



The Paleomagnetism of Mesozoic Dikes of Mauritania: Implications for Motion and Stability of Africa

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Mesozoic (approximately 200-million-year old) basaltic dikes from the Sahara are potentially ideal recorders of the past geomagnetic field that can provide insight about motion of the cratons that compose the African continent during rifting of the Atlantic Ocean. This history is in turn important for the evolution of the sedimentary basins of west Africa. The steps in examining this record include (i) expedition work to sample the rocks (ii) rock magnetism to understand the magnetic recorders and (iii) paleomagnetic analysis to obtain magnetic directions. We have advanced part (i) and (ii) and part (iii) is in progress.

