

Accepted Manuscript

The Zimbabwe Craton in Mozambique: A brief review of its geochronological pattern and its relation to the Mozambique Belt

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PII: S1464-343X(17)30026-2

DOI: [10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2017.01.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2017.01.021)

Reference: AES 2787

To appear in: *Journal of African Earth Sciences*

Received Date: 25 May 2016

Revised Date: 15 January 2017

Accepted Date: 16 January 2017

Please cite this article as: Chaúque, F.R., Cordani, U.G., Jamal, D.L., Onoe, A.T., The Zimbabwe Craton in Mozambique: A brief review of its geochronological pattern and its relation to the Mozambique Belt, *Journal of African Earth Sciences* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jafrearsci.2017.01.021.

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1 **THE ZIMBABWE CRATON IN MOZAMBIQUE: A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS**
2 **GEOCHRONOLOGICAL PATTERN AND ITS RELATION TO THE MOZAMBIQUE**
3 **BELT**

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9 **ABSTRACT**

10 The eastern margin of the Zimbabwe Craton, along the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border, includes
11 the oldest rocks of west-central Mozambique constituting a large terrain of granite-greenstone
12 type dated between 3000 and 2500 Ma. These rocks consist mainly of gneisses and granitoid
13 rocks of tonalitic-trondhjemitic-granodioritic composition belonging to the Mudzi Metamorphic
14 Complex in the northern part and to the Mavonde Complex in the southern part. The latter is
15 associated with a granite-greenstone terrain, which includes the eastern part of Mutare-Odzi-
16 Manica greenstone belt. A volcano-sedimentary sequences cover, belonging to the apparently
17 Mesoproterozoic and Paleoproterozoic Umkondo and Gairezi groups respectively was deposited
18 along the eastern margin of the craton and is exposed in the territory of Mozambique. The
19 Umkondo minimum age is marked by intrusive dolerite in Zimbabwe dated at 1100 Ma while for
20 the Gairezi it is still not well established. The Gairezi Group was subjected to progressive
21 metamorphism of Pan-African age. At the margin of the Zimbabwe Craton, in its northern part,
22 metasedimentary units occur representing a passive margin of Neoproterozoic age. They make
23 up the Rushinga Group, which includes felsic metavolcanic rocks dated at *ca.*800 Ma.
24 Granulites and medium- to high-grade paragneisses, and migmatites of the Chimoio, Macossa

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