Occurrence of sheared diamictite in the Raub area, its possible extensions and tectonic implications

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Sheared diamictite has recently been discovered along the Krau Satu road and at Taman Indrapura, South of Raub town. These diamictites comprise angular to subrounded clasts of various sizes (a few milimetres to several metres) and lithologies (predominantly limestone, sandstone, tuff, mudstone and acidic volcanics) set in a muddy matrix.

Diamictites have also been recorded in several places between Raub and Bentong and near Karak, but in these localities they lack limestone clasts and precise age control but contain, in addition, conglomerate clasts.

In many exposures individual clasts show well preserved primary sedimentary structures including graded bedding, load casts and small scale cross bedding. While some clasts show evidence of deformation such as stretching and development of cleavage, many are internally undeformed due to rigid body rotation. The muddy matrix in these diamictites are variably sheared and cleaved and the shear planes and cleavages are commonly parallel to bedding though in places they have been observed to cut across the bedding.

Some limestone clasts are fossiliferous and yield conodonts and fusulinids of Permian (probably Guadalupian) age. This suggests that the diamictites cannot be older than early Late Permian and because of other geological considerations are most likely to be late Permian and/or early Triassic in age.

The occurrence of these diamictites define a relatively narrow zone along what has been referred to as the Bentong - Raub Line and are here regarded as being of regional tectonic significance. It is of interest to note that diamictites also occur near Genting Sempah and may form part of the same unit.

Currently available data on the diamictites do not allow a clear cut recognition as to wheterh they represent a tectonic melange of a sheared olistostrome. However, on grounds of Palaeozoic - Mesozoic stratigraphic and structural relationships, an interpretation of the diamictites as an olistostrome seems more probable.

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