

Geological Map of the Moroccan Central Massif; a Structural Interpretation of the Hercynian Belt

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The geological map presented is a compilation and a synthesis of the work carried out on this area since the beginning of the Eighties. The choice of the scale of the 1/200 000 permit to obtain a convenient to handle and sufficiently detailed document. The Moroccan Central Massif or Central Hercynian Massif, located in the Western Meseta, is limited to the West by the Atlantic Ocean, to the North by the plain of the Gharb, to the South by the Phosphates Plateau and to the East by the Mesozoic terranes of the Middle Atlas. It is the greatest area of paleozoic outcrops which allows to observe, on more than 200 km, a quasi continuous section through the hercynian belt of Morocco. A simplified legend allows to distinguish several structural units which were brought closer during the hercynian orogenesis. They are limited by great fault or shear zones. From the West to the East, we can distinguish: the Sehoul Block ("caledonian terranes"); the Rabat-Tiflet Fault Zone (complicated zone with Ordovician to Visean terranes); the Coastal Block (Cambrian to Devonian); the Western Meseta Shear Zone; the Khatouat Sidi-Bettache Tiliouine units (Late Devonian to Carboniferous basins); the Tsili-Tafoudeit thrust zone; the Khouribga-Oulmes unit (early Ordovician to Devonian antiformal structure); the Smaala-Oulmes El Hammam Fault Zone; the Fourhal-Telt unit (Carboniferous basin); the Azrou Khenifra Zone (a complicated zone with a neoproterozoic to lower paleozoic basement, a carboniferous and permian cover and many allochthonous units).

Keywords: geological map, hercynian belt, Meseta, Morocco.