

Stress field in the initial stage of the backarc opening -- Southwest Japan in Paleogene

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Paleogene cauldrons in the inner zone of Southwest Japan are arranged along the E-W trend. Each cauldron shows an elliptic outline with the NE-SW longitudinal axis. The angle between this axis and the E-W trend is about 45 degrees. Namely, the arrangement of Paleogene cauldrons shows right-hand en-echelon pattern which originated in the NW-SE oblique extension. This stress field could be due to the left lateral movement along the Southwest Japan derived from the beginning of the backarc opening.