

THE GEOLOGY OF THE ALPS FROM THE AIR – PRESENTING AN ONLINE CATALOGUE OF OBLIQUE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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The geology of the Alps has interested Earth Scientists for centuries. No other mountain belt on Earth has been mapped, studied and interpreted in this much detail and the Alpine mountain range has long served as an international key natural laboratory to study the principles of mountain building processes. However - although many research articles and a series of books are dedicated to the geology of the Alps - no pictorial illustration of the spectacular geology and geomorphology of this fascinating mountain range exists. In fact, other mountain belts around the world - including those of Sri Lanka - are in a similar position in that their geology is reasonably well-understood, but no extensive database of photographic coverage exists. For this contribution we have spent two summers photographing the entire mountain range of the Alps from the air, obtaining more than 10000 geologically oriented photos between Nice in France at the western end and Vienna in Austria at the eastern end of the range. This photographic database of the geology of the Alps is now available through **www.alpengeologie.org** and a book was published that presents highlights of this data base. This contribution presents highlights of this catalogue and aims to encourage future geologists to establish similar databases for other regions.

Reference: Stüwe K., Homberger R. (2015) (5th edition) High above the Alps. A Bird's Eye View of Geology. Weishaupt publishers, Gnas, Austria, 296 p.
