



The Composite Calima-Tahami Terrane was united to the Eastern Colombia at Late Cretaceous period by means of the dextral Otu-Pericos fault. This movement is directly related with the movement in the same direction of the Caribbean Plate in relation to South America.

The Cauca-Romeral fault system is not a cretaceous suture; it is a dextral wrench system which disperses terranes that was previously joined. These dispersion movements continued during all the Cenozoic Era.

During the Miocene period, two oceanic terranes (Gorgona and Cuna Terranes) was accreted to the Andean Block. The last collision was marked by an overthrusting with eastern vergency and by some ultrabasic rocks. The collision of the Cuna Terrane had an effect in all the Colombian Andes and permitted the formation of the Eastern Cordillera.

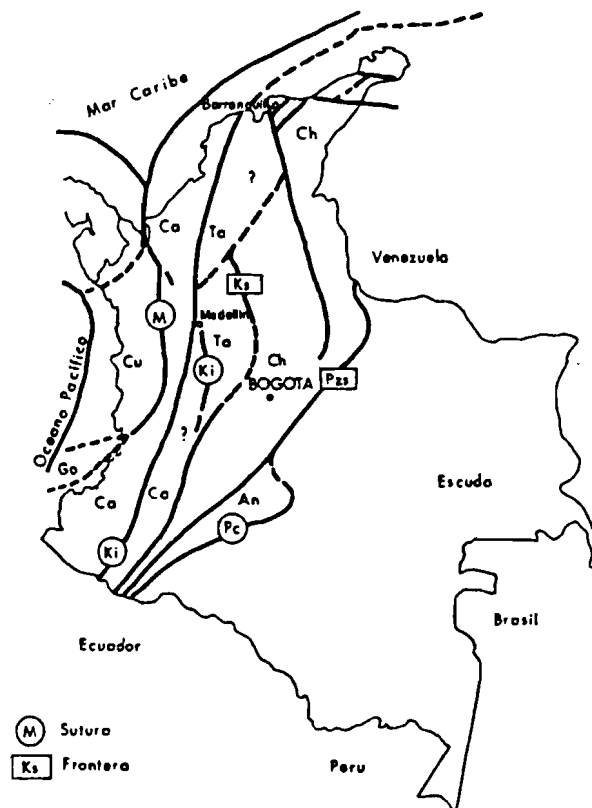


Fig. 1: Schematic map of the main terranes of Colombia according to Toussaint and Restrepo (1988 and 1994).

An: Andaqui Terrane, Ch: Chibcha Terrane, Ta: Tahami Terrane, Ca: Calima Terrane, Go: Gorgona Terrane, Cu: Cuna Terrane. PC: Precambrian suture, Pzs: late Paleozoic boundary fault, Ki: Early Cretaceous suture, Ks: Late Cretaceous boundary, M: Miocene suture.

In the present time, the Colombian Andes are located between three great plates which converge to it. The actual instability of this zone is a consequence of this situation.

The Cuna Terrane is affected by a dispersion fault which overthrusts the Panama Terrane over the Colombian Andes. This dispersion is marked by an important seismic node. Another fault, the dextral striking Guaicaramo fault, produces the dispersion of the Colombian Andes in relation to the South American Plate.

## CONCLUSIONS

This results show that the geodynamic processes that permit the formation of the Northern Andes are different from those who had influence in the Central Andes. With this course, the formation of this part of the Andes is similar to the western margin of North America.

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