A review of Pangaea dispersal and Large Igneous 2 Provinces – in search of a causative mechanism

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14 Abstract

The breakup of Pangaea was accompanied by extensive, episodic, magmatic activity. Several 15 16 Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs) formed, such as the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province 17 (CAMP) and the North Atlantic Igneous Province (NAIP). Here, we review the chronology of 18 Pangaea breakup and related large-scale magmatism. We review the Triassic formation of the 19 Central Atlantic Ocean, the breakup between East and West Gondwana in the Middle Jurassic, 20 the Early Cretaceous opening of the South Atlantic, the Cretaceous separation of India from 21 Antarctica, and finally the formation of the North Atlantic in the Mesozoic-Cenozoic. We 22 demonstrate that throughout the dispersal of Pangaea, major volcanism typically occurs distal 23 from the locus of rift initiation and initial oceanic crust accretion. There is no location where 24 extension propagates away from a newly formed LIP. Instead, LIPs are coincident with major 25 lithosphere-scale shear movements, aborted rifts and splinters of continental crust rifted far out 26 into the oceanic domain. These observations suggest that a fundamental reappraisal of the 27 causes and consequences of Gondwana-breakup-related LIPs is in order.

28

29 1.0 Introduction

30 Throughout geological time the majority of continental lithosphere has several times been

assembled into supercontinents (Rogers, 1996; Stampfli et al., 2013; Frizon De Lamotte et al.,

32 2015; Merdith et al., 2019) (Fig. 1). The processes that initiate the dispersal of these large

continental accumulations remain controversial (Santosh et al., 2009; Audet and Bürgmann,

- 2011; Murphy and Nance, 2013; Nance et al., 2014; Petersen and Schiffer, 2016; Peace et al.,
 2017a; Petersen et al., 2018; Schiffer et al., 2018; Olierook et al., 2019). The debate primarily
- 36 revolves around whether continental dispersal is driven by deep-rooted thermal anomalies
- 37 (Morgan-type mantle plumes) or shallow plate tectonic processes (Storey, 1995; Dalziel et al.,
- 38 2000; Beutel et al., 2005; Frizon De Lamotte et al., 2015; Pirajno and Santosh, 2015; Yeh and
- 39 Shellnutt, 2016; Keppie, 2016; Petersen et al., 2018; Heron, 2018).

40 The concept that plumes from the deep mantle are the main driver of continental rifting was

41 originally proposed by Morgan (1971) who suggested plumes provide "*the motive force for*

42 continental drift" and that "currents in the asthenosphere spreading radially away from each
43 upwelling will produce stresses on the bottoms of the lithospheric plates which, together with

45 upweiling will produce stresses on the bolloms of the illnospheric plates which, together with 46 the stresses consisted by the plate to plate interpretions at vises fruits and together with

44 the stresses generated by the plate to plate interactions at rises, faults and trenches, will

45 *determine the direction in which each plate moves*". Despite the fact that continental breakup

46 can often be magma-poor (Whitmarsh et al., 2001; Reston, 2009; Franke, 2013) this hypothesis

- 47 continues to be commonly invoked as a default to explain continental breakup and plate48 motions, particularly the case where rifting is accompanied by major magmatism (Richards et
- 49 al., 1989; White, 1992; Campbell and Kerr, 2007).

50 Alternative models have nevertheless been proposed. The coincidence between the primary

51 Atlantic "hot spots" and the spreading plate boundary has been pointed out (Julian et al., 2015),

as has their persistence in near-ridge localities. Such a causal relationship means that those "hot
 spots" cannot be stationary relative to the underlying mantle. That observation has inspired a

- 54 number of models including ones that attribute the excess volcanism to fusibility in the source,
- 55 brought about by excess volatiles (e.g., Bonath, 1990; Ligi et al., 2005) or enhanced source
- 56 fertility resulting from recycled near-surface materials (Foulger and Anderson, 2005; Foulger
- 57 et al., 2005b). In the plume model, the persistence of the excess volcanism on the ridge is
- 58 attributed to "upside-down drainage", i.e., lateral flow of hot material from a non-ridge-centred,
- 59 migrating plume, along the underside of the lithosphere to an eruptive site where the lithosphere
- 60 is thinnest (Sleep, 1996).

A number of non-ridge-centred "hot spots" have also been proposed to lie in the Atlantic, 61 62 including at Bermuda, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands and St. Helena. It remains an unanswered question why, if they are fed by deep-mantle plumes, are their products not also 63 64 channelled to the spreading ridge. Some of these have been attributed to different plume- and 65 non-plume origins, often based on the geochemistry of their lavas. This may be variable, in 66 particular in the source water contents. Proposed mechanisms include lateral flow from a 67 nearby, branching mantle plume (e.g., the proposed multi-headed Tristan plume), flexure of the edge of the continental shelf resulting in lithosphere rupture (e.g., for the Canary and Cape 68 69 Verde volcanism), and extraction of melt from the low-velocity zone that is ubiquitous beneath

70 the lithosphere (e.g., Presnall and Gudfinnsson, 2011). Shear heating resulting from motion of

- 71 the plates must also contribute heat and induce formation of partial melt in the asthenosphere
- 72 and can account for the availability of melt away from plate boundaries everywhere (Doglioni
- 73 et al., 2005).

74 To date, there has been limited discussion of whether the rifting process in itself can account 75 for the excess volcanism observed (Peace et al., 2017a). This is likely partly because there has 76 been relatively little attention paid to modelling the volumes, and ranges in volume, of melt 77 observed (Petersen et al., 2018). Where this has been done, the results are compelling. 78 Asthenospheric upwelling is an inevitable consequence of lithospheric rifting, regardless of the

- 79 driving mechanism (Huismans et al., 2001; Merle, 2011). In addition, numerical models that
- 80 include small-scale upwelling can reproduce LIP-scale volumes of melt (Simon et al., 2009).
- However, not all rifted margins contain large amounts of magma and there is a continuous spectrum between 'magma-rich' and 'magma-poor'. This is popularly attributed to the presence or absence of a nearby mantle plume or thermal anomaly, thereby attributing it to variations in temperature of the source. Drawing from the alternative, non-thermal models that have been proposed for on-ridge excess magmatism, an explanation in variations in source fusibility and fertility also presents a feasible explanation (Korenaga and Kelemen, 2000; White et al., 2003; Korenaga, 2004; Petersen and Schiffer, 2016; Peace et al., 2017b).
- 88 The great structural diversity of continental rifts testifies to their dependence on not just one 89 but many factors (Şengör and Natal'in, 2001; Merle, 2011). Rifts develop in different tectonic 90 environments, on diverse pre-existing structures (Doré et al., 1997; Petersen and Schiffer, 91 2016; Schiffer et al., this volume), and under slow- or fast-extending conditions (Lundin et al., 92 2018). They may evolve to form narrow or wide extending zones (Davison, 1997), be magma-93 poor or magma-rich (Franke, 2013), and exhibit asymmetric or symmetric extension (Becker 94 et al., 2014; Peace et al., 2016).
- 95 In this article we review the spatial and chronological relationships between large-volume 96 magmatism and rifting to synthesise the large volume of material already published on this 97 topic rather than introduce new analyses. We analyse in detail Pangaea's dispersal (Fig. 1) in 98 relation to LIPs and other magmatism to test the predictions of a causal relationship between 99 proposed plumes and continental rifting in the Pangaean realm. Specifically we test two 90 predictions of the active rifting hypothesis, one chronological and the other kinematic:
- 101 1. Large-scale volcanism is generated during or just after lithospheric doming but102 before rifting and breakup (chronological); and
- 103 2. Rifting and breakup initiates at the location of thermal uplift and propagates away104 from it (kinematics).

105 **2.0** The assembly and dispersal of Pangaea

Pangaea was constructed from multiple lithospheric plates that resulted from the disintegration
of the previous supercontinent Rodinia. Before Rodinia broke apart in the Late Proterozoic,
between 1000 and 700 Ma (Veevers, 2004), it comprised North America, Baltica, Siberia,
Gondwana, and other minor components (Torsvik et al., 1996; Stampfli et al., 2013). The

disassembly of Rodinia is poorly understood, as geological evidence has been overprinted by
later orogenic cycles (Scotese, 2009; Li et al., 2008; Cawood and Pisarevsky, 2006), while the
assembly and disassembly of Pangaea is better understood and captured in detailed
palaeogeographic reconstructions (Golonka et al., 1994; Stampfli et al., 2013; Blakey and
Wong, 2003; Cocks and Torsvik, 2006; Scotese, 2009) (Fig. 1).

115 Pangaea's earliest breakup and formation of the first oceanic crust occurred in the Triassic and 116 formed the Central Atlantic Ocean. Subsequently, West Gondwana (Africa and South America) 117 and East Gondwana (Antarctica, Australia, India, Madagascar, and New Zealand) started to 118 separate in the Middle Jurassic. This was followed by the Early Cretaceous separation of Africa 119 from South America during the opening of the South Atlantic, then the Cretaceous separation of India from Antarctica, and finally the successful breakup of Scandinavia and Greenland, and 120 121 the birth of the North Atlantic in the Cretaceous to Early Cenozoic (Fig. 1). Here, we investigate 122 if volcanism associated with each breakup event occurred before, during, or after rifting. We 123 also review the kinematic evolution of each rift and their initial breakup positions in relation to

- 124 LIPs throughout the dispersal of Gondwana and Laurasia.
- 125 The Carboniferous–Permian assembly of Pangaea was preceded by four major tectonic events:
- Disassembly of the supercontinent Rodinia in the late Proterozoic, when Laurentia,
 Baltica, and Siberia separated from a number of other continents, opening the Iapetus
 Ocean and the Tornquist Sea between them. Gondwana formed shortly afterwards, in
 the Cambrian, by re-assembly of the remaining dispersed continents of India, Australia,
 Sahara, West Africa and other minor blocks (Li et al., 2008).
- 131 2) In Ordovician-Devonian times, the Caledonian Orogeny sutured Laurussia (North
 132 America, Baltica and Avalonia) which had previously drifted northward from
 133 Gondwana forming the Rheic Ocean (Cocks and Torsvik, 2011).
- 134 3) In the Devonian, peri-Gondwana terranes, rifted from Gondwana, opened the
 135 Palaeotethys and accreted to southern Laurasia during the Devonian Variscan Orogeny.
 136 Siberia and Kazakhstan docked along the eastern Laurussian margin, during the Uralide
 137 Orogeny to form Laurasia. This was followed by Carboniferous-Jurassic collision
 138 between Gondwana and Laurasia along the Appalachian fold belt, finally assembling
 139 western Pangaea (Stampfli and Borel, 2002; Cocks and Torsvik, 2007).
- 4) Assembly of eastern Pangaea (central and SE Asia) in the late Permian-Jurassic
 involved the closure of the Palaeotethys and the Mongol–Okhotsk Ocean to accrete
 peri-Gondwana terranes to Siberia and Kazakstan in the Late Jurassic (Zorin, 1999;
 Kravchinsky et al., 2002; Sengor, 1996; Tomurtogoo et al., 2005). The repeated rifting
 of peri-Gondwana terranes opened the Neotethys.

The dispersal of Pangaea (Fig. 1) occurred through an extended period of Earth's history and
is well-summarised in earlier papers (e.g., Dietz and Holden, 1970; Frizon De Lamotte et al.,
2015).

148 Rifting began in western Pangaea in the Triassic-early Jurassic, coeval with the final phases of 149 the assembly of eastern Pangaea, initiating the disassembly of Pangaea. In the mid-Jurassic, 150 continental breakup and seafloor spreading opened the Central Atlantic-Caribbean (Biari et al., 151 2017) and the Indian Ocean (Powell et al., 1988), breaking Pangaea apart again between North 152 America, West Gondwana (South America and Africa) and East Gondwana (India, Antarctica, 153 Madagascar and Australia) (Schettino and Scotese, 2005). By the end of the Early Cretaceous, 154 East Gondwana was completely detached from West Gondwana, while India separated from 155 Antarctica and Australia and the Amerasia Basin opened in the Arctic. Rifting leading to 156 seafloor spreading started separating South America and Africa from south to north, finally 157 adjoining with Central Atlantic Ocean spreading in the mid-late Cretaceous. Madagascar began 158 diverging from Africa in the Middle Jurassic (Phethean et al., 2016). This was followed by the 159 Labrador Sea opening in the Late Cretaceous (Roest and Srivastava, 1989; Roest and 160 Srivastava, 1989; Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001; Peace et al., 2016; Peace et al., 2018a; 161 Abdelmalak et al., 2018), along with the Gulf of Aden (Courtillot, 1980). Early in the Cenozoic, 162 the Labrador Sea was gradually abandoned in favour of rifting between North America-163 Greenland and Europe which opened the NE Atlantic in the Palaeocene (Srivastava, 1978; 164 Gaina et al., 2017b). The opening of the North Atlantic represents the dispersal and end of the 165 Laurasian continental amalgamation that formed the northern constituent of the Pangaea supercontinent (Hansen et al., 2009; Gaina et al., 2009; Frizon De Lamotte et al., 2015). At the 166 167 same time Australia separated from Antarctica and Zealandia (Veevers, 2012; Williams et al., 168 2019), and the Gakkel Ridge started opening the Eurasia Basin in the Arctic (Thórarinsson et 169 al., 2015).

170 **3.0** The opening of the Central Atlantic

171 The Central Atlantic is defined here as the region bounded to the north by the Pico and Gloria 172 fracture zones and to the south by the Fifteen-Twenty and Guinean fracture zones (Fig. 2). This 173 oceanic basin comprises the oldest part of the Atlantic Ocean, with oceanic crust dating back 174 to the Triassic-Jurassic boundary (Biari et al., 2017). As this region contains the earliest 175 breakup and formation of oceanic crust, it is a prime region for understanding the whole 176 Atlantic system, including the North and South Atlantic Oceans. Conversely, this area is 177 difficult to explore due to the many complexities involved in the rifting process (Pindell and 178 Dewey, 1982; Reston, 2009).

179 The North American-African segment of the Central Atlantic has undergone multiple suturing 180 and breakup events along similar axes over at least two Wilson Cycles, suggesting a major 181 control of inheritance in this region (Wilson, 1966; Pique and Laville, 1996; Thomas, 2018). 182 Furthermore, the continental margins are buried below voluminous salt bodies, making seismic 183 imaging difficult (e.g., Labails et al., 2010). In addition, dating oceanic crust older than Chron 184 M-25 (~155 Ma) has proven problematic because of the Jurassic magnetic quiet zone (Roeser 185 et al., 2002). Breakup of the Central Atlantic was contemporaneous with significant 186 magmatism, namely the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (CAMP), one of the most 187 significant LIPs which may correspond to the end-Triassic mass extinction (Marzoli et al., 188 1999; Verati et al., 2007; Nomade et al., 2007; Panfili et al., 2019).

189 *3.1 Overview of Central Atlantic rifting and breakup*

190 The Central Atlantic Ocean opened after a protracted period of rifting (Biari et al., 2017), which

- led to the formation of major rift basins on the continental margins (Withjack et al., 2012), and
- is claimed to have displayed significant asymmetry between the Scotian and the Moroccan
- margins (Maillard et al., 2006). Several ridge-jumps may have occurred during early opening
- 194 (e.g., Labails et al., 2010). There is also a significant difference in rifting style between the
- northern and southern parts (Leleu et al., 2016). Extension began in the northern Central
 Atlantic in the Anisian (Middle Triassic) and the Carnian (Late Triassic) in the southern Central
- 197 Atlantic, long-lived passive rifting preceded emplacement of the Central Atlantic Magmatic
- 198 Province) CAMP at ~201 Ma (Leleu et al., 2016).
- 199 Seafloor spreading is thought to have started around 180-200 Ma, either during the Late 200 Sinemurian (195 Ma) (Sahabi et al., 2004) or the Middle Jurassic (175 Ma) (Klitgord and 201 Schouten, 1986). Labails et al. (2010) suggested that the opening of the Central Atlantic started 202 during late Sinemurian (190 Ma), and that initial spreading (up to 170 Ma) was characterised 203 by extremely slow crustal production (~0.8 cm/y half spreading rate). In addition, Labails et al. 204 (2010) show that at the time of the Blake Spur Magnetic Anomaly (BSMA) (170 Ma), the 205 direction of the relative plate motion between Laurentia and Africa changed from NNW-SSE 206 to NW-SE and the half spreading rate increased to ~1.7 cm/y. Labails et al. (2010) also 207 identified a conjugate magnetic anomaly to the BSMA, which they suggest rules out the 208 possibility of a ridge jump. Labails et al. (2010) further reports a significant spreading 209 asymmetry, producing more oceanic crust on the American plate. In addition to the temporal 210 variation in spreading rates identified by Labails et al. (2010), spreading rates in the northern 211 Central Atlantic are thought to be lower than those of the southern Central Atlantic (Klitgord 212 and Schouten, 1986).
- 213 While many existing plate reconstructions show isochronous breakup along the whole margin, 214 a detailed analysis of tectonic structures shows differences in the timing for the American 215 margin (Withjack et al., 1998). In particular, Withjack et al (1998) showed that the rift-drift 216 transition offshore of the SE USA took place at around 200 Ma, while offshore Canada this 217 transition is dated to around 185 Ma. Le Roy and Piqué (2001) analysed rift structures at the 218 Moroccan margin and found a westward migration of extension during Carnian to Rhaetian 219 (Late Triassic) times. They conclude that oceanic accretion could have already started in the 220 early Lower Jurassic. With the assumption of a half spreading rate of 0.8 cm/y (Labails et al., 221 2010), an interpolation of magnetic anomalies by Roeser et al. (2002) yielded an age estimate 222 for the initial ocean crust offshore Morocco of 193.5 Ma. By forward modelling of magnetic 223 measurements, Davis et al. (2018) concluded that the formation of Seaward dipping reflector 224 (SDR) packages most probably has taken place at a relatively low extension rate (< 2 cm/y full-225 spreading). The width of the SDRs suggests that formation of a complete SDR wedge would 226 have taken at least 6 Myr. Assuming that the emplacement of SDRs started directly after the 227 emplacement of the CAMP LIP, Davis et al. (2018) concluded that the earliest oceanic crust 228 within the Central Atlantic has an age of ~195 Ma or younger.
- 229 *3.2 Rifting and magmatism*
- The opening of the Central Atlantic was contemporaneous with the production of extensivedykes, sills, and surface flows along the margins and interiors of eastern North America, NE

South America, NW Africa, and southwestern Europe (Hodych and Hayatsu, 1980; Papezik
and Hodych, 1980; Deckart et al., 2005; Nomade et al., 2007; Kontak, 2008; Bensalah et al.,
2011; Shellnutt et al., 2017; Denyszyn et al., 2018). This association of basaltic magmatism
with continental rifting and breakup indicates features and mechanics of the mantle during both
events. The CAMP is certainly one of the largest and most important LIPs globally recognised
(Bryan and Ernst, 2008).

238 Since the 1970s, similarities between Early Mesozoic basalts on the margins of eastern North 239 America and NW Africa have been recognised (e.g., Weigand and Ragland, 1970; May 1971; Bertrand and Coffrant, 1977). The term "CAMP" was first used by Marzoli et al. (1999), who 240 241 included dykes and sills in NE South America. The extent of the CAMP is primarily defined 242 in previous work by the location of dykes, with the CAMP boundaries drawn based on their 243 farthest known extent. The petrology of the igneous rocks comprising the CAMP distinguishes 244 them from the older and younger basaltic intrusions in the same regions (e.g., Merle et al., 245 2013). Swarms of related dykes tend to occur in distinct sets of dozens to hundreds with similar 246 orientations and field characteristics. Sills of the CAMP occur both within Mesozoic basins 247 and also in older crustal rocks in South America and Africa. Large tholeiite sills are also 248 mapped in Brazil and western Africa (Davies et al., 2017; Marzoli et al., 1999), while smaller 249 but still-considerable examples are well known in the eastern USA in the Hartford, Newark, 250 and Deep River Mesozoic basins, though not in the older basement rocks.

251 Mesozoic basins that preserve CAMP extrusive basalts cover a total area of about 300,000 km² (McHone, 2003). However, dykes and sills of the CAMP that fed the basin basalts also occur 252 253 across 11,000,000 km² within four continents, centred upon but extending far outside of the 254 initial Pangaean rift zone (Fig. 2). The breadth of the CAMP exceeds 5,000 km, with several 255 dykes longer than 500 km, sills exceeding 100,000 km³, and lava flows possibly larger than 256 50,000 km³ (McHone, 1996). If only half of the continental CAMP area was originally covered 257 by 200 m of lava, the total volume of the CAMP and the East Coast Margin Igneous Province 258 (ECMIP; the thick rift-related igneous package interpreted to underlie the North American 259 Central Atlantic margin e.g., Holbrook and Kelemen, 1993) extrusive basalt would exceed 260 2,400,000 km³ and represent one of the largest subaerial flood basalt ever to erupt on Earth. A 261 very large volume may also remain in the uppermost crust in the form of dykes and sills. In 262 addition, basalts of the ECMIP of North America, which most likely cause the East Coast 263 Magnetic Anomaly (Kelemen and Holbrook, 1995), have a submarine area of about 60,000 km², with perhaps 1,300,000 km³ of extrusive lavas. However, these basalts have not been yet 264 265 been genetically connected to the continental CAMP and it remains a possibility that their 266 formation was a different event, possibly younger, and possibly associated with the onset of 267 seafloor spreading (Benson, 2003).

268 Whole-rock analyses of dykes, sills, and lavas of the CAMP tend to fall into three chemical

groups, as outlined in McHone (2000) and used by Salters et al. (2003). These groups are characterised based on average values of TiO2: 0.62 % (low, or LTi), 1.26 % (intermediate, or

271 ITi), and 3.21 % (high, or HTi), and other components such as magnesium, nickel, and various

element ratios. All are tholeiites, with the LTi group mostly olivine normative, and ITi and HTi

273 groups mostly quartz normative. As expected, phenocrysts of olivine tend to be abundant in

the LTi dykes and sills, while minor interstitial quartz can be found in many of the ITi and HTidykes, as well as early olivine in the larger intrusions.

276 There are also distinctions with respect to dyke swarm locations and orientations (Fig. 2). 277 Dykes and sills of LTi basalt are nearly all found in basins and NW-trending dyke swarms in 278 the SE USA, whereas most of the HTi dykes are on the margins of South America and Africa 279 that were adjacent before rifting. They also tend to be in NW-SE trending dykes. LTi and HTi 280 magmas are apparently not represented among the remnants of surface flows within the CAMP. 281 The ITi dykes and sills are joined by large basalt flows preserved in rift basins of eastern North 282 America and NW Africa. In those basin areas, the ITi dykes tend to trend NE-SW, but this 283 group is very widespread and also has N-S dykes and other trends in other areas around the 284 CAMP (Fig. 2).

285 Several localities in the SE USA show ITi dykes crosscutting LTi sills and dykes (Ragland et 286 al., 1983) that are overall temporally overlapping/coeval (~201 Ma) with only minor variations 287 (<0.5 Ma) (Hames et al., 2000; Blackburn et al., 2013). High-precision dates suggest about 288 570,000 years between the earliest and latest basin basalts (Olsen et al., 2003), based on basin 289 stratigraphy correlated with Milankovitch climatic cycles. The Triassic-Jurassic boundary occurs above the oldest ITi basalts in eastern North America (Cirilli et al., 2009), but the end-290 291 Triassic extinction horizon is still defined a meter or so beneath the oldest basin basalt (Olsen 292 et al., 2003). Older basalts and large sills (Davies et al., 2017) exist in Morocco (Deenen et al., 293 2010) that precede the end-Triassic mass extinction for which it is now generally recognised 294 that the CAMP is the prime causal candidate (Blackburn et al., 2013). The petrological diversity 295 of CAMP basalts thus suggests considerable mantle-source heterogeneity and lithospheric 296 influence on the magmas (Section 3.5).

297 3.3 Timing of Rifting and Magmatism

298 Although CAMP magmatism occurred in extremely intense but relatively brief episodes 299 around 201 Ma, the tectonic activity that led to the breakup of Pangaea was much more 300 prolonged (Frizon De Lamotte et al., 2015; Keppie, 2016). The oldest rift basin sediments 301 around the central Atlantic are early Carnian (Late Triassic), possibly older than 230 Ma 302 (Olsen, 1997). In the SE USA, rifting ended before CAMP magmatism, such that sediments 303 and basalts are spread across wide areas rather than being controlled by subsiding basins 304 (Schlische et al., 2003). Seismic reflection data suggests that younger Cretaceous strata are 305 deposited directly upon the CAMP lava plains (McBride et al., 1989). In the NE rift basins, 306 thick Early Jurassic sediments overlie basalts (Olsen, 1997), showing that rifting continued for 307 5 to 10 Myrs or more after the youngest CAMP flows, ceasing by the early Middle Jurassic 308 (Schlische et al., 2003). This diachronous rifting was once thought to correspond to the changes 309 in dyke orientations from south to north in eastern North America, but it is now known that the 310 dyke magmas were roughly coeval.

311 The actual age of continental separation and production of the new ocean is uncertain and needs

- 312 further research. It is generally assumed, and supported by seismic interpretation (Kelemen and
- Holbrook, 1995), that eruption of the thick seaward-dipping volcanic wedge along the eastern
- 314 continental margin of North America immediately preceded the formation of Atlantic Ocean

- crust. However, the oldest drift sediments along the western Atlantic margin appear to be 179to 190 Ma (Benson, 2003), or about the age of the youngest post-CAMP rift basin strata. There
- 317 may thus be a 10-Myr gap between cessation of CAMP magmatism and seaward-dipping
- 318 wedge magmatism and formation of new ocean crust.
- 319 *3.4 Kinematics of the Central Atlantic rift implications for breakup*

Early Mesozoic dykes in eastern North America and NW Africa have been proposed to radiate from a central area at the Blake Plateau, near the modern-day Bahamas (May, 1971). This led to a model in which a deeply rooted thermal anomaly produced not only the dykes and basalts (Morgan, 1983) but also caused the rifting of Pangaea and the opening of the Central Atlantic Ocean (Storey et al., 2001). This model has been challenged by numerous previous workers

325 (e.g., McHone, 2000).

326 McHone (2000) argued that the circum-Atlantic dykes are oriented parallel to segments of 327 adjacent central Atlantic rifted margins (Fig. 2), and are not radial even within sets of regional 328 dykes such as in the SE USA. Moreover, volcanic seamounts and islands of the Atlantic are 329 much younger than breakup, so there is no volcanic plume track from the proposed centre 330 evident, as would be required for such a mechanism (Pe-Piper et al., 1992; Pe-Piper et al., 331 2013). As described above, rifting that eventually opened the Central Atlantic started > 30 Myr 332 before the magmatism, and the rift basins continued to develop for about another 10 Myr before 333 tectonic activity shifted to the new ocean margins (Olsen, 1997). Thus, rifting was not 334 contemporaneous with the massive production of CAMP basalts as expected for triggering by 335 the arrival of a plume head.

Weigand and Ragland (1970) ascribed the chemical variations of the CAMP basalts to crystal fractionation within lithospheric magma chambers. However, it does not appear that all of the chemical variations observed in the CAMP magmas can be derived through differentiation or contamination of a common mantle melt (Salters et al., 2003). The upper mantle has substantial mineralogical, chemical, and temperature variations, or heterogeneous zones, which also influence composition (Shellnutt et al., 2017). The petrological diversity does not, however, support a model of a narrow mantle plume source (Tollo and Gottfried, 1989).

343 Components from crustal rocks that were subducted in much older plate collision events 344 characterise most CAMP basalts (Merle et al., 2013; Puffer, 2001; Pegram, 1990). CAMP 345 magmas are clearly derived from different compositions of sub-lithospheric mantle, some with 346 substantial subduction contamination, in specific regions and across large geographic areas unrelated to any single centre. A preferred model for producing the CAMP is by the tectonic 347 348 release of mantle melts that formed in a mantle warmed as a result of thermal insulation beneath 349 the vast Pangaean supercontinent (Anderson, 1994; Merle et al. 2013). However, results of 350 numerical models suggest that continental insulation is not the primary influence of 351 supercontinents on mantle temperature (Heron and Lowman, 2010; 2014).

352 4.0 The breakup of East and West Gondwana

Breakup of East and West Gondwana during Early Jurassic times marked the end of theGondwana supercontinent (Veevers, 2004; Klimke and Franke, 2016; Phethean et al., 2016)

355 (Fig. 3). Along the central region of the Gondwana rift, two oceanic basins record the tectono-356 magmatic history of the breakup. These are the West Somali Basin, from southern Somalia to 357 northern Mozambique, and further south the Mozambique Basin, which is conjugate to the 358 Riiser Larsen Sea/Lazarev Sea, Antarctica. Breakup followed a prolonged phase of episodic 359 activity along the Karoo rift system and was closely contemporaneous with the eruption of the 360 Karoo-Ferrar flood basalts and formation of the Lebombo volcanic monocline in Mozambique. 361 Here, we discuss the spatio-temporal significance of tectonic and magmatic events, and their 362 possible influence on breakup.

363 4.1 Overview East and West Gondwana rifting and breakup

Prior to the Middle Jurassic breakup of East and West Gondwana, tectonic activity along the
Southern Trans-Africa Shear System, and much of the future line of continental separation in
East Africa, had been underway since the Early Permian (Macgregor, 2018). Rifting associated
with this early tectonism led to deposition of Karoo sediments along NW-SE and NE-SW
trending basins during three main phases:

- 369 1) Extension between ~300 Ma and ~265 Ma along NW-SE trending basins and
 370 sinistral strike-slip along NE-SW trending basins resulted in sedimentation of rifts and
 371 local deposition within left-lateral step-over basins, respectively (e.g., Hankel, 1994).
- 372 2) A reconfiguration of the rift system occurred between ~259 and ~264 Ma with the
 373 onset of extension and rapid subsidence in NE-SW trending basins (Schandelmeier et
 al., 2004). Strike-slip deformation occurred along formerly extensional NW-SE
 375 trending basins (Delvaux, 2001).
- 376
 3) Following the final episode, a brief pause in rifting occurred across most basins
 between ~249 to ~242 Ma (e.g., Hankel, 1994; Geiger et al., 2004; Frizon De Lamotte
 et al., 2015). This was followed by rejuvenation of rifting along NE-SW trending rifts
 (Schandelmeier et al., 2004), and little activity along NW-SE trending rifts (Delvaux,
 2001). This rifting episode lasted until ~209 Ma (e.g., Hankel, 1994).
- 381 Deposition of Karoo supergroup sediments during these rifting phases was contemporaneous 382 with development of the Cape Fold Belt in South Africa between 220 and 290 Ma (Frimmel et 383 al., 2001). A link has been suggested between episodic development of the Karoo rift system 384 (e.g., Hankel, 1994; Schandelmeier et al., 2004; Reeves et al., 2016) and compression across 385 the Cape Fold Belt (Delvaux, 2001) which reactivated pre-existing basement weaknesses along 386 the northern parts of the Karoo rift system (Reeves, 2014).
- 387 A long period of inactivity along the rift system then followed from ~209 Ma to ~183 Ma, after 388 which many branches of the Karoo rift system along the line of future Gondwana separation 389 reactivated in the Early Jurassic (~183 Ma) (Hankel, 1994; Papini and Benvenuti, 2008; Frizon 390 De Lamotte et al., 2015). North of southern Tanzania, and south of northern Mozambique, 391 Jurassic rifting overprints earlier Karoo rifts (Hunegnaw et al., 2007; Kassim et al., 2002; 392 Catuneanu et al., 2005; Macgregor, 2018). The line of Jurassic continental breakup from 393 southern Tanzania through northern Mozambique, however, shows little evidence of following 394 an earlier Karoo rift system (e.g., Macgregor, 2018) and displays very different configurations

(Frizon De Lamotte et al., 2015). The distinct Jurassic rifting episode is clearly seen in
southwestern Madagascar and southeast Tanzania (Geiger et al., 2004), where new halfgrabens developed that crosscut Karoo rift structures and are filled by divergent wedges of
Toarcian (Early Jurassic) syn-rift marine shales (Balduzzi et al., 1992; Macgregor, 2018).

399 4.2 Rifting and magmatism

400 The Jurassic rifting episode led to the final breakup of East and West Gondwana and was 401 contemporaneous with major magmatism (Fig. 3). The Karoo LIP is primarily composed of 402 the triple junction forming the Lebombo Monocline, the Okavango Dyke Swarm, and the Save-403 Limpopo Dyke Swarm centred on Mwenezi, Mozambique (e.g., Hastie et al., 2014). Other 404 dyke swarms, sills, and significant flood basalts are preserved in Botswana and South Africa 405 (Jourdan et al., 2005). The inner Explora Wedge and Ferrar LIP (ca. 183.6 ± 1 Ma; Encarnación 406 et al., 1996) forms the Antarctic counterpart of the Karoo LIP.

407 The Lebombo Monocline may form part of the volcanic rifted margin of Mozambique and 408 continental breakup is thought to have occurred along it (Klausen, 2009; Gaina et al., 2013). 409 The monocline comprises progressively rotated dykes and seaward dipping lava flows, which 410 are laterally segmented by scissor faults. This structure shows similarities to the North Atlantic 411 volcanic rifted margins, and field relationships suggest that early tectonic extension became 412 rapidly overwhelmed by dyke dialation (Klausen, 2009). As such, the Lebombo and Mwenezi 413 volcanics may be the equivalent of SDR sequences (e.g., Davison and Steel, 2018), although 414 the final location of continental breakup is still currently unresolved (e.g. Klausen, 2009).

415 To the east of the monocline, the Mozambique Plain is underlain by Mesozoic volcanics and 416 basalts have been drilled in the Domo-1 well 300 km east of the Lebombo Monocline (e.g., 417 Davison and Steel, 2018). However, it is uncertain if continental crust underlies these lavas. The final line of breakup may therefore have passed through Mwenezi, or failed here and 418 419 instead passed around the Mozambique Plain. The Lebombo Monocline was formed over a 420 long period of ~10 Ma (e.g., Jourdan et al., 2007; Hastie et al., 2014; Riley and Knight, 2001) 421 from ~184 Ma to 174 Ma, with peak activity between 183-178 Ma (Hastie et al., 2014). This 422 is ~3 Myrs earlier than the counterpart Ferrar magmatism on the conjugate Antarctica margin 423 (Riley and Knight, 2001).

424 Lateral magma flow within the Lebombo Monocline and Okavango Dyke swarm is consistent 425 with a magma source at the nearby Mwenezi triple junction (Hastie et al., 2014). However, the 426 significant magmatism away from the Mwenezi triple junction, which additionally shows 427 magma flow directions inconsistent with a Mwenezi origin, suggest additional sources of 428 magmatism away from the triple junction (Hastie et al., 2014). The triple junction's NE branch, 429 the 070° trending Save-Limpopo dyke swarm, was under orthogonal NNW-SSE extension 430 during its intrusion (Le Gall et al., 2005). In addition, it has been demonstrated that the NW 431 branch, the 110° trending Okavango Dyke Swarm, opened with transtensional dyke intrusion 432 and was also under the same NNW-SSE stress field. Thus, the triple junction structure did not 433 result from active extensional forces radiating from Mwenezi (Le Gall et al., 2005). The 434 magmatism instead followed pre-existing lithospheric structures, in this case alongside an ESE-435 trending Proterozoic dyke swarm.

436 Approximately 10% of dykes in the Okavango swarm are Proterozoic, whilst the remaining 437 90% are Jurassic. Dykes of both ages show a strong geochemical affinity to each other, leading 438 Jourdan et al. (2009) to suggest that both magmatic episodes were sourced from an enriched 439 shallow mantle lithospheric source. Variations in magma composition in the Karoo LIP 440 between low- and high-Ti magmas correlate with Proterozoic and Archean basement 441 (Hawkesworth et al., 1999). Luttinen (2018) proposed an alternative bilateral division of 442 magmas, into subduction and plume-related geochemical affinities, based on relative Nb 443 abundance. There is no evidence for concurrent uplift during magma emplacement (Watkeys, 444 2002), and magmas young progressively from south to north (Jourdan et al., 2005), i.e. towards 445 the Mwenezi triple junction.

446 Breakup-related volcanics at the continental margins of the Mozambique Basin, and its 447 conjugates, the Lazarev Sea and the Riiser-Larsen Sea in Antarctica, comprise SDRs and high-448 velocity lower crustal bodies (Hinz et al., 2004; Leinweber and Jokat, 2012; Mahanjane, 2012; 449 Mueller and Jokat, 2017). However, the volcanics terminate before the Mozambique Strait 450 between Madagascar and Mozambique (Klimke et al., 2018). In the West Somali Basin to the 451 north, there is little evidence for magmatism during the breakup and the basin is thought to be 452 magma-poor (Coffin et al., 1986; Klimke and Franke, 2016; Phethean et al., 2016; Stanton et 453 al., 2016; Stanca et al., 2016).

454 Despite the many plate kinematic models of breakup of Gondwana along the East African margin (Rabinowitz et al., 1983; Cox, 1992; Reeves et al., 2004; Eagles and König, 2008; 455 Leinweber and Jokat, 2012; Gaina et al., 2013; Nguyen et al., 2016; Phethean et al., 2016; 456 457 Davis et al., 2016; Reeves et al., 2016), the exact ages of formation of the West Somali and 458 Mozambique basins are still poorly constrained. This is mainly because, if present, the earliest 459 oceanic crust formed during the Jurassic Magnetic Quiet zone, where rapid polarity changes in 460 the Earth's magnetic field resulted in seafloor spreading anomalies that are difficult to detect 461 (Tominaga et al., 2008). The extinct spreading axis has been tentatively identified using gravity 462 data from the West Somali Basin (Sauter et al., 2016; Davis et al., 2016; Phethean et al., 2016) 463 but the identification of seafloor-spreading-related magnetic anomalies are still an active area 464 of research.

465 In the West Somali Basin, Davis et al. (2016) identified magnetic anomalies as old as M24Bn 466 (152.43 Ma). Gaina et al. (2013) suggest magnetic anomaly M40ny/M41 (~166 Ma) is the 467 oldest and M2 (~127 Ma) is the youngest magnetic anomaly in the West Somali Basin, 468 extending shorter periods suggested by Rabinowitz et al. (1983) (M10-M25; ~155 Ma to 134 469 Ma) and Segoufin and Patriat (1980) (M0-M21; ~147 Ma to 124 Ma). In addition, the 470 stratigraphic record from the basin shows an overwhelming to marine sedimentation in the 471 Early Bajocian at around 170 Ma (Coffin and Rabinowitz, 1992), in agreement with a breakup 472 unconformity in the Morondava Basin at this time (Geiger et al., 2004).

Using new geophysical data Mueller and Jokat (2017) and Leinweber and Jokat (2012)
tentatively identify M38n.2n or M41n (~164 or 165 Ma) as the oldest magnetic anomaly in the
Mozambique Basin, extending earlier-identified seafloor-spreading anomalies M2 to M22
(~148-127 Ma; Segoufin, 1978; Simpson et al., 1979). However, in the conjugate Riiser-Larsen
Sea, the oldest magnetic anomaly identified so far is M25n (~154 Ma) (Leitchenkov et al.,

2008; Leinweber and Jokat, 2012). The Rooi Rand dyke swarm of the southern Lebombo
Monocline has E-MORB geochemical affinity, has been dated at ~173 Ma (Jourdan et al.,
2007a; Hastie et al., 2014). It is thought to reflect incipient breakup and early seafloor spreading
in the southern Mozambique Basin. These records suggest that breakup in the Mozambique
Basin occurred between ~173 Ma and 164.1 Ma, similar to the proposed age of breakup in the
West Somali Basin of ~170-152 Ma (references in previous paragraph).

484 *4.3 Timing of rifting and magmatism*

485 The Karoo LIP erupted in Botswana and South Africa from 185 Ma to 178 Ma (Jourdan et al., 486 2005). Magmatic ages within the Lebombo Monocline, and the Okavango and Save-Limpopo 487 Dyke Swarms overlap each other significantly and lie in the range 183 Ma to 174 Ma (Hastie 488 et al., 2014). If the onshore Lebombo Monocline is in fact a volcanic rifted margin, this would 489 indicate a significant overlap in flood basalt generation and incipient lithospheric breakup of 490 the Mozambique Basin. In view of the south-to-north age progression of the Karoo flood 491 basalts and sills in Botswana and South Africa it is appropriate to compare magmatic ages from 492 the flood basalts and volcanic margins from similar latitudes. Both the Northern Flood Basalt 493 Province described by Jourdan et al. (2005) and the Northern Lebombo Dyke Swarm lie at 494 approximately the same latitude, and were intruded between 182 Ma and 178 Ma (Hastie et al., 495 2014). Advanced lithospheric extension along the volcanic rifted margin near the Northern 496 Lebombo Dyke Swarm may therefore have already been already present at the time of 497 latitudinally equivalent flood basalt eruption. If, however, the Lebombo Monocline is not the 498 volcanic rifted continental margin, then it is apparent that the LIP volcanism has no spatial 499 relationship with continental breakup that occurred about 200 km farther east.

500 4.4 Kinematics of the East and West Gondwana breakup – implications for breakup

501 While earlier studies proposed that the Mozambique Basin and West Somali Basin opened in 502 a generally N-S direction, more recent plate tectonic reconstructions argue for an almost 503 simultaneous opening of both basins in a NW-SE direction (e.g., Gaina et al., 2013; Klimke 504 and Franke, 2016; Phethean et al., 2016; Reeves et al., 2016). This is supported by the stress 505 configuration derived from dyke swarms of the Karoo LIP emplaced during the Jurassic rift 506 phase (Le Gall et al., 2005). Several dyke swarms record a NNW-SSE initial opening direction 507 during the Jurassic (Le Gall et al., 2005).

508 NNW-SSE gravity lineaments related to spreading in proximity to the African coast have been identified within the Western Somali Basin, between Madagascar and Africa (Davis et al., 509 510 2016; Phethean et al., 2016). This newly identified phase of NNW-SSE spreading lasted 511 between ~170 Ma and ~153 Ma and is consistent with the initial NNW-SSE opening of the 512 Mozambique Basin (Phethean et al., 2016). NNW-SSE spreading was superseded by N-S 513 spreading from ~153 Ma following the passing of Madagascar beyond the continental 514 lithosphere of Mozambique and development of the Davie Fracture Zone (Reeves, 2017) along 515 which East Gondwana was transposed.

Reeves et al. (2016) performed plate tectonic reconstruction and found initial NW-SE motion
is required. The pole of rotation between East and West Gondwana during the early phase of
separation (~183 Ma to ~153 Ma) lay ~2000 km west of the SW tip of present-day Africa. This

pole location requires that extension rates across the Gondwana rift increase to the NE. As the time of breakup is primarily a function of cumulative extension across a rift, this would result in SW-propagating breakup between East and West Gondwana. Such a structural configuration is generally supported by the sedimentological record (Salman and Abdula, 1995) and would indicate that the rift propagated towards the Mwenezi triple junction.

524 Understanding of the timing and kinematics of the Western Somali Basin, and to the south of 525 this the Mozambique Basin and its conjugate the Riiser Larsen Sea/Lazarev Sea, Antarctica, is 526 still incomplete. As a result it is difficult to derive a final and conclusive model about the 527 relationship between the Jurassic breakup of East and West Gondwana, including the formation 528 of the Mwenezi triple junction and the Karroo-Ferrar LIP. However, it is clear that the triple 529 junction structure was not the result of active extensional forces radiating from Mwenezi, and 530 magmatism instead followed pre-existing lithospheric structures. The massive magmatic 531 extrusion that formed the Karoo-Ferrar LIP likely predates rifting but breakup and formation 532 of the oceanic basins did not initiate close to the triple junction. It is therefore more likely that 533 the rift and subsequent breakup migrated towards the triple junction. Nevertheless, work is still 534 needed to fully understand the relationship between the Jurassic breakup of East and West 535 Gondwana and the formation of the Mwenezi triple junction and the Karroo-Ferrar LIP.

536 5.0 The opening of the South Atlantic

537 In the Early Cretaceous, West Gondwana, a southern constituent of Pangaea, broke up to form 538 South America and Africa with continuous spreading resulting in the sustained expansion of 539 the South Atlantic Ocean (Rabinowitz and Labrecque, 1979; Ben-Avraham et al. (1997) 540 Lawyer et al., 1998; Jokat et al., 2003; Eagles 2007; Moulin et al., 2009; Lovecchio et al., 2018) 541 (Fig. 4). The contemporaneous Paraná-Etendeka continental flood-basalt provinces in Brazil 542 and Namibia, respectively, are frequently attributed to an Early Cretaceous Tristan da Cunha 543 plume with the Walvis Ridge and Rio Grande Rise comprising plume tail magmatism (Morgan, 544 1981; Peate, 1997). As discussed herein, there are significant spatial and temporal mismatches 545 between the proposed plume and these structures.

546 *5.1 Overview of South Atlantic rifting and breakup*

Regardless of the remarkable geometrical fit between the rifted continental margins of South
America and Africa (Fig. 4), systematically initially investigated by Wegener (1915) and by
numerous workers since (e.g., Gladczenko et al., 1997; Granot and Dyment, 2015), both the
rift and breakup phases were complex, with evidence of multiple stages of rifting (Lovecchio
et al., 2018), and the possible influence of structural inheritance (Ben-Avraham et al., 1997;
Salomon et al., 2015).

553 Continental extension may have begun in isolated centres in South America during the Late 554 Triassic (at about 210 Ma) when almost all parts of south and west Gondwana were affected 555 by magmatism resulting in high heat flow (Macdonald et al., 2003). In addition to this Late 556 Triassic to Early Jurassic rifting phase, there was a Middle Jurassic extensional phase lasting 557 almost 40 Ma, from Valanginian to late Albian time (Early Cretaceous), that completed 558 separation of Africa and South America to separate completely (Keeley and Light, 1993; 559 Szatmari, 2000). The line of continental separation and the position of the principal failed rifts were controlled by the position of boundaries between different aged basement and the
inheritance of basement structural grain (Macdonald et al., 2003). Breakup is reasonably well
understood but location and magnitude of continental intraplate deformation during rifting,
particularly affecting South America, requires further work (see e.g. Eagles, 2007; Heine et al.,
2013; Moulin et al., 2009; Torsvik et al., 2009).

565 5.2 Rifting and magmatism

566 Continental breakup and initial seafloor spreading in the South Atlantic were accompanied by 567 extensive transient magmatism as inferred from sill intrusions, flood basalt sequences, and 568 voluminous volcanic wedges and high-velocity lower crust at the present continental margins. 569 Voluminous volcanism affected both Mesozoic intracratonic basins onshore (Paraná-Etendeka 570 flood-basalt province; Peate, 1997; Renne et al., 1992; Trumbull et al., 2007; Foulger, 2017) 571 and the rifted crust offshore (Bauer et al., 2000; Franke et al., 2007; Gladczenko et al., 1997; 572 Gladczenko et al., 1998; Hinz et al., 1999; Koopmann et al., 2014; Mohriak et al., 2008; Paton 573 et al., 2016; Stica et al., 2014) (Fig. 4).

574 Menzies et al. (2002) and Moulin et al. (2009) compiled published geochemical data and 575 radiometric dates for the dykes and the lava flows of the Paraná–Etendeka flood-basalt 576 provinces. According to these compilations, volcanic activity peaked in the late Hauterivian – 577 early Barremian (Early Cretaceous; 133-129 Ma, and 134–130 Ma, respectively). Apart from 578 the age of the basalts, there is controversy about the source of Paraná–Etendeka magmas (see 579 e.g. Renne et al., 1992; Peate, 1997; Hawkesworth et al., 1999; Trumbull et al., 2007; Rocha-580 Júnior et al., 2013; Comin-Chiaramonti et al., 2011; Will et al., 2016; Foulger, 2017).

581 The Early Cretaceous opening of the southern South Atlantic took place between 135 to 126 582 Ma (Heine et al., 2013; Moulin et al., 2009; Macdonald et al., 2003; Rabinowitz and Labrecque, 583 1979). Multichannel seismic and potential field data suggest the oldest magnetic chron in the 584 southern South Atlantic related to oceanic spreading is M9 (ca. 135 Ma) Moulin et al., 2009). 585 Older anomalies, previously identified as M11 (ca. 137 Ma), are found within the SDRs 586 (Koopmann et al., 2016; Corner et al., 2002). There is still some uncertainty about the age of 587 the first oceanic crust near the Falkland Plateau, where strike-slip deformation from the 588 Falklands-Agulhas fracture zone hampers identification of the earliest spreading anomalies. 589 Collier et al. (2017) and Hall et al. (2018) identified M10r (134.2 Ma, late Valanginian) as the 590 oldest recognisable chron at the southern tip of the South Atlantic. This agrees with the 591 suggestion of Becker et al. (2012) that the breakup unconformity, identified in rift basins at the 592 northern edge of the Falkland plateau, is contemporaneous with the well-dated rift-to-sag 593 unconformity in the North Falkland Basin. This indicates a Valanginian (~135 Ma; Early 594 Cretaceous) age for the first oceanic crust in the southern South Atlantic.

Most of the southern South Atlantic continental margins are volcanic (Gladczenko et al., 1997;
Becker et al., 2014; Foulger, 2017) (Fig. 4). However, the southernmost 400-km-long portion
lacks SDRs (Koopmann et al., 2014b; Becker et al., 2012; Franke et al., 2010; Hall et al., 2018).
Thus, from the magnetic anomalies seaward of the SDRs, volcanic rifting onset abruptly,
shortly before 137 Ma (Koopmann et al., 2016). From there towards the north, the progressive
continental breakup was accompanied by large-scale transient magmatism with the formation

of voluminous SDR wedges and high-velocity lower crustal bodies over the ~1800 km to the
Florianopolis/Rio Grande fracture zones offshore Namibia/Brazil (Becker et al., 2014). The
SDRs were emplaced consecutively northward, as indicated by the progressive termination of
the pre-M4 magnetic seafloor spreading anomalies within the volcanic wedges. Only from
magnetic chron M4 (ca. 130 Ma) onward was oceanic crust formed across the entire southern
South Atlantic (Koopmann et al., 2016).

607 Although magnetic anomalies from M4 (~130 Ma) onwards have been proposed for the central 608 South Atlantic, north of the Florianopolis (or Rio Grande) fracture zone (Bird and Hall, 2016), 609 most authors agree that breakup was delayed (by 10-20 Myr) across this fracture zone (Torsvik 610 et al., 2009; Moulin et al., 2009; Quirk et al., 2013; Heine et al., 2013). At the latitude of the 611 Paraná-Etendeka flood-basalt provinces, rift propagation was apparently blocked. At this 612 position, one of the fundamental structures in the South Atlantic development (Moulin et al., 613 2013), the Florianópolis (or Rio Grande) fracture zone, is found. This fracture zone hosted 614 significant offset during breakup (150 km; Elliott et al., 2009). To its north, the central South 615 Atlantic is characterised by minor SDRs which were deposited contemporaneously with Aptian 616 salt deposits (Mohriak et al., 2008). A number of aborted rifts developed along the Brazilian 617 margin (the Campos, Santos, and Esperito Santos Basins) and the crust was extremely stretched 618 and thinned before the two spreading axes in the central and southern South Atlantic connected 619 (Mohriak et al., 2002; Evain et al., 2015).

Sporadic but widespread magmatic activity continued well after breakup (80 Ma and younger)
in southern Africa and Brazil (Comin-Chiaramonti et al., 2011). This magmatism is most
commonly manifest as alkaline intrusions, which are locally numerous (e.g., kimberlite fields)
but smaller in volume than the Early Cretaceous activity.

624 *5.3 Timing of rifting and magmatism*

625 A key question is the relative timing of extension and emplacement of the large-volume 626 magmatic flows, both onshore (Paraná-Etendeka flood-basalts) and offshore (SDRs). The best 627 estimate currently available for the onset of rifting adjacent to the Walvis Ridge/Rio Grande 628 Rise is about 134-135 Ma (Bradley, 2008; Moulin et al., 2009). This preceded surface breakup 629 in the immediate vicinity. In both provinces, the basalts were deposited in north-south-trending 630 rift basins, showing that rifting preceded flood volcanism, however (Clemson et al., 1997; Glen 631 et al., 1997). The Paraná-Etendeka flood-basalts also erupted at the intersection of a major, 632 activated, transverse extensional structure with the developing line of breakup (Foulger, 2017). 633 Numerical modelling suggests that depth-dependent extension was underway for a 634 considerable period before surface rupture. This is in line with the magma flow directions of 635 both the basaltic rocks from the Etendeka igneous province of Namibia and from the Paraná 636 province in Brazil.

Magnetic seafloor spreading anomalies indicate that the peak magmatism (~132 Ma) of the
Paraná–Etendeka flood-basalts postdates emplacement of SDRs in the southern South Atlantic
(Koopmann et al., 2016). Only if the M-sequence geomagnetic polarity timescale is used
(Malinverno et al., 2012), instead of the popular Gradstein and Ogg (2012) timescale, does
dating suggest that the SDRs were emplaced simultaneously (Koopmann et al., 2016). As the

SDRs mark the final stage of continental rifting it is evident that the complete extensional phase
and likely also earliest seafloor spreading in the southern South Atlantic predate the
emplacement of the Paraná and Etendeka basalts (Franke, 2013).

645 5.4 Kinematics of the South Atlantic rift – implications for breakup

646 The South Atlantic opened by south-to-north propagation (Gaina et al., 2013; Heine et al., 647 2013; Seton et al., 2012; Moulin et al., 2009; Jokat, 2003; Macdonald et al., 2003; Austin and 648 Uchupi, 1982; Rabinowitz and Labrecque, 1979) (Fig. 4). As pointed out by Franke (2013), 649 this opening direction contradicts the hypothesis that rifting migrated away from the Paraná-650 Etendeka flood-basalt provinces (Fig. 4). On the contrary, rifting migrated towards it, at odds 651 with a model whereby continental breakup was triggered by an active upwelling mantle plume 652 currently beneath the Tristan da Cunha hotspot. Other candidate mechanisms must therefore 653 be sought as a trigger for breakup.

654 When reconstructing the South Atlantic, the Cape fold belt in South Africa aligns with the 655 Ventana (or Sierras Australes) Hills in Argentina. Paton et al. (2016) identify the South African 656 Cape fold belt offshore South Africa and propose that initial rifting along western Gondwana 657 was a consequence of extensional reactivation of the western Gondwanan Fold Belt (Fig. 4). 658 The rift basins are thought to have formed through gravitational collapse of the fold belts such 659 that rift basin geometry was controlled by underlying fold belt geometry. This resulted in 660 broadly SW-orientated (with respect to Africa) extension in Argentina/South Africa. 661 According to Paton et al. (2016), during the mid-Cretaceous, the rift configuration changed 662 significantly and extension followed a north-south trend, i.e. perpendicular to the fold-belt. 663 This geometry fits well with the proposed earlier clockwise rotation of extensional deformation 664 throughout the Early Cretaceous based on structural data from the continental margins(Franke, 665 2013).

666 The highly asymmetric subequatorial margins of Brazil and West Africa almost certainly did not rift apart in a pure-shear fashion and simple-shear rifting mechanisms have been suggested 667 668 (Mohriak et al., 2008). In addition, it has been suggested that the structure and shape of the 669 continental margins show considerable deviations from symmetric structures expected from 670 active rifting, triggered by a plume below the rift (Geoffroy, 2005; Campbell and Kerr, 2007). 671 However, if there was a plume, the style and shape of breakup would still be governed or at 672 least influenced by inherited lithospheric structures, so the margins could still have any kind of 673 complexities, including asymmetry. With respect to volcanics, high-velocity lower crust, dyke 674 orientations, and fault patterns, the complementary southern South Atlantic rifted margins 675 experienced distinct asymmetric evolution during breakup (Salomon et al., 2017; Koopmann 676 et al., 2016; Becker et al., 2016; Becker et al., 2014). The asymmetry in offshore magmatism 677 with considerably more SDRs and volume of high-velocity lower crust on the African margin 678 is surprising, given the opposite asymmetry in the onshore Paraná-Etendeka flood-basalt 679 provinces. On the basis of fission-track and denudation studies on both margins, an explanation 680 in greater post-rift uplift and erosion on the African margin has been ruled out (Becker et al., 681 2014). Instead, South America offered more favourable structures for magma ascent and 682 extrusion than South Africa. This supports mainly passive rifting as proposed earlier by 683 Maslanyj et al. (1992).

A seismic refraction study at the easternmost Walvis Ridge, including the junction with the Namibian coast, found a small intruded area around the Walvis Ridge (Fromm et al., 2015). Also onshore, in the landfall area of the Walvis Ridge at the Namibian coast, a narrow region (<100 km) of high-seismic-velocity anomalies in the middle and lower crust, interpreted as a massive mafic intrusion, has been identified by seismic reflection and refraction data (Ryberg et al., 2015). These data and observations are not particularly consistent with a broad thermal plume head beneath the opening South Atlantic.

691 To the north of Walvis Ridge, the abrupt disappearance of SDRs (Elliott et al., 2009) 692 accompanies a dramatic decrease in crustal thickness from 35 km below Walvis Ridge to 5-6 693 km crust in the central South Atlantic (Fromm et al., 2015). A similar sudden disappearance of 694 SDRs occurs south of a major transfer zone in the southern South Atlantic (Koopmann et al., 695 2014b; Becker et al., 2012). These abrupt changes in magmatic volume are also inconsistent 696 with a large-scale thermal source in the sublithospheric mantle as an origin for the magmatism. 697 Gradual variations of mantle properties and dynamics are expected to generate smooth 698 transitions over at least a hundred or a few hundreds of kilometres, not sharp transitions (Franke 699 et al., 2010).

700 In addition, the architecture of the SDRs implies an episodic emplacement with multiple 701 magmatic phases alternating with magma-starved phases (Franke et al., 2010). The South 702 Atlantic unzipped in jumps from south to north and the SDRs were emplaced consecutively 703 along the successive northward propagating rift zones (Clemson et al., 1997; Franke et al., 704 2007; Koopmann et al., 2014; Stica et al., 2014). Between the Falkland-Agulhas fracture zone 705 and the Walvis Ridge/Rio Grande Rise (Fig. 4), this process lasted for approximately 5 Myrs 706 as shown by the earliest magnetic chrons in the South Atlantic (Koopmann et al., 2016; Hall et 707 al., 2018).

708 6.0 Opening of the NE Atlantic, the Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay

709 The northern North Atlantic realm contains two main spreading branches (Vogt and Avery, 1974) (Fig. 5). The Labrador Sea – Baffin Bay system (here referred to as the NW Atlantic as 710 711 in Abdelmalak et al., 2018) separated Greenland and North America (Vogt and Avery, 1974; 712 Srivastava, 1978; Torsvik et al., 2002; Hosseinpour et al., 2013; Peace et al., 2016; Welford et 713 al., 2018). Subsequently, the NE Atlantic began to open, separating Greenland and Europe 714 (Talwani and Eldholm, 1977; Skogseid et al., 2000; Lundin and Doré, 2005b; Le Breton et al., 715 2012; Gaina et al., 2009; Gernigon et al., 2015; Gaina et al., 2017a; Gaina et al., 2017b; Schiffer 716 et al., 2018; Foulger et al. this volume). A complex junction exists between these branches to 717 the north of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone (CGFZ) (Gaina et al., 2009) (Fig. 5). Switchover 718 from the western spreading ridge to the eastern ridge was one of the most significant events in 719 the evolution of the North Atlantic (Nielsen et al., 2007; Jones et al., 2017). Understanding the 720 mechanisms that drove this switchover remains one of the most important unresolved questions 721 in understanding North Atlantic tectonics (Peace et al., 2017a).

722 In addition to these first-order spreading axes, Northeast Atlantic oceanic crust is further 723 structurally divided in proximity to Iceland by the Kolbeinsey and Aegir ridges (Fig. 5). The 724 genesis of Iceland, and the proximal Jan Mayen Microplate Complex (JMMC) still present 725 unresolved questions (e.g., Müller et al., 2001; Foulger and Anderson, 2005; Gernigon et al., 726 2015; Blischke et al., 2016; Schiffer et al., 2018b; Blischke et al., 2019; Schiffer et al. this 727 volume). Regions where major extension occurred without breakup (i.e. failed rifts and 728 transforms), must be accounted for in geodynamic models. These include the Davis Strait 729 (Suckro et al., 2013; Peace et al., 2018b), the North Sea (Cowie et al., 2005), the Rockall Basin 730 (Shannon et al., 1994; Roberts et al., 2018), and the Hatton Basin (Hitchen, 2004) and 731 potentially also the Greenland-Iceland-Faeroes Ridge (GIFR) (Foulger et al. this volume). In 732 addition, diffuse intracontinental deformation may also have been associated with breakup 733 (e.g., the Eurekan Orogeny; Nielsen et al., 2007; Nielsen et al., 2014; Heron et al., 2015; 734 Piepjohn et al., 2016; Schiffer and Stephenson, 2017; Gion et al., 2017; Stephenson et al. this 735 volume). Although difficult to quantify, these events must be accounted for in models of the 736 breakup of the North Atlantic (Adv and Whittaker, 2018).

737 6.1 Overview of North Atlantic rifting and breakup

Prior to breakup, the proto-North Atlantic region comprised an assemblage of Archaean and
Proterozoic terranes (Kerr et al., 1996; St-Onge et al., 2009; Štolfová and Shannon, 2009;
Engström and Klint, 2014; Grocott and McCaffrey, 2017; Schiffer et al. this volume).
Understanding the pre-breakup extensional phases and orogenies is crucial to understanding
Mesozoic-Cenozoic breakup because of the clear influence of structural inheritance (Dore et al., 1997; Schiffer et al., 2015; Peace et al., 2018a; Peace et al., 2018b; Schiffer et al., 2018a;
Phillips et al., 2018; Rotevatn et al., 2018; Gernigon et al., 2018; Schiffer et al. this volume).

745 Following the collision of Laurentia, Baltica and Avalonia in the Ordovician and Silurian 746 (Roberts, 2003; Gee et al., 2008; Leslie et al., 2008), and subsequent gravitational extensional 747 collapse (Dewey, 1988; Dunlap and Fossen, 1998; Rey et al., 2001; Fossen, 2010), the North 748 Atlantic region may have experienced phases of lithospheric delamination and associated uplift 749 for 30–40 Ma followed by a long period of rifting (Andersen et al., 1991; Dewey et al., 1993). 750 The North Atlantic margins, including the Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay, experienced multiple 751 phases of extension between the Devonian collapse of the Caledonian Orogen (Roberts, 2003) 752 and early Cenozoic break-up (Srivastava, 1978; Doré et al., 1999; Lundin and Doré, 2018).

753 Multiple pre-breakup rift phases are documented in the stratigraphic record of both the NE and 754 NW Atlantic (Umpleby, 1979; McWhae et al., 1980; Srivastava, 1978; Lundin, 2002; Oakey 755 and Chalmers, 2012; Barnett-Moore et al., 2016; Nirrengarten et al., 2018). Rifting started as 756 early as the Permian, was widespread during the Triassic, and continued into the Jurassic Cretaceous, and Cenozoic (Umpleby, 1979; Stoker et al., 2016). In the NE Atlantic, an early 757 758 rifting pulse from Late Permian to earliest Triassic is expressed regionally in the stratigraphic 759 record. These Permian-Triassic successions record a northward transition from an arid interior 760 setting to a passively subsiding mixed-carbonate siliciclastic shelf margin (Stoker et al., 2016). 761 In the Early Jurassic, the sedimentary record shows thermal subsidence and mild extensional 762 tectonism (Stoker et al., 2016). In the Late Jurassic, the stratigraphic record reveals an intense 763 phase of rifting across most of the NE Atlantic. Cretaceous sections record predominantly 764 marine strata deposition within broad zones of extension (Stoker et al., 2016).

Following prolonged regional rifting (Larsen et al., 2009; Stoker et al., 2016), propagation of 765 766 the Central Atlantic into the proto-North Atlantic began in Early Aptian time (e.g., Lundin, 767 2002; Barnett-Moore et al., 2016). The propagating spreading centre produced the oldest 768 oceanic crust of the North Atlantic and is marked by the M0 magnetic anomaly (121-125 Ma; 769 Malinverno et al., 2012) offshore Iberia and Newfoundland (Lundin, 2002; Tucholke et al., 770 2007; Eddy et al., 2017). By the Late Aptian (Early Cretaceous), spreading reached the Galicia 771 Bank (Boillot and Malod, 1988). This was followed by formation of the Bay of Biscay triple 772 junction in the Late Aptian or Early Albian (Early Cretaceous) where spreading continued until 773 the Late Cretaceous (Williams, 1975). From the latest Cretaceous to the Eocene, however, the 774 NW movement of Iberia with respect to Eurasia caused the Bay of Biscay to partly subduct 775 beneath Iberia, forming the Pyrenees (Boillot and Malod, 1988). From the Bay of Biscay triple 776 junction spreading propagated NW and reached the Goban Spur in Middle to Late Albian time 777 (e.g., Tate, 1993). By the Santonian (Late Cretaceous), breakup had reached the Charlie Gibbs 778 Fracture Zone (CGFZ) and significant extension, occurred in the Rockall Basin during the 779 Cretaceous (Shannon et al., 1994; Hitchen, 2004).

780 The NW Atlantic was the next region to open (Srivastava, 1978; Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 781 2001; Lundin, 2002; Hosseinpour et al., 2013; Keen et al., 2017; Oakey and Chalmers, 2012; 782 Abdelmalak et al., 2018; Welford et al., 2018). This extinct spreading system comprises the 783 Labrador Sea in the south and Baffin Bay in the north (Fig. 5) (Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001). 784 These are connected via the Ungava Fault Zone, a transform fault system running through the 785 Davis Strait bathymetric high (Suckro et al., 2013; Peace et al., 2017a; Peace et al., 2018c). 786 The Labrador Sea, Davis Strait and Baffin Bay formed via multiphase, divergent motion 787 between Greenland and North America (e.g., Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001; Hosseinpour et 788 al., 2013). Rifting prior to breakup occurred from at least the Early Cretaceous, but potentially 789 as early as the Triassic according to dykes in southwest Greenland (Larsen et al., 2009; Secher 790 et al., 2009) and, with some uncertainty, Labrador (Wilton et al., 2002; Tappe et al., 2006; 791 Tappe et al., 2007; Wilton et al., 2016; Peace et al., 2016).

Onset of spreading in the Labrador Sea is thought to have occurred in the Early Campanian
(Chron 33; ca. 80 Ma) (Roest and Srivastava, 1989; Srivastava and Roest 1999). In contrast,

- 794 Chalmers and Laursen (1995) propose that Chrons 33 and 27 represent transitional crust with
- 795 true oceanic crust in the Labrador Sea first generated in the Palaeocene (Chron 27; ca. 62
- **795** true oceanic crust in the Labrador Sea first generated in the Palaeocene (Chron 27; ca. 62
- Ma). Keen et al. (2017), however, state that the ocean-continent boundary lies near magnetic anomaly Chron 31 (ca. 68 Ma), and divide the oceanic region into inner and outer domains,
- which merge near magnetic Chron 27 (ca. 62 Ma). The outer domain of Keen et al. (2017) is
- 790 interpreted as steady-state seafloor spreading with well-developed linear magnetic anomalies,
- 800 while the igneous crust of the older, inner domain is generally thinner, and more variable.
- 801 During the separation of Greenland and North America, oceanic crust was not formed in the
- 802 Davis Strait (Suckro et al., 2013; Peace et al., 2017b), in part because of the primarily strike-
- 803 slip nature (Wilson et al., 2006; Peace et al., 2018c). In Baffin Bay, oceanic spreading
- 804 probably also occurred simultaneously with spreading in the Labrador Sea. This is, however,
- uncertain and oceanic crust there is undoubtedly more limited (Jackson et al., 1979;
- 806 Hosseinpour et al., 2013). Regardless of the existence of older oceanic crust in the Labrador

807 Sea, it is generally accepted that Early Eocene (Chron 24; ca. 54 Ma) oceanic crust floors

808 Baffin Bay (e.g., Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001).

809 Events in the NW Atlantic may be linked to changes in plate kinematics in the NE branch of 810 the Atlantic (Gaina et al., 2009). During the Early Eocene (Chron 24; ca. 54 Ma), seafloor 811 spreading began in the NE Atlantic, marking a major tectonic reorganisation (Lundin, 2002; 812 Nielsen et al., 2007; Mosar et al., 2002; Gaina et al., 2016). The direction of spreading in the 813 Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay system rotated to NNE-SSW (e.g., Abdelmalak et al., 2012; Peace 814 et al., 2018a). This slowed seafloor spreading that was oblique to the earlier ridge system 815 (Hosseinpour et al., 2013). A triple junction formed between the Labrador Sea, the NE Atlantic, 816 and the southern North Atlantic, which was active until spreading ceased in the Labrador Sea in the earliest Oligocene (Chron 13; ca. 35 Ma) (e.g., Srivastava & Roest 1999). In the NE 817 818 Atlantic, the abnormal thickness of the oceanic crust initially produced (ca. 54 Ma) decreased 819 and a steady state was reached by the Middle Eocene (ca. 48 Ma) (Holbrook et al., 2001b; 820 Lundin and Doré, 2005b; Storey et al., 2007; Mjelde and Faleide, 2009). By ca. 36-32 Ma, 821 spreading had entirely relocated to the NE Atlantic (Roest and Srivastava, 1989; Barnett-Moore 822 et al., 2016) and terminated along the Labrador Sea-Baffin Bay axis (Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 823 2001). Greenland then became part of the North American plate (Oakey and Chalmers, 2012; 824 Barnett-Moore et al., 2018).

825 In the Norwegian Sea of the NE Atlantic, development of sea-floor spreading along the 826 Reykjanes, Mohns, Ægir and Kolbeinsey ridges is relatively well understood (e.g., Lundin, 827 2002; Gernigon et al., 2015; Blischke et al., 2016; Zastrozhnov et al., 2018). The Ægir Ridge 828 may represent the southern tip of a southward-propagating Arctic rift system that migrated west 829 to form the Kolbeinsey Ridge. This was a transitional process with delocalisation starting at 830 ~40 Ma and the Ægir Ridge becoming extinct sometime between ca. 21 and 28 Ma (e.g., 831 Lundin, 2002). The overlapping geometry of the Ægir and Kolbeinsey Ridges was maintained 832 during the subsequent sea-floor spreading (Müller et al., 2001; Schiffer et al., 2018). The 833 Kolbeinsey Ridge linked with the Mohns Ridge, via the West Jan Mayen Fracture Zone in 834 earliest Oligocene time (Chron 13; ~33 Ma) as indirectly dated by the eastern termination of 835 the West Jan Mayen Fracture Zone, which reaches Chron 13 on the east side of the Mohns 836 Ridge. This link made further spreading along the Ægir Ridge redundant and seafloor spreading ceased along the Ægir Ridge at approximately Chron 12 (Jung and Vogt, 1997). The link 837 838 between the Kolbeinsey and Mohns ridges represents the linkage between the Arctic and 839 Atlantic oceans (Lundin, 2002).

840 6.2 Rifting and Magmatism

841 Rifting and breakup of the northern North Atlantic was accompanied by significant, widespread 842 magmatism (Eldholm and Grue, 1994; Mjelde et al., 2008; Hansen et al., 2009; Nelson et al., 843 2015; Wilkinson et al., 2016; Á Horni et al., 2017; Clarke and Beutel, this volume) (Fig. 5). 844 This was particularly abundant during and after breakup (Saunders et al., 1997; Hansen et al., 2009; Wilkinson et al., 2016; Á Horni et al., 2017), although some magmatism also occurred 845 846 during the preceding rifting (e.g., Larsen et al., 2009; Wilkinson et al., 2016). The continental 847 passive margins of the southern North Atlantic (e.g. Newfoundland - Iberia and Labrador -848 southwest Greenland) are typically considered to be magma-poor (Chalmers, 1997; Chonian et al., 1995; Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001; Whitmarsh et al., 2001; Keen et al., 2017), whereas
the margins further north (e.g., East Greenland, the NW European margin, and Central West
Greenland) are considered to be 'magma-rich', and to contain SDRs and HVLCBs (Geoffroy
et al., 2001; Breivik et al., 2012; Keen et al., 2012; Magee et al., 2016; Petersen and Schiffer,
2016; Larsen et al., 2016).

An early, coherent magmatic province in the North Atlantic realm was the Permo-Carboniferous Skagerrak LIP found in southern Sweden and Norway, Denmark, northerncentral Europe and the British Isles (Heeremans et al., 2004; McCann et al., 2006). This igneous province was coeval with a general period of tectonic unrest and magmatic hyperactivity in Europe, possibly connected to the collapse of the Variscides that might have included extreme lithospheric thinning and delamination (Doblas et al., 1998; Timmerman et al., 2009; McCann et al., 2006; Meier et al., 2016).

861 Pre-breakup magmatism, likely associated with lithospheric thinning and rifting, occurs across 862 the North Atlantic region in disparate occurrences, typically as small-fraction melts from the Late Triassic to the Cretaceous (Helwig et al., 1974; King and McMillan, 1975; Tappe et al., 863 864 2007; Larsen et al., 2009; Peace et al., 2016; Peace et al., 2018c; Peace et al., 2018d). These 865 igneous rocks do not comprise a coherent magmatic province, but rather small-volume, 866 distributed melts (e.g., lamprophyre dykes in West Greenland and Newfoundland; Helwig et 867 al., 1974; Larsen et al., 2009). They demonstrate that significant lithospheric extension was 868 likely widespread across the proto-North Atlantic region as far back as the Late Triassic 869 (Larsen et al., 2009).

870 During and after breakup, widespread magmatism formed the North Atlantic Igneous Province 871 (NAIP) (White, 1988; Upton, 1988; Saunders et al., 1997; Meyer et al., 2007; Storey et al., 872 2007; Hansen et al., 2009; Wilkinson et al., 2016; Á Horni et al., 2017). The NAIP is a classic 873 LIP (Bryan and Ernst, 2008; Hansen et al., 2009) that comprises the voluminous Palaeogene 874 igneous rocks of the East Greenland margin (Tegner et al., 1998), NW European margin 875 (Melankholina, 2008), and JMMC (Breivik et al., 2012). To the west of Greenland, in the Davis 876 Strait and on Baffin Island, other Palaeogene igneous rocks contribute to the NAIP (Clarke and 877 Upton, 1971; Upton, 1988; Tegner et al., 2008; Hansen et al., 2009; Gaina et al., 2009; Nelson 878 et al., 2015; Clarke and Beutel, this volume).

879 Distribution of NAIP volcanism is highly asymmetric between conjugate margins and the more 880 magmatic margins may be associated with thicker lithosphere (Á Horni et al., 2017). 881 Significantly more volcanism occurs south of the GIFR than to the north (Schiffer et al., 2015; 882 Á Horni et al., 2017). Petrologically, NAIP igneous rocks are highly diverse and include 883 tholeiitic and alkali basalts, nepheline- and quartz-syenites, nephelinites, and carbonatites 884 (Holbrook et al., 2001). NAIP igneous rocks are also highly variable in structure and include 885 dykes, and sills (Magee et al., 2014), seaward-dipping reflectors (SDRs) (Larsen and Saunders, 886 1998), high-velocity lower crustal bodies (Funck et al., 2007), seamounts (Jones et al., 1974), 887 and subaerial flows (Wilkinson et al., 2016; Á Horni et al., 2017).

Although the NAIP is often considered to comprise all pre-, syn- and post-breakup magmas,some are not generally included. For example, the Vestbakken Volcanic Province, and its

890 conjugate equivalent in NE Greenland, have been attributed to local tectonic processes 891 associated with shear margin development and are generally not considered part of the NAIP 892 (Hansen et al., 2009; Á Horni et al., 2017). Significant magmatism is detected by seismic 893 reflection, gravity and magnetic surveys near the western termination of the Charlie-Gibbs 894 Fracture Zone (CGFZ) in the form of multiple flows and seamounts that are not typically 895 considered part of NAIP (Pe-Piper et al., 2013; Keen et al., 2014). The basaltic 'U-reflector' 896 sills offshore Newfoundland, which cover an area of c. 20,000 km², are also excluded from the 897 NAIP (Karner and Shillington, 2005; Hart and Blusztajn, 2006; Deemer et al., 2010; Peace et 898 al., 2017b). The logic of inclusion or exclusion of magmatism under the umbrella term NAIP 899 becomes increasingly unclear when it is noted that the Cretaceous-aged Anton Dohrn and 900 Rockall seamounts are considered to belong to NAIP (Hitchen et al., 1995; Morton et al., 1995). 901 This casts doubt on the rationale behind inclusion of igneous rocks in the NAIP and has 902 implications for the extent, timing, magmatic budget and duration of NAIP, which in turn affect 903 models for the tectono-magmatic processes responsible for its development. Much previous 904 work also associates this LIP with a unique geochemical signature, although it is, in fact, highly 905 variable (Korenaga and Kelemen, 2000; Á Horni et al., 2017).

The area of the NAIP has been estimated to be 1.3×10^6 km², and its volume, which is problematic to assess, is suggested to have once been $5 - 10 \times 10^6$ km³ (Holbrook et al., 2001; Storey et al., 2007; Wilkinson et al., 2016). Holbrook et al. (2001) estimated that between breakup and magnetic Chron C23n, 10^7 km³ of igneous crust was produced. The West Greenland constituent of the NAIP (the West Greenland Volcanic Province; WGVP e.g., Gill et al., 1992) is estimated to cover 2.2 x 10^3 km² in area (Clarke and Pedersen, 1976; Riisager et al., 2003).

913 *6.3 Timing of rifting and magmatism*

The NAIP is thought to have involved two main periods of melt emplacement: 1) ca. 62-58 Ma
and 2) ca. 57-53 Ma, with distinct peaks in productivity at ca. 60 Ma and ca. 55 Ma (Hansen et
al., 2009). Distinct parts of the NAIP were emplaced at different times (Lundin and Doré,
2005b). For example the British volcanic province (BVP) and the WGVP are mostly Early
Palaeocene whereas NE Atlantic magmatism is predominantly Early Eocene (Lundin and Doré,
2005b). A unifying genetic model must account for this variable spatiotemporal distribution
(Lundin and Doré, 2005b; Peace et al., 2017a).

921 Petersen et al. (2018) recently proposed a mechanism to explain the two-phase igneous activity 922 associated with the NAIP based on numerical modelling. They propose that lithospheric 923 delamination triggered by destabilisation of thickened and metamorphosed, high-density lower 924 crust produced the first igneous peak by small scale convection induced by detachment of the 925 lithosphere. A second, much more voluminous phase of melting occurred when sinking 926 lithospheric blocks penetrated the lower mantle and induced return flow.

- 927 In summary, rifting and breakup of the North Atlantic region was accompanied by prolonged,
- variable and extensive magmatism, some of which is conventionally considered to be part of
- 929 the NAIP and some of which is not. The distinction is apparently model-dependent, inviting
- 930 reassessment of both model and categorisation of the magmas.

931 6.4 Kinematics of the North Atlantic rift – implications for breakup

932 The North Atlantic opened by south-to-north propagation from the Central Atlantic into the
933 NW and NE Atlantic (Lundin, 2002; Barnett-Moore et al., 2018; Nirrengarten et al., 2018).
934 This contradicts the hypothesis that rifting migrated away from the NAIP, including the WGVP
935 (Lundin and Doré, 2005a; Peace et al., 2017a). On the contrary, rifting migrated towards it, at
936 odds with a plume-driven continental breakup model (Foulger et al. this volume).

- 937 There is little evidence for a time-progressive hotspot track (Lundin and Doré, 2005a) as 938 predicted for a plume (Lawver and Müller, 1994; O'Neill et al., 2005; Doubrovine et al., 2012; 939 Mordret, 2018). Although the GIFR is commonly viewed as a plume track there is no seamount 940 chain to support this (Lundin and Doré, 2005b; Foulger et al. this volume). Similarly, in the 941 West Greenland area, Peace et al. (2017a) note that evidence for a distinctive hotspot track 942 associated with the WGVP is vague and poorly constrained, and that rifting and breakup do 943 not follow the predicted path of the proposed plume (Lundin and Doré, 2005a). Additionally, 944 in an idealised plume model, a deep-seated mantle plume would be required to precisely follow 945 lithospheric breakup (e.g., Steinberger et al., 2018) for it to have remained beneath the active 946 spreading plate boundary since inception (Lundin and Doré, 2005b). However, in reality a 947 hypothetical mantle plume may deviate from the idealised model due to a number of processes 948 such as shear flow (Richards and Griffiths, 1988) and deflection around cratonic keels (Sleep 949 et al., 2002).
- As described above, extension and magmatism are widely documented prior to postulated
 plume arrival in the Early Cenozoic. Within the NAIP, the occurrence of significantly more
 volcanism south of the GIFR than to the north (Schiffer et al., 2015; Á Horni et al., 2017) is at
 odds with the radial distribution of magmatism predicted by in an idealised plume model.
- 954 In summary, breakup of the North Atlantic was a complex, polyphase process, accompanied 955 by highly compositionally variable magmatic events that require numerous ad hoc 956 embellishments of a deep mantle plume impingement model. We it has been suggested that 957 continental breakup and associated magmatism across the North Atlantic region was driven by 958 lithospheric processes associated with plate tectonics (Lundin and Doré, 2005a; Lundin and 959 Doré, 2005b; Ellis and Stoker, 2014; Schiffer et al., 2015; Peace et al., 2017a; Schiffer et al., 960 2018b), and that mantle temperatures were likely only slightly, if at all, above ambient (Hole 961 and Natland, this volume)

962 7.0 Discussion

- Magmatism is mainly confined to active plate boundaries (i.e., spreading ridges and subduction
 zones) where plate tectonic processes are indisputably responsible (Kearey et al., 2009). It has
 been suggested that the same holds true for continental margins.
- 966 It was realised early that the dominant force driving plate motion is slab-pull, which is probably 967 an order of magnitude stronger than other forces (Forsyth and Uyeda, 1975). This is consistent 968 with the observation that the speed with which plates move is related to the length of the 969 subducting slab to which they are attached. Considerable work has been done subsequently to 970 investigate this relationship, including study of the apparent east-west asymmetry in the global

- 971 subduction slab system (Doglioni and Anderson, 2015) and the systematic westward migration972 of spreading ridges which imparts east-west asymmetry to the composition of the mantle
- 973 (Chalot-Prat et al., 2017).

974 In addition, new plate boundaries must, from time to time, be created because the constantly 975 evolving configuration of plates results in periodic annihilation of plate boundaries and 976 transmutation of others (e.g., subduction of the Farallon ridge and replacement of that 977 subduction zone with the San Andreas transform system). Like all cracks in brittle material, 978 extensional plate boundaries are most easily formed by propagation along pre-existing zones 979 of weakness (Holdsworth et al., 2001). The most susceptible zones may well lie in the continental lithosphere, in particular if that lithosphere has been pre-weakened by a long history 980 981 of tectonic deformation (Butler et al., 1997; Armitage et al., 2010; Audet and Bürgmann, 2011; 982 Petersen and Schiffer, 2016; Peace et al., 2018a). The spatial scaling of lithospheric processes 983 such as rifting and delamination, the heterogeneity of mantle composition (Foulger et al., 984 2005a; Chalot-Prat et al., 2017) and the complexity of other influential factors such as structural 985 inheritance can explain the great diversity observed along such boundaries (Petersen and 986 Schiffer, 2016; Schiffer et al. this volume). The plate-driven rifting models suggests that 987 continental breakup is initiated by extensional forces, accompanied by rift-shoulder uplift, and 988 magmatism is related to the passive upwelling of local, relatively shallow asthenosphere 989 (Menzies et al., 2002). The extensional forces result from far-field plate-tectonic 990 reorganisations (Geoffroy, 2005).

991 Plume impingement models predict uplift, LIP-emplacement and rifting in rapid succession 992 (White, 1988; Dam et al., 1998; Beniest et al., 2017; Steinberger et al., 2018). In such models, 993 the bulk of the magmatic products are expected prior to and during the initial stages of rifting, 994 shortly after plume impact. In an ideal, theoretical case, stress in the overriding plate should be 995 concentric around the location of plume impact (Franke, 2013) and lithosphere fragmentation 996 should be initially radial, possibly via multiple rifts, and possibly forming triple junctions 997 (Ernst and Buchan, 1997). Rifting is expected to initiate at, and propagate away from, the point 998 of plume impact and LIP magmatism (Camp and Ross, 2004; Franke, 2013; Peace et al., 999 2017a). The regions we reviewed, associated with the Pangaea breakup, do not display these 1000 features.

1001 7.1 Magmatism associated with Pangaea breakup

1002 Emplacement of the CAMP LIP is the event traditionally associated with plume-driven models 1003 for formation of the Central Atlantic (Wilson, 1997). A centre at the Blake Plateau, near the 1004 modern-day Bahamas, has been proposed as the focus from which radiating rifts are expected (May, 1971). However, detailed observations do not fit this idealised model (McHone, 2000). 1005 1006 Instead of post-dating and emanating from the CAMP LIP, continental rifting preceded it by 1007 \sim 30 Myr, started far to the south and propagated north where rifting continued for 5-10 Myrs after CAMP volcanism ceased (Olsen, 1997). The spatial pattern of volcanism fails to match 1008 the predictions. Circum-Atlantic dykes are mostly oriented parallel to adjacent segments of the 1009 1010 Central Atlantic rifted margins and a radial model has little support (McHone, 2000). Evidence 1011 for a plume track is also lacking since small-volume volcanic features on the Central Atlantic

seafloor are much younger than CAMP volcanism, and may be entirely unrelated to CAMPand breakup.

1014 A model for breakup as the culmination of long-term continental tectonic instability (Keppie, 2016), with rifting controlled by reactivation of older structures (Pique and Laville, 1996), and 1015 magmas tapped from the asthenosphere, explains the observations more easily (McHone, 1016 1017 2000). The Central Atlantic Ocean opened only after a protracted period of continental rifting (Davison, 2005). The continental margins re-opened sutures that had experienced at least two 1018 1019 previous Wilson Cycles of suture and breakup, testifying to the controlling role of inheritance of pre-existing structure (Schiffer et al. this volume). CAMP magmatism comprised a brief 1020 phase of ~1 Myr of intense igneous productivity in the midst of a rifting event that lasted several 1021 1022 tens of Myr. Volcanic rates were briefly so massive that production cannot be accounted for by any thermal-upwelling mechanism no matter how hot (Cordery et al., 1997). Furthermore, 1023 1024 magmas were so widespread, extending throughout a region > 5,000 km wide (Denyszyn et al., 1025 2018) penetrating far into the South American and African continents, that they cannot be 1026 attributed to a single source (McHone, 2003; Leleu et al., 2016). Instead, they require 1027 widespread lithospheric instability. The petrological diversity of CAMP lavas also cannot be 1028 explained by a single source but requires considerable mantle-source heterogeneity, possibly from recycled subducted slabs (Tollo and Gottfried, 1989). 1029

1030 Less information is available from the Western Somali and Mozambique basins which record the breakup of East and West Gondwana (Phethean et al., 2016). More detail needs to be known 1031 1032 about the chronological relationships between tectonism and volcanism in the Mwenezi triple 1033 junction and Karoo rift and LIP in order to fully test the plume- and plate-driven hypotheses. 1034 It is clear, however, that in keeping with observations elsewhere, tectonic unrest was ongoing, with occasional phases of inactivity, in the region since the Early Permian, over 100 Myr before 1035 1036 Jurassic breakup (Macgregor, 2018). Thus, the structures along which breakup-related 1037 magmatism occurred predated breakup by many millions of years. For example, many of the 1038 dykes in the Okavango swarm were formed in the Proterozoic, and share geochemical affinities 1039 with the Mesozoic breakup-related intrusives. This suggests a long-lived volcanic lithospheric 1040 feature and source since the region must have moved relative to the deeper mantle in the interim 1041 period. Evidence for extensive lateral flow of magmas at the time of breakup testifies to 1042 distributed sources rather than a single centre, e.g., at the Mwenezi triple junction. Furthermore, 1043 breakup and formation of the ocean basins did not radiate from the Mwenezi triple junction. 1044 Instead the evidence available suggests instead that breakup-related rifting migrated towards 1045 the triple junction. The close proximity of volcanic margins with SDRs and magma-poor 1046 margins is incompatible with a single, large-scale source.

1047 Considerably more is known about the opening of the South Atlantic and the chronology and
1048 composition of lavas of the Parana-Etendeka LIP (Foulger, 2017). This region is associated
1049 with the Cretaceous disintegration of West Gondwana and it exhibits extensive volcanic
1050 margins and SDRs (Franke et al., 2010). In plume models, the large, well-studied Paraná–
1051 Etendeka LIP in Brazil and Namibia is attributed to the head of a plume currently beneath
1052 Tristan da Cunha (Peate, 1997).

1053 Since the proposal that South Atlantic breakup was plume-driven, a great deal of new and 1054 detailed information has accumulated from numerous marine geophysical experiments (Franke 1055 et al., 2007; Franke et al., 2010; Foulger, 2017). In addition, the structure and geochemistry of 1056 Paraná-Etendeka LIP lavas and postulated 'plume tail' volcanics on the Rio Grande- and 1057 Walvis ridges have been critically examined. Major chronological and spatial mismatches with the plume-driven breakup model have emerged. Rifting onset occurred long before the Paraná-1058 1059 Etendeka LIP was emplaced at ~132 Ma. Seafloor spreading in the southern South Atlantic in 1060 the Valanginian, at ~135 Ma and propagated northward in jumps, with brief hiatuses where the 1061 developing rift encountered barriers. Major volcanic margins were built, and thus breakup and large-scale magmatism was already well underway when the Paraná-Etendeka LIP was 1062 emplaced, at odds with the plume-driven breakup model. The rift unambiguously propagated 1063 1064 toward the future location of the LIP, not away from it (Foulger, 2017).

Paraná lavas were emplaced in north-south-trending rift basins, testifying to ongoing extension prior to LIP emplacement. They erupted at the location of a major cross-cutting transverse lineament (Foulger, 2017), exploiting pre-existing structure. Of all continental LIPs, the geochemistry of the Paraná–Etendeka LIP is also perhaps the least equivocal that the lavas were derived from melted lithospheric mantle. In addition, recent detailed seismic surveys, both of the breakup margins and the African coastal part of the Walvis Ridge, show that spatially abrupt changes in magma volume are widespread (Franke et al., 2010).

1072 The complex history of North Atlantic breakup and magmatism has been studied intensely for 1073 many decades, and is known in detail (Clarke and Upton, 1971; Srivastava and Roest, 1999; Hansen et al., 2009; Larsen et al., 2009; Nirrengarten et al., 2018; Schiffer et al. this volume; 1074 1075 Hole and Natland, this volume). Volcanism has been widespread since the region initially began rifting in the Early Jurassic (or possibly Late Triassic; Larsen et al., 2009) followed by 1076 1077 opening of the Labrador Sea (Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001). Early, relatively small-volume 1078 volcanism (Peace et al., 2018c) gave way to emplacement of massive volcanic margins with 1079 SDRs when spreading was transferred to the current NE Atlantic (Eldholm and Grue, 1994; 1080 Wilkinson et al., 2016).

1081 Several magmatic events have been attributed to an Icelandic plume head, including the 1082 Siberian Traps (~251 Ma), volcanism in the Davis Strait (~62 Ma) (Gerlings et al., 2009) and widespread magmatism at the time of opening of the NE Atlantic Ocean (~54 Ma) (Steinberger 1083 1084 et al., 2018). The latter two events accompanied lithospheric breakup and there is no evidence 1085 of a chronology of uplift followed by LIP volcanism and subsequent continental rifting (Foulger and Anderson, 2005; Peace et al., 2017a). On the contrary, tectonic unrest, continental 1086 1087 extension and small-volume volcanism for several 100 Myr prior to breakup is well-1088 documented in Laurasia prior to breakup (Tappe et al., 2007; Larsen et al., 2009; Peace et al., 1089 2016; Peace et al., 2018c).

1090 Continental breakup along the Labrador Sea axis propagated to the region from the south
1091 (Chalmers and Pulvertaft, 2001; Peace et al., 2018a), and considerable magmatism occurred
1092 prior to emplacement of the magmas usually attributed to a plume head (McWhae et al., 1980;
1093 Larsen et al., 2009). At the Davis Strait and the GIFR, that magmatism occurred at locations
1094 where propagating breakup rifts encountered barriers that stalled progress (Peace et al., 2017a).

In the case of the GIFR, a major focus of plume models (Foulger et al. this volume), volcanism
developed at a locality where rifts propagating from both north and south were unable to break
through transverse inherited orogenic structures.

1098 7.2 Summary of spatial-temporal and magmatic-lithospheric relationships

1099 All the locations reviewed herein show evidence for prolonged phases of rifting prior to LIP 1100 magmatism and breakup. In many cases, this rifting is thought to be genetically linked to breakup (e.g. rifting prior to the opening of the North Atlantic; e.g., Péron-Pinvidic et al., 2017). 1101 1102 At other locations earlier rifting events may have been unassociated with the final breakup episode and the production of the first true oceanic crust. In all cases reviewed here, the onset 1103 1104 of LIP magmatism and often eruption of the main volume significantly overlapped with or 1105 postdated SDR- and initial-oceanic-crust production. Such magmatism is inconsistent with 1106 plume impact driving sometimes long-lasting initial rifting. Instead, it suggests that magmatism 1107 was a consequence of the same mechanism that triggered by rifting and/or breakup.

Following plume arrival, widespread magmatism is predicted to occur in the region underlain 1108 by hot plume head material (Saunders et al., 1992; Saunders et al., 2007). This region is inferred 1109 1110 to be circular, with a diameter of several 1000 kilometres in an idealised model. Buoyant melt 1111 is expected to intrude the crust radially, governed by the circular stress field generated by the 1112 impinging plume, and to form radial dyke swarms and sills, again in an idealised model. Lithospheric structure is expected to impose only secondary control (Saunders et al., 2007). 1113 1114 The relatively small barriers presented by lithospheric inhomogeneities are expected to be 1115 overwhelmed by the much larger scale hot upwelling mantle material. These predictions are, 1116 however, not supported by observations of the disintegration of Pangaea. Instead, inherited 1117 lithospheric structure exerts a control, not only on the locus of breakup axes but also on the 1118 locations of magmatism including LIPs (Koopmann et al., 2014a; Peace et al., 2017a; Clarke 1119 and Beutel, this volume).

1120 7.3 Plate-driven breakup

1121 Plate-driven breakup models for the dispersal of Pangaea have been proposed. For example 1122 Keppie (2016) proposed that subduction at the peripheries of Pangaea can explain both the 1123 motion, deformation and dispersal of Pangaea with a single mechanism. In addition, much 1124 previous work links continental rifts and breakup on a range of scales and tectonic 1125 environments to pre-existing structures (Wu et al., 2016; Petersen and Schiffer, 2016; Peace et 1126 al., 2018b; Schiffer et al., 2018; Collanega et al., 2019; Schiffer et al., this volume). A link 1127 between the intersection of propagating rifts with pre-existing suture zones and the production of magmatism has been suggested based primarily on geological observations from Atlantic 1128 1129 margins and numerical modelling (Koopmann et al., 2014a; Schiffer et al., 2015; Peace et al., 1130 2017a; Petersen et al., 2018). In these models, a barrier to rift propagation results in excess 1131 magmatism by blocking and diverting mantle flow beneath a propagating rift axis.

- 1132 Observations from the locations reviewed here provide support for this model (Fig. 6). In the
- 1133 North, Central and South Atlantic and during breakup of East and West Gondwana, LIP
- 1134 locations coincide with large-scale, pre-existing lithospheric structures (Fig. 7). The origin, size

and relative orientations of these structures with respect to approaching, propagating rifts isvariable. Nevertheless, the association is systematic and warrants further investigation.

1137 7.4 Ocean Island Chains

1138 The mantle plume hypothesis for LIP volcanism predicts that, following plume-head-related 1139 flood-basalt eruptions, continued upwelling in the plume tail results in ongoing, small-volume 1140 magmatism (Saunders et al., 1992; White, 1992). The motion of the overhead plates relative to the "hotspot reference frame" transports these magmas away from the plume tail creating a 1141 1142 time-progressive trail of volcanism that ages with increasing distance from the contemporary 1143 plume tail (e.g., Konrad et al., 2018). The existence of a time-progressive trail of volcanism, 1144 most clearly observed in the Hawaiian-Emperor island/seamount chains, was the single most 1145 influential factor in the development of the plume hypothesis and this characteristic is still 1146 considered by some to comprise the strongest evidence of a mantle plume (Morgan and 1147 Morgan, 2007).

This aspect of the plume model fits poorly the volcanism that followed emplacement of the 1148 LIPs discussed in this paper. Courtillot et al. (2003) review the features of postulated plumes 1149 1150 worldwide. Of the four volcanic provinces we discuss (the CAMP, Karoo-Ferrar flood basalts, 1151 South Atlantic Igneous Province and NAIP), Courtillot et al. (2003) associate only the South 1152 Atlantic Igneous Province LIP flood-volcanism unambiguously with a time-progressive 1153 volcanic trail. Moreover, Courtillot et al. (2003) tentatively associate the CAMP with small 1154 volumes of volcanism at Fernando de Noronha on the Brazilian continental shelf and minor 1155 volcanism onshore. Considering the CAMP is thought to be one of the largest continental LIPs 1156 in the world (Denyszyn et al., 2018), the minimal evidence for plume tail volcanism makes the 1157 model doubtful. In addition, conflicting evidence from geochemistry (Lopes and Ulbrich, 1158 2015) and the chronology of volcanism along archipelago of Fernando de Noronha (Knesel et al., 2011) casts further doubt on the applicability of an idealised plume model. The Karoo-1159 Ferrar flood basalts are tentatively associated with a postulated plume currently centred beneath 1160 1161 Crozet/Prince Edward Island (Courtillot et al., 2003). The volcanics that represent the best candidates for a time-progressive trail extending from that region comprise a ~200-km-wide 1162 1163 archipelago of five island groups across which recent volcanism is widespread and evidence 1164 for systematic time-progression sparse. However, the oldest volcanism known is ~9 Ma (Verwoerd et al., 1990)and there is no apparent link with the ~185-177 Ma Karoo-Ferrar flood 1165 1166 basalts.

There is evidence for some age progression in volcanics in the South Atlantic. Proposed plume-1167 1168 tail volcanism comprises the Rio Grande Rise, the Walvis aseismic ridge and the associated Guyot Province that extends from the Etendeka continental flood basalts in Namibia to the 1169 1170 volcanically active island of Tristan da Cunha. Reported ages range from 114 Ma near Namibia 1171 to 58-72 Ma at the SW end of the Walvis Ridge, and to 80-87 Ma for the Rio Grande Rise, 1172 which is believed to represent the counterpart of the Walvis Ridge on the South American Plate 1173 (Rohde et al., 2013). Age-progressive dates are obtained from the Walvis Ridge (O'Connor 1174 and Jokat, 2015) but there is little corresponding evidence from the Rio Grande Rise. On the contrary, continental material has recently been observed there, suggesting that the Rise is 1175

- possibly a micro-continental fragment (Sager, 2014) that could have been isolated by a seriesof eastward ridge jumps (Graça et al., 2019).
- 1178 In the NAIP the voluminous flood volcanism that formed the North Atlantic passive margins, 1179 is popularly attributed to a plume head (e.g., Chalmers et al., 1995; Gill et al., 1995; Steinberger et al., 2018). However, it is associated with no observed time-progressive volcanic trail (Peace 1180 1181 et al., 2017a; Foulger et al. this volume). The GIFR is often attributed to this but supporting evidence is lacking (Foulger et al. this volume). Very few seamounts occur on the GIFR (Gaina 1182 1183 et al., 2017a) and few reliable dates are available. The GIFR is time-progressive only in the same sense as the ocean floor, and it is interpreted to have formed as a consequence of 1184 1185 prolonged, highly volcanic lithospheric extension (Foulger et al. this volume).

1186 8.0 Concluding remarks

1187 This review highlights significant spatial-temporal variability between the locations of LIPs 1188 and the initiation points of Pangaea disintegration. None of the regions we review fit 1189 comfortably a plume-driven breakup model that predicts pre-breakup magmatism, plume tail eruptions producing ocean island chains, and rifting radiating from the point of plume impact. 1190 1191 In contrast, most show multiple characteristics that are not fully compatible with this model, 1192 including a reverse chronology of uplift, magmatism and rifting, and rifting propagating 1193 towards LIPs. The idealised, generic plume-impingement model thus has difficulties fully 1194 explaining the dispersal of Pangaea and associated magmatism.

1195 Rifting and breakup driven primarily by far-field extensional forces, with magmatism 1196 occurring as a consequence, under strong lithospheric control, is much more consistent with 1197 observations that are common throughout the regions we review. These observations include:

- The supercontinent in the neighbourhood of future breakup experienced almost continuous unrest, including extension and continental rifting and small-volume magmatism for long periods prior to breakup (10s to 100s of Myr).
- Evidence for pre-LIP uplift is lacking. Margin uplift contemporaneous with breakup is consistent with rift-shoulder uplift.
- Magmatism followed pre-existing structures that may have experienced volcanism before.
- The source of magmas was distributed. Magmas did not arise from a single centre.
- Large-volume magmatism (LIP emplacement) occurred distal to simultaneous breakup related rifting, which tended to migrate towards the new LIP.
- The geochemistry of LIP lavas, in particular their Ti contents, suggest a source in the lithospheric mantle.
- The very rapid emplacement of the LIP lavas, with rates on the order of 10⁶ km³ in 1
 Myr, are incompatible with melt production on the same time-scale as eruption. They can essentially only be explained as the draining of pre-existing melt reservoirs that accumulated over a longer period of time than it took to drain them (Silver et al., 2006).

1214 Other factors that likely exert some influence include spatially and temporally variable mantle-1215 source temperature and composition as rifts propagate laterally and asthenosphere wells up

1216 from beneath lithosphere initially 100-200 km thick (Brandl et al., 2013; Langmuir, 2013). 1217 Other processes that may encourage or be consequential to rifting include delamination of 1218 lower lithosphere, small-scale convection (King and Anderson, 1995; King and Anderson, 1219 1998; Simon et al., 2009; Peace et al., 2017a) along Archean craton boundaries and 1220 fragmentation of the new margins to form microcontinents (Schiffer et al., 2018). In 1221 conclusion, a lithosphere-centred model for Pangaea breakup is the simplest that can explain 1222 the primary, common features expressed along the passive margins of the former 1223 supercontinent Pangaea.

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1233 10.0 References

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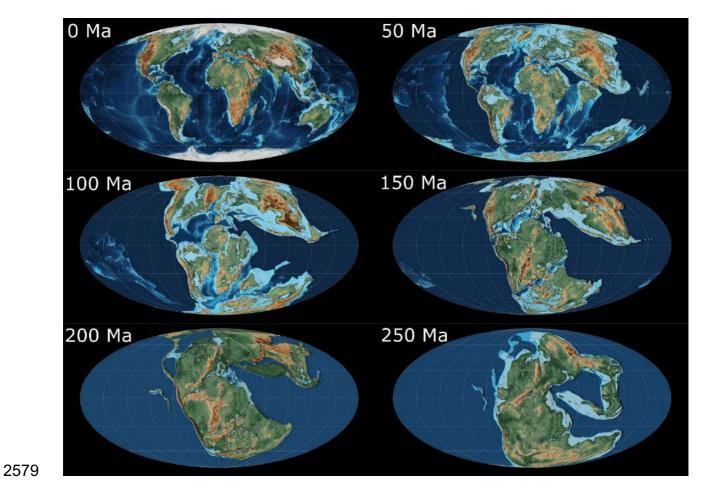


Figure 1. An overview of the disintegration of Pangaea (e.g., Frizon De Lamotte et al., 2015)
using the palaeogeographic reconstruction compiled into the PALEOMAP PaleoAtlas for
GPlates (Scotese, 2016) plotted using a Mollweide projection and shown at 0, 50, 100, 150,
200 and 250 Ma.

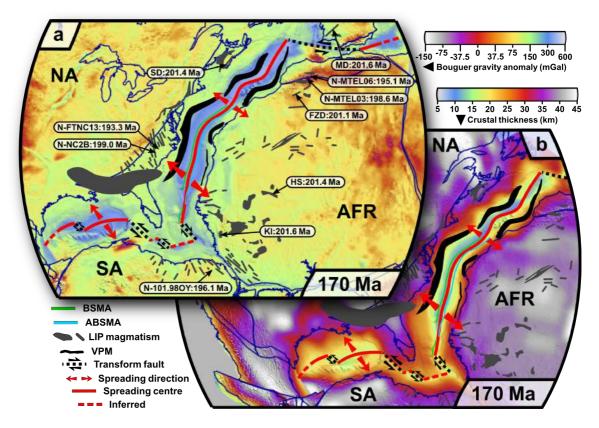


Figure 2. Breakup of the Central Atlantic shown at 170 Ma. a) Reconstructed present day
Bouguer gravity anomaly (world gravity map; Balmino et al., 2012). b) Reconstructed present
day crustal thickness according to the CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013). Representative
LIP magmatism, SDRs, and earliest oceanic magnetic anomalies are shown with associated
ages where available. NA = North America, SA = South America, AFR = Africa.

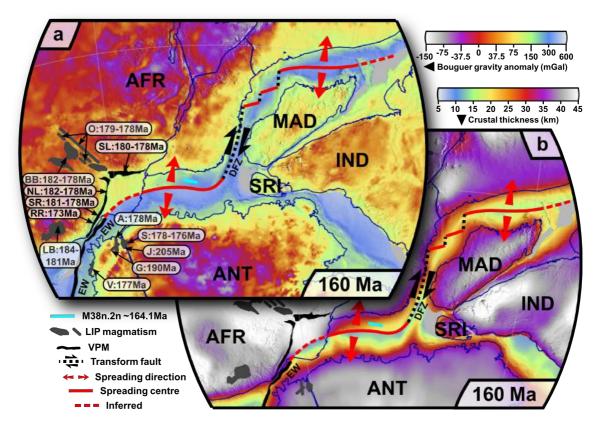
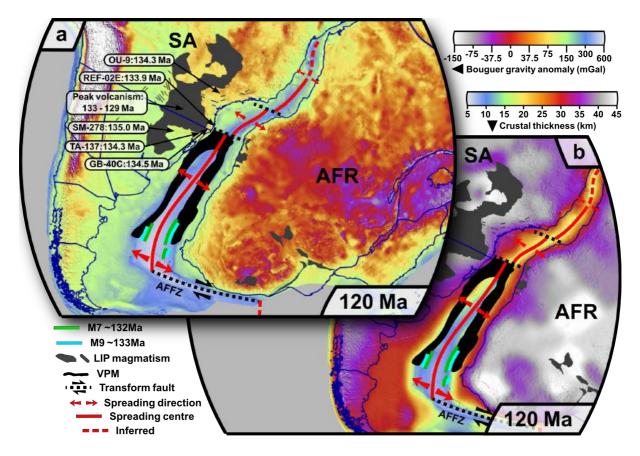


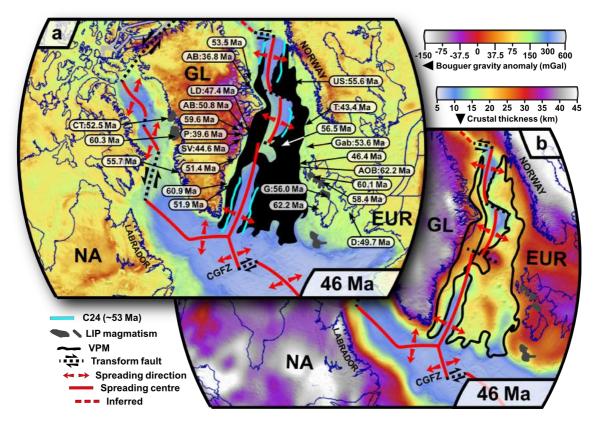
Figure 3. Breakup of East and West Gondwana shown at 160 Ma. a) Reconstructed present
day Bouguer gravity anomaly (world gravity map; Balmino et al., 2012). b) Reconstructed
present day crustal thickness according to the CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013).
Representative LIP magmatism, SDRs, and earliest oceanic magnetic anomalies are shown
with associated ages where available (Phethean et al., 2016; Klimke and Franke, 2016; Sauter
et al., 2018). AFR = Africa, MAD = Madagascar, DFZ = Davie Fracture Zone; IND = India,
SRI = Sri Lanka, ANT = Antarctica, and EW = Explora Wedge.



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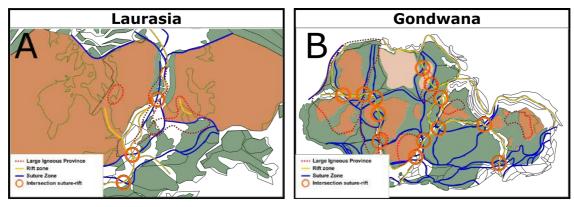
Figure 4. Breakup of the Southern Atlantic shown at 120 Ma. a) Reconstructed present day
Bouguer gravity anomaly (world gravity map; Balmino et al., 2012). b) Reconstructed present
day crustal thickness according to the CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013). Representative
LIP magmatism, SDRs, and earliest oceanic magnetic anomalies are shown with associated
ages where available (Koopmann et al., 2016). AFR = Africa, SA = South America, & AFFZ

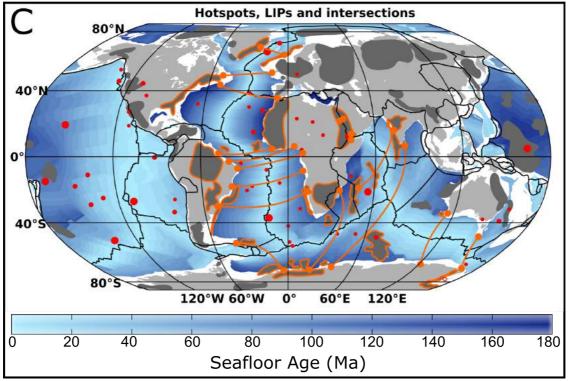
2605 = Agulhas-Falkland Fracture Zone.



2607

2608 Figure 5. Breakup of the North Atlantic shown at 46 Ma. a) Reconstructed present day Bouguer 2609 gravity anomaly (world gravity map; Balmino et al., 2012). b) Reconstructed present day 2610 crustal thickness according to the CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013). LIP magmatism, 2611 SDRs, and earliest oceanic magnetic anomalies are shown with associated ages where 2612 available. Representative magmatism ages are primarily modified from the compilation made 2613 for the NAGTEC project (Wilkinson et al., 2016). Location names: AB = Alkaline Basalt; US: 2614 *NA* = *North America, GL* = *Greenland, EUR* = *Europe, and CGFZ* = *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture* 2615 Zone.





2619 Fig. 6. Schematic reconstructions of A) Laurasia (Cocks and Torsvik, 2011) and B) Gondwana 2620 (Stampfli et al., 2013) where: green = present-day land areas; brown = cratons; blue lines = 2621 *suture zones; yellow = incipient breakup axes; orange circles = intersection of breakup axes* with suture zones and red dotted lines = schematic outline of LIPs. C) A global overview of the 2622 2623 relationship between continental crust (white=offshore; pale grey = onshore), LIPs (dark 2624 grey), proposed hotspots (red dots) and the reconstructed pre-rift intersection points between 2625 suture zones and continental breakup (orange dots). Orange borders on LIPs indicate those 2626 that may have been involved with Pangaean dispersal. The size of the red dots (representing 2627 hotspots) is related to their depths proposed by Courtillot et al. (2003) such that large dots = 2628 core-mantle boundary; medium dots = the base of the upper mantle; and small dots = the 2629 lithosphere. The orange lines show the interpolation between conjugate intersection points, 2630 and the age of oceanic crust is shown in blue. This figure illustrates the relationship between 2631 breakup-suture intersections and many LIPs that formed between the conjugate margins where 2632 intersection points existed. LIPs on this figure are taken from Ernst (2014). Seafloor age is 2633 from Seton et al. (2012).