



**Università di Trieste**  
**LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN**  
**GEOSCIENZE**  
**Curriculum Geofisico**  
**Curriculum Geologico Ambientale**

**Anno accademico 2020 – 2021**

# **Geologia Marina**

**Modulo 5.2**

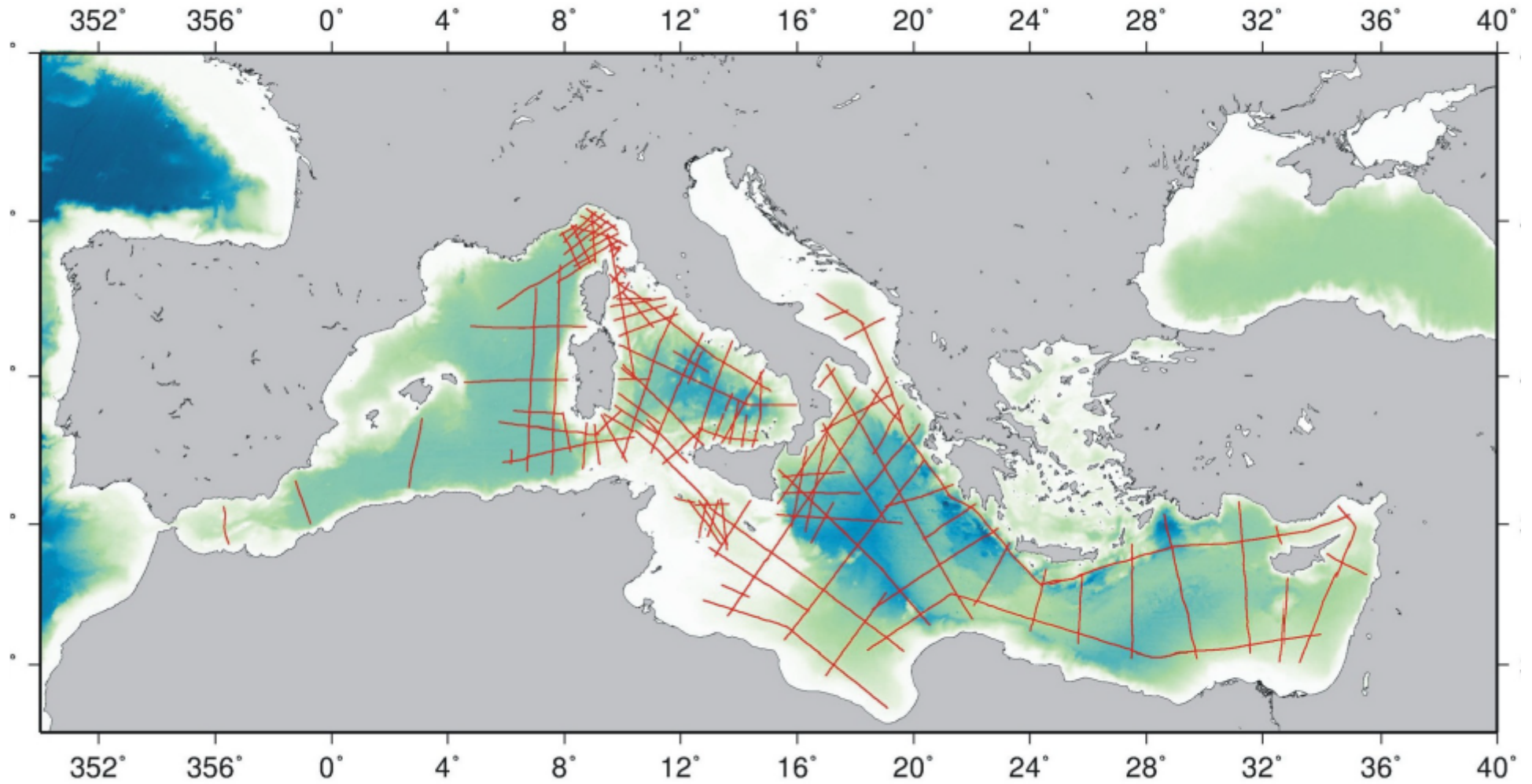
**Mediterraneo 2 (Alboran, Balearico e Ionio)**  
**Part 2**

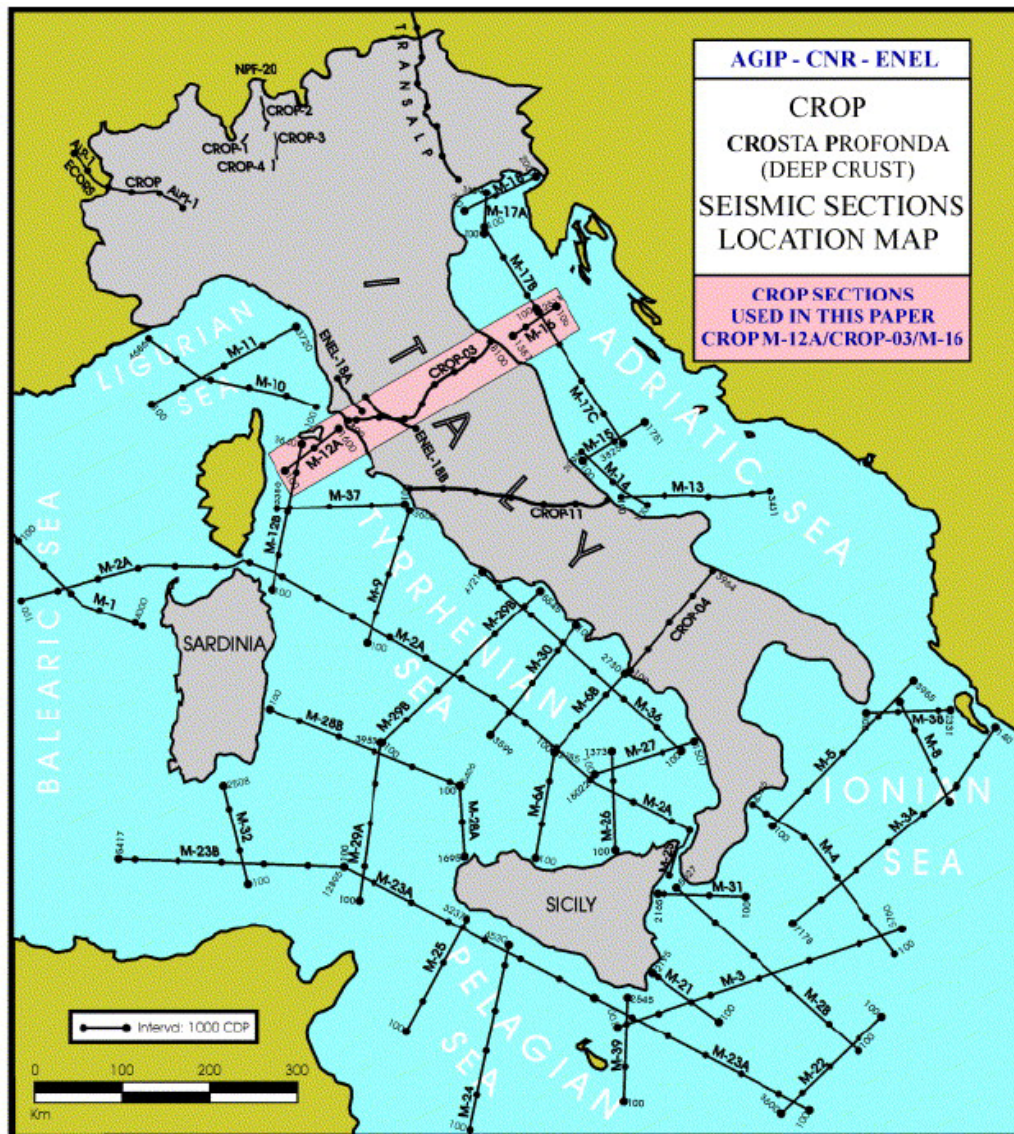
Docente

**Silvia Ceramicola**  
([sceramicola@inogs.it](mailto:sceramicola@inogs.it))

# MS map

(seismic profiles collected from 1968 to 1982)

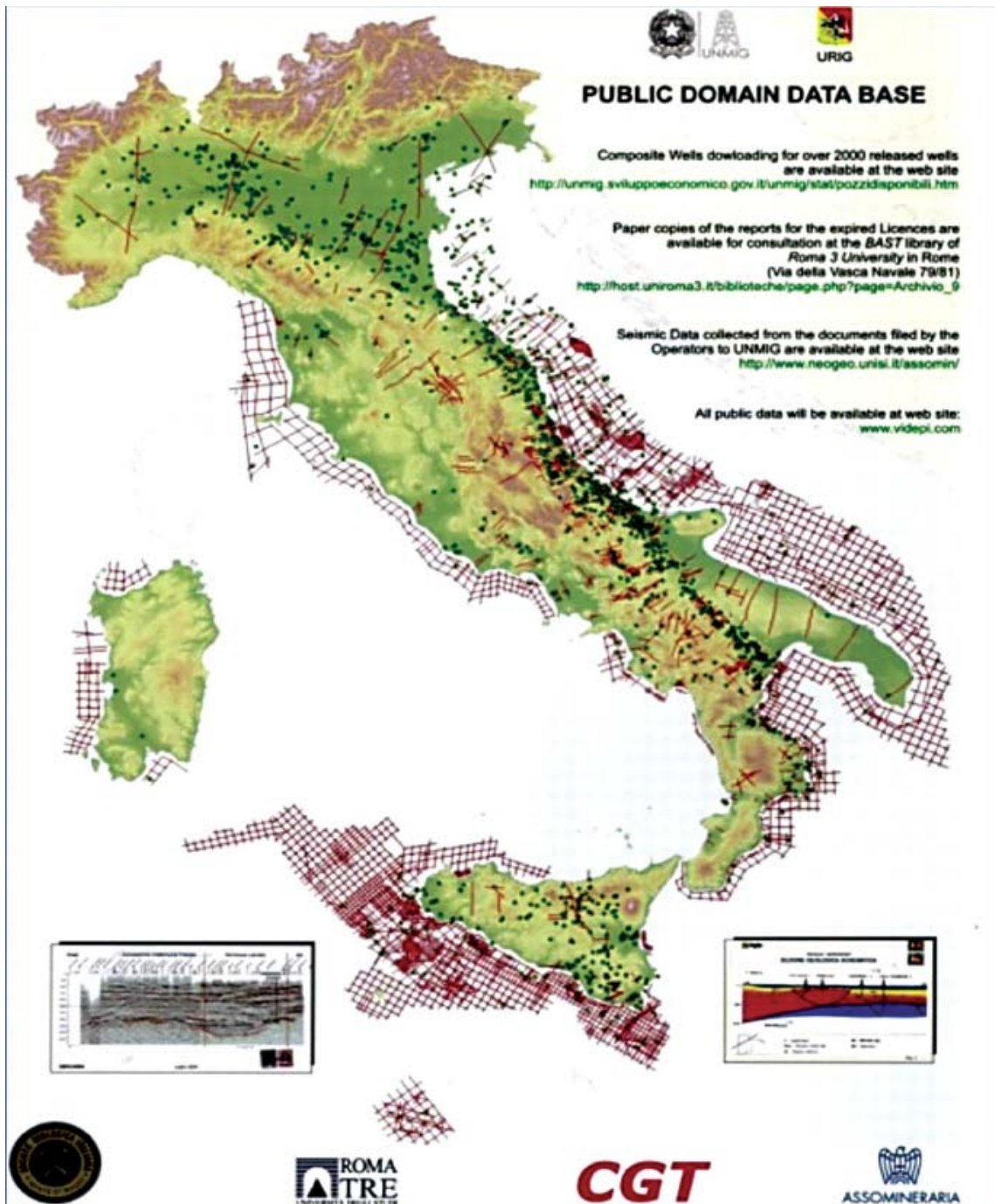




<p><b>FRENCH (ECORS) - ITALIAN (CROP) COOPERATION</b> -WESTERN ALPS (ALP-1/ALPI-1) -BALEARIC SEA (GULF OF LYON/SARDINIA, M-1)</p>	<p><b>GERMAN (DEKORP) - AUSTRIAN (OEKORP) - ITALIAN (CROP) COOPERATION</b> - EASTERN ALPS (TRANSALP)</p>
<p><b>SWISS (NPF-20) - ITALIAN (CROP) COOPERATION</b> -CENTRAL ALPS (CROP-1, 2, 3, 4 AND NPF-20 CONTINUATION TO NORTH)</p>	<p><b>GREEK - ITALIAN (CROP) COOPERATION</b> - NE IONIAN SEA (EAST - EXTREMITIES OF M-34 &amp; M-38)</p>

**CROP map**  
(Seismic profiles collected both onshore and offshore)





# ViDEPI

Visibilità dei dati afferenti all'attività di esplorazione petrolifera in Italia

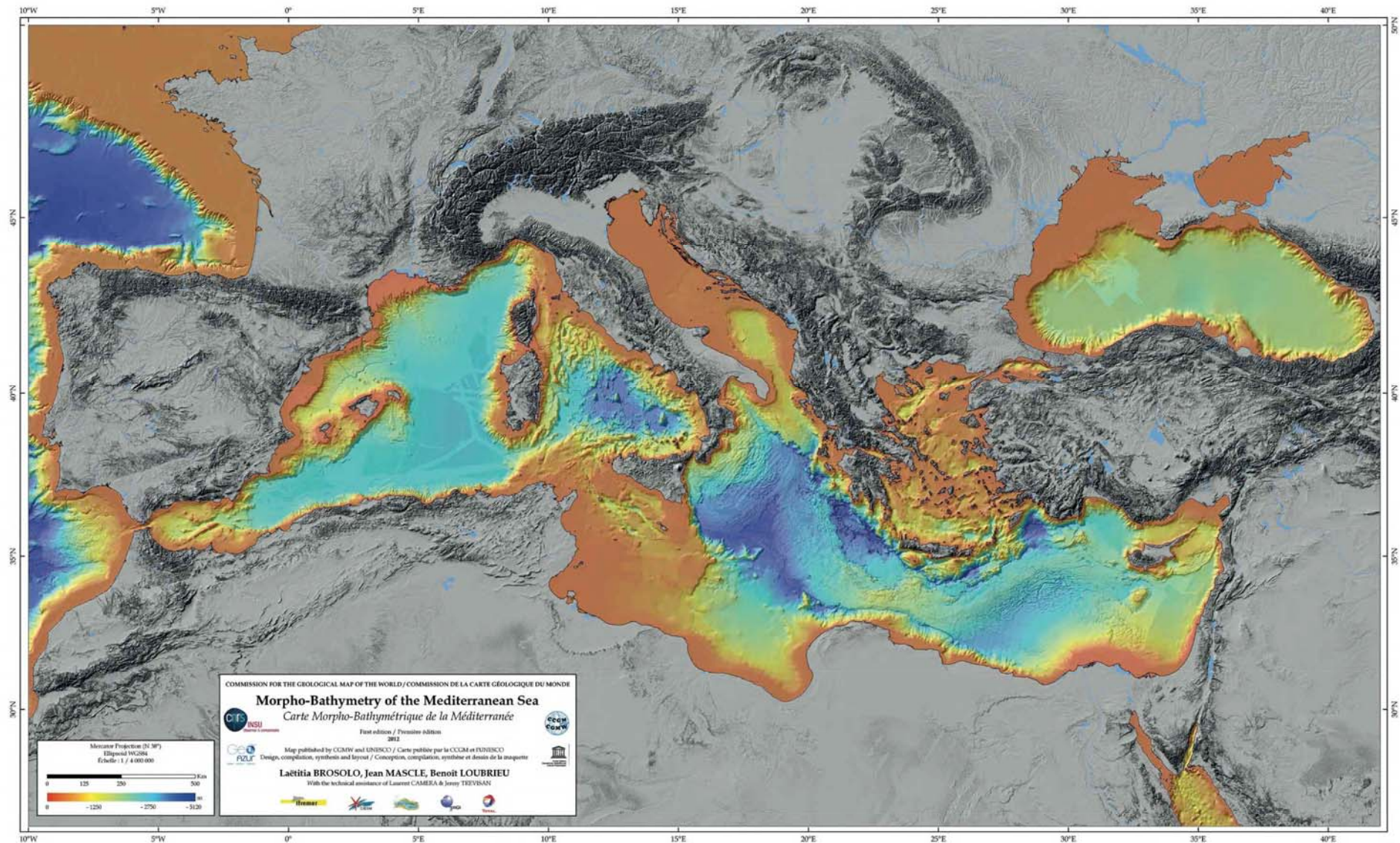
<http://unmig.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/videpi/>



Italy



# CCGM Morpho-Bathymetry of the Mediterranean sea



**Légende**

La cartographie bathymétrique par bathymétrie multibeam du bassin méditerranéen et de ses marges continentales, initiée dès le milieu des années 1990, a profondément modifié notre connaissance de la morphologie de la Mer Méditerranée ainsi que des différents processus géologiques actifs (tectoniques, volcaniques, etc.) qui participent à son évolution bathymétrique.

**Legend**

The systematic multi-beam bathymetry mapping of the Mediterranean and of its continental margins, started in the mid 1990s, has profoundly modified our understanding of the morphology of the Mediterranean and of the various active geological (tectonic, volcanic, etc.) and geomorphological processes which participate to the seafloor morphology.

**Origine des données**

Cette carte a été construite à partir de données multibeam numériques de terrain.

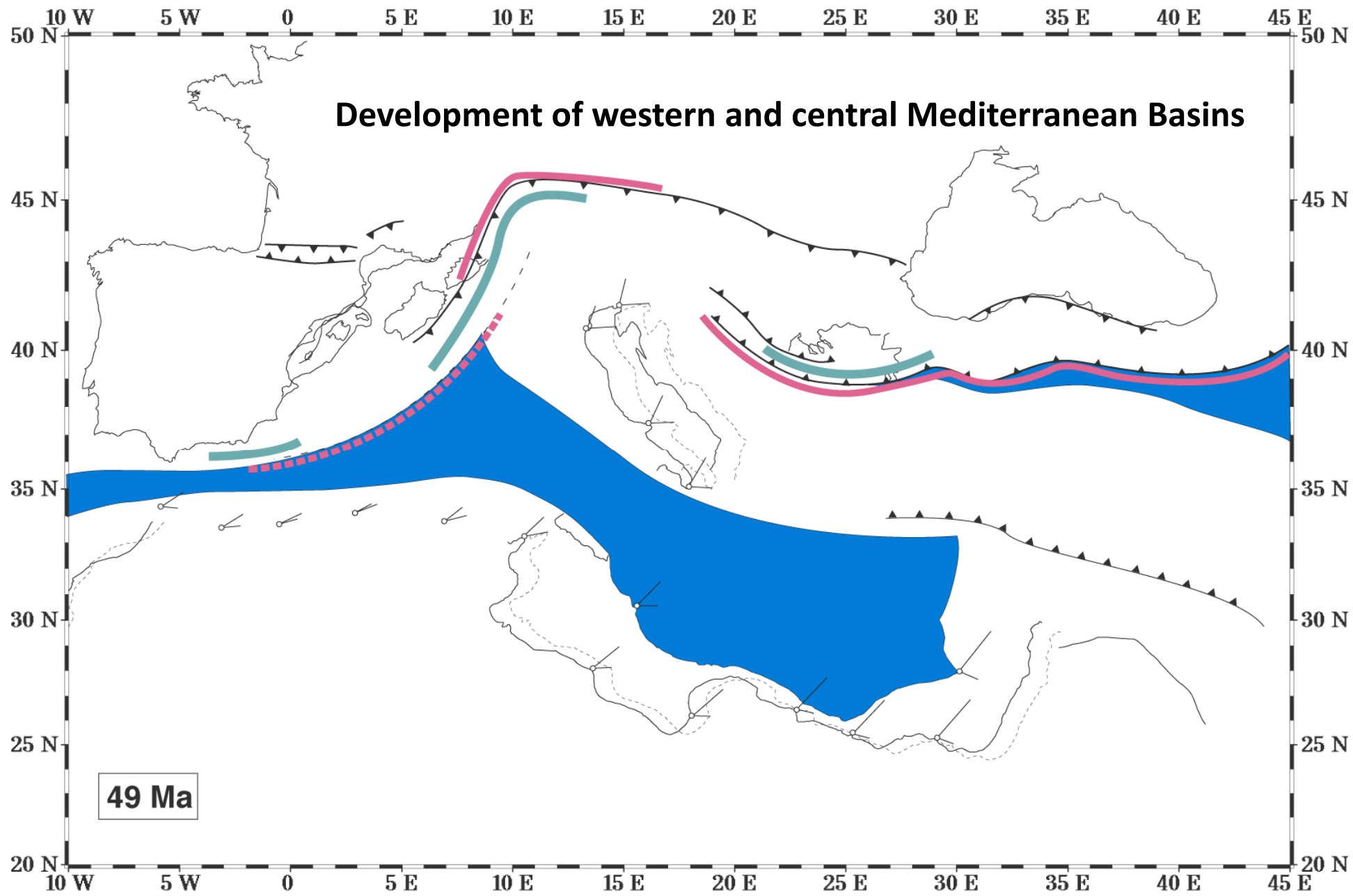
- Le MNT de base, à 500m, provient d'une compilation morpho-bathymétrique de la Méditerranée publiée par Loubric, B., Masclé, J. and Molnar group (2005) - Morpho-bathymetry of the Mediterranean Sea - CIRM/BERNER special publication.
- Ce document se fonde sur la série de données de données bathymétriques multibeam acquises entre 1995 et 2007 par de nombreux instituts et laboratoires de recherche (http://www.ccgw.org/)
- Ce MNT a été complété par quelques données de bathymétrie multibeam issues principalement de l'IFREMER, de l'OSU de GÉOLOGIE, de l'OCM Trondheim, de l'UMAR Belgique, de l'UMAR de l'Université de Hambourg ainsi, qu'un large de données pour quelques données provenant de prospections aériennes de sondeur 3D à cinq faisceaux issues de l'IFREMER, de l'OSU, de l'OCM Trondheim et de l'OCM de l'Université de Hambourg (http://www.morphobathymetry.eu/)
- Pour la Golfe de Cadix la carte se fonde sur un MNT, également à 500m, provenant d'une compilation de données issues de bathymétrie multibeam publiée par Zifelli, N., Corain, E., et al. (2009) - Bathymetry of the Gulf of Cadix, North-East Atlantic: the Seaside Multibeam compilation - Earth and Planetary Science Letters, 289: 11-26, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2008.12.005.
- Pour le Golfe de Gascogne un MNT à 500m, extrait de Sibson, J.C., Louchon, S., et al. (2006) - Carte bathymétrique de l'Atlantique nord-est et du Golfe de Gascogne: implications tectoniques - Bull. Soc. Géol. Fr., a été utilisé.
- Et les données de bathymétrie multibeam provenant de prospections aériennes de sondeur 3D issues de l'ADEMIRALACE.
- Pour les données non systématiquement bathymétriques en Méditerranée qui sont soit disponibles, et la Mer Noire, la carte a été complétée par un MNT à 100m provenant de l'Atlas digital GEMCO (General

**Data source**

- The map results from the compilation of the following DEMs and complementary data:
- The base DEM is the one used for the Morpho-bathymetry compilation of the Mediterranean Sea published by Loubric, B., Masclé, J. and Molnar group (2005) - Morpho-bathymetry of the Mediterranean Sea - CIRM/Berner special publication.
- This compilation resulted from various DEMs from multi-beam bathymetry data sets recorded between 1995-2007 by several European oceanographic laboratories and institutes (see http://www.ccgw.org/).
- This DEM has been completed by supplemented multi-beam bathymetry data from IFREMER, SHOM, GEACER, OCM-Trondheim, BNAAR-Belgium, CMCE-Hamburg and, off Egypt, by a few 3D seismic data from Industry (BP-Egypt, ENI-CMY).
- A few complementary data have been downloaded from the BATHYNET European project portal (http://www.morphobathymetry.eu/).
- For the Gulf of Cadix the compilation has benefited from a DEM at 500 m from various seismic data published by Zifelli, N., Corain, E., et al. (2009) - Bathymetry of the Gulf of Cadix, North-East Atlantic: the Seaside Multibeam compilation - Earth and Planetary Science Letters, 289: 11-26, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2008.12.005.
- For the Bay of Biscay, the multi-beam bathymetry data were obtained during the European project ADEMIRALACE.
- For the Bay of Biscay a DEM at 100m, from Sibson, J.C., Louchon, S., et al. (2006) - Carte bathymétrique de l'Atlantique nord-est et du Golfe de Gascogne: implications tectoniques - Bull. Soc. Géol. Fr., has been used.
- For areas not yet mapped in detail (or where data are not yet available) in the Mediterranean Sea, and in the Black Sea a DEM at 100m, from the GEMCO atlas has been used to complete the map: General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans.

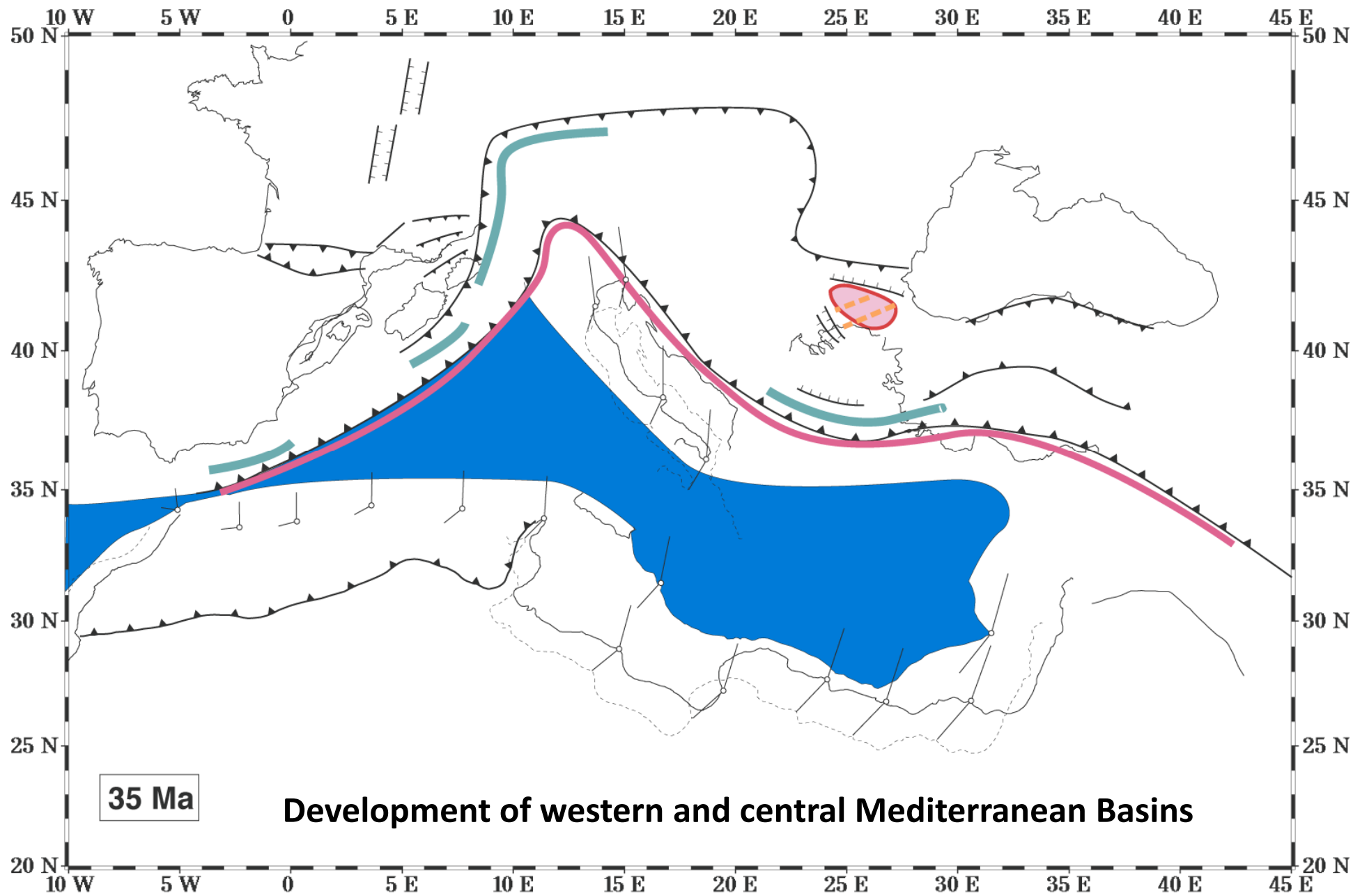
- The present-day geological configuration of the Mediterranean region is the result of the creation and ensuing consumption of two major oceanic basins: the Paleotethys and the Neotethys.
- The overall tectonic regime was (and it is) the regime of prolonged interaction between the Eurasian and the African-Arabian plates.
- The Mediterranean domain provides a present-day geodynamic analog for the final stages of a continent-continent collisional orogeny. Over this area, the oceanic lithospheric domains originally present between the Eurasian and African-Arabian plates have been subducted and partially obducted (ophiolitic terranes), except for the Ionian basin and the south-eastern Mediterranean.
- The modern marine basins of the Mediterranean Sea are variably floored by: (i) remnants of the Tethyan oceanic domains (Ionian, E Mediterranean); (ii) Neogene oceanic crust (Algero-Provençal basin and Tyrrhenian Sea); (iii) extended continental lithosphere (Alboran Sea, Valencia Trough, Aegean Sea), and (iv) thick continental lithosphere (Adriatic Sea).





Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.



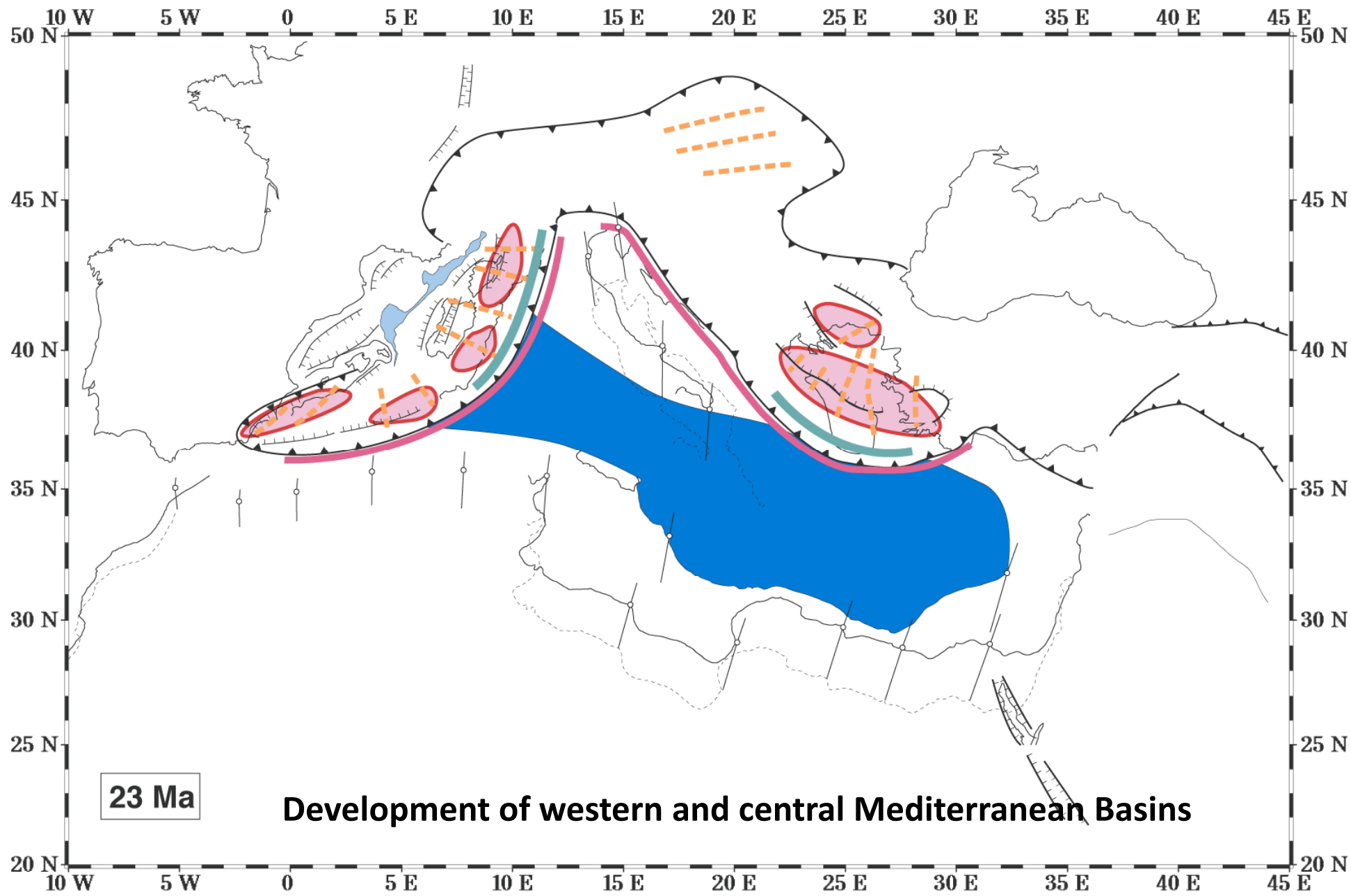


**Development of western and central Mediterranean Basins**

Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.

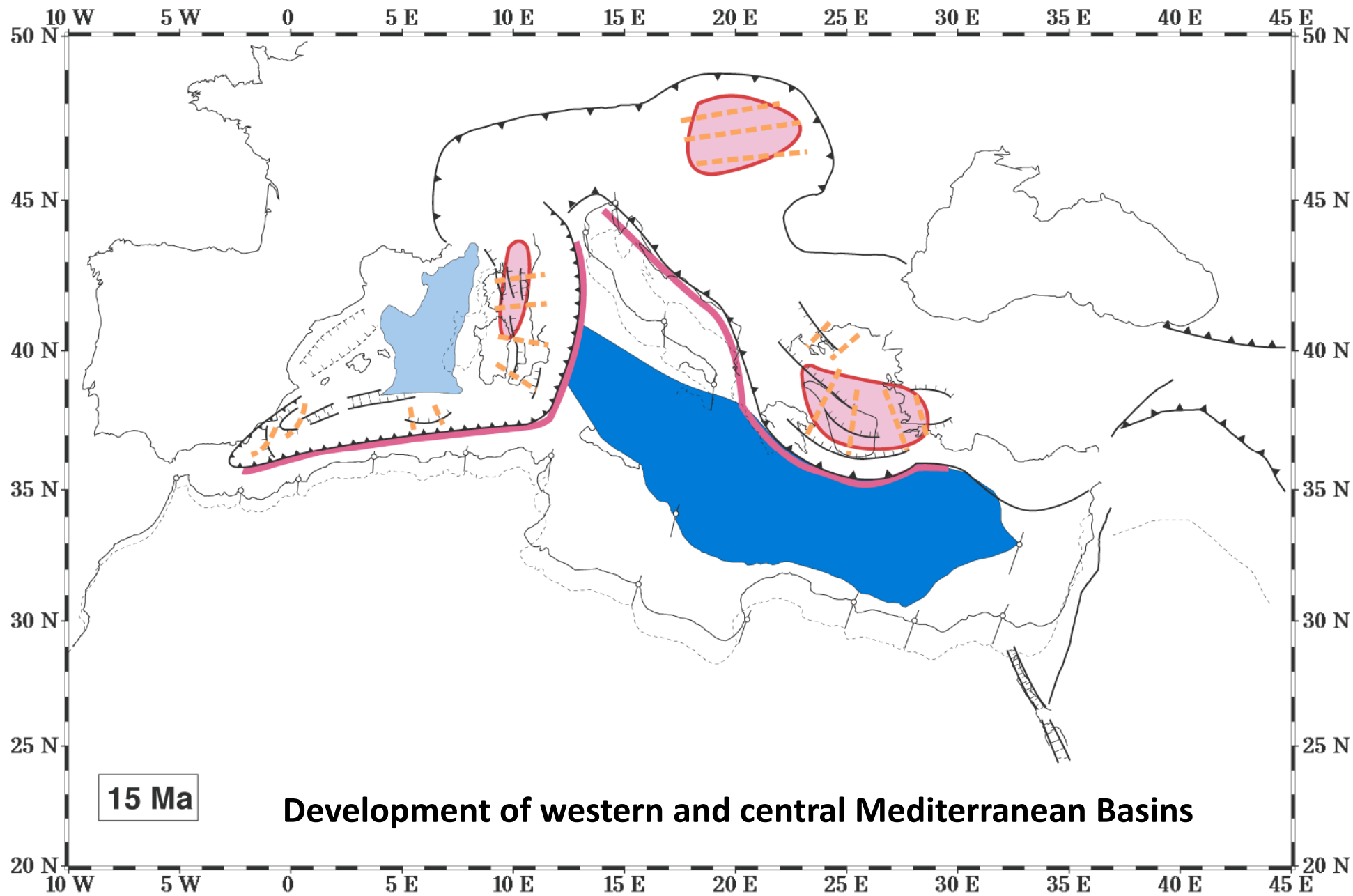






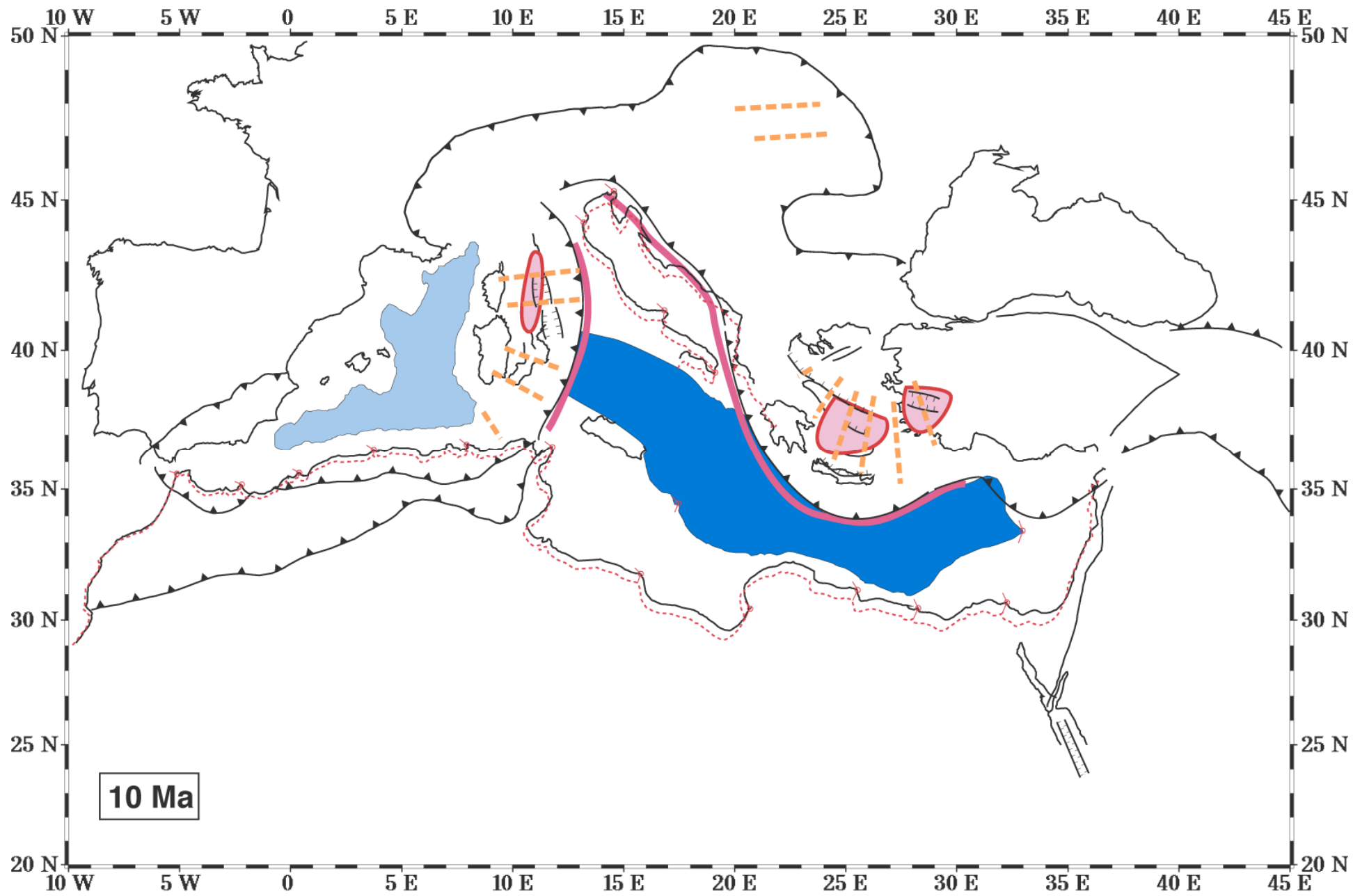
Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.





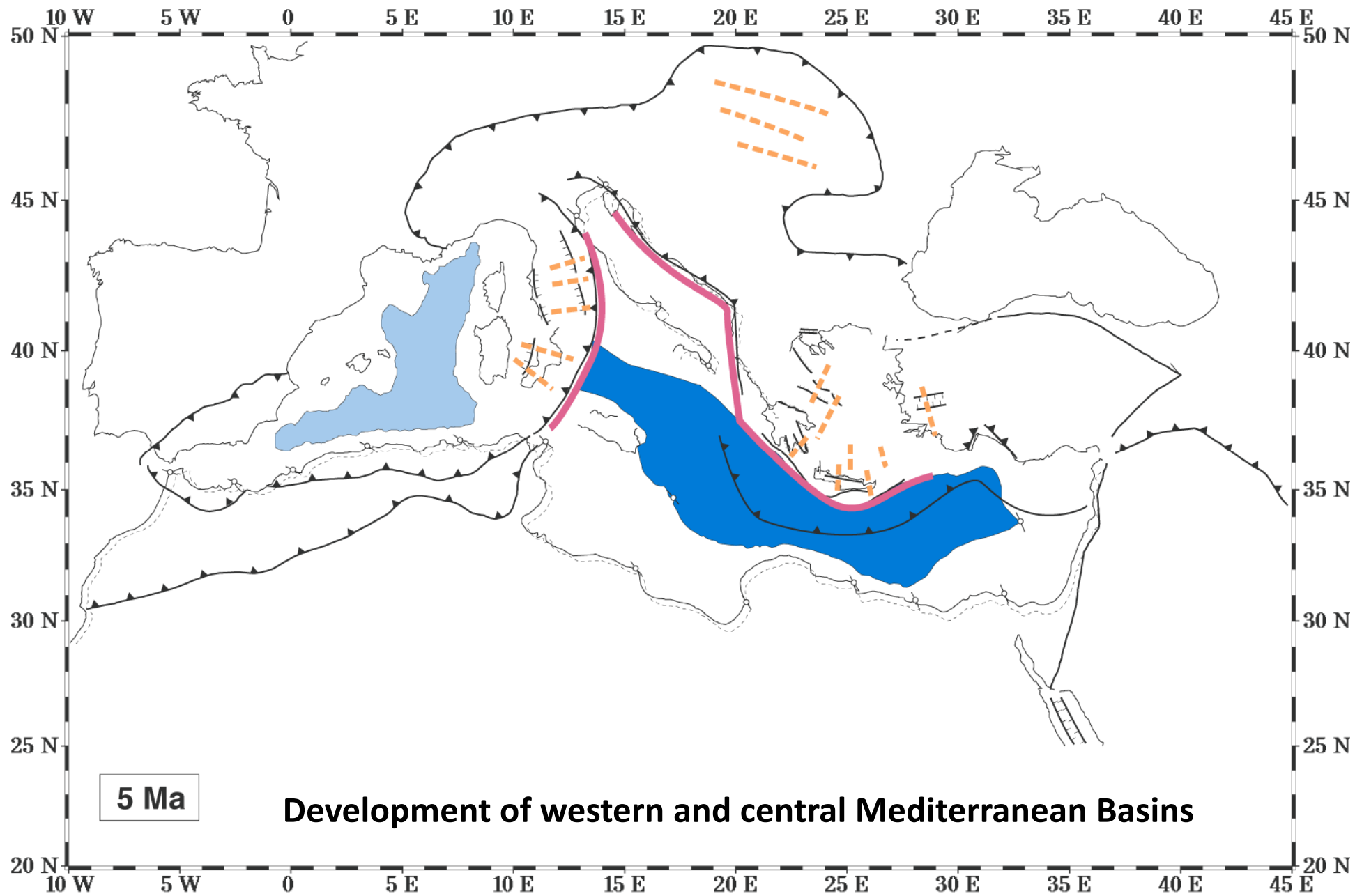
Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.





Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.

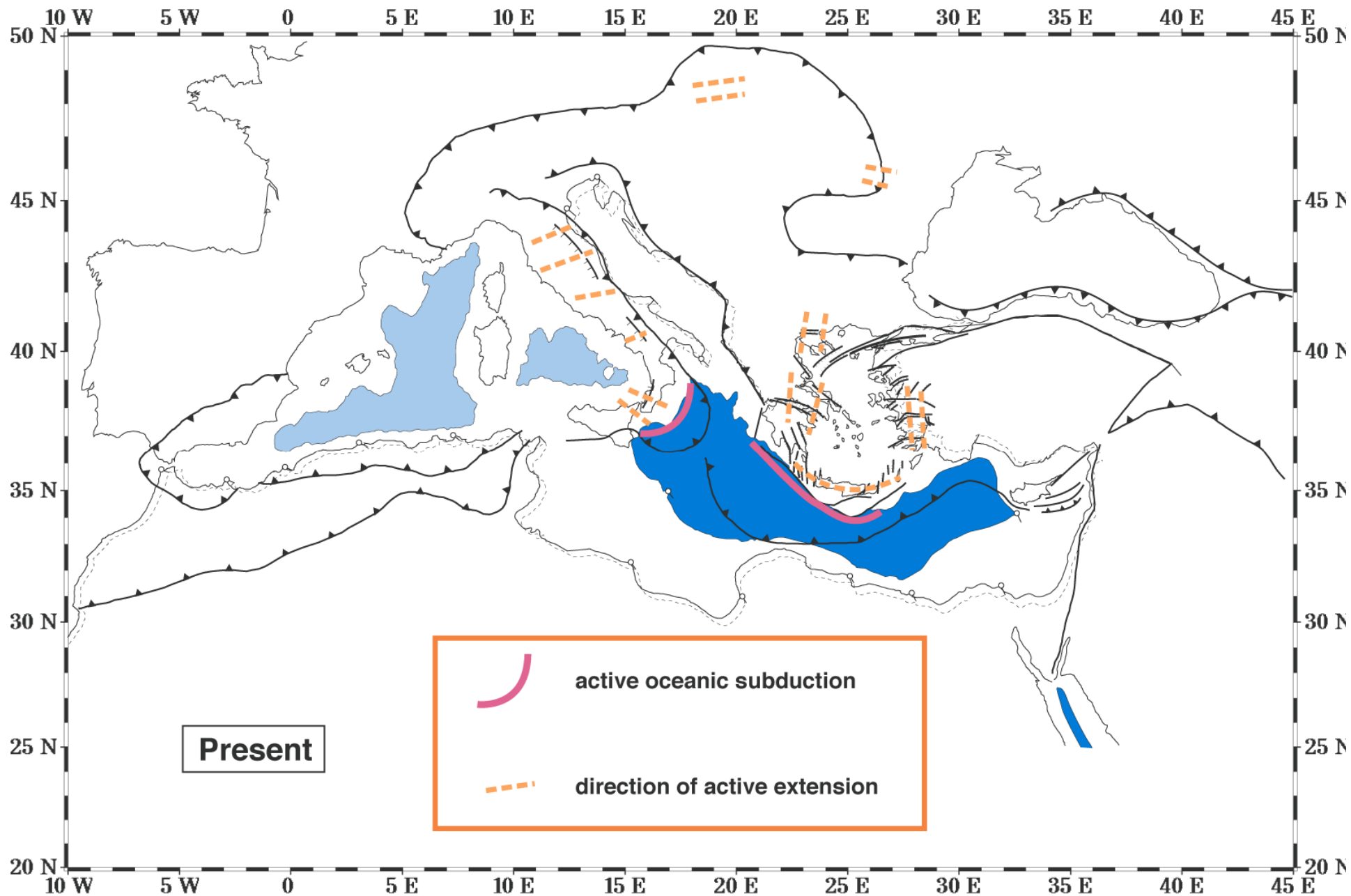




### Development of western and central Mediterranean Basins

Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.



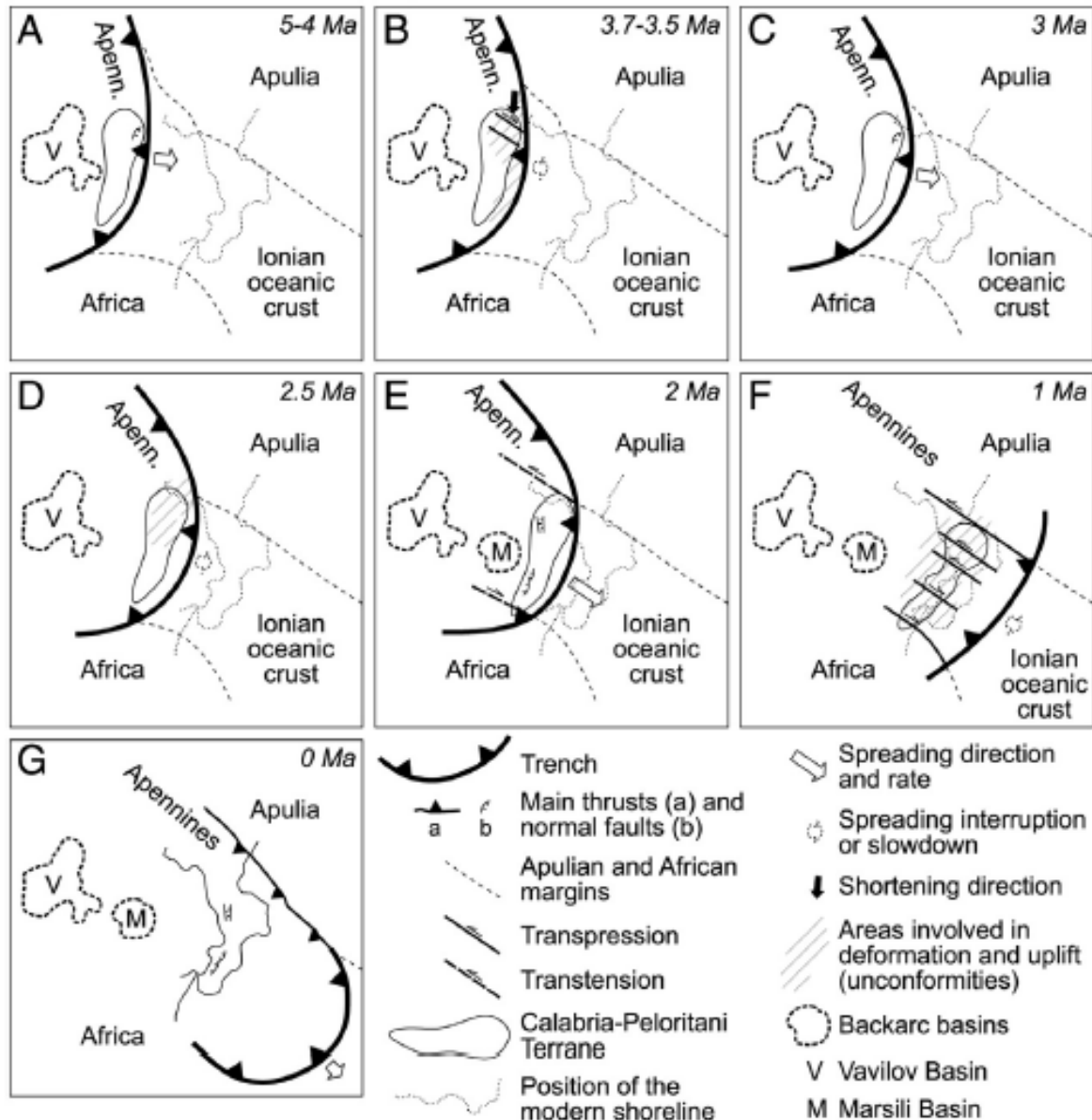


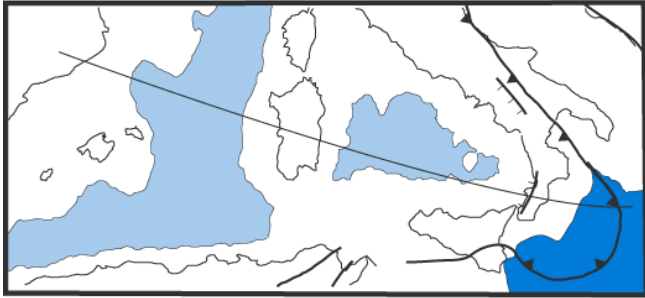
Jolivet et al., 2003., Kinematic data after Dewey et al.





# The Calabrian subduction





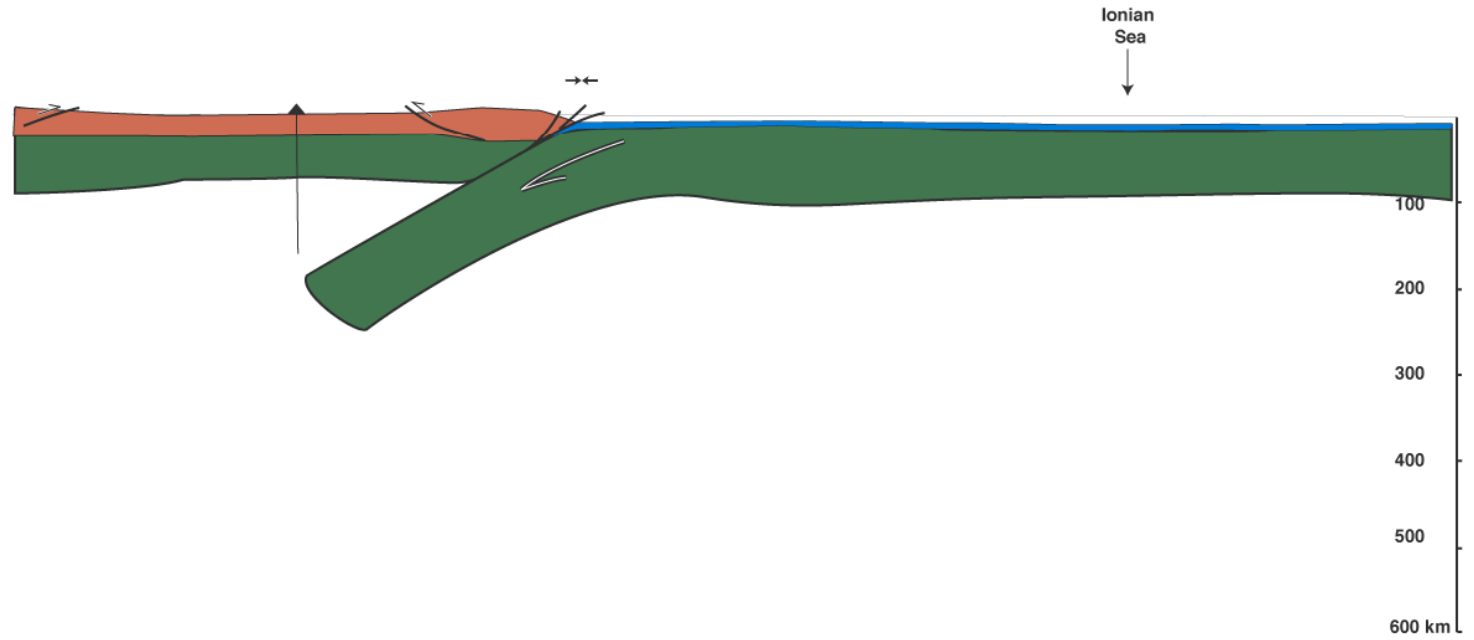
# The subduction of the Ionian Sea

west

east

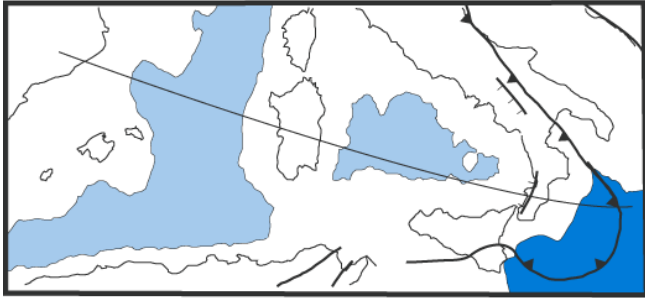
100 km  
100 km

35 Ma

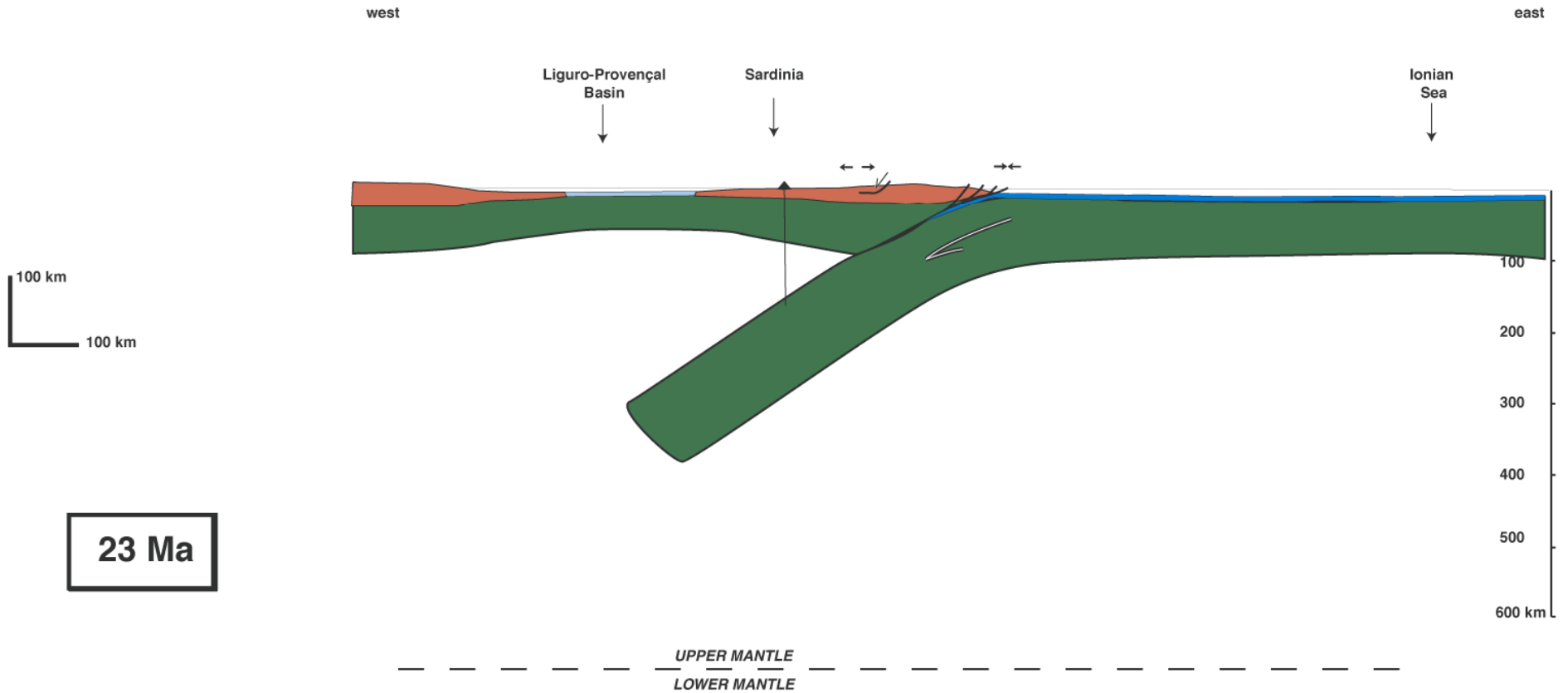


UPPER MANTLE  
LOWER MANTLE

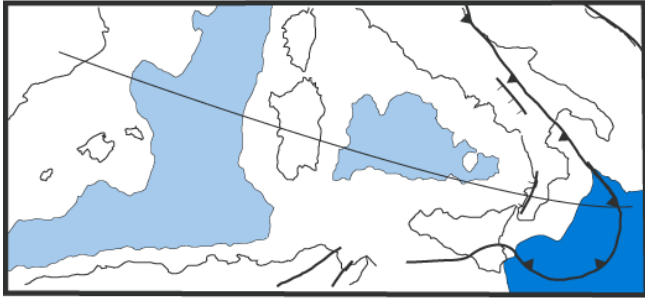




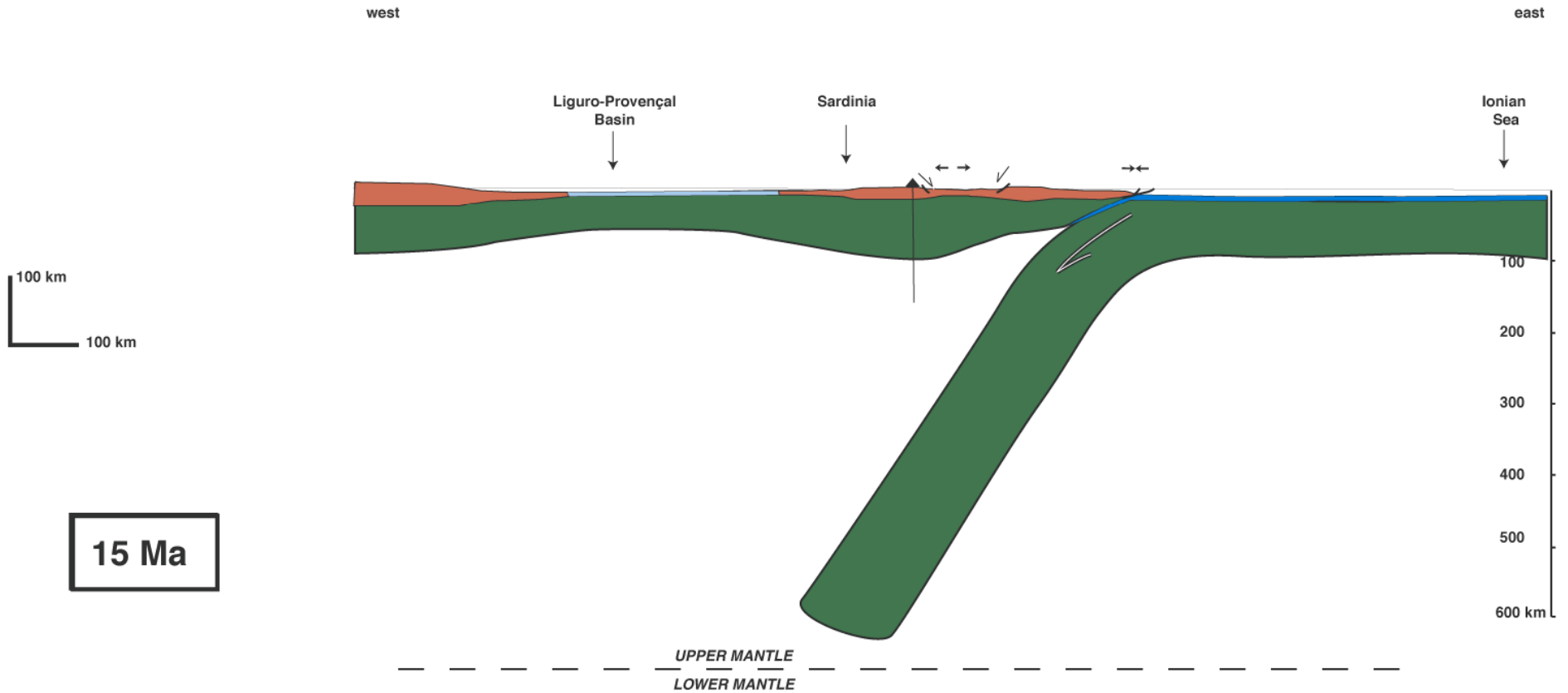
# The subduction of the Ionian Sea

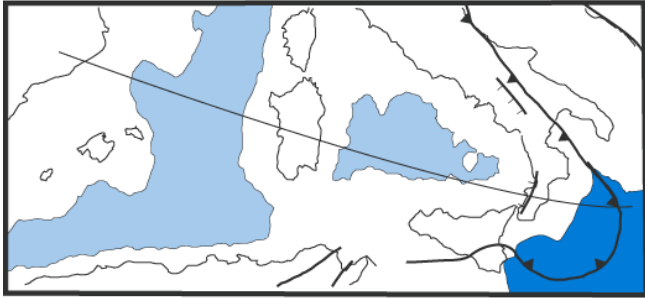




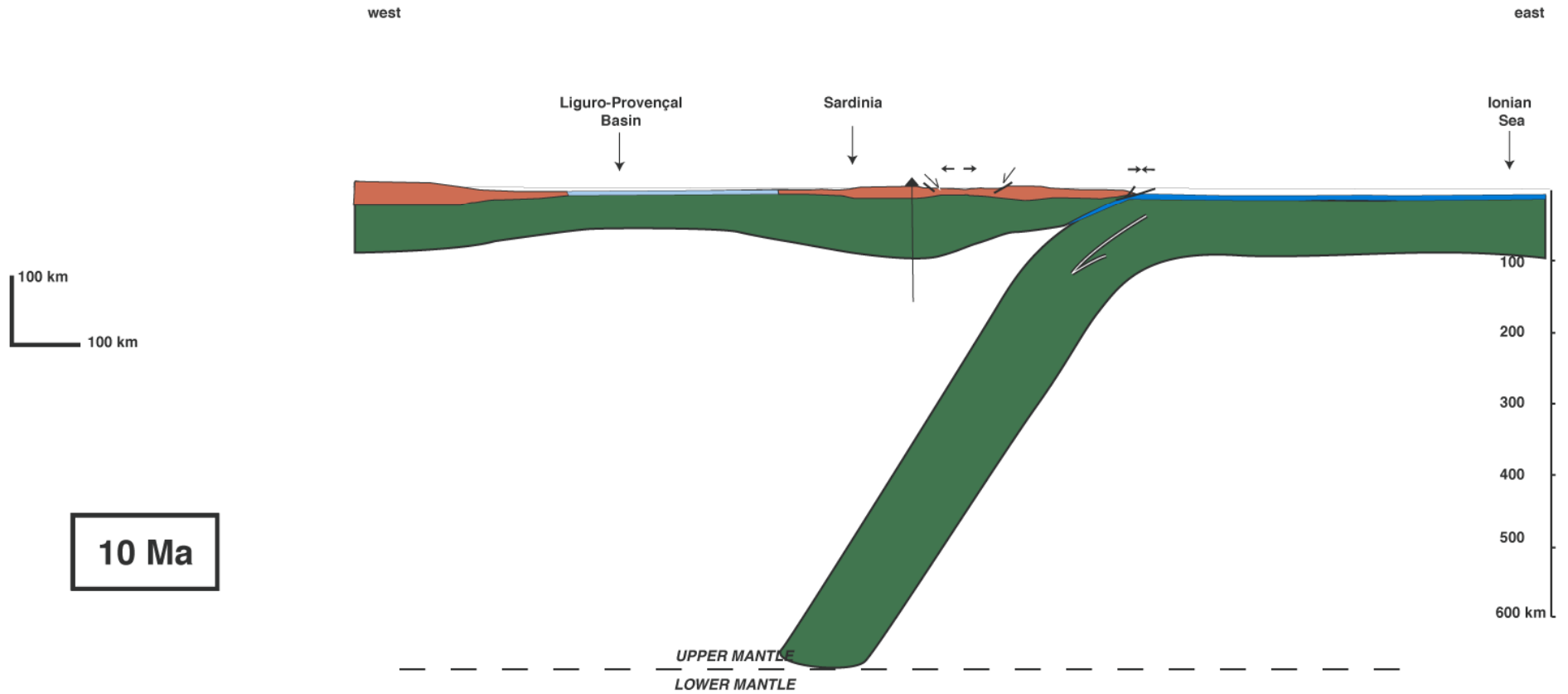


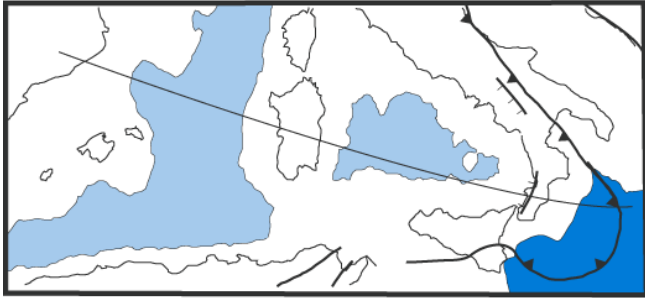
# The subduction of the Ionian Sea



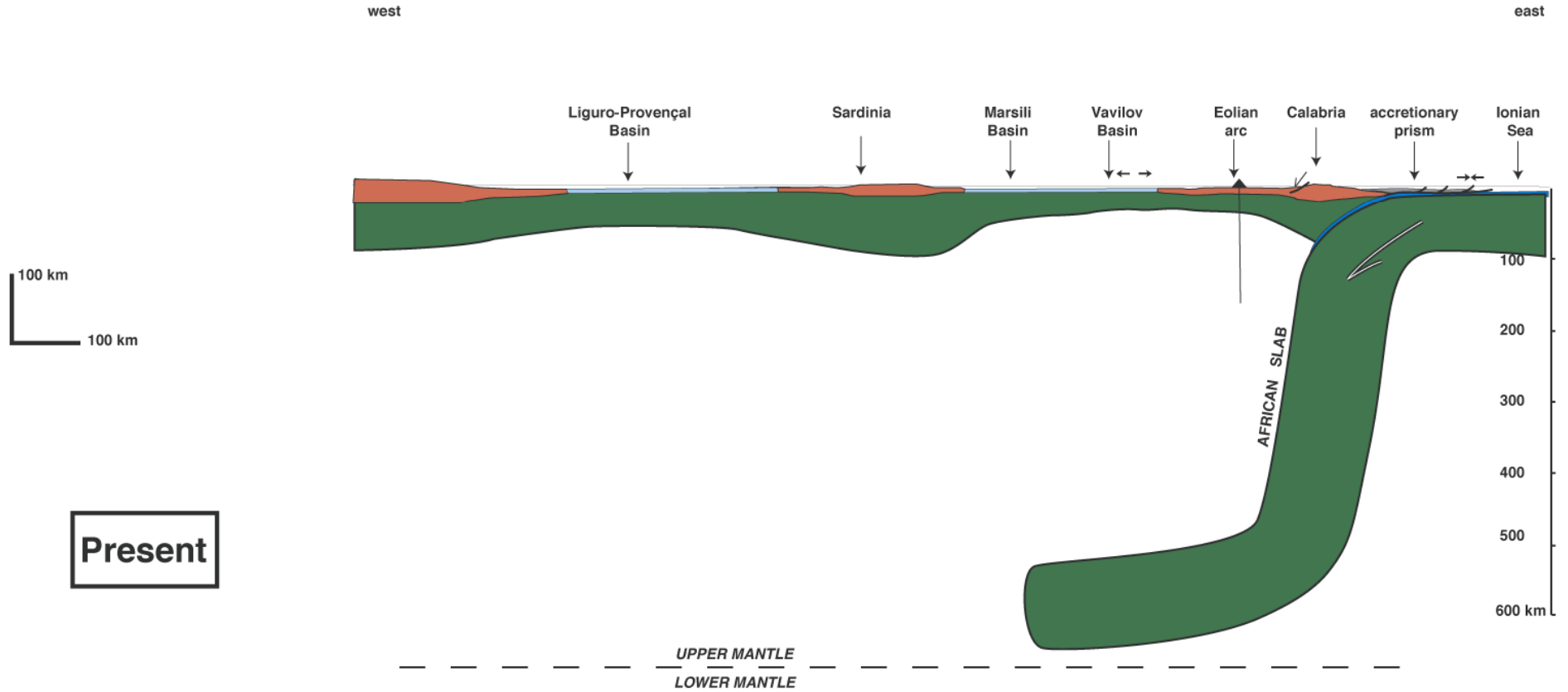


# The subduction of the Ionian Sea



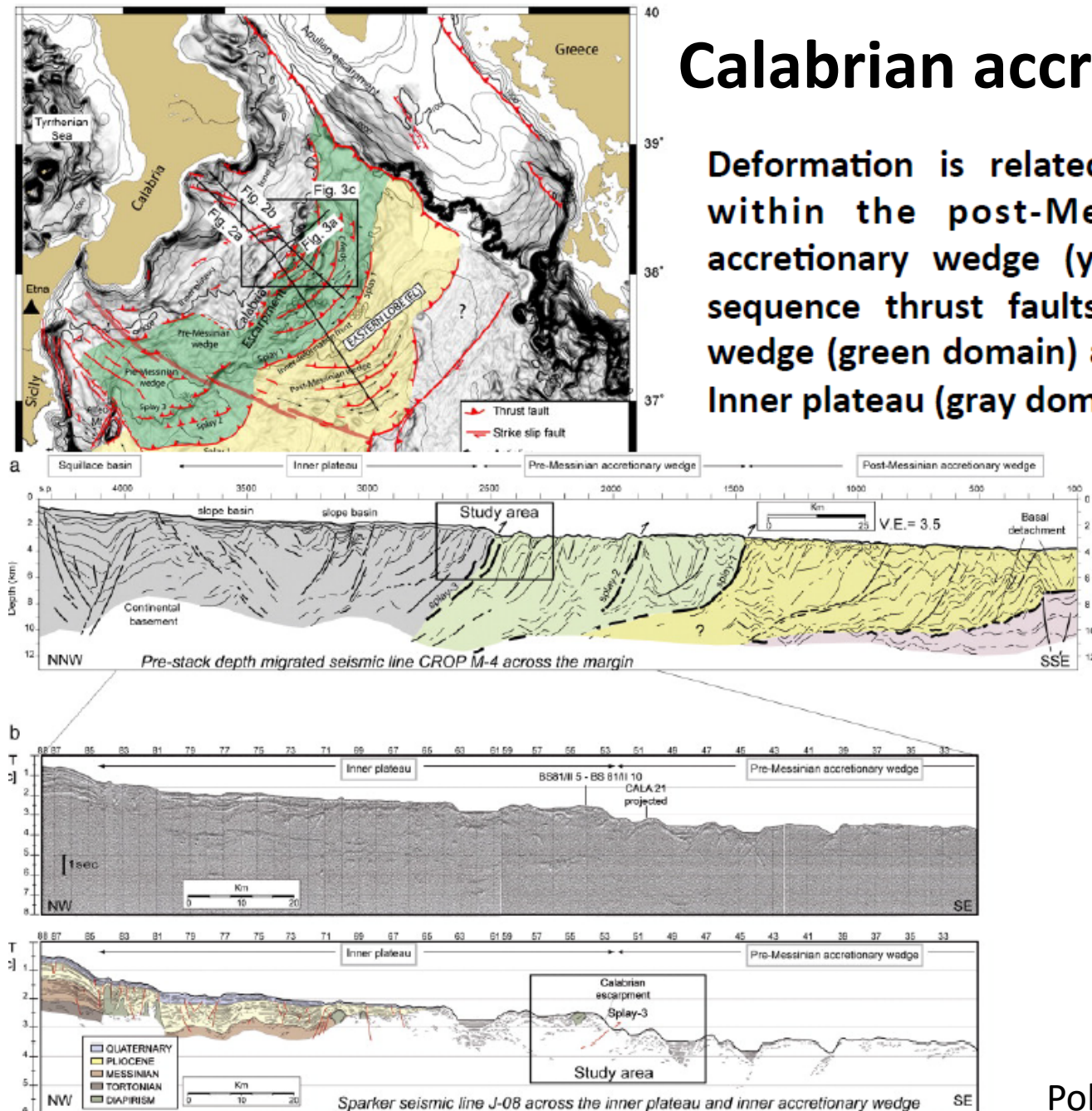


# The subduction of the Ionian Sea



# Calabrian accretionary Prism

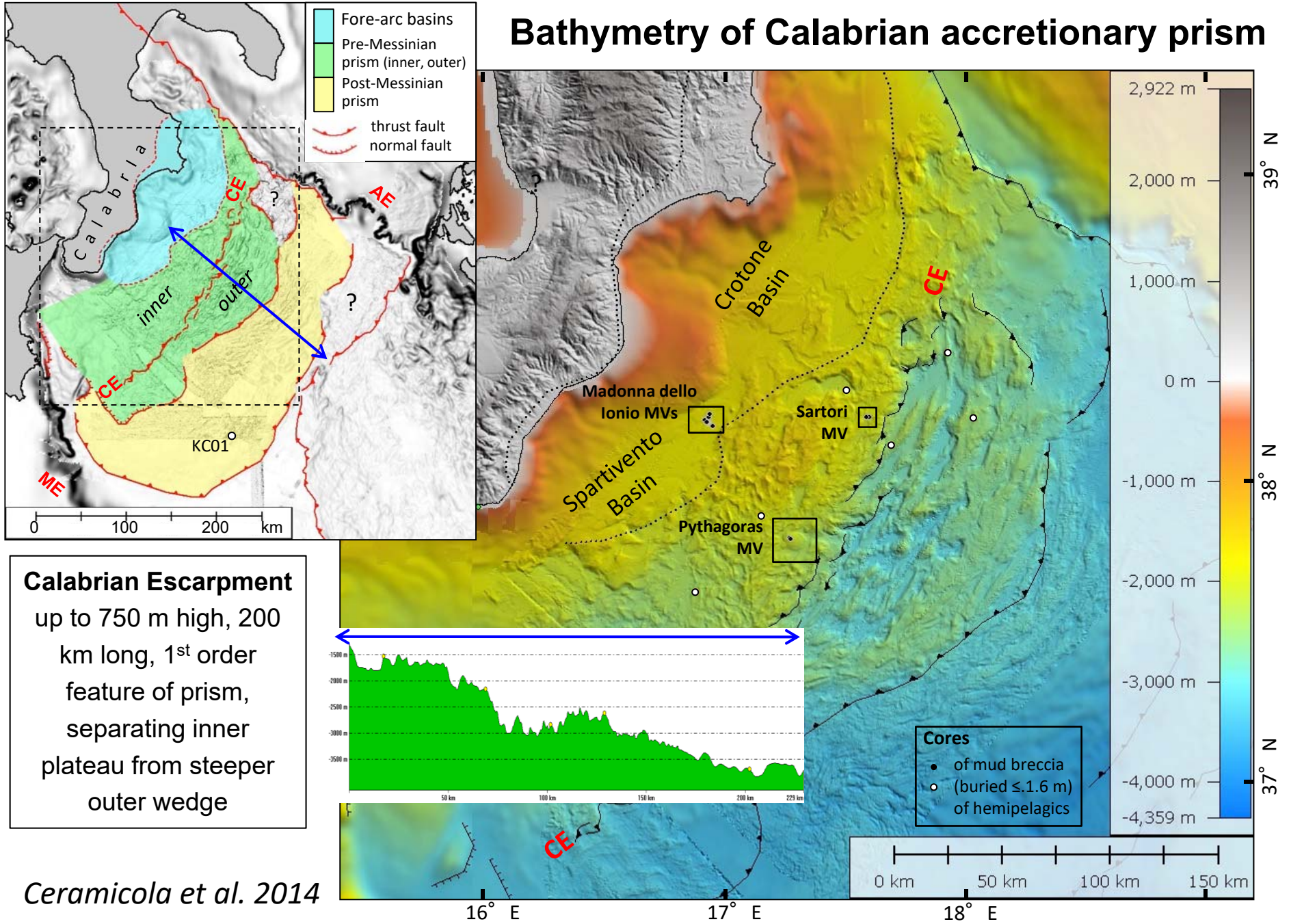
Deformation is related to an imbricate fan within the post-Messinian salt-bearing accretionary wedge (yellow domain), out-of-sequence thrust faults in the pre-Messinian wedge (green domain) and normal faults in the Inner plateau (gray domain).



Polonia et al. 2011

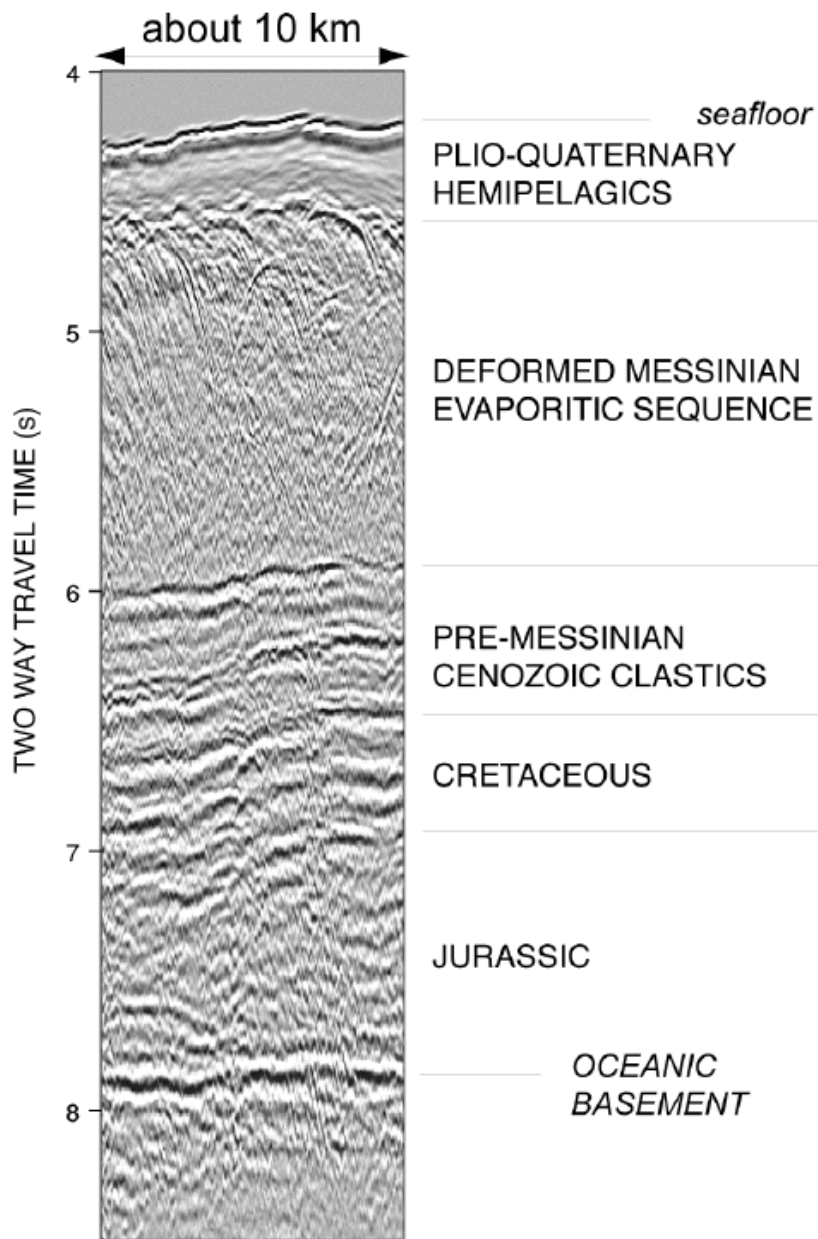


# Bathymetry of Calabrian accretionary prism



**Calabrian Escarpment**  
 up to 750 m high, 200 km long, 1<sup>st</sup> order feature of prism, separating inner plateau from steeper outer wedge

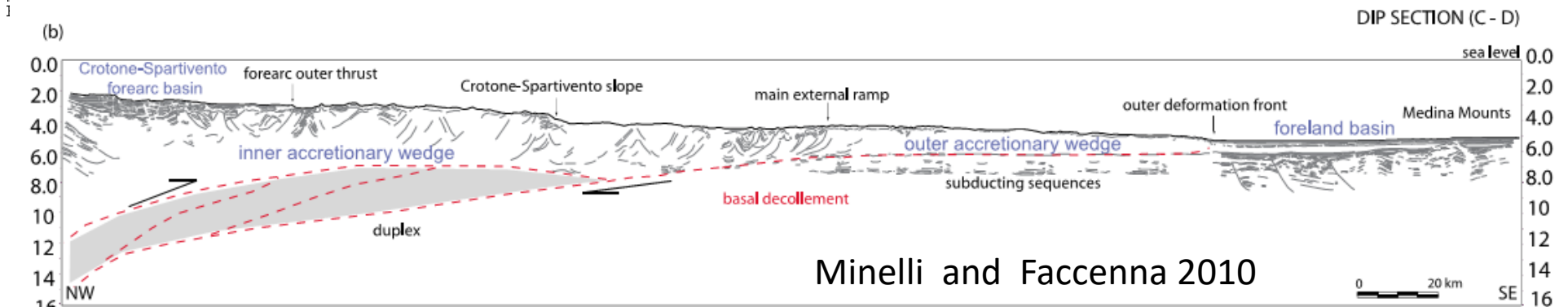
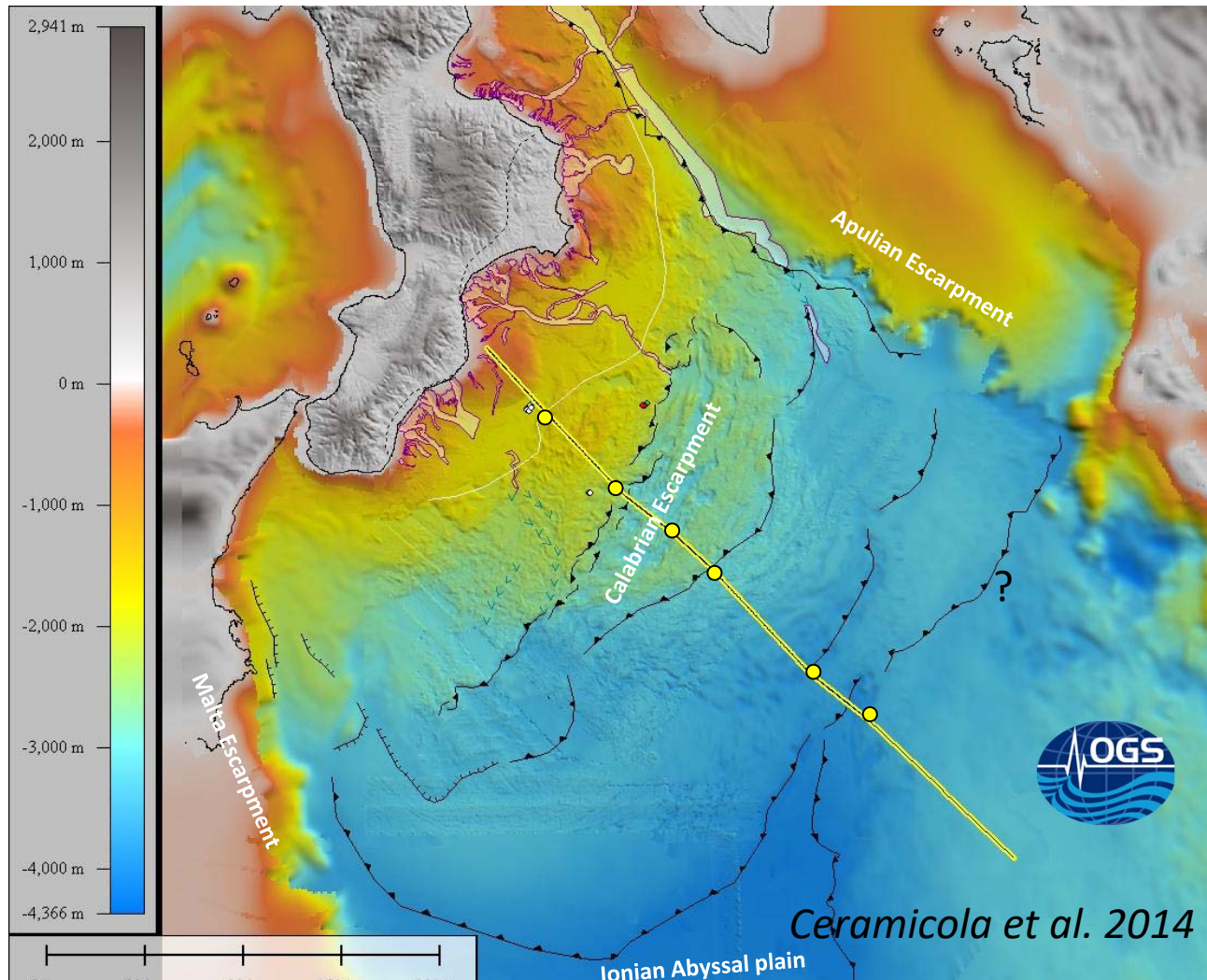
*Ceramicola et al. 2014*



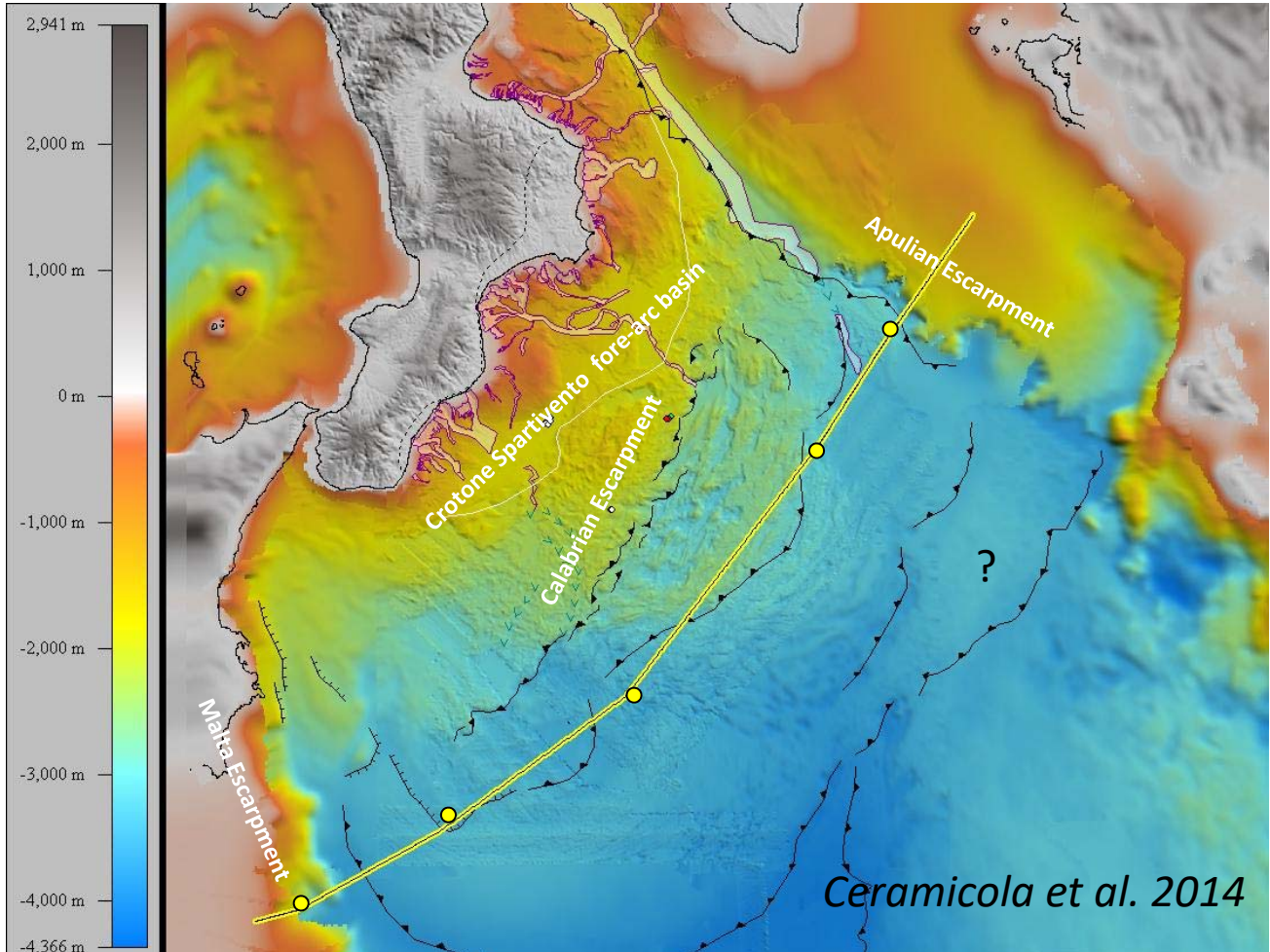
# Seismic stratigraphy of the Ionian basin

- As the last non-subducted sector of the Neo-Tethys ocean, the Ionian Sea turns out to be the oldest *in situ* ocean fragment of the world.
- It has been saved from subduction since locked within irregular S shaped continental margins of Africa and Eurasia.
- It is a 350 km wide x 600 km long abyssal plain lying at 3–4 km depth, locked between the continental platforms of northern Africa, Malta-Hyblean plateau, and Apulia, and active orogens of Calabria Arc and Hellenides.
- A thick package (5–7 km) of sediments overlying an extremely thin (8–11 km) crystalline crust.

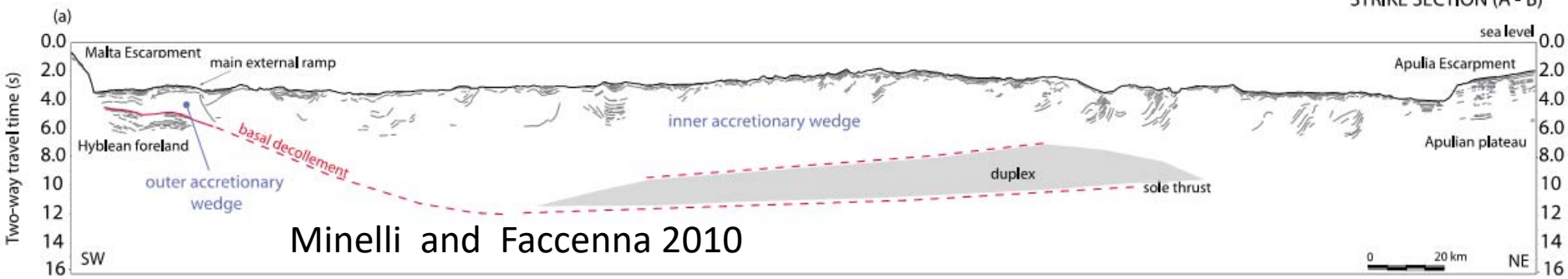
# THE IONIAN SEA



# THE IONIAN SEA



Calabrian accretionary prism - cross sections

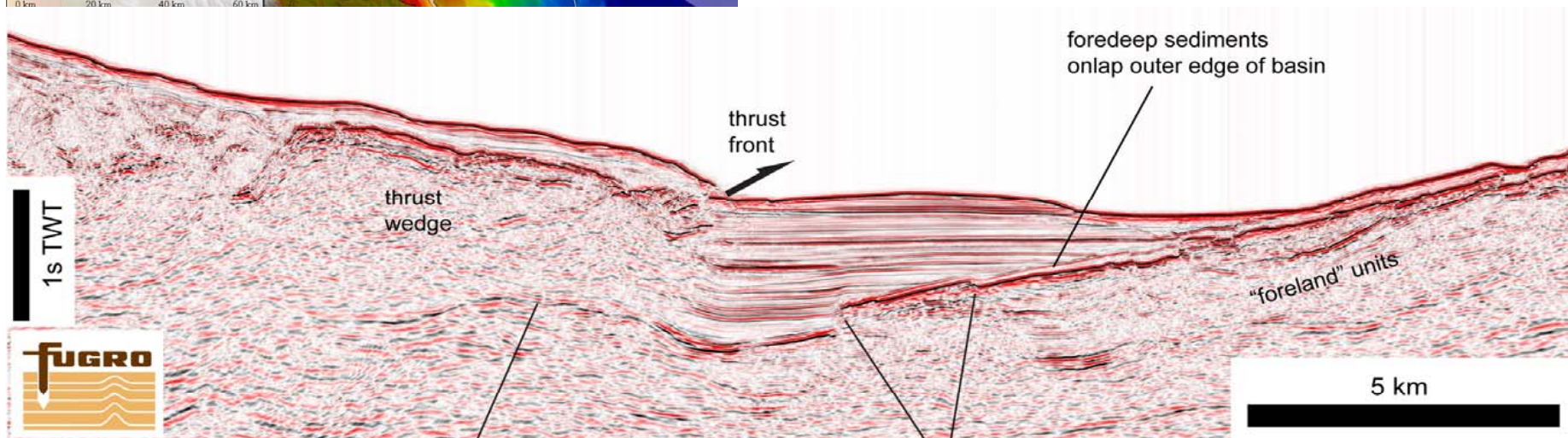
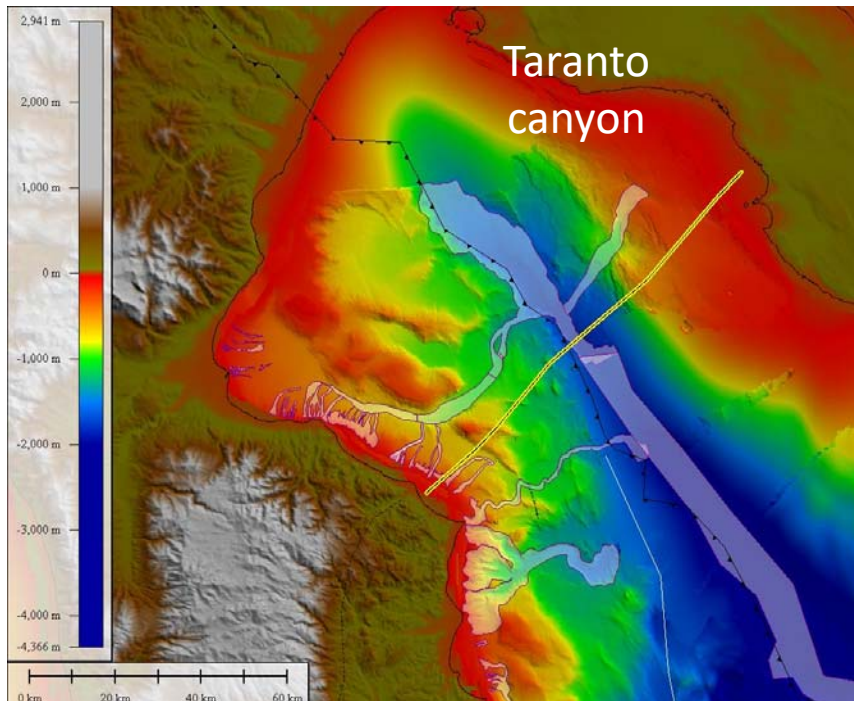


Minelli and Faccenna 2010





# GULF OF TARANTO

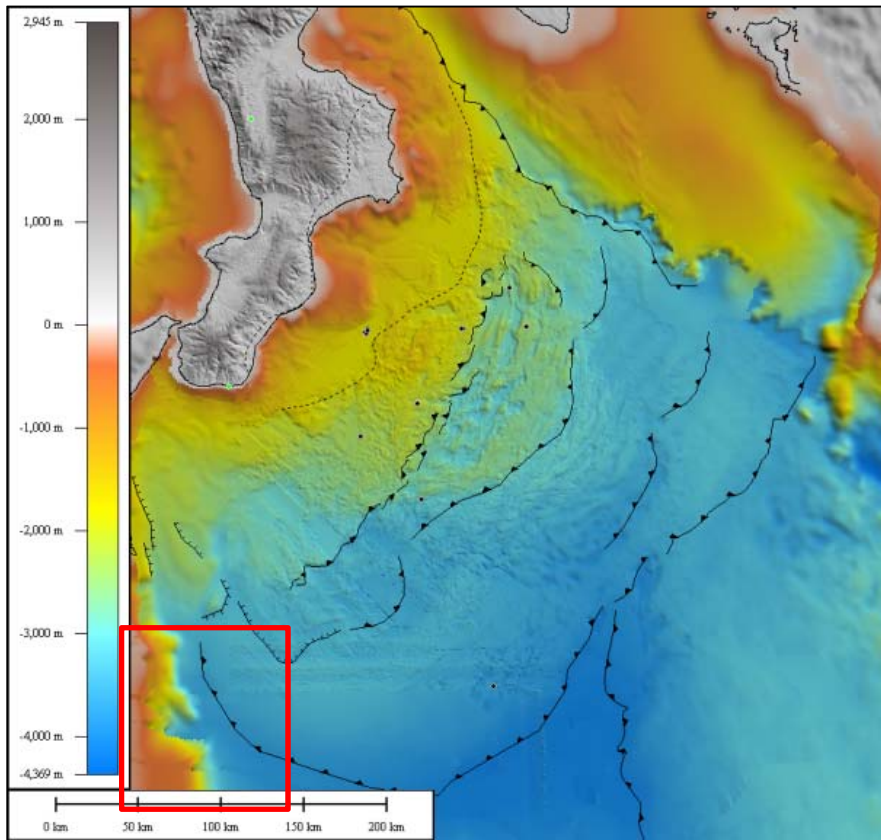


? velocity pull-up of reflectors in footwall because of higher seismic velocities in thrust wedge?

faulted subsiding "foreland" units



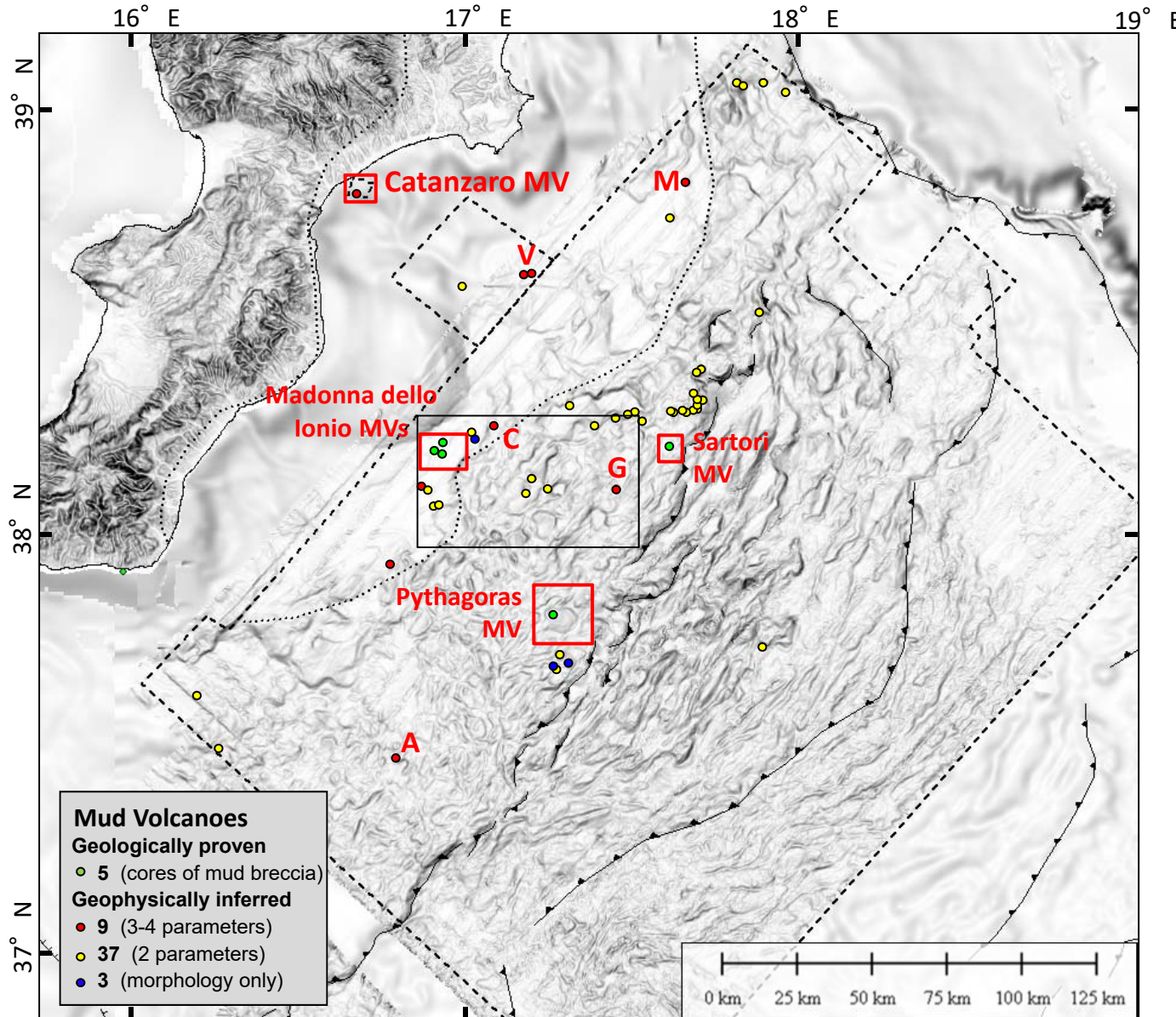
# MALTA ESCARPMENT



*Ceramicola et al. 2014*



# The Calabrian mud volcano province

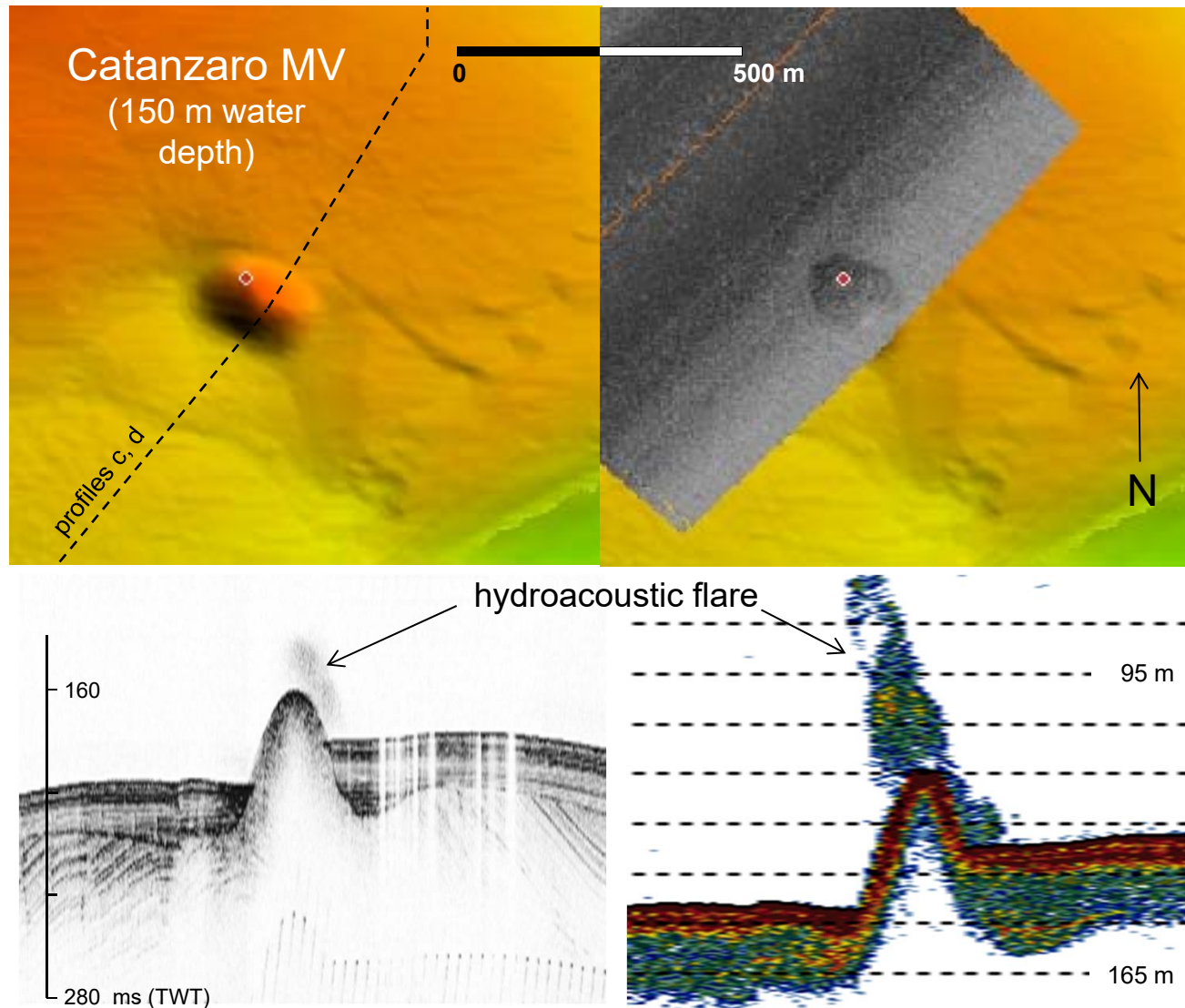


- **Seabed mapping** based on data acquired by OGS in 2005 and 2009
- At least 54 MVs (conservative criteria), all but one (possible) landward of Calabrian Escarpment
- 3 sites cored, others geophysically inferred

(Ceramicola et al. 2014b)



# Multi-parameter geophysical evidence of mud volcanoes

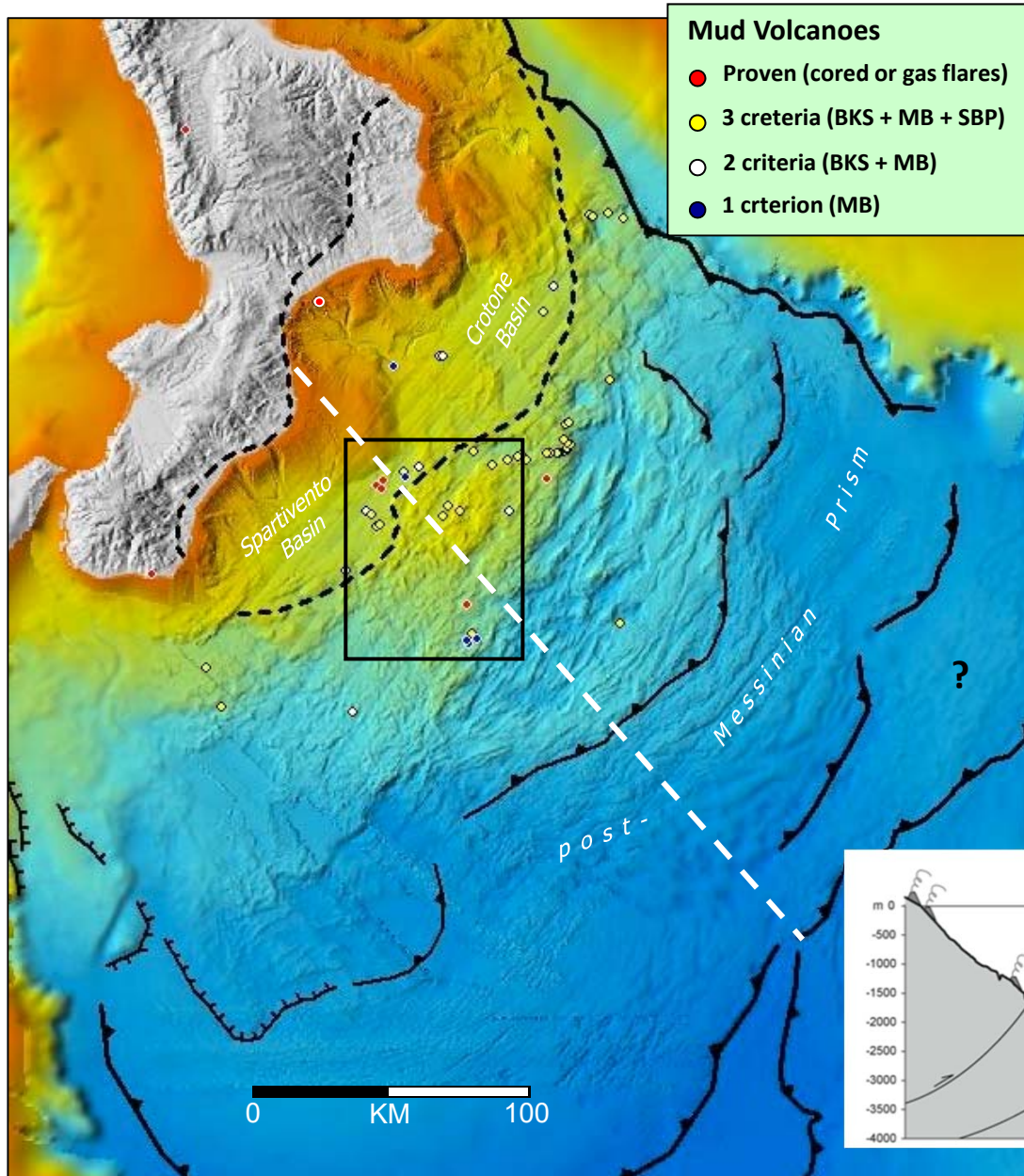


- 5 km off Calabrian coast, only MV in <1000 m water depth (100 kHz backscatter)
- Mud breccia extrusion above last glacial maximum unconformity **(19-23 ka BP)**
- Hydroacoustic evidence of gas venting to water column

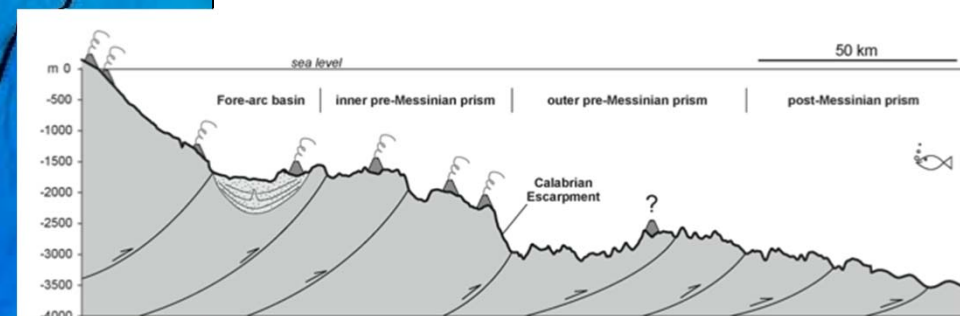
*Ceramicola et al. 2014b*



# Calabrian mud volcano province – in summary

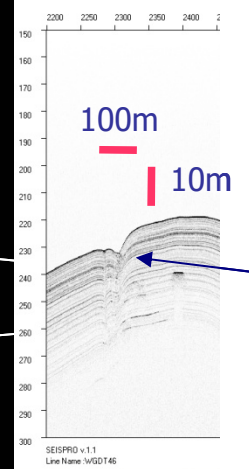
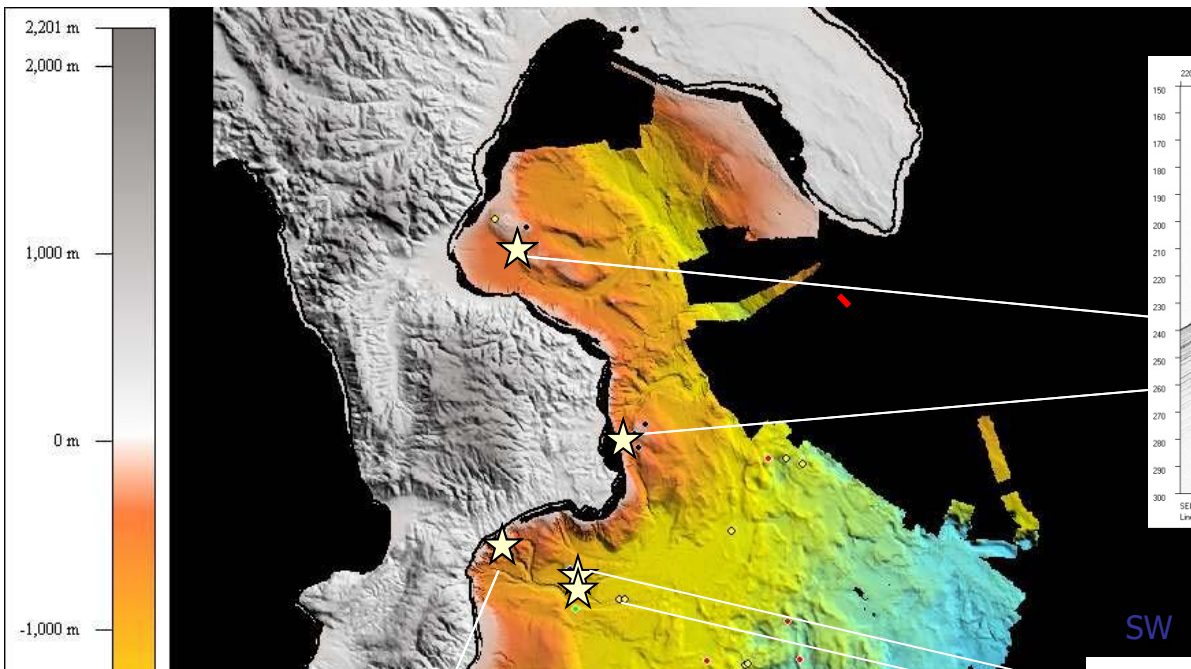


- At least 54 MVs (+ one on land) distributed across fore-arc basins (thin salt) and inner prism (no salt) – lower density than Med Ridge, fluid sources at depth
- Local influence of faults, none in centres of fore-arc basins (rising fluids blocked by salt or mud?)
- Seabed extrusion of mud breccias over last glacial to post-glacial cycle (50/53), ongoing gas seepage (3 sites)
- All but one possible MV landward of Calabrian Escarpment



Ceramicola, et al. (2014)

# Fluid seepage

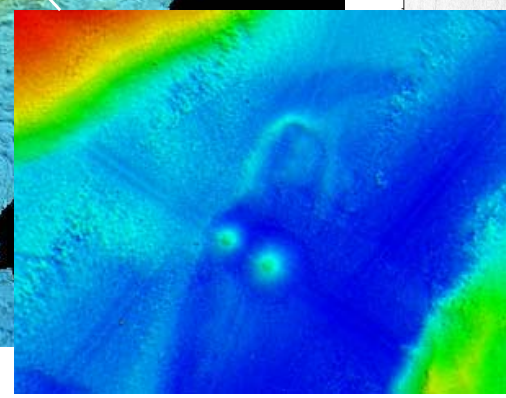
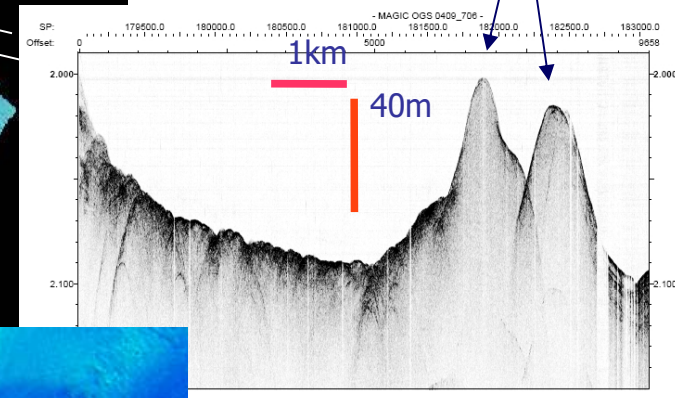
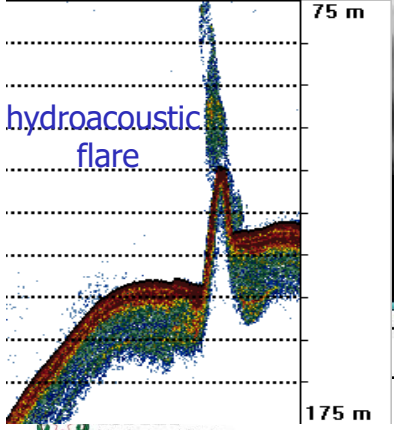


Pockmarks

Vulcani di fango ?

SW

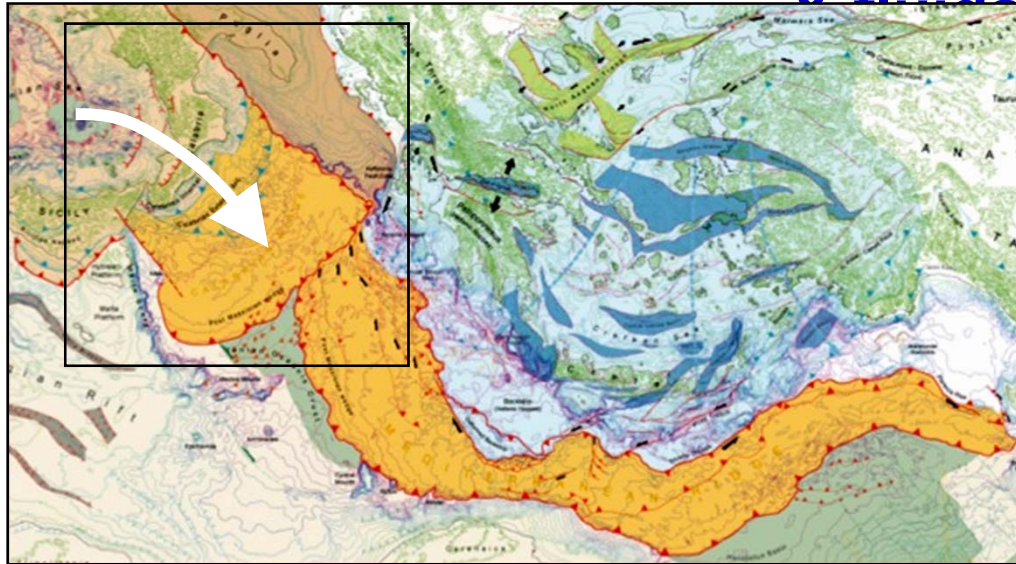
NE



...siti individuati nel  
...argine calabro ionico sottocosta,  
...olti di piu' sul prisma di accrezione

*Ceramicola et al. 2014*

# Central and Eastern Mediterranean accretionary prisms



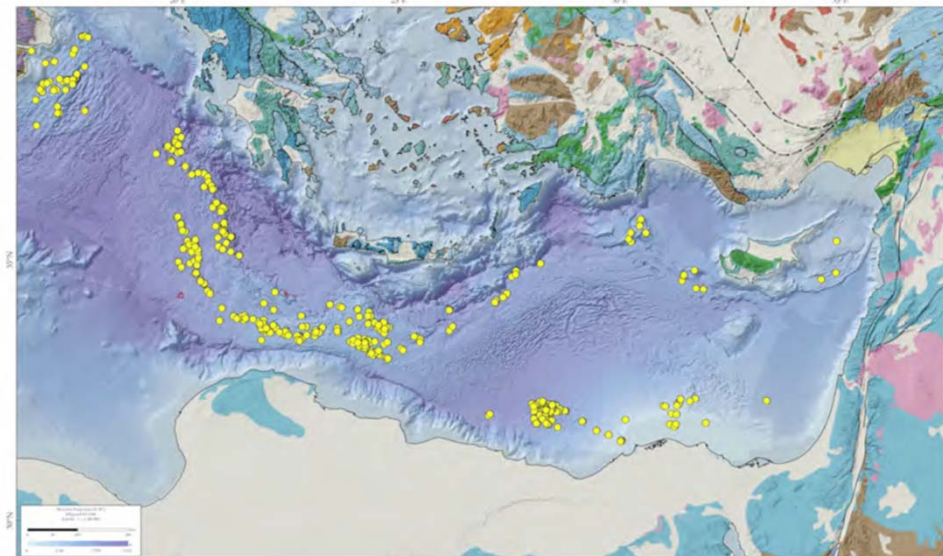
Chamot-Rooke et al. 2005

## Mediterranean Ridge etc :

- MVs 1st identified from mud breccias over 30 years ago (Cita et al. 1981)
- Mud breccia extrusion for >1 Ma (ODP 164, 1996)
- Hundreds – highest abundance on Earth? (Kopf 2002)
- Tectonically-controlled crestal belt

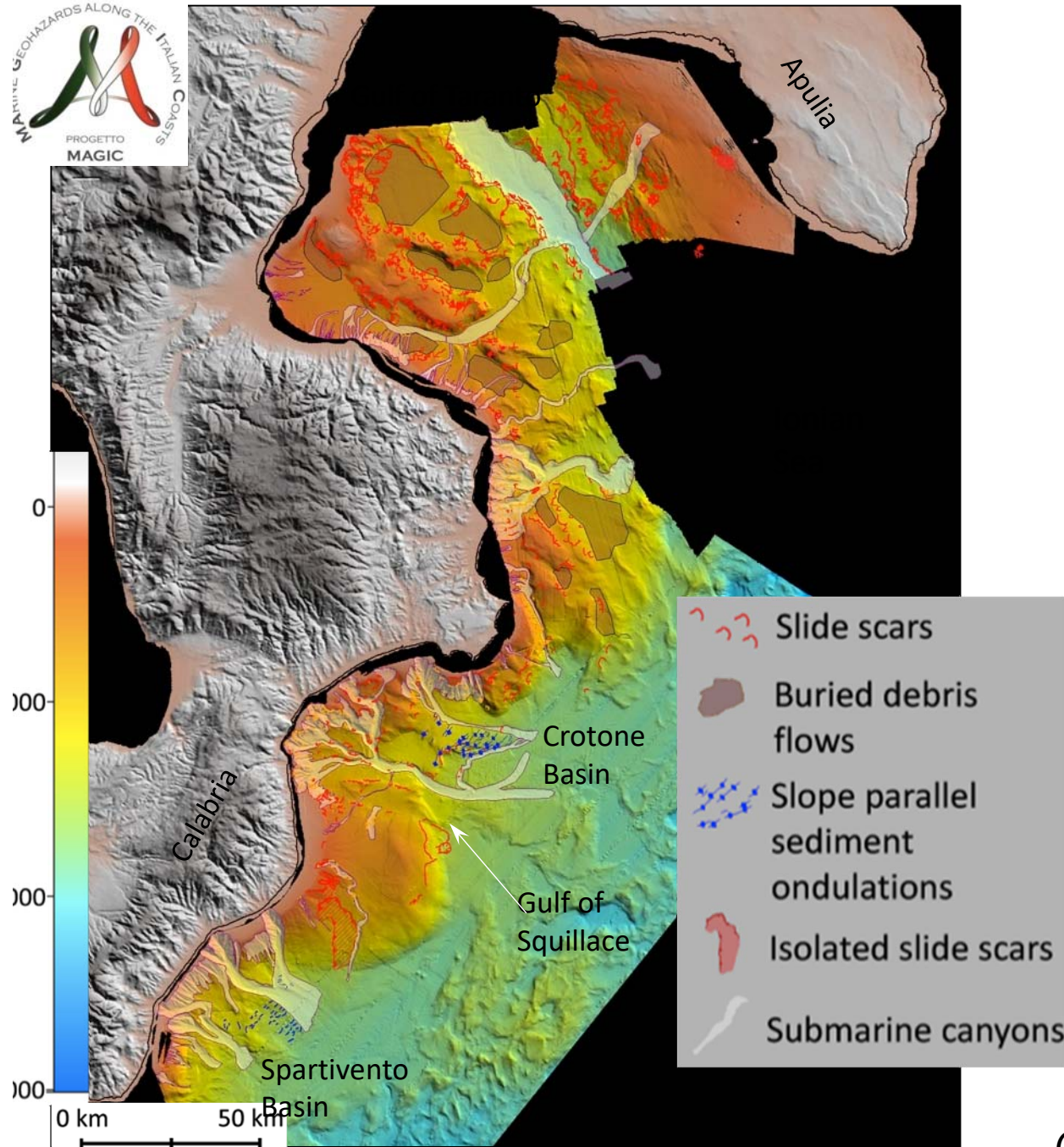
## Calabrian 'arc' :

- Recent entry– rapid slab roll-back since the mid-Miocene c. 9 Ma → meets Med Ridge
- No seabed studies for >25 years since Rossi & Sartori (1981)
- Presence of long-lived mud volcanoes proven by OGS in 2005



Masclé et al. 2014





# Mass movements along the Calabrian margin

1 Mass Transport Complexes (MTCs) in intra-slope basins (northern Calabrian margin)

2 Isolated Slide Scars (ISSs) on open slopes (all margins)

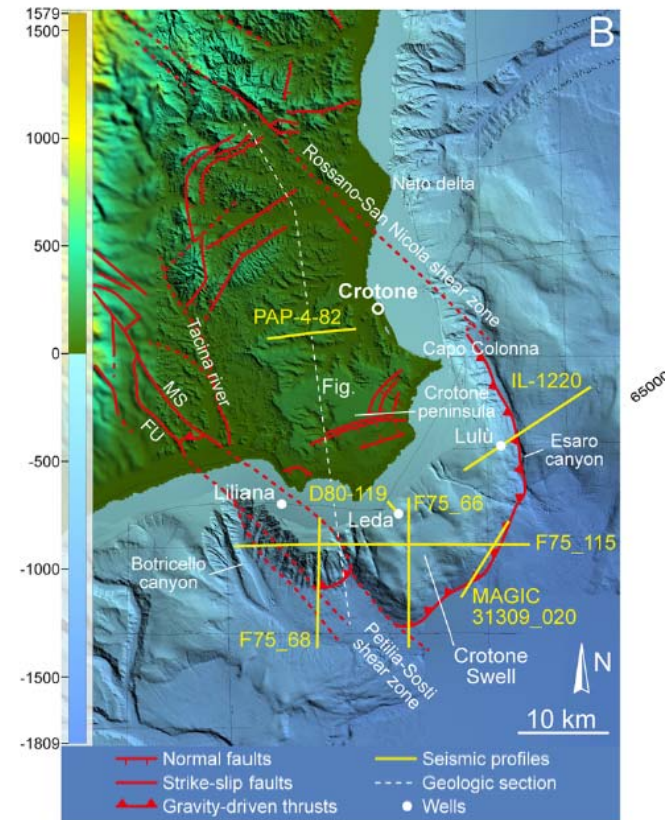
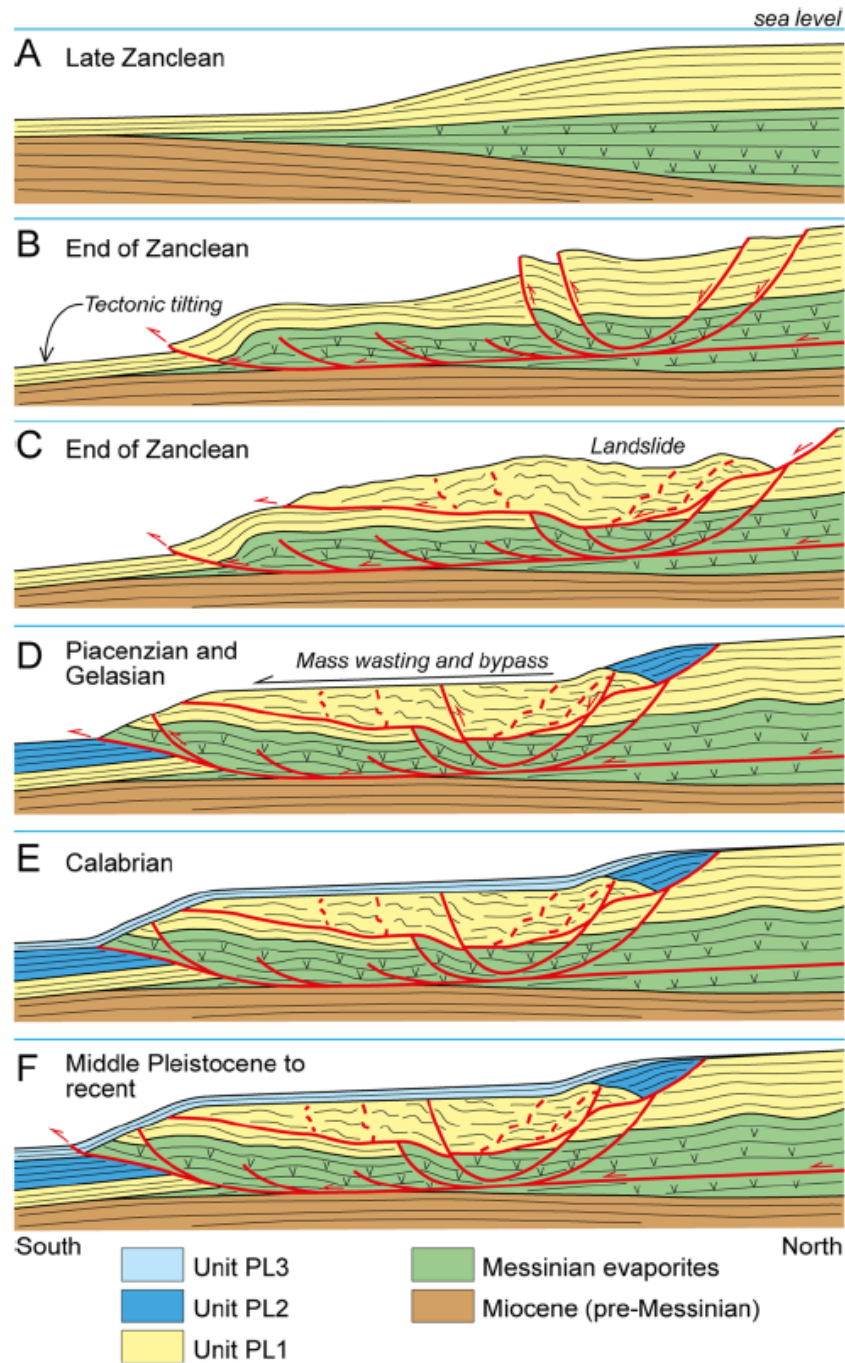
3 Headwall & Sidewall Scarps in Submarine Canyons (HSC) (Calabrian margin)

4 Slope-Parallel Sediment Undulations (SPSU) (southern Calabrian margin)





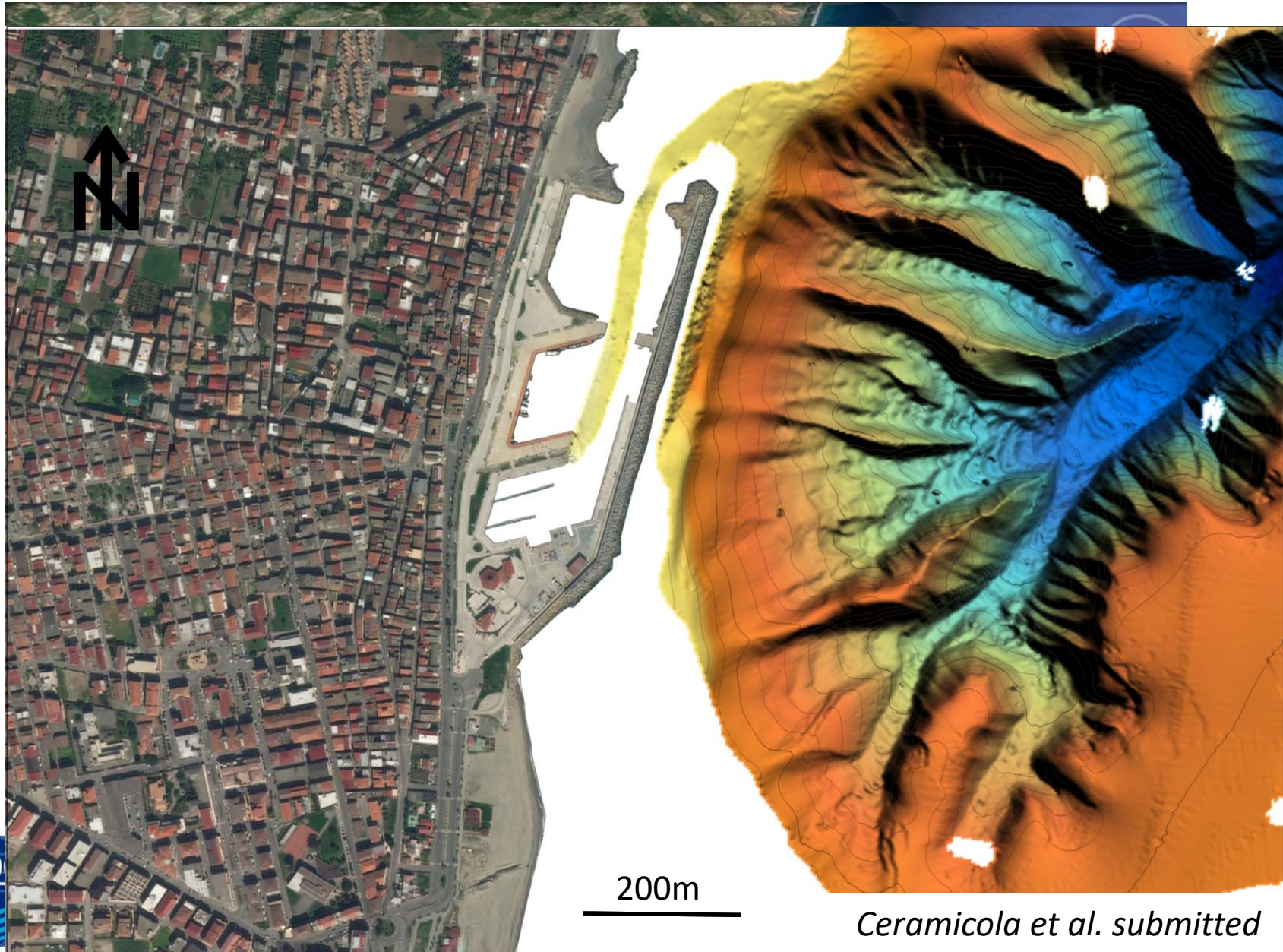
# The Crotone Megaslides



Zecchin et al. 2018



# Cirò marina submarine canyon and coastal hazard



*Ceramicola et al. submitted*

## Cirò marina submarine canyon and coastal hazard



# Adriatic-Ionian Bimodal Oscillating System (BiOs) (Gacic et al., 2010)

The Ionian Sea is the deepest regional sea of the Mediterranean and plays an important role in the intermediate and deep thermohaline cell of the Eastern Mediterranean (EMed) conveyor belt (Gacic et al., 2010)

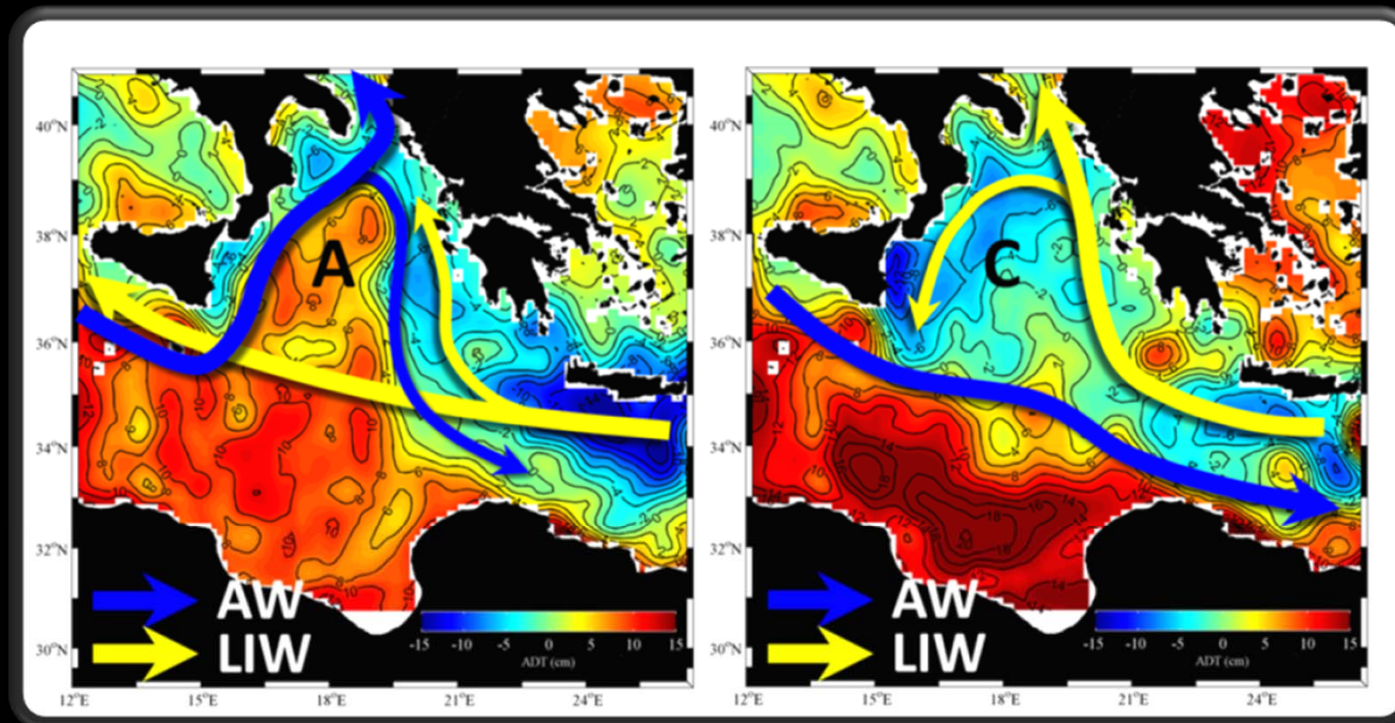
The vertical structure of a water column is formed by three layers : dense and oxygenated waters, mainly of Adriatic origin (in the bottom layer), salty and warm waters coming from the Levantine and Aegean basins (in the intermediate layer) , relatively fresh water of Atlantic origin (AW) propagating toward the Levantine basin over surface

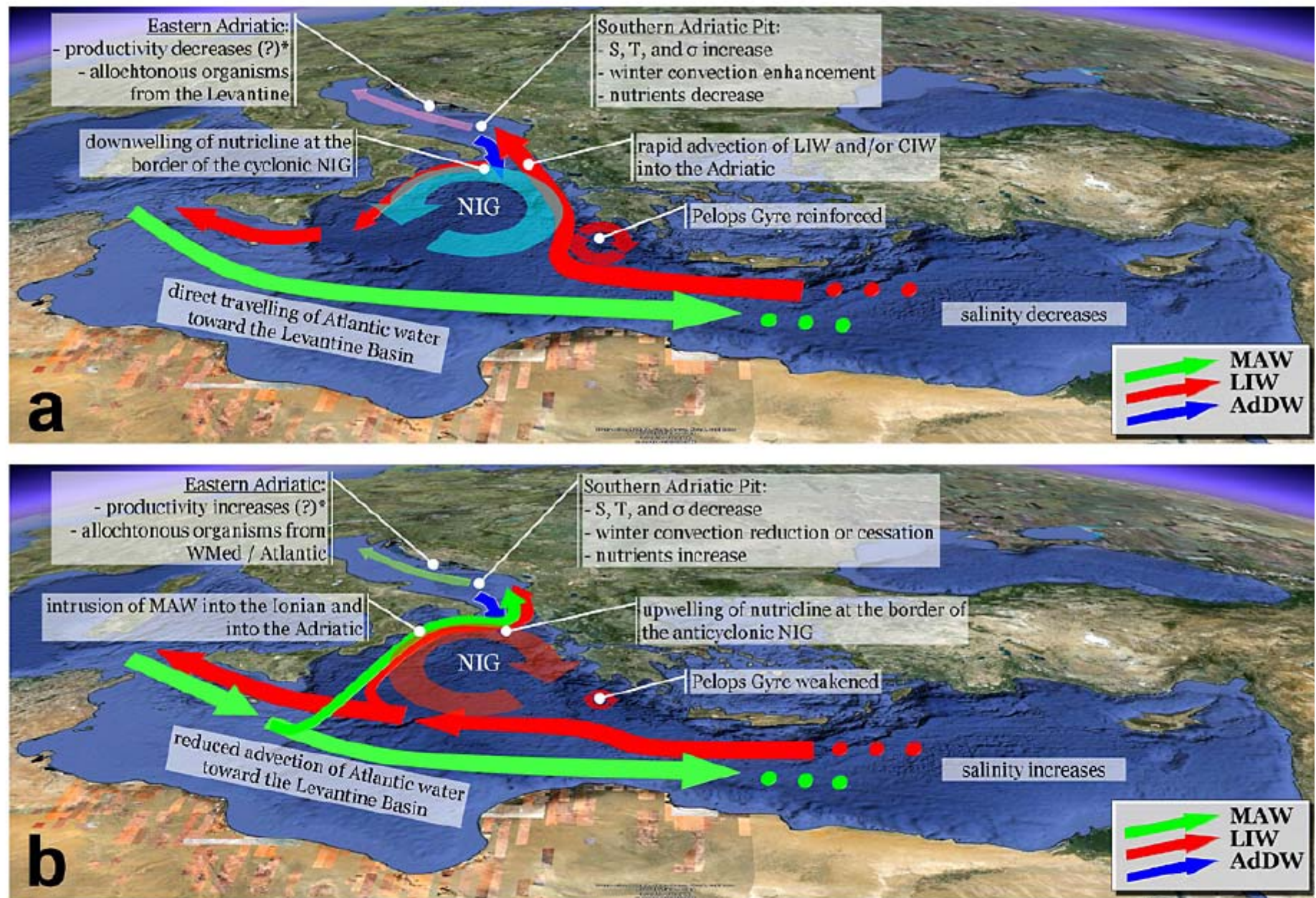
A reversal of circulation in the Ionian Gyre from anticyclonic to cyclonic has been observed in the middle of 1997.

Adriatic Ionian system behaves as a bimodal oscillating system when anticyclonic circulation are present in Ionian AW are deflected in the Adriatic leading to production of ADW of lowering density which spread in the Ionian producing a deepening of isopycnal surface and stretching of water column ! weaking of anticyclonic circulation produce the reverse of circulation to cyclonic when cyclonic circulation are present in Ionian salty LIW enters in the Adriatic leading the production of ADW of increasing density which produce a shallowing of isopycnal surface → weaking/inversion of cyclonic circulation



The Ionian Sea circulation *reverses* on decadal scale. Accordingly, Atlantic Water path is deviated, generating an *alternate «dilution»* of the North Ionian and Adriatic Sea (A), or Levantine (C)





**Fig. 5.** Summary of the main characteristics of the Adriatic-Ionian BiOS and its impact on the area. (a) cyclonic NIG; (b) anticyclonic NIG  
\* For more detailed explanations, see main text (Sect. 4.2). For acronyms, see main text.