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Critical Review of Geologic Writing

Geology 371

Review of: "Erosion of Great Escarpments" by Ari Matmom

The paper in review is about location and arrangement of the great escarpments bordering continental rifts and passive margins and presents evidence against of contentious parallel retreat. The escarpments in study do not retreat at uniform rates. The general pattern is that escarpments positioned along structurally uplifted and warped margins are breached by large drainage basins that derivate inland and are more sinuous than those located along simple uplifted margins. This signifies that the importance of pre-rift drainage systems to the erosion of great escarpments. To the contrary there is a weak correlation between the degree of sinuosity and escarpment age due, to the complex process in which sinuosity increases. The age and the overall structure of the margin control the pattern and tempo of the erosions along the great escarpments in this study.

This paper was very well written and contained a large amount of information to support the conclusions drawn from this study. The quality of the data in this paper is good but I feel that the data was presented very broadly in the paper with little actual data present in the paper itself. The interpretations in the paper were present with supporting evidence and flowed nicely thought the paper. Both the writing and illustrations were present in a clear and concise way, with the illustrations incorporated well to support the writing.

I recommended this paper for submission to GEOLOGY, after a few corrections are made. First, I know that it's small but the hyper links need me remove from web pages and email address. The methods section could be expanded giving more detail about relationships between degrees of sinuosity and margin's structure. In the escarpment sinuosity section you talked about the knick-point, its kind of awkward wording, maybe something along the lines of rough contact point.