

amount of new data published in the last ten years. Therefore, some aspects described in this paper are rather problematic.

However, the basic features of the Alpine and Variscan metamorphisms are relatively well clear. The Alpine metamorphism turns out to be characterized by medium to high pressures. The Variscan metamorphism displays low pressure conditions in the certainly monometamorphic, low-grade sequences. In the high grade pre-Alpine terranes, barrovian-type conditions have been also reported as related to the Variscan event: however, they could also be a record of a pre-Variscan history, survived after the prevailing Variscan effects, as some chronological data and geo-petrographic hints may suggest.

## **THE AGE OF FRIDO UNIT METALIMESTONES: IMPLICATIONS ABOUT A PALEOTECTONIC ROLE OF THE SANGINETO LINE.**

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The occurrence in the Frido Unit metalimestones at the Calabria-Lucania border of nanofossil associations not older than the Oligocene is reported. Therefore the HP/VLT metamorphism of the unit-till now referred to as Eo-alpine - must be interpreted as already related to the Apenninic tectogenetic phases. This strengthens the hypothesis of the persistence as far as the Oligocene of a relic of the oceanic Tethys, kinematically disengaged from earlier deformed segments like the area originating the Calabrian ophiolitic units.

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE LATE-VARISCAN MAGMATIC EVOLUTION IN THE ALPINE BELT**

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After the major orogenic episodes, the pre-Mesozoic Alpine basement was subjected to large-scale shearing effects accompanying lithosphere distensional thinning, Basin and Range tectonics and high geothermal regimes. As a result of intrusion of mantle-derived melts and induced crustal anatexis, almost all pieces of basement within the Alpine belt underwent abundant late-Variscan magma emplacement.

After the *late-Devonian* collisional stage, low-pressure regional regimes ultimately