The Sabah Complex — a lithodemic unit (a new name for the Chert-Spilite Formation and its ultramafic association)

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The Chert-Spillite Formation has been used as a formal lithostratigraphic unit for a long time. The naming of this formation has resulted in some confusion. Geological investigation of several new outcrops provides new information. Here, I would like to propose Sabah Complex as a lithodemic unit to replace the Chert-Spilite Formation. This complex is not only to replace the Chert-Spilite Formation but to include its ultramafic association. The Sabah Complex is composed of peridotite, serpentinite, basalt, spilite, pillow lava and chert sequence. The occurrence of radiolaria in the chert enable more precise age determination. The age of the chert is Early Cretaceous. The mafic-ultramafic volcanic rocks must be older than Early Cretaceous, most probably Jurassic.

Formasi Rijang-Spilit telah lama digunakan sebagai unit litostratigrafi formal. Penamaan formasi ini sangatlah mengelirukan. Kajian geologi singkapan baru formasi tersebut telah menghasilkan banyak maklumat penting. Di sini dicadangkan Kompleks Sabah sebagai satu unit litodem menggantikan Formasi Rijang-Spilit. Kompleks Sabah ini bukan sahaja menggantikan nama formasi tersebut tetapi merangkumi batuan ultramafik yang berasosiasi dengannya. Kompleks Sabah terdiri daripada batuan peridotit, serpentinit, basalt, spilit, lava bantal dan jujukan rijang. Kewujudan radiolaria dalam rijang membolehkan penentuan usia batuan itu dengan lebih tepat. Usia jujukan rijang ialah Kapur Awal. Batuan volkano mafik-ultramafik dianggap berusia lebih tua daripada Kapur Awal kemungkinannya Jura.

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