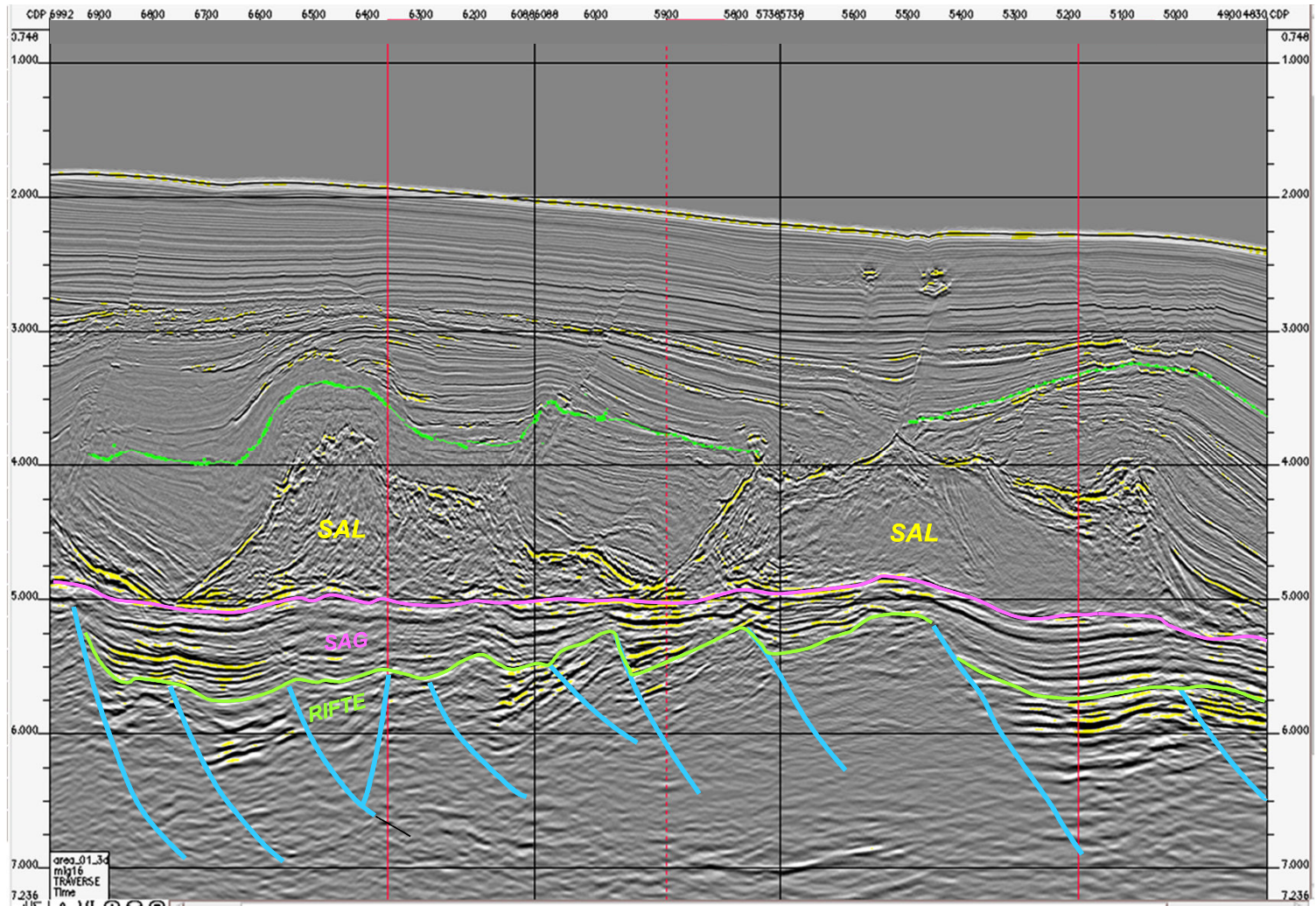


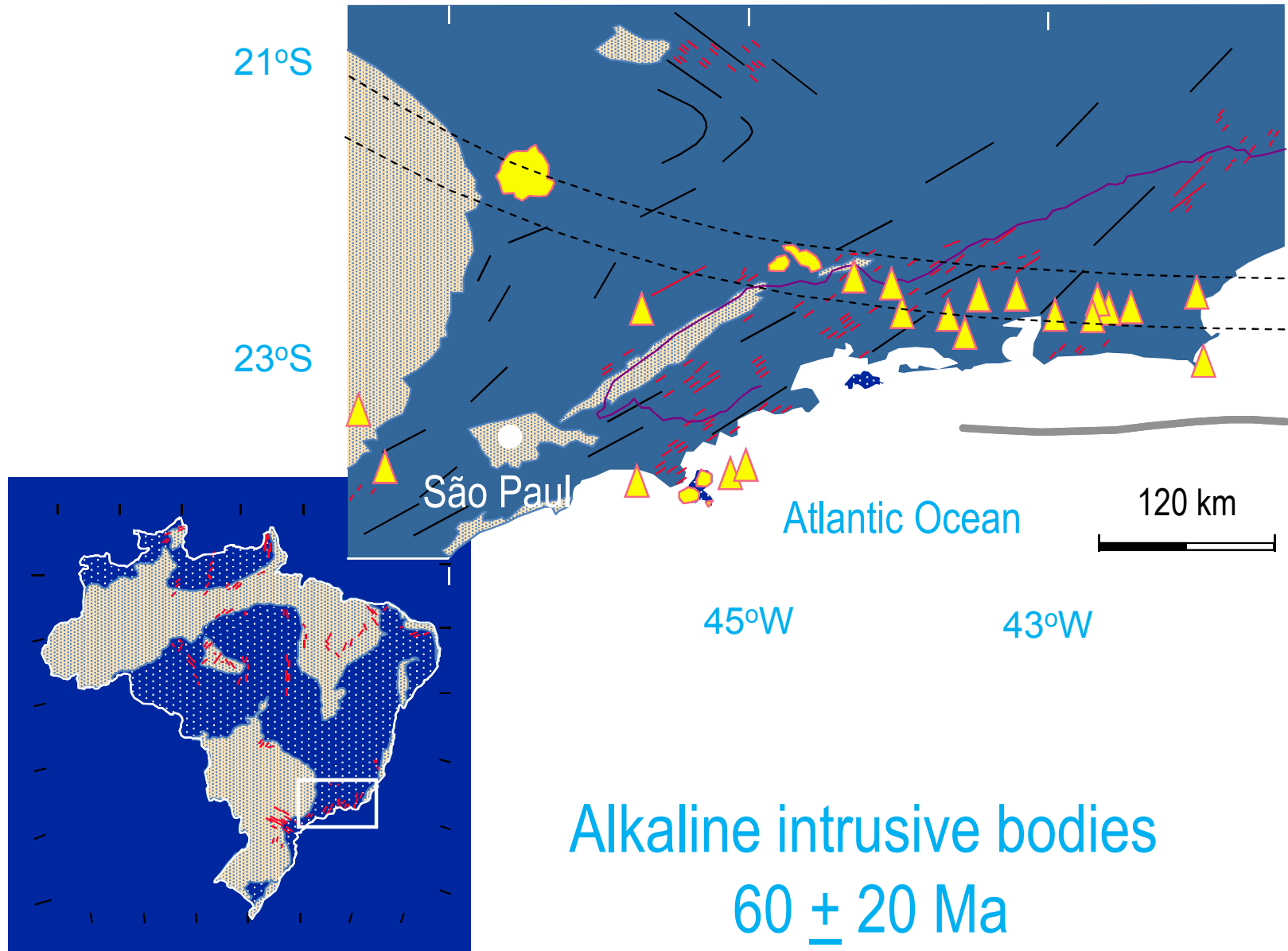


# Sea-floor spreading

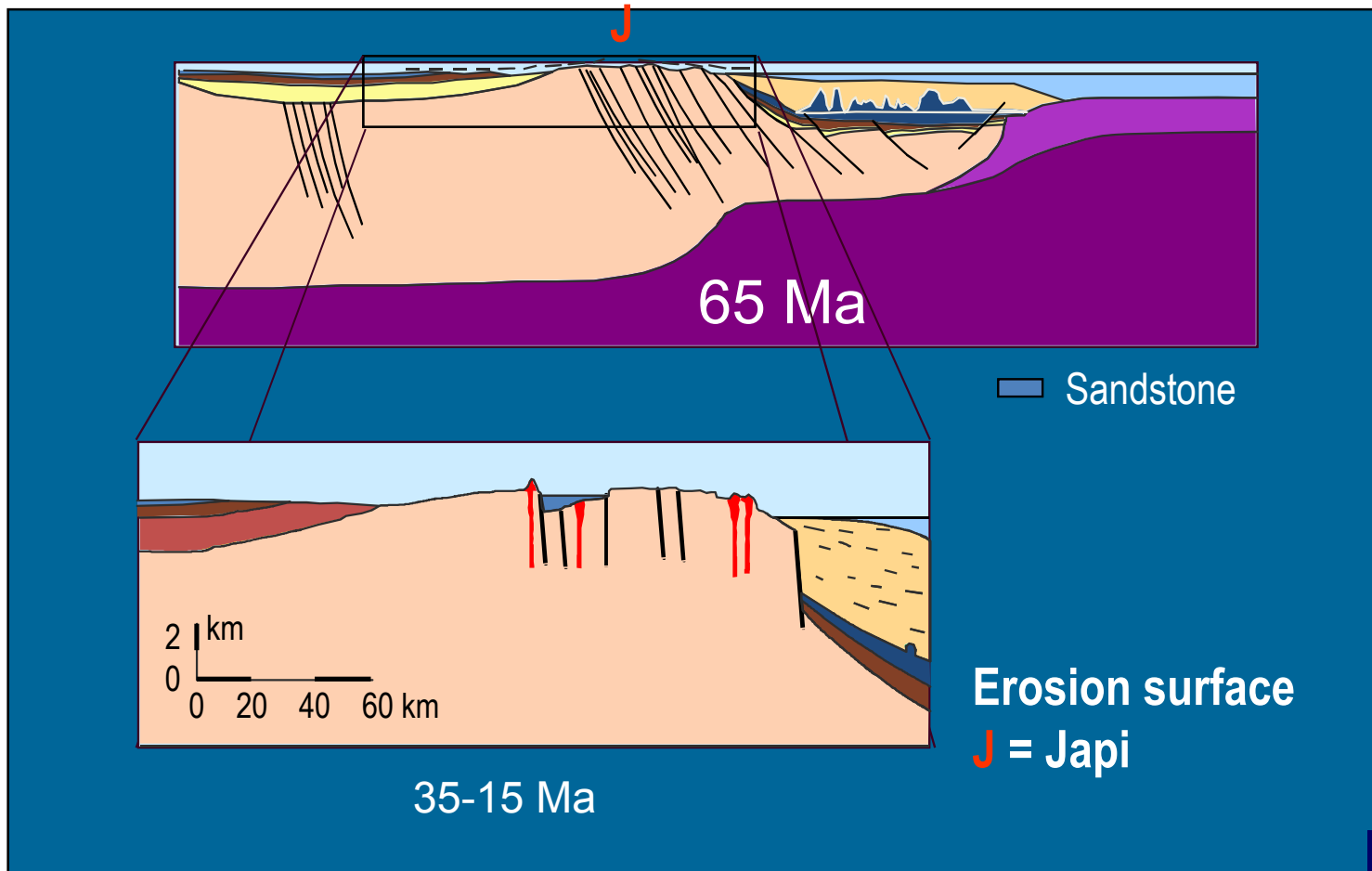


# Pre-salt rifts of Santos Basin





# Japi Surface and uplift of the continental margin





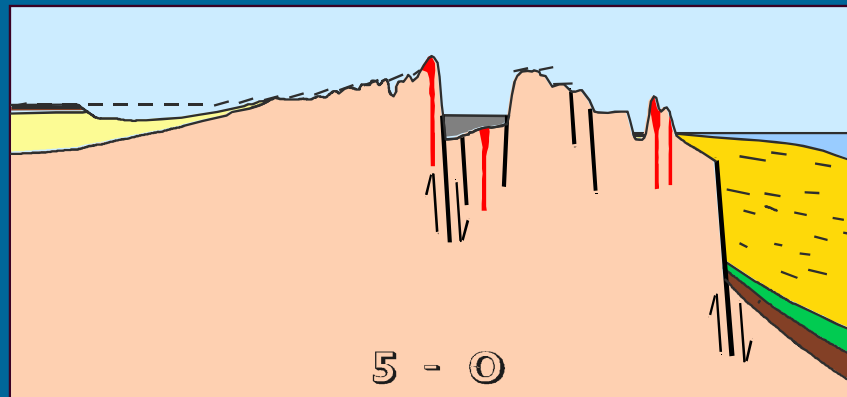
# Continental margin uplift

*Tectonic subsidence of blocks and preservation of sedimentary covers*

Paraná  
Basin

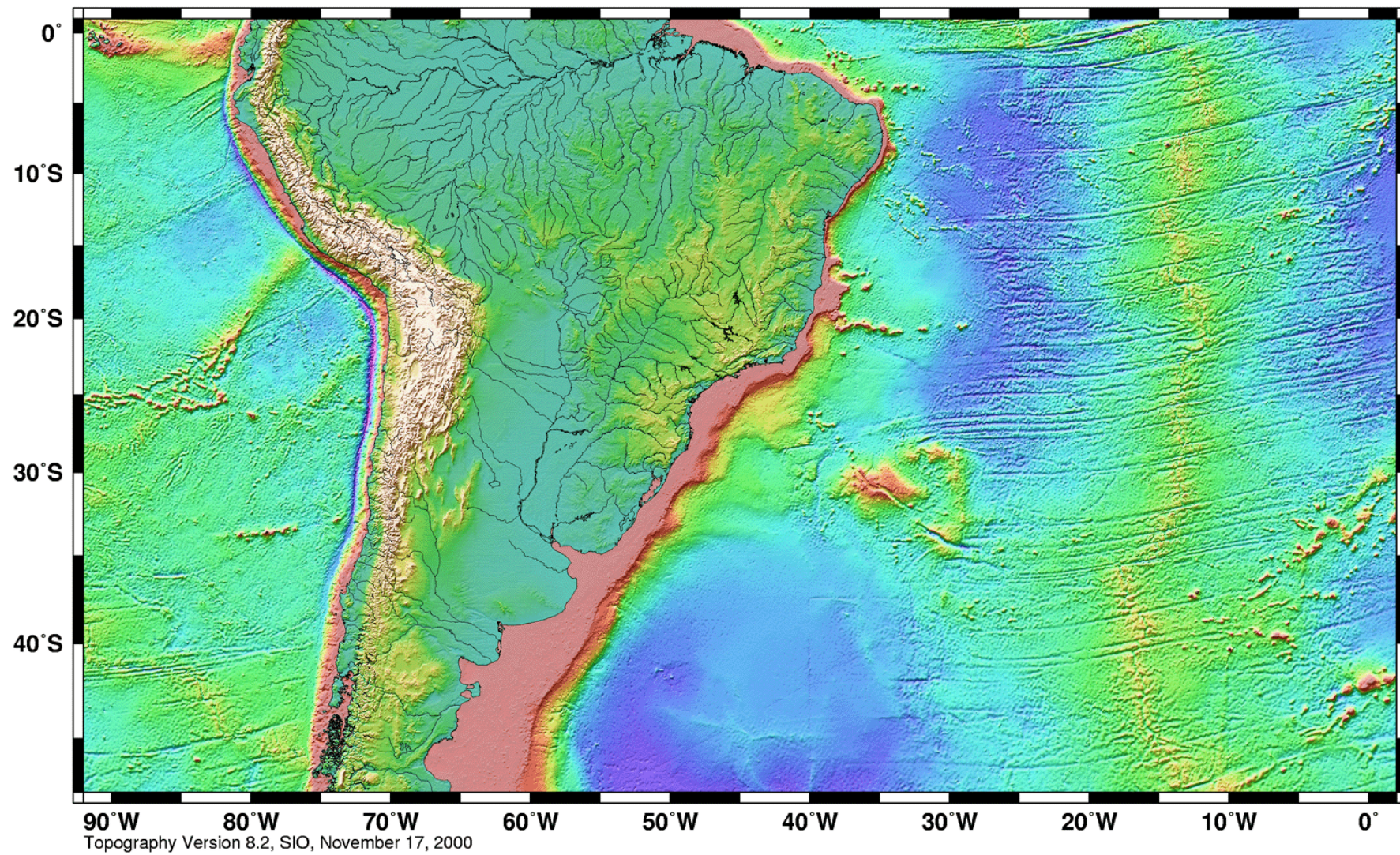
Taubaté  
Basin

Santos  
Basin



5 - 0 Ma

Great vertical  
exaggeration



GMT 2003 Mar 20 13:10:05

[http://topex.ucsd.edu/marine\\_topo/gif\\_topo\\_track/topo12.gif](http://topex.ucsd.edu/marine_topo/gif_topo_track/topo12.gif)



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# Regional relief

The structure of the landscape

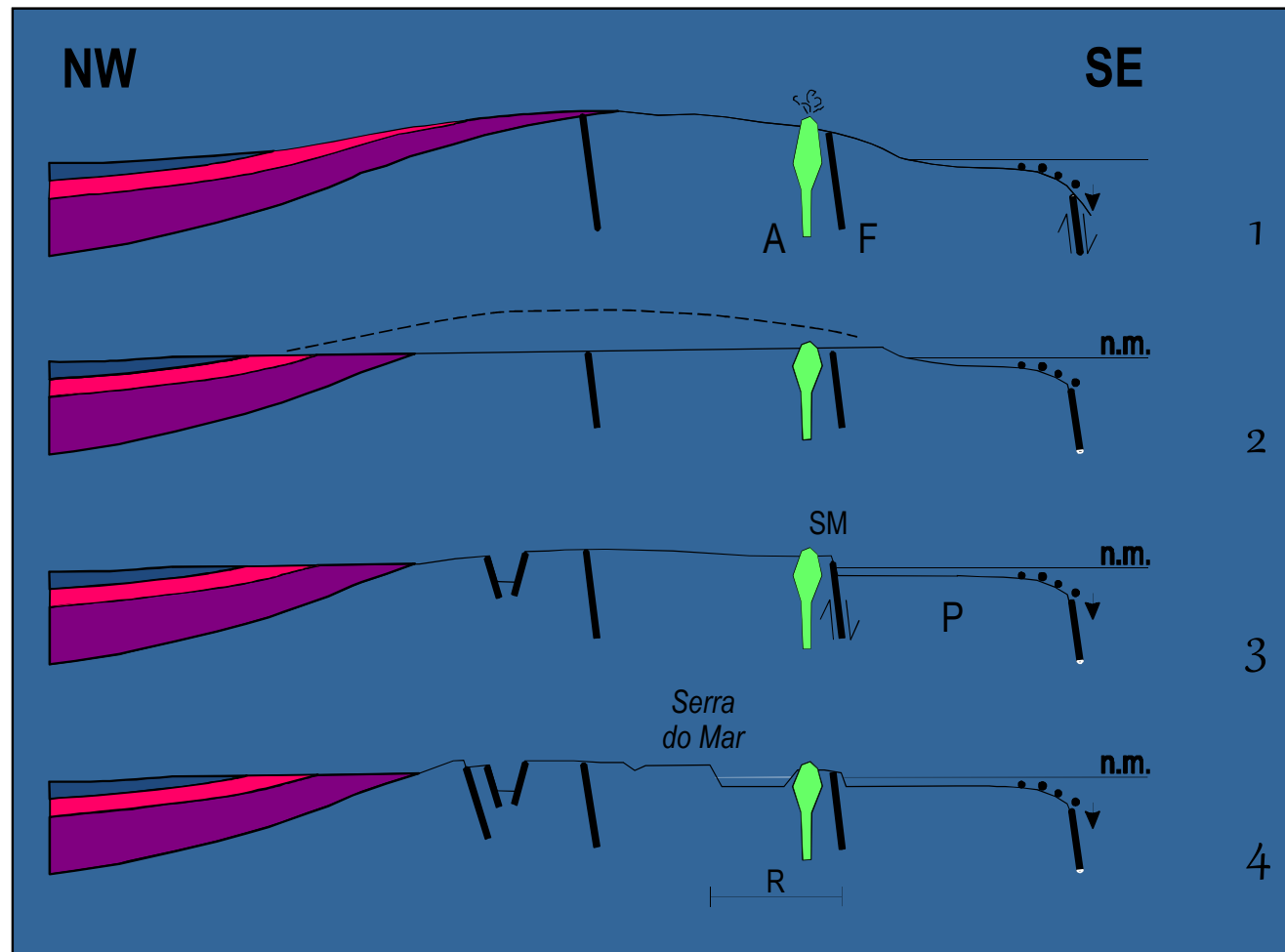
# Sugar Loaf relief type (RJ)

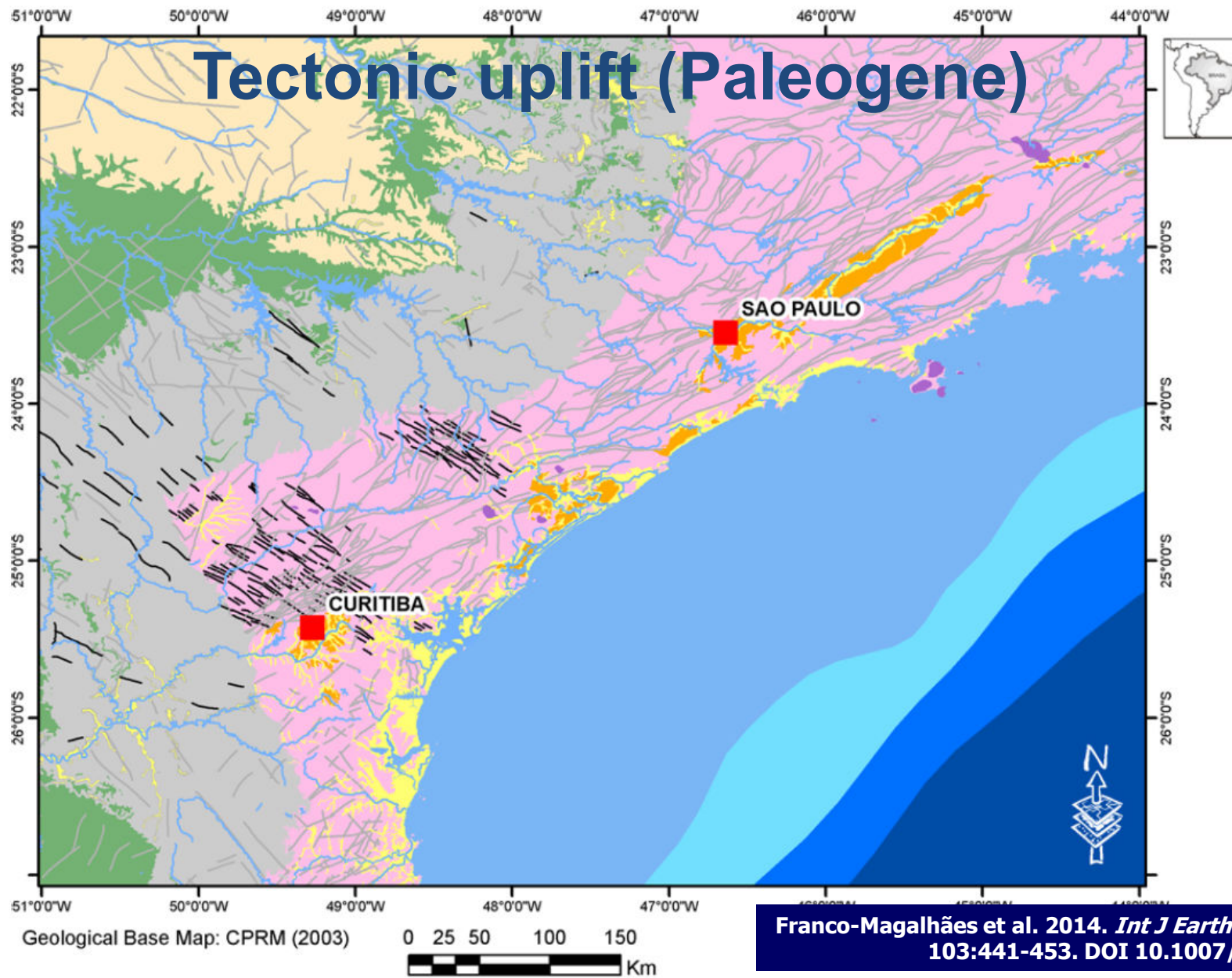


<http://tudoeturismo.com.br/wp-content/uploads/...1280x.jpg>



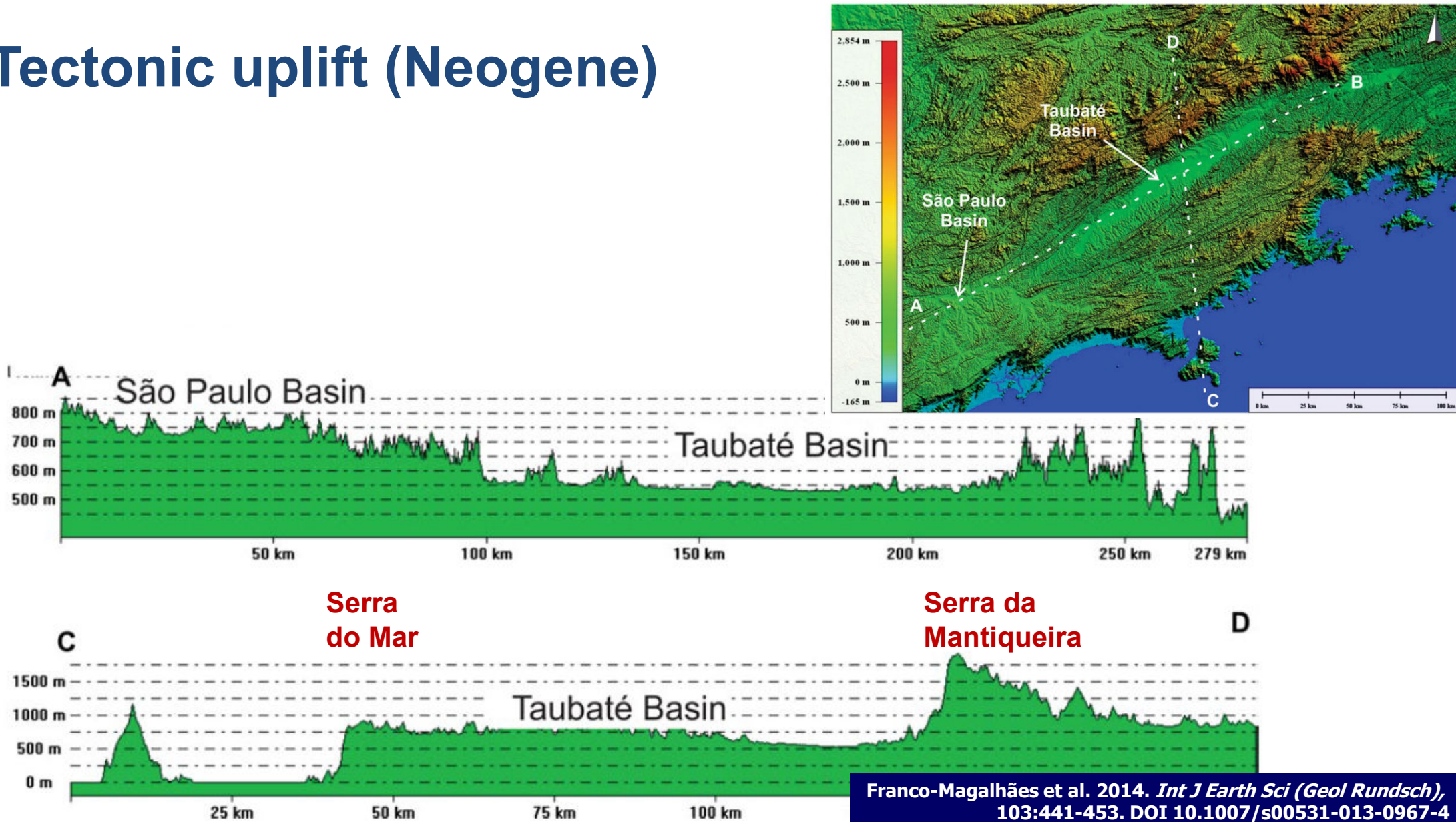
# What is the origin of Serra do Mar?



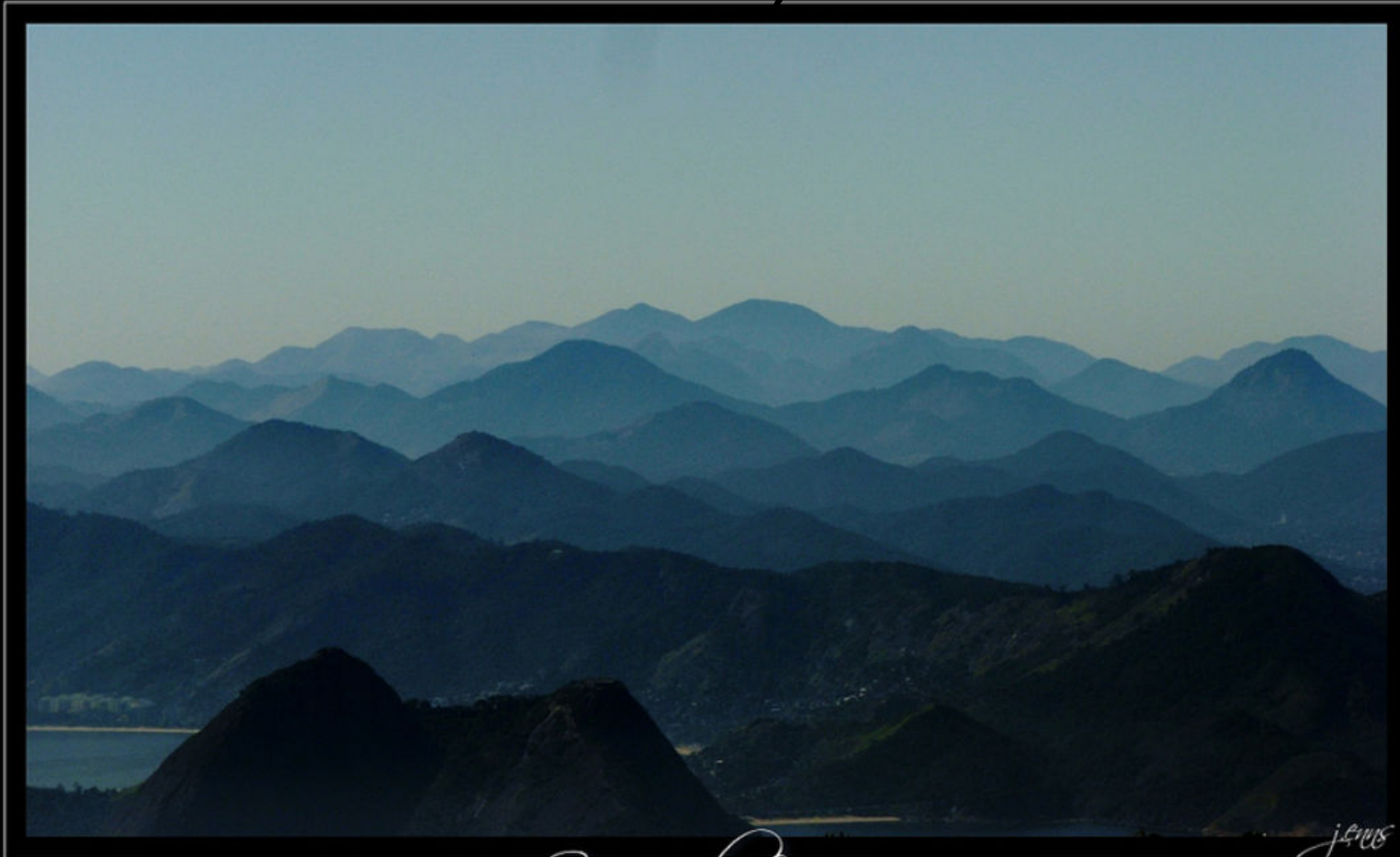


Franco-Magalhães et al. 2014. *Int J Earth Sci (Geol Rundsch)*, 103:441-453. DOI 10.1007/s00531-013-0967-4

# Tectonic uplift (Neogene)







*Serra do Mar*

rio de janeiro, brasil

*jeus*

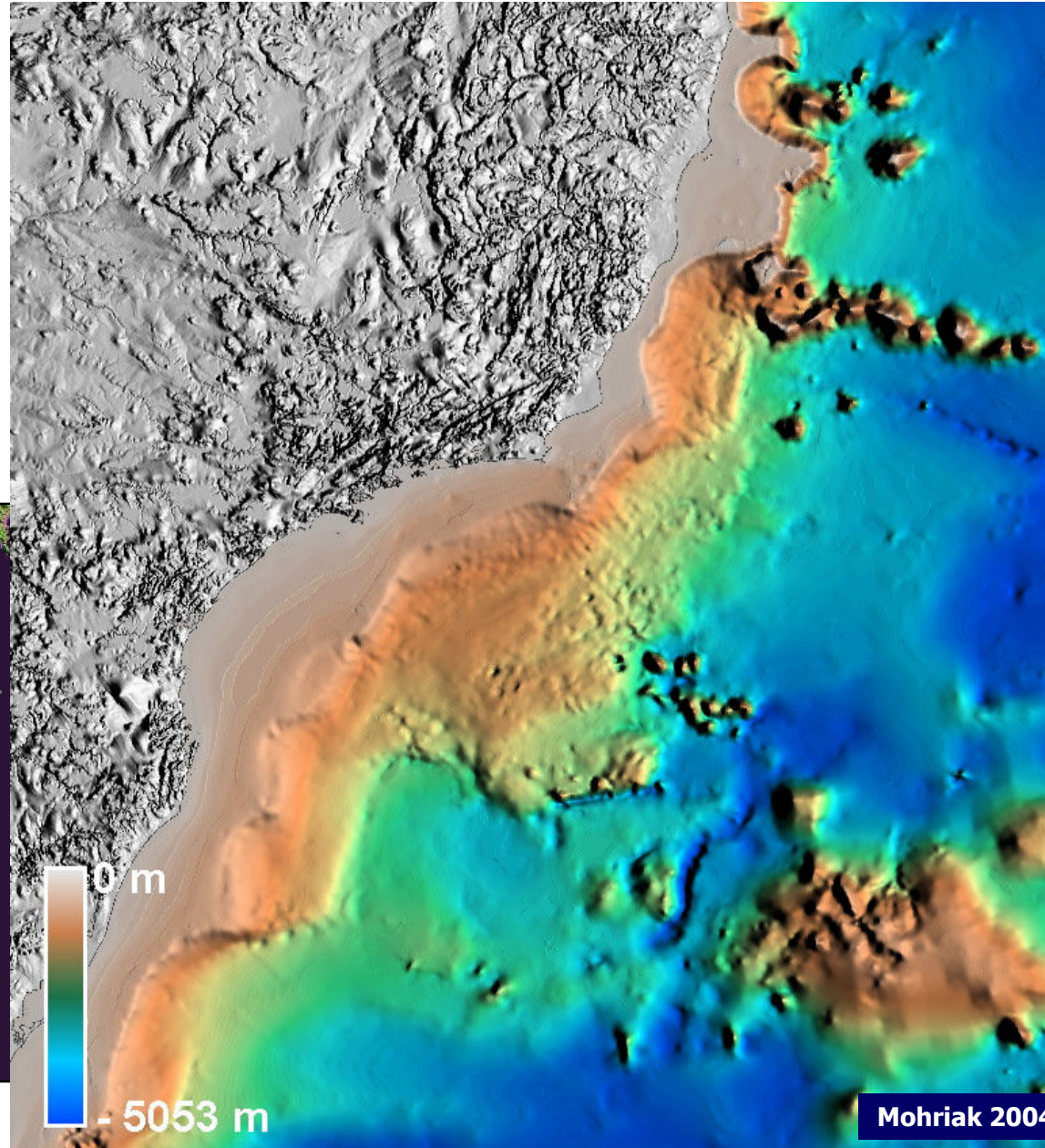
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jonathanenns/2696368555/sizes/l/in/photostream/>

# Serra do Mar, Parati (RJ)



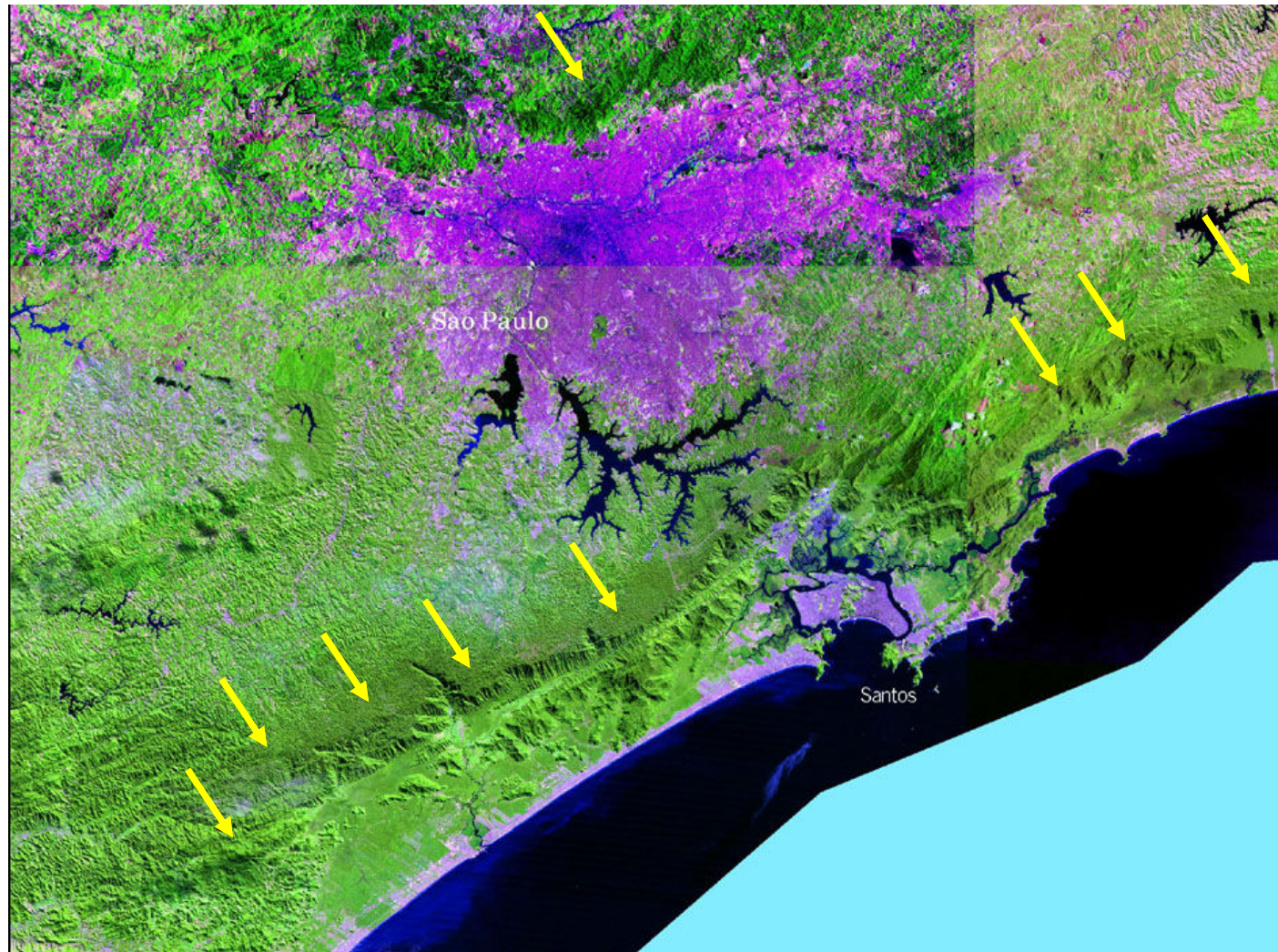
# SE Brasil

## Topo-bathymetry and geomorphology of Southeastern South America

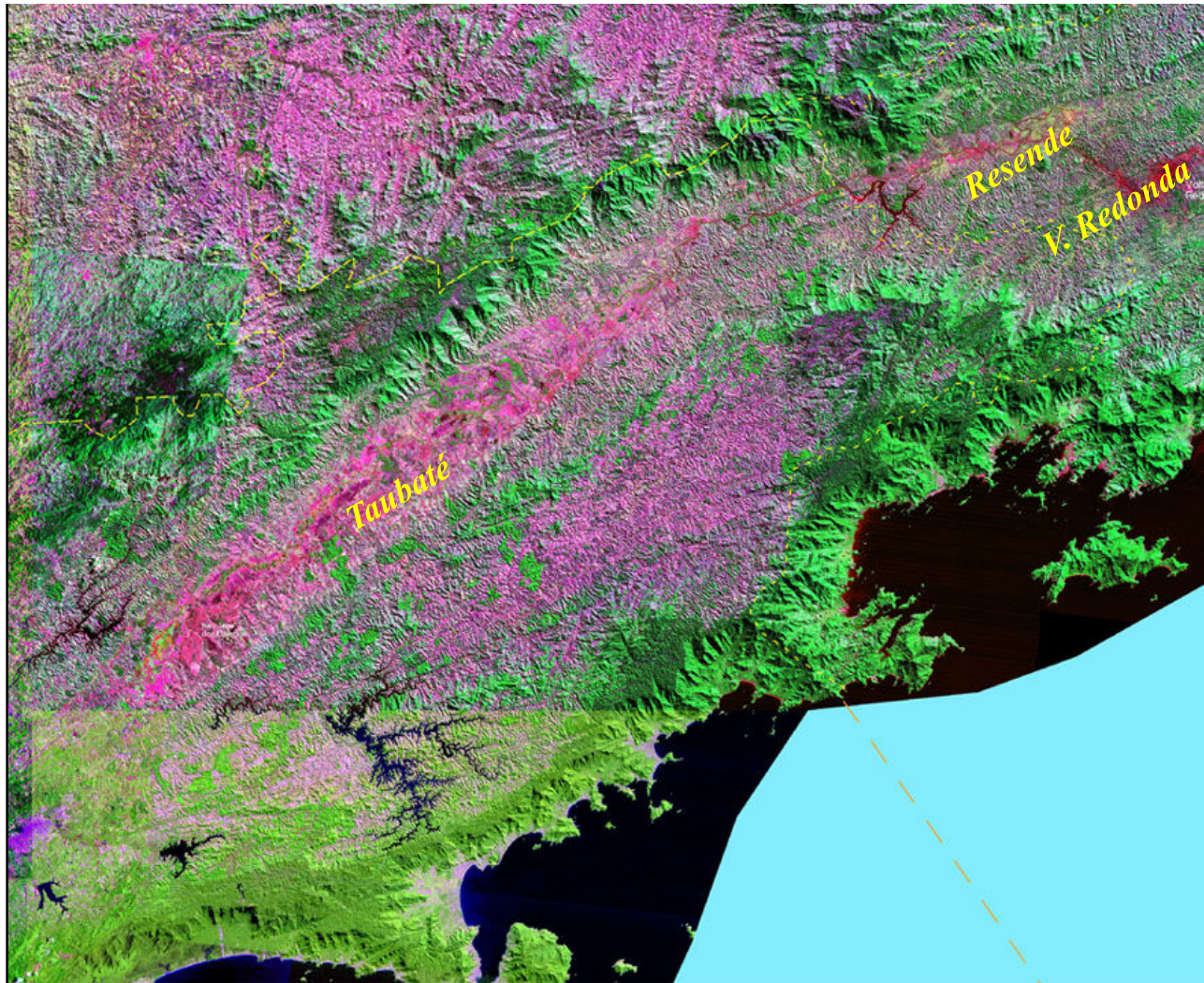


Mohriak 2004, modif. C. Bentz

# Preserved Japi Surface bordering Serra do Mar and the Serra da Mantiqueira, north of São Paulo city (violet color)



# Taubaté Basin: Mantiqueira and do Mar mountains





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Campinas – Sao Paulo – Brazil, July 2018



# Conclusions

- **Studying Geology and relief of South America involves reconstructing ancient seas, glaciers, deserts...**
- Evolution is divided into phases:
  - Archean and Proterozoic: ancient terranes plus fold-and-thrust belts
  - Phanerozoic: unfolded sedimentary basins
  - Relief
    - **Differential erosion – vast regional erosion surfaces – uplifts**

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**Thank you for your attention!**