

Interactive comment on “Tectonostratigraphy of the Mérida Massif reveals a new suture zone exposure in SW Iberia” by Rubén Díez Fernández et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This manuscript presents a new hypothesis on the significance of the gabbro-diorite massif of Merida (Ossa-Morena Zone, SW Iberian Massif), which is interpreted in terms of an ophiolitic complex of oceanic affinity and would attest to a Cadomian suture zone.

Following the initial sections on introduction, general comments and a summary on the available knowledge for the area, the authors briefly describe a number of supposed tectonostratigraphic units, one of which, the so-called Merida Ophiolite, is key to the suture zone hypothesis.

Yet, this hypothesis and the ascription of the Merida massif to an oceanic ophiolitic complex are not supported by any petrological, structural or geochemical data, which

totally compromises the proposed interpretation.

To illustrate the hypothetical tectonostratigraphy, a simplified map of the region is presented, which is inconsistent with published geological maps for this area without the authors justifying theirs.

The authors must provide the pertinent evidence for their assumptions or refer to publications where these evidence are shown. In the absence of such information, it is impossible for any reader to have the smallest idea of the validity of the hypothesis put forward.

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