

The Role of the West African Craton in the Post Visean Structuration of the Moroccan Meseta and Anti-Atlas

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To the East of the coastal Meseta, the lands are structured by folds trending ENE-WSW. The structural data at Sidi Bettache (BSB) and Brachwa Maaziz (BBM) basins plead in favor of a counter clockwise rotational movement towards the NNW of the Zaer-Oulmès Block. Otherwise, the eastern Meseta shows the same structural outlines, with a deformation generally more excessive than in Western Meseta. That implies a counter clockwise rotational movement of this one towards the NNW.

The structural outlines at the coastal Block are NNW-SSE to NNE-SSW trend. To the E of the Western Meseta Shear Zone, the sub E-W folds are refolded by the sub N-S folds within a width band.

The Anti-Atlas presents the same structural outlines that at the Meseta. In the eastern Anti-Atlas, the folding is ENE-WSW while the crossed folds are known at the central Anti-Atlas. The extreme W of the Anti-Atlas is structured by N-S folds and it's linked up by Soulaïmani and El Attari to the Mauritanide range.

These structural considerations are in favor of the role of the W African Craton in the Hercynian structuration of the Anti-Atlas and the Meseta at the time of the last stages of the formation of the Pangea. These allow replacing the post Visean structural events of the Moroccan Hercynian range in their periatlantic Paleozoic context marked by the building of: Appalachian range in the SE edge of the North American Craton; Mauritanide range in the Wedge of the WAC; Western Europe and NW African Hercynian ranges.