

## **Paleomagnetic support for a mid-Ordovician wide Iapetus Ocean: a summary of the evidence**

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In his 1966 paper, Tuzo Wilson recognized that paleomagnetism could be used to test his hypothesis of a Proto-Atlantic (Iapetus) Ocean. He correctly noted however: "...so far as I can ascertain, palaeomagnetic evidence which might bear upon this problem does not exist." We shall review the relevant paleomagnetic evidence now available from the hybrid blocks of Newfoundland, Britain and Ireland where

comparisons can be made across collision sutures. The best evidence is from the mid-Ordovician and is particularly convincing in Britain and Ireland where a Iapetus width similar to that of the present Atlantic is inferred. Convincing evidence from Newfoundland is as yet lacking, partly due to pervasive Siluro-Devonian overprinting.