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1 **Lateritic landsurface-regolith differentiation on Pan-African granitic basement of**
2 **Adamaoua highland, Cameroon**

4 Mathieu Nouazi Momo^{a*}, Anicet Beauvais^b, Romaric Ntchantcho^a, Paul Tematio^c

6 ^a*Institute of Geological and Mining Research (IRGM), P.O. Box 4110, Yaoundé,*
7 *Cameroon*

8 ^b*Aix-Marseille Univ, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, CEREGE, BP 80, 13545, Aix-en Provence,*
9 *Cedex 4, France*

10 ^c*University of Dschang, Faculty of Science, Department of Earth Sciences, P.O., Box*
11 *67, Dschang, Cameroon*

19 *Corresponding author: nouazimat@yahoo.fr

21 **Abstract** – The aim of this paper is to describe and discuss the laterization pattern and
22 the structuration mode of land-surfaces formed over the Pan-African granitic basement
23 of Adamaua highland. Paleocene to mid-Eocene epeirogeny compartmentalized the
24 regional topography of Adamaua on which lateritic landsurfaces have been formed over
25 granitoids of comparable geochemistry. Regional scale geomorphological observations
26 and petro-geochemical characterization of lateritic duricrusted regolith allow to
27 distinguish three distinct lateritic landsurfaces, which are compared to lateritic surfaces
28 from West Africa. Regolith of the upper and middle landsurfaces incorporate composite
29 lateritic duricrusts including old bauxites and ferricretes, which are petrological heritages
30 from former regolith of etch-plain type Paleogene African Surface. On Pan-African
31 granitic basement of Adamaua, the upper and middle landsurfaces formed on granitoids
32 before mid-Miocene basaltic-andesitic outpourings that locally cover them, while the
33 lower landsurface also formed on granitic rocks has been mostly shaped over late
34 Neogene. The geochemical compositions of lateritic duricrusts of upper and middle
35 landsurfaces are clearly distributed between aluminous, ferruginous and kaolinite poles
36 that typifies lateritic regolith of the bauxitic and (Fe-rich) intermediate etch-plains
37 surfaces similarly as lateritic regolith of the Paleogene West-African sequence.
38 Geochemical compositions of lateritic regolith on lower landsurface are mostly
39 distributed between silica, kaolinite and iron, suggesting that more or less evolved or
40 duricrusted horizons have been exposed by differential erosion of this landsurface.
41 Lateritic regoliths of the three landsurfaces are also typified and differentiated by their
42 index of laterization (IOL) and fractionation patterns of some trace (Cr, V, Zr, Ti, Nb, Th,
43 Y, Ta, Ga) and rare earth elements (HREE, Eu/Eu*, (Gd/Yb)_N). Though Neogene
44 volcanic epirogenic uplift effects on landscape cannot be totally excluded, erosion and
45 down-wasting of Paleogene landscape mostly evolved to a degraded lateritic etch-plain

46 and late formation of a lower pediplain on Pan-African basement of Adamaoua highland
47 under long-lasting per-humid climatic conditions over Cenozoic.

48

49 **Keywords:** Lateritic landsurface; Regolith; Trace elements; Rare earth elements;
50 Adamaoua; Cameroon.

51

52 **1. Introduction**

53 Most of lateritic regolith formed across the intertropical belt in landscapes of
54 cratonic platforms have evolved under relatively quiescent tectonics, depending mostly
55 from climatic variations over Cenozoic (e.g., Chardon, 2023). Chemical solute
56 exportations from strongly weathered protoliths resulted in formation of residual Al-Fe
57 rich lateritic regolith mantling continental scale duricrusted paleosurfaces, e.g., in West
58 to Central and Eastern Africa (Grandin and Thiry, 1983; Tardy and Roquin, 1998;
59 Taylor and Howard, 1998; Chardon et al., 2006; Momo Nouazi et al., 2020; Perello et
60 al., 2020). Most landscapes of the West African intertropical belt consist of numerous
61 stepped relics of lateritic etching surfaces and pediments above current drainage
62 networks (e.g., Michel, 1973; Grandin, 1976; Thomas, 1994; Grimaud et al., 2014;
63 Guillocheau et al., 2015; Chardon et al., 2018; see also Chardon, 2023). The highest
64 topographies are relics of a continental-scale low-relief erosion paleo-surface (the so-
65 called African Surface) mantled with thick kaolinitic and bauxitic regolith that have
66 been produced by intense lateritic weathering during Paleogene (e.g., Beauvais et al.,
67 2008; Burke and Gunnell, 2008; Beauvais and Chardon, 2013) under greenhouse
68 climatic conditions (Retallack, 2010; Chardon, 2023). The bauxitic paleosurface,
69 namely the Paleogene African Surface was then dissected and evolved by successive
70 erosion and weathering episodes during Oligo-Miocene under tropical contrasted
71 climates. That resulted in the establishment of an intermediate ferricrete-capped surface
72 above three stepped lateritic pediments of different ages, which have punctuated
73 successive denudation stages of the African surface over the Cenozoic (e.g., Beauvais
74 and Chardon, 2013; Chardon et al., 2018). In the recent decades, dating approaches
75 using radiometry contributed to better constraining regolith landform dynamics over
76 geological time scales in West Africa (e.g., Colin et al., 2005; Beauvais et al., 2008), or

77 in Peninsular India (Bonnet et al., 2016; Jean et al., 2020), where similar sequences of
78 lateritic surfaces have been described and dated.

79 Landscapes of the Adamaua highland and adjacent plateaus on granitic
80 Panafrican basement are mostly structured into lateritic etchplains and pediplains
81 (Martin, 1970). However, geomorphological relics of older lateritic paleosurface (e.g.,
82 bauxitic or intermediate) are not strictly preserved as well as in West Africa for example
83 (Michel, 1973; Grandin, 1976; Beauvais and Chardon, 2013; Grimaud et al., 2015;
84 Chardon et al., 2018). The Adamaua highland is a swell resulting from a long-
85 wavelength lithospheric deformation similarly as the one of Central Nigeria (Burke,
86 2001). Swells owing to early Eocene volcanism (e.g., Fosso et al., 2005; Moundi et al.,
87 2007) induced regional epirogenic uplift. Resulted landscapes underwent long-term
88 processes of deep weathering and surface erosion (Segalen, 1967; Michel, 1970; Morin,
89 1987, 1989; Burke and Gunnell, 2008). Lateritic regolith formed on landsurfaces have
90 evolved under warm/humid Paleogene to drier Late Neogene changing climatic
91 conditions (Chardon, 2023).

92 Based on geomorphic, petrologic and geochemical data sets, our objective is to
93 describe and discuss landscape structuration into three stepped lateritic landsurfaces
94 upon granitic basement of Adamaua highland. Compared to West Africa (e.g.,
95 Beauvais and Chardon, 2013; and Chardon, 2023) geomorphological remnants of old
96 lateritic surfaces (e.g., bauxitic) are not strictly preserved in current landscapes of
97 Adamaua. However, numerous petrologic remains of bauxite and ferricrete in surface
98 regolith betray past wider extension of old lateritic surfaces over crystalline Pan-African
99 basement of Adamaua. The importance of these remains allows to typify lateritic
100 landsurfaces and to reconstitute the landscape evolution on Pan-African Adamaua.
101 Considering the available geochronological constraints on volcanic rocks from Eocene

102 (Moundi et al., 1987; Fosso et al., 2005; see also Njonfang et al., 2011), to mid- late
103 Neogene (Halliday et al., 1988; Marzoli et al. 2000), we also discuss the influence of
104 resulting epirogeny on topographic changes that potentially maintained persistent
105 regional paleoclimatic humid regimes, and influenced paleo-landscapes evolution on
106 Adamaoua highland over Cenozoic. Differences between landscape evolution of
107 Adamoua highland and West Africa are pointed out and discussed.

108

109 **2. Geological and geodynamical framework**

110 The basement of Adamaoua region made up of Neoproterozoic granitoids,
111 metasedimentary units and migmatites (zircon $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages \sim 500-600 Ma; Toteu et
112 al., 1987), is part of the northern orogenic belt (mobile zone) of Cameroon (Fig. 1a) that
113 overthrusts the Archaean Ntem complex (Nzenti et al., 1988). Central Adamaoua
114 terrains are crossed by the Central Cameroonian Shear Zone, CCSZ, (Fig 1a; Ngako et
115 al., 2003), which is a trans-lithospheric dextral mobile system of the Pan-African
116 orogeny (Jorgensen and Bosworth, 1989).

117 The crystalline basement covering \sim 70% of Adamaoua is also crossed by the
118 Cameroon volcanic line (CVL) that instigated a regional epirogenic uplift. Adamaoua
119 highland is a large horst structure (Deruelle et al., 1991) part of the Central African
120 component of the swell-and-basin topographic framework (Burke, 2001; Nkouathio et
121 al., 2008) that also includes the Jos plateau in Nigeria, with the Hoggar, Aïr, Tibesti,
122 and Darfur highlands (see also Chardon, 2023). The Adamaoua horst has formed and
123 evolved according to two main stages and is bounded by the Mbere and Djerem grabens
124 (Deruelle et al., 1991). The first stage corresponds to mid-Cretaceous reactivation of
125 Precambrian faults, namely distensile NNE-SSW and NW-SE rejuvenations along the
126 N70°E CCSZ (Fig. 1a). This stage led to the extensional opening of South-Adamaoua

127 tectonic grabens and correlative formation of stepped horsts (see also Morin 1989;
128 Burke, 2001).

129 The second stage corresponds to mantle upwelling between 65 and 30 Ma (Burke,
130 2001) along thermally thinned and tectonically weakened lithosphere (Fitton, 1980;
131 Ngako et al., 2006) that resulted in asymmetrical epeirogenic uplift of Adamaua
132 basement of ~ 1 km with a southward inclination and fracturing of the horst plateau
133 along N50-60°E and N130-140° (Moreau et al., 1987; Nono et al., 1994; Burke, 2001;
134 Poudjom-Djomani et al., 1997). Mid-Miocene to late Neogene volcanic outpourings
135 through inherited Precambrian faulting network and fractures (Dautria and Girod, 1986;
136 Marzoli et al., 2000; Nkouandou et al., 2015) only rejuvenated locally the landscape
137 topography with emplacement of thick strato-volcanos like Tchabal Nganha of late
138 Miocene age (Gouthier et al., 1974; Halliday et al., 1988).

139

140 **3. Methodological approach**

141 We use field observation stations to describe three stepped landsurfaces between
142 altitudes 1250 m a.s.l. to ≤ 1000 m a.s.l. A field station consists of an area of few square
143 kilometers, with residual relief(s) preserving relics of at least one specific paleosurface.
144 At each field station, elevations of relic lateritic surfaces and base levels were recorded
145 and complemented with petrological characterization of lateritic regolith. Lateritic
146 duricrusts were described according to the classification by Tardy (1997). Field
147 observations were complemented by analyzing a combination of digital elevation
148 models and Google Earth images to extract River long profiles and perform local and
149 regional synthetic cross sections of lateritic landscapes and 3D interpretation of land
150 surfaces distribution. Here, we used a Copernicus (COP-30) digital elevation model
151 (<https://opentopography.org/>) with a spatial resolution of 30 m and a vertical accuracy

152 of <2 m (compared to ~9–12 m of SRTM; Rodriguez et al., 2005) for the Adamawa
153 region (Airbus, 2020) to extract local relief and topographic metrics.

154 River long profiles have been also extracted to analyze landscape incision pattern,
155 e.g., location and significance of knick-zones (Figs. 1b-c), and discuss the river
156 response to climatic and/or litho-tectonic variations (e.g., Grimaud et al., 2014; Marques
157 et al., 2021). The analysis was undertaken on landforms drained by a major river
158 network, i.e., the Djerem River drainage system where landscape on Pan-African
159 basement is composed of three mapped lateritic landsurfaces (Fig. 2a) in central and
160 southern Adamaoua. Northeastern landscape of Djerem watershed was subject to late
161 Neogene volcanic activity and outpourings (e.g., see Halliday et al., 1988; Marzoli et
162 al., 2000) with local topographic uplift.

163 In addition to river long profiles extraction and lateritic landsurfaces mapping, we
164 described and analyzed petrologic facies of lateritic regolith formed on each landsurface
165 and their spatial distribution. Major oxides in wt.% and trace + rare earth elements
166 (REE) in ppm were analyzed by Inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission
167 spectrometry, ICP-AES, and Inductively coupled plasma-Mass spectrometry, ICP-MS
168 (see details given in supplementary material). Analyzing REE fractionation in lateritic
169 regoliths formed on granites potentially document on intensity of weathering processes
170 (Nesbitt, 1979), but also on erosion distribution on landsurfaces carrying these regoliths.
171 The Index Of Laterization (IOL) has been calculated for each sample analyzed (e.g., see
172 Babechuk et al., 2014, after Schellmann classification of laterization grades in
173 weathering profiles, 1994), with:

$$175 \quad IOL = 100 \times \left[\frac{(Al_2O_3 + Fe_2O_3)}{(SiO_2 + Al_2O_3 + Fe_2O_3)} \right] \quad (1)$$

177 **4. Results**

178 4.1. Distribution, drainage, and incision of lateritic landsurfaces on granitoids
179 Three Lateritic landsurfaces formed on Panafrican granitic basement of
180 Adamaoua highland are arranged in a stepping pattern on either side of a major drainage
181 divide (Fig. 1b and 2a), which is delineated by more or less weathered recent late
182 Neogene volcanic flow sequences (up to 2400 m a.s.l.; Fig. 1b), and the highest lateritic
183 landsurfaces over granitoids (up to 1200 m a.s.l.). Drainage networks of Adamaoua
184 highland are mostly organized in rectangular and parallel spatial patterns on granitoids,
185 while more dendritic over volcanics (Fig. 2a). The northern domain is a relatively
186 limited portion of the Adamaoua highland, which is drained by Faro and Vina Rivers,
187 tributaries of Benoue and Logone fluvial networks that are main rivers of northern
188 Cameroon (Fig. 1a). The southern domain of Adamaoua highland is gradually stepped
189 (Fig. 2) from the highest to the lowest landforms (1450-1200 m to ~790 m a.s.l.; Figs.
190 1b and 2a) that are shaped by the Sanaga river drainage network and its major tributary
191 Djerem River (Figs. 1a and 2a). Long profiles of Djerem and major tributaries are
192 punctuated by knickzones mostly pinned to lithological and/or structural discontinuities,
193 delimiting concave shape stream lengths (Figs. 1c and 2a-b).

194 Regionally mapped-substrate (Fig. 1b) and our field observations on Panafrican
195 Adamaoua highland highlight three lateritic landsurfaces (Figs. 2a, 3 and 4), which are
196 bounded by erosional slopes and/or terrains (Figs. 2a) up to 100 m amplitude (Fig. 3),
197 exposing granitic/gneissic bedrock. These three landsurfaces, i.e., upper, middle and
198 lower (Figs. 3 and 4) are mantled by mixed or composite lateritic duricrusts and
199 distinguished by their morphology (e.g., drainage network geometry, and hillslope
200 shape). On Adamaoua, the lateritic landsurfaces are covered by a patchwork of clear
201 and very dense humid savannas (Fig. 3a) typical of soudano-guinean climatic zones

202 (according to Aubréville, 1949). Sequences of kilometric wide multi-convex hills less
203 than 50 m height (Fig. 3) recall similar landscapes described in Southern Nigeria
204 (Rohdenburg, 1969; Fölster, 1969) in the guinean climatic zone.

205 On Adamaoua highland, the upper landsurface ranges between 1250 m a.s.l. and
206 ~1150 m a.s.l. (Figs. 2a-b); it is a low-relief smoothly flattened lateritic etch-plain more
207 or less dissected by V-shape shallow thalwegs with incision not exceeding 30 m height
208 (Figs. 3b-c and 4a). The transition with the middle landsurface is outlined by erosional
209 slopes up to ~ 100 m height over ~2 km (Figs. 3b and 4a) with outcropping granitic
210 bedrock and/or preserved ferruginous carapaces or sandy mottled clays attesting of
211 truncated profiles. Peripheral erosion of the etch-plain results in denuded (dismantled)
212 slopes drained by short (first order) streams over average ~ 5% slope gradient (Figs. 2a-
213 b). The etch-plain bears a thick lateritic regolith exposing up to ca. 2 m thick nodular
214 ferricrete overlying pebbly lateritic and thick mottled clay layers (Figs. 5a-b).

215 Downstream, profiles of rivers draining the middle landsurface have gentle
216 upward concave stream sections (Fig. 2b). This landsurface is a low-relief smooth hilly
217 surface ranging from altitudes of 1100 m to 1050 m a.s.l. (Fig. 2a-b and 3b-c) formed in
218 between erosional hillslopes of the upper etch-plain, and dissected into convex hills less
219 than 1 km wide distributed (Figs. 3 and 4). A dendritic hydrographic network drains this
220 landsurface (Figs. 2a and 4), which mostly exposes a “puzzle” of duricrusted regolith
221 and ferruginized mottled clays (Fig. 5c). The middle landsurface is limited by erosional
222 slopes drained by short (first order) streams over gentle slopes of ~ 3 % gradient (Figs.
223 2b and 3b), which is paved by meter-sized disaggregated ferricrete blocks (Fig. 5d).

224 The lower landsurface is a very low-relief pediplain formed at altitude \leq 1000 m
225 a.s.l. (Figs. 3a-c) by coalescent pediments (Figs. 2a and 4b), mostly drained by a
226 rectangular geometric network of linear tributaries of Djerem River system in southern

227 Adamaoua (Fig. 2a). This pediplain is covered by a more or less duricrusted regolith
228 (Fig. 5e) on kilometer wide gentle slopes, which may also expose dismantled granitic
229 blocks in area where erosion has totally stripped the lateritic regolith. Downslope, this
230 landsurface may be covered by modern alluvial materials (Fig. 4b) similar as
231 sedimentary fans of flood plains along main rivers (see also Chardon et al., 2018).
232 Below erosional slopes (< 1000 m a.s.l.) this pediplain is shallowly dissected, with
233 incisions not exceeding 10 m (Figs. 3b-c and 5f), while river streams have concave up
234 profile (Fig. 2b).

235

236 4.2. Regolith of lateritic landsurfaces on granitoids from Adamaoua highland

237 4.2.1. Lateritic regolith of upper etch-plain landsurface

238 The lateritic regolith of this upper landsurface is mostly duricrusted by an Al-Fe
239 rich nodular ferricrete. This ferricrete is made up of centimeter-sized dark-red nodules
240 cemented in a yellowish matrix mixing iron oxy-hydroxides and clays crossed by
241 vacuoles and studded by quartz grains (Figs. 6a) that typifies a moderately lateritized
242 ferricrete (see #1 in Fig. 7). The duricrusted lateritic regolith of this landsurface may
243 also encompass decimetric-sized rounded lateritic duricrusts of various facies including
244 decimeter size relics of ferricrete and bauxite (Fig. 6b). These ferricrete and bauxitic
245 relics have a paranodular to massive structure, respectively (Fig. 6c-d) showing pink
246 patches embedded in a red Al-Fe rich ferruginous matrix crossed by voids filled by Al-
247 oxyhydroxides that constitutes also strongly lateritised duricrusts (e.g., see #2 in Fig. 7).
248 The bauxitic petrological relics are made up of centimeter size yellowish-grey patches
249 in a yellow-reddish Al-Fe rich internodular matrix (Figs. 6e). Some other bauxite relics
250 show a saprolitic texture, made up of a yellowish grey undifferentiated matrix studded
251 with small (mm sized) quartz grains, which preserves the finely grained texture of the

252 granitic parent-rock (Fig. 6f). These bauxitic relics are strongly lateritized and very rich
253 in aluminum (see #3 in Fig. 7). Bauxites and/or ferruginous bauxitic duricrusts relics are
254 clearly differentiated from the encompassing nodular ferricrete on this pediplain (Fig.
255 7).

256 Compared to trace elements and REE composition of the granitic parent rock, most of
257 lateritic duricrusts and ferricretes of regolith formed on this landsurface are enriched in
258 Ti, Cr, Cu, V, depleted in Mn, Y, Sr, Rb, Ba, Zn, Co, Pb, while Nb, Zr, Ga, Cu, Ni, Sc,
259 Th, Hf, U, and Ta remain quite constant (Fig. 8a). Most of REE are depleted with higher
260 variability in lateritic relics than in encompassing ferricrete, except some relics little
261 enriched in LREE (Fig. 9a). Normalized to Upper Continental Crust (UCC)
262 composition, lateritic relics have Ce/Ce* comprised between 0.57-1.15 against 0.93-
263 1.99 for the encompassing ferricrete, while Eu/Eu* ranges from 0.97 to 1.45 compared
264 to 0.9-1.29 for ferricrete (see also Table DR).

265

266 4.2.2. Lateritic regolith of middle landsurface

267 Regolith of the middle landsurface is a protonodular ferruginous duricrust (see
268 Tardy, 1997) composed of coalescent dark red nodules and concretions embedded in a
269 clay-ferruginous matrix with yellowish frame of Fe-oxy-hydroxides studded by quartz
270 grains and vacuolar voids (Fig. 10a; see also #4 in Fig. 7 for geochemical composition).
271 The ferruginous duricrust also encompasses some detrital relics of older ferricrete (Fig.
272 10b). This ferricrete has a paranodular to nodular structure with centimetric size purple-
273 reddish nodules (1-2 cm sized) cerned by a brown rim and embedded in a clayey
274 orange-ochre matrix (Fig. 10c-d). These ferricretes are comparable to the nodular
275 ferricrete of the upper landsurface (see # 5 and #1 in Fig. 7). Most iron duricrusts of the
276 middle landsurface are however less ferruginous but as aluminous as duricrusts of the

277 upper landsurface and rather moderately lateritised (Fig. 7). Note that analyses obtained
278 on detrital ferricrete relics encompassed in duricrusted regolith of that middle
279 landsurface clearly plotted on the (Fe_2O_3 -Kaolinite) axis (Fig. 7).
280 Most of lateritic duricrusts and ferricrete formed on this landsurface are enriched in Cr,
281 Cu, V, Pb, Ta, depleted in Mn, P, Y, Sr, Rb, Ba, Zn, Ni, Co, while Ti, Nb, Zr, Ga, Sc,
282 Th, Hf, and U, remain quite constant (Fig. 8b). Most of REE are depleted, except some
283 lateritic relics little enriched in LREE, e.g., Ce, Pr, Nd and Sm, while some
284 encompassing ferricrete have higher HREE, i.e., Tm, Yb and Lu (Fig. 9b). Normalized
285 to UCC composition, lateritic relics have Ce/Ce^* comprised between 0.78 and 1.15
286 against 0.82-1.18 for the encompassing ferricrete, while Eu/Eu^* ranges from 1.07 to
287 1.34 compared to 0.84-1.21 for ferricrete (see also Table DR).

288

289 4.2.3. Lateritic regolith of lower pediplain landsurface

290 The regolith of this landsurface exposes more or less weathered laterites, either
291 saprolitic relics (Fig. 11a), or more or less duricrusted mottled clays (Fig. 11b), which
292 are only kaolinized (see #6-7 in Fig. 7), and ferricretes. These ferricretes have a
293 paramodular to nodular structure, composed of large purple-reddish ferruginous nodules
294 with a brown peripheral rim of goethite (Figs. 11c-d), and often preserve centimeter-
295 sized saprolite and/or mottled clays, which are crossed by a tubular porosity lined with
296 secondary brown coatings of goethite mainly (Fig. 11d). Ferricretes of this pediplain are
297 rich in Fe oxy-hydroxides and kaolinite (see #8 in Fig. 7) comparable to ferricretes of
298 the middle landsurface. The highly variable IOL index of this pediplain (Fig. 7) reflects
299 differentially eroded (truncated) profiles exposing saprolite (Fig. 11a), mottled clays
300 (Fig. 11b), and/or moderately lateritised duricrusts (Figs. 11c-d), but which IOL is
301 comparable to that of lateritic duricrusts of upper and middle landsurfaces (Fig. 7).

302 Most of lateritic duricrusts of this pediplain are enriched in Cr, Cu, V, U, depleted in Ti,
303 Mn, P, Y, Sr, Rb, Ba, Zn, Co, while Nb, Zr, Ga, Sc, Th, Hf, Ta and Yb, remain quite
304 constant (Fig. 8c). Note that Cu and Ta are highly depleted in lateritic relics. Most of
305 REE are highly depleted, except some HREE, i.e., Tm, Yb and Lu, with concentration
306 comparable to parent rock composition (Fig. 9c). Ce/Ce* varies from 0.57 to 5.08 while
307 Eu/Eu* ranges from 0.73 to 1.25 (see also Table DR).

308 **5. Discussion**

309 5.1. Petro-geochemical differentiation of lateritic regoliths on Panafrican of Adamaua

310 Although quite similar trace and REE normalized patterns of regolith from the
311 three landsurfaces (Figs. 8 and 9), some differences and specificities can be noted.

312 Lateritic duricrusted regolith of the upper etch-plain landsurface are the most lateritised
313 and the richest in Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , Ti and Cr (Figs. 7, 8 and 12), Nb and Ta (Fig. 13a-b)
314 that mostly typify Al-Fe rich duricrusts and bauxites such as those described in West
315 Africa (e.g., Boulangé, 1984; Sawadogo, 2021). Lateritic duricrusted regolith

316 (ferricretes) of the middle landsurface is rather less aluminous but as ferruginous and
317 richer in Cu, V and Ga (Figs. 8, 12 and 13c-d). Lateritic relics encompassed in the
318 ferruginous duricrust of this landsurface are also likely composed of a mixed kaolinite
319 and Fe-oxy-hydroxides as suggested by the plots aligned on the mixture line Fe_2O_3 -
320 Kaolinite (Fig. 7) that also typifies regolith of intermediate etch-plain type landsurfaces
321 of Central and West Africa (Boulangé, 1984; Roquin et al., 1990; Beauvais and Roquin,
322 1996; Beauvais, 1999; Sawadogo, 2021). According to some differences in granitic
323 parent rocks geochemistry Zr and Ti are differently correlated in lateritic duricrusted
324 regoliths of the three landsurfaces (Fig. 13e). Although Zr concentrations of ferricretes
325 and lateritic duricrusts (relics) are comparable, Ti amounts in lateritic regolith of the
326 upper etched lateritic landsurface are higher than in middle and lower landsurfaces

327 (Figs. 13e). Ferricretes and lateritic relics of the upper landsurface are the most
328 lateritised (higher IOL) and have also higher Ti and Nb, but lower Zr/Ti and Nb/Y ratio
329 than ferricretes and lateritic relics of the middle and lower landsurfaces (Figs. 13a-13e-f
330 and Figs. 14a-b). A slight increase in Zr and Ti (and correlative, Zr/Ti) is noted from
331 the granitic bedrocks to lateritic duricrusts of middle and lower landsurfaces (Figs. 13-e-
332 f) reflecting lithological dependence. Though Zr and Ti also increase together from the
333 bedrock to ferricrete of upper landsurface, Zr of lateritic relics in regolith of this
334 landsurface shows poor relation to bedrock while Ti clearly increases (Figs. 13e-f).
335 These results underline the allochthonous nature of some lateritic duricrusts and
336 ferricretes, and more particularly the bauxitic nature of most highly lateritized relics
337 from duricrusted regolith of the upper etched landsurface. Ferricretes and lateritic relics
338 of regolith of the three landsurfaces show obvious differences in V, Zr and Ti reflecting
339 geochemical variations of granitic parent rocks (Figs. 12, 13c and 13e-f) but also
340 differences of laterization gradient (Fig. 7) that may have perturbed the lithological
341 dependence. It was previously shown in West Africa that lateritic crusts potentially
342 loose geochemical relation to parent rock as the most lateritized and old they are (e.g.,
343 Tardy, 1997).
344 Although REE are highly depleted in most of lateritic duricrusted regolith (Fig. 9), some
345 fractionation occur in lateritic regolith of the first two landsurfaces (Figs. 9a-b), with
346 higher Eu/Eu* and Th, but lower (Gd/Yb)_N, and HREE in duricrusted lateritic regolith
347 of middle landsurface compared to regolith of upper and lower landsurfaces (14b to
348 14d). That possibly reflects different redox conditions in laterization processes of the
349 three landsurface-regolith systems (Braun et al., 1993; Boulangé and Colin, 1994; see
350 also Brown and Helmke, 2003). Regoliths of the lower landsurface (pediplain type) are
351 less lateritised and more siliceous (Fig. 7) and have a little more variable trace and REE

composition (Figs. 8c and 9c). They are less aluminous, ferruginous and titaniferous, better retain U and have comparable content in Cr, V, Cu, Nb, Ta and Ga content (Figs. 8, 9, 12 and 13). Lateritic regolith of this landsurface have also lower Ti, Nb, Th, Eu/Eu* and (Gd/Yb)_N (< 1) but are a little richer in HREE, and Y compared to regolith of the first two landsurfaces (Figs. 14a to 14d). That suggests residual primary HREE carriers like zircons (Gromet and Silver, 1983; Murali et al., 1983; Fig. 14a) or some relics of poorly weathered Fe-Mg primary minerals like biotite and/or hornblende in kaolinite rich weathering matrices that also take up HREE (see Nesbitt, 1979).

Variations in Ce/Ce* in ferricretes and lateritic duricrusts of landsurfaces regolith also reflect variable redox conditions (Braun et al., 1993; Beauvais, 1999; Brown and Helmke, 2003; Babechuk et al., 2014) of different laterization intensity (see IOL gradient in Fig. 7). The petro-geochemical patterns of lateritic duricrusts and ferricretes of upper and middle landsurfaces typify regoliths of etch-plains (Thomas, 1994; Beauvais, 1999), while differently lateritised regoliths of the lower landsurface are closer to those of glaci/pediplains from West Africa (Roquin et al., 1990; Sawadogo, 2021).

5.2. Lateritic landscape differentiation upon Panafrican basement of Adamaoua
Our results describe landscape-regolith associations with differentiation of three stepped lateritic landsurfaces on Adamaoua highland. The upper and middle landsurfaces are covered by composite lateritic duricrusted regolith encompassing duricrusted bauxite and ferricretes, which recall lateritic regolith of bauxitic and/or ferruginous intermediate etch-plain type surfaces described in West Africa (e.g., Grandin, 1976; Thomas, 1994; Grimaud et al., 2015; Chardon et al., 2018; see also Chardon, 2023), or in south-eastern Central African Republic (e.g., Beauvais and

377 Roquin, 1996; Beauvais, 1999) in a certain extent. Old lateritic duricrusts of
378 intermediate etch-plain type have been also previously described by Frisch (1978).
379 These lateritic duricrusts including bauxite portray a former lateritic regolith that
380 covered more widely the Adamaua landscape similarly as the old lateritic regolith of
381 the West African Eocene African Surface (Tardy and Roquin, 1998; Chardon et al.,
382 2006; Grimaud et al., 2015; see also Grandin, 1976, and Sawadogo, 2021).
383 Geomorphological landmarks of the continental scale African Surface (e.g., Burke and
384 Gunnell, 2008) have been previously recognized and described in West Africa (see
385 Michel, 1973; Grandin and Thiry, 1983), South Africa (Partridge and Maud, 1987) and
386 Nigeria (Valeton, 1991; Schwarz, 1997; Becker, 1992). This major continental
387 paleosurface was also recently further characterized and dated in West Africa (Beauvais
388 et al., 2008; Beauvais and Chardon, 2013), and in Eastern Africa (Perelló et al., 2020).
389 Lateritic Regolith typifying the African Surface type in Adamaua has formed under
390 humid climatic conditions since Eocene, i.e., the onset of mantle source basaltic
391 volcanism southwest of Adamaua highland (e.g., Fosso et al., 2005; Moundi et al.,
392 2007). Early Eocene volcanic dynamic sustained regional scale epirogeny that led to
393 topographic uplift of Western and Adamaua Highlands (Morin, 1987, 1989), and the
394 Jos high plateau in Nigeria (Valeton, 1991; Becker, 1992) with correlative regional base
395 level adjustments. In Adamaua like in Nigeria, amplified regional orography and
396 increasing relief also allowed maintaining humid climatic regimes and efficient drainage
397 that enhanced the geochemical rock weathering and regolith formation and evolution
398 (mostly degradation) of former Eocene etch-plain landsurface. The (SiO_2 - Al_2O_3 -
399 Fe_2O_3) compositions of lateritic regolith show on-going but quite differentiated
400 geochemical evolution with a clear differentiated laterization gradient of the duricrusted
401 regolith from the upper to the lower landsurface (Fig. 7). That reflects a dynamical

402 landform-regolith differentiation under persistent per-humid climatic regime most of
403 Cenozoic times even if drying in late Neogene (see Bilobe et al., 2021) may have
404 possibly affected landsurface erosion pattern. The strong laterization (IOL > 85; Fig. 7)
405 of the upper landsurface regolith brings it closer to the intermediate etch-plain type
406 regolith (see also Fritsch, 1978) from West Africa (e.g., Sawadogo, 2021). Likewise, the
407 regolith composition of the lower landsurface (Fig. 7) is very close to that of the high
408 glacis pediplain from West Africa (Sawadogo, 2021).

409 Mid-Miocene basaltic and andesitic outpourings (Marzoli et al., 2000) post-date
410 the establishment of the upper and middle landsurfaces (Fig. 2a), while predating that of
411 the lower landsurface. The northeastern part of Djerem watershed around the Tchabal
412 Nganha (Fig. 2a) has been uplifted during Late Neogene volcanic activity (Gouthier et
413 al., 1974; Halliday et al., 1988) but it remains difficult to measure this uplift on
414 knickpoints of the upslope long profiles of Djerem and uppermost tributaries (Figs. 1b-
415 c) to evaluate effects on landscape erosion and river incision patterns. Marked
416 knickpoints also occur on long profiles of rivers flowing only on granitoid basement in
417 the southwestern part of Djerem watershed and are mostly pinned to litho-structural
418 discontinuities (Fig. 1b-c and 2a-b). Though late Neogene volcanic uplift is not
419 measurable, very discrete short wavelength convexities are depicted locally in some
420 sections of River long profiles, e.g., at 150-180 km between consecutive knick-points of
421 Djerem River incising the lower pediplain landsurface (Fig. 1c and 2b). However, River
422 long profiles of Djerem and its tributaries mostly show upward concave shape stream
423 segments bounded by knick-zones pinned to lithological discontinuities (Figs. 1c and
424 2b). Streams with concave morphology have adjusted to local base levels attesting of
425 equilibrium state that also recall river incision pattern of West African landscapes (e.g.,
426 Grimaud et al., 2014). Most River long profiles have first adapted to the inherited horst

427 topography of Adamaoua highland much before Neogene uplift. Moderate incision of
428 the upper landsurface (Figs. 2a, 3b-c and 4a) typifies low-relief paleo-landsurface
429 (Partridge and Maud, 1987) and/or subdued morphologies (McFarlane, 1976;
430 Widdowson, 1997) recalling also smooth etch-plains south of the sahelian zone of
431 Africa (Grandin, 1976; Thomas, 1994; Chardon et al., 2018; Chardon, 2023). Low
432 incision and long-lasting humid climatic conditions precluded from complex slope
433 erosion processes that have been often described in relief inversion context of Soudan-
434 Sahelian tropical regions under more contrasted climatic regimes (e.g., Pain and Ollier,
435 1995; Butt and Bristow, 2013; Chardon et al., 2018). Instead, Guinean to Soudano-
436 Guinean per-humid environments prevailing as far as early Cenozoic in southern
437 Adamaoua (Martin, 1970; Morin 1989; see also Burke and Gunnell, 2008) have mostly
438 instigated the geochemical degradation and erosion processes (dismantling) of early
439 formed bauxitic and ferricrete mantled-paleo-landsurfaces similarly as those described
440 in West Africa (see Sawadogo, 2021) or in Eastern Central Africa (Beauvais and
441 Roquin, 1996; Beauvais, 2009).

442 Though Adamaoua highland first results from regional epirogeny created by
443 Eocene volcanic geodynamics, lateritic regolith of stepped landsurfaces evolved under
444 persistent tropical per-humid climatic regime over most of Cenozoic times that is the
445 reversed climatic evolution of West Africa (Morin, 1989; Burke and Gunnell, 2008; see
446 also Chardon, 2023). Gradually stepped surfaces evolved under a humid climate typical
447 of rainforests environments whereby a subdued regional incision/denudation precludes
448 relief inversions of abandoned older landsurfaces as often observed in West Africa (see
449 Chardon, 2023). Combined geodynamic and climatic factor have favored long-lasting
450 weathering and degradation of former lateritic landsurfaces under slow erosion regime
451 typical of cratonic regions submitted to less than 10 m/Myr erosion rates (Beauvais and

452 Chardon, 2013; Chardon et al., 2018). Such tectonic and climatic conditions are
453 required for efficient laterization process and differentiated landscape structuration in
454 humid tropical regions (e.g., Fölster, 1969; Valeton, 1991). Even if late Neogene
455 volcanic uplift effect on landscape evolution cannot be totally excluded, this is not
456 measurable. However, local topographic changes may have influenced distribution and
457 frequency of rainfalls, and potentially led to further geochemical degradation of lateritic
458 regoliths on Adamaoua highlands. Further detailed geomorphological studies combined
459 with geochronological dating of lateritic surfaces and their duricrusts (e.g., (U-Th)/He-
460 $^4\text{He}/^3\text{He}$ dating of iron oxy-hydroxides; see Vasconcelos et al., 2013; Monteiro et al.,
461 2018; Heller et al., 2022), which formed on both granitoids and volcanic rocks
462 (including $^{40}\text{Ar}-^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating of these as well), would be however required to better
463 constrain the impact and timing of major geodynamic and climatic weathering/erosion
464 processes and their interactions on Adamaoua landscapes over Cenozoic.

465

466 **6. Conclusion**

467 Three stepped lateritic landsurfaces have been formed upon Pan-African
468 basement of Adamaoua highland as smooth etch-plain type surfaces with subdued
469 hillslopes and flattened pediplain separated the one to other by more or less rugged
470 erosional slopes. Lateritic regolith of the upper and middle landsurfaces encompasses
471 older lateritic duricrusts (bauxite and ferricrete) inherited from presumably Eocene
472 bauxitic and intermediate etch-plain type paleosurfaces, which have slowly evolved
473 mostly by geochemical degradation owing to long-lasting humid climatic conditions
474 since Eocene epirogenic uplift of Adamaoua. These old lateritic duricrusts are
475 petrologic signatures of former regolith that widely covered the Panafrican basement of
476 Adamaoua highland and can be compared to similar regolith of the continental scale

477 Paleogene African surface described in West and East Africa. Geochemical
478 compositions of lateritic regolith formed on each landsurface are distributed between
479 aluminous, ferruginous and Si-Al poles with a noticeable gradient of laterization (IOL)
480 and differential fractionation patterns of trace elements (mostly, Ti, Cr, V, Zr, Nb, Th,
481 Y, Ta and Ga) and REE (i.e., Ce*, Eu*, Gd_N/Yb_N, and HREE) that allow a better
482 distinction of regolith of these three landsurfaces. Mid-Miocene basalt/andesite
483 outpourings post-date the upper and middle etch-plain landsurfaces while pre-dating
484 formation of the lower pediplain. Late Neogene volcanics extrusions through major
485 structures across the PanAfrican basement have locally uplifted Adamaua landscape,
486 that potentially constrained laterization and erosion/degradation processes of
487 landsurfaces, even if uplift is not measurable. Landsurface-regolith mostly formed on an
488 inherited horsts topography under persistent per-humid climates at least from ~ mid-
489 Eocene. Possible late Neogene drying has diversely affected landscape as suggested by
490 differential erosion fingerprints and patchwork of more or less eroded or stripped
491 lateritic regolith of the lower pediplain.

492

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3

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223 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

224 Figure 1. (a) Simplified geologic map of Cameroon showing main domains of the
225 Neoproterozoic Pan-African orogenic belt. CCSZ: Central Cameroon Shear Zone; (b)
226 Morpho-geological map across Adamaoua highland (see frame in figure 1a). (b) River
227 long profiles of Djerem and its tributaries punctuated by knickzones (black and grey
228 dots for knickzones on Djerem and tributaries, respectively). Geological maps adapted
229 from Toteu et al. (2004); see frame in Figure 1b for colored segments on x axis in Fig.
230 1c.

231 Figure 2. (a) Spatial coverage of lateritic landsurfaces and their erosional terrains in
232 southern Adamaoua highland (Frame in Fig. 1b). (b) Detailed River long profiles of
233 sections of Djerem and its tributaries that are punctuated by knickzones (black dots for
234 Djerem and grey dots for tributaries). Colored horizontal bands represent altitudes range
235 of each landsurface. Colored segments on x axis of (c) represent different lithologies.
236 (Frame in Fig. 1c).

237 Figure 3. a) Landscape of Adamaoua highland with middle and the lower landsurface.
238 (b) to (d) Topographic sections across successive lateritic landsurfaces of the Adamaoua
239 highland over granitic basement. See linear traces of L1 to L2 sections on Figures 2a.

240 Figure 4. (a) 3D interpretations of Google Earth images (© 2022 Maxar technologies);
241 (a) remnants of the upper and middle landsurfaces; (b) remnants of the middle and
242 lower landsurfaces. Vertical exaggeration x3. See frames on Fig. 2a.

243 Figure 5. (a) Lateritic regolith of gently sloped upper landsurface; (b) lateritic profile
244 section in the upper landsurface showing a thick mottled clay beneath the ferricrete.
245 (Location: N 06°54'54,9", E 013°07'53,4", 1155 m a.s.l); (c) Gentle slope of middle
246 landsurface exposing iron duricrust (yellow dashed line) and mottled clays. (d) Scarped

247 slope limiting the middle landsurface exposing disaggregated blocs of iron duricrust; (e)
248 Duricrusted lateritic Regolith on gently sloping lower landsurface; (f) Shallow incision
249 upslope lower landsurface.

250 Figure 6. Petrographic structure of lateritic regolith of the upper landsurface. (a)
251 Nodular ferricrete; (b) Duricrusted lateritic relic (yellow dashed line) encompassed in
252 the nodular iron duricrust. Location of a and b: N 6°59'45.63", E 13°7'49.40", 1194 m
253 a.s.l.; (c) Paranodular petrographic structure of ferricrete encompassed in nodular
254 ferricrete; (d) Massive red ferruginous bauxite shown in Fig. 6b; (e) Nodular yellow-
255 grey bauxite. Location of b and d: N 7°1'26.87", 13°8'28.09"E, 1199 m a.s.l.; (f)
256 Yellow-pink bauxite relic with preserved granite texture; (Location of e: N 6°59'21.46"
257 E 13°8'51.39", 1154 m a.s.l. (Geochemical analyses of 6a, 6d and 6f are given in Fig. 7)

258 Figure 7. Composition diagram (SiO_2 - Al_2O_3 - Fe_2O_3) for parent rocks and lateritic
259 duricrusts sampled in regolith of the three landsurfaces, including the vertical IOL
260 values scale (see Babechuck, 2014). (See petrographic structures of analyzed lateritic
261 duricrusts in figures 6, 10 and 11; 1= see Fig. 6a; 2= see Fig. 6d; 3= see Fig. 6f; 4= see
262 Fig. 10d; 5= see Fig. 10d; 6= see Fig. 11a; 7= see Fig. 11b; 8= see Fig. 11c).

263 Figure 8. Trace elements compositions of lateritic duricrusts in regolith of each
264 landsurface normalized to respective granitoid.

265 Figure 9. REE compositions of lateritic duricrusts in regolith of each landsurface
266 normalized to respective granitoid.

267 Figure 10. Petrographic structure of lateritic regolith of the middle landsurface. (a)
268 Nodular structure of ferricrete; (b) Detrital duricrusted lateritic relic (yellow dashed
269 line) encompassed in the nodular ferricrete; (c) Detailed structure of duricrusted lateritic
270 relic shown in (b); (d) Purple-reddish nodular ferricrete relic; (Location: N 7°5'47.05",

271 E 13°11'57.32", 1077 m a.s.l. (Geochemical compositions of 10a and 10c are given in
272 Fig. 7).

273 Figure 11. Petrographic structures of lateritic regolith covering the lower landsurface.
274 (a) Saprolytic weathered granitoid; (b) duricrusted mottled clays, (c) ferruginous
275 duricrust with mottled clays relics; (d) Paramodular ferruginous duricrust;
276 (Geochemical compositions of 11a to 11c are given in Fig. 7).

277 Figure 12. Composition diagram (Ti-Cr-V) for parent rocks and lateritic duricrusts
278 sampled in regolith of the three landsurfaces.

279 Figure 13. Geochemical diagrams of traces vs major oxides for parent rocks and lateritic
280 duricrusts sampled in regolith of the three landsurfaces. (a) Nb vs Al₂O₃; (b) Ta vs
281 Al₂O₃; (c) V vs Fe₂O₃; (d) Ga vs Fe₂O₃; (e) Zr vs. Ti; (f) IOL vs. Zr/Ti. (Stoichiometric
282 linear relation to granites in Fig. 13c is marked by the straight line).

283 Figure 14. Geochemical diagrams of (a) Nb/Y vs Zr/Ti, and REE fractionation in parent
284 rocks and lateritic duricrusts sampled in regolith of the three landsurfaces. (b) Eu/Eu*
285 vs Nb/Y; (c) (Gd/Yb)_N vs Zr/Ti; (d) HREE vs Th/Y.

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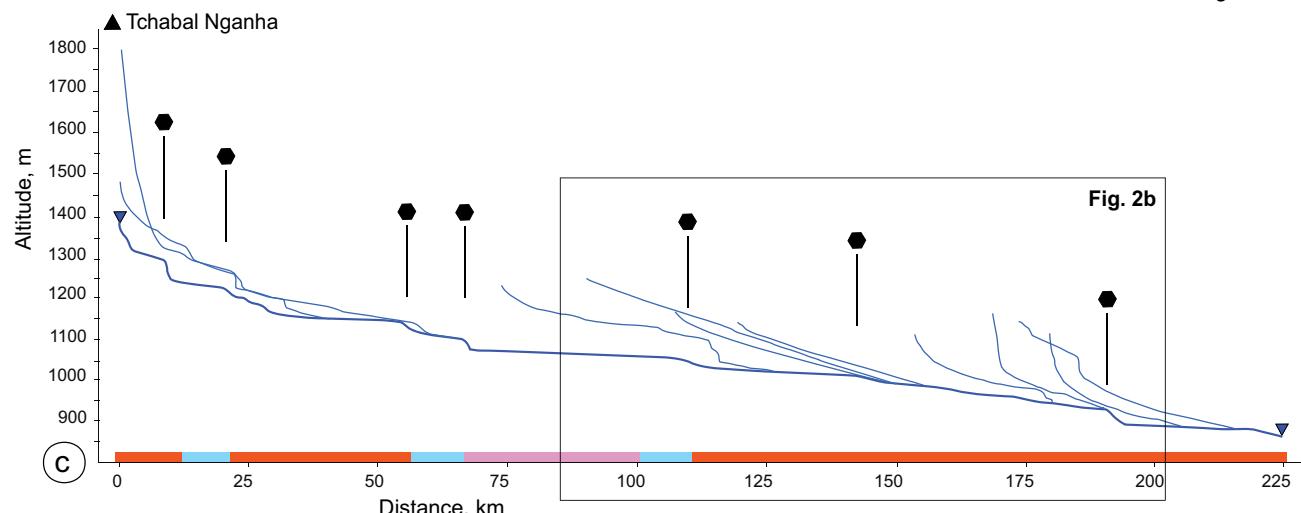
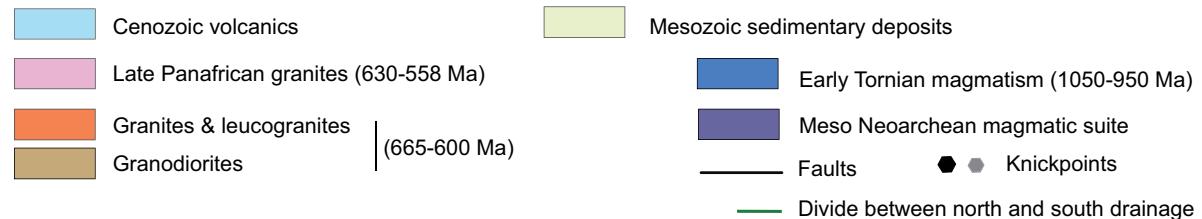
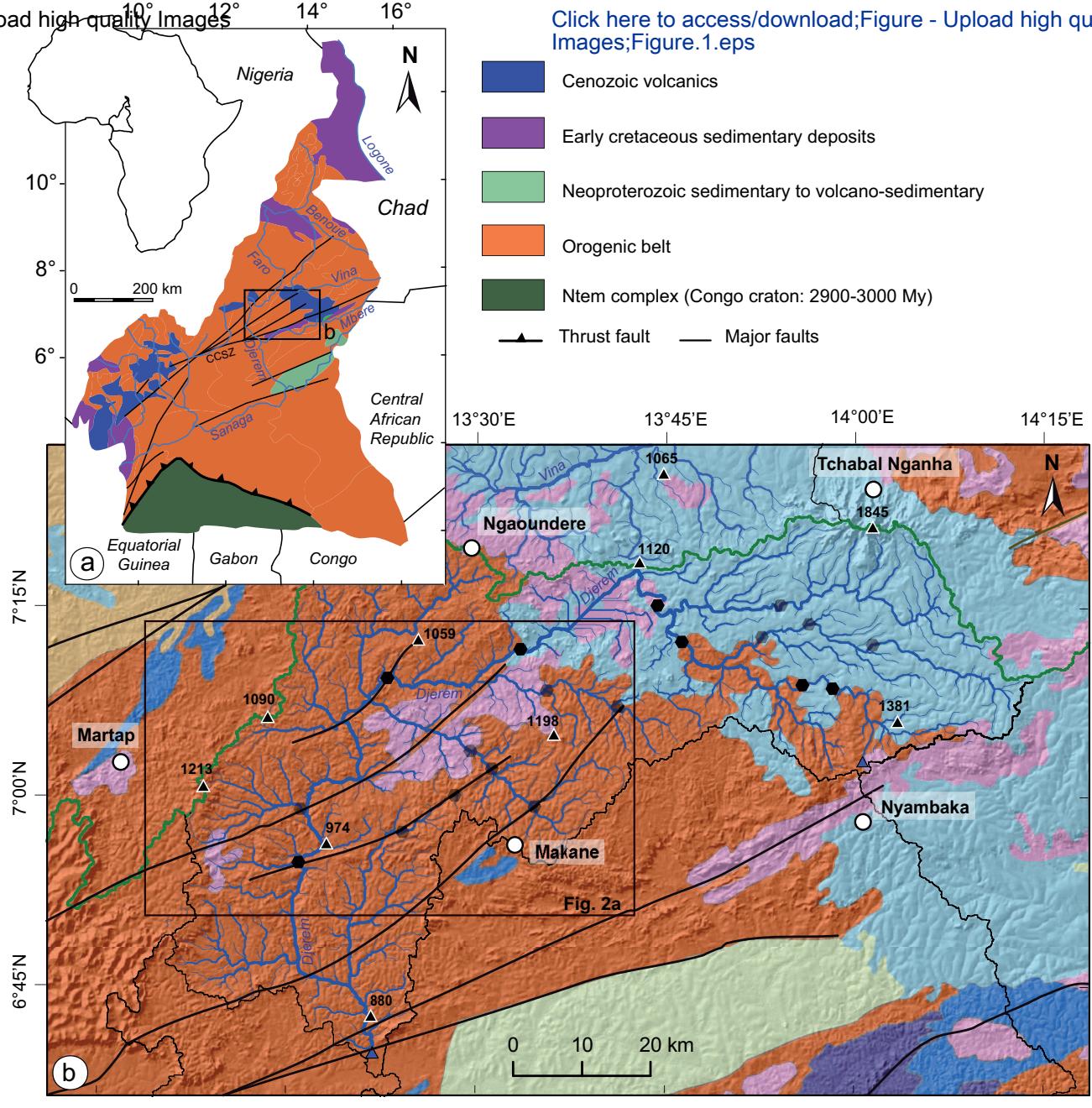


Fig. 1

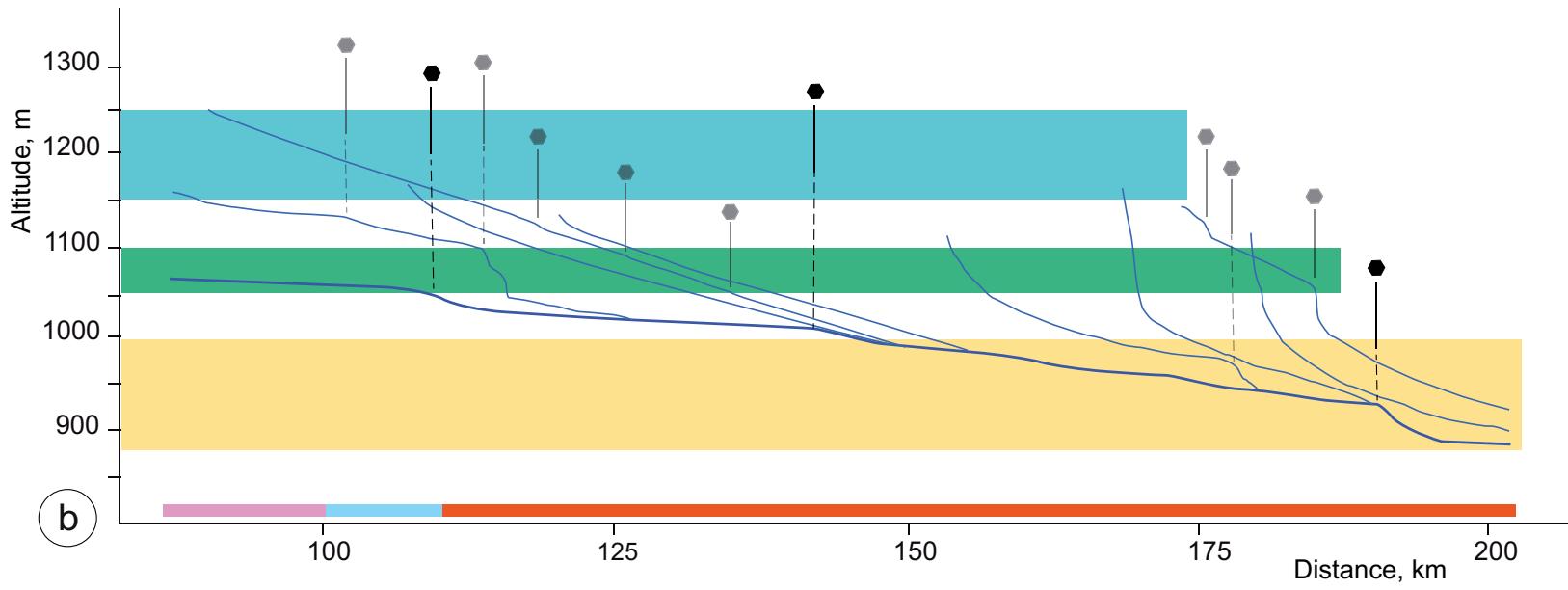
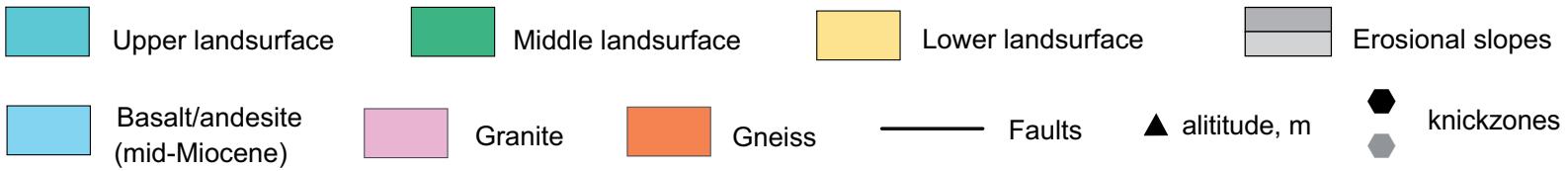
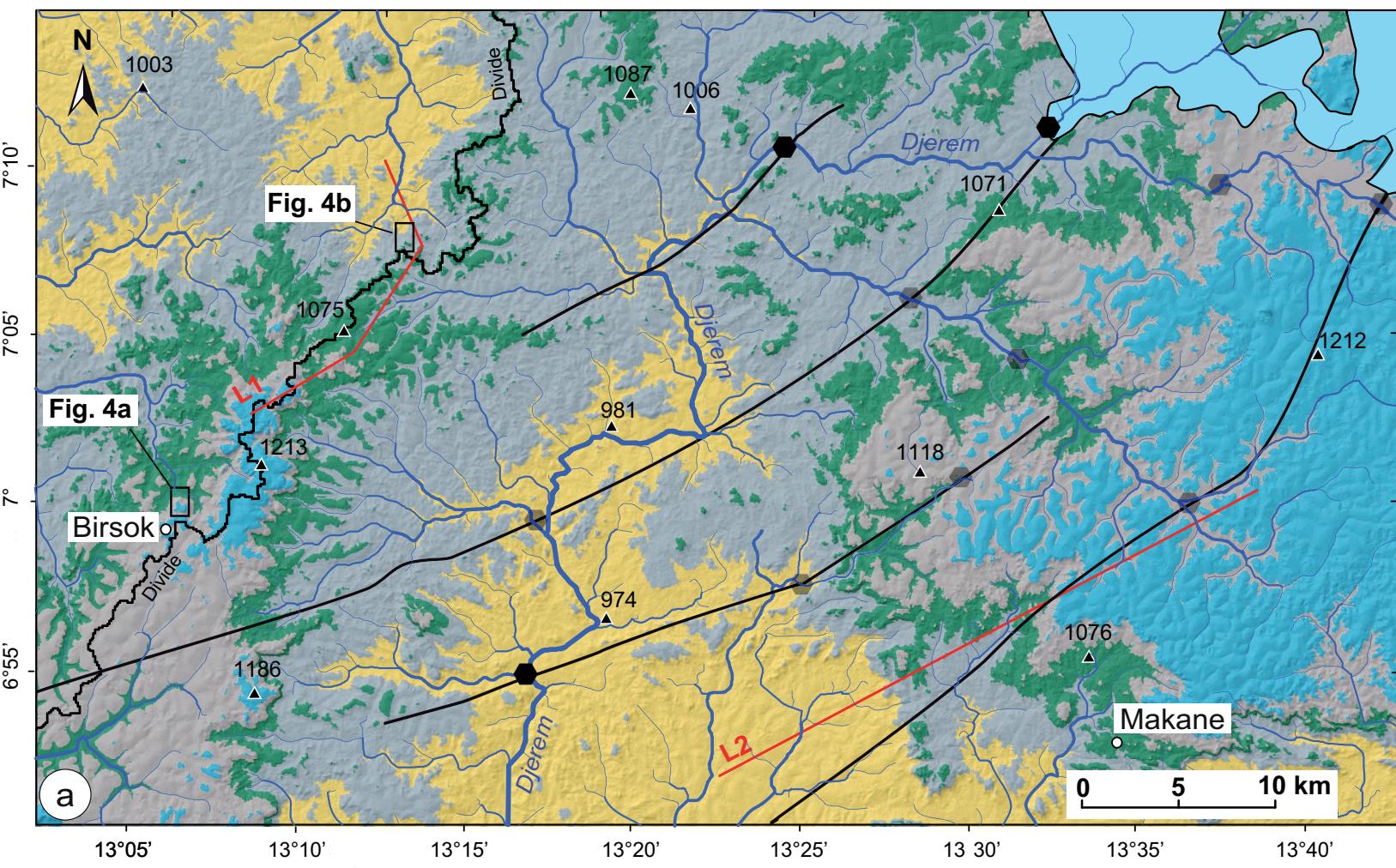


Fig. 2

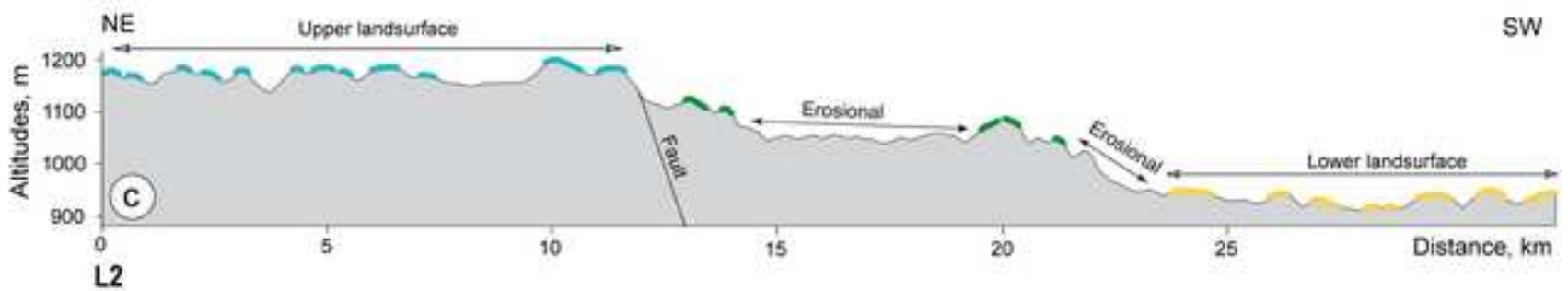
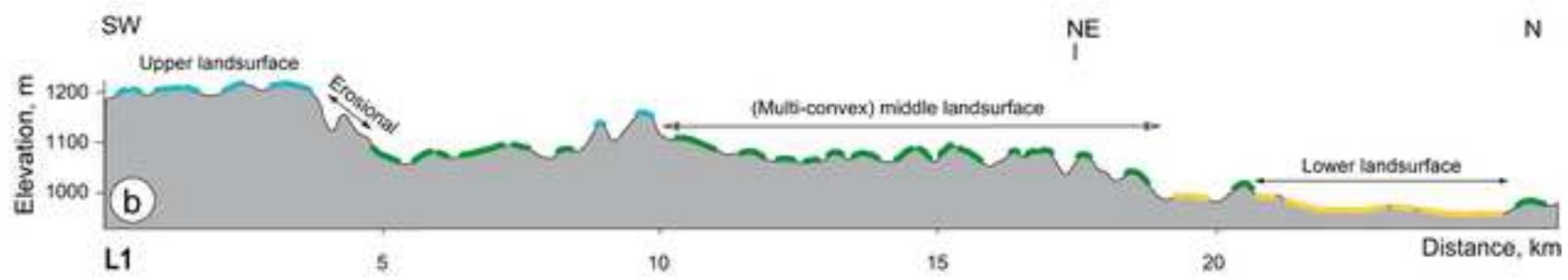


Fig. 3

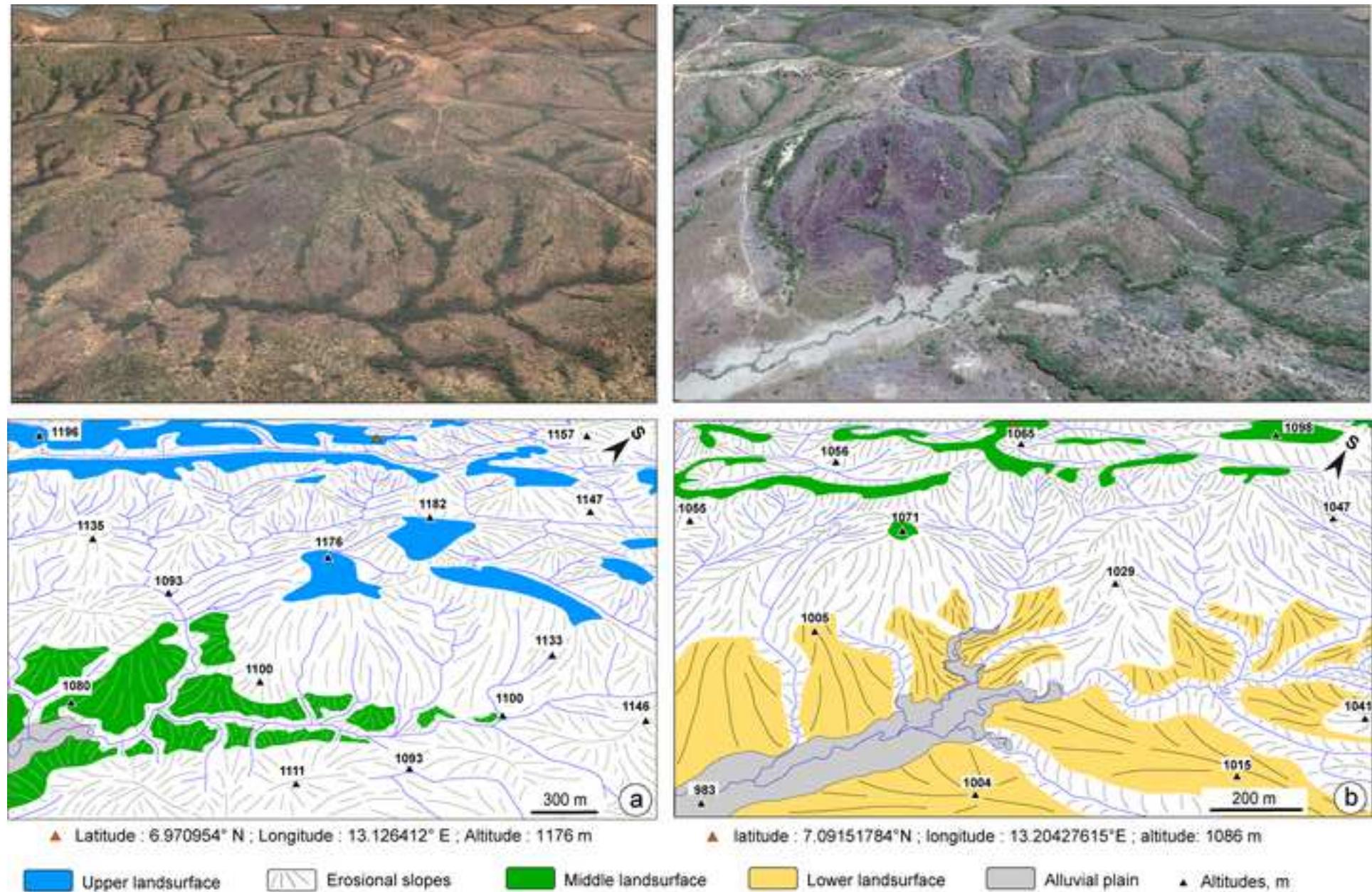


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

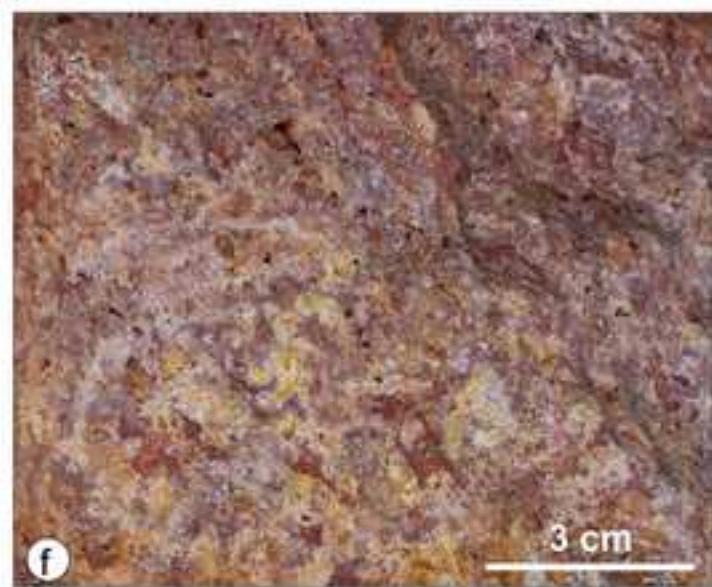
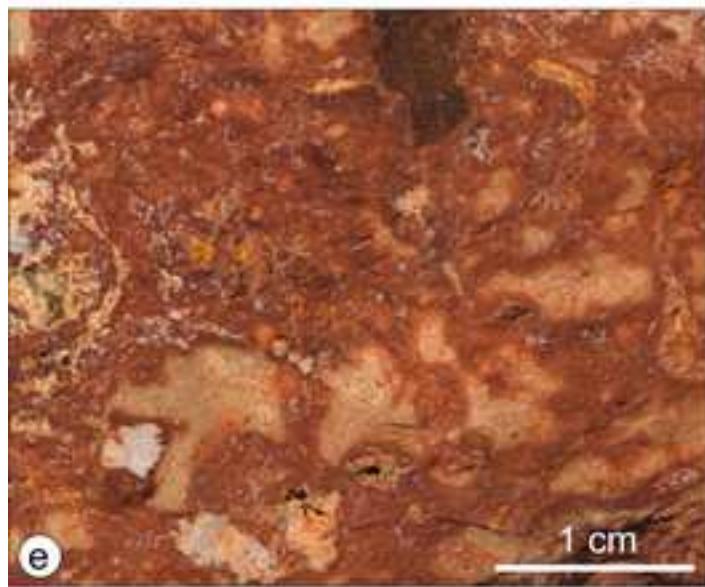
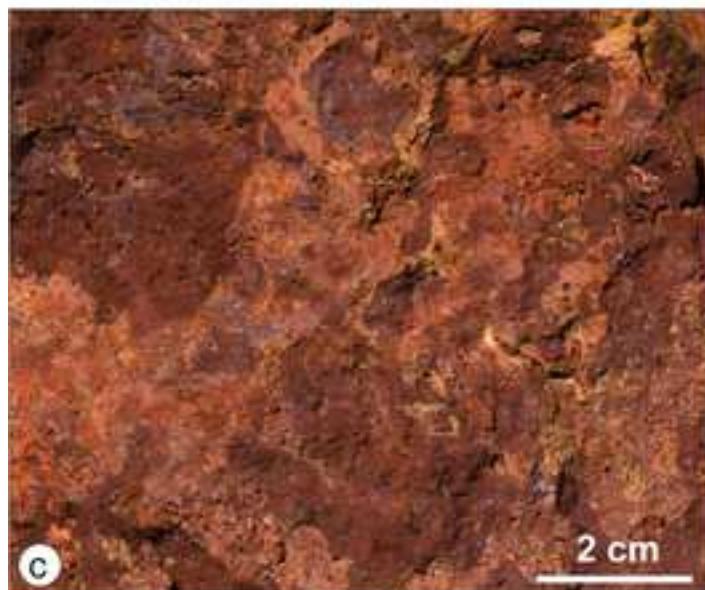


Fig. 6

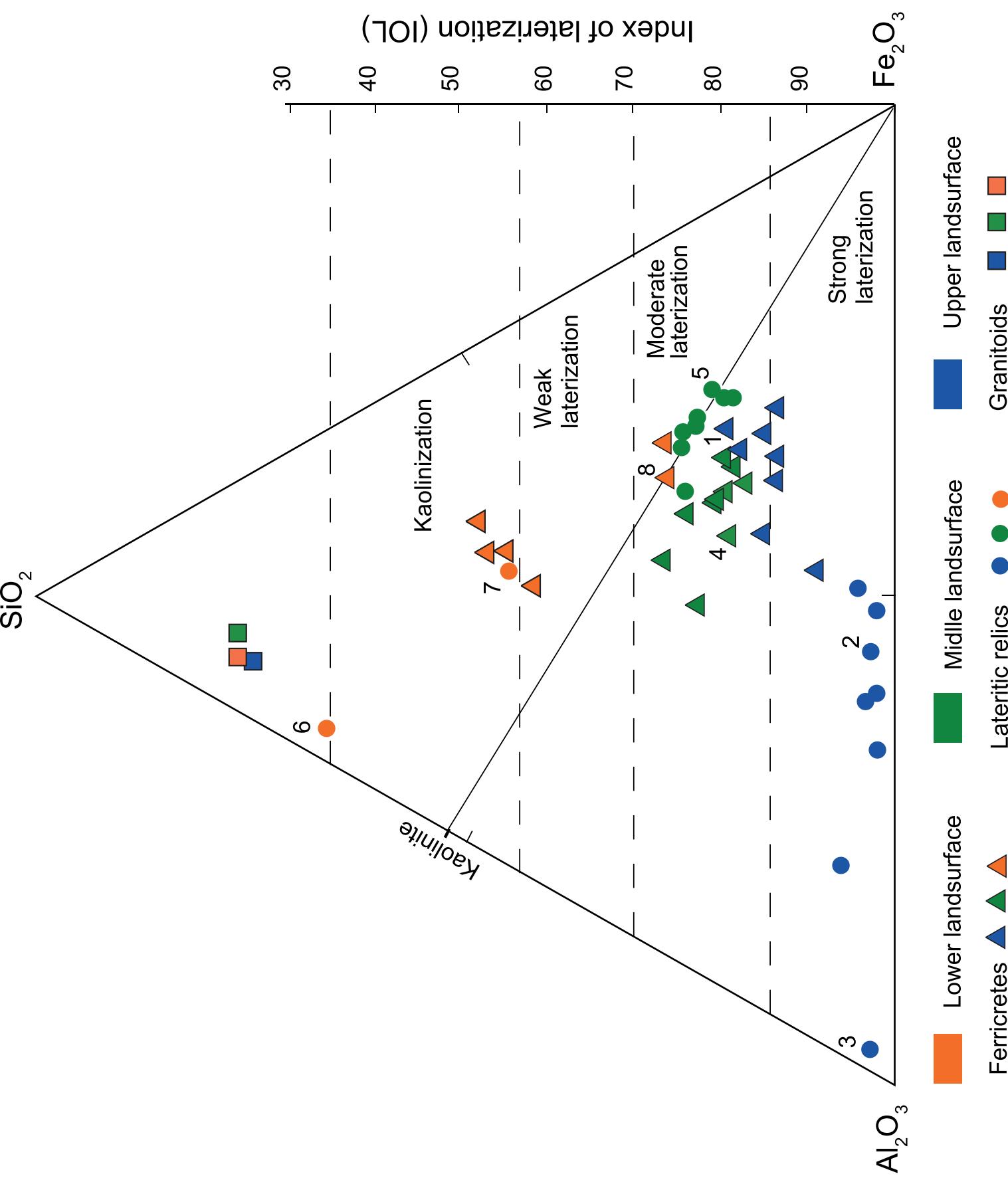
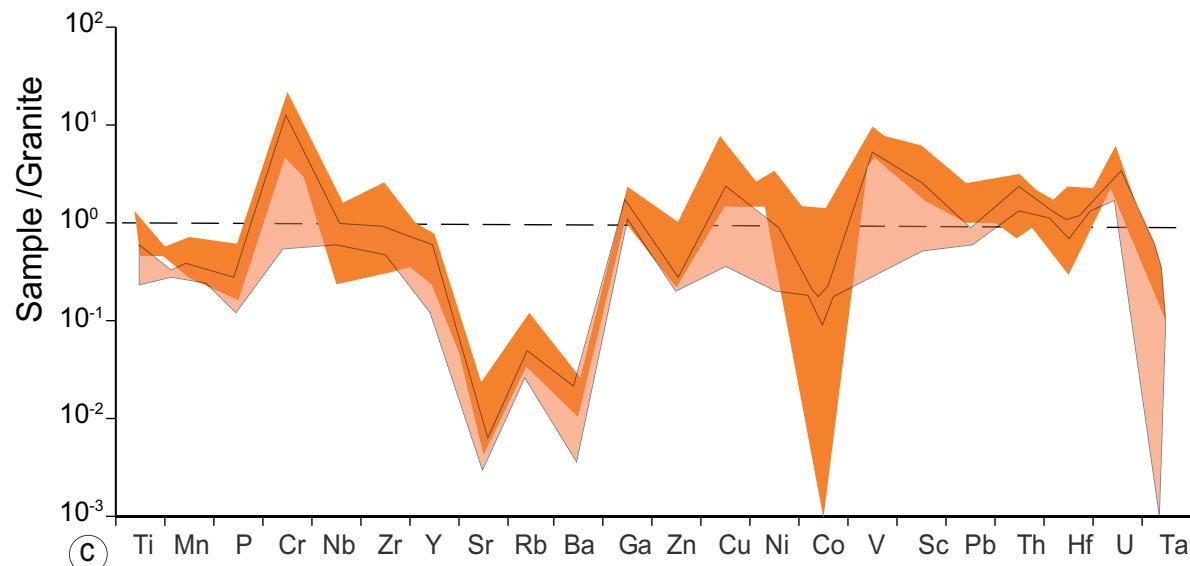
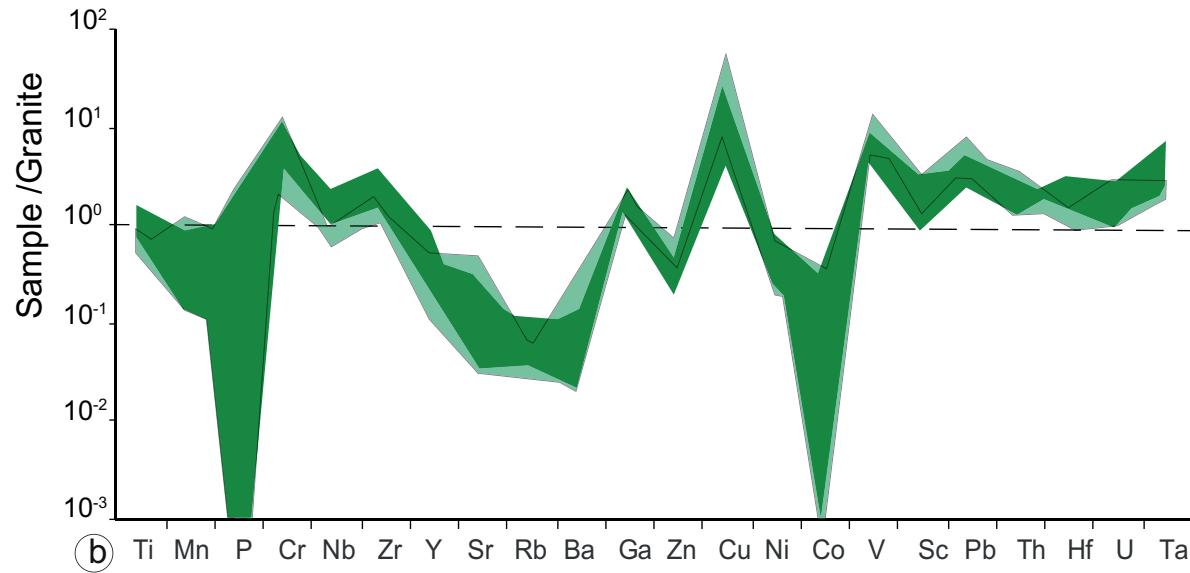
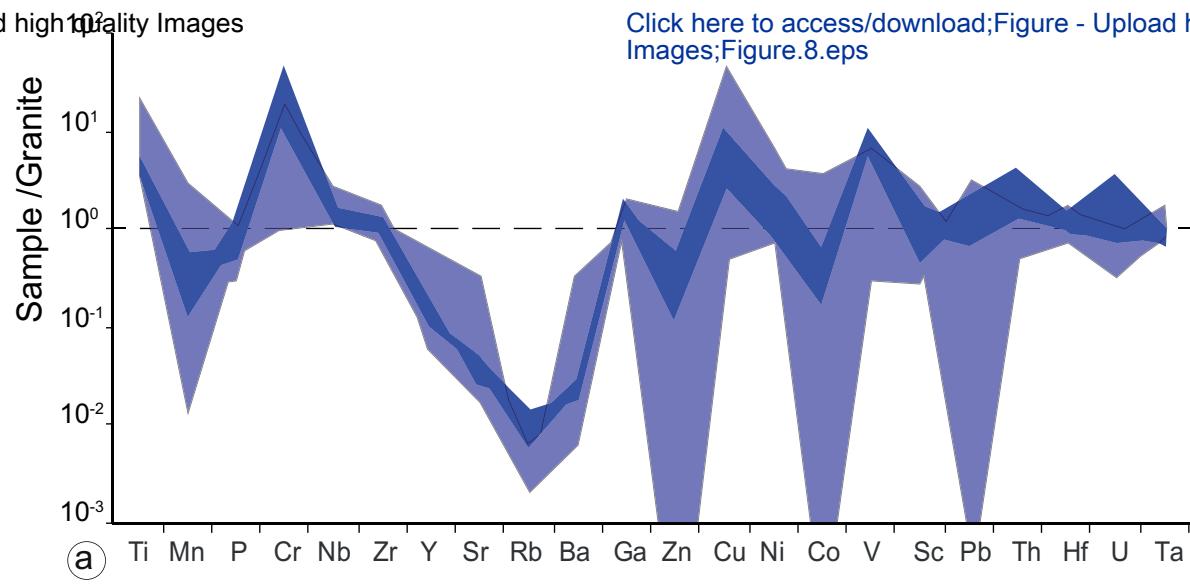


Fig. 7



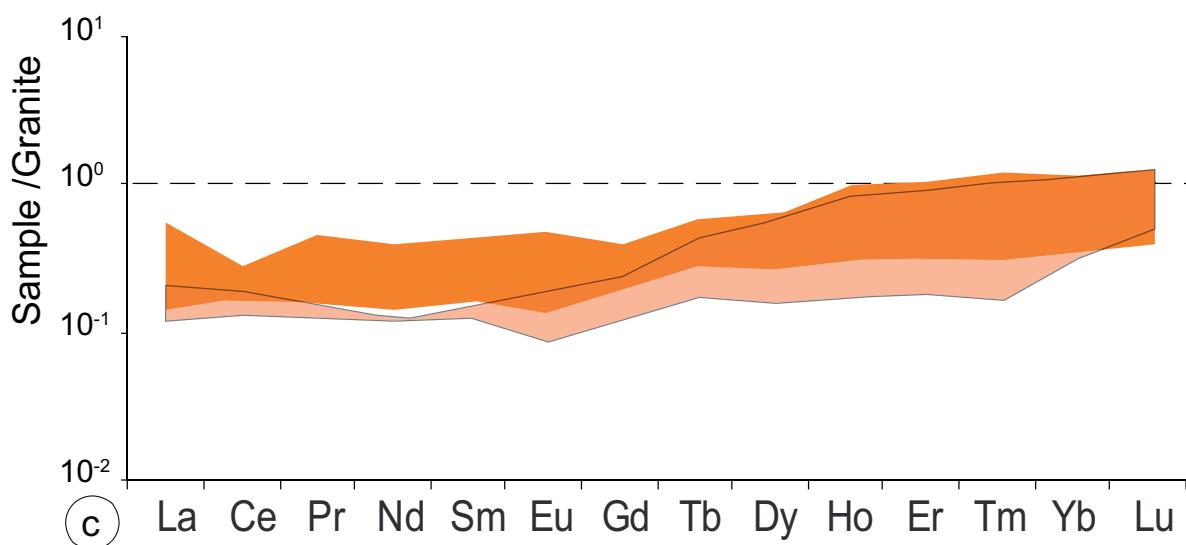
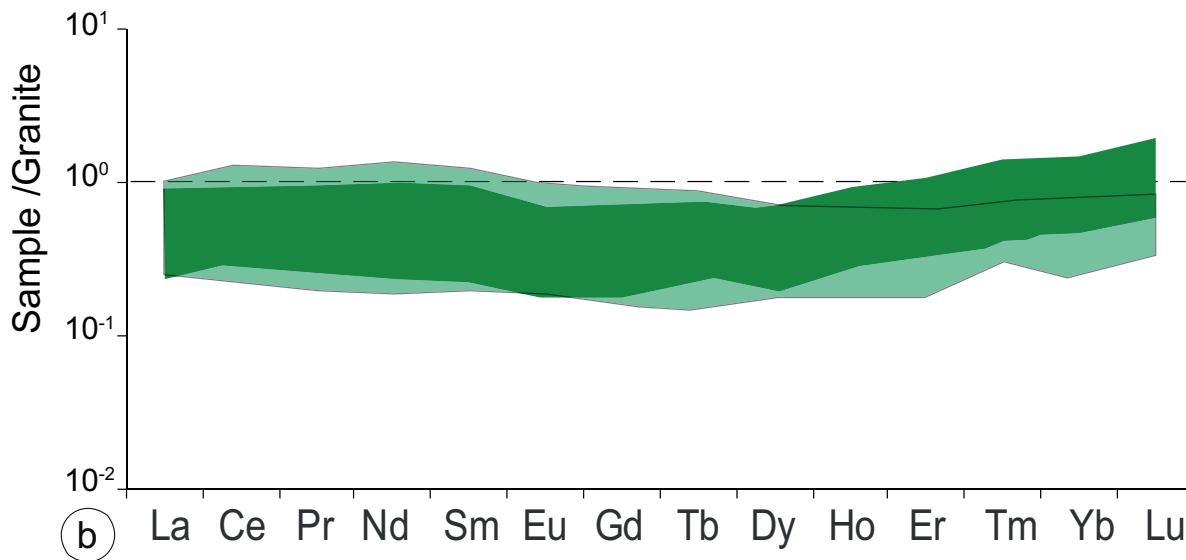
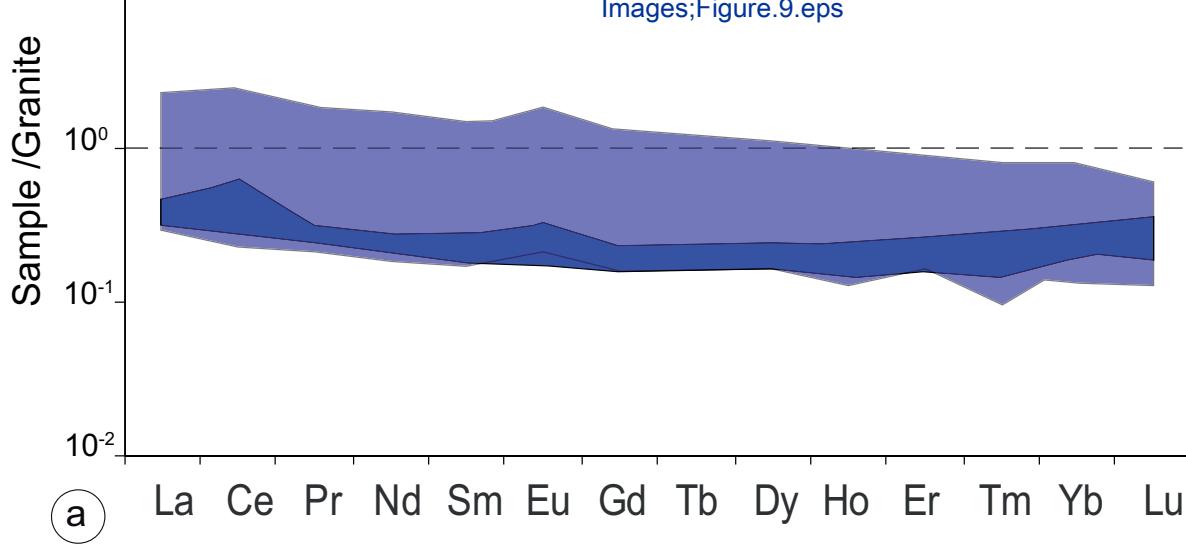
Ferricretes



Lateritic relics



Fig. 8



Ferricretes



Lateritic relics



Fig. 9

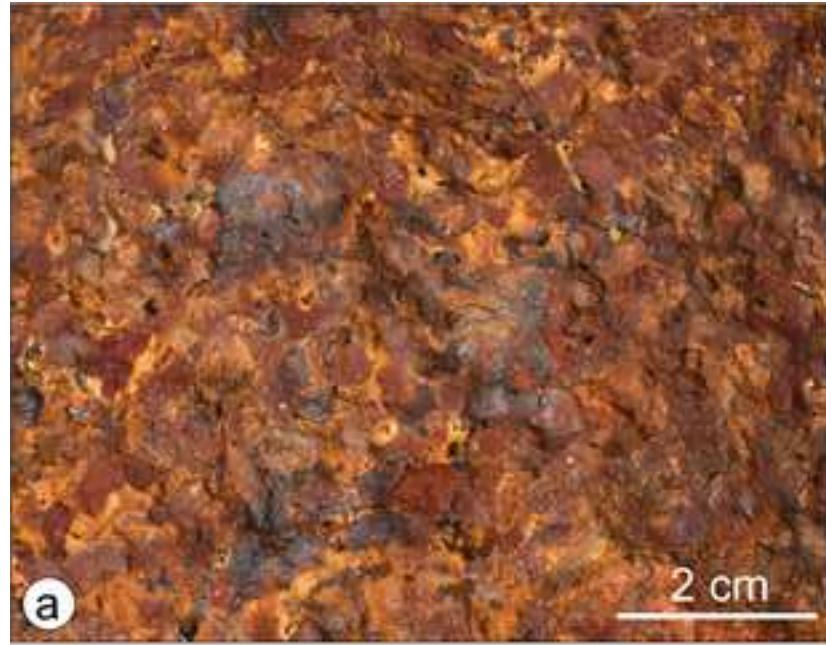


Fig. 10

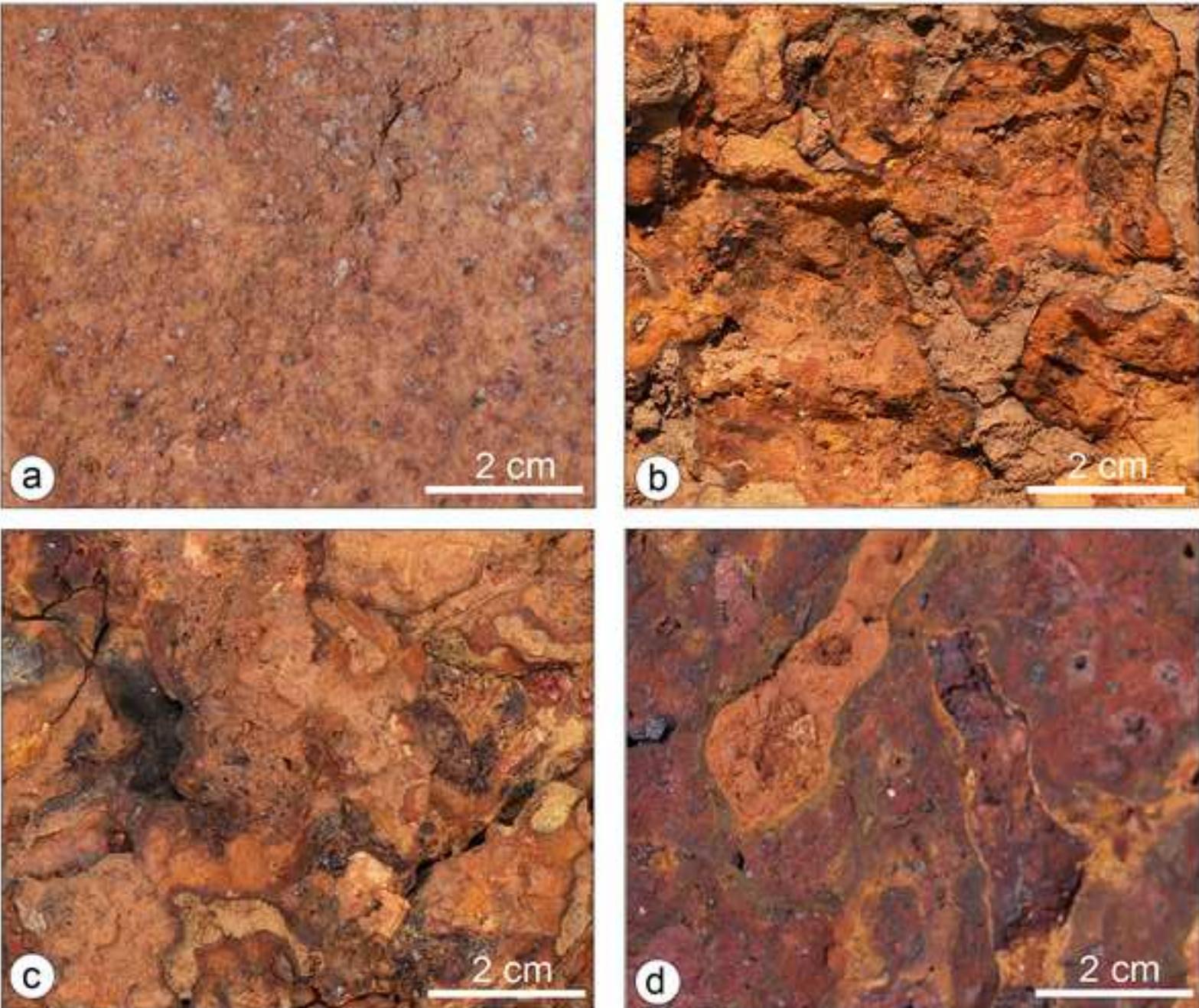


Fig. 11

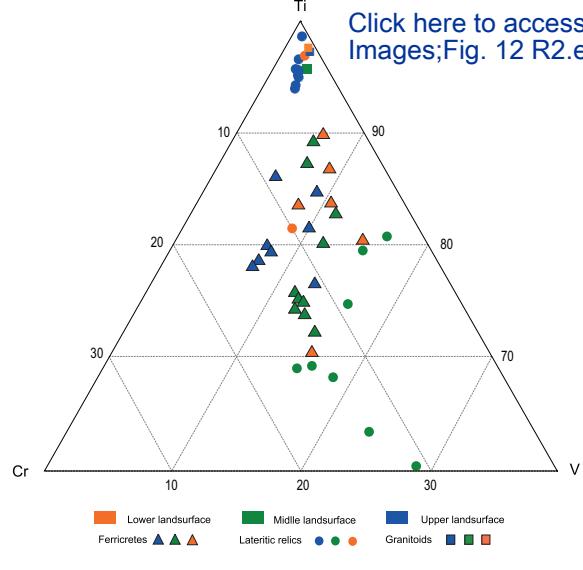


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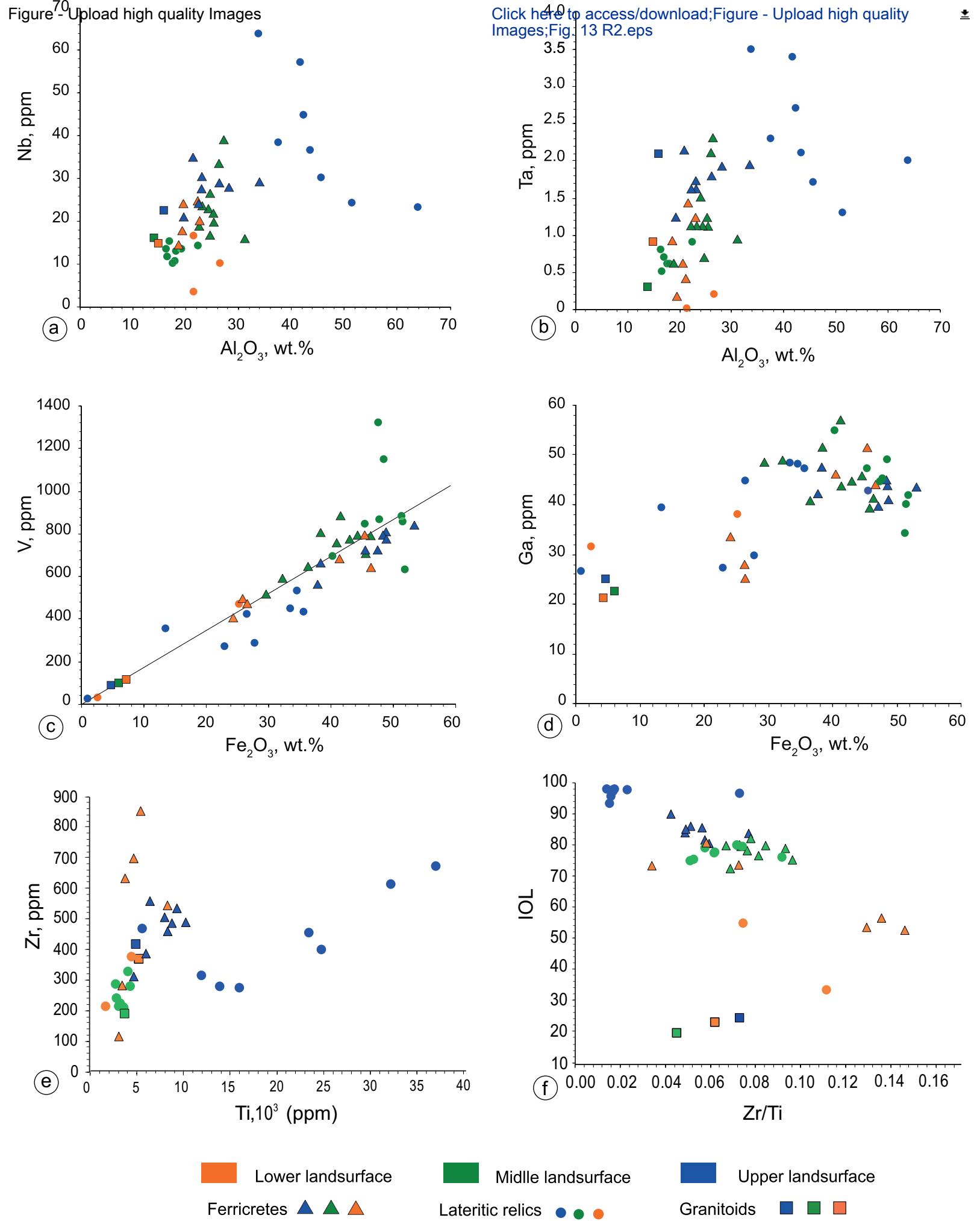


Fig. 13

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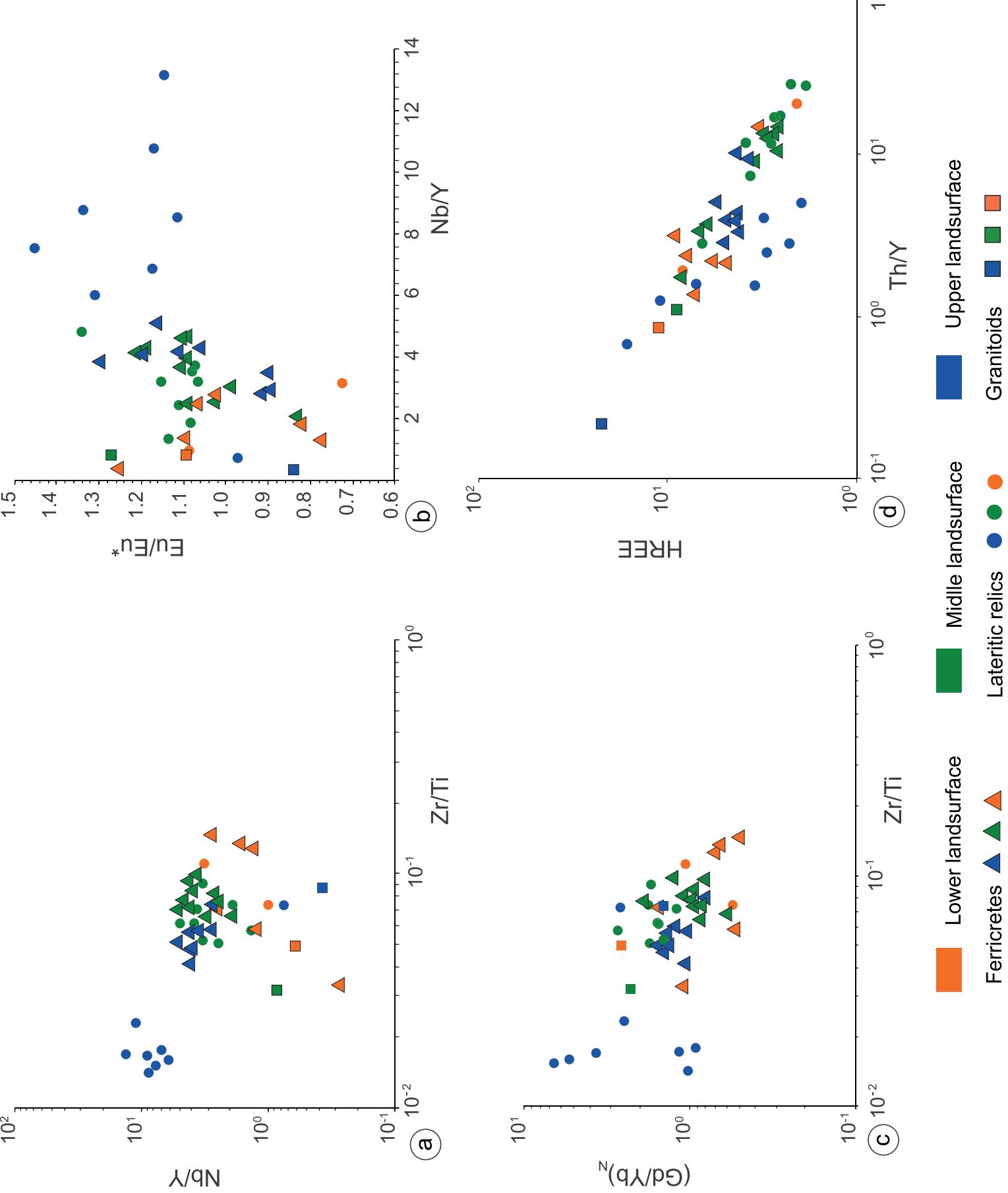


Fig. 14

Supplementary material for “**Lateritic landsurface-regolith differentiation on Pan-African granitic basement of Adamaua highland, Cameroon**”

Submitted to Catena, July, 13, 2023 by Momo et al., 2023

Samples collected in surface regolith of lateritic landsurfaces were crushed and sieved to ~ 64 mm for geochemical analyses. Major oxides in wt.% and trace + rare earth elements (REE) in ppm were analyzed by ICP-AES (Inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry) and ICP-MS (Inductively coupled plasma-Mass spectrometry) (combination of ME-MS81TM + whole rock package ME-ICP-06; www.alsglocal.com) at the ALS Laboratory Group SL (Spain). The main results are reported in the Table DR.

Table DR. Geochemical analyses of lateritic duricrusted regolith and granitic parent rocks for each landsurfaces. (a) Major oxides; (b) Trace elements in ppm; (c) Rare Earth elements in ppm. $Ce/Ce^* = (Ce_{sample}/Ce_{UCC})/(La_{sample}/La_{UCC})^{1/2} (Pr_{sample}/Pr_{UCC})^{1/2}$; $Eu/Eu^* = (Eu_{sample}/Eu_{UCC})/(Sm_{sample}/Sm_{UCC})^{1/2} (Gd_{sample}/Gd_{UCC})^{1/2}$; $(Gd/Yb)_N = (Gd_{sample}/Gd_{UCC})/(Yb_{sample}/Yb_{UCC})$

DRa. Major oxides in wt.%

Regolith type	Sample	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	CaO	MgO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	MnO	P ₂ O ₅	LOI	IOL
Upper landsurface ferricretes	SL-2	13.4	23.10	48.90	1.41	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.34	13.4	84.3
	SL-3	11.75	26.40	45.60	1.35	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.19	15.05	86.00
	SL-4	7.66	34.10	38.00	1.73	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.18	19.05	90.40
	SL-5	11.70	21.20	53.10	1.57	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.26	12.75	86.40
	BIR-01	16.10	19.60	48.40	0.79	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.38	14.4	80.90
	BIR-02	15.25	22.50	47.20	1.01	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.3	13.7	82.00
	M-11	12.20	23.20	48.30	1.48	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.24	14	85.40
	MAN-10-1	12.50	28.00	38.30	1.09	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.33	18.85	84.10
Upper landsurface relics	SL-A	4.48	51.40	13.45	2.68	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.14	27.20	93.50
	SL-B	1.67	41.80	26.50	5.40	0.03	0.18	-	-	0.06	0.29	23.80	97.60
	SL-C	1.30	45.70	23.00	2.34	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.18	26.20	98.10
	SL-D	1.48	43.50	27.80	2.01	0.02	0.04	0.01	-	0.03	0.17	24.00	98.00
	SL-E	2.96	33.80	34.60	6.21	0.02	0.15	0.01	0.01	0.22	0.28	20.40	95.90
	BIR-A	1.40	37.60	35.60	4.15	0.03	0.06	0.01	-	0.06	0.10	21.30	98.10
	BIR-C	1.55	42.40	33.40	3.94	0.01	0.05	0.01	-	0.04	0.09	19.05	98.00
	BIR-E	2.16	64.00	0.92	0.96	0.02	0.01	0.01	-	-	0.16	31.90	96.80
Upper landsurface granite	R-BIR-02	63.2	16	4.72	0.85	3.10	1.94	4.13	4.57	0.08	0.33	0.79	99.98
Middle landsurface ferricretes	KAL-1	17.25	22.30	46.00	0.74	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.27	13.85	79.80
	KAL-2	16.75	23.10	45.70	0.79	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.21	12.30	80.40
	KAL-3	17.55	25.30	41.40	0.77	0.03	0.03	-	0.06	0.02	0.17	15.35	79.20
	KAL-4	17.00	25.50	43.00	0.78	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.13	15.15	80.10
	KAL-5	14.55	24.40	44.30	0.82	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.14	15.5	82.50
	LO-1	15.70	26.7	36.70	1.43	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.46	18.25	80.20
	KAL-01	20.20	24.50	38.40	0.66	0.02	0.03	-	0.05	0.02	0.25	15.65	75.70
	LIK-08-1	21.80	26.00	32.20	1.41	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.12	0.02	0.11	17.8	72.80
	MAN-02	17.75	24.10	41.10	1.04	-	0.02	-	0.08	0.01	0.32	16.35	78.60
	MAN-04	18.05	30.70	29.60	0.64	-	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.22	19	77.00
Middle landsurface relics	MAN-03-a	20.70	22.40	40.30	0.62	-	0.02	-	0.05	0.01	0.26	14.95	75.20
	KAL-A	16.90	17.10	51.40	0.69	0.08	0.07	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.23	12.5	80.20
	KAL-C	20.90	19.30	45.50	0.61	0.03	0.03	-	0.05	0.01	0.18	13.45	75.60
	KAL-D	17.35	16.55	51.80	0.49	0.06	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.28	13.9	79.80
	KAL-E	18.90	18.15	47.80	0.55	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.19	13.2	77.70

	LO-B	17.60	16.45	51.50	0.73	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.57	12.95	79.40
	KAL-I	18.85	18.05	48.50	0.52	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.17	12.75	77.90
	KAL-J	20.20	17.70	47.60	0.47	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.19	12.8	76.40
Middle landsurface granite	R-KAL	64.3	14	6.04	0.63	4.68	2.33	3.63	2.17	0.07	0.25	0.80	99.05
Lower landsurface ferricretes	HG-01	41.1	19.8	26.50	0.65	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.17	0.02	0.21	12.10	53.00
	DIR-01	15.85	22.1	45.40	1.40	0.01	0.03	-	0.1	0.02	0.12	15.25	81.00
	TEK-03	23	18.7	46.60	0.59	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.15	12.25	74.00
	LIK-01	35.7	22.9	24.40	0.94	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.16	0.02	0.07	14.85	57.00
	LIK-05	38.7	19.45	26.10	0.81	-	0.06	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.19	13.85	54.10
	LIK-07	22.1	21.5	40.60	0.52	-	0.03	-	0.07	0.05	0.22	14.10	73.80
	TEK-05-a	56.6	26.6	2.53	0.29	-	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.06	14.00	34.00
Lower landsurface relics	LIK-8-a	38	21.5	25.20	0.76	-	0.03	0.02	0.19	0.02	0.11	14.00	55.10
	R-LO	63.2	14.95	4.44	0.89	3.64	1.86	3.91	4.54	0.07	0.42	1.03	99.39

DRb. Trace elements

Regolith type	Sample	Cr	Nb	Zr	Y	Sr	Rb	Ba	Zn	Cu	Ni	Co	V	Sc	Pb	Th	Hf	U	Ta	Nb/Y	Zr/Ti	Th/Y
Upper landsurface ferricretes	SL-2	1360.00	27.70	413.00	6.80	40.50	2.20	56.30	34.00	30.00	35.00	6.00	799.00	10.00	29.00	19.80	9.60	4.08	1.70	4.07	0,05	2.91
	SL-3	1440.00	28.50	455.00	6.80	32.20	2.10	50.90	33.00	28.00	40.00	6.00	714.00	4.00	31.00	23.90	10.60	4.24	1.80	4.19	0,06	3.51
	SL-4	1080.00	29.10	441.00	7.10	28.70	1.30	42.40	43.00	36.00	43.00	4.00	556.00	8.00	17.00	17.80	10.20	5.61	1.90	4.10	0,04	2.51
	SL-5	1510.00	35.00	482.00	6.90	38.60	1.80	52.00	34.00	30.00	33.00	6.00	827.00	12.00	28.00	23.10	11.10	3.18	2.10	5.07	0,05	3.35
	BIR-01	650.00	21.00	281.00	6.90	29.60	3.80	44.00	26.00	18.00	17.00	2.00	769.00	15.00	30.00	58.50	7.30	8.39	1.20	3.04	0,06	8.48
	BIR-02	650.00	23.40	348.00	6.60	32.20	2.80	35.20	16.00	16.00	15.00	2.00	711.00	10.00	46.00	50.30	9.40	6.06	1.60	3.55	0,06	7.62
	M-11	1680.00	30.10	437.00	7.10	43.00	1.80	56.90	29.00	25.00	33.00	3.00	775.00	8.00	38.00	23.70	10.60	4.29	1.60	4.24	0,05	3.34
	MAN-10-1	511.00	27.80	503.00	10.00	23.40	3.00	33.20	11.00	13.00	14.00	2.00	650.00	9.00	30.00	41.80	12.15	14.30	1.90	2.78	0,08	4.18
Upper landsurface relics	SL-A	600.00	24.20	247.00	3.20	44.30	0.60	19.40	101.00	65.00	30.00	11.00	353.00	5.00	8.00	11.15	6.60	2.09	1.30	7.56	0,02	3.48
	SL-B	660.00	57.20	548.00	6.50	61.80	1.10	46.90	118.00	34.00	47.00	14.00	419.00	18.00	3.00	9.15	14.40	3.74	3.40	8.80	0,02	1.41
	SL-C	380.00	30.30	250.00	4.40	15.30	0.50	16.00	70.00	169.00	90.00	3.00	267.00	11.00	0.00	6.12	6.50	2.34	1.70	6.89	0,02	1.39
	SL-D	460.00	36.70	282.00	3.40	40.80	0.40	30.50	24.00	19.00	16.00	8.00	284.00	7.00	4.00	8.32	7.50	1.41	2.10	10.79	0,02	2.45
	SL-E	570.00	63.90	598.00	10.60	141.50	0.40	80.40	121.00	57.00	58.00	38.00	532.00	22.00	11.00	11.95	15.10	3.08	3.50	6.03	0,02	1.13
	BIR-A	660.00	38.50	356.00	4.50	20.20	0.50	13.50	58.00	33.00	51.00	19.00	432.00	21.00	7.00	9.79	9.30	4.20	2.30	8.56	0,01	2.18
	BIR-C	690.00	44.80	406.00	3.40	13.60	0.40	11.40	58.00	20.00	22.00	9.00	445.00	12.00	7.00	14.25	10.90	3.46	2.70	13.18	0,02	4.19
	BIR-E	40.00	23.30	421.00	32.00	230.00	0.40	519.00	0.00	2.00	10.00	0.00	24.00	2.00	69.00	19.95	10.60	3.36	2.00	0.73	0,07	0.62
Upper landsurface granite	R-BIR-02	40.00	22.40	374.00	60.30	845.00	205.00	1890.00	85.00	4.00	15.00	11.00	84.00	8.00	23.00	13.00	9.50	4.56	2.10	0.37	0.07	0.22
Middle landsurface ferricretes	KAL-1	770.00	18.80	327.00	4.50	12.30	2.40	25.40	24.00	49.00	26.00	0.00	782.00	8.00	53.00	47.60	7.50	4.61	1.10	4.18	0,07	10.58
	KAL-2	800.00	22.90	345.00	4.90	15.70	2.60	29.20	26.00	53.00	25.00	1.00	707.00	9.00	55.00	52.90	8.90	5.14	1.10	4.67	0,07	10.80
	KAL-3	830.00	21.20	431.00	5.00	10.70	3.30	23.60	22.00	47.00	26.00	2.00	739.00	8.00	46.00	53.00	9.90	5.32	1.20	4.24	0,09	10.60
	KAL-4	790.00	19.60	396.00	5.00	10.80	2.90	26.20	19.00	51.00	23.00	2.00	769.00	9.00	42.00	53.30	9.40	4.45	1.10	3.92	0,08	10.66
	KAL-5	830.00	22.40	383.00	4.80	9.90	2.90	21.20	15.00	35.00	19.00	3.00	780.00	11.00	41.00	54.40	9.90	6.12	1.10	4.67	0,08	11.33
	LO-1	580.00	38.70	574.00	12.90	44.20	6.70	85.40	16.00	21.00	17.00	4.00	647.00	9.00	25.00	37.50	15.50	12.15	2.30	3.00	0,07	2.91
	KAL-01	690.00	16.80	382.00	4.60	12.20	6.20	39.20	26.00	25.00	28.00	1.00	802.00	10.00	41.00	39.60	9.20	5.32	0.70	3.65	0,10	8.61
	LIK-08-1	441.00	32.90	581.00	16.30	12.20	7.10	41.30	13.00	30.00	29.00	3.00	576.00	20.00	29.00	25.30	14.40	9.27	2.10	2.02	0,07	1.55
	MAN-02	632.00	26.00	476.00	10.40	83.70	4.70	131.50	24.00	13.00	24.00	1.00	880.00	29.00	38.00	31.90	11.35	11.65	1.50	2.50	0,08	3.07
	MAN-04	282.00	15.45	312.00	5.70	25.60	4.80	40.30	14.00	9.00	9.00	1.00	506.00	11.00	36.00	42.80	7.55	9.73	0.90	2.71	0,08	7.51
Middle landsurface relics	MAN-03-a	255.00	14.35	190.00	5.90	27.80	4.50	37.10	32.00	21.00	23.00	2.00	690.00	20.00	36.00	36.20	4.66	9.80	0.90	2.43	0,05	6.14
	KAL-A	490.00	15.30	297.00	4.30	18.90	3.10	47.40	34.00	71.00	23.00	4.00	879.00	13.00	43.00	40.60	7.40	5.00	0.70	3.56	0,07	9.44
	KAL-C	770.00	13.50	193.00	4.20	8.90	3.20	21.90	25.00	68.00	19.00	0.00	845.00	12.00	59.00	56.30	4.90	5.09	0.60	3.21	0,05	13.40
	KAL-D	670.00	11.70	218.00	6.20	10.60	2.00	27.10	49.00	115.00	24.00	3.00	629.00	27.00	37.00	58.90	5.30	7.40	0.50	1.89	0,07	9.50
	KAL-E	650.00	13.10	204.00	3.50	8.90	4.60	23.20	30.00	73.00	26.00	3.00	867.00	21.00	49.00	48.20	5.30	4.77	0.60	3.74	0,06	13.77

	LO-B	170.00	13.50	253.00	10.10	143.00	3.40	273.00	35.00	21.00	7.00	2.00	855.00	30.00	31.00	24.70	6.60	12.40	0.80	1.34	0,06	2.45
	KAL-I	640.00	10.70	194.00	2.20	8.70	3.40	20.50	25.00	80.00	21.00	3.00	1145.00	31.00	69.00	45.20	4.51	4.59	0.60	4.86	0,06	20.55
	KAL-J	520.00	10.25	259.00	3.20	11.50	2.70	25.20	25.00	69.00	18.00	1.00	1320.00	25.00	55.00	66.90	5.98	5.06	0.60	3.20	0,09	20.91
Middle landsurface granite	R-KAL	70.00	16.20	172.00	19.10	288.00	65.90	977.00	69.00	2.00	35.00	13.00	96.00	9.00	10.00	19.25	4.70	1.71	0.30	0.85	0.05	1.01
Lower landsurface ferricretes	HG-01	280.00	23.60	570.00	8.40	10.90	16.70	30.40	13.00	21.00	27.00	8.00	460.00	12.00	31.00	15.30	14.40	8.55	0.60	2.81	0,15	1.82
	DIR-01	850.00	23.80	489.00	19.10	6.30	4.80	34.90	53.00	107.00	14.00	0.00	784.00	28.00	31.00	52.10	12.30	8.74	1.40	1.25	0,06	2.73
	TEK-03	218.00	13.40	257.00	5.20	24.30	5.50	47.70	40.00	26.00	18.00	4.00	624.00	19.00	76.00	59.90	6.50	17.85	0.90	2.58	0,07	11.52
	LIK-01	244.00	19.70	766.00	11.00	30.40	14.60	58.70	19.00	22.00	44.00	8.00	398.00	12.00	32.00	20.60	18.00	7.32	1.20	1.79	0,14	1.87
	LIK-05	245.00	17.35	628.00	12.20	16.00	11.00	39.90	17.00	28.00	32.00	5.00	476.00	14.00	42.00	15.45	15.00	7.50	0.10	1.42	0,13	1.27
	LIK-07	622.00	3.59	106.00	12.30	22.70	5.30	32.30	74.00	82.00	23.00	13.00	677.00	42.00	60.00	24.50	2.58	9.95	0.40	0.29	0,03	1.99
Lower landsurface relics	TEK-05-a	27.00	10.10	194.00	3.20	4.90	4.70	9.40	18.00	6.00	3.00	2.00	27.00	4.00	20.00	51.90	6.57	14.35	0.20	3.16	0,11	16.22
	LIK-8-a	562.00	16.55	340.00	16.80	8.60	6.30	59.30	22.00	41.00	13.00	1.00	465.00	20.00	29.00	28.20	10.35	6.10	0.00	0.99	0,07	1.68
Lower landsurface granite	R-LO	40.00	14.80	332.00	24.40	1485.00	124.00	2650.00	76.00	15.00	13.00	10.00	80.00	7.00	30.00	19.25	8.50	3.08	0.90	0.61	0.06	0.79

DRc. Rare earth elements

Regolith type	Code	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Ce/Ce*	Eu/Eu*	(Gd/Yb)N
Upper landsurface ferricretes	SL-2	30.30	58.50	6.23	22.50	3.85	0.84	2.41	0.36	1.85	0.30	0.83	0.13	0.86	0.12	1.00	1.20	1.40
	SL-3	27.60	63.50	5.70	20.90	3.69	0.76	2.34	0.35	1.83	0.32	0.89	0.13	0.88	0.14	1.19	1.12	1.33
	SL-4	23.90	94.30	5.20	19.60	3.64	0.88	2.39	0.38	2.15	0.36	1.06	0.15	1.10	0.17	1.99	1.29	1.19
	SL-5	33.00	60.60	6.18	21.80	3.79	0.82	2.51	0.34	1.97	0.33	0.83	0.12	0.82	0.14	1.00	1.15	1.53
	BIR-01	32.00	59.50	6.13	21.00	3.24	0.57	2.31	0.33	1.76	0.28	0.89	0.10	0.92	0.11	1.00	0.90	1.36
	BIR-02	25.80	49.30	5.15	17.90	2.78	0.48	1.89	0.27	1.46	0.25	0.79	0.09	0.91	0.11	1.01	0.91	1.04
	M-11	34.30	82.80	6.74	22.60	4.19	0.83	2.75	0.37	1.92	0.34	1.07	0.15	0.95	0.12	1.28	1.06	1.45
	MAN-10-1	22.50	42.80	5.17	17.80	3.40	0.58	2.21	0.35	2.05	0.40	1.28	0.18	1.32	0.21	0.93	0.92	0.84
Upper landsurface relics	SL-A	145.50	136.50	21.70	57.40	7.92	1.82	3.73	0.44	1.70	0.23	0.43	0.05	0.29	0.04	0.57	1.45	6.43
	SL-B	49.00	106.00	13.50	54.80	11.35	2.76	7.06	0.86	3.48	0.46	1.05	0.15	0.97	0.14	0.97	1.34	3.64
	SL-C	13.10	19.50	2.59	9.50	1.97	0.47	1.53	0.24	1.25	0.25	0.70	0.11	0.84	0.12	0.79	1.17	0.91
	SL-D	26.20	49.40	5.68	20.70	3.22	0.68	1.97	0.23	0.96	0.16	0.45	0.06	0.40	0.06	0.95	1.17	2.56
	SL-E	64.30	137.50	17.70	74.30	15.70	4.11	11.80	1.42	5.97	0.72	1.44	0.18	1.12	0.16	0.96	1.31	5.37
	BIR-A	16.40	35.80	3.28	11.50	1.96	0.43	1.43	0.19	1.16	0.19	0.65	0.05	0.71	0.08	1.15	1.11	1.01
	BIR-C	16.00	21.80	2.65	8.60	1.41	0.32	1.04	0.14	0.79	0.11	0.44	0.03	0.46	0.04	0.79	1.15	1.13
	BIR-E	145.50	325.00	33.80	118.00	18.25	3.31	11.95	1.53	7.66	1.26	3.16	0.37	2.34	0.25	1.09	0.97	2.65
Upper landsurface granite	R-BIR-02	72.60	151.00	21.30	84.30	15.30	2.62	11.95	1.61	8.97	1.66	4.82	0.63	4.24	0.59	0.90	0.84	1.41
Middle landsurface ferricretes	KAL-1	23.80	35.30	3.81	11.60	1.84	0.40	1.12	0.18	1.14	0.20	0.62	0.09	0.64	0.11	0.87	1.21	0.88
	KAL-2	23.90	35.00	4.05	13.20	2.04	0.43	1.40	0.21	1.15	0.23	0.62	0.10	0.76	0.11	0.84	1.10	0.92
	KAL-3	19.50	32.30	3.20	10.50	1.62	0.36	1.05	0.17	1.07	0.21	0.63	0.09	0.62	0.10	0.96	1.20	0.85
	KAL-4	22.40	35.10	3.80	12.80	2.09	0.41	1.26	0.21	1.25	0.21	0.62	0.09	0.66	0.11	0.90	1.10	0.95
	KAL-5	21.10	30.50	3.61	11.70	1.89	0.39	1.25	0.18	0.91	0.19	0.55	0.08	0.67	0.10	0.82	1.10	0.93
	LO-1	27.90	65.30	6.10	22.10	3.63	0.72	2.74	0.41	2.41	0.49	1.46	0.22	1.58	0.26	1.18	0.99	0.87
	KAL-01	30.20	48.10	5.08	15.80	2.48	0.49	1.48	0.19	0.92	0.19	0.59	0.10	0.62	0.11	0.91	1.11	1.19
	LIK-08-1	14.50	33.40	3.29	11.60	2.55	0.48	2.41	0.44	3.03	0.64	1.86	0.26	1.96	0.33	1.14	0.84	0.61
	MAN-02	55.50	102.50	11.90	41.40	6.67	1.34	4.28	0.55	2.80	0.48	1.31	0.15	1.11	0.17	0.94	1.09	1.93
	MAN-04	26.90	51.40	5.00	17.00	2.83	0.54	1.83	0.28	1.42	0.27	0.69	0.08	0.84	0.12	1.04	1.03	1.09
Middle landsurface relics	MAN-03-a	29.60	61.00	6.08	21.30	3.41	0.70	2.19	0.30	1.54	0.28	0.76	0.08	0.64	0.09	1.07	1.11	1.71
	KAL-A	29.40	56.00	4.49	14.20	2.21	0.46	1.54	0.21	1.03	0.22	0.60	0.08	0.65	0.09	1.15	1.08	1.18
	KAL-C	21.40	30.30	3.95	13.20	2.26	0.50	1.57	0.22	1.02	0.22	0.58	0.07	0.57	0.08	0.78	1.15	1.38
	KAL-D	29.60	57.30	5.82	20.30	3.44	0.72	2.41	0.32	1.57	0.31	0.80	0.11	0.69	0.10	1.03	1.08	1.75

	KAL-E	26.30	35.90	4.60	14.30	2.32	0.47	1.56	0.21	1.04	0.19	0.50	0.07	0.52	0.07	0.77	1.07	1.50
	LO-B	67.10	138.00	16.20	61.40	9.44	1.94	5.82	0.66	2.89	0.46	1.19	0.15	1.10	0.15	0.99	1.13	2.65
	KAL-I	16.20	24.70	2.52	8.40	1.48	0.38	1.02	0.12	0.83	0.13	0.36	0.06	0.33	0.06	0.91	1.34	1.55
	KAL-J	35.20	48.20	5.14	14.80	2.08	0.41	1.34	0.19	0.95	0.16	0.45	0.06	0.40	0.07	0.84	1.06	1.68
Middle landsurface granite	R-KAL	62.60	108.00	12.45	42.60	7.18	1.91	5.90	0.73	4.24	0.68	1.75	0.19	1.31	0.17	0.91	1.27	2.25
Lower landsurface ferricrete	HG-01	29.60	61.00	6.08	21.30	3.41	0.70	2.19	0.30	1.54	0.28	0.76	0.08	0.64	0.09	5.08	1.03	0.51
	DIR-01	29.40	56.00	4.49	14.20	2.21	0.46	1.54	0.21	1.03	0.22	0.60	0.08	0.65	0.09	1.15	0.78	0.55
	TEK-03	21.40	30.30	3.95	13.20	2.26	0.50	1.57	0.22	1.02	0.22	0.58	0.07	0.57	0.08	0.80	1.07	1.55
	LIK-01	29.60	57.30	5.82	20.30	3.44	0.72	2.41	0.32	1.57	0.31	0.80	0.11	0.69	0.10	1.16	0.83	0.65
	LIK-05	26.30	35.90	4.60	14.30	2.32	0.47	1.56	0.21	1.04	0.19	0.50	0.07	0.52	0.07	0.91	1.10	0.69
	LIK-07	67.10	138.00	16.20	61.40	9.44	1.94	5.82	0.66	2.89	0.46	1.19	0.15	1.10	0.15	0.57	1.25	1.11
Lower landsurface relics	TEK-05-a	22.00	40.50	3.64	11.20	1.80	0.24	1.14	0.17	0.75	0.13	0.37	0.04	0.55	0.12	1.07	0.73	1.04
	LIK-8-a	12.50	27.00	2.93	10.90	2.17	0.54	2.14	0.42	2.78	0.65	1.98	0.26	1.98	0.31	1.05	1.09	0.54
Lower landsurface granite	R-LO	111.50	222.00	24.90	94.60	15.05	3.01	9.44	1.02	4.98	0.79	2.19	0.26	1.86	0.25	0.99	1.09	2.54