

1 **Geological evolution of a tectonic and climatic transition zone:**
2 **the Beyşehir-Suğla basin, lakes district of Turkey**

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25 **ABSTRACT**

26 Central-west Turkey is a transition zone both tectonically and climatologically between the
27 central and western regions of Anatolia. Central Anatolia represents the seismically quiet part
28 of the highly active country. On the other hand, the region has some of the lowest
29 precipitation and highest evaporation ratios of Turkey. Conversely, western Anatolia is one of
30 the most rapidly extending regions of the world and seismically very active. The climate is
31 very different from the central part of Turkey and more humid. The zone between these two
32 regions is also known geologically as the Isparta Angle. This reverse-V-shaped fold and thrust
33 belt has several lake basins today, which have archived the geological and geomorphological
34 history of this tectonic and climatic transition zone. The Beyşehir-Suğla basin is located on
35 the eastern part of this zone. The NW-SE trending basin includes the largest natural
36 freshwater lake of the Mediterranean region: Lake Beyşehir. The Lakes Beyşehir and Suğla

37 are located in this tectonic depression that reaches an incised valley that opens to the Konya
38 closed basin. In order to shed light on the development of the lake basin, our study was
39 mainly conducted within the Neogene and Quaternary units of the region. Our results indicate
40 that the depression region was formed by a transtensional regime in the Middle Miocene,
41 which is controlled by extensional tectonics since the early Quaternary. Also, the current
42 depression has mainly embodied the structures which are the products of these tectonic
43 phases. The Beyşehir-Suğla basin was developed early under a humid and warm climate in
44 the Middle Miocene, then controlled with a relatively more arid and, at times, cold climate
45 more like the central Anatolian basins since the Late Miocene-Pliocene. However, as
46 evidenced by the lack of evaporites in the studied basin and surrounding basins located
47 interior part of the Isparta Angle, these basins were hydrologically protected from the arid
48 climatic conditions probably by the support of karstic features and sources on the carbonate
49 rocks of the Taurus Mountains. The karstic features that particularly prevail in the western
50 half are very important for geologic and geomorphic evolution, and the hydro(geo)logical
51 budget of the drainage basin. Because of bounding by the normal faulted steep slopes in most
52 sectors, the NW-SE-trending Lake Beyşehir could reach its maximum surface area in
53 Quaternary by coastal progressions in the north and south which are determined by the water
54 amount that reached the lake.

55

56 **Keywords:** *Neogene, Quaternary, central-west Anatolia, Isparta Angle, fluvio-lacustrine environment,*
57 *transtension, graben, karst.*

58

59 INTRODUCTION

60 Central-west Turkey represents a transition zone in regard to both tectonic and climatic
61 features of the country (Figs. 1a and b). According to its tectonic position, the region
62 corresponds to the zone between the central Anatolian ‘ova’ regime (Şengör, 1979) and the
63 western Anatolian extensional regime. This region is also known as the Isparta Angle (“*la*
64 *courbure d’Isparta*” - Blumenthal, 1963) which is characterized due to its reverse-V-shaped
65 geometry (Fig. 2). To the east of this region, the morphology has a very wide subdued
66 topography. In the west of the Isparta Angle, the geomorphology is shaped by grabens and
67 horsts with a high relief mainly trending in E-W and N-S directions (e.g. Şengör, 1987;
68 Seyitoğlu, 1997; Temiz et al., 1997; Yılmaz et al., 2000; Bozkurt, 2003; Gürbüz et al., 2012;
69 Gürer et al., 2013; Ersoy et al., 2014). All these mentioned tectonics and related morphology
70 influenced the climate, and due to this specific position the region stands for a climatic

71 transition zone between the relatively arid continental climate of central Anatolia and western
72 and southern Turkey's humid Mediterranean climate.

73 The Neogene and Quaternary units of the Isparta Angle include the clues about the
74 cause, style and timing of changes in the tectonic and climatic history of Turkey. In this
75 framework, there is an increase in the amounts of studies discussing the Neogene evolution of
76 sedimentary basins and volcanism in the region, particularly in the last few decades (e.g.
77 Keller et al., 1977; Koçyiğit, 1983; Boray et al., 1985; Akay and Uysal, 1988; Yağmurlu,
78 1991a,b; Yağmurlu et al., 1997; Flecker et al., 1998, 2005; Glover and Robertson, 1998;
79 Karakaş and Kadir, 1998; Temel et al., 1998; Fracalanci et al., 2000; Karabıyıkoglu et al.,
80 2000, 2005; Koçyiğit et al., 2000, 2012; Koçyiğit and Özacar, 2003; Poisson et al., 2003,
81 2011; Deynoux et al., 2005; Monod et al., 2006; Çiner et al., 2008; Topak et al., 2009;
82 Karaman, 2010; Koç et al., 2012, 2015; Schildgen et al., 2012; Kaya et al., 2014). In this
83 extendable literature list, the main controversies are related to the driving forces for the basin
84 developments, and whether evolution of the sedimentary basins was episodic or continuous. On
85 the other hand, researches focused on the Quaternary features of the region are relatively
86 limited (e.g. Farand, 1965; Cohen and Erol, 1969; Bering, 1971; van Zeist et al., 1975; Erol,
87 1978, 1984, 1997; Roberts, 1980; Doğan, 1997; Nemeç et al., 1998; Nemeç and Kazancı,
88 1999; Roberts and Wright, 2003; Zahno et al., 2009). However, the Quaternary period of this
89 region includes an impressive environmental history consists of a wealth of changes in
90 tectonism and climate, and interactions between these natural phenomenons and human (e.g.
91 Aytuğ, 1967; van Zeist and Buitenhuis, 1983; Roberts, 1991). Due to tectonic and climatic
92 features, there are several lakes in the Isparta Angle in different scales and hydrochemistry
93 (Fig. 2). Thus, this region is also known as the 'lakes district of Turkey'. The lake basins
94 hosted numerous archaeological mounds and historical settlements since the late Pleistocene
95 (e.g., Solecki, 1964).

96 The Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla subbasins are located in an elongated NNW-SSE-
97 directed tectonic depression (the Beyşehir-Suğla basin) on the eastern flank of the reverse-V-
98 shaped Isparta Angle (Fig. 2). Although there are important studies describing the glacial,
99 karstic and geomorphic features of some parts of these lake basins (e.g. Nazik, 1985;
100 Değirmenci and Günay, 1992; Ekmekçi, 1993; Doğan, 1997; Zahno et al., 2009; Çılğın,
101 2015), there is no detailed study focused on Neogene-Quaternary geology and
102 geomorphology of whole of this depression and included lakes with surface and subsurface

103 data. In addition, although its thick and distinctive coal formations, the Beyşehir-Suğla basin
104 has no published generalized stratigraphic section.

105 In this paper, the Neogene-Quaternary geology of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin has been
106 studied in order to contribute towards the understanding of a basin evolution in a tectonic and
107 climatic transition zone. We present the stratigraphic, sedimentary, structural and geomorphic
108 features of the studied basin mainly based on field studies, borehole data and geomorphic
109 analyses. The depression formed as a transtensional basin probably in a more WNW-ESE
110 orientation during the Middle Miocene. The basin turned into its current more northward
111 (NNW-SSE) geometry during the Mio-Pliocene, while the Central Taurus Mountains rapidly
112 was uplifting and volcanism erupting high amounts of geomaterials, then evolved into a
113 normal fault controlled extensional character in the Plio-Quaternary. The climate seems to
114 have changed consistent with the geomorphic response to large scale tectonics (i.e. orographic
115 barrier development).

116

117 **GEOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SETTINGS**

118 Lake Beyşehir is the largest freshwater resource not only for Turkey, but also for the
119 Mediterranean region. On the other hand, this lake is the third largest lake of Turkey (*c.* 656
120 km²), after the soda and salt lakes of Van and Tuz, respectively. The lake is situated at an
121 elevation of 1123 m and has a maximum depth of 9 m. There are 32 islands in the lake and the
122 largest two of them have been inhabited, as other are rocky and small as big as 1 km². The
123 only surface outlet of Lake Beyşehir is the Beyşehir stream/channel. It connects this subbasin
124 to the Lake Suğla subbasin in the south (Fig. 3a), which is located at an altitude of 1094 m,
125 and then to Apa Dam of the Konya basin. The natural water connection between Lakes
126 Beyşehir and Suğla was available until the 20th century. The current Beyşehir stream is not
127 flowing into Lake Suğla. The stream has channelized directly to the Konya plain (*via* the Apa
128 Dam) as a part of the Konya irrigation project. Modern Lake Suğla is also not in its natural
129 form and has been used as an anthropogenic reservoir since 2003. Lakes Beyşehir and Suğla
130 are located in a NW-SE-trending depression bounded by steep slopes: the Beyşehir-Suğla
131 basin (Fig. 3b). The Beyşehir-Suğla basin has a transient climate between the Mediterranean
132 and continental climates with mean precipitation of ~500 mm/a and ~750 mm/a in Beyşehir
133 and Seydişehir, respectively (e.g., Sarı and İnan, 2011). While the precipitation reaches an
134 amount of >1400 mm/a at its southern neighbour lands, its eastern neighbour, the Konya

135 basin, represents the lowest precipitation (<300 mm/a) of Turkey (e.g., Doğan and Berktaş,
136 2013; Fig. 1b).

137 The Lake Beyşehir subbasin is approximately 82 km wide and 94 km long drainage
138 basin with a surface area of ~4275 km². The subbasin is separated from the Lake Suğla
139 subbasin to the south by a height difference of ~10 m and from the Lake Eğirdir basin to the
140 north by a ~100 m height thresholds. On the other hand, the Lake Suğla subbasin has a
141 drainage area of ~3040 km². Drainage of the Lake Suğla subbasin reaches to an incised river
142 valley in the south (i.e. the Mavi Gorge; Fig. 3a), which opens to the Konya closed basin to
143 the east. The eastern margin of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin is bounded by the Sultan Mountains
144 and Erenler-Alaca volcanic mountains, while the western portion is delimited by the Anamas,
145 Dedegöl and Gidengelmez mountains (Figs. 1 and 3b). These mountains are represented by
146 Paleozoic and Neogene units in the east, and mainly Mesozoic rocks in the west (Figs. 2 and
147 3c). This region is considered geographically as the western Taurus Mountains, and
148 geologically as the Isparta Angle.

149 The Isparta Angle (Blumenthal, 1963) is one of the geologically most complex regions
150 of Turkey, and includes many sedimentary basins and ridges between those depressions (Fig.
151 2). The reverse-V-shaped geometry of this large-scale structure seems to be a reflection of
152 junction geometry of the Aegean and Cyprian Arcs beneath it (e.g. Barka and Reilinger, 1997;
153 Biryol et al., 2011), but it is not as simple as it seems. The region consists of very different
154 lithological units belonging to a wide age range (Precambrian to Quaternary) juxtaposed due
155 to collisional and post-collisional tectonics that followed the closing process of the Tethys
156 Ocean (Figs. 3c and d; e.g. Özgül, 1976, 1997; Şengör and Yılmaz, 1981; Koçyiğit, 1983,
157 1984; Glover and Robertson, 1998; Altiner et al., 1999; Robertson, 2000; Çelik and Delaloye,
158 2006; Seyitoğlu et al., 2017). Paleozoic-Cenozoic sedimentary units and ophiolites are
159 thrust over each other in different vergences (e.g., Uysal et al., 1980; Frizon de Lamotte et
160 al., 1995; Poisson et al., 2003). Thus, the basement geology of the region is represented
161 mainly by autochthonous and allochthonous units (e.g. Şenel et al., 1996). In the study area (i.e.
162 the Beyşehir-Suğla basin), the Beyşehir-Hoyran-Hadim nappes (Monod, 1977; Özgül, 1984)
163 are overlies a basement of the Tauride platform units (e.g. Blumenthal 1947; Koçyiğit, 1981,
164 1983; Robertson, 2000).

165 The last major contraction event and the related structure (i.e. Aksu thrust fault zone;
166 Fig. 4) are located in the southern part of Isparta Angle (e.g. Koçyiğit et al., 2012). The
167 Kırkkavak fault is described by Dumont and Kerey (1975) as a right-lateral strike-slip, or a

168 reverse fault by Akay and Uysal (1988) that developed during the mentioned contraction
169 process. However, Schildgen et al. (2012) represented the Kırkkavak fault as a normal fault
170 according to kinematic data. Koçyiğit et al. (2012) also suggested the current fault as a
171 reactivated old structure like the current Aksu fault, and it is a normal fault during the
172 Quaternary due to regional extension caused by the slab retreat process. In addition, to the
173 northern part of the Isparta Angle, the Akşehir fault delinates the zone from the outside. Boray
174 et al. (1985) proposed that the Akşehir fault (Sultandağları fault in their paper) is a reverse
175 fault as the component of a still continuing contraction in the region. But, as evidenced by the
176 focal mechanism solutions of the 2000 and 2002 earthquakes ($M_w= 6.0$ and 6.5 respectively)
177 the region is still controlled by extensional regime and the mentioned structure is a normal
178 fault as suggested by many researchers (Fig. 4; e.g., Atalay, 1975; Koçyiğit, 1984; Koçyiğit
179 and Özacar, 2003; Kaya et al., 2014). The Beyşehir-Suğla basin is positioned between the
180 aforementioned fault structures, which are interpreted as the elements developed previously
181 by contractional forces. Because of a change in the geodynamic processes control the
182 tectonics of central-west Turkey, the region is currently under the effects of extensional
183 tectonics (e.g., Koçyiğit et al., 2000, 2012; Schildgen et al., 2012, 2014). Therefore, the
184 studied region may also include a tectonic regime with a transition history in the Neogene-
185 Quaternary.

186

187 **METHODS**

188 Field studies during the summer months between 2012 and 2014 were based on
189 stratigraphical, sedimentological, structural and morphological observations to understand the
190 Neogene-Quaternary geological and geomorphic history of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin. In order
191 to support our stratigraphic and sedimentological investigations, we also used core log data of
192 128 boreholes drilled in the study area by DSİ (State Water Works of Turkey), 124 boreholes
193 by MTA (General Directorate of Mineral Resources and Research) and 7 boreholes in our
194 project (Fig. 3c). After an elimination of boreholes due to their in spitting distances
195 (particularly boreholes of MTA), descriptions of the Quaternary deposits from 47 boreholes
196 determined according to their lithofacies and comparison with surface sequences observed at
197 outcrops (Fig. 3c). Core log data depths vary from 50 to 265 m, and our three boreholes in the
198 Lake Suğla subbasin reached a maximum depth of 75 m.

199 In addition to field observations, we used topographic maps (1:25,000 and 1:100,000
200 scales), airphotos (1:15,000 scale), Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) data, and

201 satellite images (Landsat 7 and 8, Quickbird-Google Earth and Worldview-Turksat Globe) to
202 understand the effects of tectonic, lithologic and climatic features on geomorphology. We
203 extracted slope and drainage data, and topographic profiles from the Digital Elevation Models
204 (DEMs) created from 1:25,000 scale topographic maps.

205

206

207 **RESULTS**

208 **Neogene deposits**

209 The Beyşehir-Suğla basin has some similarities with the surrounding other sedimentary basins
210 in terms of Neogene stratigraphy (Fig. 5). Except for the Köprüçay, Antalya and Manavgat
211 basins that are located in the inner part of the Isparta Angle, which have Neogene clastics and
212 carbonates deposited in marine environments, all of them have terrestrial Neogene sequences
213 including mainly fluvial and lacustrine deposits. However, there are many detailed
214 tectonostratigraphic and sedimentary studies for the surrounding basins (e.g. Yağmurlu,
215 1991a,b; Hakyemez et al., 1992; Flecker et al., 1998, 2005; Koçyiğit et al., 2000, 2012;
216 Koçyiğit and Özacar, 2003; Deynoux et al., 2005; Karabıyıköğlü et al., 2005; Çiner et al.,
217 2008; Topak et al., 2009; Poisson et al., 2011; Koç et al., 2012, 2014), whereas the Beyşehir-
218 Suğla basin has no published generalized stratigraphic section despite its thick and distinctive
219 lignite formations. Here, we present the stratigraphy of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin to
220 understand the characteristics of its long-lasting lacustrine environment (Fig. 5). The Neogene
221 sequence of the basin consists of three lithostratigraphic packages; the Middle Miocene
222 fluvio-lacustrine deposits, the late Middle Miocene-Pliocene volcanics and volcanoclastics,
223 and the Mio-Pliocene fluvio-lacustrine units.

224 The Middle Miocene deposits unconformably overlay the Paleozoic-Tertiary basement
225 rocks and represent the basin initial phase. The package includes alluvial fan, fan delta,
226 braided river and lacustrine deposits. Lower parts mainly consist of gray coloured, coarse-
227 very coarse grained, subrounded pebbly, thick parallel bedded conglomerates (Fig. 6a)
228 interfingered upwards with lacustrine sandstone, siltstone, marl and limestones. The upper
229 parts gradually pass into yellowish gray coloured, medium-thick cross- and parallel-bedded,
230 medium grained, rounded and subrounded conglomerates. According to included vertebrate
231 fossils this sequence has dated as Middle Miocene (MN7; Saraç, 2003; Fig. 5).

232 The volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks in the study area represent the subsequent
233 dynamic process that shaped the Beyşehir-Suğla basin after its early development.

234 Particularly in the southern half of the basin, around the Lake Suğla subbasin, the volcanism
235 of Erenler-Alaca Mountains was very effective in terms of sedimentary environments of the
236 basin. The high-K calc-alkaline volcanism started in the latest Middle Miocene and continued
237 to the Late Pliocene (11.45-11.90 Ma to 3.35 Ma; Becker-Platen et al., 1977; Keller et al.,
238 1977). The volcanic products are lava and ignimbrites, predominantly andesitic to dasitic in
239 composition, with rare basalt, basaltic andesite, basaltic trachyandesite and trachyandesite
240 (Temel et al., 1998; Kurt et al., 2003). Pinkish and yellowish coloured pyroclastics (i.e.
241 ignimbrites, tuff and tuffites and agglomerates) are intercalated with fluvial and lacustrine
242 deposits of the Mio-Pliocene in some levels (Fig. 6h, i).

243 The Mio-Pliocene fluvio-lacustrine deposits, which unconformably overlay the Middle
244 Miocene rocks, are interfingering with volcanic and volcanoclastic units of the Erenler-Alaca
245 Mountains volcanism, and consist of brown-red coloured fluvial conglomerate-sandstone-
246 siltstones alternation in the lower parts (Fig. 6b, d). Conglomerates are polygenic, rounded and
247 medium-fine grained, cross- and parallel-bedded and poorly cemented. Sandstones are mainly
248 interbedded with conglomerates and siltstones, and partly as lensoidal geometries. Grain sizes
249 change coarse to fine, cross-bedding and laminations are usual. Siltstones are thin bedded, but
250 due to weathering process it is not likely to recognize this feature. Red coloured alluvial
251 mudstones interbedded with sandstones and conglomerates represent an alluvial fan
252 environment deposited under semi arid conditions and laterally interfinger with the fluvial
253 deposits (Fig. 6b, d). The medium-thick and parallel bedded mudstones are very coarse
254 grained, and even include blocks. Sandstones are coarse grained and located in the
255 conglomerates and mudstones as thin and discontinuous layers. This part of the sequence has a
256 mammalian fauna that indicates Late Miocene (MN11; Umut et al., 1987; Fig. 5). The red
257 coloured deposits of the Mio-Pliocene deposits gradually pass into white coloured, usually
258 thin-medium and rarely thick bedded, parallel laminated clayey limestone and limestone, and
259 gray coloured siltstone and claystone (Fig. 6e, f). These layers also include the economically
260 important amounts of coal formations. Towards the top of the sequence carbonate rate
261 increases and the sequence has been covered by limestone. According to pollen samples
262 collected from the lignite levels, this unit indicates a Late Miocene-Pliocene age; however, the
263 vertebrate and invertebrate faunas represent an age of Pliocene-early Quaternary (e.g. Bering,
264 1971; Fig. 6).

265

266

267 **Quaternary deposits**

268 Despite their importance for active tectonics, climate change and archaeological studies, the
269 less known units of the region are the Quaternary deposits. These deposits have recorded
270 varied depositional environments and events. Understanding their sedimentary features
271 provides signatures of past geological environments. In this section, we present the
272 Quaternary sedimentary features of the Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla subbasins based on
273 field observations and subsurface data derived from boreholes (Figs. 3c, 5 and 7).

274 *The Lake Beyşehir subbasin*

275 To the north of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin there is a large Quaternary alluvial plain
276 (Şarkikaraağaç plain) divided by ophiolitic basement rocks as compartments (Figs. 3c and d).
277 There are seven DSİ boreholes located in this part of the depression (Fig. 3c). This area
278 represents the northern watershed of the Lake Beyşehir drainage basin that separates it from
279 the Lake Eğirdir drainage basin (i.e. geologically the Yalvaç-Yarıkkaya basin). According to
280 the drilling data, the brown/red coloured Quaternary deposits consist of intercalated gravel
281 and clay deposits disconformably overlie the gray/green coloured Mio-Pliocene fluvio-
282 lacustrine sediments. The detrital facies of Neogene and Quaternary deposits represents the
283 mineralogical components of serpentinite, schists and limestones. Lithofacies features of this
284 thick Quaternary sequence indicate a long-lasting alluvial environment in the Şarkikaraağaç
285 plain that was supplied by the eroded materials of synsedimentary uplifted highlands. This
286 can be understood from the thickness of continuous gravel sequences that reach to 100 m.
287 Other than the subsurface Quaternary sequence, there are alluvial fan and talus deposits
288 observed in front of the current mountainous topography. Some of them are operated as
289 gravel/sand-pits. According to the sections in trenches at these areas, these deposits consist of
290 debris flow sediments. The Şarkikaraağaç alluvial plain and surrounding area is drained by
291 the Şarkikaraağaç Stream that flows into Lake Beyşehir (Fig. 3b). The discharge, also the
292 sediment load of the stream is lower today. The northern margins of the lake are embayed
293 coasts. Thus, the northern part of the lake is represented by mud and marsh deposits of a
294 storm-driven estuary.

295 In the eastern section of Lake Beyşehir subbasin, the sedimentary units of Quaternary
296 period unconformably overlie the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Neogene (Figs. 5 and
297 6h). There are eleven boreholes drilled on Quaternary units in this section. The key level to
298 differentiate Quaternary deposits from the Neogene is accepted as the limestone layers that
299 represent the top of Mio-Pliocene deposits (e.g. Hakyemez et al., 1992; Koçyiğit et al., 2012).

300 As explained in the previous part, this limestone level represents the late Pliocene or even
301 early Quaternary. According to mollusc content of marl levels of a Mio-Pliocene mapped
302 outcrop (e.g., MTA, 2002) to the east of the lake, Girod (2013) and Glöer and Girod (2013)
303 reported Middle Pleistocene age (eight-pointed star in Fig. 5). The drilled Quaternary
304 sequences mainly indicate intercalations of gravel, sand and clay lithofacies in various colour,
305 grain size and components according to their spatial positions. Nearest boreholes to the lake
306 (i.e. 1143, 1151, 1162, 1165 and 8157; Fig. 3c) show relatively thick sequences overlaying
307 the Neogene limestones. These sequences include gray clays with dark gray and black
308 coloured levels as peat deposits. These levels are the most characteristic sediments of the
309 drilled sequences close to the lake. According to log data all these organic matter rich levels
310 are positioned between the depths of 8-75 m. On the other hand, the gray and dark gray levels
311 of clays and gravels are overlain by yellow and light/dark brown coloured detrital material.
312 Lithological components of gravel levels represent an origin from Neogene limestones with
313 evidence of some macro fossils and older basement rocks. The eastern coast of Lake Beyşehir
314 is generally represented by mud/marsh deposits, but in stream mouths and along the beaches
315 sand and pebble are usual.

316 To the western section of the basin, the lake leans against the escarpment of the
317 Anamas Mountains. The Quaternary units along this margin are mainly represented by
318 alluvial and colluvial fan deposits located at valley mouths, beach and terrace deposits along
319 the shore, and moraines on the Dedegöl Mountains. The fan deposits are mainly represented
320 by brown-red coloured debris flow sediments. Relatively older (i.e. Pleistocene) coarse
321 grained material (maximum grain size 80 cm) are cemented with carbonaceous matrix as hard
322 conglomerates in some locations, but the Holocene fans are generally represented by
323 uncemented gravel, sand and clay deposits. The largest alluvial fan located on the western
324 margin of the lake is the Yenişarbademli alluvial fan. There is only data from two boreholes
325 along the western section and both of them are drilled on this fan (Fig. 3c). The Quaternary
326 sequence logged in these locations includes brown coloured gravel, sand and clay
327 intercalations deposited as bedload and floodplain sediments. The drilled maximum thickness
328 of these fluvial deposits is 47 m, but the locations of the boreholes are situated to the mid-to-
329 upper parts of the alluvial fan system, and towards the lake they may be a hundred meters
330 thick and present a delta fan character. Beach deposits are extended in front of the cliffs with
331 a very limited area and consist of pebbles and sand within a mineralogical component of
332 basement rocks. As mentioned before, almost all of the islands in the lake are located on the

333 western half of Lake Beyşehir. Similarly to the western lands, there are some alluvial and
334 beach deposits on and around the islands. Some islands are also hosting some ephemeral
335 wetlands. Terrace deposits representing any high amplitudes of lake level change history or
336 tectonic uplift in the basin area are very limited (e.g., Biricik, 1982). Another type of
337 Quaternary deposits in the western section of the drainage basin is represented by moraine
338 deposits with a maximum block size of 35 m. According to the dating studies of Zahno et al.
339 (2009), they are the products of the Last Glacial period.

340 In the southern section, the coastal areas are mainly represented by marsh deposits.
341 However, differently from the northern coasts, a lagoonal wetland has developed behind the
342 largest beach of Lake Beyşehir, which developed due to longshore drift. Today, this pebbly
343 beach is operated as a touristic place. To the south there are only a few short streams with low
344 discharges. Most important of them has formed the Karadiken alluvial fan. Lithological
345 components of gravels indicate an origin mainly from the Cretaceous limestones. To the
346 southern section of the Lake Beyşehir basin, the only deep drilling data is from a geothermal
347 research study (MTA, 2005; Fig. 3c). According to the core log, the Quaternary thickness is
348 20 m and includes uncemented gravel, sand and clay. In addition, van Zeist et al. (1975) and
349 Bottema and Woldring (1984) have two boreholes on land, to the SW of the lake. Maximum
350 depth reached in their drillings was 10 m, and the drilled sequences consist of almost
351 homogeneous grey to dark blue-grey clay that represented by ^{14}C age of ~15400 yr BP at 8.9-
352 9.0 m depth.

353 ***The region between the lakes Beyşehir and Suğla***

354 The connection between the Lakes Beyşehir and former Suğla via the Beyşehir stream is
355 artificially interrupted due to Konya basin irrigation plan (1908-1914 – e.g., Muşmal, 2008).
356 The current stream is flowing inside a constructed channel. A Quaternary floodplain
357 environment covered a region with a width of approximately 3 km in the region between the
358 Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla subbasins. There are seven boreholes drilled in this part by
359 DSİ, two of them are on the Neogene and four on Quaternary units (Fig. 3c). According to the
360 core logs, there is a 250 m sequence of Neogene-Quaternary deposits consisting of fluvial,
361 volcanoclastic and lacustrine deposits and volcanic rocks. At Borehole-6743 Cretaceous units
362 are drilled at 127 m. To the south of this site, the Boreholes 6744 and 6745 did not cut the
363 basement rocks during a depth 250 m. Thus, the point of 6743 probably indicates the
364 approximately position of basement threshold between the two subbasins. The most important
365 lithology in these cores is the dark gray colored clay with peat deposits. Another key lithology

366 is represented by travertine deposits cropped-out in the west of Kavak village (Fig. 3d). This
367 travertine formation originated from a geothermal spring (43-47°C) positioned close to the
368 Suğla fault line described below.

369 *The Lake Suğla subbasin*

370 There are twelve boreholes of DSİ and three boreholes of our project drilled in Quaternary
371 alluvium in the Lake Suğla subbasin (Fig. 3c). The drilled Quaternary deposits overlie the
372 schists and limestones of basement units unconformably in the western half of the subbasin
373 (e.g., Boreholes 6746 and 14752), while they are underlain by the volcanic and
374 volcanoclastics of Neogene in the eastern half. To the northwest of the current Lake Suğla, the
375 Quaternary units are represented mainly by fine and coarse grained sediment intercalations
376 that pass into brown and then greenish colored clay in the middle part of the basin (Fig. 7).
377 The same clay-gravel alternations overlie the Neogene pyroclastics and andesites towards
378 east. Clay levels are also represented by dark gray plastic features and peat deposits. Gravels
379 were mainly derived from Paleozoic-Mesozoic sedimentary rocks and Neogene volcanics.
380 According to the drilled material, the Quaternary deposits are probably thicker than 100 m.

381

382 **Structural features**

383 The Lake Beyşehir subbasin is bounded on the western margin by the NW-SE-
384 trending Beyşehir fault (Fig. 4; e.g. Şaroğlu et al., 1987; Emre et al., 2013). This fault is the
385 only one located in this subbasin mapped as an active structure in the active fault maps of
386 Turkey (Şaroğlu et al., 1992; Emre et al., 2013). This normal fault has a length of 50 km. In
387 the field, we observed different fault planes parallel to the active normal fault that indicate
388 pure to oblique right-lateral strike-slip movements (Fig. 8a-d). These planes should represent
389 the former kinematic behaviour of the western margin of the basin. They are located within
390 the basement rocks and we did not observe any contact with the Quaternary deposits. Only
391 some artificially dug surfaces due to road constructions represent juxtaposing with the shores
392 of Lake Beyşehir. However, the strike-slip tectonics could have been effective in the initiation
393 of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin in the middle Miocene, or alternatively they could be remnant
394 traces of older contractional periods of the region before the development of the Beyşehir-
395 Suğla basin. We also observed pure normal and oblique normal fault planes with minor left-
396 and right-lateral strike-slip components that could belong to current Beyşehir fault (Fig. 8e
397 and f). Along this margin, measured planes represent dip values range between 70° and 80°
398 for the normal faults, and between 80° and 90° for the older strike-slip faults. There are some

399 other normal faults observed in the field especially in the eastern and southeastern part of the
400 Lake Beyşehir subbasin that developed antithetically. The Karaağaç and Burunsuz faults
401 represent the antithetic faults delineating the western margin of NE-SW trending Sultan
402 Mountains (Fig. 4). These faults are probably the southeastward continuation of the
403 Yarıkkaya fault zone of Koçyiğit et al. 2012. While the Karaağaç fault possibly corresponds
404 to an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.3 (April 1st, 1997), the activity of the Burunsuz fault
405 in the Quaternary is evaluated as suspicious. However, the uplifted morphology on its
406 footwall caused the tilting of some stream towards east. Another probably active structure in
407 the Lake Beyşehir subbasin is the NE-SW trending Kızılören fault (Fig. 4). Although it has a
408 relatively short length (~7 km), this fault is an important structure because of its
409 approximately perpendicular direction to major basin bounding faults in the basin. But, its
410 trend is consistent particularly with the faults in eastern neighbour, the Konya basin (i.e.
411 Konya fault, Altınekin fault; Fig. 4).

412 The Lake Suğla subbasin is also bounded on its western margin by a morphologically
413 clear vertical fault scarp with approximately 50 km in length (Fig. 4). In this study, this
414 structure called as the Suğla fault, which corresponds to the Taşağıl and Ahırlı faults of the
415 Suğla fault zone of Doğan and Koçyiğit (2018). It is a mountain front fault that delineates the
416 Gidengelmez Mountains in the west of Lake Suğla subbasin. We could not observe any fault
417 plane including any kinematic data along the western margin of the subbasin indicating a
418 Quaternary movement. On the other hand, the escarpment of Suğla fault extends parallel to
419 the Beyşehir fault in a NW-SE direction. Within this geometric point of view and scarp
420 morphology it may be interpreted as the continuation of the Beyşehir fault as in normal fault
421 character. As mentioned before, there is also a geothermal spring caused travertine deposition
422 around the fault line in the Kavak village (Fig. 3d).

423 The most interesting structural features of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin are strike-slip
424 faults, synsedimentary deformations and compressional structures that observed in the Mio-
425 Pliocene deposits (Fig. 9a-h). On the eastern part of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin, we observed
426 some synsedimentary deformation structures and contractional structures (i.e., reverse faults
427 and folds) in outcrops that were excavated during a motorway construction (Fig. 9b-g).
428 Similar structures are also observed in the eastern side of the Lake Suğla subbasin on some
429 fresh outcrops (Fig. 9h). Dipping values of mapped folds in the Middle Miocene deposits
430 generally vary up to 46°, while the Mio-Pliocene units represent relatively lower dip angles
431 (max. 22°). These Neogene layers form anticlines and synclines observable particularly in the

432 east and southeastern part of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin where the Neogene units cover large
433 areas. General orientation of bedding strike data represents a NE-SW trending compression
434 for the Neogene.

435

436 **Geomorphology**

437 *Drainage pattern*

438 The drainage network of the Beyşehir- Suğla basin is shown in Fig. 10. The streams located in
439 the western part of the basin are relatively short. Some of them have less developed relatively
440 small drainage basins and can not reach to the lakes. This is caused by faulted steep scarps
441 and highly effective karstification process. Stepped fault geometry also caused some trellis
442 pattern on the Anamas Mountains of the western flank (Figs. 3b and 10). Because of
443 karstification, dissected and centripetal patterns are also observable along this margin. On a
444 small part of the westernmost part of the drainage basin, deranged pattern has situated on the
445 glaciated lands of the Dedegöl Mountains. In the eastern part of the basin, the fluvial network
446 is more developed. Drainage pattern in this area is mainly dendritic and the lithology is
447 represented mainly by the subhorizontally bedded Neogene clastic rocks. In addition, radial,
448 parallel, and trellis patterns have also developed on this part. While the radial drainage has
449 developed on volcanic and volcanosedimentary rocks in the eastern part of the basin due to
450 domal structures of the Erenler-Alaca volcanic mountains, trellis patterns are located around
451 faults. Parallel-subparallel patterns are observable on limestones around the Mavi Gorge (i.e.
452 Çarşamba stream) in the southeastern part of the Lake Suğla subbasin (Fig. 10). This is the
453 result of presence of Neogene paleosurfaces (e.g. Doğan, 1997) in this region that represent
454 uniformly sloping topography. As deduced from the drainage, topography and stream profiles
455 of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin, some small subbasins have attained recently the fluvial network
456 (i.e. Kızılören; Fig. 10).

457 *Tectonic landforms*

458 The faults that delineate the Beyşehir-Suğla basin represent stepped normal fault pattern that
459 are common features of extensional tectonics and are very important on slope development.
460 The western margin of the basin has the steepest slopes (Figs. 3b, and 11a and b). The faults
461 are parallel and closely-spaced particularly on this margin (Fig. 4). This is a result of
462 reactivation of former fault planes in the Neogene. These structures originated during the
463 contractional paleotectonic regime juxtaposed the allochthonous and autochthonous units of the
464 Isparta Angle before the development of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin (e.g. Akay, 1981; Özgül,

465 1997; Robertson, 2000; Poisson et al., 2003; Robertson et al., 2003). During the basin
466 initiation process by the extensional/transensional phase, those planes could be reused as
467 normal faults. Six topographic profiles crosscut the mountain fronts orthogonally (TP1-3 for
468 the Lake Beyşehir subbasin and TP6-8 for the Lake Suğla subbasin) and two parallel to the
469 basin long-axes (TP4 and 5) are used to determine the slope knickpoints to interpret possible
470 effects of basin faults on geomorphology. Topographic profiles on the western margin, TP1
471 and TP2, represent the stepped fault scarps, clearly (Fig. 12). On the opposite side of the
472 Beyşehir-Suğla basin a series of antithetic faults shape the eastern margin. As indicated by a
473 hanging valley on the Sultan Mountains, vertical movements due to faulting on this side has
474 organized fluvial network recently by allowing stream capture processes on the watershed
475 between the Akşehir drainage basin to the east and the Beyşehir-Suğla basin to the west.
476 Lithology should also play an auxiliary role on these processes. The eastern and western
477 flanks of the basin are substantially different from each other in their lithologies, morphologic
478 expressions and uplift origins (Fig. 3). Where the western flank of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin
479 reaches altitudes of about 2500 m that were directly uplifted by tectonics, the eastern flank
480 has a maximum value of about 2000 m related to the volcanic process of the Erenler-Alaca
481 mountains (TP6 in Fig. 12). The gradient of basin floor indicates tilting towards the western
482 margin representing the higher activity of Beyşehir and Suğla faults, and tilting along the long
483 axes towards the lower altitude Lake Suğla subbasin where the basin drains eastward to the
484 Konya basin (TP4 in Fig. 12). In the lowlands of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin there are many
485 hills and ridges developed as a result of erosion and sedimentation processes in the region. On
486 the other hand, some of the ridges in the region related to folding in the Neogene (Fig. 11c),
487 and some of them are remnants of older structures developed during the early Cenozoic (Fig.
488 11d).

489 *Karstic landforms*

490 The structural control on the formation of karst cavities has been known at least since Martel
491 (1894). Tectonics determine the main orientations of karst systems and controls the
492 mechanical limits to the karst expansion (e.g. Shanov and Kastov, 2015). The study area
493 illustrates a very good relationship between these two features. It is widely known that the
494 karstification process is capable of forming large depressions particularly in Mesozoic
495 carbonate rocks all along the Taurus Mountains (e.g., Atalay, 2003). On the formation of
496 Beyşehir-Suğla basin, the same process has also been an important factor as well as the
497 structural features of the region (e.g. Nazik, 1985, 1992; Doğan, 1997). As mentioned before,

498 the imprints of karstification on the geomorphology is very clear (Fig. 13) and also can be
499 easily read from the fluvial network by the dissected drainage patterns (Fig. 10). To describe
500 the impact of karstification in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin the Gembos (or Kembos) plain is a
501 good example (Fig. 3a; Nazik, 1992; Doğan et al., 2016). This plain is a polje (a form of
502 large, flat floored closed depression formed in karstic regions; Gams, 1978) with a size of 13
503 km in length and 2.5 km (max.) in width and covered by Quaternary deposits. The Quaternary
504 sequence of the plain mainly consists of fine grained sediments of a weak stream and
505 ephemeral lake development due to flooding that covers an area of about 20 km² on the
506 polje's floor during some seasons. Ford and Williams (1989) define three types of poljes
507 according to dominant influence in their origins: border polje, structural polje and baselevel
508 polje (Goudie, 2004). As it seems at Fig. 4 and TP3 in Fig. 12, the Gembos plain is a
509 structural polje consistent with previous suggestions (e.g. Atalay, 2003; Doğan et al., 2017).

510 The current water budget of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin is largely controlled by karstic
511 agents like cave systems, dolines and headwaters (e.g., Ekmekçi, 1993; Fig. 14). Mesozoic
512 platform carbonates have caused long-acting loss of rock volume by dissolution, and hosted
513 karstification in the study area since late Cretaceous (e.g. Yılmaz and Altın, 2006). The
514 bauxite deposits in the carbonate rocks (e.g. Blumenthal and Göksu, 1949; Öztürk et al.,
515 2002) are clear evidence for such a long karstification history in the region. Therefore, we can
516 accept that the effects of karst on the hydrological-hydrogeological budget were also very
517 important during the Neogene-Quaternary evolution of the basin.

518 As seen from Fig. 15, the outflow of the basin, i.e. the Çarşamba stream, has a narrow
519 incised valley on the bluish coloured Cretaceous limestone which known as the Mavi Gorge
520 (Figs. 3c and d; “mavi” means “blue” in Turkish). The Beyşehir-Suğla basin connects to the
521 Konya closed basin via this gorge. About the origin of this gorge some authors suggest the
522 karstification as the main factor (e.g. Doğan 1997; Öztürk, 2006). The sinkholes around the
523 gorge and cave relics along the walls of the valley support a karstic origin view (Fig. 15). On
524 the other hand, the valley has elbow geometry with an angle of ~90°. The eastern half of the
525 gorge is perpendicular to the basin bounding mountain front fault of the Konya basin. Thus,
526 the change in the baselevel of the Konya basin due to tectonics may be an important factor on
527 the abrasion of the stream bed and connecting of both basins with surface flow. To conclude,
528 the Mavi Gorge is probably polygenetic, both the karstification of carbonate rocks and
529 tectonics playing important roles as suggested by Doğan and Koçyiğit (2018) and Kuzucuoğlu
530 et al. (2019).

531 *Glacial landforms*

532 Numerous glacial features reported along the Taurus mountains, especially during the last two
533 decades (e.g. Planhol, 1953; Arpat and Özgül, 1972; Doğu, 1993; Çiner et al., 1999; Çiner,
534 2003; Hughes et al., 2006; Sarıkaya et al., 2008, 2011; Sarıkaya and Çiner, 2015). To the west
535 of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin, the Anamas and Dedegöl mountains reach elevations of about
536 3000 m (Fig. 1). Particularly, on the Dedegöl Mountains there are many glacial landforms;
537 cirques, glacial valleys and polished surfaces (Fig. 16). The glacial features on the Dedegöl
538 Mountains have been studied in detail by some researchers (e.g. Delannoy and Maire, 1983;
539 Zahno et al., 2009; Çılğın, 2015). Here, we emphasize their existence due to their importance
540 to interpret the climatic history of the region.

541 The U-shaped Muslu Valley is the most significant landscape on the Dedegöl
542 Mountains. This east-facing glacial valley extends between the elevations of 2000 m and 1450
543 m. It includes two lateral moraines and ice-abraded bedrock dated cosmogenically by Zahno
544 et al. (2009) (Sarıkaya et al., 2011). Their results show the quantitative evidences of the
545 Pleistocene glaciations and their possible effects in the region until the Holocene. On the other
546 hand, today, the snowline (i.e. ELA) on the western Taurus Mountains is suggested as 3000-
547 3750 m, while it was decreased to values of 2200-2600 m in the Last Glacial Maximum (late
548 Pleistocene) as a result of the cold and humid climatic conditions (Sarıkaya et al., 2008).

549

550 **DISCUSSION**

551 **Tectonic implications**

552 The Beyşehir-Suğla basin is located within the eastern flank of Isparta Angle, a fold-and-
553 thrust belt formed during the Alpine orogeny (Fig. 2). Although there is a consensus on the
554 curved shape of Isparta Angle developed as a result of the bending of an originally E-W-
555 directed orogenic belt (i.e. Taurides/Taurus Mountains), the origin of this shape is still
556 puzzling due to its longlasting complex evolution. Because of this, the Taurus Mountains have
557 nappe emplacements and related clockwise and counterclockwise rotations since the early
558 Cenozoic to early Pliocene (e.g., Akay and Uysal, 1985; Kissel et al., 1993; Şenel et al., 1996;
559 Glover and Robertson, 1998; Robertson, 2000; Andrew and Robertson, 2002; Piper et al.,
560 2002; Poisson et al., 2003, 2011; Robertson et al., 2003; van Hinsbergen et al., 2010; Özsayın
561 and Dirik, 2011; Koçyiğit et al., 2012). According to the results of paleomagnetic analyses in
562 the region, while the eastern part of the Isparta Angle rotated ~40° clockwise direction (Kissel
563 et al. 1993), the western part rotated 30° in counterclockwise (Kissel and Poisson, 1987;

564 Morris and Robertson, 1993) since the Eocene. However, Piper et al. (2002) suggested a 70°
565 counterclockwise rotation for the eastern flank of the Isparta Angle since the Middle Miocene.
566 Koçyiğit et al. (2012) interpreted the results of Piper et al. (2002) that the eastern flank of this
567 structure was in a more N-S-directed position before the Late Miocene.

568 As mentioned before, the Isparta Angle represents a transition zone between the
569 seismologically highly active western Turkey and relatively quiet central Turkey. This is a
570 result of complex geodynamics in the region. The Cyprean and Aegean Arcs are connected to
571 each other under this region (e.g., Glover and Robertson, 1998). Furthermore, there is a slab
572 break-off (i.e. tear) process in the eastern portion of the subducted African slab beneath
573 central-east Turkey (e.g., Barka and Reilinger, 1997; Biryol et al., 2011; Schildgen et al.,
574 2012, 2014; Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2015). The position of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin is
575 important to understand a possible tectonic relationship or an interaction between western and
576 central Turkey. The study area is not only located on the transition zone between the central
577 and western Anatolia, at the same time it is located in the middle zone of the eastern flank,
578 between the outer and inner zones of the Isparta Angle. Whereas, there are numerous
579 published works on the neotectonic features of inner and outer zones of the eastern flank (e.g.
580 Koçyiğit, 1983, 1984; Boray, 1985; Şaroğlu et al., 1987; Yağmurlu, 1991a,b; Hançer and
581 Karaman, 1994; Koçyiğit et al., 2000, 2012; Koçyiğit and Özacar, 2003; Poisson et al., 2003,
582 2011; Robertson et al., 2003; Koç et al., 2012, 2013; Kaya, 2014), there are only limited
583 studies on the middle zone (e.g. Şaroğlu et al., 1987; Schildgen et al., 2012; Doğan and
584 Koçyiğit, 2018).

585 The outer boundary of the Isparta Angle is delineated by the Akşehir fault (Koçyiğit et
586 al., 2000; i.e. the Sultandağları fault, Boray et al., 1985). While Boray et al. (1985) suggested
587 that this fault is an active structure since the Late Miocene as a right-lateral strike-slip fault
588 with a reverse component, Koçyiğit et al. (2000) proposed this fault as a normal fault with an
589 oblique component and the region is governed by an extensional regime. The authors claimed
590 that the extensional basin developed during Miocene, however, there was a compressional
591 period the broke the extensional regime before the Plio-Quaternary. Koçyiğit et al. (2012) also
592 made a similar suggestion for the Eğirdir basin according to their compressional structure
593 findings in the basin sequence. They observed folds and reverse faults that indicate a Middle
594 Pliocene compression between the extensional early development and Plio-Quaternary
595 periods. For the inner zone of the Isparta Angle, the last contraction phase is represented by
596 the Aksu thrust fault zone (e.g., Poisson et al., 2014), and the movement was from east to west

597 along this structure and dated as Late Miocene (Poisson et al., 1977; Akay and Uysal, 1985;
598 Frizon de Lamotte et al., 1995). According to Poisson et al. (2003), the Pliocene was also
599 affected by this contraction phase, too. Thus, almost all the studies are agree that this part was
600 under a compressional regime and mainly driven by reverse, thrust and strike-slip faults until
601 the Plio-Quaternary (e.g. Glover and Robertson, 1998; Robertson, 2000; Poisson et al., 2003).

602 In our study, we observed many folds in the Mio-Pliocene sequence that indicate the
603 Beyşehir-Suğla basin has experienced an approximately NE-SW-directed contraction. These
604 contraction-related structures may be developed as synsedimentary in the Pliocene, before the
605 development of later normal faulting. These structures are very important in the extensional
606 framework of the basin development process. Furthermore, as aforementioned, we observed
607 many fault planes with kinematic data represent strike-slip and normal movements on the
608 western margin of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin.

609 Strike-slip faults in the western margin of the basin are observed mainly behind the
610 normal fault planes and may represent the older movements; on the other hand, the normal
611 faults are close to the current lake area and should represent the younger activity on the basin
612 bounding faults. Today, it is clear from the earthquake focal mechanisms that an extensional
613 regime governs the Beyşehir-Suğla basin and surroundings (Fig. 4).

614 Several earthquakes with small to medium magnitudes have occurred in the studied
615 basin during the historical and instrumental periods (Fig. 4), but there is not a large scale
616 devastating earthquake in any record. However, there are some small to medium earthquake
617 clusterings around the Beyşehir-Suğla depression particularly after 2000 with casualties [i.e.
618 Afyon-Çay (max. $M=6.4$), Konya (max. $M=5$) and Eğirdir (max. $M=5.1$) clusters; Tan et al.,
619 2008; Koçyiğit et al., 2012]. Seismicity is mainly concentrated along NNW–SSE-oriented
620 normal faults representing an extensional regime in the middle and outer zones of the Isparta
621 Angle, where the earthquake epicentres at depths of 3-40 km. However, the depths of
622 earthquakes in the inner zone reach values of over 130 km with mainly thrust components
623 (Fig. 4).

624 The Neogene units of the basin may represent a pull-apart basin sequence developed
625 under a transtensional regime. The formation of the fluvio-lacustrine Beyşehir-Suğla basin
626 started in the Middle Miocene with deposition in alluvial fan, braided river system, and then
627 turned into a fan delta sequence interbedded with thin lacustrine siltstones, marl and
628 limestones. This deposition phase is unconformably overlain by terrestrial deposits starting
629 with coarse grained sediments rapidly fining upwards and then includes a thick lacustrine

630 sequence in addition to thick volcanic and volcanoclastic intercalations. This sequence also
631 represents a rapidly subsiding environment that could be related to a similar transtensional
632 phase, because we did not observed any different basin bounding fault system during the Mio-
633 Pliocene deposition in the Beyşehir-Suğla region. As described above, there is
634 synsedimentary deformation representing a highly active tectonovolcanic phase in the Mio-
635 Pliocene deposits. The mentioned Neogene sequence is also uncomformably covered by a
636 fluvio-lacustrine sequence mainly deposited during the Quaternary period. Fault controlled
637 subsidence due to extensional regime accompanied by recent seismic activity in the region.

638

639 **Climatic implications**

640 At the present time, the studied region is representing a climatologically transition zone
641 positioned between the central Anatolian continental semi-arid climate and relatively more
642 humid Mediterranean climate of west and southwest Anatolia (Fig. 1b). The central Anatolia
643 is a continental plateau with an altitude of *c.* 1000 m, separated from the Mediterranean Sea in
644 the south and Black Sea to the north by two main mountain belts of the country; the Taurus
645 and Pontic Mountains, respectively. The largest intracontinental basin of Turkey is located in
646 this region and evolved into the largest closed basin of the eastern Mediterranean region by a
647 series of tectonic and climatic events related to geodynamics (Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2015).
648 According to current isotopic values of Schemmel et al. (2013), as an orographic barrier with
649 an altitude of over 3000 m the Taurus Mountains controlled the semi-arid climate in central
650 Turkey with rainfall as low as 350 mm/a provide clear evidence for an evaporative regime
651 that directly effects surface water compositions. In the same way, Lüdecke et al. (2013) used
652 isotopic data to understand the climates of older periods. Isotope geochemistry of Oligo-
653 Miocene lacustrine carbonate deposits indicated the least evaporite regime and suggested the
654 absence of any significant orographic barrier (Lüdecke et al., 2013). The palynological and
655 mammal fossils data from central Anatolia also support a similar paleoclimatic trend (e.g.
656 Saraç, 2003, 2012; Akgün et al., 2007; Akkiraz et al., 2009, 2011; Yavuz-Işık et al., 2011;
657 Akgün and Kayseri-Özer, 2012). Towards the late Quaternary, the region was covered with
658 large saline lakes as a result of high evaporative conditions (e.g. Erol, 1969; Kashima, 2002;
659 Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2014; Kuzucuoğlu, 2019; Özsayın et al., 2019). In summary, since the
660 early Neogene the climate of central Turkey has changed from more humid into today's semi-
661 arid conditions.

662 In western Turkey, the paleoclimatic implications are largely based on paleontological
663 data. Alçiçek (2010) summarized the available data for western Turkey within a stratigraphic
664 framework and represented a densely forested wetland environment in a warm and humid
665 subtropical climate for the early-mid Miocene that turned into a grass dominated steppe
666 ecosystem during an arid climatic condition in middle to late Miocene. Then, a savannah-type
667 ecosystem in a warm and humid climate covered the western Turkey during the Pliocene
668 (Alçiçek, 2010 and references there in). Quaternary environments in western Turkey hosted
669 many freshwater lake occurrences in the main grabens as a result of humid conditions (e.g.
670 Kazancı et al., 2009, 2011; Hakyemez et al., 2013; Kazancı and Roberts, 2019).

671 As seen from the abovementioned climatic history, while a similar trend has been
672 observed during the early Neogene period for both central and western Turkey, towards the
673 end of Neogene and particularly Quaternary periods the climate has turned into more arid but
674 also more variable over time, with variations between cold and warm, wetter and drier,
675 climatic conditions in the central part of country. In this framework, the Beyşehir-Suğla basin
676 has a critical position to understand climatologically what happened in the zone between these
677 two different regions.

678 Two of the three packages representing Neogene paleoenvironments in the Beyşehir-
679 Suğla basin suggest some paleoclimatic implications according to their colours, fossil
680 contents (pollen and mammal) and sedimentological features. The Middle Miocene units
681 include gray coloured, rounded and subrounded sediments deposited in an energetic fluvio-
682 lacustrine environment indicate humid conditions. In the Bozkır location to the south of the
683 Suğla subbasin (Figs. 3c and 5), described small mammal *Shizogalerix aff. anatolica*
684 (Hakyemez et al., 1992; Saraç, 2003) which represents forest biotope proximity to water
685 environment (e.g., Ziegler, 1999) supports such climatic conditions. In the surrounding area,
686 the closest basin that could be directly interconnected with the Beyşehir-Suğla depression is
687 the Yalvaç basin which is located to the north of the study area (Figs. 2 and 5). Akgün and
688 Akyol (1992) studied the pollen and spore assemblages of the coal-bearing levels in the
689 Yalvaç basin and described a sub-tropical environment with humid and warm climatic
690 conditions during the Middle Miocene. In the Late Miocene-Pliocene sequence, the lower part
691 consists of brown-red coloured and rounded-subrounded materials that deposited in a semi-
692 arid but highly energetic environment, whereas the upper part turns into gray/white coloured
693 fine-grained clastic rocks and limestones and marls with lignite formations. This sequence
694 includes various large mammal fossils described to the east of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin, in the

695 Kızılören location (Figs. 3c and 5), represented by Hipparion, *Dicerorhinus orientalis*,
696 *Ancylotherium*, *Oioceros wegneri*, *Gazella*, *Palaeoreas lindermayeri*, *Plesiaddax*, *Protoryx*
697 and *Pliocervus* indicating both high vegetation and savanna environment (e.g., Bernor et al.,
698 1996; Bernor and Armour-Chelu, 1999; Gentry et al., 1999; Heissig, 1999). It is known that
699 the Late Miocene is a time of a change from sub-tropical vegetation to a savanna largely in
700 Eurasia (e.g., Saraç et al., 2002). On the other hand, the aforementioned Late Miocene-
701 Pliocene faunal assemblage in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin consists of grazers and mixed feeders
702 indicating an open environment dominated by habitat mosaics. According to these features,
703 the Mio-Pliocene sequence of the studied basin has a different climatic history rather than
704 aforementioned western and central Anatolian paleoclimates.

705 Specifically, the Quaternary period of the region has interesting features about the
706 paleoclimatic history of central-west Turkey. Remarkable glacial deposits and landforms are
707 the most important that point out the cold climatic conditions during this period (i.e.
708 glaciations on the Dedegöl Mountains). On the other hand, according to palynological data
709 derived from the boreholes drilled by independent researchers in the Lake Beyşehir subbasin
710 and excavated research pits in the Lake Suğla subbasin, some different paleoclimatic and
711 paleoenvironmental interpretations were suggested by Aytuğ (1967), van Zeist et al. (1975),
712 Roberts (1980) and Bottema and Woldring (1984). Their findings indicate relatively more
713 vegetated late Quaternary environment under more humid and warm interglacial climatic
714 conditions. In the neighboring Lake Eğirdir basin, Nemeç and Kazancı (1999) proposed a
715 Quaternary history with a warm-humid climate for the early Pleistocene, a colder climate for
716 the late Pleistocene, coldest climate for the Last Glacial and a warm semi-arid climate for the
717 Holocene according to their sedimentological and palynological analyses on colluvial deposits
718 in the region. According to the borehole and field data represented in our study, the
719 Quaternary of the Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla subbasins are mainly represented by fluvial
720 and alluvial fan deposits. The intercalated clay/mud and gravel sequences are widely covered
721 the plain areas. On the other hand, clays include some important peat levels. All the
722 sedimentological features of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin (except the Gembos plain) indicate
723 energetic environments deposited under alternating climatic conditions that could be
724 controlled by pluvial and interpluvial periods (e.g. Erinç, 1952; Erol, 1969, 1978, 1980, 1984,
725 1997).

726 Koç (2013) argued that the climate in the Yalvaç basin was not arid during its
727 evolution as evidenced by the lack of evaporites. This is a key point to compare the climatic

728 differences among the basins in the region. To the east of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin, the Konya
729 and Lake Tuz basins include evaporites deposited in the Neogene and Quaternary periods
730 (e.g. Erol, 1969, 1980, 1984, 1997; Gürer and Gürer, 1999; Gürer and Aldanmaz, 2002; Tekin
731 et al., 2008; Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2014). As described above, except these two basins (i.e.
732 Konya and Lake Tuz) none of the neighbouring basins of the Beyşehir-Suğla depression
733 include any evaporitic deposits. This could be as a result of karstic features of the region. The
734 stratigraphic record has caused us to think on the effects of karstification that controlled
735 hydro(geo)logical budget of the basin for the Neogene and Quaternary. The basin should have
736 similar conditions during these periods as today's fluvio-lacustrine environments which are
737 controlled mainly by karstic sources (e.g. Acatay, 1966; Öziş and Keloğlu, 1976; Roberts,
738 1980; Ekmekçi, 1986, 1993). Thus, in contrast with some previous authors (e.g. Lahn, 1948;
739 Erol, 1978) the Beyşehir-Suğla basin must have been an open type sedimentary basin since its
740 early development and the arid periods did not affect the basin as in the Konya and Lake Tuz
741 basins. All these features indicate that the basin developed under humid conditions in the
742 Middle Miocene, then controlled with relatively arid climate and again in a humid
743 environment more like the central Anatolian basins. But as evidenced by the lack of
744 evaporites in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin and surrounding other basins, which are located in the
745 Isparta Angle on the carbonate rocks of the Taurus Mountains, these basins hydrologically
746 were protected from the arid climatic conditions by the presence of karstic features, and
747 maintained their freshwater states despite the shift to a more arid environment, unlike the
748 central Anatolian basins.

749

750 **Comparison with surrounding basins**

751 The Beyşehir-Suğla basin and surrounding basins (Fig. 5) are developed mainly within
752 terrestrial settings, except the southernmost Köprüçay, Aksu and Manavgat basins which
753 include marine deposits (e.g. Monod et al., 2006). The Neogene stratigraphy of the studied
754 basin particularly resembles to the Konya and Akşehir basins (Hakyemez et al., 1992;
755 Koçyiğit et al., 2000). Except for small differences it is also similar to the synchronously
756 developed Yalvaç Basin. The Beyşehir-Suğla, Konya and Altınapa basins include relatively
757 voluminous volcanic material due to their close position to the Erenler-Alaca volcanic center,
758 while the Iğın basin also includes tuff and pumice levels (e.g. Koç, 2013). Yağmurlu et al.
759 (1997) reported that the volcanic levels in the Eğirdir-Kovada basin were the products of
760 another volcanic center located in its west. Only the Yalvaç basin has no reported volcanic

761 material in contrast to surrounding basins (e.g., Koçyiğit et al., 2012; Koç, 2013). This basin
762 is also different from its southern continuation, the Beyşehir-Suğla basin, within the age of
763 coal formation. Whereas the coals of the Yalvaç basin are in Middle Miocene age and
764 deposited in a fluvial environment (Yağmurlu et al., 1991a; Koç, 2013), they are in Late
765 Miocene-Pliocene in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin and deposited in a lacustrine setting.
766 According to unconformity correlation among the surrounding Neogene basins in the close
767 region (Fig. 5) it is clear that there are at least two unconformities in the sequences of
768 terrestrial basins on the Middle Miocene and Pliocene deposits. Early Miocene and Late
769 Miocene unconformities are also reported for the Ilgın and Altınapa basins (e.g., Koç, 2013).
770 The mentioned unconformities before and after the deposition of the Late Miocene-Pliocene
771 sequences could be related to regional geodynamic processes. It is widely accepted in the
772 current literature that the Central Taurus Mountains rapidly uplifted in the Late Miocene as a
773 result of asthenospheric uplift following the slab-tear process under Central Anatolia (e.g.,
774 Schildgen et al., 2012, 2014; Lüdecke et al., 2013; Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2015; Meijers et al.,
775 2016; Radeff et al., 2017). By this event, an extensional tectonic phase has controlled the
776 region (e.g., Schildgen et al., 2012; Özsayın et al., 2013, 2019; Gürbüz and Kazancı, 2015).
777 This could be driven an oroclinal bending process caused the current reverse-V-shaped
778 geometry of the Isparta Angle (e.g., Özsayın and Dirik, 2011). Earlier studies suggested a
779 clockwise rotation process (40° - Kissel et al. 1993) for the eastern flank of the Isparta Angle,
780 occurred during the Late Miocene- Pliocene (Frizon de Lamotte et al., 1995; Piper et al.,
781 2002; Poisson et al., 2003; Özsayın and Dirik, 2011).

782

783 **CONCLUSIONS**

784 The Beyşehir-Suğla basin is located between the Western and Central Anatolian regions of
785 Turkey, in a transition zone controlled by tectonically and climatologically different regimes.
786 The basin has formed on a squeezed contact of autochthonous and allochthonous units of
787 Paleozoic to Tertiary. The Neogene-Quaternary geology and geomorphology of the
788 depression includes many significant records of basin evolution in such a transition zone. This
789 study describes three sequences for the Neogene-Quaternary periods in the Beyşehir-Suğla
790 region. In the Middle Miocene, a transtensional tectonic regime probably initiated the basin
791 development as suggested by the NNW-SSE trending right-lateral strike-slip fault planes. This
792 regime was also active during the Mio-Pliocene as suggested by the sedimentary sequences
793 which represent a pull-apart basin fill. During the Neogene, the climate evolved partly due to

794 a series of tectonic and geodynamic-caused geomorphic changes. According to the
795 stratigraphic comparison among the basins in the Isparta Angle and surrounding basins in
796 central Turkey, the Beyşehir-Suğla basin was developed early and very close to the southern
797 basins including marine deposits. However, the basin has a Neogene sequence consists of
798 mainly terrestrial deposits and is generally similar to the central Anatolian basins, except the
799 lack of evaporitic deposits. However, since the latest Miocene while the central Anatolian
800 basins majorly indicate deposition under a relatively arid climate, the Beyşehir-Suğla basin
801 seems to be protected from hydrological closure due to karstic features of the surrounding
802 basement rocks. The karstic features that particularly prevail in the western half of the basin
803 protect itself from the unstable climatic changes for over millions of years and are very
804 important on the hydro(geo)logical budget of the drainage basin and landscape evolution.
805 Because of bounding by the normal faulted steep slopes in most sectors, the NW-SE-trending
806 Lake Beyşehir could reach its maximum surface area in Quaternary by coastal progressions in
807 the north and south which are determined by the water amount that reached to lake.

808

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1316 **Figure captions**

1317

1318 **Figure 1.** (a) Seismic zones of Turkey (modified from BİB, 1996). (b) Annual precipitation
1319 rates in Turkey (modified from Atalay, 1983). (c) Location map of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin
1320 and the Konya closed drainage basin.

1321

1322 **Figure 2.** Geological position of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin in the Isparta Angle (modified
1323 from MTA, 2002). AşB – Akşehir basin, IB – Ilgın basin, AaB – Altınapa basin, KB – Konya
1324 basin, YB – Yalvaç basin, HB – Hoyran basin, EB – Eğirdir basin, KoB – Kovada basin,
1325 BDB – Baklan-Dinar basin, AB – Acıgöl basin, BB – Burdur basin, AkB – Aksu basin, KçB
1326 – Köprüçay basin, MB – Manavgat basin.

1327

1328 **Figure 3.** (a) Physiographic image of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin and fluvial network. (b) Slope
1329 map of the study area with settlement names. (c) Geological age map of the Beyşehir-Suğla
1330 basin. (d) Lithological map of the study area. Maps c and d are derived from MTA (2002).

1331

1332 **Figure 4.** Fault and seismicity map of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin and surrounding region
1333 (faults after Koçyiğit et al., 2000; Poisson et al., 2003; Özsayın and Dirik, 2011; Schildgen et
1334 al., 2012; and this study). Epicenters of instrumental seismicity are from the Boğaziçi
1335 University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI), historical
1336 earthquake data is from Ambraseys (2009), focal mechanism solutions are from Schildgen et
1337 al. (2012).

1338

1339 **Figure 5.** Generalized stratigraphic column sections of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin (please see
1340 text for details) and surrounding basins for comparison of the Neogene-Quaternary units.
1341 AşB – Akşehir basin, after Koçyiğit et al. (2000); IB – Ilgın basin, after Koç (2013); AaB –
1342 Altınapa basin, after Koç et al. (2012); KB – Konya basin, after Hakyemez et al. (1992); YB –
1343 Yalvaç basin, integrated from Yağmurlu (1991), Koçyiğit et al. (2012) and Koç (2013); EKB
1344 – Eğirdir-Kovada basin, after Koçyiğit et al. (2012); KçB – Köprüçay basin, after

1345 Karabıyıkoglu et al. (2005) and Çiner et al. (2008). Stratigraphy of the Köprüçay basin is
1346 given in detail, because this basin has a relatively different evolution, including important
1347 marine deposits. Stratigraphies of the Aksu and Manavgat basins are not represented as
1348 columns, please see Çiner et al. (2008) for their details. Stars on the map represent mammal
1349 fossil localities that used to date Neogene-Quaternary deposits in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin.
1350 The eight-pointed star indicates mollusc ages from Girod (2013) and Glöer and Girod (2013).
1351 Colours of stars for different ages; grey – Pleistocene, light yellow – late Miocene-Pliocene,
1352 dark yellow – early-middle Miocene. Please see Figure 2 for geological legend of the location
1353 map.

1354

1355 **Figure 6.** Field photos of various facies from the Neogene deposits in the Beyşehir-Suğla
1356 basin. Please check the text for explanations.

1357

1358 **Figure 7.** Different facies of the Quaternary deposits in the Beyşehir-Suğla basin. Please see
1359 the text for explanations.

1360

1361 **Figure 8.** Kinematic data observed on strike-slip (a-d) and normal fault (e, f) planes compiled
1362 from the western margin of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin.

1363

1364 **Figure 9. (a)** A strike-slip fault in the southwest of the Lake Beyşehir subbasin, and **(b-h)**
1365 Syn-sedimentary deformation and compressional structures, observed in the Mio-Pliocene
1366 sequence compiled from the eastern part of the Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla subbasins.
1367 Please see text for explanations.

1368

1369 **Figure 10.** Fluvial network of the Beyşehir-Suğla drainage basin.

1370

1371 **Figure 11.** Fault scarp and fold examples that represent the main tectonic landforms in the
1372 Beyşehir-Suğla basin.

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1374 **Figure 12.** Longitudinal and transversal topographic profiles of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin.

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1376 **Figure 13.** Karstic surfaces developed on the carbonate rocks particularly on the western part
1377 of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin. (a-b) Plan and (c) Close-up views of the lapias in the field.

1378

1379 **Figure 14.** Karstic features of the Beyşehir-Suğla basin as hydrogeological agents. (a)
1380 Widespread cave formations in the study area, (b-c) dolines, and (d) headwaters in the Lake
1381 Suğla basin.

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1383 **Figure 15.** Geomorphic features of the Mavi Gorge (i.e. Çarşamba stream valley) that
1384 connects the Beyşehir-Suğla basin with the Konya basin.

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1386 **Figure 16.** Glacial landforms situated on the Dedegöl Mountains.

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1388 **Figure 17.** Block model summarizing the Neogene-Quaternary development of the Beyşehir-
1389 Suğla basin.

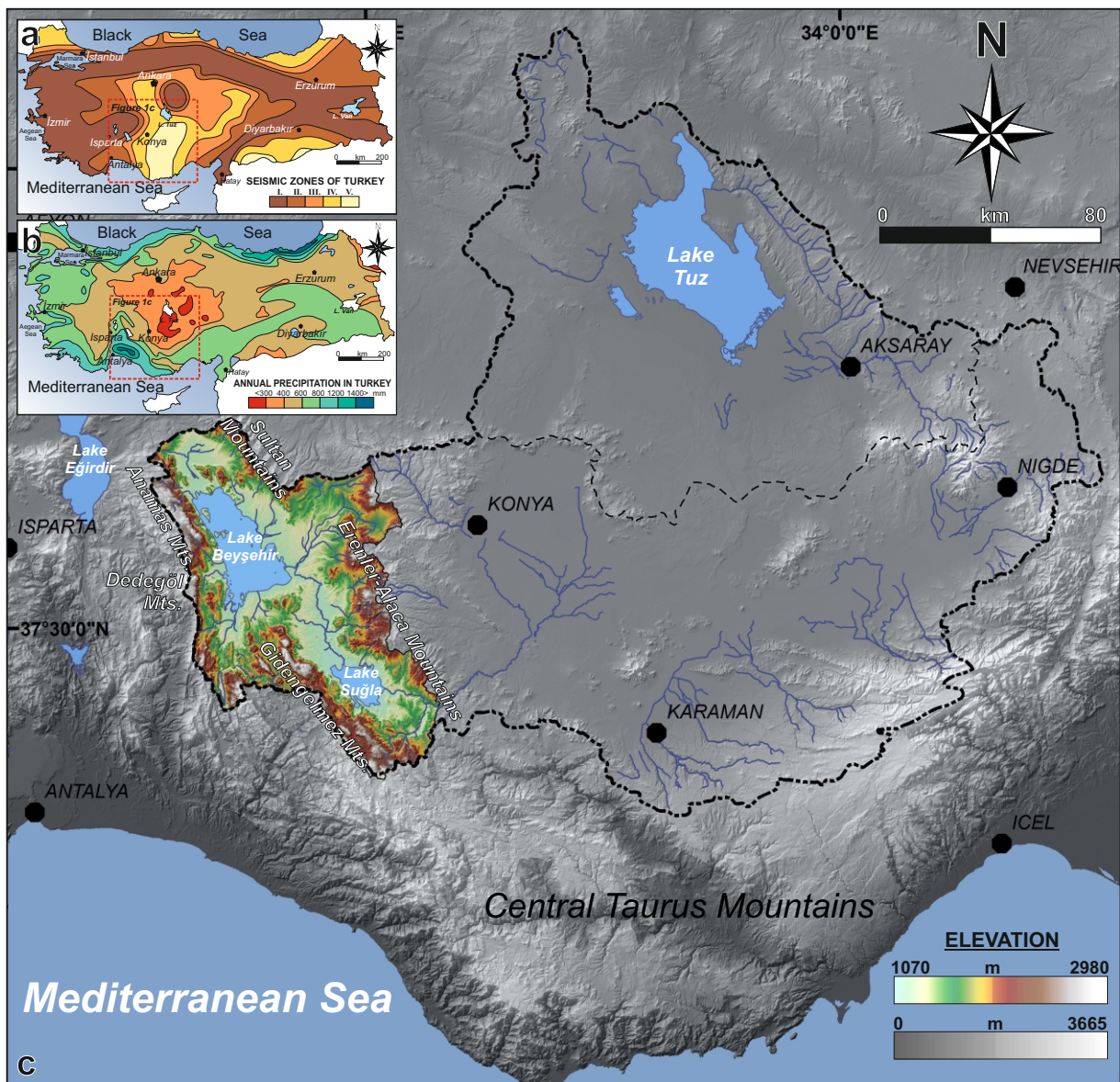


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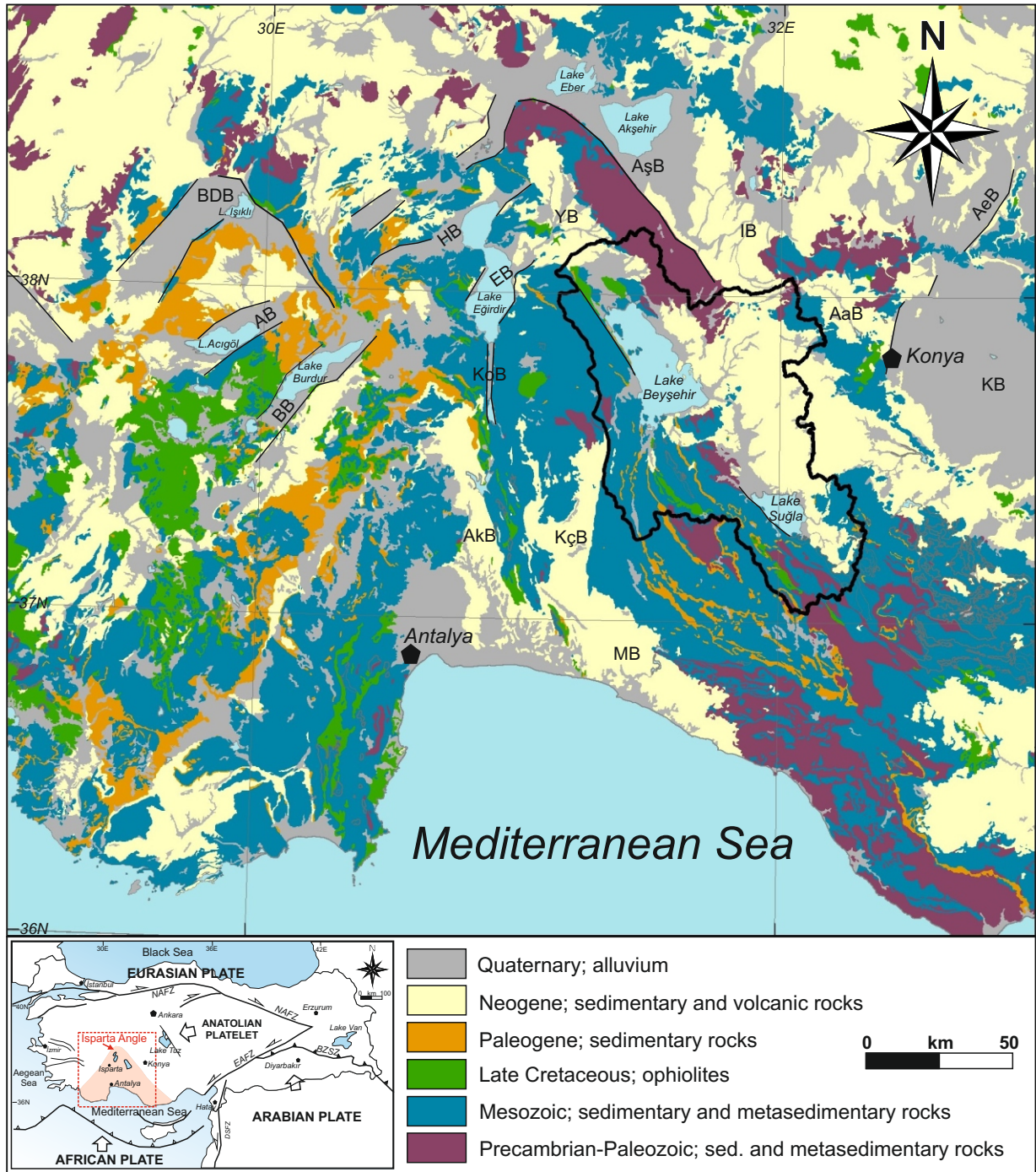


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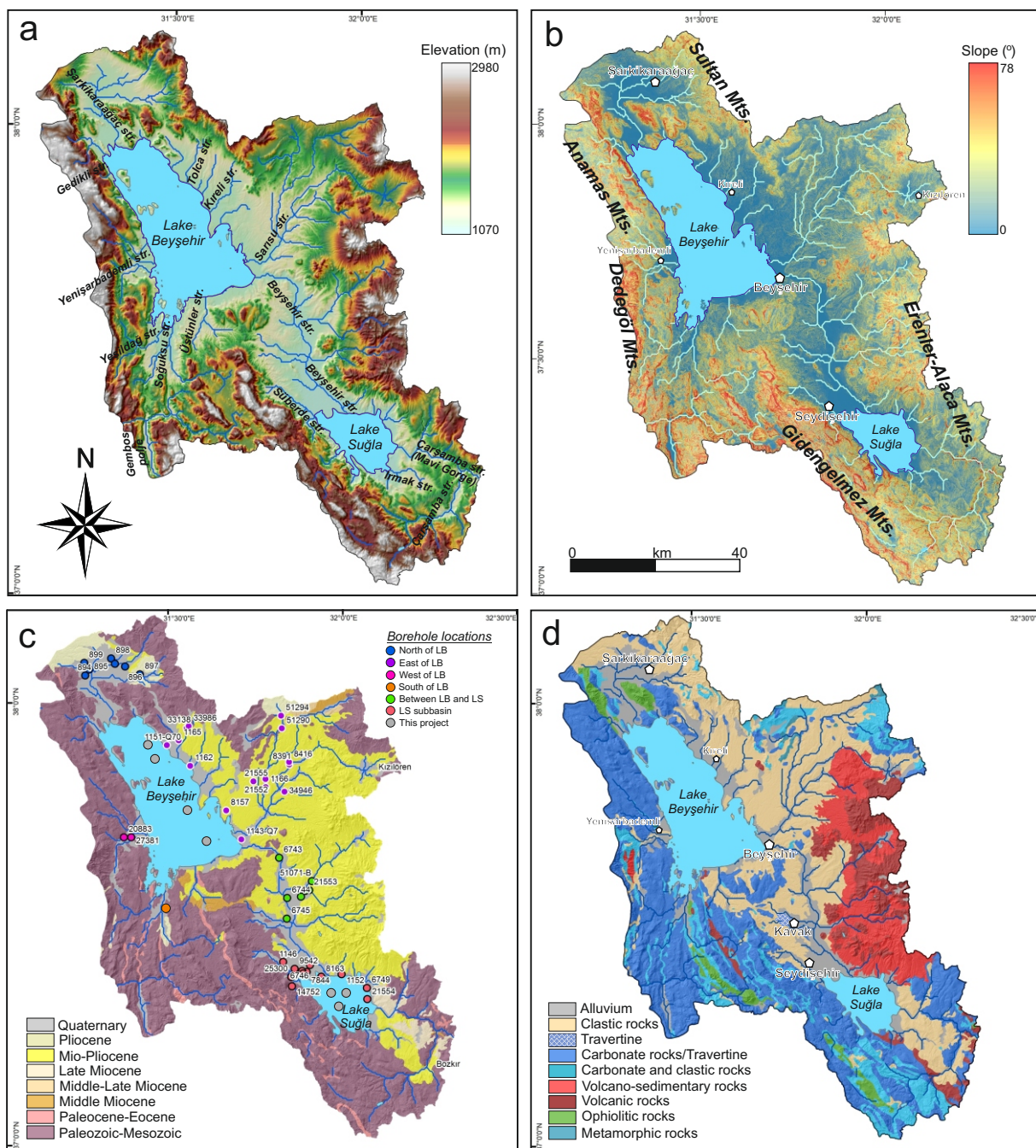


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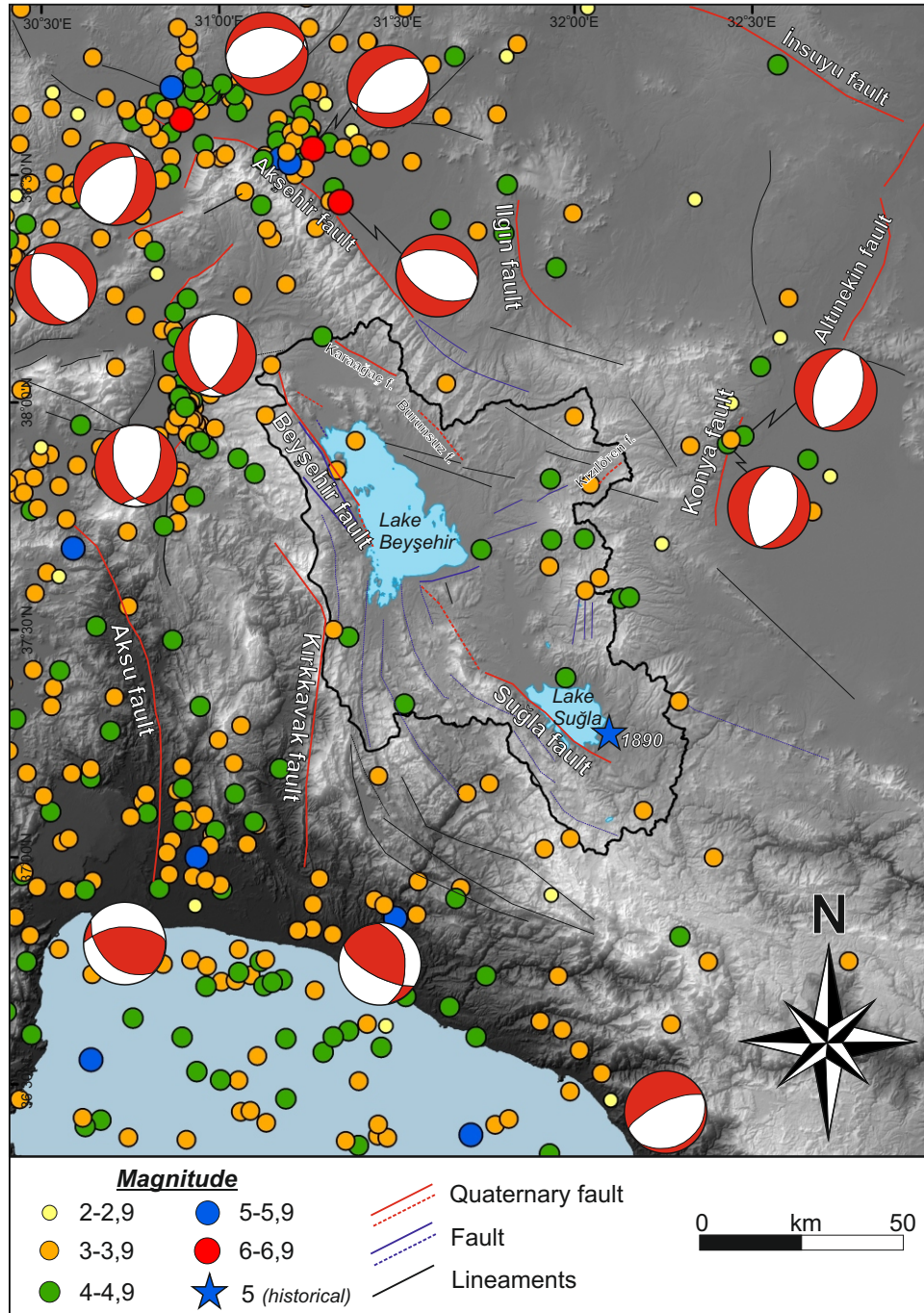


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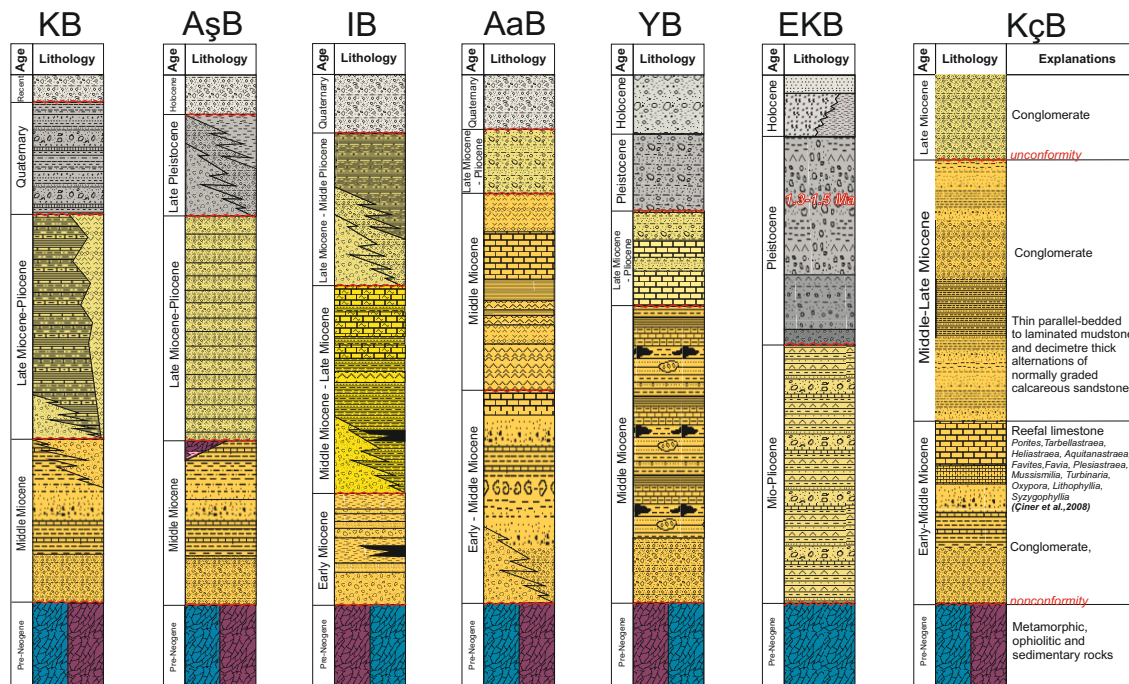
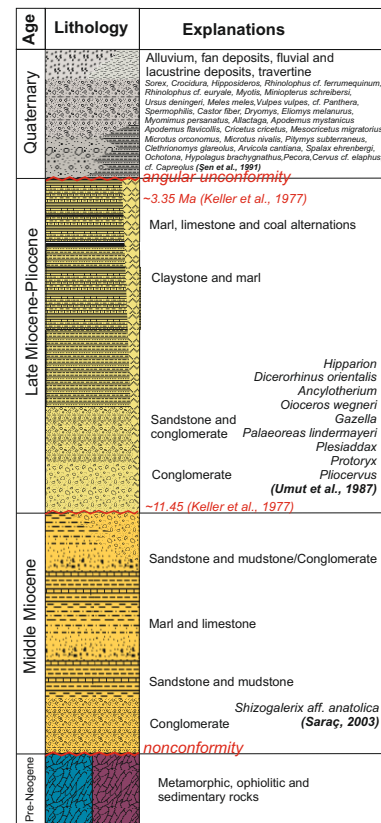
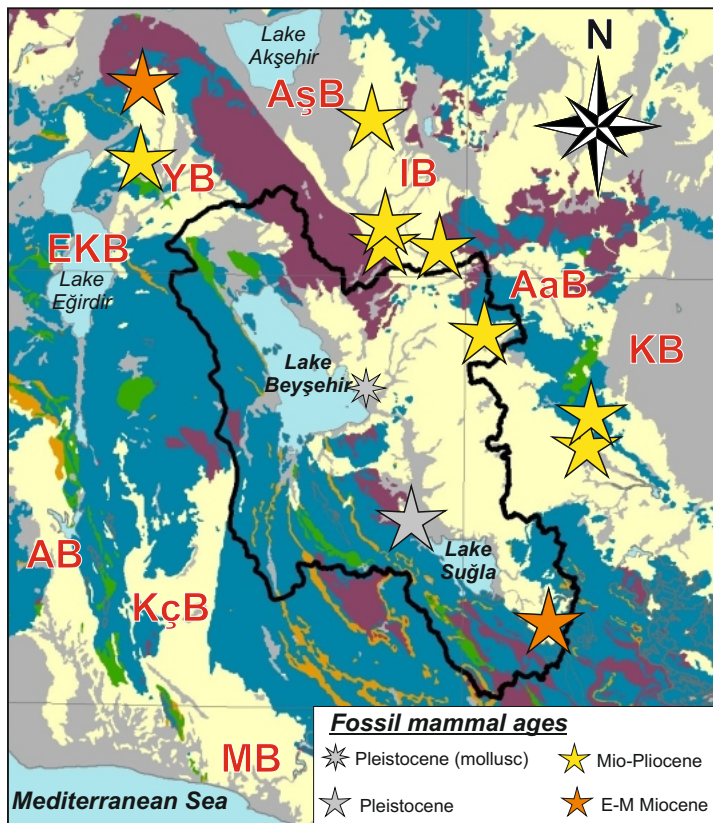


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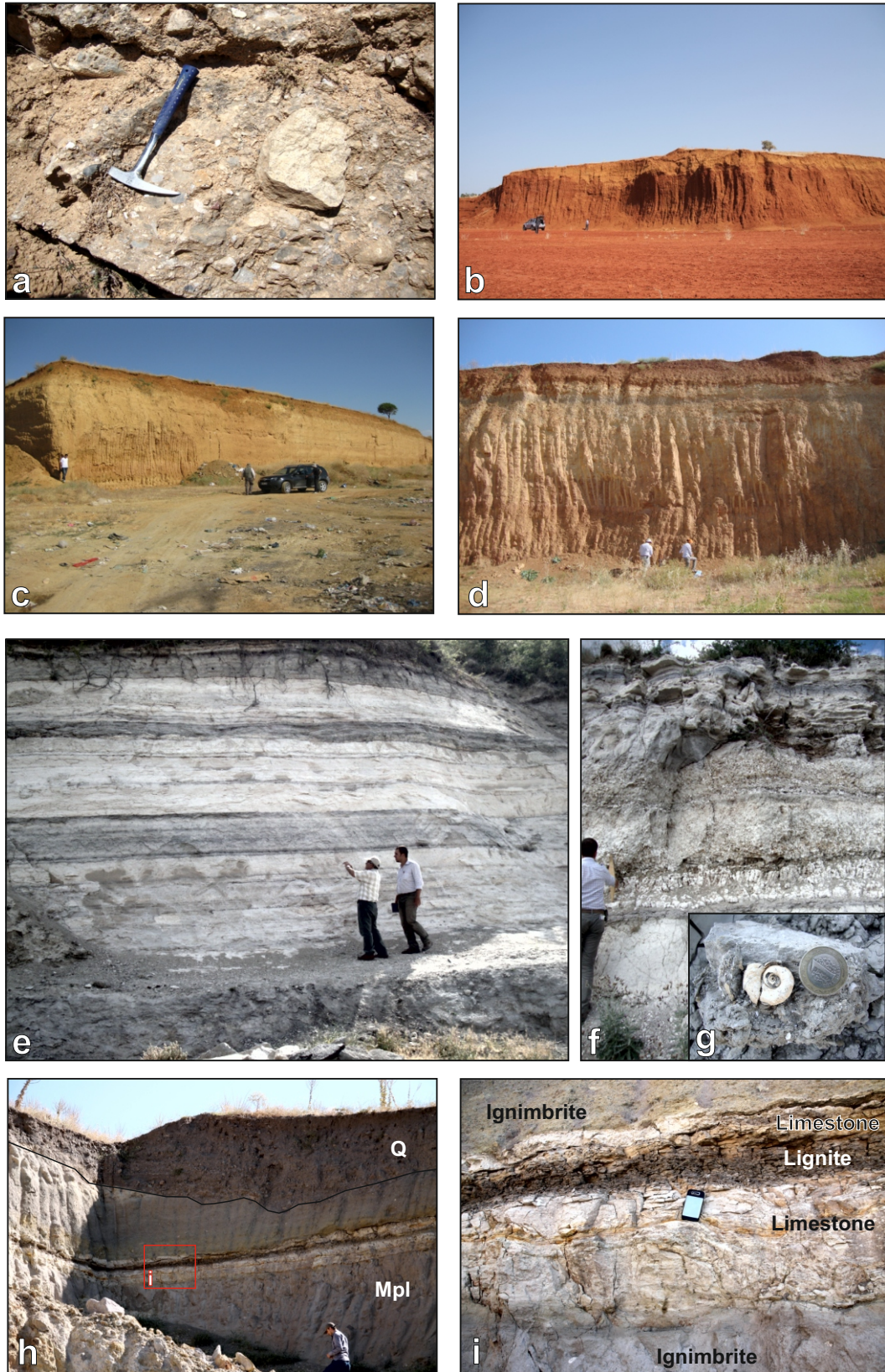


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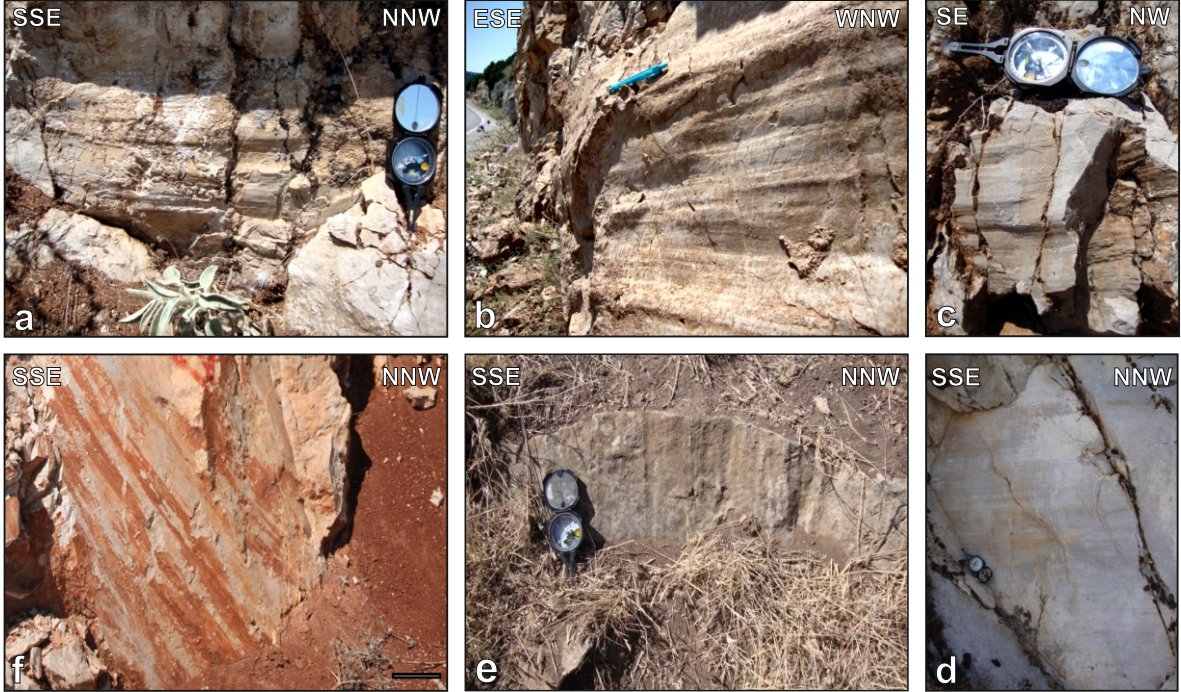


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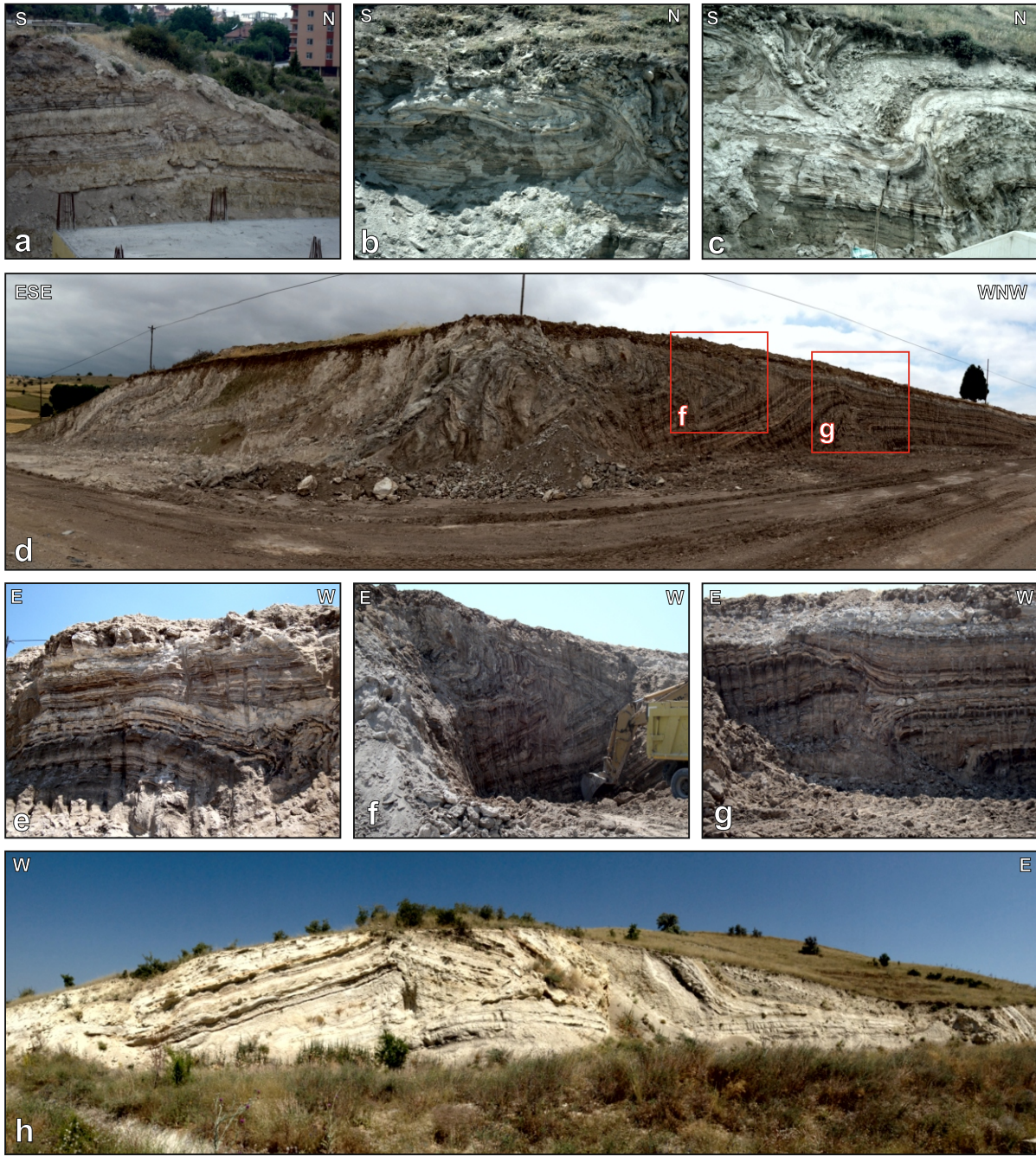


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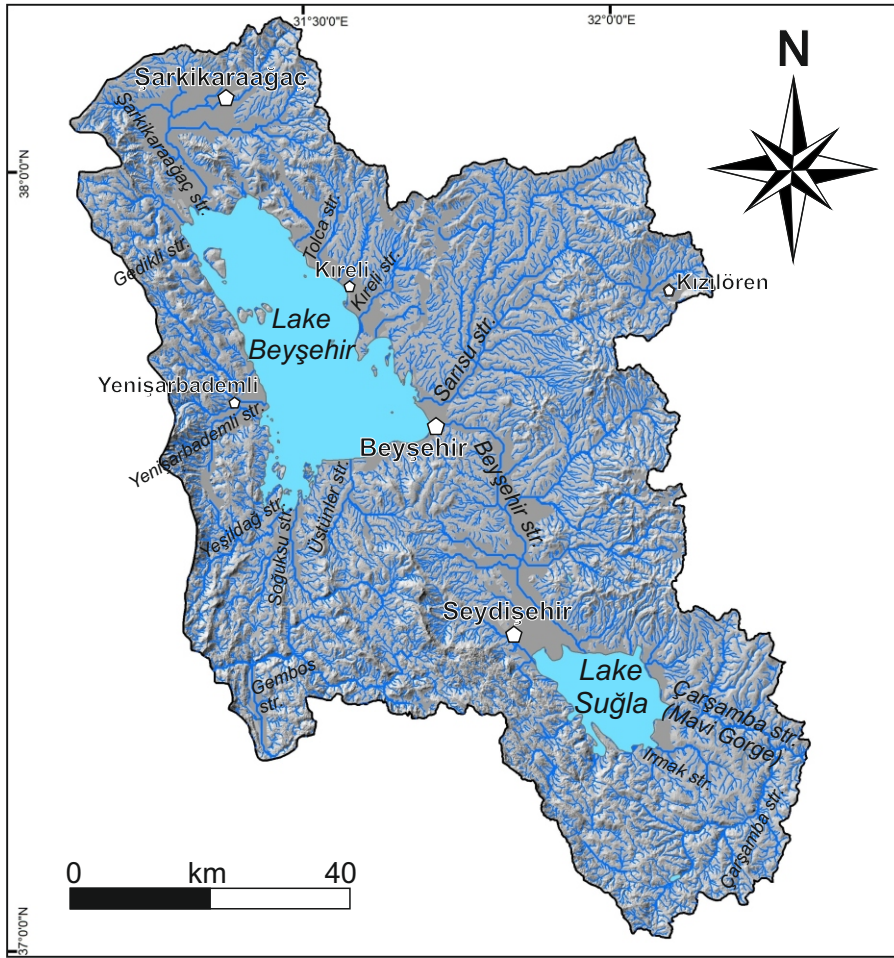


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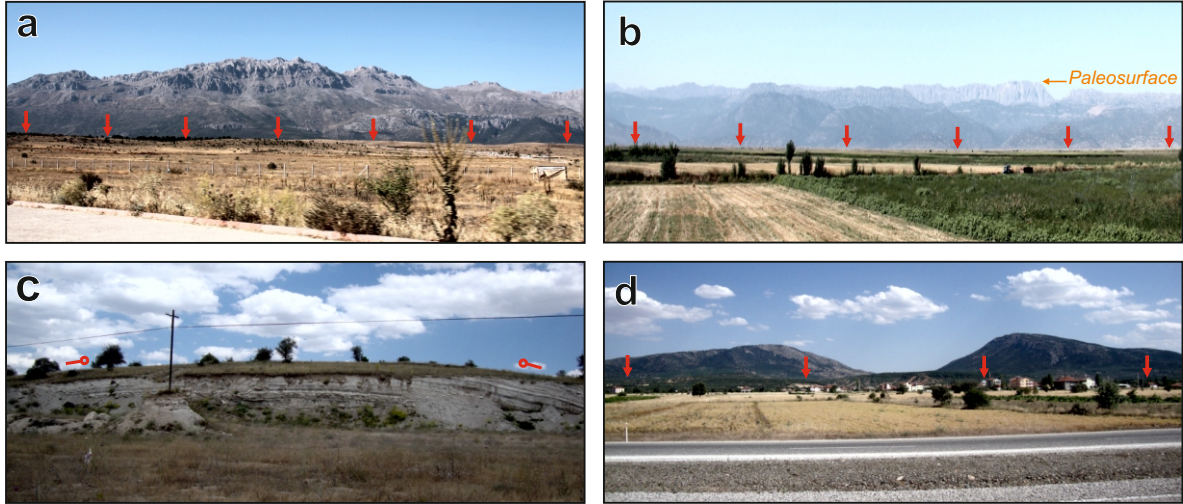


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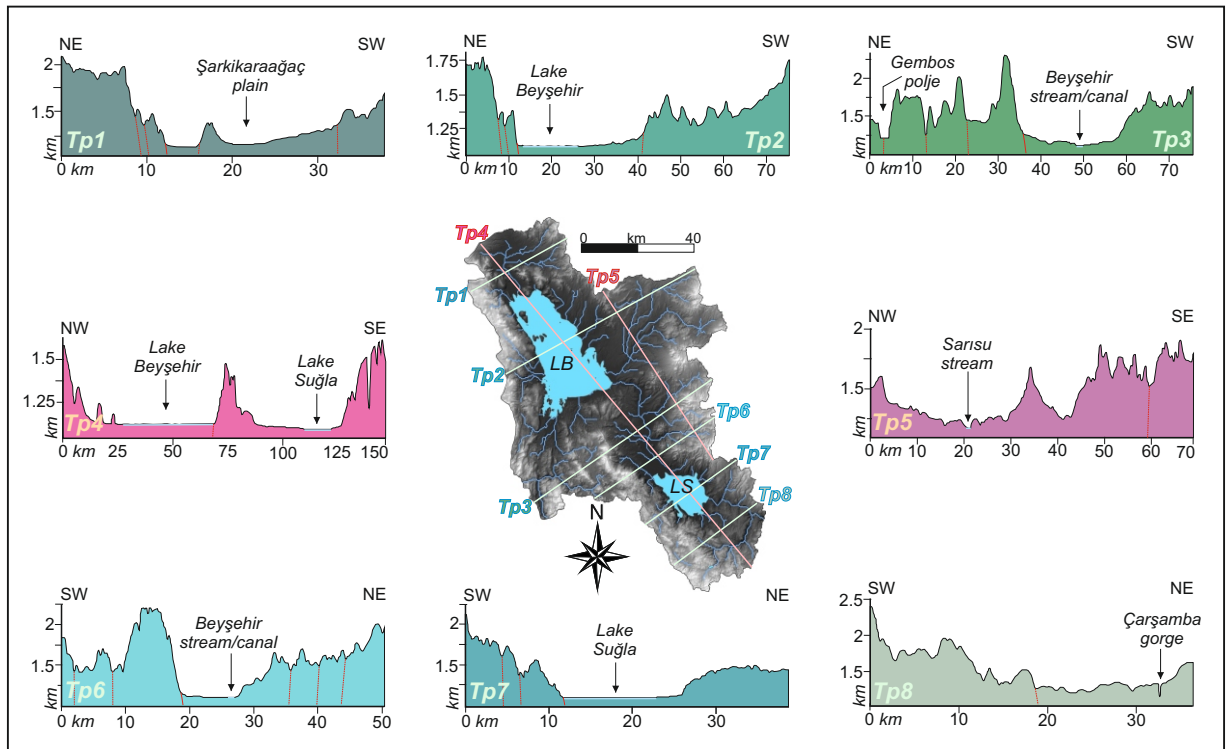


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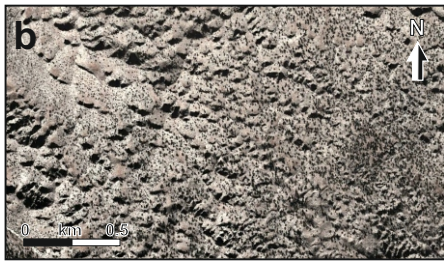
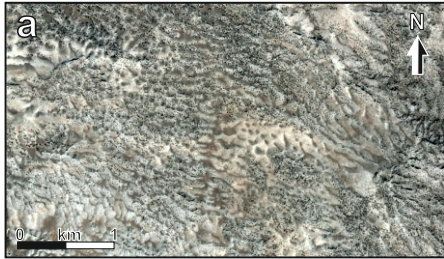


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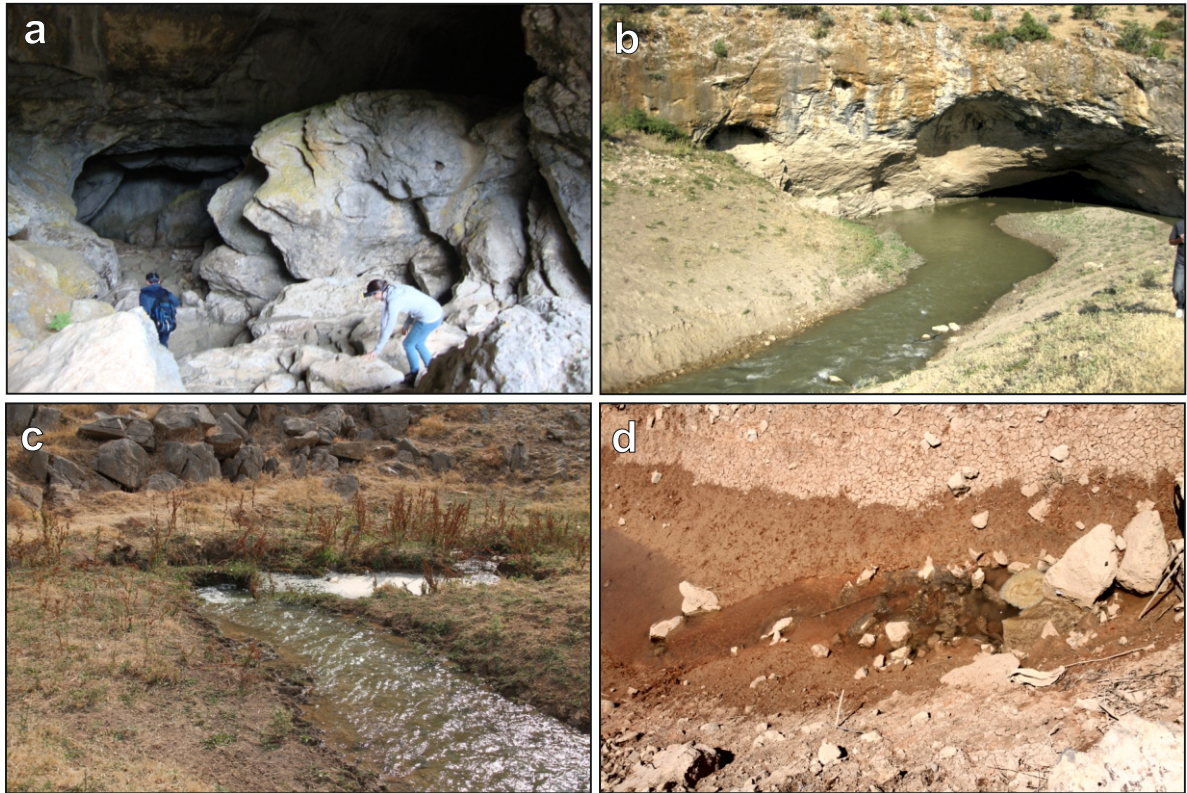


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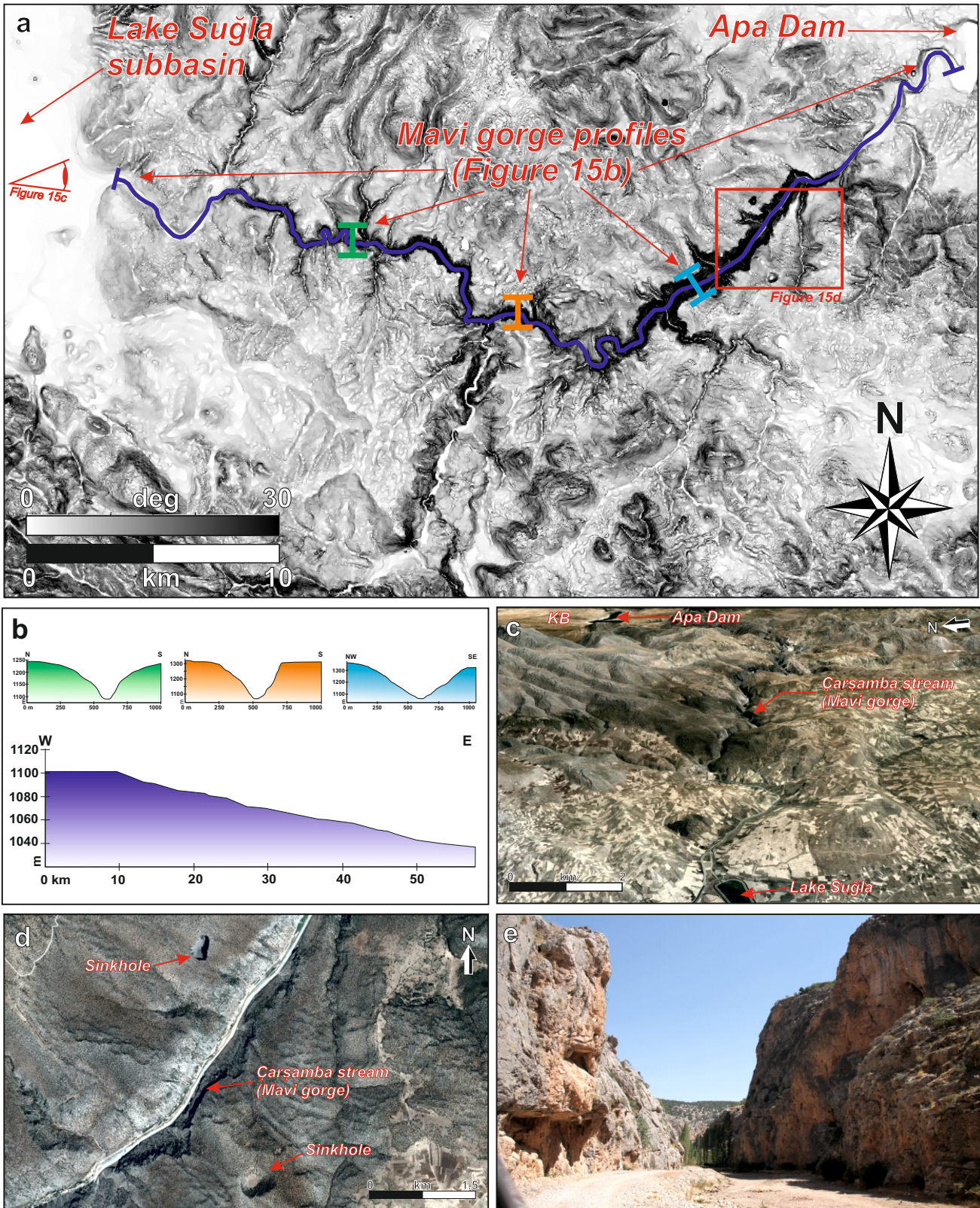


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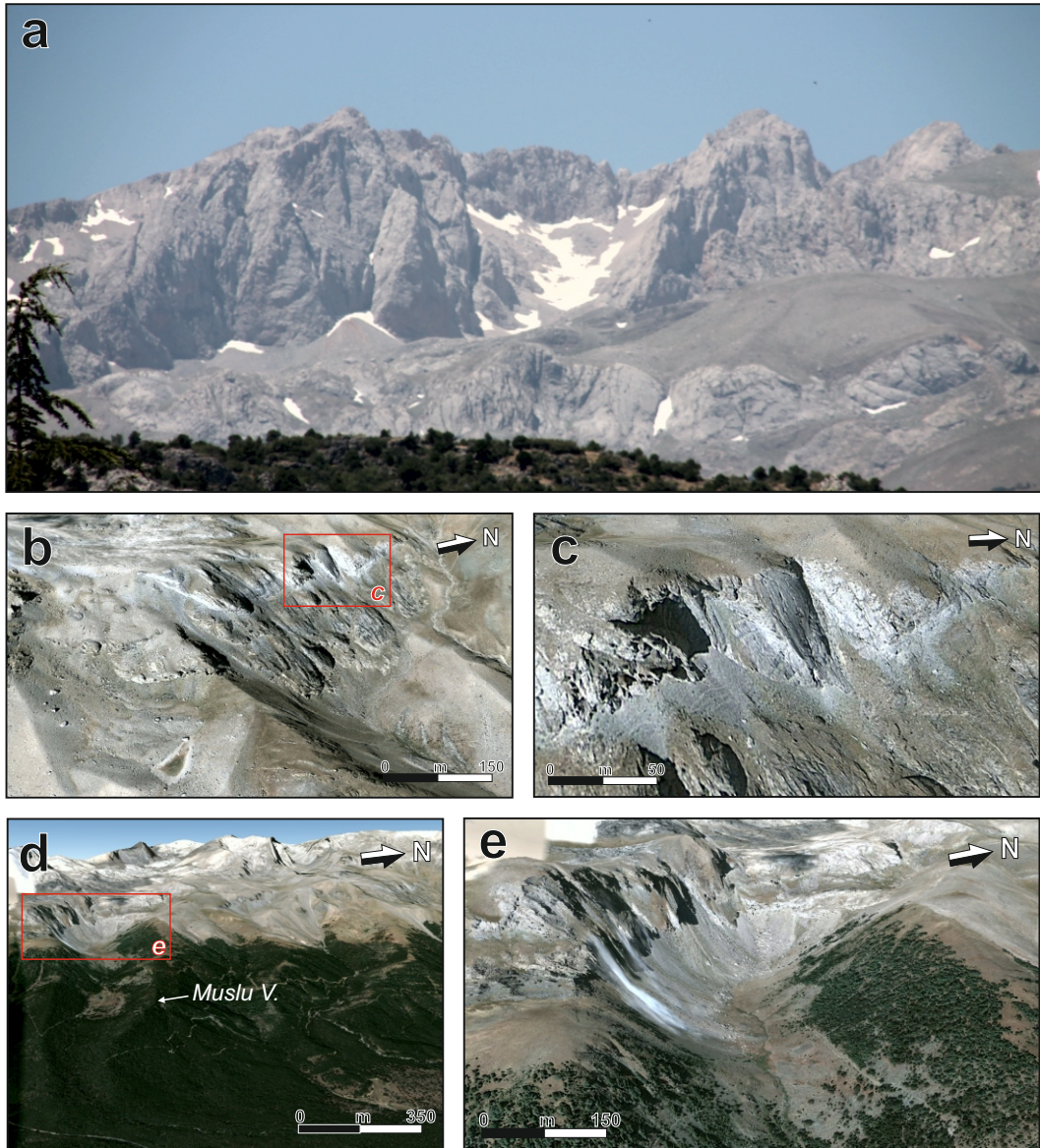


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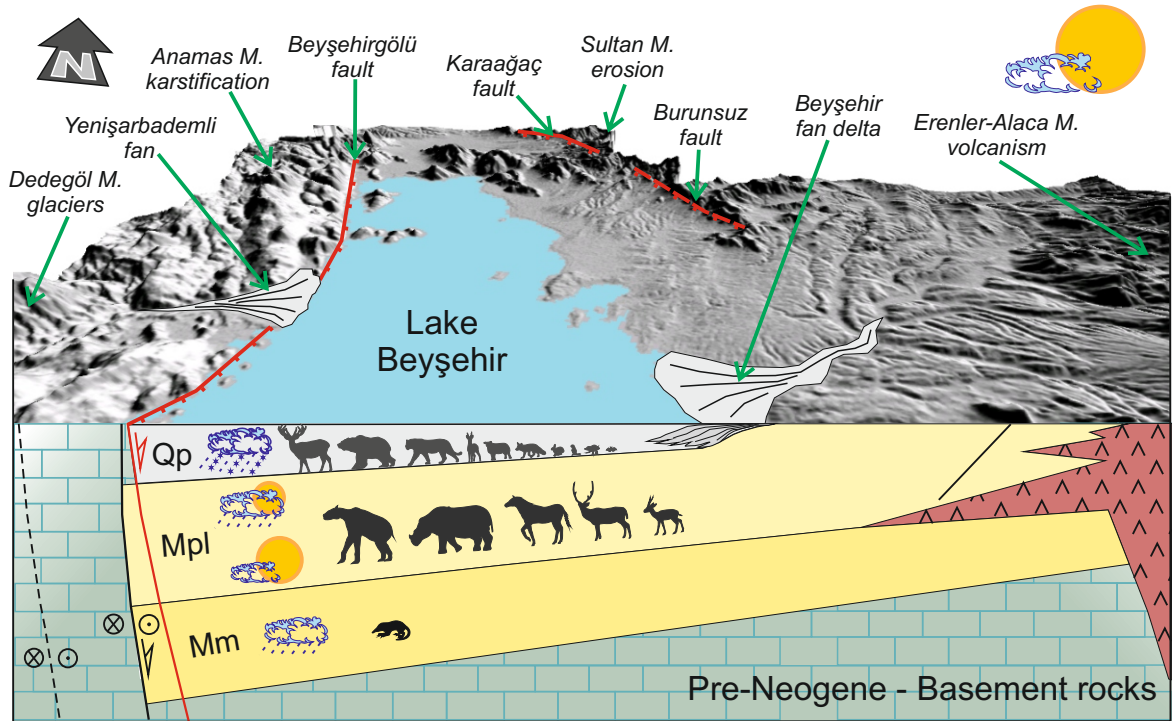


Figure 17