

Annotation

The study discusses the concept of a terrain, a regional-scale geological body within the fold belt composition, its formation mechanisms, classifications based on origin and types, and its role in the scientific understanding of the Earth's crust evolution. A terrain is a regional-scale geological unit in the fold belt structure, bounded by faults and characterized by its own geological history, including stratigraphy, magmatism, metamorphism, and tectonics.

A schematic representation of the terrane subdivision in the Caucasus is provided. It is demonstrated that within the modern structure, in the central segment of the active belt in the Mediterranean region, five terrains have been identified: the Greater Caucasus, Black Sea–Central Transcaucasia, Baiburt-Sevan, Anatolian, and Iran-Afghanistan composite terrains. In the geological past, these terrains represented ensimatic or ensialic island arcs or microcontinents. These terrains are first-order accretionary terrains, separated by ophiolitic sutures, known as suture zones.