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## Insights from the Alpine Corsica pseudotachylyte-bearing Monte Maggiore ophiolitic unit

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1 **Seismically-induced serpentine dehydration as a possible mechanism of water release in**  
2 **subduction zones. Insights from the Alpine Corsica pseudotachylyte-bearing Monte Maggiore**  
3 **ophiolitic unit**

4

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15

16 HIGHLIGHTS

- 17 - Seismic rupture can propagate through serpentinized peridotite in subducting slabs at 20 to 30 km
- 18 depths.
- 19 - Co-seismic frictional melting can locally dehydrate antigorite into olivine.
- 20 - Co-seismic dehydration appears as a possible source of water in subducting slabs.

21 ABSTRACT

22 The Monte Maggiore ophiolitic unit of Alpine Corsica consists of an intact to variably hydrated spinel lherzolite  
23 intruded by Jurassic gabbro dykes. A widespread serpentinization, marked by low-pressure serpentine  
24 polymorphs, results from sea water interaction with mantle rocks during Jurassic sea-floor spreading of the  
25 Piemonte-Liguria ocean. A second serpentinization event, marked by the presence of antigorite, is related to the  
26 Cretaceous to Paleogene subduction of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic lithosphere. Tectonic pseudotachylyte  
27 veins locally, crosscutting the unit, display several original characteristics. (1) They are hosted by serpentinite,  
28 showing that seismic ruptures can propagate through hydrated mantle rocks. (2) The host serpentinite in contact  
29 with pseudotachylyte veins shows a thin (500  $\mu\text{m}$  or less) rim of secondary olivine newly crystallized at the  
30 expense of serpentine. The heat necessary for serpentine dehydration is likely provided by the frictional melt.  
31 Antigorite-bearing clasts (themselves partly dehydrated along their boundaries) reworked in pseudotachylyte  
32 veins on one hand and antigorite veins crossing pseudotachylyte veins on the other hand show that frictional  
33 melting took place at pressure and temperature conditions compatible with antigorite stability. This indicates that  
34 frictional melting occurred at pressures between 0.7 and 0.85 GPa, that is, at  $\sim 20$  to  $\sim 30$  km depths in the  
35 subducting Piemonte-Liguria oceanic slab. Since the dehydration of serpentine into olivine is only observed at  
36 the host-rock selvages of pseudotachylyte veins, it cannot be related to the crossing, by the subducting slab, of  
37 the regional  $610 \pm 100$  °C isotherm of the subduction zone, temperature at which antigorite starts to dehydrate  
38 into olivine. An estimate of the water released by the dehydration reaction suggests that for a magnitude 6  
39 earthquake, the average amount is about  $1.36 \text{ L/m}^2$  or  $1.36 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$  for the entire rupture surface (assumed to be  
40  $100 \text{ km}^2$ ). If the released water is not incorporated in the nearby frictional melt, it can flow away from the slip  
41 zone and contribute to the various fluid-rock interactions active in subduction zones. Alternatively, if the water  
42 cannot escape from the slip zone and if the pore pressure is locally high enough, it could trigger aftershocks  
43 following the initial seismic rupture.

44 KEYWORDS

45 Pseudotachylyte, peridotite, serpentinite, subduction, dehydration, olivine, antigorite, Corsica

46

## 47 **1. Introduction.**

48 Since the precursor works of Raleigh and Paterson (1965) and Rutter and Brodie (1988), serpentinite  
49 dehydration is regarded as a major mechanism to account for intermediate-depth seismicity (70 to 300 km depth,  
50 Frohlich, 2006) in subduction zones (Peacock, 2001; Dobson et al., 2002; Hacker et al., 2003; Yamasaki and  
51 Seno, 2003; Jung et al., 2004; Nakajima et al., 2009; Ferrand et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2017; Kita and Ferrand,  
52 2018). More specifically, oceanic lithosphere formed along a slow-spreading ridge is expected to experience  
53 pervasive and widespread serpentinization. Once such a hydrated lithosphere is subducted at a depth where  
54 pressure and temperature conditions are high enough to allow dehydration reactions (Ulmer and Trommsdorff,  
55 1995; Wunder and Schreyer, 1997; Schmidt and Poli, 1998; Guillot et al., 2015), serpentine dehydration can  
56 release water which in turn can lead to fault destabilization by decreasing the normal stress acting on fault  
57 surfaces (Houston, 2015). This mechanism is referred to as dehydration embrittlement.

58 In Alpine Corsica, ultramafic and mafic pseudotachylytes are reported from the Cima di Gratera (Austrheim  
59 and Andersen, 2004; Andersen and Austrheim, 2006; Andersen et al., 2008; 2014; Deseta et al., 2014; Magott et  
60 al., 2016; 2017) and Monte Maggiore ophiolitic units (Magott, 2016; Fabbri et al., 2018). Other reports of  
61 ultramafic and mafic pseudotachylytes in the Alpine orogen come from the Moncuni peridotite unit of the Lanzo  
62 massif in Italy (Piccardo et al., 2010; Scambelluri et al., 2017). The Cima di Gratera occurrence is interpreted as  
63 resulting from intermediate-depth seismicity during the subduction of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic lithosphere.  
64 The Moncuni occurrences were initially interpreted as the result of mid-oceanic ridge faulting during oceanic  
65 extension (Piccardo et al., 2010). Based on eclogite facies metamorphic assemblages preserved in the veins,  
66 Scambelluri et al. (2017) show that the Lanzo occurrences are likely related to intermediate-depth seismicity in  
67 the subducting Piemonte-Liguria lithosphere. In both the Cima di Gratera and Lanzo occurrences,  
68 pseudotachylyte veins developed in a fresh (i.e., not serpentinized) peridotite. Conversely, in the Monte  
69 Maggiore, the pseudotachylyte veins cross-cut serpentinized peridotite, providing an opportunity to examine  
70 interactions between pseudotachylyte and serpentinite.

71 In this study, we describe evidence for dehydration of serpentinized peridotite by thermal metamorphism  
72 caused by tectonic pseudotachylyte. The presence of secondary olivine formed by dehydration of serpentine at  
73 the contact with pseudotachylyte veins shows that seismic ruptures can propagate through a hydrated peridotite.  
74 The preservation of antigorite, a high-pressure serpentine polymorph, further allows to estimate the depth of

75 seismicity at the origin of the formation of pseudotachylyte. Lastly, the amount of water released by serpentine  
76 dehydration is estimated and the consequences of the water release in the subducting slab are discussed.

## 77 **2. Geological setting.**

78 In the northwestern end of the Cap Corse peninsula, the Monte Maggiore ultramafic unit consists of a  
79 peridotite-dominated ophiolitic thrust sheet belonging to the *Schistes Lustrés* Complex (Fig. 1). It is considered  
80 as a remnant of the oceanic lithosphere of the Piemonte-Liguria ocean opened by rifting and slow to ultra-slow  
81 spreading during Jurassic to early Cretaceous times (Ohnenstetter et al., 1981; Lagabrielle and Lemoine, 1997;  
82 Manatschal and Müntener, 2009; Rampone et al., 2009; Piccardo and Guarnieri, 2010). Mineralogical and  
83 geochemical characteristics of the peridotites of the Monte Maggiore unit are similar to those observed in other  
84 Alpine ophiolitic units and in present-day oceanic floor peridotite (Piccardo and Guarnieri, 2010; Rampone et  
85 al., 2009; Rampone and Hofmann, 2012).

86 The Monte Maggiore unit is composed of a spinel-plagioclase lherzolite along with clinopyroxene-  
87 depleted peridotite and minor dunite (Piccardo and Guarnieri, 2010). The texture is granoblastic. Where  
88 preserved, the original mineral assemblage is typical of a spinel lherzolite with olivine > clinopyroxene >  
89 orthopyroxene > spinel and minor plagioclase and chromite. Numerous decimeter- to meter-thick gabbroic dykes  
90 cross-cut the peridotite. Centimeter-scale chromite pods are also observed. The Monte Maggiore unit is thrust  
91 over gneisses of continental origin (Lahondère, 1992; Meresse et al., 2012). The ~~entire~~ Monte Maggiore  
92 peridotite is affected by a pervasive tectonic fabric associated with a top-to-the-west sense of shear. This fabric is  
93 related to a tectonic deformation during oceanic accretion (Jackson and Ohnenstetter, 1981). It is locally  
94 overprinted by an unevenly distributed cataclastic foliation (Fabbri et al., 2018).

95 The Monte Maggiore peridotite is variably serpentinized. Serpentinization is interpreted as the result of  
96 mantle hydration during the opening of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic basin (Debret, 2013). Primary olivine and,  
97 to a lesser extent, pyroxene, are replaced by lizardite, magnetite and minor chrysotile, especially in the southern  
98 and the eastern parts of the Monte Maggiore unit (Debret, 2013; Fig. 1). The degree of serpentinization is higher  
99 near the tectonic contact with the Centuri gneiss unit (~ 100 %) and decreases northwards (~50 %). Some zones  
100 randomly distributed inside the unit are also significantly serpentinized (between 50 and 80 %, Debret, 2013;  
101 Fig. 1). Serpentinization appears diffuse throughout the peridotite or localized along veins which do not exceed  
102 20 cm in length and 5 mm in thickness. Thin section observation shows that the diffuse serpentinization  
103 corresponds to what is referred to as mesh texture (Viti and Mellini, 1998; Rumori et al., 2004; Andréani et al.,

104 2007). Serpentine veins are randomly oriented. Based on the cross-cutting relationships between diffuse  
105 serpentinization and serpentine veins, Debret (2013) distinguishes three stages of serpentinization. The first stage  
106 S1 consists of the isotropic development of lizardite and minor chrysotile associated to magnetite. The second  
107 stage S2 consists of the pervasive formation of lizardite and minor chrysotile in mesh texture and the partial  
108 substitution of pyroxene (both ortho- and clinopyroxene) by bastite. The development of fibrous lizardite veins is  
109 also frequent. Stage S2 serpentinization is the most widespread in the Monte Maggiore unit. The third stage S3 is  
110 characterized by the formation of lizardite crack-seal veins and by overgrows of lizardite and chrysotile along  
111 the walls of pre-existing lizardite veins. At the scale of the unit, each serpentinization event can be variably  
112 developed. All these events are characteristic of an intra-oceanic peridotite serpentinization (Mével, 2003;  
113 Andréani et al., 2007; Debret et al., 2013).

114 In addition to the three stages described by Debret (2013), a fourth stage of serpentinization S4 is  
115 observed in the central part of the Monte Maggiore unit, at localities 1 and 2 (Magott, 2016; Fabbri et al., 2018).  
116 This stage, characterized by the crystallization of antigorite, can be subdivided into two sub-stages. A sub-stage  
117 *S4a* corresponds to a diffuse metamorphic substitution of lizardite by antigorite. A sub-stage *S4b* corresponds to  
118 antigorite veins crossing all other structures. The vein-filling antigorite is fibrous, and the fibers are  
119 perpendicular or highly oblique to the vein walls (Fig. 2). In some instances, several stages of opening can be  
120 distinguished (Fig. 2B), suggesting cyclic fluid input and vein opening (crack-seal opening mechanism).

121 The Monte Maggiore unit was affected by a greenschist facies condition metamorphism. In the  
122 peridotite, this metamorphic event is indicated by the partial substitution of pyroxene by tremolite + actinolite +  
123 minor chlorite and of olivine by tremolite + chlorite. In the metagabbro dykes, this event is responsible for  
124 hornblende overgrowths on primary pyroxene. This first greenschist facies condition event is followed by a  
125 blueschist facies condition event attested, in the metagabbro dykes, by the partial replacement of plagioclase by  
126 jadeite + zoisite + paragonite + chlorite assemblages (Jackson and Ohnenstetter, 1981; Nicollet et al., 2001).  
127 Primary clinopyroxene is commonly rimmed by glaucophane overgrowths. This medium- to high-pressure  
128 metamorphic event is interpreted as a consequence of the subduction of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic  
129 lithosphere beneath a continental block or island arc (Nicollet et al., 2001; Molli, 2008; Molli and Malavieille,  
130 2011; Vitale-Brovarone et al., 2013). According to the metagabbro mineralogical assemblages, the peak of  
131 metamorphism recorded by the Monte Maggiore unit is about 450°C and 0.85 GPa (Nicollet et al., 2001). A late  
132 retrograde greenschist metamorphic facies event tentatively associated with exhumation is evidenced in the  
133 metagabbro dykes by rare instances of green hornblende surrounding glaucophane overgrowths (Nicollet et al.,



134 [2001; Debret, 2013](#)). The partial substitution of olivine by tremolite and chlorite assemblages is tentatively  
135 related to this late retrograde event.

136 In the central part of the Monte Maggiore unit (localities 1, 2 and 3, [Fig. 1](#)), the serpentinized peridotite  
137 is cross-cut by tectonic pseudotachylyte veins ([Magott, 2016](#)). Outcrop-scale, hand-sample scale and thin-  
138 section-scale petrographic and structural characteristics of the veins ([Fig. 3](#)) are similar to the Cima di Gratera  
139 pseudotachylyte occurrence. These similarities suggest that the Monte Maggiore pseudotachylyte occurrence  
140 could represent a possible extension of the fossil Wadati-Benioff seismogenic zone described in the Cima di  
141 Gratera unit located further south ([Fabbri et al., 2018](#)). A characteristic of the Monte Maggiore occurrence is that  
142 the formation of pseudotachylyte veins was polyphase, as indicated by numerous cross-cutting relationships  
143 between veins and also by the reworking of pseudotachylyte clasts in pseudotachylyte veins. Another  
144 characteristic of the Monte Maggiore pseudotachylyte occurrence, which is also observed in the Cima di Gratera  
145 occurrence, is that frictional melting occurred concurrently with cataclasis. Some hand sample sections and thin  
146 sections show pseudotachylyte fault veins cross-cutting cataclastic serpentinite ([Fig. 4](#)), whereas other hand  
147 sample sections or thin sections show that cataclasis post-dates frictional melting ([Fabbri et al., 2018](#)). In the  
148 latter case, cataclasis develops along the boundary between fault veins and the host rock. They form 0.5 to 2.5  
149 cm thick, cataclastic layers which, at the hand sample-scale, look like pseudotachylyte fault veins ([Fig. 3D](#)).  
150 Thin section observation shows that the cataclastic layers contain clasts of pseudotachylyte and that some relict  
151 melted rock is preserved along the margin of the layers ([Fabbri et al., 2018](#)). These observations indicate that  
152 cataclastic layers developed at the expense of pre-existing fault veins. The cataclastic layers and the  
153 pseudotachylyte veins are parallel to the cataclastic foliation nearby, if any.

### 154 **3. Material and methods**

155 Polished thin sections were prepared from oriented samples of ultramafic pseudotachylyte and related host rocks.  
156 Thin sections were examined by optical and scanning electron microscopes. Scanning electron microscopy  
157 (SEM) was performed at CRPG (Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France) and FEMTO-ST (University of Bourgogne-  
158 Franche-Comté, Besançon, France). Primary mineral composition was determined with a CAMECA SX100  
159 electron microprobe at the SCMEM, University of Lorraine, France. Analyses include bulk matrix (wide beam),  
160 wall-rock, non-melted minerals, crystallization products (microlites) as well as serpentinization-related minerals.  
161 The determination of serpentine polymorphs was done with RXN1 Raman spectroscopy at the Georessources  
162 laboratory (UMR 7359), University of Lorraine, France. Raman analyses were performed on serpentine

163 polymorphs in the veins and on mesh structures in the host rock. Where serpentine veins are present, the  
164 analyses in the host rock were done at different distances to the vein to estimate the importance of  
165 serpentinization on both sides of the vein. Serpentine in pseudotachylyte matrix and clasts were also  
166 characterized by Raman spectroscopy.

## 167 **4. Results.**

### 168 **4.1. Microscopic characteristics.**

#### 169 **4.1.1. Microscopic characteristics of the serpentinized peridotite hosting the pseudotachylyte veins.**

170 In localities 1 and 2 (Fig. 1), the serpentinized peridotite typically shows an assemblage of serpentine +  
171 magnetite + clinopyroxene + orthopyroxene ± rare relict olivine. The olivine site is partly or totally replaced by  
172 serpentine. The pyroxene site can be crossed by serpentine veins or can display a weakly developed  
173 serpentinization along cleavage planes. Pyroxene pseudomorphosed by serpentine (bastite) is locally observed.

#### 174 **4.1.2. Microscopic characteristics of pseudotachylyte**

175 Where not serpentinized, pseudotachylyte veins are characterized by abundant spherulitic or acicular  
176 microlites embedded in a brownish ultrafine-grained or crypto-crystalline matrix (Fig. 4A, B and C, Fig. 5A and  
177 F). Polygonal textures suggest that a part of the matrix was glassy, before eventual devitrification. Microlite size  
178 ranges between 20 µm and 150 µm. The spatial density and the size of microlites varies from the median part of  
179 the vein to the margins (Fig. 5A and E). Vein margins are 80 to 200 mm thick and are characterized by a high  
180 density of tiny microlites (< 10µm, Fig. 5A). The central parts of the veins show an increase of the microlite size  
181 and an evolution of their crystalline shapes from dendritic or spherulitic shapes toward more mature shapes,  
182 especially lath shapes (Fig. 5A and E). The microlites consist of acicular or spherulitic clinopyroxene and  
183 subordinate olivine with lath shapes. Fault veins and to a lesser extent injection veins are characterized by  
184 variable proportions of clasts (ca. 10%). The clasts have sizes between 50 and 800 µm (mean value around 250  
185 µm), are rounded, and consist of assemblages of olivine (commonly partly serpentinized) + serpentine ±  
186 pyroxene ± ilmenite (Fig. 4; Fig. 5A and C). Clasts of pseudotachylyte and of polycrystalline aggregates of  
187 olivine or pyroxene are also observed (Fig. 4B and Fig. 5D). Some clasts display embayments that are  
188 interpreted as corrosion textures (Fig. 5B). In fault veins, clasts close to the wall rock are frequently elongated  
189 parallel to the vein boundary. Conversely, the rounded clasts located in the median part of the veins are larger  
190 and rarely elongated. Ilmenite clasts are smaller than the clast derived from other minerals, with an average size

191 around 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . The small size of these microlites could be a consequence of a preferential melting of ilmenite  
192 which is a mineral characterized by a lower thermal shock resistance than olivine or pyroxene. Extreme  
193 comminution due to thermal shock fragmentation could have led to an almost total assimilation of the fragments  
194 by the melt, therefore impeding the growth of ilmenite microlites during melt cooling, as proposed by Papa et al.  
195 (2018) to account for the scarcity or the small size of garnets microlites in an amphibolite-facies pseudotachylyte  
196 occurrence from the western Alps.

197 In the vicinity of secant *S4b* serpentine veins, pseudotachylyte microlites are partly serpentinized (Fig.  
198 3C). This serpentinization is characterized by vermicular to fibrous antigorite scattered in the ultrafine-grained or  
199 crypto-crystalline matrix or invading microlites and clasts (Fig. 5F). Since this serpentinization is observed next  
200 to *S4b* antigorite veins, it is interpreted as relevant to this stage.

## 201 4.2. Mineral chemistry and Raman data.

### 202 4.2.1. Mineral chemistry and Raman data of the serpentinized peridotite.

203 In the fresh (i.e., not serpentinized) peridotite, olivine is characterized by a homogeneous  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  value  
204 between 0.82 and 0.84 (Table 1; Piccardo and Guarnieri, 2010). Clinopyroxene composition is between augite  
205 and diopside, but augite composition predominates. Orthopyroxene shows an enstatite composition and includes  
206 noticeable amounts of FeO (6 wt.% FeO),  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (4 wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and minor traces of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (between 0.5 and 0.7  
207 wt.%  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ). The serpentinized peridotite consists of an assemblage of serpentine + magnetite + clinopyroxene  
208 + orthopyroxene  $\pm$  rare olivine. In samples from localities 1 and 2, serpentine is mainly lizardite along with  
209 minor amounts of chrysotile, both being partly overprinted by antigorite (Fig. 6A). Stage S4 antigorite is  
210 characterized by a  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  value around 0.89, that is slightly higher than that of primary olivine (Table 1).  
211 According to Debret (2013), stage S1 serpentine phases are characterized by an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  content between 0.5 and  
212 1.0 wt.% and by a FeO content between 3.9 and 6.2 wt.%. The Raman spectra display peaks at 230, 345, 385,  
213 465, 620, 687 and 1103  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at low frequency and 3683 and 3705  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at high frequency (Debret, 2013). These  
214 peaks are typical of lizardite (Rinaudo and Gastaldi, 2003; Auzende et al., 2004; Groppo et al., 2006). The peak  
215 at 3695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicates the presence of chrysotile. Stage S2 serpentine phases are characterized by an  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$   
216 content between 0.2 and 2.2 wt% and by a FeO content between 2.8 and 7.8 wt%. The Raman spectra are similar  
217 to those of lizardite with characteristic peaks at 229, 383, 464, 617, 659 and 1100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at low frequency and  
218 3685 and 3704  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at high frequency. Weak peaks at 3695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  attest of the presence of small amounts of  
219 chrysotile (Debret, 2013). Stage S3 serpentine phases, which occur mainly under the form of veins, have an

220 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content between 1.6 to 2.1 wt.% and a FeO content between 4.5 to 5.5 wt.%. The Raman spectra are  
221 intermediate between lizardite and chrysotile spectra with peaks at 229, 383, 474, 620, 689, 1100 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low  
222 frequency and at 3683, 3690 and 3704 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Debret, 2013).

#### 223 4.2.2. Mineral chemistry and Raman data of the pseudotachylyte.

224 The composition of the pseudotachylyte matrix is close to that of olivine, but includes significant  
225 amounts of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (up to 6.5 wt.%), and minor amounts of CaO (between 2.91 and 3.72 wt.% CaO; Table 2).  
226 Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub> and NiO contents are slightly higher than in host rock primary minerals, with values around 0.15-  
227 0.29 wt.% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 0.2-0.3 wt.% TiO<sub>2</sub> and 0.08-0.12 wt.% NiO. The matrix also displays X<sub>Mg</sub> values between 0.78  
228 and 0.82. These values are close to those of primary olivine. The absence of plagioclase or orthopyroxene in the  
229 microlites or in survivor clasts while they are present in the host rock is due to the lower melting temperature of  
230 these minerals This explain these high values by a preferential assimilation of Ca and Al in the melt. The matrix  
231 away from *S4b* antigorite veins does not contain any serpentine. On the contrary, the Raman spectra of the  
232 pseudotachylyte matrix located close to *S4b* veins (< 0.6 mm) display characteristic peaks of antigorite at 229,  
233 379, 461, 378 and 1045 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low frequency and 3763 and 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> at high frequency (Fig. 6D). Additional  
234 peaks indicate the presence of olivine (331, 819 and 850 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and clinopyroxene (1012 cm<sup>-1</sup>).

235 Microlites of olivine are characterized by X<sub>Mg</sub> values between 0.80 and 0.85, close to those of primary  
236 olivine (0.82). Clinopyroxene microlite composition is between augite and diopside.

237 Raman spectra of serpentine clasts from pseudotachylyte veins are characterized by peaks at 229, 377,  
238 458, 683 and 1045 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low frequency and at 3670 and 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> at high frequency (Fig. 6C), indicating a  
239 predominance of antigorite (Groppo et al., 2006; Reynard et al., 2015). Peaks at 819 and 850 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicate the  
240 presence of olivine, likely in small amounts (Ishii, 1978; Piriou and MacMillan, 1983). Peaks at 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup>  
241 indicate a small chrysotile component. Serpentine clasts and olivine clasts are characterized by similar X<sub>Mg</sub>  
242 values around 0.82 (Table 2).

#### 243 4.3. Dehydration of host rock serpentine along pseudotachylyte vein boundaries

##### 244 4.3.1. Secondary olivine rims.

245 In thin sections cut in pseudotachylyte-bearing samples from localities 1 and 2, the host rock sides of  
246 pseudotachylyte veins are outlined by thin rims of olivine (Fig. 7A, B, C, E, F and G). Olivine rims are present

247 where the host rock serpentine is in contact with the vein, but are absent where pseudotachylyte is in contact  
248 with pyroxene and spinel. The secondary olivine rims are observed along the boundaries of both fault veins and  
249 injection veins (Fig. 7A). Along fault veins, the thickness of secondary olivine rims, laterally variable, is  
250 between 70 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$  for fault vein widths between 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and 5 mm. Along injection veins, the thickness of  
251 the secondary olivine rims, also laterally variable, is between 70 and 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , for vein widths of about 1 mm or  
252 less. The secondary olivine habitus consists of crystals displaying dendritic to acicular shapes or more rarely  
253 stubby euhedral shapes (Fig. 7B, C and G). Dendritic olivine is the most common habitus. The dendrites rarely  
254 exceed 15  $\mu\text{m}$  in length. In euhedral to subhedral secondary olivine, variations in gray color intensity in the SEM  
255 images (Fig. 7G) reflect variations in the Mg number (between 61 and 74, Table. 1). Where the pseudotachylyte  
256 vein-host rock boundary is cataclastic, secondary olivine is rare, cataclastic, and the fragments are mixed within  
257 serpentine and pyroxene clasts, confirming that cataclasis can post-date pseudotachylyte formation and host-rock  
258 serpentine dehydration. Serpentinite survivor clasts in pseudotachylyte veins are surrounded by rims of  
259 secondary olivine (Fig. 7D). Secondary olivine is also observed along micro-fractures across clasts (Fig. 7D).  
260 Conversely, pyroxene and ilmenite clasts do not display any rim of olivine (Fig. 7B).

261 The  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  values of secondary olivine are between 0.61 and 0.74, that is, significantly lower than those of  
262 primary olivine which are 0.82 to 0.84 (Table 1). This indicates a significant substitution of Mg by Fe and,  
263 therefore, an origin of olivine different from those present in the host rock. The substitution is also observed in  
264 the secondary olivine from rims around serpentinite clasts with  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  values between 0.61 and 0.64, close to those  
265 measured in the olivine along pseudotachylyte boundaries (Fig. 7D). These significantly higher FeO contents in  
266 olivine around serpentinized clasts or along pseudotachylyte vein boundaries indicate an origin which is different  
267 from that of the host rock primary olivine.

268 Rims of secondary olivine are present where pseudotachylyte is not crossed by late stage serpentine  
269 veins (Fig. 2C). Where late serpentine veins (stage S4b) cross-cut pseudotachylyte veins, the pseudotachylyte is  
270 affected by serpentinization (Fig. 2C). The nearby host rock is also invaded on a width of about 1 cm.

#### 271 4.3.2. Post-seismic serpentinization.

272 The pseudotachylyte veins and secondary olivine rims are cross-cut by late serpentine veins (Fig. 2).  
273 These veins have a thickness which does not exceed 250  $\mu\text{m}$  and a lateral extension limited to a few centimeters.  
274 The boundaries are sharp. Characteristic Raman peaks at 229, 378, 460, 639, 681 and 1045  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at low  
275 frequency and by 3669 and 3701  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  at high frequency indicate that the veins are composed of antigorite with a

276 slight proportion of chrysotile, as attested by a minor peak at 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 6B; Rinaudo and Gastaldi, 2003;  
277 Auzende et al., 2004; Groppo et al., 2006). On both sides of the antigorite veins, a whitish serpentinization  
278 affects the host rock as well as the crossed pseudotachylyte veins over a thickness between 1 and 2.5 mm (Fig.  
279 2). The thickness of the serpentinization halo is proportional to that of the cross-cutting antigorite vein.

280 In the serpentinization haloes, the unaltered minerals (i.e., preserved during the three first  
281 serpentinization stages) are entirely serpentinized (Fig. 3C) by an assemblage of antigorite and chrysotile, as  
282 attested in the Raman spectra by peaks at 229, 378, 461, 639, 681, 1047 and 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low frequency and at  
283 3671 and 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> at high frequency (Fig. 6D). Where antigorite veins cross-cut pseudotachylyte veins, the  
284 pseudotachylyte matrix and olivine and pyroxene microlites are replaced by a similar assemblage of antigorite ±  
285 chrysotile, as indicated by the presence of characteristic peaks in the Raman spectra at 229, 379, 461, 638, 681,  
286 1045 and 1112 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low frequency and at 3763 and 3700 cm<sup>-1</sup> at high frequency (Fig. 6E). Additional peaks,  
287 respectively at 667 and 1012 cm<sup>-1</sup> at high frequency and at 821 and 843 cm<sup>-1</sup> at low frequency indicate the  
288 presence of relict diopside and olivine in the serpentinization halo.

## 289 5. Discussion.

### 290 5.1. Relative chronology of serpentinization events and geodynamic significance.

291 The first three stages of serpentinization S1, S2 and S3 described by Debret (2013) are characterized by  
292 the presence of low-temperature and low-pressure serpentine polymorphs. This suggests that these stages  
293 occurred during sea floor spreading of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic lithosphere and concurrent mantle  
294 hydration. Stage S4 succeeding to the first three stages is characterized by the presence of antigorite, which is a  
295 high-pressure serpentine polymorph (Ulmer and Trommsdorff, 1995; Wunder and Schreyer, 1997; Evans, 2004;  
296 Guillot et al., 2015). It is proposed here that stage S4 occurred at depth during the subduction of the Piemonte-  
297 Liguria lithosphere (Fig. 8).

298 The presence in not serpentinized pseudotachylyte veins of partly or entirely serpentinized antigorite-  
299 bearing clasts surrounded by rims of secondary olivine clearly indicates that the seismic ruptures at the origin of  
300 the pseudotachylyte veins took place while stage S4 antigorite was stable. At the peak pressure and temperature  
301 conditions recorded by the Monte Maggiore metagabbro dykes (450°C and 0.85 GPa; Nicollet et al., 2001),  
302 antigorite is stable. However, antigorite may have started to form before the serpentinized peridotite reached the  
303 peak conditions recorded by the metagabbro assemblages. Indeed, according to Guillot et al. (2015), the

304 minimum pressure at which antigorite becomes stable is 0.7 GPa, for a temperature of *ca.* 315°C. It follows that  
305 *S4* (more precisely *S4a*) serpentinization could have taken place at pressures between 0.7 and 0.85 GPa, that is at  
306 depths between *ca.* 20 km and *ca.* 30 km (with a mean serpentinized peridotite density of 3000 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>). Stage  
307 *S4b* serpentine veins cross-cutting pseudotachylyte veins (Fig. 8) consist of antigorite, meaning that the Monte  
308 Maggiore pseudotachylyte at localities 1 and 2 formed under pressure conditions at which antigorite was still  
309 stable. These observations are in agreement for a formation of the Monte Maggiore pseudotachylyte in a  
310 subducting slab at depths of 20~30 km.

311 In pseudotachylyte veins from the Cima di Gratera unit, Austrheim and Andersen (2004) and Andersen  
312 and Austrheim (2006) report serpentinite clasts whose rims are partly surrounded by newly crystallized olivine.  
313 Although the Mg content of these rims ( $X_{Mg} \sim 0.90$ ; Austrheim and Andersen, 2004) significantly differs from  
314 what is observed at Monte Maggiore ( $X_{Mg}$  values between 0.61 and 0.64), it seems that secondary dehydration of  
315 hydrated ultramafic clasts is also preserved in the Cima di Gratera unit. A similar conclusion can be reached  
316 regarding the pseudotachylyte veins formed under eclogite facies conditions in the Moncuni metaperidotite,  
317 Lanzo massif. Indeed, although the depth at which the paleo-earthquakes took place is larger in the Moncuni  
318 case than in the Monte Maggiore case (60~70 km vs. 20~30 km), Scambelluri et al. (2017) report the presence of  
319 antigorite in pseudotachylyte-hosted ultramafic clasts, showing that secondary dehydration of hydrated  
320 ultramafic clasts is preserved at Moncuni. Besides, Scambelluri et al. (2017) report the presence, in  
321 metaperidotite, of metamorphic olivine formed by the reaction, under eclogite facies conditions.

322 antigorite + brucite  $\rightarrow$  olivine + fluid.

323 Since it is not observed only along pseudotachylyte veins, this secondary olivine is clearly metamorphic  
324 in origin and is not related to co-seismic slip, at variance with the interpretation presented here.

## 325 5.2. ‘Co-seismic’ origin of secondary olivine.

326 Secondary olivine is characterized by  $X_{Mg}$  values between 0.61 and 0.74. These values are higher than  
327 the  $X_{Mg}$  values between 0.82 and 0.84 obtained on primary olivine in the host serpentinized peridotite. This  
328 difference in  $X_{Mg}$  values can be explained by a preferred assimilation of iron by magnetite commonly associated  
329 to antigorite  $\pm$  chrysotile assemblages in the host rock and indicates that the secondary olivine and the primary  
330 magmatic olivine have different origins. Moreover, the presence of rims of iron-rich secondary olivine around  
331 most of the serpentine survivor clasts (Fig. 7D) demonstrates that the same process of dehydration as that

332 observed along the vein boundaries was active around clasts. These observations show a synchronicity between  
333 formation of secondary olivine and formation of the pseudotachylyte. It follows that the secondary olivine results  
334 from dehydration of serpentine, the heat necessary for dehydration being provided by the co-seismic frictional  
335 melt.

### 336 **5.3. Are secondary olivine rims the result of dehydration embrittlement?**

337 Dehydration embrittlement requires temperature conditions between 500 and 720°C ( $610 \pm 110^\circ\text{C}$ ) to  
338 dehydrate antigorite into forsterite + talc + H<sub>2</sub>O (Ulmer and Trommsdorff, 1995; Peacock, 2001). In the Monte  
339 Maggiore unit, the peak temperature and pressure conditions recorded in gabbro dykes are 450°C and 0.85 GPa  
340 (Fig. 9; Nicollet et al., 2001). These conditions do not allow dehydration of serpentine (Ulmer and Trommsdorff,  
341 1995; Wunder and Schreyer, 1997). Moreover, no mineral assemblages characterizing regional metamorphic  
342 dehydration (enstatite + olivine + Ti-clinohumite + talc; Hoogerduijn-Strating and Vissers, 1991; Scambelluri et  
343 al., 1991; Healy et al., 2009) were observed in the Monte Maggiore unit. Therefore, the formation of secondary  
344 olivine cannot be associated to a regional metamorphic dehydration such as the one invoked for dehydration  
345 embrittlement.

### 346 **5.4. Other examples of transient thermo-mechanical effects induced by co-seismic frictional melting**

347 The transient thermal effect induced by co-seismic frictional melt on the host hydrated peridotite  
348 described here is reminiscent of similar transient thermo-mechanical effects observed in other pseudotachylyte  
349 vein occurrences. Three examples are given below. (1) In the immediate vicinity of pseudotachylyte fault veins  
350 crossing quartz-feldspar rocks (quartzite and tonalite) in the Alps, Bestmann et al. (2012) describe 50 to 150 µm  
351 thick micro-shear zones consisting of ultrafine-grained quartz characterized by a crystal plastic deformation.  
352 This ductile deformation was made possible in an otherwise brittle environment by high differential stresses and  
353 temperature transients induced by frictional heating for a very short time span (a few seconds) during seismic  
354 rupture propagation. Regarding the tonalite case and using TitaniQ thermometry, Bestmann et al. (2016) show  
355 that the quartz filling the micro-shear zones was initially deposited by an overheated fluid during the initial  
356 stages of co-seismic slip before being plastically deformed. (2) Pittarello et al. (2008) report healed micro-  
357 fractures in plagioclase clasts contained in pseudotachylyte related to the Gole Larghe fault zone crossing the  
358 Adamello batholith in the Italian Alps. Micro-fracture formation and subsequent healing are inferred to be  
359 contemporaneous with co-seismic slip. (3) Heterogeneous melting distribution described by Griffith et al. (2010)  
360 along wavy faults in granodioritic and tonalitic host rocks are explained by transient stress perturbations during



361 co-seismic slip propagation. Frictional melt is preferentially formed along contractional bends because of  
362 enhanced normal stresses and tends to accumulate in extensional bends.

### 363 **5.5. Estimation of the amount of water released by co-seismic serpentine dehydration**

364 At the scale of a subducting slab, especially those slabs formed by slow to ultra-slow oceanic accretion,  
365 the in-situ co-seismic dehydration process described here can play a major role in fluid transfers, depending on  
366 the size of the rupture surface. Besides, if co-seismic dehydration is considered at the scale of the Wadati-  
367 Benioff zone, a significant volume of water can be released by repeated earthquakes. The dehydration reaction  
368  $\text{serpentine} \rightarrow \text{olivine} + \text{talc} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  leads to the release of 13 wt.% of water. The amount of water released during  
369 propagation of a seismic rupture and slip across a serpentinite mass can be estimated based on the volume of  
370 secondary olivine formed during this event. In the following, we attempt to estimate the amount of water  
371 released during frictional associated with seismic slip along a fault in serpentinite. The calculation is done in  
372 two steps. The first step, which is similar to the analysis followed by Wenk et al. (2000), consists of estimating  
373 the thickness of an 'ideal' single pseudotachylyte fault vein that would form along an 'ideal' unique rupture  
374 surface. The second step aims at determining the volume of water released by host rock dehydration, based on  
375 the thickness of the pseudotachylyte vein that forms in the serpentinitized peridotite. Before giving the details of  
376 the calculation, the various assumptions and simplifications necessary for the computation are listed below.

#### 377 **5.5.1. Assumptions and simplifications**

378 (1) As mentioned above, the computation is done for an 'ideal' unique fault vein that would form along an  
379 'ideal' unique rupture surface. We therefore neglect the complexity of pseudotachylyte networks reported by  
380 many researchers (e.g., Swanson, 1988; Fabbri et al., 2000; Allen, 2005; Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2005; Rowe  
381 et al., 2018).

382 (2) For the same sake of simplicity as (1), injection veins and associated dehydration are neglected.

383 (3) The rupture is supposed to nucleate in and propagate across serpentinitized peridotite.

384 (4) The ambient temperature of the serpentinitized peridotite hosting the rupture is assumed at 450°C (Nicollet et  
385 al., 2001).

386 (5) The computation is done for a magnitude 6 earthquake. The rupture surface area for such an *M*6 event is  
387 typically 100 km<sup>2</sup> (Hanks and Bakun, 2014).

388 (6) The energy released during the earthquake is mostly converted to heat.

389 (7) The seismic efficiency  $\eta$  (irradiated energy/total released energy ratio,  $E_s/E_{tot}$ ) is assumed to be 0.24%  
390 (McGarr et al., 1979).

391 (8) The proportion of survivor clasts is about 10%.

392 (9) The frictional melt is not super-heated ( Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2004).

393 (10) The density of the serpentinized peridotite is  $3000 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$ .

### 394 5.5.2. Calculation of the thickness of an ‘ideal’ single pseudotachylyte vein

395 Following the calculation of Wenk et al. (2000), we compute the total energy released by the earthquake  
396 assuming that most of the energy is converted to heat (assumption (6)). Besides, we compute the energy required  
397 to melt one mass unit of peridotite. The total energy released  $E_{tot}$  is obtained from  $E_s$ , itself obtained from the  
398 relationship between surface magnitude  $M_s$  and irradiated energy  $E_s$  ( $\log E_s = 4,4 + 1,5 M_s$ ,  $E_s$  in J; Choy and  
399 Boatwright, 1995), recalling that the moment magnitude and the surface magnitude are almost identical given  
400 the accuracy required here (Das et al., 2011).

401 We obtain  $E_s = 10^{13.4} \text{ J}$ .

402 Assuming a seismic efficiency  $\eta$  of 0.24% (assumption (7)),  $E_{tot} = E_s/\eta = 1.046 \times 10^{16} \text{ J}$ .

403 The energy to melt one mass unit of serpentinized peridotite is:

$$404 E_{mu} = C_p (T_{melt} - T_{initial}) + \Delta H$$

405 Where  $C_p$  is the specific heat at constant pressure ( $1000 \text{ J.K}^{-1}.\text{kg}^{-1}$ ; Kojitani and Akaogi, 1997),  $T_{melt}$  is the  
406 melting temperature ( $1700^\circ\text{C}$ ; Kojitani and Akaogi, 1997),  $T_{initial}$  is the ambient temperature ( $450^\circ\text{C}$ ), and  $\Delta H$  is  
407 the heat of fusion ( $6 \times 10^5 \text{ J.kg}^{-1}$ ; Kojitani and Akaogi, 1997). Numerical application gives  $E_{mu} = 1.85 \times 10^6 \text{ J}$ .

408 If the proportion of unmelted clasts is about 10% (assumption (8)), the energy required for melting 1 kg of rock  
409 becomes  $E_{mucorr} = 1.665 \times 10^6 \text{ J}$ .

410 Dividing  $E_{tot}$  by  $E_{mucorr}$  gives the mass of pseudotachylyte generated during the *M6* event, that is,

411  $6.28 \times 10^9$  kg, corresponding to a volume of  $2.09 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> with a serpentinized peridotite density of 3000 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>  
412 (assumption (10)).

413 Assuming that this volume is uniformly distributed over the 100 km<sup>2</sup> of the rupture area through the  
414 serpentinized peridotite, the thickness of the 'ideal' fault vein should be  $2.09 \times 10^{-2}$  m = 2.09 cm.

### 415 **5.5.3. Calculation of the quantity of released water.**

416 The water content of serpentine, whatever the polymorph, is about 13 wt %. Optical microscope and  
417 SEM observations suggest that the ratio between the fault vein thickness and the width of the dehydrated  
418 serpentinite rim on the two sides of the vein is between 0.2 and 0.8, the mean value being 0.5.

419 Isolating 1 m<sup>2</sup> of fault vein inside the serpentinized peridotite, the 2.09 cm thick pseudotachylyte vein  
420 would dehydrate a layer of serpentine of 1.045 cm thickness. For one square meter of rupture in the  
421 serpentinized peridotite, the maximum amount of released water would be:  $1.045 \times 10^{-2}$  m x 13 x 10<sup>-2</sup> x 1 m<sup>2</sup> =  
422  $13.585 \times 10^{-4}$  m<sup>3</sup> ~ 1.36 L. If dehydration takes place over the entire rupture surface, the total volume of released  
423 water would reach  $1.36 \times 10^5$  m<sup>3</sup>.

### 424 **5.6. Fate of the water released by co-seismic dehydration of serpentine**

425 Regarding the fate of the water released by co-seismic dehydration of serpentine, two end-member  
426 scenarios can be considered. (1) As soon as it is released, the water is entirely incorporated (dissolved) in the  
427 melt. (2) All the released water escapes from the slip surface. The actual scenario is likely intermediate between  
428 these two end-member cases.

429 Observations or arguments in favor of scenario (1) are as follows:

- 430 - Thermodynamical calculations (Katz et al., 2003) indicate that the weight fraction of H<sub>2</sub>O dissolved in a  
431 peridotite-derived melt increases with pressure. While it is zero at atmospheric pressure, it reaches ~13  
432 wt.% at 1 GPa (Dixon et al., 1995; Mysen and Wheeler, 2000).
- 433 - According to Andersen and Austrheim (2006), the Cima di Gratera pseudotachylytes are characterized  
434 by a high fluid (water) content, as testified by micro-vesicularity in the vein matrix.

435 These considerations indicate that a total or nearly total assimilation of the released water by the co-seismic melt  
436 is possible.

437           If the end-member scenario (2) is valid, then the released water can have various effects, depending on  
438 the path it will follow. (i) If the water percolates upwards, it should reach the upper plate and should contribute,  
439 with other released fluids, to hydration of the mantle wedge, eventually leading to magma genesis and arc  
440 volcanism. (ii) If the water percolates upwards along the subduction interface between the subducting and  
441 overlying plates, it can influence the rheology of the rocks present there, enhance chemical transfers and  
442 contribute to metasomatic or metamorphic reactions (Angiboust and Agard, 2010; Scambelluri et al., 2015;  
443 Bebout and Penniston-Dorland, 2016; Agard et al., 2018). (iii) Local accumulations of fluid along the interface  
444 can also trigger slow earthquakes as often observed at depths larger than the down-dip limit of the seismogenic  
445 (locked) portions of many subduction zones (Hirose et al., 2010; Obara, 2010; Beroza and Ide, 2011; Franck et  
446 al., 2015). (iv) Last but not least, if the released water remains along or near the co-seismic slip surface but  
447 without being incorporated in the co-seismic melt, it could, due to its possibly abnormally high pressure at the  
448 considered depths, trigger aftershocks. Indeed, since the early work of Nur and Brooker (1972), several  
449 observations suggest that over-pressured fluids migrating along or near seismic fault surfaces may be responsible  
450 for aftershocks (Li et al., 1987; Bosl and Nur, 2002; Cox and Ruming, 2004; Miller et al., 2004; Micklethwaite,  
451 2008; Waldhauser et al., 2012). The observations described here provide a possible mechanism that could  
452 account for fluid-related aftershocks in hydrated mantle rocks. The water released after a large-magnitude event  
453 could locally increase the pore pressure and subsequently trigger aftershocks in the vicinity of the main  
454 seismogenic fault. The tiny pseudotachylyte veins secant on larger veins observed at localities 1 and 2 could be  
455 the result of the largest seismic ruptures among the otherwise small magnitude aftershocks.

## 456 **6. Conclusion**

457           The Monte Maggiore serpentinitized peridotites host pseudotachylyte fault veins, showing that seismic  
458 ruptures can propagate through hydrated mantle rocks (serpentinitized peridotite or serpentinite). A similar  
459 observation has already been reported by Tarling et al. (2018). Such a propagation through a partly hydrated  
460 mantle rock can also be inferred from the works of Andersen and Austrheim (2006) and Scambelluri et al.  
461 (2017) who describe serpentine-bearing survivor clasts in pseudotachylyte veins from the Cima di Gratera or the  
462 Moncuni ultramafic units. However, these observations are not precise enough to demonstrate whether the  
463 seismic ruptures nucleated in hydrated mantle rocks or whether they nucleated in non-hydrated rocks (peridotite  
464 or gabbro for instance) before propagating through serpentinitized peridotite or serpentinite.

465 Microstructural, petrological and geochemical studies of the Monte Maggiore ultramafic pseudotachylyte  
466 veins and their host rock lead to the following results:

- 467 1) Along the contact surfaces with pseudotachylyte veins, the host serpentinized peridotite is outlined by  
468 rims of secondary olivine resulting from serpentine dehydration induced by frictional heating during  
469 seismic faulting.
- 470 2) Pseudotachylyte veins include antigorite-bearing clasts and are cross-cut by antigorite veins, indicating  
471 that they were formed at pressure and temperature conditions under which antigorite is stable. These  
472 conditions consist of a minimum pressure of 0.7 GPa, that is, a minimum depth of ~ 20 km. The  
473 maximum depth of formation of antigorite and of pseudotachylyte is constrained by the peak pressure  
474 condition recorded by gabbro (0.85 GPa) and is ~30 km.
- 475 3) The iron content in secondary olivine is higher than in the primary mantle olivine. The iron enrichment  
476 can be accounted for by the reaction magnetite + serpentine (+ brucite + H<sub>2</sub>) → olivine + H<sub>2</sub>O during the  
477 frictional melting-induced dehydration process, magnetite itself being a product of the hydration  
478 reaction of pristine mantle olivine.

479 Assuming an earthquake of magnitude 6 and a simplified model for the Monte Maggiore fossil earthquakes ,  
480 we estimate, the volume of water released by co-seismic dehydration is estimated at ~ 1.4 L for one square meter  
481 of rupture in a serpentinized peridotite for a magnitude 6 event. For the same event, if dehydration takes place  
482 over the entire rupture surface (100 km<sup>2</sup>), the total volume of released water is estimated at ~ 1.36 x 10<sup>5</sup> m<sup>3</sup>. The  
483 fate of this water is unknown. It can be entirely assimilated by the melt. Alternatively, it can escape from the  
484 seismogenic fault and contribute to mantle wedge hydration or to fluid-rock interactions along the plate  
485 interface. It can also play a role in the delayed triggering of slow earthquakes along the plate interface or in the  
486 triggering of aftershocks immediately after a large seismic event.

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707

708 **Table captions**

709 Table 1. Chemical composition of secondary olivine in dehydrated rims and host rock (serpentinized and non-  
710 serpentinized). NS: non-serpentinized, SP: serpentinized.

711 Table 2. Average composition of pseudotachylyte components.

712 **Figure captions**

713 Fig. 1. A: Simplified geological map of the study area (modified after Debret, 2013). B: A-A' cross-section.

714 Fig. 2. Relationships between *S4* serpentine veins, serpentinite host rock and pseudotachylyte veins. A. Late *S4b*  
715 fibrous antigorite (*Late Ant vein*) crossing pseudotachylyte (*Pst*) vein and serpentinite wallrock (*Serp wallrock*),  
716 locality 2. B. Zoned *S4b* antigorite vein (*Late Ant vein*) crossing partly serpentinized pseudotachylyte (*Serp Pst*)  
717 and serpentinized wallrock (*Serp wallrock*), locality 1. C. Late *S4b* antigorite vein (*Late Ant vein*) cross-cutting  
718 serpentinized peridotite and a pseudotachylyte vein. On each side of the antigorite vein, a serpentinization halo  
719 invades the wallrock. Invasion is deeper in the host serpentinite (about 750  $\mu\text{m}$ ) than in the pseudotachylyte (200  
720  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

721 Fig. 3. Photographs of serpentinized peridotite outcrops and hand samples crossed by pseudotachylyte veins. A.  
722 Anastomosed fault vein network (*Pst networks*), locality 1. The veins show a positive relief. B. Isolated fault  
723 veins, locality 1. C. Serpentinite hand sample showing a fault vein (*Fv*) flanked by injection veins (*Iv*), locality 2.  
724 D. Serpentinized peridotite (*Serp peridotite*) hand sample showing pseudotachylyte fault veins (*Pst*) and a  
725 pseudotachylyte vein-looking cataclastic zone (*Ct*), locality 2.

726 Fig. 4: Photomicrographs of pseudotachylyte and host serpentinite, locality 2. A. Flow folds in an injection vein  
727 reworking pyroxene and serpentinized olivine clasts (*Serp Ol clast*). B. Clast of reworked pseudotachylyte (*Pst*  
728 *clast*) with embayment (*Emb*). C. Pseudotachylyte matrix showing a polygonal texture due to devitrification. D.  
729 Pseudotachylyte fault vein (*Fv*) and associated injection vein (*Iv*). The serpentinite host rock below the fault vein  
730 is cataclastic (*Ct*). E. Pseudotachylyte fault vein (*Fv*) crossing a cataclastic serpentinite (*Ct*). F. Cataclastic  
731 serpentinite cross-cut by an early pseudotachylyte vein (*Early pst*) itself cross-cut by a late pseudotachylyte vein  
732 (*Late pst*).

733 Fig. 5. SEM images of pseudotachylyte veins in partly serpentinized peridotite, locality 1. A. Pseudotachylyte  
734 fault vein (*Pst*) with serpentinized wall rock. From the lower left corner of the image to its upper right corner, the  
735 size of microlites increases from the chilled margin (*Cm*, lower left) where microlites are small to the median  
736 part of the vein where microlites are larger (upper right). The square is the area enlarged in C. B. Rounded clasts  
737 of olivine displaying embayments. C. Clast of olivine (*Ol clast*) surrounded by olivine overgrowths with a comb  
738 structure. D. Clast of pseudotachylyte (*Pst clast*) reworked in a younger pseudotachylyte (*Pst*). Note the large  
739 embayment almost crossing the entire clast. E. Olivine and clinopyroxene microlites with acicular shapes near  
740 the chilled margin (*Cm*) or with lath shapes (near the median part of the vein). F. Enlargement of  
741 pseudotachylyte matrix showing rounded olivine clasts, acicular clinopyroxene microlites and serpentinized  
742 matrix (*Sz Matrix*).

743 Fig. 6. Raman spectra of serpentine phases obtained on pseudotachylyte fault veins, host rocks and late secant  
744 serpentine veins, locality 2. For each spectrum, the signal is analyzed on two acquisition spectral windows and  
745 the characteristic bands are indicated. A. Raman spectrum of the serpentinite hosting a pseudotachylyte vein and  
746 showing diffuse antigorite tentatively related to stage S4a (sample depicted in Fig. 3C). B. Raman spectrum of  
747 late antigorite veins related to stage S4b (sample depicted in Fig. 3C). The spectrum indicates a dominant  
748 antigorite composition and a minor chrysotile component. C. Raman spectrum of the central part of a  
749 serpentinite survivor clast reworked in a pseudotachylyte vein and surrounded by secondary olivine. The  
750 spectrum indicates the presence of stage S4a antigorite (diffuse in the clast and not under the form of vein  
751 filling). D. Raman spectrum indicating the presence of *S4b* antigorite in the serpentinized halo of the wall-rock  
752 at a distance of ~ 250  $\mu\text{m}$  away from a late antigorite vein. E. Raman spectrum indicating the presence of *S4b*  
753 antigorite in the matrix of a pseudotachylyte vein crossed by a late antigorite vein. Raman analysis is done at a  
754 distance of ~ 250  $\mu\text{m}$  from the antigorite vein.

755 Fig. 7. SEM images of secondary olivine rims along the boundaries between pseudotachylyte and host  
756 serpentinite or reworked clasts. A. Secondary olivine rim developed along the boundaries between host  
757 serpentinite (*Wall*) and injection and fault veins (*Pst*). To the left, the pseudotachylyte is in contact with  
758 ultracataclasite (*Uct*) itself in contact with cataclasite (*Ct*). Both cataclasite and ultracataclasite consist of  
759 fragments of serpentine mixed with fragments of secondary olivine. B. Secondary olivine rim (*Sec Ol*, right  
760 side of the image) showing clusters of dendritic secondary olivine (*DSO*) and acicular secondary olivine  
761 (*ASO*). Where it is not acicular or dendritic, the olivine is more massive, but the precise shape of the

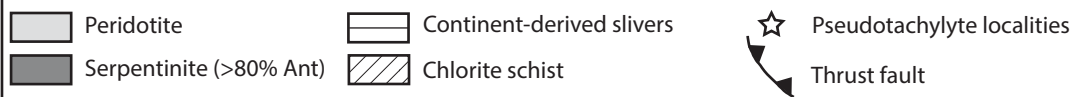
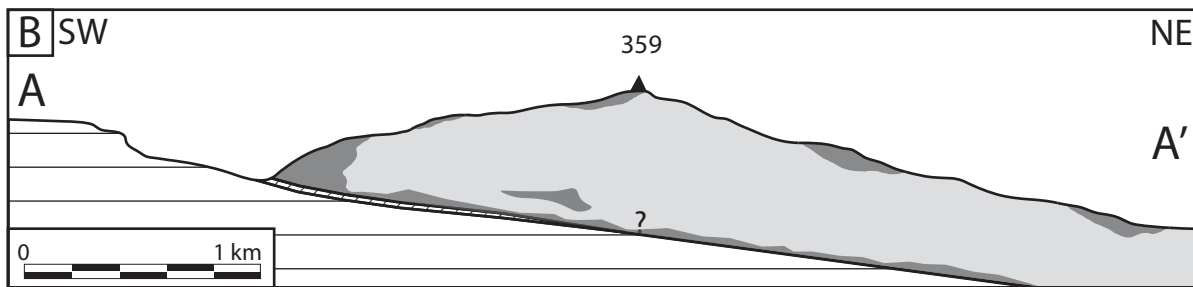
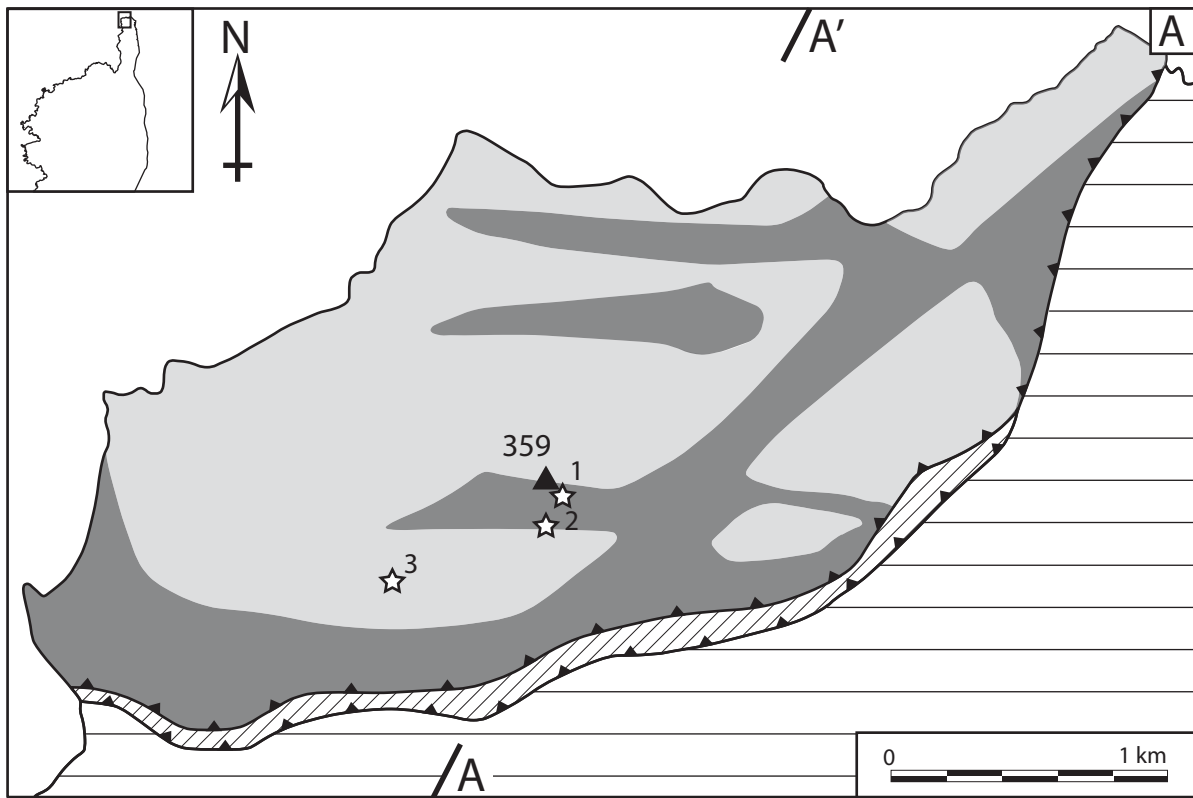
762 crystals (euhedral or anhedral) cannot be determined. In the upper part of the image, a horizontal antigorite  
763 vein crossing (1) the serpentinite host rock (*Wall*), (2) the secondary olivine rim (*Sec Ol*) and (3) the  
764 pseudotachylyte vein (*Pst*) is attributed to the serpentinization stage S4b. *Il clast*: clast of ilmenite. C:  
765 Enlargement of the secondary olivine rim of (B) highlighting ~~the~~ dendritic secondary olivine (*DSO*) acicular  
766 secondary olivine (*ASO*). D. Antigorite rounded clast (*Ant Clast*) surrounded by a rim of secondary olivine (*Sec*  
767 *Ol*) in a pseudotachylyte vein (*Pst*). E. Secondary olivine rim (*Sec Ol*) along the boundary between serpentinite  
768 host rock (*Wall*) and a pseudotachylyte fault vein (*Pst*). The rectangle is the area enlarged in F. F. Secondary  
769 olivine rim (*Sec Ol*) displaying rectangular olivine crystals with long axes parallel to the host rock-  
770 pseudotachylyte vein (*Pst*) boundary. G. Secondary olivine rim (*Sec Ol*) between wall rock (*Wall*) and a  
771 pseudotachylyte vein (*Pst*). Inside the rim, differences in grey intensity reflects differences in the  $X_{Mg}$  of olivine  
772 crystals (between 0.61 and 0.69). Subhedral secondary olivines are best developed in the largest part of the  
773 dehydrated border.

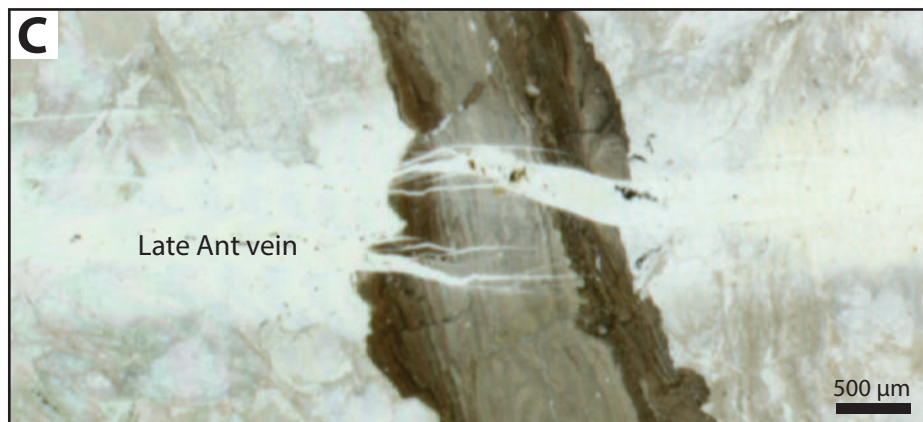
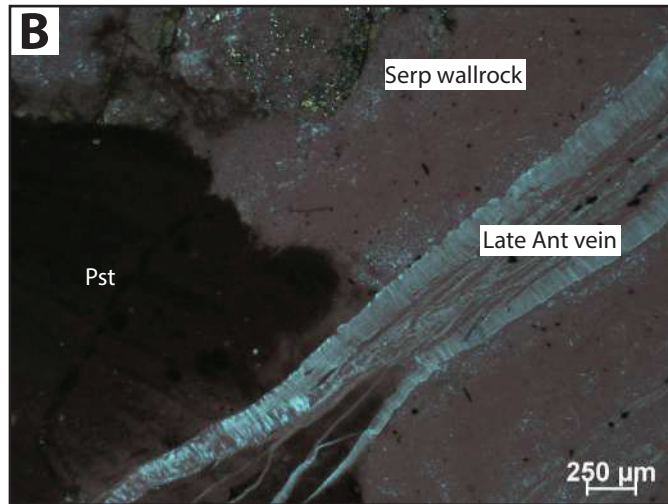
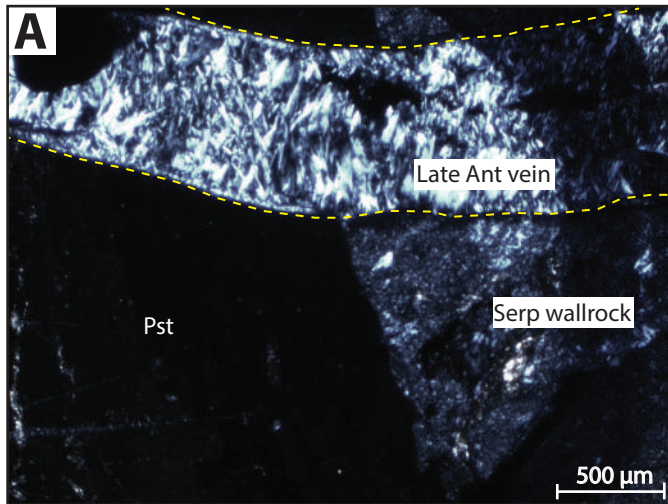
774 Fig. 8. Relative chronology of serpentinization events and seismogenic ruptures. A. Fresh (i.e., not  
775 serpentinized) spinel peridotite equilibrated in the plagioclase domain before seafloor spreading (Piccardo and  
776 Guarnieri, 2010). B. First stages of serpentinization (stages S1 to S3) related to sea water-mantle rock  
777 interactions and characterized by low-pressure lizardite and chrysotile assemblages. C. High pressure  
778 serpentinization stage (stage S4a) characterized by the development of antigorite  $\pm$  chrysotile assemblages at the  
779 expense of stages S1 to S3 lizardite and chrysotile assemblages. D. Seismic ruptures causing the formation of  
780 frictional melt and associated dehydration. E. Formation of antigorite veins (S4b) post-dating S1 to S4a  
781 serpentinization events and pseudotachylyte vein formation.

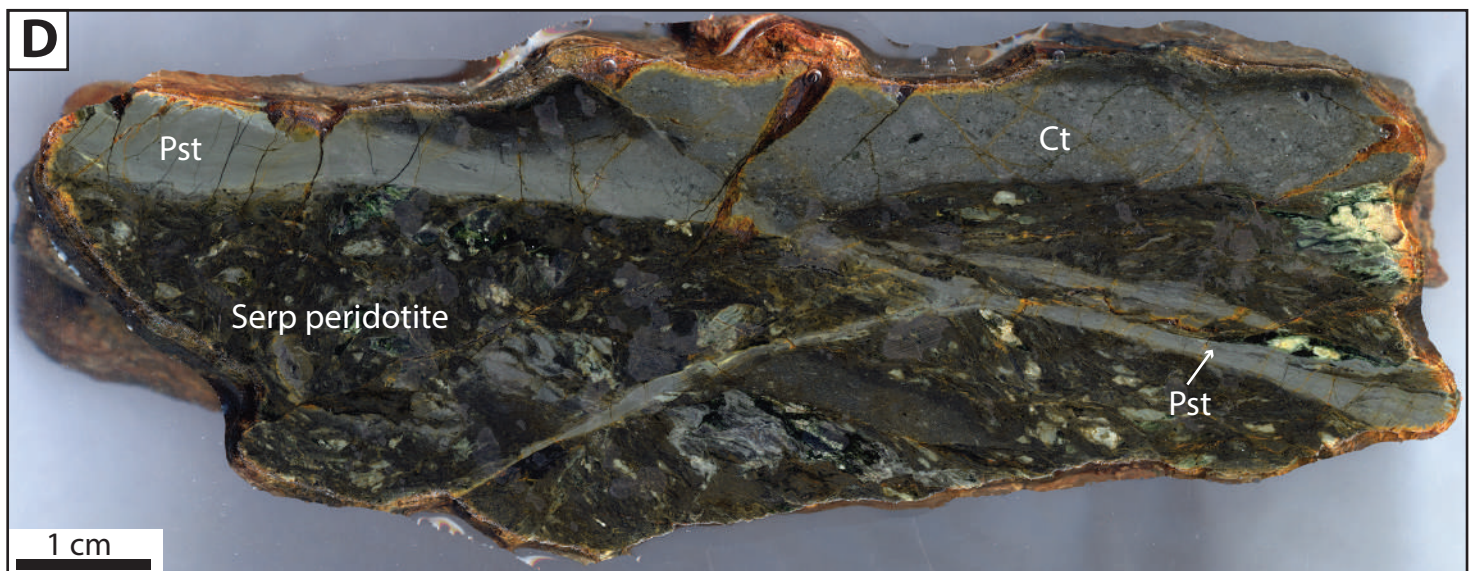
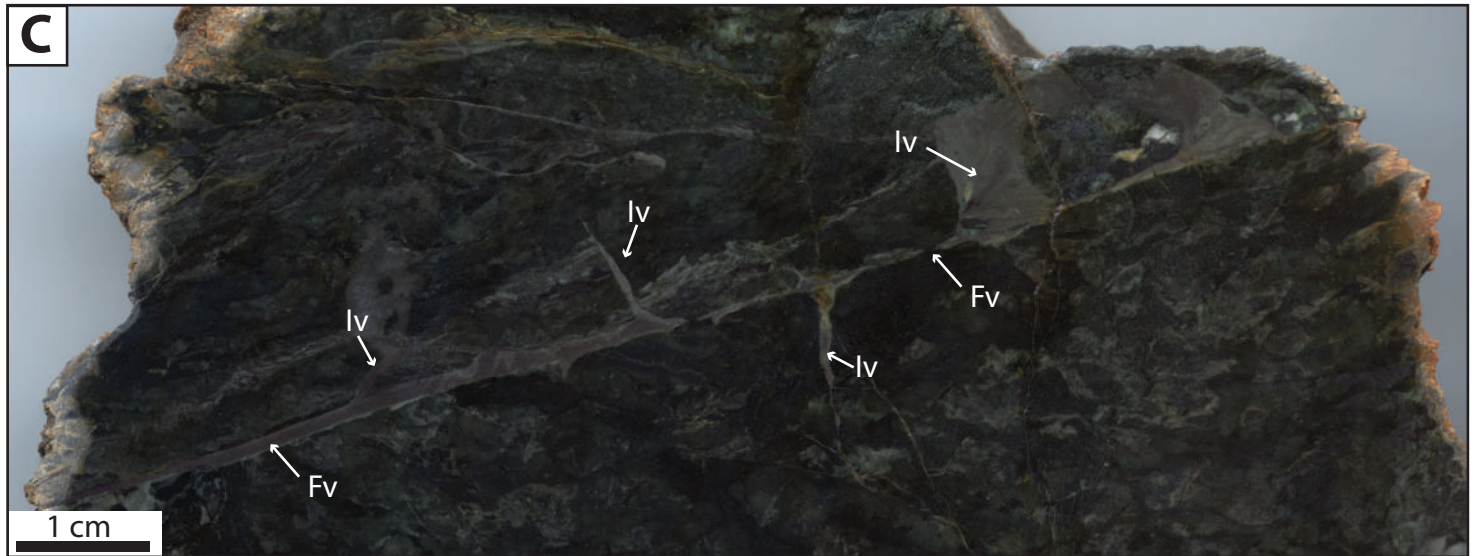
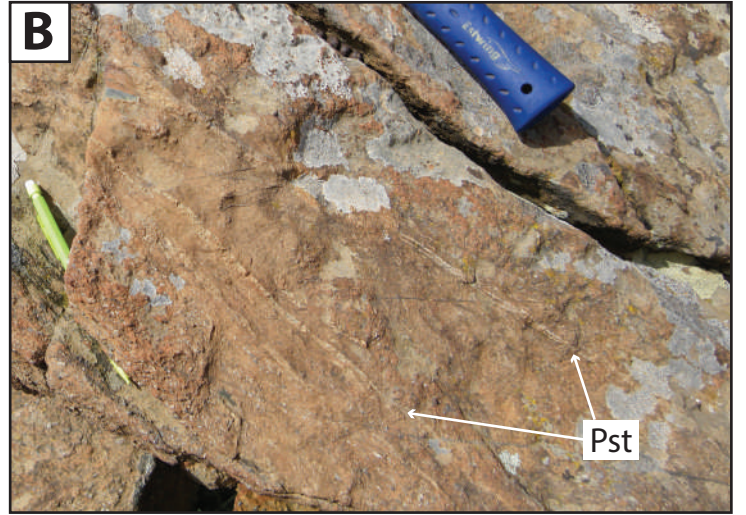
782 Fig. 9. P-T pathway of the Monte Maggiore peridotite unit projected on various mineralogical reactions  
783 (modified after Nicollet et al., 2001). Mantle upwelling refers to the adiabatic upwelling and decompression of  
784 the asthenosphere.

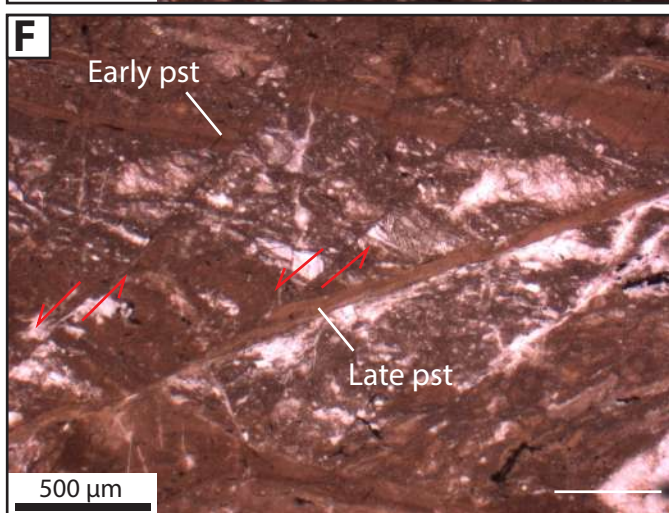
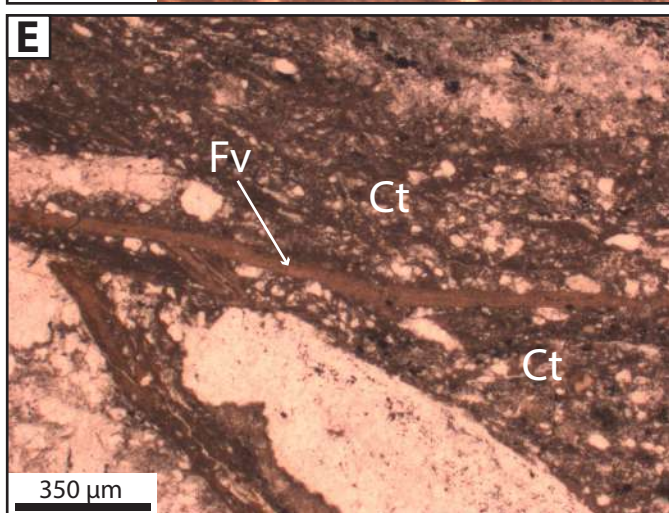
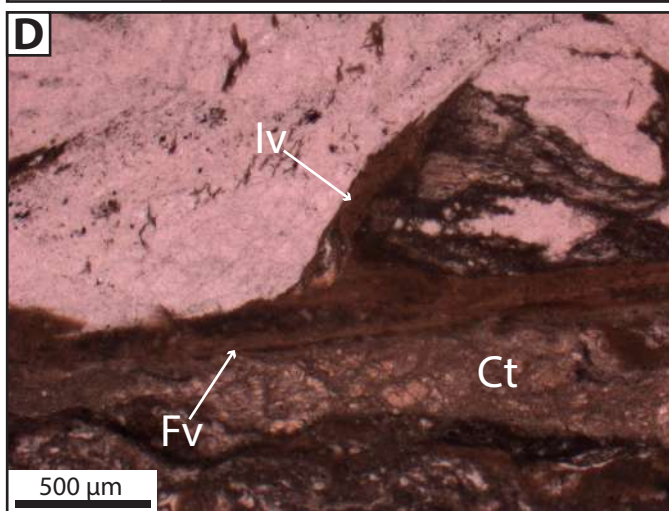
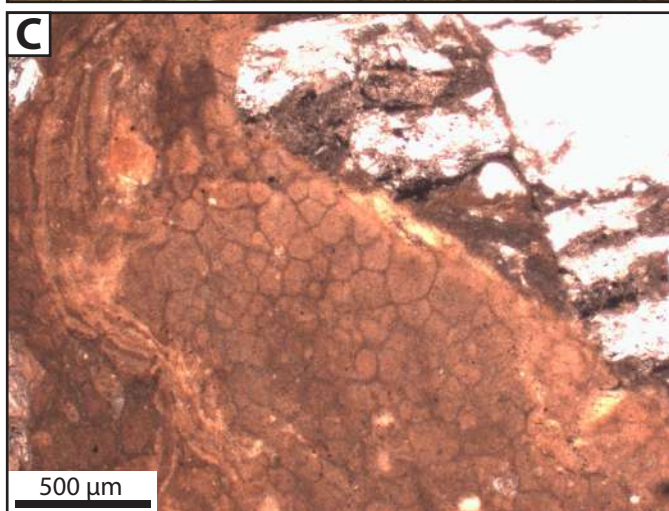
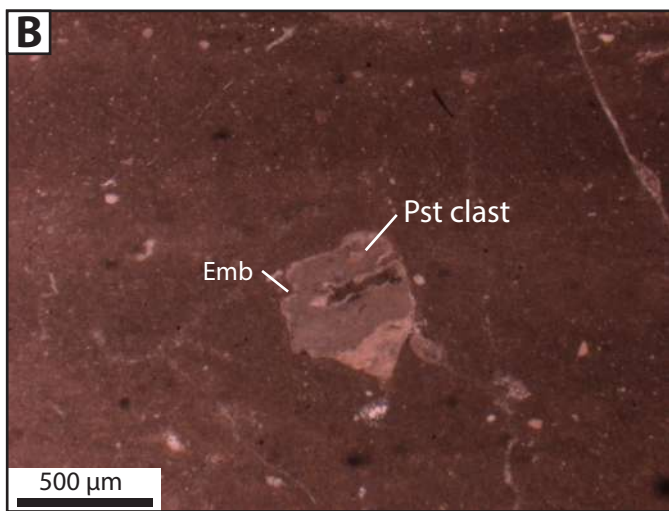
785 Fig. 10. Simplified geodynamical setting of co-seismic dehydration of serpentinite in the subducting Piemonte-  
786 Liguria oceanic lithosphere (Monte Maggiore unit) and associated water release. A. General sketch showing the  
787 eastward-dipping subduction of the Piemonte-Liguria oceanic plate under a micro-block or an island arc  
788 (Cretaceous to Paleogene times). B. Three scenarios of seismic rupture nucleation and propagation: (1) in non-  
789 hydrated peridotite, (2) in mixed non-hydrated and hydrated peridotite, (3) in hydrated peridotite. C. Co-seismic  
790 dehydration of hydrated peridotite at Monte Maggiore following scenario (3) and subsequent water release.

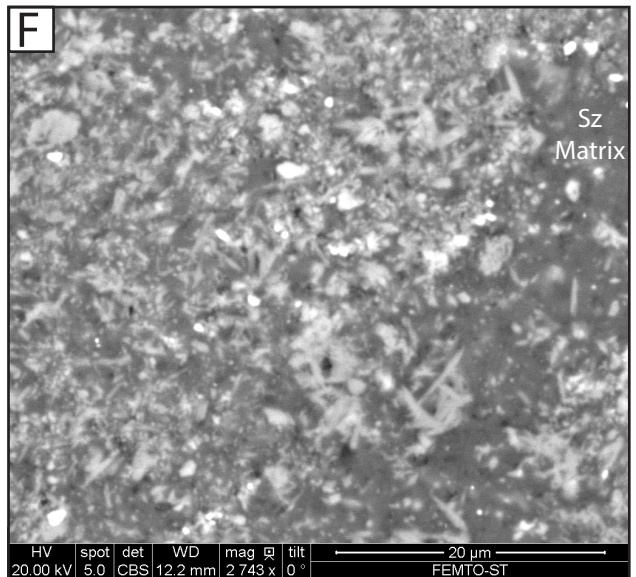
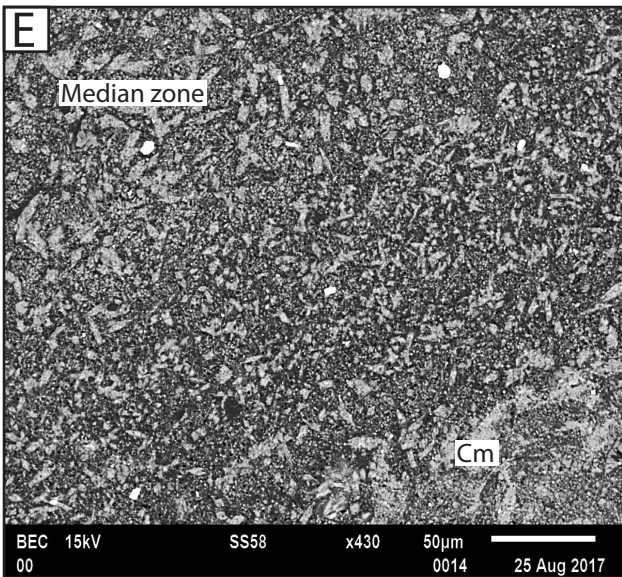
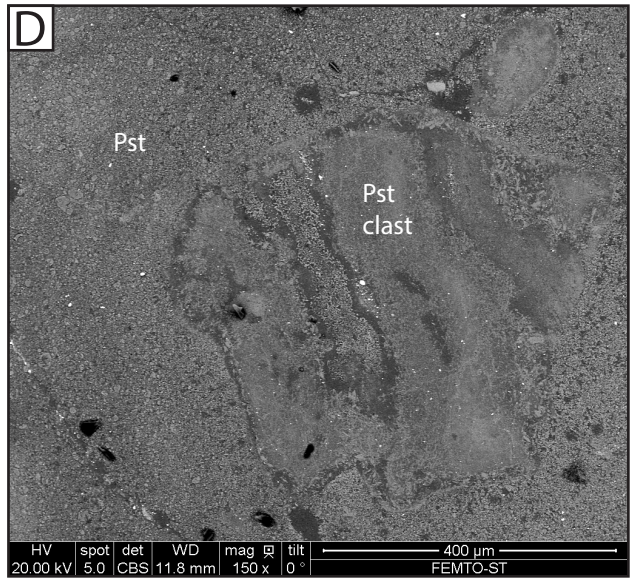
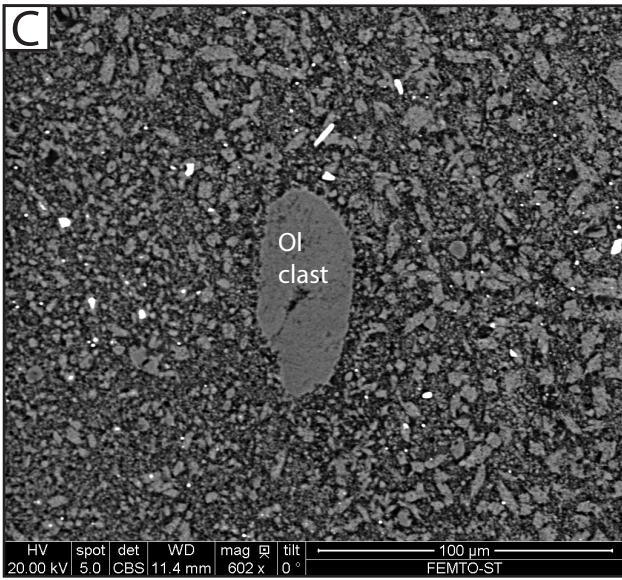
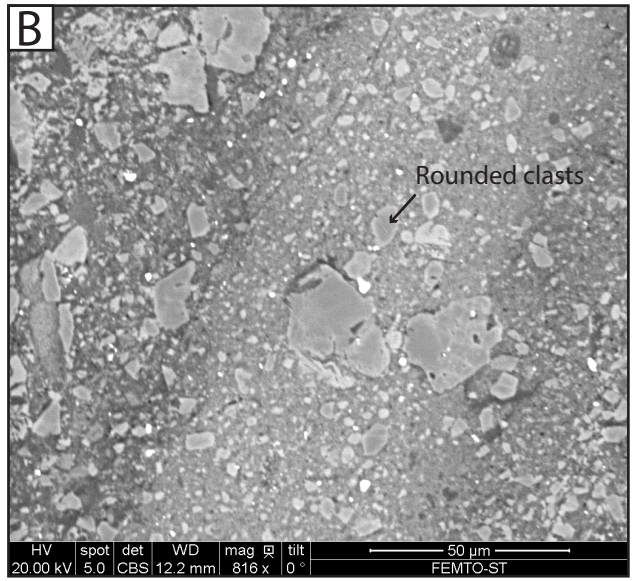
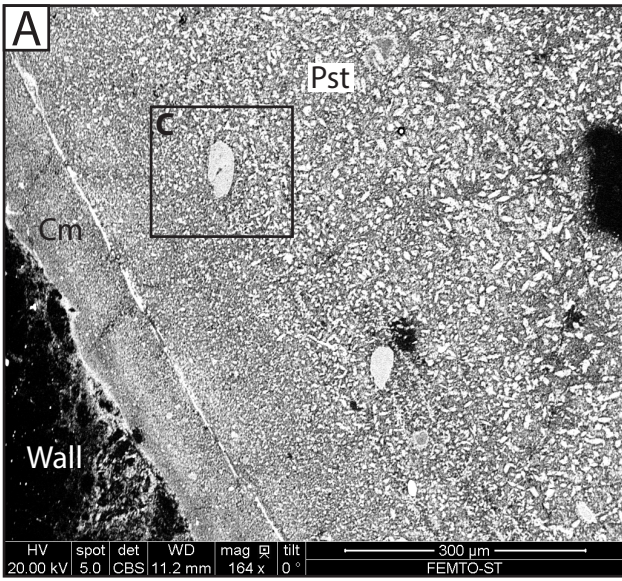


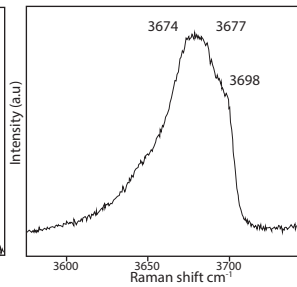
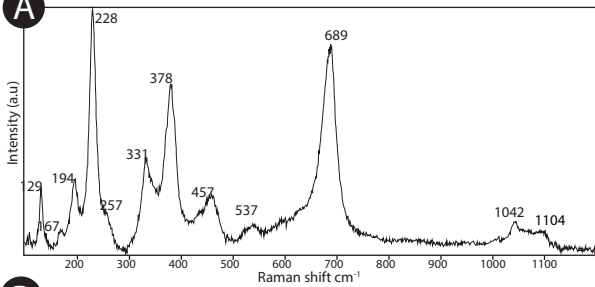
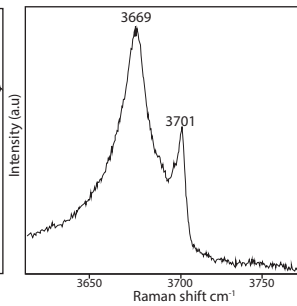
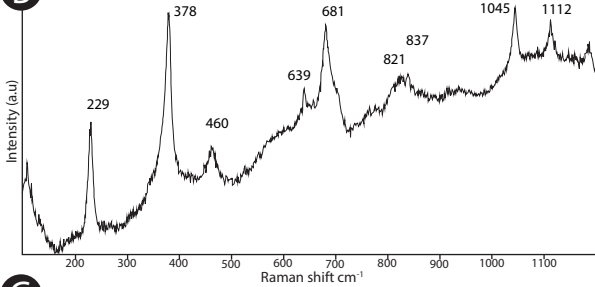
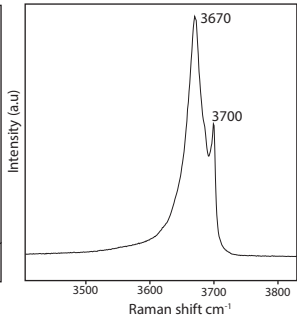
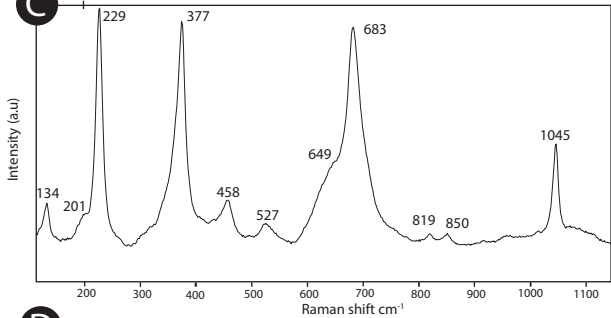
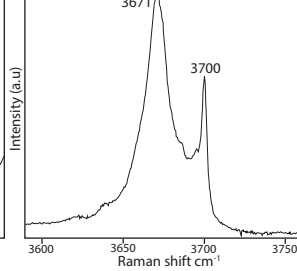
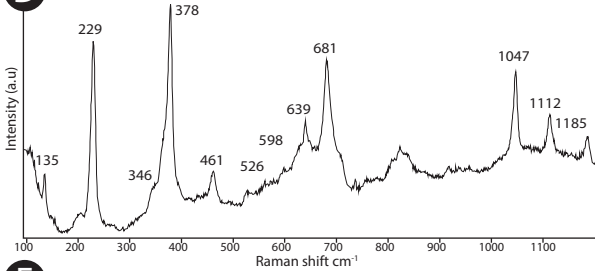
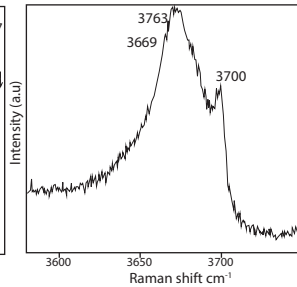
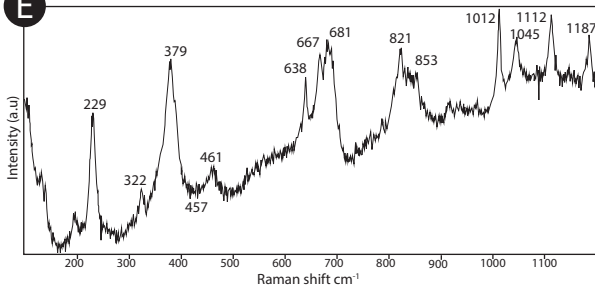


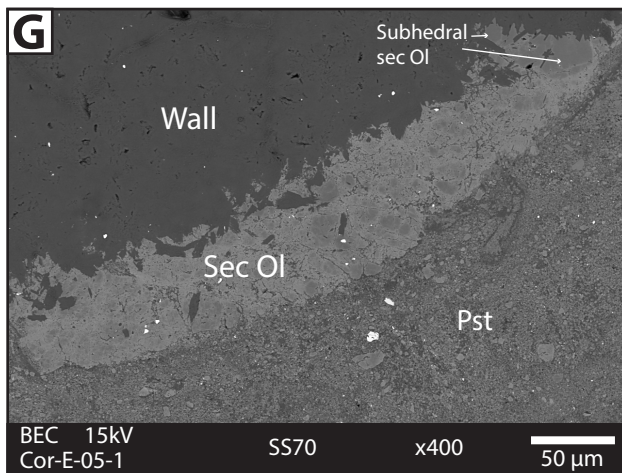
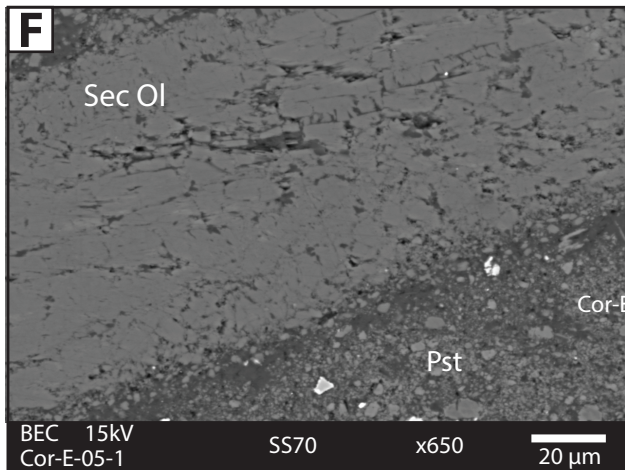
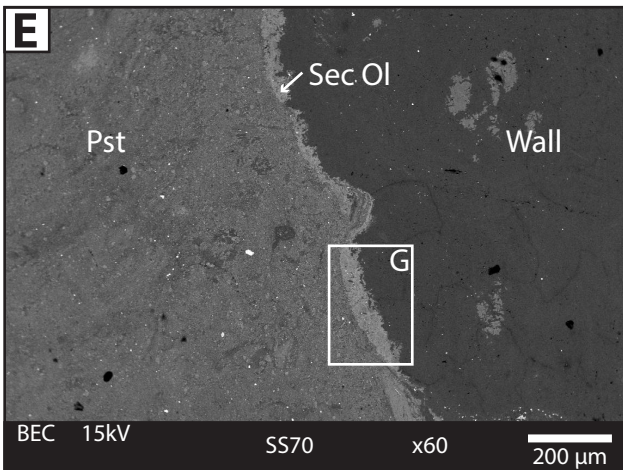
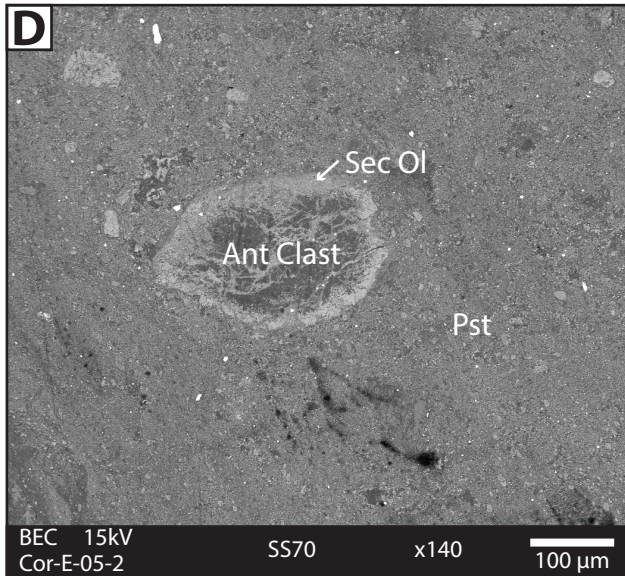
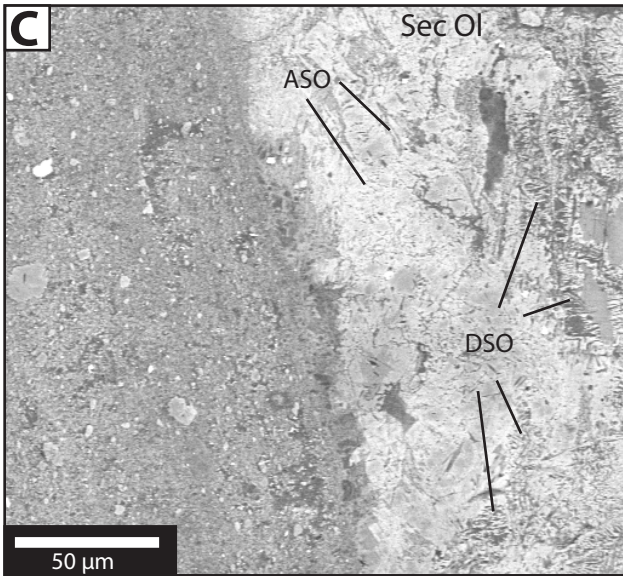
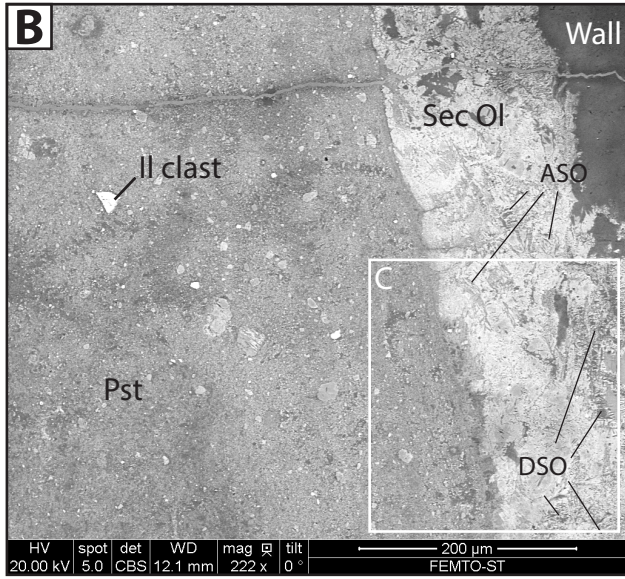
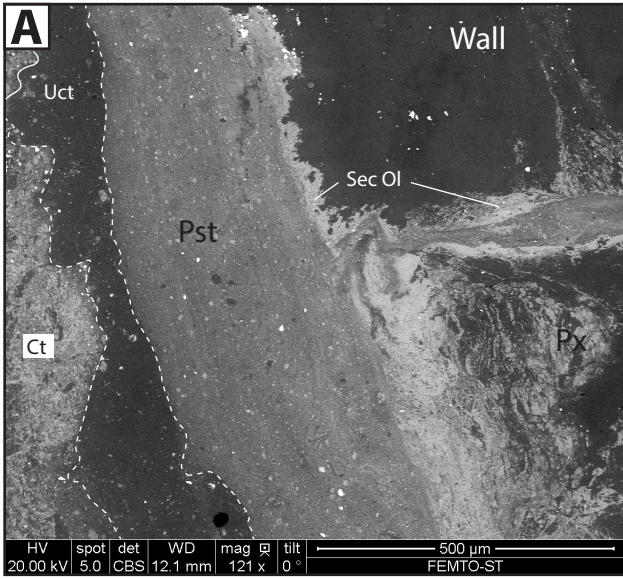


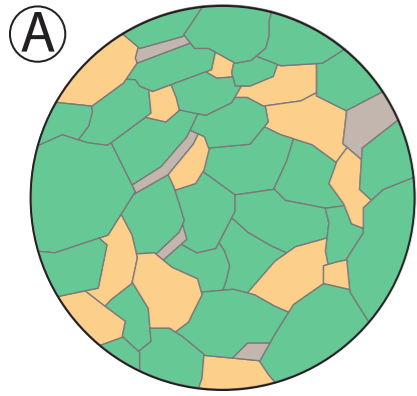




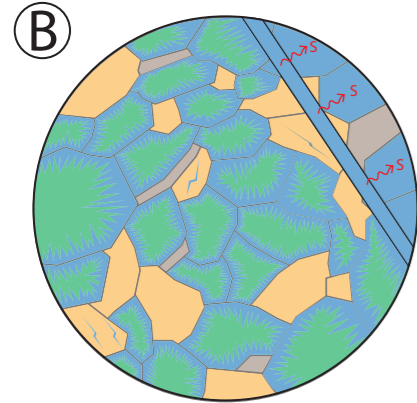


**A****B****C****D****E**



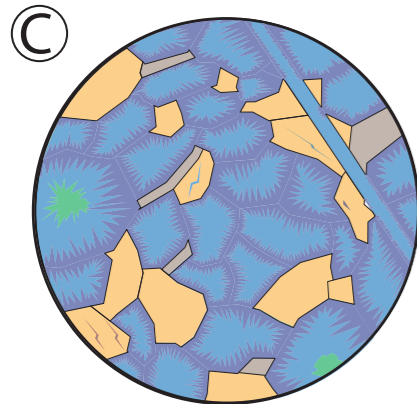


**A** Starting rock: plagioclase lherzolite



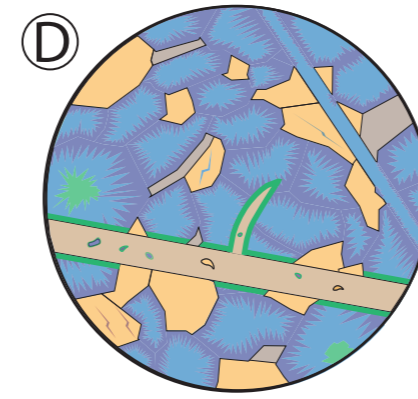
**B** Ocean-floor serpentinization

- Progressive serpentinization (stages S1, S2, S3)
- Lizardite + chrysotile veins and diffuse serpentinization
- ~> Serpentinization propagation (along veins and grain boundaries)



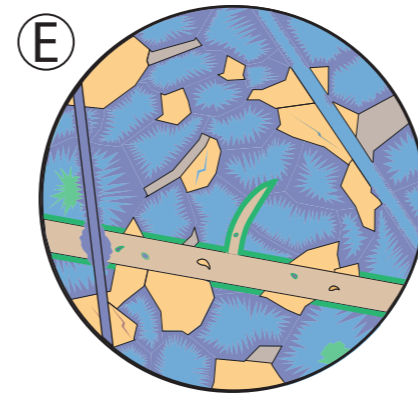
**C** Diffuse antigoritization (S4a)

- Dehydration along grain boundaries and substitution of S1+ S2 + S3 lizardite + chrysotile by antigorite.



**D** Seismic rupture and associated boundary dehydration

- Formation of pseudotachylyte
- Dehydration of serpentinite margins



**E** Formation of post-seismic antigorite veins (S4b)

- Release of water following host-margin dehydration
- Formation of antigorite veins
- Serpentinization of pseudotachylyte in the vicinity of antigorite vein

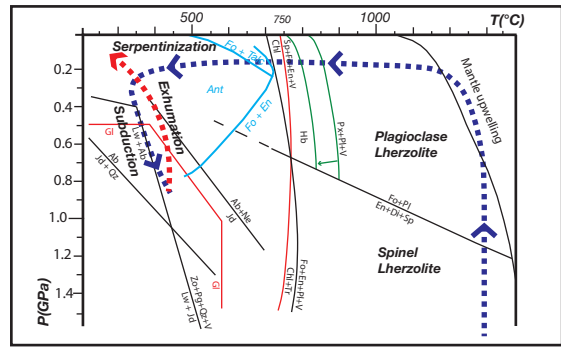
● **Mineralogy**

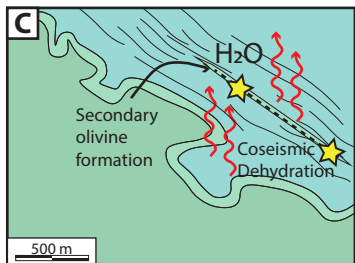
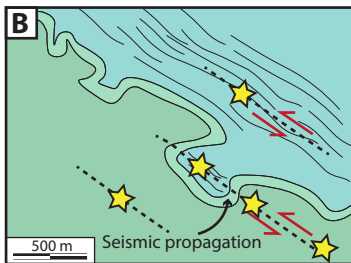
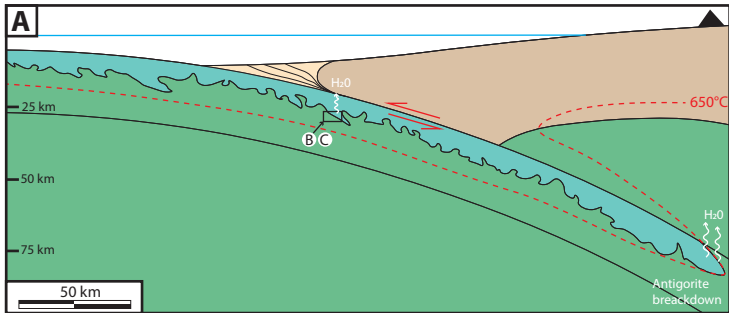
- Olivine
- Pyroxene
- Al-bearing minerals
- S1 to S3 stages of serpentinization
- Late stage antigorite serpentinization (S4)

● **Pseudotachylytes**

- Serpentinized host-rock
- Secondary olivine along margins
- Pseudotachylyte vein
- Serpentinite clast with secondary olivine rims







**Host-rock and Dehydrated border**

wt.% analysis	Border	Border	Border	Border	US Host rock	US Host rock	US Host rock	US Host rock	SZ Host rock	SZ Host rock
	Olivine	Olivine	Olivine (dark)	Olivine (light)	Olivine	Olivine	Opx	Cpx	Serp-Ant	Serp-Ant
SiO2	39.28	38.45	41.23	39.88	40.95	40.65	54.84	54.86	44.36	44.22
MgO	41.26	37.6	43.38	39.45	50.85	49.95	32.68	23.41	39.88	39.38
FeO	18.69	23.51	14.4	21.75	10.64	9.27	6.01	4.04	4.55	4.85
Al2O3	0.23	0.1	0	0.23	0	0.17	4.03	5.42	0.82	0.65
Na2O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.03	0.39	0	0.02
CaO	0	0	0	0	0	0.09	1.31	12.33	0.03	0
K2O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02	0.01
MnO	0.57	1	0.8	0	0.24	0	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.06
TiO2	0	0	0	0.12	0	0	0.06	0.18	0.04	0.02
Cr2O3	0	0	0	0	0	0.04	0.61	0	0.02	0
NiO	0.12	0.17	0.11	0.22	0.38	0	0	0.03	0.17	0.07
Total	100.15	100.83	99.92	101.65	103.06	100.17	99.68	100.68	89.94	89.28
Mg #	68.82	61.53	74.05	64.46	82.37	84.35			89.66	88.91

### Pseudotachylytes

wt.% analysis	Microlite Cpx	Microlite Cpx	Microlite Cpx	Matrix	Matrix	Clast Cpx	Clast Ol	Clast Serp-Ol	Clast Ilmenite
SiO <sub>2</sub>	52	49.77	51.52	40.11	39.48	52.15	40.84	40.08	2.51
MgO	17.35	26.97	17.3	32.37	34.31	13.42	51.01	40.8	2.86
FeO	7.03	3.17	6.55	8.69	12.23	10.59	10.65	8.22	39.87
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.37	3.5	2.46	6.52	5.72	0.84	0	2.15	0.78
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0	0.58	0.24	0.11	0	0.18	0	0	0
CaO	22.42	11.73	21.17	3.76	2.91	23.43	0	0.1	0
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MnO	0	0.13	0	0.2	0.39	0.3	0.21	0.17	2.9
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0	0.16	0.26	0.31	0.23	0	0	0.08	51.33
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.1	0.17	0	0.29	0.15	0	0	0.1	0
NiO	0.15	0	0.21	0.12	0.08	0	0.32	0.08	0
Total	100.44	96.18	99.71	92.48	95.5	100.91	103.05	91.77	100.25
% Fo	/	/	/	/	/		82.40	82.94	/