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Frédéric Gueydan, Pavel Pitra, Abdelkhaleq Afiri, Marc Poujol, Abderrahim Essaifi, et al.. Oligo-Miocene thinning of the Beni Bousera peridotites and their Variscan crustal host rocks, Internal Rif, Morocco†. *Tectonics*, 2015, 34 (6), pp.1244-1268. 10.1002/2014TC003769 . insu-01152517

HAL Id: insu-01152517

<https://insu.hal.science/insu-01152517>

Submitted on 3 Jul 2015

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1002/2014TC003769

Key Points:

- Deciphering Hercynian and Alpine deformation and metamorphism
- Precise P-T constraints for crustal rocks overlying the Beni Bousera peridotites
- In situ dating of regional foliation and remnant of a previous deformation stage

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Citation:

Gueydan, F., P. Pitra, A. Afri, M. Poujol, A. Essaifi, and J.-L. Paquette (2015), Oligo-Miocene thinning of the Beni Bousera peridotites and their Variscan crustal host rocks, Internal Rif, Morocco, *Tectonics*, 34, doi:10.1002/2014TC003769.

Received 30 OCT 2014

Accepted 1 MAY 2015

Accepted article online 6 MAY 2015

Oligo-Miocene thinning of the Beni Bousera peridotites and their Variscan crustal host rocks, Internal Rif, Morocco

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Abstract Deciphering Variscan versus Alpine history in the Internal Rif system is a key to constrain the tectonic evolution of the Alboran domain and hence the geodynamics of the western Mediterranean system during the Cenozoic. This study focuses on the evolution of the metamorphic envelope of the Beni Bousera massif and its relation to the underlying peridotites. Combining structural geology, metamorphic petrology, and laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry U-Th-Pb dating of monazite, this study contributes to the understanding of the tectonic history of the western Internal Rif. The regional foliation (S2) is characterized by low pressure–high temperature (LP-HT) mineral assemblages and obliterates a former foliation (S1) developed along a Barrovian (medium pressure–medium temperature, MP-MT) metamorphic gradient. The dating of some metamorphic monazite grains from a micaschist and a migmatitic gneiss demonstrates that the crustal envelope of the peridotite recorded two distinct tectonometamorphic episodes. Data from monazite inclusions in S1 garnet suggest that the first event, D1, is older than 250–170 Ma and likely related to the Variscan collision, in agreement with the Barrovian type of the metamorphic gradient. The second event, D2, is Alpine in age (at circa 21 Ma) and corresponds to a strong lithosphere thinning allowing subsequent subcontinental mantle exhumation. Such a tectonic context provides an explanation for the LP-HT metamorphic gradient that is recorded in the regional foliation of the western Betic-Rif system. This extension is probably related to a subduction slab rollback in the western end of the Mediterranean realm during the Oligo-Miocene times. No evidence for a Tertiary high pressure/low temperature metamorphism has been identified in the studied area.

1. Introduction

Defining the relationship between deformation history and metamorphism in orogenic domains is a critical factor to understand the processes involved in mountain building. This aspect is of particular relevance when younger orogenic belts are superposed onto older orogenic domains, which leads to structural and mineralogical reworking of the original rock fabric.

The Betic-Rif orogen is a typical example of such complex relationships. This orogenic belt resulted from the closure of the westernmost part of the Tethys Ocean between Africa and the Iberian Peninsula during the Cenozoic times [Lonergan and White, 1997; Chalouan et al., 2008; Vergés and Fernández, 2012; Platt et al., 2013]. This process involved and reworked rocks that have been previously deformed and metamorphosed during the Variscan orogeny [Chalouan et al., 2008, and references therein]. The metamorphic rocks display the superposition of various mineral assemblages characteristic of contrasting geothermal gradients and hence tectonic settings [Michard et al., 2002, 2006]. Variscan as well as Cenozoic ages have been retrieved from the metamorphic rocks [Montel et al., 2000; Rossetti et al., 2010; Massonne, 2014]. The belt is also characterized by the occurrence of the world largest peridotite bodies enclosed in a crustal metamorphic envelope [Obata, 1980; Van der Wal and Vissers, 1993]. In the absence of a clearly established relation between the various metamorphic and tectonic events, contrasting hypotheses have been proposed for the origin of the peridotite bodies: (i) mantle core complex [Doblas and Oyarzun, 1989], (ii) extrusion of a mantle wedge during transpression along a subducting slab [Tubía et al., 2013];

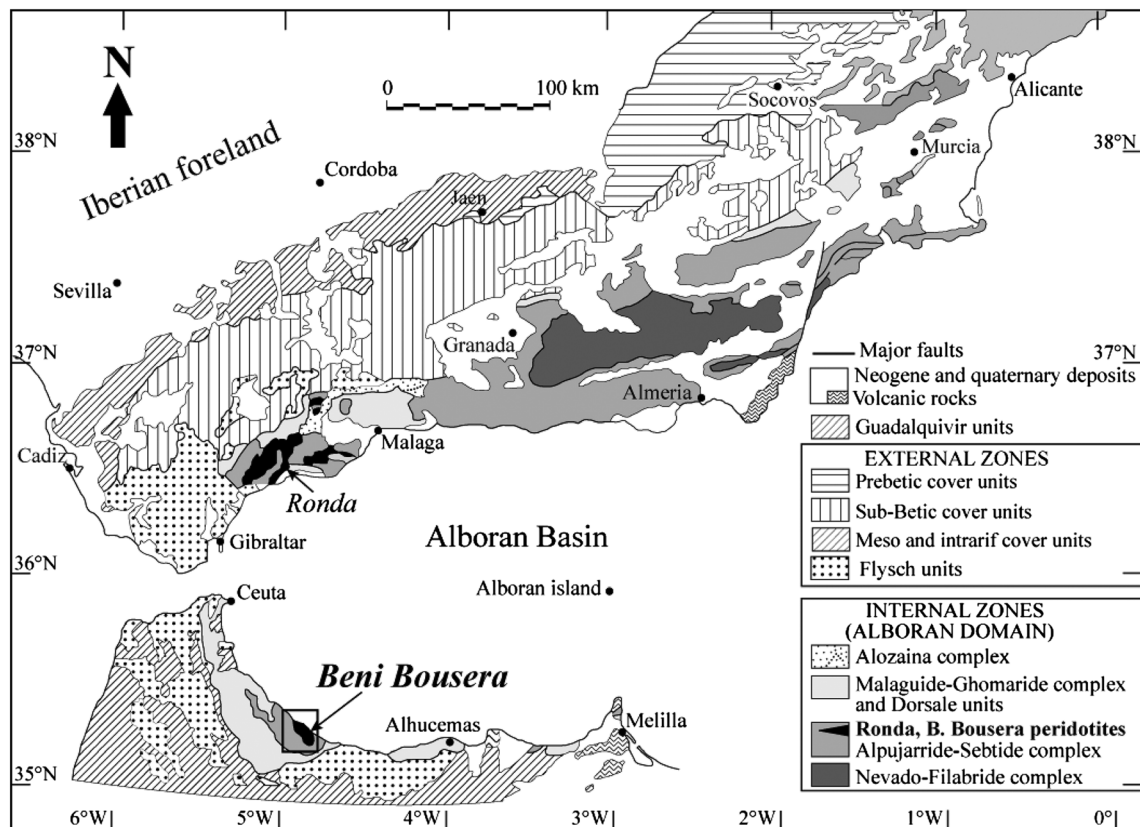


Figure 1. Geological map of the Alboran domain (Rif and Betic Cordillera), modified after Sánchez-Gómez *et al.* [2002]. The location of the studied area is indicated by an open black box.

Mazzoli and Martín-Algarra, 2011], (iii) successive detachment faults during extensional collapse of the Betic-Rif chain [Van der Wal and Vissers, 1993; Platt *et al.*, 2003b], and (iv) the inversion of a thinned back-arc lithosphere during slab rollback [Garrido *et al.*, 2011; Afri *et al.*, 2011; Précigout *et al.*, 2013]. The supposed ages of peridotites exhumation also strongly vary: (i) Paleozoic [Kornprobst, 1974; Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano, 2014], (ii) Mesozoic [Tubía *et al.*, 2009], and (iii) Oligo-Miocene [Hidas *et al.*, 2013; Précigout *et al.*, 2013].

In this context, we linked a detailed structural study with the calculation of a series of P-T pseudosections and in situ laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) monazite dating in order to reconstruct the polyorogenic P-T evolution the Internal Rif, which is one of the most poorly understood segments of the internal Alpine orogenic belt in the western Mediterranean area (i.e., Rif-Betic and Apennine-Calabrian-Maghrebian belt).

2. Geological Setting

The Alboran domain, spanning between the Betic Cordillera in southern Spain and the Rif orogen in northern Morocco (Figure 1), exposes a complex of nappes that are stacked and subsequently thinned during a complex Cenozoic history, as well as the exceptional exposure of large bodies of subcontinental peridotite [Dikey *et al.*, 1979; Obata, 1980].

The internal domain of the Rif cordillera shows two nappe complexes, from the bottom to the top (Figure 1): (1) the Sebtide complex containing metasediments of Paleozoic to Triassic ages that recorded variable degrees of metamorphism from high pressure–low temperature during the Oligo-Miocene [Bouybaouène *et al.*, 1995; Goffè *et al.*, 1996; Agard *et al.*, 1999], to low pressure–high temperature during the Miocene [Negro *et al.*, 2006; El Maz and Guiraud, 2001] and which contains remnants of Variscan metamorphism [Michard *et al.*, 1997; Bouybaouène *et al.*, 1998; Montel *et al.*, 2000]; and (2) the Ghomarides complex, which

comprises Paleozoic to Tertiary sediments showing only very low grade metamorphism (see the review in *Chalouan et al.* [2008]). The Beni Bousera peridotite outcrops within the high-grade metamorphic crust of the Lower Sebtides (Figure 1) [*Kornprobst, 1974; Saddiqi et al., 1988; Reuber et al., 1982*]. It is an equivalent of the Ronda peridotite in the Betic Cordillera. Gravimetric data suggest that these peridotite bodies correspond to slices that are a few kilometers thick, are underlain by crustal material, and probably extend offshore [*Tornè et al., 1992*]. The occurrence of graphite pseudomorphs after diamond testifies for their very deep origin [*Pearson et al., 1989; Davies et al., 1993*]. Two major petrological facies crop out in the Beni Bousera peridotite: spinel lherzolite in the core of the massif and garnet/spinel lherzolite/harzburgite in the rim of the massif, at the contact with the overlying granulite, gneiss, and micaschists of the Lower Sebtides (Filali unit).

At the scale of the Alboran domain, two “Alpine” high pressure-low temperature (HP-LT) events have been identified (review in *Platt et al.* [2013]): one of Eocene age, only recorded in Alpujarrides/Sebtides, and the other of Miocene age (Nevado Filabrides in Spain). In the Rif, HP-LT metamorphism is described in the Upper Sebtides units (Federico, Beni Mezala) [*Chalouan and Michard, 2004*, and references therein] that is overlying the Filali unit of the Lower Sebtides (crust/mantle), from which no HP-LT evidences are reported. Conversely, the Filali unit shows MP-HT conditions, with very high metamorphic grade at the crust-mantle contact [*Negro et al., 2006; El Maz and Guiraud, 2001*]. The contact between the Upper and Lower Sebtides is therefore most probably a thrust, coeval with the Eocene subduction system [*Chalouan and Michard, 2004*]. Consistently, the ensemble of the Ghomarides and the Sebtides is also interpreted as a nappe stack [*Chalouan and Michard, 2004*]. The same nappe stack is observed in the Spanish equivalent of the Sebtides: the Upper Alpujarrides with HP-LT metamorphism [*Azañón and Goffé, 1997*] and the Lower Alpujarrides with mostly high-grade (HT) rocks [*Balanyá et al., 1997*].

In the Lower Sebtides/Alpujarrides units, high- to ultrahigh-pressure conditions have been reported both in the Rif (Ichendirene mafic granulite) [*Bouybaouène et al., 1998*] and in the Betics (kinzigite in the Jubrique Units) [*Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano, 2014*] with a probable Variscan age for the peak pressure.

The ages and tectonic processes involved in the exhumation and emplacement of the Ronda/Beni Bousera peridotites into the continental crust also suggest a polycyclic deformation history. The margin of the massif is strongly mylonitic with foliation and shear criteria concordant with those found in the crustal rocks above. This suggests that the garnet/spinel mylonite resulted from strain localization and that the emplacement of the peridotites resulted from lithosphere thinning and related uplift of the lithospheric mantle [*Kornprobst, 1974; Reuber et al., 1982; Saddiqi et al., 1988; Michard et al., 1991; Afiri et al., 2011*] followed by a late thrusting of these peridotites body onto the crust. Late Variscan to Mesozoic metamorphic ages obtained in the high-grade Paleozoic rocks [*Montel et al., 2000; Massonne, 2014*] together with granitoids dated at 300 Ma [*Rossetti et al., 2010; Sánchez-Navas et al., 2014*] were used to suggest that the exhumation and thinning of the Beni Bousera/Ronda peridotites occurred during the late Variscan extensional collapse, followed by a Mesozoic rifting [*Reuber et al., 1982; Chalouan et al., 2001; Michard et al., 2002; Chalouan and Michard, 2004; Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano, 2014*]. However, several first-order geological observations question this hypothesis, as recently discussed in *Afiri et al.* [2011]. First, Alpine ages are reported from the peridotites [*Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Pearson and Nowell, 2004*], for the high-temperature metamorphism in the crustal rocks surrounding the peridotites [*Michard et al., 1983, 1991; Chalouan et al., 2008; Saddiqi, 1995; Montel et al., 2000; Platt et al., 2003a; Negro et al., 2006; Michard et al., 2006; Massonne, 2014*], and from granitoid dykes [*Rossetti et al., 2010*]. Monazite and zircon dating show the polycyclic (Variscan and Alpine) character of the metamorphism of the granulite overlying the Beni Bousera peridotite [*Sánchez-Rodríguez and Gebauer, 2000; Montel et al., 2000*]. Second, an important thinning of the crustal section overlying the peridotites, contemporaneous with the HT metamorphism, has been documented in Spain and dated at 30–25 Ma [*Balanyá et al., 1993, 1997; Azañón et al., 1998, 1997; Argles et al., 1999*]. Thus, the exhumation of the Beni Bousera peridotites is most probably related to a combination of Variscan, Jurassic, and Cenozoic events.

Through a new structural study together with structurally constrained P-T and age estimates, our goal is to decipher the metamorphic and deformational pattern recorded within the Beni Bousera peridotites and their crustal envelope, in order to identify the Variscan and Cenozoic contributions and to constrain the effects of the Cenozoic events on the peridotite exhumation.

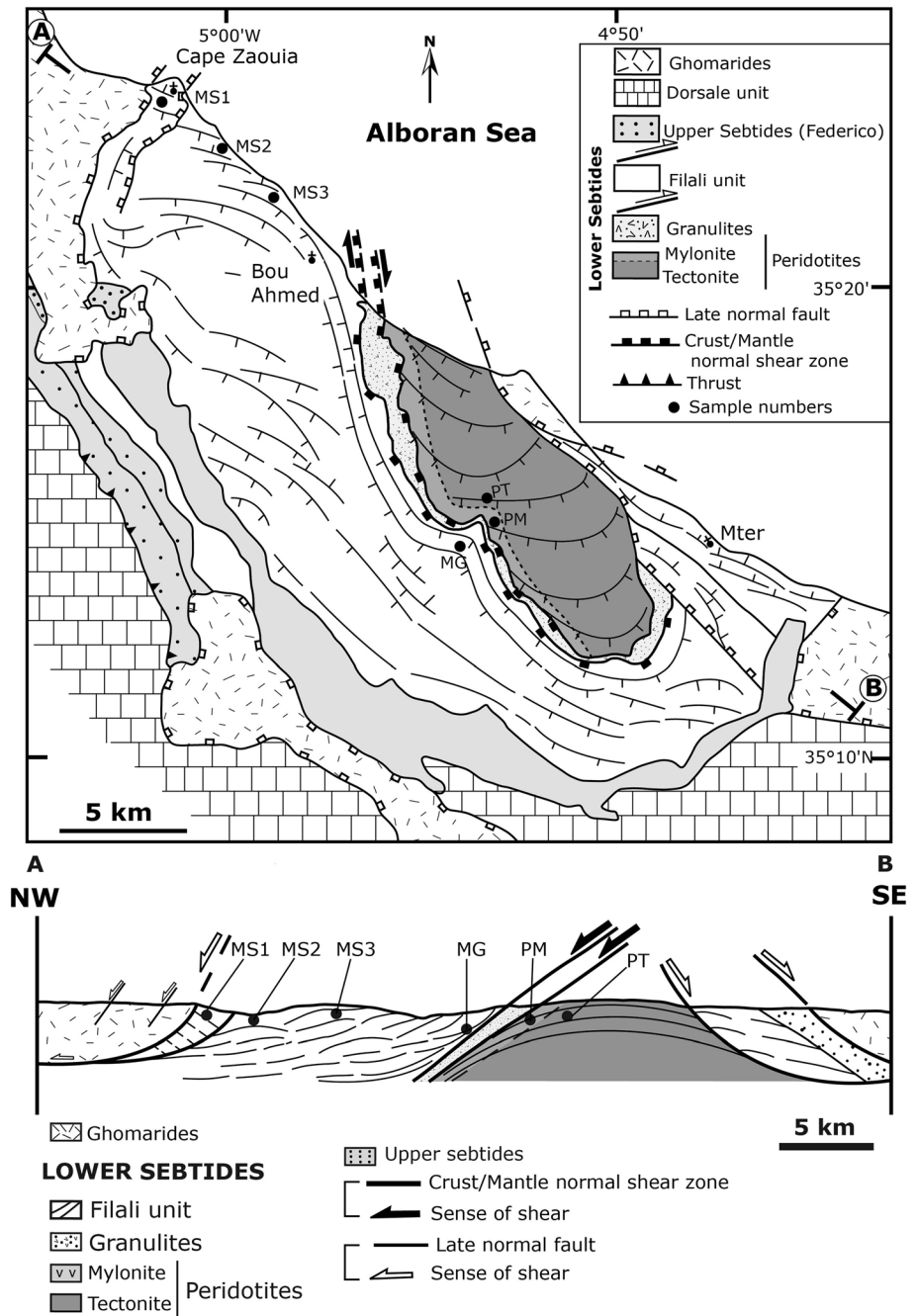


Figure 2. (A) Tectonic map of the Beni Bousera peridotites and the overlying crustal rocks (granulite and Filali units) showing the main foliation (S_2) trajectories and stretching lineations. Foliation data from *Reuber et al.* [1982] and our own data are shown as white and black symbols, respectively. (B) NW-SE cross section showing that the crust/mantle contact is interpreted as a lithosphere-scale extensional shear zone. Position of the samples (MS1, MS2, MS3, and MG) used for petrological and geochronological studies is shown in both the map and the cross section. P-T and PM samples from peridotites were used in *Afri et al.* [2011] and related P-T conditions are plotted in Figure 11.

3. Structure

The Beni Bousera peridotites and their crustal envelope are referred to as the Lower Sebides. From bottom to top, they comprise the Beni Bousera peridotite, a migmatitic granulite, and a gneiss and micaschist of the Filali unit.

The structure of the peridotite and the immediately overlying migmatitic granulite has been described in detail by *Afiri et al.* [2011] and also in *Kornprobst* [1974], *Reuber et al.* [1982], and *Saddiqi* [1995]. In summary, the core of the Beni Bousera peridotite massif is dominated by moderately deformed spinel-bearing lherzolite tectonite, whereas garnet- and/or spinel-bearing mylonitic harzburgite occurs near the border of the massif. In the mylonite, foliation strikes SE-NW with a dip of about 15–50°SW and is parallel to the foliation in the overlying granulite (Figure 2). The stretching lineation is subhorizontal with a direction around N150 in both domains. In contrast to the peridotite, kinematic criteria are common in the granulite and show a consistent top-to-the-NW sense of shearing. The granulite-peridotite (crust-mantle) contact is interpreted as a kilometer-scale ductile extensional shear zone with top-to-the-NW sense of shearing with a dextral component. This shear zone is inferred to be at the origin of the unroofing of the mantle rocks [*Afiri et al.*, 2011; *Frets et al.*, 2014]. Similar conclusions have been proposed for the deformation and exhumation of the Ronda peridotites, in Spain [*Précigout et al.*, 2007, 2013].

The Filali unit, located immediately above the granulite, contains metapelitic rocks characterized by a metamorphic grade decreasing toward the top, away from the contact with the peridotite. It comprises, from bottom to top, a migmatitic gneiss, micaschists containing sillimanite-biotite-muscovite, and andalusite-biotite-muscovite-bearing micaschists. The migmatitic layering, micas and sillimanite, and/or micas alone, respectively, define the main foliation (S2), consistent with the foliation direction in the granulite and peridotite (Figure 2). The micaschists contain numerous quartz lenses or veins, locally containing nests of pink andalusite. They form isoclinal folds with axial planes parallel to the main foliation and are boudinaged parallel to S2 in the upper part of the micaschist sequence. In the lower part, they generally cut across S2. The foliation strikes at N110 far from the contact with the granulite and becomes parallel to the crust/mantle contact with a strike of N140–170 close to the granulite. It bears a stretching and mineral lineation that plunges at low angles generally to the E-SE. Consistent top-to-the-NW shear criteria, associated with S2, are widespread in the Filali unit and include sheared quartz lenses, sample-scale shear bands, and outcrop-scale shear zones (Figure 3). The progressive rotation of the foliation trajectories toward the crust-mantle contact (Figure 2) is likely related to the top-to-the-NW dextral shearing at the scale of the entire Lower Sebtides [*Afiri et al.*, 2011]. An early foliation, S1, is preserved as inclusion trails in porphyroblasts and described in more detail below. Figure 4 shows the microstructural crystallization/deformation relations, and Figure 5 presents the mineralogical assemblages representative of both S1 and S2 foliation.

Locally semi-brittle high-angle normal faults crosscut the Filali unit and induce strong rotation in the S2 foliation (near Cape Zaouia, Targha, Figure 2). These normal faults cut also the eastern part of the Beni Bousera massif, which is at the origin of (1) the disappearance of the granulite unit at the contact with the peridotites in the eastern part of the Massif (Figure 2, SW of Mter) and (2) the direct contact of the Ghomaride unit with different units: the Upper Sebtides (North and South of Souk el Had, Figure 2), the Lower Sebtides—Filali unit (Cap Zaouia, Figure 2), and the Beni Bousera peridotites (NW of Mter along the coast, Figure 2).

Within this structural framework, the aim of the petrological and geochronological study is to constrain the P–T–t conditions for both the S1 and S2 structures.

4. Petrology

In order to decipher the tectonic history of the region and to understand the exhumation of the Beni Bousera peridotites and the juxtaposition with crustal rocks, we have studied the P–T evolution of the peridotites and the surrounding crustal rocks of the Filali unit at different distances from the contact with the peridotites. The objective is to characterize the P–T conditions for both the main regional foliation S2, as well as for the relic S1 foliation in the Filali unit. The P–T evolution of the granulites is not presented here since they have been studied in previous works [see, for example, *Bouybaouène et al.*, 1998; *Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano*, 2014].

Recently, *Afiri et al.* [2011] have constrained the P–T evolution of the peridotites (from samples PM and PT shown in Figure 2) and only a summary of these results is presented below. The crustal rocks at the contact with the peridotite are aluminous granulites (“kinzigites”) [*Kornprobst*, 1974] that display a migmatitic layering parallel to the main foliation (S2). The synkinematic assemblage contains biotite, prismatic sillimanite, and/or kyanite, K-feldspar, plagioclase, quartz, and small garnet. These rocks have not been studied in detail in the framework of this work.

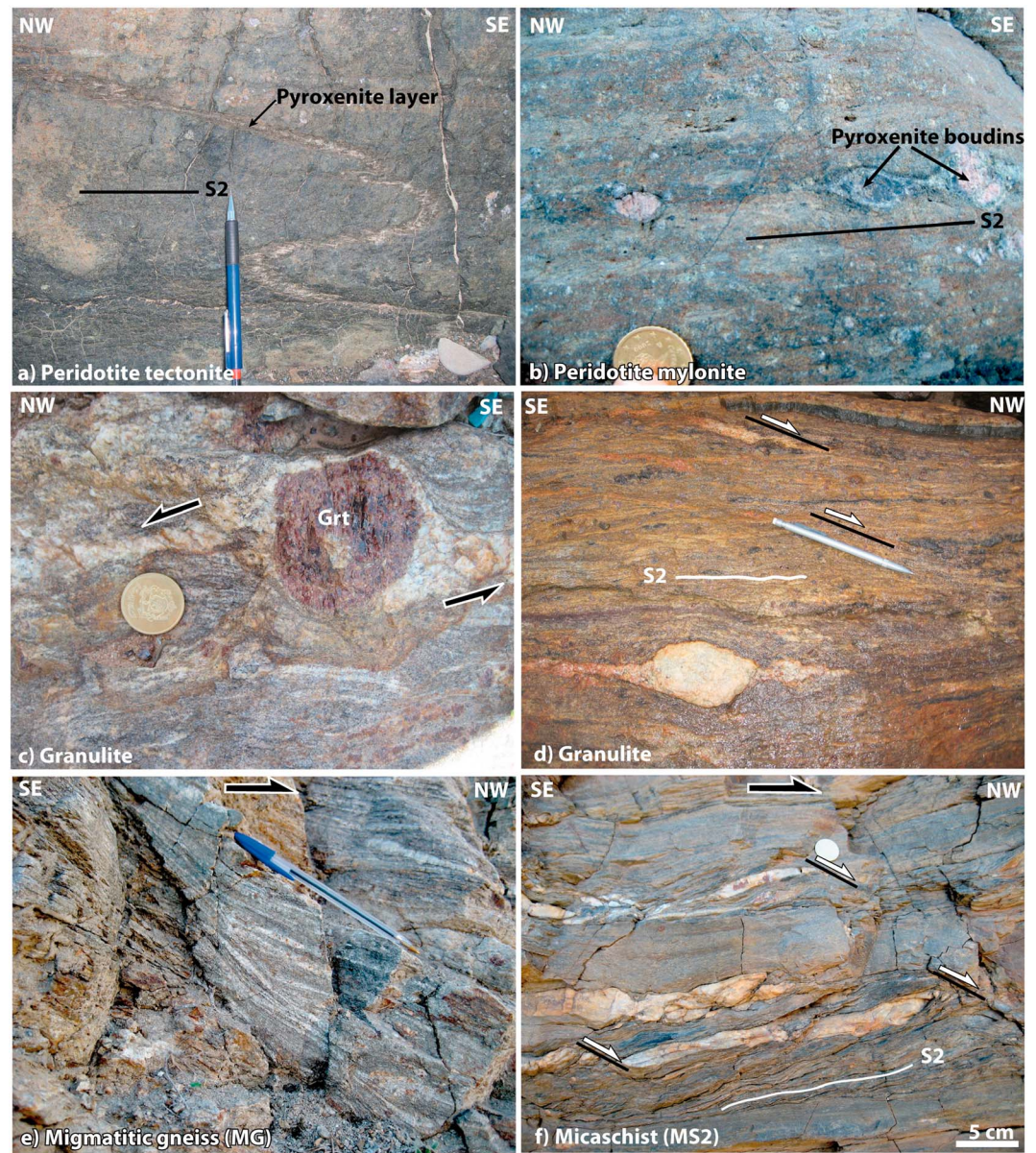


Figure 3. Outcrop photographs. (a) Folding of a layer of pyroxenite in weakly deformed peridotite (tectonite). The main foliation (S2) is parallel to the axial plane of the fold. (b) Boudins of pyroxenite layers in the main foliation (S2) of the mylonitic peridotite. (c) Asymmetric melt-filled crystallization tails around coarse garnet in granulite, indicating top to the NW shear. (d) Penetrative top to the NW shear bands within granulite, coeval with S2 development. (e) Top to the NW shear zone in migmatitic gneiss; (f) Syn-S2 top to the NW shear bands in micaschists, containing andalusite-bearing quartz lenses.

The Filali unit contains metapelitic rocks characterized by a metamorphic grade decreasing toward the top, away from the contact with the peridotite. It comprises, from bottom to top, a migmatitic gneiss, micaschists containing a sillimanite-biotite-muscovite assemblage and andalusite-biotite-muscovite-bearing micaschists (Figure 4). These minerals are contemporaneous with the development of the main foliation (S2), which wraps around crystals associated with the previous fabric S1 (Figure 4). Syn-S1 assemblages comprise, from bottom to top, kyanite-garnet-biotite, kyanite-staurolite-garnet-biotite, staurolite-garnet-biotite, and garnet-biotite (Figure 4). This also witnesses a decrease of the metamorphic grade toward the top of the sequence for this first metamorphic event.

In previous studies [e.g., *El Maz and Guiraud, 2001*], the metamorphic rocks of the Filali unit have been subdivided into metamorphic zones. Although practical, these divisions are misleading, since they

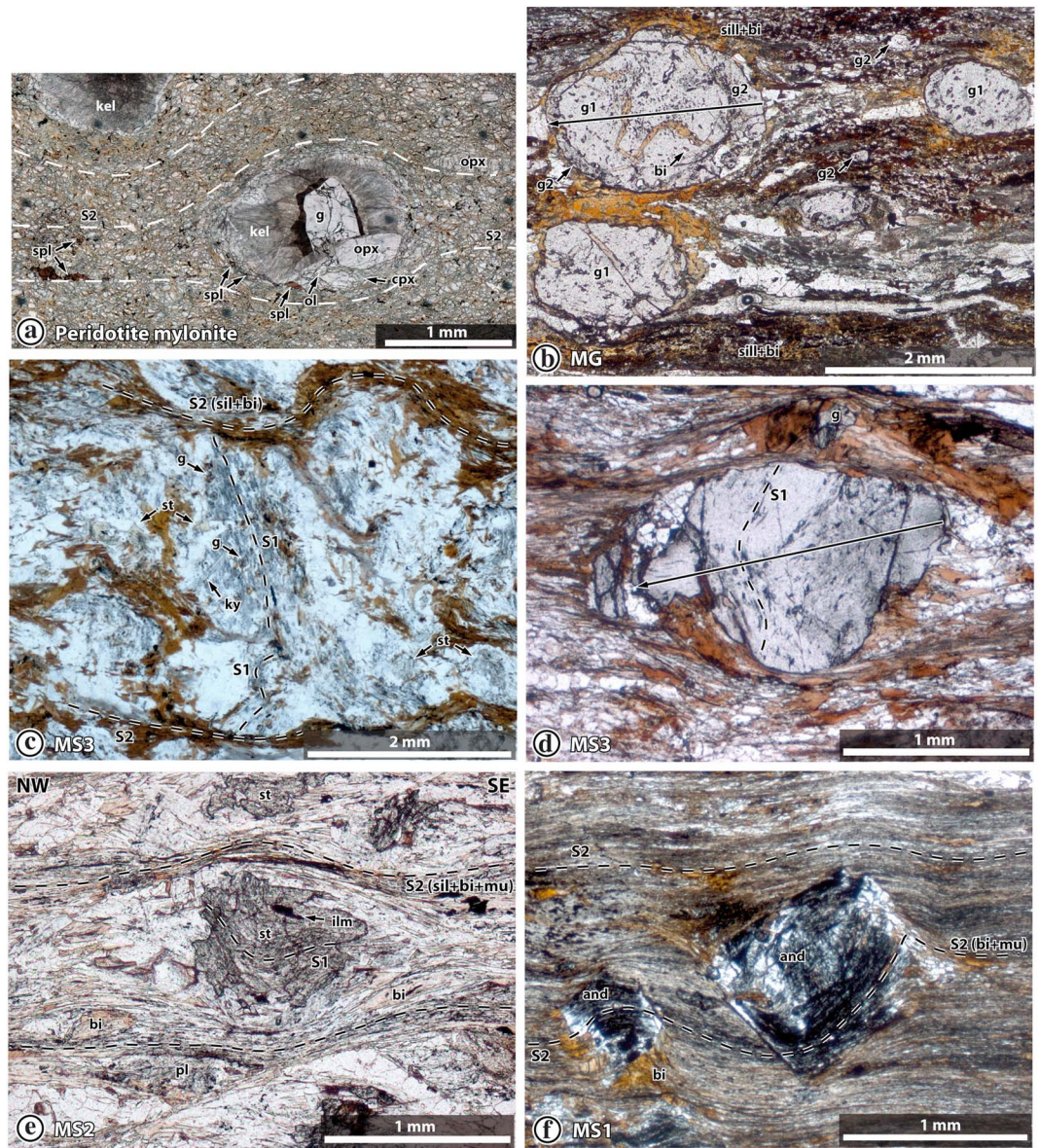


Figure 4. Crystallization/deformation relations. (a) Mylonitic peridotite: kelyphite (kel) surrounds porphyroclasts of garnet, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, and spinel, wrapped by a foliated (S2) spinel + olivine-dominated matrix. (b) Migmatitic gneiss: foliation S2 (sillimanite + biotite + garnet 2), parallel to thin leucosomes, wraps around large crystals of garnet 1, surrounded by rims of garnet 2. Long arrow indicates the location of the microprobe profile (Figure 5b). (c) Micaschist MS3: sillimanite + biotite-bearing foliation S2 wrapping around subhedral crystals of plagioclase, which coexists with staurolite, kyanite, and garnet and contains S1 inclusion trails that are at high angle to the matrix foliation S2. (d) Micaschist MS3: anhedra porphyroclast of garnet with S1 inclusion trails at high angle to the matrix foliation S2. Long arrow indicates the location of the microprobe profile (Figure 5a). (e) Micaschist MS2: anhedra staurolite containing curved inclusion trails of S1, discontinuous with the sillimanite + biotite + muscovite-bearing matrix foliation S2. (f) Micaschist MS1: syn-S2 euhedral andalusite crystals.

commonly mix S1 and S2 minerals. To avoid this, the studied rocks are here identified by acronyms with the following meaning, from the bottom to the top of the unit:

- MG - migmatitic gneiss with S2 sillimanite + K-feldspar and S1 garnet + kyanite
- MS3 - micaschists with S2 sillimanite + muscovite and S1 garnet + staurolite + kyanite
- MS2 - micaschists with S2 sillimanite + muscovite and S1 garnet + staurolite
- MS1 - micaschists with S2 andalusite and S1 garnet

Figure 5 summarizes the main mineralogical assemblages associated with S1 and S2.

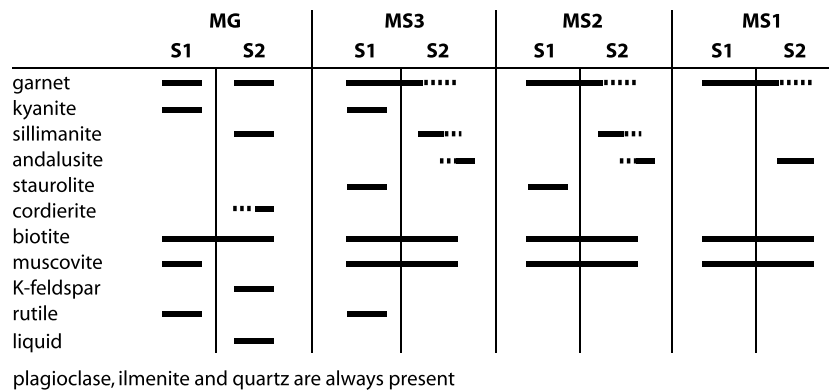


Figure 5. Main mineralogical assemblages representative of both S1 and S2 foliation in the Filali unit rocks (see Figure 4 for the crystallization/deformation relations).

Bulk rock compositions for selected samples have been analyzed by ICP-AES (Acme, Vancouver, BC V6A 1R6, Canada) and are presented in Table 1. Mineral analyses have been performed with a Cameca SX100 electron microprobe (Microsonde Ouest, Brest, France) operating in the wavelength-dispersive mode. Operating conditions for spot analyses were 15 keV accelerating voltage, 20 nA sample current, and 20 s counting time on the peak with a beam diameter of 1 μ m. Representative analyses of selected mineral phases are listed in Table 2. Mineral abbreviations follow the THERMOCALC terminology. Other symbols (mol/atomic proportions): $X_{Fe} = Fe/(Fe + Mg)$; $Ab = Na/(Ca + Na + K)$, $An = Ca/(Ca + Na + K)$, $Or = K/(Ca + Na + K)$; $Alm = Fe/(Fe + Mg + Ca + Mn)$, $Prp = Mg/(Fe + Mg + Ca + Mn)$, $Grs = Ca/(Fe + Mg + Ca + Mn)$, $Sps = Mn/(Fe + Mg + Ca + Mn)$; $Ms = K/(Na + Ca + K)$, $Pg = Na/(Na + Ca + K)$; Al^{VI} = octahedral Al in phyllosilicates = atomic Al + Si - 4; pfu—per formula unit. “→” denote core-to-rim evolution.

P-T conditions for the samples from the Filali unit were calculated using the software THERMOCALC v. 3.3 [Powell and Holland, 1985, 1988] and the internally consistent thermodynamic data set 5.5 [Holland and Powell, 1998, November 2003 upgrade]. First, P-T calculations were carried out using the multiequilibrium thermobarometric “average PT” (avPT) mode [Powell and Holland, 1988] and the compositions of minerals inferred to be in equilibrium. The activities of the mineral end-members were calculated with the program AX (Holland and Powell, 2000 in Powell and Holland [2002]; <http://www.esc.cam.ac.uk/research/research-groups/research-projects/tim-hollands-software-pages/ax>). The results are summarized in Table 3. Furthermore, P-T pseudosections have been calculated in the model system MnNCKFMASHTO. References to the activity–composition models used are: white micas [Coggon and Holland, 2002], plagioclase [Holland and Powell, 2003], ilmenite-hematite [White et al., 2000], and biotite and melt [White et al., 2007]. Mixing models for other solid solutions are based on Holland and Powell [1998] and extended to the Mn-bearing system when necessary [Le Bayon et al., 2006]. Nonideality parameters are from Holland and Powell [1998] and the THERMOCALC documentation [Powell and Holland, 2002].

4.1. Peridotites

Spinel-bearing lherzolite tectonites in the core of the massif display orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene porphyroclasts in a weakly foliated coarse-grained granoblastic matrix, containing olivine, and subordinate orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, and spinel. Harzburgite mylonites, which prevail near the border of the massif, comprise a fine-grained matrix that displays a foliation well defined by the flattening of olivine and spinel crystals (and also contains subordinate clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene). The foliation wraps around porphyroclasts of orthopyroxene, garnet, and locally clinopyroxene. Garnet forms anhedral crystals generally surrounded by a layered kelyphitic corona (Figure 4a). Using standard geothermobarometry, Afiri et al. [2011] concluded that the deformation related to the transition from tectonite to mylonite occurred during decompression from \approx 22 kbar, 1050°C to \approx 9–15 kbar, 800°C.

4.2. Filali Metapelites

4.2.1. MG—Petrography and Mineral Chemistry

The migmatitic gneiss MG forms the base of the Filali unit, immediately overlying the migmatitic aluminous granulites (not studied here), which surround the peridotite body. It displays a migmatitic layering parallel to S2.

Table 1. Bulk-Rock Compositions Used for the Calculation of the Phase Diagrams—Analyzed (Given in Weight %) and Converted to the Model System MnNCKFMASHTO (in mol %)^a

Sample Reference No.	MS1 23B	MS2 26B	MS3 34B	MG 18
	<i>wt %</i>			
SiO ₂	64.19	56.86	55.39	
Al ₂ O ₃	16.11	21.38	23.99	
Fe ₂ O ₃	6.74	7.33	8.90	
MgO	1.65	1.88	2.03	
CaO	1.63	0.75	1.41	
Na ₂ O	1.17	1.44	0.93	
K ₂ O	3.14	5.05	3.21	
TiO ₂	0.83	0.94	1.02	
P ₂ O ₅	0.12	0.16	0.22	
MnO	0.12	0.07	0.15	
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.01	0.02	0.02	
LOI	4.10	3.90	2.50	
Total	99.81	99.78	99.77	
	<i>mol %</i>			
SiO ₂	74.04	67.87	65.7	58.06
Al ₂ O ₃	10.95	15.04	16.77	19.31
FeO	5.86	6.59	7.94	9.78
MgO	2.84	3.35	3.59	3.76
CaO	1.82	0.70	1.42	0.47
Na ₂ O	1.31	1.67	1.07	0.57
K ₂ O	2.31	3.84	2.43	4.14
TiO ₂	0.72	0.84	0.91	3.54
MnO	0.12	0.07	0.15	0.10
O	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.27
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

^aThe composition of the sample MG was calculated from measured mineral modes and compositions.

Thin leucosomes (in general <1 cm thick) are dominated by plagioclase and quartz and also contain subordinate K-feldspar and locally garnet, biotite, fibrolite, and cordierite. The melanosomes comprise syn-S₂ fibrolitic sillimanite, biotite (X_{Fe} = 0.64–0.66, Al^{VI} = 0.32–0.46, and Ti = 0.21–0.26 pfu), plagioclase (Ab46–48, An53–51, and Or1) and small subhedral crystals of garnet (<1.5 mm; Alm73–77, Prp12–7, Grs7–4, Sps7–11, and X_{Fe} = 0.87–0.91) together with quartz and ilmenite. Cordierite (X_{Fe} = 0.56–0.58) commonly surrounds small clusters of fibrolite or garnet crystals. It is not clear whether it crystallized syn-S₂ or slightly later. The foliation wraps around rare large crystals of plagioclase and garnet (Figure 4b). Plagioclase contains inclusions of quartz, biotite, ilmenite, and locally kyanite and muscovite. Garnet forms anhedral, optically zoned crystals (up to 5 mm) with inclusions of biotite, plagioclase, rutile, ilmenite, apatite, and quartz. Inclusions are concentrated at the interface between the large core (approximately 80% of the diameter) of the crystals and the rim. In the core, they locally define an internal

foliation, interpreted as the trace of S₁, always at high angle and discontinuous with S₂. Rare tiny inclusions in the rim (mostly ilmenite and biotite) are generally parallel or at low angle to S₂. These garnet crystals display a chemical zoning (Figure 6). The large core displays a smooth bell-shaped rimward decrease of spessartine and X_{Fe} and an increase of grossular, followed by an increase of spessartine and X_{Fe} and a decrease of grossular (Alm 74 → 78 → 73, Prp 7 → 11, Grs 5 → 8 → 5, Sps 13 → 4 → 10, and X_{Fe} = 0.91 → 0.87 → 0.89). The rim displays a contrasting zoning with a flat inner part and zoned outermost rim (Alm77 → 78, Prp 14 → 6, Grs 8 → 4 → 6, Sps 2 → 11, and X_{Fe} = 0.85 → 0.93). This composition range is similar to that of the small garnet crystals.

In summary, it is inferred that the rock had an assemblage involving garnet, kyanite, biotite, plagioclase, muscovite, quartz, ilmenite, and rutile during the development of S₁. An assemblage containing a second generation of garnet in equilibrium with sillimanite, biotite, plagioclase, K-feldspar, quartz, ilmenite, and possibly cordierite crystallized during the development of the major regional foliation S₂. The compositional difference between the two types of garnet, as well as the contrasting character of the orientation of their inclusions, suggests that they developed in distinct tectonometamorphic settings, under different P-T conditions. The zoning of the outer parts of both the core and the rim of the large garnets (and in particular the increase of spessartine) are interpreted as the result of a diffusional reequilibration due to a partial resorption of the crystals following the development of S₁ and S₂, respectively. This suggests that the rock recorded a polycyclic evolution.

4.2.2. MG—P-T Conditions

Two P-T pseudosections have been calculated for the composition of the sample MG (BB06-18) (Table 1), reconstructed from measured mineral modes and compositions, in the model system MnNCKFMASHTO (Figures 7a and 7b). The first diagram (Figure 7a) is used to estimate the conditions of the syn-S₁

Table 3. Summary of the THERMOCALC Average P-T Calculations (Values in Bold) on Selected Samples^a

Sample End-Member	Micaschists						Migmatitic Gneiss	
	MS1		MS2		MS3		MG	
	<i>a</i>	SD(<i>a</i>)/ <i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	SD(<i>a</i>)/ <i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	SD(<i>a</i>)/ <i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	SD(<i>a</i>)/ <i>a</i>
Garnet								
py	0.00068	0.75	0.00059	0.76	0.00167	0.70	0.00052	0.76
gr	0.00063	0.75	0.00091	2.00	0.00440	2.00	0.00030	1.56
alm	0.36	0.15	0.35	0.15	0.32	0.15	0.40	0.15
sps	0.0014	0.71	0.0014	0.71	0.000079	0.82	0.0017	0.69
Staurolite								
mst			0.0008	2.00	0.0012	1.59		
fst			0.48	0.20	0.44	0.20		
Biotite								
phl	0.023	0.43	0.016	0.46	0.020	0.44	0.015	0.46
ann	0.043	0.38	0.079	0.29	0.061	0.33	0.069	0.31
east	0.026	0.42	0.025	0.43	0.03	0.41	0.02	0.42
Muscovite								
mu	0.71	0.10	0.77	0.10	0.78	0.10		
cel	0.012	0.82	0.005	2.22				
fcel			0.005	2.08				
Ilmenite								
ilm	0.86	0.05	0.92	0.05	0.92	0.05	0.91	0.05
pnt	0.042	0.28	0.033	0.30	0.016	0.63	0.024	0.42
geik	0.009	1.15	0.0130	0.77	0.0034	2.94	0.0028	3.57
Plagioclase								
an	0.51	0.07	0.36	0.12	0.54	0.06	0.72	0.05
Other	q, H ₂ O		q, H ₂ O		ky, ru, q, H ₂ O		ky, ru, q, H ₂ O	
Results		SD		SD		SD		SD
T (°C)	516	99	568	50	624	20	705	117
P (kbar)	5.4	1.4	6.1	1.4	7.4	1.0	7.9	1.2
Correlation	0.826		-0.057		0.177		0.558	
fit	0.67	(1,54)	0.81	(1,42)	0.84	(1,42)	0.95	(1,54)
N(R)	6		9		9		6	

^aIndicated uncertainties (SD) are 1σ. N(R) = number of independent reactions used. Abbreviations are those used by THERMOCALC. For 95% confidence, the value of “fit” must be lower than the number that follows in parentheses.

assemblage. It was calculated with the amount of H₂O (9.09 mol %) set so that the rock be just fluid saturated at the solidus. It suggests equilibration at approximately 8.5 kbar, 670°C, corresponding to the g-ky-bi-pl-ru stability field. This is compatible with the results of the THERMOCALC multiequilibrium thermobarometric calculations (avPT), which yield 7.9 ± 1.2 kbar, 705 ± 117°C (Table 3).

The migmatitic character of the sample suggests that partial melting occurred during the second tectonometamorphic event. The available amount of H₂O plays an important role for phase relations involving silicate liquid. In the present case, this amount was estimated from a T-M_{H₂O} pseudosection (not presented here) using the presence of the observed assemblage at the solidus as a constraint. The second diagram (Figure 7b) is a P-T pseudosection calculated with this estimated amount of H₂O (3.45 mol %). The assemblage g-sill-ksp-bi-pl-q-ilm is stable at the solidus at approximately 730°C and between 4 and 7 kbar. If cordierite is considered in equilibrium with this syn-S2 assemblage, the equilibration conditions are at the low-pressure side of this interval, at approximately 4 kbar, 730°C. At these conditions the calculated compositions of garnet and plagioclase agree with the observed ones (Figure 7b).

4.2.3. MS3—Petrography and Mineral Chemistry

Macroscopically, the micaschists are fine-grained rocks, dominated by biotite, sillimanite, feldspar, and quartz. They contain numerous lenses and veins of quartz and pink andalusite, commonly crosscutting, but locally stretched and boudinaged in the main foliation. Microscopically, the main foliation S2 in the MS3 micaschists is defined by the preferred orientation of biotite ($X_{Fe} = 0.63-0.66$, $Al^{VI} = 0.44-0.55$, and $Ti = 0.09-0.16$ pfu), commonly intergrown with fibrolitic sillimanite, muscovite (Ms94-95, Pg6-5, and Si = 3.02-3.09 pfu), plagioclase (Ab60-65, An39-34, and Or1), quartz, graphite, and ilmenite. It wraps

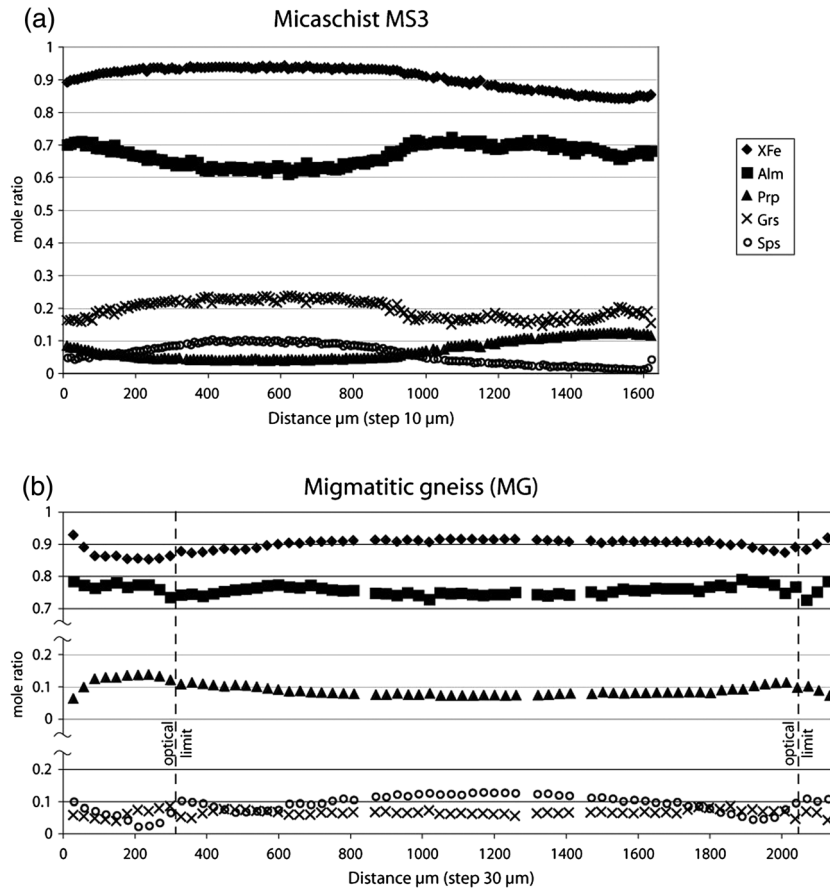


Figure 6. (a) Chemical zoning profiles of garnet from the micaschist MS3 and (b) the migmatitic gneiss (MG). Location of profiles indicated in Figure 4.

around subhedral to anhedral crystals of plagioclase (2.5–3.5 mm; Ab64–67, An29–34, and Or2–4), staurolite (2–3 mm; $X_{Fe} = 0.83–0.86$; Ti, Mn, and Zn = 0.13–0.18, 0.07–0.10, and 0–0.04 pfu, respectively) and garnet (Figures 4c and 4d). These crystals contain inclusions of quartz, ilmenite, rutile, biotite, muscovite, graphite, and locally kyanite, which define and internal foliation, locally sigmoidal, which is generally at high angles and discontinuous with S2 (Figures 4c and 4d). Garnet displays regular chemical zoning (Figure 6) characterized by a rimward decrease in spessartine, grossular, and X_{Fe} (Alm62 → 72, Prp3 → 9, Grs24 → 15, Sps10 → 1, and $X_{Fe} = 0.94 → 0.84$). A slight increase in spessartine and X_{Fe} is locally observed at the outermost rim (Sps5, $X_{Fe} = 0.86$).

Our interpretation is that the assemblage contemporaneous with the development of the main foliation S2 contained sillimanite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, ilmenite, and quartz, possibly in equilibrium with garnet rims. This assemblage overprints an earlier assemblage, which contained garnet, staurolite, kyanite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, ilmenite, rutile, and quartz. The sigmoidal character of the inclusions in garnet and staurolite suggest that the crystallization of this assemblage was contemporaneous with the development of the earlier foliation S2. Garnet zoning is interpreted as growth zoning, probably associated with the prograde part of the early metamorphic evolution. Thin outer rims reflect diffusional zoning due to limited resorption of garnet.

4.2.4. MS3—P-T Conditions

A P-T pseudosection has been calculated in the model system MnNCKFMASHTO for the analyzed bulk composition of the sample MS3 (BB06-34B) (Table 1 and Figure 8). It has been contoured with compositional isopleths for garnet, biotite, and plagioclase in order to obtain tighter constraints on the equilibration conditions and on the P-T path followed by the sample (Figure 8a). Using the contents of spessartine and grossular in the garnet core (Grs23, Sps10), it is inferred that it crystallized at

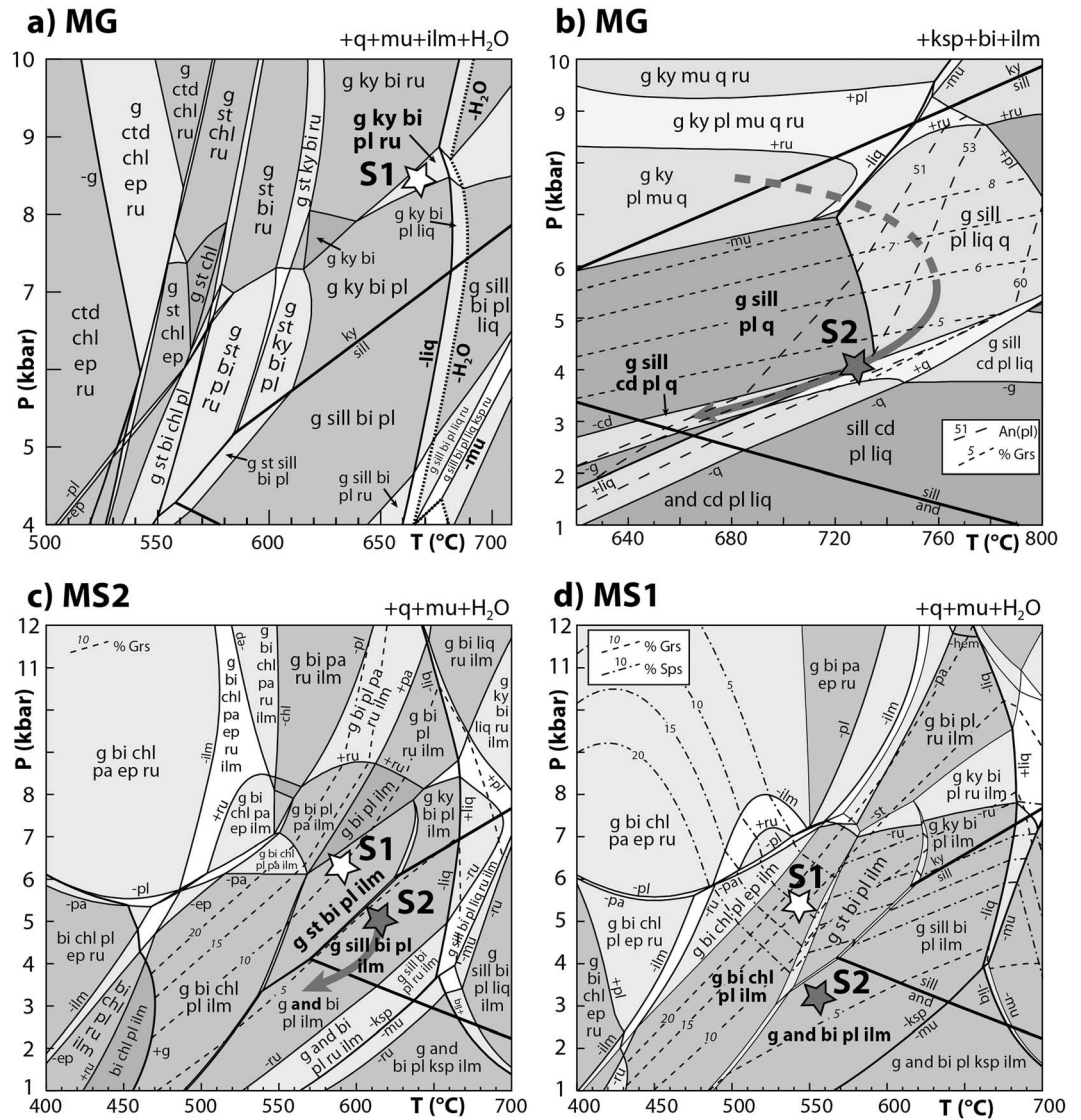


Figure 7. P-T pseudosections and selected compositional isopleths for the bulk compositions (Table 1) of samples (a and b) MG, (c) MS2, and (d) MS1. See text for details.

approximately 5.8 kbar, 520°C. The syn-S1 assemblage suggests equilibration in the field g-ky-st-bi-pl-ru-ilm (6–8 kbar, 600–620°C). The isopleths corresponding to the composition of the garnet rim (Grs15, Sps < 3) suggest that the equilibration occurred in the upper part of the field, at approximately 8 kbar, 610°C. This value is compatible with the results of the THERMOCALC multiequilibrium thermobarometric calculations (avPT), which yield 7.4 ± 1.0 kbar, $624 \pm 20^\circ\text{C}$ (Table 3).

The syn-S2 assemblage equilibrated in the stability field g-sil-bi-pl-ilm. Compositional isopleths corresponding to the composition of the matrix plagioclase and biotite suggest that this equilibration occurred at approximately 5.8 kbar, 660°C. Multiequilibrium thermobarometric calculations (avPT) with THERMOCALC yielded similar values: 5.9 ± 1.5 kbar, $670 \pm 100^\circ\text{C}$ (Table 3). The presence of andalusite-bearing veins and lenses suggests that the main foliation was at least partly active in the andalusite stability field, suggesting decompression and cooling.

4.2.5. MS2—Petrography and Mineral Chemistry

Macroscopically, the micaschists are fine-grained, dominated by biotite, muscovite, and quartz. They contain numerous lenses and veins of quartz-containing crystals of pink andalusite, stretched and boudinaged in the main foliation (Figure 3f). Locally, the veins are folded together with the main foliation by open to close folds,

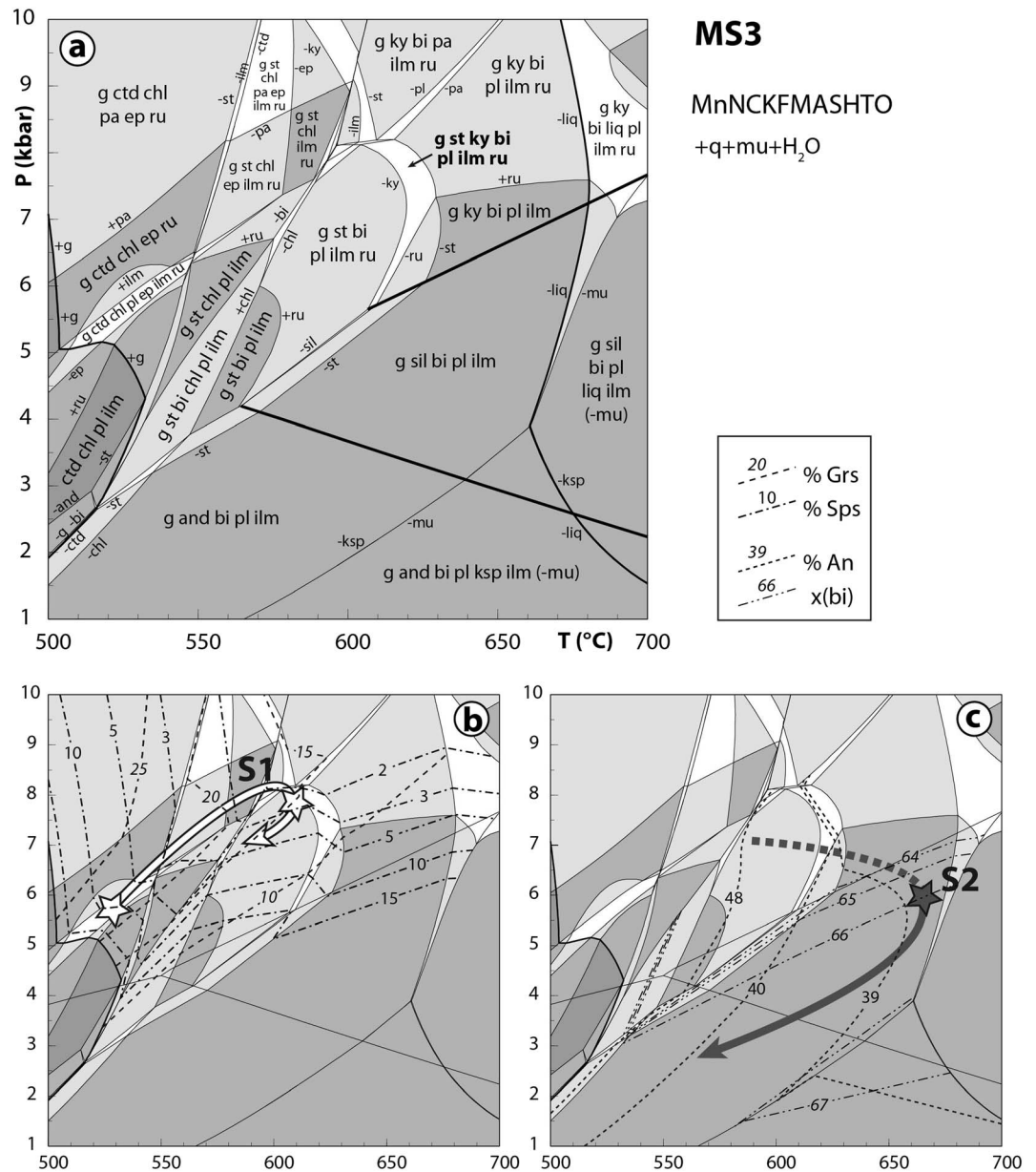


Figure 8. (a) P-T pseudosection for sample MS3. H₂O fluid is considered in excess, and quartz and muscovite are present in all fields, excepting in the high-temperature low-pressure part of the diagram (beyond the line marked “-mu”). (b) Simplified pseudosection with calculated compositional isopleths of the grossular and spessartine content of garnet used to infer the prograde syn-S1 P-T path. (c) Simplified pseudosection with calculated compositional isopleths of the anorthite proportion of plagioclase and the X_{Fe} ratio in biotite, x(bi), used to constrain the peak conditions during the development of the S2 fabric. See text for further details.

the axial plane of which is subparallel to the main foliation. The main foliation S2 is defined by the preferred orientation of biotite (X_{Fe} = 0.62–0.70, Al^{VI} = 0.39–0.52, and Ti = 0.15–0.25 pfu), muscovite (Ms92–93, Pg8–7, and Si = 3.02 pfu), plagioclase (Ab74–78, An24–21, and Or1–2), sillimanite, quartz, graphite, and ilmenite. It wraps around anhedral crystals of plagioclase (0.4–0.6 mm; Ab74–82, An24–16, Or1–2) and staurolite (0.7–1.5 mm, X_{Fe} = 0.86–0.87; Ti, Mn, and Zn = 0.1–0.15, 0.13–0.14, 0.12–0.18 pfu, respectively). These crystals contain inclusions of graphite, quartz, muscovite, biotite, ilmenite, and locally rutile. The inclusions define a curved, sigmoidal, or folded internal schistosity, commonly at high angles to and discontinuous with the main foliation S2 (Figure 4e). Staurolite is locally mantled by andalusite or

replaced by large unoriented crystals of muscovite and biotite. Rare crystals of garnet (up to 1 mm; Alm72–75, Prp6–7, Grs9–13, Sps7–12, and $X_{Fe} = 0.91–0.93$) are strongly anhedral and wrapped by the foliation. No systematic chemical zoning was observed. They contain inclusions of graphite, muscovite, biotite, plagioclase, quartz, and ilmenite. Unoriented crystals of muscovite and biotite develop at the expense of garnet rims.

It is inferred that the major foliation S2 developed in the stability domain of the assemblage sill-bi-mu-pl-ilm-q ± g. The earlier assemblage, containing staurolite, garnet, plagioclase, biotite, muscovite, and ilmenite, developed during the formation of the S1 foliation, as suggested by the sigmoidal inclusion trails. The lack of systematic chemical zoning in garnet is attributed to probable partial diffusional reequilibration of the garnet interior.

4.2.6. MS2—P-T Conditions

In the P-T pseudosection calculated for the composition of the sample MS2 (BB06-26B) (Table 1 and Figure 7c), the S1 assemblage is stable in the field g-st-bi-pl-ilm at 5–8 kbar, 550–630°C. The position of the isopleths of the amount of grossular, known to be relatively insensitive to late reequilibration, suggests equilibration in the LT-HP part of the field. Consistently, multiequilibrium thermobarometric calculations (avPT) with THERMOCALC yield 6.1 ± 1.4 kbar, $568 \pm 50^\circ\text{C}$ (Table 3) for the S1 assemblage. The matrix (S2) assemblage best fits in the stability field g-sill-bi-pl-ilm, at 4–7 kbar, 570–660°C. The syn-S2 formation of the andalusite-bearing quartz veins suggests that the main foliation developed during progressive decompression and cooling from the sillimanite to the andalusite stability field.

4.2.7. MS1—Petrography and Mineral Chemistry

Macroscopically, the very fine-grained dark micaschists MS1 are dominated by biotite, muscovite, quartz, and graphite, and contain millimetric crystals of garnet and dark (graphite-coated) millimetric prisms of andalusite. The main foliation is parallel to a layering marked by alternating mica- and quartz-rich layers several millimeters to several centimeters thick. Lenses and veins of quartz-containing crystals of pink andalusite are stretched and boudinaged in the main foliation and locally folded with the foliation by open to close folds, the axial plane of which is subparallel to the main foliation. The main foliation S2 is defined by the preferred orientation of biotite ($X_{Fe} = 0.60–0.68$, $Al^{VI} = 0.49–0.68$, and $Ti = 0.11–0.15$ pfu), muscovite (Ms91–94, Pg9–6, Si = 3.01–3.21 pfu), plagioclase (Ab60–67, An38–32, and Or0–2), quartz, graphite, and ilmenite. The foliation smoothly wraps around subeuhedral to euhedral crystals of andalusite (up to 5 mm) that contain abundant inclusions of graphite, which define a sigmoidal internal schistosity continuous with the matrix foliation S2 (Figure 4f). Anhedral crystals of chemically zoned garnet (up to 2 mm; Prp 4 → 7, Grs 17 → 8, Sps 8 → 14, and $X_{Fe} = 0.95 \rightarrow 0.91$) and plagioclase (0.5–1 mm, Ab67–75, An33–23, and Or0–2) are wrapped by S₂ and contain inclusions of graphite, muscovite, biotite, quartz, and ilmenite. The inclusions define an internal schistosity, commonly curved and generally at high angle to and discontinuous with S₂. However, graphite inclusion trails in some small plagioclase crystals are continuous with S₂.

It is interpreted that garnet and plagioclase crystallized during the development of S1, in equilibrium with biotite, ilmenite, muscovite, and quartz. The rimward increase of the spessartine content in garnet suggests diffusional reequilibration of garnet rims, due to an incomplete resorption. This assemblage is overprinted by the S2 foliation that developed in the stability field of andalusite, plagioclase, biotite, muscovite, quartz, ilmenite, and possibly garnet.

4.2.8. MS1—P-T Conditions

A P-T pseudosection has been calculated in the model system MnNCKFMASHTO for the analyzed bulk composition of the sample MS1 (BB06-23B) (Table 1 and Figure 7d) and contoured with compositional isopleths for garnet in order to obtain tighter constraints on the equilibration conditions. Nevertheless, the partial diffusional reequilibration of the garnet chemical composition implies that it should be used with caution and as a rough indication only. Using the range of the spessartine and grossular contents in garnet, it is inferred that garnet crystallized at approximately 5.5 kbar, 550°C. This value agrees with the results of the THERMOCALC multiequilibrium thermobarometric calculations (avPT), which give 5.4 ± 1.4 kbar, $516 \pm 99^\circ\text{C}$ (Table 3).

The syn-S2 assemblage is stable in the field g-and-bi-pl-ilm, which occurs around 550°C (between 490 and 630°C), and $P < 4$ kbar. The calculated mineral compositions slightly differ from the measured ones, and it was not possible to further constrain the conditions of development of S2 using the calculated isopleths.

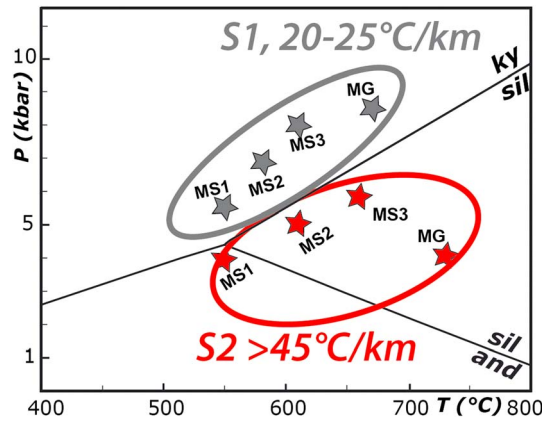


Figure 9. Differences in P-T gradient from our estimates of P-T conditions for S1 and S2 in the Filali unit.

peak temperatures decrease upward from >730°C in the migmatitic gneiss to approximately 550°C in the MS1 micaschists. However, associated metamorphic pressures, estimated at about 3–6 kbar, are similar in the entire unit, but significantly lower than those of S1. S2 is therefore associated with a higher-temperature gradient (LP-HT type). This temperature increase during S2 metamorphism is also evident from the thermal structure of the Filali unit reconstructed from Raman spectroscopic analyses of graphitic material [Negro et al., 2006].

The observation of LP-HT assemblages overprinting earlier Barrovian ones is a classic feature and is typically interpreted in terms of monocyclic clockwise P-T paths resulting from crustal thickening and subsequent exhumation (isothermal or accompanied by moderate heating or cooling). However, in the Filali unit, we have shown above textural and petrological evidence against such a simple monocyclic evolution. In what follows we present geochronological data related to S1 and S2 fabrics that constrain the ages of these two distinct metamorphic gradients.

6. Geochronology

The first issue to be addressed when dealing with the tectonic history of the region is the monocyclic versus polycyclic character of the metamorphism. This means, whether the crystallizations associated with S1 and S2 are stages of the same event or whether each of them belongs to a different orogenic/metamorphic cycle (e.g., Variscan versus Alpine). Based on the available geochronological data, the deformation associated with S2 is commonly ascribed to the Cenozoic period (circa 25–20 Ma) [Blichert-Toft et al., 1999; Platt et al., 2003a; Pearson and Nowell, 2004; Michard et al., 2006]. However, Montel et al. [2000] have shown that monazite in the foliation of the granulites crystallized in Cenozoic times, but those

4.3. S1 and S2 Metamorphic Conditions in the Filali Metapelites

In summary, the metamorphic rocks of the Filali unit, overlying the Beni Bousera peridotite body and the immediate granulite envelope, are characterized by two main superposed foliations, S1 and S2, each associated with distinct mineral assemblages (Figure 5) and therefore two distinct metamorphic gradients (Figure 9). For both fabrics, going away from the contact with the peridotite, toward the top of the Filali unit, the metamorphic grade decreases. The syn-S1 conditions decrease from 670°C, 8.5 kbar in the migmatitic gneiss to approximately 550°C, 5.5 kbar in the MS1 micaschists and define a metamorphic gradient of Barrovian type (Figure 10). For S2, syndeformational

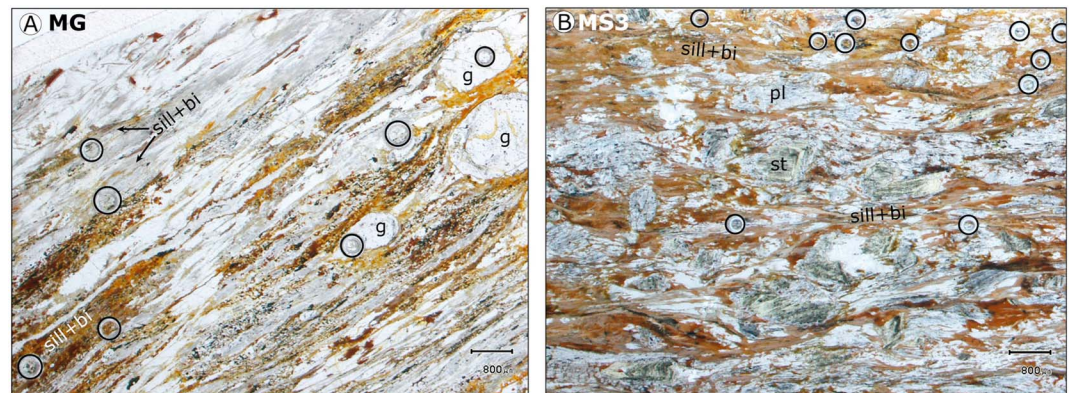


Figure 10. Location of analyzed monazite crystals in the migmatitic gneiss MG (a) and the micaschist MS3 (b).

included in garnet porphyroclasts yielded late Variscan ages. This demonstrated that the granulites experienced a polycyclic evolution.

The petrological analysis (in particular the two distinct generations of garnet) suggests that the migmatitic gneiss MG recorded also a polycyclic evolution. To test this, an attempt has been made to date monazite grains in different textural positions by in situ LA-ICP-MS dating, directly in context within thin sections, in the migmatitic gneiss and the MS3 micaschists of the Filali unit.

6.1. Geochronological Procedure

Monazite grains were imaged using a Jeol JSM 6400 scanning electron microscope at the Centre de Microscopie Electronique à Balayage et microAnalyse (CMEBA) laboratory (Rennes 1 University) in order to identify monazite grains included in garnet, which is difficult to achieve under a petrological microscope as both minerals present similar refractive indices. All of the monazite U-Th-Pb ages were obtained directly “in context” in thin sections by in situ laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) dating performed at the Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Ablation spot diameters of 7 μm with repetition rates of 1 Hz were used. Data were corrected for U-Pb and Th-Pb fractionation and for the mass bias by standard bracketing with repeated measurements of the Moacyr monazite standard [Gasquet *et al.*, 2010]. Data reduction was carried out with the GLITTER[®] software package developed by the Macquarie Research Ltd. [Jackson *et al.*, 2004]. Concordia ages and diagrams were generated using Isoplot/Ex [Ludwig, 2001] and are plotted at the 2 sigma confidence level. All errors given in Table 4 are listed at one sigma, but where data are combined for regression analysis or to calculate weighted means, the final results are provided with 95% confidence limits. Further information on the instrumentation and the analytical technique is detailed in Hurai *et al.* [2010].

6.2. Sample MG

Two types of monazite were encountered in this sample (Figure 10a). Some monazite grains were found included in garnet porphyroblasts while other grains were disseminated within the matrix minerals. Both types of grains were analyzed and resulting data are listed in Table 4. For some of the analyses, once the background (^{204}Hg and ^{204}Pb) signal was removed from the total counts on mass 204, a slight positive value for the ^{204}Pb was still present. This is very probably indicative of the presence of initial “common” Pb incorporated into the crystal matrix during crystallization. Twenty-eight spots were analyzed out of 19 different monazite grains. The first striking feature is the large difference in Th content between the two types of monazite. Monazite grains included in garnet present Th content between 1049 and 9758 ppm, while the monazite grains found in the matrix are far richer with Th content between 13420 and 45537 ppm (Table 4). This difference is confirmed when data are plotted in a Tera Wasserburg concordia diagram (Figures 11a and 11b). Monazite grains found in the matrix are all consistent and plot along a discordia yielding an intercept date of 21.3 ± 0.5 Ma (Mean Squared Weighted Deviation (MSWD)=1.8; Figure 11a) if the discordia is anchored to a common $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ value of 0.837 calculated at 21 Ma using a single-stage Stacey and Kramers [1975] value. This date is consistent with the weighted average mean $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ date of 21.95 ± 0.11 Ma (MSWD=0.31; N=21). We therefore conclude that the monazite found in the matrix crystallized at circa 21 Ma. One of the monazite grains (m2-Gt, Table 4) was included in the computation of this discordia age although it was found in a garnet porphyroblast. This monazite grain was located at the periphery of the garnet grain (corresponding to the second generation of garnet growth) and consequently might have crystallized during this Alpine event.

The remaining monazite grains are very scattered and plot in a discordant position (Figure 11b). Because of this scattering, which was probably caused by a complex Pb behavior in the grains (incorporation of common Pb and/or Pb loss), it is not possible to compute any meaningful age. It is, however, evident that the absolute age of these monazite grains is significantly older than the grains found in the matrix.

6.3. Sample MS3

In this micaschist sample, monazite grains were found only in the matrix (Figure 10b). Here again, the presence of initial common Pb was evidenced for most of the grains. Thorium contents are also very high with absolute values between 3203 and 44209 ppm. Thirteen measurements out of eleven different monazite grains were performed (Table 4). Plotted in a Tera Wasserburg concordia diagram they plot in a discordant position (Figure 11c). If we anchored the resulting discordia line to a $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ value of 0.837

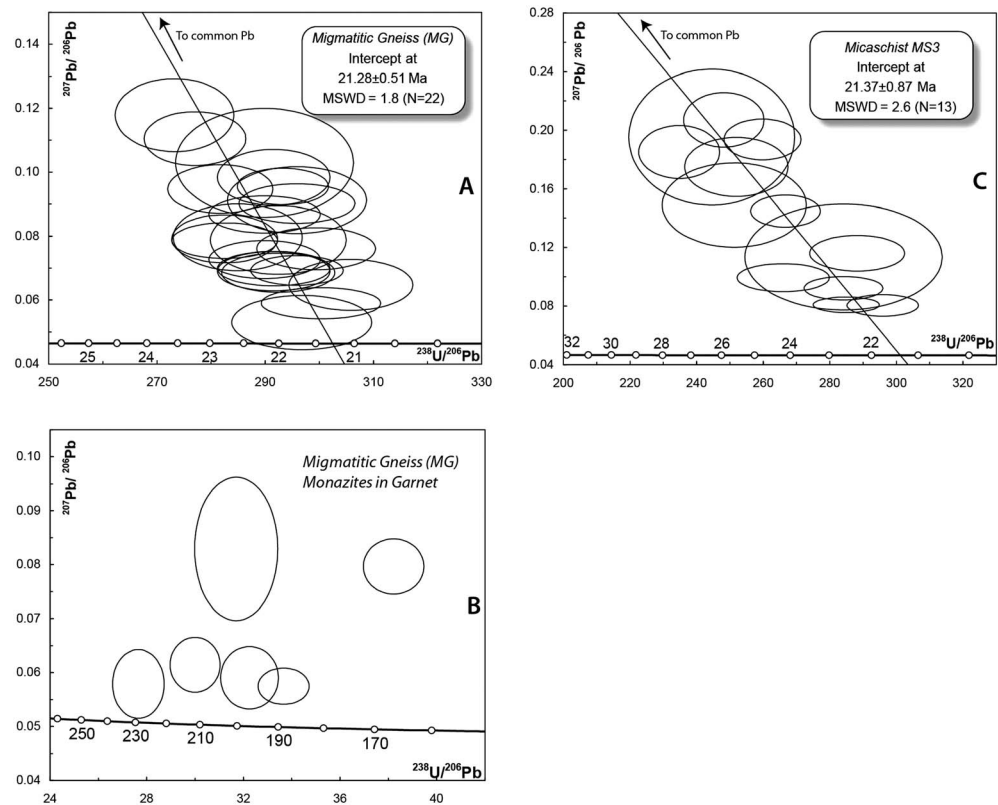


Figure 11. Geochronological data (a and c) from crystals located in the S2 foliation in MG and MS3, respectively, and (b) from monazite included in S1 garnet in MG.

corresponding to the common Pb value calculated at 21 Ma following the *Stacey and Kramers* [1975] single-stage model, the resulting intercept date is 21.4 ± 0.9 Ma (MSWD = 2.6; Figure 11c). The weighted average $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ date is not well constrained in this case with a value of 21.9 ± 1.1 Ma (MSWD = 28) because of some scattering encountered in the data set. This date of 21.4 ± 0.9 Ma is identical within error to the age found for the monazite grains located in the matrix of sample MG. Consequently, we conclude that this age of circa 21 Ma dates the formation of the main foliation S2 in the metamorphic envelope of the Beni Bousera peridotites.

7. Discussion

7.1. Interpretation of Geochronological Data

As outlined above, the geological significance of the U-Th-Pb behavior of monazite from the metapelite of the Filali unit is paramount in evaluating the various events that have affected this crustal section of the Alboran Domain. This is particularly important since there is still no clear consensus on the age of the Barrovian metamorphic event recognized in basement rocks preserved in the western Mediterranean orogen.

The analyses of metamorphic monazite from the micaschist MS3 and the migmatitic gneiss (MG) from the Filali unit testify to two distinct tectonometamorphic episodes. Metamorphic and geochronological constraints suggest that the first event, associated with S1 fabrics, is older (250–170 Ma). It is therefore likely Variscan, but the data do not allow either confirming or rejecting this hypothesis. The second event, associated with the regional foliation S2, is Alpine (at circa 21 Ma).

The older age is in good agreement with ages obtained from U-Th-Pb electron microprobe dating of monazite grains enclosed in garnet (284 ± 27 Ma) from the Beni Bousera granulites [Montel *et al.*, 2000] and confirms the earlier suggested Variscan event in the Lower Sebtides [Michard *et al.*, 1997; Bouybaouène *et al.*, 1998]. The age results presented here are also consistent with U-Pb zircon ages from Alpujarride

nappe complex in the Betic Cordillera (285 ± 5 Ma and 313 ± 7 Ma from the lower orthogneisses and the upper schist complex of the Torrox basement section, respectively; *Zeck and Whitehouse* [2002]; and 330 ± 9 and 265 ± 4 Ma from the granulites and gneisses directly overlying the Ronda peridotite; *Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano* [2014]). Taken together, these data attest to the occurrence of a major Variscan tectonometamorphic event in the Alboran Domain, as also recently discussed by *Sánchez-Navas et al.*, 2014.

The main population of monazite, from the metapelite of the Filali unit (micaschist and migmatitic gneiss), essentially composed of interstitial grains from the main regional foliation S2, produced U-Th-Pb ages clustering at circa 21 Ma. This age is compatible with the majority of the geochronological data available from the region [see *Michard et al.*, 2006, and references therein]. Lu-Hf and Sm-Nd ages bracketed between circa 25 and 20 Ma are reported from garnet pyroxenite layers of the Beni Bousera peridotites [*Blichert-Toft et al.*, 1999; *Pearson and Nowell*, 2004]. A comparable sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP) age of 22.7 ± 0.3 Ma was obtained on zircon rims from the granulite [*Platt et al.*, 2003a]. Fast cooling rate following peridotites emplacement is implied by a $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ biotite age of 22.5 ± 0.5 Ma from a granulite sample around the Beni Bousera peridotite [*Michard et al.*, 2006]. These 22–25 Ma ages are indistinguishable from those of retrograde monazite from low-T/high-P schists from Beni Mezala, 100 km north of Beni Bousera that gave ages of about 21 Ma [*Janots et al.*, 2006]. Similarly, in the Betic Cordillera, a Sm-Nd age of 21.5 ± 1.8 Ma from garnet-clinopyroxene pairs [*Zindler et al.*, 1983] and a U-Pb zircon age of 19.9 ± 1.7 Ma [*Sánchez-Rodríguez and Gebauer*, 2000] are reported from the garnet pyroxenite layers of the Ronda massif. The final emplacement of the Ronda peridotite was coeval with high T metamorphism as dated by the U-Pb method on metamorphic rims of zircon from gneisses at between 19.3 ± 0.3 and 21.2 ± 0.7 Ma [*Platt and Whitehouse*, 1999] and anatexis of surrounding rocks at around 21–20 Ma [*Rossetti et al.*, 2010].

7.2. Metamorphic Evolution of the Internal Rif

The S1 mineral assemblages yield P-T conditions increasing from 550°C, 5.5 kbar in the micaschists to 670°C, 8.5 kbar in the migmatitic gneiss. These P-T conditions indicate that the Filali unit was buried along a Barrovian metamorphic gradient of the order of 20–26°C/km, typical of a collision setting. The HP-HT conditions reported from the granulites both in Rif and in the Betic [*Bouybaouène et al.*, 1998; *Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano*, 2014] are compatible with such a gradient and reflect the deeper crustal origin of these rocks. The age of circa 250 Ma obtained from monazite inclusions in garnet suggests that this collision is probably attributable to the Variscan orogeny.

The main foliation in the Filali crustal rocks and in the peridotites (S2) developed subsequently, during late Oligocene to early Miocene lithosphere thinning. The results of P-T calculations indicate that equilibration temperatures of peak metamorphic assemblages in the main foliation S2 increase downward in the rock pile from 550°C in the micaschists to $>730^\circ\text{C}$ in the migmatitic gneiss, for pressures roughly comprised between 3 and 6 kbar. This yields a metamorphic field gradient of more than 45°C/km. The Filali unit underwent therefore a polyorogenic evolution characterized by an intermediate-to-high-pressure Variscan cycle followed by a HT-LP cycle of Alpine age.

The granulites located between the peridotite and the Filali unit have also recorded a polycyclic evolution. Remnants of an early metamorphic event, probably Variscan, are particularly well preserved in metabasic lenses locally found in the granulites [*Michard et al.*, 1997; *Bouybaouène et al.*, 1998; *Montel et al.*, 2000]. The P-T conditions of this event (S1) are estimated at 16–20 kbar, 760–820°C (Ichendirene HP-granulite) [*Bouybaouène et al.*, 1998]. The aluminous granulites representing the majority of the immediate envelope of the peridotites, are characterized by a mylonitized migmatitic layering that defines the main foliation S2. The P-T conditions of the synkinematic S2 assemblage have been estimated at 9–13 kbar, 800–850°C (Figure 12) [*El Maz and Guiraud*, 2001] and dated at circa 22 Ma [*Platt et al.*, 2003a]. This foliation wraps large garnets (remnant of S1) that contain metamorphic monazite of Variscan age (circa 284 ± 27 Ma) [*Montel et al.*, 2000]. Locally, very fine-grained postkinematic cordierite + spinel symplectites develop at the expense of the aluminum silicates and a cordierite corona locally surrounds large garnet crystals. These assemblages equilibrated probably at approximately 4–5 kbar, 650–750°C (Figure 12) [*El Maz and Guiraud*, 2001].

Afiri et al. [2011] have shown that the P-T evolution of the Beni Bousera peridotites is characterized by a decompression from approximately 22 kbar, 1050°C to approximately 9–15 kbar, 800°C, corresponding to an uplift of at least 30 km but possibly up to 55 km (Figure 12). This decompression is contemporaneous

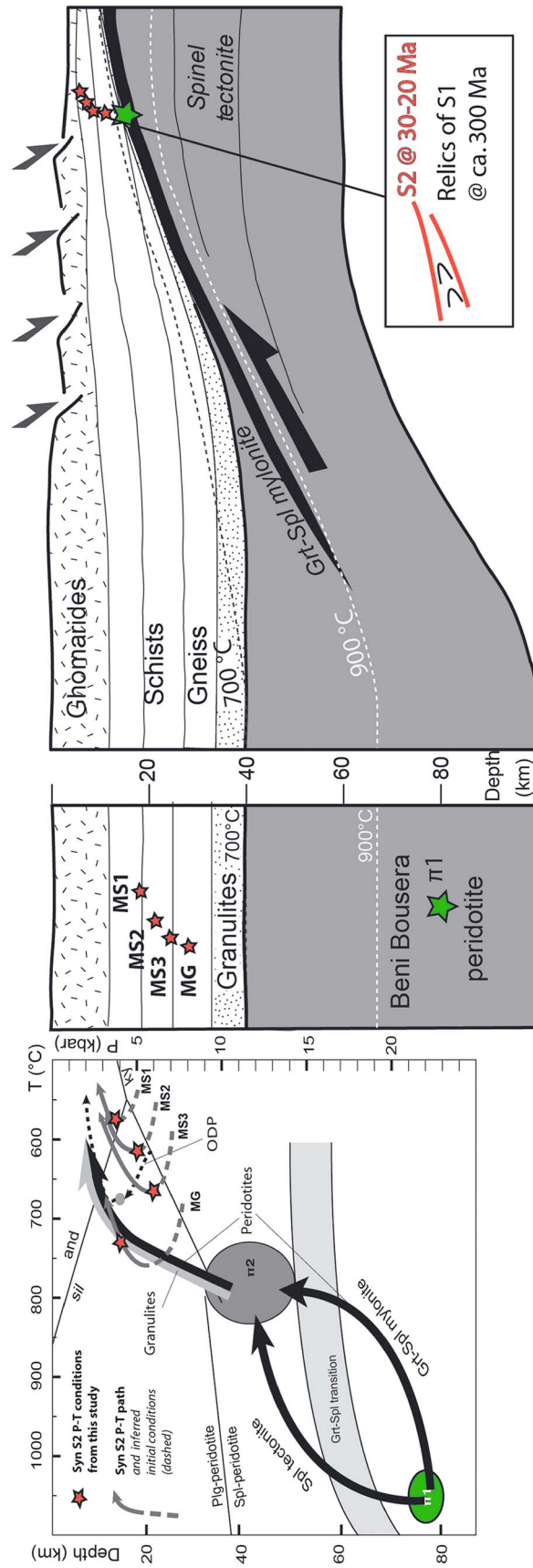


Figure 12. Synthetic Cenozoic deformation history of the Alboran domain, based on this study together with previous studies.

with the development of the main foliation S2 in the rim of the peridotite massif, and is thus here interpreted as being Oligo-Miocene in age. Lu-Hf and Sm-Nd ages between 25 and 20 Ma from garnet pyroxenite layers of the Beni Bousera peridotites support this interpretation [Blichert-Toft *et al.*, 1999; Pearson and Nowell, 2004].

The LP-HT character of the Alpine metamorphism reported here strongly contrasts with the HP-LT subduction-related gradient inferred for the Upper Sebtides (Federico unit) [Chalouan and Michard, 2004]. However, no evidence for a HP-LT metamorphism of Alpine age has been found in the Filali unit, i.e., in the Lower Sebtides. Two hypotheses can explain the absence of Alpine HP-LT metamorphism in the lower Sebtides.

1. The HT character of the Oligocene-lower Miocene metamorphism in the Lower Sebtides may have completely obliterated the former HP-LT metamorphism. This hypothesis is questionable since remnants of a HP-HT Variscan event are found in these rocks, as documented in this paper.
2. The Lower Sebtides were not subjected to Alpine subduction. This hypothesis would imply the existence of a major tectonic contact between the Lower and Upper Sebtides, not documented so far and beyond the scope of the present paper.

The Internal Rif underwent therefore a polyorogenic evolution that comprised a Variscan cycle characterized by an intermediate P/T gradient (including HP-HT granulite-facies metamorphism) followed by a LP-HT event of Alpine age. After the Variscan crustal thickening [Michard *et al.*, 1997; Bouybaouène *et al.*, 1998; Ruiz Cruz and Sanz de Galdeano, 2014], the late Variscan crust (granulite, gneiss, and micaschists) became the basement of the Mesozoic sediments deposited at the Tethyan margin [Chalouan *et al.*, 2008]. This first lithosphere thinning, Mesozoic in age, possibly triggered the Beni Bousera peridotite exhumation from the diamond stability field (>150 km) to lithosphere mantle depths (80–90 km) [Sanchez-Rodriguez and Gebauer, 2000]. The later Alpine subduction is only recorded in the Mesozoic sediments of the Upper Sebtides (Federico and Beni Mezala units). The Alpine cycle recorded in the entire Filali unit reflects instead the thinning of the continental lithosphere, characterized by decompression. Based on our P-T estimates for S2 (Figure 8), Figure 12 presents the hypothetical vertical positions of the Beni Bousera peridotites and Filali unit within the continental lithosphere before this thinning event. The peak pressure of S2 in granulite was taken here as a proxy to constrain the Moho depth at around 40 km. The calculation of a stationary geotherm based on the peridotite temperature of 1100°C at 80–90 km depth (Figure 12), results in a Moho temperature of around 700°C, at 40 km depth. Assuming such a geotherm together with our P-T estimates of S2, the Filali unit was located at depths comprised between 25 and 10 km, at a middle to deep crustal level. Oligo-Miocene lithosphere thinning led to the exhumation of deep units, controlled in part by the large shear zone that separates the crustal units from the underlying peridotites. Units that were separated by more than 70 km depth are consequently juxtaposed within this extremely thinned continental lithosphere (Figure 12). The exhumation of the hot peridotites led to heating of the overlying crustal rocks and the observed LP-HT metamorphism (Figure 12). The resulting heat transfer caused rapid cooling of the mylonitized margin of the peridotite massif and coeval heating of the crustal rocks. This interpretation is consistent with the HT thermal event recorded in all of the crustal rocks [Bouybaouène *et al.*, 1998; El Maz and Guiraud, 2001; Chalouan and Michard, 2004; Michard *et al.*, 2006; Negro *et al.*, 2006; Massonne, 2014], the related magmatism [Rossetti *et al.*, 2010], and the increase in temperature during decompression reported from the Ocean Drilling Project site within the Alboran sea (ODP in Figure 12) [Soto and Platt, 1999]. Note that part of the lower crust, between the granulite and the gneiss, is missing in the present-day lithosphere section (Figure 12), suggesting that thinning was probably concentrated in the lower crust. Numerical models have shown that this feature is necessary to allow very narrow continental rifting and hence lithosphere thinning [Gueydan *et al.*, 2008; Gueydan and Précigout, 2014].

Although our study does not constrain the geodynamic scenario, the strong Oligo-Miocene lithosphere thinning recorded in the Internal Rif seems to be related to westward slab rollback as it has been recently proposed in the western Betics [Garrido *et al.*, 2011; Précigout *et al.*, 2013], in the Rif [Afiri *et al.*, 2011], and in the whole Alboran domain [Duggen *et al.*, 2004].

8. Conclusions

Our study shows that the two foliations present in the crustal envelope of the Beni Bousera peridotite bear different mineral assemblages characteristic of different geothermal gradients and hence different tectonic settings; they also formed at different times.

The main regional foliation S2 is coherent in all the lithologies from the peridotite to the uppermost micaschists. In the crustal rocks it is associated with mineral assemblages yielding LP-HT conditions (500°C to >730°C, 3–6 kbar) achieved at circa 21 Ma. Such conditions are compatible with lithospheric stretching/thinning, responsible for and contemporaneous with the exhumation of the hot peridotites that acted as the main heat source.

A former foliation, S1, can be locally found as strongly stretched isoclinal folds embedded in S2 and typically forms inclusion trails in porphyroblasts anterior to and wrapped by S2. S1 is associated with MT-MP mineral assemblages and a gradient of Barrovian type (550°C, 5.5 kbar to 670°C, 8.5 kbar), characteristic of continental collision. Dating of S1 monazite yielded significantly older apparent ages (≈250–170 Ma).

Consequently, the Internal Rif rocks underwent a polyorogenic evolution characterized by a Barrovian Variscan cycle, most probably related to crustal thickening, followed by an Alpine HT-LP cycle during Oligo-Miocene times, related to extreme thinning of the continental lithosphere, that lead ultimately to the exhumation of subcontinental mantle rocks.

Acknowledgments

Very constructive comments made by two anonymous reviewers, the Associate Editor, and the Editor helped improving the manuscript. The data for this paper are available by contacting the corresponding author at frederic.gueydan@um2.fr.

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