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Geology and tectono-metamorphic evolution of the Himalayan Metamorphic Core: insights from the Mugu Karnali transect, Western Nepal (Central Himalaya)

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Complete List of Authors:	Iaccarino, Salvatore; Universita degli Studi di Pisa, Scienze della Terra Montomoli, Chiara; Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra Carosi, Rodolfo; Università di Torino, Scienze della Terra Massonne, Hans-Joachim; Universität Stuttgart, Institut für Mineralogie und Kristallchemie Visonà, Dario; Universita degli Studi di Padova, Dipartimento di Geoscienze
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- 1 Geology and tectono-metamorphic evolution of the Himalayan Metamorphic Core: insights
- 2 from the Mugu Karnali transect, Western Nepal (Central Himalaya)
- 3 Iaccarino S.¹, Montomoli C.¹, Carosi R.², Massonne H.–J.³ and Visonà D.⁴

4 Affiliations:

- ¹Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università di Pisa, via S. Maria, 53, 56126 Pisa, Italy,
- 6 *salvatore.iaccarino@dst.unipi.it*
- ²Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università di Torino, via Valperga Caluso, 35, 10125 Torino,
 Italy
- 9 ³Institut für Mineralogie und Kristallchemie, Universität Stuttgart, Azenbergstrasse 18, 70174,
- 10 Stuttgart, Germany.
- ⁴Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Università di Padova, via Gradenigo, 6, 35131, Padova, Italy

12

13 ABSTRACT

14 We present new structural and tectono-metamorphic data from a geological transect along the Mugu 15 Karnali valley, in Western Nepal (Central Himalaya), where an almost continuous cross section 16 from the Lesser Himalaya Sequence to the Everest Series through the medium-high-grade Greater 17 Himalayan Sequence (GHS) is exposed. Detailed meso- and micro-structural analyses were carried 18 out along the transect. Pressure (P) -temperature (T) conditions and P-T-deformation paths for 19 samples from different structural units were derived by calculating pseudosections in the 20 MnNKCFMASHT system. Systematic increase of *P*-*T* conditions, from ~ 0.75 GPa–560 °C up to 21 \geq 1.0 GPa-750°C have been detected starting from the garnet zone up to the K-feldspar + 22 aluminosilicate zone. Our investigation reveals how these units are characterized by different 23 evolutions and well-developed tectonic boundaries. Integrating our meso- and micro-structural data 24 with those of metamorphism and geochronology, a diachronism in deformation and metamorphism

25 can be highlighted along the transect, where different crustal slices were underthrust,

26 metamorphosed and exhumed at different times.

The HS is not a single tectonic unit, but it is composed of (at least) three different crustal slices, in agreement with a model of in-sequence shearing by accretion of material from the Indian plate, where coeval activity of basal thrusting at the bottom with normal shearing at the top of the GHS is not strictly required for its exhumation.

31

Key words: Greater Himalayan Sequence; Himalayan metamorphic core; pseudosection; Himalayan
 tectonics; Western Nepal geology

34

35 INTRODUCTION

36 The Himalayan range, extending for over 2400 km (Fig. 1), played a central role in shaping our

37 understanding on the formation of mountains belt due to the collision of continental plates (Kohn,

38 2014 and references therein). In spite of its apparent structural simplicity several geodynamic

39 processes, which are currently among the major topics in geosciences, have been developed looking

40 to the Himalayas, such as: (i) syn-convergence extension along crustal scale detachment coeval

- 41 with basal thrusting at the South Tibetan Detachment System (STDS) and Main Central Thrust
- 42 (MCT) and its implications on the exhumation of deep-seated crustal rocks *i.e.* the Greater
- 43 Himalayan Sequence (GHS, e.g. Teyssier, 2011); (ii) feedback relations between climate, crustal

44 melting and tectonics (*e.g.* Jamieson & Beaumont, 2013).

45 wotwithstanding this progress, there are several Himalayan areas where the present geological

46 knowledge is still very poor. Western Nepal, in the Central Himalaya, is among these areas, even if

47 several important contributions are published (e.g. Hagen, 1969; Fuchs, 1974, 1977; Arita et al.,

48 1984; Robinson *et al.*, Carosi *et al.*, 2007, 2010; Yakymchuk & Godin, 2012;

49 Montomoli *et al.*, 2013).

50 In Western Nepal two recent findings newly opened the discussion on exhumation mechanisms of 51 crystalline rocks in the Himalayas: (i) Bertoldi et al. (2011) and Carosi et al. (2013) described a 52 large (~110 km²) Higher Himalayan leucogranite (HHL), named Bura Buri granite, which intruded 53 the upper part of the GHS up to the low grade Tethyan Sedimentary Sequence (TSS) at c. 24-23 Ma 54 (zircon and monazite, U-Pb ages). These data constrain that the STDS age is older than c. 24 Ma in 55 this transect. *(ii)* Montomoli *et al.* (2013, 2015) described the kinematics, timing and metamorphic 56 consequences of a high temperature (HT) shear zone occurring within the core of the GHS, called 57 Mangri Shear Zone (MSZ). These findings, in conjunction with others (e.g. Carosi et al., 2010; 58 Larson *et al.*, 2013; ang *et al.*, 20, accarino *et al.*, 20, reveal the structural complexity of 59 the GHS (e.g. _________ tomoli et al., 2015; _______ ttle et al., 2015). 60 In this contribution, we describe the main geological features along a structural transect in the 61 Mugu Karnali Valley (Western Nepal, Fig. 1) presenting new structural and metamorphic data of 62 this poorly investigated area (Fig. 1c) where, despite the previous contributions (Bertoldi et al. 63 2011; Carosi et al., 2013; Montomoli et al., 2013), a complete structural and profile is still lacking. Moreover, combining = lata with available geochronological data for this transect and 64 65 nearby areas, we constrain the tectono-metamorphic evolution of the Himalayan metamorphic core 66 (HMC) in this area. We also discuss the tectonic and geodynamic implications of these findings in 67 the light of the results by Carosi et al. (2013, 2016) and Montomoli et al., (2013, 2015).

68

69 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

70 The Himalayan belt (Fig. 1a) is mainly composed of continuous packages of imbricated litho-

tectonic units (Le Fort, 1975; Hodges, 2000). Among these units, the GHS (Fig. 1), made of

72 medium- to high-grade metamorphic rocks and Cenozoic leucogranites (HHL, Visonà et al., 2012),

represents the exhumed mid-crustal core of the Himalaya (Hodges, 2000; Cottle et al., 2015).

74 Classically, GHS rocks have been subdivided in three main "formations" (Le Fort, 1975), now

referred as units (e.g. Searle & Godin, 2003). The structurally lower one, Unit 1, consists of garnet-

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76	and kyanite-bearing metapelite, subordinate quartzite, calcsilicate, migmatite and marble. The
77	structurally intermediate Unit 2 is composed of medium to high-grade calcsilicate, minor marble
78	and metapelite. The structurally highest Unit 3 consists of orthogneiss and kyanite/sillimanite-
79	bearing migmatite, with minor calcsilicate gneiss.
80	Two main peculiarities in the GHS have been described (Hodges 2000 and references therein): (i)
81	the recognition of an inverse metamorphic field gradient with high-grade "Barrovian" minerals
82	appearing structurally upward (Le Fort, 1975). (ii) the fact that the GHS is tectonically bounded by
83	two crustal scale shear zones with opposite sense of shear: a basal ductile to brittle reverse shear
84	zone, the MCT (e.g. Heim & Gansser 1939), thrusting the GHS above the Lesser Himalaya
85	Sequence (LHS) made of medium- to low-grade metamorphic rocks (Hodges, 2000) of
86	Palaeoproterozoic-Mesoproterozoic age (Upreti, 1999); and an upper, ductile to brittle detachment
87	system of normal faults, the STDS (Burg et al., 1984; Carosi et al., 1998), through which Cambrian
88	(?) to Eocene (e.g. Garzanti, 1999 and reference therein) sedimentary rocks of the Tethyan
89	Sedimentary Sequence (TSS) are tectonically juxtaposed above the GHS.
90	Metamorphism in the GHS has been classically subdivided in two main stages (e.g. Vannay &
91	Hodges, 1996; Hodges, 2000). The older one is the Eocene-Oligocene Eohimalayan stage, where
92	high-pressure (kyanite-bearing) assemblages developed (Vannay & Hodges, 1996; Iaccarino et al.,
93	2015). It was followed by the Neohimalayan stage starting in the Early Miocene. Medium- to low-
94	pressure (sillimanite to cordierite) bearing assemblages, extensive melting (HHL production), and
95	coeval slip along the STDS and MCT (e.g. Godin et al., 2006 and references therein) characterize
96	this stage. Some authors (e.g. Cottle et al., 2015) refer collectively to the pervasively deformed and
97	
	metamorphosed rocks during the India-Asia continental collision as the Himalayan Metamorphic
98	Core (HMC).

99

100 MUGU KARNALI: A GEOLOGICAL TRANSECT

The Mugu Karnali valley (Figs 1b,c) trends nearly E-W and provides about 30-40 km of nearly
continuous outcrops along the main tectono-metamorphic units (Montomoli *et al.*, 2013). The area
was partly mapped in the 1970's by Fuchs and co-workers (e.g. Fuchs, 1974, 1977 and references
therein).

105 In this contribution a detailed structural and metamorphic map is presented (Figs 1c & 2). The 106 distribution of isograd-minerals is based on the "first Barrovian mineral appearance/disappearance" 107 integrating field observations with optical/scanning-electron microscope data from over 200 thin 108 sections. The general architecture is represented by a NE-E dipping homoclinal slab (Fig. 2). The 109 lower tectonic unit, the LHS, is composed of quartzite with preserved primary structures, marble, 110 dolomitic marble, graphitic schist and minor metabasite. The LHS main foliation ($S_{P(LHS)}$), parallel 111 to the axial plane of tight to isoclinal folds, strikes NW-SE and dips to NE (Fig. 1c). Meso- and 112 micro-structural analyses reveal that the $S_{P(LHS)}$ is a second phase foliation since relicts of an older 113 continuous to spaced foliation ($S_{P-1(LHS)}$) are recognizable both at the meso- and at the microscale. 114 The mineral and aggregate lineation $(L_{P(LHS)})$ generally trends NE-SW and moderately plunges to 115 the NE (Fig. 1c). Deformation and metamorphism increase structurally upward, with the 116 development of L-tectonite, defined by the alignment of chlorite within LHS quartzite (Fig. 2a) and 117 the development of garnet-chlorite-biotite bearing phyllite (Grt I zone) just below the tectonic contact between the LHS and the GHS (______). This contact, in the studied area, is neither a 118 119 sharp fault nor a protolith boundary (see also Carosi et al., 2007; Searle et al., 2008), but it is a large 120 (several km thick) ductile shear zone affecting both quartzite and garnet-biotite bearing phyllites 121 (Grt II zone) and higher grade metamorphic rocks of the GHS. For this reason, we refer to this high 122 strain zone as Main Central Thrust Zone (MCTZ in Carosi *et al.*, 2007). Within the 123 MCTZ a NW-SE striking mylonitic foliation is developed and kinematic indicators such as S-C-C' 124 fabric, asymmetric porphyroclasts and quartz sigmoids point to a top-to-the W-SW sense of shear 125 (Fig. 1c) occur. The main GHS foliation ($S_{P(GHS)}$), dipping mainly toward E (Fig. 1c) strikes NW-126 SE and NNE-SSW when moving upward in the section. An older foliation ($S_{P-1(GHS)}$) is sporadically

127 observed both at the meso- and microscale. The mineral lineation ($L_{P(GHS)}$) trends mainly NE-SW 128 and plunges moderately to the E-NE (Fig. 2c). An inverse metamorphic gradient is observed in the 129 field within the GHS (Figs 1c & 2) and confirmed by the study of thin-sections starting from garnet-130 biotite-bearing rocks up to garnet-kyanite-biotite paragneiss and sillimanite-bearing gneiss, moving 131 structurally upward. 132 Following Larson *et al.* (2010) the GHS in the study area has been subdivided (Figs 1c & 2) into the 133 lower GHS (GHS_{I}) and the upper GHS (GHS_{U}). These subunits are separated by a tectono-134 metamorphic discontinuity (MSZ) described in detail by Montomoli et al. (2013). It is worthy of 135 note that this subdivision is different from the one proposed by Fuchs (1977) who mapped two main 136 crystalline nappes, a Lower Crystalline Nappe, roughly between Gamgadhi and Kumpha villages 137 (included now mainly in the MCTZ, Fig. 1c), and an Upper Crystalline Nappe (from Kumpha up to 138 the E) only partially mapped by the former author (now a part of the GHS). 139 The GHS_L consists mainly of quartzite, metapelite and orthogneiss, with minor calculate and 140 amphibolite (Fig 2b,c). The first appearance of sillimanite, as rare fibrolite, has been recognized 141 within orthogneiss SW of the village of Mangri (Fig. 1c). Here, cuspate-lobate structures between 142 competent orthogneiss and less competent metapelite and tourmaline-bearing leucocratic magmatic 143 pods and minor anatectites occur. Structurally upward, mylonitic gneiss and micaschist of the MSZ 144 mark the bottom of the GHS_{U} (Figs 2d,e) which contains sillimanite + white mica-bearing 145 paragneiss and micaschist, K-feldspar + aluminosilicate-bearing migmatite, HHL and minor 146 clinopyroxene-bearing calcsilicate. Relicts of kyanite, partially replaced by sillimanite have been 147 detected. 148 A newly identified, HT contractional shear zone, named Tiyar Shear Zone (TSZ) (Figs 1c & 2), 149 marks the base of the migmatitic complex. The appearance of the TSZ coincides with the 150 disappearance of white mica (aluminosilicate + K-feldspar isograd). The main mylonitic foliation, 151 reworking the migmatitic fabric (Fig. 2d), is concordant with that one of the host gneisses. The

152 stretching lineation, marked by sillimanite and quartzo-feldspathic grains, dips to the E-NE (Fig.

153 1c). Top-to-the W-SW kinematic indicators such as quartzo-feldspathic sigmoidal pods (Fig. 2d), S-

154 C fabric, garnet and K-feldspar porphyroclasts occur in the TSZ.

155 The migmatitic complex is made of stromatic metatexite (with minor diatexite) with alternations of

156 leucosome and melanosome, both containing garnet and aluminosilicate (Figs 2e & 3a,b).

157 Leucocratic veinlets discordant to the main foliation are also observed (Fig. 3b). The truly anatectic

158 nature of these rocks, besides field observations, is supported by observations on thin sections.

159 Typical (e.g. Vernon, 2011) microstructures of melt-bearing rocks are observed (Figs 3c-f), such as:

160 (i) euhedral crystals (*e.g.* feldspar) interpreted as precipitated from a melt (Figs 3a,c); (ii) corroded

161 quartz grains rimmed by feldspar forming tiny films with low dihedral angles, interpreted as melt

162 pseudomorphs (Fig. 3d); (iii) clusters of tiny poly-mineralic, K-feldspar-bearing inclusions, that are

163 likely nanogranitoids (Cesare B., personal communication, 2014; *e.g.* Bartoli et al., 2016) within

164 peritectic garnet (Fig. 3f). The migmatitic complex is intruded on the northern side of the mapped

area by a pluri-kilometric leucogranite, the Mugu granite (Figs 1c & 2), which is often referred in

the geological literature as Mugu-Dolpo-Mustang granite (*e.g.* Le Fort & France-Lanord, 1995),

167 although its continuity from the Dolpo-Mustang region to the Mugu area has not been demonstrated

168 yet. The Mugu leucogranite contains K-feldspar-plagioclase-quartz-white mica-biotite ± tourmaline

169 ± garnet typical for peraluminous granites. Few geochronological data are available for the Mugu-

170 Dolpo-Mustang granite: Harrison *et al.* (1999) reported an age of 17.6 ± 0.3 Ma (Th-Pb on

171 monazite); Guillot et al. (1999) published white mica and biotite Ar-Ar ages of c. 17-15 Ma. These

172 geochronological results refer to sample locations, which are more than 100 km away from the

173 Mugu *sensu stricto* granite.

South of the Mugu granite (Fig. 1c), structurally above the migmatitic complex, leucogranitic dyke swarms intrude intercalations of calcsilicate and low-grade biotite-bearing metapsammopelite. The main foliation strikes ENE-WSW dipping towards S-SE (Fig. 1c). Mineral lineations defined by biotite are present with an ENE-WSW trend plunging to the SW. The base of these rocks is strongly

deformed with zoned calcsilicates showing symmetric and asymmetric boudins. Observations on

- 179 two orthogonal outcrop surfaces suggest a strain pattern typical of field I of Ramsay & Huber
- 180 (1983). Rare kinematic indicators such as flanking folds (Fig. 2f), point to a top to the S/SE sense of
- 181 shear. This situation is comparable with the one on the southern side (Fig. 1c) of the studied area,
- 182 where the Bura Buri granite (Bertoldi et al., 2011; Carosi et al., 2013) intrudes garnet-cordierite
- 183 (after staurolite)-two mica-bearing gneiss, which can be correlated with the Everest Series (ES) of
- 184 Jessup *et al.*, (2008), low-grade marble and "lumachelle" limestone of the TSS. Due to the
- 185 closeness to the Tibetan border, it has not been possible to fully map the Mugu granite and to
- 186 constrain its relationships with the STDS and TSS, as it was done for the Bura Buri granite
- 187 (Bertoldi et al., 2011; Carosi et al., 2013).
- 188 A late ductile deformation event, affecting heterogeneously the whole GHS-LHS, re-folds the main
- 189 foliation to upright folds often with kink-like geometry. However, a clear syn-kinematic mineral
- 190 recrystallization on the axial plane-related foliation (S_{p+1}) was not developed.
- 191 In order to constrain the pressure (P) temperature (T) deformation (d) evolution of the HMC
- along the Mugu Karnali transect, five representative samples, with clear mineral growth-
- deformation relationships, from the different structural units (Figs 1c & 2) have been selected for a
 detailed study.
- 195

196 SELECTED SAMPLES: MICROSTRUCTURES AND MINERAL CHEMISTRY

197 Methods

198 Thin sections of selected samples, according to their structural position (D13-series as well as D09-

10 and D09-52 described by Montomoli *et al.*, 2013), were prepared parallel to the XZ plane of the

- 200 corresponding finite strain ellipsoid. We used these sections for analyses of minerals with a
- 201 CAMECA SX100 electron microprobe (EMP) equipped with five wavelength dispersive
- 202 spectrometers (WDS) at Universität Stuttgart. The EMP energy dispersive system (EDS) was used
- 203 for qualitative identification of minerals. Chemical compositional maps (X-ray maps) were acquired
- 204 on at least two selected areas for mica and garnet per specimen applying a stepwise movement (100

205	ms per step), a beam current of 60 nA for garnet and 30 nA for micas, and a subsequent computer-
206	aided evaluation. Yttrium, Ca, Mn, Fe, Mg were chosen for garnet, whereas Ba, Na, Mg, Fe, Ti
207	were selected for micas. The applied acceleration voltage and beam current for spot analysis were
208	15 kV and 30 nA for garnet, and 15 kV and 10 nA for the other minerals. This type of analysis
209	lasted ~ 2 minutes. For analyzing Zr in rutile and Y in garnet a beam current of 100 nA and an
210	acceleration voltage of 15 kV were selected. Synthetic and natural standards were used for the
211	calibration of the EMP (see also Massonne, 2012, for the analytical errors). Mineral structural
212	formulae were calculated with the software CALCMIN (Brandelik, 2009). Representative garnet
213	compositional maps are given in Fig. 4; compositional variations of the main silicates are
214	summarized in Fig. 5 and discussed below. Selected analyses are reported in Tables 1-4. Mineral
215	abbreviations used in the text and figures are as follow: And = andalusite, Bt = biotite, Chl =
216	chlorite, Crd = cordierite, Cpx = clinopyroxene, Grt = garnet, Ilm = ilmenite, Kfs = K-feldspar, Ky
217	= kyanite, L = melt, Lws = lawsonite, Opx = orthopyroxene, Pl = plagioclase, Pg = Na-Ca white
218	mica, $Qz = quartz$, $Rt = rutile$, $Sil = sillimanite$, $St = staurolite$, $Ttn = titanite$, $V = H_2O$ fluid, $Wm = 1000$
219	K-white mica, $Zo = zoisite$.

220

221 Sample D13-75 (LHS: Grt I zone)

222 Sample D13-75 is a phyllite from the top of the LHS (Figs 1c & 2) with the assemblage chlorite-223 white mica-quartz-garnet-plagioclase-biotite-ilmenite (± tourmaline, apatite, zircon). This rock is 224 characterized by alternations of granoblastic and lepidoblastic layers (Figs 6a,b). The main 225 foliation, $S_{P(LHS)}$ (Fig. 6a,c) defined by micas and quartz grain shape preferred orientation (GSPO), 226 could be classified as crenulation cleavage (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). An earlier continuous to 227 spaced cleavage, $S_{P-1(LHS)}$ defined by micas, is preserved within the microlithons (Fig. 6a,b). Large 228 porphyroblasts of garnet (Fig. 6a), plagioclase and minor biotite occur (Fig. 6b), often with an 229 internal foliation (S_i) defined mainly by ilmenite, quartz, plagioclase and micas. Relationships between S_i and $S_{P(LHS)}$, suggest that garnet, plagioclase and biotite could be interpreted as early-syn-230

to syn-tectonic porphyroblasts with respect to the deformational event related to $S_{P(LHS)}$. Texturally late, retrograde chlorite filled garnet fractures or partially replaced biotite. Quartz in the sample shows evidence of grain boundary migration (GBM) recrystallization (Law, 2014 and references therein) such as lobate grain boundaries and pinning of micas. Moreover, deformation lamellae heterogeneously occur testifying that deformation continued after temperature peak (Passchier &

Trouw, 2005). Post-kinematic white mica and biotite sporadically overgrew the main foliation.

237

238 *Mineral chemistry and garnet zoning*

- 239 Garnet shows a gradual decrease of Mn, balanced by an increase of Mg, from core (center: XMn =
- 240 Mn/(Mn+Mg+Ca+Fe)=0.17-0.16, XCa=0.19-0.18, XMg=0.03-0.04, and XFe = 0.62) to the rim

241 (XMn = 0.02, XCa= 0.18, XMg= 0.08-0.07, XFe=0.72; Figs 4 & 5a; Table 1) typical for a prograde

- growth zoning (e.g. Tracy et al., 1979; Spear, 1993). The Fe/(Fe+Mg) ratio (hereafter Fe#) varies
- from 0.95 in the core to 0.91 for the rim.
- Plagioclase (Fig. 5b; Table 2) is mainly oligoclase with XAb (= Na/(Na+Ca+K)) between 0.69 and
- 245 0.81. Nearly pure albite (XAb=0.99) has been found in some sporadic inclusions within garnet.
- Biotite is quite homogeneous in composition with XMg (=Mg/(Mg+Fe))=0.46-0.48 and Ti a.p.f.u.
- 247 (= atoms per formula unit, on 11 O basis) between 0.08-0.11 (Fig. 5c; Table 3). White mica is
- compositionally variable with Si a.p.f.u. between 3.06 and 3.16, with the highest values obtained for
- grains aligned along the main foliation (Fig. 5d; Table 4). Chlorite has XMg between 0.43 and 0.48
- 250 with the lowest values observed in garnet inclusions.
- 251

252 Sample D13-06 (GHS_L: Grt II zone)

- 253 Sample D13-06 is a metapsammite from the medium-upper part of the MCTZ (Grt II zone; Figs 1c
- 254 & 2) with the assemblage white mica-biotite-garnet-quartz-plagioclase-ilmenite (± tourmaline,
- apatite, zircon, monazite and xenotime). The rock shows an anastomosing disjunctive mylonitic

foliation (Passchier & Trouw, 2005) defined by white mica, biotite and ilmenite and by

257 quartz/feldspar GSPO (Fig. 6c).

Garnet is present as a skeletal porphyroblast, embayed in a quartz matrix (Fig. 6c), and it is

wrapped by the mylonitic foliation. Sporadic S_i , defined by quartz iso-orientation, is discordant to

260 concordant with the external one, suggesting that garnet could be an intertectonic to early-

261 syntectonic porphyroblast (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). Late chlorite is present (in low modal

amount) partially replacing biotite or garnet edges (Fig. 6c). Well-developed kinematic indicators

such as S-C fabric and asymmetric strain shadows (Fig. 6c) point to a general top-to-the SW sense

264 of shear (Fig. 6a), in agreement with field observations. Quartz shows evidences of GBM dynamic

- recrystallization.
- 266

267 Mineral chemistry and garnet zoning

268 Garnet X-ray maps show evidence for diffusionally modified growth domains (Fig. 4) with hardly

269 discernable zoning and a discontinuous enrichment of Mn towards the outermost rims (XMn=0.07-

270 0.06; XCa=0.13-0.12; XMg=0.64; Fe#=0.93). This feature points to late resorption of garnet (Kohn

271 & Spear, Spear, Spear, XAb in plagioclase ranges between 0.77 and 0.90 with the lowest

values in inclusions in garnet (Fig. 5b; Table 2). Biotite shows XMg between 0.35 and 0.39 and Ti

a.p.f.u. between 0.05 and 0.17, with the lowest values obtained from biotite inclusions in garnet

274 (Fig. 5c; Table 3). The contents of Si a.p.f.u. in white mica vary between 3.09 and 3.25 (Fig. 5d;

Table 4). The late chlorite has XMg between 0.39 and 0.41.

276

277 Sample D09-10 (GHS_L: $St + Bt \pm Ky$ zone)

278 Sample D09-10 is a paragneiss from the GHS_L (see also Montomoli *et al.*, 2013), where staurolite

coexists with biotite (\pm kyanite) (Figs 1c & 2). The assemblage (Fig. 6d) is characterized by white

280 mica-biotite-garnet-staurolite-kyanite-plagioclase-quartz (± tourmaline, Ti-oxides, graphite, apatite,

zircon, monazite and xenotime), where the micas define the main foliation, S_{P(GHS)}, classified as an

anastomosing disjunctive schistosity (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). Moreover, relicts of an older
 continuous to spaced schistosity, S_{P-1(GHS)}, defined by oriented white mica and biotite, were
 sporadically detected.

285 Garnet porphyroblasts (Fig. 6d) show an inner/intermediate domain, where inclusions (often 286 classified as growth inclusions sensu Passchier & Trouw, 2005) of ilmenite, quartz, chlorite, white 287 mica, biotite, graphite, \pm Na-Ca white mica, \pm rutile, \pm xenotime, \pm monazite are abundant, and an 288 inclusion-poor rim. Occasionally, S_i in garnet (Fig. 6d) is discordant to the external foliation. 289 Staurolite contains inclusions of quartz, white mica, biotite, plagioclase, ilmenite/rutile, graphite, 290 garnet (Fig. 6f), \pm tourmaline, defining an S_i, that is quite often curved and in continuity (Fig. 6e) 291 with the external main foliation ($S_{P(GHS)}$). Kyanite is aligned along the main foliation $S_{P(GHS)}$, 292 sometimes kinked, and partially replaced by white mica (Fig. 6d). Interestingly, rutile surrounded 293 by ilmenite was found in the matrix and enclosed in staurolite. Following the aforementioned 294 textures, garnet is interpreted as inter- to early- syn-tectonic, kyanite as early-syn-tectonic, and 295 staurolite as early-syn- to syn-tectonic porphyroblasts (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). Late retrograde 296 chlorite partially replaced garnet and biotite. Quartz shows evidence of the GBM dynamic 297 recrystallization regime. Annealed grains with straight triple points are also sometimes present. 298 Feldspar shows evidences of ductile deformation by undulose extinction and deformation twins. 299 300 *Mineral chemistry and garnet zoning*

garnet (Table 3) show lower Ti a.p.f.u. (0.05-0.08) and XMg (0.39-0.50) with respect to biotite
defining the main foliation (Ti a.p.f.u.=0.08-0.10, XMg=0.45-0.59). White mica is characterized by
Si a.p.f.u. between 3.21 and 3.08, with the lowest values analyzed in mica enclosed in garnet (Table
4). Na-Ca white mica, observed only in garnet, is margarite-rich with Na/(Na+Ca) of 0.20. XMg of
staurolite is between 0.18 and 0.16, with the lowest values obtained from the rims.

313

314 Sample D09-52 (GHS_U: Als + Wm zone)

315 Sample D09-52 is a mylonitic paragneiss from the Mangri Shear Zone (see also Montomoli *et al.*, 316 2013), defining the base of the GHS_U (Figs 1c & 2). The observed assemblage (Fig. 7a) is biotite-317 garnet-white mica-sillimanite-quartz-plagioclase (± tourmaline, Ti-oxides, apatite, monazite, zircon 318 and xenotime). The main foliation, $S_{P(GHS)}$, is an anastomosing disjunctive mylonitic schistosity 319 (Passchier & Trouw, 2005) defined by biotite, sillimanite, white mica and ilmenite (Fig. 7a). This 320 sillimanite-bearing mylonitic foliation (Fig. 7a) wraps around garnet porphyroclasts (Fig. 7a), 321 which sometimes show an S_i , traced by quartz, plagioclase, mica and rutile, being discordant to the 322 external one (*i.e.* intertectonic garnet). In addition, this foliation envelops large kinked white mica 323 porphyroclasts (Fig. 7b), which can also display an S_i traced by quartz, biotite and rutile. Late 324 chlorite partially replaces garnet edges and biotite. Quartz shows evidence of a dynamic 325 recrystallization regime (Montomoli et al., 2013), such as chessboard extinction and lobate grain 326 boundaries (GBM_{II}, Law, 2014). Kinematic indicators, such as S-C fabric and mica fishes, point to 327 a top-to-the W-SW sense of shear (Fig 7a,b). 328

- 329 *Mineral chemistry and garnet zoning*
- 330 Garnet X-ray maps show a zoning with a strong decrease of Ca, coupled with a slight decrease of
- 331 Mn and a slight increase of Mg from core (XMn=0.07–0.05, XCa=0.10–0.07, XMg=0.12-0.10,
- 332 XFe=, Fe#=0.88-0.87) to inner rim (XMn=0.03-0.02, XCa=0.05-0.03, XMg=0.15-0.09,
- Fe#=0.85-0.84). A clear discernable outermost rim (Fig. 4; Table 1) with high Mn (XMn up to

334 0.11) and Fe# (=0.91) suggests garnet resorption via retrograde net-transfer reactions (Kohn &

335 Spear, 2000). Plagioclase is characterized by XAb of 0.71-0.85 (Table 2), with the lowest values

found in plagioclase within garnet inclusions (Fig. 5b). Matrix biotite shows XMg of 0.34-0.38 and

Ti a.p.f.u. between 0.15 and 0.18. Biotite enclosed in garnet is characterized by XMg of 0.52-0.45

- and Ti a.p.f.u. between 0.09 and 0.15 (Fig. 5c; Table 3). White mica (Fig. 5d) shows Si a.p.f.u. in
- the range of 3.25-3.10, with the highest values analyzed in large mica fish (Table 4; see also

340 Montomoli *et al.*, 2013).

341

342 Sample D13-28 (GHS_U: Als + Kfs zone)

343 Sample D13-28 is from the mesosome of sheared migmatites forming the Tiyar Shear Zone (Figs 1c

344 & 2d). This sample contains K-feldspar-garnet-aluminosilicate-plagioclase-quartz-biotite-

345 rutile/ilmenite ±white mica (+melt) with apatite, monazite and zircon as accessories. A spaced

anastomosing mylonitic schistosity, defined by biotite and sillimanite (Fig. 7c-f), wraps around

347 garnet and K-feldspar porphyroclasts (Fig. 7c-f). Garnet contains K-feldspar inclusions in the

348 outermost domain, testifying that at least a part of the garnet is peritectic in origin, since both

349 phases coexist as products of mica-consuming melt-forming reactions (e.g. Groppo et al., 2012 and

350 references therein). The margin of garnet is replaced by sillimanite+biotite (Fig. 7f). Kyanite is

deformed (Figs 7d,e), sometimes boudinaged with sillimanite filling the necking. Rutile occurs

and in the matrix, where it is often partially replaced by ilmenite.

353 These microstructural observations (Figs 7c-f) suggest that the "peak" pre-mylonitic assemblage

354 (hereafter M1) was K-feldspar-garnet-kyanite-plagioclase-quartz-biotite-rutile (+melt), whereas the

355 "post peak", syn-mylonitic assemblage (hereafter M2) is K-feldspar-garnet-sillimanite-plagioclase-

356 quartz-biotite-ilmenite ±white mica/melt.

357 Microstructures suggest a HT deformation regime supported by quartz, forming strain-free ribbons

- 358 (Figs 7c,d), and a uniform feldspar-quartz recrystallized matrix with interlobate grain-boundaries
- 359 (Figs 7c,d). K-feldspar (Fig. 7c) shows evidences of ductile dynamic recrystallization such as a core

360	and mantle structure, myrmekite and perthitic exsolution. Garnet ellipsoid shape (Fig. 7f),
361	suggesting its possible ductile behavior, is also compatible with the invoked HT deformation
362	regime (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). Late white mica forms large flakes (Fig. 7c), crosscutting the
363	mylonitic foliation, or tiny grains oriented along this foliation.
364	Kinematic indicators such as asymmetric porphyroclasts (Fig. 7c), asymmetric myrmekite (Fig. 7c),
365	and kyanite fishes (Fig. 7d) point to a top-to-the W-SW sense of shear.
366	
367	Mineral chemistry and garnet zoning
368	Garnet shows a zoning especially in Ca (Figs 4 & 5a; Table 1). The core is richer in Ca and poorer
369	in Mg (XCa=0.19-0.12; XFe=0.71-0.67; XMn=0.06-0.04; Fe#=0.87-0.86) compared to the inner
370	rim (XCa=0.11-0.05; XFe=0.77-0.74; XMn=0.06-0.04; Fe#=0.91-0.87). An increase of XMn
371	(=0.08-0.11), as well as of Fe# (=0.93-0.91), at the outermost rim domain points to garnet
372	resorption (Kohn & Spear, 2000). However, as described above, the almost constant XMn as well
373	as the increase of Fe# from core towards the rim strongly suggest that the original zoning has been
374	modified by diffusion (<i>e.g.</i> Spear, 1993; Groppo <i>et al.</i> , Indares <i>et al.</i> , Two types of
375	feldspars occur in the rock (Fig. 5b). Plagioclase shows XAb between 0.65 and 0.82, with the
376	lowest values found in plagioclase inclusions in garnet (Table 2). Sporadically, almost pure albite
377	(XAb = 0.95-0.96) is found at the edge of matrix plagioclase. K-feldspar is characterized by XOr (=
378	K/(K+Na+Ca)) in the range of 0.86-0.92. Biotite is chemically heterogeneous (Fig. 5c; Table 3).
379	Matrix biotite has Ti a.p.f.u. values between 0.11 and 0.27 with XMg of 0.36-0.39. Biotite
380	inclusions in the garnet rim show the highest XMg ($0.53-0.54$) with Ti a.p.f.u. = 0.23 , whereas late
381	biotite texturally associated with sillimanite, both replacing garnet, is characterized by the lowest Ti
382	a.p.f.u. (0.06-0.07) and XMg of 0.36-0.37. The late white mica is muscovite (Table 4) with Si
383	a.p.f.u. between 3.03 and 3.10 (Fig. 5d).
384	

ESTIMATION OF PRESSURE (P) – TEMPERATURE (T)

386 *Methods*

387 The *P*-*T* histories of selected samples were constrained by modelling using pseudosections.

- 388 Moreover, where possible, trace-element based thermobarometry was applied such as the Zr-in-
- rutile thermometer (calibration by Tomkins et al., 2007) and the Y-in-garnet thermometer (Pyle &
- 390 Spear, 2000).
- 391 *P-T* pseudosections were constructed with the software PERPLE X (Connolly, 2005, August 2011)
- 392 version, downloaded from the web site http://www.perplex.ethz.ch/). The internally consistent
- thermodynamic database for minerals and water (CORK model, Holland & Powell, 1991) given by
- Holland Powell (1998, with 2002 updates) was used. The following solid-solution (a-X)
- models, compatible with this data set and based on formulations of Holland Powell (1996,
- 396 1998) and Powell Holland (1999), were chosen: GITsTsPg for amphibole, T for talc, Ctd(HP)
- 397 for chloritoid, TiBio(HP) for biotite, Chl(HP) for chlorite, hCrd for cordierite, Gt(HP) for garnet,
- 398 Opx(HP) for orthopyroxene, Omph(HP) for clinopyroxene, IlGkPy for ilmenite (ideal ilmenite-
- 399 geikielite-pyrophanite solid solution), Pheng(HP) for potassic white mica (with a maximum
- 400 paragonite content of 50% mol), St(HP) for staurolite. The models used for feldspars (plagioclase
- 401 and K-feldspar) and Na-Ca rich mica were reported by Massonne (2012 and references therein).
- 402 Moreover, for calculating melting relationships within the GHS_U, the model melt(HP) for
- 403 haplogranitic melt (White *et al.*, 2001) was selected.
- 404 Calculations were performed in the MnO-Na₂O-CaO-K₂O-FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂-H₂O-TiO₂ model
- 405 system (MnNCKFMASHT). No ferric iron (or O₂) was considered because: i) magnetite is absent
- 406 in the selected samples (White et al., 2000); ii) the amount of ferric iron in the minerals is very low
- 407 and iii) rutile+ilmenite (± graphite) indicate low oxidation conditions (White ______, 2000; Diener &
- 408 Powell, Groppo *et al.*, Titanium was included to determine the *P*-*T* relations of Ti-rich
- 409 phases. However it must be stressed that the presence of ferric iron would affect their *P*-*T* relations.
- 410 The calculated pseudosections were contoured by molar contents of phase components, (e.g. pyrope

411 component in garnet) and modal phase amounts. Each raw graph was manually smoothed as shown412 by Connolly (2005).

413

414 Bulk rock composition

415 The bulk-rock compositions of five selected samples (see above) were determined by X-ray

416 fluorescence (XRF) analysis on ground thin sections chips, following the analytical procedure

417 reported in Massonne (2014). These compositions were simplified in order to fit the ten-component

418 model system: *i*) CaO was reduced applying a correction for phosphorus assumed to be exclusively

419 in apatite; *ii*) various amounts of H₂O were considered in the pseudosection calculations as outlined

420 below.

421 In all calculations for LHS and GHS_L rocks H₂O saturation was permitted in the whole *P*-*T* range

422 considered. Sample D09-52 (GHS_U) was assumed to be H_2O saturated after cooling below the

solidus (*e.g.* Massonne, 2014). As the high grade "peak" assemblage M1 (see above) was preserved

424 in sample D13-28 and showed only minor retrogression, this rock is compatible with a scenario

425 where melt, produced during prograde and peak metamorphism, was partially lost. Therefore, the

426 amount of H₂O was estimated following the method of Hasalová *et al.* (2008) (see also Tajčmanová

427 *et al.*, 2011). Thus, T-XH₂O pseudosections at different constant pressure (1.0, 0.80, 0.70, 0.55

428 GPa) were constructed. The "best fit" water amount *sensu* Hasalová *et al.* (2008) was chosen for

429 calculating the pseudosection for sample D13-28 (see Fig. S6). This pseudosection is, however,

430 valid only for "near peak conditions" to an early retrograde stage (Groppo *et al.*, 2012;

431 Hasalová *et al.*,

432 Pseudosection modeling requires the crucial identification of the "true" reactive equilibrium volume

433 (effective bulk composition, EBC, Stüwe, 1997), which could change during the metamorphic

434 evolution, for example, by sequestering elements such as Mn in the interior of garnet and

435 subsequent shielding by outer garnet domains. Various methods have been proposed (e.g. Stüwe,

436 1997; Evans, 2004) to account for this effect. In our study, garnet with strong growth zoning is

437 present (see Fig. 4), thus the method proposed by Evans (2004) and Gaides *et al.* (2006) (see also

438 Groppo et al., 2009) to samples D13-75 and D09-10 was applied. In this method garnet considered

to be concentrically zoned with different (at least two) shells. A Rayleigh fractionation model for

the garnet zoning is assumed, where Mn content is a function of the modal amount of garnet and a

- 441 curvilinear relationship between Mn and Fe, Mg, Ca contents is present (see Evans, 2004 and
- 442 references therein). Mineral mode vs composition curves for garnet are build up and after
- 443 integration, it is possible to calculate the composition of a garnet shell that must be subtracted from
- the whole rock compositions in order to obtain the new EBC.
- This approach to sample D13-75 with <5 vol.% of garnet results in a minor effect (see also Groppo
- 446 et al., 2009; Massonne, 2014), whereas a considerable effect on D09-10, with high modal amount
- 447 (~ 10 vol.%) and strongly zoned garnet, was noted. In fact, relevant mineral-in curves (except
- 448 garnet-in) are only slightly shifted, but the *P*-*T* positions of garnet compositional isopleths are

significantly displaced (see below and compares Fig. S3 with Fig. S4).

450

451 *P-T* RESULTS AND PATHS

452 *P-T* results obtained with pseudosection modeling are presented below. For each sample only

453 relevant graphs/isopleths are shown. The full sets of contoured graphs are reported in the appendix

454 (Figs S1-S7).

455

456 Sample D13-75 (LHS: Grt I zone)

- 457 *Pseudosection topology*
- 458 The *P-T* pseudosection for sample D13-75 (Fig. 8a) was calculated for the *P-T* range of 0.1–1.1
- 459 GPa and 400–650°C. Quartz is always present in the considered *P-T* range. Garnet appears
- somewhat below 500°C at < 0.55 GPa. Staurolite occurs in the MT-HT range of the pseudosection,
- 461 where, at low pressure, also cordierite appears. In the HP-LT range plagioclase is absent, and
- 462 clinopyroxene (< 2 vol.%) occurs at < 475° C (Fig. 8a).

463

464

465 The observed assemblage of sample D13-75 (see above) is represented (Fig. 8a) in the field Chl-466 Wm-Pl-Ilm-Grt-Bt-Qz (+V), which appears between 480-580°C and 0.10-0.80 GPa. This field is 467 limited by the staurolite-in curve (Figs 8a,b) towards high temperatures. Rutile-in and Ca-Na white 468 mica-in curves define the upper pressure limit. 469 The isopleths for the garnet core (XCa \sim 0.19-0.18, XMg \sim 0.03, XFe=0.62) intersect at \sim 525°C and 470 0.55 GPa and, thus, nearly 25 °C above the garnet-in curve (Fig. 8b), in the Chl-Wm-Pl-Ilm-Grt-Bt-471 Qz field (Fig. 8a) compatible with inclusions of biotite-plagioclase-quartz-ilmenite-chlorite-white 472 mica in this core. The isopleths for the garnet rim (XCa ~ 0.18 ; XMg ~ 0.07 , XFe=0.72) intersect at 473 about 560 °C and 0.75 GPa (Fig. 8b). This intersection is compatible with Si contents of potassic 474 white mica (3.12–3.15 a.p.f.u.) and XMg=0.46–0.45 and 0.48-0.46 of chlorite and biotite (Fig. 8b), 475 respectively, which grew along S_{P(LHS)} (Fig. 6c; Table 1). In summary, LHS sample D13-75 records 476 a *P-T* path (Fig. 8b) characterized by burial and heating. Moreover, since no staurolite is present in 477 the sample, decompression of the LHS sample D13-75 occurred without appreciable heating. In this 478 way, a nearly "hairpin type" *P-T* path is the most probable one experienced by the LHS rocks in the 479 Mugu Karnali area.

480

481 Sample D13-06 (GHS_L: Grt II zone)

Metamorphic conditions and P-T-D path

482 *Pseudosection topology*

483 Sample D13-06 was modeled for the *P-T* range of 0.2–1.2 GPa and 400–700°C (Fig. 8c). Quartz is

- 484 present in all fields, whereas clinopyroxene (≤ 5.5 vol%) and titanite appear only at LT-HP
- 485 conditions of the pseudosection. Garnet occurs at almost the entire P-T conditions except in the LT-

486 LP and LP-HT portions of the pseudosection (Fig. 8c).

487

488 *Metamorphic conditions and P-T-D path* 489 The isopleths of garnet with the highest XMg=0.69 (XCa=0.15, XFe=0.75, XMn=0.03) intersect in 490 the *P-T* range of ~ 1.0-1.2 GPa and 600°C (Fig. 8d) in the Wm-Pl-Ilm-Grt-Pg-Bt-Qz-V field, 491 compatible with the observed mineral assemblage (see above), although the predicted Na-Ca white 492 mica was not found. Several reasons such as: (i) paragonitic mica was completely exhausted during 493 retrogression; (ii) this mica occurs only in submicroscopic interlayers in potassic white mica (e.g. 494 Willner et al., 2009); or (iii) possible flaws in mica solution models (e.g. Groppo et al., 2009) could 495 be responsible for that. However, the *P*-*T* conditions of $\sim 1.0-1.2$ GPa and 600°C are in agreement 496 with the highest Si content in white mica (3.25 a.p.f.u.). An intersection of isopleths for the garnet 497 outer rim (XMg~0.06, XCa=0.13-0.12, XFe~0.17, XMn~0.07) occurs at P-T conditions of ~ 0.8 498 GPa and 570°C, along the retrograde path, where garnet is consumed and re-equilibrated. Further 499 decompression and cooling is suggested by the lowest Si content in white mica (3.10-3.09 a.p.f.u.) 500 and by XMg in biotite (0.37-0.35). According to the pseudosection, the late chlorite after garnet 501 formed below 520°C. Thus, the D13-06 sample records only a small part of the experienced P-T502 path (Fig. 8d).

503

504 Sample D09-10 (GHS_L: $St + Bt \pm Ky$ zone)

505 *Pseudosection topology*

506 The *P-T* pseudosection for sample D09-10 was calculated for the range of 0.3–1.3 GPa and 400–

507 700°C (Fig. 9a). The garnet-in curve is located in the pressure range of 0.3–0.7 GPa at ~ 520°C

508 (Fig. 9a) and, thus ~ $15-20^{\circ}$ C above the biotite-in curve (field n°13 in Fig. 9a). Chlorite is

509 completely consumed around 580°C in almost the entire pressure range (Fig. 9a). Aluminosilicate

510 (kyanite or sillimanite) occurs in the HT range of the pseudosection (Fig. 9a). In the LT-HP corner

511 of the pseudosection lawsonite appears. Staurolite occurs in a narrow field from \sim 535°C (at

512 0.30 GPa) up to 650-670°C (at 0.75–0.85 GPa).

513

514 *Metamorphic conditions and P-T-D path*

515 The observed mineral assemblage (see above) is restricted to a small field at 0.75–0.85 GPa 516 and 640-660°C (labeled as Grt-Wm-Bt-St-Ky-Qz-Pl-Ilm in Fig. 9a). This field is also present, but 517 somewhat shifted to slightly higher temperatures (660-680°C) in the garnet core fractionated bulk 518 composition (Figs 9b & S4). A *P-T* path (Fig. 9a) is reconstructed using mineral associations and 519 their compositions. According to compositional isopleths (XMg=0.03, XCa=0.18, XFe=0.66, 520 XMn~0.13-0.12), the garnet core formed at ~ 520°C and 0.60 GPa, very close to the garnet-in curve 521 (Fig. 9b). This temperature is further supported (Fig. 9b) by the applied garnet-xenotime 522 thermometry. This thermometry is applicable since xenotime was observed in the garnet core, 523 buffering its YAG content (Y in garnet core = 1800-900 ppm). Moreover, these *P-T* values are 524 compatible with the presence of chlorite-biotite-ilmenite and Na-Ca white mica in the garnet core in 525 agreement to the calculated field in the pseudosection. Garnet mantle compositional isopleths 526 (XMg=0.12-0.11, XCa=0.06-0.05, XFe=0.81, XMn=0.004-0.005) do not perfectly intersect, but 527 suggest an equilibration of this garnet domain around 580–600°C and 1.1 GPa. This high-pressure 528 stage is compatible with highest Si content in white mica (3.21 a.p.f.u.) and would explain the rutile 529 relicts observed in the rock. Finally, the garnet outermost rim (XMg=0.15-0.14, XCa=0.05-0.04, 530 XFe=0.80-0.81, XMn=0.008-0.01), joined with the compositions (Table 4) of white mica (3.09-531 3.11 a.p.f.u.) and biotite (XMg=0.45–0.50) defining $S_{(PGHS)}$, and staurolite (XMg=0.18–0.16) 532 equilibrated at $\sim 650-670^{\circ}$ C and 0.80-0.85 GPa (Fig. 9b). These conditions are compatible with the 533 narrow *P-T* range of the observed mineral assemblage (Grt-Wm-Bt-St-Ky-Qz-Pl-Ilm in Fig. 9a). 534 In summary, sample D09-10 from the GHS_L has experienced a "clockwise type" *P-T* path (Fig. 9b) 535 with peak pressure (P_{max}) conditions of 1.1 GPa at 580–600°C reached before the maximum 536 temperature (T_{max} , see also Rolfo et al., 2015) of 650–670°C (0.80–0.85 GPa) at which the 537 Barrovian minerals kyanite and staurolite are predicted to have been grown. Further decompression 538 accompanied by cooling is inferred based on the lack of sillimanite, white mica formed after 539 kyanite, and the formation of retrograde chlorite.

541 Sample D09-52 (GHS_U: Als + Wm zone)

542 Pseudosection topology

- 543 The *P-T* pseudosection for sample D09–52 (Fig. 9c) was calculated for the range of 0.3-1.3 GPa
- and 575–800°C. Quartz is stable in the whole P-T pseudosection as garnet except at very LP (< 0.45
- GPa) and MT (< 680 °C). Biotite is absent at LP-HT conditions (above field n°16 in Fig. 9c) due to
- 546 the formation of cordierite (+K-feldspar). White mica is limited towards high temperature by partial
- 547 melting reactions leading to the formation of K-feldspar + aluminosilicate (*e.g.* fields 17 & 25 in
- 548 Fig. 9c). Melt is predicted to appear already at MT and HP conditions (600–620°C and 1.2–1.3
- 549 GPa). It should be kept in mind that these melting conditions are related to minimum melting,
- assuming a wet-solidus environment (*i.e.* the rock contains free H₂O). Lower H₂O contents can shift
- the solidus towards higher T (Massonne, 2014; Weinberg & Hasalová, 2015). At temperatures
- slightly exceeding the wet-solidus, very little melt will be produced and is, thus, difficult to detect
- 553 (White *et al.*, 2001). Taking into account these limitations (see also Massonne, 2014) it is possible
- to derive a path for this sample (Fig. 9d).
- 555

556 *Metamorphic conditions and P-T-D path*

557 Garnet rim isopleths (XMg=0.15-0.12, XCa=0.05-0.03, XFe=0.79-0.78, XMn=0.02-0.12), despite 558 the low intersection angle (*i.e.* larger uncertainties), define P-T conditions of ~ 0.7–0.8 GPa and 559 690–710°C compatible with the preserved assemblage (Sil-Grt-Wm-Bt-Pl-Qz-Ilm), which was 560 calculated to coexist with few vol.% melt. These conditions are also compatible with the chemistry 561 of syn-kinematic white mica (Si a.p.f.u.=3.12–3.10) and biotite (XMg=0.47–0.55). A higher P, pre-562 mylonitic, stage is suggested by the composition of the cores of large white mica fishes. This HP 563 stage is tentatively placed at around 1.2 GPa and 630-650°C using the chemistry of cores of white 564 mica fishes (XMg =0.48-0.52 and Si a.p.f.u. = 3.25) and XCa (0.10) and XMg (0.10-0.09) in some 565 garnet cores.

- 566 Hence, sample D09-52 experienced a clockwise *P-T* path from HP conditions of ~1.2 GPa and 630–
- 567 650°C up to MP-HT conditions of 0.7–0.8 GPa and 690–720 °C, at possible supra-solidus
- 568 conditions (Fig. 9d). The lack of staurolite and K-feldspar indicates further decompression
- accompanied by cooling. This *P-T* path is compatible with syn-kinematic growth of sillimanite
- along the mylonitic foliation $S_{P(GHS)}$ and rutile relicts observed within garnet, in the large white
- 571 mica porphyroclasts and in the matrix ilmenite. Moreover, this path could also account for kyanite
- relicts observed in other samples from the same outcrop.
- 573
- 574 Sample D13-28 (GHS_U: Als + Kfs zone)

575 *Pseudosection topology*

- 576 D13-28 has been modeled using a *P-T* pseudosection for 0.3–1.3 GPa and 650–900°C (Fig. 10a).
- 577 The H₂O in the calculation was estimated to be 0.20 wt% (see "bulk rock composition" section), but
- 578 this amount could be to too low (*e.g.* Iaccarino *et al.*, Braga & Massonne,), as lower
- 579 water contents do not stabilize white mica during cooling. However, higher H₂O contents
- 580 destabilize aluminosilicate (Fig. S6). Moreover, the estimated 0.2 wt% H₂O is well within the range
- 581 of estimates for high-grade migmatites (Hasalová et al., 2008; Groppo et al., 2010, 2012;
- 582 Tajčmanová et al., 2011). Quartz, plagioclase and K-feldspar are always present in the considered
- 583 *P-T* space, and also garnet, except in the HT-LP range, where firstly cordierite and then
- 584 orthopyroxene appear with rising temperature. Biotite is completely consumed at ~ 800°C (Figs
- 585 10a,b). Kyanite occurs above 725°C and 0.9 GPa in the pseudosection. White mica occupies the
- 586 LT-HP side of the graph (650–800°C, 0.6–1.3 GPa). Melt appears around 700–725°C as a function
- 587 of P (Figs 10a,b). Rutile occurs above 0.8–0.9 GPa, whereas ilmenite is present below these
- 588 pressures (Figs 10a,b).
- 589
- 590 Metamorphic conditions and P-T-D path

591	The peak conditions of around 1.0-1.1 GPa and \sim 740–775°C (Fig. 10a) are constrained by the M1
592	assemblage (see above) Grt-Ky-Kfs-Pl-Qz-Bt-Rt-L which is typical for the HP granulite facies (e.g.
593	Indares et al., 2008; Groppo et al., 2010; 2012). The P-T field of this assemblage field is delimited
594	towards lower T and P by the disappearance of kyanite, and towards higher T by the Bt-out curve
595	(Figs 10a,b). These HT conditions (~ 700 up to 750 °C) are further supported by Zr-in-rutile
596	thermometry ($Zr = 540-800$ ppm) applying the Tomkins <i>et al.</i> (2007) calibration (Fig. 10b) on
597	pristine rutile lacking ilmenite retrogression and/or zircon exsolution (see Fig. S8).
598	The M2 paragenesis (Grt-Sil-Kfs-Pl-Qz-Bt-Ilm±Wm/melt) appears below 0.85 GPa. At
599	temperatures above 700–725°C melt occurs, whereas at lower temperature white mica joins the
600	assemblage. Using such constraints, sample D13-28 records a segment of a "clockwise" <i>P-T</i> path
601	characterized by decompression and cooling (Fig. 10b) from conditions of ~ 750° C, ≥ 1.0 GPa to
602	0.80–0.70 GPa and ~ 700°C. In the proposed <i>P-T</i> segment garnet and melt are consumed via back-
603	reactions such as Grt+Kfs+L = Sil+Bt (+Wm) (e.g. Spear et al., 1999; Groppo et al., 2012). This P-
604	T path (Fig. 10b) is compatible with compositional isopleths of biotite XMg (0.54-0.40) and garnet
605	(XFe = $0.69-0.71$ for the inner rim, XFe = 0.76 for the outer rim), as well as the late white mica
606	chemistry. However, in the M1 field of the calculated pseudosection, the calcium isopleths for
607	garnet do not exactly match the derived <i>P-T</i> conditions. Intersections of rim isopleths (XCa>0.05)
608	suggest higher pressure conditions (1.20–1.40 GPa) above the M1 field. This is a frequent
609	observation in HP migmatites (e.g. Indares et al., 2008) also in the Himalaya (Groppo et al., 2010,
610	2012) and it is probably related to the presence of another Ca-bearing phase in the system, such as
611	apatite (Indares et al., 2008; Groppo et al., 2012) which in D13-28 is present as large grains and in
612	appreciable modal amounts, but not modeled in the pseudosection. Indares et al. (2008)
613	hypothesized that the incorporation of Ca in the melt at high pressures, is not favored and garnet
614	would incorporate Ca released during apatite dissolution. Modal changes of apatite could result in
615	the depletion or enrichment of the bulk Ca and so zoning of XCa in garnet from anatectic apatite-
616	bearing pelitic systems may not always be a reliable indicator of the $P-T$ (Indares <i>et al.</i> , 2008;

617 Groppo et al., 2012). For these reasons, it is stressed that the obtained "peak" P-T conditions are 618 believed as minimum one (e.g. Guilmette et al., 2011; Groppo et al., 2010; 2012). Despite these 619 limitations, the proposed P-T path could explain textural key observations, such as: (i) the peritectic 620 origin of garnet, suggested by K-feldspar inclusions; (ii) syn-kinematic replacement of kyanite by 621 sillimanite; (iii) replacement of garnet edges by sillimanite+biotite; (iv) replacement of rutile by 622 ilmenite coronae in the matrix; (v) the late growth of white mica flakes (e.g. Brown, 2002). 623 Moreover, these observations support the shearing activity of the TSZ at high temperature 624 conditions, as also suggested by quartz and feldspar microstructures (see above).

625

626 **DISCUSSION**

627 Structural architecture

628 The Himalayan portion investigated in this work is characterized by a structural regional

architecture that could be approximated to a NE-E dipping homoclinal slab (Fig. 2). Despite this

630 apparent regional structural simplicity, a protracted deformational history has been highlighted.

631 Several high-strain zones, at different structural positions, with non-coaxial deformation, have been

632 developed (Figs 1c, 2). The lowest one, mapped as the MCTZ, juxtaposed middle- to high-grade

633 GHS rocks structurally above the medium- to low- grade LHS.

634 Within the GHS, two high-grade shear zones have been mapped (Figs 1c, 2). The lower one, the

635 MSZ described by Montomoli *et al.* (2013), juxtaposed the sillimanite-bearing GHS_U on the GHS_L

- 636 in the time span of c. 25–18 Ma (Montomoli et al., 2013).
- 637 The structurally upper TSZ is located at a higher structural level within the GHS_U and coincides
- 638 with the prograde white mica disappearance and aluminosilicate + K-feldspar + melt appearance.
- 639 The TSZ hanging-wall is made of a migmatitic complex (stromatites and minor diatexites) and by
- 640 the Mugu granite (Fig. 1c). No geochronological data are available for the TSZ, but at least from
- the structural point of view, the TSZ could be compared with the Kalopani Shear Zone in the

- 642 nearby Annapurna area (Vannay & Hodges, 1996; Carosi *et al.*, 2014, 2016) or with the "Thrust 3"
 643 of He *et al.* (2015).
- 644 Barrovian minerals show complex relationships with the deformation and time of crystallization.
- 645 For instance, within the LHS (sample D13-75) garnet is early-syn- to syn-kinematic with respect to
- 646 the main foliation $(S_{P(LHS)})$, and, going progressively structurally upward in the GHS_L, garnet (in
- 647 Grt II zone), staurolite and potentially kyanite appear as early-syn to syn-kinematic minerals with
- $\label{eq:GHS} 648 \qquad \text{respect to the development of $S_{P(GHS)}$ (see also Yakymchuk & Godin, 2012). In the GHS_U garnet}$
- and kyanite (± K-feldspar) are pre-kinematic, whereas sillimanite is syn-kinematic with respect to
- 650 the development S_{P(GHS)}. These microstructural observations support a diachronous mineral growth
- and rock equilibration/deformation across the Mugu Karnali transect. This picture, as proposed
- here, is different from that one suggested by Stephenson et al. (2000). These authors interpreted
- 653 staurolite and kyanite mainly as early minerals, occurring during the first stages of metamorphism
- (M1) and predating the development of S_{P(GHS)}, and K-feldspar as a late mineral related to the
- 655 subsequent stage (M2).
- Finally it is worthy of note that when the tectonic units experienced a late folding event followed bybrittle tectonics when they reached upper structural levels.
- 658

659 *Metamorphism and P-T path*

660 Pseudosections were used to constrain the *P*-*T* history of the metamorphic core of the Mugu Karnali

transect (Fig. 11). The present estimates are compatible, within the methodological errors, with

- 662 THERMOCALC average *P-T* results obtained on a larger sample dataset, including samples
- 663 investigated in the present contribution, reported in Iaccarino (2015). Moreover, for samples D09-
- 10 and D09-52, the present findings are also compatible with *P*-*T* estimates based on "classical
- 665 geothermobarometry" reported in Montomoli et al. (2013). Results obtained in the present
- 666 contribution could be compared with THERMOCALC average *P-T* estimates of Yakymchuk &
- 667 Godin (2012) for a nearby structural profile, where very similar *P-T* conditions were obtained

668	especially for the GHS _L . Lower <i>P-T</i> conditions are reported by these authors for the aluminosilicate
669	+ K-feldspar zone within the GHS _U , although Yakymchuk & Godin (2012) argued that their results
670	are better interpreted as partial re-equilibration somewhere along a decompression path. This would
671	be compatible with our findings.
672	Different $P-T$ paths were inferred from the studied samples (Fig. 11) and the following results could
673	be traced and compared with other structural transects along the belt:
674	(i) The LHS (sample D13-75) is characterized by a "hairpin type" $P-T$ path (with T_{max} being nearly

- 675 coincident with peak P_{max}), as already noted for other portions of the Himalaya (*e.g.* Kohn, 2014
- and references therein). This *P-T* path type seems to be common for MCTZ footwall rocks (*e.g.*
- 677 Kohn et al., 2001; Groppo et al., 2009; Rolfo et al., 2015).
- 678 (ii) GHS samples have likely experienced a P-T path with a steep dP/dT before reaching P_{max} ,
- followed by decompression associated with heating from P_{max} up to T_{max} (e.g. Groppo et al., 2009,

680 2010, 2012; Rolfo *et al.*, 2015) and further decompression and cooling.

- (iii) GHS_U samples have experienced HP conditions (D09-52; D13-28) well comparable, but not
- 682 necessarily coeval with GHS_L rocks (samples D13-06; D09-10). These HP conditions were largely
- overprinted by sillimanite-bearing assemblages (e.g. Groppo et al., 2009, 2010, 2012; Rolfo et al.,
- 684 2015). Nevertheless, according to our experience, garnet compositions and their evaluation with P-
- 685 *T* pseudosections have the capability to "detect" such a former HP metamorphic stage within the
- 686 GHS_U migmatites (*e.g.* Groppo *et al.*, 2010, 2012). Interestingly, at HP conditions, melt was already
- 687 present in the rock. With respect to this point, it must be stressed that melting during isothermal
- decompression (Harris & Massey, 1994) is efficient if white mica is present at HP conditions (e.g.
- 689 Guilmette et al., 2011; Groppo et al., 2012), otherwise, if this mineral is consumed along the
- 690 prograde heating, on decompression its role is rather minor, since the path is nearly parallel to the
- 691 melt isomodes (e.g. Guilmette et al., 2011; Groppo et al., 2012). This aspect could have a deep
- 692 impact on migmatite rheology and on exhumation process (e.g. Groppo et al., 2012; Yakymchuk &
- Brown, 2014). Indeed, coupled with the melt extraction and the following upward displacement of

- 694 the migmatite solidus (Yakymchuk & Brown, 2014), an increase of rock viscosity and a shifting
- 695 from diffuse to localized deformation would be possible.
- 696 Finally, it is worthy of note that the present *P*-*T* results along the Mugu Karnali transect are in
- agreement with both absolute values and shapes of *P-T* paths obtained by Groppo *et al.* (2009) for
- the metamorphic core in Eastern Nepal (see the review of Rolfo et al., 2015).
- 699

700 **P-T-a** period tectonic implications

701 *P-T* arrays are often used to constrain exhumation models of the GHS and of the Himalayan

tectonics. *P-T* profiles are compared (*e.g.* Kohn, 2008, 2014; Groppo *et al.*, 2012; Yakymchuk &

Godin, 2012; Rolfo *et al.*, 2015;) with the *P-T* paths predicted by numerical or thermo-mechanical

- models (*e.g.* channel flow model, Jamieson *et al.*, 2004, 2006 or critical taper model, Kohn, 2008
- and references therein).

The LHS "hairpin" *P-T* path (D13-75) is in agreement with a critical taper model. GHS paths,

characterized by decompressional heating, could be more compatible with a channel flow model

708 (e.g. Kohn, 2014). Indeed, *P-T* paths for a LHS channel flow should be clockwise (e.g. Caddick et

al., 2007; Caddick & Kohn, 2013), whereas GHS paths in the critical taper model lack heating

during decompression (Kohn, 2008). However, Gervais & Brown (2011) pointed out that neither a

711 *P-T* path alone nor the absolute *P-T* peak is diagnostic for exhumation models. Instead, their timing

associated with the strain path could be diagnostic. If we take into account the available

geochronological data in the study area, the following time constraints are possible: (i) Carosi *et al.*

- (2013) demonstrated that the STDS shearing in Western Nepal was active before c. 24 Ma; (ii)
- 715 Montomoli *et al.* (2013) pointed to an exhumation of the GHS_U, related to the activity of the MSZ,
- between 25–18 Ma, while the GHS_L was still experiencing an underthrusting stage; (iii) GHS_L
- prograde monazite ages are as young as 17 Ma, whereas retrograde ages (likely related to the
- 718 MCTZ activity), as young as 13 Ma, are reported (Montomoli *et al.*, 2013); (iv) Robinson *et al.*
- 719 (2006) provided white mica Ar-Ar (cooling) ages for the GHS (GHS_U in Yakymchuk & Godin,

720 2012), located west of the Mugu Karnali valley, as old as 25 Ma; (vi) Gibson et al. (2016), for 721 samples located south of the here investigated area, reported white mica Ar-Ar cooling ages of c. 14 722 Ma for GHS_U, and c. 19 Ma, interpreted as deformation ages, for GHS_L samples. 723 These data, at least in Western Nepal, point to (i) a short duration of coeval activity of the STDS 724 with basal thrusting (likely along the MSZ); and (ii) an activity of the MCTZ that lasted longer than 725 that one of the STDS. Cooling/retrograde ages obtained from rocks of the GHS_U of this region 726 overlap with prograde ages of the GHS₁. Systematic rejuvenation of metamorphic ages (both 727 prograde and retrograde) going structurally downward has been frequently observed for the GHS 728 (e.g. Kohn et al., 2001; Corrie & Kohn, 2011; Larson et al., 2013; Kohn, 2014, 2016; Wang et al., 729 2015; Carosi et al., 2016). These ages could testify a diachronic equilibration controlled by the 730 structural position in the GHS. 731 The presented observations (porphyroblast-matrix relationship, different *P-T* paths and their timing) 732 do not favour the nearly flat pre-MCT isograds as proposed in the model of isograd-folding 733 (Stephenson et al., 2001; Searle & Szulc, 2005), a post-metamorphic shearing of isograds (e.g. 734 Hubbard, 1996), or an inverted temperature gradient through conductive heating (hot iron effect of 735 Le Fort, 1975). Instead, a complex interaction of progressive deformation and metamorphism (see 736 also Cottle *et al.*, 2015) is proposed for the assembly of the GHS, and the HMC in general, where 737 different tectonic slices from below (Indian Plate) are accreted at greater depths tectonically 738 juxtaposing slices with a diachronic metamorphic and deformational history. The MSZ, and perhaps 739 the TSZ as well, represent tectonic boundaries of these slices. The process of fast exhumation of 740 thin crustal slices has been recently invoked by Spear (2014) in order to explain his garnet diffusion 741 profile models for the Devonian Acadian metamorphic event in Vermont. Exhumation of high-742 grade rocks due to thrusting alone has been shown elsewhere (Platt, 1993; Ring *et al.*, Stüwe 743 & Barr, be ineffective. Thus, a combination of thrusting plus erosion (starting in the 744 Himalaya during the Eocene e.g. Najman et al., 2008, Carosi et al., 2016), and/or thrusting plus 745 ductile thinning (Ring et al., 1999), and/or thrusting plus normal faulting is required. During this

exhumation stage the STDS could be active or inactive, in alternating periods of coeval activity

747 (e.g. Chambers et al., 2011) with basal thrusting.

- 748 In the light of our new findings, it appears that an updated tectonic model, which could account for
- all structural complexities, is needed for the Himalaya (e.g. Cottle et al., 2015). However, as
- already proposed in Fraser et al. (2000), one point should be considered: "models based on the
- 751 preserved metamorphic field gradient, and that consider the HHC [*i.e.* GHS] as a single coherent
- r52 section, must be considered suspect" (Fraser *et al.*, 2000).
- 753 According to the presented P-T-d-t paths of the HMC, a kinematic model where the HMC is
- 754 progressively build up and exhumed by in-sequence shearing (*e.g.* Carosi *et al.*, 2016) is favoured.
- 755 Ductile thinning of the HMC and normal faulting (along the STDS) would assist the exhumation
- 756 process.
- Finally, caution is strongly recommended in assuming that the tectono-metamorphic history of the
- low-grade part of metamorphic terranes (e.g. GHS_L) could be the same of that registered by higher-
- grade samples (e.g. GHS_U, see also Spear & Rumble, 1986). Available geochronological data in the
- 760 GHS (e.g. Corrie & Kohn, 2011; Larson et al., 2013; Montomoli et al., 2013; Kohn, 2014, 2016;
- 761 Wang *et al.*, 2015) often show that both prograde and retrograde metamorphic ages, are younger in
- the lower grade metamorphic rocks respect to the higher grade, that is the opposite of what could be

respected for a "simple" prograde path (*e.g.* Weller *et al.*, 2013).

764

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1030 LIST OF FIGURES

- 1031 Figure 1. (a) Geological map of the Himalayan range (after Law et al., 2004). The approximate
- 1032 location of Fig. 1b is reported; (b) Geological map of the Nepalese Himalaya (after Montomoli et
- 1033 *al.*, 2013 and references therein). The Mugu Karnali valley (study area) is shown; (c) Tectono-
- 1034 metamorphic map of the Mugu Karnali valley (Western Nepal). For simplicity only samples cited in
- 1035 the text or in Montomoli *et al.* (2013) are indicated. Cross section trace (A-A') of Fig. 2 is shown.
- 1036 In the inset, stereoplots of the main structural elements of LHS and GHS are reported (Wulff net –
- 1037 lower hemisphere). Abbreviations as follows: SSZ=Shyok suture zone; ZSZ=Zanskar shear zone;
- 1038 MKT=Main Karakoram Thrust; MMT=Main Mantle Thrust; TB=Tibetan Block; ITSZ=Indus

1039	Tsangpo Suture	e Zone; GCT=Grea	t Counter Thrust;	TSS=Tethyan	Sedimentary Sequence;
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- 1040 GHS=Greater Himalayan Sequence; STDS=South Tibetan Detachment System; MCT=Main
- 1041 Central Thrust; MBT=Main Boundary Thrust; MFT=Main Frontal Thrust; K=Kashmir basin;
- 1042 P=Peshawar basin; S=Sutlej basin.
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- 1044 Figure 2. Simplified geological cross-section (A-A', see Fig. 1c) along the Mugu Karnali transect.
- 1045 (a) L-tectonites (seen on two high angle surfaces) developed in chlorite-bearing quartzite (Grt I
- 1046 zone, LHS); (b) Garnet-staurolite porphyroblasts within a paragneiss (St + Bt \pm Ky zone, GHS_L);
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- 1050 the Kfs + Als zone (GHS_U); (e) Folded leucosomes in the garnet-bearing migmatite (Als + Kfs
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- 1052 low grade intercalations of phyllite and calsilicate (ES).
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- 1054 Figure 3. Meso- and microphotos of rocks from the migmatitic complex. (a) Garnet (arrow) bearing
- 1055 stromatic migmatite within the GHS_U; (b) Discordant leucocratic veinlet in an anatectic gneiss; (c)
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- 1057 grain; (e) Euhedral feldspar (arrow) within leucosome; (f) K-feldspar-bearing nanogranitoids
- 1058 (arrow) within peritectic garnet.
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- 1061 selected samples from different structural position (see text for details). Colors were adjusted to best
- 1062 display the internal zoning.
- 1063

1064 Figure 5. Chemical variation of main silicates in the studied samples. (a) garnet; (b) feldspar; (c)

1065 biotite; (d) potassic white mica. Abbreviations as follow: in Grt= inclusion in garnet; in St=

1066 inclusions in staurolite; Sp-1= older foliation preserved within microlithons; Sp = main foliation;

1067 post Sp = post-kinematic grain; +Sil = back reaction with biotite texturally associated with

1068 sillimanite.

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1070 Figure 6. (a) Crenulation cleavage and syn-tectonic garnet porphyroblast in D13-75 (LHS, Grt I

1071 zone); (b) Syn-tectonic plagioclase porphyroblast and biotite in LHS in D13-75 (LHS, Grt I zone);

1072 (c) General aspect of D13-06 (GHS_L, Grt II zone) showing skeletal garnet with asymmetric pressure

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1080 Note the late white mica; d) Kyanite fish from D13-28 (GHS_U: Als + Kfs zone). Note the quartz-

1081 feldspar ribbons and the co-existence of sillimanite; (e) Boudinage of large pre-kinematic kyanite,

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1085 Figure 8. (a) *P-T* pseudosection of D13-75 (LHS, Grt I zone). Observed mineral assemblage in

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1093	fractionation (see also Fig. S4); (c) <i>P-T</i> pseudosection of sample D09-52 (GHS _U , Als+Wm zone);
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1101	Figure 11. Summary diagram showing pressure-temperature estimates and $P-T$ paths along the
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1115	Abbreviations as reported in Table 2.
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- 1117 Table 4. Selected EMP analyses (in wt.%) of white micas and staurolite in the study samples.
- 1118 Structural formula was recalculated on the basis of 11 O for white micas and on 46 O for staurolite.
- 1119 Abbreviations as in Table 2 plus f=large mica fish.
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1122 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1123 Supplementary figure captions
- 1124 Fig. S1 Sample D13-75 details of pseudosection calculation, with compositional isopleths: (a)
- 1125 XMn and XCa in garnet; (b) garnet XMg and Grt vol.% (100% solids) isomodes; (c) XMg in
- 1126 chlorite and Si a.p.f.u in white mica.
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- 1129 XMn and XCa in garnet; (b) garnet XMg and Grt vol.% (100% solids) isomodes; (c) XMg in biotite
- 1130 and Si a.p.f.u in white mica.
- 1131
- 1132 Fig. S3 Sample D09-10 details of pseudosection calculation, with compositional isopleths of: (a)
- 1133 garnet XMn and XCa; (b) garnet XMg and Grt vol.% (100% solids) isomodes; (c) XMg in biotite
- and Si a.p.f.u in white mica.
- 1135
- 1136 Fig. S4 Sample D09-10 details of (a) *P-T* pseudosection after garnet core fractionation; and
- 1137 compositional isopleths of: (b) garnet XMn and XCa; (c) garnet XMg and Grt vol.% (100% solids)
- 1138 Grt isomodes; (d) XMg in biotite and Si a.p.f.u in white mica.
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1141	XMn and XCa in garnet; (b) garnet XMg and vol% (100% solids) Grt isomodes; (c) XMg in biotite
1142	and Si a.p.f.u in white mica.
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1144	Fig. S6 – T-XH ₂ O pseudosection for D13-28 at a fixed P of 0.70 GPa. On the abscissa axis H_2O
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1150	Fig. S8 – Examples of pristine rutile, coexisting with zircon, within sample D13-28.



Figure 1. (a) Geological map of the Himalayan range (after Law et al., 2004). The approximate location of Fig. 1b is reported; (b) Geological map of the Nepalese Himalaya (after Montomoli et al., 2013 and references therein). The Mugu Karnali valley (study area) is shown; (c) Tectono-metamorphic map of the Mugu Karnali valley (Western Nepal). For simplicity only samples cited in the text or in Montomoli et al. (2013) are indicated. Cross section trace (A-A') of Fig. 2 is shown. In the inset, stereoplots of the main structural elements of LHS and GHS are reported (Wulff net – lower hemisphere). Abbreviations as follows: SSZ=Shyok suture zone; ZSZ=Zanskar shear zone; MKT=Main Karakoram Thrust; MMT=Main Mantle Thrust; TB=Tibetan Block; ITSZ=Indus Tsangpo Suture Zone; GCT=Great Counter Thrust; TSS=Tethyan Sedimentary Sequence; GHS=Greater Himalayan Sequence; STDS=South Tibetan Detachment System; MCT=Main Central Thrust; MBT=Main Boundary Thrust; MFT=Main Frontal Thrust; K=Kashmir basin; P=Peshawar basin; S=Sutlej basin.

150x156mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 2. Simplified geological cross-section (A-A', see Fig. 1c) along the Mugu Karnali transect. (a) L-tectonites (seen on two high angle surfaces) developed in chlorite-bearing quartzite (Grt I zone, LHS); (b) Garnet-staurolite porphyroblasts within a paragneiss (St + Bt ± Ky zone, GHSL); (c) Large garnet porphyroblasts with internal foliation (Si) in a garnet-kyanite-bearing paragneiss (St-out zone, GHSL); (d)
Mylonitic fabric reworking K-feldspar-, ± garnet-, ± aluminosilicates-bearing leucosomes, showing top-to the W/SW sense of shear in the Tiyar Shear Zone (TSZ) within the Kfs + Als zone (GHSU); (e) Folded leucosomes in the garnet-bearing migmatite (Als + Kfs zone, GHSU); (f) Flanking fold (N-type) pointing a top-to the E/SE sense of shear, within medium-low grade intercalations of phyllite and calsilicate (ES).

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150x166mm (300 x 300 DPI)



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Figure 5. Chemical variation of main silicates in the studied samples. (a) garnet; (b) feldspar; (c) biotite; (d) potassic white mica. Abbreviations as follow: in Grt= inclusion in garnet; in St= inclusions in staurolite; Sp-1= older foliation preserved within microlithons; Sp = main foliation; post Sp = post-kinematic grain; +Sil = back reaction with biotite texturally associated with sillimanite.

153x156mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 6. (a) Crenulation cleavage and syn-tectonic garnet porphyroblast in D13-75 (LHS, Grt I zone); (b) Syn-tectonic plagioclase porphyroblast and biotite in LHS in D13-75 (LHS, Grt I zone); (c) General aspect of D13-06 (GHSL, Grt II zone) showing skeletal garnet with asymmetric pressure shadows and late chlorite; (d) Garnet-staurolite-kyanite paragneiss of GHSL (sample D09-10, St + Bt ± Ky zone). Note the garnet texture; (e) Syn-tectonic staurolite with Si continuous with the external one (D09-10); (f) Garnet inclusion within staurolite porphyroblast (D09-10);

150x164mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 7. (a) Garnet-sillimanite bearing mylonitic paragneiss, sample D09-52 (GHSU: Als + Wm zone); (b) Details of large kinked white mica (sample D09-52, GHSU: Als + Wm zone); (c) K-feldspar porphyroclast with asymmetric myrmekite from sample D13-28 (GHSU: Als + Kfs zone). Note the late white mica; d) Kyanite fish from D13-28 (GHSU: Als + Kfs zone). Note the quartz-feldspar ribbons and the co-existence of sillimanite; (e) Boudinage of large pre-kinematic kyanite, with syn-kinematic sillimanite growth in the dilatational sites (sample D13-28); (f) Flattened garnet from sample D13-28. Note that the garnet edge is replaced by sillimanite+biotite.

150x167mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 8. (a) P-T pseudosection of D13-75 (LHS, Grt I zone). Observed mineral assemblage in bold; (b) P-T path from D13-75 sample, obtained with isopleths thermobarometry (ellipses); (c) P-T pseudosection for sample D13-06 (GHSL, Grt II zone). In bold the observed mineral assemblage; (d) P-T path for D13-06 sample reconstructed with isopleths thermobarometry (ellipses).

150x168mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 9. (a) P-T pseudosection of D09-10 (GHSL, St+Bt±Ky zone). In bold is reported the observed mineral assemblage in the sample; (b) Inferred P-T path for D09-10 sample, based on intersection of mineral compositions (ellipses). Grt in-R = garnet-in curve after garnet core fractionation (see also Fig. S4); (c) P-T pseudosection of sample D09-52 (GHSU, Als+Wm zone); (d) Inferred P-T path of sample D09-52 based on compositional isopleths (ellipses) and minerals association (in bold in Fig. 9c).

150x162mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 10. (a) P-T pseudosection of D13-28 (GHSU, Als + Kfs zone); (b) Proposed P-T path for D13-28 based on compositional isopleths (ellipses), minerals assemblages and Zr-in rutile thermometer.

150x85mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 11. Summary diagram showing pressure-temperature estimates and P-T paths along the Mugu Karnali. Symbols as in Fig. 1, see text for details.

150x51mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Table 1

sample	D13-75	D13-75	D13-75	D13-06	D13-06	D13-06	D09-10	D09-10	D09-10	D09-52	D09-52	D09-52	D13-28	D13-28	D13-28
position	С	int	r												
SiO ₂	35.26	36.80	36.98	36.55	36.41	36.08	37.61	37.40	36.91	38.07	38.24	37.15	34.87	34.79	34.58
TiO ₂	0.13	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.01
AI_2O_3	20.69	21.32	21.81	21.36	21.04	21.15	22.07	22.30	22.45	20.69	21.01	21.36	20.58	20.86	20.87
Cr_2O_3	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01
FeO _{tot}	29.48	33.93	33.37	33.47	33.74	33.11	30.00	37.11	37.16	33.29	36.19	35.20	32.27	34.52	35.61
MnO	6.89	2.18	1.08	1.36	2.16	2.88	5.63	0.16	0.61	3.07	0.79	4.97	2.00	1.95	3.52
MgO	0.86	1.22	1.93	1.70	1.56	1.58	0.83	3.08	3.38	2.42	3.73	1.88	2.84	2.80	1.98
CaO	6.42	6.19	6.36	5.18	4.90	4.38	6.51	2.33	1.58	3.57	1.82	1.09	5.47	3.99	2.53
Na ₂ O	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
Total	99.90	101.75	101.56	99.71	99.91	99.25	102.75	102.41	102.17	101.22	101.96	101.68	98.32	98.98	99.13
0.										0.44				- 10	/
SI	5.59	5.76	5.76	5.85	5.83	5.80	5.87	5.79	5.69	6.11	6.02	5.92	5.52	5.46	5.54
Ti	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Al	3.86	3.93	4.00	4.03	3.97	4.01	4.06	4.07	4.08	3.91	3.90	4.01	3.84	3.86	3.87
Cr	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fe ³⁺	0.13	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.16	0.14	0.13
Fe ²⁺	3.78	4.38	4.34	4.48	4.49	4.45	3.92	4.81	4.79	4.39	4.74	4.69	4.13	4.41	4.62
Mn	0.93	0.29	0.14	0.18	0.29	0.39	0.74	0.02	0.08	0.42	0.10	0.67	0.27	0.26	0.47
Mg	0.20	0.29	0.45	0.40	0.37	0.38	0.19	0.71	0.78	0.58	0.88	0.45	0.67	0.66	0.47
Ca	1.09	1.04	1.06	0.89	0.84	0.75	1.09	0.39	0.26	0.61	0.30	0.19	0.93	0.67	0.43
Na	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01

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sample	D13-75	D13-75	D13-75	D13-06	D13-06	D13-06	D09-10	D09-10	D09-52	D09-52	D09-52	D13-28	D13-28	D13-28	D13-28	D13-28
mineral	PI	Kfs	Kfs													
position	in-Grt	m-c	m-r	in-Grt	m-c	m-r	m-c	m-r	in-Grt	m-c	m-r	in-Grt	m-c	m-r	in-Grt	m
SiO ₂	62.98	62.14	61.38	62.22	64.54	64.36	65.76	64.80	62.00	65.98	64.95	57.54	61.55	61.60	63.07	62.93
AI_2O_3	22.56	24.52	24.56	23.40	21.34	21.52	21.89	21.85	24.14	21.56	22.43	23.77	21.80	22.52	17.98	18.03
FeO _{tot}	1.02	0.26	0.45	0.22	0.08	0.11	0.18	0.12	0.17	0.03	0.11	0.15	0.09	0.08	0.03	0.02
MgO	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
BaO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.11
CaO	4.18	6.11	6.05	4.70	2.66	2.79	1.87	1.64	5.76	2.70	3.73	6.97	3.62	4.11	0.02	0.08
Na ₂ O	8.97	7.97	8.20	9.25	10.33	10.24	10.09	10.67	8.10	9.74	9.09	7.55	9.81	9.51	1.04	1.16
K ₂ O	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.09	0.12	0.50	0.20	0.11	15.63	15.68
Total	99.83	101.10	100.74	99.87	99.04	99.08	99.90	99.20	100.30	100.10	100.43	96.52	97.07	97.93	97.94	98.02
-																
Si	2.80	2.73	2.71	2.76	2.87	2.86	2.91	2.89	2.74	2.88	2.85	2.67	2.81	2.79	2.99	2.98
Al	1.18	1.27	1.28	1.22	1.12	1.13	1.11	1.13	1.26	1.14	1.16	1.30	1.17	1.20	1.00	1.01
Fe ²⁺	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ba	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	_	_	_	_	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Са	0.20	0.29	0.29	0.22	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.27	0.14	0.18	0.35	0.18	0.20	0.00	0.00
Na	0.77	0.68	0.70	0.80	0.89	0.88	0.81	0.86	0.70	0.81	0.77	0.68	0.87	0.84	0.10	0.11
K	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.94	0.95

Table 3

sample	D13-75	D13-75	D13-75	D13-75	D13-06	D13-06	D09-10	D09-10	D09-52	D09-52	D13-28	D13-28	D13-28
mineral	Bt	Bt	Chl	Chl	Bt								
position	in-Grt	m	m										
SiO ₂	36.21	36.19	25.13	24.80	33.93	35.09	36.24	37.92	36.99	36.10	35.20	33.96	33.68
TiO ₂	1.54	1.52	0.10	0.09	0.76	2.38	0.83	1.38	1.64	2.65	4.08	4.65	1.15
AI_2O_3	16.85	17.73	21.99	22.73	18.10	17.24	19.29	19.29	20.10	20.15	18.88	17.42	19.55
FeO _{tot}	21.17	19.67	28.02	27.98	23.45	23.06	0.01	19.03	18.25	21.79	15.58	22.34	22.27
MnO	0.11	0.10	0.52	0.15	0.14	0.10	21.92	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.02	0.19	0.09
MgO	10.30	10.15	13.03	13.29	7.93	7.63	8.93	10.66	10.17	7.63	10.32	6.91	7.57
BaO	0.10	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.17	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.12	0.13	0.03
CaO	0.11	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.03
Na₂O	0.13	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.09	0.21	0.30	0.28	0.26	0.26	0.09	0.09
K_2O	9.17	9.63	0.02	0.05	9.71	9.45	7.95	7.88	8.68	8.66	9.89	10.02	9.87
Total	95.69	95.23	88.94	89.11	94.22	95.21	95.40	96.46	96.31	97.40	94.40	95.71	94.33
Si	2.77	2.77	5.30	5.21	2.69	2.73	2.75	2.79	2.74	2.69	2.67	2.64	2.65
Ti	0.09	0.09	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.19	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.15	0.23	0.27	0.07
AI	1.52	1.60	5.47	5.63	1.69	1.58	1.73	1.70	1.76	1.77	1.69	1.60	1.81
Fe ²⁺	1.35	1.26	4.94	4.92	1.55	1.50	1.39	1.16	1.13	1.13	0.99	1.45	1.46
Mn	0.01	0.01	0.09	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Mg	1.18	1.16	4.10	4.16	0.94	0.89	1.01	1.14	1.12	1.12	1.17	0.80	0.89
Ba	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	_	_	_	_	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ca	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.01
K	0.90	0.94	0.01	0.01	0.98	0.95	0.77	0.76	0.82	0.82	0.96	1.00	0.99

Table 4

sample	D13-75	D13-75	D13-06	D13-06	D09-10	D09-10	D09-10	D09-10	D09-52	D09-52	D13-28	D13-28	D09-10	D09-10
mineral	Wm	Wm	Wm	Wm	Pg	Wm	St	St						
position	in-Grt	m	m	m	in-Grt	in-Grt	m	m	f	m	m	m	С	r
SiO ₂	46.68	47.13	47.78	46.26	31.93	47.13	49.10	48.30	48.70	48.17	46.17	44.74	28.56	28.58
TiO ₂	0.24	0.26	0.63	0.68	0.21	0.48	0.65	0.53	0.93	0.85	0.53	0.00	0.79	0.68
AI_2O_3	34.55	34.33	30.27	33.86	48.39	36.89	34.72	36.51	31.94	36.21	34.44	36.05	52.32	51.39
FeO _{tot}	1.79	1.51	2.28	2.05	1.39	0.95	1.20	1.02	1.79	1.24	2.28	0.77	13.84	13.60
ZnO	n.a.	0.32	0.27											
MnO	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.05
MgO	1.09	1.16	1.85	1.10	0.17	0.45	0.49	0.51	1.15	0.49	0.67	0.26	1.60	1.55
BaO	0.13	0.07	0.18	0.21	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	b.d.	b.d.	n.a.	n.a.
CaO	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	10.86	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.01
Na₂O	0.86	1.12	0.51	0.58	1.55	1.99	1.99	1.84	0.64	0.94	0.59	0.39	n.a.	n.a.
K ₂ O	10.23	9.63	10.65	10.51	0.02	7.07	7.09	7.49	8.77	9.03	10.91	11.21	0.01	0.00
Total	95.64	95.26	94.16	95.26	94.55	95.00	95.33	96.20	93.98	97.00	95.73	97.86	97.52	96.14
S i	3 10	2 1 2	3 24	3 10	2 14	3 08	3 20	2 1 2	3 25	2 11	3.00	3.04	7.05	8 07
Ti	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	2.14	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.042	0.03	0.04	0.17	0.07
	2 71	2.60	2 12	2.67	3.82	2.84	2.67	2 78	2.51	2 76	2 71	2.80	17 18	17 00
– 1	0.10	2.03	0.13	0.11	0.02	0.05	0.07	2.70	0.10	0.07	0.13	2.03	3 23	3 20
Fe ² Zn	0.10	0.00	0.15	0.11	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.10	0.07	0.15	0.04	0.07	0.05
Mn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.05
Ma	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02
Ba	0.11	0.12	0.19	0.11	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.11	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.07	0.04
Ca	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.78	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ina K	0.11	0.14	0.07	0.07	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.23	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
N	0.07	0.62	0.92	0.90	0.00	0.59	0.59	0.02	0.75	0.75	0.93	0.97	0.00	0.00



150x162mm (300 x 300 DPI)



150x152mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. S3

150x165mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. S4

150x189mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. S5

150x165mm (300 x 300 DPI)



150x134mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Fig. S7

150x85mm (300 x 300 DPI)



150x63mm (300 x 300 DPI)