



## High-pressure granulite-facies metamorphism in central Dronning Maud Land (East Antarctica): implications for Gondwana assembly

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**Abstract:** The Dronning Maud Land (DML; East Antarctica) is a key region for the study of the Grenvillian (1.3-0.9 Ga) and Pan-African (0.6-0.5 Ga) orogenies, which have led to the assembly of Rodinia and Gondwana supercontinents respectively. Central DML is characterized by a Pan-African tectono-metamorphic evolution that involved Mesoproterozoic protoliths related to the Grenville orogenic cycle. The Conradsgebirge area, one of the best rock exposures of central DML, consists of orthogneisses, derived from both volcanic and plutonic protoliths, and minor metasediments, intruded by Cambrian syn- to post-metamorphic plutons and dykes.

Mafic-ultramafic boudins in the metavolcanic and metaplutonic gneisses from Conradsgebirge consist of amphibolites and high-grade Grt-bearing pyroxene- and amphibole-rich fels. They occur either as discontinuous levels or as pods boudinaged within highly-strained and strongly-migmatized gneisses. Bulk-rock major and trace-element compositions suggest derivation from E-MORB to OIB protoliths for the mafic rocks boudinaged in metaplutonic gneisses, whereas a calc-alkaline signature is common for the mafic boudins in metavolcanic rocks. Most of the magmatic protoliths of the mafic as well as felsic rocks likely formed at the Mesoproterozoic during the Grenville orogenic cycle, in an arc/back-arc environment.

The microstructural study and P-T modelling of an ultramafic metagabbroic rock reveal a prograde metamorphic evolution from amphibolite-facies (ca. 0.5 GPa; 500°C) up to high-P granulite-facies conditions (ca. 1.5-1.7 GPa; 960-970°C). Partial melting is testified by nanogranitoid inclusions enclosed in garnet. An almost isothermal decompression down to ca. 0.4 GPa and 750-850°C produced well-developed An+Opx-bearing symplectites around garnet. The final isobaric cooling took place at ~505-480 Ma, as revealed by <sup>40</sup>Ar-<sup>39</sup>Ar dating of amphibole and biotite.

The above reconstruction traces a clockwise P-T evolution with a peak metamorphism at high-P granulite-facies conditions, whose age is uncertain but possibly occurred at nearly 570 Ma, followed by a decompression promoted by a transpressive regime before the collapse of the orogeny structures at nearly 500 Ma. This tectono-metamorphic scenario seems representative of the evolution resulting from the Pan-

African collision between the East-Gondwana and West-Gondwana blocks that led to the final assembly of Gondwana and, in DML, to the formation of the Mozambique Belt extension into Antarctica.

Siena, September 4<sup>st</sup> 2017

Dear Editor,

Here is the paper "**High-pressure granulite-facies metamorphism in central Dronning Maud Land (Antarctica): implications for Gondwana assembly**" by Rosaria Palmeri, Gaston Godard, Gianfranco Di Vincenzo, Sonia Sandroni and Franco Talarico for submission to Lithos. We hope that the petrological and geochemical results reported here are suitable for your journal and interesting for the researchers involved into the evolution of the Pan-African orogen, in Antarctica and elsewhere.

The paper has not been published before. A companion paper dealing about the presence of partial melt within garnet in one of the rocks studied here is already submitted to The American Mineralogist ("**Partial melting of ultramafic granulites from Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica: constraints from melt inclusions and thermodynamic modeling**" by S. Ferrero, G. Godard, R. Palmeri, B. Wunder, B. Cesare).

The content has been approved by all co-authors.

We propose as reviewers two specialists of the central Dronning Maud Land (J. Jacobs; W. Bauer), and two petrologists, expert of East Antarctica (R.P. Ménot; Martin Hand):

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Best regards,

Rosaria Palmeri

The Dronning Maud Land (DML; East Antarctica) is a key region for the study of the Grenvillian (1.3–0.9 Ga) and Pan-African (0.6–0.5 Ga) orogenies, which have led to the assembly of Rodinia and Gondwana supercontinents respectively. Central DML is characterized by a Pan-African tectono-metamorphic evolution that involved Mesoproterozoic protoliths related to the Grenville orogenic cycle. The Conradsgebirge area, one of the best rock exposures of central DML, consists of orthogneisses, derived from both volcanic and plutonic protoliths, and minor metasediments, intruded by Cambrian syn- to post-metamorphic plutons and dykes.

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## Highlights

(Ultra)mafic rocks of East Antarctica were metamorphosed during the Gondwana assembly

Their magmatic protoliths are related to the Mesoproterozoic Grenville orogenic cycle

High-*P* metamorphism (up to 1.5–1.7 GPa, 960–970°C) produced melt preserved in garnet

Isothermal exhumation developed An+Opx symplectites before cooling at 505–480 Ma

They are related to the Pan-African Mozambique belt extension into Antarctica

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1        **High-pressure granulite-facies metamorphism in central Dronning Maud Land**  
2        **(Antarctica): implications for Gondwana assembly**

3

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13

14        *Keywords:* Antarctica, Grenvillian orogeny, Pan-African orogeny, Gondwana, mafic/ultramafic rocks, HP-  
15        HT granulite.

16

17        *Abbreviations:* Mineral and end-member abbreviations are from Kretz (1983), with the addition of Liq  
18        (silicate melt liquid), Opm (opaque mineral) and Sulph (sulphide); "ppm" is used for µg/g.

19        **Abstract**

20        The Dronning Maud Land (DML; East Antarctica) is a key region for the study of the Grenvillian (1.3–0.9  
21        Ga) and Pan-African (0.6–0.5 Ga) orogenies, which have led to the assembly of Rodinia and Gondwana  
22        supercontinents respectively. Central DML is characterized by a Pan-African tectono-metamorphic  
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24        Conradsgebirge area, one of the best rock exposures of central DML, consists of orthogneisses, derived from

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44 African collision between the East-Gondwana and West-Gondwana blocks that led to the final assembly of  
45 Gondwana and, in DML, to the formation of the Mozambique Belt extension into Antarctica.

## 46 **1. Introduction**

47 Granulite-facies rocks, reported in recent and – mostly – old orogenic belts, usually denote high- $T$  (HT)  
48 metamorphic conditions during orogeny (Harley, 1989). Besides such HT granulites, high- $P$  (HP) granulite-  
49 facies rocks have also been reported, more recently, in various orogenic belts (e.g. Baldwin et al., 2003;



50 Elvevold and Gilotti, 2000; Gayk et al., 1995; O'Brien and Rözler, 2003; Pauly et al., 2016; Rözler and Romer,  
51 2001; Zhao et al., 2001). HP granulites can form along relatively high  $dP/dT$  gradients typical of subduction  
52 processes and can reach  $P$ - $T$  conditions corresponding to mantle depths. They are typically found in the  
53 internal zones of orogenic belts, testifying major plate tectonic processes such as crustal thickening above  
54 subduction zones or stacking/doubling of the crust during continental collision (e.g. Harley, 1989; O'Brien  
55 and Rözler, 2003; Pauly et al., 2016).

56 East Antarctica provides many examples of granulite-facies metamorphism, including the well-known  
57 Archaean ultrahigh- $T$  granulites from the Napier Complex (Enderby Land: Harley et al., 2013). Precambrian  
58 terranes were accreted onto Archaean nuclei in the course of several collisional orogenies, namely the  
59 Grenville (~1.0 Ga) and Pan-African (~600–500 Ma) orogens, leading to the assembly of, respectively, the  
60 Rodinia and Gondwana supercontinents (Fig. 1; Boger, 2011). High-grade metamorphic rocks have been  
61 ascribed to these orogens in East Antarctica, including a few eclogites (Schmädicke and Will, 2006) and –  
62 mostly – granulites (e.g., Black et al., 1987; Engvik and Elvevold, 2004; Engvik et al., 2007; Grew et al., 1988;  
63 Harley, 1985; Makimoto et al., 1990; Pauly et al., 2016; Shiraishi et al., 1997). However, as emphasized by  
64 Godard and Palmeri (2013) and Pauly et al. (2016), there is a lot of uncertainties in this region about the  
65 orogen to which these rocks should be ascribed (Grenvillian, Grenvillian reworked during Pan-African, or  
66 Pan-African), as well as about the reached metamorphic conditions (eclogite, HP-granulite or medium/low-  
67  $P$ -granulite facies). In part, this is due to the petrographic convergence between retrograded eclogites and  
68 HP mafic granulites, the latter being characterized by Opx-free assemblages consisting of  
69 Grt+Cpx±Pl±Qtz±Cam (Pattison, 2003).

70 Here, we describe the petrological and geochemical features of selected granulite-facies mafic-  
71 ultramafic rocks from Conradgebirge in central Dronning Maud Land (DML), East Antarctica. A particular  
72 attention is given to a garnet-bearing ultramafic rock that preserved an HP-granulite-facies assemblage and  
73 whose garnet encloses “nanogranitoid” after melt inclusions – the first ever recorded in mafic rocks  
74 (Ferrero et al., 2016), and whose study is presented in detail elsewhere (Ferrero et al., 2017). The  $P$ - $T$   
75 evolution of the rock is modelled through  $P$ - $T$  pseudosection calculations and its amphibole and biotite are

76 dated by the  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  technique. The results allow us to clarify the meaning of these HP-granulite-facies  
77 terranes in the context of the Pan-African orogeny that led to the Neoproterozoic assembly of the  
78 Gondwana supercontinent, and to discuss whether part of their evolution should be ascribed to the earlier  
79 Grenvillian orogeny.

## 80 **2. Geological setting**

81 The DML mountains extend from 18° W to 28° E, parallel to the coastline of Antarctica (Fig. 2). It is a key  
82 region for the palaeogeographic reconstructions of continents from the Mesoproterozoic to the Cambrian,  
83 as it potentially contains relevant geological records documenting the formation and dispersion of Rodinia  
84 and the subsequent assembly of Gondwana (Fig. 1; Bauer et al., 2003; Jacobs, 1999; Jacobs et al., 1998,  
85 2003; Satish-Kumar et al., 2008). Palaeomagnetic (Gose et al., 1997), geochronological (Jacobs et al., 1998;  
86 Satish-Kumar et al., 2008, 2013) and aeromagnetic (Golynsky and Jacob, 2001) surveys show that DML can  
87 be subdivided into three zones with different geological histories (Bauer et al., 2003): a) an Archaean craton  
88 with an undeformed Proterozoic cover; b) a late Mesoproterozoic collision orogen related to the  
89 amalgamation of the Neoproterozoic supercontinent Rodinia; c) a Pan-African collision belt that led to the  
90 Gondwana assembly, with pre-Pan-African relicts and voluminous syn- to post-tectonic intrusive rocks. The  
91 latter is mainly exposed in central DML, which is regarded, in many Gondwana reconstructions (Fig. 1), as  
92 the southern extension of the Mozambique belt into East Antarctica (Jacobs et al., 1998). The Mozambique  
93 belt is one of the most extensive orogens in the Earth's history (Holmes, 1951); it is interpreted as having  
94 formed during the closure of the Mozambique Ocean and the subsequent collision and amalgamation of  
95 East and West Gondwana during Pan-African orogeny (Bauer et al., 2003; Elvevold and Engvik, 2013;  
96 Grunow et al., 1996; Hoffman, 1991; Jacobs, 1999; Jacobs et al., 1998; Pauly et al., 2016; Shackleton, 1996).

97 Several major lithological units have been distinguished and mapped in the metamorphic basement of  
98 central DML (Paech et al., 2004). They include metaigneous and metasedimentary units, as well as syn- to  
99 post-metamorphic plutons and dykes (Fig. 2). According to Jacobs (1999) and Bauer et al. (2003, 2004), the  
100 oldest formation consists of a thick supracrustal pile made of banded felsic and mafic gneisses interpreted

101 as a bimodal volcanic sequence (U-Pb age on zircon  $1130 \pm 12$  Ma: Jacobs, 1999; Jacobs et al., 1998),  
102 interlayered with sedimentary rocks. This volcanic complex was later intruded by a voluminous granitoid  
103 batholith and sheet-like felsic intrusions (U-Pb age on zircon  $1083 \pm 20$  Ma: Jacobs, 1999; Jacobs et al.,  
104 1998). The two formations, intensely metamorphosed and deformed, were transformed into metavolcanic  
105 and metaplutonic complexes during the Pan-African orogenic cycle. Central DML was lately (600–510 Ma)  
106 intruded by two anorthosite suites and granites.

107 The earliest deformation structure ( $D_1$ ) is evidenced by intrafolial isoclinal folds in paragneisses and  
108 metavolcanic rocks of the metavolcanic complex. It is assumed to be a Late Mesoproterozoic event,  
109 because of the metamorphic ( $M_1$ ) age provided by zircons collected from a metavolcanic felsic gneiss  
110 ( $\sim 1080$  Ma: Bauer et al., 2003; Jacobs, 1999; Jacobs et al., 1998). The most prominent deformation phase  
111 ( $D_2$ ) is responsible for major N-vergent folds with gently NE-to-E-plunging axes. It produced the main  
112 foliation, coeval with granulite-facies metamorphism ( $M_2$ ) and syntectonic migmatization, whose age of  
113  $\sim 570$  Ma (Jacobs et al. 1998) relates the event to the Pan-African orogenic cycle. To the same orogenic  
114 cycle are attributed the later  $D_3$  and  $D_4$  events.  $D_3$  is characterized by major sinistral shear zones (e.g. SOSZ  
115 in Fig. 2) and transpressive N-S trending folds, coeval with granulite- to amphibolite-facies metamorphism  
116 ( $M_3$ ). Finally,  $D_4$  is defined by discrete extensional shear zones associated with Cambrian intrusions of  
117 syenite and charnockite, and a retrograde amphibolite-facies metamorphism ( $M_4$ ).

118 Conradgebirge, in Orvinfjella (Figs. 2 and 3), is one of the best exposures of central DML where the  $D_1$  to  
119  $D_4$  tectono-metamorphic evolution can be followed (Colombo and Talarico, 2004). To the North, Cambrian  
120 syenite and charnockite intrude the metavolcanic complex, which consists here of amphibole-bearing  
121 gneisses, amphibolites and plagiogneisses with minor gabbros and ultramafic lenses (yellow in Fig. 3). This  
122 complex is interleaved with rare thin belts of metasedimentary rocks, mainly Bt+Sil+Grt±Opx gneisses, calc-  
123 silicate rocks, marbles and quartzites (blue in Fig. 3). In the central part of Conradgebirge, a metaplutonic  
124 complex made up of garnet-bearing migmatitic augen orthogneisses with subordinate garnet-bearing  
125 amphibolites (pink in Fig. 3) occurs; the granitoid protoliths were intrusive within the metavolcanic  
126 complex. Hornblende-bearing augen orthogneisses with rare Grt+Cpx amphibolites (red in Fig. 3) are also

127 present in the metaplutonic complex; they show a tonalitic composition and seem to be younger (~530 Ma)  
128 than the enclosing orthogneisses (Bauer et al., 2003; Jacobs, 1999). The metaplutonic complex also embeds  
129 meter-sized pods of high-grade mafic-ultramafic rocks, some of which are studied here.

### 130 **3. Methods**

131 Eight mafic-ultramafic samples from Conradgebirge were selected for detailed microstructural,  
132 petrological and geochemical studies (Fig. 3). Two of them (28-12-95TF4 and 11-12-95TF3) were analysed  
133 by the  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  method on amphibole and biotite, and one (28-12-95TF4) was modelled through the *P-T*  
134 pseudosection technique. All samples are stored in the rock repository of *Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide*  
135 (Siena University, Italy; online database: [//www.mna.it/english/Collections/collezioni\\_set.htm](http://www.mna.it/english/Collections/collezioni_set.htm)).

#### 136 *3.1. Mineral and bulk-rock analyses*

137 Whole-rock major and trace elements (including rare earth elements – REE) analyses were determined  
138 by ICP-AES and ICP-MS spectrometry at Actlabs (Ontario, Canada), on a whole-rock powder dissolved  
139 through the Li-metaborate and Li-tetraborate fusion method.

140 Mineral compositions were obtained using SX100 and SXFIVE electron microprobes at *CAMPARIS* (CNRS,  
141 Paris, France). The accelerating voltage was 15 kV; the beam current was 40 nA for garnet and 10 nA for the  
142 other minerals; natural standards were used for calibration. Structural formulas are calculated on the basis  
143 of 23 (amphiboles), 22 (micas), 12 (garnet), 8 (plagioclase), 6 (pyroxenes), 4 (olivine, spinel), or 3 (ilmenite)  
144 equivalent oxygens (Tables S1-S5).  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  contents are estimated on the basis of 4 cations for 6 oxygens for  
145 pyroxenes, and according to Hawthorne et al. (2012) using the excel spreadsheet of Locock (2014) for  
146 amphiboles. The nomenclature of Hawthorne et al. (2012) was used for amphibole classification.

#### 147 *3.2. $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$ analyses*

148 Mineral separation and  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  analyses were completed at IGG-CNR (Pisa, Italy). After crushing and  
149 sieving, amphiboles and biotites were concentrated from the 0.35–0.50 mm grain size using standard  
150 separation techniques and further purified by hand-picking under a stereomicroscope. Amphibole  
151 separates were leached in an ultrasonic bath (at room *T*) for 10 min in  $\text{HNO}_3$  1N and for a few minutes in HF

152 7%. Samples were wrapped in aluminium foil and irradiated for 60 h in the core of the TRIGA reactor at the  
153 University of Pavia (Italy) along with the dating standard Fish Canyon sanidine (FCs). After irradiation,  
154 samples were placed in an ultrahigh-vacuum laser port and baked overnight at 180°C.  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  laser step-  
155 heating experiments were undertaken using a Nd:YAG infrared laser defocused to a ~2-mm spot size. Steps  
156 were carried out at increasing laser power to complete melting. Single grain total-fusion analyses of the  
157 fluence monitor FCs (five for each stack position) were carried out using a continuous wave CO<sub>2</sub> laser  
158 defocused to 1-mm spot size. After cleanup (10 min, including 1 min of lasering), using two Saes AP10  
159 getters held at 400°C and one C-50 getter held at room *T*, extracted gases were equilibrated by automated  
160 valves into a MAP215-50 noble gas mass spectrometer fitted with a Balzers SEV217 secondary electron  
161 multiplier. Ar-isotope peak intensities were measured ten times for a total of ~25 min. Blanks were  
162 analysed every one to three analyses. Mass discrimination was monitored by analysis of air pipettes and  
163 correction factors for interfering isotopes were determined on K- and Ca-rich glasses. Errors are given at 2σ  
164 and are quoted for each heating step as analytical errors, including in-run statistics and uncertainties in the  
165 discrimination factor, interference corrections and procedural blanks. Errors on total gas ages, on error-  
166 weighted mean ages or on ages from isochron calculation are internal errors, and also include uncertainties  
167 in the *J* value. Data corrected for post-irradiation decay, mass discrimination effects, isotopes derived from  
168 interference reactions and blanks are listed in Table S6. Ages were calculated using the IUGS recommended  
169 constants (Steiger and Jäger, 1977) and an age of 28.03 Ma for FCs (Jourdan and Renne, 2007). We adopted  
170 old constants due to the lack of general consensus regarding new  $^{40}\text{K}$  decay constants. More details on the  
171 analytical procedures can be found in Di Vincenzo and Skála (2009).

### 172 3.3. Thermodynamic Modelling

173 In order to model the *P-T* evolution of the 28-12-95TF4 ultramafic rock, we have calculated various  
174 isochemical *P-T* diagrams (or “pseudosections”), using the Thermocalc software package (v 3.40) and the  
175 internally-consistent thermodynamic dataset of Holland and Powell (2011; release 6.2 of 2015). We  
176 considered the following activity-composition models: silicate melt, purposely designed for the partial  
177 melting of metabasic rocks in the NCKFMASH system (Green et al., 2016); clinoamphibole (NCKFMASHTO:

178 Green et al., 2016); garnet (CMnFMASO: White et al., 2014a, 2014b); calcic augite (NCFMASO: Green et al.,  
179 2016), with the complex solid solution Di–Hd–Ca–Ts–clinoferrosilite–clinoenstatite–Jd–Acm; orthopyroxene  
180 (CMnFMASO: White et al., 2014a, 2014b); spinel (FMATO: White et al., 2002); biotite (KMnFMASHO: White  
181 et al., 2014a, 2014b); plagioclase (NCKAS: Holland and Powell, 2003); ilmenite (FMTO: White et al., 2000,  
182 2014b).

183 A first *P-T* pseudosection was calculated for the bulk composition of the rock (Fig. 10a, b) and two others  
184 for the chemical composition of rock microdomains, namely a cm-sized magmatic clinopyroxene with  
185 numerous exsolution lamellae (Fig. 10c) and an inclusion of plagioclase entrapped in garnet (Fig. 10d). The  
186 information provided by these pseudosections is presented in Section 7.

#### 187 **4. Petrography and mineral chemistry**

188 Two groups of mafic-ultramafic rocks are distinguished here, on the basis of their geological setting, as  
189 well as from a petrological perspective. The first group consists of Cam+Pl+Grt±Cpx±Bt amphibolites and  
190 Cpx+Cam±Opx granulitic fels that belong to the metavolcanic complex, from the northern and southern  
191 parts of Conradgebirge (Fig. 3). The second group is represented by Grt+Cpx+Cam±Opx granulitic fels and  
192 minor Cpx-bearing amphibolites enclosed in the metaplutonic complex, cropping in the central zone of  
193 Conradgebirge (Fig. 3).

##### 194 *4.1. Metavolcanic complex*

195 The samples from the metavolcanic complex (10-12-95CF33, 10-12-95TF7, 10-12-95TF8A, 10-12-95TF8B,  
196 and 11-12-95TF3) were taken from boudins of a few metres to tens of metres in length, which form  
197 discontinuous mafic levels in migmatites of metasedimentary origin, which are in turn interleaved with  
198 metavolcanics (Fig. 4a; Colombo and Talarico, 2004). The latter rocks show a main  $S_2$  foliation with a well-  
199 visible  $L_2$  lineation, coaxial with the axis of the most pervasive fold generation ( $D_2$  deformation) and grading  
200 locally into a marked stretching lineation (Bauer et al., 2004; Colombo and Talarico, 2004). Relicts of  
201 isoclinal folds and foliation preserved in mafic enclaves are thought to represent a  $D_1$  deformation structure  
202 (Bauer et al., 2004).

203 Amphibolites (10-12-95TF7, 10-12-95TF8B and 11-12-95TF3) consist of  $\text{Cam}+\text{Pl}\pm\text{Grt}\pm\text{Cpx}\pm\text{Opx}\pm\text{Bt}+\text{Qtz}$   
204 with accessory  $\text{Opm}\pm\text{Ap}\pm\text{Zrn}$ . They are fine- to medium-grained rocks with a granonematoblastic texture  
205 marked by the shape preferential orientation of amphibole, biotite flakes, plagioclase and trails of opaque  
206 minerals parallel to the main foliation  $S_2$  (Fig. 5a, b). Clinopyroxene is mainly replaced by green/brown  
207 nematoblasts of amphibole and so it is a relict with respect to  $S_2$ . Garnet crystals are mm-sized, anhedral  
208 and fractured porphyroblasts showing resorbed margins (Fig. 5a); they may enclose epidote, plagioclase,  
209 quartz, biotite and pargasitic amphibole. Symplectitic  $\text{Pl}+\text{Opx}$  coronas grew at the contacts between garnet  
210 and amphibole (Fig. 5a).

211 Fels (10-12-95CF33, 10-12-95TF8A) are medium-grained ultramafic rocks with sub-polygonal  
212 granoblastic and nematoblastic textures. They consist of  $\text{Cam}+\text{Cpx}\pm\text{Opx}\pm\text{Bt}\pm\text{Ol}\pm\text{Spl}$  with accessory  
213  $\text{Qtz}\pm\text{Pl}+\text{Opm}\pm\text{Ap}\pm\text{Zrn}$ . Clinoamphibole, the most abundant mineral, occurs mainly as prismatic brown  
214 crystals that coexist with Cpx and Opx, whereas some green amphibole nematoblasts also developed after  
215 clinopyroxene (Fig. 5c). Plagioclase is rare and biotite flakes are associated with amphibole. Olivine and  
216 green/brown spinel are present in the most ultramafic rocks (Fig. 5d).

217 Clinoamphibole is mainly pargasite or magnesiohornblende in composition, independently from its  
218 microtextural position (Table S1). Spot analyses plot in the Al-rich region of the diagrams of Fig. 6 and  
219 reveal a trend parallel to the pargasite-tremolite join, with an important pargasite substitution. The  
220 nematoblasts are nearly homogeneous with high  $\text{Al}^{\text{IV}}$  content ( $\sim 1.02\text{--}1.93$  atoms per formula unit [a.p.f.u.])  
221 and important A-site occupancy ( $\sim 0.32\text{--}0.76$  a.p.f.u). Although there is no clear zonation, lower contents of  
222  $\text{Al}^{\text{IV}}$  and  $(\text{Na}+\text{K})_{\text{A}}$  are noticeable near the cleavages, where some evolution towards the tremolite end-  
223 member may have occurred during retrogression. Amphibole from sample 11-12-95TF3 also shows lower  
224  $\text{Al}^{\text{IV}}$  content and A-site occupancy, with respect to the other samples (Fig. 6), and lies among the low- $P$   
225 region in Figure 6c, suggesting a late re-equilibration.

226 Garnet is a Prp-Grs-rich almandine with a slight  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  decrease from core to rim (10-12-95TF7:  $\text{Prp}_{20\text{--}}$   
227  $_{16}\text{Alm}_{61\text{--}68}\text{Grs}_{14\text{--}12}\text{Sps}_{3\text{--}4}\text{Adr}_{2\text{--}0}$ ; Table S2 and Fig. 7). Clinopyroxene is diopside with low Jd and Ca-Ts  
228 substitutions ( $\text{Di}_{67.4}\text{Hd}_{20.4}\text{En}_{4.8}\text{Fs}_{1.5}\text{Ca-Ts}_4\text{Ca-Ti-Ts}_{0.04}\text{Jd}_{1.04}$ ). Orthopyroxene is enstatite ( $\text{En}_{79}\text{Fs}_{21}$ ), when in

229 equilibrium with Cpx, Ol, Spl and Cam in the fels, whereas it is richer in iron when it developed lately in the  
230 symplectitic coronas between garnet and amphibole ( $Wo_1 En_{46} Fs_{53}$ : Table S3). Plagioclase is a nearly  
231 homogeneous labradorite ( $An_{52-54}$ : Table S4), with rare oligoclase-rich rims ( $An_{\sim 23}$ ) in garnet-free rocks; on  
232 the other hand, plagioclase in the symplectite after garnet is bytownite ( $An_{84-89}$ ). Biotite is a phlogopite with  
233  $X_{Mg}$  ranging from  $\sim 0.65$  up to  $\sim 0.78$ . It shows the highest  $X_{Mg}$ -values in the ultramafic fels, where it coexists  
234 with olivine ( $Fo_{74}$ : Table S5) and brown Cr-bearing spinel ( $X_{Mg} \cong 0.54$ ,  $Cr_2O_3 \cong 6.5$  wt%: Table S5).

#### 235 4.2. Metaplutonic complex

236 Samples from the metaplutonic complex (7-12-95TF4, 18-12-95TF1B, 28-12-95TF4) belong to m-sized  
237 pods boudinaged within highly-strained and strongly-migmatized zones (Fig. 4b; Colombo and Talarico,  
238 2004). The rocks are mafic to ultramafic medium-grained fels with an interlobate granoblastic texture. They  
239 consist of  $Cpx+Opx \pm Cam \pm Grt \pm Pl \pm Bt \pm Ol \pm Spl$ , with accessory  $Opm \pm Qtz \pm Ap \pm Zrn$ , but are much different from  
240 each other, in particular in the relative abundances of amphibole versus pyroxene.

241 In amphibole-rich sample 28-12-95TF4, garnet occurs as cm-sized porphyroblasts with rare inclusions of  
242 Cam, Bt, Pl, sulphides and melt products (or “nanogranitoids”) (Fig. 5e). Amphibole is the most abundant  
243 mineral; mm-sized strained clinopyroxene grains show exsolution lamellae of Opx, Pl and Cam (Fig. 5f;  
244 Section 7.1); one unique relict orthopyroxene crystal, with kink bands, is corroded by amphibole. Abundant  
245 symplectites grew at contacts with garnet. A kelyphite with two concentric symplectites occurs between  
246 garnet and amphibole (Fig. 5e, g); the inner symplectite, close to garnet, consists of  $Opx+Pl+Spl \pm Ol \pm Bt$  ( $kel_i$   
247 in: Fig. 5e, g; Fig. S1), whereas the outer one, near amphibole, is made of  $Pl+Opx \pm Cam_2 \pm Spl \pm Bt$  ( $kel_o$  in Fig.  
248 5e, g). Plagioclase enclosed in garnet also reacted with the latter to form a  $Pl+Opx+Spl$  corona (inset in Fig.  
249 10d). Some mm-thick symplectites, made of  $Pl+Opx \pm Cam_2$ , developed between garnet and clinopyroxene,  
250 together with an irregular corona of undeformed orthopyroxene on the clinopyroxene side (Fig. 5e).

251 In amphibole-lacking sample 18-12-95TF1B, three successive parageneses can be distinguished (Fig. 5h).  
252 The first consists of anhedral, large almandine ( $Grt_1$  in Fig. 5h) together with anhedral ilmenite ( $Ilm_1$ ),  
253 pyroxene ( $Cpx_1$ ), quartz ( $Qtz_1$ ) and apatite ( $Ap_1$ ). The second paragenesis developed between  $Grt_1$  and  $Cpx_1$ ;  
254 it consists of a kelyphitic intergrowth of anorthite ( $An_2$ ) + clinopyroxene ( $Cpx_2$ )  $\pm$  orthopyroxene ( $Opx_2$ ),



255 together with a coronitic orthopyroxene (Opx<sub>2</sub>) on the Cpx<sub>1</sub> side. Finally, a coronitic garnet (Grt<sub>3</sub>) grew again  
256 as thin films at the contacts An<sub>2</sub>-Opx<sub>2</sub>, An<sub>2</sub>-Cpx<sub>2</sub> and An<sub>2</sub>-Ilm<sub>1</sub>.

257 Clin amphibole in 28-12-95TF4 is always pargasite, independently of its microtextural context (Table  
258 S1). It shows the highest Al<sup>IV</sup> content and A-site occupancy with respect to amphiboles from the  
259 metavolcanic complex samples (Fig. 6) and belongs, at least in appearance, to the same trend, parallel to  
260 the pargasite-tremolite join (Fig. 6a).

261 Garnet in 28-12-95TF4 is Alm-rich pyrope (Table S2, Fig. 7) showing a nearly homogeneous core with a  
262 plateau-shaped profile (Prp<sub>44</sub> Alm<sub>38</sub> Grs<sub>15</sub> Sps<sub>1</sub> Adr<sub>3</sub>), but it displays an abrupt X<sub>Fe</sub> increase from 80 μm  
263 onwards to the edge (up to Prp<sub>27</sub> Alm<sub>54</sub> Grs<sub>13</sub> Sps<sub>3</sub> Adr<sub>0</sub>). In the amphibole-lacking sample 18-12-95TF1B,  
264 porphyroblastic garnet (Grt<sub>1</sub> in Fig. 5h) is also homogeneous, but it is much richer in almandine (Grt<sub>1</sub>: Prp<sub>6-5</sub>  
265 Alm<sub>68-71</sub> Grs<sub>20-19</sub> Sps<sub>1-2</sub> Adr<sub>4-3</sub>) than in the previous rock, which likely reflects the strong difference in Fe-  
266 content between the two rocks (Section 5.2); the late coronitic garnet (Grt<sub>3</sub>: Prp<sub>3-4</sub> Alm<sub>71-72</sub> Grs<sub>20-21</sub> Sps<sub>2-</sub>  
267 <sub>3</sub>Adr<sub>1-3</sub>) is also homogeneous and much similar to Grt<sub>1</sub>.

268 Clinopyroxenes in both rocks also strongly differ by their X<sub>Fe</sub> ratio (Table S3), which again reflects  
269 differences in bulk Fe-contents: Di<sub>61</sub> Hd<sub>18</sub> En<sub>7.5</sub> Fs<sub>2.2</sub> Ca-Ts<sub>6.4</sub> Ca-Ti-Ts<sub>1.2</sub> Jd<sub>1.3</sub> (Cam-bearing Mg-rich 28-12-  
270 95TF4); Di<sub>19-23</sub> Hd<sub>55-56</sub> En<sub>5.0-3.8</sub> Fs<sub>1.4-9.6</sub> Ca-Ts<sub>2.6-1.9</sub> Ca-Ti-Ts<sub>1.0-0.7</sub> Jd<sub>1.7-0.0</sub> (Cam-free Fe-rich 18-12-95TF1B). They  
271 have however a common feature, namely the abundance of exsolution lamellae. In 18-12-95TF1B, Fe-rich  
272 clinopyroxene crystals are intergrown with orthopyroxene lamellae (Wo<sub>8</sub> En<sub>21</sub> Fs<sub>71</sub>), suggesting that they  
273 derived from a subcalcic clinopyroxene; the reverse, i.e. orthopyroxene with abundant clinopyroxene  
274 intergrowths, although rare, also exists and suggests the former existence of HT pigeonite, which is known  
275 to be favoured by Fe-rich compositions (e.g. Davidson and Lindsley, 1985). In 28-12-95TF4, the exsolution  
276 lamellae within clinopyroxene are of orthopyroxene (Wo<sub>1</sub> En<sub>64</sub> Fs<sub>35</sub>), plagioclase (An<sub>94</sub>) and pargasitic  
277 amphibole. The composition of the proto-pyroxene before exsolution was reconstructed by averaging 500  
278 contiguous areas (18 μm × 18 μm) scanned by the electron beam of the microprobe during acquisition. It  
279 yielded a subcalcic clinopyroxene with a high content of Ca-Tschermak (Di<sub>42.8</sub> Hd<sub>16.6</sub> En<sub>15.3</sub> Fs<sub>5.9</sub> Ca-Ts<sub>15.5</sub> Ca-

280 Ti-Ts<sub>1.3</sub>Jd<sub>2.5</sub>: bulk in Table S3). The unique relict pre-peak kinked orthopyroxene observed in this rock also  
281 shows a high Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-content (Wo<sub>1.0.7</sub>En<sub>69.71</sub>Fs<sub>29.28</sub>; Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ≅ 3.28–3.42 wt%; Table S3).

282 The Opx+Pl-bearing symplectites and coronas that formed between garnet and Cam, Cpx or Pl<sub>1</sub> are  
283 made up of An-rich plagioclase and ferromagnesian minerals with relatively high X<sub>Fe</sub> values, likely inherited  
284 from that of garnet (Tables S3-S5). For example, the symplectite at the contact Grt-Cam (28-12-95TF4)  
285 consists of Opx (Wo<sub>1</sub>En<sub>66</sub>Fs<sub>33</sub>), rare hyalosideritic olivine (Fo<sub>53–54</sub>), hercynite (Hc<sub>59</sub>Sp<sub>138</sub>Mag<sub>3</sub>) and abundant  
286 An-rich plagioclase (An<sub>93.97</sub>).

## 287 5. Whole-rock geochemical data

288 In order to comprehend the geochemical affinity of the protoliths, bulk-rock analyses of major and trace  
289 elements have been carried out on selected samples of mafic-ultramafic rocks from the two above  
290 complexes (Table 1; see Section 3.1 for the method). Leaving Na<sub>2</sub>O and K<sub>2</sub>O aside, because of their mobility  
291 during metamorphism, the major components show a great variability, not only between rocks from the  
292 two complexes but also within the same complex (Table 1).

### 293 5.1. Metavolcanic complex

294 Assuming an original Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/FeO ratio of 0.15, the CIPW-norm calculation of the metavolcanic complex  
295 samples yields Ne-normative norms ranging from olivine websterite to olivine gabbro. All samples show Ni  
296 and Cr contents positively correlated with MgO and negatively correlated with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Fig. S2), suggesting a  
297 cogenetic origin, being the sample 10-12-95CF33 the most primitive (i.e. olivine websterite) and sample 10-  
298 12-95TF8B the most evolved (i.e. olivine gabbro). Indeed, the first one displays the lowest Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CaO  
299 (7.24 and 3.21 wt%, respectively) and the highest Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and MgO (14.82 and 26.17 wt%, respectively),  
300 together with high Cr, Ni and Co contents (2440, 930, 109 ppm, respectively). TiO<sub>2</sub> is low or very low  
301 (0.624–0.067 wt%). REE contents are very low to moderate ( $\Sigma_{\text{REE}} \approx 2\text{--}76$  ppm). Except for sample 10-12-  
302 95TF8A, the REE chondrite-normalized patterns (Fig. 8) show a moderate LREE enrichment ( $[\text{La}/\text{Sm}]_{\text{N}} = 1.3\text{--}$   
303 2.2), Eu anomalies ranging from slightly negative (Eu/Eu\* = 0.8–0.9) to slightly positive (1.04), and a slight  
304 HREE fractionation ( $[\text{Gd}/\text{Yb}]_{\text{N}} = 1.4\text{--}1.6$ ). Sample 10-12-95TF8A yields the lowest REE content ( $\Sigma_{\text{REE}} \approx 2$  ppm)

305 with an LREE depletion ( $[\text{Ce}/\text{Sm}]_N = 0.59$ ), and the same HREE fractionation as the other samples ( $[\text{Gd}/\text{Yb}]_N$   
306 = 1.4).

### 307 5.2. Metaplutonic complex

308 Samples from the mafic-ultramafic boudins within the metaplutonic complex are heterogeneous,  
309 yielding varied CIPW norms: olivine websterite (18-12-95TF1B), Hy+Ol gabbro-norite (7-12-95TF4) and  
310 olivine gabbro (28-12-95TF4). The two Fe-Ti-V-P-rich samples 7-12-95TF4 and 18-12-95TF1B contrast with  
311 the Mg-Cr-Ni-rich ultramafic rock 28-12-95TF4 (Table 1). However, these rocks do not clearly define a  
312 trend, since no correlation is detected in the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  versus MgO and Cr versus MgO diagrams (Fig. S2). The  
313 REE contents are either low in the Mg-Cr-Ni-rich sample ( $\Sigma_{\text{REE}} = 31$  ppm) or high in the Fe-Ti-V-rich ones ( $\Sigma_{\text{REE}}$   
314 = 326–348 ppm; ca. 100×chondritic values; Fig. 8). The REE patterns normalized to chondrite also show a  
315 contrasting behaviour between the two types of rocks (Fig. 8): moderate LREE enrichment ( $[\text{La}/\text{Sm}]_N = 2$ ),  
316 positive Eu anomaly ( $\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 1.6$ ) and slight HREE fractionation ( $[\text{Gd}/\text{Yb}]_N = 2.4$ ) for the Mg-Cr-Ni-rich  
317 sample, contrasting with negative Eu anomaly ( $\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.5\text{--}0.2$ ) and nearly flat pattern ( $\text{La}_N/\text{Sm}_N = 1.3\text{--}$   
318  $0.5$ ;  $\text{Gd}_N/\text{Yb}_N = 2.1\text{--}1.5$ ) for the Fe-Ti-rich samples.

## 319 6. $^{40}\text{Ar}\text{--}^{39}\text{Ar}$ data

320 Polished thin sections of samples 11-12-95TF3 and 28-12-95TF4 were preliminarily investigated under a  
321 scanning electron microscope in order to ascertain the occurrence of zircon crystals sufficiently large to be  
322 analysed by the U-Pb dating method. Unfortunately, sample 28-12-95TF4 did not show detectable zircon  
323 crystals and sample 11-12-95TF3 provided only rare and tiny zircons, commonly smaller than 15  $\mu\text{m}$  in size.  
324 As a consequence, the geochronological investigation concentrated on  $^{40}\text{Ar}\text{--}^{39}\text{Ar}$  dating.

325 Biotite separates from both samples yielded internal discordant age profiles, with total gas ages of ~469  
326 and ~495 Ma for sample 11-12-95TF3 and 28-12-95TF4, respectively (Fig. 9). Age profile from biotite 28-12-  
327 95TF4 exhibits an overall saddle shape (Fig. 9). The minimum of the saddle, representing ~65% of the total  
328  $^{39}\text{Ar}_K$  released, gave a concordant segment (MSWD = 1.1) with an error-weighted mean age of  $493.6 \pm 2.3$   
329 Ma. Biotite 11-12-95TF3 yielded instead a hump-shaped age spectrum (Fig. 9), with anomalously young

330 ages in the low- $T$  steps (68, 135, 240 Ma: Table S6), followed by ages as old as  $\sim 494$  Ma at intermediate  
331 laser power. The age pattern then declines to a concordant segment (MSWD = 1.5; seven consecutive  
332 steps, representing  $\sim 34\%$  of the total  $^{39}\text{Ar}_k$  released), yielding a weighted mean age of  $484.3 \pm 2.1$  Ma.  
333 Hump-shaped age spectra such as that of biotite 11-12-95TF3 are typical for weakly chloritized biotite (Di  
334 Vincenzo et al., 2003). Following the interpretation of Di Vincenzo et al. (2003) for comparably shaped  
335 patterns, the total gas age represents a minimum estimate of the true biotite  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  age, and the final  
336 concordant segment provides the best estimate.

337 Amphibole data gave for both samples internally discordant age profiles, with an overall declining shape  
338 (Fig. 9) and step-ages ranging nominally from  $\sim 5$  Ga to  $\sim 440$  Ma (11-12-95TF3) and from  $\sim 1.8$  Ga to  $\sim 505$   
339 Ma (28-12-95TF4). This suggests the presence of trapped parentless  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  (excess Ar) in amphibole. Ca/K  
340 ratios are constant in both samples for more than 95% of the total  $^{39}\text{Ar}_k$  released and are in close  
341 agreement with those determined by the electron microprobe (Tables S1 and S6). Five consecutive steps  
342 from the intermediate- to high- $T$  region in amphibole 28-12-95TF4, representing  $\sim 43\%$  of the total  $^{39}\text{Ar}_k$   
343 released, define a concordant segment (MSWD < 2.0) with a mean age of  $506.3 \pm 2.6$  Ma. Data from  
344 amphibole 11-12-95TF3 do not define concordant segments but seven consecutive steps from the  
345 intermediate- $T$  region (step 77F to 77O: Table S6), representing  $\sim 95\%$  of the total  $^{39}\text{Ar}_k$  released and  
346 characterized by indistinguishable Ca/K ratios, yield a well-defined linear array (MSWD = 0.57) in an  
347  $^{36}\text{Ar}/^{40}\text{Ar}$  versus  $^{39}\text{Ar}_k/^{40}\text{Ar}$  isochron plot (not shown), with an intercept age of  $490.1 \pm 4.2$  Ma and an initial  
348  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio of  $2668 \pm 199$ , significantly higher than that of modern atmospheric Ar.

## 349 **7. Metamorphism and $P$ - $T$ evolution**

350 The 28-12-95TF4 rock sample is considered the most relevant to provide the best information on the  
351 evolution of Conradsgebirge. This metagabbroic rock, mainly composed of Cam+Grt+Cpx, has recorded  
352 much of the metamorphic history of the region, as evidenced by various microstructures, such as  
353 symplectites around garnet, exsolution lamellae in large clinopyroxene crystals, or even relicts of  
354 plagioclase, melt, amphibole and biotite, enclosed in garnet. This rock has also been studied from a

355 geochronological point of view and for “nanogranitoids” preserved in garnet and resulting from partial  
356 melting (Ferrero et al., 2017).

### 357 7.1. *P-T* modelling

358 We proceeded to the thermodynamic modelling of the rock, following a procedure presented in Section  
359 3.3. Three *P-T* pseudosections were modelled:

360 Bulk rock (Fig. 10a, b) – A first pseudosection was calculated for the bulk composition of the rock, after  
361 projection of the minor P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> component from apatite, a very accessory mineral not considered in the  
362 model. The bulk O content has been adjusted so as to give the Fe<sup>3+</sup> content in amphibole close to the  
363 minimum possible value, following the nomenclature of Hawthorne et al. (2012). It has been verified by  
364 least squares regression that the resulting composition (in mol%: [SiO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>45.20</sub> [Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>9.39</sub> [TiO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0.76</sub> [MgO]<sub>20.90</sub>  
365 [FeO]<sub>10.94</sub> [MnO]<sub>0.16</sub> [CaO]<sub>10.97</sub> [Na<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>1.03</sub> [K<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>0.57</sub> O<sub>0.08</sub>) was a linear combination of the mineral  
366 compositions. H<sub>2</sub>O saturation is assumed, which seems adequate for such a hydrous rock; it induces a  
367 maximum modal abundance of the hydrous phases (amphibole, biotite and melt) without a free aqueous  
368 fluid phase coexisting with melt.

369 Clinopyroxene megacryst (Fig. 10c) – The second pseudosection takes into account the chemical  
370 composition of a rock microdomain, namely a 5-mm-sized magmatic clinopyroxene that has exsolved  
371 numerous lamellae of orthopyroxene, amphibole and plagioclase (Fig. 5f). The bulk composition of this  
372 microdomain was obtained by scanning at the electron microprobe; it is a linear combination of the mineral  
373 compositions, as verified by least squares regression: 1 bulk [basis of O<sub>6</sub>] = 0.754 Cpx [O<sub>6</sub>] + 0.085 Opx [O<sub>6</sub>] +  
374 0.088 An [O<sub>8</sub>] + 0.013 Cam [O<sub>22</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>] + Residuals (very low). Bulk H<sub>2</sub>O and O (i.e. Fe<sup>3+</sup>) contents were  
375 deduced from those of the minerals, previously estimated by stoichiometry; these values thus represent  
376 the current H<sub>2</sub>O and O content of the microdomain, but it should be borne in mind that these may have  
377 evolved during the history of the rock. Because the activity-composition model for clinopyroxene does not  
378 consider Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and MnO (Section 3.1), we decided to sum these minor components to Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and FeO,  
379 respectively. The composition that was used for calculating the pseudosection of Figure 10c is thus (in  
380 mol%): [SiO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>48.05</sub> [Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4.64</sub> [TiO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>0.33</sub> [MgO]<sub>18.86</sub> [FeO]<sub>7.43</sub> [CaO]<sub>19.57</sub> [Na<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>0.33</sub> [K<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>0.05</sub> [H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>0.34</sub> O<sub>0.41</sub>.  
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381 Plagioclase inclusion (Fig. 10d) – The third pseudosection considers the chemical composition of another  
382 microdomain, a 0.5-mm-sized inclusion of plagioclase entrapped in a garnet crystal during its growth (Fig.  
383 5e; inset of Fig. 10d). This plagioclase (An<sub>51</sub>) reacted with the host garnet during the retrograde evolution to  
384 produce an Opx+Spl+Pl corona. The reaction was balanced by the least squares method (see R4 below), and  
385 the overall composition of the reactants is very close to that of the products (i.e. the residuals are very  
386 low), indicating that the reaction effectively occurred in an almost closed system, although the kelyphite  
387 that developed late at the expense of the garnet reached the plagioclase (Fig. 5e). The bulk composition of  
388 the reactants (in mol%: [SiO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>44.77</sub> [Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sub>14.74</sub> [MgO]<sub>14.62</sub> [FeO]<sub>17.09</sub> [MnO]<sub>0.52</sub> [CaO]<sub>7.65</sub> [Na<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>0.60</sub> O<sub>0.01</sub>) was  
389 therefore retained as representative of the reaction microdomain to be modelled (Fig. 10d).

## 390 7.2. *P-T evolution*

391 The comparison between the three above models and the observed features allows clarifying the *P-T*  
392 evolution of the rock – and, to a certain extent, of the region. Several steps of the rock evolution, indicated  
393 by the red arrow in Fig. 10, can be unravelled in this way.

394 Magmatic crystallization – The modelled rock derives from a gabbroic magmatic rock, as attested by its  
395 chemical composition (Table 1) and norm. However, only the mm-sized crystal of clinopyroxene with  
396 numerous exsolution lamellae of plagioclase, orthopyroxene and amphibole (Fig. 5e, f) can be considered  
397 as inherited from the magmatic stage. The overall composition of this microdomain, obtained by scanning  
398 with the electron microprobe, indicates that the pre-exsolution Cpx was Al-rich and subcalcic (Di<sub>42.8</sub> Hd<sub>16.6</sub>  
399 En<sub>15.3</sub> Fs<sub>5.9</sub> Ca-Ts<sub>15.5</sub> Ca-Ti-Ts<sub>1.3</sub> Jd<sub>2.5</sub>), which is a typical feature of an HT magmatic pyroxene. Indeed, the *P-T*  
400 pseudosection calculated for this domain (Fig. 10c) indicates that abundant (>90 mol%) Tschermak-rich and  
401 Ca-poor Cpx is stable with little plagioclase in the presence of a liquid at low *P* and high *T* (>1050°C).

402 Prograde evolution – Plagioclase, clinoamphibole, biotite and melt inclusions in garnet may help to  
403 unravel the prograde metamorphic evolution of the rock. These inclusions were incorporated into garnet  
404 during its growth, thus at increasing *P* as indicated by the isomodal curves of garnet (Fig. 10b). The inclusion  
405 of plagioclase that was used to model the pseudosection of Fig. 10d provides most of the information. Its  
406 composition (An<sub>51</sub>) implies that it is not of magmatic origin, as it is far removed from the composition

407 obtained by the modelling of the bulk rock for plagioclase in equilibrium with melt at high  $T$  and low  $P$  ( $An_{90}$ -  
408  $_{98}$ : Fig. 10b), as well as from the  $An_{79}$  composition obtained for the gabbroic plagioclase by CIPW-norm  
409 calculation. On the other hand, the existence of such an intermediate plagioclase, in equilibrium with the  
410 paragenesis  $Cam+Grt+Pl+Chl+Bt\pm Ep$ , is predicted for low  $P$ - $T$  conditions ( $T < 550^\circ C$ ,  $P < 0.6$  GPa: Fig. 10a).  
411 Such a plagioclase effectively matches the observed  $An_{51}$  composition at ca.  $500^\circ C$  and  $0.5$  GPa ( $An_{51}$   
412 isopleth in Fig. 10a; star in Fig. 10d). The modelling of the  $Pl+Grt$  microdomain (Fig. 10d) constrains the  
413 prograde  $P$ - $T$  path, which should have evolved within the large  $Grt_1+Pl_1(An_{51})$  field without overstepping the  
414 HP  $Cpx+Grt+Pl$  field, where omphacite should appear and plagioclase change its composition (Fig. 10d),  
415 which, indeed, did not occur.

416 The other mineral inclusions observed in garnet, namely biotite and amphibole, provide less rigid  
417 constraints on the prograde  $P$ - $T$  path: they were included during garnet growth, thus at increasing  $P$ , under  
418 medium  $P$ - $T$  conditions at which these minerals are stable with garnet (Fig. 10a). The  $Bt+Grt$  association is  
419 limited towards high  $P$  by  $Phg+Rt$ -bearing parageneses (not shown).

420 Melt inclusions of “primary origin”, i.e. formed during garnet growth, indicate that the solidus curve of  
421 Fig. 10a was overstepped. Ferrero et al. (2017) assessed the composition of one of these melt inclusions.  
422 They ascertained that it was enclosed close to the peak at the end of the prograde path, at a low partial-  
423 melting rate (<1%); its chemical composition is in good agreement with what predicted by the model at ca.  
424  $1.6$  GPa and  $870^\circ C$ .

425 Finally, a unique corroded mm-sized crystal relict of Opx has been observed in the rock matrix; it shows  
426 kink bands contrary to the late Opx in symplectites and coronas, from which it also differs in composition. It  
427 should have been stable at some stage during the prograde history, implying a prograde  $P$ - $T$  path that  
428 crosses some Opx-bearing fields of the  $P$ - $T$  pseudosection (Fig. 10a).

429 Peak of metamorphism – The phase assemblage inferred to be stable during the peak of metamorphism  
430 includes garnet, augite and amphibole, which are abundant in the rock matrix. Nanogranitoid inclusions  
431 indicate that melt was also part of the peak assemblage (Ferrero et al., 2017), which should then be defined  
432 as  $Cam+Aug+Grt+Liq\pm Bt$ . This paragenesis occupies a wide field in the modelled pseudosection, at  $T >$

433 860°C and  $P > 1.2$  GPa (Fig. 10a). The peak  $P$ - $T$  conditions can be further refined using phase compositions,  
 434 in particular that of garnet. Apart from their edges, the cm-sized garnet crystals display a flat zoning  
 435 pattern, which should be due to diffusive re-equilibration at high  $T$ : Caddick et al. (2010; e.g. Fig. 4) have  
 436 demonstrated that the growth zoning of a cm-sized garnet totally resets within 0.6 Ma at 900°C. Therefore,  
 437 the plateau-like core reflects the re-equilibrated garnet close to the peak, and its  $X_{\text{Fe}}$  isopleth ( $X_{\text{Fe}} =$   
 438  $\text{Fe}/[\text{Mg}+\text{Fe}] = 0.490 \pm 0.005$ ) constrains the peak  $P$ - $T$  conditions between ca. 950°C–2.1 GPa and 970°C–1.5  
 439 GPa (Fig. 10b). The need to preserve the  $\text{An}_{51}$  plagioclase included in garnet (Section 7.1) further restrict  
 440 these conditions around 1.5–1.7 GPa and 960–970°C (Fig. 10d). Under these conditions,  $X_{\text{Ca}}$  in garnet would  
 441 ideally equal 0.17, whereas the real value is  $0.160 \pm 0.001$ ; the other compositional parameters of the  
 442 minerals predicted by the model also show a fairly good match with those measured, except for  $X_{\text{Fe}}$  in  
 443 amphibole (0.22, instead of 0.29), which likely partially re-equilibrated during retrogression, together with  
 444 the garnet edges.

445 Low- $P$  medium- $T$  stage – This stage is evidenced by abundant symplectites that partially replaced garnet.  
 446 The most remarkable is the “kelyphite” that developed statically at the contacts between garnet and  
 447 amphibole. It consists in two concentric symplectites, Spl-rich after garnet and Spl-poor after amphibole  
 448 (Fig. 5e, g), and resulted from a metamorphic reaction that can be roughly balanced through the least-  
 449 square method:

450 **R1:**  $1 \text{ Cam}_1$  (basis of  $\text{O}_{22}[\text{OH}]_2$ ) +  $1.16 \text{ Grt}$  ( $\text{Alm}_{41} \text{ Prp}_{43} \text{ Grs}_{15} \text{ Sps}_1$ ;  $\text{O}_{12}$ )  $\rightarrow$   $3.25 \text{ Opx}$  ( $\text{En}_{66}$ ;  $\text{O}_6$ ) +  $1.78 \text{ Pl}$   
 451 ( $\text{An}_{94}$ ;  $\text{O}_8$ ) +  $0.51 \text{ Spl}$  ( $\text{Hc}_{59} \text{ Spl}_{38} \text{ Mag}_3$ ;  $\text{O}_4$ ) +  $1.00 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  (with quite high residuals).

452 However, this general reaction is commonly complicated by the presence, in the symplectite, of  
 453 secondary amphibole, among the reaction products. Olivine ( $\text{Fo}_{54}$ ) also developed very locally, apparently  
 454 replacing orthopyroxene in the symplectite, as suggested by microstructures (Fig. S1) and stoichiometry:

455 **R2:**  $0.85 \text{ Opx} + 0.22 \text{ Spl} \rightarrow 1 \text{ Ol} + 0.26 \text{ Pl}$  (with high residuals, particularly  $\text{Ca}_{-0.23}$ ).

456 The kelyphite indicates an evolution towards the  $\text{Opx}+\text{Pl}+\text{Spl}\pm\text{Grt}\pm\text{Cam}\pm\text{Bt}$  fields that occur at low- $P$   
 457 (<0.5 GPa) but still HT (>800°C) conditions in the  $P$ - $T$  pseudosection modelled for the bulk-rock composition  
 458 (Fig. 10a and b). It should be noted here that this evolution involves a  $P$ - $T$  path that intersects the  $X_{\text{Fe}}$  garnet



459 isopleths (Fig. 10b), thus explaining the increase in  $X_{Fe}$  (= Fe/[Fe+Mg]) up to 0.64 observed on a thickness of  
460 about 80  $\mu\text{m}$  towards the rims of the cm-sized crystals of garnet.

461 The mm-thick symplectite that developed together with an Opx corona at the contacts between garnet  
462 and clinopyroxene (Fig. 5e) formed through the following reaction:

463 **R3:** 1 Cpx ( $O_6$ ) + 0.50 Grt ( $O_{12}$ )  $\rightarrow$  1.10 Opx ( $O_6$ ) + 0.66 Pl ( $O_8$ ) (with low residuals).

464 Again, this symplectite is consistent with an evolution towards Opx+Pl-bearing stability fields, i.e.  
465 towards low- $P$  medium- $T$  conditions (Fig. 10b).

466 The same evolution is also evidenced by the presence of Opx, Pl and Cam exsolution lamellae in  
467 clinopyroxene. The pseudosection of this microdomain suggests that clinopyroxene had first exsolved  
468 garnet at the peak of metamorphism (HP region of Fig. 10c). Although no relict of garnet has been observed  
469 among the exsolution lamellae, it is obvious that the above reaction R3, which elsewhere developed mm-  
470 sized symplectites from Grt and Cpx megacrysts, should have easily removed 50- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick garnet lamellae  
471 exsolved in clinopyroxene, to produce the observed composite grains of orthopyroxene and plagioclase,  
472 which, in some cases, seem to have inherited the regular shapes of some previous garnet (Fig. 5f). The  $P$ - $T$   
473 model of Fig. 10c indicates that the final Grt-free Cpx+Opx+Pl+Cam paragenesis of this microdomain is  
474 stable at  $P < \sim 0.5$  GPa for a large range of  $T$  under 1000°C.

475 Finally, the relict  $\text{An}_{51}$  plagioclase ( $\text{Pl}_1$ ) enclosed in garnet reacted with the latter to produce an  
476 Opx+Spl+ $\text{Pl}_2$  corona of about 300- $\mu\text{m}$  thickness (inset in Fig. 10d). The composition of the garnet ( $\text{Grt}_1$ ) also  
477 evolved in contact with this corona, over a thickness of approximately 200  $\mu\text{m}$  (i.e.  $\text{Grt}_2$ ; see the lighter  
478 garnet rim in the BSE image of Fig. 10d). This reaction can be balanced as follows:

479 **R4:** 1  $\text{Grt}_1$  ( $\text{Alm}_{44.2}$   $\text{Prp}_{37.9}$   $\text{Grs}_{16.6}$   $\text{Sps}_{1.4}$ ;  $O_{12}$ ) + 0.192  $\text{Pl}_1$  ( $\text{An}_{51.0}$   $\text{Ab}_{49.0}$ ;  $O_8$ )  $\rightarrow$  0.402 Opx ( $\text{En}_{65.4}$   $\text{Fs}_{34.6}$ ;  $O_6$ ) +  
480 0.145 Spl ( $\text{Hc}_{59.0}$   $\text{Spl}_{38.1}$   $\text{Mag}_{2.5}$   $\text{Gal}_{0.4}$ ;  $O_4$ ) + 0.396  $\text{Pl}_2$  ( $\text{An}_{80.7}$   $\text{Ab}_{19.3}$ ;  $O_8$ ) + 0.615  $\text{Grt}_2$  ( $\text{Alm}_{52.1}$   $\text{Prp}_{31.4}$   $\text{Grs}_{13.8}$   
481  $\text{Sps}_{2.7}$ ;  $O_{12}$ ) (with very low residuals).

482 The modelling of this microdomain (Fig. 10d) indicates that low- $P$  conditions should be reached to  
483 produce the observed Opx+Spl+ $\text{Pl}_2$ ( $\text{An}_{81}$ ) corona. The isopleths for the minerals of the corona ( $X_{An}$  in Pl,  $X_{Fe}$

484 in Opx,  $X_{\text{Fe}}$  in Spl, etc.) intersect in the  $P$ - $T$  box 0.35–0.45 GPa and 600–700°C, for relatively high bulk  
485 contents of oxygen.

486 Isobaric cooling – The final evolution towards the surface is poorly documented. Because of the low- $P$   
487 conditions of the previous stage, it should have followed a geotherm with a high  $dT/dP$  gradient, which is  
488 also corroborated by the isopleths for the above microdomain (red arrow Fig. 10d). Some rehydration may  
489 have occurred at this stage and can explain the presence of late amphibole among the products of the  
490 above symplectites.

## 491 **8. Discussion**

### 492 *8.1. Nature and origin of the protoliths*

493 In addition to the REE chondrite-normalized patterns of Fig. 8, the discriminating diagrams of Fig. 11, the  
494 N-MORB-normalized multi-element spidergram (Fig. 12) and the  $\text{Th}_N$  versus  $\text{Nb}_N$  diagram of Fig. 13 help to  
495 identify the nature and origin of the protoliths. However, it should be acknowledged that our geochemical  
496 study suffers from a lack of samples, obviously difficult to collect in Antarctica, which unfortunately  
497 hampers the statistical quality of the results.

498 Metavolcanic complex – Apart from 10-12-95TF8A, the mafic rocks from the metavolcanic complex  
499 show strong Ta-Nb and slight Zr-Hf negative anomalies, together with a positive or negative Ti anomaly and  
500 flat HREE patterns (Fig. 12). These features, in particular the Ta-Nb anomaly, together with LREE pattern  
501 (Fig. 8), Th/Yb versus Ta/Yb ratios (Fig. 11a) and Ti/V ratio (~4–30: Fig. 11b), point to calc-alkaline rocks,  
502 likely formed in an arc/back-arc environment (Fig. 13; Sacconi, 2015), and whose magma would have  
503 resulted from the extensive partial melting – as suggested by the Zr-Hf negative anomalies (Downes et al.,  
504 2015) – of a mantle wedge above a subduction slab. Sample 11-12-95TF3, which falls a little outside the  
505 field of calc-alkaline rocks in Fig. 11a, seems also compatible with an arc/back-arc setting, as supported by  
506 the  $\text{Th}_N$  versus  $\text{Nb}_N$  diagram (Fig. 13) and the Ti/V ratio (~18: Fig. 11b).

507 The ultramafic rock 10-12-95TF8A shows peculiar characteristics, with a depleted pattern with respect  
508 to N-MORB composition, positive Zr-Hf and negative Ti anomalies (Fig. 12). These features, together with a

509 REE pattern strongly depleted in LREE (Fig. 8), suggest that this rock could be related to a depleted mantle  
510 wedge (Bodinier et al., 1984; McDonough and Frey, 1989), likely a back-arc environment (Fig. 13) in an  
511 orogenic setting.

512 Finally, the felsic rocks from the metavolcanic complex have been studied by Jacobs et al. (1998) and  
513 Mikhalsky and Jacobs (2004), who assigned them to an early orogenic environment, likely an island arc.

514 Metaplutonic complex – In the N-MORB-normalized diagram of Fig. 12, the Fe-Ti-rich samples 7-12-  
515 95TF4 and 18-12-95TF1B are characterized by higher contents in the most incompatible elements (i.e. Th,  
516 Ta, and LREE), nearly similar to those of Ocean Island Basalts (OIB), but they show important Zr-Hf, Eu and  
517 Ti negative anomalies, with a flat HREE pattern (Fig. 12). The overall data point to mafic-ultramafic rocks  
518 which have some convergence with OIB (Figs. 11 and 13) and could derive from an heterogeneous mantle  
519 source with multiple metasomatic events (Lenoir et al., 2000) and repeated partial melting, as suggested by  
520 the Zr-Hf, Eu and Ti negative anomalies (David et al., 2000; Lenoir et al., 2000).

521 As already noted, sample 28-12-95TF4 is quite different. In the diagram of Fig. 12, it also shows  
522 enrichment in the most incompatible elements and a slight Zr-Hf negative anomaly, but differs from the  
523 previous samples by Eu and Ti positive anomalies. These features reflect a heterogeneous mantle source  
524 enriched in highly incompatible trace elements during multiple metasomatic events (David et al., 2000;  
525 Downes et al., 2015; Lenoir et al., 2000). Moreover, the analysis falls within the back-arc B field of Fig. 13,  
526 suggesting an origin from a mature intra-oceanic back arc without input of subduction (Saccani, 2015).

527 The mafic-ultramafic samples from the metaplutonic complex, although different, have some common  
528 geochemical features: they plot in the mantle-array field of Fig. 11 and are not related to subduction. This is  
529 apparently contradictory with the origin suggested for the host orthogneisses: these metagranitoids have a  
530 calc-alkaline affinity and would have formed along the same island arc as the metavolcanic complex, which  
531 they intruded (Jacobs et al., 1998; Mikhalsky and Jacobs, 2004). In such a context, the mafic-ultramafic  
532 boudins could be former xenoliths within the metagranitoids, as suggested by Jacobs et al. (1998, p. 393).

533 In summary, geochemistry indicates that the felsic and mafic rocks from the metavolcanic complex are  
534 linked to subduction and likely related to an arc/back-arc environment. The mafic-ultramafic rocks from the

535 metaplutonic complex show a different origin and are not related to subduction; they could be former  
536 xenoliths within metagranitoids.

### 537 *8.2. Metamorphic evolution and chronology*

538 The thermodynamic modelling of an ultramafic pod of Conradsgebirge (28-12-95TF4; Fig. 10) evidences a  
539 clockwise  $P$ - $T$  path with a prograde portion characterized by increasing  $T$  and  $P$ , from amphibolite-facies  
540 (0.5 GPa; 500°C) up to peak conditions (ca. 1.5–1.7 GPa; 960–970°C). Partial melting is testified by  
541 nanogranitoid inclusions enclosed in garnet during its growth (Ferrero et al., 2017). The retrograde path is  
542 characterized by an almost isothermal decompression down to ca. 0.5 GPa and 800°C, testified by the static  
543 formation of well-developed An+Opx-bearing symplectites around garnet, before a final cooling which did  
544 not leave much traces.

545 This evolution is well documented in mafic-ultramafic boudins preserved within the metaplutonic  
546 complex. The main parageneses of most of these rocks are Opx-Pl-free Grt-bearing assemblages, typical of  
547 HP-granulite facies (e.g. 28-12-95TF4, 18-12-95TF1B). An+Opx-bearing symplectites and coronas (Fig. 5e, h)  
548 indicate a subsequent evolution towards HT low- $P$  granulite-facies conditions. A few mafic deformed rocks  
549 (e.g. 07-12-95TF4) seem to have recrystallized at this stage. Finally, the last metamorphic evolution consists  
550 in an almost isobaric cooling, which led locally to the re-growth of garnet at the expense of the HT  
551 symplectites and coronas (18-12-95TF1B; Fig. 5h). The host migmatitic orthogneisses have recorded the last  
552 stages of this metamorphic history (Colombo and Talarico, 2004, p. 28-29).

553 The mafic-ultramafic boudinaged layers observed within the metavolcanic complex do not show much  
554 evidence of an HP granulite-facies stage. Very few garnet relicts, corroded by symplectites, recall somehow  
555 the early high-grade evolution observed in the ultramafic boudins of the metaplutonic complex. On the  
556 other hand, the HT low- $P$  granulite-facies stage is here well-documented by Opx+An symplectites, and is  
557 likely to be correlated with the similar stage in the metaplutonic complex. The abundance of low- $P$   
558 amphibole (Fig. 6c) and plagioclase, oriented parallel to the main foliation (e.g. 11-12-95TF3; Fig. 5b),  
559 indicates that late re-equilibration and deformation under hydrated amphibolite-facies conditions were  
560 important here.

561 At Conradgebirge, several Pan-African ages have been obtained through U-Pb SHRIMP analyses of zircon  
562 (Jacobs et al., 1998): (a) a 570-Ma age is attributed to an amphibole-bearing metamorphic stage ( $M_2$ )  
563 detected in metaplutonic rocks; (b) ages in the range 530–515 Ma are ascribed to a granulite-facies event  
564 ( $M_3$ ), mainly observed in felsic metavolcanic rocks and high-grade Opx-bearing leucosomes; (c) finally, the  
565 intrusion of a 512-Ma-old post-tectonic granitoid postdated the previous events. Since the study rocks were  
566 unfortunately unsuitable for U-Pb zircon dating, our geochronological constrains are solely based on  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ -  
567  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  mineral ages that necessarily refer to mineral re-equilibration at upper crustal level ( $T < 650^\circ\text{C}$ ). Results  
568 indicate for both samples Cambrian to Ordovician ages ( $506 \pm 3$  Ma and  $494 \pm 2$  Ma, for amphibole and  
569 biotite of sample 28-12-95TF4, respectively;  $490 \pm 4$  Ma and  $484 \pm 2$  Ma, for amphibole and biotite of  
570 sample 11-12-95TF3, respectively). A regional comparison within the central DML reveals that  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$   
571 ages from the present work are slightly, though significantly, older than amphibole and biotite  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$   
572 ages obtained for nearby areas to the west (Mühlig–Hofmannfjella and Filchnerfjella, 6–8°E) by Hendriks et  
573 al. (2013), who reported ages of ~490–480 Ma for hornblende and ~465–435 for biotite separates.  
574 However, our results fall within the second stage of late Neoproterozoic to early Palaeozoic tectono-  
575 metamorphic overprint that was recognized on the basis of U–Pb data on igneous and metamorphic rocks  
576 from Gjelsvikfjella and Mühlig-Hofmann-Gebirge (~3–4°E; Jacobs et al., 2003). Furthermore, Ar data match  
577 remarkably with those from garnet-bearing amphibolites and gneisses from the H.U. Sverdrupfjella area  
578 (western DML, 0°30'W–1°30'E), where hornblende yielded  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ - $^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages in the 500–480-Ma range (Board  
579 et al., 2005).

### 580 *8.3. Geodynamic implications*

581 From the above observations, the following scenario can be proposed as regards the geodynamic history  
582 of Conradgebirge, and hence of central DML. The protoliths of the metavolcanic rocks, mostly felsic and  
583 subordinately mafic in composition, would have formed in an arc/back-arc environment during the Late  
584 Mesoproterozoic (1130 Ma; Jacobs et al., 1998), before the continental collision between the Grunehona-  
585 Kaapvaal and East-Antarctic cratons (Bauer et al., 2003) related to the Rodinia assembly (Grenville  
586 orogeny). The calc-alkaline granitoids of the metaplutonic complex intruded this formation soon after, at

587 ca. 1080 Ma (Jacobs et al., 1998; Mikhalsky and Jacobs, 2004). Their mafic-ultramafic enclaves could be  
588 xenoliths taken away from the mantle or lower crust, and derive from magma generated in a  
589 metasomatized mantle that underwent extensive partial melting; similar chemical affinities have been  
590 reported in the Mesoproterozoic Namaqua-Natal-Maud belt (Hanson et al., 2006). This early evolution of  
591 Conradgebirge is in keeping with what observed elsewhere in DML (Bauer et al., 2003; Jacobs et al., 1998,  
592 2015; Satish-Kumar et al., 2008; Shiraishi et al., 1991) and beyond in the Namaqua-Natal belt (e.g.  
593 Grantham et al., 1997; Jacobs et al., 2008; Thomas et al., 1994). Apart from a possible metamorphic event  
594 at ca. 1080 Ma ( $M_1$ : Jacobs et al., 1998), most of the metamorphic evolution of the Conradgebirge is  
595 ascribable to the Pan-African orogeny (Section 8.2), with a well-documented clockwise  $P$ - $T$  path (Section  
596 7.2), which can be explained in terms of subduction and/or continental collision (e.g. Harley et al., 2013).

597 In this general frame, a question remains unsettled: the age of the earlier metamorphic phase(s), named  
598  $M_1$  (and  $M_2$ ) by Rakivant et al. (1997) and Jacobs et al. (1998), and preserved in the ultramafic enclaves of  
599 central DML. If they predate the 1.08-Ga-old intrusion of the host metagranitoids, these episodes would be  
600 related to the Grenville orogeny. These rocks have recorded two well-distinct high-grade episodes (Sections  
601 7.2 and 8.2): (a) a peak metamorphism in HP-HT granulite-facies conditions, corresponding to the main  
602 Grt+Cpx±Cam paragenesis, without plagioclase or orthopyroxene, and preserved in undeformed nuclei; (b)  
603 a later stage of low- $P$  granulite-facies metamorphism, resulting in the growth of abundant symplectites and  
604 coronas made of Opx±Spl+Pl (An-rich); when deformation ( $D_3$ ) occurred at this stage, the rock recrystallized  
605 to give a foliated assemblage with Cpx+Opx+Pl±Cam but without garnet (e.g. 7-12-95TF4). While  
606 reconstructing the  $P$ - $T$  path of sample 28-12-95TF4, we have opted for a gradual transition between these  
607 two stages (red arrow in Fig. 10). However, it is possible that they actually belong to two orogenic cycles,  
608 Grenville and Pan-African, which the petrological study cannot make it possible to evidence in the absence  
609 of geochronological data. This hypothesis is reinforced by taking into consideration the host  
610 metagranitoids, whose ability to hold out, without intensive melting, the high  $T$  (up to 960°C) recorded by  
611 the enclaves can be questioned and whose main metamorphic stage with Opx+Pl-bearing foliated

612 assemblages ( $M_3$ : Jacobs et al., 1998; Colombo and Talarico, 2004) are apparently related to the low- $P$   
613 granulite-facies stage (i.e. the kelyphites) in the enclaves.

614 Some responses are to be found in other areas of DML and East Antarctica. Eclogites and mafic HP  
615 granulites have been suspected to occur in different localities of DML – mostly in western DML (see reviews  
616 in: Godard and Palmeri, 2013; Pauly et al., 2016). The most convincing and documented occurrences are  
617 from H.U. Sverdrupfjella (western DML), where retrogressed eclogites have been found (Groenewald, 1995;  
618 Board et al., 2005), with a reported HP-metamorphism age of  $\sim 565$  Ma (Board et al., 2005). Felsic HP  
619 granulites from the same region allowed Pauly et al. (2016) inferring a  $P$ - $T$  evolution very similar to that we  
620 deduced from the 28-12-95TF4 mafic enclave, and they proposed an age of  $570 \pm 7$  Ma, mainly based on  
621 monazite and zircon dating, for the metamorphic peak. Pauly et al.'s study makes it possible to assert that  
622 the HP granulite-facies metamorphism is linked to the Pan-African orogeny and that felsic rocks, if  
623 sufficiently anhydrous, can undergo high temperatures without intensive melting. Finally, the ultramafic  
624 eclogite-facies rocks of Shackleton Range (Schmädicke and Will, 2006; Romer et al., 2009; Will et al., 2009),  
625 which occur further south following the extension of the Mozambique belt, are also attributed to the Pan-  
626 African orogenic cycle (525–520 Ma: Romer et al., 2009).

627 By analogy with those examples, the HP granulite-facies metamorphism ( $M_2$ ) at Conradgebirge should  
628 likely be ascribed to the Pan-African orogen. However, the earlier magmatic and amphibolite-facies ( $M_1$ ?)  
629 stages, testified respectively by Cpx megacrysts and Pl ( $An_{51}$ ) relicts in sample 28-12-95TF4 (Section 7.2),  
630 might be Grenvillian. The whole clockwise  $P$ - $T$  path can be explained by lithosphere doubling and heating  
631 ( $M_2$ : HP peak) followed by nearly isothermal uplift ( $M_3$ : Opx+Pl-bearing kelyphites) before an almost  
632 isobaric cooling ( $M_4$ ). Major transpressive sinistral shear zones (e.g. SOSZ in Fig. 2) could have favoured the  
633  $M_3$ - $D_3$  exhumation phase, similarly to what suggested about the Heimefront shear zone (Jacobs and  
634 Thomas, 2004) considered to be responsible for the rapid decompression of the HP granulites in H.U.  
635 Sverdrupfjella (Pauly et al., 2016). This tectono-metamorphic scenario is here related to the collision  
636 between the East-Gondwana and West-Gondwana blocks that led to the formation of the Mozambique  
637 orogenic belt and the final assembly of Gondwana.

## 638 9. Conclusions

639 Our study on mafic-ultramafic rocks from Conradgebirge in central DML (East Antarctica), together with  
640 previously published results, leads to the main following conclusions:

- 641 (a) The ultramafic rock 28-12-95TF4 recorded a clockwise  $P$ - $T$  path that reached HP granulite-facies  
642 conditions and culminated at ca. 960°C and 1.7 GPa. It has undergone a partial melting predicted by  
643 thermodynamic modelling and attested by the presence of “nanogranitoid” micro-inclusions derived  
644 from melt entrapped within garnet. The amphibole-rich paragenesis at the metamorphic peak consists  
645 of pargasite+Grt+Cpx, with very few relicts of Pl and Opx. The decompression towards low- $P$  granulite  
646 facies is evidenced by the resorption of garnet and the appearance of Opx and An-rich plagioclase in  
647 the form of symplectites.
- 648 (b) Mesoproterozoic volcanics and granitoids, formed in an arc/back-arc environment during the Grenville  
649 orogenic cycle, have undergone the above metamorphic evolution, before the final exhumation that  
650 occurred at the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary (~505–480 Ma). This tectono-metamorphic history,  
651 similar to that evidenced at Sverdrupfjella in western DML, is imputable to the Pan-African orogeny,  
652 linked to the continent collision between Africa and East-Antarctica that led to the final Gondwana  
653 amalgamation.

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## 869 **Figure captions**

870 Fig. 1. Neoproterozoic reconstruction of Gondwana showing the cratonic regions and surrounding mobile  
871 belts (modified after Gray et al., 2008). Md: Madagascar; SL: Sri Lanka. The box indicates the central  
872 Dronning Maud Land enclosed into the Mozambique belt (580-560 Ma).

873 Fig. 2. Geological sketch map of central DML (modified after Colombo and Talarico, 2004). Abbreviations in  
874 inset map: A Annandagstoppane, B Belgica mountains, HF Heimefrontfjella, KV Kirwanveggen, SR Sør  
875 Rondane, SOSZ South Orvin Shear Zone.

876 Fig. 3. Detailed geological map of Conradgebirge with the location of the study samples.

877 Fig. 4. a) Mafic boudin in migmatized banded gneiss from the metavolcanic complex, northern  
878 Conradgebirge; b) mafic-ultramafic enclave in migmatized orthogneiss (metaplutonic complex) with a  
879 late aplitic dyke (central Conradgebirge).

880 Fig. 5. Microstructures of mafic-ultramafic rocks from Conradgebirge.

881 a) Resorbed garnet surrounded by a Pl+Opx±Cam symplectite in a matrix consisting of plagioclase,  
882 amphibole and biotite; amphibolite 10-12-95TF7 from the metavolcanic complex (VC); plane-polarized  
883 light (PPL). b) Amphibolite 11-12-95TF3 from VC with Cam, Pl and Bt as main mineral phases along the  
884 main foliation; PPL. c) Amphibole-rich fels with Cpx relicts and rare Pl; sample 10-12-95TF8A from VC;  
885 PPL. d) Undeformed Ol+Opx+Cam+Spl fels 10-12-95CF33 from VC; crossed-polarized light (CPL). e)  
886 Ultramafic fels 28-12-95TF4 from the metaplutonic complex, showing a porphyroblastic garnet  
887 surrounded by kelyphite consisting of an inner (kel<sub>i</sub>) zone towards garnet and an outer zone (kel<sub>o</sub>)  
888 towards amphibole, a relict magmatic Cpx and a large plagioclase formerly enclosed in garnet. The red

889 boxes are the Fig. 5f, 5g and 14d; backscattered-electron (BSE) image. f) Particular of image e, where  
890 Cpx shows Opx+Pl (blue and brown) exsolution lamellae along the (010) crystallographic plane, and  
891 Cam (green) exsolution lamellae along (100); pink: microfractures and voids; principal component  
892 analysis (PCA) elaboration of BSE and element maps. g) Particular of image e, showing the inner  
893 kelyphite ( $kel_i$  after garnet) consisting of Opx+Pl+Spl and the outer kelyphite ( $kel_o$  after Cam) made of  
894 Opx+Pl+Cam<sub>2</sub> but devoid of spinel; PCA elaboration of BSE and element maps. h) Mafic fels 18-12-  
895 95TF1B from the metaplutonic complex, showing the peak HP granulite-facies paragenesis (Grt<sub>1</sub> [pink],  
896 Qtz<sub>1</sub> [dark green], Cpx<sub>1</sub> [light green], Ilm<sub>1</sub> [grey], apatite [yellow]), from which high-T low-P  
897 symplectites (Opx<sub>2</sub> [blue], Cpx<sub>2</sub> [green] and plagioclase An<sub>2</sub> [red]) developed during decompression;  
898 very thin coronas of garnet (Grt<sub>3</sub> [pink]) that formed lately at the contacts Opx<sub>2</sub>-An<sub>2</sub>, Ilm<sub>1</sub>-An<sub>2</sub> and Cpx<sub>2</sub>-  
899 An<sub>2</sub> are interpreted as resulting from the final isobaric cooling; PCA elaboration of BSE and element  
900 maps.

901 Fig. 6. Amphibole composition diagrams of metavolcanic (diamonds) and metaplutonic (squares) complex  
902 samples: a) A-site occupancy versus Al<sup>IV</sup>, b) Al<sup>IV</sup> versus Al<sup>VI</sup>, and c)  $100 \times \text{Na}/(\text{Na}+\text{Ca})$  versus  
903  $100 \times \text{Al}/(\text{Al}+\text{Si})$  after Laird and Albee (1981). All diagrams show a correlation along the tremolite-  
904 pargasite join.

905 Fig. 7. Ca-(Fe+Mn)-Mg diagram for garnet of metavolcanic (diamonds) and metaplutonic (squares) complex  
906 samples.

907 Fig. 8. Bulk-rock trace-elements compositions: REE chondrite-normalized patterns. The La value for sample  
908 10-12-95TF8A is not plotted, being below the detection limit. Chondrite composition from Sun and  
909 McDonough (1989).

910 Fig. 9. <sup>40</sup>Ar-<sup>39</sup>Ar age release spectra for amphibole (a) and biotite (b) separates of samples 11-12-95TF3 and  
911 28-12-95TF4. Box heights indicate the 2σ analytical error.

912 Fig. 10. *P-T* pseudosections for sample 28-12-95TF4. See sections 3.3 and 7.1 for complete information on  
913 the modelling method and parameters. Phases are listed in order of decreasing abundance; those in  
914 parentheses are less than 2 mol%; Rt and Ilm may be present in negligible amounts (a, b, c) and can be

915 ignored. The proposed  $P$ - $T$  path is evidenced by a red arrow. a) Model of the bulk rock in the  
916 NCKMnFMAS<sub>2</sub>O system, with H<sub>2</sub>O saturation. b) Particular of the previous model, with isomodal and  
917 isopleth curves. c) Model of the microdomain made of Cpx with Pl+Opx+Cam exsolution lamellae (Fig.  
918 5f), in the NCKFMASHTO system. d) Model of the microdomain made of Pl included within Grt, in the  
919 NCMnFMASO system; the insert BSE image shows the Pl<sub>2</sub>+Opx+Spl corona that developed at the  
920 contacts between Pl<sub>1</sub> and the host Grt<sub>1</sub>.

921 Fig. 11. Bulk-rock trace-elements compositions: a) Th/Yb vs. Ta/Yb diagram (Pearce, 1982; compositions of  
922 modern N-MORB, E-MORB and OIB from Sun and McDonough, 1989); b) V (ppm) vs. Ti (ppm)/1000  
923 diagram (Shervais, 1982). Abbreviations: TH tholeiitic; CA calc-alkaline; SHO shoshonitic.

924 Fig. 12. Bulk-rock trace-elements compositions: incompatible multi-element diagram normalized to N-  
925 MORB composition (modern N-MORB and OIB compositions, after Sun and McDonough, 1989); the La  
926 value for sample 10-12-95TF8A is not plotted, being below the detection limit.

927 Fig. 13. Tectonic interpretation based on Th<sub>N</sub> vs. Nb<sub>N</sub> systematics (Saccani, 2015). Backarc A: back-arc basin  
928 rocks with input of subduction; backarc B: back-arc basin rocks without input of subduction; OCTZ  
929 ocean-continent transition zone. Th and Nb are N-MORB normalized (Sun and McDonough, 1989).

Figure 1

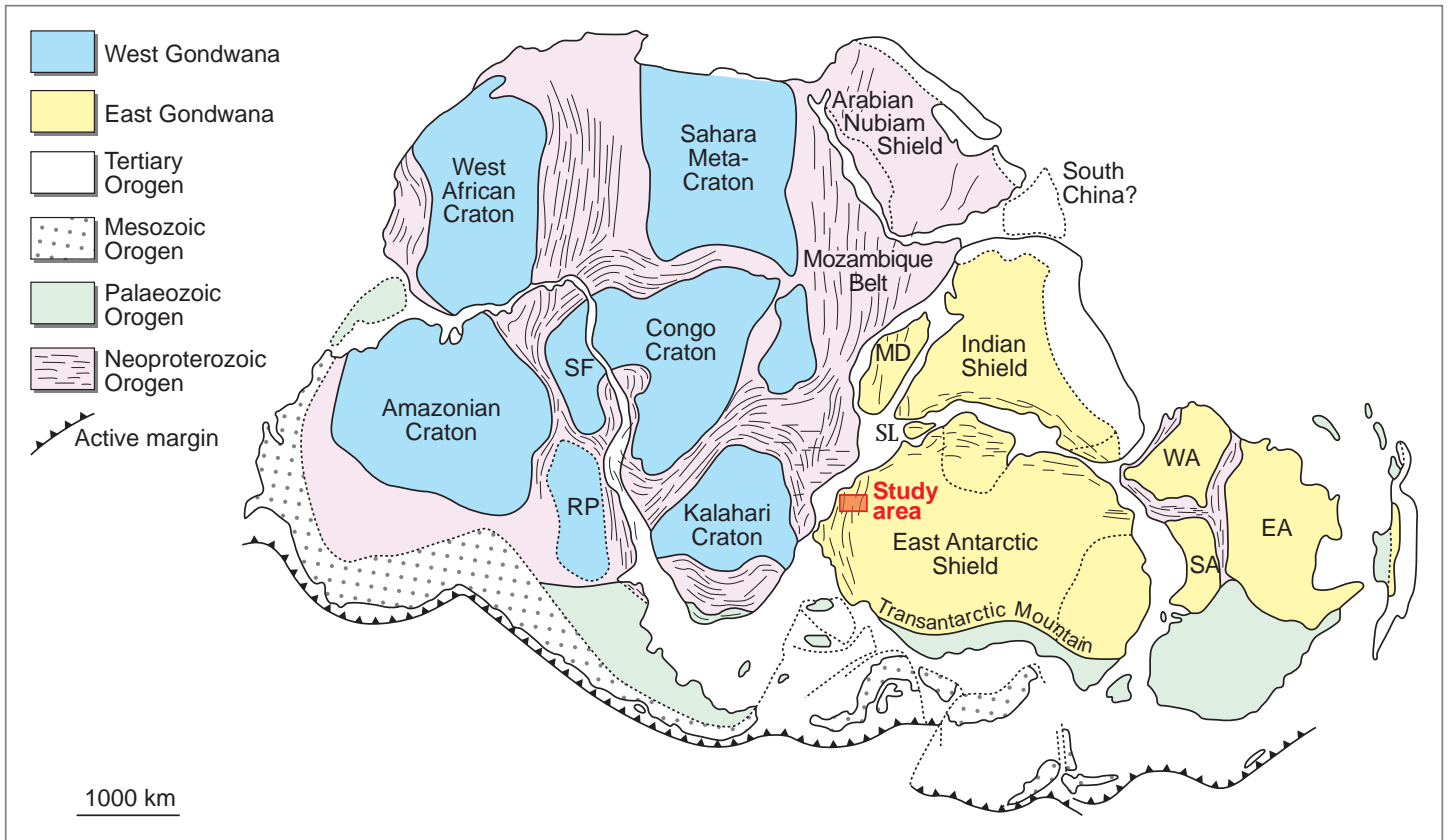


Figure 2

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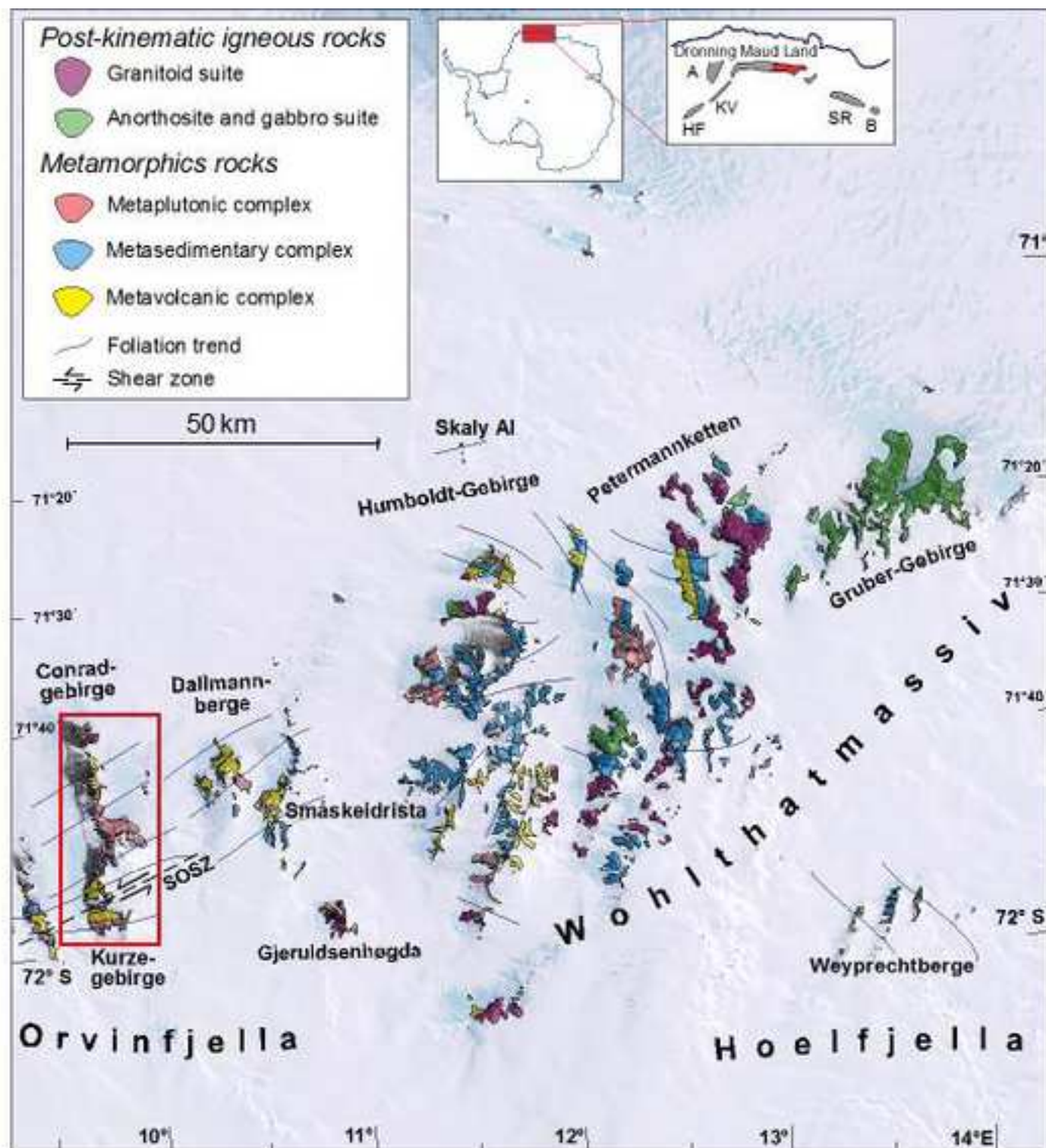


Figure 3

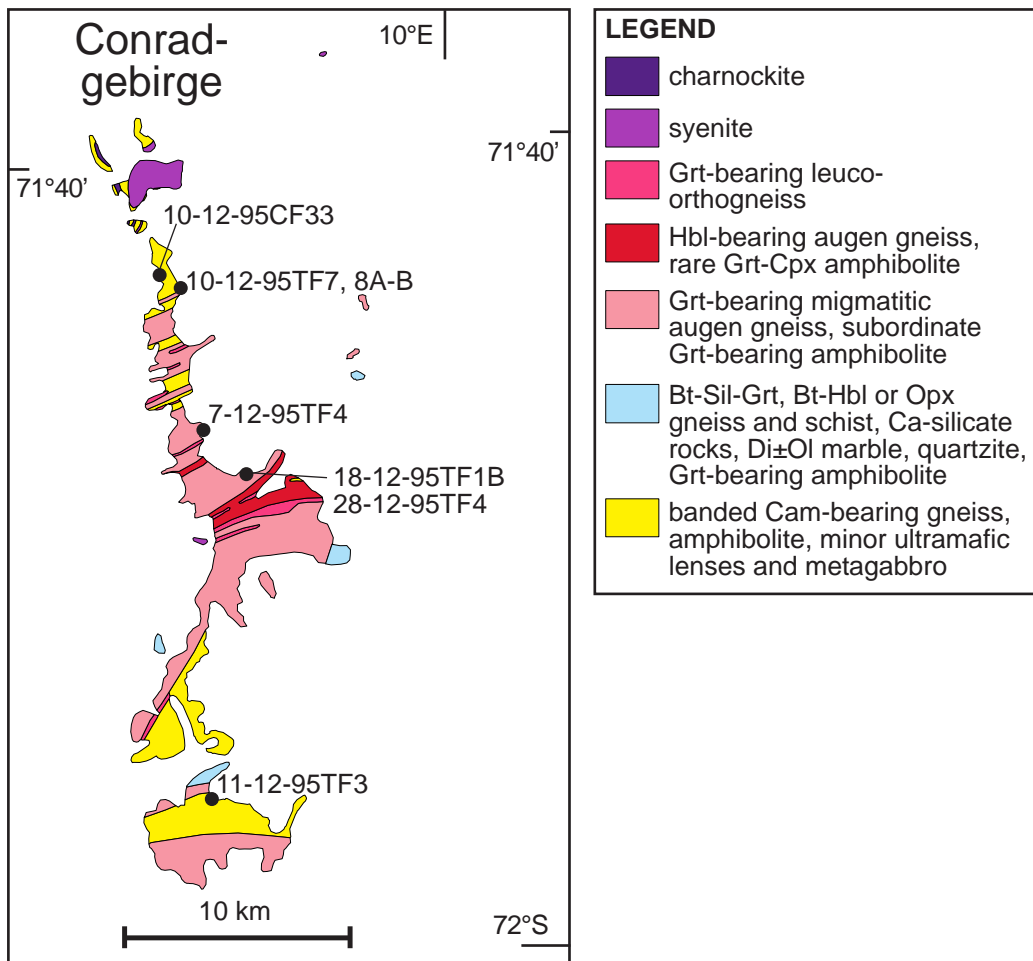




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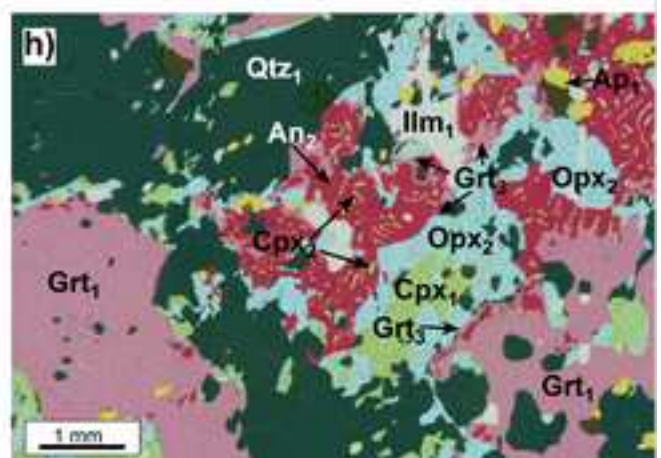
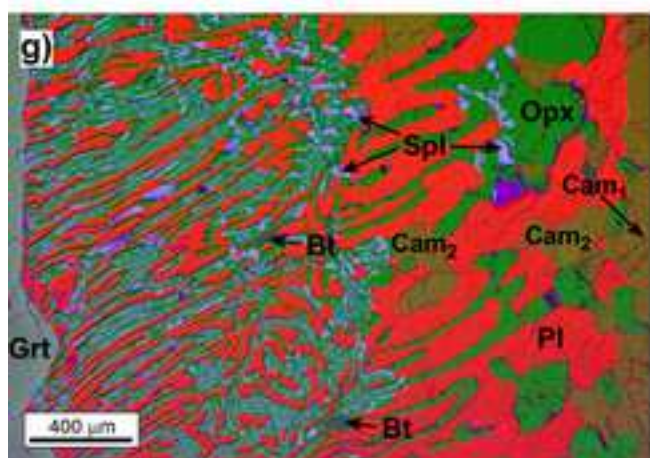
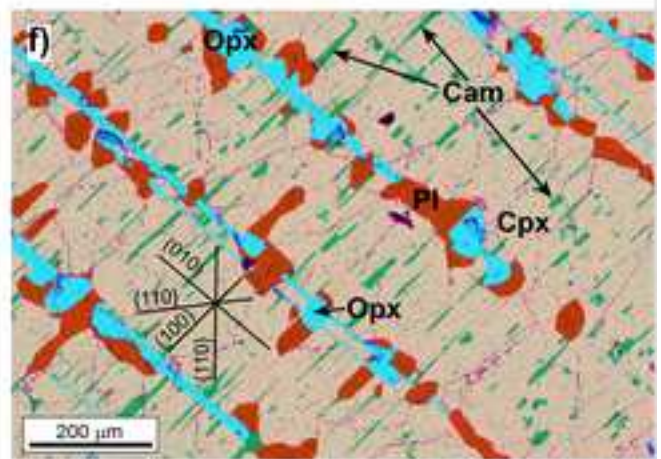
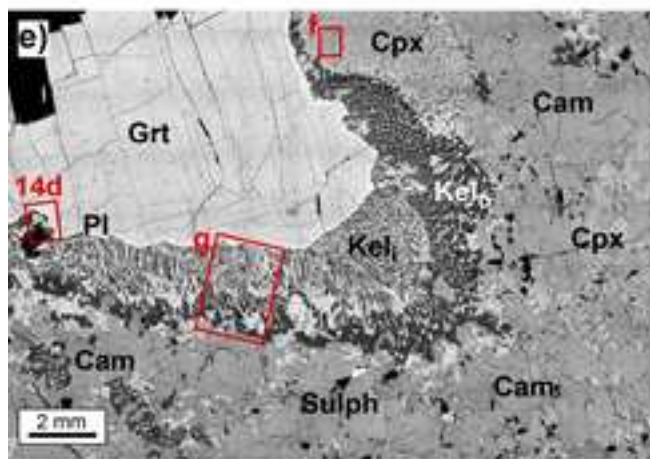
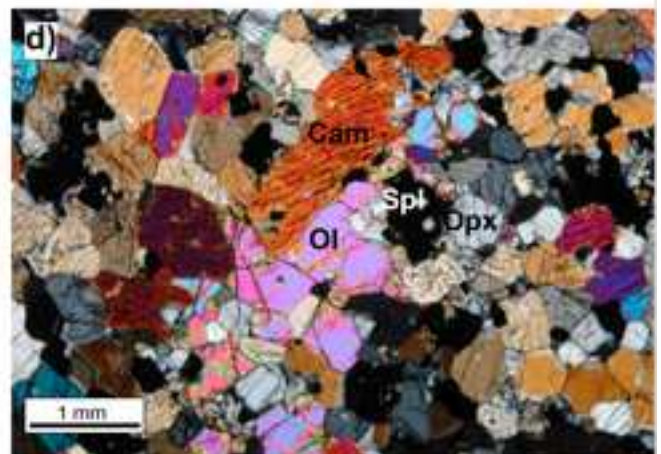
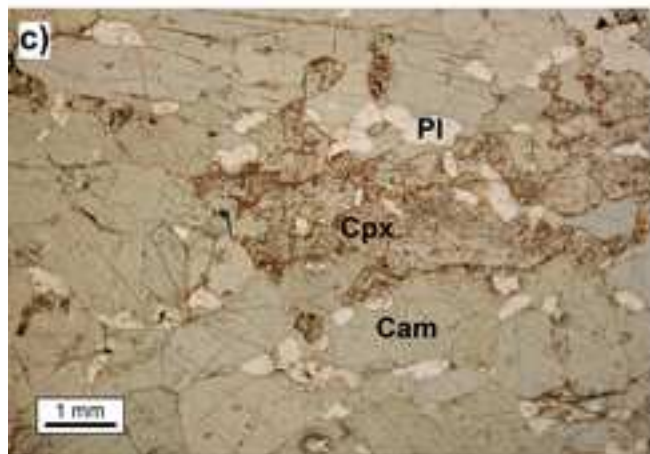
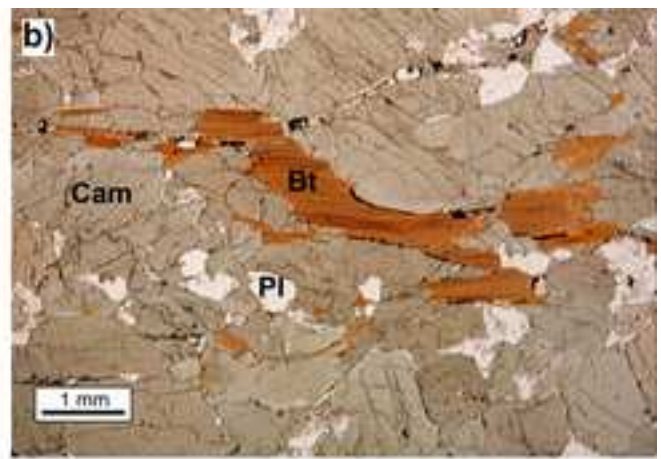
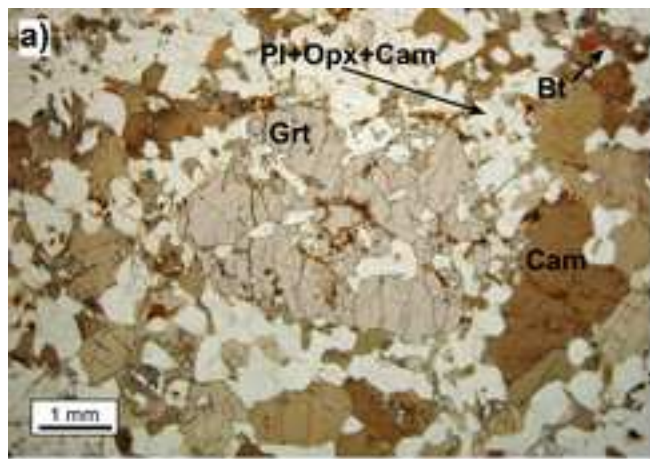




Figure 6

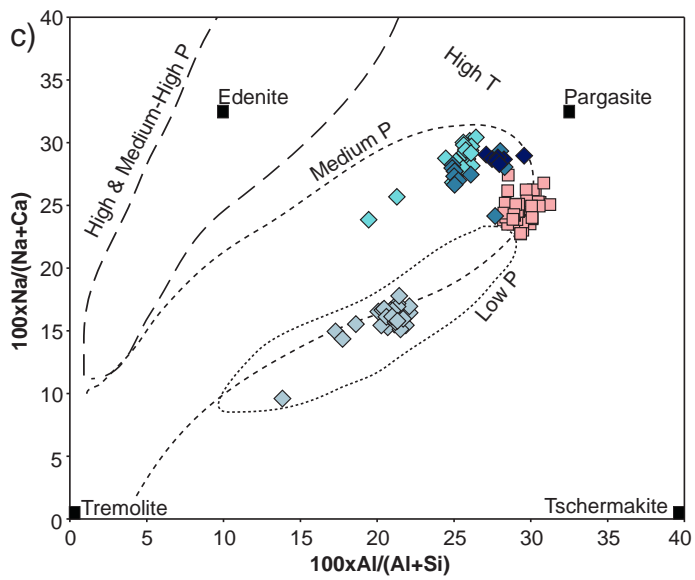
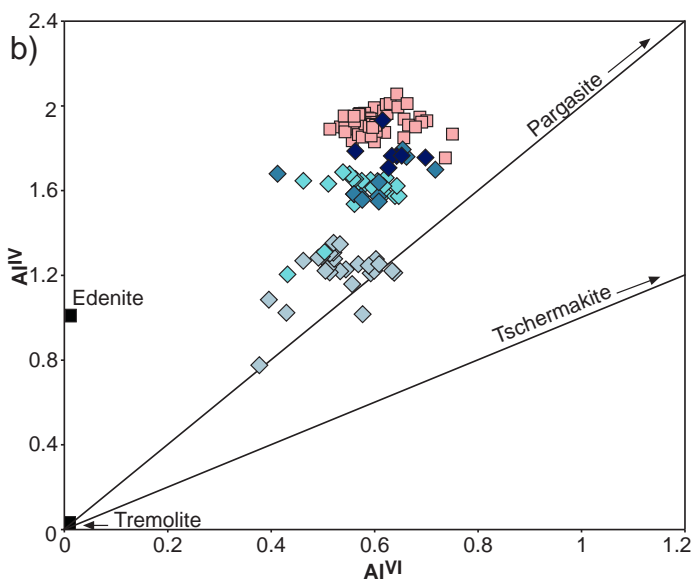
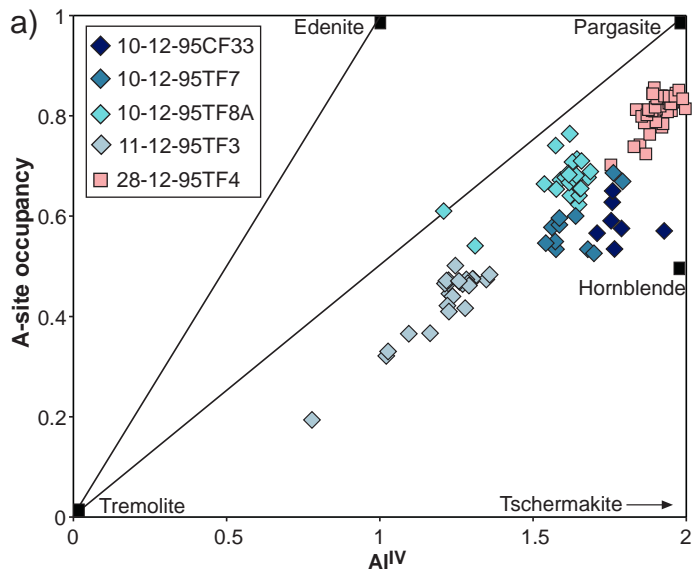


Figure 7

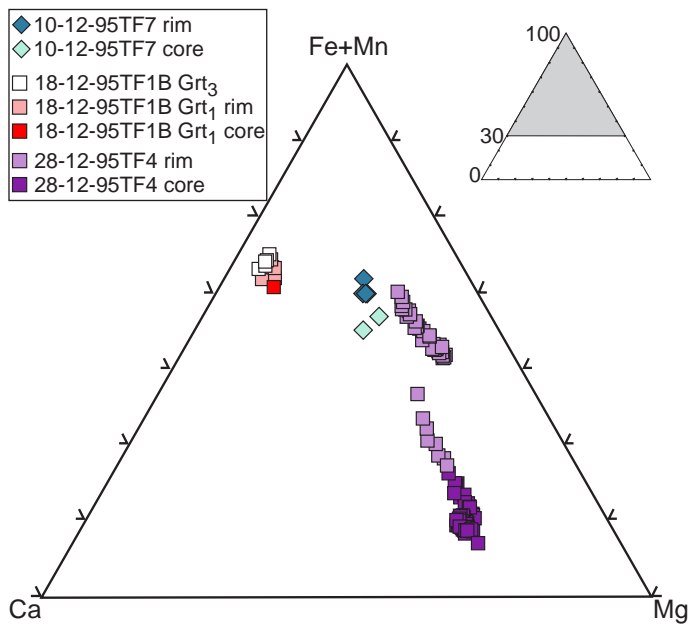


Figure 8

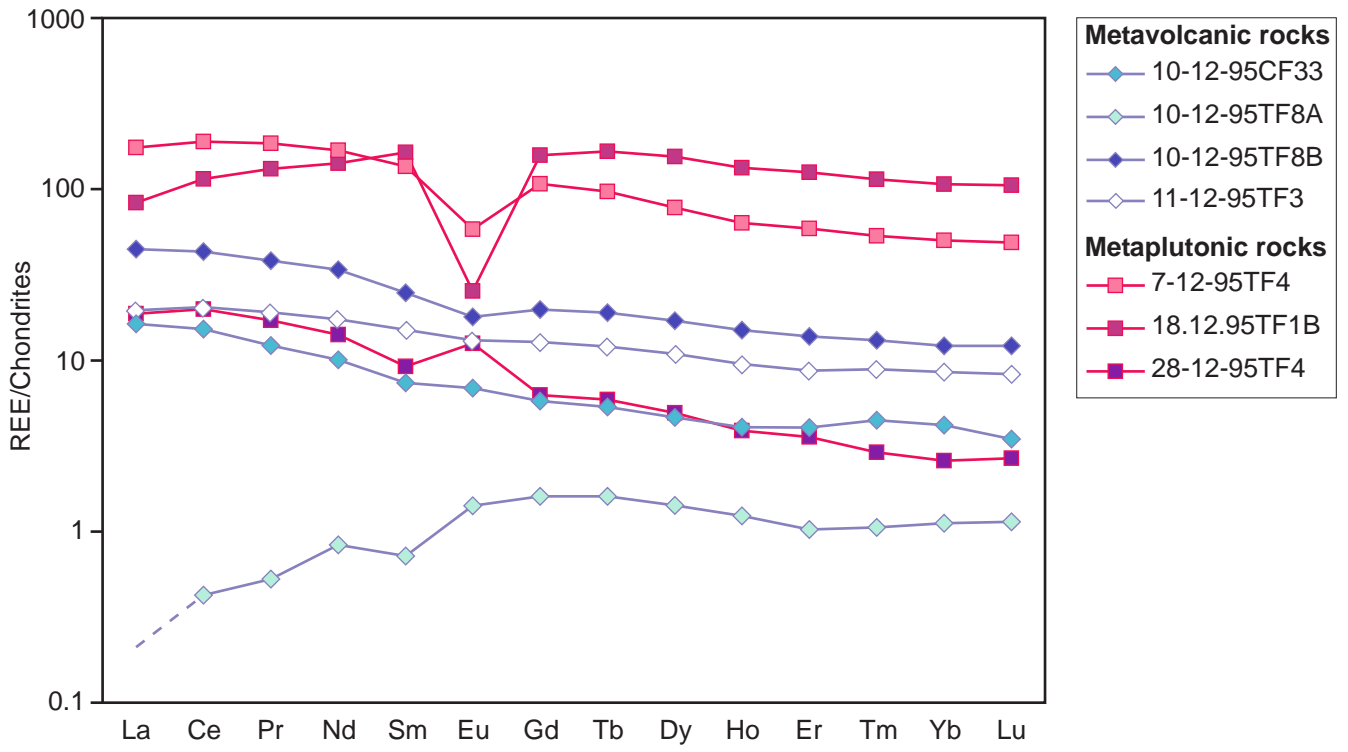


Figure 9

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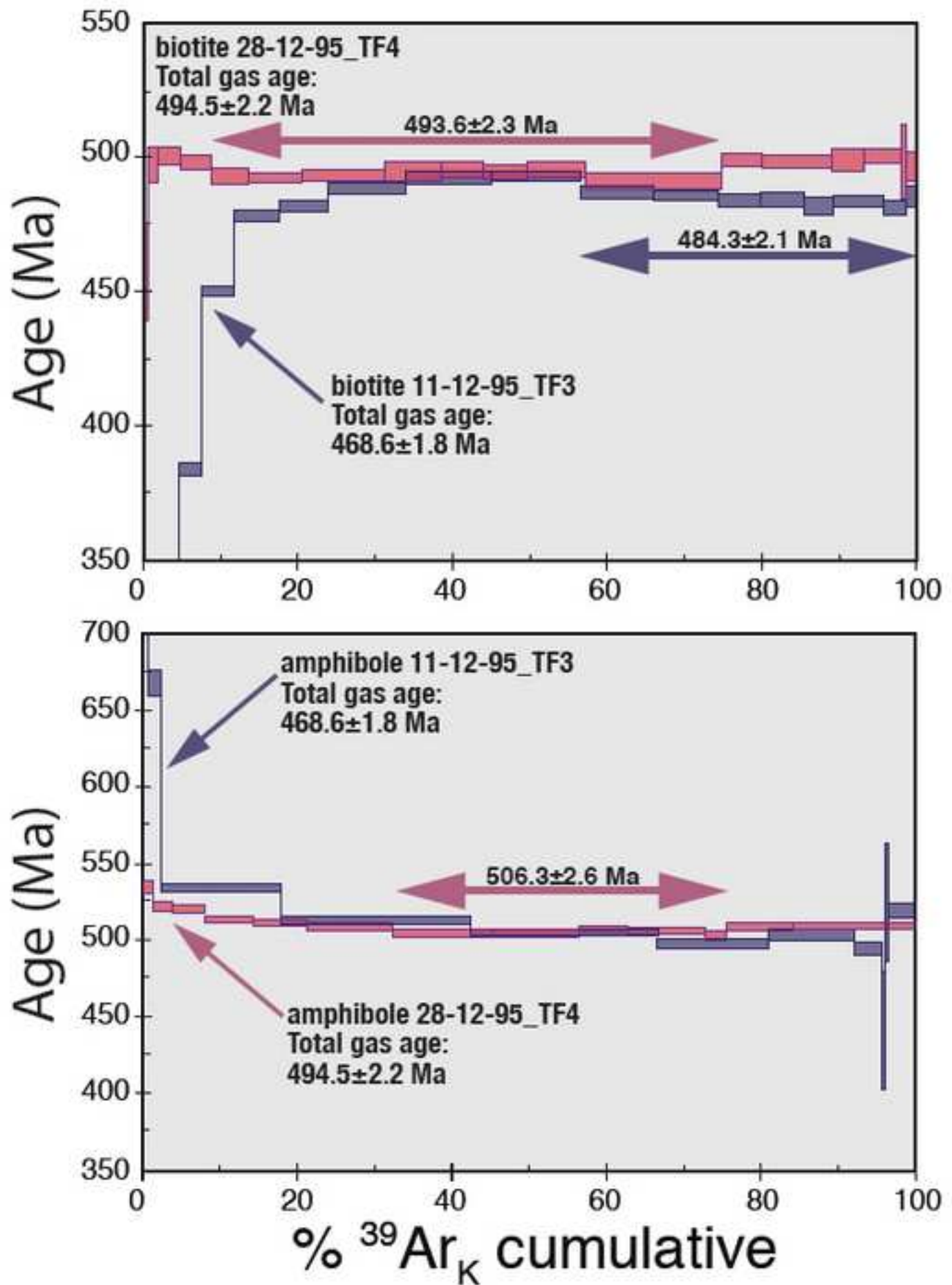


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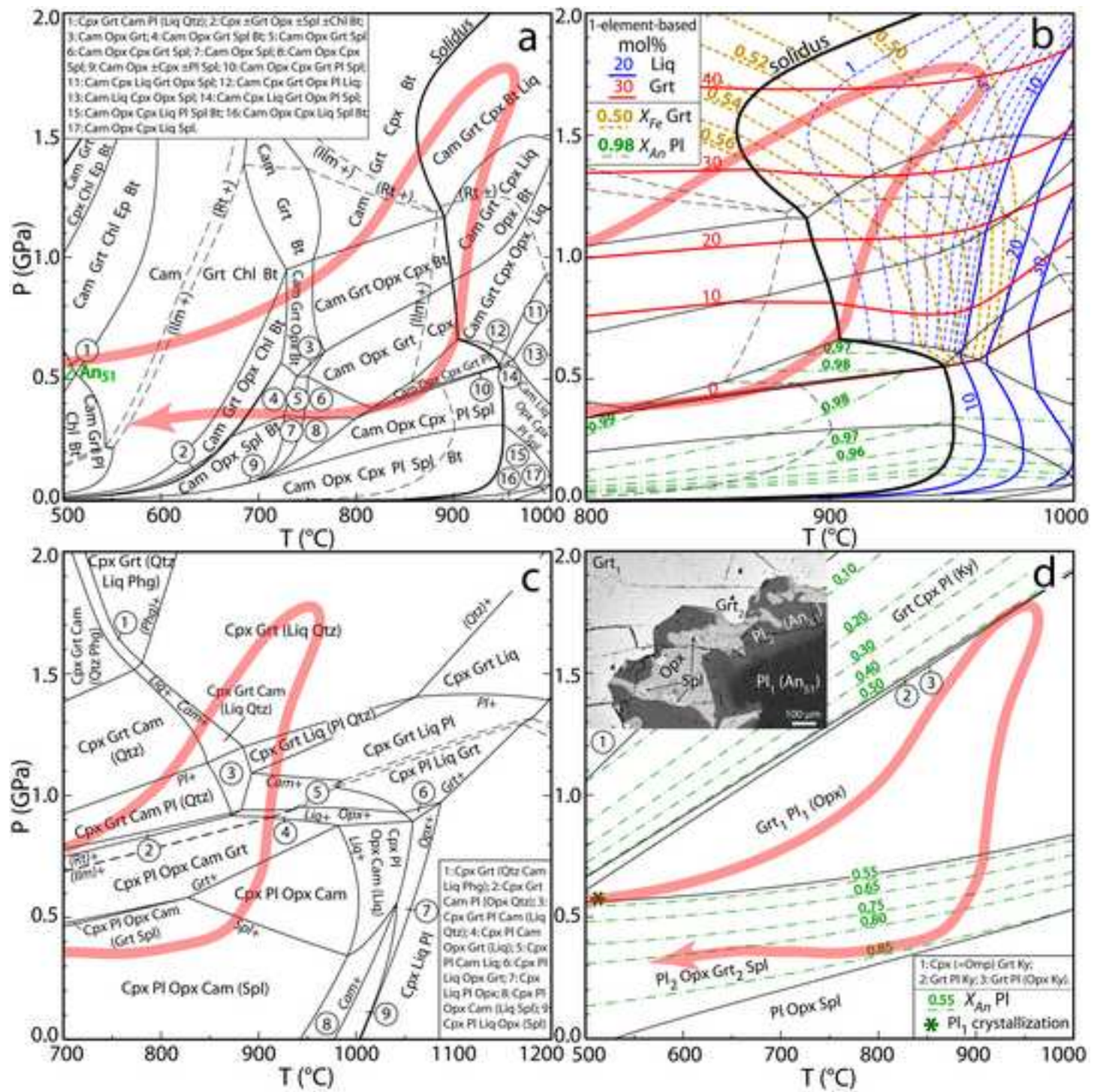


Figure 11

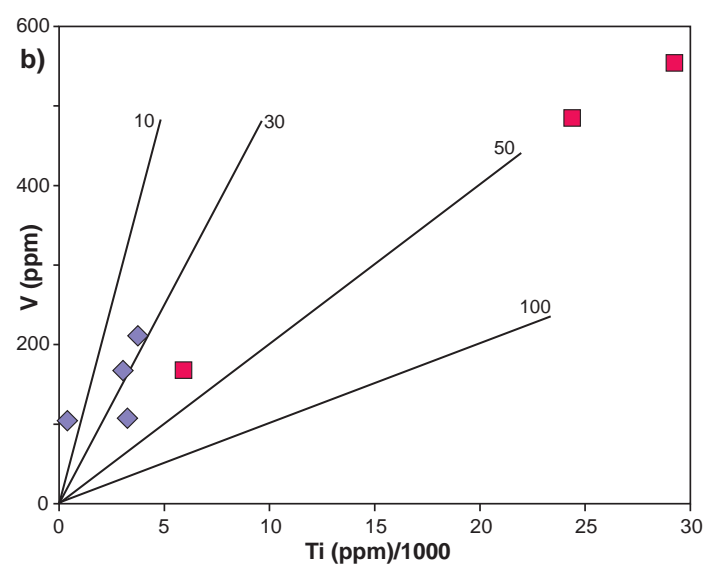
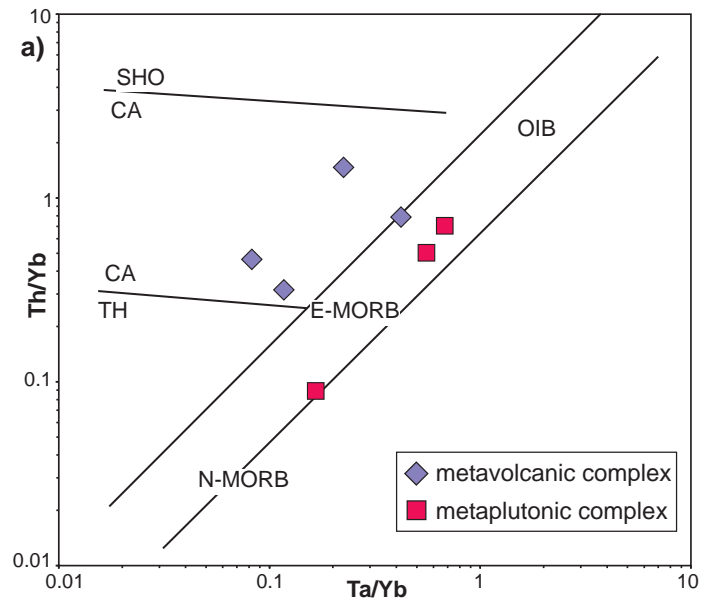


Figure 12

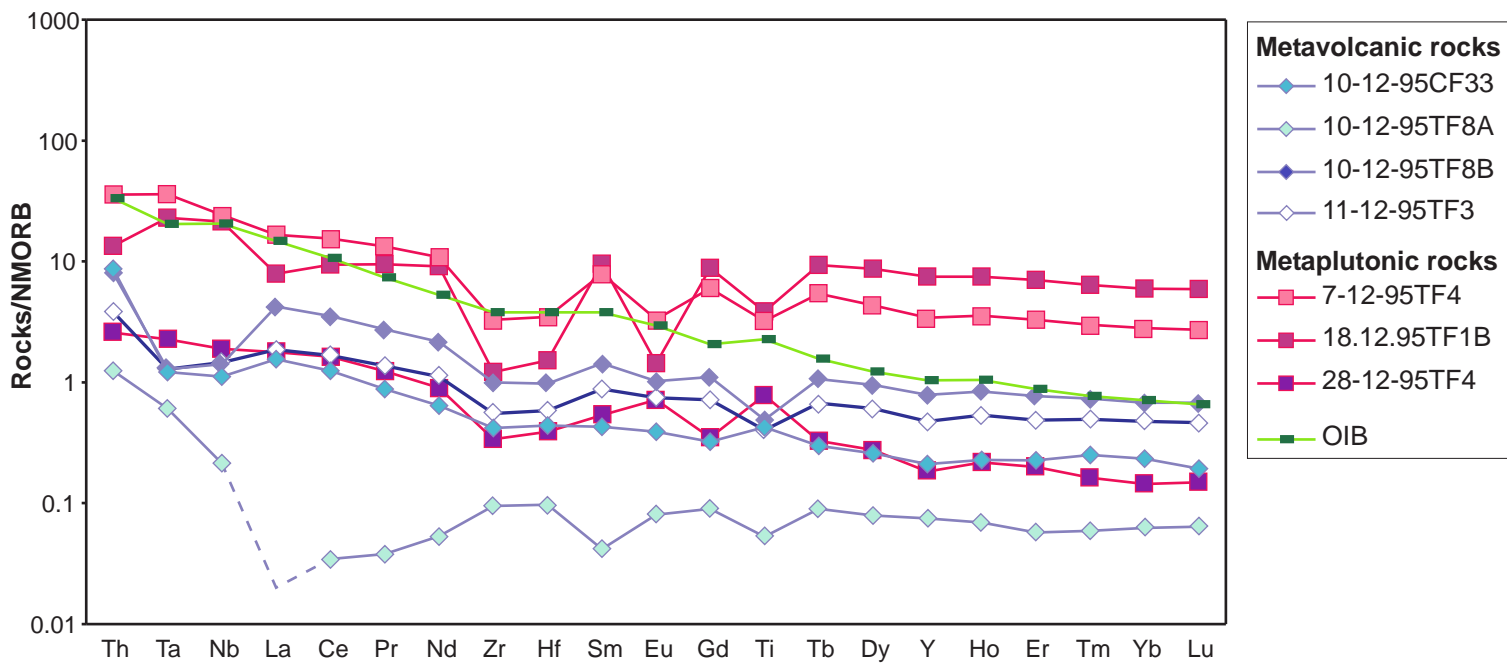


Figure 13

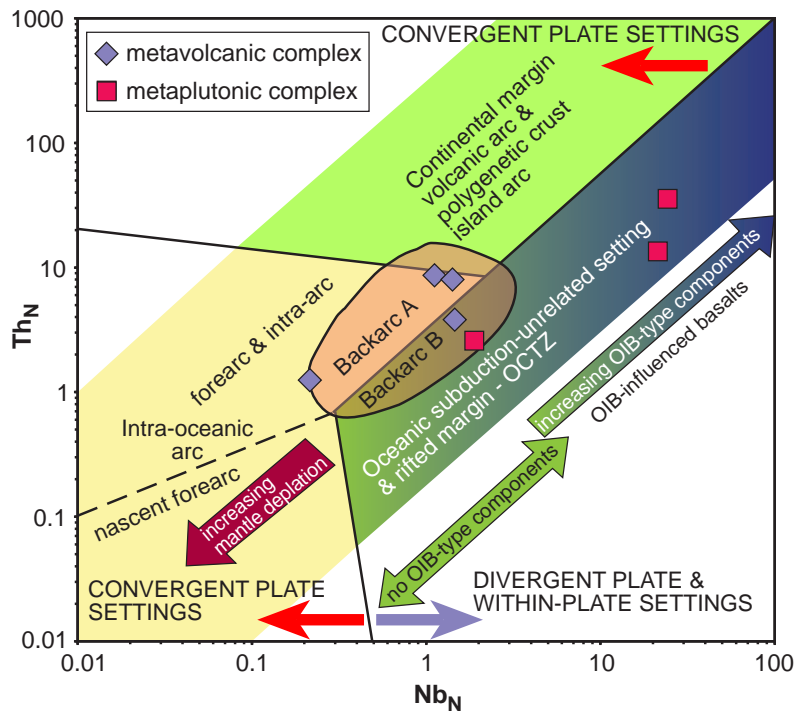




Table 1

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	Metavolcanic complex				Metaplutonic complex		
	10-12-95 CF33	11-12-95 TF3	10-12-95 TF8A	10-12-95 TF8B	7-12-95 TF4	18-12- 95TF1B	28-12-95 TF4
<i>Major elements (wt %)</i>							
SiO <sub>2</sub>	47.9	46.88	45.76	48.33	44.03	38.01	44.29
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.54	0.509	0.067	0.624	4.071	4.882	0.993
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	7.24	13.22	13.47	16.52	14.14	10.87	15.61
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3t</sub>	14.82	11.14	8.66	8.89	19.02	28.61	14.24
MnO	0.194	0.178	0.148	0.132	0.295	0.582	0.186
MgO	26.17	13.32	14.67	8.26	5.19	6.06	13.74
CaO	3.21	10.55	13.41	12.38	11.07	11.08	10.06
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.63	1.42	2.12	2.66	1.57	0.22	1.04
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.2	1.81	0.32	0.95	0.77	0.05	0.87
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.08	0.05	< 0.01	0.09	0.54	0.48	0.02
LOI	-0.35	1.64	1.32	0.44	-0.27	-0.79	-0.19
Total	100.6	100.7	99.96	99.27	100.4	100.1	100.9
#Mg	60.35	50.76	59.35	44.47	19.04	15.44	45.41
<i>Trace elements (ppm)</i>							
Ni	930	310	100	130	50	< 20	170
Cr	2440	280	270	100	80	30	130
Co	109	51	65	43	40	44	81
V	108	167	104	212	485	553	167
Sc	15	26	43	38	57	79	21
Cu	20	< 10	< 10	20	20	80	10
Zn	170	140	50	80	220	120	100
Ga	10	15	6	20	29	16	16
Pb	8	< 5	< 5	< 5	6	< 5	< 5
Sr	29	80	34	245	47	49	161
Rb	4	62	2	7	18	1	13
Ba	10	136	19	68	139	3	74
Zr	31	41	7	74	244	90	25
Hf	0.9	1.2	0.2	2	7.1	3.1	0.8
Nb	2.6	3.4	0.5	3.3	56.6	49.9	4.4
Ta	0.16	0.17	0.08	0.17	4.74	3.03	0.3
Th	1.04	0.46	0.15	0.96	4.27	1.61	0.31
U	0.79	0.54	0.06	0.61	4.08	0.46	0.13
Y	5.9	13.3	2.1	22	96	209	5.1
La	3.87	4.66	< 0.05	10.6	41.4	19.8	4.44
Ce	9.32	12.5	0.26	26.4	116	70.3	12.2
Pr	1.16	1.81	0.05	3.63	17.6	12.5	1.63
Nd	4.7	8.11	0.39	15.8	78.9	66.3	6.58
Sm	1.13	2.31	0.11	3.79	20.8	25.1	1.41
Eu	0.399	0.76	0.082	1.04	3.39	1.47	0.73
Gd	1.19	2.63	0.33	4.07	22.1	32.5	1.29
Tb	0.2	0.45	0.06	0.71	3.62	6.23	0.22
Dy	1.18	2.77	0.36	4.32	19.8	39.4	1.25
Ho	0.23	0.54	0.07	0.85	3.59	7.55	0.22
Er	0.67	1.44	0.17	2.28	9.75	20.8	0.59
Tm	0.114	0.226	0.027	0.334	1.36	2.91	0.074
Yb	0.71	1.45	0.19	2.07	8.54	18.2	0.44
Lu	0.088	0.211	0.029	0.308	1.24	2.68	0.068
Σ <sub>REE</sub>	24.96	39.87	2.13	76.20	348.09	325.74	31.14
(La/Sm) <sub>N</sub>	2.211	1.302	0.591 <sup>i</sup>	1.806	1.285	0.509	2.033
(Gd/Yb) <sub>N</sub>	1.387	1.500	1.437	1.627	2.141	1.477	2.425
Eu/Eu*	1.044	0.939	1.216	0.805	0.480	0.157	1.625

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