Authors' response to official reviews and community comments

Dear Editor,

Please find below the responses on behalf of all authors to the comments posted by two official referees (anonymous and Holger Stünitz), and by Matthias Konrad-Schmolke on our manuscript "Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study" (MS id: egusphere-2022-311).

To make the response easier to read and to assess, we have posted our own comments next to/below each comment in the PDF files that were posted on the EGUsphere platform. A blank page is used to separate the three respective responses.

We thank the anonymous Referee, Holger Stünitz and Matthias Konrad-Schmolke for their constructive feedback, and hope that you will find this response and the revised manuscript satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,
Veronica Peverelli, on behalf of all authors

EGUsphere, referee comment RC1
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Comment on egusphere-2022-311

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study" by Veronica Peverelli et al., EGUsphere, https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-311-RC1, 2022

The study of Peverelli and co-authors entitled "Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study" investigates an epidote and quartz vein from the Aar Massif with several analytical techniques. The authors conclude that during deformation quartz experienced dynamic recrystallization by subgrain rotation that decreased its grain size. Consequently, grain boundary sliding, creep cavitation, and viscous granular flow produced the investigated microstructure. During these processes, epidote experienced dissolution and (re)precipitation responsible for pinning quartz grain size at grain boundaries.

Although these sequence and association of deformation mechanisms is coherent with what has been proposed in literature in several rock types and geological settings, at the present the petrographic and microstructural description and data are not sufficient to support these interpretations. In my opinion, this can be fixed with major revisions, aimed at expanding this section of the manuscript. Furthermore, discussion should be expanded, adding more references of relevant articles from other research groups and discussing novel data in the light of those works.

Below a few major comments, several comments are present in the attached pdf.

- Streamline of the text: interpretations of deformation mechanisms appear too early in the text and are not supported by documentation. I suggest moving those in the discussion section expanding this session in the light of relevant literature (at the moment largely missing)
- Section 3 need to be largely implemented, both for text and microphotos. At the moment the reader cannot assess what it is written and cannot place the different epidote vein generations, shear zone and host rock in context

Summary of Comments on egusphere-2022-311-RC1_VP.pdf

Page: 1

Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:20:42 AM
Petrographic and microstructural data have been complemented with additional figures, data and text.

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:21:10 AM
More relevant references have been added

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 8:00:47 AM
Moved all major interpretations to the discussion. However, a few interpretations that are meant to answer minor aspects of the manuscript have been left before the discussion session because they are not elaborated further and they are not crucial to the main message of the manuscript.

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:22:47 AM
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- EBSD documentation need to be expanded both in data and text, following comments in the attached PDF (e.g. only the EBSD map is present in appendix C, without low and high angle boundaries displayed in the map and text explaining it).
- The authors conclude that subgrain rotation recrystallization was the main deformation mechanism of quartz in results section. They state that CPO formed due to this mechanism. What would have happened to this CPO when grain boundary sliding, creep cavitation, and viscous granular flow occurred? Would you expect an attenuation of this CPO, as several authors suggested? This discussion is completely absent in the manuscript. Please, add EBSD documentation, such as GROD or GOS or KAM grain size maps along your map in appendix C, pole figures also for , misorientation angle distribution. Afterward, please discuss more thoroughly all those deformation mechanisms in the light of relevant literature.
- Dissolution precipitation in epidote: in the conclusions the authors state: "we have demonstrated the occurrence of epidote dissolution–precipitation processes". However, I fear that diss-prec is just a proposition and that there could be other explanations. This is because the authors did not present any microstructural characterization of Epidote A grains pointing to diss-prec processes acting, such as lobate edges, microporosity,…. Please, refer to *Putnis 2009 Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* for microstructures indicative of diss-prec processes. Regarding another possible interpretation, as you imply the presence of an external fluid why you cannot just have new nucleation of epidote in creep cavities (thus syn-deformation) related to the percolating fluid, without dissolving previous Epidote A?

Concluding, I think that with major revisions aimed at including additional data, expanding results, expanding discussion section in the light of relevant literature, the authors could substantiate their interpretations and conclusions.

Best wishes

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
https://egusphere.copernicus.org/preprints/egusphere-2022-311/egusphere-2022-311-RC1-supplement.pdf

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:23:01 AM
Done, and moved EBSD data to the main text

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:24:39 AM
This is not something that we can comment on based on the present data. To the authors' knowledge, this is really difficult to solve by investigating natural samples, and therefore it is beyond the scope of the manuscript.

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:25:11 AM
Done

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:26:59 AM
We appreciate the suggestion and clarify the text to exclude misunderstandings. The spatial distribution of Epidote-B in layers 2-3 is not consistent with the microstructure being entirely acquired during crystallization from a fluid. If a secondary fluid produced a second veining event by cracking a previously formed vein, then we would still have a two-stage story: (1) precipitation of epidote from the fluid and (2) deformation. The relative distribution of epidote and quartz, and the Zener relation argue that an additional process has to overprint epidote crystallization during veining. If it is true that a previously formed vein was cracked open leading to the formation of an epidote band in layers 2-3, then the "primary" epidote in these layers is still "Epidote-A" as defined in the text.

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:27:14 AM
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Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study

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Abstract. Deformation of polymineralic aggregates can be accommodated by viscous granular flow, a process mediated by the interplay among intracrystalline plasticity and dissolution–precipitation, each active in specific minerals at given P–T conditions. Common rock-forming minerals like quartz, feldspars and sheet silicates have been intensively studied in terms of deformation processes. Instead, the deformation behavior of epidote and its role during viscous granular flow is not well investigated, although this mineral is ubiquitous in granitic rocks deforming at greenschist-facies conditions. In this contribution, we provide microstructural and geochemical evidence for the occurrence of dissolution–precipitation of epidote during deformation of an epidote-quartz vein. The main part of the vein is deformed producing a fold, which is visible due to relicts of primary-growth layering inside the vein. The deformation mechanisms active during deformation include dynamic recrystallization of quartz by subgrain rotation recrystallization, producing grain-size reduction of the primary vein quartz. This occurs contemporaneously with dissolution and (re)precipitation of epidote, and grain-boundary sliding, leading to a combined process described as viscous granular flow. The combination of intracrystalline plasticity, grain boundary sliding and dissolution locally and repeatedly produce creep cavities. These represent not only loci for nucleation of new epidote grains at the expenses of dissolved one, but they also allow fluid-mediated transport of elements. The same trace element patterns between old epidote relicts and newly formed grains, with much narrower variability, indicate a process of chemical homogenization. The nature of the fluid mediating deformation is investigated using Pb–Sr isotope data of epidote, which suggest that deformation is assisted by internally recycled fluids with the addition of a syn-kinematic external fluid component.

1 Introduction

Deformation microstructures preserved in rocks are the result of the interplay of multiple microscale deformational processes, which may be identified and appreciated through careful petrographic studies (e.g., Passchier, 2005). These processes – which may be coupled to metamorphic reactions and diffusion (e.g., Wintsch and Yeh, 2013; Lanari and Duesterhoeft, 20[1]– are the response of the grains to varying physico-chemical conditions in order to minimize the system's internal energy (e.g., Evans et al., 2001; Herwegh and Berger, 2004; Passchier, 2005; Karato, 2008; Herwegh et al.,

Summary of Comments on egusphere-2022-311_Commented.pdf

Page: 1

Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:17:40

I would add here also other relevant article that try to do so, such as Pearce et al., 2013_CMP, Bukowskà et al., 2016, JGR, Giuntoli et al., 2018_JMG...

For example those are more relevant than the review article of Lanari and Duesterhoeft, 2019

Summary of Comments on A9RD0F4.tmp

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:48:05 PM
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Preprint. Discussion started: 20 May 2022
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2011; Hobbs et al., 2010). Microstructures of monomineralic aggregates are determined by the deformation behavior of the constituent mineral and by the conditions (e.g., temperature, stress, availability of fluids) existing during deformation. For example, Stipp et al. (2002) showed that the microstructures resulting from dynamic recrystallization of quartz can be linked to different recrystallization mechanisms active at increasing temperatures. However, this type of interpretations is more complicated when dealing with polymineralic aggregates, where the relative abundances and specific deformation mechanisms of each mineral have an effect on the deformation behavior of the bulk rock (e.g., Handy, 1990; 1994; Olgaard, 1990; Stünitz and Fitz Gerald, 1993; Kruse and Stünitz, 1999; Tullis, 2002; Herwegh and Berger, 2004; Passchier, 2005; Herwegh et al., 2011; Wehrens et al., 2017). As an example, it has been shown that the grain size of calcite in mylonitic carbonates is determined by the grain size and volume abundance of second phases, such as sheet silicates (Olgaard, 1990; Herwegh and Berger, 2004; Herwegh et al., 2011). In this context, mass transfer processes like dissolution–precipitation play a fundamental role in that they enable the redistribution of material within the deforming system (e.g., Herwegh and Jenni, 2001; Konrad-Schmolke et al., 2018). A circulating fluid may precipitate dissolved material into intragranular voids of an initially monomineralic aggregate during deformation. In this scenario, the process of dissolution–precipitation in combination with the presence of a second phase keeps the grain sizes of the deforming aggregate small in a process called viscous granular flow (Olgaard, 1990; Fitz Gerald and Stünitz, 1993; Stünitz and Fitz Gerald, 1993; Paterson, 1995; Herwegh and Berger, 2004; Herwegh et al., 2011). Viscous granular flow entails dissolution–precipitation that dissolves mineral asperities, thus facilitating grain boundary sliding in polymineralic aggregates (e.g., Fitz Gerald and Stünitz, 1993; Stünitz and Fitz Gerald, 1993; Paterson, 1995). Grain boundary sliding promotes the formation of creep cavities, hence allowing the nucleation of second-phase minerals (e.g., Herwegh and Jenni, 2001; Fusseis et al., 2009; Gilgannon et al., 2021). Despite the important role of fluids involved in deformation processes, their direct characterization is rare (e.g., Marquer and Burkhard, 1992; Marquer and Peucat, 1994), and it is often unclear whether the fluids are newly added to the system during deformation (i.e., of external origin) or if they are recycled (e.g., via dissolution of hydrous minerals). Hence, the interplay of recycled and newly added fluids, mass-transfer processes and deformation mechanisms to produce complex microstructures remains to be fully appreciated.

In this contribution, via combined microstructural observations and geochemical and Pb–Sr isotope geochemistry, we investigate the deformational processes affecting epidote (i.e., $Ca_2Al_2(Al,Fe^{3+})Si_3O_{12}(OH)$) and quartz defining a microfold in a deformed epidote-quartz hydrothermal vein. The data demonstrate that the present-day microstructure is the result of the interplay between dissolution–precipitation of epidote and dynamic recrystallization of quartz, both of which ensure grain size reduction in viscous granular flow. The nature of the fluid mediating dissolution–precipitation of epidote and the dynamic recrystallization of quartz is investigated using Pb–Sr isotope data. Because epidote is a widespread rock-forming, hydrothermal and alteration mineral in granitic rocks (e.g., Bird and Spieler, 2004; Enami et al., 2004; Franz and Liebscher, 2004; Grapes and Hoskin, 2004; Schmidt and Poli, 2004; Morad et al., 2010; Hentschel et al., 2020), the occurrence of epidote dissolution–precipitation and its control on the deformation mechanisms of other rock-forming minerals (e.g., dislocation creep in quartz) has important implications for the structural evolution of the granitic continental crust.

Page: 2

Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:10:24

I would state here that diss prec requires a fluid phase and cite also other relevant articles e.g. some of Andrew Putnis articles. I see that fluid comes at the end of the paragraph, but I would place it at the beginning, as it is essential for diss prec to act

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:48:12 PM
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2 Geological Setting

The Grimsel Pass area (Fig. 1; central Swiss Alps, Switzerland) is in the southern part of the Aar Massif, one of the External Crystalline Massifs of the Alps (e.g. Schneeberger et al., 2019; Berger et al., 2017). The Aar Massif consists of a polycyclic basement and Permian intrusives, including the post-Variscan Central Aar Granite. This granitoid was emplaced 299 ± 2 Ma (Schaltegger & Corfu, 1992) and mainly records Alpine deformation (e.g., Choukroune and Gapais, 1983; Bambauer et al., 2009; and references therein). This Alpine deformation is expressed by a large number of ductile shear zones, and in the southern Aar Massif it can be subdivided into two major phases: 1) a reverse faulting phase (ca. 22–17 Ma; Challandes et al., 2008; Rolland et al., 2009; Wehrens et al., 2017) and 2) a strike-slip phase (from ca. 14 Ma onwards; Rolland et al., 2009; Wehrens et al., 2017; Herwegh et al., 2020). In the shear zones, green biotite is stable in the first phase at ≥ 400 °C, and it is progressively replaced by chlorite in the second one at lower temperatures (Rolland et al., 2009; Wehrens et al., 2017). The Alpine metamorphic overprint reached greenschist facies conditions in the area, with maximum temperatures and pressures of 450 ± 30 °C and 6 ± 1 kbar, respectively (Challandes et al., 2008; Goncalves et al., 2012; Villa and Hanchar, 2013). Hydrothermal activity upon exhumation in Alpine times is recorded in the area primarily by the Grimsel Breccia Fault hydrothermal system (e.g., Hofmann et al., 2004; Belgrano et al., 2016; Diamond et al., 2018; Egli et al., 2018), and by Alpine cleft mineralization (e.g., Mullis et al., 1994; Janots et al., 2012; Berger et al., 2013; 2022; Rossi and Rolland, 2014; Bergemann et al., 2017; Ricchi et al., 2019). U–Pb geochronology of hydrothermal epidote in veins returned Miocene and Permian ages (Peverelli et al., 2021; accepted) [1]

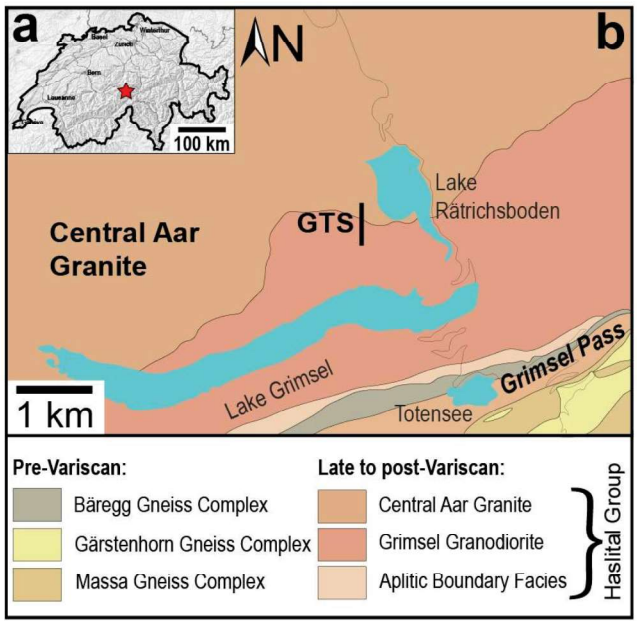

Figure 1: (a) Geological map of the Grimsel Pass area (modified from Wehrens et al., 2016). (b) Geographic location of the Grimsel Pass area (red star) in Switzerland (modified from map.geo.admin.ch).

3 Field relations and sample description

The investigated sample Grimsel-1 is an epidote-quartz (±biotite) vein that was collected inside Nagra's Grimsel Test Site (GTS; Figs. 1–2a), which is an underground rock laboratory in the Grimsel Pass area (see Schneeberger et al., 2019). In the GTS, the characteristic pattern of shear zones (e.g., Goncalves et al., 2012) is well exposed on the tunnel walls. The studied epidote vein runs obliq[2]ith respect to a steeply dipping shear zone of Alpine age hosted by the Central Aar Granite (Fig. 2b). The shear zone is ca. 10 cm wide, whereas the epidote vein reaches up to a couple of centimeters in wi[3] Three other

Page: 3

Number: 1 [1] Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:52:40
Please, expand and summarize these findings here, like this the reader is not forced to jump to your other article. What are the differences between the two events? Also add the precise absolute age with related error

Number: 2 [2] Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:53:11
Please, highlight this on the image

Number: 3 [3] Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:56:00
What is their length?

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:20:10 PM
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Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:47:55 PM
It should be better visible in the updated figure

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:28:10 AM
Detail added

https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-311
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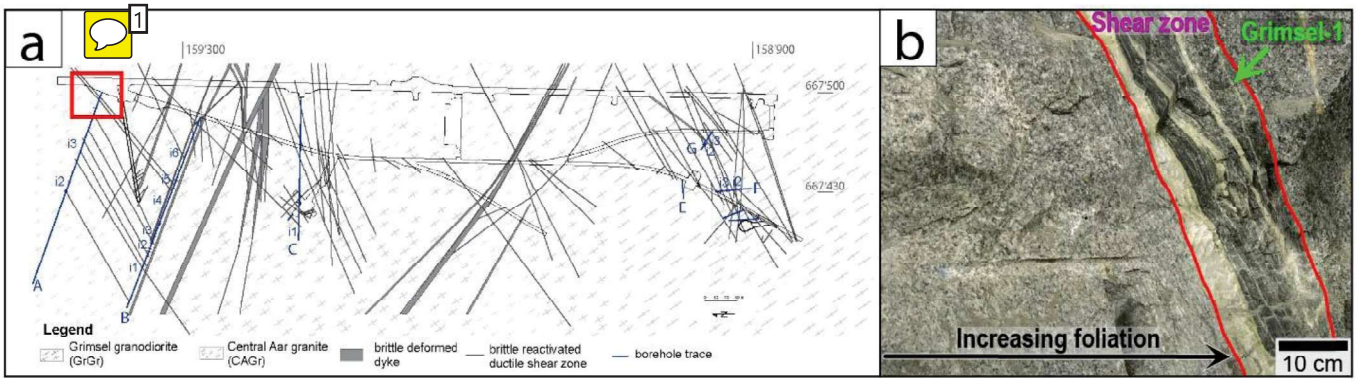

Figure 2 (a) Geological map of the Grimsel Test Site (GTS) of Nagra with the location of (b) shown in the red rectangle (modified from Schneeberger et al., 2019). (b) Field photograph of the location of the studied epidote-quartz vein (Grimsel-1) and the Alpine shear zone with which it is associated; both are in the Central Aar Granite, which shows increasing foliation towards the shear zone (modified from Peverelli et al., accepted).

epidote veins are associated with this shear zone (Fig. A1; not visible in Fig. 2b): (1) sample P2 is a weakly deformed epidote-quartz vein in a slightly deformed portion of the host; (2) sample P3 consists of a number of sheared epidote-quartz veins in a mylonitic portion; and (3) sample Gr0-c is a highly sheared epidote-quartz vein which subdivides the host rock into a mylonitic side and a slightly deformed one. Epidote in veins P2–3 returned Permian U–Pb ages (Peverelli et al., accepted). The host Central Aar Granite displays a gradation from slightly to highly deformed: this is expressed by an increasingly intense foliation and by a decreasing grain size moving towards the shear zone (Fig. 2b). In thin section (Fig. 3), the host rock mostly preserves its magmatic texture and it is made of ca. 55 vol. % of altered feldspar and 35 vol. % quartz. Feldspar grains are sometimes fractured, and quartz is mostly dynamically recrystallized by subgrain rotation recrystallization (SGR). Relict plagioclase and K-feldspar grains can be recognized by the different type and extent of alteration. Plagioclase (ca. 20 vol. %) is highly altered into epidote and white mica, to a larger extent in the cores than in the rims of the grain. Exsolution lamellae are preserved in K-feldspar grains (ca. 35 vol. %), which are moderately altered into sericite. Green biotite, epidote and minor chlorite define a weak foliation and make up ca. 10 vol. %, with a few accessory titanite grains completing the host rock's mineral assemblage. The sharp boundary between host and vein is marked by a change in modal

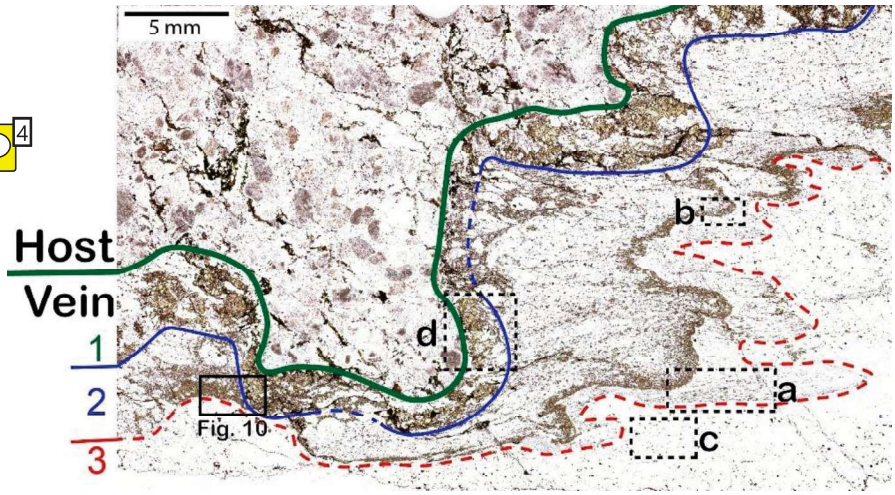

Figure 3: Transmitted-light microscope scan of the studied epidote-quartz (±biotite) vein and the host Central Aar Granite. The numbers 1–3 refer to the vein layers described in Sect. 5.1. Dashed rectangles A–D indicate the locations of the microstructural domains shown in Fig. 4a–d. The black rectangle indicates the location of Fig. 10 (rotated by 90° clockwise). Plane-polarized light.

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Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 09:40:02
Please, increase font size and improve graphics of this sketch, maybe adding colors? At the moment it is not easy to read

Number: 2 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:04:24
Ok, but at the moment it is not clear where those are located with respect to the shear zone, what are the relation among them,.... Please, add this information
This is the case also of Figure 3: it is not clear where this host-vein are located with respect to the shear zone of Fig. 2b

Number: 3 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 23/06/2022 09:23:08
You cannot state this without showing microstructures of it. Please, add thin section images and ideally EBSD maps that suggest SGR as def mechanism.
I see that one map is present at the end of the appendix. Therefore, it is better to avoid tis sentence here and say so later in the text citing the EBSD map

Number: 4 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:05:27
Again, also this should be shown with microphotos, either in the main text or in the supplementary.
Same for all the main mineralogical phases of host rock

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:47:13 PM
Figure improved

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:29:02 AM
Removed reference to extra samples, since they are not discussed further

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:31:18 AM
Ok, moved to results after having shown the figure, and added reference to Stipp et al. (2002) to support subgrain rotation recrystallization. EBSD data have been improved and added to the main text.

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:29:52 PM
It does not seem relevant in the context of the manuscript and the host rock is thoroughly described in Schneeberger et al., 2019. Added reference to this paper

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abundances.

The object of the present investigation is Grimsel-1 epidote-quartz vein (Fig. 3). This vein is subdivided into three layers: (1) layer with coarse-grained epidote, quartz and minor green biotite, (2) heavily deformed and finer-grained epidote-quartz layer, and (3) nearly pure quartz la[1]er. Grain sizes, mineral proportions and dominant deformation mechanisms in each layer are given in Table 1. Layer 1 is the least deformed on[2] whilst deformation is most intense in layers 2–3, where a fold is defined by the spatial distribution of epidote and quartz (Fig. 3). The reasons why layer 1 is less deformed than layers 2–3 may be linked to the closer proximity of layer 1 to the host rock, to a role of mechanically strong epidote clusters forming a load-bearing network, or to a combination of bo[3]landy, 1990; 1994; Masuda, 1990; 1995; Tullis, 2002; Passchier, 2005). The modal abundance of green biotite varies greatly among the three layers, with a sharp decrease from layer 1 to layer 2, and layer 3 being devoid of biotite (Table 1). The transition from layer 2 to layer 3 is marked by a change in the epidote/quartz ratio. This is up to ca. 40/60 in layer 2, whereas layer 3 is characterized by the near absence of epidote. Peverelli et al. (2021) performed U–Pb dating by LA-ICP-MS of epidote grains in layer 1, obtaining a Tera–Wasserburg age of 19.2 ± 4.3 Ma. The Tera–Wasserburg regression revealed a single epidote generation at the current analytical precision (i.e., MSWD of 0.79), and the age is interpreted as the timing of epidote crystallization upon vein opening (Peverelli et al., 2021). The focus of this manuscript are the deformation mechanisms in layers 2–3.

Table 1: Main characteristics of the vein layers. Ep = epidote; SGR = subgrain rotation recrystallization; Qz = quartz.

Layer	Minerals other than Ep + Qz	Ep [vol. %]	Ep grain size	Qz deformation[4]	Qz grain size	Qz relicts
1	Green biotite (ca. 5 vol. %)	ca. 70	0.025–1.6 mm	Dislocation glide + SGR	80–400 µm	0.6–1.2 mm
2	Green biotite (ca. 1 vol. %)	ca. 5–40	5–90 µm	SGR + dislocation glide	20–170 µm	1.4–2.5 mm
3	-	< 1	5–200 µm	SGR + dislocation glide	30–400 µm	0.6–2 cm

4 Methods

Analyses were performed at the Institute of Geological Sciences of University of Bern (Switzerland) unless specified otherwise. The petrographic characterization of the studied sample was done in a ca. 60 µm thick section on a Zeiss Axioplan petrographic microscope. For backscattered electron (BSE), forescattered electron (FSE) and cathodoluminescence (CL) images, and for electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD), a Zeiss EVO50 scanning electron microscope (SEM) was used with a beam current of ca. 1 nA and accelerating voltage of 20 kV.

4.1 Grain-size analysis

Microstructural analysis was performed combining transmission light and scanning electron microscopy to determine average grain sizes of epidote and quartz, as well as their volume fractions in selected microstructural domains. Grain size

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Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:24:04

You definitely have to show these with higher magnification pictures as insets of Fig.3. At the moment it is impossible to see what you are describing.

I see that some figures are coming in Fig. 5 and I would place them much earlier. It is no point in describing them here and not showing them

Number: 2 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:12:55

Ok, but deformed due to folds, shear bands? Please specify.

Number: 3 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:11:51

This sounds interpretation to me

Number: 4 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:13:38

Again, you must show data that support this! Add microphotos and ideally EBSD maps

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:35:32 PM
Moved Fig. 4 here

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:40:52 PM
Done

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:41:00 PM
Moved to discussion

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:32:37 AM
Removed from Table and added figures. However, we disagree that EBSD maps are needed to claim that subgrain rotation is the recrystallization mechanism active here (see Stipp et al., 2002)

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analysis was carried out in ImageJ (IJ 1.46r; Ferreira and Rasband, 2012) using sketches of the microstructures drawn on transmitted light, BSE and FSE images. In domains where the microstructure is not suitable for an automated grain size analysis by ImageJ (Figs. 4b and 7c), epidote and quartz grain sizes were directly measured on a transmitted light microscope.

4.2 Chemical maps

X-ray compositional maps in wave-length dispersive mode of Si, Fe, Al, Ca, Mn and Sr were obtained by electron probe micro-analyzer (EPMA) on a JEOL-8200 microprobe. Accelerating voltage was 15 keV, specimen current 100 nA, the step size 4 µm, and dwell time was 190 msec. For calibration of the X-ray maps, spot analyses were acquired with a specimen current of 10 nA, and calibrated using the following standards: wollastonite (SiO_2), olivine (MgO), anorthite (CaO, Al_2O_3), magnetite (FeO), pyrolusite (MnO), tugtupite (Cl), rutile (TiO_2), and celestite (SrO). The processing of the X-ray compositional maps, including map calibration, was done by using XMapTools (Lanari et al., 2014; 2019). Minerals were identified based on the concentrations of specific elements (i.e. Ca, Fe and Al for epidote; Si for quartz; K for micas) and classified. Maps of the structural formula of epidote were calculated on 12.5 oxygen basis.

4.3 Trace elements

For trace element measurements, a RESOlutionSE 193 nm excimer laser system (Applied Spectra, USA) equipped with an S-155 large-volume constant-geometry chamber (Laurin Technic, Australia) coupled with an Agilent 7900 ICP-QMS was employed. During ablation, a He atmosphere was used, and Ar was admixed to the carrier gas before reaching the plasma of the ICP-MS. NIST SRM612 was used for optimization of the analytical conditions, ensuring that the ThO production rate was < 0.2 % and the Th/U sensitivity ratio > 97 %. On-sample fluence was 5 J cm^{-2} and repetition rate 5 Hz. The size of the analysis spots ranged between 20–30 µm, and BSE images were used to plan the analyses to avoid locating any spots across zones with heterogeneous composition (e.g., chemical zoning) or on inclusions. External standardization was done with USGS GSD-1G standard, and the SRM612 standard was measured as an unknown for quality control in absence of a well characterized epidote standard. Bracketing standardization enabled a true-time linear drift correction. Data reduction was carried out with the software SILLS (Guillong et al., 2008), using the sum of total oxides minus H_2O (98.3 % for epidote and 100 % for SRM612) as internal standard (see Halter et al., 2002). The formulation of Pettke et al. (2012) was employed to calculate limits of detection for each element in every analysis.

4.4 U–Pb isotope data

Measurements of $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$, $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ and $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ were made in epidote micro-separates following the procedure for sample digestion in acids and for column chemistry detailed by Peverelli et al. (2021; modified from Nägler and Kamber, 1996). Two epidote micro-separates – each mixing Epidote-A and Epidote-B (see Sect. 5.1) in unknown and different proportions – were prepared (Ep_A+B_1 and Ep_A+B_2). After hand-picking, the material was finely ground and washed

Page: 6

Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 23/06/2022 09:24:25

I would like to know how you define grains. If you define those based on EBSD maps and high angle boundaries >10°, then how do you asses this? Did you do it qualitatively with BSE, FSE images?
Please specify.

Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:33:01 AM
Specified in the methods section

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with MilliQTM water. Two aliquots of each (Ep_A+B_1a and Ep_A+B_1b, and Ep_A+B_2a and Ep_A+B_2b) were weighed in as replicates for each micro-separate ensuring ca. 300 ng of Pb in each aliquot. During column chemistry with a Sr-specTM resin (Horwitz et al., 1992), the Sr and Pb fractions were collected in sequence (Haeusler et al., 2016). One large Epidote-A grain was also handpicked and ground, and an amount of the powder corresponding to 250 ng of Sr was digested in acids before the extraction of the Sr fraction by column chemistry. The Pb fraction of this Epidote-A grain was not collected since Pb isotopic data are available from in-situ U–Pb isotope measurements by LA-ICP-MS (Peverelli et al., 2021). Procedural blank samples were used to assess contamination during work in the laboratories. Measurements of ^{238}U and ^{206}Pb concentrations for calculation of $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ ratios were run at the Department of Geography of University of Bern on a 7700x Agilent quadrupole ICP-MS. For these analyses, two aliquots of each digested epidote microseparate were separated and diluted to different volumes. Three aliquots were separated from the digested AGV-2 standard and diluted in 0.05, 0.25 and 0.7 ml HNO_3. The intensities in counts per second (cps) of ^{238}U and ^{206}Pb measured in the three aliquots of the AGV-2 standard were plotted against the real concentrations of these isotopes in ppb calculated for each aliquot using the reference data of Weis et al. (2006). The calibration curves thus obtained were used to calculate the real concentrations of ^{238}U and ^{206}Pb in the digested epidote material. The calculation of 2 standard errors (2 S.E.) on $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ ratios – which are not returned automatically by the measurement software –is detailed in Peverelli et al. (2021). Pb isotope ratios were measured on a Thermo Fisher Neptune Plus MC-ICP-MS in desolvated plasma mode equipped with a CETAC Aridus 2 desolvating system. Instrumental mass fractionation was corrected within-run by means of a Tl spike. External reproducibility of the measurements was quantified by measuring the NIST NBS 981 standard. The measured Pb isotope ratios were identical to those obtained by Rehkämper and Mezger (2000; their Table 4).

4.5 Strontium isotope data

Strontium isotope ratios were measured on a ThermoFisher TritonTM thermal ionization mass spectrometer (TIMS) after loading 250 ng Sr diluted in 6.4 M HCl on Re filaments using 1.5 µl Ta-oxide activator. The SRM 987 standard (200 ppm; Weis et al., 2006) was measured for quality control. The detected masses were 84, 85, 86 (center cup), 87 and 88. The interference of ^{87}Rb and within-run mass fractionation were corrected for by using the IUPAC $^{87}Rb/^{85}Rb$ and $^{88}Sr/^{86}Sr$ values of, respectively, 0.385617 and 8.735209. The SRM 987 standard returned a weighted average $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio of 0.710279 ± 0.000020 (2 standard deviation, S.D.; number of replicates, n = 12), which is higher than the reference preferred value of 0.710248 (see Weis et al., 2006). Standards AGV-2 (n = 1) and GSP-2 (n = 2) of USGS were measured as unknowns for quality control and the returned, respectively, $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios of 0.704041 ± 0.000018 (2 standard error, 2 S.E.), and 0.765396 ± 0.000010 and 0.765202 ± 0.000008. These values are also higher than the reference preferred values of 0.703981 ± 0.00009 (2 S.D.) and 0.765144 ± 0.000075 (2 S.D.) for AGV-2 and GSP-2, respectively (see Weis et al., 2006). A correction based on the reference materials returning higher $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ values than their reference values would produce the same shift in all measured $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios. Hence, we did not correct our data because only the variability among the samples is relevant in this study, while the interpretation of the absolute Sr isotope ratios is beyond the scope of this work. Rubidium

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concentrations were not measured, as a correction for ^{87}Rb-derived ^{87}Sr is not necessary. This is a valid approach because the incompatibility of Rb in the epidote crystal structure results in negligible Rb concentrations (see Frei et al., 2004; Feineman et al., 2007).

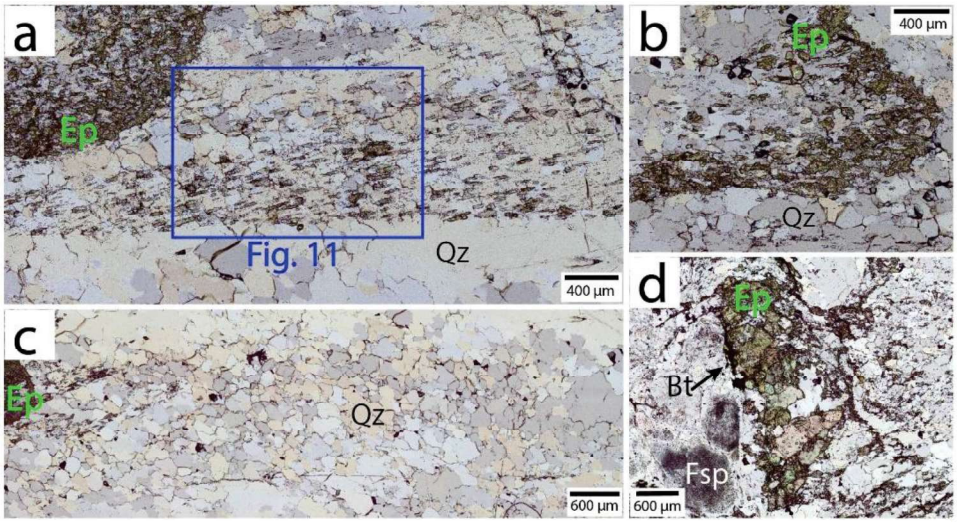

Figure 4: Transmitted-light scans of the microstructural domains described in Sect. 5.1. Microstructures (a–c) are used for microstructural analysis (Fig. 7; Sect. 5.1.2). The blue rectangle in (a) indicates the location of the cathodoluminescence image of Fig. 11. Bt = biotite; Ep = epidote; Fsp = feldspar; Qz = quartz. Plane-polarized light.

5 Results

5.1 Microstructural analysis

The different characteristics of epidote and its microstructures in layers 1–3 (Figs. 3–4) allow the distinction of epidote into Epidote-A and Epidote-B as illustrated below. All microstructural domains indicate that vein opening with crystallization of epidote, quartz and minor biotite was followed by vein deformatio

5.1.1 Layer 1: veining and Epidote-A

This epidote layer is characterized by coarse (ca. 0.2–1.6 mm) epidote grains associated with smaller angular ones (ca. 20–200 µm). The coarser epidote grains (Figs. 4d and 5) form clusters with random shape orientations or are found as isolated crystals. Larger epidote grains are often surrounded by the smaller angular epidote grains (Fig. 5; red arrow) as a result of brittle grain-size reduction upon deformation with brittle deformation behavior of epidote. Epidote is euhedral to anhedral, and smaller epidote crystals are found in the gaps among the larger ones as well (see Fig. 2b of Peverelli et al., 2021). Large quartz relicts are present displaying undulose extinction. More commonly, quartz is dynamically recrystallized, forming core-mantle structures with subgrain rotation around quartz relicts. Hereafter, we refer to epidote in layer 1 as Epidote-A.

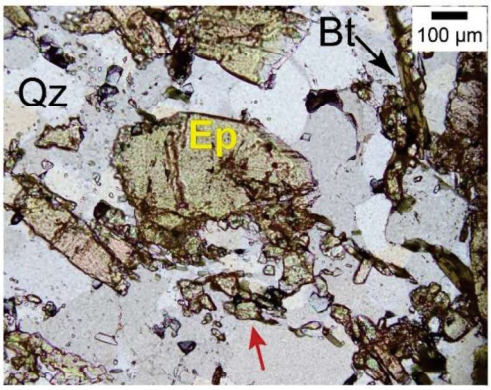

Figure 5: Transmitted light microscope photograph of one Epidote-A grain in layer 1 surrounded by small angular grains (red arrow). Bt = biotite; Ep = epidote; Qz = quartz. Plane-polarized light.

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Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note 1 Date: 22/06/2022 10:20:49
Those are definitely not plane polarised light photos, as Qtz has a birefringence.

Number: 2 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 10:22:19
Again, what evidence suggest it? Please, add this missing description

Number: 3 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:13:22
Again, you should show this with a figure

Number: 4 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:17:51
Again, also here quartz has a slight birefringence

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 8:49:20 PM
The section is ca. 60 um thick. Specified in the text, sorry.

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 9:52:13 PM
Removed early intepretation and moved it to discussion

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/25/2022 11:43:30 AM
Added panels to Fig. 5

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:33:55 AM
Again, this is due to the thickness of the thin section. Added in all captions, sorry for not mentioning it in the first place

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5.1.2 Layers 2–3: microfold and Epidote-B

In layers 2–3, the spatial distribution and the variable modal abundance of epidote define a fold (Figs. 3, 4b, 6 and A1). Smaller epidote grains with a shape-preferred orientation and quartz define axial planes and limbs (rectangle a in Fig. 3; Figs. 4a and 6). Epidote grain boundaries are mostly curved and irregular, but a few euhedral epidote grains are also observed (Fig. 6). Epidote grains vary between 5–90 µm in size, and the modal abundance of epidote varies between ca. 5 to ca. 40 vol. % within the layer (Table 1), defining a quartz-supported microstructure. Where epidote is most abundant, quartz and epidote define a "sponge" microstructure (Figs. 4b and 6). Small (ca. 1–20 µm in size) oval epidote grains and fluid inclusions are observed within quartz grains (Figs. 4a and 6). The size of dynamically recrystallized quartz grains correlates with grain size and abundance of epidote (Fig. 7; Zener relation; Herwegh et al., 2010). Dynamic recrystallization of quartz by subgrain rotation prevails creating a crystallographic preferred orientation (Fig. 4), and quartz relicts with undulose extinction are mi[illegible] Fig. 4a–c). However, a ca. 2 cm long relict quartz grain, whose orientation acquired during crystallization may have favored dislocation glide, marks the transition from layer 2 to layer 3 (Fig. A1, black arrow). Where minor epidote is present, anhedral epidote grains of few to ca. 10 µm in size are mostly interstitial and found at triple junctions among quartz subgrains (Fig. 9). We refer to subhedral to anhedral epidote grains defining the microfold in layers 2–3 as Epidote-B. While U–Pb ages by LA-ICP-MS of Epidote-A (Sect. 3) are available, no U–Pb dating is possible in Epidote-B because the small grain size of epidote entails contamination from epidote-epidote or epidote-quartz grain boundaries upon measurements.

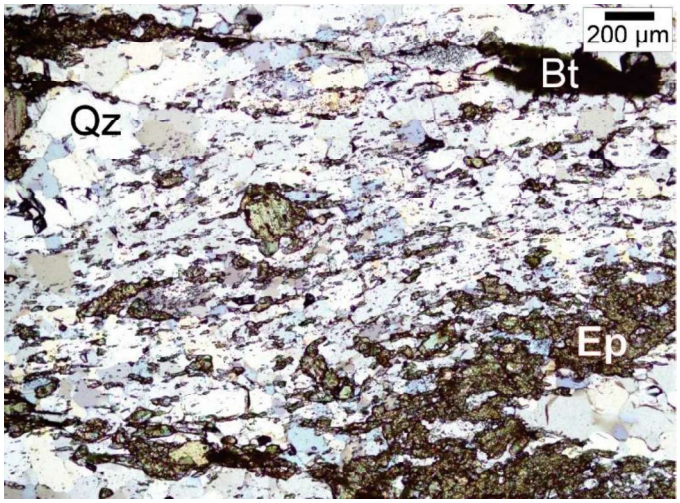

Figure 6: Transmitted light microphotograph of layer 2 where oval epidote grains are hosted by dynamically recrystallized quartz with their long axes oriented consistently with the microfold axial planes. Bt = biotite; Ep = epidote; Qz = quartz. Overlapped plane-polarized and cross-polarized light images.

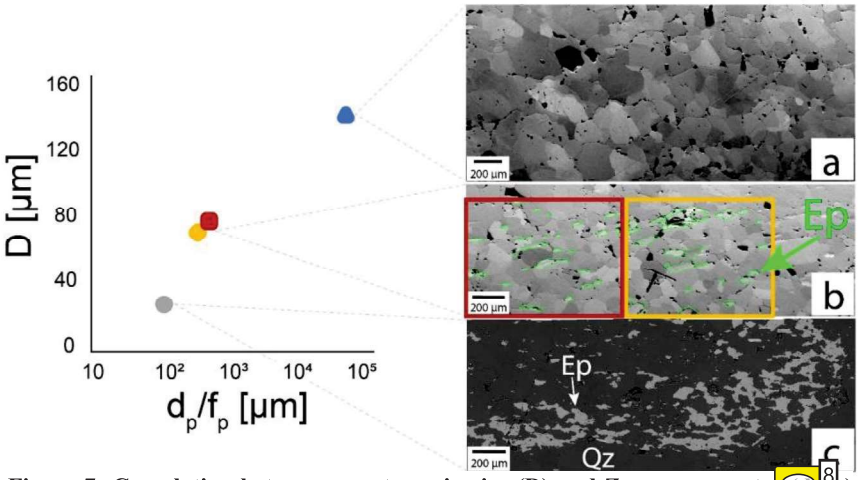

Figure 7: Correlation between quartz grain size (D) and Zener parameter (dp/fp) of epidote as the second phase determined in the FS and BSE images of the microstructures in the microfold of layers 2–3. The green lines in the central BSE image contour epidote grains. Ep = epidote; Qz = quartz. Panels a, b and c correspond, respectively, to panels b, a and c of Fig. 4.

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Number: 1 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:39:32
Mark Ep-A and B directly on micro photos

Number: 2 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:21:59
Meaning what exactly? Please refer to term that are used by the community giving references for it

Number: 3 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:19:27
What do you mean with overlapped? I see birefringence only in quartz, like if you have polarizer and analizer at low angle (10°?)

Number: 4 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:22:58
Impossible to see at this magnification

Number: 5 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:56:58
Before jumping to the deformation mechanism you have to describe it. Then you interpret it, much better in the discussion section
What slip system could create this CPO?

Number: 6 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:33:05
Impossible to see it. Please add XPL photos, maybe also with lambda plate inserted

Number: 7 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:57:52
This sentence seems really out of place here

Number: 8 Author: a Subject: Sticky Note Date: 22/06/2022 12:25:16
You should explain what Dp and fp are

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:07:09 PM
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Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:14:20 PM
Rephrased

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:16:05 PM
Epidote birefringence is poorly visible party because of the overlap between the two photographs and partly because of the thickness of the thin section (ca. 60 um)

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:22:53 PM
Added panel in Fig. 5.6

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/25/2022 11:45:38 AM
The identification of machanisms of dynamic recrystallization are thoroughly described in Stipp et al. (2002), which we follow. We do not believe that indicating the dynamic recrystallization here is too early interpretation. The slip system is addressed against the updated EBSD images.

Number: 6 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:35:26 AM
Added arrow in Fig. 5.4 and lessened the focus on these grain since they are not that relevant.

Number: 7 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:32:34 PM
Agreed. Moved earlier in the text

Number: 8 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 9:26:25 PM
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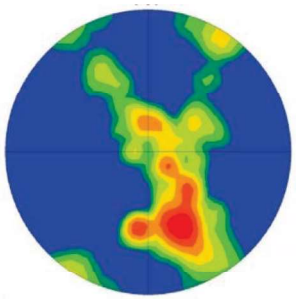

Figure 8: Orientation of quartz C axis in layer 3 relative to the long side of the thin section; measured by electron backscatter diffraction.

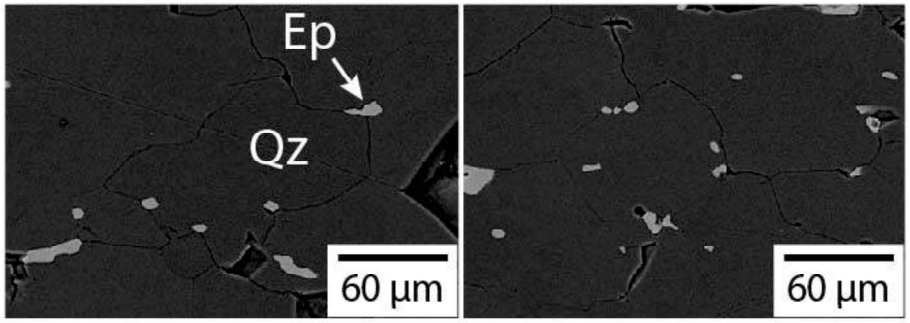

Figure 9: Backscattered electron images showing epidote (Ep) grains along quartz (Qz) grain boundaries and at triple junctions among quartz grains.

5.2 Major and minor elements

The compositional map in Fig. 10 (location shown in Fig. 3) covers layers 1–3. The compositions of FeO and Mn range between ca. 12.5–14 wt. % and ca. 2500–5000 µg g^{-1}, respectively, across all analyzed epidote grains. Larger Epidote-A grains in layer 1 are zoned, with FeO and Mn concentrations increasing from core to rim. Epidote in layers 2–3, on the other end, is characterized by uniform concentrations of FeO and Mn. It should be noted that, because the step size of the compositional maps is 4 µm, the chemical variability of epidote in layers 2–3 is better assessed among different grains across the overall microstructure rather than within each crystal (i.e., the majority of grains do not contain enough 4×4 µm pixels).

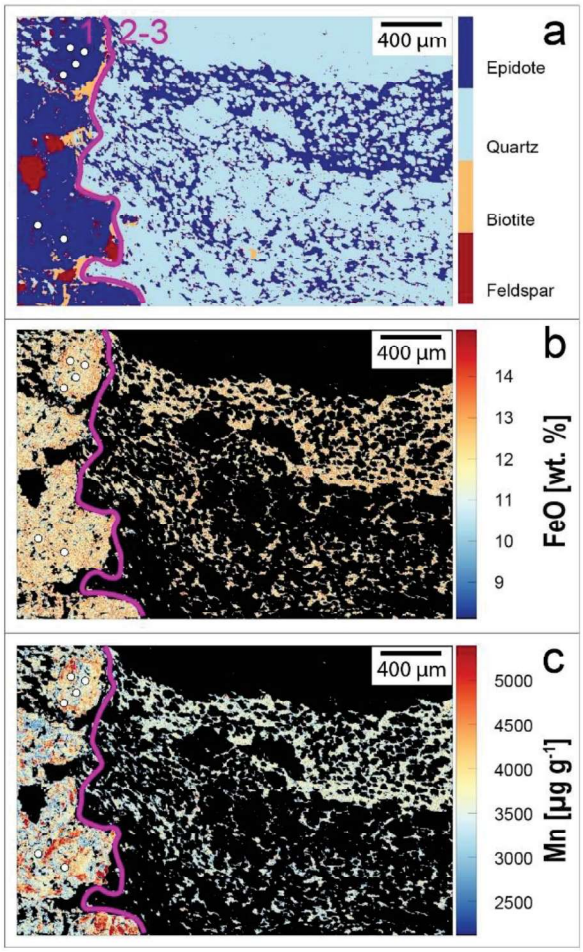

Figure 10: X-ray compositional maps across layers 1–3 (Fig. 3; Sect. 5.1). White circles indicate spots for U–Pb dating by LA-ICP-MS of Peverelli et al. (2021). The pink line separates layer 1 from layers 2–3.

5.2 Trace elements

The minimum spot size used for measurements by LA-ICP-MS is 20 µm, which is ca. four times larger than the smallest epidote grains. Therefore, chemical variability is assessed throughout each microstructural layer by relying on measurements in large-enough epidote grains to avoid contamination from grain boundaries.

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Please, add where X and Z are located, number of grains, contouring parametres and at least <a> pole figure

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/26/2022 7:49:30 AM
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Epidote-A is also addressed here with no specific reference to intra-grain zoning but only across the overall Epidote-A microstructure (i.e., layer 1). Data of Epidote-B are collected in anhedral epidote grains in layer 2. The different extents of chemical variability between Epidote-A and Epidote-B noted in the compositional maps is reflected by trace element data (Table 2).

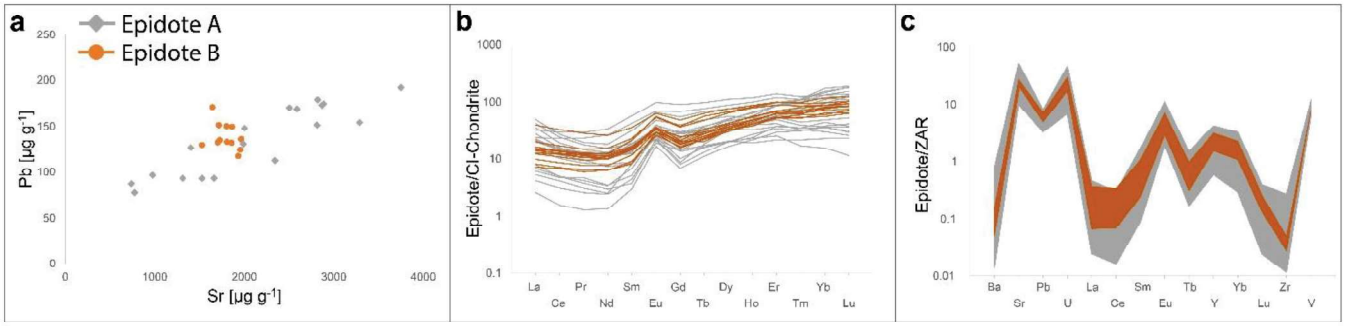

Figure 11: Epidote LA-ICP-MS data of (a) Pb and Sr, (b) CI-chondrite normalized (McDonough and Sun, 1995) rare earth element patterns (REE), and (c) trace elements normalized to the Central Aar Granite (ZAR; Schaltegger & Krähenbühl, 1990).

Table 2: Trace element composition of epidote in µg g^{-1}measured by LA-ICP-MS.

Epidote-A																					
Spot	Ba	Sr	Pb	U	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Y	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Zr	V
1	0.99	1400	130	79	5.6	14	2.2	12	6.3	3.9	14	2.8	22	200	5.5	19	2.7	19	2.7	3.6	140
2	1.2	1990	130	130	7.7	18	2.7	15	8.5	5.6	18	3.6	27	230	6.4	22	3.1	21	3.4	5.1	140
3	22	3290	150	350	4.8	8.8	1.2	5.6	2.5	2.0	5.7	1.2	12	120	3.6	14	2.5	21	3.8	22	110
4	21	2500	170	270	0.99	1.9	0.24	1.1	0.66	1.1	2.8	0.86	9.8	110	3.1	14	2.7	23	4.4	24	110
5	1.9	970	97	60	5.2	9.3	1.1	5.0	1.8	1.3	2.9	0.62	5.1	32	1.0	3.5	0.53	3.7	0.57	4.2	160
6	23	2590	170	130	10	15	1.6	7.0	2.8	1.9	5.6	1.3	9.9	71	2.3	9.2	1.6	15	3.1	51	130
7	0.98	740	87	140	5.0	9.3	1.2	5.3	2.7	1.6	5.5	1.1	8.4	53	1.8	6.0	0.88	5.8	0.77	4.5	200
8	21	2870	170	240	12	17	1.8	8.3	4.6	3.7	11	2.5	19	130	4.4	17	2.8	25	4.4	17	150
9	9.7	2000	150	100	8.5	12	1.4	5.9	3.2	2.7	8.0	1.8	14	82	2.9	8.7	1.1	7.8	1.3	9.6	140
10	24	2890	170	220	6.6	9.7	1.1	4.6	2.0	2.2	5.9	1.4	12	90	2.9	11	2.1	18	3.2	31	140
11	0.92	1660	93	100	3.4	7.2	0.90	3.3	1.2	1.4	2.7	0.59	5.1	41	1.3	4.1	0.42	2.5	0.28	2.2	110
12	34	3750	190	140	5.3	8.5	1.0	4.6	1.9	2.3	4.2	1.0	8.8	67	2.2	6.7	0.80	4.8	0.64	25	120
13	0.59	770	78	160	1.6	3.0	0.39	1.6	1.0	1.5	3.2	1.0	9.1	65	2.2	7.9	0.97	5.9	0.72	3.2	180
14	27	2820	180	260	1.3	2.5	0.29	1.2	1.2	1.5	4.6	1.3	12	120	3.5	14	2.8	28	4.6	42	130
15	5.8	1530	93	54	0.62	0.97	0.12	0.62	0.45	0.94	1.4	0.40	4.1	42	1.2	4.7	0.77	6.2	1.0	5.0	140
16	17	2810	150	140	1.9	3.0	0.35	1.4	0.55	1.3	1.7	0.66	7.8	77	2.3	9.3	1.6	14	2.3	18	130
17	5.2	1310	93	120	3.5	6.3	0.78	3.7	1.3	1.4	2.0	0.57	4.9	47	1.3	6.1	0.88	7.1	0.93	5.2	120
18	3.8	2340	110	110	1.5	2.9	0.43	1.6	0.76	1.2	1.6	0.47	4.9	47	5.5	5.5	0.78	5.8	0.90	3.1	120
Epidote-B																					
Spot	Ba	Sr	Pb	U	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Y	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Zr	V
1	2.1	1640	171	130	4.7	10	1.4	7.1	3.4	3.0	7.3	1.7	16	150	4.4	14	2.1	14	2.3	5.2	130
2	2.9	1860	150	140	3.7	8.1	1.1	5.7	3.1	3.1	7.6	2.1	17	170	4.6	16	2.4	19	3.0	5.9	140
3	6.6	1950	120	190	1.7	4.2	0.55	2.9	1.2	1.6	3.1	0.81	8.1	85	2.1	8.6	1.5	9.7	1.7	8.2	120
4	5.0	1720	140	190	3.3	7.6	1.1	5.2	2.4	2.0	4.8	1.1	10	110	3.1	11	1.8	13	2.1	7.0	120
5	4.2	1700	130	170	3.0	7.4	0.97	5.0	2.3	2.1	4.2	1.2	11	120	3.0	11	2.0	14	2.5	7.7	120
6	5.1	1930	120	160	1.9	4.4	0.60	2.9	1.4	1.5	3.3	0.80	7.4	85	2.3	8.8	1.3	10	1.6	7.2	130
7	3.7	1530	130	160	2.9	6.6	0.88	4.5	2.1	1.7	4.1	0.73	7.9	84	2.3	8.3	1.3	9.0	1.6	5.2	130
8	6.5	1960	140	190	3.3	7.6	0.99	4.5	2.3	1.9	3.9	0.99	9.1	100	2.6	10	1.5	13	2.1	9.3	130
9	5.3	1850	130	190	3.4	8.2	1.1	4.7	2.2	1.9	3.7	0.91	8.4	100	2.7	9.9	1.5	13	2.1	8.6	130
10	5.4	1800	130	190	2.3	5.2	0.71	3.5	1.7	1.7	3.6	0.85	8.5	90	2.4	10	1.7	12	2.2	8.1	130
11	5.5	1800	150	180	3.9	8.5	1.2	5.6	2.5	1.9	4.9	0.99	9.8	100	2.7	10	1.6	12	1.9	8.0	130
12	4.8	1710	151	230	9.4	20	2.6	12	5.3	3.5	9.6	2.3	19	160	4.8	16	2.4	16	2.6	7.6	130
Central Aar Granite (Schaltegger and Krähenbühl, 1990)																					
KAW	Ba	Sr	Pb	U	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Y	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Zr	V
2219	430	75	24	8	26	61	-	-	5.1	0.51	-	2.4	-	56	-	-	-	8.6	12	192	18

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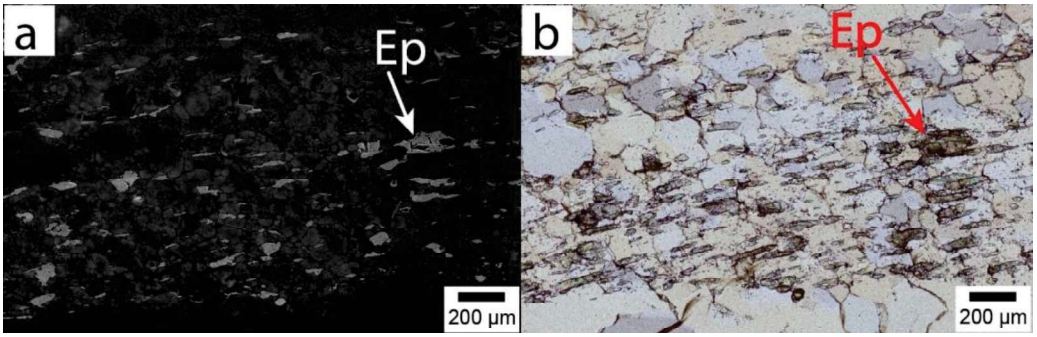

Figure 12: Overlapped cathodoluminescence CL) and backscattered electron images. The only minerals in the image are epidote (Ep) and quartz (unlabeled grains). The different CL contrasts in quartz are due to variable trace element contents.

The concentrations of Sr and Pb in Epidote-B overlap with the trend defined by the same elements measured in Epidote-A, but they cover a more limited range of values (Fig. 11a). The CI chondrite-normalized rare earth elements (REE) patterns (Fig. 11b) of Epidote-A and Epidote-B have similar trends, characterized by positive slopes (La_N/Yb_N of 0.1–0.4 in Epidote-A and 0.03–0.5 in Epidote-B) and variably positive Eu anomalies (1.5–2.4 in Epidote-A and 1.2–2.3 in Epidote-B). The REE trends of Epidote-B fall within the range of Epidote-A and confirm the lesser extent of chemical variability of Epidote-B relative to Epidote-A. Selected elements are plotted as values normalized to the concentrations in the Central Aar Granite in Fig. 11d reinforce chemical affinity between Epidote-A and Epidote-B, as well as the lesser chemical variability of the latter relative to the former. Cathodoluminescence images of the recrystallized quartz grains (Fig. 12) qualitatively indicate trace element variability also in quartz grains.

5.3 Isotope data

Table 3: U–Pb and Sr isotopic data by solution ICP-MS and TIMS. Uncertainties are 2 standard errors (2 S.E.).

	$^{238}U/^{206}Pb$	2 S.E.	$^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$	2 S.E.	$^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$	2 S.E.
Ep_A+B_1a	6.49	0.11	0.79159	0.00001	0.727803	0.000011
Ep_A+B_1b	6.54	0.07	0.79108	0.00001	0.727807	0.000007
Ep_A+B_2a	6.44	0.16	0.79428	0.00001	0.726952	0.000010
Ep_A+B_2b	6.44	0.10	0.79391	0.00001	0.726830	0.000015
Epidote-A	4.42[1]	0.09[1]	0.7867[1]	0.0058[1]	0.726552	0.000007

[1] Datum-point #10 of Peverelli et al. (2021) by LA-ICP-MS.

The total $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ and $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios measured by solution ICP-MS in the epidote microseparates (Table 3) are plotted in a Tera–Wasserburg diagram (Fig. 13a) together with the LA-ICP-MS data measured in Epidote-A. The $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ ratios of the dry aliquots of each microseparate are within uncertainty of each other, whereas their $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios are slightly different. This is attributed to geological heterogeneity between the single aliquots of each microseparate: perfect

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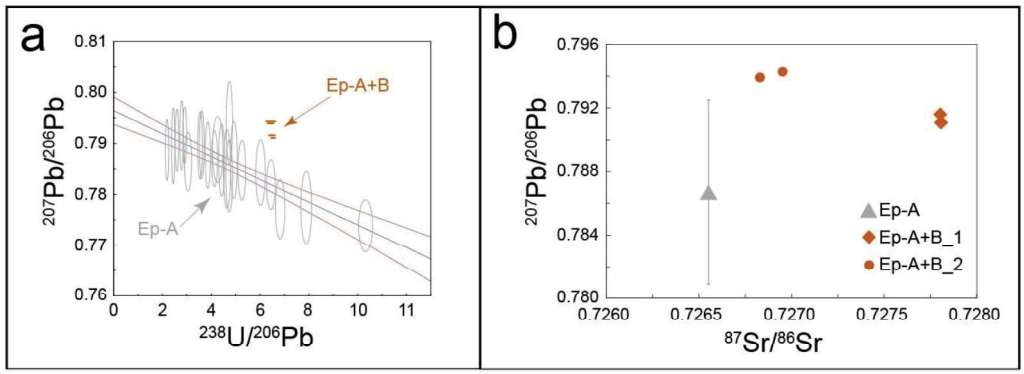

Figure 13: U–Pb and Sr isotope data. (a) Tera–Wasserburg diagram with the LA-ICP-MS data measured in Epidote-A (Ep-A) by Peverelli et al. (2021) and those measured in epidote microseparates (Ep-A+B) by solution ICP-MS; LA-ICP-MS error ellipses are 2σ. (b) Total $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ and initial $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ data of Epidote-A and the epidote microseparates; the $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratio of Epidote-A is by LA-ICP-MS (data-point #10 of Peverelli et al., 2021); all other $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios are by solution ICP-MS; $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios are by TIMS; error bars are smaller than the symbols where not shown.

homogenization of the microseparates is not possible because total $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios include uranogenic lead in addition to initial Pb, and are therefore influenced by the variability in U concentrations. The solution ICP-MS data-points plot above the regression through the LA-ICP-MS data in the diagram, and the isotopic ratios measured by the different techniques cannot be combined in one single regression.

Strontium (Table 3) and Pb isotopic data of the epidote microseparates and of pure epidote (Epidote-A) are plotted in Fig. 13b. To compare the Pb and Sr isotopic characteristics of Epidote-A with those of the microseparates, data obtained from the different techniques have to be combined in a $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ versus $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ plot. While Sr in epidote is entirely non-radiogenic, the $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios measured by solution ICP-MS contain both initial and radiogenic (i.e., U-derived) Pb. Therefore, to discuss Pb isotopic characteristics of Epidote-A (i.e., analyzed by LA-ICP-MS) against those of the epidote microseparates mixing Epidote-A and Epidote-B (i.e., analyzed by solution ICP-MS), we cannot simply use the initial $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratio obtained from a Tera–Wasserburg plot because this value excludes the ingrown radiogenic Pb component of Epidote-A. Therefore, in a $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ versus $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ plot (Fig. 13b), the total $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratio of Epidote-A is represented by analysis #10 of Peverelli et al. (2021; see their Table 5). This is the datum-point closest to the average ($^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ = 4.62 and $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ = 0.786) and to the median ($^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ = 4.35 and $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ = 0.787) values of the U–Pb isotopic ratios measured in Epidote-A by LA-ICP-MS.

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6 Discussion of the formation mechanisms for the epidote-quartz microfold

6.1 Interplay of epidote dissolution–precipitation and quartz dynamic recrystallization

The formation of a hydrothermal vein entails the crystallization of a mineral assemblage from a mineralizing fluid that fills a fracture (Bons et al., 2012). Although the original morphology of the studied epidote-quartz vein is obliterated by deformation, the euhedral shapes of Epidote-A grains (Fig. 4d) suggest that the formation of Epidote-A in layer 1 is related to vein-filling mineralization, with crystallization occurring in equilibrium with a fluid. While the formation of Epidote-A is ascribed to veining, in the following we address the mechanisms affecting Epidote-B. The microstructures in layers 2–3 differing from those in layer 1 (Sect. 5.1), along with the lesser extent of chemical variability across epidote grains in layers 2–3 compared to Epidote-A in layer 1 (Figs. 10–11), suggest that the mechanism of

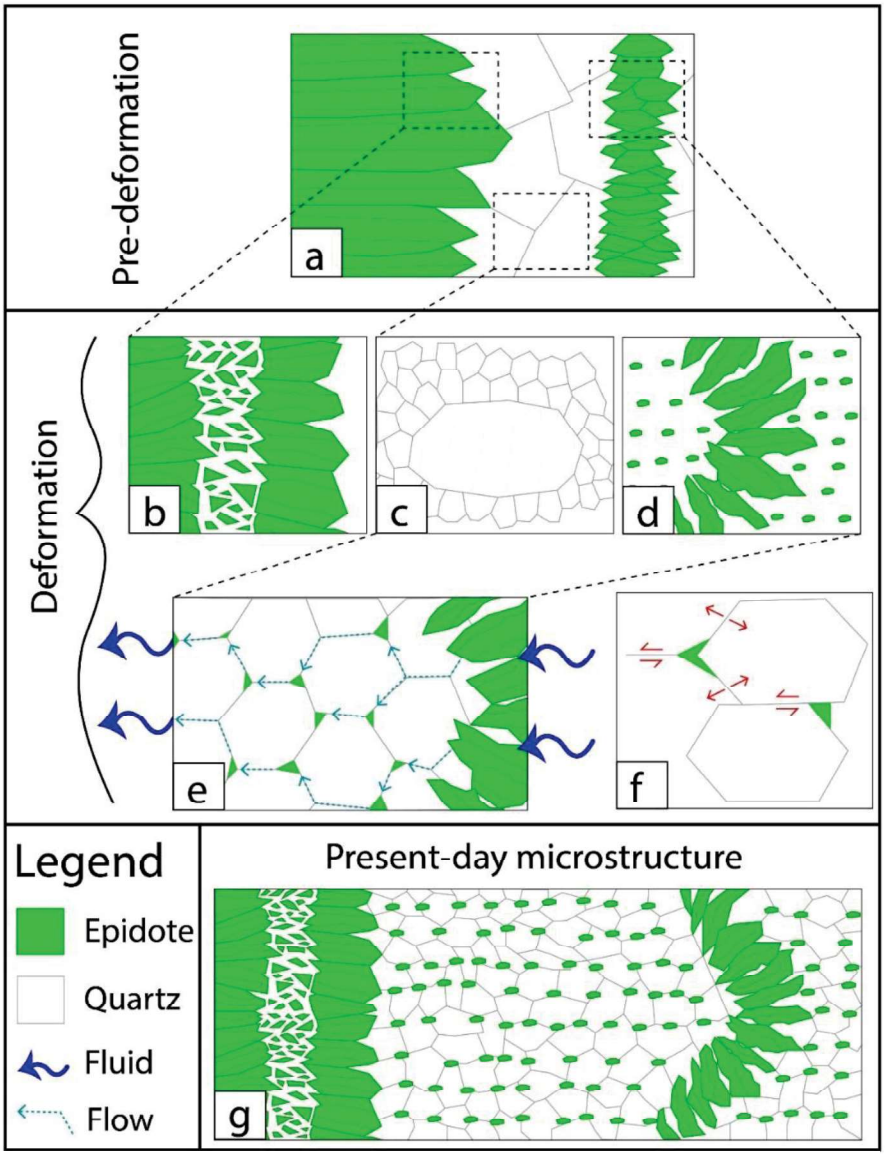

Figure 14: Sketch of the sequence of events affecting the studied epidote vein. (a) Original microstructure formed upon veining. (b) Detail of the fracturing occurring in Epidote-A in layer 1. (c) Dynamic recrystallization of quartz by subgrain rotation. (d) Folding of the epidote band in layer 2 and dissolution–precipitation of Epidote-B. (e) Detail of the viscous granular flow process and dynamic granular fluid pump allowing Epidote-B to precipitate in creep cavities along quartz grain boundaries. (f) Detail of quartz grain boundary sliding allowing dynamic granular fluid pump (modified from Fusseis et al., 2009). (g) Present-day microstructure. Not to scale.

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formation of Epidote-B is different than that of Epidote-A. The alignment of Epidote-B grains along the microfold axial planes (Figs. 4a and 6), and the presence of minute Epidote-B along dynamically recrystallized quartz grains (Fig. 9) indicate that Epidote-B formed during deformation. The overlap in major and trace element compositions of Epidote-B and Epidote-A (Figs. 10–11), though, demonstrates that these epidote generations are chemically related. One way to reconcile this geochemical affinity with different formation mechanisms is a scenario in which Epidote-B formed via deformation-induced dissolution of Epidote-A grains and (re)precipitation. In fact, a few euhedral epidote grains can still be recognized in layer 2, which are interpreted as Epidote-A relicts inherited from the original vein morphology. The gradation from epidote-rich/quartz-poor domains to virtually epidote-free/quartz dominated ones in layers 2–3 (Fig. 14g) suggests that the microstructure that formed upon veining was similar to that shown in Fig. 14a. In fact, shifts between epidote-rich and quartz-rich domains are frequent in epidote-quartz veins (e.g., Peverelli et al., 2021; their Figs. 1a and 1c). Further evidence for fluid-mediated mass transfer is also given by CL images of quartz (Fig. 12), which indicate that the grain boundaries of quartz interacted with an aqueous flu[1] The presence of a fluid during deformation is also supported by fluid inclusions in dynamically recrystallized quartz.

The transport of dissolved epidote-forming material towards the microfold axial planes (Fig. 14d) calls for a mechanism allowing the fluid to move throughout the deforming microstructural domain. The presence of [2] Epidote-B grains along quartz grain boundaries and at triple junctions (Fig. 9) implies that dissolved epidote-forming material is transported and precipitated into nucleation loci. One mechanism enabling this mass transfer process is dynamic granular fluid pump (Fig. 14e–f; see Fusseis et al., 20[3]mong dynamically recrystallized quartz. A first deformation step in which quartz grain size is reduced by dynamic recrystallization via subgrain rotation (Fig. 14c) is suggested by a strong crystallographic preferred orientation in quartz-dominated domains (Fig. [4]nce the new quartz grains are formed, grain boundary sliding produces creep cavities (Fig. 14f; see Herwegh and Jenni, 2001; Fusseis et al., 2009; Gilgannon et al., 2017; 2021), thus creating nucleation loci for Epidote-B. A similar process is described by Gottardi and Hughes (2022) in quartzites deformed at the brittle–ductile transition in the crust, in which fluid inclusions are redistributed in the quartz matrix by dynamic recrystallization of quartz by subgrain rotation and grain-boundary migration. A similar microstructure and a similar interplay of processes are also discussed by Kruse and Stünitz (1999) for in mafic high-temperature mylonites. This first step

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Another relevant reference is Menegon et al., 2015 Geology

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is followed by one in which the grain size and volume abundance of the newly precipitated Epidote-B grains control the grain size of quartz (Fig. 7), hence exerting control on quartz deformation mechanisms by pinning the migrating quartz boundaries (see Olgaard, 1990; Herwegh and Berger, 2004; Herwegh et al., 2011). This allows to suggest a feedback process: (1) quartz grain boundary sliding creates creep cavities in which Epidote-B crystallizes, (2) Epidote-B keeps quartz grain size small, (3) more creep cavities are formed, and (4) more Epidote-B grains are formed. This process is referred to as viscous granular flow (e.g., Fitz Gerald and Stünitz, 1993;Stünitz and Fitz Gerald, 1993; Paterson, 1995; see also Kruse and Stünitz, 1999).

6.2 Open-system conditions and external fluids

Epidote dissolution–precipitation and the transport of dissolved epidote material to the loci of Epidote-B crystallization implies the presence of a fluid, whose nature can be assessed by Pb–Sr isotope data. We have mentioned that the epidote microseparates used for solution ICP-MS measurements mix Epidote-A and Epidote-B to unknown proportions, since the mechanical separation of pure Epidote-B is not feasible due to its small grain size. The observation that $^{238}U/^{206}Pb$ and $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ratios of the microseparates do not lie on the same regression as those measured by LA-ICP-MS in Epidote-A (Fig. 13a) suggests that the epidote microseparates include different epidote generation, thus that Epidote-A and Epidote-B crystallized from fluids with different Pb isotope compositions. This is supported by the $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios of the microseparates being different than that measured in an Epidote-A grain (Fig. 13b; Table 2). There are two principal processes that can induce changes in the Pb and Sr isotope compositions: (1) radioactive decay of $^{235,238}U$ into $^{207,206}Pb$ and ^{87}Rb into ^{87}Sr, or (2) open-system conditions allowing for advection of extraneous Pb and Sr with different isotopic compositions. Process (1) is unlikely in this case because ingrown radiogenic Pb and Sr of such young epidote are negligible. Consequently, the U–Pb–Sr isotope heterogeneity of the two epidote generations infers fluid-mediated addition of extraneous Sr and Pb during crystallization of Epidote-B. Because the vein microstructure carries evidence of a single deformation event (Fig. 14g), it is likely that a second fluid type entered the system during vein deformation and formation of Epidote-B (Fig. 14e–f). Thus, the differences in U–Pb and Sr isotopic data between LA-ICP-MS and solution ICP-MS/TIMS data are interpreted to document mixing between different contributions: (1) one reflecting the isotopic composition of Epidote-A incorporated upon vein formation, and (2) one reflecting the mixing of Epidote-A material with extraneous Pb and Sr brought to the site of Epidote-

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B crystallization. The existence of open-system conditions bears the potential for fluid-mediated transfer of chemical constituents (Figs. 14e–f). The fact that the chemical composition of Epidote-B is identical to, and less variable than, that of Epidote-A (Figs. 10–11) suggests rock-buffered conditions during fluid mediated crystallization of Epidote-A and Epidote-B at closely comparable physico-chemical (e.g., P, T, fO_2) conditions and thus fluid composition. The initial compositional variability of Epidote-A got thereby homogenized upon dissolution and crystallization into Epidote-B. Considering that the 299 ± 2 Ma old host granitoid (Schaltegger and Corfu, 1992) contains minerals with high concentrations of U, Th and Rb (e.g., allanite, biotite), even slightly variable contributions of radiogenic Pb and Sr leached from these minerals may produce a measurable shift in Pb–Sr isotope ratios without a resolvable effect on Sr and Pb fluid concentrations. Also, crystallization of Epidote-A and Epidote-B most likely occurred at comparable T conditions (ca. 400–450 °C as inferred from the presence of biotite in the vein; see Goncalves et al., 2012). Hence, fluid/epidote partition coefficients of all elements remained similar between the two epidote crystallization events. Such a scenario can well account for the compositional uniformity but Pb and Sr isotopic heterogeneity between Epidote-A and Epidote-B, hence allowing that at least a fraction of the fluid involved in the deformation of layers 2–3 is of external origin. Peverelli et al. (accepted) measured the H isotope composition of epidote in this sample, obtaining values that can only be explained as a mixture of end-member waters (e.g., meteoric, seawater, etc.) as source for the epidote-forming fluids. In light of the present data, it is possible that their measured δD value reflects the mixing of internal and external fluids upon deformation of the epidote-quartz vein as described above.

6.3 Epidote geochemistry as a result of veining vs. granular fluid pump

The present major and trace element data show that Epidote-B is geochemically similar to, and less variable than, Epidote-A (Figs. 10–11), and this result bears important implications on epidote crystallization mechanisms. In a rock-dominated system, the larger geochemical variability of Epidote-A may be due to fluid distillation during epidote crystallization, slight variations in physico-chemical conditions (e.g., P, T) throughout the veining processes, or pulsating fluid fluxes (i.e., multiple Epidote-A generations). The latter is unlikely because all laser spots for U–Pb dating define one statistically robust regression with MSWD of 0.79, providing no evidence for multiple epidote generations at the current analytical precision. Such a hypothesis is also inconsistent with trace element data (Fig. 11a–b) defining trends and not distinct epidote populations. These observations suggest that the geochemical variability of Epidote-A is due to an evolving epidote-forming

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fluid chemistry along with more and more epidote precipitating, thus readily removing compatible elements from the fluid (see also Anenburg et al., 2015). The lesser extent of chemical variation in Epidote-B indicates homogenization of the whole trace element budget dissolved into the Epidote-B-forming fluid. Viscous granular flow is a dynamic process in which continuous feedback exists among dissolution of minerals, grain boundary sliding, creep cavitation, mass transfer and mineral precipitation (e.g., Fitz Gerald and Stünitz, 1993; Stünitz and Fitz Gerald, 1993; Paterson, 1995). This implies that repeated dissolution and reprecipitation of the same material is likely to occur, and the chemical budget gets compositionally homogenized with ongoing deformation. Consequently, in the case of the epidote-quartz microfold in layers 2–3, such a mechanism may account for the chemical homogeneity of Epidote-B. If this respect, granular fluid pump promotes recycling and homogenization of fluids in deforming polymineralic aggregates.

7 Consequences for epidote U–Pb ages

The inevitable question arising from the scenario developed above is what is the significance of the U–Pb age measured in Epidote-A. Temperature-driven resetting of the U–Pb system is excluded based on the peak temperature reached in the area (i.e. 450 ± 30 °C; Challandes et al., 2008; Goncalves et al., 2012) never exceeding the closure temperature for Pb diffusion in epidote (i.e. > 685 °C; Dahl, 1997). As a consequence, diffusional processes do not have the potential to affect Epidote-A U–Pb ages. However, the disturbance of the U–Pb isotope system may be affected by dissolution–precipitation mechanisms, as has been reported for many minerals (e.g., monazite; Tartèse et al., 2011; Williams et al., 2011; Seydoux-Guillaume et al., 2012; Grand'Homme et al., 2018). Fluid–rock interaction has been shown to affect other isotopic systems as well (e.g., K–Ar, B; Halama et al., 2014). The microstructural relationships between Epidote-A and biotite in layer 1 are consistent with both minerals forming together in Alpine times and before vein deformation. Also, the U–Pb isotopic data presented in Peverelli et al. (2021) resolve a single generation of Epidote-A when plotted in a Tera–Wasserburg diagram. Moreover, the time-resolved $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ ratios corrected for downhole fractionation display flat trends when corrected for zoning in initial lead by applying a ^{208}Pb correction (see Fig. 5 of Peverelli et al., 2021). This means that there is no resolvable isotopic zoning across the ca. 10–12 µm crater depth of the LA-ICP-MS measurements. The trace element data (Figs. 10c and 11; Table 2) reveal prominent chemical zoning. If any isotopic heterogeneity had been caused by interaction with the

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deformation-related fluid, the crystal rims would be affected to a greater extent than the cores. Consequently, if resolvable isotopic zoning existed in the dated Epidote-A grains, plotting data-points from different domains of isotopic zoning would create scatter of the data-points in a Tera–Wasserburg diagram. However, U–Pb isotope measurements cover all geochemically variable zones (Fig. 10; white circles) and they define a single Tera–Wasserburg regression regardless of their proximity to cores/rims of the analyzed epidote grains. This supports that the dissolution–precipitation processes during Epidote-B formation did not appreciably disturb the U–Pb isotope system in Epidote-A relicts.

8 Conclusions and outlook

This study combines microstructural and geochemical methods to investigate the formation mechanisms of an epidote-quartz microfold within an epidote-quartz (±biotite) vein. For the first time, we have demonstrated the occurrence of epidote dissolution–precipitation processes, and that this mechanism coexists with quartz dynamic recrystallization, both contributing to grain-size reduction of the system. The genetic link between epidote grains being dissolved and those being reprecipitated is revealed by the overlap of the major and trace element compositions of both generations. We have shown that fluid circulation and the formation of epidote nucleation loci in the deforming system are enabled by dynamic granular fluid pump. Repeated dissolution and (re)precipitation processes of epidote in creep cavities formed among sliding quartz grains also cause chemical homogenization of the epidote-dissolving/forming fluid, and hence of the new epidote generation forming during deformation. This demonstrates the importance of fluid recycling in deformational processes, although the application of Pb–Sr isotope geochemistry recognizes a role for the addition of externally derived fluids mediating mass transfer processes in the studied epidote-quartz vein. Epidote plays an active role in determining the deformation behavior of other minerals, hence in the deformation style of polymineralic aggregates and in producing the resulting microstructures. To our knowledge, before this study, only brittle deformation behavior of epidote had been proven (Masuda et al., 1990; 1995), but no other detailed studies had addressed epidote deformation mechanisms. In this respect, epidote dynamic recrystallization has never been either ruled out or demonstrated. However, since this mineral is widespread in crustal rocks (e.g., Bird and Spieler, 2004; Enami et al., 2004; Franz and Liebscher, 2004; Grapes and Hoskin, 2004; Schmidt and Poli,

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demonstrate is a strong word. You did not show mictrotextures typical of dissolution and precipitation processes (see for example Putnis 2009 Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry). I would rather use "suggest"

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2004; Morad et al., 2010), the occurrence of epidote ductile deformation may have effects on the deformation of the continental crust and it calls for a better understanding of this mineral.

Appendix A

Transmitted light microscope images of the other epidote-quartz veins (samples P2, P3 and Gr0-c) associated with the studied epidote-quartz vein.

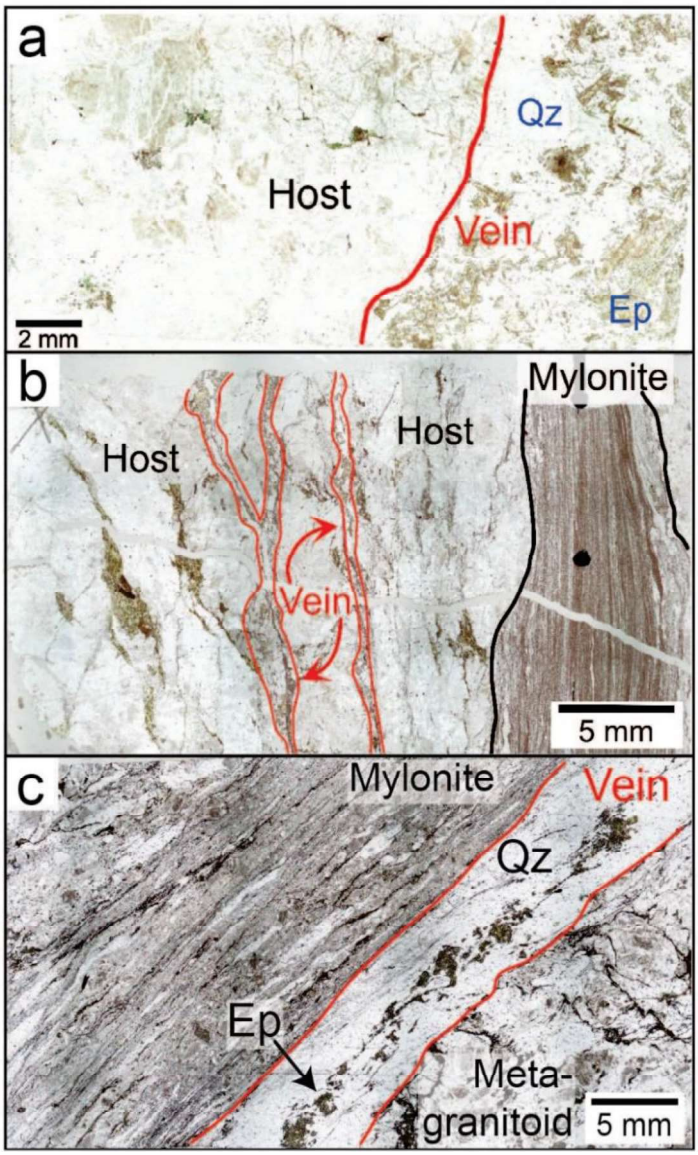

Figure A1: Transmitted light scans of (a) epidote vein P2, (b) epidote vein P3 and (c) epidote vein Gr0-c. Plane-polarized light.

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Appendix B

Transmitted light photograph of the microfold in layers 2–3.

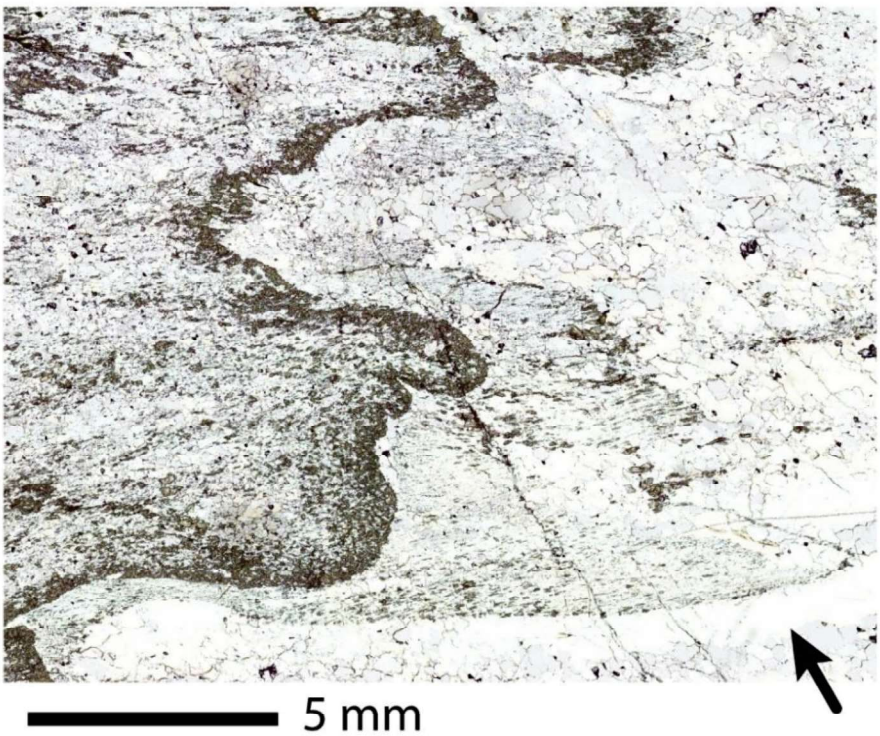

Figure B1: Transmitted light scan of the microfold in layers 2–3. Plane-polarized light.

Appendix C

Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) maps of dynamically recrystallized quartz by subgrain rotation in layer 3.

Figure C1: Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) map showing the orientation of quartz C axis in layer

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Done. Subgrain rotation is confirmed by comparison with the literature (Stipp et al., 2002)

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Author contribution

VP prepared the samples, carried out grain-size analysis and petrographic description, planned electron microprobe work, ran trace element measurements by LA-ICP-MS, measured Sr isotopes by TIMS, and prepared the manuscript. AB and MH supervised the work and greatly contributed to structuring the manuscript. MW supervised clean lab work and TIMS analyses, and measured Pb isotope data with IMV. TP granted access to the LA-ICP-MS laboratory and was closely involved in structuring the manuscript and in data evaluation. PL performed work at the electron microprobe and processed the X-ray maps. All authors read the manuscript and contributed to its improvement.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Code/data availability

All data are included in the manuscript (see tables).

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Comment on egusphere-2022-311

Holger Stunitz (Referee)

Referee comment on "Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study" by Veronica Peverelli et al., EGUsphere, https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-2022-311-RC2, 2022

Comments on the manuscript: «Epidote dissolution–precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical and isotope study» by Peverelli et al.

The manuscript describes observations and geochemical data of a deformed vein in granitoid rocks. The data and observations are of good quality and are presented in a clear and concise way. The material is novel and original and of great importance for the inference of deformation processes in granitoids and other plagioclase-bearing rocks. I have not checked the geochemical details and isotopic parts, as these are not my field of expertise. However, the arguments presented make a lot of sense to me. From my point of view, the manuscript should be published after minor revisions. Some points in detail are listed below, some points are only suggestions:

Line 17: "Recrystallization" instead of "This" [1]

Line 20: «ones» instead of «one» [2]

Line 34: "… and strain rates" (not only temperature). "Interpretations" instead of "interpretation". [3]

Summary of Comments on egusphere-2022-311-RC2_VP.pdf

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Number: 1	Author: Veronica Peverelli	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 7/22/2022 5:48:10 PM

Done

Number: 2	Author: Veronica Peverelli	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 7/22/2022 5:48:16 PM

Done

Number: 3	Author: Veronica Peverelli	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 7/22/2022 5:49:17 PM

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Line 35: “modal amount” instead of “relative abundance” [1]

Line 42: “in the presence of a fluid dissolved material may precipitate…” (the fluid does not have to circulate) [2]

Line 60: I suggest to use “epidote group minerals” here, because clinozoisite, zoisite and epidote, etc. form a considerably larger group of minerals than just epidote, and they all seem to behave in the same way mechanically in terms of crystal plasticity, i.e., they are very strong. Perhaps you want to insert a sentence to make this point. [3]

Line 70: “polymetamorphic” instead of “polycyclic”? [4]

Line 100: “yielded” instead of “returned” [5]

Line 101: insert paragraph break [6]

Line 136: in the table, is there any reason, why “SGR + dislocation glide” should be different from “dislocation glide + SGR”? If not, please use the same word order. [7]

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:50:03 PM
Done

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:51:24 PM
Done

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:54:38 PM
Agreed: rephrased and the divided sentence to make the point

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:55:16 PM
Indeed. Done

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:55:56 PM
Sentence removed following comments of R1 and MKS

Number: 6 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:57:57 PM
Done

Number: 7 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:46:33 AM
It was meant to indicate which is dominant and which is minor, but I should have specified it in the caption. This column has been removed following R1's comments, and the recrystallization mechanisms are described directly in the text

Lines 249-253: fluid inclusions are not visible in the figures – you are referring to fluid inclusions inside qtz grains, but are epidote grains also included in qtz grains? Probably not (?), but the sentence indicates this. Please clarify. 1

Line 255: the microstructure appears completely recrystallized – is it possible to identify unrecrystallized qtz grains at all? 2

Fig. 12: the CL contrast is difficult to see – can perhaps both images (BSE and CL) be shown separately and next to each other? 3

Line 386: perhaps better: "location"? In addition, "dynamic granular fluid pump" is not really a scientific term but rather a sort of a "buzz word" to sound fancy. I would avoid such terms. The reference is appropriate, of course, but something like "cavitation as nucleation sites" would be a more neutral descriptive term. 4

Lines 394-401: there is circumstantial evidence for grain boundary processes involving grain boundary sliding and solution precipitation in plastically deformed qtz (dislocation creep) in Nègre et al. 2021 and Pongrac et al. 2022 based on experiments and in analogy to wet ice dislocation creep. 5

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 5:59:57 PM
Added panels to Fig. 6 showing epidote and fluid inclusions in quartz grains

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:48:17 AM
Unrecrystallized grains are minor; panels have been added to Fig. 5 showing relicts

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:06:19 PM
Done

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:49:07 AM
Done and rephrased. The alternative phrase "dynamic granular fluid pump" is now in parentheses close to the reference to Fusseis et al. 2009

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:14:46 PM
Added references

Lines 421-423: the compositions are not identical. Better: "the epidote B composition represents a narrower range of the compositional spectrum of epidote A" or something like this. [1]

Line 431: "difference" instead of "heterogeneity"? [2]

Line 453: again "granular fluid pump" could be replaced by descriptive terms like "combined grain boundary sliding, cavitation, and nucleation" or so. [3]

Line 489: admittedly, it is a somewhat obscure reference, but Stunitz 1993 describes crystal plastic deformation (or better: the absence thereof) in clinozoisite. [4]

If there are any questions, the authors may contact me.

Best regards

Holger Stunitz

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:19:17 PM
Rephrase following the suggestion

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:20:07 PM
Done

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:21:11 PM
Done

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2022 6:28:50 PM
Rephrased to take this comment into account

Review

Epidote dissolition-precipitation during viscous granular flow: a micro-chemical ins osotope study

Authors

Veronica Peverelli, Alfons Berger, Martin Wille, Thomas Pettke, Pierre Lanari, Igor M. Villa and Marco Herwegh

Summary

The authors investigate a deformed epidote-quartz vein in the Central Alpine Aar massif in order to deduce metasomatic conditions during different deformation events and -mechanisms active during viscous deformation of the polymineralic vein. Petrological and isotope-geochemical data are interpreted together with micro-structural data in a way that the deformed and recrystallized epidote-quartz vein records fluid-mediated epidote crystallization through different deformation mechanisms that were active contemporaneously. The isotope-geochemical data suggest that externally derived syn-deformational fluids mixed with internal trace element reservoirs are supporting the dissolution and re-precipitation of epidote and controlling its isotope geochemistry. Furthermore, the authors interpret the observed textures to be the result of subgrain rotation recrystallization of quartz that caused significant grain size reduction and enabled grain-boundary sliding of the quartz-dominant parts of the deformed vein. Creep cavities resulting from grain-boundary sliding are interpreted to serve as nucleation and growth sites for the recrystallizing epidote that is formed by dissolution of pre-existing epidote and is structurally controlled re-precipitating.

General comment

The manuscript is generally well written in correct grammar and wording. The topic of the manuscript is interesting for structural geology as well as for petrology and geochemistry. The topic is of general relevance as it investigates a global process, i.e. fluid mediated dissolution and re-precipitation of metamorphic minerals, in a local example. The geochemical data presented in this manuscript are of high quality and display a wealth of information about the effect of fluid mediated syn-metamorphic element transport on age determinations in metamorphic minerals. The manuscript is therefore well suited for publication in EGUsphere. However, I see a major shortcoming of the manuscript in the fact that the authors not only interpret the geochemical and textural data in an isotope-geochemical way, but also try to deduce a certain deformation mechanism, i.e. grain boundary sliding, as well as a certain fluid transport mechanism, i.e. granular fluid pumping, from the investigated samples. Whereas the reader can easily follow the authors' arguments regarding the nature and chemistry of the metamorphic fluid that serves as element transport medium for the precipitation of a second epidote generation in their samples, the interpretation of the data in terms of a certain deformation mechanism is highly speculative and not supported by the presented data. I suggest to redirect the focus of the manuscript away from the structural interpretation and put more emphasis on the interpretation of the geochemical data in terms of element transport properties of the metasomatic fluid.

Apart from this major criticism there is a small number of points that should be addressed in a revised version of the manuscript. In general, most of the figures, at least in the version

Summary of Comments on Microsoft Word - Review Peverelli et al 2022.docx

Page: 1

Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:19:34 AM
The text has been revised so as to make it clear that this is one possible interpretation.

that I got, are too small and of mediocre quality. Several of the features that are supposedly shown in the figures are actually not (well) visible, hence it is sometimes difficult for the reader to follow the authors' arguments.

Furthermore, some of the paragraphs need substantial reworking, such as the section of the geological setting as well as parts of the sample description.

However, I generally found the manuscript interesting in a geochemical way and I am looking forward to its publication. Nevertheless, I think the manuscript needs some major revisions and a slight change in its focus, as the micro-structural data does not support the viscous granular flow model for the observed structure.

In the following I will give some detailed comments on specific text passages.

Specific comments

Line 32: … and by the physical conditions …

Line 34: … this type of interpretation …

Line 50: as there is a large number of publications that concentrate on fluid fluxes in deforming and static environments I wonder whether the authors should speak of "rare characterization" of those fluids.

Lines 57-59: This sentence is reporting results and interpretations and is a bit odd in the introduction.

Line 64: I see that the importance of epidote for geochemical and petrological processes might be underestimated, but to claim that it has important implications on the structural evolution of the continental crust …, that sounds a bit odd ;-).

Line 66: Fig. 1 is too schematic. The reader cannot really oversee the position of the Aar massif in the Alpine chain. I am not sure whether this is important, but if the authors decide to talk about the regional geology this should be a bit more precise.

Lines 69-71: what is meant by the polycyclic basement? Please be more specific.

Lines 72-73: . and mainly records Alpine deformation … . What else deformation apart from Alpine?

Lines 81 ff.: The documentation of the metamorphic conditions in and the metamorphic evolution of the Aar massif could be a bit more structured and concise.

Lines 89-90: Eocene and Permian ages? Either you should skip this information or be more precise here.

Line 92 and following: Can you please tell the reader what NAGRA is and be a bit more informative about the Grimsel test site.

Line 94: What is the characteristic pattern of shear zones?

Line 95: … runs oblique to a steeply dipping shear zone … . Oblique to which direction?

Figure 2 not very informative. What are the different lines in a)? Both, a) and b) are way too small.

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 10:09:12 PM
Figures improved

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 10:09:16 PM
Done: better structured geological context, and added figures and references to existing one in sample description (both Sects. 3 and 5).

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 10:09:31 PM
Done

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 10:09:29 PM
Done

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:36:14 PM
Rephrased accordingly

Number: 6 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:37:18 PM
Sentence deleted

Number: 7 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:38:18 PM
Rephrased and toned down

Number: 8 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 5:05:54 PM
Figure improved (regional geology is outside the scope of the manuscript).

Number: 9 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:40:42 PM
Rephrased to avoid overcomplications

Number: 10 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:41:47 PM
Rephrased to avoid overcomplications

Number: 11 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:45:14 PM
Done

Number: 12 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:45:23 PM
Done

Number: 13 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:49:40 PM
Done

Number: 14 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:46:09 PM
Clarified

Number: 15 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:55:41 PM
Rephrased

Number: 16 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:49:53 PM
Figure 2 improved

Lines 97-100: why are there three samples described although only one of them is investigated? The information about the other two samples is not used throughout the entire paper, or am I wrong?

Figure 2 is informative, but too small and the weak foliation mentioned in line 114 is not visible.

Line 120: abundances of what?

Line 121: Grimsel-1? Has this sample been introduced before?

Lines 123-124: It would be nice if there were some pictures that demonstrate the different deformation mechanisms in the different layers.

Lines 125-127: This sentence is an interpretation and should be moved to the discussion.

The methods section is very detailed and precise!

Line 223: Which microstructural domains? Please define.

Line 226: This epidote layer. Is that layer 1? If so, please mention.

Lines 235-236: Pictures of the recrystallized quartz would be nice.

Lines 244-246: the irregular and curved epidote grain boundaries are not visible in Fig. 6 nor are the euhedral grains highlighted.

Lines 254 ff.: What is the Zener relation? I am not sure whether the ordinary reader of that journal is aware of that, especially as the connected citation of Herwegh et al., 2010 does not appear in the reference list.

Lines 256-257: … may have favored dislocation glide, … . This is interpretation and should go to the discussion. Furthermore, if this quartz grain is so important that it gets 2 lines in section 5.1.2. why is the figure showing it in the appendix?

Line 275: It is not fully clear to me where layers 2 and 3 are visible in Fig. 10.

Line 285: Would it be possible to perform a microprobe mapping of the epidote 2 crystals with a higher spatial resolution in order to see whether they are zoned? I think 1µm resolution should be possible.

Fig. 11: What is the red area in Fig. 11c? Are those epidote 2 analyses?

Fig. 12: the CL contrast within the quartz grains is barely visible. In the figure captions b) is missing. I guess b) shows a transmitted light image of the CL/BSE image.

Line 321: what the "geological heterogeneity"?

The presentation of the isotope data is very good and convincing. I also find the interpretation of the geochemical data very convincing until the authors start the discussion about the deformation mechanisms in line 386.

Line 386 ff: The authors state correctly that dynamic granular fluid pumping is ONE mechanism that is enabling an effective fluid migration and element transport. However, in the following they do not present convincing evidence that this mechanism was actually active nor do they discuss other mechanisms that enable the establishment of an interconnected transport matrix. Fluid transport along interconnected grain boundaries seems to be very common in metamorphic rocks and solely the texture that is resembling

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:55:54 PM
Removed the extra samples

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:57:12 PM
Updated figure

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 7:46:01 AM
Specified

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 10:58:58 PM
Yes, at the beginning of the section. Rephrased to make it more visible

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 7:46:41 AM
Fig. 4 should be useful in this respect, and it has been moved here

Number: 6 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:00:23 PM
Done

Number: 7 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 7:46:49 AM
Done

Number: 8 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:50:01 PM
Done

Number: 9 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 6:07:14 PM
Updated figure 5

Number: 10 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 5:22:55 PM
Added figures and rephrases ("subhedral or euhedral")

Number: 11 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:06:06 PM
Done and reference corrected (2011, not 2010)

Number: 12 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:50:25 PM
Removed details and improved figures

Number: 13 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:50:30 PM
Figure updated

Number: 14 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/21/2022 12:50:49 PM
Microprobe map of Epidote-B has been added

Number: 15 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:12:07 PM
Figure updated (better labeled)

Number: 16 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:16:20 AM
Updated caption and improved figure

Number: 17 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/5/2022 7:16:02 AM
Indeed... "Chemical" instead of "geological"

Number: 18 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/24/2022 10:06:21 PM
The possibility of simple diffusion has been taken into account in the revised text. Better references to existing and updated figures have been added to help the reader follow the text and the interpretations

the potential structure of cavities resulting from grain boundary sliding is not really convincing.

Lines 402 ff.: In contrast to the afore paragraph the discussion about the fluid source and the fluid-mediated element transport is very clear and convincing.

Line 421: Be [1]: … the major and trace element chemical composition … .

Line 423: couldn' [2] e system be fluid buffered as well?

Line 429: … of all meas [3] d elements … .

Line 438: I do not a [4] ree that "this result bears important implications on epidote crystallization me chanisms."

Line 440: Epidote A is chemically zoned, thus there are different "generations" and as there is no documentatio [5] of the zoning properties (step-like, oscillating, gradual) pulsating fluid fluxes cannot b uled out. The MSWD just says that within the certain age population there is no difference visible.

Lines 443 ff. as well as [6] ig. 11: It would be nice to see whether there is a correlation between the Pb/S ot and the LA spot position within the epidote A grains (e.g., a core-rim Pb and Sr correlation in Fig. 11).

I hope my comments and suggestions are helpful and can be used to improve the manuscript. I apologize for the long time I needed for the review and send my best regards from Gothenburg

Matthias Konrad-Schmolke

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Number: 1 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:16:56 PM
Rephrased accordingly

Number: 2 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:18:00 PM
Added the possibility of fluid-buffered conditions

Number: 3 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 7:47:49 AM
Done

Number: 4 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/20/2022 11:19:49 PM
Agreed. Rephrased

Number: 5 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/27/2022 9:36:49 AM
Agreed. Removed reference to MSWD and rephrased taking all options into account

Number: 6 Author: Veronica Peverelli Subject: Sticky Note Date: 8/17/2022 7:50:35 AM
Although we agree that detailed geochemical work on Epidote-A would be interesting, the present data-set does not allow systematic considerations in this respect (that is, not enough grains where we have analyses in both cores and rims).