

# *Serpentinities: role and extent*

***Stéphane Guillot***

*K. H. Hattori, S. Schwartz, P. Agard, F. Deschamps,  
S. Angiboust, T. Gerya ....*

*IsTerre*

*CNRS, University of Grenoble,  
France*



Exhumation of subducted oceanic lithosphere

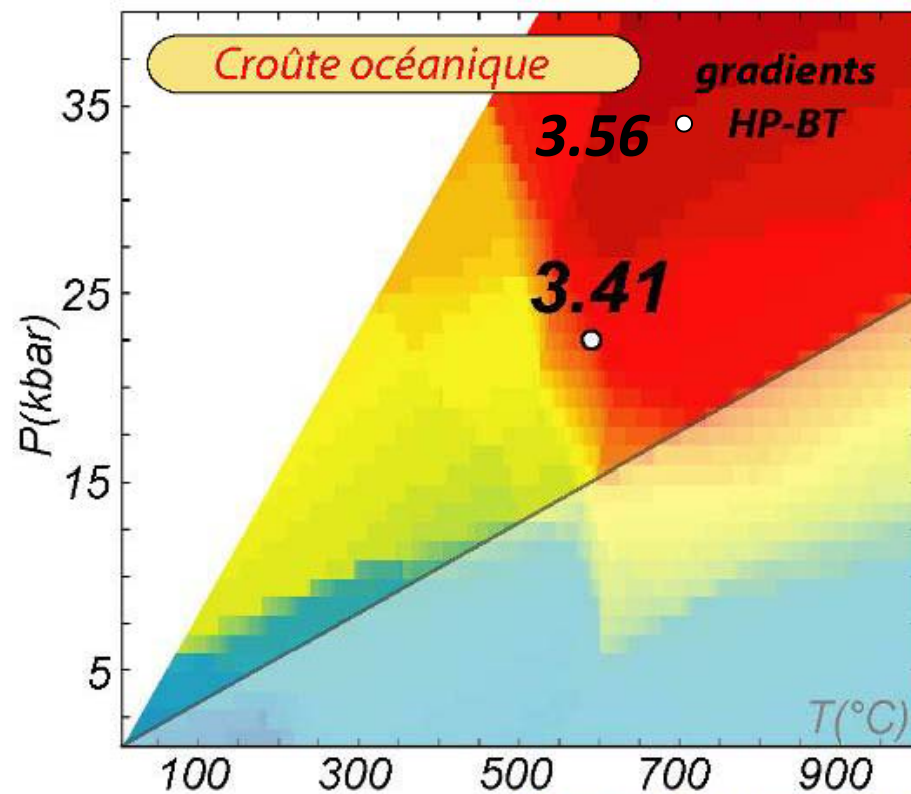
asks

two difficulties...

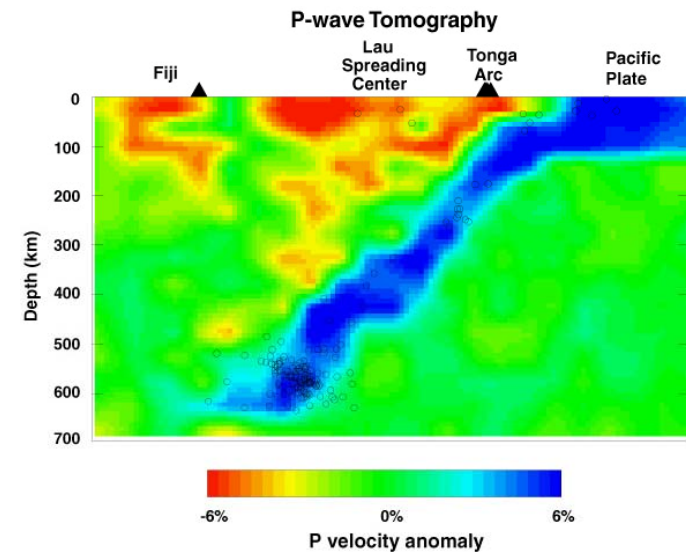
density

viscosity

## The density oceanic case



Yamato et al., 2007



Karato et al., 2000

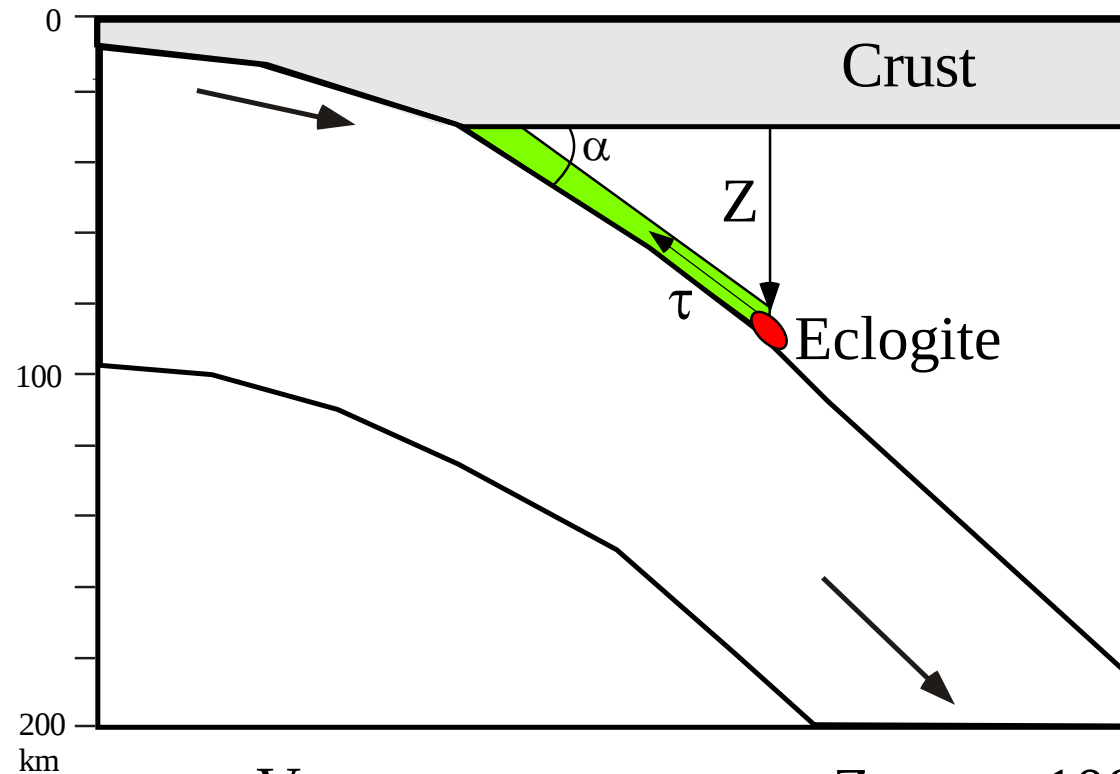
Upper mantle density

3.37 (Griffin et al., 1998)

$d_{\text{oceanic crust}} > d_{\text{mantle}}$

=> Negative buoyancy

## The viscosity problem ...



Guillot et al., 2001

$$\dot{\epsilon} = \frac{V}{Z \sin \alpha} = 5 \cdot 10^{-13} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\mu = \frac{\tau}{2\dot{\epsilon}} = 10^{19} \text{ Pa.s}$$

$$Z_{\text{max}} = 100 \text{ km}$$

$$V_{\text{max}} = 1 \text{ cm/yr}$$

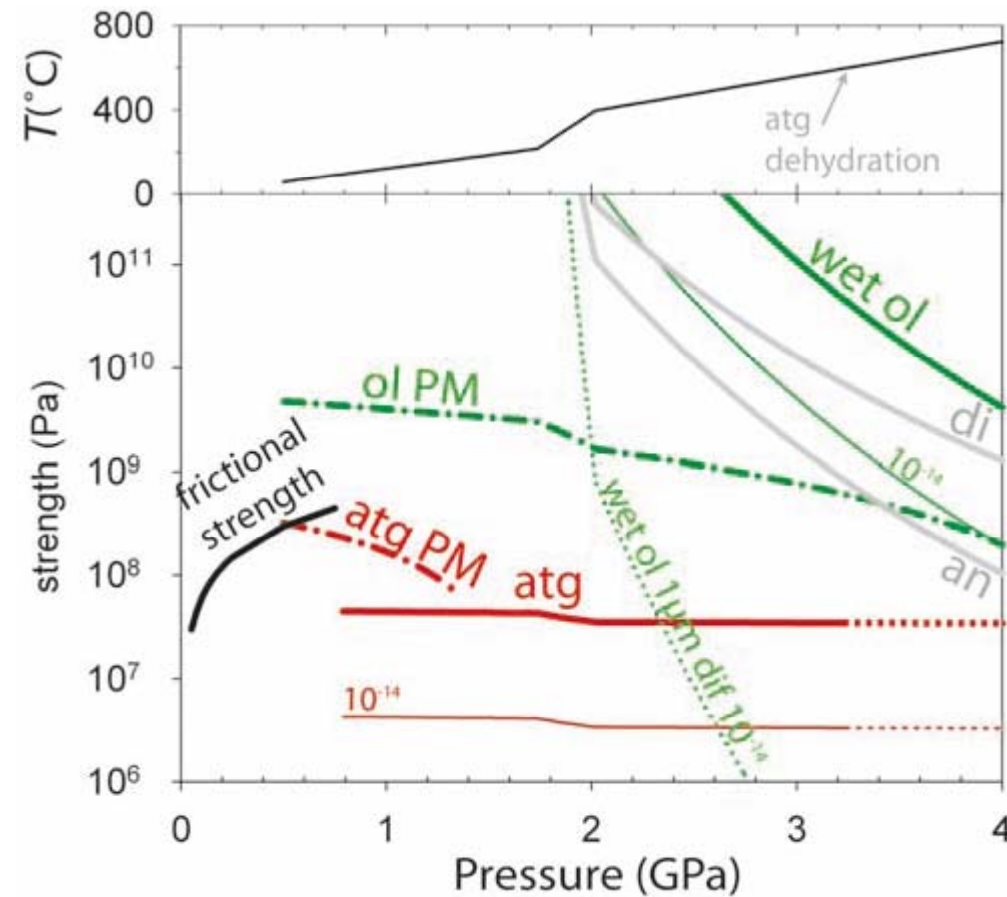
$$\tau : 10 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\text{Dry Mantle} : 10^{22-24} \text{ Pa.s}$$

(Jelly Sandwich: Burov and Watts, 2006)

The viscosity and the density of the subduction channel should be low !!

Serpentinites : a good candidate to facilitate exhumation of HP to UHP rocks

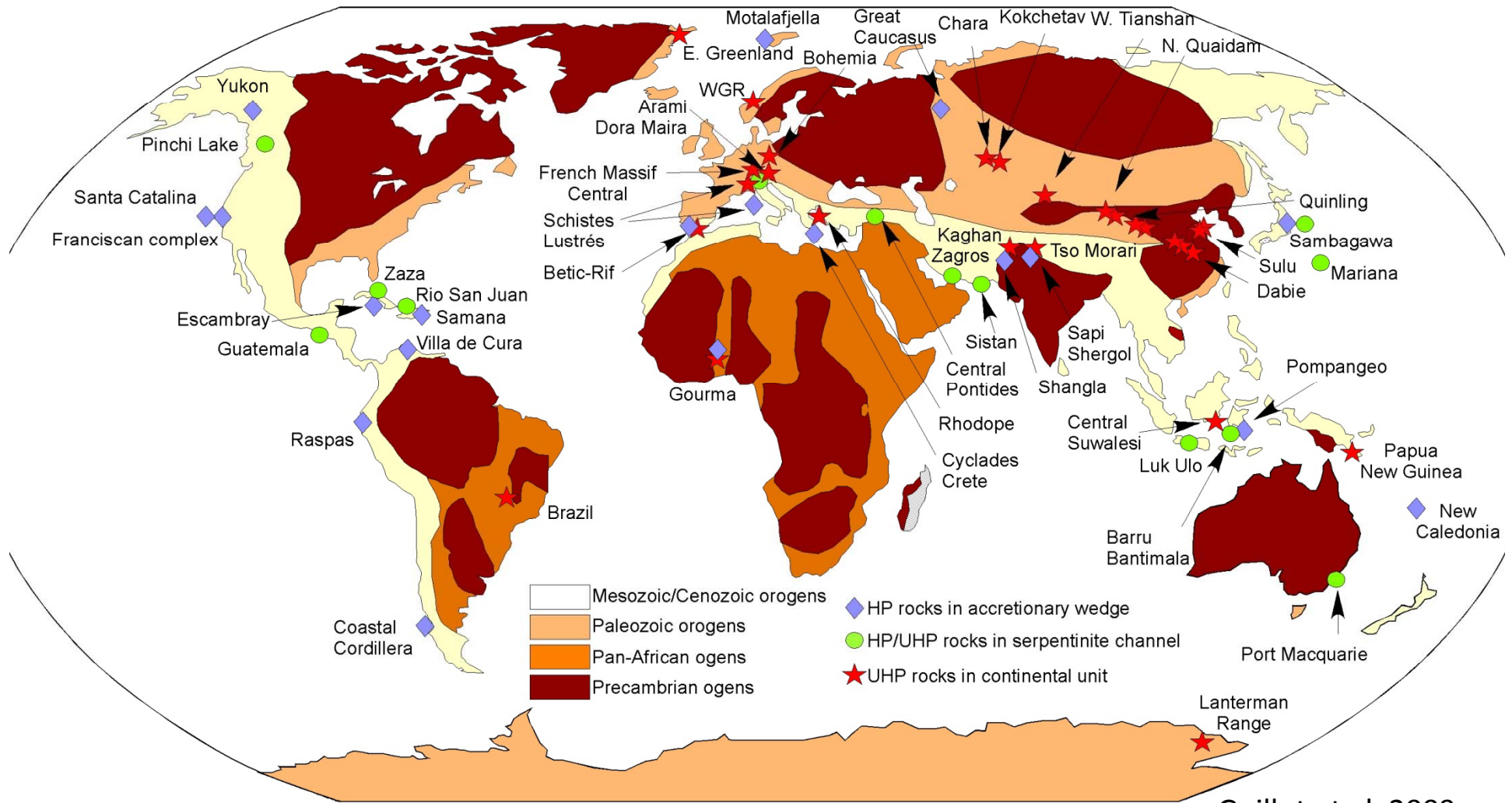


Low strength of antigorite for a creep law at  $10^{-10} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (300 thick layer) and  $10^{-14} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (10 km thick layer)

Hilaret et al., Science, 2007

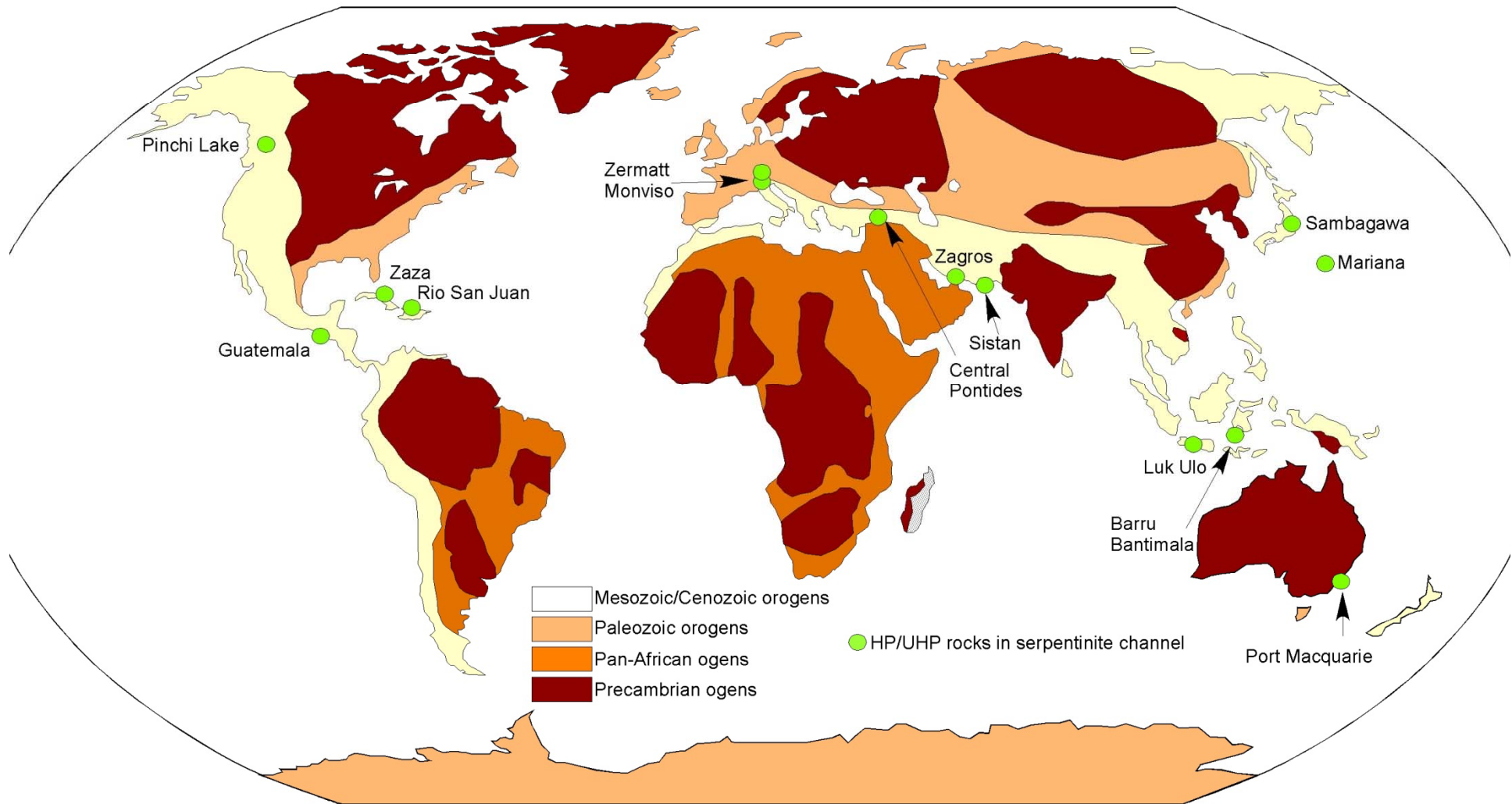
Effective viscosity :  $10^{18}$  to  $4 \cdot 10^{-19}$  Pas

## 61 occurrences of Phanerozoic HP to UHP units



Guillot et al. 2009

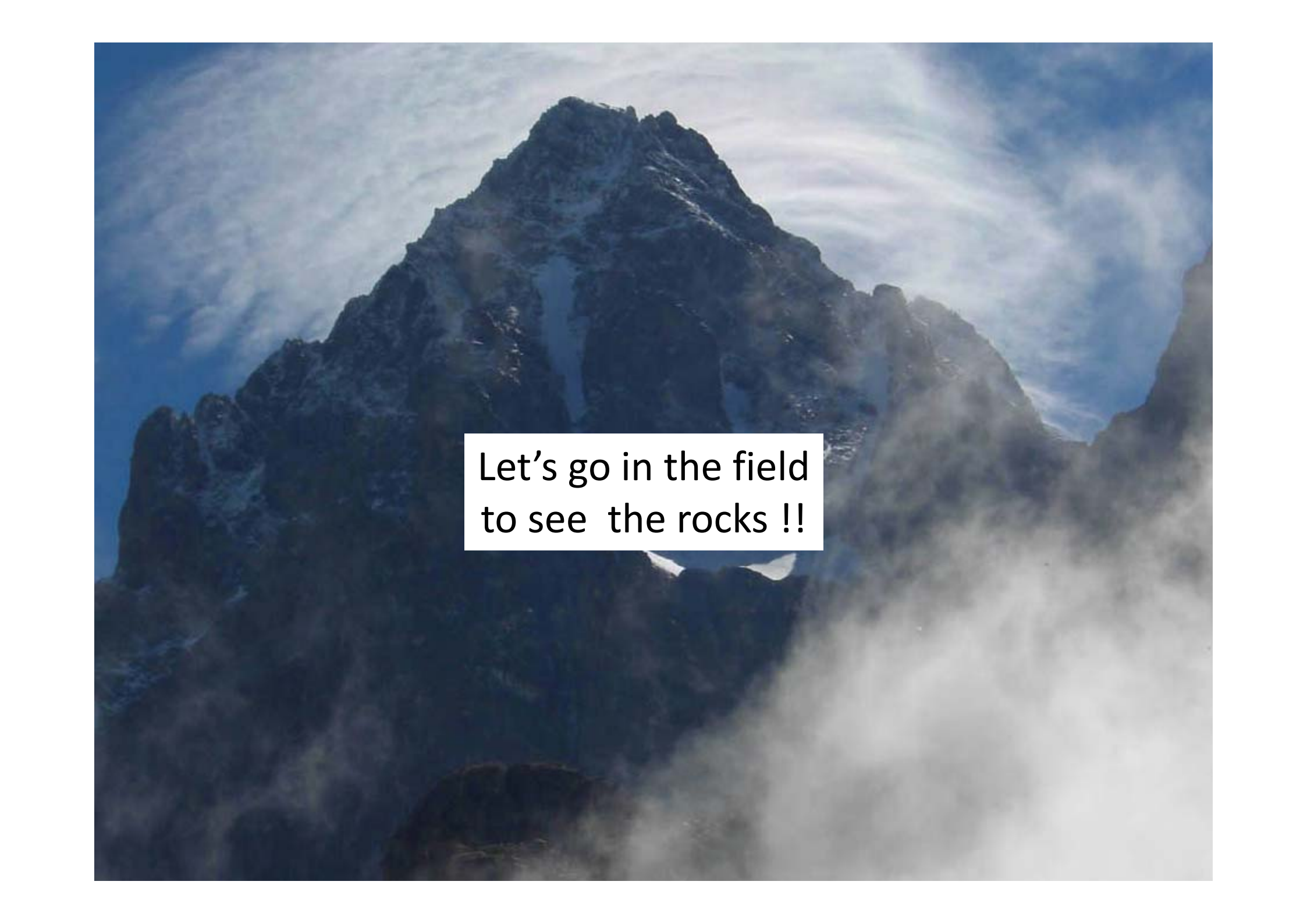
## 14 occurrences of HP-UHP rocks in serpentinite channel



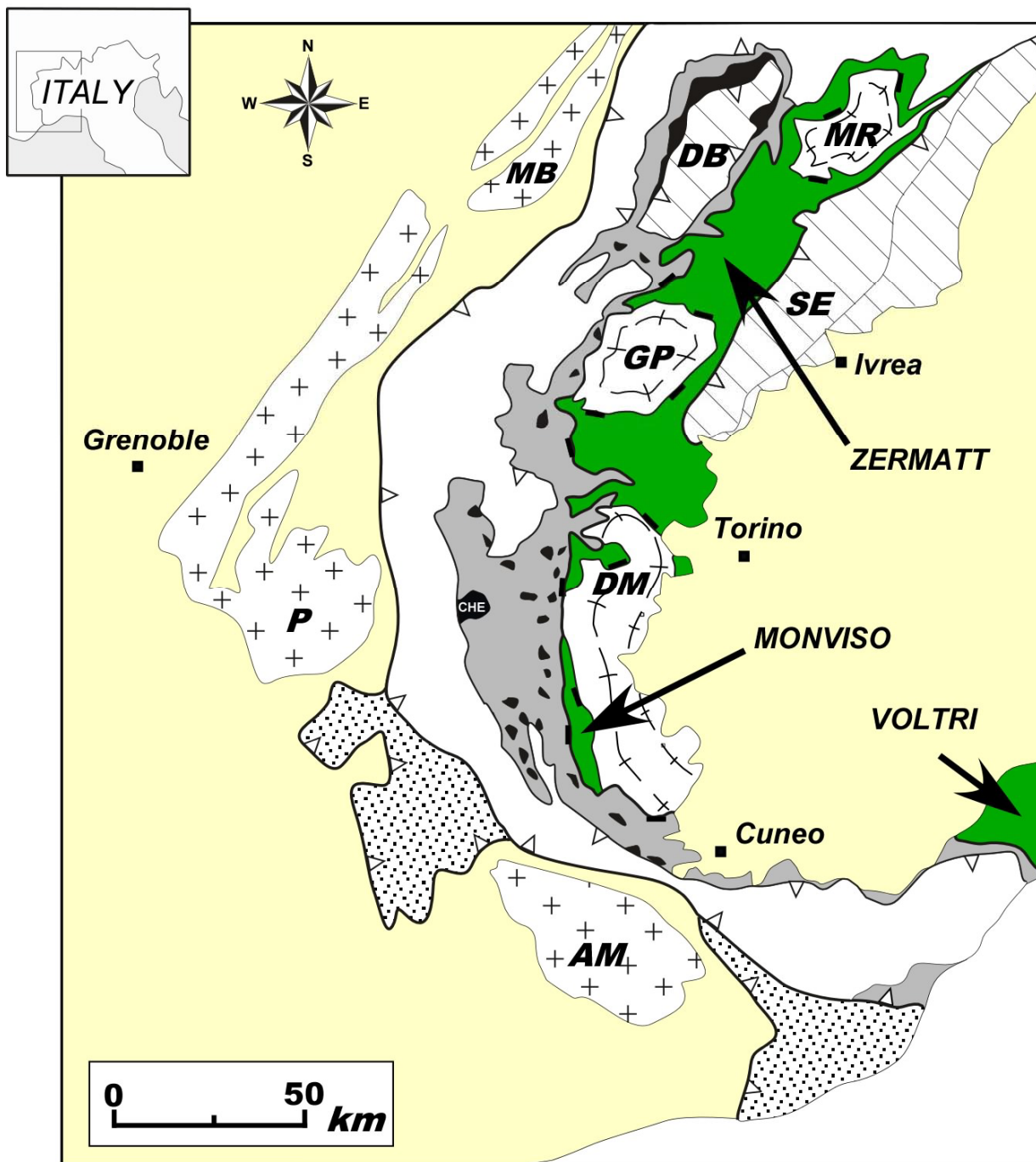
Almost 25% of HP to UHP are exhumed within a serpentinite subduction channel



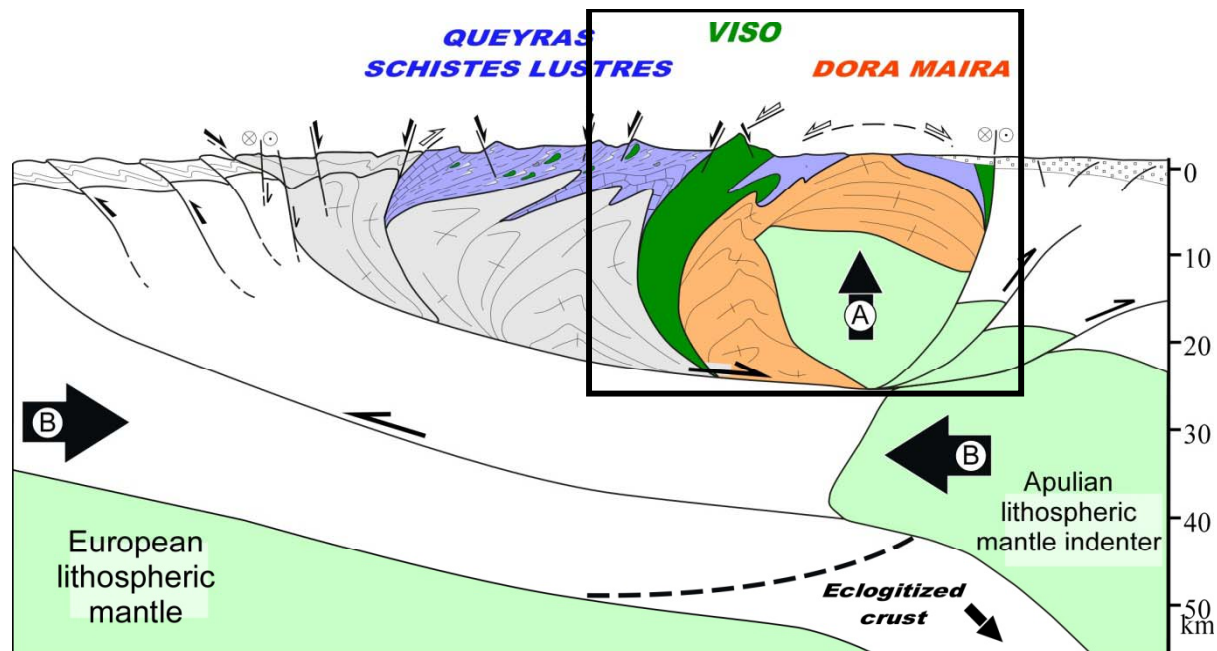




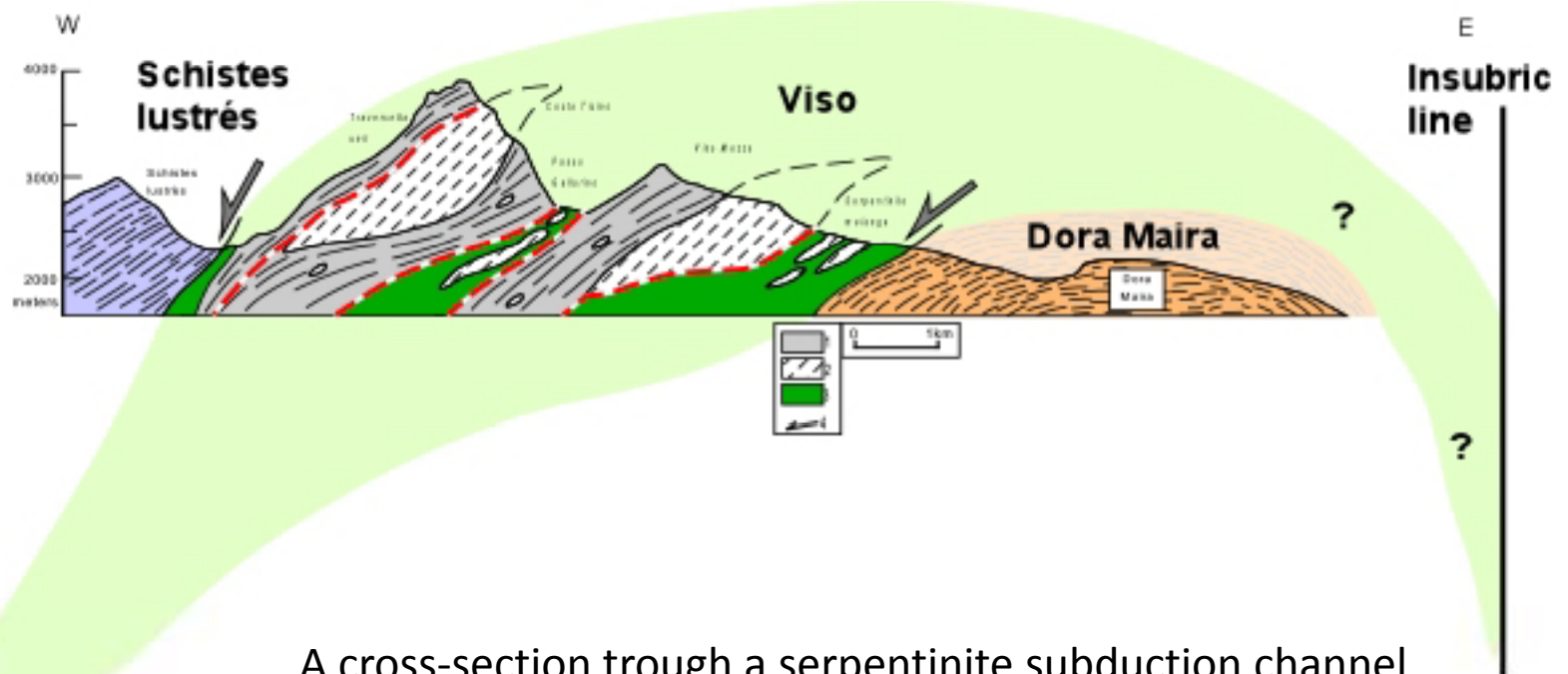
Let's go in the field  
to see the rocks !!



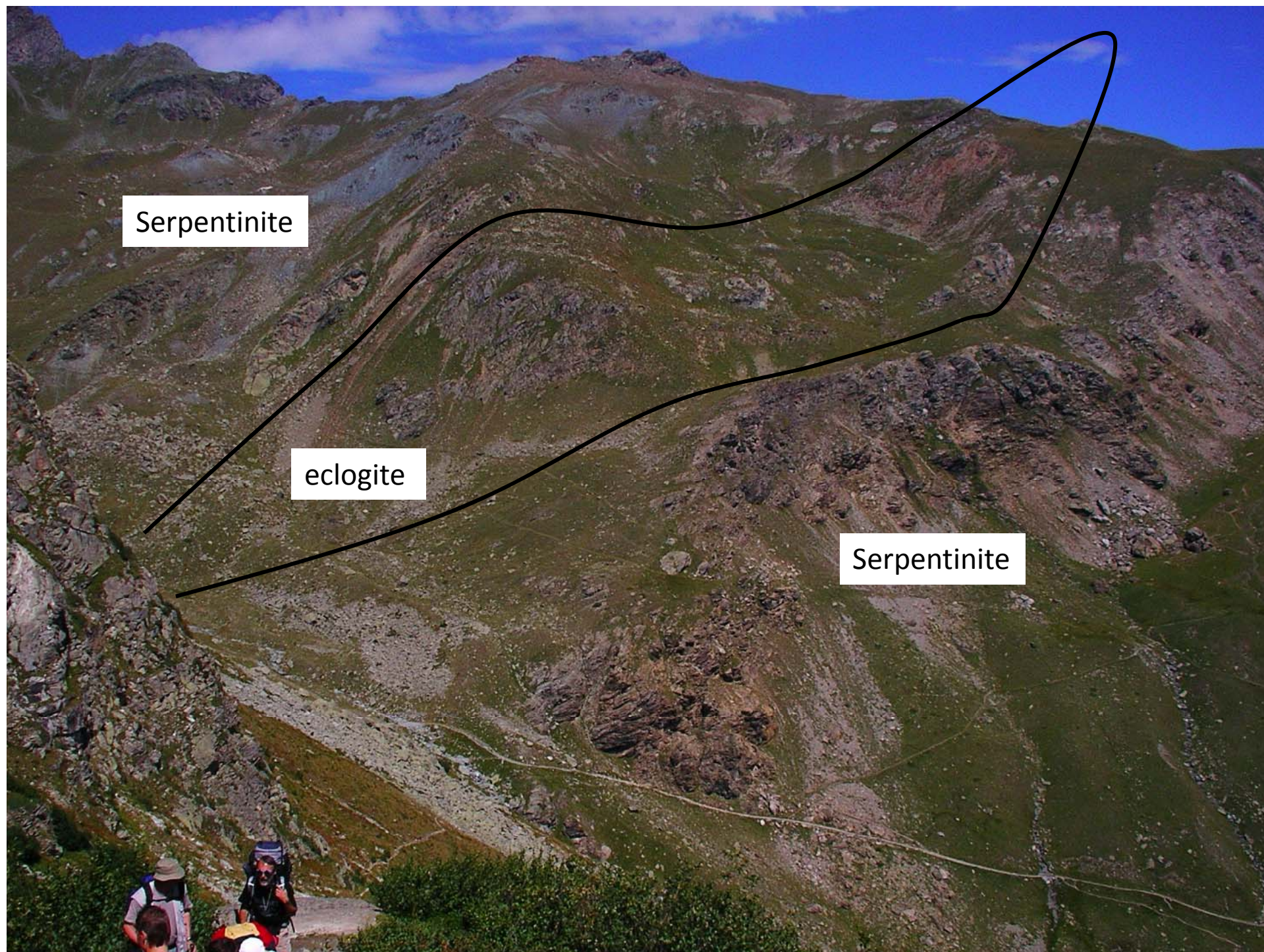
Schwartz et al., 2007



Schwartz et al., 2000  
Guillot et al., 2004  
Lardeaux et al., 2007



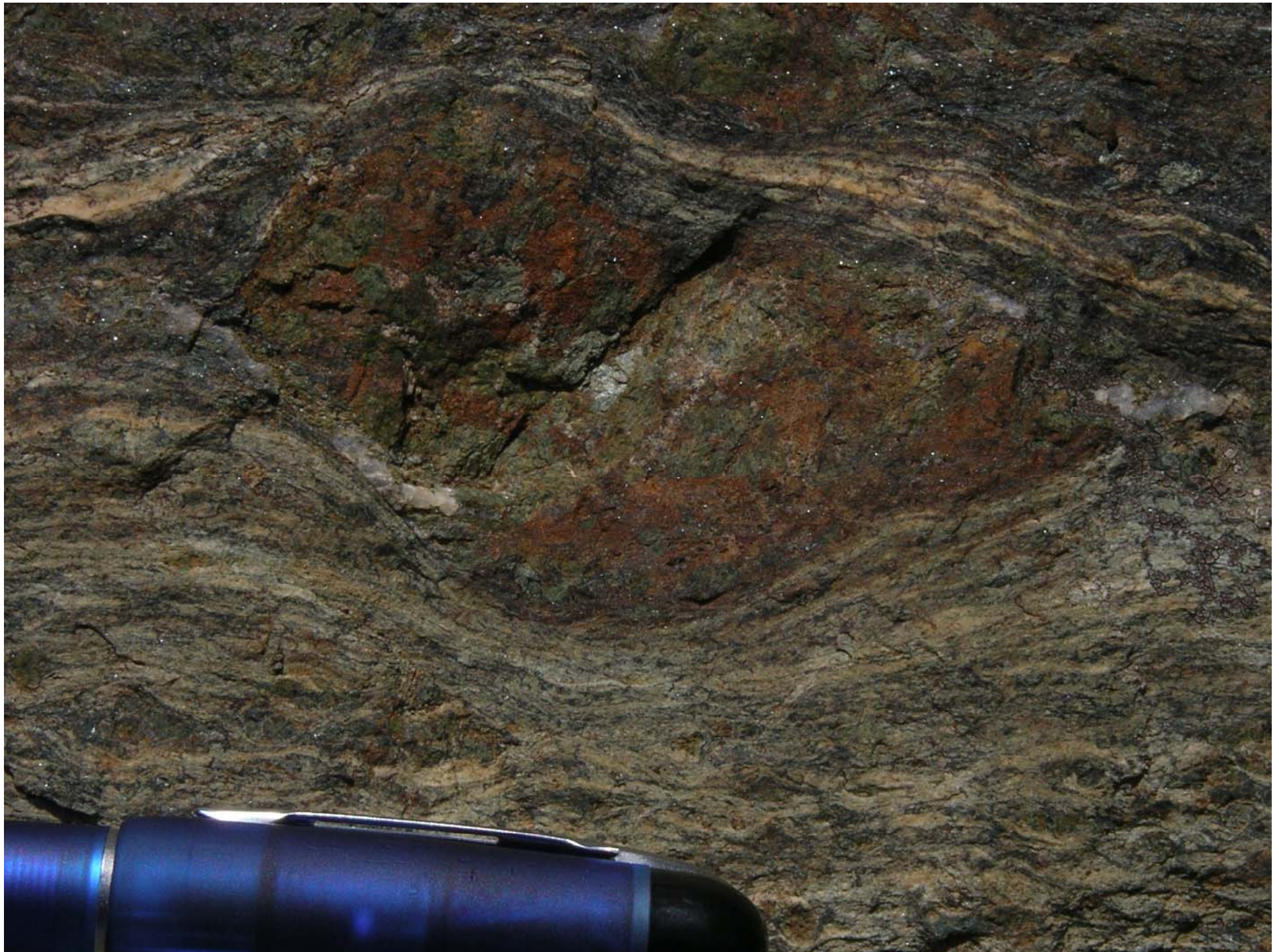
A cross-section through a serpentinite subduction channel



Serpentinite

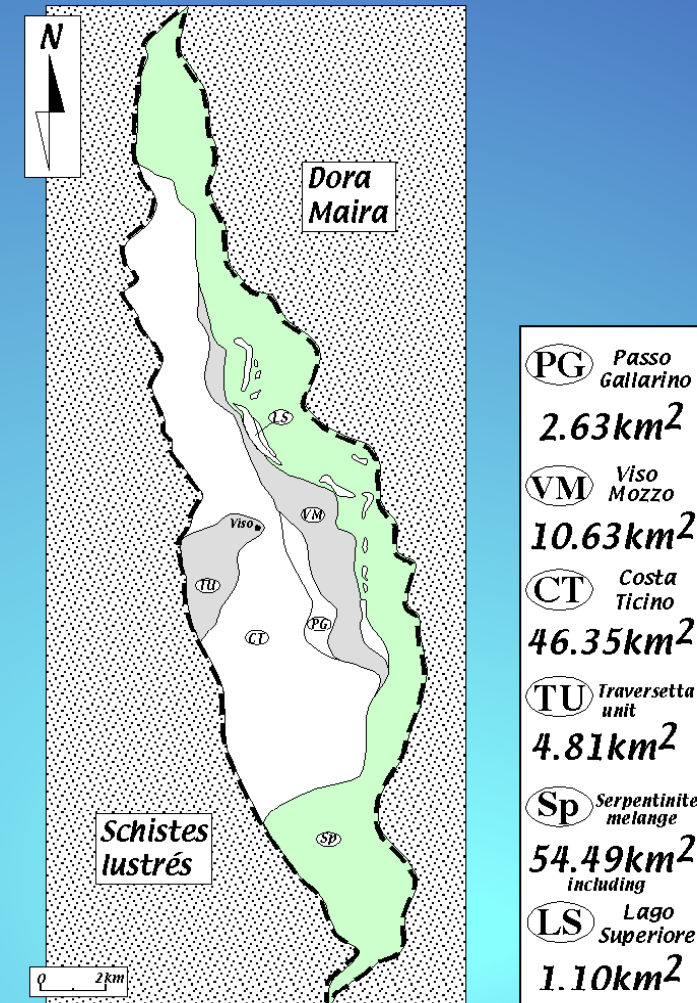
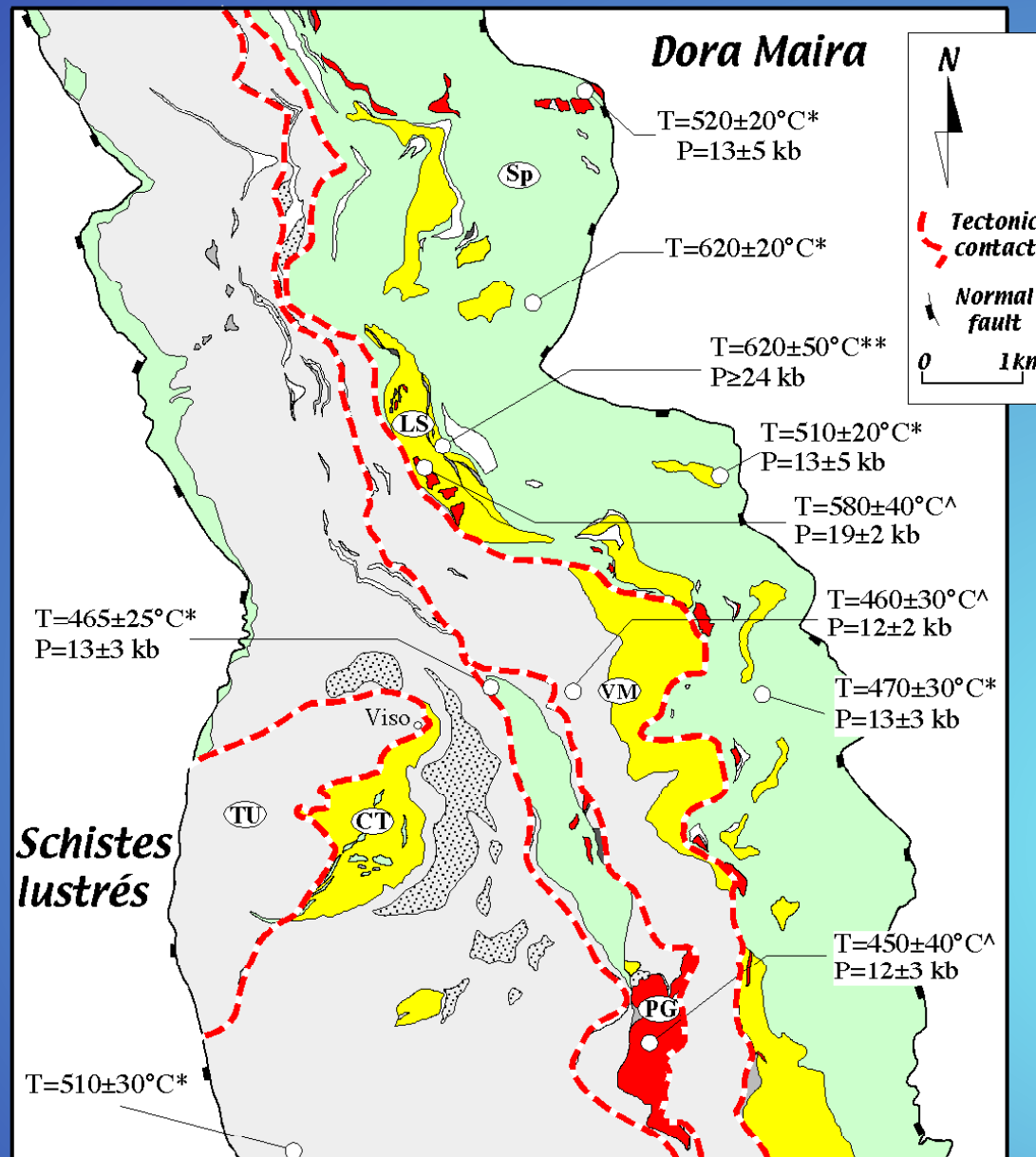
eclogite

Serpentinite



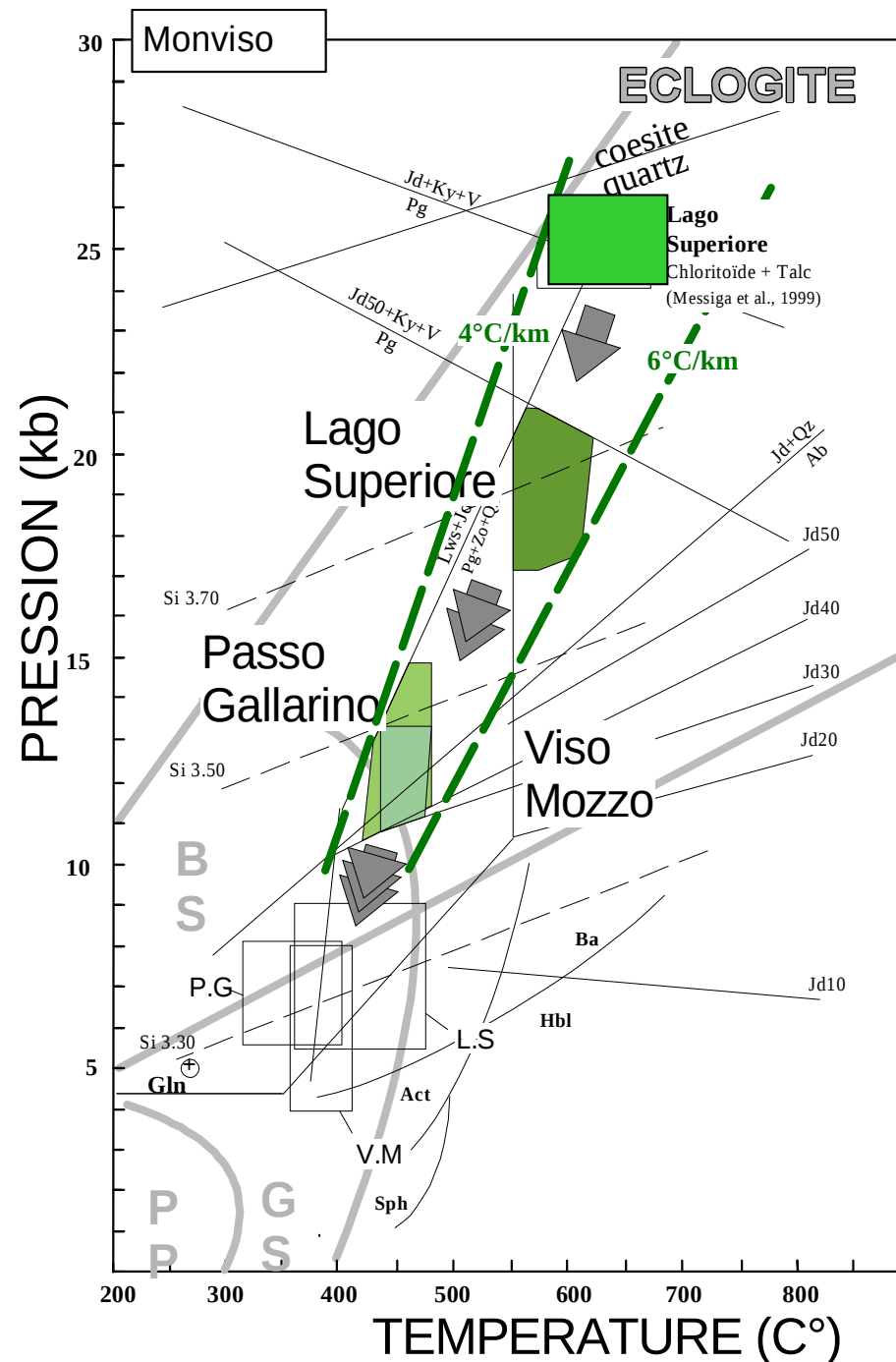


## LA PARTIE CENTRALE DU MONVISO



*Le volume des différentes unités est inférieur à  $50\text{ km}^3$*

(\*) Blake *et al.*, 1995  
 (\*\*) Messiga *et al.*, 1999  
 (^) Schwartz *et al.*, 2000

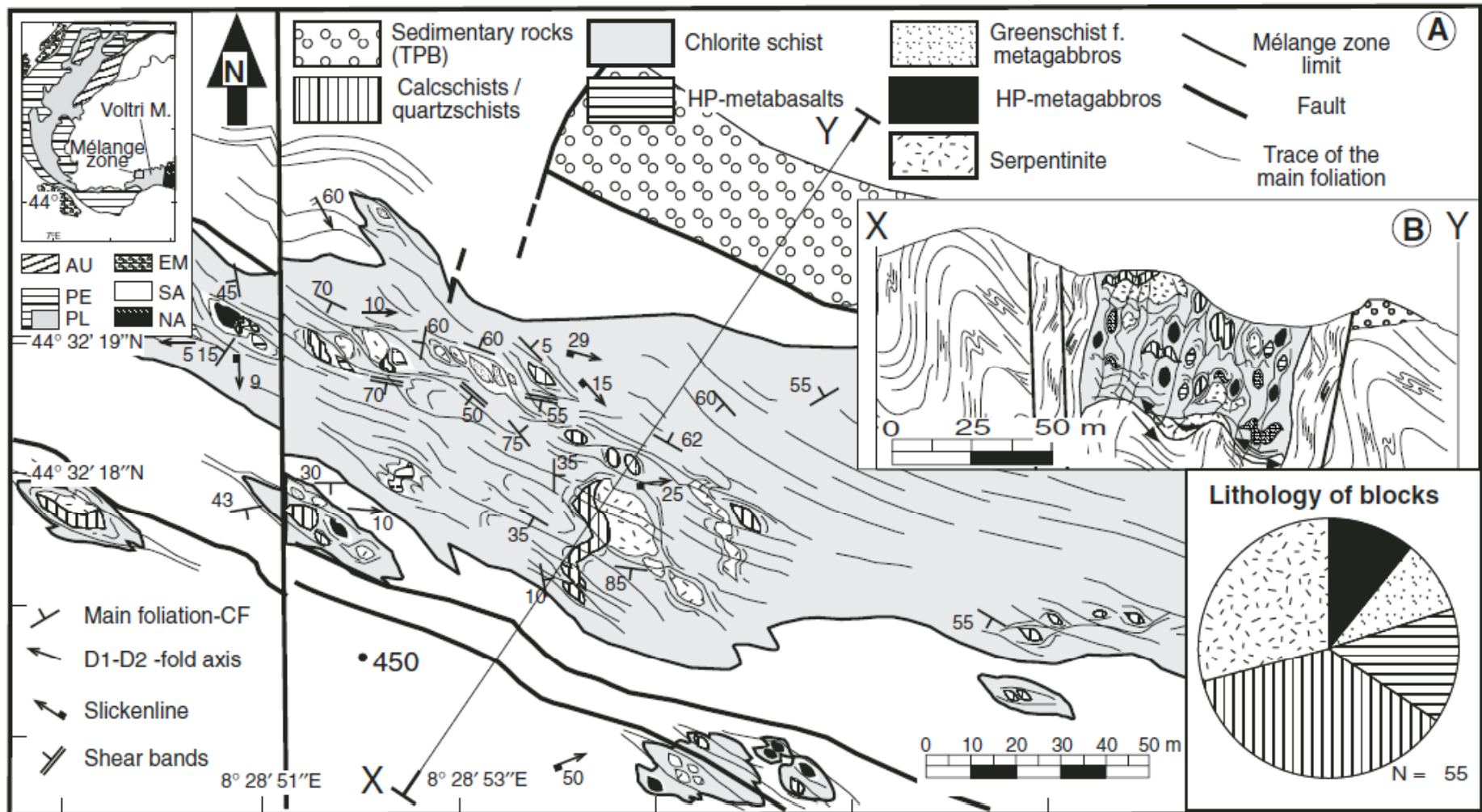


Each eclogitic block records different P-T conditions but aligned along the same geotherm =>

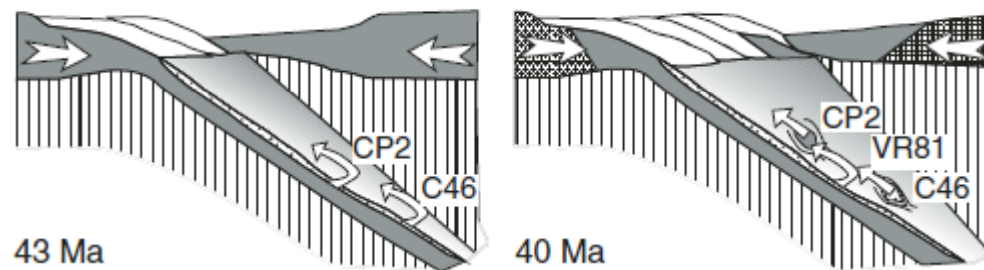
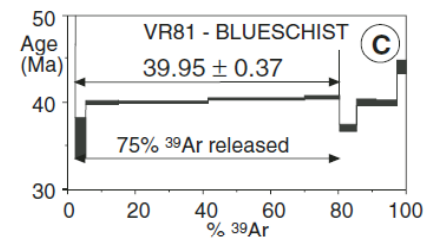
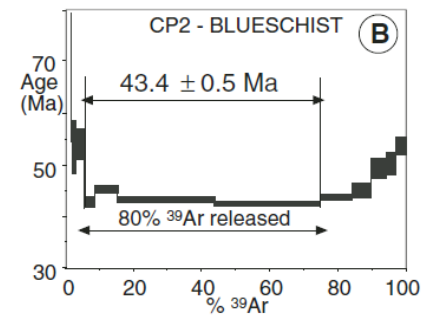
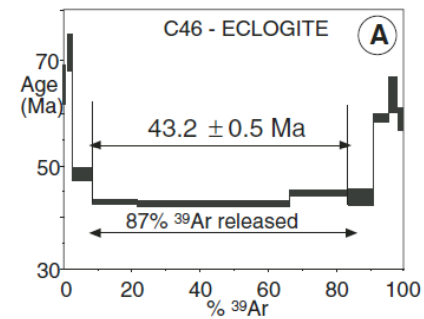
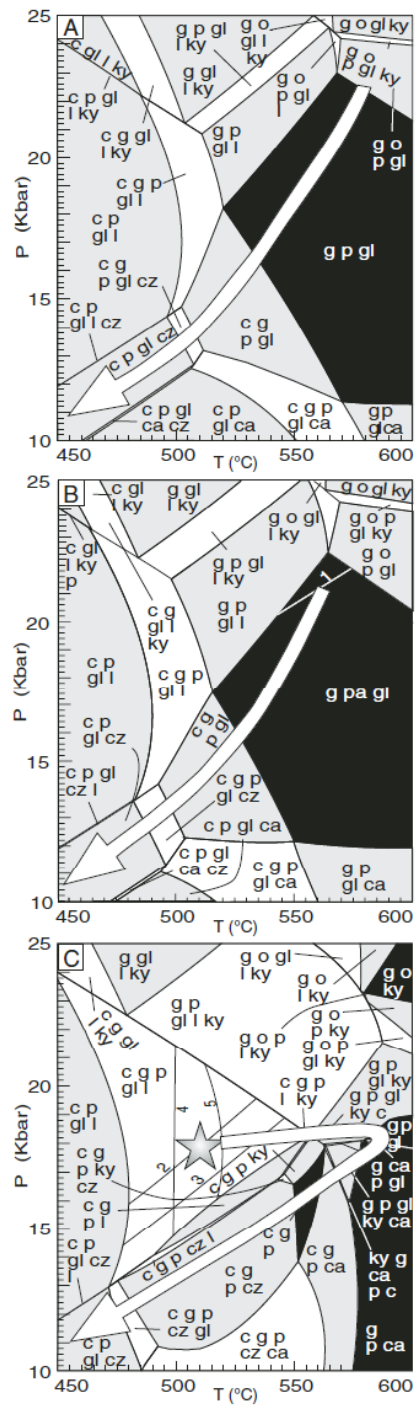
typical of a tectonic mélange in the subduction channel

Schwartz et al., 2000,2001

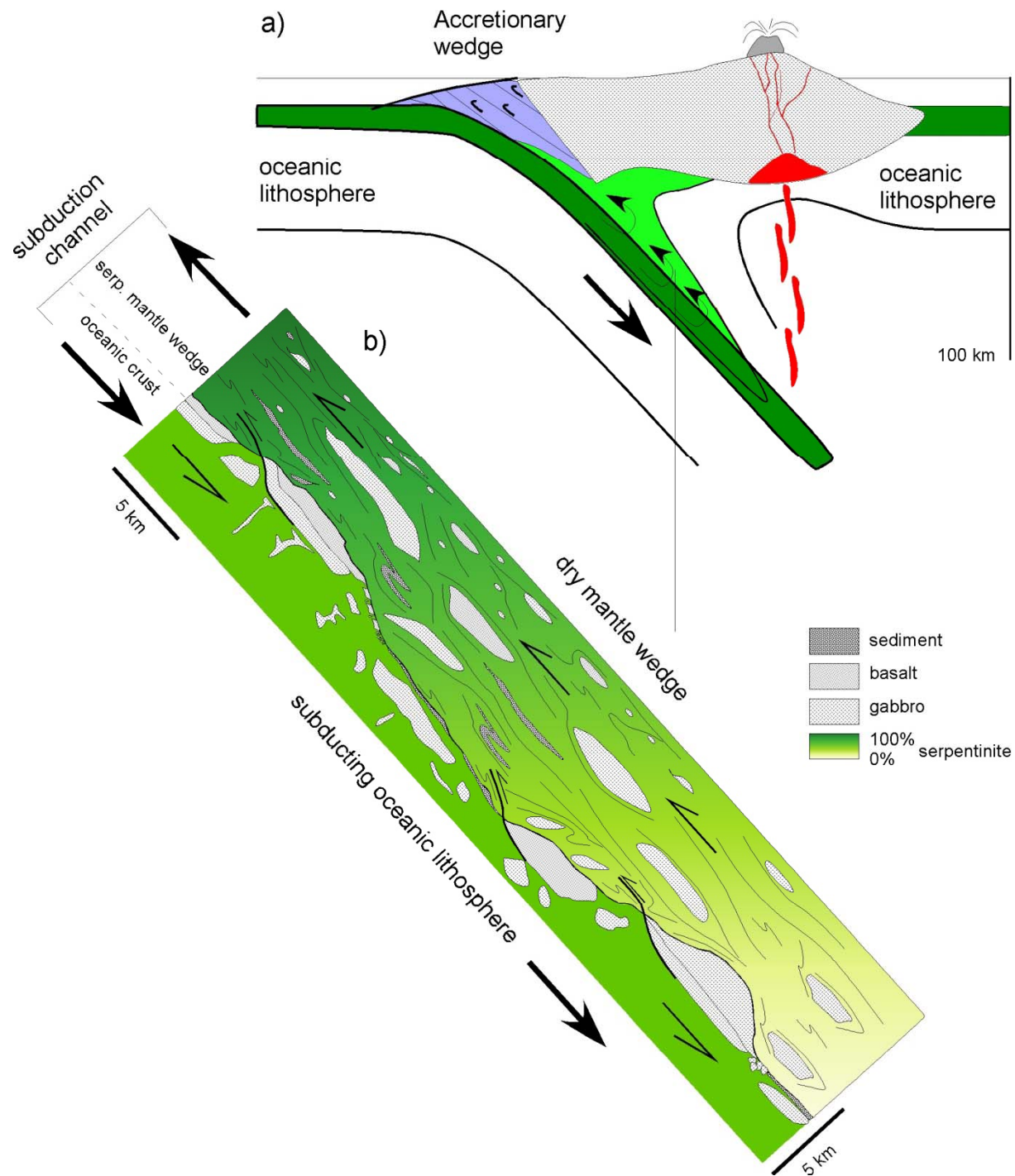




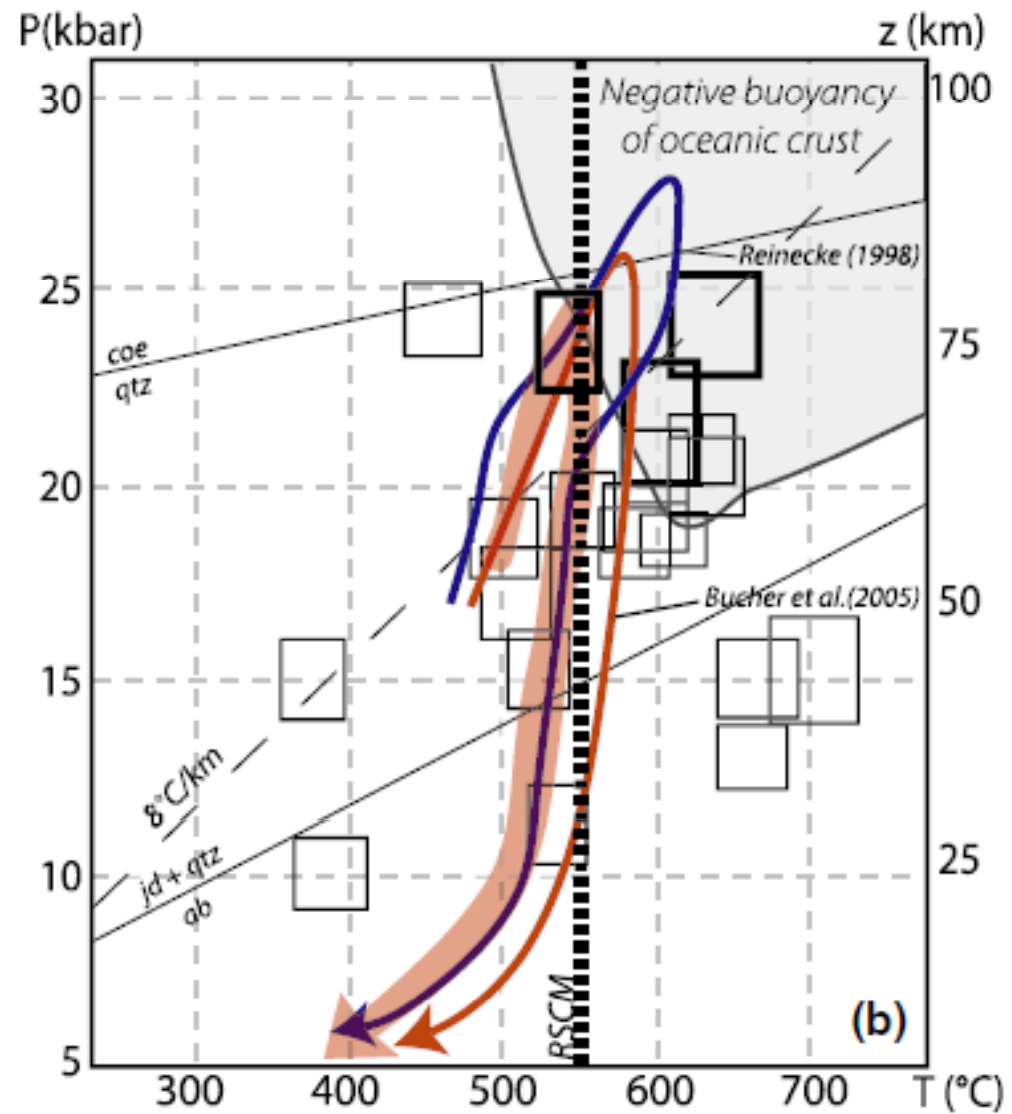
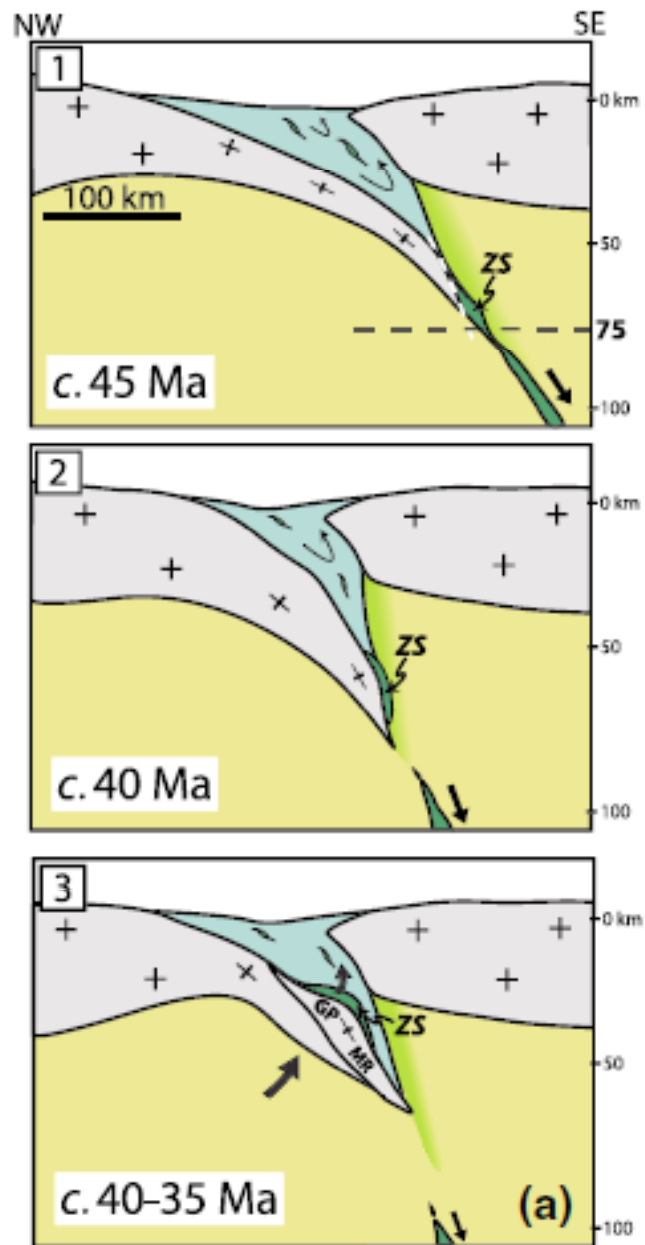
Frederico et al., 2007, Geology



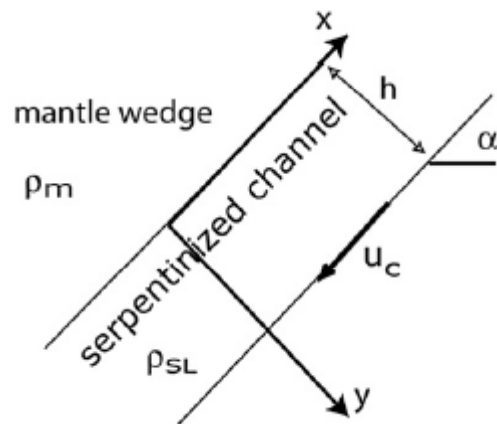
Frederico et al., 2007, *Geology*



Guillot et al., 2009



Angiboust et al., 2009, Terra Nova,

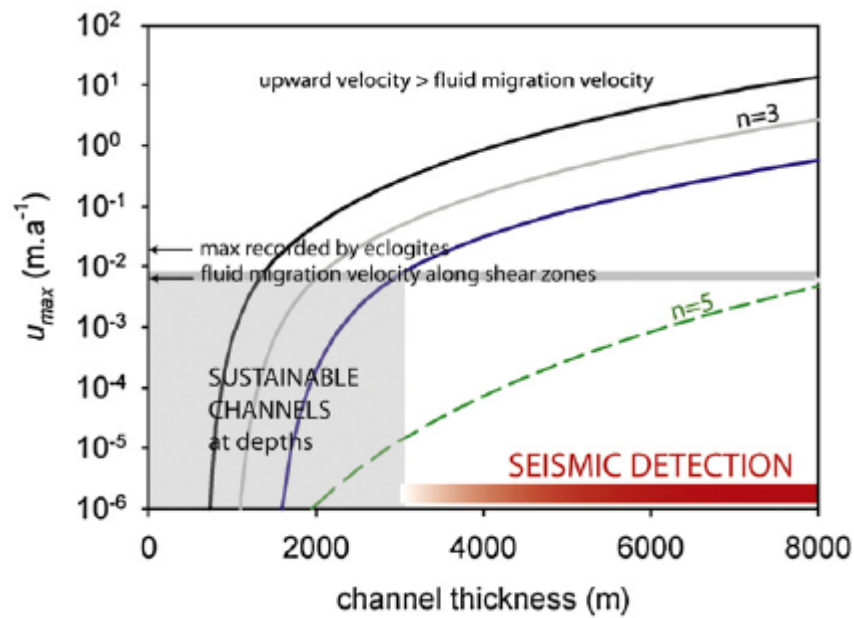


Flow law :

$$\dot{\epsilon} = A \sigma^n \exp\left(-\frac{Ea + PV^*}{RT}\right)$$

$$3 < n < 5$$

Effective viscosity :  $10^{19}$  pa.s

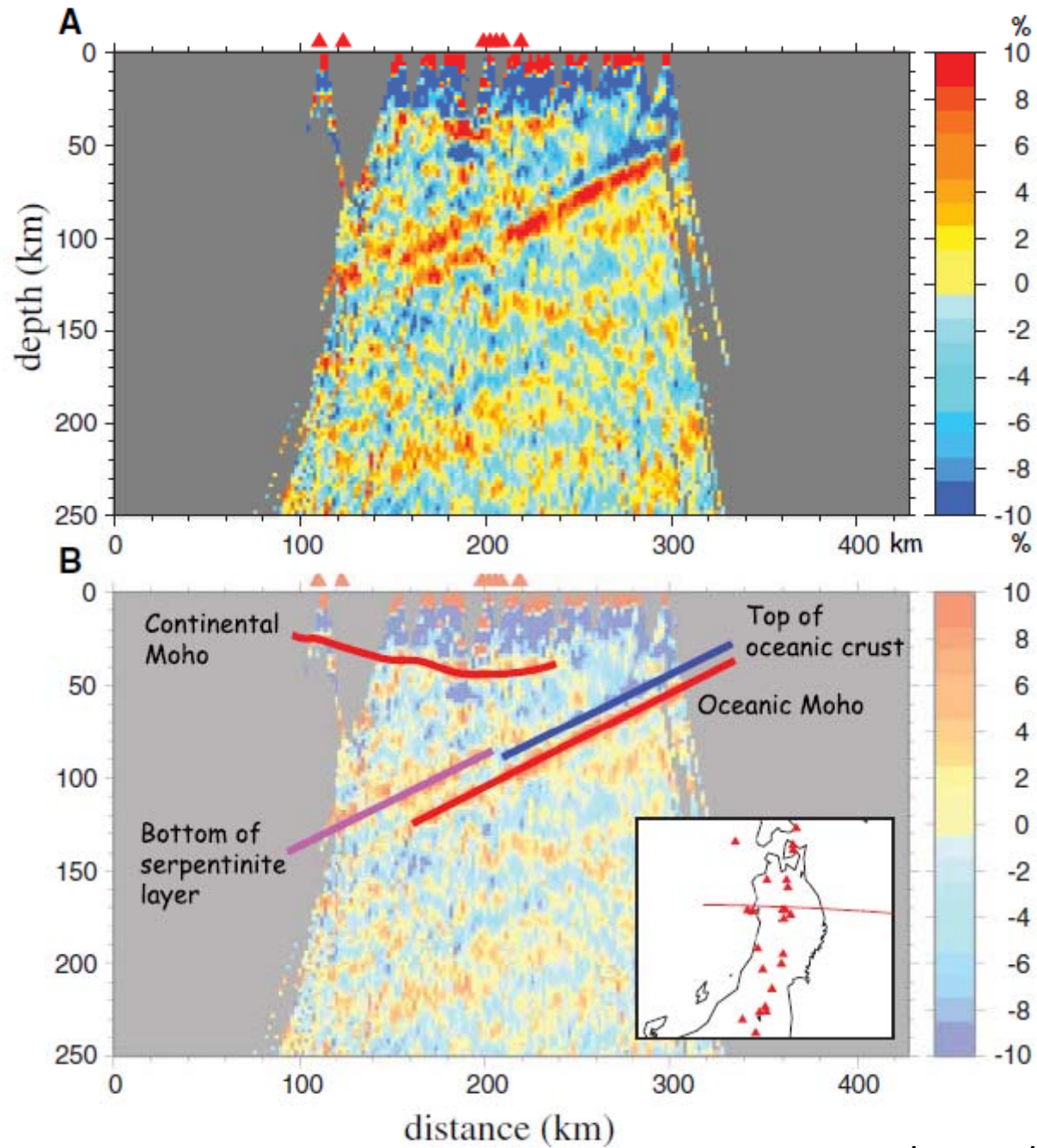


Schwartz et al., 2001

Hilaret and Reynard, 2009

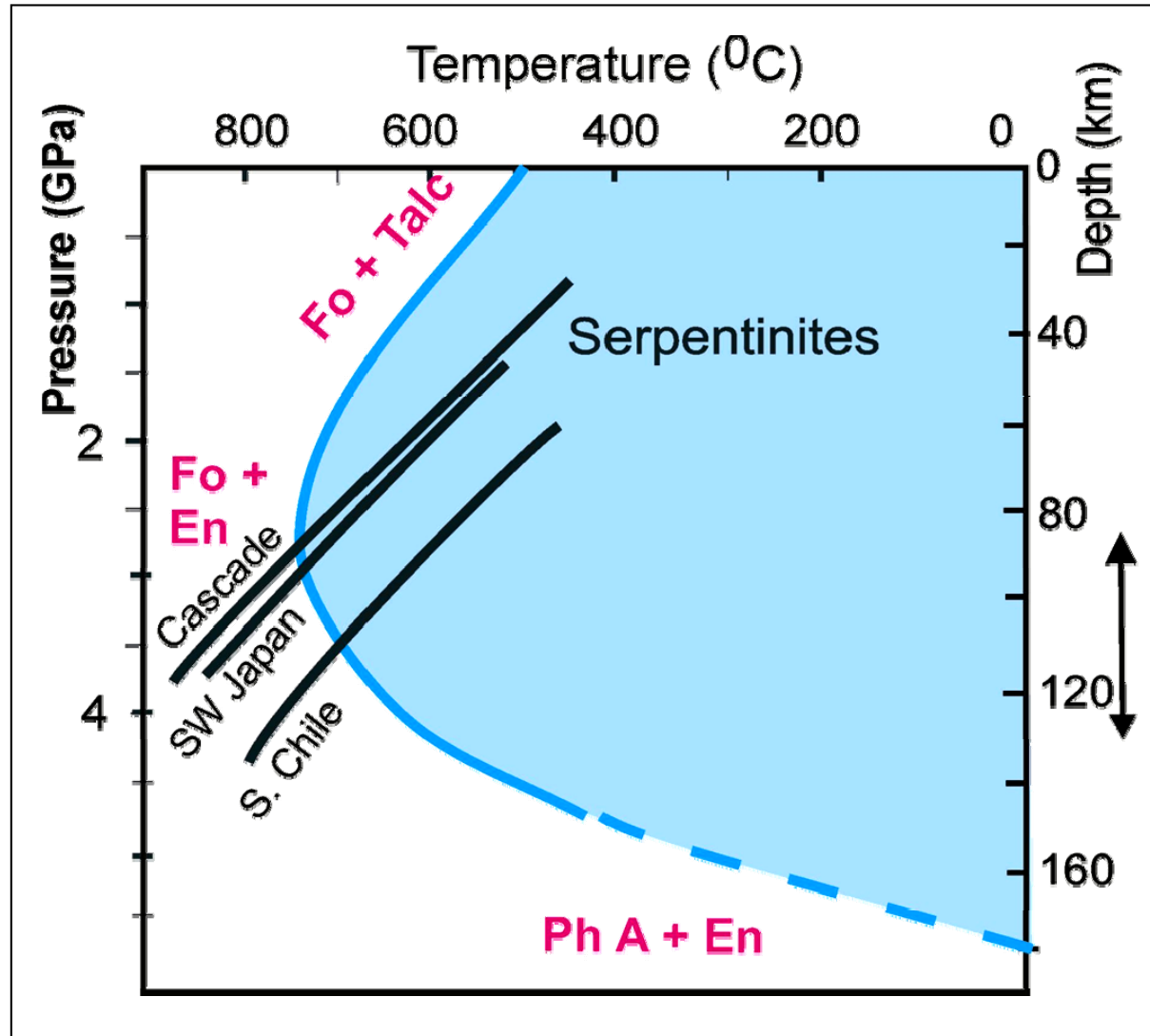
Maximum depth of the  
serpentinite subduction channel ?

## Receiver Function



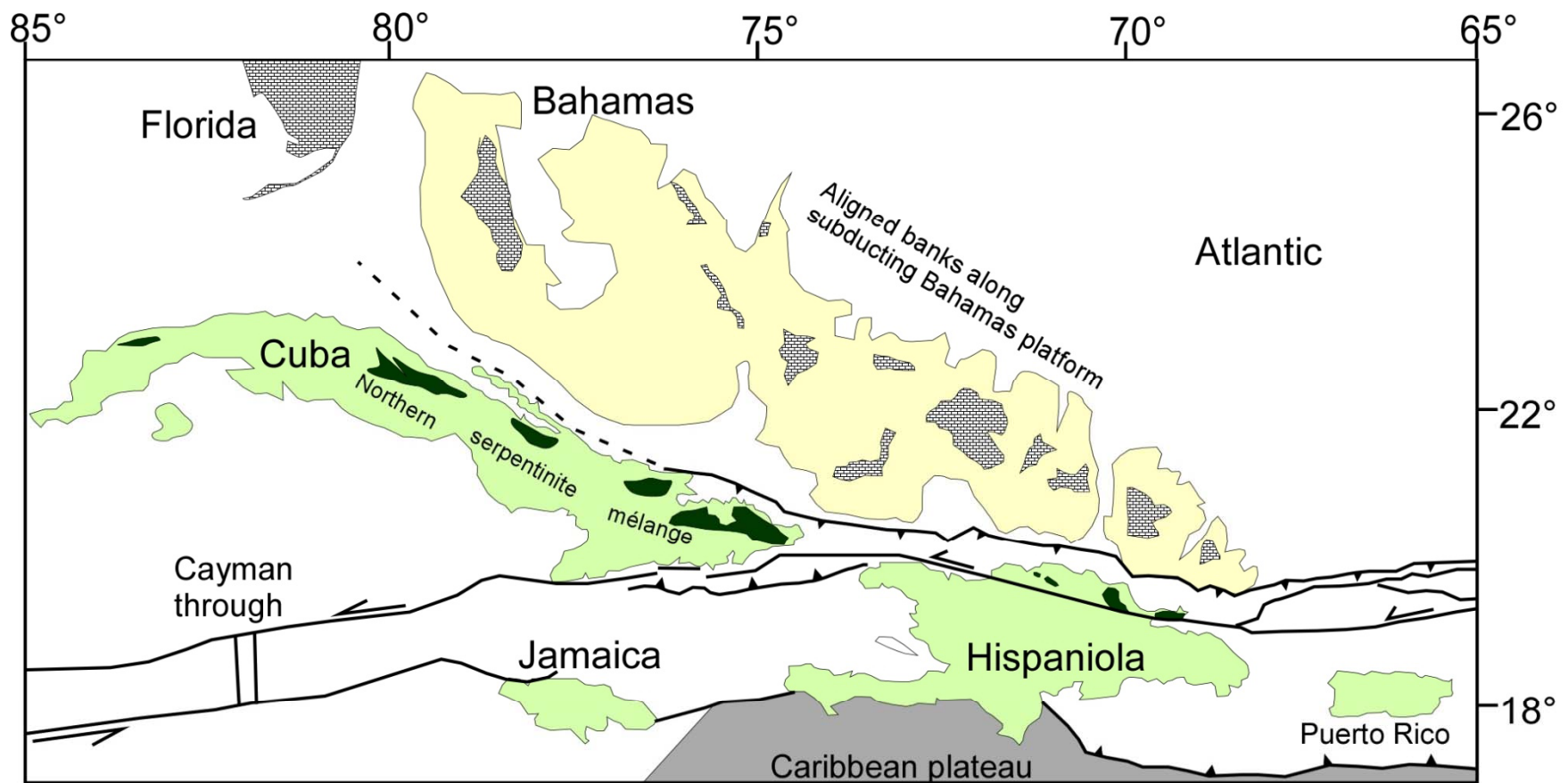
Kawatsu and Watada, Science, 2007

# Deep stability of serpentinite



Hattori and Guillot, 2003

stability of serpentinites: Ulmer & Trommsdorff, '95; Wunder et al., '01; Peacock, '01  
P-T paths: Peacock & Wang '99



Gorczyk et al, 2007  
Saumur et al., 2010

19° 30'

Rio San Juan

Atlantic

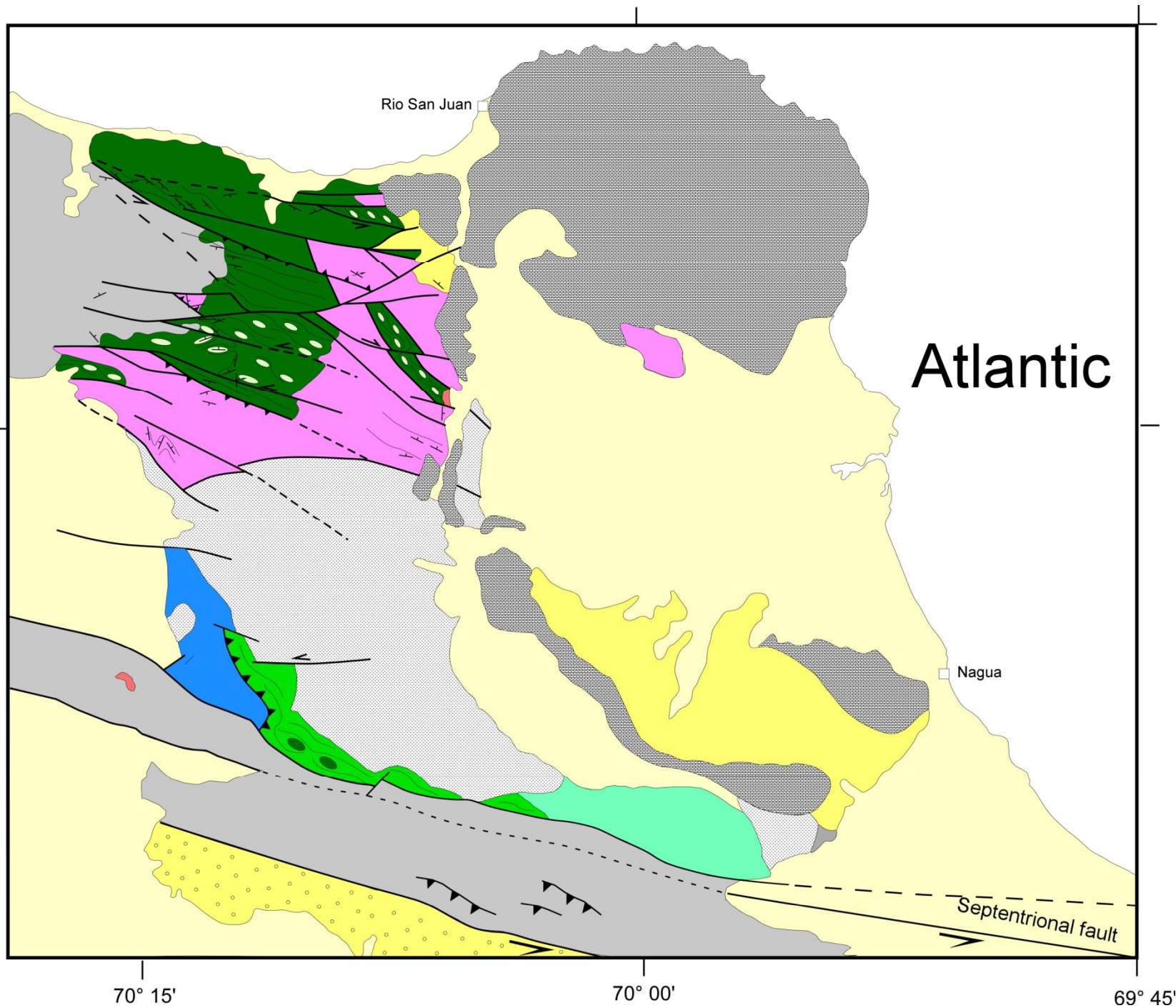
Nagua

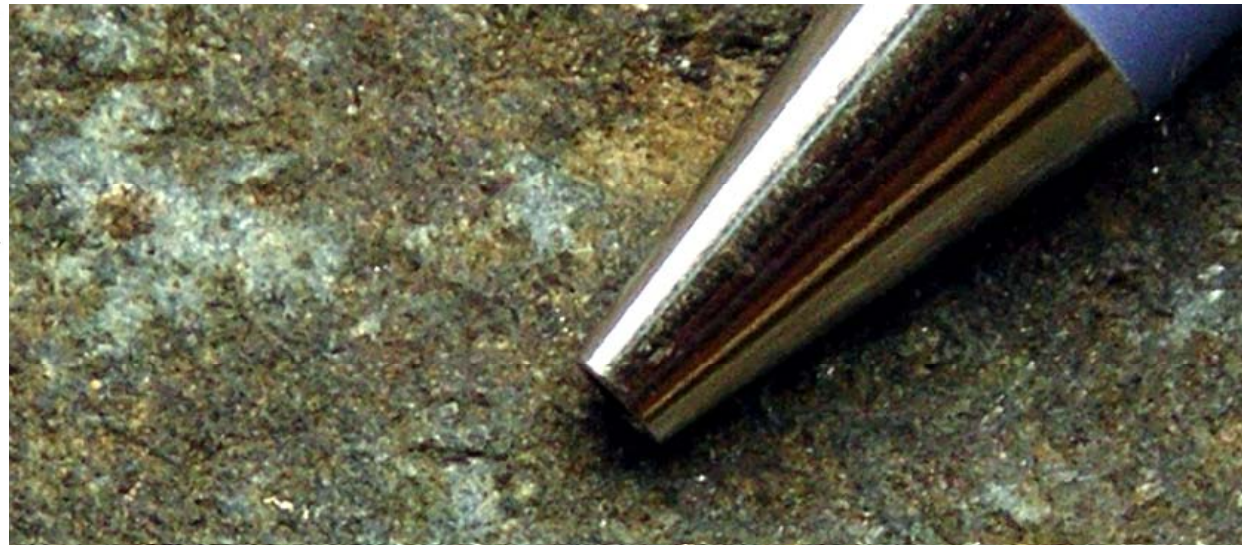
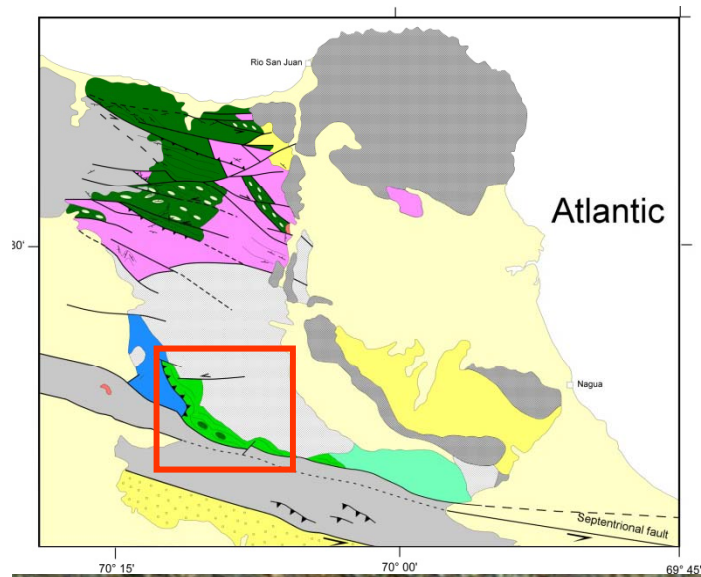
Septentrional fault

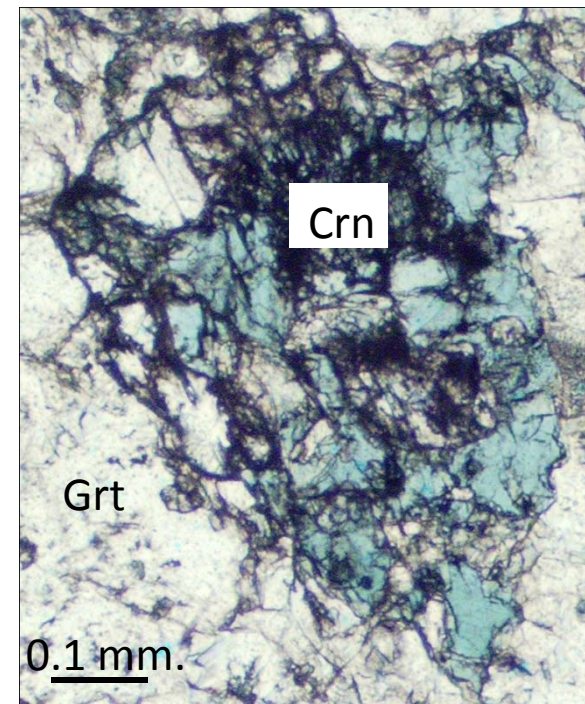
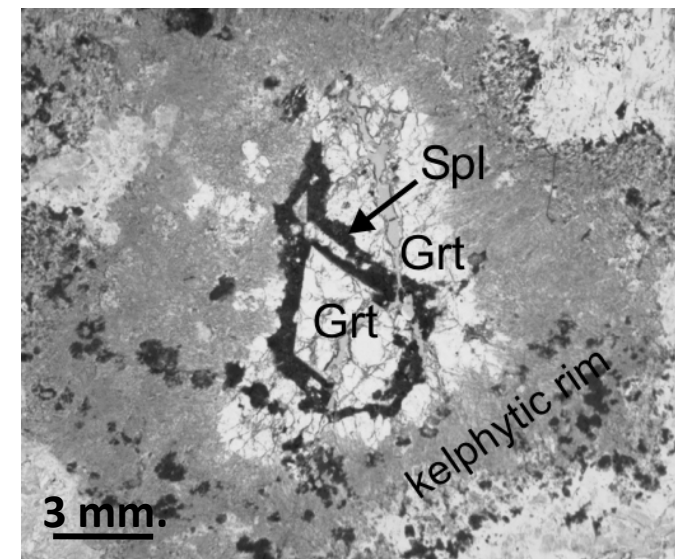
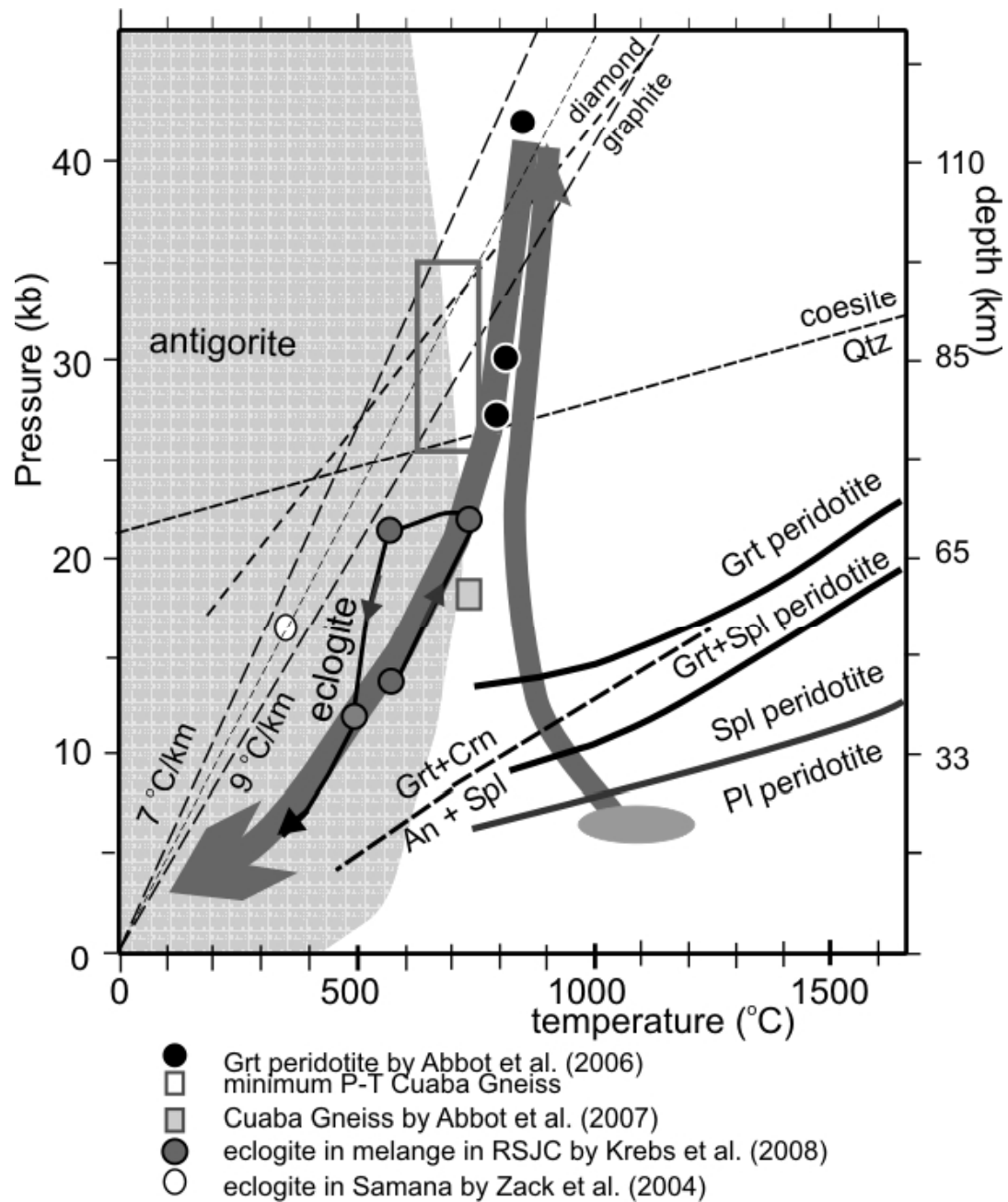
70° 15'

70° 00'

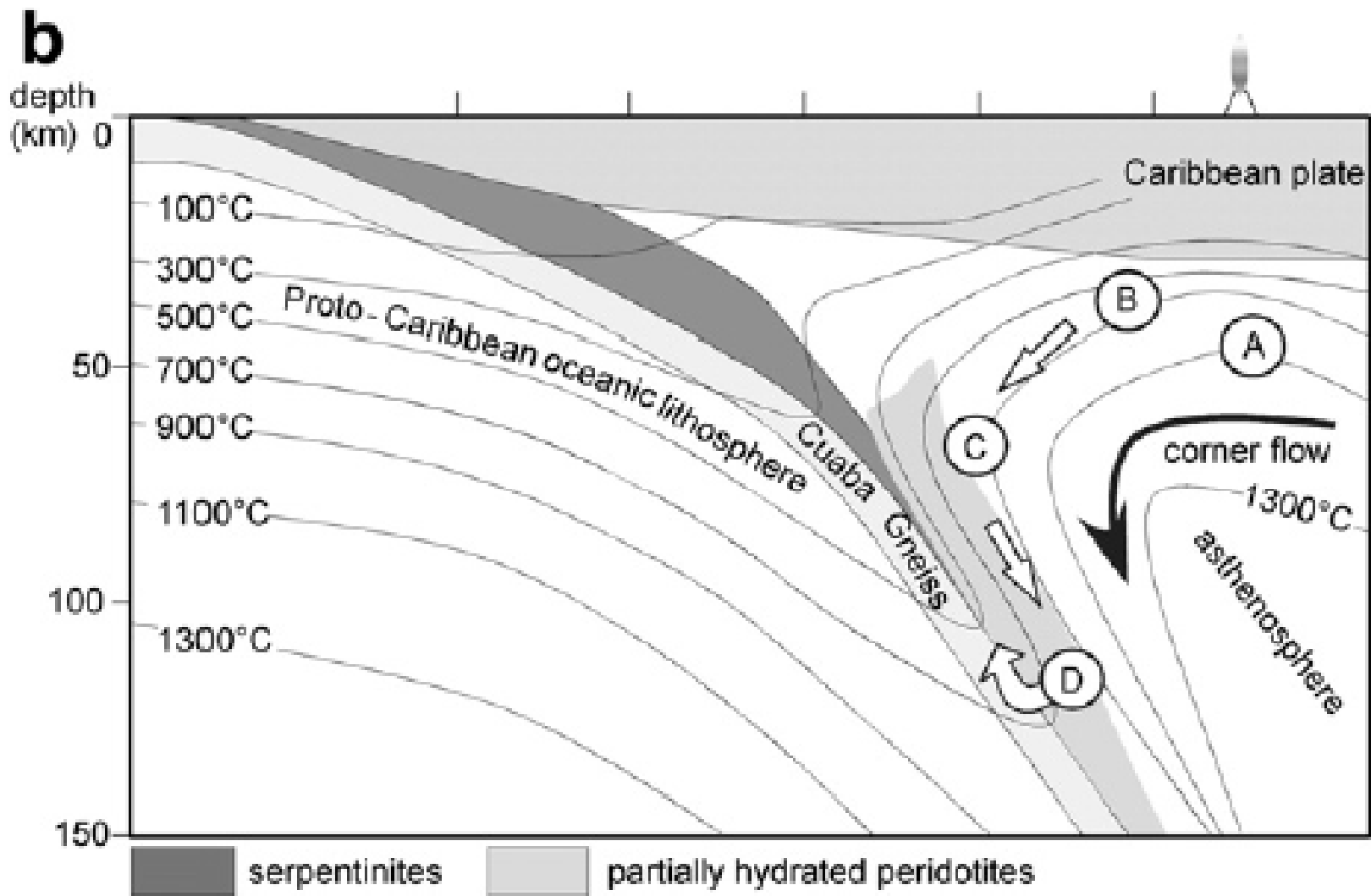
69° 45'





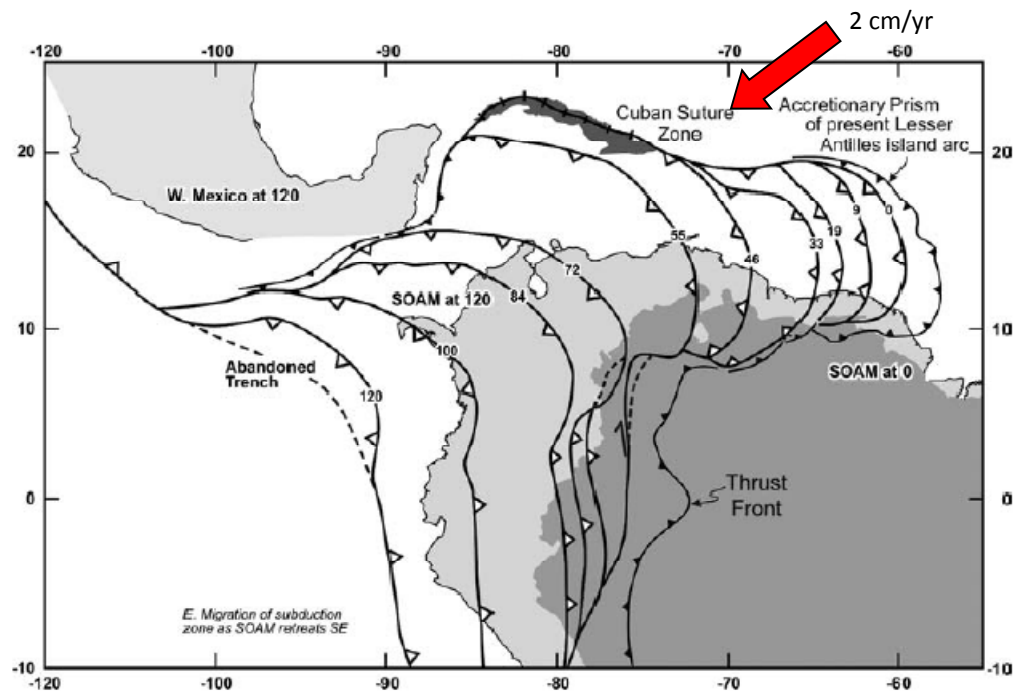


Hattori et al., Lithos, 2010



Hattori et al., Lithos, 2010

## Modelling the serpentinite channel



Atlantic-type oceanic floor

calcschistes

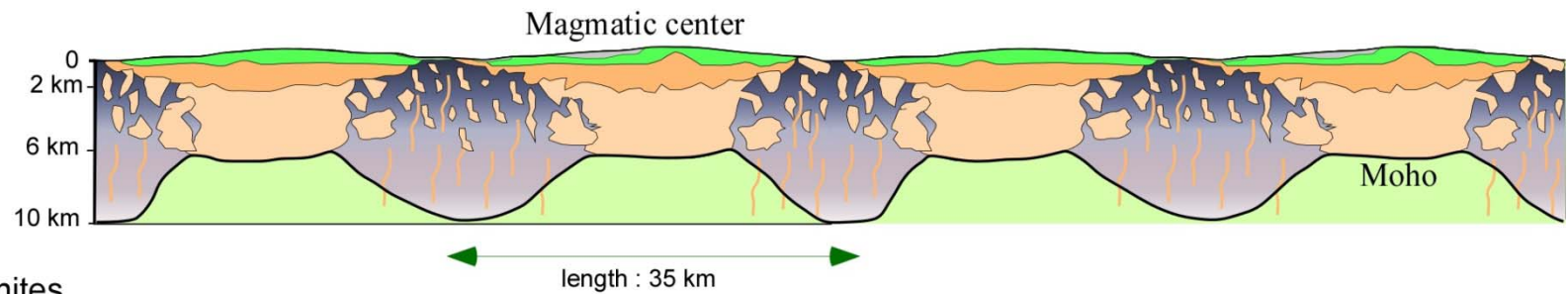
Basalts

Dyke complex

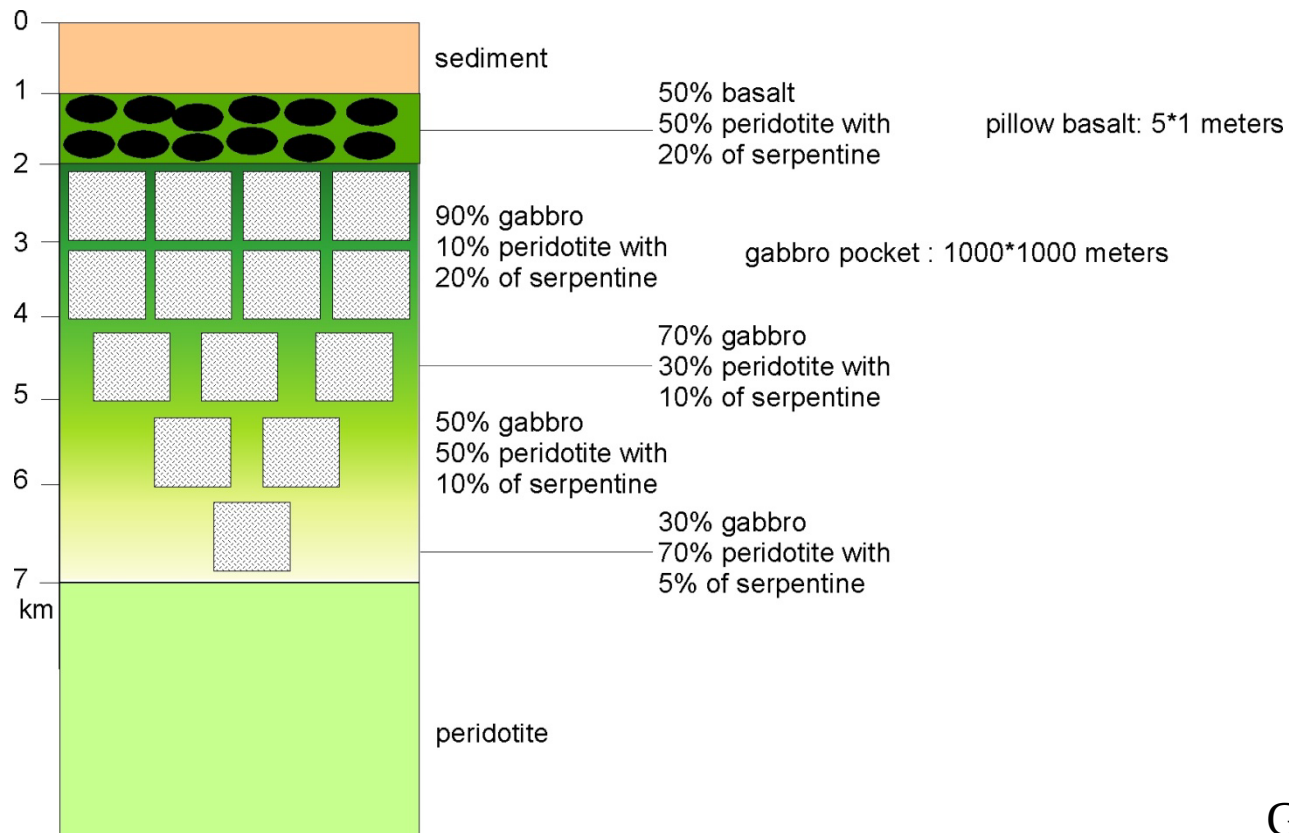
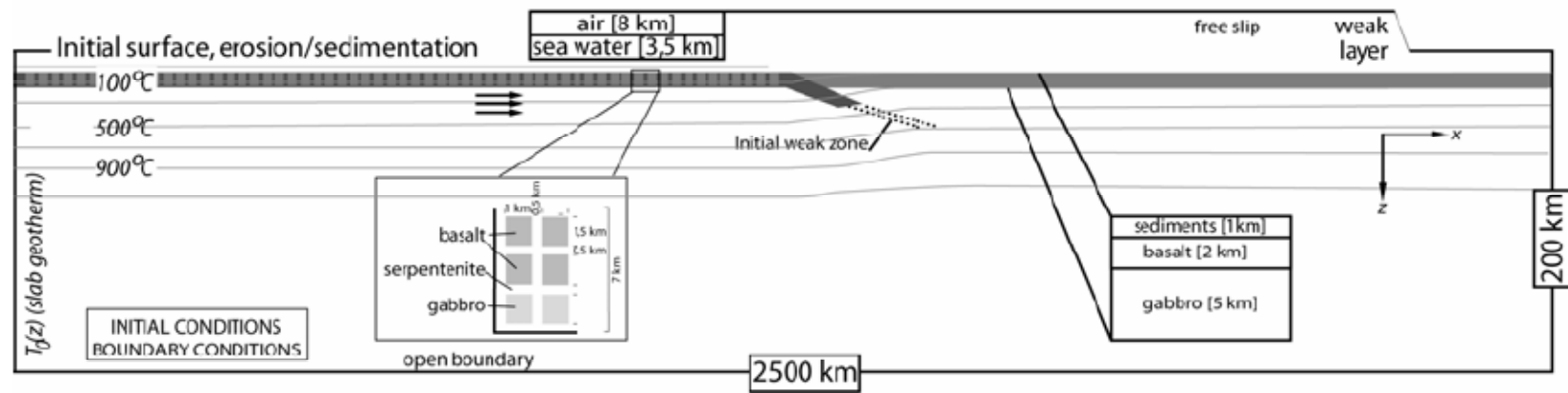
gabbros

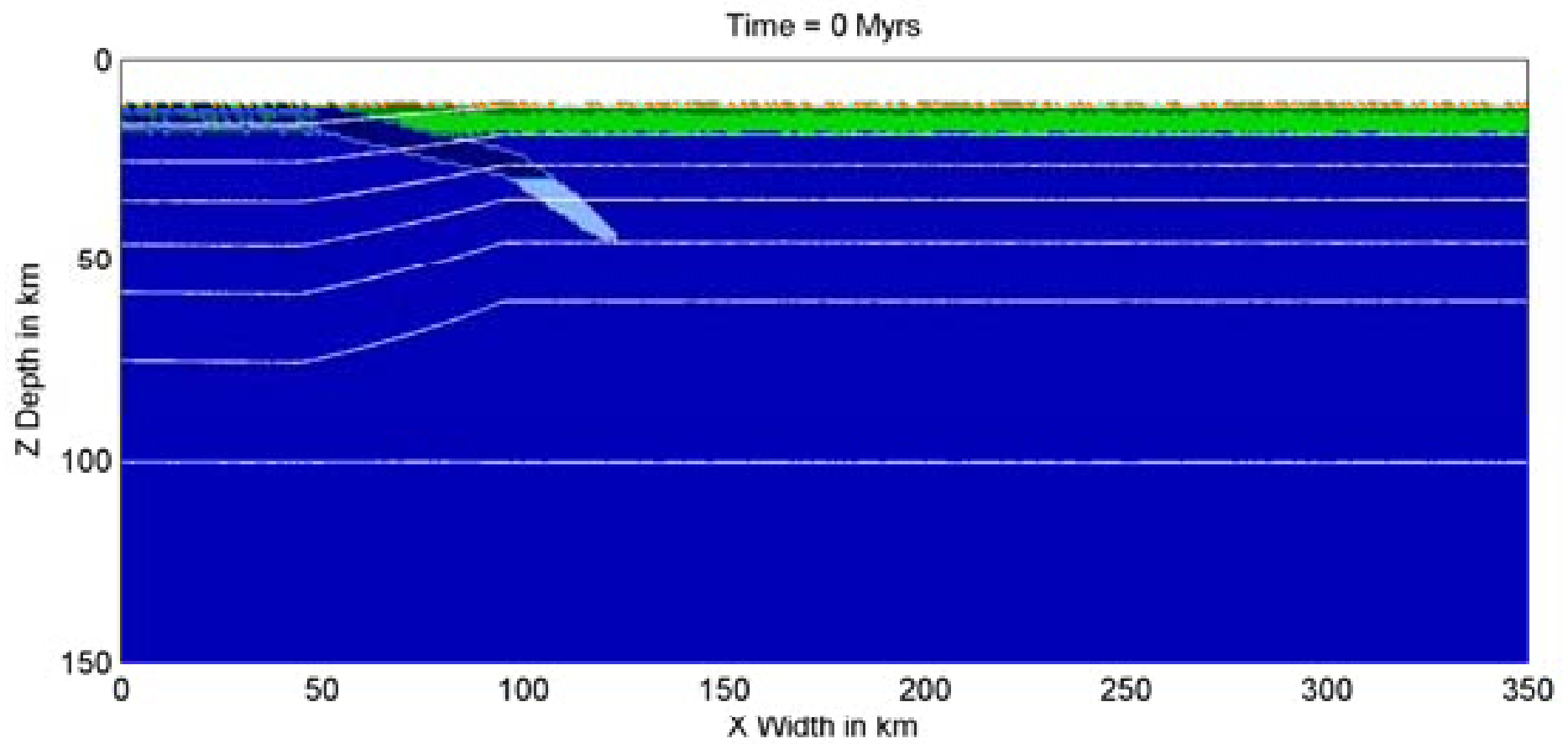
peridotites

100%  
0% serpentinites

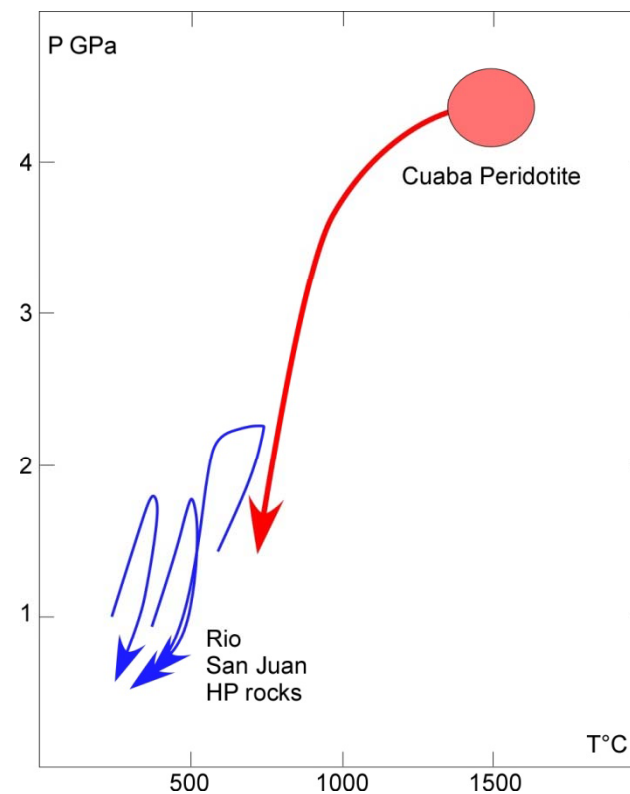
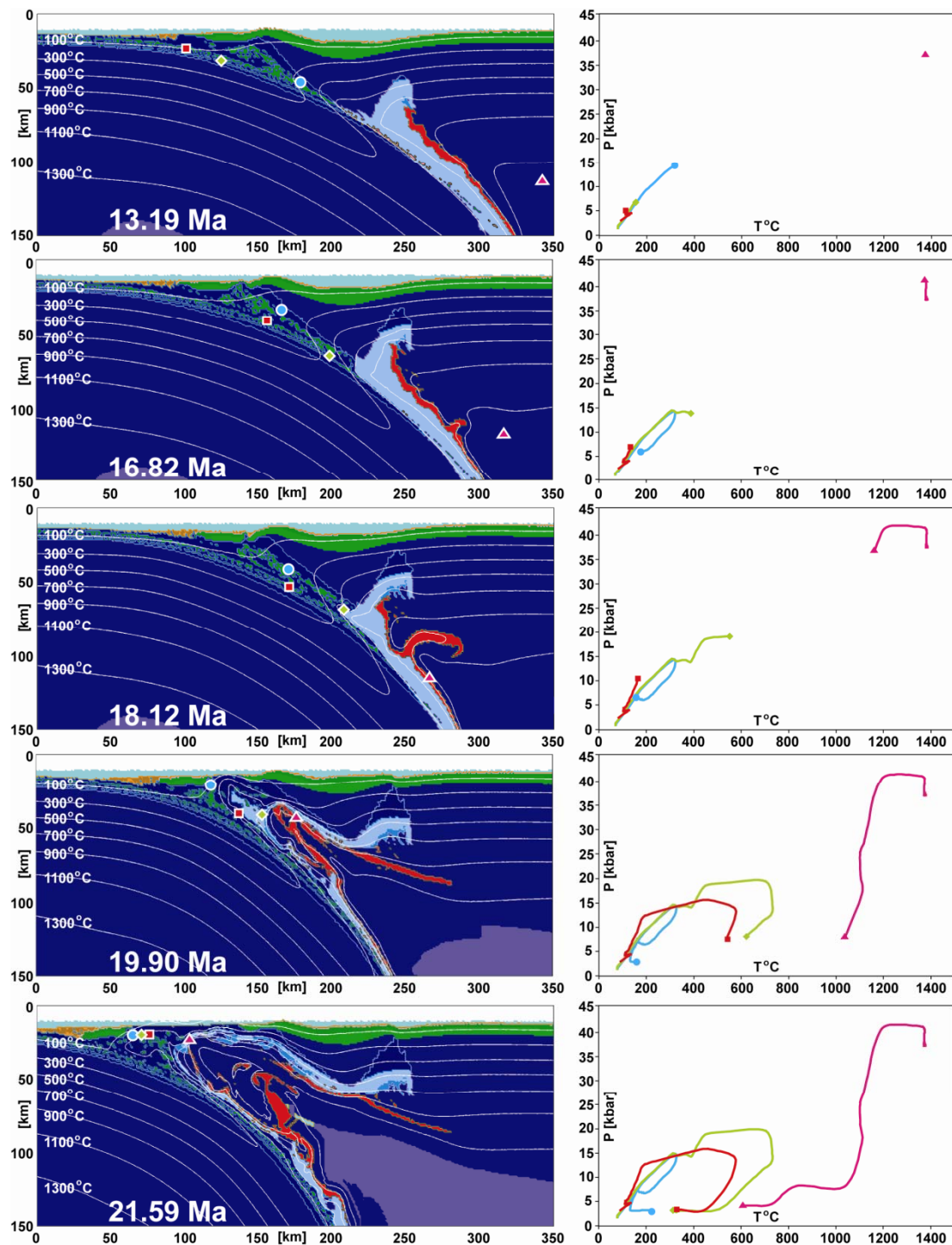


Cannat et al., 1995





*Gorczyk et al, 2007.*



after Abbott et al., 2006,  
 Krebs et al. 2007  
 Hattori et al., 2010