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## Geology of the Iberian Shelf

[Abstract only]

BY P. LEHNER AND M. B. K. LUTZ

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This paper discusses the geological history of the Atlantic shelf of Portugal and northern Spain during the Mesozoic and Tertiary.

The Mesozoic and the Tertiary history of the Portuguese shelf is described in the context of the tectonic evolution of the adjacent north Atlantic, making use of results of Shell's 1973–1977 offshore exploration campaign.

Along the Atlantic margin of Portugal, rifting began during the Triassic under arid, red bed conditions. Basal evaporites overlain by thick shelf carbonates indicate a tectonically stable but steadily submerging marginal platform during the Jurassic. There is evidence for repeated phases of rifting during the Cretaceous and Early Tertiary.

The geological history of the Cantabrian shelf in northern Spain is discussed, by using results from offshore wells combined with onshore geology.

The Mesozoic sedimentary sequence of the Cantabrian shelf reflects the opening of Biscay and the broadening and deepening of the Pyrenean Cantabrian basins. There is some evidence for active rifting during the Late Triassic and Late Jurassic. Deep marine deposits are continuous from the Mid Cretaceous through Early Tertiary. Basin inversion with wrench faulting, folding and thrusting began during the Early Tertiary.