

REGIONAL GEOLOGY SEMINAR '81 - ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS  
THE MARGINS OF THE CENTRAL BELT, PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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The concept of a three fold division of the Malay Peninsula into the Eastern, Central and Western Belts is based primarily on the different styles of mineralization: the Central Belt being a gold and base metal belt while the other two belts are predominantly enriched in tin. Other differences between these three zones in their sedimentary, igneous, structural and metamorphic histories have also been noted. Although maps have been drawn showing the locations of these different belts, the basis for this subdivision has not been clearly defined and the nature and origin of these three belts are open to speculations.

This paper will attempt to evaluate some of the basis for this three fold division. Particular attention will be given to the

geological features found near to the proposed margins of these three zones as theories on the tectonic development of the Central Belt are based largely on the interpretation of the geology along these margins. The features discussed include the numerous small bodies of serpentinite, major faults, mineralization and igneous activity adjacent to the belt margins.

The evidence for the serpentinite bodies being part of a ophiolite sequence representing slabs of ancient oceanic lithosphere is found to be unconvincing and an alternative mechanism involving major geofracture zones along the margins is offered. These deep fractures besides providing avenues for the upward migration of the ultramafics may also have provided access for the migrating ore bearing fluids giving rise to the present high base metal concentration along the eastern margin of the Central Belt. The emplacement of the serpentinite close to the geofractures are relatively early events compared to the main granite intrusion in the Triassic and some of the large granite bodies cuts the earlier major fault zones.

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