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LATE PALEOZOIC AND TRIASSIC CARBONATE PLATFORM AND BASIN SEDIMENTATION ALONG THE WESTERN MARGIN OF THE CENTRAL BELT OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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Late Paleozoic carbonates presently found along the western margin of the Central Belt of Peninsular Malaysia developed as algal boundstones, fusulinid banks, and oolitic and peloidal grainstones sand sheets on marine volcanic highs. These carbonates occur as separate and discrete bodies, and contain several disconformities within their sequences. Laterally, the carbonate microfacies pass into poorly-bedded skeletal packstones and mudstones which in places are interbedded with shales. These shallow marine carbonates grew with time and by Triassic these bodies coalesced to form a major platform now preserved along a stretch of some 80 kilometers from Chegar Perah in Pahang to Sg. Chiku in Kelantan.

The growth of this platform proceeded through several stages and at times were either inundated with thin siliciclastic mud or sub aerially exposed. Extensive dolomitisation, dissolution of meta stable carbonate constituents, coarse calcite cementation, crusts- and caliche- formation, development of neptunian dykes and deposition of intraformational conglomerates of "black pebbles" resulted during these periods of emergence. The margin of this platform occasionally collapsed and blocks of lithified carbonates and unconsolidated platform material were washed down into the siliciclastic mud-rich basin.

This paleogeographic scenario probably persisted into late Triassic after which these rocks were intruded into by the Main Range Granites and the granitoids of the Central Belt.

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