

Ber. Inst. Erdwiss. K.-F.-Univ. Graz	ISSN 1608-8166	Band 20/1	Graz 2014
PANGEO AUSTRIA 2014	Graz, 14. September 2014 – 19. September 2014		

## **Gondwana-Land goes Europe**

NEUBAUER, F.

University of Salzburg, Department of Geography and Geology, Hellbrunnerstraße 34, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

One of the most long-lasting scientific achievements of Eduard Suess was the recognition of the terrestrial, particular glacial Upper Paleozoic (Permian) flora (incl. *Glossopteris* sp.) on different southern continents and he coined the term Gondwana-Land for this paleogeographic entity. He believed that the southern continents were connected by land bridges over the oceans. Later, the name Gondwana was used for the southern supercontinent, which formed during the Pan-African orogeny, and Gondwana collided with Laurussia, together forming the Pangea supercontinent during the Variscan orogeny. In this contribution, the fact is reviewed that pieces of West Gondwana became detached and crossed the Paleo-Tethys and Rheic oceans to accrete to the northern continental block, Laurussia, during the Variscan orogeny. Based on own new U-Pb detrital zircon ages from Alpine Europe, and such from the literature, all with a significant 1.0 to 1.2 Ga age population, four potential paleogeographic derivations of Variscan Europe are discussed: (1) the classical hypothesis with an origin in North Africa, (2) NW-Africa/Amazonian hypothesis and (3) a NE Africa/Arabian origin with a close relationship to the Early Paleozoic Gondwanan superfan originating in the East Africa-Antarctica orogen and (4) a far-travelled microplate from the eastern part of the Prototethys.