

Zeitschrift: Schweizerische mineralogische und petrographische Mitteilungen =
Bulletin suisse de minéralogie et pétrographie

Band: 68 (1988)

Heft: 3: Geodynamik des eurpäischen Variszikums : Kaledonisch-
Variszische Strukturen in den Alpen

Artikel: The Variscan orogeny in the Austroalpine and Southalpine domains of
the Eastern Alps

Autor: Neubauer, Franz

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-52072>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 14.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The Variscan orogeny in the Austroalpine and Southalpine domains of the Eastern Alps

by Franz Neubauer¹

Abstract

Geochronologic data of metamorphic and magmatic rocks of different Austroalpine basement zones (Eastern Alps) are reviewed in relation to pre- and postorogenic sedimentation. A stepwise crustal consolidation due to metamorphism, uplift and postorogenic sedimentation was recognized ranging from Devonian to Permian times. The Variscan orogeny of the Eastern Alps is explained by stepwise accumulation of terranes due to oblique compression during Devonian and Carboniferous times which is followed by a transtensional stage (late Carboniferous to Permian). During transpression different microplates (terranes) were accumulated which show an individual pre-accumulation history each.

Keywords: Austroalpine basement, crustal consolidation, microplate, Variscan orogeny, Eastern Alps.

Introduction

In the Eastern Alps, pre-Alpine basement which suffered Variscan orogeny occurs in three distinct tectonic units (Fig. 1): The Austroalpine unit is closely related to the southerly adjacent Southalpine unit. Both units stay in contrast to the Penninic basement, which is related to the European foreland of the Alps.

The Austroalpine domain of the Eastern Alps is dominated by pre-Alpine basement rocks, the metamorphic state of which ranges from high grade metamorphosed complexes to more or less unmetamorphosed, fossiliferous sedimentary sequences. Evidence of a late Carboniferous Variscan orogeny within the sediments of the Austroalpine and Southalpine domains is known for a long time by angular unconformities (OESTREICH, 1900; SPENGLER, 1926; FENNINGER et al., 1974, 1976). In the crystalline basement, geochronological data show a more complex relationship because of a strong eo-Alpine metamorphic overprint and the widely scattered data (for a review, see FRANK et al., 1987; SASSI et al., 1985). Thus,

models of the Variscan orogeny in the Eastern Alps are based mainly on data of fossiliferous sediments (FLÜGEL, 1978; SCHÖNLAUB, 1979).

Recent research yielded a lot of data (e.g. FRANK et al., 1987) favouring more complex models (FRISCH and NEUBAUER, in press; NEUBAUER, 1988). The aim of this paper is to review all these data from distinct Alpidic tectonic units in respect to their significance of the Variscan orogenic evolution. In detail, the main interests concern:

- i) biostratigraphic data of pre- and postorogenic sedimentary sequences to date the orogenic movements in a more classic way;
- ii) geochronologic data concerning the magmatic as well as the metamorphic evolution and their relationship to postorogenic sedimentary sequences;
- iii) the structural evolution of some significant units.

In this paper, the data of basement units of the eastern Austroalpine domain are summarized because of the great variety of basement rocks in relation to metamorphic state as well as to lithology (Fig. 2). The zonation proposed

¹ Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie der Universität, Heinrichstrasse 26, A-8010 Graz.

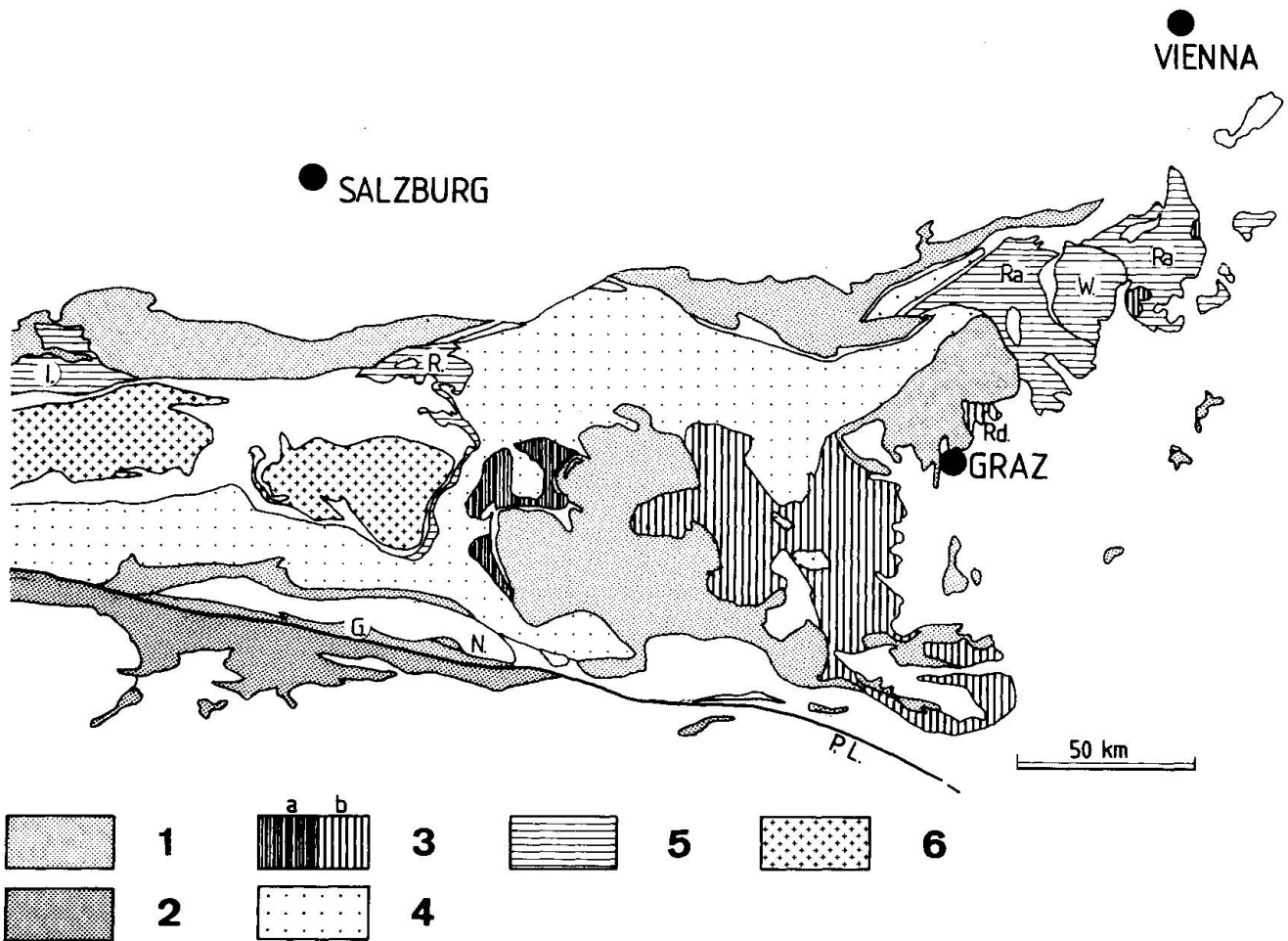


Fig. 1 Basement zones of the eastern Austroalpine region. 1 - Upper Austroalpine unit and related areas (G. - Gailtal crystalline complex; N. - Nötsch); 2 - Southalpine unit; 3a - Bundschuh-Priedröf-Einach unit; 3b - Korides (Rd. - St. Radegund crystalline complex); 4 - Murides; 5 - Lower Austroalpine units (I. - Innsbruck quartzphyllite; R. - Radstadt quartzphyllite; Ra. - Raabalpen crystalline complex; W. - Wechsel); 6 - Peninic basement.

follows the Alpine structural edifice (TOLLMANN, 1963, FRANK, 1987) with modifications based on basement studies (FRANK, 1987; FRISCH et al., 1984; NEUBAUER and PISTOTNIK, 1984). A diagrammatic sketch of basement zones involved in the Alpine orogen is shown in Fig. 2. In the present paper, those units are reviewed only, from which geochronologic data in combination with biostratigraphic data allow conclusions about timing of orogenic movements. Additional units in the more western Austroalpine region give further information about Variscan orogeny, e.g. the zone of the Ulten valley (GEBAUER and GRÜNENFELDER, 1978) or Ötztal (THÖNI, 1986). In the intra-Alpine region, it is difficult to separate the effects of the "Caledonian", pre-Devonian tectono-thermal evolution ("Caledonian event") from the Variscan history. Thus the evolution from Devonian to Permian is regarded to be affected by the Variscan orogeny.

The chronostratigraphic framework from Devonian to Permian times follows the time-scale calibration of ODIN and GALE (1982) and HARLAND et al. (1982) with the modifications proposed by ODIN (1986) and HESS and LIPPOLD (1986).

The term Upper and Middle Austroalpine follows the Austrian usage. The usage implies no preference for contrasting models of Alpine structural evolution.

The Upper Austroalpine and the Southalpine zone

The southern Upper Austroalpine zone is separated into three thrust sheets different in lithology of basement (NEUBAUER and PISTOTNIK, 1984), e.g. the Gurktal thrust system with the Murau nappe at the base, the Stolzalpe nappe at the hangingwall, the Ackerl unit, which has only local importance.

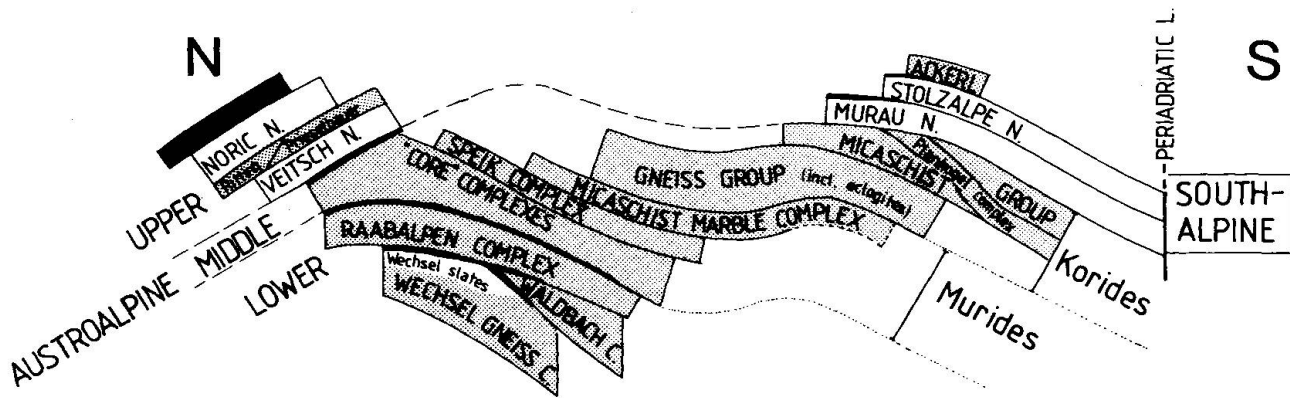


Fig. 2 Diagrammatic scheme for the Alpine structure in relation to basement zones of the Austroalpine domain.

The uppermost Austroalpine zone and the Carnic Alps

The sedimentary sequences of the Southalpine region (Carnic Alps, Karawanken) and of the Upper Austroalpine zone (Noric nappe of the Greywacke zone, the Stolzalpe nappe of the Gurktal thrust system, the Rannach-Hochlantsch-Laufnitzdorf nappes of the Paleozoic of Graz) show a similar geodynamic evolution as it is demonstrated by FLAJS and SCHÖNLAUB (1976), SCHÖNLAUB, (1982) and NEUBAUER and HERZOG (1985). The sedimentary sequences range from late Ordovician to the Carboniferous. The late Ordovician to early Devonian sedimentation is controlled by continuous subsidence on a shelf, intensifying the separation between swells and basins. The swell regions are dominated by carbonates, the basins by siliciclastic and volcanogenic sedimentation (FLÜGEL, 1977). Continuing subsidence and circulation in an open ocean are responsible of nodular limestones and lydites typical of early Carboniferous times (e.g., SPALETTA et al., 1982). The sharp change to siliciclastic flysch sedimentation is dated as intra-Visean in the Southalpine (AMEROM et al., 1983; HERZOG, 1983) as well as in the Austroalpine domain (NEUBAUER and HERZOG, 1985). The molasse-like overstep sequence is differentiated in facies and age north and south of the Periadriatic lineament. The Waidegg and Auernig formations of the Carnic Alps belong to the Stefanian with possible Westfalian precursors (SCHÖNLAUB, 1985b). The postorogenic sequence in the Stolzalpe nappe started with the Westphal C-Stefan (TENCHOV, 1978, and references cited therein) in the west, and with early

Rotliegendes in the east (FRITZ and BOERSMA, 1987).

The age of the pre-Alpine metamorphism of the Southalpine unit has been proved only for the Brixen quartzphyllite situated below the Carnic Alps. DEL MORO et al. (1980) give evidence for a two-stage metamorphism (350 ± 3 , 317 ± 16). The latter age is confirmed by HAMMERSCHMIDT and STÖCKHERT (1987). The younger metamorphic event coincides with the age of deformation of the Carnic Alps.

Thus, the age of deformation should be older than Westfalian B/C and younger than Visean. FLAJS (1967), MOSTLER (1973) and SCHÖNLAUB (1982) demonstrated a Variscan nappe structure within the Noric nappe of the Greywacke zone. The nappe pile is sealed by the angular unconformity at the base of the transgressive Permoscythian rocks (SPENGLER, 1926).

It is worth being noted that the fluvial molasse sediments north of the Periadriatic lineament contain orthogneiss boulders which yielded intra-Devonian geochronological ages (FRIMMEL, 1986 a, b).

The Veitsch-Nötsch zone

The flysch-like early Carboniferous sediments of the first zone are contrasted by the Veitsch-Nötsch zone. For the Veitsch zone within the eastern Greywacke zone, NIEVOLL (1983) and RATSCHBACHER (1984) propose facies models of a shelf sequence strongly influenced by coarse clastic rocks which are rich in granitic pebbles. Biostratigraphic data are scarce, but demonstrate various time-levels be-

tween late Visean and Westfalian (RATSCHBACHER, 1984, and references cited therein).

A strongly metamorphosed basement slice has been found recently together with sediments of the Veitsch zone. A paragneiss has a U/Pb zircon lower intercept age of 391 ± 2 Ma, and an aplitic vein an upper intercept age of 363 ± 20 (NEUBAUER et al., 1987). Thus an intra-Devonian metamorphic and magmatic evolution is assumed. As reasonable, this basement slice is assumed to be the basement of the Carboniferous Veitsch sediments, although an Alpidic mylonite zone separates both units.

A sedimentary sequence similar in fauna, sedimentary facies and time of sedimentation is present at the locality of Nötsch, near the southern margin of the Austroalpine region. The age of sedimentation is reinterpreted recently by SCHÖNLAUB, (1985a) and ranges from late Visean to Westfalian. The conglomerates and a doubtful agglomerate ("Diabaszug") bear components of mylonitic granite gneiss, marble and amphibolites derived from a pre-Visean metamorphic hinterland (EXNER, 1983; own unpublished data).

The Middle Austroalpine units

The Middle Austroalpine unit is divided into two or three basement zones respectively, strongly differentiated by lithological and tectonometamorphic evolution:

i) The base of the Middle Austroalpine is composed of the Murides subdivided again into several units (Fig. 2).

ii) The hangingwall complex is called Korides. It is subdivided into the "Gneis-Gruppe" and the "Glimmerschiefer-Gruppe" including the ophiolitic Plankogel complex.

iii) The Bundschuh-gneiss complex and the Korides have the same structural position on the top of the Murides, but lithology and tectonometamorphic evolution show some essential differences.

Murides

The Murides consist of three complexes differentiated with respect to lithology (NEUBAUER, 1988, and references cited therein):

i) The "core" complexes appearing in some dome-like structures are composed of strongly

deformed plagioclase gneisses, amphibolites and granitoid gneisses.

ii) The Speik complex is a strongly deformed and thinned ophiolite of unknown age.

iii) Micaschists and marbles ("Micaschist-Marble complex") on the top of the Speik complex remember to fossiliferous Silurian and Devonian sedimentary sequences of the Upper Austroalpine domain.

With respect to the assumption stated above, the age of metamorphism within the Murides should be younger than Devonian. The core complexes are overlain unconformably by sedimentary rocks (Rannach fm.) assigned to late Permian and to the Scythian by lithological arguments (for a review, see ERKAN, 1977). Besides some data favouring pre-Devonian tectonothermal and magmatic events in the core complexes (FRANK et al., 1976; SCHARBERT, 1981; own unpublished data), a lot of data fall into the range of 360–330 Ma (Fig. 3). In the Rennfeld area, a lower intercept model age of a tonalitic amphibolite is interpreted as an effect of a high-grade metamorphism producing trondhjemitic leucosomes by partial melting of plagioclase-rich amphibolites. The trondhjemitites bear zircons with a concordant model age (U/Pb) at 353 ± 1 Ma. Similar trondhjemitites are incorporated into necks between amphibolite boudins and should be intruded during stretching of amphibolites. A very elongated and thin augen gneiss body yielded a Rb/Sr errorchrone of 330 ± 30 Ma (FRANK et al., 1983). The augen gneiss shows relictic features of a porphyric granite which intruded into the zone of thrusting which displaced the Speik complex onto the top of the core complexes (Fig. 4). Similar features of a synkinematic granite intrusion were found in the Humpelgraben granite gneiss which shows a foliation formed by the separation of biotite and quartzofeldspatic layers. These layers were crosscutted by aplitic dykes derived from the same magma. The augen gneiss forms the top of the core complex, with some apophyses crosscutting the Speik complex and reaching also the hangingwall micaschists. Pegmatite concentrations within the micaschists and marbles were found in the continuation of the augen gneiss. Some coarse-grained pegmatitic muscovites yielded Rb/Sr model ages (e.g., 347 ± 2 Ma; FRANK et al., 1983) within the range of the augen gneiss errorchrone. Thus NEUBAUER (1988) argued for a

The Korides

The most controversial age interpretations concern the Korides (Saualm and Koralm) of the Eastern Alps. In the Koralm and the Saualm, the gneiss group containing eclogites is thrust onto the micaschists and marbles of the Murides visible also in some windows (WEISSENBACH, 1975). FRANK et al. (1983) proposed a multi-stage metamorphic evolution model with an earlier hT-metamorphism producing andalusite and a later hP-metamorphism which transformed andalusite into cyanite. The later metamorphic event is possibly related with eclogite metamorphism. MANBY, THIEDIG and MILLAR (pers. comm.) found some indications of a late Proterozoic age of eclogite metamorphism based on Sm/Nd data. However, a lot of Rb/Sr errorchrones as well as mineral data (Rb/Sr, K/Ar) give some arguments for probable Variscan events. The most

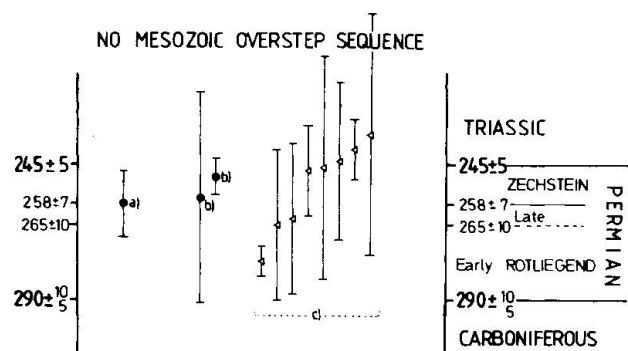


Fig. 5 Geochronologic data of Korides (Koralm and Saualm). a) - Wolfsberg granite gneiss (Rb/Sr isochrone) of the Wolfsberg window below the Korides; b) - Rb/Sr thin slab errorchrones of the "Plattengneis"; c) - Rb/Sr data of coarse-grained pegmatite muscovites. Data compiled from MORAUF (1980, 1981, 1982) and FRANK et al. (1983).

reliable Rb/Sr model ages of pegmatite muscovites (Fig. 5) favour a Permian age of isotopic closing which is indicated also by some thin slab errorchrones (MORAUF, 1982; FRANK et al., 1983). On the other hand, any Permomesozoic cover rocks are missing on the top of the Korides. Thus FRANK (1987) and KROHE (1987) argue for a deep-crustal position of Korides during late Variscan-early Alpidic times later upthrust due to eo-Alpine tectonics.

The Bundschuh-Priedröf-Einach complex

The Bundschuh-Priedröf-Einach complex has the same-structural position on the top of the Murides micaschists like the Korides east of the Gurktal thrust system. It consists of monotonous paragneisses similar to some paragneisses in the Korides. But there is a significant difference in the lithology of inclusions: Mafic rocks like eclogites are completely missing in the Bundschuh region, on the other hand some bodies of muscovite-rich orthogneisses occurring here are not known in the Korides. The orthogneisses yielded Rb/Sr model ages of 373 ± 30 to 363 ± 27 Ma (HAKESWORTH, 1976; FRIMMEL, 1986 a, b). Further unpublished data of FRIMMEL (pers. comm.) favour a more older age of intrusion, whereas the Rb/Sr isotope systematics are strongly disturbed by an intra-Devonian metamorphism. A possibly similar body is the Villach granite-gneiss, from which a slightly older Rb/Sr model age is reported (GÖD, 1977; FRIMMEL, pers. comm.). This group of Silurian/Devonian orthogneiss data has some exclusiveness in the Eastern Alps except some data of the Greywacke zone (NEUBAUER et al., 1987) and muscovite granites in the Ötztal region (GRAUERT, 1981; SÖLLNER and HANSEN, 1987). The Bundschuh orthogneiss is strongly deformed under conditions of greenschist facies. The basement is covered transgressively by quartzites interpreted as Permian. FRIMMEL argues for an intra-Devonian metamorphism from the geochronological point of view.

A late Paleozoic (or Alpine?) age of thrusting of the Bundschuh-Priedröf-Einach complex on top of the Micaschist-Marble complex is postulated, under the assumption that the Silurian-Devonian sedimentation age of the Micaschist-Marble complex is correct.

The Raabalpen crystalline complex

The Raabalpen crystalline complex has a structural position below the Middle Austroalpine unit, and is therefore assigned to the Lower Austroalpine unit. The monotonous li-

thology of this complex contrasts remarkably to all other basement units of the Eastern Alps. It consists of migmatitic paragneisses, mica-schists somewhat transformed into phyllonites due to the Alpidic thrusting. The metasedimentary rocks include large sheetlike bodies of porphyric granite gneiss (Grobgneis) and little bodies of discordant medium-grained granite gneisses in its southern part.

The paragneisses suffered hT-metamorphism which is indicated by andalusite and sillimanite in migmatitic zones. The "Grobgneis" yielded a Rb/Sr isochrone of 320 ± 20 Ma (SCHARBERT in SCHÖNLAUB, 1979). A few Rb/Sr muscovite ages of the discordant granites fall into the range of the Permian. The Grobgneis shows no contact zones to the country rocks. Thus it is believed that the age of the metamorphism is principally similar to the intrusion of the Grobgneis. The discordant granite stocks should have an age younger than the migmatitic event. There is a possible relationship between granite stocks and volcanic rocks at the base of the cover series along the northern margin of the Raabalpen crystalline complex (Fig. 6). This cover series were assigned to the early Permian from the lithostratigraphic point of view.

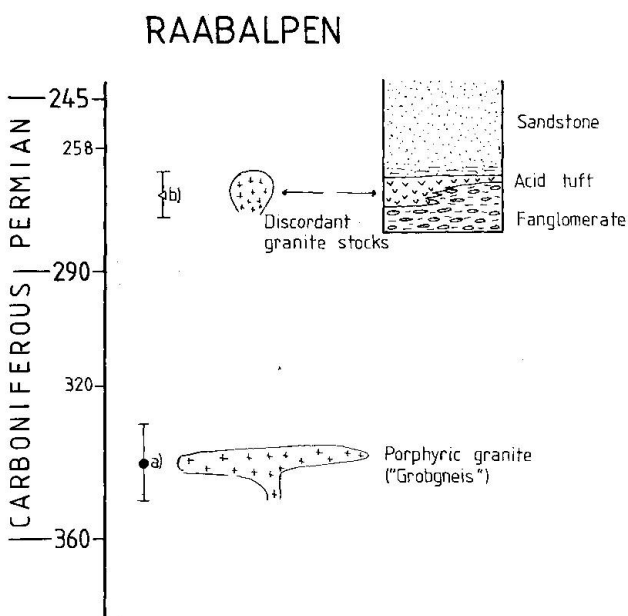


Fig. 6 Diagrammatic scheme of the Raabalpen crystalline complex and its sedimentary cover. Geochronologic data after SCHARBERT in SCHÖNLAUB (1979). a) - Rb/Sr isochrone; b) - Rb/Sr muscovite.

Discussion

The data stated above argue for striking differences in the timing of metamorphism and accompanying deformation taken as an indicator of orogenic events in different basement zones of the Eastern Alps. This is interpreted as step-wise consolidation of different Austroalpine basement units between Devonian and Permian times. The restoration of Alpidic structures due to the Alpine kinematics of the Eastern Alps in a rough way (for details, see NEUBAUER, 1988) yields an approximate conception of pre-Alpine, late Variscan paleogeography and orogenic zones. In this scheme, the position of basement units metamorphosed during different times yields an approximate state of the late Variscan structural zonation. The following orogenic zones are distinguishable (Fig. 7):

1) An external zone was deformed during late Carboniferous. It includes Paleozoic sediments of the Southalpine domain, the Noric nappe, the Paleozoic of Graz and the Gurktal nappe. Geochronologic data related to this event are known only in western part of the Southalpine basement.

2) An internal zone (incl. Murides, Korides and the Raabalpen crystalline complex) was deformed and metamorphosed during early Carboniferous. This zone includes a central batholithic zone flanked by metamorphic zones. The more internal part of the metamorphic zone (Raabalpen) shows mineral parageneses including andalusite and sillimanite which indicate a hT-metamorphism. In the more external metamorphic zone (southern Murides and Korides), kyanite is the common Al_2O_3 -polymorph. This fact favours a geothermal gradient lower than that of the more internal zone. The age of metamorphism in this internal zone is early Carboniferous contrasting the sedimentation in the external zone.

3) A third zone (Bundschuh, Devonian metamorphics of the Veitsch zone) in an intermediate position was metamorphosed during intra-Devonian times.

A model for the Variscan orogeny has to explain the formation of the different metamorphic zones in terms of plate tectonics. The essential difficulties to reconstruct the Variscan history of the Eastern Alps are uncertainties in the interpretation of formation ages of pre-Alpine ophiolites (Speik and Plankogel com-

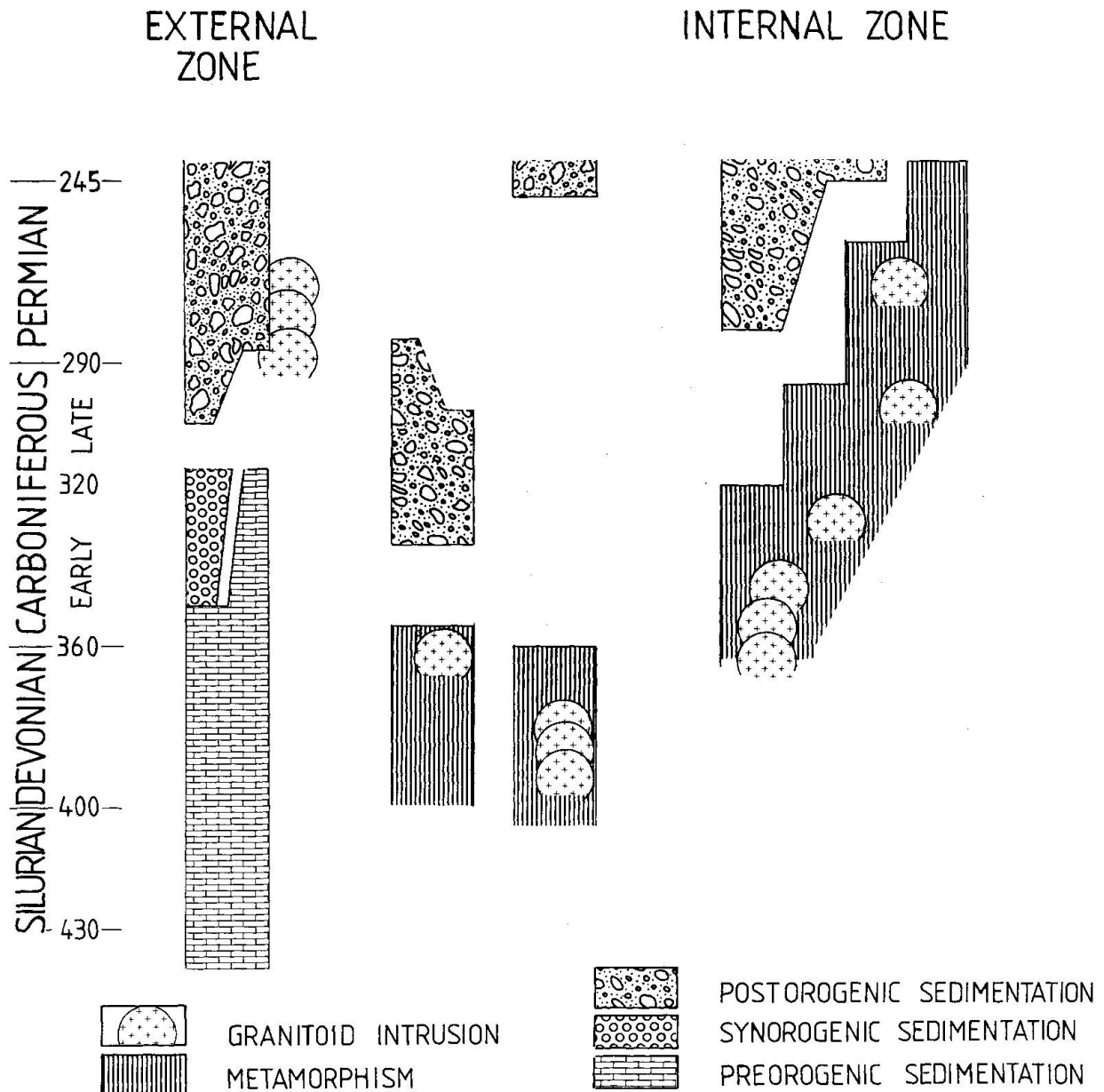


Fig. 7 Diagrammatic scheme for timing of metamorphism and orogeny in contrasting basement zones of the eastern Austroalpine region.

plex). Because of the occurrence of marbles and micaschists similar to fossiliferous Silurian-Devonian sequences together with ophiolitic rocks, FRISCH et al. (1984) and FRISCH and NEUBAUER (in press) argue for an early Variscan suture zone within the Korides of the Eastern Alps. This argument is contradicted by first Sm/Nd model ages (700 Ma; MANBY, pers. comm.).

However, the essential result of this review is the contrast between sedimentation of the Upper Austroalpine and the metamorphism and magmatism in the Middle Austroalpine unit at the same time. This could be explained

by convergence of two continental (micro-) plates with a possible intervening oceanic basin. This convergence started during Devonian times, whereas continuing subsidence due to rifting has occurred in the other region (e.g. models of HEINISCH, SCHLAMBERGER, and FRITZ and NEUBAUER, this volume). A first step of consolidation is the uplift of the intra-Devonian metamorphosed complex and the sedimentation of molasse-like sediments on the top of this complex during early Carboniferous time. At the same time thrusting occurred in the more internal zones of the Austroalpine units (Murides), whereas orogenic flysch-sedimenta-

tion occurred in the external zones. Rossi and VAI (1986) show the shift of calcalkaline volcanism to alkaline volcanism within the flysch basin of the Southern Alps possibly due to transtensional movements. Similar large-scale strike-slip movements are also indicated by early Carboniferous Schlingen tectonics dated by GRAUERT (1981). A large-scale strike-slip component of movement could be an explanation for the position of the intra-Devonian metamorphosed crystalline complexes in the intermediate zone between the external, late Carboniferous formed zone and the internal zone formed during early Carboniferous (Fig. 8).

The external zone was deformed during late Carboniferous time. At this time some confined parts of the internal zone were uplifted as indicated by scattered cooling ages in eastern parts of Eastern Alps not considered in this paper (e.g., NEUBAUER and STATTEGGER, 1981). Strong evidence for late Carboniferous cooling and uplift is known from the western Middle Austroalpine domain (THÖNI, 1986).

The widespread scattered occurrence of Permian mica ages can be correlated to the regional uplift of the internal zone in an extensional regime due to buoyancy of previously thickened crust. Uplift and extension were accompanied by widespread magmatism along the southern margin of the internal zone (e.g. plutons along the Periadriatic lineament and the related volcanism in the Southern Alps). Their composition ranges from granite to gabbro indicating a calcalkaline suite. The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ initial ratios of the more leucocratic rocks range between 0.7046 and 0.7157. These ratios indicate the strong involving of crustal rocks in the magma production possibly in a transtensional regime which rendered the uplift of the plutons.

Acknowledgements

Constructive comments and linguistic improvements to an earlier draft of this paper by W. Frank (Vienna), H. Fritz and K. Stattegger (Graz) are gratefully acknowledged.

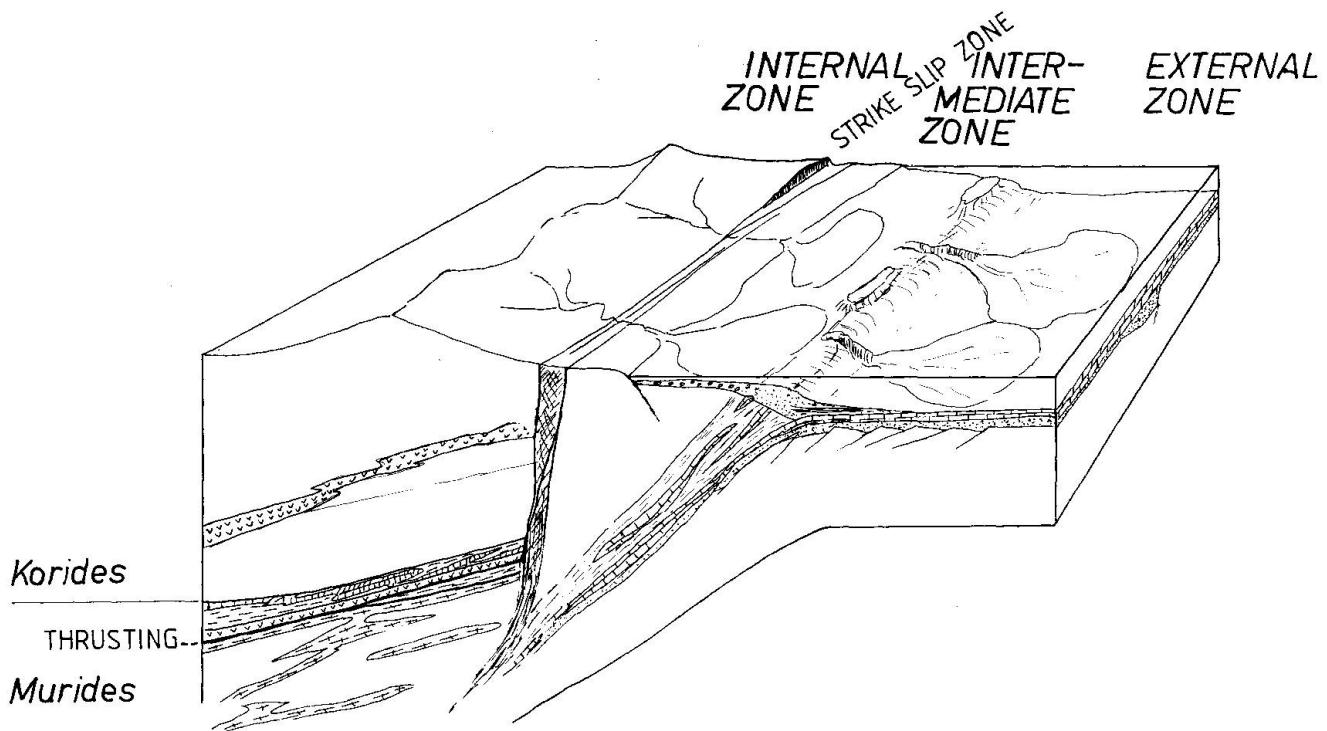


Fig. 8 Geodynamic model for mid-Carboniferous evolution of the Austroalpine and the Southalpine realms.

References

- AMEROM, H. W. J. VAN, FLAJS, G. and HUNGER, G. (1983): Die "Flora der Marinelli-Hütte" (mittleres Vise) aus dem Hochwipfelflysch der Karnischen Alpen (Italien). *Meded. Rijks Geol. Dienst* 37-3, 21-61.
- BECKER, L. P., FRANK, W., HÖCK, V., KLEINSCHMIDT, G., NEUBAUER, F., SASSI, F. P. and SCHRAMM, J.-M. (1987): Outlines of the pre-Alpine Metamorphic events in the Austrian Alps. In: FLÜGEL, H. W. and SASSI, F. P. (Eds.): *Variscan and pre-Variscan events in the Alpine-Mediterranean Mountain Belts, Bratislava (Mineralia Slovaca)*, 69-106.
- BOERSMA, M. and FRITZ, A. (1986): Makropaläobotanische Ergebnisse zur Stratigraphie jungpaläozoischer Ablagerungen in den Karnischen Alpen, Österreich. *Carinthia II*, 176/96, 19-37.
- BORSI, S., DEL MORO, A., SASSI, F. P., VISONA, D. and ZIRPOLI, G. (1980): On the existence of Hercynian aplites and pegmatites in the lower Aurina valley (Ahrntal, Austrides, Eastern Alps). *N. Jb. Miner. Mh.* 1980/11, 501-514.
- ERKAN, E. (1977): Uran- und gipsführendes Permoskyth der östlichen Ostalpen. *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.* 120, 343-400.
- EXNER, CHR. (1983): Zur Petrographie von Gneisgeröllern im Karbon von Nötsch (Kärnten). *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.*, 126, 215-217.
- FENNINGER, A., FLÜGEL, E., FLÜGEL, H. W., HOLZER, H. L. and SCHÖNLAUB, H. P. (1974): Zur variszischen Orogenese in den Karnischen Alpen - eine Stellungnahme. *Verh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 1974, A149-A153.
- FENNINGER, A., SCHÖNLAUB, H. P., HOLZER, H. L. and FLAJS, G. (1976): Zu den Basisbildungen der Auernigsschichten in den Karnischen Alpen (Österreich). *Verh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 1976, 243-255.
- FLAJS, G. (1967): Conodontenstratigraphische Untersuchungen im Raum von Eisenerz, Nördliche Grauwackenzone. *Mitt. Geol. Ges. Wien* 59, 157-218.
- FLAJS, G. and SCHÖNLAUB, H. P. (1976): Die biostratigraphische Gliederung des Altpaläozoikums am Polster bei Eisenerz (Nördliche Grauwackenzone, Österreich). *Verh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 1976, 257-303.
- FLÜGEL, H. W. (1977): Paläogeographie und Tektonik des Alpenen Variszikums. *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.* 1977, 659-674.
- FLÜGEL, H. W. (1978): Some remarks to the Postvariscic Transgressions and the Age of the Variscic Phases in the Alps. *Österr. Akad. Wiss. Erdwiss. Komm.* 3, 171-177.
- FRANK, W. (1987): Evolution of the Austroalpine Elements in the Cretaceous. In: FLÜGEL, H. W. and FAUPL, P. (Eds.), *Geodynamics of the Eastern Alps*, 379-406, Vienna (Deuticke).
- FRANK, W., ESTERLUS, M., FREY, I., JUNG, G., KROHE, A. and WEBER, J. (1983): Die Entwicklungsgeschichte von Stub- und Korpalpenkristallin und die Beziehung zum Grazer Paläozoikum. *Die früh-alpine Geschichte der Ostalpen* 4, 263-293.
- FRANK, W., KLEIN, P., NOWY, W. and SCHARBERT, S. (1976): Die Datierung geologischer Ereignisse im Altkristallin der Gleinalpe (Steiermark) mit der Rb/Sr-Methode. *Tschermaks Miner. Petr. Mitt.* 23, 191-203.
- FRANK, W., KRÁLIK, M., SCHARBERT, S. and THÖNI, M. (1987): Geochronological Data from the Eastern Alps. In: FLÜGEL, H. W. and FAUPL, P. (Eds.): *Geodynamics of the Eastern Alps*, 272-281, Vienna (Deuticke).
- FRIMMEL, H. (1986a): Petrographie, Gefügemerkmale und geochronologische Daten von Kristallingeröllern aus dem Oberkarbon der Gurktaler Decke im Vergleich zum benachbarten Altkristallin. *Mitt. Ges. Geol. Bergbaustud. Österr.* 32, 39-65.
- FRIMMEL, H. (1986b): Isotopengeologische Hinweise für die paläogeographische Nachbarschaft von Gurktaler Decke (Oberostalpin) und dem Altkristallin östlich der Hohen Tauern (Österreich). *Schweiz. Miner. Petrogr. Mitt.* 66, 193-208.
- FRISCH, W. and NEUBAUER, F. (in press): Pre-Alpine Terranes and Tectonic Zoning in the Eastern Alps. *Geol. Soc. Amer. Spec. Publ.*, 230.
- FRISCH, W., NEUBAUER, F. and SATIR, M. (1984): Concepts of the evolution of the Austroalpine basement complex (Eastern Alps) during the Caledonian-Variscan cycle. *Geol. Rdsch.* 73, 47-68.
- FRITZ, A. and BOERSMA, M. (1987): Fundberichte über Pflanzenfossilien aus Kärnten 1987, Beitrag 15: Wunderstätten (Unterperm), St. Pauler Berge. *Carinthia II* 177 (97), 381-394.
- GEBAUER, D., GRÜNENFELDER, M. (1978): U-Pb Zircon Dating of Alpine-type garnet-peridotites example: Val Ultimo (Eastern Alps, Northern Italy). *Geol. Surv. (United States), Open-file Report* 701 (1978), 135-137.
- GRAUERT, B. (1981): Das Alter der Schlingentektonik im Silvretta-Ötztalkristallin aufgrund radiometrischer Altersbestimmungen. *Fortschr. Min.* 59, Beih. 1, 54-56.
- HAMMERSCHMIDT, K. and STÖCKHERT, B. (1987): A K-Ar and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ study on white micas from the Brixen Quartzphyllite, Southern Alps. Evidence for argon loss at low temperatures. *Contr. Mineral. Petrol.* 95, 393-406.
- HARLAND, W. B., COX, A. V., LEWELLYN, P. G., PICTON, C. A. G., SMITH, A. G. and WALTERS, R. (1982): *A geological time scale*. Cambridge University Press, 128 p.
- HAWKESWORTH, C. J. (1976): Rb/Sr Geochronology in the Eastern Alps. *Contr. Mineral. Petrol.* 54, 225-244.
- HEIJL, E. (1984): Geochronologische und petrologische Beiträge zur Gesteinsmetamorphose der Schladminger Tauern. *Mitt. Ges. Geol. Bergbaustud. Österr.* 30/31, 280-318.
- HERZOG, U. (1983): Zur Gewinnung von Conodonten aus Lyditen und zur zeitlichen Basis des Hochwipfel-Karbon im Gebiet des Poludnig (östliche Karnische Alpen). *Carinthia II*, 173/93, 363-369.
- HESS, J. C. and LIPPOLT, H. J. (1986): $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ages of tonstein and tuff sanidines: New calibration points for the improvement of the Upper Carboniferous time scale. *Chem. Geol. (Isotope Geosciences Section)* 59, 143-154.
- KROHE (1987): Kinematics of Cretaceous nappe tectonics in the Austroalpine basement of the

- Koralpe region (eastern Austria). *Tectonophysics*, 136, 171-196.
- MORAU, W. (1980): Die permische Differentiation und alpidische Metamorphose des Granitgneises von Wolfsberg, Koralpe, SE-Ostalpen, Mit Rb-Sr- und K-Ar-Altersbestimmungen. *Tschermaks Miner. Petr. Mitt.* 27, 168-185.
- MORAU, W. (1981): Rb-Sr- und K-Ar-Isotopenalter an Pegmatiten aus Kor- und Saualpe, SE-Ostalpen, Österreich. *Tschermaks Miner. Petr. Mitt.* 28, 113-129.
- MORAU, W. (1982): Rb-Sr- und K-Ar-Evidenz für eine intensive alpidische Beeinflussung der Paragneise in Kor- und Saualpe, SE-Ostalpen, Österreich. *Tschermaks miner. petr. Mitt.* 29, 255-281.
- MORO, A. DEL, SASSI, F.P. and ZIRPOLI, G. (1980): Preliminary results on the radiometric age of the Hercynian metamorphism in the South-Alpine basement of the Eastern Alps. *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.* 1980, 707-718.
- MOSTLER, H. (1973): Alter und Genese ostalpiner Spatmagnetit unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Magnetitlagerstätten im Westabschnitt der Nördlichen Grauwackenzone (Tirol, Salzburg). *Veröff. Univ. Innsbruck (Festschrift HEISEL)* 86, 237-266.
- NEUBAUER, F. (1988): Bau und Entwicklungsgeschichte des Rennfeld-Mugel- und des Gleinalmkristallins (Ostalpen). *Abh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 42, 1-137.
- NEUBAUER, F., FRISCH, W. and HANSEN, B.T. (1987): New Data on the Evolution of the Austroalpine Basement: A U/Pb Zircon Study. *Terra Cognita* 7, p. 93.
- NEUBAUER, F. and HERZOG, U. (1985): Das Karbon der Stolzalpendecke Mittelkärntens. Implikationen für die variszische Orogenese im Ostalpin. *Anz. Österr. Akad. Wiss., math.-naturwiss. Kl.* 1985/6, 106-109.
- NEUBAUER, F. and PISTOTNIK, J. (1984): Das Altpaläozoikum und Unterkarbon des Gurktaler Deckensystems (Ostalpen) und ihre paläogeographischen Beziehungen. *Geol. Rdsch.* 73, 149-174.
- NEUBAUER, F. and STATTEGGER, K. (1981): Untersuchungen zur tektonischen und metamorphen Geschichte des Radegunder Kristallins. *Die früh-alpine Geschichte der Ostalpen* 2, 122-128.
- NIEVOLL, J. (1983): Stratigraphische und strukturgeologische Untersuchungen in der Grauwackenzone bei Veitsch (Steiermark). *Unpubl. Doct. Thesis Univ. Graz*, 150 p., Graz.
- ODIN, G.S. (1986): Recent advances in Phanerozoic time-scale calibration. *Chem. Geol. (Isot. Geosci. Sect.)* 59, 103-110.
- ODIN, G.S. and GALE, N.H. (1982): Numerical Dating of Hercynian times (Devonian to Permian). In: ODIN, G.S., *Numerical Dating in Stratigraphy*, 487-500.
- OESTREICH, K. (1900): Ein alpines Längstal zur Tertiärzeit. *Jb. Geol. Reichsanst.* 49, 165-212.
- PISTOTNIK, J. (1976): Ein Transgressionskontakt des Stangalm-Mesozoikums (Gurktaler Alpen, Kärnten/Österreich). *Carinthia II* 166 (86), 127-131.
- RATSCHBACHER, L. (1984): Beitrag zur Neugliederung der Veitscher Decke (Grauwackenzone) in ihrem Westabschnitt (Obersteiermark-Österreich). *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.* 127, 423-453.
- ROSSI, P.L. and VAI, B.B. (1986): New geochemical data on Silesian volcanics (Dimon fm.) from the Carnic Alps and geodynamic implications. - IGCP Project No. 5, Final Field Meeting, Sardinia, May 25-31, 1986, Abstracts p. 77.
- SASSI, F.P., CAVAZZINI, G., VISONA, D. (1985): Radiometric geochronology in the Eastern Alps: results and problems. *Rend. Soc. Ital. Miner. Petrol.* 40, 187-224.
- SCHARBERT, S. (1981): Untersuchungen zum Alter des Seckauer Kristallins. *Mitt. Ges. Geol. Bergbaustud.* 27, 163-188.
- SCHÖNLAUB, H.P. (1979): Das Paläozoikum in Österreich. *Abh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 33, 1-124.
- SCHÖNLAUB, H.P. (1982): Die Grauwackenzone in den Eisenerzer Alpen. *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.* 124, 361-423.
- SCHÖNLAUB, H.P. (1985a): Das Karbon von Nötsch und sein Rahmen. *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.* 127, 673-692.
- SCHÖNLAUB, H.P. (1985b): Das Paläozoikum der Karnischen Alpen. *Arbeitstagung Geol. Bundesanst. 1985*, 34-52, Wien (Geol. Bundesanst.).
- SÖLLNER, F. and HANSEN, B.T. (1987): "Pan-afrikanisches" und "kaledonisches" Ereignis im Ötztal-Kristallin der Ostalpen: Rb-Sr und U-Pb-Altersbestimmungen an Migmatiten und Metamorphiten. *Jb. Geol. Bundesanst.* 130, 529-569.
- SPALLETTA, C., VAI, G.B. and VENTURINI, C. (1982): La Catena Paleocarnica. In: CASTELLARIN, A. and VAI, G.B. (Eds.): *Guida alla geologica del Sudalpino centro-orientale*, 281-292, Bologna (Soc. geol. Ital.).
- SPEGLER, E. (1926): Über die Tektonik der Grauwackenzone südlich der Hochschwabgruppe. *Verh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 1926, 127-143.
- TENCHOV, Y. (1978): Stratigraphy of the Carboniferous from Stangalps, Austria. *Geol. Balca.* 8.1, 105-110.
- TENCHOV, Y. (1980): Die paläozoischen Megaflora von Österreich. *Verh. Geol. Bundesanst.* 1980/2, 161-174.
- THÖNI, M. (1986): The Rb-Sr Thin Slab Isochron Method - An unreliable Geochronologic Method for Dating geologic Events in Polymetamorphic Terrains? *Mem. Sci. Geol.* 38, 283-352.
- TOLLMANN, A. (1963): *Ostalpensynthese*, 256 p. Wien (Deuticke).
- WEISSBACH, N. (1975): Gesteinsinhalt und Seriengliederung des Hochkristallins in der Saualpe. - *Clausth. Geol. Abh. Sdbd.* 1, 61-114.

Manuscript received June 1, 1988; revised manuscript accepted October 1, 1988.