

1 **Unravelling the stratigraphy and sedimentation history of the uppermost Cretaceous to**
2 **Eocene sediments of the Kuching Zone in West Sarawak (Malaysia), Borneo**

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15

16 **Abstract**

17 The Kuching Zone in West Sarawak consists of two different sedimentary basins, the Kayan
18 and Ketungau Basins. The sedimentary successions in the basins are part of the Kuching
19 Supergroup that extends into Kalimantan. The uppermost Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) to
20 Lower Eocene Kayan Group forms the sedimentary deposits directly above a major
21 unconformity, the Pedawan Unconformity, which marks the cessation of subduction-related
22 magmatism beneath SW Borneo and the Schwaner Mountains, due to termination of the
23 Paleo-Pacific subduction. The successions consist of the Kayan and Penrissen Sandstones
24 and are dominated by fluvial channels, alluvial fans and floodplain deposits with some
25 deltaic to tidally-influenced sections in the Kayan Sandstone. In the late Early or early
26 Middle Eocene, sedimentation in this basin ceased and a new basin, the Ketungau Basin,
27 developed to the east. This change is marked by the Kayan Unconformity. Sedimentation
28 resumed in the Middle Eocene (Lutetian) with the marginal marine, tidal to deltaic Ngili
29 Sandstone and Silantek Formation. Upsequence, the Silantek Formation is dominated by
30 floodplain and subsidiary fluvial deposits. The Bako-Mintu Sandstone, a potential lateral
31 equivalent of the Silantek Formation, is formed of major fluvial channels. The top of the
32 Ketungau Group in West Sarawak is formed by the fluvially-dominated Tutoop Sandstone.
33 This shows a transition of the Ketungau Group in time towards terrestrial/fluvially-
34 dominated deposits.

35 Paleocurrent measurements show river systems were complex, but reveal a dominant
36 southern source. This suggests uplift of southern Borneo initiated in the region of the
37 present-day Schwaner Mountains from the latest Cretaceous onwards. Additional sources
38 were local sources in the West Borneo province, Mesozoic melanges to the east and

39 potentially the Malay Peninsula. The Ketungau Group also includes reworked deposits of the
40 Kayan Group. The sediments of the Kuching Supergroup are predominantly horizontal or dip
41 with low angles and form large open synclines. Steep dips are usually restricted to faults,
42 such as the Lupar Line.

43

44 **1. Introduction**

45 Thick, predominantly Cenozoic, terrestrial sedimentary successions in West Sarawak and
46 NW Kalimantan are exposed in the Kuching Zone (Haile, 1974) of Borneo where they form
47 large basins. The Kuching Zone is bounded by the Lupar Line to the north, which separates it
48 from the Sibul Zone (Haile, 1974). In contrast to the terrestrial sediments of the Kuching
49 Zone, the Sibul Zone consists of deep marine sediments of the Belaga Formation which is
50 part of the Rajang Group (Liechti et al., 1960; Pieters et al., 1987; Tate, 1991; Hutchison,
51 1996). To the south the Kuching Zone is bounded by the Schwaner Mountains which are
52 dominated by Cretaceous igneous and metamorphic rocks (Haile et al., 1977; van Hattum et
53 al., 2013; Davies et al., 2014; Hennig et al., 2017).

54 In the western part of the Kuching Zone, terrestrial sediments of the Kayan Sandstone (Tan,
55 1981; Heng, 1992; Morley, 1998) form several isolated outliers or sub-basins that were
56 informally termed the Kayan 'Basin' by Douth (1992) and extend into NW Kalimantan (Fig.
57 1). In the eastern part of West Sarawak, terrestrial sediments are exposed in the Ketungau
58 Basin (Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979; Pieters et al., 1987). The Ketungau Basin extends from West
59 Sarawak into Kalimantan and is separated by the Semitau Ridge from the Melawi Basin
60 (Pieters et al., 1987; Douth, 1992), which is the largest of the Cenozoic sedimentary basins
61 of the Kuching Zone (Fig. 1). The Melawi Basin extends farther to the west into the Landak
62 Basin (Douth, 1992). The Mandai Basin to the east of the Ketungau Basin was suggested to
63 be its eastern continuation (Douth, 1992) and together with the West Kutai Basin they
64 form the eastern limit of the Kuching Zone.

65 The terrestrial sediments in West Sarawak south of the Lupar Line have been little studied
66 and their ages and stratigraphy remain unclear. The few descriptions of rocks and field

67 relations report fluvial to marginal marine facies (Liechti et al., 1960; Wolfenden & Haile,
68 1963; Wilford & Kho, 1965; Muller, 1968; Tan, 1979; Tan, 1993). The absence of fossils in
69 most formations has hampered determination of stratigraphic relations. There is little
70 knowledge of potential source regions. This study presents new field observations of
71 successions of the Kayan Sandstone and the Ketungau Basin in West Sarawak. We present a
72 revised stratigraphy based on field relations, lithological observations and facies discussed in
73 this paper, which provide new insights into ages, environment of deposition and sediment
74 sources. This publication is supported by studies of detrital heavy minerals including zircons
75 reported by Breitfeld et al. (2014) and Breitfeld (2015), which will be summarised in another
76 paper.

77 **2. Kuching Supergroup – history and correlation of the Kayan and Ketungau Basins**

78 All clastic terrestrial sedimentary successions of Late Cretaceous to Late Eocene/?Early
79 Oligocene age that form the large basins in the Kuching Zone are assigned here to a new
80 Kuching Supergroup. In West Sarawak the Kuching Supergroup includes sedimentary rocks
81 of the Kayan 'Basin' and Ketungau Basin which are renamed here the Kayan Group and the
82 Ketungau Group. Fig. 2 shows the distribution of these rocks south of the Lupar Line in West
83 Sarawak.

84 These sedimentary rocks unconformably overlie a heterogeneous basement in the region of
85 West Kalimantan and West Sarawak which Williams et al. (1988) named the NW Kalimantan
86 domain and Hennig et al. (2017) termed West Borneo. The basement in this region includes
87 sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks with ages from Late Carboniferous to Late
88 Cretaceous (e.g. Liechti et al., 1960; JICA, 1985; Tate, 1991; Rusmana et al., 1993; Hutchison,
89 2005; Breitfeld et al., 2017). Triassic to Cretaceous (older than c. 85 Ma) rocks, including the

90 Cretaceous Lubok Antu Melange/Kapuas Complex and the Boyan Melange (Tan, 1979;
91 Williams et al., 1986, 1988; Pieters et al., 1993) formed in an accretionary setting
92 (Hutchison, 2005) interpreted as a Mesozoic Paleo-Pacific subduction margin (Breitfeld et
93 al., 2017; Hennig et al., 2017).

94 Upper Oligocene to Upper Miocene rocks of the Sintang Suite have intruded the sediments
95 of the Kuching Supergroup after their deposition, and formed various small dykes, stocks
96 and sills (Williams and Harahap, 1987; Prouteau et al., 2001). Geochemically they are
97 predominantly dacitic to granodioritic, or subordinately dioritic to granitic (Williams and
98 Harahap, 1987). In the region south of Kuching, near the city Bau, they have an adakite
99 character (Prouteau et al., 2001) and are associated with significant gold mineralisation (e.g.
100 Wilford, 1955), that are interpreted as porphyry deposits similar to Carlin-type deposits in
101 western United States (Percival et al., 1990; Schuh and Guilbert, 1990). However, this gold
102 mineralisation seems to be restricted to the interaction of adakites with the Jurassic Bau
103 Limestone Formation host rock and the adjacent Pedawan Formation in the Bau region
104 along a NNE striking lineament, and include gold-bearing calcic skarns, veins carbonate-
105 replacement ore bodies, epithermal gold deposits and disseminated sedimentary rock-
106 hosted gold deposits (Percival et al., 1990; Schuh, 1993). Northeast of Bau, gold
107 mineralisation extends into the Pedawan Formation and formed the high grade sedimentary
108 rock-hosted disseminated gold deposit of Jugan (Schuh, 1993; Goh et al., 2014).
109 Additionally, there is significant copper, antimony and mercury mineralisation associated
110 with the gold deposits (e.g. Wilford, 1955; Percival et al., 1990; Schuh, 1993). There have
111 been no reports of gold deposits associated with the Sintang Suite rocks and the sediments
112 of the Kuching Supergroup in West Sarawak.

113 2.1. *Kayan Group*

114 The sediments assigned here to the Kayan Group were originally all mapped as, or included
115 in, the Plateau Sandstone of the Klingkang Range (Liechti et al., 1960; Wolfenden & Haile,
116 1963; Wilford & Kho, 1965). Later, Haile (1968) introduced the term Kayan Sandstone for
117 the sedimentary rocks exposed in the Kayan Syncline, at Gunung Serapi, at Gunung
118 Santubong and in the northern Pueh area in order to distinguish them from the Plateau
119 Sandstone, which he considered to be younger. Haile (1968) also separated sedimentary
120 rocks of the Bungo Range and Gunung Penrissen and named them Penrissen Sandstone. Tan
121 (1981) subsequently abandoned the term Penrissen Sandstone and included it in the Kayan
122 Sandstone. Fig. 3 shows the different early stratigraphic terms.

123 Muller (1968) proposed three zones for the Plateau Sandstone in West Sarawak (later
124 renamed to Kayan Sandstone) based on palynomorphs and Morley (1998) later revised the
125 ages of these zones.

126 Zone D – The *Rugubivesiculites* zone is the oldest part of the Kayan Sandstone and is
127 exposed in the northern Pueh area, Lundu area (west of the Kayan Valley) and in the
128 southeastern Bungo Range. Morley (1998) suggested a Late Maastrichtian to Paleocene age.

129 Zone E – The *Proxapertites* zone is exposed in the Pueh area and in the Kayan Syncline
130 where it is the upper part of the Kayan Sandstone, and at the Bungo Range where it is
131 overlain by Zone F. The age was reinterpreted by Morley (1998) to be probably Early
132 Paleocene to Late Paleocene.

133 Zone F – The *Retitriporites variabilis* zone is the youngest part of the Kayan Sandstone. It is
134 exposed only in the central parts of the Bungo Range at Gunung Penrissen. An Early Eocene
135 age was given by Morley (1998).

136 In this study we introduce the term Kayan Group for all the sedimentary rocks in the
137 western part of the research area, which include the Kayan Sandstone (restricted to
138 palynology zones D and E) and the Penrissen Sandstone (palynology zone F). Fig. 3
139 summarises the stratigraphic terms used previously, the palynological zones, and the
140 proposed revised stratigraphy of this study.

141 2.2. *Ketungau Group (Ketungau Basin)*

142 The Ketungau Group is the name proposed here for the sedimentary rocks of the Ketungau
143 Basin which crosses the border from Sarawak to Kalimantan and for sedimentary rocks close
144 to, and north of, the Klingkang Range.

145 The oldest sedimentary rocks of the Ketungau Basin (Fig. 4) were originally termed Kantu
146 Beds in Kalimantan and West Sarawak (Zeijlmans van Emmichoven and ter Bruggen, 1935;
147 Zeijlmans van Emmichoven, 1939). In Kalimantan the term Kantu Formation is now used
148 (e.g. Pieters et al., 1987; Dutch, 1992; Heryanto and Jones, 1996). This is overlain by the
149 Tutoop Sandstone which has its type locality in Kalimantan at Gunung Tutoop (Williams and
150 Heryanto, 1985; Heryanto and Jones, 1996), where it is widely distributed. The youngest
151 unit in Kalimantan is the Ketungau Formation (Pieters et al., 1987; Heryanto and Jones,
152 1996), which does not extend into West Sarawak. Williams and Heryanto (1985) and
153 Heryanto and Jones (1996) used the term Merakai Group for the sediments of the Ketungau
154 Basin in Kalimantan.

155 In Sarawak the term Silantek Beds was used for the oldest sedimentary rocks in the Sadong
156 Valley (Haile, 1954), and those in the Undup Valley were named Kantu Beds (Haile, 1957).
157 Haile (1957) recognised a number of sandstone and shale 'zones' in the Kantu Beds. Tan
158 (1979) redefined the sandstone zones of Haile (1957) as the Basal Sandstone Member and

159 Temudok Member and the Upper Kantu Beds shale as the Redbed Member (Fig. 4). Liechti
160 et al. (1960) renamed the Silantek and Kantu Beds of Haile (1954, 1957) as the Silantek
161 Formation. The Silantek Formation is overlain by the Plateau Sandstone which is the
162 equivalent of the Tutoop Sandstone of Kalimantan.

163 The sediments of the Ketungau Basin in West Sarawak are underlain by, or in faulted
164 contact with, the calcareous Middle Paleocene to Lower Eocene Engkilili Formation in the
165 westernmost part of the Lupar Valley (Haile, 1996). At Tanjung Bako they are
166 unconformably above the Sejingkat Formation (Tan, 1993) and they are in faulted contact
167 with the Lubok Antu Melange/Kapuas Complex in the Lupar Valley (Tan, 1979; Pieters et al.,
168 1993).

169 In Sarawak, Haile (1957) and Tan (1979) described Middle to Upper Eocene foraminifera
170 from the lowermost part of the Silantek Formation, although these are mostly referred to as
171 Upper Eocene in the literature (e.g. Pieters et al., 1987; Dutch, 1992, Heryanto and Jones,
172 1996). Tan (1979) interpreted for one sample an age of Lutetian to early Priabonian. Table 1
173 displays the foraminifera assemblages reported by Haile (1957) and Tan (1979). Most of the
174 foraminifera are long-ranging and not age indicative, but the assemblages by Tan (1979)
175 suggest an Eocene (probably Middle Eocene) age, while one sample from Haile (1957) from
176 the scarp of Bukit Besai (upper section of the Marup Ridge) has an Upper Eocene
177 assemblage after BouDagher-Fadel (2013). Nannofossils (nanno-plankton) reported by Tan
178 (1979) include *Coccolithus* sp., *Pemma* sp. and *Prinsiaceae* sp., which indicate a Middle
179 Eocene (Lutetian) age (Klumpp, 1953; Perch-Nielsen, 1985; Young and Bown, 1997; Bown,
180 2005; Young et al., 2014). The new age interpretations suggest that the lowermost part of

181 the Silantek Formation was deposited in the Middle Eocene (Lutetian to Bartonian), while
182 upsequence the formation is Late Eocene (Priabonian).

183 A Late Eocene to Early Oligocene age was assumed for the Plateau Sandstone of Haile (1954,
184 1957) by Liechti et al. (1960), and for the Tutoop Sandstone (Pieters et al., 1987; Douch,
185 1992). An extension into the Miocene was suggested by Tan (1979, 1981, 1993). However,
186 no age data is available for the succession. A conformable contact with the underlying
187 Silantek Formation was reported by Haile (1957) and Tan (1979), which suggests that the
188 formation could also be of Middle to Late Eocene age.

189 Table 2 displays the previous subdivisions introduced for the western part of the Klingkang
190 Range (Haile, 1954) and for the eastern part (Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979) that consists of the
191 Silantek Formation and the Plateau Sandstone.

192 Here we propose modification of the previous stratigraphy to incorporate new findings
193 reported by Breitfeld (2015) and in this paper, and introduce the term Ketungau Group for
194 the sediments of the Ketungau Basin. The Ketungau Group consists of the Silantek
195 Formation and Tutoop Sandstone as well as new formations termed the Ngili Sandstone and
196 Bako-Mintu Sandstone, previously included in other units. The Upper Silantek Redbed
197 Member/Upper Kantu Beds/Upper Silantek Beds is considered to be part of the Tutoop
198 Sandstone. We prefer the Kalimantan name Tutoop Sandstone instead of the West Sarawak
199 name Plateau Sandstone because the term Plateau Sandstone has been used for different
200 sequences in Sarawak and Kalimantan at different times (see e.g. ter Bruggen, 1935;
201 Zeijlmans van Emmichoven, 1939; Milroy and Crews, 1953; Haile, 1954, 1957; Liechti et al.,
202 1960; Tan, 1993; Hutchison, 2005). Fig. 4 shows the correlation of the different terms used
203 in Kalimantan and West Sarawak and their interpreted ages.

204 **3. Kuching Supergroup – new stratigraphy and field relations**

205 Fig. 5 summarises the new stratigraphy for the uppermost Cretaceous to Eocene
206 sedimentary rocks in West Sarawak shown in Fig. 2.

207 *3.1. Pedawan Unconformity*

208 The term Pedawan Unconformity is introduced in this paper for the major angular
209 unconformity that separates the Upper Cretaceous forearc turbidites of the Pedawan
210 Formation from the uppermost Cretaceous to Paleocene Kayan Sandstone.

211 The unconformity can be seen in the western and northwestern part of the Kayan Syncline
212 (Fig. 6a and b), at the southern tip of Tanjung Santubong (Fig. 6c) and in the Sungai Chupin
213 area (Fig. 6d). The Kayan Sandstone usually overlies the Pedawan Formation with a
214 conglomerate at the base (Fig. 6e and f), marking a major change from deep marine to
215 terrestrial sedimentation in the Kuching Zone in the Late Cretaceous.

216 Muller (1968) and Morley (1998) described Santonian palynomorphs from the youngest
217 section of the Pedawan Formation (Fig. 3) and Breitfeld et al. (2017) reported Turonian
218 foraminifera and zircon ages of 86 to 88.5 Ma (Santonian to Coniacian) from the Pedawan
219 Formation. The oldest sections of the Kayan Sandstone contain palynomorphs of Late
220 Maastrichtian to Paleocene age (Morley, 1998), indicating a hiatus of c. 15 Ma (Fig. 3).

221 *3.2. Kayan Group*

222 *3.2.1. Kayan Sandstone*

223 The Kayan Sandstone forms the lower part of the Kayan Group. It comprises sedimentary
224 rocks in the Kayan Syncline, at Gunung Serapi, at Tanjung Santubong, in the Pueh area and
225 the lower sandstones of the Bungo Range. It includes the *Rugubivesiculites* and

226 *Proxapertites* zones of Muller (1968), and is therefore of Late Maastrichtian to Late
227 Paleocene age (Morley, 1998). There are small variations in lithology in the Kayan
228 Sandstone, which are described below from different locations. The Kayan Sandstone
229 cannot be subdivided into members as outcrops are isolated and it is not possible to
230 correlate between them. They could represent different stratigraphic intervals.

231 **Kayan Sandstone within the Kayan Syncline**

232 The lower contact with the Pedawan Formation is an angular unconformity which can be
233 seen in both the westernmost part of the synclinal basin and in the Sungai Chupin area. The
234 most complete sections were observed at the 'Buffer Wall' road (Fig. 7a) and around Bukit
235 Snibong where it is mainly composed of sandstones, siltstone, reddish and greyish
236 mudstone and coals. A total thickness of approximately 350 m is exposed in the Kayan
237 Syncline. An erosional surface marks the top of the Kayan Sandstone in the area.

238 **Kayan Sandstone of Gunung Serapi**

239 The contact of the Kayan Sandstone with the underlying Pedawan Formation is either
240 faulted or unconformable. West of Gunung Serapi the Serapi massif is separated by a N-S
241 trending fault zone from the Kayan Syncline (Fig. 2). Gunung Singai is the southern
242 continuation of the Serapi range from which it is separated by a NE-SW trending fault (Fig. 2
243 and Fig. 7b).

244 The Kayan Sandstone at Gunung Serapi is composed mainly of thick trough cross-bedded
245 sandstones interbedded with thin carbonaceous dark mudstone layers. The thickness at
246 Gunung Serapi is about 900 m and the top is an erosional surface.

247 **Kayan Sandstone of the Bungo Range**

248 In the Bungo area the Kayan Sandstone forms the spectacular Bungo Range ridge and the
249 lowermost part of the Bungo Syncline. The contact with the Pedawan Formation is either an
250 angular unconformity or faulted. The Kayan Sandstone is approximately 800 m thick and
251 composed predominantly of conglomerate, pebbly sandstone, and cross-bedded sandstone.
252 It is overlain by the Penrissen Sandstone in the Bungo Syncline. The contact was not
253 observed.

254 **Kayan Sandstone in the Pueh area**

255 In the Pueh area the Kayan Sandstone overlies the Serabang Formation unconformably, and
256 the Pueh batholith non-conformably (Wolfenden and Haile, 1963; Rusmana et al., 1993).
257 About 50 m of Kayan Sandstone are exposed. The succession is composed mainly of medium
258 grained sandstone, cross-bedded sandstone and dark coloured mudstone intercalations
259 with thin coal layers and abundant plant fragments. The lithologies are similar to the lower
260 parts exposed in the Gunung Serapi area or the Kayan Syncline. The top is marked by an
261 erosional surface. In places, there is an undated conglomerate, unconformably above this
262 surface, which may be Neogene to Quaternary.

263 **Kayan Sandstone at Tanjung Santubong**

264 The Pedawan Unconformity is exposed in the southern part of the Santubong peninsula. The
265 Kayan Sandstone at Tanjung Santubong is about 800 m thick and forms Gunung Santubong
266 (Fig. 7c). Above the unconformity the sediments are composed mainly of cross-bedded
267 sandstone, pebbly sandstone, conglomerates and thin intercalated mud layers. Lithologies
268 resemble those in the Kayan Syncline and at Gunung Serapi. The sediments are intruded by
269 various sills, possibly of Neogene age. The top is marked by an erosional surface.

270 **Hornfels at Tanjung Santubong**

271 The northern tip of Tanjung Santubong is separated by a NW-SE trending fault from the rest
272 of Santubong. It is composed of thinly bedded reddish mudstone, interbedded with thin
273 hornfelsed sandstone (Fig. 7d) and thicker hornfelsed sandstone packages. These lithologies
274 have been intruded by a granitic sill, which baked the sediment into hornfels. It is uncertain
275 to which formation the hornfels belongs. Thin mudstone-sandstone intercalations are
276 typical of the Bako-Mintu Sandstone or the Silantek Formation (see below), but similar
277 intercalations were also observed locally in the Kayan Sandstone.

278 *3.2.2. Penrissen Sandstone*

279 The Penrissen Sandstone is exposed in the Bungo mountain range in the centre of the Bungo
280 Syncline around Gunung Penrissen at the border with Kalimantan. The lower part of the
281 Bungo Syncline is assigned to the Kayan Sandstone as explained above. The upper part is
282 assigned to the Penrissen Sandstone (modified from Haile, 1968).

283 At Gunung Penrissen about 1200 m of Penrissen Sandstone is exposed. Differences in age,
284 lithology, facies and composition (Wilford and Kho, 1965; Muller, 1968; Morley, 1998;
285 Breitfeld, 2015; this study) are the basis for separating it from the underlying Kayan
286 Sandstone. The Penrissen Sandstone is composed mainly of conglomerates, pebbly
287 sandstone and thickly bedded sandstone.

288 No contacts of the Penrissen Sandstone could be observed in the field, but at the centre of
289 the Bungo Syncline where it overlies the Kayan Sandstone there is a difference in dips,
290 suggesting an unconformity. The Kayan Sandstone dips gently to moderately south to
291 southeast, whereas the Penrissen Sandstone is sub-horizontal. However, this could also be

292 explained by the synclinal structure of the Bungo-Penrissen area. The top is marked by an
293 erosional surface and it is possible that the total thickness exceeds 2000 m.

294 The Penrissen Sandstone correlates with the *Retitriporites variabilis* zone of Muller (1968)
295 and is therefore interpreted to be of Early Eocene age (Morley, 1998). The Penrissen
296 Sandstone forms the upper unit of the Kayan Group.

297 3.3. *Ketungau Group*

298 3.3.1. *Ngili Sandstone*

299 The Ngili Sandstone is the lowermost unit of the Ketungau Group. It is exposed along a fault
300 strand, with a similar orientation to the Lupar Line (Fig. 2), and forms the lower part of the
301 Gunung Ngili range (Fig. 7e). Previously it was mapped as Silantek Formation (Haile, 1954;
302 Heng, 1992). However, the sediments differ lithologically and compositionally slightly from
303 the Silantek Formation. Breitfeld et al. (2014) also reported a Kuching Supergroup unique U-
304 Pb detrital zircon age spectra, which is dominated by Permian-Triassic zircons (see below),
305 and indicates a different source for the sediments in comparison to other sediments from
306 the Kuching Supergroup. It is uncertain what underlies the Ngili Sandstone. A road section
307 south of Gunung Ngili exposes deeply weathered almost vertically-dipping shale-silt
308 alternations, which could represent the Cretaceous Pedawan Formation or even older
309 Mesozoic sediments (Liechti et al., 1960; Wilford & Kho, 1965; Heng, 1992).

310 The Ngili Sandstone is composed mainly of alternations of sandstone with carbonaceous
311 mudstone and thin coal seams. About 100 m of the Ngili Sandstone are exposed, but the
312 total thickness is greater as the lower contact is not exposed. The Ngili Sandstone is
313 conformably overlain by the Bako-Mintu Sandstone, which marks the top of the Gunung

314 Ngili mountain range. There are no age data for the Ngili Sandstone, and a Middle Eocene
315 age is assumed in this study.

316 3.3.2. *Silantek Formation*

317 Based on subdivisions of Haile (1957) and Tan (1979), and new observations, we propose a
318 modified stratigraphy. The mud-dominated exposures of the Silantek Formation (Lower and
319 Upper Shale zone of Haile, 1957) are assigned to a Shale Member in this study. Two thick
320 sand-dominated successions are assigned to the Marup Sandstone Member (corresponding
321 to the Basal Sandstone of Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979) and the Temudok Sandstone Member
322 (following Haile, 1957, and Tan, 1979). The Upper Silantek/Kantu Redbed unit is excluded
323 from the Silantek Formation and is considered to be part of the Tutoop Sandstone, as
324 suggested by Tan (1979), and discussed below. A total thickness of approximately 2600 to
325 3000 m for the Silantek Formation is suggested by this study, less than the maximum
326 thickness estimate by Haile (1957) of 6400 m. It is notable that fault strands with
327 orientations similar to the Lupar Line cross-cut the Silantek Formation throughout,
328 suggesting some movements on the Lupar Line are younger than the Silantek Formation.

329 **Marup Sandstone Member**

330 The Marup Sandstone Member forms the lowermost part of the Silantek Formation. It is
331 exposed at the eponymous Marup Ridge, the northern boundary of the Ketungau Basin. The
332 Marup Sandstone Member may correlate with the Haloq Sandstone of the Mandai Basin
333 (Pieters et al., 1987) and with the Bako-Mintu Sandstone (see below).

334 Close to the Lupar Line the succession is steeply dipping to vertical (Fig. 7f) where it overlies
335 the Lubok Antu Melange with an angular unconformity or faulted contact. The contact with

336 the underlying Engkilili Formation is poorly exposed and is suggested to be either faulted or
337 conformable (Haile, 1996). Other interpretations (e.g. Tan, 1979) assumed a faulted contact.
338 The member forms the sandstone and conglomerate dominated base of the Silantek
339 Formation. Field evidence indicates a thickness of approximately 800 m, which is only half of
340 the previously estimated maximum of 1600 m by Tan (1979). The Marup Sandstone
341 Member grades into the Shale Member.

342 **Temudok Sandstone Member**

343 The Temudok Sandstone forms the Temudok Ridge south of Sri Aman. Towards the west the
344 ridge disappears, and towards the east the ridge becomes thinner and probably continues
345 south of the Marup Ridge, where the Silantek Formation is intruded by Miocene acid
346 volcanics (Sintang Suite) and cannot be traced further. Haile (1957) reported microgranitic
347 stocks and laccoliths, as well as granodioritic to dioritic varieties, which have been intruded
348 at shallow depths. The sediments around the intrusions show contact-metamorphic
349 overprint (hornfels). No ages have previously been reported, but the member is
350 stratigraphically slightly higher than the Marup Sandstone Member.

351 The Temudok Sandstone Member forms a lenticular sand-dominated body, interbedded
352 with organic-rich shale-siltstone alternations (Fig. 7g) of approximately 130 m thickness
353 within the Silantek Formation, surrounded by the Shale Member. In close proximity to the
354 Temudok Ridge there are several intrusions shown on the survey map (Heng, 1992), which
355 could account for the indurated hornfelsic character the member has.

356 **Shale Member**

357 The Shale Member is conformably above the Marup Sandstone Member and is composed
358 mainly of carbonaceous mudstone and fine coal seams occur within it. These are often

359 mined in small open pit mines. Field observations suggest a total thickness of the Shale
360 Member of possibly 1000 to 2000 m. It extends to the Klingkang Range, where it is
361 conformably overlain by the Tutoop Sandstone.

362 3.3.3. *Bako-Mintu Sandstone*

363 The Bako-Mintu Sandstone is a new term introduced in this study for the sedimentary
364 succession at Tanjung Bako, on top of Gunung Ngili and in the headwater area of the
365 Sebuyau and Sebangau Rivers near Gunung Menuku (Mintu area) (Fig. 2). Previously the
366 succession was mapped as the Plateau Sandstone (e.g. Haile, 1957; Liechti et al., 1960;
367 Wilford, 1965; Heng, 1992; Tan, 1993). However, no ages were reported, and its correlation
368 with, or mapping as Plateau Sandstone, was based on lithology and assumed ages (Tan,
369 1979; Tan, 1993). Johansson (1999) separated the sandstones at Bako from the Plateau
370 Sandstone as they are potentially related to another sub-basin, and introduced the name
371 Bako Sandstone. This study follows Johansson (1999) and adds similar sediments on top of
372 the Gunung Ngili range and in the Mintu area to the Bako-Mintu Sandstone.

373 However, the stratigraphic position of the formation is uncertain. The Bako-Mintu
374 Sandstone overlies unconformably the Sejingkat Formation (a Mesozoic melange) at Telok
375 Wangkong at Tanjung Bako (Tan, 1993). Breitfeld et al. (2017) suggested the Sejingkat
376 Formation resembles lithologies in the Lubok Antu Melange and grouped them with various
377 other formations into a Mesozoic accretionary complex. Thus, the Bako-Mintu Sandstone
378 could be a lateral equivalent of the Marup Sandstone, which overlies the Lubok Antu
379 Melange in the Lupar valley. At Gunung Ngili it overlies conformably the Ngili Sandstone,
380 and in the Mintu area no contacts were observed.

381 At Tanjung Bako, the formation forms spectacular sea cliffs, including the 'Sea stack' (Fig.
382 7h). In the Mintu area the sequence is approximately 140 m thick, at Gunung Ngili about 160
383 m and at Tanjung Bako it is approximately 240 m. The top of the unit is an erosional surface
384 at all locations.

385 3.3.4. *Tutoop Sandstone (Plateau Sandstone)*

386 The Tutoop Sandstone forms the Klingkang Range and is the youngest unit of the Ketungau
387 Group in West Sarawak. The successions in the Mintu area, at Gunung Ngili and at Tanjung
388 Bako, previously mapped as Plateau Sandstone, are assigned to the Bako-Mintu Sandstone
389 (see above). The Upper Kantu Beds/Upper Silantek Redbed, previously assigned to the
390 Silantek Formation (Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979), is considered here to be part of the Tutoop
391 Sandstone (Fig. 7i). The contact with the underlying Silantek Formation was not observed in
392 the field, but is reported to be conformable (Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979). The total thickness of
393 the Tutoop Sandstone was assumed to be 1500 m (Heryanto and Jones, 1996), and
394 approximately 800 m were observed in this study in West Sarawak. The top is marked by an
395 erosional surface in West Sarawak. In Kalimantan it is overlain by the Ketungau Formation
396 (Pieters et al., 1987; Heryanto and Jones, 1996).

397 **4. Heavy minerals and U-Pb zircon data**

398 Heavy mineral assemblages are often affected by either deep burial or acid dissolution
399 (Morton, 1984; Mange and Maurer, 1992; Morton and Hallsworth, 1994), which may
400 significantly alter the original composition of the observed sediments. The successions of
401 the Kayan and Ketungau Group are generally dominated by ultra-stable heavy minerals
402 including zircon, tourmaline and rutile (Breitfeld, 2015), reflecting such processes. Only the
403 heavy mineral suite of the Penrissen Sandstone, which includes abundant less stable or

404 unstable heavy minerals, including apatite, garnet, epidote and titanite (Breitfeld, 2015),
405 seems unaffected. This is a clear contrast to the underlying Kayan Sandstone that contains
406 only ultra-stable heavy minerals. Thus, with the exception of the Penrissen Sandstone, the
407 heavy mineral assemblages do not distinguish the different sedimentary formations.

408 Detrital zircon U-Pb geochronological data from the formations described in this study show
409 they are dominated by Cretaceous zircons (Breitfeld et al., 2014; Breitfeld, 2015).
410 Differences include variations in the abundance and presence of older Mesozoic, Paleozoic
411 or Precambrian zircons. Most of the formations have similar zircon populations, which do
412 not aid identification of stratigraphic units, with the exception of the Ngili Sandstone of the
413 Ketungau Group (Fig. 5), which contains only Permian-Triassic zircons with a few
414 Paleoproterozoic zircons (Breitfeld et al., 2014; Breitfeld, 2015). However, the variations in
415 heavy mineral assemblages and zircon populations do aid correlation of the terrestrial
416 Kuching Supergroup and the deep marine Rajang Group, of similar age, and this is the
417 subject of a separate paper (Breitfeld and Hall, submitted).

418 Since the earliest geological reports from Sarawak there have been mentions of diamond
419 placer deposits in the area north of the Bungo Range (e.g. Hart Everett, 1878), although no
420 commercial mining has been undertaken. Other diamond placer deposits are known from
421 Kalimantan in the Landak area of the Kuching Zone, and from the Kelian, Meratus and
422 Cempaka areas in SE Borneo (van Bemmelen, 1949; Spencer et al., 1988; Smith et al., 2009;
423 van Leeuwen, 2014; Kueter et al., 2016; White et al., 2016), but like the alluvial diamonds in
424 Sarawak their source is unknown. Haile (1954), Wilford (1955) and Wilford and Kho (1965)
425 suggested the Sarawak diamonds were derived from the Kayan Sandstone or the Penrissen
426 Sandstone in the Bungo Range, essentially because these are the closest clastic sedimentary

427 rocks that could be their source. However, no diamonds or diamond-related minerals have
428 been found in the Kayan Sandstone or the Penrissen Sandstone during this study.

429 **5. Field relations and environment of deposition**

430 *5.1. Kayan Sandstone*

431 Muller (1968) and Wilford and Kho (1965) considered the Kayan Sandstone in the Kayan
432 Syncline, Pueh area and the Bungo Range to represent a deltaic facies. Khan et al. (2017)
433 interpreted a fluvio-deltaic to tidal environment for the Kayan Sandstone at Santubong and
434 in the Kayan Syncline.

435 *5.1.1. Description*

436 The Kayan Sandstone is formed predominantly of sandstones and heterolithics, subsidiary
437 conglomerates and mudstone. Conglomerates are predominantly massive, polymict and
438 matrix-supported conglomerates. Massive conglomerates are common in the Bungo Range
439 (Fig. 8a) and rarely observed in other areas of the Kayan Sandstone. In the area of Sungai
440 Chupin (western end of the Kayan Syncline) a basal conglomerate (approx. 30 cm thick)
441 above the Pedawan Unconformity forms the lowermost part of the Kayan Sandstone (Fig. 6e
442 and f). It is grey/white to yellow/red and exhibits poor sorting and locally normal grading.
443 Clasts are up to 10 cm in size, rounded to subrounded and composed predominantly of
444 quartz pebbles, with subordinate mud rip-up clasts, other reworked sedimentary rocks, and
445 igneous rocks in a fine- to medium-grained sandy matrix. Matrix grains are quartz, feldspar
446 and lithic fragments. The base of the unit is erosive. Bed geometry is either sheet-like or
447 lenticular. Fossilised tree logs and lignite blocks have been observed at the top of mudflake
448 conglomerates. In the Bungo Range thin horizontal pebble layers are interbedded with
449 medium-grained sandstone. Most of these conglomerate bands are less than 5 cm thick and

450 interbedded with < 10 cm sandstone layers. Especially in the Bungo Range abundant iron-
451 oxide veins cross-cut conglomerate and sandstone beds.

452 Sandstones are massive, with trough cross-bedding and planar cross-bedding, and are
453 commonly quartzose to polymict and medium- to coarse-grained. Sorting is good to medium
454 and grading is normal. Trough cross-beds are abundant and plant material at the top of the
455 cross-beds is common (Fig. 8b). Mud rip-up clasts and thin mud interbeds were frequently
456 observed, especially along the crests of cross-beds. Tree logs and lignite blocks are found
457 within this lithofacies. Finer sandstone beds have rootlets. The basal contacts are sharp or
458 erosive. Bed geometry is generally lenticular and stacking of lenticular bodies occurs (Fig.
459 8c). Finer grained sandstones are interbedded with silt- and mud layers to form
460 heterolithics. Thin mud layers (<1 cm) are interbedded with silt to fine-grained sandstone
461 beds of 1 to 5 cm size and form horizontal laminations. Mud layers can contain
462 carbonaceous material. These fine laminations can grade into asymmetrical ripples with
463 ripple mud tops. Upper and lower boundaries of the beds are gradational. Rippled
464 sandstones are commonly associated with mud rip-up clast conglomerates, and planar and
465 trough cross-bedded sandstones. Convolute bedding, upwelling mud (Fig. 8d) and
466 sedimentary injectites composed of sandstone (Fig. 8e) within heterolithics were observed.
467 Poorly preserved *Skolithos* ichnofacies is present in some beds. Sandstone beds at the
468 Buffer Wall location have well-developed honeycomb weathering surfaces.

469 Mudstones are predominantly of light grey to dark grey colour. Red to rusty orange
470 mudstone varieties are also common. Especially in the upper parts of the Bungo Range,
471 purple coloured mudstone was observed. Mudstone lithologies are either massive or thinly
472 laminated. Laminae are formed by thin silt layers. Plant fragments, rootlets and imprints of

473 plants are present. Coal forms very thin seams in organic-rich mudstones. Iron nodules
474 (potentially siderite) and iron veins were observed within the lithofacies. Rarely, mudstones
475 are composed of white to pinkish fine ash layers, which are deeply weathered into clay.
476 Tuffaceous bed sizes are up to 50 cm and bed geometry is lenticular.

477 *5.1.2. Interpretation*

478 The lowermost part of the succession (Fig. 6e and f) is interpreted as alluvial fan deposits or
479 coarse channel infill. Abundant igneous, metamorphic and intra-basinal sedimentary clasts
480 indicate various sources. Reworking of the underlying Pedawan Formation is evident.
481 Moving upwards in the Kayan Sandstone, sandstones become dominant and conglomerates
482 decrease. Exception is the Kayan Sandstone at the Bungo Range, which shows thick
483 conglomerates interpreted as alluvial fans, coarse channel fills or longitudinal bars (Miall,
484 1985) throughout the succession and indicates proximity to a mountainous source area.
485 Multiple stacked channels indicate channel migration and aggradation with high
486 sedimentation rates, in combination with decreasing accommodation space. No fossils, rare
487 bioturbation and rootlets suggest a dominant fluvial environment. The channelised fluvial
488 sandstones are interpreted as part of a complex braided or meandering river, or a
489 distributive fluvial system (DFS) (Weissmann et al., 2010). The fluvial channels dissected a
490 muddy, low-lying and vegetated floodplain, which was subject to regular flooding events.
491 Very limited bioturbation in some beds suggest a potential tidal flat to deltaic environment
492 of deposition in some parts of the succession. Mudstones can be carbonaceous, and
493 immature coal indicates a standing water swamp to floodplain environment (Nichols, 2009;
494 Miall, 2013). Red mudstones indicate oxidation in the early phase of diagenesis as a result of
495 exposure to atmospheric conditions (Reading, 1996) and are interpreted as potential

496 overbank deposits. The remains of root material suggest the formation of paleosols. Coal
497 present in thin seams indicates limited peat accumulation in restricted swamps in a coastal
498 floodplain. A few ash layers indicate contemporaneous coeval volcanic activity of pyroclastic
499 character.

500 Soft-sediment deformation, e.g. water escape structures, are common in the deposits and
501 indicate high sedimentation rates or liquefaction as result of seismic activity. Frequent
502 reworking of the deposits is indicated by intra-basinal (mudflake) conglomerates. Instability
503 of the underlying sediments due to water oversaturation at the time of deposition is
504 indicated by syn-sedimentary faulting (Fig. 8f), upwelling mud and sedimentary injectites.
505 Honeycomb weathering at the Buffer Wall was produced by exposure of the section to wind
506 flow in combination with salt crystallisation often observed in a coastal section (Mustoe,
507 1982; Rodriguez-Navarro et al., 1999). The Buffer Wall may have formed a former sea-cliff.

508 The Kayan Sandstone within the Bungo Range is interpreted to be a more proximal fluvial
509 system. Towards the north (e.g. Kayan Syncline) there are more distal deposits of a fluvial
510 system with minor deltaic or tidal influence.

511 *5.2. Penrissen Sandstone*

512 Muller (1968) regarded the sections that are discussed in this study as Penrissen Sandstone
513 as fluvial to lacustrine, based on pollen palynomorphs.

514 *5.2.1. Description*

515 In contrast to the Kayan Sandstone, where conglomerates are subordinate, they are
516 abundant within the Penrissen Sandstone. Sandstones and mudstones are subsidiary
517 lithologies. Massive conglomerates, horizontally bedded with planar cross-bedding, are the
518 dominant unit. They are mainly matrix-supported with poor sorting. Clast-supported

519 conglomerates are subsidiary. Clasts are up to 5 cm size, rounded to subrounded and
520 composed of igneous lithics, quartz, shale and reworked sedimentary rocks. Matrix grains
521 are feldspar, quartz and lithic fragments. Tops of the beds are gradational into or sharp
522 against sandstones (Fig. 8g), while bases are erosive. Horizontally bedded conglomerates are
523 formed by crudely developed thin, often less than 5 cm thick, horizontally aligned bands of
524 conglomerate interbedded with medium grained sandstone layers, which are usually less
525 than 10 cm thick. Those horizontal beds can grade into isolated large clasts, up to 15 cm in
526 size, floating within a sandstone matrix (Fig. 8h). Planar cross-bedded conglomerates were
527 only rarely observed. The inclined conglomerate layers alternate with medium- to coarse-
528 grained sandstones, which are moderately sorted with some normal grading.

529 Sandstones include massive, planar cross-bedded and horizontally laminated types. They are
530 usually fine to medium grained. Massive sandstones are coarse grained. Sorting is medium
531 to good with normal grading. Grains are composed of feldspar, quartz and lithic fragments.
532 Horizontal laminations are formed by very thin layers of dark silt or mud. Bed geometries
533 are sheet-like elongated to lenticular. Basal contacts are sharp to erosive.

534 Mudstones are light to dark grey and massive, but only rarely observed in the Penrissen
535 Sandstone. Iron nodules (potentially siderite) and iron veins were observed. Beds are
536 overlain by sandstones or conglomerates sharp or erosive contacts.

537 *5.2.2. Interpretation*

538 The Penrissen Sandstone is composed predominantly of thick conglomerates and massive
539 sandstones. Conglomerates are interpreted as large debris flows. In combination with the
540 other lithologies a terrestrial setting is evident and they are interpreted as alluvial fan
541 deposits. Minor occurrence of clast-supported conglomerates indicates bedload deposition

542 from stream flows (Reading, 1996). Sheet flood deposition is suggested by floating large
543 clasts in a sandy matrix (Laming, 1966; Nemeč & Steel, 1984; Nichols, 2009). The thickness
544 and immaturity of the conglomerates indicate a setting proximal to a mountainous region.
545 The lower part of the Penrissen Sandstone includes abundant alluvial fan deposits, which
546 pass in the upper part into large fluvial channels. Massive sandstones can form the base of a
547 fluvial channel (e.g. Collinson, 1969; McCabe, 1987). Planar cross-bedded sandstones
548 represent basal channel-confluence bars or lobate linguoid bars within a fluvial system
549 (Steel and Thompson, 1983; Miall, 1985; Khadkikar, 1999). Horizontally laminated
550 sandstones at the top of channel units were deposited, either by rolling and saltation of
551 grains along a surface in the lower flow regime, or by washing out of ripples and dune
552 bedforms in the upper flow regime (Reading, 1996; Nichols, 2009). Bar development is
553 evident from horizontally laminated and planar cross-bedded conglomerates. The difference
554 in observed bedforms and grain sizes could be attributed to a distributive fluvial system
555 (Weissmann et al., 2010) or could indicate channel migration of a braided river system
556 (Smith, 1974; Forbes, 1983). Interbedded with channels and debris flows are mudstones
557 interpreted as lacustrine facies.

558 *5.3. Ngili Sandstone*

559 The term is introduced in this study. There have been no previous accounts of the Ngili
560 Sandstone.

561 *5.3.1. Description*

562 The Ngili Sandstone is formed of thick conglomerates at the base, sandstones, abundant
563 heterolithics and mudstones. There are massive and planar cross-bedded conglomerates.
564 The lowermost exposed part of the Ngili Sandstone is formed by a thick basal conglomerate

565 with thinner conglomerate beds through the succession. Conglomerates are matrix-
566 supported polymict and intra-basinal (Fig. 9a). Clasts are up to 5 cm size, rounded to
567 subrounded and composed of quartz pebbles, mud rip-up clasts (white and black coloured),
568 other reworked sedimentary rocks, metamorphic, igneous and volcanic lithics. Plant
569 fragments were also observed. This lithofacies exhibits poor sorting, and normal and inverse
570 grading. The matrix is composed predominantly of weathered clay minerals and volcanic
571 lithic fragments. The basal contacts are erosive. Planar cross-bedded conglomerates are
572 formed by inclined pebble layers and fining upwards.

573 Sandstones are massive (Fig. 9b) and trough cross-bedded. Medium- to coarse-grained
574 sandstones with medium to good sorting and normal grading are common. Grains are
575 predominantly quartz and lithic fragments. Thin layers of carbonaceous mudstone with
576 flaser-like structures are present within thicker beds. The base of massive sandstone beds is
577 commonly erosive. Bed geometry is generally elongated to lenticular, while trough cross-
578 bedded sandstones have sharp basal contacts. Sheet-like deposits were also observed.
579 Massive sandstones grade into sand-dominated heterolithic (Fig. 9b). Finer-grained
580 sandstone deposits have abundant plant fragments and imprints of plant material on the
581 bedding planes. Trough cross-bedded sandstones are exposed at the top of the Ngili
582 Sandstone sequence.

583 Heterolithic sandstone-mudstone alternations are either formed by horizontally laminated
584 sand-, silt- and mud layers (< 2 cm) or rippled fine grained deposits (Fig. 9c). Grains are
585 predominantly quartz and lithic fragments. Plant material was observed on the bedding
586 planes of the mud-dominated laminae and ironstone layers (Fig. 9d) are common. Small-
587 scale ripples include symmetrical, asymmetrical and climbing types (Fig. 9c). Ripple tops are

588 usually mud and thin silt layers truncating the ripple crests. Upper and lower boundaries of
589 the beds are usually sharp. *Skolithos* ichnofacies is present in some beds.

590 There are light to dark grey carbonaceous mudstones and shales with abundant plant
591 material and plant imprints present on the bedding planes. Darker coloured shales are often
592 interbedded with thin coal layers, which can laterally extend over several metres.

593 5.3.2. Interpretation

594 The lowermost exposed part of the Ngili Sandstone is formed by thick conglomerates and
595 thick coarse sandstones, interbedded with thin mud layers. Volcanic rock clasts and volcanic
596 lithics indicate an immature volcanic source. Deposition was probably in close proximity to a
597 mountainous area, while quartzose sediments suggest multiple recycling. Unsorted
598 conglomerates were deposited by debris flows or sheet floods potentially in an alluvial fan
599 setting. Moving upwards, smaller fluvial systems and extensive floodplain areas developed.

600 The floodplain was characterised by high mud content and heavy vegetation, evident from
601 plant fragments, coal seams and plant imprints. Periodically, it was subjected to flooding
602 events as indicated by the elongated interbedded sandstones, or it was dissected by
603 channels. Extensive swamp areas in the floodplain formed a coal-producing environment,
604 possibly in a coastal setting (Miall, 1985; McCabe, 1987; Miall, 2013). Ironstone layers
605 suggest deposition in extensive lacustrine bodies on the floodplains or in isolated channels
606 (ox-bow lakes) (e.g. Boardman, 1989; Reading, 1996). Sets of symmetrical and asymmetrical
607 ripples in opposing directions indicate opposing flow conditions (Boggs, 2012), and are
608 interpreted as a tidally-influenced part of the Ngili Sandstone. Climbing ripples record high
609 rates of bed aggradation (Allen, 1971). No fossils were found, and only rare bioturbation
610 may suggest a stressed environment possibly with brackish water influence. The uppermost

611 part of the Ngili Sandstone includes large channels with internal bedforms (trough cross-
612 beds), which indicate bar development. No fossils or bioturbation were found in the upper
613 section interpreted as fluvial deposits.

614 *5.4. Silantek Formation*

615 Haile (1957) suggested an estuarine environment for the lower parts of the Silantek
616 Formation and Kanno (1978) reported brackish water molluscs, which indicate an estuarine
617 or mangrove swamp environment from a section within the Shale Member. Tan (1979)
618 interpreted a brackish environment with occasional freshwater input for the Silantek
619 Formation.

620 *5.4.1. Description*

621 The Silantek Formation is dominated by sandstone and heterolithic lithologies with
622 subsidiary conglomerates and mudstone beds. There are polymict matrix-supported massive
623 conglomerates and pebbly sandstones with clasts dominated by grey to light grey mud rip-
624 up clasts and minor quartz pebbles with a maximum clast size of 2 cm. Mud clasts are
625 elongated and subrounded, while quartz clasts are commonly rounded. Sorting is poor to
626 medium. Basal contacts are usually erosive. Inverse grading in the lowermost parts was
627 observed, but normal grading is more common. This lithology was observed only within the
628 Marup Sandstone Member and its occurrence is restricted.

629 Sandstones are medium- to coarse-grained and massive, and are medium to well sorted,
630 normally graded, and rhythmically interbedded with finer sediments. Grains are usually
631 feldspar, quartz, and lithic fragments, but quartzose sandstones are also common. Some
632 lithic fragments are likely to be of volcanic origin. The beds are laterally very extensive.
633 Sheet-like geometries were observed for most beds, especially for sandstones of the

634 Temudok Sandstone Member. Basal contacts are usually sharp and bed tops are
635 gradational. However, sandstones of the Marup Sandstone Member have commonly erosive
636 basal contacts and bioturbation is common at the Marup Ridge. Trace fossils consist of
637 vertical or inclined tubes of *Skolithos* and possibly *Ophiomorpha* (Fig. 9e). Remnants of
638 plants were found commonly. A typical weathering structure is onion-skin weathering of
639 thicker sandstone beds.

640 Heterolithics form the most abundant lithology of the Silantek Formation. They are
641 composed of fine- to medium-grained sandstone, siltstone and mudstone alternations.
642 Sandstones are polymict to quartzose. Thin mud layers (<3 cm) are interbedded with silt- to
643 fine-grained sandstone beds of 1 to 5 cm size and form horizontal laminations. The bed
644 geometry is laterally persistent to lenticular. Upper and lower contacts of the heterolithics
645 are sharp. Iron-oxide nodules were observed within the sand- to siltstone layers. There is
646 differential compaction around nodules and water escape structures and soft-sediment
647 deformation was observed. Multiple normal faults formed as a result of the water escape
648 structures and displace the horizontal layering. The laminae can develop small-scale ripples
649 with organic material deposited on top of the ripple crests. Rippled beds are up to 30 cm in
650 thickness. Asymmetrical ripples dominate in the Silantek Formation, whereas symmetrical
651 ripples are predominant within the Marup Sandstone Member (Fig. 9f and g). Typically, the
652 heterolithics of the Marup Sandstone Member show also wavy bedding (Fig. 9g), lenticular
653 bedding and flaser bedding (Fig. 9h), where isolated thin mud drapes are on top of small-
654 scale ripples. Weathered sections of the Marup Sandstone Member heterolithics are red
655 coloured and Liesegang rings were frequently observed.

656 Mudstones are light to dark grey and carbonaceous with thin coaly seams. The best
657 exposures were found in an abandoned coal mine near the small village of Pantu part of the
658 Shale Member, but the lithofacies occurs throughout the whole Silantek Formation.
659 Abundant plant material and plant imprints as well as fossilised tree logs were found on the
660 bedding planes. Pyrite veins, thin pyrite layers, iron nodules (potentially siderite) and iron
661 veins are common. Coal horizons are composed of immature coal material, which extend
662 laterally over several metres to tens of metres. Locally, the occurrence of coal is restricted
663 to lenticular exposures or floating fragments. Coal horizons/seam thickness ranges from 0.5
664 to 20 cm. At the Marup Ridge within the Marup Sandstone Member, several vertical
665 burrows of *Skolithos* and possibly *Ophiomorpha* are present (Fig. 9e).

666 5.4.2. Interpretation

667 The exposures of the Silantek Formation indicate extensive floodplain and swamp
668 environments that were periodically flooded by near-by fluvial systems or influenced by
669 tides in a deltaic setting. The lowermost part of the Silantek Formation is the Marup
670 Sandstone Member. The occurrence of *Skolithos* and *Ophiomorpha*-like trace fossils indicate
671 a sandy shore (littoral zone) to shelf (sub-littoral zone) environment (Buatois and Mángano,
672 2011). Symmetrical wave ripples indicate a shallow water environment with oscillatory flow
673 conditions (Boggs, 2012). Wavy to lenticular bedding is produced by variations in current or
674 wave activity, or changes in sediment supply and commonly associated with a tidal
675 environment (Nichols, 2009). Asymmetrical ripples are usually formed by unidirectional
676 flow, but could also be produced by unequal intense currents in opposite direction. Flaser
677 bedding is commonly observed in intertidal environments such as intertidal and subtidal
678 flats, and tidal channels as result of changing current strength or wave power (Sellwood,

679 1972; de Jong, 1977; Hendriks, 1986; Flores & Sykes, 1996; Chakraborty et al., 2003;
680 Dalrymple & Choi, 2007; Truong et al., 2011). Isolated mud drapes are deposited from
681 suspension and small sand ripples are the result of rapid flow (Nichols, 2009). Soft sediment
682 deformation results from differences in cohesive character, water content and densities of
683 the interbedded lithologies. These may develop from different rates of sediment
684 accumulation and are common within tidal sedimentary environments (Klein, 1977;
685 Põldsaar & Ainsaar, 2015). The restricted occurrence of bioturbation and beds with current
686 ripples may indicate an estuarine environment. Thicker cross-bedded sandstone beds, which
687 show no fossils and unidirectional flow reflect fluvially-influenced deposition or fluvio-
688 marine deposits if they are interbedded with shallow marine deposits. Volcanic lithics
689 indicate limited contemporaneous volcanoclastic input into the basin. The environment of
690 deposition for the Marup Sandstone Member is interpreted as marginal marine to subtidal.

691 Higher in the formation, the Temudok Sandstone Member is composed predominantly of
692 laterally extensive sandstone bodies, which are interpreted as sheet flood deposits
693 interbedded with finer-grained material. The member is devoid of fossils and bioturbation.
694 Abundant plant material and fossil wood debris indicate a terrestrial-influenced
695 environment. Asymmetrical ripples in sandstones are interpreted as current ripples. As
696 there are no channels observed in this member, this lithology may reflect crevasse splay
697 deposition on the floodplain (Boggs, 2012). Carbonaceous mudstones and coaly layers
698 indicate floodplain deposition, possibly in a near-coastal environment with small swamps
699 and mires (Miall, 2013) or tidal flats in a fluvio-deltaic environment (Hassan et al., 2017).

700 The Temudok Sandstone Member is interpreted to record floodplain deposition with
701 restricted peat formation. The succession indicates periodic flooding events which formed
702 thicker sandstone bodies.

703 5.5. *Bako-Mintu Sandstone*

704 The Bako-Mintu Sandstone is a newly introduced stratigraphic unit from this study. Sections
705 of the succession were previously described as Plateau Sandstone. Tan (1993) interpreted a
706 braided river setting with episodic deltaic influence for the succession at Tanjung Bako, like
707 Johansson (1999). In Tan (1979), a brackish water mollusc fauna is mentioned for the upper
708 part of Gunung Ngili, which is part of the Bako-Mintu Sandstone, indicating some marine
709 influence.

710 5.5.1. *Description*

711 The Bako-Mintu Sandstone is predominantly sandstone with subsidiary conglomerate and
712 mudstone. Conglomerates were observed only at Tanjung Bako, where there are massive
713 and planar cross-bedded types. Massive conglomerates are usually matrix-supported and
714 polymict. Clasts are subrounded to rounded, and are composed predominantly of quartz,
715 mud rip-up clasts, granitic material, chert and quartzites. Bed geometry is generally
716 lenticular and wash-out structures were observed. The basal contacts of the beds are sharp
717 or erosive. Generally, sorting is poor, but some beds show medium sorting with normal
718 grading. Planar cross-bedded conglomerates have inclined layers of mostly rounded
719 pebbles.

720 Sandstones are massive and trough cross-bedded and dominated by quartzose medium-
721 grained varieties. Sorting is predominantly good to medium and grading is normal. The
722 bases of the beds are commonly erosive and the bed geometry is generally lenticular.
723 Multiple lenticular massive sandstones can be stacked on top of each other and form
724 channels (Fig. 10a). Trough cross-bedded sandstones form very large outcrops, exposed in
725 prominent sea cliffs at Tanjung Bako. Trough cross-bed tops are truncated by newer

726 bounding surfaces (Fig. 10b). Bed geometry is elongated to lenticular and the basal contact
727 of the beds is sharp. Convolute bedding was observed in this lithology. A typical feature of
728 the sandstones is honeycomb weathering surfaces (Fig. 10c).

729 Fine- to medium-grained sandstone interbedded with mud layers form heterolithics in
730 which there are small-scale ripples and horizontal laminations. Thin mud layers (<3 cm) are
731 interbedded with siltstone to fine sandstone beds of 1 to 5 cm size. Ripples are usually
732 asymmetrical and ripple tops are formed of mud. The basal contacts are usually sharp. Iron-
733 oxide nodules were observed within the sand- to siltstone layers.

734 Mudstones are grey to dark grey and often carbonaceous material or with coal fragments
735 and form laterally persistent beds. Those are more frequent in the Mintu area, but occur
736 also at Tanjung Bako. Iron nodules (potentially siderite) and iron veins are observed. Plant
737 material and plant imprints were found on the bedding planes. The occurrence of coal is
738 restricted to thin layers or small lenticular shaped beds (Fig. 10d). Soft-sediment
739 deformation includes fine- to medium-grained sandstone dykes which are injected into this
740 lithofacies.

741 *5.5.2. Interpretation*

742 The lower part of the Bako-Mintu Sandstone, exposed at Tanjung Bako, consists of
743 abundant fluvial channel deposits, while the upper part in the Mintu area shows extensive
744 floodplain and lacustrine deposits interbedded with fluvial channels. Conglomerates
745 represent coarse channel fills or linguoid bars (Miall, 1985, 2013). The sandstones indicate
746 large-scale, often stacked, potentially braided channels, or are part of a distributive fluvial
747 system. Multiple stacked channels indicate channel migration and aggradation with high
748 sedimentation rates in combination with decreasing accommodation space. Water escape

749 structures in coarser sandstone indicate high rates of sedimentation (Nichols, 2009) and
750 soft-sediment deformation results from instability due to water oversaturation at the time
751 of deposition. Asymmetrical ripples indicate a unidirectional flow, which is mainly associated
752 with a fluvial setting (Miall, 2013). Towards the upper part of the succession, the amount of
753 finer-grained sediments increases. Abundant plant material and nodular or bedded siderite
754 suggest deposition in extensive lacustrine environment on the floodplains or in abandoned
755 channels (ox-bow lakes) (e.g. Boardman, 1989; Reading, 1996). Peat-forming environments
756 are often located along deltas and shorelines, just above the marine water table (McCabe,
757 1987). Thicker beds of this lithofacies may record extensive swamps and mires close to the
758 coastline, while thinner layers of coaly material record short-lived swamps and mires or
759 short-lived overbank settings. Intercalated clastic input indicates periodic flooding events.
760 Typical honeycomb weathered surfaces, indicate exposure of the sections to wind flow in
761 combination with salt crystallisation often in a coastal section (Mustoe, 1982; Rodriguez-
762 Navarro et al., 1999).

763 *5.6. Tutoop Sandstone*

764 Haile (1957) interpreted deposition in a continental environment and Heryanto and Jones
765 (1996) suggested a fluvial setting for the Tutoop Sandstone.

766 *5.6.1. Description*

767 The Tutoop Sandstone in West Sarawak is composed mainly of sandstones and subsidiary
768 mudstones. Conglomerates are exposed only in a few locations and are matrix-supported
769 and massive. Clasts are entirely mud rip-up clasts from underlying mud units (Fig. 10e). The
770 clasts are predominantly angular to subrounded with maximum clast sizes up to 3 cm in
771 length. The conglomerates exhibit poor to medium sorting and are usually red to grey

772 coloured. Beds have usually erosive bases. No other conglomerates were observed in this
773 study, but have been reported by Heryanto and Jones (1996) from NW Kalimantan.

774 Sandstones are the dominant lithology. They are quartzose fine- to medium-grained with
775 good to medium sorting, normally graded and either massive or trough cross-bedded with
776 erosive or sharp basal contacts. Bed geometries are either sheet-like elongated or lenticular.

777 Interbedded fine- to medium-grained sandstones with thin mud and silt layers form
778 heterolithics, dominated by rippled architecture. Especially in the lower part of the Tutoop
779 Sandstone red mudstone and reddish to white siltstone alternations are common (Fig. 10f
780 and g) with usually sharp contacts. Ripple tops are composed of mud. Ripple forms are
781 straight and sinuous as well as climbing ripples (Fig. 10h) with crudely developed flaser and
782 wavy bedding.

783 Mudstones are either massive or thinly laminated and are of grey to red colour, bleached
784 parts are white to light grey. The red mudstone is abundant in the lower part of the
785 formation. Plant material and imprints of plant material are abundant. Flame structures are
786 present at the contact between the mudstone and the sandstone.

787 *5.6.2. Interpretation*

788 The lowermost part of the Tutoop Sandstone is red mudstone-sandstone alternations with
789 plant fragments interpreted as overbank deposits. The red colour indicates oxidation during
790 the early phase of diagenesis (Reading, 1996). The silt layers may have been deposited by
791 sheet floods on the floodplain/overbank or by crevasse splays when the discharge of a river
792 exceeded the capacity of the channel and sediment-filled water flows over the overbank
793 deposits (Boggs, 2012). Sandstones form multiple channels, which dissected the mud-
794 dominated floodplain and overbank facies. Massive sandstones form the base of a fluvial

795 channel (e.g. Collinson, 1969; McCabe, 1987) and are a product of rapid deposition from
796 suspension during floods (Reading, 1996). Trough cross-bedded sandstones are interpreted
797 as channel bars and sinuous or isolated subaqueous dunes (Tucker, 1991; Nichols, 2009;
798 Boggs, 2012) or as a product of small scale current ripple migration (Boggs, 2012). Rippled
799 sandstone commonly occurs at the top of channel units under weak current processes.
800 Climbing ripples record high rates of bed aggradation (Allen, 1971). Flaser and wavy bedding
801 are produced by variations in current or wave activity, or changes in sediment supply
802 (Nichols, 2009). They are commonly associated with a tidal environment. However, e.g.
803 Martin (2000) and Dalrymple & Choi (2007) reported flaser and wavy bedding in fluvial
804 environments, which are related to fluctuations in water level and result from unstable
805 ripples. There are no indications that the Tutoop Sandstone is estuarine or tidally-influenced
806 and the observed flaser bedding is restricted to a few thin beds, therefore a fluvial
807 interpretation is favoured. Towards the top of the formation fine material decreases and
808 complex thick channel deposits are more abundant. Grey mudstones throughout the
809 formation may be related to a backswamp environment with reducing conditions (Miall,
810 1985) or lacustrine environment. Intra-basinal conglomerates (mudflakes) indicating
811 reworking of floodplain sediments related to channel migration or aggradation over swamp
812 or overbank facies.

813 **6. Paleocurrent data**

814 This study adds a small number of paleocurrent observations to earlier records. Dip
815 direction and angle were measured from the lee sides of planar cross-beds and foresets of
816 trough cross-beds. Trough cross-beds were plotted in a Schmidt net to reconstruct the

817 orientation of the channel axis. Orientations of symmetrical and asymmetrical ripples were
818 recorded in places.

819 Paleocurrents reported for the Kayan Sandstone in the Kayan Syncline (Kong, 1970; Tan,
820 1971; Kloni, 1978; Kijam, 1978) summarised by Tan (1984) indicate a dominant flow towards
821 the W and WNW. At the Bungo Range the dominant flow direction is towards the ENE
822 (Stauffer, 1969; Tan, 1984) and at Tanjung Santubong it is towards the NNE (Stauffer, 1969;
823 Kasumajava, 1979; Tan, 1984, 1993). Paleocurrent data from the Bako-Mintu Sandstone at
824 Tanjung Bako indicates a dominant flow towards the north (NNE and NNW) and subordinate
825 SSE directions, which suggest partly bimodal currents (Tan, 1993). For the Silantek
826 Formation, paleocurrents indicate bimodal north-south currents with subordinate bimodal
827 E-W to unimodal towards the west flow (Tan, 1979).

828 Measurements obtained in this study are displayed in Fig. 11. The Kayan Sandstone shows
829 some local variation in flow directions. Within the Kayan Syncline, a dominant flow towards
830 NNE and WNW was recorded. A flow towards NNE and N ($\phi = 047^\circ$, $\phi = 007^\circ$ n = 29) is
831 recorded in the Pueh area and at Tanjung Santubong a flow towards NW to N ($\phi = 322^\circ$, $\phi =$
832 006° n = 18) is dominant. In contrast to these northern-directed paleocurrents is the Gunung
833 Serapi area where a SW-directed flow ($\phi = 233^\circ$ n = 17) was observed. Data in Tan (1984) for
834 the Kayan Syncline suggests a more dominant western-directed flow. Variations in the
835 paleocurrent data may reflect sampling at different locations within a meandering fluvial
836 system or sampling different migrating channel systems. The Gunung Serapi area may
837 indicate a major bend within the paleo-river system.

838 Paleocurrents for the Penrissen Sandstone record a dominant flow towards the WNW and
839 SW ($\phi = 306^\circ$, $\phi = 228^\circ$ n = 20). The dominant WNW trend is continued in the Ngili

840 Sandstone and the Silantek Formation. Paleocurrent measurements of the Ngili Sandstone
841 indicate a WNW-ESE bidirectional flow ($\phi = 294^\circ$, $\phi = 134^\circ$ n = 12). A similar trend is seen in
842 the Marup Sandstone Member of the Silantek Formation ($\phi = 297^\circ$, $\phi = 112^\circ$ n = 23), while
843 paleocurrents within the upper parts of the Shale Member indicate a unidirectional flow
844 towards the WNW ($\phi = 305^\circ$ n = 5). A change is recorded in the Bako-Mintu Sandstone from
845 Tanjung Bako where paleocurrent measurements indicate a dominant flow towards NE and
846 NW ($\phi = 043^\circ$, $\phi = 346^\circ$ n = 58). The Tutoop Sandstone at the Klingkang Range also records a
847 prominent flow towards the NE ($\phi = 049^\circ$ n = 39). Literature paleocurrents from the Silantek
848 Formation by Tan (1979) also show a bidirectional N-S flow, suggesting at least partly similar
849 flow directions for the Ketungau Group (Silantek Formation, Bako-Mintu Sandstone, Tutoop
850 Sandstone).

851 Throughout deposition of these sedimentary successions flow directions changed, indicating
852 several river systems, possible related to different uplift events, which influenced the river
853 geometry and the source areas. Overall most successions show a predominant source to the
854 SW with subordinate southern or south-eastern sources. However, several paleocurrents
855 also indicate an eastern source. Interestingly, the observed flow directions in the Ngili
856 Sandstone and Marup Sandstone Member are similar to the present-day Batang Lupar,
857 suggesting a potential proto-Lupar river which was possibly influenced by active movement
858 along the Lupar Line.

859 **7. Discussion**

860 *7.1. Source areas*

861 The character of most observed sediments suggests proximity to an elevated area with
862 some localised contemporaneous magmatism. It also indicates reworking of older

863 sedimentary units with igneous and/or metamorphic sources. Paleocurrent measurements
864 summarised by Tan (1984) and in this study show river systems were complex, but reveal a
865 dominant southern source with a subordinate eastern source. Fig. 12 displays a simplified
866 block diagram that summarises potential source areas, environments of deposition and
867 orientation of the river system.

868 To the south of the research area the Schwaner Mountains (Fig. 13) was considered a
869 potential source area by Zeijlmans van Emmichoven (1939), and Davies et al. (2014) and
870 Hennig et al. (2017) reported abundant Cretaceous zircons from the Schwaner granites and
871 the Pinoh Metamorphics. Breitfeld et al. (2014) demonstrated that the majority of zircons of
872 the Kayan and Ketungau Group sediments are Cretaceous, suggesting this region as a
873 source. It is unknown when uplift of southern Borneo initiated, but this study supports a
874 source area in the region of the present-day Schwaner Mountains from the latest
875 Cretaceous onwards. Galin et al. (2017) reported abundant Cretaceous zircons in the Rajang
876 Group, which is the deep marine equivalent of the Kuching Supergroup, and also suggested
877 the Schwaner Mountains as a source area. Abundant Cretaceous zircons in younger
878 sedimentary successions in other parts of Borneo, e.g. the Barito Basin in East Kalimantan
879 and the Crocker Formation of Sabah, have also been interpreted as derived from the
880 Schwaner Mountains (Witts et al., 2012; van Hattum et al., 2013).

881 However, other closer source regions are also possible. Local sources for the Kayan Group
882 were suggested by Liechti et al. (1960) and Tan (1984). Uplift of the Pedawan Formation
883 initiated in the latest Cretaceous, as indicated by the Pedawan Unconformity, and therefore
884 recycling of the Pedawan Formation, as well as other Mesozoic rocks in West Sarawak and
885 NW Kalimantan (Fig. 13) (e.g. Sadong Formation, Jagoi Granodiorite), as reported by

886 Williams et al. (1988), Breitfeld et al. (2017) and Hennig et al. (2017), is also likely. East of
887 the research area, Mesozoic melanges (e.g. Boyan Melange, Lubok Antu Melange, Kapuas
888 Complex) and a forearc basin fill unit, the Selangkai Formation, an age equivalent of the
889 Pedawan Formation, are widely exposed (Fig. 13) (Pieters et al., 1993; Heryanto and Jones,
890 1996) and are potential sources. Erriyantoro et al. (2011) also suggested the Mesozoic
891 Kapuas Complex/Lubok Antu Melange as a source, based on a provenance study of the
892 Kantu Beds/Silantek Formation. As the Kayan Group is older than the Ketungau Group it
893 could also be a source for the sediments of the Ketungau Basin, especially the Tutoop
894 Sandstone, since its compositional maturity indicates reworking of sediments.

895 It is unclear if material was also derived directly from the Malay Peninsula (Malay-Thai Tin
896 Belt) as suggested for the Rajang Group by Galin et al. (2017) or for the younger upper
897 Paleogene to lower Neogene Crocker Formation by van Hattum et al. (2013). Breitfeld et al.
898 (2014) and Breitfeld (2015) suggested the Malay Peninsula as possible source region.
899 Permian-Triassic zircons, which are typical of the Southeast Asian Tin Belt of the Malay
900 Peninsula (Sevastjanova et al., 2011; Searle et al., 2012), are reported from sediments of the
901 Kuching Zone in West Sarawak by Breitfeld et al. (2014) and from Rajang Group sediments
902 of the Sibu Zone by Galin et al. (2017) and therefore could indicate the Malay Peninsula as
903 source area. However, such zircons are also known from e.g. West Borneo (Breitfeld et al.,
904 2017; Hennig et al., 2017) and are not restricted to the Malay Peninsula. More research is
905 needed, but some paleocurrent observations indicate transport from the SW which could
906 support a West Sarawak or Malay Peninsula source.

907 Hutchison (1996, 2005) suggested the uplifted Rajang Group to the north as source area for
908 the Silantek Formation, a conclusion supported by Erriyantoro et al. (2011). However, this is

909 very unlikely, considering the paleocurrent observations of Tan (1984) and those obtained in
910 this study, and the similar ages of deposition for sediments of the Kuching and Sibul Zones
911 (e.g. Kirk, 1957; Liechti et al., 1960; Wolfenden, 1960; Muller, 1968; Tan, 1979; Morley,
912 1998; Breitfeld et al., 2014; Galin et al., 2017). There is no evidence to support uplift and
913 erosion of the Rajang Group during deposition of the Kuching Supergroup.

914 *7.2. Deformation of the sedimentary rocks*

915 In the Kuching Zone sedimentary rocks are predominantly horizontal or dip at low angles,
916 and form large open synclines with fold axes that trend broadly WNW-ESE east of Kuching.
917 West of Kuching fold axes are more varied, which could reflect basement structures or
918 underlying overpressured sequences. Kayan Sandstone beds dip at about 30° to 60° in the
919 Bungo Range and are steeply dipping at the Buffer Wall (Fig. 2), which is a fault at the
920 southern margin of the Kayan Syncline. At the Marup Ridge (Fig. 2) close to and south of the
921 Lupar valley the Silantek Formation beds are steeply dipping and locally overturned near the
922 Lupar Line. The steep dips suggest a significant vertical component of displacement on a
923 linear strike-slip fault. Some paleocurrent orientations in the Marup Sandstone Member are
924 parallel to the Lupar Line (Fig. 11), suggesting it was active at the time of deposition
925 (Lutetian).

926 *7.3. Unconformities*

927 The Pedawan Unconformity indicates a major tectonic event before deposition of the
928 terrestrial sediments in the Kayan Basin. Palynological dating of the Pedawan Formation and
929 the Kayan Sandstone suggests a hiatus in the Late Cretaceous between the Santonian and
930 Maastrichtian (Muller, 1968; Morley, 1998). The age coincides with the termination of
931 subduction-related magmatism in SW and West Borneo (Williams et al., 1988; Moss, 1998;

932 van Hattum et al., 2013; Davies, 2013; Davies et al., 2014; Hennig et al., 2017). Hall et al.
933 (2009) and Hall (2012) interpret termination of subduction in SE Asia after collision of the
934 East Java-West Sulawesi block with the SE margin of the SW Borneo at c. 90 Ma. Breitfeld et
935 al. (2017) and Hennig et al. (2017) suggested cessation of Paleo-Pacific subduction at this
936 time, which is interpreted to have been extended beneath SW Borneo and formed the
937 Schwaner granites, as well as the Pedawan and Selangkai forearc basins.

938 Within the Kayan Group, changes in dip, lithologies exposed, material within the succession
939 and different paleocurrent directions suggest an unconformity between the Kayan
940 Sandstone and the Penrissen Sandstone, accompanied by a change in provenance and
941 environment of deposition. This unconformity is named here the Bungo Unconformity (Fig.
942 5) based on the Bungo Range location. Morley (1998) suggested an Early Eocene age for the
943 Penrissen Sandstone, based on the palynological records of Muller (1968). This would
944 indicate a Late Paleocene age for the unconformity.

945 The relationship between the Kayan Group and the Ketungau Group is not clear. The Ngili
946 Sandstone might be the oldest part of the Ketungau Group. No contacts with underlying
947 formations have been observed, but steeply dipping undated shales have been observed in
948 close proximity to the Ngili Sandstone. This suggests an unconformity below the Ngili
949 Sandstone. The underlying shales likely belong to the pre-Pedawan Unconformity strata (Fig.
950 5). The Eocene Silantek Formation rests unconformably (Haile, 1957) or with a fault contact
951 on Cretaceous melange-type rocks (Tan, 1979; Pieters et al., 1993), or above the very locally
952 exposed Middle Paleocene to Early Eocene Engkilili Formation (Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979; Basir
953 and Taj Madira (1995). The Bako-Mintu Sandstone also rests unconformably on possible
954 Cretaceous melange rocks at Tanjung Bako (Tan, 1993) and is reported by Haile (1954) to

955 locally rest conformably on the Ngili Sandstone. The contact between the Kayan and
956 Ketungau Group sediments is not exposed, and is in this study assumed to be
957 unconformable. The unconformity is termed here the Kayan Unconformity (Fig. 5) of early
958 Middle Eocene age and predates the Silantek Formation of Middle to Late Eocene age.
959 Stratigraphic and field relations indicate that the Kayan and Penrissen Sandstones were
960 either not deposited in the area east of Kuching or were completely eroded before
961 deposition of the lower parts of the Ketungau Group. This suggests the Kayan Unconformity
962 is the top of the Penrissen Sandstone which is thought to be Early Eocene (Morley, 1998).
963 The calcareous Engkilili Formation could represent the marine equivalent of the upper parts
964 of the Kayan Sandstone, since Muller (1968) reported similar pollen from the Engkilili
965 Formation and the *Proxapertites* zone of the Kayan Sandstone, or possibly the Penrissen
966 Sandstone.

967 The youngest rocks dated in the Ketungau Group are the Middle to Late Eocene Silantek
968 Formation. The Tutoop Sandstone is interpreted here to be the undated upper part of the
969 Ketungau Group, overlain only by the undated Ketungau Formation in Kalimantan. The top
970 of the Bako-Mintu Sandstone is an erosional surface, which could be correlated with the
971 contact of the Silantek Formation and the Tutoop Sandstone. The Rajang Unconformity at c.
972 40 Ma (Hall and Breiffeld, 2017; Galin et al., 2017), which marks the end of deep water
973 sedimentation of the turbiditic Rajang Group, is not clearly identifiable in the Kuching
974 Supergroup. It could be represented by the top of the Bako-Mintu Sandstone and the
975 contact of the Silantek Formation and Tutoop Sandstone. However, it could also be above
976 the Tutoop Sandstone (Fig. 5) or above the Ketungau Formation, or be diachronous in the
977 terrestrial sediments.

978 The Tutoop Sandstone is generally reported to be conformable above the Silantek
979 Formation (e.g. Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979). Red mudstone alternations previously assigned to
980 the Silantek Formation are here considered part of the Tutoop Sandstone, as also implied by
981 Tan (1979). The contact of the Silantek Formation with the Tutoop Sandstone is therefore
982 below the red mudstones. It marks a change of depositional environment from the
983 estuarine-deltaic Silantek Formation to the fluvial Tutoop Sandstone, which is similar to the
984 Bako-Mintu Sandstone. The top of the Tutoop Sandstone in West Sarawak is a younger
985 erosional surface.

986 More research is needed concerning correlation of the Kayan and Ketungau Groups and
987 major unconformities with equivalents in Kalimantan (e.g. Ketungau Formation of the
988 Ketungau Basin, Mandai Group of the Mandai Basin, and Kapuas, Melawi and Suwang
989 Groups of the Melawi Basin). Most of the Kalimantan sediments are unfossiliferous, their
990 age of deposition is not exactly known, and different stratigraphic schemes have been
991 proposed for similar successions (see Pieters et al., 1987; Dutch, 1992; Heryanto and Jones,
992 1996). At present it is not possible to correlate West Sarawak with Kalimantan until more
993 detailed studies in Kalimantan have been carried out.

994 **8. Conclusions**

- 995 1. The Pedawan Unconformity separates deep marine Cretaceous deposits from
996 terrestrial uppermost Cretaceous to Eocene sediments. Terrestrial deposition began
997 with the Kayan Sandstone, probably in the Maastrichtian.
- 998 2. There are two major sandstone successions in the western part of West Sarawak,
999 which were previously assigned to the Kayan Sandstone or the informal 'Kayan
1000 Basin'. For the older part, the term Kayan Sandstone is maintained in this study. The

1001 younger (Early Eocene) part is termed the Penrissen Sandstone, which may be
1002 separated from the Kayan Sandstone by an unconformity.

1003 3. The Kayan Sandstone is a fluvial to tidal succession with a basal conglomerate and
1004 thick floodplain deposits. The Penrissen Sandstone is composed predominantly of
1005 alluvial fans and fluvial deposits with minor finer-grained material which is possibly a
1006 lacustrine facies.

1007 4. There was either no clastic deposition in the area of the Ketungau Basin in the Late
1008 Cretaceous to Early Eocene or the Kayan and Penrissen Sandstones there were
1009 completely eroded, suggesting an unconformity at the top of the Penrissen
1010 Sandstone. The Engkilili Formation may represent the marine equivalent of the
1011 upper Kayan Group.

1012 5. The Ketungau Group in West Sarawak is composed of the Ngili Sandstone, the Bako-
1013 Mintu Sandstone, the Silantek Formation and the Tutoop Sandstone. They are
1014 unconformably above or faulted against Cretaceous melange rocks, and are also
1015 unconformably above or in faulted contact with the Kayan Group. Sedimentation of
1016 the Ketungau Group initiated in the Middle Eocene (Lutetian to Bartonian).

1017 6. The Ngili Sandstone is formed of volcanoclastic conglomerates in the lower part,
1018 which indicates either fresh input or recycling of older volcanoclastics, overlain by
1019 extensive floodplain to estuarine deposits. The overlying Bako-Mintu Sandstone is
1020 mainly composed of fluvial deposits.

1021 7. The Silantek Formation is composed of a Shale Member, which forms the main part
1022 of the succession and indicates extensive floodplain to possibly estuarine
1023 environments, the Marup Sandstone Member, deposited in an estuarine-tidal

1024 environment, and the Temudok Sandstone Member, which indicates a fluvial to
1025 floodplain environment.

1026 8. The Tutoop Sandstone is composed mainly of fluvial deposits and indicates a change
1027 from the near-coastal deposition of the Silantek Formation to a more proximal fluvial
1028 system.

1029 9. Paleocurrents indicate a predominantly southern source for all sediments, a
1030 subordinate eastern source and some possible input from the SW. They also indicate
1031 bidirectional flow related to a tidal environment for the Silantek Formation and the
1032 Ngili Sandstone, while unidirectional flows dominate the Kayan Group, the Bako-
1033 Mintu Sandstone and the Tutoop Sandstone. Source regions were likely elevated
1034 areas in the present-day Schwaner Mountains region, West Borneo and possibly
1035 elevated melange-type rocks to the east. An input of material from the Malay
1036 Peninsula is also possible.

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1364 **Figure captions**

1365 Figure 1: The structural zones of NW Borneo with sedimentary basins of the Kuching Zone
1366 (modified from Haile, 1974; Heng, 1992; Douth, 1992). The research area is displayed in the
1367 red box.

1368 Figure 2: Distribution of the uppermost Cretaceous to Upper Eocene/ ?Lower Oligocene
1369 sedimentary deposits of the Kayan and Ketungau Groups in West Sarawak (modified from
1370 Liechti et al., 1960; Tan, 1981; Heng, 1992).

1371 Figure 3: Palynology zones of the Kayan Group and the underlying youngest part of the
1372 Pedawan Formation (based on Muller, 1968; Morley, 1998) and correlation of the in the
1373 literature used terms for the Kayan Group. The area Kayan Syncline (W) is located near
1374 Lundu and Sungai Chupin; and the Kayan Syncline (E) area comprises exposures around the
1375 Buffer Wall locality. Older sections of the Pedawan Formation (not displayed) underlie the
1376 Kayan Sandstone in the Pueh area and Kayan Syncline.

1377 Figure 4: Correlation of different terms and ages used in the literature for the Ketungau
1378 Group (based on Zeijlmanns van Emmichhoven, 1939; Haile, 1954, 1957; Tan, 1979; Pieters
1379 et al., 1987; Douth, 1992; Heryanto and Jones, 1996) and comparison to the revised
1380 stratigraphy of this study.

1381 Figure 5: Revised stratigraphy of the uppermost Cretaceous to Late Eocene sedimentary
1382 deposits of the Kuching Zone in West Sarawak that form the Kayan and Ketungau Groups,
1383 and their relationship to the underlying formations (based on new observations; and on
1384 Haile, 1957; Liechti et al., 1960; Wilford and Kho, 1965; Muller, 1968; Tan, 1979; Tumanda
1385 et al., 1993; Basir and Taj Madira, 1995; Basir and Aziman, 1996; Haile, 1996; Morley, 1998;
1386 Basir and Uyop, 1999; Breitfeld et al., 2014; Breitfeld, 2015; Galin et al., 2017).

1387 Figure 6: The Pedawan Unconformity. a) Steeply dipping, slumped Pedawan Formation
1388 unconformably overlain by the horizontally bedded Kayan Sandstone at the western margin
1389 of the Kayan Syncline (south of Lundu). b) Zoomed in section showing the angular
1390 unconformity. c) The unconformity exposed at the southern end of Tanjung Santubong. d)
1391 Vertical shale-siltstone alternations of the Pedawan Formation are unconformably overlain
1392 by slightly dipping Kayan Sandstone with a massive basal conglomerate in the Sungai Chupin
1393 area. e) Fining up of the basal conglomerate into pebbly sandstone. f) Zoom in of the
1394 polymict basal conglomerate, showing elongated mud clasts and rounded pebbles of various
1395 compositions.

1396 Figure 7: a) Kayan Sandstone at the Buffer Wall exposure. Multiple sandstone beds alternate
1397 with silt- and mudstones. b) Gunung Singai (left) separated by a NE-SW trending fault from
1398 the southern Serapi range. c) Gunung Santubong forms Tanjung Santubong (probably the
1399 northern continuation of the Serapi range). d) Hornfels at the northern tip of Tanjung
1400 Santubong, showing alternations of sand- and mudstone beds. e) Abandoned quarry at
1401 Gunung Ngili. The lower part is composed of volcanoclastic conglomerate. The upper section
1402 is composed of sandstone-mudstone alternations. f) Steeply dipping sandstone-mudstone
1403 alternations at the Marup Ridge (Marup Sandstone Member) near Sri Aman. g) Gently to
1404 moderately dipping sheet-like sandstones interbedded with carbonaceous mudstone at the
1405 Temudok Ridge (Temudok Sandstone Member) south of Sri Aman. h) Bako-Mintu Sandstone
1406 forms the 'Sea stack' in Bako National Park. i) Tutoop Sandstone in the lower ascends of
1407 Bukit Mansul: red mudstone is overlain by channel sandstone with an erosive base.

1408 Figure 8: a) Kayan Sandstone: massive conglomerates consisting mainly quartz pebbles,
1409 shale clasts and igneous clasts are interbedded with sandstone-siltstone-mudstone

1410 alternations. Abundant iron oxide veins cross-cut the finer grained alternations. Location:
1411 Bungo Range. b) Kayan Sandstone: Large scale trough cross-bedding in sandstone. Abundant
1412 mud and organic material is along the crests of the trough cross-beds. Location: Matang
1413 area (Gunung Serapi). c) Kayan Sandstone: two massive sandstone channels dissect a thick
1414 mudstone in the Kayan Syncline. d) Kayan Sandstone: cracks are filled by upwelling mud.
1415 *Ophiomorpha* trace fossils in the sandstone. Location: Kayan Syncline. e) Kayan Sandstone:
1416 sedimentary dyke composed of medium grained sandstone cuts through thick mudstone-
1417 siltstone alternations. Location: Matang area (Gunung Serapi). f) Kayan Sandstone: large
1418 syn-sedimentary fault cross-cuts and displaces the lower section of the exposure.
1419 Sandstone-mudstone alternations are faulted against thick mudstone deposits. The upper
1420 part of the exposure is not affected. Location: Matang area (Gunung Serapi). g) Penrissen
1421 Sandstone: Conglomerate grades into horizontally laminated sandstone. Clasts are
1422 predominantly quartz pebbles and igneous material. Location: Gunung Penrissen. h)
1423 Penrissen Sandstone: Large quartz clasts floating in red sandstone. Horizontally laminated
1424 sandstone-conglomerate alternation with crudely developed bedding is in the lower part of
1425 the outcrop. Location: Gunung Penrissen.

1426 Figure 9: a) Ngili Sandstone: coarse conglomerate composed of volcanoclastic material, in
1427 particular white ash/mud clasts. Location: Gunung Ngili. b) Ngili Sandstone: thick massive
1428 sandstone overlays massive reddish mudstone and is overlain by horizontally bedded
1429 sandstone-mudstone alternation at Gunung Ngili. c) Ngili Sandstone: rippled sandstone
1430 predominantly composed of current and climbing ripples. Symmetrical wave ripple are in
1431 the uppermost part. A single, possibly *Skolithos*, trace fossil is disrupting the bedding.
1432 Location: Gunung Ngili. d) Ngili Sandstone: ironstone layer bands within fine grained
1433 sandstone-siltstone alternations at Gunung Ngili. e) Silantek Formation: *Skolithos* and

1434 *Ophiomorpha* trace fossils in Marup Sandstone Member at the Marup Ridge. f) Silantek
1435 Formation: ripple surface consisting of sinuous symmetrical ripples in the Marup Sandstone
1436 Member at the Marup Ridge. g) Silantek Formation: wavy bedding consisting of wave,
1437 current ripples and climbing ripples in the Marup Sandstone Member at the Marup Ridge. h)
1438 Silantek Formation: lenticular bedding in the Marup Sandstone Member at the Marup Ridge.

1439 Figure 10: a) Bako-Mintu Sandstone: several stacked channels at Tanjung Bako formed by
1440 massive to trough cross-bedded sandstones. b) Bako-Mintu Sandstone: large scale trough
1441 cross-bedding in sandstone beds at Tanjung Bako. c) Bako-Mintu Sandstone: honeycomb
1442 weathering structures on surface of sandstone beds at Tanjung Bako. d) Bako-Mintu
1443 Sandstone: Persistent thin coal seam and carbonaceous mudstone overlain by white fine
1444 sandstone in the Mintu area. e) Tutoop Sandstone: mudflake conglomerate overlaying grey
1445 mudstone at Bukit Mansul. f) Tutoop Sandstone: intercalations of bleached white siltstones
1446 in red siltstone and mudstone at Bukit Begunan. g) Tutoop Sandstone: red mudstone
1447 horizontally alternating with red and bleached white siltstone at Bukit Begunan. h) Tutoop
1448 Sandstone: rippled to flaser bedded sandstone with climbing ripples at Bukit Mansul.

1449 Figure 11: Paleocurrent measurements of this study from the Kayan and Ketungau Groups
1450 displayed in their respective sample locations. Bin size is 10° on all plots.

1451 Figure 12: Schematic model showing the depositional environments of the Kayan and
1452 Ketungau Groups, their stratigraphic context, and their interpreted source regions (not to
1453 scale). a) Kayan Sandstone in the latest Cretaceous to Early Eocene is characterised by
1454 extensive floodplain deposits, fluvial channels, some alluvial fan conglomerates and
1455 estuarine deposits. The dominant paleocurrent is towards the north with some towards the
1456 west. b) Penrissen Sandstone in the Early Eocene is characterised by alluvial fan

1457 conglomerates, fluvial channels and some lacustrine deposits. The dominant paleocurrent is
1458 towards the west-northwest. c) Ketungau Group (Ngili Sandstone, Silantek Formation, Bako-
1459 Mintu Sandstone and Tutoop Sandstone) in the Middle to Late Eocene/ ?Early Oligocene is
1460 characterised by estuarine, tidal, fluvial and extensive floodplain deposits of the Silantek
1461 Formation, by the predominantly fluvial Bako-Mintu Sandstone, by the estuarine and
1462 extensive floodplain deposits of the Ngili Sandstone, and by the predominantly fluvial
1463 Tutoop Sandstone. Bidirectional northwest-southeast paleocurrents are dominant in the
1464 tidal and estuarine deposits. North to northeast directed paleocurrents are dominant in the
1465 fluvial deposits.

1466 Figure 13: Geological map of western Borneo, showing Mesozoic basement rocks and
1467 Cretaceous forearc sediments, which both are possible source rocks for the Kuching
1468 Supergroup and the Rajang Group, and the position of Cenozoic sedimentary basins (based
1469 on Williams et al., 1988; Douth, 1992; Heng, 1992; Rusmana et al., 1993; Pieters et al.,
1470 1993; Breitfeld et al., 2017; Hennig et al., 2017; Hall and Breitfeld, 2017). ¹ Kayan, Ketungau,
1471 Mandai and Melawi Basins; Landak and West Kutai Basins are possibly equivalents. ² i.a.
1472 Pueh, Gading and Era intrusions. ³ i.a. Boyan Melange, Lubok-Antu Melange, Kapuas
1473 Complex, Sejingkat Formation. ⁴ i.a. Serian Volcanics, Sadong Formation, Kuching Formation,
1474 West Sarawak Metamorphics (Kerait Schist, Tuang Formation), Bau Limestone Formation,
1475 Balaisebut Group, Bengkayang Group.

1476 **Table captions**

1477 Table 1: Foraminifera reported by Haile (1957) and Tan (1979) from the lowermost part of
1478 the Silantek Formation (Marup Sandstone Member) and new age interpretation based on

1479 BouDagher-Fadel (2013). (Note: Tan (1979) reported also *Miliammina fusca* (Brady) which is
1480 a Holocene form. This might be a misidentification and is omitted from the table).

1481 Table 2: Summary and thickness of the different subdivisions used for the Silantek
1482 Formation in West Sarawak (Haile, 1954; Haile, 1957; Tan, 1979) and comparison to the new
1483 classification.

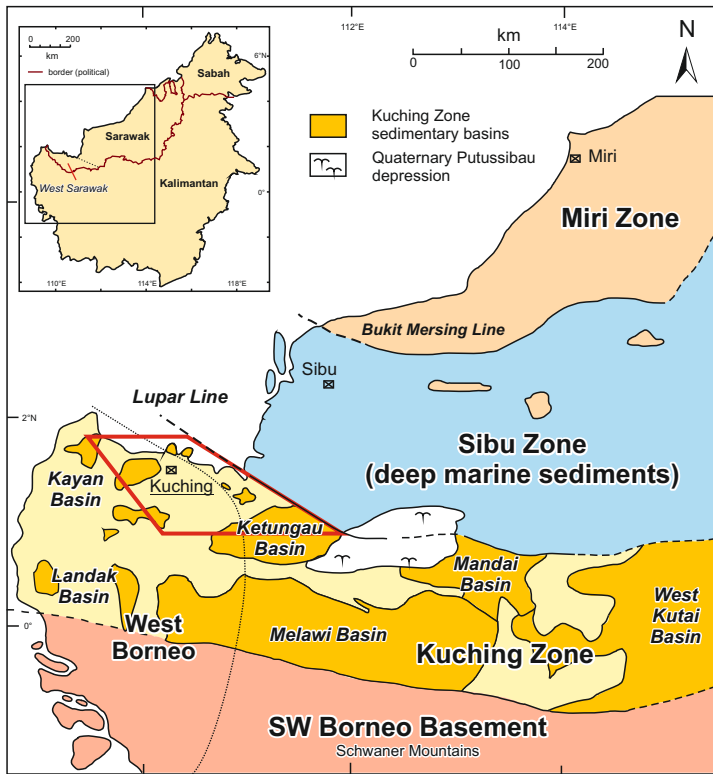


Fig. 1

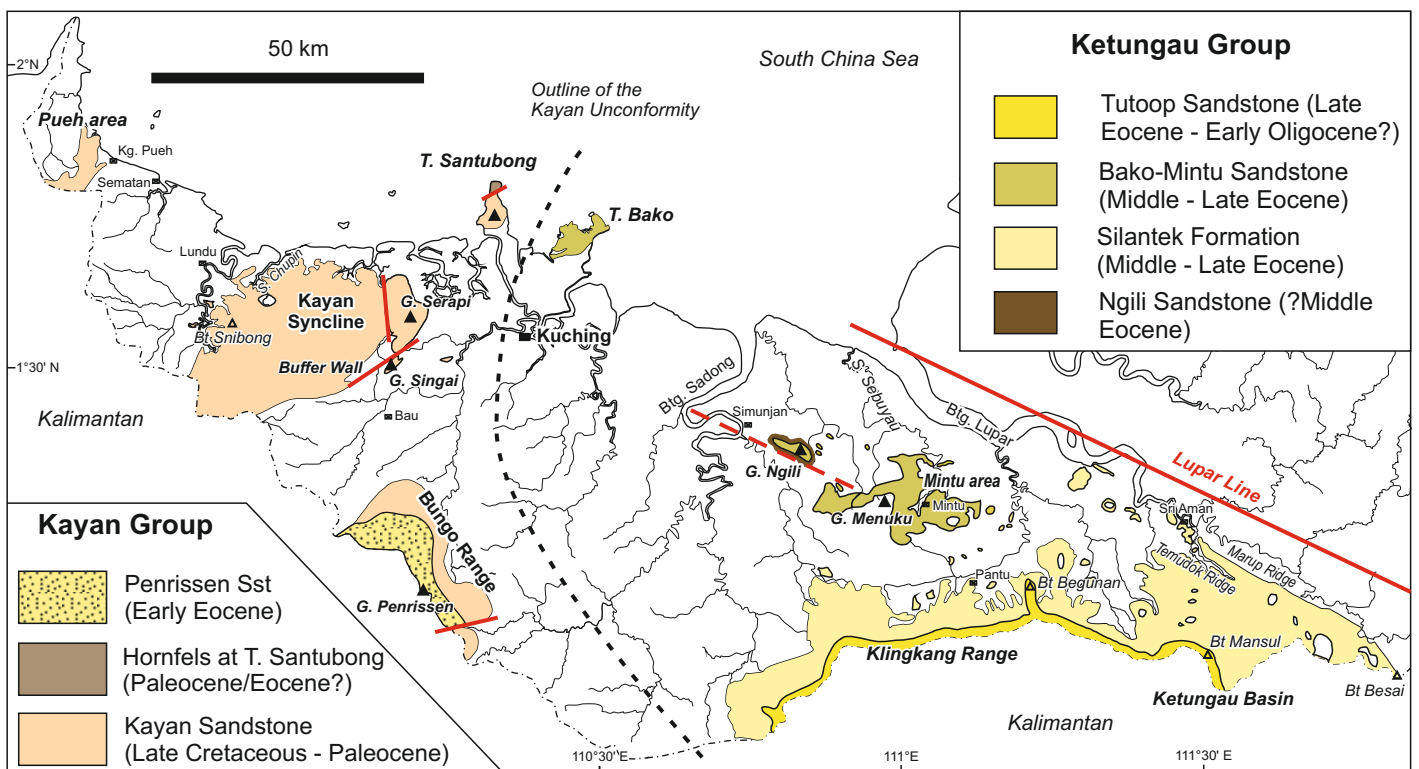


Fig. 2

Epoch/ Stage	Palynology zone+	this study							
		Liechti et al. (1960)*	Haile (1968)	Tan (1981)	Pueh area	Kayan Syncline (W)	Kayan Syncline (E)	Bungo Range (G. Penrissen)	
Eocene (Early)	<i>Retitriporites variabilis</i> zone	Plateau Sandstone	Penrissen Sandstone Kayan Sandstone	Kayan Sandstone				Penrissen Sandstone	Penrissen Sandstone
Paleocene	<i>Proxapertites</i> zone								
Maastrichtian	<i>Rugubivesiculites</i> zone								
Campanian									
Santonian	<i>Araucariacites</i> zone								Pedawan Fm

Fig. 3

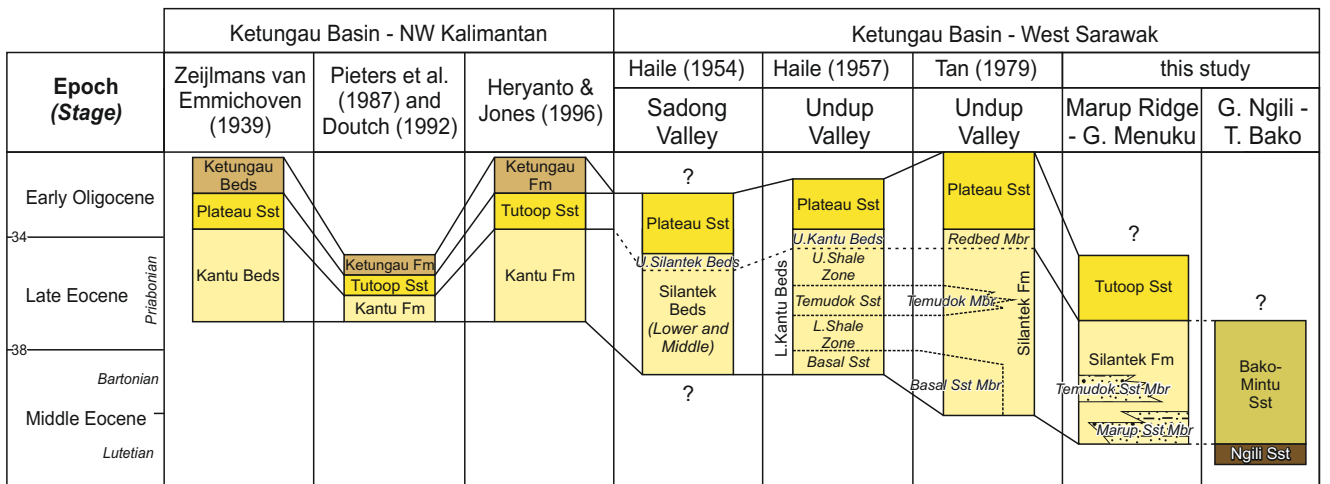


Fig. 4

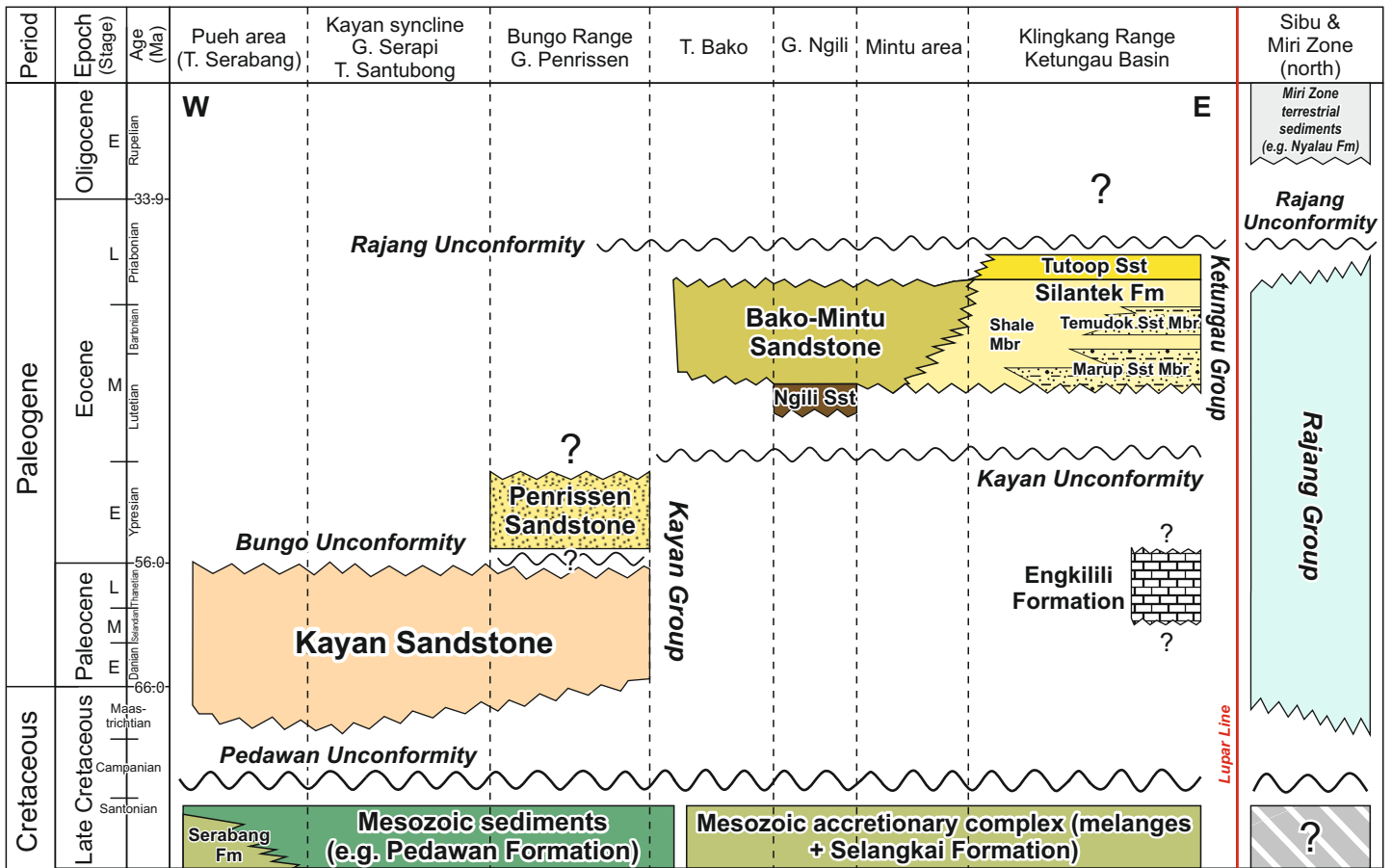


Fig. 5

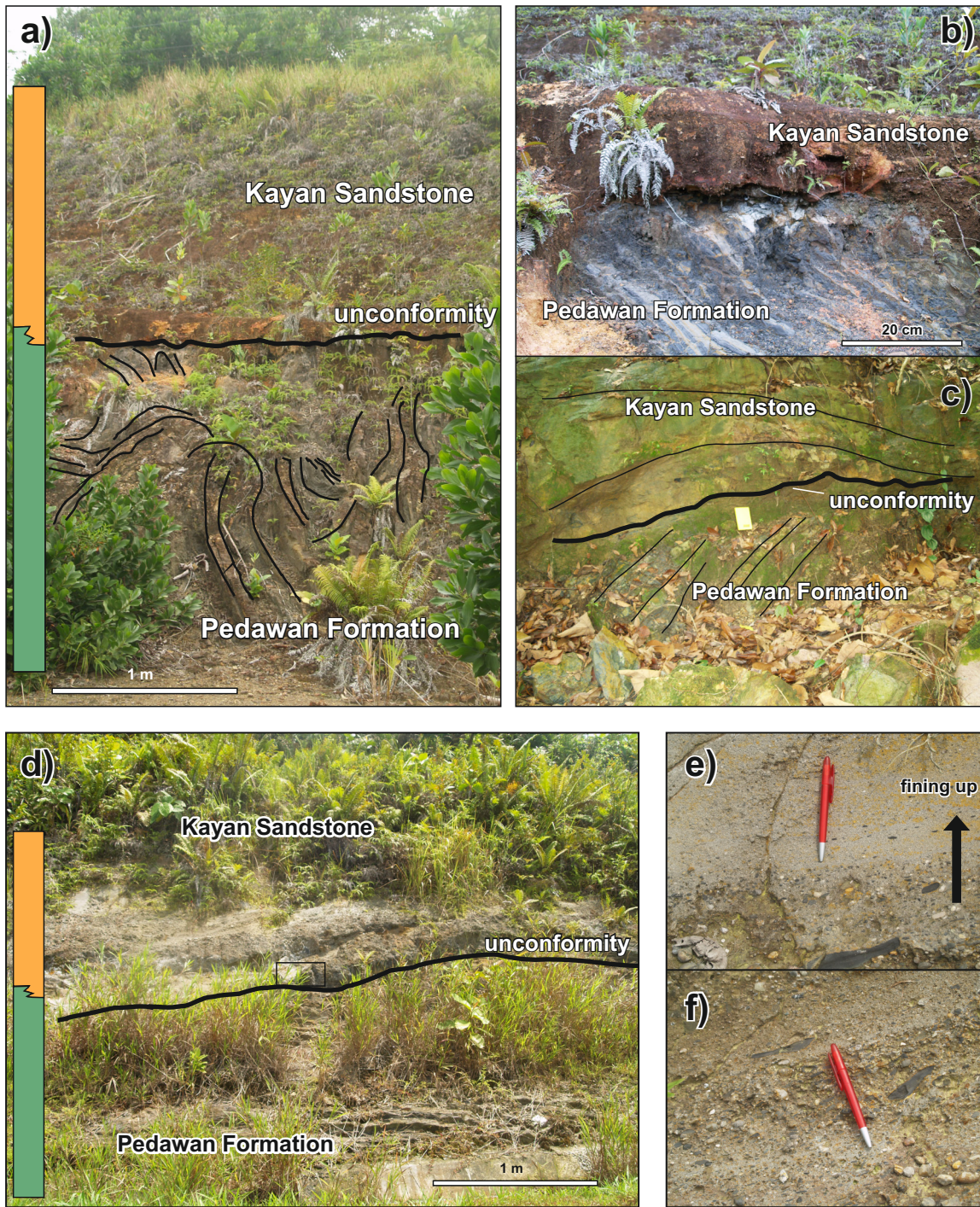


Fig. 6

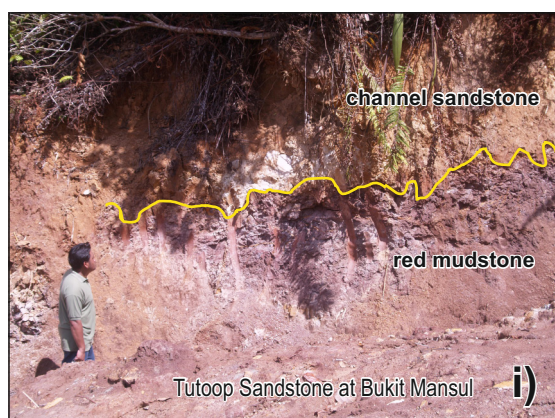
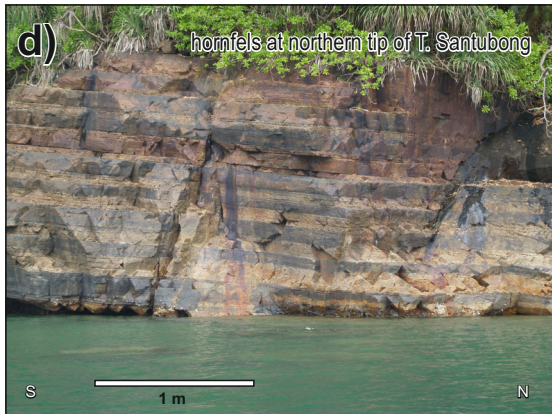


Fig. 7

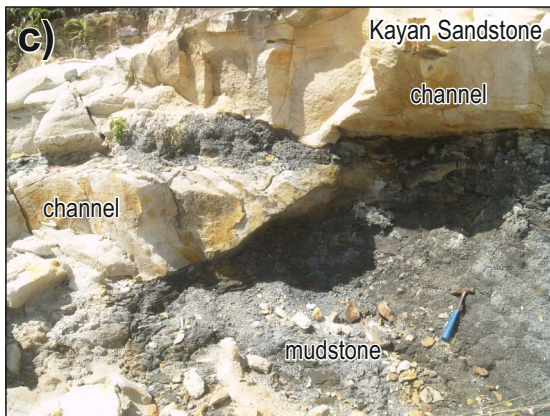


Fig. 8

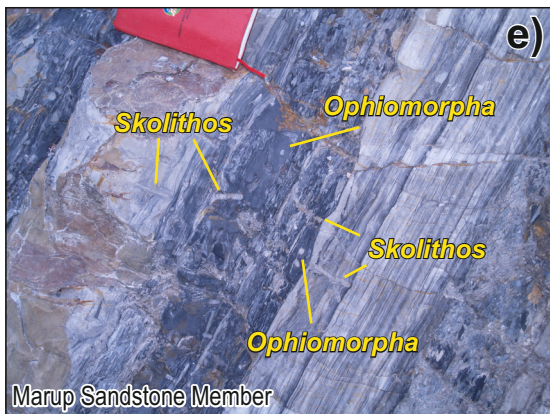
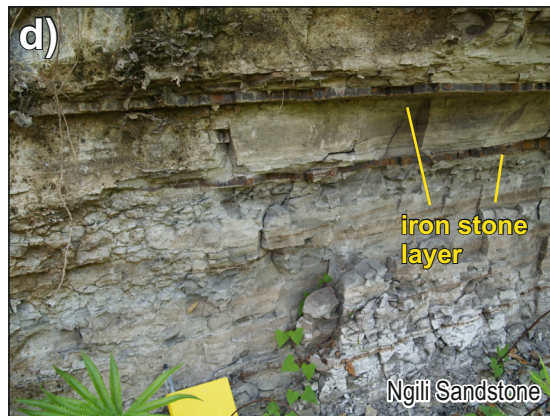
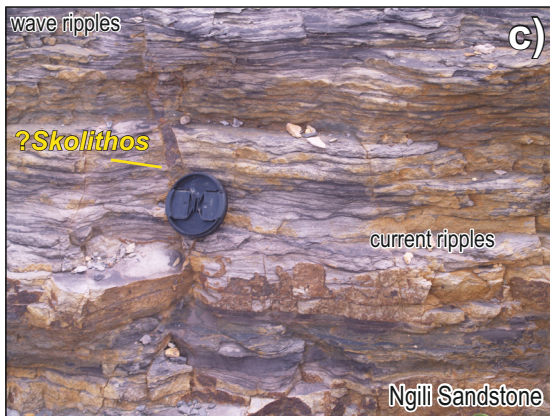
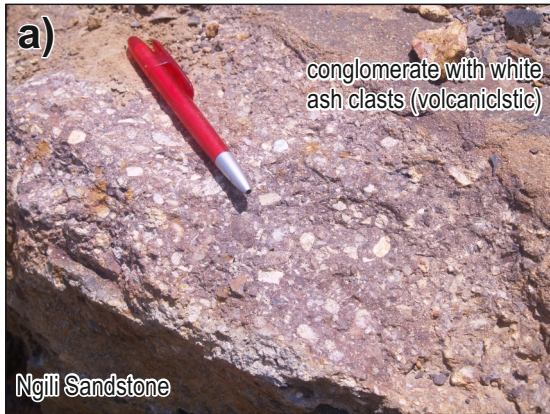


Fig. 9

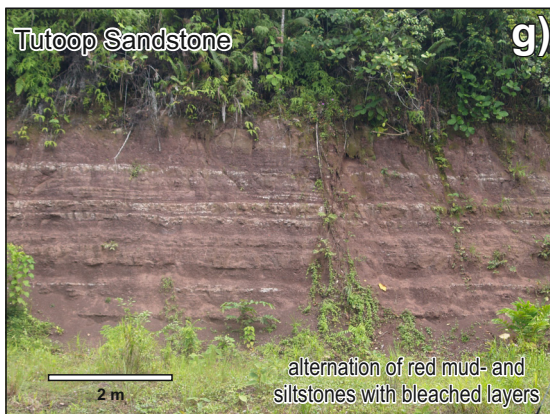
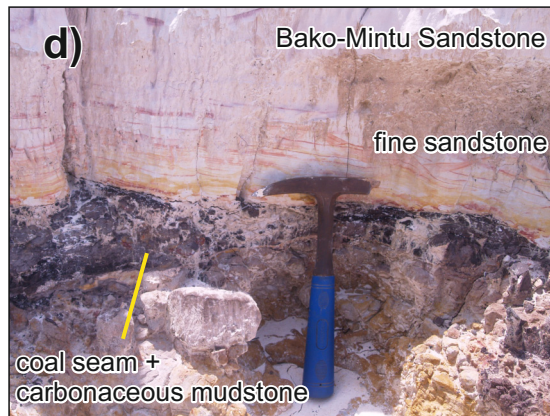
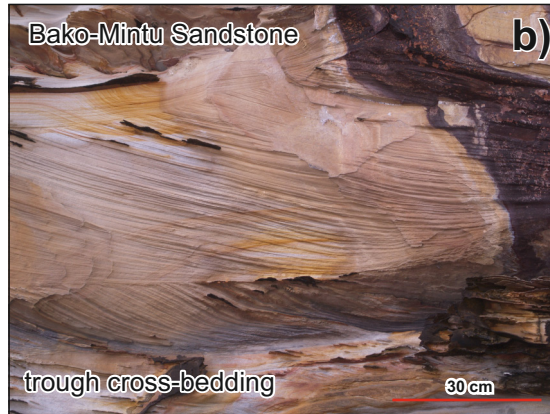


Fig. 10

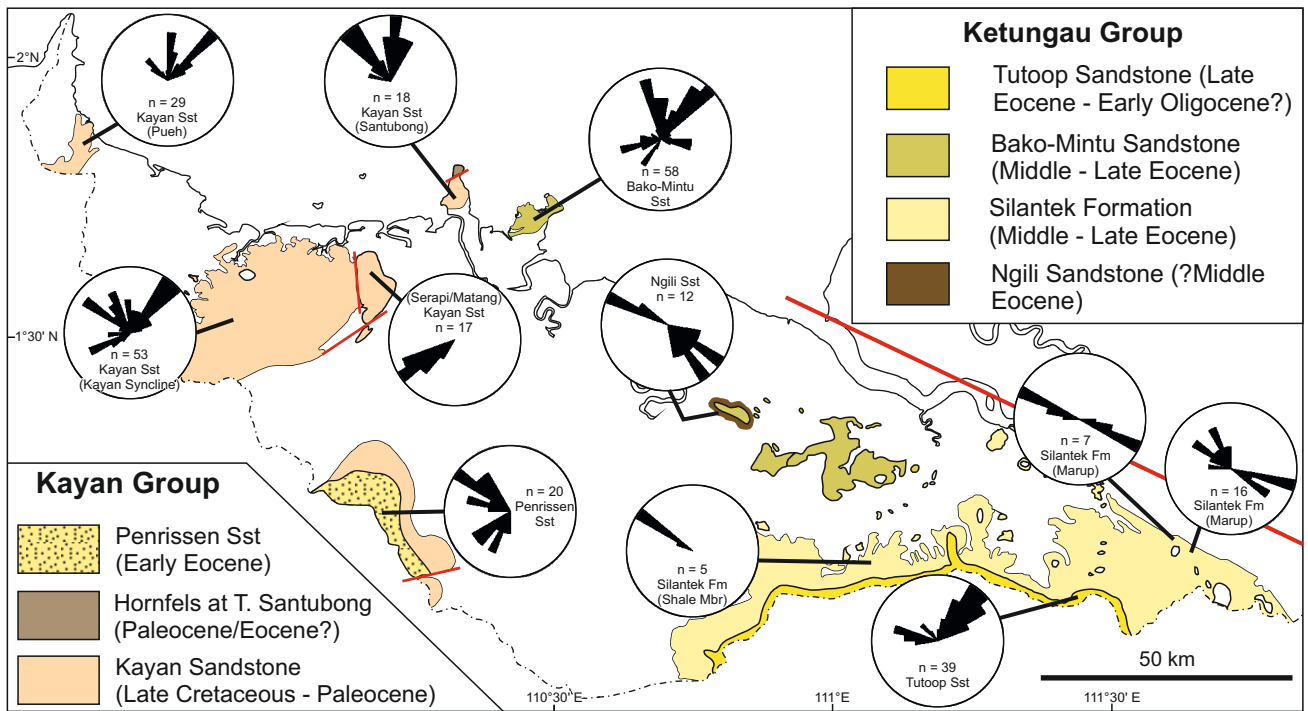


Fig. 11

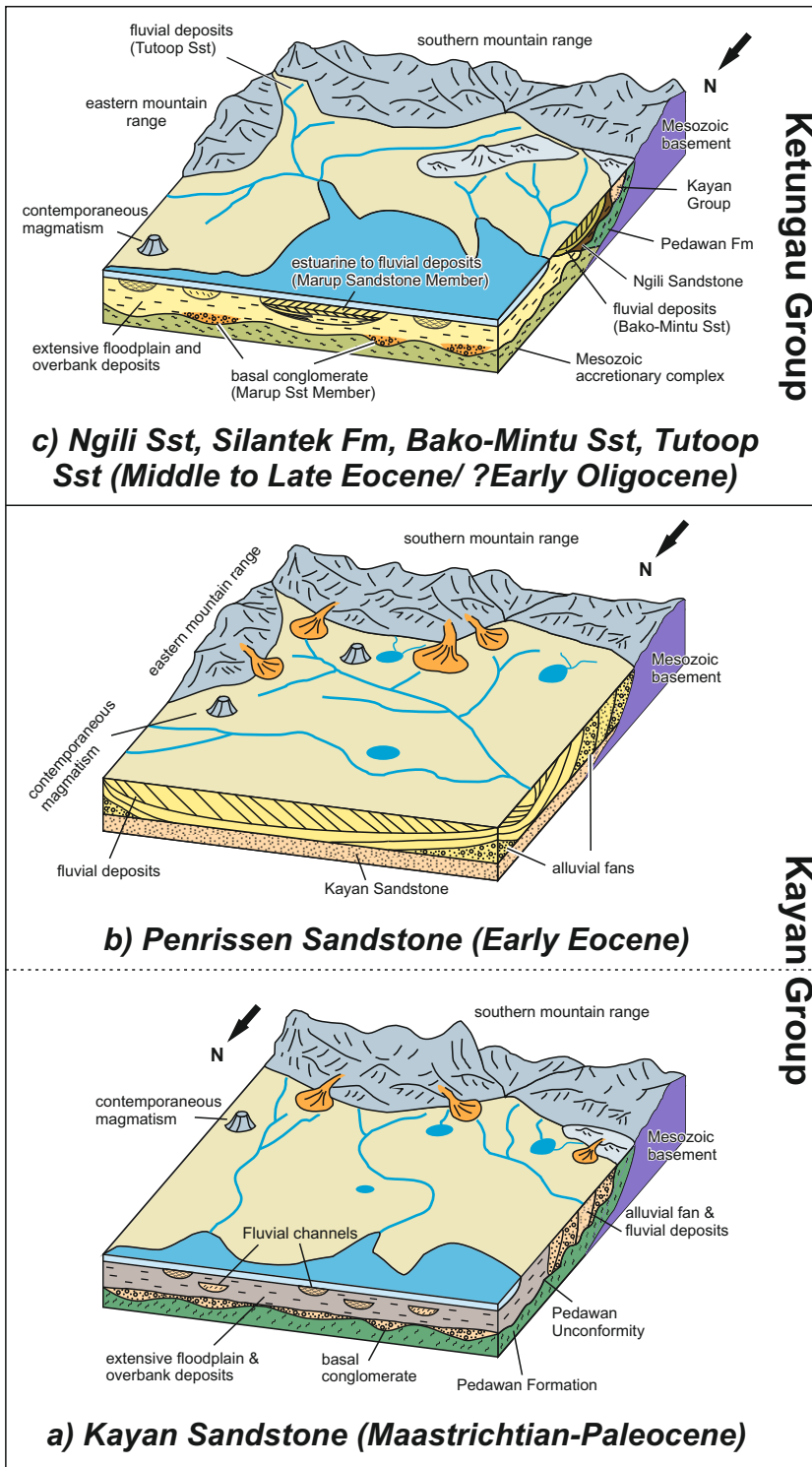


Fig. 12

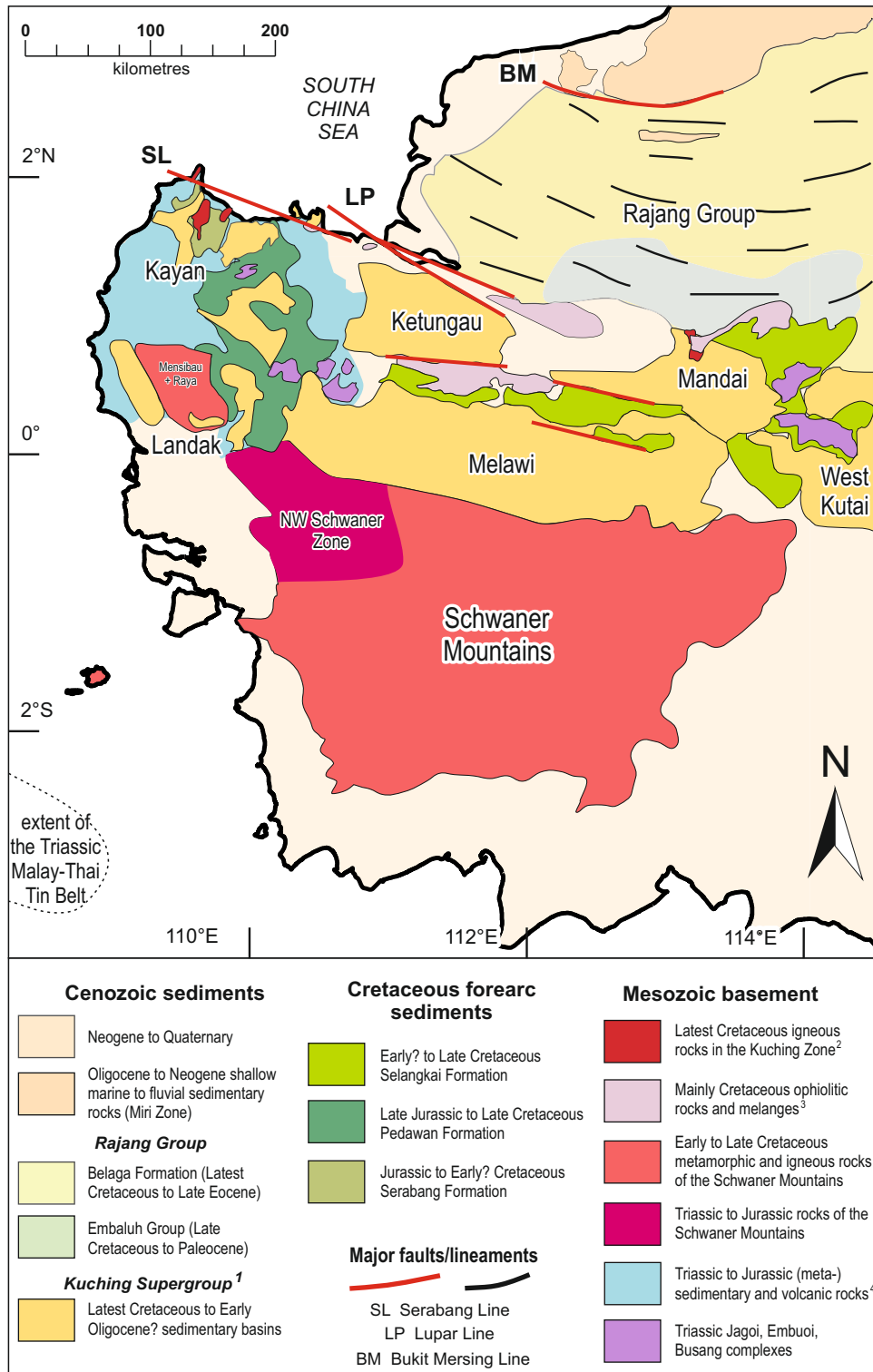


Fig. 13

Author	Sample Nos	Assemblage	Fossils	Age
Haile (1957)	S4392	1	<i>Actinocyclus</i> sp. <i>Nummulites</i> spp. (small type with few coils) <i>Heterostegina</i> sp. <i>Rotalia</i> sp.	Late Eocene
	My 1426-7	2	<i>Ammodiscus</i> sp.	Paleocene to Holocene
	My 1435-6		<i>Ammobaculites</i> 9	
	My 1676-1678		<i>Anomalina</i> 12	
Alt 881-883	<i>Cyclammina</i> cf. 8			
Alt 888-892	<i>Haplophragmoides</i> 6			
Jal-4; H 1077; H 1079;			<i>Quinqueloculina</i> sp.	
H 1081-1085			<i>Sigmoilina</i> sp.	
H1186			<i>Trochammina</i> sp.	
My 1518-1522	3	<i>Haplophragmoides</i> sp. <i>Trochammina</i> sp.		Cretaceous to Holocene
T79; T101; T102; T106	4	<i>Glomospira</i> sp.		indet.
Tan (1979)	K6852	5	<i>Amphistegina</i> spp. <i>Asterigerina</i> spp. <i>Operculina</i> spp. <i>Elphidium</i> spp. <i>Quinqueloculina</i> spp. <i>Discocyclus</i> spp.	Eocene
	K6871	6	<i>Assilina</i> sp. aff. <i>A. praespira</i> Douville	Late Paleocene (planktonic zone P4) to Middle Eocene (planktonic zone P14)
	K6290	7	<i>Anomalina</i> spp.	Late Paleocene - Eocene
	K6293		<i>Operculina</i> spp.	
	K6457		<i>Operculinella</i> sp.	
	K6922		<i>Sigmoilina</i> sp.	
			<i>Miliammina</i> sp.	
	<i>Nonion</i> sp.			
	<i>Quinqueloculina</i> sp.			

Sadong Valley (Haile, 1954)	Undup Valley (Haile, 1957)	Undup Valley (Tan, 1979)	this study	
			Marup Ridge - G. Menuku	G. Ngili - T. Bako
Plateau Sandstone Formation (> 300 m)	Plateau Sandstone Formation (> 150 m)	Plateau Sandstone (150 m)		
Upper Silantek Beds (0-61 m)	Upper Kantu Beds (305 m)	Upper Silantek Redbed Member (300 m)	Tutoop Sandstone (800 m)	
Middle Silantek Beds (915 m)	Lower Kantu Beds (total c. 4100 m) <i>Upper Shale Zone; 1524 m</i> <i>Temudok Sandstone; 152 m</i> <i>Lower Shale Zone; 1220 m</i>	Silantek Formation (total c. 4800 m) <i>main Silantek; 3000 m</i> <i>Temudok Member; 200 m</i>	Silantek Formation (total 2600-3000 m) <i>Shale Member; 1000-2000 m</i> <i>Temudok Sst Member; 130 m</i>	Bako-Mintu Sandstone (> 250 m) <i>140 m in Mintu area</i> <i>160 m at G. Ngili</i> <i>240 m at T. Bako</i>
Lower Silantek Beds (152 m)	<i>Basal Sandstone; 1220 m</i>	<i>Basal Sandstone Member; 1600 m</i>	<i>Marup Sandstone Member; 800 m</i>	

Ngili Sandstone (100 m)