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**CRITISISM on the paper “ Possible incision time of the large valleys in southern Marmara region, Turkey (N. Kazancı, Ö. Emre, K. Erturaç, S. A.G. Leroy, S. Öncel, Ö. İleri, Ö. Toprak)” appeared in Bulletin of the Mineral Research and Exploration 148, 1-17.**

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## ABSTRACT

Keywords:  
Landforms of the  
Marmara region,  
Criticism

The letter aims to inform and correct some lack in the Kazancı et al. (2014) published in the previous issue of this journal for respect to readers and to Journal.

## Introduction

The paper to be criticized here (Kazancı et al., 2014) aims to give a date on the formation time about large-scale landforms of the Marmara region, as stated its title clearly. Landforms are significant formations, not only geography but also for geology as earth processes can be seen and/or described directly on them. Therefore, ages of landforms of a region must be known for further interpretations. Previously, it has been accepted that geographic framework of Turkey was appeared by Alpine orogenesis and consequently large-scale non-volcanic landforms took place in Miocene (Erinç, 1955, 1973; Erol, 1981; Darkot and Tuncel, 1981). However, these ideas had been hypothetical assumptions of the general geology and they were not based on any dating. These common opinions were started to discuss after development of “Plate Tectonic” and “Neotectonic” concepts (Şengör, 1980; Şengör and Yılmaz, 1981), soon after they have been modified significantly by working of active faults which gave rise to hazardous earthquakes (Şaroğlu et al., 1987; Emre et al., 2012). In respect to known situation, the description of Marmara landforms based on analytical data as “300 ka” by Kazancı et al (2014) is an important discovery. The obtained age has been

also compared with sediment succession and its controlling tectonism in the Sea of Marmara. The criticism to the mentioned paper are due to some missing lines and references in figures 2 and 4 where active faults were shown. They have been also noticed by some other readers.

Figure 2 and figure 4 which are important supplements of the paper show general geology and topography of the region, respectively. In both figures, inner parts of the Sea of Marmara are giving as empty places, except for a limited area where active faults and bathymetry have been drawn colorfully based on a reference. It is right ethically not to include the unobserved places into the study areas, however, they are uncertainties in the maps. The active faults were not discussed in detail as well. The only reference about the faults is Emre et al (2012). Tectonism and active faults were not the main scope of the study and it is acceptable not to include them in the discussion, but the lack of any other reference may bring to mind that it is the only study about the Sea of Marmara. However, the mentioned reference is the main source for the active faults in continental areas. In addition, Emre et al. (2012) gave relevant citations (i.e. İmren et al., 2001; Rangin et al., 2001; Kuşçu et al., 2002; Le Pichon et al., 2001;

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2003; Armijo et al., 2002, 2005; Cormier et al., 2006) for active faults of the sea, and Rangin et al (2001) for colorful bathymetry. All these references and their results could have been used in the paper.

Another mistake in the paper is the address of one of the authors (S.Ö). He is still working for GYTE, but his address pointed as if he is a personnel of Ankara University.

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