



Evolution du Relief des Alpes

Stéphane Guillot

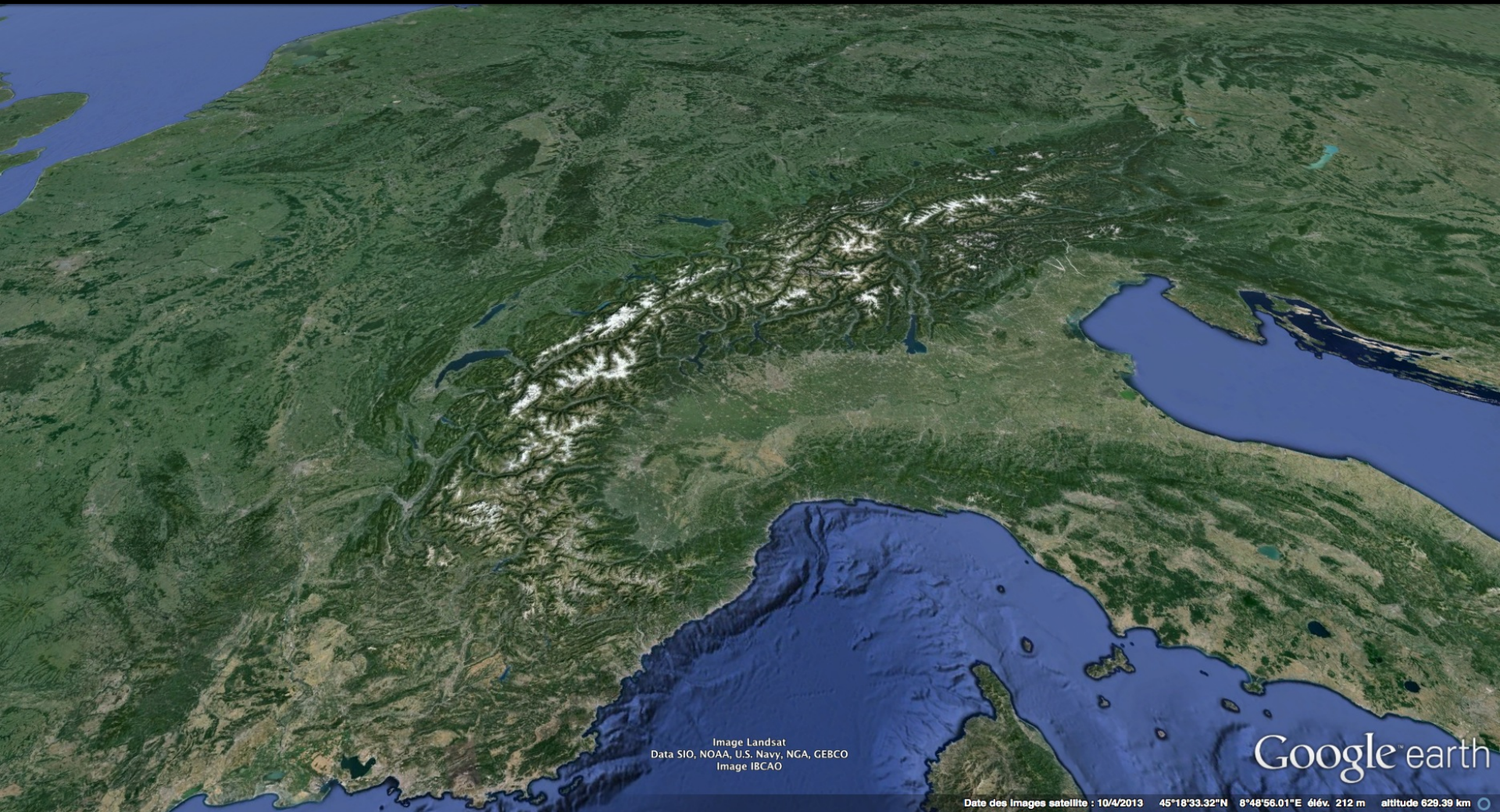
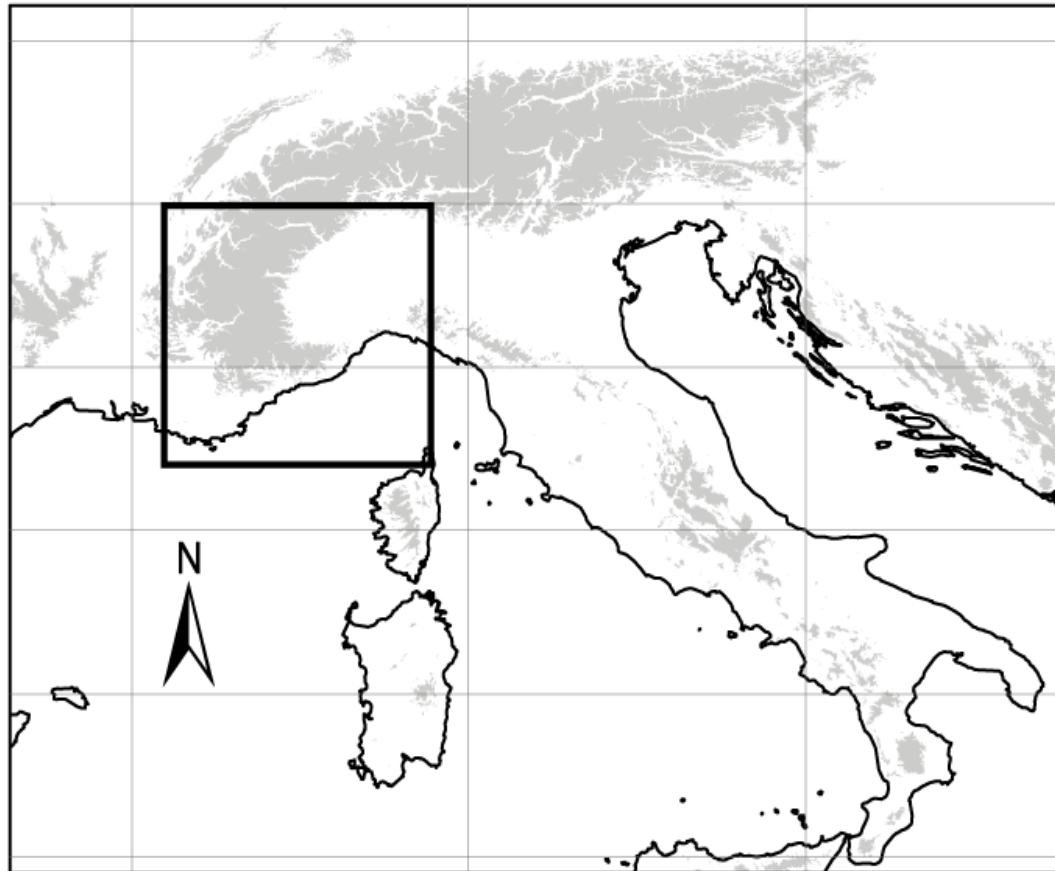


Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image IBCAO

Google earth

Date des Images satellite : 10/4/2013 45°18'33.32"N 8°48'56.01"E élév. 212 m altitude 629.39 km

Study area



Pro- and retro-side foreland and external zone non or low-grade metamorphic rocks

-  Quaternary
-  middle Miocene - Pliocene
-  Lower Oligocene - lower Miocene
-  Eocene to lower Oligocene
-  Mesozoic cover

Basement:

-  External Crystalline Massifs
-  Andesitic volcanism

Internal zone low-grade metamorphic rocks

-  Ophiolite
-  Helminthoid flysch

Internal zone high-pressure low temperature metamorphic rocks

-  Internal Crystalline Massifs
-  Briançonnais zone

Piedmont Schistes lustrés - Viso complex

-  Internal Piedmont complex
-  External Piedmont complex

Apulian plate:

-  Austro-alpine zone

- Focus on the southern Western Alps

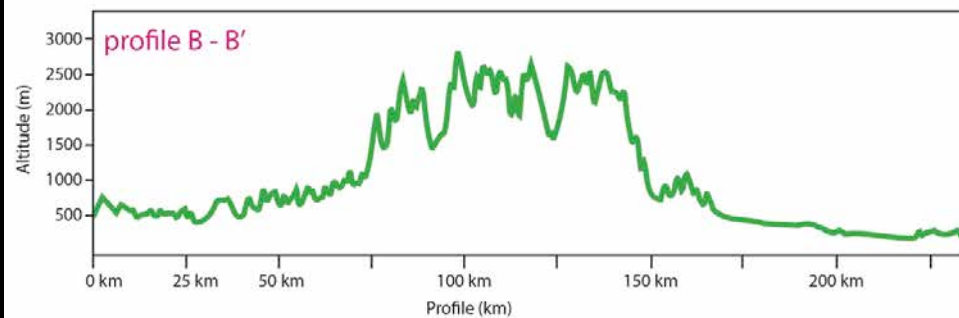
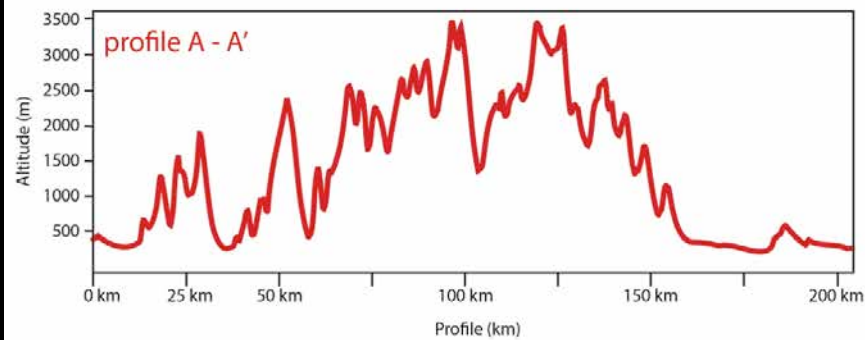
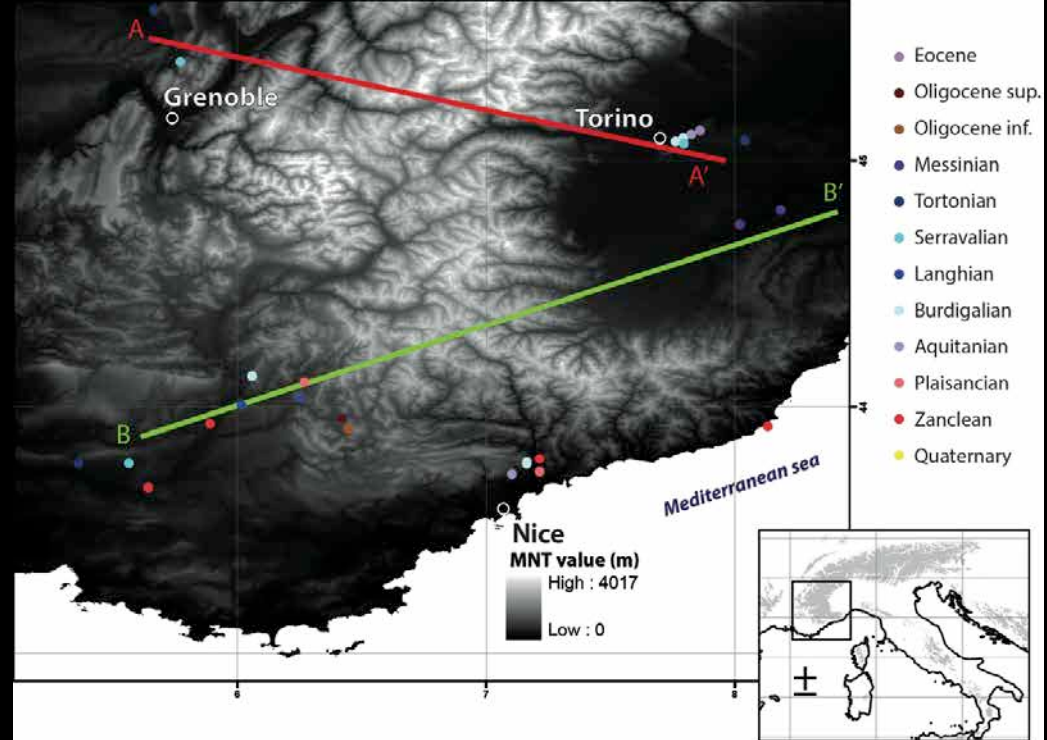
Jourdan, 2012







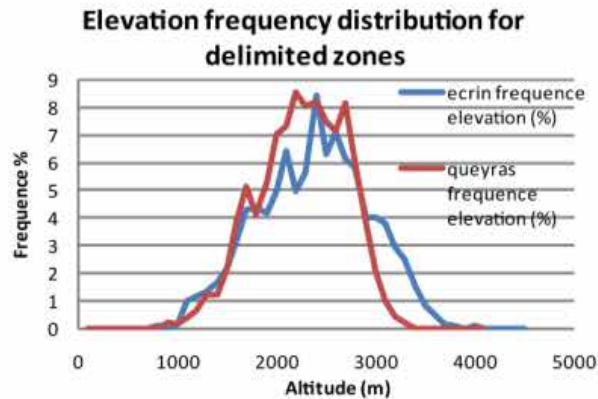




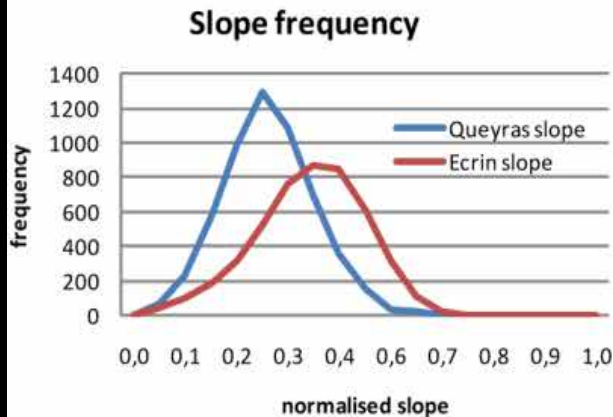
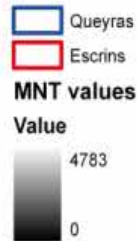
Jourdan, 2012

Les Ecrins incisés et pas le Queyras?

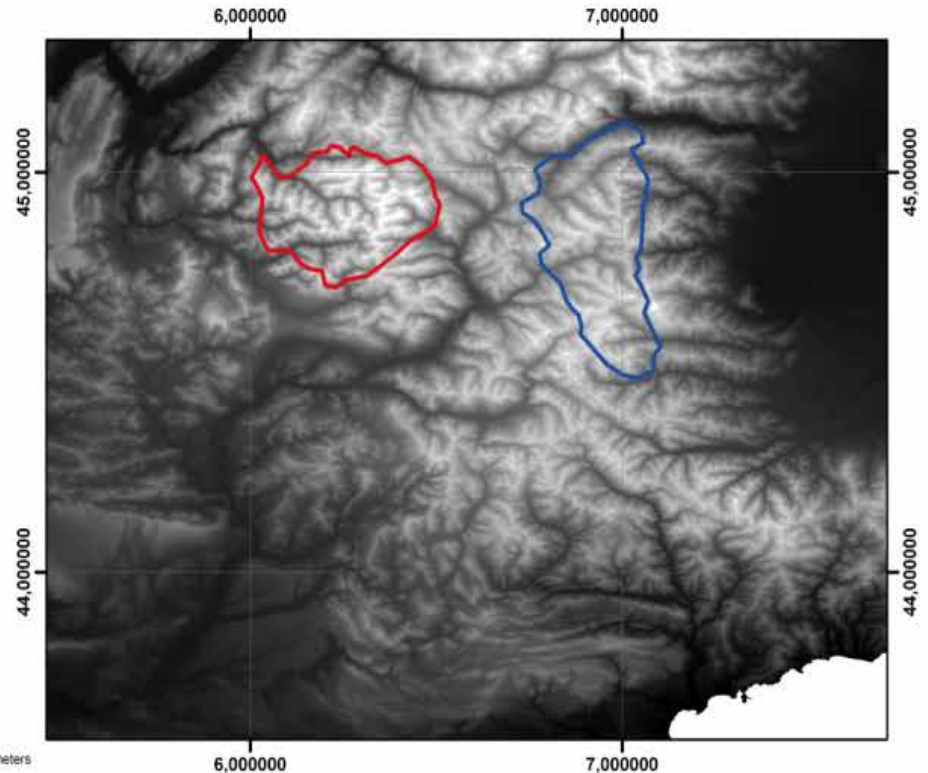
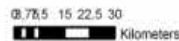
Queyras and Ecrins geomorphological comparaison



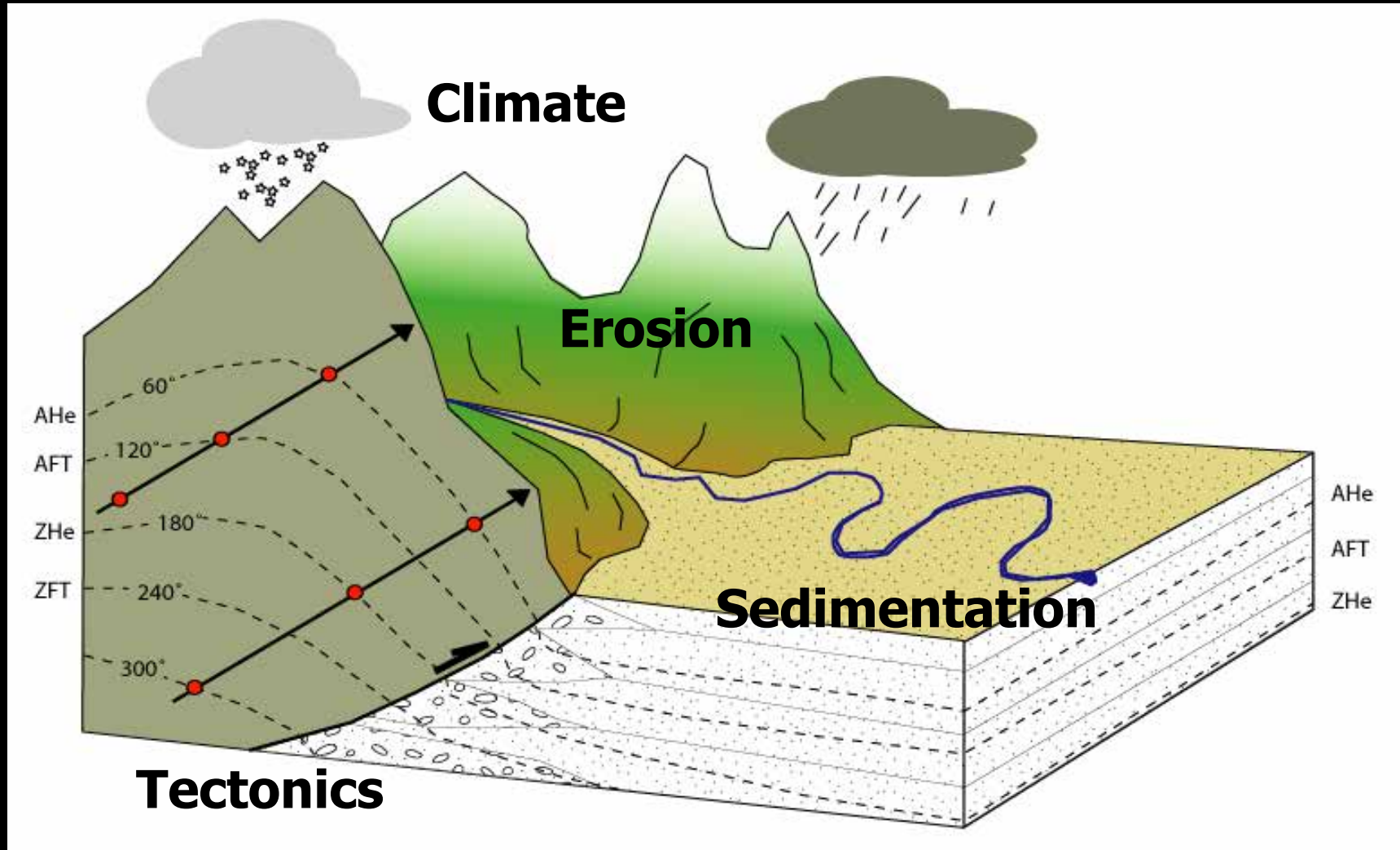
	Ecrins	Queyras
average altitude	2324,07	2208,61
maximum altitude	3915	3233
Minimum altitude	747	894



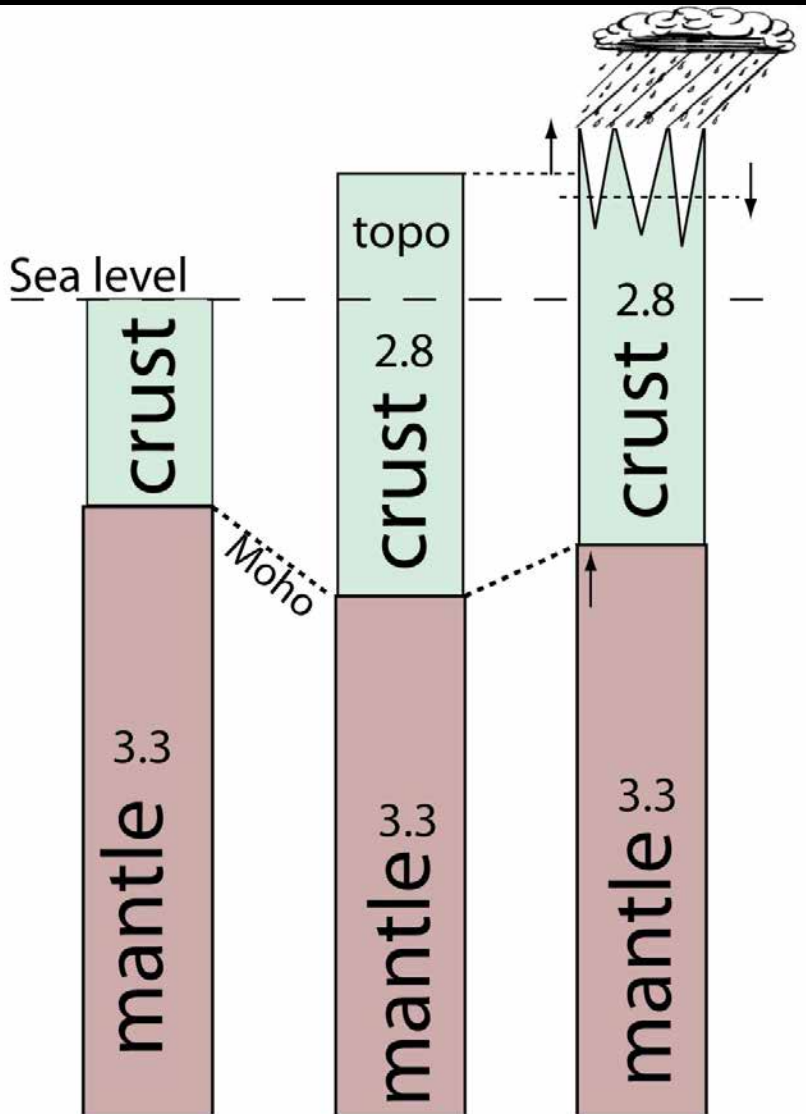
	Queyras slope	Ecrin slope
Average slope	24,262	32,360
standart deviation	8,7978	10,6285



Thermochronological record of exhumation : lag time



Importance des changements climatiques:



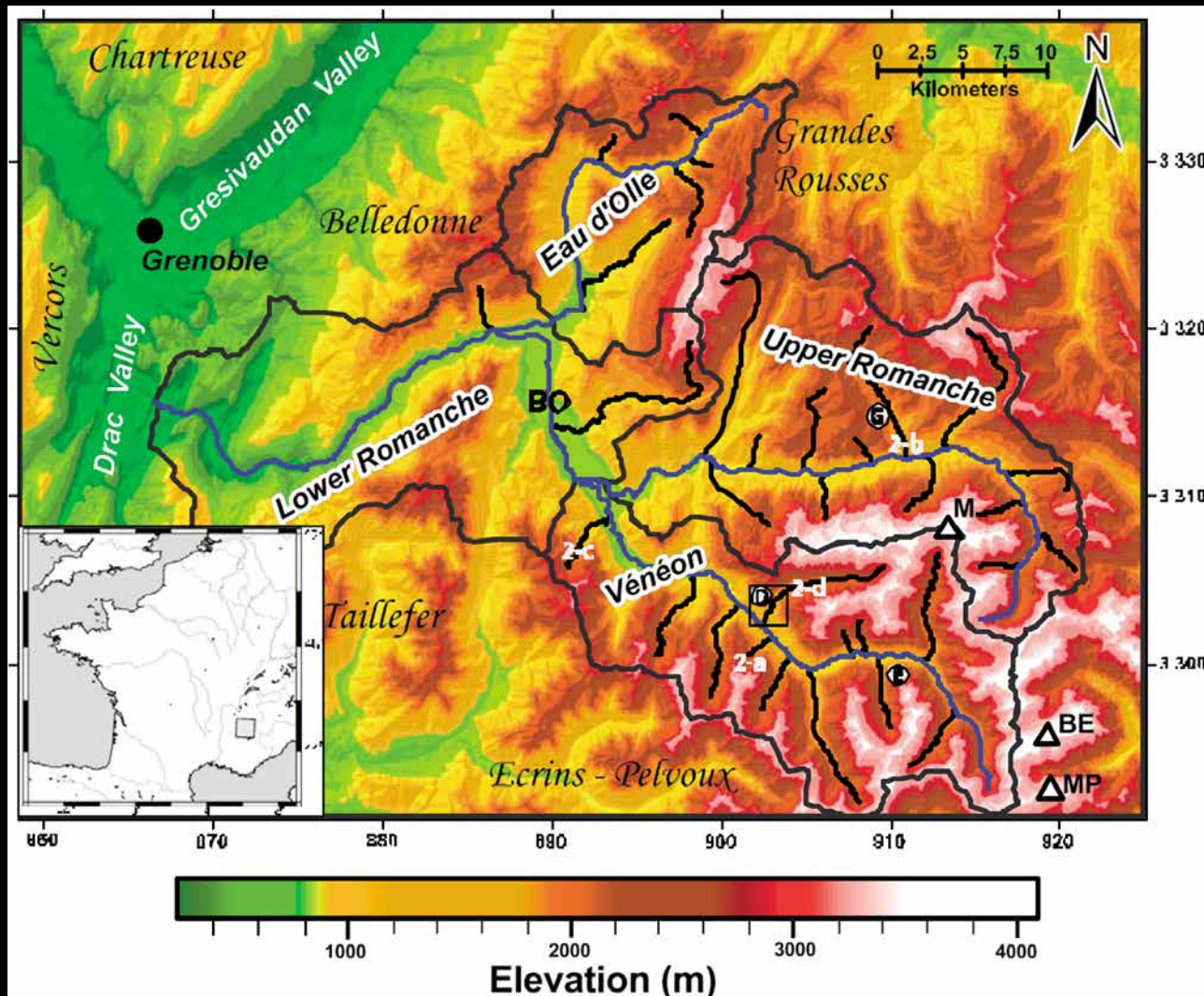
Principe d'équilibre isostatique:

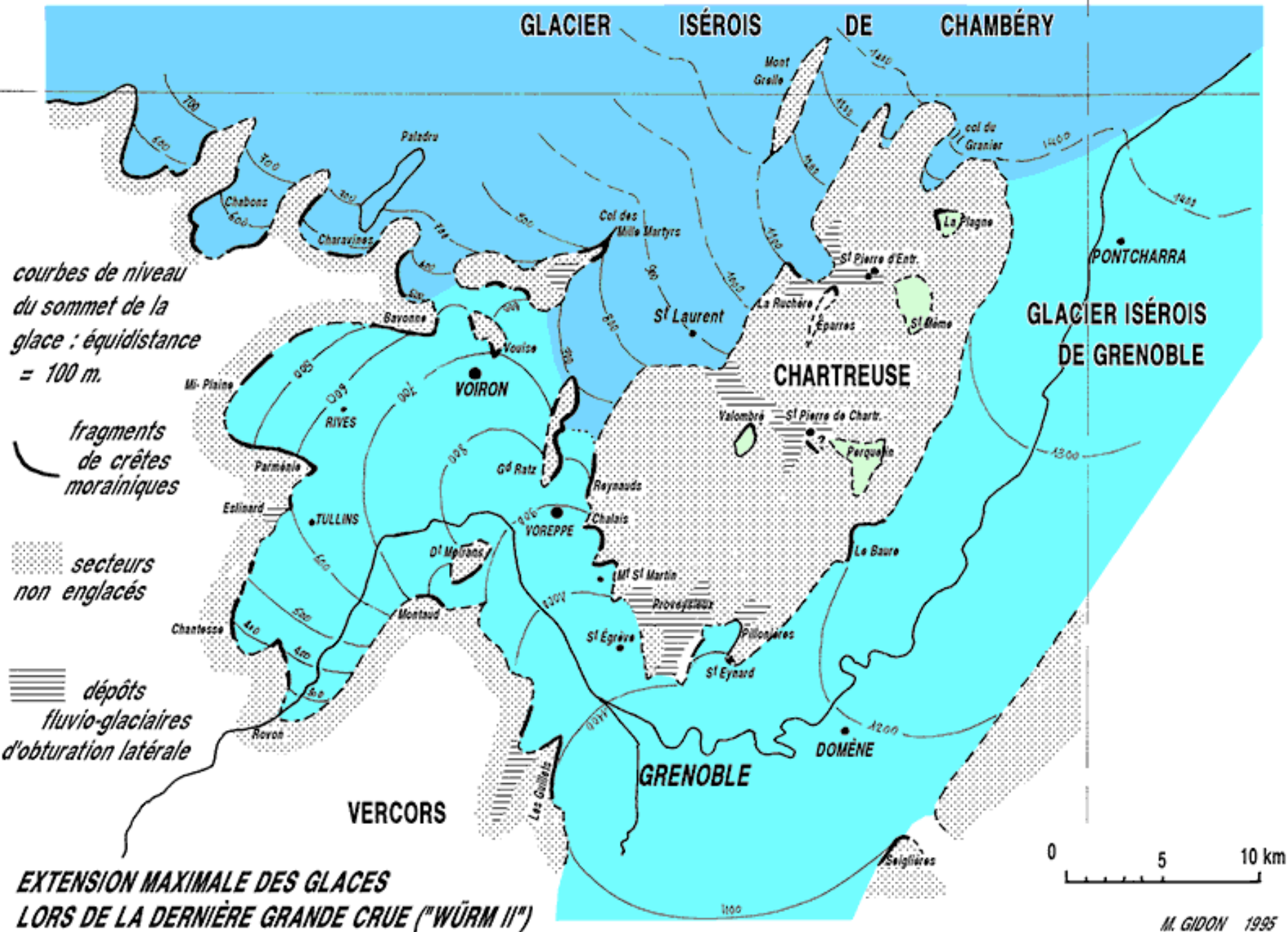
Erosion d'une épaisseur moyenne "h":

- diminution de l'altitude moyenne ($h/6$)
- augmentation potentielle de l'altitude des sommets (dépend de l'érosion des sommets, $\max=h$)

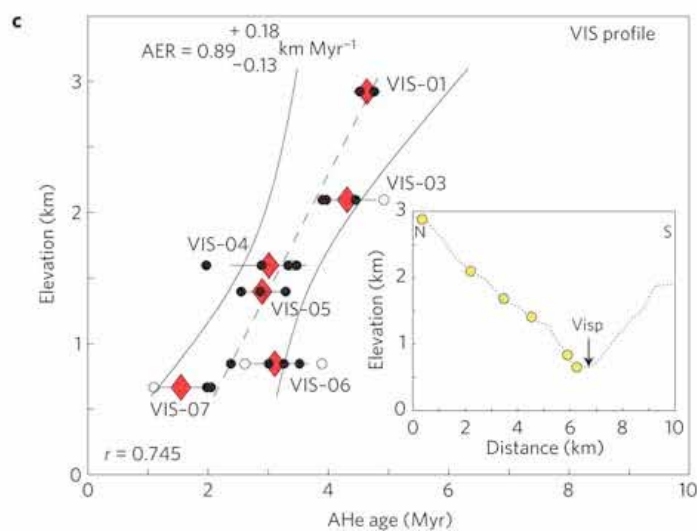
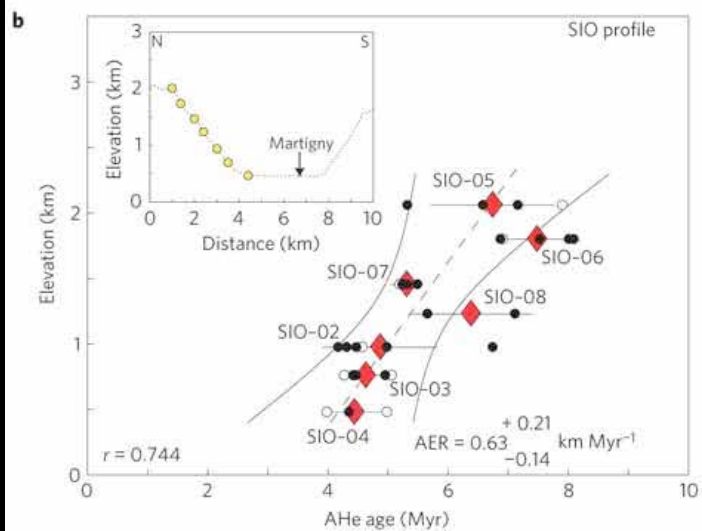
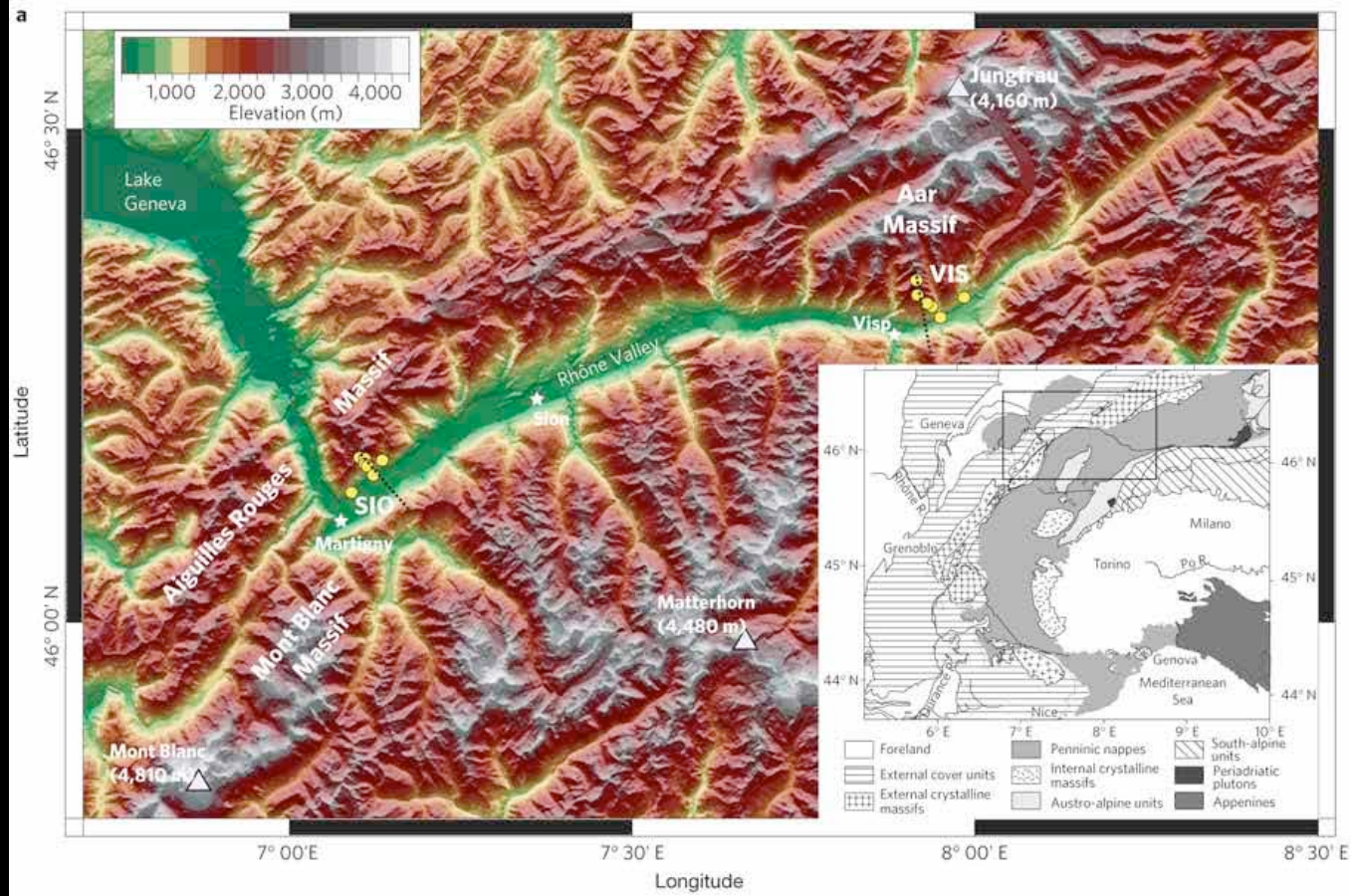
Conséquences potentielles:

- Augmentation de la surface au dessus de l'ELA (creation de glaciers)
- renforcement de la barriere orographique (plus de precipitations en altitude)
- retroaction positive: augmentation de l'érosion

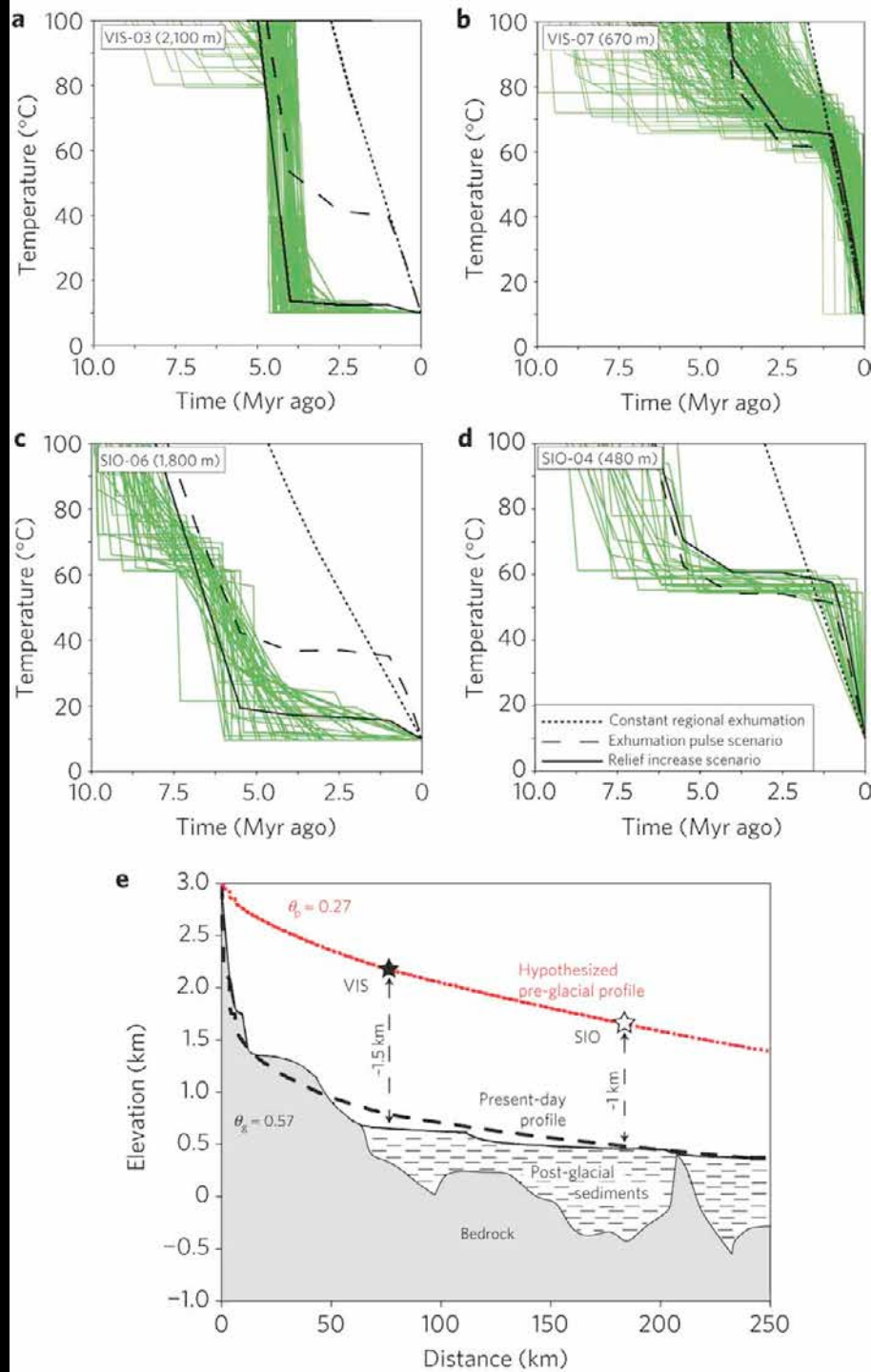




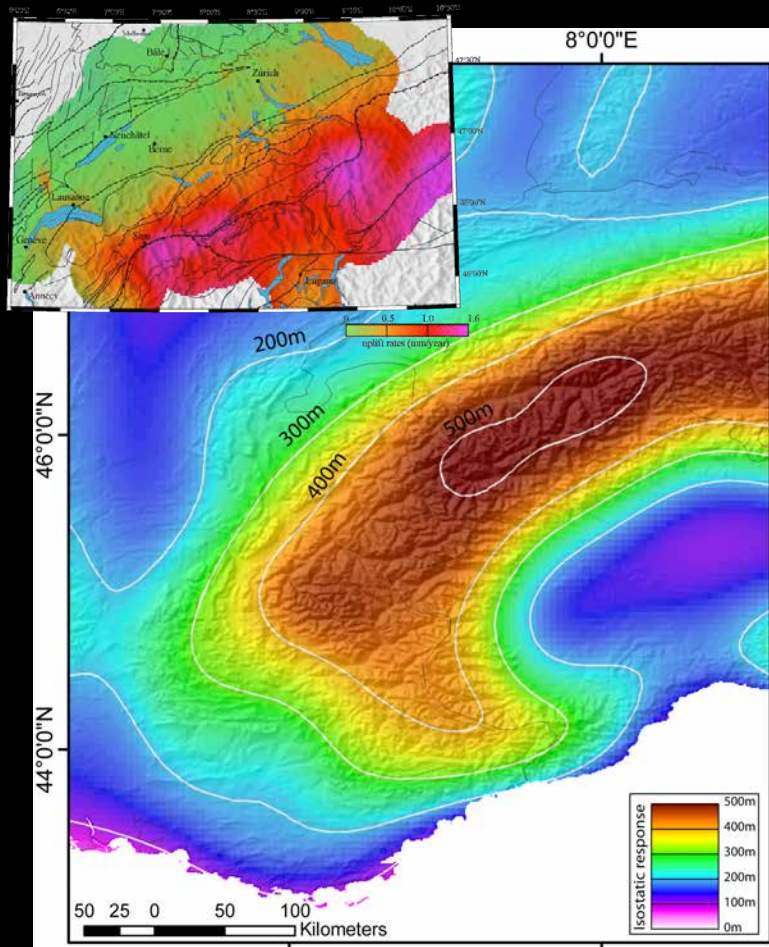




Valla et al., 2011



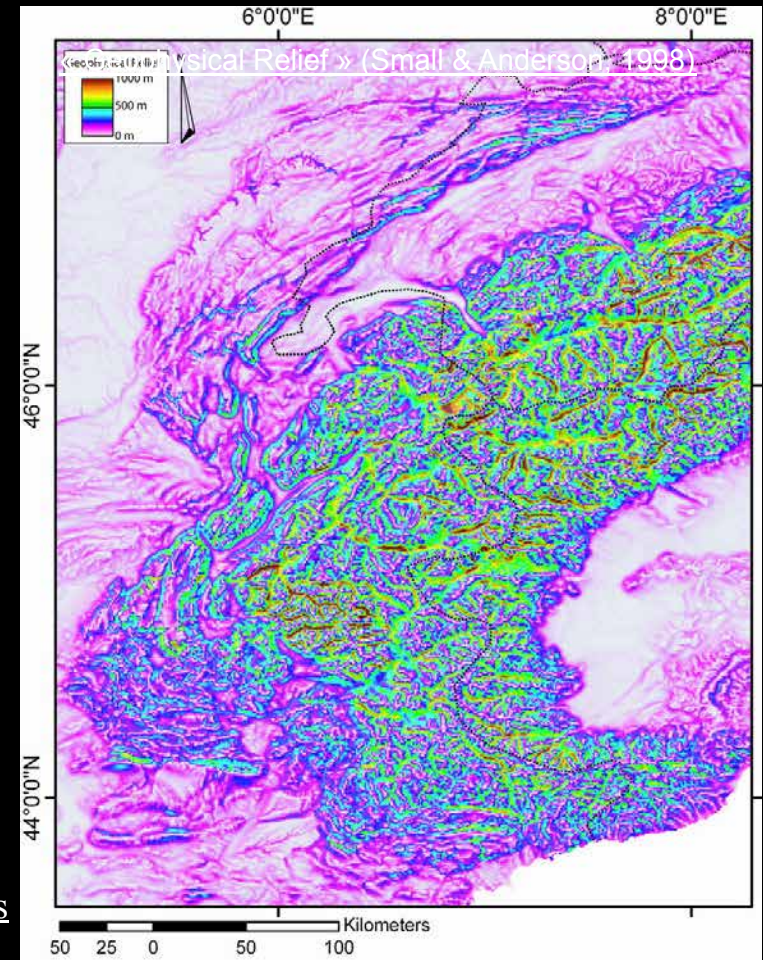
Valla et al., 2011



Effets de l'érosion

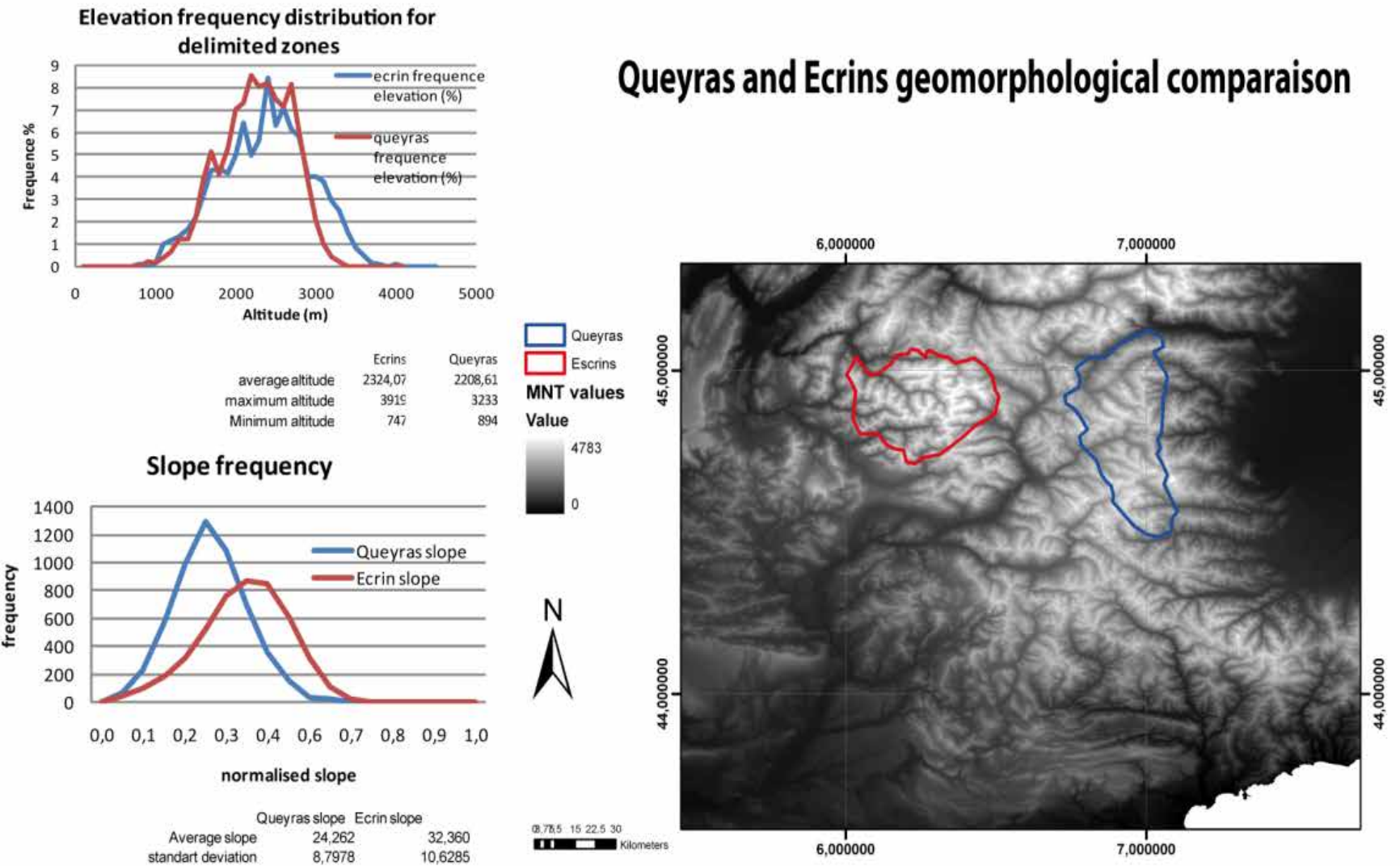
- augmentation du flux sédimentaire, redistribution des masses
- changement de l'état de contraintes
- Surrection induite par la compensation isostatique

Climat, érosion et tectonique alpine



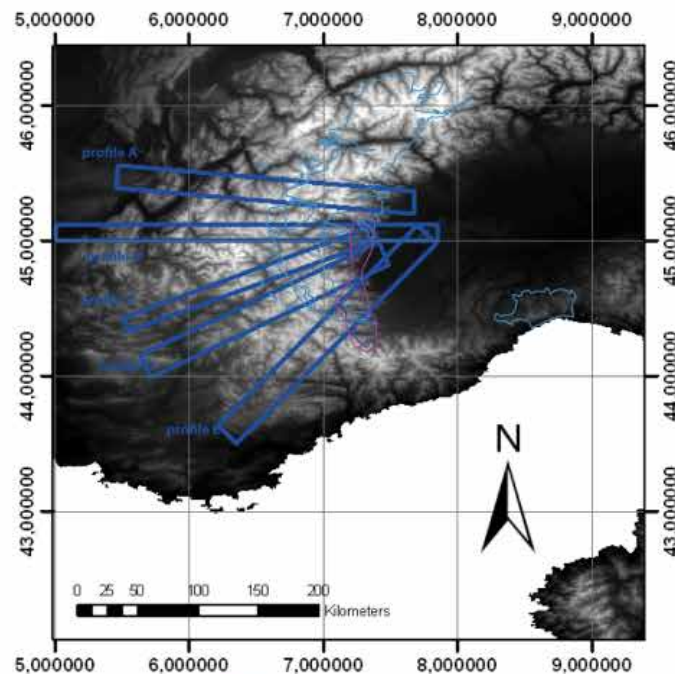
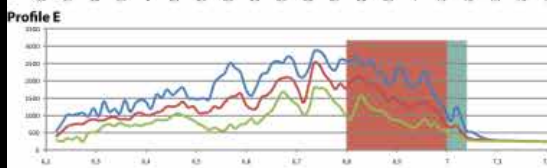
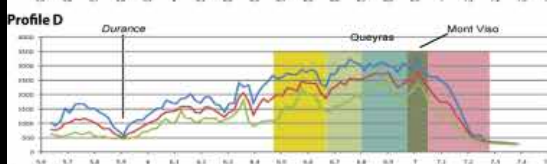
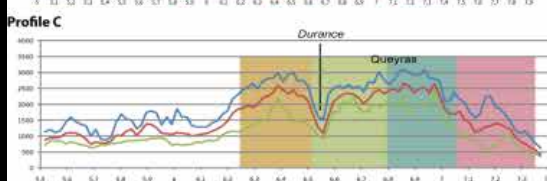
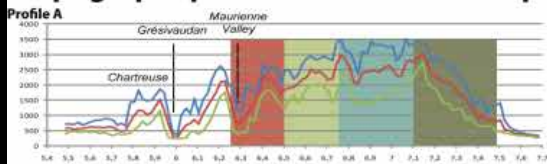
Pourquoi les écrins incisés et pas le Queyras?

Queyras and Ecrins geomorphological comparaison



Observation géomorphologique sur le Queyras

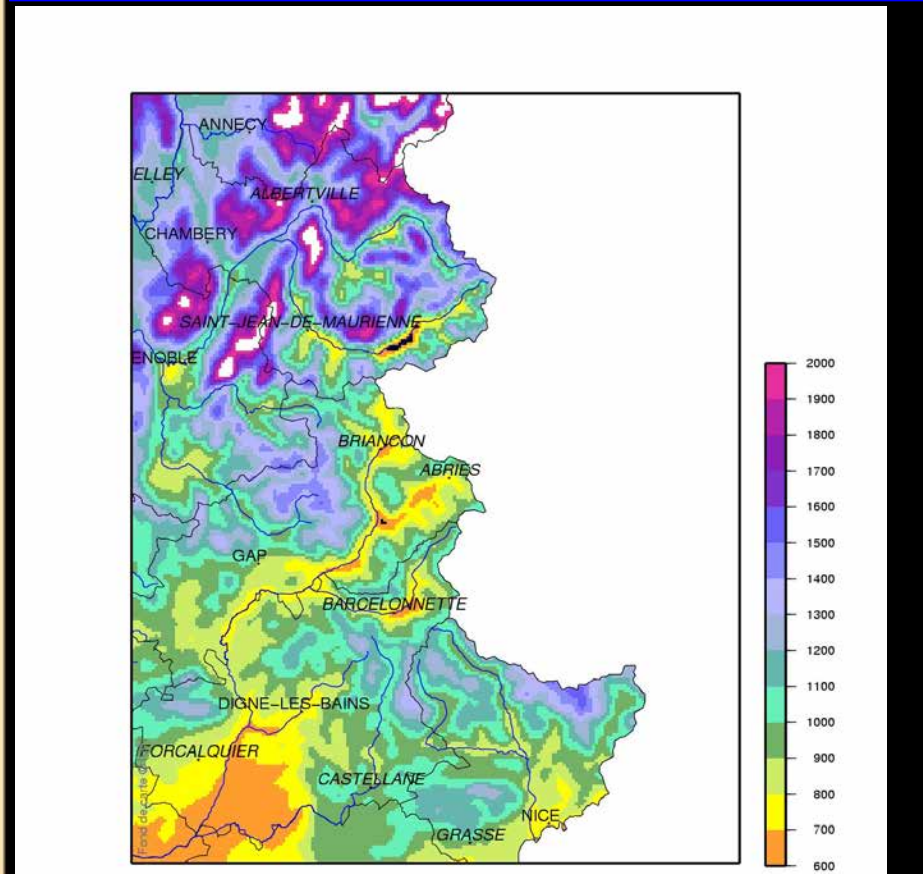
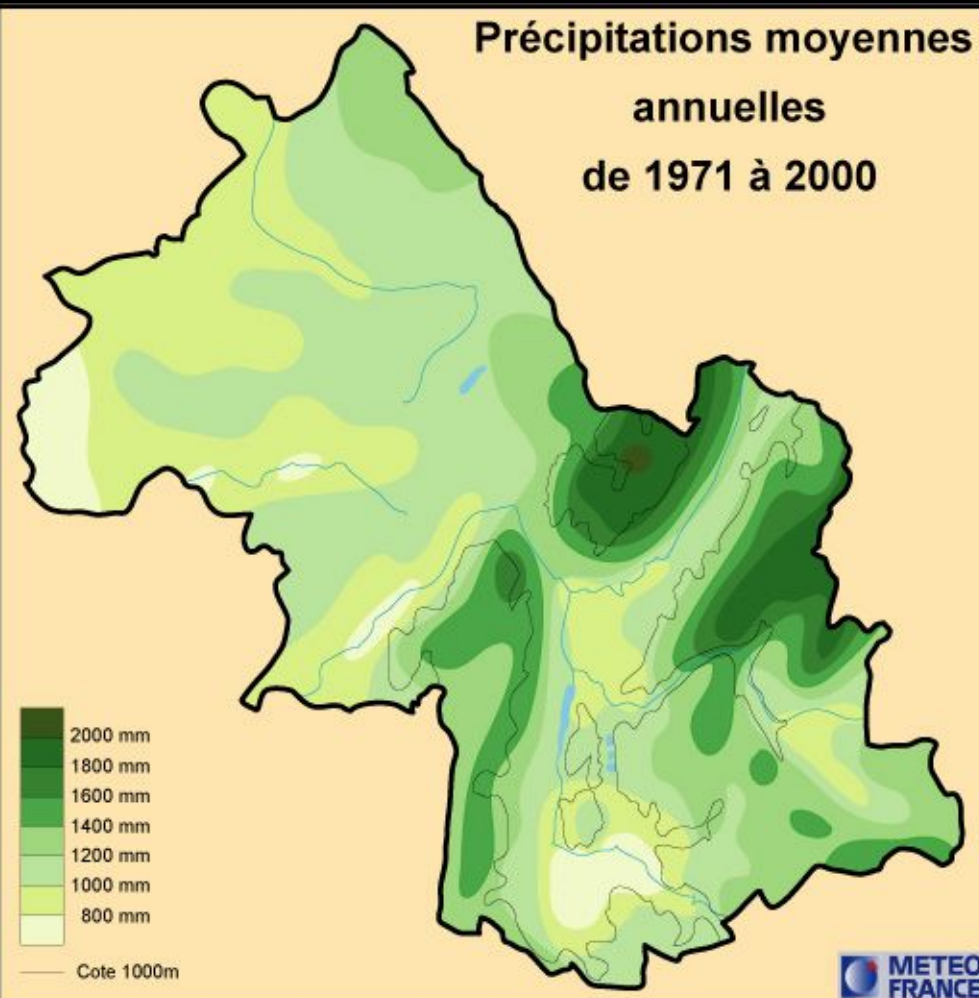
Topographique Profiles accross the Alps



Jourdan, 2012

CARTOGRAPHIE DE NORMALES AURELHY
Précipitations (en mm)

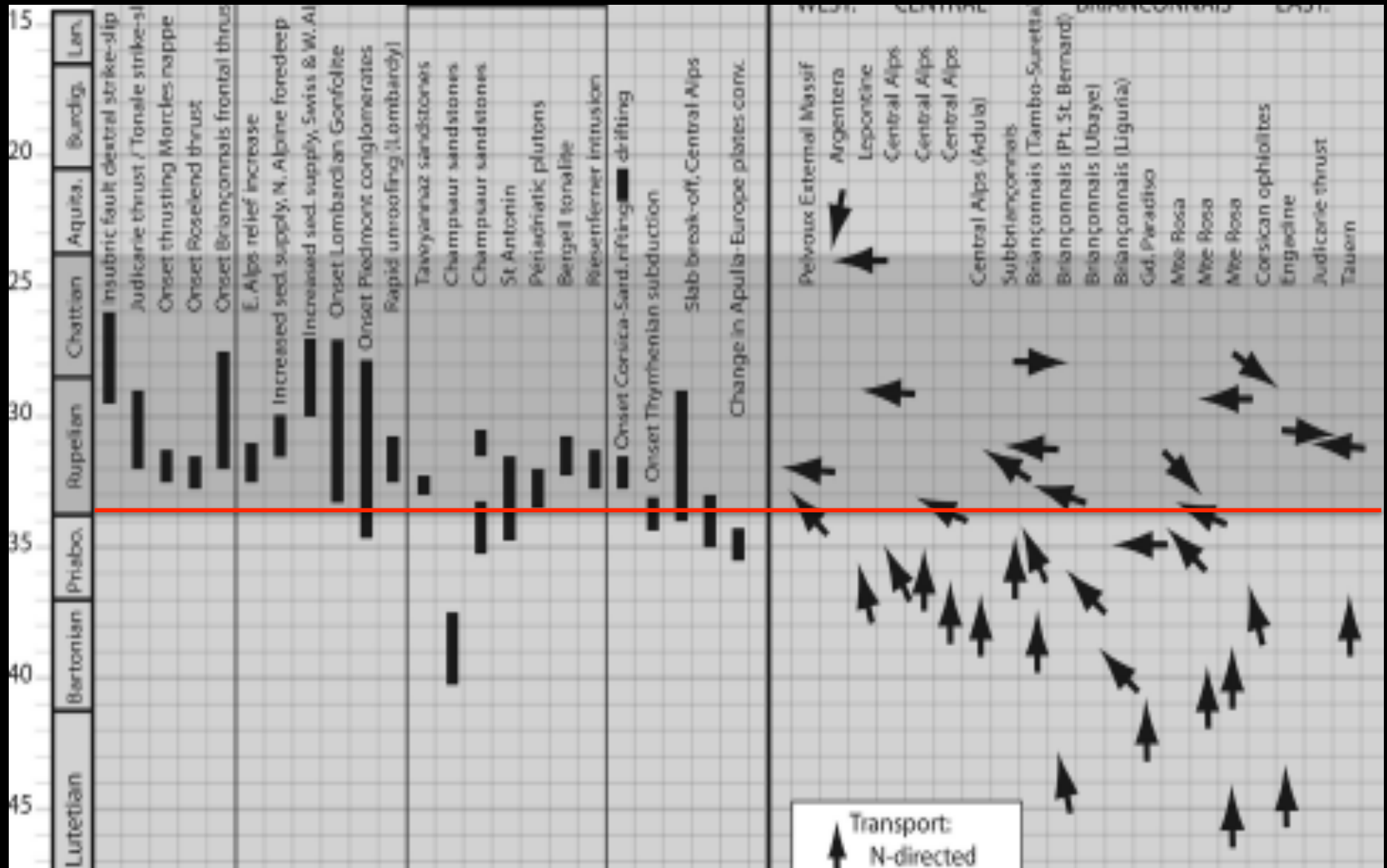
Normales annuelles



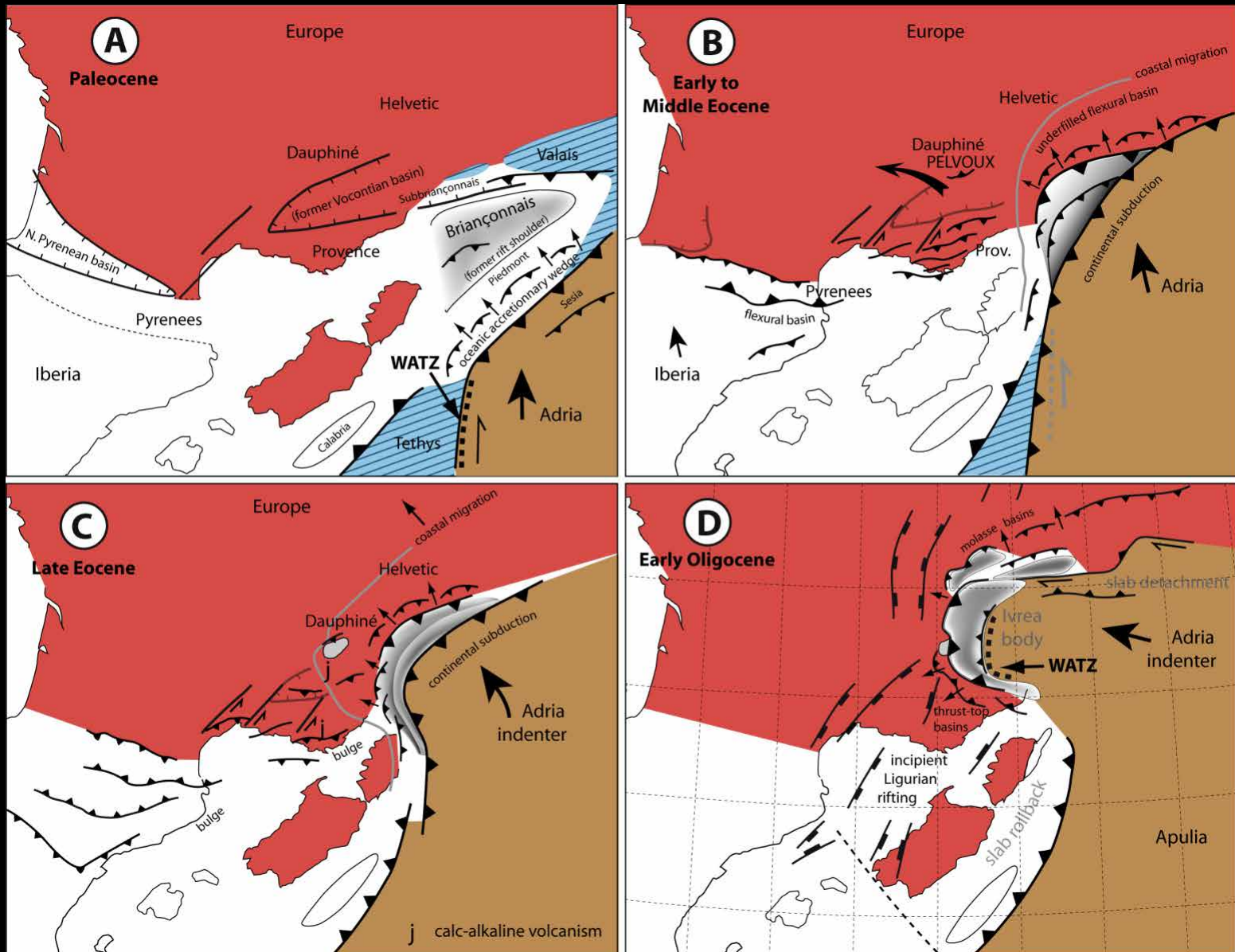
Depuis quand il y a des reliefs
dans les Alpes ?



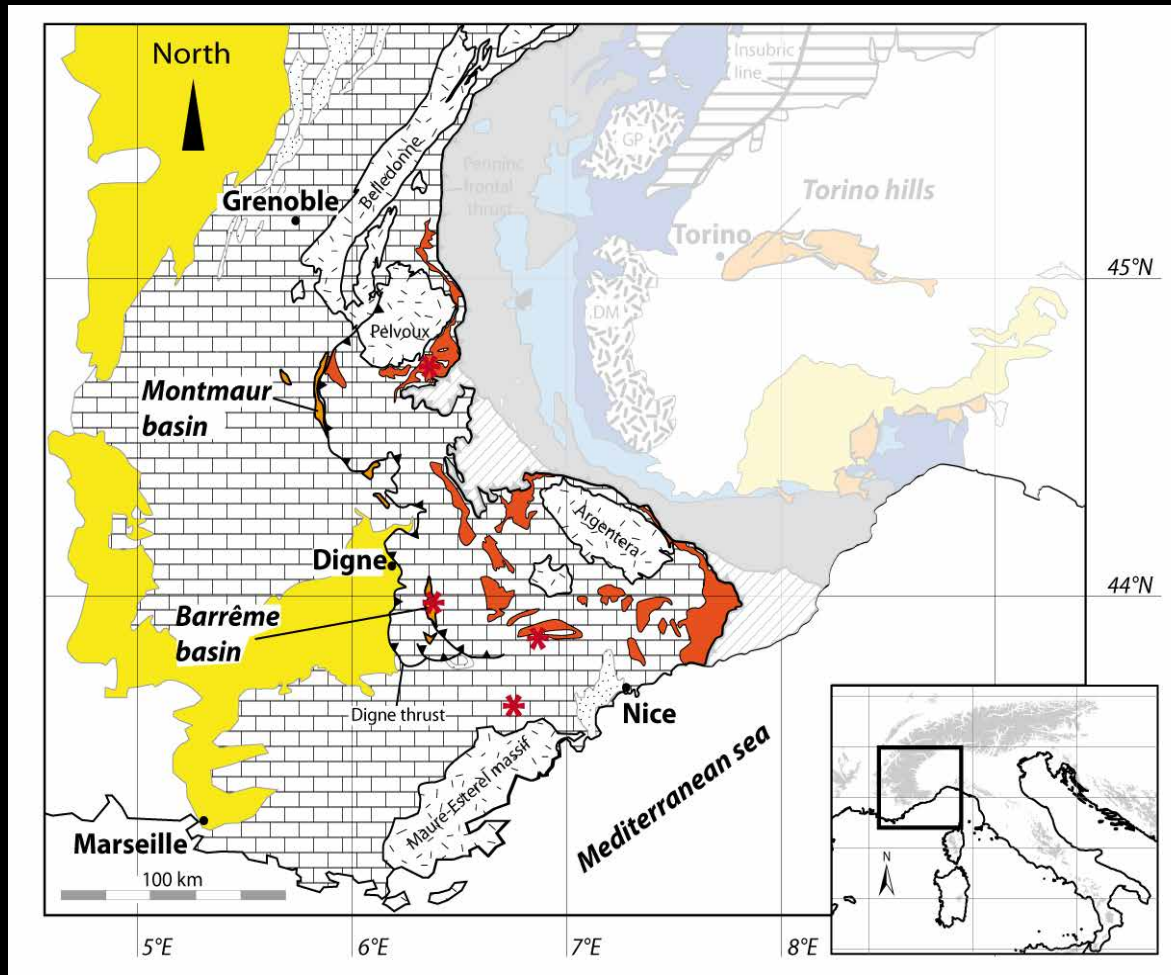
Compilation of tectonic, sedimentologic, paleomagnetic, petrologic data



Alpine geodynamic framework

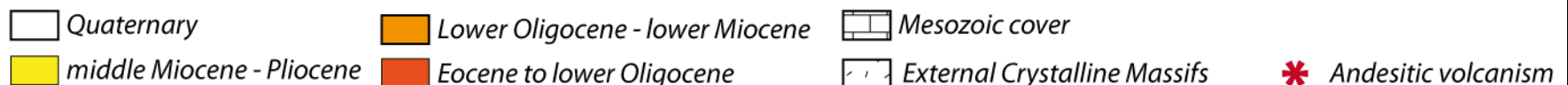


Main geological units of the Western Alps: External units



External Western Alps units :

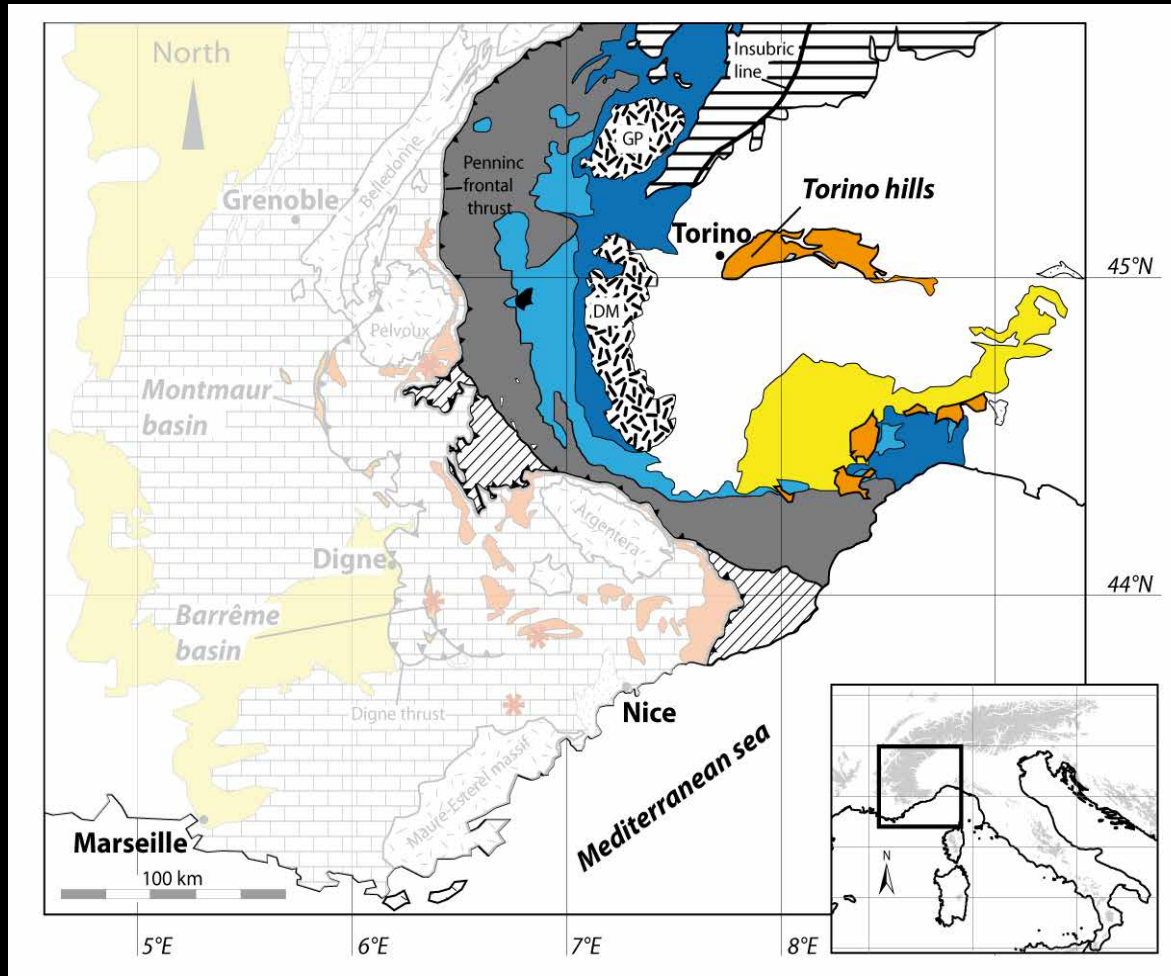
- External Crystalline Massifs
- Subalpine chains
- Foreland basin remnants
- Andesitic volcanism (35 – 30 Ma)





Saint-Joseph de Rivière conglomérats delta miocène

Main geological units of the Western Alps: Internal units



Internal Western Alps units:

Non-metamorphic:

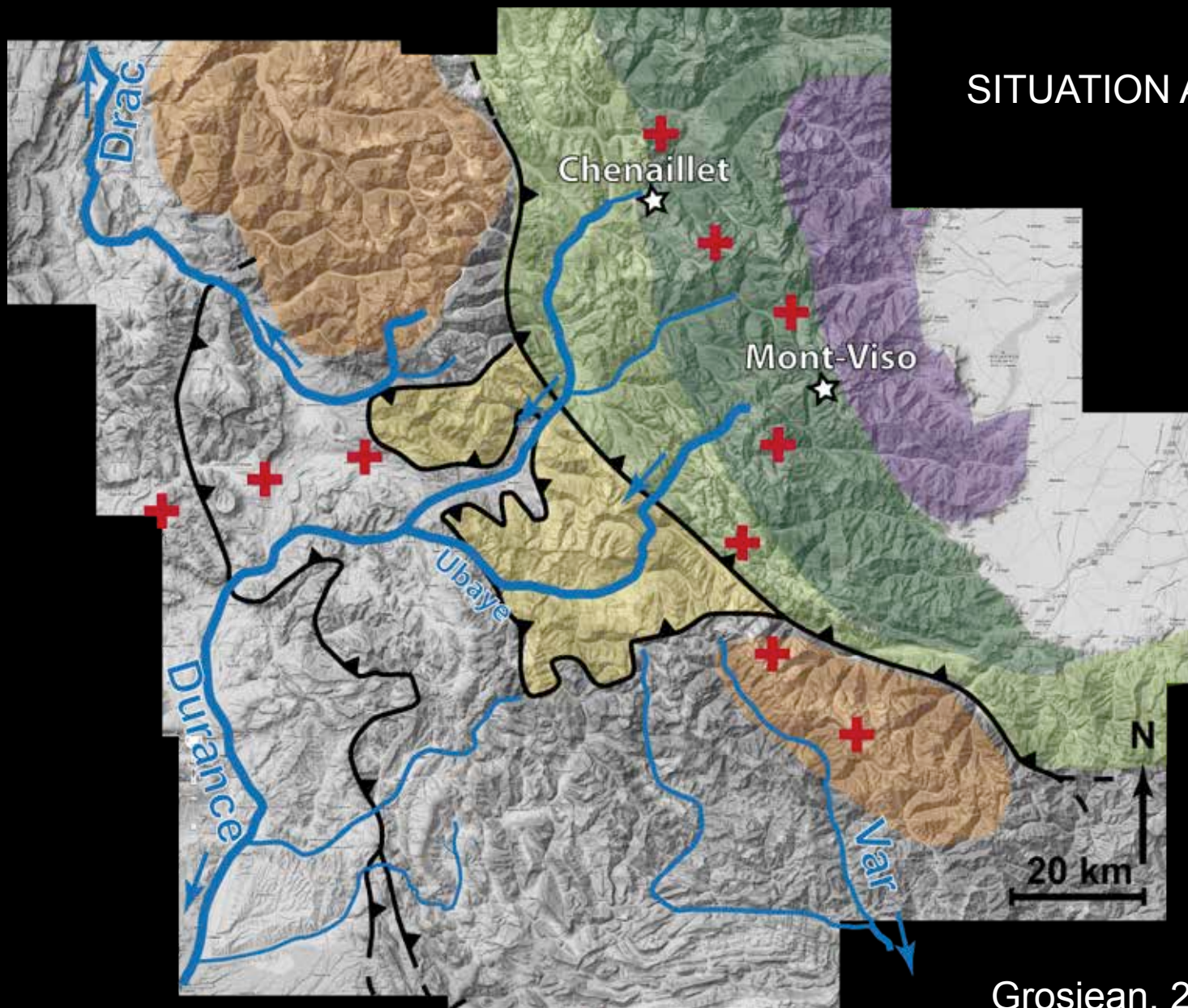
- Helminthoid flysch
- Obducted Ophiolite

Metamorphic:

- Briançonnais zone
- Piedmont zone
- Internal Crystalline Massifs





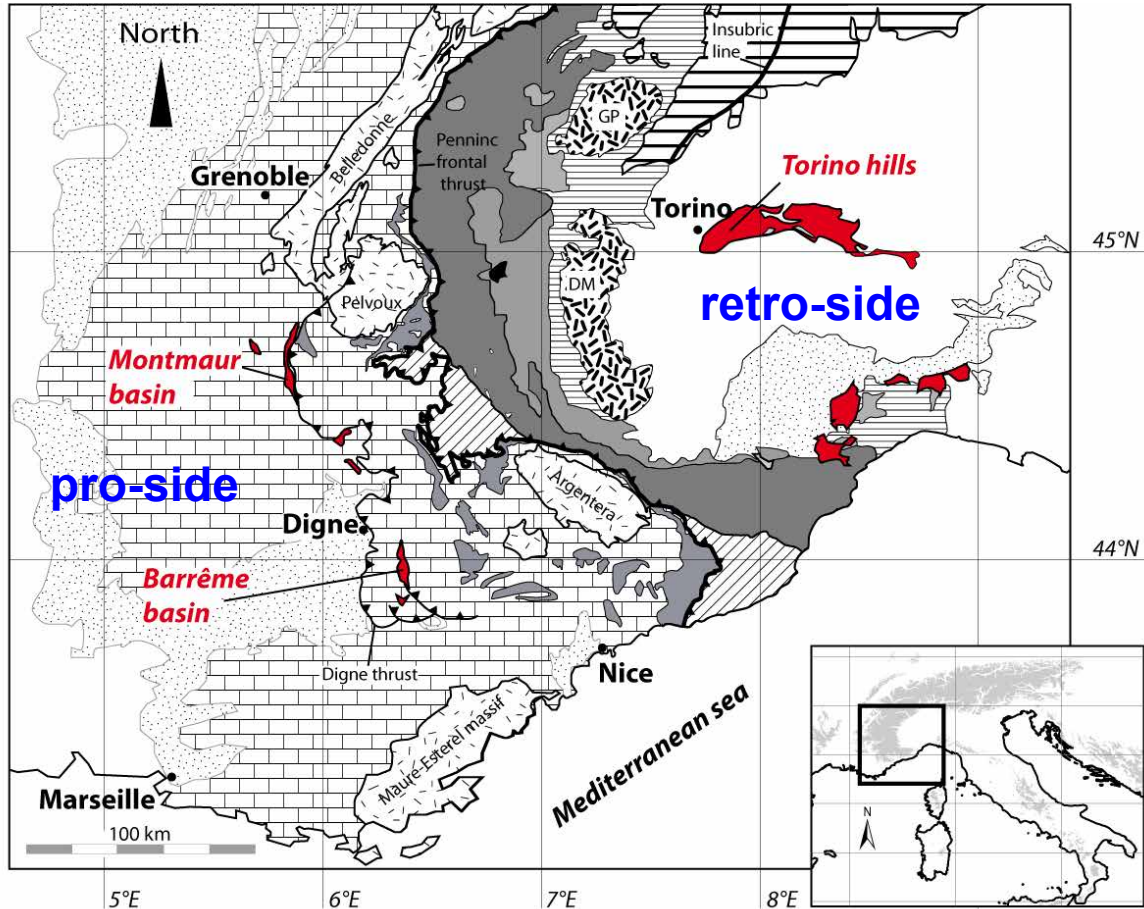


SITUATION ACTUELLE

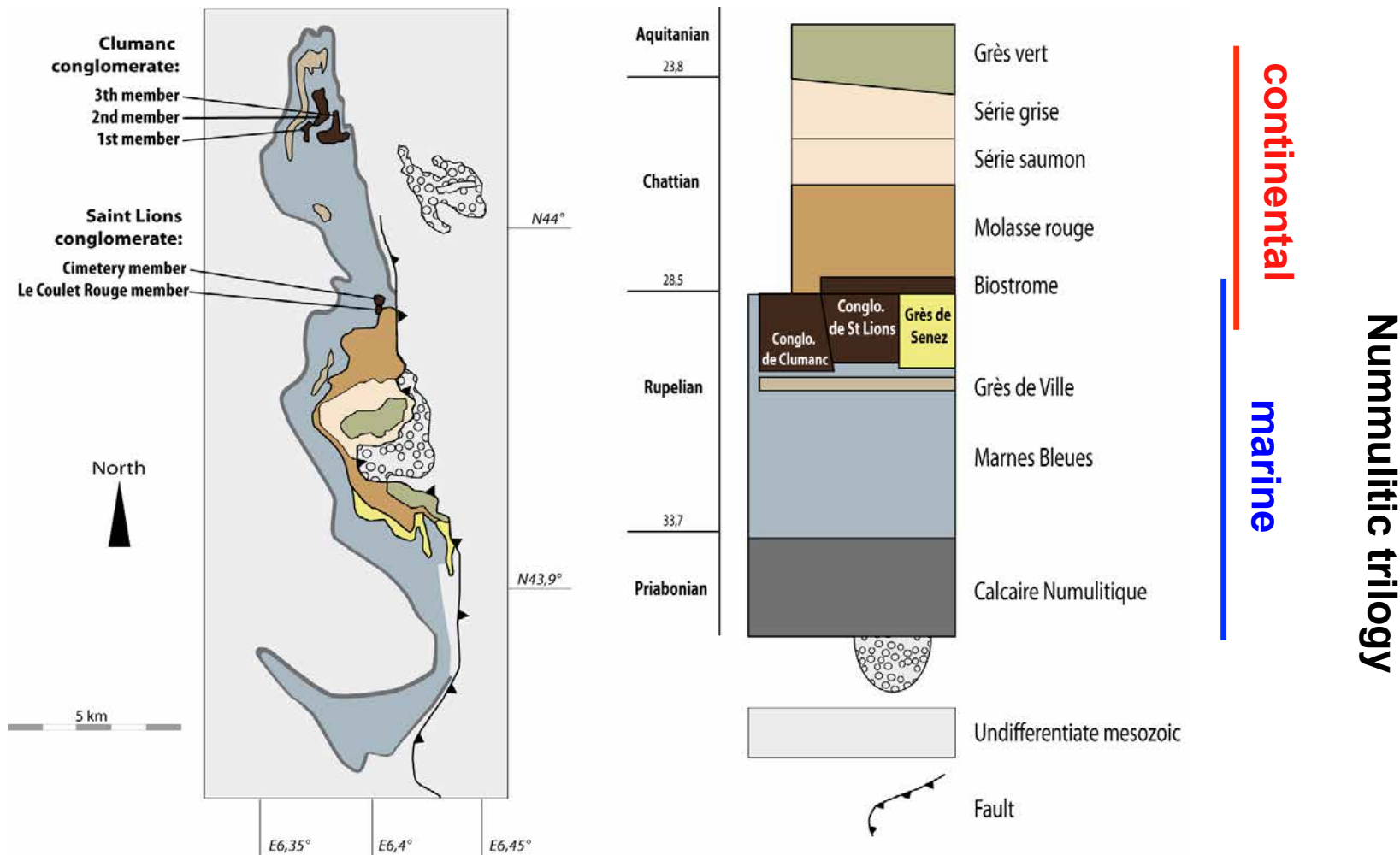
Grosjean, 2012

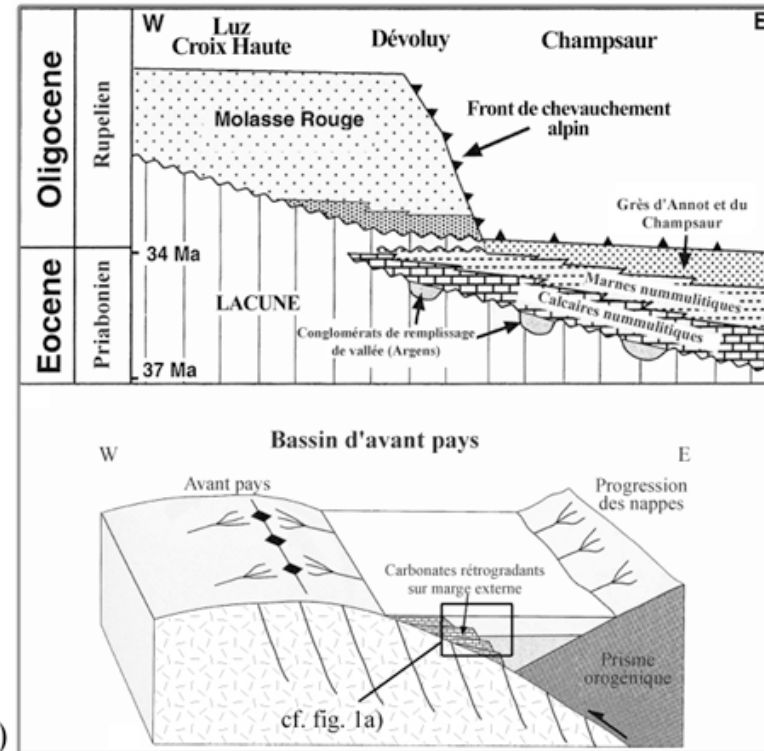
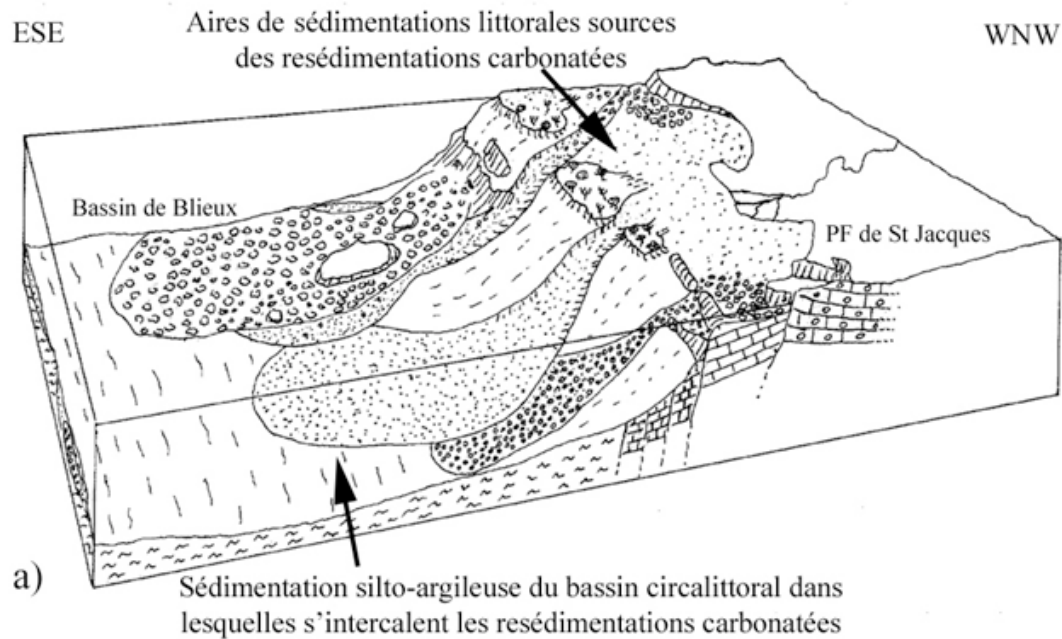
Oligo-Miocene foreland basins

35-15 Ma



Barrême basin

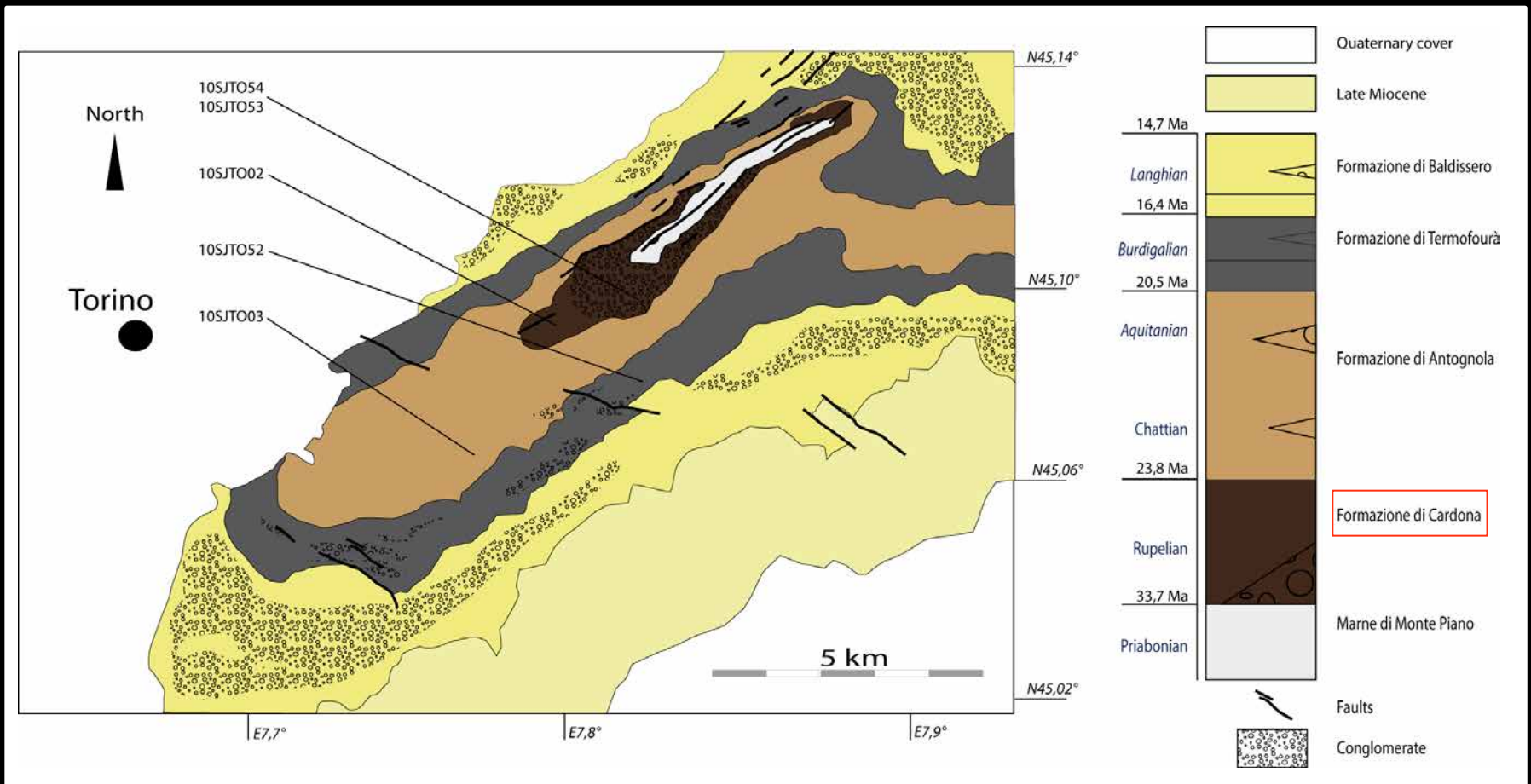




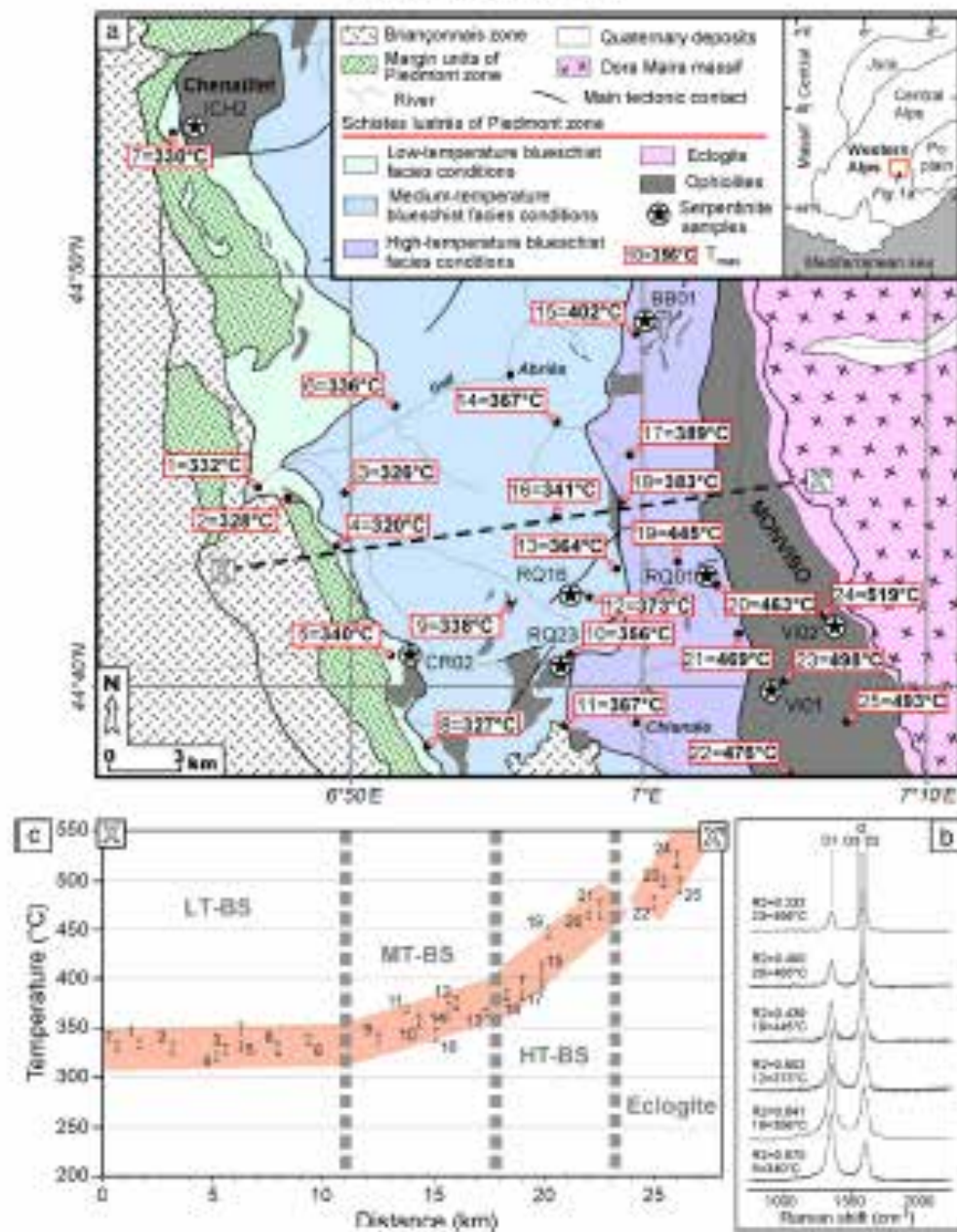
a) Esquisse paléogéographique représentant les resédimentations carbonatées («Calcaires Nummulitiques») se mettant en place en bas de pente dans la partie sud-occidentale littorale du bassin sub-alpin Priabonien et correspondant à la région de Blieux (d'après Floquet & Léonide, 2005);

b) Diagramme litho-chronostratigraphique du bassin d'avant-pays alpin à l'Eocène-Oligocène (adapté, à partir de Gupta, 1997).

Torino hills

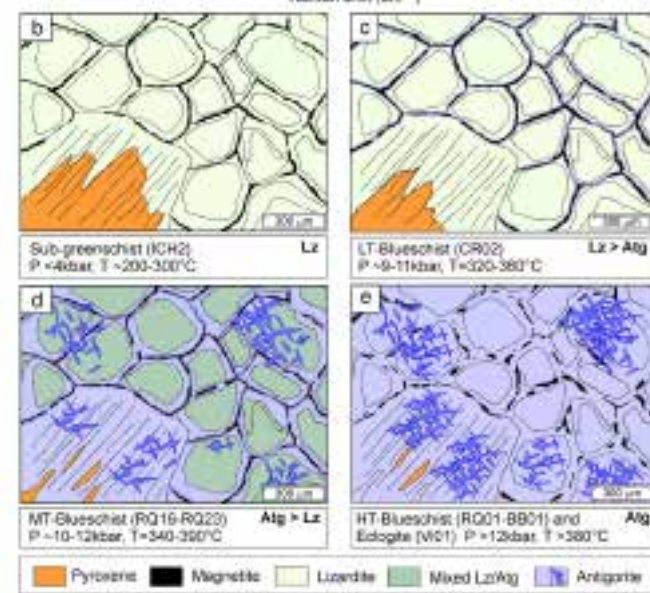


- Torino hills sedimentary record from the Eocene to the Quaternary
- The Cardona Formation (Rupelian) begins to record erosion of the Western Alps



Discriminating the nature of the serpentinites in the Internal Alps

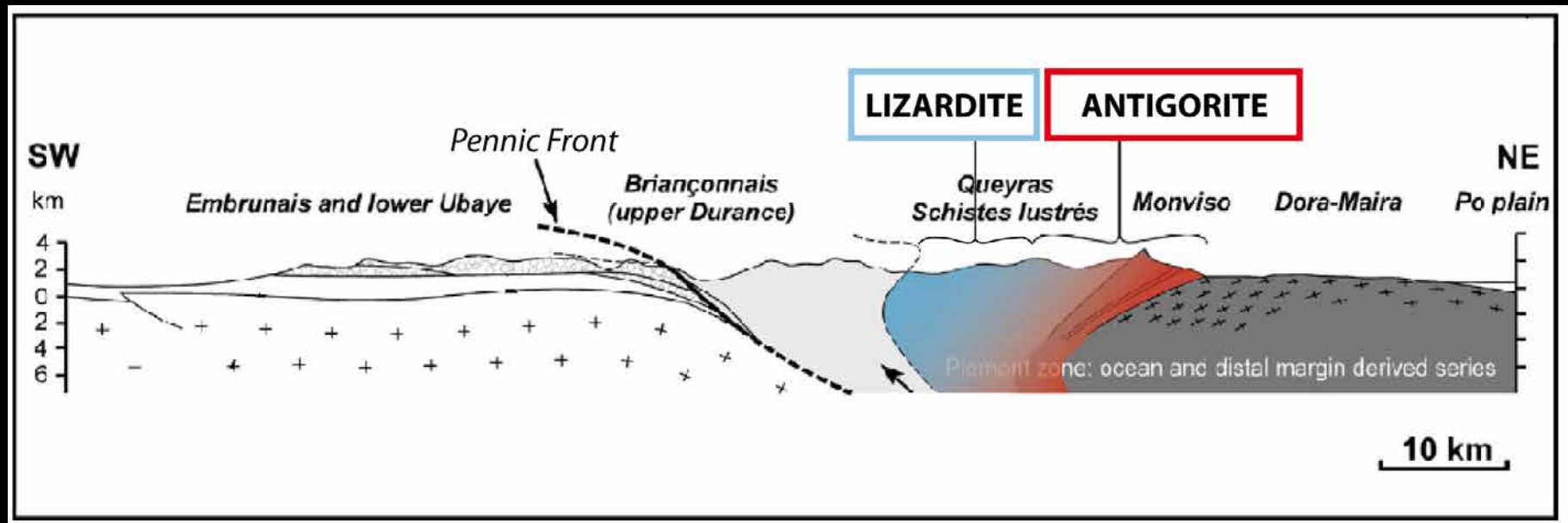
Schwartz et al., 2013



Pebble origin in the Oligocene-Miocene sediments : Serpentinites, Radiolarites, Basalts



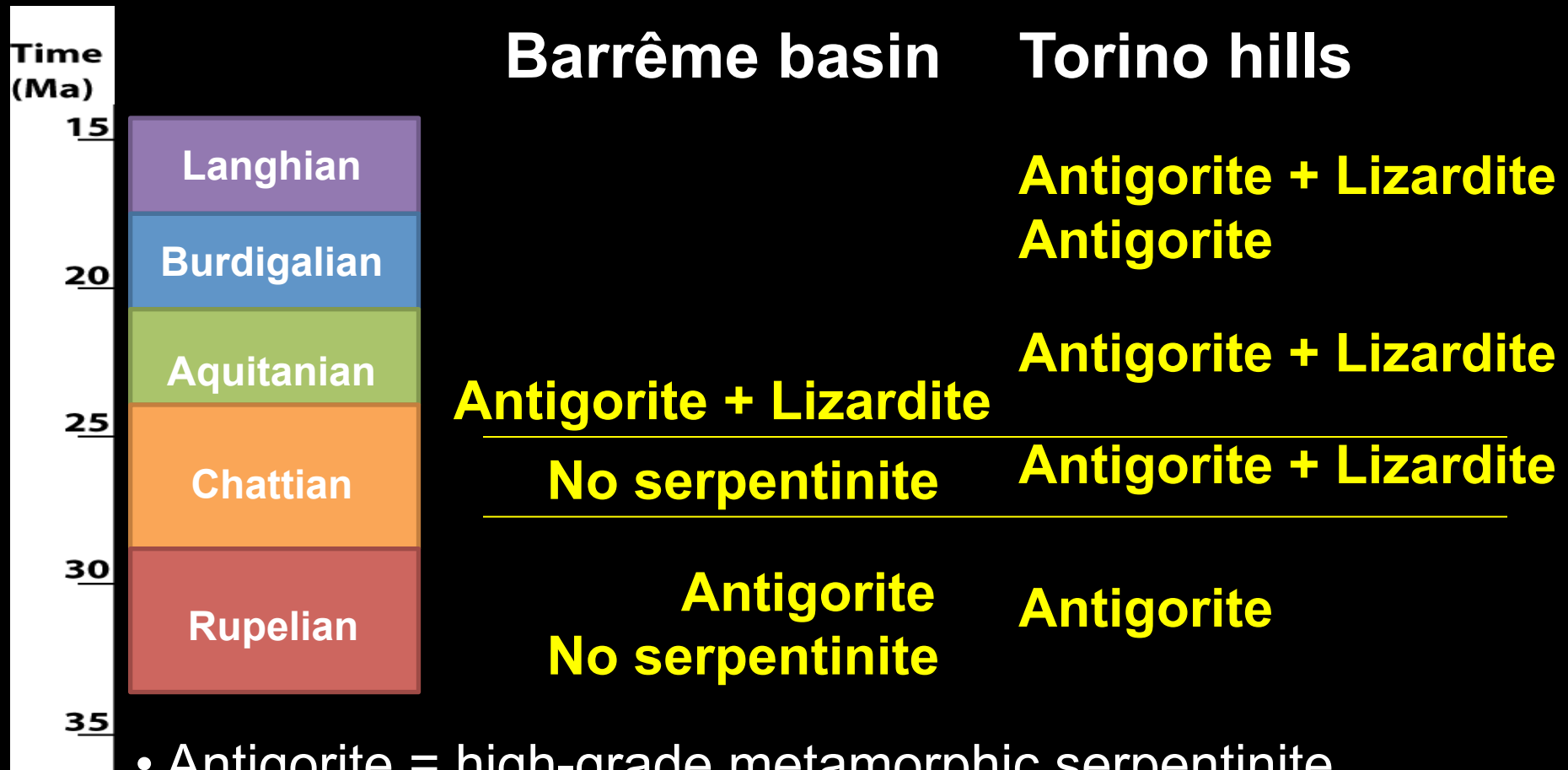
Serpentine types in the Internal Western Alps



Schwartz et al. 2012, 2013

- Antigorite occurs in the eastern part and antigorite + lizardite in the western part of the Internal Western Alps

Serpentinite evolution through stratigraphic record



- Antigorite = high-grade metamorphic serpentinite
- Lizarditite = low-grade metamorphic serpentinite

Oligocene pro-side foreland basin

« Matériel exotique » = ophiolites/blueschists
Termier 1895 in Chauveau and Lemoine 1961

Barrême basin

Miocene	Aquitanian 23.8	Grès Verts ★ SJO1
		Série Grise
Oligocene	Chattian 28.5	Série Saumon
		Molasse Rouge
	30 Ma	
	Rupelian 33.7	Conglo. de Clumanc ★ SJO3 biostrome Conglo. de St. Lions ★ SJO2 Grès de Senez ★ SJO4 Grès de Ville
Eocene		Marnes bleues
	Priabonian 37.0	Calcaires à Nummulites
		Poudingue d'Argens



Source areas

Internal Western Alps

Paleocurrent: NE – SW

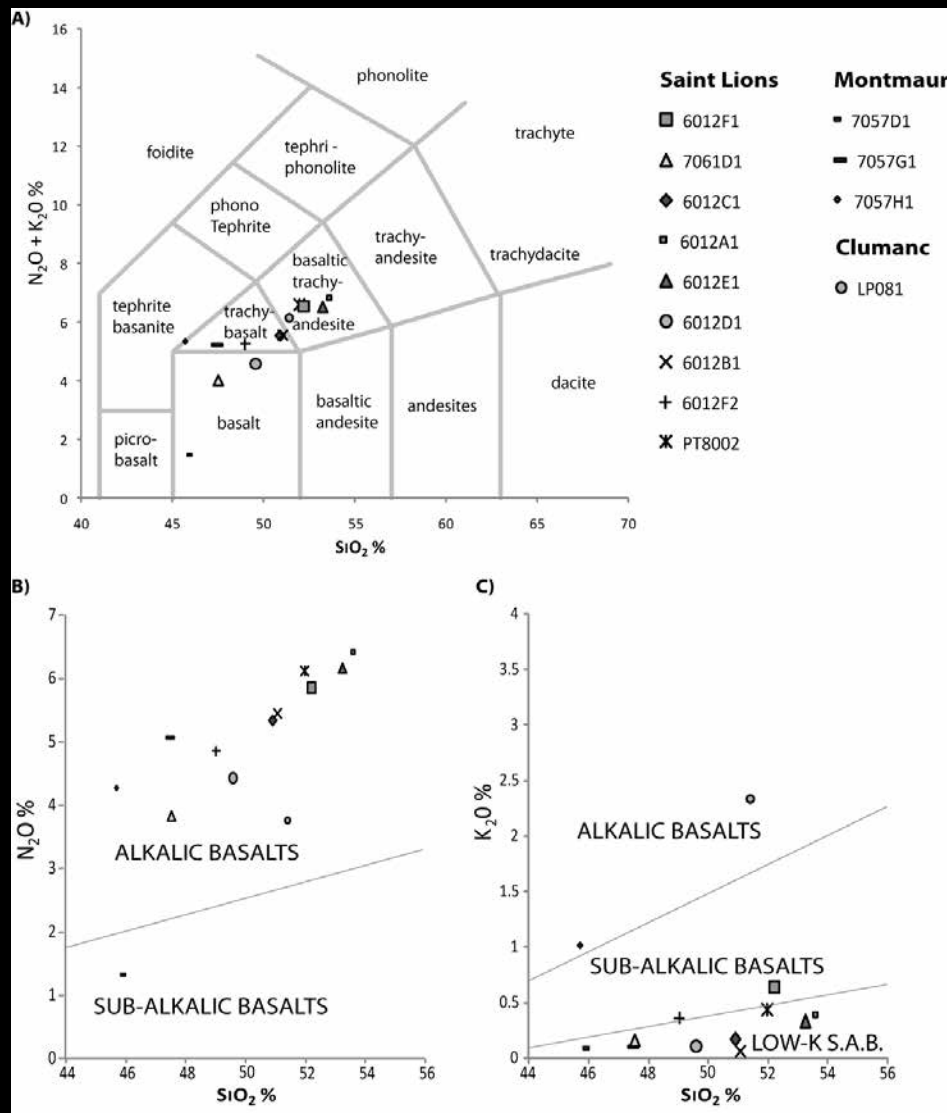
Paleocurrent: S – N

Joseph and Lomas 2004

Corsica, Maures-Estérel massif

- At 30 Ma deposition of pebbles from the Internal Alps
- Significant change in paleocurrent directions

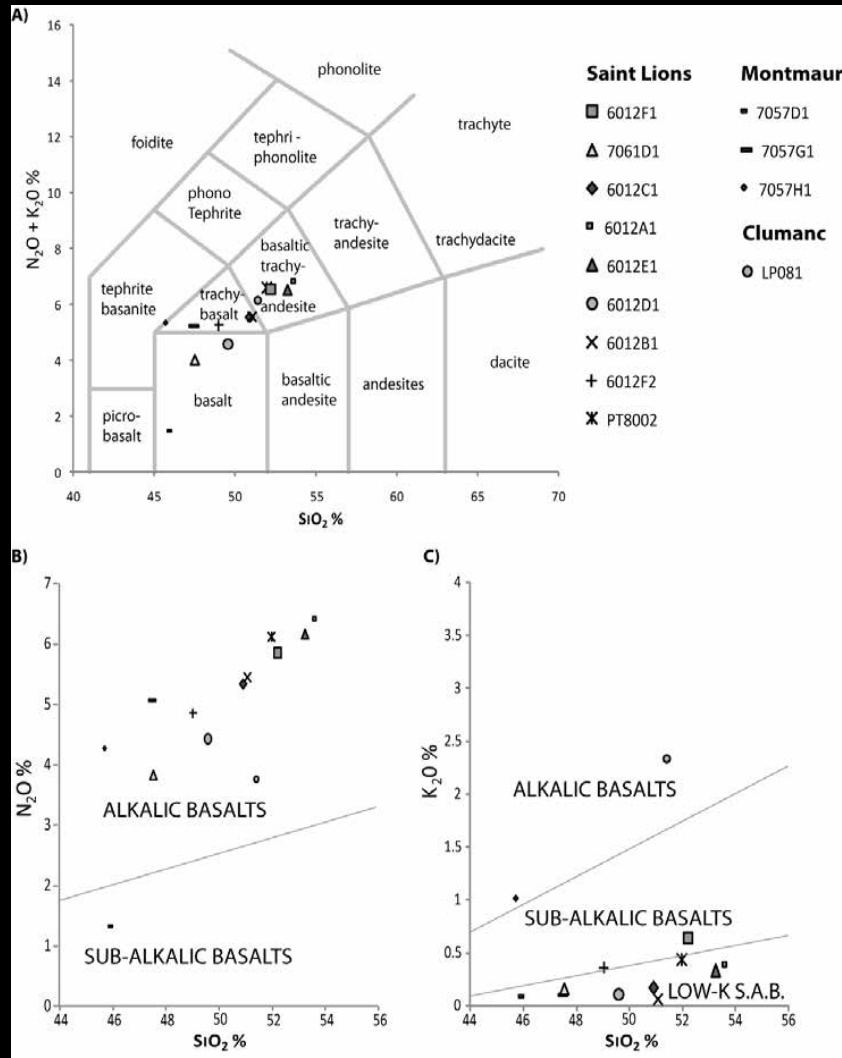
Geochemical analyses



- Major and trace element analyses for basalt pebble characterization for provenance analysis

Jourdan et al., 2012

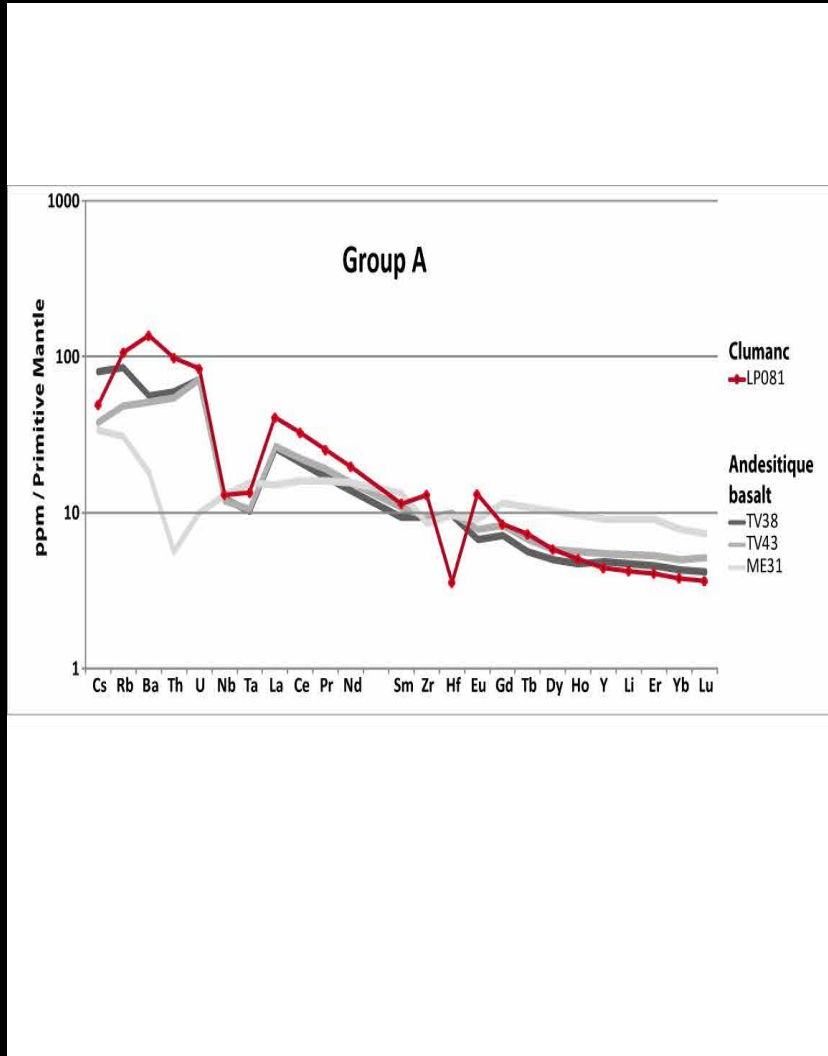
Geochemistry of basalt pebbles in the foreland basin



- Before such pebbles were described only as andesites
- Major element analyses show that non-metamorphic basalts from the 30 Ma Barrême basin and Montmaur conglomerates are:
 - Basaltic trachy-andesitic
 - Trachy basalt
 - Basalt

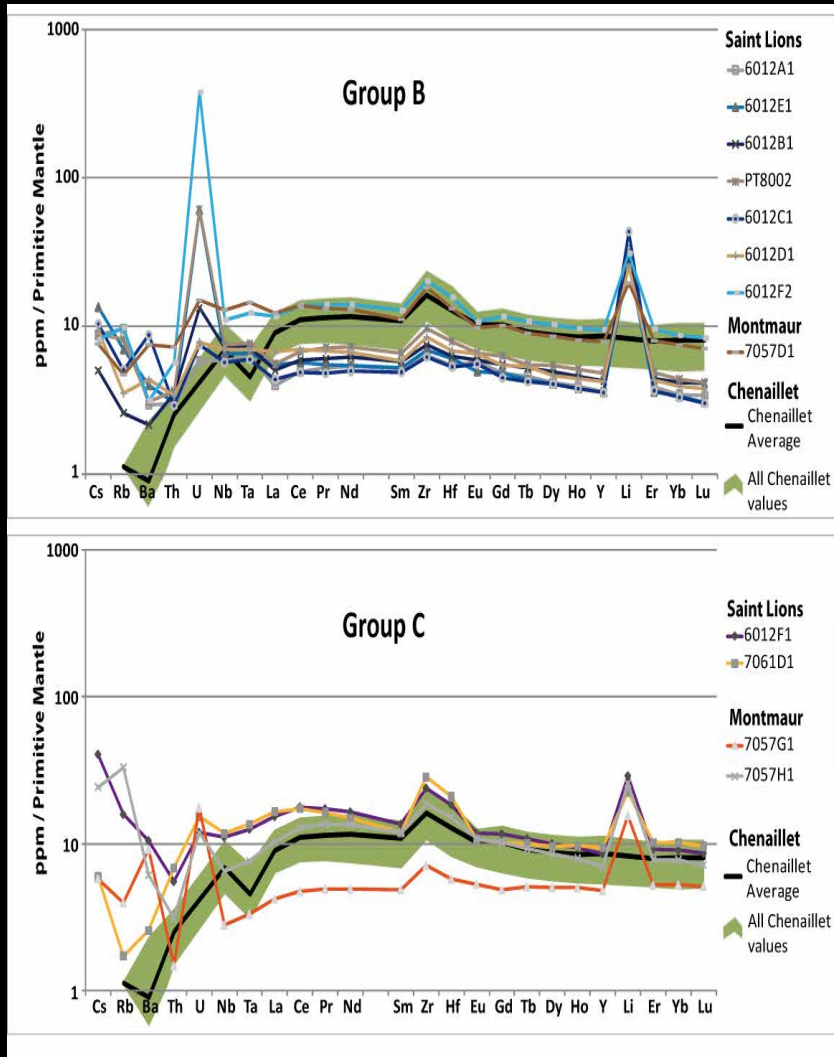
and fall mainly into the alkalic basalt or low-K sub-alkalic basalt fields

Geochemistry of basalt pebbles in the foreland basin



- The basalt pebble A from the Clumanc conglomerate is similar to andesitic basalt from the Taveyannaz and Champsaur units (*Boyet et al. 2001*)

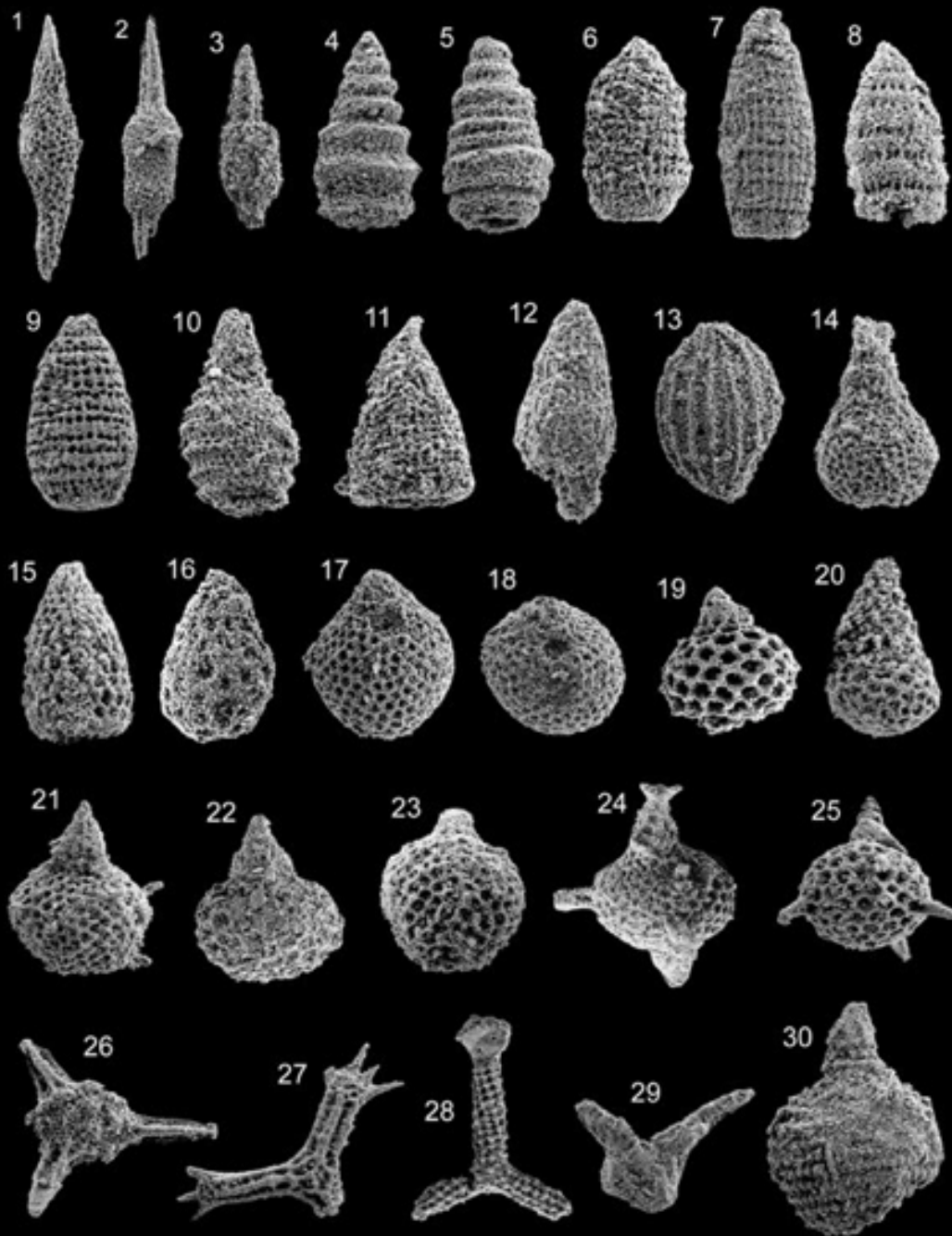
Geochemistry of basalt pebbles in the foreland basin



- Group B and C have patterns somewhat similar to basalt from the obducted Chenaillet ophiolite unit
- Positive anomalies are caused by hydrothermal alteration in the source and/or weathering in the sedimentary system

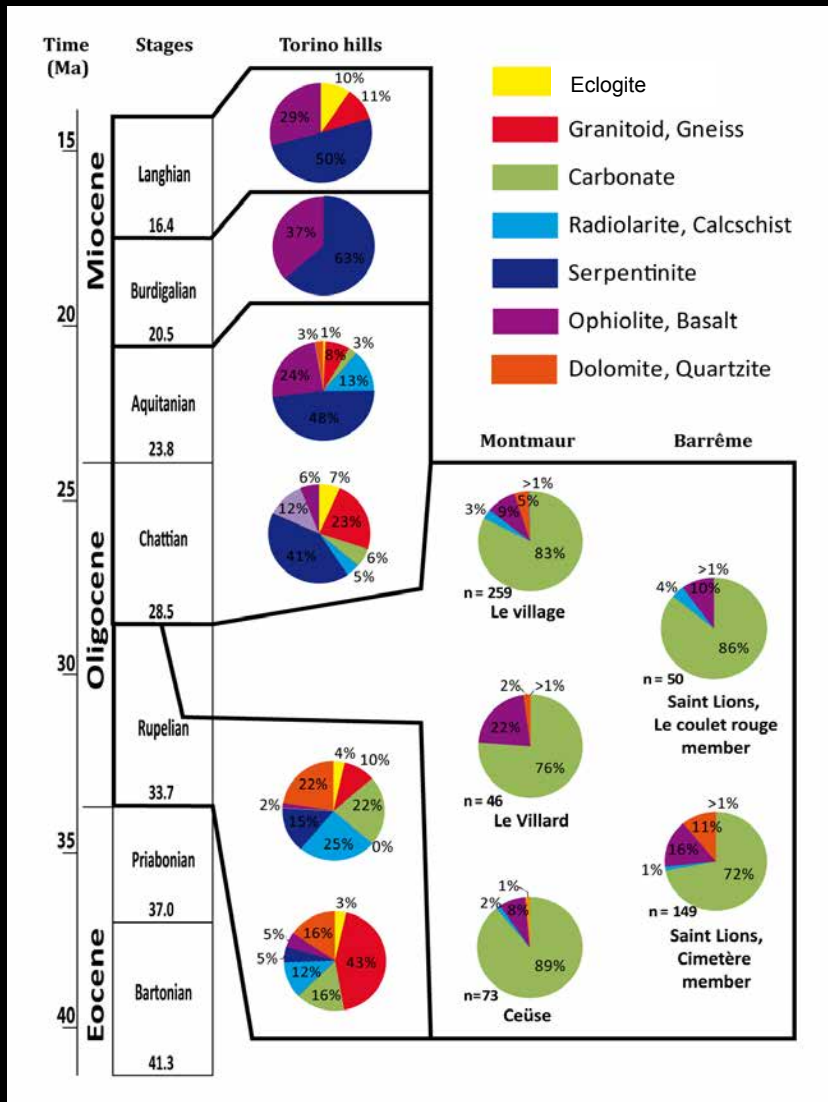
Pebble origin in the Oligocene-Miocene sediments : Serpentinites, Radiolarites, Basalts





Cordey et al.
Swiss Geol J, 2012

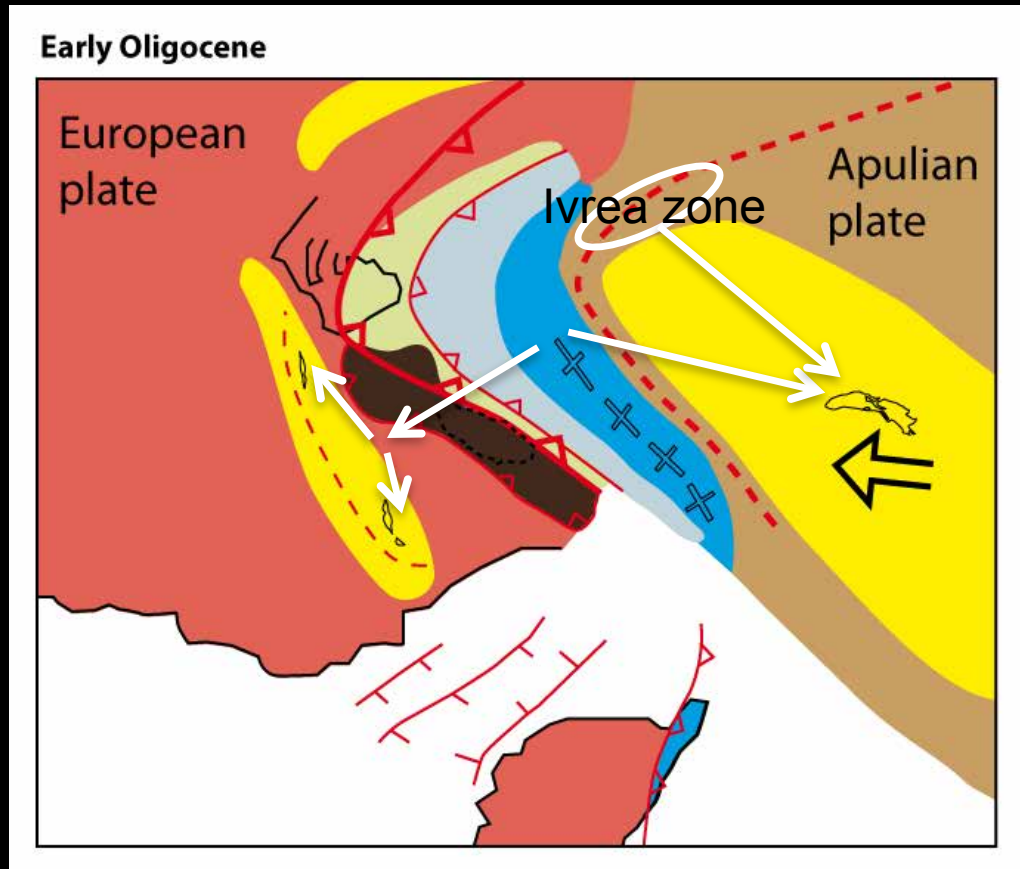
Pebble population evolution



- Proportion of serpentinite pebbles strongly increases from the Late Oligocene in the Torino hills

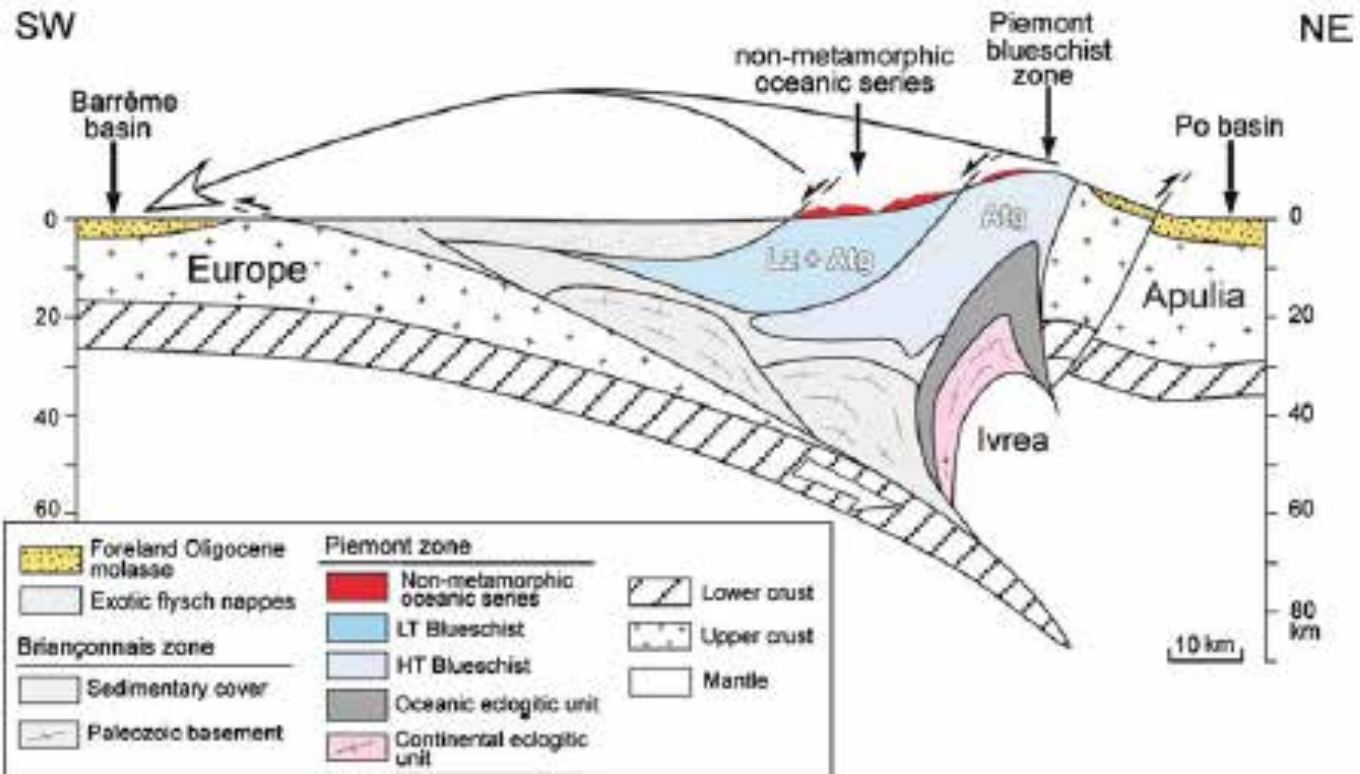
- The presence of basalt pebbles in all Oligocene foreland basin remnants hints at a wide distribution of obducted ophiolites in the Western Alps at that time

Sediment provenance



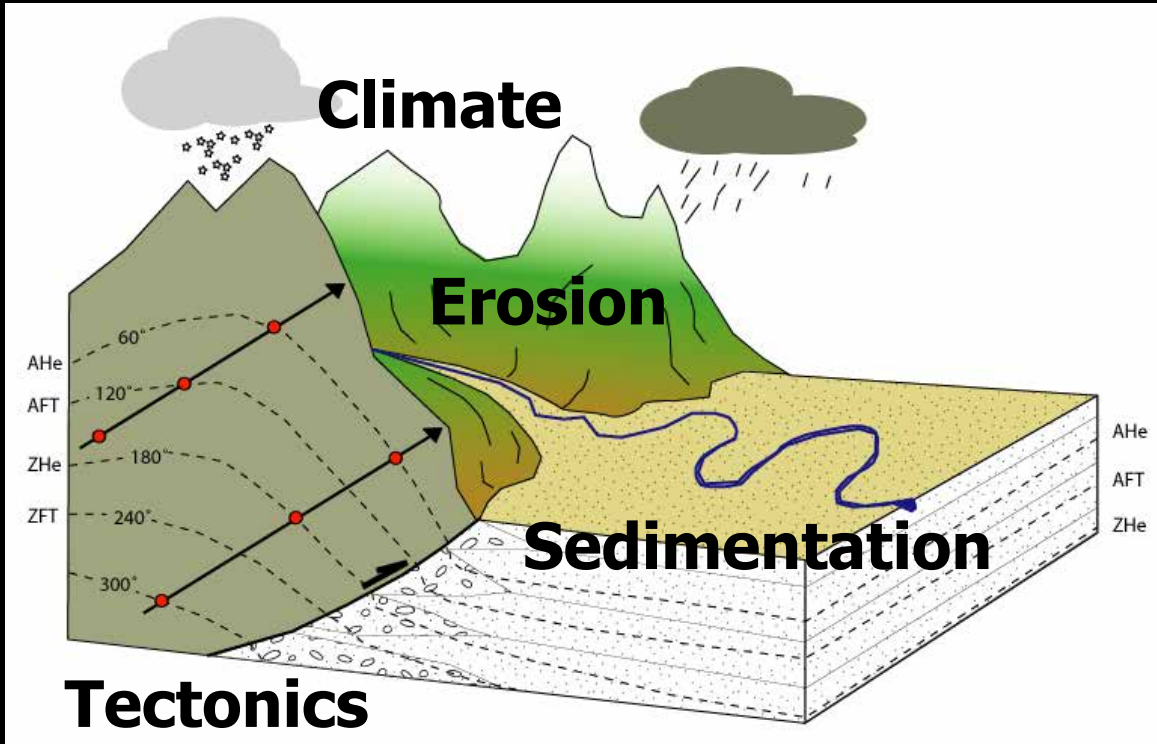
Jourdan et al., 2012

Torino hills: Granodiorite pebbles derived from the Ivrea zone and serpentinite pebbles from the Piedmont zone
Barrême basin: Basalt pebbles from Chenaillet or similar ophiolites. Zircons from the Internal Alps



Cordey et al. Swiss Geol J, 2012

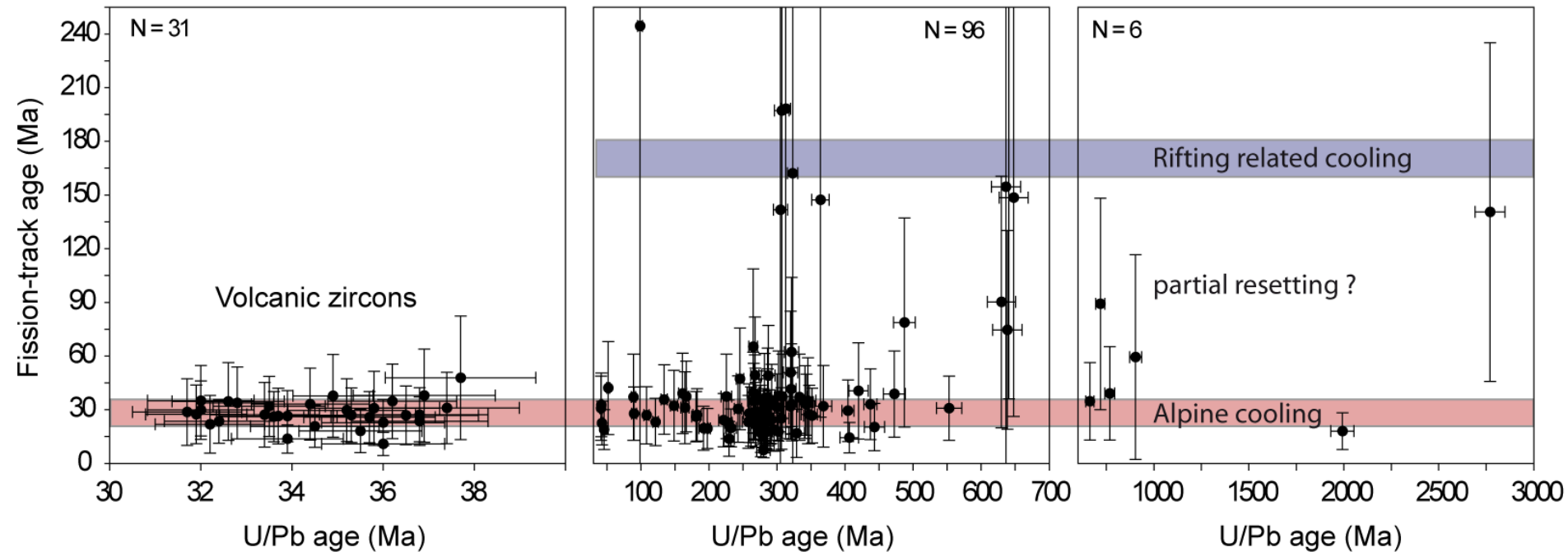
Thermochronological record of exhumation : lag time



Bernet 2009

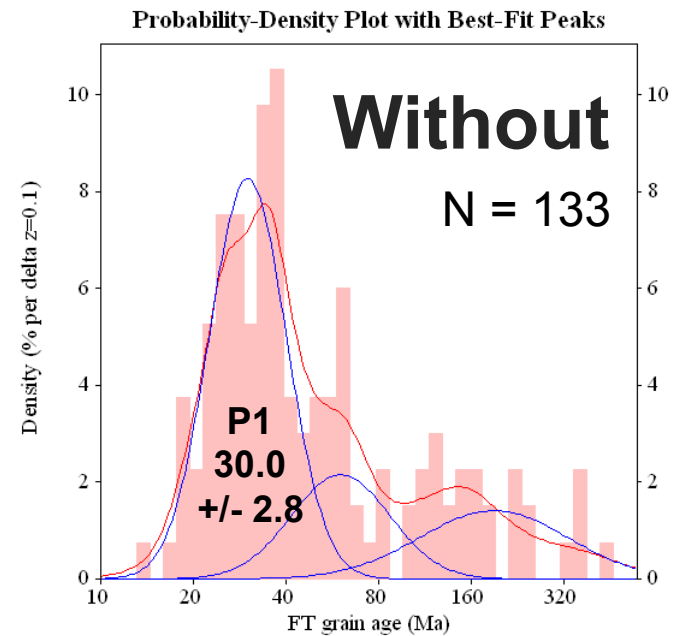
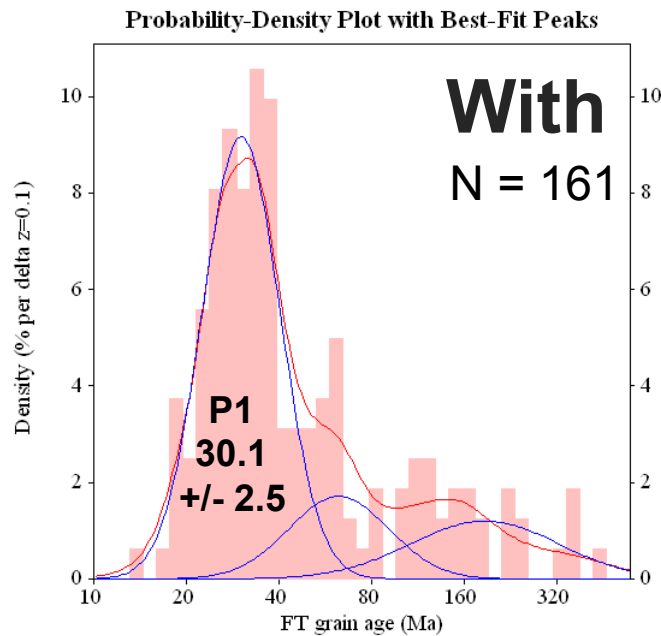
- With depth temperature increase depending thermal gradient
- Exhumational cooling of rocks
- The time of cooling below the closure temperature is recorded in apatites and zircons

ZFT and U-Pb double dating results in the pro-side foreland basin



- A strong Alpine cooling signal in spite of the presence of Oligocene volcanic zircons

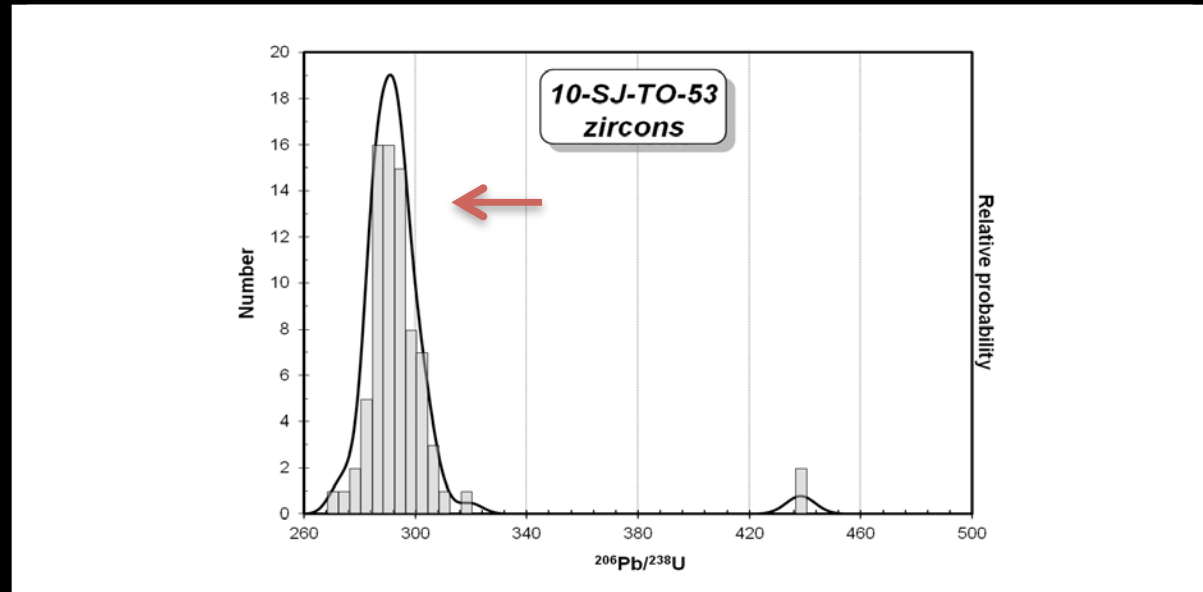
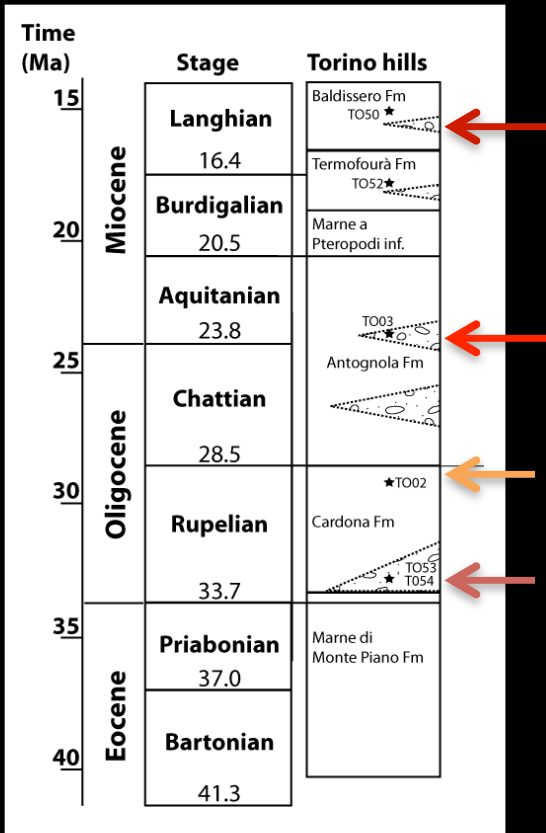
ZFT and U-Pb double dating results in the pro-side foreland basin



St. Lions Conglomerate, Barrême basin

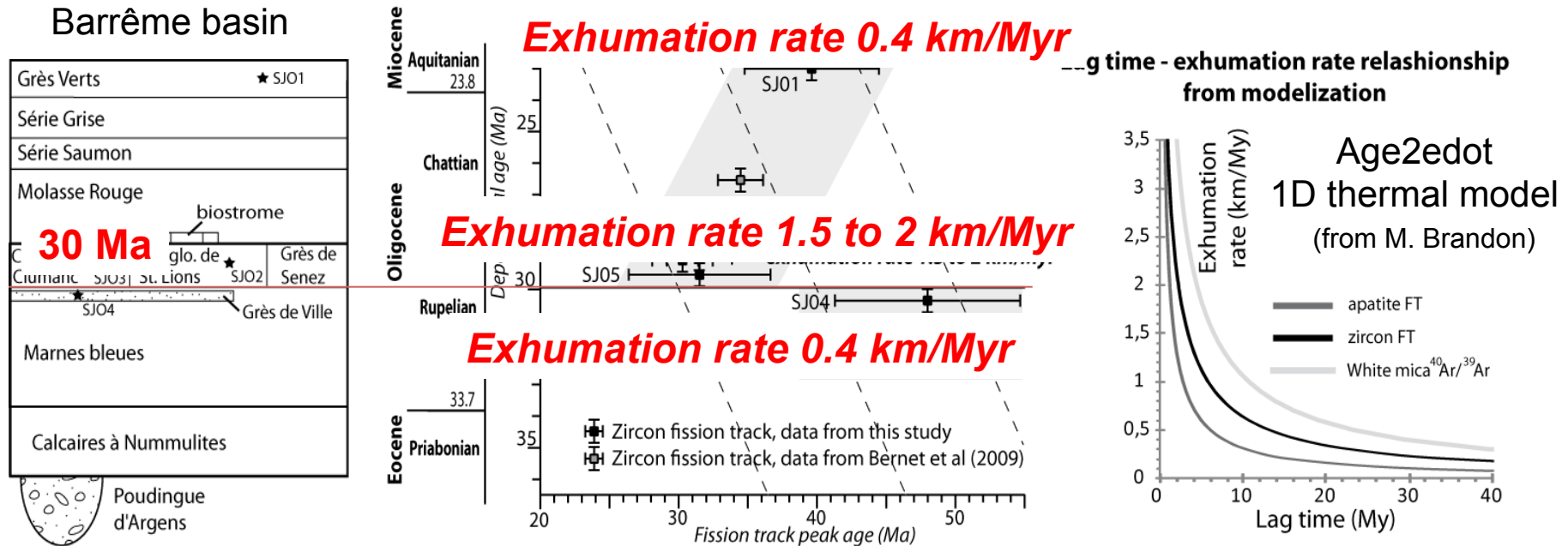
- Removal of volcanic zircons from the dataset to obtain a pure exhumation signal

ZFT-U/Pb double dating results Torino hills

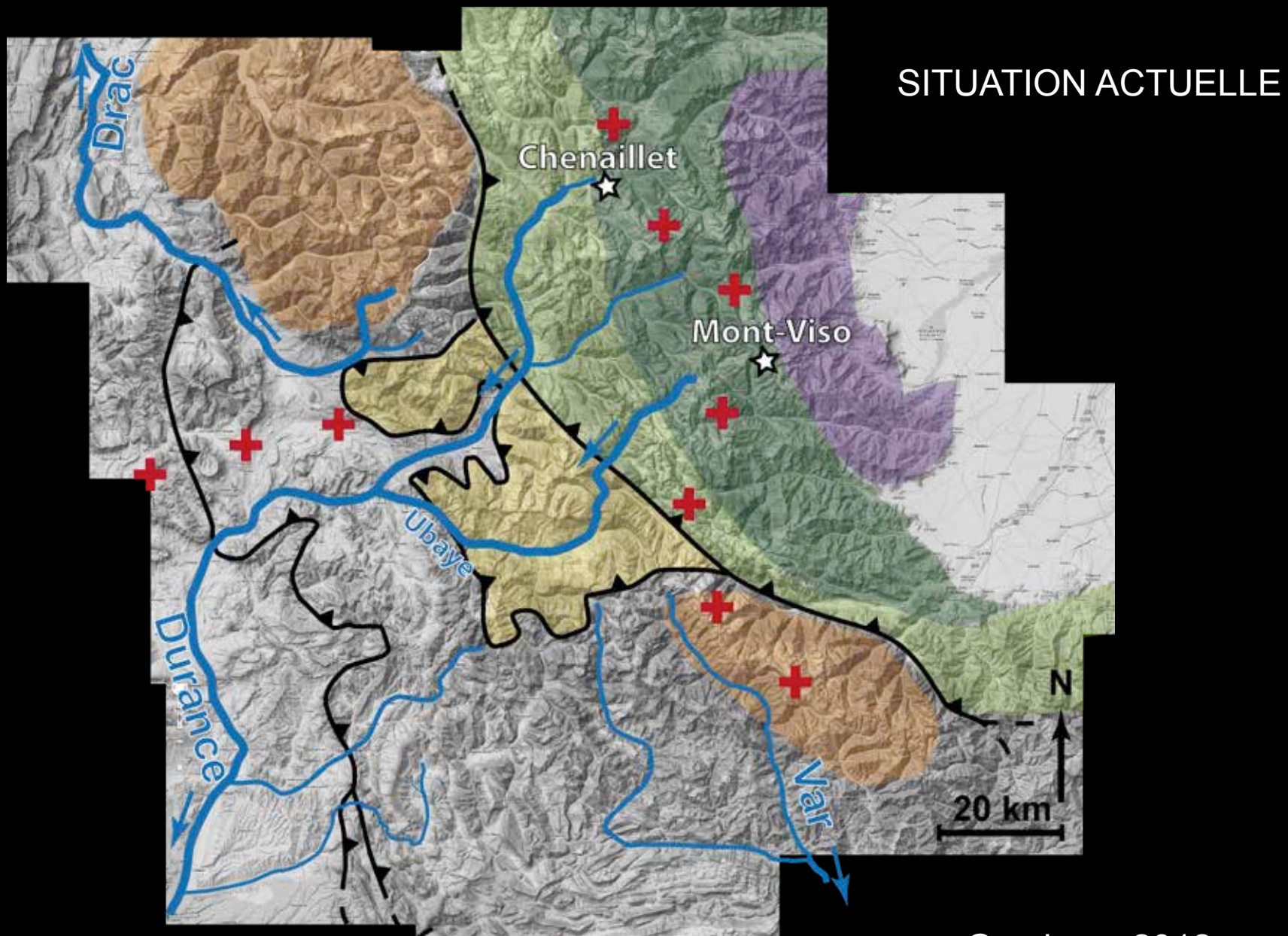


- Granodiorite signal : U/Pb age of about 290 Ma
- Alpine ZFT signal is less developed than in the pro-side foreland basin deposits
- No Oligocene volcanic zircons

Pro-side foreland P1 zircon fission-track signal

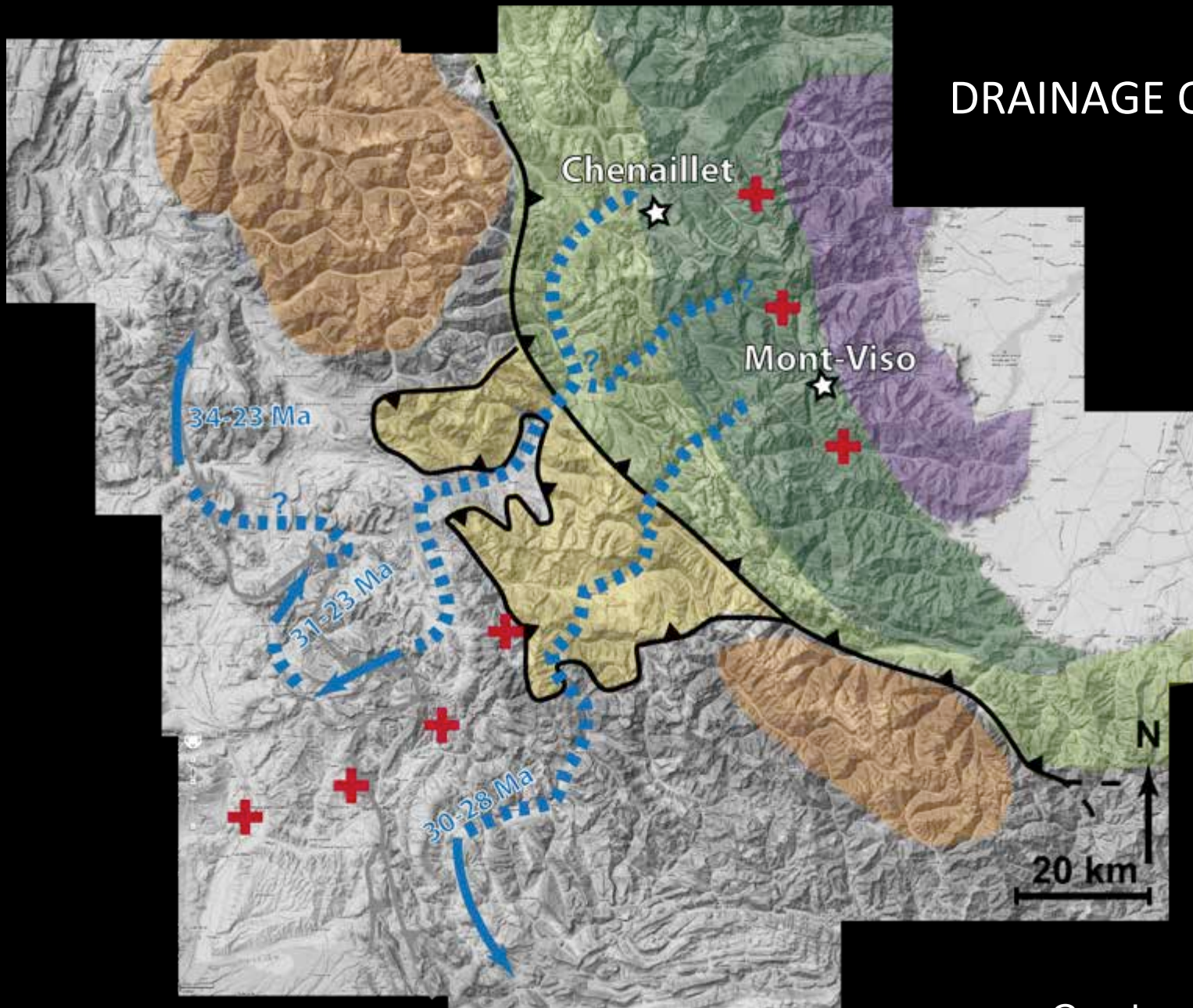


- Brief period of fast exhumation at ~ 1.5 to 2 km/Myr
- Arrival of pebbles from Internal Alps is contemporaneous with this brief pulse of rapid erosional exhumation



Grosjean, 2012

DRAINAGE OLIGOCENE

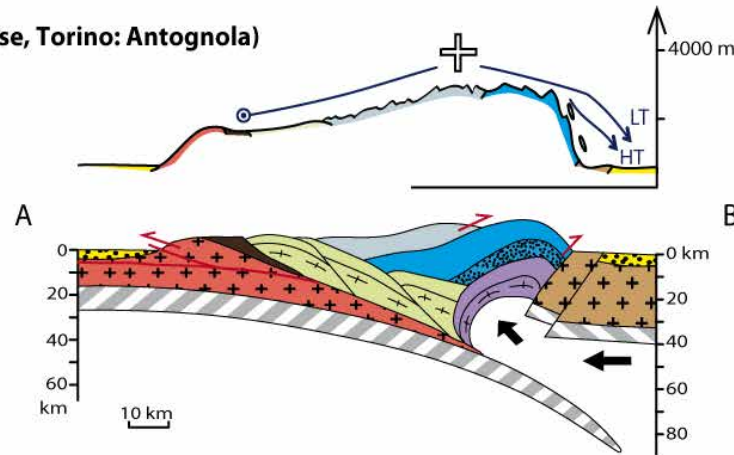
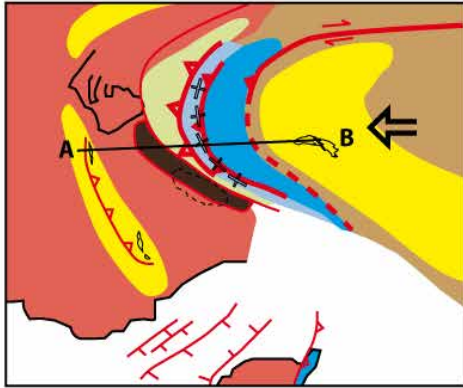


Grosjean, 2012

Drainage divide evolution

b) Late Oligocene

(Barrême: Molasse rouge, série saumon, série grise, Torino: Antognola)

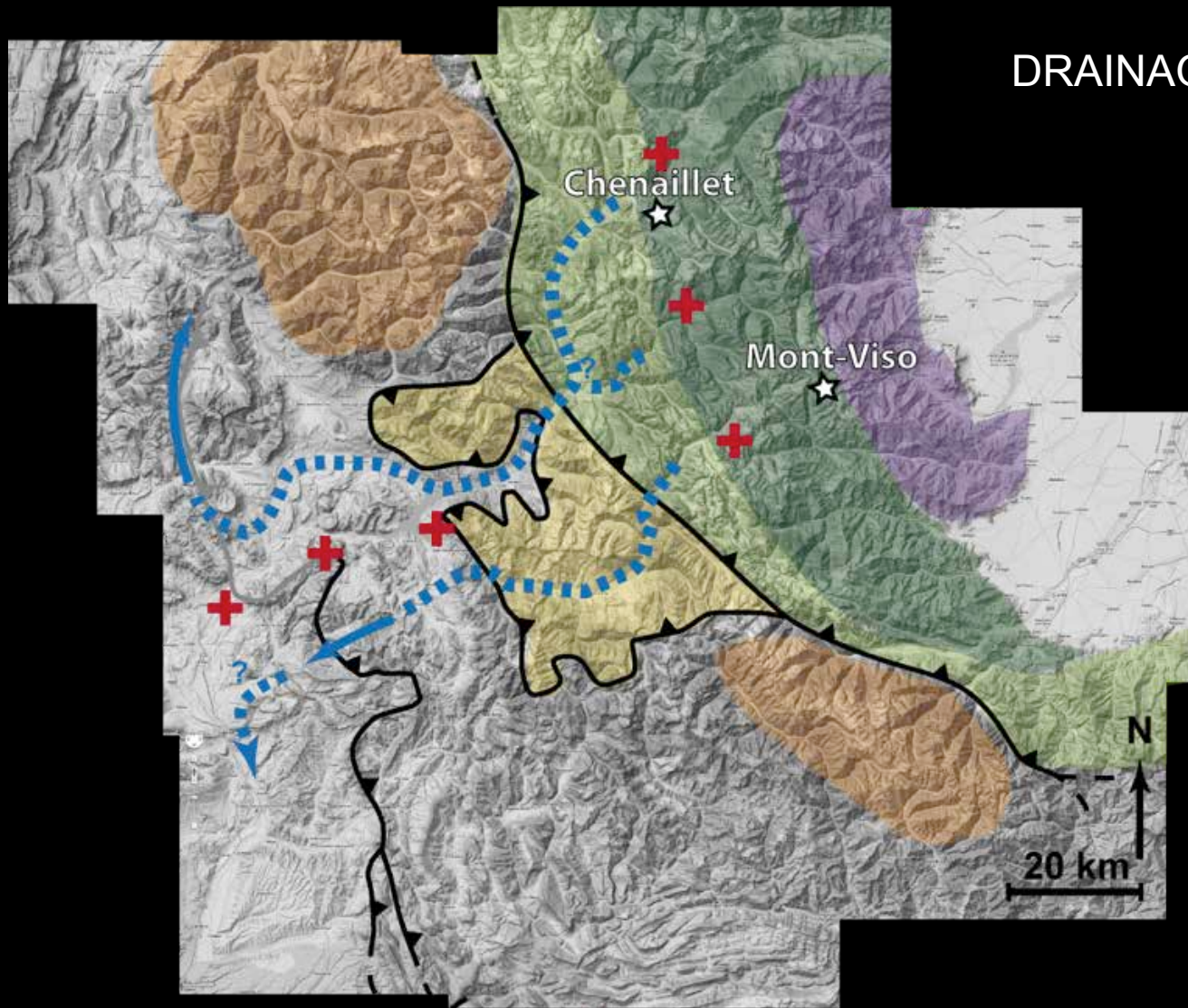


Exhumation rate 1.5 to 2 km/Myr

Jourdan et al Journal of Geology , 2012

- Pebble lithologies in foreland basins on both sides of the Alps allow tracing the drainage divide evolution
- Large pebbles in the Torino hills show the proximity of steep relief

DRAINAGE MIOCENE

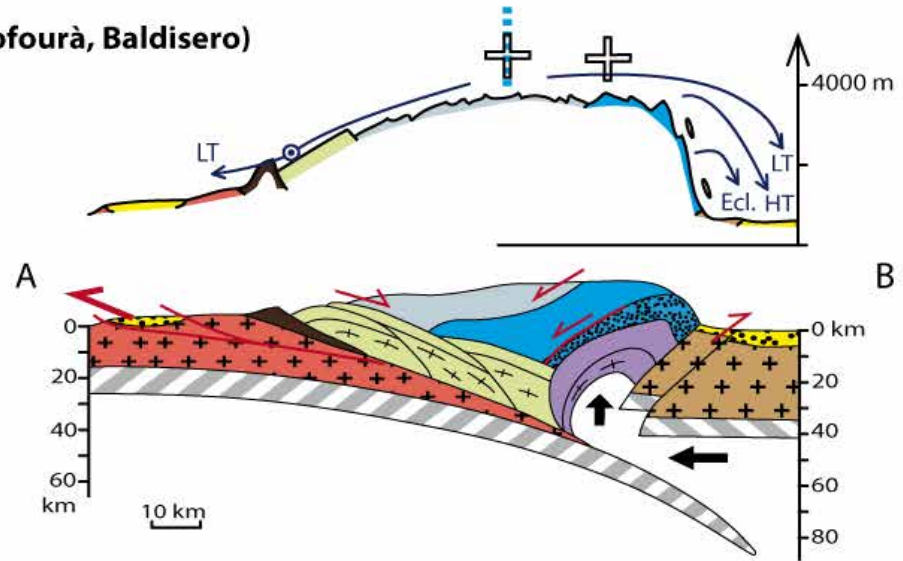
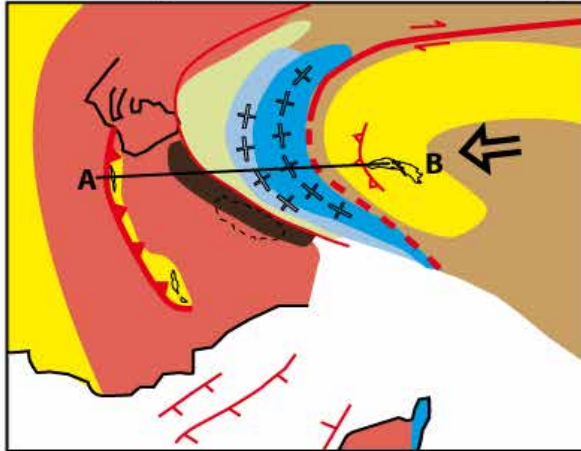


Grosjean, 2012

Drainage divide evolution

c) Lower Miocene

(Barrême: grès vert, Torino: late Antognola, Termofourà, Baldisero)

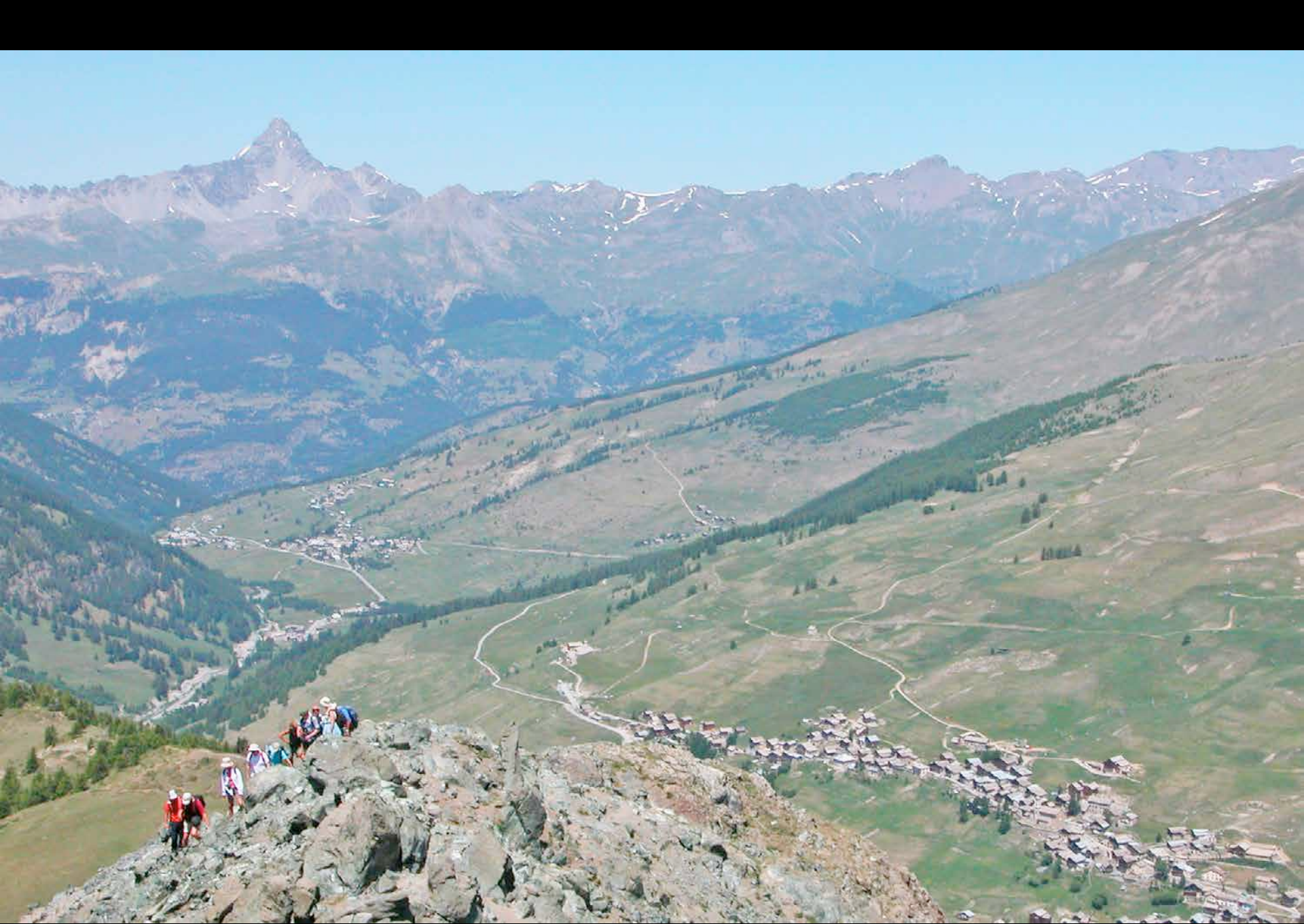


Exhumation rate 0.4 km/Myr

Jourdan et al Journal of Geology , 2012

- Pebble lithologies in foreland basins on both sides of the Alps allow tracing the drainage divide evolution
- Large pebbles in the Torino hills show the proximity of steep relief





Conclusion : Reliefs des Alpes

Les reliefs récents à actuels (< 5 Ma) sont formés par incision glaciaire

Les reliefs dans les Alpes existent depuis environ 30 Ma (probablement plus vieux qu'actuellement)

Les altitudes > 3000 mètres existent depuis 30 Ma

Les altitudes > 4000 mètres plus récentes (< 5 Ma)

La ligne de partage des eaux à peu changée