

1 **A 400 Ma-long Nd-Hf isotopic evolution of melt-modified garnet-**
2 **pyroxenites in an ancient subcontinental lithosphere (Lanzo North**
3 **ophiolite, Western Alps)**

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Pyroxenite veining is widely preserved in peridotite massifs, and used to derive information on the
18 origin and evolution of upper mantle domains. These lithospheric mantle sections can be isolated
19 from the convecting mantle for > 1 Ga or more, suffering a long history of melting and/or melt-rock
20 reaction processes, which modify their original chemical and isotopic compositions. Here, we show
21 the effect of ancient process of melt-rock reaction in the chemistry of garnet pyroxenites from
22 Lanzo North Massif, an iconic lithospheric mantle section exhumed during the opening of the
23 Jurassic Alpine Tethys. Selected pyroxenites are more than 10 cm thick, and embedded within
24 peridotites that have textures and chemical compositions indicative of a complex history of
25 interaction with migrating melts. Whole rock and clinopyroxene Nd-Hf isotopes of the pyroxenites
26 consistently indicate that the first melt-rock reaction event occurred at ~400 Ma, likely in
27 combination with exhumation from the garnet to the spinel-facies mantle conditions. Two samples
28 still retain textural relicts and chemical evidence of precursor garnet and have high ϵ_{Nd} (~12) for
29 comparatively low ϵ_{Hf} (~10), when recalculated at 400 Ma, which suggest that they were less
30 affected by this ancient percolation process. The chemical evidence of such a long history of melt-
31 rock reactions was preserved from 400 Ma until present. Finally, two pyroxenites located within
32 plagioclase peridotites show evidence for an event of re-equilibration at plagioclase-facies
33 conditions, likely triggered by infiltration of melt in the host rock. These samples reveal the
34 coexistence of two internal Sm-Nd isochrones at 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma, thereby providing
35 temporal constraints to the event of melt impregnation of the host peridotites as consequence of the
36 opening of the Ligurian Tethys ocean.

37

38 *Keywords: pyroxenite; Nd-Hf isotopes; Lanzo ophiolite; melt-rock reaction; subcontinental*
39 *lithospheric mantle*

40

41 **1. INTRODUCTION**

42 The upper mantle is a heterogeneous mixture of domains having different geochemical signatures
43 inherited from a long-history of melting, **recycling** and re-fertilization processes (e.g. [Stracke,](#)
44 [2012](#)). Due to their fertile character, geochemically enriched domains are preferentially melted and
45 thereby rarely recovered amongst abyssal peridotites ([Salters and Dick, 2002](#); [Warren, 2016](#)).
46 **Geochemically enriched** lithologies, mainly represented by pyroxenite veining, are nonetheless
47 preserved in subcontinental peridotite massifs ([Garrido and Bodinier, 1999](#); [Downes, 2007](#);
48 [Bodinier and Godard, 2014](#)) and, locally, in ophiolites formed at slow spreading environments (e.g.,
49 [Montanini et al., 2012](#); [Borghini et al., 2016](#)). Indeed, most orogenic peridotites contain a great
50 variety of pyroxenites and some of them, called “garnet pyroxenites”, are mostly constituted by
51 pyroxene and garnet, proving to be equilibrated at high pressure (e.g. [Bodinier et al., 1987](#); [Pearson](#)
52 [et al., 1991](#); [Morishita et al., 2003](#); [Montanini et al. 2012](#)). Contrary to what observed for abyssal
53 peridotites ([Cipriani et al., 2004](#); [Stracke et al., 2011](#)), which on average retain isotopic
54 compositions more depleted than the associated MORB, the isotopic ratios of garnet pyroxenites
55 extends towards enriched values (that is low $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ and $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$, and high $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ isotopic
56 ratios), covering the entire variability of melts erupted at ocean ridges. The variability of Sr-Nd-Hf
57 isotopic compositions related to pyroxenites is often coupled with very old Re-Os model ages (>1
58 Ga), thus consistent with the expected isotopic variability and timescale for crustal recycling in the
59 mantle ([Blichert-Toft et al., 1999](#); [Pearson and Nowell, 2004](#); [Ackerman et al., 2016](#); [Varas-Reus et](#)
60 [al., 2018](#); [Tilhac et al., 2020](#)). These data support the hypothesis that enriched domains in the upper
61 mantle mostly derive from recycled portions of oceanic or continental lithosphere, including
62 igneous crust, lithospheric mantle and associated sediments (e.g. [Stracke et al., 2003](#); [Lambart et al.,](#)
63 [2016](#)).

64 Most peridotite massifs represent ancient lithospheric portions emplaced at crustal depths
65 after being isolated from the convecting mantle for hundreds of millions of years, or more ([Reisberg](#)

66 and Lorand, 1995). During their exhumation, these mantle sequences commonly experience events
67 of partial melting or interaction with migrating melts leading to changes in their original
68 mineralogy, texture and composition (Le Roux et al., 2009; McCarthy and Müntener, 2015;
69 Rampone et al., 2020; Rampone and Sanfilippo, 2021). While fast exhumation rates prevent any
70 substantial perturbations in the long-lived radiogenic isotope systematics (such as Rb-Sr; Sm-Nd;
71 Lu-Hf; U-Th-Pb) (Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell, 2004; Varas-Reus et al., 2018), a
72 long-lasting history of exhumation associated with melting and/or interactions with migrating melts
73 may result in significant variation in parent/daughter isotope ratios, causing deviations from the
74 original isotopic signature (Pearson et al., 1991; Tilhac et al., 2017).

75 Here, we focus on garnet-pyroxenites within melt-modified peridotites from a
76 subcontinental mantle to discuss the chemical changes imposed by old melt migration and their
77 effect on the long-term Nd-Hf isotopic evolution of pyroxenites. We use major-trace elements and
78 Nd-Hf isotope compositions of decimetre-thick pyroxenites from the Lanzo North massif (Western
79 Italian Alps), a well-studied lithospheric sub-continental mantle section exhumed at the ocean
80 seafloor during the opening of the Ligurian Tethys, in the Middle Jurassic (Boudier, 1978;
81 Lagabrielle et al., 1989). Previous studies on the host peridotites indicate that this mantle sequence
82 suffered a multistage history of interaction with melts having an enriched (E)-MORB signature
83 (Guarnieri et al., 2012). New chemical/isotopic compositions of the pyroxenites are here used to
84 constrain an older event of migration and spinel-facies equilibration at 400 Ma. Geochemical
85 modelling suggests that this event caused a shift towards low Hf isotope ratios for comparatively
86 high Nd isotope ratios, producing unusual Nd-Hf isotope decoupling below the mantle array. We
87 infer that the chemical response to this ancient history of melt-rock reaction is preserved until
88 present. Moreover, two samples collected within plagioclase-bearing peridotites preserve Sm-Nd
89 internal isochrones indicating that the equilibration at plagioclase-facies mantle conditions occurred
90 at closed system, likely triggered by increase in temperature due to the infiltration of melts into the

91 host peridotite during the emplacement of the Lanzo North mantle sequence on the Jurassic
92 seafloor.

93

94 2. LANZO NORTH PERIDOTITE MASSIF: PETROLOGICAL BACKGROUND

95 2.1 Peridotites

96 The Lanzo peridotite massif is part of the Sesia-Lanzo Zone, an accretionary prism of the Alpine
97 orogeny formed by continental crustal rocks and subordinate subcontinental mantle slivers from the
98 Adriatic plate (Fig. 1). The Sesia-Lanzo Zone represents the thinned and partially exhumed ocean-
99 continent transition (OCT) along the Adriatic margin of the Alpine Tethys, and is bound to the east
100 to the lower continental crustal rocks of the Adriatic plate (i.e., Ivrea-Verbano Zone, Southern Alps)
101 by the Insubric line (the Peri-Adriatic lineament) and to west to meta-ophiolitic units of the Jurassic
102 Piedmontese basin (i.e. Penninic units; Fig. 1). The Lanzo **ultramafic** massif constitutes the
103 southernmost portion of the Sesia-Lanzo Zone, **and it has been** subdivided in three domains, namely
104 South, Central and North, on the basis of distinct geochemical characteristics (after [Boudier, 1978](#);
105 [Bodinier et al., 1991](#)). The Lanzo North massif exposes exceptionally well-preserved subcontinental
106 mantle peridotites, locally intruded by ~160 Ma-old MORB-type gabbros ([Piccardo et al., 2007a;b](#);
107 [Kaczmarek et al., 2008](#)) and basalt dykes (**Fig. 1**). Primary contacts with a Jurassic sedimentary
108 cover indicate the exhumation of the mantle section on the Alpine Tethys seafloor ([Lagabrielle et](#)
109 [al., 1989](#)).

110 Several contributions described the overall characteristics of the different rock types in the Lanzo
111 North ([Boudier, 1978](#); [Pognante et al., 1985](#); [Bodinier, 1988](#); [Bodinier et al., 1991](#); [Piccardo et al.,](#)
112 [2007a](#); [Piccardo, 2010](#); [Guarnieri et al., 2012](#)); the main results are hereafter summarised. The older
113 rock type is spinel lherzolite tectonite, which locally exceeds 10 vol% of porphyroclastic
114 clinopyroxene (Cpx) and, in place, contain **centimeter-size symplectitic clusters of spinel +**
115 **orthopyroxene and minor clinopyroxene (Spl+Px). Similar to other peridotite occurrences (e.g.,**
116 **Hoogerduijn Strating et al., 1993; Vannucci et al., 1993), these textures were considered products of**

117 garnet breakdown after transition to spinel-facies mantle conditions, thus suggesting an early
118 equilibration at garnet facies conditions. These spinel lherzolites retain PM-like PGE patterns and
119 up to 1 Ga-old Re depletion ages (calculated after Becker et al., 2006) that are coupled with
120 relatively fertile major and incompatible trace element compositions. They yielded Sm-Nd and Lu-
121 Hf model ages up to 2.1 Ga (Bodinier et al., 1991; Guarnieri et al., 2012). Chemical and isotopic
122 data, thus, indicate a geochemical affinity acquired after a long-time isolation from the convective
123 mantle in a subcontinental lithosphere, and an early process of re-equilibration at garnet-facies
124 conditions (Boudier, 1978; Bodinier et al., 1991; Guarnieri et al., 2012).

125 The Spl-Px cluster-bearing spinel lherzolite tectonite is partially replaced by pyroxene-poor
126 spinel harzburgites, also called reactive harzburgite (Guarnieri et al., 2012). Indeed, microtextural
127 and geochemical evidence indicate that these modally depleted rocks formed by reactive
128 percolation of silica-undersaturated melts with a E-type MORB geochemical signature (Guarnieri et
129 al., 2012). The high LREE contents and variable Nd-Hf isotopes are the distinctive signatures of
130 these melt-modified rocks. Symplectitic Spl+Px clusters rarely occur in the harzburgites, suggesting
131 that they were consumed during the melt-rock reaction process. The preservation of radiogenic Nd
132 and Hf isotopic ratios at variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf in these Spl-harzburgites led Guarnieri et al.
133 (2012) to suggest that the event of migration of olivine-saturated melts occurred in Paleozoic times.

134 Locally, both lherzolites and modally depleted harzburgites show plagioclase-orthopyroxene
135 micro-veins that crosscut the spinel-facies mineral assemblage, associated with a consequent
136 increase in bulk rock SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and CaO at decreasing MgO and NiO contents (Guarnieri et al.,
137 2012). These plagioclase-bearing peridotites form hectometric-scale domains that suggest a
138 localized event of migration of silica-saturated MORB-like melts uprising in response to the passive
139 upwelling of the asthenospheric mantle and continental extension that led to the opening of the
140 Ligurian Tethys ocean in Jurassic times (Piccardo et al., 2003; Muntener et al., 2004; Piccardo and
141 Vissers, 2007; Piccardo et al., 2007a; b; Piccardo, 2010; Higginson and Tommasi, 2014; Piccardo,
142 2016). This process is common in the ophiolitic mantle sequences of the Alpine-Appennine

143 ophiolites and is referred to as “plagioclase-impregnation” (see [Rampone and Sanfilippo, 2021](#) for a
144 review).

145

146 **2.2 Pyroxenites**

147 Pyroxenites are widespread in the Lanzo North mantle sequence where they occur as
148 centimeter- to decimeter-thick layers within the different rock types (**Fig. 2**). The pyroxenites are
149 often parallel or sub-parallel to tectonic foliation of host peridotite (**Fig. 2d,e**), although they
150 locally are intensely folded and boudinated ([Boudier, 1978](#); [Piccardo et al., 2007b](#), [Piccardo, 2010](#))
151 (**Fig. 2c**). This is in agreement with the idea that thick pyroxenites represent long-lived
152 heterogeneities deformed at deep lithospheric conditions ([Bodinier and Godard, 2014](#)). **Thick**
153 **pyroxenite layers occur within spinel lherzolites, spinel harzburgites and plagioclase(Pl)-**
154 **peridotites, as previously described by Boudier (1978), Piccardo et al. (2007b) and Guarnieri et al.**
155 **(2012).**

156 In this study, we focused on samples from the inner portions of thick (>10 cm) pyroxenite
157 layers. Samples were distinguished in three types of pyroxenites, based on their host rock. (i)
158 cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites were collected within spinel lherzolites (**Fig. 2a,b**), which
159 represent the oldest rock-type in Lanzo North massif ([Guarnieri et al., 2012](#)). These pyroxenites
160 contain exceptionally diffuse Spl-Px clusters (**Fig. 2a,b**), similar to those locally found in the host
161 fertile lherzolites ([Guarnieri et al., 2012](#)). These microstructures coupled with geochemical
162 characteristics of the pyroxenes, such as very high Sc and V contents and HREE (Yb at 40-60 x CI)
163 in spinel-bearing clinopyroxene porphyroclasts, indicate that they are the sub-solidus product of
164 spinel-facies recrystallization of precursor garnet pyroxenites (see also [Piccardo et al., 2007b](#);
165 [Guarnieri et al., 2009; 2012](#)), suggesting that they originated at least at $P > 1.5$ GPa ([Piccardo,](#)
166 [2010](#); [Borghini and Fumagalli, 2018](#)). (ii) (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites occur within modally depleted
167 spinel harzburgites, which formed by olivine-forming and pyroxene-dissolving reactions induced
168 by percolating melts ([Guarnieri et al., 2012](#)). They rarely show Spl-Px clusters and commonly have

169 porphyroclastic textures made by coarse clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene and sporadic large
170 green spinel. Large olivine porphyroclasts are also locally present although commonly replaced by
171 serpentine. In pyroxenite groups “i” and “ii”, rare exsolutions of secondary pyroxene plus
172 plagioclase into coarse-grained pyroxene porphyroclasts and thin plagioclase + olivine coronas
173 around Spl indicate the incipient recrystallization at plagioclase-facies conditions ($P < 1.0$ GPa,
174 Piccardo et al., 2007b). (iii) Spl-Pl pyroxenites occur within plagioclase-impregnated peridotites
175 (**Fig. 2e**). They have websteritic composition and compared to the Grt-Spl pyroxenites contains
176 higher amounts of serpentinized olivine. Spl-Px clusters are absent in the Spl-Pl pyroxenites that
177 instead show much larger extent of plagioclase-bearing recrystallization. This latter is testified by
178 large domains of plagioclase + olivine + pyroxene neoblasts and diffuse occurrence of pyroxene +
179 plagioclase exolutions partially replacing the coarse pyroxene and spinel porphyroclasts (**Fig. 2f**).
180 In place, one Spl-Pl pyroxenite sample also shows thin plagioclase + orthopyroxene coronas
181 surrounding clinopyroxene porphyroclasts (Piccardo et al., 2007b). These textures testify an event
182 of equilibration at Pl-facies conditions likely triggered by the melt impregnation of the host
183 peridotite (Piccardo et al., 2007b). As noted in previous studies, the field and microstructural
184 features of the Lanzo N pyroxenites provide evidence that these rocks experienced multiple stages
185 of equilibration, ranging from garnet- to spinel- to plagioclase-facies, as response of the
186 progressive exhumation of the Lanzo North peridotite massif on the Jurassic seafloor (see Piccardo
187 et al. 2007b; Guarnieri et al., 2012 and references therein).

188

189 **3. ANALITICAL METHODOLOGY**

190 Samples for this study were selected from the innermost portions of thick (>10 cm)
191 pyroxenite layers. Analytical methodologies are identical to those reported in [Guarnieri et al.](#)
192 [\(2012\)](#) for the host peridotites from Lanzo North. Hereafter, we include a brief description of each
193 method, the reader is referred to [Guarnieri et al. \(2012\)](#) for further details. Major and trace elements
194 whole-rock analyses were performed at the Pheasant Memorial Laboratory for Geochemistry and

195 Cosmochemistry (PML), Institute for Study of the Earth's Interior (ISEI, reorganized into the
196 current Institute for Planetary Materials, IPM, in 2016), Okayama University at Misasa, Japan.
197 Whole-rock major element compositions were determined by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry
198 (XRF) with a Phillips PW 2400, using lithium tetraborate glass beads (1:10 ratio of sample and
199 flux; Takei, 2002). Fusion temperature for bead preparation was set at 1,050 °C to avoid loss of
200 alkali metals (Willis, 2010). The LOI (loss on ignition) was obtained by gravimetric method, and
201 FeO content was determined by titration (Yokoyama & Nakamura, 2002). Matrix correction
202 follows Norrish & Chappell (1977). Instrumental calibration was performed using the reference
203 igneous rocks (n = 13) provided from Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ); those include andesites
204 (JA-2 and JA-3), basalts (JB-1b, JB-2 and JB-3), rhyolites (JR-1, JR-2 and JR-3), granites (JG-1a
205 and JG-2), gabbros (JGb-1 and JGb-2), peridotite (JP-1), and hornblendite (JH-1). Major-element
206 compositions of these reference rocks are from Imai et al. (1995, 1999) and Terashima et al.
207 (1998). Accuracy of calibration is better than 1%, estimated from root mean square of residues.

208 Trace elements were analyzed by inductively coupled plasma-quadrupole mass
209 spectrometry (Agilent 7500CS) using the techniques of Makishima and Nakamura (2006). For Rb,
210 Sr, Y, Cs, Ba, REE, Pb, Th, and U analysis, samples were spiked with ^{149}Sm and dissolved
211 following the method of Makishima and Nakamura (1997). For the HFSE (Zr, Nb, Hf, and Ta)
212 analysis, a mixed ^{91}Zr - ^{179}Hf spike was added to the samples. Samples were dissolved following the
213 Teflon bomb method of Tanaka et al. (2003). The 2sigma reproducibility of the rock standard JB-2
214 is less than 7% (n=3), and procedural blanks were less than 13 pg (n=2) for Rb, Sr, Y, Cs, Ba,
215 REE, Pb, Th, and U analysis. For the HFSE analysis, the 2sigma reproducibility of the rock
216 standard JB-3 is less than 5% (n=3), procedural blanks were less than 150pg for Nb, Hf and Ta,
217 5.7ng for Zr. Blank correction was applied to all the obtained elemental concentrations, and was
218 less than 1% for Rb, Sr, Y, Cs, Ba, REE, Pb, Th, and U. Since the aluminum addition method
219 (Tanaka et al, 2003) was applied to the HFSE analysis, the high blank value in the analysis is
220 attributed to the added Al solution corresponding to the decomposed sample amount (~50 mg).

221 Except for Nb in PY5 (9% correction), the blank corrections for Zr, Nb, and Hf were less than 4%;
222 however, Ta resulted in corrections from 60 to 150%, and nearly 400% in PY5. Typical detection
223 limits (3sigma) in the analyses are sub-ppt up to 30ppt, which corresponds to sub-ppb to 30ppb of
224 elemental concentration in the sample.

225 Major elements compositions of clinopyroxene and plagioclase (Tables S2, S3): were
226 determined using a JEOL 8200 SuperProbe at the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università
227 degli Studi di Milano. Accelerating voltage was 15 kV, beam current 15 nA. Natural and synthetic
228 minerals and glasses were used as standards. In-situ trace element analysis of clinopyroxenes and
229 plagioclase was carried out by laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-
230 ICP-MS) at the IGG-CNR of Pavia, Italy. The laser probe consisted of a Q-switched Nd:YAG laser,
231 model Quantel (Brilliant); the spot diameter was typically of 50 um. The ablated material was
232 analyzed using an Elan DRC-e quadrupole mass spectrometer. NIST SRM 610 synthetic glass was
233 used as an external standard. The CaO content determined by electron microprobe analysis (EMPA)
234 was used as an internal standard. Precision and accuracy were assessed from repeated analyses of
235 the BCR-2 g standard and were usually better than $\pm 10\%$.

236 Neodymium-Hf isotope determinations for whole-rock, clinopyroxene (Cpx) and
237 plagioclase (Pl) were performed at the PML as described above (Table S4). Neodymium isotopic
238 composition and Nd and Sm abundances were analyzed on whole-rock, clinopyroxenes and
239 plagioclase, whereas Hf isotopes and Lu and Hf concentrations were obtained for whole rocks
240 exclusively. Clinopyroxene and plagioclase separates were handpicked under a binocular
241 microscope. Although the isotopic exchange between seawater and the original mineral assemblage
242 during late-stage alteration is negligible for Nd and Hf, to minimize the possible effects of seawater
243 alteration, clinopyroxenes and whole-rocks were leached following a multi-day and multi-stage
244 procedure. Analyses of Sm-Nd isotope ratios and concentrations were performed by thermal
245 ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) following the techniques of Nakamura et al. (2003). Sample
246 powders (100-130mg of whole rock, 10-60mg of Cpx, 80mg of Pl) were spiked with ^{150}Nd and

247 ^{149}Sm prior to dissolution and Nd isotope ratios and abundances by isotope dilution were
248 determined simultaneously on a Thermo Fisher Scientific Triton TIMS equipped with nine Faraday
249 cups. Samarium abundances were determined by isotope dilution procedures using a Finnigan-
250 MAT262 solid-source TIMS equipped with five Faraday cups following Nakamura et al. (2003).
251 Mean value of $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ and reproducibility obtained by analyses of the in-house standard PML-
252 Nd was 0.511737 ± 0.000013 (2sigma, n=15), and corresponded value of the La Jolla standard
253 was 0.511872 ± 0.000013 (2sigma). The result of the reference rock standards JB2 and JB3 were
254 0.513114 ± 0.000029 (2sigma, n=4) and 0.513078 ± 0.000013 (2sigma, n=5), respectively. Total
255 procedural blanks of Nd and Sm were 0.7pg (n=5) and 0.1pg (n=5) for Cpx and Pl, 2pg (n=5) and
256 0.2 pg (n=5) for whole-rock, respectively.

257 For Lu and Hf abundance and Hf isotope ratio determination, MC-ICP-MS (Thermo Fisher
258 Scientific Neptune) was used. Whole -rock powders (100-130mg) were spiked with ^{176}Lu and ^{179}Hf
259 prior to decomposition and Hf isotope ratios and abundances by isotope dilution were determined
260 simultaneously applying the techniques of Lu et al. (2007) and Makishima and Nakamura (2008).
261 Lu contents were also measured following the procedures of Makishima and Nakamura (2008).
262 Hafnium isotopic data were normalized to $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf} = 0.282192$ for JMC 14374, which
263 corresponds to $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf} = 0.282160$ for JMC 475. The $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ result of the reference rock
264 standards JB3 was 0.283224 ± 0.000011 (2sigma, n=5). Total procedural blanks of Hf and Lu were
265 154pg (n=11) and 0.1pg (n=11), respectively.

266

267 4. RESULTS: MAJOR, TRACE ELEMENTS AND ND-HF ISOTOPIC COMPOSITIONS

268 Selected Lanzo North pyroxenites show rough correlations in bulk MgO vs Al₂O₃, CaO and Ni.
269 The MgO, Al₂O₃, CaO and Ni contents in (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites cluster around rather uniform
270 values at relatively high MgO (~20 wt%) (Fig. 3). One sample (PY5) shows lower MgO (15 wt%)
271 at higher Al₂O₃, CaO and low Ni (13.5 and 14 wt%, 400 ppm, respectively). On the other hand, Pl-
272 Spl pyroxenites have higher MgO (up to 23 wt%) and Ni (up to 1100 ppm) and lower Al₂O₃ and

273 CaO contents (7.5 and 8 wt%, respectively). As a whole, the Lanzo N Pl-Spl pyroxenites plots in
274 the field of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites from Beni Bousera and Ronda **SCLM**, and from the Ligurian
275 ophiolites, whereas the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites **plot within the field of Beni Bousera and Ronda Grt**
276 **pyroxenites**, at generally higher MgO and Ni and lower CaO and Al₂O₃. Notably, PY5 (Grt)-Spl
277 pyroxenite having low MgO and Ni, and high CaO, content is nearly undistinguishable from the
278 Grt-pyroxenites reported in literature (**Fig. 3**).

279 The CI-normalized REE patterns of the **cluster-bearing** (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites reveal variable
280 depletion in LREE ($La_N/Sm_N = 0.12-0.32$) coupled with selective enrichments in HREE over the
281 MREE ($Sm_N/Yb_N = 0.31-0.60$) (**Fig. 3d; 4a**). These chemical characteristics agree with the local
282 preservation of abundant Spl-Opx clusters and are similar to those of the External Ligurian Grt-
283 pyroxenites, but at comparatively higher LREE (**Fig. 4a**). The high HREE abundances are also
284 comparable with those observed in some garnet-bearing pyroxenites from orogenic ultramafic
285 massifs of the Mediterranean area ([Bodinier et al., 1987](#); [Pearson et al., 1991, 1993](#); [Garrido and](#)
286 [Bodinier, 1999](#); [Gysi et al., 2011](#); [Montanini et al., 2012](#); [Borghini et al., 2016](#)). The REE patterns
287 of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites are subparallel to those of (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites although they have
288 relatively high and constant LREE ($La_N/Sm_N = 0.22-0.24$) and nearly flat M-HREE patterns
289 ($Sm_N/Yb_N = 0.62-0.68$) (**Fig. 4a**). **Overall, the CI-normalized patterns show an increase in LREE at**
290 **decreasing HREE from the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites towards the Pl-Spl pyroxenites (Fig. 3d). Similar**
291 **chemical features are shown by the Cpx, which in the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites are**
292 **characterized by high HREE, V and Sc contents and generally lower LREE compared to those in**
293 **Pl-Spl peridotites (Fig. 4b; Table S3 in supplements).** The compositions of Cpx presumably
294 acquired most of the trace element signature from the whole-rock after equilibration at Spl-facies
295 conditions ([Vannucci et al., 1993](#); [Rampone and Borghini, 2008](#); [Borghini et al., 2013, 2016](#)),
296 indicating that garnet was at least locally abundant in the precursor mineral assemblages of some
297 (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites.

298 Neodymium isotopic ratios were determined for Cpx, Pl and WR. Pyroxenites Cpx and WR reveal

299 a narrow isotopic variability, with present day $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ranging from 0.5131 to 0.5134 and
 300 $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ from 0.22 to 0.35 (**Fig. 5a**). On a closer inspection, Cpx and WR of 5 of the 7 samples
 301 define an errorchron at 410 ± 17 Ma. The two Grt-Spl pyroxenites preserving Spl-Px clusters do not
 302 plot along this array, retaining highly radiogenic $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$, but relatively low $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (**Fig.**
 303 **5a**). Nd isotopes of Pl separates were also obtained from two Pl-Spl-pyroxenites. They provide Pl-
 304 Cpx-WR internal isochrones at 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma. These ages are in good agreement
 305 with the emplacement of Lanzo N massif at crustal depth as also indicated by the ages of the
 306 MORB-type intrusions in Lanzo (Kaczmarek et al., 2008), and rather coeval with intrusive oceanic
 307 crustal rocks of Jurassic Tethys (Rampone et al., 2014; Tribuzio et al., 2016 and references therein).
 308 Whole-rock Hf isotopes of all pyroxenites define an errorchrone at 396 ± 27 Ma (**Fig. 5b**), notably
 309 consistent with the Cpx-WR errorchrone yielded by Nd isotopes, if the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
 310 preserving Spl-Px clusters are excluded. These cluster bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites have the
 311 highest $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ and $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ ratios, in agreement with a strong Grt signature. **When**
 312 **calculated at the time of emplacement of the Lanzo section at shallow depths (160 Ma), the initial**
 313 **ϵNd - ϵHf values of all samples plot along the Nd-Hf terrestrial array. This suggests that at the time**
 314 **of emplacement on the Jurassic seafloor, these pyroxenites were characterized by a wide isotopic**
 315 **heterogeneity, varying from depleted to enriched Nd-Hf isotopic compositions and encompassing a**
 316 **large portion of the present-day MORB field (Fig. 6).**

317

318 5. DISCUSSION

319 5.1 Exhumation at plagioclase-facies conditions

320 The Spl-Pl pyroxenites in this study were sampled within the Pl-impregnated peridotites.
 321 Hence, one can argue that these pyroxenites underwent chemical changes related to impregnation
 322 of the host rocks, and that this process might have perturbed their geochemical and isotopic
 323 compositions. Guarnieri et al. (2012) showed that Pl-facies impregnation of the Lanzo N
 324 peridotites was related to the diffuse percolation of silica-saturated melts that crystallized gabbro-

325 noritic material within a former Spl-peridotite assemblage. This refertilization process caused the
326 preferential addition of Pl+Opx with a consequent increase in SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and CaO at decreasing
327 MgO and NiO contents (Rampone et al., 1996, 2008; Piccardo and Vissers, 2007) also coupled
328 with the chemical equilibration of the original mantle phases with the infiltrating MORB-type
329 melt (Piccardo et al., 2004; 2007b; Müntener et al., 2005; 2010). These are exactly the opposite
330 chemical changes we envisage in the Spl-Pl pyroxenites, which are markedly enriched in MgO
331 and NiO and depleted in Al₂O₃ and CaO compared to the (Grt)-Spl counterparts (Fig. 3). This
332 suggests that the gabbroic pockets (plagioclase + olivine + neoblastic pyroxenes) grown between
333 pyroxene and spinel porphyroclasts are likely the result of subsolidus recrystallization rather than
334 the addition of infiltrating basaltic melts, as previously suggested by Piccardo et al. (2007b).
335 Moreover, the Spl-Pl pyroxenite samples selected in this study do not show diffuse Pl-bearing
336 veinlets crosscutting mantle minerals as typically described for impregnated peridotites (e.g.
337 Rampone et al., 1997, 2008; Piccardo et al., 2007a). On the other hand, as observed in other
338 pyroxenite occurrences from External Ligurides (Montanini et al., 2006, 2012; Borghini et al.,
339 2016; Basch et al., 2020) and Erro-Tobbio massif (Rampone and Borghini, 2008), Pl in these
340 samples appears as neoblasts together with new fine- and medium-grained pyroxenes or in
341 association with olivine partly replacing large Spl porphyroclasts, thus suggesting that it mainly
342 represents product of subsolidus recrystallization. Impregnation textures are nonetheless present
343 at the vicinity of the contacts with the host Pl-peridotites, where the pyroxenites show Pl-bearing
344 microveins crosscutting pyroxene porphyroclasts. It is thereby plausible that the infiltration of
345 melts precipitating plagioclase in the host peridotites (Piccardo et al., 2007b; Guarnieri et al.,
346 2012) was not able to modify the most internal portion of the studied pyroxenite layers, which
347 thus preserved their isotopic compositions. Most likely, the volume of infiltrating melt was
348 thereby small enough to be buffered by the pyroxene-rich matrix, determining the isotopic
349 composition of the segregated plagioclase to be in close equilibrium with the bulk-rock
350 composition.

351 The hypothesis that Pl in the pyroxenites formed as subsolidus equilibration is in agreement
 352 with the isotopic record of the Spl-Pl pyroxenites. Linear correlations in $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ - $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$
 353 and $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ - $^{177}\text{Hf}/^{178}\text{Hf}$ characterize the WR and Cpx from all lithologies, including those
 354 pyroxenites located within peridotites untouched by melt impregnation in the Jurassic. These
 355 linear correlations connect all samples and form two distinct errorchrones yielding ages of ~ 400
 356 Ma for both Nd and Hf isotopes, which must represent the age of isotopic equilibration at Spl-
 357 facies (**Fig. 5**). For Nd isotopes, the WR-Cpx errorchron at ~ 400 Ma coexists with Pl-Cpx-WR
 358 internal isochrones of Jurassic age. The internal isochrones based on Nd isotopes of by two Spl-Pl
 359 pyroxenites have ages of 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma and indicate that the Pl-bearing
 360 assemblage formed in Mid-Jurassic (**Fig. 5**), nearly coeval with the intrusion of MORB-type
 361 gabbros within the Lanzo sequence (160 ± 4 Ma) (Kaczmarek et al., 2008). Although the
 362 plagioclase-facies recrystallization cannot be undoubtedly related to the process of Pl-facies
 363 impregnation in the host peridotite, it is plausible that the temperature increase due to melt
 364 migration in the host peridotite triggered subsolidus recrystallization, likely enhanced by the
 365 fertile bulk compositions of the pyroxenite assemblage (Hidas et al., 2021). Accordingly, (Grt)-
 366 Spl pyroxenites show only incipient plagioclase-bearing recrystallization because they escaped
 367 the heating related to melt impregnation of host peridotite.

368 If we assume that the two events were coeval, then our study furnishes the age of the
 369 impregnation of the host mantle peridotite, which is slightly younger than the timing proposed for
 370 the equilibration at Pl-facies conditions of the External Liguride ophiolites (186 ± 1.8 Ma,
 371 Montanini et al., 2012; 178 ± 8 Ma, Borghini et al., 2016). The isotopic evolution of two selected
 372 Spl-Pl and Grt-Spl samples is modeled in **Fig. 7**. The plot shows two samples having different
 373 WR compositions, here indicated in different Sm/Nd ratios, that suffered a first event of isotopic
 374 equilibration at Spl-facies conditions at 400 Ma, thereof followed by a closed-system WR isotopic
 375 evolution until present. At 160 Ma, one sample experienced an event of equilibration at Pl-facies
 376 conditions, evidenced by the formation of Pl in isotopic equilibrium with the WR and, as

377 response, a small shift in the Cpx Sm/Nd ratios. The following evolution led to further radiogenic
378 Nd in-growth in Pl, WR and Cpx, aligned along a Jurassic errorchron. Cpx in pyroxenite
379 incorporates most of the Sm and Nd of the WR, and the Pl-equilibration has a minor effect on the
380 isotopic evolution of the Cpx in this sample. This allows the preservation of WR-Cpx errorchrons
381 at ~400 Ma for both samples, coexisting with Pl-Cpx-WR internal isochrones having Jurassic
382 ages (**Fig. 7**).

383

384 **5.2 Early perturbation of the Nd-Hf isotope systematics**

385 In the previous section, we showed that the major, trace elements and the Nd-Hf isotopes of
386 the Lanzo North pyroxenites did not suffer significant chemical perturbations during **the process**
387 **of melt migration and impregnation experienced by the host peridotite during the** Jurassic
388 exhumation at rather shallow mantle level. Instead, the errorchrons defined by WR and Cpx in the
389 Sm-Nd and Lu-Hf isotopic space for most samples indicate that their isotopic equilibration was
390 attained during a 400 Ma-old event, **which was likely related to their complete re-equilibration at**
391 **spinel-facies mantle conditions (Fig. 5)**. The only exception is represented by two **cluster-bearing**
392 **(Grt)-Spl pyroxenites, which preserve large quantities of subrounded Spl-Px clusters and have**
393 **very high HREE contents, both indicative of a precursor garnet**. These samples do not plot on the
394 400 Ma errorchron for the Sm-Nd isotopes, having lower Sm/Nd ratios compared to the other
395 (Grt)-Spl samples. Hence, if the initial ϵNd - ϵHf values are calculated at 400 Ma (provided by the
396 Nd-Hf errorchrons, **Fig. 5**), most pyroxenites have Nd-Hf compositions clustering in the enriched
397 portion of MORB (ϵNd 6-7; ϵHf 8-9; **Fig. 6**), whereas the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
398 plot below the mantle array, showing a distinctive decoupling at higher ϵNd (12-13) for
399 comparatively low ϵHf (8-9), (**Fig. 6**).

400 One possibility to explain the anomalous isotopic compositions is that the two cluster-
401 bearing samples suffered some recent process of interactions with melts that decreased the
402 original Sm/Nd ratios, thus shifting the samples on the left of the errorchron in **Fig. 5a**. Following

403 this scenario, this process must have preserved the original Lu/Hf ratios, according to the
404 occurrence of a Lu-Hf errorchron at 400 Ma (**Fig. 5**). The cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites,
405 however, are located within spinel lherzolites that escaped the melt impregnation in the Jurassic
406 and are considered the oldest rock-type less-modified during **the long-lasting history of** melt-rock
407 reaction processes affecting the mantle sequence ([Guarnieri et al., 2012](#)). Indeed, the preservation
408 of Spl-Px clusters in both the peridotites and the pyroxenites and the evident Grt-signature
409 observed in WR and Cpx of the pyroxenites indicate that these rocks were nearly preserved after
410 their complete equilibration at Spl-facies conditions. **In addition, the LREE in WR and Cpx from**
411 **these samples are in the same range of those in the Pl-Spl pyroxenites, whereas a late metasomatic**
412 **would have produced selective enrichments in these highly incompatible compared to the least**
413 **compatible elements (e.g., Stracke, 2012).** On this basis, the field data, the texture and the
414 geochemical composition of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites are strongly against the
415 possibility that they were modified by a recent metasomatic event.

416 As alternative hypothesis, the anomalous signature of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
417 pyroxenites **was a consequence of a process of interaction with melts via reactive porous flow**
418 **envisaged in the host peridotites (Guarnieri et al., 2012).** This hypothesis can be evaluated
419 **considering the evolution of the studied pyroxenites in response to the melt migration processes.**
420 The Lanzo N pyroxenites form correlations in MgO vs. Al₂O₃, CaO and NiO contents, suggesting
421 that they were presumably characterized by different modal amounts of Ol, Px and Grt (**Fig. 3; 4**).
422 This is further supported by the projection of our samples into the pseudoternary system forsterite
423 (Fo)/Ca-Tschermak molecule (CaTs)/quartz (Qz) projected from diopside [Di] (see **Fig. 8**)
424 ([O'Hara, 1972](#)). Overall, the Lanzo N pyroxenites are silica-deficient and plot on the left side of
425 the thermal divide (CaTs-En) (**Fig. 8**). In detail, the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites, including those having
426 Spl-Pyx clusters, are **slightly shifted towards the Fo** apex compared to the Grt-pyroxenites from
427 External Liguride ophiolites, and from Beni Bousera, Ronda and Horoman peridotitic massifs
428 ([Bodinier et al., 1987](#); [Pearson et al., 1991, 1993](#); [Garrido and Bodinier, 1999](#); [Gysi et al., 2011](#);

429 [Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016](#)), indicating higher modal amounts of modal Ol. Even
430 higher amounts of Ol is revealed by the Lanzo N Spl-Pl pyroxenites, which, similar to the Spl-
431 websterites from Beni Bousera and Ronda massifs, plot closer to the Fo apex. The overall
432 increase in Ol modes from the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite to the Spl-Pl pyroxenite may suggest that
433 these rocks are remnants of Grt-pyroxenites consumed at various extents by interaction with
434 basaltic melts (e.g., group B pyroxenites in [Garrido & Bodinier, 1999](#)). The REE WR
435 compositions of the Lanzo N pyroxenites agree with this hypothesis. All the samples display
436 rather similar LREE/MREE ratios (La/Sm=0.3-0.5), but display a gradual decreases in HREE
437 from the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites towards the Spl-Pl pyroxenites (see **Fig. 3d,4**).
438 This suggests that the overall increase in Ol mode revealed by the Spl-Pl pyroxenites was coupled
439 with the addition of a melt phase that decreased their WR HREE contents, causing a gradual
440 increase in Ce/Yb ratios at increasing MgO contents (**Fig. 3d**). As analogy, most of the host Spl-
441 peridotites are modally rich in Ol, and show nearly flat M-HREE WR patterns (**Fig.4**). Based on
442 major and trace element decoupling, these rocks have been interpreted as product of interaction
443 between a former lherzolite and basaltic melt having an enriched MORB signature ([Guarnieri et
444 al., 2012](#)). A gradual interaction with basaltic melts is further consistent with the REE
445 compositions of the Cpxs, which also show large variations in HREE, with Cpx from the two
446 cluster-bearing samples still preserving extremely high HREE contents. The WR and mineral
447 compositions of the Lanzo N pyroxenites can be thereby indicative of progressive reaction with a
448 melt that percolated a former Grt-pyroxenite and smoothed out at various extents the original Grt-
449 signature. Under this light, we infer that both pyroxenites and host Spl-peridotite were diffusively
450 percolated by the same basaltic melt.

451 The local preservation of strongly radiogenic Nd and Hf isotopic ratios of the Spl-
452 harzburgites (**Fig. 6**), along with variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf ratios (**Fig. 5**) led [Guarnieri et al.
453 \(2012\)](#) to suggest that the melt migration producing modally depleted harzburgites largely
454 anticipated the Jurassic impregnation, and must have occurred in Paleozoic times. Based on the

455 preservation of Nd-Hf errorchrons in the pyroxenites, we can now constrain the age of this
456 process at ~400 Ma. This age may reflect the time of a Paleozoic extension and associated E-
457 MORB magmatism also documented in the External Liguride mantle (~430 Ma) (Borghini et al.,
458 2013), and can be possibly related to an extensional phase related to the opening of the
459 Paleotethys at the onset of the Variscan orogenic cycle (von Raumer et al., 2013 and references
460 therein).

461

462 **5.3 Inference on the origin of the pristine garnet-pyroxenites and development of decoupled** 463 **Nd-Hf isotopic signature: a geochemical model**

464 We previously inferred that the pyroxenites considered in this study were partly, and in
465 different extent, modified by migration of melt having a E-MORB geochemical signature. The
466 process of diffuse melt percolation combined to the complete recrystallization at spinel-facies
467 mantle conditions occurred at 400 Ma and profoundly overprinted the original textural, modal and
468 chemical features of the precursor garnet pyroxenites. However, some inferences on the origin of
469 the pristine pyroxenites can be gained by the composition of the least reacted samples, namely
470 those preserving Spl-Px clusters as evidence of former Grt. These samples show a marked Grt-
471 signature as for trace elements (i.e., high Sc, V and HREE and high Lu/Hf in WR and Cpx), high
472 ϵNd_{400} , but initial ϵHf_{400} similar to those of the other samples, thus showing Nd-Hf decoupling
473 below the mantle array (Fig. 6). Nd-Hf compositions below the mantle array are not uncommon
474 amongst Grt-pyroxenites worldwide and documented in External Ligurian ophiolites, Beni
475 Bussera and Ronda Massifs (see Fig. 9). According to their major and trace element chemistry,
476 these Grt-pyroxenites are generally interpreted as high pressure segregates of melts carrying the
477 isotopic signature of recycled oceanic crustal components (Pearson et al., 1991, 1993; Morishita
478 et al., 2003; Montanini et al., 2012; Marchesi et al., 2013; Montanini & Tribuzio, 2015; Varas-
479 Reus et al., 2018). In fact, the high mobility of Hf, Nd and Sm (22, 20 and 13%) (Stracke et al.,
480 2003; Niu, 2004) compared to Lu (immobile) produce a dehydrated oceanic crust with twice

481 higher Lu/Hf ratios (0.4) compared to average MORB (0.2), while leaving almost identical
482 Sm/Nd ratios (~0.3). Over time, this dehydrated crustal component would develop lower
483 $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ at a given $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$, gradually diverging at lower ϵHf and slightly higher ϵNd
484 compared to the present-day values (Stracke et al., 2003). Marine sediments, on the other hand,
485 have much lower Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf than igneous ocean crust, and the addition of this component
486 to a dehydrated oceanic crust would produce gradual shifts in Nd-Hf towards less radiogenic
487 values (Kogiso et al., 1997). Figure 9 shows that the isotopic field of recycled MORB (ranging
488 from 0.5 to 3.5 Ga) plus additions of minor marine sediments (Stracke et al., 2003; Varas-Reus et
489 al., 2018) can indeed explain most of the Nd-Hf isotopic decoupling seen in the Grt-pyroxenites
490 from Beni Bousera, Ronda and External Liguride ophiolites (grey starts in Fig. 9).

491 The cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites from Lanzo N, however, do not plot within this
492 field, having even lower ϵHf for comparatively high ϵNd . The persistence of an errorchron at
493 ~400 Ma only in $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ versus $^{177}\text{Hf}/^{178}\text{Hf}$ indicates that Hf isotopes in these rocks
494 equilibrated together with those of the other samples, whereas Nd isotopes of the two cluster-
495 bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites experienced some incomplete equilibration with the reacting melt
496 and were partly inherited from that of the original Grt-pyroxenite. Hence, we argue that the melt-
497 pyroxenite interaction at 400 Ma caused the isotopic decoupling in the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
498 pyroxenites. Due to the different affinities of Nd and Hf in the melt phase, and depending on the
499 Nd/Hf ratios of the two components, isotopic decoupling can occur during interaction between
500 depleted mantle peridotites and melts (Chauvel et al., 2008; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al.,
501 2012). For a depleted peridotite interacting with a MORB melt, the lower Nd/Hf ratios of the
502 depleted end-member produces mixing lines plotting above the Nd-Hf mantle array; as a result,
503 reacted peridotites generally preserve high Hf isotopic values, while their original Nd signature is
504 easily concealed by equilibration with the migrating melt (Sanfilippo et al., 2019). On the other
505 hand, if at the time of melt-rock interaction the isotopically depleted end-member has high Nd/Hf,
506 Hf isotopes would more easily equilibrate with those of the melts, while radiogenic Nd is

507 preserved. As a consequence, interaction between melt and a precursor Grt-pyroxenite having
508 higher Nd/Hf ratios compared to a depleted peridotite, might have produced the Nd-Hf isotopic
509 decoupling below the mantle array revealed by the Lanzo N cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites.

510 To test this hypothesis, we modeled a melt-rock reaction process between a precursor Grt-
511 pyroxenite and a MORB melt having Nd and Hf compositions in equilibrium with the Cpx of the
512 most enriched Lanzo N harzburgite. Despite the composition of the initial Grt-pyroxenite is
513 unknown, the REE pattern of the least modified samples recall those of Grt-pyroxenites from
514 External Ligurian ophiolites. Hence, we selected three end-members having different initial Nd-
515 Hf isotopes and whole rock geochemical compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from other sections of
516 External Ligurian ophiolites. The initial Grt-pyroxenite represents segregate from melts having a
517 geochemical signature akin a recycled MORB (i.e., long the “0 sediments line”), at ages of
518 recycling from 3.5 to 0.5 Ga (Varas-Reus et al., 2018) (see Fig. 9). In addition, we assumed for
519 the initial pyroxenite variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf ratios, to account for the expected compositional
520 variability of pyroxenites formed by deep segregation of melt in the mantle (Pearson et al., 1991,
521 1993; Morishita et al., 2003; Montanini et al., 2012; Marchesi et al., 2013; Montanini & Tribuzio,
522 2015; Varas-Reus et al., 2018). These parameters are arbitrary chosen and cannot take into
523 account the entire range of chemical variability of pyroxenites in the mantle, but are hereafter
524 used to test at what conditions the decoupling seen in the Grt-bearing samples can be
525 mathematically reproduced during a process of interaction with a melts.

526 We opted for the assimilation-fractional-crystallization (AFC) model of De Paolo (1981)
527 that has been successfully used to reproduce the Nd-Hf decoupling in mantle peridotites (Bizimis
528 et al., 2003; Chauvel et al., 2008; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al., 2012; Sanfilippo et al.,
529 2019). Further details of the model are reported in the appendix. The results are plotted at steps of
530 $F=0.02$ (that is the melt mass during the AFC process) in Figure 9 where the Nd-Hf isotopic
531 composition of the reaction products is compared to that of our samples. As a whole, the model is
532 able to reproduce the composition of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites only if a

533 geochemically enriched pyroxenite, i.e., having high Nd/Hf ratios, is assimilated. This is in
534 agreement with the **lower** Sm/Nd and higher L/MREE ratios of these samples compared to the
535 other pyroxenites. On the contrary, the Nd-Hf isotopes of sample Py5 will be reproduced by
536 interaction with a Grt-pyroxenite having low Nd/Hf ratios, in agreement with the low LREE of
537 this sample. Independently on the initial composition, the isotopic composition of cluster-bearing
538 samples equals that of a Grt-pyroxenite produced after ~70-80% of assimilation and
539 recrystallization of its initial mass into a melt having an E-MORB signature. On the other hand,
540 the compositions of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites samples having high MgO contents require **high**
541 **degrees of assimilation of the pre-existing pyroxenite, and recrystallization of an assemblage with**
542 **a geochemical composition similar that of the migrating melt (F >90%).** This is well supported by
543 the generally higher Fo mode and higher bulk MgO and NiO contents in these samples, **which**
544 **indicate addition of olivine and consumption of pyroxene starting from the pristine pyroxenite**
545 **assemblage.**

546

547 6. CONCLUSIONS

548 This study places new temporal constraints to the long history of exhumation and melt-rock
549 reaction of the Lanzo North peridotite massif, through chemical and Nd-Hf isotopes investigations
550 on pyroxenite layers embedded within spinel and plagioclase peridotites, i.e. (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
551 and Pl-Spl pyroxenites, respectively. Spl-Pl pyroxenites preserve Pl-Cpx-WR Sm-Nd internal
552 isochrons that indicate a closed-system event of Pl-facies equilibration in the Jurassic (152 ± 30
553 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma). **The intense plagioclase-facies recrystallization of Spl-Pl pyroxenites was**
554 **likely triggered** by the migration of MORB-type melts generating the host Pl-peridotites. Field and
555 textural observations coupled to chemical compositions indicate that this melt migration process
556 did not **significantly** perturb the bulk isotopic composition of the internal portions of the
557 pyroxenites. On the other hand, at the time of their exhumation at the seafloor (160 Ma), these
558 pyroxenites still revealed a large isotopic variability, inherited from more ancient events of melt

559 migration and melt-pyroxenite interaction. Textural features along with major and trace element
560 compositions, suggest that the studied pyroxenites represent former Grt-pyroxenites, and that the
561 early isotopic equilibration occurred in response to an event of reactive percolation of basaltic
562 melts concomitant to the complete re-equilibration at spinel-facies mantle conditions. The
563 preservation of Nd-Hf errorchrons in Cpx and WR suggest that this event of melt migration and
564 isotopic equilibration likely occurred at ~400 Ma.

565 The (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites preserving widespread textural and chemical evidence of former
566 Grt do not plot on the 400 errorchron for the Sm-Nd isotopes, resulting in high ϵ_{Nd} (~12) for
567 comparatively low ϵ_{Hf} (~10), when recalculated at 400 Ma (**Fig. 6**). Based on field and
568 geochemical evidence, we exclude the possibility that these samples experienced a late process of
569 metasomatism. **Instead, we believe that these samples were the least affected by the basaltic melt**
570 **percolation.** Geochemical models corroborate this idea, **showing that variable degrees of**
571 **interaction between a former Grt-pyroxenite with melts having a E-MORB geochemical signature**
572 **might have** shifted the original Nd-Hf isotopes below the mantle array (**Fig. 8**). The elemental
573 fractionation caused by this process resulted in a different isotopic evolution over time and by the
574 time of emplacement of the sequence on the Jurassic seafloor, caused the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
575 pyroxenites to experienced a stronger radiogenic Hf ingrowth compared to the other samples. As a
576 result, by the time of emplacement of this mantle section at crustal depths, the samples were “re-
577 coupled” along the terrestrial array. **In conclusion, changes in elemental ratios and a long-time**
578 **evolution preceding the emplacement of the Lanzo N mantle sequence at crustal depth partly**
579 **obscured the perturbation caused by this old event of melt migration event. This study underlines**
580 **the importance of using Nd and Hf isotope systematics to give time constraints to ancient process**
581 **of reactive melt migrations that can potentially modify the lithological and chemical heterogeneity**
582 **of the subcontinental mantle.**

583

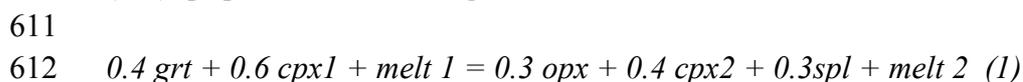
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591

592 APPENDIX

593 **Geochemical model (Table S5):** the melt-rock interaction model used to reproduce the Nd-Hf
 594 isotope ratios of the pyroxenites from Lanzo N is calculated using an AFC-type model based on
 595 equations 6a and 15a from DePaolo (1981), as similarly used in previous studies reproducing melt-
 596 rock reactions in the oceanic mantle (Kelemen et al., 1992; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al.,
 597 2012; Sanfilippo et al., 2019). A melt having an E-MORB isotopic signature reacts with initial Grt-
 598 pyroxenites having initial Nd/Hf ratios of 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5. In analogy with some Grt-pyroxenites
 599 from the External Ligurian ophiolites (Montanini et al., 2015; Borghini et al., 2016), Beni-Bousera
 600 and Ronda mantle sequences (see Varas-Reus et al., 2018 and references therein), the starting Grt-
 601 pyroxenites are considered to be high-pressure cumulates or products of melt-rock reaction (see for
 602 instance discussion in Gysi et al., 2011; Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016). We assume
 603 constant magma mass during reaction and mass assimilated to mass crystallized ratio ~0.9. The
 604 interaction of the starting Grt-pyroxenite (0.4 grt + 0.6 cpx; from Gysi et al., 2011) with the E-
 605 MORB melt produces a progressive changes in the resulting pyroxenite compositions by dissolution
 606 of the primary mineralogical assemblage and crystallization of new phases concomitant with phase
 607 transition from garnet to spinel peridotite field. Based on the reaction for the Grt-Spl phase
 608 transition defined by Vannucci et al. (1993) and on petrographic evidence in the host peridotites, we
 609 here assume that this process resulted in the transformation of the original Grt-pyroxenite into a
 610 (Grt)Spl-peridotite following the reaction



613

614 The Nd-Hf isotope ratios of the melts produced by this AFC process is depicted in **Fig. 5** and details
 615 are reported in supplementary Table S5. Parameters, partition coefficients and results of the model
 616 are reported in Table S5. Note that the proportions of crystallizing phases has a minor effect on the
 617 isotopic composition of the results of the reaction, as the latter are mostly dependent on the initial
 618 Nd/Hf ratios of the assimilant compared to that of the interacting melt (see text for further
 619 discussion).

620

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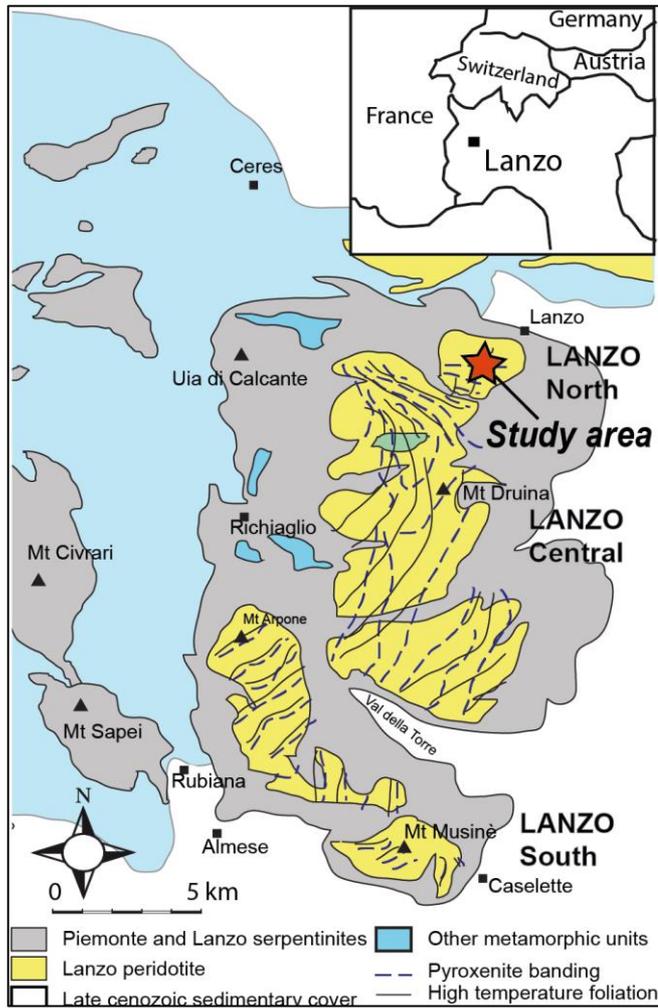
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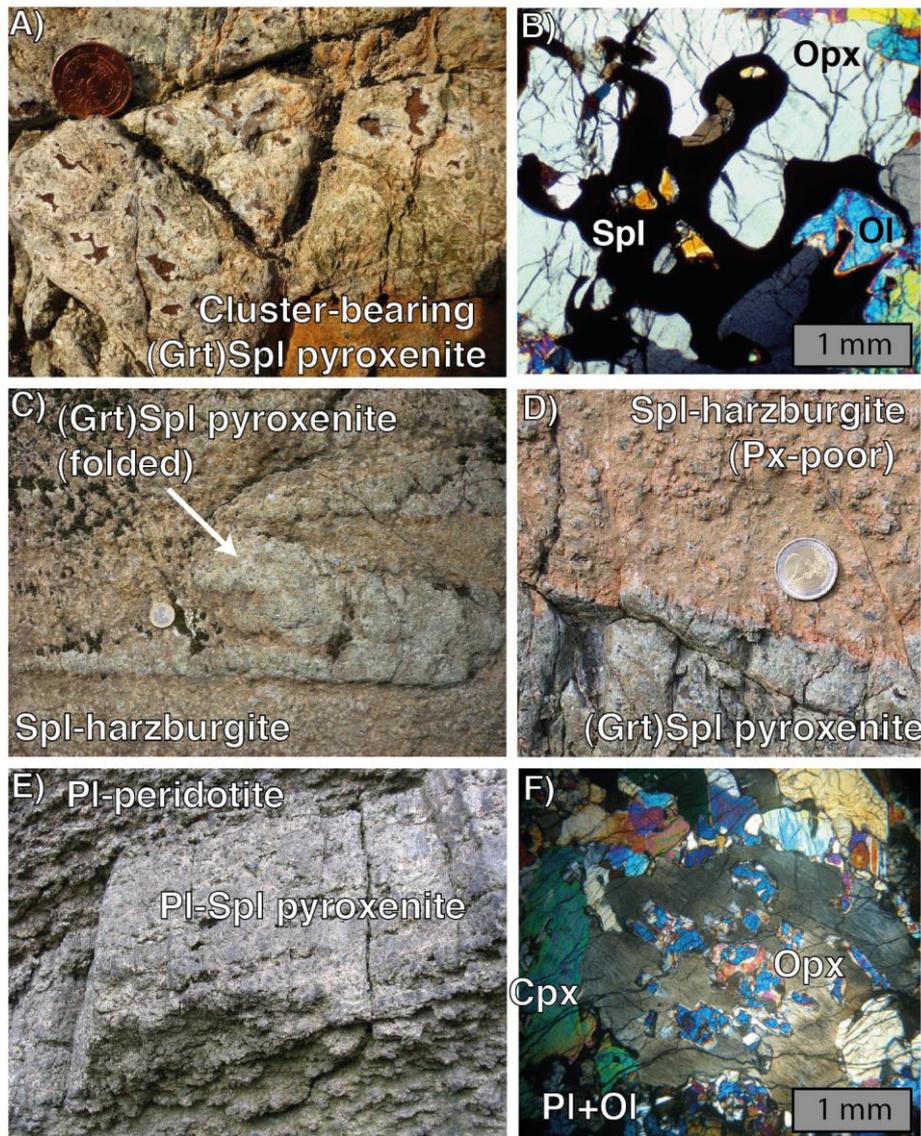
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860 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**
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 864 **Figure 1.** Geographical location (inset) and simplified geological map of the Lanzo peridotite
 865 massif and surrounding rocks. Also shown are the foliation in the peridotites and the orientation of
 866 the pyroxenite banding (redrawn after Boudier, 1978).
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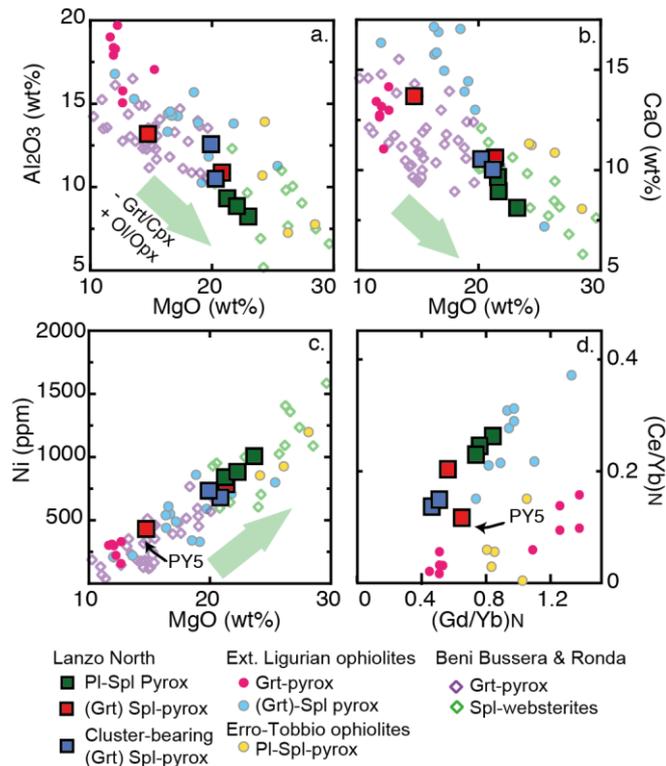
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Figure 2. Representative field and textural features of the Lanzo N pyroxenites. A) Field occurrence of a (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite embedded in spinel lherzolites; they show millimetric symplectitic spl + opx + cpx clusters evidence of a former garnet (B). C) Plastically folded (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite included within a pyroxene-poor lherzolite. (D) Sharp contact between a (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite and the host Spl-harzburgite. (E) Spl-Pl pyroxenite included within a Pl-impregnated peridotite. (F) Cross-polarized microphotograph of a Spl-Pl pyroxenite showing an orthopyroxene (Opx) porphyroblast containing exsolutions of plagioclase + secondary pyroxene, and partially replaced by Pl-bearing fine-grained neoblastic assemblage.



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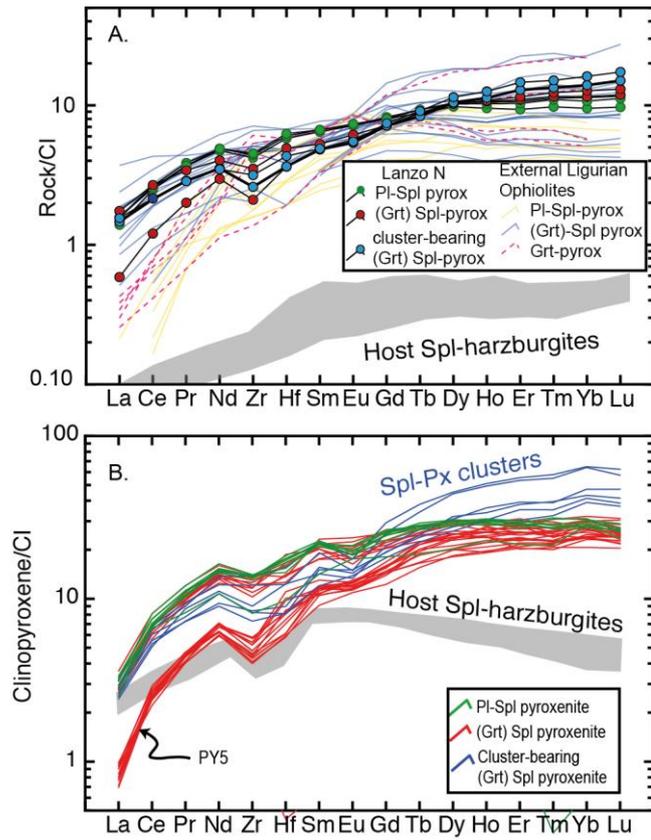
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Figure 3. Bulk rock MgO (wt%) versus Al₂O₃ (wt%), CaO (wt%), Ni (ppm) contents and Gd/Yb versus Ce/Yb (N, normalized to CI values from [Anders & Ebihara, 1982](#)) of the Lanzo N pyroxenites. Grt-pyroxenites and Spl-websterites from Ronda and Beni Bousera massifs ([Pearson et al., 1993](#); [Garrido and Bodinieir, 1999](#); [Gysi et al. 2011](#); [Varas-Reus et al., 2018](#)) are reported for comparison. For the External Liguride ophiolites we distinguished Grt-pyroxenites ([Montanini et al., 2012](#)), pyroxenites having garnet-like signature, i.e. (Grt)-Spl pyrox ([Borghini et al., 2016](#)). PI-Spl pyroxenites from Erro-Tobbio ophiolite ([Rampone and Borghini 2008](#)) are also shown. The arrows indicate the overall increase in modal amount of olivine (Ol) and orthopyroxene (Opx) at decreasing garnet (Grt) and clinopyroxene (Cpx) as discussed in the text.



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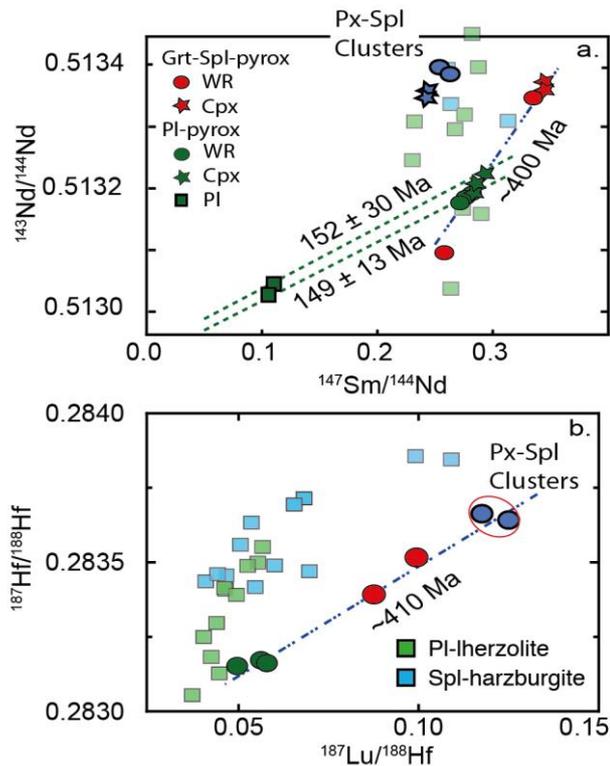
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Figure 4. CI (Anders & Ebihara, 1982) normalized REE + Zr, Hf abundance patterns of whole rock compositions (a) and single clinopyroxene analyses (b) from Lanzo N pyroxenites; N, normalized to CI. In (a), the compositions of External Liguride pyroxenites (Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016) are also reported. The WR and Cpx compositions of host Spl-harzburgites are also reported (Guarnieri et al., 2012).



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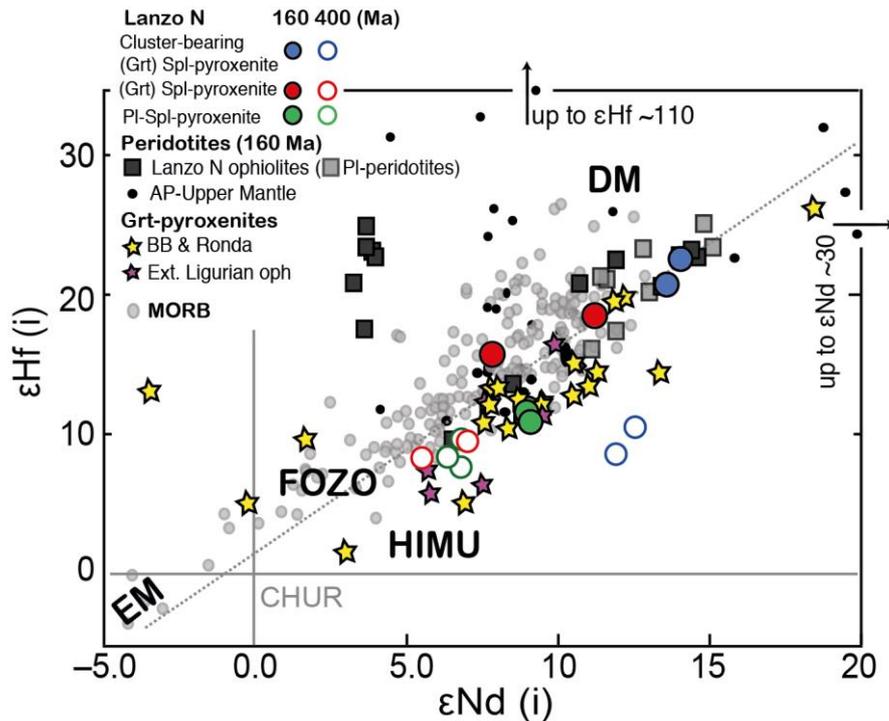
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Figure 5. Bulk rock, clinopyroxene and plagioclase $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ versus $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (a) and bulk-rock $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ versus $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ (b) of Lanzo N pyroxenites. Bulk-rock Nd and Hf isotopes data of the associated peridotites (Guarnieri et al., 2012) are also reported. Pl-Cpx-WR internal isochrones are defined for two Pl-Spl pyroxenites in (a). Errorchrones at 400 Ma based on both Nd and Hf isotopes data are defined by most samples, excluding cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites that preserve high $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ at comparatively low $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (see text).



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Figure 6. Initial Nd-Hf isotopic variations of Lanzo N pyroxenites and host peridotites

calculated at the time of emplacement at Jurassic seafloor (160 Ma). Initial compositions of Lanzo

N pyroxenites calculated at 400 Ma (empty red and green symbols) are also indicated (see text).

The initial whole-rock compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites

(Montanini et al., 2012), Ronda and Beni Bousera (Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell,

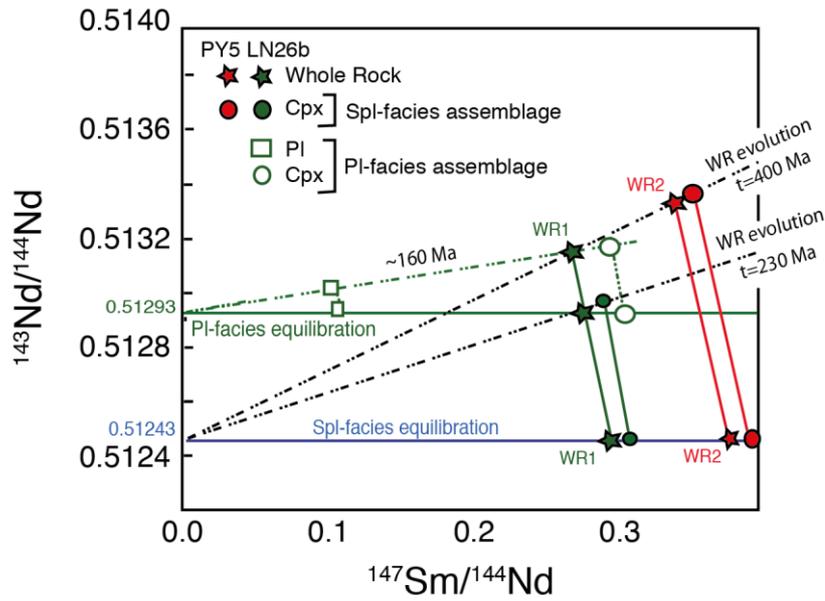
2004; Varas-Reus et al., 2018) are calculated at time of exhumation as indicated in literature. The

present-day compositions of clinopyroxenes from abyssal peridotites (Stracke et al., 2011), mantle

xenoliths (Bizimis et al., 2003; Byerly and Lassitier, 2014) and MORB (after Stracke 2012) are also

shown for comparison. Representative compositions of mantle end-members DM, EM, FOZO and

HIMU are from Stracke (2012).



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Figure 7. Nd-isotopic evolution of Spl-Pi pyroxenites. $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ versus $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$

918 isotope ratios of whole rock, clinopyroxene and plagioclase in two representative samples of Spl-Pi

919 pyroxenite (LN26b) (WR1) and (Gr)-Spl pyroxenite (Py5) (WR2). Both rocks initially equilibrated

920 at spinel facies conditions at $t=400$ Ma, at different Sm/Nd ratios. At ~ 160 Ma, WR1 equilibrated at

921 plagioclase facies conditions, resetting the Cpx $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios to the WR ratios, and forming

922 plagioclase with the same $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ isotope ratio. Because Cpx incorporates most of the Sm and

923 Nd of the WR, this late equilibration event has a minor effect on the isotopic evolution allowing the

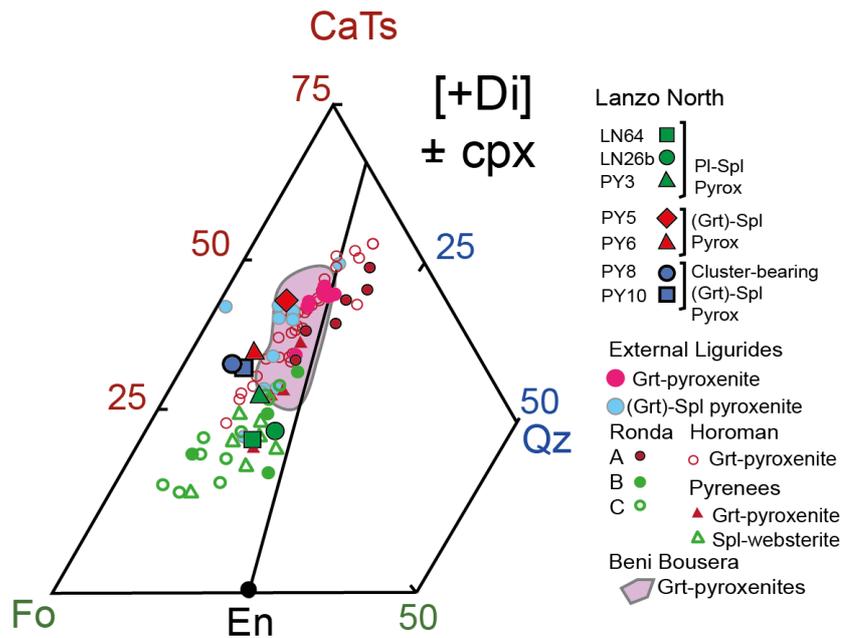
924 preservation of a WR-Cpx errorchron defined for both samples, coexisting with a Pl-Cpx-WR

925 internal isochron giving Jurassic ages.

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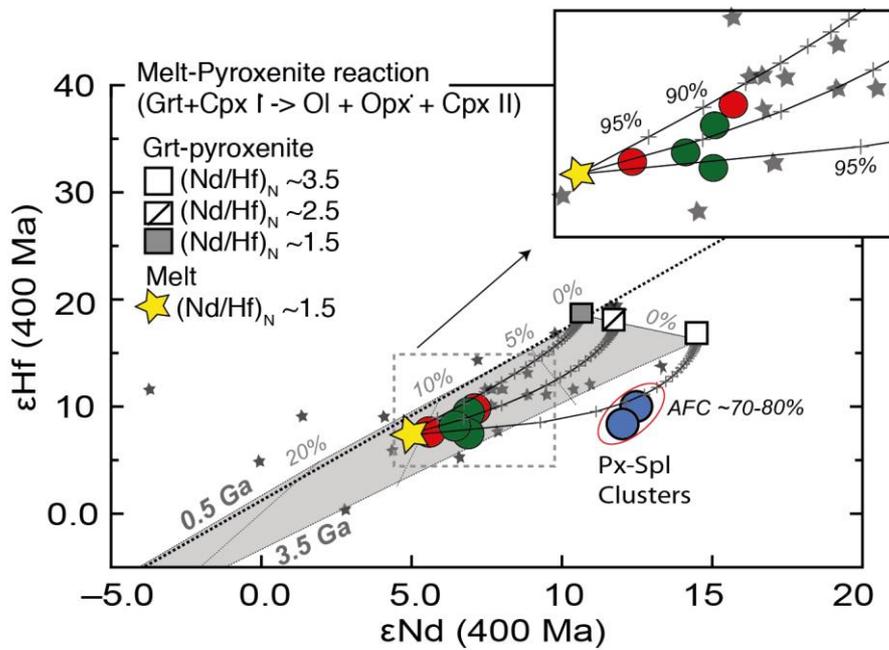
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Figure 8. Molar projections from diopside [Di] into the pseudoternary diagram forsterite-Ca-Tschermak-quartz (Fo-CaTs-Qz) (O'Hara, 1972) of Lanzo North pyroxenites. The pyroxenite in this study are compared to garnet- and spinel-bearing pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites (Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016), Ronda (Garrido & Bodinier, 1999; Bodinier et al., 2008; Varas et al., 2018), Pyrenees (Bodinier et al., 1987), Horoman (Takazawa et al., 1999; Morishita & Arai, 2001), and Beni Bousera (Pearson et al., 1993; Kumar et al., 1996; Gysi et al., 2011; Varas et al., 2018).



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Figure 9. Nd-Hf isotopic variations of Lanzo N pyroxenites calculated at 400 Ma are compared to the whole-rock compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites, Ronda and Beni Boussera (grey stars; see **Fig. 6**). The grey field represents the compositions of recycled altered MORB at ages of 0.5 and 3.5 Ga and at various proportions of marine sediments as indicated by italic numbers (0-5-10-20%) (from [Varas-Reus et al., 2018](#)). The results of the AFC models are reported at steps of $F=0.05$ starting from three end-member Grt-pyroxenite compositions (see text for further explanation).

1 **A 400 Ma-long Nd-Hf isotopic evolution of melt-modified garnet-**
2 **pyroxenites in an ancient subcontinental lithosphere (Lanzo North**
3 **ophiolite, Western Alps)**

4
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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Pyroxenite veining is widely preserved in peridotite massifs, and used to derive information on the
18 origin and evolution of upper mantle domains. These lithospheric mantle sections can be isolated
19 from the convecting mantle for > 1 Ga or more, suffering a long history of melting and/or melt-rock
20 reaction processes, which modify their original chemical and isotopic compositions. Here, we show
21 the effect of ancient process of melt-rock reaction in the chemistry of garnet pyroxenites from
22 Lanzo North Massif, an iconic lithospheric mantle section exhumed during the opening of the
23 Jurassic Alpine Tethys. Selected pyroxenites are more than 10 cm thick, and embedded within
24 peridotites that have textures and chemical compositions indicative of a complex history of
25 interaction with migrating melts. Whole rock and clinopyroxene Nd-Hf isotopes of the pyroxenites
26 consistently indicate that the first melt-rock reaction event occurred at ~400 Ma, likely in
27 combination with exhumation from the garnet to the spinel-facies mantle conditions. Two samples
28 still retain textural relicts and chemical evidence of precursor garnet and have high ϵ_{Nd} (~12) for
29 comparatively low ϵ_{Hf} (~10), when recalculated at 400 Ma, which suggest that they were less
30 affected by this ancient percolation process. The chemical evidence of such a long history of melt-
31 rock reactions was preserved from 400 Ma until present. Finally, two pyroxenites located within
32 plagioclase peridotites show evidence for an event of re-equilibration at plagioclase-facies
33 conditions, likely triggered by infiltration of melt in the host rock. These samples reveal the
34 coexistence of two internal Sm-Nd isochrones at 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma, thereby providing
35 temporal constraints to the event of melt impregnation of the host peridotites as consequence of the
36 opening of the Ligurian Tethys ocean.

37

38 *Keywords: pyroxenite; Nd-Hf isotopes; Lanzo ophiolite; melt-rock reaction; subcontinental*
39 *lithospheric mantle*

40

41 **1. INTRODUCTION**

42 The upper mantle is a heterogeneous mixture of domains having different geochemical signatures
43 inherited from a long-history of melting, recycling and re-fertilization processes (e.g. Stracke,
44 2012). Due to their fertile character, geochemically enriched domains are preferentially melted and
45 thereby rarely recovered amongst abyssal peridotites (Salters and Dick, 2002; Warren, 2016).
46 Geochemically enriched lithologies, mainly represented by pyroxenite veining, are nonetheless
47 preserved in subcontinental peridotite massifs (Garrido and Bodinier, 1999; Downes, 2007;
48 Bodinier and Godard, 2014) and, locally, in ophiolites formed at slow spreading environments (e.g.,
49 Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016). Indeed, most orogenic peridotites contain a great
50 variety of pyroxenites and some of them, called “garnet pyroxenites”, are mostly constituted by
51 pyroxene and garnet, proving to be equilibrated at high pressure (e.g. Bodinier et al., 1987; Pearson
52 et al., 1991; Morishita et al., 2003; Montanini et al. 2012). Contrary to what observed for abyssal
53 peridotites (Cipriani et al., 2004; Stracke et al., 2011), which on average retain isotopic
54 compositions more depleted than the associated MORB, the isotopic ratios of garnet pyroxenites
55 extends towards enriched values (that is low $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ and $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$, and high $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ isotopic
56 ratios), covering the entire variability of melts erupted at ocean ridges. The variability of Sr-Nd-Hf
57 isotopic compositions related to pyroxenites is often coupled with very old Re-Os model ages (>1
58 Ga), thus consistent with the expected isotopic variability and timescale for crustal recycling in the
59 mantle (Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell, 2004; Ackerman et al., 2016; Varas-Reus et
60 al., 2018; Tilhac et al., 2020). These data support the hypothesis that enriched domains in the upper
61 mantle mostly derive from recycled portions of oceanic or continental lithosphere, including
62 igneous crust, lithospheric mantle and associated sediments (e.g. Stracke et al., 2003; Lambart et al.,
63 2016).

64 Most peridotite massifs represent ancient lithospheric portions emplaced at crustal depths
65 after being isolated from the convecting mantle for hundreds of millions of years, or more (Reisberg

66 and Lorand, 1995). During their exhumation, these mantle sequences commonly experience events
67 of partial melting or interaction with migrating melts leading to changes in their original
68 mineralogy, texture and composition (Le Roux et al., 2009; McCarthy and Müntener, 2015;
69 Rampone et al., 2020; Rampone and Sanfilippo, 2021). While fast exhumation rates prevent any
70 substantial perturbations in the long-lived radiogenic isotope systematics (such as Rb-Sr; Sm-Nd;
71 Lu-Hf; U-Th-Pb) (Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell, 2004; Varas-Reus et al., 2018), a
72 long-lasting history of exhumation associated with melting and/or interactions with migrating melts
73 may result in significant variation in parent/daughter isotope ratios, causing deviations from the
74 original isotopic signature (Pearson et al., 1991; Tilhac et al., 2017).

75 Here, we focus on garnet-pyroxenites within melt-modified peridotites from a
76 subcontinental mantle to discuss the chemical changes imposed by old melt migration and their
77 effect on the long-term Nd-Hf isotopic evolution of pyroxenites. We use major-trace elements and
78 Nd-Hf isotope compositions of decimetre-thick pyroxenites from the Lanzo North massif (Western
79 Italian Alps), a well-studied lithospheric sub-continental mantle section exhumed at the ocean
80 seafloor during the opening of the Ligurian Tethys, in the Middle Jurassic (Boudier, 1978;
81 Lagabrielle et al., 1989). Previous studies on the host peridotites indicate that this mantle sequence
82 suffered a multistage history of interaction with melts having an enriched (E)-MORB signature
83 (Guarnieri et al., 2012). New chemical/isotopic compositions of the pyroxenites are here used to
84 constrain an older event of migration and spinel-facies equilibration at 400 Ma. Geochemical
85 modelling suggests that this event caused a shift towards low Hf isotope ratios for comparatively
86 high Nd isotope ratios, producing unusual Nd-Hf isotope decoupling below the mantle array. We
87 infer that the chemical response to this ancient history of melt-rock reaction is preserved until
88 present. Moreover, two samples collected within plagioclase-bearing peridotites preserve Sm-Nd
89 internal isochrones indicating that the equilibration at plagioclase-facies mantle conditions occurred
90 at closed system, likely triggered by increase in temperature due to the infiltration of melts into the

91 host peridotite during the emplacement of the Lanzo North mantle sequence on the Jurassic
92 seafloor.

93

94 **2. LANZO NORTH PERIDOTITE MASSIF: PETROLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

95 **2.1 Peridotites**

96 The Lanzo peridotite massif is part of the Sesia-Lanzo Zone, an accretionary prism of the Alpine
97 orogeny formed by continental crustal rocks and subordinate subcontinental mantle slivers from the
98 Adriatic plate (Fig. 1). The Sesia-Lanzo Zone represents the thinned and partially exhumed ocean-
99 continent transition (OCT) along the Adriatic margin of the Alpine Tethys, and is bound to the east
100 to the lower continental crustal rocks of the Adriatic plate (i.e., Ivrea-Verbano Zone, Southern Alps)
101 by the Insubric line (the Peri-Adriatic lineament) and to west to meta-ophiolitic units of the Jurassic
102 Piedmontese basin (i.e. Penninic units; Fig. 1). The Lanzo ultramafic massif constitutes the
103 southernmost portion of the Sesia-Lanzo Zone, and it has been subdivided in three domains, namely
104 South, Central and North, on the basis of distinct geochemical characteristics (after Boudier, 1978;
105 Bodinier et al., 1991). The Lanzo North massif exposes exceptionally well-preserved subcontinental
106 mantle peridotites, locally intruded by ~160 Ma-old MORB-type gabbros (Piccardo et al., 2007a;b;
107 Kaczmarek et al., 2008) and basalt dykes (**Fig. 1**). Primary contacts with a Jurassic sedimentary
108 cover indicate the exhumation of the mantle section on the Alpine Tethys seafloor (Lagabriele et
109 al., 1989).

110 Several contributions described the overall characteristics of the different rock types in the Lanzo
111 North (Boudier, 1978; Pognante et al., 1985; Bodinier, 1988; Bodinier et al., 1991; Piccardo et al.,
112 2007a; Piccardo, 2010; Guarnieri et al., 2012); the main results are hereafter summarised. The older
113 rock type is spinel lherzolite tectonite, which locally exceeds 10 vol% of porphyroclastic
114 clinopyroxene (Cpx) and, in place, contain centimeter-size symplectitic clusters of spinel +
115 orthopyroxene and minor clinopyroxene (Spl+Px). Similar to other peridotite occurrences (e.g.,
116 Hoogerduijn Strating et al., 1993; Vannucci et al., 1993), these textures were considered products of

117 garnet breakdown after transition to spinel-facies mantle conditions, thus suggesting an early
118 equilibration at garnet facies conditions. These spinel lherzolites retain PM-like PGE patterns and
119 up to 1 Ga-old Re depletion ages (calculated after Becker et al., 2006) that are coupled with
120 relatively fertile major and incompatible trace element compositions. They yielded Sm-Nd and Lu-
121 Hf model ages up to 2.1 Ga (Bodinier et al., 1991; Guarnieri et al., 2012). Chemical and isotopic
122 data, thus, indicate a geochemical affinity acquired after a long-time isolation from the convective
123 mantle in a subcontinental lithosphere, and an early process of re-equilibration at garnet-facies
124 conditions (Boudier, 1978; Bodinier et al., 1991; Guarnieri et al., 2012).

125 The Spl-Px cluster-bearing spinel lherzolite tectonite is partially replaced by pyroxene-poor
126 spinel harzburgites, also called reactive harzburgite (Guarnieri et al., 2012). Indeed, microtextural
127 and geochemical evidence indicate that these modally depleted rocks formed by reactive
128 percolation of silica-undersaturated melts with a E-type MORB geochemical signature (Guarnieri et
129 al., 2012). The high LREE contents and variable Nd-Hf isotopes are the distinctive signatures of
130 these melt-modified rocks. Symplectitic Spl+Px clusters rarely occur in the harzburgites, suggesting
131 that they were consumed during the melt-rock reaction process. The preservation of radiogenic Nd
132 and Hf isotopic ratios at variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf in these Spl-harzburgites led Guarnieri et al.
133 (2012) to suggest that the event of migration of olivine-saturated melts occurred in Paleozoic times.

134 Locally, both lherzolites and modally depleted harzburgites show plagioclase-orthopyroxene
135 micro-veins that crosscut the spinel-facies mineral assemblage, associated with a consequent
136 increase in bulk rock SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and CaO at decreasing MgO and NiO contents (Guarnieri et al.,
137 2012). These plagioclase-bearing peridotites form hectometric-scale domains that suggest a
138 localized event of migration of silica-saturated MORB-like melts uprising in response to the passive
139 upwelling of the asthenospheric mantle and continental extension that led to the opening of the
140 Ligurian Tethys ocean in Jurassic times (Piccardo et al., 2003; Muntener et al., 2004; Piccardo and
141 Vissers, 2007; Piccardo et al., 2007a; b; Piccardo, 2010; Higginson and Tommasi, 2014; Piccardo,
142 2016). This process is common in the ophiolitic mantle sequences of the Alpine-Appennine

143 ophiolites and is referred to as “plagioclase-impregnation” (see Rampone and Sanfilippo, 2021 for a
144 review).

145

146 **2.2 Pyroxenites**

147 Pyroxenites are widespread in the Lanzo North mantle sequence where they occur as
148 centimeter- to decimeter-thick layers within the different rock types (**Fig. 2**). The pyroxenites are
149 often parallel or sub-parallel to tectonic foliation of host peridotite (**Fig. 2d,e**), although they
150 locally are intensely folded and boudinated (Boudier, 1978; Piccardo et al., 2007b, Piccardo, 2010)
151 (**Fig. 2c**). This is in agreement with the idea that thick pyroxenites represent long-lived
152 heterogeneities deformed at deep lithospheric conditions (Bodinier and Godard, 2014). Thick
153 pyroxenite layers occur within spinel lherzolites, spinel harzburgites and plagioclase(Pl)-
154 peridotites, as previously described by Boudier (1978), Piccardo et al. (2007b) and Guarnieri et al.
155 (2012).

156 In this study, we focused on samples from the inner portions of thick (>10 cm) pyroxenite
157 layers. Samples were distinguished in three types of pyroxenites, based on their host rock. (i)
158 cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites were collected within spinel lherzolites (**Fig. 2a,b**), which
159 represent the oldest rock-type in Lanzo North massif (Guarnieri et al., 2012). These pyroxenites
160 contain exceptionally diffuse Spl-Px clusters (**Fig. 2a,b**), similar to those locally found in the host
161 fertile lherzolites (Guarnieri et al., 2012). These microstructures coupled with geochemical
162 characteristics of the pyroxenes, such as very high Sc and V contents and HREE (Yb at 40-60 x CI)
163 in spinel-bearing clinopyroxene porphyroclasts, indicate that they are the sub-solidus product of
164 spinel-facies recrystallization of precursor garnet pyroxenites (see also Piccardo et al., 2007b;
165 Guarnieri et al., 2009; 2012), suggesting that they originated at least at $P > 1.5$ GPa (Piccardo,
166 2010; Borghini and Fumagalli, 2018). (ii) (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites occur within modally depleted
167 spinel harzburgites, which formed by olivine-forming and pyroxene-dissolving reactions induced
168 by percolating melts (Guarnieri et al., 2012). They rarely show Spl-Px clusters and commonly have

169 porphyroclastic textures made by coarse clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene and sporadic large
170 green spinel. Large olivine porphyroclasts are also locally present although commonly replaced by
171 serpentine. In pyroxenite groups “i” and “ii”, rare exsolutions of secondary pyroxene plus
172 plagioclase into coarse-grained pyroxene porphyroclasts and thin plagioclase + olivine coronas
173 around Spl indicate the incipient recrystallization at plagioclase-facies conditions ($P < 1.0$ GPa,
174 Piccardo et al., 2007b). (iii) Spl-Pl pyroxenites occur within plagioclase-impregnated peridotites
175 (**Fig. 2e**). They have websteritic composition and compared to the Grt-Spl pyroxenites contains
176 higher amounts of serpentized olivine. Spl-Px clusters are absent in the Spl-Pl pyroxenites that
177 instead show much larger extent of plagioclase-bearing recrystallization. This latter is testified by
178 large domains of plagioclase + olivine + pyroxene neoblasts and diffuse occurrence of pyroxene +
179 plagioclase exolutions partially replacing the coarse pyroxene and spinel porphyroclasts (**Fig. 2f**).
180 In place, one Spl-Pl pyroxenite sample also shows thin plagioclase + orthopyroxene coronas
181 surrounding clinopyroxene porphyroclasts (Piccardo et al., 2007b). These textures testify an event
182 of equilibration at Pl-facies conditions likely triggered by the melt impregnation of the host
183 peridotite (Piccardo et al., 2007b). As noted in previous studies, the field and microstructural
184 features of the Lanzo N pyroxenites provide evidence that these rocks experienced multiple stages
185 of equilibration, ranging from garnet- to spinel- to plagioclase-facies, as response of the
186 progressive exhumation of the Lanzo North peridotite massif on the Jurassic seafloor (see Piccardo
187 et al. 2007b; Guarnieri et al., 2012 and references therein).

188

189 3. ANALITICAL METHODOLOGY

190 Samples for this study were selected from the innermost portions of thick (>10 cm)
191 pyroxenite layers. Analytical methodologies are identical to those reported in Guarnieri et al.
192 (2012) for the host peridotites from Lanzo North. Hereafter, we include a brief description of each
193 method, the reader is referred to Guarnieri et al. (2012) for further details. Major and trace elements
194 whole-rock analyses were performed at the Pheasant Memorial Laboratory for Geochemistry and

195 Cosmochemistry (PML), Institute for Study of the Earth's Interior (ISEI, reorganized into the
196 current Institute for Planetary Materials, IPM, in 2016), Okayama University at Misasa, Japan.
197 Whole-rock major element compositions were determined by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry
198 (XRF) with a Phillips PW 2400, using lithium tetraborate glass beads (1:10 ratio of sample and
199 flux; Takei, 2002). Fusion temperature for bead preparation was set at 1,050 °C to avoid loss of
200 alkali metals (Willis, 2010). The LOI (loss on ignition) was obtained by gravimetric method, and
201 FeO content was determined by titration (Yokoyama & Nakamura, 2002). Matrix correction
202 follows Norrish & Chappell (1977). Instrumental calibration was performed using the reference
203 igneous rocks (n = 13) provided from Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ); those include andesites
204 (JA-2 and JA-3), basalts (JB-1b, JB-2 and JB-3), rhyolites (JR-1, JR-2 and JR-3), granites (JG-1a
205 and JG-2), gabbros (JGb-1 and JGb-2), peridotite (JP-1), and hornblendite (JH-1). Major-element
206 compositions of these reference rocks are from Imai et al. (1995, 1999) and Terashima et al.
207 (1998). Accuracy of calibration is better than 1%, estimated from root mean square of residues.

208 Trace elements were analyzed by inductively coupled plasma-quadrupole mass
209 spectrometry (Agilent 7500CS) using the techniques of Makishima and Nakamura (2006). For Rb,
210 Sr, Y, Cs, Ba, REE, Pb, Th, and U analysis, samples were spiked with ^{149}Sm and dissolved
211 following the method of Makishima and Nakamura (1997). For the HFSE (Zr, Nb, Hf, and Ta)
212 analysis, a mixed ^{91}Zr - ^{179}Hf spike was added to the samples. Samples were dissolved following the
213 Teflon bomb method of Tanaka et al. (2003). The 2sigma reproducibility of the rock standard JB-2
214 is less than 7% (n=3), and procedural blanks were less than 13 pg (n=2) for Rb, Sr, Y, Cs, Ba,
215 REE, Pb, Th, and U analysis. For the HFSE analysis, the 2sigma reproducibility of the rock
216 standard JB-3 is less than 5% (n=3), procedural blanks were less than 150pg for Nb, Hf and Ta,
217 5.7ng for Zr. Blank correction was applied to all the obtained elemental concentrations, and was
218 less than 1% for Rb, Sr, Y, Cs, Ba, REE, Pb, Th, and U. Since the aluminum addition method
219 (Tanaka et al, 2003) was applied to the HFSE analysis, the high blank value in the analysis is
220 attributed to the added Al solution corresponding to the decomposed sample amount (~50 mg).

221 Except for Nb in PY5 (9% correction), the blank corrections for Zr, Nb, and Hf were less than 4%;
222 however, Ta resulted in corrections from 60 to 150%, and nearly 400% in PY5. Typical detection
223 limits (3sigma) in the analyses are sub-ppt up to 30ppt, which corresponds to sub-ppb to 30ppb of
224 elemental concentration in the sample.

225 Major elements compositions of clinopyroxene and plagioclase (Tables S2, S3): were
226 determined using a JEOL 8200 SuperProbe at the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università
227 degli Studi di Milano. Accelerating voltage was 15 kV, beam current 15 nA. Natural and synthetic
228 minerals and glasses were used as standards. In-situ trace element analysis of clinopyroxenes and
229 plagioclase was carried out by laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-
230 ICP-MS) at the IGG-CNR of Pavia, Italy. The laser probe consisted of a Q-switched Nd:YAG laser,
231 model Quantel (Brilliant); the spot diameter was typically of 50 μm . The ablated material was
232 analyzed using an Elan DRC-e quadrupole mass spectrometer. NIST SRM 610 synthetic glass was
233 used as an external standard. The CaO content determined by electron microprobe analysis (EMPA)
234 was used as an internal standard. Precision and accuracy were assessed from repeated analyses of
235 the BCR-2 g standard and were usually better than $\pm 10\%$.

236 Neodymium-Hf isotope determinations for whole-rock, clinopyroxene (Cpx) and
237 plagioclase (Pl) were performed at the PML as described above (Table S4). Neodymium isotopic
238 composition and Nd and Sm abundances were analyzed on whole-rock, clinopyroxenes and
239 plagioclase, whereas Hf isotopes and Lu and Hf concentrations were obtained for whole rocks
240 exclusively. Clinopyroxene and plagioclase separates were handpicked under a binocular
241 microscope. Although the isotopic exchange between seawater and the original mineral assemblage
242 during late-stage alteration is negligible for Nd and Hf, to minimize the possible effects of seawater
243 alteration, clinopyroxenes and whole-rocks were leached following a multi-day and multi-stage
244 procedure. Analyses of Sm-Nd isotope ratios and concentrations were performed by thermal
245 ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) following the techniques of Nakamura et al. (2003). Sample
246 powders (100-130mg of whole rock, 10-60mg of Cpx, 80mg of Pl) were spiked with ^{150}Nd and

247 ^{149}Sm prior to dissolution and Nd isotope ratios and abundances by isotope dilution were
248 determined simultaneously on a Thermo Fisher Scientific Triton TIMS equipped with nine Faraday
249 cups. Samarium abundances were determined by isotope dilution procedures using a Finnigan-
250 MAT262 solid-source TIMS equipped with five Faraday cups following Nakamura et al. (2003).
251 Mean value of $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ and reproducibility obtained by analyses of the in-house standard PML-
252 Nd was 0.511737 ± 0.000013 (2sigma, n=15), and corresponded value of the La Jolla standard
253 was 0.511872 ± 0.000013 (2sigma). The result of the reference rock standards JB2 and JB3 were
254 0.513114 ± 0.000029 (2sigma, n=4) and 0.513078 ± 0.000013 (2sigma, n=5), respectively. Total
255 procedural blanks of Nd and Sm were 0.7pg (n=5) and 0.1pg (n=5) for Cpx and Pl, 2pg (n=5) and
256 0.2 pg (n=5) for whole-rock, respectively.

257 For Lu and Hf abundance and Hf isotope ratio determination, MC-ICP-MS (Thermo Fisher
258 Scientific Neptune) was used. Whole -rock powders (100-130mg) were spiked with ^{176}Lu and ^{179}Hf
259 prior to decomposition and Hf isotope ratios and abundances by isotope dilution were determined
260 simultaneously applying the techniques of Lu et al. (2007) and Makishima and Nakamura (2008).
261 Lu contents were also measured following the procedures of Makishima and Nakamura (2008).
262 Hafnium isotopic data were normalized to $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf} = 0.282192$ for JMC 14374, which
263 corresponds to $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf} = 0.282160$ for JMC 475. The $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ result of the reference rock
264 standards JB3 was 0.283224 ± 0.000011 (2sigma, n=5). Total procedural blanks of Hf and Lu were
265 154pg (n=11) and 0.1pg (n=11), respectively.

266

267 **4. RESULTS: MAJOR, TRACE ELEMENTS AND ND-HF ISOTOPIC COMPOSITIONS**

268 Selected Lanzo North pyroxenites show rough correlations in bulk MgO vs Al₂O₃, CaO and Ni.
269 The MgO, Al₂O₃, CaO and Ni contents in (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites cluster around rather uniform
270 values at relatively high MgO (~20 wt%) (**Fig. 3**). One sample (PY5) shows lower MgO (15 wt%)
271 at higher Al₂O₃, CaO and low Ni (13.5 and 14 wt%, 400 ppm, respectively). On the other hand, Pl-
272 Spl pyroxenites have higher MgO (up to 23 wt%) and Ni (up to 1100 ppm) and lower Al₂O₃ and

273 CaO contents (7.5 and 8 wt%, respectively). As a whole, the Lanzo N Pl-Spl pyroxenites plots in
 274 the field of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites from Beni Bousera and Ronda SCLM, and from the Ligurian
 275 ophiolites, whereas the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites plot within the field of Beni Bousera and Ronda Grt
 276 pyroxenites, at generally higher MgO and Ni and lower CaO and Al₂O₃. Notably, PY5 (Grt)-Spl
 277 pyroxenite having low MgO and Ni, and high CaO, content is nearly undistinguishable from the
 278 Grt-pyroxenites reported in literature (**Fig. 3**).

279 The CI-normalized REE patterns of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites reveal variable
 280 depletion in LREE ($La_N/Sm_N = 0.12-0.32$) coupled with selective enrichments in HREE over the
 281 MREE ($Sm_N/Yb_N = 0.31-0.60$) (**Fig. 3d; 4a**). These chemical characteristics agree with the local
 282 preservation of abundant Spl-Opx clusters and are similar to those of the External Ligurian Grt-
 283 pyroxenites, but at comparatively higher LREE (**Fig. 4a**). The high HREE abundances are also
 284 comparable with those observed in some garnet-bearing pyroxenites from orogenic ultramafic
 285 massifs of the Mediterranean area (Bodinier et al., 1987; Pearson et al., 1991, 1993; Garrido and
 286 Bodinier, 1999; Gysi et al., 2011; Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016). The REE patterns
 287 of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites are subparallel to those of (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites although they have
 288 relatively high and constant LREE ($La_N/Sm_N = 0.22-0.24$) and nearly flat M-HREE patterns
 289 ($Sm_N/Yb_N = 0.62-0.68$) (**Fig. 4a**). Overall, the CI-normalized patterns show an increase in LREE at
 290 decreasing HREE from the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites towards the Pl-Spl pyroxenites (**Fig. 3d**). Similar
 291 chemical features are shown by the Cpx, which in the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites are
 292 characterized by high HREE, V and Sc contents and generally lower LREE compared to those in
 293 Pl-Spl peridotites (**Fig. 4b**; Table S3 in supplements). The compositions of Cpx presumably
 294 acquired most of the trace element signature from the whole-rock after equilibration at Spl-facies
 295 conditions (Vannucci et al., 1993; Rampone and Borghini, 2008; Borghini et al., 2013, 2016),
 296 indicating that garnet was at least locally abundant in the precursor mineral assemblages of some
 297 (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites.

298 Neodymium isotopic ratios were determined for Cpx, Pl and WR. Pyroxenites Cpx and WR reveal

299 a narrow isotopic variability, with present day $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ranging from 0.5131 to 0.5134 and
300 $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ from 0.22 to 0.35 (**Fig. 5a**). On a closer inspection, Cpx and WR of 5 of the 7 samples
301 define an errorchron at 410 ± 17 Ma. The two Grt-Spl pyroxenites preserving Spl-Px clusters do not
302 plot along this array, retaining highly radiogenic $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$, but relatively low $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (**Fig.**
303 **5a**). Nd isotopes of Pl separates were also obtained from two Pl-Spl-pyroxenites. They provide Pl-
304 Cpx-WR internal isochrones at 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma. These ages are in good agreement
305 with the emplacement of Lanzo N massif at crustal depth as also indicated by the ages of the
306 MORB-type intrusions in Lanzo (Kaczmarek et al., 2008), and rather coeval with intrusive oceanic
307 crustal rocks of Jurassic Tethys (Rampone et al., 2014; Tribuzio et al., 2016 and references therein).
308 Whole-rock Hf isotopes of all pyroxenites define an errorchrone at 396 ± 27 Ma (**Fig. 5b**), notably
309 consistent with the Cpx-WR errorchrone yielded by Nd isotopes, if the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
310 preserving Spl-Px clusters are excluded. These cluster bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites have the
311 highest $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ and $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ ratios, in agreement with a strong Grt signature. When
312 calculated at the time of emplacement of the Lanzo section at shallow depths (160 Ma), the initial
313 $\epsilon\text{Nd}-\epsilon\text{Hf}$ values of all samples plot along the Nd-Hf terrestrial array. This suggests that at the time
314 of emplacement on the Jurassic seafloor, these pyroxenites were characterized by a wide isotopic
315 heterogeneity, varying from depleted to enriched Nd-Hf isotopic compositions and encompassing a
316 large portion of the present-day MORB field (**Fig. 6**).

317

318 **5. DISCUSSION**

319 **5.1 Exhumation at plagioclase-facies conditions**

320 The Spl-Pl pyroxenites in this study were sampled within the Pl-impregnated peridotites.

321 Hence, one can argue that these pyroxenites underwent chemical changes related to impregnation
322 of the host rocks, and that this process might have perturbed their geochemical and isotopic
323 compositions. Guarnieri et al. (2012) showed that Pl-facies impregnation of the Lanzo N
324 peridotites was related to the diffuse percolation of silica-saturated melts that crystallized gabbro-

325 noritic material within a former Spl-peridotite assemblage. This refertilization process caused the
326 preferential addition of Pl+Opx with a consequent increase in SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and CaO at decreasing
327 MgO and NiO contents (Rampone et al., 1996, 2008; Piccardo and Vissers, 2007) also coupled
328 with the chemical equilibration of the original mantle phases with the infiltrating MORB-type
329 melt (Piccardo et al., 2004; 2007b; Müntener et al., 2005; 2010). These are exactly the opposite
330 chemical changes we envisage in the Spl-Pl pyroxenites, which are markedly enriched in MgO
331 and NiO and depleted in Al₂O₃ and CaO compared to the (Grt)-Spl counterparts (**Fig. 3**). This
332 suggests that the gabbroic pockets (plagioclase + olivine + neoblastic pyroxenes) grown between
333 pyroxene and spinel porphyroclasts are likely the result of subsolidus recrystallization rather than
334 the addition of infiltrating basaltic melts, as previously suggested by Piccardo et al. (2007b).
335 Moreover, the Spl-Pl pyroxenite samples selected in this study do not show diffuse Pl-bearing
336 veinlets crosscutting mantle minerals as typically described for impregnated peridotites (e.g.
337 Rampone et al., 1997, 2008; Piccardo et al., 2007a). On the other hand, as observed in other
338 pyroxenite occurrences from External Ligurides (Montanini et al., 2006, 2012; Borghini et al.,
339 2016; Basch et al., 2020) and Erro-Tobbio massif (Rampone and Borghini, 2008), Pl in these
340 samples appears as neoblasts together with new fine- and medium-grained pyroxenes or in
341 association with olivine partly replacing large Spl porphyroclasts, thus suggesting that it mainly
342 represents product of subsolidus recrystallization. Impregnation textures are nonetheless present
343 at the vicinity of the contacts with the host Pl-peridotites, where the pyroxenites show Pl-bearing
344 microveins crosscutting pyroxene porphyroclasts. It is thereby plausible that the infiltration of
345 melts precipitating plagioclase in the host peridotites (Piccardo et al., 2007b; Guarnieri et al.,
346 2012) was not able to modify the most internal portion of the studied pyroxenite layers, which
347 thus preserved their isotopic compositions. Most likely, the volume of infiltrating melt was
348 thereby small enough to be buffered by the pyroxene-rich matrix, determining the isotopic
349 composition of the segregated plagioclase to be in close equilibrium with the bulk-rock
350 composition.

351 The hypothesis that Pl in the pyroxenites formed as subsolidus equilibration is in agreement
352 with the isotopic record of the Spl-Pl pyroxenites. Linear correlations in $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ - $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$
353 and $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ - $^{177}\text{Hf}/^{178}\text{Hf}$ characterize the WR and Cpx from all lithologies, including those
354 pyroxenites located within peridotites untouched by melt impregnation in the Jurassic. These
355 linear correlations connect all samples and form two distinct errorchrones yielding ages of ~ 400
356 Ma for both Nd and Hf isotopes, which must represent the age of isotopic equilibration at Spl-
357 facies (**Fig. 5**). For Nd isotopes, the WR-Cpx errorchron at ~ 400 Ma coexists with Pl-Cpx-WR
358 internal isochrones of Jurassic age. The internal isochrones based on Nd isotopes of by two Spl-Pl
359 pyroxenites have ages of 152 ± 30 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma and indicate that the Pl-bearing
360 assemblage formed in Mid-Jurassic (**Fig. 5**), nearly coeval with the intrusion of MORB-type
361 gabbros within the Lanzo sequence (160 ± 4 Ma) (Kaczmarek et al., 2008). Although the
362 plagioclase-facies recrystallization cannot be undoubtedly related to the process of Pl-facies
363 impregnation in the host peridotite, it is plausible that the temperature increase due to melt
364 migration in the host peridotite triggered subsolidus recrystallization, likely enhanced by the
365 fertile bulk compositions of the pyroxenite assemblage (Hidas et al., 2021). Accordingly, (Grt)-
366 Spl pyroxenites show only incipient plagioclase-bearing recrystallization because they escaped
367 the heating related to melt impregnation of host peridotite.

368 If we assume that the two events were coeval, then our study furnishes the age of the
369 impregnation of the host mantle peridotite, which is slightly younger than the timing proposed for
370 the equilibration at Pl-facies conditions of the External Liguride ophiolites (186 ± 1.8 Ma,
371 Montanini et al., 2012; 178 ± 8 Ma, Borghini et al., 2016). The isotopic evolution of two selected
372 Spl-Pl and Grt-Spl samples is modeled in **Fig. 7**. The plot shows two samples having different
373 WR compositions, here indicated in different Sm/Nd ratios, that suffered a first event of isotopic
374 equilibration at Spl-facies conditions at 400 Ma, thereof followed by a closed-system WR isotopic
375 evolution until present. At 160 Ma, one sample experienced an event of equilibration at Pl-facies
376 conditions, evidenced by the formation of Pl in isotopic equilibrium with the WR and, as

377 response, a small shift in the Cpx Sm/Nd ratios. The following evolution led to further radiogenic
378 Nd in-growth in Pl, WR and Cpx, aligned along a Jurassic errorchron. Cpx in pyroxenite
379 incorporates most of the Sm and Nd of the WR, and the Pl-equilibration has a minor effect on the
380 isotopic evolution of the Cpx in this sample. This allows the preservation of WR-Cpx errorchrons
381 at ~400 Ma for both samples, coexisting with Pl-Cpx-WR internal isochrones having Jurassic
382 ages (**Fig. 7**).

383

384 **5.2 Early perturbation of the Nd-Hf isotope systematics**

385 In the previous section, we showed that the major, trace elements and the Nd-Hf isotopes of
386 the Lanzo North pyroxenites did not suffer significant chemical perturbations during the process
387 of melt migration and impregnation experienced by the host peridotite during the Jurassic
388 exhumation at rather shallow mantle level. Instead, the errorchrons defined by WR and Cpx in the
389 Sm-Nd and Lu-Hf isotopic space for most samples indicate that their isotopic equilibration was
390 attained during a 400 Ma-old event, which was likely related to their complete re-equilibration at
391 spinel-facies mantle conditions (**Fig. 5**). The only exception is represented by two cluster-bearing
392 (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites, which preserve large quantities of subrounded Spl-Px clusters and have
393 very high HREE contents, both indicative of a precursor garnet. These samples do not plot on the
394 400 Ma errorchron for the Sm-Nd isotopes, having lower Sm/Nd ratios compared to the other
395 (Grt)-Spl samples. Hence, if the initial ϵNd - ϵHf values are calculated at 400 Ma (provided by the
396 Nd-Hf errorchrons, **Fig. 5**), most pyroxenites have Nd-Hf compositions clustering in the enriched
397 portion of MORB (ϵNd 6-7; ϵHf 8-9; **Fig. 6**), whereas the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
398 plot below the mantle array, showing a distinctive decoupling at higher ϵNd (12-13) for
399 comparatively low ϵHf (8-9), (**Fig. 6**).

400 One possibility to explain the anomalous isotopic compositions is that the two cluster-
401 bearing samples suffered some recent process of interactions with melts that decreased the
402 original Sm/Nd ratios, thus shifting the samples on the left of the errorchron in **Fig. 5a**. Following

403 this scenario, this process must have preserved the original Lu/Hf ratios, according to the
404 occurrence of a Lu-Hf errorchron at 400 Ma (**Fig. 5**). The cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites,
405 however, are located within spinel lherzolites that escaped the melt impregnation in the Jurassic
406 and are considered the oldest rock-type less-modified during the long-lasting history of melt-rock
407 reaction processes affecting the mantle sequence (Guarnieri et al., 2012). Indeed, the preservation
408 of Spl-Px clusters in both the peridotites and the pyroxenites and the evident Grt-signature
409 observed in WR and Cpx of the pyroxenites indicate that these rocks were nearly preserved after
410 their complete equilibration at Spl-facies conditions. In addition, the LREE in WR and Cpx from
411 these samples are in the same range of those in the Pl-Spl pyroxenites, whereas a late metasomatic
412 would have produced selective enrichments in these highly incompatible compared to the least
413 compatible elements (e.g., Stracke, 2012). On this basis, the field data, the texture and the
414 geochemical composition of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites are strongly against the
415 possibility that they were modified by a recent metasomatic event.

416 As alternative hypothesis, the anomalous signature of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
417 pyroxenites was a consequence of a process of interaction with melts via reactive porous flow
418 envisaged in the host peridotites (Guarnieri et al., 2012). This hypothesis can be evaluated
419 considering the evolution of the studied pyroxenites in response to the melt migration processes.
420 The Lanzo N pyroxenites form correlations in MgO vs. Al₂O₃, CaO and NiO contents, suggesting
421 that they were presumably characterized by different modal amounts of Ol, Px and Grt (**Fig. 3; 4**).
422 This is further supported by the projection of our samples into the pseudoternary system forsterite
423 (Fo)/Ca-Tschermak molecule (CaTs)/quartz (Qz) projected from diopside [Di] (see **Fig. 8**)
424 (O'Hara, 1972). Overall, the Lanzo N pyroxenites are silica-deficient and plot on the left side of
425 the thermal divide (CaTs-En) (**Fig. 8**). In detail, the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites, including those having
426 Spl-Pyx clusters, are slightly shifted towards the Fo apex compared to the Grt-pyroxenites from
427 External Liguride ophiolites, and from Beni Bousera, Ronda and Horoman peridotitic massifs
428 (Bodinier et al., 1987; Pearson et al., 1991, 1993; Garrido and Bodinier, 1999; Gysi et al., 2011;

429 Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016), indicating higher modal amounts of modal Ol. Even
430 higher amounts of Ol is revealed by the Lanzo N Spl-Pl pyroxenites, which, similar to the Spl-
431 websterites from Beni Bousera and Ronda massifs, plot closer to the Fo apex. The overall
432 increase in Ol modes from the (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite to the Spl-Pl pyroxenite may suggest that
433 these rocks are remnants of Grt-pyroxenites consumed at various extents by interaction with
434 basaltic melts (e.g., group B pyroxenites in Garrido & Bodinier, 1999). The REE WR
435 compositions of the Lanzo N pyroxenites agree with this hypothesis. All the samples display
436 rather similar LREE/MREE ratios ($La/Sm=0.3-0.5$), but display a gradual decreases in HREE
437 from the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites towards the Spl-Pl pyroxenites (see **Fig. 3d,4**).
438 This suggests that the overall increase in Ol mode revealed by the Spl-Pl pyroxenites was coupled
439 with the addition of a melt phase that decreased their WR HREE contents, causing a gradual
440 increase in Ce/Yb ratios at increasing MgO contents (**Fig. 3d**). As analogy, most of the host Spl-
441 peridotites are modally rich in Ol, and show nearly flat M-HREE WR patterns (**Fig.4**). Based on
442 major and trace element decoupling, these rocks have been interpreted as product of interaction
443 between a former lherzolite and basaltic melt having an enriched MORB signature (Guarnieri et
444 al., 2012). A gradual interaction with basaltic melts is further consistent with the REE
445 compositions of the Cpxs, which also show large variations in HREE, with Cpx from the two
446 cluster-bearing samples still preserving extremely high HREE contents. The WR and mineral
447 compositions of the Lanzo N pyroxenites can be thereby indicative of progressive reaction with a
448 melt that percolated a former Grt-pyroxenite and smoothed out at various extents the original Grt-
449 signature. Under this light, we infer that both pyroxenites and host Spl-peridotite were diffusively
450 percolated by the same basaltic melt.

451 The local preservation of strongly radiogenic Nd and Hf isotopic ratios of the Spl-
452 harzburgites (**Fig. 6**), along with variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf ratios (**Fig. 5**) led Guarnieri et al.
453 (2012) to suggest that the melt migration producing modally depleted harzburgites largely
454 anticipated the Jurassic impregnation, and must have occurred in Paleozoic times. Based on the

455 preservation of Nd-Hf errorchrons in the pyroxenites, we can now constrain the age of this
456 process at ~400 Ma. This age may reflect the time of a Paleozoic extension and associated E-
457 MORB magmatism also documented in the External Liguride mantle (~430 Ma) (Borghini et al.,
458 2013), and can be possibly related to an extensional phase related to the opening of the
459 Paleotethys at the onset of the Variscan orogenic cycle (von Raumer et al., 2013 and references
460 therein).

461

462 **5.3 Inference on the origin of the pristine garnet-pyroxenites and development of decoupled** 463 **Nd-Hf isotopic signature: a geochemical model**

464 We previously inferred that the pyroxenites considered in this study were partly, and in
465 different extent, modified by migration of melt having a E-MORB geochemical signature. The
466 process of diffuse melt percolation combined to the complete recrystallization at spinel-facies
467 mantle conditions occurred at 400 Ma and profoundly overprinted the original textural, modal and
468 chemical features of the precursor garnet pyroxenites. However, some inferences on the origin of
469 the pristine pyroxenites can be gained by the composition of the least reacted samples, namely
470 those preserving Spl-Px clusters as evidence of former Grt. These samples show a marked Grt-
471 signature as for trace elements (i.e., high Sc, V and HREE and high Lu/Hf in WR and Cpx), high
472 ϵNd_{400} , but initial ϵHf_{400} similar to those of the other samples, thus showing Nd-Hf decoupling
473 below the mantle array (**Fig. 6**). Nd-Hf compositions below the mantle array are not uncommon
474 amongst Grt-pyroxenites worldwide and documented in External Ligurian ophiolites, Beni
475 Bussera and Ronda Massifs (see **Fig. 9**). According to their major and trace element chemistry,
476 these Grt-pyroxenites are generally interpreted as high pressure segregates of melts carrying the
477 isotopic signature of recycled oceanic crustal components (Pearson et al., 1991, 1993; Morishita
478 et al., 2003; Montanini et al., 2012; Marchesi et al., 2013; Montanini & Tribuzio, 2015; Varas-
479 Reus et al., 2018). In fact, the high mobility of Hf, Nd and Sm (22, 20 and 13%) (Stracke et al.,
480 2003; Niu, 2004) compared to Lu (immobile) produce a dehydrated oceanic crust with twice

481 higher Lu/Hf ratios (0.4) compared to average MORB (0.2), while leaving almost identical
482 Sm/Nd ratios (~ 0.3). Over time, this dehydrated crustal component would develop lower
483 $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ at a given $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$, gradually diverging at lower ϵHf and slightly higher ϵNd
484 compared to the present-day values (Stracke et al., 2003). Marine sediments, on the other hand,
485 have much lower Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf than igneous ocean crust, and the addition of this component
486 to a dehydrated oceanic crust would produce gradual shifts in Nd-Hf towards less radiogenic
487 values (Kogiso et al., 1997). **Figure 9** shows that the isotopic field of recycled MORB (ranging
488 from 0.5 to 3.5 Ga) plus additions of minor marine sediments (Stracke et al., 2003; Varas-Reus et
489 al., 2018) can indeed explain most of the Nd-Hf isotopic decoupling seen in the Grt-pyroxenites
490 from Beni Bousera, Ronda and External Liguride ophiolites (grey starts in **Fig. 9**).

491 The cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites from Lanzo N, however, do not plot within this
492 field, having even lower ϵHf for comparatively high ϵNd . The persistence of an errorchron at
493 ~ 400 Ma only in $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ versus $^{177}\text{Hf}/^{178}\text{Hf}$ indicates that Hf isotopes in these rocks
494 equilibrated together with those of the other samples, whereas Nd isotopes of the two cluster-
495 bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites experienced some incomplete equilibration with the reacting melt
496 and were partly inherited from that of the original Grt-pyroxenite. Hence, we argue that the melt-
497 pyroxenite interaction at 400 Ma caused the isotopic decoupling in the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
498 pyroxenites. Due to the different affinities of Nd and Hf in the melt phase, and depending on the
499 Nd/Hf ratios of the two components, isotopic decoupling can occur during interaction between
500 depleted mantle peridotites and melts (Chauvel et al., 2008; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al.,
501 2012). For a depleted peridotite interacting with a MORB melt, the lower Nd/Hf ratios of the
502 depleted end-member produces mixing lines plotting above the Nd-Hf mantle array; as a result,
503 reacted peridotites generally preserve high Hf isotopic values, while their original Nd signature is
504 easily concealed by equilibration with the migrating melt (Sanfilippo et al., 2019). On the other
505 hand, if at the time of melt-rock interaction the isotopically depleted end-member has high Nd/Hf,
506 Hf isotopes would more easily equilibrate with those of the melts, while radiogenic Nd is

507 preserved. As a consequence, interaction between melt and a precursor Grt-pyroxenite having
508 higher Nd/Hf ratios compared to a depleted peridotite, might have produced the Nd-Hf isotopic
509 decoupling below the mantle array revealed by the Lanzo N cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites.

510 To test this hypothesis, we modeled a melt-rock reaction process between a precursor Grt-
511 pyroxenite and a MORB melt having Nd and Hf compositions in equilibrium with the Cpx of the
512 most enriched Lanzo N harzburgite. Despite the composition of the initial Grt-pyroxenite is
513 unknown, the REE pattern of the least modified samples recall those of Grt-pyroxenites from
514 External Ligurian ophiolites. Hence, we selected three end-members having different initial Nd-
515 Hf isotopes and whole rock geochemical compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from other sections of
516 External Ligurian ophiolites. The initial Grt-pyroxenite represents segregate from melts having a
517 geochemical signature akin a recycled MORB (i.e., long the “0 sediments line”), at ages of
518 recycling from 3.5 to 0.5 Ga (Varas-Reus et al., 2018) (see **Fig. 9**). In addition, we assumed for
519 the initial pyroxenite variable Sm/Nd and Lu/Hf ratios, to account for the expected compositional
520 variability of pyroxenites formed by deep segregation of melt in the mantle (Pearson et al., 1991,
521 1993; Morishita et al., 2003; Montanini et al., 2012; Marchesi et al., 2013; Montanini & Tribuzio,
522 2015; Varas-Reus et al., 2018). These parameters are arbitrary chosen and cannot take into
523 account the entire range of chemical variability of pyroxenites in the mantle, but are hereafter
524 used to test at what conditions the decoupling seen in the Grt-bearing samples can be
525 mathematically reproduced during a process of interaction with a melts.

526 We opted for the assimilation-fractional-crystallization (AFC) model of De Paolo (1981)
527 that has been successfully used to reproduce the Nd-Hf decoupling in mantle peridotites (Bizimis
528 et al., 2003; Chauvel et al., 2008; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al., 2012; Sanfilippo et al.,
529 2019). Further details of the model are reported in the appendix. The results are plotted at steps of
530 $F=0.02$ (that is the melt mass during the AFC process) in **Figure 9** where the Nd-Hf isotopic
531 composition of the reaction products is compared to that of our samples. As a whole, the model is
532 able to reproduce the composition of the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites only if a

533 geochemically enriched pyroxenite, i.e., having high Nd/Hf ratios, is assimilated. This is in
534 agreement with the lower Sm/Nd and higher L/MREE ratios of these samples compared to the
535 other pyroxenites. On the contrary, the Nd-Hf isotopes of sample Py5 will be reproduced by
536 interaction with a Grt-pyroxenite having low Nd/Hf ratios, in agreement with the low LREE of
537 this sample. Independently on the initial composition, the isotopic composition of cluster-bearing
538 samples equals that of a Grt-pyroxenite produced after ~70-80% of assimilation and
539 recrystallization of its initial mass into a melt having an E-MORB signature. On the other hand,
540 the compositions of the Pl-Spl pyroxenites samples having high MgO contents require high
541 degrees of assimilation of the pre-existing pyroxenite, and recrystallization of an assemblage with
542 a geochemical composition similar that of the migrating melt ($F > 90\%$). This is well supported by
543 the generally higher Fo mode and higher bulk MgO and NiO contents in these samples, which
544 indicate addition of olivine and consumption of pyroxene starting from the pristine pyroxenite
545 assemblage.

546

547 **6. CONCLUSIONS**

548 This study places new temporal constraints to the long history of exhumation and melt-rock
549 reaction of the Lanzo North peridotite massif, through chemical and Nd-Hf isotopes investigations
550 on pyroxenite layers embedded within spinel and plagioclase peridotites, i.e. (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites
551 and Pl-Spl pyroxenites, respectively. Spl-Pl pyroxenites preserve Pl-Cpx-WR Sm-Nd internal
552 isochrons that indicate a closed-system event of Pl-facies equilibration in the Jurassic (152 ± 30
553 Ma and 149 ± 13 Ma). The intense plagioclase-facies recrystallization of Spl-Pl pyroxenites was
554 likely triggered by the migration of MORB-type melts generating the host Pl-peridotites. Field and
555 textural observations coupled to chemical compositions indicate that this melt migration process
556 did not significantly perturb the bulk isotopic composition of the internal portions of the
557 pyroxenites. On the other hand, at the time of their exhumation at the seafloor (160 Ma), these
558 pyroxenites still revealed a large isotopic variability, inherited from more ancient events of melt

559 migration and melt-pyroxenite interaction. Textural features along with major and trace element
560 compositions, suggest that the studied pyroxenites represent former Grt-pyroxenites, and that the
561 early isotopic equilibration occurred in response to an event of reactive percolation of basaltic
562 melts concomitant to the complete re-equilibration at spinel-facies mantle conditions. The
563 preservation of Nd-Hf errorchrons in Cpx and WR suggest that this event of melt migration and
564 isotopic equilibration likely occurred at ~400 Ma.

565 The (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites preserving widespread textural and chemical evidence of former
566 Grt do not plot on the 400 errorchron for the Sm-Nd isotopes, resulting in high ϵ_{Nd} (~12) for
567 comparatively low ϵ_{Hf} (~10), when recalculated at 400 Ma (**Fig. 6**). Based on field and
568 geochemical evidence, we exclude the possibility that these samples experienced a late process of
569 metasomatism. Instead, we believe that these samples were the least affected by the basaltic melt
570 percolation. Geochemical models corroborate this idea, showing that variable degrees of
571 interaction between a former Grt-pyroxenite with melts having a E-MORB geochemical signature
572 might have shifted the original Nd-Hf isotopes below the mantle array (**Fig. 8**). The elemental
573 fractionation caused by this process resulted in a different isotopic evolution over time and by the
574 time of emplacement of the sequence on the Jurassic seafloor, caused the cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl
575 pyroxenites to experienced a stronger radiogenic Hf ingrowth compared to the other samples. As a
576 result, by the time of emplacement of this mantle section at crustal depths, the samples were “re-
577 coupled” along the terrestrial array. In conclusion, changes in elemental ratios and a long-time
578 evolution preceding the emplacement of the Lanzo N mantle sequence at crustal depth partly
579 obscured the perturbation caused by this old event of melt migration event. This study underlines
580 the importance of using Nd and Hf isotope systematics to give time constraints to ancient process
581 of reactive melt migrations that can potentially modify the lithological and chemical heterogeneity
582 of the subcontinental mantle.

583

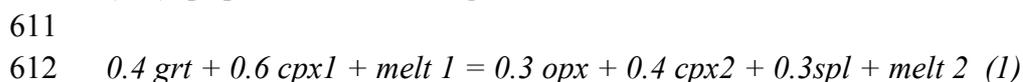
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591

592 APPENDIX

593 **Geochemical model (Table S5):** the melt-rock interaction model used to reproduce the Nd-Hf
 594 isotope ratios of the pyroxenites from Lanzo N is calculated using an AFC-type model based on
 595 equations 6a and 15a from DePaolo (1981), as similarly used in previous studies reproducing melt-
 596 rock reactions in the oceanic mantle (Kelemen et al., 1992; Stracke et al., 2011; Guarnieri et al.,
 597 2012; Sanfilippo et al., 2019). A melt having an E-MORB isotopic signature reacts with initial Grt-
 598 pyroxenites having initial Nd/Hf ratios of 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5. In analogy with some Grt-pyroxenites
 599 from the External Ligurian ophiolites (Montanini et al., 2015; Borghini et al., 2016), Beni-Bousera
 600 and Ronda mantle sequences (see Varas-Reus et al., 2018 and references therein), the starting Grt-
 601 pyroxenites are considered to be high-pressure cumulates or products of melt-rock reaction (see for
 602 instance discussion in Gysi et al., 2011; Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016). We assume
 603 constant magma mass during reaction and mass assimilated to mass crystallized ratio ~0.9. The
 604 interaction of the starting Grt-pyroxenite (0.4 grt + 0.6 cpx; from Gysi et al., 2011) with the E-
 605 MORB melt produces a progressive changes in the resulting pyroxenite compositions by dissolution
 606 of the primary mineralogical assemblage and crystallization of new phases concomitant with phase
 607 transition from garnet to spinel peridotite field. Based on the reaction for the Grt-Spl phase
 608 transition defined by Vannucci et al. (1993) and on petrographic evidence in the host peridotites, we
 609 here assume that this process resulted in the transformation of the original Grt-pyroxenite into a
 610 (Grt)Spl-peridotite following the reaction



613

614 The Nd-Hf isotope ratios of the melts produced by this AFC process is depicted in **Fig. 5** and details
 615 are reported in supplementary Table S5. Parameters, partition coefficients and results of the model
 616 are reported in Table S5. Note that the proportions of crystallizing phases has a minor effect on the
 617 isotopic composition of the results of the reaction, as the latter are mostly dependent on the initial
 618 Nd/Hf ratios of the assimilant compared to that of the interacting melt (see text for further
 619 discussion).

620

621 References

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856 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**
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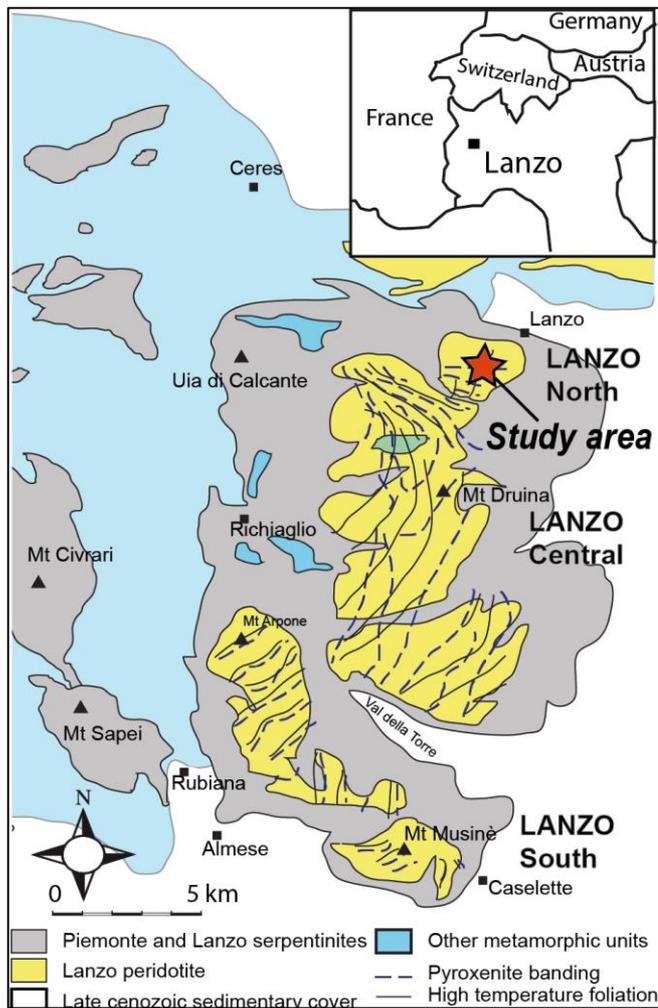
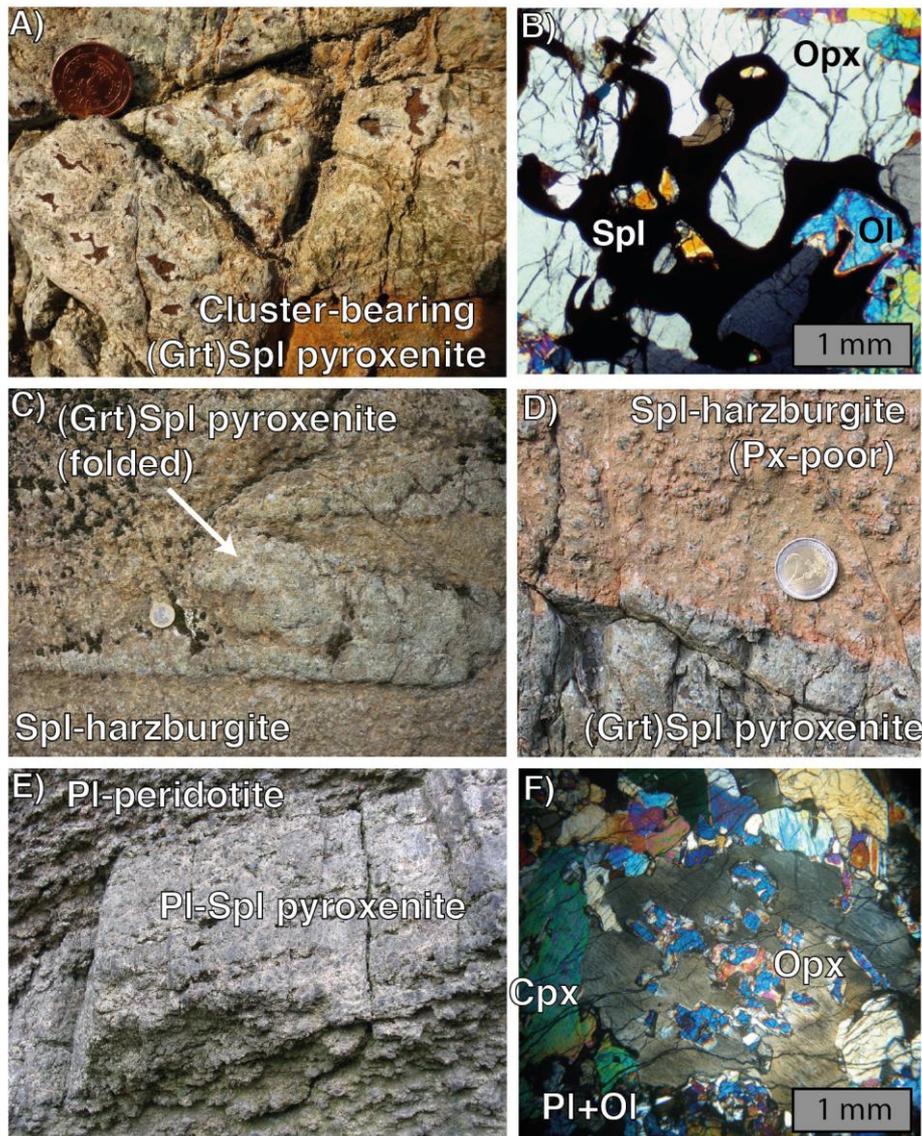


Figure 1. Geographical location (inset) and simplified geological map of the Lanzo peridotite massif and surrounding rocks. Also shown are the foliation in the peridotites and the orientation of the pyroxenite banding (redrawn after Boudier, 1978).



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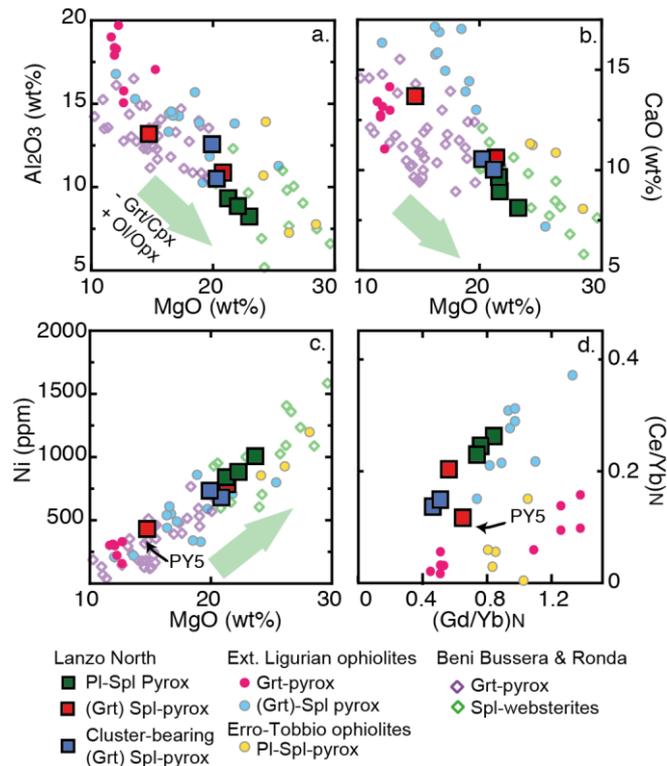
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Figure 2. Representative field and textural features of the Lanzo N pyroxenites. A) Field occurrence of a (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite embedded in spinel lherzolites; they show millimetric symplectitic spl + opx + cpx clusters evidence of a former garnet (B). C) Plastically folded (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite included within a pyroxene-poor lherzolite. (D) Sharp contact between a (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite and the host Spl-harzburgite. (E) Spl-Pl pyroxenite included within a Pl-impregnated peridotite. (F) Cross-polarized microphotograph of a Spl-Pl pyroxenite showing an orthopyroxene (Opx) porphyroblast containing exsolutions of plagioclase + secondary pyroxene, and partially replaced by Pl-bearing fine-grained neoblastic assemblage.



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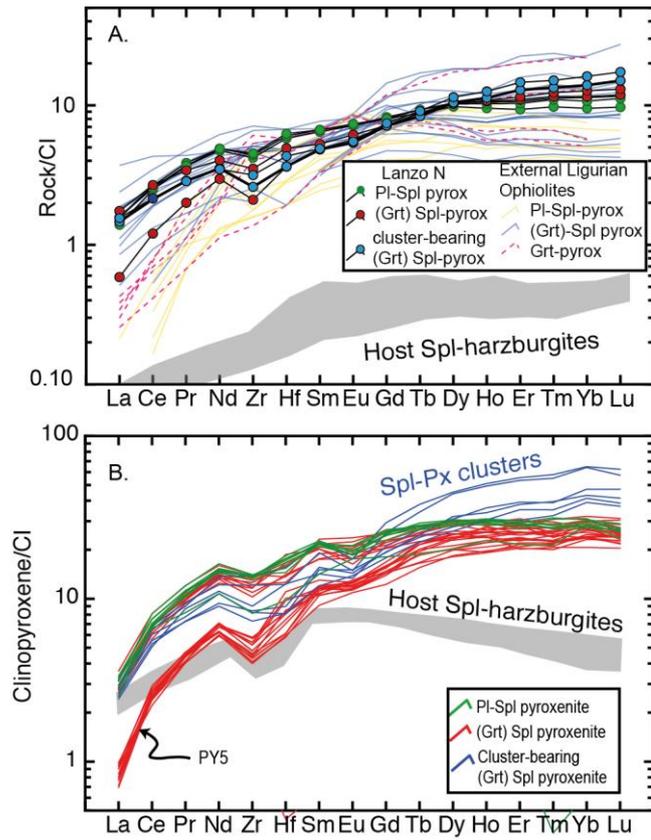
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Figure 3. Bulk rock MgO (wt%) versus Al₂O₃ (wt%), CaO (wt%), Ni (ppm) contents and Gd/Yb versus Ce/Yb (N, normalized to CI values from Anders & Ebihara, 1982) of the Lanzo N pyroxenites. Grt-pyroxenites and Spl-websterites from Ronda and Beni Bousera massifs (Pearson et al., 1993; Garrido and Bodinieir, 1999; Gysi et al. 2011; Varas-Reus et al., 2018) are reported for comparison. For the External Liguride ophiolites we distinguished Grt-pyroxenites (Montanini et al., 2012), pyroxenites having garnet-like signature, i.e. (Grt)-Spl pyrox (Borghini et al., 2016). Pl-Spl pyroxenites from Erro-Tobbio ophiolite (Rampone and Borghini 2008) are also shown. The arrows indicate the overall increase in modal amount of olivine (Ol) and orthopyroxene (Opx) at decreasing garnet (Grt) and clinopyroxene (Cpx) as discussed in the text.



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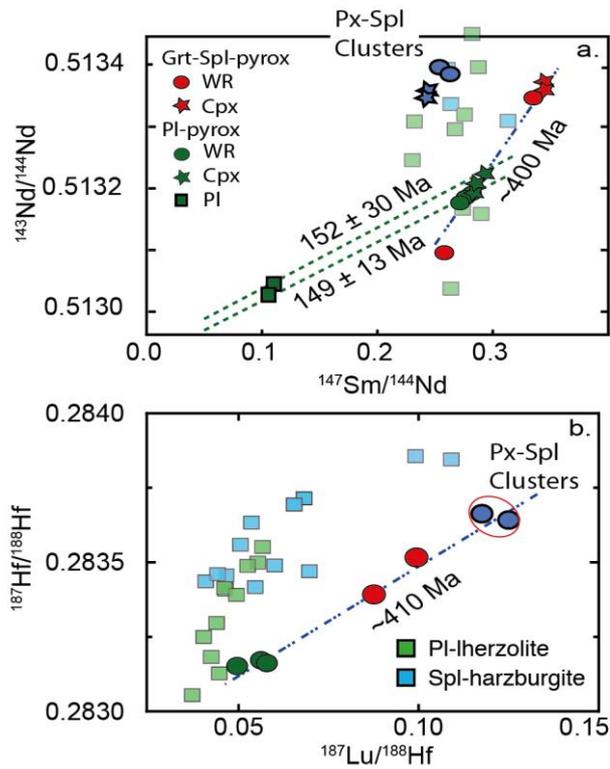
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Figure 4. CI (Anders & Ebihara, 1982) normalized REE + Zr, Hf abundance patterns of whole rock compositions (a) and single clinopyroxene analyses (b) from Lanzo N pyroxenites; N, normalized to CI. In (a), the compositions of External Liguride pyroxenites (Montanini et al., 2012; Borghini et al., 2016) are also reported. The WR and Cpx compositions of host Spl-harzburgites are also reported (Guarnieri et al., 2012).



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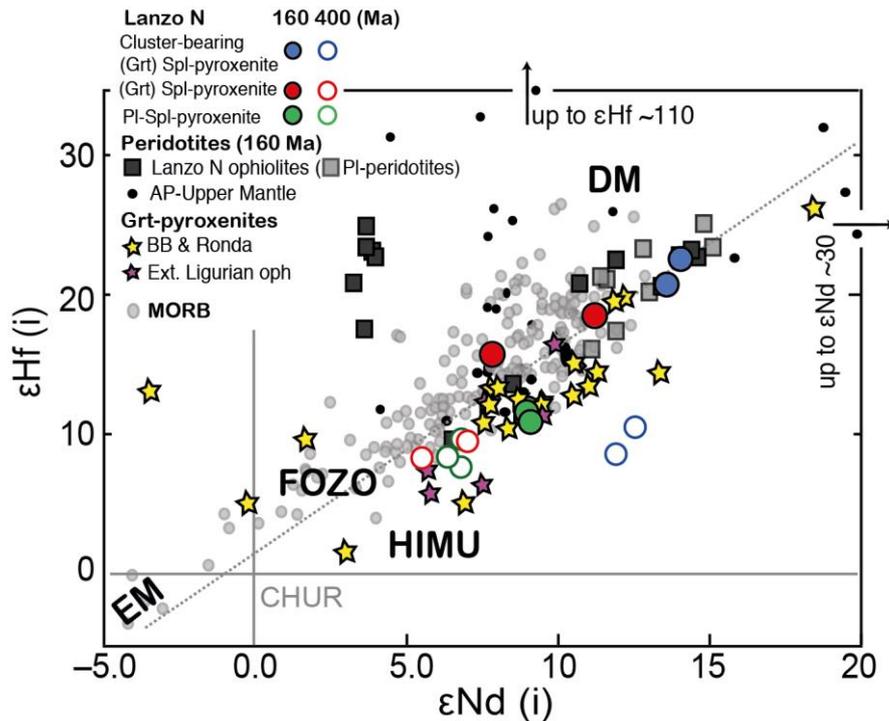
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Figure 5. Bulk rock, clinopyroxene and plagioclase $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ versus $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (a) and bulk-rock $^{187}\text{Lu}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ versus $^{187}\text{Hf}/^{188}\text{Hf}$ (b) of Lanzo N pyroxenites. Bulk-rock Nd and Hf isotopes data of the associated peridotites (Guarnieri et al., 2012) are also reported. Pl-Cpx-WR internal isochrones are defined for two Pl-Spl pyroxenites in (a). Errorchrones at 400 Ma based on both Nd and Hf isotopes data are defined by most samples, excluding cluster-bearing (Grt)-Spl pyroxenites that preserve high $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ at comparatively low $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (see text).



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Figure 6. Initial Nd-Hf isotopic variations of Lanzo N pyroxenites and host peridotites

calculated at the time of emplacement at Jurassic seafloor (160 Ma). Initial compositions of Lanzo

N pyroxenites calculated at 400 Ma (empty red and green symbols) are also indicated (see text).

The initial whole-rock compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites

(Montanini et al., 2012), Ronda and Beni Bousera (Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell,

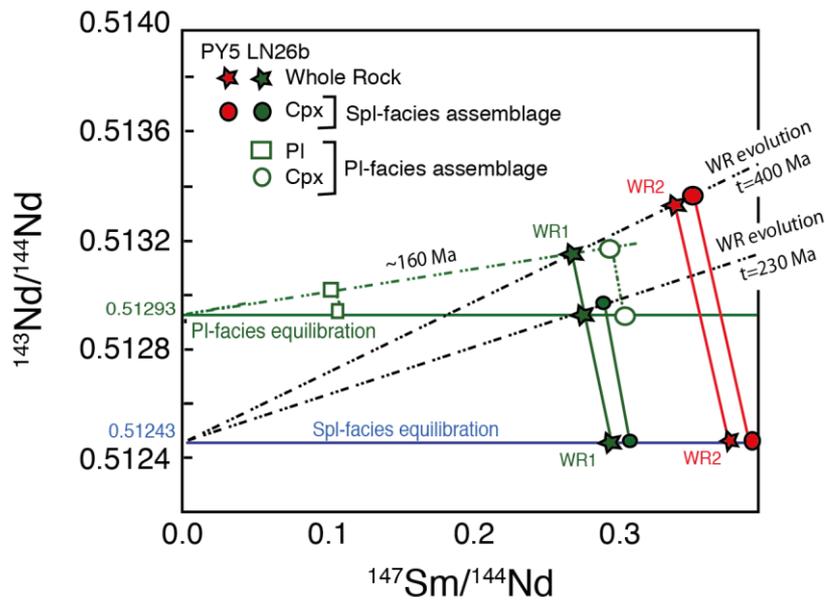
2004; Varas-Reus et al., 2018) are calculated at time of exhumation as indicated in literature. The

present-day compositions of clinopyroxenes from abyssal peridotites (Stracke et al., 2011), mantle

xenoliths (Bizimis et al., 2003; Byerly and Lassitier, 2014) and MORB (after Stracke 2012) are also

shown for comparison. Representative compositions of mantle end-members DM, EM, FOZO and

HIMU are from Stracke (2012).



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Figure 7. Nd-isotopic evolution of Spl-Pi pyroxenites. $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ versus $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$

914 isotope ratios of whole rock, clinopyroxene and plagioclase in two representative samples of Spl-Pi

915 pyroxenite (LN26b) (WR1) and (Grt)-Spl pyroxenite (Py5) (WR2). Both rocks initially equilibrated

916 at spinel facies conditions at $t=400$ Ma, at different Sm/Nd ratios. At ~ 160 Ma, WR1 equilibrated at

917 plagioclase facies conditions, resetting the Cpx $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios to the WR ratios, and forming

918 plagioclase with the same $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ isotope ratio. Because Cpx incorporates most of the Sm and

919 Nd of the WR, this late equilibration event has a minor effect on the isotopic evolution allowing the

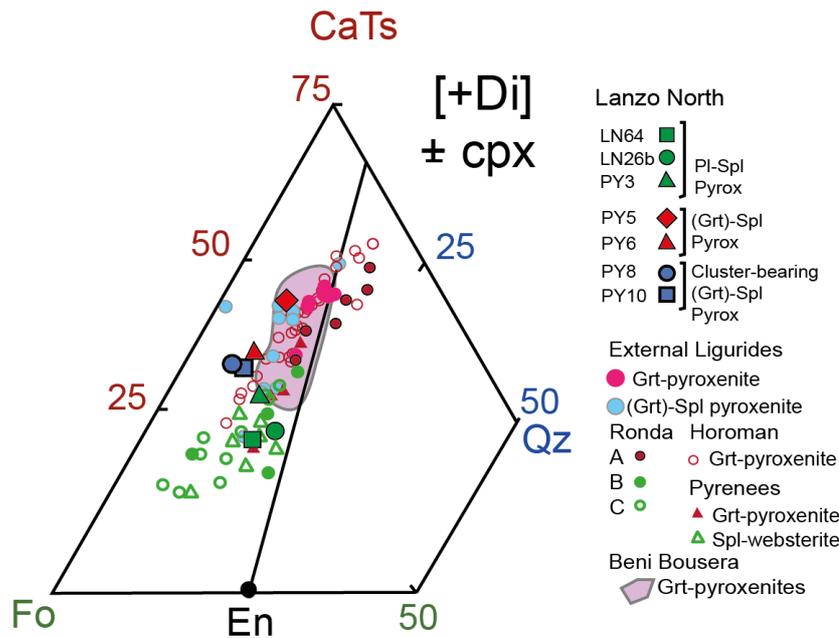
920 preservation of a WR-Cpx errorchron defined for both samples, coexisting with a Pl-Cpx-WR

921 internal isochron giving Jurassic ages.

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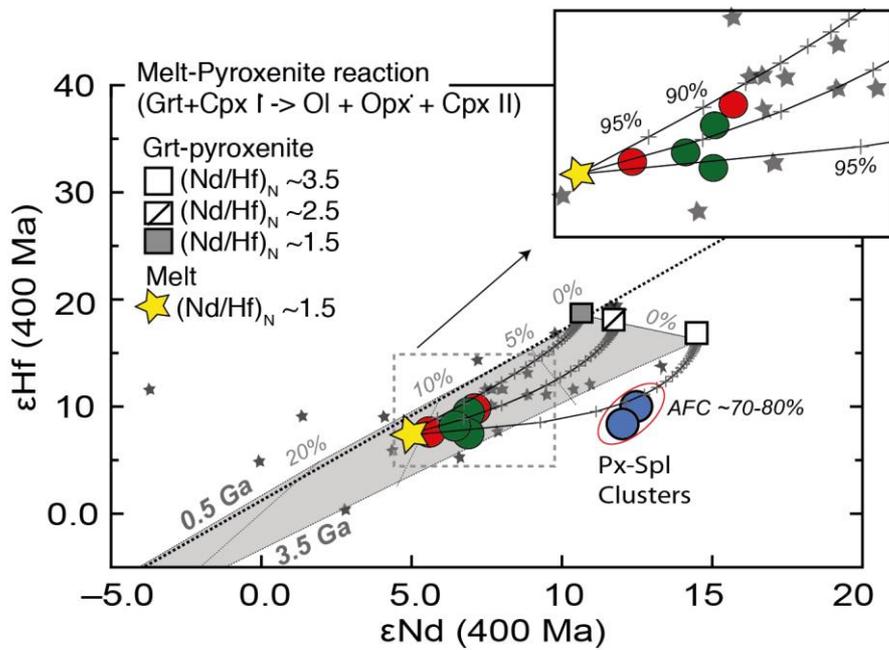
Figure 8. Molar projections from diopside [Di] into the pseudoternary diagram forsterite-Ca-Tschermak-quartz (Fo-CaTs-Qz) (O'Hara, 1972) of Lanzo North pyroxenites. The pyroxenite in this study are compared to garnet- and spinel-bearing pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites (Montanini et al., 2012, Borghini et al., 2016), Ronda (Garrido & Bodinier, 1999; Bodinier et al., 2008; Varas et al., 2018), Pyrenees (Bodinier et al., 1987), Horoman (Takazawa et al., 1999; Morishita & Arai, 2001), and Beni Bousera (Pearson et al., 1993; Kumar et al., 1996; Gysi et al., 2011; Varas et al., 2018).

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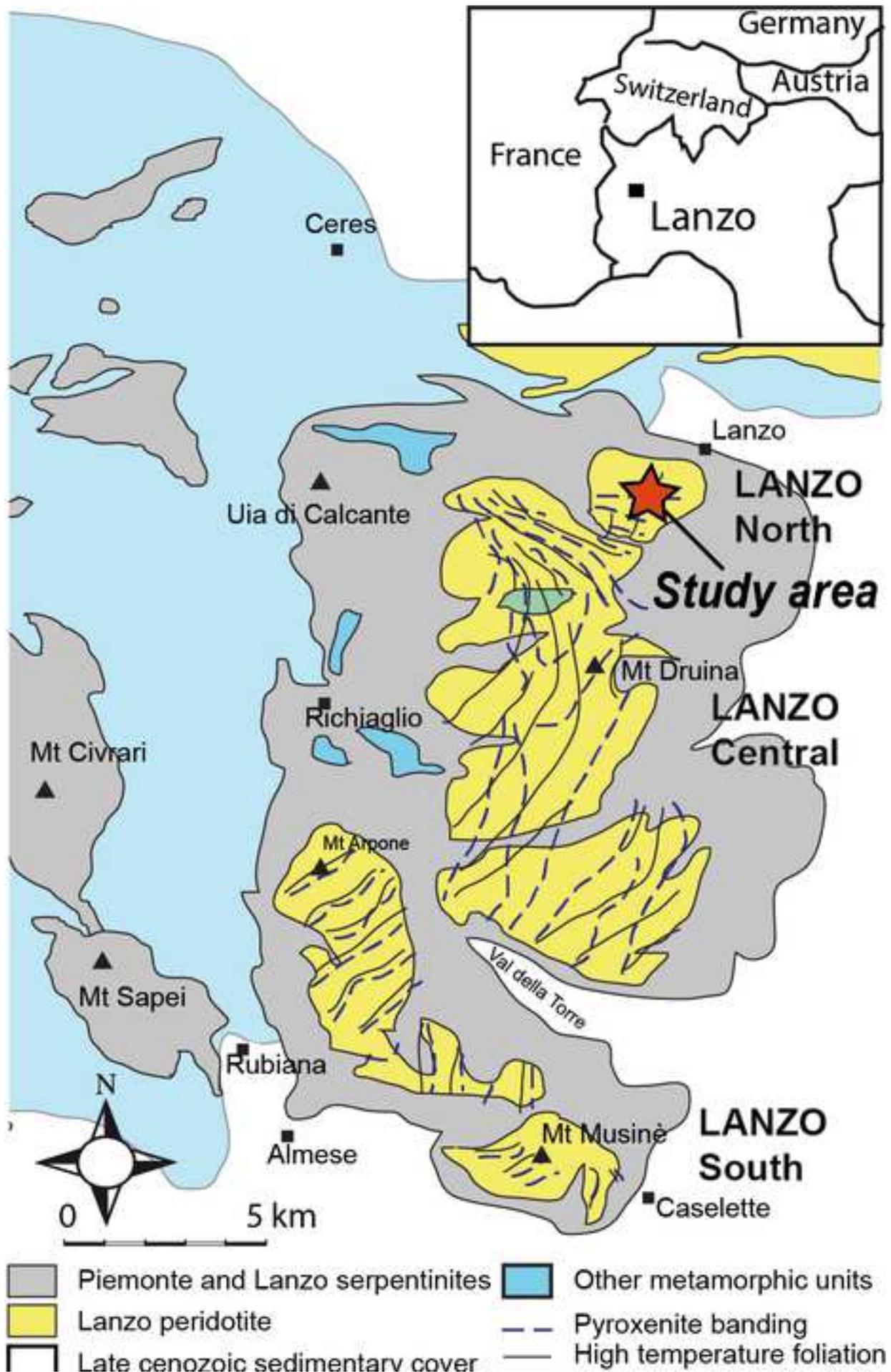
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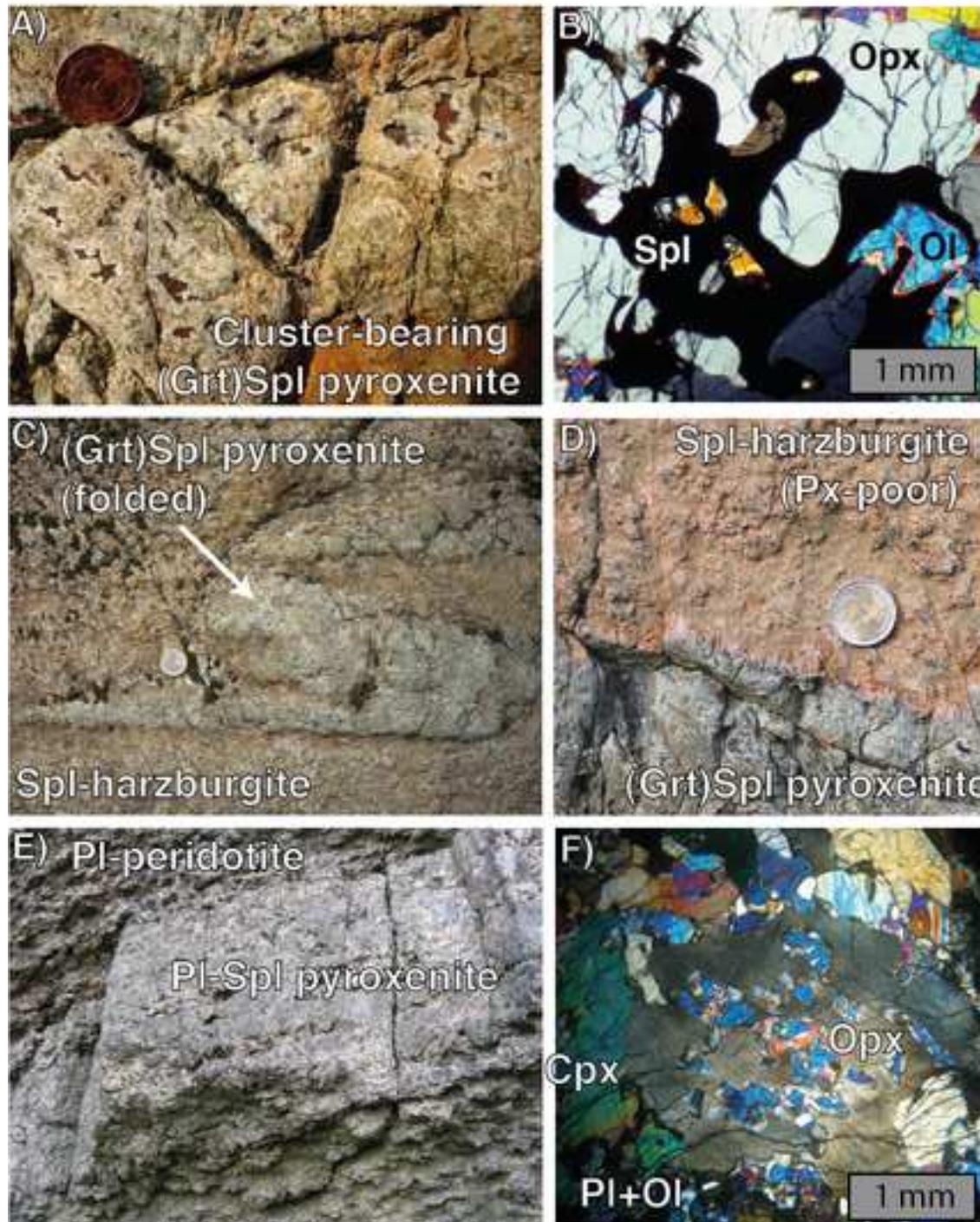
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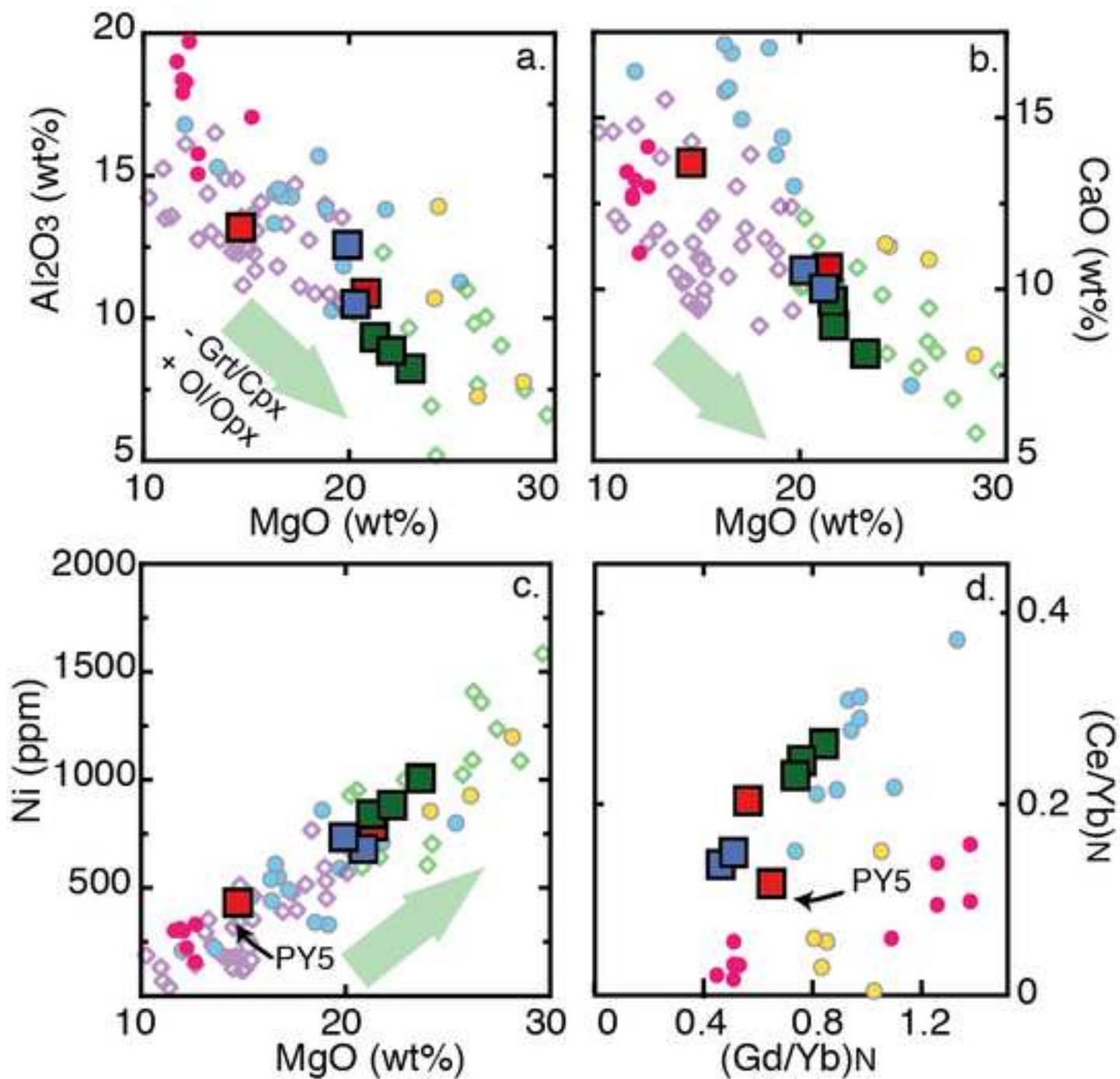
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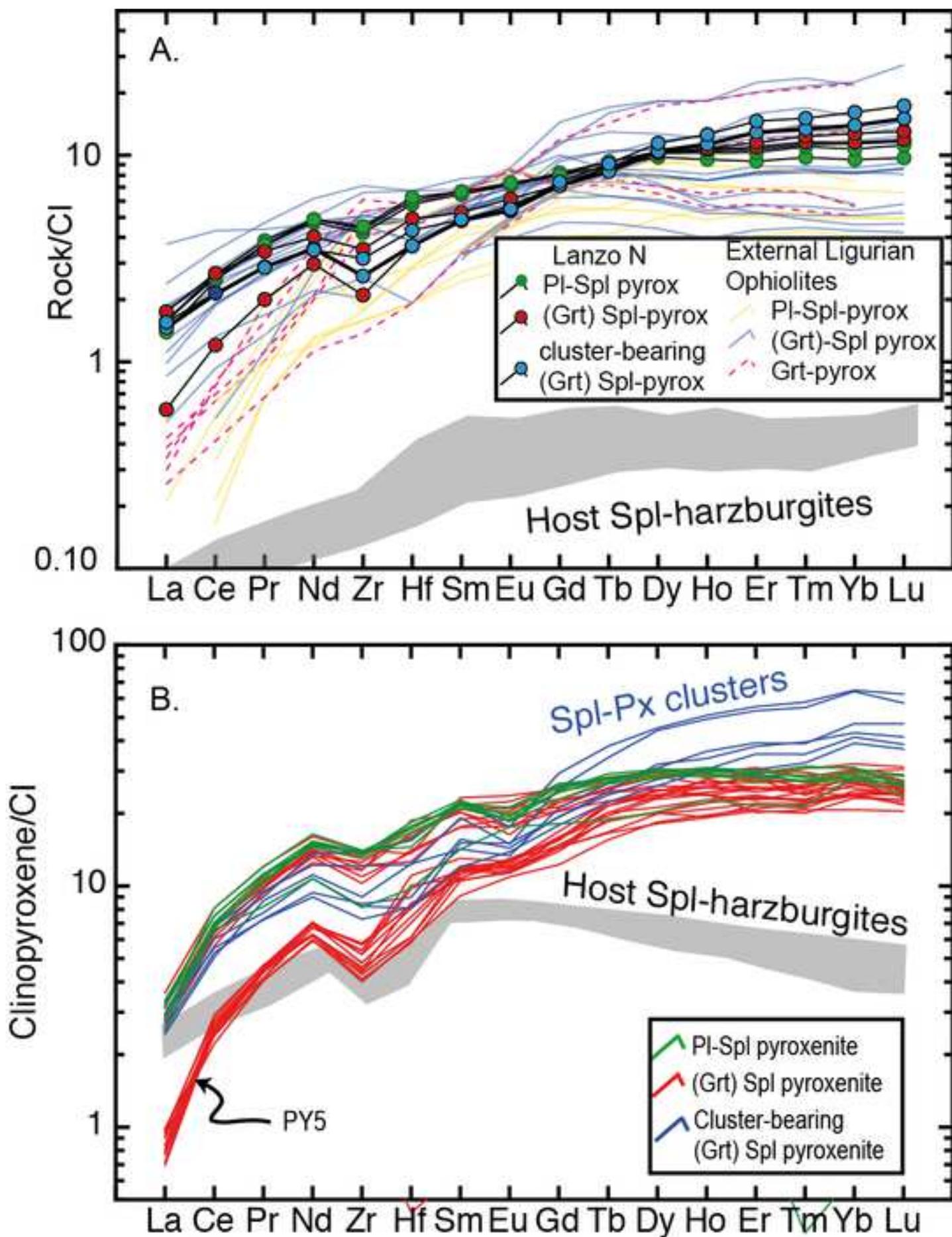
Figure 9. Nd-Hf isotopic variations of Lanzo N pyroxenites calculated at 400 Ma are compared to the whole-rock compositions of Grt-pyroxenites from External Liguride ophiolites, Ronda and Beni Boussera (grey stars; see **Fig. 6**). The grey field represents the compositions of recycled altered MORB at ages of 0.5 and 3.5 Ga and at various proportions of marine sediments as indicated by italic numbers (0-5-10-20%) (from Varas-Reus et al., 2018). The results of the AFC models are reported at steps of $F=0.05$ starting from three end-member Grt-pyroxenite compositions (see text for further explanation).

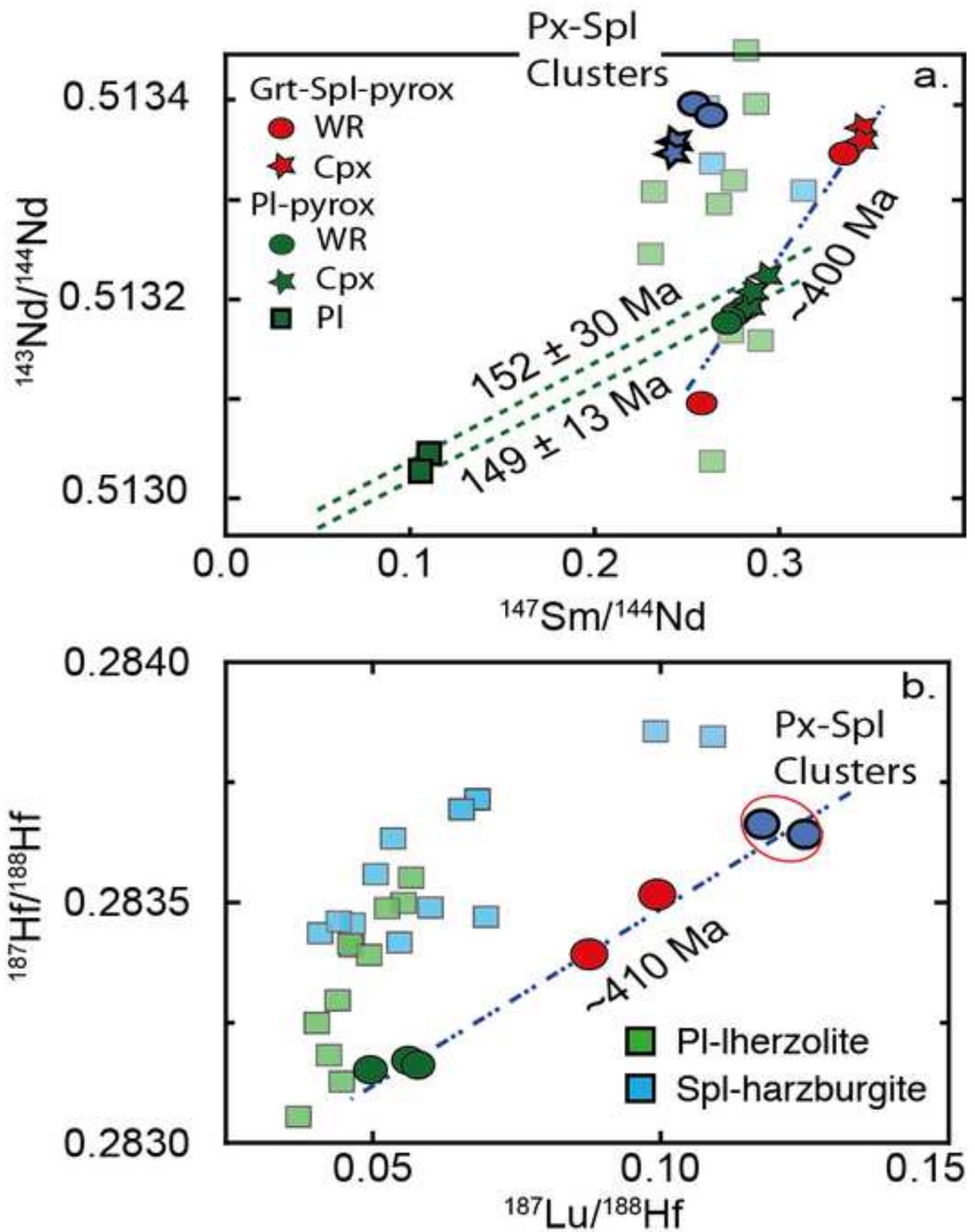


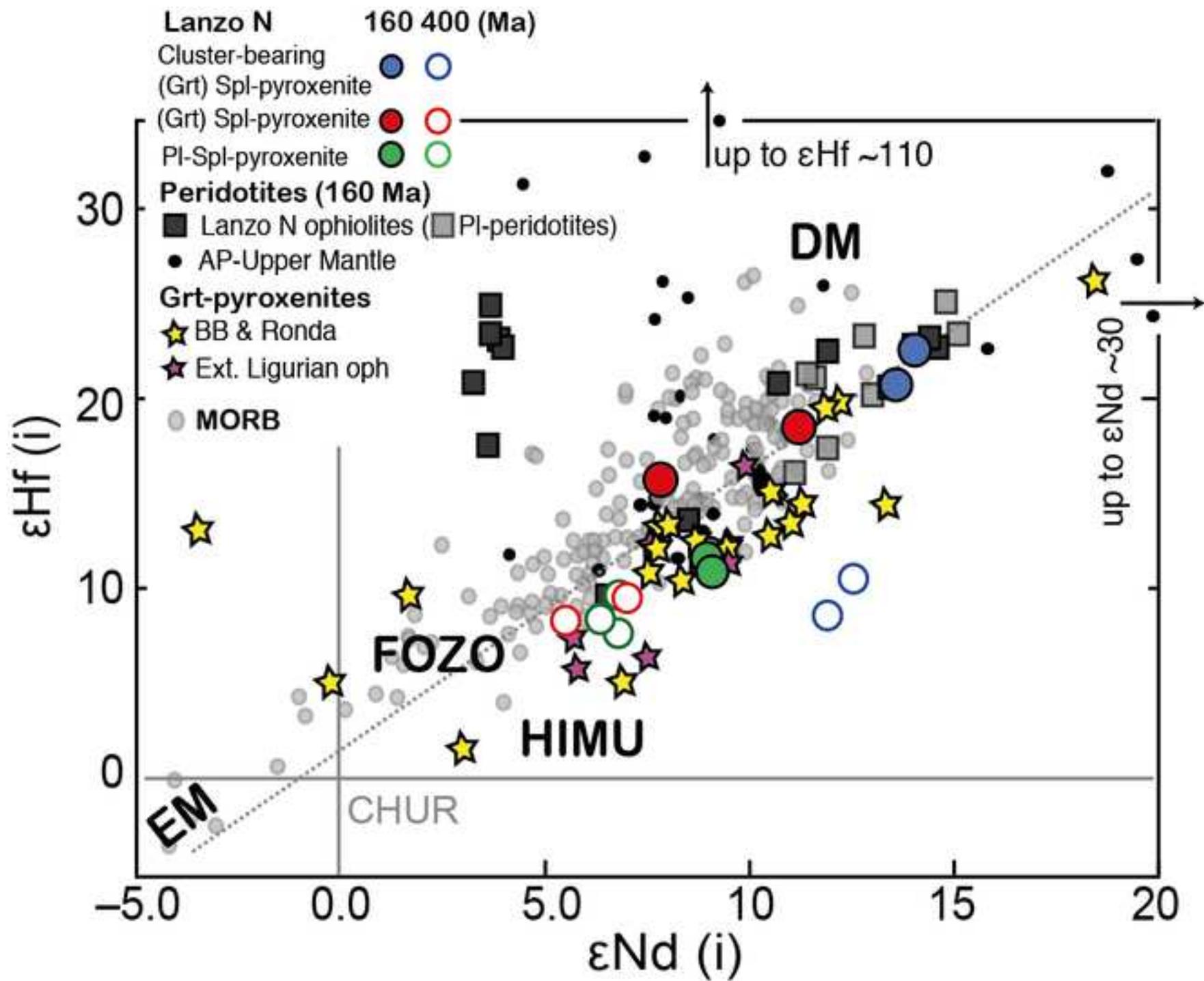


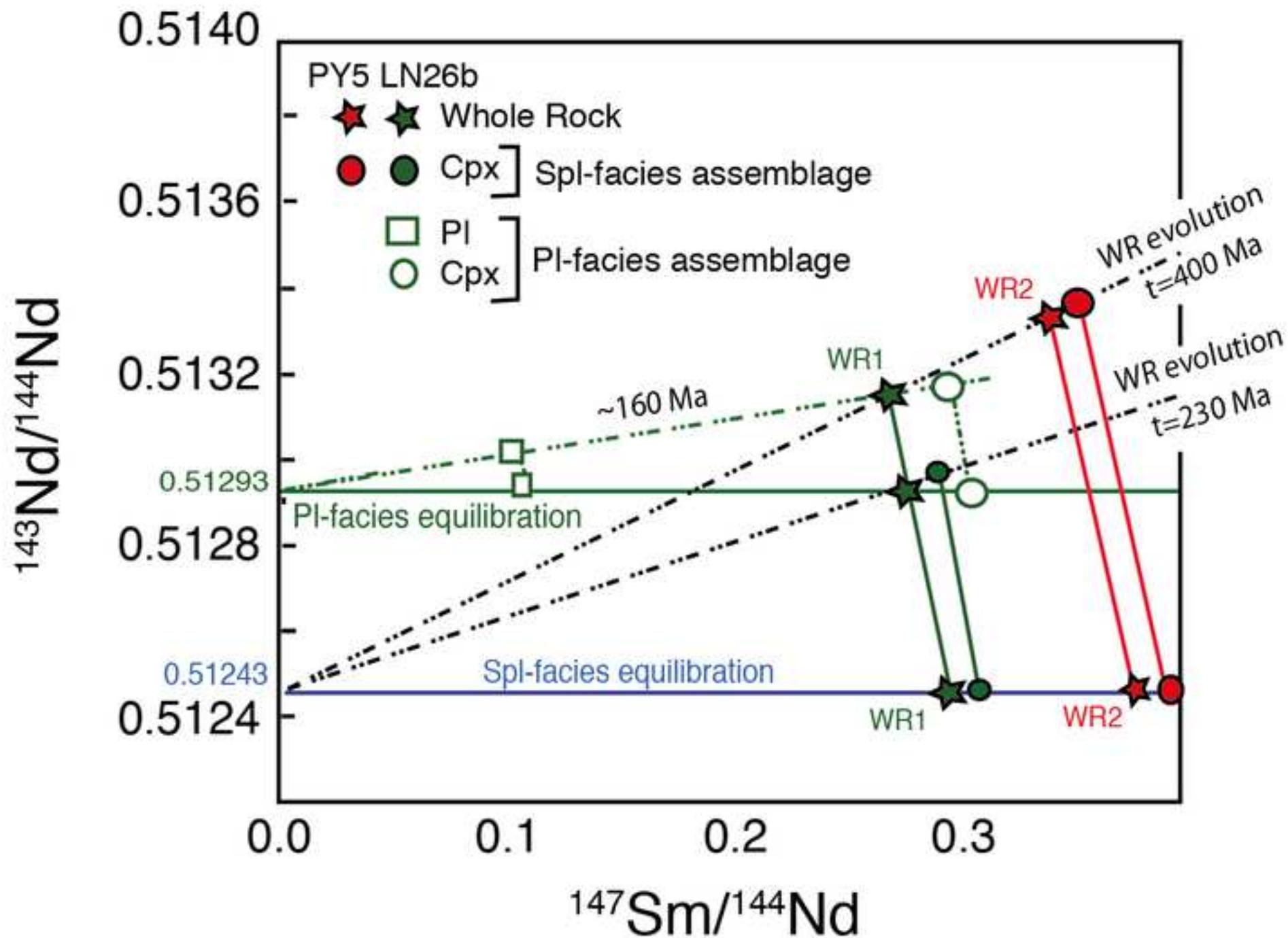


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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Lanzo North | Ext. Ligurian ophiolites | Beni Bussera & Ronda |
| ■ Pl-Spl Pyrox | ● Grt-pyrox | ◇ Grt-pyrox |
| ■ (Grt) Spl-pyrox | ● (Grt)-Spl pyrox | ◇ Spl-websterites |
| ■ Cluster-bearing (Grt) Spl-pyrox | ● Erro-Tobbio ophiolites | |
| | ● Pl-Spl-pyrox | |









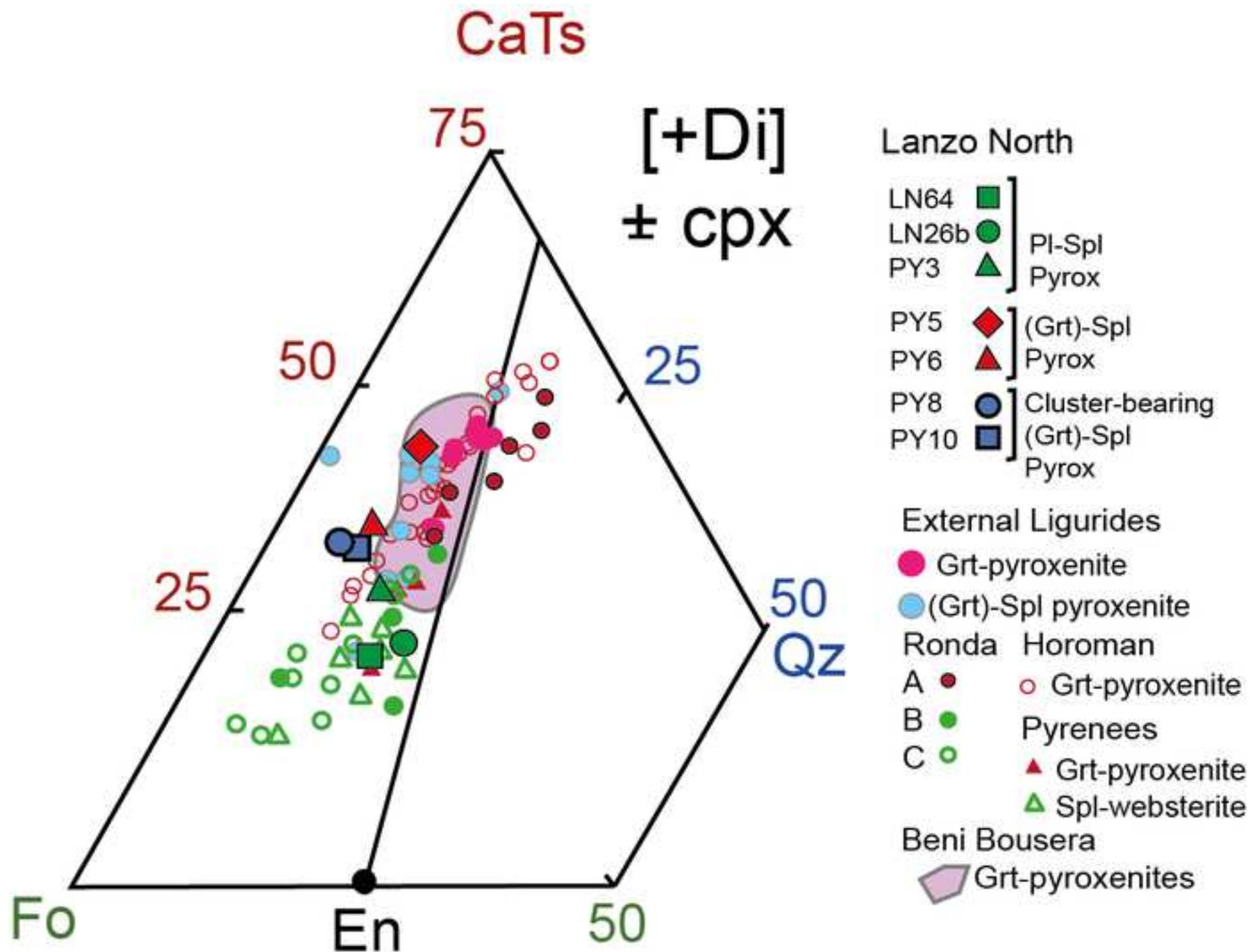


Figure 9

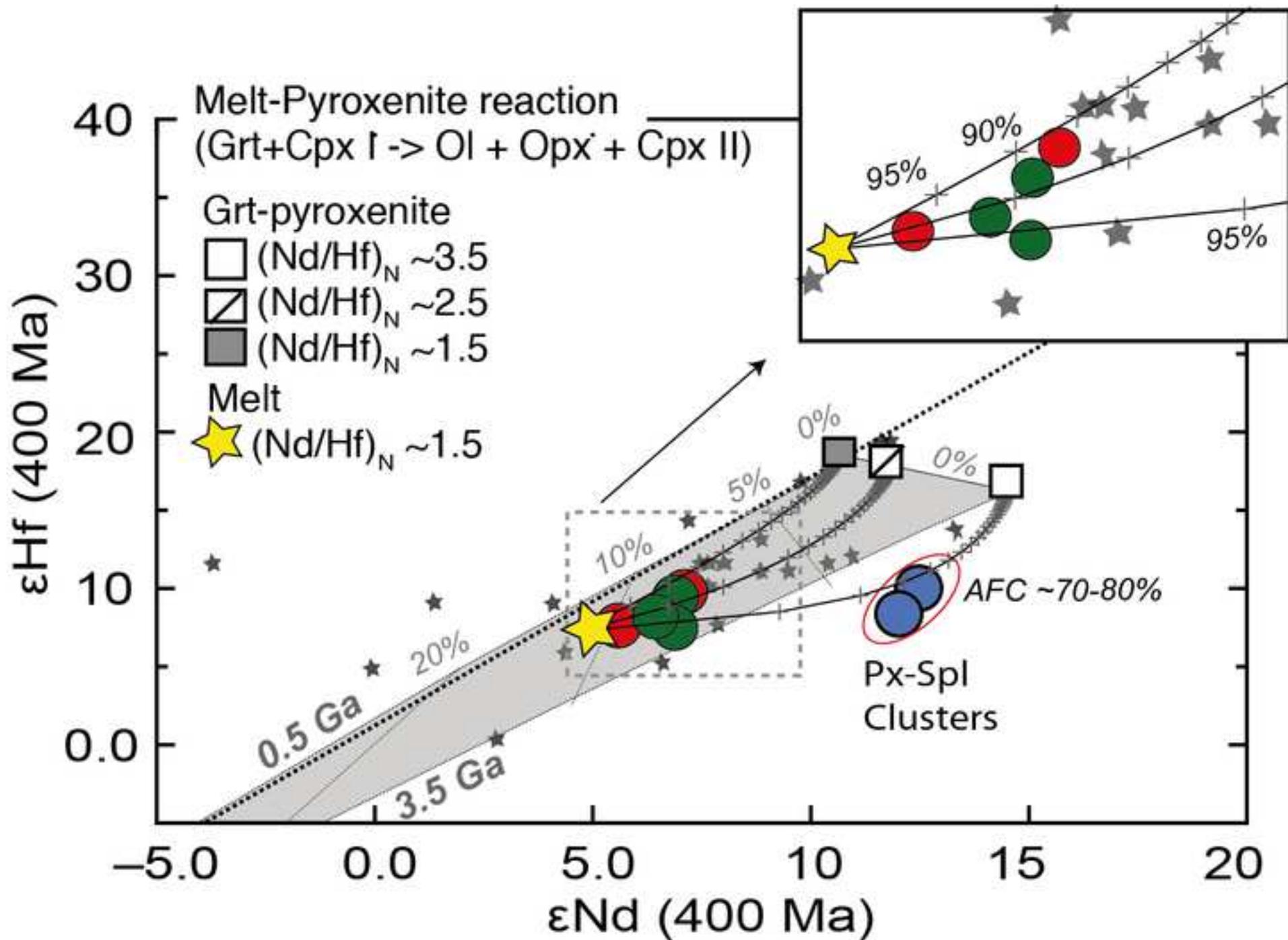


Table 1. Location and Nd and Hf isotopic data for clinopyroxenes and whole rocks from Lanzo North pyroxenites.

Sample name	Rock type	Coordinates		$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (2σ)	Sm (ppm)	Nd (ppm)	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ (2σ)	Lu (ppm)	Hf (ppm)	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$
LN64	Spl-Pl pyroxenite	45° 15' 49.350" N 7° 27' 32.328" E	LN64 WR	0.513178 (8)	1.048	2.331	0.271848	0.283152 (6)	0.241	0.690	0.049579
			LN64 Cpx	0.513196 (7)	3.203	6.821	0.283961				
			LN64 Pl	0.513022 (9)	0.178	0.911	0.103761				
LN26	Spl-Pl pyroxenite	45° 16' 12.322" N 7° 27' 25.488" E	LN26b WR	0.513184 (9)	1.055	2.297	0.277743	0.283172 (3)	0.287	0.725	0.056192
			LN26b Cpx	0.513210 (8)	0.813	1.719	0.286089				
			LN26b Pl	0.513045 (6)	0.201	0.956	0.111794				
PY3	(Grt)-Spl pyroxenite	45° 15' 44.485" N 7° 27' 46.422" E	PY3 WR	0.513184 (5)	1.096	2.426	0.273115	0.283162 (12)	0.284	0.697	0.057842
			PY3 Cpx	0.513222 (7)	0.576	1.207	0.288671				
PY5	(Grt)-Spl pyroxenite	45° 15' 45.518" N 7° 27' 46.654" E	PY5 WR	0.513351 (9)	0.790	1.430	0.334145	0.283516 (7)	0.296	0.423	0.099378
			PY5 Cpx	0.513367 (8)	1.445	2.527	0.345668				
PY6	(Grt)-Spl pyroxenite	45° 15' 49.814" N 7° 27' 39.316" E	PY6 WR	0.513107 (7)	0.929	2.097	0.267945	0.283392 (9)	0.360	0.584	0.087582
			PY6 Cpx	0.513378 (7)	1.377	2.423	0.343647				
PY8	Cluster bearing (Grt)- Spl pyroxenite	45° 15' 56.338" N 7° 27' 46.731" E	PY8 WR	0.513403 (7)	0.720	1.557	0.245553	0.283663 (4)	0.340	0.411	0.117571
			PY8 Cpx	0.513365 (7)	1.430	3.328	0.228407				
PY10	Cluster bearing (Grt)- Spl pyroxenite	45° 15' 57.154" N 7° 27' 48.817" E	PY10 WR	0.513386 (6)	0.722	1.541	0.248962	0.283642 (4)	0.403	0.458	0.125003
			PY10 Cpx	0.513368 (7)	1.444	3.507	0.218831				

WR, whole rock; Cpx, clinopyroxene; Pl, plagioclase; details of analytical methods and errors (2σ) are given in the Methods section.



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Supplementary file

Supplementary Table LanzoN_.xlsx



Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: