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**REVISION 2**  
**Non-hydrostatic stress field orientation inferred from orthopyroxene (Pbca) to low-clinoenstatite (P2<sub>1</sub>/c) inversion in partially dehydrated serpentinites**

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19 **Abstract**

20 The direction of the main compressional stress, at the origin of the orthoenstatite  
21 (Oen) inversion to low-clinoenstatite (LCen) lamellae observed in partially dehydrated  
22 antigorite-serpentinites, has been inferred based on the crystallographic orientation  
23 relationship between Oen host crystals and the LCen lamellae by means of Electron  
24 Backscattered Diffraction (EBSD) combined with optical microscopy. This technique  
25 was applied to two samples: a transitional lithology (Atg-Chl-Ol-Opx) and a  
26 metaperidotite (Chl-Ol-Opx), both collected within 3 m from the serpentinite  
27 dehydration front exposed in Cerro del Almiraz (Betic cordillera, South Spain). The  
28 metaperidotite displays a clear crystal preferred orientation (CPO) of both Oen and  
29 LCen. The transitional lithology shows weaker CPOs. The metaperidotite contains  
30 LCen crystals representative of two possible variants of the Oen to LCen martensitic  
31 transformation with distinct orientations, which are consistent with a unique  
32 compression direction at ca. 45° to the normal to the foliation and to the lineation of  
33 the precursor serpentinite. In contrast, in the transitional sample, calculated  
34 compressional stresses display an almost random orientation. The observation of  
35 such a variation in the stress field recorded by two samples separated by <3 m rules  
36 out a tectonic origin for the stresses producing the LCen in these metaperidotites. We  
37 interpret therefore these stresses as resulting from compaction during dehydration.  
38 The present analysis implies that these compaction-related stresses, though variable  
39 at the meter scale, may be organized at the cm scale during dehydration reactions of  
40 serpentinite.

41

42 **Keywords:** Clinoenstatite, stress field, martensitic transformation, serpentinite,  
43 dehydration reactions, non-hydrostatic stress

## 44 **Introduction**

45 Experimental work (Sclar et al. 1964; Boyd and England 1965; Grover 1972;  
46 Yamamoto and Akimoto 1977; Khodyrev and Agoshkov 1986; Angel et al. 1992;  
47 Wunder and Schreyer 1992, 1997; Luth 1995; Ulmer and Stalder 2001; Jahn and  
48 Martoňák 2009) provides evidence for the existence of several polymorphs of  
49 enstatite  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  (Fig. 1): protoenstatite with a space group (*Pbcn*), orthoenstatite  
50 *Pbca* (Oen), a high-pressure clinoenstatite *C2/c* (HCen), a low-pressure high-  
51 temperature clinoenstatite *C2/c*, and a low pressure and low temperature  
52 clinoenstatite with a space group *P2<sub>1</sub>/c* (LCen). More recently, Zhang *et al.* (2012)  
53 discovered a second high-pressure clinoenstatite with the space group *P2<sub>1</sub>/c*.  
54 Enstatite occurs in mantle and crustal rocks almost exclusively in the Oen form. LCen  
55 is known to occur in stony meteorites for some time, but its occurrence on Earth was  
56 not reported until the work of Dallwitz et al. (1966). Most terrestrial descriptions are  
57 related to volcanic rocks, which contain multiply twinned LCen (Dallwitz et al. 1966;  
58 Dietrich et al. 1978; Komatsu 1980; Shiraki et al. 1980; Yasuda et al. 1983). A minor  
59 proportion of described LCen crystals has a metamorphic or a deformational origin;  
60 these crystals are typically untwinned (Trommsdorff et al. 1968; Frost et al. 1978;  
61 Bozhilov et al. 1999; Ruiz Cruz et al. 1999; Padrón-Navarta et al. 2015; Zhang et al.  
62 2017) . Twinned LCen in meteorites and in terrestrial rocks were interpreted to form  
63 by cooling from protoenstatite (Brown and Smith 1963; Boyd and England 1965;  
64 Yasuda et al. 1983), whereas untwinned LCen is interpreted to form by martensitic  
65 transformation from Oen due to shear on (100) planes in the [001] direction (Turner  
66 et al. 1960; Coe 1970; Raleigh et al. 1971; Coe and Muller 1973; Coe and Kirby  
67 1975; Frost et al. 1978). Clinoenstatite with a space group *P2<sub>1</sub>/c* has also been  
68 described in peridotites from presumed ultra-high pressure origin such as Alpe Arami

69 (Bozhilov et al. 1999), Dabie-Sulu garnet pyroxenites (Zhang et al. 2002), Indus  
70 ophiolite (Das et al. 2015) and in the Luobusa ophiolite (Zhang et al. 2017). In these  
71 cases, the occurrence of LCen was interpreted as the result of decompression from  
72 the stability field of HCen with a space group  $C2/c$  (Fig. 1), implying exposure of  
73 these rocks to ultrahigh pressures  $>10$  GPa corresponding to more than 300 km  
74 depth, although a martensitic transformation from Oen can not be discarded.

75 Coe and Muller (1973) established experimentally the relation between the  
76 Oen/LCen crystallographic orientations and the sense of shear during the  
77 transformation (Fig. 2), providing a potential technique to infer the orientation of the  
78 principal stresses in a similar way to the analysis of calcite, diopside, and plagioclase  
79 mechanical twins (e.g. Turner, 1953; Raleigh and Talbot, 1967, Egydio-Silva and  
80 Mainprice, 1999). The study of Frost et al. (1978) was the first one (and the last, to  
81 our knowledge) to apply this method. They analyzed a metaperidotite produced by  
82 serpentine dehydration in the Mount Stuart Batholith in the Central Cascades of  
83 Washington and determined that orientation of Oen host crystals containing LCen  
84 lamellae measured by universal stage differed significantly from the Oen bulk fabric  
85 in the metaperidotite. Based on these data, they suggested that the Oen to LCen  
86 inversion was unrelated to the dehydration event and most likely caused by stresses  
87 related to the activity of a nearby shear zone.

88 The recent description of LCen lamellae in Oen in Cerro del Almiraz  
89 metaperidotites (Padrón-Navarta et al. 2015) opens the possibility to investigate the  
90 Oen-LCen inversion in the context of a near-hydrostatic dehydrating system. These  
91 metaperidotites formed by serpentine dehydration at high-pressure conditions  
92 (eclogite facies, López Sánchez-Vizcaíno et al. 2005, Padrón-Navarta et al. 2010a,  
93 Fig.1). They display no evidence of tectonic deformation after the dehydration event

94 consistently with the absence of macroscopic shear zones within the metaperidotite  
95 part of this unit. However, they show microstructures indicative of grain-scale  
96 deformation in response to compaction of the fluid-filled porosity produced by the  
97 serpentine dehydration reaction, which may reach ca. 20 vol. % (Padrón-Navarta et  
98 al. 2015). Compaction of a transient fluid-filled porosity produced by dehydration  
99 reactions should be associated with a complex stress field with variable orientation  
100 and magnitude at the grain scale (Wheeler 1987; Llana-Fúnez et al. 2012). The  
101 analysis of the orientation of LCen lamellae in the Cerro del Almirez peridotites allow  
102 testing this model by constraining the orientation of compressional stresses during  
103 porosity compaction. This work presents the first Electron Backscattered Diffraction  
104 (EBSD) study of the Oen to LCen inversion. Based on these data, we discuss the  
105 mechanisms of Oen transformation to LCen and the origin of the stresses  
106 responsible for this phase transformation in the Cerro del Almirez metaperidotites.

107

## 108 **Strategy and Methods**

### 109 **Geological background and samples selection**

110 The Cerro del Almirez (Nevado–Filábride Complex, Betic Cordillera, SE Spain)  
111 displays an undisturbed serpentine dehydration front, in which antigorite-schists are  
112 transformed to chlorite-harzburgites with granofels and spinifex-like textures  
113 (Trommsdorff et al. 1998; Garrido et al. 2005; López Sánchez-Vizcaíno et al. 2005,  
114 2009, Padrón-Navarta et al. 2008, 2010a, 2011, 2015; Kahl et al. 2017). The reaction  
115 occurred at 680-710°C and 1.6-1.9 GPa (Fig.1) (López Sánchez-Vizcaíno et al.,  
116 2005, Padrón-Navarta et al., 2010a) during subduction of the Nevado-Filábride  
117 Complex in the Middle Miocene (López Sánchez-Vizcaíno et al. 2001). Later  
118 extensional tectonics resulted in exhumation of the reaction front (Martinez-Martinez

119 et al., 2002), but this deformation was localized along the contacts of the ultramafic  
120 bodies with the metapelites and did not affect the internal parts of the ultramafic  
121 bodies (Jabaloy et al. 2015). The penetrative foliation of the antigorite serpentinite  
122 protolith is obliquely crosscut by the irregularly shaped reaction front marked by  
123 growth of the prograde assemblage (olivine + enstatite + chlorite +/- tremolite),  
124 suggesting that the dehydration reactions producing the clinoenstatite-bearing  
125 metaperidotites occurred under nearly static conditions (Padrón-Navarta et al., 2011,  
126 2015).

127         In this study, we analyse the orientation of Oen and LCen in two samples from  
128 Cerro del Almiraz: an antigorite-bearing transitional lithology (sample Al10-10,  
129 antigorite present), a chlorite-serpentinite collected ca. 70 cm away from the first  
130 isograd of the dehydration reaction, which is marked by the growth of coarse-grained  
131 chlorite, and an antigorite-absent chlorite-harzburgite with granofels texture collected  
132 ca. 3 m away from the same isograd (Al10-11, Fig. 3) (Padrón-Navarta et al. 2015).  
133 These two samples are oriented in a similar way and are distant by <2,5 m. The  
134 composition of orthopyroxene in both transitional and granofels texture  
135 metaperidotite is typically low in aluminium (0.10 wt. % Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) with an X<sub>Mg</sub>  
136 (Mg/(Fe<sup>2+</sup>+Mg)) of 0.90-0.91 (Padrón-Navarta et al. 2011). Because LCen lamellae  
137 are only visible optically when the Oen [010] axis is at high angle to the thin section  
138 plane (see later discussion), four oriented sections - two XZ sections (A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>), one  
139 XY (B), and one YZ (C) section, where X defines the lineation and Z the normal to  
140 the foliation plane - were analyzed for each sample.

141         In addition, we performed detailed observations of a large bent Oen crystal (4  
142 mm in length) from a coarse grained chlorite-harzburgite with granofels texture (Al09-  
143 16) collected at 25 m from the reaction front. The continuous and strong variation of

144 the orientation of the host Oen crystal allowed us to test the relation between the  
145 sense of the shear during the LCen martensitic transformation and the orientation of  
146 the host Oen relative to the local stresses (Coe and Muller, 1973). Although chlorite-  
147 harzburgites with pseudospinifex texture also contain nanometer size LCen (Ruiz-  
148 Cruz et al. 1999), metaperidotites with this texture were not investigated, since the  
149 LCen lamellae in these peridotites are below both optical and EBSD resolution.

150

### 151 **Analytical techniques**

152 We performed EBSD analyses at Géosciences Montpellier (France). We used a  
153 Camscan Crystal Probe XF500 with a EBSD HKL NordlysNano detector to measure  
154 the crystallographic orientation of the LCen lamellae and a JEOL 5600 with a EBSD  
155 NordlysNano detector to map the orientation of Oen with a resolution of 16-27  $\mu\text{m}$   
156 over the whole thin section. In order to obtain the clearest Kikuchi patterns, the  
157 binning mode was set to 2x2 for both spot analyses and orientation mapping of small  
158 areas containing LCen lamellae (Table 1). Frame averaging was set to 2 to decrease  
159 noise. Reference LCen diffraction patterns were indexed using the crystallographic  
160 data of Morimoto *et al.*, (1960) with  $a=9.620 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b=8.825 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c=5.188 \text{ \AA}$ , and  $\beta =$   
161  $71.67^\circ$ , because these parameters resulted in the best fit of the observed patterns,  
162 producing Mean Angular Deviation (MAD) values  $\leq 0.50^\circ$  (Table 1). For further  
163 treatment, we transformed the LCen orientations to the conventional monoclinic  
164 setting (Fig. 2,  $\beta = 108.33^\circ$ ; Ohashi, 1984) by adding  $180^\circ$  to the third Bunge Euler  
165 angle.

166 Apparent thickness of LCen lamellae varies from  $<1 \mu\text{m}$  to  $50 \mu\text{m}$ . This implies  
167 in EBSD measurements steps of  $0.2\text{-}0.5 \mu\text{m}$  and makes EBSD mapping of the whole  
168 thin section too time consuming. Therefore crystals of Oen containing LCen were first

169 identified by optical microscopy and then the orientation of both Oen host and LCen  
170 host was measured by EBSD using either spot analysis or small-scale maps. We  
171 successfully indexed more than 84% of the optically identified LCen crystals despite  
172 the small size of the lamellae.

173         This grain-by-grain analysis is also time consuming. To enhance the statistics,  
174 we used a mixed EBSD-optical technique, in which the orientation of LCen crystals  
175 was calculated from the host Oen crystal determined by EBSD mapping and the  
176 phase transformation variant (dextral or sinistral shearing, Fig. 2) was identified by  
177 optical microscopy. Optical microscopy observations under crossed-polarized light  
178 allow the determination of the relative orientation of the  $\gamma$ -optical axis of LCen  
179 relatively to the host Oen (i.e. right or left LCen extinction relative to the [001]  
180 Oen/LCen direction, Coe and Muller, 1973). Since the LCen  $\gamma$ -optical axis is at  $32^\circ$  to  
181 [001] and lies in the obtuse angle  $[100]^\wedge[001]$  in the monoclinic setting of Ohashi  
182 (1984) (Fig. 2), knowledge of the orientation of this optical axis allows the  
183 determination of the full orientation of the LCen crystal and therefore the orientation  
184 of the main compressional stress. The number of Oen crystals hosting LCen lamellae  
185 identified in each thin section, as well as the proportions of the two LCen variants are  
186 listed in Table 1.

187         Orientation data for both LCen and Oen were analyzed using MTEX (  
188 Hielscher & Schaeben, 2008, Bachmann et al., 2010;; Mainprice et al., 2014). They  
189 are displayed as pole figures in the XYZ reference frame, which is based on the  
190 orientation of the foliation and lineation of the precursor serpentinite. The calculated  
191 LCen orientations based on the orientations of the measured host Oen orientations  
192 given by EBSD data and optical determinations of the variant selection are consistent  
193 with the EBSD data of LCen for both samples (Fig. 4). This validates the mixed



194 EBSD-optical approach, which is considerably faster than the LCen EBSD analysis.  
195 In addition, to evaluate what would be the LCen population if all Oen crystals in the  
196 rock contained LCen lamellae, we wrote a MTEX script, which, based on the  
197 theoretical transformation relation (Fig. 2), converted the Oen orientations measured  
198 over the entire thin section by EBSD mapping into LCen orientations with a random  
199 variant choice. When the orientation of LCen is measured by EBSD, the type of  
200 variant and the orientation of the main compressional stress ( $\sigma_1$ ) for each Oen grain  
201 hosting LCen is uniquely determined. The orientation of  $\sigma_1$  can be then computed, for  
202 instance, by a 45° clockwise rotation of the orientation data for LCen around the  
203 positive  $[010]_{\text{LCen}}$  axis (c.f. Fig. 2, note that in this figure the positive  $[010]_{\text{LCen}}$  axis  
204 points away from the viewer in case of variant 1). The orientation of  $\sigma_1$  is parallel to  
205 the orientation of  $[001]_{\text{LCen}}$  of the rotated data. More generally, however, the  
206 orientation of  $\sigma_1$  can be determined by knowing (1) the orientation of the Oen host  
207 and (2) the type of LCen variant, which can be obtained by optical microscopy.  
208 Because two crystallographically opposite orientations of  $[010]_{\text{Oen}}$  are compatible for  
209 each type of LCen variant (only the one with  $[010]_{\text{Oen}}$  away from the viewer is  
210 represented in Fig. 2), the sign of rotation (clockwise or anticlockwise) depends on  
211 the orientation of the positive  $[010]_{\text{Oen}}$  axis. A simple MTEX Matlab script is provided  
212 as Appendix to compute the orientation of  $\sigma_1$  based exclusively on the orientation  
213 data for Oen and the type of LCen variant.

214

## 215 **Results**

### 216 **Low-clinoenstatite optical features**

217 In optical microscopy with cross-polarized light, LCen lamellae generally appear as  
218 light to dark grey <1  $\mu\text{m}$  to up to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  wide elongated bands within the Oen crystals

219 (Fig. 5a). Sample AI09-16 contains a large bent Oen grain hosting LCen lamellae,  
220 whose extinction position changes abruptly across the microfold hinge, indicating a  
221 change in phase transition variant (Fig. 2) in response to the change in the  
222 orientation of the Oen crystal relative to the main compressive stress (Fig. 5a). EBSD  
223 orientation mapping validates this interpretation (Figs. 5b and c). Comparison of  
224 Kikuchi patterns from the Oen host and both LCen lamellae highlights that they differ  
225 by the aspect of the (121) band, which is composite for Oen, but single and thick in  
226 LCen, with asymmetric contrast for the two variants (Fig. 5c).

227

### 228 **Oen and LCen orientation distributions**

229 Projection of all Oen orientations obtained by EBSD mapping of the whole thin  
230 section for the antigorite-present sample AI10-10 and for the antigorite-absent  
231 sample AI10-11 reveals a weak but consistent crystal preferred orientation (CPO)  
232 characterized by [100] axes dominantly at low angle to the normal to the foliation (Z)  
233 and [001] axes forming a wide girdle at low angle to the foliation XY plane (Fig. 6a).  
234 In AI10-10, [010] axes are highly dispersed, but in AI10-11 they form a weak  
235 maximum at low angle to the Y direction.

236 Orientation data from EBSD spot analyses of LCen-hosting Oen crystals  
237 shows a consistent, but apparently stronger crystal preferred orientation (Fig. 6a,b),  
238 probably due to the smaller number of grains analyzed and the biasing effect of  
239 optical identification of LCen (see below).—Oen and LCen have subparallel [010] and  
240 [001] axes. The [010] directions tend to concentrate parallel to the structural Y  
241 direction, whereas [001] is dispersed at low angle to the XZ plane, with a weak  
242 concentration subparallel to X in sample AI10-11. Analysis of LCen data for sample  
243 AI10-11 highlights that the two LCen variants have significantly different orientations,

244 with concentration of [100] axes at low angle to the Z direction for the variant 1 and  
245 close to the X direction for variant 2 (Fig. 6c). This phenomenon is less marked in  
246 sample AI10-10, maybe because of the lower number of LCen-bearing Oen crystals  
247 observed in this sample. In sample AI10-11, the population of variant 1 is slightly  
248 more abundant than the variant 2 one; it represents 66% of measured data in this  
249 section (Table 1).

250

### 251 **Correcting for bias in LCen optical detection**

252 LCen lamellae are only visible optically when their [010] axis is nearly parallel to the  
253 microscope axis. Thus the thin sections studied may have LCen that are not  
254 detectable optically. Calculation of the angle between [010] axes of measured and  
255 calculated LCen data and the normal to the thin section show that observed LCen-  
256 bearing Oen grains have their [010] axes within 50° of the normal to the thin section  
257 (Fig. 7). This may result in bias in the estimation of main compressive stress  
258 direction. To minimise this bias, orientation analyses were performed on 3 orthogonal  
259 sections (Fig. 8). LCen orientations derived from these additional sections (Fig. 8) are  
260 consistent with those in Fig. 6, in particular for the antigorite-absent sample (AI10-  
261 11). For the antigorite-present sample AI10-10, despite doubling the number of  
262 measurements, no clear preferred orientation of the two variants can be defined.

263

### 264 **Compressional stress orientation**

265 Main compressional stresses ( $\sigma_1$ ) calculated based on LCen orientation data in the  
266 antigorite-present sample AI10-10 shows no clear preferred orientation, except for a  
267 weak maximum normal to the foliation, which is mainly derived from the data from the  
268 A<sub>1</sub> section (Fig. 8a). In contrast, main compressional stresses calculated for the

269 antigorite-absent sample AI10-11 show a marked preferred orientation in the XZ  
270 plane, between 0-90° clockwise from the X direction, with a maximum at 49° of the  
271 foliation plane. It is noteworthy that the orientation data from the two variants add up  
272 consistently for the definition of a single stress orientation.

273 To evaluate what would be the predicted main compressive stress orientation  
274 if all Oen grains in the two samples were LCen-bearing, we estimated the associated  
275 LCen orientations considering a random variant selection. Both datasets result in a  
276 very weak orientation of the main compressive stress, which is almost random for  
277 sample AI10-10 (Fig. 8a) and forms a wide girdle at high angle to the Y direction for  
278 sample AI10-11 clearly differing from the prediction based on the measured LCen  
279 orientations (Fig. 8b).

280

## 281 **Discussion**

### 282 **Stress-induced Oen to LCen inversion**

283 The present microstructural observations clearly point to the formation of LCen  
284 lamellae by martensitic transformation of Oen. A key observation is the occurrence of  
285 LCen lamellae in sample AI09-16 with two different extinctions in a single large bent  
286 Oen grain (Fig. 5), which suggests that projection of the local stress on the two fold  
287 limbs gives rise to shear stresses with opposite senses leading to development of  
288 different LCen variants in the two fold limbs.

289 Peak metamorphic conditions, which led to dehydration of the serpentinite  
290 and formation of the host Oen crystals in the Cerro del Almiraz metaserpentinites,  
291 are estimated at 1.6-1.9 GPa and temperatures of 680-710°C (Fig. 1) (Padrón-  
292 Navarta *et al.*, 2010a, 2011). These conditions are within the Oen field according to  
293 the phase diagram of Ulmer and Stalder (2001), which was based on experiments on

294 orthopyroxenes with compositions ranging from pure enstatite (Mg# = 1,00) to 10%  
295 ferrosilite (Mg# =0.90), that is, for compositions similar to those of the studied  
296 samples (Mg# = 0.89-0.90). The phase transition between LCen and Oen is,  
297 however, displaced to higher temperatures if shear stresses are applied in the [001]  
298 direction on (100) planes of orthoenstatite (Coe, 1970). Because of the different  
299 nature and rheology of neighboring grains and, more important, of the reduced solid-  
300 solid contact points in the presence of porosity, a heterogeneous stress field, with  
301 locally high stresses, might form during compaction of porosity (e.g. Llana-Fúnez *et*  
302 *al.*, 2012). Such stresses may induce the phase transition from Oen to LCen at lower  
303 pressures than those predicted for static conditions. Padrón-Navarta *et al* (2015)  
304 estimated the magnitude of the stresses required to trigger orthoenstatite inversion at  
305 the peak conditions recorded by the Chl-harzburgite with granofels texture in Cerro  
306 Almirez based on the coexistence of plastic deformation microstructure in Oen hosts  
307 and coeval Oen inversion to LCen (Fig. 5) following the approaches of Raleigh *et al.*  
308 (1971) and Coe and Kirby (1975). Estimated differential stresses are on the order of  
309 5-70 MPa.

310         The most favorable orientation for promoting the transformation of Oen to  
311 LCen is when the compression is applied at 45° from [100] and [001] axes, since this  
312 results in the highest shear stresses on (100) planes, allowing the transformation to  
313 occur at minimum compressive stress levels. The present calculations of the  
314 maximum compressive stress orientation are based on this assumption.

315         The two samples, which are separated by less than 2.5 m, have recorded  
316 different stress fields (Fig. 8a,b). Such short wavelength changes in the stress field  
317 are not compatible with a tectonic origin related to subduction or to the exhumation of  
318 the massif. This further corroborates the hypothesis that the stresses producing the

319 Oen to LCen transformation were associated with the compaction of the fluid-filled  
320 porosity produced by the antigorite dehydration.

321 The consistent orientation of the maximum compressive stress from the two  
322 variant populations of LCen in the antigorite-absent sample AI10-11 indicates that  
323 two populations of Oen with markedly different orientations have recorded the same  
324 orientation of compressional stress (Fig. 6c, Fig. 8b). This observation implies a  
325 homogeneous stress field at the thin section (cm) scale and is at odds with the strong  
326 variations in the compressive stress orientation at the grain-scale modelled by Llana-  
327 Fúnez *et al* (2012). A highly variable orientation of the maximum compressional  
328 stress applied on an Oen population with strong CPO would result in a lack of clear  
329 orientation distribution of the two LCen variant populations, as predicted for the  
330 antigorite-present sample AI10-10 and for the calculations in which we considered  
331 that all Oen in the sections were LCen-bearing (Fig. 8a).

332

### 333 **Spatial variation of the stress field and compaction scales**

334 The variation in degree of dehydration and in the associated porosity could be at the  
335 origin of the differences in the stress field between the two samples. The antigorite-  
336 present sample AI10-10 was only partially dehydrated. Lack of or incomplete fluid  
337 extraction at this early stage of the process might have resulted in a small region of  
338 solid grain-to-grain contacts and in an increase of the hydrostatic component,  
339 producing a highly heterogeneous stress field with no macroscopic preferred  
340 orientation of  $\sigma_1$ , similar to the one modeled by Wheeler (1987, see also Fig 1 in  
341 Llana-Fúnez *et al* 2012). The antigorite-absent sample AI10-11, on the other hand,  
342 records a more developed stage of the process, in which fluid extraction by  
343 compaction and porosity collapse might have resulted in a more homogeneous

344 stress field. Macroscopic (> 1-2 cm) diffuse shear zones that might be related to the  
345 compaction processes are observed in this sample (Fig. 3b), pointing to a coherent  
346 stress field at the sample scale.

347 The compaction length scale ( $\delta$ , in m) during dehydration reactions is the  
348 deformation length scale over which pore fluids are at hydrostatic pressure and can  
349 move independently of the compaction process. It can be expressed as (Connolly  
350 1997, 2010):

351 
$$\delta \approx \sqrt{\frac{3 \eta k}{4 \mu \phi}}, \quad (1)$$

352 where  $k$  is the permeability,  $\mu$  is the fluid viscosity ( $10^{-4}$  Pa·s, Connolly 1997),  $\eta$  is the  
353 dynamic viscosity, and  $\phi$  is the porosity. The viscosity of serpentinite before  
354 dehydration at the temperature and pressure of interest (680°C and 1.7 GPa) is  
355  $4.0 \times 10^{20}$  Pa·s for a shear stress of 1 MPa (using the power law equation of Hilairet et  
356 al. 2007), which is in the same range as the estimated viscosity of the fluid-bearing  
357 metaperidotites during the compaction process ( $1.0 \times 10^{20}$  Pa·s at 680°C for a shear  
358 stress of 70 MPa, Padrón-Navarta et al. 2015). Therefore the evolution of the  
359 compaction scale during the dehydration processes is expected to be influenced by  
360 the relative changes in the ratio of  $k/\phi$  during dehydration rather than by contrasting  
361 viscosities between the serpentinite and compacting metaperidotite. This is  
362 supported by the limited macroscopic perturbation of the dehydration front and the  
363 serpentinite foliation plane during the dehydration event (Fig. 3).

364 Direct experimental measurements of permeability and porosity in serpentinite  
365 are only available at 50 MPa (Kawano et al., 2011, Katayama et al., 2012).  
366 Extrapolation to higher pressure (1.7 GPa) following the approach used by Kawano  
367 et al. (2011) results in extremely low permeability perpendicular to foliation ( $3.5 \times 10^{-27}$

368 m<sup>2</sup>). Assuming this porosity ( $k$ ) and using the theoretical approach of Gueguen and  
369 Palciauskas (1994), which considers cylindrical tube channels, to relate permeability  
370 and porosity:

$$371 \quad k = k_0 \left( \frac{\phi}{\phi_0} \right)^2, \quad (2)$$

372 the porosity ( $\phi$ ) in the serpentinite at 1.7 GPa before dehydration is also estimated to  
373 be very low (0.002 %), using the reference permeability ( $k_0$ ) and porosity ( $\phi_0$ )  
374 values at 50 MPa (Kawano et al. 2011).

375 During the initial stages of dehydration (represented by the antigorite-present  
376 sample AI10-10), the increase in porosity would lead to an increase in compaction  
377 length compatible with the near-hydrostatic stress recorded in this sample. An  
378 increase in porosity by three orders of magnitude (up to 2 %) relative to the  
379 background porosity in the serpentinite as a consequence of solid volume reduction  
380 during the reaction would result in a compaction length in the order of 150m using  
381 Eq. (1) and (2). The observation of non-hydrostatic stresses in the antigorite-absent  
382 sample AI10-11 suggests that porosity reduction due to fluid extraction resulted in  
383 significantly smaller compaction lengths. The poor knowledge of the quantitative  
384 relationship between permeability and porosity during the reaction progress makes  
385 quantifying the reduction in the compaction length challenging. However, the  
386 observed meter-scale variation in stress distribution (interpreted as a change from  
387 hydrostatic to non-hydrostatic conditions) requires a reduction in compaction length  
388 equivalent to the one that might be produced by a decrease in porosity by two orders  
389 of magnitude, that is, almost complete fluid extraction.

390

## 391 **Implications**



392 The present observations imply that compaction during dehydration of serpentinites  
393 may generate differential stresses on the order of several tens of MPa. These  
394 stresses might be recorded by shear-induced phase transformations such as the  
395 inversion of orthoenstatite produced by the dehydration reaction to low-clinoenstatite.  
396 The present observations, which record variable stress fields in two samples  
397 separated by <3 m and recording different stages of the reaction, suggest that the  
398 stress field varies both in time and space in response to the reaction progress and  
399 evolution of compaction. At the initial stages of the reaction, when porosity is high  
400 and most grain-boundaries are wet (reducing solid-solid contacts) the system  
401 behaves as near-hydrostatic and compaction length-scales are large (hundreds of  
402 meters). When reaction progresses, decrease in porosity reduces the compaction  
403 length to the meter scale and compaction may organize the stress field. This might  
404 influence fluid migration resulting in macroscopic compaction structures (from dm to  
405 m) that can be potentially identified in the field in the absent of post-dehydration  
406 deformation.

407

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## APPENDIX

% MTEX version 4.5.2  
%14/02/2018

```
582 % Script written by Maxime Clément, Géoscience Montpellier, France.
583 %contact= maxime.clement@gm.univ-montp2.fr
584 clear all
585 close all
586 % define Oen crystal symmetry
587 cs = crystalSymmetry('mmm', [18.2406 8.8302 5.1852]);
588 %*****
589 %% Example: define Oen Euler angles and variant vectors
590 %*****
591 % Euler angles
592 E1=[0.8 177.6 173.3];
593 E2=[100.9 79.3 78.5];
594 E3=[0.9 179.2 0.4];
595 % variant vector
596 Var=[2 2 1];
597 % all 3 Oen orientations
598 ori=orientation('Euler',E1*degree,E2*degree,E3*degree,cs);
599 %*****
600 %% compute the orientation of sigma
601 %*****
602 % Define b-axes orientations of Oen
603 % positive and negative values plot in upper and lower
604 % hemisphere
605 % 3 orientations of Oen [010] in specimen coordinates
606 B=ori*Miller(0,1,0,cs,'uvw');%define b-axes of orthoenstatite as vectors
607 % calculation of sigma is done by rotating 45 degrees
608 % the Bunge Euler angles of Oen around around b-axis,
609 % For variant 1, rotation is + if B is +
610 % For variant 1, rotation is - if B is -
611 % For variant 2, rotation is - if B is +
612 % For variant 2, rotation is + if B is -
613 %
614 % Selection procedure
615 for i=1:length(E1)
616     if B(i).z>0 && Var(i)==1 || B(i).z<0 && Var(i)==2
617         ori(i)=ori(i)*orientation('axis', ...
618             Miller(0,1,0,cs),'angle',45*degree);
619     else
620         ori(i)=ori(i)*orientation('axis', ...
621             Miller(0,1,0,cs),'angle',-45*degree);
622     end
623 end
624 %*****
625 %% plot sigma
626 % Red = Oen [001] lower hemisphere Oen [001] lower hemisphere
627 %*****
628 figure
629 % plot convention X-axis to east
630 plotx2east
631 for i=1:length(E1)
632     if Var(i)==1
633         plotPDF(ori(i),Miller(0,0,1,cs,'uvw'),...
634             'lower','MarkerColor','blue','MarkerSize',16)
635     else
636         plotPDF(ori(i),Miller(0,0,1,cs,'uvw'),...
637             'lower','MarkerColor'...
638             , 'red','MarkerSize',16)
639     end
640 end
641 end
642 % figure title
643 a=annotation('textbox',[0.420 0.939 0.174 0.055],'String',...
644     'Sigma','LineStyle','none','BackgroundColor','white');
645 a.FontSize=20;
646 a=annotation('textbox',[0.015 0.815 0.175 0.179],'String',...
647     'Blue: Variant 1 Red : Variant
648     2','LineStyle','none','BackgroundColor','white');
649 a.FontSize=20;
```

651  
652  
653

## FIGURE CAPTIONS

654 **Figure 1:** Phase diagram of enstatite (modified from Ulmer and Stadler, 2001 and  
655 Gasparik, 2014)). HCen refers to High-clinoenstatite, LCen to Low-clinoenstatite, Pen  
656 to protoenstatite and Oen to orthoenstatite. Dehydration conditions in the Cerro del  
657 Almiraz serpentinite-metaperidotite body (Padrón-Navarta et al., 2011) are indicated  
658 by the grey ellipsoid. Filled symbols are for Oen and empty symbols are for Cen.  
659 Composition of representative orthopyroxene used by Ulmer and Stadler (2001) to  
660 determine transitions between each phases is indicated. Orthopyroxene  
661 compositions in transitional lithology sample (T) and chl-harzburgite (G) from Almiraz  
662 are also indicated.

663

664 **Figure 2:** (a) Sketches (Tröger, 1979) of orthoenstatite (Oen) and low-clinoenstatite  
665 (LCen) crystals. Orthoenstatite crystal with [100], [010] and [001] parallel to  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  
666  $\gamma$  optical indicatrices, respectively, and optical axial plane (O.A.P) parallel to (001) in  
667 dashed lines. (b) Low-clinoenstatite crystal with [010] parallel to  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  at  $32^\circ$  from  
668 [001]. (c) Stereographic projection (lower hemisphere) of LCen illustrating the two  
669 transformation variants for the same orientation of Oen (with [010]<sub>Oen</sub> away from the  
670 viewer), associated shear senses and orientation of the maximum compressive  
671 stress.

672

673 **Figure 3:** Studied samples: Al10-10: antigorite-present transitional lithology sample,  
674 Al10-11: antigorite-absent chl-harzburgite, Al09-16: antigorite-absent chl-harzburgite  
675 with granofels texture. Note the bent of the foliation plane in Al10-11.

676

677 **Figure 4:** Comparison between measured (black circles) and calculated (white  
678 squares) LCen data for the antigorite-present sample AI10-10 and the antigorite-  
679 absent sample AI10-11. Note the agreement between the two datasets. Minor cases  
680 of disagreement are attributed to errors in the optical estimation of the transformation  
681 variant.

682

683 **Figure 5:** (a) Cross-polarized light image of a kinked Oen grain from AI09-16 sample  
684 with LCen lamellae (white thin bands). Extinction position of LCen lamellae changes  
685 abruptly at fold hinges indicating a change in transformation variant, which is  
686 confirmed by the change in the Kikuchi patterns in (d). Opposite shear sense  
687 assumed to have produced the two variants is indicated in the figure. (b)  
688 Misorientation map of the bent grain showing. Red star indicates reference point from  
689 which Euler angles are compared. (c) Band contrast image of the fold hinge zone  
690 with Bunge Euler colours for LCen lamellae. Note the change in orientation of the  
691 LCen lamellae. (d) Electron back-scattered diffraction pattern (Kikuchi bands) from  
692 Oen host and LCen lamellae. The main difference between the Oen host and the  
693 LCen lamellae is the 121 band, which is composed by multiple bands in Oen, but is  
694 single and thick in LCen, with asymmetric contrast for the two variants.

695

696 **Figure 6:** Crystallographic orientations of Oen and LCen in the antigorite-present  
697 sample AI10-10 (section A<sub>1</sub>) and in the antigorite-absent sample AI10-11 (section A<sub>1</sub>).  
698 (a) Oen orientations over the entire thin section. (b) LCen-bearing Oen. (c) Same  
699 projection than (c) but with variant 1 (black) and variant 2 (white) for measured  
700 (circles) and calculated (squares) data. LCen of variant 2 are distinct from LCen of  
701 variant 1. N indicates number of grains. The same reference frame for all projections

702 was used. Horizontal black thick line represents the foliation plane, which is vertical  
703 and oriented E-W. Projections are in lower hemisphere.

704

705 **Figure 7:** Histograms of distribution of angles between [010] axis and the thin section  
706 normal for LCen-bearing Oen.

707

708 **Figure 8:** (a) Crystallographic orientations of LCen lamellae calculated for thin  
709 sections A<sub>2</sub>, B, and C of the antigorite-present sample AI10-10 and the antigorite-  
710 absent sample AI10-11. (b) Calculated orientation of the main compressional stress  
711 based on the entire LCen orientation dataset. (c) Sketch showing the orientation of  
712 A<sub>2</sub> (blue), B (red) and C (green) thin sections relative to the foliation plane and  
713 lineation. Filled markers represent variant 1 LCen and empty markers, variant 2.  
714 Squares represent calculated data and dots, measured data in A<sub>1</sub> section. N  
715 indicates number of data in each pole figure. Reference frame is the foliation and  
716 lineation of the serpentinite protolith, as in Figure 5.

717

718 **Table 1:** Number of LCen lamellae observed in each thin section and details of  
719 EBSD parameters used for spot analysis and orientation mapping of each sample.  
720 Only one value of MAD is displayed for A, B, and C sections of both samples  
721 because only Oen was analysed in these sections. See text for more explanations on  
722 EBSD parameters.



**Table 1.** Orthoestatite (Oen) and low clinoestatite (LCen) analyzed per section and details of EBSD settings used<sup>a</sup>.

Sample	Al10-10 (antigorite-present)				Al10-11(antigorite-absent)			
	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>	B	C	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>	B	C
Section	96	43	46	23	211	116	94	3
Nb Oen	11	7	1	6	76	34	3	3
Nb Oen hosting LCen	7	3	0	3	50	14	1	1
Variant 1	4	4	1	3	26	20	2	2
Variant 2	11	16	2	26	36	29	3	100
% of Oen hosting LCen								
<b>Crystal Probe</b>								
Exposure Time (ms)	175	132	132	132	175	131	395	395
MAD (LCen)	0.54	0.27	0.33	0.39	0.59	0.33	0.44	0.36
<b>JEOL5600</b>								
Exposure Time (ms)	12	21	21	21	12	20	21	21
Step Size (µm)	19	27	27	27	19	16	17	17

<sup>a</sup>Binning mode for Crystal probe is 2x2 (672x512 pixels) and for JEOL 5600: 4x4 (336x256) pixels)

Figure 1. Clément et al.

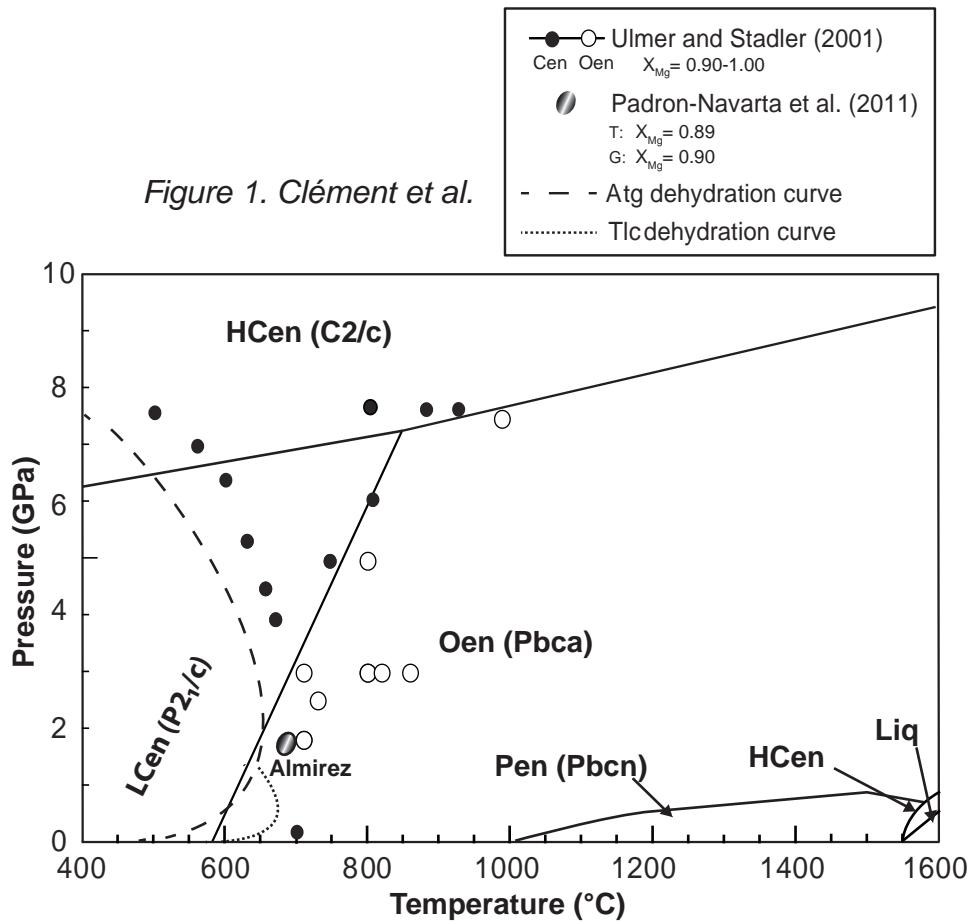
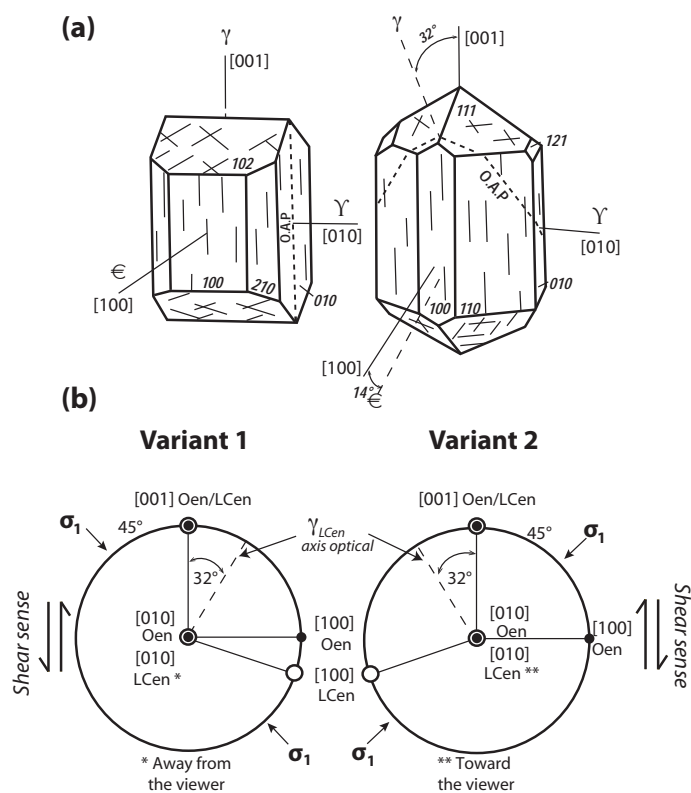


Figure 2. Clément et al.



*Figure 3. Clément et al.*

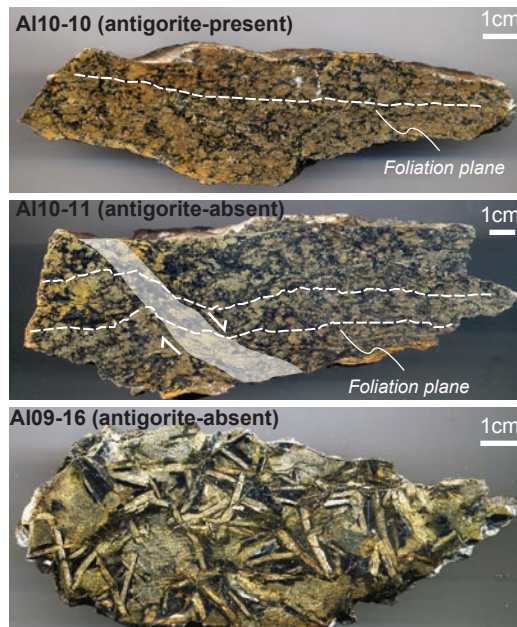


Figure 4. Clément et al.

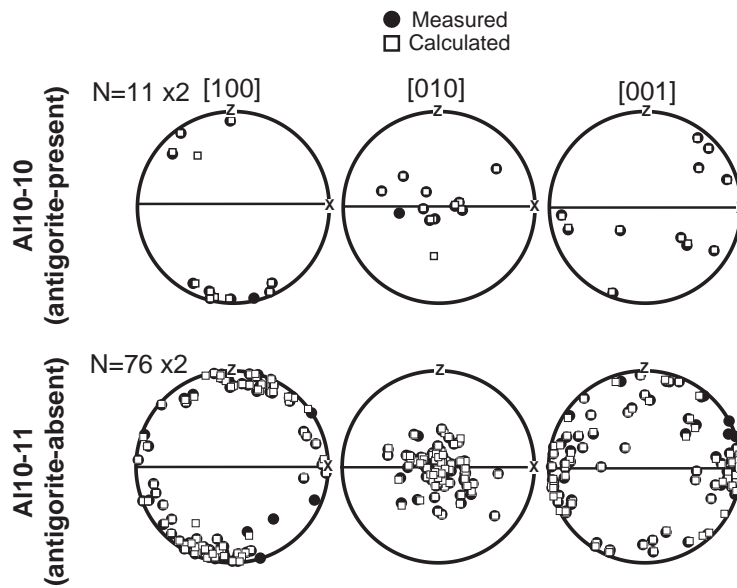


figure 5. Clément et al.

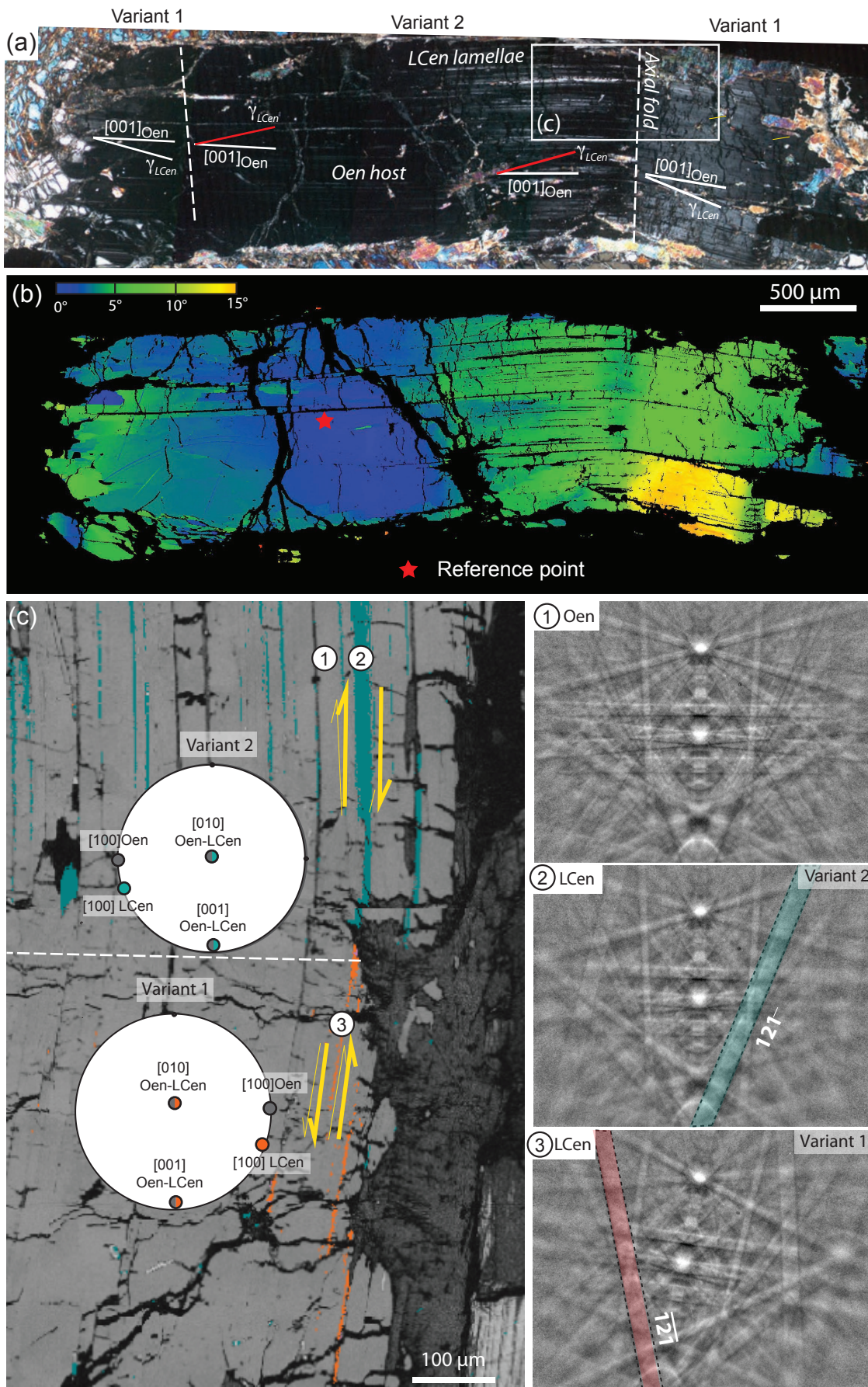


Figure 6. Clément et al.

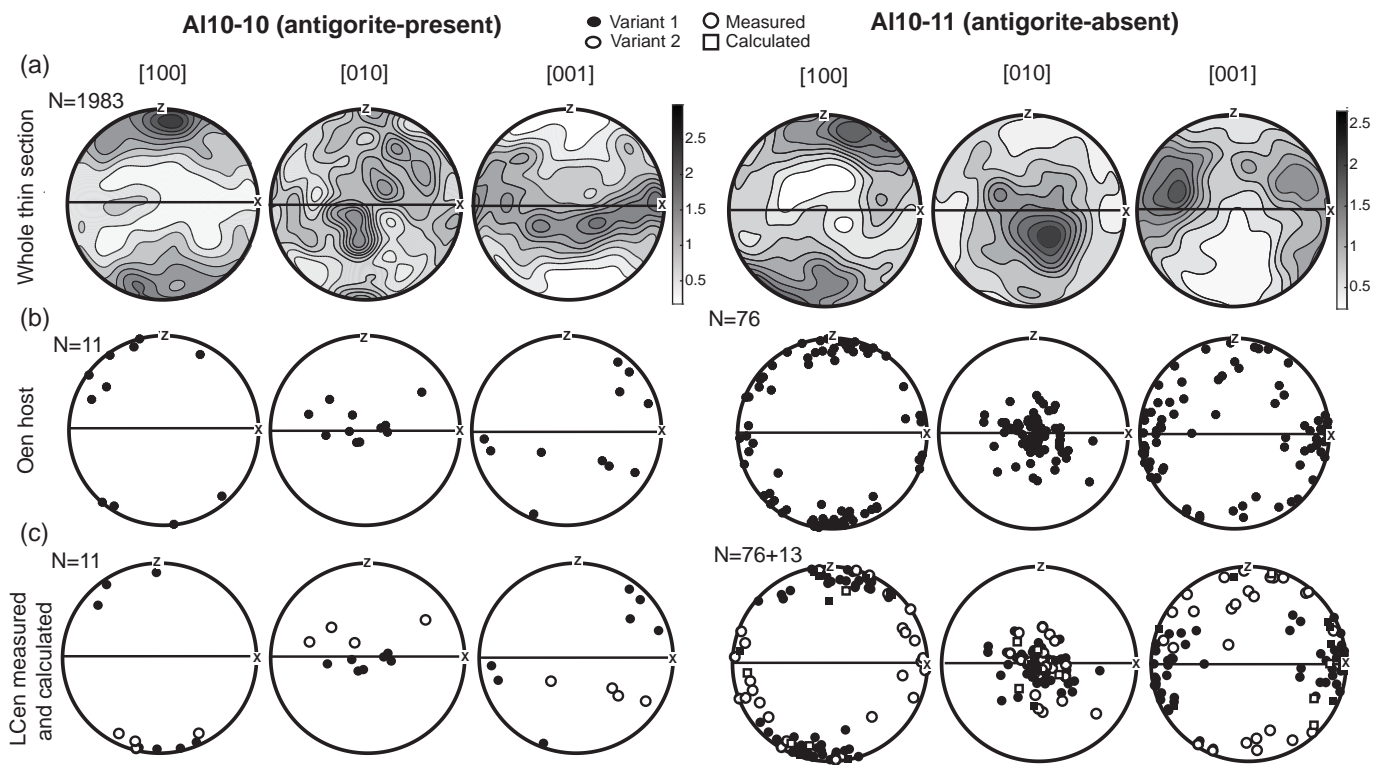


figure 7. Clément et al.

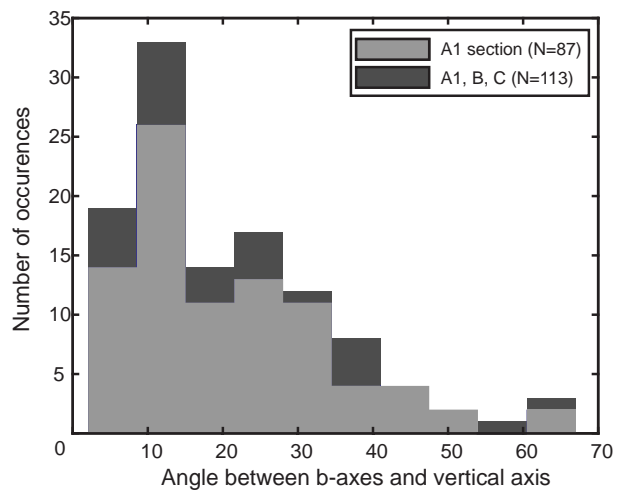




figure 8. Clément et al

