Crustal evolution of the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain in the Baltic Sea region

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The Precambrian crust in the Baltic Sea area represents a southeastern extension of the Fennoscandian Shield concealed beneath the East European platform sediments. Drill core samples (162-2600 m) have been studied with respect to petrography, geochemistry and U-Pb zircon geochronology (ICP-MS and SIMS) in order to improve the understanding of the crustal evolution along the southwestern margin of the ca. 1.9 Ga Svecofennian Domain. It can be presented as a sequence of younging belts from the central part of the Baltic Sea (Gotland) to the Polish coast:

1. Detrital zircons in Svecofennian metasedimentary rocks on northern Gotland record three age populations: 2.11-1.96, 2.95-2.63 Ga and 3.29 Ga, which indicate pre-Svecofennian sources. The lack of Svecofennian sources is not common in metasedimentary rocks elsewhere in the Svecofennian Domain.

2. A Svecofennian amphibolite-granitoid complex on central Gotland can be correlated with southern Bergslagen in the Fennoscandian Shield and the Mid-Lithuanian Domain. It consists of 1.88 Ga orthogneisses and amphibolites with a volcanic island arc affinity [1].

3. A km-thick sequence of ca. 1.87 Ga fluvial quartz-dominated metasedimentary rocks along the Svecofennian margin are intercalated with mafic metavolcanic rocks with within-plate basalt affinity.

4. Continental margin granitoids intruded into the Svecofennian margin from southwestern Bergslagen to northwestern Lithuania. These TIB 0 granitoids were dated at 1.85 Ga on Gotland and in E6-1 drill core, offshore Latvia [2].

5. A rifted marine volcanic arc was identified within the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and was shown to be contemporaneous with the continental margin TIB 0 granitoids [3].

6. After the accretion of the volcanic arc to the Svecofennian margin, three generations of continental margin granitoids (TIB 1 a-c) were emplaced. The 1.81-1.79 Ga TIB 1a granitoids intruded into Svecofennian crust and TIB 0 granitoids while the 1.79-1.77 Ga TIB 1b granitoids intruded into the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and the TIB 1a granitoids. Finally, the 1.77-1.75 Ga TIB 1c granitoids intruded into the TIB 1b granitoids. Thus, the continental margin moved stepwise southwards from the central to southern parts of the Baltic Sea region.