Observations on the geology of the porphyry copper sub-province of Southwest Negros, Philippines: C.K. Burton, Billiton Philippines Inc., P.O. Box 441, Manila, Philippines

The southwest Negros porphyry copper sub-province is distinguished from other mineralised areas in the Philippines by a number of geological phenomena. Salient amongst these are:

1) *An apparent (K/Ar) Eocene-Oligocene age of the mineralized intrusive rocks*

2) *Significant amounts of molybdenum whilst gold seems to be limited in the copper ores, although occurring elsewhere in the area*

3) *The Sipalay orebody is the second largest in the country and probably contains over one billion tons of ore. The next biggest deposit in Negros is around one quarter of this size whilst all other known occurrences are considerably smaller*

4) *Long and narrow outcrops of intrusive rocks and elongate faults give SW Negros a marked NW structural strike which has strongly influenced the disposition of the mineralization. The larger, northern, part of the island has a NNE trend. The junction between the two portions is rectilinear and may constitute either a major transcurrent fault or a tectonic suture*

5) *Offshore SW Negros is bordered by a sedimentary (forearc?) basin beyond which is a short arcuate trench. These may be resurgent*

and/or aborted features unconnected with the generation of the copper porphyries and of uncertain relationship to Quaternary volcanic activity

No satisfactory account of the tectonic evolution of southwest Negros has yet been evolved.

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