

1    **Application of airborne LiDAR data and**  
2    **airborne multispectral imagery to structural**  
3    **mapping of the upper section of the Troodos**  
4    **ophiolite, Cyprus**

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16    **Abstract**       Structural maps are traditionally produced by mapping features such as faults,  
17    folds, fabrics, fractures and joints in the field. However, large map areas and the spatially limited  
18    ground perspective of the field geologist leads to the inevitability that some important geological  
19    features may go un-noticed. The ability to recognise and map both local and regional structural  
20    features using high-resolution remote sensing data provides an opportunity to complement field-  
21    based mapping to enable the generation of more comprehensive structural maps. Nonetheless,  
22    vegetation cover can adversely affect the extraction of structural information from remotely sensed  
23    data as it can mask the appearance of subtle spectral and geomorphological features that  
24    correspond to geological structures. This study investigates the utility of airborne Light Detection

25 And Ranging (LiDAR) data and airborne multispectral imagery for detailed structural mapping in  
26 vegetated ophiolitic rocks and sedimentary cover of a section of the northern Troodos ophiolite,  
27 Cyprus. Visual enhancement techniques were applied to a 4 m airborne LiDAR digital terrain  
28 model and 4 m airborne multispectral imagery to assist the generation of structural lineament  
29 maps. Despite widespread vegetation cover, dykes and faults were recognisable as lineaments in  
30 both datasets and the predominant strike trends of lineaments in all resulting maps were found to  
31 be in agreement with field-based structural data. Interestingly, prior to fieldwork, most lineaments  
32 were assumed to be faults, but were ground verified as dykes instead, emphasising the importance  
33 of ground truthing. The dyke and fault trends documented in this study define a pervasive  
34 structural fabric in the upper Troodos ophiolite that reflects the original sea-floor spreading history  
35 in the Larnaca graben. This structural fabric has not previously been observed in such detail and is  
36 likely to be continuous in adjacent regions under sedimentary cover. This information may be  
37 useful to future exploration efforts in the region focused on identification of structurally controlled  
38 mineral and groundwater resources. Overall, our case study highlights the efficacy of airborne  
39 LiDAR data and airborne multispectral imagery for extracting detailed and accurate structural  
40 information in hard-rock terrain to help complement field-based mapping.

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42 *Keywords: Troodos ophiolite; airborne LiDAR; multispectral imagery; structural*  
43 *mapping*

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## 53 **Introduction**

54           In regions that have been deformed, documenting the structural geology is  
55 a key objective of geological mapping (Barnes and Lisle 2004). Geological maps  
56 portraying structural features are important because they provide valuable  
57 information for understanding the local crustal architecture and deformation  
58 history. In addition, structural maps may inform seismic and landslide hazard  
59 assessments, and provide useful information for major engineering projects and  
60 the exploration of groundwater, petroleum and mineral resources (Moore and  
61 Waltz 1983; Kresic 1995; Karnieli et al. 1996; Wladis 1999; Harris et al. 2001;  
62 Peña and Abdelsalam 2006; Corgne et al. 2010).

63           Traditionally, structural maps are produced by mapping features such as  
64 faults, folds, fabrics, fractures and joints in the field. Although arguably the most  
65 reliable and accurate maps are those produced using this approach, large map  
66 areas, time constraints and the limited ground perspective of the field geologist  
67 has the potential to increase the possibility that not all structural features will be  
68 identified (Süzen and Toprak 1998). However, the ability to also recognise and  
69 map structural features using remote sensing data offers the potential to provide  
70 complementary information and the opportunity to generate more comprehensive  
71 and accurate structural maps.

72           Many important structural features (e.g., faults, fractures, veins, dykes,  
73 joints) may be expressed as lineaments in remotely sensed imagery and digital  
74 elevation models (DEMs; Masoud and Koike 2006). This is particularly the case  
75 with steep structures because their surface traces are less deflected and curved  
76 across uneven topography. A lineament is defined by O'Leary et al. (1976) as "a  
77 mappable, simple or composite linear feature of a surface, whose parts are aligned

78 in a rectilinear or slightly curvilinear relationship and which differs distinctly  
79 from the patterns of adjacent features and presumably reflects a subsurface  
80 phenomenon". In spectral imagery, lineaments are typically recognised as edges  
81 defined by a series of adjacent pixels at the boundary of brightness changes  
82 (Koike et al. 1998). Such spectral features may correspond to variations in surface  
83 composition or shadowing. In the context of the topographic domain, geological  
84 lineaments are typically associated with geomorphological features such as linear  
85 valleys, ridgelines, escarpments and slope breaks (Jordan and Schott 2005). Such  
86 features are also expressed as edges in DEMs, defined either by an abrupt change  
87 in elevation (i.e., slope break) or by an increase or decrease in elevation for a short  
88 lateral distance (i.e., ridgelines and valleys).

89         Lineaments observed in remotely sensed data products that are interpreted  
90 to be geological structures are typically manually traced. However, this technique  
91 can be time-consuming and tedious at regional mapping scales, and also highly  
92 subjective and therefore irreproducible (Masoud and Koike 2006). A variety of  
93 enhancement techniques are commonly used to try to improve the efficiency and  
94 objectivity of the visual interpretation and mapping process. Principal Component  
95 Analysis, decorrelation stretching and generation of false-colour composite  
96 images are useful techniques for exaggerating subtle colour or brightness  
97 differences in spectral imagery to accentuate the appearance of potential  
98 lineaments (Qari 1991; Mountrakis et al. 1998). Shaded relief models generated  
99 from DEMs are a powerful tool for enhancing the appearance of lineaments in  
100 topographic data. This is because the artificial solar illumination azimuth and  
101 inclination angles can be varied to help identify lineaments in a range of  
102 orientations by recognising the shadowing effects (manifest as boundaries  
103 between light and dark tones) caused by abrupt changes in elevation (Jordan and

104 Schott 2005). Additional techniques that are commonly applied to spectral  
105 imagery and DEMs in order to enhance the visual appearance of edges include  
106 convolution filters, such as Sobel, Prewitt and Laplacian filters (Moore and Waltz  
107 1983; Süzen and Toprak 1998; Wladis 1999), and morphological operators, such  
108 as erosion, dilation, opening and closing (Tripathi et al. 2000; Ricchetti and  
109 Palombella 2005).

110 Automated algorithms for mapping geological lineaments from remotely  
111 sensed data have also received considerable attention (Argialas and Mavrantza  
112 2004). Examples include algorithms based on Canny edge detection (Corgne et al.  
113 2010), the Hough transform (Karnieli et al. 1996; Fitton and Cox 1998), line-  
114 tracing (Koike et al. 1995) and morphometric feature parameterisation (Wallace et  
115 al. 2006). Despite increasing the reproducibility, efficiency and objectivity of  
116 lineament mapping, there are concerns regarding the suitability of automated  
117 algorithms for geological lineament detection (Parsons and Yearley 1986) — the  
118 most obvious being their inability to differentiate geological lineaments from non-  
119 geological lineaments (e.g., roads, field boundaries). Therefore, for reasonably  
120 sized areas, the task of lineament mapping is arguably best performed manually  
121 based on human perception.

122 Vegetation cover can have somewhat adverse effects on the extraction of  
123 structural information from remotely sensed data because vegetation, especially  
124 tall dense vegetation (e.g., forests), is capable of masking the appearance of subtle  
125 spectral and geomorphological lineaments that correspond to geological  
126 structures. Also, with only moderate spatial resolution (~ 15–30 m), the utility of  
127 data acquired from classic spaceborne instruments — such as Landsat TM and the  
128 Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM) — is generally confined to the  
129 identification of only regional structural features. The use of high-resolution (ca.

130 1–4 m) airborne Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) data and airborne  
131 spectral imagery can enhance the utility of remote sensing for structural mapping  
132 because these datasets enable the extraction of detailed information about both  
133 local and regional geological structures. Furthermore, with the capability to  
134 acquire accurate and high-resolution topographic data even in forested terrain  
135 (Kraus and Pfeifer 1998), airborne LiDAR is now established as an important tool  
136 for mapping the surface traces of regionally-significant faults in either vegetated  
137 or non-vegetated terrain (e.g., Harding and Berghoff 2000; Haugerud et al. 2003;  
138 Prentice et al. 2003; Cunningham et al. 2006; Arrowsmith and Zielke 2009).  
139 Nevertheless, with the exception of a few studies which examine the use of  
140 airborne LiDAR for identifying bedrock structures (Wallace et al. 2006; Nyborg  
141 et al. 2007; Pavlis and Bruhn 2011), the broader utility of airborne LiDAR for  
142 structural applications has yet to be fully realised.

143         The objective of this study is to investigate the utility of airborne LiDAR  
144 data and airborne multispectral imagery for detailed structural mapping of the  
145 vegetated ophiolitic rocks and sedimentary cover in a section of the upper  
146 Troodos ophiolite, Cyprus. Owing primarily to the reliability concerns associated  
147 with automated algorithms, the efficacy of airborne LiDAR data and airborne  
148 multispectral imagery for structural mapping is evaluated here by manually  
149 generating lineament maps with the aid of several visual enhancement techniques.  
150 Structural information extracted from the data is subsequently validated using  
151 field-based data.

152

## 153 **Geological setting**

154           The Troodos ophiolite is an uplifted slice of oceanic crust and lithospheric  
155 mantle that was created through sea-floor spreading (Gass 1968; Moores and Vine  
156 1971). The ophiolite forms a dome-like structure centred on Mt. Olympus  
157 (1,952 m) that dominates the geology and topography of the island of Cyprus.  
158 Stratigraphically, the ophiolite comprises a mantle sequence of harzburgites,  
159 dunites and a serpentinite diapir, a largely gabbroic plutonic complex, a sheeted  
160 dyke complex, a lava sequence and oceanic sediments at decreasing elevations  
161 along the northern slopes of the range (Varga and Moores 1985). The study area is  
162 situated on the contact between the lava sequence and overlying sedimentary  
163 cover sequences in the northern foothills of the Troodos ophiolite (Fig. 1a). It  
164 covers approximately 16 km<sup>2</sup> and contains four main lithological units — the  
165 Basal Group (generally comprising 80–90% dykes and 10–20% lavas), Pillow  
166 Lavas (Upper and Lower), late Cretaceous to early Miocene chalky marls of the  
167 Lefkara Formation and alluvium–colluvium. This area is located in the most  
168 eastern of three structural grabens (the Larnaca graben) proposed and interpreted  
169 by Varga and Moores (1985) as fossil axial valleys of an eastward migrating  
170 spreading centre in the northern part of the ophiolite. Faulting within this area is  
171 dominated by a NW–SE trend, which is parallel to the interpreted spreading axis  
172 of the Larnaca graben and is therefore consistent with the proposed crustal  
173 extension in this region. Moreover, the dominant dyke trend in the study area is  
174 parallel to this NW–SE faulting trend (Gass 1960). A less significant N–S  
175 structural trend observed in this region is believed to correspond to a later stage of  
176 normal faulting (Gass 1960; Boyle and Robertson 1984).

177 Ubiquitous vegetation typically covering between 30–90% of the surface  
178 area is responsible for a lack of completely exposed outcrops in the study area.  
179 Vegetation cover type generally varies from moderate-to-dense lichen cover, to  
180 crops (e.g., cereals, olive groves) as well as both green and dry grasses, to what  
181 can be broadly described as garrigue or maquis, predominantly comprising  
182 scrubby short dry grasses, short-to-medium height shrubs and scattered small  
183 trees. Other types of mostly sporadic vegetation cover occurring throughout the  
184 study area include trees — ranging from isolated trees (e.g., pines and oaks) to  
185 dense thickets and copses — and areas covered by tall, dry grasses and scrubland.  
186

## 187 **Remote sensing data**

188 Airborne LiDAR data and Airborne Thematic Mapper (ATM)  
189 multispectral imagery were acquired over the Troodos study area in May 2005 by  
190 the Natural Environment Research Council Airborne Research and Survey  
191 Facility. The airborne LiDAR data were acquired at an average flying altitude of  
192 2550 m using an ALTM-3033 system operating with a laser pulse repetition rate  
193 of 33 kHz and a half-scan angle of  $\pm 19.4^\circ$  either side of the nadir. The resulting  
194 dataset contains point data from five overlapping flight-lines, each with a swath  
195 width of 1400–1500 m and an overlap of 20%–50% between adjacent swaths.  
196 After initial pre-processing by the Unit for Landscape Modelling at the University  
197 of Cambridge, UK, the airborne LiDAR point data were delivered as ASCII files  
198 containing the x-y-z coordinates of all first and last returns in the WGS84  
199 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) zone 36-North coordinate system. On  
200 delivery, the point data were classified as either ground or non-ground returns  
201 (e.g., trees, buildings) using the triangulated irregular network densification



202 algorithm (Axelsson 2000) implemented in the TerraScan software (Terrasolid  
203 Ltd., Finland). Points corresponding to non-ground returns were subsequently  
204 discarded, whilst those classified as ground returns were interpolated using a  
205 block kriging algorithm in order to generate a 4 m digital terrain model (DTM) or  
206 “bare-earth” DEM (Fig. 1b). A more detailed description of the airborne LiDAR  
207 data processing steps is provided by Grebby et al. (2010).

208         The ATM imagery initially comprised 11 spectral bands located in the  
209 visible/near-infrared (VNIR; Bands 1–8), short-wave infrared (SWIR; Bands 9–  
210 10) and thermal infrared (TIR; Band 11) regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.  
211 However, due to data quality concerns, and for the purpose of concentrating solely  
212 on reflectance data, ATM Bands 1 and 11 were omitted from any further analysis.  
213 Five northwest-southeast trending flight-lines of imagery were acquired over the  
214 study area and delivered as Level 1b Hierarchical Data Format (HDF) files, with  
215 radiometric calibration algorithms applied and aircraft navigation information  
216 appended. The radiometric calibration involves conversion of the raw ATM data  
217 to at-sensor radiance units, followed by scaling to 16-bit digital numbers (DNs).  
218 Conversion of the raw ATM data to at-sensor radiance is achieved by applying  
219 gains and offsets — determining using a source traceable to a national standard —  
220 to the data recorded in each of the wavebands (Hill et al. 2010). All image strips  
221 were individually geocorrected and re-sampled to a spatial resolution of 4 m using  
222 the AZGCORR software (Azimuth Systems) in conjunction with a 4 m airborne  
223 LiDAR DEM. The five geocorrected images were then corrected for limb-  
224 brightening, mosaicked and co-registered to the 4 m LiDAR DTM using ENVI  
225 4.3 (ITT Visual Information Solutions, Boulder, Colorado) to generate the 4 m  
226 ATM imagery comprising Bands 2–10 (Fig. 1c). The reader is referred to Grebby

227 et al. (2011) for further information regarding the processing steps applied to the  
228 ATM imagery.

229

## 230 **Methods**

231 The methodology employed in this study comprises four main steps: a  
232 preliminary analysis, followed by lineament enhancement, mapping and analysis  
233 and field validation. Each of these steps is discussed in detail below.

234

### 235 **Preliminary analysis**

236 A preliminary analysis was first undertaken to determine whether the main  
237 structural features in the study area could be identified using both the 4 m airborne  
238 LiDAR DTM and 4 m ATM imagery. The main structural features found in the  
239 Troodos study area are faults and dykes (Figs. 2 and 3). The locations of typical  
240 examples of a fault and a dyke were identified and cross-sectional profiles were  
241 extracted for these from the airborne LiDAR DTM and ATM imagery for  
242 inspection in order to determine the utility of the datasets for mapping the  
243 ophiolite structure.

244 The example fault (labelled “A” in Fig. 1b, c) is of a major fault located  
245 along a stream transect, which forms a cleft that cuts both sides of a canyon that  
246 contains the stream (Fig. 4a). Cross-sectional profiles extracted from the airborne  
247 LiDAR DTM and ATM imagery in the locality of this fault are shown in Figs. 4b  
248 and 4c, respectively. The fault can be clearly recognised in the LiDAR DTM  
249 profile as a decrease in elevation of approximately 0.5 m over a relatively short  
250 width of 7 m; forming a linear trough. This fault is also visible in the ATM

251 imagery, albeit as a subtle decrease in brightness (or radiance) with edges defined  
252 by relatively abrupt changes in the brightness gradient at both boundaries.

253         The example dyke (labelled “B” in Fig. 1b, c) is located upstream  
254 (southwest) of the example fault. The dyke (or possibly a set of dykes) can be  
255 seen cutting across the stream to form an upstanding linear ridge feature in Pillow  
256 Lavas on the western bank of the stream (Fig. 4d). Cross-sectional profiles  
257 extracted from the airborne LiDAR DTM and ATM imagery in the locality of the  
258 dyke are shown in Figs. 4e and 4f, respectively. The dyke is clearly recognised as  
259 a 3 m wide ridgeline in the LiDAR DTM profile, bounded by abrupt decreases in  
260 elevation at both edges. Although the dyke can be identified in the ATM image  
261 profile as well, its expression is less conspicuous because of the narrower (~1 m)  
262 width of the feature. Nevertheless, the dyke is defined by boundaries caused by  
263 abrupt changes in the radiance gradient. Illumination conditions during image  
264 acquisition or smoothing effects during processing of the imagery could be  
265 responsible for the relatively narrow appearance of this particular dyke in the  
266 ATM imagery.

267

## 268 **Lineament enhancement**

269         It is apparent from the results of the preliminary analysis that both airborne  
270 remote sensing datasets are capable of revealing faults and dykes in the uppermost  
271 section of the Troodos ophiolite as lineaments. Accordingly, several visual  
272 enhancement techniques were applied to the airborne LiDAR DTM and ATM  
273 imagery to help generate structural lineament maps for the study area. However,  
274 prior to this, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was first applied to the ATM  
275 imagery in order to reduce the number of spectral bands whilst still retaining most

276 of the spectral information contained within the entire dataset. In addition to  
277 reducing data dimensionality, the PCA technique is also useful because it  
278 enhances spectral information by decorrelating the spectral data in all bands and  
279 can be used to segregate noise (Jensen 2005). An examination of the eigenvalues  
280 associated with the resulting nine ATM Principal Component (PC) bands revealed  
281 that the first three PC bands accounted for 97.5% of the total data variance (Table  
282 1). Consequently, the first three PC bands were selected to represent the ATM  
283 imagery in further analysis, whereas the six remaining PC bands were discarded.

284

### 285 *Shaded relief models*

286 Shaded relief models — such as that shown in Fig. 1b — are topographic  
287 images that simulate the reflection of artificial light that is incident upon the  
288 surface from a user-specified inclination and azimuth. They are generated from  
289 DEMs by assigning shades of grey to pixels to represent their reflectance, which  
290 is usually calculated from the angle at which light is incident upon the terrain  
291 using a Lambertian reflection model (Masoud and Koike 2006). The ability to  
292 alter the shading effects by varying the illumination inclination and azimuth  
293 angles makes shaded relief models a powerful tool for identifying lineaments in a  
294 range of orientations. Here, a series of eight shaded relief models were generated  
295 from the airborne LiDAR DTM for azimuth illumination intervals of 45° (e.g., N,  
296 NE, E, etc.) and then visually interpreted to produce a lineament map. At each  
297 azimuth interval, the illumination inclination angle and the vertical exaggeration  
298 of the topographic surface were also systematically varied to try to help reveal as  
299 many lineaments as possible.

300

301 *False-colour composite*

302           In order to help identify lineaments using the ATM imagery, a false-colour  
303 composite (FCC) image was generated using ENVI 4.3 by assigning the ATM PC  
304 Bands 1, 2 and 3 to the red, green and blue channels of the computer monitor,  
305 respectively. As a result, subtle variations in the spectral properties of surface  
306 materials are typically enhanced in the FCC image through an increase in the  
307 colour contrast. Lineaments are then more readily identifiable in the FCC image  
308 as linear edges defined by sharp colour differences. A lineament map was  
309 therefore produced by visually interpreting the ATM PC FCC.

310

311 *Laplacian filtering*

312           Laplacian filters are a type of convolution filter commonly applied to  
313 remote sensing data for lineament mapping applications (Saha et al. 2002; Ali and  
314 Pirasteh 2004; Ricchetti and Palombella 2005). These filters are second derivative  
315 edge enhancement filters that operate without regard to edge orientation, i.e., they  
316 are non-directional. A Laplacian filter was applied to the airborne LiDAR DTM  
317 and each of the three ATM PC bands using a  $3 \times 3$  pixel kernel with a weighting  
318 structure such as that shown in Fig. 5. In each case, the filtered image was added  
319 back to the original image at a ratio of 9:1 in order to improve the overall image  
320 interpretability. Two separate lineament maps were then produced by visually  
321 interpreting the filtered LiDAR DTM in addition to a FCC generated from the  
322 three filtered ATM PC bands.

323

## 324 *Morphological transformation*

325 Mathematical morphological operations such as dilation, erosion, opening  
326 and closing have also been applied to enhance lineaments in remotely sensed data.  
327 One of the most popular morphological techniques for edge detection is the Top  
328 Hat transformation (Tripathi et al. 2000; Ricchetti and Palombella 2005). The Top  
329 Hat transformation involves closing or opening operations followed by  
330 subtraction with the original image:

$$331 \quad \text{Top Hat}(f) = f^B - f \quad (1)$$

$$332 \quad \text{Top Hat}(f) = f - f_B \quad (2)$$

333 where  $f$  is the original image,  $f^B$  is the image obtained following the closing  
334 operation and  $f_B$  is the image obtained after the opening operation. The Top Hat  
335 transformation which involves the closing operation (that described by Eq. 1) is  
336 considered to yield better results for the extraction of structural features such as  
337 faults and fractures (Tripathi et al. 2000). Therefore, the closing-based Top Hat  
338 transformation was applied to the airborne LiDAR DTM and each of the ATM PC  
339 bands using a  $3 \times 3$  pixel kernel with a weighting of 1 assigned to all elements —  
340 a weighting structure such as this avoids introducing directional bias. Again, two  
341 separate lineament maps were produced by visually interpreting the Top Hat-  
342 transformed LiDAR DTM as well as a FCC generated from the three Top Hat-  
343 transformed ATM PC bands.

344

## 345 **Lineament mapping**

346 A standard approach was adopted in an attempt to maximise both the  
347 consistency and objectivity of the visual mapping of lineaments. This involved

348 producing all lineament maps using the ENVI 4.3 software via the following  
349 protocol. All enhanced image products were individually displayed in two image  
350 windows; one providing a regional perspective (1× zoom) and a second window  
351 providing more detailed view (2–4× zoom). Next, each image product was  
352 divided into four smaller, equally-sized sections so that each section could be  
353 individually examined to help ensure that the entire study area was subjected to a  
354 near-uniform visual examination (Parsons and Yearley 1986). Each of these  
355 sections was systematically examined for lineaments. Potential lineaments were  
356 inspected in order to establish their origin, and those interpreted to be of a  
357 geological nature were traced on-screen as line vectors using the overlay tool in  
358 the ENVI 4.3 software. The criteria used to determine the length and origin of all  
359 lineaments within a single image product and between products was kept constant.  
360 Such consistency helps to further reduce the subjectivity of the manual lineament  
361 mapping process. Following interpretation, line vectors associated with each  
362 image enhancement technique were exported as Shapefiles for subsequent  
363 interrogation.

364

### 365 **Lineament analysis and validation**

366 Lineament maps generated using the above procedure were analysed to  
367 evaluate the utility of the airborne LiDAR data and ATM imagery for structural  
368 mapping. To do this, the lineament orientations and lengths were extracted from  
369 each map by interrogating the Shapefiles in ArcMap (ArcGIS 9.2; ESRI,  
370 Redlands, California). Dominant structural trends expressed in the enhanced data  
371 products were revealed by plotting the orientation information on rose diagrams  
372 using the Stereonet/StereoWin software

373 (<http://www.geo.cornell.edu/geology/faculty/RWA/programs/>). A variety of  
374 statistics relating to the numbers and lengths of lineaments were also computed.  
375 The spatial distribution of lineaments in the maps were analysed by way of  
376 lineament density maps derived using the Spatial Analyst Line Density tool in the  
377 ArcMap Toolbox for a search radius of 250 m.

378 A field survey was undertaken to collect structural measurements for the  
379 purpose of validating the results of the airborne LiDAR- and ATM-based  
380 lineament mapping. The field survey was conducted by measuring the strike and  
381 dip of faults and dykes encountered along the transect highlighted in Fig. 1b, c.  
382 This transect — which predominantly comprises a stream transect — provides  
383 excellent exposure and runs perpendicular to the apparent NW–SE structural trend  
384 in the study area. Structural information obtained along this transect and in the  
385 adjacent hills should therefore reflect the primary regional structural trends, thus  
386 removing the requirement of an extensive study area-wide field survey for  
387 validation. During the field survey, only faults extending beyond the local  
388 drainage were measured since very minor faults were not anticipated to be  
389 detectable in the remotely sensed data products. Field-based structural  
390 measurements were plotted on stereonet and rose diagrams (again using  
391 Stereonet/StereoWin software) to enable comparison with remote sensing-based  
392 lineament data.

393



## 394 **Results and discussion**

### 395 **Field-based structural data**

396           Field-based strike and dip measurements of faults and dykes exposed  
397 along the 4 km transect enable the most prominent structural trends within the  
398 study area to be determined. In the field, individual dykes and less abundant  
399 multiple dyke sets were predominantly observed striking NW–SE and dipping  
400 steeply towards the NE (Fig. 6a). This is consistent with other observations  
401 concerning the attitude of dykes which were made during mapping of the same  
402 region (Gass 1960). The average strike orientation for the 64 dykes is computed as  
403  $318^\circ$  with relatively little deviation. Nevertheless, minor secondary N–S and E–W  
404 trends are apparent. The dip angle was found to vary between  $42^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , with  
405 an average dip of approximately  $70^\circ$  NE. Conversely, brittle faults do not appear  
406 to exhibit a clear dominant trend (Fig. 6b), although the majority of those  
407 observed strike between E–W and NW–SE. Dip angles for the field-mapped faults  
408 coincide with those of dykes; varying between  $40\text{--}90^\circ$  with an average of  $\sim 70^\circ$ .  
409 The dip direction associated with the faults is also variable, with the majority  
410 dipping NE. When combined, the field-based structural data for dykes and faults  
411 reveals a dominant NW–SE trend within the study area (Fig. 6c). This dominant  
412 trend — comprising an average strike of  $320^\circ$  — is primarily dictated by the  
413 abundance of NW–SE striking dykes. Minor trends striking E–W and  
414 approximately N–S are also apparent in the combined field-based structural data.  
415 During fieldwork it became apparent that many of the lineaments previously  
416 identified in the remotely sensed data are dykes and not faults. This was a  
417 surprising result — we incorrectly expected that dykes would be somewhat less

418 abundant in the uppermost Troodos ophiolitic crust (Basal Group and Pillow Lava  
419 sequences) and that major linear structures would be extensional faults. The dykes  
420 typically have margin-parallel fractures and are generally upstanding, although in  
421 some cases they were observed as eroded-out troughs depending on the rock types  
422 they intrude.

423         A major E–W ridge is visible in the remotely sensed data at the western  
424 end of the transect and was therefore ground-checked (location C in Fig. 1b, c).  
425 This ridge consists of a 285° trending dyke swarm with silicified and sheared  
426 dyke margins and parallel fault surfaces (Fig. 3b). Sub-horizontal slickenlines on  
427 polished and sheared surfaces indicate a strike-slip history and adjacent brecciated  
428 Pillow Lavas indicate intense brittle deformation. This is the most obvious fault  
429 zone in the study area. It was assumed to be a dyke prior to field verification  
430 because of its positive relief. However, unlike other faults within the study area,  
431 this zone is silicified and parallel to a major dyke set and thus erosionally resistant  
432 and ridge-forming. Since dykes are not necessarily ridge-forming lineaments and  
433 faults are not necessarily erosionally lowered linear troughs, we again emphasise  
434 that the follow-on fieldwork was essential for identifying the structural identity of  
435 lineaments identified in the remote sensing analysis.

436

### 437 **Airborne LiDAR- and ATM-based lineament mapping**

438         The six lineament maps and associated rose diagrams produced through  
439 the visual interpretation of the enhanced airborne LiDAR DTM and ATM  
440 products are shown in Fig. 7. An initial inspection reveals that the dominant NW–  
441 SE structural trend observable in the field is also apparent in all six lineament  
442 maps. Moreover, the overall spatial coverage of the lineaments is similar for all

443 six maps. The vast majority of lineaments, which most likely correspond to dykes,  
444 are confined to the SE sector of the study area with a noticeable lack of lineaments  
445 in the NW and the extreme NE corner. The abundance of lineaments in the SE  
446 sector is unsurprising because this area is dominated by the Pillow Lava and Basal  
447 Group units in which dykes occur. Widespread alluvial–colluvial cover in the NW  
448 and Lefkara Formation outcrops in the NE corner explain the lack of lineaments  
449 in those areas because these younger cover sediments postdate the magmatic and  
450 tectonic events responsible for dyke emplacement and normal faulting.

451         Rose diagrams for all six lineament maps reveal a dominant NW–SE trend  
452 for the study area (Fig. 7). This result is corroborated by the field-based structural  
453 measurements shown in the Fig. 6c. Several minor secondary trends are also  
454 evident in a number of lineament maps; particularly those generated using the Top  
455 Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM (Fig. 7c) and Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC  
456 (Fig. 7d). Of these, the N–S and E–W trends are substantiated by the field  
457 measurements. Average lineament orientations are fairly consistent between  
458 maps, ranging from approximately  $313^\circ$  for the LiDAR shaded relief model (Fig.  
459 7a) to  $318^\circ$  for the Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM (Fig. 7c). These average  
460 orientations are also comparable to that obtained from the field-based data.  
461 Accordingly, it is evident that both the airborne LiDAR and ATM data products  
462 are useful tools for revealing the dominant dyke and faulting trends of the  
463 Troodos ophiolite.

464         Despite only minor differences in the orientation information for the  
465 various enhancement techniques, further interrogation of the lineament maps  
466 reveals some notable differences relating to the abundance and lengths of  
467 lineaments (Table 2). A maximum number of 316 lineaments were identified  
468 using the Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM, compared to an average of 213 for the

469 five other enhanced products. With regards to the two data types, the ATM-based  
470 enhancement techniques resulted in the identification of 15% more lineaments on  
471 average than LiDAR DTM-based techniques, with the exception of the Laplacian-  
472 filtered LiDAR DTM. This suggests that lineaments are generally more noticeable  
473 in ATM-derived colour composite images than in the greyscale LiDAR DTM  
474 products. Nevertheless, the high abundance of lineaments recognised using the  
475 Laplacian-filtered DTM could be an indication that this is the most superior  
476 technique for enhancing the appearance of lineaments in the airborne LiDAR  
477 DTM.

478         Frequency distributions of lineament lengths associated with each  
479 enhancement technique are shown in Fig. 8. All distributions appear unimodal and  
480 are positively skewed due to a profusion of lineaments with lengths ranging  
481 between 50–400 m. The Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM is associated with the  
482 greatest abundance of short lineaments, and is responsible for both the shortest  
483 mapped lineament (38.2 m) and the shortest average lineament length (158.4 m).  
484 This, together with the high number of lineaments associated with this  
485 enhancement technique, initially suggests that longer lineaments appear  
486 segmented in the Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM, therefore resulting in shorter  
487 but more numerous lineaments. However, evidence of lineament segmentation is  
488 not apparent in the Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM and the total lineament length  
489 is at least 10% longer than for any other technique, indicating that the additional  
490 lineaments do not simply arise through the division of lineaments that appear  
491 longer in the other enhanced data products.

492         The lineament density maps shown in Fig. 9 reveal the spatial distribution  
493 of the lineaments mapped using each of the enhancement techniques. As might be  
494 expected due partly to the similarities in the spatial coverage of lineaments in all

495 six maps, the ensuing lineament density maps are also visibly similar. The highest  
496 densities are commonly observed in the east of the study area, within the Pillow  
497 Lavas (see Fig. 1a). In several maps, smaller regions of high lineament density are  
498 also observed towards the NE and slightly due south of the centre, again  
499 coinciding with the outcropping of Pillow Lavas. Considering that the field-based  
500 data indicates that the vast majority of lineaments in the study area are dykes  
501 together with the geological definitions of the Basal Group and Pillow Lava units  
502 (e.g., Bear 1960), one would expect the highest lineament densities to be  
503 associated with the Basal Group. A likely explanation for why this is not the case  
504 could relate to the ability to distinguish lineaments, particularly dykes, from their  
505 host different rocks. For example, with regards to the topographic domain, the  
506 relative lack of lineaments (in the form of dykes) in the dyke-dominated Basal  
507 Group could be due to uniform weathering and erosion of outcrops, which then  
508 leads to difficulty in discerning individual or sets of dykes at the surface. On the  
509 other hand, the contrast in hardness between dykes and host Pillow Lava rocks  
510 appears to result in differential erosion and weathering, thus giving dykes an  
511 obvious topographic surface expression. Spectrally, it is also difficult to identify  
512 individual dykes in host Basal Group rocks because they effectively comprise the  
513 same mineralogical composition. Dykes in the Pillow Lavas, however, are more  
514 readily recognisable because of the higher spectral contrast linked to their more  
515 disparate mineralogical compositions, grain sizes and jointing characteristics.  
516 Likewise, lineaments that correspond to faults are usually easier to trace in the  
517 Pillow Lavas than in the Basal Group rocks (Gass 1960).

518 Lineament density maps can also be used to help determine whether  
519 lineament maps with greater abundances of lineaments actually contain more  
520 information than those with less. If two lineament density maps with considerably

521 different lineament abundances exhibit a strong correlation, then they can  
522 essentially be regarded as equivalent, whereas weak correlation suggests that the  
523 two maps do indeed contain different information (Parsons and Yearly 1986). The  
524 results of the correlation analysis show strong correlations between all lineament  
525 density maps (Table 3). Lineament density maps for the Laplacian-filtered ATM  
526 PC FCC and Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM enhancement techniques are the  
527 most weakly correlated, whereas the Laplacian-filtered ATM PC FCC map and  
528 the Top Hat-transformed ATM map are the most correlated. Correlation  
529 coefficients between the map with the greatest abundance of lineaments (the  
530 Laplacian-filtered DTM) and all other maps do not fall below 0.81. This result  
531 suggests that all lineament maps essentially contain the same information  
532 regardless of the variation in lineament abundance. Also, the results appear to  
533 suggest that the additional lineaments identified in the Laplacian-filtered LiDAR  
534 DTM are not related to the segmentation of longer lineaments, since higher  
535 lineament densities in the affected areas would likely result in somewhat lower  
536 correlations than those observed here.

537

### 538 **Significance of structural trends and implications**

539 Field-based structural measurements collected along the 4 km transect  
540 through the study area show that dykes primarily dip to the NE. This finding is in  
541 agreement with the placement of the study area on the western flank of the  
542 Larnaca graben proposed by Varga and Moores (1985). The prevailing NW–SE  
543 trend revealed by field-based structural measurements is consistent with that  
544 expected for an extensional setting. Although dykes appear to dictate this trend, an  
545 additional contribution also originates from normal faulting during graben

546 development and dyke injection (Gass 1960). Whilst there is a slight indication of  
547 dyke-parallel faulting in the field-based data, the rather variable orientations of the  
548 faults recorded along the transect most likely reflect local deformation and  
549 possibly younger faulting subsequent to initial formation of the ophiolitic crust.  
550 The secondary N-S trend apparent in the field-based data is consistent with a later  
551 stage of faulting previously reported in the vicinity of the study area (Gass 1960;  
552 Boyle and Robertson 1984).

553         The main NW–SE and N-S structural trends observed in the study area are  
554 also reciprocated in lineament maps generated using the enhanced airborne  
555 LiDAR and ATM products. Moreover, these lineament maps are able to resolve  
556 structural information in much greater spatial detail than the existing geological  
557 maps of the study area. These findings are important because they demonstrate  
558 that high-resolution remotely sensed datasets can be used to complement field-  
559 based structural mapping. Specifically, when used in conjunction with field-based  
560 mapping, airborne datasets clearly offer the potential to help make detailed and  
561 comprehensive structural mapping a more time- and cost-efficient process.

562         Obtained using a combined remote sensing–fieldwork structural mapping  
563 approach, our results reveal that there is a fundamental NW-trending steep  
564 structural grain wherever the ophiolitic rocks crop out. Based on this, it is also  
565 likely that this structural grain exists in surrounding areas under the Lefkara  
566 Formation and alluvial–colluvial cover. This fundamental structural grain was  
567 found to be dominated by parallel individual dykes and dyke swarms and less  
568 abundant normal faults. Otherwise, the hummocky Pillow Lava terrain is  
569 characterised by diverse erupted sequences that are complexly stacked and  
570 overlapping without other major cross-cutting tectonic structures (Fig. 3a). The  
571 NW–SE structural fabric identified in the Pillow Lava and Basal Group rocks and

572 interpreted to occur under sedimentary cover elsewhere in the study area, may be  
573 an important consideration for future resource exploration efforts. This is because  
574 deep and steep faults and fractured dyke margins may host groundwater, and  
575 because major normal faults may have originally been hydrothermal fluid  
576 pathways and therefore potential sites of massive sulphide (copper) mineralisation  
577 (Fig. 3c, d). Another major implication of this study is that the methods presented  
578 can be readily utilised to map dyke and fault trends in greater detail across the  
579 ophiolite. Ultimately, this may help to better elucidate the spreading structure of  
580 the Troodos ophiolite.

581

## 582 **Conclusions**

583 This study investigates the efficacy of high-resolution airborne LiDAR  
584 topographic data and ATM imagery for assisting detailed structural mapping of  
585 the vegetated ophiolitic rocks and sedimentary cover in an upper section of the  
586 Troodos ophiolite. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first attempt to apply  
587 airborne LiDAR to detailed structural mapping of ophiolitic rocks. Despite  
588 widespread vegetation cover, a preliminary analysis showed that the main  
589 structural features — dykes and faults — were recognisable in both the 4 m  
590 airborne LiDAR-derived DTM and 4 m ATM imagery as lineaments defined by  
591 edges. Accordingly, several different edge enhancement techniques were applied  
592 to the datasets in an attempt to augment the visual identification and mapping of  
593 lineaments. The resulting lineament maps present structural information in much  
594 greater spatial detail than the existing geological maps of the study area.  
595 Moreover, the predominant strike trends of lineaments in all maps were found to  
596 be consistent with field-based structural data acquired along a transect, in addition



597 to other observations made by ourselves and other workers in the vicinity. The  
598 dominant trend in the study area is orientated NW–SE and corresponds at first-  
599 order to the direction of dykes injections and extensional faulting associated with  
600 the spreading axis of the proposed palaeo-Larnaca graben system. Overall, the  
601 results of this study demonstrate the significant potential to produce detailed and  
602 comprehensive structural maps efficiently, by using airborne LiDAR data or  
603 airborne spectral imagery in conjunction with field-based mapping.

604         Whilst the results of this study have direct relevance to structural mapping  
605 of the Troodos ophiolite and other ophiolites, it is anticipated that high-resolution  
606 airborne LiDAR data and airborne spectral imagery can be readily used to  
607 augment detailed structural mapping in other settings with a similar  
608 Mediterranean climate and vegetation cover. In fact, with the capability of  
609 acquiring high-resolution topographic data in densely forested terrain, airborne  
610 LiDAR clearly has the potential to be a valuable tool for many aspects of  
611 structural mapping in any geological setting, irrespective of vegetation cover.  
612 However, the efficacy of airborne LiDAR will be dependent on the generation of  
613 an adequate DTM. In densely forested terrain this may require a high LiDAR  
614 point density to help maximise the number of ground returns. Conversely,  
615 airborne spectral imagery is likely to be of limited use in areas where structural  
616 features are subtly expressed in the terrain beneath tall dense vegetation cover.

617         Although accurate and detailed structural mapping using a manual  
618 approach was not time-consuming in this case, automated lineament extraction  
619 algorithms would be more efficient for larger map areas. In this respect, further  
620 research is required to help improve differentiation between lineaments of a  
621 geological origin and lineaments of non-geological significance. An integrated  
622 spectral–topographic approach which combines diagnostic morphometric and

623 spectral characteristics could offer additional discriminatory power to help reduce  
624 this confusion.

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809 **Figure captions**

810 **Fig. 1. a** Location and geology (at 1:31,680- and 1:250,000-scale) of the Troodos ophiolite and the  
811 study area. **b** Shaded relief model of the study area generated from the 4 m airborne LiDAR DTM.  
812 **c** A red-green-blue true-colour composite image of the study area generating using bands 5, 3, and  
813 2 of the 4 m ATM imagery. Labels A, B and C in **b** and **c** indicate the locations of the example  
814 fault, dyke and fault ridge shown in Fig. 4a, d and Fig. 3b, respectively. Red shading in **b** and **c**  
815 depicts transect along which field-based structural data were acquired. Digital geology provided by  
816 the Cyprus Geological Survey Department.

817

818 **Fig. 2.** Field photographs showing typical examples of structural features observed in the study  
819 area. **a** Set of NW-SE striking dykes intruding Pillow Lavas; **b** and **c** brittle fault zones in Pillow  
820 Lavas; **d** NW-SE trending dykes expressed in the landscape; **e** and **f** upstanding dykes intruding  
821 Pillow Lavas.

822

823 **Fig. 3.** Important geological features of the study area. **a** Typical hummocky Pillow Lava  
824 landscape comprising stacks of erupted lavas devoid of steep structures; **b** upstanding silicified  
825 strike-slip fault zone which was assumed to be a dyke prior to field verification (location C in Fig.  
826 1b); **c** parallel dyke swarm with abundant dyke margin-parallel fractures; **d** gossan alteration  
827 within Pillow Lavas and along dyke margins and joints.

828

829 **Fig. 4.** Expression of the main types of structural features in the remotely sensed data. **a** Field  
830 photograph of the example fault at location A in Fig. 1b, c, and cross-sectional profiles showing  
831 the expression of this fault cleft as a trough in **b** the airborne LiDAR DTM and **c** ATM Band 2  
832 image. **d** Field photograph of the example dyke(s) at location B in Fig. 1b, c, and cross-sectional  
833 profiles showing the expression of the dyke(s) as a ridge in **e** the airborne LiDAR DTM and **f**  
834 ATM Band 5 image.

835

836 **Fig. 5.** Weighting structure of the 3×3 pixel kernel used in Laplacian filtering.

837

838 **Fig. 6.** Structural data obtained through field-based mapping along the transect indicated in Fig.  
839 1b, c. **a** Equal-area stereonet plot revealing a dominant NW-SE trend and steep NE dip for 64  
840 dykes observed in the field. **b** Equal-area stereonet plot showing the variable strike and dip for 16  
841 faults mapped in the field. **c** Equal-area stereonet contour plot of poles to planes for the combined  
842 dyke and fault data (shown in **a** and **b**, respectively) reveals a dominant NW-SE structural trend  
843 within the study area.

844

845 **Fig. 7.** Lineament maps and rose diagrams (inset) generated through visual interpretation of **a**  
846 LiDAR shaded relief model (15%), **b** ATM PC FCC (17%), **c** Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM  
847 (12%), **d** Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC (12%), **e** Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM (16%) and  
848 **f** Laplacian-filtered ATM PC FCC (16%). Bracketed percentages denote proportion of lineaments  
849 represented by outer circle in corresponding rose diagrams (see Table 2 for total number of  
850 lineaments in each map). Average orientations are indicated on rose diagrams.

851

852 **Fig. 8.** Frequency distributions of lineament lengths mapped using the various enhanced data  
853 products. **a** LiDAR shaded relief model; **b** ATM PC FCC; **c** Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM; **d**  
854 Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC; **e** Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM; **f** Laplacian-filtered ATM  
855 PC FCC.

856

857 **Fig. 9.** Lineament density maps derived from lineament maps generated through visual  
858 interpretation of **a** LiDAR shaded relief model, **b** ATM PC FCC, **c** Top Hat-transformed LiDAR  
859 DTM, **d** Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC, **e** Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM and **f** Laplacian-  
860 filtered ATM PC FCC. Shading represents low (white) to high (black) lineament density.

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880 **Table 1.** Eigenvalues and eigenvector loadings for the first three PC bands derived from the  
 881 application of PCA to ATM Bands 2–10.

Eigenvectors	PC1	PC2	PC3
ATM 2	0.33	-0.40	-0.19
ATM 3	0.35	-0.32	-0.20
ATM 4	0.35	-0.26	-0.16
ATM 5	0.36	-0.17	-0.14
ATM 6	0.36	0.19	-0.19
ATM 7	0.33	0.47	-0.19
ATM 8	0.30	0.57	-0.05
ATM 9	0.32	0.17	0.50
ATM 10	0.29	-0.19	0.74
Eigenvalues	7.25	1.00	0.53
Variance (%)	80.56	11.10	5.84
Cumulative variance (%)	80.56	91.66	97.50

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885 **Table 2.** Statistics relating to the abundance and lengths of lineaments identified using the various  
 886 enhancement techniques.

Enhancement technique	Number of lineaments	Min. length (m)	Max. length (m)	Average length (m)	Total length (m)
LiDAR shaded relief model	192	51.1	801.0	207.4	39,817.5
ATM PC FCC	227	38.2	714.7	167.5	38,021.0
Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM	199	55.2	709.2	199.5	39,707.1
Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC	210	52.5	665.4	217.0	45,563.1
Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM	316	37.7	735.1	158.4	50,059.3
Laplacian-filtered ATM PC FCC	239	53.5	868.3	174.9	41,791.4

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892 **Table 3.** Correlation matrix for the lineament density maps.

	LiDAR shaded relief model	ATM PC FCC	Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM	Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC	Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM	Laplacian-filtered ATM PC FCC
LiDAR shaded relief model	–					
ATM PC FCC	0.82	–				
Top Hat-transformed LiDAR DTM	0.89	0.79	–			
Top Hat-transformed ATM PC FCC	0.87	0.87	0.83	–		
Laplacian-filtered LiDAR DTM	0.88	0.81	0.84	0.85	–	
Laplacian-filtered ATM PC FCC	0.81	0.87	0.76	0.90	0.81	–

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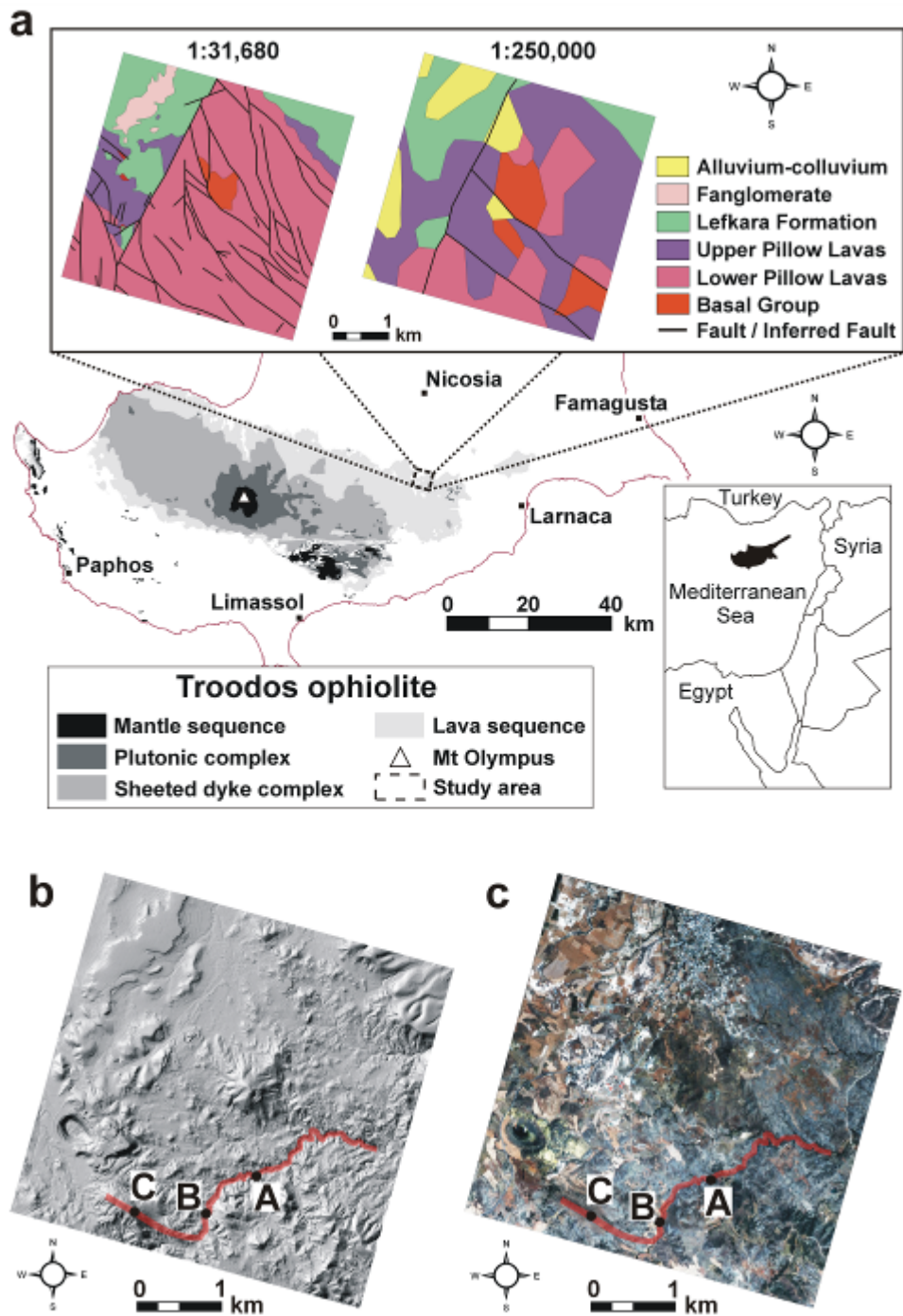
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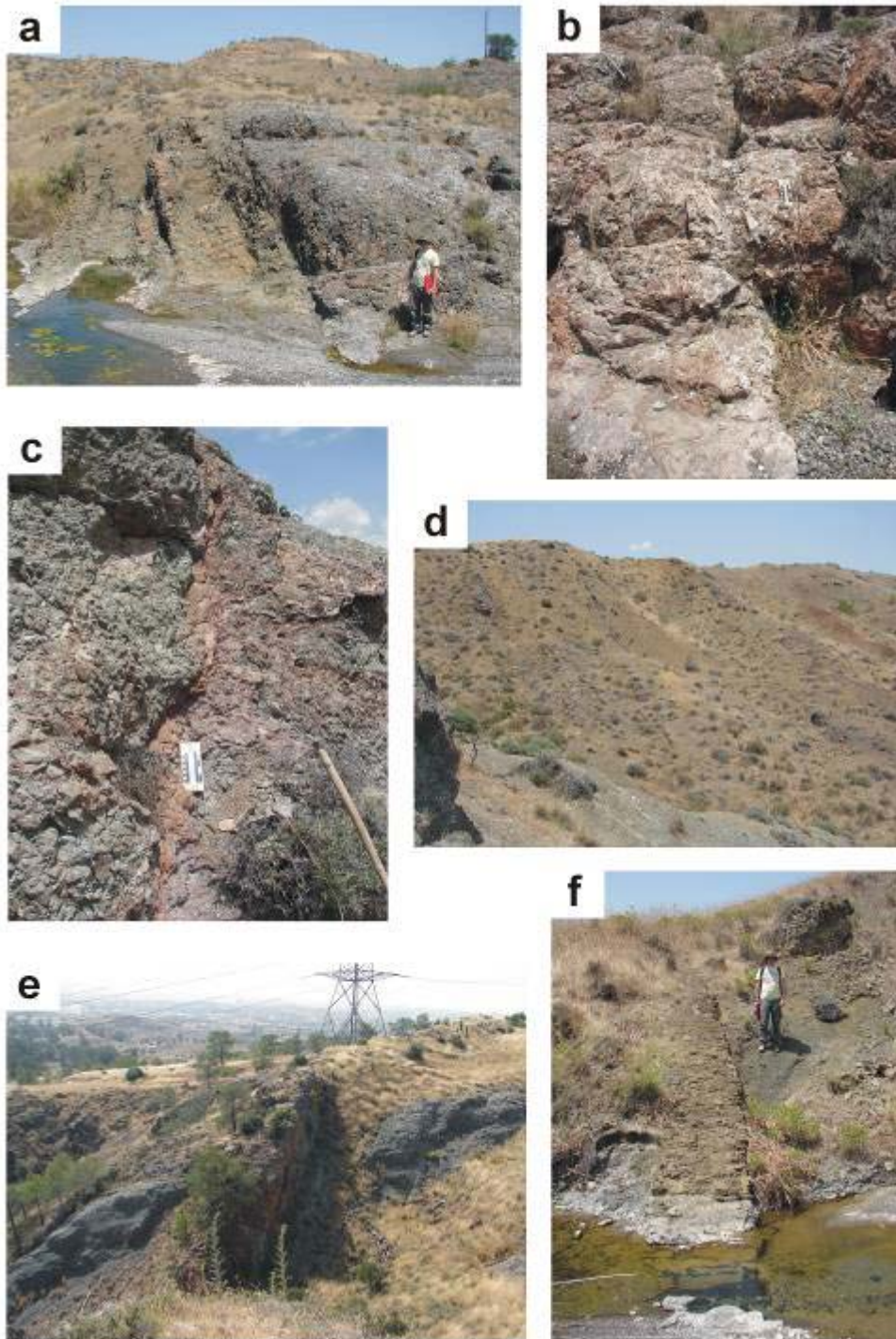
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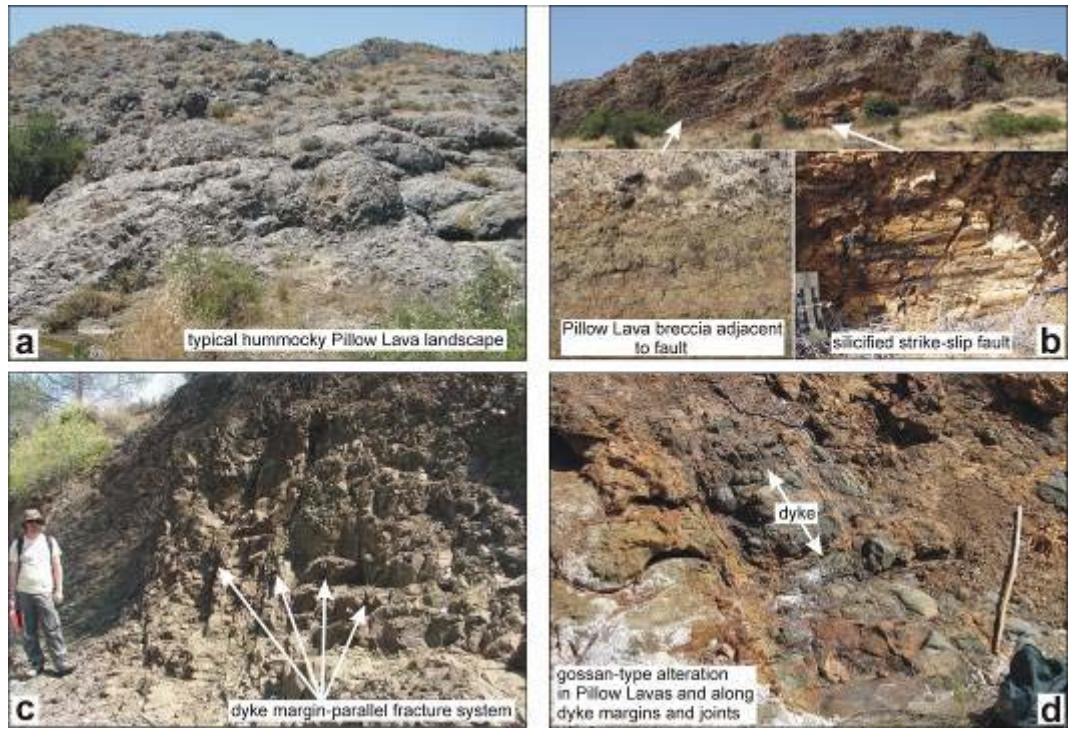
FIG.1



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**Fig.2**





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**Fig. 3**

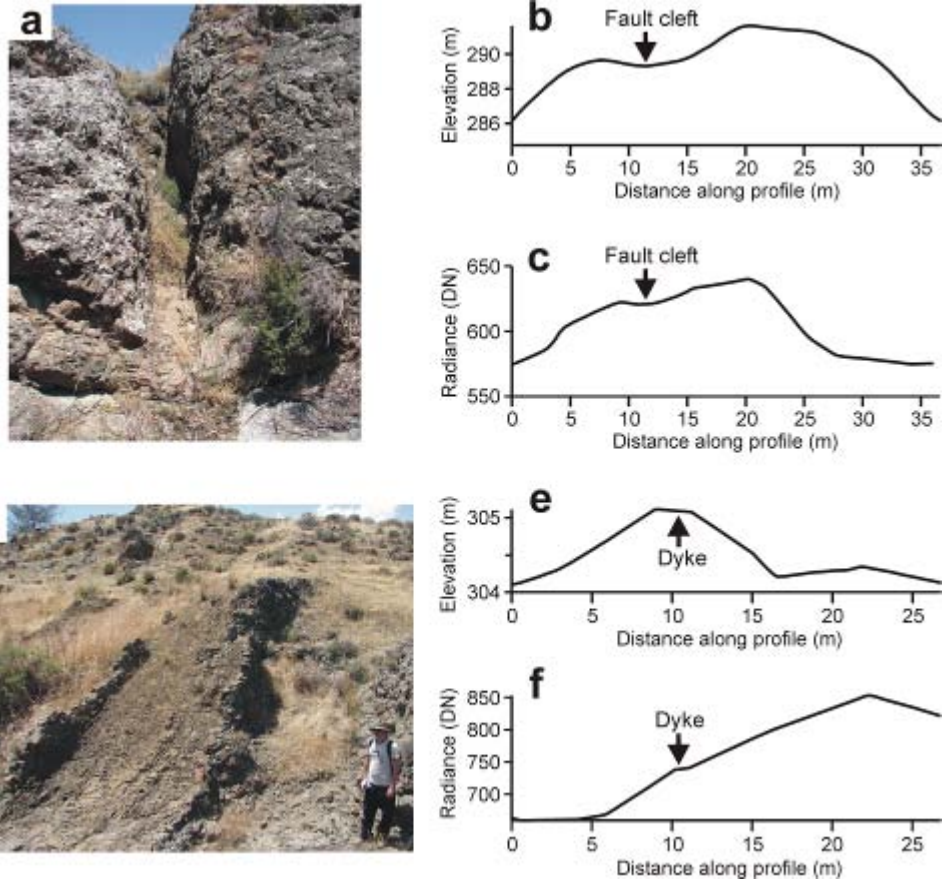


Fig. 4

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0	-1	0
-1	4	-1
0	-1	0

Fig. 5

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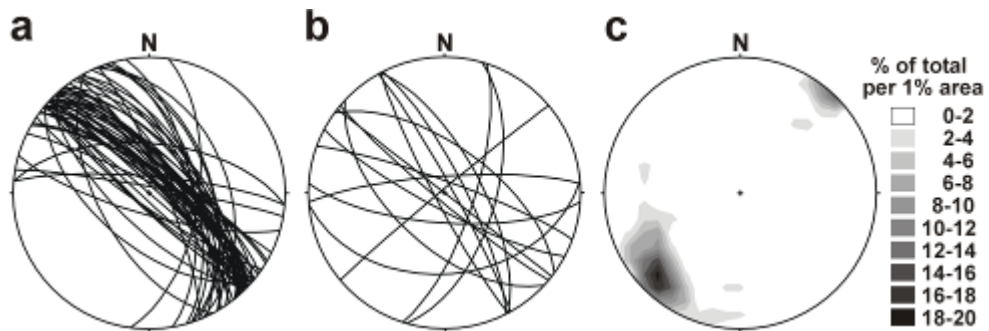
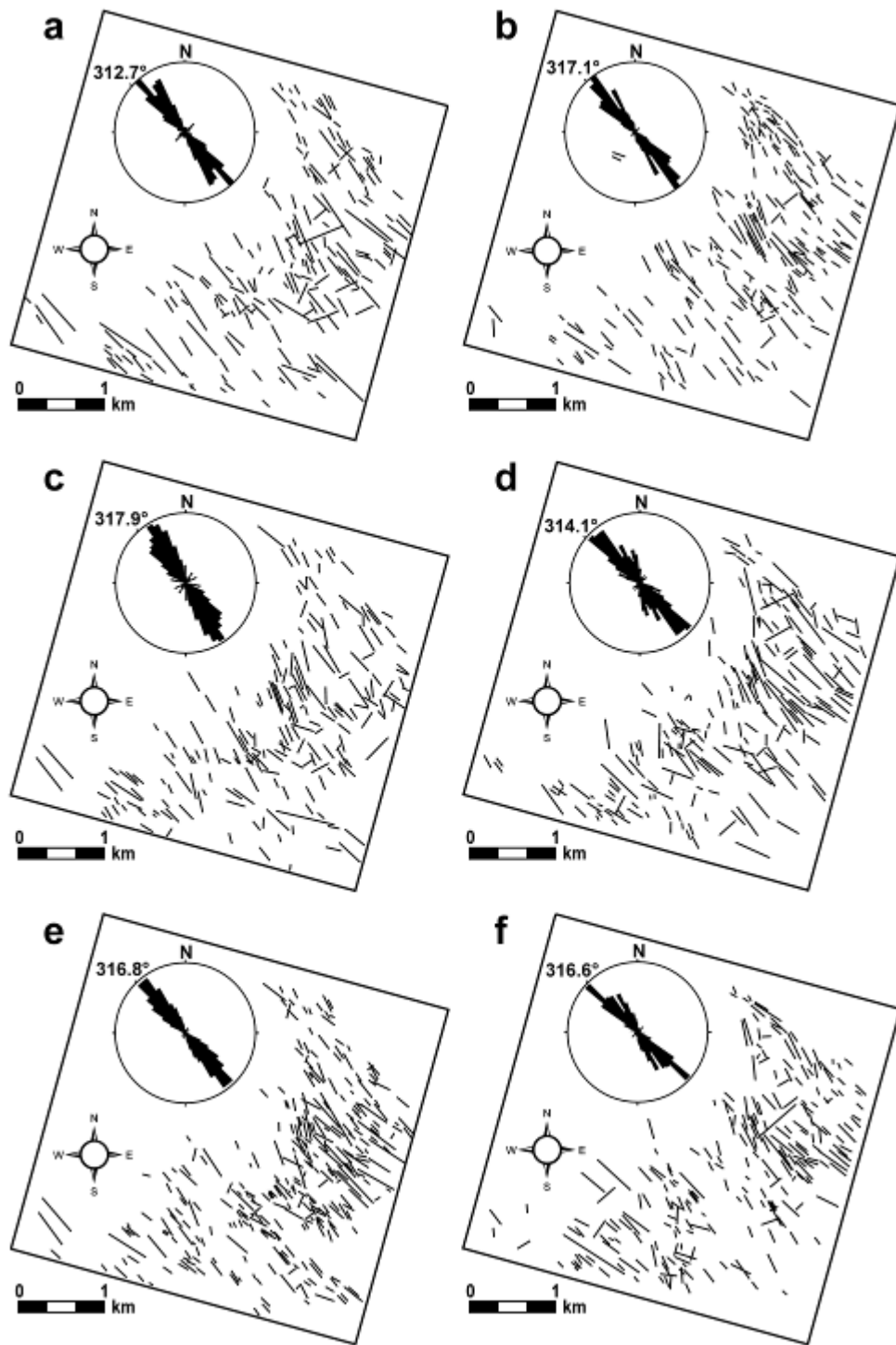
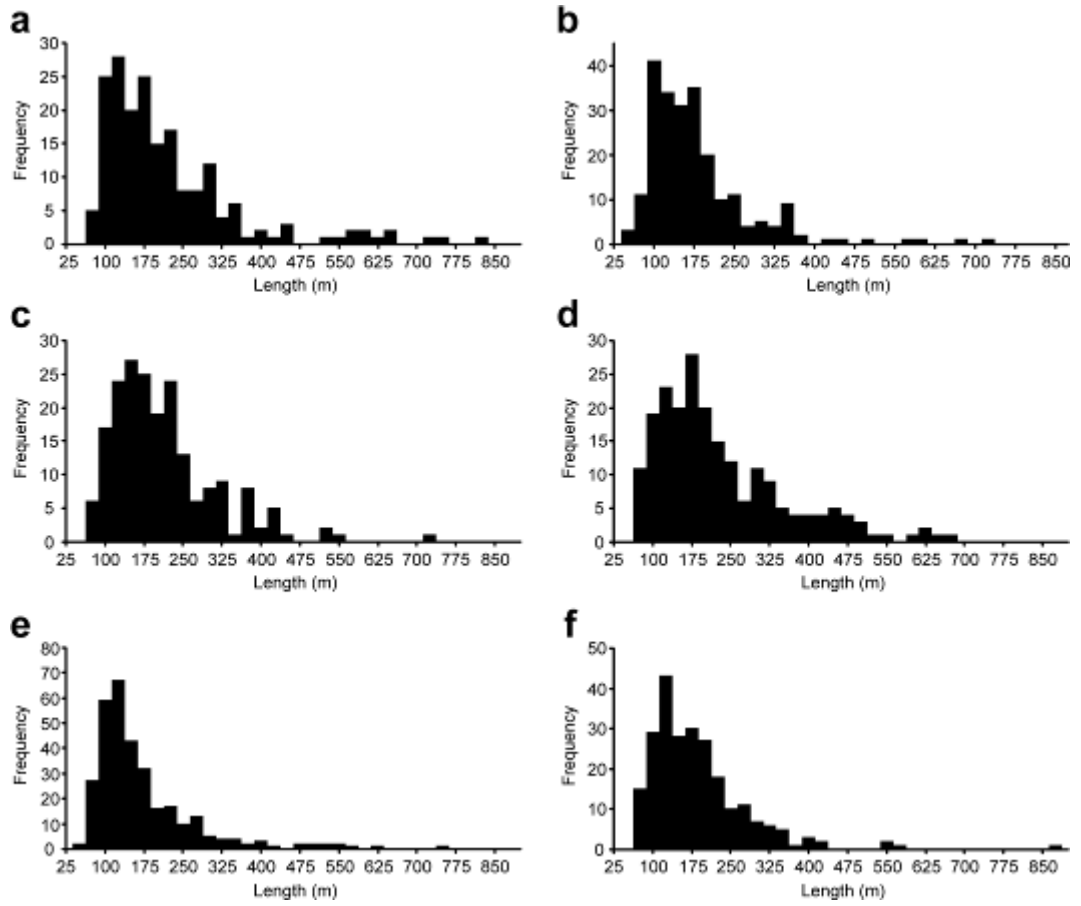


Fig. 6

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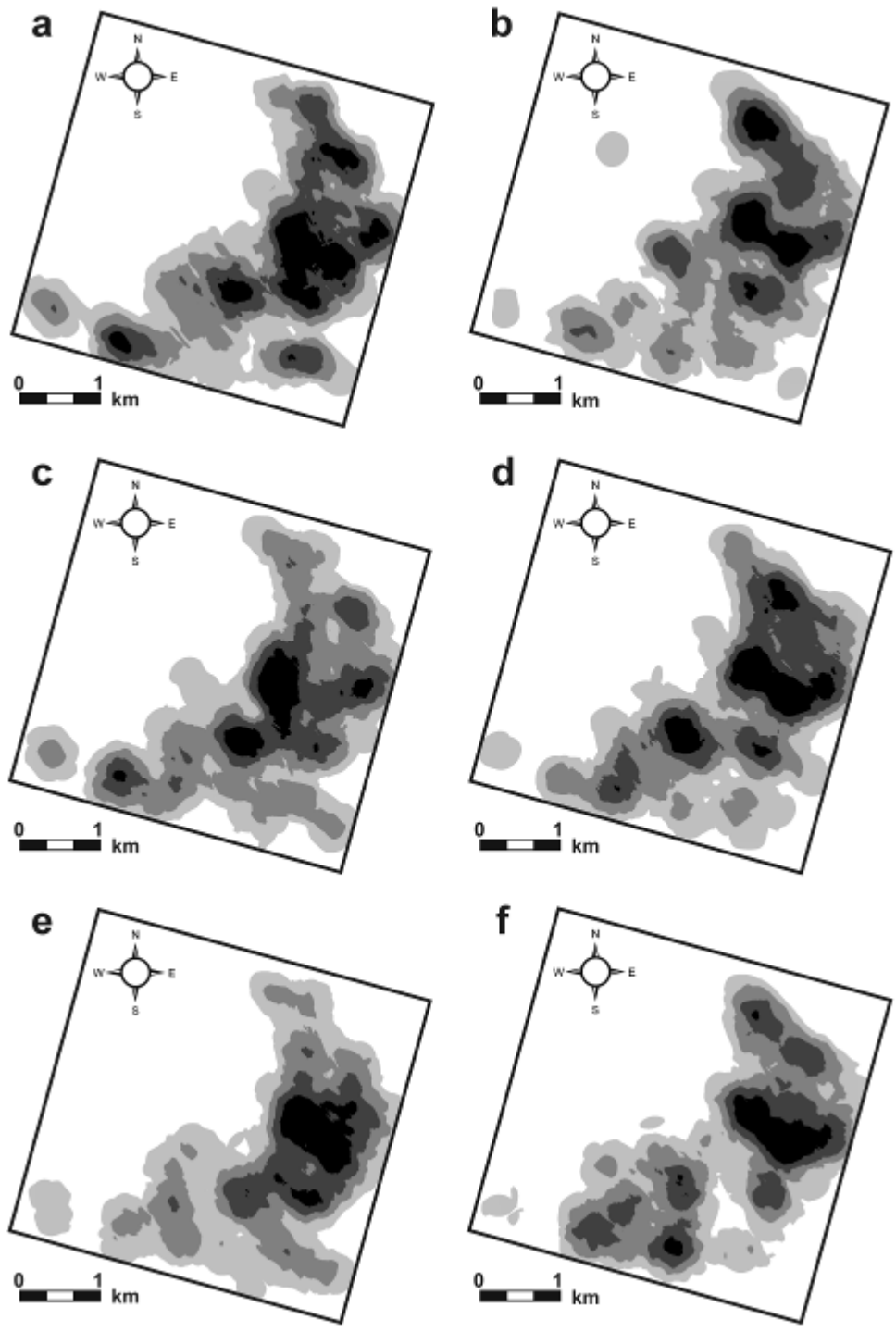
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 950 **Fig.7**  
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**Fig. 8**





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958 **Fig. 9**