

Two-stage Variscan metamorphism in the Canigou massif: evidence for crustal thickening in the Pyrenees

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Luc de Hoÿm de Marien, Benjamin Le Bayon, Pavel Pitra, Jean van den Driessche, Marc Poujol, et al.. Two-stage Variscan metamorphism in the Canigou massif: evidence for crustal thickening in the Pyrenees. Journal of Metamorphic Geology, 2019, 37 (6), pp.863-888. 10.1111/jmg.12487. insu-02106928

HAL Id: insu-02106928 https://insu.hal.science/insu-02106928v1

Submitted on 23 Apr 2019

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Running title: Variscan two-stage metamorphism, Pyrenees

Abstract

The Variscan metamorphism in the Pyrenees is dominantly of the low-pressure—high-temperature (LP—HT) type. The relics of an earlier, Barrovian-type, metamorphism that could be related to orogenic crustal thickening are unclear and insufficiently constrained. A microstructural and petrological study of micaschists underlying an Ordovician augen orthogneiss in the core of the Canigou massif (Eastern Pyrenees, France) reveal the presence of two syntectonic metamorphic stages characterized by the crystallization of staurolite (M1) and andalusite (M2), respectively. Garnet is stable during the two metamorphic stages with a period of resorption between M1 and

This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the Version of Record. Please cite this article as doi: 10.1111/jmg.12487

M2. The metamorphic assemblages M1 and M2 record similar peak temperatures of 580 °C at different pressure conditions of 5.5 kbar and 3 kbar, respectively. Using chemical zoning of garnet and calculated *P*–*T* pseudosections, a prograde *P*–*T* path is constrained with a peak pressure at ~6.5 kbar and 550 °C. This *P*–*T* path, syntectonic with respect to the first foliation S1, corresponds to a cold gradient (of ~9 °C/km), suggestive of crustal thickening. Resorption of garnet between M1 and M2 can be interpreted either in terms of a simple clockwise *P*–*T* path or a polymetamorphic two stage evolution. We argue in favour of the latter, where the medium-pressure (Barrovian) metamorphism is followed by a period of significant erosion and crustal thinning leading to decompression and cooling. Subsequent advection of heat, probably from the mantle, lead to a new increase in temperature, coeval with the development of the main regional fabric S2.

LA-ICP-MS U-Th-Pb dating of monazite yields a well-defined date at *c*. 300 Ma. Petrological evidence indicates that monazite crystallization took place close to the M1 peak-pressure conditions. However, the similarity between this age and that of the extensive magmatic event well documented in the eastern Pyrenees suggests that it probably corresponds to the age of monazite recrystallization during the M2 LP–HT event.

Key words: Variscan Pyrenees, Barrovian metamorphism, pseudosections, polyphase P-T path, crustal thickening

Late low-pressure–high-temperature (LP–HT) metamorphism occurs in most orogens resulting from continental convergence, such as the European Variscan belt. This metamorphism is generally preceded by a higher-pressure metamorphic evolution, commonly of the Barrovian type, typically associated with crustal thickening responsible for a higher heat production (e.g. England & Thompson, 1984). The subsequent horizontal ductile flow of the thermally relaxed thickened crust induces thinning and triggers the onset of exhumation processes and the associated LP–HT metamorphism.

The Variscan basement of the so-called Axial Zone of the Pyrenees (Figure 1a), is characterized by such a late pervasive LP–HT metamorphism. This metamorphism develops in gneissic to migmatitic dome-shaped structures that refold an initial flat-lying foliation, whereas a steeply dipping cleavage affects the overlying low-grade metamorphic rocks (De Sitter & Zwart, 1960; Zwart, 1979). This vertical metamorphic and structural zonation led to contrasting interpretations ranging from transpressional to transtensional tectonics, including deformation partitioning between the lower and the upper crust (see Carreras & Capella, 1994; Cochelin, Chardon, Denèle, Gumiaux, & Le Bayon, 2017). Whatever their differences, most of these tectonic models imply an early crustal thickening. Previous petrological studies have documented or invoked an early medium-pressure (MP) metamorphism interpreted as the record of this crustal thickening (Aguilar et al., 2015; Mezger, Passchier, & Régnier, 2004; Vilà, Pin, Liesa, & Enrique, 2007). However, a syntectonic prograde up-pressure *P*–*T* path that typifies crustal thickening has not yet been documented.

In the Canigou massif (Figure 1b), a previous petrological study of garnet-stauroliteandalusite bearing micaschists has interpreted garnet prograde growth zoning and andalusite crystallization after staurolite as the results of a prograde LP–HT metamorphism (Gibson, 1992). The

subsequent discovery of kyanite associated with garnet and staurolite suggested that these porphyroblasts belonged to an earlier, higher-pressure, event (Azambre & Guitard, 2001).

In order to document the early metamorphic and structural events that affected the Variscan basement in the Pyrenees, we reinvestigate the garnet-staurolite-andalusite bearing micaschists from the Canigou using a microstructural and pseudosection-based petrological approach. Our results reveal unequivocal evidence of crustal thickening and allow to discuss the subsequent exhumation and thermal evolution of these previously buried rocks.

2 GEOLOGICAL SETTING

2.1 The Variscan Pyrenees: metamorphic and chronological framework

Modern petrological studies on the Axial Zone of the Pyrenees (see Figure S1 for the localisation of the massifs mentioned hereafter) are relatively rare and infer contrasting peak *P*–*T* conditions and *P*–*T* paths (Figure 2; Table S1). They agree on the dominance of a LP–HT metamorphism (*P* < ~4.5 kbar, *T* > ~550 °C) that would be achieved, however, through heating and decompression (Bossòst massif, Mezger & Passchier, 2003; Albères, Vilà et al., 2007), isobaric heating or heating at increasing pressure (Aston-Hospitalet, Mezger & Régnier, 2016), or cooling and decompression (Bossòst, Mezger et al., 2004; Roc de France, Aguilar et al., 2015). Importantly, although medium-pressure (MP) conditions (*P* > ~5 kbar) are locally inferred (Aguilar et al., 2015; Mezger et al., 2004), no study documents the prograde *P*–*T* path leading to the MP pressure peak.

The timing of the metamorphic events is also a matter of debate. On the one hand, U-Pb dating on zircon and U-Th-Pb on monazite in granitic rocks and a paragneiss in the Bossòst and Aston-Hospitalet massifs yielded dates around ~340-320 Ma, interpreted as the age of the LP–HT event (Mezger & Gerdes, 2016). On the other hand, in many other studies, the widespread calcalkaline magmatism emplaced between 310-290 Ma is considered coeval with the LP–HT

metamorphism (e.g. Denèle et al., 2014 and references therein; Druguet, Castro, Chichorro, Pereira, & Fernández, 2014). Separate metamorphic events or a single event diachronic across the Axial Zone have been proposed to account for these age populations (Mezger & Régnier, 2016). Other authors argued in favour of an inherited component for the *c.* 340 Ma ages (see discussion in Denèle et al., 2014; Lopez-Sanchez, García-Sansegundo, & Martínez, 2018).

Partial melting in the Roc de France massif is poorly constrained by U-Pb ages on zircon from leucosomes at 320 ± 13 and 313 ± 13 Ma (Aguilar, Liesa, Castiñeiras, & Navidad, 2014). The subsequent exhumation of the migmatites occurred during a later thermal event constrained at 314-307 Ma (Aguilar et al., 2014, 2015). In addition, in the Lys-Caillaouas massif, zircon grains from mafic and granitic magmatic rocks display cores and rims with metamorphic and magmatic affinities, respectively. The cores yield a date of *c*. 307 Ma, interpreted as the age of the thermal peak of the LP–HT metamorphism, while the magmatic overgrowths dated at *c*. 300 Ma are interpreted as the age of the emplacement of the Lys-Caillaouas pluton (Esteban et al., 2015). To sum up, most authors agree that the dominant LP–HT metamorphism was contemporaneous with a widespread magmatic event that occurred 310-290 Ma ago.

2.2 The Canigou Massif

The Canigou is a gneissic dome-shaped massif of the Axial Zone located in the eastern Pyrenees (Figure 1a). It comprises orthogneiss, micaschists and undeformed granitoids. The massif is bounded to the north and to the south by roughly E-W trending shear zones (Guitard, Laumonier, Autran, Bandet, & Berger, 1998; Laumonier, Le Bayon, & Calvet, 2015). The Northern Canigou mylonitic zone, as well as the southern border of the orthogneiss were reactivated by south-vergent thrusting during the Alpine orogeny (Auriol & Casteras, 1958; Fontboté & Guitard, 1958). Finally, the Northern Canigou mylonitic zone was reactivated during the Oligocene opening of the Gulf of Lion (Maurel et al., 2008). Several Neogene NNE-SSW to E-W normal faults cut across the massif.

The studied micaschists mostly outcrop in the central part of the dome, in the footwall of the orthogneisses, in the so-called "Balatg window" (Figure 1c). The main foliation, in both the micaschists and the orthogneisses, is parallel to the lithological contacts and outlines the dome shape of the massif (Figure 1b,c). The orthogneisses were derived from an Ordovician rapakivi granite (protolith ages at *c*. 475 Ma, Deloule, Alexandrov, Cheilletz, Laumonier, & Barbey, 2002) that intruded Precambrian to Ordovician pelitic rocks (Barbey, Cheilletz, & Laumonier, 2001; Padel et al., 2017). A weakly deformed monzogranite dyke, parallel to the main foliation, from the northern flank of the dome, has been dated at *c*. 305 Ma (Denèle et al., 2014). The undeformed Costabonne granite (Figure 1b) cuts across the main foliation. Its age is poorly constrained by U-Pb on zircon with two clusters at *c*. 302 Ma (N=2) and *c*. 285 Ma (N=8) (Laumonier et al., 2015).

LP-HT regional metamorphic zoning is defined in the micaschists by the progressive appearance of chlorite, biotite, andalusite ± cordierite, and sillimanite from the outer to the inner parts of the massif (Guitard, 1970). Increasing temperature during the LP-HT event is revealed by the growth of prismatic sillimanite after andalusite (Gibson, 1992). The peak *P*-*T* conditions, constrained using conventional thermobarometry, reached 4.5 kbar and ~725 °C (Gibson & Bickle, 1994). Andalusite and cordierite locally contain inclusions of resorbed staurolite (Guitard, 1970). Staurolite porphyroblasts contain straight inclusion trails of ilmenite disposed at high angle relative to the external foliation (Gibson, 1991, 1992). Staurolite is associated with kyanite (Azambre & Guitard, 2001) and helicitic or static garnet with prograde growth zoning (Gibson, 1992). The development of the main regional foliation is coeval with the crystallization of andalusite and cordierite. Their growth at the expense of staurolite was initially interpreted as the result of downpressure, up-temperature prograde metamorphism in an overall low-pressure setting (Gibson, 1992).

STRUCTURAL DATA

The dome shape of the Canigou massif results from the refolding of the main regional foliation, S2. The strike of the foliation parallels the map outline of the massif and the dip increases from the core to the rim of the dome (Figure 1b). In the orthogneiss, this foliation is marked by the flattening of quartz and feldspars and by the preferential orientation of micas. Isoclinal folds, rarely observed in the orthogneiss (Figure 3d), indicate that the main planar fabric corresponds to a composite S1/S2 foliation.

The schistosity in the micaschists is parallel to the foliation in the orthogneiss. The micaschists display a compositional layering (S0), marked by alternating mica-rich and quartz-feldspar-rich layers, and interpreted as inherited from an original sedimentary structure. A first schistosity, S1, parallel to this layering, is defined by preferential orientation of micas. Both structures are folded (Figure 3a-c) mostly by isoclinal rootless folds. The main regional schistosity S2 is parallel to the axial plane of these folds and generally transposes S1. Consequently, the D1 structures are erased by D2 in most of the Canigou massif.

A lineation is oriented NE-SW and marked by the stretching of feldspar and quartz lenses in the orthogneiss. In the micaschists, it corresponds to the intersection between S2 and S1 and is parallel to the fold axes.

PETROGRAPHY AND MINERAL CHEMISTRY

Mineral analyses have been performed with a Cameca SX100 electron microprobe (Microsonde Ouest, IFREMER, Brest-Plouzané, France). Representative analyses of selected minerals are listed in Table 1. Mineral abbreviations are: all: allanite, and: andalusite, bi: biotite, camp: clinoamphibole, cd: cordierite, ep: epidote, g: garnet, ilm: ilmenite, ksp: potassium feldspar, ky: kyanite, ma: margarite, mt: magnetite, mu: muscovite, pa: paragonite, pl: plagioclase, q: quartz, ru: rutile, sill:

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 Table 1. Mineral

 cd: cordierite, e

sillimanite, sp: spinel, st: staurolite, wm: white mica. Mineral endmembers (expressed in mole %) and compositional variables are: $X_{Fe} = Fe/(Fe+Mg)$, $X_K = K/(Ca+Na+K)$, $X_{Na} = Na/(Ca+Na+K)$; epidote, $Ep = Fe^{3+}/(Fe^{3+}+Al-2)$; almandine, Alm = Fe/(Fe+Mg+Ca+Mn), pyrope, Prp = Mg/(Fe+Mg+Ca+Mn), grossular, Grs = Ca/(Fe+Mg+Ca+Mn), spessartine, Sps = Mn/(Fe+Mg+Ca+Mn), ilmenite, Ilm = Fe/(Fe+Mg+Mn); anorthite, An = Ca/(Ca+Na+K); pfu: per formula unit.

Three micaschist samples (LH1B, LH3, LH16) and one sample of a garnet-grunerite-bearing gneiss (LH9) come from a small area (~500m²; star 1 in Figure 1b) of the "Balatg window", underlying the orthogneiss. The micaschist samples LH1B, LH3 and LH16 display similar petrographic and microstructural features. Alternating quartz ± plagioclase- and mica-rich layers are parallel to the preferred orientation of muscovite and biotite and define the first schistosity, S1. This schistosity is folded by tight to isoclinal mostly rootless folds. The main regional schistosity S2 developed in the axial plane of the folds (Figure 4a) and is marked by the preferred orientation of muscovite and biotite and wraps around porphyroblasts of andalusite and garnet (LH16). Garnet is rare and generally forms small crystals (max. 1 mm), with the exception of sample LH16, where both small and large (up to 7 mm) crystals are present. Biotite ($X_{\rm Fe}$ = 0.57-0.61, Ti = 0.07-0.17 pfu) and muscovite (X_{Na} = 0.10-0.13, Si = 3.00-3.09 pfu) have the same composition regardless of the textural position. Matrix plagioclase contains 27-33% anorthite. Accessory minerals include ilmenite (IIm90-92), apatite, tourmaline, monazite, pyrite (LH1B), zincian spinel (LH3; 64-69% gahnite, 24-29% hercynite), and chlorite (X_{Fe} = 0.55-0.59) locally replacing biotite. Anhedral porphyroblasts of andalusite (up to 10 mm) are preferentially localized in mica-rich layers. When these layers are folded, andalusite is occasionally S-shaped, but displays only a weak or no undulose extinction. The folded S1 is also preserved in andalusite as curved inclusions of biotite and ilmenite (Figure 4b). S2 wraps around, but is also preserved in andalusite as inclusions of biotite, the size of which increases from core to rim $(0.25 \rightarrow 0.75 \text{ mm})$; Figure 4c). And a lusite includes an hedral staurolite (up to 2 mm; $X_{\text{Fe}} = 0.85-0.89$) and garnet (up to 0.5 mm; Figure 4b). Staurolite may contain oriented ilmenite inclusions that define an internal fabric (S1) at high angle to the external S2 (Figure 4d).

In sample LH16, garnet forms large (up to 7 mm) subhedral porphyroblasts commonly surrounded by biotite (Figure 4e), and small crystals (0.2 mm) included in staurolite. Large garnet contains numerous unidentified micrometric inclusions and larger inclusions (~0.1 mm) of muscovite $(X_{Na} = 0.06-0.18)$, quartz, plagioclase (An20-25) and epidote (Ep35-67) that define a sigmoidal internal foliation (S1) oriented at high angle to the matrix S2 (Figure 4e). Some epidote crystals contain LREE and have the composition of allanite (Ca = 1.51-1.94 pfu). Biotite is absent from the garnet core and appears in its rim. Garnet is chemically zoned (Figure 5a). A large core (~5 mm) is characterized by a relatively homogeneous grossular content (Grs19-23) and X_{Fe} (0.92-0.94) and a rimward decreasing content of spessartine (Sps14 \rightarrow 11). A rim (<1 mm) displays a strong decrease in grossular (Grs19-23 \rightarrow 10), and further decrease in spessartine (Sps11 \rightarrow 8, the lowermost values were collected manually off the automatic profile presented) and $X_{\rm Fe}$ (0.92 \rightarrow 0.90). The outermost rim (~100 μ m) displays a sharp increase of spessartine (Sps8 \rightarrow 17), accompanied by a continuing decrease of $X_{\rm Fe}$ (0.90 \rightarrow 0.87) and grossular (Grs10 \rightarrow 7). Small garnets, chemically similar to the rim of the large crystals ($X_{Fe} = 0.89$; Grs11-12; Sps8), are systematically separated from the staurolite host by a corona of andalusite, which is in optical continuity with andalusite surrounding the staurolite relic. Unlike allanite, only present as inclusions in garnet, monazite is absent from garnet and exclusively present in the rock matrix, or as inclusions in staurolite and andalusite.

In samples LH1B and LH3, garnet forms small (max. 1 mm) crystals in the matrix. They are optically zoned with an anhedral embayed greyish "cloudy" core (g1) and a clear euhedral to anhedral rim (g2; Figures 4f and 5b). Chemical zoning is subtle but systematic. Cores display a weak increase of spessartine and X_{Fe} towards the core-rim interface ($X_{Fe} = 0.89 \rightarrow 0.91$, Sps21 \rightarrow 22, Grs7-6). Rims are poorer in grossular and also display an increase of spessartine and X_{Fe} towards the outer rim ($X_{Fe} = 0.90 \rightarrow 0.93$, Sps21 \rightarrow 24, Grs4; Figure 5b). Outermost rims locally contain up to 32% spessartine (LH3).

The garnet-grunerite-bearing gneiss sample LH9 displays an irregular poorly developed schistosity marked by the alignment of biotite (up to 0.5 mm; $X_{re} = 0.57-0.63$, Ti = 0.07-0.09 pfu). It wraps around abundant large (up to 5 mm) anhedral crystals of garnet, and smaller crystals of polysynthetically twinned grunerite (up to 1 mm; $X_{re} = 0.59-0.61$, Ca+Na(B) = 0.1-0.3 pfu, Si = 7.9 pfu; Figure 4g). The sample matrix contains abundant quartz, epidote (Ep03-09), ilmenite, apatite, and minor muscovite ($X_{Na} = 0.01-0.06$; Si = 3.04-3.09 pfu) and chlorite. Garnet is anhedral, poikilitic and contains sigmoidal inclusions of epidote (Ep30-46), quartz, apatite, ilmenite, and minor muscovite ($X_{Na} = 0.02-0.03$; Si = 3.05-3.09 pfu), plagioclase (An01-05) and biotite (Figure 4h). Epidote is concentrated in garnet core and the mode strongly decreases towards the rim. Chemical zoning of garnet is marked by a rimward decrease of X_{re} (0.96 \rightarrow 0.89), spessartine (Sps9 \rightarrow 1) and grossular (Grs24 \rightarrow 17). The outermost rim is locally marked by a slight increase in spessartine (Sps5). Both garnet and grunerite are coated by coarse and poorly oriented crystals of biotite (up to 0.5 mm; Figure 4g,h) and minor chlorite.

These observations can be interpreted in terms of two syntectonic metamorphic events. In the micaschists, the early development of S1 was associated with the crystallization of the large garnet crystals with sigmoidal inclusions. The main characteristic of the garnet is a continuous rimward decrease of X_{re} , Sps and Grs, typical of prograde growth zoning. The increase of spessartine in the outermost rim is interpretable in terms of partial resorption of garnet. However, it is associated with a decrease of X_{re} , suggesting that resorption occurred along a prograde (heating) *P*– *T* path. This prograde growth started in the stability field of epidote, exclusively preserved as inclusions in large garnet, continued during the appearance of biotite included in the garnet rim, and peaked in the stability field of staurolite (stage M1). The "cloudy" cores of the small garnets (g1) are inferred to also belong to this metamorphic stage. Their anhedral shape and the slight increase of spessartine towards the interface with garnet 2 (i.e. the g1-g2 interface; Figure 5b) is interpreted in terms of partial resorption of garnet 1 prior to a renewed growth of garnet (g2). The increase of spessartine in the outermost rim of garnet 2 is attributable to a final stage of partial resorption. The

second metamorphic stage M2 is associated with the development of the main schistosity S2, marked by the crystallization of andalusite as well as the second generation of garnet (g2). Muscovite, plagioclase, quartz and ilmenite were stable during the whole metamorphic history.

In the garnet-grunerite-bearing gneiss, the first event (M1) is characterized by a syn-S1 crystallization of garnet, grunerite and minor plagioclase. The subsequent event (M2) was coeval with S2 and caused partial resorption, and replacement of garnet and grunerite by biotite. Biotite, ilmenite, quartz and minor muscovite are inferred to be stable during all the metamorphic history of the rock. Epidote seems to crystallize in two episodes, at the beginning of M1 and during M2, whereas the peak-M1 assemblage may be epidote-free. Minor chlorite either belongs to M2, or develops late, at the expense of biotite.

5 P-T ESTIMATES

5.1 Methods

P–*T* pseudosections were calculated in the model system MnNCKFMASHTO using THERMOCALC (Powell & Holland, 1988) and Theriak/Domino (de Capitani & Brown, 1987; de Capitani & Petrakakis, 2010) and the thermodynamic data set 5.5 (Holland & Powell, 1998); updated November 2003; translation for Theriak/Domino by Tinkham, 2012 – http://dtinkham.net/peq.html). The solution phases considered in the calculations, and the activity-composition models used are amphibole (Diener & Powell, 2012), chlorite (Le Bayon, Pitra, Ballèvre, & Bohn, 2006; based on Holland, Baker, & Powell, 1998), chloritoid, cordierite, epidote, staurolite (Holland & Powell, 1998), garnet, biotite, ilmenite, hematite (White, Pomroy, & Powell, 2005), magnetite (White, Powell, Holland, & Worley, 2000), plagioclase (Holland & Powell, 2003); muscovite, paragonite (Coggon & Holland, 2002) and margarite (margarite-paragonite mixing on sites, neglecting muscovite, *W*(ma, pa) = 14.5 kJ (AX notes, Powell & Holland, 2002), DQF for paragonite set to 5 kJ to fit natural data of Höck, 1974 and Feenstra, 1996).

Bulk compositions used for the calculations were obtained by the area-scan method at SEM-EDS (JSM-7100 F scanning electron microscope, CMEBA, University Rennes 1) on parts of thin sections estimated to approach an equilibration volume. Due to the heterogeneous nature of the samples (presence of porphyroblasts or layering) analyses were performed using various area sizes and the results checked for robustness. The bulk compositions used are indicated as insets in the diagrams in mole per cent normalized to 100%. Additionally, although all the samples contain ilmenite and lack magnetite, which suggests relatively low amounts of Fe³⁺ (Connolly & Cesare, 1993), the effects of varying Fe³⁺ were investigated in P/T-X(Fe³⁺) pseudosections. Three samples contain apatite and one of them pyrite. The bulk compositions were corrected accordingly. The fluid phase was fixed as pure H₂O and considered in excess in the calculations.

5.2 Sample LH16

First, two *P*–*T* pseudosections were calculated using both THERMOCALC and Theriak/Domino for a bulk composition measured over an area of 1.5x2 cm that comprises garnet, epidote, andalusite, staurolite as well as the matrix. The proportion of Fe³⁺ was arbitrarily set to 5% of the total Fe. The only significant difference between these diagrams is the appearance of chloritoid at *P*<2 kbar and *T*<510 °C on the pseudosection calculated with Theriak/Domino with respect to the one calculated with THERMOCALC (Figure S2). Otherwise, the two diagrams are virtually identical, the relative position of the fields being the same, and the differences in the absolute position of the lines being less than 5 °C and 0.1 kbar. Because the computations with Theriak/Domino are significantly less time-consuming than with THERMOCALC, subsequent calculations were carried out using only Theriak/Domino.

In these diagrams, magnetite is stable across a large domain at P < 7 kbar, but is lacking in our samples. Consequently, a $P-X(Fe^{3+})$ pseudosection has been calculated at T = 580 °C (Figure S3) in order to estimate the influence of the oxidation state of the sample on the stability of the mineral

assemblages (cf. López-Carmona, Pitra, & Abati, 2013; White et al., 2000). In the interval 0% < $X(Fe^{3+})$ < 5%, the variation of $X(Fe^{3+})$ only influences the stability of magnetite, ilmenite and rutile, whereas the other minerals only display negligible variations. Magnetite becomes stable for $X(Fe^{3+})$ ratios (= Fe^{3+}/Fe_{tot}) higher than ~3%, and an arbitrary low value of 1% Fe^{3+} was used for the subsequent calculations.

The resulting P-T pseudosection (Figure 6) was contoured with compositional isopleths for garnet (X_{Fe} , Grs, Sps) in order to infer the conditions of crystallization of the epidote-bearing garnet core. In the P-T space investigated, epidote is stable at T < 510 °C and P > 3 kbar. The isopleths corresponding to the composition of the garnet core ($X_{Fe} = 0.94$, Grs23, Sps14) intersect in the field ma-pl-chl (+ g, mu, q, ilm) around 520 °C, 5.5 kbar, just outside the epidote-bearing domain. This point is discussed later. Subsequent slight rimward decrease of spessartine and sub-constant grossular content suggest a limited prograde up-pressure evolution, parallel to the Grs isopleths, during the growth of the garnet core.

Garnet represents ~20% of the surface of the domain considered in the previous calculation, and has a large, mostly homogeneous, core and zoned rims (see above). In order to model the crystallization of the assemblage in equilibrium with the garnet rim (M1 peak), the garnet core (~15% of the domain) has been subtracted from the bulk composition of the domain.

With respect to Figure 6, the pseudosection calculated for this modified bulk-composition (Figure 7) shows a reduced stability domain of margarite and a larger stability domain for staurolite. The diagram has been contoured with compositional isopleths for garnet (X_{Fe} , Grs, Sps) as well as staurolite (X_{Fe}) and muscovite (X_{Na}). The isopleths corresponding to the core/rim transition (X_{Fe} ~0.92, Grs~20, Sps~11) intersect around 6-7 kbar 550 °C. The rim zoning, characterized by a significant decrease of grossular associated with a slight decrease of X_{Fe} and spessartine, corresponds to decreasing pressure and increasing temperature. The subsequent increase of spessartine in the outermost rim is interpretable in terms of partial resorption and reequilibration of

garnet during continuous heating and decreasing pressure in the field of staurolite. The inferred peak M1 association staurolite, garnet, biotite (+ muscovite, plagioclase, ilmenite and quartz) corresponds to the field st-bi-pl (+ g, mu, q, ilm) at 3-7 kbar and 550-640 °C. The observed compositions of staurolite ($X_{Fe} = 0.88-0.89$) and garnet ($X_{Fe} = 0.87$, Sps17, Grs7) compared to the position of the corresponding isopleths (Figure 7) suggest 4-5 kbar and 580 °C for the peak of the M1 stage.

The association and alusite, garnet, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase and quartz, representative of the M2 stage, corresponds to the field and-bi-pl spanning 1-4 kbar and 510-640 °C. Compositional isopleths indicate that muscovite becomes less paragonitic toward high temperatures in the and alusite field (Figure 7c). Values in agreement with the measured composition ($X_{Na} = 0.10-0.13$) are found in the high temperature part of the and alusite field around 580-620 °C.

5.3 Sample LH1B

The chemical composition used to calculate the first P-T pseudosection for this sample (Figure 8) has been calculated using a SEM-measured composition of an area of ~1.2 cm² that comprises staurolite, garnet 1 and 2, andalusite and a large proportion of matrix. One of the remarkable features of the diagram is the stability of garnet, reduced to T > ~500 °C and P > ~3 kbar. The peak M1 association staurolite, garnet, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, quartz, ilmenite is modelled in the field g-bi-st-pl (+ mu, q, ilm) between 540-650 °C and 3-7 kbar. The M2 assemblage is interpreted to contain andalusite, biotite and plagioclase (+ mu, q, ilm) in equilibrium with the clear garnet 2 overgrowths on garnet 1 "cloudy" cores. This assemblage is modelled in the narrow field and-g-bi-pl at 530-600 °C, 3-4 kbar, in the uppermost part of the andalusite stability domain.

Given the low mode of garnet in the rock, and the possible dependence of its stability on the choice of the effective bulk composition, another P-T pseudosection has been calculated using the

SEM-measured composition of a smaller area (0.15 cm²) included in the previously analysed region, in order to explore the crystallization of garnet 2. This area comprises garnet, andalusite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, quartz and ilmenite, and contains a comparatively larger proportion of garnet. Additionally, the relics of garnet 1 (the anhedral "cloudy" cores) have been removed from the bulk composition. This diagram (Figure 9) is contoured with compositional isopleths for garnet and muscovite, as well as the mode isopleths for garnet. With respect to Figure 8, the stability field of garnet is significantly increased and that of staurolite decreased. The paragenesis garnet, andalusite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, quartz, ilmenite is modelled in a field between 540-640 °C and 1.5-4 kbar. Isopleths corresponding to the composition of garnet 2 ($X_{Fe} = 0.90$, Sps21, Grs4) indicate equilibration at ~3 kbar, 570 °C, whereas the observed X_{Na} of muscovite (0.10-0.13) suggests slightly higher temperatures (580-620 °C).

The isopleths of garnet mode have a steep negative slope at low temperatures, in the chlorite-present fields, and a flat positive slope at low pressures and high temperatures, in the fields with aluminium silicates or staurolite (Figure 9a). In this framework, the inferred two-stage growth of garnet, interrupted by a period of garnet resorption (cf. above) can be interpreted. Garnet 1 growth is compatible with a prograde P-T path peaking in the g-st-bi-pl field (M1). Subsequent partial resorption requires an evolution involving cooling and/or decompression. The growth of garnet 2, peaking in the field g-pl-bi-and (M2), might involve renewed heating, possibly associated with moderate pressure increase. Alternatively, garnet 2 could grow during cooling in the g-pl-bi-and field. This point is discussed later.

5.4 Sample LH3

P-T pseudosections have been calculated for a bulk composition measured over a small area (0.15 cm²) that includes garnet, staurolite, andalusite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, quartz and ilmenite.
 The diagram has been contoured with compositional isopleths for staurolite and muscovite as well as mode isopleths for garnet (Figure 10). The peak M1 association staurolite, garnet, biotite,

5.5

muscovite, plagioclase, quartz, ilmenite is modelled in the field g-st-pl-ilm between 3-7 kbar and 550-650 °C. The measured composition of staurolite ($X_{Fe} = 0.86-0.87$) indicates equilibration around 5-6 kbar and 590-640 °C. The M2 association garnet 2, and alusite, biotite, muscovite, plagioclase, quartz, ilmenite corresponds to the g-pl-and-ilm field and indicates equilibration at 520-620 °C, 2-4 kbar. Removing garnet core (corresponding to garnet 1) from the measured composition does not introduce major modifications in the pseudosection, except that the garnet-out line is shifted toward higher pressures (~0.5 kbar, dashed line in the g-pl-and-ilm field; Figure 10).

5.5 Sample LH9 – Garnet-grunerite-bearing gneiss

The diagrams for this sample are shown in the supplementary material (Figure S4). They are calculated for the bulk composition measured over a small area (0.9 cm²) of the thin section considered as representative of the mineralogical composition of the sample. This area comprises grunerite, garnet, epidote, biotite, muscovite, ilmenite and quartz. The X(Fe³⁺) ratio was set to 2%, following the exploration of a range of $P/T-X(Fe^{3+})$ pseudosections. In the resulting P-Tpseudosection (Figure S4), biotite, quartz and ilmenite are stable over the whole P-T range modelled. Garnet is stable in most fields with the exception of those at T < 485 °C at P < ~8 kbar. Fe-Mg clinoamphibole (cummingtonite-grunerite) is stable in the HP-LT part of the diagram (P > 4 kbar, T < 560 °C), epidote and chlorite in the LT (T < 530 °C and 550 °C, respectively) and plagioclase in the LP and HT part of the diagram. Orthoamphibole, not present in our samples, is stable in the LP-HT part of the diagram (550-650 °C, 1-6.5 kbar). Plagioclase and clinoamphibole are stable together only along a chaplet of small fields between 4-6 kbar and 490-560 °C (Figure S4), but none of them contains the complete inferred M1 paragenesis, comprising garnet, grunerite, epidote, biotite, plagioclase, muscovite, ilmenite and quartz. Despite the ubiquitous presence of chlorite, not observed in the M1 assemblage, it can be tentatively inferred, to first order, that garnet crystallization started in the field pl-chl-mu-ep (+ g, bi, ilm, q) at 480-510 °C, 3-6 kbar. The P–T evolution followed up pressure, up temperature to the field camp-chl-mu (+ g, bi, ilm, q) at 530-

550 °C, 5.5-6 kbar. The M2 association epidote, biotite, muscovite, ilmenite, quartz (± chlorite, garnet) is not successfully modelled in the pseudosection either, since plagioclase (or albite), inferred not to be part of M2, is always present. Varying the $X(Fe^{3+})$ ratio does not improve the results.

GEOCHRONOLOGY

Two metamorphic stages, associated with different regional structures, were identified in the Canigou metapelites. In order to set the tectono-metamorphic evolution in a temporal framework, an attempt was made to date some of the allanite and monazite grains found in sample LH16 in distinct textural positions. Unfortunately, the allanite grains were too small and too thin to get any meaningful data.

6.1 Analytical procedure

Suitable minerals for U-Th-Pb dating were identified using a petrological microscope and imaged using backscattered electron microscopy (BSE; CMEBA, Université Rennes 1, France). U-Th-Pb in-situ monazite dating was performed 'in context' directly in thin sections at Géosciences Rennes using an ESI NWR193UC Excimer laser system coupled to an Agilent 7700x Q-ICP-MS, and consisted of 7 µm ablation spots with repetition rates of 2 Hz.

Raw data were corrected for Pb/U and Pb/Th laser-induced elemental fractionation and for instrumental mass discrimination by standard bracketing with repeated measurements of the Moacir monazite standard (Gasquet et al., 2010). With the samples, the Manangoutry monazite standard (*c*. 555 Ma; Paquette & Tiepolo 2007; 556.5 \pm 3.9 Ma (N = 7), MSWD = 0.99) was measured as unknowns to monitor the precision and accuracy of the analyses. For more information on the procedures, see Ballouard et al. (2015). Operating conditions are given in Table S2.

Data reduction was carried out with the GLITTER[®] software package developed by the Macquarie Research Ltd. (Van Achterbergh, Ryan, & Griffin, 2001). Concordia ages and diagrams

were generated using Isoplot/Ex (Ludwig, 2012). All errors given in Table 2 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.

6.2 U-Th-Pb dating

Monazite is found as small crystals (~30 μ m) either in the matrix or as inclusions in biotite, andalusite as well as along cracks in staurolite. These monazite grains show a slight patchy zoning (inset in Figure 11). Twenty-four analyses were performed on ten monazite crystals in every textural position. The Th/U ratios of these grains vary between 7.1-10.9 in andalusite (N = 12), 4.5-6.8 in staurolite (N = 4) and 4.3-7.9 in biotite (N = 8) except for one inclusion in biotite with a significantly lower value (Th/U = 0.2). Plotted in a ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U versus ²⁰⁸Pb/²³²Th Concordia diagram, a cluster of seventeen out of the twenty-four analyses (plain black ellipses, Figure 11), regardless of their textural position, yields a concordant age of 300.0 ± 1.4 Ma (Figure 11, MSWD = 0.85). Six other analyses yield older or younger dates (dashed ellipses, Figure 11). Three older apparent ages plot between *c*. 317-305 Ma, with one having a very concordant apparent age and distinctive Th/U (*c*. 317 Ma; Th/U = 0.2). The last and older apparent age plot at *c*. 330 Ma (long-dashed ellipse, Figure 11).

DISCUSSION

7

7.1 P-T conditions

Both the micaschists and the garnet-grunerite gneiss have been gathered in a small area within the same tectonic unit, and must have consequently undergone the same metamorphic history and broadly the same P-T conditions. In the micaschists, this is supported by the presence of the same key minerals in identical microstructural positions: staurolite for M1 and andalusite for M2. This can be used to further constrain the P-T evolution.

The first metamorphic event (M1) peaks with assemblages containing staurolite, garnet,

biotite, muscovite, plagioclase quartz and ilmenite. The P-T conditions estimated from the different micaschist samples (LH1B: 3-7 kbar, 540-650 °C; LH3: 5-6 kbar, 590-630 °C; LH16: 4-5 kbar, 580 °C) suggest M1 peak *T* conditions of ~5 kbar, 600 °C. This M1 peak is the thermal culmination of a prograde evolution evidenced by the inclusions of epidote, progressive appearance of biotite and chemical zoning in garnet (sample LH16), and that passed through a pressure peak at ~6-7 kbar, 550 °C.

The observation that the isopleths corresponding to the composition of the garnet core (LH16) only intersect at slightly higher temperature than the stability domain of epidote (around 520 °C and 5.5 kbar, Figure 6) can be related to overstepping of the garnet-in reaction and subsequent fast crystallization in a metastable epidote-bearing matrix, or to later partial diffusional reequilibration of the composition of the garnet core, or to modelling uncertainties. These may include uncertainties in the estimation of the effective bulk composition, including, but not limited to, the $X(Fe^{3+})$ ratio, and also imperfections in the thermodynamic data and activity-composition relations. Textural and chemical evidence suggest subsequent partial resorption of garnet (outermost rim of large garnet and g1/g2 interface in small garnet), prior to the second metamorphic stage M2. This is compatible with a temperature and/or pressure decrease (Figures 9a and 10b).

The second metamorphic stage (M2) is characterized by the stability of andalusite. The overlap of the M2 *P*–*T* conditions (based on the composition of garnet 2 and muscovite) from the different samples, yields *P*–*T* conditions of ~2-3 kbar, 550-600 °C for this metamorphic stage (Figure 9). The whole metamorphic evolution could then be interpreted in terms of a simple clockwise *P*–*T* path (arrow 1, Figure 9). However, the growth of garnet 2 around partly resorbed garnet 1 possibly suggests a period of heating following decompression and cooling (arrow 2, Figure 9), pointing to a two-stage evolution.

The results from the micaschists are difficult to reconcile with those for the garnet-grunerite

gneiss. In the latter, none of the fields modelled correspond to either the M1 or the M2 assemblage. The P-T conditions from the micaschists point to domains in the pseudosection without Fe-Mg clinoamphibole (grunerite) and with orthoamphibole, which was not observed in the sample. Clinoamphibole and epidote are modelled to be stable at temperatures lower by ~75 °C and ~50 °C, respectively. The reasons for this misfit are probably related to the imperfections of the existing activity-composition relations for Fe-Mg clino- and orthoamphibole.

7.2 Simple *P*–*T* loop or polymetamorphism?

The key to this crucial question lies in the interpretation of the garnet 2 overgrowths on garnet 1. In order to allow garnet growth, the P-T path has to cross the isopleths of garnet mode in the sense of increasing proportion of garnet. Given the orientation of these isopleths, this can easily be achieved only along a prograde P-T path in the field g-pl-chl (Figure 9, arrow 2). A continuous heating in the andalusite-bearing fields would lead to only slightly resorbing the newly formed garnet 2, or to keeping its proportion constant if heating was associated with a slight pressure increase.

A retrograde P-T path in the g-pl-and field, following decompression from the M1 stage, could theoretically produce similar features (Figure 9a, arrow 1). However, retrograde growth of garnet appears to be uncommon, being rarely reported in the literature (e.g. Korhonen, Brown, Clark, & Bhattacharya, 2013). Furthermore, three first-order observations point to the growth of the M2 andalusite-bearing assemblage along a prograde P-T path. (1) The size of biotite inclusions increases from the core to the rim of andalusite (Figure 4c). (2) In the andalusite stability field, the proportion of andalusite increases at the expense of muscovite with increasing temperature. Consequently, if garnet 2 crystallized during cooling, a concomitant replacement of andalusite by muscovite would be expected, but is not observed. (3) The growth of sillimanite (locally prismatic) at the expense of andalusite was reported in micaschists from the sillimanite zone in the north-western part of the "Balatg window" (Gibson, 1992; Guitard et al., 1998). Similar features are observed in sample BLB1457 collected in the sillimanite zone in the south-westernmost Balatg micaschists (Figure 1, star 3; Figure 12a). Consequently, it is suggested that M1 and M2 do not correspond to two stages of a simple clockwise metamorphic *P*–*T* loop, but rather to two prograde metamorphic (and deformational) events separated by a period of exhumation and cooling (Figure 9a, arrow 2). Interestingly, Laumonier, Marignac, & Kister (2010), using general regional considerations, proposed a similar scenario.

7.3 Geochronology

In sample LH16, garnet crystallized along a prograde *P*–*T* path at temperatures ranging between 520 and 600 °C. It contains inclusions of allanite, the quantity of which strongly decreases in the garnet rims. Monazite is never found in garnet and only occurs as inclusions in either biotite, staurolite or andalusite that crystallized at temperatures reaching up to ~600 °C. This suggests metamorphic crystallization of monazite at the expense of allanite close to the peak of the prograde metamorphism M1. This appears to be a common feature in metapelitic rocks with increasing temperature in a similar *P*–*T* range. This typically happens near the staurolite (Smith & Barreiro, 1990; Spear & Pyle, 2002) or biotite isograds depending on the whole rock composition, and more particularly on the calcium and aluminium contents (Spear, 2010; Wing, Ferry, & Harrison, 2003). According to empiric determination of the allanite/monazite transition in metapelitic rocks (Wing et al., 2003), the crystallization of monazite in our sample (Ca/Ca_{Shaw} = 0.90 and Al/Al_{Shaw} = 1.20; calculated with respect to the average pelite composition defined by Shaw, 1956) occurred at a temperature close to the biotite isograd (~550 °C; i.e. close to the peak pressure during the M1 event in Figures 7 and 13).

Consequently, the easiest interpretation of the geochronological data would be that the *c*. 300 Ma age corresponds to the crystallization of monazite near the pressure peak of the M1 metamorphic event. The two younger dates can then be attributed to a slight lead loss. The four older apparent ages could be the result of either incorporation of external radiogenic lead during or after the initial crystallization of the monazite crystals, or partial resetting of older (detrital) grains. On the other hand, despite the reputedly high closure temperature of its U-Th-Pb system (at least 700 °C; e.g. Cherniak, Watson, Grove, & Harrison, 2004; Parrish, 1990), monazite is known to recrystallize readily by dissolution/precipitation processes, in particular when fluids are involved (Didier et al., 2013; Tartèse, Ruffet, Poujol, Boulvais, & Ireland, 2011; Williams, Jercinovic, Harlov, Budzyń, & Hetherington, 2011). Consequently, the well-defined *c*. 300 Ma age cluster could correspond to the resetting of the M1 monazite during the dominant M2 LP–HT metamorphism. Inclusions in staurolite and biotite can be easily reset by interaction with fluids along fractures and cleavage planes. The apparent older ages would correspond to partly reset older (detrital) grains, or represent relicts (possibly also partly reset) of the initial crystallization age of the M1 monazite.

Trace element (in particular Y and Th) zoning of monazite can be used to discriminate different generations of monazite (Kohn, 2016; Kohn, Wieland, Parkinson, & Upreti, 2005). However, this method commonly yields equivocal results (e.g. Štípská et al., 2015). Furthermore, in the present case, both M1 and M2 occur in subsolidus conditions, in assemblages containing garnet, and at similar temperatures. Consequently, they would be expected to bear similar trace element signatures and the detailed mapping of the analysed crystals has not been performed.

On the basis of these considerations, the *c*. 300 Ma age cannot readily be attributed to the M1 or the M2 metamorphic event. However, an extensive magmatic event associated with LP–HT metamorphism is well documented in the eastern Pyrenees at *c*. 305-300 Ma (Denèle et al., 2014). Consequently, the *c*. 300 Ma age most probably corresponds to monazite crystals having crystallized, or recrystallized during the M2 LP–HT event.

7.4 Kyanite in the Canigou

Kyanite has been described in several massifs of the Pyrenees in contrasting textural positions. In the Canigou, kyanite epitaxially intergrown with anhedral crystals of staurolite has been found as inclusion in cordierite and interpreted as a primary mineral (Azambre & Guitard, 2001). This association is inferred to represent an early medium-pressure event (that might be correlated with

our M1), preceding a regionally lower-pressure high-temperature event. Conversely, in the Cap de Creus and Albères massifs, kyanite was found as pseudomorphs of andalusite and/or sillimanite and attributed to an increase in pressure during late folding, subsequent to the regional low-pressure metamorphic event (Autran, Fonteilles, & Guitard, 1966; Autran & Guitard, 1970; Fonteilles & Guitard, 1971).

In agreement with the results of thermodynamic modelling, no early (M1) kyanite has been found during this study, although M1 *P*–*T* conditions would lead to kyanite crystallization in rocks with the appropriate chemical composition. Yet, in the micaschists overlying the orthogneiss (in the south-eastern part of the dome, Figure 1, star 2), clusters of unoriented kyanite prisms (~10-100 µm) were discovered, surrounded by an undeformed corona of white mica (Figure 12b). Such coronas were also found around anhedral crystals of andalusite and interpreted as pseudomorphs thereof. Consequently, this kyanite occurrence is interpreted as a pseudomorph after andalusite, subsequent to the M2 metamorphic event, and possibly related to cooling. Further investigation of this phenomenon is beyond the scope of this study.

7.5 Tectonic implications

Three types of tectonic models have been proposed for the Variscan Pyrenees, characterised by gneiss domes, and widespread LP–HT metamorphism and associated magmatism: 1) gravity-driven (diapiric) doming of hot lower crust (e.g. Aguilar et al., 2015; Soula, 1982; Soula, Debat, Deramond, & Pouget, 1986); 2) lithosphere-scale extension, following or not initial crustal thickening (e.g. Gibson, 1991; Vissers, 1992; Wickham & Oxburgh, 1986); 3) regional transpression (e.g. Carreras & Capella, 1994; Cochelin et al., 2017; Denèle, Olivier, Gleizes, & Barbey, 2009; Druguet, 2001; Gleizes, Leblanc, & Bouchez, 1998; Mezger, 2009). The latter have progressively evolved from models invoking pure transpression (e.g. Carreras & Capella, 1994) to those admitting a significant contribution of localised extension (e.g. Cochelin et al., 2017; Mezger & Passchier, 2003).

Our data from the Canigou massif show the existence of a MP–MT Barrovian metamorphism

(M1), followed by decompression and cooling, before renewed heating at low pressures (M2). The regionally dominant foliation S2 is associated with the andalusite-bearing M2 assemblages that typify a LP–HT geothermal gradient. The peak pressure (6.5 kbar) recorded by the metasediments during the M1 stage corresponds to a minimum burial of about 25 km, assuming lithostatic pressure and a mean density of 2.7 g.cm-3 for the metasediments. Given the sedimentary nature of the protoliths, such depths imply burial through subduction or crustal thickening. Relics of subduction zones have not been identified in the Variscan Pyrenees contrary to the other parts of the Variscan belt (e.g. Lardeaux, 2014; Paquette, Ballèvre, Peucat, & Cornen, 2017; Pin, 1990). The prograde uppressure part of the *P*–*T* path is characterized by a cold gradient (of ~9 °C/km, Figure 7), which suggests crustal thickening. Although important, this demonstration is not discriminatory, since most tectonic models (with the exception of Wickham & Oxburgh, 1986) implicitly or explicitly involve some initial crustal thickening.

The exhumation of the rocks indicated by the pressure decrease between M1 and M2 requires crustal thinning by extension and/or erosion (although other mechanisms may be important in other geological settings – e.g. diapiric ascent if rocks have a significant density contrast; e.g. Platt, 1993). Rapid extension and thinning of a previously thickened and thermally relaxed crust would lead to an evolution characterised by a nearly isothermal decompression (arrow 1 in Figure 9; dashed arrow in Figure 13; e.g. Gardien, Lardeaux, Ledru, Allemand, & Guillot, 1997; Rey, Teyssier, & Whitney, 2009; Sonder, England, Wernicke, & Christiansen, 1987). A similar *P*–*T* path is characteristic for models involving diapiric ascent of hot material (Aguilar et al., 2015; Lexa et al., 2011). Consequently, such tectonic models can be rejected for the Canigou massif, because this *P*–*T* path is not supported by our observations. The alternative *P*–*T* evolution, better supported by petrological data, involves a decrease in both pressure and temperature between stages M1 and M2 (arrow 2 in Figure 9, solid arrow in Figure 13; see also Laumonier et al., 2010). Such a *P*–*T* path can be attributed to an exhumation driven by significant erosion (albeit possibly combined with some extension) since crustal thickening induces surface elevation and subsequent relief increase

(Thompson & England, 1984). It could also be achieved if extension was slow, since P-T paths may be very sensitive to strain rate (Rey et al., 2009).

Tectonic models featuring simple transpression associated with magmatism (Carreras & Capella, 1994; Carreras & Druguet, 2014, Denèle et al., 2009, Denèle et al., 2014) fail to account for, or even discuss, the inferred decompression. Furthermore, these models, as well as the similar model of Mezger (2009), and the purely compressive model of Soliva, Salel & Brunel (1989) associate the regionally dominant foliation in the domes with early thrusting (and implicitly the medium-pressure metamorphism), which is at variance with our observations. Conversely, other tectonic interpretations invoke lateral flow of the lower crust as well as significant, albeit local, extension during regional transpression to explain the rising of the gneiss domes in the Variscan Pyrenees (Cochelin et al., 2017; Mezger & Passchier, 2003). The decrease of pressure between the M1 and M2 stages may be related to such thickness attenuation of the lower crust after crustal thickening (M1 stage) and depending on the strain rate may be accompanied by cooling.

The subsequent temperature increase (M2) would require an additional heat source. Numerous works have invoked extreme thinning of the lithospheric mantle by either delamination or detachment to explain such additional heat to account for the anomalously hot crust in the Variscan belt in general or specifically in the Pyrenees (Cochelin et al., 2017; Dewey, 1988; Gibson, 1991; Gutiérrez-Alonso et al., 2011; Henk, Blanckenburg, Finger, Schaltegger, & Zulauf, 2000; Ménard & Molnar, 1988; Vissers, 1992). The bimodal character of the abundant late Carboniferous magmatism as well as alkaline volcanism during the Permian in the Pyrenees (e.g. Driouch et al., 1989; Kilzi et al., 2016; Lago, Arranz, Pocoví, Galé, & Gil-Imaz, 2004) support such an interpretation. Although the origin of the mantle thinning remains unclear, it is predicted for and consequently supports tectonic models invoking significant crustal thickening and subsequent extension (e.g. Dewey, 1988; Houseman, McKenzie, & Molnar, 1981; Ménard & Molnar, 1988).

The late Carboniferous - Permian period is also marked by the occurrence of continental

sedimentary basins that are considered to develop during transtensional, rather than transpressional, tectonics in the Variscan Pyrenees (Bixel & Lucas, 1983; Speksnijder, 1985). The proposed metamorphic evolution (solid arrow, Figure 13), involving a slight pressure increase during the prograde LP metamorphism M2, may be explained by the overburden pressure caused by a significant accumulation of detrital sediments (cf. Martínez, Reche, & Arboleya, 2001; Pitra & Guiraud, 1996), later removed by erosion during the Mesozoic. Alternatively, this slight pressure increase may be related to the late crustal shortening invoked to account for the reactivation of previous extensional shear zones into steeply dipping transpressive shear zones, resulting in the amplification of the gneiss domes (e.g. Cochelin et al., 2017). Nevertheless, the timing of the activity of these shear zones, crucial to all the transpressive models, remains a matter of vigorous argument, and could be to a significant degree Alpine rather than Variscan in age (Monié, Soliva, Brunel, & Maluski, 1994; Vissers, Hinsbergen, Ganerød, & Wilkinson, 2018; Vissers, Hinsbergen, Wilkinson, & Ganerød, 2017).

To sum up, after the crustal thickening, our data require a phase of relatively slow crustal thinning. This can be achieved by erosion and/or slow extension or transtension. Tectonic interpretations involving generalized rapid extension, diapiric ascent of the gneiss domes or those suggesting pure transpression do not account for the *P*–*T* evolution inferred for the Canigou massif.

The lack of radiometric data in the Canigou massif does not allow to determine the precise timing for the two metamorphic stages, especially the time gap between crustal thickening and subsequent thinning. However, we tentatively propose the following scenario. As noted above most tectonic interpretations of the Variscan Pyrenees involve a phase of crustal thickening that predates the regional ductile deformation coeval with the pervasive LP–HT metamorphism (M2). The Culm sedimentation in the Variscan Pyrenean foreland basin is considered to mark this phase of thickening (Delvolvé, Vachard, & Souquet, 1998; Engel & Raymond, 1983). The time span of the Culm sedimentation in the eastern Pyrenees has recently been determined at 330-319 Ma (Martín-

Closas, Trias, & Casas Tuset, 2018). As discussed previously, the M2 LP–HT metamorphism most probably developed around *c*.300 Ma. If true, this leaves a time gap of about 20 Ma between the two phases of metamorphism M1 and M2, allowing for the thermal relaxation of the thickened crust and its subsequent lateral flow.

CONCLUSIONS

Two syntectonic metamorphic stages have been recognized in the metapelites underlying the orthogneiss in the core of the dome-shaped Canigou massif. The first metamorphic stage is characterized by the crystallization of staurolite at 5.5 kbar and 580 °C, following a prograde uppressure, up-temperature evolution through the peak pressure at ~6.5 kbar, 550 °C, constrained by garnet zoning. It is associated with the S1 foliation, only preserved in the core of the Canigou massif. The second metamorphic stage, characterized by the crystallization of andalusite, implies a pressure decrease of about 2.5 kbar. It is coeval with the development of the main regional fabric S2 that transposes S1 and defines the dome shape of the massif. Resorption of garnet between the two metamorphic stages and its subsequent renewed growth is tentatively attributed to a two-stage *P*–*T* path. This involves an exhumation dominated by erosion and/or slow extension followed by heating, probably associated with the delamination of the lithospheric mantle and the regional magmatic event. The *c.* 300 Ma monazite age is tentatively attributed to monazite recrystallization during the M2 LP–HT stage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work received the support of the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) through the "Référentiel Géologique de la France" programme (RGF). The newly acquired data compiled into the Geofield database will be available on the RGF website (www.rgf.brgm.fr). X. Le

Coz is acknowledged for the efficient production of the numerous thin sections. We are grateful for the assistance in SEM observations and EDS analyses of the staff of the CMEBA facility (ScanMAT, University Rennes 1), which received a financial support from the Région Bretagne and the European Union (CPER-FEDER 2007-2014). The detailed reviews of J. Mezger and an anonymous reviewer, and the helpful editorial handling of M. Brown are gratefully acknowledged.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interests to declare.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found online in the supporting information tab for this article.

Figure S1. Sketch map of the major gneissic domes and plutons of the Zone-Axial of the Pyrenees. The bold legend refers to localities cited in the text.

Figure S2. *P*–*T* pseudosections for the sample LH16 calculated using THERMOCALC (a) and Theriak/Domino (b). H_2O is considered in excess, the other phases marked in the header (g, mu, q, ilm) are present in all fields, unless otherwise marked. Abbreviations along the lines indicate the mineral that is lost/gained. Grey shading in (b) highlights differences between the two diagrams. Other colours represent stability fields for key minerals: epidote (blue), staurolite (yellow), andalusite (pink).

Figure S3. $P-X(Fe^{3+})$ pseudosection showing the influence of the proportion of ferric iron on the stability of minerals for Fe³⁺ varying between 0% and 5% out of total iron. The range in (b) corresponds to the grey area in (a). Solid black line shows the ferric iron proportion used for further calculations (1%).

Figure S4. Pseudosection for the garnet-grunerite-bearing sample LH9.

Table S1. Review of the available pseudosection-based P-T conditions in the Axial Zone of the Pyrenees.

Table S2. Operating conditions for the LA-ICP-MS equipment.

Lithology Sample	Micaschist LH1B								LH16									
Analysis#	p011 111	p020	401	113	206	311	112	307	p106	MEB1	p001	107	306	013	022	021	425	035
Mineral	g ilm	g	mu	bi	bi	chl	pl	ilm	g	g	g	st	mu	bi	bi	chl	pl	ep
Position	g1 g2	matrix	in g	in and	matrix	in and	matrix	core	rim	outer ri	m	in and	matrix	matrix	in and	matrix	in g	in st.
SiO ₂	36.18 0.04	36.60	46.01	33.77	34.24	28.03	60.68	0.06	36.65	36.63	35.90	27.25	45.22	33.36	33.81	23.36	59.78	38.42
TiO ₂	0.05 52.91	0.04	0.51	2.89	1.56	0.31	0.05	53.33	0.14	0.00	0.05	0.75	0.51	1.93	2.25	0.11	0.00	0.14
Al_2O_3	20.94 0.02	21.25	35.99	19.18	20.88	20.44	24.55	0.03	20.99	20.98	21.11	56.42	37.22	19.63	21.59	23.68	25.53	29.73
MgO	1.74 0.05	1.24	0.70	7.61	7.56	10.64	0.00	0.03	1.17	1.37	2.09	0.87	0.50	8.25	7.61	12.03	0.03	0.03
FeO	30.49 44.42	29.26	1.31	21.99	20.49	26.94	0.35	40.65	27.08	30.14	30.86	12.67	0.82	21.22	19.67	27.65	0.06	5.73
MnO	9.05 2.25	10.55	0.00	0.42	0.18	0.22	0.03	4.28	6.14	5.77	7.09	0.49	0.00	0.09	0.19	0.32	0.00	0.29
ZnO	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CaO	2.08 0.01	1.46	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.15	5.58	0.04	7.30	5.12	2.42	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	6.74	23.12
P_2O_5	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.06
Na ₂ O	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.78	0.16	0.20	0.02	8.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.10	0.14	0.00	7.53	0.00
K ₂ O	$0.00 \\ 0.00$	0.04	10.11	9.01	9.13	0.86	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.01	10.19	9.56	8.98	0.01	0.05	0.06
Sum	100.54 99.70	100.43	95.45	95.15	94.27	87.71	99.69	98.43	99.46	100.00	99.68	98.81	95.43	94.15	94.23	87.22	99.75	97.57
Si	2.93 0.00	2.97	3.05	2.62	2.65	2.97	2.71	0.00	2.96	2.94	2.91	7.79	3.00	2.61	2.60	2.51	2.67	2.96
Ti	0.00 1.00	0.00	0.03	0.17	0.09	0.03	0.00	1.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.03	0.11	0.13	0.01	0.00	0.01

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Table 1: Table of representative microprobe analyses.

p m t p

Al	2.00	2.03	2.81	1.75	1.90	2.55	1.29	0.00	2.00	1.98	2.02	19.01	2.91	1.81	1.96	3.00	1.34	2.70
Fe ³⁺	0.14	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37
Mg	0.00 0.21	0.15	0.07	0.88	0.87	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.19	0.25	0.37	0.05	0.96	0.87	1.93	0.00	0.00
Fe ²⁺	0.00 1.92	1.96	0.07	1.43	1.32	2.39	0.01	0.86	1.78	2.09	1.93	3.03	0.05	1.39	1.27	2.49	0.00	0.00
Mn	0.94 0.62	0.73	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.42	0.26	0.49	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00
Zn	0.05 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ca	0.00 0.18	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.27	0.00	0.63	0.55	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.32	1.91
Р	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.10	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.65	0.00
K	0.00 0.00	0.00	0.86	0.89	0.90	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.86	0.95	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.01
ОН	0.00 0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	0.00	1.00
Sum	0.00 8.00	8.00	8.99	9.79	9.78	17.79	5.00	1.98	8.00	8.00	8.00	30.55	9.01	9.86	9.74	17.98	4.99	8.98
	1.99				,													
$X_{ m Fe}/X_{ m Na}$	0.90	0.93	0.10	0.62	0.60	0.59			0.93	0.92	0.88	0.89	0.12	0.59	0.59	0.56	Ep	0.14
Alm/An	0.66	0.66					0.27		0.60	0.68	0.67						0.33	
Prp/Ab	0.07	0.05					0.73		0.05	0.06	0.09						0.67	
Grs/Or	0.06	0.04					0.00		0.21	0.18	0.07						0.00	
Sps	0.21	0.24							0.14	0.08	0.17							

The amount of ferric iron was calculated from stoichiometric constraints. For amphibole, the Fe3+ content corresponds to the average from minimum and maximum constraints (Holland & Blundy, 1994).

Micaschist										Garnet-	grunerite	gneiss						
Sample	LH3									LH9								
Analysis#	280 009	285 106	304	203	204	206	201	209	212	037	041	209	025	018	019	023	013	006
Mineral	g on ilm	g	st	mu	bi	chl	pl	ilm	sp	g	g	camp	mu	bi	bi	chl	pl	ep
Position	g1 g2 in g	in and	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	core	rim	matrix	matrix	matrix	in g	matrix	in g	matrix	in g
SiO ₂	36.88 37.32	35.50 0.04	26.30	45.40	34.40	24.26	59.54	0.01	0.05	36.59	36.87	51.89	45.76	34.88	35.19	23.95	67.86	40.92
TiO_2	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.37	1.49	0.20	0.01	52.69	0.05	0.15	0.06	0.02	0.03	1.20	1.39	0.08	0.01	0.00
Al_2O_3	0.13 21.31 27.59	20.67 0.02	55.36	37.54	19.59	23.19	25.58	0.04	57.84	21.23	21.40	0.60	36.28	18.63	17.36	21.77	20.55	32.85
MgO	1.61 0.02	0.81 0.11	0.98	0.40	8.53	12.06	0.02	0.03	1.51	0.65	1.50	12.11	0.36	9.04	8.48	12.33	0.00	0.01
FeO	29.21 7 59	26.02 46.26	10.24	0.68	21.33	27.85	0.04	43.39	13.15	29.96	34.54	32.06	1.91	21.68	22.72	29.30	0.26	1.40
MnO	9.34 0.11	13.29 0.18	0.52	0.00	0.19	0.39	0.00	3.54	0.22	3.67	0.40	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.04
ZnO	0.00	0.00	4.61	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	28.60	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00
CaO	1.65 22.48	1.19 0.13	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03	7.01	0.02	0.03	8.02	5.84	0.35	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.03	1.00	23.66
P_2O_5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na ₂ O	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.88	0.07	0.00	7.48	0.03	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.19	0.08	0.06	0.00	10.74	0.49
K ₂ O	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.13	9.65	0.26	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	11.04	7.99	9.13	0.00	0.04	0.01
Sum	100.00 95.23	100.29 98.15	98.70	95.44	95.25	88.28	99.80	99.77	101.80	100.27	100.66	97.18	95.62	93.57	94.39	87.52	100.46	99.36

	Si	2.99 2.96	2.91 0.00	7.64	3.00	2.65	2.58	2.66	0.00	0.00	2.94	2.95	7.94	3.05	2.71	2.75	2.59	2.95	3.05
	Ti	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00
		0.01	0.99																
	Al	2.04 2.58	2.00	18.95	2.93	1.78	2.91	1.35	0.00	1.98	2.01	2.02	0.11	2.85	1.71	1.60	2.78	1.05	2.89
	Fe ³⁺	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
		0.50	0.01	0.40	0.04	0.00	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.10	0.74	0.04	1.05	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
	Mg	0.20 0.00	0.10 0.00	0.42	0.04	0.98	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.18	2.76	0.04	1.05	0.99	1.99	0.00	0.00
	Fe ²⁺	1.98	1.79	2.49	0.04	1.38	2.48	0.00	0.92	0.28	1.93	2.25	4.08	0.11	1.41	1.49	2.65	0.01	0.00
	1	0.00	0.98																
	Mn	0.64	0.92	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.25	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Zn	0.00	0.00	0 99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	211	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Са	0.14	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.50	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.05	1.89
	0	1.91	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0101	0101	0.00	0.00	1107
	Р	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00																
	Na	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.65	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.91	0.07
_		0.00	0.00																
	K	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.95	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.79	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00																
	OH	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	0.00	1.00
		1.00	0.00																
	Sum	7.99	8.00	30.79	9.00	9.85	17.97	4.99	2.00	3.00	8.00	8.00	15.01	9.01	9.76	9.83	18.02	4.97	8.99
		8.98	2.00																
	$X_{\rm Mg}/X_{\rm Na}$	0.91	0.95	0.85	0.12	0.58	0.56				0.96	0.93	0.60	0.03	0.57	0.60	0.57	Ep	0.09
	6	0.46																-	
	Alm/An	0.67	0.61					0.34			0.65	0.76						0.05	
	Prp/Ab	0.07	0.03					0.66			0.03	0.06						0.95	
	Ĩ																		
	Grs/Or	0.05	0.04					0.00			0.23	0.17						0.00	
	Sps	0.22	0 32								0.08	0.01							
	oha	0.22	0.54								0.00	0.01							

Table 2: U–Th–Pb LA-ICP-MS data for the monazite grains in sample LH16.

	# Analysis	Grain	[Pb] (ppm)	[U] (ppm)	[Th] (ppm)	Th/U	238U/232Th	n ±lσ	206Pb/238U	±lσ	Ages (Ma)			
											206Pb/238U	$\pm 1\sigma$	Pb208/232Th	±lσ
	5100317b	Mz1	658	3919	35930	9.2	0.0151	0.0002	0.0489	0.0007	307.5	4.1	302.0	3.7
	6100317b	Mz1	499	3179	23612	7.4	0.0167	0.0002	0.0521	0.0007	327.7	4.4	334.0	4.1
	7100317b	Mz1	628	4096	32565	8.0	0.0154	0.0002	0.0499	0.0007	313.7	4.2	308.0	3.8
	8100317b	Mz2	730	5124	41280	8.1	0.0141	0.0002	0.0462	0.0006	291.3	3.9	282.8	3.5
	9100317b	Mz2	711	4993	37805	7.6	0.0149	0.0002	0.0476	0.0007	299.8	4.0	298.4	3.7
	13100317b	Mz2	760	5648	40266	7.1	0.0148	0.0002	0.0473	0.0007	298.0	4.0	296.3	3.6
	14100317b	Mz2	762	5108	40338	7.9	0.0153	0.0002	0.0480	0.0007	302.0	4.1	306.6	3.8
	15100317b	Mz2	859	6478	44899	6.9	0.0148	0.0002	0.0480	0.0007	302.4	4.1	297.6	3.7
	16100317b	Mz2	663	4919	35128	7.1	0.0147	0.0002	0.0481	0.0007	302.8	4.1	295.4	3.7
	18100317b	Mz3	377	3785	17002	4.5	0.0151	0.0002	0.0478	0.0007	300.8	4.1	302.2	3.8
	22100317b	Mz3	756	7620	34540	4.5	0.0150	0.0002	0.0475	0.0007	299.4	4.1	301.0	3.8
	23100317b	Mz4	715	5638	36727	6.5	0.0152	0.0002	0.0470	0.0007	296.3	4.1	305.7	3.8
	26100317b	Mz4	881	6789	46472	6.8	0.0149	0.0002	0.0479	0.0007	301.7	4.2	299.1	3.8
	27100317b	Mz5	613	3979	34046	8.6	0.0151	0.0002	0.0489	0.0007	308.0	4.3	301.9	3.8
	31100317b	Mz5	810	4360	47466	10.9	0.0151	0.0002	0.0486	0.0007	306.0	4.3	302.7	3.8
	32100317b	Mz5	465	3142	24584	7.8	0.0155	0.0002	0.0505	0.0007	317.6	4.4	310.4	3.9
	33100317b	Mz7	351	8382	1641	0.2	0.0158	0.0002	0.0503	0.0007	316.3	4.3	317.5	4.1
	34100317b	Mz9	969	10421	44908	4.3	0.0149	0.0002	0.0460	0.0007	289.8	4.0	298.1	3.8
	35100317b	Mz9	924	9095	43862	4.8	0.0150	0.0002	0.0477	0.0007	300.1	4.2	300.7	3.8
	4100317c	Mz9	662	5115	34698	6.8	0.0147	0.0002	0.0479	0.0007	301.7	4.2	295.5	3.7
	5100317c	Mz10	779	7514	36612	4.9	0.0148	0.0002	0.0484	0.0007	304.6	4.2	296.7	3.7
1	7100317c	Mz11	705	5752	36189	6.3	0.0147	0.0002	0.0480	0.0007	302.4	4.2	294.9	3.7
	13100317c	Mz16	711	4921	38637	7.9	0.0148	0.0002	0.0478	0.0007	300.9	4.2	297.2	3.7
	14100317c	Mz16	928	8021	45333	5.7	0.0150	0.0002	0.0475	0.0007	299.4	4.1	301.3	3.8









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LH1B - MnNCKFMASHTO (+ H2O, mu, q, ilm)













