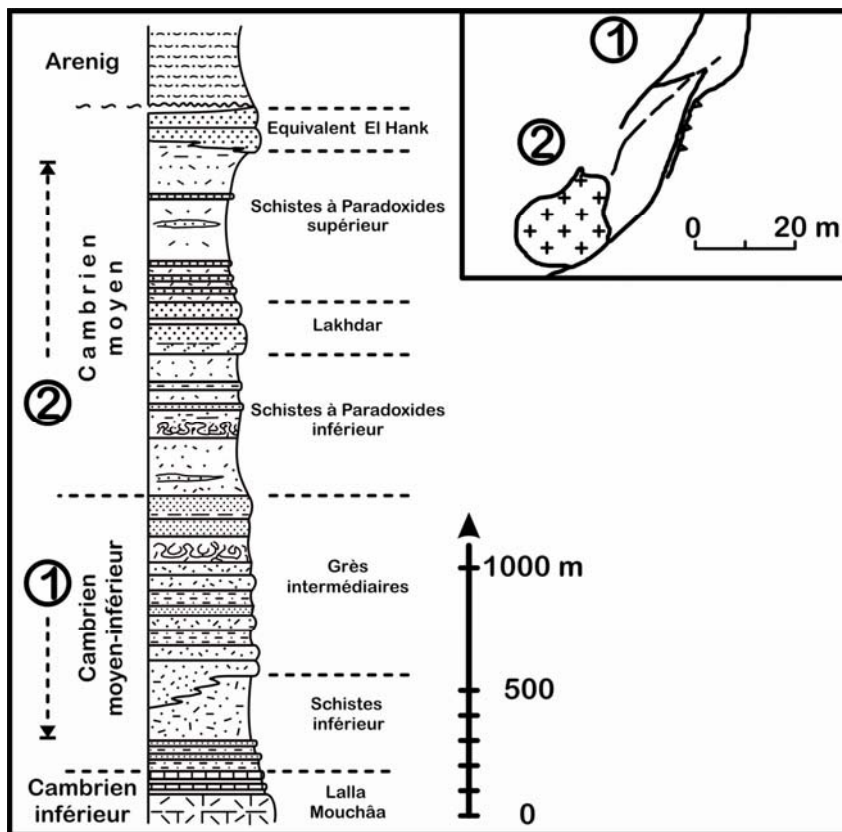


On the Cambrian of the Coastal Block (Moroccan Meseta): Lithostratigraphy, Magmatism and Palaeogeographic Implications

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The Coastal Block of the Moroccan Meseta between Rabat and Essaouira in central Morocco contains a thick succession of Early Palaeozoic volcano-sedimentary rocks. They originated in a graben-like structure, those formation started during the Early Cambrian. The initial phase of the basin was accompanied by a marine transgression resulting in the formation of predominantly carbonatic rocks (dolomites of the Cape of El Jadida, limestones of Lalla Mouchâa and archaeocyathid limestones of the Jbel Irhoud). Succeeding regression of the sea with the beginning of the Middle Cambrian caused an accumulation of detrital deposits (greywacke, sandstone, mudstones). The upper part of the Middle Cambrian succession is



marked by volcanic activity, especially materialized in the Sidi Saïd Mâachou, Wadi Rhebbar and Sidi Ali Ben Younes regions: The geochemical analysis of these lavas suggests an intraplate, non-orogenic environment.

Cambrian stratigraphic section of the SE part of the Coastal Block (after Michard, 1967).

MICHARD, A. (1967). Plissement concentrique, plissement synschisteux et granitisation dans le Cambro-ordovicien des Rehamna occidentaux (Maroc). *C. R. Somm. Soc. géol. France*, 8, 347-348.