

# Revision 1

## Multi-stage barite crystallization in partially melted UHP eclogite from the Sulu belt, China

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### ABSTRACT

Barite inclusions in rock-forming and accessory minerals and in multiphase solid inclusions (MSI) in ultrahigh pressure (UHP) eclogites have been controversially interpreted to record the presence of high-salinity oxidizing fluids<sup>1</sup> close to the peak of metamorphism. A detailed petrographic and microstructural study of barite in partially melted UHP eclogite from Yangkou, in the central Sulu belt of China demonstrates that barite precipitation is a multi-stage process and provides insight into the evolution of fluid systems as  $P$ - $T$  conditions evolved through the

<sup>1</sup>In this article we use fluid as a general term for an aqueous fluid phase, a supercritical fluid phase and a melt phase. Where these phases are distinguished, we use the specific term as appropriate.

19 late prograde stage of subduction to the peak of UHP metamorphism and subsequently during  
20 exhumation. Five microstructural types of barite are recognized in this study. Type I barite  
21 (variable high to low Sr/Ba) occurs as equant primary inclusions with rutile in garnet and  
22 omphacite within coesite-bearing eclogite. Zr-in-rutile thermometry on the primary inclusions of  
23 rutile yields  $T = 658\text{--}699\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at  $P = 2.5\text{--}4.5\text{ GPa}$ . Thus, barite inclusions were likely precipitated  
24 from an internally buffered fluid during the late prograde evolution. Type II barite (low Sr/Ba)  
25 occurs in MSI located towards the rims of garnet and omphacite. Since peak pressure was above  
26 the second critical endpoint for basaltic compositions, the MSI are inferred to represent aliquots  
27 of silica-rich supercritical fluid trapped during the late prograde evolution close to the  
28 metamorphic peak. Type III barite (low Sr/Ba) occurs in pseudomorphs after phengite inclusions  
29 in garnet. The replacement phase assemblage formed during exhumation, by *in situ* melting of  
30 phengite. Type IV barite (low Sr/Ba) forms coarse-grained patches associated with sub-solidus  
31 replacement of omphacite by hornblende and albite symplectites along grain boundaries. Type V  
32 barite (low Sr/Ba) occurs as grain-boundary veinlets, intergranular grains and closed rings  
33 around pyrite that is partly replaced by hematite and goethite. We interpret the types IV and V  
34 barite to have precipitated from an internally generated grain-boundary aqueous fluid, which is  
35 expected to be a response to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  exsolving from garnet and omphacite during low-pressure  
36 amphibolite facies conditions. Therefore, barite precipitated during the late prograde subduction  
37 and the retrograde exhumation of UHP eclogite yields information about the mobility of Ba, Sr  
38 and S during the metamorphic evolution.

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40       **Keywords:** barite, multiphase solid inclusions, supercritical fluid, partial melting, melt/fluid  
41 immiscibility, UHP eclogite, Sulu belt

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## INTRODUCTION

44       Ultrahigh pressure (UHP) metamorphic rocks record evidence of processes related to deep  
45 subduction and exhumation of continental crust. During UHP metamorphism, fluid plays an  
46 important role in facilitating mineral reactions, element mobility, crust–mantle interactions and  
47 exhumation (e.g., Zhang et al. 2011; Zheng et al. 2011b; Sizova et al. 2012; Hermann et al. 2013;  
48 Zheng and Hermann 2014; Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015). Various studies have investigated: (1)  
49 HP–UHP metamorphic veins (e.g., Franz et al. 2001; Zheng et al. 2007; John et al. 2008; Zhang  
50 et al. 2008); (2) hydrous minerals, such as epidote, lawsonite, amphibole and phengite (e.g., Guo  
51 et al. 2012, 2014; Sheng et al. 2013; Brovarone et al. 2014a, b; Martin et al. 2014); (3) fluid  
52 inclusions (e.g., Philippot and Selverstone 1991; Philippot et al. 1995; Scambelluri and Philippot  
53 2001); (4) multiphase solid inclusions (e.g., Ferrando et al. 2005; Zheng et al. 2011b; Ferrero et  
54 al. 2015); and, (5) the exsolution of hydroxyl and molecular water from nominally anhydrous  
55 minerals (e.g., Xia et al. 2005; Chen et al. 2007, 2011; Sheng et al. 2007; Sakamaki and  
56 Ogasawara 2014).

57       However, in many circumstances, the source, nature and behavior of the fluid remain  
58 controversial due to its multi-generational character (Yardley et al. 2000; Spandler and Hermann  
59 2006; Chen et al. 2007; Zheng 2009; Zong et al. 2010; Spandler et al. 2011; Zheng et al. 2011b;  
60 Guo et al. 2014; Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015). This is especially so in circumstances where fluid

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61 generation and evolution are related to decompression from UHP conditions, during which  
62 process the  $P$ - $T$  path may cross into the suprasolidus field. Many previous studies of melting in  
63 crustal rocks have focused on melt generation and transfer, and the timing and geological  
64 significance of partial melting for tectonics (e.g., Wallis et al. 2005; Brown et al. 2011;  
65 Labrousse et al. 2011, 2015; Sizova et al. 2012; Brown 2013; Yakymchuk et al. 2013; Wang et al.  
66 2014; Yakymchuk and Brown 2014). By contrast, experimental studies of melt generation at  
67 UHP conditions (Auzanneau et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2009), and consideration of the role of  
68 supercritical fluid at pressures above the second critical endpoints (Manning 2004), which are  
69 located around 2.5 GPa/700 °C and 3.4 GPa/770 °C for felsic and mafic rocks, respectively  
70 (Hack et al. 2007; Mibe et al. 2011), and melt/aqueous fluid separation and evolution during  
71 exhumation at lower pressures (Zheng et al. 2011b; Zheng and Hermann 2014; Frezzotti and  
72 Ferrando 2015) have lagged behind.

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#### 74 **Barite in UHP metamorphism**

75 On contemporary Earth, barite is found principally in deep-sea sedimentary environments,  
76 and in biogenic, hydrothermal and evaporite systems (Hanor 2000). By contrast, the principal  
77 geological occurrences of barite are in laminated sedimentary rocks and as a gangue mineral in  
78 hydrothermal metalliferous veins (Chang et al. 1996). Although barite is known from  
79 metamorphic rocks, it has received less attention in this setting, and the principal examples  
80 represent metamorphosed equivalents of black shale-hosted submarine exhalative deposits (e.g.,  
81 Coats et al. 1980; Fortey et al. 1993; Kribek et al. 1996). However, during the past fifteen years

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82 barite has been reported with increasing frequency as an accessory mineral in metamorphic rocks  
83 associated with deep subduction, particularly from UHP localities in the Dabie–Sulu belt.

84 In the Dabie–Sulu belt, barite occurs most commonly as inclusions in garnet, omphacite or  
85 zircon or in multiphase solid inclusions (MSI) in these minerals (Liu et al. 2000, 2001; Yang et al.  
86 2006, 2010; Zeng et al. 2007; Gao et al. 2012, 2014a; Chen et al. 2014; Wang et al. 2014). The  
87 occurrence of barite as inclusions and in MSI is evidence of a high-salinity oxidizing fluid  
88 contemporaneous with UHP metamorphism (Frezzoti and Ferrando 2015). Commonly barite  
89 precipitation has been related to a single fluid event during the prograde, peak or retrograde  
90 segment of the  $P$ – $T$  evolution.

91 Liu et al. (2000, 2001), who were the first to recognize barite as inclusions in zircon from  
92 gneisses in the eastern Dabieshan, inferred the presence of a  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ -bearing fluid derived by  
93 oxidation of sulfide minerals at the peak of UHP metamorphism. Subsequently, Ferrando et al.  
94 (2005) identified barite in MSI in quartzite from Donghai in the southern Sulu belt. These  
95 authors interpreted the MSI as remnants of a silica-rich supercritical fluid inferred to have been  
96 in equilibrium with the peak metamorphic mineral assemblage at UHP conditions.

97 In the first of several studies of UHP eclogite from the Chinese Continental Scientific  
98 Drilling (CCSD) main borehole southwest of Donghai, Yang et al. (2006, 2010) related Sr-rich  
99 barite inclusions in garnet, barite with variable Sr in symplectites of clinopyroxene and albite,  
100 and barite associated with the oxidized rims of pyrite to the activity of a variably oxidized fluid.  
101 Also in samples from the CCSD main borehole, Zeng et al. (2007) recognized isolated barite  
102 grains within K-feldspar or quartz in K-feldspar–quartz intergrowths that pseudomorph

103 inclusions of a precursor mineral in omphacite in UHP eclogite. The intergrowths were  
104 interpreted as the product of a potassium-rich fluid interacting with coesite, but Zeng et al. (2007)  
105 argued that barite was present as primary inclusions in the coesite. Thus, they interpret barite to  
106 have been precipitated from an oxidizing fluid during prograde metamorphism.

107 Sun et al. (2007) studied apatite aggregates in quartz veins that cut quartz eclogites retrieved  
108 from the CCSD main borehole. The apatite contains exsolved platy monazite, needle-like  
109 hematite and strontian barite, and irregular magnetite/hematite intergrowths, implying that the  
110 oxygen fugacity was above the sulfide–sulfur oxide buffer. Thus, the veins were deposited from  
111 oxidizing SiO<sub>2</sub>-rich aqueous fluids. Chemical dating of the monazite yielded an age of 202 ± 28  
112 Ma, providing a minimum age for the vein-forming event, which was most likely post-peak, and  
113 demonstrating that exsolution was related to exhumation.

114 Gao et al. (2012, 2014a), in UHP eclogite from Dabieshan, and Chen et al. (2014), in UHP  
115 eclogite from Qinglongshan in the southern Sulu belt, report barite-bearing MSI in garnet and  
116 omphacite. Gao et al. (2014a) presented evidence for the co-existence of silicate and carbonate  
117 melts, and argued that the MSI with barite were crystallized from composite silicate–carbonate  
118 melts. By contrast, Chen et al. (2014) argued that barite-free MSI were generated by  
119 paragonite-breakdown melting, whereas they interpreted barite-bearing MSI to have formed by  
120 melting of Ba-rich phengite and spatially-related barite-filled cracks to record interaction  
121 between a consanguineous aqueous fluid and the host mineral.

122 These different interpretations of the timing and mechanism of barite precipitation suggest  
123 there is still much to be learned about fluid-related processes during UHP metamorphism.

124 Moreover, multi-stage barite precipitation provides an opportunity to trace the evolution of the  
125 fluid accompanying metamorphism during the late prograde and retrograde segments of the  $P$ – $T$   
126 path. Here we present the results of a detailed petrographic, microstructural and chemical study  
127 of barite from eclogite at Yangkou in the central part of the Sulu belt (Fig. 1), supported by  
128 Zr-in-rutile thermometry, Ti-in-zircon thermometry and geochemistry. The UHP eclogite at  
129 Yangkou is unique as the only example where intergranular coesite, in contrast to coesite as  
130 inclusions in zircon and rock-forming minerals, is preserved from the metamorphic peak (Liou  
131 and Zhang 1996; Ye et al. 1996). Furthermore, the peak mineral assemblage does not include  
132 phengite (Wang et al. 2014). These observations suggest that at least locally the rock was  
133 fluid-absent at the metamorphic peak and, further, that any post-peak fluid migration must have  
134 been limited and heterogeneously distributed. In addition, the outcrops at Yangkou preserve  
135 grain-scale evidence of partial melting, which Wang et al. (2014) argued occurred during  
136 exhumation. Accordingly, the Yangkou locality is a suitable target to investigate potentially  
137 closed-system fluid evolution related to processes associated with metamorphism during  
138 continental subduction and exhumation.

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## **GEOLOGICAL SETTING AND SAMPLES**

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The Dabie–Sulu orogen in east–central China was formed by northward subduction and  
collision of the Yangtze block beneath the North China block during the Triassic, after which the  
NNE-trending Sulu belt was displaced northward by approximately 500 km of sinistral offset  
along the Tan-Lu fault (Figs. 1a and 1b; Li et al. 1993; Ernst et al. 2007; Hacker et al. 2009; Ni et

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145 al. 2013; Wu and Fu 2014). The Sulu UHP belt consists of mainly orthogneiss and paragneiss,  
146 with minor coesite-bearing eclogite, garnet peridotite, quartzite and marble, all of which are  
147 intruded by Mesozoic granites (Zhang et al. 1995; Liu et al. 2004; Xu et al. 2006; Li et al. 2014).  
148 Coesite occurs widely in eclogite and as inclusions in zircon from associated gneisses, quartzite  
149 and marble (Liu and Liou 2011, and references therein). SHRIMP U–Pb dating of  
150 coesite-bearing domains in zircon from eclogite and gneiss yielded ages of  $234 \pm 4$  to  $225 \pm 2$   
151 Ma (Liu and Liou 2011), indicating that all units record the Triassic UHP metamorphism.

152 This study is located in the central Sulu belt at Yangkou (Fig. 1b), where the coastal outcrop  
153 is composed of metagabbro, partially retrogressed coesite-bearing eclogite, and serpentized  
154 garnet peridotite. The mafic–ultramafic rocks are surrounded by quartzo-feldspathic gneisses and  
155 cut by lamprophyre and quartz porphyry dikes (Fig. 1c). The mafic rocks preserve partially  
156 transitional relationships from protolith gabbro to UHP eclogite, as documented by detailed  
157 petrological, geochronological and isotope studies (Wallis et al. 1997; Zhang and Liou 1997;  
158 Chen et al. 2002; Liu and Liu 2009). Ye et al. (2000) recognized clinopyroxene, rutile and apatite  
159 exsolution in garnet from eclogite blocks within surrounding UHP peridotites, implying  
160 continental subduction to a depth possibly  $> 200$  km.

161 The eleven samples chosen for this study are located in Fig. 1c. The samples include four  
162 eclogites with intergranular coesite (YK24b, YK5-2a, YK137-8 and YK128-4-1), four quartz  
163 eclogites (YK12-3a, YK128-11, YKN149-4 and YKN149-5) and three orthogneisses (YK137-1,  
164 YK137-16 and YK137-17). The orthogneisses were included in the study to allow comparison  
165 between them and the eclogites, as well as with the protolith metagabbros using data from the



166 literature to investigate elemental mobility during deep continental subduction and exhumation,  
167 particularly in relation to the large ion lithophile elements (LILEs).

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## ANALYTICAL METHODS

170 Samples collected for geochemistry weighed 4–5 kg each and comprised sufficient fresh  
171 material to be considered representative for all whole-rock analytical methods used in this study.  
172 The major element composition of minerals was determined using JEOL JXA-8800R and JEOL  
173 JXA-8100 Electron Probe Micro Analyzers (EPMA) at the Institute of Mineral Resources,  
174 Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (IMR-CAGS) in Beijing and the State Key Laboratory  
175 of Geological Processes and Mineral Resources (SKLGPMR), China University of Geosciences  
176 (CUG), Wuhan, respectively. The analytical conditions in both cases were an acceleration  
177 voltage of 15 kV, with a 20 nA beam current, a 1-5  $\mu\text{m}$  beam spot diameter and a count time of  
178 15-20 s; matrix corrections were carried out using the ZAF correction routine supplied by the  
179 manufacturer. Mineral standards (from SPI Supplies Inc.) used for calibration of the JEOL  
180 JXA-8800R EPMA in IMR-CAGS were jadeite (Na, Si, Al), microcline (K), wollastonite (Ca),  
181 hematite (Fe), barite (Ba), and celestine (Sr), whereas those used for the JEOL JXA-8810 EPMA  
182 in SKLGPMR at CUG were sanidine (K), pyrope garnet (Al, Fe), diopside (Mg, Ca), jadeite (Na,  
183 Si), rhodonite (Mn), barite (Ba, S) and celestine (Sr).

184 The grain size of the rutile inclusions is too small for analysis of Zr by LA-ICP-MS.  
185 Therefore, the EPMA at the IMR-CAGS was also used to determine trace element concentrations  
186 of rutile *in-situ* in polished thin sections. According to Gao C.G. et al. (2010), the precision of Zr

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187 analysis by EPMA is within 5 % of results determined by LA-ICP-MS. To achieve a lower  
188 detection limit for trace element analysis, a strategy combining a higher acceleration voltage of  
189 20 kV, a higher beam current of 100 nA, a beam diameter of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and an extended counting time  
190 of 300 s (Zr), 400 s (Nb) and 60 s (Fe), with optimization of the background peak positions was  
191 adopted. For analysis of Zr, Nb and Fe, the crystals used were PETH, PETJ and LiFJ,  
192 respectively; the detection limits were 20 ppm (Zr), 27 ppm (Nb) and 43 ppm (Fe). Calibration of  
193 Zr using a  $\text{ZrO}_2$  standard was conducted before, during and after each analysis, and the resulting  
194 analytical uncertainty for Zr was determined to be  $\sim 15$  ppm.

195 All other analytical data were collected at the SKLGPMR, CUG, Wuhan. Back-scattered  
196 electron (BSE) imaging, electron back-scattered diffraction (EBSD) for crystal orientation  
197 mapping, and energy dispersive spectroscopy for mineral identification were undertaken using a  
198 FEI Quanta 450 field emission gun scanning electron microscope (accelerating voltage 20 kV  
199 and spot size 6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  with a working distance of  $\sim 12$  mm).

200 Barite, iron oxide and sulfide were analyzed using a Renishaw RM 1000 Raman  
201 spectrometer at room temperature with 3.4 mw of 514.5 nm Ar laser excitation over the spectral  
202 range 1000–3800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . We used a laser beam of  $\sim 1.5$   $\mu\text{m}$  diameter, a spectrometer grating of  
203 1800  $\text{gr}/\text{mm}$ , an acquisition time of 30 s, and 1–3 cycles. Calibration was performed using  
204 monocrystalline silicon. The estimated spectral resolution is 0.5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

205 Whole-rock trace element concentrations were acquired using an Agilent 7500a ICP-MS  
206 (inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer). Whole-rock samples were crushed in a  
207 corundum jaw crusher to  $< 60$  mesh. About 60 g was powdered in an agate ring mill to  $< 200$

208 mesh. The powdered sample was digested in HF + HNO<sub>3</sub> using Teflon bombs. The detailed  
209 sample-digestion procedure for ICP-MS analysis and a discussion of analytical precision and  
210 accuracy for trace element analysis are given by Liu et al. (2008).

211 Trace element concentrations in zircon were measured by LA-ICP-MS synchronously with  
212 analysis for U–Pb geochronology. Operating conditions for the laser ablation system and the  
213 ICP-MS instrument, and data reduction protocol are the same as those of Liu et al. (2008).  
214 Samples were ablated using a GeoLas 2005 laser, which was connected to an Agilent 7500a  
215 ICP-MS instrument to acquire ion-signal intensities using the Agilent Chemstation. Helium was  
216 the carrier gas and argon was used as the make-up gas, which was mixed with the carrier gas via  
217 a T-connector before entering the ICP. Nitrogen was added into the central gas flow of the Ar  
218 plasma to decrease the detection limit and improve precision (cf. Hu et al. 2008). Each analysis  
219 incorporated a background acquisition of approximately 20 s (gas blank) followed by 50 s data  
220 acquisition from the sample. Off-line selection and integration of background and analyte signals,  
221 and time-drift correction and quantitative calibration for trace element concentrations and U–Pb  
222 analysis were performed using *ICPMSDataCal* (Liu et al. 2008).

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## 224 **SUMMARY OF THE METAMORPHIC EVOLUTION AT YANGKOU**

225 The mineral assemblages in the eclogites at Yangkou preserve a relatively complete history  
226 of late prograde subduction, exhumation and amphibolite facies retrogression (Wang et al. 2014).  
227 Mineral names are abbreviated according to the recommendations of Whitney and Evans (2010).

228 The late prograde to peak mineral assemblage in eclogite comprises Grt + Omp + Coe + Py  
229 + Zrn + Ap + Rt, with barite as inclusions in garnet and omphacite but without phengite, similar  
230 to the diamond eclogite facies mineral assemblage recognized in the Kokchetav UHP  
231 metamorphic terrane (Katayama et al. 2006). Although pressure could have been as high as 7  
232 GPa for the peak mineral assemblage (Ye et al. 2000), Wang et al. (2014) calculated temperatures  
233 of > 800 and < 1000 °C for the more conservative pressure of 3.5–6.0 GPa.

234 During the early stage of exhumation, phengite appears in the mineral assemblage as fluid is  
235 exsolved from nominally anhydrous minerals; concomitantly, the amount of intergranular coesite  
236 is reduced. For the mineral association Grt + Omp + Ph, Wang et al. (2014) calculated *P* of  
237 3.7–3.3 GPa and *T* of 753–725 °C. With continued exhumation across the Coe → Qz phase  
238 change, phengite increases in the mode. The eclogite at this stage comprises Grt + Omp + Qz +  
239 Ph (~10–15 vol%) + Bt + Rt + Ap + Py/Hem. For a pressure of 2.5 GPa, just in the Qz stability  
240 field, Wang et al. (2014) calculated *T* of 700–770 °C for this assemblage. The retrogressed  
241 eclogite is characterized by an amphibolite facies mineral assemblage of Grt (+ relict Omp) + Hb  
242 + Qz + Ilm + Ap + Py/Hem + symplectite (Hb + Ab) associated with Brt; phengite is absent and  
243 is inferred to have been eliminated during decompression partial melting (Wang et al. 2014).

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## 245 **MICROSTRUCTURAL SETTING AND PETROGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

### 246 **OF BARITE IN UHP ECLOGITE**

247 Barite is present in five distinct microstructural settings, as described below.

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249 **Barite inclusions in garnet and omphacite in the coesite and quartz eclogite**

250 Type I barite occurs as equant inclusions within the central domains of garnet and omphacite  
251 where it co-exists with fine-grained inclusions of rutile and, in garnet, rarely with clinopyroxene;  
252 together with coesite, garnet and omphacite represent the peak UHP mineral assemblage (Figs.  
253 2a–2f). The barite forms rounded, anhedral grains (5–45  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter) without any sign of  
254 microcracks in the immediately adjacent host mineral, excluding the possibility of a later stage  
255 origin by fluid infiltration (cf. Rasmussen et al. 2011). Thus, we interpret these inclusions, as  
256 well as the rutile inclusions, to be primary *sensu* Roedder (1984) and Touret (2001), meaning  
257 they formed earlier than or synchronously with the growth of the host garnet and omphacite,  
258 most likely in the coesite stability field.

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260 **Barite in multiphase solid inclusions in the coesite and quartz eclogite**

261 Type II barite occurs in rounded MSI in the outer parts of garnet and omphacite (Fig. 3a; and  
262 Fig. 4d in Wang et al. 2014), or in the central parts of these minerals as partially collapsed pucker  
263 structures associated with veinlets filled with epidote, biotite and K-feldspar that connect to  
264 phengite inclusions that have rims of biotite and epidote (Fig. 3b). The MSI range from tens to  
265 hundreds of microns across and mainly comprise the assemblage  $\text{Brt} + \text{Bt} + \text{Ep} \pm \text{Kfs} \pm \text{Ab} \pm \text{Zrn}$   
266 (Figs. 3a and 3b; and Fig. 4d from Wang et al. 2014). Barite is variable in the mode, from ~75  
267 vol% to ~1 vol%. In addition to barite, MSI in garnet may contain both Ba-bearing K-feldspar  
268 and Ba-poor K-feldspar, and albite, and connect to inclusions of mica via cusped  
269 K-feldspar–plagioclase veinlets (Fig. 4e in Wang et al. 2014). The MSI are also interpreted to be

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270 primary inclusions, raising the possibility that the type I and type II barite could be partly  
271 contemporaneous.

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### 273 **Barite in multi-mineral pseudomorphs in the coesite and quartz eclogite**

274 Type III barite occurs in regularly shaped multi-mineral pseudomorphs in garnet in both  
275 coesite and quartz eclogite. The pseudomorphs comprise  $Kfs + Qz + Ab + Brt \pm Bt$  (Figs. 3c–3f),  
276 with a barite mode of <1 vol%. The shape and location of these pseudomorphs suggest  
277 replacement of a precursor mineral such as phengite or coesite (c.f. Zeng et al. 2007). Based on  
278 the morphology and mineralogy of the pseudomorphs, phengite is inferred to be the more likely  
279 precursor mineral at Yangkou rather than coesite as suggested by Zeng et al. (2007) for surface  
280 samples from near the CCSD borehole. Thus, we interpret these multi-mineral pseudomorphs to  
281 have been phengite relics from the prograde evolution that were preserved as inclusions in garnet,  
282 whereas phengite is absent from the peak phase assemblage (Wang et al. 2014).

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### 284 **Barite aggregations associated with hornblende and albite symplectite in the quartz**

#### 285 **eclogite**

286 Type IV barite forms irregular patches associated with hornblende and albite symplectite that  
287 partially replaced omphacite (Fig. 4). The edges of the barite against the symplectite are mutually  
288 embayed in a fashion that suggests replacement of one by the other, although the sequence is  
289 ambiguous. This barite is typically coarser than the other types, with patches ranging from tens to  
290 several hundreds of microns across that sometimes taper out along grain boundaries (yellow

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291 arrows in Fig. 4c), suggesting these are pinched veinlets that formed along fluid-generated cracks.  
292 The barite exhibits irregular or patchy extinction in crossed polarized light (Fig. 4b). To  
293 investigate this feature, several representative patches of barite were analyzed using EBSD to  
294 obtain crystallographic orientation contrast images. The insets in Figs. 4e and 4f show the  
295 variable orientation of crystallographic domains within barite, suggesting that the individual  
296 barite patches are composed of multiple sub-grains.

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### 298 **Grain-boundary veinlets of barite in the quartz eclogite**

299 Type V barite extends along grain boundaries between garnet, omphacite and quartz (Fig. 5).  
300 These grain-boundary veinlets are several microns in width and have no apparent interaction  
301 with garnet, omphacite or quartz (Figs. 5a and 5b). In places, the barite in the grain-boundary  
302 veinlets co-exists with small intergranular grains of barite (average diameter of  $\sim 35 \mu\text{m}$ ; Figs. 5b  
303 and 5c). In addition, the barite veinlets form rings around concentrically zoned polymineralic  
304 aggregates (Fig. 5c) in a manner suggesting reaction, as indicated by the partially replaced pyrite  
305 in the core (Fig. 5d). From the innermost core to the outermost layer (Figs. 5c–5f), the  
306 mineralogy of these aggregates is pyrite, hematite, goethite and barite, respectively, as confirmed  
307 by Raman spectroscopy (Fig. 6). The hematite is commonly cut by goethite veinlets (Figs. 5d  
308 and 5f). Moreover, this mineral association is crosscut by K-feldspar veinlets (Figs. 5e and 5f).

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## **BARITE CHEMISTRY**

311 The SrO content for each type of barite (electronic Appendix I, Supplementary Table 1a; Fig.  
312 7) is: type I, from below detection to 29.94 wt%; type II, 0.03–5.23 wt%; type III, 0.42–4.14  
313 wt%; type IV, from below detection to 5.21 wt%, but predominantly < 2.5 wt%; and, type V,  
314 from below detection to 2.85 wt%, but < 1.0 wt% except for 4 analyses. All show negative  
315 correlations between BaO and SrO (Figs. 7a–7e), reflecting solid solution between barite and  
316 celestine (Hanor 2000). Although the large dataset from Yangkou is dominated by barite with  
317 concentrations of SrO < 5 wt%, the range of SrO concentrations is similar to those reported from  
318 other locations within the Dabie–Sulu belt (Fig. 7f; data from Yang et al. 2006, 2010, and Zeng et  
319 al. 2007; electronic Appendix I, Supplementary Table 1b). The type I barite compositions show a  
320 negative correlation between BaO and SrO + CaO (Fig. 8a), and a marked increase in CaO  
321 contents from < 2 wt% at SrO contents < 20 wt% to ~9 wt% at constant SrO of 17–25 wt% (Fig.  
322 8b).

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#### **WHOLE-ROCK TRACE ELEMENT CHEMISTRY**

325 At Yangkou there are transitional sequences preserved between incipiently metamorphosed  
326 gabbro with relict magmatic texture and primary clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene to completely  
327 recrystallized coesite-bearing eclogite (Zhang and Liou 1997). Therefore, the Yangkou outcrops  
328 present an opportunity to compare geochemical characteristics among protolith metagabbro,  
329 intergranular coesite-bearing UHP eclogite and country rock orthogneisses. The comparison may  
330 shed light on the mobility of trace elements during continental subduction, particularly in relation  
331 to the LILE.

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332 To address this issue, in Fig. 9 we compare new whole-rock trace element data (Table 1) for  
333 two type I barite-bearing UHP eclogites (YK5-2a, YK24b) and three country rock orthogneisses  
334 (YK137-1, 16, 17), with published data for the metagabbros from Yang et al. (2014). The data  
335 are shown as primitive mantle normalized trace element and chondrite normalized rare earth  
336 element (REE) patterns in Figs. 9a and 9b.

337 It is evident that there are similarities and differences in trace element patterns between the  
338 barite-bearing eclogites and the metagabbros. When compared to the metagabbros, the  
339 barite-bearing eclogites are depleted in the LILE (Figs. 9a and 9c; Table 1), but both rock types  
340 exhibit similarly low high field strength element concentrations, such as Nb, Ta, Zr and Hf (Fig.  
341 9d). Both rock types have flat chondrite normalized heavy rare earth element (HREE) patterns  
342 ( $(\text{Gd}/\text{Yb})_{\text{cn}} = 1.85\text{--}2.38$ ), and negligible Eu anomalies ( $(\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^*)_{\text{cn}} = 0.96\text{--}1.07$ ). However, the  
343 chondrite normalized light rare earth element (LREE) patterns for the eclogites are depleted with  
344 respect to the metagabbros and have shallower slopes (Figs. 9a and 9b; Table 1). The REE  
345 patterns are similar to those of metagabbros and eclogites reported by Chen et al. (2002) from  
346 Yangkou.

347 The trace element features of the country rock orthogneisses are similar to those of other  
348 granite gneisses in the Sulu belt (e.g., Zong et al. 2010; Xu et al. 2013). In the primitive mantle  
349 normalized trace element diagram (Fig. 9a), the orthogneisses are seen to be depleted in Ba, Nb,  
350 Ta and Sr, and enriched in Th, U, Pb, Zr and Hf. Orthogneisses have relatively flat chondrite  
351 normalized REE patterns ( $(\text{La}/\text{Sm})_{\text{cn}} = 2.45\text{--}3.30$  and  $(\text{Gd}/\text{Yb})_{\text{cn}} = 0.71\text{--}1.23$ ), with LREE  
352 concentrations lower than and HREE concentrations higher than the metagabbros, and

353 moderately negative Eu anomalies ( $(\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^*)_{\text{cn}} = 0.39\text{--}0.42$ ; Fig. 9b). Concentrations of Ba and  
354 Sr in the orthogneisses are similar to those of the barite-bearing eclogites, but are much lower  
355 than concentrations in the metagabbros (Fig. 9c).

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### **Zr-IN-RUTILE THERMOMETRY**

358 The solubility of Zr in rutile is strongly temperature dependent. This feature may be used for  
359 thermometry where the rutile co-exists with the appropriate buffer assemblage of zircon and a  
360  $\text{SiO}_2$  polymorph (Zack et al. 2004; Watson et al. 2006; Ferry and Watson 2007; Tomkins et al.  
361 2007). Zr-in-rutile thermometry has been applied previously to eclogites from the Dabie–Sulu  
362 orogen (Gao C.G. et al. 2010; Zheng et al. 2011a; Gao X.Y. et al. 2014b).

363 In the UHP eclogite at Yangkou rutile occurs as either intergranular grains or as inclusions in  
364 garnet and omphacite, ranging in size from several microns to tens of microns in diameter. The  
365 rutiles do not show any visible alteration. Other inclusions in garnet and omphacite include type I  
366 barite, sometimes in direct contact with rutile and, in garnet, clinopyroxene (Figs. 2e and 2f),  
367 indicating synchronous crystallization and capture as primary inclusions. We note that rutile  
368 inclusions in garnet from studies in other metamorphic belts are thought to preserve their primary  
369 compositions (Zack et al. 2004). A  $\text{SiO}_2$  polymorph is assumed present, based on the occurrence  
370 of Coe/Qz in the samples, and zircon may occur as inclusions in the same grains with barite. In  
371 the absence of zircon, Zr-in-rutile thermometry gives minimum temperatures (Zack et al. 2004).

372 The Zr concentration in the rutile inclusions varies from 40 to 324 ppm (see electronic  
373 Appendix II, Supplementary Table 2). We consider analyses to be reliable if the concentration is

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374 at and above a value equal to 3 times the detection limit, which was determined to be 20 ppm  
375 (above). On this basis, 8 data have been excluded from the dataset used for the estimation of  
376 temperature, which is based on 56 reliable analyses of Zr.

377 Zirconium-in-rutile temperatures were calculated using the pressure-dependent calibration of  
378 Tomkins et al. (2007, their equation (10) for coesite stability), and assuming equilibrium is  
379 maintained with co-existing zircon and coesite. As a representative example, the  
380 zirconium-in-rutile temperatures are shown as a box plot at 3.5 GPa in Fig. 10a. We take the  
381 upper edge of the box-plot box as a conservative estimate of temperature (e.g.,  $T = 679$  °C in Fig.  
382 10a; Tomkins et al. 2007, p. 711), which yields a range from  $T = 658 \pm 30$  °C at  $P = 2.5$  GPa to  $T$   
383  $\approx 699 \pm 30$  °C at  $P = 4.5$  GPa (additional box plots not shown; the range of temperatures is  
384 shown as box 1 in Fig. 11a), where the  $\pm 30$  °C uncertainty follows the recommendation of  
385 Tomkins et al. (2007, p. 711).

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### **Ti-IN-ZIRCON THERMOMETRY**

388 The solubility of Ti in zircon is strongly temperature dependent. This feature may be used  
389 for thermometry where the zircon co-exists with the appropriate buffer assemblage of a Ti-rich  
390 mineral (rutile, titanite, ilmenite) and quartz (Watson and Harrison 2005; Watson et al. 2006;  
391 Ferry and Watson 2007). Ti-in-zircon thermometry has been applied previously to eclogites from  
392 the Dabie–Sulu orogen (Gao et al. 2011; Chen et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2012, 2013).

393 Zircon, as a main accessory mineral, is well developed in the eclogites at Yangkou. In one  
394 amphibolite facies retrogressed eclogite analyzed by Wang et al. (2014) from General's Hill, a

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395 few kilometers to the south of the Yangkou locality, zircon shows euhedral and prismatic shape  
396 with distinct core–rim structure in cathodoluminescence (CL). The zircon rims yielded a  
397  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $224 \pm 1.5$  Ma (Supplementary Fig. 1a), which post-dates the peak of  
398 metamorphism of *ca.* 230 Ma (e.g., Liu and Liou 2011). Based on CL images (Fig. 7b from  
399 Wang et al. 2014),  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages and REE patterns (Supplementary Figs. 1a and 1b), the zircon  
400 rims are metamorphic and are interpreted to record temperatures related to exhumation and  
401 retrogression (Rubatto 2002).

402 The Ti concentration in the zircon rims varies from 3 to 18 ppm (see in electronic Appendix  
403 III, Supplementary Table 3). Temperatures were calculated from these data using the calibration  
404 of Ferry and Watson (2007), which is calibrated at 1 GPa, assuming equilibrium is maintained  
405 with co-existing quartz and ilmenite (retrograde from rutile). Although quartz is a major mineral  
406 in the amphibolitic eclogite and  $a_{\text{SiO}_2}$  is considered to have been 1, rutile has been retrograded to  
407 ilmenite and  $a_{\text{TiO}_2}$  is taken to be 0.5 (Watson et al. 2006; Xu et al. 2012, 2013). The  
408 titanium-in-zircon temperatures are shown as a box plot in Fig. 10b (original data are in  
409 electronic Appendix III, Supplementary Table 3). As a conservative estimate of temperature we  
410 take the upper edge of the box-plot box, which yields  $T = 851 \pm 20$  °C (Fig. 10b). The  $\pm 20$  °C  
411 uncertainty follows the estimate of Ferry and Watson (2007, p. 434) that uncertainty on the  
412 calibration is up to  $\pm 16$  °C according to temperature and our estimate that the analytical  
413 uncertainty on Ti measurements is unlikely to be more than  $\pm 15$  %. The calibration has a  
414 pressure dependence of approximately 50 °C/GPa (Ferry and Watson 2007, p. 711), so that at 2  
415 GPa,  $T \approx 900 \pm 20$  °C. In Fig. 11a the range of temperatures during decompression from 2 to 1

416 GPa is shown as box 5.

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## DISCUSSION

419 Although barite has been reported previously in UHP eclogite from the Sulu belt, the timing  
420 of crystallization and source of the fluid from which it precipitated remain uncertain. Arguments  
421 have been put forth for a prograde origin (Zeng et al. 2007; Yang et al. 2010), or a relationship to  
422 the peak UHP metamorphic stage (Ferrando et al. 2005), or an association with partial melting  
423 during decompression (Gao et al. 2012; Chen et al. 2014) or a link to fluid flow during  
424 exhumation (Sun et al. 2007; Yang et al. 2010). Because the occurrence of barite implies the  
425 presence of a high-salinity oxidizing fluid, melt, or supercritical fluid (Zhang et al. 2008;  
426 Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015; Tumiati et al. 2015), it is important to establish both the timing and  
427 origin of the barite found in UHP metamorphic rocks. This information is critical to the  
428 identification of fluid sources, particularly whether the fluid was internally buffered or not,  
429 determining the evolution of the fluid composition with changing  $P$ - $T$  conditions, and assessing  
430 the geochemical behavior of Ba, Sr and S during continental subduction and exhumation.

431 In this study, we have identified five types of barite in the eclogite at Yangkou based on  
432 different microstructural settings. These are linked to: (1) the late prograde-to-peak metamorphic  
433 evolution (types I and II); (2) *in situ* melting of phengite during a high-pressure decompression  
434 stage (type III); and, (3) low-pressure amphibolite facies conditions, where barite patches (type  
435 IV) and veins (type V) in two distinct microstructural settings represent precipitation from an  
436 internally buffered aqueous fluid.

437 Barite inclusions in the cores of garnet and omphacite are associated with inclusions of rutile  
438 that yield temperatures of 658–699 °C at pressures of 2.5–4.5 GPa. This range of temperatures is  
439 significantly lower than the peak temperatures of > 800 to < 1000 °C calculated for the pressure  
440 range of 3.5–6.0 GPa (Wang et al. 2014). Therefore, we interpret the Zr-in-rutile temperatures to  
441 record part of the prograde evolution. We note that a similar interpretation was made by Zhang et  
442 al. (2009) for rutile inclusions in garnet and omphacite from core samples from the CCSZ in the  
443 southern Sulu belt. Since rutile and type I barite are interpreted as primary inclusions and occur  
444 together, by implication the barite is coeval with rutile, and both were incorporated in garnet and  
445 omphacite during prograde growth (Fig. 11b). The presence of barite indicates that a  
446 high-salinity oxidizing fluid was available during the late prograde stage of the metamorphic  
447 evolution, most likely due to dehydration during subduction (Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015).  
448 Ultimately the garnet and omphacite equilibrated at the peak  $P$ – $T$  conditions, which implies that  
449 barite can survive metamorphism at pressures that may have reached 7 GPa at temperatures up to  
450 1000 °C (Ye et al. 2000; Wang et al. 2014). This confirms the remarkable stability of barite  
451 during metamorphism, as noted by Hanor (2000).

452 Although solid solution between barite and anhydrite has been experimentally confirmed as  
453 discontinuous and restricted, barite may accommodate minor amounts of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (Hanor 2000 and  
454 references therein). In this study, higher Sr in the type I barite tends to be accompanied by higher  
455  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (Fig. 8), suggesting that it is easier for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  to substitute for  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  than  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  because of their  
456 closer ionic radii. The wide range of SrO contents among the type I barite suggests that originally  
457 high SrO barite has been modified, perhaps by dehydration during progressive subduction

458 approaching the metamorphic peak and by H<sub>2</sub>O exsolution from garnet and omphacite during  
459 subsequent exhumation (Sheng et al. 2007). This interpretation is consistent with the occurrence  
460 of variable high to low SrO barite in eclogites from further south in the Sulu belt in the vicinity  
461 of the CCSDB borehole, in which barite in pseudomorphs after coesite was interpreted to be relict  
462 from the prograde stage (Zeng et al. 2007). In particular, we note the range of barite  
463 compositions determined in the study by Zeng et al. (2007), where SrO varies from 34.65 wt% to  
464 below detection, although only 4 of 21 analyses have SrO > 10 wt%. Zeng et al. (2007) attributed  
465 this range in compositions to partial dissolution of barite by aqueous fluid and loss of Sr.

466        Preservation of the primary mineralogy in the metagabbros demonstrates either that  
467 large-scale fluid migration did not occur or more likely that fluid flow was channelized, which  
468 may indicate that the compositions of the metagabbros could be relatively unchanged from their  
469 magmatic protoliths. These observations suggest to us that the attendant fluid during prograde  
470 metamorphism was limited in quantity and probably internally buffered, consistent with  
471 expectations both for the amount of aqueous fluid generated and lost during subduction, and the  
472 expected source of these fluids in the crustal part of the subducting slab (van Keken et al. 2011;  
473 Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015).

474        The Ba and Sr concentrations of eclogites and country rock orthogneisses are much lower  
475 than concentrations of these elements in the metagabbros (Fig. 9c), which points to removal of  
476 Ba and Sr. We postulate that the Ba and Sr were most likely removed by prograde dehydration  
477 during subduction, via either an aqueous fluid or supercritical fluid (Zheng and Hermann 2014;  
478 Frezzotti and Ferrando 2015). This interpretation is consistent with the inferred peak assemblage

479 in the UHP eclogite at Yangkou, which is essentially anhydrous, except for H<sub>2</sub>O in nominally  
480 anhydrous minerals, and the expectation that subducting continental crust will lose most of its  
481 H<sub>2</sub>O during prograde breakdown of hydrous minerals during subduction (van Keken et al. 2011).  
482 Furthermore, the experiments of Blount (1977) showed increased solubility of Ba and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> in  
483 aqueous fluid with increasing pressure and salinity, which is consistent with prograde loss of  
484 LILEs. By contrast, removal of Ba and Sr during decompression and retrogression seems less  
485 prominent, given the evidence for only localized grain boundary fluid migration.

486 Type II barite occurs in the MSI, which are generally located towards the rims of the peak  
487 rock-forming minerals garnet and omphacite. We interpret these MSI to be primary inclusions of  
488 supercritical fluid trapped close to the metamorphic peak during growth of the host minerals (Fig.  
489 11b; Roedder 1984; Touret 2001). A supercritical fluid exhibiting complete miscibility between  
490 aqueous fluid and hydrous melt is anticipated during the late prograde to peak evolution, since  
491 pressures exceeded the second critical endpoints for both felsic and mafic rock compositions  
492 (Manning 2004; Hermann et al. 2006; Hack et al. 2007). This is consistent with earlier studies on  
493 Ky quartzites and Ky–Ph–Ep eclogites (Ferrando et al. 2005) and metamorphic veins hosted in  
494 the UHP eclogites (Zhang et al. 2008) from the Donghai area in the southern Sulu belt that  
495 demonstrated the existence of an oxidizing supercritical fluid during peak metamorphism.

496 The parent supercritical fluid had a composition dominated by SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, Na<sub>2</sub>O, CaO,  
497 FeO, MgO, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, BaO, SrO and ZrO<sub>2</sub> and is interpreted to be locally derived and in equilibrium  
498 with the host eclogite. The MSI vary from those with Ba-rich K-feldspar together with  
499 K-feldspar and albite, but without barite (Fig. 4e in Wang et al. 2014), to MSI with barite-bearing



500 mineral assemblages (Figs. 3a and 3b). In addition, type II barite shows a range of SrO  
501 compositions (Fig. 7b). These features suggest a gradual concentration of Ba in the supercritical  
502 fluid with entrapment occurring over a range of  $P$ - $T$  conditions approaching the metamorphic  
503 peak (Fig. 11b). The supercritical fluid may have separated into immiscible hydrous silicate melt  
504 and aqueous fluid during decompression (Hermann et al. 2006; Hack et al. 2007; Zheng et al.  
505 2011b), as suggested by the formation of pucker structures (Fig. 3b) and the occurrence of  
506 amphibolite facies hydrous minerals at the margins of the MSI and lining the cracks that radiate  
507 from these structures. Thus, we interpret the pucker structure and amphibolite facies hydrous  
508 minerals to be formed by decrepitation and crystallization at lower pressure during exhumation.

509       Based on petrographic analysis, Wang et al. (2014) argued that phengite was absent from the  
510 peak phase assemblage, forming as a matrix mineral during the early stage of decompression.  
511 The preservation of intragranular coesite in UHP eclogite at Yangkou and the absence of  
512 phengite at the metamorphic peak indicate that these rocks were locally fluid absent at the start  
513 of exhumation. The introduction of phengite into the metamorphic phase assemblage during the  
514 initial decompression is inferred to reflect exsolution of H<sub>2</sub>O from the nominally anhydrous  
515 minerals, which may reach 2,500 ppm and 3,500 ppm in garnet and omphacite, respectively at  
516 UHP conditions (Katayama and Nakashima 2003; Xia et al. 2005; Katayama et al. 2006; Sheng  
517 et al. 2007; Chen et al. 2011; Gong et al. 2013).

518       Type III barite occurs in elongate multi-mineral pseudomorphs included in garnet that we  
519 interpret to be former prograde phengite, based on the lamellar habit and mineralogy (Figs. 3c  
520 and 3d). We interpret the replacement mineral assemblage in the pseudomorphs to have formed

521 during *in situ* melting of phengite (Fig. 11b). The cracks radiating from the pseudomorphs (Figs.  
522 3c–3f) probably formed at this time. This interpretation is consistent with the inference from  
523 multiple studies in the Dabie–Sulu orogen that melting induced by breakdown of phengite has  
524 occurred in the eclogites (e.g., Gao et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2013; Chen et al. 2014; Wang et al.  
525 2014). In the absence of SrO contents in barite much above 5 wt% it is impossible to say whether  
526 any barite was relict as inclusions in the former phengite (cf. the study by Zeng et al. 2007).  
527 However, since phengite is the major carrier of LILEs in eclogite, the breakdown of phengite  
528 will liberate Ba and Sr to the melt (Zack et al. 2001; Hermann 2002; Hermann and Rubatto 2009).  
529 Therefore, we interpret the precipitation of the type III barite to record crossing the solidus at  
530 low pressure during cooling.

531 Type IV barite is preserved as aggregates of sub-grains associated with hornblende and  
532 albite symplectite. The sub-grain structure of this barite indicates precipitation from fluid and  
533 grain aggregation. During this process the eclogite was retrogressed with omphacite becoming  
534 partially replaced by hornblende and albite symplectites (Fig. 11b).

535 The aqueous fluid associated with type IV barite precipitation is likely to have been  
536 internally buffered, based on the following petrographic and geochemical evidence. (1) The  
537 retrogressed eclogite is associated with largely unretrogressed UHP eclogite that preserves  
538 abundant intergranular coesite, demonstrating that pervasive infiltration of an external fluid is  
539 unlikely to have occurred. (2) The retrograde symplectites of hornblende and albite after  
540 omphacite (and garnet) are not well developed and are limited to pinched veinlets that formed  
541 along fluid-generated cracks. (3) Earlier O and H isotope studies on UHP eclogite indicate that

542 the fluid in equilibrium with the UHP eclogite was internally buffered and showed no evidence  
543 of infiltration from the country rock gneisses (Zhang et al. 2003; Zheng et al. 2003; Chen et al.  
544 2007).

545 Type V barite occurs as thin veinlets that co-exist with intergranular grains of barite; these  
546 veinlets are associated with a distinctive ring structure and replacement of pyrite by hematite and  
547 goethite with barite at the edge. This microstructure is described for the first time from UHP  
548 eclogite. Since both hematite and goethite indicate an oxidizing environment, and the  
549 microstructure suggests the presence of a grain boundary fluid, we infer that pyrite has reacted  
550 locally with a highly oxidizing fluid to transform into hematite and goethite. Inferred model  
551 reactions are  $4\text{FeS}_2 + 15\text{O}_2 + 8\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 4\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + 8\text{SO}_4^{2-} + 16\text{H}^+$  (Fleming 2009) and  $4\text{FeS}_2 +$   
552  $15\text{O}_2 + 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 4\text{FeO}(\text{OH}) + 8\text{SO}_4^{2-} + 16\text{H}^+$  (Murad and Rojik 2005), which could also  
553 include the reaction from hematite to goethite  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$  (Gualtieri and  
554 Venturelli 1999). These oxidation reactions are inferred to supply enough  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  for growth of the  
555 type V barite. The oxidizing fluid is likely locally derived aqueous fluid at amphibolite facies  
556 conditions (Fig. 11b).

557 The type V barite is inferred to have precipitated from an internally generated fluid similar to  
558 the type IV barite, based on the following observations. (1) Both types of barite occur in the  
559 same samples, suggesting a close genetic relationship. (2) Both types of barite tend to occur  
560 along grain boundaries (Figs. 4c and 6a–6c). (3) For both types, the SrO concentrations of barite  
561 are dominated by low values, generally < 2.5 wt% (Figs. 7d and 7e). The solubility of  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  and  
562  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in the fluid will decrease with decreasing pressure and temperature (Blount 1977).

563 Therefore, we posit that the ongoing release of H<sub>2</sub>O from garnet and omphacite, coupled with the  
564 continued breakdown of phengite and the decreasing solubility of Ba<sup>2+</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> during  
565 retrogression to the amphibolite facies promoted the sporadic precipitation of barite continuously  
566 from type IV to V (Fig. 11b).

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## IMPLICATIONS

569 Although the evolution of the fluid phase accompanying metamorphism in continental  
570 subduction zones is known to be important, our understanding of the origin, nature and behavior  
571 of the fluid during subduction and subsequent exhumation has recently taken on a new focus in  
572 relation to the exsolution of H<sub>2</sub>O from nominally anhydrous minerals and the possibility of  
573 melting during decompression (e.g., Hermann et al. 2006; Hack et al. 2007; Zheng 2009; Zhang  
574 et al. 2011; Zheng et al. 2011b; Hermann and Rubatto 2014; Zheng and Hermann 2014; Frezotti  
575 and Ferrando 2015). Our study of the microstructural setting and chemistry of barite in the UHP  
576 eclogite at Yangkou in the central Sulu belt has further advanced our understanding of local fluid  
577 generation and migration.

578 In this study, we have argued that fluid-assisted precipitation of barite occurred during both  
579 the late prograde stage of subduction as well as during the subsequent exhumation of the crust  
580 from mantle depths back to normal depths, and we have interpreted successive episodes of barite  
581 precipitation to record fluid generation and migration at the grain scale. These processes result in  
582 the local redistribution of Ba, Sr and S during continental subduction and exhumation.

583 Throughout the metamorphic evolution the attendant fluid phase was internally buffered and

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584 highly oxidizing. Furthermore, we have explained the low Ba and Sr concentrations of the UHP  
585 eclogite and associated country rock orthogneisses as a consequence of prograde fluid loss rather  
586 than as a feature related to either decompression or late retrogression to amphibolite facies  
587 mineralogy along grain boundaries in some eclogites.

588 In detail, we have shown that aqueous and supercritical fluids were available successively  
589 during the prograde growth of garnet and omphacite, as recorded by inclusions of barite and MSI  
590 in these minerals. We have proposed that after the metamorphic peak, during the early stage of  
591 decompression, H<sub>2</sub>O exsolved from garnet and omphacite migrated to and along grain  
592 boundaries to promote growth of phengite. We explained the formation of multi-mineral  
593 pseudomorphs containing barite by *in situ* melting of phengite inclusions in garnet during  
594 decompression and subsequent crystallization on crossing the solidus at lower pressure. Finally,  
595 we interpreted the occurrences of barite as irregular patches associated with hornblende and  
596 albite symplectite and as veinlets associated with partial replacement of pyrite as due to  
597 continued exsolution of H<sub>2</sub>O from garnet and omphacite during ongoing decompression to  
598 amphibolite facies. Thus, these features record fluid migration at the end of the decompression  
599 stage of the exhumation.

600 The increase in modal barite from the late prograde stage to the retrograde amphibolite  
601 facies stage may indicate an increase in the availability of local internally buffered fluid during  
602 exhumation. We interpret the high Sr/Ba of some type I barite to be primary, but these  
603 compositions have been partially modified subsequently to lower Sr/Ba during progressive  
604 subduction and exhumation. By contrast, the later generations of barite consistently record low

605 Sr/Ba. We interpret this change to indicate that high Sr/Ba characterized the attendant fluid  
606 during late prograde metamorphism, whereas the metamorphic fluids generated approaching  
607 metamorphic peak and post-peak during decompression and exhumation were characterized by  
608 low Sr/Ba.

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610

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950

951 **Figure Captions**

952 **FIGURE 1.** (a) Location of the Sulu belt in China. NCC, North China Craton; TM, Tarim  
953 Craton; YC, Yangtze Craton; CP, Cathaysia Plate. (b) A geological sketch map of the Sulu belt  
954 (after Yao et al. 2000; Zong et al. 2010). WQF, Wulian–Qingdao Fault; JXF, Jiashan–Xiangshui  
955 Fault; MF, Mishan Fault; WRF, Wendeng–Rongcheng Fault. (c) Geological map of Yangkou Bay  
956 in the central Sulu belt, Eastern China (after Wang et al. 2010), showing major litho-tectonic  
957 units and sample locations (eclogite – black stars, country rock orthogneiss – blue stars).

958

959 **FIGURE 2.** BSE images of type I barite located in the cores of garnet and omphacite; barite  
960 preserves equant anhedral shapes without any surrounding cracks in the host minerals, and abuts  
961 against rutile and clinopyroxene inclusions indicating synchronous overgrowth by the host  
962 minerals. Mineral names are abbreviated according to the recommendations of Whitney and  
963 Evans (2010).

964

965 **FIGURE 3.** BSE images of type II and type III barite. (a) Type II barite in multiphase solid  
966 inclusions (MSI) located towards the rims of garnet and omphacite (see insert), or (b) in the  
967 cores of these minerals as partially collapsed pucker structures (see insert) associated with  
968 veinlets; (c–f) Type III barite in multi-mineral pseudomorphs (MMP) that have regular shapes  
969 suggestive of precursor mineral such as phengite, (d) and (f) are enlargements of the areas  
970 outlined in (c) and (e), respectively. Mineral names are abbreviated according to the  
971 recommendations of Whitney and Evans (2010).

39

972

973 **FIGURE 4.** Photomicrographs, BSE images and crystal orientation contrast images of type IV  
974 barite. **(a, b)** Plane polarized and cross polarized light images of barite surrounded by hornblende  
975 and albite symplectite with mutually embayed margins; **(c, d)** BSE images of barite surrounded  
976 by hornblende and albite symplectites, barite tapers out along the grain boundary (yellow arrows  
977 at top left and lower parts of **(c)**); **(e, f)** Representative type IV barite (in area outlined) and  
978 crystal orientation contrast images (inset) showing variable crystal orientations. Mineral names  
979 are abbreviated according to the recommendations of Whitney and Evans (2010).

980

981 **FIGURE 5.** BSE images of type V barite and associated minerals. **(a–c)** Barite veinlets and  
982 co-existing intergranular barite along grain boundaries of garnet, omphacite and quartz; the inset  
983 figure in **c** is the Raman spectra referring to the analyzed spot shown in red; **(d)** Concentric  
984 mineral microstructure with relict pyrite in the core, hematite in the mantle, and goethite and  
985 barite at the rim; **(e, f)** K-feldspar veinlet crosscuts the barite, hematite, goethite and pyrite  
986 replacement structure, **(f)** is an enlargement of the area outlined in **(e)**. Mineral names are  
987 abbreviated according to the recommendations of Whitney and Evans (2010).

988

989 **FIGURE 6.** Typical Raman spectra of minerals associated with the Type V barite. **(a)** shows the  
990 core mineral in **Fig. 5(d)** is pyrite with major peaks at 343 and 377  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and a minor peak at 436  
991  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; **(b)** shows the mantle mineral in **Fig. 5(d)** is hematite with characteristic peaks at 218, 287,  
992 402 and 658  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; **(c)** shows the rim mineral in **Fig. 5(d)** is goethite with characteristic peaks at

40



993 213, 294, 396, 550 and 597  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; and **(d)** shows the mineral at the outer edge in **Fig. 5(d)** is  
994 barite with characteristic peaks at 459 and 985  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

995

996 **FIGURE 7.** Covariation diagrams between BaO and SrO for **(a–e)** all five morphological types  
997 of barite in the UHP eclogite from Yangkou, and **(f)** barite in eclogites from other locations in the  
998 Sulu belt. Note the different scales in **(a–f)**.

999

1000 **FIGURE 8.** Covariation diagrams **(a)** between BaO and SrO + CaO, and **(b)** SrO and CaO for  
1001 the type I barite in the UHP eclogite from Yangkou.

1002

1003 **FIGURE 9.** **(a)** Primitive mantle normalized trace element patterns, **(b)** chondrite-normalized  
1004 rare earth element patterns, **(c)** whole-rock Ba–Sr concentrations of barite-bearing eclogites,  
1005 country rock gneisses and protolith metagabbros, and **(d)** high field strength element  
1006 concentrations for barite-bearing eclogites and protolith metagabbros. Normalization values are  
1007 from Sun and McDonough (1989), whole-rock trace element data of one UHP barite-bearing  
1008 eclogite (YK5-2a) is from Wang et al. (2014), trace element data of metagabbros are from Yang  
1009 et al. (2014). Note the different scales in **(c)** and **(d)**.

1010

1011 **FIGURE 10.** Box and whisker plots displaying the distribution of temperatures calculated by  
1012 Zr-in-rutile thermometry at 3.5 GPa **(a)** and Ti-in-zircon thermometry at 1 GPa **(b)**. The box  
1013 represents the interquartile range (the middle 50 % of the data from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile),

41

1014 the whiskers extend to 1.5 times the interquartile range in **(a)** and the open circle in **(a)** represents  
1015 a suspected outlier, whereas the whiskers in **(b)** only extend to the limits of the data. The  
1016 numbers beneath each box represent the number of data in each case. The temperature at the top  
1017 of the box is shown in each case.

1018

1019 **FIGURE 11.** **(a)**  $P$ – $T$  path for the UHP eclogite at Yangkou in the central Sulu belt (modified  
1020 from Wang et al. 2014) and **(b)** the different types of barite in relation to the  $P$ – $T$  evolution. Box  
1021 1 shows the Zr-in-rutile temperatures (with an uncertainty of  $\pm 30$  °C) calculated at pressures  
1022 from 2.5 to 4.5 GPa, box 2 shows the range of peak Grt–Cpx temperatures calculated at  
1023 pressures  $> 3.5$  GPa for the Coe eclogite (from Wang et al. 2014, supplementary data set 3), box  
1024 3 shows the  $P$ – $T$  range for the Grt + Omp + Ph + Coe/Qz assemblage (from Wang et al. 2014,  
1025 supplementary data set 3, with uncertainty assessed as  $\pm 50$  °C and  $\pm 0.2$  GPa), line 4 shows the  
1026 range of Grt–Cpx temperatures at 2.5 GPa for the Qz eclogite (from Wang et al. 2014,  
1027 supplementary data set 3, with uncertainty assessed as  $\pm 50$  °C), and box 5 shows the Ti-in-zircon  
1028 temperatures (with an uncertainty of  $\pm 20$  °C) calculated at pressures of 2 to 1 GPa for the  
1029 retrogressed eclogite. The second critical endpoint for the basalt–water system (A) is from Mibe  
1030 et al. (2011), and the grey box (B) shows the phase transition from Cpx + Ph + Qz to Bt + Pl +  
1031 Grt + Melt from Auzanneau et al. (2006). Further explanation is given in the text. Mineral names  
1032 are abbreviated according to the recommendations of Whitney and Evans (2010).

1033 **TABLE 1.** Trace element contents [ppm] of Barite-bearing Eclogites, Country orthogneisses and protolith Metagabbros.

1034 Values for metagabbro are from from Yang et al. (2014). Further explanation in text.

Lithology	Brt-bearing Eclogites		Country Gneisses				Metagabbros		
MMC	Grt+Omp+Coe/Qz+Brt		Qz+Ph+Pl+Assessory Minerals				Yang et al. 2014		
Sam. No.	YK5-2a	YK24b	YK137-1	YK137-16	YK137-17	07YK07	11YK01	11YK02	11YK05
Ga	19.40	20.20	19.60	19.00	19.30	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Rb	1.71	2.34	62.20	36.70	60.90	37.50	24.50	34.30	21.10
Sr	68.30	81.20	30.10	72.00	24.80	818.00	834.00	890.00	593.00
Y	23.30	23.60	36.90	43.10	30.30	18.00	19.60	21.30	22.30
Zr	94.70	98.80	229.00	324.00	245.00	70.00	129.00	118.00	122.00
Nb	4.54	4.00	11.80	11.20	12.40	6.03	6.16	5.50	6.57
Sn	0.87	0.98	2.13	1.70	2.26	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Cs	0.04	0.04	0.41	0.26	0.40	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Ba	105.00	326.00	264.00	280.00	281.00	1152.00	1763.00	1670.00	459.00
La	12.10	13.60	18.00	36.40	14.70	31.20	41.60	42.80	38.10
Ce	26.70	30.70	53.50	85.60	47.20	60.90	77.60	80.90	76.70
Pr	3.48	4.03	5.61	9.17	4.55	7.25	9.46	9.76	9.40
Nd	15.00	17.00	20.40	33.20	16.50	29.40	36.20	36.70	37.10
Sm	3.45	3.71	4.61	7.14	3.88	5.83	7.42	7.02	7.06
Eu	1.23	1.27	0.57	0.89	0.52	1.74	2.22	2.09	2.17
Gd	4.31	4.44	4.20	6.60	3.67	5.24	5.48	5.49	6.59
Tb	0.78	0.77	0.78	1.16	0.68	0.67	0.74	0.80	0.91
Dy	4.36	4.38	5.29	7.17	4.47	3.32	3.66	4.13	4.60
Ho	0.83	0.82	1.21	1.50	0.98	0.70	0.77	0.82	0.97
Er	2.24	2.24	4.03	4.44	3.22	1.95	2.21	2.27	2.71
Tm	0.30	0.30	0.69	0.68	0.52	0.29	0.31	0.32	0.39
Yb	1.84	1.99	4.87	4.44	3.61	1.82	1.97	2.05	2.51
Lu	0.26	0.27	0.82	0.64	0.57	0.28	0.30	0.32	0.39
Hf	2.35	2.47	6.71	8.50	7.06	1.71	2.78	2.78	2.97
Ta	0.68	0.45	0.96	1.06	0.95	0.53	0.41	0.33	0.40
Tl	0.02	0.01	0.12	0.13	0.09	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Pb	2.66	3.60	2.69	4.77	2.62	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Th	1.26	1.63	11.30	11.90	13.50	5.43	5.11	3.19	6.46
U	0.24	0.24	2.18	2.64	2.25	0.74	0.97	0.61	2.02
Sr/Ba	0.65	0.25	0.00	0.26	0.09	0.71	0.47	0.53	1.29
ΣLREE	61.96	70.31	102.69	172.40	87.35	136.32	174.50	179.27	170.53
ΣREE	76.88	85.52	124.58	199.03	105.07	150.59	189.94	195.47	189.60
(La/Sm) <sub>cn</sub>	2.38	2.27	2.52	3.30	2.45	3.46	3.62	3.94	3.49
(Gd/Yb) <sub>cn</sub>	1.85	1.94	0.71	1.23	0.84	2.38	2.30	2.22	2.17

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(Eu/Eu*) <sub>cn</sub>	0.96	0.98	0.39	0.40	0.42	0.96	1.07	1.03	0.97
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*Note:* MMC represents main mineral composition; Sam. No. represents Sample number; normalization values from Sun and McDonough (1989). "n.a." represents data not analyzed in original paper.

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1035

Fig. 1

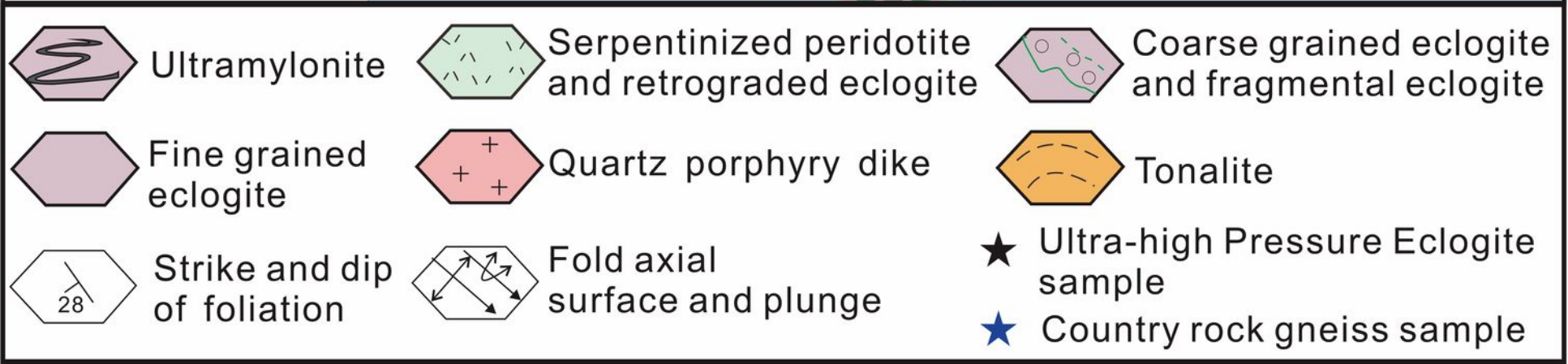
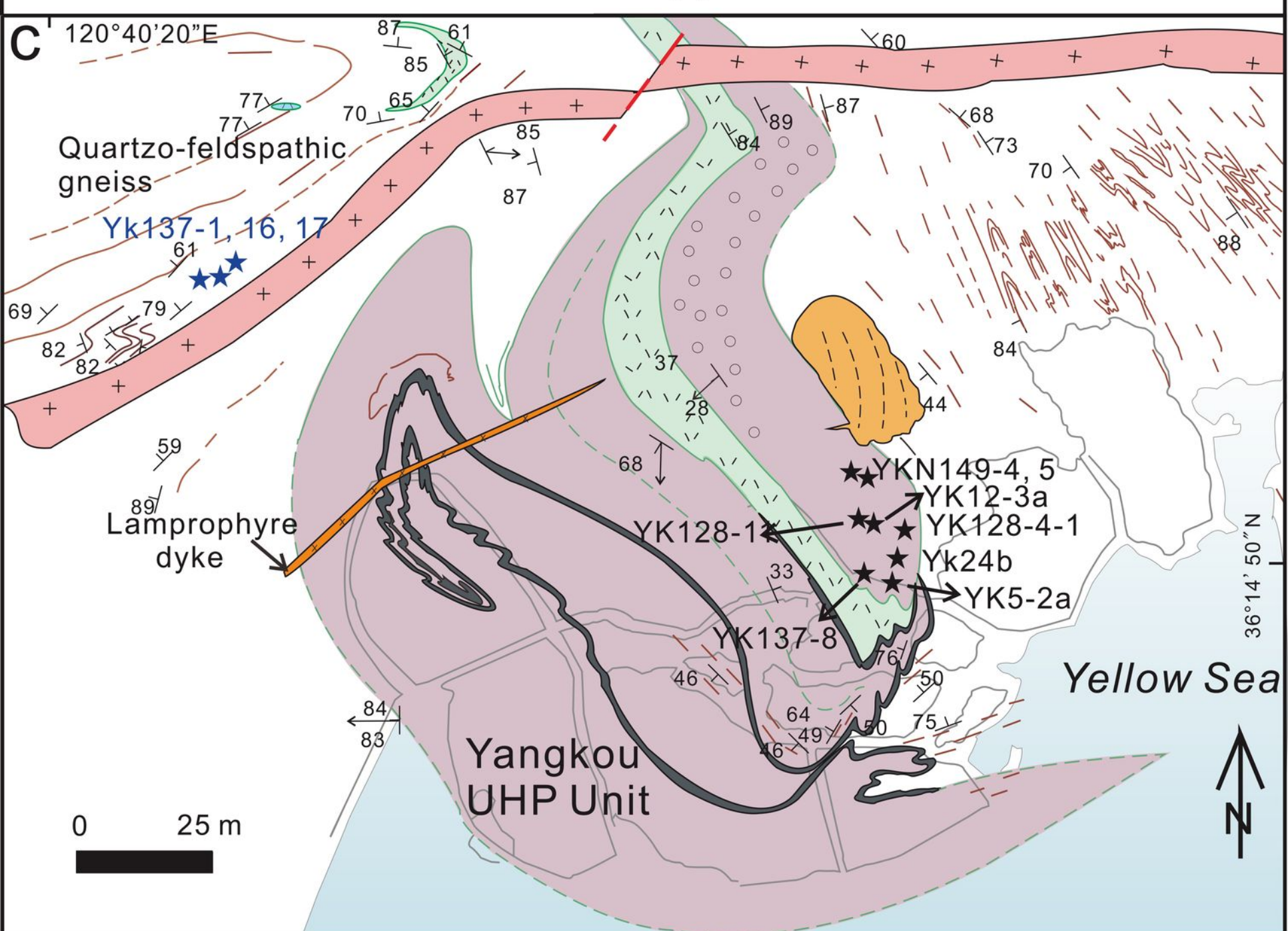
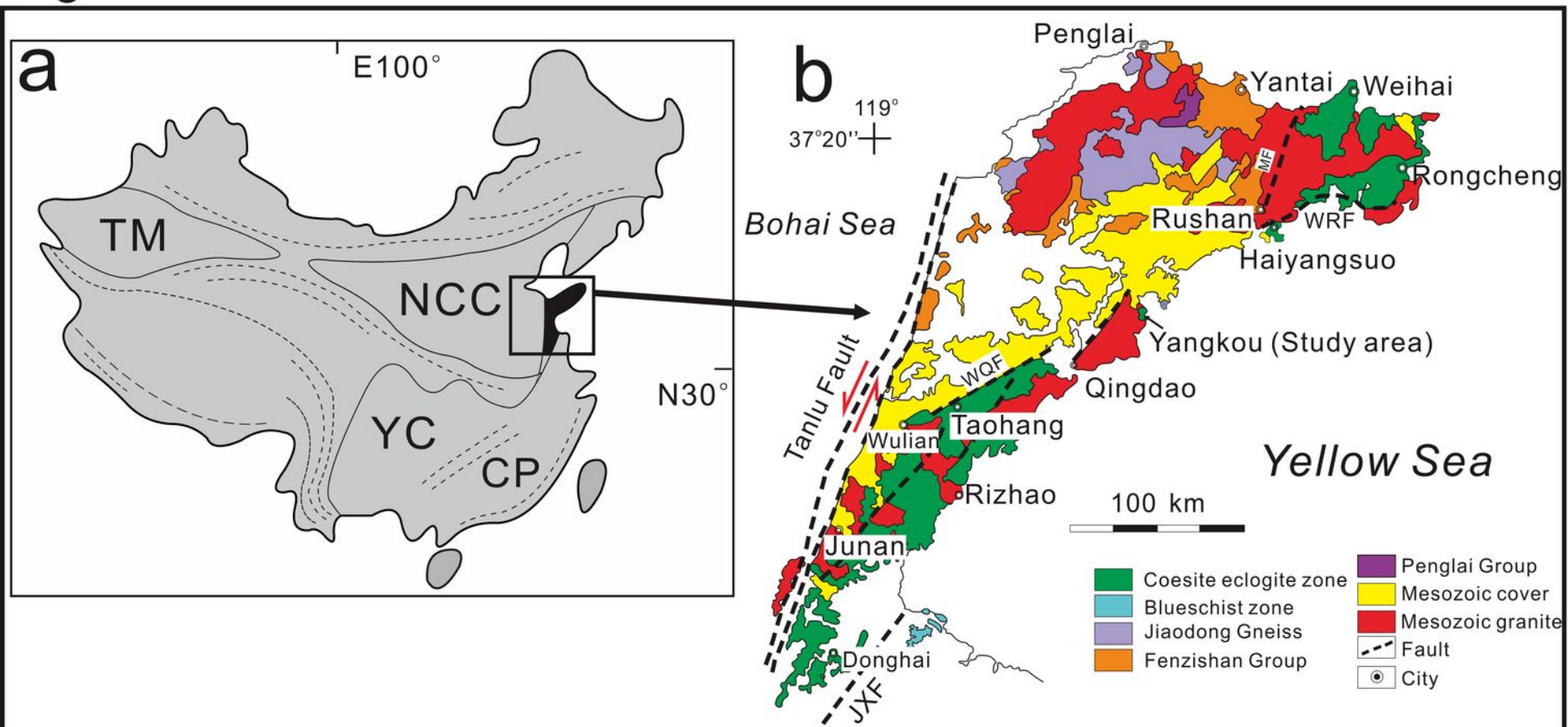


Fig. 2

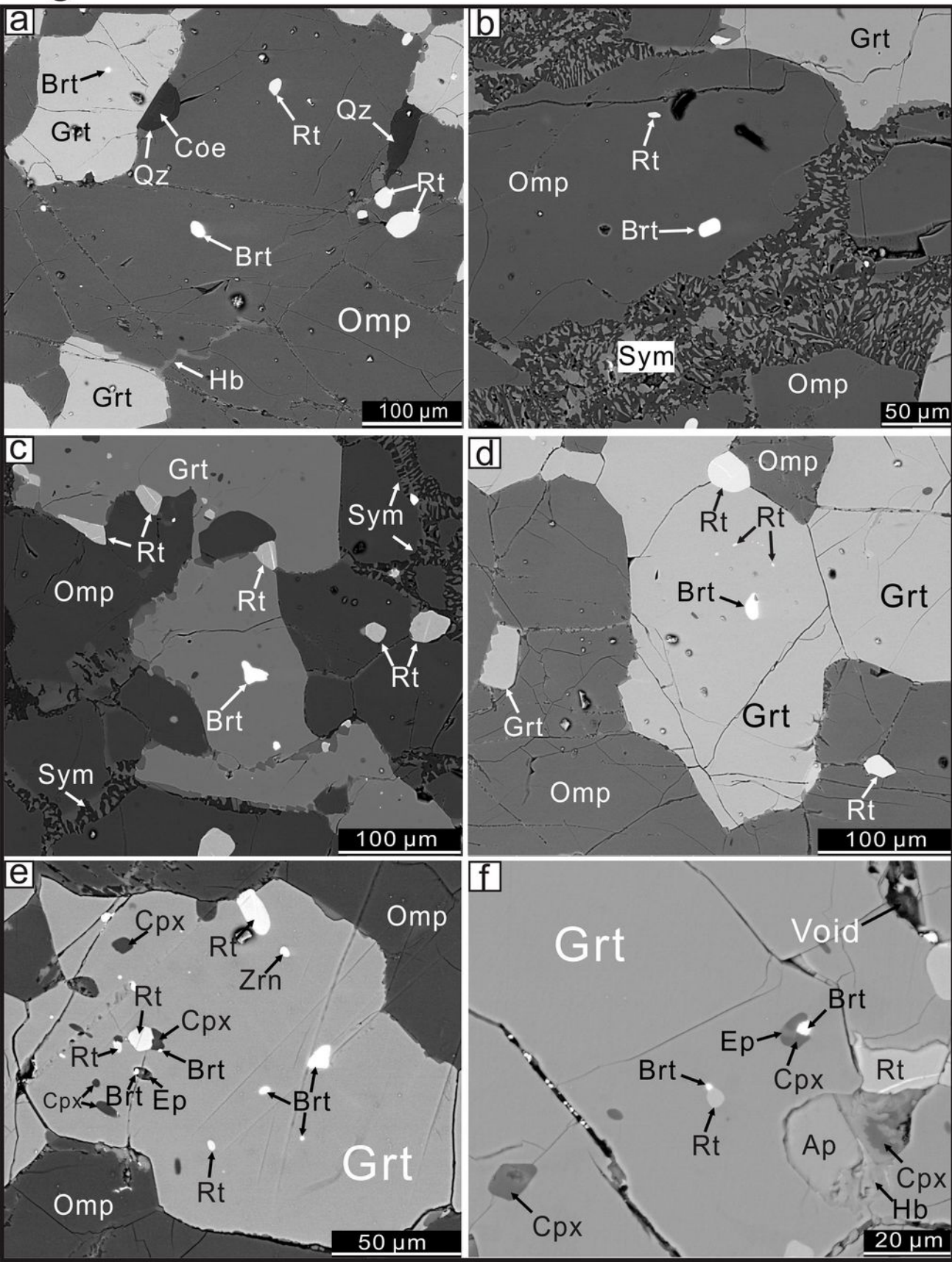


Fig. 3

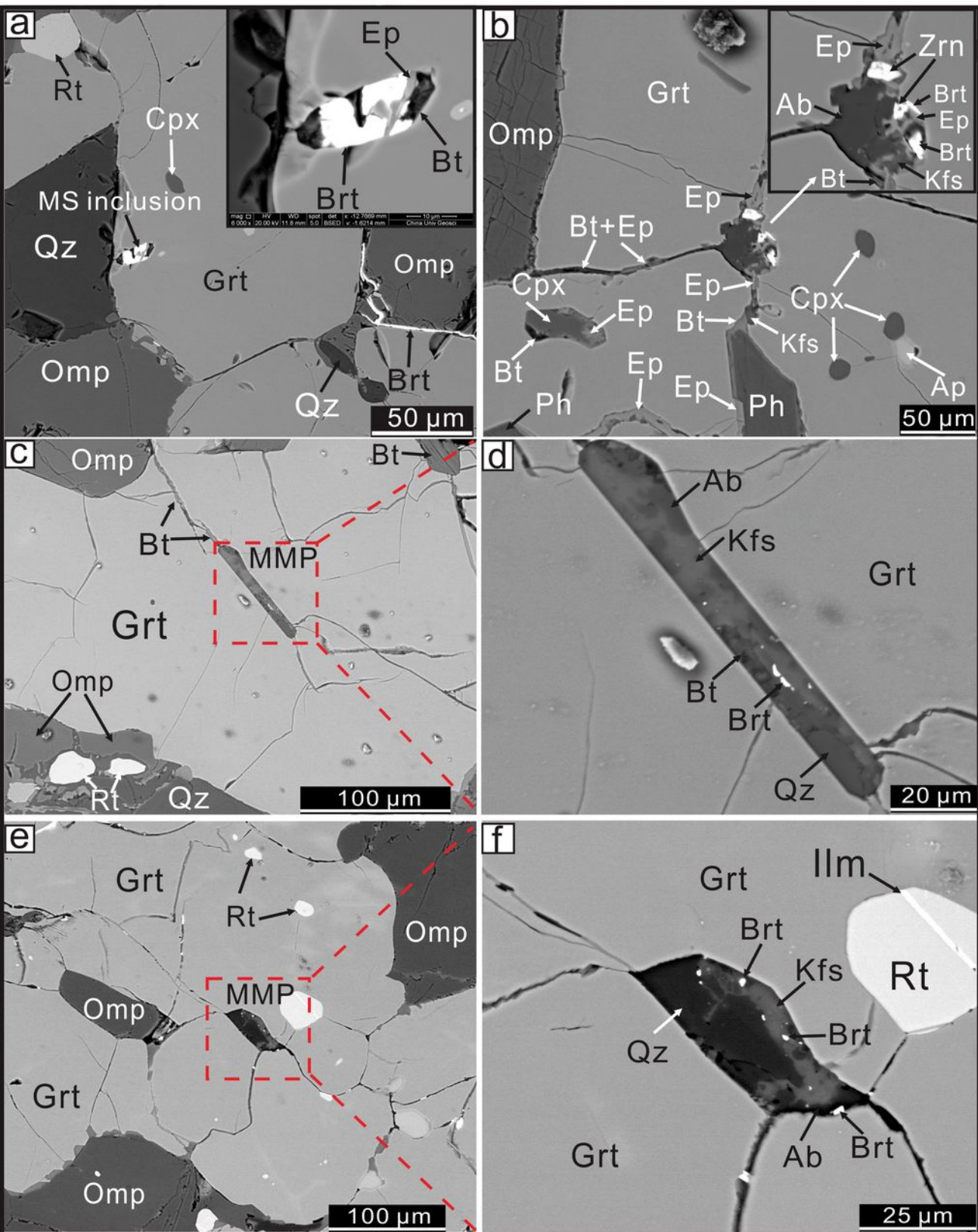
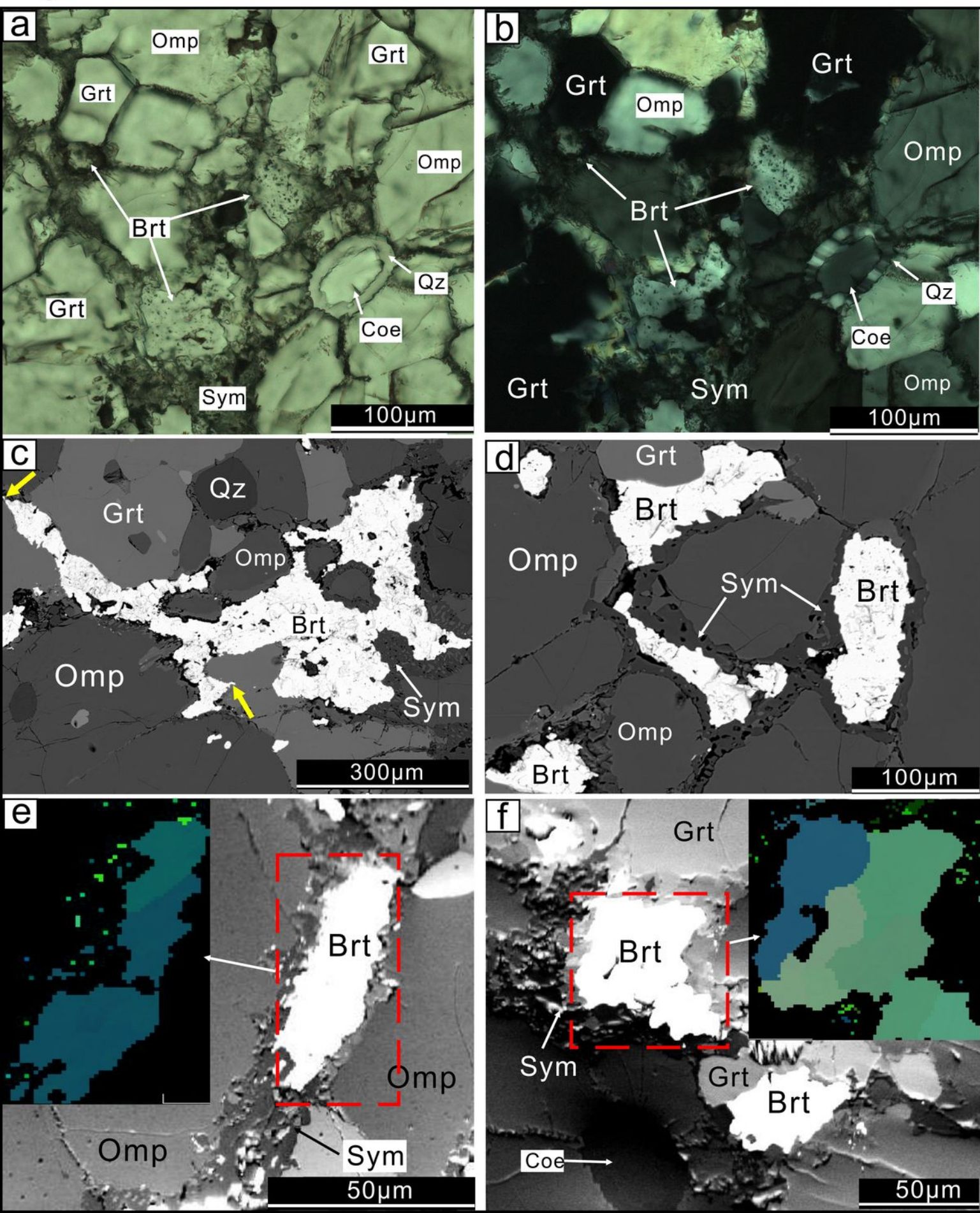
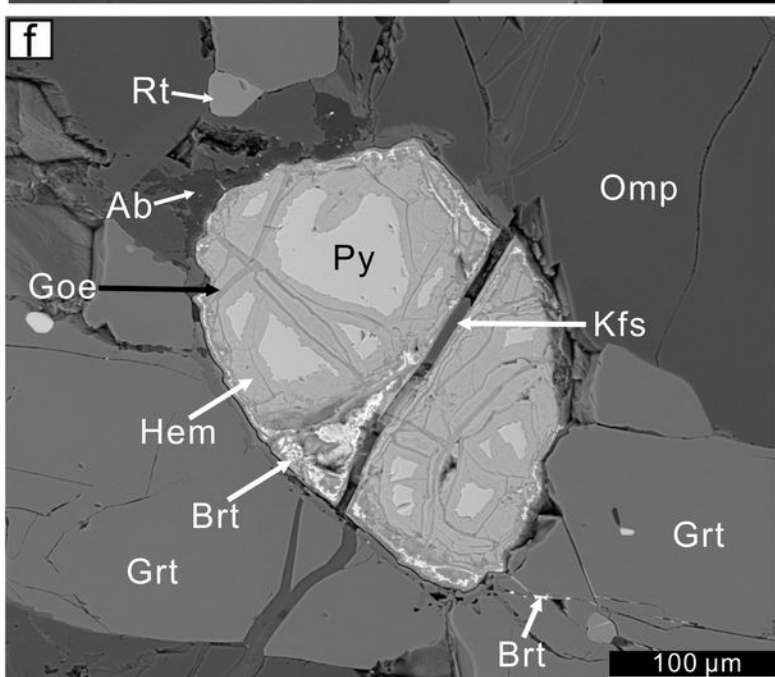
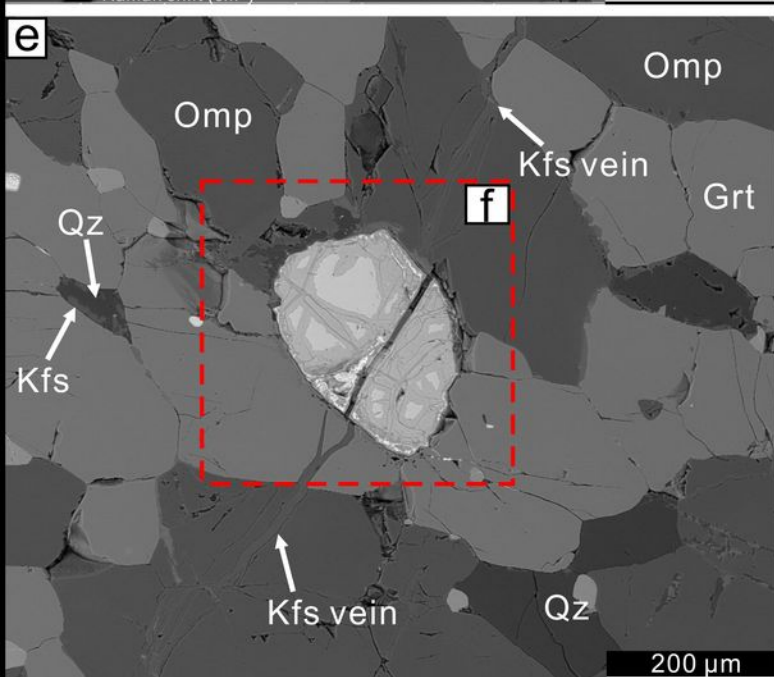
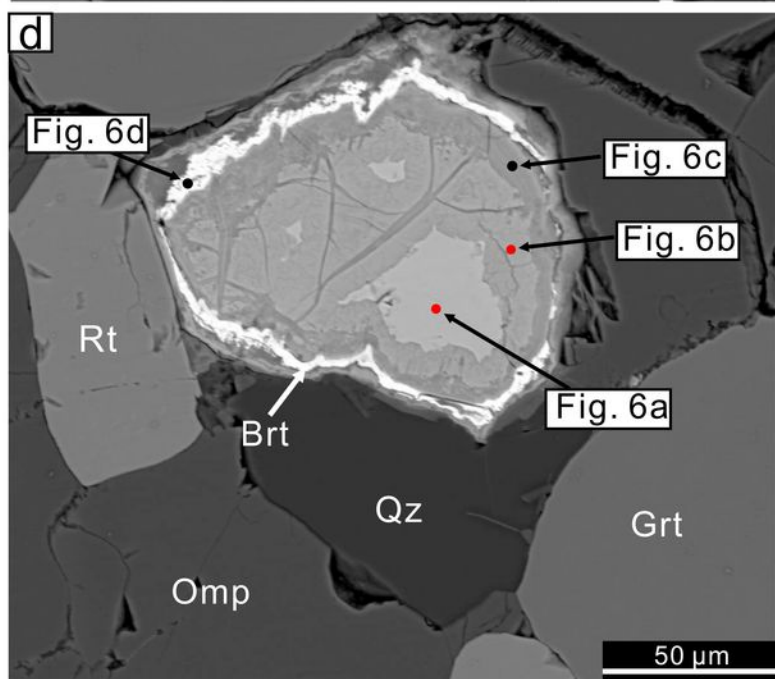
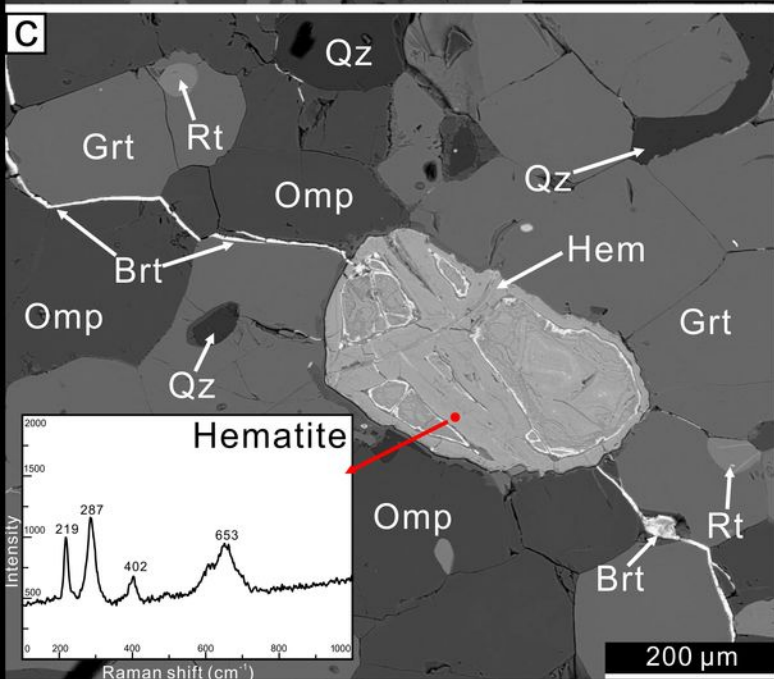
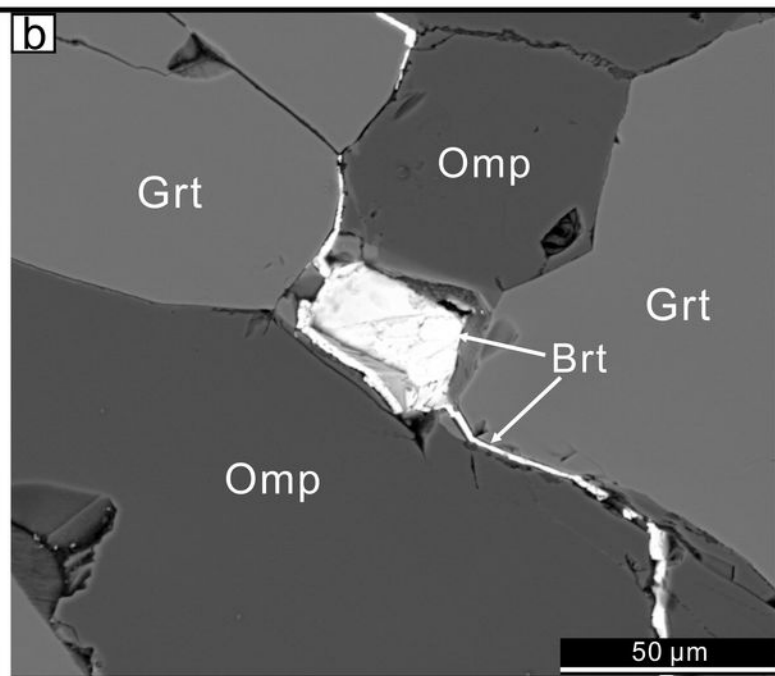
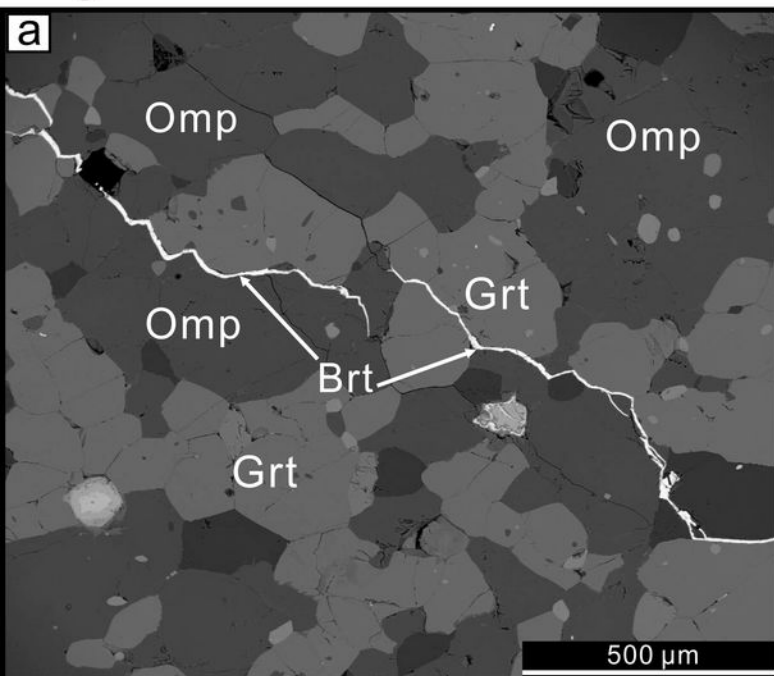
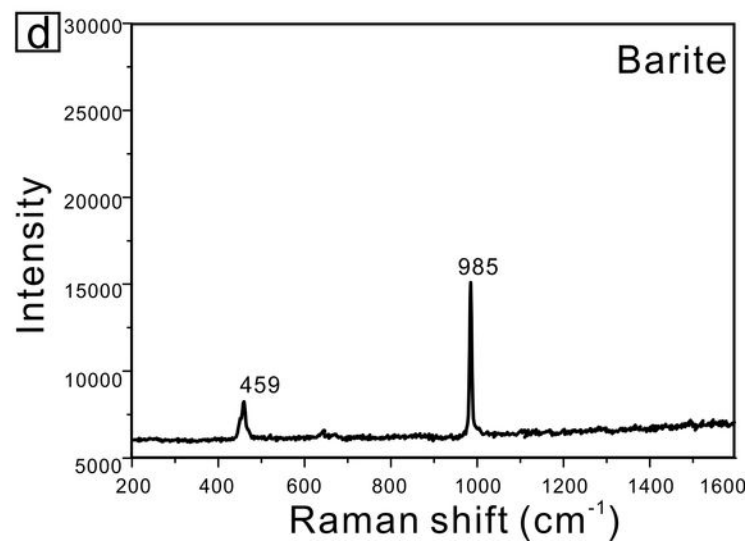
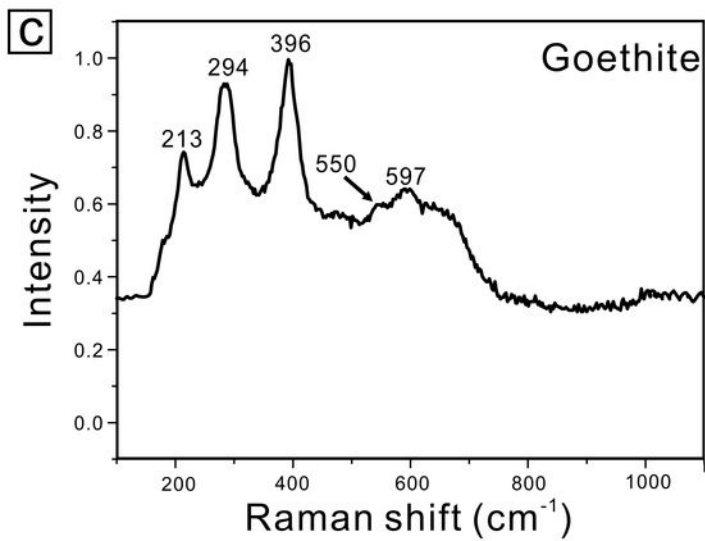
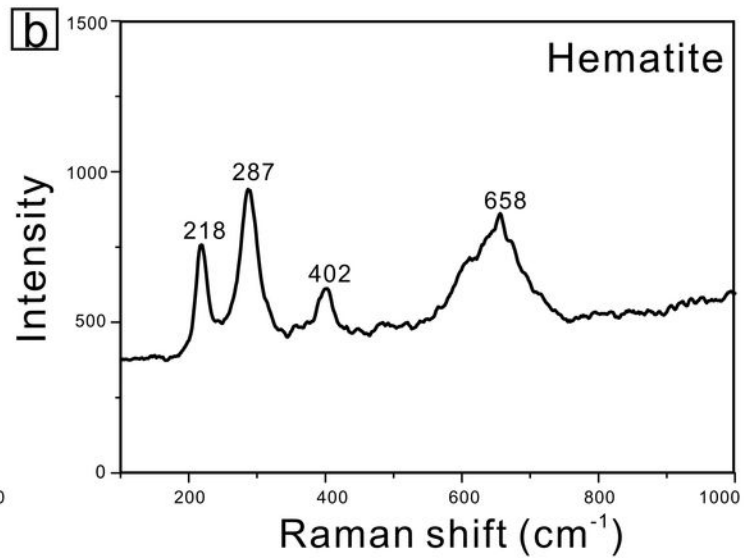
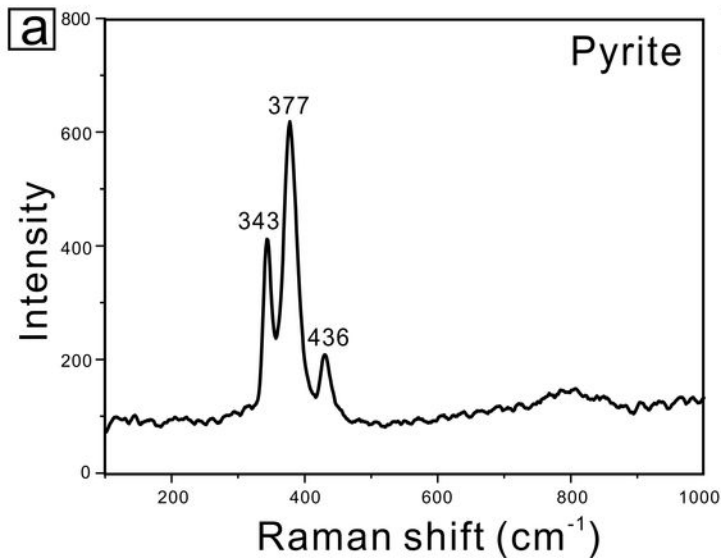


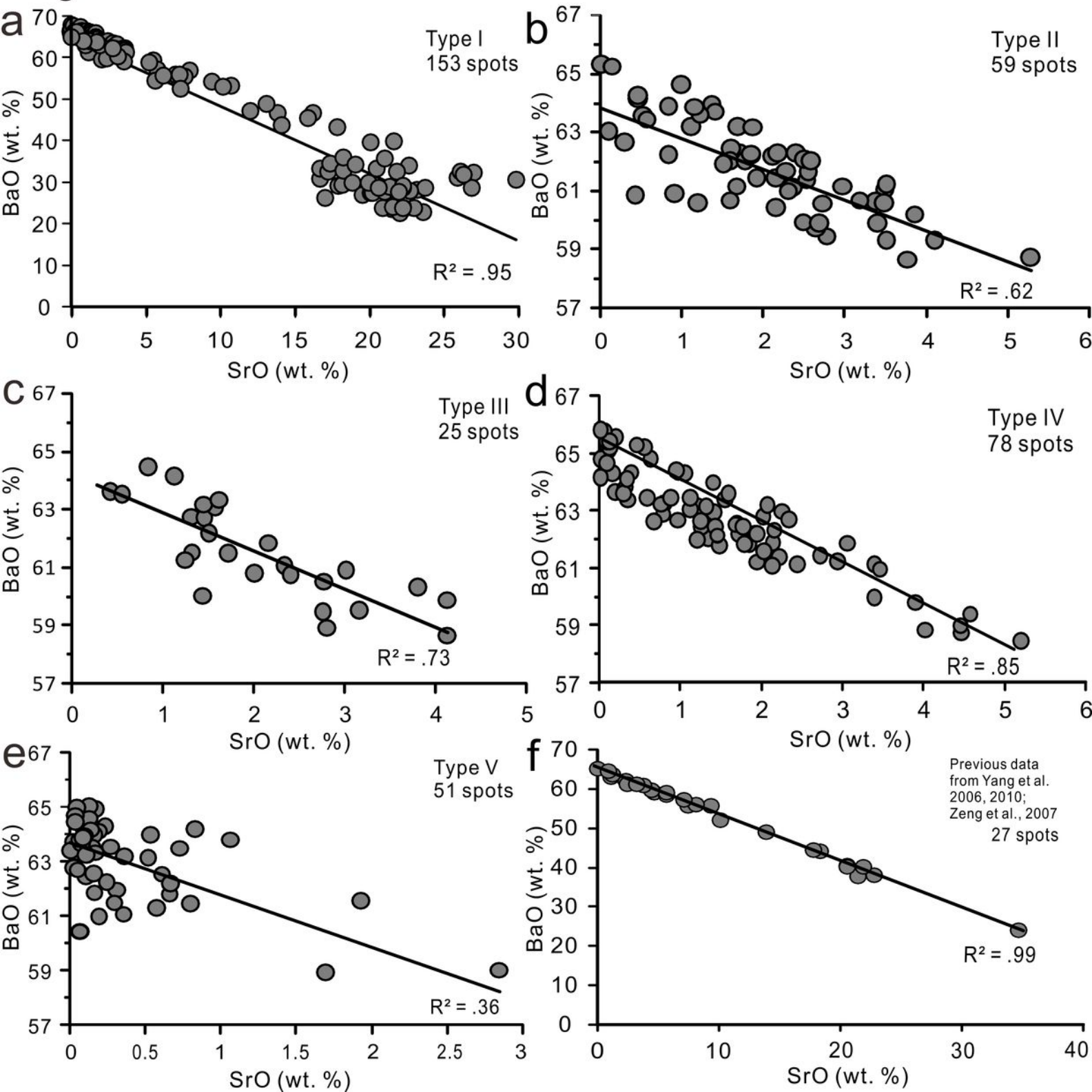
Fig. 4



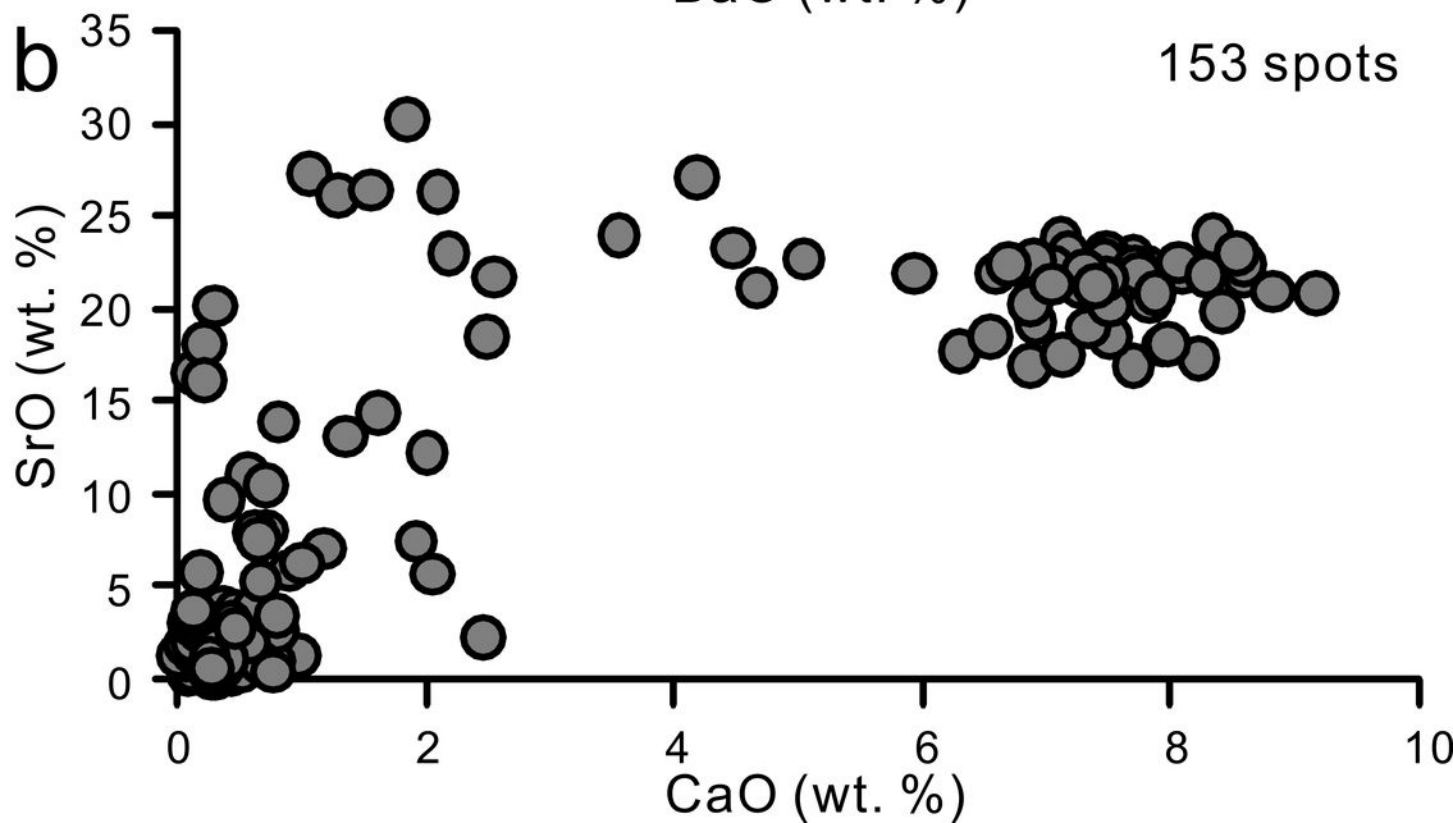
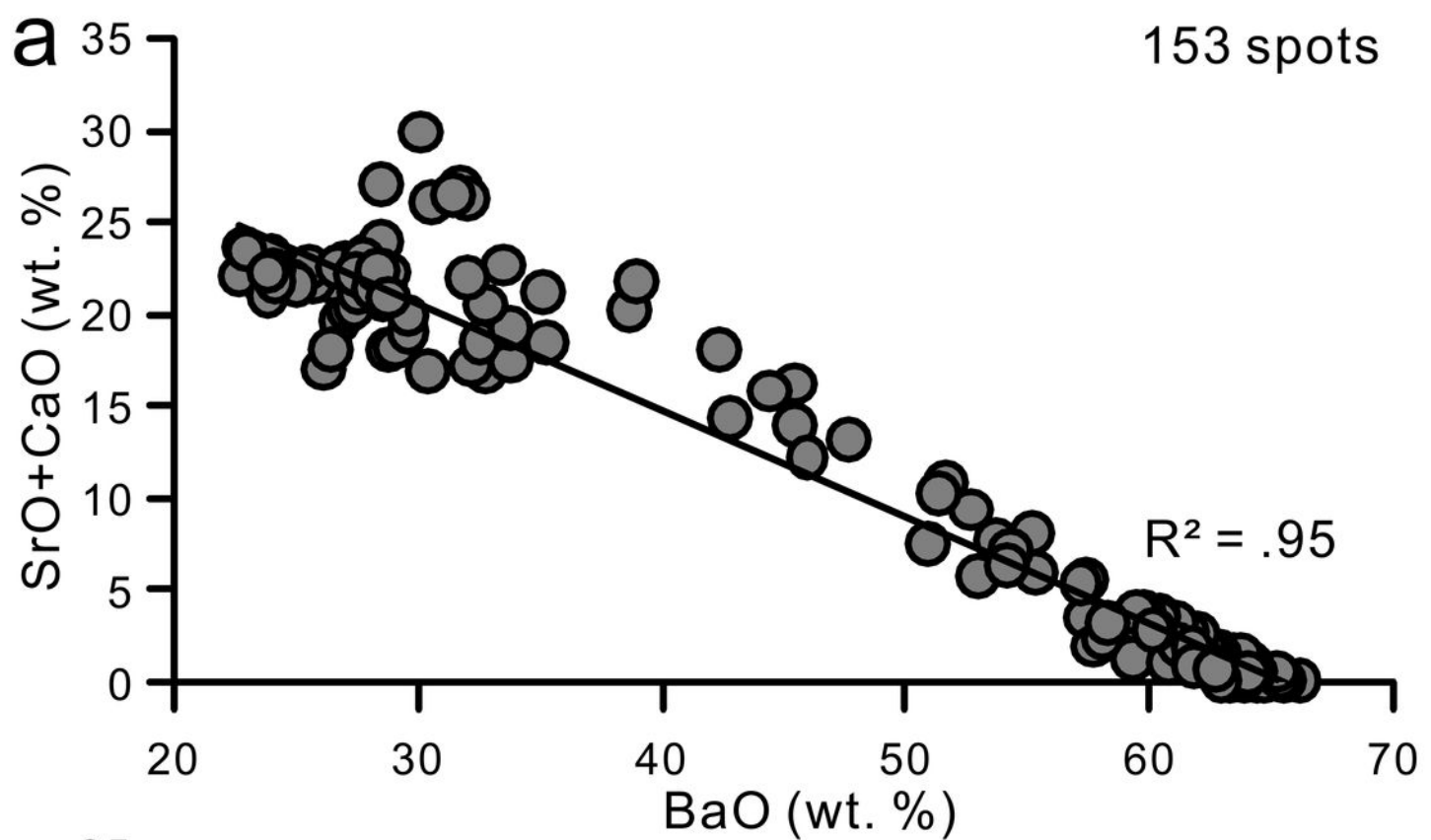


**Fig. 5**

**Fig. 6**

**Fig. 7**

**Fig. 8**



**Fig. 9**

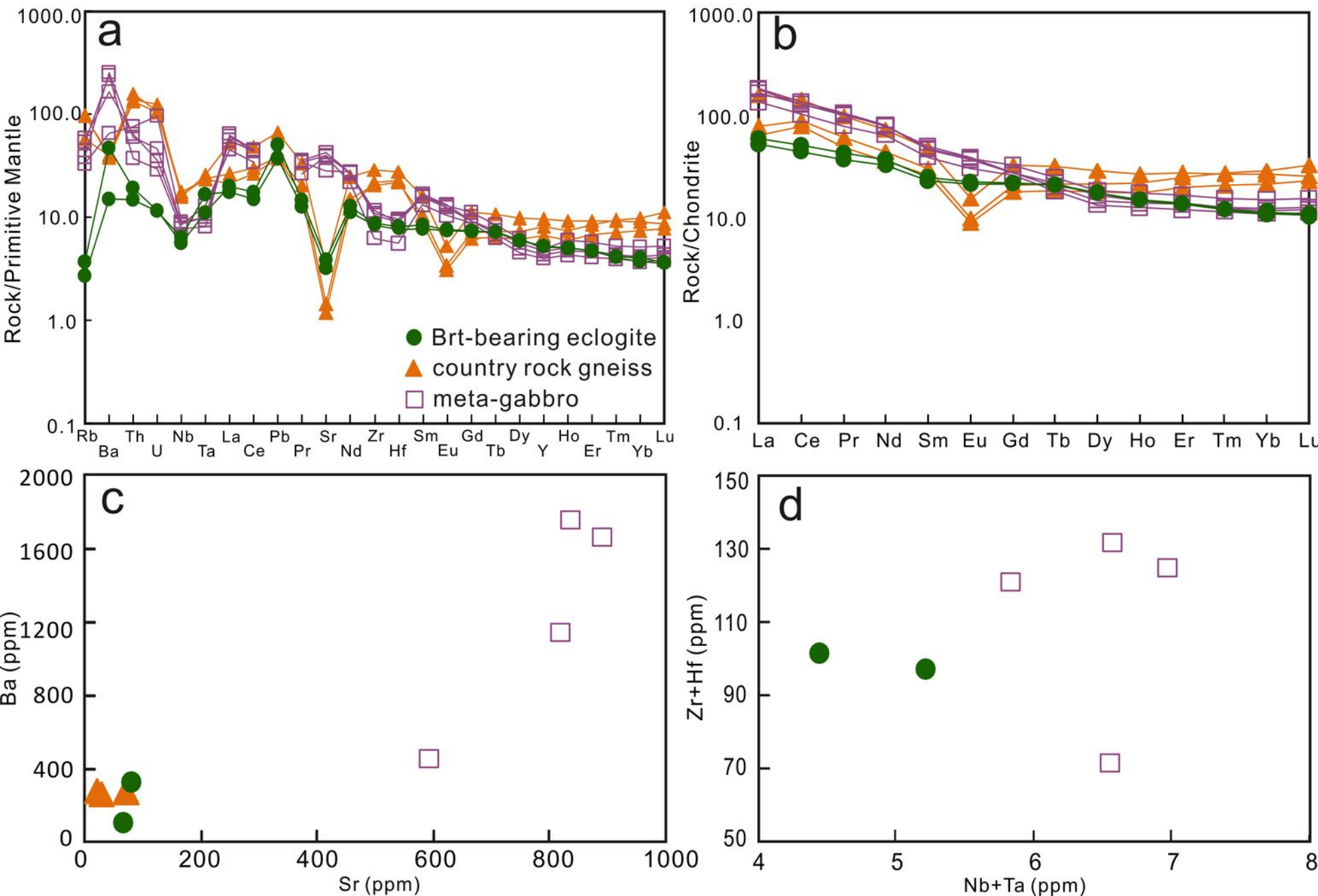


Fig. 10

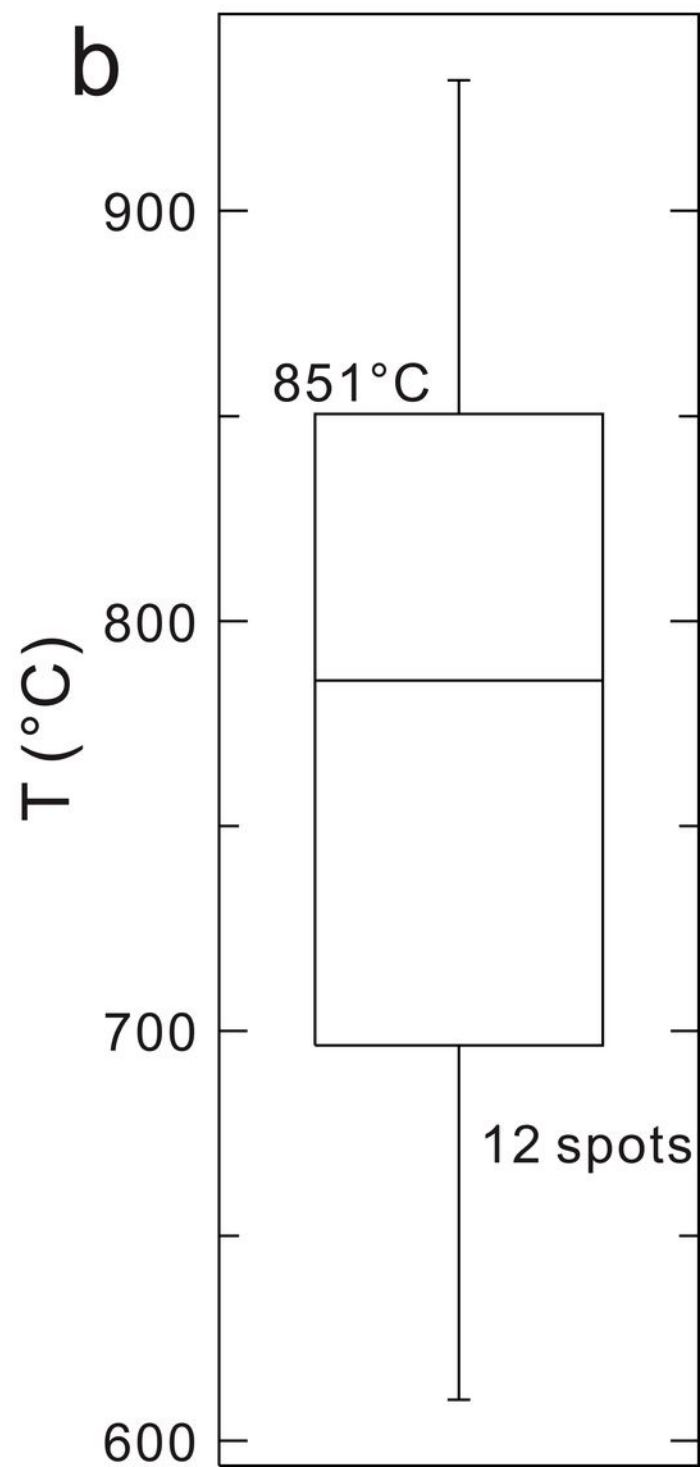
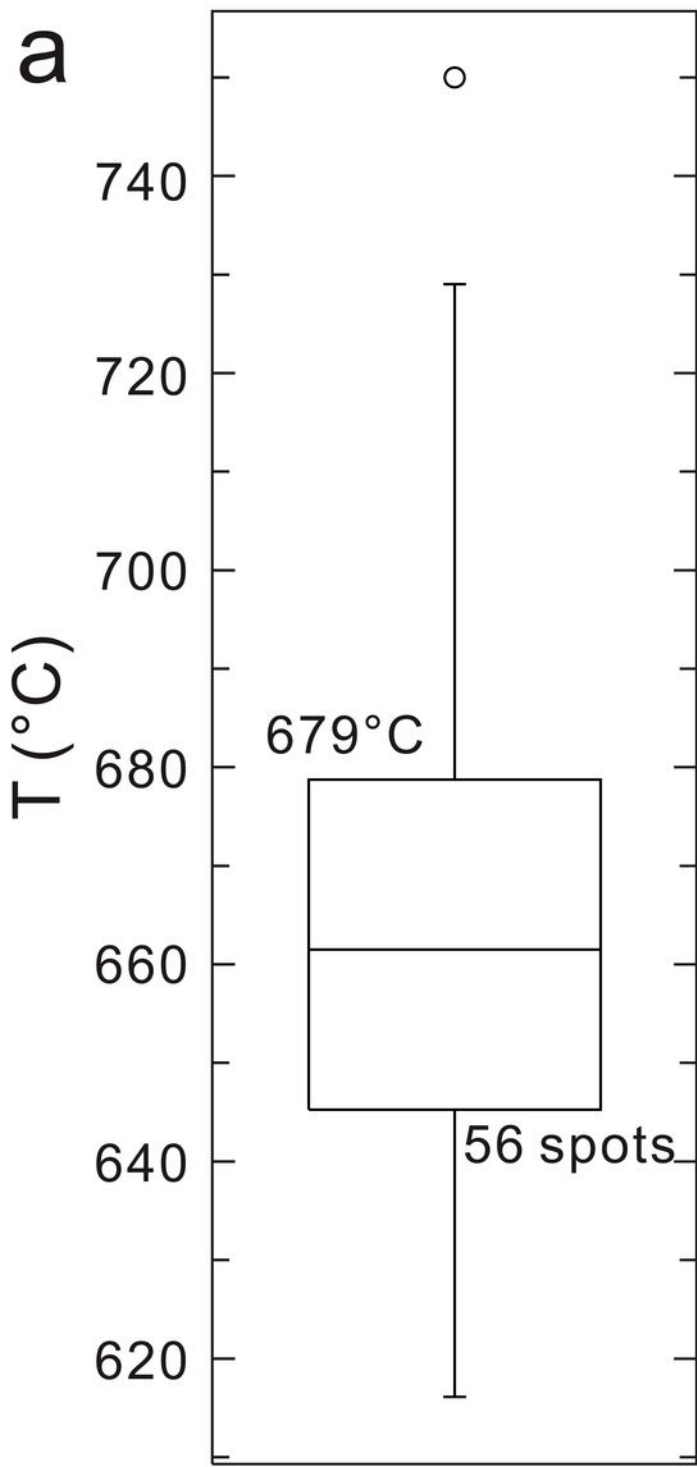


Fig. 11

