

1 **Constrictional flow and strain partitioning during oblique deformation:**
2 **insights from the Variscan Tanneron massif, SE France**

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Abstract

27 Structural analysis through precise digital mapping combined with microstructural

28 and quantitative finite strain data were used to investigate strain partitioning and

29 strain shape evolution during the late-stage oblique tectonic collapse of a hot

30 orogen. The Tanneron massif in SE France was structured in an oblique tectonic

31 regime at the end of the Variscan orogeny, leading to the exhumation of lower to

32 middle crustal migmatite terrains. Strain patterns show prominent stretching

33 lineations associated with L>S tectonites and dextral strike-slip SZ compatible with

34 subsimple shear deformation. The overall kinematic with pure shear sub-

35 horizontal constrictional flow and sub-vertical simple shear-dominated

36 transcurrent corridors depict a transtensional regime. The progressive

37 transtensional deformation event evolves through two successive intermediate

38 phases, the first characterised by a dominant sub-horizontal flow of the ductile

39 crust represented by gently dipping foliation and L>S tectonites associated to

40 widespread sub-horizontal stretching lineations followed by a second plane strain

41 flow associated with vertical foliation and S-L tectonites. Finite strain analysis

42 confirms the monotony of the L>S and S-L tectonites and highlights a partly

43 lithological control on the finite strain ellipsoid shape with meta-igneous units

44 defining L>S fabrics while meta-sedimentary units depict S-L fabrics.

45 Microstructural observations also constrain the temperature evolution of the

46 progressive transtensional deformation. Sub-horizontal flow starts at supra-
47 solidus conditions and progresses to sub-vertical shear down to greenschist facies
48 solely in hydrated meta-sedimentary units. We propose a rheologically driven
49 strain path partitioning during the progressive exhumation of this deep crust
50 throughout a two-phase transtensional regime.

51

52 **1. Introduction**

53 Oblique tectonic systems, characterised by the combination of strike-slip
54 and compressional or extensional components, are widespread on Earth and have
55 become more commonly described as our understanding of geologic structures
56 advances (Dewey 2002; Dewey et al., 1998; Fossen and Tikoff, 1993, 1998; Harland,
57 1971; Oldow et al., 1990; Sanderson and Marchini, 1984; Teyssier and Tikoff, 1999).
58 These systems, including transpression and transtension end-members, have
59 been extensively studied in the brittle crust, with a focus on seismic implications
60 and specific structures such as pull-apart basins, en-echelon folds, and faults
61 arrays (Alvarado et al., 2011; Asti et al., 2022; Autin et al., 2010; Brune, 2014;
62 Chorowicz and Sorlien, 1992; De Paola et al., 2005; Duclaux et al., 2020; Ferranti,
63 2009; Meghraoui and Pondrelli, 2012; Morley et al., 2004; Norris et al., 1990;
64 Richard et al., 1995; Schreurs and Colletta, 1998; Umhoefer and Dorsey, 1997;
65 Wilson et al., 2006; Withjack and Jamison, 1986). On the scale of tectonic plates,
66 the San Andreas fault in California (Sylvester and Smith, 1976; Teyssier and Tikoff,

67 1998), the Alpine fault in New-Zealand (Cashman et al., 1992; Teyssier et al., 1995)
68 and the Great Sumatran faults in Sumatra (Mount and Suppe, 1992; Tikoff and
69 Teyssier, 1994) represent worldwide studied examples of oblique plate motion.
70 However, research on oblique tectonics in the ductile domain of the middle to
71 lower crust reveals a structural complexity that make fabrics interpretation
72 challenging (Archanjo et al., 2002; Bascou et al., 2023; Chardon et al., 2009, 2011;
73 Clegg and Holdsworth, 2005; Faleiros et al., 2022; Gapais et al., 2008; Gébelin et
74 al., 2007; Klepeis et al., 2022; Paulsen et al., 2004; Wiest et al., 2019), especially in
75 the context of hot orogens. Studies are mainly confined to Precambrian orogens
76 and remain scarce in Phanerozoic systems. Furthermore, these studies mostly
77 focus on strain analysis within the transpressional regime, whereas transtension
78 remains poorly understood, yet it should play a key role during orogenic collapse
79 in order to progressively thin orogens.

80 In this study, we aim to provide a detailed description of strain shape and
81 partitioning evolutions within an oblique tectonic regime in the context of late-
82 stage evolution of a Phanerozoic hot orogen. We investigate the development of
83 crustal fabrics formed by oblique tectonic flow in the Variscan belt, exposed by the
84 most internal part of the Maures-Tanneron massif in SE France. By combining
85 structural analysis through detailed field mapping, microstructural observations,
86 and finite strain and tectonite calculations, we define the three-dimensional

87 kinematic framework of a transtensional flow in the Carboniferous basement of
88 the Tanneron massif.

89 Our results show that widespread gently dipping constrictional fabrics
90 associated with vertical strike-slip shear zones are produced in transtension. In
91 detail, two distinct strain patterns defined by different tectonic fabrics and
92 contrasting deformation temperatures are evidenced, and show lithological-
93 dependent distribution. We propose that strain partitioning and localisation are
94 partly controlled by rheological contrasts between ortho- and paragneisses during
95 exhumation and retrograde deformation. Orthogneiss units preferentially
96 preserve the initial high-temperature constrictional stage, while the subsequent
97 lower-temperature strike-slip stage is preferentially localised in the weaker
98 paragneiss units. This study contributes to a better understanding of the complex
99 processes and structures involved in oblique tectonic regimes within ductile
100 crustal environments. The described tectonic evolution represents a good
101 example of a kinematic framework during the exhumation of the internal part of
102 a collapsing orogen.

103

104 **2. Geological setting**

105 ***2.1 Maures-Estérel-Corsica-Sardinia micro-plate (MECS)***

106 The Maures-Tanneron-Massif (MTM) represents the southernmost segment
107 of the Variscan belt in France's mainland and belongs to the MECS ("Maures-

108 Estérel-Corsica-Sardinia”) micro-plate (Edel et al., 2018). The Corsica-Sardinia block
109 rifted apart the MTM during the Miocene Mediterranean back-arc extensional
110 event by a 45° to 55° anticlockwise rotation (Gattacceca, 2000). Along the
111 Mediterranean Sea, the MTM extends from Toulon in the Southwest to Cannes in
112 the Northeast forming a 90 km long and 50 km wide belt (Fig. 1).

113 The MTM is defined as a subduction-collision belt active from 420 to 300 Ma
114 (Schneider et al., 2014). After the subduction event, the collisional stage between
115 360-330 Ma (Oliot et al., 2015; Schneider et al., 2014) is responsible of the MTM
116 structuration in N-S litho-tectonic units following an increasing metamorphic
117 gradient from West to East (Rolland et al., 2009). Metamorphic isograds progress
118 from chlorite zone, to garnet-chlorite, biotite-staurolite, biotite-kyanite, and finally
119 biotite-muscovite-sillimanite zone (Buscail, 2000). Therefore, the belt is divided in
120 two domains: the external domain to the West with low grade metamorphic rocks,
121 and the internal domain to the East only composed of migmatitic units (Fig. 1). At
122 the end of this collisional stage, a first partial melting event and associated calc-
123 alkaline magmatism is documented between 340-330 Ma (Oliot et al., 2015). In the
124 internal domain, a gneiss dome structure juxtaposed to the Rouet granite
125 intrusion associated with pervasive vertical strike-slip shear zones dated between
126 325 and 300 Ma have been interpreted as the result of a regional transpressive
127 event marking the waning of the orogenic cycle (Corsini et al., 2009; Rolland et al.,
128 2009). This latter deformation event has largely overprinted preexisting fabrics. In

129 Sardinia, this oblique deformation event has also been dated between 320 and
130 300 Ma (Carosi et al., 2012). At the scale of the MECS, this oblique deformation is
131 mostly interpreted as a transpressional regime (MTM: Rolland et al., 2009,
132 Simonetti et al., 2020; Sardinia: Carosi et al., 2020; Frassi et al., 2009), while some
133 authors described a transtensional regime (MTM: Buscail, 2000; Corsica: Thevoux-
134 Chabuel et al., 1995). Widespread granitoid and related dykes emplaced
135 synchronously with this late event in the Maures-Tanneron massif (Bolle et al.,
136 2023; Corsini et al., 2010; Duchesne et al., 2013).

137 Finally, thinning and exhumation of the migmatitic units are accompanied
138 by late Carboniferous pull-apart basins opening along major North-South crustal
139 shear zones (SZ) (Fig. 1): the Plan-de-la-tour basin along the Grimaud SZ (Onezime
140 et al., 1999) and the Reyran basin along the La Moure SZ (Toutin-Morin et al., 1994).
141 These narrow N-S intramontane hemi-graben basins consist of folded coarse
142 detrital sediments filled by the erosion product of the surrounding migmatitic
143 units alternating with lignite layers (Maillet, 2021). These basins are thought to
144 open between 315 and 298 Ma (Toutin-Morin et al., 1994) synchronously and
145 parallel to the basement fabrics, therefore representing a coeval evolution
146 between basement tectonic and sedimentation. Folding and faulting are ante-
147 Permian, contemporaneous to postdating sedimentation (Toutin-Morin et al.,
148 1994). East-West Permian grabens opening perpendicularly to the late-Variscan
149 fabrics seal the MTM cycle (Fig. 1). These Permian intracontinental sediments and

150 associated volcanics witness a short-lived rifting episode and are responsible for
151 the Maures and Tanneron split in two distinct massifs (Toutin-Morin et al., 1994).
152 Triassic continental deposits unconformably overlay the MTM and Permian
153 sequence and mark the base of the thrusting Alpine-folded Mesozoic cover
154 sequence that bounds the MTM to the North.

155 ***2.2 Eastern Tanneron massif***

156 The study area is located in the Tanneron massif at the easternmost part of
157 the MTM and belongs to the most internal domain of the belt (Fig. 1). The Tanneron
158 massif is exposed along a 40 km E-W trending band bounded by the
159 Mediterranean Sea and Permian deposits to the South, Alpine Mesozoic cover to
160 the North and partially overlaid by the tertiary-quaternary Siagne alluvial deposits.
161 This massif consists of a migmatized metasedimentary sequence with abundant
162 metre to kilometre-long orthogneiss bodies (Crevola, 1977; Orsini, 1968) and
163 host the carboniferous Reyran basin. Limited studies have focused on the Eastern
164 Tanneron Massif, as such we present below lithological descriptions based on our
165 personal field observations.

166 The migmatitic paragneisses are the dominant lithology of the area. They
167 are dark stromatic metapelites (Fig. 2A) with a Qtz+Kfs+Pl±Bt±Ms±Chl assemblage
168 with rare garnet, apatite, and tourmaline. Stable sillimanite and relictual kyanite
169 can be found. Proportions of leucosome and melanosome are variable leading to
170 different paragneiss facies but are still metatexites. They host lenses of

171 orthogneiss, micaschist, layered amphibolite, quartzite, marble, and calc-silicate
172 (Fig. 1).

173 The migmatitic orthogneisses are mica-bearing leucocratic orthogneisses
174 (Fig. 2B) with rare thin leucosomes. Their granitic protolith was emplaced around
175 400 Ma (Oliot et al., 2015). Individual bodies are compositionally homogenous,
176 showing a texture of regularly alternating stretched trails of dominant quartz-
177 feldspars and trails of biotite-muscovite (Fig. 2B). In low strain zones, the granitoid
178 protolith remains visible (Fig. 2C). Nevertheless, mineralogical variations are
179 possible with several different facies and a diversity of fine variations is visible in
180 the field between the orthogneiss and paragneiss, as already observed by Orsini
181 (1968). The major difference between para- and orthogneiss seems to be the
182 homogeneity at the outcrop scale, the orthogneiss showing constant distribution
183 of mineral trails while paragneiss is made of alternating leucosome and
184 melanosome bands varying in quantity and size.

185 To the East of the narrow Carboniferous Reyran basin, the leucocratic
186 orthogneiss unit represents a long-stretched body inside the larger migmatitic
187 paragneiss (Fig. 1). This unit is composed of a very fine grain highly stretched light
188 gneiss, rich in quartz-feldspar with few muscovite and garnet which has been
189 interpreted as a meta-rhyolite (Crevola, 1977; Orsini, 1968). Locally, different facies
190 are associated with the leucocratic orthogneiss, mainly a darker medium grain
191 orthogneiss.

192 Further East, the Cannes migmatites units are homogenous ortho-derived
193 Qtz+Kfs+Pl+Bt±Ms pale pink to pale yellow migmatite with minor garnet and
194 apatite (Fig. 2D). This ortho-migmatite is often micro-folded and shows thick
195 coarse grain leucosomes with centimetric augen K-feldspar, alternating with
196 thinner biotite-rich melanosomes (Fig. 2D). Stromatic migmatite fabrics are well
197 preserved in this unit, with melts in leucosomes migrating toward the hinge of
198 similar folds (Fig. 2E) and leucosomes injected in shear bands. Variations of the
199 degree of anatexis in the migmatite create local secondary facies, such as nebulite
200 (Fig. 2F).

201 Diverse granite and pegmatite veins emplaced within, or crosscutting the
202 migmatitic foliation are widespread in the area, highlighting the partial melting of
203 the crust in this internal part of the MTM. The Cannes migmatites are crosscut by
204 sharp granite veins meaning that deep partial melting stands for a while until the
205 end of the orogenic cycle.

206 Despite a polyphase tectonic history of the MTM during the Variscan
207 orogeny, the protracted 325-300 Ma event has totally overprinted previous
208 structures in the eastern Tanneron massif. Structural data remain scarce in the
209 area, the main work was made by Crevola (1977) for the east of the Reyran basin
210 ("oriental Tanneron") which describe four deformation phases with a major
211 pervasive "S2" N-S foliation defining large scale folds from the Reyran basin to the
212 Cannes eastern termination. A kilometric synform with symmetric limbs on each

213 side of the Reyran basin is followed by a large antiform with its eastern limbs
214 ending around Cannes (Corsini et al., 2010; Crevola, 1977). Stretching lineations
215 are gently plunging to the North or South (Crevola, 1977) and may be dominant
216 over foliation locally to the west of the Reyran basin (Orsini, 1968). The area is also
217 structured by the crustal La Moure SZ on the east-side of the Reyran basin which
218 is a vertical dextral SZ (Rolland et al., 2009). Ar-Ar muscovite ages between 320-
219 310 Ma in the eastern Tanneron are interpreted to represent this late
220 structuration of the massif (Corsini et al., 2010).

221 **3. Methodology**

222 ***3.1 Field Mapping and Analysis***

223 To investigate strain partitioning and evolution, we targeted two key zones
224 for detailed field mapping and analysis: the Reyran zone and the Cannes zone. The
225 Reyran zone, located on both sides of the Carboniferous Reyran basin (Fig. 1),
226 represents a crucial transition between the coeval basin opening and ductile
227 basement deformation. The Cannes zone, located at the extreme east of the
228 massif (Fig. 1), represents the innermost part of the orogen, with ubiquitous
229 migmatites displaying high-temperature fabrics. Exposure in this latter is
230 separated into three close hills: the Roquette-sur-Siagne hill, the Croix des gardes
231 hill, and the Super-Cannes hill (Fig. 1). Both key areas were thoroughly investigated
232 and sampled with the acquisition of more than 4500 structural measurements.
233 Field observations and measurements were acquired through digital mapping on

234 an iPad-mini tablet with FieldMove software (Midland Valley). Observations and
235 direct measurements were exported to a GIS software for data analysis and
236 interpretation, and thematic map building. For each outcrop, foliation and/or
237 lineation were systematically measured, and a qualitative estimate of the finite
238 strain ellipsoid shape was given in the form of a tectonite classification scheme
239 (S>L, S-L, L>S-tectonite) when outcrop quality was sufficient (see §3.2 below).

240 **3.2 Qualitative method: Tectonite-Type Map**

241 We built a qualitative tectonite-type map (see §4.4) showing three different
242 symbologies corresponding to S>L, S-L, and L>S tectonites. For most outcrops, the
243 tectonite type was gauged from direct field observations of the fabrics geometry
244 between the XZ and YZ planes. For others, tectonite type was attributed directly
245 on GIS software following this classification: Outcrops where only a flattening
246 plane foliation was identified and measured have been classified as S>L, outcrops
247 where both a foliation and mineral or stretching lineation was identified have been
248 classified as S-L, and outcrops where only mineral or stretching lineation was
249 identified have been classified as L>S.

250

251 **3.3 Quantitative Methods: Microstructural Ellipses Measurement and**

252 ***Anisotropy of Magnetic Susceptibility (AMS)***

253 To validate the qualitative observations, we used two quantitative methods:
254 microstructural ellipses measurement and anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility

255 (AMS). 3D finite strain ellipsoids were calculated based on microstructure
256 observations for 20 oriented samples. These samples were cut along and across
257 the main foliation and/or lineation in order to produce two thin sections parallel
258 (XZ plane) and perpendicular (YZ plane) to the principal finite strain axis. We
259 acquired high-resolution scans of the whole thin sections. Then, we used EllipseFit
260 software version 3.8.2 (Vollmer, 2018) to calculate statistical ellipsoid parameters
261 from ellipses drawing. The Fry technique was not used because Fry's starting
262 hypothesis implies that the reference objects were of the same size and
263 homogeneously distributed before deformation. In the migmatitic units,
264 leucosomes were often targeted as reference objects because of their
265 homogenous composition and as they represent a good marker of finite
266 deformation of the rocks in sub and supra-solidus conditions. Mean ellipses
267 factors were obtained by digitising polygonal shape of leucosomes on thin section
268 scans then converted to an ellipse with the "Shape" method of EllipseFit. After that,
269 the mean 2D ellipse factors from thin sections parallel and perpendicular to the
270 stretching axis are gathered to reconstitute the mean 3D ellipsoid factors of the
271 sample with the Shan method (Shan, 2008). Resulting ellipsoid parameters are
272 compiled (Table 1) and plotted in a Flinn diagram to visualise the shape and
273 intensity of finite strain for each sample.

274 For the magnetic fabric study, 75 oriented cores were sampled using a
275 gasoline-powered portable drill at 5 sampling sites in paragneiss and orthogneiss of

276 the Reyran zone. Four sites follow a broad E-W cross-section in the La Moure SZ and
277 one site is located in the major orthogneiss body of the west side of the Reyran basin.
278 The cores were cut in the laboratory (see below) in specimens of standard
279 paleomagnetic size. The AMS was measured using a MKF1 Kappabridge at the
280 University of Saint Etienne, LGL-TPE laboratory (France) and data were processed
281 from the ANISOFT package of programs (AGICO, Inc). Coupling a CS4 furnace to the
282 MFK1 Kappabridge allowed conduct thermomagnetic measurements to precise the
283 magnetic mineralogy. The AMS data are represented by three main parameters
284 namely K_m , P_j , and T . The K_m parameter is defined by $K_m = (K_1 + K_2 + K_3) / 3$ as the
285 mean bulk magnetic susceptibility, where $K_1 \geq K_2 \geq K_3$ are the three principal
286 susceptibility axes of the AMS ellipsoid. Following the magnetic fabric, K_1 (K_{max})
287 depicts magnetic lineation and K_3 (K_{min}) denotes a pole to magnetic foliation. The P_j
288 parameter is the corrected anisotropy degree and represents the intensity of the
289 magnetic fabric which reflects the eccentricity of the AMS ellipsoid. The T parameter
290 of Jelinek (1981) defines the shape of the AMS ellipsoid, which ranges between -1
291 (prolate ellipsoid) and 1 (oblate ellipsoid).

292

293 **4. Structural architecture and strain pattern**

294 **4.1 Planar fabrics**

295 Planar deformation pattern is separated in 2 sets of fabrics, a low strain sub-
296 horizontal S2a foliation and a higher strain sub-vertical S2b foliation (Fig. 1 and 3).
297 Although a former S1 foliation is evidenced by the preservation of seldom folds
298 with axial planes parallel to the S2a foliation, its continuity cannot be mapped in
299 such migmatite terrains. The S2a fabric is approximately E-W trending and dips
300 gently (0-40°) to the North in the Cannes zone and to the South in the Reyran zone
301 (Fig. 4A). Yet, kinematic indicators both to the East and West generally highlight
302 top-to-the-South movements (Fig. 4B). However, asymmetric criteria are scarce
303 and fabrics are mainly coaxial pointing to a dominant pure shear kinematic.
304 Despite an overall E-W strike, the S2a foliation shows local variations due to late
305 folding which are represented by small irregular curves on the foliation trajectory
306 (Fig. 3). The S2a trend direction is not well constrained on the south-western part
307 of the Reyran zone and in some part of the Croix des Gardes hill because foliations
308 are missing and only lineations are measurable. Around the Reyran basin S2a is
309 restricted to narrow preserved patches surrounded by anastomosed corridors
310 with S2b foliation (Fig. 3A). S2a is more visible in the Cannes migmatites and
311 orthogneiss lithologies than in the paragneiss. In the Cannes zone, S2a is well
312 developed and predominant among the S2b. The Super-Cannes hill (Fig. 3D) is
313 mostly defined by gently dipping S2a foliations (0 to 20°) (Fig. 4A) and exhibits

314 complex foliation patterns with a vague NW-SE trend locally deflected by
315 hectometric domal shapes at the origin of triple junctions causing high variability
316 of trending directions. The main striking direction is approximately NW-SE but E-
317 W as well as N-S and NE-SW directions are also observed (Fig. 3B). These
318 heterogeneous trending directions are highlighted by foliation triple points and a
319 concentric half-dome structure in the west part of the hill. S2a foliation is
320 overprinted by the S2b vertical foliation as illustrated by the S2a deflection at the
321 contact with the La Moure SZ, especially in the south of the SZ (Fig. 3A). Locally,
322 S2a foliation is folded and transposed along subvertical S2b planes (Fig. 4C).

323 Although S2b foliation is pervasive in the whole study area, it is far better
324 developed in paragneisses than in orthogneisses or in the Cannes migmatites. S2b
325 foliation trends N000 to N020 with sub-vertical (60-90°) dips (Fig. 3) and its
326 occurrence is associated with high strain zones defined by SL fabrics. This plane
327 strain deformation is associated with strike slip kinematics forming widespread
328 metric to kilometeric SZ especially concentrated to the eastern side of the Reyran
329 basin. The major La Moure SZ is the biggest and most representative of those. This
330 latter consists in a 1 km wide anastomosed network of vertical foliation bounding
331 the eastern side of the Reyran carboniferous basin along a roughly N015-020 trend
332 (Fig. 3A). There, mylonitic paragneiss has a dark recrystallised fine grain matrix into
333 which sheared leucosomes are transformed into disrupted and stretched lenses
334 or separated in trails of clasts (Fig. 4D). Ultramylonite of the paragneiss are also

335 visible with >90% recrystallised matrix and millimetric-to-centimetric rounded
336 pearls of leucosomes. The main kinematic of the La Moure SZ is dextral (Fig. 3)
337 which is visible through a majority of dextral S/C structures, asymmetric
338 leucosome sigmoids, drag folds, and mica fish (Fig. 4E,F). Sinistral indicators are
339 also present locally. Deflection of the S2a foliation against the La Moure SZ also
340 indicates mostly sinistral kinematic (Fig. 3). Previous authors describe complex
341 kinematics for the main transcurrent SZ of the MTM and Sardinia, and suggest
342 successive phases of dextral and sinistral kinematic (Bellot, 2005; Buscail, 2000;
343 Carosi et al., 2012; Vauchez and Bufalo, 1988). From East to West a strain gradient
344 is visible inside the La Moure SZ evolving from mylonite to ultramylonite near the
345 Reyran basin border. Ultramylonite on the edge of the basin are often also
346 deformed under brittle conditions showing fracture network. In the Cannes zone,
347 the S2b foliation is distributed in small scattered N-S vertical corridors inside the
348 dominant E-W S2a foliation.

349 The entire structure is folded (in association with the development of S2a
350 and S2b foliations) from the centimetric to decametric scale depending on the
351 lithological units. The Cannes migmatites are highly micro-folded (Fig. 5A) and
352 show regular metric to decametric cascading folds (Fig. 5B) while other units
353 appear less folded and show mainly localised decimetric folds. In all the area, folds
354 are gently plunging between 10 to 30°, to the North in the Cannes zone (N340-020)
355 and to the South in the Reyran zone (N180-210), being parallel to the local

356 stretching lineation (L2) which is a common feature of oblique tectonics (Fig. 6).
357 Few steeply dipping fold axes plunging around 60-70° are also visible locally in the
358 Croix des Gardes hill and Reyran zone. Axial planes are mainly parallel to the
359 surrounding foliation, and therefore follow directions close to E-W in S2a foliation
360 domain whereas the axial planes trend close to N-S in S2b foliation domain. In the
361 Reyran zone folds are close to tight, most of the time symmetric and concentric
362 whereas folds in the Cannes zone are more diversified and disorganised. Most of
363 the micro-folded structures in the Cannes zone are close to tight and symmetric
364 but decimetric to metric folds show also gentle to open folds, and asymmetric
365 and/or similar folds. Some of these gentle to open folds are not considered as
366 tectonic but attributed to the natural buoyant flow of this migmatitic hot and soft
367 unit.

368 **4.2 Linear fabrics**

369 Mineral and stretching lineations L2 are ubiquitous and represent a major
370 feature of the structural pattern of the Tanneron Massif. Stretching lineations (L2)
371 are represented by stretched leucosomes (and melanosomes), elongated quartz
372 rods, and micas trails. Unlike planar fabrics, lineations (L2) set a homogenous and
373 consistent structural pattern through the whole area. This is a common feature
374 through all the MTM, at least for the internal domain of the Maures massif (Bolle
375 and al., 2023). Thus, the lineations (L2) form a single set and are systematically
376 associated with both S2a and S2b foliations. Linear fabrics L2 are described by N-

377 S directed sub-horizontal stretching lineations dipping mainly between 10 to 30°
378 (Fig. 6). The stretching lineations field transcend continuously all the lithological
379 units without variation through lithological contacts showing that the entire area
380 was deformed in the same tectonic regime. The plunge direction changes between
381 North and South from East to West respectively (Fig. 6). In detail, plunge directions
382 are ranging between N340-N030 in the eastern part and N230-N160 in the western
383 part of the study area, and show curved trajectories that converge or diverge (Fig.
384 6). Lineation (L2) at high angle to the mean N-S directions can be seen locally in
385 the west and east of the Reyran basin, with N240-250 directions. Around the
386 Reyran basin, lineations are mostly oblique to the La Moure SZ, which represents
387 the reference for simple shear flow. In fact, the main direction of the La Moure SZ
388 is N015-020 while lineations (L2) follow two main directions, N220 and N165, giving
389 mean angles of 20-30° between the SZ and the lineation.

390 In many places lineation (L2) is the main structural feature defining the rock
391 fabric and outcrop architecture. Usually, stretching lineation presents a dominant
392 continuous direction while foliations are much more variable, with their strike and
393 dip evolving by folding around the axis of the lineation. The predominance of
394 stretching lineations (L2) over flattening foliation planes is visible in these rocks
395 until the development of L>S tectonites. In fact, especially away from the S2b
396 corridors, it is common to find outcrops where foliation is weak to non-
397 recognisable compared to the sturdy stretching lineation (L2) up to the point when

398 only lineation is visible (Fig. 5C,D). In three dimensions at outcrop scale as well as
399 in thin section, these L>S tectonites present cigar-shape with leucosomes trails or
400 quartz rods highly elongated in the XZ section and rounded in the perpendicular
401 YZ section (Fig. 5D and E-F).

402

403 **4.3 Finite strain shape**

404 The major sub-horizontal to gently dipping stretching flow in the area leads
405 to the development of L>S and subordinate S-L tectonites more than S>L-
406 tectonites (Fig. 7). Flattening strain is mostly restricted to the Super-Cannes hill
407 (Cannes migmatite unit) where the flat-lying foliations are frequently seen without
408 any associated lineation and show similar deformation degree between the XZ and
409 YZ planes (Figure 4B and 7). S-L-tectonites, representing plane strain fabrics, are
410 widespread in the whole area and mainly along the S2b sub-vertical foliation,
411 especially inside the La Moure SZ (Fig. 3 and 7). Constriction (L>S type tectonite),
412 following the gently dipping lineation (L2) direction, is very common but is more
413 prevalent in the E-W S2a foliation zones. Constriction is mostly visible in the
414 orthogneiss units and the Croix des Gardes and Roquette hills of the Cannes
415 migmatite (Fig. 7) suggesting a lithological control for the preservation of such
416 fabric. In the field, these areas are marked by the occurrence of L-type tectonites
417 displaying spectacular leucosomes rods, highly stretched along the X-axis and
418 wrapped around by micas along the orthogonal YZ plane (Fig. 5C,D). On this YZ

419 plane, no consistent foliation is observed. The various meta-igneous units set a
420 remarkable contrast with the migmatitic paragneiss. In fact, the transition
421 between migmatitic ortho- and paragneiss is instantly marked by the appearance
422 of a highly developed stretching lineation (L2) compared to foliation.

423 In order to confirm these macroscopic observations, finite strain ellipsoids
424 were measured through microstructural analysis on 20 samples (Table 1, see
425 *Methodology section*). Results for each sample are following the apparent finite
426 strain shape of the field (Fig. 7) and the same structure are observed. The L-
427 tectonite defined the same elongated quartzo-feldspathic or mica trails along the
428 XZ plane while no clear orientation is visible in the YZ plane showing only rounded
429 quartz/feldspars surrounded by micas (Fig. 5E,F). Results are also compiled in a
430 Flinn diagram which highlights a link between lithology and finite strain ellipsoid
431 shape (Fig. 8). Indeed, the paragneiss samples plot along the plane strain line ($k=1$)
432 while most of the migmatitic orthogneisses and Cannes migmatites are gathered
433 in the constriction field ($k \gg 1$). Mylonite samples JG20-01/JG20-02/JG21-05A from
434 the La Moure SZ plot close to the plane strain line supporting a simple shear flow
435 for this strike slip SZ. Only one sample is located in the flattening field,
436 demonstrating the monotony of the strong L>S and S-L tectonites which point to
437 a rather homogenous deformation pattern in the complete area.

438

439 **4.4 Magnetic fabric parameters and orientation (AMS)**

440 The anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) was carried on three
441 paragneiss sites namely TR1, TR2, JG20-06 and two orthogneiss named JG20-05
442 and JG21-02 (Fig. 9). Sites JG20-05/JG20-06/JG21-02 belong to the same sampling
443 sites as the corresponding sample names used for microstructural ellipses
444 measurement (Table 1). All analysed sites show a very good concordance between
445 structural data measured in the field and the magnetic foliations and lineations
446 (Fig. 9). This suggests that magnetic minerals were deformed during the same
447 tectonic event than the dominant quartzo-feldspathic phases and led us to analyse
448 the potential contribution of other AMS parameters such as magnetic anisotropy
449 degree (Pj) and shape parameter (T).

450 For sites TR1 (paragneiss)/JG20-05 (orthogneiss)/JG21-02 (orthogneiss) the
451 bulk magnetic susceptibility (Km) varies between 50 and 270×10^{-6} [SI] (Fig. 9), which
452 is lower than the cutoff point of 500×10^{-6} [SI] below which suggest that the rock
453 magnetic susceptibility is mainly carried by paramagnetic minerals (Bouchez,
454 2000; Rochette, 1987). Other observations (reflected-light microscopy,
455 thermomagnetic curves and Km-Pj plots analyses (Fig. 9) are consistent with a
456 paramagnetic contribution for the rocks magnetic susceptibility. Petrological thin-
457 section studies show that biotite and muscovite are the dominant paramagnetic
458 minerals and biotite is always present in higher proportion than muscovite. Thus,
459 biotite is expected to be the major contributor to the magnetic susceptibility in
460 these sites. The Jelinek plot (Pj vs T) for these three sites gives values between -0.3

461 to 0.5 indicating that the T parameter plot mainly around 0 in the plane strain
462 domain (Fig. 9). This is in agreement with the observed SL tectonic style for TR1
463 (paragneiss) (Fig. 7) but not for the L tectonites described for JG20-05 and JG21-02
464 (orthogneisses). Conversely, finite strain ellipsoid calculation has also confirmed
465 the prolate strain shape of both sites (Fig. 8).

466 Km values of sites TR2 and JG20-06 (paragneisses) range from
467 approximately 300 - 3000x10⁻⁶ [SI] being largely higher than other sites. TR2
468 shows a prominent linear correlation between Km and Pj (Fig. 9) with Km values
469 ranging from 350 to 2600x10⁻⁶ [SI]. Such correlation associated with a mean
470 magnetic susceptibility higher than 500x10⁻⁶ [SI] indicates the ferromagnetic
471 contribution, especially magnetite reference (Henry et al. 2004; Rochette, 1987).
472 Reflected-light microscopy and thermomagnetic curves analyses confirm the
473 magnetite presence. The Jelinek plot of site TR2 reveals a mean plane strain shape
474 for the AMS ellipsoid (Fig. 9) in agreement with the observed SL tectonites in the
475 field (Fig. 7). The bulk magnetic susceptibility (Km) values of site JG20-06 are
476 divided into a tightly clustered group of 300 - 400x10⁻⁶ [SI] and a broader one
477 around 900 - 1300x10⁻⁶ [SI] with a slight linear correlation between Km and Pj (Fig.
478 9). In view of the site petrography, the low K group below 500x10⁻⁶ [SI] is more
479 likely to be rich in biotite and the higher K group with ferromagnetic minerals. Each
480 group gives a different ellipsoid shape in the Jelinek plot (Fig. 9), biotite plot in the
481 oblate domain while ferromagnetic minerals have value in the oblate and plane

482 strain domain. This is also visible with site TR2 where the only two measurements
483 with a bulk susceptibility lower than 500×10^{-6} [SI] in the Km-Pj plot, have also the
484 highest T value in the Pj vs T plot, getting closer with the oblate shape domain.
485 Both mineralogic groups of JG20-06 are broadly in agreement with the observed
486 S>L tectonites on the field (Fig. 7) and the oblate finite strain ellipsoid shape of
487 JG20-06 plot in the Flinn diagram (Fig. 8).

488

489 **4.5 Deformation temperature**

490 Microstructural observations are used to constrain the relative deformation
491 temperature across the area. Rocks of the eastern Tanneron massif display a
492 diversity of microstructures (Fig. 10) during progressive retrogression from high
493 temperature suprasolidus fabrics down to subsolidus low temperature brittle-
494 ductile fabrics.

495 High temperature conditions are inferred for the Cannes migmatite unit
496 (which are mainly related to S2a foliation). These migmatites are composed of Qtz
497 + Kfs + Pl + Bt + Ms \pm Grt with no chlorite, unlike other units. The texture is defined
498 by homogenous large quartz and feldspar grains (0.5-1.5 mm) aligned parallel to
499 the lineation (L2) in the foliation which is typical of high-T regime (Fig. 10A) (Gapais,
500 1989). Some key microstructures indicative of melt-present deformation are
501 recognised such as small dihedral angles of interstitial phases, interstitial quartz
502 melt infilling pore space, and elongated interstitial quartz and feldspar grains (Lee

503 et al., 2018; Roberts and Tikoff, 2021; Stuart et al., 2018; Zibra et al., 2012). In
504 addition, feldspar and quartz dynamic recrystallisation also indicates high-T
505 deformation (Roberts and Tikoff, 2021). Quartz exhibits typical grain boundary
506 migration (GBM) with irregular and amoeboid boundaries (Fig. 10A) that are
507 considered to reflect temperature higher than 550°C (Stipp et al., 2002). However,
508 it is important to keep in mind that quartz dynamic recrystallisation is also
509 dependent on strain rate.

510 Orthogneiss units (which are mainly related to S2a foliation) are also
511 characterised by the presence of small dihedral angles of interstitial phases,
512 interstitial quartz melt infilling pore space, and myrmekite around large K-feldspar,
513 indicating the former presence of melt during the onset of deformation (Lee et al.,
514 2018; Roberts and Tikoff, 2021; Stuart et al., 2018; Zibra et al., 2012). But compared
515 to the Cannes migmatite, orthogneiss have a heterogeneous smaller grain size
516 (0.3-1mm) and discrete highly recrystallised shear bands which emphasise also
517 lower temperature condition with subsolidus deformation (Fig. 10B). Indeed,
518 during the progressive evolution from suprasolidus to low grade (400-500°C)
519 deformation, homogenous penetrative foliation evolved to heterogenous
520 localised high strain shear bands showing a significant grain size reduction
521 through dynamic recrystallisation (Ebert et al., 2007; Fossen, 2017; Gapais, 1989).
522 Quartz dynamic recrystallisation is visible through HT GBM (Fig. 10B) and also with
523 few evidence of lower temperature subgrain rotation (SGR). Biotite and muscovite

524 are recrystallised into smaller grains only within local shear bands. Some
525 orthogneiss are composed of rare biotite transformed into chlorite.

526 Migmatitic paragneiss are composed in majority of Qtz + Kfs + Bt + Ms with
527 a variable proportion of chlorite, up to 10% of the modal composition, and rare
528 sillimanite. These paragneiss (which are mainly related to S2b foliation) have
529 generally mylonitic textures with anastomosed shear bands around low strain
530 domains or pervasive S/C structures, typical of amphibolite to greenschist facies
531 deformation (Fossen, 2017; Gapais, 1989). Grain size is significantly lower (0.2-0.5
532 mm) than in the Cannes migmatites or the orthogneiss and can be very
533 heterogeneous with large preserved grains from the early HT fabric (1-2 mm)
534 wrapped around by the main fine grain sheared matrix (0.1-0.2 mm). Biotite and
535 muscovite are highly recrystallised into micrometric grains inside the mylonitic
536 matrix while quartz is mainly recrystallised by SGR and shows preserved GBM
537 textures or even few low temperature bulging (BLG). Biotite and chlorite are in
538 inter-boudin growth position or inside shear bands indicating syn-kinematic
539 development. Hence, the widespread shear bands development, grain size
540 reduction, SGR/BLG textures and the significant chlorite amount point to a
541 medium to low temperature deformation in the presence of fluids from lower
542 amphibolite to greenschist facies conditions. In addition, several preserved
543 textures indicate a former HT deformation: small dihedral angles of interstitial
544 phases (Stuart et al., 2018), quartz dynamic recrystallisation through GBM,

545 ductilely deformed feldspar, and the presence of sillimanite in the melanosome.
546 Inside the La Moure SZ, an increasing strain gradient accompanied by a decreasing
547 deformation temperature closer to the Reyran basin border may be inferred from
548 microstructure analysis. Migmatitic paragneiss close to the Reyran basin border
549 show a higher grain size reduction and brittle-ductile shear bands development
550 than others and are characterised by SGR and few BLG quartz recrystallisation
551 while eastern migmatitic paragneiss of the shear zone preserved more GBM
552 textures. These low grade ultramylonites derived from the migmatitic paragneiss
553 are mostly localised on the border of the Reyran basin but the strong spatial
554 variation of the chlorite proportion makes it impossible to map this ultramylonite
555 as a separate unit, and the intense weathering of the basement giving wrong
556 impression of changes leads us to avoid this term.

557 Deformation temperature inferred by microstructures study emphasises a
558 cooling gradient during deformation from East to West in the area. Indeed, the
559 Cannes migmatites are described by HT fabrics with a main suprasolidus
560 deformation while orthogneiss and paragneiss show microstructures indicative of
561 subsolidus deformation until low-T conditions near the brittle-ductile transition
562 along the Reyran basin border. Interestingly, all units are characterised by the
563 presence of preserved microstructures designating suprasolidus deformation. In
564 detail, microstructures also reveal contrasting deformation temperature between
565 meta-igneous and meta-sedimentary rocks with the Cannes migmatites and

566 migmatitic orthogneiss being deformed at suprasolidus and/or high temperature
567 subsolidus conditions while migmatitic paragneiss show few early HT deformation
568 textures subsequently overprinted by dominant medium to low-temperature
569 fabrics. Because S2a foliations are more developed in the Cannes migmatite and
570 orthogneiss unit and S2b foliation in the paragneiss unit, this means that
571 deformation temperature was higher for the S2a fabric than S2b fabric.

572

573 **5. Discussion**

574 ***5.1 Origin of the cryptic Cannes structure***

575 The Cannes migmatites exhibit a complex structure, highlighted by distinct
576 differences between the Croix des Gardes and Super-Cannes hills. In the Croix des
577 Gardes area, constrictional flow with strongly deformed L>S tectonites is
578 prevalent, and defines the rock architecture (Figs. 5 and 7). In contrast, the Super-
579 Cannes sector displays flattening strain on mainly seldom deformed sub-
580 horizontal foliations (Figs. 4 and 7). The Croix des Gardes hill is defined by
581 monotonous E-W striking S2a, locally reworked by N-S S2b, while the Super-
582 Cannes hill presents a more chaotic pattern of S2a (Fig. 3). The latter exhibits a
583 folded structure with numerous changing directions, emphasised by foliation
584 triple points and a sub-dome structure in the western part. Despite these
585 differences, both areas share a common lineation pattern, with stretching

586 lineations (L2) consistently plunging between N000-N020°, indicating the need for
587 integration within the same global framework.

588 The preserved migmatitic nature of the Cannes migmatite unit (Fig. 2E, F)
589 through suprasolidus deformation structure suggests two possible models to
590 explain the observed architecture: a tectonic dominated model and a buoyancy-
591 isostasy dominated model (Kruckenberg et al., 2011). The tectonic dominated
592 model implies that constrictional and flattening fabrics from each sector must be
593 kinematically consistent in the same strain regime, which appears conflicting.
594 Additionally, the sub-dome concentric foliations orientations and foliations
595 deflection around triple points are challenging to reconcile with a common
596 kinematic regime. Conversely, buoyancy-isostasy driven flow, as documented for
597 diapirism (Dixon, 1975; Cruden, 1990), can explain the highly variable orientation
598 of flattening fabrics. Diapirism also predicts the coexistence of flattening and
599 constrictional fabrics, with constriction expected in the core of a rising diapir and
600 flattening around the outside and the top (Cruden, 1988, 1990; Sullivan, 2013;
601 Talbot and Jackson, 1987).

602 In hot orogens with buoyant lithosphere, field-based structural studies have
603 demonstrated that flat fabrics in lower crustal levels may consist of vertically
604 shortened and horizontally sheared roofs of domes (Dirks et al., 1997; Gapais et
605 al., 2005, 2008; G ebelin et al., 2006). In this scenario, the Croix des Gardes hill could
606 represent the inclined diapir center, and Super-Cannes the flattened outside.

607 Alternatively, a third option to explain these contrasting structures could involve
608 variations in the exposed structural level, with Croix des Gardes as a diapir core
609 characterised by constriction and Super-Cannes as a diapir roof characterised by
610 flattening. In this model, the migmatite dome is divided into several N-S directed
611 inclined subdomes with axes following the stretching lineation, where each hill
612 represents a different diapir.

613 Gravity-driven flow is a plausible process to account for some structural
614 features within the Cannes migmatite unit. However, the continuous lineation field
615 (L2) between both areas and the presence of S2b vertical foliation zones cannot
616 be fully explained by gravity-dominated forces alone. Foliations wrapping around
617 the average lineation direction, a common tectonic feature of syn-tectonic domes
618 (Darrozes et al., 1994; Djouadi et al., 1997; Nédélec et al., 2015), are also
619 recognised in the field (Fig. 5A-B) and documented in this study (Super-Cannes hill
620 stereograms: Fig. 3 and 6). These observations suggest that flow within the
621 migmatitic unit was controlled by a combination of independent internal gravity
622 forces and a strong oblique tectonic framework. Elongated migmatitic domes
623 parallel to the stretching direction can form in zones of local horizontal flow within
624 a transtensive regime (Denèl et al., 2017; Le Pourhiet et al., 2012; Rey et al., 2017).

625 The Super Cannes hill, representing a tectonically preserved area, is
626 dominated by high-temperature structures related to internal buoyancy-driven
627 flow rather than tectonic forces. This is supported by its specific eastern location,

628 representing the most internal part of the unit, combined with the greater
629 presence of nebulitic facies and lower strain migmatites (Fig. 2E,F). In contrast, the
630 presence of strongly stretched L-tectonites and S2b vertical foliations at the Croix
631 des Gardes and Roquette hills indicates an increasing influence of tectonic forces
632 when moving westward in the massif.

633

634 ***5.2 Lithological control on finite strain ellipsoid measurements***

635 Finite strain analyses reveal contrasting ellipsoid shapes between different
636 lithologies. Paragneiss lithology is mainly associated with S-L tectonite on the map
637 scale (Fig. 7) and plots along the plane strain line (Fig. 8), while Cannes migmatites
638 and orthogneiss units are characterised by numerous L>S tectonites (Fig. 7) and
639 fall within the constrictional field of the Flinn diagram (Fig. 8). This contrast is
640 evident in the field, where transitions between these lithologies often exhibit a
641 sharp change marked by the appearance of strong stretching lineations (L2) and
642 L>S tectonites. Phyllosilicates-rich paragneiss units, derived from meta-
643 sedimentary series, are considered rheologically weaker than orthogneiss and
644 Cannes migmatites. This suggests that heterogeneous and weaker lithologies
645 display more evidence for plane strain deformation, while homogenous and
646 stronger lithologies are characterised by constrictional strain deformation.

647 Rheologically driven strain path partitioning, with the concentration of L-
648 type tectonite in stronger homogenous units, has been described in previous

649 studies (Fletcher and Bartley, 1994; Sullivan, 2006, 2008, 2013) and partitioning of
650 non-coaxial deformation into rheologically weak domains, such as schist units, is
651 predicted by many field observations, theoretical studies and numerical
652 simulations (Goodwin and Tikoff, 2002; Goodwin and Williams, 1996; Jiang, 1994a,
653 b; Lister and Williams, 1983; Sullivan, 2008, 2013). Thus, we propose two potential
654 scenarios to explain this rheology-dependent finite strain shape variation: strain
655 path partitioning with each lithology accommodating a single deformation phase
656 differently, or each lithology recording different deformation phases. The
657 consistent structural lineation (L2) field transcending all lithologies and
658 widespread folding of most units with axes parallel to this stretching lineation (L2)
659 support strain partitioning during a single deformation phase. However, several
660 factors suggest that the observed rheologically driven finite strain shape contrast
661 is caused by differential recording of two deformation phases during a progressive
662 deformation event.

663 First, L>S tectonite types inside meta-igneous units are mostly associated
664 with the low-strain and high-T S2a foliation, which is primarily confined to these
665 lithologies, while high-strain medium to low-T S2b foliations are mainly visible in
666 the paragneiss unit defined by S-L tectonite. Second, S2a foliations are transposed
667 and overprinted by S2b foliations, highlighting a deformation chronology (Fig. 3).
668 Finally, microstructure analyses reveal that deformation in meta-igneous units
669 occurred at higher temperatures than in the meta-sediment units (Fig. 10). Thus,

670 we suggest that the constrictional flow and associated S2a foliations were formed
671 during a first deformation phase, subsequently overprinted by a second phase
672 represented by S2b foliations.

673 Contrary to expectations, meta-sedimentary units which are mainly
674 deformed by high strain S2b foliation and associated SZ do not plot in higher
675 deformation domains than meta-igneous units in the Flinn diagram, and the
676 opposite is even observed (Fig. 8). In fact, the leucosomes and/or quartz layers
677 chosen as reference material for ellipses calculation were too much sheared until
678 being recrystallised in smaller lenses and clasts during the second phase, erasing
679 their stretched shape from the first phase. High strain deformation mechanisms
680 at middle to low temperature tend to reduce grain size and spread-out former
681 fabrics (Ebert et al., 2007; Fossen and Cavalcante, 2017; Gapais, 1989), which could
682 lead to minimising finite strain intensity with the ellipses method used in this
683 study.

684 The magnetic foliation and lineation of each site are in the same range as
685 structural measurements in the field. The orientation of the principal axes (K_{max} ,
686 K_{int} , K_{min}) from AMS measurements could therefore provide a valuable
687 complement to field measurements. However, the use of AMS to quantify finite
688 strain and study the shape of the finite strain ellipsoid remains limited, as pointed
689 out by various authors (e.g., Borradaile and Henry, 1997; Borradaile and Jackson

690 2010). AMS combines contributions from all magnetic minerals (diamagnetic,
691 paramagnetic and ferromagnetic) which could develop distinct magnetic fabrics.

692 The AMS ellipsoid shape for sites of low magnetic susceptibility values with
693 a magnetic mineralogy dominated by paramagnetic minerals, in particular biotite
694 give opposite results to observed and measured finite strain ellipsoids for strong
695 L-tectonites (JG20-05 and JG21-02, Fig. 9). The shape anisotropy of micas is known
696 to generate generally oblate AMS ellipsoid (Rochette et al., 1992) which is well
697 illustrated by site TR2 and JG20-06 in which measurements attributed to
698 paramagnetic biotite give more oblate values than those from ferromagnetic
699 minerals in the same rock (Fig. 9). The observed poor correlation between the
700 shape of AMS and finite strain ellipsoids for constrictional strain in this study was
701 already reported in previous studies where oblate AMS ellipsoids were obtained
702 from L>S tectonite in gneiss with a magnetic susceptibility controlled by micas (Das
703 et al., 2021; Skytta et al., 2010).

704 Conversely, AMS sites richer in ferromagnetic minerals (TR2 and JG20-06)
705 provide a good correlation with observed and measured finite strain ellipsoids (Fig.
706 9). This good agreement could be due to the presence of magnetite which is
707 characterised by a grain-shape alignment anisotropy (Borradaile and Henry, 1997;
708 Borradaile and Jackson 2010; Ferré et al., 2014). The determination of the sub-
709 fabric carried by the ferromagnetic minerals by using magnetic remanence

710 anisotropy techniques for example (Hrouda, 2002; Jackson, 1991) could better
711 constrain and use the AMS measurements.

712

713 ***5.3 Transpression vs transtension?***

714 The internal part of the Maures-Tanneron massif aligns with an oblique
715 tectonic framework, particularly due to the vertical shear zone's strike-slip
716 component associated with shallowly plunging lineation, which trends at a low
717 angle to the shear's strike. Fold axes parallel to the regional lineation (L2) are
718 another common feature of oblique tectonic systems (Fossen et al., 1994, 2013). A
719 transpressional tectonic setting was previously proposed by Rolland et al. (2009),
720 based on the observation of a dome structure around the Rouet granitic intrusion
721 and N-S kilometer-scale folds defining the structure of the Tanneron massif,
722 following the previous interpretation made by Crevola (1977). This transpression
723 context is inferred for the entire Maures-Tanneron massif. However, in the eastern
724 Tanneron, representing the more internal part of the massif, our results point to
725 a transtensional event. The kilometer-scale folds described by Crevola (1977) (and
726 after Rolland et al., 2009) are not observed, and we identify two sets of planar
727 fabric with a main S2b vertical foliation. Moreover, numerous folds of different
728 geometries are visible in the field, but they do not necessarily indicate a
729 convergence context, as folds can form readily during transtension (Fossen et al.,
730 2013), or progressive constrictional strain as experimentally demonstrated by

731 Ghosh et al. (1995). Analytical models (Fossen and Tikoff, 1993; Fossen et al., 1994,
732 2013) demonstrate that fold axes evolve from vertical to horizontal plunge during
733 transtension while the opposite is predicted for transpression, and fold axis
734 direction tends to rotate parallel to the SZ boundary for transpression while
735 retaining angle of 10-15° even for simple shear dominated transtension (Fossen
736 et al., 2013). Here, fold axes have a mean 10-30° plunge and directions follow the
737 lineation (L2), which mainly strike at an angle of 20-30° to the La Moure SZ
738 reference. Therefore, fold axis directions and plunges match characteristics of
739 transtensional folds more than transpressional folds. Additionally, stretching
740 lineation parallel to fold axes is seen as a signature of transtension at the middle-
741 lower crust level (Fossen et al., 2013) and transtensional folds are often associated
742 with constrictional strain and large magnitude stretching, which aligns with our
743 data.

744 Various analytical models have studied oblique tectonics through different
745 combinations of pure and simple shear applied to a deforming volume stuck
746 between rigid boundaries (Dewey et al., 1998; Fossen and Tikoff, 1993, 1998; Jones
747 et al., 2004; Sanderson and Marchini, 1984). In terms of strain, all models show
748 that transpression develops flattening strain, whereas transtension favours
749 constrictional strain. In the Tanneron massif, finite strain shape analysis supports
750 the widespread gently dipping constrictional flow, indicating the importance of L
751 and L>S tectonites (Fig. 7 and 8). L or L>S tectonites are predicted within the Flinn

752 diagram as a common feature for transtension, with associated well-developed
753 lineations remaining oblique to the shear direction (Fossen and Cavalcante, 2017;
754 Sanderson and Marchini, 1984). This is in agreement with the lineation field (L2) of
755 the area remaining mainly oblique to the shear direction (20-30°) (Fig. 6). Various
756 analytical graphs developed in Fossen et al. (2013) could be used combining
757 ellipsoid principal strain axes or folds tightness data and/or angles with the SZ to
758 decipher between transpression and transtension regime and obtain theoretical
759 dynamic vorticity W_k values for the subsimple shear deformation. In our data, the
760 length of minimum horizontal principal strain axis (Z or Y) ranges between 0.67
761 and 0.32 with a mean 0.52 value and the length of maximal horizontal principal
762 strain axis (X) between 1.38 and 3.90 with an average 2.54 value. Folds in the area
763 are mostly close to tight matching the corresponding range of Z axis length as
764 proposed by Fossen et al. (2013). Assuming an average angle of 20-30° between
765 the lineation (L2) and SZ, graphs comparing this angle with length of principal
766 strain axis (X or Z) give mainly values close to the simple shear curve which plot in
767 majority in the simple shear dominated transtension (Fossen et al., 2013 fig 4 and
768 7). W_k ranges between 0.8 and 1 highlighting the important simple shear flow. The
769 X axis vs Z axis plot also provides a majority of data in the simple shear dominated
770 transtension with vorticity ranging between 0.8 and 1 and a 0.95 W_k by considering
771 the mean values for length of X and Z axes (Fossen et al., 2013 fig 8). These high
772 vorticity numbers are in agreement with the predicted rotation of folds, requiring

773 a minimum W_k of 0.7 to obtain fold axes with angle of 20-30° to the SZ, as observed
774 in the area (Fossen et al., 2013 fig 5). Theoretical γ gamma values of the shear
775 strain are also provided in these graphs and stand approximately between 1.5 and
776 2.5 which emphasised the high strain deformation in these late transtensional
777 regime.

778 The combination of constrictional strain and domes representing the pure
779 shear component and S-L tectonites through strike-slip SZ representing the simple
780 shear suggests a general transtensional tectonic framework in the Tanneron
781 massif. This regime manifests during the late-stage evolution of the massif
782 between 320-300 Ma, associated with an oblique collapse of a hot crust. In the
783 internal part of the Maures massif, a strong longitudinal horizontal crustal flow
784 was recently highlighted by the predominance of subhorizontal stretching
785 lineations, striking continuously N-S through the migmatitic basement (Bolle and
786 al., 2023). These authors suggest that this subhorizontal extension associated with
787 strike slip SZ induced thinning of the continental crust associated with partial
788 melting, granitic intrusions and exhumation of the lower continental crust during
789 the latest event of the belt (325-298 Ma). In addition, late dextral shear-zones
790 developed from near-solidus amphibolite metamorphic facies down to brittle-
791 ductile conditions are described in the MTM (Simonetti et al., 2020) and Corsica-
792 Sardinia block (Frassi et al., 2009; Giacomini et al., 2008), which agree with our
793 description of the second phase and the development of the La Moure SZ.

794 A key element is the opening of the Reyran Carboniferous basin, which
795 strikes parallel to the surrounding La Moure SZ (N10-20) (Fig. 3). This pull-apart
796 basin is thought to have opened around 310-300 Ma (Toutin-Morin et al., 1994),
797 roughly synchronous with the end of the basement oblique tectonic event. The
798 nearby La Moure SZ and the basin's particular shape, which might be seen as four
799 former NE-SW en-echelon sub-basins (Fig. 1), support the opening being caused
800 by an oblique tectonic regime. Moreover, carboniferous sediments are strongly
801 folded in specific sectors, suggesting potential syn-sedimentary deformation
802 (Maillet, 2021). In this context, the opening of this type of basin is more likely in a
803 transtensional regime because the stretching component of transtension
804 contributes to thinning the crust, contrary to the vertical flattening strain
805 developed by transpression. In the Variscan belt, the opening of a pull-apart basin
806 during a dextral transtensional regime between 315-300 Ma was also described in
807 the Montagne noire (Chardon et al., 2020; Franke et al., 2011; Rey et al., 2017).

808 ***5.4 Progressive deformation and strain partitioning during exhumation***

809 In our structural analysis, we identified two distinct strain patterns and
810 divided planar fabrics into two sets: an E-W flat lying S2a foliation and a N-S vertical
811 S2b foliation (Fig. 3). The S2a foliation is primarily observed in the Cannes
812 migmatites and orthogneiss unit, while the S2b foliation is more prevalent in the
813 paragneiss unit. Finite strain shape ellipsoids are also grouped according to
814 lithological units, with prolate strain associated with ortho-derived units and plane

815 strain with paragneiss (Fig. 7 and 8). A constrictional strain regime characterised
816 by ubiquitous stretching lineations (L2) and L>S type tectonites is associated with
817 S2a foliations in meta-igneous units. In contrast, a plane strain regime defined by
818 S-L tectonites is supported by S2b foliations in the micas-rich paragneiss. S2a
819 foliations are locally transposed by S2b foliations (Fig. 3), and microstructure
820 analyses indicate higher deformation temperatures in ortho-derived units than in
821 paragneiss (Fig. 10). These observations suggest a two-phases progressive
822 deformation event during the retrograde metamorphic evolution associated with
823 the collapse of the belt.

824 We propose a two-phase model in which two intermediate deformation
825 phases represent increments of a progressive deformation during the evolution
826 of a single transtensional event. The first phase involves the deformation at mid-
827 crustal depth of all lithological units by a gently-dipping constrictional strain,
828 creating L>S tectonites and the S2a foliation. This phase represents the sub-
829 horizontal flow of the migmatitic crust at high temperatures. Some parts of the
830 crust with a higher degree of anatexis are partially preserved from tectonic forces
831 and experience doming and internal buoyancy-driven flow, as seen in the Super-
832 Cannes hill (see section 5.2). The second phase is characterised by a plane strain
833 flow that develops the S2b foliation and associated strike-slip shear zones.
834 Deformation is partitioned into the paragneiss unit, enveloping ortho-derived
835 lithologies that preserve their stretched shape from the first phase and are

836 generally not or less overprinted. At the map scale, orthogneiss in the Reyran zone
837 can be seen as finite strain markers representing prolate cigar-like bodies, shaped
838 by the interaction of their internal stretching lineations direction and plunge with
839 the topography. The plane strain deformation starts at high temperatures
840 following the first phase, as observed in the western parts of the Cannes
841 migmatites, but intensifies at lower temperatures in the paragneiss unit during the
842 subsequent cooling of the hot crust. A strain gradient from the Cannes migmatites
843 to the La Moure SZ is accompanied by a deformation-related temperature
844 gradient from near solidus to chlorite isograd (Fig. 10). This indicates that during
845 the second phase, deformation begins at high temperatures across the entire area
846 before progressively localising westward at lower temperatures, following a strain
847 softening until the onset of the La Moure SZ. The high strain SZ remains active until
848 low temperatures leading to cataclastic flow and the opening of the Reyran pull-
849 apart basin in which L-tectonite blocks are found within the conglomerates.

850 These two deformation phases highlight changes in the global
851 transtensional regime, which could be represented by a combination of strike-slip
852 and coaxial perpendicular extension (Fig. 11). During the first phase, the pure
853 shear orthogonal component (prolate fabrics) dominates over the simple shear
854 component. In contrast, the second phase is characterised by a simple shear-
855 dominated flow represented by plane strain fabrics and vertical SZ. This
856 progressive change of the transtensional regime could reflect an evolution of the

857 transport direction. The switch from a first S2a foliation overprinted by the
858 subsequent S2b foliation would represent a rotation of the extension direction
859 becoming more parallel to the transcurrent shear direction. In fact, when the angle
860 between the transport direction and the transtension zone boundary is greater
861 than 20°, the coaxial component associated with vertical shortening and
862 horizontal foliation dominate, while for angles less than 20° the transtension is
863 dominated by the non-coaxial component, horizontal shortening and vertical
864 foliation (Dewey, 2002; Teyssier and Tikoff, 1999). A second option is to consider
865 the rheological influence on strain evolution due to cooling and preferential
866 hydration of the crust during its progressive exhumation. In this hypothesis, the
867 first constriction (pure shear) dominated transtension would be only possible with
868 a hot crust which needs to be sufficiently weak to flow horizontally. Then, the
869 progressive cooling and crystallisation of the crust will inhibit constrictional flow
870 and promote strain localisation in the weaker paragneiss, leading to a simple shear
871 dominated transtension.

872 Deformation localisation in the paragneiss unit during the second phase,
873 rather than in meta-igneous rocks, exemplifies rheologically driven strain
874 partitioning (Carreras et al., 2013; Fossen et al., 2019). After the crystallisation of
875 anatectic melt, weak phases other than melt control the rheology of metamorphic
876 rocks (Diener and Fagereng, 2014; Hunter et al., 2016; Vanardois, 2021). The
877 Tanneron massif's progressive exhumation leads to the crystallisation of meta-

878 igneous rocks, which gradually strengthen these units, acting as stronger
879 homogenous bodies within the weaker heterogeneous paragneiss unit. The high
880 rheologic contrast of meta-igneous rocks may deflect strain paths and localise
881 them in surrounding weaker units (Gremmel et al., 2023). The paragneiss unit also
882 contains a higher mica modal proportion than meta-igneous rocks, which is the
883 weakest mineralogical phase and would control strain localisation at subsolidus
884 conditions (Handy, 1994; Hunter et al., 2016; Montési, 2013). Typically, micaceous
885 rocks deform more easily than quartzo-feldspathic rocks (Fossen et al., 2019).
886 Strain localisation is also expected within rocks with layered fabrics (Handy, 1990;
887 Hunter et al., 2016; Montési, 2013), especially with micaceous fabrics (Shea and
888 Kronenberg, 1993; Wintsch et al., 1995), as seen in the meta-sediment unit
889 compared to the meta-igneous units. This concept is sometimes referred to as
890 “geometric softening” (Fossen and Cavalcante, 2017; Ji et al., 2004; Passchier and
891 Trouw, 2005; Rutter et al., 2001). Consequently, the plane strain deformation
892 phase in the study area progressively localises in the paragneiss unit during
893 retrogression from sub-solidus down to low metamorphic grade due to strain
894 hardening of crystallising meta-igneous units, creating a strong rheologic and
895 geometric contrast. This strain partitioning arises during a general transtensive
896 regime associated with the progressive oblique thinning of this collapsing hot
897 orogen.

898

899 **6. Conclusion**

900 The preserved migmatitic basement of the eastern Tanneron massif lies in
901 a crucial position between coeval deformation of partially molten rocks and
902 opening of a pull apart basin, providing a unique opportunity to study the
903 progressive collapse of a hot orogen during an oblique tectonic event. The study
904 of this late Variscan oblique regime reveals a main transtensional kinematic
905 divided in two intermediate deformation phases. The first phase depicts a
906 subhorizontal flow with dominant constrictional fabrics (L>S tectonites) and minor
907 gently dipping foliations at high temperature conditions. Then, a simple shear flow
908 characterised by plane strain fabrics (S-L tectonites) with vertical foliations and
909 subhorizontal lineations was active from high to low temperature conditions.
910 Vertical foliations are distributed in a widespread network of anastomosed shear
911 zones with a main dextral kinematic represented by the major La Moure SZ which
912 was active until the opening of the Reyran carboniferous basin. The transition
913 between the two phases is not interrupted, deformation was progressive in the
914 same general transtensional regime and the two phases may have been
915 synchronous for a while.

916 The field-based model presented in this study highlights important aspects
917 of 3D strain distribution in ductile oblique regime and can contribute to better
918 understanding these complex structural frameworks and related strain patterns.
919 These findings will be useful as a template to compare with other suspected

920 transtensional systems in hot orogen, and particularly with the numerous Variscan
921 massifs described by late oblique deformation synchronously to the opening of
922 Carboniferous basins. In addition, the progressive strain evolution from
923 suprasolidus deformation down to greenschist facies until brittle deformation
924 with the opening of a pull apart basin show how transtensional regime could
925 efficiently and quickly lead to the exhumation of an unstable thicken crust.

926 The present study further illustrates how multi-method structural analysis,
927 here through precise digital mapping coupled with complementary
928 microstructural observations and finite strain quantification, are necessary to
929 unravel and classify different strain patterns and their evolution in complex
930 structural domains such as oblique tectonic.

931

932 **Declaration of competing interest**

933 The authors declare that there are no competing financial interests and
934 neither personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work
935 reported in this paper.

936

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950

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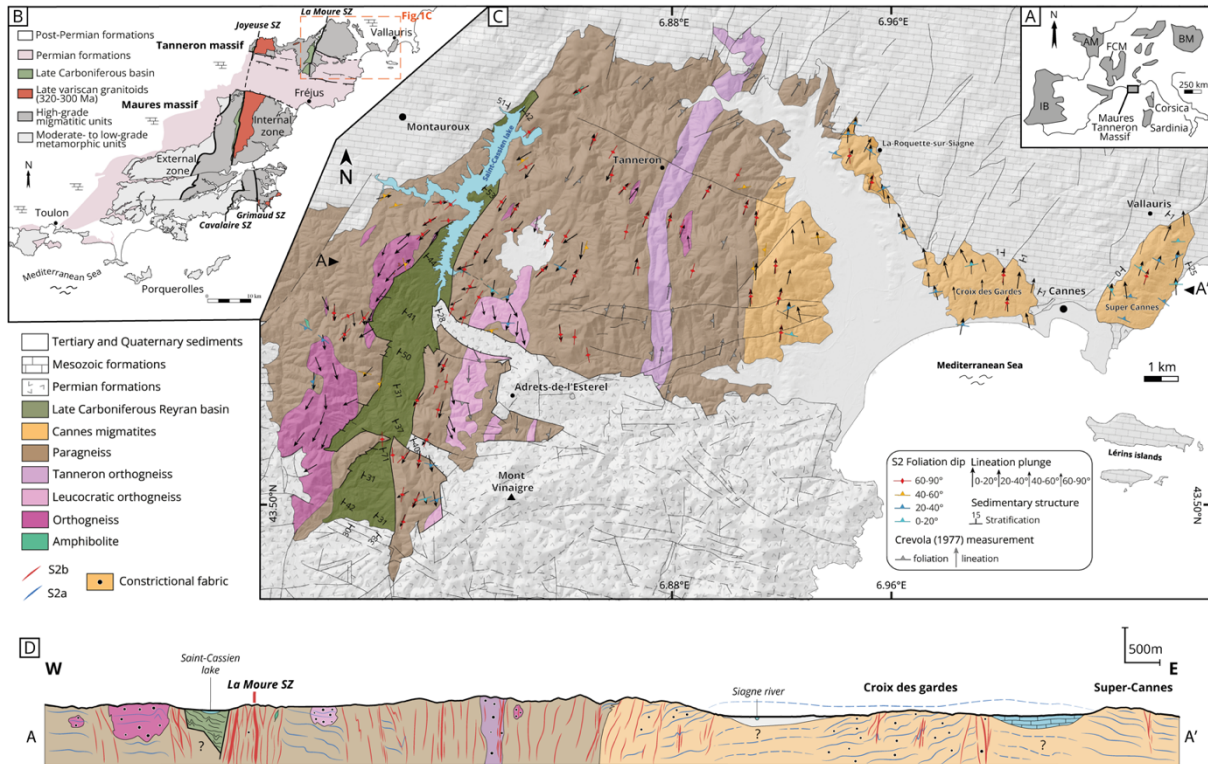
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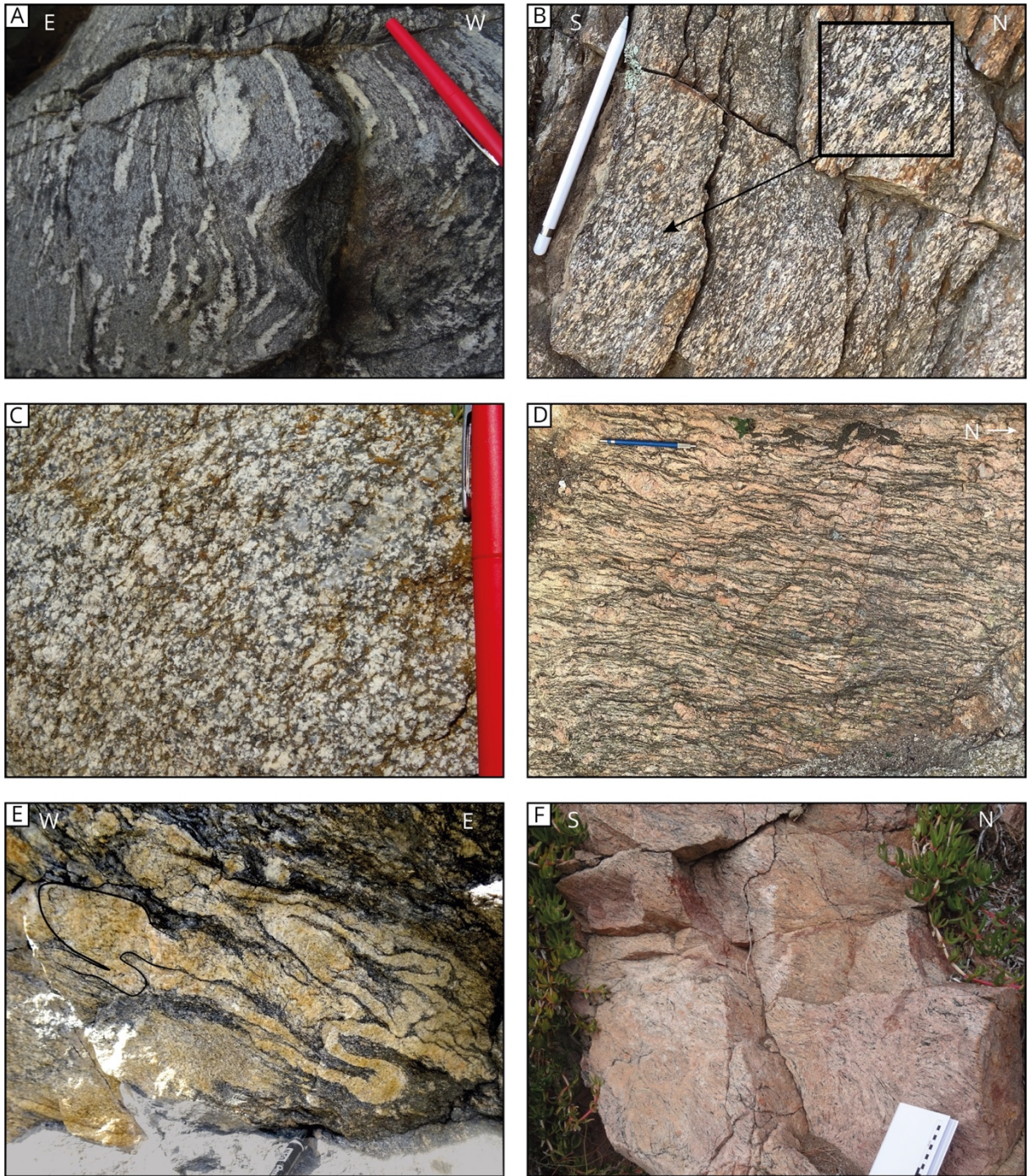
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1393 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**



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 1395 **Figure 1:** (A) Location of the Maures-Tanneron massif in western Europe with main
 1396 Variscan massifs (IB: Iberian massif, AM: Armorican massif, FCM: French Central
 1397 massif, BM: Bohemian massif) (modified from Gerbault et al., 2018). (B) Simplified
 1398 tectonic map of the Maures-Tanneron massif. (C) Geological map of the eastern
 1399 Tanneron. Location of the A-A' cross section below is indicated on the map. (D)
 1400 Schematic cross section of the eastern Tanneron.

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1406 **Figure 2:** Photographs of the migmatitic paragneiss and orthogneiss and Cannés

1407 migmatites, showing their main lithological and structural appearance in the field.

1408 (A) The migmatitic paragneiss is a dark stromatic metapelite with visible regular

1409 centimetric leucosomes in low strain domain (GPS coordinates: 43.5711/6.8417).

1410 (B) The migmatitic orthogneiss commonly appears as a stretched micro-granite

1411 with a homogenous texture of alternating lens or bands of leucocratic quartz-
1412 feldspar and dark biotite-muscovite (Sample JG21-02, 43.5301/6.7465). (C)
1413 Granitoid protolith of the migmatitic orthogneiss (B) visible in low strain local
1414 domain (43.5354/6.7620). (D) The Cannes migmatite is a stromatic migmatite,
1415 defined by pale pink to pale yellow thick irregular and coarse grain leucosomes
1416 alternating with thinner dark melanosomes. Centimetric augen K-feldspars are
1417 visible in the leucosome layers (43.5507/7.0108). (E) Migration of melt toward the
1418 hinge of similar folds in irregular leucosomes, indicative of high grade deformation
1419 synchronously to partial melting (Super-Cannes hill, 43.5732/7.0619). (F)
1420 Secondary facies of the Cannes migmatites with a higher degree of anatexis visible
1421 by the ubiquitous leucosomes over melanosomes, giving a nebulitic texture
1422 (43.5584/7.0645).

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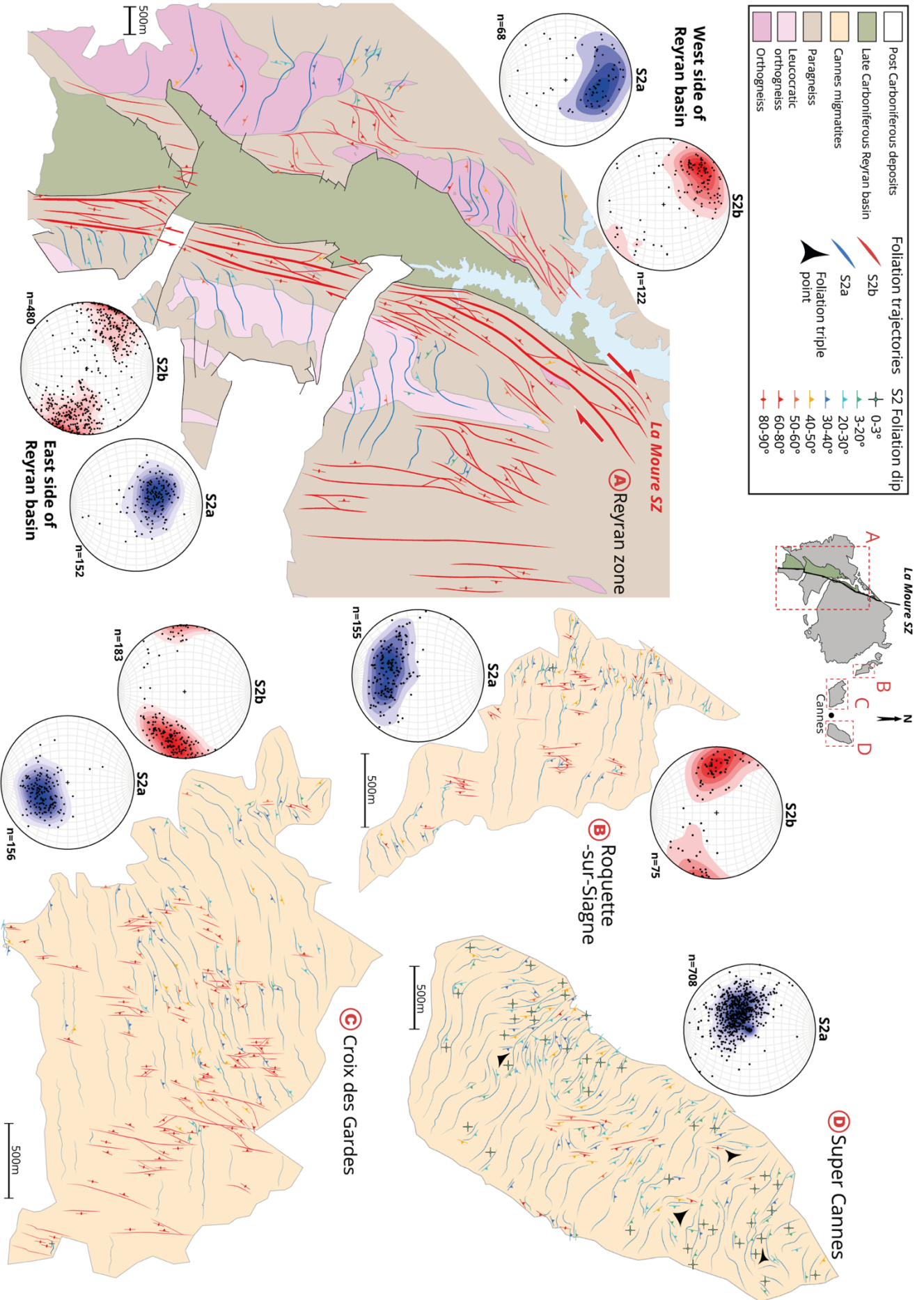
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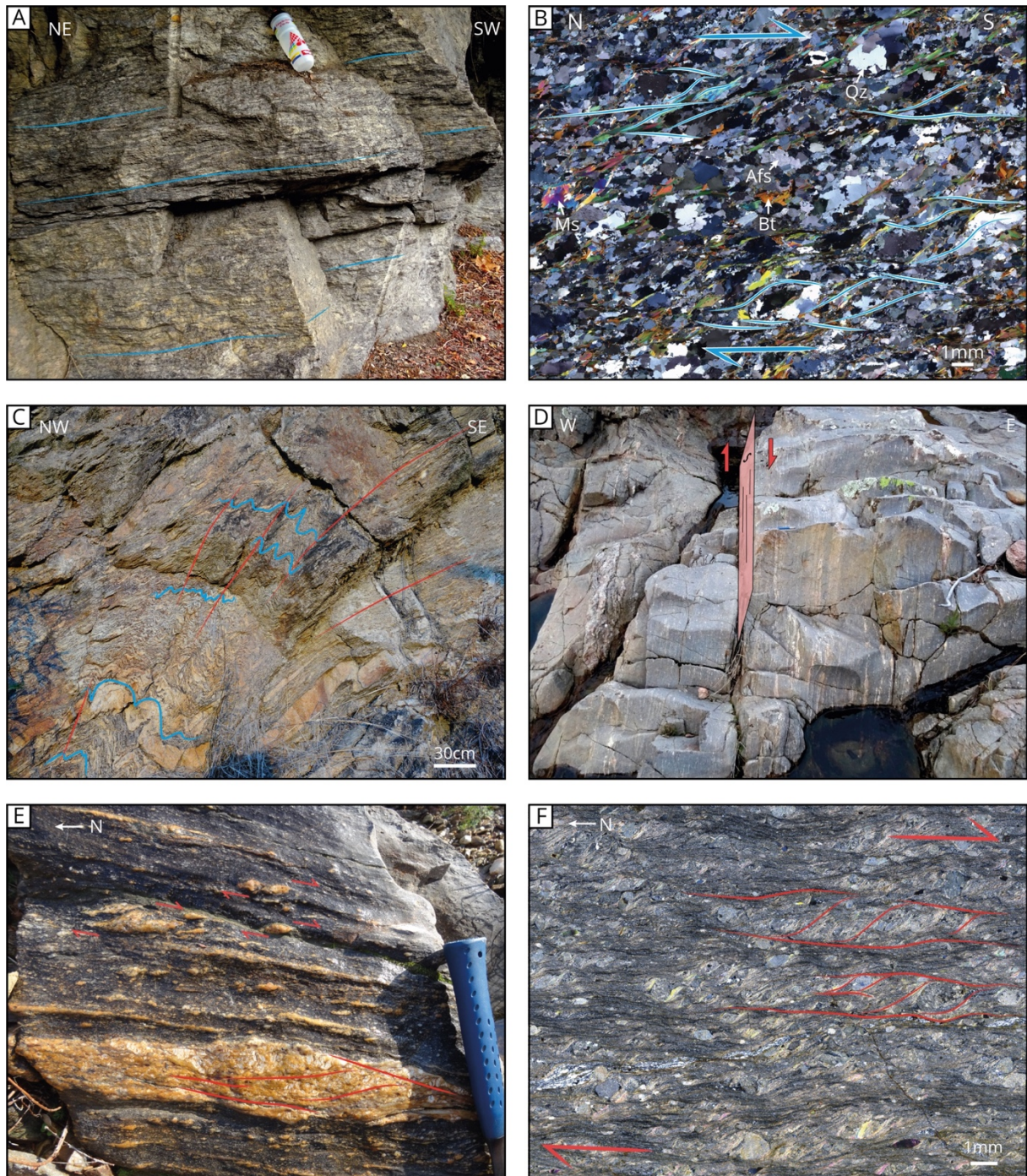
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1433 **Figure 3:** Structural maps showing foliation trajectories and highlighting the two
1434 strain patterns for the Reyran zone and the three Cannes hills. Lower hemisphere
1435 stereograms of foliation poles for the two planar fabric S2a and S2b are given close
1436 to their respective area. See the anastomosed network of the vertical La Moure SZ
1437 (S2b foliations) bounding the eastern side of the Reyran basin and which overprint
1438 S2a foliations as emphasised by the deflection of S2a foliation close to the SZ. The
1439 Super Cannes hill reveals highly variable S2a directions highlighted by the
1440 presence of foliation triple points and a concentric half-dome pattern in the
1441 western part.



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1443 **Figure 4:** Geometry and kinematics of the main planar fabrics. (A) Low strain flat-
 1444 lying foliation representative of S2a foliation, here in the Super Cannes hill (GPS
 1445 coordinates: 43.5725/7.0678) - 3D model visible here: <https://skfb.ly/oQlrH>. (B)
 1446 Microphotograph of a migmatitic orthogneiss in the Reyran zone displaying top to
 1447 the South S/C shear structures (43.5300/6.7462). (C) S2a foliation folded and

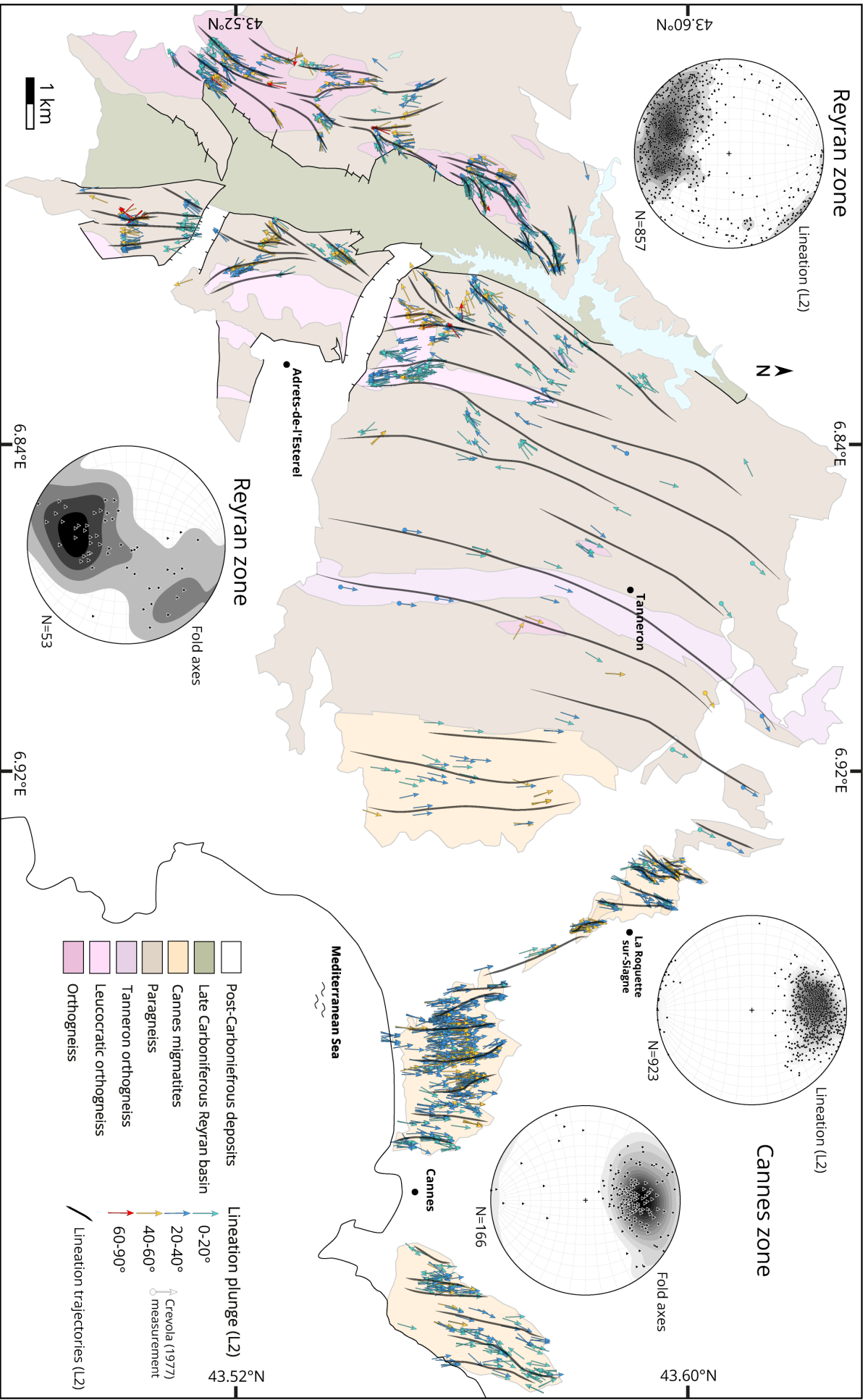
1448 transposed by S2b foliation, in the Croix des Gardes hill (43.5571/6.9842). (D)
1449 Representative outcrop of the La Moure SZ (and other smaller SZ) showing vertical
1450 strike-slip mylonitic S2b foliation in the migmatitic paragneiss (43.4954/6.7808). (E)
1451 Kinematic indicators giving a dextral sense of shear in mylonitic paragneiss from
1452 the La Moure SZ (43.5758/6.8274). (F) Microphotograph of an ultramylonitic
1453 paragneiss of the La Moure SZ near the contact with the Reyran basin. The texture
1454 of the highly recrystallised matrix defines widespread S/C shear bands indicating
1455 a dextral kinematic. See the intense grain size reduction until micrometric scale
1456 for this ultramylonite due to very high strain deformation at the contact with the
1457 Reyran basin (43.5412/6.7935).



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1459 **Figure 5:** Geometry of folds, linear fabrics and finite strain shape. (A) Microfolds
 1460 with axes parallel to the stretching lineation (L2) in the Cannes migmatite (Croix
 1461 des Gardes, GPS coordinates: 43.5552/6.9908) - 3D model visible here:
 1462 <https://skfb.ly/oQK6o>. (B) Cascading open fold with a representative right angled
 1463 geometry in the Cannes migmatite (Super Cannes, 43.5550/7.0615) - 3D model

1464 visible here: <https://skfb.ly/oQIqR>. (C) L type tectonite in the leucocratic
1465 orthogneiss of the Reyran zone. See the absence of clear fabric in the section
1466 perpendicular to the stretching lineation (L2) (43.5528/6.8234). (D) L type tectonite
1467 in the Cannes migmatite near the Croix des Gardes hill. See the rounded shape of
1468 K-feldspars and leucosome layers encircled by biotite rims in the section
1469 perpendicular to the dominant stretching lineation (L2) (Sample JG21-19,
1470 43.5669/6.9722) - 3D model visible here: <https://skfb.ly/oQIpy>. (E-F) Thin section
1471 scans of the L-type migmatitic orthogneiss sample JG21-15, with (E) XZ section
1472 parallel to the stretching lineation (L2) and (F) YZ section perpendicular to the
1473 lineation. Examples of ellipses outlined with the Ellipsoidfit software are shown, used
1474 for 3D finite strain ellipsoid calculation (see Methodology section). See the
1475 difference of fabrics and ellipses shape between both sections (43.5612/6.7782).



1477 **Figure 6:** Structural map of lineation trajectories (L2) reflecting the N-S
1478 subhorizontal flow of the crust. The curved trails highlight convergent and
1479 divergent patterns. Lower hemisphere stereograms of lineation and fold axes for
1480 the Reyran and Cannes zone are given close to their respective area.

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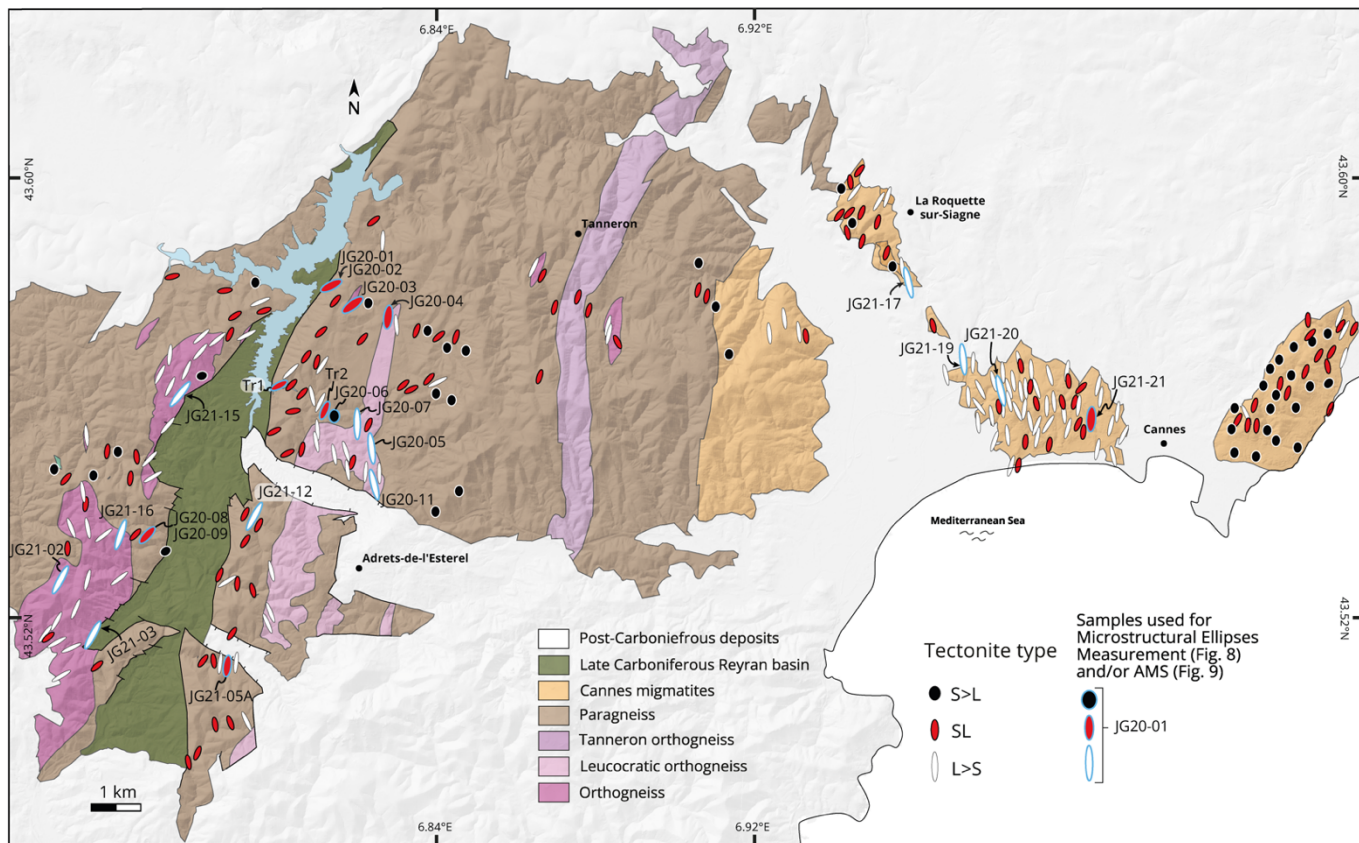
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1490 **Figure 7:** Tectonite-type map based on field observations of S>L, S-L, and L>S

1491 tectonites classified according to three different symbologies of ellipses varying in

1492 colour and shape. Ellipsoids corresponding to samples used for Microstructural

1493 Ellipses Measurement and/or AMS are also indicated (with a blue outline). A

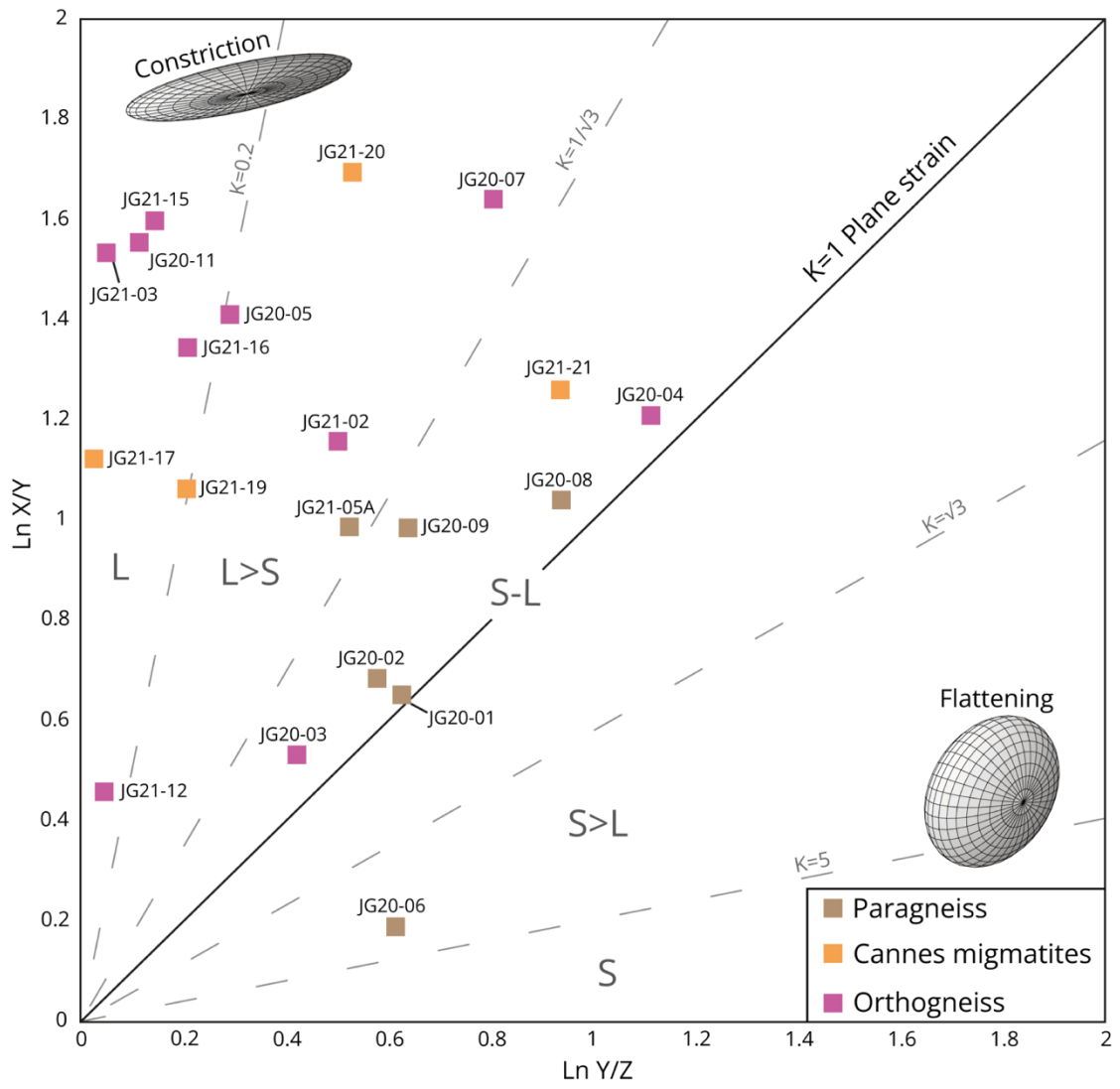
1494 lithological influence is emphasised with orthogneiss showing mainly L>S

1495 tectonites whereas paragneiss are dominated by S-L tectonites. See also the

1496 contrasting tectonite type in the Cannes migmatite unit between the Croix des

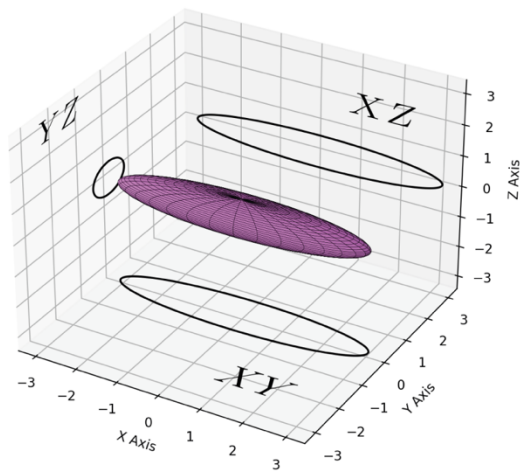
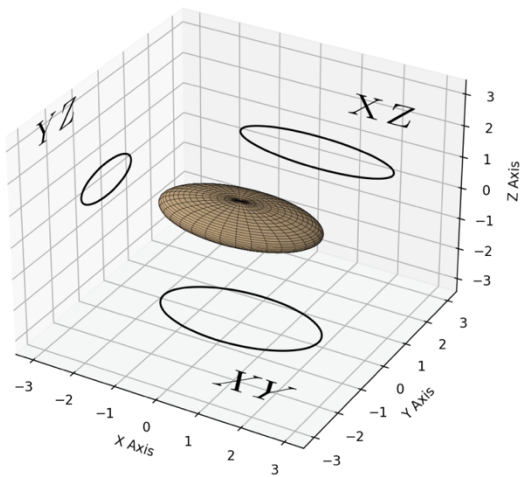
1497 Gardes hill dominated by constrictional strain compared to the Super Cannes hill

1498 defining a mean flattening strain.

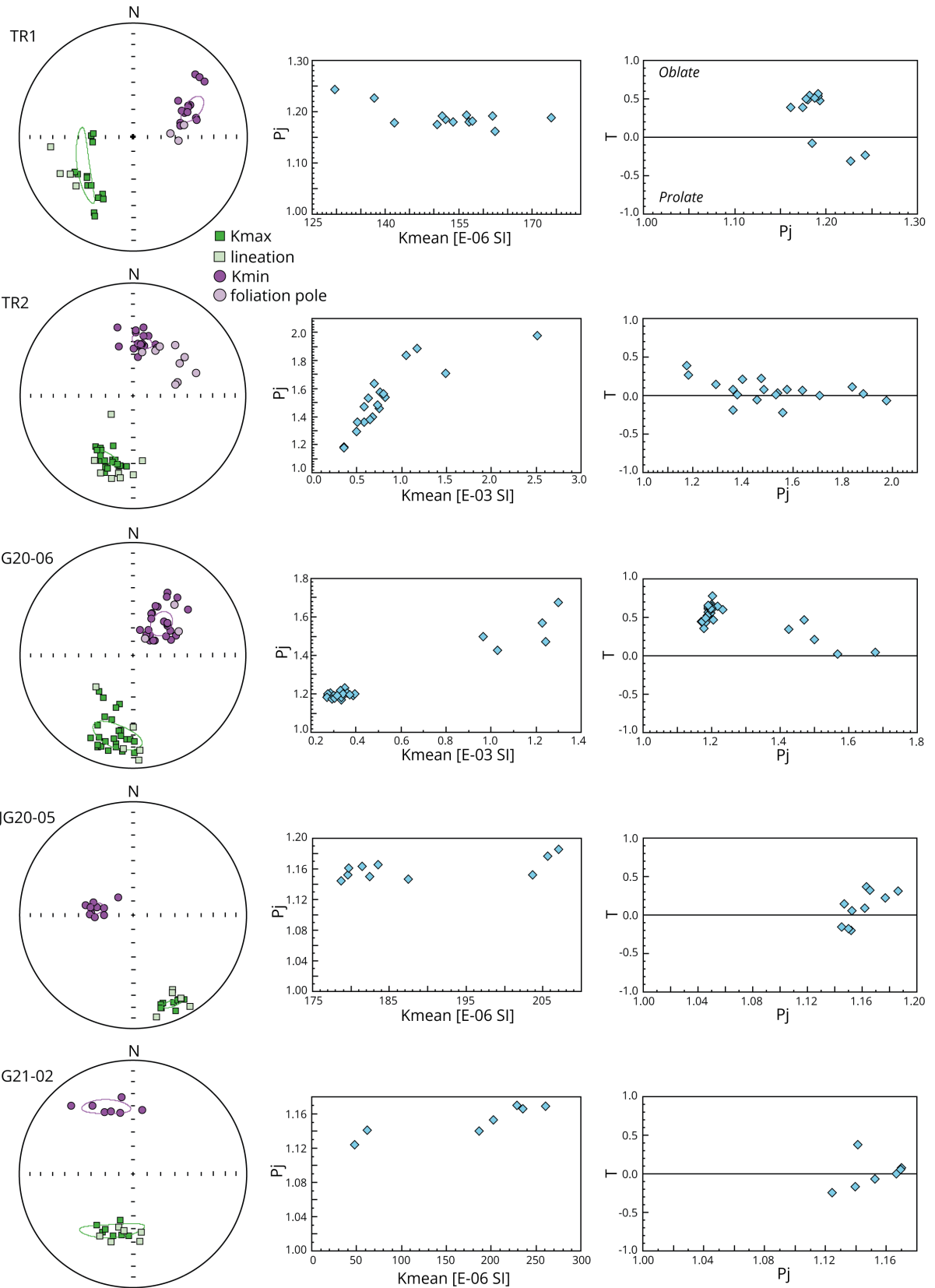


JG20-01
Paragneiss

JG21-15-X1
Orthogneiss



1501 **Figure 8:** Flinn diagram with plot of the 20 samples used for 3D finite strain
1502 ellipsoid calculation by microstructure measurement. Two examples of 3D finite
1503 strain ellipsoids are shown for a paragneiss and orthogneiss sample in a 3D X-Y-Z
1504 axes diagram with projection of 2D ellipses on each corresponding section. The
1505 Flinn diagram reveals a lithological control on the shape of ellipsoid with the meta-
1506 sedimentary unit mainly distributed in the S-L domain whereas meta-igneous
1507 units are mostly confined to the L and L>S domains.



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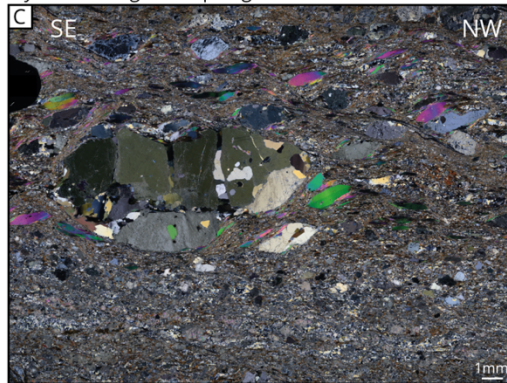
1509 **Figure 9:** AMS results with equal area, lower hemisphere projections of the
1510 principal magnetic susceptibilities axes (Kmax and Kmin), Kmean-P plot and P-T
1511 plot for each sample. Stereograms in geographical referential give foliation poles
1512 (S2) and lineations (L2) measured on each sample location compared to their AMS
1513 Kmax and Kmin values representing magnetic lineation and foliation, respectively.
1514 The confidence ellipses are computed from Jelinek's statistics (Jelinek 1978).
1515 Kmean: $(K_{max}+K_{int}+K_{min})/3$; P and T parameters are used to characterise the
1516 degree of magnetic anisotropy and the AMS ellipsoid shape respectively. T ranges
1517 from -1 (prolate ellipsoid) to 1 (oblate ellipsoid) (Jelinek, 1981). Pay attention to
1518 variations in the order of magnitude of the abscissa scale.



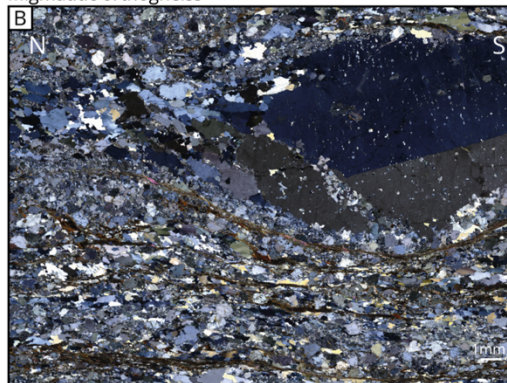
Ultramylonite of migmatitic paragneiss



Mylonite of migmatitic paragneiss



Migmatitic orthogneiss



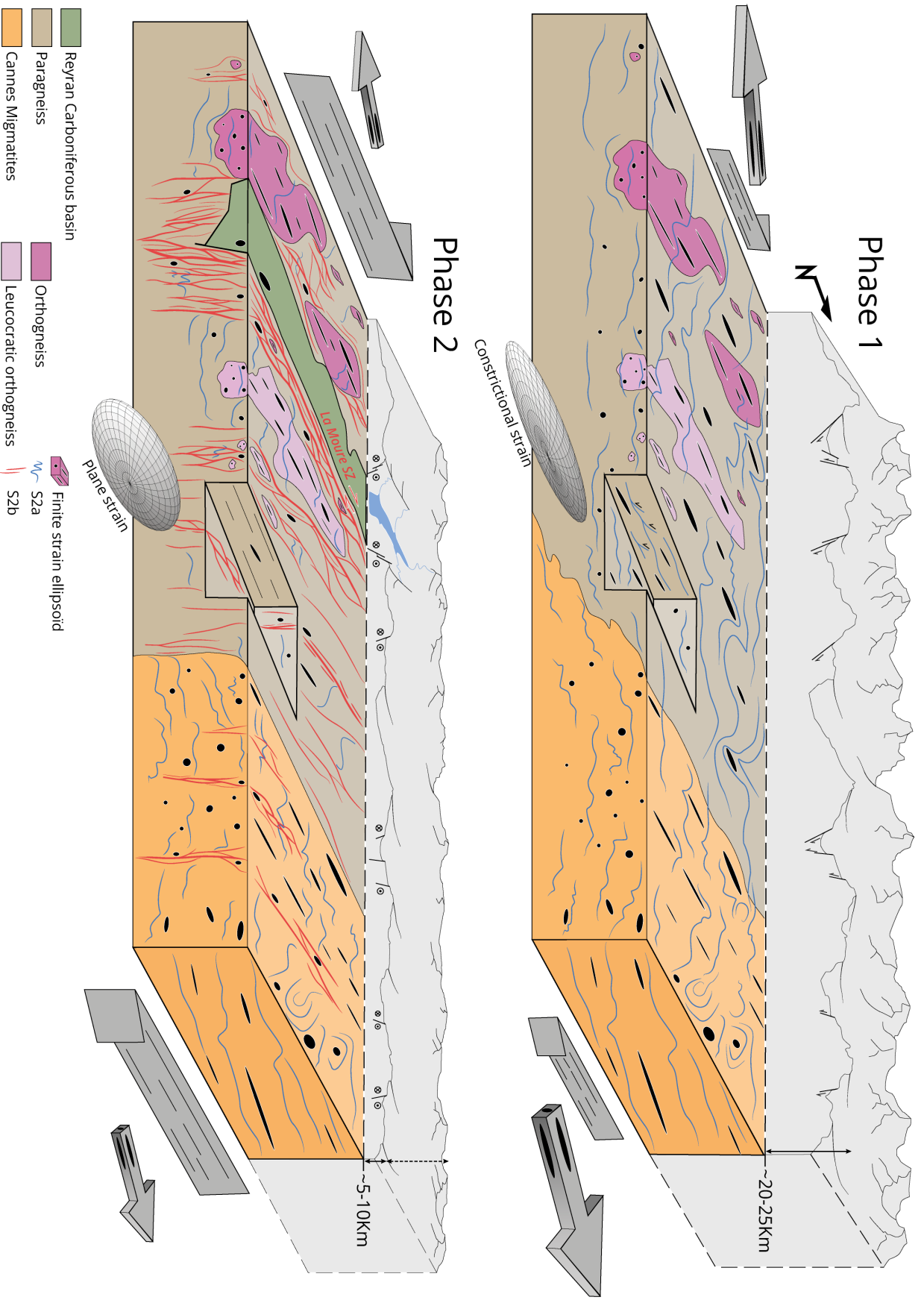
Cannes migmatite



1520 **Figure 10:** Microphotographs showing the evolution from high suprasolidus down
1521 to low temperature deformation through microstructure evolution. This evolution
1522 follows a broad E-W cooling gradient. Following A to D see intense grain size
1523 reduction due to increased recrystallisation and shear bands development. (A)
1524 Cannes migmatite, sample JG21-20 located in a S2a domain, showing suprasolidus
1525 deformation textures (GPS coordinates: 43.5616/6.9808). Minerals are coarse,
1526 homogenously aligned and stretched but without shear-bands, quartz is
1527 dynamically recrystallised through GBM textures, myrmekites and interstitial
1528 quartz melt infilling pore space are visible. Irregular, amoeboid quartz and
1529 feldspar boundaries are ubiquitous. (B) Migmatitic orthogneiss to the east of the
1530 La Moure SZ, sample JG20-07 located in a S2a domain, showing suprasolidus and
1531 subsolidus deformation textures (43.5119/6.7877). In fact, in the upper part the
1532 leucosome layer exhibits coarse grain size, amoeboid boundaries of GBM texture,
1533 myrmekites and interstitial quartz melt, which are characteristic of high
1534 temperature deformation. In the lower part, the grain size is smaller, discrete
1535 recrystallised shear bands are present, quartz is mostly recrystallised through
1536 SGR, indicating a colder deformation et subsolidus conditions. (C) Mylonite of
1537 migmatitic paragneiss from the outside of the La Moure SZ at the transition
1538 between S2a and S2b foliation domains, defined by middle to low temperature
1539 deformation texture (43.5579/6.8138). The main texture is a fine grain highly
1540 recrystallised matrix structured by dextral C and C' shear bands, with quartz SGR

1541 recrystallisation and muscovite fish. In the upper part, a preserved leucosome
1542 clast shows early high temperature deformation texture with coarse grain size,
1543 quartz GBM texture and interstitial quartz melt. (D) Ultramylonite of migmatitic
1544 paragneiss from the core of the La Moure SZ (S2b foliation) at the contact with the
1545 Reyran basin, sample JG20-01, showing low temperature deformation texture
1546 (43.5824/6.8167). The ultramylonite defines a completely recrystallised matrix of
1547 micrometric grain size (except muscovite fish) covered by a widespread
1548 anastomosed network of dextral S/C shear bands. These cold shear bands exhibit
1549 brittle-ductile deformation. Quartz is recrystallised through SGR and BLG textures.
1550 See section "*Deformation temperature*" for further detailed comments in the text.

1551



1553 **Figure 11:** Synthetic 3D diagram showing the tectonic evolution of the
1554 transtensional regime from phase 1 to phase 2. Strain patterns evolve from a first
1555 horizontal S2a foliation associated with gently dipping N-S pure shear
1556 constrictional flow, to a second vertical S2b foliation combined with simple shear
1557 plane strain flow represented by the development of an anastomosed network of
1558 local shear zones and the major La Moure SZ. During the second phase,
1559 rheologically driven strain partitioning can be seen in the preferential localisation
1560 of the plane strain flow in the paragneiss unit, enveloping orthogneiss bodies that
1561 preserved their stretched shape from the first phase. The second phase also
1562 highlights a localisation and migration of deformations from east to west,
1563 illustrated by the increasing development of the S2b foliation, which is confined to
1564 local corridors in the Cannes area and widens westwards in the Reyran area until
1565 it intensifies around the Reyran basin with the La Moure SZ.

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Table 1. Finite strain ellipsoid data (Microstructural Ellipses Measurement and corresponding AMS). Max(X), Int(Y), and Min(Z) represent the three principal axes of the finite strain ellipsoids.

Sample/AMS site	GPS coordinates	Lithology	Foliation (dip-dip) - S2a/b	Lineation	Field tectonite type	Microstructural ellipses measurement				AMS	
						Max (X)	Int (Y)	Min (Z)	Ellipsoïde shape	T	Ellipsoïde shape
JG20-01	43.5824/6.8167	Paragneiss	297/79 - S2b	223/13	S-L	1.902	0.992	0.53	S-L		
JG20-02	43.5825/6.8167	Paragneiss	280/80 - S2b	207/06	S-L	1.914	0.966	0.541	S-L		
JG20-03	43.5783/6.8190	Orthogneiss	161/73 - S2b	240/14	S-L	1.642	0.964	0.632	S-L		
JG20-04	43.5746/6.8294	Orthogneiss	129/47 - S2a	192/33	L>S	3.244	0.968	0.318	S-L		
JG20-05	43.5523/6.8240	Orthogneiss	/	175/04	L>S	2.825	0.689	0.514	L>S	-0.2 - 0.3	S-L
JG20-06	43.5579/6.8138	Paragneiss	242/38 - S2a	176/16	S>L	1.392	1.153	0.623	S>L	0 - 0.7	S-L / S>L
JG20-07	43.5119/6.7877	Orthogneiss	93/35 - S2a	166/07	L>S	3.905	0.757	0.338	L>S		
JG20-08	43.5354/6.7671	Paragneiss	200/62 - S2b	240/35	S-L	2.738	0.967	0.378	S-L		
JG20-09	43.5355/6.7663	Paragneiss	212/66 - S2b	257/43	S-L	2.385	0.891	0.47	S-L		
JG20-11	43.5454/6.8252	Orthogneiss	168/16 - S2a	166/17	L>S	2.927	0.619	0.552	L		
JG21-02	43.5301/6.7465	Orthogneiss	/	162/43	L	2.56	0.804	0.486	L>S	-0.2 - 0.4	S-L
JG21-03	43.5169/6.7543	Orthogneiss	/	209/27	L	2.826	0.61	0.58	L		
JG21-05A	43.5119/6.7877	Paragneiss	279/51 - S2a	02/03	L>S	2.3	0.858	0.507	L>S		
JG21-12	43.5384/6.7949	Orthogneiss	268/62 - S2b	209/33	L>S	1.378	0.872	0.832	L		
JG21-15	43.5612/6.7782	Orthogneiss	/	82/05	L	3.044	0.616	0.533	L		
JG21-16	43.5355/6.7617	Orthogneiss	/	215/11	L	2.627	0.685	0.556	L		
JG21-17	43.5816/6.9591	Cannes migmatite	/	355/37	L	2.132	0.694	0.676	L		
JG21-19	43.5669/6.9722	Cannes migmatite	/	347/20	L	2.177	0.752	0.611	L		
JG21-20	43.5616/6.9808	Cannes migmatite	/	13/28	L	3.694	0.679	0.399	L>S		
JG21-21	43.5568/7.0047	Cannes migmatite	261/89 - S2b	353/14	S-L	3.165	0.898	0.352	S-L		

1569

1570 **Table 1:** Finite strain ellipsoid data (Microstructural Ellipses Measurement and
 1571 corresponding AMS). Max(X), Int(Y), and Min(Z) represent the three principal axes
 1572 of the finite strain ellipsoids.