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3 **A petrographic study of the anthropomorphic stelae from the Megalithic Area of**
4 **Saint-Martin-de-Corléans (Aosta, Northern Italy)**

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13 **Abstract**

14 The Megalithic Area of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans consists of anthropomorphic stelae dated at the
15 Copper Age and at the beginning of the Ancient Bronze Age. They were carved in different
16 lithologies of various provenance according to two successive artistic styles, “ancient” and
17 “evolved”.

18 A mineralo-chemical and petrographic investigation were carried out on 47 stelae and on reference
19 samples collected from 8 different outcrops aimed to define the provenance of the stone materials.
20 The variety of rocks used for the realization of the stelae reflects the geologic complexity of Aosta
21 Valley.

22 Most of the examined stelae were classified as foliated impure marbles, gray banded marbles
23 (Bardiglio), calcschists and metabasites belonging to the Upper Piedmont Zone, which outcrops in
24 close proximity of the Megalithic Area. Some stelae of the evolved group consisted of massive
25 marbles with silicate layers attributed to the Sion-Courmayeur zone. Similar stone materials were
26 reported for the stelae of the same age found at the archaeological area of Petit Chasseur (Sion,
27 Switzerland). It can be interpreted as the materic attestation of the archaeological affinity between
28 the stelae occurring in the two pre-historic sites, supporting the hypothesis of cultural exchanges
29 over the Grand St. Bernard Pass since the Early Copper Age.

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42 **Key words**

43 Anthropomorphic stelae, petrographic analysis, provenance study, Copper age, Aosta Valley (NW
44 Italy), Western Alps

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49 **Introduction**

50 The Megalithic Area of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans consists of a pre-historic anthropomorphic stelae
51 site uncovered in 1969 (Mezzena, 1978). It is located in the western outskirts of the city of Aosta
52 (North-western Italy), on the alluvial sediments of Dora Baltea river and extends over an area of one
53 hectare.

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3 The stratified deposit testifies a long anthropological evolution of the area, by the end of Neolithic
4 period to the Iron and Roman Ages, but the most important documentation is referred to the
5 megalithic monuments, stelae and tombs of the Copper Age and the beginning of the Ancient
6 Bronze Age.
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10 Based on archaeological research, it was possible to divide the history of the site, which remained
11 active as an area of worship and burial for almost a millennium, from about 3000 BC to 1900 BC,
12 into five chronological stages (Mezzena, 1998). The earliest phase corresponds to an alignment of
13 22 large cylindrical wooden poles oriented from northeast to southwest. With the second phase,
14 dating between 2750 BC and 2400 BC, the area of the cult acquires more importance, conferred by
15 the construction of two orthogonal alignments of more than 45 anthropomorphic stelae developed
16 along two orthogonal axes, respectively oriented to northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast,
17 maintaining the schedule followed for the installation of poles and plowing. The stelae, about two -
18 three meters high and one meter wide, with thicknesses of few tens of centimeters, consist of
19 various lithologies, characterized by different workability in term of ways and finishes (De Leo,
20 2006). The stelae were carved according to two successive artistic styles, named “ancient”, with
21 representations of clothing and anthropomorphic attributes reduced to essentials, and “evolved”,
22 showing a more complex and detailed representation (Fig. 1). All the stelae, the ancient ones and
23 the most recent too, are similar to those of the Petit Chasseur archaeological site near Sion
24 (Switzerland), in respect of whom had been related by common features in terms of style and
25 iconography (Bornaz *et al.*, 2007). In the third phase, platforms associated with the stelae were built
26 using plates and pebbles. They may be connected with ancient rituals, in fact an array of cylindrical
27 wells, inside of which seeds of wheat and millstones have been found, was interpreted as ritual by
28 farmers and growers of cereals.
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32 Later, around 2300 BC, the site, originally attended for purposes of worship, also became burial
33 area, as large tomb structures, defined “megalithic” for this reason, were constructed. In particular,
34 during the fourth chronological phase, five tombs of various types were erected in different zones of
35 the site. During this stage, a systematic re-use of the anthropomorphic stelae, taken by their early
36 arrangement and used for the construction of different types of megalithic tombs, occurred. The
37 systematic reuse of anthropomorphic stelae also continued under the fifth phase (2100-1800 BC),
38 during which other three megalithic tombs were built. At the beginning of the Ancient Bronze Age,
39 the cycle of the worship and burial area is concluded. Despite this, although the kind of evidences
40 are not specified yet, it is not certain that the area was completely abandoned, since Iron Age and
41 Roman Age levels were found.
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58 The frequent reuse of the stelae, together with the complexity of geology of the Aosta Valley,
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3 requires a detailed study in order to classify them on the basis of archaeometric parameters and to
4 define the provenance of the stones used for their realization.


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6 Though these stelae were studied in detail from an archaeological point of view (Mezzena, 1978;
7 1998), as well as their significant historical value, no archaeometric approach had been undertaken
8 so far for their scientific characterization. It would provide the necessary tools to restorers and
9 archaeologists to carry out targeted conservation actions on the basis of future exposure aimed at an
10 upcoming museum placement. For this reason, a research program in common with the Cultural
11 Heritage and Activities Office of the self-governing Region of Aosta Valley was recently
12 developed, and this led to some first preliminary results (Appolonia *et al.*, 2010; Serra *et al.*, 2012).
13 This article presents a complete mineralogical and petrographic study, with the aim to define the
14 geological nature of the stele and to provide information about the origin of the raw materials on the
15 basis of a comparison between selected fragments of the stelae and samples coming from
16 abandoned quarries of marbles outcropping along the Aosta Valley. In Table 1 A and B a
17 comparison between stelae and representative quarries samples for lithology and modal
18 compositions was reported.
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29 **Geological Setting**


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31 From a geological point of view, the archaeological site of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans is located
32 within the external ophiolitic unit of the Combin Zone (Bigi *et al.*, 1990; Bonetto *et al.*, 2010),
33 recently named Aouilletta unit (Malusà, 2004; Malusà *et al.*, 2005) (Fig. 2) and represents the relics
34 of the Mesozoic Piedmont-Ligurian ocean separating the European and Insubric continental
35 margins (e.g. Dal Piaz, 1999; Beltrando *et al.*, 2010 and refs therein).
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39 As a result of the Alpine orogeny, the Piedmont Zone consists of several tectonic units, recording a
40 polyphasic metamorphic history. These tectonic units may be distinguished into two
41 tectono-metamorphic groups of ophiolitic units according to their tectonic positions, lithological
42 association and contrasting metamorphic imprint. The Lower Piedmont Unit (Zermatt-Saas)
43 disappears under the Mischabel and Gran Nomenon backfolds and it is dominated by metamorphic
44 ophiolites derived from oceanic mafic and ultramafic protoliths and characterized by an eclogitic
45 imprint of Eocene age and a subsequent retrogression toward greenschist facies conditions (Ernst
46 and Dal Piaz, 1978; Dal Piaz *et al.*, 2001; Angiboust *et al.*, 2009; Beltrando *et al.*, 2010). The upper
47 part of the Piedmont nappe stack (Combin Zone) mainly consists of Mesozoic metasediments
48 (carbonaceous to terrigenous calcschists and impure marbles) alternating with tabular beds of
49 greenschist facies tholeiitic metabasalts (named prasinites) and including lenses, in places very
50 large, of serpentinites and minor metagabbros (Aouilletta unit); relics of sodic amphiboles and
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3 losange-shaped pseudomorphs after lawsonite document the existence of a blueschist facies event
4 (no isotope dating) before the pervasive greenschist facies overprint of late Eocene-early Oligocene
5 age (Caby, 1981; Baldelli *et al.*, 1983; Sartori, 1987; Marthaler and Stampfli, 1989; Burri *et al.*,
6 1998; Dal Piaz, 1999; De Giusti *et al.*, 2004; Malusà, 2004; Dal Piaz *et al.*, 2010).

9
10 Exotic sheets of continental origin discontinuously occur near the base of the Upper Piedmont Zone
11 (Combin), both in the southern (*Fascio di Cogne*; Elter, 1971, 1972) and northern side (Pancherot-
12 Cime Bianche unit; Dal Piaz, 1999, and refs therein) of the Aosta Valley. These tectonic sheets
13 consist of Permian silvery quartzitic schists, Eotriassic tabular quartzites followed by dolostones
14 and marbles (Middle-Late Triassic), slope breccias with dolomite fragments (Juras  and basinal
15 marbles and ophiolite free calcschists (Cretaceous?).

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19 In proximity to the investigated area, there are also other relevant geological units of the Alpine
20 chain (Fig. 2). They consist of several varieties of continental crust rocks distinguished on the basis
21 of their different metamorphic equilibration and paleogeographic provenance, such as the Monte
22 Emilius Klippe (equilibrated under eclogitic facies conditions); the Dent Blanche and the Mont
23 Mary nappes (greenschists facies conditions), the Gran Paradiso Massif (eclogitic facies
24 conditions), the Grand St. Bernard Nappe (blueschist facies conditions) and the Houillère Zone
25 (greenschists facies conditions). They mainly consists of mono and poly-metamorphic silicate-
26 bearing rocks as micaschists and orthogneisses and minor meta-carbonatic cover of Mesozoic age
27 (e.g. Govi, 1975; De Giusti *et al.*, 2004; Malusà *et al.*, 2005). Finally, in the more external position
28 of the Penninic domain the Sion – Courmayeur Zone outcrops (Elter and Elter, 1965), interpreted as
29 an outer oceanic unit respect to the Piedmont Zone (Loprieno *et al.*, 2011, and refs therein).

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33 In Aosta Valley, the Sion – Courmayeur Zone consists of two main geological units: the Roignais
34 Versoyen Unit and the Brèches de Tarentaise Unit. The first is composed of oceanic
35 metasediments, metabasites and serpentinitized lherzolites of Mesozoic age. The presence in the
36 metabasites of high-pressure metamorphic assemblages is reported (Cannic *et al.*, 1996; Beltrando
37 *et al.*, 2010; and refs therein). The Brèches de Tarentaise (or Valais flysch) are composed by the
38 following succession from bottom to top: the Couches de l'Aroley, the Couches de Marmontains
39 and the Couches de Saint-Christophe (Antoine, 1972; Fudral, 1973). The age of the Brèches de
40 Tarentaise is still debated, it could be Senonian to Campanian (Antoine, 1972) or Priabonian (Gely,
41 1989). They mainly consists of carbonate and pelitic metasediment with bodies of polygenic
42 breccias and are interpreted as a high pressure metamorphosed flysch deposited in the oceanic
43 trench during Alpine convergence (Loprieno *et al.*, 2011 

54 55 56 57 58 **Sampling and Analytical methods** 59 60

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3 The petrographic characterisation was performed through 30 reference samples collected in 8
4 different outcrops within Aosta Valley (Fig. 2). They were compared with 55 samples belonging to
5 47 stelae, , collected during the recent restoration (Tables 1A and 1B). The samples, of a few cubic
6 centimetres, were cut from the fresh fractured side of each single stelae and were used for preparing
7 thin sections for petrological examination. Samples were analyzed coupling optical microscopy and
8 scanning electron microscopy (Cambridge Stereoscan S360). An Energy Dispersive X-Ray
9 Spectrometer (EDS) equipped with a pentafet detector (Oxford Instruments) was used to determine
10 the chemical composition of the most discriminative minerals. Natural oxides and silicates
11 (Astimex Scientific Limited) were acquired as standards. Acceleration current was set at 15 kV and
12 counting time was 60 s. A ZAF data reduction program was used. All the analyses were
13 recalculated using the MINSORT computer program of Petrakakis and Dietrich (1985). The mineral
14 compositions are expressed as atoms per formula unit (a.p.f.u.). The mineral symbols are from
15 Kretz (1983).

16
17 The petrographic analysis was carried out to define the mineralogical assemblage and the
18 microstructural features of different material stone variety. The electron microprobe analysis has
19 provided the chemical composition of the main mineral component and the chemical composition
20 of accessory minerals useful for discriminative purposes. Locations of analysed samples are shown
21 in Fig. 2 while representative compositions of minerals are reported in Tables 2, 3, and 4.
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24 **Results**

25 **Petrographic features**

26 Most of the stelae show different varieties of very similar marble, difficult to distinguish from each
27 other by a simple macroscopic observation.

28 Based on structural, paragenetic and compositional parameters, the large group of carbonate rocks
29 can be divided into four main lithological varieties characterized by homogeneous metamorphic and
30 structural features. In detail, the following lithological types have been distinguished: 1) foliated
31 impure marbles, 2) calcschists, 3) gray banded marbles, locally named "Bardiglio", 4) massive
32 marbles with silicate layers. As regards the composition of silicate-bearing rocks, metabasites from
33 submarine basalts (prasinities), micaschists, orthogneisses and quartzites were observed. In only one
34 case a sedimentary rock was found, represented by a travertine sample. Fig. 3 shows a quantitative
35 distribution of the different lithologies identified among the stelae analyzed.

36 Foliated impure marbles and calcschists

37 The most abundant materials belong to a wide class consisting of foliated impure marbles and
38 calcschists coming from the Combin Zone (Table 1A).
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3 This class of rocks is characterized by the following metamorphic mineral assemblage: calcite (40-
4 80 vol. %), ankerite (5-10 vol.%), quartz (5-40 vol. %), white micas (muscovite and paragonite) (5-
5 25 vol. %), Mg-chlorite (0-10 vol. %), clinozoisite (<5 vol.%), albite (0-10 vol. %), graphite (<5
6 vol. %). The accessories are rutile, titanite, apatite, zircon, tourmaline, iron sulphides and iron
7 oxides. From a structural point of view these marbles show a medium to fine grained size, a foliated
8 texture defined by alternating thin layers of white mica and the silicates cited above with more
9 powerful domains of oriented xenoblastic calcite (Fig. 4A). Quartz domains and pseudomorphs
10 after lawsonite consisting of graphite, calcite and paragonite also occur (Fig. 4B).

16 Gray banded marbles (Bardiglio)

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18 Among the different varieties of marble occurring for the stelae production, it follows the gray
19 banded marble coming from the ancient mining site located near the villages of Aymavilles, Saint
20 Pierre e Villeneuve (Fig. 2). This marble, locally termed "Bardiglio" and also known by ancient
21 Romans, is characterized by a regular alternation of centimeter-scale dark gray layers, consisting of
22 calcite and dolomite, with levels of lighter gray tonality, where calcite only occurs (Fig. 5A).

23
24 Microscopically this marble is easily distinguishable, for the presence of fine-grained dolomite
25 layers alternating with calcitic ones (80-95 vol.%), as well as for the frequent occurrence of
26 pseudomorphs after lawsonite, where the three compositional varieties of di-octahedral micas are
27 present (0-10 vol.%): muscovite, margarite and paragonite (Borghi *et al.*, 2006). The characteristic
28 paragenesis of this marble is completed by the presence of albite, quartz, Mg-chlorite and
29 phlogopite, pure magnesium end-member of biotitic mica (Fig. 4C). The accessories are rutile,
30 titanite, apatite, zircon, tourmaline, graphite, iron sulphides and iron oxides.

37 Massive marbles with silicate layers

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39 Nine of the analyzed samples (stelae 4 South, stelae 5, stelae 6, stelae 18, stelae 25, stelae 30, stelae
40 40, the roof of the tomb II, the interface between the stelae 6 south and the stelae 4 south) consist of
41 centimeter levels marble alternating with foliated micaceous levels (massive marbles with silicate
42 layers in Table 1A, Fig. 5B). This marble was used for the realization of the evolved style stelae,
43 showing the most aesthetically refined decorations. It is microscopically characterized by a medium
44 to fine grained size, a granoblastic structure and a planar preferred orientation of mica. In the
45 carbonate matrix, quartz is present as isolated granoblasts and poikilitic porphyroblasts of albite
46 occur (Fig. 4D). The main mineralogical association is composed of calcite (40-80 vol.%), quartz
47 (10-40 vol.%), white mica (10-40 vol.%), Mg-chlorite (0-10 vol.%), clinozoisite (0-10 vol.%),
48 albite (0-10 vol.%), graphite (<5 vol.%). The accessories are rutile, titanite, apatite, zircon,
49 tourmaline, iron sulphides and iron oxides. Sporadically, pseudomorphs after lawsonite to zoisite +
50 white mica + quartz, amphibole and skeletal garnet crystals are also present (Fig. 4E).

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Silicate rocks

Finally, some stelae consist of silicate-bearing rocks. Particularly noteworthy is a variety of metabasite, named “prasinite”, used for stela 9, stela A, stela P.

Prasinite consists of a metamorphic rock with a basic composition and represents the low-grade metamorphic product of original submarine basalt intercalations in the meta-sediments (calcschists) of the Upper Piedmont Zone. Their typical paragenesis is composed of calcium and sodium-calcium amphiboles (10-50 vol.%), epidote (10-35 vol.%), chlorite (0-10 vol.%), white mica (0-10 vol.%), biotite (0-10 vol.%) and albite (5-30 vol.%) (Fig. 4F). Quartz (5-10 vol.%) and, to accessory amount, rutile, titanite, garnet and iron oxides can also be present. They show a structure from massive to moderately schistose, with the presence of typical white albite porphyroblasts.

Stelae 11 and 20 (Table 1B) were found to consist of an orthogneiss with predominantly quartz (40-70 vol.%), potassium feldspar (10-40 vol.%), plagioclase (5-10 vol.%), white mica (5-10 vol.%), biotite (5-10 vol.%) and chlorite (<5 vol.%). Among the accessories, epidote, titanite, zircon, garnet and iron oxides prevail. This rock shows a characteristic milonitic texture defined by quartz - feldspar layers alternate with thin mica layers that underline the schistosity of the rock (Fig. 4G). Porphyroclasts relicts of magmatic potassium feldspar occur, and the original sites of magmatic plagioclase are also replaced by white mica and very fine-grained epidote felts. Finally, intensely brown pleochroic biotite has been found.

Traver

Only one of the samples can be classified as a micaschist of the crystalline basement units, which corresponds to the great slab in the passage between the tomb V and the tomb VII. The analyzed sample is a garnet micaschist, showing a millimeter to centimeter schistosity, consisting of quartz (35 vol.%), white mica (40 vol.%), albite (20 vol.%), chlorite (<5 vol.%), epidote (<5 vol.%) garnet and iron oxides. For the South-West pillar of the tomb II and for the North-East one of the tomb VII instead a fine-grained gneiss was observed. This rock, characterized by a foliated structure with crenulation, that suggest an albitic micaschist origin, consists of quartz (30-40 vol.%), white mica (20-40 vol.%), albite (20-30 vol.%) and Mg-Fe chlorite (<5 vol.%) and, as accessories, zircon and iron oxides.

Stela 17 consists of a stilpnomelane-bearing quartzite (Fig. 4H). The rock is characterized by an isotropic and granoblastic texture and by a medium-grain size. It results to be formed predominantly of quartz (75% vol.), that occurs in equidimensional crystals without orientation, index of static recrystallization. There are also stilpnomelane (> 20% vol.), recognizable by the acicular shape, isolated crystals of white mica, chlorite, albite and accessory minerals such as tourmaline and iron oxides.


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3 Finally, the north-west pillar of the Tomb V was found to be composed of travertine showing
4 vacuolar structure and including quartz, mica, zoisite-clinozoisite and albite. The presence of
5 metamorphic minerals in the carbonate matrix of the travertine implies a regional origin respect to a
6 provenance from the travertine quarries of the central Italy, where metamorphic rock minerals are
7 not reported. Travertine deposits are well-known and widespread in many places in the Aosta
8 Valley. Rock formations of this type are present in the area to the north of Aosta (Bibian) or near
9 Gressan along the right bank of the Dora Baltea river.
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16 **Mineral Chemistry of the marble varieties**

17 Foliated impure marbles and calcschists

18 Based on the electron microprobe it was possible to distinguish in these rocks a potassium mica,
19 characterized by high Si content (phengitic in composition) and a sodium mica (paragonite).
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21 Potassium mica shows a strong zoning characterized by a compositional change in Si content
22 between 6.30 and 7.20 atoms per formula unit (a.p.f.u.) on the basis of 22 Ox. (Fig. 6A). This
23 implies that the mica has grown under metamorphic conditions of high pressure, typical for the
24

25  Combin Zone (e.g. Cartwright and Barnicoat, 2002). Moreover, K is partially replaced by Na with
26 Na / (Na + K) ratio increasing, accompanied by the decrease of Si content in the composition of
27 micas.
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33 In turn, the calcschists chlorite is an intermediate variety between ripidolite and picnoclorite, while
34 chlorite of foliated impure marbles plots in the ripidolite field, with a $Fe_{tot} / (Mg + Fe_{tot})$ ratio
35 ranging between 0.15 and 0.35 a.p.f.u. (Fig. 6B).
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40 Gray banded marbles (Bardiglio)

41 The di-octahedral micas of the gray banded marble (potassium mica) resulted phengitic in
42 composition, with Si content ranging between 7.00 and 7.50 a.p.f.u. and characterized by a partial
43 replacement of K by Na (Fig. 6C). Chlorite for this marble is found to be clinocllore in composition
44 (Fig. 6D).
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49 Massive marbles with silicate layers

50 Potassium mica shows a compositional zoning defined by the Si content ranging between 6.30 and
51 7.30 a.p.f.u., reflecting again a phengitic composition typical of rocks re-crystallized under high
52 pressure metamorphic conditions (Fig. 6E). Chlorite for this marble is found to be ripidolite in
53 composition (Fig. 6F).
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3 The amphibole, only encountered in the silicate layers of the stelae 40, is characterised by high
4 values of Si ranging between 7.25 and 7.75 a.p.f.u. on the basis of 23 Ox, with Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺) ratio
5 around 0.60, a (Na)_{M4} minor than 0.30 a.p.f.u. and a very low (Na+K)_A (minor than 0.10 a.p.f.u.)
6 that let identify an intermediate phase between actinolite and actinolite-hornblende, according to
7 Leake (1987).
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11 The uncommon garnet occurring inside this marble variety showed the following composition:
12 Almandine 38%, Spessartine  Pyrope 2% and Grossular 28%. Among metamorphic minerals, the
13 compositional of garnet [(Fe, Mg, Ca, Mn)₃ Al₂ Si₃ O₁₂] is a key piece of information in
14 metamorphic petrology because the chemical zoning preserved in the garnet porphyroblasts
15 potentially records the changes in the reaction history of the rock (Spear, 1989). In particular, the
16 presence of a manganese-rich garnet implies metamorphic conditions of formation characterized by
17 low values of temperature (<500 ° C) (Spear *et al.*, 1991), documented by the occurrence of
18 lawsonite and other blueschist facies minerals and by the greenschist facies overprint, testified by
19 actinolitic composition of the amphibole.
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28 Discussion

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30 Based on minero – petrographic data, the carbonate-bearing rocks (different varieties of marbles
31 and calcschists) were found to be the 82% of the total rock constituting the anthropomorphic stelae
32 (Fig. 3). This is justifiable since the average hardness of these rocks is lower than that of silicate
33 rocks. This feature allows an easier workability by people with limited technological capabilities.
34 Also as regards the geological framework of the site, carbonate rocks are locally more abundant
35 than silicate rocks, which represent 18% of the rock types encountered.
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38 As regards their site of provenance, most of the analyzed rock types (52%) are composed by impure
39 foliated marbles and calcschists belonging to the Upper Piedmont Zone, which outcrops in the close
40 proximities of the archaeological site.
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45 Following the comparison of their features with samples collected in the field, this variety of
46 marbles and calcschists resulted very similar from a mineralogical and structural point of view with
47 samples coming from ancient quarry sites located near the Megalithic Area. Also minero-chemical
48 data confirmed the good correlation with marbles and calcschists of the Combin Zone (Fig. 6A). In
49 particular, white mica resulted compositionally similar to that found in samples collected near the
50 marble outcropping in correspondence of Pont d'Avisod locality, along the gorge of the Clou Neuf
51 stream, just a few hundred meters from the archaeological site (Fig. 2).
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57 Even, the provenance of the prasinites has to be considered local, very close to the site of use. The
58 prasinites, indeed, occur regularly interbedded with the calcschists. Given the spread diffusion near
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3 the archaeological area and the easy workability of this lithology, it is not surprising that it has been
4 used mainly in the early stages of occupation of the site.

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6 As for the Bardiglio gray banded marbles, a good correlation between the chemical composition of
7 di-octahedral micas belonging to samples from the site of the Pesse-Montbel quarry near
8 Aymavilles village and those belonging to stelae samples, was detected (Fig. 2). The good
9 mineralogical and compositional correlation between quarry samples and fragments of the stele
10 suggests to attribute this marble variety to stelae 3 South, stelae 29, stelae 31 and to the NE pillar of
11 Tomb II (Table 1A). The Bardiglio marble too belongs to the Upper Piedmont Zone. Particularly, it
12 outcrops near the tectonic contact with the Grand St. Bernard Nappe, which occurs in the Aosta
13 Valley in the outer position with respect to the Piedmont Zone at a dozen miles upstream of the
14 archaeological site (Fig 2).
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17 The stelae consisting of massive marble with silicate layers (4 south, 5, 6, 18, 25, 30, 40, the roof of
18 the tomb II, the interface between the stelae 4 south and 6 south) differs significantly from those
19 previously described. In particular, it does not appear to come from outcrops in the immediate
20 vicinity of the megalithic site. Vice versa, this rock type shows mineralogical and petrographic
21 features similar to marble varieties that outcrop in the Sion - Courmayeur Unit, especially with the
22 variety historically known as the “Morgex Stone” and sampled at the Drumeilleux – and Liconi
23 quarries in the Morgex municipality (Fig. 2).
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26 Particularly noticeable in Fig. 6E is the good correlation between the chemical composition of the
27 di-octahedral micas (muscovite and paragonite) of stelae and quarries samples. Even the
28 representative analysis of chlorite shows a good compositional correlation between the samples
29 collected in the quarries and those from the stelae, projecting both of them in the field of ripidolite
30 (Fig 6F).
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33 With regard to the sporadic presence of orthogneiss, micaschist, fine-grained gneiss and quartzite,
34 despite these lithologies do not outcrop in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological site, they are
35 well represented in the form of erratic blocks deposited by the glaciers of Quaternary Age on the
36 flanks of the valley or at its mouth along the main axis of the Aosta valley.
37

38
39 In the case of orthogneisses, petrographic characters are very similar to those of the milonitic
40 orthogneisses of the Arolla Series in the Dent Blanche Nappe (Pennacchioni and Guermani, 1993;
41 Bucher *et al.*, 2004), which outcrops a few kilometres north-east of Aosta, along the Valpelline
42 (Fig. 2). It is therefore likely that in this case it has been used a stone boulder carried by the
43 Valpelline glacier near the archaeological site of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans. It should be noted that
44 the  similar rocks also occur within the basement units of the Gran St. Bernard nappe system
45 (Gouffon, 1993; Sartori *et al.*, 2006).
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3 Regard to the quartzite, the occurrence of stilpnomelane, a femic sheet-silicate similar to biotite,
4 implies low-temperature metamorphic conditions in greenschist facies (Brown, 1971). Interbedded
5 quartzites are common in metamorphic rocks outcropping in the Aosta Valley, especially in the
6 Permian-Eotriassic succession of the Zone Houillère or other silicoclastic cover units of the Gran
7 St. Bernard nappe system (Gouffon, 1993; Sartori *et al.*, 2006) in the Avise syncline (Dal Piaz and
8 Govi, 1968) or in the Sion – Courmayeur Zone (Loprieno *et al.*, 2011). In this case it is therefore
9 not possible to precisely identify the area of origin of this stone material, although the presence of
10 stilpnomelane would suggest a low-grade metamorphic unit and thus an origin more external than
11 the Piedmont Zone.
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13 Finally, in the case of micaschists and fine-grained gneisses, it was probably the use of an erratic
14 block found near the site and coming from one of the many metamorphic continental crust units
15 outcropping upstream of the site.
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18 **Conclusions**

19 A detailed characterization of the minero-petrographic rock types used in the production of the pre-
20 historic stelae discovered in Saint-Martin-de-Corléans (Aosta, NW Italy) site allowed in most cases
21 to define the area or at least the tectonometamorphic units of provenance of stone material.
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23 In particular, combining archaeometric and archaeological data, it was noted that stelae of ancient
24 style resulted carved using stone materials coming from areas located near the archaeological site,
25 while stelae belonging to the stylistically more advanced period were manufactured by means of
26 rocks outcropping more distant, as “Bardiglio” and “Morgex Stone” marbles. It is therefore likely
27 that in the latter evolution phases of the site, corresponding to the Copper Age and the beginning of
28 the Ancient Bronze Age, local residents developed contacts with neighbouring populations. In the
29 specific case, for the stelae consisting of massive marble with silicate layers the original quarries
30 were probably placed in the area near Morgex village, located at approximately 30 km from the
31 Saint-Martin-de-Corléans archaeological site and belonging to the Sion – Courmayeur geological
32 unit.
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34 At this regard it should be pointed out that the Sion - Courmayeur geological unit continues north-
35 east up to Sion, in Switzerland, where material stones similar to Morgex marbles were used for the
36 realization of several anthropomorphic stelae found at the archaeological site of Petit Chasseur
37 (Sartori *et al.*, 2007). These Authors inferred the provenance area of micaceous marbles used for the
38 stelae production at the Pierre Avoi formation (Bagnoud *et al.*, 1998), outcropping on the right side
39 of the Rhone river and corresponding for age and lithological association to the Brèches de
40 Tarentaise. In relation to the Sion stelae, the apparent common characteristics with the Aosta stelae
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of evolved style, already observed in terms of stylistic and iconographic features (Bornaz *et al.*, 2007), can also be now confirmed by the geologic and petrographic observations, supporting the hypothesis of cultural exchanges across the Grand St. Bernard Pass since the Early Copper Age.

Acknowledgments.

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This paper is devoted to the memory of Margherita Serra: an unforgettable PhD student and friend who early left us, leaving an indelible trail behind her.

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44 Captions:

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46 Figure 1. Representative photographic documentation of the studied anthropomorphic stelae from
47 the Megalithic Area of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans (Aosta, Northern Italy). A: example of ancient
48 stelae (Stelae n. 13, foliated impure marble); B: example of evolved stelae (Stelae n. 30, massive
49 marble with silicate layers).
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53 Figure 2. Schematic geological map of the central sector of Aosta Valley (modified after Elter,
54 1987; Malusà, 2004; De Giusti *et al.*, 2004). Legend: A) Quaternary deposits; B) Austroalpine
55 Domain: 1. Roisan zone, 2. Dent Blanche Nappe, 3. Mont Mary nappe, 4. Mont Emilius and
56 Aguilles Rouge nappe; C) Gran Paradiso Nappe; D) *Fascio di Cogne*; E) Structurally composite
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3 Piedmont Zone derived from the closure of the Mesozoic ocean: 1. Zermatt-Saas zone (nappe)
4 consisting of eclogitic fragments of oceanic lithosphere, 2. Combin zone, including blueschist facies
5 ophiolitic units and thin decollement cover units derived from debated continental basement, named
6 Aouilletta in the study area west of Aosta; 3. Main bodies of metabasites in greenschists facies
7 conditions (prasinities), amphibolites and minor eclogites; F) Middle Penninic Grand St. Bernard
8 (Briançonnais) nappe system: 1. External Briançonnais nappe, 2. Internal Briançonnais nappe; G)
9 Permian-Carboniferous Houillère Unit; H) Sion – Courmayeur zone;

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16 Figure 3. Quantitative distribution, in percent occurrence, of identified lithologies among the
17 analyzed stelae. In brackets, the ratio between the number of stelae formed by each lithotype and
18 the total number of the studied stelae is given.
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23 Figure 4. Representative microstructures of the investigated marbles, mineral abbreviation
24 according to Kretz (1983). A: cross-polarized light image of foliated impure marble from the
25 Aouilletta unit, external Combin zone. The foliation is defined by the iso-orientation of the
26 phengitic mica (Stelae n. 38); B: light polarized image of calcschist from the Aouilletta unit,
27 external Combin zone (Stelae n. 13). Pseudomorphs of white mica and calcite from lawsonite,
28 preserving former graphite; C: backscattered SEM image of gray banded marble (Bardiglio) (Stelae
29 n. 29), characterised by the iso-orientation of three varieties of di-octahedral mica: phengitic mica,
30 margarite (not shown here) and paragonite. In the micaceous levels the phlogopite is interbedded;
31 D: cross-polarized light image of massive marble with silicate layers showing albite poikiloblasts
32 (Stelae n. 30). E: backscattered SEM image of massive marble with silicate layers marked by the
33 occurrence of skeletal crystals of garnet grown around calcite and quartz (Stelae n. 6); F: light
34 polarized image of prasinite from the Lower Piedmont Zone showing the typical greenschist facies
35 metamorphic assemblage (Stelae n. 9); G: cross-polarized light image of milonitic orthogneiss from
36 erratic blocks of glacial nature (Stelae n. 20); H: light polarized image of stilpnomelane-bearing
37 quartzite of unknown provenance (Stelae n. 17).
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50 Figure 5. A: Mesoscopic sample of the gray banded marble named “Bardiglio”, marked by layering
51 defined by dark and light gray levels (Stelae n. 29). B: Detail relating to the silicate layers forming
52 the Stelae n. 18. Notice the difference between the compact and isotropic lower portion of the stelae
53 and the upper one of silicates shale (mod. after Appolonia *et al.*, 2010).
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3 Figure 6. A, C, E: Si–Al_{tot} classification diagram for di-octahedral micas respectively of foliated
4 impure marble and calcschist (A) and of gray banded marble (Bardiglio marble) (C) of the Lower
5 Piedmont Zone, and of massive marble with silicate layers of the Sion – Courmayeur Unit (E). The
6 fields of high phengite (High-Phe), phengite (Phe) and muscovite (Ms) are reported according to
7 Capedri *et al.* (2004). B, D, F: Chemical classification diagram for chlorites of foliated impure
8 marble and calcschist (B) and of gray banded marble (Bardiglio marble) (D) of the Lower Piedmont
9 Zone, and of massive marble with silicate layers of the Sion – Courmayeur Unit (E) (mod. after
10 Hey, 1954).
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18 **Tables:**

19 Table 1 - Mineralogical (major, minor and accessory minerals) comparison between the
20 investigated stelae from the Megalithic Area of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans (Aosta, Northern Italy)
21 and the reference quarry samples: A) Carbonate rocks; B) Silicate rocks. The thin sections named
22 with brackets, (ABL001)-(ABL014), refer to thin section “similar” to the lithotypes used for the
23 realization of the stelae.
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29 Table 2 - Representative electron microprobe analyses of phengitic mica, calculated on the basis of
30 22 Ox.
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34 Table 3 - Representative electron microprobe analyses of chlorite, calculated on the basis of 28 Ox.
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38 Table 4 - Representative electron microprobe analyses of: phlogopite in the gray banded marble
39 (stelae 29), calculated on the basis of 22 Ox; garnet (Stelae 6), calculated on the basis of 12 Ox, and
40 amphibole (Stelae 40), calculated on the basis of 23 Ox, in the massive marble with silicate layers.
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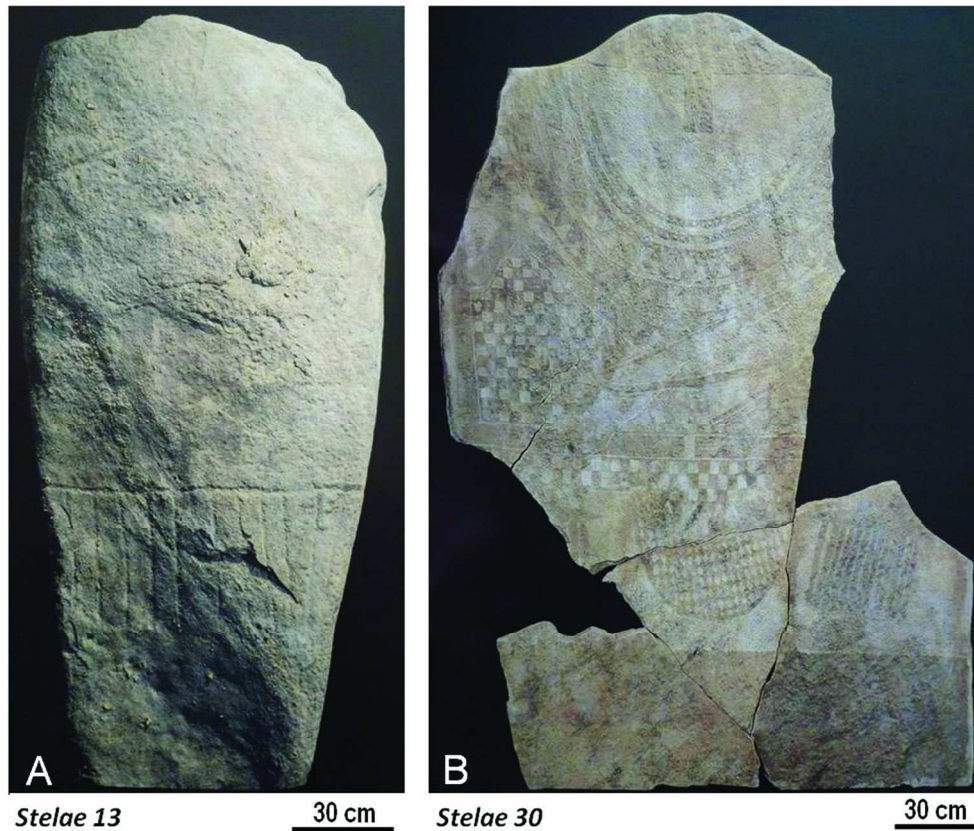


Figure 1. Representative photographic documentation of the studied anthropomorphic stelae from the Megalithic Area of Saint-Martin-de-Corléans (Aosta, Northern Italy). A: example of ancient stelae (Stelae n. 13, foliated impure marble); B: example of evolved stelae (Stelae n. 30, massive marble with silicate layers).

175x146mm (300 x 300 DPI)

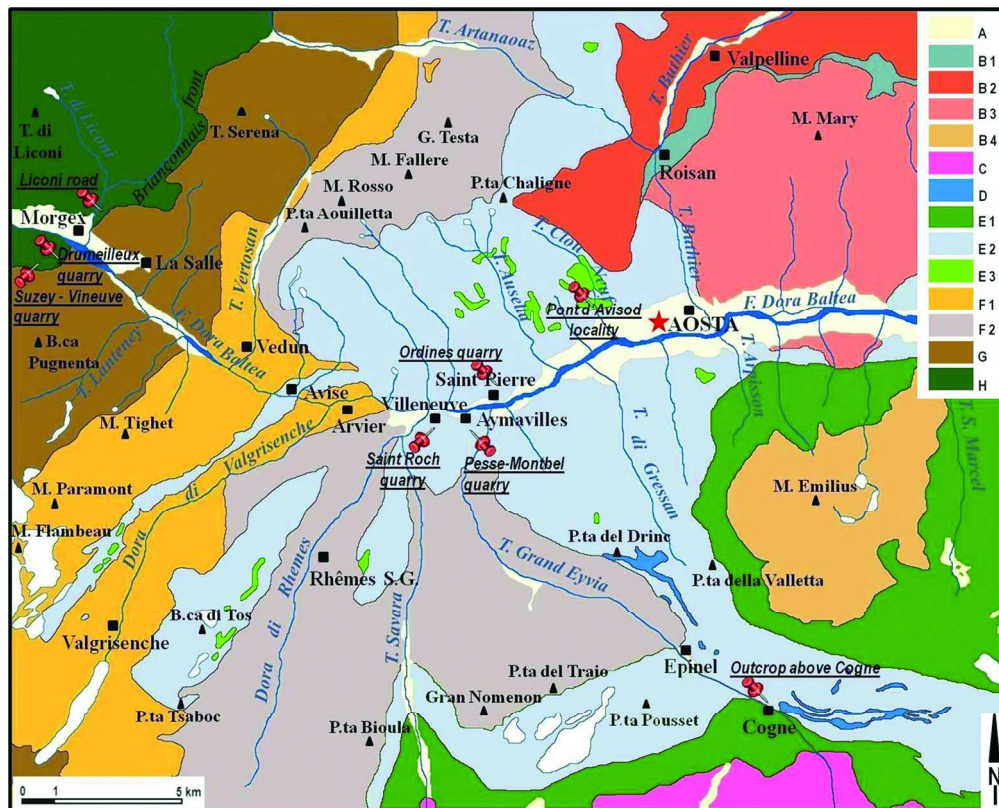


Figure 2. Schematic geological map of the central sector of Aosta Valley (modified after Elter, 1987; Malusà, 2004; De Giusti et al., 2004). Legend: A) Quaternary deposits; B) Austroalpine Domain: 1. Roisan zone, 2. Dent Blanche Nappe, 3. Mont Mary nappe, 4. Mont Emilius and Agulles Rouge nappe; C) Gran Paradiso Nappe; D) Fascio di Cogné; E) Structurally composite Piedmont Zone derived from the closure of the Mesozoic ocean: 1. Zermatt-Saas zone (nappe) consisting of eclogitic fragments of oceanic lithosphere, 2. Combin zone, including blueschist facies ophiolitic units and thin decollement cover units derived from debated continental basement, named Aouilletta in the study area west of Aosta; 3. Main bodies of metabasites in greenschists facies conditions (prasinities), amphibolites and minor eclogites; F) Middle Penninic Grand St. Bernard (Briançonnais) nappe system: 1. External Briançonnais nappe, 2. Internal Briançonnais nappe; G) Permian-Carboniferous Houillère Unit; H) Sion – Courmayeur zone; 236x190mm (300 x 300 DPI)

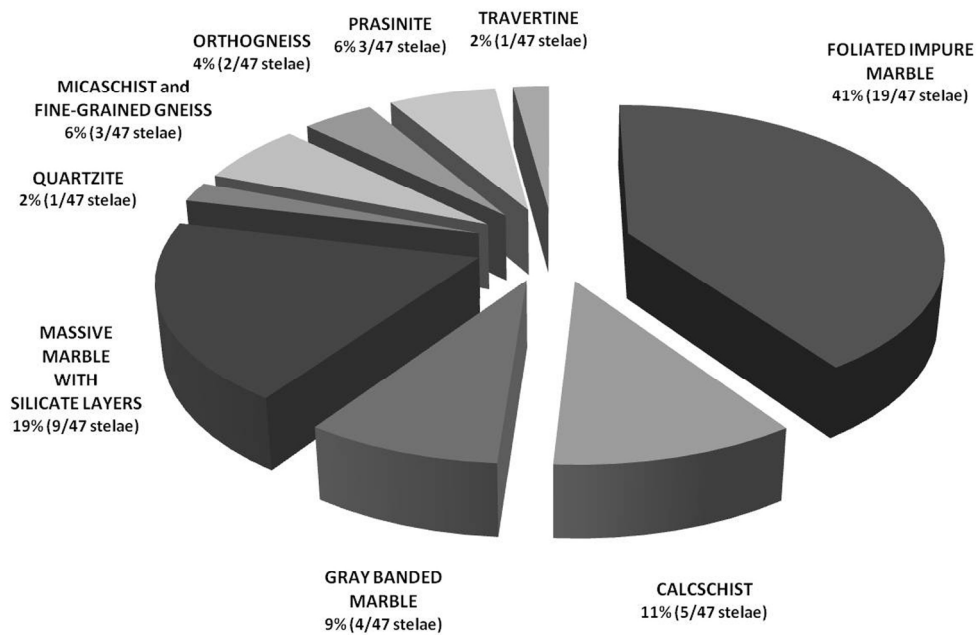


Figure 3. Quantitative distribution, in percent occurrence, of identified lithologies among the analyzed stelae. In brackets, the ratio between the number of stelae formed by each lithotype and the total number of the studied stelae is given.

200x134mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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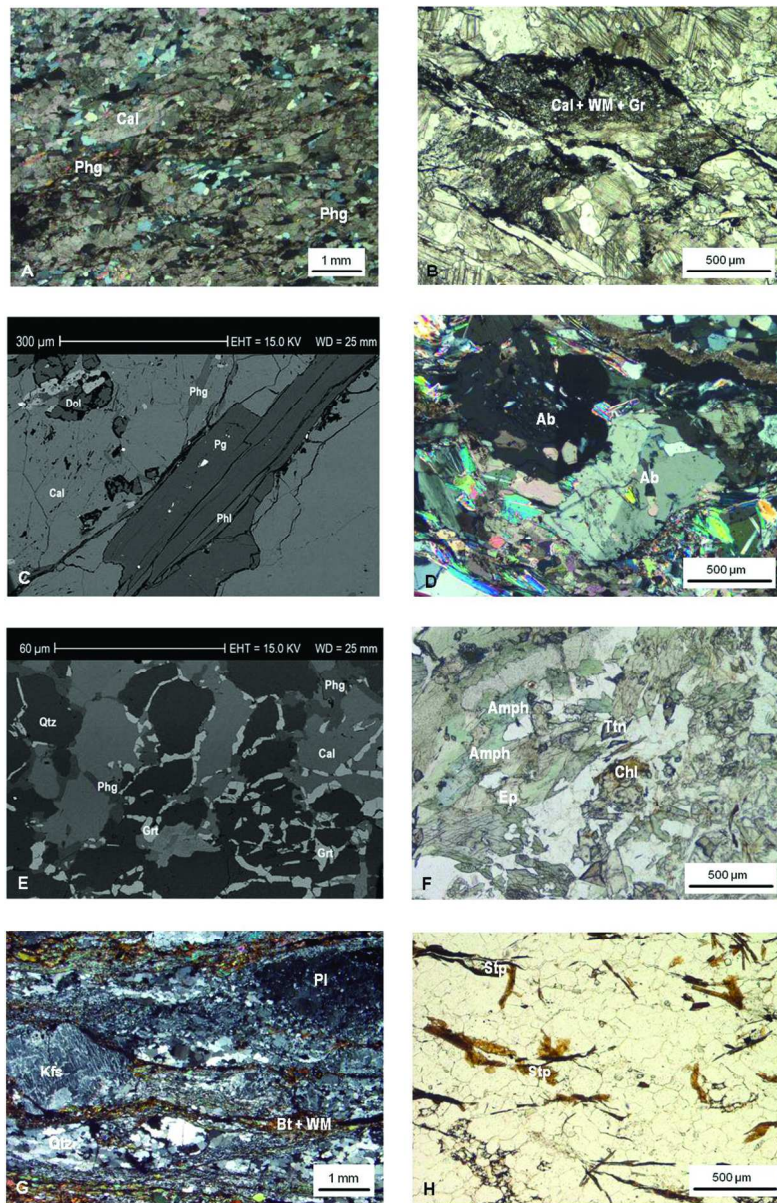


Figure 4. Representative microstructures of the investigated marbles, mineral abbreviation according to Kretz (1983). A: cross-polarized light image of foliated impure marble from the Aouilletta unit, external Combin zone. The foliation is defined by the iso-orientation of the phengitic mica (Stelae n. 38); B: light polarized image of calcschist from the Aouilletta unit, external Combin zone (Stelae n. 13). Pseudomorphs of white mica and calcite from lawsonite, preserving former graphite; C: backscattered SEM image of gray banded marble (Bardiglio) (Stelae n. 29), characterised by the iso-orientation of three varieties of dioctahedral mica: phengitic mica, margarite (not shown here) and paragonite. In the micaceous levels the phlogopite is interbedded; D: cross-polarized light image of massive marble with silicate layers showing albite poikiloblasts (Stelae n. 30). E: backscattered SEM image of massive marble with silicate layers marked by the occurrence of skeletal crystals of garnet grown around calcite and quartz (Stelae n. 6); F: light polarized image of prasinite from the Lower Piedmont Zone showing the typical greenschist facies metamorphic assemblage (Stelae n. 9); G: cross-polarized light image of milonitic orthogneiss from erratic blocks of glacial nature (Stelae n. 20); H: light polarized image of stilpnomelane-bearing quartzite of

unknown provenance (Stelae n. 17).
178x272mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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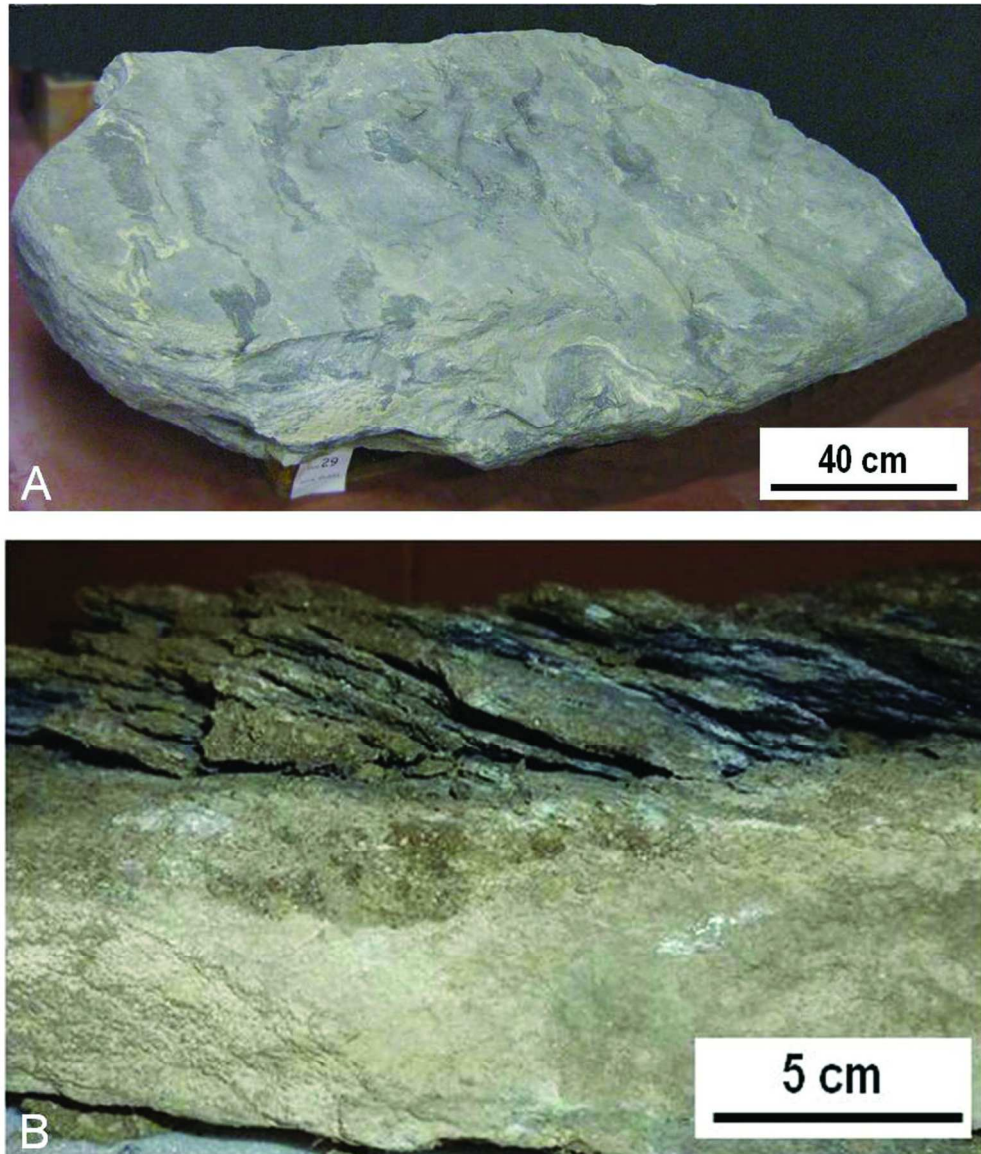


Figure 5. A: Mesoscopic sample of the gray banded marble named "Bardiglio", marked by layering defined by dark and light gray levels (Stelae n. 29). B: Detail relating to the silicate layers forming the Stelae n. 18. Notice the difference between the compact and isotropic lower portion of the stelae and the upper one of silicates shale (mod. after Appolonia et al., 2010). 152x177mm (300 x 300 DPI)

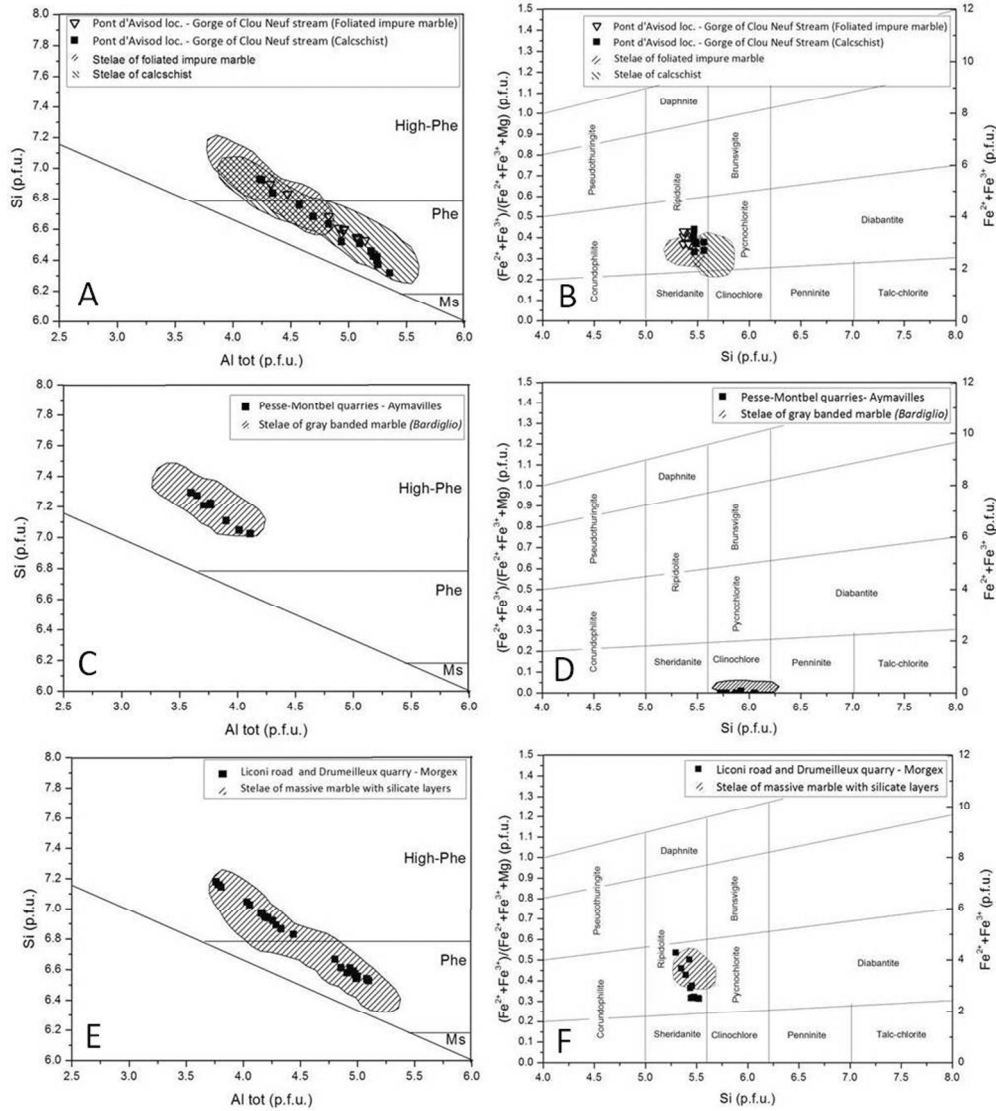


Figure 6. A, C, E: Si–Altot classification diagram for di-octahedral micas respectively of foliated impure marble and calcschist (A) and of gray banded marble (Bardiglio marble) (C) of the Lower Piedmont Zone, and of massive marble with silicate layers of the Sion – Courmayeur Unit (E). The fields of high phengite (High-Phe), phengite (Phe) and muscovite (Ms) are reported according to Capedri et al. (2004). B, D, F: Chemical classification diagram for chlorites of foliated impure marble and calcschist (B) and of gray banded marble (Bardiglio marble) (D) of the Lower Piedmont Zone, and of massive marble with silicate layers of the Sion – Courmayeur Unit (E) (mod. after Hey, 1954)
190x212mm (600 x 600 DPI)

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	<i>Ordines quarry - Saint Pierre</i>	ABL059, VR14, VR15	Impure marble	Main	Main	xx	xx	x	x	xx	ps	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	<i>Ordines quarry - Saint Pierre</i>	ABL061, VR12, VR13	Impure (weakly foliated) silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	xx	x			ps					x	x		
	<i>Ordines quarry - Saint Pierre</i>	VR16	Calcschist	Main	Absent	xx	xx	x	x	x	ps			x		x	x		
MASSIVE MARBLE WITH SILICATE LAYERS	St. 4 south	C17	Weakly anisotrope marble with centimetric silicate layers	Main	Absent	xx	x		x	x	xx	x	x				x		
		ABL068	Calcite-bearing micaschist	x	Absent	Main	xx		x	xx			x				x	x	
	St. 5	C2	Calcschist	Main	Absent	Main	x		x	x	xx					x	x	x	
		C2a	Quartzitic - albitic impure marble	Main	Absent	xx	xx				xx					x	x	x	
	St. 6	C3	Impure marble with Grt	Main	Absent	xx	xx		x	x	xx		x	x	x		x	x	
	St. 18	ABL039a	Micaschist	Absent	Absent	Main	Main		x	x	xx			x	x	x		x	
		ABL039b	Impure silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	x		x	x	xx		x		x	x		x	
	St. 25	ABL042	Impure silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	x		x	xx					x		x	x	
	St. 30	ABL065	Marble with centimetric silicate layers	Main	Absent	xx	xx	x		xx	x	xx	ps	x	x	x	x		x
	St. 40	ABL049	Impure marble with silicate layers	Main	Absent	xx	xx		x	x	x	x	ps	x		x	x	x	x
		C14	Micaceous and amphibolitic portion of marble with silicate layers	Absent	Absent	xx	xx		xx	xx	xx	xx		x		x			x
	T.II, roof	C9	Micaceous portion of marble with silicate layers	Absent	Absent	xx	Main		x	x	xx	x			x		x		x
	Interface St. 4 south and St. 6 south	(ABL002)	Impure marble with silicate layers	Main	Absent	xx	xx		x	x	xx	ps		x		x	x	x	x
	<i>Liconi road - Morgex</i>	ABL018, ABL019	Marble with domains of WM, alternated with domains of Qtz and carbonates	Main	Absent	x	x	x		x	x			x				x	x
	<i>Liconi road - Morgex</i>	VR1, VR2	Weakly impure silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	x	x		x	x	x				x	x		x
<i>Liconi road - Morgex</i>	VR3	Impure foliated silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	xx	x		x	x	xx	ps	x		x	x		x	
<i>Suzey-Vineuve quarry - Morgex</i>	ABL020	Impure silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	xx			x	x	x	ps	x	x				x	
<i>Drumelleux quarry - Morgex</i>	VR4	Impure silicate marble	Main	Absent	xx	x	x		x	xx			x	x	x			x	
TRAV.	T. V, NW pillar	ABL029	Travertine with silicate inclusions	Main	Absent	x	x				x	x							

St, Stelae; T., Tomb; NW, North-West; SW, South-West; NE, North-East; xx = <10% vol.; x = accessory mineral.

Qtz, Quartz; Ms, Muscovite; Pg, Paragonite; Phl, Phlogopite; Bt, Biotite; Chl, Chlorite; Ep, Epidote; Ab, Albite; Lws, Lawsonite; Cld, Chloritoid; Amph, Amphibole; Rt, Rutile; Ttn, Titanite; Ap, Apatite; Zrn, Zircon; Tur, Tourmaline; Grt, Garnet; Gr, Graphite.

1	QUARTZITE	St. 17	ABL064	Quartzite with Stp	Main	Absent	x	x
2		<hr/>						
3	MICASCHIST and FINE-GRAINED GNEISS	passage between T.V	ABL027	Garnet-mica schist	Main	Main	xx	xx
4		T.II, SW upright	C11	gneiss from albitic	Main	Main	x	x
5		T.VII, NE upright	ABL031	gneiss from low grade	Main	Main	x	x
6	ORTHO GNEISS	St. 11 = T.I, SE upright	ABL037	Milonitic orthogneiss	Main	Main	x	x
7		St. 20	C6	Orthogneiss with milonitic domains	Main	Main	xx	xx
8	PRASINITE	St. 9	ABL 063	Prasinite	Main	Absent	xx	xx
9		St. A, T.II SE	ABL026	Prasinitic gneiss	Main	Absent	x	x
10		St. "P"	ABL066	Prasinitic gneiss	Main	Main	x	xx
11	TRAVERTINE	T.V, NW upright	ABL029	Travertine with silicate inclusions	Main	Main	x	xx
12					Main	Main	30%	xx
13					Main	Absent	xx	xx
14					Main	Main	x	x
15					Main	Main	x	x
16					Main	Main	xx	xx
17					Main	Absent	xx	x
18					Main	Absent	xx	25%
19					Main	Absent	xx	xx
20					Main	Absent	x	xx
21					Main	Absent	xx	xx
22					Main	Main	xx	xx
23					Main	Main	xx	xx
24					Main	Absent	35%	xx
25					Main	Absent	xx	x
26					Main	Absent	60%	xx
27					Main	Absent	40%	x
28					Main	Absent	xx	xx
29					Main	Absent	xx	xx
30					Main (below)			
31					Absent (over)	Absent	5% (inf); 45% (supx (inf); 50% (sup)	
32					Main	Absent	30%	x
33					Main	Absent	35%	xx
34					Main	Absent	xx	xx
35					Main	Absent	30%	xx
36					Absent	Absent	25%	35% con Bt e Chl
37							xx	70%

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7	Main	Absent	x	x
8	Main	Absent	xx	xx
9	Main	Absent	xx	xx
10	Main	Absent	xx	x
11	Main	Absent	x	45%
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				x					
			x (Ab)						
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	x		xx (Ab)	pseud.			x		
	x		x (Ab)						x
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			xx (Ab)	pseud.		x			
	x		x (Ab)	pseud.	x		x	x	
	x		x (Ab)	pseud.					x
	x	x (Ep, Aln)	xx (Ab)		x		x		
	x		xx (Ab)			x			
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)						
			xx (Ab)						
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)			x	x	x	
	x	x (Ep (inf))	xx (Ab)			x (inf)		x	x
	x		xx (Ab)						x
	xx	x (Ep, Aln)	xx (Ab)	pseud.		x	x		x
	x	x (Ep, Zo)	xx (Ab)	pseud. (ABL010)		x			x
	x	x	x (Ep, Zo)	x (Ab)	pseud.	x			x
	i% con Wmca e C5% con Bt e Wmc	xx (Ep, Zo, Aln)	30% (Ab)			x			
	x	x	xx (Czo)	x (Ab)		x			x

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			x (Ab)					
	x	x (Czo)	x (Ab)					
	x	x (Czo)	x (Ab)					x
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)	pseud.		x	x	x
			x (Ab)	pseud.		x	x	
	x		xx (Ab)		x		x	x
	x	x (Ep)	x	pseud.				x
		x (Ep)	x (Ab)					

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34			x
35		x	x
36			x
37	x		x
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39	x		x
40	x		x
41	x		x
42	x	x	x
43		x	
44	x		x
45			
46			x
47	x		x
48	x	x	x
49	x	x	x
50	x		x
51			
52	x		x
53		x	x
54	x		x
55	x	x	x
56	x	x	x
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	STELAE	SAMPLE	MINERO - PETROGRAPHIC CHARACTERIZATION	Qtz	WM	Bt	Chl	Ep	Fsp	Amph	Rt	Ttn	Zrn	Tur	Grt	Stp	Fe sulphide	Fe oxide
QUARTZITE	St. 17	ABL064	Quartzite with Stp	75%	x		x		x (Ab)					x		20%		x
MICASCHIST and FINE-GRAINED GNEISS	Great slab in passage between T. V and T. VII	ABL027	Garnet mica-schist	35%	40%		x	x	20% (Ab)						x			
	T. II, SW pillar	C11	Fine-grained gneiss from albitic micaschist	40%	20-30%		x (in reaction with chl)	x (in reaction with bt)	20-30% (Ab)				x					x
	T. VII, NE pillar	ABL031	Fine-grained gneiss from low-grade micaschist	30%	40%		x		25-30% (Ab)									x
ORTHOgneiss	St. 11 = T. I, SE pillar	ABL037	Milonitic orthogneiss	40%	x	xx		x	x (Ab); 40% (K-Fsp)						x			x
	St. 20	C6	Orthogneiss with milonitic domains	70%	xx	x	x	x	xx (Ab); xx (K-Fsp)			x	x		x			x
PRASINITE	St. 9	ABL 063	Prasinite	x			xx	35%	x (Ab)	50%	x	x						x
	St. A, T. II SE	ABL026	Prasinitic gneiss	xx	xx	xx		xx	30% (Ab)	xx		x			x			x
	St. "P"	ABL066	Prasinitic gneiss	xx	x	xx		xx	xx (Ab)	xx		x			x			x

St., Stelae; T., Tomb; SW, South-West; NE, North-East; SE, South-East; % = main phase; xx = <10% vol.; x = accessory mineral.
 Qtz, Quartz; WM, White mica; Bt, Biotite; Chl, Chlorite; Ep, Epidote; Fsp, Feldspar; Amph, Amphibole; Rt, Rutile; Ttn, Titanite; Zrn, Zircon; Tur, Tourmaline; Grt, Garnet; Stp, Stilpnomelane.

1	QUARTZITE	St. 17	ABL064	Quartzite with Stp	Main	Absent	x	x
2		<hr/>						
3	MICASCHIST and FINE-GRAINED GNEISS	passage between T.V	ABL027	Garnet-mica schist	Main	Main	xx	xx
4		T.II, SW upright	C11	gneiss from albitic	Main	Main	x	x
5		T.VII, NE upright	ABL031	gneiss from low grade	Main	Main	x	x
6	ORTHO GNEISS	St. 11 = T.I, SE upright	ABL037	Milonitic orthogneiss	Main	Main	x	x
7		St. 20	C6	Orthogneiss with milonitic domains	Main	Main	xx	xx
8	PRASINITE	St. 9	ABL 063	Prasinite	Main	Absent	xx	xx
9		St. A, T.II SE	ABL026	Prasinitic gneiss	Main	Absent	x	x
10		St. "P"	ABL066	Prasinitic gneiss	Main	Main	x	xx
11	TRAVERTINE	T.V, NW upright	ABL029	Travertine with silicate inclusions	Main	Main	x	xx
12		<hr/>						
13					Main	Main	30%	xx
14					Main	Absent	xx	xx
15					Main	Main	x	x
16					Main	Main	x	x
17					Main	Main	xx	xx
18					Main	Absent	xx	x
19					Main	Absent	xx	25%
20					Main	Absent	xx	xx
21					Main	Absent	x	xx
22					Main	Absent	xx	xx
23					Main	Main	xx	xx
24					Main	Main	xx	xx
25					Main	Absent	35%	xx
26					<hr/>			
27					Main	Absent	xx	x
28					Main	Absent	60%	xx
29					Main	Absent	40%	x
30					Main	Absent	xx	xx
31					Main	Absent	xx	xx
32					Main (below)			
33					Absent (over)	Absent	5% (inf); 45% (sux (inf); 50% (sup)	
34					Main	Absent	30%	x
35					Main	Absent	35%	xx
36					Main	Absent	xx	xx
37					Main	Absent	30%	xx
38					Absent	Absent	25%	35% con Bt e Chl
39							xx	70%

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Main	Absent	30%	xx
Main	Absent	x	x
Main	Absent	x	x
Main	Absent	xx	x
Main	Absent	x	x
Main	Absent	xx	xx
Main	Absent	xx	xx
Main	Absent	xx	x
Main	Absent	x	45%
Main	Absent	x	x

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			x					
			x (Ab)				x	
	x		x (Ab)		x	x	x	
		x (Ep)	x (Ab)					
			x (Ab)					
			x (Ab)	pseud.				
				x				
			x (Ab)					
	x		x (Ab)	pseud.				
	x			pseud.			x	
	x		xx (Ab)	pseud.				x
	x		x (Ab)					
			xx (Ab)	pseud.	x	x		x
	x		xx (Ab)	pseud.				
				pseud.				
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				pseud.				
			xx (Ab)	pseud.		x		
	x		x (Ab)	pseud.	x		x	x
	x		x (Ab)	pseud.				x
	x	x (Ep, Aln)	xx (Ab)		x		x	
	x		xx (Ab)			x		
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)					
			xx (Ab)					
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)			x	x	x
	x	x (Ep (inf))	xx (Ab)			x (inf)		x
	x		xx (Ab)					x
	xx	x (Ep, Aln)	xx (Ab)	pseud.		x	x	x
	x	x (Ep, Zo)	xx (Ab)	pseud. (ABL010)		x		x
	x	x (Ep, Zo)	x (Ab)	pseud.		x		x
	i% con Wmca e C5% con Bt e Wmca	xx (Ep, Zo, Aln)	30% (Ab)			x		
	x	x	xx (Czo)			x		x

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	x	x (Zo)	xx (Ab)	pseud.		x		x
	x		x (Ab)			x		
			x (Ab)					
	x	x (Czo)	x (Ab)					
	x	x (Czo)	x (Ab)					x
	x	x (Ep)	xx (Ab)	pseud.		x	x	x
			x (Ab)	pseud.		x	x	
	x		xx (Ab)		x		x	x
	x	x (Ep)	x	pseud.				x
		x (Ep)	x (Ab)					

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ANAL. NR.	Foliated impure marble and calcschist						Gray banded marble				Massive marble with silicate layers			
	Stelae 27 - Stelae 26			Pont d'Avisod Quarry			Stelae 29		Aymavilles quarry		Stelae 30		Licony road	
	Ph 1	Ph 2	Ph 3	Ph 4	Ph 5	Ph 6	Ph 7	Ph 8	Ph 9	Ph 10	Ph 11	Ph 12	Ph 13	Ph 14
SiO ₂	49.34	49.36	53.21	49.72	50.46	50.30	56.16	57.10	55.95	55.95	49.85	49.41	52.83	52.98
TiO ₂	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.48	bdl	bdl	bdl
Al ₂ O ₃	35.29	36.22	27.37	32.69	32.18	31.75	23.28	21.98	23.82	23.42	33.42	33.12	27.23	27.11
FeO	0.58	0.77	1.81	1.42	1.56	1.53	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	1.59	1.62	2.47	2.59
MnO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
MgO	1.06	0.75	3.67	1.56	1.61	1.85	6.23	6.73	5.98	6.16	1.54	1.60	3.35	3.36
CaO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Na ₂ O	0.70	0.86	bdl	0.64	0.52	0.56	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.58	0.58	0.34	0.34
K ₂ O	9.69	9.12	10.74	9.12	9.90	9.70	9.39	10.05	9.88	9.83	9.95	9.83	9.91	10.10
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Total	96.66	97.08	96.82	95.14	96.22	95.69	95.07	95.85	95.64	95.35	97.42	96.15	96.14	96.48
Si	6.386	6.346	6.942	6.544	6.594	6.606	7.322	7.412	7.274	7.294	6.450	6.474	6.938	6.946
Al IV	1.616	1.656	1.060	1.458	1.406	1.394	0.680	0.590	0.726	0.706	1.552	1.528	1.062	1.056
Al VI	3.770	3.832	3.150	3.614	3.552	3.522	2.898	2.774	2.924	2.892	3.546	3.586	3.154	3.134
Ti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.048	-	-	-
Fe	0.064	0.084	0.198	0.156	0.170	0.168	-	-	-	-	0.172	0.178	0.272	0.284
Mn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mg	0.206	0.144	0.714	0.306	0.314	0.362	1.212	1.302	1.158	1.198	0.298	0.312	0.656	0.656
Ca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Na	0.176	0.214	-	0.162	0.132	0.144	-	-	-	-	0.146	0.148	0.088	0.086
K	1.600	1.496	1.788	1.532	1.652	1.626	1.562	1.664	1.640	1.636	1.642	1.642	1.662	1.690
Z	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Y	4.036	4.058	4.062	4.076	4.036	4.052	4.110	4.076	4.082	4.090	4.062	4.076	4.080	4.074
X	1.774	1.710	1.788	1.694	1.784	1.770	1.562	1.664	1.640	1.636	1.788	1.790	1.748	1.776

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ANAL. NR.	Foliated impure marble and calcschist						Gray banded marble				Massive marble with silicate layers			
	Stelae 27 - Stelae 26			Pont d'Avisod Quarry			Stelae 29		Aymavilles quarry		Stelae 30		Licoeny road	
	Chl 1	Chl 2	Chl 3	Chl 4	Chl 5	Chl 6	Chl 7	Chl 8	Chl 9	Chl 10	Chl 11	Chl 12	Chl 13	Chl 14
SiO ₂	27.08	27.31	28.62	26.91	27.37	27.38	31.64	31.03	30.37	32.02	26.36	26.83	27.84	25.94
Al ₂ O ₃	23.89	24.05	21.27	22.91	22.35	22.92	22.34	21.85	22.58	21.71	22.32	22.86	22.78	21.95
FeO	18.96	17.60	18.74	20.70	17.58	19.54	0.81	1.06	bdl	0.57	22.50	22.06	17.49	25.89
MgO	18.66	19.12	20.68	17.71	19.28	18.78	33.45	32.56	32.14	32.54	17.10	17.40	21.18	14.39
CaO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.30	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Total	88.59	88.08	89.32	88.23	86.58	88.62	88.54	86.50	85.09	86.84	88.30	89.14	89.29	88.17
Si	5.414	5.449	5.670	5.458	5.565	5.490	5.766	5.787	5.724	5.922	5.408	5.424	5.484	5.430
Al IV	2.586	2.551	2.330	2.542	2.435	2.510	2.234	2.213	2.276	2.078	2.592	2.576	2.516	2.570
Al VI	3.043	3.102	2.637	2.936	2.921	2.909	2.564	2.591	2.738	2.654	2.805	2.875	2.773	2.843
Fe	3.170	2.936	3.104	3.512	2.990	3.277	0.124	0.166	-	0.088	3.860	3.730	2.881	4.530
Mg	5.558	5.687	6.106	5.354	5.846	5.614	9.089	9.054	9.031	8.971	5.228	5.246	6.217	4.490
Ca	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.058	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Z	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Y	11.771	11.724	11.847	11.803	11.757	11.800	11.777	11.811	11.769	11.712	11.893	11.851	11.871	11.863

ANAL. NR.	Gray banded marble				Massive marble v			
	Stelae 29		Aymavilles quarry		Stelae 6			
	Phl 1	Phl 2	Phl 3	Phl 4	Grt 1	Grt 2	Grt 3	Grt 4
SiO ₂	46.64	46.44	46.05	45.34	37.36	37.49	37.25	37.46
TiO ₂	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Al ₂ O ₃	12.14	12.14	12.14	13.32	20.44	20.87	20.82	20.82
FeO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	16.66	17.90	19.41	18.33
MnO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	16.44	14.36	12.44	13.22
MgO	28.10	28.02	28.30	27.79	0.34	0.46	0.50	0.81
CaO	bdl	bdl	0.37	bdl	8.85	9.76	9.54	9.63
Na ₂ O	bdl	bdl	0.38	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
K ₂ O	8.78	8.77	8.00	8.67	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Total	95.67	95.37	95.26	95.11	100.08	100.85	99.98	100.28
Si	6.325	6.319	6.268	6.189	3.008	2.990	2.995	2.996
Al IV	1.675	1.681	1.732	1.811	-	0.010	0.005	0.004
Al VI	0.265	0.264	0.216	0.331	1.939	1.951	1.967	1.958
Ti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fe ³⁺	-	-	-	-	0.059	0.051	0.034	0.043
Fe ²⁺	-	-	-	-	1.062	1.143	1.270	1.183
Mn	-	-	-	-	1.121	0.970	0.848	0.896
Mg	5.680	5.683	5.742	5.655	0.041	0.055	0.061	0.097
Ca	-	-	0.054	-	0.763	0.834	0.822	0.825
Na	-	-	0.101	-	-	-	-	-
K	1.519	1.523	1.390	1.510	-	-	-	-
Z	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	3.008	3.000	3.000	3.000
Y	5.945	5.947	5.958	5.985	1.998	2.002	2.001	2.001
X	1.519	1.523	1.545	1.510	2.987	3.001	3.001	3.001

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with silicate layers				
Stelae 40				
Amph 1	Amph 2	Amph 3	Amph 4	
52.65	53.90	53.15	53.95	
bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	
5.01	3.85	4.82	2.61	
16.26	15.57	15.63	15.68	
bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	
13.10	13.87	13.44	14.23	
11.15	11.60	11.17	12.28	
1.00	1.05	1.17	0.51	
bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	
*****	*****	*****	*****	
99.16	99.83	99.40	99.28	
7.559	7.665	7.591	7.731	
0.441	0.335	0.409	0.269	
0.406	0.310	0.403	0.172	
-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	
1.953	1.852	1.867	1.880	
-	-	-	-	
2.804	2.940	2.862	3.040	
1.716	1.767	1.710	1.886	
0.278	0.288	0.324	0.143	
-	-	-	-	