

Cretaceous Evaporites of Brazil and West Africa and Their Bearing on the Theory of Continental Separation¹

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ABSTRACT

Proponents of the theory of continental drift have dated the initial separation of the African and South American continents as Jurassic which provides the possibility that Aptian evaporites which occur in strips along the coastal regions of Brazil and West Africa formed in a restrictive seaway created during continental separation.

Tachyhydrite, a rare calcium chloride bearing evaporite mineral, occurs abundantly in the Aptian sequences of to Congo and also in Sergite, Brazil. There are further

similarities of stratigraphy, mineralogy and trace element chemistry.

These deposits are also of interest for their contained folds, some of which appear to be of synsedimentary origin. Locally, salt flowage appears to have been initiated with only a few hundred meters of overburden and may have been facilitated by the low density and lack of strength of unlithified salt sediment accumulating in "deep" basins.

1. Summary paper presented at Symposium, full paper published elsewhere.