

28 **Abstract**

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30 In order to determine the effects of fluid-rock interaction on nitrogen elemental and isotopic 31 systematics in high-pressure metamorphic rocks, we investigated three different profiles 32 representing three distinct scenarios of metasomatic overprinting. A profile from the Chinese \$\$ Tianshan (ultra)high pressure – low temperature metamorphic belt represents a prograde, fluid- 34 induced blueschist-eclogite transformation. This profile shows a systematic decrease in N 35 concentrations from the host blueschist (\approx 26 µg/g) via a blueschist-eclogite transition zone (19-23 $36 \mu g/g$) and an eclogitic selvage (12-16 $\mu g/g$) towards the former fluid pathway. Eclogites and 37 blueschists show only a small variation in δ^{15} N_{air} (+2.1±0.3‰), but the systematic trend with 38 distance is consistent with a batch devolatilization process. A second profile from the Tianshan 39 represents a retrograde eclogite-blueschist transition. It shows increasing, but more scattered N 40 concentrations from the eclogite towards the blueschist and an unsystematic variation in $\delta^{15}N$ 41 values ($\delta^{15}N = +1.0$ to +5.4‰). A third profile from the high-*P*/*T* metamorphic basement complex 42 of the Southern Armorican Massif (Vendée, France) comprises a sequence from an eclogite lens via 43 retrogressed eclogite and amphibolite into metasedimentary country rock gneisses. 44 Metasedimentary gneisses have high N contents (14-52 μ g/g) and positive $\delta^{15}N$ values (+2.9 to $45 + 5.8\%$), and N concentrations become lower away from the contact with 11-24 ug/g for the %' amphibolites, 10-14 µg/g for the retrogressed eclogite, and 2.1-3.6 µg/g for the pristine eclogite, 47 which also has the lightest N isotopic compositions ($\delta^{15}N = +2.1$ to +3.6‰).

48 Overall, geochemical correlations demonstrate that phengitic white mica is the major host of N 49 in metamorphosed mafic rocks. During fluid-induced metamorphic overprint, both abundances and 50 isotopic composition of N are controlled by the stability and presence of white mica. Phengite 51 breakdown in high-*P/T* metamorphic rocks can liberate significant amounts of N into the fluid. Due 52 to the sensitivity of the N isotope system to a sedimentary signature, it can be used to trace the 53 extent of N transport during metasomatic processes. The Vendée profile demonstrates that this 54 process occurs over several tens of meters and affects both N concentrations and N isotopic 55 compositions.

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&) **Keywords:**

59 Nitrogen, N isotopes, white mica, fluid-rock interaction, subduction, high-pressure metamorphic 60 rocks

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'" **1. Introduction**

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63 Understanding the processes that affect both elemental concentrations as well as isotopic 64 signatures in subducting rocks are of fundamental importance for the assessment of subduction zone '& cycling of elements (e.g., Bebout 2007, 2014; Marschall *et al.* 2007a; Halama *et al.* 2011; John *et* '' *al.* 2004, 2011; Spandler and Pirard 2013; Konrad-Schmolke and Halama 2014; Bebout and '(Penniston-Dorland 2016). Elemental and isotopic fractionation during subduction-zone ') metamorphism and metasomatism influences the balance of input and output in subduction zones 69 and the geochemical signatures transported into the deep mantle beyond the arc, potentially (+ resurfacing via plume-related magmatism. Metamorphic rock sequences that record the successive (" advance of a metamorphic/metasomatic process provide a valuable means to evaluate the (# magnitude and extent of geochemical effects via fluid-rock interaction during subduction cycling.

The nitrogen (N) isotope system has a great potential as geochemical tracer for crustal and 74 volatile recycling due to the large isotopic differences in the various terrestrial reservoirs (Busigny (& and Bebout 2013; Halama *et al.* 2014; Johnson and Goldblatt 2015; Bebout *et al.* 2016; Mikhail and (' Howell 2016). Nitrogen is a sensitive tracer for fluid-rock interaction and metasomatic processes (((Bebout 1997; Halama *et al.* 2010; Li *et al.* 2014), in particular for sediment-derived fluids because () N is largely fixed by organic processes in sedimentary environments (Bebout 1997; Bebout *et al.* (* 2016). However, direct evidence of spatially constrained transport of N is rare, and the processes 80 that cause N mobilization and fractionation of N isotopes need to be better understood. It has been 81 established for some metasedimentary suites that N contents decrease and $\delta^{15}N$ values increase with)# increasing metamorphic grade during subduction (Bebout and Fogel 1992; Mingram and Bräuer 83 2001). However, other suites show relatively little change and N appears to be retained to depths)% approaching those beneath arcs (Busigny *et al.* 2003; Pitcairn *et al.* 2005). Similarly,)& metamorphosed mafic and ultramafic rocks appear to largely retain N to depths of at least 60-70 km)' (Halama *et al.* 2010, 2012; Busigny *et al.* 2011).

)(In this study, we use spatially constrained profiles of metamorphosed mafic igneous rocks that)) represent the frozen-in advance of fluid-induced metamorphic/metasomatic processes to investigate 89 the behaviour of N and N isotopes during prograde and retrograde metamorphic changes. Three *+ profiles were selected that represent i) a prograde transformation of blueschist into eclogite due to *" fluid ingress from a major fluid conduit (Beinlich *et al.* 2010; John *et al.* 2012), ii) a retrograde *# transformation of eclogite into blueschist during exhumation within a subduction channel (van der 93 Straaten *et al.* 2012), and iii) an exhumation-related interaction of an eclogite body with 94 surrounding felsic gneisses in a collisional context. The first two sample sequences come from the

95 south-eastern Tianshan (China) high-pressure low-temperature (HP-LT) belt, whereas the third *' profile is from the Variscan Belt in the Vendée (France). We find that prograde dehydration can 97 release large amounts of N due to the breakdown of white mica, in which N is incorporated as 98 ammonium (NH₄⁺), whereas the associated isotopic changes are relatively small (< 1‰). Hence, 99 non-altered eclogites should largely reflect the N isotopic composition of their protoliths. In 100 contrast, interaction with retrograde fluids can impart the N elemental and isotopic characteristics of 101 the rocks with which the fluid equilibrated and hence cause significant perturbations of the N 102 systematics.

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105 2. Geologic setting and sample description

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107 2.1. Tianshan orogen, (ultra)high-pressure low-temperature ((U)HP-LT) metamorphic belt, 108 *China*

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Two profiles were sampled in a (U)HP-LT belt of metamorphic rocks in the Chinese part of the 111 Tianshan orogen (Figure 1a). The Tianshan orogen extends morphologically over 2500 km from 112 north-western China in the east over Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 113 the west along the southwestern margin of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt, also known as the 114 Altaid Tectonic Collage (e.g., Sengör *et al.* 1993). In China, the western Tianshan, which includes 115 the (U)HP metamorphic terrane, is situated between the Junggar plate in the north and the Tarim 116 plate in the south (Gao *et al.* 2009 and references therein). The HP-LT rocks are interpreted as relics 117 of the Palaeozoic South Tianshan Ocean basin and whole rock geochemical data of the mafic rocks 118 show oceanic basalt affinities including former seamounts and young arcs, subducted during 119 Silurian and Carboniferous time (Windley *et al.* 1990; Sengör and Natal'in 1996; Gao *et al.* 1998; 120 Gao and Klemd 2003; John *et al.* 2008). The (U)HP–LT metamorphic terrane comprises 121 predominantly metasediments, which form the host rocks of mafic metavolcanic rocks, 122 metavolcaniclastics, marbles, and ultramafic rocks, and is considered to represent a tectonic 123 mélange formed within an accretionary wedge-like setting on the southern margin of the Central 124 Tianshan Arc terrane during the subduction of the South Tianshan Ocean (e.g., Gao *et al.* 1999; van 125 der Straaten *et al.* 2008; Klemd *et al.* 2011). The mafic metavolcanic rocks (mainly eclogites locally 126 interlayered with blueschists) occur irregularly distributed as differently sized pods, boudins, thin 127 layers or large massive blocks embedded in voluminous metasedimentary host rocks or less 128 abundant surrounded by metavolcaniclastic rocks (Gao and Klemd 2003). Blueschist occurrences 129 include prograde and retrograde varieties (Gao and Klemd 2001; Gao *et al.* 2007; van der Straaten 130 *et al.* 2008, 2012; Beinlich *et al.* 2010). Peak-metamorphic conditions of most eclogites and 131 prograde blueschists are similar (both lithologies occur locally with gradual transitions or intimately 132 intercalated) and range between 480 and 580 °C at 1.4–2.3 GPa at a regional scale (e.g., Klemd *et* 133 *al.* 2002; John *et al.* 2008). Moreover, relics of UHP conditions (e.g. coesite inclusions in garnet) or 134 thermodynamic modelling suggesting UHP conditions for both metasediments and eclogites have 135 been reported with peak P–T conditions of 570–630 \degree C at 2.7–3.3 GPa for eclogite-facies mica 136 schists and 470–510 °C at 2.4–2.7 GPa for eclogites from several localities (Lü *et al.* 2008, 2009; 137 Wei *et al.* 2009; Tian and Wei 2013). The juxtaposition of UHP and HP eclogite-facies rocks 138 juxtaposed on a meter scale is thought to reflect mixing of eclogite-facies rock from different depths 139 at the plate interface in a subduction channel-like setting (van der Straaten *et al.* 2008; Lü *et al.* 140 2009; Klemd *et al.* 2011). The timing of peak metamorphic conditions was determined by garnet 141 growth ages of ca. 315 Ma based on multi-point Lu-Hf isochron ages for both blueschists and 142 eclogites from various locations within the (U)HP-LT belt (Klemd *et al.* 2011). High-pressure veins 143 crosscutting a blueschist wall-rock formed contemporaneously at 317 ± 5 Ma (Rb-Sr) which is 144 consistent with metamorphic fluid release due to prograde transformations of blueschists to 145 eclogites (John *et al.* 2012). U-Pb SIMS ages of metamorphic zircon rims in eclogites are 146 indistinguishable within error at 319 ± 3 Ma (Su *et al.* 2010). The post-peak cooling was dated by 147 white mica geochronology (K-Ar, Ar-Ar, Rb-Sr) and gave ages between 310 and 311 Ma (Klemd *et* 148 *al.* 2005).

149 For the profiles, drill cores with a diameter of 2.54 cm and a length of about 10-15 cm were 150 taken to obtain a good spatial resolution. At both sample localities, the samples occur as loose, 151 meter-sized blocks, which have fallen from the steep mountain slopes as rock falls. The blocks 152 represent a mixture of various rock types that are now found within and partly covered by 153 quaternary deposits.

154 Profile 1 (JTS sequence; Figure 2a) represents the prograde transformation of blueschist into 155 eclogite due to fluid infiltration. The JTS sequence was studied in detail by Beinlich *et al.* (2010) 156 and John *et al.* (2012), and the following summary is based on these works. The massive blueschist 157 with the main mineral assemblage garnet + glaucophane + omphacite + phengite + quartz is cross-158 cut by a carbonate-quartz vein, which is surrounded by an eclogitic reaction halo mainly composed 159 of omphacite and garnet. The vein represents a major former fluid pathway that shows fluid 160 infiltration from an external source and dehydration of the immediate wall rock. Important 161 petrographic observations of the fluid-induced eclogitization include replacement of sodic 162 amphibole by omphacitic clinopyroxene, increase in the modal abundances of quartz and carbonate 163 and decrease in the modal abundance of white mica with decreasing distance to the vein. The 164 successive breakdown of white mica towards the vein is responsible for a relative depletion in 165 large-ion lithophile elements (LILE: K, Rb, and Cs) in the eclogitic selvage compared to the host 166 blueschist. Enrichments in Ca, Pb and Sr and depletions in HFSE can also be attributed to the fluid-167 induced eclogitization.

168 Profile 2 (FTS 9-1 sequence: Figure 2b) represents a gradual retrograde transition from eclogite 169 to blueschist caused by fluid-rock interaction during uplift in the subduction channel (van der 170 Straaten *et al.* 2008, 2012). The following description is based on the petrologic-geochemical 171 investigation by van der Straaten *et al.* (2012) on these samples. The eclogitic parts consist of a 172 fine-grained omphacite matrix with accessory rutile and porphyroblasts of garnet. The fluid-induced 173 blueschist-facies overprint caused replacement of the eclogite-facies assemblage by newly formed 174 glaucophane, paragonite, chlorite, calcite and titanite. The increase in the modal amounts of 175 glaucophane, white mica and calcite with increasing blueschist-facies overprint lead to a nearly 176 complete replacement of omphacite in the glaucophane schist.

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"(* *2.2. Les Essarts Unit, Variscan Belt, Vendée, France*

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181 Samples were taken along a \sim 100 m long profile from an approximately 1 km thick eclogite 182 lens via retrogressed eclogite and amphibolite into surrounding metasedimentary gneiss in the 183 quarry "La Gerbaudière" of the Les Essarts Unit, 25 km south of Nantes and west of St. Philbert de 184 Bouaine (Figure 1b). This unit constitutes a HP metamorphic basement complex of the Southern 185 Armorican Massif that is part of the Variscan belt (Matte 2001). Rocks of oceanic origin (eclogites, 186 amphibolites derived from eclogite, meta-plagiogranites and serpentinites) form several km-long 187 stretched and slightly boudinaged lenses surrounded by foliated ortho- and paragneisses that are 188 rich in white mica (Mauler *et al.* 2001). The eclogites have gabbroic protoliths with a crystallization 189 age of 1297 \pm 60 Ma based on a zircon U-Pb upper intercept age (Peucat *et al.* 1982). The eclogite-190 facies metamorphism was dated at $436±15$ Ma based on a zircon U-Pb lower intercept age (Peucat 191 *et al.* 1982). The primary HP mineral assemblage is omphacite + garnet + rutile \pm quartz \pm kyanite 192 \pm zoisite \pm magnesio-hornblende \pm pyrite \pm chalcopyrite and peak P-T conditions are 1.6-2.0 GPa 193 and 650-750 \degree C (Godard 2009). A major deformation event occurred during the eclogite-facies 194 metamorphism, followed by retrogression that transformed most of the eclogites into amphibolites, 195 in particular affecting the margins of the eclogite lenses. Retrogression is indicated by presence of 196 green amphibole and plagioclase-clinopyroxene symplectite along omphacite grain boundaries 197 (Mauler *et al.* 2001). The gneisses surrounding the eclogites with the main mineral assemblage 198 quartz + plagioclase + biotite + garnet + white mica are of continental origin and record two distinct 199 episodes of high-grade metamorphism (Godard 2009). The first event comprises intrusion of granite 200 and migmatisation of cordierite-bearing metapelites (T \sim 670°C, P = 0.3 GPa) within the pre-201 Variscan continental crust. The second event is an eclogite-facies overprint, cofacial with the 202 eclogitization of the adjacent oceanic mafic rocks at peak P-T conditions of P > 1.6 GPa and T \sim 203 700°C, which occurred during eo-Variscan subduction (Bernard-Griffiths and Cornichet 1985; 204 Godard 2009) with simultaneous deformation of eclogites and gneisses. Several coronitic and 205 pseudomorphic reactions caused the growth of high-pressure minerals (garnet, kyanite, phengite, 206 rutile) and the expense of the previous high-temperature parageneses (Godard 2009). The Les 207 Essarts Unit is interpreted as tectonic mélange of pre-Variscan oceanic and continental crusts that 208 were eclogitized during subduction and subsequently incorporated into the Variscan orogenic belt 209 (Godard 2001).

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216 3. Analytical methods

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218 3.1. Nitrogen content and nitrogen isotopic compositions

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220 Nitrogen concentrations and isotopic compositions of bulk rock powders were analysed at 221 Lehigh University. Sample preparation and analytical protocol follow the methods described in 222 Bebout *et al.* (2007). In brief, about 100-250 mg of sample powder and Cu/CuOx reagent are 223 evacuated for 24 h before sealing, with intermittent heating to ~ 100 °C. Nitrogen is extracted at 224 1000 °C and transferred as N₂ into a Finnigan MAT 252 mass spectrometer using a Finnigan Gas 225 Bench II and a U-trap interface in which samples of N_2 are entrained in a He stream. Details 226 regarding the calculation of N concentrations in unknowns and reference materials analysed during 227 the course of this study can be found in Halama *et al.* (2010, 2014). The analytical uncertainties for 228 N concentrations are usually $\leq 5\%$. For $\delta^{15}N$ values (referenced to the isotopic composition of 229 atmospheric N₂, "air"), uncertainties are 0.15‰ (1 σ) for samples with > 5 μ g/g N and 0.6‰ (1 σ) for 230 samples with 1-5 μ g/g N.

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#\$# *3.2. Major and trace elements*

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234 Major and trace element data of the JTS and FTS traverses were published in Beinlich *et al.* (2010) 235 and van der Straaten *et al.* (2012), respectively, and are reproduced in the supplemental dataset. 236 Major and trace elements of the Vendée traverse (supplemental dataset) were analysed by X-ray 237 fluorescence at Universität Heidelberg using a Siemens[®] SRS303 instrument equipped with a Rh-238 tube. Major and minor elements were measured on fused glass discs with an accuracy of 0.5-1%. 239 Trace elements (Cr, Ni, Sr, Zr, Ba) were measured on pressed pellets with an accuracy of 5-10%. 240 Further details about the XRF methods are given in Pauly *et al.* (2016). Lithium concentrations 241 were determined at the University of Bristol with a sample-standard bracketing technique using a 242 ThermoElectron[®]Neptune MC-ICP-MS as described in Marschall *et al.* (2007b). Concentrations 243 were determined by intensity comparison with the bracketing standard (NIST L-SVEC) and have a 244 precision of approximately $\pm 10\%$.

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247 **4. Results**

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249 In the profile representing the prograde blueschist-eclogite transformation (JTS sequence), N 250 concentrations successively decrease from the host blueschist (\sim 26 μ g/g) to the blueschist-eclogite 251 transition zone (BETZ; 19-23 μ g/g) and the eclogitic selvage (12-16 μ g/g; Figure 3a). The quartz-252 carbonate vein has the lowest N concentrations (9.5 μ g/g) and the highest δ^{15} N_{air} value (+4.8‰) in 253 this sequence (Table 1). Nitrogen isotopic compositions of the eclogitic selvage ($\delta^{15}N = +2.6 \pm$ 254 0.2‰) are slightly elevated compared to the BETZ (+2.0 \pm 0.2‰) and the host blueschists ($\delta^{15}N =$ $255 +1.8$ to $+2.3\%$). Overall, the profile shows a systematic decrease in [N] from the host wall rock 256 towards the vein, which is paralleled by LILE such as Rb (Figure 3a; supplemental dataset). Excluding the vein, the overall range in δ^{15} N in eclogites and blueschists is very limited (only about 258 1‰) with an average of $+2.1\pm0.3\%$ (n=9).

259 In the profile representing the retrograde eclogite-blueschist transition (FTS sequence), there is 260 a broad increase in N contents from the eclogite towards the blueschist, but the trend shows 261 significant scatter and there is also variability between adjacent samples from the same drill core 262 (3.1-3A and 3.1-3B). The overall range in N contents (8-27 μ g/g) is comparable to the JTS 263 sequence, but the variability in $\delta^{15}N$ is larger ($\delta^{15}N = +1.0$ to +5.4‰). $\delta^{15}N$ varies unsystematically 264 with regard to distance along the profile (Table 1). 265 In the eclogite-gneiss profile, the country rock gneisses have high N contents (14-52 μ g/g) and 266 positive $\delta^{15}N$ values (+2.9 to +5.8‰; Table 1). $\delta^{15}N$ values of both garnet amphibolites and 267 eclogites are within the range of the gneiss values, but [N] becomes increasingly lower towards the 268 eclogite with 11-24 μ g/g for the amphibolites and 10-14 μ g/g for the retrogressed eclogite (Figure 269 3b). The pristine eclogite is characterized by the lowest N concentrations (2.1-3.6 μ g/g) and the 270 lightest N isotopic compositions ($\delta^{15}N = +2.1$ to +3.6‰). The elements Ba and Li show a similar 271 behaviour as N with successively decreasing concentrations from the gneisses to the eclogites 272 (Figure 3b; supplemental dataset). 273 274 275 [Figure 3 near here] 276 [Table 1 near here] 277 278 #(* **5. Discussion** 280 #)" *5.1. Residency of nitrogen* 282 283 Nitrogen occurs as ammonium (NH_4^+) in most silicate minerals, where it substitutes for K⁺ due 284 to the similarity of these ions in charge and ionic radius. NH_4^+ is thus most strongly concentrated in

289 rocks, but NH₄⁺ may also occur in Ca-Na minerals where phengite is absent (Busingy *et al.*, 2011; 290 Halama *et al.*, 2010; 2012). The positive correlation of N with K, Ba, Rb and Cs (Figure 4) in both 291 Tianshan sequences points to a mineralogical control by phengite regarding the N concentrations in 292 the bulk rocks, because phengite is known to be the principal carrier for these elements in phengite-293 bearing eclogites and high-*P*/T metapelites (e.g., Sorensen *et al.* 1997; Zack *et al.* 2001).

285 micas and alkali feldspars in many crustal rocks (Honma and Itihara 1981), as reflected by

286 correlations of N contents with concentrations of LILE (K, Rb, Cs, Ba) in several metasedimentary #)(suites (Bebout *et al.* 1999; Busigny *et al.* 2003; Sievers *et al.* 2016, this issue). Phengite (Si-rich

#)) potassic white mica) is the main N carrier mineral in high-*P/T* metamorphosed mafic and ultramafic

294 The JTS sequence shows the most striking correlation among N abundances and LILE 295 concentrations, with a systematic decrease from host blueschists via the BETZ towards eclogites 296 and the vein (Figure 4a). The key role of phengite as N host is underlined by the decreasing modal 297 occurrence of white mica (phengite + paragonite) towards the vein (Figure 5; Beinlich *et al.* 2010). 298 The somewhat larger scatter in the FTS sequence (Figure 4b) may be related to the generally much 299 smaller concentration variations compared to the JTS sequence. Moreover, paragonite (sodic white 300 mica) forms in response to the retrograde overprint in the FTS sequence. Although paragonite is 301 capable of incorporating significant amounts of N in the order of up to 100 μ g/g (Busigny *et al.*) $302 - 2011$), phengite frequently contains several hundreds of μ g/g (Sadofsky and Bebout 2000) and is 303 hence a more likely major N host. The unsystematic variations in modal abundances of these two 304 phases are therefore thought to contribute to the scattered trends in the FTS sequence. In the 305 eclogite-gneiss profile, there is a systematic, coupled increase in N and LILE as well as Li from \$+' eclogites via retrogressed eclogites and amphibolites towards the surrounding gneisses (Figure 4c). 307 The low N contents in the eclogites are consistent with the lack of K-bearing phases. Any N present 308 is probably residing in omphacitic (Na-Ca) clinopyroxene, in agreement with observations from \$+* natural metagabbros (Busigny *et al.* 2011) and experimental results that show the potential of \$"+ clinopyroxene to incorporate N at ultrahigh pressures (Watenphul *et al.* 2010). Additional N present 311 in retrogressed eclogites and amphibolites may be incorporated into plagioclase, for which N \$"# concentrations of 2-45 µg/g have been reported, substituting for Ca and Na (Honma and Itihara \$"\$ 1981), and to a lesser degree into amphibole (2-5 µg/g N, Honma and Itihara 1981). In the gneisses, 314 N can be incorporated into muscovite and biotite, both of which can host large amounts (>1000) $315 \quad \mu$ g/g) of N (Sadofsky and Bebout 2000).

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\$## *5.2. Nitrogen elemental and isotopic characteristics*

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324 All three of the sample suites are characterized by a limited (\leq 5‰) variation in $\delta^{15}N$ and 325 positive $\delta^{15}N$ values, which distinguishes them from fresh MORB (Figure 6). Most of the $\delta^{15}N$ 326 values of the mafic samples overlap with those of global eclogites, which were interpreted to 327 largely reflect the N isotope compositions of their protolith (altered oceanic crust, AOC) with or \$#) without the effects of metamorphic dehydration (Halama *et al.* 2010). Metamorphic dehydration 329 generally causes a decrease in N concentrations and an increase in δ^{15} N values (Haendel *et al.* 1986; 330 Bebout and Fogel 1992), but the large compositional variability of AOC hinders the identification 331 of dehydration effects. At each location, some of the mafic samples have elevated N contents \$\$# relative to global eclogites, in particular the Tianshan blueschists and the Vendée amphibolites, \$\$\$ trending towards compositions of metasediments (Figure 6). In the prograde blueschist-eclogite JTS 334 sequence, the blueschists represent the rocks least affected by eclogitization-causing fluid overprint, 335 and hence may have inherited their signature during a previous metasomatic event, e.g. during 336 seafloor alteration or blueschist-facies metamorphism. The trend in the JTS sequence towards 337 relatively N-poor compositions is unlikely to be entirely due to a decreasing modal abundance of 338 white mica as suitable host mineral for N because the modal abundances of white mica are similar 339 in the host blueschists $(8-11\%)$ and the BETZ $(12-15\%)$, with only the eclogitic selvage having \$%+ lower contents (4-11%; Beinlich *et al.* 2010). Hence, the trend suggests that the fluid inducing the 341 eclogitization was relatively poor in N and probably not of sedimentary origin. This finding is in 342 agreement with the Ca and Sr isotope data pointing to a dehydrating oceanic lithosphere, i.e. AOC \$%\$ or serpentinized slab mantle, as potential fluid source (John *et al.*, 2012). An estimate for the 344 average $\delta^{15}N$ of ultramafic rocks recycled into the mantle is +3±2‰ (Halama *et al.* 2014), but 345 individual serpentinized peridotite samples have even more positive $\delta^{15}N$ values of up to +15‰ **346** (Philippot *et al.* 2007).

347 In contrast, the blueschists of the FTS sequence are among the samples that are most strongly 348 affected by retrograde metasomatism. Their elevated N contents at moderately positive $\delta^{15}N$ are 349 consistent with a metasomatic overprint by a fluid that either originated from or equilibrated with 350 metasedimentary rocks. In the Vendée profile, the field evidence clearly demonstrates increasing 351 fluid-induced overprint of the eclogite lens by fluids derived from the surrounding metasedimentary 352 gneisses, producing the sequence fresh eclogite – retrogressed eclogite – amphibolite – 353 metasedimentary gneiss. This profile allows evaluation of the effects of the metasedimentary fluids 354 on [N] and δ^{15} N in the eclogite lens. Both the N concentrations and the δ^{15} N values increase in the 355 metasomatically overprinted mafic rocks compared to the pristine eclogite. These features can be 356 explained by assuming that the country rock paragneisses with high N contents and an adequate N 357 isotopic composition were the source lithology for the metasomatic fluids, corroborating the field 358 evidence. Hence, both the Tianshan FTS and the Vendée profile underline the sensitivity of the N 359 system to sediment-derived fluids. These fluids incorporated biogenic N that was originally present 360 as organic matter in the sediments. Granitic rocks from the Cornubian batholith similarly show high 361 N contents (6-139 μ g/g) and positive $\delta^{15}N$ (+5 to +10‰) values (Boyd *et al.* 1993). These features 362 were interpreted to reflect inheritance of N of biological origin as the granites are essentially 363 derived from the anatexis of NH_4^+ -bearing metasediments that originally contained organic material 364 (Hall 1987; Boyd *et al.* 1993).

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- \$(+ *5.3. Fluid-rock interaction processes*
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\$(# In this section, we focus on the prograde blueschist-eclogite JTS sequence because it shows a 373 relatively simple mineralogical control on N contents, resulting in clear correlations that can be 374 compared to various fluid-rock interaction processes potentially affecting the rocks. Busigny and 375 Bebout (2013) summarized four types of N exchange between mineral and fluid that can be 376 distinguished during metamorphism, and each of these will be evaluated in turn:

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\$() (1) Thermal decomposition: Thermal decomposition causes the complete breakdown of mineral 379 hosts due to increasing temperatures and the onset of partial melting. This leads to a decreasing 380 modal abundance of mica and loss of N if no other suitable host phases for N, such as K-feldspar 381 (incorporation of NH₄⁺) or cordierite (incorporation of N₂ in channels of the mineral structure), are \$)# present in the melting residue (Palya *et al.* 2011). Thermal decomposition can be excluded in the \$)\$ studied profiles because there is no field or petrographic evidence for partial melting and estimates 384 of peak temperatures are too low for partial melting of mafic rocks to occur.

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386 (2) Cation exchange: Cation exchange of NH₄⁺ and K⁺ between white mica and a fluid can release 387 NH₄⁺ into the fluid if the rock equilibrates with a fluid rich in K⁺, thereby replacing NH₄⁺ in white 388 mica by K^+ (Eugster and Munoz 1966; Busigny and Bebout 2013). A similar exchange may occur 389 between NH₄⁺ and Rb⁺ or Cs⁺. This process is expected to cause a negative correlation of NH₄⁺ 390 with K^+ (and Rb^+ , Cs^+). However, all investigated profiles show a positive correlation of K and N. 391 This is the opposite behaviour to what would be expected if cation exchange was the dominant \$ 392 fluid-rock interaction process and we hence exclude cation exchange as major process.

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394 (3) Continuous metamorphic devolatilization reactions: Devolatilization reactions during prograde 395 metamorphism cause changes in mica chemistry and mica modal abundances in the rock (Bebout 396 and Fogel 1992; Bebout *et al.* 2013). During devolatilization, isotopically light N is preferentially 397 fractionated into the metamorphic fluid. Consequently, residual mica records an increase in $\delta^{15}N$ \$*) with increasing degrees of devolatilization (Haendel *et al.* 1986; Bebout and Fogel 1992; Jia *et al.*

399 2006). To test the effects of metamorphic devolatilization, we calculated the composition of the 400 residual rock for batch devolatilization and Rayleigh distillation models (Figure 7a). In an open-401 system Rayleigh distillation model, each fluid increment produced by phengite dehydration is 402 immediately removed from the rock. In contrast, the batch devolatilization model assumes that all 403 of the fluid released equilibrates with the rock and is lost in a single batch (Valley 1986).

404 The isotopic fractionation depends on the N speciation in the fluid $(N_2$ or NH₃). It is evident that 405 devolatilization models involving NH₃ cannot explain the observed trend in the JTS sequence %+' (Figure 7a). Busigny *et al.* (2003) modelled phengite chemical evolution during progressive 407 Rayleigh distillation for LILE, and we use this approach to test the applicability of continuous 408 metamorphic reactions on the prograde blueschist-eclogite JTS data set (Figure 7b, c). Different 409 partition coefficients between fluid and phengite for K, Rb, Cs and N cause fractionation between %"+ these elements during devolatilization (Melzer and Wunder 2000; Busigny *et al.* 2003). Since all 411 these elements predominantly resided in phengite, their ratios in phengite reflect those of the whole %"# rock (Zack *et al.* 2001). Caesium has a larger preference for the fluid than both Rb and N, 413 producing a relatively sharp decrease in Cs abundances and curved Rayleigh distillation trends in %"% bivariate diagrams (Figure 7b, c). The linear correlations of the measured data suggest that 415 continuous metamorphic phengite dehydration via a Rayleigh distillation process in an open system 416 cannot have caused the coupled decrease in Rb-Cs and N-Cs, respectively. The coupled losses of 417 these elements which are observed with decreasing distance to the vein do not appear to obey a K_d -418 controlled Rayleigh distillation process. However, a good fit to the JTS data is obtained for a N_2 419 batch devolatilization model, only the vein plots off the modelled trend (Figure 7a). Hence, the N 420 isotope data support a batch devolatilization process.

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426 (4) Fluid-induced breakdown of white mica: It has been shown that the eclogitization adjacent to 427 the vein structure occurred due to fluid-mediated replacement processes during which the blueschist 428 continuously equilibrated with an external fluid characterized by a composition that differed %#* strongly from that of the wall rock blueschist (Beinlich *et al.* 2010; John *et al.* 2012). Consequently, 430 the blueschist mineral assemblage has been successively replaced by a new eclogite assemblage 431 (Putnis and Austrheim 2010; Putnis and John 2010). This process can be generalised by breakdown 432 reactions such as:

- 433 2 KAl₂(Si₃AlO₁₀)(OH)₂ + 2 H⁺ = 3 Al₂SiO₅ + 3 SiO₂ + 2 K⁺ + 3 H₂O [1]
- 434 2 KAl₂(Si₃AlO₁₀)(OH)₂ = 3 Al₂SiO₅ + 3 SiO₂ + 2 K⁺ + 2 OH⁻ + H₂O [2]

435 Once liberated from phengite, N and the LILE (formerly substituting for K in phengite) enter the %\$' fluid, which mediates diffusive or advective transport towards the nearest transport vein leading to 437 long-distance element removal (Zack and John 2007). This process of fluid-induced decomposition 438 of white mica is in agreement with the coupled bulk losses of LILE and N. The combined stripping 439 of LILE and N from the blueschists requires infiltration of a K-poor fluid, which drives chemical 440 reactions towards reduced chemical potential gradients for fluid species by destroying phengite and 441 releasing LILE and N into the fluids (Breeding *et al.* 2004; John *et al.* 2012). Loss of Al₂O₃ in both 442 the BETZ (\sim 2-9%) and in the eclogitic selvage (\sim 12%) compared to the blueschist host (Beinlich *et* 443 *al.* 2010) suggest release and removal of Al during phengite breakdown. The behaviour of Si is less %%% systematic, with some relative losses in BETZ samples but also gains in the eclogitic selvage %%& (Beinlich *et al.* 2010), likely related to infiltration from the vein-forming fluid.

446 If the fluids infiltrating the rock are highly oxidising, NH_4^+ will be partially oxidised to N₂, which %%(will then be lost from the system in the fluid (Bebout and Fogel 1992; Svensen *et al.* 2008). 448 Oxidizing fluids are capable of destroying ammonium muscovite and forming kyanite and quartz by 449 the reaction (Eugster and Munoz 1966):

450 2 NH₄Al₂(Si₃AlO₁₀)(OH)₂ + 1.5 O₂ = 3 Al₂SiO₅ + 3 SiO₂ + N₂ + 6 H₂O [3]

451 More reducing fluids may cause breakdown of ammonium muscovite by the reaction

 452 2 NH₄Al₂(Si₃AlO₁₀)(OH)₂ = 3 Al₂SiO₅ + 3 SiO₂ + 2 NH₃ + 3 H₂O [4]

453 Generally, fluid-rock interaction can be considered as an important mechanism to release large 454 amounts of specific elements that are hosted by a single mineral phase. Regarding the transport of 455 LILE and N, phengite mode and breakdown rate are the most important parameters of the rock for 456 storage and release, respectively, of these elements. The combined N elemental and isotope 457 systematics suggest a scenario of fluid-induced breakdown of white mica and batch devolatilization 458 of N in the system.

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%'" *5.4. Transfer and sources of nitrogen*

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463 The prograde blueschist-eclogite transition of the JTS sequence, which is induced by 464 metasomatism, provides compelling evidence for removal of N due to phengite breakdown. Other %'& elements, such as Ca, Sr and Pb, were added by the fluid-induced overprint (Beinlich *et al.* 2010), 466 and consequently exhibit negative correlations with N contents (Figure 8). The degree to which N 467 potentially present in the fluid would have been able to exchange with the rock and alter [N] and 15^{15} N depends on the compatibility of N in the available mineral hosts and the abundance of these %'* host phases. In the metasomatically formed eclogites of the JTS sequence, no other mineral except 470 phengite is able to incorporate significant amounts of N. The $\delta^{15} N_{\text{fluid}}$ is estimated as ~ +7‰ based 471 on vein composition and the NH₄⁺-N₂ fractionation factor at 527°C from Hanschmann (1981). 472 Positive $\delta^{15}N$ that overlap the vein composition were observed in AOC from the East Pacific Rise %(\$ (Busigny *et al.* 2005) and in various (meta)sedimentary rocks (Figure 9a). However, the 474 combination of a high- $\delta^{15}N$ fluid that introduced large amounts of externally-derived Ca and Sr, but 475 not LILE, is pointing towards AOC rather than (meta)sediments as the most likely fluid source. 476 This conclusion is consistent with Ca-Sr isotope data, which demonstrated that seawater-altered 477 lithospheric rocks were the dominant source for the metasomatic fluid that induced eclogitization in 478 the JTS sequence (John *et al.* 2012). In the $\delta^{15}N - Rb/N$ diagram (Figure 9a), where mixing 479 relationships appear as straight lines, an apparent mixing trend between the JTS rock with the 480 highest Rb/N ratio and the vein composition yields a decent fit to the data points. Our preferred 481 interpretation of this apparent mixing relationship is that up to $~40\%$ of the initially present 482 phengite was destroyed by the fluid-induced overprint, in agreement with the observed decrease of %)\$ modal phengite abundance (Beinlich *et al.* 2010), causing successively decreasing Rb/N ratios 484 coupled to decreasing N contents. Changes in δ^{15} N in the overprinted eclogites compared to the 485 blueschists are minor and an externally-derived N isotope signature is not clearly discernible from 486 δ^{15} N variability due to protolith heterogeneities \pm devolatilization effects.

487 In contrast to the JTS sequence, both of the two profiles with a retrograde overprint, the FTS 488 sequence and the Vendée profile, show addition of N during metasomatism. For the FTS sequence, 489 the addition was not pervasive and systematic, as the [N]-distance relationships are scattered, 490 possibly related to the availability of fluid pathways within the rock and/or small-scale 491 heterogeneities. The straight line correlation on the $\delta^{15}N - Rb/N$ diagram (Figure 9a) points to a 492 mixing relationship, but the position of both eclogite and blueschist at the upper end of this trend 493 add a complexity likely related to the co-existence of phengite and paragonite, which precludes any 494 further conclusions.

495 Retrograde alteration in the Vendée mafic rocks was accompanied by increasing K/N ratios and 496 δ^{15} N values (Figure 9b). Any metasomatic fluid entering the eclogite lenses must have passed 497 through the surrounding paragneisses, which therefore constitute the most likely source for any 498 elements added to the eclogites. Retrogressed eclogites and amphibolites are enriched in N up to 10 499 times compared to the precursor eclogites and $\delta^{15}N$ has been changed by up to 4‰. Original 500 protolith signatures and effects of prograde metamorphism were overprinted by the retrograde 501 metamorphism as N has been transported on length scales of at least several 10s of meters, although 502 the most pristine eclogites may still preserve the original signatures. The contribution by the 503 relatively N-rich, high- $\delta^{15}N$ paragneisses is exemplified by mixing relationships between two 504 different gneisses and eclogite where the whole-rock K/N ratios are considered to approximate 505 those of the fluid (Figure 9b). Given the large spread in K/N ratios in the gneisses, fluid-mediated 506 mixing can easily explain elevated K/N in retrograde overprinted eclogites. The complete overlap in 1507 δ^{15} N between retrogressed eclogites/amphibolites and gneisses provides evidence for the great 508 sensitivity of the N isotope system to fluids that interacted with or are derived from 509 (meta)sediments. Amphibolites and retrogressed eclogites have isotopically almost fully 510 equilibrated with the gneisses, and heterogeneities, inherited from the eclogite precursor, were only 511 preserved in the inner parts of the eclogite lens. The fluid-mediated influx of N from the gneisses 512 into the eclogite lens was likely aided by transport of N via amphibole veins, which occur in the 513 eclogites and served as more effective transport pathway compared to the less permeable bulk rock. 514 The Vendée profile not only shows direct evidence for the derivation of N in a metasomatic fluid 515 from metasedimentary rocks, but, importantly, that this process can happen on length scales of 10s 516 of meters.

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&#\$ **6. Conclusions**

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525 We investigated three profiles in metasomatically overprinted high-pressure metamorphic rocks 526 to determine the effects of fluid-rock interaction on N elemental and isotopic systematics. Positive 527 correlations of N with K, Ba, Rb and Cs in blueschists and eclogites demonstrate that phengitic 528 white mica is the major N host in metamorphic rocks with mafic precursors. During prograde 529 overprint of blueschists and transformation into eclogites, the observed straight line correlations 530 between N and LILE and near-constant ratios of N/K, N/Rb, N/Cs and Cs/Rb do not resemble 531 differential losses related to differing equilibrium partitioning during metamorphic devolatilization 532 via a Rayleigh distillation process, but instead indicate that fluid-mediated N mobilization and loss 533 from the rock is related to complete breakdown of white mica. Hence, N abundances are strongly 534 controlled by the stability and presence of white mica in HP metamorphic rocks, and external N 535 contributions to the whole rock budget remain insignificant as long as no other N host forms. Fluid-536 induced breakdown of phengite in HP rocks can liberate large amounts of N that is released into the 537 fluid (Figure 10). The N isotopic compositions show only small variations that are consistent with a 538 batch devolatilization process coupled to the phengite breakdown. During fluid-induced retrograde 539 overprint of eclogites, the N system is highly sensitive to fluids that equilibrated with 540 metasedimentary rocks and can be used to trace the extent of N transport from host rocks into 541 eclogite lenses. This transport can occur over several tens of meters and affect both N 542 concentrations and isotopic compositions (Figure 10), as evidenced by a profile from 543 metasedimentary gneisses into an eclogite lens. Elevated N contents in retrogressed mafic HP rocks 544 suggest that plagioclase and amphibole are capable to incorporate N derived from metasomatic 545 fluids.

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- 784

()% **Figure captions**

785

()' **Figure 1:**

()(Locations and geological setting of the sampling areas. **A)** Simplified geological map of the ()) Chinese South Tianshan (modified after Gao *et al.* 1999). **B)** Geological map showing the Les ()* Essarts HP unit in the Southern Armorican Massif, France (modified after Mauler *et al.* 2001).

- 790
- 791 **Figure 2:**

(*# Sketches and field photographs illustrating the sample profiles for **A**) the prograde blueschist- (*\$ eclogite transition (JTS sequence; Beinlich *et al.* 2010) and **B**) the retrograde eclogite-blueschist (*% transition (FTS sequence; van der Straaten *et al.* 2012). **C)** shows a map of the La Gerbaudière 795 quarry (Saint-Philbert-de Bouaine, Vendée) in 1999 with location of the sampling traverse 796 (modified after Mauler *et al.* 2001 and Godard 2001).

797

(*) **Figure 3:**

(** Nitrogen elemental and isotopic variations in **A**) the prograde blueschist-eclogite transition (JTS)++ sequence, Tianshan) and **B**) the gneiss-eclogite traverse (Vendée). Additional trace element data for)+" the JTS sequence are from Beinlich *et al.* (2010), with a precision of <5% RSD (John *et al.* 2008;)+# van der Straaten *et al.* 2012). Uncertainties for element concentrations are smaller than the symbol 803 size.

804

)+& **Figure 4:**

)+' Elemental correlations of N with other trace elements in the three profiles studied. A) JTS sequence,)+(Tianshan, B) FTS sequence, Tianshan, C) Gneiss-eclogite traverse, Vendée.

808

)+* **Figure 5:**

810 Modal content of white mica (phengite + paragonite) in rocks of the prograde blueschist-eclogite 811 transition (JTS traverse, Tianshan; data from Beinlich *et al.* 2010) plotted versus the N 812 concentrations.

813

)"% **Figure 6:**

815 Nitrogen elemental and isotopic systematics of the analysed rocks compared to fresh MORB)"' (Busigny *et al.* 2005), eclogites (Halama *et al.* 2010), metasedimentary rocks (Bebout and Fogel)"(1992; Mingram and Bräuer 2001; Busigny *et al.* 2003) and altered oceanic crust (AOC; Busigny *et*)") *al.* 2005; Li *et al.* 2007). Colours of individual symbols are the same as in Figures 2 (JTS and FTS 819 traverses) and 3b (Vendée traverse).

820

821 **Figure 7:**

)## Metamorphic dehydration models. **A**) Batch devolatilization (solid lines) and Rayleigh distillation 823 (dashed lines) models of N isotopic compositions and concentrations, using the most N-rich 824 blueschist of the JTS sequence (JTS-A) as initial composition. Isotopic fractionation by batch 825 devolatilization is described by the equation $\delta^{15}N_f = \delta^{15}N_i - (1-F)1000$ ln α , and fractionation 826 following Rayleigh distillation is given by the equation $\delta^{15}N_f = \delta^{15}N_i + 1000(F^{(-1)} - 1)$, where $\delta^{15}N_i$ 827 and $\delta^{15} N_f$ and are the initial and final isotopic compositions of the rock, α is the fluid–rock 828 fractionation factor and F is the N fraction that remains in the rock after devolatilization.)#* Fractionation factors used in the calculations are those tabulated in Haendel *et al.* (1986) based on 830 Hanschmann (1981) for 527 °C. Tick marks give the fraction of N remaining in the rock in 10%)\$" steps. **B**) and **C**) show calculated curves of progressive phengite dehydration by Rayleigh)\$# distillation using equations and methodology outlined in Busigny *et al.* (2003) and exchange 833 coefficients (K_D values) based on experimental conditions of 2.0 GPa and 600 °C (Melzer and 834 Wunder 2000), which represent a good approximation of the natural peak P-T conditions. Rayleigh 835 distillation is modelled by fixing the initial composition and applying $K_D^{C_S-N} = 0.14$ and $K_D^{C_S-Rb} =$ 836 0.14. Tick marks give the fraction of remaining phengite after dehydration in 10% steps.

837

)\$) **Figure 8:**

839 Relationships between N, δ^{15} N and Pb, CaO in the prograde blueschist-eclogite JTS sequence. The 840 grey band indicates the average $\delta^{15}N$ value of the 9 samples from the profile, excluding the vein $841 \quad (\delta^{15} N_{\text{average}} = +2.1 \pm 0.3).$

842

)%\$ **Figure 9:**

844 Potential mixing relationships in $\delta^{15}N-Rb/N$ and $\delta^{15}N-K/N$ space for the Tian Shan profiles (A))%& and the Vendée profile (**B**). The field for altered oceanic crust (AOC) is based on data from the East)%' Pacific Rise (EPR; Busigny *et al.* 2005). Compositions of (meta)sedimentary rocks are average)%(values from five distinct locations (data from Busigny *et al.* 2003; Sadofsky and Bebout 2003,)%) 2004; Li and Bebout 2005). Solid lines are calculated mixing curves with 10% tick marks.

849

)&+ **Figure 10:**

- 851 Summary figure illustrating the processes observed in the metamorphosed mafic rock sequences of
- 852 this study.

B) South Armorican Massif

- Post-Variscan sediments
- 原乡 Variscan granites
- Champtoceaux HP unit 777,
	- Les Essarts HP unit
	- Bois-de-Céné blueschist unit
		- Other metamorphic rocks
		- Sample location

C) Vendée traverse

release into fluid

sediment-derived fluid

Table 1: Nitrogen concentration and isotope data of the three profiles investigated in this study

repl. = replicate analyses; avg. = average

RetEc = Retrogressed eclogite

b.d.l. = below detection limit