

Metamorphism in the Sanbagawa belt of SW Japan as a record of subduction processes

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The Sanbagawa belt of SW Japan records Cretaceous subduction processes off the eastern Asian margin. The Sanbagawa belt can be traced for around 800 km throughout SW Japan, but the main exposure is found in Shikoku. The main constituent rock types are pelitic, quartz and mafic schists which were derived from the subducted oceanic slab. These are associated with widespread blocks and lenses of serpentinite and related rock types derived from the mantle wedge.

A long running dispute about the age of peak metamorphism has recently been resolved. Evidence for an early stage of subduction associated at around 115 Ma is locally preserved with anticlockwise P-T paths. This is followed at around 90 Ma by the main belt which has been long disputed with estimates of the peak

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