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Comparison Between the Salt Basins of Morocco and Madagascar

The large Triassic/Jurassic salt basin offshore Morocco is associated with the early rifting of the Central Atlantic region. The progressive deformation of the vast amount of salt created a basin with a large number of salt-related structures. These include a poorly developed raft domain underneath the shelf, numerous allochthonous salt structures basinward, such as salt canopies, sheets and tongues. Also, a zone of prominent toe-thrust anticlines developed at the leading edge of the salt basin during mid-Tertiary times.

The deepwater portion of the offshore Majunga Basin of NW Madagascar was perhaps the most poorly understood salt basin in Africa prior to the recent acquisition of the first systematic and regional seismic data set. The Middle Jurassic, syn-rift salt produced spectacular allochthonous tongues and canopies beneath the slope. In the middle of the salt basin, the salt edge displays a major basinward salient with well-developed toe-thrust anticlines underlain by a large-scale allochthonous salt sheet.

Important similarities between these syn-rift salt basins include the presence of well-developed toe-thrust anticlines at the allochthonous basinward edge of the salt and the influence of the underlying basement structure on salt tectonic styles. Differences are attributed to several factors, such as post-salt sedimentation rates and timing/magnitude of basinward tilt in these basins.