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1 **Extreme geochemical variability through the dunitic transition zone of the**
2 **Oman ophiolite: implications for melt/fluid-rock reactions at Moho level**
3 **beneath oceanic spreading centers**

4

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14

15 **Abstract**

16 The Maqсад area in the Oman ophiolite exposes a >300 m thick dunitic mantle-crust
17 transition zone (DTZ) that developed above a mantle diapir. The Maqсад DTZ is primarily
18 made of “pure” dunites (olivine with scattered chromite and chromite seams) and
19 “impregnated” dunites, which exhibit a significant lithological variability, including various
20 kinds of clinopyroxene-, plagioclase-, orthopyroxene-, amphibole (hornblende/pargasite)-
21 bearing dunites. These minerals are interstitial between olivine grains and their variable
22 abundance and distribution suggest that they crystallized from a percolating melt. Generally
23 studied through *in-situ* mineral characterization, the whole rock composition of dunites is
24 poorly documented. This study reports on whole rock and minerals major and trace element

25 contents on 79 pure to variably impregnated dunites collected systematically along cross
26 sections from the base to the top of the DTZ. In spite of its high degree of depletion, the
27 olivine matrix is selectively enriched in the most incompatible trace elements such as LREE,
28 HFSE, Th, U, Rb and Ba. These data support the view that this enrichment has been acquired
29 early in the magmatic evolution of the DTZ, during the dunitization process itself. The
30 dissolution of orthopyroxene from mantle harzburgites enhanced by the involvement of
31 hydrothermal fluids produced low amounts of melts enriched in silica and in some trace
32 elements that re-equilibrated with the olivine matrix. This pristine signature of the DTZ dunite
33 was eventually variably altered by percolation of melts with a Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt
34 (MORB) affinity but displaying a wide spectrum of composition attributable to evolution by
35 fractional crystallization and hybridization with the silica enriched, hydrated melts. The
36 olivine matrix has been partially or fully re-equilibrated with these melts, smoothing the early
37 strong concave-upward REE pattern in dunite. The chemical variability in the interstitial
38 minerals bears witness of the percolation of MORB, issued from the mantle decompression
39 melting, variably hybridized with melt batches produced within the DTZ by melt-rock
40 reaction and poorly homogenized before reaching the lower crust. Our results lead to the
41 conclusion that pure and impregnated dunites are end-members that recorded different stages
42 of the same initial igneous processes: pure dunites are residues left after extraction of a
43 percolating melt while impregnated dunites correspond to a stage frozen before complete melt
44 extraction. Therefore dunites trace elements contents allow deciphering the multi-stage
45 processes that led to their formation at the mantle-crust transition zone.

46

47 **Keywords**

48 Oman ophiolite; dunitic mantle-crust transition zone; trace elements; melt-rock reactions;
49 melt percolation; refertilization

50

51 **1. Introduction**

52 The boundary between the Earth mantle and the oceanic crust is underlined by a dunitic
53 horizon in most ophiolites worldwide, regardless the tectonic setting in which they evolved
54 (mid-ocean ridges vs. supra-subduction zone) (e.g. Moores and Vine, 1971; Prinzhofer et al.,
55 1980; Boudier and Coleman, 1981; Quick, 1981; Jan and Howie, 1981; Kelemen et al.,
56 1997a; Bédard and Hébert, 1998; Ceuleneer and le Sueur, 2008; Bouilhol et al., 2009). Since
57 dunites are observed in present-day oceans in different tectonic settings, associated to mantle
58 harzburgites and to troctolitic-gabbroic veins and sills like in the dunitic mantle-crust
59 transition zone (DTZ) (e.g. Arai and Matsukage, 1996; Dick and Natland, 1996; Parkinson
60 and Pearce, 1998; Savov et al., 2005; Godard et al., 2008), it is reasonable to suppose that
61 ophiolitic DTZ formed prior to the intra-oceanic thrusting leading to obduction.

62

63 A residual origin for dunites after very high (>40%) degrees of partial melting of the mantle
64 (Green and Ringwood, 1967) requires unrealistic thermal regimes, at least in the modern
65 Earth and in oceanic spreading contexts (Herzberg et al., 1983). Alternatively, dunite may
66 result from the accumulation of olivine grains issued from fractional crystallization from a
67 melt sufficiently rich in Mg to remain during a significant time in the fractionation field of
68 olivine alone (+/- spinel) (Bowen, 1915; O'Hara, 1965; Elthon, 1979). Finally, dunite may be
69 replacive after interaction ("reactional melting") between melts and peridotite in dry (Bowen,
70 1927; Berger and Vannier, 1984) or hydrated systems (Bowen and Tuttle, 1949). The
71 interaction between harzburgite and a melt undersaturated in silica accounts for the formation
72 of dunite through the dissolution of pyroxenes, leading to the enrichment in silica of the melt
73 with concomitant crystallization of olivine (Dick, 1977; Quick, 1981; Kelemen, 1990;
74 Kelemen et al., 1992). Petrological evolutions across a densely sampled cross section along a

75 330 m thick DTZ of the Oman ophiolite revealed that the DTZ does essentially but not
76 exclusively derive from melt-peridotite interaction, its shallowest part (topmost 50 m)
77 showing fractional crystallization trends (Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013).

78

79 In the melt-rock reaction model, it was proposed that reactional melting and orthopyroxene
80 consumption leads to high intergranular permeability enhancing the efficiency of melt
81 extraction from the mantle (Ortoleva et al., 1987; Daines and Kohlstedt, 1994; Kelemen et al.,
82 1995a; Kelemen et al., 1997b). In this way, the DTZ appears to be a reactive interface where
83 melts are focused, transformed and potentially accumulated, then distributed beneath the mid-
84 ocean ridge. Crystallization associated to melt migration through the mantle-crust transition
85 zone accounts for the wide diversity of lithological facies observed in the DTZ. Dunites
86 evolve from “pure dunites”, i.e. compacted at very high temperature when complete melt
87 extraction occurred, to “impregnated dunites”, highly refertilized before incipient cooling and
88 that potentially leads in extreme cases to the formation of hybrid olivine-rich troctolites or
89 plagioclase-bearing wehrlites (e.g. Arai and Matsukage, 1996; Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013;
90 Sanfilippo and Tribuzio, 2013a). Although interstitial minerals in ophiolites or abyssal DTZ
91 are regularly found in equilibrium with melts that fed the overlying crust (e.g. Drouin et al.,
92 2009; Ghosh et al., 2014; Nicolle et al., 2016), the Oman ophiolite DTZ was also percolated
93 by melts with more exotic compositions (Koga et al., 2001) that, for a part of them, may be
94 attributable to hybridization with a hydrothermal fluid component (Rospabé et al., 2017).
95 Especially the presence of orthopyroxene, amphibole, garnet and diopsides both interstitially
96 between olivine grains and in inclusion in chromite calls for early, high temperature,
97 hydration of the DTZ. In this frame, to define the origin of the DTZ has direct implications on
98 melt generation, transfer and evolution from the mantle to the crust, as well as on the deep
99 hydrothermal circulations that may influence both the chemical exchanges and the thermal

100 structure of the oceanic lithosphere.

101

102 Most geochemists use the trace element contents of interstitial clinopyroxene and plagioclase
103 (if any) scattered in dunites to build petrological scenario (e.g. Kelemen et al., 1995a; Nicolle
104 et al., 2016; Akizawa et al., 2016a). However, it concerns actually the genesis of
105 crystallization products from melt fractions that travelled through the dunites, which might be
106 risky to extrapolate to the genesis of the dunitic matrix itself. Very few whole rock analysis or
107 olivine trace element contents are available due to their very low content in olivine. The
108 sporadic studies providing trace elements data on dunite show that re-equilibration processes
109 occurred between the olivine matrix, selectively enriched in some trace elements, and the
110 melts percolating interstitially between olivine grains (e.g. Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-
111 Gaillard, 2002; Sanfilippo et al., 2014, 2017).

112

113 To better constrain the processes leading to the formation of both pure and impregnated
114 dunitic products constituting the DTZ as well as to their chemical signature, we combined
115 major and trace elements in whole rock and in mineral phases for 79 samples of dunite from
116 the Oman ophiolite mantle-crust transition zone. We show that the important chemical
117 variability recorded by the dunites at Moho level is issued from a combination of harzburgite
118 dunitization, re-equilibration associated to melt percolation, and refertilization from unmixed
119 and contrasted MORB-derived melt batches variably hybridized with hydrous fluids.

120

121 **2. Geological background**

122 *2.1. Geology of the Oman ophiolite*

123 The Oman ophiolite exposes a 30.000 km² remnant of the Tethyan Ocean. Its creation
124 occurred ~95-97 million years ago (Tilton et al., 1981; Tippit et al., 1981; Rioux et al., 2012)

125 and was directly followed by an oceanic detachment close to the ridge axis that eventually led
126 to its obduction on the Arabian margin (Lanphere, 1981; Boudier et al., 1985; Boudier et al.,
127 1988; Montigny et al., 1988). The synoptic mapping of mafic-ultramafic dykes cropping out
128 in the mantle section (Python and Ceuleneer, 2003; Python et al., 2008) revealed that two
129 main magmatic suites contributed to the igneous evolution of the ophiolite: (1) a MORB suite
130 mostly present in the southeastern massifs of the ophiolite (Nakhl, Sumail and Wadi Tayin)
131 and in some restricted areas in the north, and (2) a more widespread depleted-andesitic type
132 attributed either to subduction or to hydrated re-melting of the shallow lithosphere during
133 spreading (Pearce et al., 1981; Benoit et al., 1999; Python and Ceuleneer, 2003; Yamasaki et
134 al., 2006; MacLeod et al., 2013) (Fig. 1a).

135

136 Along the Oman ophiolite, spatially constrained vertical flow structures within the mantle
137 section were interpreted as former asthenospheric diapirs distributed along the oceanic ridge
138 (Ceuleneer et al., 1988; Nicolas et al., 1988; Joussetin et al., 1998; Nicolas et al., 2000). The
139 Sumail massif, focus of the present study, exposes in the Maqsad area a well preserved paleo
140 mantle diapir and its associated N130 paleo-spreading center (Ceuleneer, 1986; Ceuleneer et
141 al., 1988; Ceuleneer, 1991; Joussetin et al., 1998). This structure is located in the central part
142 of the largest (80 × 25 km) MORB district of Oman (Python and Ceuleneer, 2003) (Fig. 1).
143 The MORB affinity has been evidenced by the crystallization sequence and confirmed by
144 trace elements and isotopic data on both mantle and crustal rocks (Benoit et al., 1996;
145 Ceuleneer et al., 1996; Godard et al., 2000; Koga et al., 2001; Godard et al., 2003; Clénet et
146 al., 2010).

147

148 *2.2. The dunitic transition zone around the Maqsad diapir*

149 The thickness of the DTZ reaches 300 to 350 m above the central part of the Maqsad mantle

150 diapir (Rabinowicz et al., 1987; Boudier and Nicolas, 1995; Jousselin and Nicolas, 2000;
151 Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013) and thins progressively off-axis due to tectonic transposition by
152 mantle plastic flow as it diverges from the diapir (Ceuleneer, 1991). In this area the DTZ was
153 mainly described as the uppermost part of the mantle, modified after complete orthopyroxene
154 consumption resulting from MORB-peridotite interaction (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-
155 Gaillard, 2002), while its upper part (top most ~50 m) displays all the characteristic of
156 cumulates (Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013). The interstitial plagioclase and clinopyroxene located
157 between olivine grains exhibit chemical signature in good agreement with a fractionation
158 from a percolating MORB (Koga et al., 2001; Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013; Nicolle et al.,
159 2016). It was also recently evidenced that some horizons of the DTZ contain interstitial
160 orthopyroxene and pargasite that support the percolation of a hybrid liquid, i.e. a blend of
161 variably evolved MORB and of hydrous silica-rich liquids (Rospabé et al., 2017). The
162 ubiquitous occurrence of hydrothermal diopside and grossular, both in interstitial position
163 between olivine grains and enclosed in disseminated chromite together with orthopyroxene,
164 pargasite, biotite and aspidolite, suggests them as primary high temperature features and
165 further challenges the pure igneous origin of the DTZ. According to our observations, they are
166 not systematically associated to cracks affecting chromite grain, as would be expected if they
167 were low temperature alteration products resulting from serpentinization and Ca-rich
168 metasomatism having affected mafic and ultramafic rocks (e.g. Palandri and Reed, 2004;
169 Python et al., 2011; Akizawa et al., 2016b) (see also Tamura et al., 2014). The possible
170 involvement of high temperature hydrothermal fluids during the magmatic stage that edified
171 the DTZ allows reconsidering the former hypothesis of a hydrothermal origin for dunites,
172 originally proposed by Bowen and Tuttle (1949).

173

174 **3. Methods**

175 *3.1. Sampling strategy*

176 The Sumail massif was slightly tilted during the Miocene uplift of the Djebel Akhdar. Its
177 regional dip does not exceed 10° to the SE. For this reason, to perform sampling along
178 distributed cross sections is a straightforward way to reconstruct the three-dimensional
179 structuration of the DTZ around the Maqsad diapir and its associated paleo-ridge axis. In this
180 study we report on whole rock and mineral major elements and whole rock trace elements for
181 79 samples, and on interstitial clinopyroxenes trace elements for 11 impregnated dunites.
182 Samples were collected systematically every 10 to 20 m vertically along four cross sections
183 (Fig. 1b). Their location and mineral contents are presented in Table 1.

184

185 *3.2. Analytical methods*

186 *In situ* mineral major element concentrations were acquired by electron microprobe using a
187 Cameca SX 100 (Microsonde Ouest, Brest, France) and a Cameca SXFive (Centre de
188 MicroCaractérisation Raimond Castaing, Toulouse, France) with a 20 kV accelerating
189 voltage, a beam current of 20 nA, an electron beam diameter of 1 µm for all analyses and a
190 counting time of 10 s on peak for each element and 5 s on backgrounds on both sides of the
191 peak. *In situ* clinopyroxene trace element concentrations were obtained by laser ablation-
192 inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) at the Institute of Earth
193 Sciences, University of Lausanne (Switzerland). We used a NewWave UP-193 ArF
194 Excimer based laser ablation system coupled with a Thermo Scientific™ ELEMENT XR™
195 high resolution ICP-MS. Spot size ranged between 75 and 100 µm and operating conditions
196 were a 20 Hz pulse rate and an energy density of 6.0 J/cm². The SRM612 NIST was used as
197 external standard following the values proposed by Jochum et al. (2011) and ²⁹Si was used as
198 internal standard.

199

200 Whole rock major element concentrations were obtained by X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
201 at the Central Analytical Facilities, Stellenbosch University (South Africa). Whole rock trace
202 element concentrations were acquired on a Thermo Scientific™ ELEMENT XR™ HR-ICP-
203 MS at the Géosciences Environnement Toulouse laboratory (Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées),
204 Université of Toulouse III. The sample preparation consisted in a HF-HClO₄ digestion
205 procedure (Yokoyama et al., 1999) combined with a thulium addition (Barrat et al., 1996).
206 The concentrations in Li and Large Ion Lithophile Elements (LILE; Rb, Sr, Cs and Ba) and of
207 most of transition elements (Cr, Mn, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn) and Ga were acquired after a direct
208 digestion/dilution method. Sc, V, Rare Earth Elements (REE) and Y, High Field Strength
209 Elements (HFSE; Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta, Ti) and U, Th and Pb contents were determined after the
210 double coprecipitation procedure detailed in Rospabé et al. (2018). BHVO-2 was used as
211 calibrator following the values proposed by Barrat et al. (2012). The yield was monitored and
212 concentrations calculated using the Tm anomaly appearing in the samples REE pattern (Barrat
213 et al., 1996). The international rock standards UB-N (serpentinite) and DTS-2B (dunite) were
214 analysed as unknown during the course of this study. They are given in Appendix A together
215 with the samples major and trace element compositions.

216

217 **4. Lithological diversity in the Maqsad DTZ**

218 Olivines exhibit a recrystallized equigranular mosaic texture with frequent triple junctions at
219 120° (Fig. 2a). Its average grain size is about 1 mm. All samples are affected to some degree
220 by serpentinization, which ranges from about 30 to 60%. Submillimeter round-shaped
221 chromite grains are interstitial between olivine grains. They are generally disseminated but
222 chromite schlierens occur in some samples. Small grains of clinopyroxene are also frequently
223 observed at olivine triple junctions or along the olivine grain rims, with a grain size no larger
224 than few tens of microns. Samples with less than 0.5% of clinopyroxene are considered as

225 “pure dunites” (38 samples).

226

227 The remaining 41 samples contain well-developed oikocrystic of clinopyroxene and/or other
228 interstitial minerals. These interstitial phases are classically interpreted as crystallization
229 products fractionated from a melt that percolated through the dunitic matrix and are referred
230 to as “impregnated dunites” (Benn et al., 1988; Boudier and Nicolas, 1995; Koga et al., 2001;
231 Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013). Two contrasted clinopyroxene compositions are observed; one
232 consistent with an igneous origin and the other one calling for crystallization from
233 hydrothermal fluids or water-rich melts (Python et al., 2007; Rospabé et al., 2017).
234 Accordingly, we use "clinopyroxene" and "diopside" to distinguish clinopyroxene with
235 igneous and hydrothermal origin respectively. Clinopyroxene is the most common
236 impregnating phase (14 samples are cpx-bearing dunites). Its texture changes with its modal
237 abundance, from small interstitial at olivine grains boundaries (up to hundreds microns width
238 in size) to oikocrystic crystals (millimeter to up to centimetre in size) (Fig. 2b). Smaller
239 interstitial diopsides are also sometimes observed both in pure and impregnated dunites,
240 showing different texture and chemical content than the clinopyroxene oikocrysts (Fig. 2c).
241 Plagioclase appears as a well-developed interstitial intercumulus phase, generally as
242 oikocrysts (Fig. 2d), and is regularly associated to clinopyroxene, characterizing the pl/cpx-
243 bearing dunites (14 samples). Plagioclase-bearing cpx-free dunites are rarely observed (one
244 sample only). Plagioclase/olivine contacts are also regularly underlined by a clinopyroxene
245 corona. In addition to clinopyroxene and plagioclase, the dunites collected in the DTZ from
246 the Maqsad area show orthopyroxene oikocrysts in pl/cpx-bearing dunites (7 samples) (Fig.
247 2e), and amphibole, observed as subhedral crystals in few samples with no preference to the
248 other minerals present (7 samples) (Fig. 2f). Interstitial subhedral grossular garnet was
249 observed in 12 impregnated dunites (Rospabé et al., 2017). All these interstitial minerals are

250 also present as round-shaped primary inclusions in chromite grains together with micas
251 (phlogopite and aspidolite), the latter being never observed interstitially within the dunitic
252 matrix.

253

254 **5. Results**

255 *5.1. Whole rock major and minor elements*

256 The dunites from the DTZ plot above the mantle fractionation array in the MgO/SiO₂ vs.
257 Al₂O₃/SiO₂ diagram (Fig. 3a). Pure dunites and slightly impregnated ones (<5% of cpx or cpx
258 + pl) exhibit a more refractory characteristic than the most depleted harzburgites from the
259 mantle section with higher MgO/SiO₂ (>1.1) and lower Al₂O₃/SiO₂ (<0.02) ratios.
260 Impregnated samples are generally characterized by a progressive decrease of MgO/SiO₂ and
261 an increase of Al₂O₃/SiO₂ that reflects an increasing amount of clinopyroxene and
262 plagioclase. The loss on ignition (LOI) is comprised between 6.9 and 10.9 wt.% for pure
263 dunites and 4.7 and 10.8 wt.% for impregnated dunites, and reflects primarily the degree of
264 serpentinization that is similar in both dunite types (Appendix A). The variation of FeO and
265 MgO in pure and slightly impregnated dunites perfectly mimics the stoichiometric variation
266 of the olivine Fe-Mg composition (FeO + MgO = 66.67 in mol%) while other higher
267 impregnated samples contain a lower MgO content similar to mantle harzburgites (mainly
268 ~43-47 wt.%) (Fig. 3b).

269

270 Low CaO and Al₂O₃ also characterize the pure and slightly impregnated dunites with
271 concentrations lower than 1 wt.% (Fig. 3c). The higher CaO and Al₂O₃ contents are strongly
272 correlated to the abundance of impregnating minerals. The modal proportion of clinopyroxene
273 controls the CaO content that increases fast with increasing amount of cpx (Al₂O₃/CaO<1 in
274 cpx-bearing dunites) while plagioclase and amphibole exert the main control on the Al₂O₃

275 content in other impregnated dunites ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{CaO} > 1$).

276

277 In pure dunites the Mg# ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}_{\text{total}})$) is more variable (from 86 to 92.3,
278 except a pure dunite containing schlierens of chromites with a whole rock Mg# = 83.4) than
279 in impregnated dunites (from 87.2 to 90.9) and peridotites from the mantle section (from 89.8
280 to 91.6). The dunites from the DTZ also display a much more variable Ni (1207-2870 $\mu\text{g/g}$)
281 and a higher Co (110-155 $\mu\text{g/g}$) contents than mantle peridotites (Ni = 1747-2671 $\mu\text{g/g}$; Co =
282 95-122 $\mu\text{g/g}$) (Fig. 3d and 3e). These compositions are not clearly related to the degree of
283 impregnation minerals with high Ni and Co concentrations also observed in the most
284 impregnated samples.

285

286 *5.2 Mineral major elements*

287 The Fo in olivine ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}_{\text{total}})$) in dunites from the DTZ generally
288 decreases from 92.5 to 87.8 concomitantly with the NiO content (0.45 to 0.19 wt.%) (Fig. 4a).
289 This compositional range is broader than in the peridotites from the mantle section
290 ($89.5 < \text{Fo} < 92.1$; $0.25 < \text{NiO} < 0.53$ wt.%). The CaO content in olivine, mainly < 0.05 wt.% in
291 mantle harzburgites, reaches 0.32 wt.% in the DTZ. Higher CaO values are generally
292 observed in olivine grains from pure dunites, also displaying the lower Fo and NiO contents
293 (Fig. 4b), and may consequently not be attributed to re-equilibration with other CaO-rich
294 minerals. Fo in olivine and Mg# in whole rocks are highly correlated (Fig. 4c).

295

296 The Cr# ($100 \times \text{molar Cr}/(\text{Cr} + \text{Al})$) variation range in chromite is more restricted in dunites
297 from the DTZ (43.3-63.4) than in harzburgites from the mantle section (20.6-70). Cr# gently
298 decreases with the Fo and progressively shifts from the olivine-spinel mantle array (OSMA)
299 (Arai, 1987, 1994) (Fig. 4d). Mg# ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}^{2+})$) in chromite is quite similar

300 between the different types of dunite (43.3-63.4) while the TiO₂ content is on the contrary
301 much more variable depending on the host lithological facies (Fig. 4e), being lower (0.20-
302 0.60 wt.%) in pure dunites than in impregnated ones (mainly comprised between 0.15 and 0.9
303 wt.% and occasionally reaching 1.3 wt.%). On the contrary YFe³⁺ (100 × molar Fe³⁺/(Cr + Al
304 + Fe³⁺)) is slightly higher in chromite from the pure dunites (Appendix B).

305

306 Minute clinopyroxenes were observed at the triple junction of olivine grains in what we
307 defined as pure dunites. They exhibit a variable Mg# (86.9-94.2) and a CaO content
308 exceeding 24.5 wt.% that contrast with the clinopyroxene oikocrysts from the impregnated
309 dunites (Mg# = 89.6-92.9; CaO = 21.1-24.8 wt.%) (Appendix B). All the clinopyroxenes
310 display a wide variation range in TiO₂ (0.16-0.71 wt.%) (Fig. 4f), Cr₂O₃ (0.79-1.32 wt.%) and
311 Al₂O₃ (2.6-4.9 wt.%) (Appendix B). Zoning was observed in few clinopyroxenes only, with
312 the concomitant increase of Mg#, SiO₂ and TiO₂ together with the decrease of Al₂O₃ and
313 Cr₂O₃ from the core to the rim. Small interstitial diopside composition ranges between
314 igneous and hydrothermal end-members, with higher Mg# and lower TiO₂ (Fig. 4f), Cr₂O₃
315 and Al₂O₃ contents (see also Rospabé et al., 2017).

316

317 Oikocrystic orthopyroxene grains observed in interstitial position in dunites present a high
318 TiO₂ content (0.15-0.23 wt.%), specific to the dunites from the Maqsad area (Rospabé et al.,
319 2017) (Appendix B). They display Mg# and Al₂O₃ contents varying from 88.8 to 90.8 and
320 1.15 to 2.22 wt.% respectively. As clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene rarely exhibits zoned
321 compositions with the increase of SiO₂ concomitantly to the decrease of Al₂O₃, and Cr₂O₃
322 from the core to the rim. Mg# is quite variable as MgO and FeO both increase with SiO₂.

323

324 Plagioclase was not systematically analysed in each pl-bearing dunites due to its higher

325 degree of alteration than other phases. It presents rather primitive compositions in
326 (opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunites ($An (100 \times \text{molar Ca}/(\text{Ca} + \text{Na} + \text{K})) = 86.3-90.1$) while being
327 more evolved in one amphibole/pl/cpx-bearing dunite ($An = 74.6$) (Appendix B).

328

329 Interstitial amphiboles in the studied samples are pargasites, pargasitic- or edenitic-
330 hornblende. They display Mg# ranging from 85.7 to 91.4 and extremely variable Al_2O_3 (11.0-
331 16.3 wt.%), Na_2O (1.98-3.75 wt.%), TiO_2 (0.02-1.24 wt.%) and Cr_2O_3 (0.01 to 1.81 wt.%)
332 contents (Appendix B).

333

334 5.3. Whole rock trace elements

335 The dunites from the DTZ exhibit variable trace element compositions (Appendix A). Pure
336 dunites are highly depleted in lithophile trace elements with concentrations below both the
337 chondritic and the Primitive Mantle (PM) values (mostly comprised between 0.001 and 0.1
338 times the PM concentrations). Pure dunites are characterized by U- or V-shape REE
339 chondrite-normalized patterns (Fig. 5a), reflecting the major MREE (Sm, Eu and Gd)
340 depletion relative to LREE ($La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} < 3.76$; 1.9 in average) and HREE ($0.04 < Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN}$
341 < 0.28). We define the U- or V-shape appellation depending on the presence or absence of
342 negative Eu anomaly. The $(Eu/Eu^*)_{CN}$ ratio ranges between 0.22 and 1 in 29 samples, while 9
343 samples exhibit a positive Eu anomaly with $(Eu/Eu^*)_{CN} < 2.4$ ($(Eu/Eu^*)_N = Eu_{CN}/\sqrt{(Sm_{CN} \times$
344 $Gd_{CN})}$). Pure dunites display relative homogeneous HREE concentrations ($Yb_{CN} = 0.10-0.24$)
345 in comparison to more variable MREE ($0.005 < Gd_{CN} < 0.059$; $0.004 < Sm_{CN} < 0.065$) and
346 especially LREE ($0.004 < La_{CN} < 0.17$). The depletion from HREE to MREE is not linear with
347 several samples exhibiting instead concave-upward patterns with a progressive Gd_{CN}/Dy_{CN}
348 increase for a constant Er_{CN}/Yb_{CN} . Pure dunites U-shaped PM-normalized multi-elements
349 patterns exhibit significant enrichments in LILE, Th, U, Nb and Ta relative to LREE

350 ($Rb_{PMN}/La_{PMN} = 1.5-85$; $Th_{PMN}/La_{PMN} = 0.7-5.3$) and strong Pb and Sr positive anomalies
351 similar to mantle peridotites ($2.19 < Pb_{PMN}/Ce_{PMN} < 1294$) (Fig. 5b). Zr and Hf are generally
352 enriched relative to MREE ($Zr_{PMN}/Sm_{PMN} = 0.6-27$; 2.9 in average) as well as Ti that displays
353 a strong positive anomaly ($1.3 < Ti_{PMN}/Gd_{PMN} < 76$).

354

355 Cpx-bearing dunites exhibit variable REE and multi-element patterns partly attributable to
356 variations in the interstitial clinopyroxene content. Slightly impregnated ones (<5% cpx)
357 exhibit linear LREE-depleted or slightly concave-upward REE patterns ($La_{CN}/Yb_{CN} = 0.06-$
358 0.97) with similar HREE concentrations ($Yb_{CN} = 0.12-0.29$) and more restricted LREE and
359 MREE variation ranges ($La_{CN} = 0.01-0.23$; $Gd_{CN} = 0.02-0.12$) than pure dunites (Fig. 5c).
360 Dunites containing a higher amount of clinopyroxene have higher HREE contents ($Yb_{CN} =$
361 $0.56-0.83$). They exhibit clear convex-upward patterns with a nearly flat slope of the HREE
362 segment ($Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} = 0.74-0.85$) followed by a progressive depletion from MREE to LREE
363 ($La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} = 0.06-0.09$). It is worth noting that the cpx-bearing dunites display La and Ce
364 contents within the variation range of pure dunite ($La_{CN} = 0.01-0.23$). This observation may
365 be extended to other incompatible trace elements like Th, U, HFSE that are not more
366 concentrated in cpx-bearing dunites than in pure dunites, excepting one sample that displays
367 spectacular HFSE positive anomalies (Fig. 5d). Cpx-bearing dunites exhibit similar
368 enrichment in LILE relative to LREE and the same strong positive Pb and Sr anomalies than
369 in pure dunites. The positive Ti anomaly observed for the slightly impregnated samples
370 disappears for the more impregnated ones in which the Ti content is buffered around 0.25
371 times the PM value.

372

373 The pl-bearing dunite displays a W-shaped REE pattern with strong depletion in MREE
374 ($Sm_{CN} = 0.005$; $Gd_{CN} = 0.003$) relative to LREE ($La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} = 4.3$) and HREE ($Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} =$

375 0.002) bordering a strong positive Eu anomaly ($(Eu/Eu^*)_{CN} = 54$) (Fig. 5e). Other pl/cpx-
376 bearing chondrite-normalized REE patterns evolve from concave-upward to convex upward
377 with the increasing amount of clinopyroxene. This evolution is accounted by a progressive
378 decrease of the HREE segment slope (Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} from 0.17 to 0.63). They are also
379 characterized, in regard to pure and cpx-bearing dunites, by higher Li and Rb contents, a
380 higher range of Cs, a well depletion in their Th and U contents, and a slighter positive Pb
381 anomaly (Fig. 5f).

382

383 Opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunites and amphibole-bearing dunites (\pm opx, pl and cpx) have REE
384 contents similar to pl/cpx-bearing dunites with patterns intermediate between highly
385 impregnated pl-bearing and cpx-bearing dunites (Fig. 5g). They also display similar PM-
386 normalized multi-elements patterns than pl/cpx-bearing dunites, with Th, U, and with few
387 exceptions Nb and Ta contents similar to LREE (averaged $Th_{PMN}/La_{PMN} = 0.9$) (Fig. 5h).

388

389 *5.4. Clinopyroxene minor and trace elements*

390 Trace elements concentrations were obtained for unzoned crystals of clinopyroxene in 11
391 impregnated dunites (2 cpx-bearing, 6 pl/cpx-bearing, 3 opx/pl/cpx-bearing, and 1
392 amph/opx/pl/cpx-bearing). Their composition is homogeneous within a given sample. In
393 clinopyroxenes, lower trace elements contents are observed in the amph/opx/pl/cpx-bearing
394 dunite while higher contents much characterize cpx-bearing dunites; clinopyroxenes in
395 (opx/)pl/cpx-bearing dunites display both low and high trace elements concentrations.
396 Regarding the chondrite-normalized REE patterns, all the clinopyroxenes are depleted in
397 LREE relative to MREE ($La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} = 0.03-0.32$) and the slope in HREE is highly variable,
398 from strongly positive to moderately negative ($Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} = 0.61-2.28$) (Fig. 6a). The most
399 LREE-depleted patterns are rather observed in (amph/)opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunites whatever

400 the REE concentrations, while the less depleted ones are observed in cpx-bearing dunites.
401 Negative anomalies in Nb and Ta ($Nb_{PMN}/La_{PMN} = 0.08-1$) relative to LREE and in Zr and Hf
402 relative to MREE ($Zr_{PMN}/Sm_{PMN} = 0.14-0.43$) are systematically observed whatever the host
403 lithology (Fig. 6b). With few exceptions, negative anomalies in Pb and Sr relative to LREE-
404 MREE are also observed as well as in Ti for the most enriched clinopyroxenes.

405

406 **6. Discussion**

407 The dunitic transition zone from the Maqsad area exposes various types of dunites,
408 characterized from their mineralogical content (Boudier and Nicolas, 1995; Koga et al., 2001;
409 Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013; Rospabé et al., 2017) and from their geochemical diversity within
410 each lithological facies. Previous studies proposed different processes to explain the
411 formation of pure and impregnated dunites and/or their geochemical signature: (1)
412 serpentinization or weathering, (2) fractional crystallization and accumulation of olivine and
413 other minerals, (3) melt-rock reactions comprising harzburgite reactional melting and re-
414 equilibration related to melt percolation and, (4) refertilization associated to melt transport. In
415 the next sections we will discuss the relative influence of each process in regard to the
416 geochemical variations revealed by our study, then we will propose a more general model for
417 the Maqsad DTZ genesis.

418

419 *6.1. Serpentinization or secondary weathering effects*

420 The dunites are partly serpentinized with a serpentine abundance of about 40 to 50% in
421 average, according to thin sections observation and loss of ignition (LOI) values.
422 Serpentinization is known to be nearly isochemical regarding the bulk rock major element
423 concentrations (e.g. Coleman and Keith, 1971; Deschamps et al., 2013). In our samples, the
424 LOI is not or poorly correlated with any major element contents attesting that the

425 serpentinization did not extensively affect bulk rock major element concentrations (see also
426 Rospabé, 2018). More specifically, the samples plot above the terrestrial array in the
427 MgO/SiO₂ vs. Al₂O₃/SiO₂ diagram (Fig. 3a) and do not show any evidence for MgO loss or
428 SiO₂ enrichment as reported in pervasively serpentinized abyssal peridotites or talc-bearing
429 serpentinites (Snow and Dick, 1995; Bach et al., 2004; Paulick et al., 2006; Boschi et al.,
430 2008; Malvoisin, 2015). The perfect consistency between the Fo in olivine and the Mg# in
431 whole rock (Fig. 4c) further demonstrates the absence of influence of serpentinization on the
432 bulk dunite major element compositions.

433
434 Regarding trace elements, with few exceptions, the La content is strongly correlated to the Th
435 content, in both pure and impregnated dunites (Fig. 7a). The Th, as well as HFSE, are
436 immobile during post-magmatic aqueous alteration (You et al., 1996; Kogiso et al., 1997;
437 Niu, 2004; Paulick et al., 2006). Thus, correlated enrichments of La with Th testify that LREE
438 enrichments derived from magmatic processes, as seen in mantle harzburgites from the
439 Sumail massif (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002). A poorer but significant
440 correlation exists between HFSE (Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta) and U contents on one hand and Th and
441 LREE contents on the other (Fig. 7b, c and d). Rb and Ba seem to be vaguely correlated to
442 HFSE in pure dunites (especially to Zr and Hf) as well as to Th (Fig. 7e and f) and thus were
443 probably enriched during an initial igneous stage before being potentially affected again
444 during secondary weathering processes. Other LILE, such as Sr, and Pb contents are not
445 correlated to the LOI but the absence of correlation with Th suggests that their enrichment
446 could be related to a secondary alteration/serpentinization processes post-dating the igneous
447 history. This is confirmed by the fact that all the dunitic bulk rock analyses from the DTZ
448 exhibit strong positive Sr and Pb anomalies, while interstitial igneous clinopyroxenes exhibit
449 the opposite negative Sr and Pb anomalies. These trace element evolutions in regard to

450 immobile elements have been already described in Oman ophiolite mantle harzburgites
451 (Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002). The co-variations of Th, U, LREE and HFSE at least may thus be
452 interpreted in the framework of igneous processes.

453

454 *6.2. Cumulative origin*

455 A cumulative origin for dunites (Bowen, 1915; Bowen and Tuttle, 1949; O'Hara, 1965;
456 Elthon, 1979) implies to preserve a high-Mg parental melt in the crystallization field of the
457 single olivine (+/- spinel) during differentiation. This is quite problematic to account for thick
458 layers (several hundred meters or large bodies of dunites), and the production of such high
459 temperature melts is inconsistent with the inferred thermal conditions in the present day Earth
460 interior (Verhoogen, 1954; McKenzie and Bickle, 1988; Tilley et al., 2007). However, it was
461 proposed that the shallowest part of the Maqsad DTZ, where both Fo and NiO in olivine
462 decrease together upsection, was generated by olivine crystallization and accumulation while
463 the main part of the DTZ was a residue of reaction melting (Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013).

464

465 Dunites from the Maqsad DTZ exhibit Ni and Co contents that are much closer to the mantle
466 peridotites compositions (Fig. 3d and 3e) than to the most primitive troctolite cumulates
467 cropping out within the mantle harzburgitic section in the Maqsad area (Ni < 650 µg/g; Co <
468 40 µg/g; Benoit et al., 1996). This observation, together with the absence of clear correlation
469 between Mg# and Ni in whole rock (Fig. 3d), the negative correlation between Mg# and Co in
470 whole rock (Fig. 3e), and with the consistent compositional variations between the different
471 types of dunites, suggests that both pure and impregnated dunites cannot be related by
472 fractional crystallization from a common parent melt. Regarding the pure dunites, a pure
473 cumulative origin does not account for the normalised U-/V-shaped REE patterns (Fig. 5a and
474 5b). The enrichment in LREE relative to MREE is not predicted by REE partition coefficients

475 between olivine and melt (Frey et al., 1978; McKenzie and O’Nions, 1991; Kelemen et al.,
476 1993; Hauri and Hart, 1995; Lee et al., 2007; Sun and Liang, 2014) and may better be explain
477 by melt-rock reactions leading to peridotite metasomatism (e.g. Navon and Stolper, 1987;
478 Godard et al., 1995; Vernières et al., 1997). Models presented in Appendix C evidence that
479 the olivine matrix hosting impregnations exhibit similar REE patterns than for whole rock
480 pure dunites, with the same range of variability. In this way, impregnated dunites may be
481 definitely interpreted as hybrid lithologies, made of a mantle-derived olivine matrix
482 associated to other minerals crystallized during melt percolation (e.g. Rabinowicz et al., 1987;
483 Benn et al., 1988; Boudier and Nicolas, 1995; Koga et al., 2001; Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013;
484 Rospabé et al., 2017). The modelling allows us to conclude that the whole rock trace element
485 signatures of impregnated dunites result from a blend of three main variables: the amount of
486 impregnating mineral phases and their chemical signatures as expected, but also the
487 composition of the dunitic matrix itself (Appendix C).

488

489 *6.3. Melt-rock reaction product: dunitization and melt transport*

490 *6.3.1. State of melt-rock reactions leading to incompatible trace element enrichments in* 491 *mantle peridotites*

492 Incompatible trace element enrichments in peridotites, as U-shaped REE patterns, are
493 documented in numerous peridotites from various tectonic settings, from ophiolitic and
494 orogenic massifs (e.g. Prinzhofer and Allègre, 1985; Bodinier et al., 1990; Gruau et al., 1998;
495 Bouilhol et al., 2009) to abyssal peridotites at mid-ocean ridges (Niu, 2004; Godard et al.,
496 2008) or in forearc context (Parkinson and Pearce, 1998). It has been proposed that melt-rock
497 reactions may lead to some chromatographic effects such as melt-peridotite re-equilibration or
498 to trapped melt between olivine and pyroxene grains. This can be accounted for by (1) a two-
499 stages process involving mantle partial melting later percolated by a LREE-enriched melt (i.e.

500 cryptic metasomatism in the peridotitic matrix without mineralogical reaction) (Navon and
501 Stolper, 1987) or, (2) a single-stage process by combining partial melting (or melt-rock
502 reaction at increasing melt mass; Vernières et al., 1997) and melt transport concomitantly,
503 leading to a MREE depletion relative to HREE whereas LREE remain constant (Godard et al.,
504 1995). In the Oman ophiolite, U-shaped REE patterns were described in mantle harzburgites
505 (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002; Girardeau et al., 2002; Le Mée et al., 2004;
506 Monnier et al., 2006; Hanghøj et al., 2010), especially in the Maqsad diapir area where it is
507 attributed to an association between partial melting, deformation related to mantle flow and
508 MORB percolation (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002).

509

510 *6.3.2. Extreme trace elements enrichments in DTZ dunites: an early dunitization-related*
511 *signature*

512 The melt-rock reaction leading to dunite formation from a harzburgite through orthopyroxene
513 dissolution is expected to result in a high intergranular permeability of the dunite, that
514 becomes a porous media for efficient melt transfer and extraction (Toramaru and Fujii, 1986;
515 Kelemen et al., 1995b). Dunite channels and horizons, filled or not with troctolitic cumulates,
516 have been mapped within the Maqsad mantle section and interpreted in terms of frozen
517 compaction waves (Ceuleneer et al, 1996; Rabinowicz and Ceuleneer, 2005). They are
518 common features in the Maqsad diapir but not significant in terms of volume. Hence, it is
519 unlikely that the DTZ formed by the transposition in the solid state of such dunitic bodies
520 generated at greater depth, especially since the DTZ dunites do not show any sign of
521 deformation. They better represent the final *in situ* reacting residue of complete dunitization
522 of the uppermost few hundred meters of the mantle induced by melt migration and extraction.
523 Regarding REE, pure dunites from the DTZ display lower HREE, similar and more variable
524 MREE, and higher and more variable LREE contents than harzburgites from the Maqsad

525 mantle section (Fig. 5a) (Godard et al. 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002). The lower HREE
526 content is in good agreement with a more refractory signature, i.e. depleted, following the
527 complete resorption of orthopyroxene. However, their LREE, Zr, Hf and Th contents are
528 systematically higher than in mantle harzburgites, as Nb, Ta and U in many cases (Fig. 5a and
529 5b). Considering a reacting melt with MORB-like affinities (e.g. Ceuleneer et al., 1996;
530 Benoit et al., 1996; Kelemen et al., 1997a; Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013), these signatures are
531 inconsistent with a genesis at the expense of the surrounding harzburgites alone following the
532 single-stage process described above (Godard et al., 1995; Vernières et al., 1997). Moreover,
533 the occurrence of interstitial minerals implies that the percolating melt suffered crystallization
534 after the harzburgite dunitization, associated to the last stage of percolation during the cooling
535 of the system. Then, one can envision the overprinting of two- or several contemporaneous or
536 successive stages processes in order to explain the dunite trace element signatures. It is worth
537 mentioning that the single- and two-stages processes were proposed in order to mimic
538 harzburgite signatures (Navon and Stolper, 1987; Godard et al., 1995; Vernières et al., 1997),
539 but it may be different for dunites.

540

541 As the trace element enrichment in pure dunites relative to harzburgites cannot be accounted
542 for by V1-type (e.g. Godard et al., 2003) MORB percolation alone, it therefore calls for the
543 additional involvement of a more enriched melt. In the same spirit Godard et al. (2000)
544 proposed the pervasive infiltration of volatile- and LILE-enriched small melt fractions to
545 account for the enrichment in Th, Nb and Ta relative to LREE in mantle harzburgites. The
546 interaction between an incompatible trace elements-enriched melt or fluid and the
547 surrounding dunites does not contradict the percolation of MORB through the DTZ, and the
548 migration of different kinds of melt is further supported by the variable composition of
549 clinopyroxenes located in interstitial position between olivine grains (Fig. 6) (see also Koga et

550 al., 2001) and by the presence of amphibole and orthopyroxene among other which are not
551 expected in the fractionation path of primitive MORB (Rospabé et al., 2017). Furthermore,
552 two strong arguments in favour to MORB percolation through the DTZ are the particularly
553 high CaO content in olivine especially observed in pure dunites (Fig. 4b), consistent with
554 MORB-dunite equilibration before cooling (Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013), and the high TiO₂
555 content in disseminated chromites and impregnant pyroxenes (Fig. 4e and f) (see also
556 Rospabé et al., 2017). In a profile view along the base (pure dunites) of the Buri cross section
557 (Fig. 1b), chemical evolutions from about 640 m to 700 m high show that high CaO values in
558 olivine are strongly correlated to other chemical species (Fig. 8), independently from the very
559 small amount of interstitial clinopyroxene (Table 1). This includes high Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} ratio in
560 whole rock (Gd increases from 2.5 to 9.5 ng/g respectively) and a higher concavity of the
561 REE patterns (i.e. well-defined U-/V-shaped REE patterns), but also higher Co content in
562 whole rock and TiO₂ content both in chromite and scarce minute clinopyroxenes. On the
563 contrary, the 700 m level is characterized by lower Fo in olivine (and Ni content both in
564 olivine and whole rock) and La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} ratio in whole rock (faster increase of Sm (from 4.8
565 to 7.8 ng/g) relative to La (from 1.1 to 5.0 ng/g)). Assuming that high CaO in olivine recorded
566 the last re-equilibration with a percolating MORB before cooling (Abily and Ceuleneer,
567 2013), these co-evolutions highlight that dunites had overprinted a prior enrichment in LREE
568 and a strong concave-upward REE pattern signature before the accumulation and the re-
569 equilibration with MORB at 700 m followed by the compaction of the dunitic matrix.

570

571 These observations have several major implications: (1) considering that such enrichments in
572 incompatible elements may be attributable to a low melt-rock ratio (i.e. low porosity) and/or
573 to chromatographic effects induced by the migration of a highly enriched melt (Navon and
574 Stolper, 1987; Godard et al., 1995; Vernières et al., 1997), the low CaO in olivine for the most

575 LREE-enriched samples better supports the re-equilibration with an incompatible elements-
576 rich melt or fluid early in the magmatic history of the DTZ; (2) dunites displaying the highest
577 $\text{La}_{\text{CN}}/\text{Sm}_{\text{CN}}$ ratios do not represent an end-member that was percolated by a higher amount of
578 melt (Navon and Stolper, 1987) but result from the more or less significant interaction with
579 this early enriched melt or fluid; (3) the percolation of MORB-type melts did not occur all
580 over the DTZ and seems to have been focused at some particular horizons at an advanced
581 stage of the DTZ structuration (i.e. here the 700 m high level); (4) the increase of the La, Sm
582 and Gd contents until 700 m implies that the re-equilibration with MORB indeed enhanced
583 the enrichment in the most incompatible LREE, but mostly affected and re-enriched the
584 dunitic matrix in the previously most depleted MREE. Especially, from the base to the
585 elevation of 700 m along the Buri cross section, the faster increase of $\text{Gd}_{\text{CN}}/\text{Dy}_{\text{CN}}$ (0.33 to
586 0.53) relative to $\text{Er}_{\text{CN}}/\text{Yb}_{\text{CN}}$ (0.47 to 0.53) follows the smoothing of MREE-HREE segment
587 pattern. In this way the linear REE patterns in dunites and harzburgites have been interpreted
588 as resulting from re-equilibration induced by MORB-type melt transport (Godard et al.,
589 2000), while concave-upward patterns observed through the DTZ and in mantle harzburgites
590 from the Maqsad area should be better related to the dunitization process. Therefore, MORB
591 percolation led to a decrease of the LREE/MREE and an increase and MREE/HREE ratios,
592 and to smoother REE patterns (i.e. exhibiting a lower concavity). Accordingly, dunites from
593 the DTZ appear to be generated after a multi-stages process: (1) a complete harzburgite
594 reactional melting during which enriched melt batches are generated probably in low volume
595 (i.e. melt generated by the incongruent melting of orthopyroxene associated with the
596 contribution of fluids and minor amount of MORB) followed by (2) a chemical re-
597 equilibration with larger amount of percolating MORB. In opposition with the model of
598 Navon and Stolper (1987), we propose that the incompatible trace elements-enriched
599 signature is a feature acquired early during the dunitization rather than later by the percolation

600 of enriched melts.

601

602 *6.3.3. About the habitus of incompatible trace elements in the dunitic matrix*

603 As previously discussed, the trace element enrichment in dunite, especially in LREE, may
604 better reflect magmatic processes rather than secondary alteration events (paragraph 6.1). It
605 supports the view that trace elements are hosted by the olivine itself rather than by interstitial
606 serpentine surrounding preserved grains and is in accordance with recent trace element data in
607 olivine obtained by laser ablation methods (e.g. Drouin et al., 2009; Rampone et al., 2016;
608 Stead et al., 2017). Sub-solidus re-equilibration between olivine and other mineral phases may
609 eventually occur (Sun and Liang, 2014) and lead to trace element enrichments at olivine
610 grains boundary (Stead et al., 2017), while other studies propose that these particular
611 geochemical signatures reflect analytical artefacts or the entrapment of small LREE-rich melt
612 inclusions (e.g. Lee et al., 2007). The analytical method we developed (Rospabé et al., 2018)
613 allowed us to establish with confidence that the extensive enrichment in LREE relative to
614 MREE in pure dunites (Fig. 5) is a reliable result. These enrichments thus cannot be
615 satisfactorily explained both by analytical effects or re-equilibration with other minerals.
616 Furthermore, we did not detect melt inclusions through microscopic observations and during
617 the electron microprobe sessions, although the existence of inclusions smaller than about 10
618 μm cannot be excluded. Finally, the absence of zoning in olivine grains, at least in terms of
619 major elements, does not militate for a possible concentration of incompatible elements at
620 grain boundaries. All these observations support the hosting of the incompatible trace
621 elements by crystal lattices in olivine consecutively to re-equilibration of the olivine matrix
622 with interstitial melts during their migration through the DTZ. Sub-solidus re-equilibration
623 between different olivine grains may lead to the trace element content smoothing between
624 rims and cores, but stays a hypothetical track at this stage and should be explored in future

625 works.

626

627 *6.4. Refertilization induced by melt transport*

628 Interstitial minerals in impregnated dunites may be considered as crystallization products
629 from a melt percolating through the residual and porous dunitic media (e.g. Benn et al., 1988;
630 Rabinowicz et al., 1987; Kelemen et al., 1995a; Boudier and Nicolas, 1995; Koga et al.,
631 2001), rather than as trapped melts not perfectly extracted (e.g. Faul, 1997; Sundberg et al.,
632 2010). This reasonable assumption is supported by the systematic high Mg# in pyroxenes and
633 generally high An in plagioclases, as well as by the low REE contents both in clinopyroxenes
634 and whole rocks, that are all together not expected in the case of MORB-like melt entrapment
635 between olivine grains (see also Koga et al., 2001). Basically, the whole impregnated dunite
636 composition is strongly impacted by the modal abundance of these interstitial minerals,
637 especially by the amount of clinopyroxene (Fig. 5 and Appendix C).

638

639 *6.4.1. Diversity of the percolating melts within the Maqsad DTZ*

640 Calculated melts in equilibrium with clinopyroxenes impregnating the DTZ appear much
641 more variable than the melts that migrated through the mantle section (Benoit et al., 1996;
642 Benoit, 1997) and the V1 lavas constituting the upper crust in the Sumail massif (Godard et
643 al., 2003) (Fig. 9). Three main types of patterns are observed: clinopyroxenes in equilibrium
644 with (1) a N-MORB type melt (1 sample of cpx-bearing dunite) (Fig. 9a), (2) LREE-enriched
645 melts (mainly in (pl)/cpx-bearing dunites) (Fig. 9b), (3) strongly LREE-depleted melts
646 (mainly in (amph)/opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunites) (Fig. 9c). HREE melt concentrations are
647 basically in the variation range of the MORB-type (or V1, Godard et al., 2003) lavas but are
648 much more variable in LREE. The presence of minerals supposed to be in equilibrium with
649 both LREE-enriched and LREE-depleted melts through the DTZ may reflect either the mixing

650 between various melt batches, including a high proportion of deep melts issued from low
651 mantle partial melting degrees, or the reaction at shallow depth between a primitive MORB
652 and residual depleted peridotites (Sobolev, 1996; Kelemen et al., 1997b; Koga et al., 2001).
653 The first hypothesis would seem unlikely here since the absence of such derived enriched-like
654 cumulates in the mantle section. Indeed, MORB-parent melts that crystallized primitive
655 troctolite sills cropping out in the Maqsad harzburgites show quite geochemical variations
656 attributable to different degrees of partial melting within the diapir (Benoit, 1997), but that are
657 much more restricted than the melt diversity described here.

658

659 *6.4.2. Early generation of enriched melt batches during dunitization*

660 The Maqsad area is characterized by the absence of cumulates crystallized from an enriched
661 parent melt within both the mantle section and the DTZ (Benoit et al., 1996; Kelemen et al.,
662 1997a; Python and Ceuleneer, 2013). According to this and to the trace element enrichments
663 in pure dunites (Fig. 5), we propose the early production of LREE-enriched melts at Moho
664 level (Fig. 9b) further related to melt-rock reactions rather than originated from depth. These
665 melts can be related to the SiO₂-enriched melts produced during incongruent melting of the
666 orthopyroxene and expected following the study of other ophiolitic massifs (Dick, 1977;
667 Quick, 1981; Kelemen, 1990; Kelemen et al., 1992). The early involvement of an enriched
668 melt responsible of the incompatible trace element enrichment in olivine, deduced from the
669 whole pure dunite composition, is in accordance with this interpretation.

670

671 The genesis of highly enriched melts during dunitization, and the incipient crystallization,
672 may be related to reactive crystallization (Collier and Kelemen, 2010). This process was
673 identified as the main cause of clinopyroxene chemical zoning in olivine-rich troctolites from
674 slow spreading environments: cores were generated by fractional crystallization from a

675 percolating melt while enriched rims result from the fractionation after the contamination of
676 the melt by assimilation of the surrounding peridotite (e.g. Suhr et al., 2008; Drouin et al.,
677 2009; Sanfilippo et al., 2013, 2015; Rampone et al., 2016). Especially, the resorption of
678 orthopyroxene seems to be a credible source for this particular signature, allowing to
679 important Zr_{CN}/Nd_{CN} fractionation (until 1.5) with the increase of REE contents (Sanfilippo et
680 al., 2015). In this way, the dunitization, when directly followed by interstitial mineral
681 fractionation, can be presented as a kind of reactive crystallization process considering the
682 enrichment in silica and incompatible trace elements of the residual melt. However, in this
683 study, clinopyroxene grains analyzed for their trace elements are not zoned and present low
684 Zr_{CN}/Nd_{CN} ratios (0.34-0.74; 0.47 in average) with no observed correlation with Yb, similar to
685 clinopyroxene cores in olivine-rich troctolites. This highlights that the chemical evolution of
686 enriched melt batches is probably, in the frame of the Maqsad DTZ, firstly dominated by the
687 residual orthopyroxene assimilation process by MORB (i.e. reactive crystallization in the case
688 of clinopyroxene fractionation at this stage). Following the complete orthopyroxene
689 resorption, fractional crystallization occurs while MORB issued from partial melting within
690 the Maqsad diapir are introduced and transferred through the porous olivine matrix without
691 any further reaction.

692

693 *6.4.3. Differentiation and hybridization of the percolating melts within the Maqsad DTZ*

694 Oppositely, further hypotheses may be proposed concerning the LREE-depleted melts (Fig.
695 9c), which may reflect (1) the assimilation of the surrounding dunite at an advanced
696 refertilization stage (i.e. reactive crystallization products), (2) the later sub-solidus re-
697 equilibration between clinopyroxene crystals and neighbouring mineral phases (e.g. Sun and
698 Liang, 2014), (3) the result of hybridization between a latter percolating MORB and hydrous
699 fluids (Rospabé et al. 2017). The two first hypotheses difficultly account for the large

700 chemical variations in clinopyroxene, that is the most common and abundant impregnant
701 phase in DTZ dunites, especially concerning the variable slope of the HREE segment (Figs. 6
702 and 9). However, the third hypothesis is supported by the fact that the LREE-depleted
703 signature is observed mainly in samples containing interstitial orthopyroxene and/or
704 amphibole, minerals previously interpreted as fractionated from a hybrid melt between
705 MORB and hydrous fluids (Rospabé et al., 2017). In this scenario this hybrid component may
706 contribute to the exotic melt involved in the formation of disseminated chromites and
707 chromitite ore bodies as suggested by the numerous inclusions of hydrous minerals in
708 chromite (Lorand et Ceuleneer, 1989; Leblanc et Ceuleneer, 1991; Borisova et al., 2012;
709 Rospabé et al., 2017; Johan et al., 2017).

710

711 To conclude, our study reveals that the variability in the composition of the melts responsible
712 of the dunite formation and of their petrological and geochemical evolution is extremely
713 pronounced (see also Sanfilippo et al., 2014, 2017). A working hypothesis is to consider that
714 such wide melt variability is a specificity of the DTZ and reflects local melt/fluid-rock
715 reactions rather than a complex mixing of deep-seated melt batches. This assumption is
716 supported by the fact that some clinopyroxene grains exhibiting different patterns were
717 analysed in samples collected in nearly same locations (Table 1 and Appendix B). According
718 to the observed clinopyroxene chemical heterogeneity, it appears that the DTZ evolved as an
719 open reactive system in which melts fractions issued from strong melt-rock interactions
720 evolved by fractional crystallization and hybridization and were far from being fully
721 homogenised before being supplied to the lower crust.

722

723 *6.5. Synthetic model for the formation of the Maqsad DTZ*

724 As pointed out here above, none of the four main processes that are discussed - (1)

725 serpentinization or secondary weathering, (2) fractionation and accumulation of olivine, (3)
726 harzburgite reactional melting and re-equilibration related to melt percolation into dunite
727 porosity, and (4) refertilization through minerals crystallization from percolating melts
728 interstitially between olivine grains - may account alone for the wide spectrum of
729 geochemical signatures observed in whole rock and mineral compositions of the DTZ,
730 although each can contribute to account for part of this variability, depending on the elements
731 considered. This indicates that the DTZ records an overprinting of several processes.

732

733 In attempt to propose a general scenario describing the development of the Maqsad DTZ,
734 Figure 10 summarizes the different steps deduced from the whole rock and mineral major and
735 trace element signatures. The starting lithology, i.e. the harzburgite from the specific Maqsad
736 area, present a slight but significant LREE enrichment relative to the harzburgites from the
737 main mantle section located far away from the diapir (Fig. 10a) (Godard et al., 2000). Acting
738 as a filter for ascending melts, the top of the diapir is progressively transformed into dunites
739 by interaction with interstitial melts, probably of MORB affinity (Fig. 10b). This process
740 leads to the depletion in HREE in the residual dunite due to the resorption of the last
741 pyroxenes and to the enrichment in LREE and other incompatible trace elements (HFSE, Th,
742 U and possibly some LILE as Rb and Ba). This signature is better explained by the early
743 generation of small batches of enriched melts in response to orthopyroxene incongruent
744 melting (i.e. enriched residual melt). At start, the reaction is driven by MORB/harzburgite
745 interaction but the olivine matrix records the solely incompatible trace elements enrichment,
746 calling for a very low porosity needed to preserve this signature. It has been proposed that
747 high temperature hydrothermal fluids were involved in dunite formation or as early as the
748 mantle dunitization process (Bowen and Tuttle, 1949; Rospabé et al., 2017; Johan et al.,
749 2017); the enriched signature described in this paper may be another evidence for the early

750 hydration of the DTZ. Following this, the dunitization will increase the permeability, as
751 MORB-like melts delivered by the mantle continue to invade the matrix. Those melts no
752 longer contribute to mineralogical reaction following the complete orthopyroxene resorption
753 within the host rock, and then may accumulate at Moho level or feed the crust (Fig. 10c and
754 10d). Chemical re-equilibration occurs during MORB percolation, leading to a slight LREE
755 and mainly MREE enrichment in the host dunite, i.e. the re-equilibration process seems to
756 mainly affect the most depleted trace elements in the dunitic matrix independently from the
757 partition coefficient between those elements and olivine. The chemical overprinting of this
758 stage occurs until the compaction of the matrix and the resulting melt extraction. It is worth
759 mentioning that all the intermediate cases may exist between a pure dunite having preserved
760 its prior enriched signature (Fig. 10e) and another one having been fully re-equilibrated with
761 MORB (Fig. 10f). Therefore, pure dunites may be considered as a witness of a magmatic
762 system closed at very high temperature (i.e. above the olivine-plagioclase-clinopyroxene
763 ternary cotectic). Depending on the thermal state of the DTZ, and certainly on the primitive or
764 evolved nature of the percolating melt, crystallization will or not occur interstitially. As
765 supposed following the various REE patterns calculated for the olivine matrix hosting some
766 impregnating clinopyroxene (Appendix C), mineral fractionation occurs concomitantly with
767 the melt percolation and re-equilibration processes (Fig. 10g). Among other, the circulation of
768 hydrous fluids at Moho level during the structuration of the DTZ explains: (1) the higher
769 amount of impregnations approaching the base of the crust witnessing the former thermal
770 gradient across DTZ (Rospabé et al., 2017; see also Dygert et al., 2017), (2) the harzburgite
771 dunitization in the specific context of the DTZ, and not to deeper dunite channels within the
772 mantle section, and (3) the interstitial mineralogy indicative of the percolation of exotic
773 hybrid melts certainly involved in the transport of high amount of Cr - potentially released
774 from orthopyroxene during the dunitization (Johan et al., 2017) - and its concentration in

775 disseminated chromites and chromitite pods (Rospabé et al., 2017). In the case of a much
776 colder environment as in slower-spreading environment (Collier and Kelemen, 2010),
777 extreme refertilization potentially occur through a more efficient assimilation of the olivine
778 matrix coupled to fractional crystallization (reactive crystallization), leading to the formation
779 of olivine-rich troctolites as observed in samples collected along present-day mid-ocean
780 ridges or within ophiolites DTZ (e.g. Suhr et al., 2008; Drouin et al., 2009; Dick et al., 2010;
781 Sanfilippo and Tribuzio, 2013b; Sanfilippo et al., 2013, 2014, 2015; Rampone et al., 2016).
782 At this stage, it cannot be excluded that the fractional crystallization dominated the
783 refertilization process within the Maqsad DTZ, relative to reactive crystallization, due to the
784 fast spreading environment in which the Oman ophiolite likely evolved. Another possibility
785 consists in the fast cooling of this oceanic lithosphere fragment, related to the oceanic
786 thrusting that directly followed the lithosphere accretion and that fossilized the system in a
787 high temperature configuration (Boudier et al., 1988). Finally, in regard to the whole dunites
788 and mineral major and trace elements, it appears that both pure and variably impregnated
789 dunites represent end-members that can be generated independently.

790

791 As shown, the re-equilibration with percolating MORB did not occur equally all along the
792 DTZ but was more efficient at some specific levels (Fig. 8) (see also Abily and Ceuleneer,
793 2013), suggesting that the dunitic matrix was either unequally compacted when MORB
794 migrated through it or that the MORB percolation was locally focused. This feature may be
795 partially explained by a model of progressive downward dunitization of the mantle
796 harzburgites at the top of the Maqsad diapir (Abily and Ceuleneer, 2013). During this process,
797 the compaction may progress downward, possibly in response from cooling from above,
798 through successive steps and then may spatially constrain the porous fronts in which MORB
799 may have accumulated. Clearly, some horizons of the DTZ remained isolated early after

800 dunitization and other horizons were intensely re-equilibrated with MORB more or less
801 hybridized with hydrous, likely hydrothermal fluids.

802

803 **7. Conclusion**

804 Major and trace elements of 79 pure to highly impregnated dunites from the Oman ophiolite
805 and the composition of the impregnation minerals revealed a large petrological and chemical
806 variability. The dunitic matrix - measured pure dunites and modelled olivine matrix in
807 impregnated dunites - is characterized by a more or less pronounced concave-upward REE
808 pattern and a variable enrichment in other incompatible HFSE, Th, U, Rb and Ba. Their REE
809 and multi-elements patterns are highly scattered implying that no dominant single process
810 controlled the dunite formation. Chemical evolutions suggest that the enriched signature was
811 recorded early during the dunitization by interaction between the surrounding olivine matrix
812 and incompatible trace elements-rich small melt batches at low melt/rock ratios. The latest
813 MORB percolation leads to a cryptic metasomatism expressed as smoothest REE patterns,
814 among others, inducing flattest slopes in HREE and LREE patterns. This scenario contradicts
815 the later percolation of a deep-seated enriched melt and better supports that hybrid enriched
816 melts are generated by melt/rock reactions at an early magmatic stage within the DTZ beneath
817 mid-ocean spreading centers.

818

819 Our survey shows that these different signatures are variably distributed along the DTZ. This
820 implies that some horizons have been compacted early immediately following the mantle
821 harzburgites dunitization, while others maintained a high enough permeability to drain
822 MORB and make possible re-equilibration. The physical processes that condition the
823 heterogeneous chemical distribution along the DTZ remains quite enigmatic at this stage.
824 Pure and impregnated dunites may be considered as two lithological end-members starting

825 from a common dunitized peridotitic matrix: the first have been compacted at very high
826 temperature after various chemical re-equilibration degrees and the complete extraction of
827 interstitial percolating melts, while the others have been modally refertilized before the
828 extraction of the residual melt. In this frame, the combination of whole dunites and *in situ*
829 minerals major and trace elements compositions reveals undoubtedly the multi-stages
830 processes involved in the DTZ generation.

831

832 Finally, based on the chemical variability within the different minerals observed in dunites
833 from the DTZ, we conclude that if MORB magmas generated by mantle partial melting may
834 have been partly homogenized within the uppermost mantle before being supplied to the
835 mantle-crust transition zone, melt-rock reactions and hybridization processes occurring within
836 the DTZ may generate new, exotic and/or hybrid, melt batches that will participate to the
837 oceanic crust genesis and potentially to the MORB heterogeneity. The precise relationship
838 between the evolution of the Maqsad diapir, the N130 paleo-ridge axis, and the vertical
839 petrological and geochemical signatures across the DTZ is a complex three-dimensional
840 problem and could be deciphered by a more comprehensive structural, petrological and
841 geochemical survey of the area.

842

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857

858 **Figure 1.** Geological map of the Oman ophiolite showing (1) the spatial distribution of the
859 mantle and crustal sections and (2) the two main magmatic suites displayed along the
860 ophiolite regarding the nature of the dikes cross-cutting the mantle section, characterized as
861 the depleted-andesitic series and the and N-MORB tholeiitic one (a). The Sumail massif
862 exposes a dunitic transition zone of about 300 m thick above the Maqsad mantle diapir (b).
863 Four cross sections were sampled in this area.

864

865 **Figure 2.** Photomicrographs illustrating the mineralogical diversity that allowed to define the
866 different lithological facies observed within the Oman ophiolite DTZ, with the olivines
867 constituting the matrix of a pure dunite (a), the comparison between a well developed
868 impregnant clinopyroxene oikocryst in a cpx-bearing dunite (b) with a small interstitial
869 diopside in a pure dunite (c), a plagioclase oikocryst in a pl/cpx-bearing dunite (d), an
870 orthopyroxene oikocryst in a opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunite (e), and an amphibole in a amphibole-
871 bearing dunite.

872

873 **Figure 3.** Whole rock major and minor element compositions of the studied dunites in the
874 Maqsad dunites (coloured circles) compared to other DTZ dunites (open circles), mantle

875 harzburgites (open squares) and cpx-harzburgites/lherzolites (open diamonds) from the Oman
876 ophiolite (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002; Takazawa et al., 2003; Monnier et al.,
877 2006; Hanghøj et al., 2010; Khedr et al., 2014; Nicolle et al., 2016). (a) MgO/SiO₂ versus
878 Al₂O₃/SiO₂, (b) total iron as FeO versus MgO, (c) Al₂O₃ versus CaO, and (d) Ni and (e) Co as
879 a function of the Mg# ratio ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}_{\text{total}})$). Compositions are recalculated on
880 a volatile-free basis. Grey bar in panel (a) represents the silicate Earth differentiation trend (or
881 “terrestrial array”) (Jagoutz et al., 1979). Dashed black line in panel (b) represents the
882 variation of olivine composition constrained by FeO + MgO = 66.67 mol% following Godard
883 et al. (2000). Dashed grey lines in panels (b) and (c) represent constant Mg# and Al₂O₃/CaO
884 ratios respectively.

885

886 **Figure 4.** Mineral major element compositions of the studied dunites from the Maqsad area
887 illustrated in (a) NiO in olivine, (b) CaO in olivine and (c) Mg# in whole rock as a function of
888 Fo in olivine, in (d) Cr# ($100 \times \text{molar Cr}/(\text{Cr} + \text{Al})$) in chromite versus Fo in olivine with the
889 olivine-spinel mantle array (OSMA) from (Arai, 1987; Arai, 1994) (grey field), (e) TiO₂
890 versus Mg# ratio ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}^{2+})$) in chromite and (f) TiO₂ as a function of Mg#
891 ratio ($100 \times \text{molar Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}^{2+})$) in clinopyroxene. Dark blue dots in clinopyroxene plots
892 are the small diopsides observed at olivine grains rims in both pure and impregnated dunites.
893 They are plotted whatever their hosting lithological facies, displaying a composition range
894 spanning between igneous clinopyroxenes and pure hydrothermal diopsides (Rospabé et al.,
895 2017).

896

897 **Figure 5.** Whole rock chondrite-normalized REE (a, c, e and g) and Primitive Mantle-
898 normalized multi-elements (b, b, f and h) patterns of the studied dunites from the Maqsad
899 dunitic transition zone. Colour labels following the figure 2 for pure dunites (a and b), cpx-

900 bearing dunites (c and d), pl/cpx-bearing dunites (e and f), and opx/pl/cpx-bearing dunites and
901 amphibole-bearing dunites (\pm opx, pl and cpx) (g and h). In the panels (a) and (b) pure dunites
902 patterns (blue lines) are compared to the harzburgites from the whole Oman ophiolite mantle
903 section (white field framed with a dashed black line) (Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002; Takazawa et
904 al., 2003; Monnier et al., 2006; Hanghøj et al., 2010; Khedr et al., 2014; Nicolle et al., 2016)
905 and to the main mantle harzburgites from the Sumail massif (light grey field), the harzburgites
906 from the Maqsad diapir area (medium grey field) and few other dunites from the Maqsad
907 DTZ (dark grey field) (Godard et al., 2000; Gerbert-Gaillard, 2002). In other panels each
908 lithological facies is compared to the field of pure dunites from this study (blue fields).
909 Normalizing chondrite and Primitive Mantle values are from Barrat et al. (2012) and Sun and
910 McDonough (1989) respectively.

911

912 **Figure 6.** Clinopyroxene chondrite-normalized REE (a) and Primitive Mantle-normalized
913 multi-elements patterns (b). Normalizing chondrite and Primitive Mantle values are from
914 Barrat et al. (2012) and Sun and McDonough (1989) respectively.

915

916 **Figure 7.** Trace element co-evolutions in pure dunites represented as (a) La, (b) U, (c) Zr, (d)
917 Ta, (e) Rb and (f) Ba as a function of Th.

918

919 **Figure 8.** Chemical evolutions along the base of the Buri cross section, made of pure dunites,
920 illustrated in Fo and NiO in olivine, and whole rock La_{CN}/Sm_{CN} and Gd_{CN}/Yb_{CN} ratios as well
921 as the degree of concavity of their REE patterns, all as a function of the absolute elevation of
922 the sampling site. The concavity of the REE patterns was calculated for each sample as
923 $[\sqrt{(Sm_{CN} \times Gd_{CN})}/\sqrt{(Ce_{CN} \times Yb_{CN})} - 1]$. All these co-evolutions are a further strong evidence
924 for the hosting of incompatible trace elements by olivine itself.

925

926 **Figure 9.** Calculated equilibrium melts with the interstitial clinopyroxenes in impregnated
927 dunites from the Maqsad DTZ. Clinopyroxene compositions were averaged for each sample
928 to perform the calculation. Compositions are presented following the shape of the REE
929 patterns with (a) MORB-type melts, (b) LREE-enriched melts and (c) LREE-depleted melts.
930 Calculated melts are compared to the Oman ophiolite V1 (red field) and V2 (green fields)
931 lavas (Godard et al., 2003; Godard et al., 2006) and boninites (dark green field) (Ishikawa et
932 al., 2002; Ishikawa et al., 2005). N-MORB values are from Sun and McDonough (1989).
933 Partitioning coefficients used in the calculation are from Bédard (1994) and normalizing
934 chondrite values are from Barrat et al. (2012). It is worth mentioning that clinopyroxene is the
935 most abundant impregnating phase, and is supposed to display the higher trace element
936 contents in dunites, together with amphibole. In regard of the large HREE content variations
937 in clinopyroxene, it is difficult to account for this variability following sub-solidus re-
938 equilibration with other minerals present (e.g. Sun and Liang, 2014), especially in the
939 restricted temperature range expected with the cotectique ol-pl-cpx. Thus it is assumed that
940 re-equilibration between clinopyroxene and neighbouring olivine, orthopyroxene, plagioclase
941 and/or amphibole is negligible as far as the REE are concerned (i.e. the assumption of a low
942 REE diffusivity at subsolidus temperature following Van Orman et al., 2001). Then, the
943 calculation of the inferred melt in equilibrium from which the clinopyroxene crystallized
944 allows investigating the nature of the melt that percolated and fractionated interstitial minerals
945 through dunitic rocks.

946

947 **Figure 10.** Synthetic model for the genesis of the dunites from the Maqsad DTZ,
948 summarizing the melt-rock reactions leading to their high petrological and geochemical
949 variability: (a) incongruent melting of orthopyroxene in mantle harzburgites just below Moho

950 level, (b) neo-formed dunite comprising interstitial high-silica and trace elements-enriched
951 small melt batches, (c) MORB infiltration within the porosity, leading to a hybridization
952 process between the former enriched melt and the incoming MORB, and (d) intense migration
953 of variably evolved MORB batches, leading to variably extensive chemical re-equilibration
954 with the surrounding dunitic matrix. Pure dunites may be produced at different stages over the
955 successive melt-rock reactions, directly following the dunites genesis when they are enriched
956 in the most incompatible elements as LREE (U-shaped REE pattern as the blue line) (e), or
957 after strong re-equilibration with the percolating MORB that allowed to the enrichment in
958 MREE in the olivine matrix (i.e. smoothing of the REE pattern) (f). The chemical signature of
959 pure dunites will first depend on the amount of melt that percolated and re-equilibrated with
960 the host dunites and second on the chemistry of this melt. In some cases, mineral
961 crystallization occurs through the DTZ leading to the formation of impregnated dunites after
962 extraction of the residual melt and compaction of the matrix (g). Refertilization may occur at
963 any moment of the evolution of the system, either within a neo-formed dunite or within a
964 fully re-equilibrated one after intense MORB percolation. In that case the whole rock
965 chemical signature will depend on (1) the composition of the olivine matrix, (2) the amount of
966 fractionated minerals interstitially and (3) the composition of these minerals.

967

968 **Table 1.** Location and modal composition of the samples analysed in this study. The modal
969 abundance of each mineral was calculated using both whole rock and mineral major elements.
970 Mode calculations were systematically compared to and are in good agreement with thin
971 section observations.

972

973 **Appendix A.** Whole rock major and trace element compositions.

974

975 **Appendix B.** Mineral major element compositions and clinopyroxene trace element
976 compositions.

977

978 **Appendix C.** Modelling of the interstitial minerals modal abundance influence on the whole
979 rock chemical content

980

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Figure 1

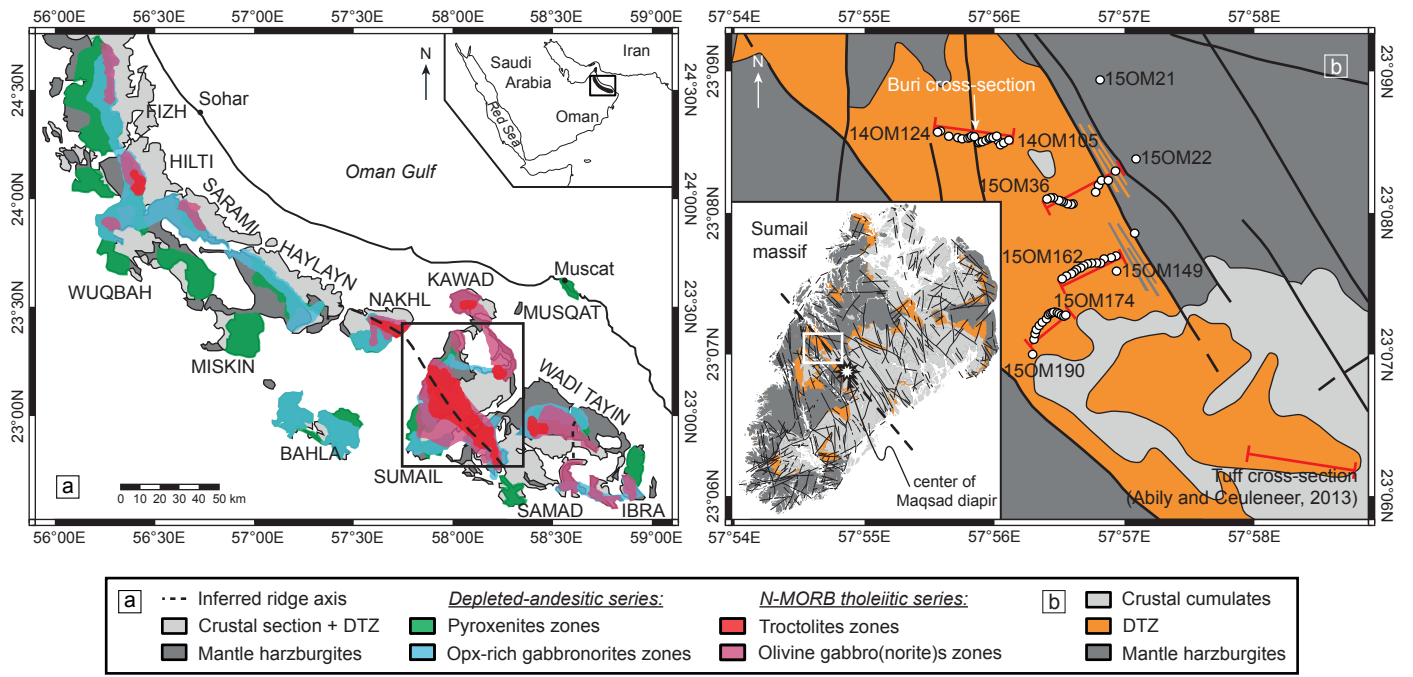


Figure 2

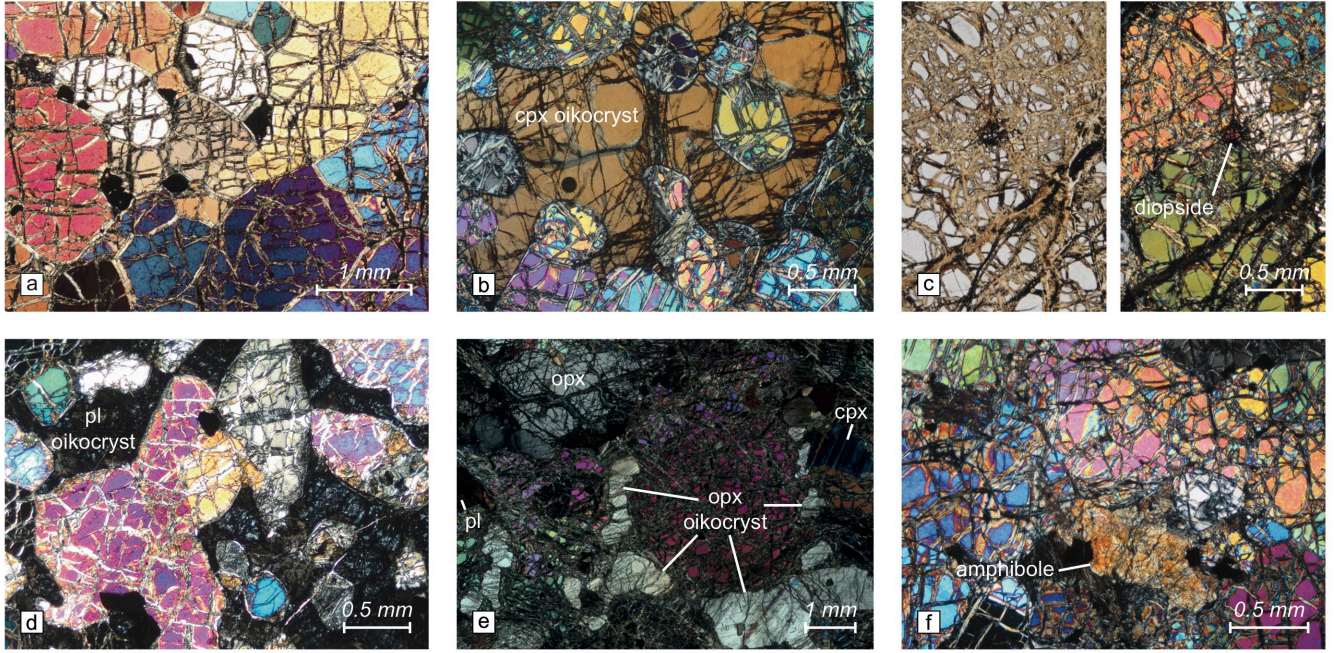


Figure 3

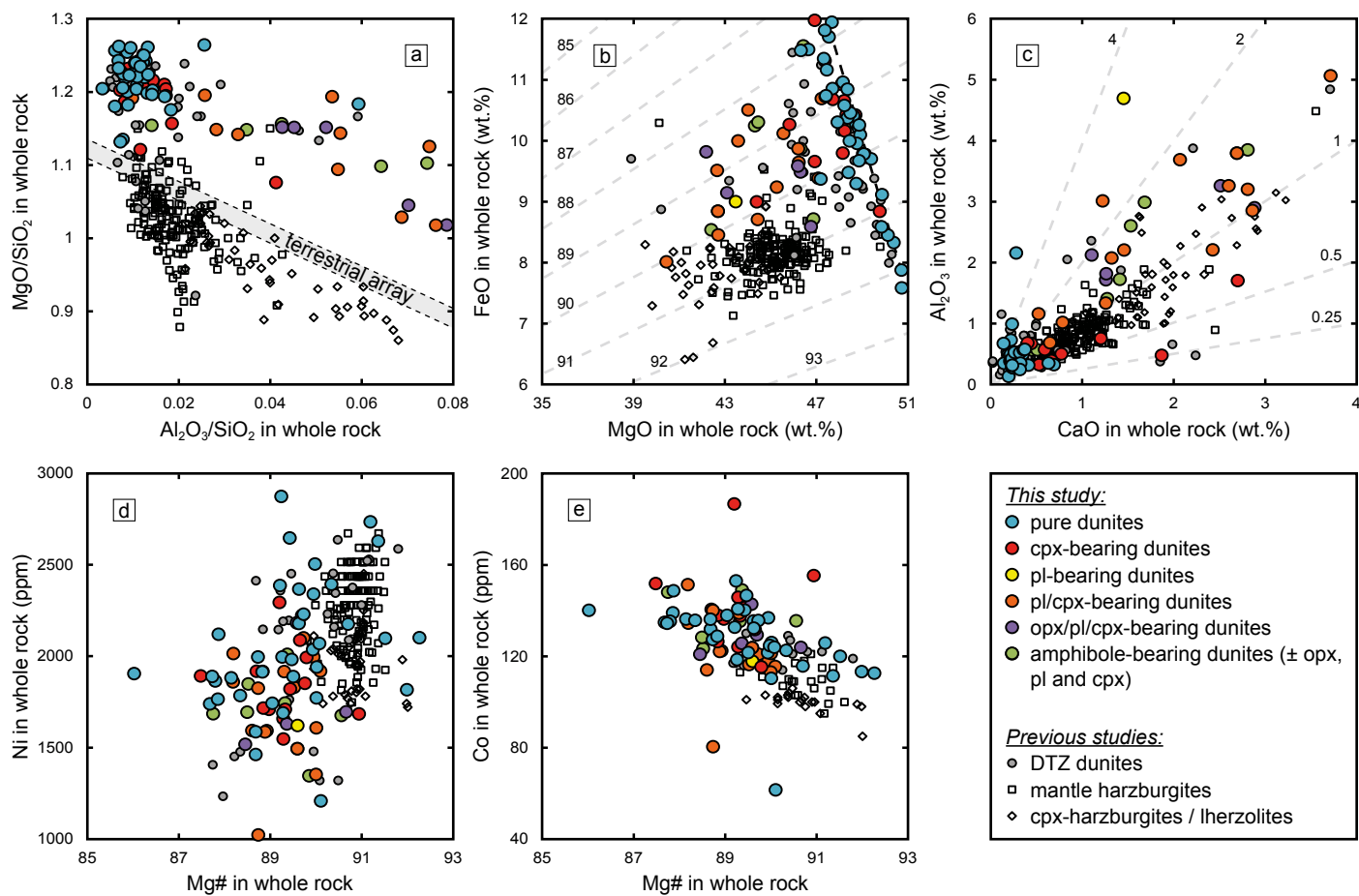


Figure 4

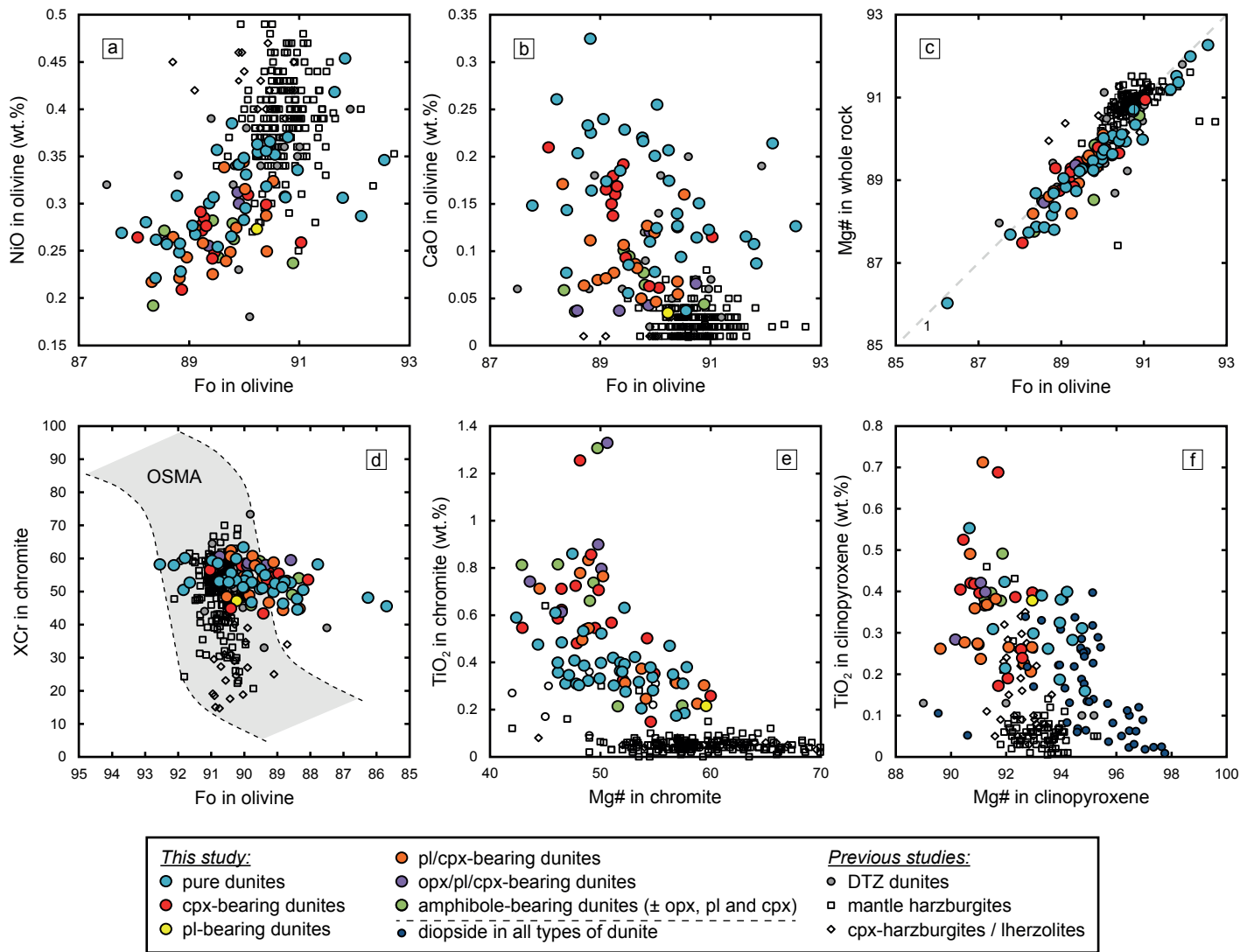


Figure 5

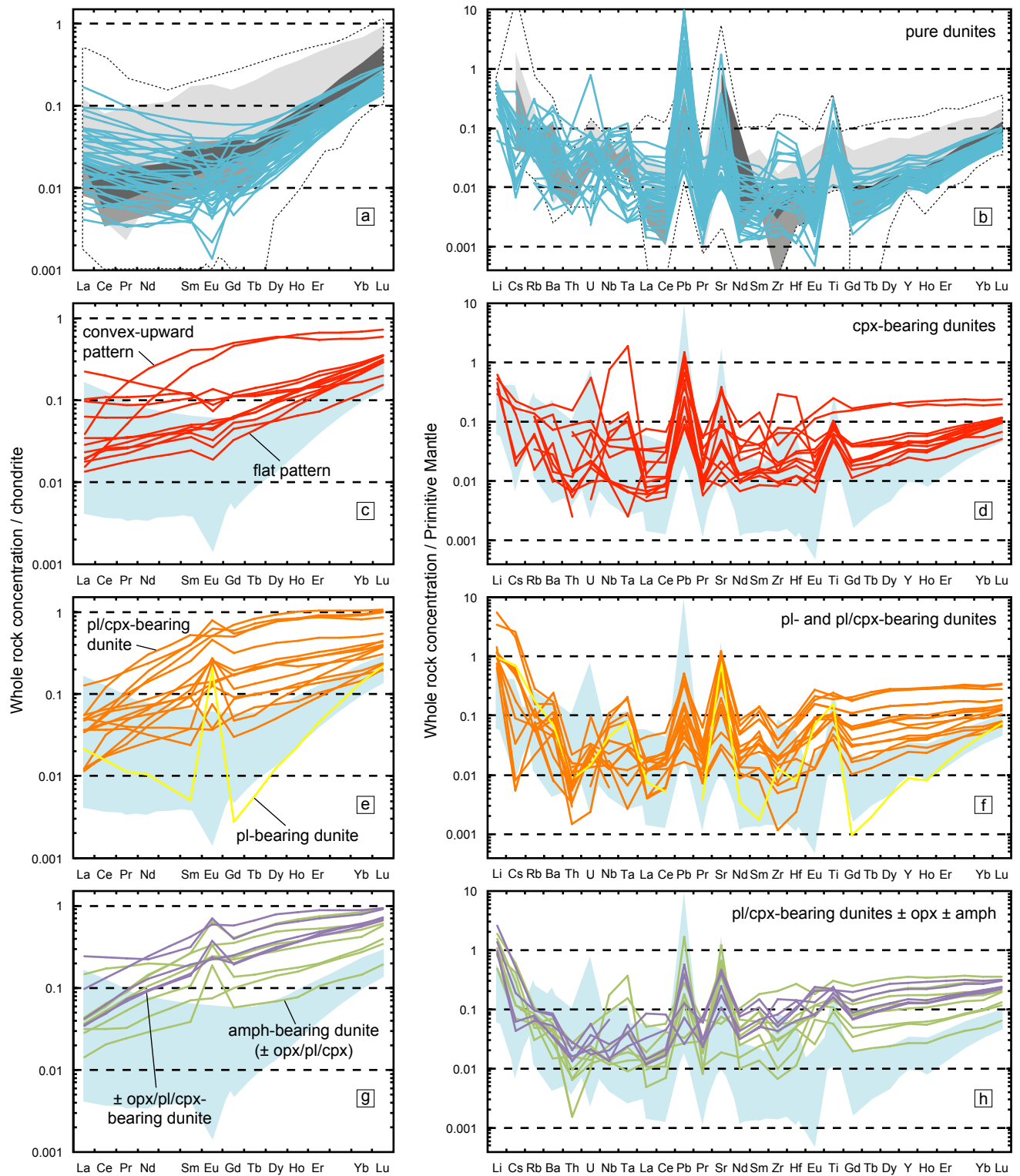


Figure 6

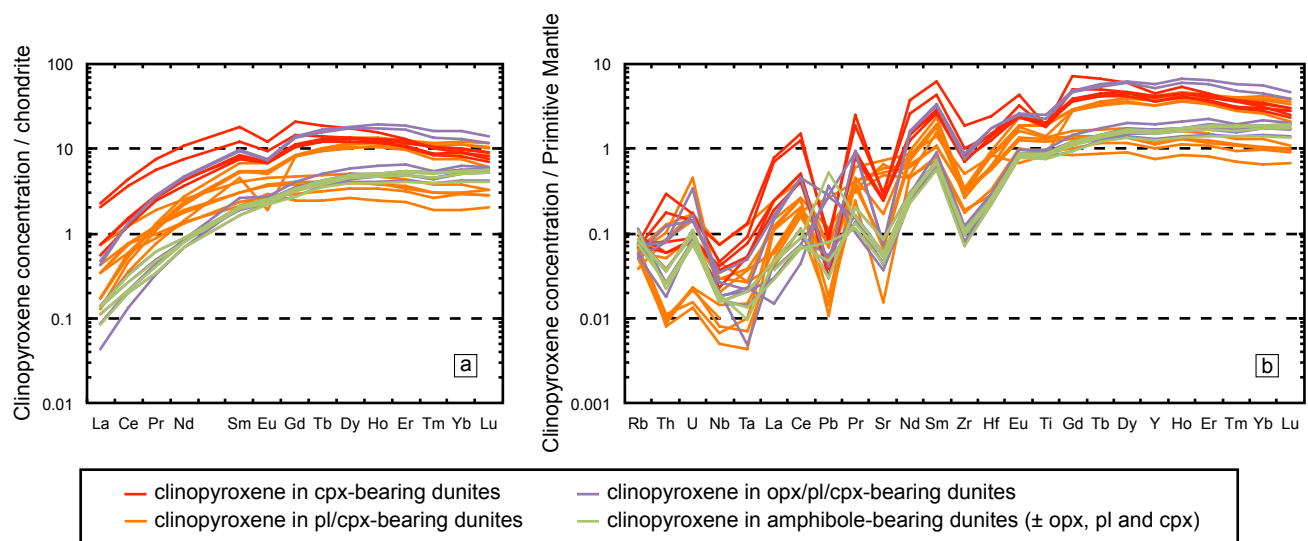


Figure 7

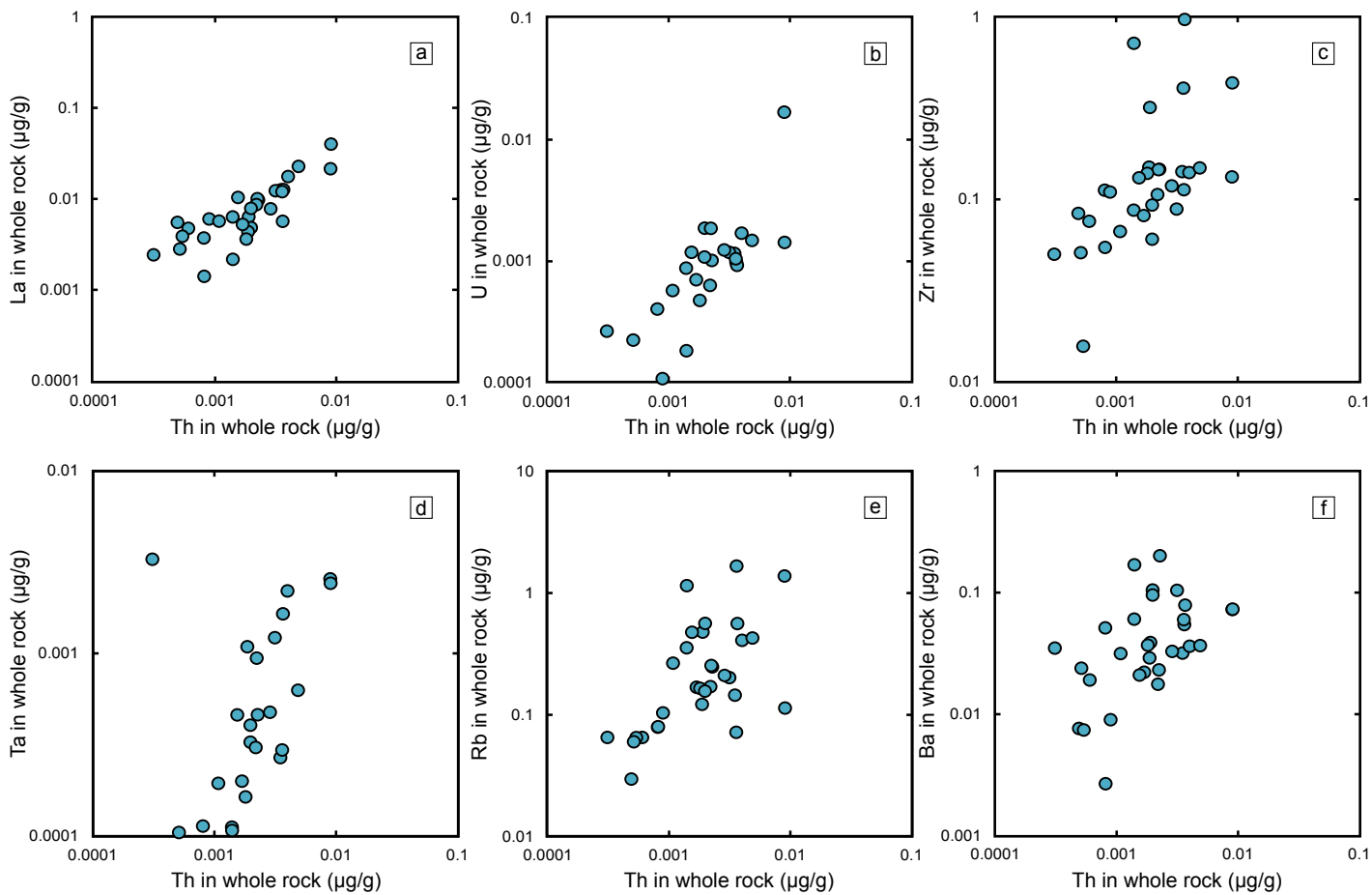


Figure 8

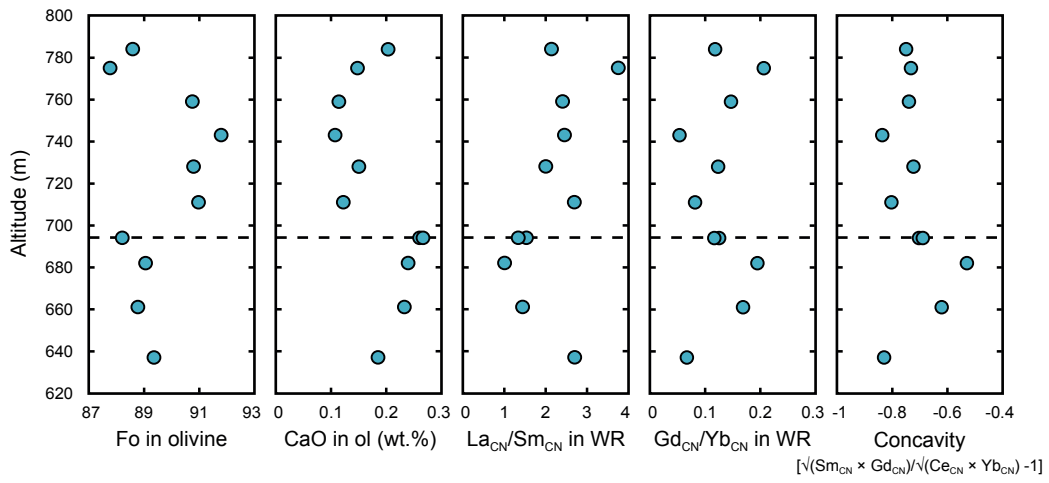


Figure 9

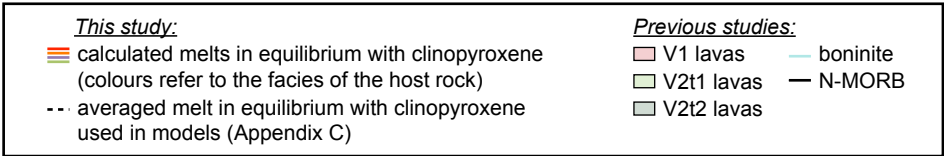
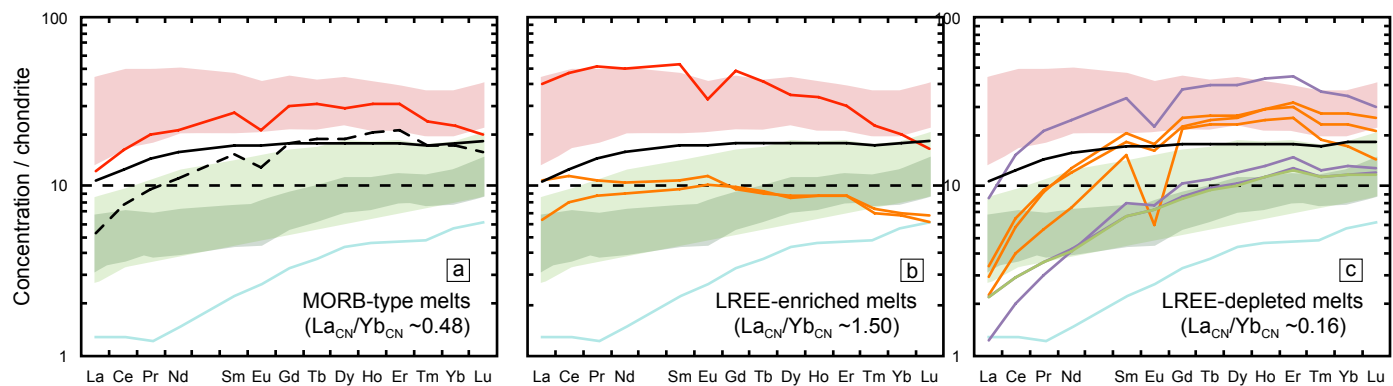


Figure 10

