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Bentong—Raub Suture
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4.0 INTRODUCTION
Because the eastern ‘Foothills’ of the Main Range are constructed of metasediments, associated with radiolarian chert and contain serpentinite and metabasite, Jones (1968, 1973) interpreted them as marking a 'eugeosyncline' separating western from eastern Peninsular Malaysia (Malaya). Haile and Stauffer (1972) pointed out rather amusingly that the “Bentong Group” of Alexander (1968) should be abandoned because it contained both radiolarian chert and continental redbeds, but they were sceptical that the Foothills Range represented a subduction zone. Haile (1973) and Hutchison (1973d) then interpreted the Foothills as a former subduction zone. The ‘Foothills’ zone thus became recognised as the central Malaya suture and Hutchison (1975) named it the “Bentong-Raub ophiolite line”, that subsequently became widely known as the “Bentong-Raub Line”. The main occurrences of the suture zone rocks are shown in Fig. 4.1, after Metcalfe (2000b). The Bentong-Raub Suture represents the Palaeo-Tethys in Peninsular Malaysia. It is a southwards extension of the Nan-Uttaradit and Sra Kaeo sutures of Thailand. The suture zone contains oceanic ribbon chert that has been dated by radiolaria ranging in age from Upper Devonian to Upper Permian (Metcalfe, 1999). Graptolites in the associated slates of the Tuan Estate south of Karak are dated Lower Devonian (Jones, 1970). Limestone clasts in melange are of Lower and Upper Permian age. The Palaeo-Tethys therefore opened in the Lower Devonian, caused by separation of Sibumasu from Gondwanaland, and closed in the Triassic, caused by the Indosinian orogenic collision with the Indochina Block that was earlier sutured to Eurasia.

4.1 CENTRAL AREA
The most accessible and therefore the best known part of the suture extends southwards from Cheroh (Fig. 4.2), through the Raub and Bentong areas and southwards towards the Kuala