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PREFACE

Geology of the Circum-Black Sea Region – Part C Pontides

This special issue comprises selected presentations from the 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, which was held in Ankara on 5-9th October 2009. It was organized jointly by the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) and the Chamber of Geological Engineers (JMO). The first two special issues of the Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences based on the Symposium were devoted to the geology of the Caucasus and that of the Balkans, respectively. This third and final special issue is on the geology of the Pontides.

This third special issue on the geology of the Circum-Black Sea region includes seven papers on the geology of the Pontides, which is the mountain chain rising steeply from the southern shore of the Black Sea. The western part of the Pontides is taken up by the İstanbul Zone, an exotic terrane with Avalonian affinities. The well-developed Palaeozoic sedimentary succession of the Istanbul Zone is the subject of the first two papers. Özgül provides the first overall synthesis of the Palaeozoic geology of the Istanbul region since Paeckelmann's studies in the 1930s. It is based on extensive subsurface and surface data sets. Sachanski et al provide new palaeontological data from the Silurian successions from the eastern part of the İstanbul Zone. The other major tectonic unit in the Pontides is the Sakarya Zone. The timing of the amalgamation of the İstanbul and Sakarya zones is addressed by Özcan *et al.* Through measured stratigraphic sections in the Cretaceous–Eocene sequences in northwest Turkey, Özcan et al show that these two terranes were juxtaposed before the Late Cretaceous. The pre-Jurassic basement of the Sakarya Zone has two major components: a Hercynian (Carboniferous) crystalline core and Cimmeride (Permo–Triassic) subduction-accretion complexes, commonly known as the Karakaya Complex. These are the subject of the papers by Ustaömer *et al.*, and Robertson & Ustaömer, respectively. The Pontides are well known as the site of a major Late Cretaceous magmatic arc. The stratigraphy of the arc sequences is discussed in Tüysüz *et al.*, and Yılmaz-Şahin *et al.* provide new isotopic and geochemical data from a granitic intrusion in the İstanbul region. The granite was emplaced during the veining stages of the arc magmatism.

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