



**TURUN  
YLIOPISTO**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU

# PALAEOPROTEROZOIC CRUSTAL EVOLUTION IN SW FENNOSCANDIA, BALTIC SEA REGION

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Evgenia Salin





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“Science knows no country,  
because knowledge belongs to humanity,  
and is the torch which illuminates the world.”

– Louis Pasteur

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## ABSTRACT

The Palaeoproterozoic crustal evolution of the Fennoscandian Shield involves significant crustal growth with a marked zonation from older rocks in the northeast to younger rocks in the southwest. Following the same pattern, the southwestern margin of the 1.96-1.86 Ga Svecofennian Domain is truncated by the 1.85-1.65 Ga Transscandinavian Igneous Belt (TIB). Both Svecofennian and TIB units are well exposed in southeastern Sweden, but the knowledge about their distribution in the Baltic Sea area has been limited due to a thick (up to 2.5 km) Phanerozoic sedimentary cover and sea water. Petrological, geochemical and geochronological data reported in this dissertation have shown that the evolution of the Palaeoproterozoic crust can be presented as a sequence of younging belts from the central part of the Baltic Sea (northern Gotland) towards northern Poland:

1. Svecofennian metasedimentary rocks form the northern part of Gotland. Detrital zircons from these rocks record three age populations: 2.11-1.96, 2.95-2.63 and 3.29 Ga, which indicate pre-Svecofennian sources. A Svecofennian amphibolite-granitoid complex on central Gotland consists of 1.90-1.88 Ga orthogneisses and amphibolites with a volcanic island arc affinity. The central Gotland complex can be correlated with southern Bergslagen in the Fennoscandian Shield and has been identified in an offshore drill hole NW of Liepaja, but appears to be absent in the coastlands of SW Latvia and Lithuania.
2. A km-thick sequence of ca. 1.87 Ga fluvial, tidal and turbiditic quartz-dominated metasedimentary rocks in the Västervik area along the Svecofennian margin is intercalated with mafic metavolcanic rocks with within-plate basalt affinity.
3. A 1.85 Ga rifted marine volcanic arc was identified within the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and was shown to be contemporaneous with the continental margin TIB 0 granitoids and granitoids of the Mid-Lithuanian domain.
4. After the accretion of the volcanic arc to the Svecofennian margin, three generations of continental margin granitoids (TIB 1 a-c) were emplaced. The 1.81-1.79 Ga TIB 1a granitoids intruded into the Svecofennian crust and TIB 0 granitoids, while the 1.79-1.77 Ga TIB 1b granitoids intruded into the Vetlanda-

Oskarshamn belt and the TIB 1a granitoids. Finally, the 1.77-1.75 Ga TIB 1c granitoids intruded into the TIB 1b granitoids. Thus, the continental margin moved stepwise southwards from the central to southern parts of the Baltic Sea region.

5. Later evolution of the Proterozoic crust in the Baltic Sea region includes the intrusion of ca. 1.5 Ga plutons observed on southern Gotland and Öland related to the Danopolonian orogenic event.

**KEYWORDS:** Precambrian, Svecofennian Domain, Transscandinavian Igneous Belt, TIB, Baltic Sea, Fröderyd Group, Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt, geochemistry, U-Pb, zircon

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## TIIVISTELMÄ

Fennoskandian kilven paleoproterotsooiseen evoluutioon liittyy merkittävä kuoren kasvu vanhemmasta koillisosasta nuorempaan lounaisosaan. Svekofennistä 1,96–1,86 miljardia vuotta vanhaa aluetta luoteisosassa leikkaavassa Transskandinavaanisessa 1,85–1,65 miljardia vuotta vanhassa magmaattisessa vyöhykkeessä (TIB) on samankaltainen kehitys. Kummatkin, Svekofenninen ja TIB ovat hyvin paljastuneita Kaakkois-Ruotsissa, mutta niiden laajuuden arviointi on rajallista Itämeren alueella, pohjalla olevien fanerotsooisten paksujen sedimentti kerrosten (jopa 2,5 km) ja meriveden takia. Tämän tutkimuksen petrologinen, geokemiallinen ja geokronologinen aineisto osoittaa, että paleoproterotsooinen kuoren kehitys voidaan esittää sarjana nuorenevia vyöhykkeitä, Itämeren keskiosasta (Pohjois-Gotlanti), kohti Pohjois-Puolaa.

1. Svekofenniset metasedimentit muodostavat Gotlannin pohjoisosan kallioperän. Metasedimenttikivien detritaaliset zirkonit edustavat kolmea ikäpopulaatiota: 2,11–1,96 miljardia vuotta vanha, 2,95–2,63 miljardia vuotta vanha ja 3,29 miljardia vuotta vanha, jotka viittaavat Svekofennistä vanhempiin lähteisiin. Svekofenninen amfiboliitti-granitoidi kompleksi Keski-Gotlannissa koostuu 1,90–1,88 miljardia vuotta vanhoista ortogneisseistä ja amfiboliiteista, jotka ovat koostumukseltaan saarikaari-tyyppisiä. Keski-Gotlannin kompleksi voidaan korreloida Eteläiseen-Bergslagenin alueeseen, Fennoskandian kilvellä ja on tunnistettu avomerellä sijaitsevasta, Liepajasta luoteeseen sijaitsevasta kairareikästä. Lounais-Latvian ja -Liettuan rannikolta Keski-Gotlannin kompleksi kuitenkin puuttuu.
2. Västerviikissä Svekofennisen reunalla sijaitseva kilometrin paksuinen sarja (n. 1,87 miljardia vuotta vanha) metamorfisia kvartsi-rikkaita joki- tulva- ja turbidiittii-sedimenttikiviä, jotka sijaitsevat koostumukseltaan laatansisäisten mafisten metavulkaniittien välissä.
3. 1,85 miljardia vuotta sitten revennyt merellinen vulkaaninen kaari on havaittu Vetlanda-Oskarshamn vyöhykkeellä ja on yhtenevä iältään mannerreunan TIB granitoidien ja Keski-Liettuan vyöhykkeen granitoidien kanssa.

4. Vulkaanisten kaarien kasautumisen jälkeen Svekofenniseen mannerreunaan asettui kolme eri ikäryhmää granitoideja (TIB 1 a-c). 1,81–1,79 miljardia vuotta sitten TIB 1a granitoidit asettuivat Svekofenniseen kuoreen ja TIB 0 granitoideihin, samaan aikaan 1,79–1,77 miljardia vuotta sitten TIB 1b granitoidit asettuivat leikaavaan Vetlanda-Oskarshamn vyöhykkeeseen. Viimeisenä, 1,77–1,75 miljardia vuotta sitten TIB 1c granitoidit asettuivat TIB 1b granitoideihin. Esitetyn kehityksen takia, mannerreuna on vaiheittain liikkunut etelämmäksi Itämeren keskiosasta.
5. Itämeren alueella proterotsooisen kuoren myöhempään evoluutioon luetaan Etelä-Gotlannissa ja Öölannissa sijaitsevat 1,5 miljardia vuotta vanhat intruusiot, jotka ovat osa Danopolonian vuorenmuodotusta.

ASIASANAT: Prekambri, Svekofennia, Transskandinaavinen magmaattinen vyöhyke, TIB, Itämeri, Fröderyd ryhmä, Vetlanda-Oskarshamn vyöhyke, geokemia, U-Pb, zirkoni

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ЕВГЕНИЯ САЛИН: История развития палеопротерозойской земной коры юго-западной Фенноскандии в центральной части Балтийского моря

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## АННОТАЦИЯ

История развития Фенноскандинавского щита в палеопротерозое включает значительный период роста континентальной коры, характерной особенностью которого является ее «омоложение» с северо-востока на юго-запад. Подобная тенденция прослеживается в ходе образования Транскандинавского магматического пояса (далее ТМП; 1.85-1.65 млрд лет), внедрившегося в юго-восточную окраину Свекофенского домена (1.96-1.86 млрд лет). Обе структуры хорошо обнажены в юго-восточной Швеции, при этом в центральной части Балтийского моря перекрыты фанерозойскими отложениями Русской плиты, что затрудняет оценку области их распространения. Петрологические, геохимические и геохронологические данные, представленные в работе демонстрируют, что формирование палеопротерозойской континентальной коры региона связано с развитием последовательно сменяющихся поясов (более древних в центральной части Балтийского моря (о. Готланд) к более молодым в районе северной Польши):

1. Свекофенские метаосадочные породы слагают северную часть о. Готланд. В спектре распределения возрастов детритовых цирконов из этих пород выделяются три популяции: 2.11-1.96, 2.95-2.63 и 3.29 млрд лет, что указывает на досвекофенские источники сноса. Свекофенский амфиболит-гранитоидный комплекс в центральной части о. Готланд представлен ортогнейсами с возрастом 1.90-1.88 млрд лет и амфиболитами близкими по составу к базальтам вулканических дуг. Данный комплекс коррелируется с провинцией Бергслеген Фенноскандинавского щита. Схожие породы были вскрыты морской скважиной к северо-западу от Лиенаи, однако они не были обнаружены в юго-западной Латвии и Литве.
2. Терригенные метаосадочные породы преимущественно кварцевого состава в районе Вестервик образовались около 1.87 млрд лет назад вдоль Свекофенской окраины. переслаиваются с внутриплитными мафическими метавулканитами.

3. Океаническая вулканическая дуга с возрастом 1.85 млрд лет была идентифицирована в районе пояса Ветланда-Оскарсхамн. Образование которой происходило одновременно с внедрением гранитоидов ТМП 0 и гранитоидов Средне-Литовского домена в пределах континентальной окраины.
4. Аккреция вулканической дуги к Свекофеннской окраине сменилась последовательным внедрением трех типов гранитоидов в области активной континентальной окраины (1a, 1b и 1c). Тип 1a (1.81-1.79 млрд лет) внедрялся в Свекофеннскую континентальную кору и гранитоиды ТМП 0. Тип 1b (1.79-1.77 млрд лет) внедрялся в породы пояса Ветланда-Оскарсхамн и 1a гранитоиды. Тип 1c (1.77-1.75 млрд лет) внедрялся в 1b гранитоиды. Таким образом, континентальная окраина постепенно переместилась от центральной к южной части современного Балтийского моря.
5. Дальнейшее развитие протерозойской континентальной коры в районе Балтийского моря заключается во внедрении плутонов с возрастом около 1.5 млрд лет, обнаруженных на юге о. Готланд и о. Эланд. Интрузивный магматизм данного этапа связан с Данополонской орогенцией.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** Докембрий, Свекофеннский домен, Транскандинавский магматический пояс, Балтийское море, группа Фредерюд, пояс Ветланда-Оскарсхамн, геохимия, уран-свинцовый метод, циркон

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# List of Original Publications

This dissertation is based on the following original publications, which are referred to in the text by their Roman numerals:

- I Salin, E., Sundblad, K., Woodard, J., O'Brien, H. **The extension of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt into the Baltic Sea region.** *Precambrian Research*, 2019; 328: 287-308.
- II Salin, E., Woodard, J., Sundblad, K. **Tracing the SW border of the Svecofennian Domain in the Baltic Sea region: evidence from petrology and geochronology from a granodioritic migmatite.** *International Journal of Earth Sciences*, 2021; doi.org/10.1007/s00531-021-02005-z
- III Salin, E., Sundblad, K., Lahaye, Y. **A 1.85 Ga volcanic arc offshore the proto-continent Fennoscandia in southern Sweden.** *Precambrian Research*, 2021; 356: 106134.
- IV Sundblad, K., Salin, E., Claesson, S., Gyllencreutz, R., Billström, K. **The Precambrian of Gotland, a key for understanding the Proterozoic evolution in southern Fennoscandia.** *Manuscript (submitted)*

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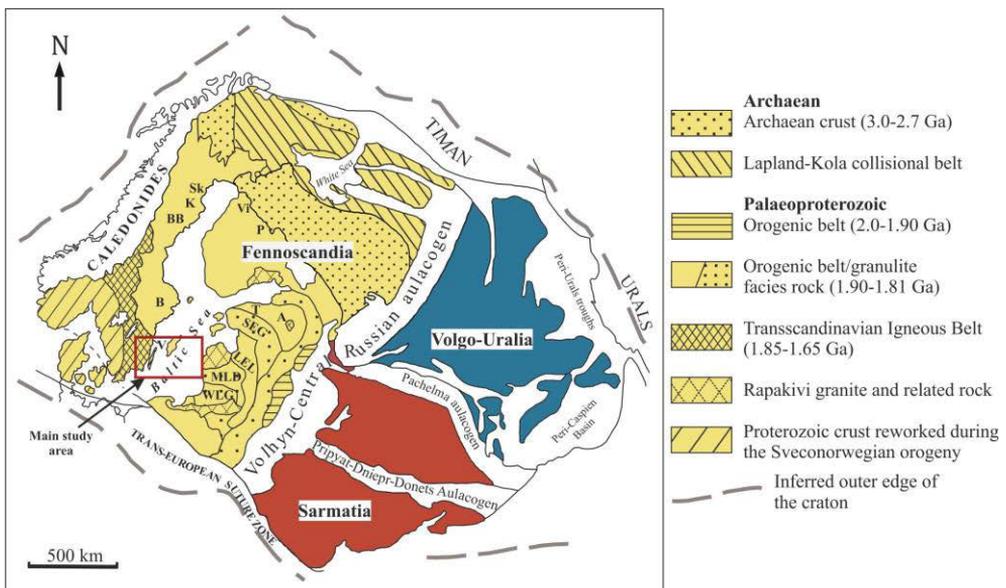
# Contributions

- I Salin was responsible for all laboratory work related to geochronology and sample preparation for geochemical analysis as well as petrography, SEM analyses and interpretations. Figures and tables were done by Salin. Manuscript text was written in collaboration with Sundblad. Woodard contributed with the zircon separation and ICP-MS analysis for the E7-1 sample. SIMS analysis was conducted in collaboration with Woodard. ICP-MS analysis for other samples was conducted in collaboration with O'Brien.
- II Salin was responsible for zircon separation, petrography and SEM analysis, as well as for figures 1-12 and tables 1-2. Salin and Woodard were responsible for sample preparation for geochemical analysis. Woodard was responsible for figures 13-14. Discussion and table 3 were done in collaboration with Woodard. Early drafts of the manuscript were written in collaboration with Sundblad.
- III Salin was responsible for zircon separation, petrography as well as SEM analyses and interpretations. Figures and tables were done by Salin. Discussion and interpretations were done by Salin in collaboration with Sundblad. ICP-MS analysis was conducted in collaboration with Lahaye.
- IV Salin and Sundblad were responsible for the text and final version of the manuscript. Salin was responsible for petrographical and geochemical descriptions and interpretations as well as interpretation of geochronological data of magmatic rocks. Gyllencreutz was responsible for geophysical data and their interpretations, as well as figures 1-4 and 14. Claesson was mostly responsible for description of geochronological data from sedimentary rocks. Interpretation of these data was done in collaboration with Salin. Salin was responsible for figures 5-11 and 13; tables 1 and 4. Billström was responsible for Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd data, their interpretation and tables 2-3.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Significance of the subject

The Fennoscandian Shield is an exposed part of the East European Craton in northern Europe (Figure 1), which the southern and eastern margins are covered by km-thick platform Phanerozoic sedimentary sequences. The Precambrian basement beneath the Baltic Sea constitutes a continuation of the Fennoscandian Shield covered by the platform sedimentary rocks. It remains less studied relative to the exposed parts of the shield north and west of the Baltic Sea as well as the extensively drilled platform areas east and south of the Baltic Sea.



**Figure 1.** Main provinces and structures of the Fennoscandian crustal segment as a part of the East European Craton (modified after Gorbatshev and Bogdanova (1993) and Bogdanova et al. (2015)). A – Alutaguse domain; B – Bergslagen area; BB – Bothnian basin; K – Knaften arc; LEL – Latvian-East Lithuanian domain; MLD – Mid-Lithuanian domain; P – Pyhäsalmi; SEG – South Estonian granulite domain; Sk – Skellefte district; T – Tallinn domain; V – Västervik; Vi – Vihanti; WLG – West Lithuanian granulite domain

Our current knowledge about the structure of the Precambrian crust in the Baltic Sea region is mostly restricted to data from geophysical studies (BABEL Working group, 1993; Meissner et al., 1992; Lund et al., 2001; Wilde-Piórko and Grad, 2002; Bogdanova et al., 2006). Seismic and magnetic profiles recorded a significant decrease in crustal thickness from 50 km in the northeast to 38 km in the southwest (Guggisberg et al., 1991; Lund et al., 2001). Geophysical studies are complemented by other significant sources of knowledge, based on drill cores and percussion-drilling cuttings. For a long time, the best summary of the Precambrian in the Baltic Sea region existed only in an extended abstract by Sundblad et al. (2003), who proposed that a shift from a thicker to thinner crust in the Baltic Sea area was caused by a change from the metamorphosed Svecofennian crust to the granites of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt.

## 1.2 Objectives of the thesis

This study aims to understand the Palaeoproterozoic crustal evolution along the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain based on petrological, geochemical and isotopic data. The thesis presents and discusses the gradual change in geological environments recorded in the Precambrian crustal units in the Baltic Sea region, which can be traced from the Fennoscandian Shield towards the Baltic republics (Papers I, II and IV). Interpretation of the tectonic evolution between 1.87 and 1.77 Ga, which triggered formation of the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt (VOB) along the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain, is discussed in the Paper III.

## 2 Geological setting

### 2.1 Geological setting of the area west of the Baltic Sea

This thesis focuses on the formation of new Proterozoic crust, not on reworked and metamorphosed rocks, that is why the term “Svecofennian” will be applied to the Svecofennian Domain and rock complexes involved in a crustal concept of Gaál and Gorbatshev (1987).

The Svecofennian Domain is a collage of continental volcanic arcs, primitive island arcs and microcontinents amalgamated and accreted to the craton in the northeast between 1.96 and 1.86 Ga (Lahtinen et al., 2009). Accretion of the terranes took place in a convergent setting within a subduction zone with a roughly north-west trend. The Svecofennian Domain is mostly composed of metamorphosed granitoids, volcanic and sedimentary rocks formed at 1.90-1.87 Ga. The northern part of the Svecofennian Domain is occupied by the Skellefte volcanic arc complex with either primitive island arc or continental arc origin (Allen et al., 1996a; Weihed et al., 2002). The oldest rocks are ca. 1.96 Ga volcanic rocks in the Stensele basin (Eliasson and Sträng, 1998), contemporary granitoids and supracrustal rocks of the Knaften arc (Wasström, 2005) and the 1.93-1.92 Ga primitive island arc rocks in the Vihanti-Pyhäsalmi area (Lahtinen et al., 2009). The central part of the domain, the Bothnian basin, is dominated by a 10-km thick sequence of metagreywackes deposited from more than 2.03 to 1.87 Ga (Claesson et al., 1993; Claesson and Lundqvist, 1995; Weihed et al., 2002) in a submarine basin simultaneously with the emplacement of the granitoid plutons (Lundqvist et al., 1998). The southern part of the domain includes the Bergslagen area mostly composed of felsic metavolcanic and associated metasedimentary rocks formed in an active continental margin (Vivallo and Rickard, 1984; Allen et al., 1996b).

Another sedimentary basin south of the Bergslagen area is composed of the 1.87-1.86 Ga Västervik quartzites intercalated with mafic metavolcanic rocks. The Västervik basin is a km-thick succession of metamorphosed quartz-dominated sedimentary rocks deposited in tide-dominated estuaries, deltas and wave-dominated shallow-water environments along a continental margin (Russell, 1967; Sultan and Plink-Björklund, 2006).

Continuous subduction along the Bergslagen active continental margin caused emplacement of several generations of granitoids, comagmatic volcanic rocks and minor mafic intrusions within the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt (TIB; Nyström, 1982; Högdahl et al., 2004). Intrusion spans a time interval from 1.86 to 1.67 Ga and includes several pulses: TIB 0 (1.86-1.85 Ga), TIB 1 (1.81-1.75 Ga) and TIB 2 (1.71-1.67 Ga); Larson and Berglund, 1992; Ahl et al., 2001; Gorbatshev, 2004. The TIB 0 granitoids are mainly I-type quartz monzonites and quartz syenites with alkali-calcic metaluminous to peraluminous geochemical signatures (Ahl et al., 2001). The TIB 0 generation forms large homogeneous bodies (Persson and Wikström, 1993) or strongly deformed slivers of granitoids and augen gneisses (Wikström, 1991; Wikström and Persson, 2002), which intruded into the Svecofennian crust of the southwestern Bergslagen area and the Västervik basin (Kleinhanns et al., 2015). The TIB 1 generation is the most voluminous part of the belt extending for 600 km from the Trysil area in Norway, where it is covered by the Caledonian nappes, towards the Baltic Sea. This generation is dominated by I-type quartz monzonites to granites characterized by alkali calcic to calc-alkaline, metaluminous to peraluminous compositions. The TIB 1 granitoids are associated with felsic volcanic and subordinate mafic rocks (Andersson, 1997; Ahl et al., 1999, 2001). The TIB 2 granitoids are recognized both east and west of the TIB 1 generation and have both I- and A-type signatures (Andersson, 1997; Ahl et al., 1999; 2001).

The Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt (VOB) separates the TIB 1 granitoids in Småland into a northern and a southern parts (Vimmerby and Våxjö batholiths, respectively). The ages of the Vimmerby Batholith granitoids (TIB 1a) vary from 1808 to 1794 Ma (Jarl and Johansson, 1988; Mansfeld, 1991; Kornfält et al., 1997; Kleinhanns et al., 2015), while the granitoid ages within the Våxjö Batholith (TIB 1b) vary from 1793 to 1769 Ma (Patchett et al., 1987; Jarl and Johansson, 1988; Wikman, 1993; Johansson, 2016).

The Tving granitoids in the Blekinge Province is located immediately south of the Våxjö Batholith (TIB 1b), but are separated from it by the Småland-Blekinge Deformation Zone (SBDZ; Wiklander, 1974; Lindh et al., 2001). The Blekinge Province is dominated by the pervasively deformed 1.77-1.75 Ga Tving granitoids and “coastal gneisses” (Johansson et al., 2006; Johansson, 2016) implying that they were formed at deeper crustal levels and were subsequently uplifted (Kornfält, 1996; Johansson et al., 2006; Lindh et al., 2001).

Detrital zircons from the metasediments of the Bothnian basin cluster in two groups: Archaean (2.93-2.65 Ga) and Palaeoproterozoic (2.01-1.87 Ga), e.g. Skiöld, 1988; Claesson et al., 1993; Weihed et al., 2002). Detrital zircons in the metasedimentary rocks in the Bergslagen area include Archaean to earliest Palaeoproterozoic (2.97-2.45 Ga) and Palaeoproterozoic (2.08-1.87 Ga; e.g. Claesson et al., 1993; Andersson et al., 2006; Kathol et al., 2020). Also, an indication

of a 4.0 Ga component was found in the Närkesberg-Hjortkvarn area in southern Bergslagen (Kathol et al., 2020).

## 2.2 Geological setting of the Baltic Sea and areas east of it

The Precambrian crust in the Baltic Sea area and to the east of it is a part of the East European Craton covered by Phanerozoic platform sediments. Knowledge about the Precambrian crust in this area is based on the drill core data and geophysical investigations (e.g. Berthelsen, 1992; BABEL Working Group, 1993; Wilde-Piörko and Grad, 2002).

Although several commercial companies and government organizations have drilled many hundreds of drill holes in the Baltic Sea region, with the main purpose to document the stratigraphy of the Palaeozoic sedimentary strata and explore the oil and gas potential, most of the drill holes never reached the Precambrian basement. Drill holes reached the Precambrian basement are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Drill holes reached the Precambrian basement in the Baltic Sea region

Site	Drilled by, year	Reference
Visby	SGU <sup>1</sup> , 1920s	Hedström, 1923
File Hajdar (Gotland)	Skånska Cement <sup>2</sup> , 1937	Thorslund & Westergård, 1938
Böda hamn (Öland)	SGU <sup>1</sup> , 1955	Hessland, 1949, 1955
Gotska Sandön	SGU <sup>1</sup> , 1957	Thorslund, 1958; Gorbatshev, 1962
Grötlingbo (Gotland)	SGU <sup>1</sup> , 1968	Anderegg et al., 1968
När (Gotland)	SGU <sup>1</sup> , 1968	Anderegg et al., 1968
Öland onshore, 4 holes	OPAB <sup>3</sup> , 1972-1973	-
Gotland onshore, 38 holes	OPAB <sup>3</sup> , 1972-1992	-
Gotland offshore, 12 holes	OPAB <sup>3</sup> , 1973-1976	-
P6-1	-	Pavlov, 1989; Grigelis, 1991
E7-1	Petrobalt <sup>4</sup> , 1982	Grigelis, 1991
E6-1	Petrobalt <sup>4</sup> , 1984	Grigelis, 1991
D1-1	Petrobalt <sup>4</sup> , 1984	Grigelis, 1991

<sup>1</sup> Sveriges geologiska undersökning (Geological Survey of Sweden)

<sup>2</sup> Skånska Cementgjuteriet

<sup>3</sup> Oljeprospekterings AB (Petroleum exploration AB)

<sup>4</sup> RP-GDR-USSR Petrobalt consortium, 1982–1984

A summary of the Soviet investigations were published in 1991, however parts of the extensive material collected by OPAB became available only in mid-1990s allowing for the first studies of drill cores from the Precambrian basement on Gotland (Sundblad, 1996) and a detailed magnetometry study on south-central Gotland (Gyllencreutz, 1998).

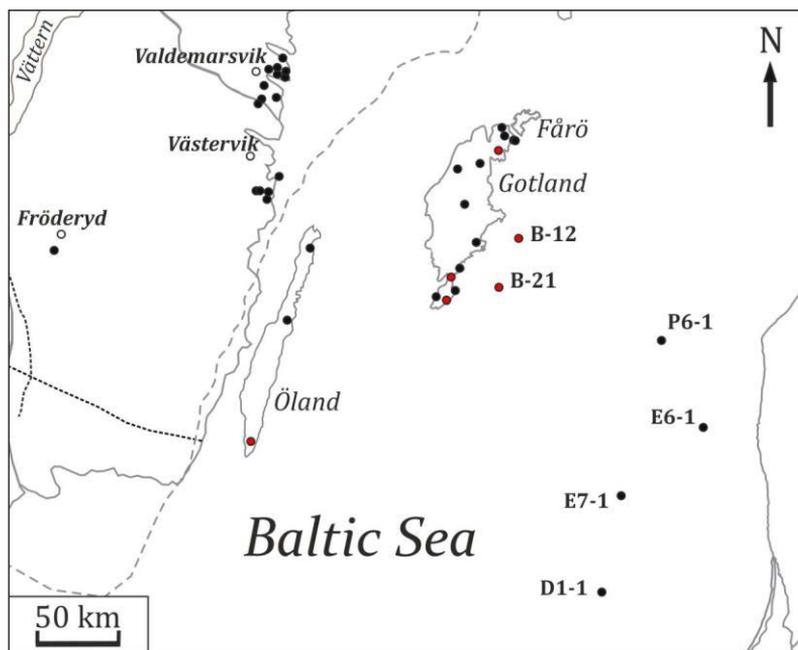
Based on further drill core studies, including geochemical and isotopic investigations, Sundblad et al. (2003) inferred that the Precambrian basement beneath Gotland consisted of Svecofennian rocks in the northern and central parts and TIB granites in the southernmost part. This conformed to the results from the geophysical studies, which had recorded a significant decrease in crustal thickness in the central part of the Baltic Sea (BABEL Working Group, 1993; Lund et al., 2001).

The crystalline basement east of the Baltic Sea is composed of Palaeoproterozoic terranes, which accreted at ca. 1.83-1.80 Ga and 1.75-1.70 Ga to form a belt-like structure (Bogdanova et al., 2006). The metasedimentary (Alutaguse domain) and metavolcanic (Tallinn domain) rocks of ca. 1.90 Ga comprise the crystalline basement of northern Estonia (Puura et al., 1983; Kirs et al., 2009). Deposition of turbidites took place between 1.96 and 1.90 Ga (Lahtinen et al., 2010). The South Estonian granulite domain (SEG) is composed of mafic to felsic metaigneous granulites and grades into the Latvian-East Lithuanian domain (LEL). The latter comprises metavolcanic and associated metasedimentary rocks, metamorphosed in the amphibolite to granulite facies. Farther south, charnockites and mafic granulites of 1.86-1.82 Ga (Claesson et al., 2001; Motuza et al., 2008; Skridlaite et al., 2011) as well as gabbroic to granitic suites and their volcanic counterparts comprise the Mid-Lithuanian domain (MLD), which is interpreted to represent a one-time active continental margin. The West Lithuanian granulite domain (WLG) is dominated by metavolcanic and associated metasedimentary rocks intruded by granites. Volcano-sedimentary sequences of the WLG are interpreted to belong to an island arc similar to the 1.83-1.81 Ga volcanic belts in Poland (Bogdanova et al., 2015).

# 3 Material and Methods

## 3.1 Material

The main study area includes the central part of the Baltic Sea and southeastern Sweden. Altogether, 42 samples (Figure 2, Table 2): 23 drill cores and percussion-drilling cuttings from beneath the Swedish islands Gotland and Öland and the Baltic Sea area and 27 samples from the Valdemarsvik, Tiveden, Västervik and Fröderyd areas (southeastern Sweden). In the studied area, the Precambrian basement of the Baltic Sea is covered by up to 2600 m-thick sequence of Phanerozoic sedimentary rocks and seawater, and all access to the study material is restricted to a drill core material (percussion-drilling cuttings and drill cores).



**Figure 2.** Map of sampling sites. Black dots – drill hole locations and sampling sites in outcrops. Red dots – percussion-drilling sites. Grey dashed line – northwestern limit of the Phanerozoic sedimentary cover.

**Table 2.** Samples used for the study and drill holes within Gotland and adjacent offshore area used for correlation with corresponding references

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sampling site</b>	<b>Papers / References</b>
<b>Gotland</b>	Arhagen (dc) <sup>1</sup>	Paper IV
	Stenstugu (dc)	Paper IV
	Audungs (dc)	Paper IV
	Sandviken (dc)	Paper IV
	Alby (pd) <sup>2</sup>	Paper IV
	File Hajdar (dc)	was used for correlation in Paper IV; Thorslund and Westergård (1938)
	Skäggs (dc)	Paper IV
	Viklau (dc)	Paper IV
	När (dc)	Paper IV
	Grötlingbo (dc)	Paper IV
	Frigsarve (pd)	Paper I
	Faludden (dc)	Paper IV
	Kvarne (dc)	Paper IV
	Hamra (pd)	was used for correlation in Paper IV; Salin et al. (2020)
<b>Öland</b>	Böda Hamn (dc)	Paper I
	Valsnäs (dc)	Paper I
	Kvinnagröta (pd)	was used for correlation in Paper IV; Salin et al. (2020)
<b>Baltic Sea (offshore Latvia/Lithuania)</b>	B-12 (pd)	was used for correlation in Paper II; Salin (2014)
	B-21 (pd)	was used for correlation in Paper II; Salin (2014)
	P6-1 (dc)	was used for correlation in Paper IV; Pavlov (1989), Grigelis (1991)
	E6-1 (dc)	Paper II
	E7-1 (dc)	Paper I
	D1-1 (dc)	Paper I
<b>Southeastern Sweden</b>		
<b>Tiveden</b>	KS2005-KS2007	Paper IV
<b>Valdemarsvik area</b>	KS1923-KS1928	Paper IV
	Hulta (ES1908)	Paper IV

<b>Västervik area</b>	KS1914-KS1916 KS0507-KS0510	Paper IV
<b>Fröderyd area</b>	F90019- F90020, F90023, F90025- F90031	Paper III

<sup>1</sup> dc – drill core sample

<sup>2</sup> pd – percussion-drilling sample

### 3.1.1 Percussion-drilling cuttings

Percussion-drilling cuttings were available from Alby (northern Gotland), Frigsarve and Hamra (southern Gotland) and Kvinnsgröta (southern Öland). This sampling method implies that the rock is crushed by bit-rock impact and welled up from the drill hole by water flux. The loose rock fragments were collected at every 1 to 3 m depth interval, dried and put into a sample bag. In this way of sampling, each sample became contaminated by rock fragments from overlying rock units, and some minerals became lost. In this study, samples were collected at the depth intervals 477-479 m (Alby), 708-709 m (Frigsarve), 801-802 m (Hamra) and 272-273 m (Kvinnsgröta). These depth intervals are the deepest in the above-mentioned drill holes. They contain from 50 to 70 % (in Hamra and Frigsarve accordingly) of Precambrian granite fragments and loose feldspar, quartz and mica (biotite and muscovite) grains as well as 30 to 50 % of sedimentary components from the overlying Phanerozoic strata. Evident contamination is expressed by the presence of sandstone, limestone, schist and clay material, which were avoided during sampling. The Precambrian granite fragments differ significantly from the sedimentary material by coarser grain sizes and granitic mineral composition. These observations were considered when granitoid fragments for zircon separation were handpicked under the binocular microscope. Isolated zircon grains were not selected for age determination to avoid age discrepancies.

### 3.1.2 Rock samples

Twelve samples from beneath Gotland and Öland were collected from drill cores at the depths between 162 m (Böda Hamn) and 800 m (Kvarne) from the uppermost parts of the Precambrian basement immediately under the Cambrian sedimentary rocks. Three samples from the Baltic Sea offshore Latvia/Lithuania were collected at the depths between 1092 m (E6-1) and ~2600 m (D1-1). Samples contain metasedimentary and metaigneous rocks from northern and central Gotland as well as granitoids from southern Gotland (Kvarne), Öland (Böda Hamn and Valsnäs) and offshore Latvia/Lithuania.

Sixteen samples of metavolcanic rocks and one granitoid sample were collected in outcrops in the Tiveden, Valdemarsvik, Västervik and Fröderyd areas. Ten samples of mafic volcanic rocks, originally collected in 1990 and used by Sundblad et al. (1997) were re-evaluated in the current study.

## 3.2 Analytical methods

### 3.2.1 Geochemical analysis

Thirty-seven rock samples from the studied area were analysed for major, minor and trace elements, either at Actlabs, Ontario, Canada, or CAF, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. In addition, 119 geochemical analyses from the TIB 1 and Blekinge granites and the Pilsotas granodiorites in the WLG were selected from Ahl (1989), Mansfeld (1991), Wikman and Kornfält (1995), geochemical database of the Geological Survey of Sweden, Persson and Wikman (1986), Mansfeld (1991), Wikman (1998, 2000), Johansson et al. (2006) and Motuza et al. (2008; Paper I). The 27 geochemical analyses for the TIB 0 granitoides (Persson and Wikström, 1993), the granodiorites from the Kuršiai batholith in western Lithuania (Motuza et al., 2008) and the late Svecofennian granites in Sweden and Finland (Öhlander and Zuber, 1988; Nironen and Kurhila, 2008) were used (Paper II). The geochemical data from 21 mafic and felsic metavolcanic rocks, originally used by Sundblad et al. (1997), were re-evaluated for this study (Paper III). Six geochemical analyses for Västervik and Valdemarsvik metavolcanic rocks from Wik et al. (2005) were used for Paper IV.

### 3.2.2 Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd analyses

Seven samples from metavolcanic rocks were selected to provide information on the source of the igneous material in the Precambrian basement beneath Gotland and Valdemarsvik and Västervik areas in southeastern Sweden (Paper IV). The Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd analyses were conducted using a Thermo-Finnigan Triton thermal ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) instrument.

### 3.2.3 U-Pb zircon geochronology

Zircon separates from rock samples were obtained using a conventional procedure including heavy liquid method, magnetic separation and subsequent handpicking under a binocular microscope. Rock fragments from percussion-drilling cuttings selected for zircon separation were handpicked under the binocular microscope. After samples were milled in mortar, magnetic minerals were separated only by a

hand magnet due to the limited amount of rock material. Afterwards, zircon separation with conventional technique was applied.

Fifteen samples were selected for the zircon U-Pb age determination to constrain temporal variations of the igneous/metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks in the studied area. Age determination of ten samples was conducted using a large geometry Cameca IMS1280 Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer (SIMS) at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm (Nordsim facility; Papers I, II and IV). Zircon U-Pb dating analyses of five samples were performed using either an AttoM single collector ICP-MS connected to a Photon Machine Excite laser ablation system (Papers I and III), or a Nu Plasma HR multicollector ICP-MS, both at the Finnish Geosciences Research Laboratory, Geological Survey of Finland, Espoo.

Age calculations were performed using version 4.15 of the Isoplot software (Ludwig, 2003; Paper I-IV). Stacked diagrams for sedimentary rocks were performed using the jAgeDisplay software by Thomsen et al. (2016; Paper IV).

## 4 Summaries of the original papers

### 4.1 Paper I: The extension of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt into the Baltic Sea region.

Until this project was initiated, all existing knowledge about the Precambrian basement in the Baltic Sea region was based on geophysical studies (Meissner et al., 1992; Lund et al., 2001; Bogdanova et al., 2006) and scarce petrological, geochronological and geochemical data summarized in an extended abstract by Sundblad et al. (2003). Paper I presents petrological, geochemical and geochronological data for five drill core or percussion-drilling samples from the Precambrian basement beneath southern Öland (Böda Hamn and Valsnäs), southern Gotland (Frigsarve) and the Baltic Sea area (E7-1 and D1-1). The aim of Paper I was to correlate observed features of these samples with existing knowledge on the Fennoscandian Shield in order to define crustal units formed between 1.90 and 1.75 Ga in the Baltic Sea region.

The correlation resulted in five crustal units, which could be traced from southeastern Sweden across the Baltic Sea towards its eastern coast.

These units include:

**Unit 1:** The Bergslagen district is a Svecofennian terrane dominated by 1.90-1.87 Ga granitoids, comagmatic felsic metavolcanic rocks and associated Fe, Cu, Zn, Pb and Ag ore bodies (Stephens et al., 2009), as well as intercalated metasedimentary rocks (e.g. Kumpulainen et al., 1996). This unit can be traced to southwestern Finland and the concealed Precambrian bedrock of Estonia. The Svecofennian metasediments south of Stockholm can be recognized beneath northern Gotland.

**Unit 2:** The Svecofennian border unit is composed of amphibolites intruded by the TIB 0 granitoids. This unit can be followed from the northern parts of lake Vättern to the Söderköping-Valdemarsvik region along the Baltic Sea coast. The amphibolites were correlated with similar rocks, identified in several drill cores on southern Gotland, including Viklau, Faludden and Kvarne (Sundblad et al., 2003). The study showed that the coarse-grained granitoid at Frigsarve (southern Gotland) is 1.85 Ga old, which is comparable with the 1.86-1.85 Ga granitoids belonging to the oldest generation of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt (TIB 0).

**Unit 3:** TIB 1 is a well-established unit in southeastern Sweden. In Paper I, the TIB 1a subunit is introduced as a 1.81-1.79 Ga igneous complex (the Vimmerby Batholith) between the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and the TIB 0 units. A quartz monzodiorite at Böda Hamn (northern Öland) yielded a U-Pb zircon age of 1.80 Ga, which together with the 1.81 Ga Kvarne granite (southern Gotland) shows that the TIB 1a granites can be followed into the Precambrian basement of the Baltic Sea.

**Unit 4:** Subunit TIB 1b (the Väjö Batholith) is another TIB population introduced in the Paper I. TIB 1b intruded at 1.79-1.77 Ga between the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and the Blekinge Province. A 1.79 Ga quartz monzonite at Valsnäs (central Öland) can be correlated with these TIB 1b granites.

**Unit 5:** The Pomerania-Blekinge belt is composed of 1.77-1.75 Ga granitoids. Based on the deformational fabric as well as geochemical and geochronological data from the E7-1 and D1-1 granodiorites (offshore Lithuania and Latvia), the Pomerania-Blekinge belt was extended into the southeastern parts of the Baltic Sea.

## 4.2 Paper II: Tracing the SW border of the Svecofennian Domain in the Baltic Sea region: evidence from petrology and geochronology from a granodioritic migmatite.

Paper II presented petrographic, geochemical and geochronological features of a drill core sample collected from 1092-1093 m depth of the E6-1 drill hole located in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea, close to the Latvian/Lithuanian coast. The aim of the study was to trace the border of the Svecofennian Domain in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea.

Geochemical data from the E6-1 migmatitic orthogneiss showed that a palaeosome has a granodioritic composition and a leucosome has a granitic composition. The E6-1 protolith, represented by the palaeosome, was correlated with the TIB 0 Askersund granite, the oldest generation of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt in southeastern Sweden. Both of them show volcanic arc features. In turn, the leucosome was formed due to a fluid-absent biotite dehydration of the granodioritic protolith. This is evidenced by higher contents of mobile elements, which tend to be enriched in the melt, lower contents of immobile elements staying in the restite and  $(La/Yb)_{PM}$  ratios. Formation of a granitic leucosome from a TIB 0 type granodioritic protolith is also supported by a trace element model. In a model producing 40% melt, the trace element patterns are similar to what is observed in the leucosome granite. The leucosome composition is similar to other late Svecofennian granites.

A concordia age for two inherited zircon cores is  $1854 \pm 15$  Ma, which coincides with the emplacement age of the variably deformed and metamorphosed TIB 0 granitoids in southeastern Sweden. While this age was calculated from limited data

and on its own it cannot give a robust evidence, it is supported by the geochemical correlation with the TIB 0 granitoids, which suggests that the observed age represents the igneous protolith age. The leucosome formed due to partial melting of the TIB 0 protolith at  $1812 \pm 5$  Ma, which coincides with the 1.83-1.81 Ga metamorphic event in southeastern Sweden.

Geochemical and geochronological data demonstrate that the E6-1 drill site is located within the continental margin of the Svecofennian Domain. Thus combined with the evidence from the E7-1 drill site (55 km southwest of the E6-1 drill hole) belonging to the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt, the southwestern border of the Svecofennian Domain is located between the E6-1 and E7-1 drill sites.

### 4.3 Paper III: A 1.85 Ga volcanic arc offshore the proto-continent Fennoscandia in southern Sweden.

Paper III presented petrological, geochemical and geochronological features of the metavolcanic rocks in the Fröderyd Group. The aim of Paper III was to see if there was any substance in the Svecofennian age and based on acquired data from the Fröderyd rocks to present an interpretation of the tectonic evolution including volcanic arc and rifted volcanic arc during the 1.87-1.77 Ga time interval with the relevance to the evolution of the southwestern margin of the proto-continent Fennoscandia.

The U-Pb zircon age of a felsic metavolcanic rock in the Fröderyd Group is  $1853 \pm 11$  Ma and geochemical data show that the group was formed in a rifted volcanic arc, southwest of the Fennoscandia proto-continent. Tectonic uplift and rapid erosion resulted in formation of lacustrine sediments in restricted basins, now found in the Vetlanda region. Simultaneously with the arc development, 1.86-1.85 Ga TIB 0 granitoids intruded the Fennoscandia proto-continent in an Andean-type active continental margin setting.

Based on age, sedimentation style and intercalated volcanic rocks, it can be inferred that the Västervik and Vetlanda metasedimentary successions formed in two different geological environments during two separate events. The 1.87-1.86 Ga Västervik quartzites were deposited along a continental margin and were intercalated with mafic volcanic rocks. While the ca. 1.82 Ga Vetlanda formation is dominated by quartz-plagioclase arkoses and conglomerates, indicating a shallow water environment; the absence of limestone may suggest a lacustrine environment. The Vetlanda metasedimentary rocks are intercalated with felsic metavolcanic rocks.

Although Röshoff (1975) proposed that all supracrustal rocks in the Nömmen and Vetlanda areas constituted one supergroup, geochemical and geochronological data presented by Mansfeld (1996), Mansfeld et al. (2005) and the current contribution,

show that these two lithostratigraphic units do not record a coherent geological evolution of the area. Although there is no clear geochronological evidence, it is possible that the volcanic rocks in Nömmen and other sites in the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt represent alternative counterparts of the volcanic arc in Fröderyd. In turn, the Vetlanda formation should be restricted to the metasedimentary and felsic volcanic rocks in the Vetlanda and Björkö areas. Thus, it is implied that the Vetlanda supergroup has lost its meaning and should be abandoned. Also, it is recommended that the term “Oskarshamn-Jönköping belt” is abandoned and replaced by the original term “Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt”.

#### 4.4 Paper IV: The Precambrian of Gotland, a key for understanding the Proterozoic evolution in southern Fennoscandia.

Paper IV presents data and arguments for correlations of the Precambrian beneath Gotland and adjacent areas of the Fennoscandian Shield. The correlations are based on petrographical, geochemical, geochronological and geophysical data. The aim of Paper IV is to model the complex crustal growth along the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain.

The U-Pb zircon dating showed that the rocks in the Fårösund region (northern Gotland) can be divided into two groups representing different U-Pb age patterns. The first group (Stenstugu, Audungs and Sandviken) records 2.11-1.97 Ga and 2.95-2.63 Ga ages, whereas the Arhagen drill core sample mostly contains 2.11-1.96 Ga zircons. The youngest age (1.96 Ga) provides a maximum age for the deposition of the unmetamorphosed sediments. The Palaeoproterozoic age of 2.11-1.97 Ga identified in both groups is also observed in detrital zircons of supracrustal Svecofennian rocks of the Fennoscandian Shield. The Neoarchean age of 2.95-2.63 Ga is well established both in the Fennoscandian Shield and worldwide. The oldest (3.29 Ga) crystal from the Arhagen drill core sample (northern Gotland) may indicate that this grain has undergone several erosional cycles.

The Viklau amphibolite (central Gotland), together with the amphibolites in the Tiveden and Valdemarsvik regions in southeastern Sweden, forms a distinct population with an island arc basalt affinity. These rocks are depleted in LREE and HREE relative to the Västevik amphibolites (southeastern Sweden), and either lack Eu anomaly or have a rather pronounced negative anomaly. The Västervik amphibolites have a steeper REE pattern with a moderate negative Eu anomaly. They plot close to the within-plate basalt field. Similar characteristics feature the Kvarne and Faludden amphibolites (southern Gotland).

Petrological and geochemical data as well as the U-Pb ages of the orthogneisses at Skäggs and När (central Gotland), show that they can be correlated with the

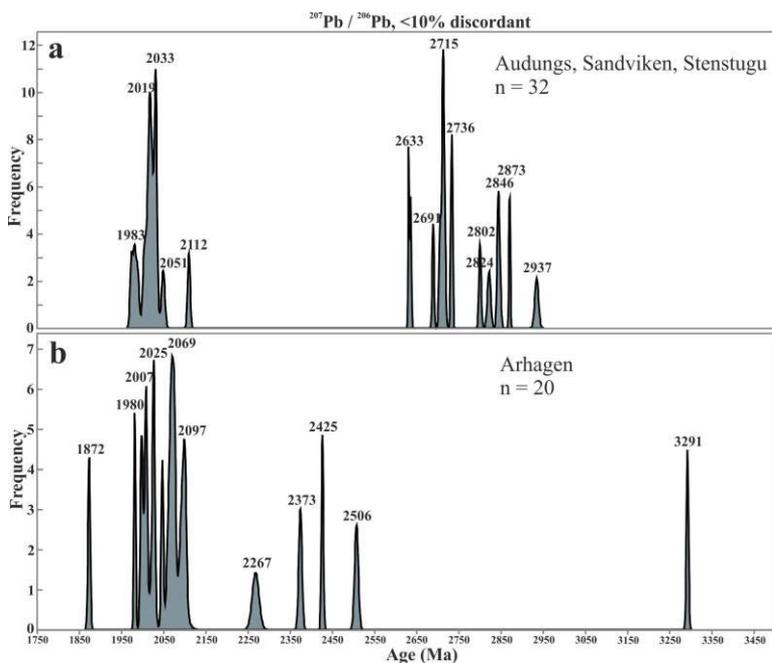
Svecofennian orthogneiss at Hulta (south of Valdemarsvik). The latter was collected in the same outcrop (“site 1” by Stephens and Andersson (2015)) as a grey granodioritic orthogneiss of 1880 Ma.

The 1811 Ma Kvarne granite (southern Gotland) is characterized by similar petrological and geochemical properties as the TIB 1a granitoids (e.g. at Böda Hamn, northern Öland; Äspö and Ramnebo, southeastern Sweden). Compared to the Skäggs-När-Hulta population, the Kvarne granite has a granitic composition, but with significantly higher alkali contents.

Petrological and geochemical data show that the 1453 Ma Grötlingbo granite (southern Gotland) belongs to the 1.5 Ga population.

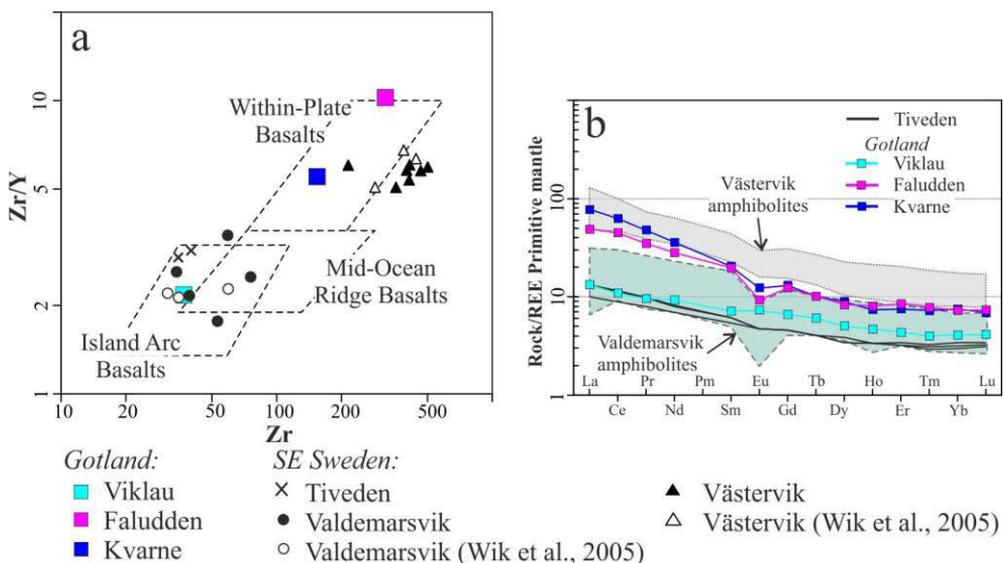
## 5 Results and Discussion

The U-Pb zircon dating showed that the rocks in the Fårösund region (northern Gotland) can be divided into two groups representing different U-Pb age patterns (Figure 3). The first group (Stenstugu, Audungs and Sandviken) records 2.95-2.63 Ga and 2.11-1.97 Ga ages, whereas the Arhagen drill core sample mostly contains 2.11-1.96 Ga zircons. The lowest age (1.96 Ga) provides a maximum age for deposition of sediments, which subsequently were metamorphosed. Neoarchaean and Palaeoproterozoic ages, identified in both groups, are also observed in detrital zircons of the Bothnian basin and the Bergslagen area of the Fennoscandian Shield (Claesson et al., 1993; Sultan et al., 2005; Bergman et al., 2008; Kathol et al., 2020).



**Figure 3.** Probability-density distribution plots (PDP) in the 1750–3500 Ma interval from Gotland with calculated maximum probability ages for distinct distribution peaks of **a.** a combined zircon population from Audungs, Sandviken and Stenstugu and **b.** a zircon population from Arhagen, using  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  single zircon ages. The diagrams include only <10% discordant spots. Frequency shows a number of analyses.

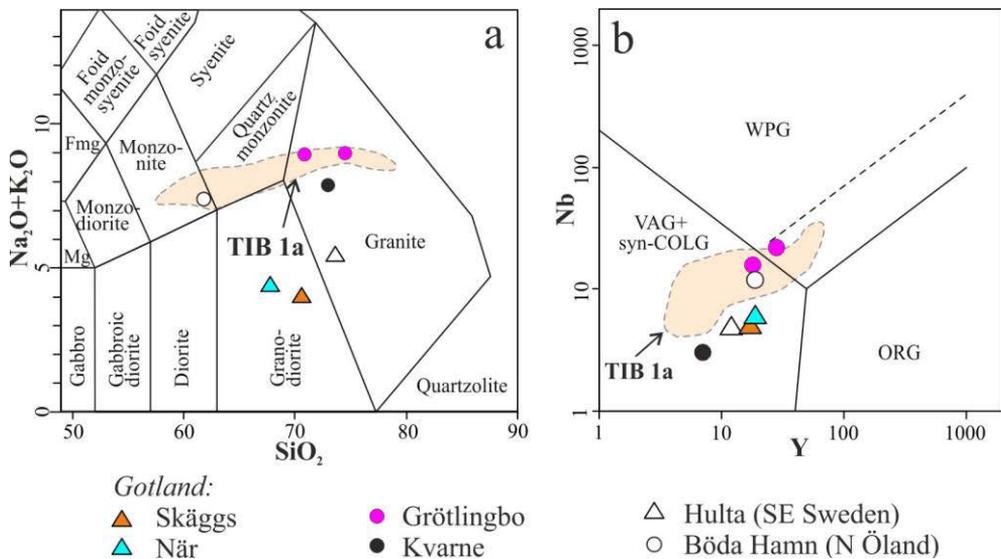
The oldest crystal (3.29 Ga), observed in the Arhagen drill core sample (northern Gotland, Figure 3), has a weak zonation within a homogeneous interior, which may indicate that this grain has undergone several erosional cycles. This age is not represented among the detrital zircons of the Svecofennian Domain, however sedimentary rocks in the WLG and NE Poland contain Archaean zircons ranging from 3.5 to 2.6 Ga, which triggered Bogdanova et al. (2015) to suggest a continental source somewhere in the present south (Sarmatia). However, the Sarmatian plate had been separated from the Svecofennian terranes by an ocean until the Fenno-Sarmatian collision at 1.82-1.80 Ga (Elming et al., 2010; Lahtinen et al., 2009). According to Mints et al. (2020) and Mints and Eriksson (2016), another palaeocontinent, Lauroscandia, was stable in the Neoproterozoic and Palaeoproterozoic (2.5~1.8 Ga). It was composed of the Superior craton, Karelia, Kola, South-Baltia and Volgo-Uralia. The Wyoming Province, which is a part of the Superior craton, contains Palaeo- and Mesoarchaean TTG gneisses of 3.6–2.95 Ga, which could be a source for the 3.29 Ga zircon core. In this case, sedimentation could not have taken place from the present south, but from the west, along the coastline of the same continent.



**Figure 4.** Selected geochemistry diagrams for amphibolite from Gotland and reference areas in southeastern Sweden. **a.** Zr/Y vs. Zr diagram after Pearce and Norry (1979). **b.** Primitive mantle-normalized REE abundances after McDonough and Sun (1995). Green area – Valdemarsvik amphibolites; grey area – Västervik amphibolites.

The Viklau amphibolite (central Gotland), together with the amphibolites in the Tiveden and Valdemarsvik regions (southeastern Sweden), forms a distinct population with an island arc basalt affinity (Figure 4a). These rocks are depleted in LREE and HREE and either lack Eu anomaly or have a rather pronounced negative

anomaly (Figure 4b). In turn, petrological and geochemical data, as well as the U-Pb ages of the orthogneisses at Skäggs (1.90 Ga) and När (1.88 Ga) on central Gotland, show that they can be correlated with the Svecofennian orthogneiss south of Valdemarsvik in southeastern Sweden (Hulta; Figure 5a and b). The latter sample was collected in the same outcrop (“site 1” by Stephens and Andersson (2015)) as a grey granodioritic orthogneiss of 1.88 Ga. An amphibolite-granitoid complex can be traced from the Valdemarsvik area through central Gotland towards the drill hole P6-1 offshore the Latvian coast, but it is absent in the coastlands of Latvia (Paper IV).



**Figure 5.** Selected geochemistry diagrams for granitoids from Gotland and reference areas in southeastern Sweden and northern Öland. **a.** TAS classification diagram after Middlemost (1994). **b.** Nb vs. Y diagram after Pearce et al. (1984). Fmg – foid monzogabbro; Mg – monzogabbro. Orange area – TIB 1a granites.

Two fine-grained amphibolites observed in the Faludden and Kvarne drill cores (southern Gotland) differ from the Valdemarsvik amphibolites, and can be correlated with the Västervik amphibolites in southeastern Sweden. The latter plot close to the within-plate basalt field and have a steep REE pattern with a moderate negative Eu anomaly (Figure 4a and b). Compared to the Västervik amphibolites, the Faludden and Kvarne amphibolites are significantly disturbed, which caused extensive remobilization of major (Si and K) and trace elements (Rb) and destruction of the Rb-Sr isotope system. This can be explained by infiltration of hydrothermal solutions from intrusions bordered by metamorphic rocks (Jiang et al., 2005). Alternatively, Si, K and Rb can be enriched during deformation (Condie and Sinha, 1996). Granitic rocks were observed in the same drill core as the Kvarne amphibolite, while Faludden is located close to the granitic intrusion at Hamra (Paper IV).

The study has shown that the coarse-grained granitoid at Frigsarve (southern Gotland) has an age of 1.85 Ga. This age is comparable with the 1.86-1.85 Ga felsic rocks belonging to the oldest generation of the Transscandinavian Igneous Belt (TIB 0; e.g. Åberg and Wikström, 1983; Andersson, 1997; Ahl et al., 2001). Inherited cores with 1.85 Ga ages were also observed in the 1.81 Ga Kvarne granite (15 km SW of Frigsarve), in the 1.48 Ga Grötlingbo granite (8 km NE of Frigsarve) and in the E6-1 migmatitic orthogneiss 30 km west of the Latvian coast. These observations suggest that the TIB 0 granitoids intruding the Västervik amphibolites dominate the area south of the Valdemarsvik amphibolite-granitoid complex. It is assumed that the LLDZ, separating the Valdemarsvik amphibolite-granitoid complex from the TIB 0 granitoids in Loftahammar in southeastern Sweden, can be traced in the Precambrian beneath southern Gotland and further southeast towards Liepaja along the Latvian coast (Papers I, II and IV).

Emplacement of the 1.85 Ga TIB 0 granitoids within an Andean-type active continental margin was simultaneous with the formation of the 1.85 Ga Fröderyd Group within the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt. The Fröderyd Group represents a rifted volcanic arc implied by the occurrence of pillowed and massive mafic volcanic rocks with a mid-ocean ridge basalt affinity (Sundblad et al., 1997). An unusually high proportion of felsic volcanic rocks and lack of sheeted dykes and ultramafic rocks suggests a submarine rift distinct from an ophiolitic setting (Sundblad et al., 1997; Beunk and Page, 2001; Mansfeld et al., 2005). Subsequent development of the volcanic arc complex comprises emplacement of tonalites and granodiorites at Bäckaby, Eksjö and Virserum between 1.83 and 1.82 Ga (Mansfeld, 1991; Åhäll et al., 2002; Wik et al., 2003). Tectonic uplift and rapid erosion at ca. 1.82 Ga resulted in the formation of lacustrine sediments in restricted basins, now found in the Vetlanda region (Paper III).

Based on the age, sedimentation style and intercalated volcanic rocks, it can be inferred that the Västervik and Vetlanda metasedimentary sequences formed in two different geological environments during two separate events. The 1.87-1.86 Ga Västervik quartzites were deposited along a continental margin (Russell, 1967; Sultan and Plink-Björklund, 2006) and were intercalated with mafic volcanic rocks. While the ca. 1.82 Ga Vetlanda formation is dominated by quartz-plagioclase arkoses and conglomerates (Persson, 1989), indicating a shallow water (and not necessarily marine) environment; the absence of limestone may suggest a lacustrine environment. The Vetlanda metasediments are intercalated with felsic volcanic rocks (Paper III).

Continuous magmatic activity along the active continental margin caused intrusion of the TIB 1a granites at 1.81-1.79 Ga north of the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt (Vimmerby Batholith). A granite at Kvarne (southern Gotland) yielded a U-Pb zircon age of 1.81 Ga and a quartz monzodiorite at Böda Hamn (northern Öland)

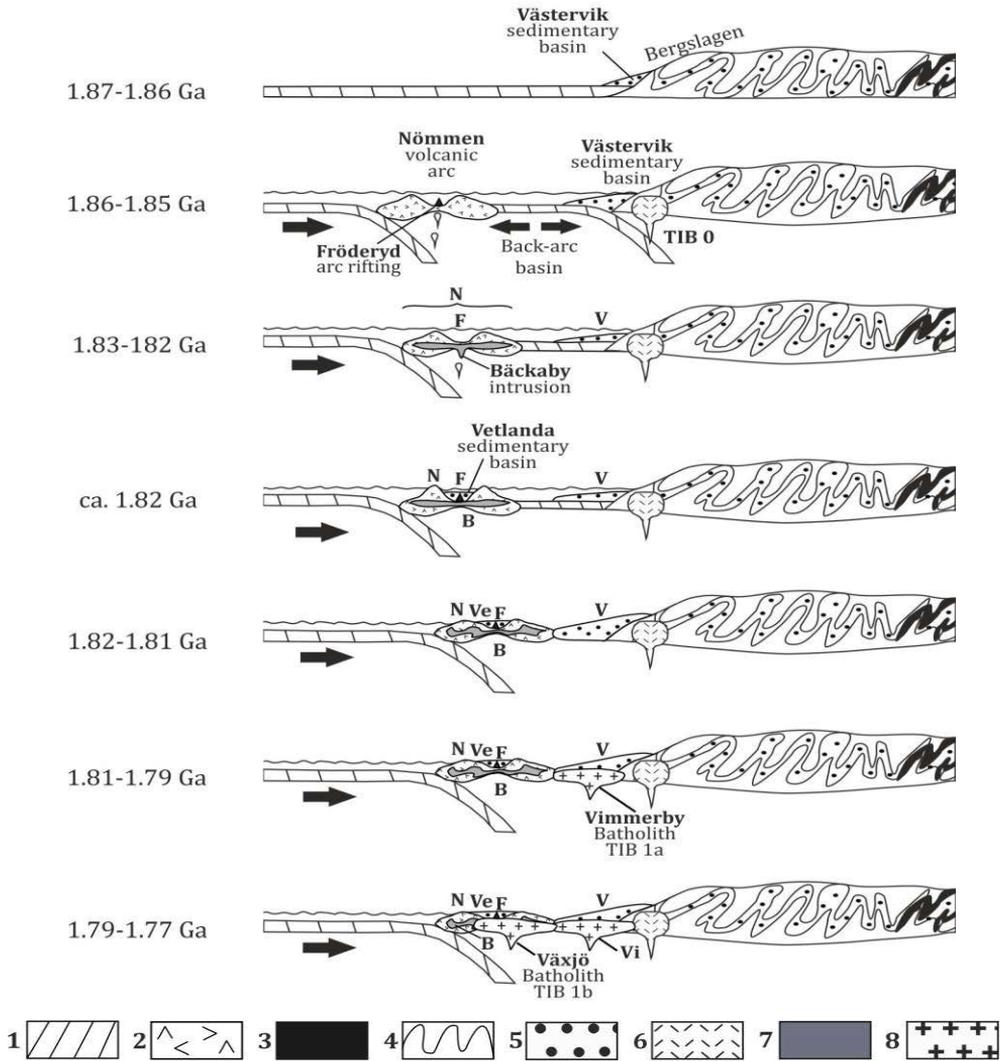
yielded a U-Pb zircon age of 1.80 Ga. Both granitoids are characterized by the similar petrological and geochemical properties as the TIB 1a granitoids at Äspö and Ramnebo. Furthermore, the Vimmerby Batholith is characterized by high magnetic anomalies on the regional magnetic field maps, which shows that the TIB 1a granites can be followed in the Precambrian basement of the Baltic Sea. Compared to the Skäggs-När-Hulta (south of Valdemarsvik) population, the Kvarne and Böda Hamn rocks have granitic and monzonitic compositions, but with significantly higher alkali contents. (Papers I and IV).

TIB 1b (the Växjö Batholith) intruded at 1.79-1.77 Ga between the Vetlanda-Oskarshamn belt and the Blekinge Province and can followed further to the north of lake Vättern into the Filipstad region. On regional magnetic field maps, a high magnetic anomaly, belonging to the Vimmerby Batholith, grades into an inhomogeneous pattern of the Växjö Batholith. Based on petrological and geochemical data, a 1.79 Ga quartz monzonite at Valsnäs can be correlated with the TIB 1b granites in the Växjö area, which shows that the TIB 1b granites can be followed in the Precambrian basement beneath central and southern Öland and further beneath the Baltic Sea (Paper I).

The Pomerania-Blekinge belt is composed of 1.77-1.75 Ga deformed granitoids (Krzemińska et al., 2017; 2018). Geochemical and geochronological data, together with the deformation observed in the E7-1 and D1-1 granodiorites, suggest that this region can be extended into the eastern parts of the Baltic Sea towards the Lithuanian coast (Paper I).

Petrological and geochemical data show that the 1.45 Ga Grötlingbo and 1.47 Ga Hamra granites belong to the 1.5 Ga population, represented by the Götemar, Figeholm and Blå Jungfrun granites (Paper IV) related to the Danopolonian orogeny.

In general, the evolution of the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain can be summarized as a sequence of a schematic profiles depicted in Figure 6 (Paper III).



**Figure 6.** Schematic profiles depicting the 1.87-1.77 Ga evolution of the southwestern active margin to the Fennoscandia proto-continent (not to scale). 1 – oceanic crust, 2 – andesitic and basaltic volcanic rock and amygdaloidal lava, 3 – basaltic volcanic rock and/or pillow lava, 4 – metamorphosed and affected by polyphase ductile deformation crust, 5 – sedimentary rock, 6 – TIB 0 granitoid, 7 – Bäckaby tonalite, 8 – TIB 1 granitoid. B – Bäckaby tonalite, F – Fröderyd volcanic arc rifting, N – Nömmen volcanic arc, TIB – Transscandinavian Igneous Belt, Ve – Vetlanda sedimentary rock, V – Västervik quartzite, Vi – Vimmerby Batholith.

## 6 Summary

The evolution of the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain can be represented by a sequence of belts formed within various tectonic environments. These belts are traced from well-exposed parts of the Svecofennian Domain in southeastern Sweden through the concealed basement beneath the Baltic Sea towards Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These belts include:

1. A metasedimentary unit can be traced from the coastal areas south of Stockholm to northern Gotland and to western Estonia.
2. An amphibolite-granitoid volcanic arc unit can be traced from the Valdemarsvik area through central Gotland towards the Latvian offshore regions. Its southern limit is confined to the Linköping-Loftahammar Deformation Zone.
3. The Västervik unit is composed of metasedimentary rocks intercalated with the metabasalts. It is located between the LLDZ in the north and the TIB 1a granitoids in the south and can be followed from the Västervik area through southern Gotland.
4. The TIB 0 granitoids were emplaced into the Västervik unit in an Andean-type active continental margin setting. This magmatic activity took place simultaneously with magmatic activity within the Fröderyd/Nömmen volcanic arc located outboard the southwestern margin of the Svecofennian Domain.
5. The area south of the Västervik unit is occupied by the TIB 1 generation of granitoids (a, b and c), emplaced within a continued Andean-type active continental margin setting.
6. The Transscandinavian Igneous Belt units are stitched by the younger granitic plutons related to the Danopolonian orogeny.

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Turku, 30 June 2021

Evgenia Salin

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evgenia Salin". The script is cursive and elegant, with a prominent flourish on the 'i' in "Salin".

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