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Geologie des Umbrailgebiets

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ABSTRACT

The area of investigation is situated within the eastern part of the "Engadiner Dolomiten", south of Sta. Maria im Münstertal (Kanton Graubünden, Switzerland). The region was crucial for the reinterpretation of the geology of the Eastern Alps in the light of the nappe concept, first attempted by TERMIER in 1905. The details of the tectonic structure in the Umbrail area are very complicated and have played an important role also for more recent syntheses, different from Termier's original scheme, so that a new and detailed investigation became necessary, the results of which are presented here.

The general structure is that of an imbricate zone ("Umbrail-Chavalatsch-Schuppenzone"), composed of two lithologically and tectonically separate units: 1. Upper Triassic sediments of the Engadine Dolomite facies ("Raibler Schichten" and "Hauptdolomit" formations) which are sheared off from their stratigraphical base and 2. pre-Mesozoic basement slices. This "Schuppenzone" represents a basal imbrication underneath and in the western front of a higher thrust complex, the "Ötztal" basement block, which overrode the sediments of the "Engadiner Dolomiten" shearing them off their stratigraphical base. The décollement horizon lies mainly in the "Raibler Schichten" formation. Geometrical evidence indicates that the relative displacement of the "Ötztal" basement was in a western direction during this phase. The tectonic interpretation is partly based on facies analysis derived from petrological studies of the basement rocks (part I) and stratigraphical studies of the Mesozoic sediments (part II). The main weight, however, is placed on a detailed description of the structure within and outside the main area of investigation (part III).

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