

# **GEOCHRONOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS ON POST-COLLISIONAL 1 SHEAR ZONES IN THE VARISCIDES OF SARDINIA (ITALY)**

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# 1 **Geochronological constraints on post-collisional shear zones in the** 2 **Variscides of Sardinia (Italy)**

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## 9 10 **ABSTRACT**

11 The post-collisional tectonics in the inner zone of the Variscan belt of Corsica-Sardinia  
12 recorded a dextral transpression developed with an orogen-parallel tectonic transport. Recent  
13 works documented the presence of nearly parallel dextral and sinistral crustal-scale shear  
14 zones responsible of the exhumation of the metamorphic complexes. To constrain, for the first  
15 time, the timing of both shear zones and the timing of the transpressional shearing, zircons  
16 and monazites were collected for U-Th-Pb ages. Results indicate that the shear zones have  
17 been active at *c.* 320 Ma in a transpressional setting, widespread in the Southern European  
18 Variscan belt.

## 19 20 **Introduction**

21 Shear zones represent efficient ways to exhume deep-seated rocks in collisional orogens  
22 (Passchier and Coehlo, 2006), transpressional belts (Goscombe and Gray, 2009) and  
23 extensional settings. As consequences, assessing the geometry and kinematics of mylonitic  
24 belts provide informations to individuate the mechanisms of exhumation (Xypolias and  
25 Koukouvelas, 2001; Law *et al.*, 2004; Carosi *et al.*, 2006; Larson and Godin, 2009) whereas  
26 the timing of shear activity constraints the tectono-metamorphic evolution of the exhumed  
27 rocks.

28 Sardinia island offers a continuous transect across the Southern Variscan belt from the  
29 external areas (to the south) up to the inner zone (to the north) (Carmignani *et al.*, 1994) (Fig.  
30 1). After the D1 collisional phase the inner zone was affected by an E-W striking D2 dextral  
31 transpression (Carosi and Palmeri, 2002, Carosi and Oggiano, 2002), running for more than

32 150 km, close to the boundary between the Medium Grade Metamorphic Complex (MGMC)  
33 (amphibolite-facies metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks), to the south, and the High  
34 Grade Metamorphic Complex (HGMC) (migmatites) to the north (Fig. 1). D2 transpressional  
35 shear zones contributed to the exhumation of both metamorphic complexes (Carosi *et al.*,  
36 2004, 2005; Iacopini *et al.*, 2008).

37 Despite the timing of metamorphic evolution of HGMC has been constrained by U-Pb  
38 geochronology (Giacomini *et al.*, 2005, 2006), the timing of the tectonic events is poorly  
39 defined. Di Vincenzo *et al.* (2004) constrained dextral shearing in the MGMC at nearly 320-  
40 315 Ma (Ar-Ar on white mica).

41 The aim of this paper is to constrain the age of D2 dextral and sinistral shear zones by U-  
42 Th-Pb isotopic measurements on both monazite and zircon.

43

44

#### 45 **Shear belts in the inner zone**

46 The Variscan belt in Sardinia developed from deformation and metamorphism of the  
47 northern margin of Gondwana during the Carboniferous, involving sedimentary and  
48 magmatic sequences, ranging from Cambrian to Lower Carboniferous, tectonically  
49 transported from NE to SW (Carmignani *et al.*, 1994). The belt is characterized by a prograde  
50 Barrovian metamorphism increasing from SW to NE. Between the HGMC and MGMC a D2  
51 shear belt has been recognized and for nearly 20 years it has been regarded as affected by only  
52 dextral shearing (Carmignani *et al.*, 1994).

53 Recently Carosi *et al.* (2009) documented within the D2 shear belt:

54 (1) a sinistral ductile top-to-the NW shear zone (Figs. 2 and 3) characterized by mylonites;  
55 (2) a dextral ductile to brittle-ductile top-to-the SE shear zone (Figs. 2 and 4a-b) associated  
56 to mylonites and later phyllonites. The phyllonites developed at the boundary between the two  
57 metamorphic complexes (Fig. 4).

58 D2 sinistral shear zone developed within fine-grained gneisses, sillimanite - bearing  
59 migmatites, pegmatites and alm + pl + ky ± sil micaschists and gneisses (HGMC) (Fig. 2)  
60 whereas D2 dextral shear zone developed within grt+pl ± ky± st - bearing metasedimentary  
61 sequences (MGMC) (Fig. 2) and in fine-grained gneisses (HGMC). Dextral and sinistral  
62 mylonites overprint prograde Barrovian index minerals (grt, pl, st and ky) grown during the

63 D1 collisional stage (Ricci *et al.*, 2004) whereas sillimanite grew parallel or oblique to the D2  
64 sinistral shear planes in a decompressive path (Carosi *et al.*, 2009).

65 The occurrence of dextral phyllonite around lenses containing sinistral mylonites  
66 constrains that its dextral shearing postdates the sinistral shearing event. A network of  
67 dextrally sheared cataclasites overprint both phyllonites and sinistral shear zones. According  
68 to structural relations, the sinistral shear started earlier, whereas the dextral shear event  
69 developed later and remained dominant until the rocks reached upper crustal levels (Fig. 2).

70 Deformation within both sinistral and dextral shear zones involved non-coaxial flow with a  
71 contemporaneous contribution of pure and simple shear (Frassi *et al.*, 2009). Considering the  
72 km-scale length of shear zones, the dip-slip component is potentially important in the  
73 exhumation of the metamorphites. A rough estimate of the minimum vertical displacement,  
74 calculated using L2 lineation plunge (20-25°) and the length of shear zones, is around 4 km  
75 for sinistral and 1 km for the dextral shear zones. However, as dextral shear zones developed  
76 in northern Sardinia for more than 150 km, vertical displacement must be higher.

77 D2 microstructures, thermobarometry and P-T trajectories predicted a minimum  
78 exhumation of c. 10 km and c. 10-15 km respectively for the MGMC and HGMC (Carosi and  
79 Palmeri, 2002; Carosi *et al.*, 2009; Di Vincenzo *et al.*, 2004; Casini *et al.*, 2010). Common  
80 feature of transpressional belts is that horizontal displacement is constrained by kinematics  
81 whereas vertical displacement mainly by thermobarometry (Goscombe and Gray, 2009).

82

### 83 **U-Th-Pb geochronology**

84 Two samples from dextral shear zone (TDx and GDx) and three samples from sinistral shear  
85 zone (BSx, GSx2 and GSx3) were selected for U-Th-Pb analyses (Table 1; Fig. 2).

86 U-Th-Pb geochronology was carried out on zircons and monazites, with excimer laser  
87 ablation (ELA)-ICP-MS using spot size of 20 µm (Table 2). Zircons and monazites were  
88 separated with conventional methods and selected by different morphology, colors and  
89 dimensions. Before undertaking analysis, zircons and monazite structures were investigated  
90 by cathodoluminescence (CL) and backscattered electrons (BSE), respectively.

91

### 92 **D2 sinistral mylonites**

93 *Zircons*

*Constraints on the age of shear belts in Sardinia*

94 Zircons from sinistral mylonites have a prismatic habitus and inherited cores surrounded by  
95 multiple overgrowths (Fig. 5a). Relicts of igneous textures such as oscillatory zoning  
96 characterize most of the domains. Occasionally the most inner cores display a rounded shape  
97 that can be related either to sedimentary transport or magmatic resorption (Vavra *et al.*, 1999).

98 Samples GSx3 and GSx2 give U-Pb Carboniferous ages yielding a mean Concordia age at  
99  $318 \pm 5$  Ma (Fig. 6a).

100 Some inherited cores with rounded shape reveal Proterozoic ages from 716 up to 2450 Ma  
101 (Appendix 2). Overgrowths with oscillatory zoning show a large and poorly defined cluster in  
102 the Proterozoic (between 550 and 650 Ma) and two well defined major clusters at  $436 \pm 10$  and  
103  $480 \pm 8$  Ma (Fig. 6a). Noticeably some Lower Carboniferous age at  $354 \pm 14$  Ma and  $330 \pm 14$   
104 Ma were found, corresponding to a metamorphic recrystallisation over an original magmatic  
105 texture (Fig. 5a).

106 Zircons from sample BSx show a major cluster at 460 Ma. Inherited cores with evidence of  
107 resorption yield older ages from *c.* 512 up to 620 Ma. No Carboniferous ages were found  
108 (Appendix 2).

109

#### 110 *Monazite*

111 Monazite crystals show euhedral habitus. BSE images reveal the presence of multiple  
112 domains that are either continuous rims around a darker core or minor patches scattered  
113 within the crystal. Only few homogeneous grains were observed. Monazites from samples  
114 GSx2 and GSx3 show lesser-marked zoning than monazites from sample BSx. Monazites  
115 from sample GSx2 do not show the occurrence of multiple age domains. Eleven of the fifteen  
116 analyses yield U-Pb concordant results with a mean age of  $325 \pm 4$  Ma (2s; MSWD=1.4) that is  
117 statistically equivalent to the mean  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  age of  $320 \pm 2$  Ma (2s; MSWD=0.7) obtained  
118 from the same data set.

119 Results on monazite from sample GSx3 closely resemble those from sample GSx2  
120 (Fig.6b). Nine of the twelve analyses yield U-Pb concordant ages with a mean value of  $326 \pm 4$   
121 Ma (2s; MSWD=0.98). The mean  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  age from the same data set is slightly younger  
122 ( $316 \pm 5$  Ma 2s; MSWD=3.5) but still consistent with the U-Pb age. No evidence of multiple  
123 age domains was observed.

124 23 analyses out of forty analyses from sample BSx gave U-Pb concordant results. Data  
125 define two major U-Pb age peaks at  $321 \pm 8.0$  Ma (2s; 8 analyses; MSWD=3.4) and  $453 \pm 7.8$   
126 Ma (2s; 12 analyses; MSWD=2.6) (Fig. 6b, Appendix 3). A minor peak at  $389 \pm 11$  Ma (2s; 2

127 analyses) and a single U-Pb concordant age at  $502\pm 19$  Ma (2s) were also observed.  
128  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  ages are generally within error with U-Pb results. The analyses carried out on the  
129 bright outer domains give ages in the  $321\pm 8.0$  Ma cluster in agreement with the results  
130 obtained on the GSx2 and GSx3 samples. The older ages were obtained in the inner cores and  
131 on the darker zones and are probably inherited domains.

132

### 133 **D2 dextral mylonites**

#### 134 *Zircons*

135 Zircons from sample GDx have inherited cores and multiple overgrowths. Inner cores have  
136 round shape and no clear internal structure. Most of the overgrowths display a clear  
137 oscillatory zoning of magmatic origin. From zircon H1 a succession of event can be defined  
138 (Fig. 5b; Table 3). The inner core with an age of  $531\pm 16$  Ma is overgrown by a first domain  
139 with oscillatory zoning at  $482\pm 17$  Ma and by a second domain at  $442\pm 13$  Ma. The same ages  
140 are found in other zircon crystals. An older age at  $691\pm 17$  Ma and a significantly younger age  
141 ( $299\pm 10$  Ma) obtained at the outermost rim of crystal H4 (Fig. 5b; Table 3), were also found.  
142 Half of the age determinations from zircons in samples TDx yield concordant Proterozoic  
143 ages spanning from  $597\pm 17$  to  $1016\pm 21$  Ma (Appendix 2).

144

#### 145 *Monazites*

146 Monazites from the dextral mylonites are generally smaller than those from the sinistral  
147 mylonites. BSE images do not reveal the presence of clear distinct domains or inheritance.  
148 Monazite crystals are generally homogeneous or patchy with irregular and lobate grain  
149 boundaries. Quartz inclusions are frequently observed (Fig. 7b).

150 In sample GDx only two of the 23 analyses yield U-Pb concordant results with a mean of  
151  $324\pm 6.5$  Ma (2s) that overlap the  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  age of  $328\pm 6$  Ma (Fig. 8b). Few U-Pb discordant  
152 data give relatively young  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  ages spanning from 278 to 207 Ma.  
153 They most likely track late stage alteration processes that has partially reset the U-Th-Pb  
154 system.

155 In sample TDx, 11 of the 29 analyses yield U-Pb concordant ages with a mean value of  
156  $321\pm 4$  Ma (2s; MSWD=0.95). The  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  mean age at  $319\pm 3.3$  Ma (2s; MSWD =0.44)  
157 is in good agreement with the U-Pb results.

158

159 **Discussion**

160 Carosi *et al.* (2009) documented the presence of a sinistral shearing along the boundary  
161 between MGMC and HGMC. The superposition relationships indicate that sinistral shear  
162 zones started earlier than the dextral ones during the D2 transpressional event causing the  
163 early exhumation of the HGMC (Frassi *et al.*, 2009). However, U-Th-Pb geochronology with  
164 associated analytical errors do not allow to clearly separate sinistral and dextral shear events.  
165 This could be indicative of an initial activation of the sinistral shear belt and a shortafter  
166 switch to a dextral shearing. Ar/Ar data on dextral mylonites in northeastern Sardinia (Di  
167 Vincenzo *et al.*, 2004) give younger ages (320-315 Ma) and in addition to this dextral  
168 brittle/ductile mylonites overprint both sinistral and dextral shear zones. The occurrence of  
169 granitoids (e.g. Badesi granodiorite) emplaced at c. 300 Ma during the latest stages of dextral  
170 shearing (Oggiano *et al.*, 2007) allow to infer that dextral shear belt was active for a longer  
171 time with respect to the sinistral one.

172 The presence in dextral mylonites of relatively small monazite grains with irregular and  
173 lobate grain boundaries and homogeneous or patchy compositional domains (Fig. 7b) may be  
174 connected to successive dissolution/recrystallization events (Parrish, 1990; Bosse *et al.*, 2009  
175 with references) related to fluid circulation. This may be confirmed by (1) the presence of  
176 younger ages until c. 260 Ma, (2) the presence of inclusions of quartz and the absence of  
177 inherited domains in monazite grains in dextral mylonites and (3) the partial resetting of  
178 monazite chronometers in the lenses of sinistral mylonites enveloped by dextral low-strain  
179 phyllonites. On the contrary, monazite from sinistral mylonites far from phyllonites (sample  
180 BSx) show straight boundaries and continuous rims with younger ages recorded close to rims  
181 and older ages recorded within the cores (Fig. 7a).

182 The new isotopic data presented above, lead to constrain at c. 320 Ma the switch from  
183 sinistral to the dextral shear (Frassi *et al.*, 2009). The dextral shear belt remained active for at  
184 least 15-20 Ma at upper structural levels partly matching the emplacement of the late Variscan  
185 batholith.

186

187 The activity of complex Variscan crustal-scale shear zones during exhumation of high-  
188 grade metamorphic rocks has been documented by Giacomini *et al.* (2008) in the granulites  
189 and amphibolites of southeast Corsica (Fig. 9). According to these authors sinistral shear  
190 zones at c. 320 Ma were active before the dominant dextral shear belt. In this frame, our

191 results suggest that at *c.* 320 Ma the low- and high-grade metamorphic complexes of Corsica-  
192 Sardinia block were affected by a network of sinistral and dextral shear belts causing  
193 exhumation by an overall transpressional deformation with an orogen-parallel tectonic  
194 transport. This could be caused by a change of orientation of the belt with respect to the  
195 regional stress field (Frassi *et al.*, 2009).

196 After an initial nearly orthogonal convergence the collisional belt evolved toward a  
197 transpressional-dominated deformation and orogen-parallel tectonic transport (Carosi and  
198 Palmeri, 2002, Carosi *et al.* 2005). The part of Gondwana margin from which Sardinian  
199 tectonic units were originated, was oriented with respect to the regional principal stress  $\sigma_1$  in  
200 the right way to develop sinistral shearing. The switch to dextral shearing was caused by a  
201 relative rotation of the shear belt with respect to the regional principal stress  $\sigma_1$  (Frassi *et al.*,  
202 2009). This rotation could have been triggered by the developing oroclinal bends of the  
203 Variscan belt leading later to the Ibero-Armorican arc on the western part of the belt (Ribeiro  
204 *et al.*, 2007) and to another oroclinal bend on the eastern side (Fig. 10) (Corsini and Rolland,  
205 2009).

206 The datation at  $\sim$  320 Ma of the dextral shear belt in Sardinia confirms the proposed  
207 correlation with the dextral shear zones occurring in Corsica, Maures-Esterel and in the  
208 External Crystalline Massifs (ECM) connected to the regional East Variscan Shear Zone by  
209 Corsini and Rolland (2009) and Guillot and Ménot (2009) (Fig.10).

210 Zircons and monazites from sinistral mylonites show a major Ordovician cluster at 440-  
211 450 Ma, whereas older ages have been found only in the inherited core of zircons.

212 The data are in agreement with Giacomini *et al.* (2006) that suggest the presence of a late  
213 Ordovician magmatism active in the HGMC emplaced in an extensional back-arc setting.  
214 Similar model and ages have been reported in the ECM (Guillot and Menot, 2009)  
215 strengthening a common Paleozoic evolution for this part of the Variscan belt.

216

217 Moreover, in the last decades metamorphic core complexes have been indicated as  
218 responsible of the exhumation of deep seated rocks in the Variscides (e.g. Costa and Rey,  
219 1995). Otherwise, in some localities of the Variscan belt such as Sardinia, Corsica (Giacomini  
220 *et al.*, 2008), NE Spain (Carreras, 2001; Druguet, 2001; Vilà *et al.*, 2007) Maures - Esterel  
221 massif (Corsini and Rolland, 2009) and External Crystalline Massifs (Guillot and Menot,  
222 2009), transpression tectonics have been documented contributing to the exhumation of deep  
223 seated rocks at  $\sim$  320 Ma.



224

225

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349

350

**351 Figure captions**

352

**353 Fig. 1.** Geological sketch map of northern Sardinia and location of study area.

354

355 **Fig. 2.** (a) Geological sketch map of metamorphic complexes in south-western Gallura and  
356 location of samples used for U-Th-Pb isotopic measurements. Illustration includes orientation  
357 data (Schmidt diagram, lower hemisphere) of main structural elements (A2: F2 fold axes; S2:  
358 foliation; L2: object lineation; A3: F3 fold axes) from Medium Grade Metamorphic Complex  
359 and High Grade Metamorphic Complex. Sketched geological cross-section showing the  
360 appearance of Barrovian mineral (mineral abbreviation after Kretz, 1983) and the Medium  
361 and High Grade Metamorphic Complexes.

362

363 **Fig. 3.** Sinistral top-to-the NW shear zones and related orientation data (C': shear planes; S:  
364 mylonitic foliation; Lest: mineral lineation), representative of Samples GSx2-GSx3 (a) and  
365 representative of Sample BSx (b) respectively (1,5 cm coin for scale). (c)-(d)  
366 Photomicrographs of sinistral shear zones (plane polarized light). In (c) kyanite (Ky) is  
367 unstable and deformed by sinistral shearing (top-right corner) whereas sillimanite (Sil) grew  
368 parallel or oblique to S2 mylonitic foliation, constraints its growth during (or later) the  
369 decompressive path produced by the D2 oblique transpressive regime.

370

371 **Fig. 4.** Dextral top-to-the SE shear belt and related orientation data (C': shear planes; S:  
372 mylonitic foliation; Lest: mineral lineation). (a) D2 S-C and S-C' mylonitic fabrics from  
373 kyanite-bearing micaschists (five cent coins for scale). (b) Photomicrograph of S2 mylonitic  
374 foliation wrapped around deformed crystals of kyanite (Ky), staurolite (St) and plagioclase  
375 (Pl) (Bt: biotite, Ms: muscovite; Grt: garnet; plane polarized light). (c) Photomicrograph of  
376 phyllonites. Note the weak development of shear planes (C') at low angle respect to the  
377 mylonitic foliation. (d) Millimetric-thick cataclasites (grey dash lines).

378

379 **Fig. 5.** SEM-cathodoluminescence images of some zircon crystals separated from sinistral (a)  
380 and dextral (b) shear zones. Dimension and location of analytical spot and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  isotopic  
381 ages ( $2\sigma$  error) are also showed. Data from Appendix 2.

382

383 **Fig. 6.** U/Th/Pb isotopic data from sinistral top-to-the NW shear belt. (a) U/Pb concordia  
384 diagram and related histogram and density curve for zircons. Main Variscan events are also  
385 showed. (b) Th/Pb and U/Pb histograms and density curves for monazites.

386

387 **Fig. 7.** BSE images and rim-to-rim age traverses of some monazite crystals separated from  
388 sinistral (a) and dextral (b) shear belts. The location and the size of ICP-MS laser ablation  
389 spots and their corresponding Th/Pb/U ages ( $2\sigma$  error) are also showed. Data from Appendix  
390 3.

391

392 **Fig. 8.** U/Th/Pb isotopic data from dextral top-to-the SE shear belt. (a) U/Pb concordia  
393 diagram and related histogram and density curve for zircons. (b) Th/Pb and U/Pb histograms  
394 and density curves for monazites.

395

396 **Fig. 9.** Sinistral (A) and dextral (B) steeply dipping shear zones, showing an orogen-parallel  
397 tectonic transport in the High Grade Metamorphic Complex of Southern Corsica, in Between  
398 Fautea and Solenzara, dated at  $\sim 320$  Ma by Giacomini *et al.* (2008).

399

400 **Fig. 10.** Permian reconstruction of the Variscan belt of western Europe (modified after Guillot  
401 & Menot, 2009). The East Variscan shear zone affects the External Crystalline massifs and  
402 Corsica and Sardinia (Sa: Sardinia; Co: Corsica; arg: Argentera massif; Bell-ois: Belledonne-  
403 Ois. Ar-mbt: Mont Blanc; aar-go: Aar-Gottard massifs; SASZ: South Armorica Shear Zone;  
404 CCSZ:Coimbra-Cordoba Shear Zone). The age of  $\sim 320$  Ma for shear zones in Corsica is  
405 from Giacomini *et al.* (2008).

406

407 **Table 1.** Analyzed samples.

408

409 **Table 2** (ELA)-ICP-MS operating conditions.

410

411 **Appendix 1** – Analytical Methods.

412

413 **Appendix 2.** (ELA)-ICP-MS isotopic data and calculated ages for zircons.

414 Time resolved signals were carefully inspected to detect common Pb and perturbations related  
415 to inclusions or fractures in zircon crystal that were excluded from integration intervals.  
416 Errors associated to the external standard reproducibility were propagated to each analysis  
417 according to Horstwood *et al.* (2003).

418

419 **Appendix 3.** (ELA)-ICP-MS isotopic results and calculated ages for monazites.  
420 Analyses were carried out in the different domains revealed by BSE images. In order to have  
421 the most robust as possible results only data giving U-Pb concordant ages were considered.  
422 The presence of common Pb in monazite was monitored with the  $^{204}\text{Pb}$  signal. However, the  
423 relatively high background prevents to detect small amounts of common Pb that may  
424 significantly alter the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  ratio. For this reason data interpretation was based on the  
425  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ratios. All errors are reported in the text at  $2\sigma$  level.  
426

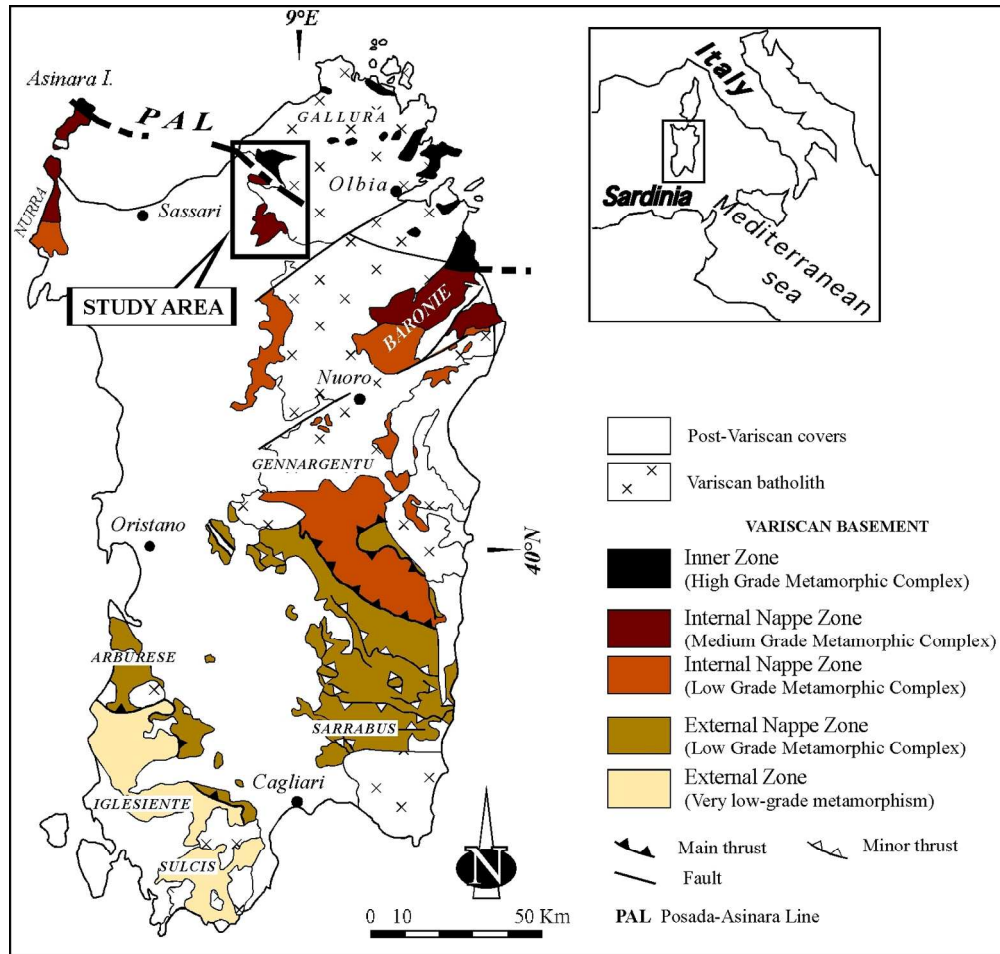


Fig. 1 Carosi et al.

Figure 1 color image  
147x155mm (300 x 300 DPI)



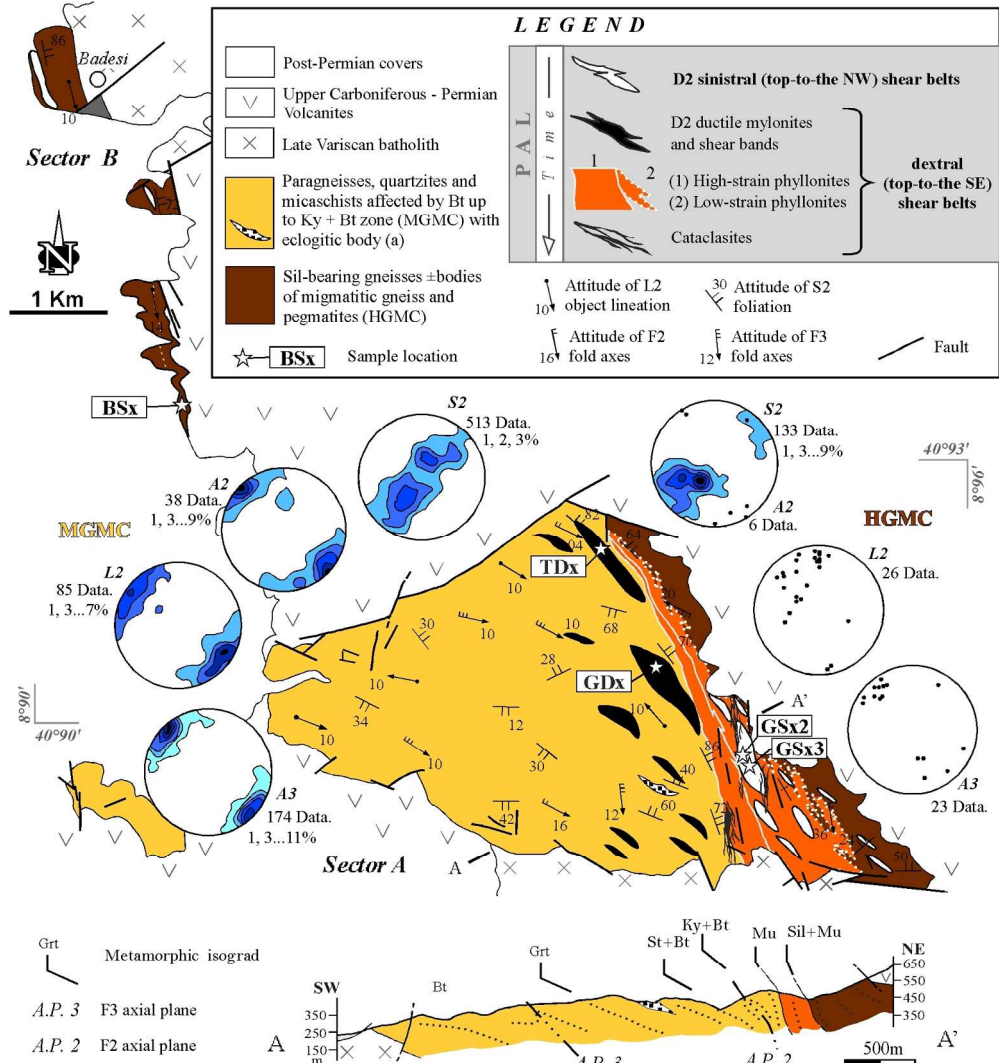


Fig 2  
Carosi et al.

Fig 2 color image, redwan  
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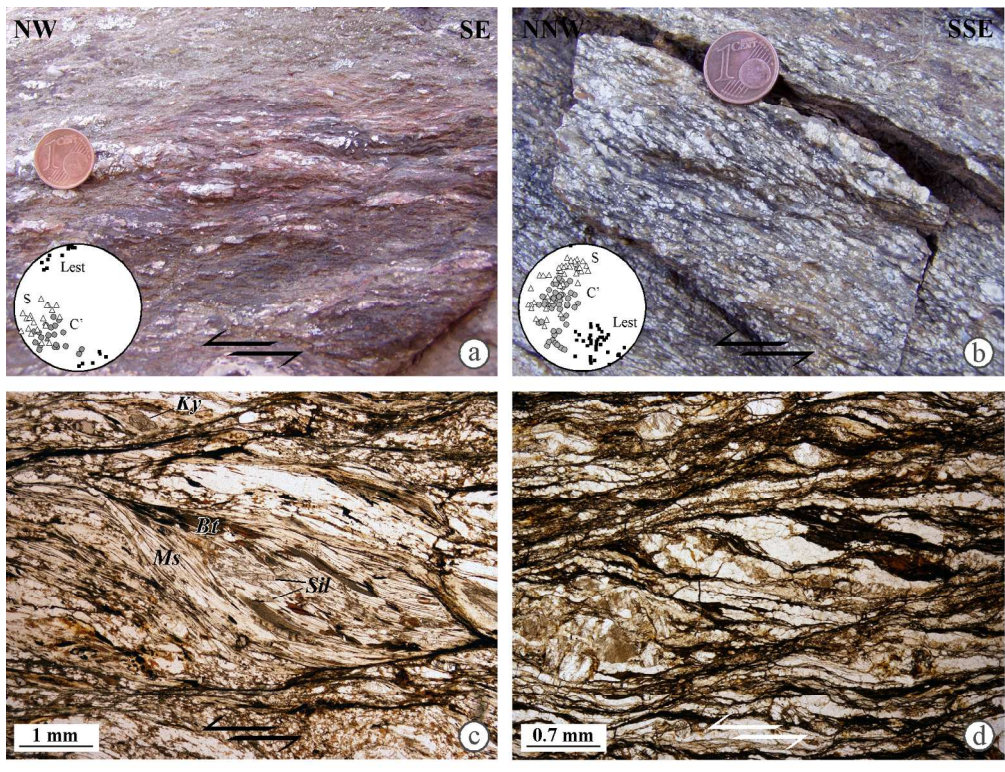


Fig. 3  
Carosi et al.

Fig. 3  
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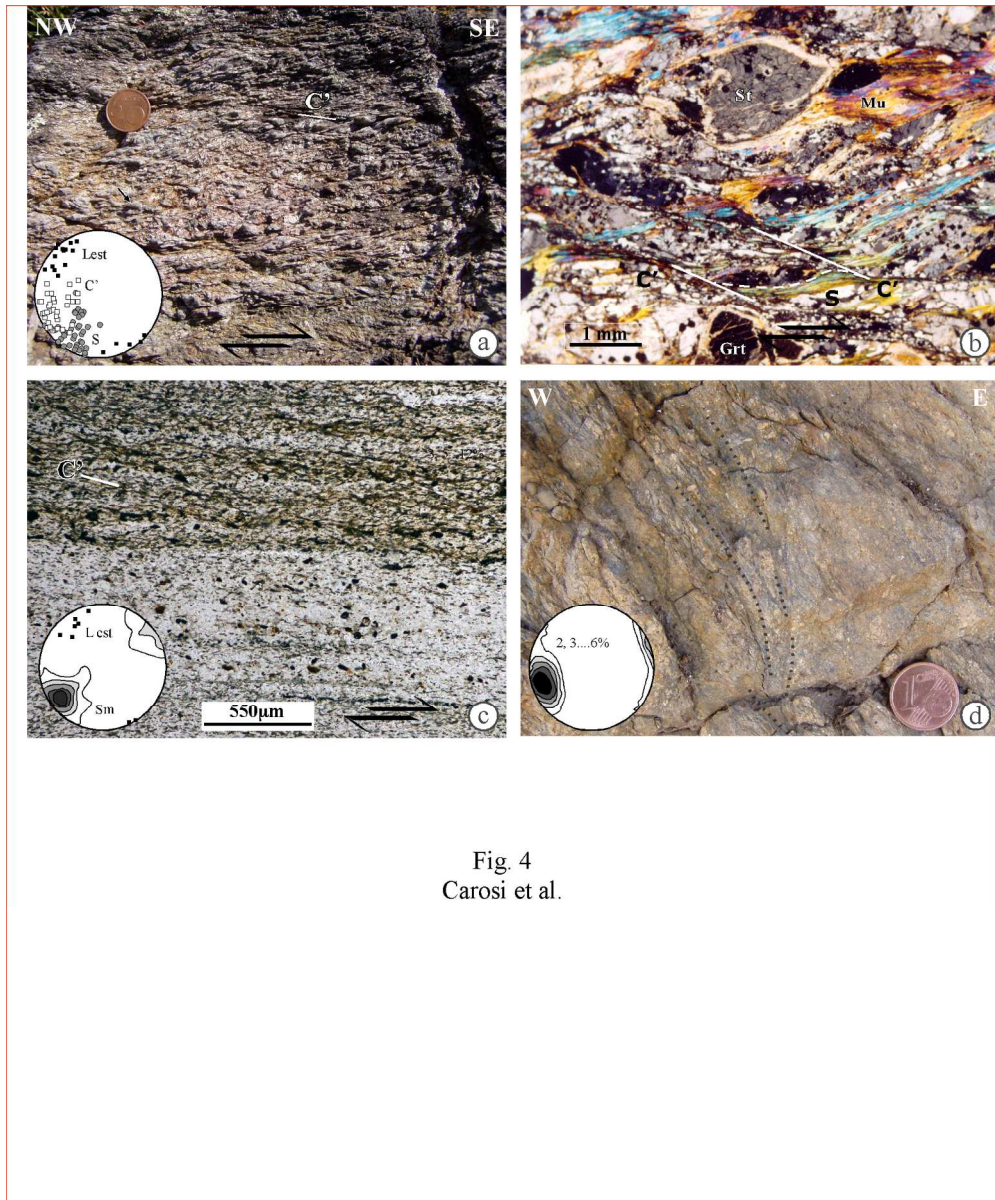


Fig. 4  
Carosi et al.

Fig. 4  
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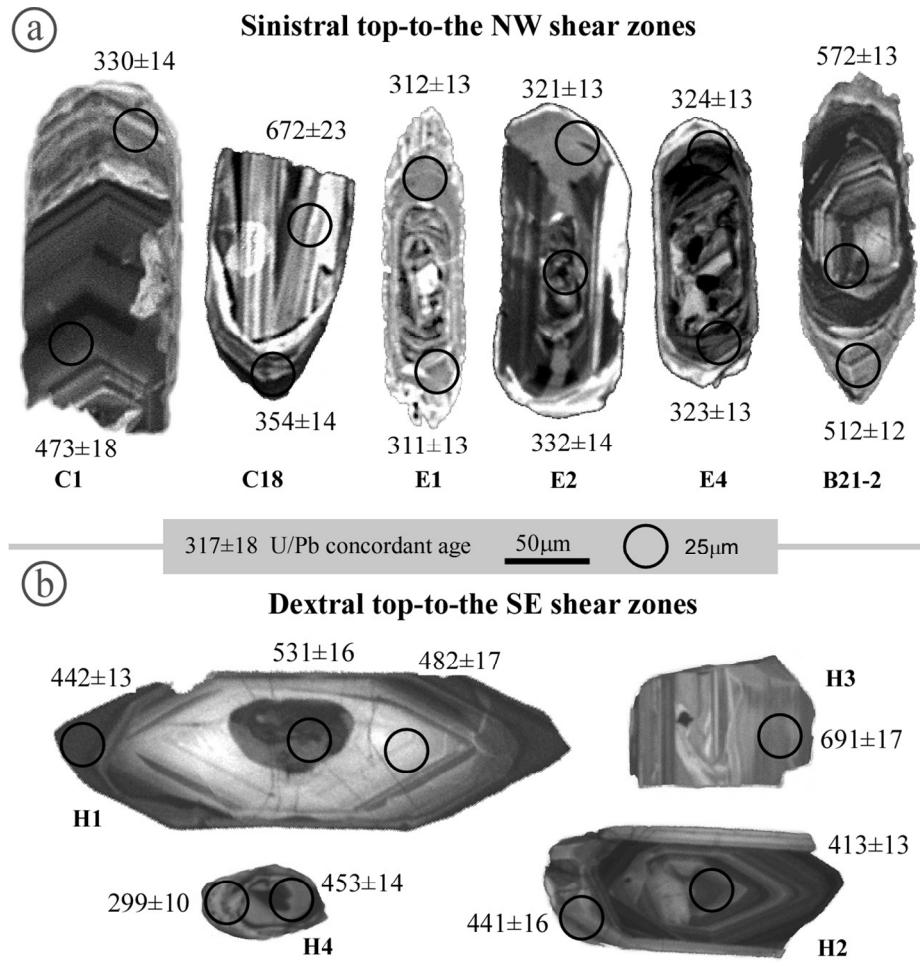


Fig. 5  
Carosi et al.

Fig. 5  
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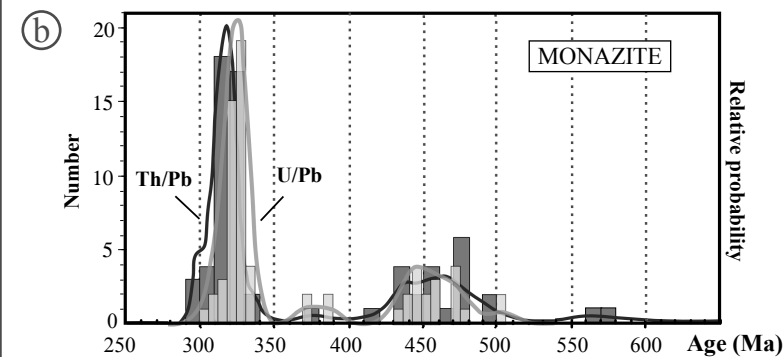
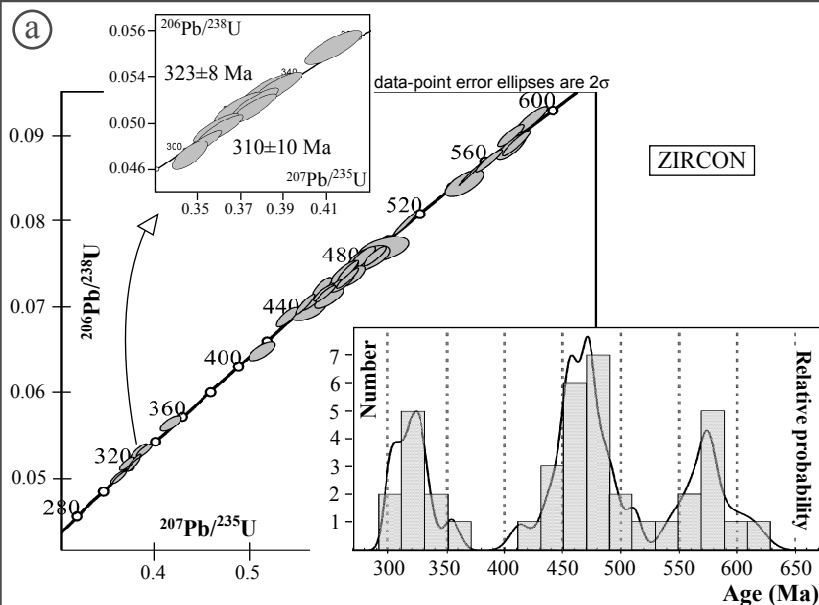


Fig. 6  
Carosi et al.

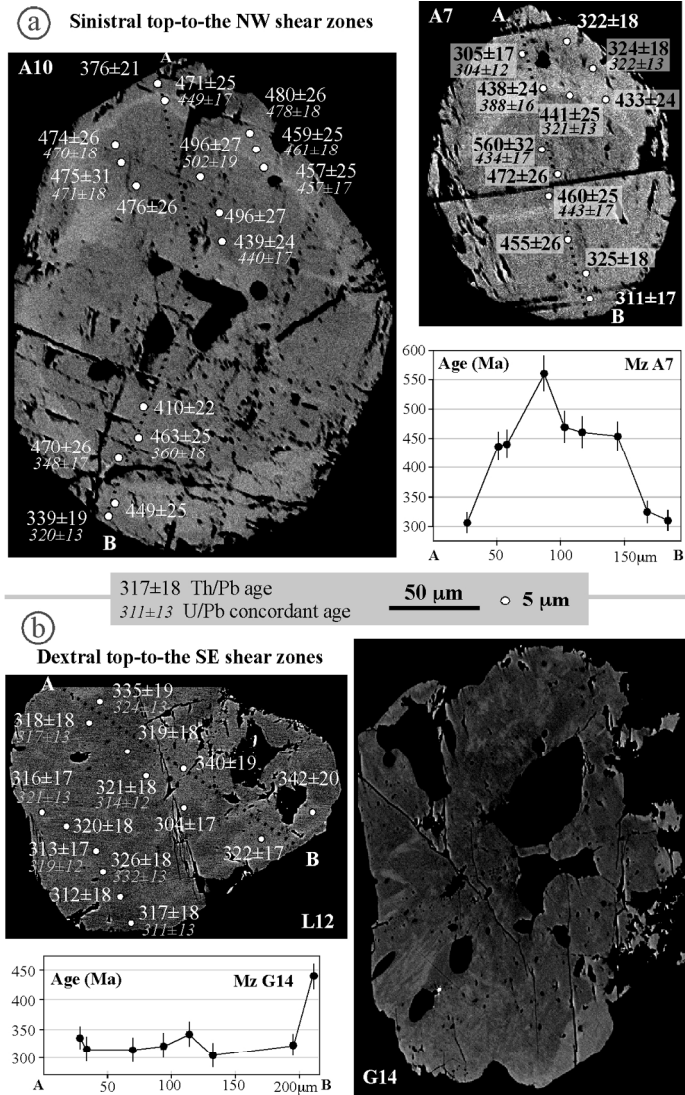


Fig. 7  
Carosi et al.

Fig. 7  
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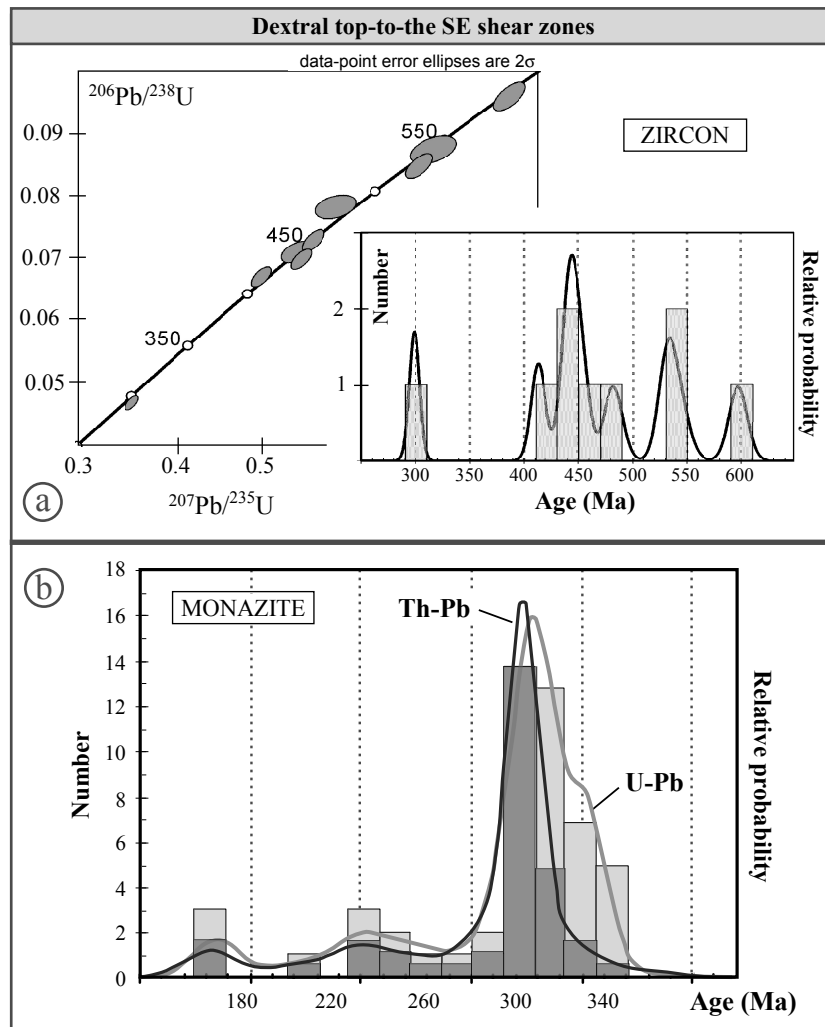


Fig. 8  
Carosi et al.



**Fig. 9**

Fig. 9  
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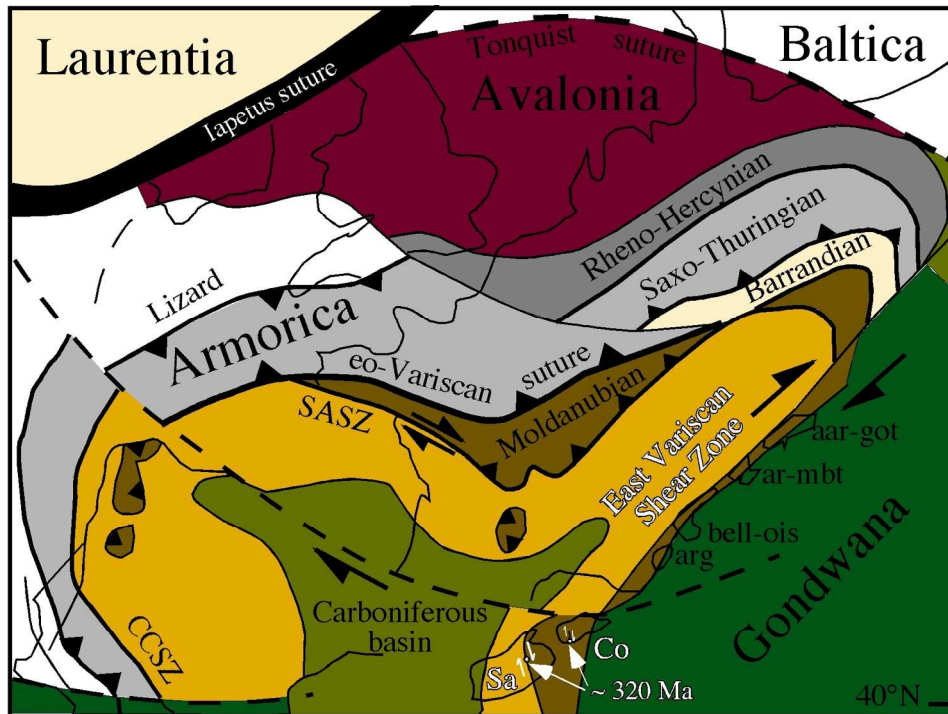


Fig.10 Carosi et al.

Fig. 10 new figure, color image  
161x151mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Sample	Shear belt	Tectonic unit	Rock type	Mineral assemblage	Kinematic indicators	S plane	C-C' plane	Monazite	Zircon
<i>TDx</i> <i>G Dx</i>	Dextral top-to-the SE	MGMC	Mylonitic micaschist	Grt, Bt, Pl, K-feld, St, Ky, Ms, Rt, Chl, Qtz	S-C/C' fabric, foliation fish, $\sigma/\delta$ porphyroclasts, Ms-/Bt-fish	Ms and Bt layers that enveloped kyanite, staurolite, garnet plagioclase crystals	Fine layers of insoluble material and thin and strongly recrystallized Qtz	Scarce, small and difficult to document in thin section	Small and elonged parallel to the mylonitic foliation
<i>GSx2</i> <i>GSx3</i>	Sinistral top-to-the NW	HGMC	Mylonitic micaschist	Grt, Bt, Pl, K-feld, Ky, Sill, Ms, Rt, Chl, Qtz	S-C/C' fabric, $\sigma/\delta$ porphyroclasts, Ms-/Bt-fish	Layers of fine grained Ms and Bt crystals, and layers of Olig and plastically deformed Qtz ribbons	Oxides and locally small Qtz grains strongly interested by sub-grain rotation recrystallization	Difficult to document in thin section	Small and elonged parallel to the mylonitic foliation
<i>BSx</i>	Sinistral top-to-the NW	HGMC	Fine-grained mylonitic gneiss	Bt, Pl, K-feld, Ms, Rt, Chl, Qtz	S-C/C' fabric, $\sigma/\delta$ porphyroclasts, Ms-/Bt-fish				

Table 1- Samples description

Table 2 (ELA)-ICP-MS operating conditions

<b>Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)</b>	
Model	Element I, ThermoFinnigan
Type	single collector double focusing magnetic sector ICP-MS
RF power	1100W
Gas flow:	<i>cooling</i> 13.5 l/min <i>auxiliary</i> 1.5 l/min <i>carrier I (Ar)</i> 1.0 l/min <i>carrier II (He)</i> 1.0 l/min
Acquired masses	$^{202}\text{Hg}$ , $^{204}(\text{Pb}+\text{Hg})$ , $^{206}\text{Pb}$ , $^{207}\text{Pb}$ , $^{208}\text{Pb}$ , $^{232}\text{Th}$ , $^{238}\text{U}$
<b>Laser ablation</b>	
Model	Geolas 200Q
Type	ArF excimer laser (Compex 102 from MicroLas)
Wave length	193 nm
Repetition rate	5 Hz(Zircon); 3 Hz (Monazite)
Fluency	12 J/cm <sup>2</sup>
Spot diameter	25 $\mu\text{m}$ (Zircon); 10 $\mu\text{m}$ (Monazite)
<b>Procedure</b>	
Zircon	Tiepolo (2003);Giacomini <i>et al.</i> (2006)
Monazite	Gasquet <i>et al.</i> (2010).
<b>Standard</b>	
Zircon	zircon 91500, 1064 Ma (Wiedenbeck <i>et al.</i> 1995)
Monazite	Moacir monazite (Seydoux-Guillaume <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
<b>Software</b>	
Data reduction	GLITTER (van Achtenberg <i>et al.</i> 2001).
Concordant ages	Isoplot (Ludwig 2003)

## Appendix 1

In-situ U-Pb geochronology of zircon and monazite was carried out with an excimer laser ablation (ELA)-ICPMS at C.N.R.-I.G.G.-U.O.S. of Pavia. The laser ablation instrument consists an ArF excimer laser microprobe at 193 nm (Geolas200Q-Microlas) with a sector field high resolution ICPMS Element I from Thermo Finnigan. The analytical methods are basically those described in Tiepolo (2003) and Paquette & Tiepolo (2007). Instrumental and laser-induced U/Pb fractionations were corrected with the matrix-matched external standard approach using the 91500 zircon (Wiedenbeck et al., 1995) and the Moacir monazite (Seydoux-Guillaume et al., 2002; Gasquet et al., 2010). The same integration intervals and spot size were used on both the external standard and unknowns. The spot size was set to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  for zircon and to 10  $\mu\text{m}$  for monazite. Laser fluency is  $12\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$ . Data reduction was carried out using the “Glitter” software package (van Achterbergh et al., 2001) setting at 1% the error of the external standard. During each analytical run the reproducibility on the standards was propagated to all determinations according to the equation in Horstwood et al. (2003). After this operation, analyses are considered accurate within quoted errors. Concordia ages were determined and Concordia plots were constructed using the Isoplot/EX 3.0 software (Ludwig, 2003). All errors in the text are given at  $2\sigma$  level.

## Appendix 2 (ELA)-ICP-MS U/Pb isotopic data and calculated ages from zircons.

Sample	Zircon	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U		<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U		<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U		<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U		Concordia	
		ratio	±1σ	ratio	±1σ	Age	±1σ	Age	±1σ	Age	±2σ
GSx2	C25r	0.0948	0.0020	0.7641	0.0177	584	12	576	13	575	20
GSx2	C24r	0.3085	0.0067	44.698	0.1083	1734	37	1725	42	1720	34
GSx2	C2c	0.0764	0.0017	0.5916	0.0152	475	10	472	12	473	19
GSx2	C3r	0.0782	0.0017	0.6096	0.0155	486	11	483	12	484	19
GSx2	C3c	0.0794	0.0018	0.6316	0.0219	493	11	497	17	493	21
GSx2	C4/1r	0.0722	0.0016	0.5509	0.0133	449	10	446	11	446	17
GSx2	C4/2c	0.1026	0.0022	0.8580	0.0221	630	14	629	16	629	24
GSx2	C5r	0.0782	0.0018	0.6169	0.0193	486	11	488	15	486	21
GSx2	C6r	0.0660	0.0014	0.5063	0.0137	412	9	416	11	413	17
GSx2	C7/1c	0.4583	0.0099	10.084	0.2390	2432	52	2443	58	2449	31
GSx2	C7/2c	0.1097	0.0024	0.9342	0.0239	671	15	670	17	670	25
GSx2	C8c	0.0963	0.0021	0.7836	0.0195	593	13	588	15	588	22
GSx2	C9r	0.4611	0.0097	10.038	0.2351	2445	51	2438	57	2435	33
GSx2	C9c	0.4732	0.0098	10.238	0.2348	2498	52	2457	56	2433	32
GSx2	C10/1c	0.0942	0.0020	0.7632	0.0182	580	12	576	14	576	21
GSx2	C10/2c	0.1175	0.0025	10.238	0.0246	716	15	716	17	716	25
GSx2	C11r	0.0880	0.0019	0.7146	0.0199	544	12	548	15	545	22
GSx2	C11m	0.1001	0.0022	0.8315	0.0210	615	13	615	16	615	23
GSx2	C11c	0.1039	0.0023	0.8726	0.0219	637	14	637	16	637	24
GSx2	C12Ac	0.0894	0.0019	0.7222	0.0174	552	12	552	13	552	21
GSx2	C13Ac	0.0976	0.0021	0.8095	0.0216	600	13	602	16	601	24
GSx2	C15r	0.1194	0.0025	10.757	0.0266	727	15	742	18	739	26
GSx2	C14c	0.0785	0.0016	0.6225	0.0150	487	10	491	12	490	18
GSx2	C17A	0.0737	0.0015	0.5707	0.0138	458	10	459	11	458	18
GSx2	C17B	0.0766	0.0016	0.5951	0.0142	476	10	474	11	475	18
GSx2	C20A	0.0705	0.0015	0.5321	0.0133	439	9	433	11	436	17
GSx2	C20B	0.0713	0.0016	0.5545	0.0166	444	10	448	13	445	18
GSx2	C22	0.1468	0.0031	13.845	0.0327	883	18	882	21	882	27
GSx2	C23r	0.1056	0.0023	0.8988	0.0227	647	14	651	16	649	24
GSx2	C1r	0.0529	0.0011	0.3812	0.0098	332	7	328	8	330	14
GSx2	C1c	0.0757	0.0016	0.5945	0.0144	470	10	474	11	473	18
GSx2	C18c	0.1097	0.0023	0.9370	0.0221	671	14	671	16	672	23
GSx2	C18r	0.0566	0.0012	0.4132	0.0109	355	8	351	9	354	14
GSx2	C23c	0.1268	0.0027	11.219	0.0272	769	16	764	19	761	26
GSx3	E1r1	0.0496	0.0011	0.3577	0.0089	312	7	311	8	311	13
GSx3	E1r2	0.0494	0.0011	0.3601	0.0087	311	7	312	8	312	13
GSx3	E2r	0.0513	0.0011	0.3682	0.0091	323	7	318	8	321	13
GSx3	E2c	0.0530	0.0011	0.3865	0.0097	333	7	332	8	332	14
GSx3	E4r1	0.0517	0.0011	0.3760	0.0090	325	7	324	8	324	13
GSx3	E4r2	0.0512	0.0011	0.3751	0.0090	322	7	323	8	323	13
GSx3	E6r	0.0481	0.0010	0.3507	0.0082	303	6	305	7	304	12
BSx	6/2c	0.076	0.001	0.6020	0.010	472	5	479	8	473	11
BSx	5/1c	0.1016	0.001	0.8500	0.018	624	8	625	14	624	15
BSx	5/2r	0.0759	0.001	0.5992	0.012	472	6	477	10	472	10
BSx	5/1r 2	0.075	0.001	0.5886	0.011	466	5	470	9	468	11
BSx	24r	0.0745	0.001	0.5686	0.010	463	6	457	8	462	10
BSx	24c	0.0727	0.001	0.5582	0.011	452	6	450	9	452	11
BSx	21/2c	0.0927	0.001	0.7636	0.014	571	7	576	11	572	13
BSx	21/2r	0.0828	0.001	0.6543	0.012	513	6	511	9	512	12
BSx	23r	0.0933	0.001	0.7689	0.014	575	7	579	11	576	13
BSx	23c	0.0909	0.001	0.7402	0.013	561	7	563	10	561	14
BSx	21r	0.0736	0.001	0.5727	0.010	458	5	460	8	458	10
BSx	21c	0.073	0.001	0.5758	0.012	454	6	462	10	455	10
TDx	I2	0.113	0.0023	0.9749	0.0296	690	14	691	21	690	24
TDx	I5	0.0961	0.0019	0.7971	0.0157	591	12	595	12	597	17
TDx	I4c	0.1149	0.0022	0.9925	0.0126	701	13	700	9	699	9
TDx	I6c	0.1703	0.0033	17.175	0.0287	101	19	1015	17	1016	21
GDx	H5c	0.0875	0.0019	0.7055	0.0227	541	11	542	17	541	20
GDx	H4r	0.0468	0.0009	0.3452	0.0067	295	6	301	6	299	9.7
GDx	H4c	0.0728	0.0014	0.562	0.0109	453	9	453	9	453	14
GDx	H2c	0.0669	0.0013	0.4994	0.0095	418	8	411	8	413	13
GDx	H2r	0.071	0.0014	0.5421	0.0142	442	9	440	12	441	16
GDx	H1c	0.0698	0.0014	0.548	0.0101	435	8	444	8	442	13
GDx	H1c	0.0849	0.0017	0.6886	0.0132	525	10	532	10	531	16
GDx	H1m	0.0783	0.0016	0.5889	0.0202	486	10	470	16	482	17
GDx	H3r	0.1122	0.0022	0.9738	0.0165	685	13	690	12	691	17

( c = core; r = rim; m = intermediate portion)

## Appendix 3 (ELA)-ICP-MS isotopic results and calculated ages for monazites

Sample	Mnz	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	$\pm 1\sigma$	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	rsd	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$	rsd	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	2 $\sigma$	Age	2 $\sigma$	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	2 $\sigma$	Age	2 $\sigma$	U/Pb	Concordia age	2 $\sigma$
		ratio		ratio		ratio		Age		Age		Age						
TDx	L12-1	0.3468	0.00955	0.0495	0.0010	0.0158	0.0004	311.7	13.0	302.3	33.3	316.7	18.0			311		
TDx	L12-2	0.3108	0.00895	0.0505	0.0011	0.0156	0.0004	317.3	13.5	274.8	31.7	312.3	18.0				discordant	
TDx	L12-3	0.3729	0.0103	0.0530	0.0011	0.0163	0.0005	332.6	13.7	321.8	35.6	326.4	18.4			332		
TDx	L12-4	0.3292	0.00895	0.0509	0.0010	0.0156	0.0004	319.9	12.9	289.0	31.5	313.1	17.3				discordant	
TDx	L12-5	0.3345	0.0091	0.0501	0.0010	0.0160	0.0004	314.9	12.7	293.0	31.9	321.4	17.8			314		
TDx	L12-6	0.3281	0.00895	0.0516	0.0010	0.0160	0.0004	324.6	13.1	288.1	31.4	319.8	17.7				discordant	
TDx	L12-7	0.3706	0.0103	0.0504	0.0010	0.0159	0.0005	317.2	13.2	320.1	35.5	318.6	18.1			317		
TDx	L12-8	0.3676	0.0102	0.0517	0.0011	0.0167	0.0005	324.6	13.5	317.8	35.3	335.4	19.0			324		
TDx	L12-9	0.3388	0.0092	0.0508	0.0010	0.0161	0.0004	319.6	12.7	296.3	32.1	322.2	17.7			319		
TDx	L12-10	0.3157	0.0092	0.0551	0.0012	0.0152	0.0004	346.0	14.8	278.6	32.5	304.3	17.5				discordant	
TDx	L12-11	0.3187	0.00905	0.0543	0.0011	0.0170	0.0005	340.9	14.4	280.9	31.9	340.3	19.4				discordant	
TDx	L12-12	0.6273	0.01715	0.0542	0.0011	0.0171	0.0005	340.1	13.7	494.4	54.1	342.7	18.9				discordant	
TDx	L12-13	0.3487	0.00975	0.0512	0.0010	0.0158	0.0004	321.6	12.9	303.8	34.0	315.9	17.4			321		13
TDx	L12-14	0.3234	0.009	0.0515	0.0011	0.0160	0.0004	323.5	13.5	284.5	31.7	319.8	17.9				discordant	
TDx	L13a	0.3528	0.0043	0.0523	0.0009	0.0162	0.0002	328.3	11.7	306.8	14.9	324.0	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L13b	0.3673	0.0046	0.0514	0.0009	0.0160	0.0002	323.1	11.8	317.7	15.9	320.2	7.9			322		11
TDx	L13c	0.3513	0.00425	0.0516	0.0009	0.0161	0.0002	324.1	11.5	305.7	14.8	322.2	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L13d	0.3474	0.0042	0.0519	0.0009	0.0162	0.0002	326.2	11.6	302.8	14.7	325.0	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L11a	0.3476	0.0042	0.0508	0.0009	0.0160	0.0002	319.6	11.3	302.9	14.7	321.6	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L11b	0.3665	0.00445	0.0552	0.0010	0.0160	0.0002	346.6	12.3	317.1	15.4	320.0	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L11c	0.3683	0.00445	0.0551	0.0010	0.0159	0.0002	345.7	12.2	318.4	15.5	318.0	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L6a	0.4077	0.00495	0.0551	0.0010	0.0159	0.0002	346.0	12.3	347.2	16.9	317.9	7.6			346		12
TDx	L6b	0.3646	0.00445	0.0513	0.0009	0.0159	0.0002	322.3	11.7	315.7	15.7	318.2	7.9			321		11
TDx	L6c	0.3667	0.00445	0.0525	0.0009	0.0163	0.0002	329.9	11.7	317.2	15.4	326.0	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L6d	0.3595	0.0044	0.0544	0.0010	0.0160	0.0002	341.5	12.1	311.8	15.2	321.2	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L9a	0.3724	0.0045	0.0543	0.0010	0.0163	0.0002	340.7	12.0	321.4	15.6	326.6	7.6				discordant	
TDx	L9b	0.3628	0.0045	0.0544	0.0010	0.0159	0.0002	341.7	12.4	314.3	15.5	319.0	7.9				discordant	
TDx	L9c	0.3735	0.00445	0.0522	0.0009	0.0160	0.0002	328.0	11.5	322.2	15.8	321.4	7.6			327		11
TDx	L9d	0.4306	0.0053	0.0534	0.0009	0.0164	0.0002	335.4	11.8	363.6	17.9	329.6	7.6				discordant	
GDx	G14-a	0.3330	0.005	0.0490	0.0010	0.0134	0.0007	270.0	27.0	291.9	17.5	269.8	26.7				discordant	
GDx	G14-b	0.3370	0.005	0.0530	0.0010	0.0103	0.0005	208.0	18.0	294.9	17.5	207.7	18.4				discordant	
GDx	G14-c	0.3400	0.005	0.0520	0.0010	0.0159	0.0006	318.0	25.0	297.2	17.5	318.4	24.9				discordant	
GDx	G14-d	0.3410	0.005	0.0530	0.0010	0.0106	0.0004	212.0	18.0	297.9	17.5	212.1	17.8				discordant	
GDx	G14-e	0.3480	0.005	0.0540	0.0010	0.0158	0.0005	316.0	20.0	303.2	17.4	316.1	19.8				discordant	
GDx	G14-f	0.3410	0.005	0.0510	0.0010	0.0149	0.0005	298.0	19.0	297.9	17.5	297.9	19.0				discordant	
GDx	G14-g	0.3380	0.005	0.0510	0.0010	0.0129	0.0005	258.0	20.0	295.7	17.5	258.1	19.5				discordant	
GDx	G14-h	0.3480	0.005	0.0520	0.0010	0.0130	0.0005	260.0	18.0	303.2	17.4	260.3	18.3				discordant	
GDx	G14-i	0.3400	0.005	0.0540	0.0010	0.0103	0.0004	207.0	16.0	297.2	17.5	207.3	16.3				discordant	
GDx	G14-l	0.3440	0.005	0.0510	0.0010	0.0130	0.0004	260.0	18.0	300.2	17.5	260.1	17.6				discordant	
GDx	G14-m	0.3490	0.005	0.0520	0.0010	0.0140	0.0005	281.0	20.0	304.0	17.4	281.4	20.1				discordant	
GDx	G14-n	0.3260	0.0045	0.0510	0.0010	0.0174	0.0007	348.0	29.0	286.5	15.8	347.9	29.0				discordant	





BSx	A10-4	0.5375	0.0147	0.0711	0.0014	0.0230	0.0006	443.0	17.8	436.8	47.7	459.6	25.4	443		17
BSx	A10-5	0.5358	0.0146	0.0759	0.0015	0.0236	0.0006	471.8	18.9	435.6	47.4	472.1	25.9		discordant	
BSx	A10-6	0.4980	0.01375	0.0699	0.0014	0.0281	0.0008	435.3	17.9	410.3	45.3	560.5	31.4	434		17
BSx	A10-7	0.4753	0.0135	0.0621	0.0013	0.0219	0.0006	388.3	16.1	394.8	44.9	437.7	24.4	388		16
BSx	A10-8	0.3300	0.00905	0.0483	0.0010	0.0152	0.0004	304.1	12.4	289.6	31.7	304.7	17.1	304		12
BSx	A10-9	0.3167	0.00865	0.0522	0.0011	0.0161	0.0004	328.3	13.4	279.3	30.5	321.8	18.0		discordant	
BSx	A10-10	0.3819	0.0105	0.0511	0.0011	0.0162	0.0005	321.5	13.4	328.4	36.1	324.0	18.3	322		13
BSx	A10-11	0.3874	0.0108	0.0596	0.0012	0.0217	0.0006	372.9	15.2	332.4	37.1	433.9	24.0		discordant	
BSx	A10-12	0.4716	0.01305	0.0622	0.0013	0.0221	0.0006	389.0	15.9	392.3	43.5	441.6	24.6	389		15
BSx	A6a	0.3655	0.0043	0.0520	0.0007	0.0160	0.0002	326.7	15.4	316.3	14.9	320.2	8.9		discordant	
BSx	A6b	0.3609	0.00425	0.0527	0.0008	0.0162	0.0002	331.0	15.6	312.9	14.7	324.6	9.0		discordant	
BSx	A6c	0.3620	0.0043	0.0518	0.0007	0.0159	0.0002	325.8	15.4	313.7	14.8	318.0	8.6		discordant	
BSx	A6d	0.3557	0.0042	0.0513	0.0007	0.0159	0.0002	322.5	15.2	309.0	14.6	318.8	8.6		discordant	
BSx	A9a	0.3910	0.00465	0.0528	0.0008	0.0157	0.0002	331.4	15.7	335.1	15.9	314.5	8.5	332		9
BSx	A9b	0.3582	0.00425	0.0520	0.0007	0.0160	0.0002	326.9	15.5	310.9	14.8	320.8	8.6		discordant	
BSx	A9c	0.3821	0.00455	0.0516	0.0007	0.0157	0.0002	324.2	15.4	328.6	15.6	315.1	8.6	324		9
BSx	A9d	0.3640	0.0044	0.0515	0.0008	0.0151	0.0002	323.6	15.6	315.2	15.2	302.9	8.4	323		9
BSx	A14a	0.3484	0.0042	0.0494	0.0007	0.0149	0.0002	311.0	15.0	303.5	14.6	298.3	8.1	310		9
BSx	A14b	0.3848	0.00455	0.0525	0.0008	0.0162	0.0002	329.7	15.6	330.5	15.7	325.2	8.3	330		9
BSx	A14c	0.5432	0.0070	0.0711	0.0011	0.0219	0.0003	442.9	22.8	440.5	22.7	437.3	12.3	443		13
BSx	A14d	0.4665	0.0059	0.0508	0.0008	0.0163	0.0002	319.2	16.2	388.7	19.7	325.8	9.0		discordant	