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## Shortening in the southern Lhasa block during India-Asia collision

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Recently, it has been suggested that shortening deformation in the Lhasa block during the India Asia collision, starting ~45Ma ago, has been minimal (Murphy et al, 1997). Our mapping in the area between Lhasa and Yangbajian in the southern Lhasa block shows that here, to the contrary, there is significant shortening of the Paleocene-Eocene Linzizong volcanics. Horizontal shortening due to folding and south-directed thrusts in these volcanics amounts to 20+/-5%, from a detailed 35km-long section along the Doilung Qu valley through the well-known locality at Maqu, where the unconformity that these volcanics cover is spectacularly exposed, above significantly more strongly folded strata of the late Cretaceous Tadena Formation. It is important to emphasize that the Linzizong volcanics are well-folded and are locally vertical in the section; it is simply not true that they are all (nearly) flat-lying as seen at the Maqu unconformity locality. In some reports, it has been suggested that the underlying Tadena Formation contains volcanics; we are of the opinion based on our detailed observations that this is also not the case, and that Linzizong volcanics have been included in the Tadena solely because they are significantly dipping.

Age constraints on the time of shortening come from the youngest dated volcanics, about 50Ma (Pan, 1993, Coulon et al, 1986), and the time of opening of the Yangbajian graben and related normal faults that truncate the folds in the Linzizong volcanics, suggested to be about 11Ma (Harrison et al, 1995). Medial Miocene volcanics near Majiang, dated as 14-15Ma (Pan, 1993, Coulon et al, 1986), are also tilted, but the amount and extent of significant shortening in these rocks is not yet clearly defined. It is perhaps possible that a significant part of the shortening in the southern Lhasa block occurred between 15-11Ma ago; other evidence, of significant and rapid Early Miocene unroofing of the southern Lhasa block associated with the Gangdese Thrust (Copeland et al, 1995; Yin et al, 1994; Pan et al, 1993; Copeland et al, 1987) suggests that the shortening may have been, at least in part, early Miocene (27~15Ma), but not older than this.

As first suggested by England and Searle (1986), limited collisional shortening in the southern Lhasa

block, within the area of the Andean-type Gangdese batholith and related Linzizong volcanics, is consistent with the idea that this would have been the location of already thickened crust from subduction-related processes. However, the dating of exhumation of the southern Lhasa block shows that the simple model of thickening spreading north from the Indus-Zangbo suture cannot be correct since collision must have begun here by 40Ma.

What is still unresolved in most places is how much shortening of India-Asia collisional age occurs in upper crustal strata north of this well-dated section near Lhasa. The occurrence of the 40-50% shortening in the 100km long section through the Eocene strata of the Fenghuoshan in northern Tibet (Chang et al, 1986; Coward et al., 1988), perhaps suggests that the minimal shortening reported by Murphy et al. (1997) may be an anomaly, rather than representative of the Tibetan Plateau.

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### **Post-thrusting exhumation of the footwall: Evidence from textural and fluid inclusion study along the Jakhri shear zone in the Himachal Himalayan, India**

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The Jakhri Shear (Thrust) marks the northern boundary of the Rampur-Larji window in the Satluj valley. It has an important consequence on the tectonic-stratigraphic evolution of the Lesser and Higher Himalayan zone in the Himachal Himalaya. It represents an intracrustal thrust with marked post-thrusting extension in the hanging wall and exhumation of the footwall. A marked decrease in the effect of thrusting on the degree of mylonitization and recrystallization has been observed in the quartz mylonite away from the Jakhri Shear. This has been verified by rock texture, which suggests decreasing intensity of directional shear fabric.

The fluid inclusion trails are syngenetic to the thrusting as well as post-thrusting extension phenomenon. Away from the shear Zone, bulk density of  $\text{CO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusion increases and  $\text{NaCl-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusion decreases; however, the density of  $\text{CO}_2$  in  $\text{CO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusion and Wt.% of  $\text{NaCl}$  in  $\text{NaCl-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusion increases. This change also suggests the decreasing effect of the thrusting away from the Jakhri Shear. The fluid inclusion studies on the quartz mylonite in the thrust-affected zone suggest peak metamorphic condition in the lower Green Schist facies during thrusting. The chlorite is the only metamorphic mineral present in the footwall also represents the similar PT condition during thrusting. The isochores of  $\text{CO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusion suggests ~14-15 Km. depth of tectonic burial during thrusting. The isochores of the  $\text{NaCl-H}_2\text{O}$  inclusions in the thrust zone suggests an isothermal exhumation of the footwall from a depth of 7-8 Km.. These quantitative data suggest that the Jakhri Shear in the Satluj valley, which

otherwise was considered a local phenomenon, is an important intracrustal tectonic boundary affecting the tectonic disposition and evolution of Lesser and Higher Himalayan zone in the Himachal Himalaya.

### **An overview of the paleo-Proterozoic granitic magmatism in the Kumaun Lesser Himalaya and the coeval event in the northern margin of the peninsular shield**

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Pre-Himalayan granites represent plutonic episodes concurrent with the Indian craton in the Himalayan orogenic belt. The Amritpur Granite Series (AGS) is one such pre Himalayan Proterozoic granite exposed in the juxtaposition of the Siwaliks along the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT) in the Kumaun Lesser Himalaya.

Field, petrographic and geochemical studies of AGS suggests that the AGS is a composite body with three distinct phases i.e. Porphyritic Amritpur Granite (PAG), Equigranular Amritpur Granite (EAG) and Amritpur Porphyry (AP). The AGS shows an intrusive relationship with the Bhimtal- Bhowali Formation (Rawat & Prabha, 1994) and has a thrust contact with the Siwaliks. Geochemical studies on the AGS indicate that all the three phases are cogenetic and owe their origin to different degrees of melting of source rock. The AGS is an S-type granite characterized by peraluminous composition, presence of normative corundum and A/CNK value ( $> 1.0$ ). The low Na/K, fractionated REE pattern and LREE/ HREE ratios (9-14) indicate a pelitic source (Prabha, 1996). The deviation from parental composition resulting in a non-linear trend on inter-element plots are controlled by the subsequent fractional crystallization of the parental granitic melt.

The AGS has yielded  $1880 \pm 40$  Ma age (Varadarajan, 1978; Trivedi & Pande, 1993). Geochemically, they show the syn-collisional regime. Similar geochemistry and syn-collisional regime has been observed in the Bundelkhand granitoids exposed to the south of the AGS in the Bundelkhand massif in the peninsular shield. The Bundelkhand Granitoid Complex is known to contain a very few relicts of older crust. The relicts of these rocks are also supposed to be present in the Lesser Himalayan belt, indicating a much wider extent of the Bundelkhand craton. The Paleoproterozoic tectonomagmatic evolution of the AGS is similar to the tectonomagmatic history of the Bundelkhand pluton, the northern extension of the Indian shield. The Bundelkhand massif have yielded 2550 Ma (Crawford, 1970), 2402-2246 Ma (Sarkar et al., 1984) ages. Thus the gneisses and the granitoids in this region represent Archaean and post-Archaean components respectively.

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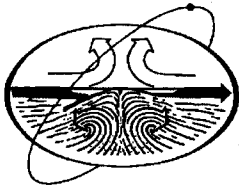
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