

Abstract

High-grade highly deformed gneisses crop out continuously along the Masanteo peninsula in the Cabo Ortegal nappe (NW Spain). The rock sequence formed by quartzofeldspathic gneisses and mafic rocks records two partial melting events: during the Early Ordovician (ca. 480–488 Ma.), at the base of the Qz-Fsp gneisses, and immediately after eclogization (ca. 390.4 ± 1.2 Ma), during its early Variscan exhumation. Despite the strain accumulated during their final exhumation in which a pervasive blastomylonitic S_2 foliation was developed, primary sedimentary layering in Qz-Fsp gneisses is well preserved locally at the top of the sequence. This first stage of the exhumation process occurred in ~ 10 Ma, during which bulk flattening of the high-grade rock sequence was accommodated by anastomosing shear bands that evolved to planar shear zones. Strain was progressively localized along the boundaries of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. A SE-vergent ductile thrust constitutes the base of gneisses, incorporating eclogite blocks-in-matrix. A NW-vergent detachment placed the metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses over the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. A difference in metamorphic pressure of ca. 0.5 GPa is estimated between both gneissic units. The high-grade deformation reduced substantially the thickness of the gneissic rock sequence during the process of exhumation controlled by change in the strain direction and the progressive localization of strain. The combined movement of the top detachment and basal thrust resulted in an extrusion of the migmatites within the nappe, directed to the SE in current coordinates.

1 Introduction

The processes involved in the exhumation of HP and UHP rocks in subduction zones remain a hot topic in tectonics given the complexity of strain paths that rocks follow from the surface to great depths and back to the surface (e.g. Gerya and Stöckhert, 2006). The boundary between convergent plates concentrates a large amount of strain

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and also heterogeneity. This boundary in subduction zones, named as the subduction channel, is characterized by non-parallel planar rigid edges on either side, on profile having a triangular shape (i.e. Bird, 1978; England and Holland, 1979; Shreve and Cloos, 1986; Mancktelow, 1995). Under this configuration, the convergence of rigid plates squeezing a non-compressible viscous material, introduces a stress gradient in the system leading to lateral flow of rock (e.g. Mancktelow, 1995). If the shearing associated to the convergence is taken into account, the result is that particles close to the subducting plate will follow the lower boundary and once they reach the vortex of the triangular channel will return to the surface following the upper rigid boundary (see Fig. 4 in Shreve and Cloos, 1986). The intrinsic heterogeneity of the system at the boundary between plates can be now visualised in numerical models, however, the rock record does not always preserve all deformation stages and the difficulty in interpreting a finite strain path in rocks and rock units remains.

In continental collision, subsequent in most cases to a subduction stage, there are some analogies with the “subduction channel” or the boundary between plates, but some major differences. The first major difference is that as a consequence of less rigid plate boundaries involved the size of this idealized triangular plate boundary increases substantially. It is renamed as an orogenic wedge or an accretionary wedge. It has a triangular shape, but the angles between sides change. Displacement paths of particles within the system do follow the sides of this wedge, but the dynamics are completely different. In orogenic wedges, the exhumation of subducted rocks from depth greater than 50 km cannot be satisfactorily explain by classical collision models, such as the dynamics of accretionary wedge (i.e. Davis et al., 1983; Platt, 1986) or the extensional exhumation (i.e. Chemenda et al., 1995).

Extrusion of high-grade rocks is usually related to the dynamics of channel flow at crustal scale in collisional orogens, in which flow of a weak lower-crustal layer towards the orogenic foreland is consequence of the collision. In the case of the Himalayan-Tibet system, the excessive crustal thickness beneath the Tibetan Plateau determines the anomalous lithostatic pressure gradient required to force lateral and frontal flow of

acid and basic calc-alkaline igneous rocks that recorded blueschist facies and eclogite facies conditions (Gil-Ibarguchi and Ortega-Girones, 1985; Arenas et al., 1995; López-Carmona et al., 2010, 2014).

The Cabo Ortegal complex is the allochthonous terrane located closer to the fore-land basin (Fig. 1a). Internally is further divided into two tectonic units, the Cabo Ortegal nappe and the lower unit (Marcos et al., 2002). The Cabo Ortegal nappe (Fig. 1b) is composed of rocks affected by HP-HT metamorphism and it correlates with the upper units of the orogenic tectonic pile. The Lower tectonic unit is composed of three thrust sheets that correlate with the ophiolitic and the basal units in the other allochthonous complexes. The Lower Paleozoic sequence of the relative autochthonous is separated from the Cabo Ortegal complex by a thin thrust sheet of parautochthonous rocks (Marcos and Farias, 1998).

Three major ordered lithological units form the Cabo Ortegal nappe (Fig. 1c). > 600 m of alternating serpentinized peridotites and pyroxenites (Girardeau et al., 1989). The ultramafic rocks are in neat contact with 400 m thick mafic unit that culminates with a 100–200 m thick massive eclogite (Vogel, 1967; Galán and Marcos, 1997). The top of the sequence is formed by > 600 m of quartzo-feldspatic gneisses. In the proximity of this contact, the gneisses include decimetric to meter-scale lenses of eclogites, other mafic rocks and calc-silicate rocks and show many evidences of migmatization (Vogel, 1967; Gil-Ibarguchi et al., 1990; Fernández, 1997). A sedimentary compositional banding consisting of metapelitic and metapsammitic interbedded layers characterize the top of the quartzo-feldspatic gneissic sequence. Overall, the whole lithostratigraphic sequence has been used as a proxy for the continental crust-mantle transition (Brown et al., 2009).

In this paper, we present the structural analysis of a high-grade tectonic sequence in mafic and quartzo-feldspatic gneisses, located in the East of the Cabo Ortegal nappe (Fig. 2a). The gneisses are well exposed in the Masanteo peninsula, 4.5 km² in area. A detailed mapping of the gneisses and the reconstruction of the rock unit geometry

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and asymmetric-mantle structures of centimetre-size and unrooted-intrafoliar folds. In most cases D_2 deformation forms tectonites without a stretching lineation, they are planar features. However, an intersection lineation formed between the S_2 foliation and a compositional or migmatitic layering is frequently observed. Occasionally, a garnet- or amphibole- lineation develops in high D_2 strain zones, such as at the contacts between the different lithologies, however the orientation of this lineation shows scattered patterns (Fig. 2b).

Metamorphism associated to D_2 (M_2) progressed from eclogite facies to amphibolite facies.

3.1 Mafic gneisses

High-strain amphibolite-bearing gneisses containing boudins and blocks of eclogite, partly retrogressed eclogites and rarely metagabbros, outcrop at the base of the Masanteo cliff (Fig. 3). Eclogite is mainly composed of $Omp + Grt \pm Hbl$ (abbreviations after Whitney and Evans, 2010). Eclogites preserve commonly undeformed textures with inclusions of Rt in Grt . The mineral assemblage in retrogressed eclogites contains $Qz + Grt + Omp \pm Hbl \pm Bt \pm Pl \pm Rt \pm Ilm \pm Spn$. Occasionally, eclogitic blocks are intruded by mesocratic melts (Fernández-Suárez et al., 2007). Rarely metagabbros ($OI + Pl + Grt \pm Ab \pm Ep$) with relict ophitic textures preserve prograde pre-eclogitization coronitic garnets. The mineral assemblage in the high-strain matrix is $Qz + Pl + Hbl + Ky + Grt + Bt \pm Kfs \pm Czo \pm Ilm \pm Spn$. This D_2 fabric developed in both mafic and migmatitic gneisses and characterizes such contact. Peak metamorphic conditions during the eclogite stage are $800^\circ C$ and $2.2 GPa$ (Mendia, 2000).

3.2 Migmatitic gneisses

$Ky \pm Rt \pm Grt$ -bearing biotite Qz -Fsp gneisses are layered migmatites located between the mafic gneisses, underneath, and an upper unit composed of metasedimentary gneisses, on top. Centimetric to decimetric thick bands of

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orthogneisses (Qz + Mc + Pl + Grt + Ms + Bt) intruded by felsic diorite dykes (Qz + Pl + Grt + Hbl ± Czo) are intercalated in this unit of biotite gneisses. The migmatitic layers, also centimetric to decimetric in thickness, show a dominant planar geometry. The total thickness of the gneissic unit ranges between 50 to 200 m. Two compositional endmembers can be distinguished: biotitic Qz-Fsp gneisses (Fig. 4d) with Ky + Grt + Bt ± Hbl ± Czo ± Ilm ± Spn, and a fraction of leucocratic and mesocratic bands of 20 and 80 %, respectively, above the mafic gneisses; and banded leucocratic Qz-Fsp gneisses (Fig. 4f) with Grt + Bt ± Ky ± Czo ± Ilm ± Spn and a fraction of 80 and 20 % of leucocratic and mesocratic bands below the unit composed of metasedimentary gneisses. The difference in modal composition may relate to differences in the primary composition of the metasedimentary rocks. However, compositional differentiation can also be consequence of migmatization and/or subsequent deformation. The phyllonitic fabric of the biotitic-gneisses, including centimetric layers of restitic material (Fig. 4e) and its location overlying the mafic gneisses points to deformation in high-grade conditions.

Peak metamorphic conditions estimated for the migmatitic gneisses in the Masateo peninsula are 720 °C and 1.5 GPa (Gil-Ibarguchi et al., 1990). Estimates of metamorphic conditions of equivalent biotite Qz-Fsp gneisses in Punta Tarroiba (location in Fig. 1b), the Chímparra gneisses (Vogel, 1967), show slight higher values of 800 °C and 1.7 GPa (Fernández, 1997) similar to conditions calculated in the eclogites (Fig. 5).

The structural relationships between the blastomylonitic S₂ foliation and the felsic diorite dyke allows to constrain the time of intrusion because S₂ foliation transposes metric folds buckling the dykes (Fig. 4a and b), evidencing that intrusion and folding of the diorite dykes occurred previously. Since the S₂ foliation shows parallelism to the migmatitic layering and bounds concordantly the eclogite block-in-matrix (Fig. 4c), migmatization occurred at the early stages of D₂ and immediately after eclogitization. Consequently, the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses recorded two melting events, an early event related to the intrusion of the diorite dykes in the orthogneiss, and a second par-

tial melting event that produced the migmatitic layering, which is better preserved within the less deformed lozenges bodies surrounded by anastomosing D_2 shear bands.

3.2.1 New U-Pb ID-TIMS geochronology in the migmatitic gneiss

Two separate felsic dykes (DM-2 and DM-3; Fig. 4a and b) were dated by U-Pb ID-TIMS at the IGME geochronology laboratory in Tres Cantos (Spain). Zircon and monazite were analyzed following the procedures outlined in Rubio Ordoñez et al. (2012). The zircon fractions were chemically abraded before final dissolution.

In the case of sample DM-2, two zircon and three monazite fractions were analyzed (Table 1; Fig. 6). The zircon fractions are discordant, while the three monazite fractions overlap the Concordia curve providing concordant ages at 475 Ma (M1), 478 Ma (M2) and 485 Ma (M3). These three monazite fractions are collinear and provide a lower intercept age of 384 ± 180 Ma and an upper intercept age of 479 ± 6.5 Ma. For sample DM-3, four zircon and three monazite fractions were dated (Table 1; Fig. 6). The monazite and zircon fractions Z1, Z4 and Z3 define a mixing line anchored at 480 ± 8 Ma by the concordant monazite and an upper intercept at 2.56 Ga, suggesting Proterozoic zircon inheritance. In this sample, monazite analyses were done using single crystals. Monazites M2 and M3 overlap each other and provide a concordant age of 480 ± 1 Ma (MSWD 0.44), while monazite M1 is concordant at 488 Ma, resembling the monazite from sample DM-2. These data clearly demonstrate the presence of Cambro-Ordovician (ca. 480–490 Ma) monazite in both dykes. A similar spread of Early Ordovician monazite ages, such as those in sample DM-2, was reported by Fernandez-Suarez et al. (2002) in the Cape Ortegal complex from leucosomes of the Chimparra gneiss, suggesting minor Devonian (ca. 386 Ma) overprint of Cambro-Ordovician monazite. The same authors also reported a zircon age of 487 Ma from a leucosome in the mafic granulites. Therefore we consider that the monazites provide the best estimate for the intrusion age of the felsic dykes DM-2 and DM-3, which would be bracketed by a minimum age of 480 Ma (intercepts of the discordia lines) and a maximum age of 485–488 Ma (oldest concordant monazite fractions).

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3.3 Metasedimentary gneisses

The upper unit of the rock sequence in Masanteo is composed of $\pm St \pm Ky \pm Rt \pm Grt$ -bearing Qz-Fsp gneisses. The metasedimentary gneisses preserve a primary layering, even though it also has leucosomic veins and it is strongly deformed during D_2 (Fig. 7a and b). Centimetric to decimetric metapelitic and metasammitic bands define the primary layering. The metapelitic layers are composed of $Ky + Grt + Bt + Ms \pm St \pm Hbl \pm Czo \pm Ilm \pm Spn$. The metasammitic layers basically lack Ky and the other alumina-rich phases (Fig. 7c and d). Towards the top of the sequence appear intercalated amphibolitized flaser-gabbro and related-rocks (Fig. 2a). Metamorphic peak conditions in metasedimentary gneisses are ca. 700 °C and 1.2 GPa (Fig. 5; Castiñeiras, 2005), consistent with the presence of St and the absence of eclogite or retroeclogite block-in-matrix. Peak T conditions are comparable to the metamorphic peak recorded in the underlying migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses, however there is a difference of 0.5 GPa in pressure, which under lithostatic conditions represents a difference in depth of ~ 17 km between the migmatitic and the metasedimentary gneisses. Most outcrops examined show a gradual transition between migmatitic and metasedimentary gneisses accommodated by the intense development of the blastomylonitic S_2 foliation. In addition, this contact is defined by a sub-horizontal shear zone in the Serrón beach (Figs. 2a and 12c) that is deflecting S_2 foliation, according with a normal shear sense. Such contact is analysed in detail later.

4 Structure

4.1 The main tectonic fabric

The structural evolution prior to eclogite facies deformation is rarely observed in Cabo Ortegal nappe rocks because the main tectonic fabric, S_2 , (Figs. 3a, 4c and 7a), developed during exhumation from high pressure conditions and it was generalized and per-

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vasive. The most common tectonites formed in both planar and anastomosing shear zones are planar (S-tectonite) or plano-linear (LS-tectonite). S_2 foliation involved the formation of decompressive textures such as the growth of large Phg bounded by Bt flakes that enclose small Grt (Fig. 4d and f), evidencing a fast isothermal decompression during D_2 deformation.

The lozenge bodies bounded by anastomosing shear zones preserve migmatitic layering within less deformed Qz-Fsp gneisses. The lozenges include unrooted intrafoliar hinges and an intersection lineation between the migmatitic layering and the lozenge shear walls, their orientation can be useful to infer kinematics during deformation. Eigen vector V_1 orientation for the intersection and intrafoliar hinge lines lie sub-parallel to the mean stretching direction (Fig. 8), and the overall geometry is consistent with bulk strain controlled by flattening (Ponce et al., 2013).

Crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) patterns of Qz- Pl- and Grt- have low intensity (Fig. 9) during the development of LS- and S-tectonites in D_2 . CPO patterns are similar in metasedimentary and migmatitic gneisses. The lack of mineral lineation as external reference to plot the CPOs of samples CO4 and CO5 make difficult its kinematic interpretation. Qz c -axes preferred orientation is characterized by a single girdle of c axes normal to the foliation plane in sample CO16; and by a single girdle in samples CO4 and CO5 dominated by a strong maximum within the girdle and parallel to the foliation. Such CPO patterns are usually found in fabrics formed at medium- and high- T by the dominant activity of the prism $\langle a \rangle$ and rhomb $\langle a \rangle$ slip systems (e.g. Law, 1990).

4.2 The basal ductile thrust (BDT)

The blastomylonitic S_2 foliation is disrupted by a discrete high-strain shear zone, the basal ductile thrust, defining the contact between the mafic gneisses and the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses (Figs. 3 and 14a). The shear zone has a thickness < 100 m. Three deformation domains can be differentiated. The associated structures decrease in size and the domains in thickness towards the upper boundary of the ductile thrust, indi-

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cating the progressive localization of deformation. The lower domain affects the mafic gneisses along a band ca. 50 m in thickness. It contains metric- and decametric-sized sheath folds with well-developed circular patterns. This type of folding is related to deformation by general shear bulk strain (Alsop and Holdsworth, 2006). The orientation of fold apical axes indicate NW-SE stretching (Fig. 10b).

The middle domain forms in biotite Qz-Fsp gneisses and includes eclogite blocks-in-matrix. Migmatitic leucosomic and restitic layers are interbedded and deformed ductilely. Metric asymmetrical folds face to the SE (Fig. 12a and c).

The upper domain contains phyllonites ~ 10 m in thickness frequently including eclogite-blocks-in matrix. The phyllonites are affected by associated structures such as shear bands, decimetric sheath folds, superposed folds and rotational complex mantle-structures (Figs. 10c and 11). Superposed shear folds show type 3 interference pattern of folding (after Ramsay, 1967) (Figs. 11 and 12). The apical axes of the some sheath folds point towards N20E, indicating maximum ductile extension along this direction.

4.3 The internal structure of the migmatitic gneisses

A group of decametric drag folds, affecting the planar blastomylonitic S_2 foliation, dominates the internal structure. The folds are tight, with low interlimb angles ($< 30^\circ$), overturned and vergent to the SE, where the outcrops only are showing the lower part of the migmatitic gneisses (Fig. 12a). They often have associated parasitic folds, and non-cylindrical horizontal hinges. Occasionally, minor folds relate to small thrusts surfaces that imbricate eclogite-block-in-matrix parallel to the blastomylonite S_2 foliation.

A Flinn diagram using the shape of eclogite-block-in-matrix within the gneisses and according to block sizes in Fig. 13 shows that most large eclogite blocks plot near to the plane strain field, while smaller eclogite bodies plot either in the constrictional or flattening fields. The long axis of eclogite bodies does not show a preferred orientation (to the right in Fig. 13).

The Early Ordovician dioritic dykes can be regarded as passive deformation markers during D_2 deformation. A complex structure has been observed in the coastal section

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at the Serrón beach (Fig. 12b). In this section, the thickness of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses is less than 100 m and both bottom and top boundaries of such unit are well exposed. Their thickness decreases progressively toward the SE. Migmatitic gneisses are affected by a shear zone in which the sense of the shear changes between the top and the bottom, producing folds of opposite vergence in the dioritic dykes and in the migmatitic banding. The larger structure reconstructed from both markers (dioritic dykes and migmatitic banding) consists in a opposite vergence recumbent hinge defined by the competent dioritic dykes. The limbs are disrupted and boudinaged toward the horizontal high strain zones located in both boundaries of this unit. This sandwiched structure indicates orthogonal stretching with transport flow of the migmatitic gneisses toward the SE, suggesting Poiseuille flow with maxima flow rate in the middle of the structure.

4.4 The top detachment

A horizontal discrete shear zone constituting the contact between the metasedimentary and the migmatitic gneisses is exposed at the Serrón beach (Fig. 12b and c). A gradual transition between both types of gneisses is observed along the base of the cliffs. Deformation partitions into anastomosing D_2 shear bands preserving evidences of previous melting episodes (Figs. 4e and 7a).

The horizontal shear zone has 20 m in thickness and strongly deflects the migmatitic layering. Migmatitic layering and diorite dykes are disrupted and boudinaged progressively towards the upper high-strain surface (Fig. 12c). Top to NW shear sense is inferred from the deflection of the migmatitic layering, drag folds and the boudinage of the dioritic dykes. Despite subsequent reequilibration in greenschists-facies conditions, evidencing a late reactivation, the mineral assemblages in the progressively less deformed bands within the detachment are basically the same as the high-grade Qz-Fsp gneisses described previously (Fig. 5).

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4.5 The upper D₃ recumbent fold

The metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses form the core of a recumbent synformal structure, towards the east of the Masanteo peninsula. This large-scale fold has associated several parasitic cylindrical-folds and a crenulation cleavage. Detailed cross-sections of the recumbent synform have been constructed using the asymmetry of small-scale parasitic folds and the structural relation between its associated crenulation cleavage and the main S₂ foliation (Fig. 14). The fold axis plunges 5–30° towards N20E. The fold attitude determines that the reverse limb is exposed in the northeastern cliffs and only partially along the southeast shoreline. A late upright antiform refolds the recumbent synform. This late folding affects the crenulation cleavage (Fig. 14c), which is equilibrated in greenschists-facies conditions.

Intrafoliar folds and sheath-folds, formed during the development of the S₂ foliation (Fig. 15c and d), are refolded by parasitic folds related to the recumbent fold (Fig. 14b). A late upright open fold (Fig. 15b and e) refolded this complex superposed folded structure, recording at least three different stages of progressive deformation. The recumbent syncline can be located into the larger scale cross-section of the Cabo Ortegal nappe (Fig. 1b; Marcos et al., 2002).

5 Metamorphic evolution in the gneisses

In the study area, there are evidences for two partial melting events that are recorded in the rock sequence. A first event is related to the intrusion of dioritic dykes in the orthogneisses intercalated within the migmatitic gneisses (Table 1; Fig. 6). The intrusives are synchronous, to the segregation of leucosome from the mafic granulites and yield Lower Ordovician ages, ca. 485 Ma (Fernández-Suárez et al., 2002). A second partial melting event in relict layers within Qz-Fsp gneisses postdates eclogitization of mafic block within the gneisses, at ca. 390 Ma, (sample COZ4 located in Figs. 2a and 12a; Castiñeiras et al., 2010).

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that change in the force balance after the first slab break-off might slow down or cancel continental subduction phase and trigger the initiation of the exhumation phase (i.e. Burov et al., 2014a, b).

The formation of a D_2 wedge within the gneisses accommodates the exhumation of the higher-grade units of the tectonic sequence relative to its upper part formed by Qz-Fsp gneisses with metasedimentary appearance, rather than representing a first order structure. Similar gneiss wedge within high-pressure terranes have been reported during the late stage exhumation of the Sambagawa HP rocks from lower to upper crustal levels (Osozawa and Wakabayashi, 2015) and during the exhumation of blue-schist facies rocks of Leti Island in Indonesia (Kadarusman et al., 2010). These large-scale structures developed in a non-collisional subduction setting. However, the example of the Masanteo peninsula is a small-scale structure found in a Paleozoic orogen and formed at the early stages of HP-HT rocks exhumation from continental subduction settings.

The third stage is dominated by the multiphase deformation imparted during the Variscan convergence, corresponding to the formation of kilometric-scale recumbent folds, thrusts and folded by upright fold verging – SE, described in Cabo Ortegal as D_3 , D_4 and D_5 phases of deformation, respectively (Fig. 16a). This late evolution of the Cabo Ortegal nappe and its kinematics (Marcos et al., 2002) is consistent and coetaneous with the deformation recorded in the underlying autochthonous rock sequence in relation to the Variscan belt (Matte, 1968; Pérez-Estaún et al., 1991).

Neither the tectonothermal nor the exhumation history of the high grade tectonic sequence in Masanteo peninsula supports models such as the obtained by Beaumont et al. (2004, 2006) for the Himalaya-Tibet orogeny and recently imported for the Masanteo area by Albert et al. (2012). The latter group of authors propose a tectono-thermal model for the exhumation of the eclogite facies gneisses in the Cabo Ortegal Complex where the progressive deformation in the complex is controlled by “a UHP buoyant plume”, formed by the HP-HT tectonic pile, into the metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses. However, the structural data is inconsistent with such interpretation. Cross sections re-

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Bulk flattening strain, inferred from the D_2 tectonic fabrics, the lozenge overall structure, the CPO patterns and the scattered orientation of the kinematic markers are indicative of the tectonic regime during deformation of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses.

The internal structure of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses, consisting in a double recumbent hinge suggests horizontal flow direction toward the SE (Fig. 12). The metric sheath folds belonging the mafic gneisses of the BDT-lower domain are also consistent with SE-stretching (Fig. 10b). Progressive localization of strain occurred simultaneously during exhumation. Frequently, Phg phenoblasts, are aligned parallel to the S_2 foliation of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses, and are bounded by Bt flakes that enclosed small prismatic shaped Grt (Fernández, 1997). These microstructures evidence the instability of Phg under isothermal decompression and consequently at high exhumation rate. However, the exhumation $P-T$ path obtained for the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses is different to the metamorphic evolution inferred for the metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses (Fig. 5). The differences in metamorphic conditions between both Qz-Fsp gneisses are in agreement with the generalized migmatization of the lower Qz-Fsp gneisses sequence (Figs. 4 and 7). $P-T-t$ paths suggest the burial of the metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses simultaneously to the exhumation of the migmatized Qz-Fsp gneisses and consequently the Qz-Fsp tectonic pile could be thinned. In addition, the progressive localization of strain contributed to the development of the BDT and the top detachment.

The 0.5 GPa metamorphic pressure difference between both Qz-Fsp gneisses could be indicative that metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses exhumed from maxima burial depths ~ 17 km lower than the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. However, if BDT and the top detachment were actives simultaneously, the internal extrusion of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses was produced by a gradient in pressure and consequently the difference in depths between metasedimentary and migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses could be lower and could ranged between 15.5 and 7.5 km, assuming a overpressure 1.1 or 2 time the lithostatic pressure (i.e: Mancktelow, 1995, 2008; Moulas et al., 2013). Nevertheless, part of the tectonic pile thinning occurred during the development of the blastomylonitic S_2 foliation (i.e. Fernández, 1997; Llana-Fúnez et al., 2004). Additional

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the eclogite sample, respectively. F. J. Fernández prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

Acknowledgements. In 1988, F. J. Fernández initiated his research career in the Masanteo peninsula under the supervision of Alberto Marcos and aimed by Andrés Pérez-Estaún. Revisiting the area 25 years later brings new light and some understanding to Cabo Ortegal geology. Authors thank their colleagues for continuing discussion about the tectonic evolution of Cabo Ortegal. Research funds from grants CGL2011-22728, CGL2010-14890 and CGL2011-23628/BTE by the Spanish government is acknowledged. P. Castiñeiras stay at Stanford University was funded by CSIC grant PA1002435.

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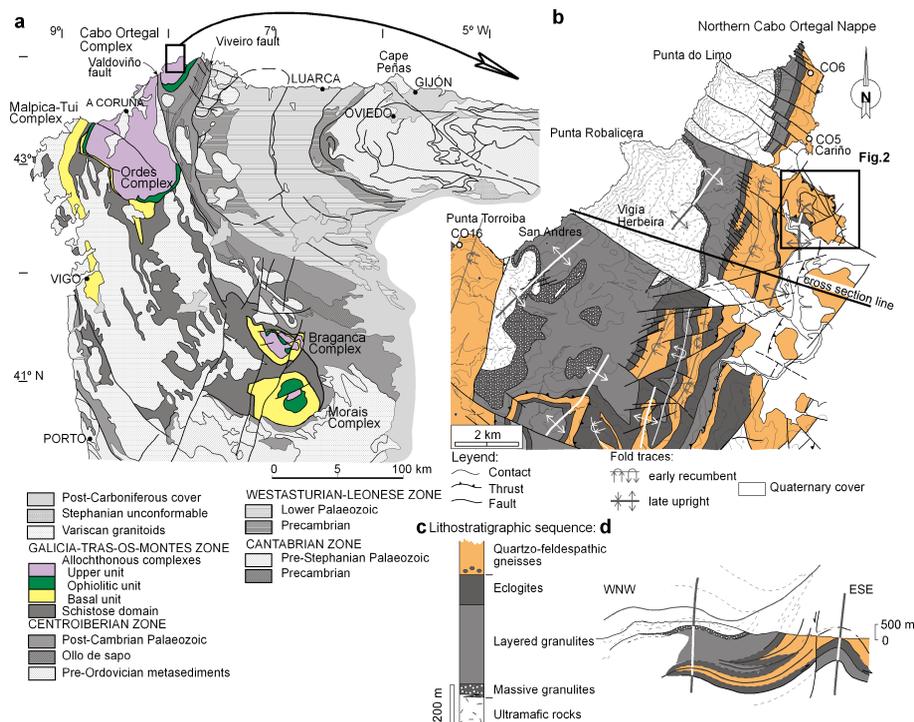


Figure 1. Geological map of the Northern Iberian Variscan Belt, highlighting the Allochthonous complexes (a) (based on Parga Pondal et al., 1982). Geological map with location of Fig. 2 and the CPOs-samples (b), lithostratigraphic sequence (c) and cross-section (d) of the Northern Cabo Ortegal nappe (after Marcos et al., 2002).

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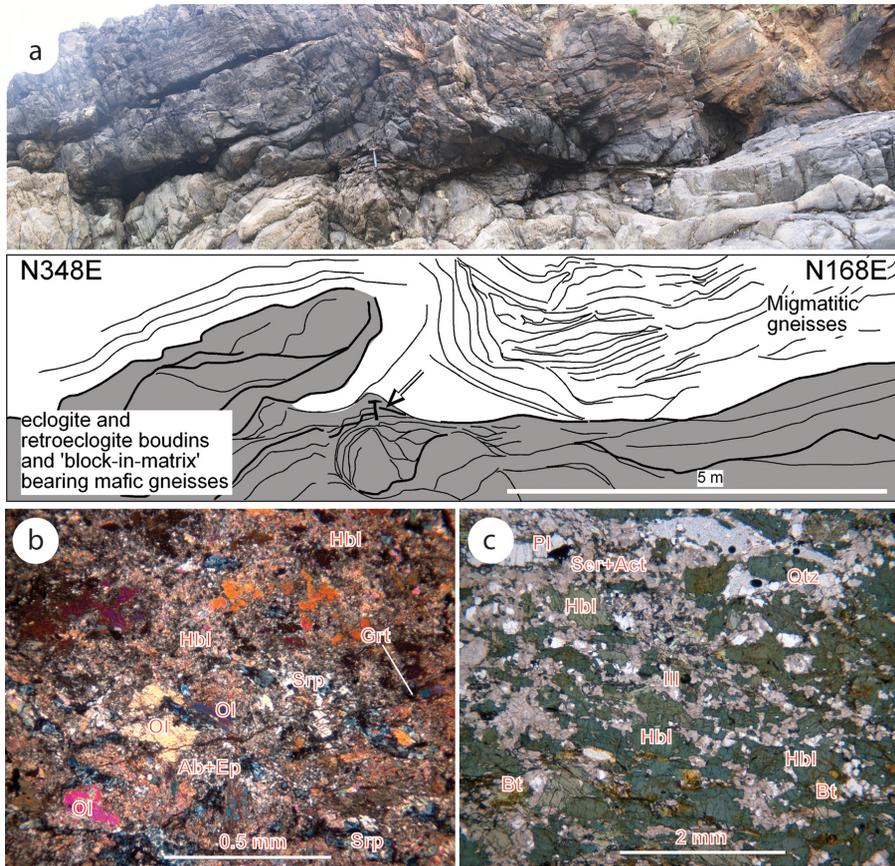


Figure 3. Mafic gneisses and related-rocks. **(a)** Structures at the outcrop scale, the sketch shows the attitude of the main S_2 foliation at the contact between mafic gneisses and migmatitic gneisses. Microphotographs: **(b)** retrogressed coronitic metagabbro (Sample B917). **(c)** Bt-Grt-bearing amphibolite gneisses within the less deformed lozenges (Sample B714). Sample location is indicated in Fig. 2a.

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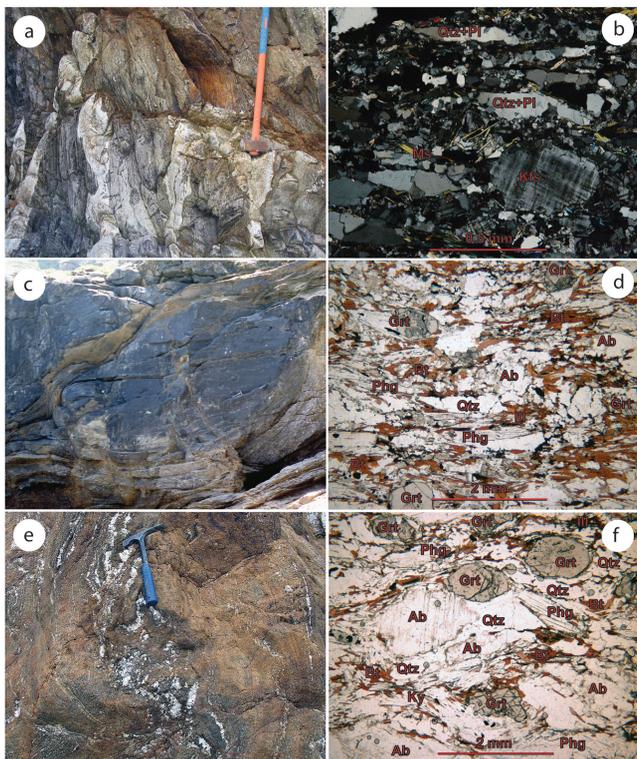


Figure 4. Migmatitic biotite Qz-Fsp gneisses and related-rocks. **(a)** Folding affecting a felsic dioritic dyke and the S_2 foliation. **(b)** Microphotograph of the felsic diorite dyke showing a coarse foliation (Sample DM-2). **(c)** Anastomosing shear zones defined by the S_2 foliation surrounding lozenges of less deformed migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. **(d)** Microphotograph of the biotite Qz-Fsp gneisses (Sample B23). **(e)** Restite in migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. **(f)** Microphotograph of the leucocratic Qz-Fsp gneisses (Sample B12). Sample locations are in Fig. 2a.

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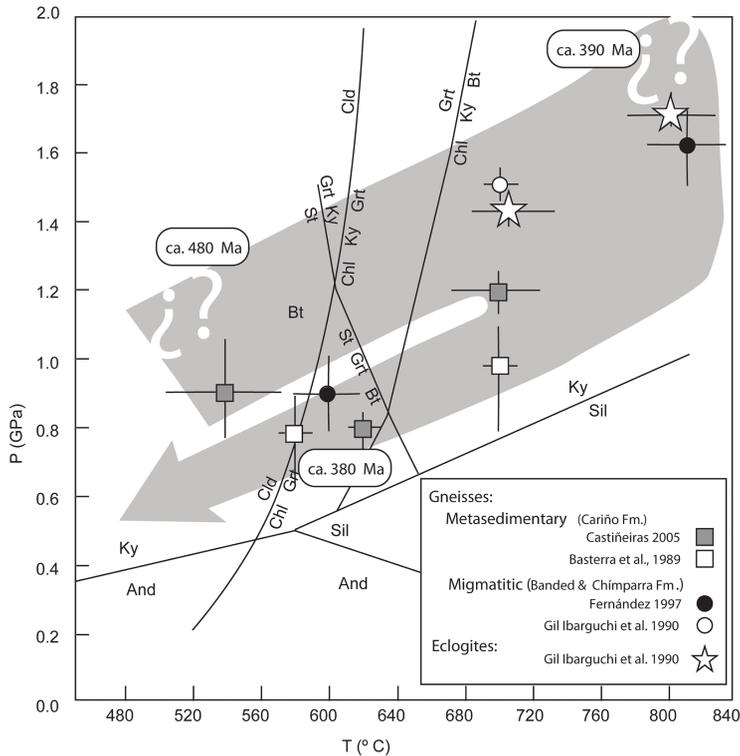


Figure 5. P - T data calculated for metasedimentary and migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses in Cabo Ortegal nappe, based in the available published data, indicated in the legend. Al_2SiO_5 phase diagram after Holdaway (1971). P - T path proposed (grey arrow) highlight with $?$ indeterminations in the prograde and maxima P - T boundaries of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses. The arrow in grey highlights the P - T - t evolution of metamorphic conditions just to the exhumation of Cabo Ortegal gneisses to amphibolite facies accordingly with our data.

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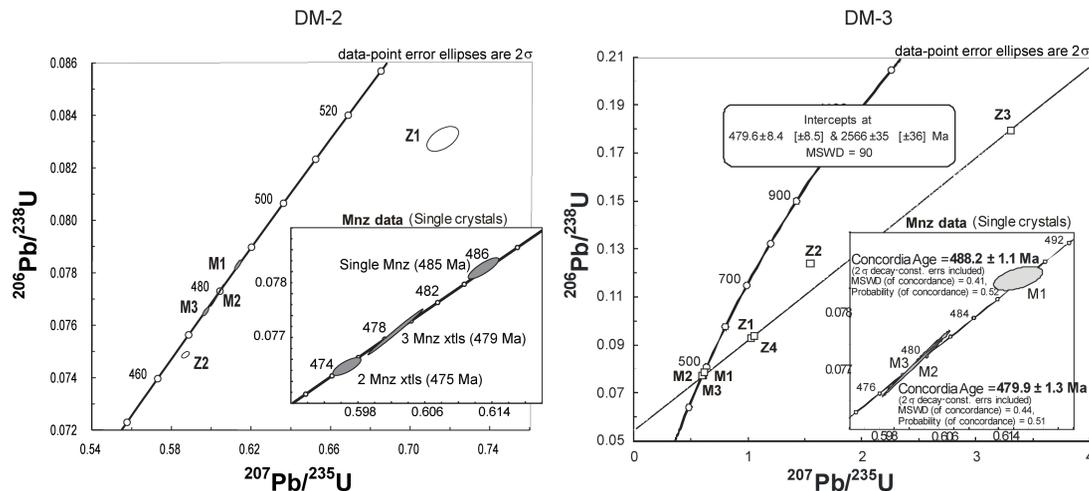


Figure 6. U-Pb CA-ID-TIMS data of the diorite dyke samples DM-2 and DM-3 (small white filled ellipses – zircon; grey ellipses – monazite). Locations are in Fig. 2a.

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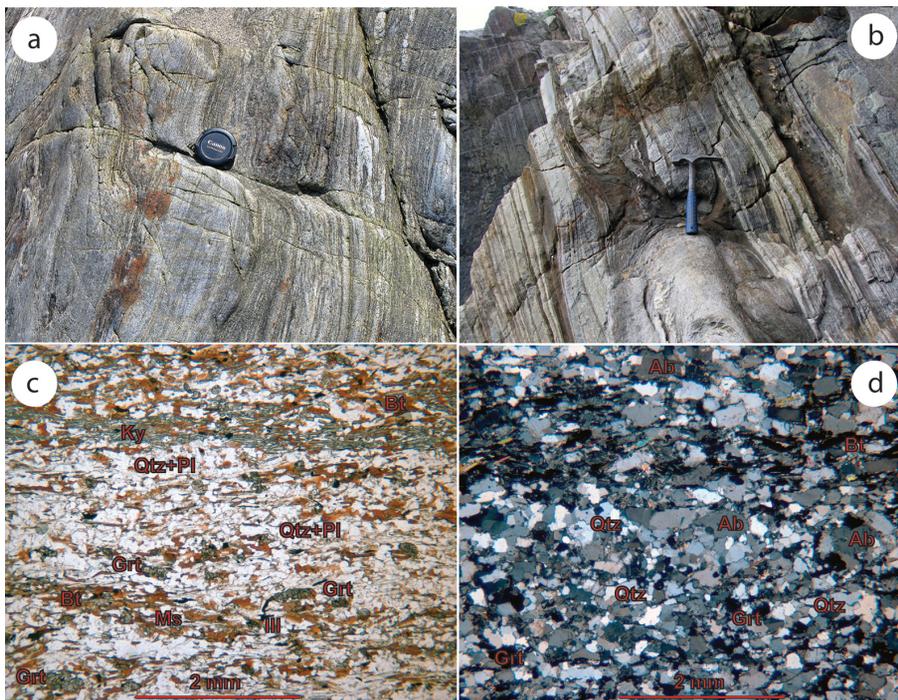


Figure 7. Metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses and related-rocks. **(a)** Leucosome veins (right to the scale marker) parallel to the compositional banding. **(b)** Intrafoliar folds related to the S_2 foliation superimposed on the compositional banding. **(c)** Microphotograph of a metapelite band (Sample B1427). **(d)** Microphotograph of a metapsammite band (Sample B22). Sample locations are in Fig. 2a.

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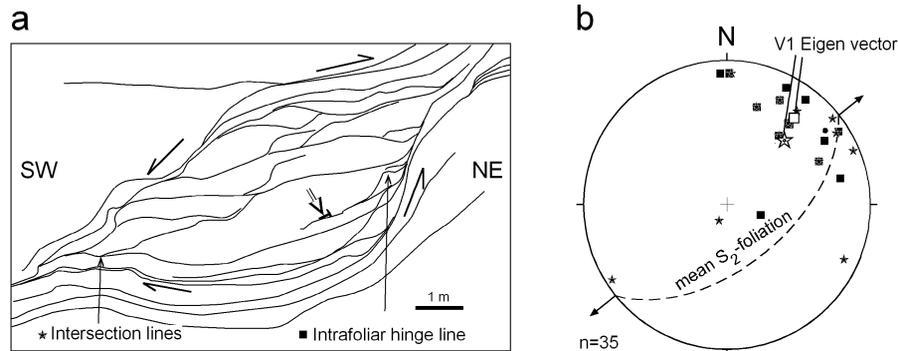


Figure 8. Relation of deformation structures inside and outside lozenge migmatitic bodies: **(a)** sketch showing the trace of the S_2 foliation in bounding shear zones and within the lozenge (location of observations in Fig. 4c); and **(b)** pole figure of main S_2 foliation, intersection lineation and intrafoliar hinge lines within the lozenge in **(a)**. Equal area projection, lower hemisphere projection also shows the V_1 eigen vector and the mean S_2 foliation plane. The arrows indicate the orientation of the horizontal maximum extension inferred.

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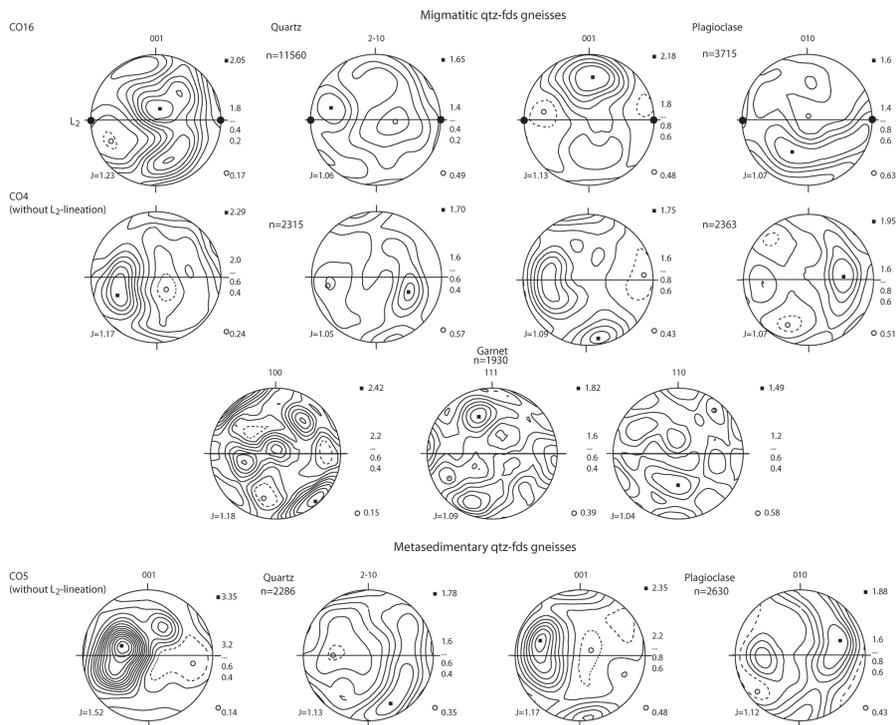


Figure 9. Crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) patterns in quartz and plagioclase, in relation to the main S_2 foliation in the Qz-Fsp gneisses. Sample locations are in Fig. 2. Contouring is in multiples of random distribution (gaussian halfwidth 15). Items indicated in the stereonets are: bottom left, the J index; right, the values of contours. Equal area projection, lower hemisphere. S_2 foliation is plotted E–W vertical and the L_2 lineation, if sufficiently developed, is plotted E–W horizontal. Crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) pattern in garnet formed in the S_2 tectonic fabric in sample CO4 is also plotted.

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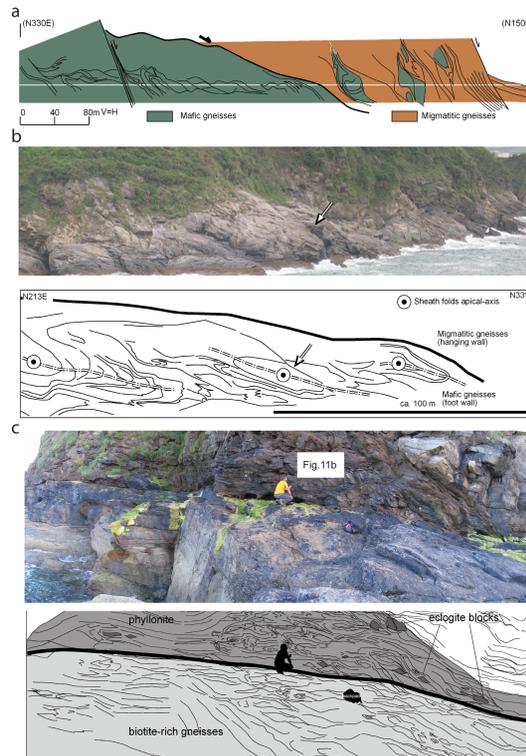


Figure 10. Coastal sections of the basal thrust (see Figs. 2a and 12a for locations). **(a)** Continuous section showing the contact between the mafic gneisses and the migmatitic gneisses. The white line represents the sea level. **(b)** Elliptical sections in sheath folds of decametric size in the lower domain of the basal thrust. The arrow points to an angler for scale, also used as reference in the sketch outlining the S_2 foliation underneath. **(c)** Phyllonitic domain in the basal thrust. Structures related to this domain are outlined in the sketch below the picture.

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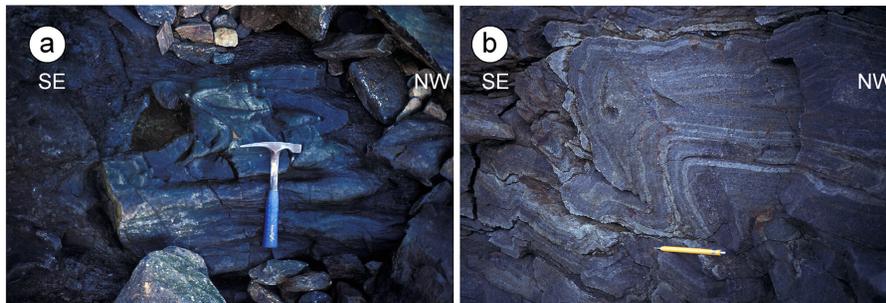


Figure 11. Non-cylindrical minor fold associated to the basal thrust: **(a)** sheath folds with apical axes perpendicular to the section view; and **(b)** type 3 fold interference pattern (after Ramsay, 1967) in the phyllonitic domain (see Fig. 10 for location).

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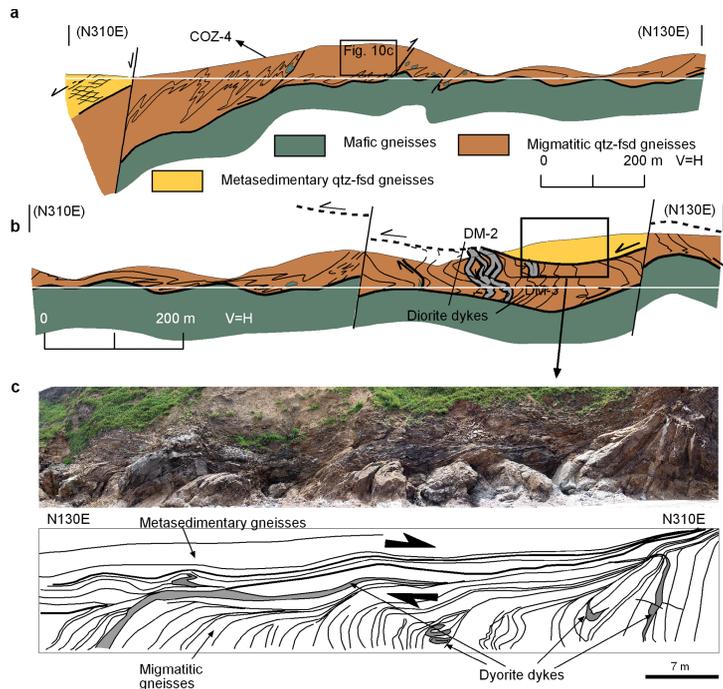


Figure 12. Geological sections showing the internal structure of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses and the locations of larger eclogite-blocks. Cross sections are located in Fig. 2a. The white lines represent the sea level. **(a)** In the northern section, the internal structure is characterized by asymmetrical folding and the presence of eclogite block-in-matrix close to the thrust. **(b)** The internal structure of the migmatitic Qz-Fsp gneisses is dominated by the presence of polyclinal folds bounded by the basal thrust and the upper normal detachment. **(c)** Photograph and sketch in the cliff of the Serrón beach showing a normal detachment placing the metasedimentary gneisses on top of the migmatitic gneisses. Location of the sections is in Fig. 2a.

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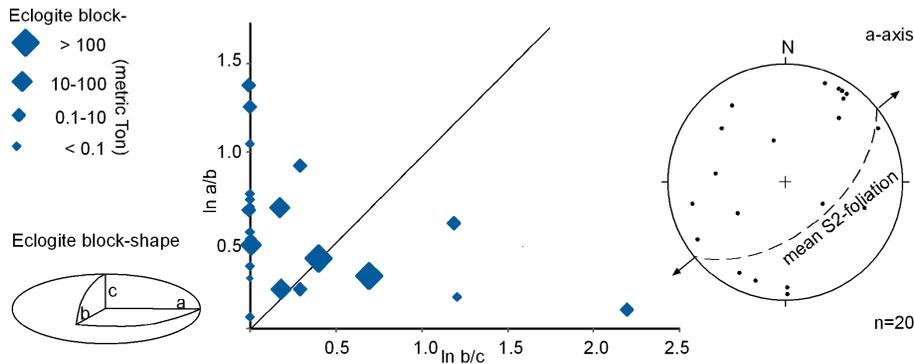


Figure 13. The shape of the eclogite block-in-matrix show a range of geometries in a Flinn diagram from prolate to oblate. The size of the symbols is proportional to size of the blocks. The scattering of the major axes of eclogite block-in-matrix in a lower hemisphere equal area projection is consistent with an overall flattening strain geometry for the unit.

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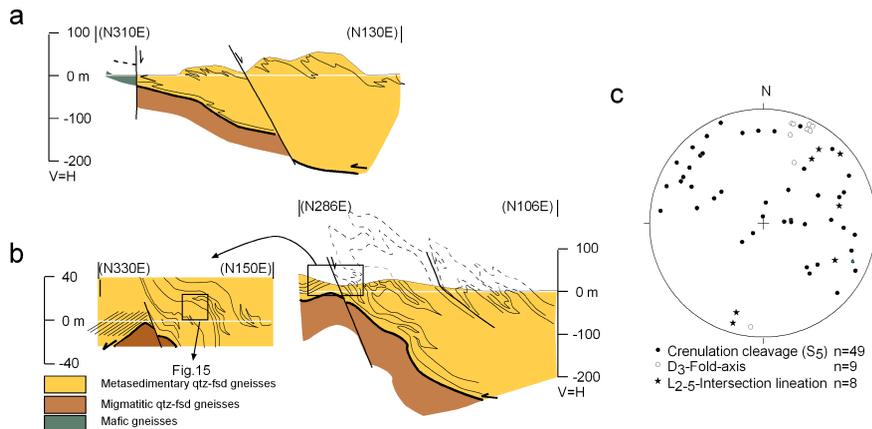


Figure 14. Geological sections of the D_3 recumbent syncline reconstructed from the small-scale parasitic folds that are folding the main S_2 foliation. Location of the sections is in Fig. 2a. White lines represent the sea level. **(a)** Northern outcrop-section. **(b)** Southern outcrop-section and the structural detail with location of Fig. 15. Note that the recumbent synform is affected by open-upright D_5 folds. **(c)** Crenulation cleavage S_5 , D_3 fold axes and L_{2-5} intersection lineation is plotted in an equal area, lower hemisphere projection.

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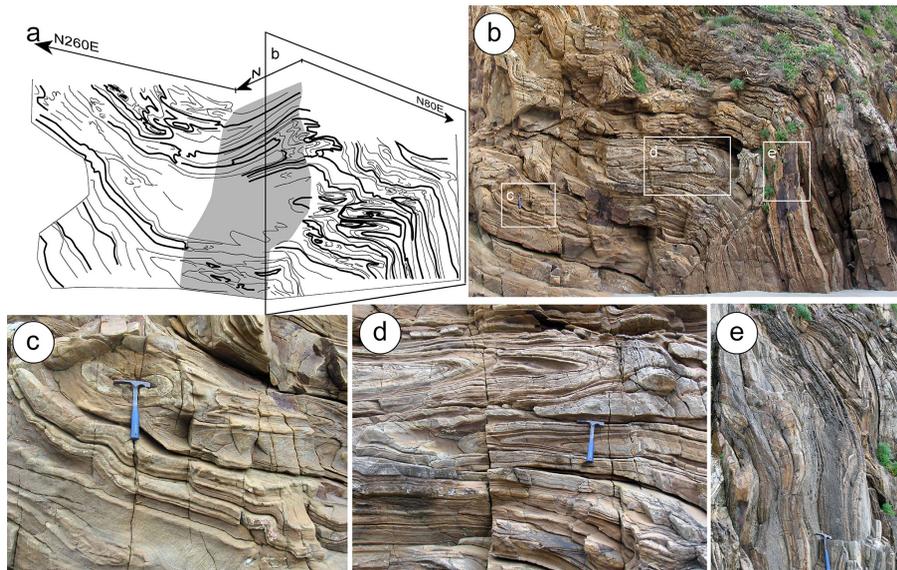


Figure 15. Small-scale parasitic folds related to the recumbent synform folding prior to D_2 isoclinal folds. Locations of outcrops are indicated in Figs. 3 and 14. **(a)** Sketch of the outcrop-section. **(b)** W–E view of a monocline, with location of the photographs **(c)**, **(d)** and **(e)**. **(c)** The apical-section of a D_2 sheath-fold, behind the hammer, indicates a N–S stretching direction. **(d)** D_2 intrafoliar folds folded by a “Z” parasitic D_3 fold (reverse limb of the D_3 recumbent fold). **(e)** “Z” parasitic D_3 fold rotated by the D_5 monocline.

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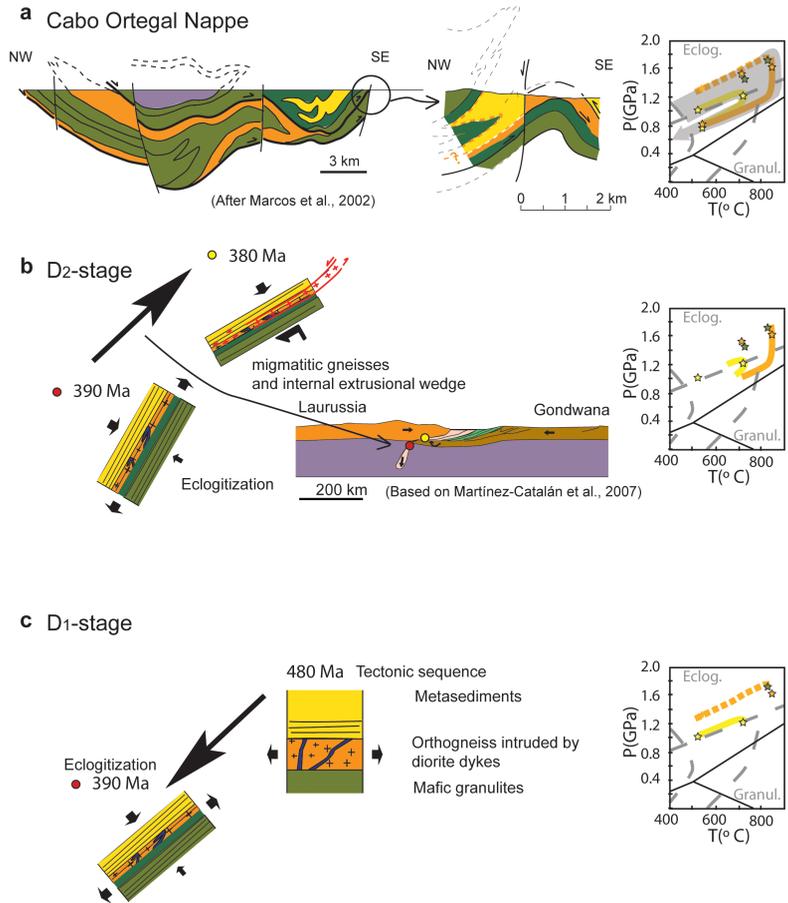


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Figure 16. Synthetic evolution of the high-grade deformed qzt-fds gneisses of the Cabo Ortegal Nappe. **(a)** Simplified geological section of the Cabo Ortegal nappe at present, showing the detail of the structure in the Masanteo peninsula (cross section in Fig. 1d, modified from Marcos et al., 2002). The P - T path to the right is based on Fig. 5. Note that coordinates correspond to present and the superposed structures from the second phase of deformation correspond to the exhumation and accretion of the Cabo Ortegal nappe onto the Iberian plate. **(b)** D_2 stage (From 390 to 380 Ma) highlighting the effect of the eclogitization after the slab breakoff, increasing the rheological contrast between the migmatized Qz-Fsp gneisses, the eclogites and the top of the Qz-Fsp gneisses during the development of the main blastomylonitic foliation. The P - T diagram is showing the convergence of P - T paths by the migmatitic and the metasedimentary Qz-Fsp gneisses during this stage. The tectonic sketch showing the collision between Laurentia and the northern margin of Gondwana since Middle Devonian (390 Ma) and Upper Devonian (380 Ma) is based on Martínez-Catalán et al., 2007. Red and yellow points indicate the inferred location of the tectonic sequence. **(c)** Two partial melting events are reported, the first at high-pressure granulite facies conditions in mafic rocks (490 Ma) led to the intrusion of dioritic dykes in the Qz-Fsp gneisses. The second subsequent to Variscan eclogitization at 390 Ma. Arrows propose the finite strain orientation.

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