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1 **Evidence of hydrothermal fluid flow in a hyperextended rifted margin: the case study of**
2 **the Err nappe (SE Switzerland)**

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9 **Abstract**

10 This paper investigates hydrothermal fluid circulation in pre- and syn-tectonic sediments
11 associated with detachments faults. The study area is located in the Err Nappe (SE-
12 Switzerland), which preserves a portion of the Adriatic distal margin. Two sites have been
13 studied in combining fieldwork, petrography, geochemistry and fluid inclusion analysis: the
14 Piz Val Lunga and Fuorcla Cotschna areas preserve the relationships between a spectacularly
15 exposed rift-related extensional detachment faults and their footwall and hanging wall that
16 consist of extensional allochthons and syn- to post-tectonic sediments. These areas register a
17 complex fluid flow history characterized by dolomitization, de-dolomitization, calcite
18 cementation, dolomite and quartz veining and diffuse silicification. Meso- and micro-scale
19 observations allow defining two steps in the evolution of fluids, which are related to Jurassic
20 rift activity. We show that a first carbonate-rich event occurred before the exhumation of the
21 granitic basement, and this was followed by a second event marked by a change in the fluid
22 towards a silica-dominated chemistry. Homogenization temperatures of fluid inclusions
23 (average $T_h = 120-130^\circ\text{C}$), negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values and a radiogenic $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ signatures of
24 carbonate minerals support the hypothesis that both the pre-tectonic rocks constituting the

25 allochthons and the syn-tectonic sediments overlying the detachment fault were crossed by a
26 flux of over-pressured hydrothermal fluids originating from seawater that penetrated into the
27 basement through fault and fracture systems. Field relationships show that this fluid
28 circulation started latest in middle Early Jurassic time, when fault activity migrated from the
29 proximal to the future distal margin. We propose that it evolved chemically as a result of the
30 involvement of the granitic basement forming the footwall of the extensional detachment
31 system. Hydrothermal activity continued until the Middle/Late Jurassic, when tectonic
32 activity shifted outwards leading to the exhumation of mantle rocks. This paper provides an
33 original contribution to better understand the complex evolution of hyperextended continental
34 rift domains and constrain their thermal regimes.

35 **1. Introduction**

36 The access to high resolution seismic data and deep drill hole data from hyperextended rifted
37 margins enabled the understanding of: i) the architecture of such yet little explored domains
38 (e.g. Iberia-Newfoundland, Péron-Pinvidic and Manatschal 2009; central segment of the
39 South Atlantic, Contrucci et al. 2004, Moulin et al. 2005, Aslanian et al. 2009; Northwest
40 Shelf off Australia, Karner and Driscoll 2000), and ii) to propose new models about their
41 tectono-stratigraphic evolution. These models show a poly-phase rift evolution that results in
42 a complex final margin architecture: a proximal domain with a 30 ± 5 km-thick crust separated
43 along necking zones from a thinned continental crust (<10 km) forming the hyperextended
44 domains. The latter are separated from oceanic crust by an exhumed mantle domain. The
45 thermal evolution of these distal domains is, however, very poorly constrained, although the
46 presence of hydrothermal systems seems to play a key role in determining the heat fluxes
47 (Cannat et al. 2009). A more detailed study of such systems is fundamental for reconstructing
48 the diagenetic and thermal evolution of the sedimentary successions overlying these
49 hyperextended margins. Since drill hole data are rare and in most cases proprietary, a valuable

50 source of data comes from fossil margins preserved in collisional orogens. The best-studied
51 examples are the Alpine Tethys margins preserved in the Alps. The study area described in
52 this paper is located in the Lower Austroalpine Err nappe (SE-Switzerland), which samples
53 remnants of the former most distal Adriatic rifted margin (Fig. 1). The Err nappe has been
54 widely studied by several authors (e.g. Froitzheim and Eberli 1991, Manatschal and
55 Nievergelt 1997, Manatschal 1999, Manatschal et al. 2000, Masini et al 2011, 2012, Mohn et
56 al. 2010). Its overall geological setting is very well constrained and the geometrical
57 relationships related to the evolution of the margin are well exposed. This study shows that
58 the Err nappe records a complex and long history of dolomitization, calcification and
59 silicification that is related to Jurassic rifting. Crosscutting relationships indicate that these
60 products refer to different steps of rifting, from the very early rifting to its final stages. The
61 main aim of this paper is the characterization of the syn-extensional hydrothermal systems
62 linked to rift-related extensional detachment faults and the overlying pre- to post-rift
63 sediments that are, respectively, Upper Triassic (Norian-Rhaetian) dolomites and Lower to
64 Upper Jurassic sediments. Within this context, the goal is to describe and analyse different
65 types of hydrothermal products such as cements, veins and replacement minerals that could
66 testify fluid-rock interactions, the evolution of fluid composition through time, and the main
67 pathways of these fluids.

68 **2. Geological setting**

69 The study area (Fig. 1) is located in SE Switzerland close to St. Moritz. It belongs to the
70 Austroalpine nappe stack that overlies the Upper Penninic units formed by ophiolites. Former
71 studies (e.g. Mohn et al. 2010) showed that these Alpine units preserve one of the most
72 outstanding sections across a fossil magma-poor rifted margin. In particular in the Bernina
73 and Err nappes remnants of the former Adriatic distal margin are spectacularly exposed. The
74 most characteristic rift features of the distal margin are: the crustal thickness (reduced to less

75 than 10 km) and the occurrence of extensional detachment faults that separate exhumed
76 crustal rocks in the footwall from extensional allochthons made of basement and pre-rift
77 sediments in the hangingwall. Syn- to post-rift sediments onlap the detachment faults with an
78 angle of less than 20-30°, which implies that these faults were exhumed at a low angle at the
79 seafloor.

80 **3. The Adriatic distal margin: the Err detachment system**

81 The footwall is constituted of Paleozoic poly-metamorphic schists and gneisses intruded by
82 the calcalkaline Albula granite (Cornelius 1932, Staub 1948, Von Quadt et al. 1994; Fig. 1).
83 Since these rocks preserve primary stratigraphic contacts with Permo-Triassic sediments and
84 volcanic rocks, they were part of the pre-rift upper crust before onset of rifting in Jurassic
85 time. The Err detachment fault system corresponds to well-characterized brittle fault zones
86 formed by tens of meter-thick damage zones constituted of characteristic green cataclasites
87 and a core zone made of black fault gouges (Froitzheim and Manatschal, 1996; Manatschal et
88 al. 1999). Where the detachment was exhumed at the seafloor it was partially eroded and
89 overlain by syn- to post-rift sediments assessing a Jurassic age for this structure (Manatschal
90 and Nievergelt, 1997). The hanging wall of the detachment system consists mainly of a poly-
91 metamorphic basement in primary contacts with volcano-sedimentary sequences. Ladinian to
92 Norian platform carbonates, Rhaetian limestones and shales, and the siliceous limestones of
93 the Agnelli Fm., which are attributed to the Early Jurassic (Hettangian?-early Pliensbachian
94 based on ammonites; Dommergues et al. 2012) constitute the younger part of the pre-rift
95 sediments. The Triassic succession, up to 500 m thick, is dismembered and never preserves
96 the original thickness. As shown in Mohn et al. (2010) this is due to the onset of the major
97 activity along the detachment faults giving rise to the so called “extensional allochthons”
98 (Froitzheim & Manatschal 1996; Fig. 1c). The syn-rift sediments consist of complex
99 gravitational to hemipelagic sedimentary deposits that occur either unconformably over the

100 extensional allochthons or directly over tectonically exhumed basement (Handy et al. 1993,
101 Handy 1996, Manatschal and Nievergelt 1997). Finger (1978) subdivided the syn-rift
102 sediments into two formations, the Bardella and Saluver Fms based on composition: the
103 Bardella Fm. is made of reworked Triassic to Lower Jurassic carbonates (pre-rift rocks older
104 than 185 Ma) whereas the Saluver Fm., subdivided by Masini et al. (2011) in a basal (A),
105 intermediate (B) and upper (C) facies, includes mainly basement-derived material. Masini et
106 al. (2011) defined two major time lines in the evolution of these hyperextended rift systems:
107 1) the top of the Agnelli Formation (TAF) that is dated with ammonites to the early
108 Pliensbachian (about 185 Ma; Dommergues et al. 2012) and corresponds to the last pre-
109 detachment sediments; and 2) the Radiolarian Cherts (RC) (Bathonian/Callovian, about 165
110 Ma; Bill et al., 2001) that correspond to the first post-rift sediments. The definition of these
111 two time lines enabled the authors to define the sedimentary sequences that were deposited
112 from the onset of detachment faulting until the emplacement of first magmatic additions over
113 exhumed mantle in the Platta oceanic domain.

114 **4. Materials and methods**

115 Detailed sampling has been performed in two different areas in the Err nappe: at Piz Val
116 Lunga and at Fuorcla Cotschna (Fig. 1a). Petrographic studies on more than 120 uncovered
117 thin sections (30 μm thick) were carried out by optical microscopy and cathodoluminescence
118 (CL). CL observations were performed on polished thin sections using a CITL 8200 mk3
119 equipment (operating conditions of about 17 kV and 400 μA). In situ quantitative microprobe
120 analyses were performed on carbon-coated thin sections with an energy dispersive x-ray
121 spectroscopy (EDS) Energy 200 system and a Pentafet detector (Oxford Instruments)
122 associated with a Cambridge Stereoscan S-360 scanning electron microscope (SEM). The
123 operating conditions were 15 kV of accelerating voltage, 1 nA of probe current and 50
124 seconds counting time. Carbon and oxygen isotopic compositions of the carbonates were

125 measured at the Stable Isotope Laboratory of the ETH Geological Institute, ETH Zurich,
126 Switzerland using a Thermo Fisher Scientific GasBench II coupled to a Delta V mass
127 spectrometer as described in detail in Breitenbach and Bernasconi (2011). The oxygen isotope
128 composition of dolomite was calculated using the fractionation factor of Rosenbaum and
129 Sheppard (1986). The isotopic ratios for carbon and oxygen are expressed as $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
130 per mil values relative to the VPDB (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite) standard (precision \pm
131 0.05%). The analyses have been performed on micro-drilled powder of an as pure as possible
132 single mineral phases. Fluid inclusions petrography has been studied at the University of
133 Turin on bi-polished thin sections (100 μm). Micro-thermometry of primary fluid inclusions
134 assemblages on dolomite, calcite and quartz was performed using a Linkam THMSG600
135 heating-freezing stage coupled with an Olympus polarizing microscope (100X objective),
136 using the standard method described by Goldstein and Reynolds (1994). Sr isotope
137 compositions were measured with a Finnigan MAT 262V multi-collector mass spectrometer
138 at the CNR Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse in Pisa (Italy), running in dynamic mode.
139 Conventional ion exchange methods were used for Sr separation from the matrix. Measured
140 $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios were normalized to $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$. During the collection of isotopic data
141 replicate measurements of NIST SRM 987 (SrCO_3) standard yielded values of 0.710242 ± 17
142 (2s, N=19).

143 **5. Stratigraphy and petrography**

144 **5.1. Piz Val Lunga**

145 The Piz Val Lunga section belongs to the Upper Err unit (Fig. 1c). Its western ridge exposes
146 one of the best-preserved sections across a Jurassic extensional detachment (Fig. 2a). The
147 footwall, now the summit of Piz Val Lunga, consists of Albula granite. The top of the
148 basement is made of green cataclasites and black gouges (the latter containing mm- to dm-

149 size clasts of granitic basement, green cataclasites, and Triassic dolostone), which represent
150 the fault rocks of the Jurassic detachment fault. Stratigraphically above the detachment, the
151 former hanging wall is constituted by an extensional allochthon made of Triassic dolomites
152 (Figs. 2a-d) that are overlain by syn-rift sediments belonging to the Bardella Fm. (Figs. 2a, g).
153 The prevailing litho-type of the allochthon is represented by grey dolostones characterized by
154 an alternation of homogeneous, finely crystalline and thinly laminated beds showing
155 shrinkage pores filled with dolomite and calcite cement. These distinctive features allow for
156 assigning these rocks to the Upper Triassic peritidal dolomites of the Hauptdolomit
157 Formation. Locally the allochthon is overlain by clast-supported breccias with angular to sub-
158 rounded clasts of cm- to m-size. Clasts include: mudstones, grainstones with ooids whose
159 cortices are partially dissolved and replaced by calcite spar; wackestones to packstones with
160 peloids and benthic foraminifers (*Glomospira*, *Triasina*); wackestones with sponge spicules
161 replaced by calcite spar (Fig. 3a); coarse crinoidal grainstones; packstones with peloids,
162 crinoid and bivalve shell fragments, and sparse benthic foraminifers (*Involutina*). Clasts of
163 cherts containing crinoids, ghosts of silicified peloids and patches of quartz and chalcedony,
164 which represent void-filling silica cements, also occur. The matrix of the breccias consists of
165 a packstone with peloids and bioclasts and sand-sized lithoclasts with the same composition
166 and texture of the coarser clasts, and shows compactional features. The texture, composition
167 and presence of biostratigraphically significant foraminifera allows for assigning these clasts
168 to the Upper Triassic Kössen and part to the Lower Jurassic Agnelli Formations (Finger,
169 1978; Furrer, 1981). These breccias, by their composition and stratigraphic position, can be
170 compared to the syn-rift Bardella Formation of Finger (1978) and Masini et al. (2011, 2012).
171 Actually, the Hauptdolomit Formation appears almost completely brecciated with a variable
172 degree of disruption of the rock and style of brecciation (Fig. 2). At one end, the rock is only
173 crossed by a network of veins with minor displacement of fragments. These crackle breccias

174 (Fig. 2c; Morrow, 1982) transitionally pass to a breccia where clasts are significantly
175 displaced but the fragments still fit one to another (mosaic breccias, Fig. 2b). Bedding and/or
176 lamination is still recognizable although slightly offset. These rocks are locally crossed at a
177 high angle by irregular bodies of polymict rubble breccias (Figs. 2d, 3b; Morrow, 1982). In
178 addition to the fenestral laminated finely crystalline dolomites, coarsely crystalline lithotypes
179 also occur as clasts. All these breccias are matrix-free, clast-supported, and the voids among
180 clasts are filled with a coarse, equant calcite spar that in cathodoluminescence (CL) is
181 characterized by a clear oscillatory zoning (Fig. 3c). Moreover, CL and SEM-BSE images
182 show that the coarsely crystalline litho-types in the breccia mainly consist of sparry calcite,
183 with a moderate to bright yellow luminescence that selectively replaces discrete concentric
184 zones within non luminescent dolomite crystals (Figs. 3d-f). The entire rock body is crosscut
185 by a system of calcite-filled veins mainly perpendicular to the bedding. Another type of
186 breccia occurs close to the detachment fault. It is a clast-supported, monomict, poorly sorted
187 breccia with sub-angular to sub-rounded clasts which do not exceed 5-10 cm and a yellowish
188 to reddish matrix. Clasts are composed of dolostones with variable crystal size (Fig. 2e). CL
189 allows distinguishing clasts with very dull luminescence from the brightly luminescing finely
190 crystalline calcite matrix, and thus, to observe that clasts may be as small as a few tens of
191 microns (Figs. 3g, h). The breccias are crosscut by mm-wide fissures with complex fills that
192 include fine-grained sediment, locally laminated, and quartz (Figs. 2e, 3i, l). The latter forms
193 a thin rim of crystals on the edges of the fissure subsequently filled with sediment, and plugs
194 the remaining voids with larger crystals. In larger veins, sediment and quartz cement rims
195 alternate, with sediment geopetally lying on quartz crystal terminations (Figs. 3m, n). Locally
196 all these breccias show irregular, dm-sized portions where the brecciated structure is almost
197 completely obliterated and the rock is fully calcitic (Fig. 2f). The latter, lastly, is affected by a
198 patchy silicification, which gives rise to irregular, dm-large portions where the carbonate rock

199 is replaced by a mosaic of fine-grained quartz. In some instances, the breccias are affected by
200 a selective replacement of dolomite by calcite as described above, although to a lesser extent.
201 Silicification also affects the breccias of the Bardella Fm. The degree of silicification is
202 variable over short distances, from nearly complete, to restricted to the matrix among clasts
203 (Fig. 2g), or to mm- to cm-wide, irregular bands consisting of fine-grained quartz crystals or
204 chalcedony.

205 5.2. Fuorcla Cotschna

206 The area of Fuorcla Cotschna, belonging to the Middle Err unit (Fig. 1c), preserves a quite
207 complete section through a supra-detachment sedimentary basin (*sensu* Masini et al. 2011,
208 2012) filled with syn- to early post-rift sediments (Figs. 4a, b). Similar to the Piz Val Lunga
209 area, a Jurassic detachment fault separates the granitic footwall, constituted by the Albula
210 granite and poly-metamorphic basement rocks, from the hanging wall represented by a pre-
211 rift extensional allochthon (Piz Bardella allochthon of Masini et al., 2011) and syn-rift
212 sediments onlapping the detachment with a very gentle angle (Figs. 4a, b). Since it has not
213 been possible to observe a continuous stratigraphic section of the hanging wall, two key
214 sections have been considered to best reconstruct the architecture of the Fuorcla Cotschna
215 area. In the first one (transect A in Fig. 4a), grey carbonate rocks occur, which texturally
216 range from sucrosic, massive dolostones with crystals some 100's μm in size to laminated
217 finely crystalline dolostones showing shrinkage pores filled with up to 1 mm-large dolomite
218 crystals cement. The rock shows a dull to moderate reddish orange CL whereas the cement
219 appears concentrically zoned with alternations of thin bright to dull reddish orange zones
220 (Figs. 5a, b). The laminated dolostones are locally alternated with marly layers rich in bivalve
221 shells. These carbonate rocks, by their lithofacies, can be referred to the upper part of the
222 Upper Triassic peritidal Hauptdolomit Formation close to the boundary with the Rhaetian
223 Kössen Formation. They are crossed by a complex network of 100's micrometers- to few

224 millimeter-thick, randomly oriented fractures mainly filled with saddle dolomite (Figs.4c, 5c,
225 d) whose crystals reach 2-3 mm in size and are generally very dull in CL. On weathered
226 outcrop surfaces, these veins are clearly identifiable because of a yellow to orange color.
227 Locally, up to 1 cm-thick veins occur with a more complex filling made of quartz and
228 euhedral to subhedral albite crystals some 100's micrometres large associated with dolomite.
229 Quartz crystals poikilotopically include carbonate grains, from minute particles less than 10
230 μm large to euhedral dolomite crystals 100's micrometres large. Stratigraphically above the
231 pre-rift sequence, even if the contact is not clearly shown, a sedimentary clast-supported
232 breccia made up of carbonate clasts occurs. The clasts, mostly rounded and ranging from few
233 centimeters to some decimeters in size, consist of Triassic carbonates belonging to the pre-rift
234 sequence and are commonly crossed by the same kind of veins described above, which stop at
235 the edge of the clasts. The entire rock mass is characterized by several sets of veins, up to
236 some millimeters large, cemented by coarsely crystalline saddle dolomite, quartz and calcite.
237 Since no basement-related clasts have been observed, this sedimentary body can be assigned
238 to the syn-rift Bardella Formation (Masini et al 2011, 2012, Finger 1978; Fig. 4d). Higher up
239 a different coarse-grained sedimentary sequence occurs. It consists of clast- to matrix-
240 supported conglomerates with angular to rounded clasts. Carbonate clasts prevail but granitic
241 basement-derived ones are also common. The matrix consists of a medium to very coarse
242 sandstone rich in quartz and feldspar grains. Due to the presence of footwall-related material
243 and its stratigraphic position, this sequence has been interpreted as Saluver A Formation
244 (Masini et al. 2011, 2012, Finger 1978; Fig. 4e). As in the Bardella Formation, carbonate
245 clasts are commonly crossed by veins, which stop at the edge of the clasts (Fig. 5e). In some
246 instances, these veins show a first isopachous rim of dolomite cement, 200 μm thick, with a
247 dull brown luminescence, followed by fibrous quartz, which documents a syn-kinematic
248 growth (Figs. 5f, g). Millimeter-thick veins cemented by quartz and subordinated saddle

249 dolomite crosscut the whole conglomerate (Fig. 5h). Microprobe analyses of the dolostones
250 occurring in the allochthon and in the clasts within Bardella and Saluver Fms. show that on
251 the whole the replacement dolomite and the pore-filling dolomite cement are very poor in, or
252 completely free of, Fe whereas vein dolomite contains up to 2.0 mole % FeCO_3 .

253 The Fuorcla Cotschna area clearly shows the relationships between the granitic footwall, the
254 detachment fault and the overlying basin-filling sediments (transect B in Fig. 4a). The
255 footwall displays the same features already described in the Piz Val Lunga area. The
256 detachment surface is overlain by a stratigraphic succession that starts with medium to coarse
257 sandstone beds made up of basement-derived quartz and feldspar grains alternated with cm-
258 thick pelitic beds. This decimeter-thick interval passes upward into a plurimetric, clast-
259 supported and roughly graded sedimentary breccia. In its basal part, the cm- to dm-sized
260 clasts are almost completely constituted by allochthon-derived carbonate rocks whilst the
261 matrix is composed of a medium to coarse-grained quartz and feldspar sandstone. Both the
262 basal sandstone and the overlying breccias show mm-thick sub-vertical injections of black
263 fine-grained material, which is derived from the gouge that caps the exhumed granite.
264 Moreover, the breccias are crosscut by a dense network of mm thick and some meters long
265 veins filled with quartz and saddle dolomite. The presence of basement-derived material
266 constituting the matrix of the breccia allows for ascribing this body to the Saluver A
267 Formation (Masini et al 2011, 2012, Finger 1978). Clasts are crosscut by dolomite- and
268 quartz-filled veins that stop at the edge of clasts, showing the same features already described
269 from Piz Val Lunga. Worth mentioning in the Saluver A unit is the presence of several meter-
270 large blocks of Triassic dolostones in which cm- to dm-large grossly tabular bodies of crackle
271 to mosaic breccias occur with a cement of coarse dull luminescent saddle dolomite, yellowish
272 on outcrop.

273 Up-section the sedimentary succession defines a thinning and fining upward trend.
274 Conglomerates and breccias are progressively replaced by thin- to medium-bedded reddish
275 turbidites, composed of siliciclastic sandstones and pelitic interbeds referred to the Saluver B
276 and C units (Masini et al. 2011, 2012; Finger 1978). In the uppermost part of this succession,
277 ghosts of radiolaria have been identified within reddish siliceous mudrocks and grey cherts,
278 interbedded with sandstone beds, which should mark the onset of Radiolarian Chert
279 deposition (Masini et al. 2011, 2012; Finger 1978). Nonetheless, much coarser deposits
280 locally occur as scattered, several decimeter-sized blocks of carbonate breccias of the Bardella
281 Formation (Fig. 4f) or thick to very thick-bedded conglomerates or breccias composed of
282 variable amounts of basement-derived or hanging wall derived carbonate clasts. One of these
283 beds, a few meters above the first grey radiolarian cherts, is notable for the marked lenticular
284 geometry and for the brownish color of most carbonate clasts (Fig. 4g). Microprobe analyses
285 show that this color is due to variable degrees of Fe and Mn oxide staining. The whole
286 Saluver Formation is crossed by veins filled with quartz and subordinate saddle dolomite and
287 is affected by a localized but intense silicification. Such silification has been identified in 1)
288 the blocks of Triassic dolostones, where irregular dm-sized patches made of round-shaped
289 clusters of quartz crystals up to 1 mm large occur; 2) the lenticular brownish breccia beds
290 where the space among clasts is black, markedly weathers out, and consists of very fine-
291 grained quartz (Figs. 4g, 5i, l) in which dolomite rhombs, some 100's μm long, are scattered;
292 3) the lowermost, grey, radiolarian chert beds, where a large "nodule" of chert, over 2 m-long
293 and about 1 m thick occurs (Fig. 4h); it is whitish at the outer edge and reddish in its inner
294 part where it shows a crackle to mosaic breccia structure with white quartz veins up to over 1
295 cm large. The reddish chert consists of very fine-grained quartz whereas the veins are filled
296 with isopachous, botryoidal chalcedony, which rims the vein walls, and a mosaic of quartz
297 crystals (up to over 1 mm large) in the inner parts of the veins (Figs. 5m, n). Interestingly,

298 dm-sized clasts, showing the same features, are found in the lower, coarse, part of the thick
299 turbiditic beds locally present in the Saluver C unit. Concentric, septarian-like fractures also
300 occur in these clasts.

301 **6. Isotope geochemistry and fluid inclusion data**

302 6.1. O and C isotope data

303 O and C isotope analyses have been performed on calcite and dolomite in both the Fuorcla
304 Cotschna and Piz Val Lunga sections. Analyzed dolomite includes Upper Triassic samples of
305 fine grained and sucrosic dolostones of the Hauptdolomit and Kössen Fms. and dolomite
306 veins occurring within them, as well as clasts of these formations in breccias and in the
307 Bardella Fm.. The calcite samples correspond to sparry cement of mosaic breccias developed
308 in the Hauptdolomit, to veins crosscutting the whole sedimentary succession and to the
309 replacement of former dolomite. The results are shown in Fig. 6. All the data are
310 characterized by slightly negative to positive $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values (-0.23‰ VPDB to 3.07‰ VPDB)
311 and slightly to strongly negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values (-1.01‰ VPDB to -12.05‰ VPDB).

312 6.2. Sr isotopes

313 Two samples of replacement dolomite and one of a dolomite vein in the Hauptdolomit Fm.
314 and one of calcite cement of breccias were analyzed. All these samples show $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ values
315 comprised between 0.708723 ± 0.000011 (Fuorcla Cotschna dolostone) and
316 0.709155 ± 0.000007 (Piz Val Lunga, calcite cement of breccia), which are markedly higher
317 than expected for Triassic and Jurassic seawater (maximum values for Upper Triassic and
318 Lower Jurassic 0.708000, McArthur et al., 2012; Fig. 7).

319 6.3. Fluid inclusion results

320 More than 80 fluid inclusions from 12 doubly polished sections have been measured to
321 determine their homogenization temperatures. Useful primary fluid inclusions of (i.e. more
322 than 2 μm in diameter; Goldstein and Reynolds, 1994) were found in the replacement
323 dolomite and dolomite cement of fenestral pores in the Hauptdolomit Fm., which have been
324 gathered because of their genetic relationships and represent set 1, in the calcite cement of
325 breccias representing set 2, and in the calcite due to de-dolomitization corresponding to set 3.
326 They are two-phase inclusions, liquid-rich with a vapor bubble, and vary in size from 2 to 10
327 μm . The very small size of inclusions hindered low-temperature runs aimed at determining
328 the fluid composition. As shown in Fig. 8, set 1 homogenization temperatures range from
329 88°C to 152°C with the highest frequency between 120°C and 130°C. The calcite cement (set
330 2) shows values from 77°C to 203°C with the highest frequency between 130°C and 140°C
331 whereas de-dolomite calcite (set 3) ranges from 96°C to 114°C.

332 **7. Discussion**

333 The aim of this study was to reconstruct composition and flow paths of fluids related to the
334 formation of the Adriatic distal margin. We focused our investigation on the post-depositional
335 modifications of the sedimentary rocks forming the allochthons and the syn-tectonic
336 succession overlying the Err detachment system.

337 7.1. Dolomite

338 Two styles of dolomitization were distinguished: the first gave rise to finely crystalline
339 dolostones with preservation of primary depositional textures; the second led to the formation
340 of coarse crystalline sucrosic dolostones and zoned cements of fenestral pores (Figs. 5a, b).
341 The preservation of CL zoning in the pore-filling dolomite cement clearly demonstrates that
342 no subsequent recrystallization took place. The non-destructive fine-grained dolomite likely
343 formed very early after deposition in a peritidal environment (Tucker & Wright, 1990 and

344 references therein). Conversely, the fabric-destructive coarse-grained replacement dolomite
345 and the pore-filling cements are interpreted to have formed much later as the result of
346 hydrothermal fluid flow. This is clearly documented by fluid inclusion micro-thermometry, O
347 and Sr isotopes (see below).

348 7.2. De-dolomitization

349 De-dolomitization has been observed only at Piz Val Lunga within the Hauptdolomit Fm. Its
350 occurrence is twofold: 1) at the base of the allochthon close to the detachment fault (Fig. 2f) it
351 forms localized dm-sized patches and selective replacement of coarse dolomite crystals in the
352 cataclasites (Figs. 3g, h); 2) in the overlying rubble breccias partly de-dolomitized clasts
353 occur (Figs. 3d, e, f). Here, the presence of de-dolomitized clasts side by side with dolomitic
354 ones shows that de-dolomitization is not related to telogenetic processes associated with
355 recent exposure at the surface but occurred before the formation of the breccias. This
356 observation implies a change in the physico-chemical parameters of fluids compared to those
357 responsible for the dolomitization described above.

358 7.3. Breccias

359 Leaving aside sedimentary breccias of the Bardella and Saluver Fms., other breccias are
360 common at Piz Val Lunga in the Upper Triassic dolostone of the allochthon where they
361 document different genetic processes. The dilational character of monogenic crackle and
362 mosaic breccias (Figs. 2b, c), which are matrix-free and whose clasts mostly fit to each other,
363 suggests mechanisms of in situ hydro-fracturing. Polygenic, matrix-free rubble breccias (Figs.
364 2d, 3b), containing clasts from different beds of the original stratigraphic succession are
365 interpreted as due to hydro-fracturing associated with some degree of vertical displacement of
366 the clasts. A third type of carbonate breccia (Figs. 2e, 3g, h) characterized by the presence of a
367 fine grained-matrix, very poor sorting, and somewhat rounded clasts, is interpreted to be

368 related to cataclastic processes affecting the lower part of the allochthon just above the
369 detachment fault. The absence of cataclasites and breccias formed by hydrofracturing at
370 Fuorcla Cotschna is probably related to the much smaller thickness of the Piz Val Lunga
371 allochthon compared to the allochthon situated west of Fuorcla Cotschna. At Piz Val Lunga
372 the pre-tectonic Triassic succession, comprised between the black gouge and the base of the
373 Bardella Formation, is no more than a few tens of meters thick. The burial depth of the
374 Triassic dolomites at Piz Val Lunga was thus very small and overpressured fluids flowing
375 upwards along the detachment fault could easily overcome the internal strength of the
376 overlying rocks inducing hydrofracturing. At Fuorcla Cotschna, conversely, the base of the
377 allochthon is not exposed and consequently the cataclasites that presumably developed at the
378 boundary with the footwall of the detachment cannot be observed. Furthermore, the hundreds
379 of meters thick Triassic succession possibly hindered the formation of hydraulic breccias.

380 7.4. Calcite cement

381 Calcite cement mainly occurs at Piz Val Lunga associated with crackle, mosaic and rubble
382 breccias, the latter including de-dolomitized clasts. The petrographic and CL features, coarse
383 equant calcite spar with a distinct zoning, document a process of cement filling an open
384 framework in static conditions (Figs. 3b, c). Given the relatively low abundance of calcite in
385 the studied rocks, the comparable CL features and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in calcite cements and de-
386 dolomite (Fig. 6), we suggest that de-dolomitization and infilling of open pores in breccias are
387 related to the same event of circulation of fluids supersaturated in calcite.

388 7.5. Veins

389 Veins are widespread and abundant throughout the Triassic-Jurassic sedimentary succession.
390 Crosscutting relationships evidence that veining arises as a complex process which can be
391 subdivided in two main stages, each one being polyphasic. The veins within clasts of the

392 Bardella and Saluver Fms. (Figs. 5e, f, g) document that a first stage of veining took place
393 before reworking of the host rocks i.e. between the top of the Agnelli Formation (TAF) and
394 the base of the Bardella Fm. (BBF), which most probably corresponds to a significant hiatus
395 in sedimentation. Conversely, veins crosscutting the studied succession (Fig. 5h) show that
396 subsequent stages of fracturing were recorded by breccias and conglomerates of the Bardella
397 and Saluver Fms., respectively. The style of vein filling, mostly consisting of mosaics of non-
398 oriented crystals, reflects a prevailing process of passive infill of open fractures in static
399 conditions. Although much less frequent, syn-kinematic fibrous crystals, perpendicular to
400 fracture walls, also do occur (Figs. 5f, g). Lastly, but importantly, the different mineralogy of
401 the vein-filling phases (dolomite, calcite, quartz, albite) documents significant changes in
402 fluid composition and consequently circulation paths. In fact, a trend through time has been
403 detected from pre-BBF veins dominated by saddle dolomite to post-BBF veins, which are
404 dominantly filled with quartz. This clearly points to an increasingly stronger interaction of
405 fluids with basement rocks in which breakdown of feldspars delivered large amounts of silica
406 to the fluids. Calcite-filled veins that crosscut all the stratigraphic succession and cannot be
407 constrained chronologically could be related to Alpine orogenesis and were not studied in
408 detail.

409 7.6. Silicification

410 The products of early diagenetic silicification are widespread in both sites and at different
411 stratigraphic levels. Four types of cherts can be observed: 1) clasts of echinoderm-and sponge
412 spicule-bearing grey cherts within the Bardella Fm. at Piz Val Lunga; 2) clasts of reddish
413 cherts within the Saluver C Fm. at Fuorcla Cotschna commonly characterized by a brecciated,
414 locally septarian-like, structure; 3) very large red chert nodules in the lower part of the
415 Radiolarian Chert Fm. at Fuorcla Cotschna (Fig. 4h); and 4) silicified matrix of calciruditic

416 beds in the Bardella Fm. at Piz Val Lunga and in the Radiolarian Chert Fm. at Fuorcla
417 Cotschna (Figs. 5i, l).

418 Type 1 cherts are easily referred to the Agnelli Fm. and result from early diagenesis of a
419 sponge spicule opal A-rich succession taking place before its erosion and reworking as clasts.

420 The reddish color of type 2 cherts conversely excludes provenance from the Agnelli Fm. and
421 suggests a provenance from silicified clay-rich portions of the red turbidites of the Saluver C.

422 The early, syn-depositional origin of type 2 and 3 cherts is documented by the reworking of
423 type 2 cherts as clasts and by the transitional boundary of type 3 cherts with the encasing

424 sediments, which indicate pre-compaction growth. The provenance of red cherts from the
425 turbiditic Saluver C Fm., the relative scarcity of radiolarian-rich beds even in the Radiolarian

426 Chert Fm. and the anomalous features of chert nodules (large size, dilational character, locally
427 septarian-like, of brecciation with quartz-filled fractures; Figs. 5m, n) show that biogenic opal

428 could not be the source for such silicifications, which must have been extra-formational.
429 Massive removal of silica from the quartzo-feldspatic footwall of the detachment seems the

430 obvious and most likely source for silicification. It cannot be excluded that a contribution of
431 silica came from serpentinization of mantle peridotites, which in the Middle Jurassic, along

432 with exhumation, were increasingly affected by interaction with sea water (Pinto et al. 2015).
433 Moreover, the brecciated textures document processes of hydraulic fracturing developed in

434 these cherts, which were forming at very shallow burial depths, in a similar way to what
435 happened in the brecciated Triassic dolostones at Piz Val Lunga. In this scenario, quartz veins

436 (post-BBF; see 7.5) crossing subvertically the underlying succession could therefore represent
437 the feeding system of SiO₂-rich fluids flowing upward towards the sea floor. Here, the

438 interaction with shallow buried, fine grained, highly porous sediments could give rise to chert
439 nodules (chert type 3), which in turn could be exposed by erosion and re-sedimented as clasts,

440 or to silicification of breccia matrixes (chert type 4).

441 7.7. Fe-Mn oxide coating

442 Different degrees of mineralization, from staining of the clast edges to intense replacement of
443 the whole clast, point to a Fe-Mn oxide precipitation before deposition of the calciruditic
444 deposits occurring close to the Saluver C-Radiolarian cherts boundary at Fuorcla Cotschna
445 (Fig. 4g). This mineralization likely took place during a period of non-deposition and
446 exposure of sediments at the seafloor. How far Fe and Mn were related to the exhumation of
447 the mantle in more distal parts of the margin (OCT) (Pinto et al. 2015) should be supported by
448 more detailed geochemical analyses which are in progress.

449 7.8. Fluid characteristics and flow paths

450 While post-depositional processes such as dolomitization, veining, and silicification are
451 observed at both sites, others are exclusive of only one section (cataclastic and hydro-
452 fracturing breccias, calcite cementation, de-dolomitization only at Piz Val Lunga, Fe-Mn
453 oxide coating only at Fuorcla Cotschna). Everywhere, however, the role of fluids appears to
454 have been of primary importance in determining the final aspects of the rocks we presently
455 observe. Isotope geochemistry and fluid inclusion micro-thermometry enable to constrain
456 some characteristics of these fluids and their circulation patterns.

457 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of all the analyzed samples fall in the range of 0 to +3 ‰ VPDB, which is
458 characteristic of normal marine sedimentary carbonates and show no significant contribution
459 of organic matter decomposition. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values are all negative but show a quite widespread
460 distribution from -1 to -12 ‰ VPDB. Nonetheless, two main groups may be distinguished
461 (Fig. 6). The first, with less ^{18}O -depleted values mostly falling between -2 and -4‰ VPDB,
462 corresponds to Upper Triassic replacement dolomites and dolomite cements. The second
463 group of values, basically comprised between -6 and -10‰ VPDB, includes all the other

464 samples (dolomite and calcite veins, calcite cements and de-dolomite), which largely overlap
465 each other.

466 Samples of the first group (both finely and coarsely crystalline dolomites) show the least ^{18}O -
467 depleted values of the whole dataset which, however, are lower than those reported in present
468 day settings where dolomite is forming and ranges from 0 to + 4 ‰ VPDB (Tucker and
469 Wright, 1990). The study of fluid inclusions indeed provides temperature constraints to these
470 dolomites, with formation temperatures averaging 120-130°C (Fig. 8). These dolomites
471 already occur as clasts in the Bardella Fm. and thus they could not have been buried more
472 than the cumulative thickness of the Kössen and Agnelli Formations, which does not exceed a
473 few 100's meters. Burial temperatures reached by Upper Triassic dolostones before middle
474 Early Jurassic were thus certainly significantly lower than those documented by fluid
475 inclusion micro-thermometry and a dolomitization event related to the upward advection of
476 hydrothermal fluids is thus supported.

477 All the samples of the second group (dolomite and calcite veins, calcite cements and de-
478 dolomite) plot in an area of more ^{18}O -depleted values but the variability internal to each
479 analyzed subgroup of samples (veins, cement etc.) is so large that it is impossible to separate
480 it from the others on the basis of O or C isotope values alone.

481 Calculations of the isotope composition of fluids responsible for dolomite and calcite
482 precipitation, made by applying the equation of Horita (2014) and Anderson and Arthur
483 (1983), for dolomite and calcite, respectively, provide O isotope values for fluids from
484 slightly to markedly positive (+2 to about +12 ‰ SMOW). Such positive signature may be
485 related to different processes such as evaporative enrichment (e.g. McKenzie, 1981), clay
486 mineral diagenesis (Dählmann and de Lange, 2003; Hensen et al., 2007), and to the
487 interaction with silicate minerals of siliciclastic and crystalline rocks (Clayton *et al.*, 1966;

488 Land and Prezbindowski, 1981; Hitchon *et al.*, 1990; Haeri-Ardakani *et al.*, 2013). In the
489 context of a distal continental margin the only reasonable source of fluids feeding the
490 complex fracture-controlled circulation system was seawater. In particular, the stratigraphy of
491 the studied sections, where deep-water sediments overlie basement rocks, leads to exclude the
492 first two hypotheses. The highly radiogenic Sr isotope values of dolomite and calcite cements
493 (Fig. 7), conversely, demonstrate a fundamental contribution by feldspars and thus support a
494 circulation of fluids within the quartzo-feldspatic footwall of the extensional detachment
495 system.

496 The quite wide range of variability of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values is suggested to depend on the
497 characteristics of the flow paths: depth of circulation affects temperature whereas residence
498 time of fluids in the basement rocks govern the degree of fluid-rock interaction and hence the
499 enrichment in ^{18}O . Moreover, low temperatures as measured in fluid inclusions and a lesser
500 enrichment in ^{18}O could point to a mixing of fluids involved in more superficial circulation
501 cells, such as along the extensional detachment fault, with those flowing up from deeper parts
502 of the rock column.

503 7.9. Evolutionary model

504 The following scenario for the Triassic-Jurassic evolution of the Adriatic distal margin
505 preserved in the Err domain at Piz Val Lunga and Fuorcla Cotschna sections may be
506 suggested (Fig. 9). Two stages in the post-depositional diagenetic evolution can be
507 distinguished: a) the first affects the pre-tectonic successions (Hauptdolomit, Kössen, Agnelli
508 Fms.) before their reworking and re-sedimentation as clasts in syn-tectonic sequences
509 (Bardella and Saluver Fms.); b) the second affects the whole succession (pre- and syn-tectonic
510 sediments) although it is best recognized in syn-tectonic sediments. The first stage mainly
511 involves fluids rich in carbonate and includes several processes such as dolomitization and

512 dolomite cementation of pores, veining (formation of fractures and filling with saddle
513 dolomite), and minor quartz precipitation in veins. At the base of the allochthon, intense
514 friction between the basement and the overriding carbonate rock masses generated cataclasites
515 within the latter and fluid circulation locally induced de-dolomitization. Fault-valve
516 mechanisms along the detachment fault (Sibson 1992) may have caused a cyclic, abrupt
517 release of overpressured fluids, which resulted in hydraulic fracturing of the overlying
518 dolostones and filling of fractures or spaces among breccia clasts by saddle dolomite and
519 calcite spar. Petrographic, isotopic and fluid inclusion features of dolomite and calcite show
520 that they are of hydrothermal origin. The second stage of hydrothermal activity mainly
521 involves silica, which occurs as vein fillings crosscutting the whole syn-tectonic succession
522 (Bardella and Saluver Fms.). It occurs also as a replacement of still very soft and porous
523 sediments developed, at very shallow burial depth, in the upper part of the syn-tectonic
524 succession (Saluver B-C Fms.). There is therefore a clear trend in time from the first to the
525 second stage from carbonate-dominated to silica-dominated processes. The first stage (post
526 TAF, pre BBF i.e. middle to late Early Jurassic) may be related to the early phases of rifting
527 in the distal margin when the crystalline basement was not exhumed yet and faults were not
528 yet connected at depth. Seawater percolated through faults quite deeply, as O isotope data and
529 fluid inclusion temperatures indicate (Figs. 6, 8), and interacted with basement rocks as Sr
530 isotopes document (Fig. 7), but mainly reacted with the sedimentary succession and were
531 saturated in carbonate. The second stage (post BBF i.e. Middle Jurassic), occurring during
532 and after deposition of the Bardella and Saluver Fms., and even during the first stages of
533 Radiolarian Cherts deposition, documents important involvement of strongly fractured and
534 altered crystalline basement rocks which were exhumed at the seafloor along extensional
535 detachments faults, which delivered large amounts of SiO₂ to the system with resulting
536 precipitation of quartz.

537 **8. Conclusions**

538 The study of different hydrothermal products formed due to the long-lasting, multi-stage
539 evolution of both the extensional allochthons and syn- to post-tectonic sediments in the
540 Adriatic distal margin has been performed in two key outcrops of the Err nappe. The resulting
541 scenario can be summarized as follows:

542 - A first stage, prior to the exhumation of the granitic basement, shows a predominant
543 circulation of carbonate-rich fluids to which various processes affecting the pre-tectonic
544 rocks are connected, such as dolomitization and dolomite cementation of pores, de-
545 dolomitization, calcite cementation of breccias and formation of dolomite veins. This
546 stage occurred in the middle to late Early Jurassic, after deposition of the Agnelli Fm. but
547 before emplacement of the Bardella Fm. breccias which already include fragments of
548 dolomitized and veined rocks;

549 - A second stage occurred during exhumation of the quartzo-feldspatic basement along
550 extensional detachment faults. It implies a radical change in the chemistry of the
551 hydrothermal system, from a carbonate-rich to a silica-dominated one. From this point
552 onward, silicification and quartz veins represent the main features observed in the syn- to
553 early post-tectonic sediments. Syn-depositional diagenetic modifications of post-tectonic
554 Radiolarian Cherts, related to the flow of overpressured silica-rich fluids, testify how this
555 circulation model lasted until the very final steps of distal margin evolution i.e. until
556 Middle Jurassic time;

557 - Petrography combined with O, C, and Sr isotope analysis and fluid inclusion micro-
558 thermometry allow to depict a complex sequence of events in which seawater had to flow
559 in a deep and articulate system with a strong interaction with the basement rocks.
560 Furthermore, the presence of Fe-Mn oxides, coating clasts in the earliest post-tectonic

561 succession, suggests a possible mantle-related origin for the late part of the fluid
562 circulation system in the distal Adriatic margin (see also results of Pinto et al. 2015);
563 - The relatively high temperatures of precipitation of diagenetic products as inferred by
564 fluid inclusion micro-thermometry coupled with shallow burial depths of formation (order
565 of few tens to at most 100's meters) strongly suggest anomalously high thermal gradients
566 rather than very deep fluid circulation within the basement rocks of the extensional
567 detachment footwall.

568 This study demonstrates the complexity of the evolution of hyperextended continental rift
569 domains and, at the same time, highlights the importance of studying fossil analogues in order
570 to better constrain and comprehend present-day passive margin features including post-
571 depositional deformation and diagenetic modifications of sedimentary successions, fluid
572 origin, composition and circulation pathways, and heat fluxes.

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689 **Captions**

690 Fig. 1. (a) Tectonic map of the Alps modified after Schmid et al. (2004) and Mohn et al.
691 (2010) with the location of study area (red square). (b) Geological map of the Err nappe (from
692 Masini et al. 2012). The white circles in (b) mark the two studied areas. PVL: Piz Val Lunga;
693 FCT: Fuorcla Cotschna; (c) Restored section showing a section across the northwestern
694 Adriatic rifted margin before onset of Alpine convergence in Late Cretaceous time (modified

695 after Masini et al. 2011). The section shows the distribution of the main paleogeographic
696 domains of the margin (green terms) and refers to the major Alpine units (red terms). OCT:
697 Ocean Continent Transition; LE: Lower Err Unit; ME: Middle Err Unit; UE: Upper Err Unit;
698 Ag: Agnelli Fm.; LA: Lower Allgäu Fm.; UA: Upper Allgäu Fm.; Bd: Bardella Fm.; Sal:
699 Saluver Fms.; RC: Radiolarian Chert; TAF: Top of Agnelli Fm.

700 Fig. 2. (a) Schematic sketch, not to scale, representing the main features observed in Piz Val
701 Lunga. The present day stratigraphy is upside down due to alpine tectonics. The extensional
702 allochthon, made up of Hauptdolomit Fm., actually shows different textures: monomict
703 mosaic (b) and crackle (c) breccias which are locally crossed by polymict rubble breccias (d).
704 (e) The base of the allochthon is characterized by clast-supported, monomict, poorly sorted
705 breccias with subangular to subrounded clasts. Note the fracture geopetally filled with red
706 sediment and white quartz cement. (f) Irregular dedolomitization (bluish color) affects the
707 greyish dolomite breccias at the base of the allochthon. (g) Partial silicification (whitish color)
708 of the matrix of the Bardella Fm. breccias. Scales: lens cap (about 6 cm in diameter).

709 Fig. 3. Photomicrographs of pre-tectonic sediments at Piz Val Lunga. (a)
710 Cathodoluminescence (CL) image of a clast in the Bardella Fm. made of wackestones with
711 sponge spicules replaced by brightly luminescent calcite spar. (b) Transmitted-light (TL) and
712 (c) CL images of polymict rubble breccia cemented by coarse equant calcite spar which
713 shows oscillatory zoning. (d) TL, (e) CL and (f) SEM-BSE images of former coarsely,
714 crystalline, dull luminescent dolomite, dark grey in SEM-BSE, largely replaced by sparry
715 calcite, which shows a moderate to bright yellow CL and is light grey in SEM-BSE. (g) TL
716 and (h) CL images of clast-supported, monomict, poorly sorted breccias with dull luminescent
717 dolomite clasts in a finely crystalline calcite matrix. (i) TL and (l) crossed polarizers images
718 of mm-large fissures within the clast-supported, monomict breccias (g) and (h) with complex
719 fills including fine-grained sediment, locally laminated, and quartz cement. (m) TL and (n)

720 crossed polarizers images of larger veins filled with quartz. Note thin sediment drapes
721 geopetally overlying euhedral crystal terminations of quartz crystals.

722 Fig. 4. (a) and (b) Schematic sketch and stratigraphic log, not to scale, of the Fuorcla
723 Cotschna area based on transects A and B described in the text. (c) Massive dolostones
724 belonging to the Hauptdolomit Fm. crossed by randomly oriented fractures filled with orange-
725 yellow saddle dolomite. (d) Bardella Fm.: sedimentary clast-supported breccias made up of
726 Triassic carbonate clasts. (e) Saluver A Fm.: clast- to matrix-supported conglomerates with
727 carbonate and basement-derived clasts in a coarse sandy matrix. Note veins within clasts
728 stopping at clast edges. (f) Decimeter-sized block of Bardella Fm. reworked in the red
729 sandstones of the Saluver Fm. (g) Thick-bedded conglomerates constituted of carbonate and
730 basement-derived clasts showing a peculiar brownish color of the carbonate clasts. The shiny
731 black portion is silicified matrix. (h) Big “nodule” of chert within the lowermost part of
732 Radiolarian Cherts crossed by an irregular network of quartz-filled fractures. Scales: hammer
733 (33 cm long), lens cap (6 cm in diameter).

734 Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of pre- to post-tectonic sediments at Fuorcla Cotschna. (a) TL
735 image of finely crystalline dolostone with shrinkage pores filled with dolomite cement. (b) CL
736 detail of a shrinkage pore filled with concentrically zoned dolomite cement showing
737 alternances of bright to dull reddish orange zones. (c) TL and (d) crossed polarizers images of
738 a sucrosic dolostone of the Hauptdolomit Fm. crossed by coarse crystalline saddle dolomite
739 vein. (e) TL image of carbonate clasts in the Bardella Fm. with quartz (black arrow) and
740 dolomite (white arrow) veins which stop at the edge of the clasts. (f) TL and (g) crossed
741 polarizers detail of multiphase filling of vein within a clast in the Saluver Fm.: a first, 200 μ m
742 thick, isopachous rim of dolomite is followed by a fibrous quartz infill. (h) TL image of
743 quartz veins crosscutting both clasts and matrix in the Saluver Fm.. (i) TL and (l) crossed
744 nicols images of polymict brownish conglomerate with a finely silicified matrix. (m) TL and

745 (n) crossed nicols images of the large septarian-like nodule in Radiolarian Chert. Isopachous,
746 botroidal chalcedony rims the cavity walls and is followed by a coarse mosaic of quartz
747 crystals in the inner part of the cavities.

748 Fig. 6. Stable isotope data: $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ versus $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ cross plot for dolomite and calcite minerals from
749 Piz Val Lunga (PVL) and Fuorcla Cotschna (FCT) areas. Values relative to VPDB standard.
750 The pink area corresponds to the first group of data described in the text (replacement
751 dolomite and dolomite cements). The dashed lines encircle different mineral phases
752 highlighting the difficulties to separate one group from another.

753 Fig. 7. Plot of $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ values of replacement dolomite, dolomite vein, and calcite cement of
754 breccias. The red area comprises the four samples analyzed in this work and ranges
755 chronologically from the age of the dolomitized sediment (Norian) to the youngest possible
756 age of dolomite veins (Middle Jurassic). The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ curve of late-middle Permian to early
757 Cretaceous seawater is reported to highlight the high, radiogenic values of the studied samples
758 (modified after McArthur et al. 2012).

759 Fig. 8. Histogram of the homogenization temperatures for replacement dolomite and dolomite
760 cement, calcite cement and de-dolomite.

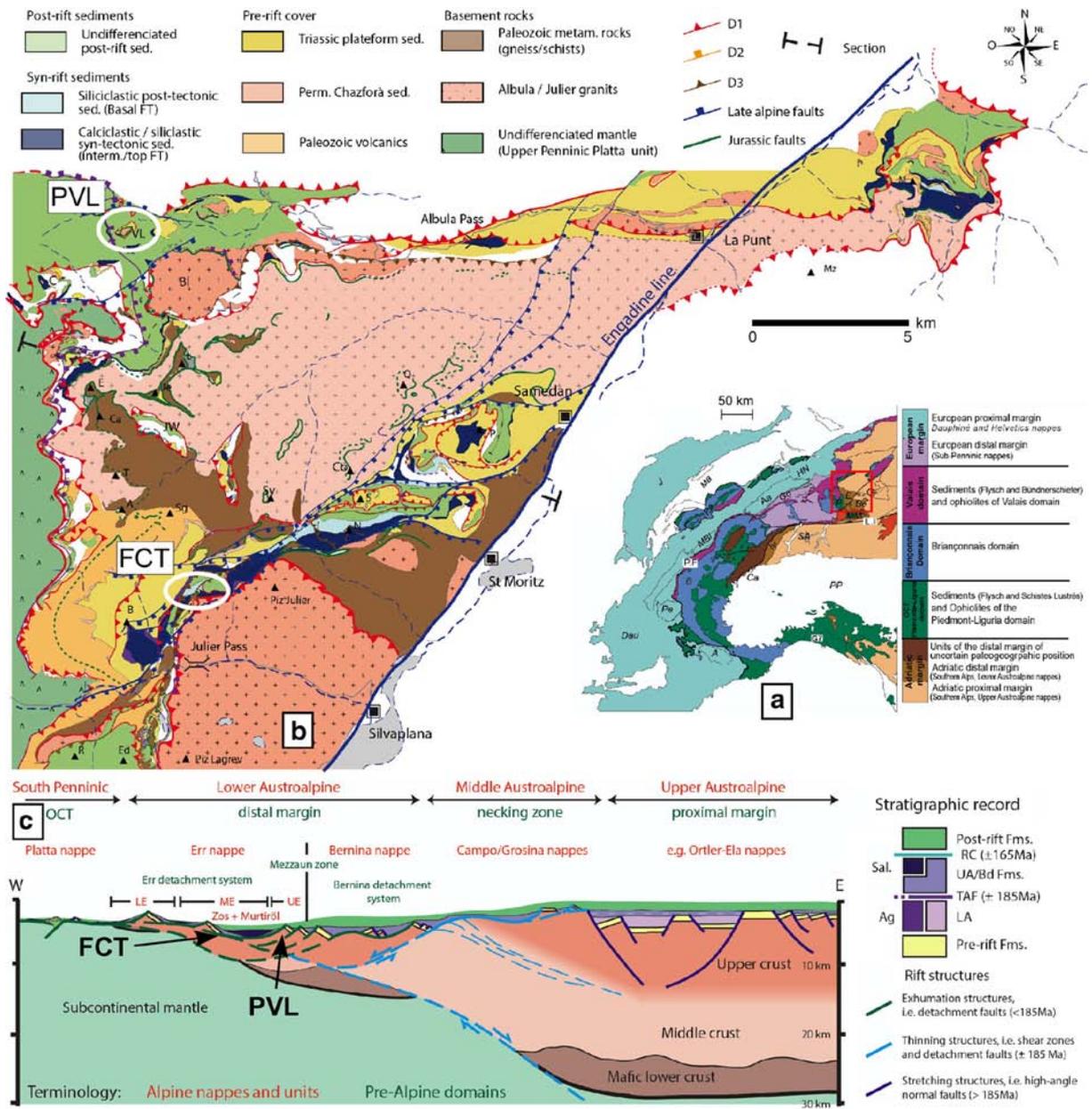
761 Fig. 9. Paragenetic sequence showing the relative timing of post-depositional processes and
762 related products affecting the pre- to post-tectonic sediments at Piz Val Lunga and Fuorcla
763 Cotschna. The width of the lines is qualitatively proportional to the magnitude of each
764 process. TAF = Top of Agnelli Fm.; BBF = Base of Bardella Fm.; RC = Radiolarian Cherts.

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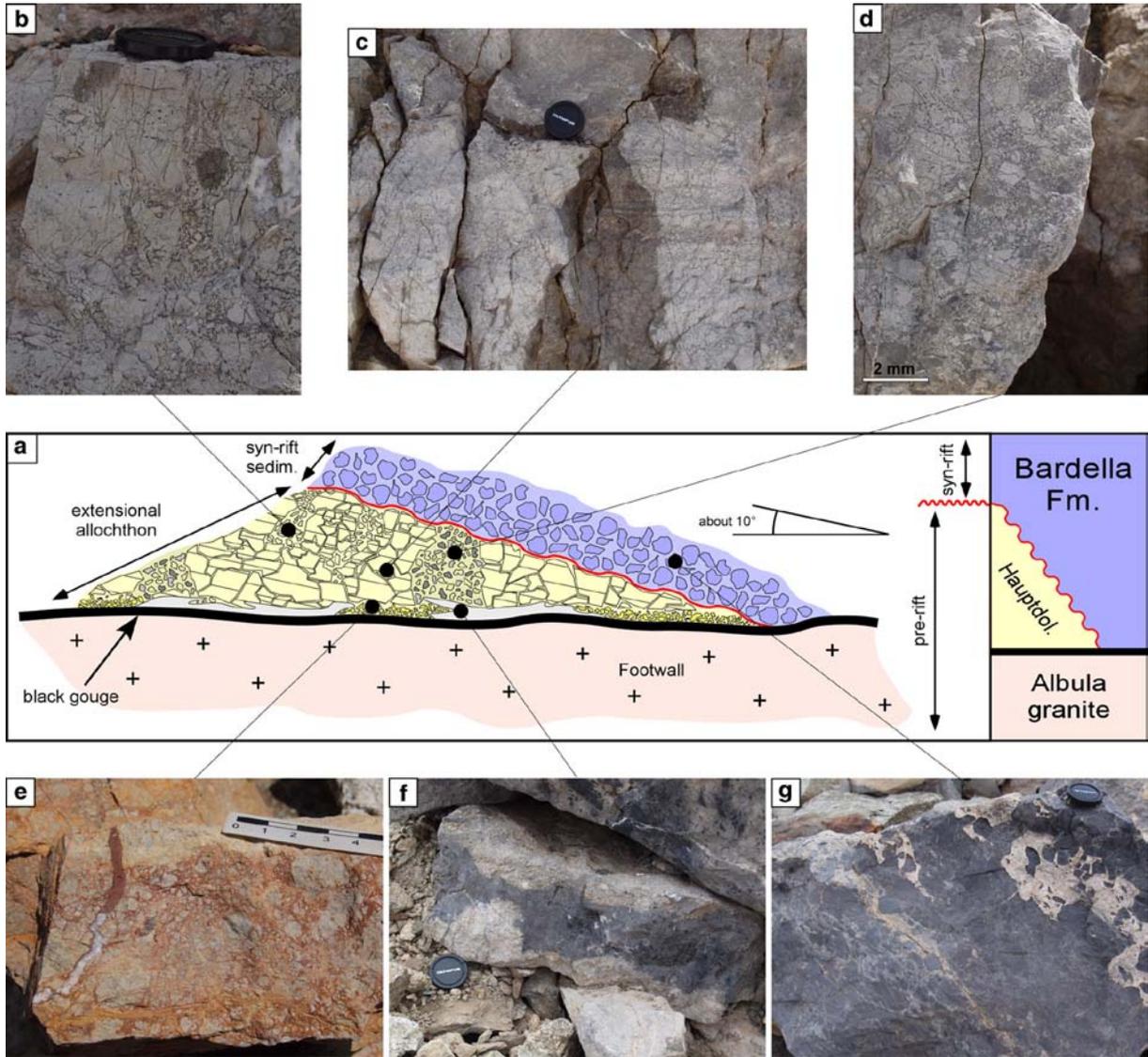


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772 Fig. 1

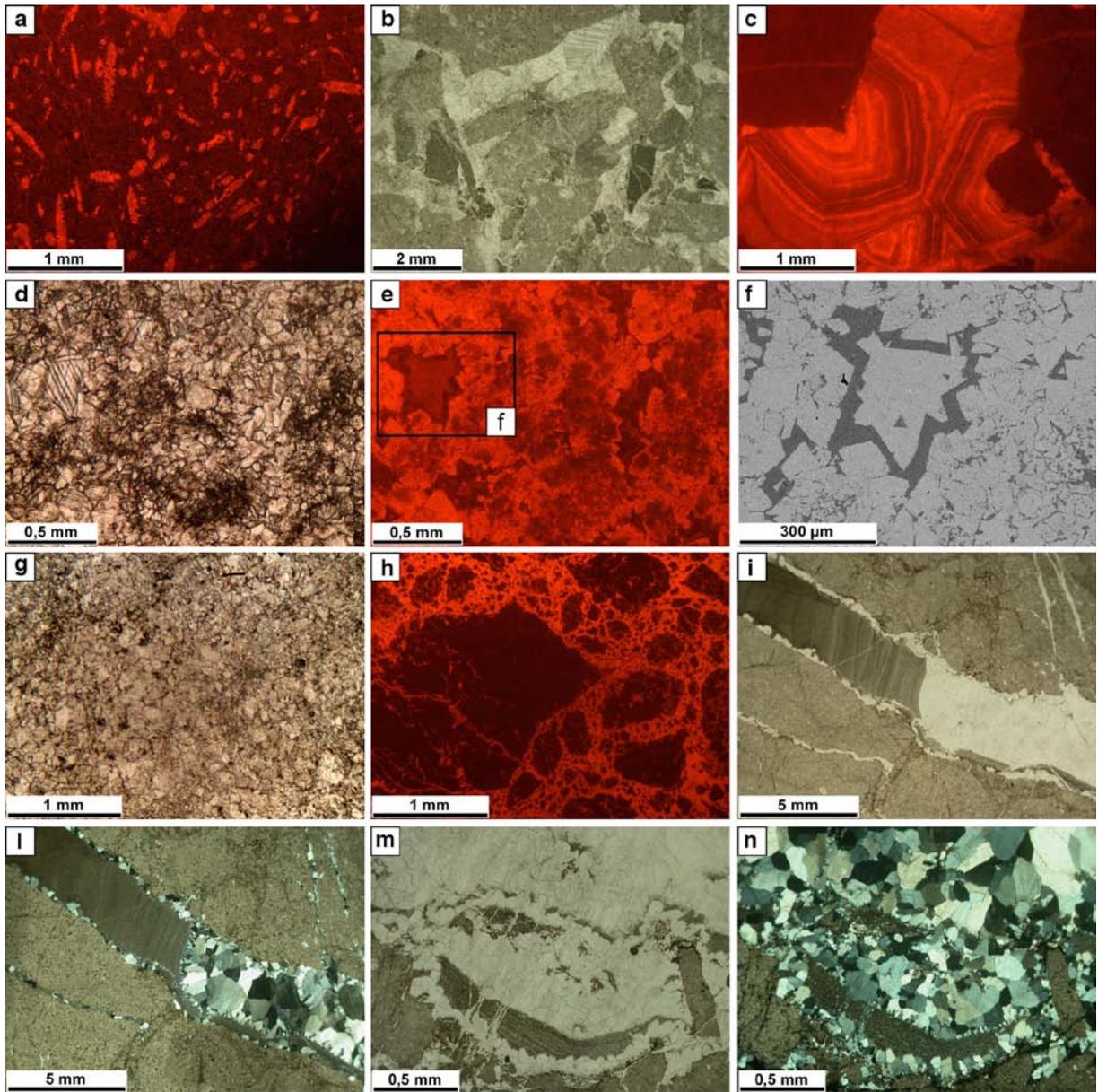
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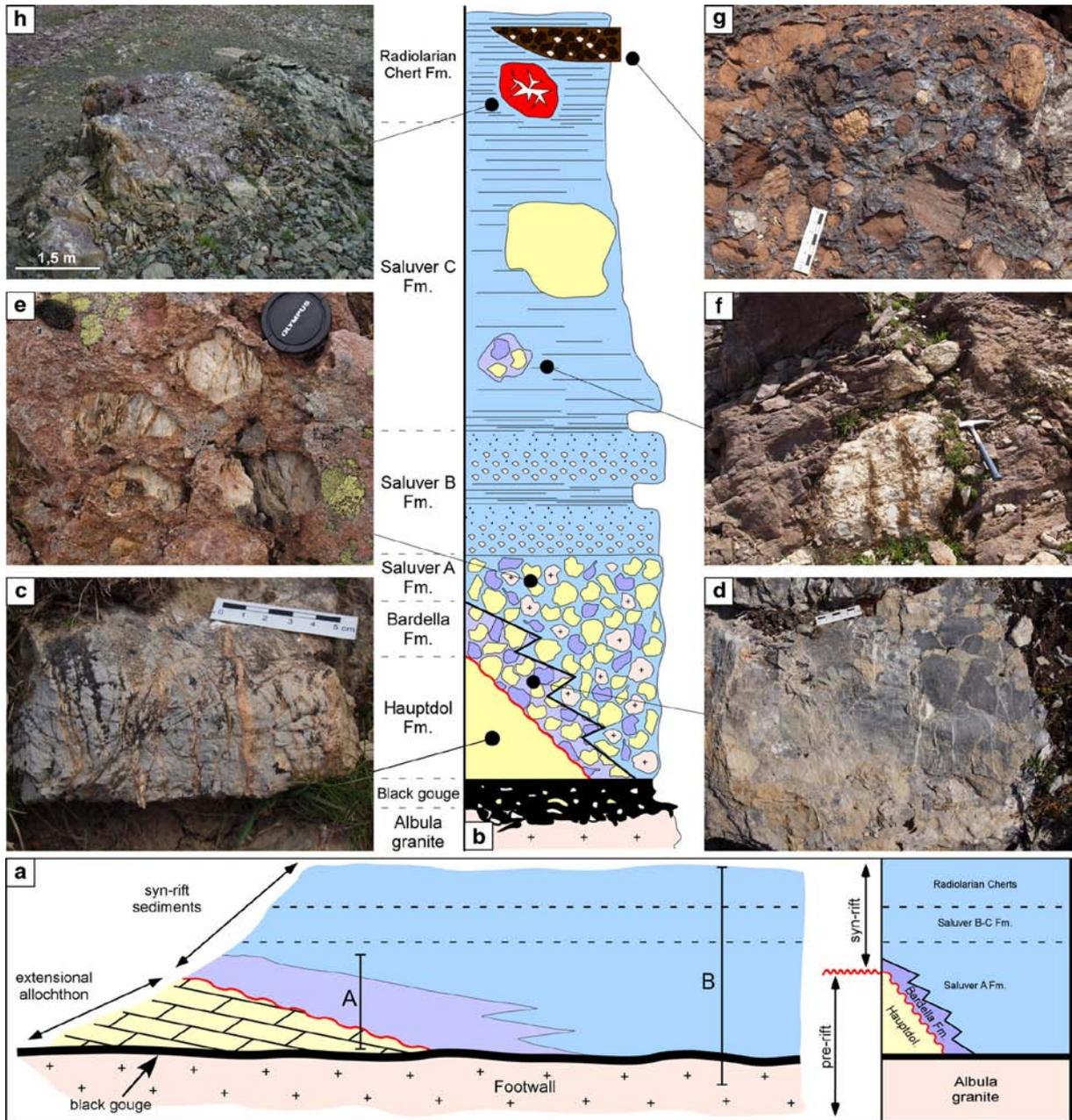
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776 Fig. 2



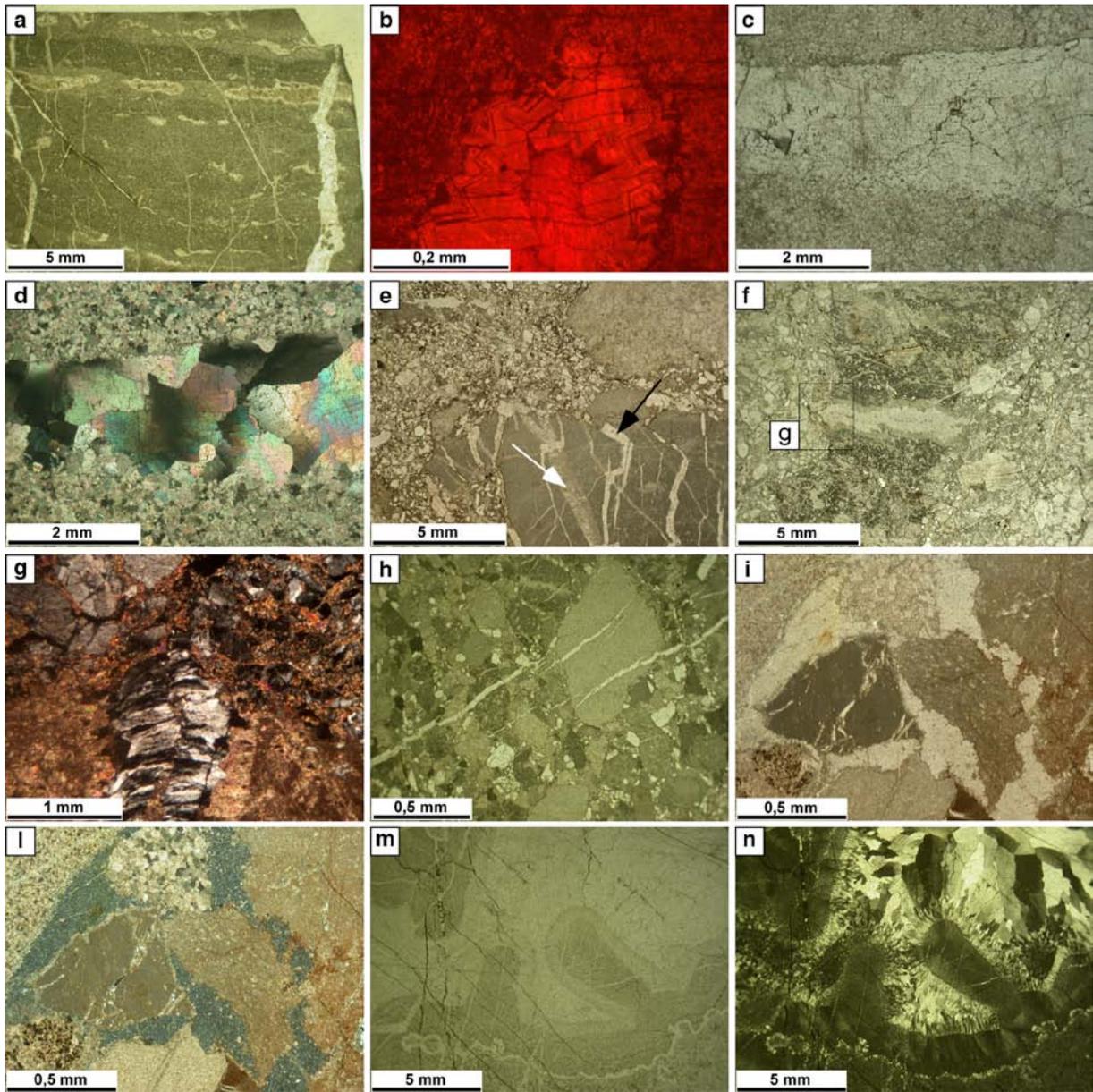
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778 Fig. 3



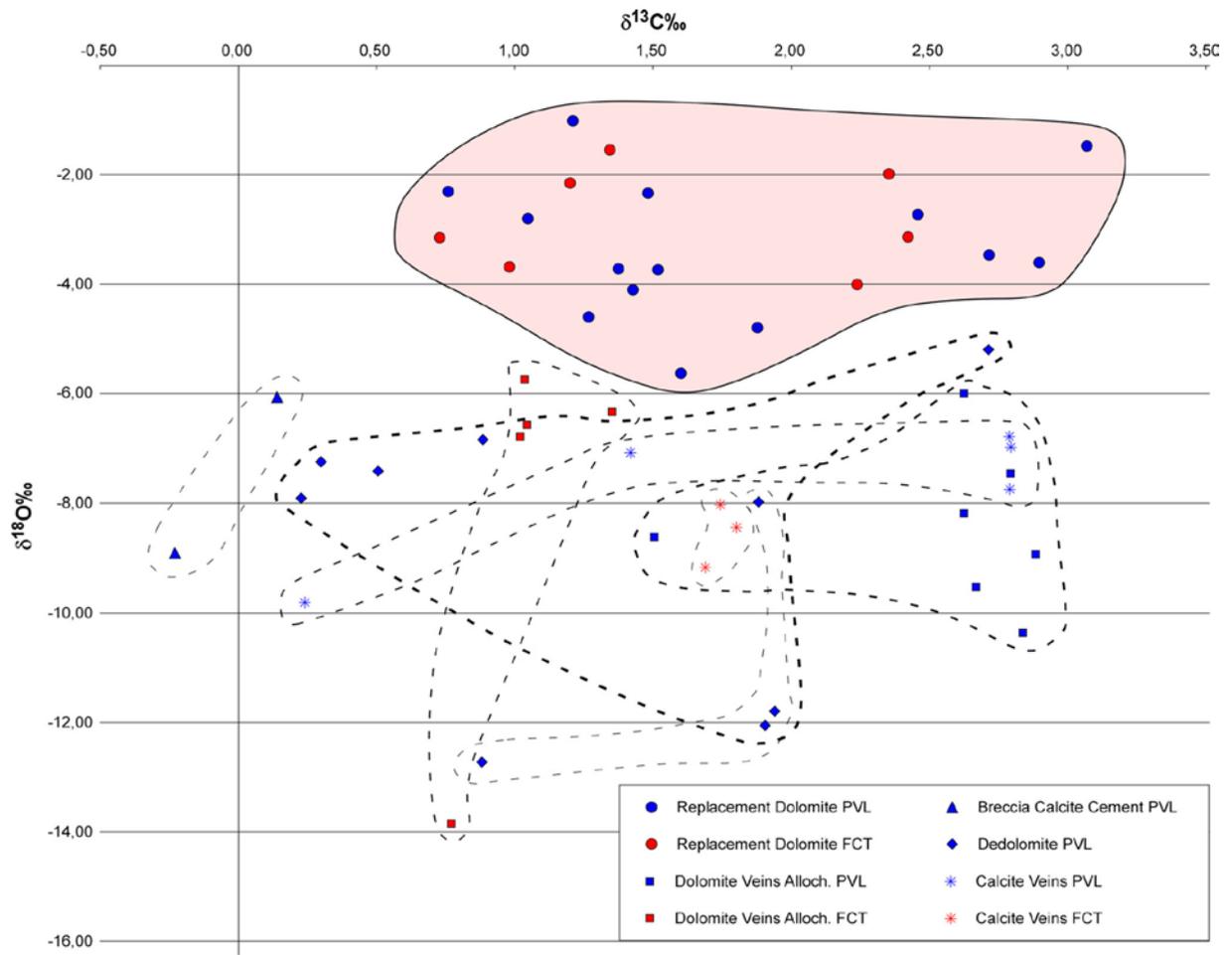
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780 Fig. 4



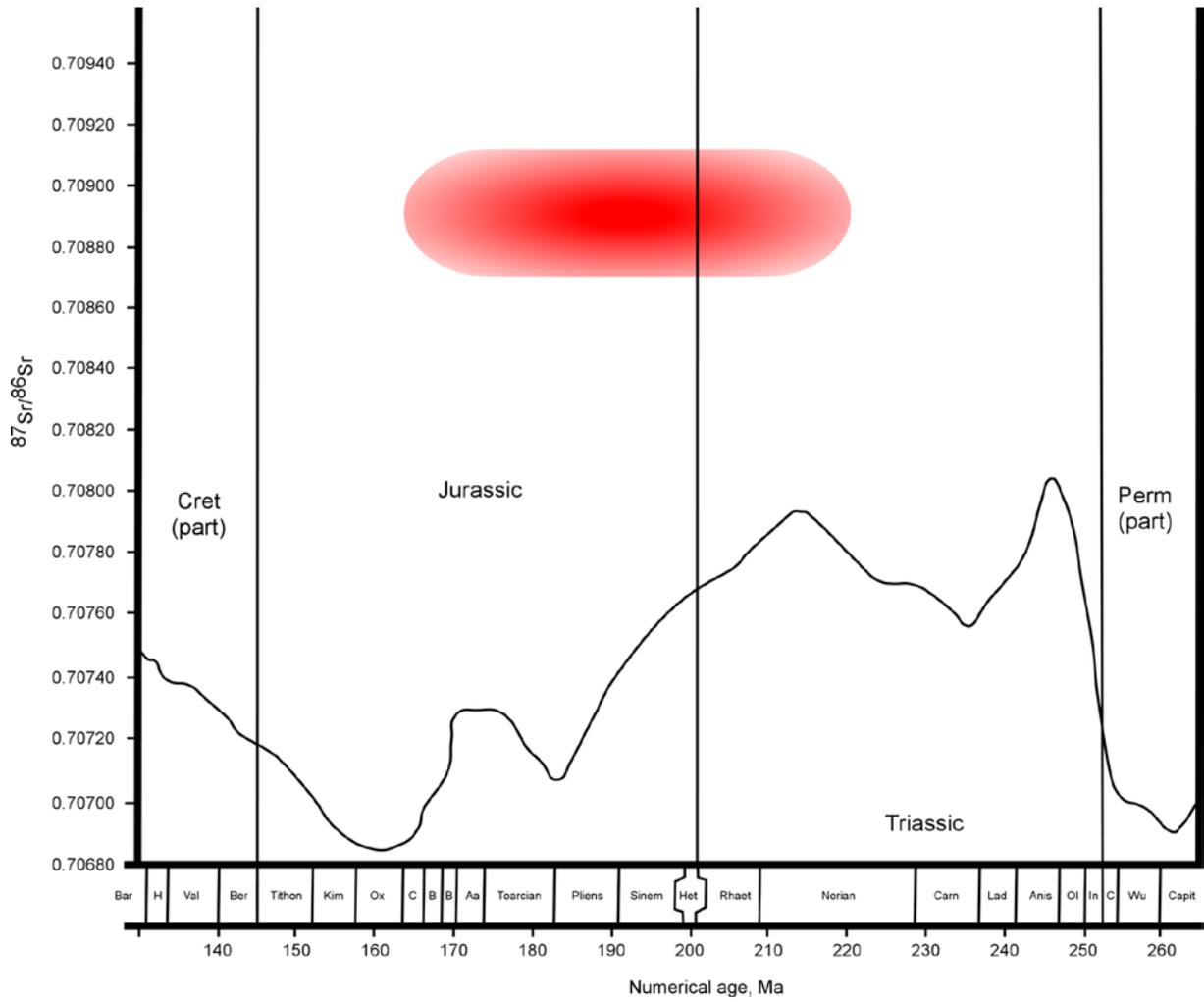
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782 Fig. 5



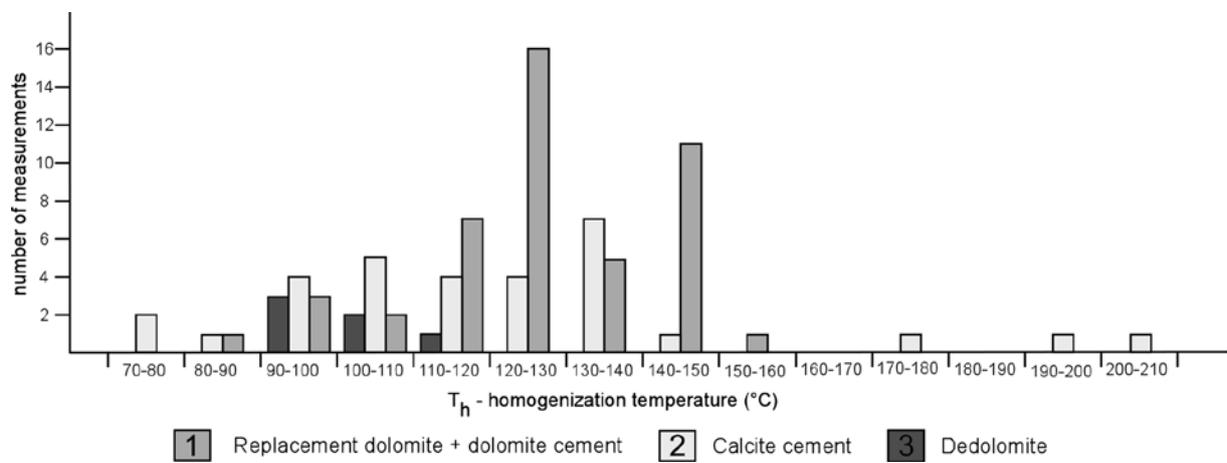
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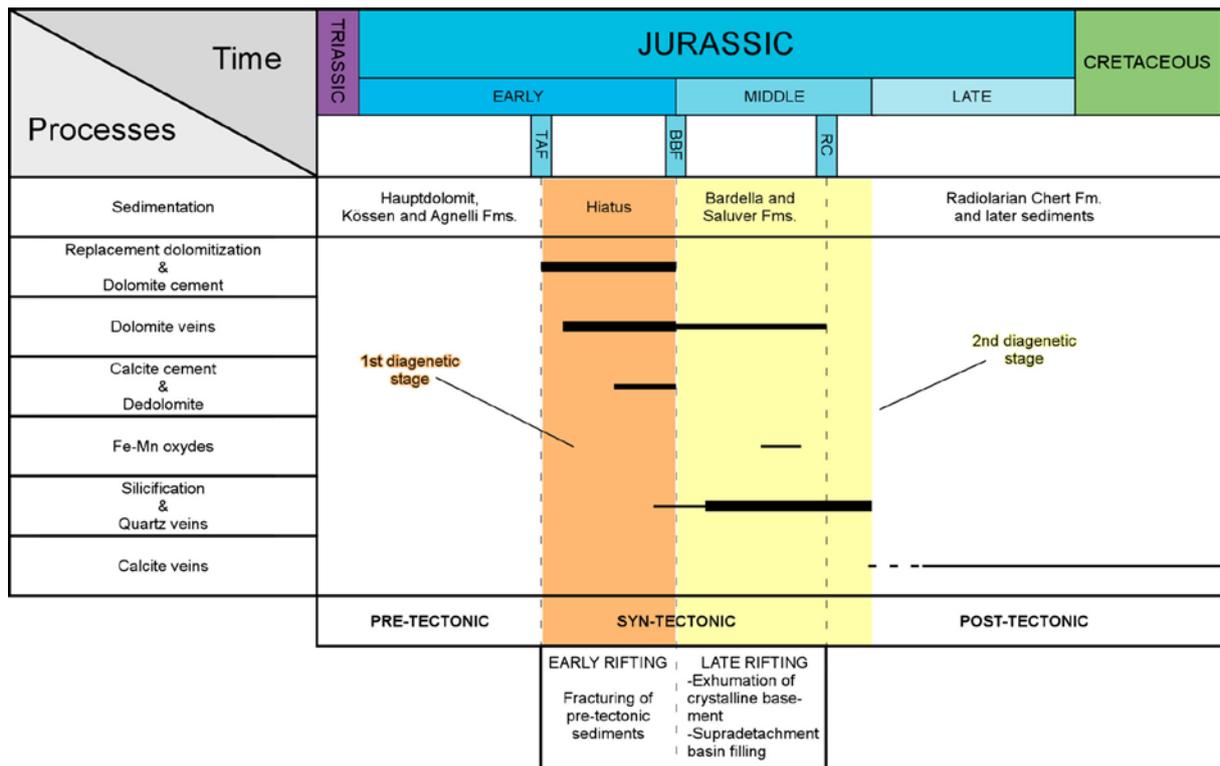
784 Fig. 6



786 Fig. 7

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791 Fig. 9

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