



Petrologic and stable isotopic studies of a fossil hydrothermal system in ultramafic environment (Chenaillet ophicalcites, Western Alps, France): Processes of carbonate cementation



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 29 December 2016

Accepted 7 October 2017

Available online 14 October 2017

Keywords:

Ophicalcite

Hydrothermal carbonation

Serpentinization

Stable isotope

Fast cementation

ABSTRACT

The Late Jurassic Chenaillet ophiolitic complex (Western Alps) represents parts of an oceanic core-complex of the Liguria-Piemonte domain. A model for the origin and evolution of the Chenaillet ophicalcites based on textural and isotopic characterization is presented. The Chenaillet ophicalcites correspond to brecciated serpentinitized peridotites that record seafloor shallow serpentinitization at a minimum temperatures of 150 °C followed by authigenic carbonation. Carbonation starts with a network of micrometric to millimetric pre- or syn-clast formation calcite veins accompanied by a pervasive carbonation of residual olivine and serpentine inside the serpentinite mesh core. A matrix of small calcite (<50 μm, 12 μm in average) cemented clasts after their individualization. Texture of the breccia, grain size distribution within the matrix, and chrysotile clusters support rapid cementation from a strongly oversaturated fluid due most likely to hydrothermal fluid cooling and decompression. Later fluids infiltrated by multiple crack formation and some dolomite locally formed along serpentinite-calcite interfaces. Carbonates have δ¹³C (VPDB) values that range between −5‰ and +0.4‰. The lower values were obtained for calcite within the serpentinite clasts. The δ¹⁸O (VSMOW) values have a range between +11‰ and +16‰ in carbonated clasts. The δ¹⁸O values in the matrix are fairly homogeneous with an average at +12‰ and the late calcite veins have values between +12.5 and +15.5‰. These values suggest a relatively high temperature of formation for all the carbonates. Carbonates within clast are mainly characterized by a formation temperature in the range of 110 °C to 180 °C assuming a δ¹⁸O value of seawater of 0‰, the matrix forms at a temperature of ca. 165 °C. Late veins are characterized by a formation temperature ranging between 120 and 155 °C. We propose a model where serpentinitization is followed by discrete carbonation then brecciation and cementation as a consequence of continuous hydrothermal fluid circulation in the serpentinite basement. This is comparable to observations made in the stockwork of present-day long-lived oceanic hydrothermal systems.

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1. Introduction

The non-uniform flow of basaltic melt (Tucholke and Lin, 1994) leads to amagmatic segments of the mid-oceanic ridges. This favors the exhumation of ultramafic rocks on the oceanic seafloor along detachment faults at (ultra)-slow spreading ridges (<55 mm/yr; Mével, 2003; Schroeder et al., 2002). It results in the formation of corrugated megamullions structures, the so-called Oceanic Core Complexes (OCCs, Ildefonse et al., 2007; MacLeod et al., 2009). In this setting, seawater circulation along large transform faults enhances peridotite alteration (Blackman et al., 2002; Cannat et al., 2006; Evans, 2004; McCaig

et al., 2010). Here, the minerals olivine and pyroxene in peridotite are far from thermodynamic equilibrium and water-rock interaction produces serpentine that represent a major mineralogical component of the oceanic lithosphere. While the serpentinitization reactions are common whatever the dynamic setting of the oceanic lithosphere, petrological and geochemical studies have shown that this reaction is favored along detachment faults: first at high temperatures (300–500 °C), often in relation with gabbroic intrusions (Alt et al., 2012; McCaig et al., 2010), but then develops pervasively close to the ocean floor (~200 °C) due to hot marine water circulation activated by heat generated through the exothermic serpentinitization reaction itself (Allen and Seyfried, 2004; Früh-Green et al., 2003; Kelley et al., 2001). While serpentinitization takes place over a wide range of temperature, the maximum reaction rate for serpentinitization reaction is observed around

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250–300 °C (Martin and Fyfe, 1970). The maximum depth for serpentinization can be several kilometers at slow spreading ridges (Cannat et al., 2010). The interaction of seawater with ultramafic rocks results in the development of characteristic mesh textures and veins composed of chrysotile and lizardite (the most abundant varieties of serpentine in hydrothermal environments or low-grade metamorphism; Evans, 2004; Wicks and Whittaker, 1977). Moreover, peridotite hydration is accompanied by incorporation of a large amount of mobile trace elements (e.g. Bonatti et al., 1984; Decitre et al., 2002; Kodolányi et al., 2011; Vils et al., 2008) and the production of H₂, which are released into the hydrothermal fluids (Charlou et al., 2002; Evans et al., 2013; Frost, 1985).

The recent underwater observations of the seafloor attest to the diversity of hydrothermal systems in response to the heterogeneity in the oceanic lithosphere i.e. spreading rates, cracking intensity, fluid infiltration depth, and volcanic activity (Andreani et al., 2007; Boschi et al., 2006; McCaig et al., 2010; McCaig and Harris, 2012; Petersen et al., 2009). They reveal that (ultra)mafic rocks might be locally associated with carbonate deposits (Denny et al., 2016; Früh-Green et al., 2003). The presence of carbonated peridotite within serpentinite basement (Bach et al., 2011; Eickmann et al., 2009a, 2009b) or the development of a carbonate chimney (Früh-Green et al., 2003) in hydrothermal systems (e.g. Lost City or Logatchev hydrothermal field,) raised many questions on the link between serpentinization and carbonation reactions, and emphasized the complexity of hydrothermal systems at slow spreading ridges (Kelley et al., 2001; Schrenk et al., 2004). The hydrothermal cell development is intimately linked to dynamics of the oceanic lithosphere and magmatic activity and can either involve sediments, ultramafic rocks or tholeiitic intrusions (Bach et al., 2011; McCaig and Harris, 2012; Mottl, 1983). Carbonates in hydrothermal systems can be formed from different fluids, at ambient seawater temperatures to hydrothermal conditions. The complex fluid behavior in hydrothermal systems can lead to carbonate formation in peridotites either during heating of seawater, cooling of hydrothermal fluid or as a consequence of mixing of the hydrothermal fluid with seawater (Eickmann et al., 2009a, 2009b; Klein et al., 2015) as a response of the evolution of the hydrothermal loops in long lived hydrothermal systems (Bach et al., 2011; Schwarzenbach et al., 2013).

Such rocks were found in several locations within the Liguria-Piemonte relicts (Lemoine, 1980). Different interpretations for the origin of ophicalcites in the Liguria-Piemonte and in other ophiolites have been proposed: (1) the result of mechanical mixing of hydrothermal carbonates and reworked ultramafic rocks as a consequence of tectosedimentary activity during obduction and exhumation (Bernoulli and Weissert, 1985; Bortolotti and Passerini, 1970; Früh-Green et al., 1990; Gianelli and Principi, 1977; Lemoine, 1980), (2) carbonation of oceanic basement due to infiltration of seawater or fluids derived from pelagic sediments (Bernoulli, 1974; Clerc et al., 2014; Demény et al., 2007; Früh-Green et al., 1990; Schwarzenbach et al., 2013; Treves and Harper, 1994; Tucholke et al., 2013), (3) metasomatic reactions related to endogenic alkaline fluids circulation (Trommsdorff et al., 1980) or (4) the result of gas infiltrations related to underlying mantle activity (Bonatti et al., 1974; Haggerty, 1991). Nevertheless, the source of CO₂ and CaO remains debated and they might have different origins, including marine carbonate dissolution, metamorphic or mantle origin, or a combination thereof.

Ophicalcites with various petrological and textural characteristics are found in the upper part of serpentinites in the Chenaillet ophiolite and were interpreted to result from a succession of carbonation events (Lemoine et al., 1987). A detailed petrologic, textural, and geochemical (including C- and O-isotopic measurements) study of ophicalcite breccias of the Chenaillet (W. Alps, France-Italy border) is presented here. The aim is to delineate the sequence of carbonation and determine the processes leading to the formation of the ophicalcites.

2. Geological setting, previous work, and sample localities

The legacy of the Jurassic opening of the Tethys is exposed as mafic-ultramafic units in the Western Alps, including the Chenaillet complex (Fig. 1a) (Bertrand et al., 1982; Caby, 1995; Li et al., 2013). The lithological succession (i.e. basalts, gabbros, and exhumed peridotites) is comparable to those found in the Liguria-Piemonte ophiolites of the Apennine (Barrett and Spooner, 1977; Lagabrielle and Cannat, 1990). The similarity of the lithological sequence observed in the Chenaillet complex with the one recorded at slow spreading Mid Ocean Ridges (MORs) established the Chenaillet unit as an analogue of present day OCCs (Chalot-Prat and Bourlier, 2005; Festa et al., 2015; Lagabrielle et al., 2015; Lagabrielle and Lemoine, 1997; Manatschal et al., 2011). Recent studies on the mantle composition throughout the Alpine Tethys units suggests that the Chenaillet ophiolite belongs to the most oceanward portion of the hyper-extended margin rather than to a true ocean (Picazo et al., 2016; Rampone et al., 1996).

Many of the ophiolitic units from the Alpine belt are affected by high-pressure metamorphism (10–15 Kbar) related to the subduction of the Tethys domain (Dal Piaz and Ernst, 1978; Tricart and Schwartz, 2006). However, the Chenaillet massif records only oceanic prehnite–pumpellyite to amphibolite facies conditions (Mevel et al., 1978), related to sea-floor exhumation. The apatite and zircon fission track analyses performed on plagiogranite reveal that the massif was cooled before 65 Ma (Schwartz et al., 2007) and has escaped the high pressure Alpine metamorphic overprint (Bertrand et al., 1987; Lagabrielle et al., 2015; Lewis and Smewing, 1980; Manatschal et al., 2011). The Chenaillet unit was obducted onto the proximal European margin during the Cretaceous convergence between Europe and Adria (e.g. Lagabrielle, 1987) and has been affected by anchi-facies metamorphism (Goffé et al., 2004). The zircon and apatite fission track ages of 118 and 65 Ma respectively in the Chenaillet unit suggests that the two chronometers have escaped complete resetting (Agard et al., 2002). The unit consists of a thin thrust sheet (<1 km) overlying the HP-LT units (*Schistes lustrés*) of the western Alps.

The Chenaillet massif consists of a continuous magmatic series with serpentinized peridotite, small bodies of gabbro with olivine (pseudomorphosed into chlorite), plagioclase (albitized) and accessory clinopyroxene (Chalot-Prat and Bourlier, 2005) crosscut by tholeiitic feeder dykes. The basalts have an E-MORB composition and overlie the exhumed mantle in an up to 400 m thick series (Bertrand et al., 1987). The lower part of the unit is mostly brecciated.

The cooling of the oceanic lithosphere is related to its exhumation during Jurassic hyper-extension. Oceanic metamorphism and tectonism results in flaser gabbros, metasomatism, and high-temperature, low pressure amphibolite paragenesis (Mevel et al., 1978). Magmatic rocks now sit on ultramafic basement (Lagabrielle and Lemoine, 1997) composed of massive serpentinites, derived mainly from a lherzolitic protolith (Bertrand et al., 1982; Caby, 1995; Chalot-Prat and Bourlier, 2005; Lafay et al., 2013). Dunitic and pyroxenitic domains are present locally, as well as mylonites formed at high-temperature (Manatschal et al., 2011). Serpentinites are mainly characterized by mesh and bastite textures, classical textures for serpentinization after olivine and pyroxene respectively.

The ophicalcites studied in this contribution consist of an almost continuous, up to 10 m thick layer of breccia (Fig. 1b and c), overlain by massive serpentinites. The contact between serpentinite and breccia is sometimes sharp and lenses of serpentinite interleaved with ophicalcite (Fig. 1c). The total outcrop surface of this unit does not exceed a few hundred square meters. Samples were collected from different zones (c) and (e) in Fig. 1a). The breccia is composed of slightly rounded, veined serpentinite clasts of variable size (up to a few tens of centimeters) embedded in a cement of grey carbonates (Fig. 1e and f). The matrix contains serpentine, locally forming micro-breccia, causing

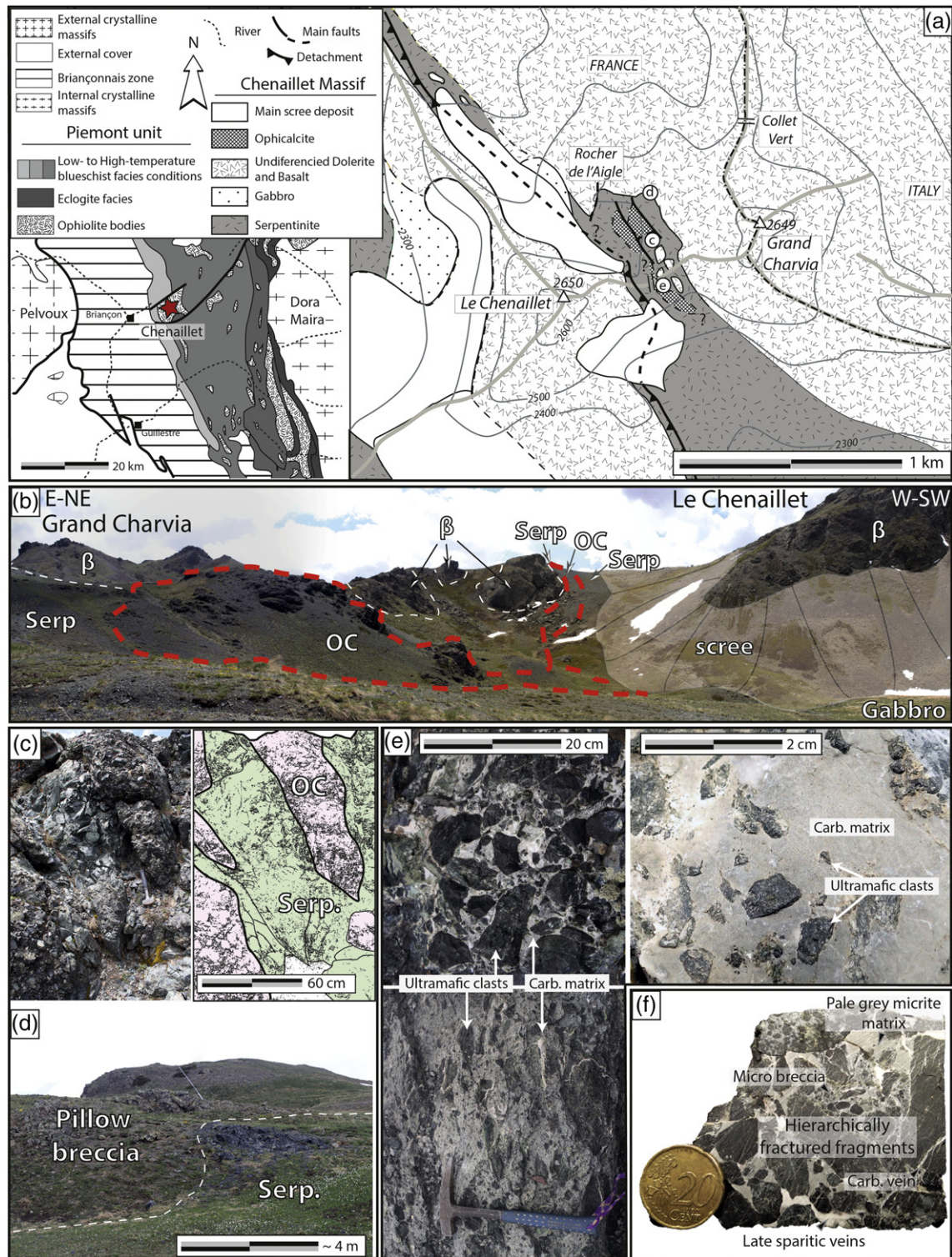


Fig. 1. a) Geological map of the Queyras area and Chenaillet massif geometry: The location of ophticalcite (OC) bodies are shown with the hatched pattern. The location of pictures are indicated on the map. (b) Panoramic view from the “Rocher de l’Aigle” to the south-east, the OC units are surrounded with a thick dotted line, (c-d) example of outcrop showing the relation between serpentinite (Serp.) and OC and serp. with pillow-breccia contact normal contact, (e) outcrops of representative OC, composed of ultramafic clast-supported to matrix-supported breccia and (f) representative sample highlighting the critical textures of the Chenaillet OC; hierarchically fractured serpentinites clasts, matrix of carbonate, sparitic late veins.

darker or lighter shades (Fig. 1e). Finally, it contains pyrite. Previous stable isotopic characterization for Chenaillet ophticalcites report $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for breccia cements, the so-called micritic cement. The values have a range between +10.4 and +12‰, (Lemoine et al., 1983). These values were interpreted as calcite formation at high temperature (>100 °C) in the presence of exchanged seawater.

The Chenaillet ophticalcite breccia records the most complete alteration history (including serpentinitization and the different carbonation events). Two non carbonated massive serpentinites were sampled below the Chenaillet ophticalcite unit. These samples are considered as reference for textural descriptions. The carbonation-precipitation sequence is discussed below in the

light of textural and geochemical observations made in the ophealite breccia.

3. Analytical procedures

3.1. Petrographic description

The mineralogy, microtextures, and microstructures were investigated on polished thin sections using polarized light. Cathodoluminescence microscopy (CL) of carbonate veins and matrix were made using a model 8200 MkII cold cathode luminoscope operating at 15 kV and 500 μ A attached to a microscope with an Olympus™ digital camera.

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analyses were performed in the ISTerre laboratory, Grenoble using a Bruker D8powder diffraction instrument with a solid state Li-doped silicon detector (SoIX Si (Li), Baltic Scientific Instruments) with a Cu X-ray source. Fragments of rock samples (few cubic millimeter) were cut and crushed manually. The powders were carefully compressed and analyzed over the range 10° to 80° (2θ), 0.024° step and 8 s counting time.

In-situ Raman spectroscopy on serpentine minerals was obtained at the ENS-Lyon using a Horiba Jobin-Yvon LabRam HR800 apparatus in order to determine serpentine varieties. Argon laser with a wavelength of 514 nm was used. An Olympus™ BX30 open microscope equipped with a 100 objective was used to focus the laser beam onto an area $1\mu\text{m}$ diameter. The acquisition of the reflected Raman signal was accumulated for 120 s in two cycles, with a laser power at the sample surface of approximately 700 μ W. The signal was analyzed using a 1800 lines/mm grating.

3.2. Grain size analysis

Samples were analyzed on the thin section surface. Selected rock fragments were hand-polished and acid-etched with dilute (1:10) HCl acid for 10 s to determine the shape and sizes of carbonate grains using BSE X-ray spectroscopy on a Mira LMU scanning electron microscope equipped with a Schottky-FEG in ISTE laboratory (Lausanne). From the etched-surface, crystal size distribution (CSD) analyses for carbonate matrix was done. The CSD analyses provides information on the relationship between nucleation and growth. The resolution of the images used for CSD measurements is approximately $1\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$. This leads to a minimum detected grain size of ca. $3\mu\text{m}$ for the CSD. Calcite crystals consist of blocky prisms. The maximum intersection lengths were measured for individual

calcite grains. The values were corrected using the program CSDCorrections (Higgins, 2000) for 2D intersection probabilities.

3.3. Chemical analysis

Major element concentrations were determined using a JEOL 8200 Superprobe at UNIL equipped with 5 WD spectrometers and an EDS. Operating conditions of 15 kV with a current of 10 nA or 6–10 nA and on focussed to a $1\mu\text{m}$ beam for serpentine and defocussed $15\mu\text{m}$ beam diameter for carbonates to avoid mineral alteration. The limit of detection for individual elements and minerals is given in the captions of Tables 1 and 2. The standards used and the error is provided in Appendix.

Element X-ray maps were acquired with a Jeol JXA-8230 electron-microprobe at ISTerre (Grenoble) using combined WDS/EDS with mapping with a spot size of $1\mu\text{m}$ per pixel and 60 ms of counting time per pixel. For an accelerating voltage of 15 kV the spatial resolution is about $7\mu\text{m}$.

3.4. Stable isotope analyses of carbonates and silicates

Carbonate powders were obtained by micro-drilling from selected areas. Powders were analyzed for C and O isotopic ratios using a ThermoFinnigan Gasbench II coupled to a Delta^{plus}XL dual-inlet isotope ratio mass spectrometer (IRMS) at UNIL following the method of Spötl and Vennemann (2003).

All samples were washed in ethanol. Between 10 μg and 200 μg of dried material was loaded for isotopic analysis, depending on carbonate content. A Carrara Marble standard was used as internal reference. Results are reported relative to VPDB for carbon and VSMOW for oxygen. The standard deviation (σ) for all analyses is better than 0.14‰ for carbon and 0.20‰ for oxygen with 80% of measurements below 0.08‰. The reproducibility of measurement is better than 0.06 and 0.16‰ in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ respectively.

Oxygen isotope ratio of eight serpentine samples were obtained by laser-heating fluorination analysis (e.g. Kaseman et al., 2001). Serpentine fractions of sub-millimeter fragments were weighed (1.5–2mg), mixed with the same amount of barium fluoride and placed in Pt-sample tray. Samples were dried for one day in an oven at 110°C and kept at least two days before analyses to avoid any water contamination linked to the hygroscopic properties of serpentine. Oxygen was extracted from serpentine using a CO_2 laser fluorination line and measured using a ThermoFinnigan MAT 253 mass spectrometer. Data were calibrated with the in-house LS-1 quartz standard. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ reproducibility is better than $\pm 0.1\text{‰}$ (σ).

Table 1
Microprobe major element concentration in oxide wt% obtain on serpentine crystals from the mesh in serpentinite clasts. Distinction was made on the base of mesh cores, mesh borders and serpentine within matrix. Measurements consists in an average value of n analyses made on different clasts or crystals infilling calcite matrix coming from different samples, the minimum and maximum values and the standard deviation of the mean (2σ) are also reported. $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$ (i.e. volatile) content is calculated by the difference between 100 and oxide sum, and X_{Mg} consist in molar $\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe})$. b.d.l.: below detection limit. Detection limit is typically 140 ppm for Ni, Cr and Mn, 120 ppm for Ti, 100 ppm for Na, and 60 ppm for K.

Serpentine habitus	Mesh core	n = 66			Mesh border	n = 67			Within matrix	n = 50		
	Average value	Min	Max	2sigma	Average value	Min	Max	2sigma	Average value	Min	Max	2sigma
SiO ₂	41.92	39.28	44.04	0.75	41.57	39.84	43.87	0.98	41.01	38.74	43.01	5.14
MgO	37.77	34.47	40.00	1.07	39.21	34.03	41.28	1.63	39.94	36.41	42.26	5.44
FeO	4.61	3.98	5.58	0.35	5.17	2.15	9.37	1.75	2.03	1.30	3.62	0.56
Al ₂ O ₃	2.62	0.29	3.40	0.60	0.58	0.12	2.57	0.39	0.76	0.40	2.34	0.36
TiO ₂	0.03	b.d.l.	0.04	0.01	0.03	b.d.l.	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.40	0.10
NiO	0.21	0.06	0.40	0.10	0.31	0.23	0.40	0.05	0.21	0.07	0.50	0.09
MnO	0.05	b.d.l.	0.09	0.02	0.06	b.d.l.	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.16	0.04
CaO	0.09	0.04	0.20	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.29	0.06	0.27	0.01	0.91	0.23
Na ₂ O	0.05	b.d.l.	0.11	0.02	0.04	b.d.l.	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.03	0.08	0.02
K ₂ O	0.03	b.d.l.	0.06	0.01	0.03	b.d.l.	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.30	0.08
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.13	b.d.l.	0.50	0.12	0.09	b.d.l.	0.42	0.10	0.08	0.05	0.17	0.04
Total	87.12	81.80	91.75	1.52	86.75	83.79	89.67	1.21	84.30	80.3	88.0	10.48
H ₂ O	12.88	8.25	18.20	1.52	13.25	10.33	16.21	1.21	15.56	11.99	18.9	2.58
X_{Mg}	0.94	0.92	0.95	0.01	0.94	0.88	0.97	0.12	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.01

Table 2

Water content, oxygen and hydrogen isotope composition of serpentinite from the clasts, and oxygen and carbon isotope data for calcite. A micro-drill was used to obtain data for different textures. N correspond to the number of analyses. Temperature were calculated as explained in the text and results are reported in Fig. 10. All data are provided in the Appendix.

Serpentinite habitus (N)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (VSMOW)		δD (VSMOW)		H_2O content (wt%)		T (°C)	
							$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}} = 0\text{‰}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}} = 2\text{‰}$
Mesh (ref)	5.09		−148		12.06		155	
Bastite (ref)	3.3		−132		11.93		190	
Mesh (5)	3.9/5.11		−145		12.98		155–175	
Bastite (4)	3.28/4.23		−138		12.39		170–190	
Calcite texture (N)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (‰) (VSMOW)		$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰) (VPDB)		T (°C)		T (°C)	
	Range	Mean	Range	Mean	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}} = 0\text{‰}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}} = 2\text{‰}$	Range	
Vein within clast (41)	10.75/16.5	13.2	−1.8/0	−0.5	110–180		130–220	
Mesh core (25)	12.2/14.9	13.3	−5.2/−0.12	−1.1	130–160		150–195	
Matrix (26)	11.5/12.6	12.1	−0.8/0.3	−0.4	155–170		185–205	
Late veins (17)	12.8/15.8	14.2	−0.8/0.45	−0.2	120–155		150–180	

3.5. Analysis of water content in serpentinites and hydrogen isotope ratios

Water content and δD values of serpentinite were analyzed with a high temperature conversion elemental analyzer (TC/EA) coupled to a gas chromatographic column and the ThermoFinnigan MAT 253 mass spectrometer. Pre-heating of samples and overnight storage in a vacuum desiccator was used to remove adsorbed water.

4. Results

4.1. Petrology of the Chenaillet ophicalcites

Schematic representation of the complex fabrics of ophicalcites and serpentinites are shown in Fig. 2, along with selected mineral assemblages. Relict textures in serpentine clasts reflect the original peridotite mineralogy of pyroxene, olivine, and spinel and their initial distribution. Serpentine aggregates with characteristic mesh textures (typical mesh size < 1 mm) are delineated by μm -sized magnetite crystals. They resulted from the interaction of olivine with hydrothermal fluids. The serpentinized pyroxenes are present as large bastites pseudomorphs, often associated with spinel, which is surrounded by chlorite (e.g. Fig. 2c).

Serpentine forms the framework of the rock, while the carbonates form a discrete network of thin, micrometric to millimetric interconnected, cross-cutting veins (Fig. 2). Several generations of carbonate veins and cement can be distinguished at thin section and sample scale (e.g. Figs. 1f and 2). Serpentine clasts in ophicalcites have a similar mineralogy, distribution of pseudomorphs, and microtextures as those of non-brecciated fresh serpentinites (Fig. 2b). This suggests that the ultramafic basement constitutes the source for the ultramafic clasts. The bastite versus mesh proportion in clasts is generally <1/5 and spinel and magnetite represent <5% volume.

The modal amount of carbonate and ultramafic clasts vary considerably, as well as veining intensity (Fig. 1). The selected example shown in Fig. 1f displays all salient feature of ophicalcite that will be discussed in detail. Its mineralogy is mainly serpentine and calcite, as shown in the diffraction pattern given for bulk ophicalcite in Fig. 3.

Raman analysis can discriminate different kinds of serpentine (lizardite, chrysotile, antigorite) (e.g., Groppo et al., 2006; Schwartz et al., 2013). The distribution of different serpentine varieties within ophicalcite is not random but is related to specific rock textures.

Lizardite is the most common serpentine variety in the clasts. It is the most common kind of serpentine formed during oceanic serpentinization (Andreani et al., 2007). An assemblage of chrysotile + lizardite was observed in the core of mesh textures (e.g. Fig. 4 spectra 2 and 3; see also SEM observation), whereas

mesh rims are formed by well-crystallized lizardite (e.g. Figs. 2d and 4 spectrum 1). These observations are comparable to observations made on oceanic serpentinites (Boudier et al., 2010; Cressey, 1979; Rouméjon et al., 2015; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014; Wicks and Zussman, 1975). Chrysotile veins crosscutting clasts may be observed as well as rare occurrence of isolated antigorite in clasts or clast fragments (e.g., Fig. 4, spectrum 7). The occurrence of antigorite in an oceanic context is often attributed to local Si-metasomatism, possibly as a consequence of pyroxene serpentinization at greater depth (O'Hanley, 1991; Rouméjon et al., 2015; Schwartz et al., 2013) rather than an increase in temperature. Nevertheless, antigorite is very rare in our samples, and we will not discuss its origin in detail.

4.1.1. Carbonates within clasts

An overview of typical features for different carbonates generation is illustrated in Fig. 5 and discussed below.

4.1.1.1. Carbonate veins. Veins in serpentinite clasts are the first generation of carbonates and are referred to as C1 (Fig. 5a). The center of C1 veins have a uniform dull-orange luminescing calcite (Fig. 5a). However, the borders of the veins display systematically bright orange luminescence, documenting chemical changes during vein formation. X-ray diffraction on selected serpentinite clasts (i.e. selected serpentinized area including small carbonate veins) indicates that the carbonate is dominantly calcite, but some dolomite can be found (Fig. 3 serpentinite clasts). These veins are restricted to individual clast, either terminating inside or truncated at the edge of the clast (Figs. 1a and 5e).

4.1.1.2. Sparitic at clast edge. Clasts are occasionally rimmed by sparitic calcite (called C1' in Fig. 5). Luminescence features are comparable to the one for C1veins (e.g. Fig. 5b). Locally, wide rims develop into sub-rhombohedral calcite. The fabric indicates growth towards clasts (Fig. 5c). The texture is interpreted to represent early antitaxial type growth (Fisher and Byrne, 1990; Urai et al., 1991) in a vein. These calcite fringes were linked to a previous crack network, C1. They are remnants of veins channeling fluids. The cracks resulted in host rock brecciation.

4.1.1.3. Carbonate in serpentine mesh. The mesh textured serpentinites are locally replaced by carbonates, designated as C2 (Fig. 5b and c). Carbonate cores consist of single calcite crystals. C1 veins and C2 cores are linked as illustrated in Fig. 6, suggesting that they precipitated at the same time. The irregular boundary of the single crystal calcite (Fig. 6) suggests that it replaced residual olivine or enstatite crystals.

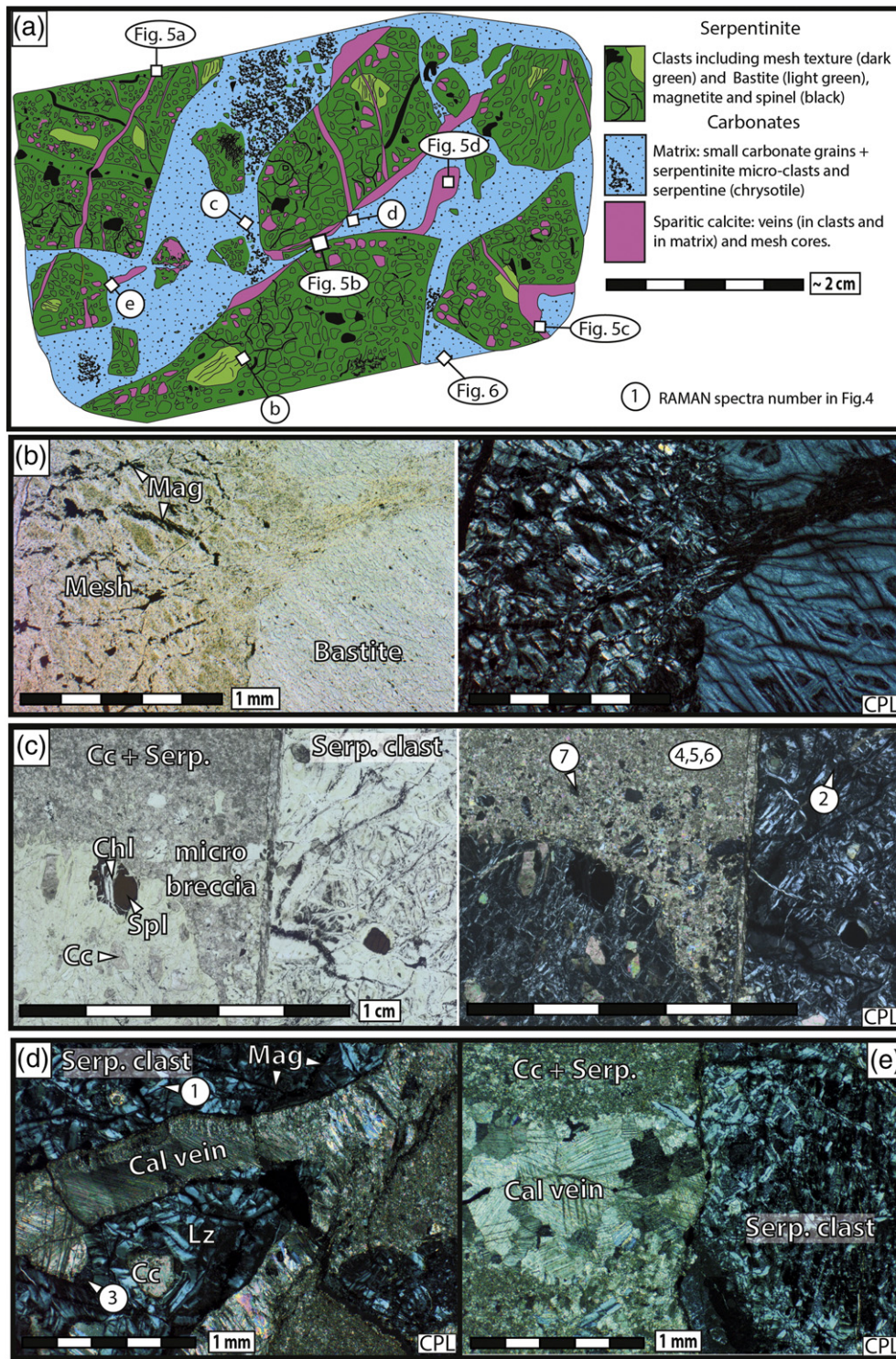


Fig. 2. (a) thin section sketch summarising typical textures recognized in the Chenaillet opicalcite. (b) Photomicrographs of specific mesh and bastite textures in non carbonated serpentinites references, (c) serpentinite (Serp.) fragments embedded in a matrix of carbonate filling gaps between clasts as well as idiomorphic calcite inside serpentinite mesh, (d), calcite veins crosscutting clasts and bordering clast and calcite replacing mesh core, (e), sparitic calcite veins crosscutting matrix. Mineralogy inherited from pristine serpentinite is almost exclusively composed of lizardite: Lz, spinel: Spl, magnetite: Mag (with few occurrence of chlorite (chl) and rare tremolite), CPL refer to cross polarized light. The typical place where pictures can be found are reported in (a), the place where RAMAN spectra from Fig. 4 were taken is also reported.

4.1.2. Micritic matrix supporting clasts

The Matrix is mainly composed of small calcite grains (<50 μm), clast fragments (e.g. Fig. 7d) and tiny serpentine-aggregates (Fig. 7e). Rare magnetite, but no dolomite was detected by X-ray diffraction (Fig. 3 pale grey matrix). Some equant, dozens of micrometer large pyrite crystals were found (e.g. Fig. 7b and e). CL images show that the small grains

of calcite are zoned, with a dull core and a bright luminescent border (Fig. 7c).

The CSD of the calcite grains forming the cement of the breccia was determined on acid-etched sections (Fig. 7b). For three samples, 1500 grains were measured, from a total area of approximately 0.3 mm^2 . The relative frequency for mineral sizes from three different samples

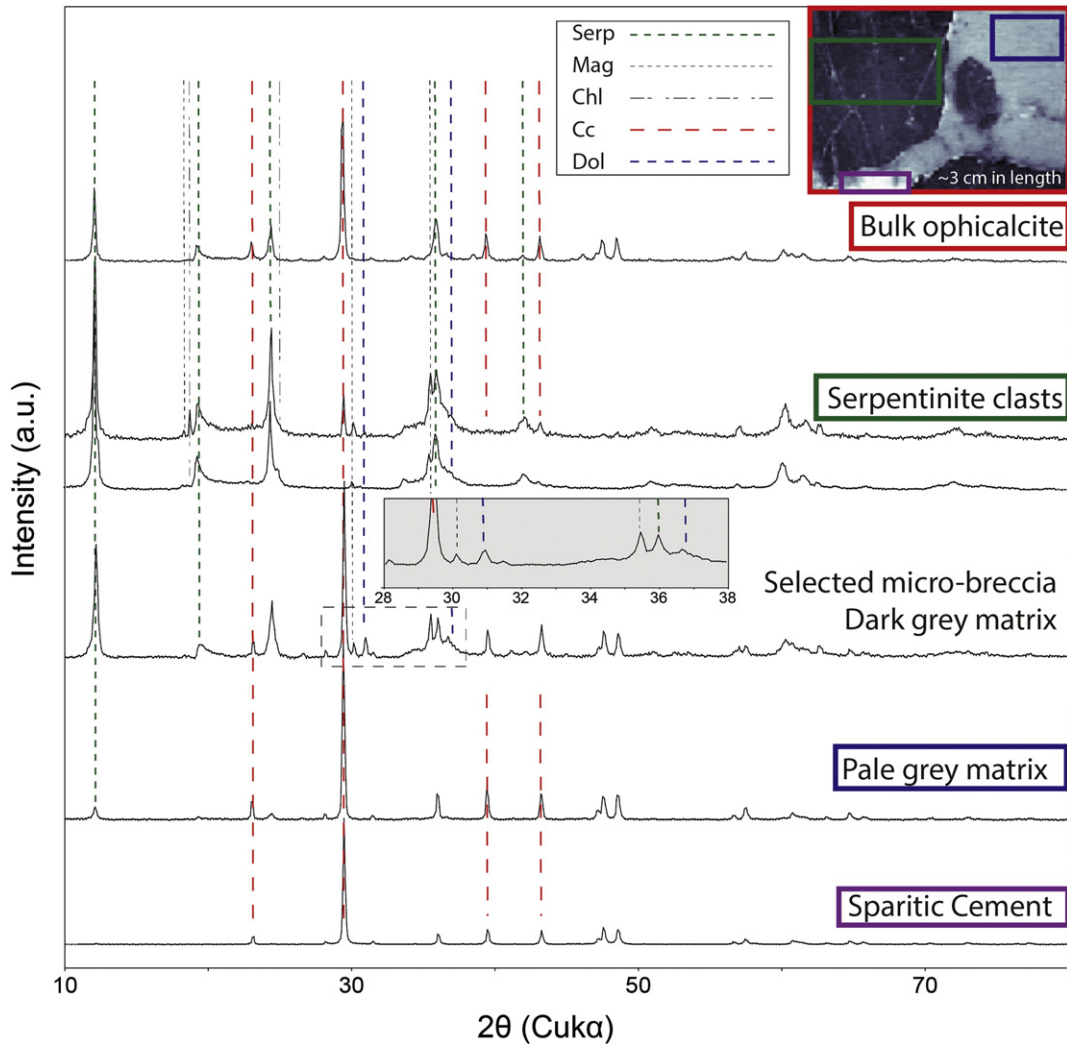


Fig. 3. X-ray powder diffraction patterns typical for bulk opicalcite and selected area. Right top inset represent a schematic view of area represented (with polygons colours corresponding to the labelled diffraction patterns). Peaks for representative species are pinpointed by dotted lines. Serpentine (Serp) and calcite (Cal) are the two dominant species, serpentinite clasts (including few carbonate veins related to precocious serpentinization/carbonation) are characterized by few amount of magnetite (Mag), chlorite (Chl) and occasionally dolomite (Dol). Micro-breccia (or dark grey matrix) may be characterized by the presence of dolomite (see inset), whereas selected pale grey matrix contains only calcite-serpentine and second-generation carbonate veins contains only calcite.

is given in Fig. 8. The mineral size distribution has a range from 3 to 60 μm . The average particle size is ca. 14 μm and the median is ca. 12 μm . The slope of the CSDs (Fig. 8b) is similar for the 3 samples measured. The slight bend at small grain sizes most likely reflects cumulated uncertainties due to the correction algorithm and the detection limit of 3 μm . The straight line CSD can be interpreted to reflect a single, continuous nucleation-growth event, with little recrystallization after first formation (Eberl et al., 1998). The calcite crystals are homogeneously distributed in the analyzed sections (Fig. 7). This argues against multiple sources of calcite crystals, from different clastic or bioclastic sources. This is confirmed by stable isotope homogeneity (see below).

The serpentine in the micrometric aggregates (Fig. 7d and e) within calcite matrix is exclusively composed of chrysotile (e.g. spectra 6 on Fig. 4). The chrysotile forms acute, delicate clusters (Fig. 7e), suggesting that they were precipitated in situ rather than flushed in as detrital clasts.

Late calcite filled cracks (C4) crosscut the matrix and some of the clasts (Fig. 1f). Veins can reach up to 1 cm thickness. Intersecting veins and cathodo-luminescence features like geopetals highlights the multiple fluid infiltration and the presence of open vugs (Fig. 5d).

4.1.3. Occurrence of dolomite

Dolomite is associated with calcite and serpentine in a few carbonated clasts, within fine-grain breccia with carbonate alteration, and in

some serpentine layers. Typical textures of the occurrence of dolomite are given in Fig. 9. Dolomite is present as idiomorphic crystals separating calcite and serpentinite at some clast edges (Fig. 9a, c, d) or next to calcite in serpentinite mesh cores and serpentine mesh borders after olivine or orthopyroxene (Fig. 9b). This resembles metamorphic reactions of incompatible minerals, driven either by metasomatism or pressure and temperature changes. A few anastomosing veinlets of dolomite, in places ultramafic fragment crosscut C3 matrix calcite (Fig. 9a). In either case, dolomite is secondary, well after calcite formation.

4.2. Geochemistry and stable isotope composition of opicalcite

4.2.1. Serpentine

Microprobe measurements were grouped texturally into serpentine mesh cores, mesh borders and serpentine within matrix. We do not report data for serpentine within bastite. The number of analyses and the analytical error are detailed in Table 1. Mesh cores display highly homogeneous MgO and FeO content with FeO values between 4 and 5.5 wt% (Fig. 10a and Table 1). Mesh borders are characterized by a wider range in FeO content, with values between 2.15 and 9.4 wt%. However, average X_{Mg} (Mg/Mg + Fe) in cores and borders are comparable (Table 1). Typical value for X_{Mg} in the cores is 0.94 whereas X_{Mg} for mesh rims is 0.93 (Fig. 10 and Table 1). In addition, the average Al_2O_3

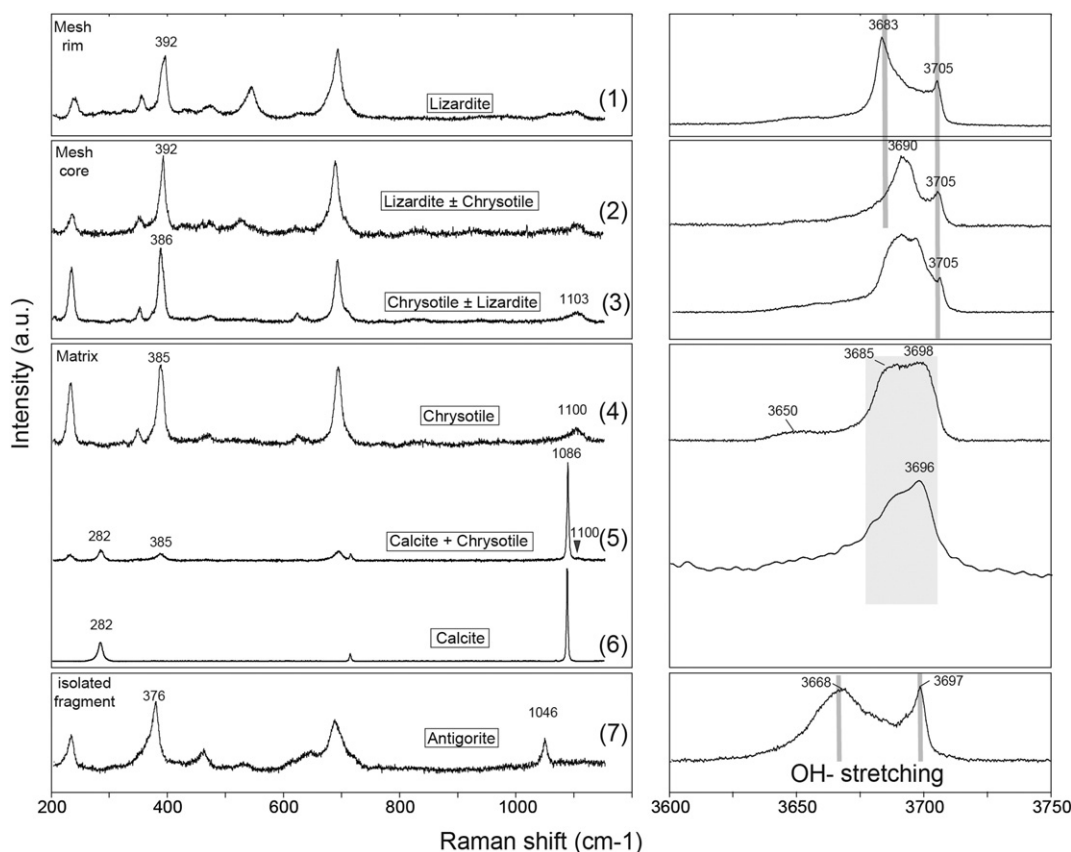


Fig. 4. Representative Raman spectra acquired in the low frequency (200–1200 cm^{-1}) and OH-stretching (3600 to 3750 cm^{-1}) ranges for the different mineral textures. Varieties of serpentine where recognized on the bases of the position of typical OH-stretching bands for lizardite chrysotile and antigorite (indicated in grey). Additionally at low frequency, lizardite displays weak peak at 240 cm^{-1} whereas chrysotile and antigorite display sharp peak at 232 cm^{-1} , chrysotile and antigorite display a peak at about 1100 cm^{-1} and 1043 cm^{-1} respectively and all peaks are shifted towards lower frequency for antigorite.

content for mesh cores is substantially higher than that for mesh borders with 2.2 wt% versus 0.6 wt% (Table 1 and Fig. 10). The higher Al_2O_3 content in mesh core might reflect greater Al Tschermak substitution with Si (Evans, 2008). Note that all Fe was considered as Fe^{2+} . The concentration of NiO in serpentine is between 0.06 wt% and 0.4 wt%. Here mesh borders are slightly enriched and much more homogeneous in Ni. Both mesh cores and mesh borders contained <0.1 wt% of all other minor elements.

Powder obtained from micro-drilling serpentinite have homogeneous oxygen isotopic values with a range from +3.3 to +4.2‰ in bastite type serpentinites and +3.9 to +5.1‰ for mesh type serpentinites (Table 2 and Appendix). Serpentinite has low δD values with a range from –133 to –148‰ (VSMOW). Based on this limited data set mesh serpentinites are characterized by values 0.5 to 1‰ higher and ~10‰ lower for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, and δD , respectively compared to serpentinite from bastite. Absolute values for water content in serpentinite range between 11.9 and 13 wt%. No correlation between water content and δD values is apparent.

4.2.2. Carbonates within clasts

Microprobe-analyzed chemical compositions and isotopic compositions vary between the texturally distinct generations of calcite (Table 3). The number of analyses and the analytical errors are detailed in Table 3. Veins within the clasts contains up to 1.4 wt% MgO, (0.20 wt% in average), up to 0.7 wt% for FeO (0.09 wt% in average), and below 0.1 wt% for all other minor elements (Table 3). The mean SrO values obtained for the analyzed veins is about 0.04 wt%. Calcite fringes reported as C1' contain values that are comparable to C1 veins with up to 2.1 wt% of MgO and slightly higher values for MnO, with a larger range (Table 3). In contrast, sparitic calcite characterizing mesh cores contains two to three times higher amount of Mg, and Mn (Table 3)

with mean values of 0.46 wt% and 0.24 wt% for MgO and MnO respectively. Other minor elements displayed values comparable to those measured for C1 veins with an average value of about 0.05 wt%, 0.08 wt% and 0.1 wt% for SrO, PbO and FeO respectively.

Calcites from (C1) veins are marked by relatively homogeneous $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (Fig. 11, Table 2 and Appendix). Our values fall in the range of composition reported for other opicalcites locality from the Alpine belt. All values for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ are between –1.0 and 0.0‰, suggesting a seawater origin for carbon. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for C1 carbonate varies between +11 and +16‰. A slightly smaller range of +12 to +15‰ was measured for calcite from (C2) mesh serpentinites. Nevertheless, some mesh cores have low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of –5‰ (Fig. 11). C1' calcite fringes tend towards the heaviest isotopic compositions of the C1 group (i.e. $\delta^{18}\text{O} > +14$ ‰).

4.2.3. Matrix

Chemical analysis for the calcite matrix have values of 0.02 to 2.9 wt% for MgO (0.42 wt% in average). MnO remains high with 0.13 wt% in average and the SrO content is the highest observed for all the different kind of carbonates with concentration up to 0.32 wt% (0.1 wt% in average).

The isotopic values for calcite in the matrix vary little, both in C and O isotope ratios. The values range between +11.6 and +12.6‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and the values range between –0.8 and +0.3‰ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (Fig. 11 and Table 2).

Late open calcite cracks are characterized by an average MgO value of 0.23 wt%. Average values for other minor elements are 0.08 wt%, 0.05 wt%, 0.07 wt% and 0.11 wt% for FeO, SrO, PbO and MnO, respectively (Table 3). The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values range between +12.8 and +15.5‰ with no overlap with values recorded for C3 matrix (Fig. 11). The average value is about +14‰ (Fig. 11 and Table 2).

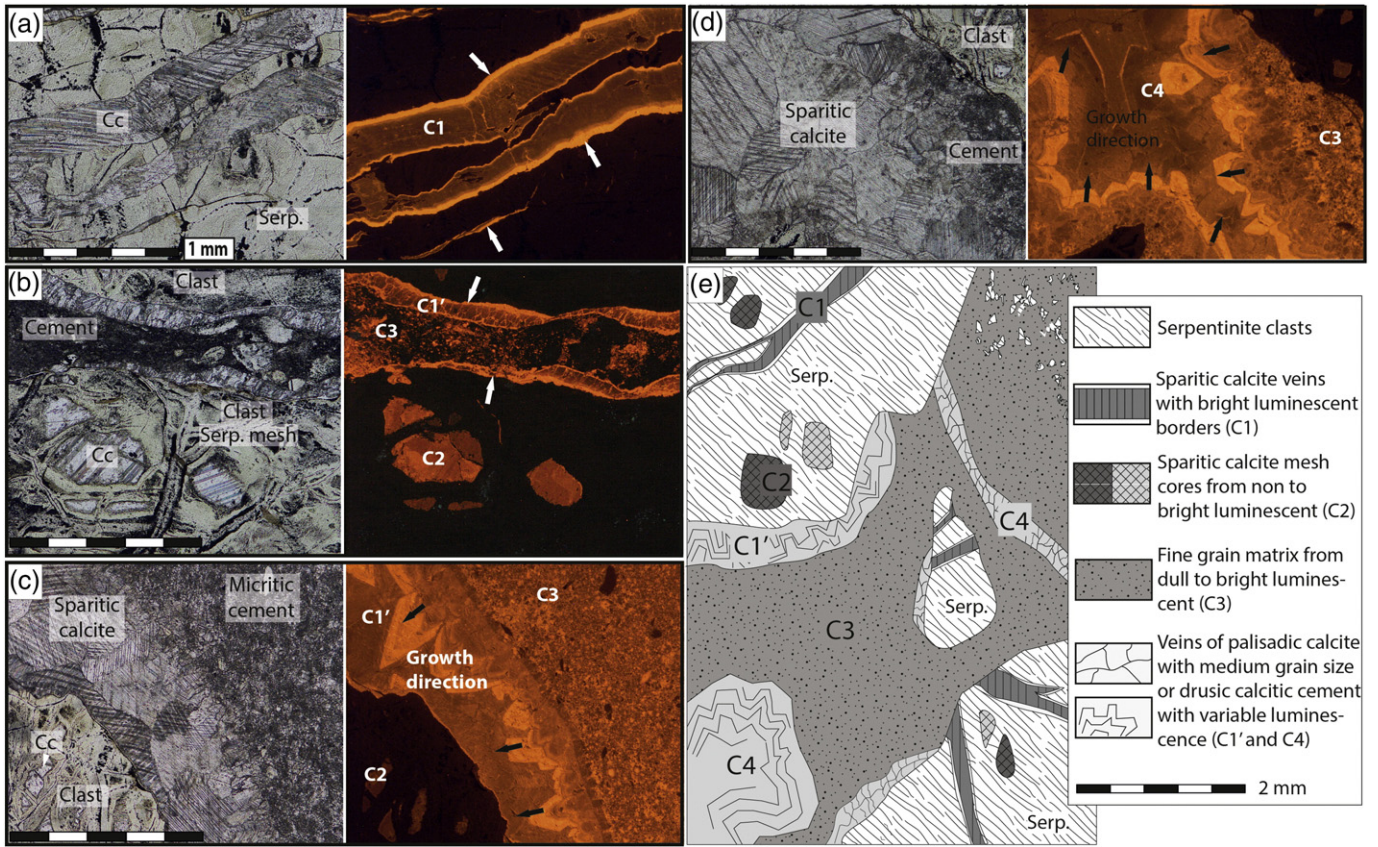


Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of the different carbonate features and corresponding cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging, (a) sparitic calcite veins of generation C1 crosscutting a serpentine clasts and showing bright luminescent fringes (white arrows); (b) C1' veins filled by fine grain matrix C3 composed of calcite and micro-clasts, the calcite constituting C1 grains boundaries and vein border are filled by bright orange luminescing calcite as in (a), calcite C2 replacing mesh cores display variable luminescence, (c) milimetric antiaxial veins C1' (growth direction indicated by black arrows) of sparitic calcite forming clast fringes and (d) late veins C4 in cement matrix filled by botryoidal calcite. The scale bar is 1 mm. (e) Schematic drawing of the different carbonation features in the Chenaillet opicalcarbonates.

EPMA measurements for serpentine within the matrix carbonate have low Al_2O_3 content (0.76 wt% in average), a value comparable to the one recorded for serpentine at the edges of mesh structures (Table 1 and Fig. 10a), but values cover the same range as those of mesh rim serpentine (Fig. 9a). The FeO contents is generally very low, with an average value of 2.03 wt% leading to a X_{Mg} of 0.97. This is higher than values measured for other serpentine (0.93- X_{Mg} -0.94). Values for other minor elements (with the exception of Ca) are comparable with values reported above for the other serpentines.

4.2.4. Dolomite

Dolomite crystals are characterized by a low content of SrO (0.02 wt%, on average) but relatively high MnO (0.19 wt%, on average) and FeO

contents (0.29 wt% in average, Table 3). In the few cases where it was possible to distinguish between different dolomite types we noted that dolomite replacing serpentine close to mesh cores borders are characterized by higher MnO and FeO contents than dolomite within the matrix.

5. Discussion

5.1. Thermal constraints for the Chenaillet opicalcrite formation

5.1.1. Temperature of serpentinization

Temperatures for serpentine formation were calculated using the Zheng (1993) fractionation factors for oxygen isotopes between water

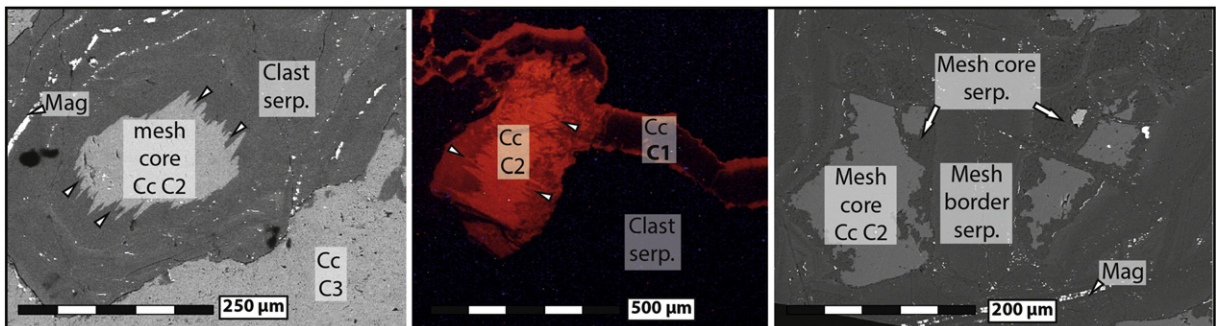


Fig. 6. Serpentine clasts carbonation with mesh core replaced by calcite, on the left and center calcite core display etch-pits like features, on left and right core edges remains partially composed of serpentine interpenetrated with calcite while in the center is fully carbonated.

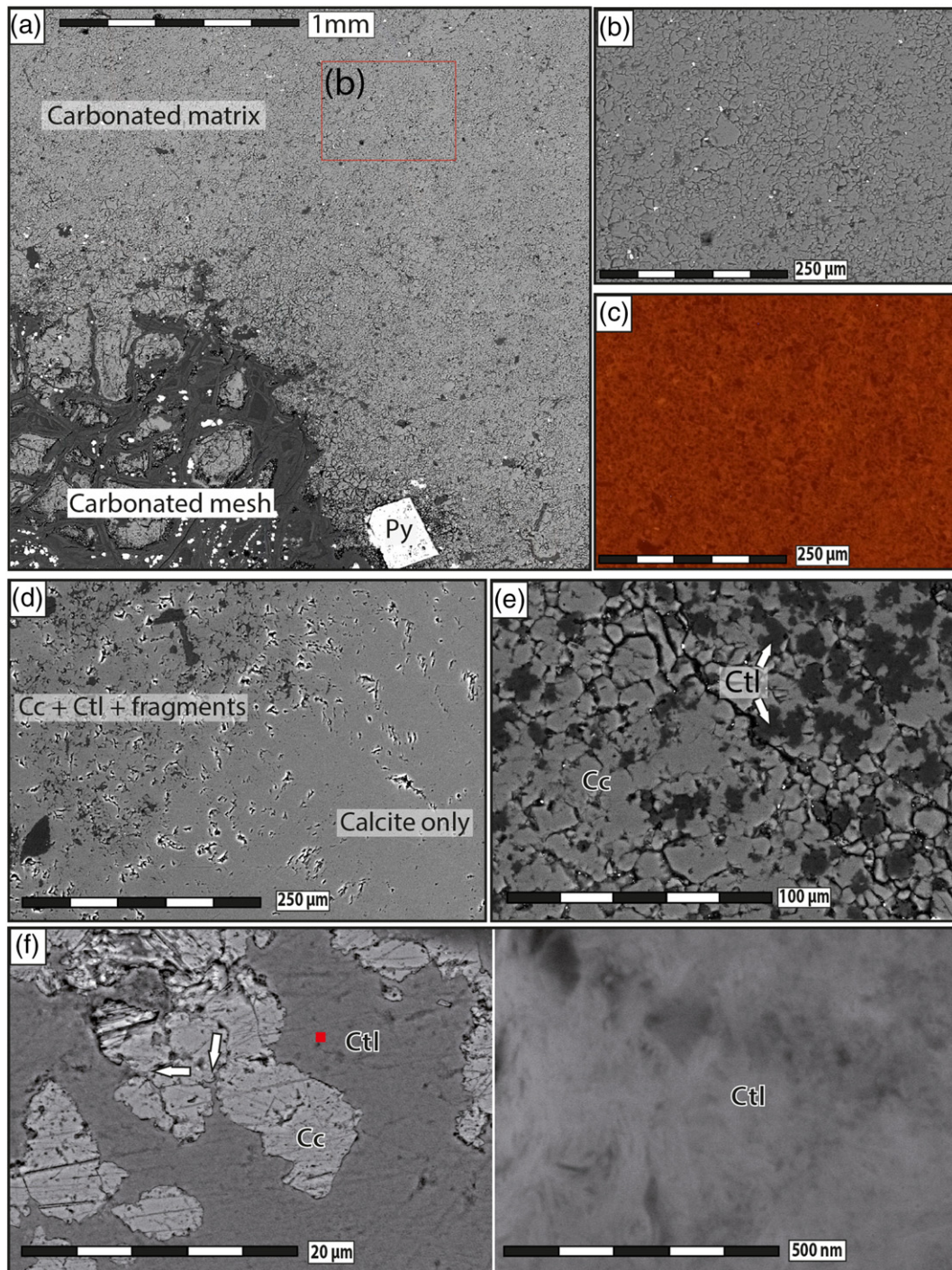


Fig. 7. (a) High resolution secondary electron microphotograph for small grain carbonate matrix beside a carbonated clast after acidic etching with close up views in (b) where crystal size measurements can be performed, (c) example of CL imaging of the matrix, (d) polished surface illustrating the transition from a pure calcite (C3) matrix to a serpentine-calcite mixed matrix and e–f) example of intergrowth textural features in serpentine-calcite matrix with close up view represented by red polygon, interstitial chrysotile are pinpointed by white arrow.

and serpentine:

$$10^3 \ln \alpha_{\text{serpentine-water}}^{18\text{O}-16\text{O}} = 3.99 \times \frac{10^6}{T^2} - 8.12 \times \frac{10^3}{T} + 2.35$$

The serpentinization occurred at temperatures of 155 to 190 °C, assuming a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of 0‰ for the fluid responsible for alteration (Table 2 and Fig. 12). If the fractionation factor of Saccocia et al. (2009) is used, higher temperatures of 215 and 245 °C are calculated.

Serpentinites are depleted in deuterium ($-133 < \delta\text{D} < -148\%$), which is common in serpentinites from Alpine ophiolites (Früh-Green

et al., 2001; Früh-Green et al., 1990; Sheppard, 1980). Since the Alpine overprint induced very little textural changes, it is likely that low- δD fluids produced during oceanic peridotite alteration. This might reflect serpentinization and long residence time in slow spreading system during hydration in the prehnite-pumpellyite facies (e.g. Agrinier et al., 1988).

5.1.2. Temperature of carbonation

The temperature of carbonate precipitation is difficult to evaluate, since the veins contain normally only calcite. Nevertheless, assuming an

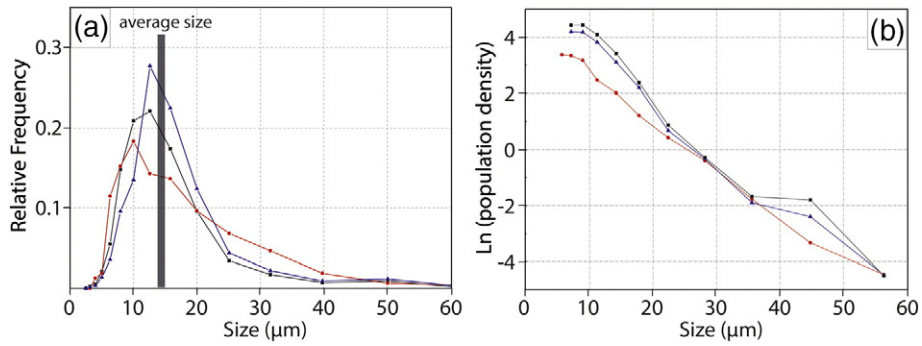


Fig. 8. (a) Relative frequency versus calcite crystal size curves for three different area measured in different samples (values corrected with CSDCorrections software) b) corresponding Ln (population density) for the different size intervals.

ocean water isotopic composition of about 0‰, temperatures can again be estimated based on carbonate-water fractionation factors. However, the ocean water might have changed its isotopic composition by water-rock interaction prior to precipitation of the carbonate. Hence the obtained temperatures are at best an indication of precipitation temperature.

Using the Kim and O’Neil (1997) fractionation law: $10^3 \ln \alpha_{\text{calcite-water}}^{18\text{O}-16\text{O}} = 4.01 \times \frac{10^6}{T^2} - 4.66 \times \frac{10^3}{T} + 1.71$ we estimated the possible temperature for carbonates formation (Table 3 and Fig. 12) equilibration with primary seawater composition.

An additional uncertainty is introduced by possible resetting of the isotopic composition during the Alpine overprint. Temperatures estimated for the Alpine metamorphism of the Chenaillet unit are below 250 °C (Goffé et al., 2004). An upper bound for the diffusion can be estimated by assuming a duration of 5 Ma at peak temperature of 250 °C. A characteristic diffusion distance for oxygen of <3 μm is obtained using the fastest reported diffusion coefficients for oxygen isotopes in calcite (Farver, 1994), while a distance of <10 nm is obtained using the most recent diffusion coefficients of Labotka et al. (2000). Hence, we estimate that diffusive exchange is too slow to change the isotopic composition of

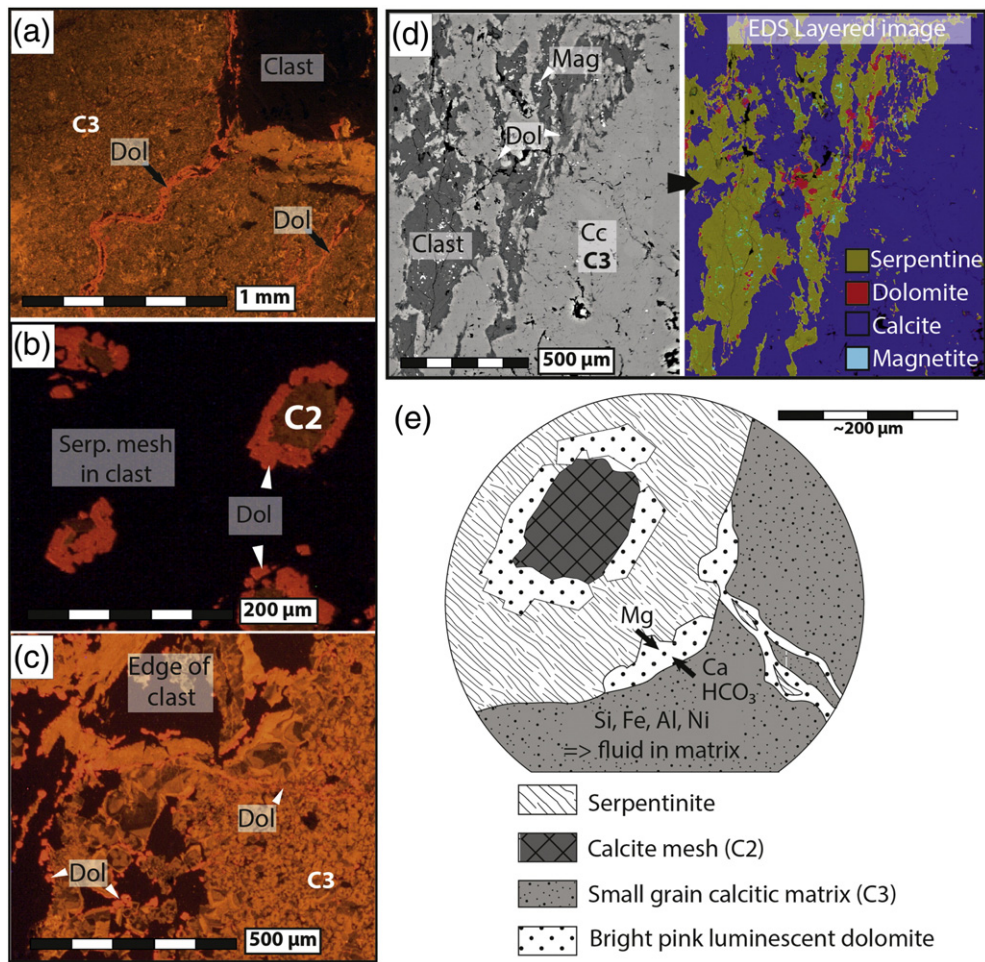


Fig. 9. Typical dolomite (Dol) features with (a) CL image showing bright pink veinlets of dolomite in calcite matrix C3, (b) CL images of idiomorphic dolomite (pink) at the clast-calcite C2 border inside mesh within clast, (c) CL image of micro-breccia with dolomitized clasts fringe, (d) SEM microphotograph and related EDS layered X-ray map image based on Mg, Si, Fe and Ca measurements allowing to accurately distinguish calcite cement (blue) and metasomatic dolomite (red) replacing serpentine within clasts, (e) sketch summarising typical textures for dolomite occurrence.

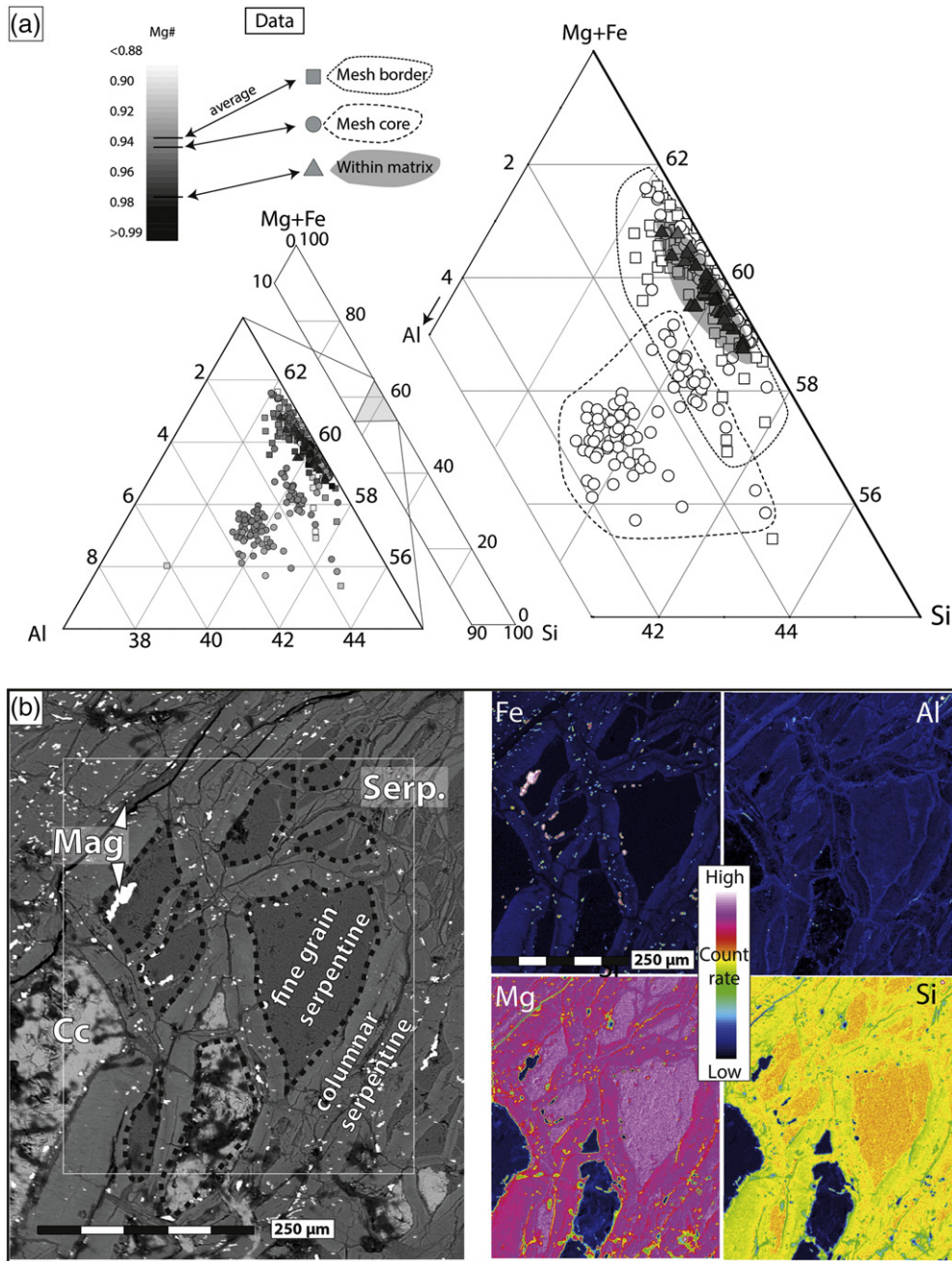


Fig. 10. (a) Serpentine major elements content in a Si-(Mg + Fe)-Al ternary diagram, mesh core (circle), mesh border (square) and serpentine within matrix (triangle) are distinguished, grey scale is a function of XMg (all Fe is considered as divalent for normalization and the average values for Mg number in the three case is also reported), the right chart represent a zoom with mesh core and border distribution surrounded, and evidence for high XMg for serpentine within matrix, (b) BSE image of a representative serpentine mesh from a carbonated serpentinite clast, and WDS element distribution maps for Fe, Al, Si and Mg. Mesh core are characterized by poorly crystallized serpentine (surrounded by dotted lines) with homogeneous Fe contents and are linked with the sparse presence of large magnetite near to the rim, mesh borders supports small magnetite and displayed heterogeneous Fe content and lowest amount of Al. Cc, calcite; Mag, magnetite; Serp, undifferentiated serpentine.

the carbonates. Recrystallization of the carbonates on the other hand can reset the isotopic composition easily (Putnis and Putnis, 2007). Hence, care was taken to use only carbonates that show no textural evidence for recrystallization. The linear crystal size distribution for the matrix carbonates, for example, argues against recrystallization (e.g. Cashman and Ferry, 1988).

Temperature for the formation of the carbonate veins are between 110 °C and 180 °C assuming seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O} = 0\text{‰}$. The largest calcite veins in the clasts (i.e. >1 mm) generally have lower O-isotopic values when compared to the smaller veins in the clasts (<1 mm; see e.g. Fig. 12a). This suggests that the latter veins formed at lower

temperatures, and the range given reflects this thermal evolution. Mesh core replacement operated at temperatures between 130 and 160 °C. The precipitation of carbonate cement occurred at a temperature of ca. 155–170 °C. Late veins are characterized by lower temperature of formation of 120–155 °C.

Taking the above temperatures at face value, this suggests that the serpentinite clasts went through an initial cooling during clast formation, followed by a moderate reheating before or during cementation, before again cooling is recorded during late stage veining. Alternatively, the data could be interpreted to reflect changes in isotopic composition of the carbonate precipitating fluids.

Table 3

Microprobe element concentration in oxide wt% obtain for the different generation of carbonate from the Chenaillet ophicalcite. Distinction was made on the base of textural and cathodoluminescence determination. Data consists in an average of n analyses made on different area from different samples but considered as the same type of carbonate, the minimum and maximum values and the standard deviation of the mean (2σ) are also reported. CO₂ content is calculated by difference. b.d.l.: below detection limit, typically 400 ppm for Pb, 200 ppm for Mn, Sr and Ti and 160 ppm for Fe and Cr in calcite and 200 ppm for Pb, 180 ppm for Mn and close to 130 ppm for Sr, Fe, Ni, Cr and Ti in dolomite.

Carbonate type n = type	C1				C1'				C2			
	Average	Max	Min	2 σ	Average	Max	Min	2 σ	Average	Max	Min	2 σ
wt%												
MgO	<0.20	1.37	b.d.l.	0.24	<0.19	2.12	b.d.l.	0.28	<0.46	3.05	b.d.l.	0.56
CaO	54.00	55.64	50.01	1.43	54.04	55.54	46.11	1.61	53.20	55.91	47.88	1.76
FeO	<0.09	0.71	b.d.l.	0.10	<0.08	0.34	b.d.l.	0.08	<0.10	0.60	b.d.l.	0.10
SrO	<0.04	0.07	b.d.l.	0.02	<0.05	0.08	b.d.l.	0.03	<0.05	0.09	b.d.l.	0.03
MnO	<0.09	0.17	b.d.l.	0.05	<0.11	0.35	b.d.l.	0.09	<0.24	0.63	b.d.l.	0.19
NiO	<0.05	0.09	b.d.l.	0.02	<0.04	0.06	b.d.l.	0.02	<0.05	0.10	b.d.l.	0.02
PbO	<0.08	0.15	b.d.l.	0.04	<0.07	0.13	b.d.l.	0.04	<0.08	0.14	b.d.l.	0.04
Cr ₂ O ₃	<0.04	0.10	b.d.l.	0.02	<0.03	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.04	0.06	b.d.l.	0.01
TiO ₂	<0.03	0.04	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.03	0.04	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.05	0.07	b.d.l.	0.01
CO ₂	42.60	43.79	39.74	0.99	42.68	43.59	36.31	1.14	42.32	43.90	39.47	1.11
Total	97.41	99.67	93.32	1.52	97.33	100.06	93.67	1.99	97.1	99.84	94.07	1.82
Carbonate type n = type	C3				C4				Dol			
	89				69				50			
	Calcite				Calcite				Dolomite			
	Average	Max	Min	2 σ	Average	Max	Min	2 σ	Average	Max	Min	2 σ
wt%												
MgO	<0.45	2.89	b.d.l.	0.49	<0.23	2.05	b.d.l.	0.26	19.35	21.12	16.40	1.26
CaO	54.42	56.17	51.69	0.87	53.87	56.09	48.91	1.51	31.66	35.77	30.10	1.57
FeO	<0.09	0.31	b.d.l.	0.06	<0.08	0.58	b.d.l.	0.07	<0.29	0.82	0.08	0.22
SrO	0.10	0.32	0.03	0.09	<0.05	0.09	b.d.l.	0.02	<0.03	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01
MnO	<0.13	0.46	b.d.l.	0.10	<0.11	0.40	b.d.l.	0.08	0.19	0.24	0.15	0.02
NiO	<0.04	0.06	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.04	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01
PbO	<0.07	0.19	0.04	0.04	<0.07	0.13	b.d.l.	0.03	<0.04	0.07	b.d.l.	0.02
Cr ₂ O ₃	<0.03	0.03	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.03	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.02	0.02	b.d.l.	0.01
TiO ₂	<0.04	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.04	0.05	b.d.l.	0.01	<0.03	0.04	b.d.l.	0.01
CO ₂	43.33	44.26	42.42	0.33	42.60	44.05	38.46	1.09	46.32	46.90	45.69	0.32
Total	98.69	100.75	94.36	0.83	97.12	100.22	94.04	1.98	97.98	95.34	99.37	1.12

Mesh cores are sometimes composed of both calcite (C2) and serpentine (e.g. fig. 6). These specific domains constitute places where calcite and serpentine formed together during peridotite serpentinization and carbonation.

The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for carbonates -5 to $+0.5\%$ (the lowest values being related to C2 calcite) are comparable to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values recorded for total carbon in serpentinite exhibiting calcite veins at Lost-City hydrothermal field (Delacour et al., 2008) and at the Lost City-type hydrothermal system located at the magma-poor passive Iberian Margin (Klein et al., 2015), where seawater is involved. Eickmann et al. (2009a) reported $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for calcite hosted serpentinite ranging between $+10.3$ to $+14.3\%$ for the Logatchev Hydrothermal Field and proposed comparable high temperature (~ 129 – 186 °C) for calcite formation. The authors explained the negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (-5%) as due to a mantle-derived carbon dioxide component. Interestingly, Eickmann et al. (2009a) proposed that the limited fluid renewal in a sub-closed system during mesh carbonation can be responsible for the concomitant $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ decreasing and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ increasing. Furthermore, Alt et al. (2012) have shown that a small amount of a reduced (-25%) carbon mixed in with seawater can explain the C depleted composition for abyssal serpentinites resulting from low temperature peridotite alteration. Herein, the low values $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for C2 carbonates could reflect this mixing between oceanic (inorganic) C and depleted C resulting from serpentinization itself (Fig. 11).

Considering a fluid dominated systems, our results support that carbonation of the Chenaillet serpentinites occurred at temperatures ranging between 110 °C and 180 °C.

5.2. Genetic model for Chenaillet ophicalcite formation

The Chenaillet ophiolitic complex has been interpreted to represent a well-preserved typical ocean floor segment from a slow spreading environment (Lagabrielle, 2009; Lagabrielle and Lemoine, 1997; Manatschal et al., 2011). The formation of oceanic core complexes in this extensional environment promotes fluid-rock interaction (Andreani et al., 2007; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014). The present work supports a conceptual model for ophicalcite formation in this general framework (Fig. 13). Various factors such as tectonic stress (McCaig et al., 2007), thermal cracking (Boudier et al., 2005; Korenaga, 2007) or reaction-induced fracturing (Iyer et al., 2008; Okamoto and Shimizu, 2015; Plümper et al., 2012; Rudge et al., 2010), or most probably a combination of all these processes (Andreani et al., 2007; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014) favor the increasing of rock permeability during rock exhumation to facilitate serpentinization. In oceanic setting, fluid-assisted alteration during exhumation of peridotite and gabbro along detachment fault leads to the development of a discrete cracking network that can considerably enhance fluid transport.

5.2.1. Serpentinization during initial peridotite rock exhumation in an oceanic setting

Major and trace elements compositions of the Chenaillet serpentinite and mafic bodies supports a depleted lherzolite protolith with few heterogeneities (Bertrand et al., 1987; Chalot-Prat et al., 2003; Lafay et al., 2013) and with characteristic low Al/Si ratio. Textures,

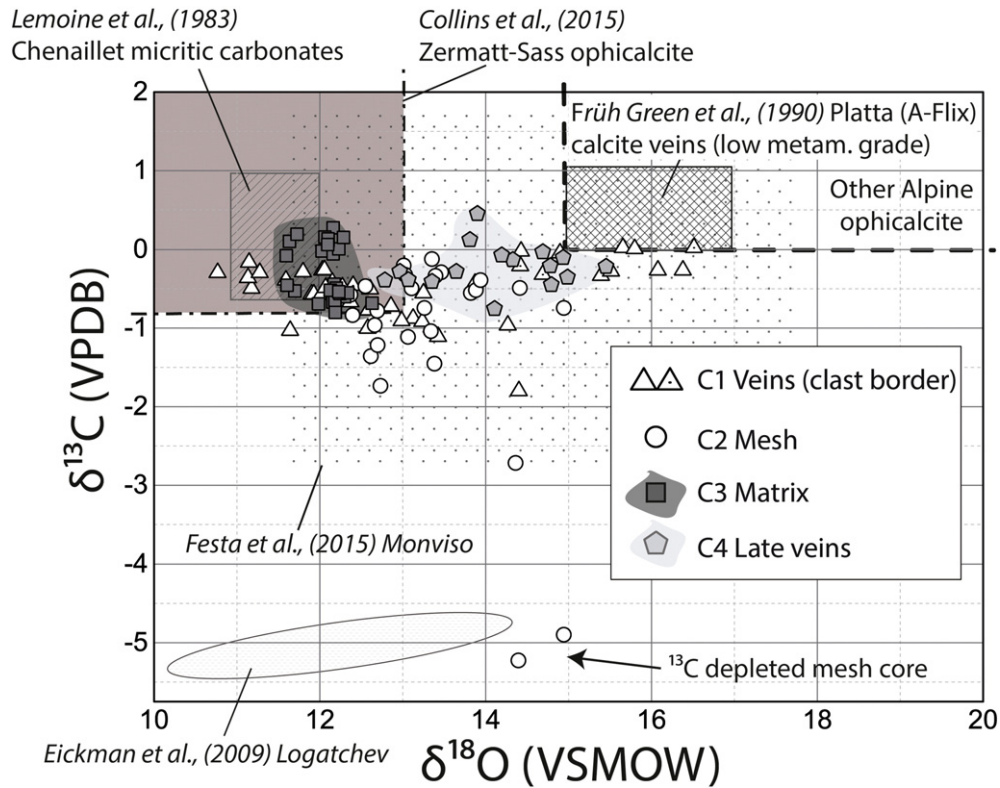


Fig. 11. Carbon and oxygen isotope measurements with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for all the different types of calcites from Chenaillet opicalcites, the fields for selected values obtained in other alpine opicalcites are also reported. The error of measurements is within the symbol size.

mineralogy and chemical signature support that prior to any carbonation, the Chenaillet peridotite experienced extensive serpentinization (Table 4). The Chenaillet serpentinite clasts within the opicalcitic breccia are most of the time characterized by a well-developed serpentine

mesh resulting from olivine and orthopyroxene replacement (Figs. 2 and 4).

The limited enrichment in fluid mobile elements recorded by the Chenaillet ophiolites when compared to serpentinite from mantle

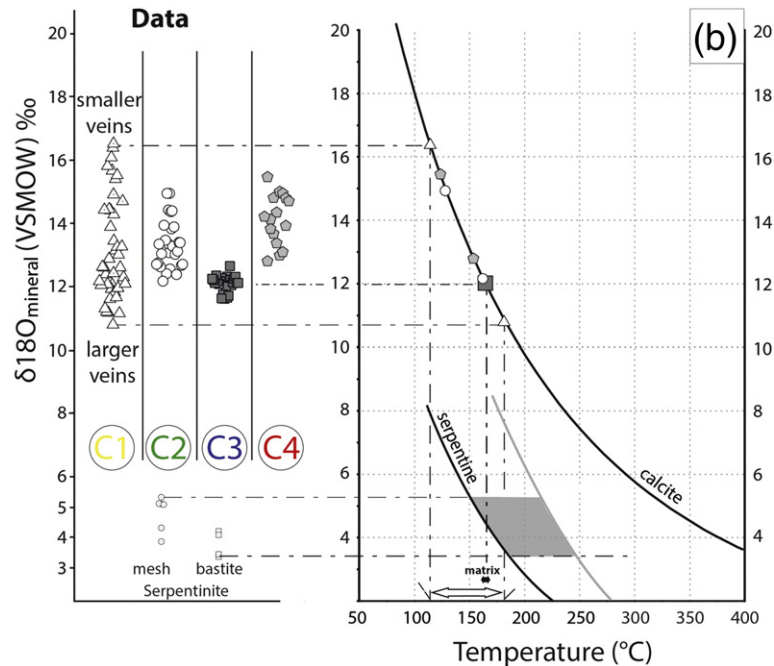
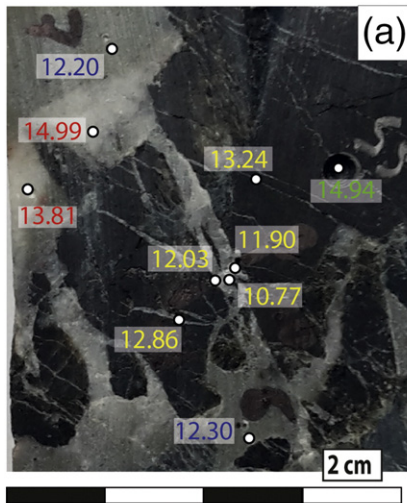


Fig. 12. a) example of thin section leftovers with micro-drill positions and corresponding isotopic data for oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}/\text{VSMOW}$ values in ‰), b) $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ results as a function of calcite type (values identical as the one in Fig. 11) and for serpentinite. Example of temperature calculation for serpentine and calcite precipitation using Zheng (1993) and 1999 fractionation calibrations between mineral and fluid and assuming seawater ($\delta^{18}\text{O} = 0\text{‰}$) as equilibrium fluid. We also reported calculations using Saccoccia et al. (2009) fractionation law between serpentine and fluid (grey line). The maximum range of carbonate precipitation temperature for the entire set of analyses and for matrix is reported with thick double arrow. The range for serpentine formation temperature is underline by grey area. The size of the symbols correspond to the error range.

wedge or subduction zones (Deschamps et al., 2013), reinforces the hypothesis that Alpine metamorphic overprint was limited for this unit and that serpentinization occurred in an abyssal-type environment (Fig. 13) dominated by seawater interactions, similar to a slow-spreading ridge environment (Dick et al., 2003; Kodolányi et al., 2011; Paulick et al., 2006) probably during sea-floor exhumation and cooling and amphibolitization of the unit (Mevel et al., 1978). This is independently confirmed by the meta carbonates from Lago Nero (SW of Chenaillet unit) at the top of ultramafic units that preserve isotopic signature typical for oceanic sediments of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ 20–30‰ (Lemoine et al., 1983).

We conclude that the minimum temperature for serpentinization in the Chenaillet unit was above 155 °C (Fig. 12 and Table 2) and is related to the interaction of marine water with peridotite (Table 4). D-depletion in serpentinite seems to reflect the involvement of hydrogen, probably produced during serpentinization. Indeed, the oxidation of the iron component of olivine is known to produce H_2 while ferric iron is trapped either by magnetite or by serpentine, especially at temperature below 200 °C (Klein et al., 2014). Magnetite was identified to nucleate and grow at mesh borders (e.g. Fig. 6) during mineral replacement (see also Evans, 2008; Evans et al., 2013). The Fe and Al component might favor the formation of polyhedral serpentine, or the lizardite-chrysotile mixture, (Andreani et al., 2008) as observed in in this study within serpentinite mesh cores.

Chenaillet serpentinite and serpentinite clasts within ophicalcites are cpx-free or contain very small amounts of serpentinized clinopyroxene. However, note that alteration of diopside might have occurred at temperatures above 300 °C and chemical gradient as well as mass transfer can explain the lack of Ca-bearing minerals in serpentinite (Klein et al., 2013). Here, the hydration of clinopyroxene component might favor the liberation of aqueous Ca responsible for shallower carbonation.

5.2.2. Onset of carbonation along veins following serpentinization

The onset of calcite precipitation in veins (1st event in Fig. 13b and c) is recorded by the Chenaillet ophiolite as a continuation of intense serpentinization stage occurring at higher temperatures. Carbonate precipitation could have been driven down-temperature fluid flow, towards the surface or fluid decompression during fracturing and associated expansion, for example. At temperatures above 100 °C, a rapid decompression of the fluid due to cracking will likely result in boiling. A decrease of fluid temperature will lead to an increase of pH (Bischoff and Seyfried, 1978). The experimental studies by Bischoff and Seyfried (1978) suggest that calcite precipitates upon cooling below 200 °C. We calculated the concentrations of total Ca concentration in seawater in equilibrium with calcite using the software package SUPCRT (Johnson et al., 1992) together with the Slo98 data base (Sverjensky et al., 1997), and the software Soluble (Roselle and Baumgartner, 1995). In agreement with Bischoff and Seyfried (1978) we calculate a decrease in concentrations for calcium with decreasing temperature and also pressure (see Appendix), supporting the idea that calcite precipitated from fluids while flowing down temperature in response to a decrease in carbonate mineral solubility in agreement with Plummer and Busenberg (1982).

At temperature above 60 °C, in carbonate hosted hydrothermal chimney, precipitation of aragonite is usually observed instead of calcite (e.g. Ludwig et al., 2006), likely due to kinetic inhibition of calcite precipitation. Nevertheless, calcite is predominantly described in veins in the basement of venting systems (Früh-Green et al., 2003; Kelley et al., 2005). The increasing in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from large to small calcite veins (Fig. 12) suggest that veining and calcite precipitation occurs during cooling of the ophicalcite while cracking spreads.

Gabbroic bodies' alteration by hydrothermal fluid circulation could represent a source of dissolved Ca for shallower carbonation as hydrothermal cells probably involve both ultramafic and intrusive bodies along large detachment fault (e.g. McCaig and Harris, 2012). However, the amount of gabbroic and albitite bodies in Chenaillet is small

(Cordey and Bailly, 2007; Manatschal et al., 2011; Mevel et al., 1978) and their emplacement is cogenetic with the troctolitic units (Li et al., 2013). Here we propose that the calcium contained in seawater itself is enough to precipitate carbonate at shallower depth.

5.2.3. Pervasive carbonation

We report that calcite cracks (1st event) are intimately linked with a pervasive carbonation of ultramafic rocks occurring at ca. 130–150 °C (2nd event in Fig. 13b and c, and Table 4). We do not exclude that serpentine + calcite might locally have formed in equilibrium during transition from serpentinization to carbonation of mesh cores (Fig. 6). The complicated grain boundary of some calcite crystals in mesh textures suggests that olivine or pyroxene did react with fluids to form serpentine then calcite. Some textural features might reflect the replacement of serpentine by calcite (Figs. 6, 9b), despite the fact that serpentine replacement is slower than that of olivine in carbonated fluids at 200 °C (Hövelmann et al., 2011; Lafay et al., 2014). The carbonates display values for Mn, Mg and Fe up to several hundred of ppm higher than those reported in calcite veins and other calcite occurrences (Tables 2 and 4). They have a low Sr content when compared to modern hydrothermal carbonates (calcite/aragonite) hosted in serpentinite (e.g. Ludwig et al., 2006). This suggests that the replacement processes were rock dominated.

Similar replacement features were observed in other ophicalcite localities (Clerc et al., 2014; Lavoie and Cousineau, 1995). The isotopic values are comparable to those reported here ($\sim +12.6$ – $+13.8$ ‰, Clerc et al., 2014). The authors proposed pervasive replacement of serpentine by calcite due to hot hydrothermal fluids in these rocks from the Pyrenees.

5.2.4. Hydrothermal cementation: coupled carbonate and serpentine precipitation

The breccia cement is volumetrically important but the absence of fossils and the textures we report suggests that the origin is not sedimentary. The majority of the breccia's observed are clast supported. The monogenic nature of the breccia's and presence of angular serpentinite clasts with sizes reaching several dozen of centimeter suggest a very small transports distance of the serpentinites debris, as one would observe in talus at the bottom of extensional faults (Fig. 13).

We propose a hydrothermal origin for these carbonates in the Chenaillet ophicalcite. Hydrothermal fluid decompression and cooling favored, enhanced by faulting within the seafloor, and cooling will lead to a decrease of calcite solubility (Simmons and Christenson, 1994; Zheng, 1990). The temperatures reported by the carbonate cement of 155°–170 °C would support boiling in a relatively shallow oceanic environment. Boiling could result in turbulent flow, resulting in the matrix-supported breccia's observed.

The co-precipitated chrysotile in the matrix carbonate further supports precipitation of matrix carbonates from a fluid. Chrysotile has nucleated and then radially grew into open space or loose calcite slurry (3–4th step in Fig. 13c). The small crystal size of matrix carbonates is atypical for hydrothermal carbonates, which are typically sparitic, as seen in the veins crosscutting clasts and matrix. The small crystal size, the roundish crystals all suggest that the matrix carbonate was rapidly precipitated in a high-energy fluid flow environment. Only a limited crystals coarsening was observed after calcite matrix precipitation (DeHoff, 1991) (Fig. 8b). Boiling will result in a large supersaturation of carbonate in the fluid. Carbon dioxide will preferentially be partitioned into the gas phase. CO_2 degassing will in turn increase supersaturation of fluid with calcium (Pentecost, 1995) and account for massive calcite precipitation and cementation. Alternatively, this might also be possible by mixing ascending fluids with cold surface fluids. In any case, we argue that these ophicalcites formed at the bottom of extensional faults, close to the seafloor, with or without boiling of fluids rapidly expelled from the faults (Fig. 13c). Hence, we

proposed that the Chenaillet ophicalcites breccia constitute the end result of progressive peridotite basement alteration, brecciation and cementation (Fig. 13c).

Minimum temperature of formation of the serpentinites (> 155 °C) is slightly higher than that obtained for carbonates, though carbonatization occurred over a temperature range of 110–180 °C). These temperature estimates are uncertain, since we assumed a water composition (unaltered ocean water) for all these calculations. We discretized

changes of temperature or fluid composition throughout the formation of Chenaillet ophicalcite. The above temperatures ranges are comparable to the one reported in different peridotite hosted carbonates from mid-ocean ridge (e.g. site 1268, 1271 (Alt et al., 2007; Bach et al., 2011) Atlantis massif (Boschi et al., 2008; Früh-Green et al., 2003) or Logatchev hydrothermal field (Eickmann et al., 2009a, 2009b).

Multiple hydrothermal events are involved to produce the amount of cement observed and-or a sustainable (sub)continuous

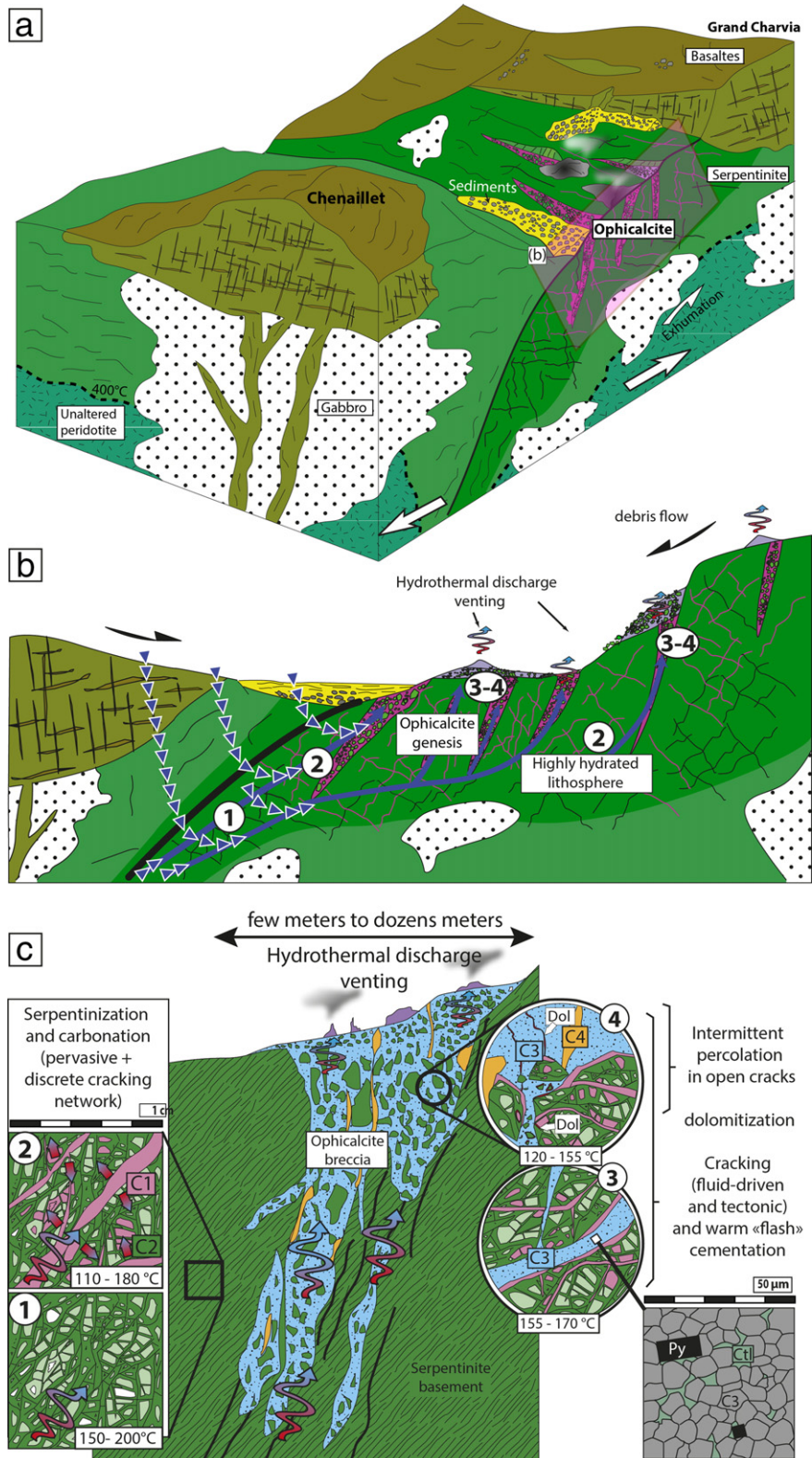


Table 4

Summary of the sequence of events leading to opicalcrite rocks formation. Distinction was made on the base of textural and chemical characteristics. Interpretation on the fluid temperature and the context of formation is reported (refer to text for more detail).

Type	Textural characteristics and Event		Chemical characteristic		Equilibrium fluid T (°C)	Geological meaning
			Isotope signatures	Elemental composition		
Serp.	Mesh and bastite serpentinite texture	Early serpentinization	$3.3 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < 5.5\%$ $-133 < \delta\text{D} < -148\%$	Mg # ≈ 0.94 Mesh core enriched in Al	>155	Pervasive and channeled serpentinization after olivine in active ocean floor system at moderate temperature and with D depleted fluid
C1	Dense calcite microcracks network	Micro-fracturing of serpentinite and onset of carbonation	$10.7 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < 16.5\%$ $-1.8 < \delta^{13}\text{C} < 0\%$	MgO ≈ 0.20 wt% MnO ≈ 0.09 wt% SrO ≈ 0.04 wt%	110–180	Carbonation in tectonically active brittle system. Channelization of fluid and limited fluid-flow. Contemporaneous to rock impregnation by >110 °C fluid
C2	Serpentinite mesh core replaced by calcite	Pervasive carbonation of serpentinite	$12.2 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < 15\%$ $-5.2 < \delta^{13}\text{C} < -0.1\%$	Mg and Mn enrichment	130–160	enriched in carbonate component
C3	Serpentinite clasts within small calcite grain matrix and chrysotile	Individualization of clasts and matrix precipitation	$\delta^{18}\text{O} \approx 12\%$ $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx 0\%$	Sr enrichment Chrysotile Mg # ≈ 0.97	155–170	Brecciation by hydro-fracturing and fast and intense fractured filled cementation in a warm (≈ 160 °C) fluid-dominated system
C4	Sparitic micrometric to centimetric calcite veins crosscutting matrix	Cracking of opicalcrite and calcite vein formation	$12.8 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < 15.8\%$ $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx 0\%$		120–155	Late fracturing and recrystallization of calcite favored by tectonic activity and/or hydrofracturing pulse
Dol	idiomorphic dolomite at calcite-serpentine interface	Equilibration and crystallization of metamorphic dolomite		MnO ≈ 0.19 wt% SrO ≈ 0.03 wt%		Equilibration between serpentinite and calcite forming dolomite front

hydrothermal circulation within serpentinite basement, characteristic for some modern mid-ocean hydrothermal sites (Früh-Green et al., 2003; Ludwig et al., 2011; Schwarzenbach et al., 2013). The (co)precipitation of chrysotile instead of lizardite or lizardite \pm chrysotile may have been favored by a local increase of dissolved species in the fluid (Grauby et al., 1998; Normand et al., 2002) due to serpentine dissolution during carbonation. Fluid probably contained few Al and ferric iron as these components favor the formation of lizardite (O'Hanley et al., 1989). Alternatively, the lower temperature during matrix formation, with respect to serpentinization, might also be responsible for chrysotile stabilization. The source of Mg and Si for chrysotile could come from local water-rock interaction, or from these elements might have been leached upstream from the reaction site.

5.2.5. Maintained fluid circulation

Opicalcrite cement is cross-cut by non-hierarchical cracks filled by coarse calcite sometimes connected to clasts (4th event in Fig. 13c, Table 4). Most of the veins show multistep histories with successive infillings of calcite. These veins attest to late fracturing and episodic fluid flow (120–150 °C) even after clasts cementation. This was also noted by Bernoulli and Weissert (1985), who proposed that, in the Totalp unit, repeated fracturing could have induced punctual dilatation of the host rock, which caused the influx of fluids, possibly under hydrothermal conditions. Traces of this hydrothermal circulation at detachment surface is marked in modern environments by venting and cemented mounds (Tucholke et al., 2013). Herein breccia may have been formed in zone of intense alteration in the stockwork of open hydrothermal systems beneath vent and massive sulfide deposit (e.g. Hannington et al., 1995). The heat source can be maintained by episodic magmatic intrusions inside detachment system. Episodic

warm fluid injection and pressure assisted fragmentation may account for clasts distribution within matrix and late veins distribution. Katz et al. (2006) indicated that fast cementation appearing nearly after cracking and breccia collapse may lead to similar features in compressional systems. Herein, opicalcrite breccia formation processes could be seen in the same way in the frame of detachment systems (Fig. 13c) with evolving fluids circulation (McCaig et al., 2007).

Other studies have reported isotopic values for internal sediment and fracture-filling cement in Alpine and Apennine ultramafic samples (Barbieri et al., 1979; Festa et al., 2015; Früh-Green et al., 1990; Weissert and Bernoulli, 1984 among others). Recent studies from nearby Monviso opicalcrites (Festa et al., 2015) report $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ bulk values ranging from 11.8 and 17.8‰ in carbonates (Fig. 11). Based on accurate petrographic-mapping and paleogeographic reconstructions the authors propose that opicalcrites were parts of an ancient core complex and that these values reflect early-oceanic alteration at low temperature ($100 < T < 150$ °C) which was preserved through the Alpine eclogite metamorphism. Opicalcrites and Northern Apennine exhibit also preserved volumes of meta-ultramafic away from zones of intense deformation. Previous studies in northern Apennine have concluded that carbonate hosted fractured serpentinite recorded a polyphase alteration and reworking history and point a hydrothermal genesis during ocean spreading (Treves and Harper, 1994). More recently, Schwarzenbach et al. (2013) draw the similarities between Atlantis massif and north Apennine alteration where long lived serpentinization along detachment faulting take place at temperatures of ca. 200 ± 50 °C and carbonation at temperatures below 150 °C ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$ with a range between +12.7 and +24‰ for calcite). Collins et al. (2015), reported $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values ranging between +9‰ and +13‰ for opicalcrite from Zermatt-Saas unit. Some of the opicalcrites have very similar textures and the lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

Fig. 13. Reconstruction of Chenaillet opicalcrites formation context within Ligurian Thetys domain. (a) diagram illustrating breccia (pink) position along detachment fault. The basement is composed of serpentinite, opicalcrite, and gabbros and covered by isolated basaltic seamount (inspired from Lagabrielle and Cannat, 1990). Seafloor might be strewn with hydrothermal vents and, covered by polymict breccia/sediments. The 400 °C isotherms corresponds to the serpentinization front (Escartin et al., 2008) and the dark green area correspond to a highly altered zone of the serpentinite-opicalcrite basement (i.e. subject to intense fluid circulations). (b) Interpreted hydrothermal fluid infiltration and exfiltration (blue arrow) driven by detachment fault (McCaig and Harris, 2012), by normal fault and by dense veining inherited from serpentinization. Opicalcrite formation take place in the serpentinized basement during massive fluid injection along faults and represent an alteration sequence from 1 to 4. (c) Close up representation of the alteration sequence proposed in the vicinity of hydrothermal venting system (1) serpentinization with mesh/bastite texture development between 150 and 200 °C, white and pale green mesh cores represent residual anhydrous-silicate and serpentinized mesh core respectively; (2) endogenic carbonation (pink) along micro-cracks C1 and pervasive replacement C2, (3) clasts individualization and breccia cementation by matrix C3 (blue, homogeneous calcite C3 with chrysotile: chl and pyrite: py is depicted in inset), and (4) sparitic calcite veins C4 (orange) formed during intermittent fluids circulations. The arrows with red-blue colour gradient illustrate fluid pathway and cooling. The direction of fluid circulation remains delicate to draw but might be towards surface. The top of the altered zone is also constituted of cemented serpentinite debris and can be capped by lithified carbonates and carbonates Chimney (e.g. Los City system).

values were possibly acquired during high temperature seawater related hydrothermal alteration. Früh-Green et al. (1990) proposed a multistep hydrothermal alteration during the early Alpine history, affecting ophicarbonates in the South Pennine Platta nappe and in the Arosa Zone, to explain ophicalcite formation at high temperature (100–150 °C) in a tectonic wedge system. However, as explained above, based on our textural observations and the diffusion data for oxygen and manganese (which diffuse faster than oxygen in carbonate (Müller et al., 2012)) we infer that calcite preserved its original, oceanic, oxygen isotope composition.

5.2.5.1. Dolomitization. Conventional and CL petrography reveal the formation of dolomite which have not yet been described in previous studies of the Chenaillet ophicalcite (Fig. 8 and 4th event in Fig. 13c). Lavoie and Cousineau (1995) reports the coeval presence of rare dolomite and calcite filling voids in ophicalcite from Québec (Appalachians) without further discussions. Dolomite is especially present in micro-breccia and/or finely layered brecciated zones. Dolomite habitus consists mainly of idiomorphic crystals formed within serpentinite at serpentinite-clast edge, and, as veinlets in calcitic matrix. Based on these textural features we propose that dolomite crystallization is mainly marked by the concomitant dissolution of serpentinite and calcite, indicating a reaction between serpentinite and calcite. Moreover, dolomite veinlets crosscutting cement (Fig. 9a) indicate that dolomite (over-) saturation is reached, possibly in response to serpentinite dissolution.

However, considering a recent experimental investigation on peridotite carbonation after serpentinization at 300 °C (Grozeva et al., 2017), we do not exclude that dolomite can be formed through carbonation of residual olivine, pyroxene or brucite during CO₂ rich fluid circulation. The Sr concentration in dolomite of about 200 ppm (Table 2) is in agreement with dolomite forming in equilibrium with a seawater-like component (Banner and Hanson, 1990).

6. Conclusions

Detailed fieldwork, together with petrographic and geochemical information of the Chenaillet unit ophicalcite allowed the processes of serpentinization and carbonation of ultramafic rocks to be evaluated. Initial serpentinization during early exhumation towards the seafloor was followed by several periods of carbonation of the serpentinites and their relict mineralogy. Carbonate precipitated in veins during several fracturing periods and micritic matrix carbonates surrounding clasts can be texturally and chemically distinguished.

Carbonation initiates in brittle domains with a discrete calcite vein networks characterized by a wide range of isotopic composition ($10.5 < \delta^{18}\text{O} < 16.5\text{‰}$). Both serpentinite and likely primary anhydrous silicate reacts and participates in the formation of calcite in the serpentinite mesh textures.

The micritic matrix is the result of fluids escaping along extensional faults towards the surface. Carbonate is precipitated either due to mixing with cold surface fluids, or by local boiling. This is supported by the fact that we observe some matrix supported breccias, the small grain size of the precipitated carbonates, and the fact that we estimate temperatures of precipitation superior to 150 °C. The geochemical data presented here, along with the petrographic observations are similar to those observed in the Lost City or Logatchev environment (e.g. Früh-Green et al., 2003; Ludwig et al., 2011; Eickmann et al., 2009a, 2009b). Also some ophicarbonates from the Western Alps north Apennine have similar characteristics, which were considered as paleo-stockworks of a hydrothermal system analogs to modern hydrothermal field (Bernoulli et al., 1985; Collins et al., 2015; Festa et al., 2015; Treves and Harper, 1994; Schwarzenbach et al., 2013).

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Yves Lagabrielle for his expert comments and our exchanges prior to submission. The authors appreciate the helpful comments of the two anonymous reviewers and editor-in-chief Marco Scambelluri. We acknowledge technical support from Nathaniel Findling, Pierre Vonlanthen and Valentina Batanova for X-ray powder diffraction analysis, SEM analyses and microprobe measurements respectively. We greatly thanks Benita Putlitz for help during serpentinite ¹⁸O measurements. We also thanks Susanne Seitz for helps during microprobe measurements session and Othmar Müntener and Alexei Ulianov for the unrestricted access to the Raman spectroscopy laboratory and Peter Baumgartner and Claudia Baumgartner for the access to the cathodoluminescence laboratory. Funding to Lukas P. Baumgartner in the form of the SNF is acknowledged.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lithos.2017.10.006>.

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