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3-D assessment of peak-metamorphic conditions by Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material: an example from the margin of the Lepontine dome (Swiss Central Alps)

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Abstract This study monitors regional changes in the crystallinity of carbonaceous matter (CM) by applying Micro-Raman spectroscopy to a total of 214 metasediment samples (largely so-called Bündnerschiefer) dominantly metamorphosed under blueschist- to amphibolite-facies conditions. They were collected within the northeastern margin of the Lepontine dome and easterly adjacent areas of the Swiss Central Alps. Three-dimensional mapping of isotemperature contours in map and profile views shows that the isotemperature contours associated with the Miocene Barrow-type Lepontine metamorphic event cut across refolded nappe contacts, both along and across strike within the northeastern margin of the Lepontine dome and adjacent areas. Further to the northeast, the isotemperature contours reflect temperatures reached during the Late

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Eocene subduction-related blueschist-facies event and/or during subsequent near-isothermal decompression; these contours appear folded by younger, large-scale post-nappestacking folds. A substantial jump in the recorded maximum temperatures across the tectonic contact between the frontal Adula nappe complex and surrounding metasediments indicates that this contact accommodated differential tectonic movement of the Adula nappe with respect to the enveloping Bündnerschiefer after maximum temperatures were reached within the northern Adula nappe, i.e. after Late Eocene time.

Keywords HP-metamorphism - Barrovian metamorphism · Graphitization · Metasediments · Micro-Raman spectroscopy - Central Alps

Introduction

The metamorphic structure of the Alps reflects long-lasting plate convergence and collision between the European and Adriatic continental plates in Cretaceous to Cenozoic times (e.g. Tru¨mpy [1960;](#page-33-0) Frisch [1979;](#page-31-0) Tricart [1984;](#page-33-0) Schmid et al. [1996;](#page-33-0) Handy et al. [2010](#page-31-0)). The geodynamic evolution and resulting metamorphic zonation of the Central Alps (Lepontine) and easterly adjacent areas are related to Cenozoic orogeny (e.g. Schmid et al. [1996;](#page-33-0) Bousquet et al. [2008\)](#page-30-0) that followed an earlier Cretaceous cycle (Froitzheim et al. [1994](#page-31-0); Schmid et al. [2008](#page-33-0)) only preserved in the Austroalpine units (e.g. Handy and Oberhänsli [2004](#page-31-0); and references therein) and is therefore not addressed in this study. The metamorphic evolution can be subdivided into two distinct stages: (1) Latest Cretaceous—Late Eocene subduction-related pressure-dominated metamorphism and deformation (see review in Berger and Bousquet

[2008;](#page-30-0) and references therein) that affected oceanic lithosphere formed during the opening of the Alpine Tethys as well as small parts of the immediately adjacent Europe-derived continental lithosphere; and (2) Oligocene— Middle Miocene temperature-dominated, Barrow-type metamorphism (Köppel et al. [1981](#page-32-0); Hunziker et al. [1992](#page-32-0); Berger et al. [2009;](#page-30-0) Janots et al. [2009;](#page-32-0) Rubatto et al. [2009\)](#page-33-0) related to the collision between Europe and Adria. Collision involved accretion of massive volumes of crustal material derived from the lower, European plate (e.g. Lepontine dome and Tauern window; Bousquet et al. [1997](#page-30-0); Schmid et al. [2004;](#page-33-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0) to the upper plate comprising the older Austroalpine nappes and their previously accreted high-pressure units (e.g. Handy et al. [2010\)](#page-31-0).

Several pioneering studies on the spatial distribution of index minerals as well as on different metamorphic facies types established the zonation of Alpine metamorphism, particularly within the Lepontine dome of the Central Alps (e.g. Wenk [1962](#page-33-0), [1970](#page-34-0); Niggli and Niggli [1965](#page-32-0); Trommsdorff [1966](#page-33-0); Frey [1969,](#page-31-0) [1978;](#page-31-0) Niggli [1970;](#page-32-0) Frey et al. [1980](#page-31-0), [1999;](#page-31-0) Oberhänsli et al. [2004](#page-32-0)). However, the metamorphic zonation related to pressure-dominated metamorphism should be distinguished from that related to Barrovian overprint in the Alps. Whereas the pressuredominated units (blueschists and eclogites) form a continuous belt striking parallel to the orogenic trend, remnants of the temperature-dominated event are localized, primarily in the Lepontine dome and the Tauern window (e.g. Goffé et al. [2003](#page-31-0); Bousquet et al. [2008](#page-30-0)). From a geodynamic point of view, only the Central Alps (Lepontine dome) and the Tauern window in the Eastern Alps reached the mature stage of a collisional orogenic belt characterized by pervasive Barrovian overprint. The Western Alps never reached this stage and hence can be interpreted as a frozen-in subduction zone (Bousquet [2008](#page-30-0)).

This study addresses a key area for the reconstruction of the Alpine geodynamic evolution at the northeastern margin of the Lepontine dome and adjacent areas further east in which both pressure- and temperature-dominated metamorphic domains are found to be in close contact. This provides important constraints on the metamorphic evolution of the Central Alps during the transition from subduction to collision (e.g. Bousquet et al. [2002](#page-30-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0), [2009](#page-34-0)). The metasediments studied, predominantly calcschists, have great potential for recording the metamorphic evolution and can therefore be used for the geodynamic reconstruction of the Alpine orogenic belt (see also Goffé and Chopin [1986;](#page-31-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008,](#page-34-0) [2009\)](#page-34-0). Moreover, these metasediments cover large areas, making them ideal for correlating the structural and metamorphic evolution over long distances. This is rarely

possible in mafic rocks, which usually occur only as dismembered and isolated bodies.

Despite the remarkable progress made on reconstructing the metamorphic evolution of HP/LT and LP/LT metasediments (see review of Bousquet et al. [2008](#page-30-0); and references therein), accurate characterization of metamorphic gradients and P–T-paths still remains problematic. Classical petrology based on analysing coexisting mineral assemblages and applying equilibrium thermodynamics reaches its limits, particularly in rocks that experienced low-grade conditions. A potentially powerful tool for estimating paleotemperatures is the investigation of the evolution of natural carbonaceous material, i.e. organic matter.

The presented investigation demonstrates the great potential for using Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material in the context of a detailed petrological and structural study. This method is very powerful for determining the maximum temperatures reached during metamorphism. Provided that the sampling is uniformly dense over a large area, this method also yields three-dimensional information on temperature gradients in the field. Up to now, such detailed spatial information has only been locally available in the Central Alps, as revealed by mapping of three-dimensional isograd patterns on a local scale (e.g. Streckeisen and Wenk [1974;](#page-33-0) Fox [1975](#page-31-0); Thompson [1976](#page-33-0)). Carbonaceous material (CM) is ubiquitous in metasedimentary rocks in the area of investigation. This method is based on the widely accepted notion that the continuous transformation of the crystalline structure of CM from disordered organic matter to fully ordered graphite (generally called graphitization; e.g. Teichmüller [1987](#page-33-0)) is mainly temperature-dependent. Hence, the structural order of CM as detected with Raman spectroscopy is expected to increase systematically with increasing temperature (e.g. Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Yui et al. [1996\)](#page-34-0) and indeed, the relationship between structural ordering and temperature has been calibrated as a reliable geothermometer (Beyssac et al. [2002a;](#page-30-0) Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)). A key feature of this method is that graphitization is an irreversible thermal process, as supported by the observation that the degree of crystallinity of CM is irreversible (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0)). Therefore, this geothermometer always reliably records the peak temperature reached by a rock specimen along its P–T-path (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2004,](#page-30-0) [2007](#page-30-0); Bollinger et al. [2004](#page-30-0); Rantitsch et al. [2004,](#page-33-0) [2005](#page-33-0); Guedes et al. [2005](#page-31-0); Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0); Negro et al. [2006](#page-32-0); Judik et al. [2008](#page-32-0); Kribek et al. [2008;](#page-32-0) Angiboust et al. [2009](#page-30-0); Gabalda et al. [2009](#page-31-0); Rantitsch and Judik [2009;](#page-33-0) Aoya et al. [2010](#page-30-0)).

This study presents a first systematic, comprehensive investigation of the evolution of CM using Raman spectroscopy over a large area of the Central Alps at the northeastern rim of the Lepontine dome that is characterized by high topographic gradients. The peak temperature distribution in maps and profiles covers a large volume of calcareous, organic-rich metasediments (generally referred to as Bündnerschiefer) that were deposited onto basement of the European continental margin and the adjacent Valais oceanic domain in Cretaceous time (Steinmann [1994;](#page-33-0) Berger et al. [2005;](#page-30-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0). The dataset comprises a total of 214 samples (Figs. [1](#page-3-0), [2,](#page-4-0) Table [1\)](#page-5-0) and allows for high-resolution mapping of maximum metamorphic temperatures in three dimensions. Two different calibrations (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0); Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)) were used and will be compared with each other in this study. The peak temperature distribution will be discussed in terms of the P–T-paths associated with the high-pressure and Barrow-type metamorphisms, respectively.

Geological setting and sampling strategy

The analysed Mesozoic metasediments are located partly within the northeastern rim of the Lepontine dome and partly in easterly adjacent areas (inset of Fig. [1](#page-3-0)). This working area turned out to be ideal for studying temperature gradients in a transition zone between realms that are characterized by collision- and subduction-related metamorphic overprints. The investigated zone of transition extends from the Garvera-Lukmanier-Pizzo Molare area in the W to the Prättigau half-window in the E and also includes the N–S-oriented Misox Zone located between the Adula and Tambo nappes (Figs. [1,](#page-3-0) [2\)](#page-4-0). This allows for continuous observation of the same metasedimentary units along strike, i.e. from an area dominated by amphibolitefacies, Barrovian overprint in the SW to one dominated by blueschist-facies conditions in the NE (Fig. [1;](#page-3-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0).

Tectono-metamorphic background

Within our working area, pre-Alpine basement nappes predominate over Mesozoic metasediments in the west and at deeper structural levels. These basement nappes formed by scraping off of uppermost crustal slices from the southward-subducting European margin and accreting them to the overlying Penninic nappe stack during the latest stages of Alpine plate convergence (Schmid et al. [1996\)](#page-33-0). Because they structurally underlie the Penninic nappes formed by the remnants of two branches of Alpine Tethys and slices of an intervening Brianconnais microcontinent, they are referred to as Sub-Penninic (Milnes [1974;](#page-32-0) Froitzheim et al. [1996;](#page-31-0) Schmid et al. [2004](#page-33-0)). The basement nappes include, from bottom to top, the Gotthard, Lucomagno-Leventina, Simano and Adula nappes.

Together, they form the bulk of the Lepontine structural dome that exposes the deepest tectonic units of the Alps. These basement nappes are overlain directly by thin slivers of Mesozoic metasediments that were part of the Mesozoic cover of this European margin (Europe-derived metasedimentary units of Figs. [1,](#page-3-0) [2\)](#page-4-0). These Europe-derived metasediments are complexly folded and wrapped around the frontal parts of the Sub-Penninic basement nappes (e.g. Thakur [1973](#page-33-0); Milnes [1974;](#page-32-0) Probst [1980](#page-33-0)).

The Penninic Basal Thrust separates the Europe-derived Sub-Penninic units from the Lower Penninic cover nappes and thrust slices that originated from the Valais Ocean (e.g. Steinmann [1994](#page-33-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)). The latter, referred to as Valaisan, consist almost exclusively of Mesozoic metasediments referred to as Bündnerschiefer (e.g. Probst [1980](#page-33-0); Steinmann [1994;](#page-33-0) Berger et al. [2005](#page-30-0); Figs. [1](#page-3-0), [2](#page-4-0)). Because they constitute a structurally higher nappe stack with an axial plunge towards the east, they are predominantly found in the eastern parts of the studied area.

The northeastern margin of the Lepontine dome is the locus of several pioneering studies addressing fundamental principles related to the evolution of prograde Barrovian metamorphism (Niggli and Niggli [1965](#page-32-0); Chadwick [1968](#page-31-0); Frey [1969](#page-31-0), [1978](#page-31-0); Niggli [1970](#page-32-0); Wenk [1970](#page-34-0); Fox [1975;](#page-31-0) Livi et al. [2002](#page-32-0)). Metamorphic grade increases continuously from chloritoid- and margarite-bearing micaschists that are part of the greenschist-facies domain in the Urseren-Garvera Zone (Frey [1978](#page-31-0); Livi et al. [2002\)](#page-32-0) to staurolitekyanite-garnet-biotite-bearing metasediments indicating amphibolite-facies conditions around the Lukmanier area and Pizzo Molare (Fig. [1](#page-3-0); Chadwick [1968;](#page-31-0) Frey [1969](#page-31-0); Thakur [1971;](#page-33-0) Fox [1975](#page-31-0)). Lower/middle amphibolite-facies metamorphic conditions $(0.5-0.8 \text{ GPa}$ and $500-550^{\circ} \text{C})$ have been estimated for Barrow-type metamorphism in the northeastern Lepontine dome (Chadwick [1968](#page-31-0); Frey [1969](#page-31-0); Fox [1975](#page-31-0); Engi et al. [1995](#page-31-0); Todd and Engi [1997](#page-33-0); Frey and Ferreiro Mählmann [1999](#page-31-0)). A similar progressive increase in metamorphic conditions is also found in the Misox Zone further to the east (Thompson [1976;](#page-33-0) Teutsch [1982;](#page-33-0) Fig. [1](#page-3-0)).

Low-grade metasediments predominate in the area northeast of the Lepontine dome, but there the metamorphic record is ill-constrained due to the scarcity of unambiguous mineral assemblages; often one can only infer "greenschist-facies" conditions. However, the recognition of Fe–Mg carpholite in the metasediments of the Valaisan east of the Lepontine dome indicates that blueschist-facies conditions of 1.2–1.4 GPa and 350–400 $^{\circ}$ C were established before the late-stage overprinting under greenschist-facies conditions (Fig. [1](#page-3-0); Goffé and Oberhänsli [1992](#page-31-0); Oberhänsli et al. [1995](#page-32-0); Bousquet et al. [1998](#page-30-0)). The discovery of carpholite documented the existence of a second and northern subduction zone within the Valais oceanic

Table 1 This list of samples also includes our own samples, completed by samples from the following studies: ⁽¹⁾ Frey (1978); ⁽²⁾ Hoefs and Frey (1976); ⁽³⁾ Thoenen (1989); ⁽⁴⁾ Petrova et al.
conon: (5) Engines at **Table 1** This list of samples also includes our own samples, completed by samples from the following studies: $^{(1)}$ Frey ([1978\)](#page-31-0); $^{(2)}$ Hoefs and Frey ([1976\)](#page-31-0); $^{(3)}$ Thoenen ([1989\)](#page-33-0); $^{(4)}$ Petrova et al. ([2002\)](#page-33-0); (5) Frey et al. [\(1982](#page-31-0))

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uncertainty given for the 95% confidence interval (CI) for both calibrations. Temperature uncertainty was determined by dividing the standard deviation of the measurements by the square root of the number of measurements, multiplied by a parameter depending on the number of measurements as well as the chosen confidence interval. Samples highlighted by bold letters were not

considered for the isotemperature contours (see text for ''[Discussion](#page-23-0)'')

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domain, located between units derived from the Brianconnais micro-continent and those derived from the distal European margin (e.g. Oberhänsli [1994](#page-32-0)). The trace of this subduction zone is again found in the carpholite-bearing HP/LT Petit St. Bernard Unit located southwest of the Lepontine dome (Goffé and Bousquet [1997](#page-31-0); Bousquet et al. [2002;](#page-30-0) Loprieno et al. [2010\)](#page-32-0). This HP/LT belt marks the suture of the Valais Ocean and is separated from a second more southerly located suture of the Piemont-Liguria Ocean also marked by a well-established HP-belt. The Brianconnais-derived nappes, which partly lack a high-pressure overprint (Frey and Ferreiro Mählmann [1999](#page-31-0); Engi et al. [2004](#page-31-0)), separate these two HP/LT belts from each other.

The subduction-related blueschist-facies overprint, as well as the subsequent greenschist-facies retrogression in the NE part of the investigated area, pre-date an entirely separate collision-related, Barrow-type amphibolite-facies metamorphic overprint that is only developed in the southwestern part of the investigated area (see e.g. Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)). The two events were diachronous at the scale of the Alpine orogen and hence all indicators of metamorphic zoning such as peak-metamorphic temperature inferred by the present study must be diachronous as well (e.g. Hunziker et al. [1992;](#page-32-0) Brouwer et al. [2005](#page-30-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2009](#page-34-0)). Diachronism is well documented by recent isotopic investigations. These report 42–40 Ma for the timing of HP-metamorphism of metasediments belonging to the Valaisan northeast of the Lepontine dome (Wiederkehr et al. [2009](#page-34-0)). Towards the southwest, this HP-event was subsequently overprinted by a surprisingly young amphibolite-facies Barrow-type metamorphic event affecting the northern part of the Lepontine thermal dome, recently dated to be younger than 20 Ma (Allaz [2008](#page-30-0); Janots et al. [2009;](#page-32-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2009\)](#page-34-0). Note that the earlier HP/LT metamorphism not only affected the metasediments of the Valaisan but also parts of the metasedimentary units derived from the European margin (i.e. Peidener slices and Piz Terri-Lunschania Unit; Figs. [1](#page-3-0), [2](#page-4-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2008;](#page-34-0) Derungs [2008](#page-31-0); Wiederkehr [2009](#page-34-0)). This first metamorphic event is separated structurally from the second MP/MT Barrovian overprint by at least two deformational events, which results in a typically bimodal P–T-path (Brouwer et al. [2005](#page-30-0); Zulbati [2008;](#page-34-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0).

Sediments derived from the distal European margin (Sub-Penninic cover nappes and slices)

The sediments originally deposited onto the former distal European margin include the Urseren-Garvera Zone, the Scopi Unit and Peidener slices that together form the so-called Gotthard Mesozoic units as well as the Piz TerriLunschania Unit (Figs. [1,](#page-3-0) [2;](#page-4-0) see Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0) for further details). In general, these sedimentary slices are made up of a Triassic sequence consisting of quartzite, dolomitic marble, evaporite, metapelite and metamarl followed by a lower to middle Jurassic sequence of shale, sandstone, limestone, carbonaceous metapelite and calcschist; the latter often resemble the so-called Bündnerschiefer units derived from the Valais Ocean (Baumer et al. [1961](#page-30-0); Probst [1980](#page-33-0); Etter [1987](#page-31-0); Berger et al. [2005](#page-30-0)). Jurassic-age black shale, marl and calcschist with a high content in CM were selected for sampling.

We also sampled Mesozoic metasediments found inside the northern basement-dominated Adula nappe complex (so-called "internal Mesozoic"; Löw [1987](#page-32-0); sampling points depicted in Fig. [2](#page-4-0) within the Adula nappe complex). These sediments consist of Triassic quartzite, dolomitic marble and evaporite that were sliced and imbricated with the Adula crystalline basement. Kyanitechloritoid-garnet-zoisite/clinozoisite-bearing metamarl and calcschist of probably Lower Jurassic age are unambiguously associated with these Triassic sediments in some rare outcrops (Fig. [1](#page-3-0); Jenny et al. [1923](#page-32-0); Van der Plaas et al. [1958](#page-33-0); Löw [1987;](#page-32-0) Thüring [1990;](#page-33-0) Wyss and Isler [2007](#page-34-0)). Given their strong lithological affinity with the metasediments found in the Scopi Unit, we also attribute these occurrences to the sediments scraped off of the distal European margin.

Sediments derived from the Valais Ocean (Lower Penninic cover nappes and slices)

Sediments derived from the predominantly oceanic Valais realm form voluminous and rather monotonous sequences of calcschist (Bündnerschiefer) thrust along the Penninic Basal Thrust onto the sediments of the former European margin. These Bündnerschiefer, together with flysch units, marbles and ophiolitic occurrences that are also part of the Valaisan, are subdivided into a number of tectonic units. The largest are the Grava nappe (including the Prättigau Flysch) and the Tomuil nappe (Figs. $1, 2$ $1, 2$ $1, 2$), both consisting of Cretaceous- to Eocene-age calcschist, limestone, shale, marl and sandy limestone (Nänny [1948;](#page-32-0) Ziegler [1956](#page-34-0); Steinmann [1994](#page-33-0)). The existence of mafic and ultramafic rocks (Nabholz [1945\)](#page-32-0) indicates that at least parts of the Valaisan Bündnerschiefer were deposited on oceanic crust (Steinmann [1994;](#page-33-0) Steinmann and Stille [1999\)](#page-33-0). Some of the samples analysed come from the Misox Zone, a narrow zone of Mesozoic metasediments that also includes ophiolitic slices (e.g. Steinmann [1994\)](#page-33-0). This zone is located between the Adula nappe complex and the overlying Tambo basement nappe (Gansser [1937](#page-31-0); Strohbach [1965](#page-33-0); Fig. [1](#page-3-0)) and represents the root zone of the Valaisan oceanic domain.

Sampling strategy

The most densely covered area lies between Lukmanier and Pizzo Molare in the west to Safiental in the east (see a complementary study on this area by Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0). Sampling is particularly dense between Olivone and Vrin (Fig. [2\)](#page-4-0), where a pronounced lateral temperature gradient is indicated by the growth over an amazingly short distance (5 km along strike) of new porphyroblasts related to the Barrovian overprint (zoisite/clinozoisite, plagioclase, biotite and garnet).

In order to include additional samples located at considerable distance to the east and north from the closer area of investigation in Wiederkehr et al. [\(2008](#page-34-0)), and also to increase sample density, we also re-analysed reference samples used in previous studies (see Table [1\)](#page-5-0). X-ray diffraction, combustion analysis, thermal analysis and vitrinite reflectance data (Petrova et al. [2002\)](#page-33-0), as well as transmission electron microscopy (Ferreiro Mählmann et al. [2002\)](#page-31-0) were previously presented along a profile that stretches from the part of the Misox Zone where amphibolite-facies conditions prevail (southernmost sample points in Fig. $\overline{1}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{1}$) all the way into the Prättigau half-window, which was only affected by very low- to low-grade metamorphism (in the northeastern corner of Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0). These samples were reinvestigated in the present study not only in order to spatially extend the data set, but also for comparing these previous results with those obtained by Raman spectroscopy. Moreover, additional samples were taken from the collection of M. Frey (University of Basel) that were the subject of earlier investigations (Hoefs and Frey [1976;](#page-31-0) Frey [1978;](#page-31-0) Frey et al. [1982;](#page-31-0) Teutsch [1982](#page-33-0); Thoenen [1989\)](#page-33-0). The latter partly come from the Urseren-Garvera Zone (samples number 1–4 in Fig. [2](#page-4-0) and Table [1\)](#page-5-0) and somewhat increased the sample density in the adjacent Lukmanier area to the south and in the Misox Zone.

Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous matter (RSCM method)

The continuous transformation of the crystalline structure of carbonaceous matter (CM) from disordered organic matter to fully ordered graphite (generally referred to as the graphitization process; e.g. Teichmüller [1987\)](#page-33-0) is mainly temperature-dependent. Hence, the crystallinity of CM, referred to as degree of ordering (graphitization), is expected to increase systematically with increasing temperature and can therefore be used to estimate the metamorphic grade of a given rock sample (e.g. Quinn and Glass [1958;](#page-33-0) French [1964](#page-31-0); Landis [1971;](#page-32-0) Grew [1974;](#page-31-0) Itaya [1981;](#page-32-0) Buseck and Huang [1985;](#page-31-0) Ferreiro Mählmann et al. [2002;](#page-31-0) Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)). Numerous studies have shown

that Raman spectroscopy is a reliable and powerful tool for recording the structural characterization (degree of ordering) of CM (e.g. Wang et al. [1989;](#page-33-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0); Beyssac et al. [2002b\)](#page-30-0).

We monitor the regional changes in the structure of CM by using Micro-Raman spectroscopy. In contrast to other methods (X-ray powder diffraction, high-resolution transmission electron microscopy, isotope geochemistry or vitrinite reflectance measurements), Micro-Raman spectroscopy has the following advantages: (1) Raman spectra show significant changes with increasing metamorphic grade (e.g. Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0); Beyssac et al. [2002b](#page-30-0)); (2) the method can be applied in a non-destructive way by in situ analysis and therefore permits the characterization of individual grains while preserving their petrological and textural relations; and (3) the sample heterogeneity can be quantified thanks to a high spatial resolution and short spectrum-acquisition time, which allows recording numerous spectra within a given sample. Hence, Micro-Raman spectroscopy of CM provides a precise indicator of metamorphic grade (Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Yui et al. [1996\)](#page-34-0), especially because the relationships between the degree of crystallinity as is expressed by the shape of the Raman spectra, and the metamorphic conditions have been calibrated as a geothermometer over a broad temperature interval from 330 to 650° C (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0)). The calibration by Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)) extended the range of the geothermometer to temperatures as low as 100° C and up to 700 $^{\circ}$ C. (Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)). A discussion of the calibration to lower temperatures is given in Lahfid et al. [\(2010](#page-32-0)).

Several studies showed that Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material (RSCM method) is the best-suited method for in situ determinations of the crystallinity of CM in thin sections (e.g. Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0); Yui et al. [1996](#page-34-0); Beyssac et al. [2002b,](#page-30-0) [2003a\)](#page-30-0). When empirically calibrated against independently determined temperatures (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0); Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)), the spectra obtained provide a reliable geothermometer. It is important to note that the thermally induced graphitization process is strictly irreversible (e.g. Teichmüller [1987\)](#page-33-0). Therefore, the structure of CM only depends on the maximum temperature reached along a given P–T-path and is insensitive to a polymetamorphic evolution and/or a retrograde overprint (Wopenka and Pasteris [1993;](#page-34-0) Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0)).

Because the 214 samples analysed for determinations of maximum temperature were collected in areas either dominated by subduction-related HP/LT metamorphism or dominated by collision-related MP/MT Barrovian overprint (Figs. [1](#page-3-0), [2](#page-4-0), Table [1](#page-5-0)), only the 3-D pattern of the temperatures derived by this method combined with additional petrological data allows one to discriminate between these

Fig. 3 Spectral deconvolution of the first- and second-order region of the Raman spectrum of CM, indicating a relatively disordered structure (sample Nr. 205 for which 350° C were inferred, see Table [1\)](#page-5-0). a Position of the graphite G band and the D1, D2, D3 defect bands in the first-order region; b position of the graphite S1 and S2 bands in the second-order region

two events. All the results obtained by Micro-Raman spectroscopy were converted to peak-metamorphic temperatures by using both calibrations (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0); Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)). In order to obtain comparable results, we strictly followed the analytical instructions given in Beyssac et al. ([2002a,](#page-30-0) [2003b](#page-30-0)).

Sample preparation

The Raman spectra were recorded in situ, i.e. in conventionally polished petrographic thin sections, allowing for the preservation of the textural relationship between CM and the surrounding mineral matrix. Additionally, the surrounding rock matrix facilitates the removal of laserinduced heat, which may affect the degree of structural ordering due to the extreme sensitivity of CM to laserinduced heating during spectra acquisition (Beyssac et al. [2003b\)](#page-30-0). Moreover, the recorded Raman spectra are highly sensitive to the orientation of CM due to its strong structural anisotropy, particularly in the case of well-crystallized graphite (e.g. Wang et al. [1989;](#page-33-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0)). Recently, Tan et al. ([2004\)](#page-33-0) demonstrated that the Raman spectrum of mono-crystalline graphite is not very sensitive to polarization and orientation effects in the green part of the visible spectrum. However, we closely followed the instructions given in Beyssac et al. [\(2002a,](#page-30-0) [2003b\)](#page-30-0) in order to avoid systematic variations. Therefore, the thin sections were cut perpendicular to the main foliation, and whenever possible, also parallel to the stretching lineation in order to record Raman spectra consistently in the same orientation, i.e. perpendicular to the expected mean stacking axis of the CM. In this way, it is possible to set the polarization of the laser beam perpendicular to the mean c-axis orientation of the CM.

Raman spectrum of carbonaceous material

In general, Raman spectra of CM can be decomposed into first-order $(1,100-1,800 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ and second-order $(2,500-$

 $3,100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) regions (Tuinstra and Koenig [1970;](#page-33-0) Nemanich and Solin [1979;](#page-32-0) Fig. 3). The first-order region is perfectly suited for recording the degree of order/disorder of CM and thereby determining peak-metamorphic conditions (Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0); Yui et al. [1996](#page-34-0); Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0), [b;](#page-30-0) Rantitsch et al. [2004](#page-33-0); Rahl et al. [2005](#page-33-0)). This first-order region includes up to four Raman peaks or bands (Fig. 3a), including the G band characteristic of perfect crystallized graphite and up to three additional bands (generally called D1, D2 and D3) that are directly related to the degree of structural disorder (so-called defect bands; Tuinstra and Koenig [1970](#page-33-0); Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Beyssac et al. [2002a,](#page-30-0) [2003a;](#page-30-0) Nasdala et al. [2004](#page-32-0)).

The second-order region is mainly characterized by the appearance of two bands, S1 and S2 (Fig. 3b; Nemanich and Solin [1979;](#page-32-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993;](#page-34-0) Beyssac et al. [2003b](#page-30-0); Lee [2004\)](#page-32-0). As is the case regarding the first-order region, there are also systematic changes within the second-order region due to increasing graphitization (see e.g. Wopenka and Pasteris [1993;](#page-34-0) Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0), [b](#page-30-0)).

During progressive temperature-induced ordering, the Raman spectra of CM exhibit a characteristic evolution that is most obvious by looking at the intensities of bands related to disorder in the crystalline structure (D1, D2 & D3), but also evident from the position and width of the characteristic G band in the first-order region as well as from width and asymmetry of the S1 band in the secondorder region (Pasteris and Wopenka [1991](#page-33-0); Wopenka and Pasteris [1993;](#page-34-0) Yui et al. [1996;](#page-34-0) Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0), [b;](#page-30-0) Lee [2004](#page-32-0)). Beyssac et al. [\(2002a,](#page-30-0) [b\)](#page-30-0) showed that peak intensity ratio R1 (R1 = D1/G) and peak area ratio R2 (R2 = D1/ $[G + D1 + D2]$, both calculated from bands in the firstorder region, are the most reliable indicators for the degree of ordering in CM. They found a linear relationship between the R2 ratio and peak-metamorphic temperature in the range of $330-650^{\circ}$ C by calibration with other geothermometers (Beyssac et al. [2002a\)](#page-30-0). Recently, a revised calibration involving both R1 and R2 ratio was presented by Rahl et al. ([2005\)](#page-33-0). The R1 ratio, taken into account by this second calibration method, shows significant variations, particularly under low- and very low-grade conditions. This contrasts with the R2 ratio, which is rather insensitive below 330 \degree C and above 650 \degree C (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0)). Therefore, this revised calibration potentially extends the temperature range to the $100-700^{\circ}$ C interval (Rahl et al. [2005\)](#page-33-0). Due to uncertainties in the two calibration methods, the temperatures derived can only be accurate to within $\pm 50^{\circ}$ C (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0); Rahl et al. [2005\)](#page-33-0). However, the precision is much better and allows inter-sample variations as small as $\sim 10-15^{\circ}C$ to be easily detected (Beyssac et al. [2004\)](#page-30-0).

Analytical procedure: spectra acquisition and treatment

Micro-Raman spectroscopy was performed at the Raman Laboratory of the Institute of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Potsdam University using a confocal, notch filterbased spectrometer (LabRam HR 800, HORIBA Jobin– Yvon) equipped with an Olympus BX 41 microscope, an air-cooled Nd-YAG laser (Compass 315 M, Coherent) for Raman excitation with the 532 nm line and a Peltier-cooled CCD detector (Andor Technology). A Leica $50\times$ microscope objective was used for sample viewing under both reflected and transmitted light, as well as for the Raman measurements. The laser spot diameter at the sample surface was about $3 \mu m$, and the confocal pinhole was set to 200 µm. The laser power was reduced to 2–3 mW at the sample surface by a neutral D1 filter (transmission: 10% of the laser power) in order to exclude effects due to sample heating. The LabSpec software of HORIBA Jobin–Yvon has been used for data acquisition and estimation of the spectral parameters of the Raman bands. Before each session, a silicon standard was used for checking the calibration of the spectrometer. Since section preparation, particularly polishing, induces mechanical damage to the structure of CM (Nemanich and Solin [1979](#page-32-0); Beyssac et al. [2003b](#page-30-0)), we focussed the laser beam onto CM matter located beneath a transparent mineral within the section (Pasteris [1989;](#page-32-0) Beyssac et al. [2002a,](#page-30-0) [2003b](#page-30-0)), preferentially beneath quartz, although calcite, feldspar and chloritoid were also used.

The application of a grating of 300 lines/mm and a slit width of 100 µm resulted in the acquisition of Raman spectra in the range $175-3,300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with a spectral resolution of about 10 cm^{-1} . This configuration allowed for the registration of all first-order Raman bands of graphite in the region 1,100–1,800 cm^{-1} used for the estimation of the peak-metamorphic temperatures, and additionally the Raman bands of the covering transparent minerals, within a single spectral window. In each sample, a minimum of 10, and as many as 45 independent spots were analysed in order to gather insight regarding structural heterogeneities of the CM within one and the same sample. Depending on the intensity of the Raman bands, between two and four accumulations with an acquisition time ranging from 20 to 90 s were performed on each spot in order to improve signal to noise ratios of the spectra.

The Raman spectra were processed by using the program PEAKFIT 4.12 (Seasolve Software Inc.) with a Voigt function (combined Gaussian and Lorentzian profiles) and a linear background correction to determine the spectral parameters such as peak position, peak area, peak height and peak width FWHM (full width at half-maximum).

We used a 532-nm laser for Raman excitation instead of the 514-nm laser used in the calibration of Beyssac et al. ([2002a\)](#page-30-0). This is a crucial point due to the fact that the defect bands of CM exhibit a dispersive behaviour because it means that Raman band position and relative intensities vary with the excitation wavelength (Pocsik et al. [1998;](#page-33-0) Matthews et al. [1999;](#page-32-0) Cançado et al. [2006,](#page-31-0) [2007;](#page-31-0) Pimenta et al. [2007\)](#page-33-0). Unfortunately, up to now there is no simple way to correct Raman parameters such as the R2 ratio for analyses performed by using the 532-nm laser. Being aware of the variations caused by a different laser wavelength, we are convinced that any systematic differences are of only minor importance for the following reasons (see also Aoya et al. 2010): (1) Numerous studies based on the calibration of Beyssac et al. [\(2002a](#page-30-0)) presented very reliable peak-metamorphic temperatures as obtained with the 532-nm laser in this study. These temperatures are generally in good agreement with the corresponding tectono-metamorphic setting (e.g. Rantitsch et al. [2004,](#page-33-0) [2005;](#page-33-0) Guedes et al. [2005;](#page-31-0) Judik et al. [2008](#page-32-0); Kribek et al. [2008;](#page-32-0) Rantitsch and Judik [2009\)](#page-33-0); (2) The geothermometer provided by Rahl et al. [\(2005\)](#page-33-0) was calibrated with a 532-nm laser as well, and as discussed later (see '['Comparison between](#page-16-0) [the available calibration methods'](#page-16-0)') and also shown by other investigations (e.g. Judik et al. [2008;](#page-32-0) Kribek et al. [2008](#page-32-0)), the recorded peak-metamorphic temperatures were generally close to those obtained by the calibration of Beyssac et al. [\(2002a](#page-30-0)); (3) Some samples investigated by this study were collected in the same area as that used for the calibration by Beyssac et al. (2002a; their sample "luk/Lukmanier"), i.e. from the area around Lukmanier (Fig. [1](#page-3-0)). The estimated R2 ratios for this area are in the range of 0.26–0.18 (Fig. [2,](#page-4-0) Table [1\)](#page-5-0), i.e. well inside or close to the 0.24 ± 0.05 value determined for the R2 ratio by Beyssac et al. [\(2002a](#page-30-0): sample ''luk/Lukmanier'' in their Table 2).

Results of the RSCM investigations

Table [1](#page-5-0) summarizes the results of decomposing the spectra of all 214 samples and gives the estimated peak-metamorphic temperatures based on both calibrations (Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0); Rahl et al. [2005\)](#page-33-0) in terms of mean values. Measurement-induced uncertainties regarding the derived temperatures are given as 95% confidence intervals (CI), i.e. close to 2σ errors corresponding to a confidence interval of 95.5%.

The change in metamorphic temperature over the entire area of investigation, ranging from lower/middle amphibolite-facies conditions in the southwest to lower greenschist-facies conditions with occasional blueschist-facies relics in the northeast (see Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0) for details), is directly illustrated by the corresponding evolution of the Raman spectra of CM, reflecting the degree of structural ordering as shown in Fig. 4. This evolution shows all the typical features described in earlier studies (e.g. Pasteris and Wopenka [1991;](#page-33-0) Wopenka and Pasteris [1993;](#page-34-0) Yui et al. [1996;](#page-34-0) Beyssac et al. [2002b](#page-30-0)) and will not be further discussed in this study.

Comparison between the available calibration methods

Given the exceptionally large number of measured samples and the large temperature interval covered in the study area, a comparison between the two available calibration methods by Beyssac et al. ([2002a\)](#page-30-0) and Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)) is appropriate. Figure [5](#page-17-0) graphically correlates the temperature estimates based on Beyssac et al. $(2002a)$ with those obtained using Rahl et al. ([2005\)](#page-33-0). In general, the temperature differences between the two calibrations are well inside the $\pm 50^{\circ}$ C uncertainty inherent in the empirical calibration used by Beyssac et al. $(2002a)$ $(2002a)$; both methods provide similar temperature estimates, discrepancies being less than 30° C (Fig. [5\)](#page-17-0). At temperatures of 350, 425 and 530° C, both calibrations yield exactly the same temperature estimates. In the intermediate temperature intervals, some systematic differences are observed (Fig. [5\)](#page-17-0). In the 450–525C range, the temperatures calculated according to Rahl et al. [\(2005\)](#page-33-0) are systematically lower, whereas the temperature estimates between $350-400^{\circ}$ C and from 550° C upwards are higher than those calculated according to Beyssac et al. [\(2002a](#page-30-0)). The great advantage of the method of Rahl et al. [\(2005\)](#page-33-0) is the possibility to estimate metamorphic temperatures in low- to very low-grade metasediments, i.e. in the $100-330$ °C temperature interval. In general, the relative uncertainties in temperatures derived with the calibration of Rahl et al. ([2005](#page-33-0)) are higher, however, compared to those derived with Beyssac et al. [2002a](#page-30-0), especially at temperatures higher than 480° C (see Table [1](#page-5-0), Fig. [5\)](#page-17-0).

Mapping thermal field gradients in 3 dimensions

Method used for contouring thermal field gradients in map and profile view

Based on the maximum temperatures obtained from the RSCM method, we present what we refer to as

Fig. 4 Selection of representative first-order and corresponding secondorder parts of the Raman spectra, arranged from bottom to top by increasing inferred temperatures and going from SW to NE across the area of investigation, respectively. The positions of the G, D1, D2, D3, S1 and S2 bands, as well as the estimated peak-metamorphic temperatures are indicated. The numbers on the left-hand side refer to the sample numbers listed in Table [1,](#page-5-0) for geographical locations see also Figs. [1](#page-3-0), [2](#page-4-0). The small narrow band at around $1,160 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the first-order region is due to quartz as overlying transparent mineral; see text

Fig. 5 Correlation of peak-metamorphic temperatures estimated based on the calibrations provided by Beyssac et al. [\(2002a\)](#page-30-0) and Rahl et al. ([2005\)](#page-33-0), respectively, for all the analysed samples. See text for details

"isotemperature contours" in map and profile view. These contours simply represent lines connecting locations that reached a given maximum temperature in map or profile view, regardless of when these locations reached their maximum temperature and at which pressure. Note that these contours by no means necessarily represent true isotherms at a given instant in time, because maximum temperatures could have been reached at different times, as might indeed be expected given the complex metamorphic evolution of this area (see Wiederkehr et al. [2008,](#page-34-0) [2009](#page-34-0) for details). Parts of the isotemperature contours reflect the temperatures reached during the earlier HP/LT event, or its subsequent greenschist-facies overprint during decompression, and are laterally continuous with other segments that record the temperatures reached during a later Barrowtype event.

When attempting to construct such contours, it soon became apparent that there is a rather small number of locations (16 locations out of a total of 214 measured) that obviously do not fit into a regional trend, neither in map nor in profile view, in that they exhibit much higher temperatures than their neighbouring specimens. These are highlighted with bold letters in Table [1](#page-5-0) and were not included in the construction of the isotemperature contours. Dealing with such discrepancies that can be attributed to the heterogeneous nature of natural carbonaceous matter (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2002b;](#page-30-0) Aoya et al. 2010) is a challenge when using the RSCM method (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2003b](#page-30-0)).

Four reasons are held responsible for such discrepancies: First, such heterogeneities may be caused by depositional mixing of sedimentary detritus (e.g. Diessel et al. [1978;](#page-31-0) Itaya [1981;](#page-32-0) Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)). Thus, one can obtain peak temperatures valid for the source area rather

than for the metasediments sampled. A recent study performed along the metamorphic profile from the Prättigau half-window to the Misox Zone (Fig. [1](#page-3-0)) provided evidence for the common occurrence of detrital graphite in nearly all samples, as documented by X-ray diffraction data (Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)). The widespread occurrence of detrital graphite is in agreement with the study by Galy et al. ([2008\)](#page-31-0) addressing recycling of graphite.

Secondly, such discrepancies may reflect the fact that the metamorphic structure of the Central Alps is rather complex. The occurrence of closely juxtaposed tectonic units with drastically different peak-metamorphic conditions is a common feature. Hence, inter-sample heterogeneities may simply reflect variations in the tectono-metamorphic evolution of different tectonic units.

Thirdly, such heterogeneities may be caused by the fact that the graphitization process is not strictly temperaturedependent. Reasons for this include the effects of pressure (Diessel et al. [1978](#page-31-0); Teichmüller [1987\)](#page-33-0), tectonic stress/ strain (Bustin et al. [1986;](#page-31-0) Suchy et al. [1997;](#page-33-0) Ferreiro Mählmann et al. [2002;](#page-31-0) Nover et al. [2005;](#page-32-0) Aoya et al. 2010), duration of the thermal/metamorphic event (e.g. Itaya [1981](#page-32-0); Okuyama-Kusunose and Itaya [1987\)](#page-32-0), host-rock lithology (e.g. Grew [1974](#page-31-0); Wopenka and Pasteris [1993](#page-34-0); Wada et al. [1994\)](#page-33-0), catalytic species/minerals (e.g. Bonijoly et al. [1982](#page-30-0); Okuyama-Kusunose and Itaya [1987](#page-32-0) and references therein), type of organic precursors (Kribek et al. [1994](#page-32-0); Large et al. [1994;](#page-32-0) Bustin et al. [1995](#page-31-0)) and composition/activity of metamorphic fluids (Large et al. [1994](#page-32-0); Guedes et al. [2005](#page-31-0)).

Finally, the entire analytical procedure may induce heterogeneities due to the measurement technique itself or due to the fitting procedure (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2003b\)](#page-30-0). In order to minimize such effects, we closely followed the instructions given by Beyssac et al. ([2002a](#page-30-0), [2003b](#page-30-0)) thereby avoiding systematic inter-sample variations.

A detailed discussion of the samples yielding abnormally high temperatures in respect to neighbouring specimens (highlighted in bold letters in Table [1](#page-5-0)) will be provided in the Interpretation/Discussion paragraph.

The isotemperature contours were drawn manually based on the calibrations of Beyssac et al. [\(2002a\)](#page-30-0) and Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)) in Fig. [6](#page-18-0), and based on Beyssac et al. [\(2002a\)](#page-30-0) in Figs. [7](#page-20-0) and [8.](#page-22-0) We contoured the data manually, because we also tried to keep the spacing between isolines more or less constant, had to exclude some of the specimens (see below) and, in case of the Lunschania antiform, also used structural information. The resulting manually constructed peak-temperature contours were found to be close to those obtained by geostatistical methods using a kriging routine.

In the temperature–distance and temperature–altitude profiles presented in Figs. [7](#page-20-0) and [8,](#page-22-0) respectively, and prior to the contouring within the plane of the section, the

Fig. 6 Comparison of the estimated peak-metamorphic temperature distribution in map view in the form of isotemperature contours (see text) derived from the samples listed in Table [1](#page-5-0) using the calibrations

given by a Beyssac et al. $(2002a)$ $(2002a)$ $(2002a)$, and **b** Rahl et al. (2005) (2005) . Temperatures are given in \degree C. Stippled line indicates the trace of the axial plane of the Lunschania antiform

sample locations were projected into the profile plane in a direction parallel to the isotemperature contours, as previously constructed in map view (Fig. 6) and from within a corridor whose width is given in the figure captions. The sample localities were projected horizontally in the case of Figs. [7](#page-20-0) and [8](#page-22-0)a, and by using the angle of the local axial plunge specified in the figure caption in case of Fig. [8](#page-22-0)b–e.

Comparison of the thermal field gradients obtained with two alternative calibration methods

We first present the peak-metamorphic temperatures obtained by the RSCM method as a function of geographical location (see also Table [1](#page-5-0)). The two maps depicted in Fig. 6 based on the two available calibrations predict comparable and very reliable peak-metamorphic temperatures that vary from $\langle 330^{\circ}$ C in the northeast (Prättigau half-window) up to $560-590^{\circ}$ C in the southwest (Pizzo Molare, Lepontine thermal dome; Table [1](#page-5-0), Fig. 6).

Both maps show similar shapes of the constructed isotemperature contours, especially for the 425 and 525° C range (compare Fig. 6a, b). It is also remarkable that in both maps the 375, 400 and 425° C isotemperature contours show the same characteristic curved indentation towards the northeast in map view. As discussed in Wiederkehr et al. [\(2008](#page-34-0)), this feature is related to the fact that the isotemperature contours in the northeast record temperatures that were acquired during the earlier metamorphic evolution and were subsequently folded around a NEplunging antiform (Lunschania antiform of Voll [1976](#page-33-0)). However, this excursion towards the northeast is not shown by the isotemperature contours in the $450-550$ °C range that are aligned more or less parallel to a NW–SE-direction, i.e. perpendicular to the predominant metamorphic field gradient in the western part of the investigated area. There, these isotemperature contours are related to temperatures that prevailed during the Barrow-type event and that were higher than those acquired during the earlier HP/LT stage and/or subsequent greenschist-facies overprint. This Barrow-type event not only post-dates an earlier HP/LT stage, but also the subsequent folding of the older field temperature gradient (e.g. Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)).

The most obvious discrepancies between Fig. 6a and b, i.e. between the field temperature gradients derived from the two alternative calibrations, are found in the northeast, i.e. at low temperatures. The temperature distribution pattern of the Rahl et al. (2005) (2005) (Fig. [6](#page-18-0)b) calibration generally shows a higher maximum temperature gradient, as revealed by additional isotemperature contours down to 150°C. This independently illustrates the advantages of using the Rahl et al. ([2005](#page-33-0)) calibration at low temperatures. Minor discrepancies are also found in two other areas: In the intermediate temperature domain above about 450° C, the isotemperature contours derived from the Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)) calibration appear more closely spaced, which reflects a higher temperature gradient. In particular, the 450° C isotherm is shifted to the west. Moreover, in the highest-temperature domain slightly higher temperatures are inferred and an additional isotemperature contour at 575 °C had to be constructed when analysing the temperatures obtained from the calibration of Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)).

We conclude that despite minor discrepancies, both calibrations yield essentially identical features at temperatures higher than 330° C, features that are mainly characterized by a field temperature gradient that decreases radially away from the Lepontine dome in the southwest towards the Prättigau half-window in the northeast, superimposed on an excursion of the isotemperature contours to the northeast that coincides with an antiform which folds isotemperature contours lower than about 450° C. In the following, we present the peak-metamorphic temperatures obtained in more detail, as well as thermal field gradients in profile view, thereby addressing the third dimension of the spatial distribution of maximum temperatures.

Peak temperatures along the Pizzo Molare-Domleschg profile

Along this SW–NE-oriented profile (Fig. [7a](#page-20-0)) metasedimentary units derived from both the European margin and the Valais oceanic domain are exposed continuously. This allows a clear correlation of deformational phases and relative timing of metamorphic events along strike (Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0). These authors showed that both the metasediments of the Valaisan domain (Grava nappe) and parts derived from the distal European margin (Peidener slices) are characterized by a bimodal P–T-path in which the amphibolite-facies Barrovian overprint represents a distinct heating pulse that followed isothermal or nearly isothermal decompression from an earlier HP/LT blueschist-facies event. Hence, most of the specimens analysed derive from this profile in which temperature ranged from 560–590 \degree C in the southwest down to 350–370 \degree C in the northeast (Fig. [7](#page-20-0)a).

The highest temperatures were obtained at localities near Pizzo Molare and Grumo (northern Valle di Blenio; Fig. [1](#page-3-0)), which marks the northeastern edge of the hightemperature part of the Lepontine thermal dome characterized by amphibolite-facies, Barrow-type metamorphism (e.g. Engi et al. [1995](#page-31-0); Todd and Engi [1997;](#page-33-0) Frey and Ferreiro Mählmann [1999](#page-31-0)) and where recorded temperatures decrease radially towards the north and northeast. The overall thermal field gradient along this SW–NE section partly exhibits a relatively high lateral thermal field gradient along Val Luzzone, ranging from 540°C north of Olivone down to $430-450^{\circ}$ C around the Piz Terri over a distance of only 10 km (Fig. [7](#page-20-0)a). This portion with a high lateral gradient coincides with dramatic changes in the mineralogy of the metasediments (Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0) and is interpreted to represent the northeastern edge of the Lepontine Barrow-type thermal dome. Further to the northeast, between Vrin and Safiental/Domleschg (Fig. [7a](#page-20-0)), the lateral thermal field gradient is significantly lower, within the $450-350$ °C interval (Fig. [7a](#page-20-0)).

Interestingly, this change in the lateral thermal field gradient also coincides with a change in the inclination of the isotemperature contours in Fig. [8a](#page-22-0). This figure enables a reliable construction of the steepness of the isotemperature contours in a region of high relief and dense sampling. Across Val Luzzone, the isotemperature contours steepen to some $30-45^\circ$ inclined to the northeast, but flatten towards the east in the area of Piz Terri (Fig. [8a](#page-22-0)). The metamorphic field gradient (not necessarily equal to a geothermal gradient) amounts to some 14°C/km. Further, the change to a more moderate inclination northeast of Piz Terri (Fig. [8a](#page-22-0)) coincides with a significant change in the trend of the isotemperature contours in map view, as discussed earlier: in the southwest (i.e. where the contours are steeply inclined in Fig. [8](#page-22-0)a) they cut across the Lunschania antiform, whereas further to the northeast they are folded by this same antiform (Fig. [6\)](#page-18-0). This supports the interpretation that the isotemperature contours reflect the maximum temperatures reached during at least two separate metamorphic events that pre-date and post-date folding of the Lunschania antiform, respectively.

Peak temperatures along two profiles across folded isotemperature contours

Effects due to the folding of the Tmax-contours (Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)) are visualized by two temperature– distance profiles oriented at a high angle to the fold axis of the Lunschania antiform depicted in Fig. [7](#page-20-0)b (Splügen-Ilanz) and Fig. [7c](#page-20-0) (Misox Zone-Ilanz). Both profiles show a localized temperature peak reaching some 425° C in the Valsertal and coinciding with the core of the Lunschania antiform, superimposed onto the overall lateral thermal field gradient. This corroborates the idea of folded isotemperature contours in the eastern part of the working area. Interestingly, the transition between folded and intersecting isotherms is located between 450 and 425° C

Fig. 7 Temperature–distance profiles summarizing the peak-metamorphic temperatures as inferred by the RSCM method using the Beyssac et al. [\(2002a\)](#page-30-0) calibration method along NE–SW to N–S trending profile traces, whose locations are indicated in an inset (lower right). The samples and inferred temperatures listed in Table [1](#page-5-0) were projected into the cross-section plane perpendicular to the isotemperature contours shown in Fig. [6a](#page-18-0) from within a corridor of the following width: a 16 km for profile P. Molare—Domleschg;

b 6 km for profile Ilanz—Splügen; c 10 km for profile Misox Zone-Ilanz; d 10 km to the WNW and 7 km to the ESE off the profile trace for profile P. Molare—Urseren-Garvera Zone; e 20 km for profile Misox Zone—Prättigau half-window. Line represents manual best of the temperature–distance gradient. Encircled samples are from specimens that record temperatures related to an upper blueschist/ eclogitic HP/LT stage (see text for ''[Discussion'](#page-23-0)'). See Fig. [1](#page-3-0) for the location of geographic localities

(see Fig. [6\)](#page-18-0). This is within the temperature interval where the steep lateral thermal field gradient becomes flatter towards the east (Figs. 7a, [8](#page-22-0)a). All this clearly indicates that the isotemperature contours record the older HP/LT metamorphic event and/or immediately subsequent greenschist-facies overprint in the northeast, whereas in the southwest they record the younger Barrow-type event, where obviously the temperatures associated with the older

Peak temperatures along the Pizzo Molare-Urseren-Garvera Zone profile

Owing to the lack of metasediments on the basement of the Gotthard unit, maximum temperatures along this profile (Fig. [7](#page-20-0)d) are rather poorly constrained in its northern part, where only four samples (samples $1-4$ $1-4$, Table 1; Fig. [2\)](#page-4-0) from a thin veneer of Mesozoic sediments from the E–W striking Urseren-Garvera Zone were suitable for analysis. Nevertheless, this profile provides important information concerning the northern limit of the Lepontine thermal dome in an area that experienced no prior HP/LT overprint (Urseren-Garvera Zone and Scopi Unit). Hence, the Tmax field gradient is expected to be solely related to the latestage Barrow-type event. This is corroborated by the thermal field gradient in Fig. [7](#page-20-0)d, characterized by a continuous temperature decrease from 560–590°C at Pizzo Molare to 450° C at Alp Tgom (sample 1) and finally to 360–375C at Garvera (sample 4). A high lateral thermal field gradient is also reflected in the close spacing of the isotemperature contours in Fig. [6;](#page-18-0) a similarly high gradient is recorded along Val Luzzone (Fig. [7a](#page-20-0)).

Peak temperatures along the Misox Zone-Prättigau profile

The transition from subduction-related HP/LT metamorphism and associated subsequent greenschist-facies overprint to collision-related, Barrow-type metamorphism is also preserved along this profile (Fig. [7](#page-20-0)e). Also shown are the data from the frontal part of the Adula nappe complex ("internal Mesozoic", Löw [1987\)](#page-32-0) and from the adjacent northern Misox Zone (Aul Unit), characterized by much higher peak-metamorphic temperatures. These units experienced an upper blueschist/eclogitic HP/LT event during which considerably higher temperatures were reached than in the surrounding carpholite-bearing metasediments, i.e. Grava and Tomül nappes (see presentation of the Adula nappe complex below).

Due to the significantly lower density of investigated samples, only a rough overview of this profile can be given. Peak-metamorphic temperatures range from $540-550$ °C in the southern Misox Zone down to $130-140^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the northeastern part of the Prättigau half-window (Fig. [6](#page-18-0)b). The overall trend of decreasing temperatures towards the north is again not uniform. Whereas a remarkable lateral thermal field gradient between Mesocco and Splügen is marked by a rapid decrease in temperatures from $540-550$ °C down to $370-390$ °C, the maximum temperatures stay remarkably constant in the $350-375$ °C range (Fig. [7](#page-20-0)e) further to the northeast.

A closer look at the Misox Zone reveals a more complex pattern: Samples 190 and 191 (Table [1](#page-5-0)) taken from the boundary area with the Adula nappe complex as well as samples 146–149 (Table [1\)](#page-5-0) collected inside the northern Adula nappe complex indicate locally higher maximum temperatures in the range of $500-515$ °C. This is not in accordance with the overall south-to-north trend of decreasing peak-metamorphic temperatures (''eclogitic HP/ LT event" indicated in Fig. [7](#page-20-0)c, e). These anomalously high temperatures were obtained from Grt-Ctd micaschists in the southern continuation of the Aul Unit (Gansser [1937](#page-31-0); Steinmann [1994\)](#page-33-0) as well as from Ky-Grt-Ctd-Zo micaschists of the internal Mesozoic sediments of the Adula nappe complex (see further explanations for the Adula below).

Peak-metamorphic temperatures obtained for the northern Adula nappe complex

Only four samples (Ky-Grt-Ctd-Zo micaschists) from the frontal part of the Adula nappe complex were suitable for analysis (samples 146–149). The peak-metamorphic temperatures all cluster around $500-520^{\circ}$ C. In the surrounding metasediments, maximum temperatures are estimated at $410-430$ °C. This clearly indicates a jump in peak-metamorphic conditions of some 100° C across the nappe boundary (Fig. [6\)](#page-18-0). This jump clearly indicates that the Adula nappe complex had a different metamorphic evolution than that of the surrounding metasediments (except for the localities of samples 190 and 191 mentioned above).

Peak temperatures projected onto a series of N–S-oriented tectonic cross-sections

In order to better illustrate the three-dimensionality of the pattern of peak temperatures and the spatial relationships between isotemperature contours and tectonic units, the inferred maximum temperatures were projected along strike into a series of N–S-oriented tectonic cross-sections (Fig. [8b](#page-22-0)–e; see Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0) for a description of additional structural details revealed in these four crosssections). Using the measured axial plunge of the structures and assuming cylindricity of the structures, the profiles are arranged so as to reveal the large-scale structure of the area. Note, however, that the isotemperature contours run across strike (see Fig. [6\)](#page-18-0) and are therefore discordant to these approximately cylindrical structures along strike. For this reason, they should not be connected from one profile to the next perpendicular to strike. Hence, the contours are only valid for the individual profile for which they are drawn. It is also important to emphasize that the isotemperature contours in Fig. [8](#page-22-0)b–e are by far less well constrained than along strike as depicted in Fig. [8](#page-22-0)a. This is because Fig. [8a](#page-22-0) is based on a much higher density of data.

Fig. 8 Temperature-altitude cross-sections through the northeastern rim of the Lepontine thermal dome and easterly adjacent areas. The trace of cross-section a is the same than for profile shown in Fig. [7a](#page-20-0) (see inset in Fig. [7](#page-20-0) for location), traces of these cross-sections b–e are indicated in Fig. [2;](#page-4-0) the across strike sections (Fig. 8b–e) show the main structural features (after Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0) for comparison. Peak-metamorphic temperatures inferred by the RSCM method are displayed in the form of isotemperature contours (see text) derived from the samples listed in Table [1](#page-5-0) using the calibrations given by Beyssac et al. [\(2002a](#page-30-0)). The slopes of the isotherms were estimated within the plane of the cross-section after projecting the sample locations and associated peak-metamorphic into the cross-section plane. a Along-strike profile with samples horizontally projected from within a 14-km-wide corridor and parallel to the constructed peak-metamorphic isolines shown in Fig. [6.](#page-18-0) In case of the across strike profiles (see Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0) regarding structural details), width of the corridor from within which specimens were projected, and projection procedures are as follows: b 14-km-wide corridor, projection towards east and west by using local azimuth and plunge of the Lunschania antiform $(060/12)$ for the northern part and a plunge of 20° to the east for the southern part of the cross-section; c 12-km-wide corridor, projection towards the east and west by using local azimuth and plunge of the Lunschania antiform (064/16); d corridor limited by 2.5 km to the E and some 6 km to the W of the profile trace, projection towards the east and west by using local azimuth and plunge of Chièra phase-related fold axes (090/30); e 12-kmwide corridor, projection towards the east and west by using local azimuth and plunge of Chièra phase-related folds axes (090/20)

Nevertheless, and despite considerable uncertainties regarding slope and position of the isotemperature contours in Fig. [8](#page-22-0)b–e, the following salient features can be confidently extracted from these cross-sections: (1) The inclination of the isotemperature contours flattens in the southern parts of Fig. [8c](#page-22-0)–e, but steepen in the northern portions of the same cross-sections. This reflects the fact that the Barrovian overprint (Lepontine thermal dome) that determines the maximum temperatures in the northern part of these sections also cuts across structures in a N–S direction and not only across strike of these structures as seen in map view (Fig. 6); (2) In contrast to the cross-sections located further to the west (Fig. [8c](#page-22-0)–e) that are generally characterized by steeply N-dipping isotherms, the easternmost cross-section exhibits a more complex pattern with isotherms folded around the Lunschania antiform (Fig. [8](#page-22-0)b). This supports the aforementioned inferences for Fig. [7](#page-20-0)b, c that it is the older pre-Lunschania antiform LT regime (blueschist-facies metamorphism and/or subsequent greenschist-facies overprint) that is recorded by the maximum temperatures in the eastern part of the working area, whereas the isotemperature contours related to the latestage Barrow-type metamorphic event cut across this antiform. This independently confirms inferences made by Wiederkehr et al. [\(2008](#page-34-0)) based on structural and other petrological criteria.

Discussion

Comparison between RSCM-derived maximum temperatures and temperatures inferred from other petrological data

Figure [9](#page-24-0) compares the RSCM-derived temperatures with those expected from the occurrences of index minerals, and/or from the P–T-paths. These paths are inferred from the analysis of mineral parageneses and thermodynamic modelling of equilibrium phase diagrams (e.g. Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0); Wiederkehr [2009](#page-34-0)). In the following, we discuss the presented maximum temperatures and compare them with temperature estimations inferred from other petrological data for the different tectono-metamorphic domains.

HP/LT units of the Valaisan and the adjacent Europederived domains

Occurrences of Fe–Mg carpholite, the diagnostic HP-mineral found in metasediments of the Valaisan domain and parts of the metasediments derived from the distal Euro-pean margin (Goffé and Oberhänsli [1992](#page-31-0); Oberhänsli et al. [1995;](#page-32-0) Bousquet et al. [2002,](#page-30-0) [2008;](#page-30-0) Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)), document the HP/LT blueschist-facies event in the eastern part of the working area. West of this LT area, relics of carpholite are found all the way up to the 500° C isotemperature contour. Pseudomorphs after carpholite were even found in the vicinity of Pizzo Molare, i.e. up to $>550^{\circ}$ C (Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0). This clearly documents that this western area formerly was also part of a through-going blueschist-facies metamorphic belt that stretched from the Engadine window all the way to the Western Alps (Bousquet et al. [2002,](#page-30-0) [2008](#page-30-0)). Glaucophane (Gansser [1937](#page-31-0); Nabholz [1945](#page-32-0); Obe-rhänsli [1977,](#page-32-0) [1978](#page-32-0)) and jadeite (Santini [1992](#page-33-0); Ring [1992\)](#page-33-0) are the other minerals that are diagnostic for this earlier subduction-related blueschist-facies event. Within the lowgrade Fe–Mg carpholite-bearing metasediments, chloritoid only rarely occurs within the Fe–Mg carpholite-bearing quartz-calcite veins/segregations. In such cases, chloritoid is interpreted as a part of the HP/LT assemblage (see also "Discussion" by Oberhänsli et al. [2003](#page-32-0)). However, most of the chloritoid found in the area formed during the late-stage greenschist-facies overprint rather than during the highpressure event (Rahn et al. [2002](#page-33-0); Wiederkehr [2009](#page-34-0)). This is supported by the observation that chloritoid generally occurs as idiomorphic rosettes, bundles and prisms (e.g. Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)). Based on the mineral chemistry of the observed mineral assemblage, peak-metamorphic conditions of 1.2–1.4 GPa and $350-400^{\circ}$ C were estimated for the blueschist-facies stage in metasediments of the Grava and Tomül nappes, as well as in some of the metasediments derived from the European margin (Peiden slices and Piz Terri-Lunschania Unit; Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)).

For areas not affected by the subsequent Barrow-type metamorphic event, the isothermal or near-isothermal decompression of the Valais Ocean-derived Bündnerschiefer and the Europe-derived Peidener Schuppenzone occurred after the HP blueschist-facies stage (see P–Tpaths indicated in Fig. [9,](#page-24-0) based on the studies of Bousquet et al. [2002](#page-30-0) and Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0). This is supported by Rahn et al. [\(2002](#page-33-0)) inference of $400 \pm 50^{\circ}$ C for greenschist-facies metamorphism of the Tomul nappe, based on chloritoid-chlorite and chlorite thermometry. This may be taken to show that the Barrow-type overprint never affected the eastern areas depicted in Fig. [9](#page-24-0). Alternatively, such an overprint may have been associated with temperatures less than 400°C, i.e. less than the temperature range previously reached during the blueschist-facies event and/or during the subsequent isothermal decompression. Because folding leading to the Lunschania antiform took place after the decompression from the blueschist-facies conditions, the isotemperature contours at or below 400° C are expected to appear folded by this antiform, as indicated by our data (Figs. [7,](#page-20-0) [8](#page-22-0)). Folded isotemperature contours are also indicated by Weh [\(1998](#page-33-0)) and Petrova et al. [\(2002](#page-33-0)). These authors report a metamorphic high around Chur (Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0)

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that is located in the core of the Lunschania antiform and was interpreted to have formed by post-metamorphic deformation. These older findings are confirmed by our study (Figs. [7](#page-20-0), [8\)](#page-22-0) that also demonstrates the high spatial resolution of the maximum temperature pattern obtained with the RSCM method and a dense sampling network. In summary, the RSCM-derived peak-metamorphic temperatures are in excellent agreement with other available T-estimates (350–400°C; Bousquet et al. [2002](#page-30-0); Rahn et al. [2002\)](#page-33-0). However, an unambiguous attribution of the temperature estimates to a specific early stage of the P–T-evolution, i.e. either to peak pressures during HPmetamorphism or to subsequent greenschist-facies decompression, is not possible.

Prättigau half-window

Metamorphic grade that increases from diagenesis to lower greenschist grade conditions in the eastern Prättigau halfwindow to greenschist-facies conditions further to the southwest was also described in previous work (e.g. Frey and Ferreiro Mählmann [1999](#page-31-0); Ferreiro Mählmann et al. [2002;](#page-31-0) Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)). Hence, the temperature pattern derived by the RSCM method appears to be reliable also at low temperatures, particularly when using the Rahl et al. [\(2005](#page-33-0)) calibration method (Fig. [6b](#page-18-0)).

Northeastern Lepontine thermal dome

An increase in metamorphic grade is also established in a N–S direction and across Europe-derived metasediments in the northwestern part of the working area (Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0), i.e. across northerly areas that never experienced blueschistfacies overprint. The peak temperatures obtained by the RSCM method for the Urseren-Garvera Zone range from $360-450$ °C (Table [1\)](#page-5-0) and hence are in excellent agreement with chlorite-chloritoid and calcite-dolomite thermometers that yield 390–510 and 360–480 \degree C, respectively (Livi et al. [2002\)](#page-32-0), as well as with temperature estimates of 400 \pm 50°C based on chlorite-chloritoid and chlorite thermometry (Rahn et al. [2002\)](#page-33-0). Based on the investigation of the isotopic composition of carbonaceous matter, Hoefs and Frey [\(1976](#page-31-0)) presented strongly scattered, considerably lower metamorphic temperatures ranging from 250° C in the Urseren-Garvera Zone to 750°C in the Lukmanier area. They claimed equilibrium exchange reactions and kinetic isotopic effects, i.e. oxidation in the presence of water, to be responsible for this scatter. The progressive southward increase in metamorphic grade up to lower/middle amphibolite-facies conditions in the Lukmanier and Pizzo Molare area was established early on (Chadwick [1968](#page-31-0); Frey [1969,](#page-31-0) [1974](#page-31-0), [1978](#page-31-0); Thakur [1971;](#page-33-0) Fox [1975\)](#page-31-0). Staurolite-kyanite-garnet-bearing micaschists indicate lower to middle amphibolite-facies peak-metamorphic conditions at 0.5–0.8 GPa and 500–550°C (Chadwick [1968;](#page-31-0) Engi et al. [1995](#page-31-0); Todd and Engi [1997](#page-33-0); Frey and Ferreiro Mählmann [1999](#page-31-0)). Interestingly, Fox [\(1975](#page-31-0)) made an early attempt to discern the three-dimensional pattern of the metamorphic zonation based on isograds obtained from isochemical Jurassic black shales. In the area around Lukmanier, he estimated a minimum dip of these isograds of 35° towards the north, which is in agreement with the dip of our isotemperature contours (40–55 $^{\circ}$; Fig. [8e](#page-22-0)). Recently published data obtained along a N–S metamorphic transect predict 0.6–0.8 GPa at $530-575$ °C for the Lukmanier area in the north, 0.6 GPa at 550° C in an intermediate area (northern Valle di Blenio) and finally $0.7-0.85$ GPa at $580-600^{\circ}$ C for Pizzo Molare in the south (Janots et al. [2008](#page-32-0)). In summary, the predicted peak-metamorphic temperatures determined by the RSCM method are in good agreement with observed mineral assemblages, also in this part of the working area.

Northern Adula nappe complex and Misox Zone

As discussed earlier, the frontal part of the Adula nappe complex experienced an upper blueschist/eclogitic over-print (Löw [1987](#page-32-0); Heinrich [1986;](#page-31-0) Zulbati [2008](#page-34-0)), in contrast to the surrounding high-pressure terranes that experienced blueschist-facies metamorphism at considerably lower temperatures, as documented by occurrences of Fe–Mg carpholite. Here too, the RSCM-derived temperatures are in perfect agreement with the temperatures inferred for this upper blueschist/eclogite-facies event. Petrological investigations on eclogites and metapelites yield temperature estimates related to high-pressure metamorphism of the northern Adula nappe that are consistent with our estimates: $470-540^{\circ}$ C (Löw [1987](#page-32-0)) and $450-550^{\circ}$ C (Heinrich [1986](#page-31-0)). However, they are less than the 640° C proposed for this area by Dale and Holland [\(2003](#page-31-0)). This higher temperature estimate may be related to a pre-Alpine relic, since Liati et al. [\(2009](#page-32-0)) clearly documented a Variscan-age (340–330 Ma) for some HT eclogites in the northern part of the Adula nappe complex. In any case, the temperatures obtained from the northern part of the Adula nappe complex are associated with Alpine-age upper blueschist- to eclogite-facies conditions at considerably higher temperatures during subduction-related HP/LT metamorphic conditions when compared to the surrounding Fe–Mg carpholite-bearing, blueschist-facies metasediments. The spatial and temporal relationships between this upper blueschist- to eclogite-facies event within the northern Adula nappe and the blueschist-facies event and subsequent Barrow-type overprint in the surrounding metasediments are not yet clear. Structural arguments suggest a late-stage differential N-directed emplacement of the Adula nappe into the surrounding metasediments (Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0).

We therefore decided not to draw the isotemperature contours across the frontal part of the Adula nappe complex in Figs. [6](#page-18-0) and [9.](#page-24-0)

The higher-grade metasediments in the Aul Unit (Steinmann [1994](#page-33-0)) of the Misox Zone (Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0) that overlies the Adula nappe are devoid of Fe–Mg carpholite. Chloritoid is commonly associated with garnet (Teutsch [1982](#page-33-0)), which represents a characteristic blueschist-facies assemblage in metasediments (e.g. Agard et al. [2001;](#page-30-0) Bucher and Bousquet [2007](#page-30-0); Bousquet [2008\)](#page-30-0). In addition, isolated occurrences of eclogites within the Misox Zone (i.e. outcrop "Neu Wahli", possibly part of a mélange located in the Aul Unit; Steinmann [1994\)](#page-33-0) that contain glaucophane, garnet and omphacite (30-50% jadeite component; Obe-rhänsli [1977](#page-32-0); Ring [1992](#page-33-0); Santini 1992) clearly document that parts of the Misox Zone also experienced an upper blueschist- to eclogite-facies overprint. This indicates that higher temperatures were associated with the early HPevent in this area (Aul Unit). This too is again in agreement with our estimates of peak-metamorphic temperatures similar to those recorded for the HP-stage in the frontal part of the Adula nappe complex (i.e. $500-525$ °C, samples 190 and 191). The overall thermal structure of the Misox Zone is characterized by southwards increasing metamorphic conditions, as already reported in several studies ranging from greenschist- to middle amphibolite-facies (e.g. Thompson [1976](#page-33-0); Teutsch [1982](#page-33-0); Ferreiro Mählmann et al. [2002;](#page-31-0) Petrova et al. [2002\)](#page-33-0). The strong metamorphic gradient within the Misox Zone was previously documented by Thompson ([1976\)](#page-33-0) based on the construction of steeply N-dipping isograds $(50-70)$, perfectly in line with the closely spaced isotemperature contours in the southern Misox Zone (Fig. [9](#page-24-0)) revealed by the RSCM method. Staurolite first appears in the southernmost part of the Misox Zone, i.e. south of the 500° C isotemperature contour, and indicates that the southern part of the Misox Zone was affected by lower/middle amphibolite-facies Barrovian overprint (Fig. [9;](#page-24-0) Wenk [1970](#page-34-0); Thompson [1976](#page-33-0); Teutsch [1982\)](#page-33-0). Teutsch ([1982\)](#page-33-0) determined metamorphic conditions of $0.5-0.7$ GPa and $500-550$ °C near Mesocco, an area where we obtained $530-540^{\circ}$ C (samples 185 & 186, Table [1](#page-5-0)). Note that here in the south the temperatures during late-stage collision-related Barrovian overprint, which led to the growth of staurolite, may not differ significantly from those related to the earlier subductionrelated high-pressure event that may have reached eclogitefacies in the southernmost Misox Zone. In any case, the temperatures related to the eclogite-facies event continuously increase southwards, also within the adjacent Adula nappe complex (i.e. Heinrich [1982,](#page-31-0) [1986](#page-31-0)). This reflects the southward subduction of tectonic units during the formation of the Alpine orogenic belt. Nagel et al. ([2002\)](#page-32-0) demonstrated that near-isothermal decompression led to the growth of staurolite by paragonite breakdown. Hence, within the southernmost Misox Zone, it may become impossible to attribute the RSCM-derived temperatures to either the subduction-related HP-event or the collisionrelated Barrovian overprint (indicated by stippled P–Tpaths in Fig. [9](#page-24-0)). Here, the Barrow-type overprint either results from isothermal decompression from an eclogitic stage as proposed by Nagel et al. [\(2002](#page-32-0)), or alternatively, it may result from a separate heating pulse as proposed by Engi et al. [\(2001](#page-31-0)) and Brouwer et al. [\(2005](#page-30-0)).

Relationships between isotemperature contours and the polyphase thermal evolution of the metasediments

Wiederkehr et al. ([2008\)](#page-34-0) showed that the first deformational event D1 (Safien phase) related to the formation of an accretionary wedge and subduction of the Valais Ocean and parts of the distal European margin is associated with blueschist-facies metamorphism $(350-400^{\circ}C, 1.2-1.4)$ GPa). This is documented by Fe–Mg carpholite preserved as hair-like fibres in veins consisting of quartz and calcite. Substantial decompression to greenschist-facies conditions was associated with D2 nappe-stacking that led to thrusting of HP-rocks onto LP-units (Ferrera phase). Interestingly, the isotemperature contours in the eastern part of the working area reflect the effect of the D3 (Domleschg phase) nappe-refolding phase, particularly that of the most prominent D3 structure, the Lunschania antiform (Figs. [1,](#page-3-0) [2](#page-4-0); Voll [1976;](#page-33-0) Kupferschmid [1977](#page-32-0); Steinmann [1994;](#page-33-0) Weh and Froitzheim [2001](#page-33-0)).

The new RSCM temperature data show that progressive Barrovian overprinting related to the Lepontine thermal dome in the southwestern part of the study area clearly post-dates this D3 event (Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)); the isotemperature contours crosscut the Lunschania structure at temperatures higher than those reached during the blueschist-facies event and/or subsequent greenschistfacies overprint, i.e. above 450° C (Figs. [6,](#page-18-0) [8](#page-22-0) and [9](#page-24-0)). The isotemperature contours established for the western part of the study area rather spectacularly crosscut structures, both viewed along strike and within the N–S profile (Fig. [8](#page-22-0)). This demonstrates the power of the RSCM method for revealing the 3-D geometry of the temperature field during late-stage collision-related metamorphism. Note, however, that the original shape of the isotemperature contours may have been somewhat modified by the last tectonic event (D4, Chièra phase) that is associated with back-folding and the formation of the Northern Steep Belt further to the west (Milnes [1974](#page-32-0)). This also slightly affected the southwestern part of the study area.

Our study is the first to reveal a jump in maximum temperatures across the contact of the Adula nappe

complex (internal Mesozoic) with the surrounding Valais Ocean-derived metasediments (Figs. [6,](#page-18-0) [9](#page-24-0)). Hence, the resolution of the temperature pattern in the northeastern part of the Lepontine dome is much better than in earlier studies (e.g. Todd and Engi [1997](#page-33-0)). The thermal discontinuity clearly shows that peak-metamorphic temperatures of the northern Adula nappe complex were reached before nappe-stacking, i.e. during the early HP-stage rather than during the late-stage Barrovian overprint. In the southernmost Misox Zone, high temperatures were already reached during the early HP imprint prior to isothermal decompression in this southerly area (e.g. Nagel [2008](#page-32-0)). Hence, it is impossible to distinguish between the temperatures reached during the two events in the southernmost Misox Zone.

Implications for the tectono-metamorphic evolution and timing constraints

As discussed earlier and summarized in Fig. [9](#page-24-0), high-resolution three-dimensional mapping of isotemperature contours in map and profile view faithfully reflects the current distribution of peak-metamorphic temperatures that resulted from the superposition of at least three distinct metamorphic events. This leads to the following observations: (1) Within the northeastern rim of the Lepontine dome both along and across strike—the isotemperature contours in the $450-570$ °C range clearly cut across nappe contacts and large-scale, post-nappe folds deforming such contacts; (2) further to the NE, the $350-425^{\circ}$ C isotemperature contours are folded by large-scale, post-nappe folds; (3) the substantial jump in maximum temperatures across the tectonic contact between the frontal Adula nappe complex (500–520C) and the surrounding Valais Ocean-derived metasediments $(410-430^{\circ}\text{C})$ indicates that this contact accommodated differential tectonic movement of the Adula nappe with respect to the enveloping Bündnerschiefer. This movement must have taken place after the temperature peak was reached within the Adula nappe (sometime between 43 and 35 Ma; see ''[Discussion](#page-23-0)'' and references in Wiederkehr et al. [2009\)](#page-34-0). The temperatures reached within the enveloping Bündnerschiefer during the late-stage Lepontine event (19–18 Ma; Janots et al. [2008](#page-32-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2009](#page-34-0)) obviously were not as high as those attained during the much earlier high-pressure event within the frontal Adula nappe.

To understand the complex polyphase metamorphic evolution of the study area (see Wiederkehr et al. [2008,](#page-34-0) [2009](#page-34-0) for details), it is essential to relate the peak-metamorphic temperatures presented in this study to specific metamorphic stages, i.e. subduction-related HP-metamorphism or collision-related Barrovian overprint. An unambiguous correlation of peak-metamorphic temperatures is particularly crucial for tectonic units that followed a bimodal P–T-path with an earlier HP/LT event followed by a later thermal overprint. Combined with recent isotopic age constrains presented for the study area (Allaz [2008](#page-30-0); Janots et al. [2009](#page-32-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2009\)](#page-34-0), we attempt to link the detected RSCM temperatures to the pressure– temperature-time paths of the different tectonic units in order to better understand the temperature distribution map in Fig. [9](#page-24-0).

Units characterized by a single loop P–T-path

This group of tectonic units comprises the LP/LT parts of the Grava nappe exposed in the Prättigau half-window, the Scopi Unit and the Urseren-Garvera Zone (Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0). Until now, there has been no reported evidence for an earlier HP/ LT metamorphic event in these units. Consequently, all recorded RSCM temperatures represent peak-metamorphic temperatures established along the prograde path of the metamorphic evolution. These range from lower greenschist-facies conditions in the Prättigau half-window to lower/middle amphibolite-facies in the vicinity of Lukmanier. Recent isotopic studies clearly show that lower to middle amphibolite-facies metamorphism in the NE Lepontine dome (western Scopi Unit, Lukmanier; Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0) is young and that peak-metamorphic conditions were reached about 19–18 Ma ago (Allaz [2008](#page-30-0); Janots et al. [2009](#page-32-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2009\)](#page-34-0). The existence of an earlier and widespread greenschist-facies metamorphic event was pointed out by isotopic studies revealing ages of 32–29 Ma in the Lukmanier area (Janots et al. [2009](#page-32-0)) and in the Grisons and Engadine window further to the northeast (Wiederkehr et al. [2009](#page-34-0)). Consequently, the recorded peakmetamorphic temperatures of the eastern Scopi Unit along the Val Lumnezia south of Ilanz $(350-400^{\circ}C)$ and of the LP/LT units in the Prättigau half-window $(150-300^{\circ}C)$ are attributed to this Oligocene greenschist-facies overprint. Unfortunately, there are no age constraints for the Urseren-Garvera Zone $(375-450^{\circ}C)$. However, the work of Janots et al. ([2009\)](#page-32-0) indicates that the same 32–29 Ma age range most likely also applies to this greenschist-facies event.

Carpholite-bearing HP/LT units characterized by a bimodal P–T-path

This group comprises the Grava and Tomul nappes derived from the Valais Ocean as well as the Peiden slices and Piz Terri-Lunschania Unit scraped off the adjacent distal European margin, both covering most of the area of investigation between Pizzo Molare in the SW to Chur in the NE (Fig. [9](#page-24-0)). As discussed earlier, the thermal structure recorded in the northeast is characterized by isotemperature contours that are folded around the Lunschania antiform,

whereas in the southwest the isotemperature contours clearly cut through this antiform. Hence, the thermal structure in the northeast is older than the formation of the Lunschania antiform whereas that in the southwest is younger. The thermal structure characterized by the younger crosscutting isotemperature contours (450–575C) is clearly related to the lower/middle amphibolite-facies Barrovian overprint of the northeastern Lepontine thermal dome, where peak conditions were established as late as 19–18 Ma ago (Allaz [2008](#page-30-0); Janots et al. [2009](#page-32-0); Wiederkehr et al. [2009](#page-34-0)). The temperatures reached during this late metamorphic event were considerably higher than those reached during the earlier HP/LT stage. The thermal structure in the east, on the other hand, is characterized by folded isotemperature contours $(350-425^{\circ}\text{C})$ and hence reflects conditions established during the earlier HP/LT stage (at around 43–40 Ma for the Valaisan domain; Wiederkehr et al. [2009\)](#page-34-0) and/or during subsequent decompression leading to greenschist-facies overprint. Unfortunately, the peak-metamorphic temperatures are rather similar during both these stages (at $350-400$ °C) that predate the Barrovian overprint found further west. Hence, a clear separation of maximum temperatures prevailing at peak-pressure conditions from those prevailing during decompression cannot be made. For the following reasons, we favour the interpretation that the folded isotemperature contours in the east reflect a greenschist-facies thermal structure related to the decompression stage: (1) The constructed isotemperature contours can be traced continuously across the boundary between HP and LP-units and therefore clearly post-date syn-D1 HP/LT metamorphism in the Valaisan domain (Wiederkehr et al. [2008\)](#page-34-0); (2) The spacing of the recorded isotemperature contours that reflect the thermal gradient is far too large for blueschist-facies conditions and therefore was probably established during decompression-related greenschist-facies overprinting rather than during blueschist-facies HP/LT metamorphism. Wiederkehr et al. ([2009\)](#page-34-0) posited an age of 32–29 Ma for this retrograde greenschist-facies metamorphism that overprints the earlier HP/LT stage and pre-dates the much younger Barrovian overprint found in the W.

Northern Adula nappe complex and Misox Zone

The substantial jump in maximum temperatures across the tectonic contact between the frontal Adula nappe complex $(500-525\degree C)$ and the surrounding metasediments of the Valaisan $(400-450\degree C;$ Fig. [9\)](#page-24-0) indicates that the thermal structure preserved inside the Adula nappe complex was established before the final emplacement of the Adula nappe. The estimated peak-metamorphic temperatures are perfectly in line with thermobarometric calculations, reflecting conditions established during subduction-related blueschist/eclogite-facies metamorphism within the Adula nappe (e.g. Heinrich [1986;](#page-31-0) Löw [1987](#page-32-0)). Several studies estimate this subduction-related metamorphism to have occurred at about 43–35 Ma ago (Gebauer et al. [1992](#page-31-0); Gebauer [1996;](#page-31-0) Becker [1993](#page-30-0); Brouwer et al. [2005;](#page-30-0) see also reviews given by Berger and Bousquet [2008](#page-30-0); Nagel [2008](#page-32-0)).

A clear attribution of the samples from the Misox Zone that are devoid of Fe–Mg carpholite to a specific metamorphic event is impossible due to the significantly lower sampling density and the complex tectonic evolution of the Misox Zone. Furthermore, the Misox Zone is a narrow, highly tectonized narrow thrust zone (mélange zone), further complicating a clear distinction between a HP/LT stage and subsequent Barrovian overprinting. Only the highest temperatures of 540–550°C measured south of the village of Mesocco, as well as the occurrence of newly grown staurolite nearby, can most probably be attributed to the amphibolite-facies Barrow-type ''Lepontine'' event. Towards the north, no unambiguous correlation of RSCMderived temperatures with a specific metamorphic stage or overprint is possible (Fig. [9](#page-24-0)). The only exceptions to this are samples 190 and 191 (pre-kinematic garnet-chloritoid micaschist) that reveal peak-metamorphic temperatures of 500–525°C and can clearly be attributed to the HP/LT stage (see ''[Discussion'](#page-23-0)' above).

Discussion of possible reasons leading to inter-sample heterogeneities

There are a small number of samples (i.e. 16 out of a total of 214) that are characterized by abnormally high variation with respect to neighbouring specimens. In general, these samples exhibit much higher peak-metamorphic temperatures compared to those detected in the surrounding locations. These locations are highlighted with bold letters in Table [1](#page-5-0) and were not used for the construction of the isotemperature contours presented in Figs. [6](#page-18-0), [8](#page-22-0) and [9](#page-24-0). In the following, we discuss the possible reasons of the detected inter-sample heterogeneities.

In general, samples yielding exceptionally high temperatures can be subdivided into two groups: A first group marked by samples showing a completely different mineral assemblage with respect to the neighbouring locations, and a second group showing no obvious differences in mineral composition. Samples 44, 51, 84, 86, 97, 115, 136, 139, 140 and 210 (Table [1](#page-5-0)) belong to the second group. Careful analysis of some samples from this second group (specimens 97, 136 and 139 originating form the Piz Terri-Lunschania Unit; Table [1](#page-5-0)) shows the presence of large and randomly oriented, isolated flakes of white mica, which are clearly of detrital origin. This clearly supports the interpretation that depositional mixing of sedimentary detritus (e.g. Diessel et al. [1978](#page-31-0); Itaya [1981;](#page-32-0) Petrova et al. [2002\)](#page-33-0)

may yield peak temperatures that are valid for the source area rather than for the sampled metasediments. We regard it as likely that depositional mixing of graphite of different degree of graphitization must have occurred in this case and that such mixing is the most likely cause of the scatter among the samples belonging to this group. A study performed along the metamorphic profile from the Prättigau half-window to the Misox Zone provided evidence for the occurrence of detrital graphite in nearly all samples, as is documented by X-ray diffraction data (Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)). This interpretation is in line with the findings of Galy et al. [\(2008](#page-31-0)) that recycling of graphite is responsible for the widespread presence of detrital graphite in natural metamorphic rocks.

The first group comprises samples 190 and 191 (Table [1](#page-5-0)) that originate from the Misox Zone, and hence, from an area close to the contact with the Adula nappe complex; specimens 146, 147, 148 and 149 are from within the Adula nappe complex. As clearly indicated in Table [1,](#page-5-0) these samples are characterized by mineral assemblages that are different from those found in the neighbouring metasedimentary samples. This points to a relatively higher grade of metamorphism within the Adula nappe and parts of the immediately adjacent Misox Zone. Hence, the intersample heterogeneities detected in this group of samples definitely do not stem from a methodological artefact, but they simply reflect different peak-metamorphic conditions within different tectonic units that are offset by later motion of the Adula nappe and parts of the Misox Zone with respect to the surrounding metasediments. We consider the $500-525$ °C temperatures recorded by these specimens to be related to an upper blueschist- to eclogitefacies event that had considerably higher temperatures than the surrounding Fe–Mg carpholite-bearing blueschistfacies rocks, and that only affected the Adula nappe complex and immediately adjacent parts of the Misox Zone. These temperatures are consistent with earlier ther-mobarometric calculations (Heinrich [1986](#page-31-0); Löw [1987](#page-32-0)).

Conclusions

Raman spectroscopy of a large sampling of carbonaceous material from metasediments at the margin of the Lepontine dome allows for a comparison of the Beyssac et al. [\(2002a\)](#page-30-0) and Rahl et al. ([2005\)](#page-33-0) calibrations in the 150– 600C temperature range. The two calibration methods yield essentially identical inferred maximum temperatures above 330 \degree C, with discrepancies of less than 30 \degree C. At lower temperatures, only the Rahl et al. ([2005\)](#page-33-0) calibration yields a reliable maximum temperature field gradient. The method can be applied successfully to specimens of lowgrade metasediments (so-called Bündnerschiefer) that are devoid of diagnostic mineral assemblages and are therefore unsuited for accurate estimation of the metamorphic temperature based on equilibrium thermodynamics of coexisting mineral phases.

The results of the three-dimensional mapping of isotemperature contours show that the maximum temperature field gradients inferred from Raman spectroscopy of carbonaceous material faithfully reflect the current distribution of peak-metamorphic temperatures resulting from the superposition of distinct metamorphic events. This conclusion is corroborated by independent petrological and structural data (e.g. Wiederkehr et al. [2008](#page-34-0)). It was found that the maximum temperatures obtained with the RSCM method compare favourably with temperatures inferred from other petrological data, e.g. from P–T calculations and distribution of diagnostic mineral assemblages (e.g. Chadwick [1968](#page-31-0); Frey [1969;](#page-31-0) Fox [1975](#page-31-0); Heinrich [1986;](#page-31-0) Löw [1987](#page-32-0); Engi et al. [1995](#page-31-0); Todd and Engi [1997](#page-33-0); Bousquet et al. [2002;](#page-30-0) Rahn et al. [2002;](#page-33-0) Wiederkehr [2009](#page-34-0)). The temperatures reflect the maximum temperatures reached, also in areas that underwent a polyphase thermal evolution. The three-dimensional character of those parts of the constructed contours that reflect the same metamorphic event yield useful information on the relationship between deformation and metamorphism. Finally, our data support the assumption that the transformation of CM to graphite is a continuous and a mainly temperature-dependent process.

Nevertheless, some samples are characterized by a large scatter of estimated mean temperature, whereas others predict peak-metamorphic temperatures that vary among neighbouring samples. Dealing with such discrepancies that come from naturally heterogeneous carbonaceous matter is a common challenge when using the RSCM method (e.g. Beyssac et al. [2002b](#page-30-0), 2003; compare also first section of paragraph "[Mapping thermal field gradients in 3](#page-16-0) [dimensions'](#page-16-0)'). In this study, depositional mixing of sedimentary detritus originating from different metamorphic sources (e.g. Diessel et al. [1978;](#page-31-0) Itaya [1981;](#page-32-0) Petrova et al. [2002](#page-33-0)) is one important factor.

The investigation of CM by Raman spectroscopy revealed at least three different thermal regimes as inferred from overprinting criteria between the constructed isotemperature contours and observed structures: (1) Within the northeastern rim of the Lepontine dome the isotemperature contours associated with the collision-related, latestage Barrow-type event clearly cut across nappe contacts and post-nappe folds, both along and across strike; (2) Further to the northeast, the isotemperature contours reflect temperatures reached during an earlier blueschistfacies event and/or during subsequent near-isothermal decompression and are folded around large-scale postnappe-stacking folds; (3) A substantial jump in maximum temperatures across the tectonic contact between the

frontal Adula nappe complex and surrounding Valais Ocean-derived metasediments indicates that this contact accommodated differential tectonic movement of the Adula nappe with respect to the enveloping Bündnerschiefer. This must have occurred after the attainment of maximum temperatures within the northern Adula nappe.

When combined with recent isotopic ages, the RSCM temperatures in our study provide important information for reconstructing the polyphase metamorphic evolution of the Central Alps, from subduction-related HP/LT metamorphism to collision-related, Barrow-type thermal overprinting.

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