

**AAPG International Conference
Barcelona, Spain
September 21-24, 2003**

Keith H. James¹ (1) Consultant Geologist, 09347 Puentedura (Burgos), Spain

A Simple Synthesis of Caribbean Geology

The complex area between the continental masses of North and South America comprises numerous continental, stretched continental, island arc and oceanic elements, described by numerous works.

Syntheses of this geology popularly derive the Caribbean Plate from the Pacific area and require major rotation of island arc elements and continental blocks. Such models are complex and geometrically improbable/impossible (see accompanying poster on arguments for and against the Pacific origin of the Caribbean).

This poster shows a simple evolution from a Pangean configuration principally via regional (N - S America), Jurassic-Middle Eocene, WNW oriented sinistral transtension, followed by Oligocene-Recent, E-W strike-slip between the Caribbean and the American Plates.