

Plate Tectonics of Australia and Surrounds

Last Updated July 2023 by Dariusz Jablonski



DJGeoscience

LEGEND

ABBREVIATIONS

A	- ARKARINGA BASIN
SA	- SOUTH AMERICA
AP	- ASHMORE PLATFORM
B	- BOWEN BASIN
BB	- BONAPARTE BASIN
BR	- BROWSE BASIN
B-D	- BARROW-DAMPIER FAILED RIFT
BH	- BIRD'S HEAD (IRIAN JAYA)
C	- CANNING BASIN
CE	- COOPER-EROMANGA BASIN
CS	- CENTRAL SULAWESI
CR	- CARNARVON BASIN
CT	- CENTRAL RANGES (IRIAN JAYA)
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EAR	- EAST ANTARCTIC RIFT
G	- GOULBURN GRABEN
GD	- GODAVARI BASIN (INDIA)
GLHR	- GREATER LORD HOWE RISE
GR	- GREECE
H-V	- HEYWOOD-VULCAN FAILED RIFT
L	- LAMU BASIN (KENYA)
LC	- LESSER CAUCASUS
LR	- LAMBERT RIFT (ANTARCTICA)
M	- MALITA FAILED RIFT
MG	- MADAGASCAR
MR	- MAHANADI RIFT
MZ	- MOZAMBIQUE
NP	- NORTHERN PERTH BASIN
P	- PERTH BASIN
PM	- PATERNOSTER-MERATUS
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R	- ROEBUCK BASIN
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SH	- SAHUL PLATFORM
SK	- SIKULEH (WESTERN SUMMATRA)
SP	- SOUTHERN PERTH BASIN
T	- TIMOR
WB	- WEST BURMA
WS	- WEST SULAWESI

PLATE/BLOCK BOUNDARIES

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	FAILED SPREADING RIDGE/SPORADIC VOLCANISM
	EXTINCT SPREADING RIDGE
	COMPRESSION/COLLISION
	VOLCANIC CENTRE

OTHER

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	OCEANIC CURRENT

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	OCEANIC CRUST, DEEP
	DISTAL SHELF/BASIN
	PROXIMAL SHELF
	DELTAIC- NEARSHORE- SHELF
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	EVAPORITES
	NON-MARINE
	NON-DEPOSITION
	UPLAND, UPLIFT, SIGNIFICANT EROSION, MOUNTAINS
	ICE COVER (MAINLY EROSION)

CONTINENTAL
MARGIN

NOTE:
**PALAEOGEOGRAPHIC MAPS ILLUSTRATE MAXIMUM
LITHOFACIES DISTRIBUTION DEPOSITED DURING INDICATED
TIME SLICE (PRESERVED PRESENT DAY DISTRIBUTION NOT
SHOWN)**

NOTE:
Not All figures are referenced

Triassic

(251M-205S)

Article in The APPEA Journal - January 2004
(Vol. 35, No.1/A, 2004)

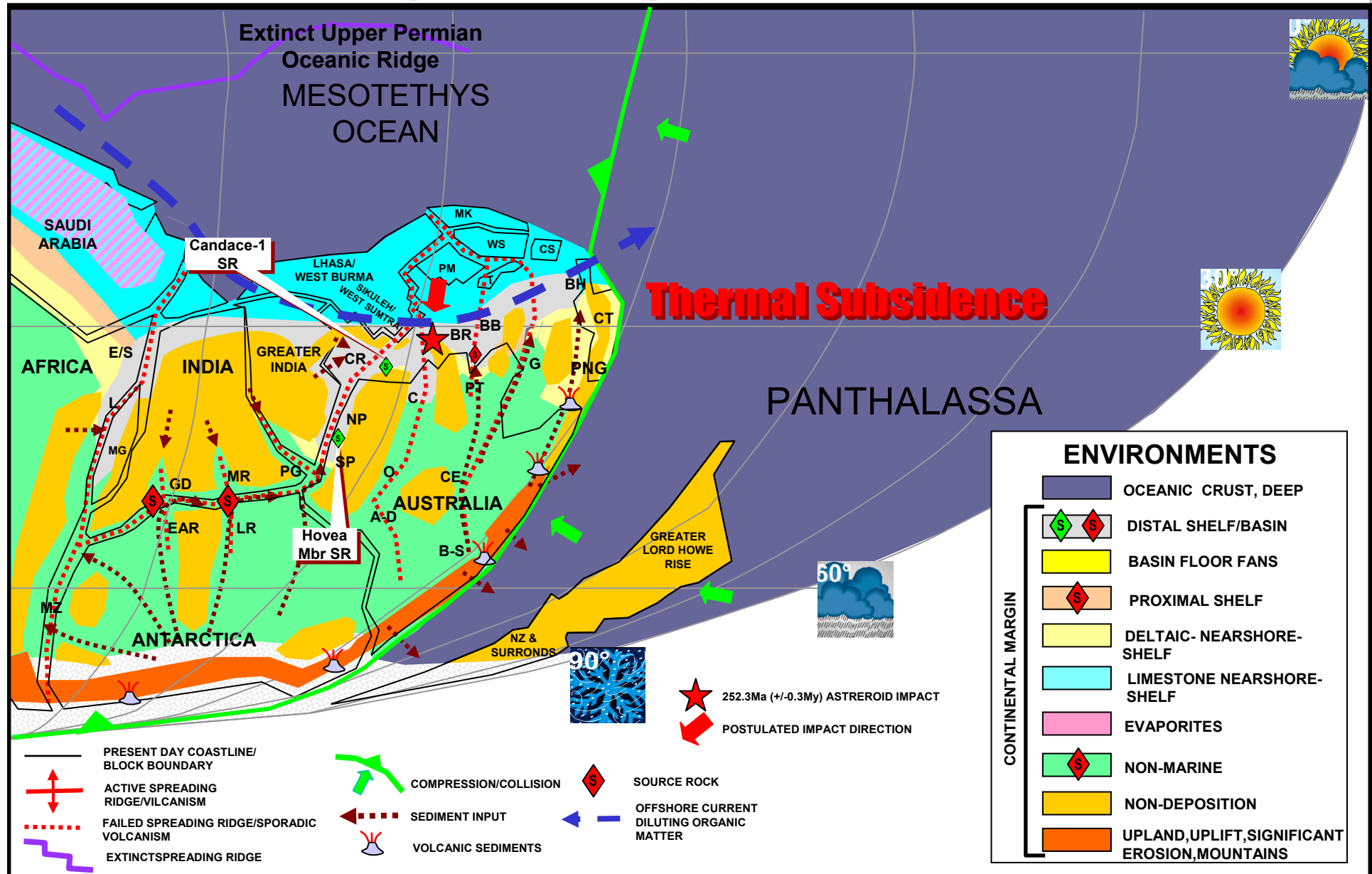
251-246.5My Lower Triassic Plate Reconstruction

Drift of Sibumasu & Qiangtang – Post-rift thermal subsidence phase (TR-246.5S)

L.pellucidus to lower *T.playfordii* Zones



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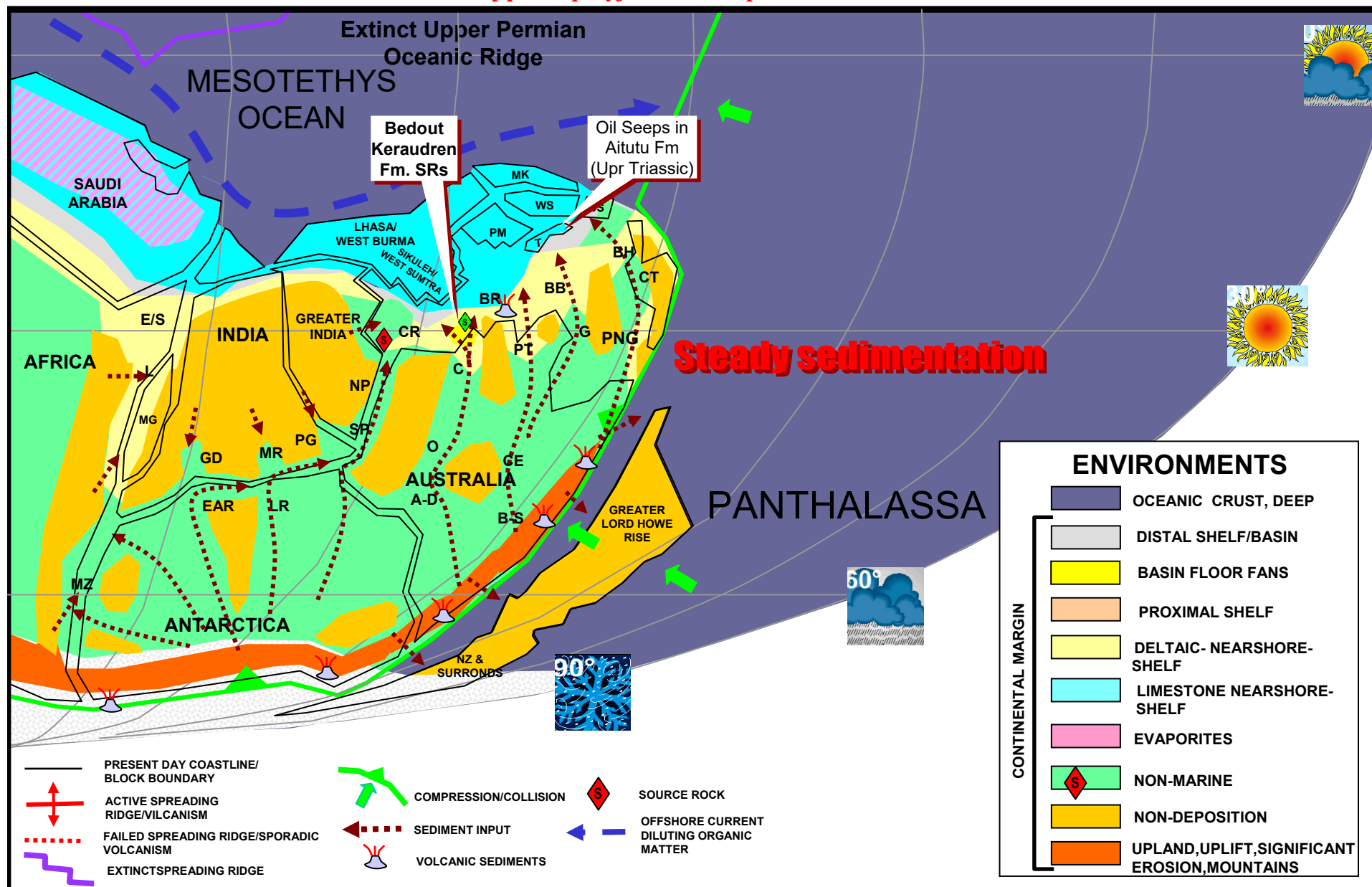
246.5-229My Middle to Upper Triassic Plate Reconstruction



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Pre-rift phase (246.5S-229S_TRC1)

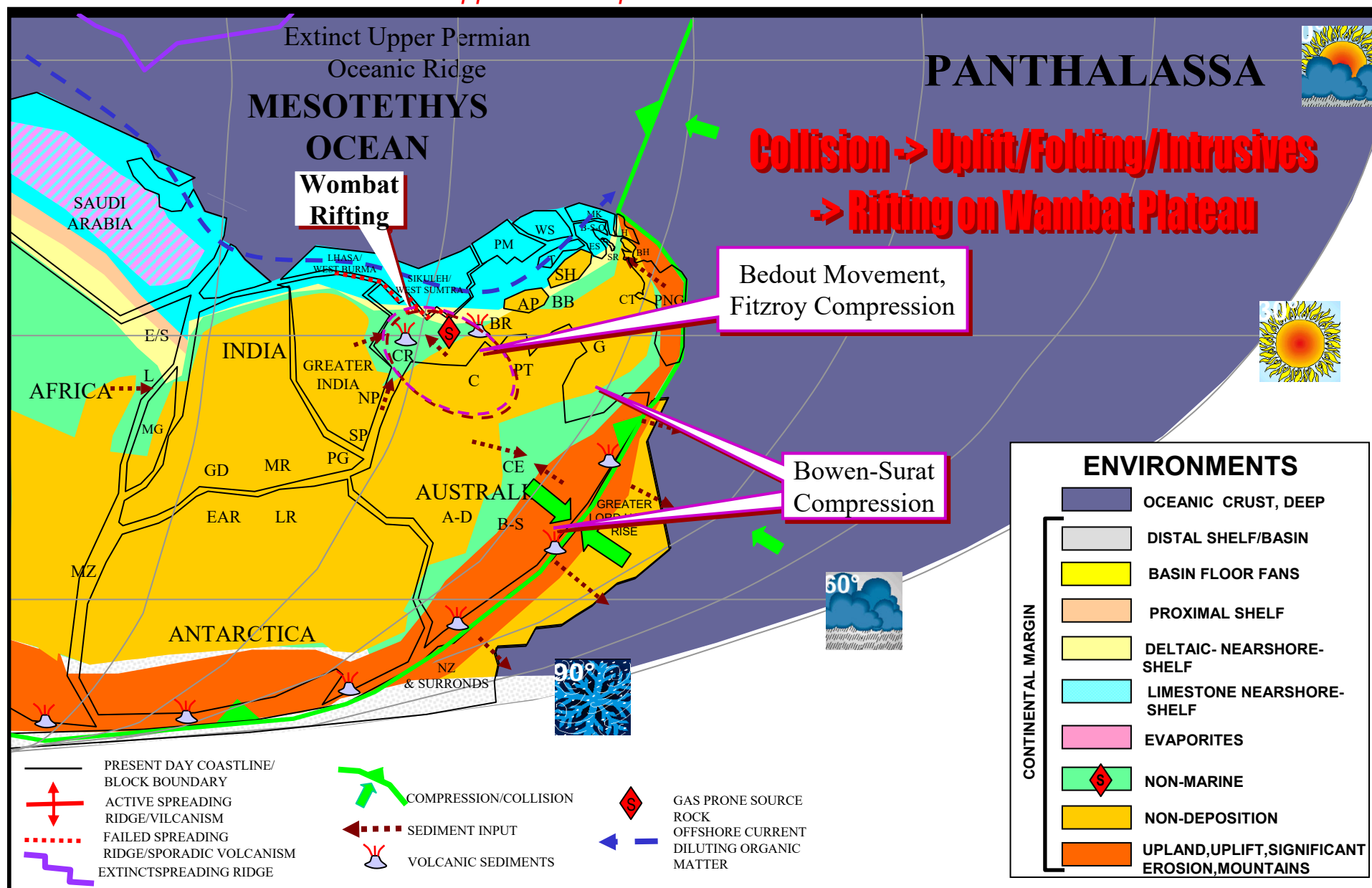
Upper T. playfordii to S. speciosus Zones



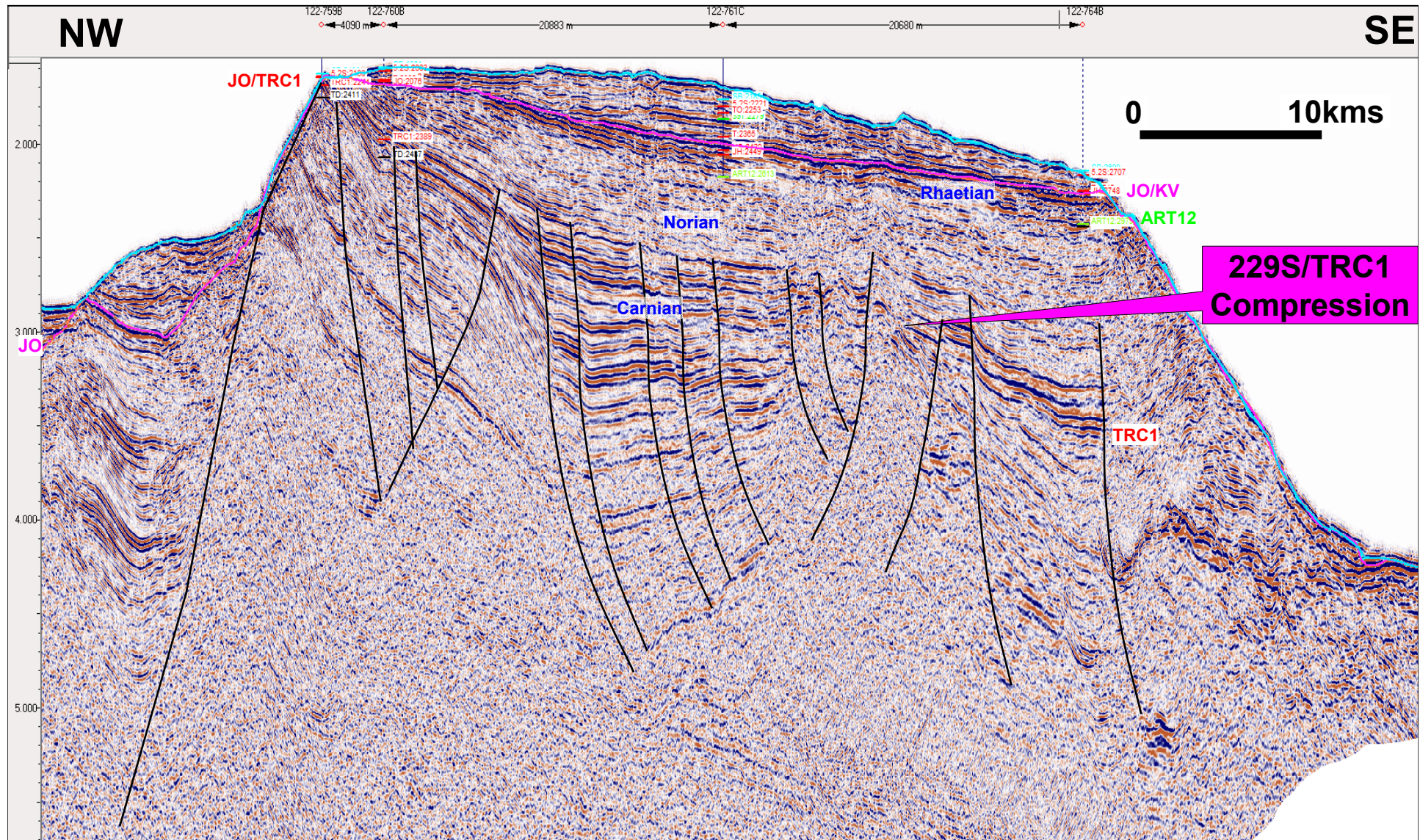
229My Carnian Plate Reconstruction

Fitzroy Compression/Bowen-Surat Compression (229S_TRC1 unconformity)

Uppermost S. speciosus Zone



Deep Water – Carnarvon Basin ODP Wells & Seismic

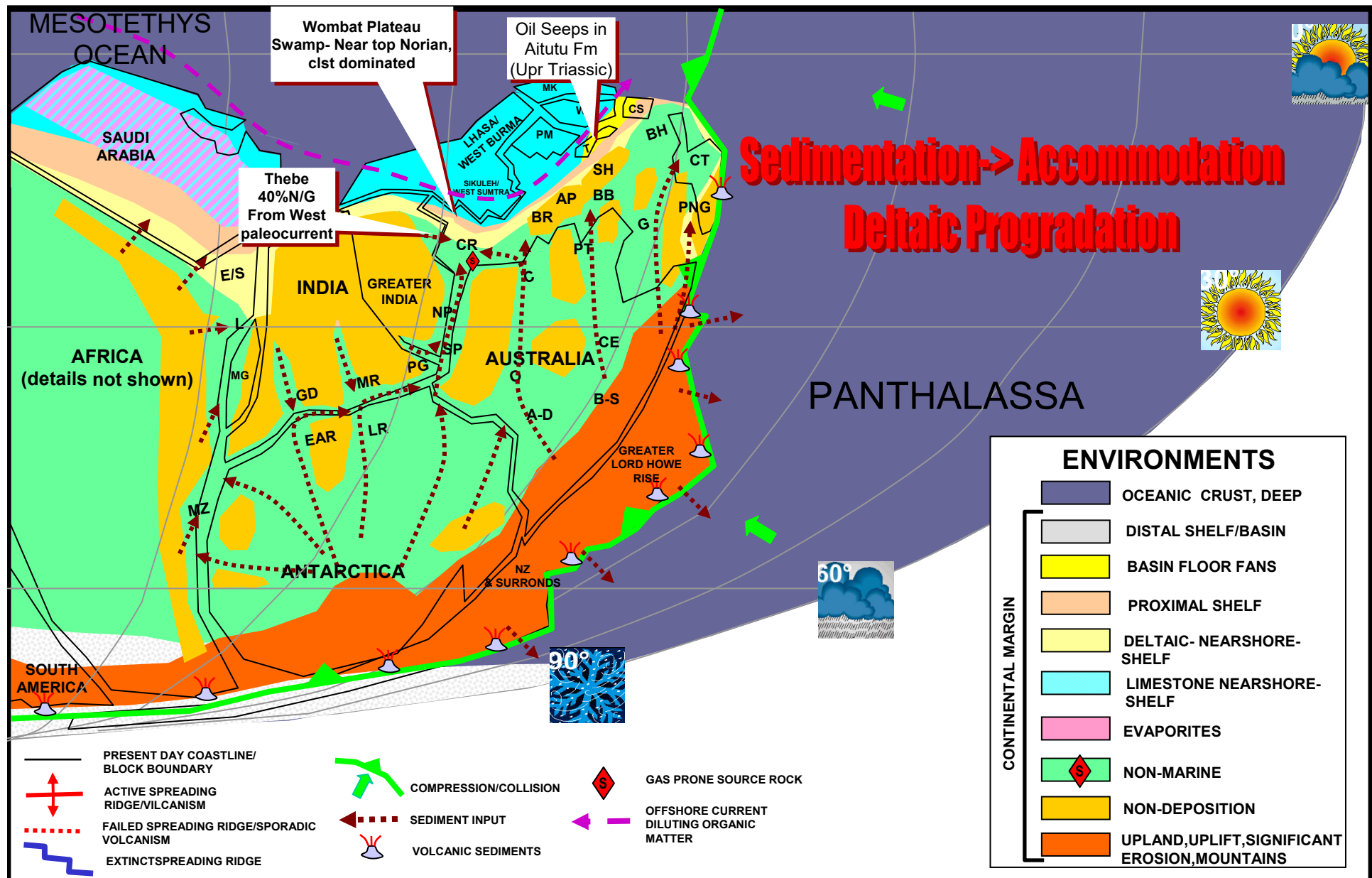


229-210Ma Norian Plate Reconstruction



DJGeoscience

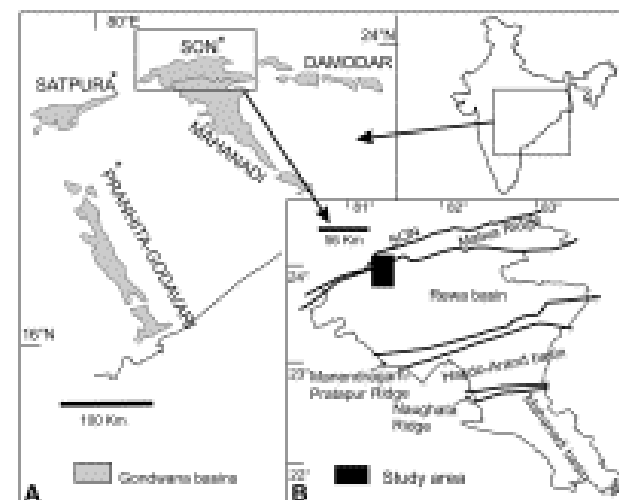
Pre-rift phase (TRC1 - TRR) *M.crenulatus* Zone





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Age		Basins	Pranhita-Godavari		Satpura	Rewa	Damodar	
Jurassic					Bagra	Parsora		
		Middle 175.6±2.0			Kota*			
		Lower 199.6±1.5						
T r i a s s i c	Upper	Rhaetian 203.6±2.0	Dharmaram					
		Norian 216.5±2.0						M a l e r i*
			Lower					
		Camian		Tiki				
		Middle	Ladinian 237±2.0	Bhimaram				Karki
	Anisian		Yerrapalli*					
			Denwa*					
	Lower 251±0.4	Olenekian	Kamthi			Pachmarhi	Pali	Panchet*
		Induan						
	P e r m i a n	Upper		Kundaram*		Bijori	← Raniganj →	
Motur					← Barren Measures →			
Lower			← Barakar →					
			← Talchir →					



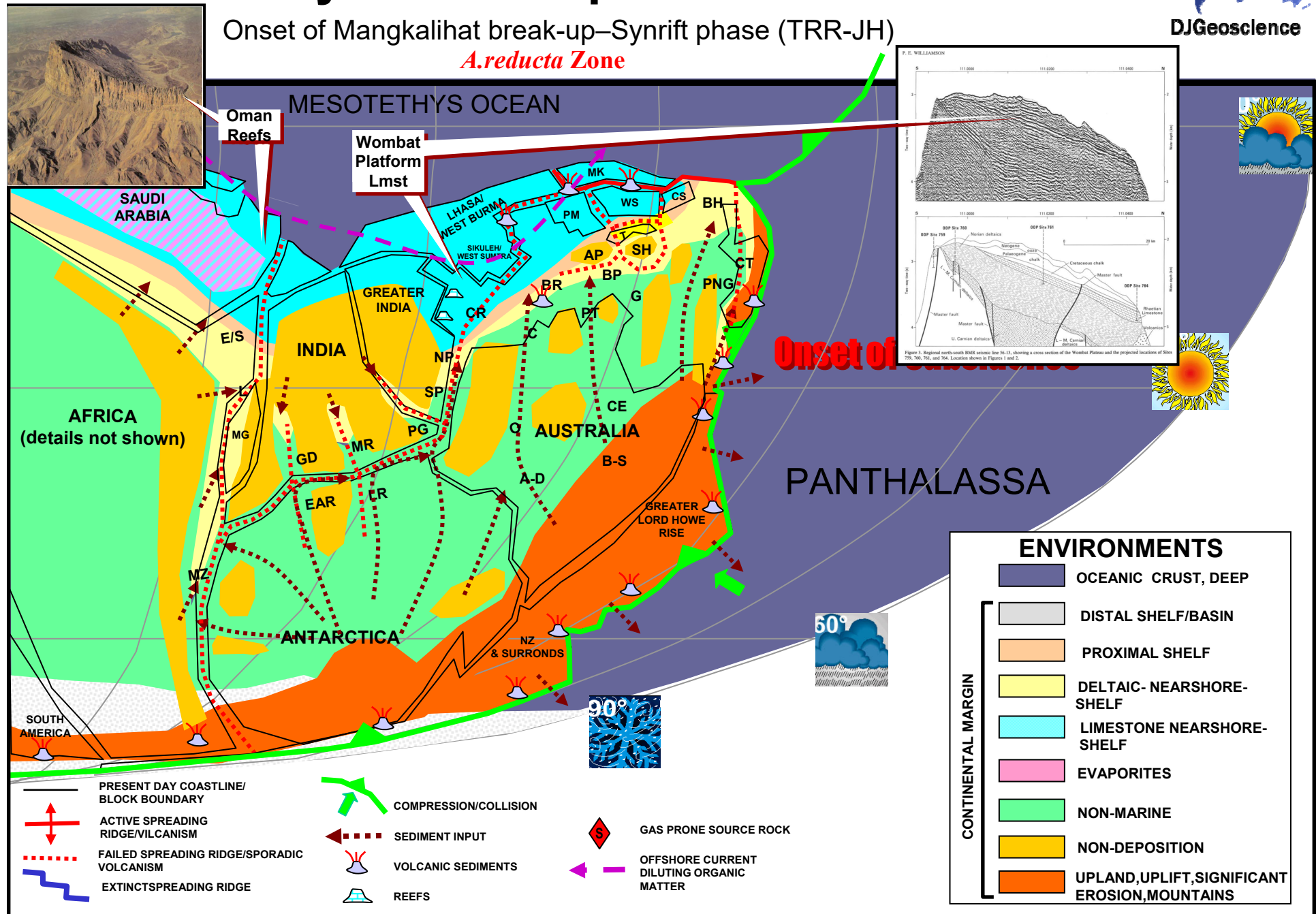
209-205My Rhaetian plate reconstruction



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Onset of Mangkalia break-up–Synrift phase (TRR-JH)

A.reducta Zone



Jurassic

(205S-145M)



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CONTINENTAL
MARGIN

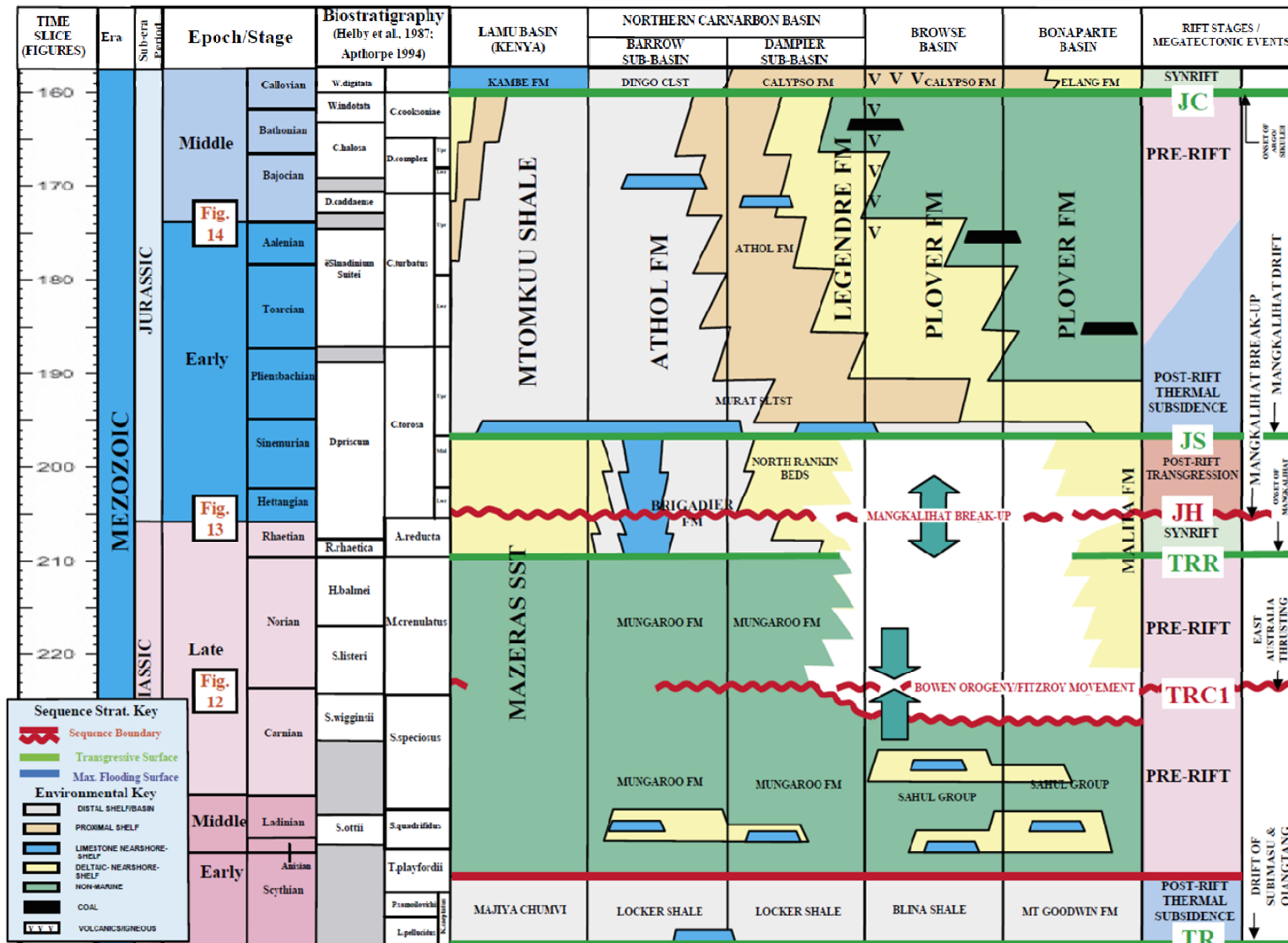
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NOTE:
Not All figures are referenced

Africa & GNWS (Western Australia)



300—APPEA JOURNAL 2004



DJGeoscience Terminology

160T_JC

197T_JS

205_JH

210T_TRR

229_TRC1

251M_TR

Figure 4b. Generalised Triassic to Middle Jurassic stratigraphy of middle palaeolatitude Gondwana Basins.

Permian to Lower Cretaceous plate tectonics and its impact on the tectono-stratigraphic development of the Western Australian margin

ARTICLE IN THE APPEA JOURNAL - JANUARY 2004
DOI: 10.1017/S0001

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/392011420>

Article in The APPEA Journal - January 2004



Figure 5. Generalised Callovian to Albian stratigraphy of Perth Basin and Westralian Superbasin.

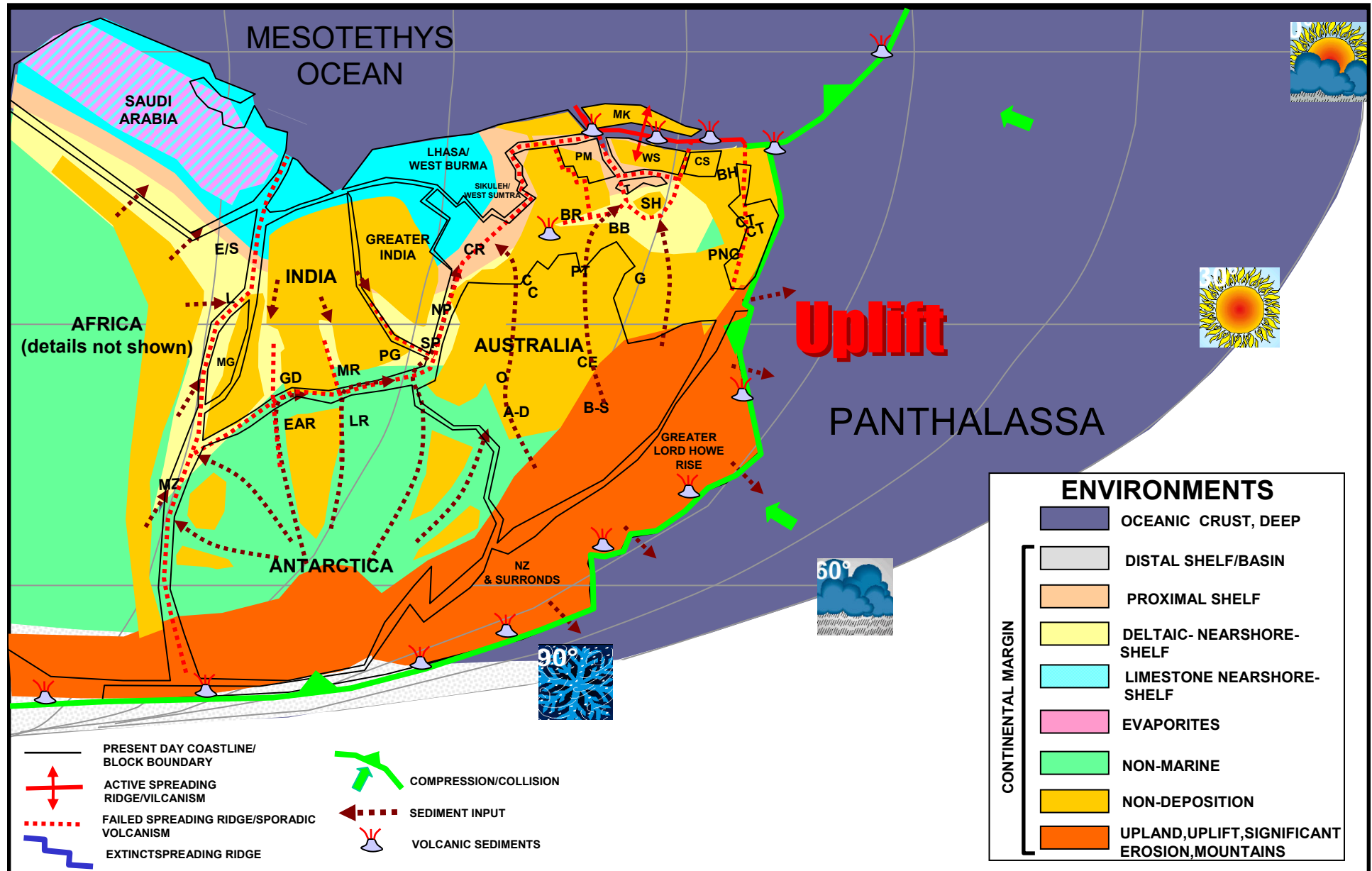
205My Base Jurassic Plate Reconstruction

Mangkalihat break-up– Break-up phase (205S_JH)

Lower *C.torosa* Zone



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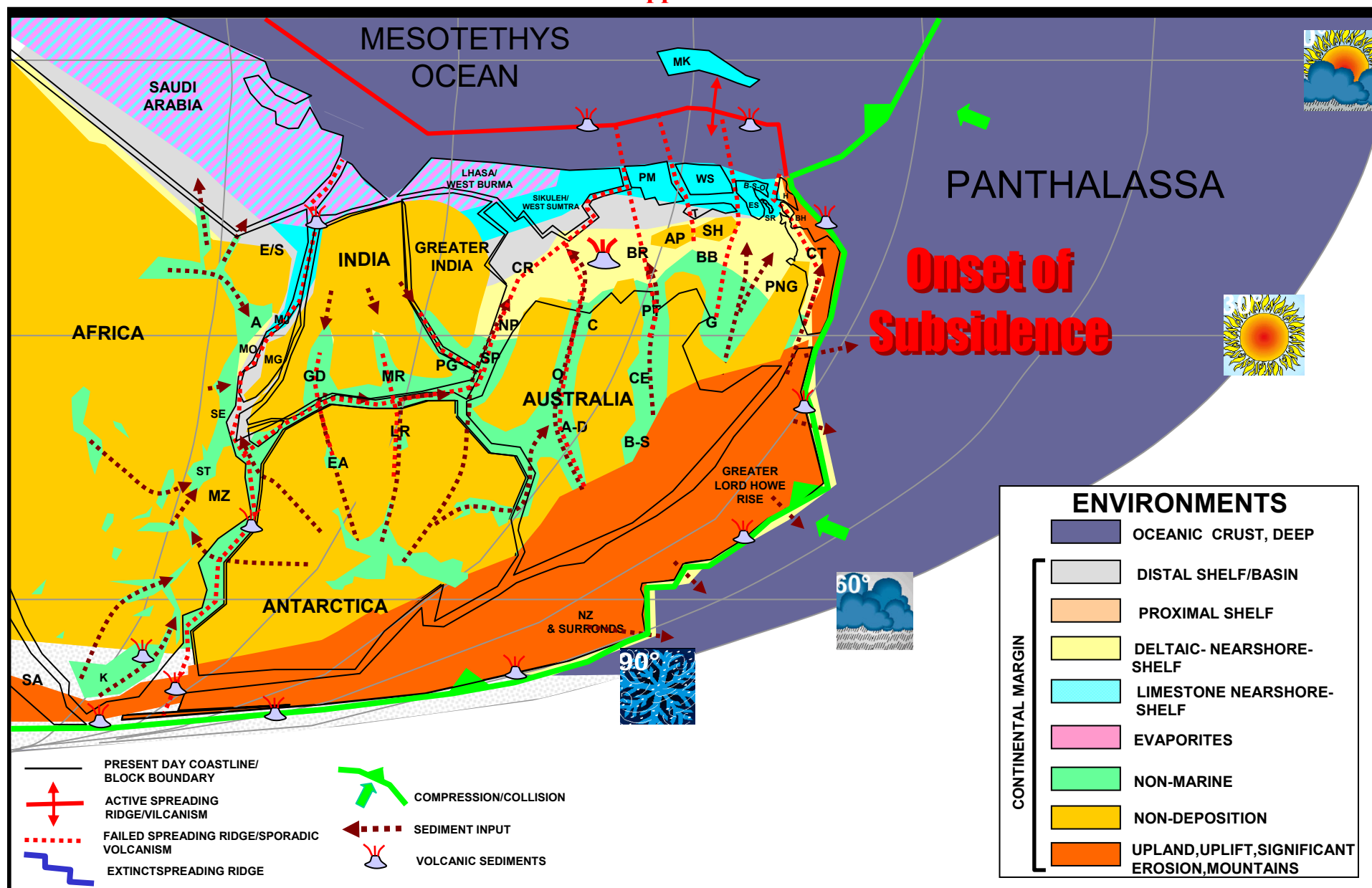
205-197My Hettangian Plate Reconstruction

Drift of Mangkaliahat – Post-rift transgression phase (205S_JH to 197TJS)

Middle to upper *C.torosa* Zone



DJGeoscience



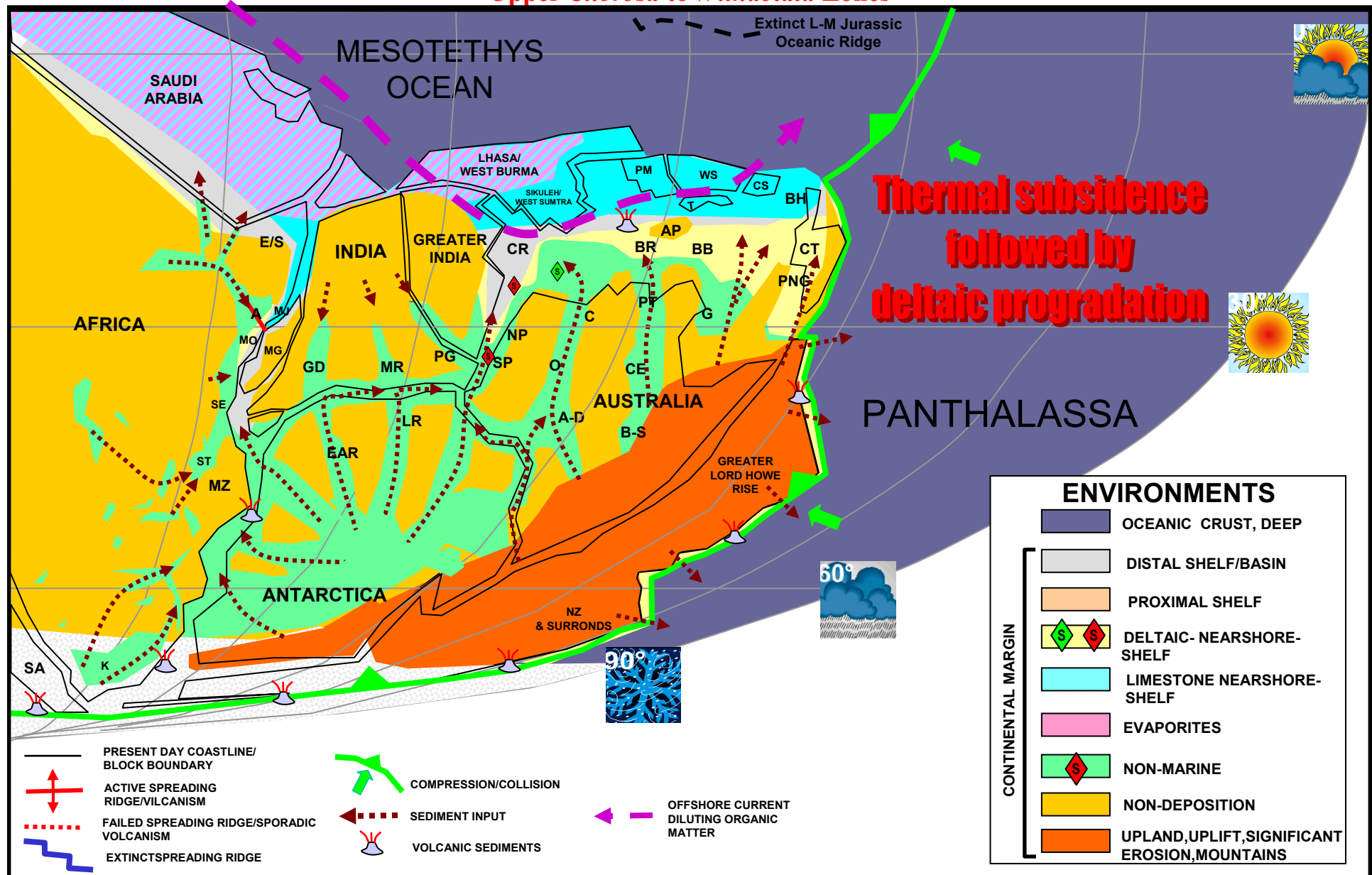
197-160My Lower to Middle Jurassic Plate Reconstruction

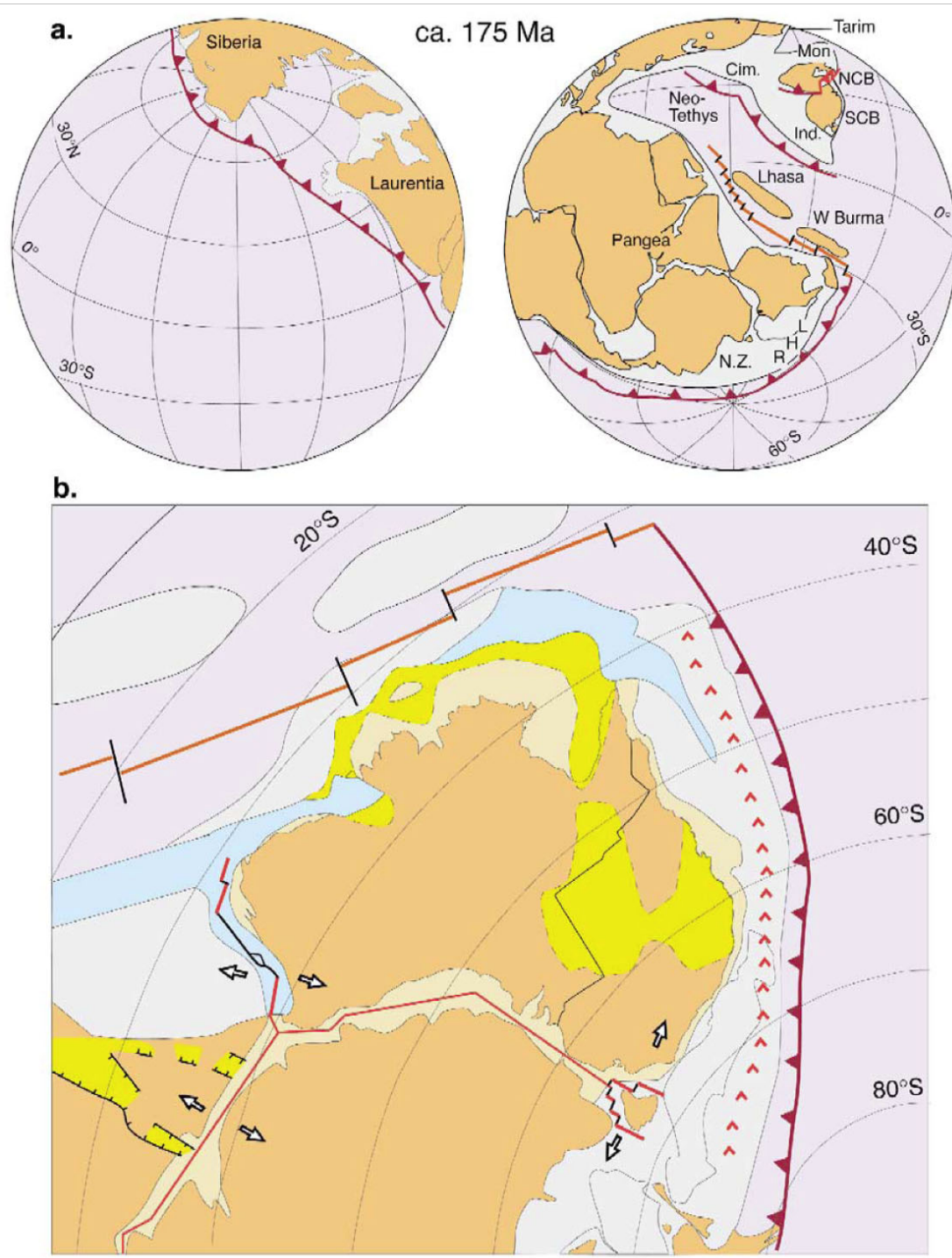


Thermal subsidence phase followed by pre-rift phase (197T_JS to 160T_JC)

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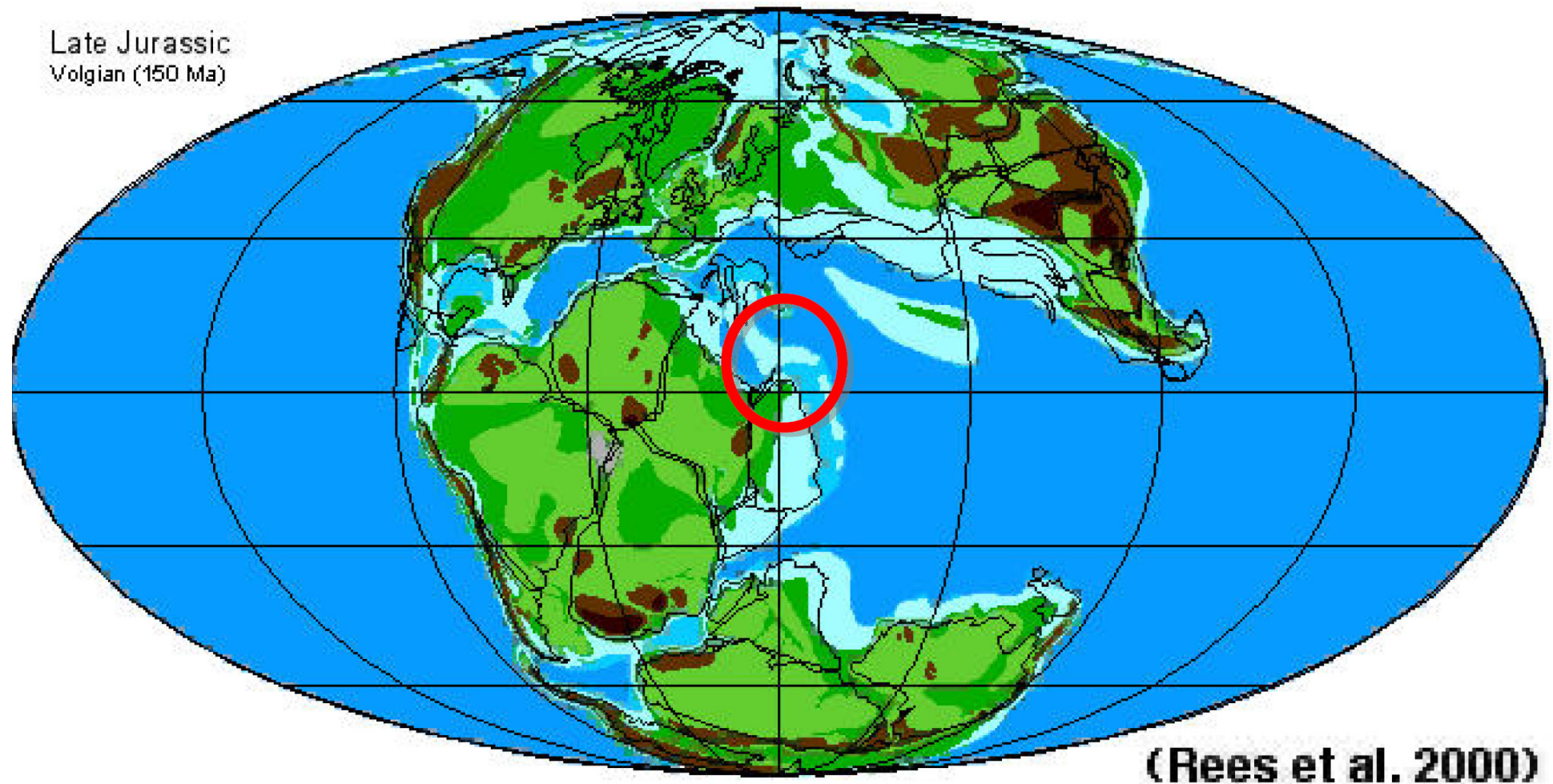
Upper C.torosa to W.indotata Zones





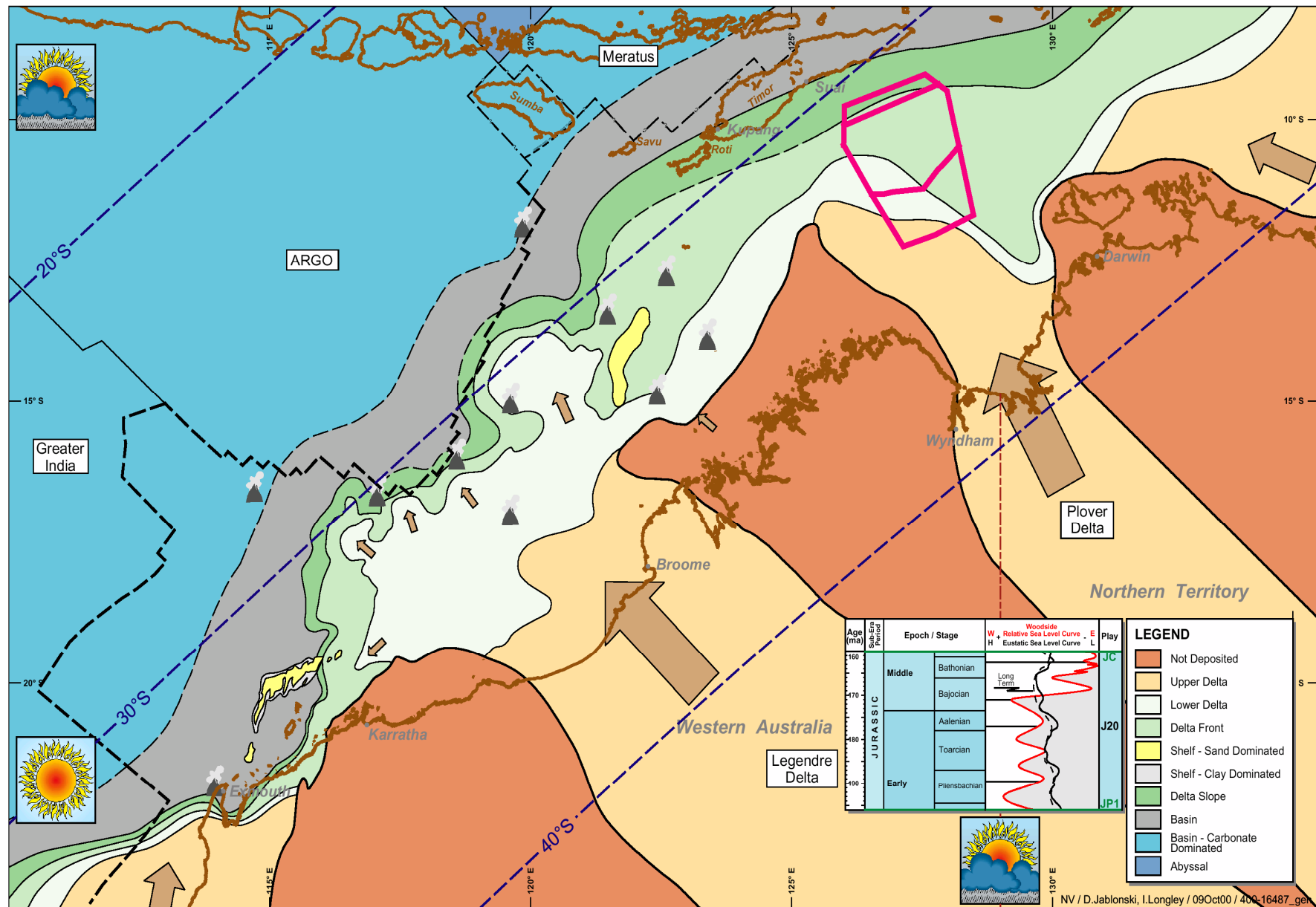
Middle Jurassic Plate Reconstruction

Example of Barred Basin Mesozoic - Arabian Gulf



wide shadow from adjacent continents

Lower to Middle Jurassic Palaeogeography

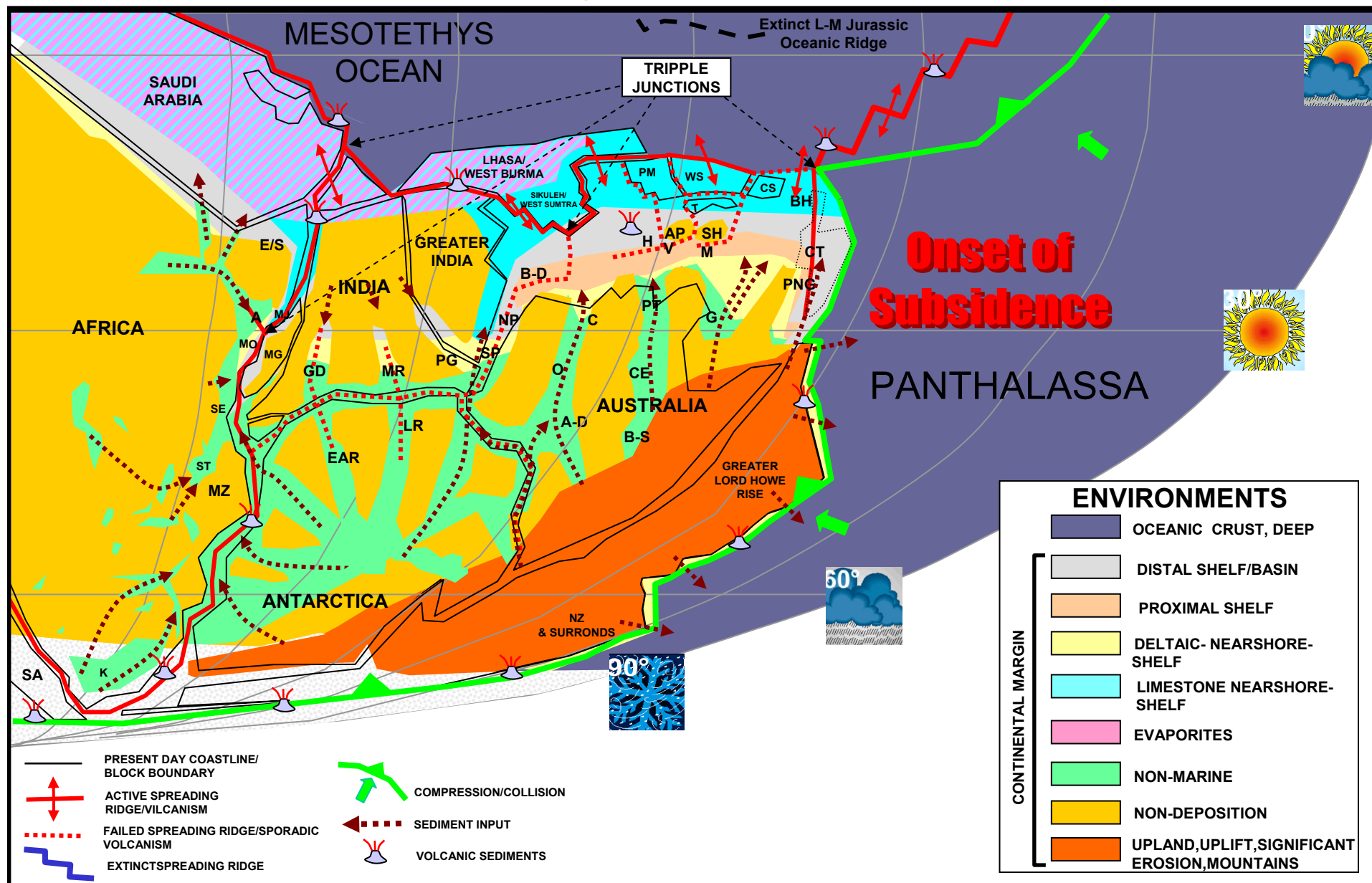


160-157My Callovian Plate Reconstruction

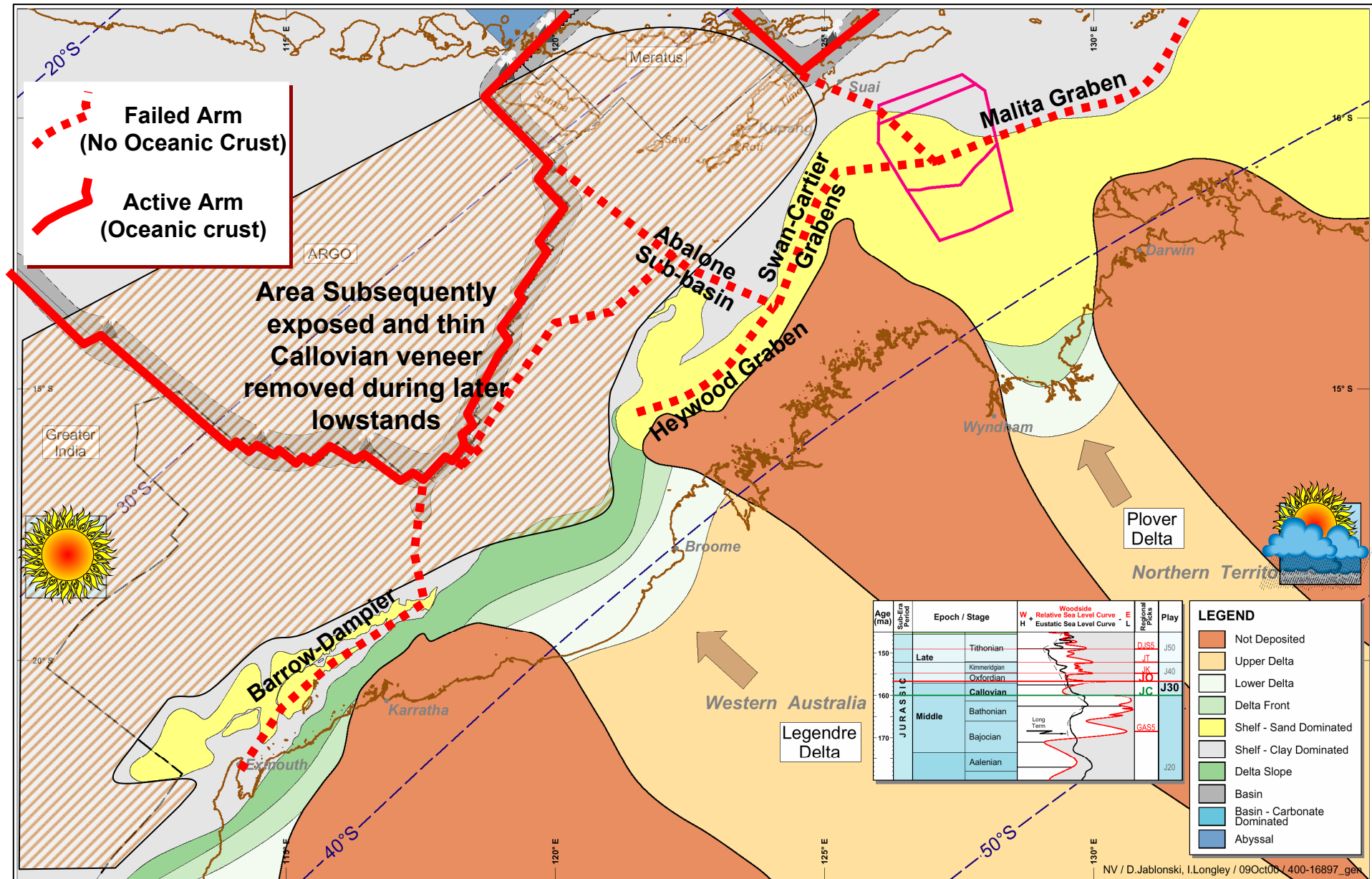


Onset of Argo-West Burma/Sikuleh break-up – Synrift phase (160T_JC to 157S_JD)

W. digitata to *R. aemula* Zones



160My Callovian Paleogeography



Oxfordian & Tithonian–Berriasian 155 & 140 Ma Map

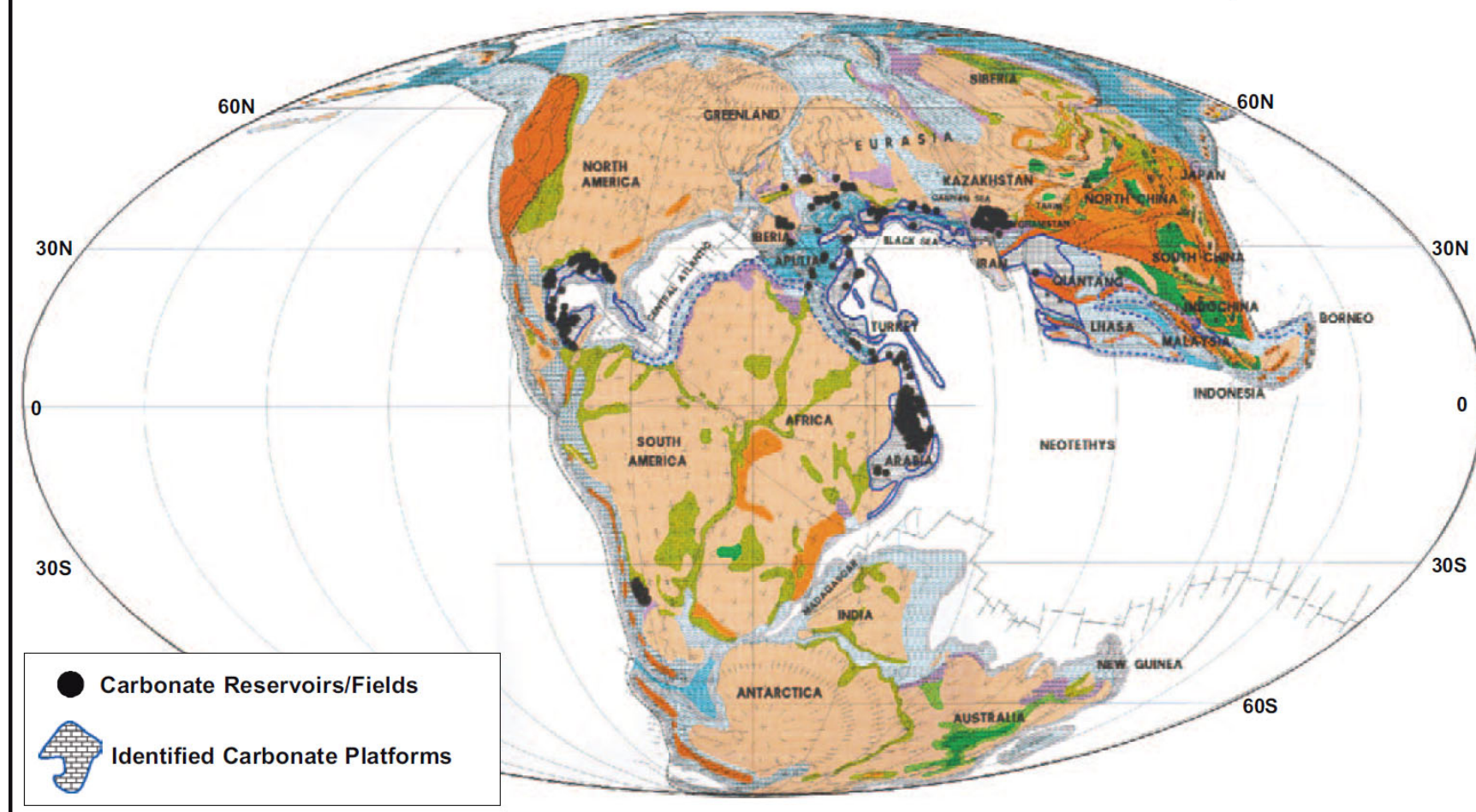
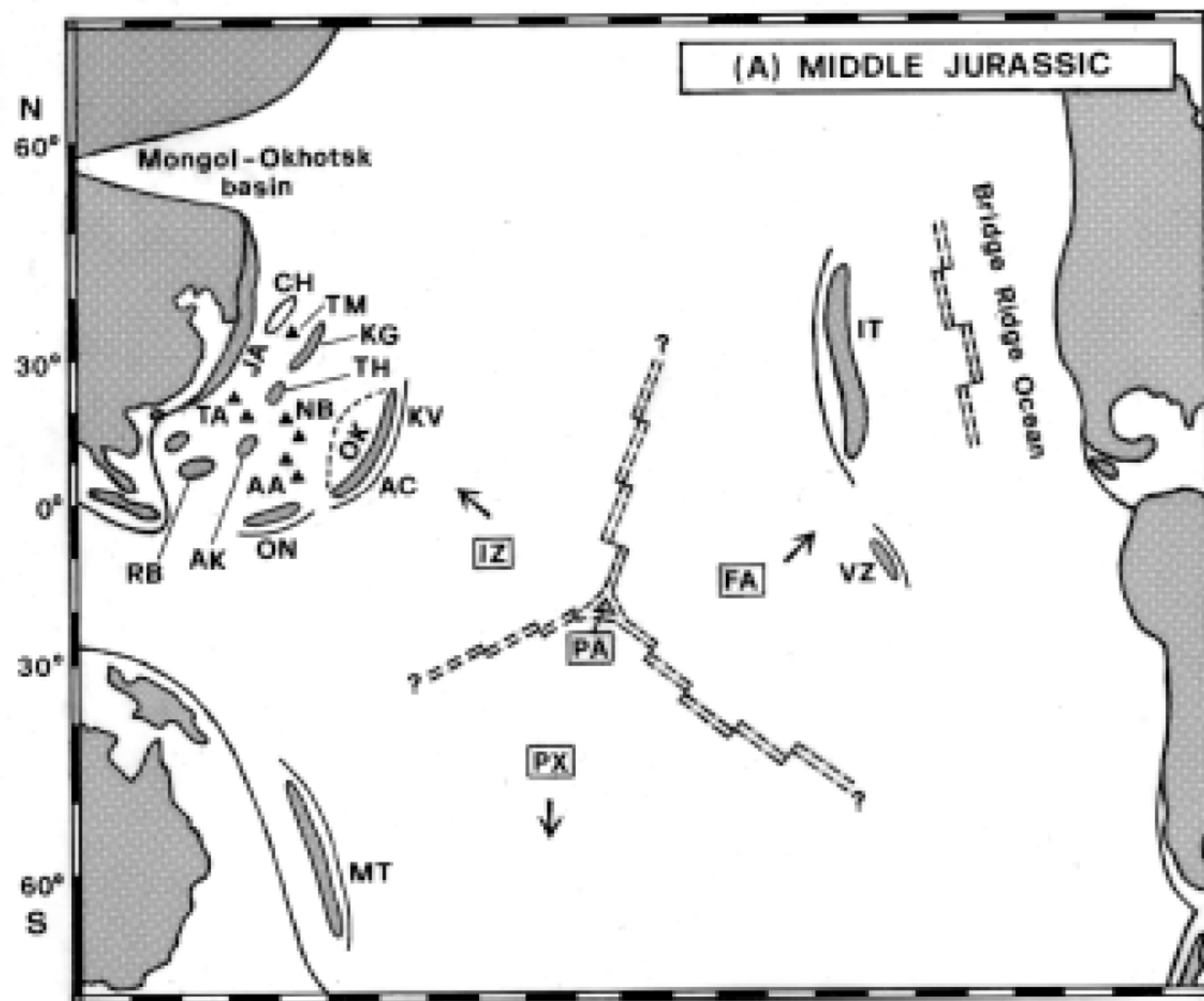


FIG. 6.—Example of a “Carbonate Analogs Through Time (CATT) Map”. This is the combined map for the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous time interval (Oxfordian—155 Ma and Tithonian to Berriasian—140 Ma map). Note at this time there are four significant clusters of carbonate fields: (1) Arabian basin in the Middle East at the paleo-equator at the western edge of the Neotethys–Panthalassic “super-ocean”; (2) coastal basins around the Gulf of Mexico, US and Mexico between 15° N and 25° N latitude in the newly formed Gulf and adjacent to the Central Atlantic; (3) Kopeh Dagh basin of Turkmenistan at 32° to 35° N latitude sheltered behind the Iranian continental block along the northern edge of the Neotethys Ocean; and (4) Neuquén basin, southern Argentina, at 33° to 35° S latitude along the southeastern edge of the Panthalassic Ocean. Other solitary and small groups of fields are scattered among the complex tectonic settings of the northwest Neotethys Ocean. Other carbonate platforms are outlined within the Neotethys ocean, and note that some of the platforms lack discovered carbonate fields. All 29 CATT maps are presented in Appendix 2 and are on the enclosed CD.



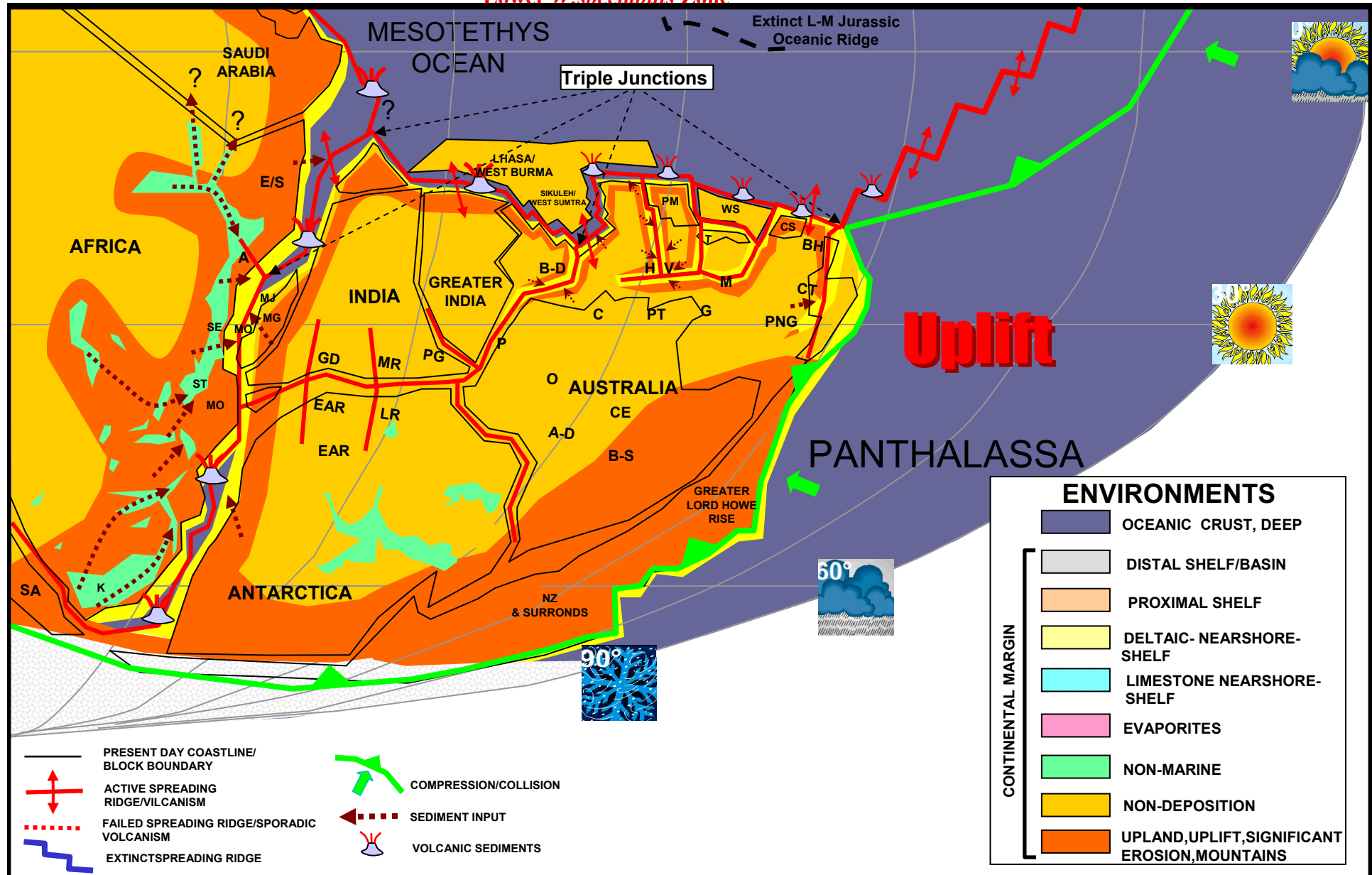
157My Lower Oxfordian Plate Reconstruction

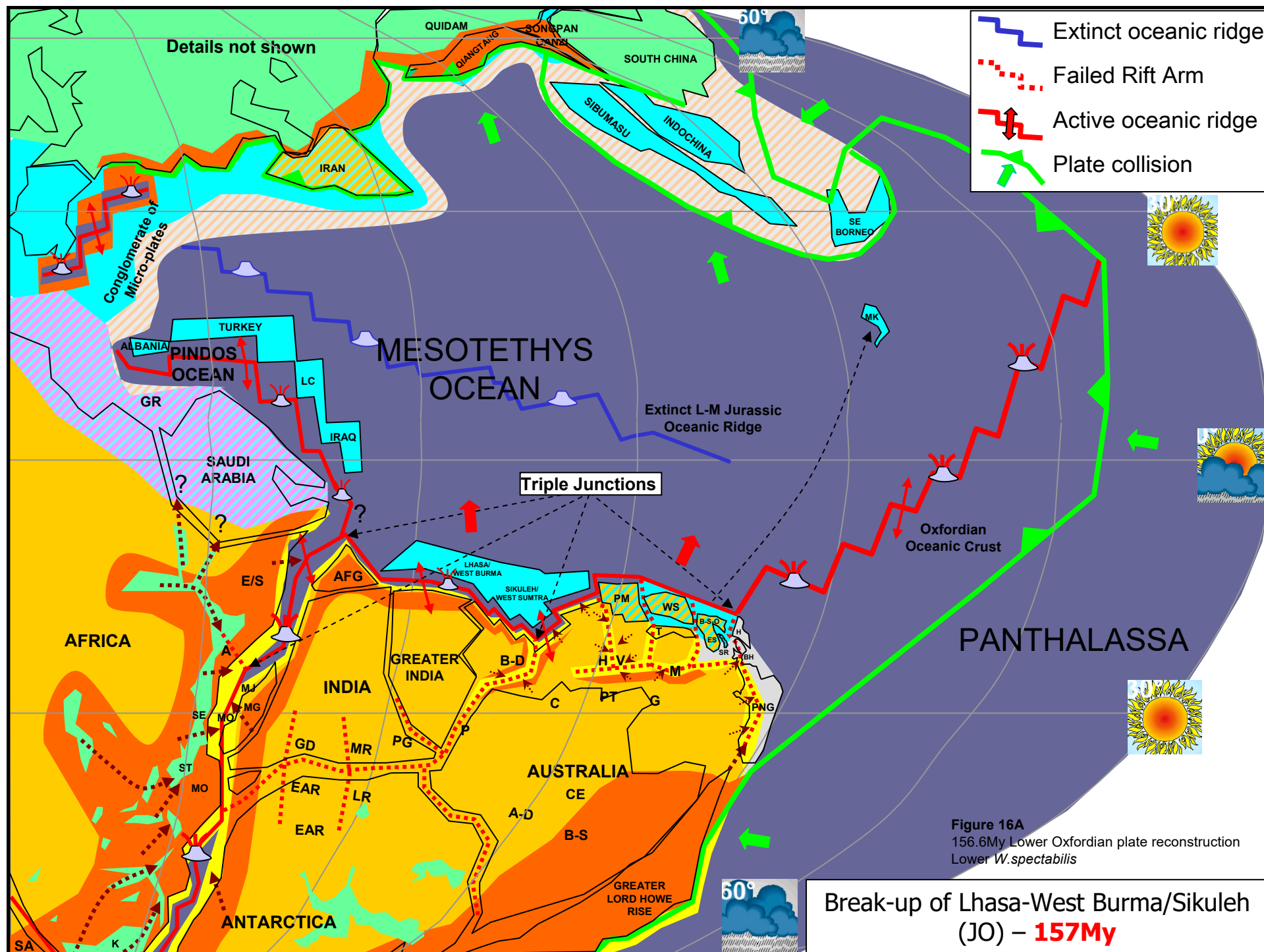


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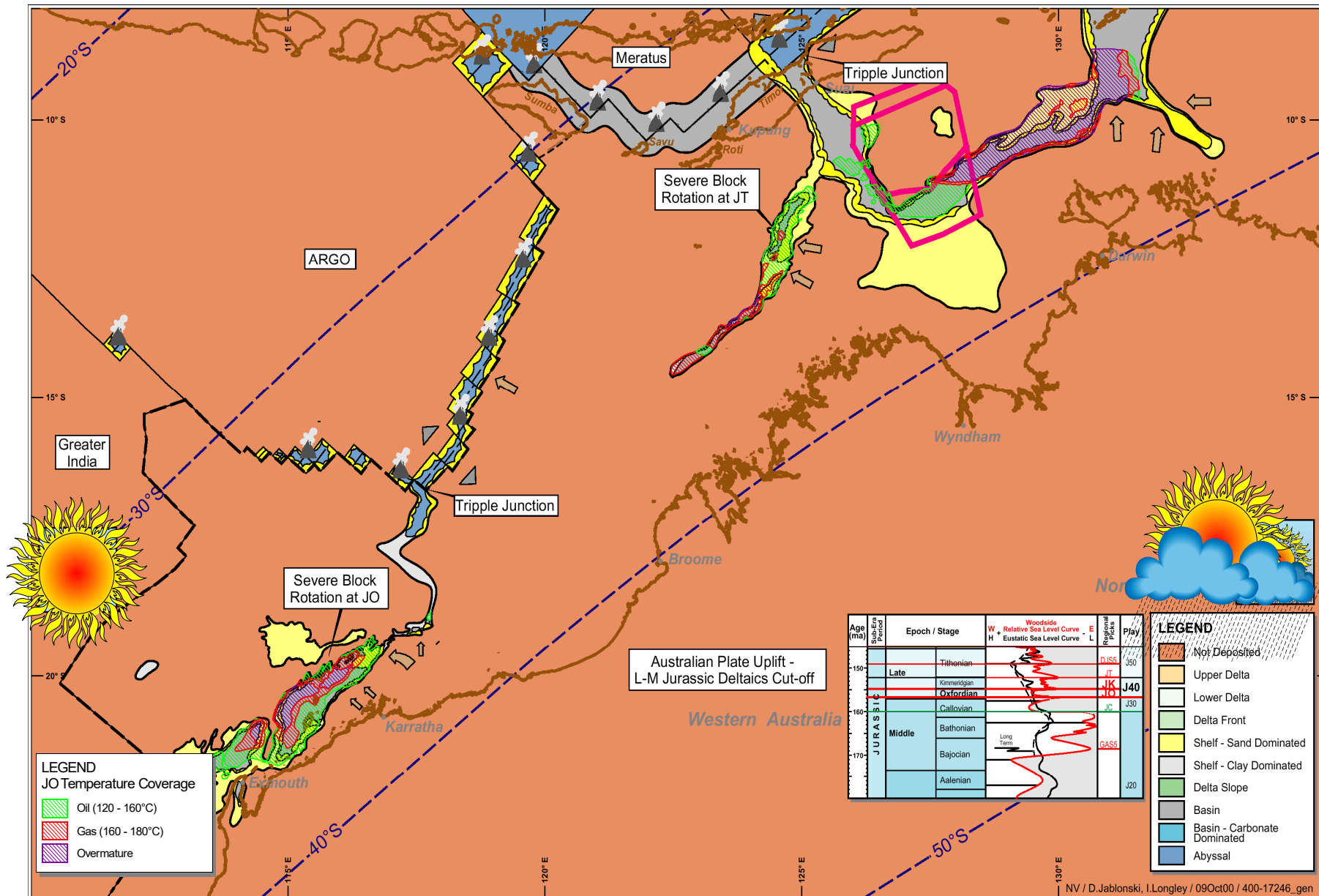
Break-up of Argo-West Burma/Sikuleh (157S_JO)

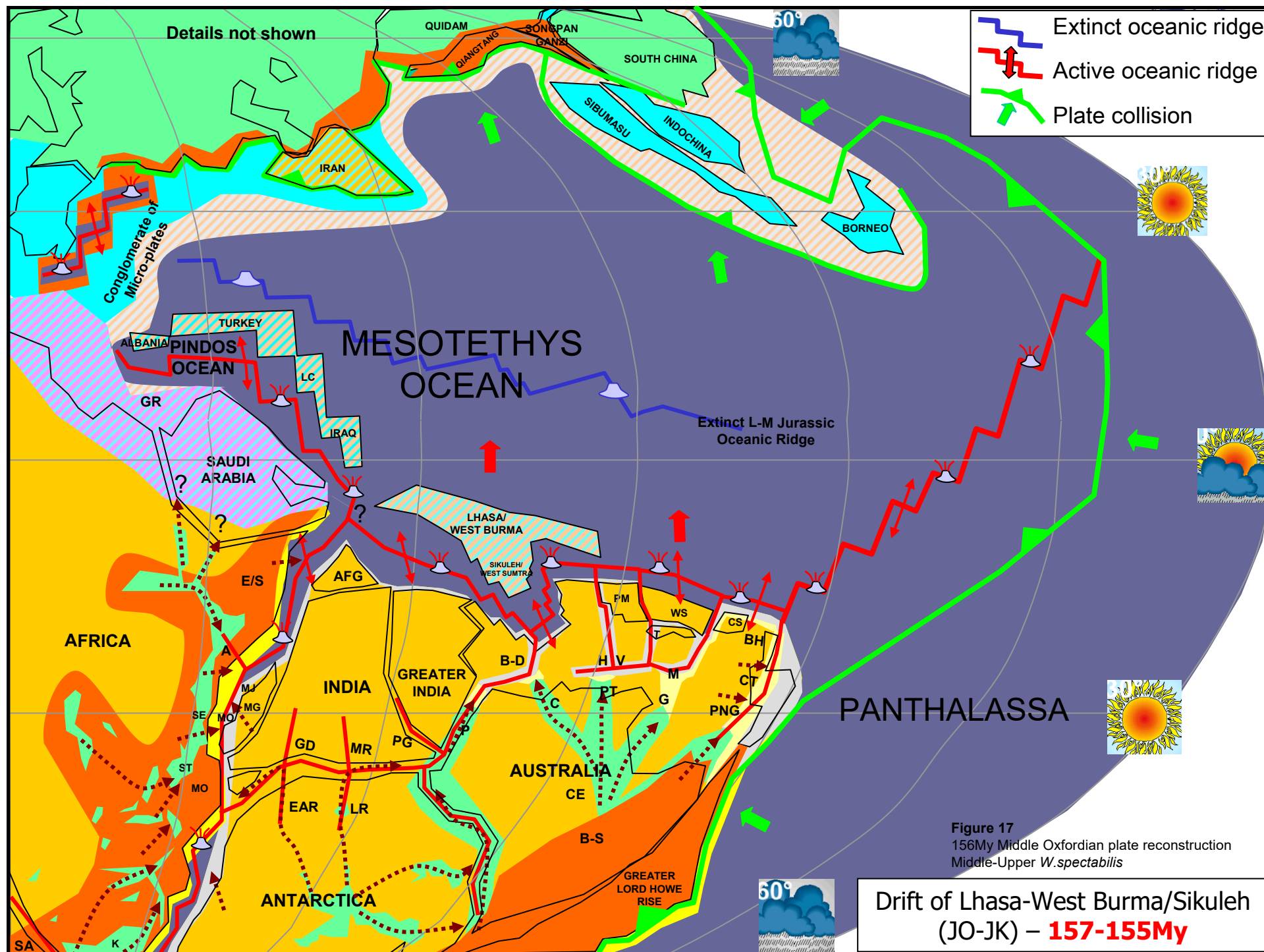
Lower W. spectabilis Zone

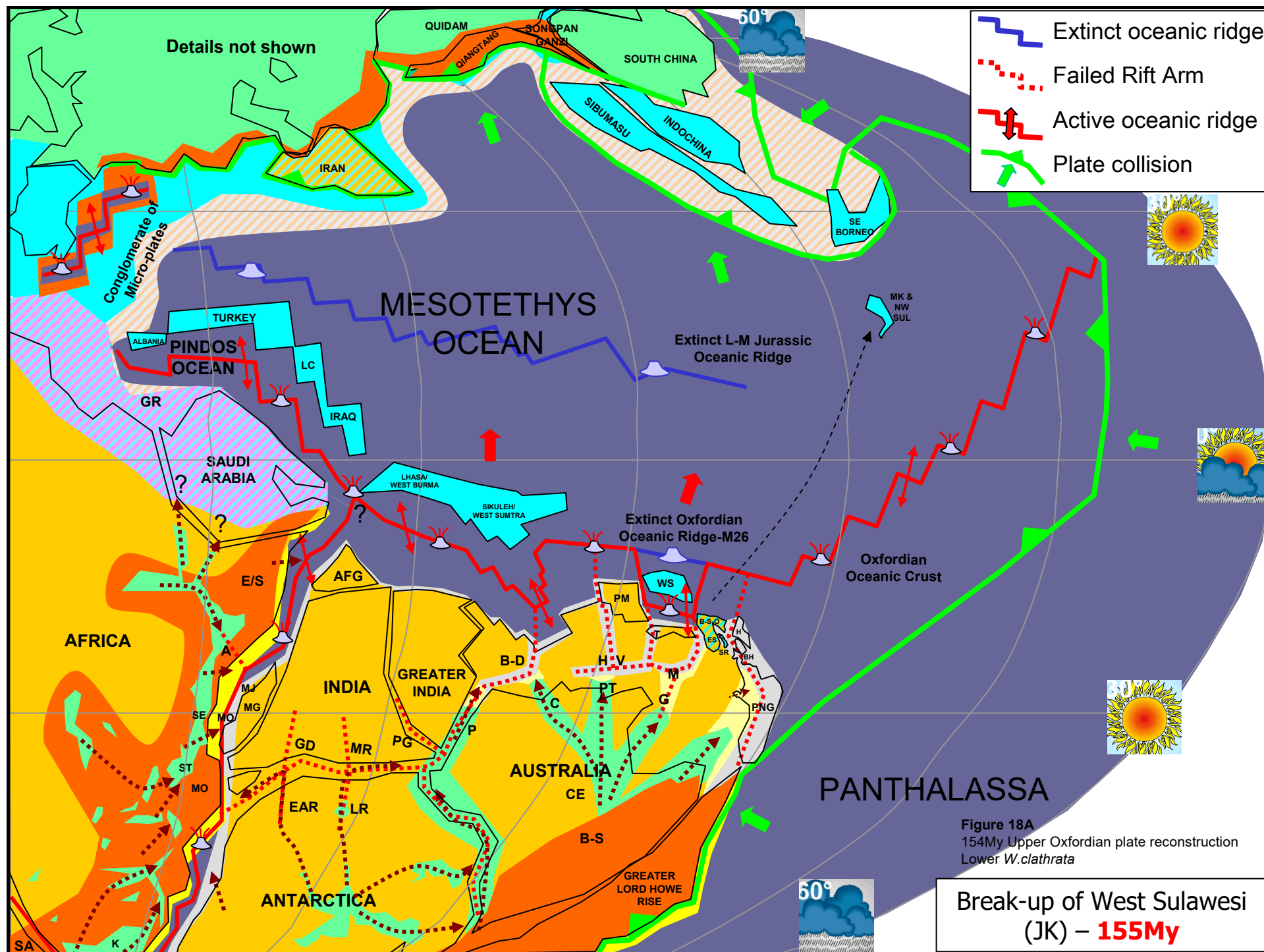


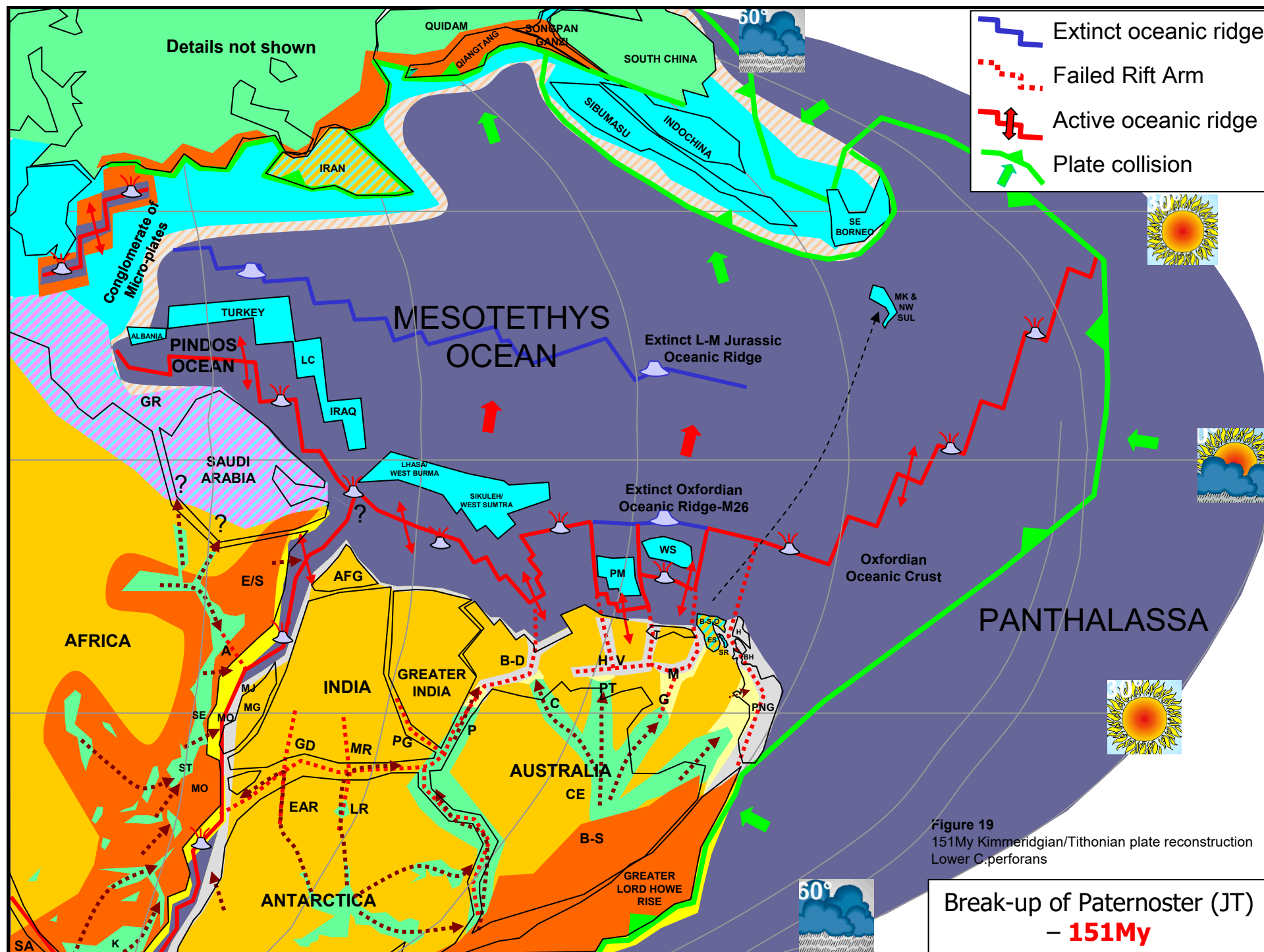


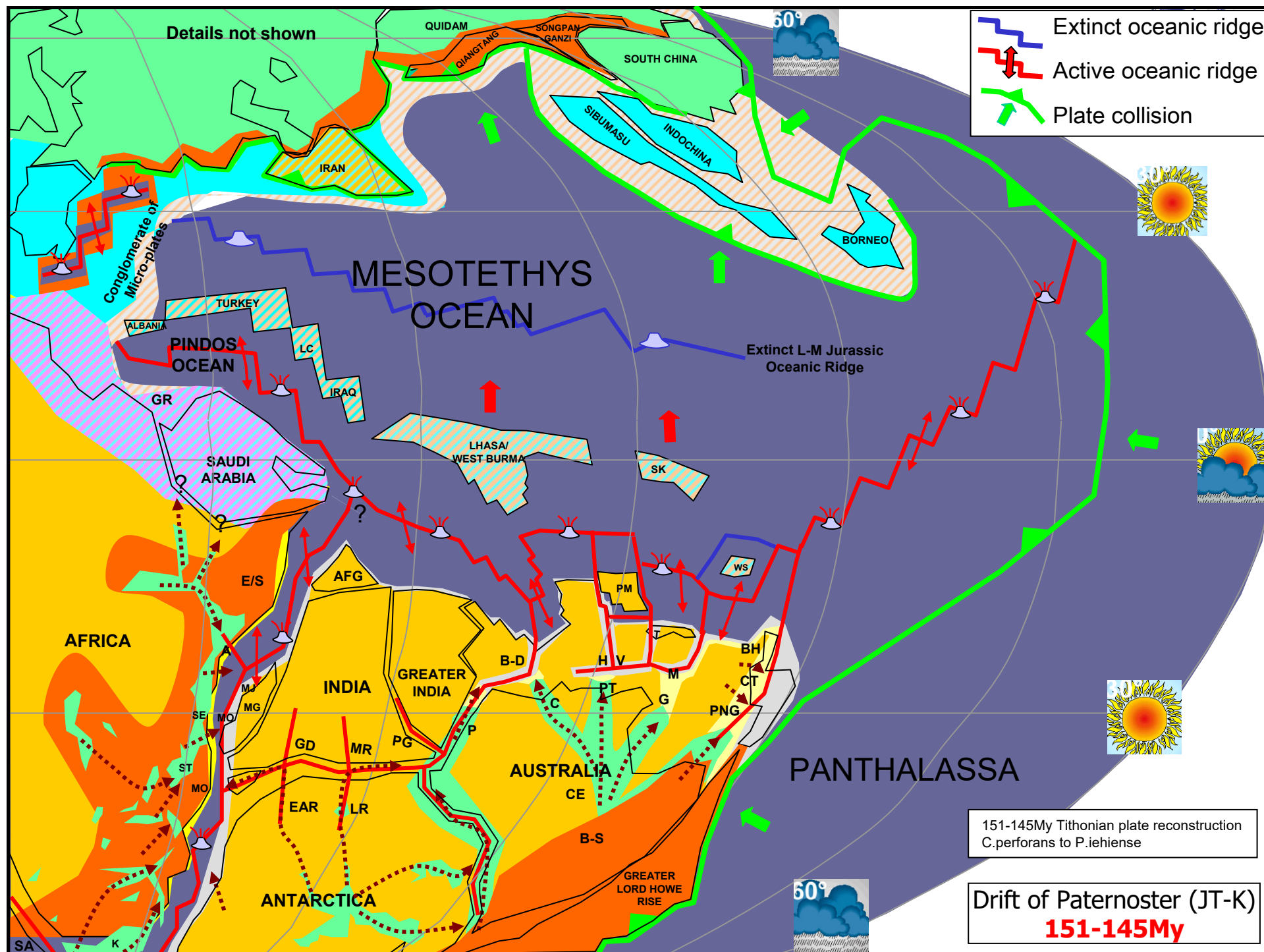
Oxfordian Palaeogeography - JO (157my)











Cretaceous

(145M to 65S)



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	COMPRESSION/COLLISION
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OTHER

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	OCEANIC CURRENT

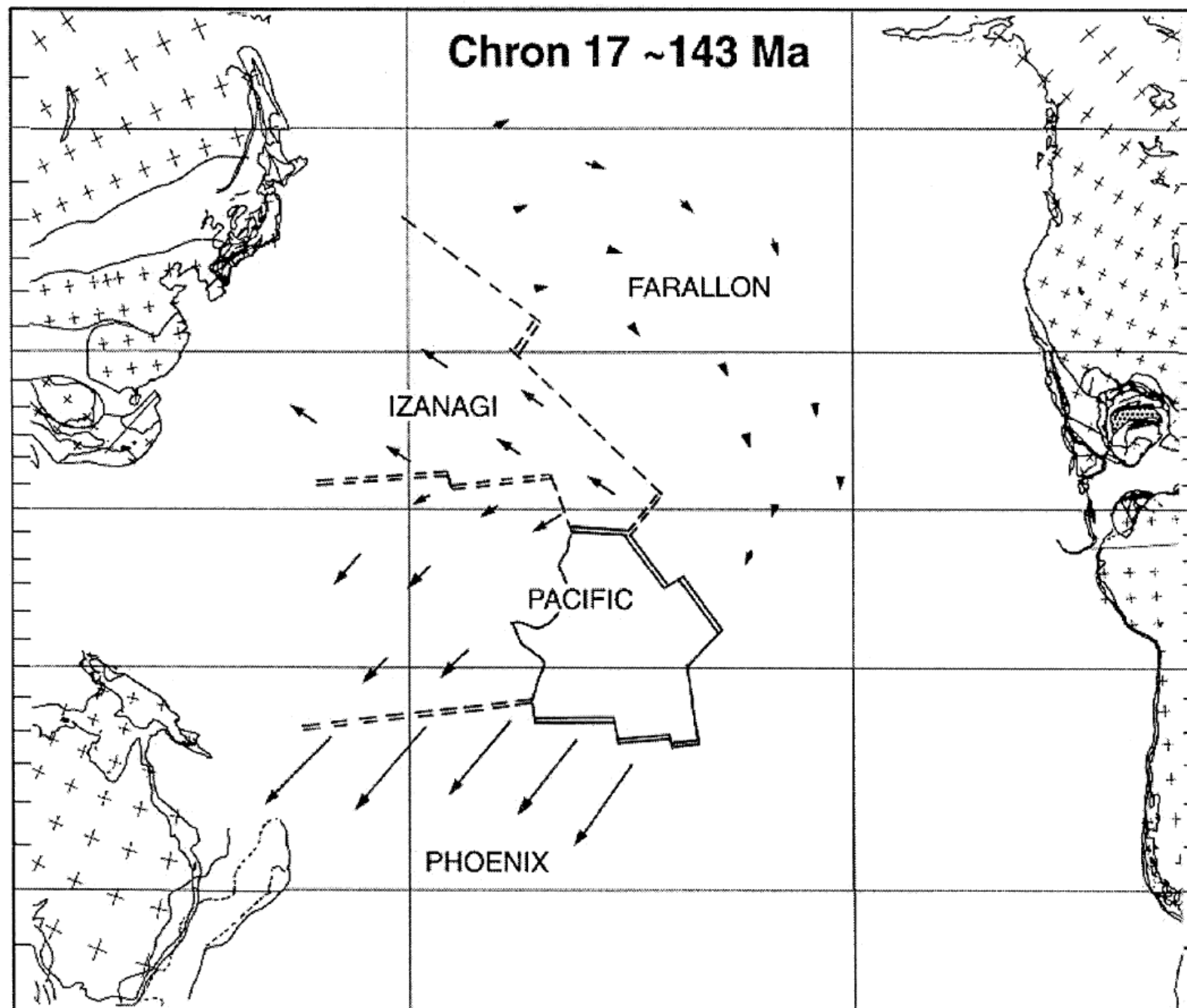
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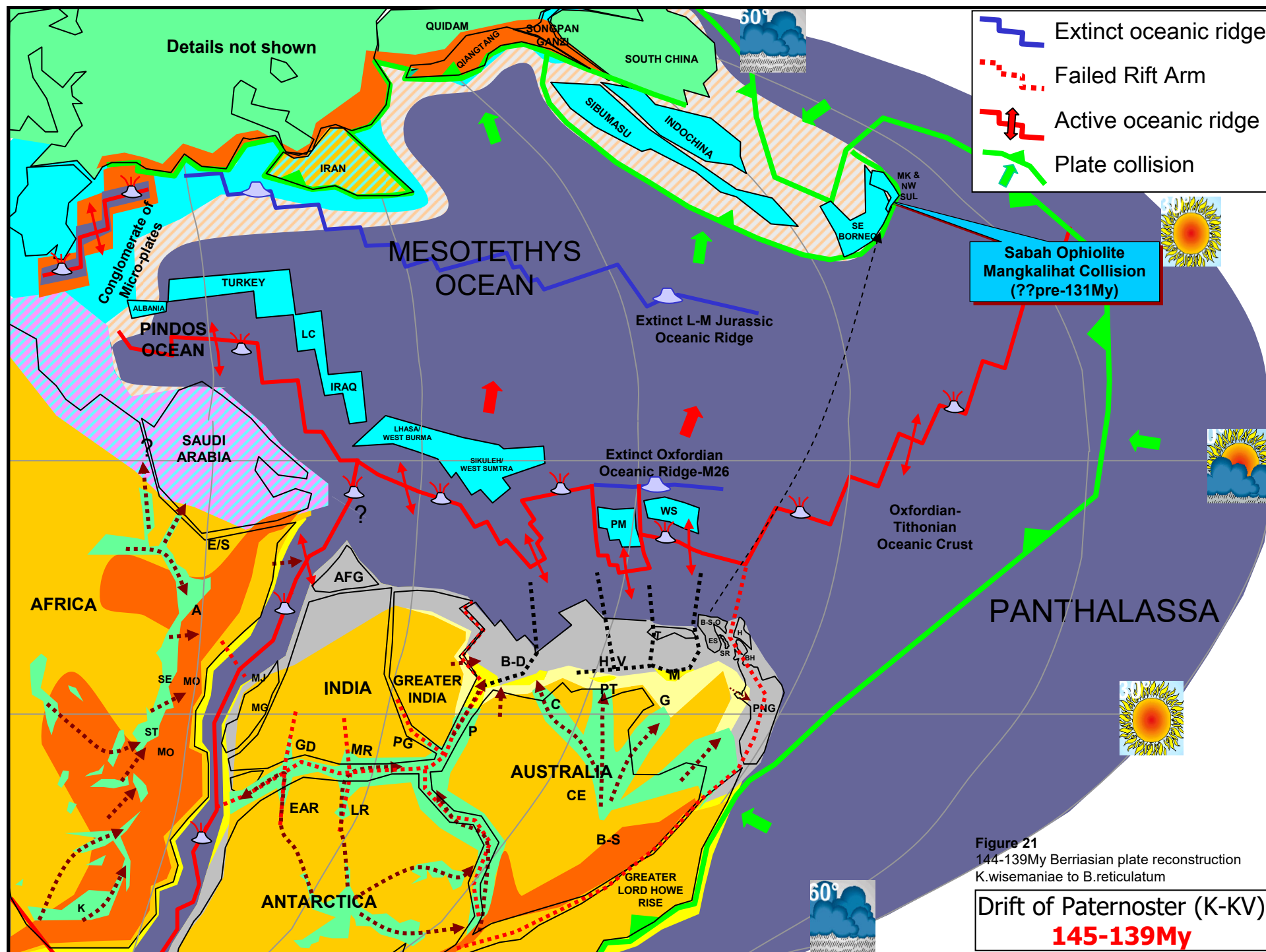
ENVIRONMENTS

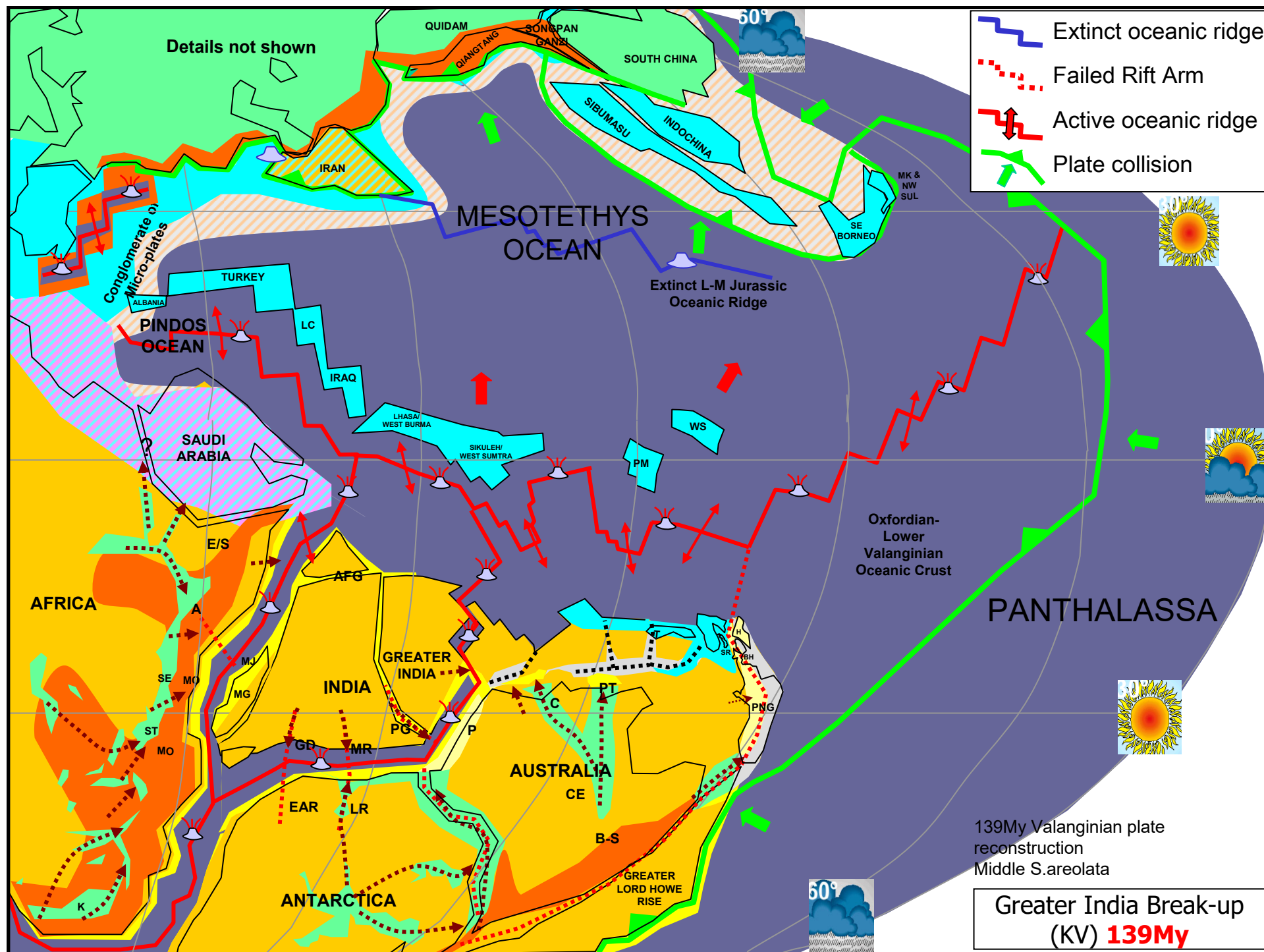
	OCEANIC CRUST, DEEP
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CONTINENTAL
MARGIN

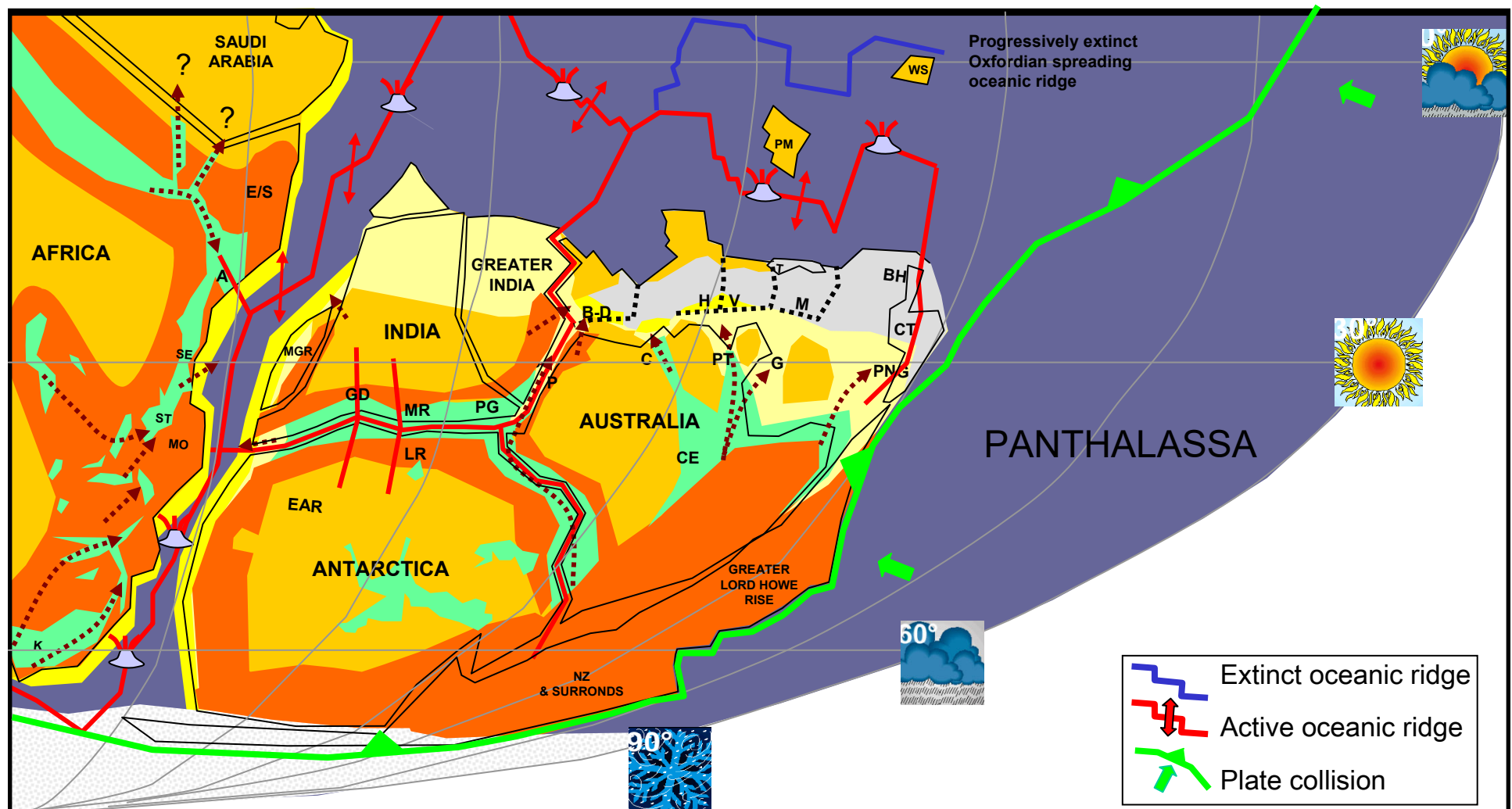
NOTE:
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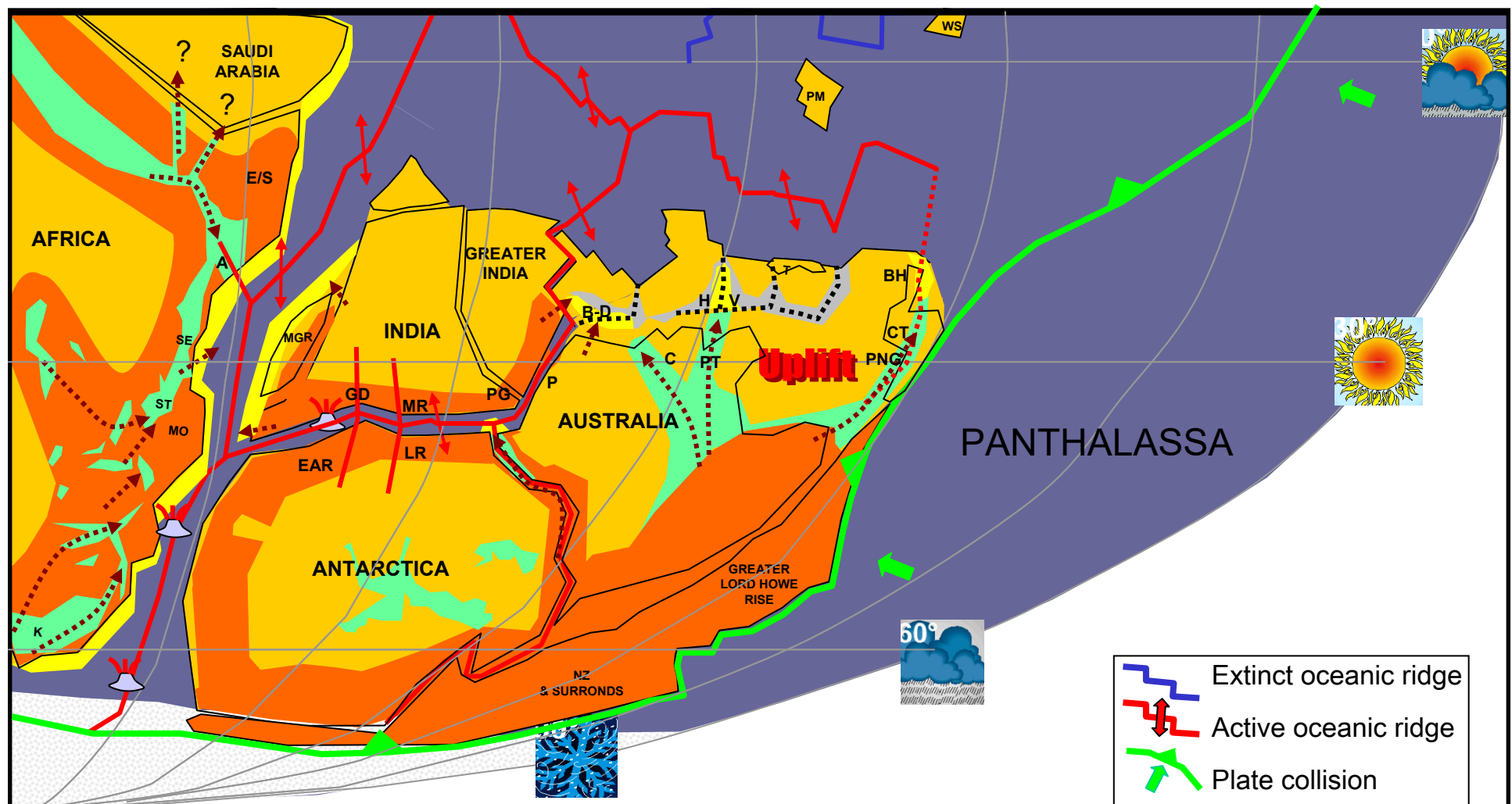
145-139My Berriasian plate reconstruction



Onset of Greater India break-up – Synrift phase (K-KV)

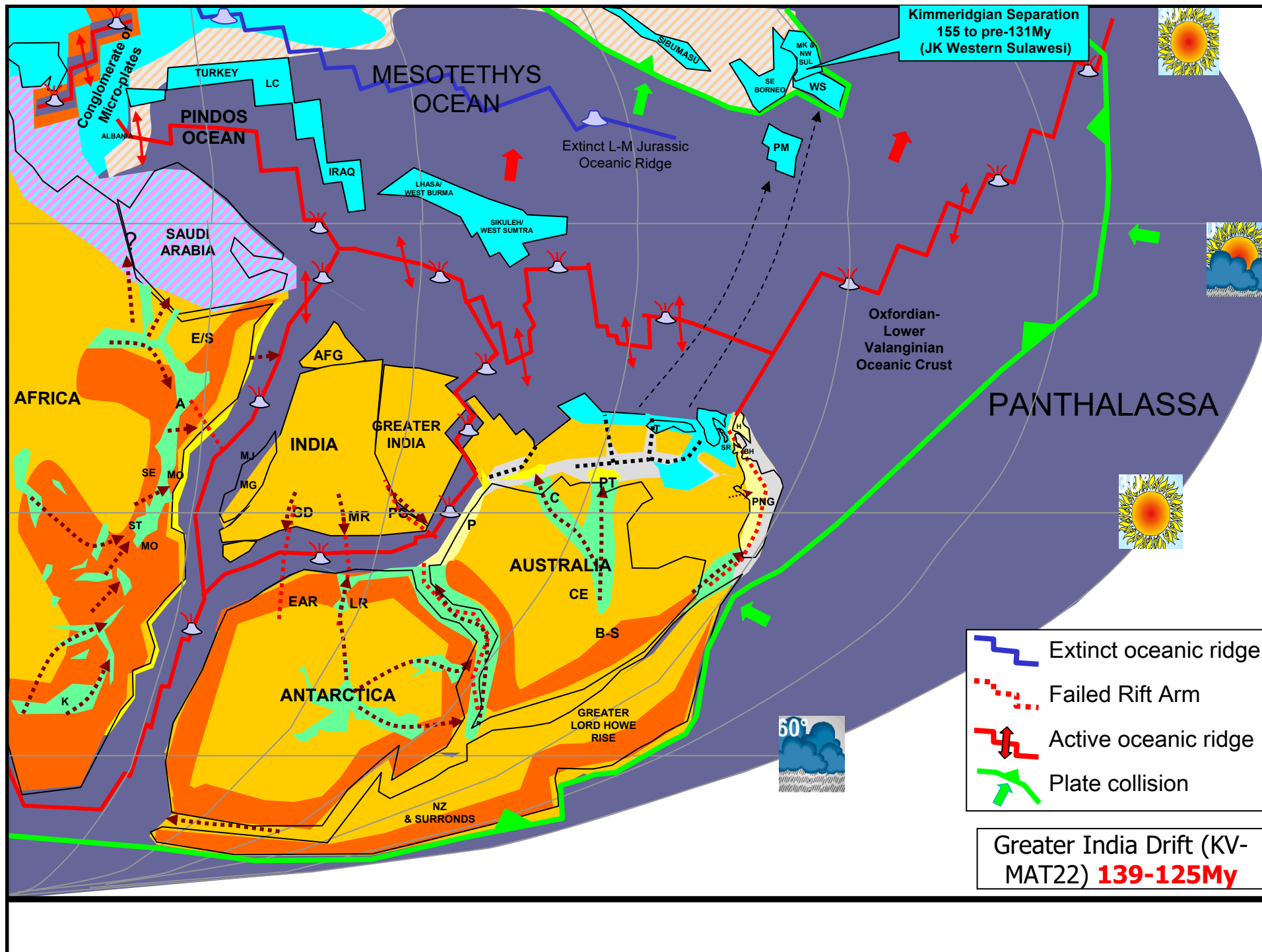
K.wisemaniae to *E.torynum* Zones

139My Valanginian plate reconstruction



Greater India/India break-up (KV)

Middle *S. areolata* Zone



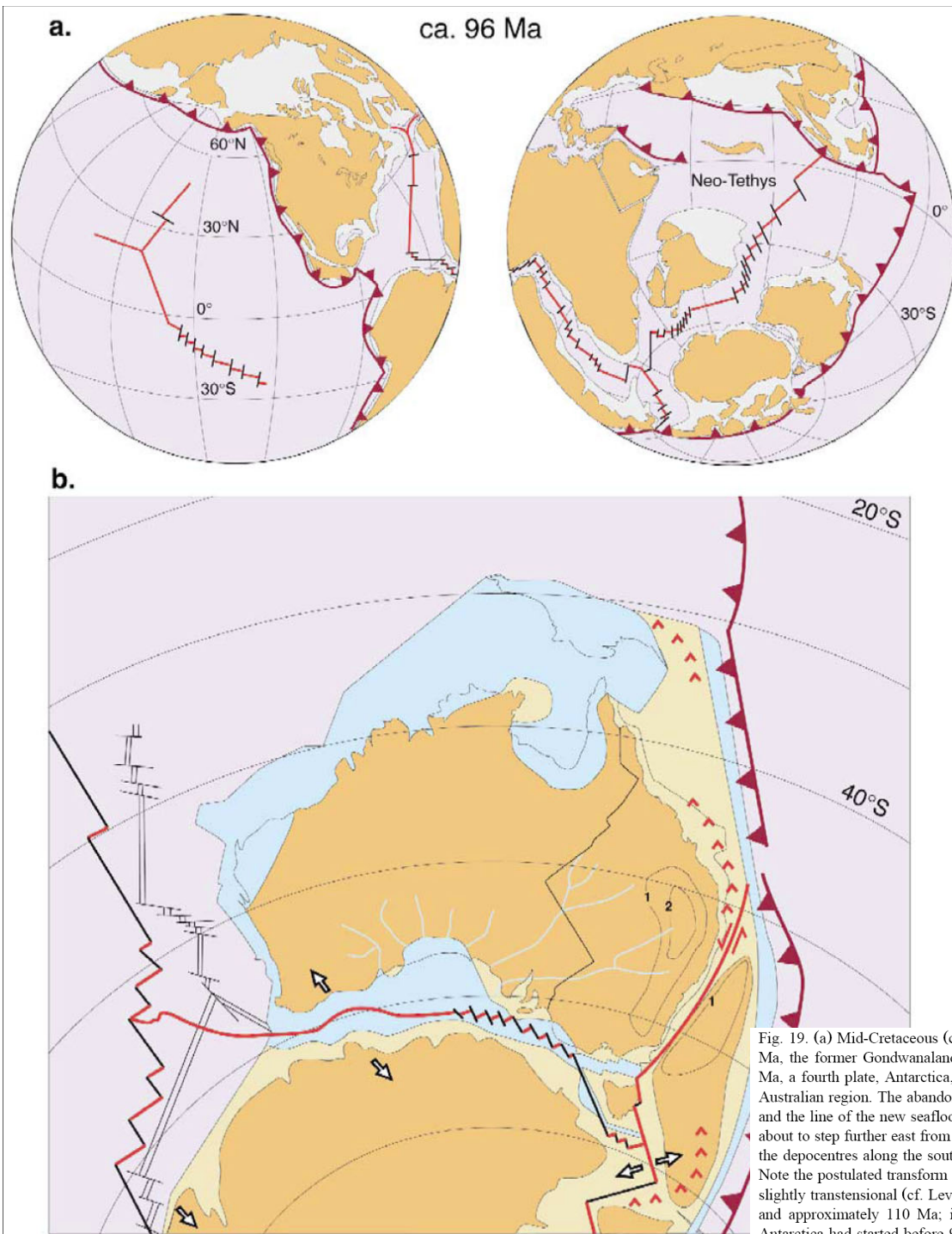


Fig. 19. (a) Mid-Cretaceous (ca. 96 Ma) reconstruction (after Powell et al., 1988; Lawver et al., 1992 and PLATES). From ca. 117 to 96 Ma, the former Gondwanaland fragments were separating on three major plates, South America, Africa-India, and Australia. Around 96 Ma, a fourth plate, Antarctica, came into existence, and soon after, India moved rapidly north on a fifth plate. (b) Palaeogeography of the Australian region. The abandoned spreading ridge in the Indian Ocean is shown as a black double line connected by single line transforms, and the line of the new seafloor spreading is shown as red lines. Volcanism in Queensland is related to extension, as the subduction zone is about to step further east from the Australian continental margin. Highlands in southeastern Australia and Queensland provided sediment for the depocentres along the southern margin of Australia. Numbered closed lines are postulated topographic contours with elevations in km. Note the postulated transform fault along the southeastern margin of Australia is depicted as a rift feature in anticipation that it had become slightly transtensional (cf. Levant transform margin to the Arabian plate). Continental stretching in New Zealand occurred between 130 Ma and approximately 110 Ma; it is possible that early seafloor spreading between New Zealand (attached to the Lord Howe Rise) and Antarctica had started before 96 Ma. Palaeogeography based on Veevers (1984) and Powell (unpubl. work).

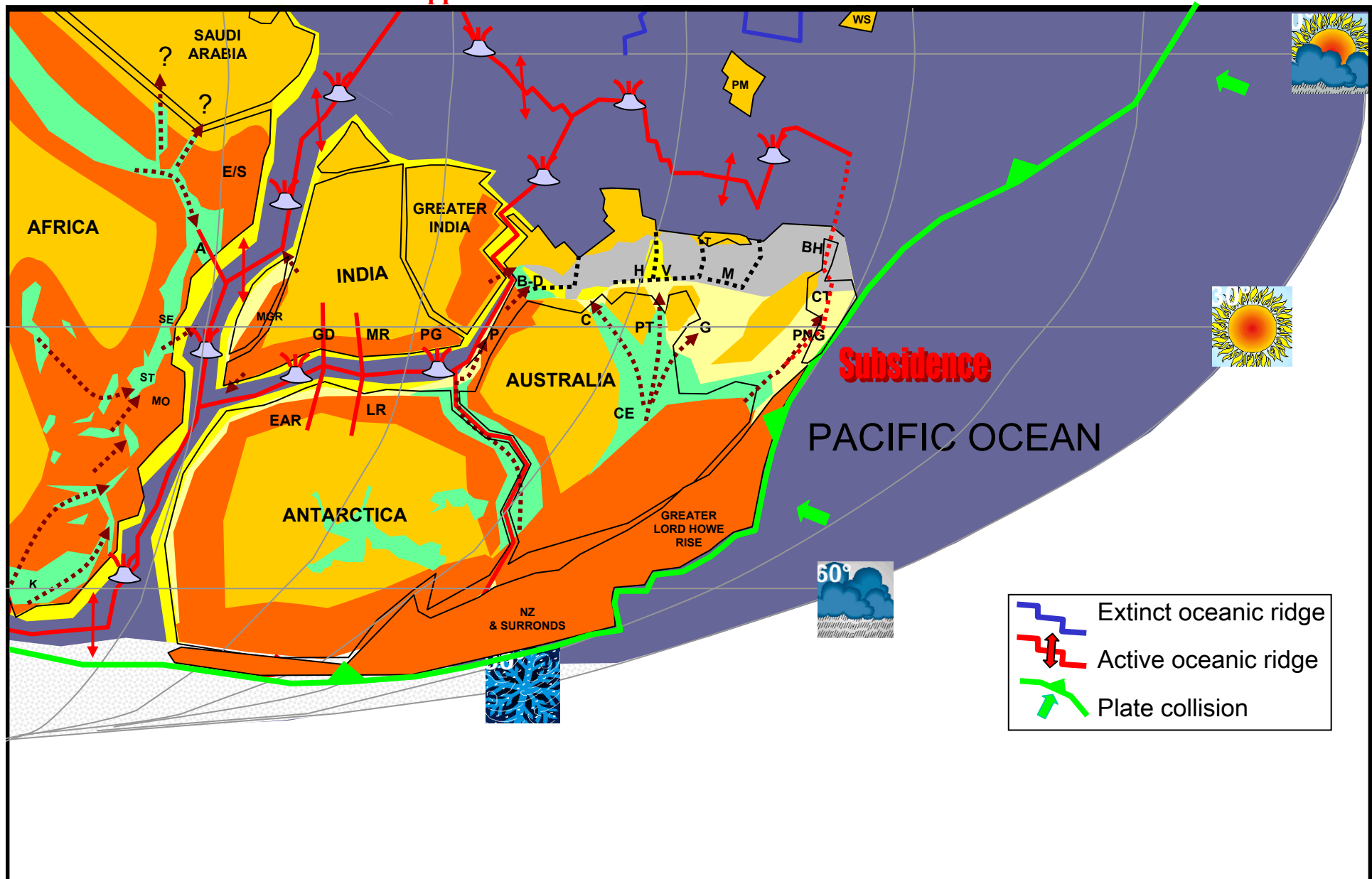
138-126My upper Valanginian to Barremian plate reconstruction



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Greater India/India break-up (KV-MAT22)

Upper *S. areolata* to *M. australis* Zone

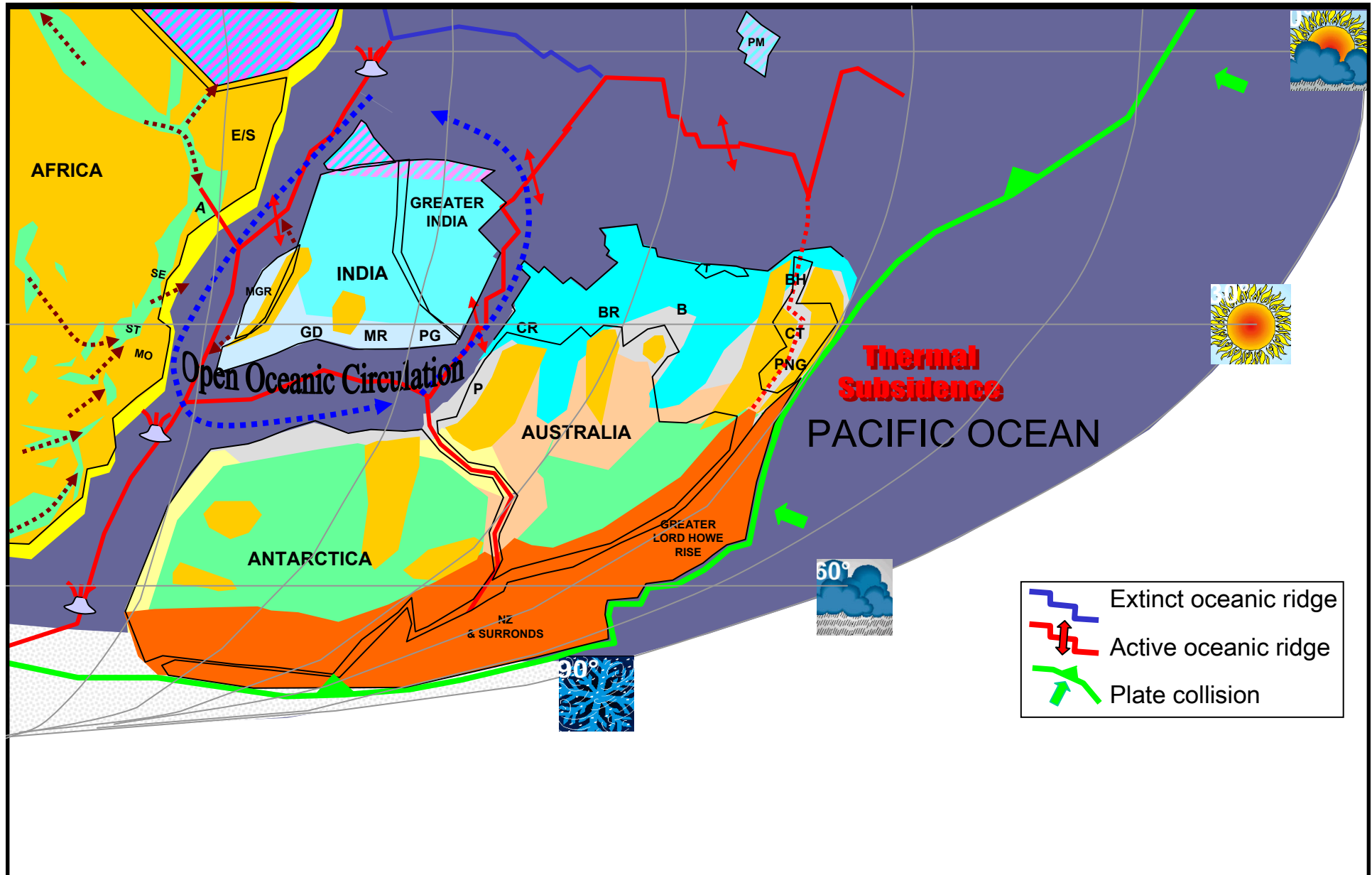


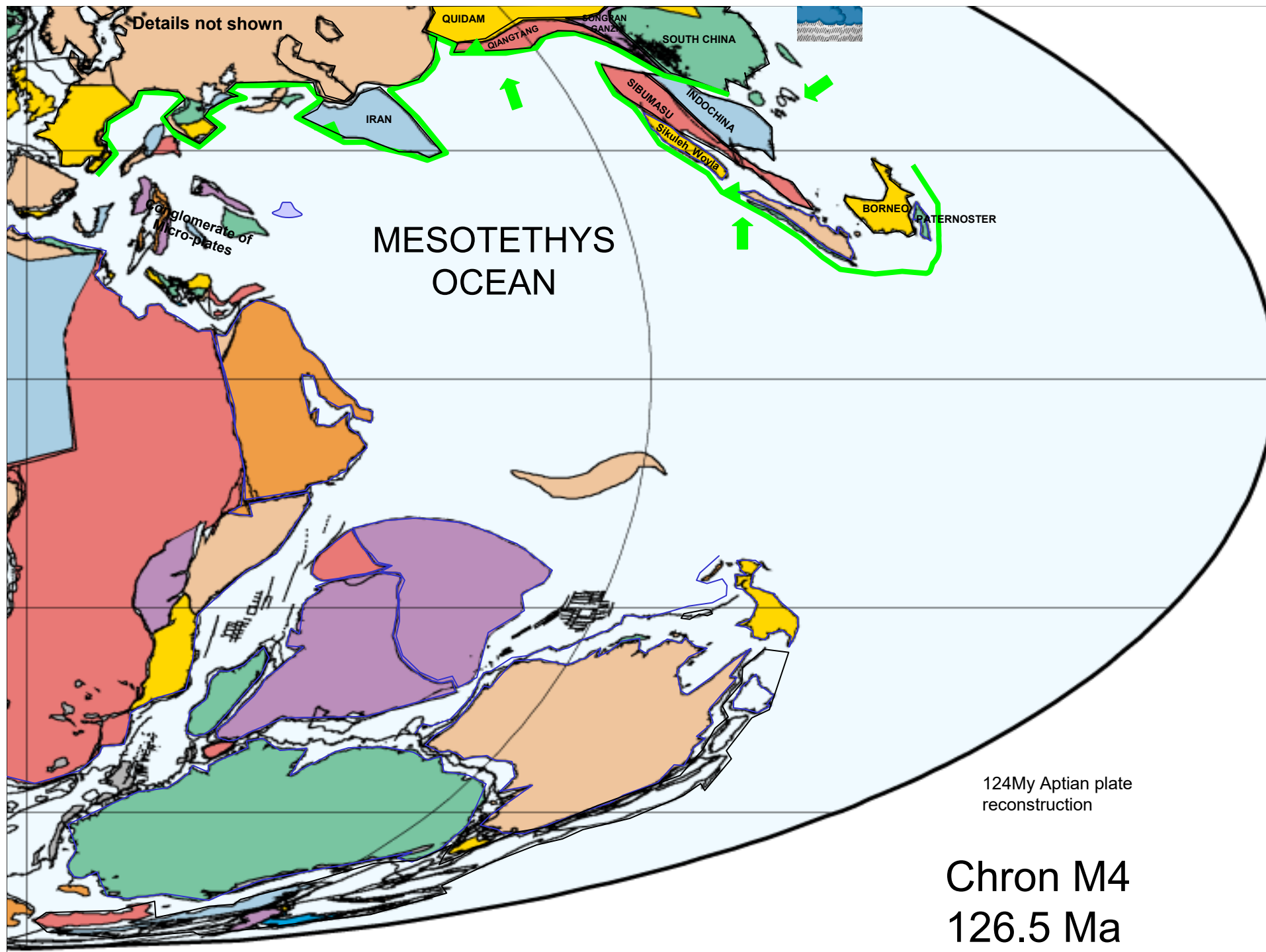
124My Aptian plate reconstruction

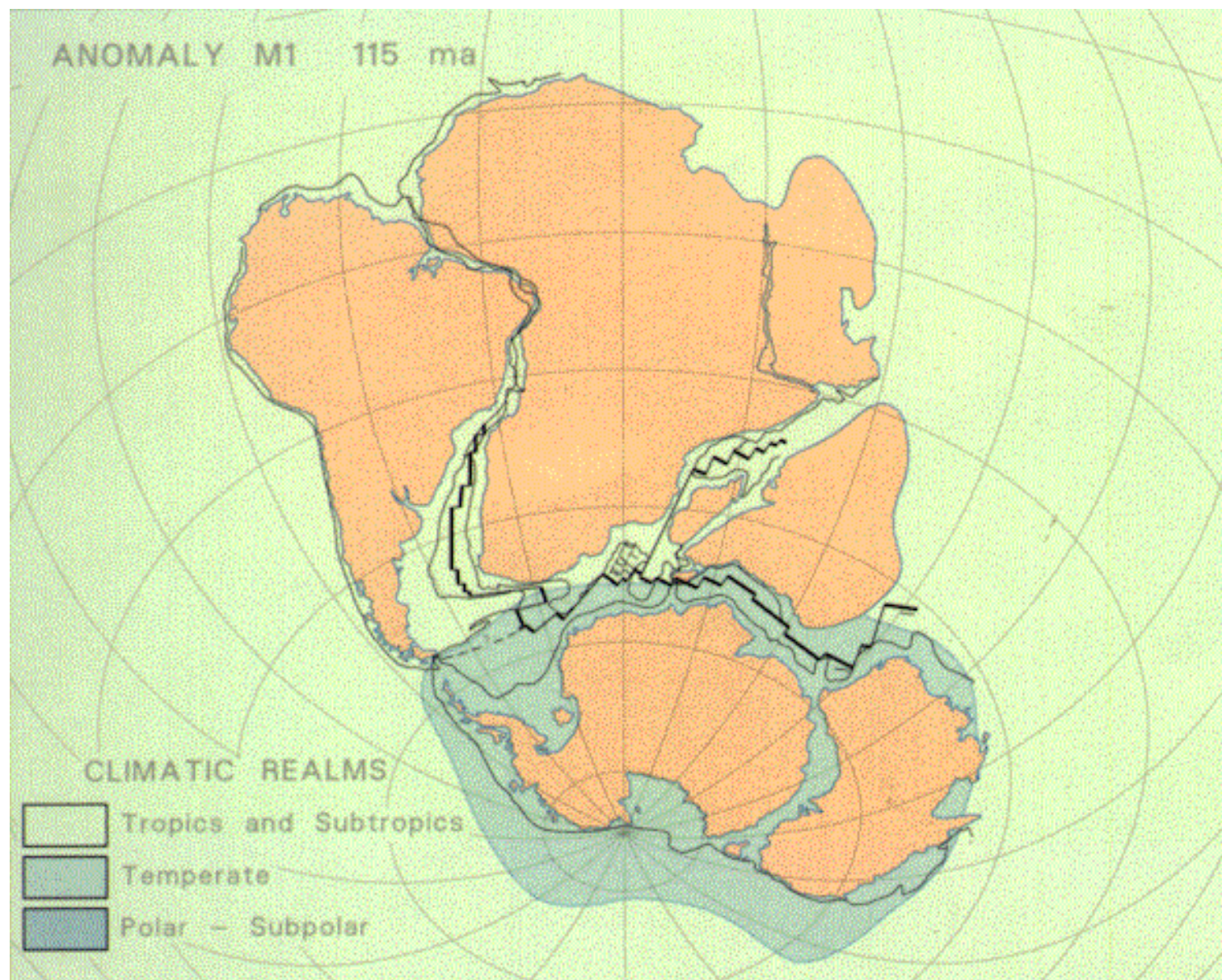
Greater India/India drift – Post-rift thermal subsidence phase (KA)

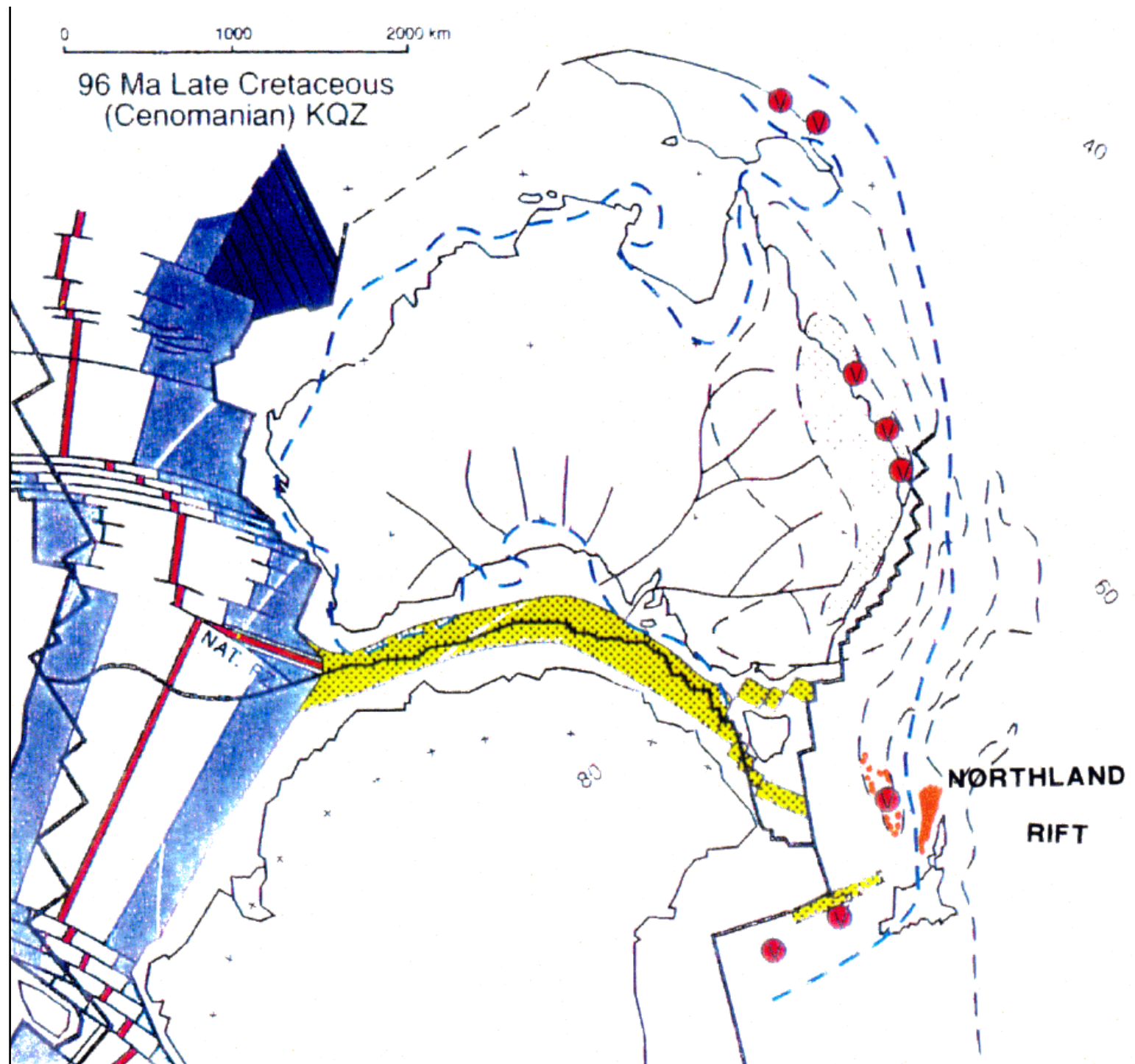


Lower O. operculata Zones

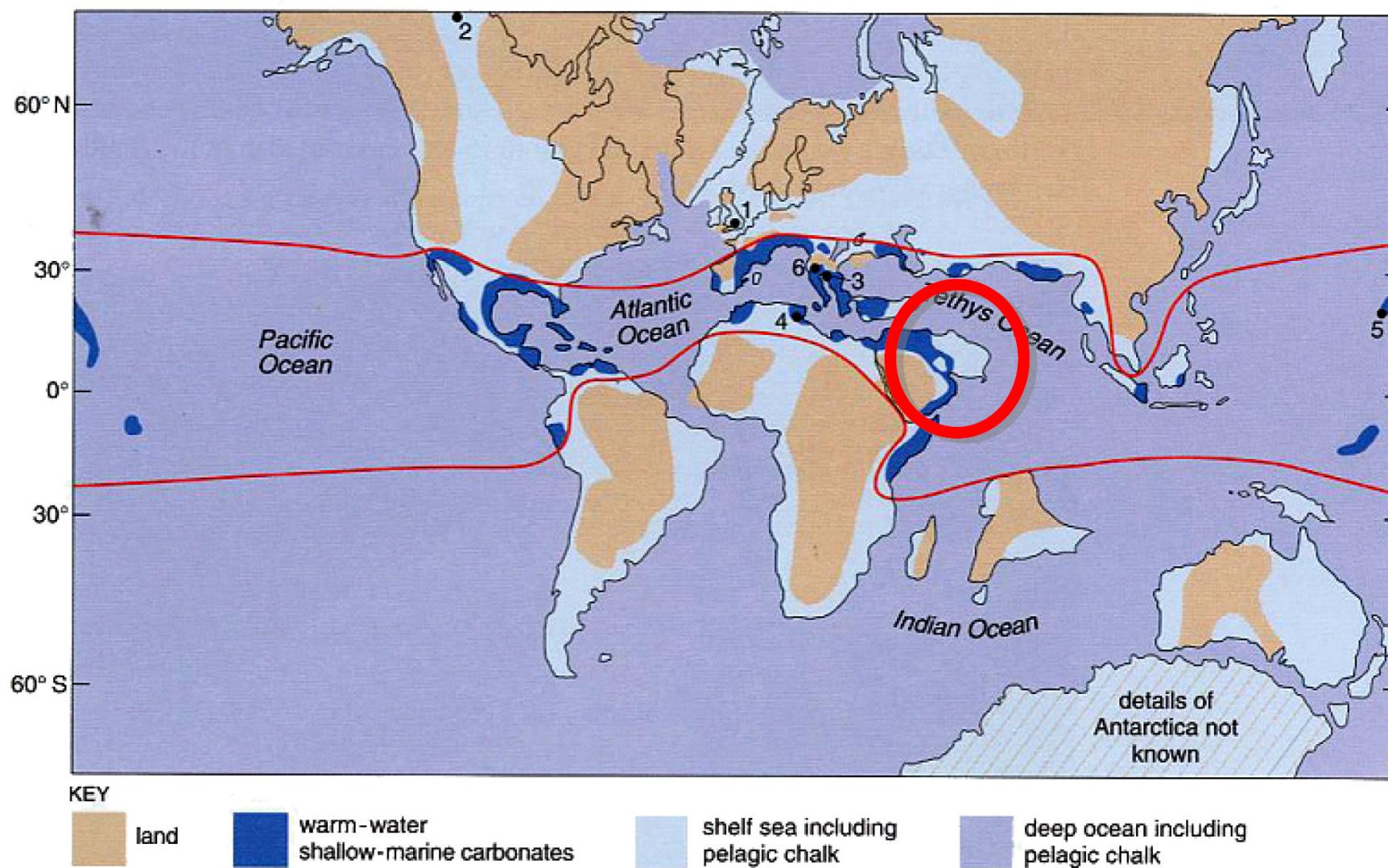








Cret Paleogeog



After Peter Skelton

Turonian 90 Ma Map

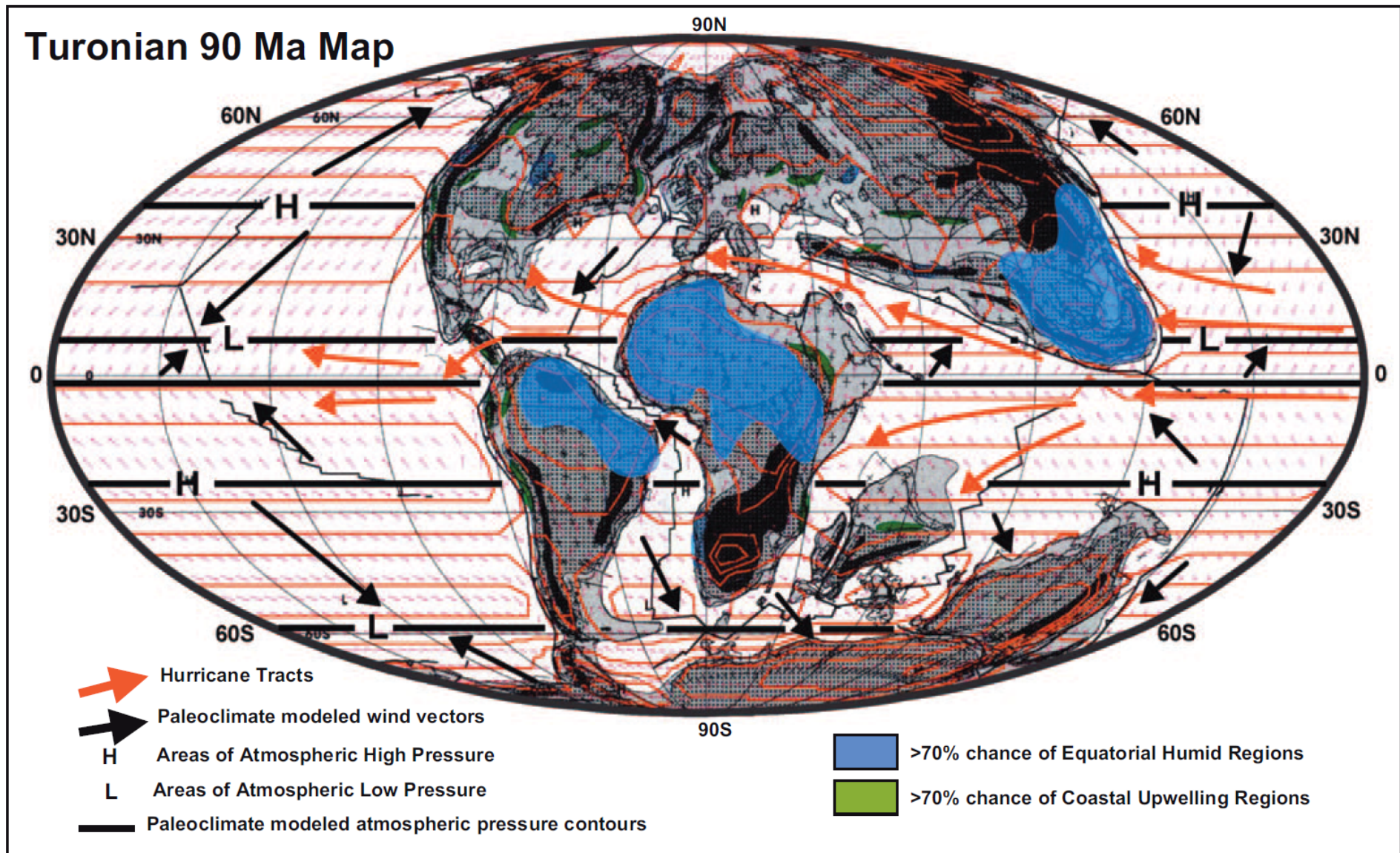


FIG. 9.—Example of a paleoclimate-modeled map from the map series of Golonka et al. (1994) (Late Cretaceous, Turonian—90 Ma). This map was first developed using 1990s computer models for paleoclimate reconstruction. Atmospheric attributes and climate phenomena probabilities were calculated from parametric modeling. Hurricane or large oceanic storm tracks were nonquantitatively determined, and were included on the maps as analog interpretations for this research project. See text discussion for explanation of paleo-storm tract interpretations. All interpreted paleoclimate maps with superimposed storm tracks are presented in Appendix 5 and are on the enclosed CD.

94My Turonian plate reconstruction

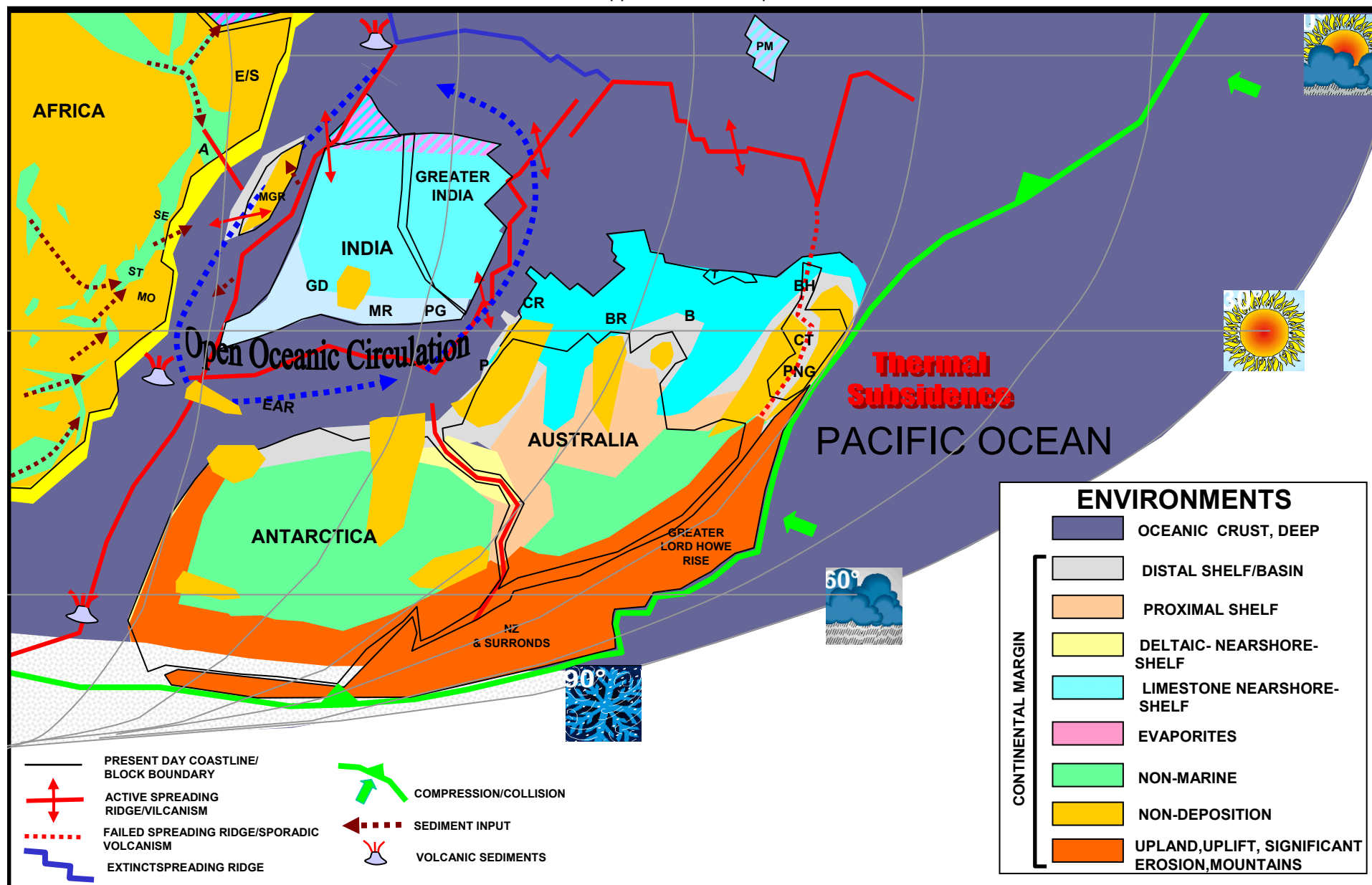
Australia<->Antarctica, Madagascar<->Greater India Separation

– Post-rift thermal subsidence phase on NWS (KC to T)

uppermost *D.multispinum*

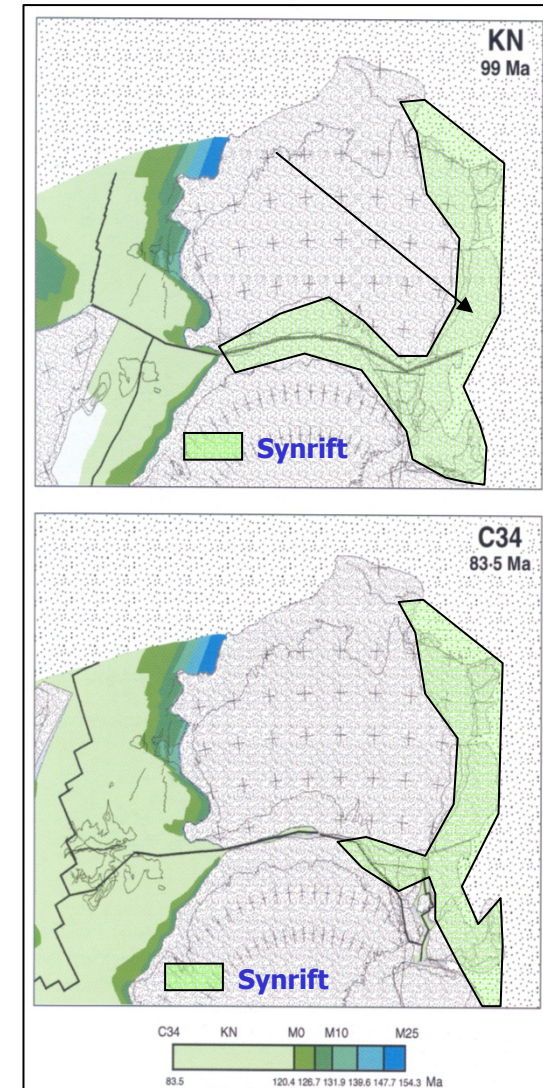
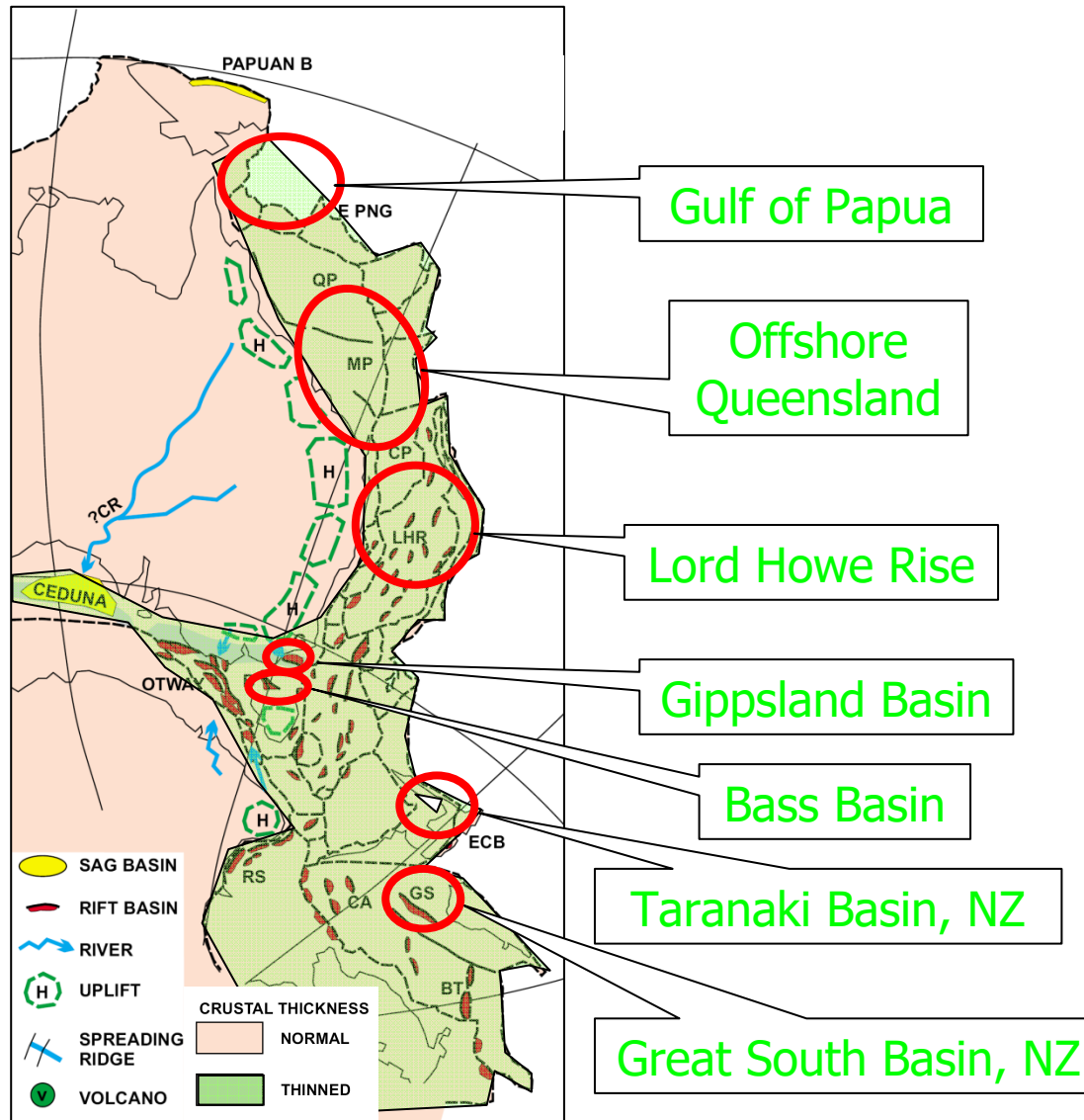


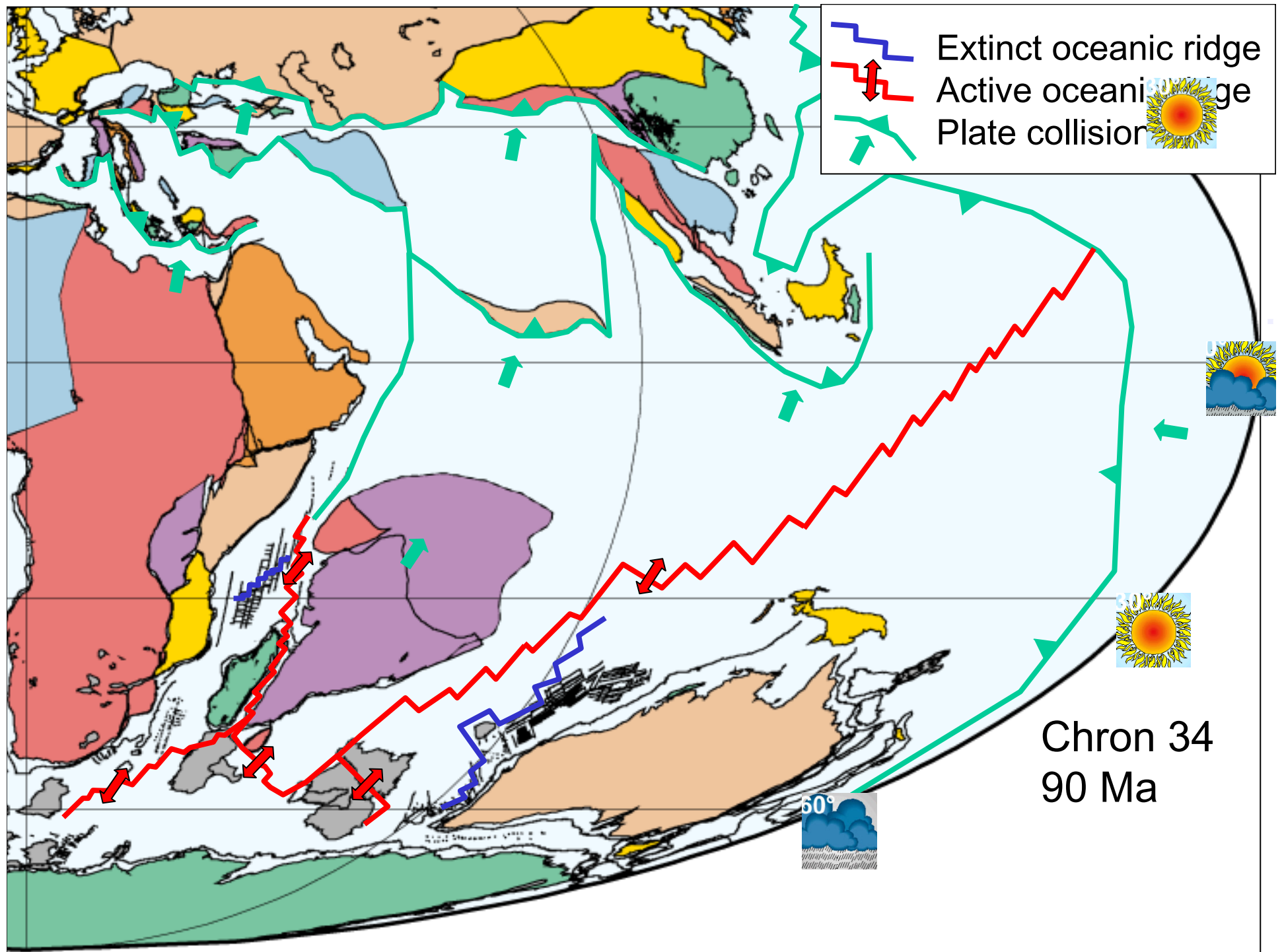
DJGeoscience



94My Turonian plate reconstruction

Onset of Synrift - Australia-Antarctica 1st Crustal Stretch

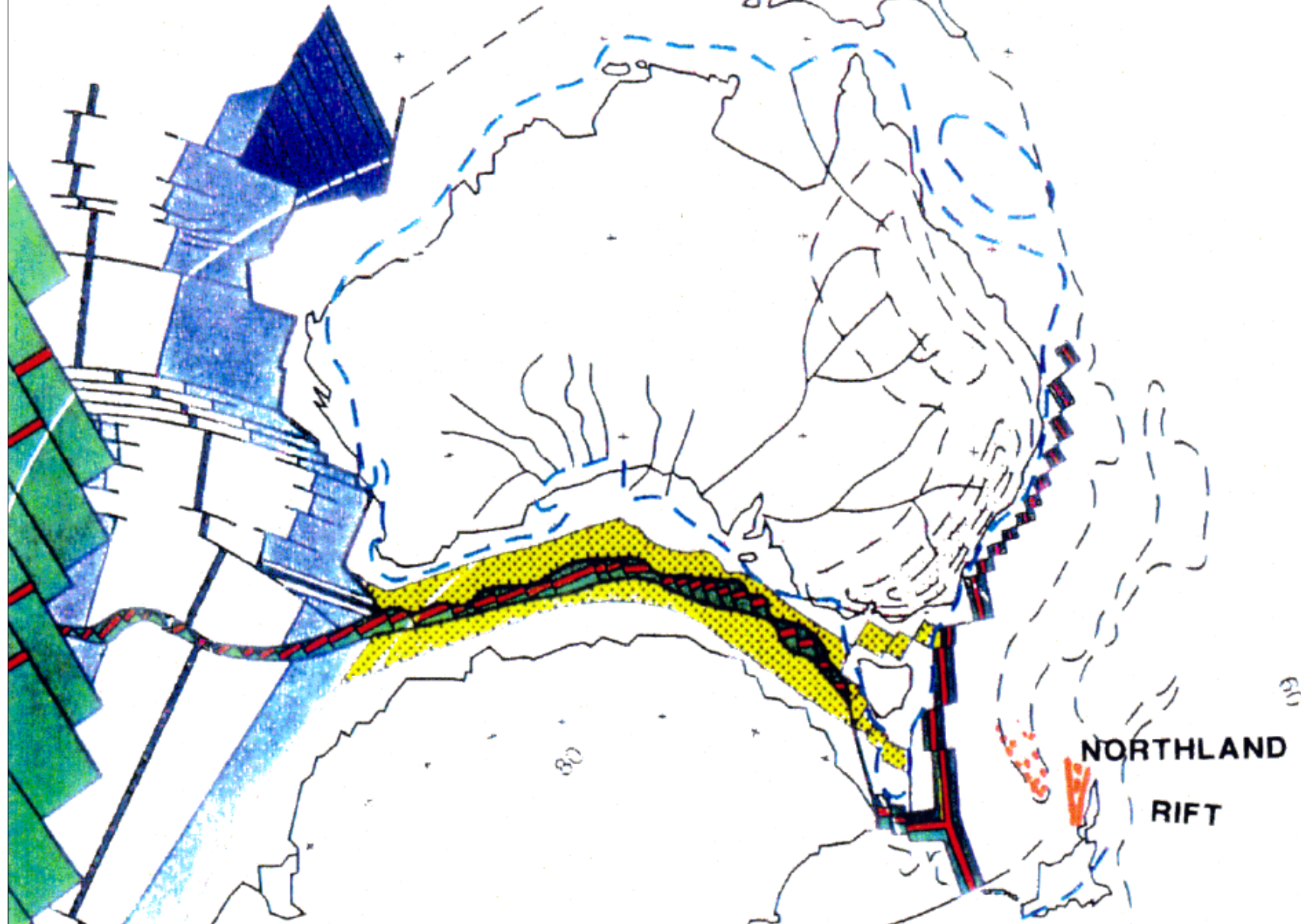






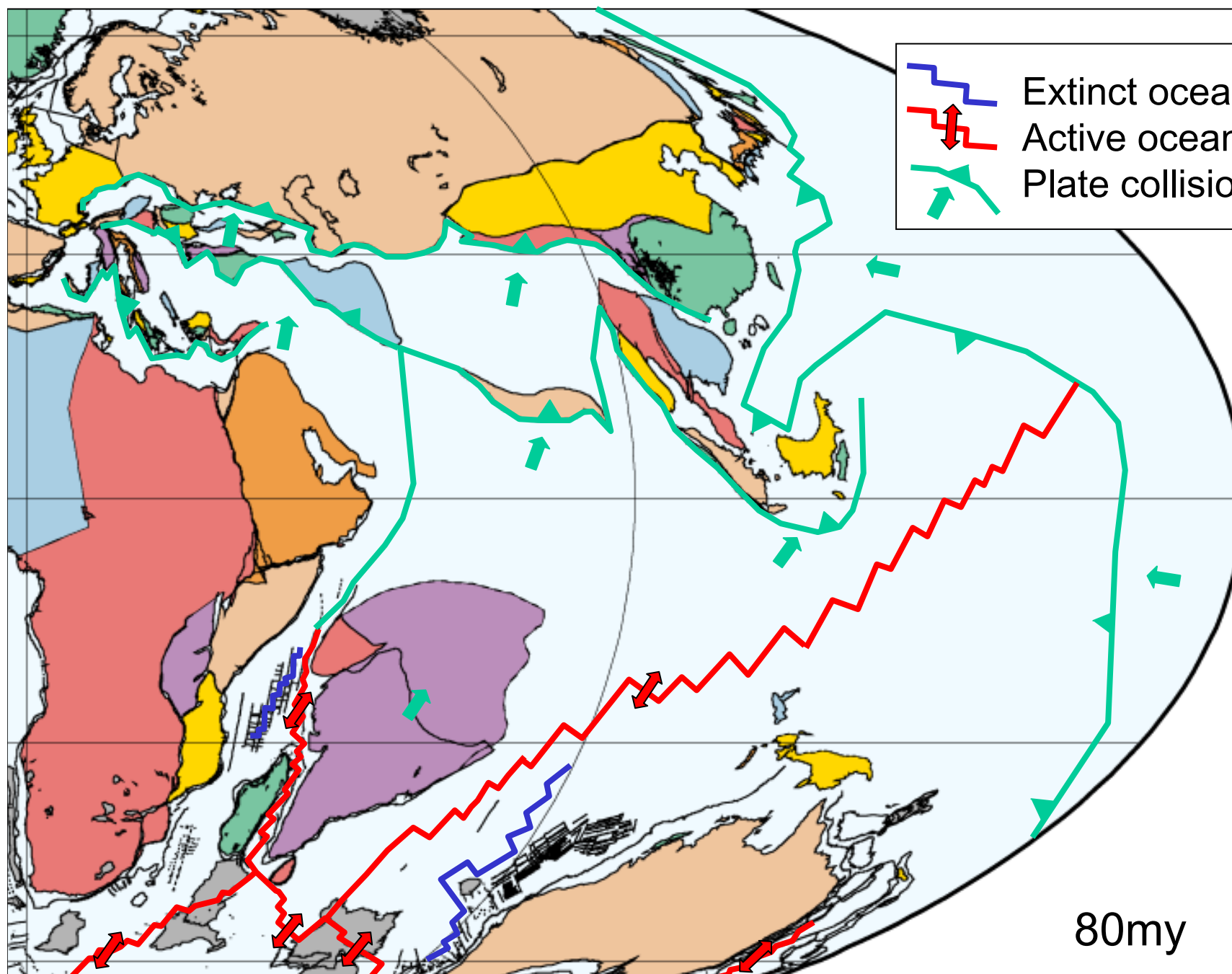
0 1000 2000 km

84 Ma Late Cretaceous A34y
(Campanian/Santonian)





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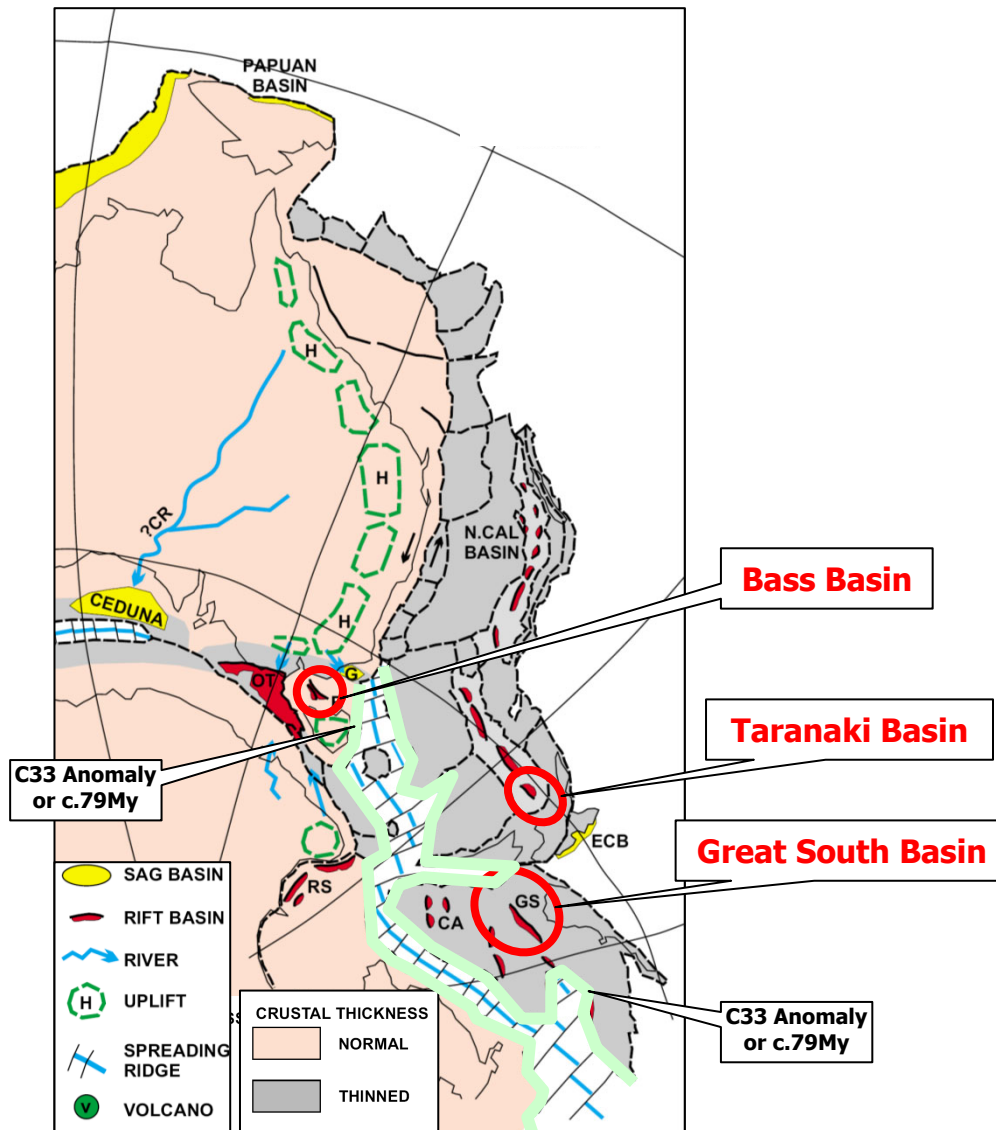


- Extinct oceanic ridge
- Active oceanic ridge
- Plate collision

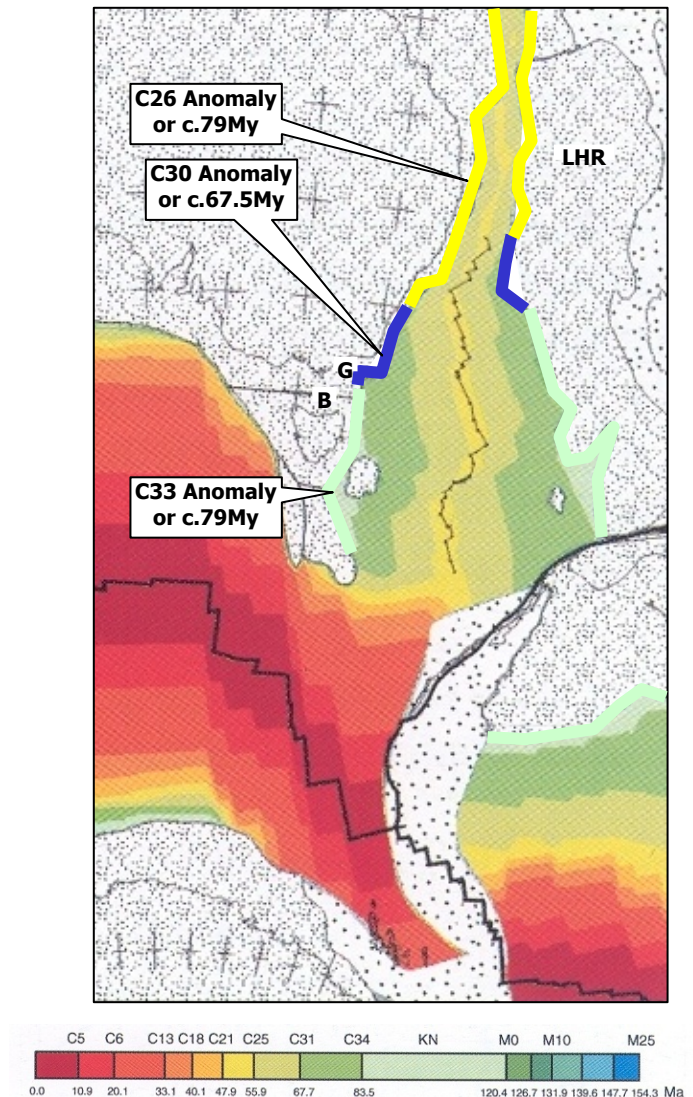
79My Campanian plate reconstruction

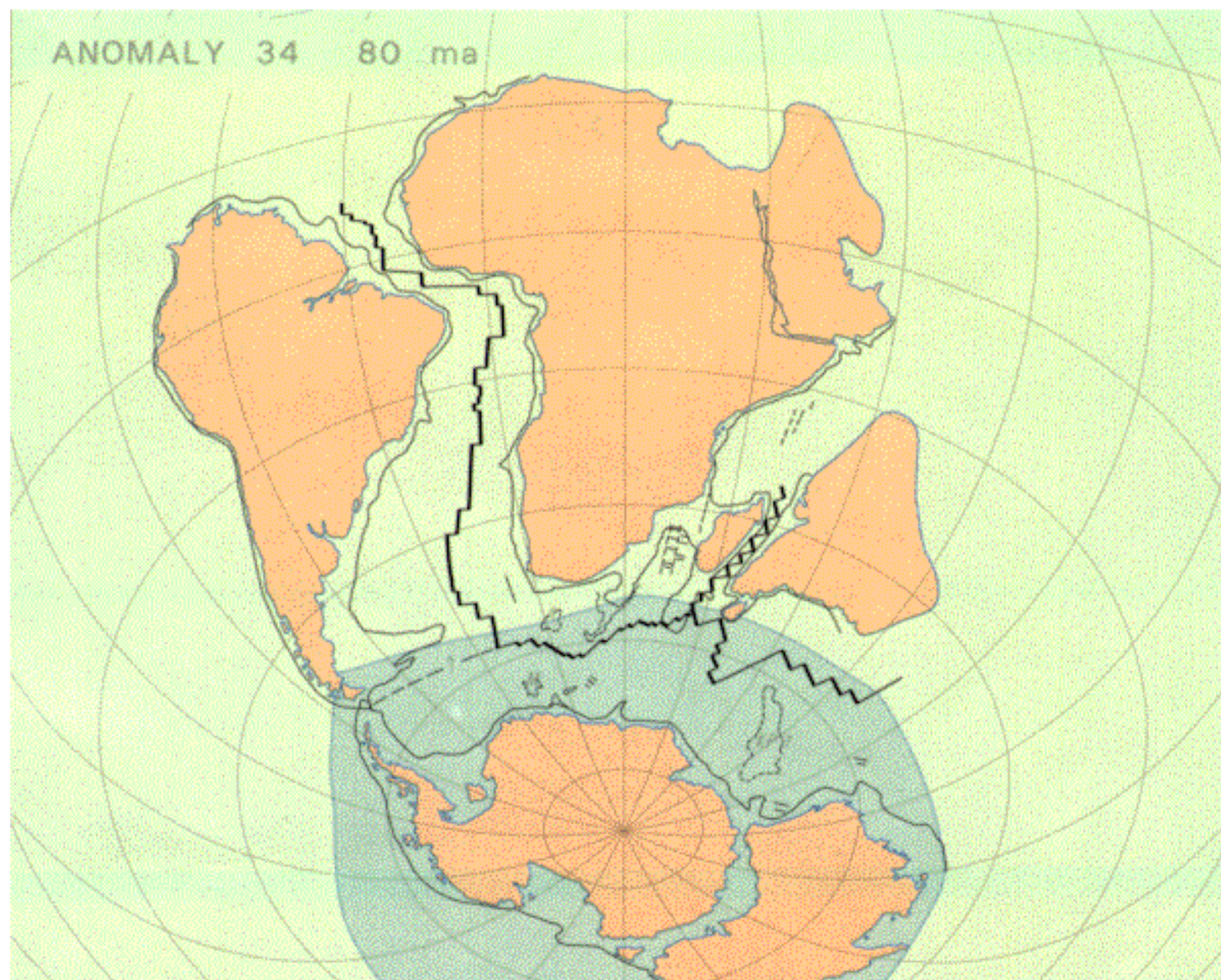


Break-up Unconformities (1st Oceanic Crust at c.79My)

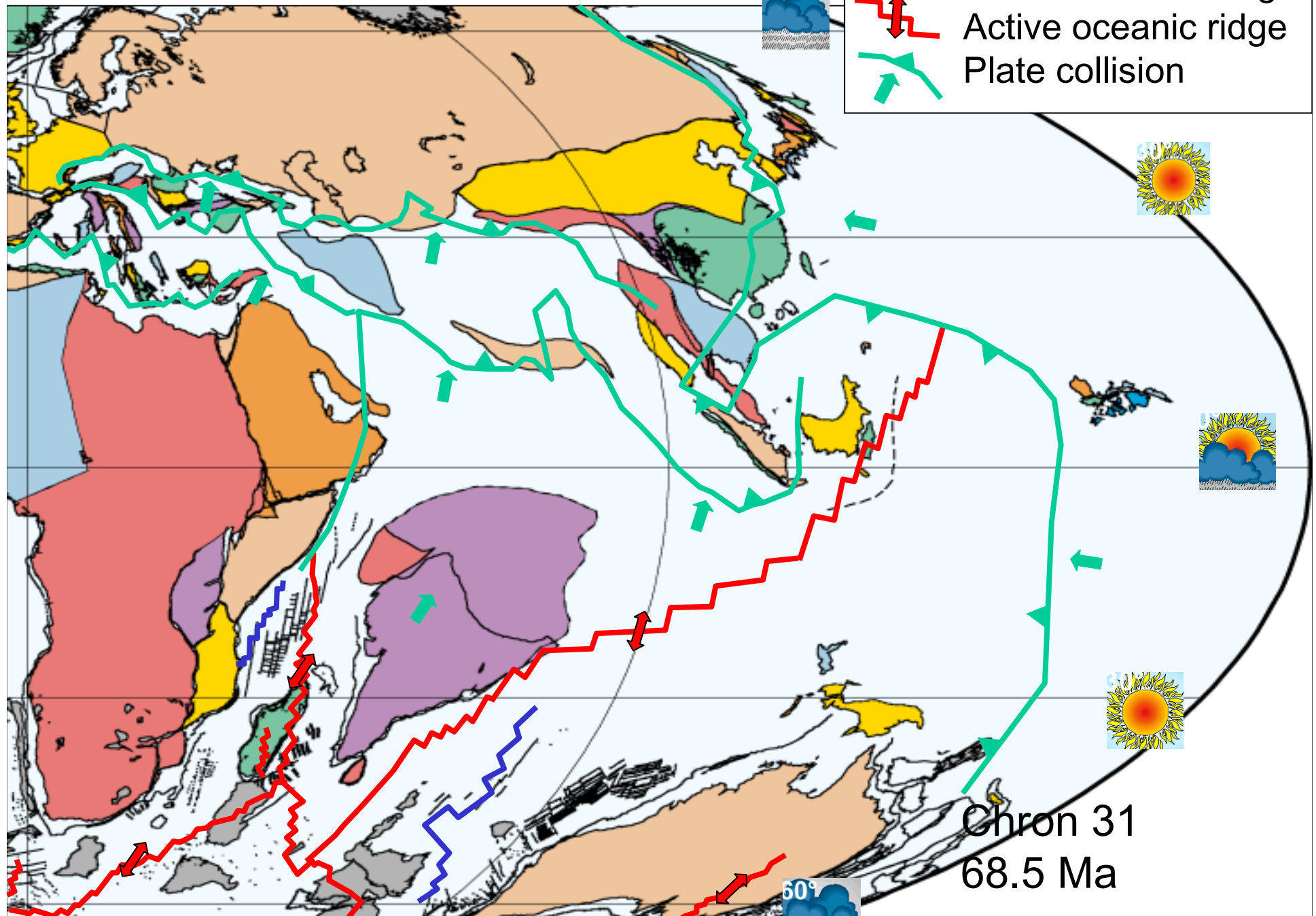


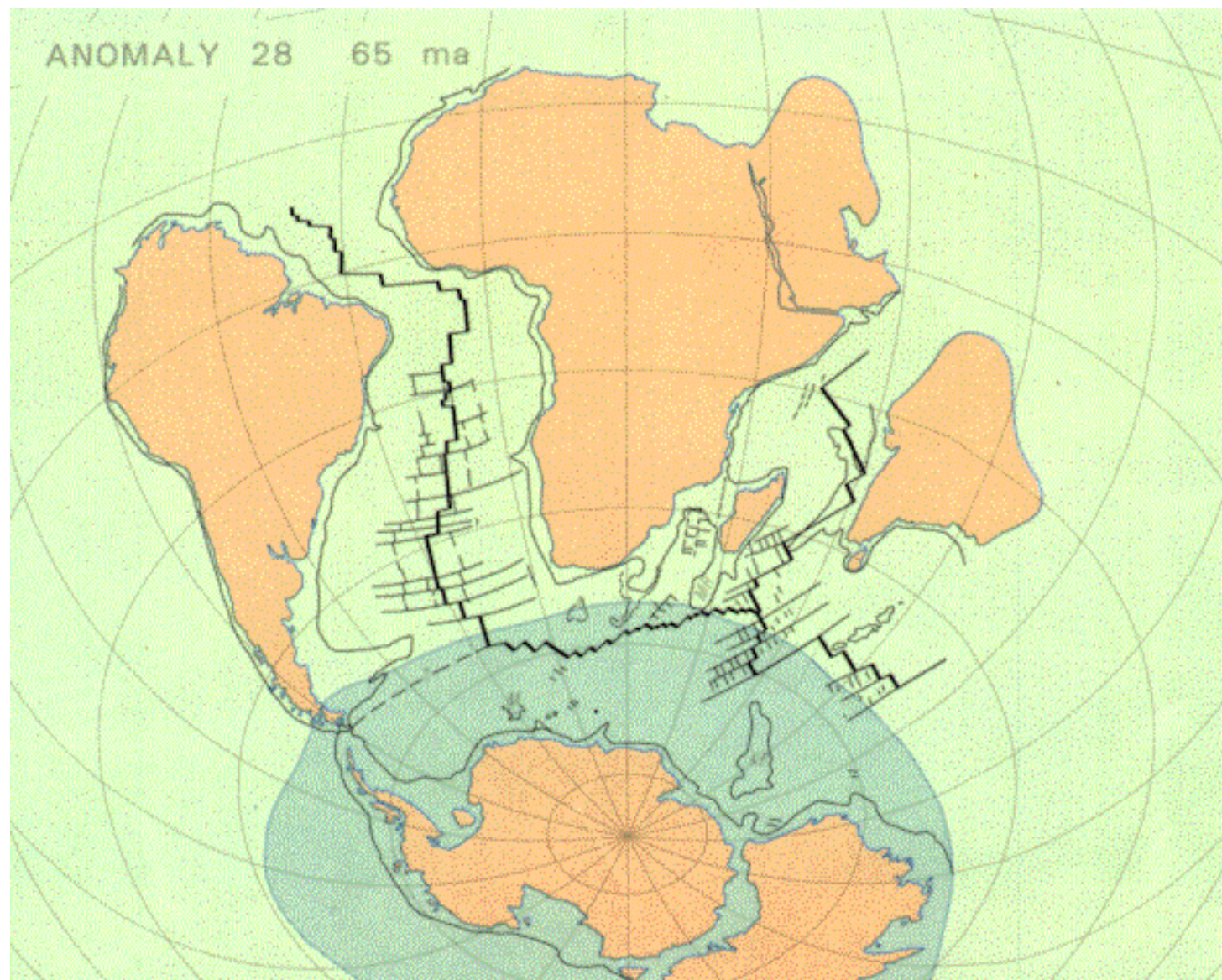
Sea Floor Spreading History





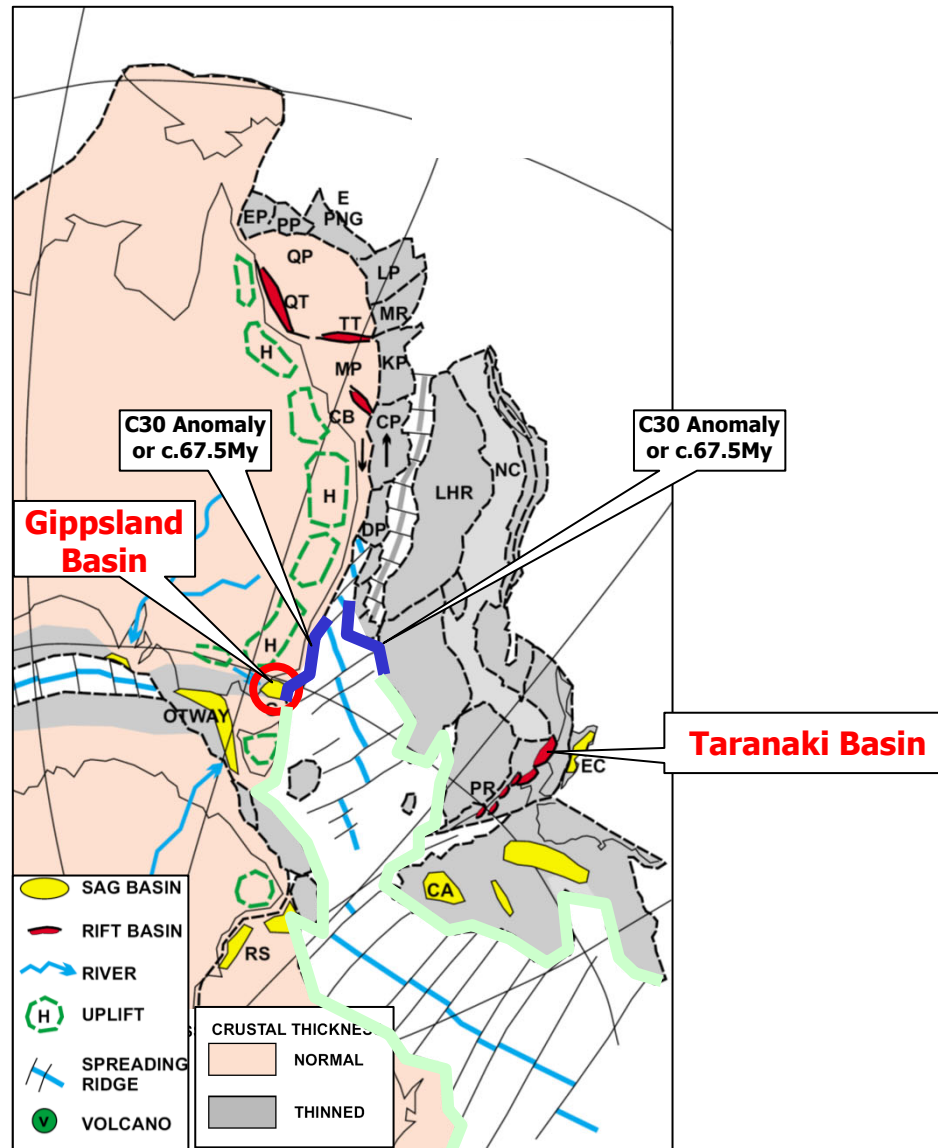
- Extinct oceanic ridge
- Active oceanic ridge
- Plate collision



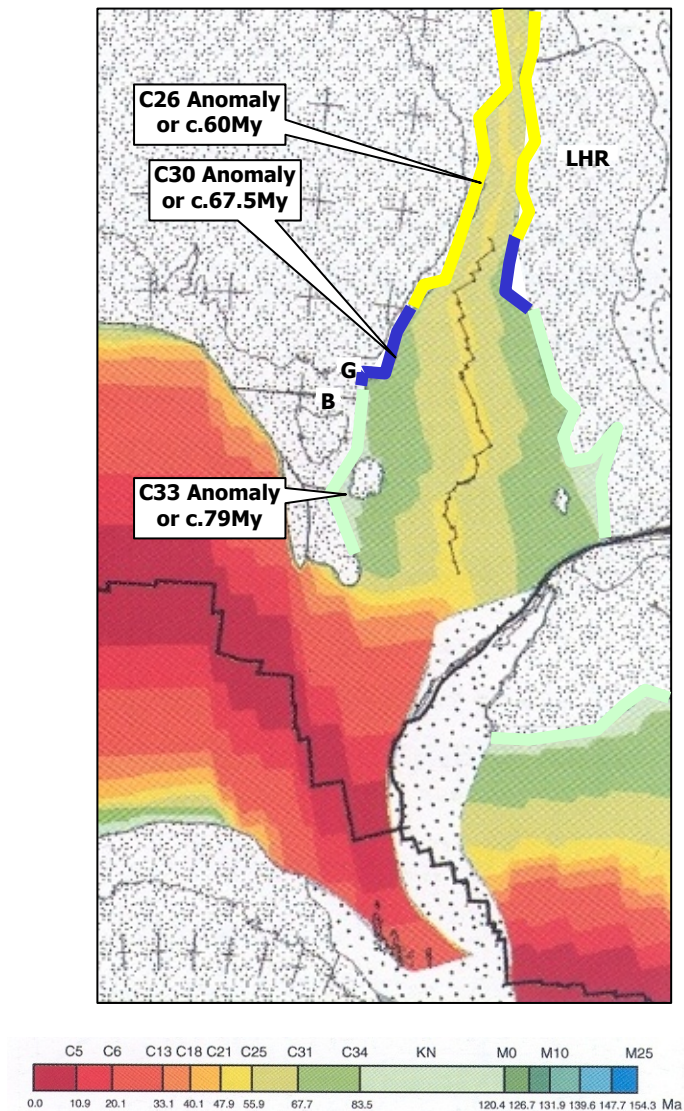


67.5My Intra_Maastrichtian plate reconstruction

Break-up Unconformities (1st Oceanic Crust at 76.5My)



Sea Floor Spreading History



94-66My Turonian to Maastrichtian plate reconstruction

