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**MAJOR AND TRACE ELEMENTS EXCHANGES DURING
FLUID-ROCK INTERACTION AT ULTRA-SLOW
SPREADING OCEANIC LITHOSPHERE: EXAMPLE OF THE
SOUTH WEST INDIAN RIDGE (SWIR)**

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1. Introduction

Since the end of the 70's, numerous studies demonstrated that fluid-rock interactions occurring within the oceanic lithosphere play a major role in the biogeochemical cycles. Earlier studies focused on fluid-rock interaction in basaltic crust and reported chemical element fluxes at the Earth surface, through high and low-temperature hydrothermal fluids venting, as well as significant changes in mineralogical and chemical compositions of the MOR-type basaltic rocks (e.g., Alt, 2004 for a review). More recent studies investigated the interaction of seawater-derived hydrothermal fluids with exhumed mantle rocks (i.e., abyssal peridotites). This process, known as serpentinization, is now recognized as playing a key role in the chemical elements exchanges between deep (mantle) and superficial (ocean, crust, biosphere) Earth reservoirs (Alt et al., 2013; Deschamps et al., 2011; Hattori and Guillot, 2003).

Peridotites are strongly modified during serpentinization in terms of physical properties (O'Hanley, 1996; Toft et al., 1990), oxidation degree (Andreani et al., 2013; Evans, 2008), mineralogical assemblages (Mével, 2003; O'Hanley, 1996) and chemical composition. Indeed, previous works on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) and the South West Indian Ridge (SWIR) showed that serpentinites can be enriched, but also depleted, in several chemical elements, such as sulfur (Alt et al., 2013 and references within), carbon (Delacour et al., 2008a), Light Rare Earth Elements (LREE, such as europium Eu), and Fluid Mobile Elements (FME: U, Pb, B, As, Sb, Cs, Sr, Ba, Li, B; (Deschamps et al., 2011, 2012, 2013 and references within; Frisby et al., 2016; Lee et al., 2008; Niu, 2004; Vils et al., 2008) depending on serpentinization conditions and geological setting. Characterizing serpentinization processes and the chemical compositions of serpentinites are thus of crucial importance to better understand the fluxes in chemical elements between the ocean and the oceanic lithosphere. Understanding and quantifying the mass transfer during serpentinization would also be valuable in a more global

scale to i) better define the speciation and concentrations of elements that are either released to the fluids, sustaining then deep and shallow biosphere, or stored into oceanic serpentinites, and ii) determine the composition of the oceanic lithosphere entering subduction and therefore of the fluids that will be released to the mantle wedge (Hattori and Guillot, 2003).

Studying element transfers related to serpentinization of abyssal peridotites is however challenging because of the non-uniqueness of peridotite protolith, the common lack of primary mineral relics due to the advanced stages of serpentinization of oceanic peridotites, the multiple stages of serpentinization affecting the peridotites, and the low-temperature post-serpentinization processes. Indeed, low-temperature alteration processes can occur secondary to serpentinization, transforming the serpentine minerals to clays and iron (oxyhydr)oxides, and causing gains and losses in several chemical elements (e.g., Al, Fe, Mg; Caillaud et al., 2006, 2009; Destrigneville et al., 1998; Karpoff et al., 1989, 2017; Snow and Dick, 1995; Venturelli et al., 1997)

In this study, we investigate mass transfer in major and trace elements occurring during serpentinization of peridotites from the ultraslow-spreading South West Indian Ridge (SWIR), and more particularly from the “smooth seafloor areas”. Interest on this particular smooth seafloor area is related to: 1) their near orthogonal geometry to the ridge axis, allowing to evaluate the influence of serpentinization with increasing distance from the ridge and the role of detachment faulting, and 2) the opportunity to determine, by comparing geochemical data between smooth seafloor and MAR serpentinites, the influence of magmatic regime on fluid-rock interactions and chemical budget of the oceanic lithosphere. This paper will hence focus on presenting and discussing major and trace elements compositions of the smooth seafloor serpentinites to shed light on the consequences of fluid-rock interactions during long-lived exhumation and hydration history.

2. Geological context

The South West Indian Ridge is an ultraslow-spreading ridge (14 mm/yr; Patriat et al., 1997) located in the Indian Ocean, between the Bouvet Triple Junction in the SW and the Rodrigues Triple Junction (RTJ) in the NE (Fig. 1). Between the Indomed Transform Fault (TF) and the RTJ, the SWIR is divided by four major transform faults (Discovery II, Gallieni, Atlantis II and Melville) and shows from west to east : 1) a decrease in magmatic activity, as suggested by an increase in axial valley depth (3 km in the west to 4.7 km in the east; Cannat et al., 1999) and 2) a decrease in oceanic crust thickness (6.7 km to the west and 2.4 km to the east; Muller et al., 1997). This longitudinal evolution is due to an unusually cold mantle under the easternmost part of the SWIR (Debayle and L  v  que, 1997) and the thermal influence of the Crozet hotspot to the westernmost part (Sauter et al., 2009). The SWIR mantle has a heterogeneous chemical and isotopic composition (Dupr   and All  gre, 1983) and is believed to contain exotic components, such as pieces of ancient continental crust, pyroxenites or eclogites (Gautheron et al., 2015; Salters and Dick, 2002).

The study area is located in the easternmost part of the SWIR, eastward of the Melville TF, between 62   and 65  E (Fig. 1). This zone is divided in two portions with different spreading trends and rates: the eastern part of the ridge shows a nearly orthogonal spreading with an Extension Spreading Rate (ESR) of 7 mm/yr, while the western part of the area spreads slightly obliquely with an ESR of 6 mm/yr (Patriat et al., 1997). In the 62-65  E region, the oceanic seafloor is composed of three different seafloor morphologies related to magma supply: volcanic seafloor (high magma supply), corrugated seafloor (moderate magma supply) and the smooth seafloor (minimal melt supply; Cannat et al., 2006). Volcanic seafloor morphology and corrugated surfaces are commonly found along slow-spreading ridges, while smooth seafloor was, so far, only been observed in this region of the SWIR (Cannat et al., 2006). The smooth

seafloor represents 37% of the SWIR seafloor surface between 62° and 65°E (Cannat et al., 2006). It is shaped as 15 to 30 km-long corridors, almost perpendicular to the ridge axis (Fig. 1; Cannat et al., 2006; Sauter et al., 2013), and is characterized by a predominance of mantle peridotites (96%) with a very low proportion of mafic rocks (<3% of the dredged volume). Its formation is related to nearly amagmatic conditions and mainly dominated by tectonic processes (Cannat et al., 1999, 2006; Sauter et al., 2013).

In the 62-65°E region, mineralogical and chemical compositions of the abyssal peridotites and basaltic rocks are particular. Indeed, clinopyroxenes are characterized by high Na₂O and low TiO₂ contents, compared to those of MAR peridotites, indicating metasomatic interaction (Seyler et al., 2003). Low CaO and Al₂O₃ contents together with high Na_{8.0} and Sr contents of basaltic glasses suggest that one or more early episodes of mantle partial melting occurred followed by significant melt-rock interactions (Meyzen et al., 2003; Paquet et al., 2016). Alteration of the smooth seafloor peridotites have been firstly investigated by Rouméjon and Cannat (2014) and Rouméjon et al. (2015) with the aim to better understand the petrographic textures and the fluid pathways of exhumed serpentinites in such peculiar geologic setting.

3. Methods

The serpentinites investigated in this study were sampled during the SMOOTHSEAFLOOR (SMS) expedition in 2010 (R.V. Marion Dufresne, cruise MD183, PI: D. Sauter and M. Cannat). During this cruise, thirty-three dredges were conducted on and off axis of the SWIR along the two N-S-oriented zones of smooth seafloor, between the magnetic anomalies C5n.o at north and C3An.y at south (Fig. 1; Sauter et al., 2013). The recovered samples consisted of variously serpentinized and oxidized peridotites, with minor gabbros and basaltic rocks (Sauter et al., 2013). In this study, mineralogical and geochemical compositions of a selection of thirty-

one serpentinite samples collected from the western and eastern corridors (Fig. 1) were carried out in order to assess changes in redox conditions and to better understand and evaluate exchanges in chemical elements during long-lived history of fluid-rock interactions.

Petrographic observations of 31 thin sections of serpentinites allows to determine the primary and secondary mineral assemblages and the different serpentinitization textures. Protolith, primary and secondary mineral assemblages, serpentinitization degree and textures are presented in Table 1. Distance from the ridge was recalculated for each sample using the mean position of the dredge given in Sauter et al. (2013; Fig. 1 and supplementray material). First number of sample label corresponds to the dredge number; therefore, samples collected from the same dredge would have similar distance from the ridge. Complementary mineral identifications were performed by X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and Raman spectroscopy to determine the different serpentine types and the eventual occurrences of other phyllosilicates (e.g., clays, talc). XRD patterns were recorded on a Brucker D8 diffractometer at Géosciences Environnement Toulouse (GET, France) with copper anode using the $\text{CuK}\alpha$ radiation at 1.54060 nm (40 kV, 40 mA) and LinxEye detector. For each sample, XRD patterns were first recorded on non-oriented bulk rock powder to investigate the presence of phyllosilicates (e.g. serpentine, smectites). Non-oriented patterns were acquired over a $2-80^\circ 2\theta$ range with a step size of $0.02^\circ 2\theta$ and 1s per step. Then the finest fraction ($<2\ \mu\text{m}$) of each sample was separated and prepared as three oriented sections: air-dried, saturated with ethylene glycol (EG) and heated at 500°C (Appendix A). Oriented patterns were acquired over a $2-36^\circ 2\theta$ range with a step size of $0.02^\circ 2\theta$ and 1s per step. Raman spectroscopic analyses were performed on serpentine minerals of six particular samples (Table 1) at the Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon (ENS Lyon, France) with a confocal Horiba Jobin-Yvon LabRam HR800 spectrometer. The used light source was an argon-ion laser at 514.5 nm wavelength and a power of 6 mW on silicate minerals. The measurements were performed between 150 and $1200\ \text{cm}^{-1}$ and between

3600 and 3800 cm^{-1} to observe respectively the vibrational frequencies of Si-groups and OH-groups (Appendix A).

Chemical compositions of primary and secondary minerals were obtained using a CAMECA SX100 Electron Microprobe, equipped with four WDS spectrometers and twelve diffraction crystals at the Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans (LMV), Clermont-Ferrand (France). Minerals were analyzed under a 15 kV tension and a 15 nA beam current, with a 5 μm spot size and a counting time of 10 s. In situ mineral compositions of the studied serpentinites are presented in Appendix B.

Bulk rock major and trace element compositions were carried out on 31 serpentinites and are presented in Table 2. Major elements were measured by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES) on a Thermo Fisher iCAP 6500 at SARM commercial laboratory (CRPG, Nancy, France). Additional potentiometric titration with potassium dichromate after dissolution of the sample in $\text{HF}/\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ mixture was performed on all serpentinites to obtain FeO contents and to calculate $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratios (Maxwell, 1968; Carignan et al., 2001). Bulk rock trace element concentrations were measured by an Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) on a quadrupole Agilent 7500 at LMV, Clermont Ferrand (France), after acid digestion of the sample. The reproducibility of the trace analyses, given as 2σ on 16 replicates of BCR-2 and BIR-1 USGS standards, is less than 2% for most of the elements, except Ni (4%) and V (20%). Additional boron concentrations were also measured at SARM (CRPG, Nancy, France) by UV-visible spectrophotometry after fusion with Na_2CO_3 . Errors are given with a 99% confidence interval for all elements.

4. Results

4.1. Petrographic description of the investigated serpentinites

The SMS serpentinites investigated in this study are mostly serpentized harzburgites (20 samples), lherzolites (7 samples) and dunites (2 samples; Table 1). Two other samples (SMS 5-4-17 and SMS-26-2-11) showing a higher proportion in pyroxenes (~70%,) are thus classified as serpentized olivine websterites. The serpentization degree of the SMS serpentinites ranges from moderate (50%) to complete (100%; Table 1).

4.1.1. Primary mineralogy

Primary mineral assemblages of the variously serpentized peridotites of the smooth seafloor area are constituted of olivine, pyroxenes (ortho- and clino-) and Cr-spinel. Olivine is present as relic mineral in the center of the serpentine mesh cells in the less serpentized samples (Fig. 2A) and represents a maximum of 35% (modal proportion) of the whole rock. Relics are roundish to subhedral with a maximum size of 0.5 mm. Olivine composition ranges between Fo₈₈ and Fo₉₁, with a Fo₉₀ composition in average and a structural formula Mg_{1.8}Fe_{0.2}SiO₄, and a mean NiO content of 0.4 wt.% (Appendix B), similarly to other abyssal peridotites (Komor et al., 1990; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014; Seyler et al., 2003; Snow and Dick, 1995).

Pyroxene relics are more abundant than olivine relics. No preferential orientation of the pyroxene grains was observed petrographically. However undulating extinction and kink-band deformations observed in some samples indicate high-temperature ductile deformation before serpentization. Ortho- and clinopyroxenes were both identified in the serpentized peridotites (Fig. 2A). Orthopyroxene is defined as enstatite, with En₈₈Fs₁₀Wo₂ as average composition (Appendix B), and frequently displays exsolution lamellae of augite (En₅₆Fs₇Wo₃₇ in average). Most of the orthopyroxenes from the SMS serpentinites have TiO₂ concentrations

higher than 0.1 wt.% (up to 0.21 wt.%), within the range of the orthopyroxenes of the SWIR peridotites (Frisby et al., 2016; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014; Seyler et al., 2003; Snow and Dick, 1995), but higher than those of the MAR peridotites (Cannat et al., 1992; Kodolányi et al., 2012). Clinopyroxene is present as diopside, with an average composition $\text{En}_{46}\text{Fs}_5\text{Wo}_{49}$, and shows frequent exsolution lamellae of augite ($\text{En}_{56}\text{Fs}_7\text{Wo}_{37}$). Concentrations in Na_2O , Al_2O_3 and TiO_2 in clinopyroxene are higher than those measured in the MAR clinopyroxenes (> 0.11 wt.%, > 4.5 wt.%, > 0.2 wt.%, respectively).

Spinel in the SMS serpentinites is present either as fresh Cr-spinel or as its alteration phase called ferritchromite. Fresh Cr-spinel is homogeneous with a brown to mahogany color in plane light and with a structural formula being $(\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.22-0.36}\text{Mg}^{2+}_{0.64-0.77})(\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.01-0.1}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.18-0.54}\text{Al}^{3+}_{1.38-1.75})\text{O}_4$. Their Cr# ($= \text{Cr}/(\text{Cr}+\text{Al}) \times 100$ in atomic proportion) varies between 9.4 and 28.3 (Appendix B), a range that overlaps the lower end of the SWIR Cr-spinels range (14.9 – 48.8; Dick and Bullen, 1984; Seyler et al., 2003) and that is significantly lower than those of the MAR Cr-spinels (21.4 – 74.2; Komor et al., 1990; Kodolányi et al., 2012; Cannat et al., 1992).

4.1.2. Secondary mineralogy

Secondary minerals being identified in the SMS serpentinites are serpentine, magnetite, tremolite, chlorite, talc, hydrogarnet, goethite, hematite, carbonates and sulfides. The most abundant secondary mineral present in the serpentinites and replacing both primary olivine and orthopyroxene is serpentine, which gives a pale green to grey-black color in handspecimen (Fig. 2B and 2C). Olivine is replaced by serpentine with a classical mesh texture, where the center of the mesh cells is either a relic of olivine or lizardite (for more advanced serpentinization stages). Mesh cells are up to 1 mm wide and are outlined by a network of thin magnetite veins (Fig. 2D). Mesh texture is predominant but ribbon texture is also observed, e.g. SMS 14-5-8,

17-4-2 and 30-2-2. Dark grey pseudomorphic bastite replaces orthopyroxene, either partially along the rim or totally and are commonly crosscut by numerous serpentine veins (Fig. 2B). RAMAN analyses on bastite pseudomorphs display a shift of the lizardite peaks (Appendix A), suggesting that a very small proportion of antigorite may be present with lizardite. However, antigorite remains unnoticeable on bulk rock XRD spectra. In most of the samples, serpentine was identified as lizardite 1T (XRD spectra, Appendix A). Antigorite is present only in the two olivine websterites (SMS 5-4-17 and 26-2-11) in replacement of pyroxenes, together with tremolite and chlorite (Fig. 2E and 2F). No brucite was detected on XRD or RAMAN spectra. Secondary veins of fibrous or banded serpentine, mostly chrysotile and lizardite, are abundant in SMS serpentinites and crosscut the preexistent mesh texture with a preferred orientation. Interlocking and interpenetrating recrystallization textures were only observed in two serpentinized harzburgites, SMS 15-3-16 and 29-5-41.

Serpentine chemical composition (irrespective of varieties and textures) shows a wide range: SiO₂ ranges from 34.2 to 45.0 wt.%, MgO from 26.0 to 44.4 wt.%, FeO from 1.5 to 14.8 wt.% and Al₂O₃ up to 4.5 wt.% (Appendix B). Lizardite in the mesh texture has an average structural formula (Fe_{0.2}Mg_{2.8})Si₂O₅(OH)₄ and shows higher concentrations in FeO (> 10 wt.%) than bastite and serpentine veins. Antigorite is characterized by slightly higher content in Al₂O₃ as indicated by its formula (Fe_{0.3}Mg_{2.7})(Si_{1.9}Al_{0.1})O₅(OH)₄. Bastite frequently contains significant concentrations in CaO and Al₂O₃ (up to ~ 2 wt.%), as indicated by its structural formula (Ca_{0-0.1}Fe_{0.1-0.4}Mg_{2.5-2.9})(Si_{1.8-2}Al_{0-0.2})O₅(OH)₄. Serpentine in recrystallized textures is also slightly enriched in Al₂O₃ compared to that in mesh textures (up to 3.5 wt.%). Chrysotile veins have similar composition than lizardite in mesh textures and bastites. Na₂O and NiO concentrations are comparable for all serpentine textures (0-0.25 wt.% and 0-0.7 wt.%, respectively).

Magnetite ($\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}_2\text{O}_3$) appears in three different habits in the SMS serpentinites. It occurs predominantly as veins forming a network underlining the serpentine mesh cells (Fig. 2B). Secondly, it is also found as alteration mineral of sulfides (pentlandite or millerite), forming a grey alteration corona around the yellow sulfide core in reflected light. In both cases, its composition is classical (Fe_2O_3 68 wt.%, FeO 31 wt.%). The magnetite is thirdly present as exsolution and along the rims and cracks of Cr-spinel grains, or as ferritchromite when Cr-spinel replacement is complete (when all Mg, Al and Cr are replaced by Fe; Kimball, 1990). Altered Cr-spinel composition is then modified, with lower concentrations in Cr_2O_3 , MgO and Al_2O_3 than fresh Cr-spinel and a structural formula being $(\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.30-0.83}\text{Mg}^{2+}_{0.13-0.70})(\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.03-1.28}\text{Cr}^{3+}_{0.38-1.14}\text{Al}^{3+}_{0.33-1.34})\text{O}_4$.

Other secondary minerals include tremolite, talc, chlorite, and hydrogarnet. Tremolite, whose structural formula is $\text{Ca}_{1.9}\text{Na}_{0.1}\text{Mg}_{4.6}\text{Fe}_{0.3}(\text{Al}_{0.2}\text{Si}_{7.8}\text{O}_{22})(\text{OH})_2$, is found as replacement of clinopyroxenes forming elongated or fan-shaped crystals. Tremolite veins are scarce, being only identified in two serpentinitized harzburgites (SMS 5-4-14 and 27-2-19) and two olivine websterites (SMS 5-4-17 and 26-2-11). In SMS 5-4-17 and 26-2-11, tremolite is found in veins intertwined with antigorite and chlorite, while opaque iron oxides and hydroxides, together with serpentine, replace olivine (Fig. 2E and 2F). Talc $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ is found either as replacement of orthopyroxene or as veins in samples SMS 1-2-35, 4-2-1, 5-4-14, 10-5-6, 27-2-19 and 29-5-41 (>1% modal), indicating circulation of a Si-rich fluid. Four peridotites (SMS 1-2-35, 7-3-7, 22-6-13 and 34-2-17) display interstitial plagioclase that was totally replaced by hydrogarnet during fluid-rock interaction (Fig. 3A) suggesting magmatic impregnation. Hydrogarnet is present as clusters of very small dark crystals (10-15 μm each; Fig. 3A). The replacement of plagioclase by hydrogarnet releases Al that is used to precipitate clinocllore (Appendix B) as alteration coronas around the hydrogarnet (Fig. 3A). Chlorite is also observed associated with and related to alteration of Cr-spinel around which it forms a dark blue corona

in cross-polarized light (Fig. 3A, Appendix B). Chlorite veins are only found in serpentinized olivine websterites SMS 5-4-17 and 26-2-11. Hydrogarnet and chlorite alteration shows clearly plagioclase impregnation in the peridotites, however, other petrographic evidences, such as inter-pyroxenes cusps boundaries (Fig. 3B) and/or olivine-pyroxenes interstitial crystallization textures (Table 1) suggest different degrees of melt-rock interactions (Piccardo et al., 2007; Rampone et al., 1997).

Sulfide minerals are very scarce and only represent a very tiny proportion of the bulk rock (<<1%). Some relics of euhedral to subhedral primary sulfides, whose size can reach up to 100 μm , occur predominantly as pentlandite $(\text{Fe,Ni})_9\text{S}_8$. Secondary sulfides are sub-rounded or bleb-shaped, with a maximum size of 50 μm , and are mainly pentlandite and millerite (NiS) . They frequently replace primary pentlandite in association with magnetite. The composition of pentlandite (primary and secondary) ranges between 32.7-35.5 wt.% S, 27.3-42.4 wt.% Fe, 21.4-37.1 wt.% Ni, 0.3-4 wt.% Co and 0-2.4 wt.% Cu, while millerite is composed of 59.6-72.3 wt.% Ni, 27-35.6 wt.% S, 1.4-4.2 wt.% Fe, 0-0.7 wt.% Co and 0-1.4 wt.% Cu. Two samples show distinct secondary sulfide mineral assemblages: SMS 2-2-11 displays an assemblage of millerite + violarite $(\text{FeNi}_2\text{S}_4)$ + chalcopyrite (CuFeS_2) , while SMS 5-4-14 contains awaruite (Ni_3Fe) associated to pentlandite. Awaruite generally forms during early stages of serpentinization when reducing conditions predominates (Delacour et al., 2008b; Frost, 1985). However, due to the high serpentinization degree of the sample (91%; Table 1), it is more likely that awaruite results from the destabilization of pentlandite (Chamberlain, 1965; Kanehira et al., 1975).

Nine SMS serpentinites contain significant proportions (>1% modal) of hematite (Fe_2O_3) and goethite $(\text{FeO}(\text{OH}))$ (Table 1). These Fe-minerals are precipitated as final product of complete sulfide alteration (e.g., SMS 4-2-1, 11-2-11, 14-5-8, 21-5-6), displaying then shapes, sizes and textures similar to those of their parent sulfide minerals (primary or secondary

pentlandite and millerite; Fig. 3C). They are also found as amorphous iron oxides and/or hydroxides (named as IOH further in this manuscript, e.g., SMS 4-2-1, 5-4-14, 5-4-17, 11-2-11, 14-5-1, 14-5-8, 21-5-6, 26-2-11, 33-3-27), which result from the combined alteration of serpentine and magnetite (Caillaud et al., 2006; Venturelli et al., 1997). These IOH are reddish to orange in reflected light and replace serpentine at the center of the mesh cells (Fig. 2E-F and Fig. 3C-D). Although their absence of crystallinity prevented acquisition of reliable chemical analyses, their identification was suggested by peaks of weak intensity on RAMAN spectra. When the IOH are present in the serpentine mesh texture, magnetite is locally absent.

Carbonates are present as calcite (CaCO_3) in three samples. They either form dark brown opaque areas with blurred limits in thin section (SMS 8-2-25) or veins of 1 μm to 1 mm (SMS 10-5-6 and 29-5-41). In sample SMS 10-5-6, calcite is associated with talc in large veins. One occurrence of aragonite was identified by RAMAN spectroscopy on an isolated vein in SMS 34-2-17. Elementary and isotope carbon analyses (Total Inorganic Carbon >600 ppm, $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TIC}} \sim +3\text{‰}$; pers. data) suggest that two other samples (SMS 1-2-35 and 27-2-19) contains little amounts of carbonates not visible in thin sections.

4.2. Bulk rock chemical composition of serpentinites

4.2.1. Major elements

Bulk rock major and trace elements compositions of 31 serpentinites are given in Table 2. These serpentinites show a wide range of compositions: SiO_2 (non-anhydrous values) ranges from 36.9 to 44.6 wt.% (average 40.1 wt.%), Al_2O_3 from 0.6 to 3.9 wt.% (av. 2.2 wt.%), $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ from 7.2 to 19.6 wt.% (av. 9.2 wt.%), MgO from 25.8 to 37.9 wt.% (av. 34.3 wt.%), CaO from 0.2 to 6.1 wt.% (av. 2.3 wt.%), Na_2O from 0.1 to 0.8 wt.% (av. 0.2 wt.%) and LOI from 4.9 to

14.5 wt.% (av. 11.6 wt.%). These compositions are similar to those reported in previous studies on SWIR serpentinites (Niu, 2004; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014). In a diagram MgO/SiO_2 vs. $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ (Fig. 4), the studied serpentinites follow the terrestrial array defined by Jagoutz et al. (1979) and Hart and Zindler (1986) for mantle peridotites ($0.65 < \text{MgO}/\text{SiO}_2 < 1$ and $0.015 < \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2 < 0.09$). However, one serpentinitized lherzolite (SMS 11-2-4) and four IOH-serpentinites (containing strictly $\geq 1\%$ modal, SMS 4-2-1, 5-4-17, 11-2-11 and 33-3-27) show higher $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ ratios and lower MgO/SiO_2 ratios than SWIR and MAR peridotites (Fig. 4; Niu, 2004; Paulick et al., 2006; Jöns et al., 2010; Kodolányi et al., 2012; Rouméjon, 2014; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014).

The $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio, used as a proxy of oxidation degree of the serpentinites, ranges from 0.39 and 0.87. This ratio increases with both LOI and estimated visual serpentinitization degree of the rock (Fig. 5). Serpentinites with low serpentinitization degrees ($\sim 50\%$; e.g., SMS 1-2-1) have low $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratios and LOI (~ 4 wt.%), whereas those with high serpentinitization degrees (99 %; e.g., SMS 14-5-1) have high $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratios and LOI (14 wt.%). IOH-serpentinites display high $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratios, LOI and serpentinitization degree (e.g., SMS 11-2-11, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio of 0.87, 9.5 wt.% LOI).

4.2.2. Trace elements

Multi-element patterns of the SMS serpentinites, volatile-free and normalized to primitive mantle (Sun and McDonough, 1989), are mostly depleted compared to primitive mantle (PM; Fig. 6A), except one serpentinite showing petrographic evidences of plagioclase impregnation, SMS 22-6-13, which is enriched 2 to 300 times to the PM. Trace element spectra of SMS serpentinites are within the range of the SWIR serpentinites (Niu, 2004) but enriched in almost all trace elements compared to MAR serpentinites (Andreani et al., 2014; Deschamps et al.,

2013 and references within). LILE (Cs, Ba, Rb) concentrations and high positive anomalies in
 U, Pb and Sr (between 0.1 and 100 times the PM) of SMS serpentinites are similar to those of
 abyssal peridotites in the literature (Bodinier and Godard, 2008; Deschamps et al., 2013).
 Positive anomalies in U, Pb and Sr are common features in serpentinites, irrespectively of their
 context of formation (Deschamps et al., 2013). Rare Earth Elements (REE) patterns, volatile-
 free and normalized to chondrite (Fig. 6B; Sun and McDonough, 1989), show a general
 depletion in LREE and MREE (La to Eu) compared to the chondrite value (CV; Fig. 6B), with
 the exception of few samples, the serpentinite with plagioclase impregnation SMS 22-6-13
 (enriched up to 38 times the CV) and five IOH- serpentinites, SMS 4-2-1, 11-2-11, 14-5-8, 5-
 4-17 and 33-3-27, which are enriched up to 10 times the CV. HREE (from Gd to Lu)
 concentrations show a wide range, from slightly depleted (minimum $0.12 \times \text{CV}$) to enriched
 (up to $14 \times \text{CV}$). Half of the SMS serpentinites show depletion in LREE compared to HREE
 (west corridor: SMS 1-2-1, 1-2-35, 2-2-11, 2-2-17, 3-2-1, 6-3-14, 7-3-7, 8-2-17, 8-2-25, 10-5-
 6, 11-2-4, 15-3-16, 17-4-19, 17-4-32; east corridor: SMS 27-2-19, 28-4-10, 29-6-13), whereas
 the other half (west corridor: SMS 4-2-1, 5-4-14, 5-4-17, 11-2-11, 13-4-11, 14-5-1, 14-5-8; east
 corridor: SMS 21-5-6, 22-6-13, 29-5-41, 30-2-2, 33-3-27, 34-2-17) show enrichment in both
 LREE and HREE (Fig. 6B). Twenty-one samples (except SMS 1-2-35, 6-3-14, 8-2-17, 8-2-25,
 10-5-6, 17-4-19, 17-4-32, 27-2-19, 28-4-10, 29-6-13 and 30-2-2) show a Ce anomaly, which is
 negative for most of the serpentinites (0.004 to $1.56 \times \text{CV}$; e.g., SMS 11-2-11) and only positive
 for two serpentinites (0.7 to $128 \times \text{CV}$, SMS 22-6-13 and 29-5-41; Fig. 6B). By comparison,
 such Ce anomaly is not observed in MAR serpentinites (Fig. 6B). In addition, SMS serpentinites
 lack Eu anomaly (Fig. 6B). The SMS serpentinites also contain higher concentrations in Fluid
 Mobile Elements (FME) than the PM: B (33-115 ppm, average 65 ppm), Li (0.94-8.83 ppm,
 av. 4.45 ppm), Cd (0.02-0.17 ppm, av. 0.06 ppm), As (0.22-28 ppm, av. 3.62 ppm), and Sb

(0.003-9.49 ppm, av. 1.03 ppm) (Table 2). These values are within the range of global abyssal serpentinites (Niu, 2004; Deschamps et al., 2013 and references within).

5. Discussion

Since its formation at and along the ridge axis, via magmatic or tectonic-dominated processes, the oceanic lithosphere is affected by interaction with seawater-derived, magmatic or hydrothermal fluids resulting in chemical exchanges between the rocks and the fluids. Quantifying these chemical transfers and understanding in which conditions they occur are crucial to better constrain the biogeochemical cycles of the Earth and the compositions of the different reservoirs. The smooth seafloor areas along the SWIR, sites investigated during this study, have the particularity to be nearly amagmatic and to be formed by tectonically-dominated processes (“flip-flop model”; Sauter et al., 2013). Consequently, fluid interaction in these zones will affect predominantly the ultramafic rocks exposed on the ocean floor via detachment faulting. In the following section, we will discuss the influence of long-lived interaction of ultramafic rocks with fluids (magmatic, hydrothermal, seawater, ...) on chemical compositions of the rocks and on chemical transfers with a focus on some specific tracers and elements. In order to evaluate the effect of time and the lateral variability in such specific ultraslow-spreading context, chemical compositions will be regarded as a function of ridge axis distance and thus of exhumation history.

5.1. Influence of magmatic processes on protolith compositions

Primary compositions of serpentinites protoliths at the smoothseafloor, i.e., harzburgites, lherzolites, dunites or olivine websterites, result from magmatic processes, such as partial

melting and melt-rock interaction (i.e. impregnation, refertilization) and depend on underlying mantle composition. Knowing precisely these primary compositions is important to evaluate element mass transfer occurring during secondary fluid-rock interaction within the oceanic lithosphere.

5.1.1. Partial melting influence on protolith composition

In order to differentiate between primary and secondary element mass transfer, it is crucial to evaluate what element are mobile or immobile and how they evolve during primary and secondary processes. During magmatic processes, partial melting degree and element compatibility and mobility significantly impact the chemical composition of the protolith. Partial melting degree in mantle-derived rocks is commonly evaluated using TiO₂ content of the rocks, as this element is considered as immobile during hydrothermal alteration processes (Finlow-Bates and Stumpfl, 1981; Deschamps et al., 2013). Therefore, any major element correlating with TiO₂ content would then reflect the protolith composition of the SMS serpentinites. During oceanic upper mantle partial melting, as partial melting degree increases, SiO₂, CaO, Na₂O, Al₂O₃ and TiO₂ contents will progressively decrease in residual peridotites whereas MgO and Fe₂O₃ contents will increase (Bodinier and Godard, 2003; Niu et al., 1997). This evolution of TiO₂ with partial melting degree is shown in Figure 7 for the studied SMS serpentinitized peridotites: the serpentinitized dunites show the lowest TiO₂ contents (< 0.02 wt.%), the serpentinitized lherzolites have the highest TiO₂ contents (> 0.06 wt.%), and the serpentinitized harzburgites display intermediate values between 0.02 and 0.08 wt.%. The only exception to these subgroups is the Ti-enriched serpentinitized harzburgite, SMS 22-6-13, which shows a high TiO₂ content ~0.16 wt.%. This enrichment in TiO₂ content for this specific sample will be discussed in section 5.1.2.

Among major elements, Al_2O_3 is classically considered, similarly to TiO_2 , as immobile during fluid-rock interaction (Sinha et al., 1986), except in very alkaline conditions (Shervais et al., 2005). Both MgO and CaO are commonly lost to the fluids (Coleman and Keith, 1971; Kelley et al., 2001; Snow and Dick, 1995), while studies on SiO_2 , Fe_2O_3 and Na_2O behavior are limited or not fully conclusive (Malvoisin, 2015; Shervais et al., 2005; Sinha et al., 1986). In the SMS serpentinites, Al_2O_3 content exclusively results from magmatic processes, as it fully correlates with TiO_2 content (Fig. 7). It is worthwhile to note that Al_2O_3 contents in SMS serpentinites are within the range of the SWIR peridotites but higher than that of the MAR serpentinites (Fig. 4 et 7). This suggests that the depleted upper mantle of the SWIR would be initially enriched in Al_2O_3 compared to the upper mantle of the MAR. Similar to Al_2O_3 , CaO content correlates with TiO_2 content (Fig. 7), the highest contents being related to the occurrences of clinopyroxenes in the serpentinized lherzolites. Only two samples, SMS 10-5-6 and 29-5-41, are off the trend with higher CaO contents (respectively 6.1 and 2 wt% non-anhydrous). This enrichment is related to the presence of calcite veins in the serpentinites that precipitated from the combination of Ca and marine dissolved inorganic carbon (Dessimoulie, pers. data), similarly to other places along mid-oceanic ridges (Kelley et al., 2001, 2005; Delacour et al., 2008a; Schwarzenbach et al., 2013). The other major elements, SiO_2 , MgO , $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ and Na_2O , display rough correlation with TiO_2 content (Fig. 7): constant for $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ and SiO_2 , negative for MgO and positive for Na_2O , these trends resulting from mantle partial melting (Bodinier and Godard, 2003). However, some discrepancies occur in those correlations, in particular for IOH-serpentinites that spread out from the trend defined by the other serpentinites, showing lower MgO content and higher Fe_2O_3 and Na_2O contents. These peculiar compositions likely reflect mobility of these three elements during fluid-rock interactions (see discussion section 5.2).

REE patterns of the serpentinites can also provide information on magmatic processes and on partial melting degree. In this study, the subparallel HREE patterns of the SMS serpentinitized peridotites (Fig. 6B) indicate different partial melting degrees of a mantle source (Bodinier and Godard, 2003). HREE contents of SMS serpentinites are thus representative of the protolith composition. In contrast, overlapping occurs for LREE suggesting that concentration in these LREE were subsequently modified by later processes, i.e., melt-rock or fluid-rock interactions.

5.1.2. Melt-rock interaction influence on protolith composition

At mid-oceanic ridges, peridotites are commonly percolated by ascending basaltic melts that can modify their bulk rock composition, depending on the melt composition and the degree of melt-rock interaction (Niu, 2004; Niu et al., 1997; Piccardo et al., 2007; Rampone et al., 1997). Melt-rock interactions and/or impregnation processes, if not cryptic, lead to changes in major and trace element compositions, as well as several petrographic evidences (e.g., plagioclase impregnation, REE flat patterns, enrichment in Fe, Ti, Na, ...). Abyssal peridotites are residues of partial melting and then depleted in REE compared to the primitive mantle (PM). Thus any REE spectra enriched compared to the PM value could result from refertilization processes (Bodinier and Godard, 2003; Deschamps et al., 2013; Niu, 2004). In addition, impregnation of peridotites by basaltic melts, which are enriched in both LREE and HREE, produces flat to enriched REE patterns (Bodinier and Godard, 2003; Deschamps et al., 2013; Frisby et al., 2016). In case of cryptic metasomatism, REE spectra show a sigmoidal shape with higher enrichment in LREE than in HREE (Bodinier and Godard, 2003). Positive europium anomaly in the REE spectra of the peridotites could also be related to crystallization of plagioclase from percolating melts in the peridotites (Borghini and Rampone, 2007; Frisby et al., 2016; Paquet et al., 2016). High TiO₂ content in SWIR peridotites were interpreted as related to post-

melting/refertilization processes (Niu, 2004; Paquet et al., 2016; Warren and Shimizu, 2010) whereas Seyler et al. (2003) suggested that this TiO₂ enrichment, together with Na₂O enrichment, is rather due to a very heterogeneous Ti-enriched mantle source.

Some SMS peridotites show peculiar mineral assemblages and textures (e.g., olivine/pyroxene crystallization, interstitial plagioclase; see Table 1 and Fig. 3A et B) and/or specific trace element compositions indicative of melt-rock reactions. Indeed, several serpentinized abyssal peridotites are characterized by LREE-enriched and flat REE patterns (e.g., SMS 22-6-13, SMS 11-2-11), while most of them show classical depletion in LREE compared to HREE (Fig. 6B; Frisby et al., 2016; Niu, 2004). This enrichment is likely related to melt-rock interaction as petrographic evidences of melt circulation were observed (e.g. SMS 11-2-4). One serpentinite, SMS 22-6-13, displays anomalously high trace element concentrations, flat REE pattern (Fig. 6) and high TiO₂ concentrations (Fig. 7) implying thus significant refertilization during melt circulation. Enrichment in REE is also observed for some serpentinites containing high proportion of IOH (e.g., SMS 4-2-1, 11-2-11 and 33-3-27; Fig. 6) suggesting that such enrichment is likely due to secondary processes such as fluid-rock interaction. This will be discussed in Section 5.2.

Serpentinized peridotites characterized by olivine or pyroxene (re)crystallization (Fig. 3B) do not show specific trace element compositions. This could be explained by percolation of a melt in equilibrium with the peridotite (Bodinier and Godard, 2003) or by a little amount of melt that would not affect the peridotite composition at the hand-specimen scale (Paquet et al., 2016). The absence of Eu anomaly in samples with plagioclase impregnation (SMS 1-2-35 and 7-3-7) is likely related to alteration of plagioclase to hydrogarnet. Trace elements of previously analyzed rodingites (i.e., plagioclase-bearing rocks altered to prehnite and grossular) display no or negative Eu-anomaly, implying a leaching of Eu during the replacement of plagioclase (Tang et al., 2018).

5.2. Influence of fluid-rock interactions on element mass transfer

Fluid-rock interaction affecting the oceanic lithosphere comprises a variety of processes depending on fluid fluxes, temperature and redox conditions. Along fast-spreading ridges, fluid-rock interactions are classically subdivided in high-temperature fluid-rock interaction, with formation of a hydrothermal system, and low-temperature fluid-rock interaction that are long-lasting processes that significantly affect the oceanic lithosphere composition (Alt, 2004; Von Herzen, 2004). For slow-spreading ridge, similar evolution was reported as detachment fault exhume ultramafic rocks with variable amounts of mafic rocks (i.e. gabbros; McCaig et al., 2007, 2010). In the following section, we present the consequences of fluid-rock interaction, with variable P-T, redox conditions and fluid compositions, on mass element transfer as a function of ridge distance, so with aging and exposure of ultramafic rocks on the ocean floor in an ultraslow-spreading context.

5.2.1. High-temperature fluid circulation

High-temperature fluid circulation in detachment-related context were reported along slow-spreading ridges to explain occurrences of high-temperature hydrothermal systems on ultramafic rocks exposed via detachment faulting (McCaig et al., 2007, 2010; Alt et al., 2013). In such settings, high-temperature fluid circulation, initiated by interaction of fluids with gabbro intrusions, affects the ultramafic rocks at depth. Evidences of such high-temperature fluid circulation, leading to the formation of sulfide deposits, either on the ocean floor or at depth within the oceanic lithosphere, were observed in some serpentinites of the SWIR smooth seafloor area. Indeed, three IOH-serpentinites, SMS 4-2-1, 5-4-17 and 11-2-11, have $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$

contents higher than other SMS serpentinites (>12 wt.%; Fig. 7), suggesting interaction of the peridotites with high-temperature Fe-rich fluids. Interaction with such fluids (i.e., black smoker-type fluids; Douville et al., 2002) also commonly lead to enrichments in S, precipitated as sulfide minerals, REE and metals in the serpentinites. Enrichments in REE, FME and Cu, Co and Zn characterized the three IOH-serpentinites (Fig. 6 and 11, Table 2). However, they do not contain any sulfide, hematite and goethite only being present. A first possible explanation of this lack of sulfide would be related to the long-lasting interaction of these serpentinites with seawater or seawater-derived fluids that led to oxidation and desulfurization of the sulfides (Delacour et al., 2008a; Karthe et al., 1993; Legrand et al., 2005; Richardson and Vaughan, 1989). Another explanation for this lack of sulfides would be due to the circulation of Cl-rich fluids, such as high-temperature hypersaline brines, which would provide an efficient ligand to Fe and would favor precipitation of Fe-oxides over sulfides (Barton and Johnson, 2000). Further analyses of Cl and S contents and sulfur isotopes compositions of the SMS serpentinites would help to better constrain the processes and formulate further interpretations. Currently, the three IOH-serpentinites were collected at the most remote distance from the ridge (> 40 km; Table 1), implying that interaction with high-temperature hydrothermal fluids occurred, most likely at depth, during the early stages of spreading and detachment faulting.

5.2.2. Evolution of fluid-rock interaction with distance from the ridge

In order to evaluate which elements were influenced by long-lived fluid-rock interaction in the specific setting of smooth seafloor along an ultra-slow spreading ridge, profiles with distance from the ridge of serpentinitization and oxidation degrees for serpentinites of both western and eastern corridors of the smooth seafloor area were considered (Fig. 8). In these profiles, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio of the SMS serpentinites was used as proxy of serpentinitization and

oxidation degrees, as this ratio is correlated to both visual serpentinization degree and LOI (Fig. 5; Evans, 2008; Andreani et al., 2013). In the west corridor, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio of SMS serpentinites clearly increases with the distance from the ridge. Serpentinites sampled at a distance less than 5 km from the axis have a $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio around 0.4 (e.g., SMS 17-4-32 at 2.42 km with a $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio of 0.41; Tables 1 and **Error! Reference source not found.**), while serpentinites collected at a distance further than 40 km have $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio more than 0.8 (e.g., SMS 4-2-1 at 55.7 km, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio of 0.81; Tables 1 and **Error! Reference source not found.** and Fig. 8), indicating then that distance profile from the ridge in the west corridor can be confidently used as serpentinization profiles. However, increase in $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratio with distance of the ridge axis is not observed in the east corridor, the $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{total}}$ ratios ranging between 0.7 and 0.8 (Fig. 8). This difference between the two corridors is mainly related to the volcanic nature of the seafloor and/or a sampling bias of this study. Indeed, dredging of the southern part of the east corridor recovered mainly basaltic rocks, with few serpentinites samples, apart from dredges 22 and 25 located close to the C3An.y (Fig. 1). This scarcity in ultramafic rocks is linked to fewer detachment faults in the eastern corridor as identified in Sauter et al. (2013). For these reasons, evaluation of chemical transfers during serpentinization with time and distance of the ridge axis will only be carried out on the western smooth seafloor corridor.

5.2.3. Long-term serpentinization

Mass transfers of chemical, major and trace, elements during serpentinization were previously investigated by several authors without reaching to a consensus on the behavior of some elements. Indeed, behavior of major elements are a matter of debate (e.g., Coleman and Keith, 1971; Malvoisin, 2015; Mével, 2003; O'Hanley, 1996; Shervais et al., 2005; Snow and

Dick, 1995), due to the difficulty to access both serpentinites and their corresponding fresh protolith, to the chemical heterogeneity of the peridotite protolith related to magmatic and post-magmatic processes and to the long-lived fluid-rock interactions that affect peridotite protolith and for which P-T and redox conditions and fluid compositions can be variable. In the particular smooth seafloor context, evaluation of major and trace elements concentrations versus a distance profile from the ridge, and the comparison of these concentrations to those of MAR and SWIR serpentinites (Fig. 9), provide new insights on mass transfer during long-term serpentinization.

5.2.3.1. Influence of long-term serpentinization on major elements

Behavior of Al_2O_3 and CaO concentrations in the SMS serpentinites was previously discussed in Section 5.1.1. as these elements are inherited from the protolith (Fig. 7). The absence of correlation of Al_2O_3 and TiO_2 contents with distance from the ridge (Fig. 9) indicate that partial melting degree does not vary linearly through extension of the smooth seafloor, and therefore that distance profiles confidently represent serpentinization profiles. Concentrations in other major elements, $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$, MgO , SiO_2 , Na_2O do not significantly increase or decrease with the distance from the ridge (Fig. 9) suggesting that behavior of these elements is not affected by serpentinization progress. Nevertheless, scattering in these elements with TiO_2 (Fig. 7) may be likely related to fluid-rock interaction processes.

Mg is known to be mobile during fluid-rock interaction, some studies having reported a loss in Mg during serpentinization related to dissolution of brucite (Snow and Dick, 1995; Malvoisin, 2015). Similar loss could be evoked to explain the low MgO contents in some SMS serpentinites compared to the range of the SWIR and MAR abyssal peridotites (Fig. 4) and its broad correlation with TiO_2 (Fig. 7). Behavior of Fe is closely related to Mg mobility, as these

two elements have close ionic radius and similar charge. Indeed, Fe/Mg ratio of most of the SMS serpentinites is well correlated to TiO_2 (Fig. 7), with the exception of the IOH-serpentinites that will be discussed in Section 5.2.4. This indicates that serpentinization does not significantly affect the mobility and thus the budget of MgO.

SiO_2 gains during serpentinization has been suggested by Malvoisin (2015), as an alternative explanation to low MgO/ SiO_2 ratios of serpentinites (Fig. 4). However, no gain is observed for the SMS serpentinites as a function of distance from the ridge (Fig. 9). In addition, the presence of talc veins in some serpentinites (e.g., SMS 10-5-6, Table 1), related to the circulation and precipitation of Si-rich fluids, is not correlated with a gain in SiO_2 . This suggests that SiO_2 concentrations variations are related to variations in MgO and FeO concentrations.

Scattering of Na_2O with TiO_2 and as a function of ridge distance is probably due to interaction of the SMS serpentinites with NaCl-rich fluids, i.e. seawater (~1 wt.% of Na; Quinby-Hunt and Turekian, 1983) and the precipitation of halite salts in serpentinites. These salts were however not observed petrographically. Quantification of bulk rock Cl concentrations in the serpentinites are necessary to unravel the origin of this scattering in Na_2O and if, similarly to previous studies (Sharp and Barnes, 2004), serpentinites of the smooth seafloor are enriched in Cl.

5.2.3.2. Influence of long-term serpentinization on Rare Earth Elements (REE)

Rare Earth Elements (REE) are commonly considered as immobile elements and their concentrations and distributions, shown by their spectrum shape on normalized diagrams, are commonly used to evidence magmatic and melt-rock interaction processes (Bodinier and Godard, 2003; Deschamps et al., 2013; Niu, 2004). However, recent studies reported REE mobility during fluid-rock interaction, expressed as an increase in REE concentrations with

advanced degrees of alteration (Andreani et al., 2014; Frisby et al., 2016, 2019; Niu, 2004; Paulick et al., 2006). Serpentinites from the west corridor show REE patterns similar to previously published studies on SWIR serpentinites but enriched compared to MAR serpentinites (Fig. 6B). While this enrichment in REE can be related to different magmatic regimes or melt-rock interaction via refertilization processes (see section 5.1.), some specific REE distribution and/or anomaly more likely result from secondary fluid-rock interaction processes. Indeed, the SWIR serpentinites show a Ce anomaly but no Eu anomaly in comparison to the MAR serpentinites (Fig. 6; Frisby et al., 2016; Niu, 2004; Rouméjon, 2014). These differences are related to fluid-rock interaction subsequently to accretion modes. Indeed, along the MAR, phases of magmatic activity alternate with phases of tectonic activity that allow exhumation of mafic and ultramafic rocks on the seafloor. Interaction of seawater-derived fluids with these mafic rocks is known to produce hydrothermal fluids with a positive Eu anomaly due to the occurrence of plagioclase in the mafic rocks (Douville et al., 2002). Some MAR serpentinites are thus thought to result from interaction with such evolved hydrothermal fluids (Deschamps et al., 2013). In the smooth seafloor context, mafic rocks are very scarce (Fig. 1; Cannat et al., 2006; Sauter et al., 2013), limiting then interaction with mafic rocks and thus enhancing interaction of peridotites with seawater or seawater-derived hydrothermal fluids whose chemical compositions are consequently different from those of the MAR.

Negative anomaly in Ce on REE spectra of serpentinites attests to interaction of peridotites with seawater under oxidizing conditions. However, the Ce/Ce* ratio does not show a clear evolution with distance from the ridge (Fig. 10) and thus as serpentinization degree increases. Nevertheless, two other LREE, La and Pr, show a clear increase in concentration with distance from the ridge (Fig. 10) indicating thus a progressive enrichment in these two elements with serpentinization progress, as already suggested by Frisby et al. (2016) for SWIR serpentinites.

Fluid Mobile Elements (FME; As, B, Ba, Cd, Li, Pb, Sb, Sr, and U) are, as indicated by their names, mobile in the fluid phase and therefore during serpentinization of peridotites. Previous studies demonstrated that serpentine minerals are enriched in FME (e.g., Boschi et al., 2008; Decitre et al., 2003; Vils et al., 2008; Deschamps et al., 2013 and reference therein) which are then transferred into subduction zone (Deschamps et al., 2011, 2013; Vils et al., 2011). However, few studies investigated the increase of these elements as a function of serpentinization progress and more particularly for long-lived serpentinization context such as the smoothseafloor of the SWIR.

In the SMS serpentinites, Li and B are the only two FME whose concentration increases with the serpentinization degree and with the distance from the ridge (Fig. 11). Boron enrichment is a classical feature of altered oceanic crust (Spivack and Edmond, 1987) and serpentinized peridotites (Boschi et al., 2008; Seyfried and Dibble, 1979; Vils et al., 2008). In serpentinites, this enrichment is related to the incorporation of B from seawater (4.5 ppm, Quinby-Hunt and Turekian, 1983) into serpentine (0.2-20 ppm; Boschi et al., 2008; Deschamps et al., 2011) leading to bulk B concentrations up to 239 ppm (Boschi et al., 2008; Deschamps et al., 2011; Seyfried and Dibble, 1979). Lithium is also classically enriched in serpentinites (up to 1.37 ppm, Decitre et al., 2002; Deschamps et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2008; Niu, 2004; Vils et al., 2008), but in contrast to B, serpentine minerals show very variable Li contents (0.20-26.1 ppm), which are either enriched or depleted compared to primary minerals (Decitre et al., 2002; Deschamps et al., 2011; Lee et al., 2008; Vils et al., 2008). Enrichments in Li and B in SMS serpentinites (Fig. 11) are, as suggested in earlier studies, due to their incorporation into serpentine phases as serpentinization progress. Only one serpentine (SMS 5-4-17) does not show such enrichment, its Li concentration being low compared to its position from the ridge (Fig. 11). This low Li concentration can be likely explained by the high temperature of the serpentinizing fluid (>350°C), as indicated by its uncommon high modal proportions in chlorite

+ tremolite + antigorite. Indeed, precipitation of this mineral assemblage is rather favorable to Li leaching, as already observed during alteration of basalts (Seyfried et al., 1984). Similarly to $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratio, B and Li concentrations of serpentinites could then be used as proxies of the serpentinization degree. However, care must be taken for high temperature serpentinization and for recrystallization of lizardite and chrysotile to antigorite, these two processes leading to a release of Li and B (Deschamps et al., 2012; Kodolányi and Pettke, 2011; Ishikawa and Nakamura, 1992; Seyfried et al., 1984).

Previous studies showed that both As and Sb are stored in serpentine minerals (Deschamps et al., 2011; 2012; 2013), and that these enrichments are mainly related to circulation of a sediment-derived fluid rich in Sb and As (Deschamps et al., 2012). While SMS serpentinites are within the range of the previously published data for both elements (50 ppb to 22 ppm, (Andreani et al., 2014; Paulick et al., 2006), it is difficult to evoke similar process to explain this enrichment. Indeed, little sedimentary cover has been imaged on the outcropping mantle rocks and volcanic seafloor (Supplementary data of Sauter et al., 2013). In addition, the correlation between As and Sb with distance from the ridge axis (Fig. 11) would rather reflect an enrichment with serpentinization degree, as interaction with sediment-derived fluid would have produce scattering in the concentrations. Cadmium was not investigated in serpentinites so far, but its behavior looks similar to those of Sb and As (Fig. 11). Enrichments in these elements is favored for serpentinization processes at temperatures $<300^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Deschamps et al., 2011). As conclusion, As, Sb, and Cd concentrations could also be used, similarly to LREE, as serpentinization proxies.

5.2.4. Late oxidative alteration

Serpentinites from the smooth seafloor that experienced low-temperature serpentinization are enriched in several elements and their enrichment is proportional to the serpentinization degree and to the distance from the ridge. In contrast, IOH- serpentinites, while following the overall enrichment tendencies, show higher $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratios (Fig. 5), $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$, Na_2O (Fig. 7), LREE and FME contents (Fig. 10 and 11), suggesting that other processes, such as late oxidative alteration, affected these IOH- serpentinites after long-term serpentinization.

Late oxidative alteration in these IOH-serpentinites is evidenced by the presence of both hematite and goethite that leads to high $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$ ratios, high Fe/Mg values (Fig. 7) and enrichment in $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$. Abyssal peridotites usually contain between 8 and 9 wt.% FeO_{T} (Bodinier and Godard, 2003) that would lead to a maximum $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ content between ~9 and 10 wt.% after total oxidation of FeO to Fe_2O_3 . At the smooth seafloor areas, the IOH-free serpentinites containing between 7 and 10 wt.% (Fig. 9), the high $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ content in most of the IOH-serpentinites can be explained by late oxidation of magnetite and serpentine. However, exception occurs for samples SMS 4-2-1 and 11-2-11 (and to some extent SMS 5-4-17), as their $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$ content is significantly higher than the value that can be reached by total oxidation suggesting that other interaction with previous Fe-rich fluids occurred and led to such enrichment (see Section 5.2.1). The IOH-serpentinites are characterized by high Na_2O content that can be explained, similarly to other SMS serpentinites, by interaction with NaCl-rich seawater. Nevertheless, their higher enrichment may be related either to longer period of interaction with seawater or seawater-derived fluids as some IOH-serpentinites are located at a remote distance from the ridge (e.g. SMS 11-2-11) or by highly NaCl-enriched fluids (such as hydrothermal brines). Additional halite salts would then precipitate and be mixed with IOH assemblage.

The precipitation of IOH during this late oxidative alteration event leads to high concentrations in La and Pr (Fig. 10 and 12), the La/Ce ratios being up to 20 and 7.9 for IOH-

serpentinites respectively northward and southward, and flat REE patterns (Fig. 12). Indeed, iron oxides and hydroxides are known to scavenge REE from fluids (Bau, 1999; Bau and Koschinsky, 2009). REE spectrum of IOH separated from SMS 11-2-11 (Fig. 12), whose concentrations are between 1 and 10 x PM, reflect this scavenging process. In addition, the La and Pr enrichments are responsible for the most negative Ce anomalies on the REE spectra of the SMS serpentinites (Fig. 10 and 12). Similarly as REE, the high FME concentrations (As, Cd, Sb; Fig. 11) of the IOH-serpentinites can be related to the occurrences of iron (hydro)oxides. Indeed, several studies reported that these element can be adsorbed on metals (Caillaud et al., 2009; Giménez et al., 2007). It is worthwhile to note that occurrences of IOH in the serpentinites do not lead to higher concentration in Li and B (Fig. 11), strengthening that their incorporation in serpentinites is not linked to the formation of oxides, but rather to the precipitation of serpentine. In conclusion, post-serpentinization processes and long-time fluid-rock interaction under oxidizing conditions favor the incorporation of trace elements into serpentinites implying thus that the oceanic lithosphere constitutes a sink for these elements.

Alteration of serpentine under low-temperature and oxidizing conditions usually leads to the formation of clays (Caillaud et al., 2006; Destrienneville et al., 1998; Karpoff et al., 2017; Venturelli et al., 1997). However, no clay could be identified in the IOH-serpentinites (see Results part and Appendix A) that could be related to the very low initial Al content of the SMS serpentinites.

6. Conclusions

Effects of serpentinization on element mass transfer between peridotites and seawater, seawater-derived and hydrothermal fluids were investigated for serpentinites collected on the smooth seafloor areas of the SWIR, and especially on the western corridor. These serpentinites

clearly show an increase in LOI, visual serpentinitisation degree and oxidation degree ($\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{tot}}$) with distance from the ridge, allowing thus to establish distance profiles of serpentinitization for both major and trace elements and to shed light on the consequences of fluid-rock interactions during long-lived exhumation and hydration history in an ultra-slow spreading context.

Significant changes in major and trace elements concentrations of the SMS serpentinites can be related to magmatic or secondary fluid-rock interaction processes. Indeed, melt-rock interaction affecting the peridotites led to enrichments in TiO_2 , $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$, Na_2O and in some trace elements. High concentration in these elements are mainly observed in one serpentinite sample, suggesting that melt-rock interaction and refertilization processes are limited due to the very low magmatic activity. This low magmatic activity is also responsible for the near absence of magmatic plagioclase-rich lithologies (basalts and gabbros) at the SWIR axis and along the smoothseafloor areas, leading to the formation of fluids that differ significantly from those associated to black smoker-type systems. It is likely that these fluids are seawater-dominated, with a high Ce anomaly and the lack of Eu anomaly, a major difference with Eu-rich fluids from slow and fast-spreading ridges (e.g. MAR).

Nevertheless, three SMS serpentinites located furthest away from the ridge (e.g., SMS 11-2-11) present significant enrichments in $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{3\text{T}}$, Na_2O , metals, FME and LREE, suggesting interaction with high-temperature fluids, most likely during the first stages of exhumation via detachment faulting. These serpentinites, however, do not show sulfide mineralization commonly associated with circulation of black smoker-type hydrothermal fluids. This absence of sulfides may be explained either by late oxidative alteration or by circulation of a S-poor brine, both processes resulting in the formation of Fe-(hydro-)oxides. These hypotheses require further investigations on the S and Cl contents of the SMS serpentinites.

Long-term serpentinitization at low-temperature does not influence Al_2O_3 , its concentration being inherited from the protolith, and CaO, while its concentration can be higher in some SMS

serpentinites due to the precipitation of carbonate veins. Mobility of other major elements (MgO, SiO₂, FeO, Na₂O) is also limited, their concentrations being nearly similar to that expected from mantle partial melting. Serpentinization may be responsible for slight compositional variations in MgO, FeO and SiO₂, but without a clear and systematic tendency. Enrichments in Na₂O may likely be due to incorporation of salts from seawater-derived fluids or hydrothermal brines circulating into the oceanic lithosphere. Trace elements, such as Li, B, La, Pr, As, Sb, Cd show enrichments with distance from the ridge. Li and B enrichments are likely related to serpentinization degree, implying that their concentrations might be used as serpentinization proxies (in some specific cases).

The presence of (Fe-(hydro-)oxides), hematite and goethite, in highly serpentinized peridotites indicate long-lived fluid-rock interaction with oxidizing conditions. For most of the IOH-serpentinites, the apparent enrichment in Fe₂O_{3T} is the result of the total oxidation of iron content during serpentinite and magnetite alteration. The lack of clays in these IOH-serpentinites indicates that serpentine mineral is still stable for these conditions. Further O isotope thermometry on these serpentinites is necessary to evaluate their temperature of serpentinization. The late oxidative alteration that affected the IOH-serpentinites led to high concentration in some trace elements, such as La, Pr, As, Sb and Cd.

We conclude that chemical exchanges during serpentinization at ultraslow-spreading ridges happened during long-term interaction of the mature exhumed mantle with low-temperature fluids. Amount of mass transfer is a function of ridge distance and hence of interaction time. In addition, despite very low magmatic activity, high-temperature hydrothermal fluids may be produced and interact with peridotites during early stages of detachment faulting. By exploring the chemical compositions of serpentinites several kilometers away from the ridge axis, we observe that fluid-rock interaction in oceanic context is only not limited to serpentinization

785 processes and that oxidizing alteration may greatly influence the oceanic lithosphere
786 composition.

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Figures, Tables and Appendices Captions

Figure 1: Bathymetric map of the South West Indian Ridge (SWIR) between 62° and 65°E, showing the location of the two West and East corridors where smooth seafloor were identified. Location of dredges of the SMOOTHSEAFLOOR (SMS) expedition in these two corridors. Inset shows the location of the smooth seafloor area along the SWIR, between the Melville Fracture Zone and the Rodrigues Triple Junction (RTJ). Slightly modified from Sauter et al. (2013). SEIR: South East Indian Ridge, CIR: Central Indian Ridge, RTJ: Rodrigues Triple Junction.

Figure 2: Photographs and microphotographs of the SWIR SMS serpentinites. A and B: Moderately serpentinitized lherzolite (~50%, SMS 8-2-25), showing numerous relics of olivine (ol), orthopyroxene (opx) and clinopyroxene (cpx) under crossed nicols (B) and in hand specimen (A). C and D: Highly serpentinitized harzburgite (~99%, SMS 2-2-11), showing bastite (bast) and mesh serpentine (serp) crosscut by magnetite (mt) veins, in hand specimen (C) and under natural light (D). E and F: Serpentinitized and oxidized olivine websterite (SMS 5-4-17), displaying amorphous iron oxides and hydroxides (IOH: hematite + goethite) at the former emplacements of olivine, and a mixture of antigorite (ant), tremolite (tr) and chlorite (chl) replacing the pyroxenes, in hand specimen (E) and under crossed nicols (F).

Figure 3: Microphotographs of secondary minerals in the SMS serpentinites. (A) Former plagioclase altered to hydrogarnet (hydrogt) and chlorite (chl) in one metasomatized sample (SMS 1-2-35, parallel nicols). (B) Cusps boundaries (indicated by arrows) between ortho- and clinopyroxene in a metasomatized sample (SMS 1-2-35, crossed nicols). (C) Crystallized goethite (goeth) associated with red-orange colored iron oxides and hydroxides (IOH, SMS 14-

5-8, reflected light). (D) Amorphous IOH in a strongly oxidized sample (SMS 4-2-11, reflected light). IOH are localized in the center of previous serpentine (serp) mesh cells, the magnetite network having disappeared.

Figure 4: Bulk rock MgO/SiO_2 and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiO}_2$ ratios of the SMS serpentinites, compared to MAR serpentinites (Paulick et al., 2006; Jöns et al., 2010; Kodolányi et al., 2012; Boschi et al., 2013) and SWIR serpentinites (Niu, 2004; Rouméjon, 2014; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014). Terrestrial array and BSE value are from Jagoutz et al. (1979) and Hart and Zindler (1986).

Figure 5: Evolution of iron oxidation degree ($\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}_{\text{Total}}$) with A) loss on ignition (LOI) and B) visual serpentinization degree of the SWIR SMS serpentinites.

Figure 6: Trace elements spidergrams of the SMS serpentinites compared to serpentinites from the SWIR (Niu, 2004; Rouméjon, 2014; Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014) and the MAR (Paulick et al., 2006; Delacour et al., 2008; Jöns et al., 2010; Kodolányi et al., 2012; Boschi et al., 2013). Values are normalized to primitive mantle and chondrites values of Sun and McDonough (1989).

Figure 7: Binary diagrams showing the evolution of major elements of the SMS serpentinites against TiO_2 concentrations, used as proxy of partial melting degree. Sample SMS 22-6-13 (melt-refertilized peridotite) is not considered in the description of correlation trends (see text). CaO trend excludes the two samples, SMS 10-5-6 and 29-5-41, containing calcite veins, and Fe/Mg trend excludes all IOH serpentinites. Error bars are comprised in the size of the marking point. SWIR and MAR references are the same as previous figures.

848

849 Figure 8 : Evolution of iron oxidation degree in the SMS serpentinites (west 62°30'E and east
850 64°40'E) as a function of ridge distance. Ridge axis is symbolized by the red line, and location
851 of detachment faults is indicated by vertical dashed lines (approximated position on the seafloor
852 taken from Sauter et al., 2013).

853

854 Figure 9 : Evolution of major elements with distance from the ridge for the serpentinites of the
855 west smooth seafloor corridor of the SWIR. Error bars are comprised in the size of the marking
856 points.

857

858 Figure 10 : Evolution of LREE (La, Ce and Pr) for the serpentinites of the west smooth seafloor
859 corridor of the SWIR. Ce anomaly ($Ce/Ce^* = Ce_N / (La_N + Pr_N)^{0.5}$) is stable with the distance from
860 the ridge serpentinization, while La and Pr contents increase.

861

862 Figure 11 : Evolution of FME for the serpentinites of the west smooth seafloor corridor of the
863 SWIR. Li and B concentrations increase with distance and then with serpentinization degree,
864 regardless of oxidation state. U is only enriched in samples that are strongly oxidized or contain
865 high content of carbonates. Sb, As and Cd contents increase with oxidation degree of the rock.

866

867 Figure 12: REE spectra of the serpentinites of the west smooth seafloor corridor of the SWIR,
868 compared to the MAR (Paulick et al., 2006; Delacour et al., 2008; Jöns et al., 2010; Kodolányi
869 et al., 2012; Boschi et al., 2013) and SWIR serpentinites (Niu, 2004; Rouméjon, 2014;
870 Rouméjon and Cannat, 2014). The SMS west corridor serpentinites are characterized by an
871 overall depletion in REE, a negative Ce anomaly and an absence of Eu positive anomaly. The
872 highest LREE concentrations (apart from Ce) corresponds to the IOH-bearing samples. Table

873 1: Sample names, locations from the ridge, protolith, primary and secondary mineralogical
874 assemblages, texture, serpentinization degree, and melt-rock interaction evidences of the
875 smooth seafloor serpentinites. Serpentinization degree was calculated as the sum of all
876 secondary phases modal proportions.

877

878 Table 2: Bulk major and trace elements compositions of the smooth seafloor serpentinites.

879

880 Appendix A: 1) X-Rays Diffraction (XRD) spectra on oriented section showing the diffraction
881 peaks of serpentine lizardite 1T, talc and clinochlore. 2) RAMAN spectrum of a lizardite +
882 antigorite mixture in a bastite of SMS 1-2-35.

883

884 Appendix B: Electron Microprobe compositions of primary and secondary minerals from the
885 SWIR SMS serpentinites

886

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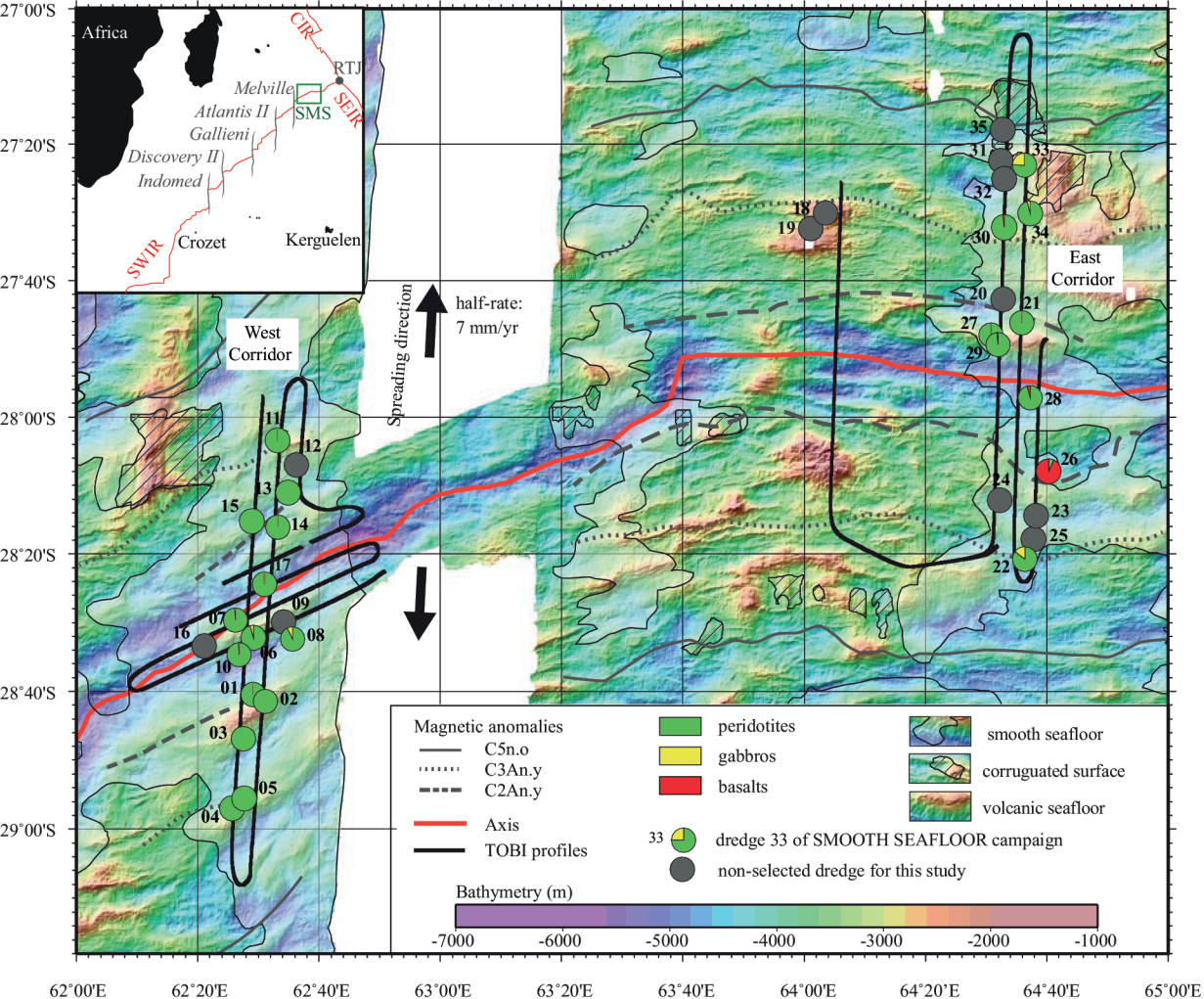
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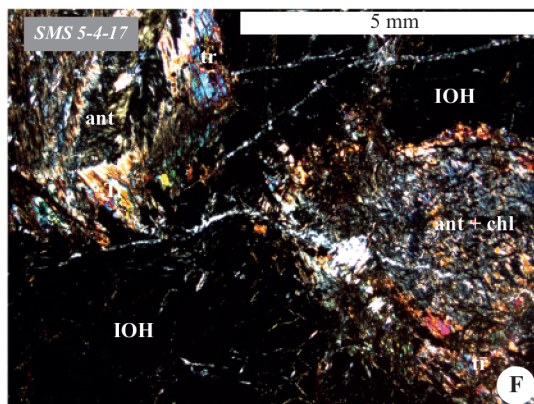
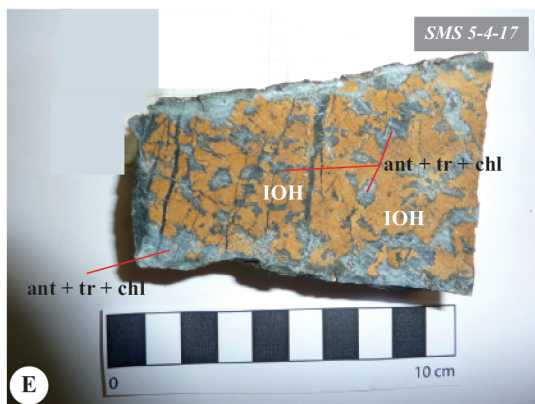
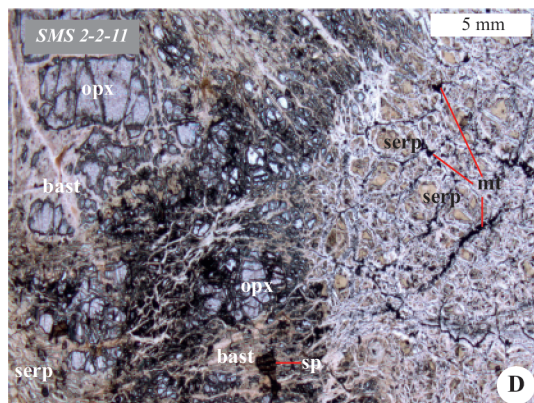
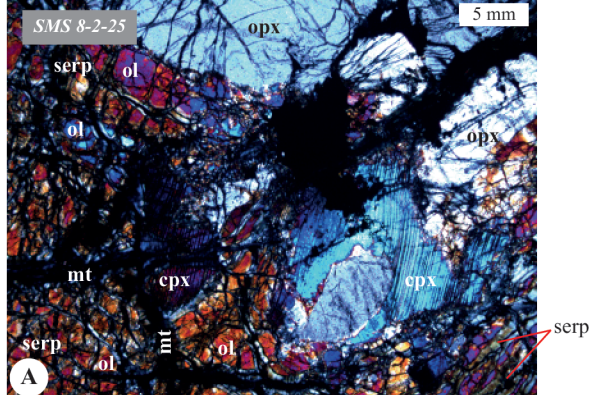
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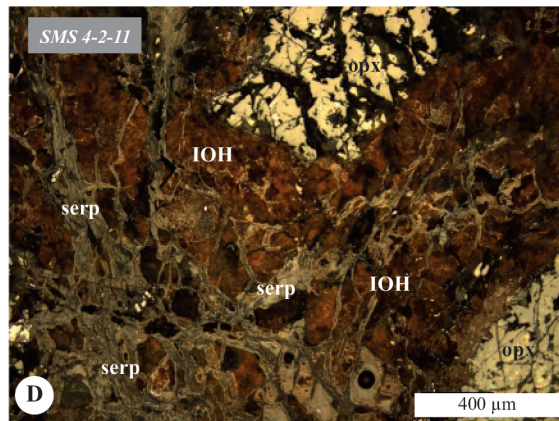
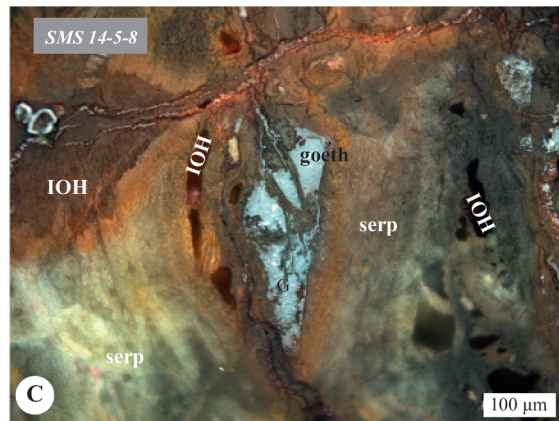
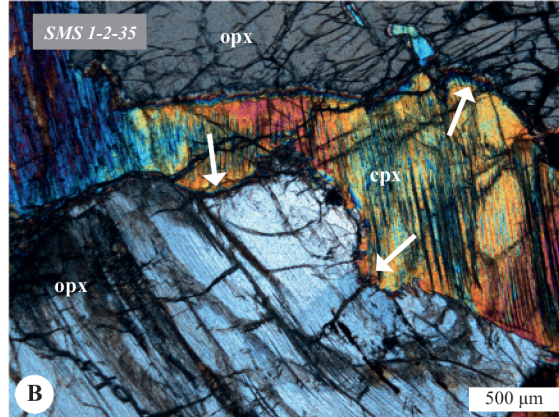
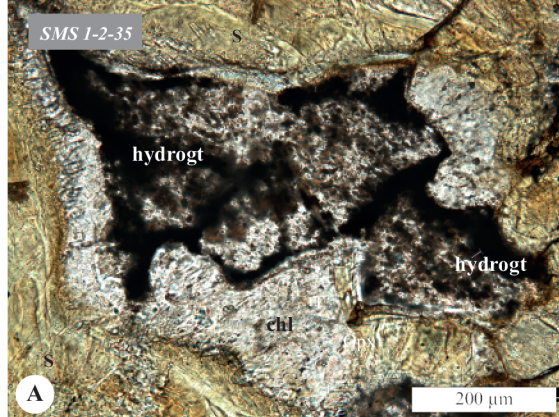
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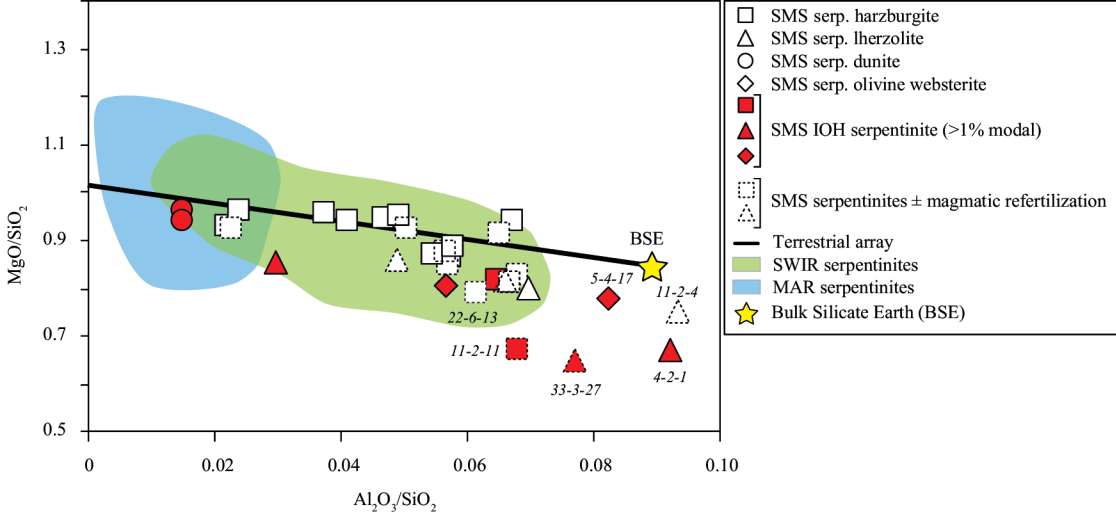
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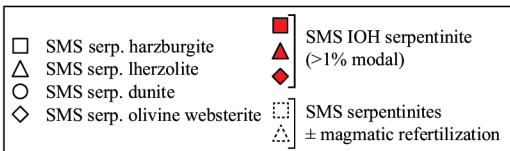
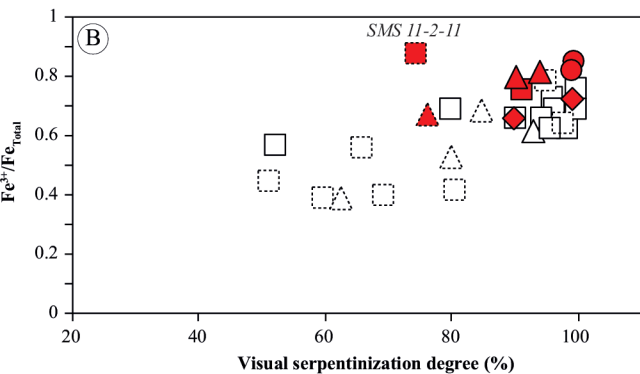
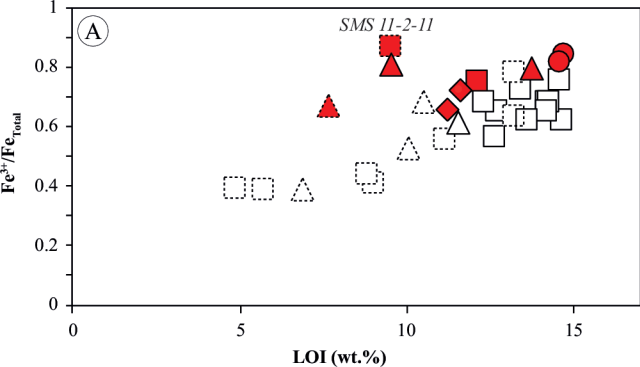
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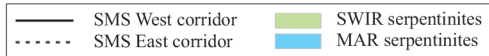
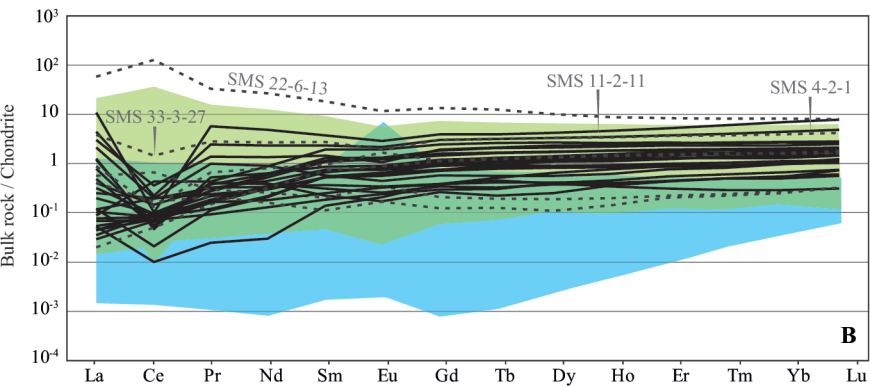
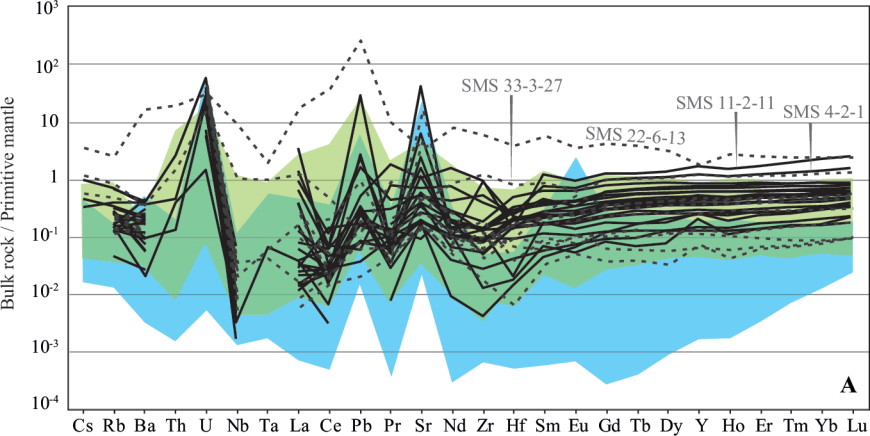


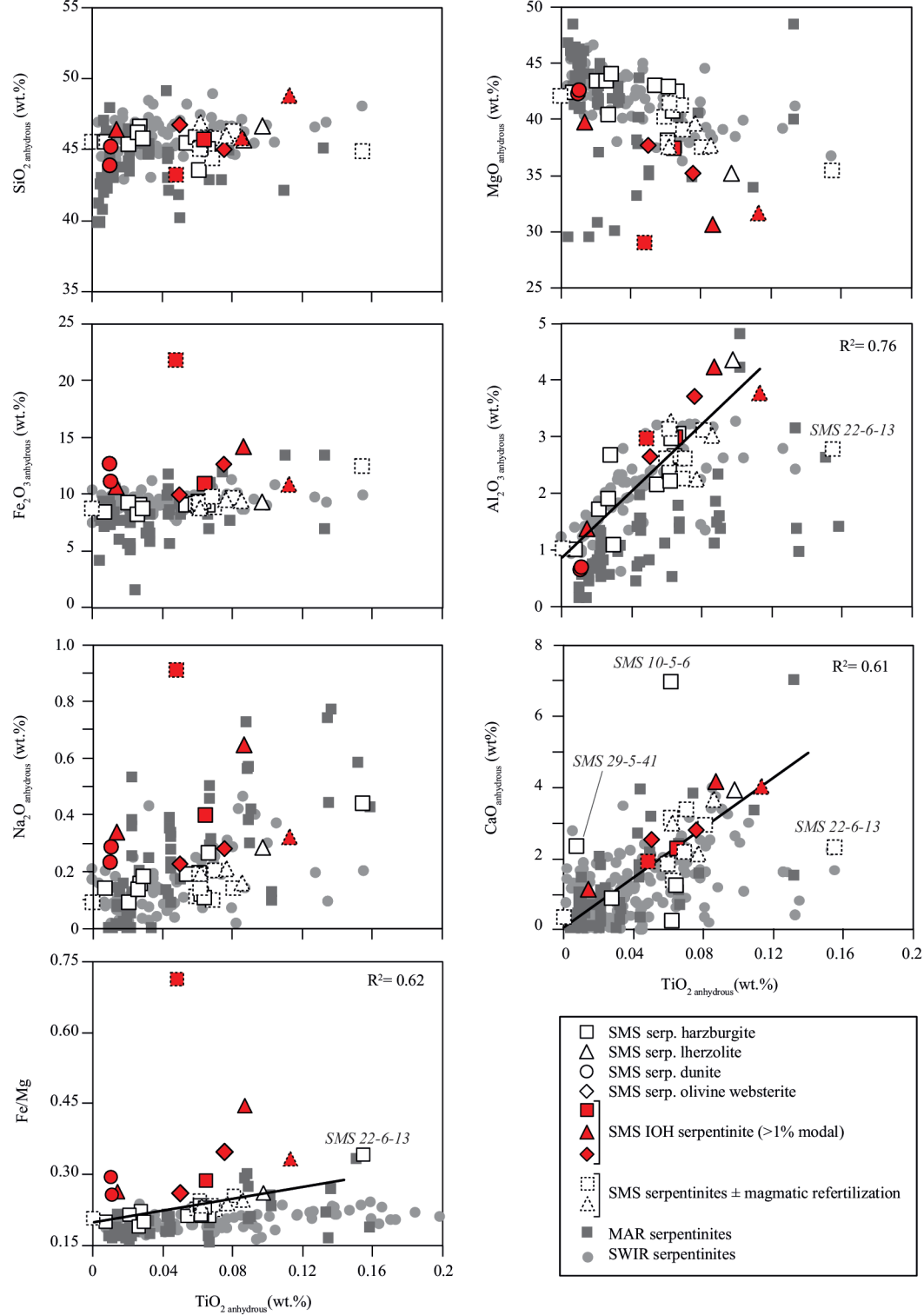


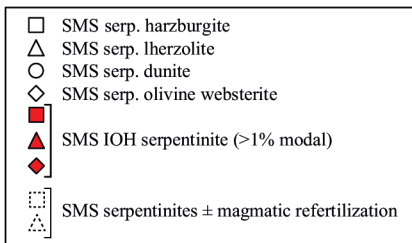
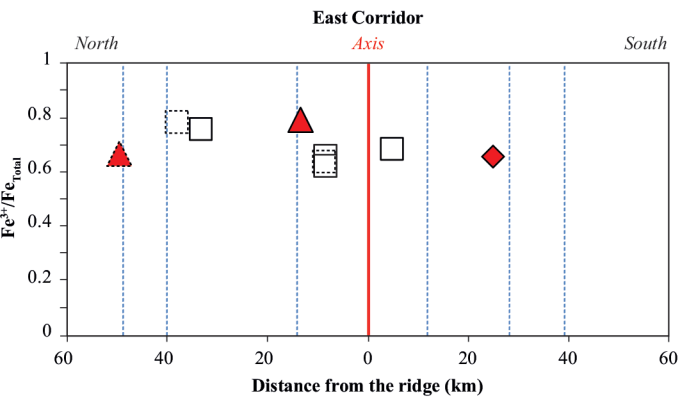
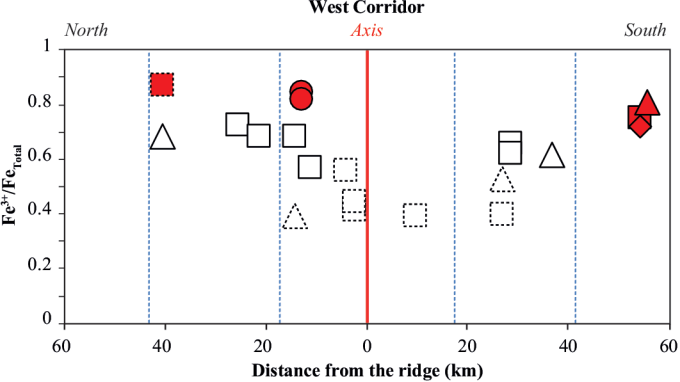


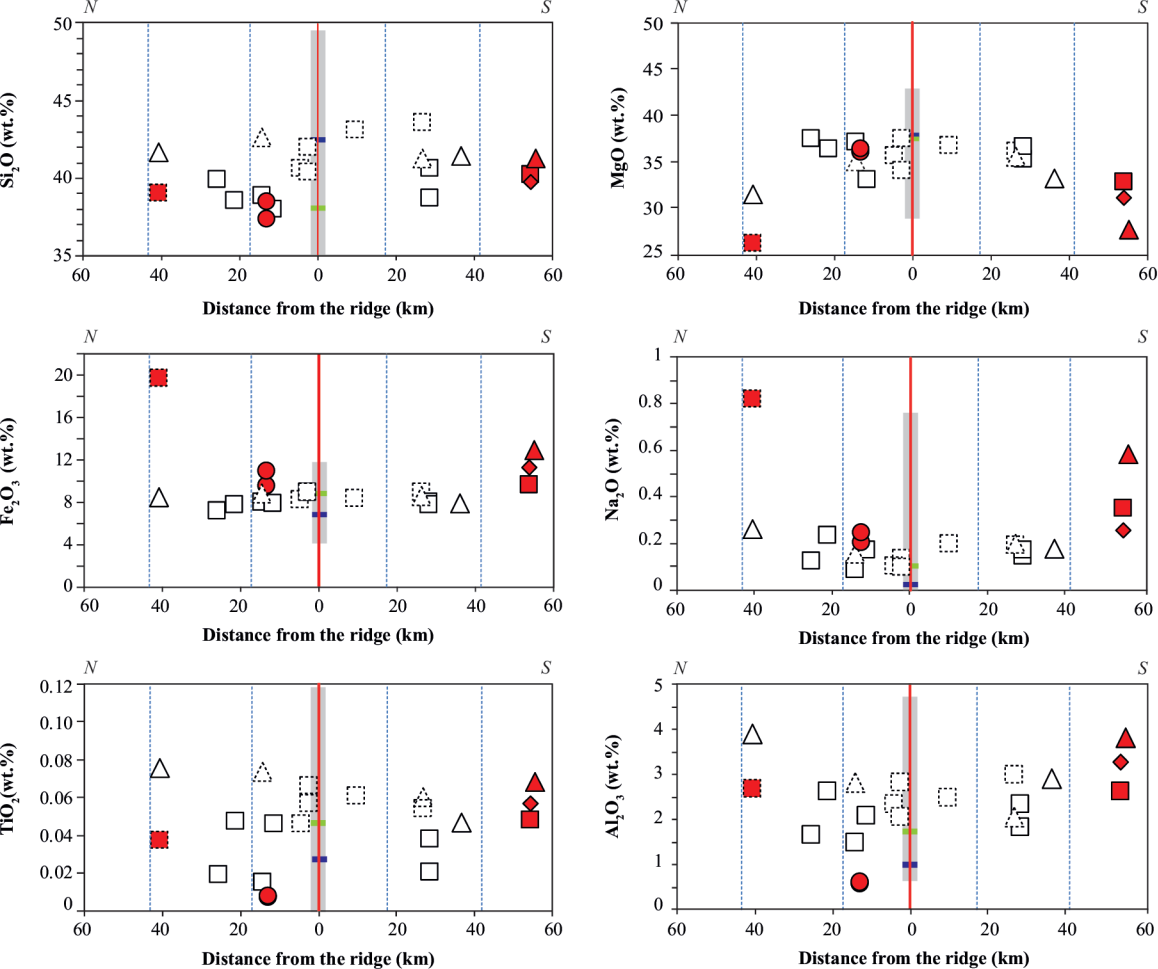


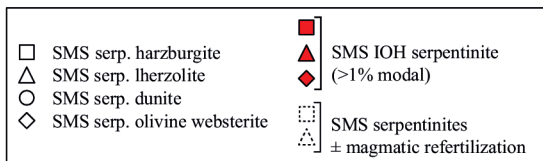
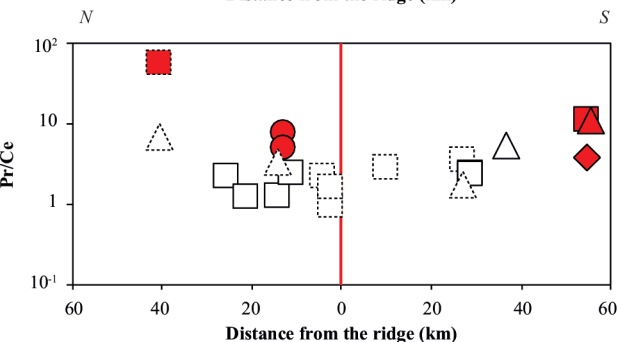
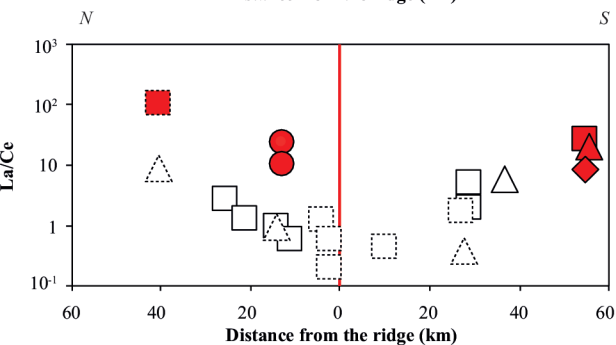
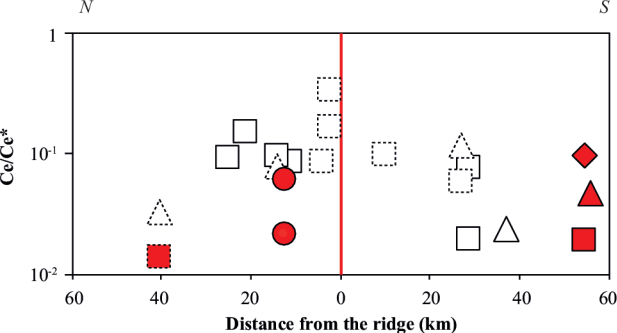


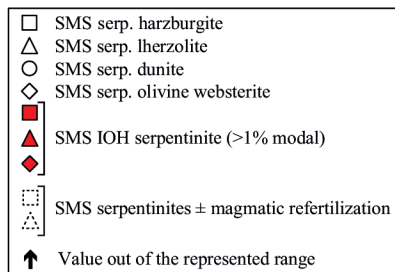
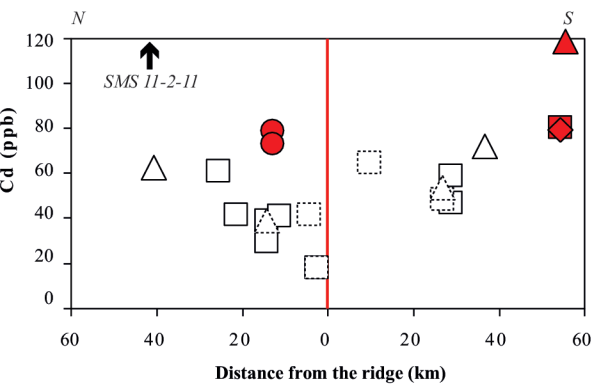
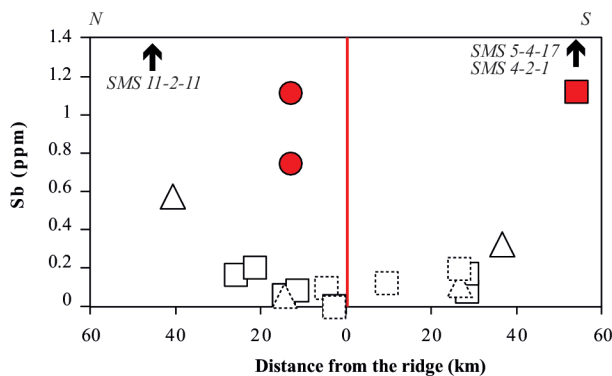
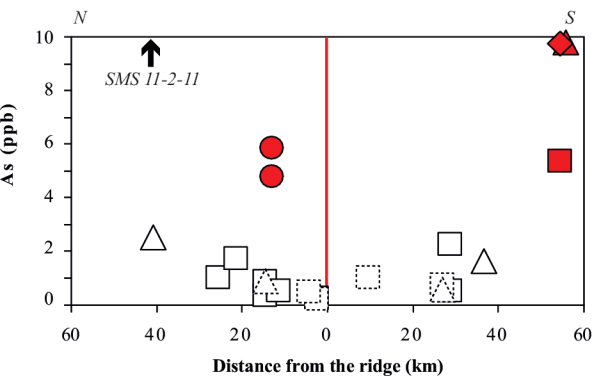
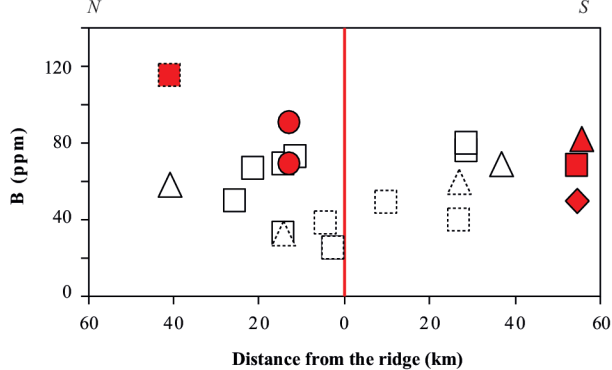
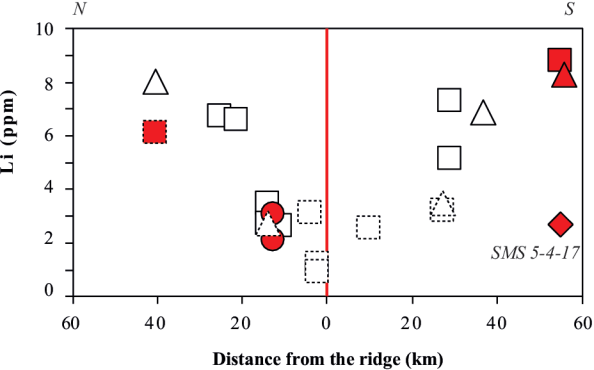












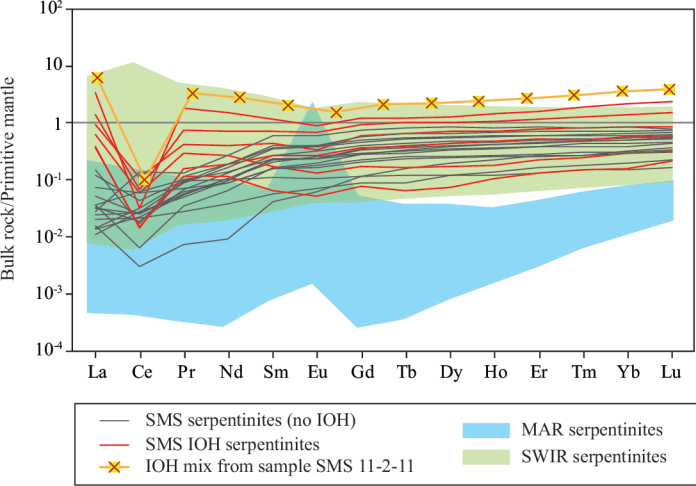


Table 1: Sample names, locations from the ridge, protolith, primary and secondary mineralogical assemblages, texture, serpentinization degree, and melt-rock interaction evidences of the smooth seafloor serpentinites. Serpentinization degree was calculated as the sum of all secondary phases modal proportions.

Sample name (used in this study)	Ridge distance (km)	Protolith	Primary minerals (as relic)	Secondary minerals	Sulfides/oxides	Serpentine texture and veins	Serp. degree (%)	Melt-rock interaction evidences	Complementary analyses	Sample name from Smoothseafloor
SMS 1-2-1	26.7	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp	mt ± pn	M	69	ol cryst		SMS_DR01_2_01
SMS 1-2-35	26.7	lherzolite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl + tlc + carb	mt ± pn	M + B ± Lv	74	plagio, cpx cryst	Raman	SMS_DR01_2_35
SMS 2-2-11	28.5	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp	mt ± mi ± cpy ± vt	M + B	90	–	Raman	SMS_DR02_2_11
SMS 2-2-17	28.5	harzburgite	sp	serp + tr + chl	± mt	M + B	98	–		SMS_DR02_2_17
SMS 3-2-1	36.4	lherzolite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl ± tlc	± mt ± pn	M + B	93	–		SMS_DR03_2_01
SMS 4-2-1	55.2	lherzolite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + tlc ± chl	hm + gt ± mt	M + B	94	–		SMS_DR04_2_01
SMS 5-4-14	53.9	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp ± tr ± chl ± tlc	mt + hm + gt ± pn ± aw	M + B + Cv	91	–		SMS_DR05_4_14
SMS 5-4-17	53.9	olivine websterite	cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl	hm + gt ± mt	M + Cv ± Lv	99	–		SMS_DR05_4_17
SMS 6-3-14	9.7	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp	± mt ± hm ± gt ± pn	M ± Lv	60	ol cryst		SMS_DR06_3_14
SMS 7-3-7	4.2	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl	± mt ± pn ± mi	M + B + Cv	66	plagio	Raman	SMS_DR07_3_37
SMS 8-2-17	14.2	harzburgite	± sp	serp + chl + tlc	± mt	M + B + Cv ± Lv	100	–		SMS_DR08_2_17
SMS 8-2-25	14.2	lherzolite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp + carb	mt ± pn	M + B	63	cpx cryst		SMS_DR08_2_25
SMS 10-5-6	11.2	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + tlc + carb	± mt ± pn	M + B ± Lv	52	–		SMS_DR10_5_06
SMS 11-2-4	40.6	lherzolite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl + tlc	± mt ± hm ± gt ± pn	M + B ± Lv	85	cpx cryst		SMS_DR11_2_04
SMS 11-2-11	40.6	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp	hm + gt ± mt	M	74	ol cryst		SMS_DR11_2_11
SMS 13-4-11	25.5	harzburgite	opx + sp	serp + chl	± mt	M + B + Cv	96	–		SMS_DR13_4_11
SMS 14-5-1	12.7	dunite	sp	serp	hm + gt ± pn ± mt	M + Ct ± Lv	98	–	Raman	SMS_DR14_5_01
SMS 14-5-8	12.7	dunite	sp	serp	mt ± hm ± gt	M + Cv	99	–	Raman	SMS_DR14_5_08
SMS 15-3-16	21.2	harzburgite	opx + sp	serp	± mt	M + B + Cv	96	–		SMS_DR15_3_16
SMS 17-4-19	2.4	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp	mt ± pn	M + B	81	ol cryst		SMS_DR17_4_19
SMS 17-4-32	2.4	harzburgite	ol + opx + cpx + sp	serp ± carb	mt ± pn	M + B	51	cpx cryst	Raman	SMS_DR17_4_32
SMS 21-5-6	16.4	lherzolite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + chl	mt + hm + gt	M + B + Ct ± Lv	90	–		SMS_DR21_5_6
SMS 22-6-13	45.5	harzburgite	opx + cpx	serp ± chl	mt	M + B + Ct	89	plagio		SMS_DR22_6_13
SMS 26-2-11	24.2	olivine websterite	ol	serp + tr + chl	mt + hm + gt ± pn	V	90	–		SMS_DR26_2_11
SMS 27-2-19	11.2	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + tr + tlc	± mt ± pn ± mi	M + B ± Lv	98	cpx cryst		SMS_DR27_2_19
SMS 28-4-10	3.9	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + carb	mt ± pn ± mi ± cpt	M + B + Ct ± Lv	80	–		SMS_DR28_4_10
SMS 29-5-41	10.6	harzburgite	cpx + sp	serp + tr + tlc + carb ± chl	mt	M + B	94	–		SMS_DR29_5_41
SMS 29-6-13	10.6	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp ± chl	± mt ± hm ± gt ± pn	M + B + Cv	95	–		SMS_DR29_6_13
SMS 30-2-2	39.4	harzburgite	± sp	serp	± mt	M + B + Ct ± Lv	100	–		SMS_DR30_2_2
SMS 33-3-27	57.9	lherzolite	opx + cpx	serp	mt + hm + gt	M + B	76	cpx cryst		SMS_DR33_3_27
SMS 34-2-17	44.8	harzburgite	opx + cpx + sp	serp + chl ± tr ± tlc ± carb	mt	M + B + Cv	95	plagio, cpx cryst		SMS_DR34_2_17

Abbreviations: ± indicates that a phase modal proportion is strictly < 1%

Primary minerals: ol: olivine, opx: orthopyroxene, cpx: clinopyroxene, sp: spinel,

Serpentine texture: M: mesh, B: bastite (after pyroxene),

Secondary minerals: serp: serpentine, tr: tremolite, chl: chlorite, Tlc: talc, Carb: carbonates, mt: magnetite, pn: pentlandite, mi: millerite, cpy: chalcopyrite, vt: violarite, aw: awaruite, cpn: chalcopentlandite, hm: hematite, gt: goethite

Veins: V: serpentine veins, Lv: lizardite veins, Cv: chrysotile veins

Melt-rock interaction evidences: plagio: plagioclase, ol cryst: olivine crystallization, cpx cryst: clinopyroxene crystallization

Table 2 : Bulk major and trace elements compositions of the smooth seafloor serpentinites.

	SMS 1-2-1	SMS 1-2-35	SMS 2-2-11	SMS 2-2-17	SMS 3-2-1	SMS 4-2-1	SMS 5-4-14	SMS 5-4-17	SMS 6-3-14	SMS 7-3-7	SMS 8-2-17	SMS 8-2-25	SMS 10-5-6	SMS 11-2-4	SMS 11-2-11	SMS 13-4-11	SMS 14-5-1	SMS 14-5-8	SMS 15-3-16	SMS 17-4-19	SMS 17-4-32	SMS 21-5-6	SMS 22-6-13	SMS 26-2-11	SMS 27-2-19	SMS 28-4-10	SMS 29-5-41	SMS 29-6-13	SMS 30-2-2	SMS 33-3-27	SMS 34-2-17	
Major element concentrations (wt.%)																																
SiO ₂	43.48	41.19	40.53	38.37	40.87	41.12	39.76	39.22	43.11	40.7	39.08	42.77	38.15	41.81	38.51	39.4	36.91	38.04	38.24	42.14	40.78	39.85	38.54	41.23	38.61	40.3	38.6	38.4	38.78	44.57	40.09	
Al ₂ O ₃	2.96	2.02	2.33	1.81	2.85	3.8	2.58	3.23	2.46	2.32	1.47	2.82	2.08	3.91	2.63	1.63	0.55	0.58	2.58	2.83	2.07	1.19	2.38	2.33	2.53	2.34	0.85	1.89	0.93	3.45	0.91	
Fe ₂ O _{3T}	9.06	8.72	8.04	7.81	7.87	12.97	9.63	11.2	8.46	8.3	8.18	8.95	7.97	8.55	19.63	7.15	10.87	9.51	7.82	9.03	9.12	9.33	10.89	8.95	7.69	8.42	7.31	8.04	7.59	10.12	7.82	
FeO	4.93	3.71	2.5	2.65	2.73	2.21	2.14	2.81	4.65	3.3	2.32	4.92	3.11	2.44	2.28	1.76	1.51	1.57	2.22	4.78	4.58	1.73	nd	2.76	2.51	2.39	2.27	2.74	1.66	3.02	1.53	
MnO	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.2	0.13	0.12	0.1	0.13	0.11	0.14	0.16	0.09	0.16	0.07	0.1	0.14	0.13	0.12	1.17	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.1	0.12	0.09	0.16	0.09	
MgO	36.12	35.52	35.18	36.3	32.76	27.59	32.46	30.68	36.74	35.73	37.4	35.13	33.24	31.57	25.82	37.11	35.55	35.93	36.08	34.24	37.9	34.2	30.45	33.27	35.46	35.89	35.95	36.65	37.39	28.94	37.08	
CaO	2.98	1.93	0.76	<d.l.	2.63	3.75	1.96	2.46	3.17	1.63	<d.l.	3.41	6.11	3.53	1.69	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	2.68	1.99	1	2	2.24	1.19	1.1	1.99	0.22	<d.l.	3.67	0.31	
Na ₂ O	0.19	0.19	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.58	0.35	0.25	0.19	0.1	0.08	0.15	0.17	0.26	0.81	0.12	0.2	0.24	0.23	0.13	0.09	0.29	0.38	0.2	0.11	0.1	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.3	0.08	
K ₂ O	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	0.11	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	
P ₂ O ₅	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	<d.l.	
L.O.I.	4.86	10.05	12.67	14.48	11.39	9.49	11.98	11.49	5.77	11.16	14.27	6.95	12.68	10.58	9.41	13.27	14.53	14.4	14.15	9.03	8.91	13.7	13.91	11.18	13.04	12.41	14.04	13.46	14.53	7.57	13.13	
Total	99.76	99.74	99.76	99.02	98.67	99.56	98.83	98.73	100.03	100.05	100.58	100.32	100.51	100.35	98.67	98.77	98.76	98.78	99.19	100.31	100.99	99.67	99.96	99.54	98.76	100.68	98.94	98.91	99.46	98.89	99.51	
Fe ³⁺ /Fe _{tot}	0.39	0.53	0.65	0.62	0.61	0.81	0.75	0.72	0.39	0.56	0.68	0.39	0.57	0.68	0.87	0.73	0.85	0.82	0.68	0.41	0.44	0.79		0.66	0.64	0.68	0.65	0.62	0.76	0.67	0.78	
Trace element concentrations																																
Li	ppm	3.2	3.5	7.3	5.2	6.9	8.3	8.8	2.7	2.6	3.2	3.5	2.7	2.7	8	6.2	6.7	2.1	3.1	6.6	1.2	0.9	4	10.8	6.3	3.8	5.7	2.1	3.6	3.5	9.2	4.5
B	ppm	40	60	76	80	69	82	68	50	49	38	69	33	73	58	115	50	91	69	67	25	25	83	64	67	63	71	44	50	54	48	60
Be	ppb	<d.l.	0.8	<d.l.	9.2	<d.l.	70.5	4	220.4	2.2	4.3	0.6	1.1	<d.l.	5.4	305.2	20	0.2	10	258.6	5.9	4.9	59	966.8	8.2	<d.l.	0.1	9.8	5.8	8.3	255.4	8.8
Sc	ppm	3	14	12	10	14	21	13	17	14	14	8	16	11	17	21	6	6	5	13	15	12	5	13	15	11	12	7	12	6	20	7
Ti	ppm	393	436	147	276	337	492	347	410	441	332	111	530	332	546	271	137	53	57	343	478	411	73	792	275	329	347	39	323	148	664	2
V	ppm	80	77	70	66	88	81	70	77	39	81	56	114	224	356	39	68	76	73	84	66	62	126	111	63	68	46	69	38	159	43	
Cr	ppm	2202	1872	2541	2646	2536	3906	2675	3309	2662	2475	2193	1903	2243	3437	3431	2180	2218	2690	2775	2515	2338	1567	1893	3170	2157	2151	2360	3093	2357	3110	2285
Mn	ppm	804	861	857	674	817	1070	821	1410	916	818	746	901	820	935	1087	632	1069	518	709	1000	922	515	8463	994	883	829	675	866	641	1168	590
Co	ppm	99	108	101	98	91	130	122	144	108	98	106	101	101	93	120	95	129	89	87	107	107	69	204	119	87	96	98	99	97	122	98
Ni	ppm	1972	2051	1950	1828	1591	1708	2037	1764	2109	1885	2110	1850	1983	1605	1518	1985	1934	1913	1959	1971	2037	1248	1719	2027	1677	1859	1927	2216	2159	1532	1945
Cu	ppm	26	9	20	11	15	67	15	94	31	18	2	21	18	34	239	9	62	93	84	14	23	38	289	5	25	21	5	3	61	3	
Zn	ppm	43	39	42	58	41	157	83	114	81	46	87	83	88	86	250	86	135	135	52	60	52	79	35	48	51	51	145	45	145	45	
Ga	ppm	2	2	1.9	1.8	2.1	4	2.5	3.6	2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.8	3.1	4.5	1.8	1	1.2	2.7	1.9	1.2	4	2	2	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.1	3.6	0.6	
Ge	ppm	2.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	2	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.2	3.8	2	3.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.9	1.4	2.9	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	2	1.7
As	ppm	0.8	0.6	0.6	2.3	1.6	9.8	5.4	9.8	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.6	2.6	28	1	4.8	5.9	1.8	0.3	0.2	2.8	6.8	3.5	0.4	0.1	1.7	7.3	9.5	7.1	2.1
Se	ppb	12.9	13.4	13.8	14.9	12.9	14.2	14.8	15.3	15.4	12.3	14.8	14.3	14.8	14	14.3	13.5	15.3	14.7	14.1	14.6	13	<d.l.	16.3	14	14.3	13.2	13.4	15.8	16.6	11.5	13.9
Rb	ppm	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0.2	1.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	
Sr	ppm	23.6	49.9	3.6	3.7	8.2	14.5	8.1	10.3	12.3	4	3.2	130.2	849.2	5.4	21.7	3.9	7.1	11.3	4.1	1.9	32.2	5.7	71.4	9.7	104.9	3.0	345.8	11.9	3.2	9.0	3.3
Y	ppm	2.26	2.10	1.10	1.30	1.91	5.44	2.35	3.36	2.74	1.99	0.65	2.71	1.68	3.10	7.49	0.57	0.90	1.15	1.12	3.81	1.60	0.64	8.30	2.20	1.70	1.95	0.30	1.15	0.52	5.47	0.34
Zr	ppm	0.9	0.96	0.05	1.45	0.59	4.39	0.54	5.73	1.4	0.95	0.3	1.43	0.87	1.57	10.33	1.03	0.14	1.33	10.04	1.98	1.54	2.10	65.08	0.48	0.86	0.67	1.31	1.12	0.74	13.55	0.2
Nb	ppb	3.71	1.15	3.48	5.2	2.23	7.48	2.73	29.63	6.13	<d.l.	2.68	8.1	4.18	3.23	23.58	5.35	<d.l.	12.08	48.39	4.33	6.50	17.67	6365.03	5.7	6.88	<d.l.	14.76	25.52	3.84	750.71	18.12
Ru	ppb	8.05	2.82	11.02	16.94	<d.l.	4.47	3.45	1.38																							