

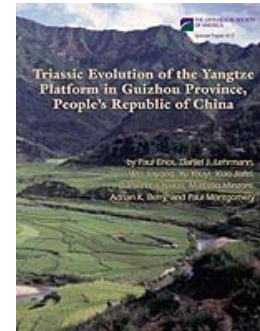


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Triassic Evolution of the Yangtze Platform in Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China, edited by Paul Enos, Daniel J. Lehrmann, Wei Jiayong, Yu Youyi, Xiao Jiafei, Daniel H. Chaikin, Marcello Minzoni, Adrian K. Berry & Paul Montgomery, 2006. GSA Special Paper 417. Geological Society of America, <http://granite.geosociety.org/bookstore/>. Softcover, 105 pages. Price USD 28.00 (members); USD 40.00 (non-members). ISBN 0-8137-2417-1.



This book gives a detailed description of the Triassic rocks on the Yangtze Platform and adjacent basin in Guizhou Province, the western periphery (in present-day coordinates) of the South China Block. In Triassic times, the Yangtze Platform was one of the largest persistent regions of shallow-water deposition in the world, dominated by carbonates in Early to Middle Triassic times, and by clastics in Late Triassic times.

The 105 pages of this booklet conventionally follow the lithostratigraphy of the region, providing a thorough account of some twenty formations, including lithology, paleontology and interpretation of the depositional environment. An outcrop facies-distribution map accompanies most intervals, together with—often poor—photographs of outcrops and thin sections. With the exception of one facies-distribution map, all illustrations are in black and white. In addition, five one-page lithostratigraphic correlation panels minutely depict 32 difficult-to-read lithologic logs. Except for one tabular description of the lithostratigraphic nomenclature, unfortunately no attempt has been made to provide a graphical representation of the chronostratigraphy (time-rock chart). The ideas of sequence stratigraphy apparently have not reached this part of the world yet. However, the most disappointing shortcoming of the book is the complete lack of paleogeographic maps (except for one small illustration in the beginning), neither static nor palinspastically reconstructed.

From a book with the word “evolution” in the title, one would expect an attempt to provide a certain insight into the geological historical and regional context, together with an explanation why certain events happened. Generic qualifications like the “the configuration changed,” or “the basin deepened” are probably very accurate, but do not help to improve the understanding of the reader.

In conclusion, it will be hard to find a target audience for this book. Except for the traditional academic geologists, studying the lithostratigraphy of the South China Block, few practical or regional geologists will benefit from its content. Furthermore, the poor reproduction of the book (by present-day standards) does not contribute to increase its appeal.

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