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**Quantitative evolution of the petrophysical properties of andesites  
affected by argillic alteration in the hydrothermal system  
of Petite Anse-Diamant, Martinique**

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## Abstract

The evolution of the petrophysical properties of rocks induced by hydrothermal alteration is often considered qualitatively by sorting the hydrothermal alterations encountered from low to high intensity, depending on the identified mineral paragenesis. In this paper, we studied the evolution of three different petrophysical properties (connected porosity, permeability and electrical conductivity) as a function of the argillization degree of andesites affected by argillic alteration identified in the caprock formation of the Petite Anse-Diamant hydrothermal system in Martinique. These petrophysical measurements were supplemented by quantitative mineral evaluation via scanning electron microscopy (i.e., the Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning electron microscopy or the QEMSCAN® method), connected porosity mapping using  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method and measurements of methylene blue (MB) values and structural water proportions ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ). In the series of rocks investigated, an increasing trend of clay mineral abundances (montmorillonite and kaolinite) from 5.68 to 37.56 % was revealed by the QEMSCAN® method. Based on the quantitative results, the structural water proportions were used as a proxy of argillic alteration progression. Comparison between the mineral maps provided by the QEMSCAN® system and connected porosity mapping observed in autoradiographs using  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method revealed a good correlation with clay mineral phases, dissolution vugs and fractures. The connected porosities evaluated with the triple weight method range from 3.74 to 35.35 % and show a good correlation ( $R^2 = 0.8835$ ) with the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$  values, revealing that porosity development is mainly due to the replacement of primary phases by clay minerals. In contrast, the crystallization of silica, carbonates and, to a lesser extent, iron oxides tends to clog connected pores, inducing a local decrease in connected porosity, as revealed in autoradiographs. The Darcian permeability ranges from  $7.66 \cdot 10^{-20}$  to  $5.36 \cdot 10^{-17} \text{ m}^2$  and shows a moderate correlation with the connected porosity. The bulk electrical conductivity measured as a function of the

conductivity of the saturating solution reveals the significant contribution of surface conduction arising from montmorillonite. At a pore fluid salinity of 2 wt % (the salinity of the Eaux Ferrées thermal spring), the bulk electrical conductivity shows a relatively good correlation with the  $H_2O^+$  values ( $R^2=0.8591$ ) and an even better correlation with the MB values ( $R^2=0.9579$ ). The contribution of montmorillonite to the bulk electrical conductivity was estimated with the use of the isoconductivity point, showing an increase in the BM values and a strong correlation ( $R^2= 0.9806$ ).

**Keywords:** argillic alteration, petrophysical properties, autoradiography, porosity, permeability, electrical conductivity, Petite Anse-Diamant hydrothermal system, Martinique.

## 1. Introduction

Geothermal energy has been of increasing interest in recent decades, notably due to its environmentally friendly character with regard to the low carbon dioxide emissions per kWh produced by geothermal power plants (Kagel and Gawell 2005). In comparison with other energy sources, geothermal energy provides a base load power that is not subject to environmental variables such as sunshine or wind, as are photovoltaic and wind technologies. On the other hand, the main limitations for the development of geothermal power plants are the availability and the capacity of efficiently targeting geological areas with a sufficient local temperature gradient and fluid circulation. These limiting factors could be overcome with the development of enhanced geothermal systems (EGS), seen as the future of geothermal energy by several authors (Tester et al. 2006; Rybach 2010; Gerber and Maréchal 2012). Until this technology is fully operational, the success of finding new geothermal fields is reliant on exploration work intrinsically based on a cross-disciplinary approach with geological, geochemical and geophysical surveys.

Inherent to geothermal systems, hydrothermal alterations are the result of fluid/rock interactions inducing the dissolution of primary minerals of the host rocks and/or the crystallization of a wide range of minerals depending on several factors such as the fluid/rock ratio, time, temperature, pressure, fluid chemistry and permeability (Browne 1978; Roberson and Lahann 1981; Beaufort et al. 1992; Inoue 1995; Patrier et al. 1996; Meunier et al. 2017). Such dissolution and crystallization processes lead to the modification of petrophysical properties such as porosity and permeability, which are essential for the understanding of the hydrogeological dynamics of hydrothermal systems, and in a more practical way, to predict the geothermal reservoir behaviour during exploitation (Pruess 1990; O'Sullivan et al. 2001). Prospecting tools such as electrical and electromagnetic (EM) methods are commonly used for the characterization of geothermal settings as well as to target high-conductivity anomalies

89 of the subsurface (Komori et al. 2010; Gonzales et al. 2014; Muñoz 2014; Revil et al., 2018a;  
90 2018b; Ahmed et al. 2018; Lévy et al., 2018; Gailler et al., 2019). These anomalies are  
91 generally related to the presence of clay minerals resulting from fluid/rock interactions and  
92 constitute the so-called caprock formation of hydrothermal systems. The associated high  
93 conductivity results from the high cation exchange capacity (CEC) of these minerals,  
94 particularly of smectite minerals exhibiting a large amount of cations adsorbed onto their  
95 platelet surfaces (e.g., Lévy et al., 2018). However, as Muñoz (2014) reported, the high-  
96 conductivity anomalies observed in the field do not always indicate the presence of a caprock  
97 and can lead to the incorrect targeting of geothermal wells. Thus, we understand that upfront  
98 costs as well as the risk related to the drilling of unproductive wells have a determinant  
99 impact on potential investments. Aimed at reducing the risk of unsuccessful wells, laboratory  
100 studies investigating hydrothermal alterations and their effects on petrophysical rock  
101 properties are essential to better understand the operation of hydrothermal systems and to  
102 interpret the data arising from the exploration phase. In the literature, a significant proportion  
103 of available papers focuses entirely or partially on the evolution of petrophysical properties  
104 depending on parameters such as temperature, pressure and lithology, without taking into  
105 account hydrothermal alterations (Björnbsson and Bodvarsson 1990; Boitnott and Boyd 1996;  
106 Nielson et al. 1996; Dobson et al. 2003; Stimac et al. 2004). It is only recently that  
107 hydrothermal alterations are considered qualitatively in parallel with the above-cited  
108 parameters for the study of the petrophysical property evolution of volcanic rocks in  
109 hydrothermal contexts. Notably, and through several papers, Frolova et al. (2001, 2006, 2010  
110 and 2015) studied the influence of hydrothermal alterations on the petrophysical properties of  
111 rocks from the Kuril-Kamchatka island arc by dividing the hydrothermal alterations  
112 encountered into low-temperature alterations and high-temperature alterations. Mordensky et  
113 al (2019) on their side focused their study on high temperature hydrothermal alterations

developed in Rotokawa geothermal field. Nevertheless, hydrothermal alterations are sorted from weak to high depending on the mineral paragenesis identified usually through optical microscopy observation (Kristinsdóttir et al. 2010; Wyering et al. 2014; Mielke et al. 2015, Nehler et al. 2016, Pola et al. 2012, 2014, 2016, Navelot et al. 2019, among others). Only a few papers quantified clay phases in low temperature environments that constitute upper parts of geothermal systems (Heap et al., 2017, Heap et al., 2020). To date, only papers addressing the electrical conductivities of rocks in geothermal systems have quantitatively considered the impact of clay minerals through empirical relationships, as reported by Ussher et al. (2000) and Caldwell et al. (1986). This is precisely the aim of this paper, where we investigate the effect of clay mineral abundances on the porosity, permeability and electrical conductivity of a series of andesitic samples collected from the caprock formation of the hydrothermal system of Petite Anse-Diamant (Martinique). Moreover, due to the mutual dependence between the porous network and petrophysical properties, autoradiographs of rock sections obtained from  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method will be analysed in parallel with mineralogical maps obtained using Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning electron microscopy (QEMSCAN®) to identify the development of the porous network with regard to the mineral phases.

## **2. Geological settings**

Located in the eastern Caribbean Sea, Martinique Island belongs to the Lesser Antilles Island arc, which has experienced volcanic activity from the late Oligocene to the present, as evidenced by the recent and deadly eruptions of Mount Pelée from 1902-1905 and from 1929-1932. The volcanic activity of the entire island arc results from the subduction of the Atlantic plate under the Caribbean plate at a rate of 2-4 cm  $\text{y}^{-1}$  (Macdonald 2000). Due to its unique position, Martinique Island has recorded the most complete history of the island arc leading to the formation of the following volcanic units, from east to west: the Basal Complex and the

Sainte Anne series; the Vauclin Pitault Chain and the South Western Volcanism unit; and the Morne Jacob, Trois-Ilets, the Carbet Complex, Mount Conil and Mount Pelée, belonging respectively to the old, intermediate and recent arcs (Figure 1) (Germa 2011). The distribution from east to west of the erupted rocks is thought to be related to the penetration of an aseismic ridge under the Caribbean plateau, which led to the flattening of the subducting slab and therefore shifted the volcanic front towards the west (Bouysse and Westercamp 1990). Thus, the western part of the island should be the most suitable region for geothermal exploration due to the potential remnant heat sources allowing the development of geothermal systems. The first investigations on the geothermal potential of Martinique Island were initiated in the late 1960s in the Lamentin area where thermal sources have been recognized (Cormy et al. 1970). Several areas were investigated afterwards during exploration campaigns in the 1980s and 2000s, where the two regions of Mount Pelée and Trois-Ilets showed a strong geothermal potential, particularly the latter, in the area of Petite Anse located in the southwest of the island (Figure 1) (Gadalia et al, 2014-2015).

In the latter area, geochemical analysis of the local thermal spring Eaux-Ferrée revealed a reservoir temperature of 190-210°C, according to chemical geothermometers: Na-Li, Ca-K, Sr-K, Fe-K,  $18\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{SO}_4)$  even if the flow rate was low ( $0.03 \text{ l s}^{-1}$ ), presumably due to the clayey caprock preventing substantial recharge of the hydrothermal system (Sanjuan et al. 2005; A Gadalia et al. 2014; Coppo et al. 2014). The measured salinity of the latter thermal spring was  $20 \text{ g l}^{-1}$  (i.e., 2 wt %). This salinity will be used in this article as a reference during the examination of the electrical conductivities exhibited by the sample series. The dating work performed by Germa et al. (2011) allowed to constrain the timeline of the island's volcanic activity and to estimate that the activity in the area of Trois-Ilets occurred between 2.36 Ma and 346 ka ago. At the foot of Morne Jaqueline, where the thermal source of Eaux-Ferrée is located, evidence of the potential existence of a caprock formation has been revealed



by a flank collapse, outcropping andesitic/dacitic rocks affected by argillic alteration with a montmorillonite-pyrite mineral paragenesis associated with zeolite, sulphate, calcite and iron oxides (Genter and Roig 2003; Traineau et al. 2013). Other types of fossil hydrothermal alteration have been recognized in the vicinity of Morne Jacqueline, with notably, a more acidic alteration represented by kaolinite-alunite mineral associations expressing an advanced argillic alteration, characteristic of fumarolic activity (White and Hedenquist 1990, Gadalia et al. 2015). Silica deposits as well as scarce smectite/illite interstratified species have also been identified that should indicate the circulation of past or present fluid flows originating from higher reservoir temperatures. Materials and methods

### 3.1 Sampling

On the outcrop located at the foot on the side of Morne Jacqueline, a series of 11 samples with an andesitic lithology were collected (Figure 1). To obtain an increasing clay abundance through the whole sample's series, rock samples were collected depending on their apparent consolidation (poorly consolidated = clay rich) and colour, where a grey facies corresponds to low-alteration andesite and lighter/yellowish facies corresponds to a higher argillic alteration progression (Table 1). The detailed petrographic features of the whole sampling is given below section 4.1.

### 3.2 Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals by Scanning Electron Microscopy (QEMSCAN® analysis)

QEMSCAN® is an automatic quantitative analysis system that allows spatially resolved mineralogical data to be obtained. The system consists of the sequential acquisition of energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) spectra and back-scattered electron images (BSI) of a polished rock section. The raw chemical data obtained are then interpreted using a mineralogical database to associate each measurement point (or pixel) to a mineral. Spatial reconstruction of the

interpreted data leads to a mineralogical image of the rock section investigated. In this work, the mineralogical images as well as the quantitative results acquired from the QEMSCAN® technique will be used to spatially correlate the mineral phases analysed with the connected porosity observed from  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA autoradiographs and to study the evolution of petrophysical properties depending on the mineral phases resulting from hydrothermal alteration.

QEMSCAN® analysis was carried out by the ERAMET Research group on 7 thin sections (from samples PA 3, PA 4, PA 7.2, PA 10.1, PA 11, PA 12 and PA 13). Chemical analysis was performed using an FEI Quanta 650 FEG scanning electron microscope mounted with two energy dispersive spectrometers (EDSs) (Bruker; Synergie 4) and a back-scattered electron detector (BSE), operating at an acceleration voltage and current intensity of 15 kV and 5 nA, respectively. The QEMSCAN® software ensured the automatic displacement of the microscope stage with a step size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . The acquisition of the X-ray spectrum for each measurement point was considered complete for a total count of 2000 photons. The acquisition time of each thin section was approximately 10 hours. For each area analysed, the recorded EDS spectrum was attributed to one mineral phase by using the Species Identification Protocol (SIP) database (Pirrie et al. 2004; Ayling et al. 2012). To supplement the SIP database results, complementary chemical analysis of the mineral phases was performed in our laboratory using an SEM JEOL 5600 LV operating with a probe current of 1 nA and an acceleration voltage of 15 kV (detector: SiLi EDS AXS Brucker).

### *3.3 Crystal lattice water abundance ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ )*

Clay minerals are known to embed a significant amount of water in the form of hydroxyls (OH) in their crystal structure. For this reason, the amount of structural water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ), generally obtained from bulk-rock chemical analysis, has been used by several authors as an indicator of the weathering grade of rocks (Jayawardena and Izawa 1994a,

1994b; Udagedara et al. 2017). In the present study, bulk measurement of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$  content is used to support the clay mineral abundances determined from the mineralogical maps of the QEMSCAN® system, and furthermore, we use the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$  values as proxies for the clay mineral abundances of the whole sample series. The bulk-rock chemical analysis was conducted at the SARM laboratory of Nancy (CRPG, France) on 1 g of each sample, previously ground to reach an average size between 80  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1 mm. The powder samples were heated at 105°C to remove the free and adsorbed water and then placed in an oven at 1000°C under a nitrogen atmosphere for determination of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$  abundance, following the Karl Fisher titration protocol.

### 3.4 Methylene blue

Cost-effective and easy to implement, the methylene blue (MB) method can be used during the exploration step of a geothermal project to rapidly evaluate the abundance of smectite minerals on a semi-quantitative basis. The MB method is commonly applied in civil engineering, to estimate the clay content of soils, or to determine the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of clay minerals (Hang and Brindley 1970; Kahr and Madsen 1995; Lorenz 1999; Yukselen and Kaya 2008). MB is an organic dye with the corresponding chemical formula of  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_3\text{S}$ , which is positively charged when dissolved in water ( $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{S}^+$ ). Therefore, when the organic dye is added to a suspension containing clay minerals, the cationic dye can be adsorbed onto the negatively charged surfaces as well as onto the interlayer surfaces of the clay minerals. The MB test was conducted by preparing a suspension of 30  $\text{cm}^3$  using 2 g of powder with a grain size of  $<50 \mu\text{m}$ . The suspensions were stirred overnight to ensure disintegration of any remaining aggregates. The spot test was performed following the methodology of Santamarina et al. (2002), which consists of adding a methylene blue solution to the sample suspension in increments of 0.5 mL and waiting for 1 min between each MB addition. After 1 min, a drop of the suspension is placed on paper filter to evaluate if all MB

molecules have been adsorbed. When MB molecules are in excess (i.e., all adsorption sites are occupied), a blue halo is formed around the aggregate. The MB value is then calculated from the volume of the MB solution used,  $V_{MB\ sol}$ , and the mass of the sample (Equation (1)):

$$MB = \frac{m_{sample}}{V_{MB-sol}} \quad (1)$$

### 3.5 Bulk Connected Porosity

The bulk connected porosity of the samples was evaluated following the triple weight method (TW) (Franklin et al. 1981). The method consists of the measurement of three different weights, depending on the state of the sample: dry, water-saturated and water-saturated suspended in water. Rock pieces of  $\sim 10\text{ cm}^3$  were partially immersed in purified water under vacuum for imbibition. This volume was considered as sufficient in consideration of the representative elementary volume needed for the grain or mineral size distribution of the samples. Any potential fluid excesses present on the sample's surface were removed using a wet paper before measurement of the sample's weight in the saturated state. The saturated samples were dried for 48 h in an oven at  $105^\circ\text{C}$  to determine the dried sample weight. The sample bulk volume  $V_s$  is calculated using Archimedes' principle by Equation (2):

$$V_s = \frac{w_w - w_a}{\rho_w} \quad (2)$$

$w_w$  is weight of water-saturated sample measured at ambient air.  $w_a$  is weight of water-saturated sample plunged in water.  $\rho_w$  is the mass unit weight of water.

The pore volume  $V_p$  is calculated with Equation (3):

$$V_p = \frac{w_w - w_d}{\rho_w} \quad (3)$$

where  $w_d$  is the weight of the dried sample.

Finally, the connected porosity  $\phi_{tw}$  is calculated from Equations (2) and (3):

$$\phi_{tw} = \frac{V_p}{V_s} = \frac{w_w - w_d}{w_w - w_a} \quad (4)$$

Here, it was assumed that the swelling of expandable clay minerals resulting from the complete water saturation of samples did not significantly influence porosity measurement.

### *3.6 Connected porosity from the $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method*

Bulk measurements of properties such as the electrical conductivity and permeability are intimately linked to the characteristics exhibited by the porous network of rocks (e.g., connectivity, pore type, pore size distribution, anisotropy and tortuosity) (Avellaneda and Torquato 1991; Milsch et al. 2008; Wright et al. 2009). In this section, connected porosity maps of the samples obtained by the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA technique are analysed: (1) to characterize the type of porosity involved in the samples and (2) to analyse the porosity distribution with regard to the mineral phases identified in the QEMSCAN® analysis.

Quantification and imaging of the connected porosity of the samples were performed using the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA methodology developed in the 1990s (Hellmuth and Siitari-Kauppi 1990; (Hellmuth et al. 1993; Siitari-Kauppi 2002). The method consists of measuring the radiation arising from samples saturated beforehand with a  $^{14}\text{C}$ -labelled tracer. Polished rock sections of impregnated samples are put into contact with an autoradiographic film (FA) composed of an emulsion of silver bromide crystals (AgBr) of which the  $\text{Ag}^+$  cations can be reduced to metallic silver by absorption of the electrons arising from the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -labelled tracer. The latter process results in a blackening of the autoradiographic film corresponding to the distribution of the radionuclide tracer and therefore the connected porosity. After exposure, the autoradiographic film is developed and digitized for image analysis. In this study, core samples with dimensions of 4 cm in diameter and 3 cm in height were dried in an oven at 40°C for one month and placed under vacuum for three hours to remove any residual water. Impregnation of the samples with a  $^{14}\text{C}$ -MMA solution of an activity of 178 kBq mL<sup>-1</sup> was performed under vacuum for one month at the Laboratory of Radiochemistry (Helsinki, Finland). Polymerization of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -MMA solution in the porous network was ensured by

heating the sample in a bath at 55°C for 16 hours. Finally, the impregnated samples were sawed and polished to ensure the optimal contact between the autoradiographic film and the rock sections. The autoradiographic films used in this work were KODAK BioMax MR films (resolution: 20  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for a total exposure time of  $\sim 4$  days. Digitization of the autoradiographic film into grey-level 16-bit depth images was performed using a Microtek Artix Scan F1 scanner with a resolution of 2400 dpi (pixel size: 10.6  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Due to the non-linear response of the autoradiographic film to irradiation, 14 standards of pure  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA with known activities were exposed at the same time to provide an empirical relationship between the blackening of the film and the connected porosity. However, the maximal range of electrons emitted by the  $^{14}\text{C}$  in PMMA has been estimated by Kanaya and Okayama (1972) at  $\sim 224$   $\mu\text{m}$ , which is significantly higher than the thickness of the thin sections used for the acquisition of the autoradiographs ( $\sim 30$   $\mu\text{m}$ ). Following this condition and since the thickness of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA plugs used as standards for the calibration have a thickness on the order of a few millimetres, the porosities calculated from the calibration process are underestimated. Table 2 provides an overview of comparison of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA porosity method with more popular imaging methods, such as Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and X-Ray Computed Microtomography (XRCT). Other class of methods provide pore size distribution (Hg-porosimetry and adsorption methods), or provide merely bulk porosity value (TW method and He-pycnometry). The main advantage of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method consists on his ability to provide quantitative porosity maps which are easy to analyse, and which account all connected pores of the studied section, regardless of pore size (it is why this method is sometimes called multi-scale). For instance, concerning microcracks, the method is able to map at core scale all cracks, whatever their aperture (Mazurier et al., 2016; Bonnet et al., 2020). This is not the case for XRCT or SEM, which does not provide porosity maps, but where pore can be detected by image segmentation. The smaller pores are not detected using

these methods because their size are smaller than pixel or voxel size. In fact, for these conventional imaging methods, the resolution is a function of the sample size, controlling the pixel or voxel size.  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA has his own drawbacks, such as the need to manipulate open radioactive sources, and the fact that it is not 3D (Table 2). However, the cost remains the same than XRCT, and the total analysis time is also quite comparable to other porosimetric methods. As emphasized by Table 2, the bulk methods have not to be ignored, because they provided reference values for porosity calculation.

### *3.7 Intrinsic Water Permeability*

We used here the same device employed by Sardini et al. (1996), except that core samples with a diameter of 35 mm were covered on their side with LOCTITE EA 9483 epoxy resin to avoid any lateral leakage of water during the permeability experiment. The high viscosity of this epoxy resin prevents intrusion in the pore space of the samples. The thicknesses of the core samples range from 10 to 15 mm. The sample thicknesses were large compared to rock grain size in order to have a measurement representative of the whole rock. Large phenocrysts of feldspars or hornblende can be however the same size as the sample thickness used for these measurements. It was not possible to use thicker samples because the maximal thickness acceptable by the used device is 2.5 cm. Figure 2 shows the experimental setup for the permeability measurement.

Permeability experiments were performed in steady state flow conditions, using a pressure gradient ( $\Delta P$ ) kept between 1 and 2 bar across the samples. Two nitrogen reservoirs imposed the up and downstream pressure into the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vessel (Figure 2). These reservoirs were isolated from the water circuit by an impervious membrane; the pressures imposed by the inflation of these  $\text{N}_2$  reservoirs provided the pressure gradient necessary to the flow of water through the rock sample. The differential pressure was recorded during the experiment, and the flow rate of water was measured using a capillary (Figure 2). The experimental flow

rate being very low (ranged between 0.7 to  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  mm<sup>3</sup>/s), the permeability was calculated assuming a laminar flow regime, using Darcy's law:

$$k = \frac{Q\eta l}{S \Delta P} \quad (5)$$

where  $k$  is the intrinsic permeability (m<sup>2</sup>),  $Q$  is the measured flow rate (m<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>),  $\eta$  is the dynamic viscosity (Pa.s),  $S$  is the surface area of the plug sample corrected from the impregnation resin (surface efficient for the water flux) ( $7.07 \cdot 10^{-4}$  m<sup>2</sup>) and  $l$  is the length of the core sample.

### 3.8 Electrical conductivity

Electrical measurements were performed with a Solartron Impedance Analyser 1260 using 6 NaCl brines with increasing salinity levels of 0.01; 0.05; 0.1; 0.5; 1 and 2 wt %. Note that the range of salinities used encompasses the range of total salt concentrations commonly found for geothermal fluids (0.1 – 1 wt %) (Henley and Ellis 1983). Sample saturation was performed at 20°C by immersion in NaCl brines for two weeks.

A resistivity cell of Teflon was designed to receive the plug samples used for the permeability measurements (Figure 3). After placing the plug sample in the resistivity cell, NaCl brine was added through the two upper apertures of the cell to ensure electrical conduction between the electrodes and the surface of the plug sample. Acquisition of the impedance spectra was performed with the two-electrode configuration in the 0.1 -  $3 \cdot 10^6$  Hz frequency range. The conductivity magnitude  $|\sigma|$  was obtained with following Equation (6):

$$|\sigma| = \frac{1}{|Z|} \frac{l}{s} \quad (6)$$

where the impedance amplitude  $|Z|$  has been selected at a frequency close to 1 kHz (e.g., Lévy et al., 2018) for which the imaginary part of the complex impedance  $Z$  was minimum. For



simplicity in writing, the conductivity magnitude,  $|\sigma|$ , will be simply named the electrical conductivity,  $\sigma$ , hereafter.

## **4. Results and discussion**

### *4.1 Progression of hydrothermal alteration*

The hydrothermal alteration exhibited by the sample series has already been discussed thoroughly in a previous article (Delayre 2018). In this article, we report the main results and petrographic features of the samples that we believe play a significant role in the evolution of the petrophysical properties investigated.

Figure 4 presents selected areas of the mineral maps obtained in the QEMSCAN® analysis of samples PA 13 and PA 4 and PA 7.2, PA 10.1, PA 12 and PA 11. For the whole sample series, the mineral phases identified in the QEMSCAN® analysis consist of feldspar minerals belonging to the plagioclase series (andesine, labradorite, oligoclase and bytownite), hornblende and quartz, corresponding to primary minerals, while alteration paragenesis is represented by clay minerals (montmorillonite and kaolinite), iron oxides, carbonates and sulphide minerals. The matrix of the rock with the above-mentioned primary minerals embedded corresponds to a mesostasis where feldspar microlites and devitrification of glass have been observed using optical microscopy in a previous work (Delayre 2018). The alteration paragenesis exhibited by the samples is very common in hydrothermally altered volcanic rocks and can be identified as argillic alteration (White and Hedenquist 1990; Pirajno 2009). From a more petrographic point of view, the size of the feldspar and hornblende crystals ranges from the sub-millimetre to the millimetre and frequently exhibit rectangular and sub-hexagonal sections, respectively (Figure 4). The lowest alteration intensity is observed in sample PA13, which has been discriminated as two different samples, PA13.1 and PA13.2, where the latter corresponds to the wall-rock area of small fractures

characterized by higher abundances of silica and iron oxides, as observed during field sampling (arrows 1 and 2, respectively, sample PA13.2 in Figure 4). Crystallization of montmorillonite produces a patchy alteration pattern in the mesostase along with a moderate alteration of hornblende crystals, as shown in the PA 13.1 sample (arrow 3, Figure 4). Intragranular alteration of hornblende crystals is clear in the PA 4 sample, where montmorillonite crystallizes in association with the iron oxide phases along hornblende cleavages intersecting at 120° (Figure 4). Among the samples investigated, a particular feature is found for PA7.2, where a vein of predominantly montmorillonite is observed and crosses the entire sample (Annex 1). In Figure 4, the PA10.1 sample exhibits a higher alteration intensity revealed by the stronger pervasiveness of alteration of montmorillonite and silica present throughout the mesostase and hornblende crystals, which, for this sample, are completely replaced by montmorillonite and sulphide minerals ( $\pm$  silica  $\pm$  iron oxides) (arrows 1 and 2, respectively; Figure 4). The strong association of montmorillonite and sulphide minerals is not systematic throughout the sample series investigated and should reveal either a chemical variation in fluid composition affecting the rocks or local variation in the pre-existing lithology. Such variation in fluid composition is supported by the crystallization of carbonates, with calcite as the major mineral phase, manifested as infilling of fractures and dissolution vugs in sample PA10.1.

Strong pervasive alteration is observed in the PA 12 sample, where at this stage, complete replacement of the hornblende crystals by montmorillonite, strongly associated with iron oxides, is observed (arrow 1, PA 12, Figure 4). Dissolution of the mesostase as well as of feldspar minerals is revealed by the increased number of white pixels corresponding to porosity in the mineral maps obtained in the QEMSCAN® analysis. At this stage, only quartz crystals remain unaffected by hydrothermal alteration.

With regard to the alteration intensity, the end member of this sample series is represented by PA 11, where intense pervasive alteration is observed (Figure 4). In addition to the total replacement of the hornblende crystals by montmorillonite and silica ( $\pm$  kaolinite) (arrow 3, PA 11, Figure 4), the PA 11 sample presents frequently open cavities resulting from the quasi-total dissolution of feldspar crystals in which few remnants can still be observed (arrow 2, PA 11, Figure 4). This dissolution vugs are often completely or partially filled with kaolinite and silica and to a lesser extent with montmorillonite (arrow 1, PA 11, Figure 4). In this last sample, such a strong occurrence of kaolinite could be attributed to advanced argillic alteration resulting from the circulation of more acidic (low pH) fluids. However, the absence of minerals such as alunite, typical of advanced argillic alteration, and the low crystallinity of kaolinite revealed by X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis could indicate a weathering origin (Hughes, 1980; White and Hedenquist, 1990; Delayre, 2018).

#### *4.2 Quantitative evaluation of hydrothermal alteration*

The quantitative results obtained in the QEMSCAN® analysis are presented in Table 3, in which samples were ranked from left to right with increasing clay mineral abundances. Overall, good agreement is found between the quantitative results and the qualitative characterization performed in the previous section. The abundance of feldspar minerals is relatively stable throughout the sample series, varying between 30 and 40 %, except for the PA12 and PA11 samples, which display abundances of 23.31 and 4.27 %, respectively, due to the partial or total dissolution of feldspar crystals. Feldspars are the main source of alumina for montmorillonite and kaolinite. This explain their decreasing amount as the alteration degree increases. This replacement is confirmed by the shape of montmorillonite aggregates as observed in PA11 (rectangular sections in Figure 4). The raw quantitative results do not seem to reflect the replacement or dissolution of the mesostase. However, a general

decreasing trend is found when abundance recalculation is performed considering the white pixels in the mineral maps.

As observed in the mineral maps, only the PA 13.2 sample, the least argillized of the sample series, shows a high abundance (13.9 %) of hornblende, where due to the higher alteration intensity, this value falls below 1 %. Nevertheless, no significant trend of hornblende abundance can be found with increasing amounts of clay mineral phases, as depicted by the PA10.1 sample exhibiting a hornblende abundance of 0.1 %, considered moderately argillized. The abundances of carbonates and iron oxides are low (i.e., < 3 %) and erratic throughout the sample series even though PA13.2 presents a slightly higher iron oxide abundance. With regard to the major hydrothermal alteration products, both kaolinite and montmorillonite are ubiquitous in all samples, where for the latter, an increasing trend from 4.69 to 22.74 % is observed. For the former, the abundances are systematically below 1 %, with the exception of samples PA 12 and PA 11, which display abundances of 3.92 and 14.82 %, respectively.

As mentioned in the materials and methods section in this study, only certain samples of the whole series were selected for QEMSCAN® analysis. Thus, to include the remaining samples in the petrophysical analysis, the abundance of structural water in each sample was determined in view of using its value as a proxy for the clay mineral abundance. The results are presented in Table 4 and Figure 5, where the total clay mineral abundances are plotted against the  $H_2O^+$  values obtained from the bulk-rock chemical analysis.

A good and linear correlation is found ( $R^2= 0.9854$ ) between the total clay mineral abundances and crystal lattice water proportions, which therefore confirms the assumption established previously. However, such indicators should be handled carefully when used for the semi-quantitative evaluation of clay minerals. Indeed, several hydrothermal minerals (e.g.,

the zeolite group, alunite, epidote, pyrophyllite) can also exhibit embedded water in their crystalline structures and therefore may bias the results if used without caution.

#### *4.3 Comparison of the mineral maps and autoradiographs from the $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method*

Figure 6 presents the mineral maps of the PA13, PA4, PA10.1, PA12 and PA11 samples in parallel with autoradiographs of the same areas. Notably, several fractures undetected by microscopy are clearly revealed by the autoradiographs of samples PA13, PA4 and PA10.1. For the first two samples, PA12 and PA14, no significant infilling or evidence of fluid-rock interactions in the vicinity of the microfractures was observed in the mineral maps. This could indicate that the generation of the observed microfractures was posterior to hydrothermal alteration. Conversely, deposition of iron oxides as well as carbonates was observed in the main fracture and in the dissolution vugs. The PA10.1 sample revealed that these structures were used as pathways for hydrothermal fluid circulation. In the autoradiographs, such crystallization of carbonates is associated with low porosity areas, as observed in the PA10.1 and PA12 samples (arrow 3 and arrow 2 in Figure 6). Additionally, deposition of silica (and presumably of iron oxides) tends to have a similar impact by clogging the connected pores and therefore reducing the overall average porosity of the rock. This process is particularly notable for the PA13 sample, where, in the autoradiographs, a large porosity contrast is found between PA13.1 and PA13.2, displaying silica abundances of 4.91 and 8.64 %, respectively (Table 3). The sulphide minerals are also congruent with the low porosity areas when infilling dissolution vugs or in pseudomorphosed hornblende crystals (arrow 1, PA10.1, Figure 6).

Overall, an increasing trend of the connected porosity is found for the whole sample series when calculated from the autoradiographs (Table 4), although underestimated, as explained in section 3.6. In the autoradiographs presented, the porous areas are associated mainly with the clay mineral phases, dissolution vugs and fractures and are visible as dark areas in the autoradiograph. Notably, montmorillonite crystallizing along hornblende cleavages is

associated with porous areas (darker) as clearly revealed by the autoradiograph of the PA 4 sample (arrow 1, Figure 6). Destabilization of the mesostase through dissolution and replacement by mineral paragenesis leads to a global porosity increase of the rock matrix where even the pseudomorphosed hornblende crystals are difficult to discriminate from the rock matrix (arrows 3 and 1 for PA12 and PA11, respectively, Figure 6). Conversely, the dissolution vugs associated with feldspar crystals in PA11 are clearly distinguished from the rock matrix (arrow 2, PA 11, Figure 6). Infilling of kaolinite, observed in the same feldspar crystal, seems to reduce the porosity. Only quartz crystals remain unaffected by hydrothermal alteration and can be easily observed due to their lower porosity (arrow 3, PA11, Figure 6).

#### *4.4 Evolution of the bulk connected porosity and intrinsic permeability*

Figure 7 (A) presents the evolution of the connected porosity estimated from the triple weight method as a function of the structural water proportion ( $H_2O^+$ ), used in this study as a proxy of the clay mineral abundance. The connected porosities of the samples range from 3.74 to 35.35 % and show strong linear relationships with the  $H_2O^+$  values ( $R^2= 0.8835$ ), revealing that in the rock series investigated, the dominant process of porosity creation is related to the crystallization of clay minerals (i.e., montmorillonite and kaolinite). Moreover, the silicification and crystallization of iron oxides reported above for sample PA13.2 compared to PA13.1 seems to have a great impact on the connected porosity, inducing a decrease from 10.5 to 4.48 %. The moderate scattering of porosity data at low  $H_2O^+$  values is attributed to the presence of fractures and dissolution vugs causing an increase in connected porosity, as observed for the PA10.1 sample.

The intrinsic permeabilities measured for the sample series, ranging from  $7.7 \cdot 10^{-20}$  to  $5.4 \cdot 10^{-17} \text{ m}^2$ , show an increasing trend with the connected porosities measured by the TW method (Figure 7, B). The highest permeability value is found for the PA11 sample and seems unexpected since this sample is the most argillized among the samples in the present series.

This finding should be related to the strong destabilization of the rock matrix as well as to the dissolution vugs developed at the expense of the feldspars, as observed in the mineral maps and autoradiographs. Numerous data of permeability reported in the literature for effusive andesites (Wright et al., 2009, Farquharson et al, 2015, Mielke et al, 2015, Heap and Kennedy, 2016, Heap et al., 2018, Mordensky et al, 2018 among others) exhibit a range of permeability from  $10^{-17}$  to  $10^{-11}$  m<sup>2</sup>. Nevertheless lower values down to  $10^{-19}$ - $10^{-20}$  m<sup>2</sup> are also mentioned (Wollentz and Heiken, 1992; Petrov et al, 2005; Navelot et al, 2018). It should be noted that most of the values reported in the literature are gas permeabilities. Other data can be found in the literature on lavas or lavas block of various compositions (Bernard et al., 2007 ; Dobson et al, 2003; De Maisonneuve et al, 2009 ; among others) or on pyroclastic materials (Degruyter et al., 2010 ; Heap et al., 2017 ; Heap et al., 2020). The permeability data reported in the literature are 2 to 4 orders of magnitude higher than the permeabilities measured in this work. Part of this shift could be explained by the fact that permeability values found in the literature are mainly gas permeability while in the present study we determined water permeability. This latter value is probably closer to real permeability in natural systems affected by smectitic alteration. Indeed smectitic material consists in expandable clay phases which can strongly affect the permeability in water saturated conditions. As an illustration in Krafla system, Escobedo (2018) observed 2-3 orders of magnitude between gas and water permeabilities in hyaloclastic formations affected by smectitic alteration. From this observation, we deduce that hydrothermal alteration induces a consequent decrease in the permeability (at least one order of magnitude) due to the formation of expandable clay minerals. The subsequent dissolution of the rock matrix and pre-existing minerals, however, counteracts this process by opening new pathways for fluid circulation, thereby enhancing permeability. Intermediate clay-rich facies that would complete the data set between PA10.1 and PA11 would be needed to increase the robustness of the relationship observed.

Unfortunately, such samples were not recognized at the investigated scale due to the sharpness of the transition between very altered to poorly altered zones.

#### *4.5 Impact of argillic alteration on the electrical conductivity*

Figure 8 shows the variation in bulk conductivity measured for each sample depending on the electrical conductivity of the saturating fluid on a log-log scale. For all samples, the bulk conductivity increases with increasing electrical conductivity and presents the typical evolution observed for argillized rocks containing clay minerals with a significant cation exchange capacity (CEC) (Revil et al. 2002; Flóvenz et al. 2005; Komori et al. 2010). Indeed, the electrical conduction in saturated rocks typically involves two different mechanisms: electrolytic conduction, related to the migration of cations and anions through the connected pore space, and surface conduction, enabled by the presence of high-CEC minerals (e.g., smectite), present at the surface as weakly adsorbed cations. The latter mechanism is generally justified through the formation of an electrical double layer at the mineral surface when put in contact with an electrolyte (Gouy 1910; Chapman 1913 and Stern 1924). Both mechanisms are represented in Figure 8. At a low solution conductivity (from 200 to  $\sim 2000 \mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ ), surface conduction is the dominant electrical conduction mechanism and results in the apparent flat part of the plot, especially notable for the PA 12 sample, while at a higher solution conductivity (from  $\sim 10,000$  to  $30,000 \mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ ), electrolytic conduction dominates, resulting in the linear increasing trend (log-log scale) observed.

As expected, the two most argillized samples (i.e., PA12 and PA11) have significantly higher bulk electrical conductivities than the rest of the samples due to the higher abundances of montmorillonite. However, the PA 10.1 sample, which was considered to be moderately argillized (clay mineral abundance: 8.09 %), exhibited an excess electrical conductivity. From the QEMSCAN® analysis, a strong association of montmorillonite with sulphide minerals was observed, unique among the samples investigated. If these sulphide minerals constitute a



connected network, they could be the reason for the high electrical conductivity. A third mechanism of electrical conduction could therefore be involved in the PA 10.1 sample corresponding to electronic conduction, in which the charge carriers are the valence electrons located in the outer shell of metallic atoms.

In the area of Petite-Anse, the magnetotelluric survey performed during the 2012-2013 exploration phase by Coppo et al. (2014) revealed electrical resistivities  $< 10$  Ohm.m at shallow depths. This value is very similar to the electrical resistivities measured in this work for the most argillized samples PA11 and PA12 exhibiting resistivities (after conversion from conductivities) ranging from 9.6 to 1.8 Ohm.m and from 8.0 to 2.7 Ohm.m, respectively, which are in the range of the saturating solution salinities used.

In Figure 9 (A), the bulk conductivities of the samples saturated with the 2 wt % NaCl solution are plotted against the structural water proportions and methylene blue values (A and B, respectively). An increasing trend is observed between the bulk conductivities and structural water proportions with a relatively good correlation ( $R^2 = 0.8591$ ), as expected from the increasing contribution of the surface conductivity resulting from the increasing montmorillonite abundances. From this figure, it seems nevertheless difficult to discriminate the samples with low  $H_2O^+$  values (low clay mineral abundances). A better correlation coefficient is found ( $R^2 = 0.9579$ ) when the electrical conductivities are plotted against the methylene blue values (Figure 9, B). This results from the fact that the methylene blue value is mainly representative of the clay mineral abundance with a high CEC. On the other hand, structural water proportion measurement integrates the kaolinite abundance, a clay mineral known to have a low CEC and therefore contributes to a limited extent to electrical conduction, hence the lower correlation coefficient.

Several indicators have been used in the literature to evaluate the contribution of the surface conductivity arising from clay minerals, especially smectite. The surface or interface

conductivity is generally derived from electrical conductivity models, such as the one of Waxman and Smits (1968) or more recently, the one of Revil and Glover (1998). In this work, to evaluate the contribution of surface conductivity, we used the isoconductivity point, as defined by Shainberg et al. (1980) corresponding to the conductivity value for each sample where its bulk conductivity and solution conductivity are equal.

Figure 10 presents the plot of this indicator against the methylene blue value. As shown in Figure 13, we were able to determine the isoconductivity point only for 5 samples (i.e., PA 3.2, PA 5.1 PA 10.1 PA 12 and PA 11) due to the low bulk conductivities of the remaining samples. A strong and linear correlation is found ( $R^2 = 0.9806$ ) between the isoconductivity point and methylene blue value, revealing the strong relation between this indicator and the abundance of montmorillonite.

## **5. Conclusion**

In this work, the evolution of the petrophysical properties (i.e., connected porosity, permeability and electrical conductivity) of the samples collected at the Petite Anse-Diamant hydrothermal system was investigated on the basis of the quantitative evaluation of minerals by scanning electron microscopy (QEMSCAN®) method. The crystal lattice water abundance was found to be a relevant indicator of the clay mineral abundance for the sample series. From the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA autoradiograph analysis, the development of argillic alteration, sometimes superimposed by weathering alteration (i.e., PA 11), leads to an increase in the connected porosity, primarily due to the replacement of the rock matrix and pre-existing minerals by clay minerals, identified here as montmorillonite and kaolinite. Dissolution vugs and fracturing were found to be significant in several samples and contribute to the increases in connected porosities observed. The crystallization of silica, iron oxides and carbonates counteracts this process, leading to a decrease in the connected porosity. The permeability measurements revealed a significant decrease of 2 to 4 orders of magnitude when compared to

the permeability data acquired for andesites in the literature. No clear relation to the increase in clay mineral abundance was observed; however, the low permeabilities classically observed for rocks belonging to the caprock formation should be reached during the first steps of argillic alteration development. The electrical conductivity measured for the whole sample series shows a linear relationship with the montmorillonite abundance, represented in this work by the methylene blue value, which is easy to acquire in the laboratory and in the field.

Consequently, these new data obtained by coupling different techniques provide three results in a practical and modeling viewpoint. First, they confirm the interest of using geophysical methods based on resistivity measurement (e.g., Direct Current resistivity method and low-frequency electromagnetic methods) to locate caprock formations especially rich in montmorillonite. Let us recall that these geophysical techniques referred as electrical methods share the advantages of being fast, non-intrusive and covering wide areas of investigation in comparison with conventional methods (e.g., drilling, field sampling). Second, our data show that there exist no clear relationship between permeability and clay abundance and thus between permeability and electrical resistivity. Consequently, there is little hope to characterize quantitatively in the field the hydraulic properties of caprock formations by electrical methods. Third, the combination of mineral maps and spatial distribution of the connected porosity observed in autoradiographs allows to clearly discriminate two types of porosity existing in caprock formations: porosity associated with clay mineral phases and that related to dissolution vugs and fractures. Thus our approach provides a quantitative petrographical basis for modeling the hydraulic properties of caprock formations considered as dual-porosity systems.

This work suggests the need for further investigations in two directions. First, this work has accounted for classical petrophysical properties (bulk connected porosity, permeability and electrical conductivity), but recent studies carried out in similar contexts

have shown the possibility of using new non-intrusive indicators based on low-frequency electromagnetic measurements (e.g., the quadrature conductivity and the normalized chargeability; see Revil et al., 2017; Ghorbani et al., 2018; Lévy et al., 2019). These new indicators can be useful in supplementing the information provided by conventional electrical resistivity measurements and should also be compared to mineralogical and petrographic data. Second, the methodology used in this work based on the coupling of innovative techniques (mineral mapping,  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method and petrophysical properties) could be applied to investigate the impact of HT hydrothermal alteration (200-300°C) located at the reservoir level of high-enthalpy hydrothermal systems. These studies would clearly require an adaptation of the experimental conditions through measurement of the same properties as a function of the temperature and pressure.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data. QEMSCAN® maps.

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## Figure captions

Figure 1: Locations of the Petite Anse-Diamant area on Martinique Island (A) and the samples investigated in this study (B). The red point (E-F) indicates the location of the Eaux-Ferrées thermal source (source: IGN, French institute of geography).

Figure 2: (A) Experimental setup for the permeability measurements (Sammartino et al. 1999). (B) Cross-section of the permeability cell with (1) the pressure vessels of stainless steel, (2) the confining cell and (3) the plug sample. (C) Perspective view of the plug sample with the diameters of the core sample and plug opening (mm).

Figure 3: Resistivity cell used for acquisition of the impedance spectra.

Figure 4: QEMSCAN® mineral maps of samples PA13.2, PA13.1, PA4, PA 7.2, PA10.1, PA12 and PA 11. White areas are pixels detected as porosity. Sample PA13 is the freshest sample of andesite, presenting moderate alteration of hornblende to montmorillonite at the bottom of the section (arrow 3), and silica and oxides abundance in the mesostase (arrows 1 and 2). In sample PA4, intragranular alteration of hornblende crystals is underscored by montmorillonite and oxides in cleavage planes. Sample PA10.1 exhibits pervasive alteration of the mesostase (presence of montmorillonite, silica, and sulphide minerals) (arrows 1,2). In sample PA12, hornblende crystals are totally replaced by montmorillonite and iron oxides (arrow 1); carbonate veins are also detected (arrow 2). Sample PA11 is extremely altered; hornblende is totally replaced by silica and montmorillonite (arrow 3), and feldspars phenocrysts are partially dissolved, containing dissolution voids( arrow 2), which are partially filled with kaolinite and silica (arrow 1). In this sample, quartz grains remains unaltered.

Figure 5: Correlation plot between the abundances of the clay phases identified by the QEMSCAN® system and the crystal lattice water proportions obtained from bulk-rock chemical analysis. Mt = montmorillonite and K = kaolinite.

Figure 6: QEMSCAN® Mineral maps (left) and related autoradiographs (right) from the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method of samples PA 13, PA 4, PA 10.1, PA 12 and PA 11. In autoradiographs, the darker the grey level is, the higher the porosity is. In the freshest sample (PA13) the most porous mineral is hornblende, partially replaced by montmorillonite in PA 13.1 side (arrow 1). In PA4 sample, porosity is well developed in hornblende cleavage planes (arrow 1), and corresponds to montmorillonite; feldspars remains lowly porous (arrow 2). In sample PA 10.1, low porosity area are initial feldspar phenocrysts (arrow 2), but are also in sulphide of pseudomorphosed hornblende (arrow1) and in carbonate cements. Montmorillonite-rich areas and in a less extent mesostase present an higher porosity. In PA12, Feldspars remain unaltered and lowly porous (arrow 1), as well carbonate. High porosity of pseudomorphosed hornblende cannot be differentiate from the porosity of the mesostase (arrow 3).

Sample PA11, which is the most affected by hydrothermal alteration, presents a totally different porosity pattern than sample PA12. In this sample, quartz grains remains the only lowly porous mineral (arrow 3). The connected mesostase matrix is porous, but pseudomorphosed hornblende (arrow 1) and altered/dissolved feldspars associated with dissolution voids (arrow 2) are more porous.

Figure 7: (A) Plot of the connected porosity of the samples against the structural water content ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ) value obtained with the triple weight (TW) method and from bulk-rock chemical analysis. The  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$  values are used as indicators of the clay mineral abundances (see section 2.2). (B) Darcian permeability against the connected porosity.

Figure 8: Bulk conductivities versus conductivities of the solutions saturating the samples. The 1:1 line is used to estimate the isoconductivity point of each sample.

Figure 9: Correlation plots of the bulk conductivity measured for the samples saturated with the 2 wt % NaCl solution depending on the structural water proportion ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ) (A) and blue methylene (BM) value (B).

1028 Figure 10: Evolution of the isoconductivity point depending on the blue methylene (BM)  
1029 value.  
1030  
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## Table captions

Table 1: Description of color and consolidation of each samples.

Table 2. Comparison of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA porosity method with conventional imaging methods.

Table 3: Quantitative evaluation of rock mineral composition from QEMSCAN® analysis.

Table 4: Crystal lattice water proportions ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}^+$ ) from bulk-rock chemical analysis; connected porosities  $\phi_w$  and  $\phi_{FA}$  obtained by triple-weighted method (TW) and from film autoradiography (FA) respectively and Darcian permeabilities  $k$  of samples.

Table 5. Conductivities of the solutions saturating the samples and bulk conductivities (expressed in  $\mu\text{S}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

		Consolidation	Color
PA 1		good	grey
PA 2		good	grey
PA 3	PA 3.1	good	grey
	PA 3.2	good	red wall-rock ( $\text{FeOx}$ )
PA 4		good	grey
PA 5.1		moderate	grey yellowish
PA 7.2		moderate	whitish grey
PA 10.1		good	dark grey
PA 11		poorly consolidated	yellowish
PA 12		poorly consolidated	greenish
PA13	PA 13.1	good	whitish grey
	PA 13.2	very hard	red wall-rock ( $\text{FeOx}$ )

Table 1: Description of color and consolidation of each samples.

Porosimetric Method	Raw data	Connected/Total	Sample size	Advantages	Drawbacks
<sup>14</sup> C-PMMA (imaging)	2D porosity map from activity map and calibration	3D Connected	dm <sup>3</sup> to > cm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porosity map regardless of pore size.</li> <li>• Pore type distinction. 2D porosity mapping easy to analyse.</li> <li>• Fracture aperture distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of radioactive resins.</li> <li>• Adaptation in development for swelling clay samples.</li> <li>• "Confidential" method.</li> <li>• Non applicable to naturally radioactive sample.</li> </ul>
XRCT (imaging)	3D map of resolved pores from X-Ray attenuation map	Total and/or 3D connected	dm <sup>3</sup> to mm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D mapping of pores.</li> <li>• 3D pore size and geometry. 3D grid/mesh for transport modelling.</li> <li>• Good availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data difficult to handle and complex to process.</li> <li>• Pore resolution depends on voxel size.</li> <li>• Segmentation of pores is often complicated.</li> <li>• Grey levels are not only a function of porosity</li> </ul>
SEM - BSE (imaging)	2D map of resolved pores from BSE images	Total	Thin section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pore type distinction.</li> <li>• 2D mapping of pores</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using large mosaic image, Data are heavy to handle. Pore resolution depends on pixel size.</li> <li>• Grey levels levels are not only a function of porosity.</li> </ul>
Gas adsorption methods BJH	Pore size distribution	3D Connected	mm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast and widely used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pore size from 3 to 300 nm.</li> <li>• Not a porosity measurement technique.</li> </ul>
Hg-porosimetry	Bulk value and throat size distribution	3D Connected	cm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast and widely used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not pore size, but throat size.</li> <li>• Toxicity of Hg.</li> </ul>

Water porosity by Triple Weighting	Bulk value	3D Connected	dm <sup>3</sup> to mm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast and cheap.</li> <li>• Essential for controlling porosity from imaging methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only bulk method.</li> <li>• Speed of water intrusion depend on rock water permeability, and can be long.</li> </ul>
He-Pycnometry	bulk value	3D Connected	cm <sup>3</sup> to mm <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast intrusion of He.</li> <li>• Cheap.</li> <li>• Essential for controlling porosity from imaging methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only bulk.</li> <li>• Apparent volume should be known to determine porosity.</li> </ul>

1059 Table 2. Comparison of <sup>14</sup>C-PMMA porosity method with conventional imaging methods.



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	PA 13.2	PA 13.1	PA 3.1	PA 10.1	PA 4	PA 7.2	PA 12	PA 11
Mesostasis	32.79	43.71	38.76	38.38	34.85	30.53	40.37	34.57
Andesine	16.87	17.23	20.68	19.27	21.49	20.85	13.81	2.81
Labradorite	12.59	13.64	13.97	10.64	12.92	13.22	5.89	0.24
Oligoclase	5.38	6.98	3.44	2.3	3.07	2.63	3.56	1.22
Bytownite	0.48	0.58	0.59	0.38	0.55	0.62	0.05	-
Hornblende	13.9	4.91	3.43	0.1	4.88	9.82	0.5	0.33
Montmorillonite	4.69	5.35	6.55	7.08	9.57	10.73	15.21	22.74
Kaolinite	0.99	0.69	0.68	1.01	0.94	1.02	3.92	14.82
Quartz/Silica	8.64	4.91	7.87	14.77	8.2	8.54	12.74	21.77
Calcite	-	-	1.46	1.91	0.01	-	2.39	-
Ankerite	-	-	0.08	-	0.37	-	-	-
Siderite	-	-	0.11	-	0.04	-	-	-
Dolomite	-	-	-	0.29	-	-	-	-
Magnetite	1.43	1.13	1.04	-	1.3	1.35	0.81	0.04
/Hematite+Ti								
Magnetite/Hematite	0.71	0.18	0.52	0.03	0.42	0.22	0.35	0.65
Ilmenite	0.17	0.08	0.18	0.2	0.1	0.07	0.21	0.23
Sulfide minerals	-	-	0.01	3.36	-	-	-	-
Apatite	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.18	0.19	0.09	-
Gypsum	0.05	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	0.02
Zircon	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	-	0.01
Rhodocrosite	-	-	-	0.03	0.52	-	-	-
Other minerals	1.16	0.4	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.56
Non identified	0.01	-	0.44	0.05	0.54	0.18	0.03	-

1062 Table 3: Quantitative evaluation of rock mineral composition from QEMSCAN® analysis.

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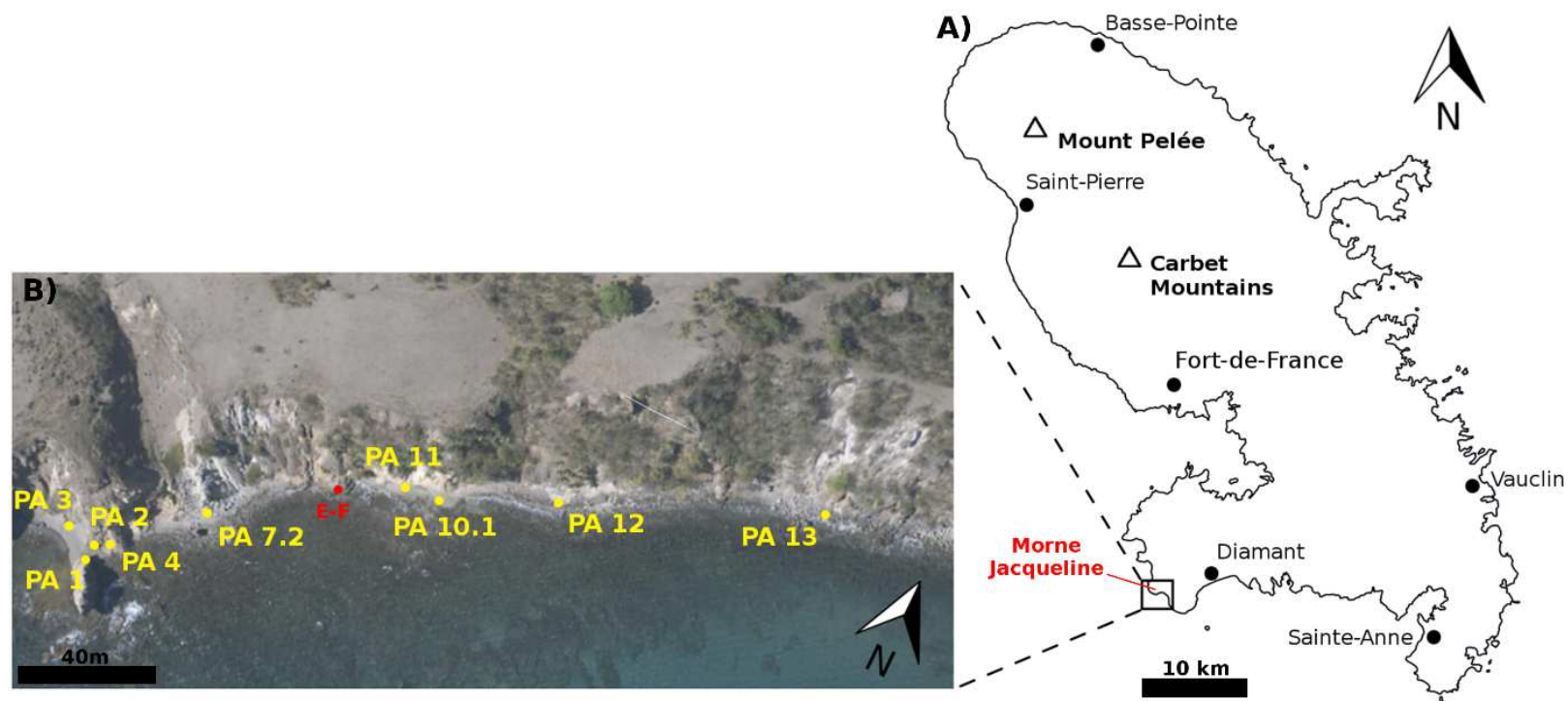
	H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>+</sup> (wt%)	$\phi_{tw}$ (%)	$\phi_{FA}$ (%)	Permeability $k$ (m <sup>2</sup> )
PA 1	0.84	7.45	-	5.8 10 <sup>-19</sup>
PA 2	1.03	4.28	-	2.77e10 <sup>-19</sup>
PA 3.1	0.76	3.74	4.31	1.72 10 <sup>-17</sup>
PA 3.2	1.04	9.46	-	2.32 10 <sup>-19</sup>
PA 4	1.13	7.33	4.14	4.5 10 <sup>-19</sup>
PA 5.1	1.18	9.86	-	3.9e10 <sup>-19</sup>
PA 7.2	1.91	7.2	4.93	7.66 10 <sup>-20</sup>
PA 10.1	1.21	13.84	11.21	2.48 10 <sup>-18</sup>
PA 11	6.23	35.35	20.99	5.36 10 <sup>-17</sup>
PA 12	2.78	17.05	9.76	1.61 10 <sup>-17</sup>
PA 13.1	0.65	10.5	6.59	-
PA 13.2	0.93	4.48	4.11	-

Table 4: Crystal lattice water proportions (H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) from bulk-rock chemical analysis; connected porosities  $\phi_{tw}$  and  $\phi_{FA}$  obtained by triple-weighted method (TW) and from film autoradiography (FA) respectively and Darcian permeabilities  $k$  of samples.

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Solution	Sample Number									
	PA.1	PA.2.1.	PA.3.1	PA.3.2	PA .4	PA.5.1	PA.7.2	PA.10.1	PA.11	PA.12
219.40	70.900	87.000	78.700	181.00	81.700	202.90	112.30	486.90	1039.5	1256.3
995.40	87.400	N/A	97.100	246.50	104.80	263.90	147.20	687.00	1772.0	1380.0
1956.7	94.700	116.70	N/A	258.10	109.30	232.80	142.20	614.30	N/A	1428.0
9297.4	133.80	168.40	152.40	369.40	156.60	311.40	185.90	895.30	2283.1	2125.0
17599.0	202.30	263.40	248.00	539.70	237.10	223.00	286.30	1246.9	3236.2	2898.6
31288.0	267.70	366.80	313.50	719.40	326.90	557.40	397.90	1618.1	5434.8	3663.0

Table 5. Conductivities of the solutions saturating the samples and bulk conductivities (expressed in  $\mu\text{S}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).



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1076 Figure 1: Locations of the Petite Anse-Diamant area on Martinique Island (A) and the samples investigated in this study (B). The red point (E-F)

1077 indicates the location of the Eaux-Ferrées thermal source (source: IGN, French institute of geography).

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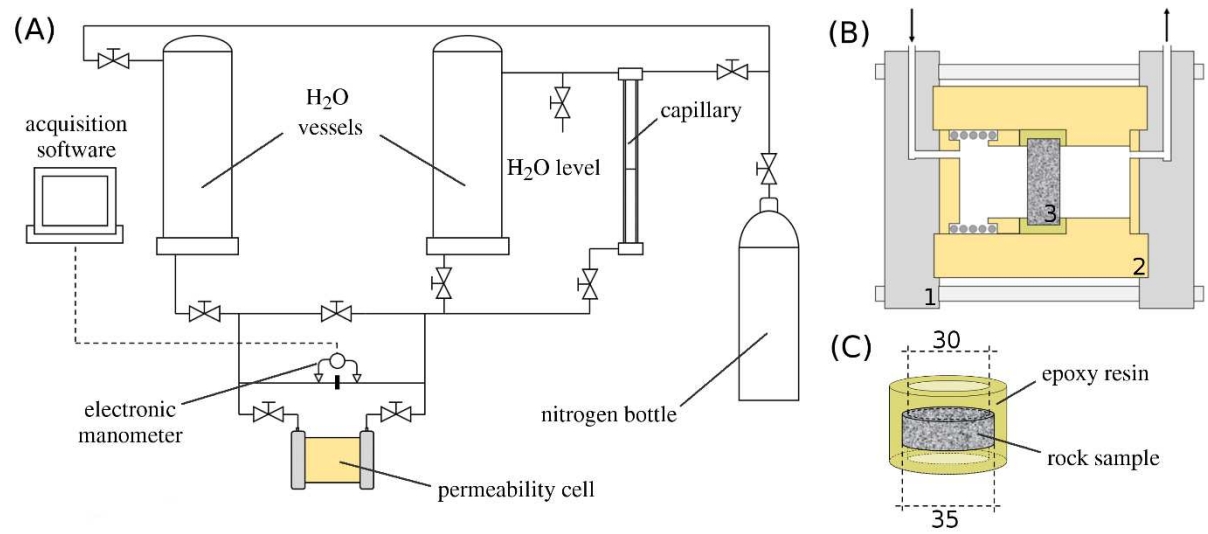


Figure 2: (A) Experimental setup for the permeability measurements (Sammartino et al. 1999). (B) Cross-section of the permeability cell with (1) the pressure vessels of stainless steel, (2) the cell core (in PEEK) and (3) the plug sample. (C) Perspective view of the plug sample with the diameters of the core sample and plug opening (mm).

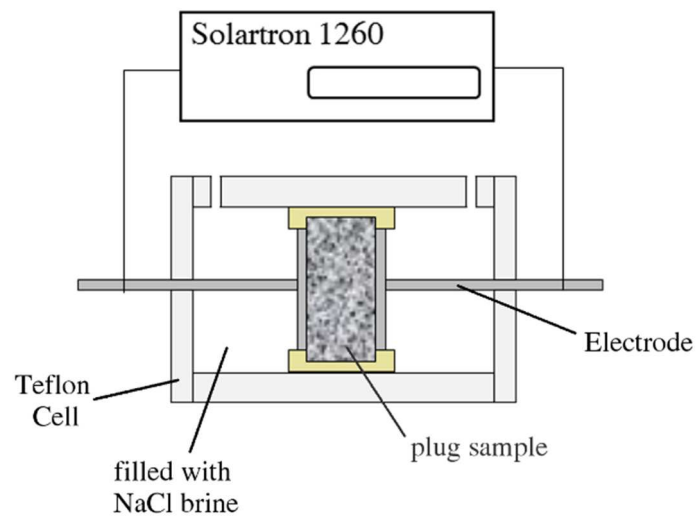
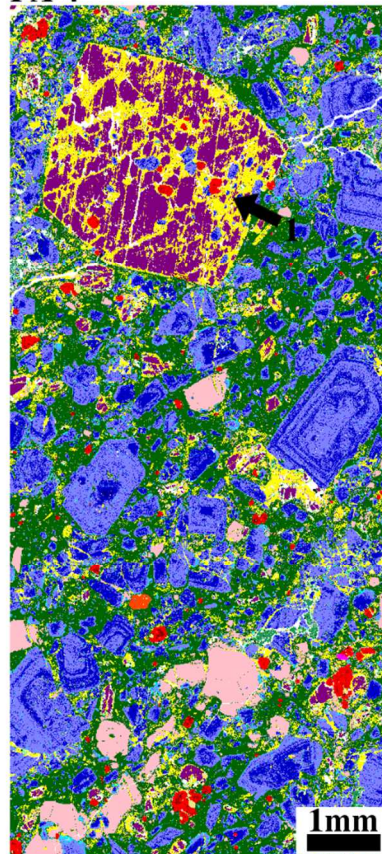
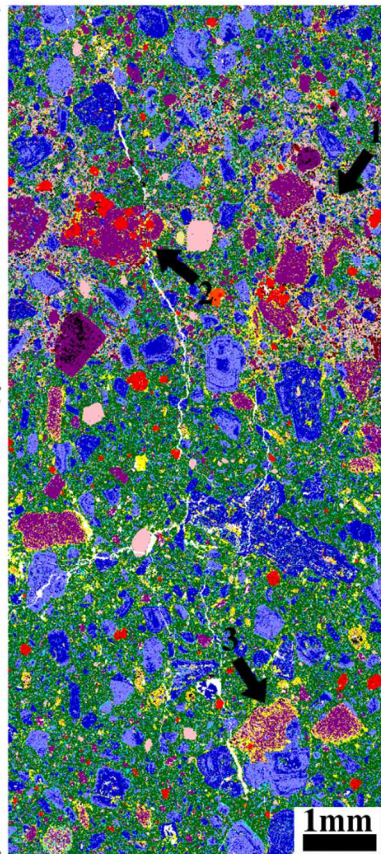


Figure 3: Resistivity cell used for acquisition of the impedance spectra.

PA 13.2

PA 13.1

PA 4



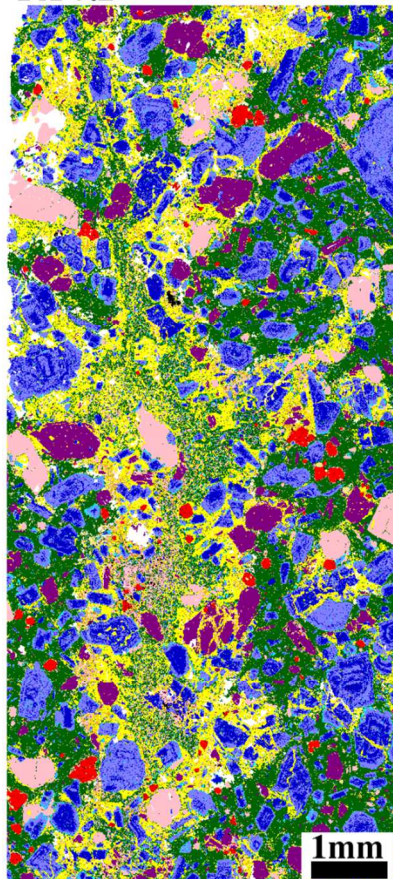
- Quartz
- Magnetite/Hematite
- Magnetite/Hematite + Ti
- Ilmenite
- Anorthite
- Bytownite
- Labradorite
- Andesine
- Oligoclase
- Hornblende
- Montmorillonite
- Kaolinite
- Zircon
- Other silicates
- Apatite
- Sulfide mineral
- Calcite
- Ankerite
- Siderite
- Dolomite
- Rhodocrosite
- Glass
- Gypsum
- Other mineral
- Non identified

1096

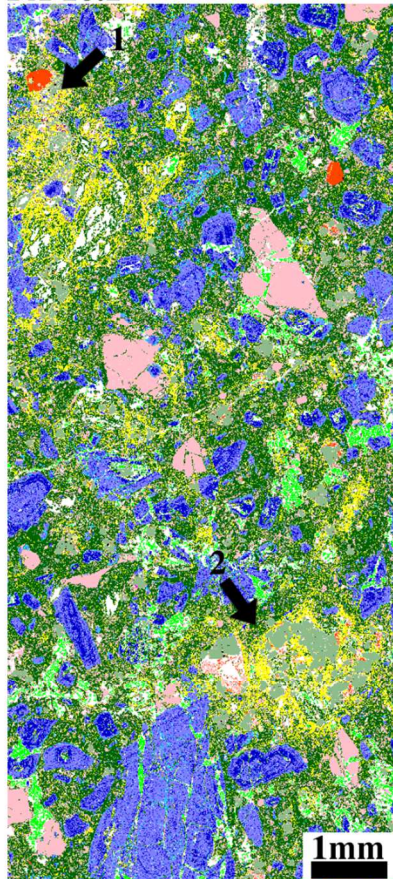
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PA 7.2

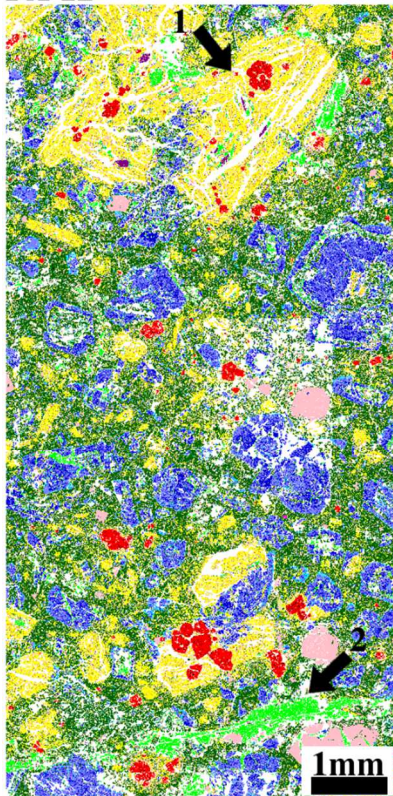


PA 10.1



- Quartz
- Magnetite/Hematite
- Magnetite/Hematite + Ti
- Ilmenite
- Anorthite
- Bytownite
- Labradorite
- Andesine
- Oligoclase
- Hornblende
- Montmorillonite
- Kaolinite
- Zircon
- Other silicates
- Apatite
- Sulfide mineral
- Calcite
- Ankerite
- Siderite
- Dolomite
- Rhodocrosite
- Glass
- Gypsum
- Other mineral
- Non identified

PA 12



PA 11

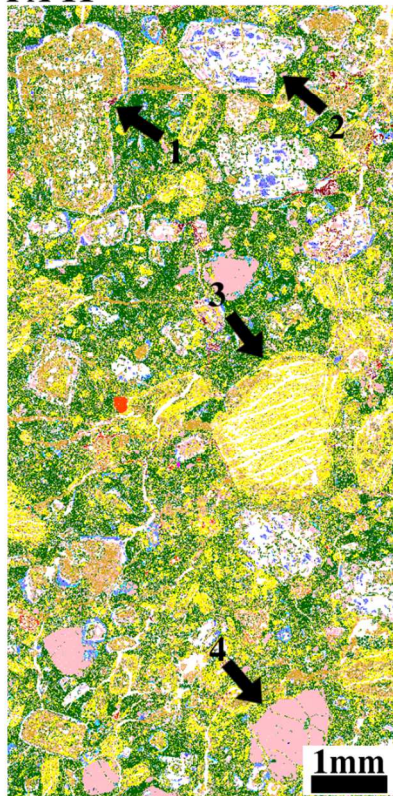




Figure 4: QEMSCAN® mineral maps of samples PA13.2, PA13.1, PA4, PA 7.2, PA10.1, PA12 and PA 11. White areas are pixels detected as porosity. Sample PA13 is the freshest sample of andesite, presenting moderate alteration of hornblende to montmorillonite at the bottom of the section (arrow 3), and silica and oxides abundance in the mesostase (arrows 1 and 2). In sample PA4, intragranular alteration of hornblende crystals is underscored by montmorillonite and oxides in cleavage planes. Sample PA10.1 exhibits pervasive alteration of the mesostase (presence of montmorillonite, silica, and sulphide minerals) (arrows 1,2). In sample PA12, hornblende crystals are totally replaced by montmorillonite and iron oxides (arrow 1); carbonate veins are also detected (arrow 2). Sample PA11 is extremely altered; hornblende is totally replaced by silica and montmorillonite (arrow 3), and feldspars phenocrysts are partially dissolved, containing dissolution voids( arrow 2), which are partially filled with kaolinite and silica (arrow 1). In this sample, quartz grains remains unaltered.

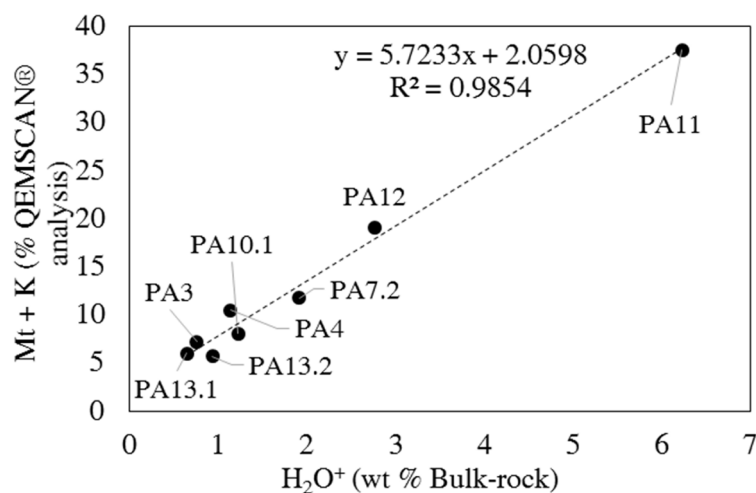
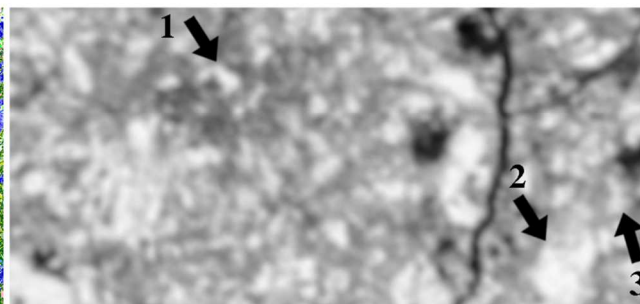
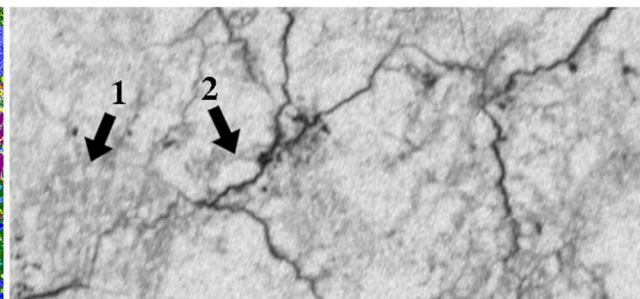
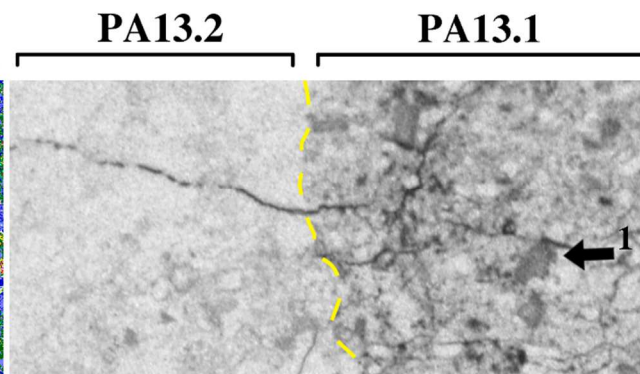
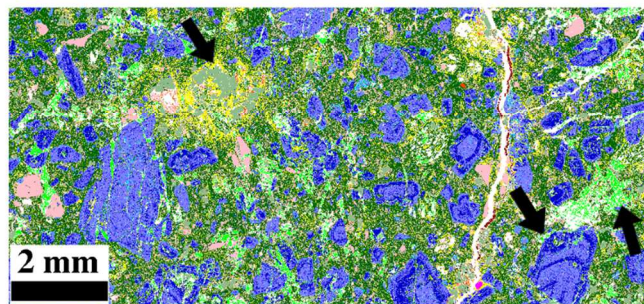
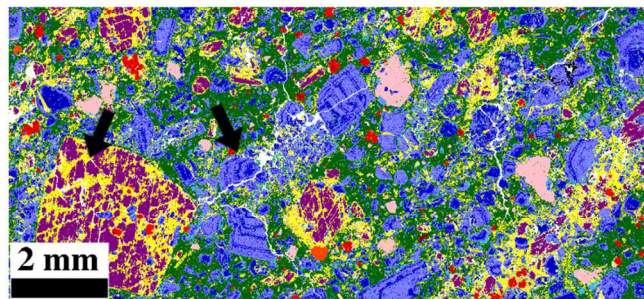
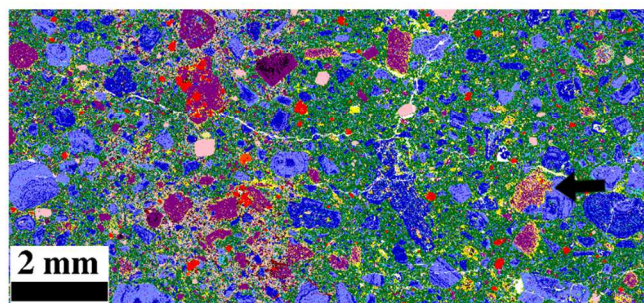


Figure 5: Correlation plot between the abundance of the clay phases identified by the QEMSCAN® system and the crystal lattice water proportions obtained from bulk-rock chemical analysis. Mt = montmorillonite and K = kaolinite.

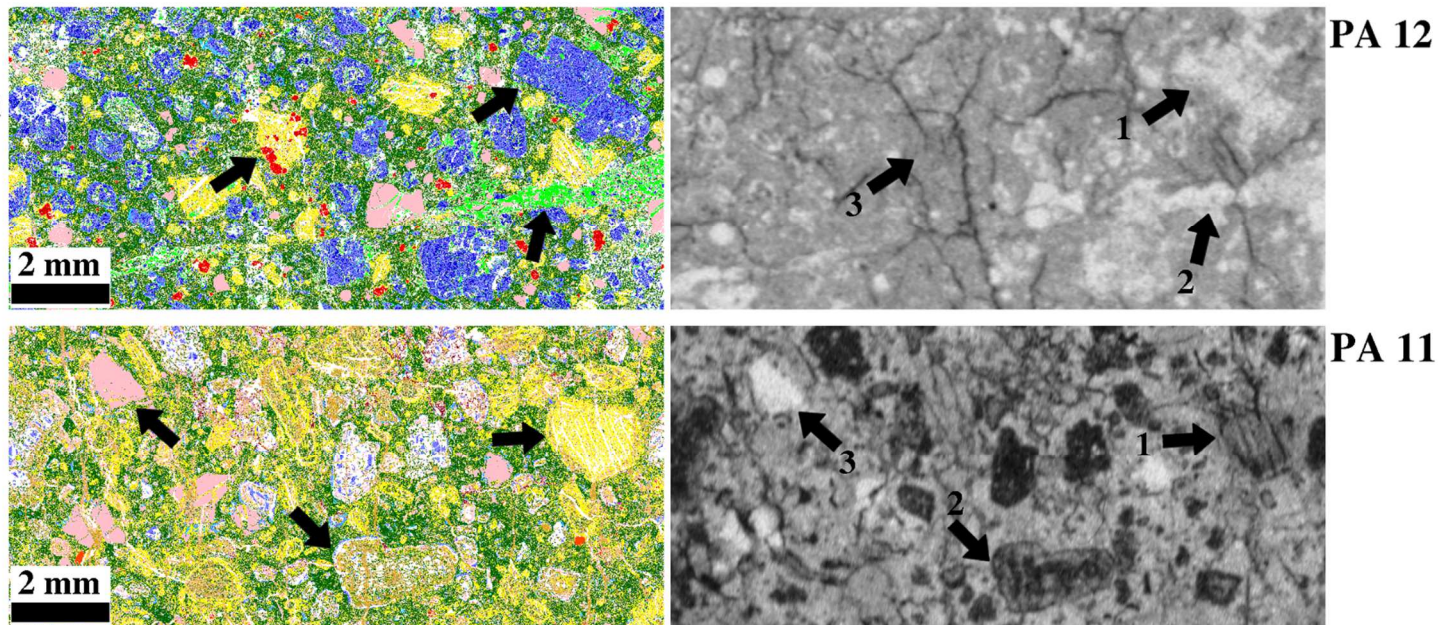
- Quartz
- Magnetite/Hematite
- Magnetite/Hematite + Ti
- Ilmenite
- Anorthite
- Bytownite
- Labradorite
- Andesine
- Oligoclase
- Hornblende
- Montmorillonite
- Kaolinite
- Zircon
- Other silicates
- Apatite
- Sulfide mineral
- Calcite
- Ankerite
- Siderite
- Dolomite
- Rhodocrosite
- Glass
- Gypsum
- Other mineral
- Non identified



**PA4**

**PA10.1**





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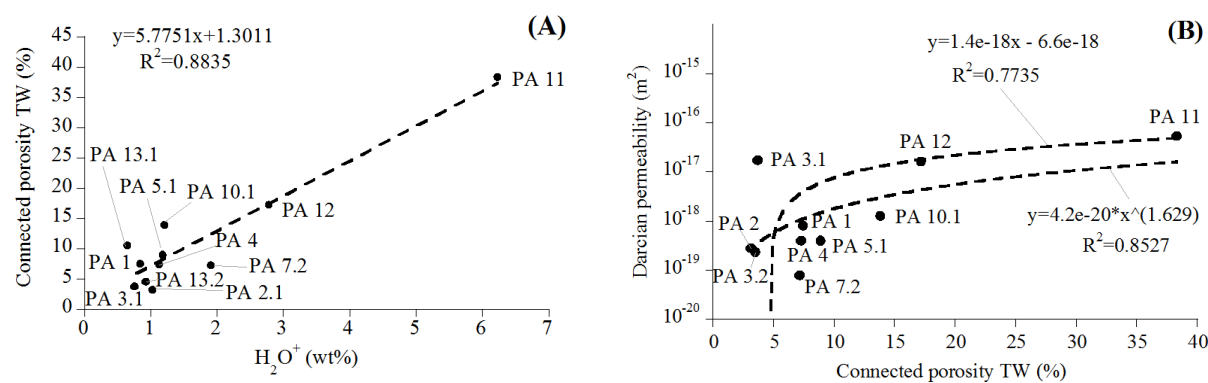
1120 Figure 6: QEMSCAN® Mineral maps (left) and related autoradiographs (right) from the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -PMMA method of samples PA 13, PA 4, PA 10.1,  
 1121 PA 12 and PA 11. In autoradiographs, the darker the grey level is, the higher the porosity is. In the freshest sample (PA13) the most porous  
 1122 mineral is hornblende, partially replaced by montmorillonite in PA 13.1 side (arrow 1). In PA4 sample, porosity is well developed in hornblende  
 1123 cleavage planes (arrow 1), and corresponds to montmorillonite; feldspars remains lowly porous (arrow 2). In sample PA 10.1, low porosity area

1124 are initial feldspar phenocrysts (arrow 2), but are also in sulphide of pseudomorphosed hornblende (arrow1) and in carbonate cements.  
1125 Montmorillonite-rich areas and in a less extent mesostase present an higher porosity. In PA12, Feldspars remain unaltered and lowly porous  
1126 (arrow 1), as well carbonate. High porosity of pseudomorphosed hornblende cannot be differentiate from the porosity of the mesostase (arrow 3).  
1127 Sample PA11, which is the most affected by hydrothermal alteration, presents a totally different porosity pattern than sample PA12. In this  
1128 sample, quartz grains remains the only lowly porous mineral (arrow 3). The connected mesostase matrix is porous, but pseudomorphosed  
1129 hornblende (arrow 1) and altered/dissolved feldspars associated with dissolution voids (arrow 2) are more porous.

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Figure 7: (A) Plot of the connected porosity of the samples against the structural water content

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( $H_2O^+$ ) value obtained with the triple weight (TW) method and from bulk-rock chemical

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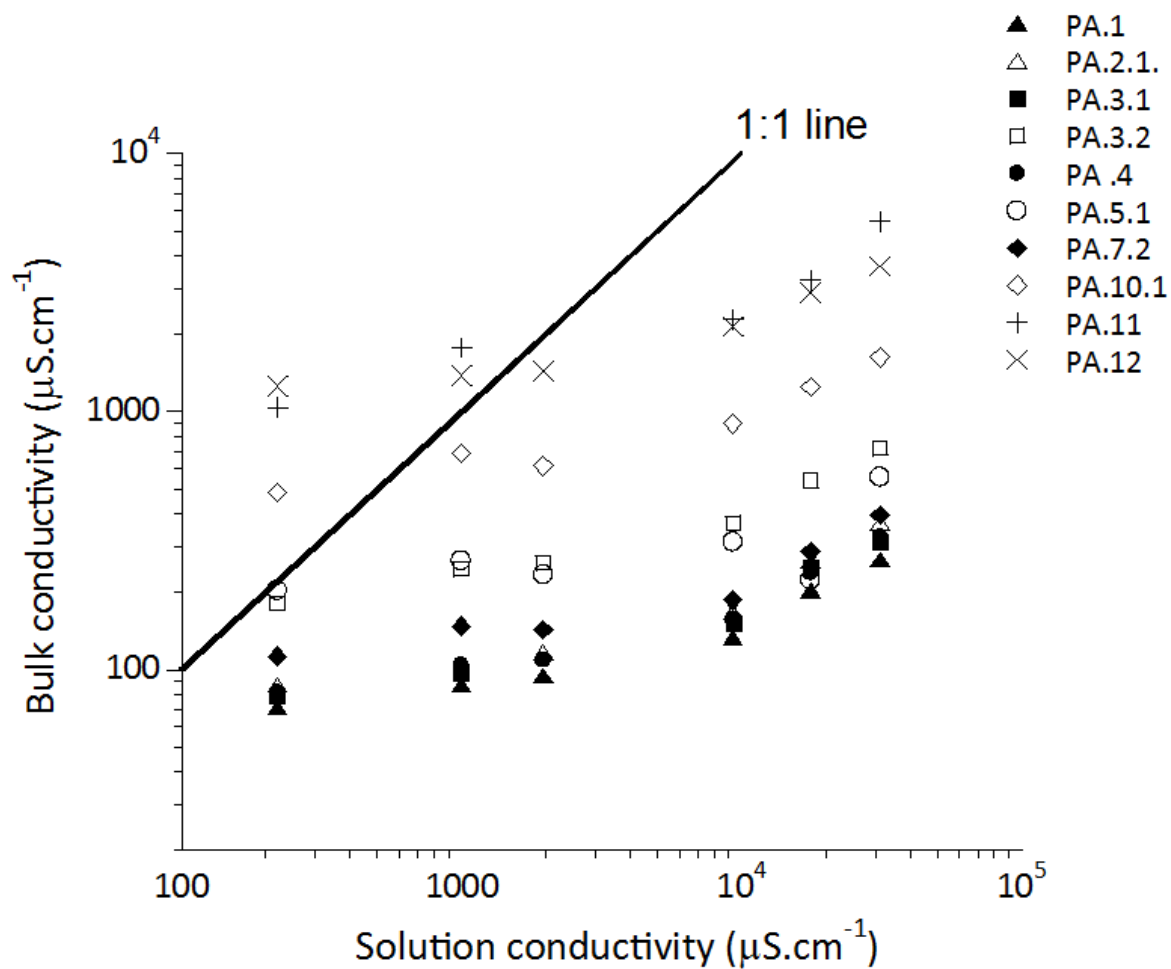
analysis. The  $H_2O^+$  values are used as indicators of the clay mineral abundances (see section

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2.2). (B) Intrinsic permeability against the connected porosity.

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1140 Figure 8: Bulk conductivities versus conductivities of the solutions saturating the samples.

1141 The 1:1 line is used to estimate the isoconductivity point of each sample.

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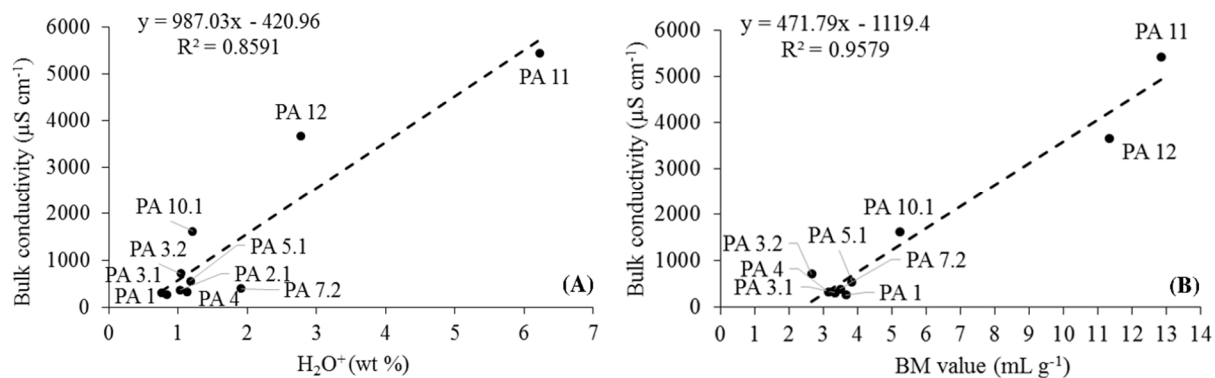


Figure 9: Correlation plots of the bulk conductivity measured for the samples saturated with the 2 wt % NaCl solution depending on the structural water proportion ( $H_2O^+$ ) (A) and blue methylene (BM) value (B).

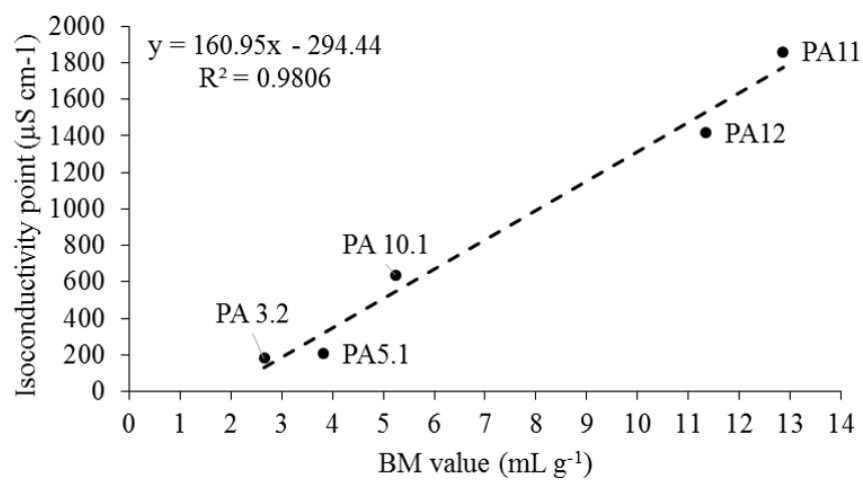


Figure 10: Evolution of isoconductivity point depending on methylene blue value (BM).