

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 #3

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The extremely appealing title and nice abstract of this manuscript by Díez Fernández et al. initially caught my attention and invited me to accept its review with the greatest interest. If correct, this topic would attract the interest of many researchers of various disciplines, myself among them! However, I needed several successive readings to finally realize that the only data presented are those making the structural map and sections. Other than these, only interpretations are given from the very beginning, which is really disappointing. If the authors want to prove that an (Neoproterozoic) oceanic affinity unit, and therefore a (Cadomian) suture are present in the Mérida area they should document this with geochemical/isotopic data. Most rocks of their mafic/ultramafic unit have been previously interpreted on the basis of their geochemistry as arc-related

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(Bandrés, 2001; Bandrés et al., 2002, 2004). A discussion of this apparent controversy can be only sustained with data, which as said, are missing. In addition, you should not claim for an oceanic suture and not to mention the nature and correlation of the two juxtaposed continental blocks, apart from describing the accretion process. I presume the authors have data of those kinds, otherwise I do not understand how convinced they seem to be of their interpretation. I invite them to enlarge their manuscript and incorporate those data, even if they are thinking in publishing them in a higher rank journal. Without them, this is more an extended abstract, with a nice map and sections, than a paper. I really look forward to seeing the data sustaining your interpretation.

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/se-2019-189>, 2020.

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