

RECENT CONODONT DATA FROM PENINSULAR MALAYSIA: PALAEOTECTONIC IMPLICATIONS

I. METCALFE

6, Jalan 12/2, 46200 Petaling Jaya.

Recent biostratigraphical and palaeobiogeographical conodont data from Peninsular Malaysia have palaeotectonic implications for the geological evolution of the Malay Peninsula.

Conodont biostratigraphical studies on the Kanthan Limestone in Perak show a significant stratigraphical break at the Devonian – Carboniferous boundary which may be related to rifting on the margin of Gondwanaland.

Combined structural and conodont biostratigraphical studies indicate a major compressional event in Peninsular Malaysia during late Carboniferous – early Permian times.

Olistostromes occurring along the Bentong – Raub ‘Line’ near Raub have been dated by conodonts as late Early Triassic and indicate that there was active, probably extensional, tectonics during the early Triassic.

New conodont finds indicate that the Chuping Limestone in Perlis extends up to the late Triassic and thus with the Kodiang Limestone of Kedah formed an extensive carbonate platform during the Permian and Triassic. This carbonate platform extends into Sumatra but is separated from age equivalent shallow marine carbonates in the Central Belt of the Peninsula and southeast Sumatra by a deep marine basin in which the Semanggol Formation of the Peninsula and the Kuala Formation in north Sumatra accumulated.

Palaeobiogeographical studies of early Triassic conodont faunas from Kedah and Pahang indicate that it is unlikely that the Sibumasu and East Malaya tectonic blocks were marginal to Gondwanaland in the early Triassic.