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The older volcanic complexes of S.Miguel, Azores: Nordeste and Povoação

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Abbreviated Title

The older volcanic complexes of S.Miguel, Azores

Abstract

The oldest part of S. Miguel is to the east of Furnas. Previous research argued that these volcanics belong to a construct called the Nordeste Volcano, a heavily eroded shield which not only extends to the east coast of the island but also underlies Furnas Volcano in the west. On the basis of geomorphological mapping, we argue that Nordeste comprises two volcanic systems: an older Nordeste construct (the Nordeste Volcanic System); and the younger Povoação Volcano which straddles the Nordeste shield on its western margin. The Nordeste Volcanic System consists of the

40 Lower Basalts which constitute the overwhelming majority of its subaerial products
41 which are exposed in coastal cliff sections. Above the Lower Basalts is a surficial
42 drape of Ankaramites and the Upper Basalts. There is no evidence of large explosive
43 trachytic eruptions from Nordeste Volcanic System. Povoação Volcano comprises an
44 early shield construct, after which the volcano experienced caldera collapse. Post-
45 caldera deposits are poorly exposed, but include basaltic, mugearitic and trachytic
46 lavas intercalated by cut and fill sequences. Radiometric dating has yet to resolve
47 fully the absolute ages of the Nordeste and Povoação volcanic systems, but
48 morphology indicates that the former is much older than the latter.

49

50 S. Miguel Island, Azores, is made up of three central volcanoes, each of which has
51 been active in the last 1000 years, and these volcanoes are linked by rift zones of
52 predominantly monogenetic basaltic activity (Fig. 1). Sete Cidades is the central
53 volcano that forms the western end of the island and last erupted about 500 – 600 y
54 BP (Booth *et al.* 1978, Moore & Rubin 1991; Queiroz *et al.* 2008; Queiroz *et al.* 2015
55 – this volume). A basaltic rift zone separates Sete Cidades from Fogo, the central
56 volcano which dominates the middle of the island. This basaltic rift zone with
57 numerous scoria cones is called the Picos Fissural Volcanic System (Ferreira *et al.*
58 2015 - this volume). The most recent eruption in the Picos Fissural Volcanic System
59 was in 1652. Fogo last erupted in 1563 with a trachytic sub-plinian central eruption,
60 followed a few days later by a basaltic eruption on the lower northwest flank
61 (Wallenstein *et al.* 1998). Between Fogo and Furnas, the easternmost of the active
62 central volcanoes, lies the Congro Fissural Volcanic System, a rift zone of
63 predominantly scoria cones. Furnas last erupted with a sub-plinian eruption in 1630
64 (Cole *et al.* 1995, Guest *et al.* 1999).

65

66 To the east of Furnas is the oldest part of the island first described by Zbyszewski *et*
67 *al.* (1958), with according to Moore (1990) volcanic rocks ranging in age from

68 100,000 years to over 4 Ma. As discussed below, however, Johnson *et al.* (1998)
69 argue that the age range is much younger. Moore (1990) categorises all these older
70 volcanics as belonging to Nordeste volcano. It is the purpose of this paper to provide
71 more understanding of this oldest part of the island demonstrating that the Nordeste
72 volcano is in fact two separate distinct volcanic systems - Povoação and the older
73 Nordeste - that make up the eastern part of the island.

74

75 **Nordeste Volcanic System**

76 Previous Work

77 Fernandez (1980) mapped the Nordeste Volcanic System and identified a 1300 m
78 thick exposed sequence and subdivided it into the Trachytes and Tristanites, Upper
79 Basalts, Nordeste Ankaramites and Lower Basalts (Table 1), which together
80 comprise a mildly alkaline suite of volcanic products (Fig. 2). K-Ar dating by Abdel-
81 Monem *et al.* (1975) produced a date of 4.01 Ma for what is considered to be the
82 oldest exposed lava of the Lower Basalts, a date of 1.86 Ma for a lava of the Upper
83 Basalts and dates ranging from 1.28 – 0.95 Ma for the trachytes and tristanites. The
84 complex is cut by a sequence of dykes ranging in composition from ankaramite
85 through alkali basalt to hawaiite in composition. Johnson *et al.* (1998) measured the
86 palaeomagnetism of a hawaiite dyke showing it to be normally magnetised (Brunhes)
87 whereas the Upper and Lower Basalts are reverse magnetised (Matuyama) and
88 therefore older and not related to the magmatism of the dyke. The work of Fernandez
89 (1980) focuses on petrology and does not define the boundaries of the Nordeste
90 Volcanic System. The lowermost exposed basalts are low in K_2O , Na_2O and TiO_2
91 compared with the rest of the sequence and are transitional in character between
92 mid-ocean ridge basalts and alkali basalts. The Nordeste Volcanic System is
93 interpreted by Moore (1990) as being an eroded shield which underlies Furnas
94 Volcano in the west and extends to the east coast of S. Miguel Island. Though
95 grouping all these volcanics as one zone, Moore recognises the complexity by

96 interpreting Povoação as a caldera which is not centred on the main Nordeste
97 massif. Johnson *et al.* (1998) in a palaeomagnetic study of the lava flows of S.
98 Miguel, carried out new $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating of the Nordeste Volcanic System. These
99 dates of Johnson *et al.* (1998) give a much younger range than the dates of Abdel-
100 Monem *et al.* (1975) which form the basis of the chronology used by both Fernandez
101 (1980) and Moore (1990). According to Johnson *et al.* (1998) lava from the Lower
102 Basalt Sequence at the base of the Porto de Nordeste cliff gives a mean age of
103 0.878 Ma. Comparing this with the much older age of 4 Ma quoted by Abdel-Monem
104 *et al.* (1975), who employed K-Ar dating. Younger dates ranging from 0.82 to 0.85
105 Ma for the Lower Basalts were also obtained by Johnson *et al.* (1998) from the Praia
106 do Lombo Gordo cliff sequence. Johnson *et al.* (1998) argue that K-Ar dates are less
107 reliable than those determined by $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$.

108
109 The dates of the Upper Basalt sequence provided by Johnson *et al.* (1998) range
110 from 0.78 – 0.82 Ma. If this is the case then the basic magmatism of the Nordeste
111 Volcanic System occurred over a period ranging from 0.78 to 0.88 Ma, i.e. a period of
112 ~0.1 Ma, as opposed to ~2.15 Ma as suggested by Fernandez (1980). The
113 palaeomagnetic data of Johnson *et al.* (1998) show that all the samples analysed
114 from the Lower and Upper Basalts are reversely magnetised (Matuyama) whereas
115 the two ankaramites and one dyke sampled are normally magnetised (Bruhnes) and
116 therefore younger. A younger age for the Nordeste Volcanic System is provided by
117 K-Ar dates of 0.90 Ma and 0.92 Ma obtained from two lavas in cliff sections to the
118 south at Água Retorta (Forjaz personal communication in Johnson *et al.* 1998). The
119 cliffs to the south of Água Retorta (Fig. 3) lie on the downthrow side of a major WNW-
120 ESE fault, the Tronqueira fault (see Fig. 4) and therefore may only represent the
121 upper part of the Nordeste Volcanic System. A summary of the differing age ranges
122 proposed for the Nordeste Volcanic System is presented in Table 1.

123

124 Tectonics

125 The Nordeste Volcanic System is cut by two major fault trends – NNW/SSE and
126 WNW - ESE and a minor trend NE - SW (Carmo *et al.* 2005; Carmo *et al.* 2015 - this
127 volume). The NNW - SSE trend is clearly shown in the northeast part of the island
128 with faults controlling the orientation of sea cliffs on the coast. A major WNW-ESE
129 fault, the Tronqueira fault (Carmo *et al.* 2015 - this volume), cuts the Nordeste
130 Volcanic System forming a distinctive scarp along the southern margin of the Serra
131 da Tronqueira to the north of Água Retorta (Fig. 5b). From the height of the scarp the
132 fault had a throw of at least 400 m and together with smaller parallel faults has
133 downfaulted the Nordeste Volcanic System to the south. This fault cannot be traced
134 in the Povoação caldera suggesting that it predates the formation of the Povoação
135 Volcano whose lavas are piled up against it. In the Água Retorta area there is a
136 graben developed which has the Tronqueira fault as its northern boundary (Carmo *et*
137 *al.* 2015 – this volume).

138

139 The volcanic construct

140 The Nordeste Volcanic System is highly eroded and dissected compared with the
141 active central volcanoes of Sete Cidades, Fogo and Furnas whose subaerial portions
142 date from the last 200,000 years. The less eroded edifice of the Povoação Volcano
143 can be seen banked up against the older Nordeste Volcanic System (Fig. 4). If the
144 dates determined by Johnson *et al.* (1998) are of the correct order of magnitude, then
145 the age gap - in the range of 600,000 years - between the Nordeste Volcanic System
146 and the younger central volcanoes - is much smaller than was previously thought,
147 and raises the question that on geomorphological grounds the Nordeste Volcanic
148 System appears to be much older than the other centres. An older age, however, for
149 the Nordeste Volcanic System is supported by a recent investigation into high levels
150 of mitochondrial DNA diversity within Oxychilid land snails from S. Miguel (Harris *et*
151 *al.* 2013). Harris *et al.* demonstrate that most of the lineages diverged in the early

152 Pliocene or Pleistocene and argue that these results are more consistent with the
153 older age of the island of about 4 Ma, this is in line with the date of Abdel-Monem *et*
154 *al.* (1975) as presented in Table 1.

155

156 The Lower Basalts sequence forms a shield which comprises the overwhelming
157 majority of the subaerial products of the Nordeste Volcanic System. The lava pile is
158 exposed in the cliffs between Algarvia on the north coast and Água Retorta on the
159 south east corner of the island (Fig. 3). The angle of slope from the current peak of
160 the Nordeste Volcanic System, Pico da Vara (1130 m asl), to the top of the coastal
161 cliffs is about 9°. It should be noted that the current summit will be lower than the
162 original summit as a consequence of erosion, but there is no evidence of caldera
163 collapse of this construct. Cliff sections reveal that the Lower Basalts sequence is
164 made of relatively thin lava flows which are typically of aa type with massive portions
165 up to 3 m in thickness. At the foot of the cliff just south of the Porto de Nordeste at
166 Ponta do Arnel (Fig. 3) the pile of lavas can be seen to cover scoria cone deposits at
167 the base of the pile. The cliffs along the coastline each side of Ponta do Arnel are
168 formed by a well defined fault (Figs. 4, 5a). Ponta do Arnel is formed of younger
169 lavas (post the Lower Basalts sequence) which have spilled over the cliff. The Lower
170 Basalt sequence is also well exposed at Praia do Lombo Gordo. At this locality about
171 50 m above the base of the cliffs a thin layer (75 cm) of weathered orange scoria
172 forms a well defined horizon in the sequence of lavas.

173

174 Inland, the volcanic system is highly vegetated and exposures are limited. The
175 Nordeste Ankaramites and Upper Basalts sequences form a surficial drape on the
176 construct of the Lower Basalts. Johnson *et al.* (1998) consider that the Nordeste
177 Ankaramites and the Upper Basalts may be at least in part contemporaneous. The
178 small volume of trachytes and tristanites represent the last stage in activity. This
179 indicates that storage of magma occurred for a sufficient time to allow for

180 fractionation to generate trachytic magmas. There is no evidence, however, that the
181 Nordeste Volcanic System gave rise to major trachytic explosive eruptions.

182

183 The Nordeste Volcanic System has been subjected to considerable erosion and the
184 complexity of this is a reflection of its age. There are several exposures where debris
185 flow deposits may be seen within the Nordeste Volcanic System. Just to the west of
186 Lomba da Fazenda debris flow deposits with clasts of ankaramite are overlain by
187 ankaramite lava suggesting that the debris flow was generated during the
188 emplacement of the Nordeste Ankaramites sequence. This indicates that erosion and
189 generation of debris flows was occurring during the emplacement of the Nordeste
190 Volcanic System. The Ribeira do Guilherme (Figs. 3, 5a) is a major valley cut into the
191 Nordeste products which enters the sea just north of the village of Nordeste. Near to
192 the mouth of the river a fill of alluvium comprising rounded cobbles and boulders of
193 lava crops out on both sides of the valley at c.120 m asl (Fig. 6). The boulders are up
194 to 2 m in size and this, taken together with the poor sorting of the deposits, indicates
195 high energy deposition. The fill perches on the sides of the lava sequence and
196 originally filled the valley up to this level.

197

198 The history of cut and fill is well illustrated on the south east flank of the Nordeste
199 Volcanic System. More than 10 m of very poorly sorted debris flow deposit with
200 rounded lava clasts up to 1 m in diameter forms the base of the cliff section just south
201 of Água Retorta. In the current valley, just north of Fagundas locality, torrent gravels
202 can be seen overlying lava. It is clear that there has been a well developed sequence
203 of cut and fill.

204

205 Generation of debris flows has continued and the history of cut and fill carries on to
206 the present day. The Ribeira Despe-te Que Suas on the northwestern edge of the
207 Nordeste Volcanic System clearly experiences major episodic discharge. A new road

208 bridge was built to replace the one destroyed by fluvial activity in 1987 and the river
209 bed which is sometimes dry contains large boulders and cuts a 10 m fill which is
210 poorly sorted with a mixture of rounded and angular clasts and this bears testimony
211 to the high energy discharge which can take place.

212

213 The instability of the cliffs constitutes a current hazard. On the coast to the south of
214 Pedreira locality houses at the foot of the cliff are built on a small platform made of
215 debris flow and debris avalanche deposits. Two of these houses were damaged by
216 debris flows after heavy rainfall in 1998. On the side of the track is a shrine to a man
217 killed by blocks falling in 1961.

218

219 Marine terraces

220 A flat feature at around 150 m asl can be observed on aerial photographs formed
221 above the current sea cliffs on the north coast from São Pedro do Nordeste to
222 Lomba da Fazenda and on the east coast between Nordeste village and Pedreira
223 (Fig. 4). This we interpret as a possible marine terrace. On the ground this terrace is
224 less clearly visible and has been partially dissected by erosion.

225

226 The terrace is cut into lavas of the Upper Basalts and, therefore, must be younger
227 than 1 Ma. Marine terraces are likely to form at marine high stands but correlating
228 levels is a complex challenge on volcanic islands that may experience significant
229 vertical earth movements and which vary spatially (Moore 1987). An extensive range
230 of marine terraces has been documented in the Canary Islands by Meco *et al.*
231 (2007). These terraces of Miocene-Pliocene age (4 – 9 Ma) range in altitude up to
232 120 m above current sea level. Only the terraces at the lowest heights (less than 20
233 m asl) could be aligned with higher sea levels before the advance of northern
234 hemisphere ice sheets (c. 5 Ma). Meco *et al.* (2007) argue that the range in
235 elevations is a consequence of progressive seaward tilting of the islands caused by

236 the younger volcanic edifices to the west generating increased lithostatic load on the
237 crust. In the Azores, on Santa Maria, the oldest island in the archipelago, Serralheiro
238 & Madeira (1990) describe a sequence of Pliocene-Quaternary marine levels from
239 160 m asl down to the youngest at 5 m asl. This sequence was formed after Santa
240 Maria ceased to be volcanically active in the Middle Pliocene. On the island of Flores,
241 Azevedo & Portugal Ferreira (1999) report marine terraces, which formed at different
242 stages during the volcanic history of the island. The oldest and highest terrace at
243 c.250 m asl formed between 500,000 and 250,000 BP. There is also a terrace at
244 c.100 m asl with a suggested age of 300,000 BP. Azevedo & Portugal Ferreira
245 (1999) argue that Flores experienced intensive volcano-tectonic uplift during the
246 growth of the volcanic island. Episodes of localised uplift and subsidence in
247 developing volcanic islands frustrates regional correlation of terrace levels.

248

249 The terrace feature on Nordeste is not definitive and no *in situ* marine deposits have
250 been identified. But as illustrated by the example on Flores, volcano-tectonic uplift of
251 100 m is not unrealistic. The significant erosion and dissection of Nordeste Volcanic
252 System may explain the lack of preservation of any deposits.

253

254 At São Pedro do Nordestinho there is a substantial river terrace that cuts the possible
255 marine terrace feature. No *in situ* fluvial material was found, but a large number of
256 rounded cobbles and boulders occur in walls or where they have been cleared from
257 fields into piles of rocks. A smaller river terrace occurs on the east coast at Pedreira,
258 where a valley cuts through the marine terrace.

259

260 **Povoação Volcano**

261 Moore (1990) notes that the Povoação caldera is cut into the Nordeste shield on its
262 southern side. The centre of the Povoação caldera is located 7 km SSW from Pico
263 da Vara, the current summit of the Nordeste shield. The northern outer flank of the

264 Povoação caldera stretches from the rim down to the north coast. Povoação is much
265 less dissected than Nordeste and appears to be morphologically younger (Fig. 4).
266 We propose that Povoação is a volcano in its own right and younger than the
267 Nordeste Volcanic System.

268

269 Measured from its footwall, the Povoação caldera is an oval shaped bowl 6 x 3.5 km
270 (long axis E-W); the rim is highest on the north side and dips down to the coast on
271 the south (Fig. 4). The town of Povoação is located on the coast where the rivers that
272 drain the caldera have cut through the rim to the sea. The caldera fault, which is
273 interpreted to run at the foot of the caldera slope can be traced just inland from the
274 coast (Fig. 4). The oval-shaped morphology with the long axis parallel to the coast
275 and the fact that the depression is not open to the sea, does not support it being
276 either an erosional feature or a sector collapse, because such a collapse would be
277 elongated perpendicular to the coast.

278

279 The lavas that make up the early shield construct of Povoação are exposed in the
280 sea cliffs to the west of Povoação village. There is good exposure of pre-caldera
281 material in the sea cliff that extends eastwards from the town of Povoação for 1.5 km
282 to a small headland. This coastline appears to be fault controlled. The sequence dips
283 westwards and there are a number of faults which mostly downthrow to the west. At
284 the headland are crudely bedded agglutinates and thin lavas. These are overlain by
285 basic lavas intercalated with a thick scoria/breccia sequence. Pale grey dykes of
286 intermediate composition trending NW-SE cut the sequence and one dyke feeds a
287 lava flow or sill. At the west end of the sequence there appears to be a vent system
288 with a cone overlain by basaltic lavas. This is illustrated in Fig. 7. The deposits as
289 described above appear to be vent facies (actual vent material or proximal deposits)
290 and this may indicate the fault here was active prior to caldera formation. This vent
291 facies material may have formed along a fissure system. By the mouth of the river at

292 Povoação welded ignimbrite, the Povoação Ignimbrite, from Furnas Volcano (Duncan
293 *et al.* 1999) lies on top of the sequence. It needs to be emphasised that the
294 Povoação Ignimbrite though well exposed in the Povoação caldera was erupted from
295 Furnas Volcano about 30, 000 BP (Guest *et al.* 1999).

296

297 The post-caldera deposits are poorly exposed. Products from Furnas Volcano, the
298 Povoação Ignimbrite and younger tephra, form the uppermost sequence emplaced
299 within the caldera. On the sides of interfluves within the Povoação caldera horizontal
300 basaltic, mugearitic and trachytic lavas are exposed intercalated with cut and fill
301 material. On the northern wall of the caldera, Moore (1990) recognises more than
302 100 m thickness of trachytic pyroclastic flow and fall deposits which preceded caldera
303 collapse. It is likely that there was more than one eruption associated with the
304 collapse.

305

306 A large volume of orange trachytic pyroclastics are found in places mantling the
307 eroded edifice of the Nordeste Volcanic System and reworked in the valleys cut into
308 the Nordeste shield. The alluvium which filled the Ribeira do Guilherme has a matrix
309 rich in weathered yellow ash and lapilli. In a quarry by the church at Pedreira (Fig. 3)
310 orange ash can be seen overlying a well developed soil on top of Nordeste Volcanic
311 System lavas and scoria. A dyke cuts the lava and scoria sequence but not the soil
312 and orange ashes. On the high ground between Faial da Terra and Água Retorta
313 mantling orange ashes with scattered lapilli crop out, in places these are reworked
314 and in one exposure a rotten ignimbrite occurs at the top of the sequence. The
315 topography of the down faulted block of the Nordeste Volcanic System, south of the
316 Tronqueira fault, has a subdued relief as it is mantled by the orange pyroclastics.
317 These pyroclastics clearly postdate Nordeste but these deposits have not been
318 located at the top of the Povoação caldera fill which would be expected if they had
319 been derived from the younger Furnas or Fogo volcanoes. We propose that these

320 trachytic pyroclastics that postdate Nordeste, but appear to be older than Furnas, are
321 the products of the Povoação caldera forming eruptions and may correlate with the
322 products described by Moore (1990, see above).

323

324 **Conclusions**

325 The research reported in this paper argues that the previously defined Nordeste
326 Volcano is two separate volcanic constructs, the Nordeste Volcanic System, and the
327 younger Povoação Volcano. The edifice of the Nordeste Volcanic System is more
328 highly dissected than that of the Povoação Volcano and, morphologically, the edifice
329 of Povoação can be seen to wrap around the Nordeste Volcanic System. The
330 Nordeste Volcanic System is made up of predominantly basaltic lavas, together with
331 the products of intense erosion which occurred both during and after the activity of
332 the volcano. No evidence has been found of caldera formation on the Nordeste
333 Volcanic System and no products of major trachytic explosive activity have been
334 identified. Povoação Volcano has an early lava shield followed by explosive trachytic
335 activity and caldera collapse. It is proposed that the large volume of orange trachytic
336 ash that mantles part of the Nordeste Volcanic System is interpreted as possible
337 products of the Povoação caldera forming eruptions. The caldera fill is largely
338 obscured by products from the younger Furnas Volcano to the west. The age gap
339 between the Nordeste Volcanic System and the other volcanic centres of S. Miguel
340 remains to be resolved. The recent dating work of Johnson *et al.* (1998) suggests
341 that this age gap may be only a few hundred thousand years as opposed to the 3 Ma
342 as previously thought. Such a short time gap does not agree well with the
343 morphological evidence and recent work on the diversity within Oxychilid land snails
344 (Harris *et al.* 2013) that suggests that the Nordeste Volcanic System is much older
345 than the other centres.

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Table 1: Outline stratigraphy of the Nordeste Volcanic System based on Fernandez (1980) showing dates of both Abdel-Monem *et al.* (1975) and Johnson *et al.* (1998).

Sequence	Lithology	Thickness	Age (1)	Age (2)
Trachytes and Tristanites	Short stubby flows and small plug like intrusive	Thin	0.95 Ma 1.28 Ma	
Upper Basalts	Relatively thin commonly aphyric alkali basalts and trachybasalts	~150 m		0.78 - 0.82 Ma
Nordeste Ankaramites	Two widespread thick flows of ankaramite and plagioclase ankaramite	~200 m	1.86 Ma	
Lower Basalts	<i>Unconformity</i> Conformable sequence of lavas ranging from ankaramite to alkali basalt to trachybasalt	~1000 m		
			4.01 Ma	0.88 Ma

(1) K-Ar dates of Abdel-Monem *et al.* 1975
(2) Ar-Ar dates of Johnson *et al.* 1998

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444

445 **Figure captions**

446

447 Figure 1. General location map of S.Miguel and the Nordeste Volcanic System

448

449 Figure 2. Total Alkalis Silica plot showing compositional range of volcanics of the
450 Nordeste Volcanic System (data from Fernandez 1980).

451

452 Figure 3. Location map of the Nordeste and Povoação area.

453

454 Figure 4. Digital Elevation Model of Nordeste and Povoação Volcanic Systems,
455 showing geomorphological relationships and tectonic features. Tr is Tronqueira Fault.
456 The volcanic limits (thick black lines) represent the boundaries of the
457 geomorphological expression of the volcanic constructs of Furnas, Povoação and
458 Nordeste Volcanic Systems. The younger, less dissected, edifice of Povoação can
459 be seen banked up against the older Nordeste Volcanic System. The volcanic limits
460 do not represent geological boundaries as such, for example products from Furnas
461 Volcanic System drape over the adjacent Povoação caldera rim. Some tectonic
462 information from Carmo *et al.* (2015 – this volume) is included in this figure.

463

464 Figure 5.

465 a) View looking north with the northeast coast showing the cliffs along the coastline
466 each side of Ponta do Arnel which are formed by a well defined fault. The Ribeira do
467 Guilherme, which is considered to be fault controlled (Carmo *et al.* 2015 – this
468 volume) is the major valley entering the sea at the northern end of the fault controlled
469 line of cliffs.

470 b) The east coastline of S. Miguel with the village of Água Retorta in the middle of the
471 photograph with the cliffs at Ponta do Arnel stretching to Nordeste village on the far
472 right. The cliffs are cut largely into the lava pile of the Lower Basalts. To the right of
473 Água Retorta village the fault controlled scarp of the Serra de Tronqueira can be
474 clearly seen. The summit of the Nordeste Volcanic System, Pico da Vara, can be
475 seen rising above the clouds. (Photographs by Paulo Melo)

476

477 Figure 6. Deposit of the alluvial fill material perched on the side of the valley of the
478 Ribeira do Guilherme near Nordeste village.

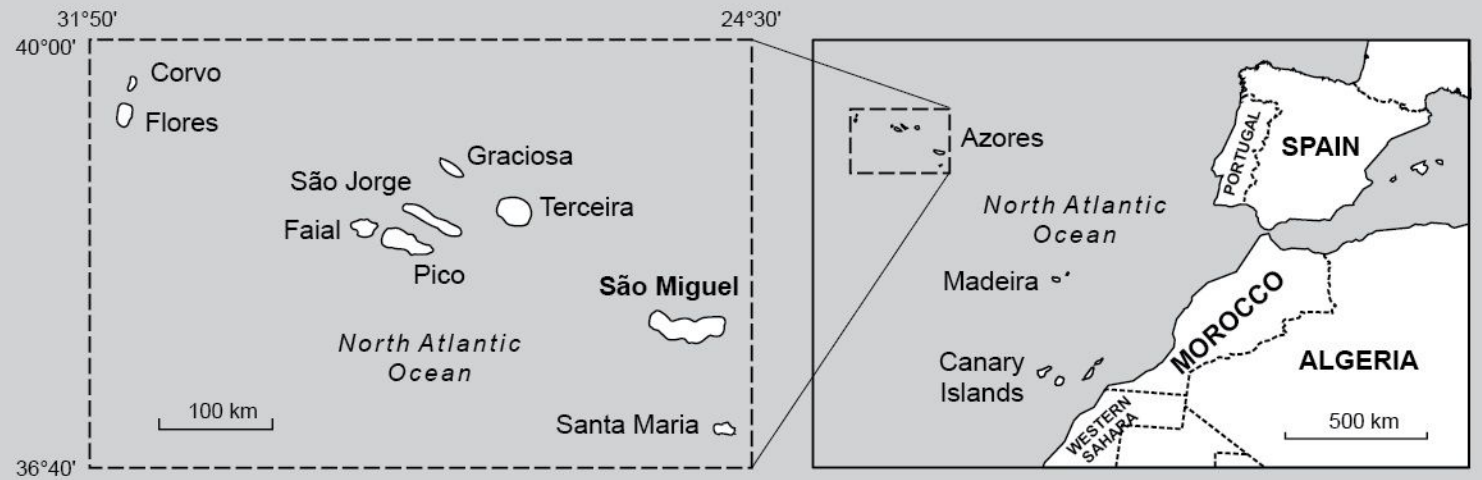
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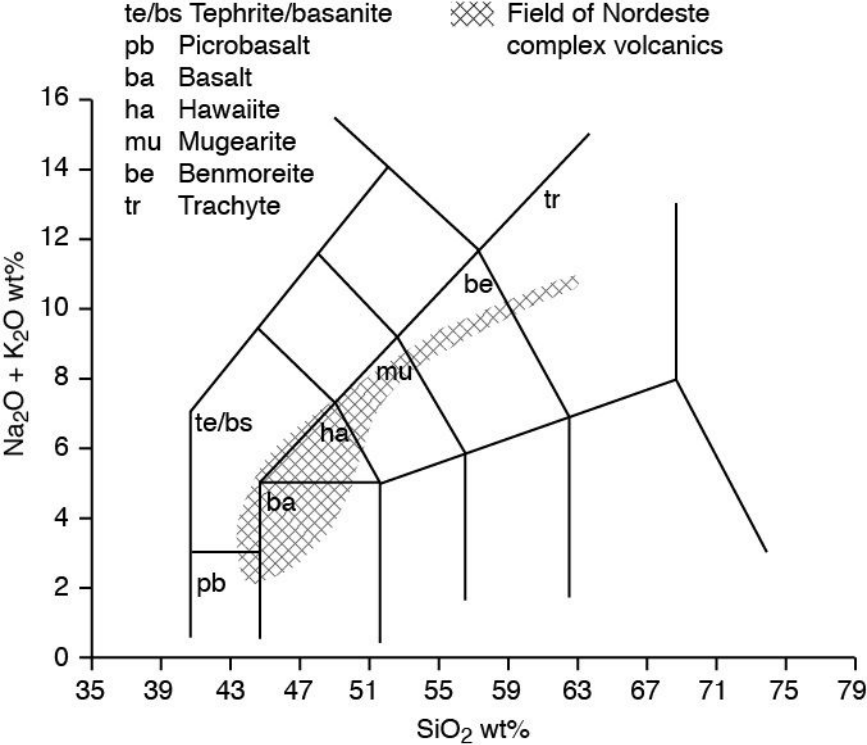
480 Figure 7. Coastal cliff section immediately east of the mouth of the river at Povoação
481 village. The cliff exposes pre-caldera deposits showing what appears to be vent
482 material (A) overlain by thin basaltic lavas coastal section (B). On top of the
483 sequence lies the massive welded Povoação Ignimbrite (C) erupted from Furnas
484 Volcano to the west.

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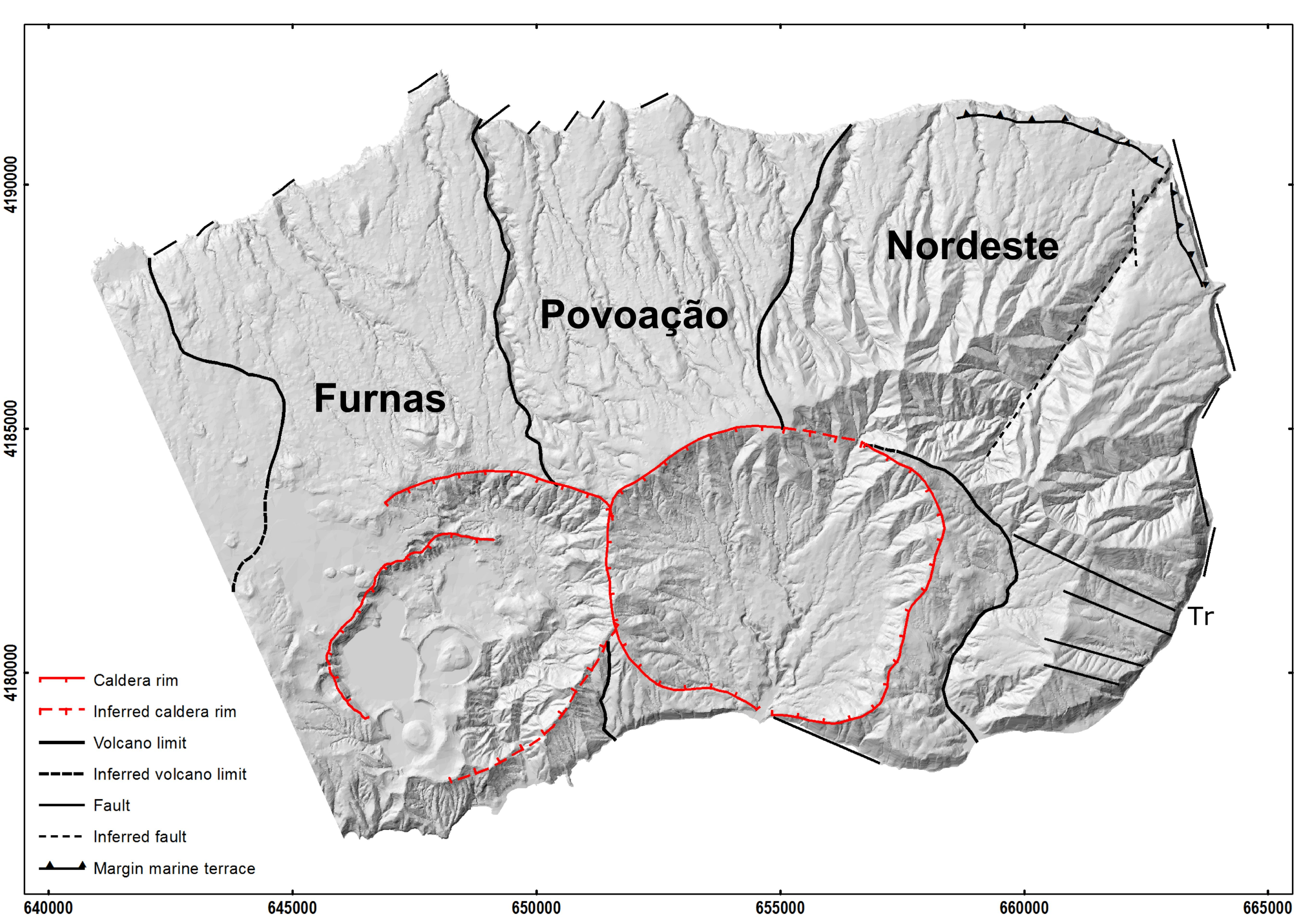
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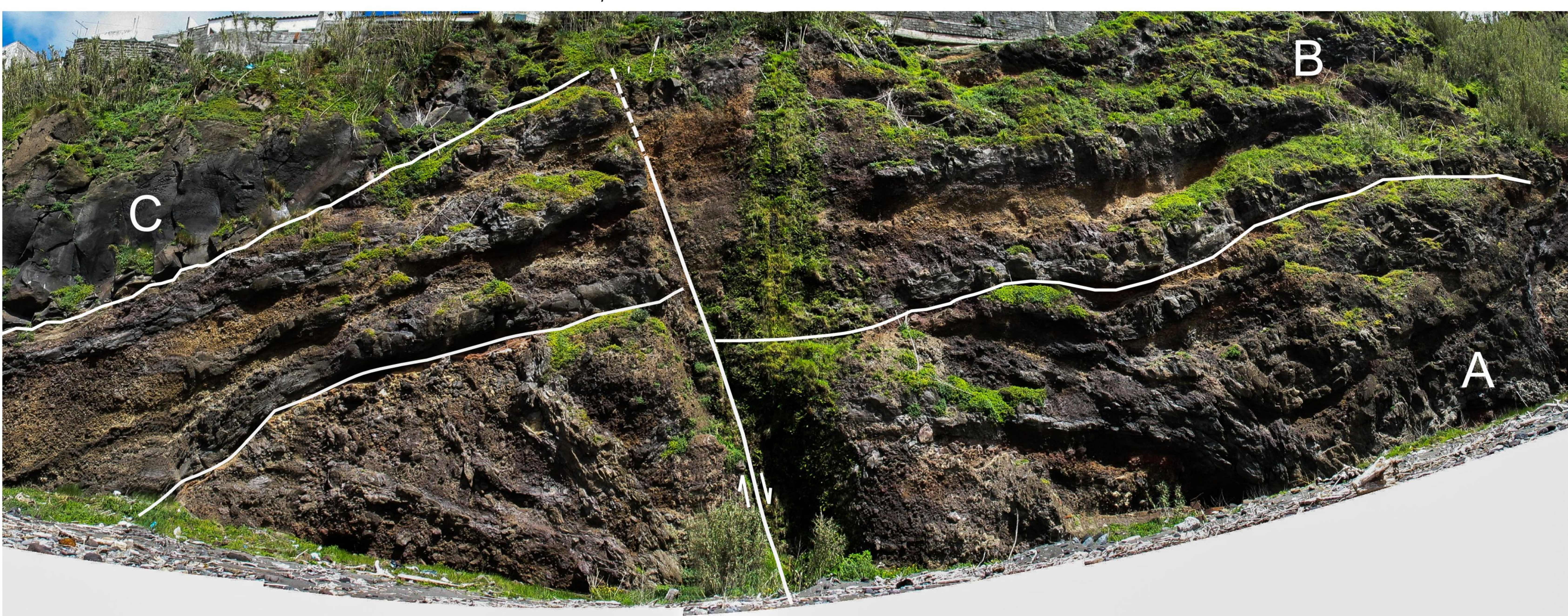












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