

West Gondwana: Pre-Cenozoic Correlations Across the South Atlantic Region

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West Gondwana: Pre-Cenozoic Correlations Across the South Atlantic Region

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Preface

Although the theme of the construction of Gondwana has been touched on at successive Gondwana Symposia (the first of which was held in 1967, in Mar del Plata, Argentina), at International Geological Congresses, and at the Colloquia on African Geology, no direct focus has yet been dedicated to it in publication. At the Tenth Gondwana Symposium, in Cape Town (1998) it emerged clearly that former links between the Gondwana fragments, such as between Africa and South America, are well defined on a broad scale, yet in detail many correlations remained unresolved.

For this reason, at the Twelfth Gondwana Symposium in Mendoza, Argentina (2005), a special symposium was dedicated to the subject, convened by B. B. Brito Neves and R. A. Armstrong. The idea was to bring together the most prominent geoscientists who have worked in the coastal and flanking areas of the two continents, in order to compare structures and rocks on a scale as detailed as possible, and to establish the present limits and uncertainties of well-known correlation. The choice of the title for the symposium, West Gondwana, the ties that bind, was meant to be provocative, in that it was recognized that many problems, both of geological

and biological nature, continue to hamper the advancement of our detailed understanding of the formation and break up of Gondwana. We are sure that the data and interpretations presented at the symposium, much of which are now collated in this book, will help to forge new strategies for future research on the evolution of Gondwana through refining former geological links across the South Atlantic.

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