

Carbonation of mantle peridotites at the Atlantis Massif: Insights from IODP Expedition 357

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Key Points:

- A conceptual model places carbonate formation in a time frame with mafic intrusions and fluid heterogeneities during hydration of the AM
- CO₂ capture is limited in the shallower crust, concentrated around the active LCHF, but may be more extended in deeper circulation
- Magnesite and dolomite formed at high Mg/Ca ratios and zones of channelled flow in serpentinized peridotites at the Atlantis Massif

Abstract

Petrographic and major element investigations on carbonates from drill cores recovered during IODP Expedition 357 on the Atlantis Massif (AM) provide information on the genesis of carbonate minerals in the oceanic lithosphere. Textural sequences and mineralogical assemblages reveal three distinct types of carbonate occurrences in ultramafic rocks that are controlled by (i) fluid composition and flow, (ii) temperature of the system, and (iii) the presence of mafic intrusions. The first occurrence of carbonate consists of different generations of calcite that formed syn- to post- serpentinization. These calcites formed at temperatures between 30 and 185°C (based on clumped isotopes) and from a fluid influenced by interaction with mafic intrusions. The second occurrence consists of magnesite, dolomite, calcite and aragonite veins that also formed syn- to post serpentinization. These carbonates formed at temperatures between 4 and 188°C and from fluids with highly variable composition and Mg/Ca ratios, but overall high CO₂ and moderate SiO₂ concentrations. High FeO (3.3 wt%) and MnO (7.3 wt%) contents indicate high temperatures, high water/rock ratios, and low oxygen fugacity for both carbonate assemblages. The third occurrence consists solely of aragonite veins formed at low-temperatures (5°C) within the uplifted serpentinized peridotites. Chemical data suggest that aragonite precipitated from cold seawater, which underwent little exchange with the basement. Combining these observations, we propose a model that places different carbonate occurrences in a conceptual frame involving mafic intrusions in the peridotites and fluid heterogeneities during progressive exhumation and alteration of the AM.

1 Introduction

Mantle peridotites undergo hydrothermal alteration when exposed to aqueous fluids at mid-ocean ridges (MORs), continental margins, subduction zone fore-arcs, and ophiolites, which has significant consequences for the thermal structure and rheology of the oceanic lithosphere, geochemical budgets of the ocean, and microbial processes within and at the seafloor (e.g., Früh-Green et al., 2004; Kelley & Früh-Green, 2001; Lister, 1972; Proskurowski et al., 2006; Wheat & Mottl, 2004). Seawater circulation through the ocean crust occurs at rates such that circulation of the entire volume of the ocean through the oceanic crust requires less than 20 Myr (German & Von Damm, 2003; Wheat & Mottl, 2004). The resulting hydrothermal alteration of peridotites leads to the formation of hydrous silicates, oxides, sulfides and carbonates (e.g., Frost, 1985).

The mechanisms that drive carbonate precipitation have been a subject of study for many years (Frost, 1985; Greenwood, J., 1967; Hansen et al., 2005; Hess, 1933; Koons, 1981; Korzhinskii, 1959; Schandl & Naldrett, 1992; Trommsdorff & Evans, 1977). Carbonates can precipitate over a wide range of pressure and temperature conditions and in various settings. In shallow parts of the oceanic lithosphere, carbonates can form during conductive heating of seawater, conductive cooling of hydrothermal fluids, mixing of hydrothermal fluids with seawater, and metasomatic replacement reactions (e.g., Alt et al., 2013; Bach et al., 2011; Grozeva et al., 2017; Klein et al., 2015; Schroeder et al., 2015; Schwarzenbach, Früh-Green, et al., 2013). More recently, carbonate formation has received considerable attention as a means to sequester atmospheric CO₂ and reduce global warming (Kelemen et al., 2011; Seifritz, 1990). Previous studies indicate that 5 – 9% of the rocks exposed along slow- and ultraslow-spreading MORs consist of hydrothermally altered peridotite (Cannat et al., 2010; Carlson, 2001) that can host carbonates. This makes carbonate formation in ultramafic rocks a potentially significant sink for carbon in the shallow oceanic lithosphere, but one that remains poorly quantified.

Several field, experimental and theoretical studies have been conducted with the main focus on the carbonation of olivine to magnesite (Andreani et al., 2009; Bruni et al., 2002; Cipolli et al., 2004; Giammar et al., 2005; Hansen et al., 2005; Hövelmann et al., 2011; Kelemen & Matter, 2008; King et al., 2010; Klein & Garrido, 2011; Klein & McCollom, 2013; Lafay et al., 2014; Van Noort et al., 2013; Paukert et al., 2012; Peuble, Andreani, et al., 2015). Magnesite formation is a widespread alteration reaction of hydrothermally altered peridotites on land and can be found

mainly within ophiolites in orogenic belts and exhumed *mélange* rocks in paleo-subduction zones (Barnes et al., 1973; Beinlich et al., 2012; Bohlke, 1989; Boschi et al., 2009; Dabitzias, 1980; Falk & Kelemen, 2015; Hansen et al., 2005; Naldrett, 1966; Robinson et al., 2005; Schandl & Wicks, 1991; Spandler et al., 2008; Ulrich et al., 2014), or within highly serpentinized peridotites that have been affected by low-temperature alteration by Mg- and HCO₃-rich meteoric waters (Barnes & O’Neil, 1969; Bruni et al., 2002; Kelemen et al., 2011; Kelemen & Matter, 2008; Paukert et al., 2012; Schwarzenbach et al., 2016). However, magnesite precipitation in oceanic peridotites has only been described in a few studies (Gablina et al., 2006). Instead, aragonite, calcite and less commonly dolomite are reported from hydrated mafic and ultramafic rocks in oceanic settings (Bach et al., 2011; Bonatti et al., 1974; Eickmann, Bach, Rosner, et al., 2009; Kelemen et al., 2011; Ludwig et al., 2006; Schroeder et al., 2015; Schwarzenbach, Lang, et al., 2013). Hydration and alteration experiments with ultramafic rocks show that dolomite or magnesite do not precipitate even in supersaturated systems in which dolomite and magnesite formation is thermodynamically predicted (Grozeva et al., 2017; Hövelmann et al., 2011). Grozeva et al. (2017) assumed that the Mg/Ca ratio of the reacting fluid at the mineral scale ultimately controls whether magnesite, dolomite, or calcite forms in seafloor serpentinization systems. In contrast, Hövelmann et al. (2011) suggest that kinetic factors impede the formation of Mg-bearing carbonates relative to Ca-carbonates. It is known that during hydrothermal alteration of mantle peridotites, differences in fluid flow significantly change the local solution chemistry, which in turn affect carbonate formation. However, it remains unclear what factors directly control carbonate mineralogy in a natural system and what role fluid-rock interactions play during carbonate precipitation.

Here we present a study of serpentinized peridotites and metabasic rocks from the Atlantis Massif (AM) close to the Lost City Hydrothermal Field (LCHF) that were recovered during International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 357 (Früh-Green et al., 2017). The Lost City Hydrothermal Field located on the southern wall of the Atlantis Massif is considered an end-member for serpentinite-hosted, hydrothermally active systems at the slow-spreading Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR). It is an off-axis, low-temperature, peridotite-dominated submarine venting environment driven by seawater migration along deeply penetrating fault systems that facilitate hydration of the plutonic crust and serpentinization of the upper mantle (Kelley et al., 2001, 2005). Similar to other hydrothermal systems, the LCHF is characterized by fluids that are strongly enriched in Ca and depleted in Mg (e.g., Seyfried et al., 2015), whereby Ca is believed to be derived

from dissolution of pyroxene (Douville et al., 2002; Gamo et al., 2001; Kelley et al., 2005) or related to silica metasomatism of surrounding mafic domains (Berndt et al., 1989; Bischoff & Dickson, 1975). However, unlike fluids venting from unsedimented, basalt-hosted hydrothermal systems that are typically enriched in CO₂ (Von Damm et al., 1998; Lilley et al., 2003), the LCHF fluids are highly alkaline and depleted in CO₂, suggesting that they have lost oxidized carbon at depth, either due to metasomatic replacement of minerals or precipitation of carbonates (Proskurowski et al., 2008).

In this study, we investigated the carbonate population at the Atlantis Massif to constrain the composition and physico-chemical properties of the precipitating fluid (e.g., Bonatti et al., 1980; Eickmann, Bach, Rosner, et al., 2009; Früh-Green et al., 2003) and to better understand the hydrothermal evolution of the Atlantis Massif. We performed detailed analyses of the chemical and petrological characteristics of the carbonates within the basement, which highlight the complexity of this unique system and allow us to examine the crucial roles that protolith and fluid composition play in regulating carbonate formation during interaction of hydrothermal fluids and peridotite.

2 Geological setting and sampling

The Atlantis Massif, located at 30°N along the slow-spreading Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR), is a 1.5-2 Myr old, dome-like massif forming the inside corner of the intersection between the MAR and the Atlantis Transform Fault (ATF) (Figure 1). The massif is interpreted as an oceanic core complex (OCC), comprised of lower crustal and upper mantle rocks that were uplifted and exposed by long-lived, low-angle detachment faulting (Blackman et al., 1998, 2002; Cann et al., 1997; Karson et al., 2006). Three lithologic domains can be distinguished: the corrugated central dome comprising mafic rocks ranging from olivine-rich troctolites to oxide gabbros; the variably altered peridotite-dominated southern wall with intermittent mafic plutonic intrusions, which is part of the Southern Ridge and defines the edge of the ATF; and the eastern basaltic block, which is interpreted as the hanging wall of the OCC. The summit peak rises to depths of less than 750 m and is located about midway along the length of the Southern Ridge. The top of the massif is covered by pelagic sediments, rubble, and sedimentary breccias (Blackman et al., 2002; Boschi et al., 2006; Früh-Green et al., 2003; Karson et al., 2006; Schroeder et al., 2002).

The Lost City Hydrothermal Field is located on a fault-bounded terrace just below the top of the southern wall near the summit. It is composed of numerous active and inactive, up to 60 m tall, carbonate-brucite chimneys that vent low-temperature (40 - 95°C), alkaline (pH 9 - 11) fluids (Kelley et al., 2001, 2005; Ludwig et al., 2006; Seyfried et al., 2015). The vent fluids are characterized by low silica, metal and CO₂ concentrations and high CH₄ (1 - 2 mmol/kg), H₂ (up to 15 mmol/kg), Ca (~30 mmol/kg), and low-molecular-weight hydrocarbons concentrations. Hydrothermal circulation is believed to be driven by residual crustal heat and lithosphere cooling, with the composition of the fluids controlled by subsurface serpentinization reactions in the underlying mantle rocks. The hydrothermal activity has been on-going for at least 30,000 years (Früh-Green et al., 2003; Kelley et al., 2001, 2005) and subsequent U - Th analyses indicated that this is a minimum age as some of the carbonate deposits yielded ages of up to 120,000 years (Ludwig et al., 2011).

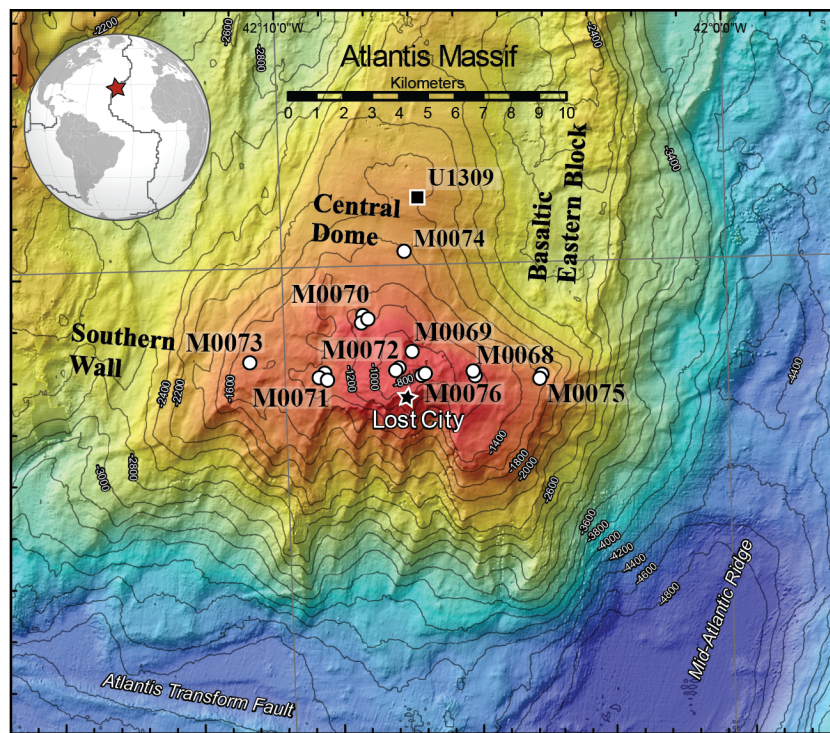


Figure 1. Map of the Atlantis Massif, located at the inside corner of the intersection between the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Atlantis Transform Fault, showing the locations of the study sites (M0068, M0069, M0070, M0071, M0072, M0073, M0074, M0075, M0076) drilled during IODP Expedition 357 (Früh-Green et al., 2017). The black square indicates IODP Site U1309 (IODP

Expeditions 304 and 305, Blackman et al., 2006). The black star indicates the location of the Lost City Hydrothermal Field (Kelley et al., 2001).

2.1 IODP Expedition 357

IODP Expedition 357 drilled seventeen shallow boreholes (from 1.3 mbsf to maximum 16.4 mbsf) at nine sites along an east-west trending transect across the Atlantis Massif (Figure 1). Two sites are on the eastern end of the southern wall (Sites M0068 and M0075), three along the centre of the southern wall north of the LCHF (Sites M0069, M0072, and M0076), two on the western end (Sites M0071 and M0073), and two north of the southern wall (Sites M0070 and M0074) in the direction of the central dome of the massif and Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Site U1309. Overall, the recovered ultramafic rocks reveal a high and heterogeneous degree of serpentinization, as well as metasomatic talc-amphibole-chlorite overprinting and local rodingitization (Früh-Green et al., 2017, 2018). Contacts between ultramafic rocks and gabbroic domains are marked by silica metasomatism with the appearance of talc, tremolite and chlorite (central IODP Holes M0068B, M0072B and M0076B) in part replacing pyroxenes, which indicates that hydration at some sites may have started at temperatures in the range of 400 - 500°C and that pyroxene alteration pre-dates the onset of serpentinization (Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018; Schroeder & John, 2004). Field and geophysical studies estimated that at least ~20 % of the massif is completely serpentinized (Detrick & Collins, 1998; Früh-Green et al., 2003; Nooner et al., 2003), whereby two main stages dominate serpentinization. All harzburgites and dunites have undergone an initial stage of pervasive serpentinization, at 200 - 350°C (Boschi et al., 2008; Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018; Rouméjon, Williams, et al., 2018). The second stage of serpentinization is dominated by localized fluid pathways and more focused and intense fluid-rock interaction leading to recrystallization and vein formation dominated by chrysotile or antigorite (Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018).

This study focuses mainly on the five sites containing altered peridotite (Sites M0071, M0072, M0069, M0076 and M0068, Figure 2). The four remaining sites include foraminifera-bearing carbonate ooze, rubble blocks of variable lithologies and sedimentary breccia with volcanic clasts and carbonate sediments (Früh-Green et al., 2017). The sites considered here have a core recovery ranging between 30 % (Hole M0071C) and 75 % (Hole M0069A), with an average

recovery of 58 %. Drill cores of IODP Expedition 357 are described in detail in Fröh-Green et al. (2017, 2018, supplementary material), and Rouméjon, Fröh-Green, et al. (2018, supplementary material).

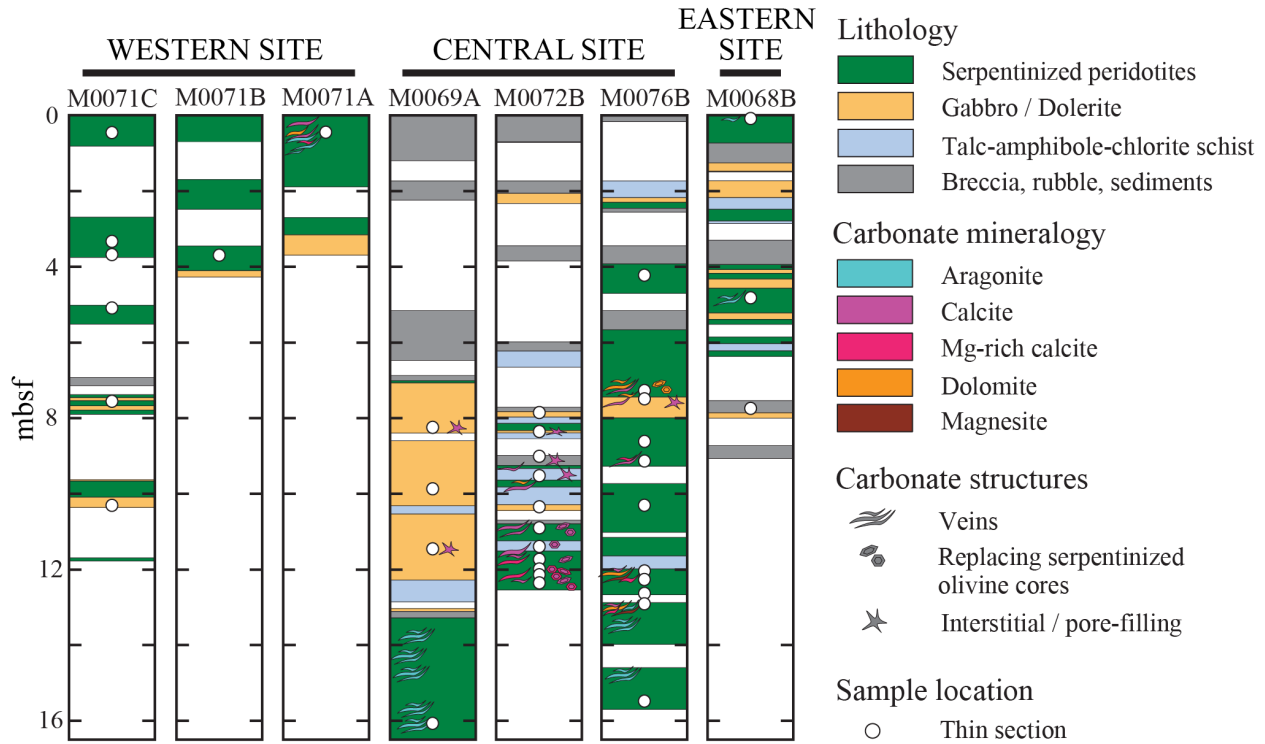


Figure 2. Simplified downhole logs of the dominant lithologies recovered in the seven holes containing serpentinized peridotites. The western and eastern sites exhibit rubbly intervals and sedimentary structures pointing to a mass-wasting origin and local faulting. The central sites represent in-situ portions of the detachment footwall (Fröh-Green et al., 2017; Rouméjon et al., 2018a). Serpentinized peridotites from Hole M0071A, M0069A and M0068B are dominated by aragonite veins. In contrast, serpentinites from Hole M0072B have dominantly calcite and Mg-rich calcite occurring in veins and serpentinized olivine cores, and one dolomite vein. Hole M0076B is the only hole that exhibits aragonite, calcite, Mg-rich calcite, dolomite and magnesite

veins, as well as dolomite in serpentinized olivine cores. The 37 white dots indicate locations of thin section samples.

3 Analytical methods

Petrographic investigations were made on 37 double-sided, polished thin sections of representative samples distributed over five sites (7 holes), covering the diversity of rock types and alteration textures. The sample-set consists of 24 peridotites (21 harzburgites and 3 dunites), nine mafic rocks (4 gabbroic rocks, 5 doleritic rocks), two talc-amphibole \pm chlorite schists and two brecciated samples. Sample locations within the drill holes are indicated in Figure 2, together with a simplified lithostratigraphy and location of identified carbonate occurrences. Samples are named according to the IODP style guide: Expedition_Drilling-Platform, Site, Hole_Core, Coretype_Section_Interval in cm; (e.g., 357_M0076B_9R_1_5-9, Table 1). For simplicity, we have removed the expedition and drilling platform information that remains the same for all investigated samples (e.g., 76B_9R_1_5-9). We use clumped isotope data and radiocarbon ages from a parallel study that investigates the identical set of carbonate veins (Ternieten et al., in prep.).

3.1 Powder X-ray diffraction

For mineralogical identification of carbonate veins, rock samples were cleaned with 2-propanol and compressed air. In the first step, the surfaces of the veins were removed and discarded, followed by sampling of the veins. The carbonate powder was homogenized by hand using an agate mortar previously cleaned with dichloromethane (DCM). Crystallographic analyses were made using a Bruker AXS D8 Advance Powder X-ray Diffractometer (XRD) equipped with a Lynxeye superspeed detector (Bruker Corporation, Billerica, United States) with Cu K α X-ray radiation 2θ ranging between 10° to 60° , a voltage of 45 kV and a current of 40 mA, step size of 0.01° , and measurement time of 1 s per step. Quantification of the mineralogy of powdered samples was carried out using the program PowDII (Kourkouvelis, 2013) and the RRUFF database (Lafuente et al., 2015).

3.2 Optical and electron microscopy

Petrographic analyses were conducted using a polarizing microscope (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, Germany) on polished thin-sections. Characterization, distribution and textures of carbonates on polished thin-sections were conducted using a cold cathode cathodoluminescence (CL) CL8200 Mk5-2 (Cambridge Image Technology Ltd, Hertfordshire, UK) with a Nikon microscope (Nikon, Japan) interfaced with a Zeiss AxioCam camera (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Göttingen, Germany). Operation conditions were set at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV with a beam current of 250 to 300 μ A.

Major element composition of selected carbonates was determined using a five-spectrometer JEOL JXA-8200 and JEOL JXA-8230 Electron Probe Microanalyser (EPMA) (JEOL, Akishima, Japan) operating in wavelength-dispersion mode with an accelerating voltage of 15 kV and a current of 10 nA to 5 nA. EPMA analyses were carried out on polished and carbon-coated thin sections. Beam diameter was 10 μ m, 5 μ m and 2 μ m, and count times varied from 20 to 60 s per element. The program Probe for EPMA (Probe Software Inc., Eugene, United States) was used along with the time-dependent intensity (TDI) correction to counteract the effect of beam damage when a drift in the intensity was observed. The mean atomic number background correction was used to correct for the background (Donovan et al., 2016; Donovan & Tingle, 1996). Elements analyzed are Si, Mg, Al, Ba, Ca, Fe, Mn and Sr calculated based on a set of natural and synthetic standards. For most elements with concentrations > 1 wt%, average precision is better than 1 %, and the average accuracy is better than 2 %. The data are quoted as oxide-weight per cent. Analyses of phases that yielded SiO₂ concentrations above 0.1 wt% have been excluded from our study, as they likely reflect mixed phases with surrounding serpentine or other silicate minerals. Because crystal size was commonly very small, it is difficult to obtain good analyses by electron microprobe, and twenty-three analyses of dolomite, replacing the cores of olivine crystals, with SiO₂ < 4 wt%, are included here.

Table 1. Carbonate occurrences and mineralogy in ultramafic and mafic rocks from the southern wall of the Atlantis Massif.

Sample	Site	Core Hole	Section	Interval (cm)		Depth (mbsf)		Type of the rock	Carbonate occurrences	Carbonate mineralogy
				top	bot.	top	bot.			
71A-1R1-02	71	A	1	45	48	0.45	0.48	Serpentinized dunite	carb vein	arg, cc IIa, cc IIb, dol
71B-3R1-02	71	B	3	27	29	3.71	3.73	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-1R1-01	71	C	1	46	50	0.46	0.50	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-2R1-01	71	C	2	67	77	3.35	3.45	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-2RCC-01	71	C	2	5	9	3.70	3.74	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-3R1-02	71	C	3	10	13	5.12	5.15	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-5R1-01	71	C	5	20	23	7.58	7.61	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
71C-6R1-03.3	71	C	6	70	74	10.33	10.37	Dolerite	-	-
69A-5R1-01.3	69	A	5	137	151	8.25	8.39	Metadolerite	inter. carb	cc*
69A-6R1-01	69	A	6	127	130	9.87	9.90	Metadolerite	-	-
69A-8R1-01	69	A	8	14	18	11.46	11.50	Metadolerite	inter. carb	cc*
69A-10R2-01	69	A	10	14	16	16.08	16.10	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein	arg
72B-6R1-01	72	B	6	15	18	7.86	7.89	Rodingitized gabbro	-	-
72B-6R1-02	72	B	6	66	68	8.37	8.39	Rodingitized dolerite	inter. carb	cc
72B-7R1-01	72	B	7	3	5	9.02	9.04	Talc/amphi./chlorite schist	inter. carb	cc*
72B-7R1-03	72	B	7	55	58	9.54	9.57	Talc/amphi./chlorite schist	inter. carb	cc*
72B-7RCC-01	72	B	7	9	13	10.38	10.42	Rodingitized gabbro	-	-
72B-8R1-01	72	B	8	19	22	10.90	10.93	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein, repl. core	cc IIb
72B-8R1-02	72	B	8	69	72	11.40	11.43	Talc/amphi./schist & serp. harzburgite	carb vein, repl. core	cc IIb
72B-8R2-01	72	B	8	26	30	11.77	11.81	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein, repl. core	cc I, cc IIa, cc IIb
72B-8R2-02	72	B	8	50	51	12.00	12.02	Serpentinized harzburgite	repl. core	cc*, mg-cc*
72B-8R2-03	72	B	8	67	70	12.18	12.20	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein, repl. core	cc I, cc IIa, cc IIb
72B-8RCC-01.3	72	B	8	0	5	12.28	12.33	Serpentinized harzburgite	repl. core	cc IIa, cc IIb
76B-3R1-01	76	B	3	78	83	4.22	4.27	Serpentinized dunite	-	-
76B-5R1-05	76	B	5	55	59	7.28	7.32	Serpentinized dunite	carb vein, repl. core	cc III, dol
76B-5R1-06	76	B	5	77	80	7.50	7.53	Metagabbro	carb vein, inter. carb	cc
76B-6R1-01	76	B	6	63	65	8.61	8.63	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
76B-6R1-02	76	B	6	118	122	9.16	9.20	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein	cc IIa, cc IIb
76B-7R1-01	76	B	7	60	62	10.32	10.34	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
76B-8R1-01	76	B	8	90	94	12.05	12.09	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
76B-8R1-02	76	B	8	112	117	12.27	12.32	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein	cc III, cc IIb, dol, mgs
76B-8R1-03	76	B	8	148	151	12.63	12.66	Serpentinized harzburgite	-	-
76B-9R1-01	76	B	9	5	9	12.92	12.96	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein	arg, cc III, cc IIb, dol, mgs
76B-10R1-03.3	76	B	10	91	111	15.50	15.70	Metagabbro	-	-
68B-1R1-01	68	B	1	10	13	0.10	0.13	Serpentinized harzburgite	carb vein	arg*
68B-4R1-01	68	B	4	84	87	4.84	4.87	Serpentinized dunite	-	-
68B-7R1-01.1	68	B	7	3	5	7.60	7.62	Serpentinized dunite	-	-

* Carbonate mineralogy based on optical and cathodoluminescence microscopy
 arg = aragonite, cc = calcite, mg-cc = Mg-rich calcite, dol = dolomite, mgs = magnesite; carb vein = carbonates precipitated in veins, repl. core = carbonates replacing the cores of complete serpentinized olivine, inter. carb = interstitial carbonates

4 Results

4.1 Host Rocks

The carbonate veins are hosted in ultramafic, mafic, and clastic sedimentary rocks. Cores from the northwestern (M0071) and most eastern sites (M0068) contain varying proportions of ultramafic-, mafic and sedimentary domains that have been interpreted as originating from mass-wasting and local faulting processes (Früh-Green et al., 2017; Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018). Ultramafic and mafic host rocks were recovered from the central part of the southern wall (IODP Sites M0069, M0072, M0076) and are described as *in-situ* portions of the AM indicated by coherent, decimeter- to meter-long sections of cores, as well as consistent structural measurements (Früh-Green et al., 2017, 2018) (Figure 2 and 3a-c). The central sites also make up the deepest boreholes, and the following discussion mainly focuses on observations from these cores.

Modal proportions of primary minerals in the peridotites range from 60 % – 100 % olivine, 0 % – 40 % pyroxene (including minor clinopyroxene), and <1 % – 2 % spinel (Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018), however some serpentized peridotites from Site M0072 have as much as 5 to 8 vol% magnetite and differ considerably from other typical ultramafic domains (Figure 3a). Metamorphosed gabbroic and doleritic intrusions are largely altered to tremolite, chlorite, and/or talc, which locally overprint the serpentization textures. The ultramafic samples are characterized by complex networks of distinct generations of carbonate veins filled with aragonite, calcite, dolomite and/or magnesite.

4.2 Carbonate occurrences

Carbonates in the basement of the southern wall occur as (i) interstitial carbonates, (ii) carbonates replacing fully serpentized olivine cores, and (iii) carbonate veins (Table 1 and Figure 2). Carbonate veins were observed in both mafic and ultramafic rocks. Interstitial carbonates were only observed in mafic rocks, and carbonates in olivine cores were only found within serpentized peridotites. Interstitial carbonates are typically found in metadolerites, talc-amphibole \pm chlorite schists and metagabbro. Calcite is the only carbonate phase and has grain sizes < 20 μm , except for one metagabbro with carbonate grains < 0.1 mm (Figure 3b and d). Interstitial carbonates are limited to the central sites at the southern wall (M0069, M0072, M0076). Carbonates replacing the core of olivine are dominantly calcite and rarely dolomite and have an average grain size < 50 μm .

269 (Figure 3e - f). Calcite within the crystal cores is restricted to Site M0072 and can occur as one or
 270 two generations in the same sample, whereas dolomite is limited to samples from Site M0076.

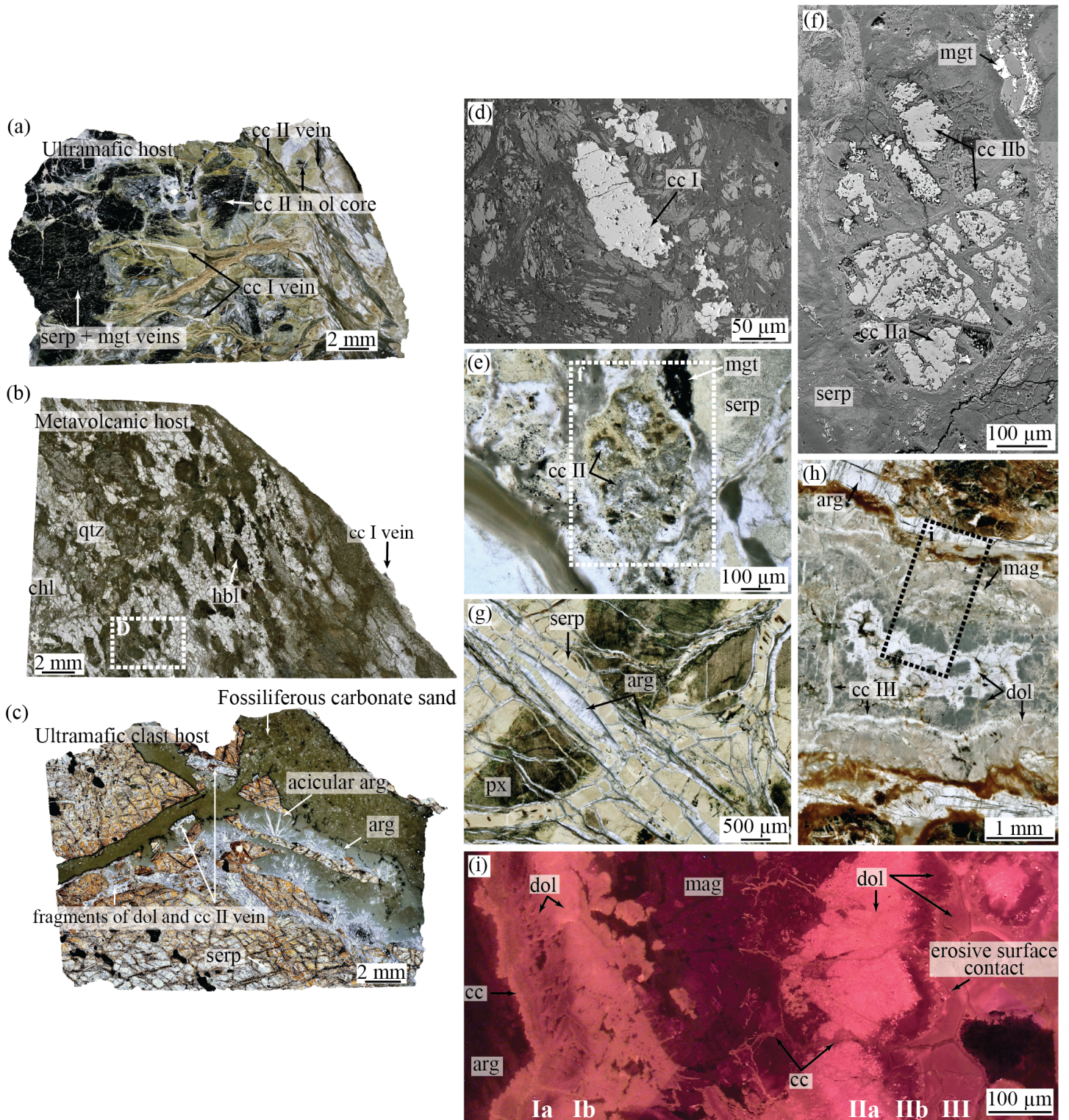


Figure 3. Characteristic petrologic features of host lithologies and carbonates. (a) Thin section scan of fully serpentinized harzburgite with increased magnetite content, calcite I and II veins, and calcite II in olivine cores. Two calcite I veins are cut by later serpentinite vein (72B_8R_2_67-69.5). (b) Thin section scan of metagabbroic host rock with calcite I vein and interstitial calcite I (76B_5R_1_77-80, close-up in Fig. 3d). (c) Thin section scan of fully serpentinized dunite clast hosting fragments of dolomite and calcite II veins, and aragonite with acicular growth within the fossiliferous carbonate sand (71A_1R_1_45-48). (d) Interstitial calcite in metagabbroic sample from Fig.3b (BSE image). (e) Calcite II replaced fully serpentinized olivine (PPL, 72B_8R_CC_0-5, close-up in Fig. 3f). (f) Calcite IIa and IIb in olivine core (BSE image). (g) A network of fibrous aragonite veins crosscut all other textures in the ultramafic host rock (PPL, 69A_10R_2_14-16). (h) Overview of a multigeneration dolomite vein in the ultramafic rock crosscut by later calcite III (PPL, 76B_9R_1_5-9, close-up in Fig. 3i). (i) CL-image of the dolomite vein of Fig. 3h containing multiple generations of dolomite, marked by Roman numerals, and other carbonate phases. Abbreviations: Arg, aragonite; cc, calcite; chl, chlorite; dol, dolomite; hbl, hornblende; mgs, magnesite; mgt, magnetite; serp, serpentine; qtz, quartz.

4.2.1 Carbonate veins

Veins are the most abundant carbonate occurrence in the Atlantis Massif basement and tend to be concentrated in the central drill sites closest to the LCHF (M0069, M0072, M0076) (Figure 2). The carbonate veins typically dissect grain boundaries, have kinked to irregular shapes, and show crosscutting or more rarely branching geometries. They are less than 1 cm wide and are mainly hosted by variably serpentinized peridotites and crosscut most other textures, indicating a late formation stage (Figure 3g, 4a). The abundance of carbonate veins is highly variable and can be as low as one vein or make up to half of a hand sample (~ 40 vol%) as in some ultramafic rocks from Site M0076. The veins are composed of aragonite, calcite, dolomite and magnesite in variable proportions.

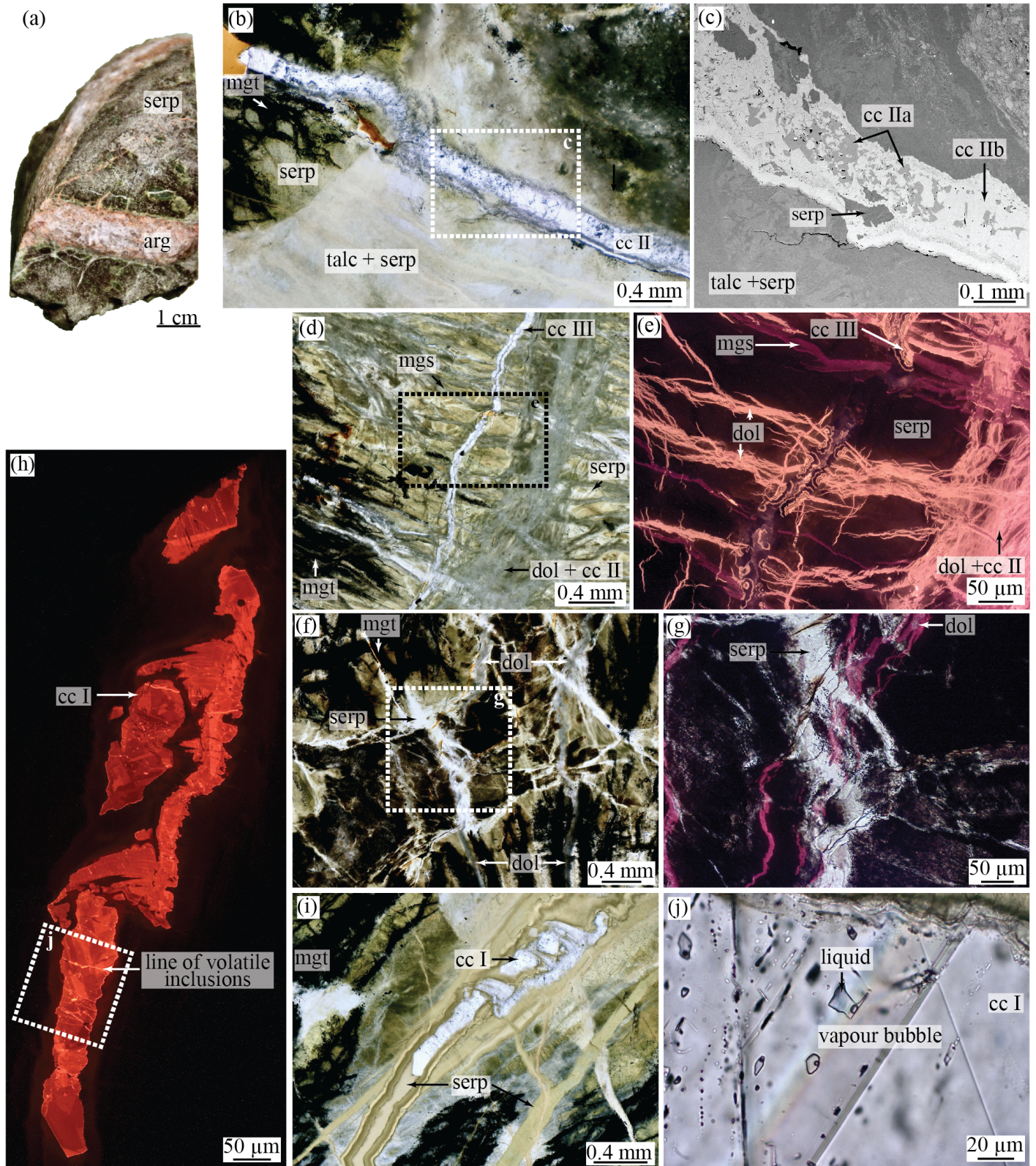


Figure 4. Sample pictures and photomicrographs of carbonates. (a) Late microcrystalline aragonite vein in serpentinized harzburgite (76B_9R_1_70-73). (b) Calcite II vein in serpentinized dunite (PPL, 72B_8R_2_26-30, close-up in Fig. 4c). (c) Calcite IIa + IIb vein with straight crystal contacts from Fig. 4b (BSE image). (d) A network of magnesite, dolomite and calcite II veins cut by radial growth calcite III (PPL, 76B_8R_1_112-117). (e) CL- image of the carbonate network of Fig. 4d. (f) Dolomite veins in serpentinized harzburgite crosscut by serpentine veins (PPL, 76B_5R_1_55-59, close-up in Fig. 4g). (g) Dolomite vein crosscut by serpentine from Fig. 4f (PPL + CL). (h) CL- image of highly deformed calcite I vein with several lines of secondary fluid inclusions of Fig. 4i (72B_8R_2_26-30, close-up in Fig. 4j). (i) Calcite I vein in serpentinized dunite of Fig 4h (PPL). (j) Multiple secondary fluid inclusions in calcite I vein with small vapour phases of Fig. 5h (PPL). Abbreviations: Cc, calcite; dol, dolomite; mgs, magnesite; mgt, magnetite; serp, serpentine.

In half of the samples, at least two generations of carbonates coexist in the same vein, whereby two samples 76B_8R_1_112-117 and 76B_9R_1_5-9 show at least four different generations (Figure 3h - i, 4b - c, and 5). The altered mafic rocks are devoid of carbonate veins, except for sample 76B_5R_1_77-80 that contains a narrow ($< 50 \mu\text{m}$) vein of calcite on the outside of the sampled rock piece (Figure 3b). Serpentinites show the highest textural variability of carbonate veins at the AM.

Magnesite, dolomite, and calcite veins are a few mm wide (Figure 3a, h - i, and 4b - i) and occur mainly at the central Sites M0072 and M0076, except for one calcite/dolomite vein, found in a sedimentary breccia on top of Hole M0071A (71A_1R_1_45-48, Fig. 3c). Magnesite veins are the least frequent, occurring exclusively in association with dolomite and limited to the deeper sections of Hole M0076B ($> 12 \text{ mbsf}$). Crosscutting relationships indicate that most magnesites pre-date all other carbonates (Figure 4d - e). Dolomite veins are more common at Site M0076; they are $< 5 \text{ mm}$ wide and precipitated at the rim of multiphase veins or are cut by serpentine + magnetite veins, suggesting an early stage of formation (Figure 3h - i, 4f - g). They differ from the other veins in that they are sometimes formed by multiple generations of dolomite with partly dissolved surfaces and pitted textures (Figure 3i and 5).

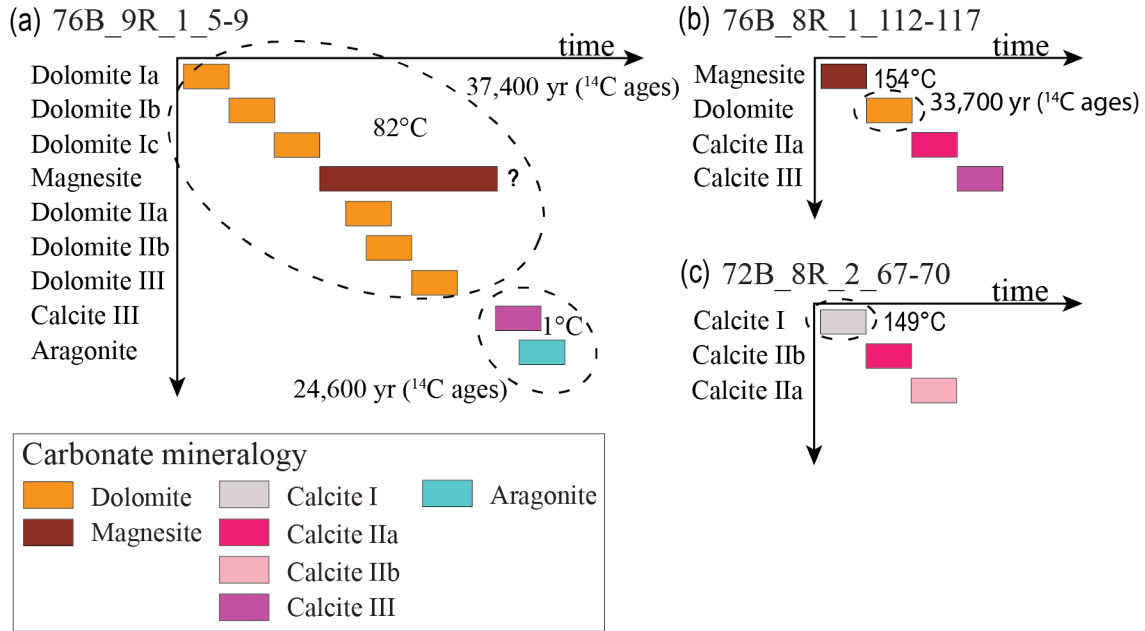


Figure 5. Simplified time log of carbonate vein formation of (a) 76B_9R_1_5-9, (b) 76B_8R_1_112-117 and (c) 72B_8R_2_67-70, based on cold cathodoluminescence microscopy. The Roman numerals (I to III) indicate different generations, letters (a to c) indicate a change in chemical composition or texture. Different generations occur intergrown, with erosive surface contacts or straight crystal contacts; clumped isotope temperatures of carbonate formation and radiocarbon age data from Ternieten et al. (in prep.).

Calcite veins are most common at Site M0072, showing the highest textural variability, and often occur as two distinct generations within the same vein. At Site M0072, they constitute the earliest carbonate generation with intergrown or straight crystal contacts to the surrounding minerals (Figure 4b - c). Locally calcite veins are intergrown with serpentine; these are highly deformed and exhibit secondary fluid inclusions, suggesting an earlier formation stage (Figure 3a, 4h - j). The fluid inclusions are composed of an aqueous liquid and a small vapour phase suggesting formation temperatures below 100°C. These veins are limited to the deeper section (> 11 mbsf) at Hole M0072B. In two samples from Site M0076 (76B_5R_1_55-59, 76B_8R_1_112-117), calcite shows botryoidal textures (Figure 4d - e), which is indicative of growth in open fractures.

The most abundant and volumetrically dominant carbonate type are up to 1 cm wide aragonite veins that are observed throughout the ultramafic rocks at Hole M0069A, in the deeper section of Hole M0076B (> 13 mbsf), in the top cores from Holes M0071A and M0068B, and on the altered surface of a deeper sample from Hole M0068B (Figure 2). The aragonite veins crosscut the primary rock fabric (Figure 3g and 4a), also postdate all secondary fabrics and are the last to be formed. Vein aragonite displays three distinct crystal habits: fibrous crystals, acicular crystals, and microcrystalline aragonite (Figure 3c and g, and 4a). The long axes of acicular crystals growing into open spaces and the fibrous crystals are preferentially oriented vertical to the walls of the veins.

4.3 Carbonate chemistry

A significant observation in the basement rocks is the high variability in composition and distribution of carbonate phases and the presence of distinct generations of carbonates within one sample and/or vein at Holes M0072B and M0076B. The carbonates have distinctly different Fe, Mn, Sr and Mg concentrations which allow distinguishing different generations and indicate local variations in fluid chemistry. Representative chemical analyses of all carbonate phases are presented in Table 2.

Carbonates in the altered mafic rocks exhibit a limited range of major element compositions. Interstitial calcites have negligible MgO, and FeO and MnO concentrations that vary from 0 to 0.3 wt% and from 0 to 0.1 wt%, respectively. The single identified calcite vein within the mafic rock samples only differs slightly by higher MgO concentration of 2.4 to 3.2 wt%, but also shows FeO and MnO concentration < 0.1 wt% (Table 2). In contrast, the carbonates within the serpentinized ultramafic rocks show greater textural and chemical variations. Magnesite veins have FeO concentrations ranging from 0.6 to 1.3 wt% and MnO concentrations from 2.4 to 4.1 wt% (Fig. 6a - b). These FeO and MnO patterns are within the range of dolomite and calcite compositions. The dolomite veins have slightly more variable FeO and MnO concentrations compared to magnesite and lower FeO compared to calcites (FeO = 0 to 0.9 wt%, MnO = 0 to 6.0 wt%, Fig. 6a - b). Sample 76B_9R_1_5-9, which contains a multiphase dolomite vein (Figure 3h - i), has distinctly higher MnO contents at the rim compared to the centre ($\text{MnO}_{\text{rim}} = 6.0$ wt%, $\text{MnO}_{\text{centre}} = 3.0$ wt%; Fig. 6b).

[illegible]

Abbreviation: repl. core = carbonates replacing cores of complete serpentinized olivines

The calcite veins show pronounced variations in Mg, Fe and Mn and, in combination with petrographic observations, can be classified into three groups. Calcite I is almost pure CaCO_3 ; it constitutes the earliest carbonate phase and the only phase where we observed fluid inclusions (see section 4.2.1). They have low SrO, MgO, FeO and MnO concentrations of < 0.2 wt%, which is similar to the interstitial calcites observed within the mafic rocks and distinguish them from other calcites within the ultramafic lithologies (Figure 7a and c). The most common calcites, especially at Site M0072, are classified as calcite II. Two subgroups can be distinguished based on the Mg concentration: Calcite IIa with $\text{MgO} > 11.9$ wt%, and calcite IIb with $\text{MgO} < 7.3$ wt%. FeO and MnO contents vary from 0 to 3.3 wt% and from 0 to 7.3 wt%, respectively (Figure 7a - d). Calcite IIa also shows higher Fe and Mn concentrations than calcite IIb in some samples at Site M0072, whereas such distinct variations between the subgroups were not observed at Site M0076. The subgroups show no unique chronology, and depending on the location, either calcite IIa or calcite IIb represents the earlier phase. Calcite III veins are defined by concentrations of MgO of 2.2 to 6.3 wt%, FeO of < 0.2 wt%, and a wide range of MnO contents from 0 to 3.6 wt%. They are limited to Site M0076 and are the more common calcite type at this site where they represent the last or one of the latest carbonate phases, often occurring within open fractures as botryoidal crystals (Figure 4d - e, 5 and 7b and d). Aragonites throughout all cores have uniform compositions with MgO and MnO below the detection limit, only minor FeO concentrations < 0.1 wt% and variable to high SrO concentrations (0.4 - 2.5 wt%, Table 2). In comparison, all other carbonate phases have SrO concentrations of less than 0.2 wt%.

The major element patterns of carbonates replacing fully serpentinized olivine cores are indistinguishable from the vein carbonates. Calcite IIa and IIb that replace olivine and/or serpentine show Fe and MnO contents from 0.2 to 2.0 wt% and 0.8 to 7.3 wt%, respectively, with calcite IIa showing the highest MnO concentrations (> 2.7 wt%). This is similar to calcite IIa in the veins; however, a distinct separation between the calcite subgroups based on their FeO content cannot be made (Figure 7e - f). No calcite I or calcite III were identified replacing olivine cores and or serpentine. The dolomites replacing olivine have a uniform and much lower manganese concentrations than the replacive calcites ($\text{MnO} = 1.7$ to 2.3 wt%). FeO contents vary from 0.4 to 1.1 wt%, which is within the same range as dolomite occurring in veins (Table 2).

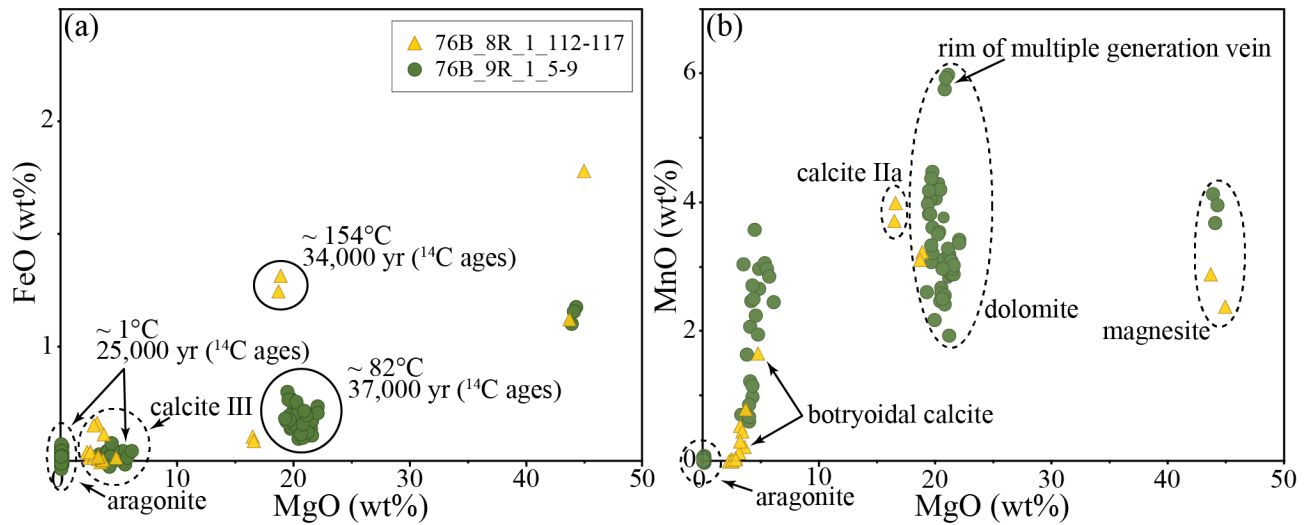


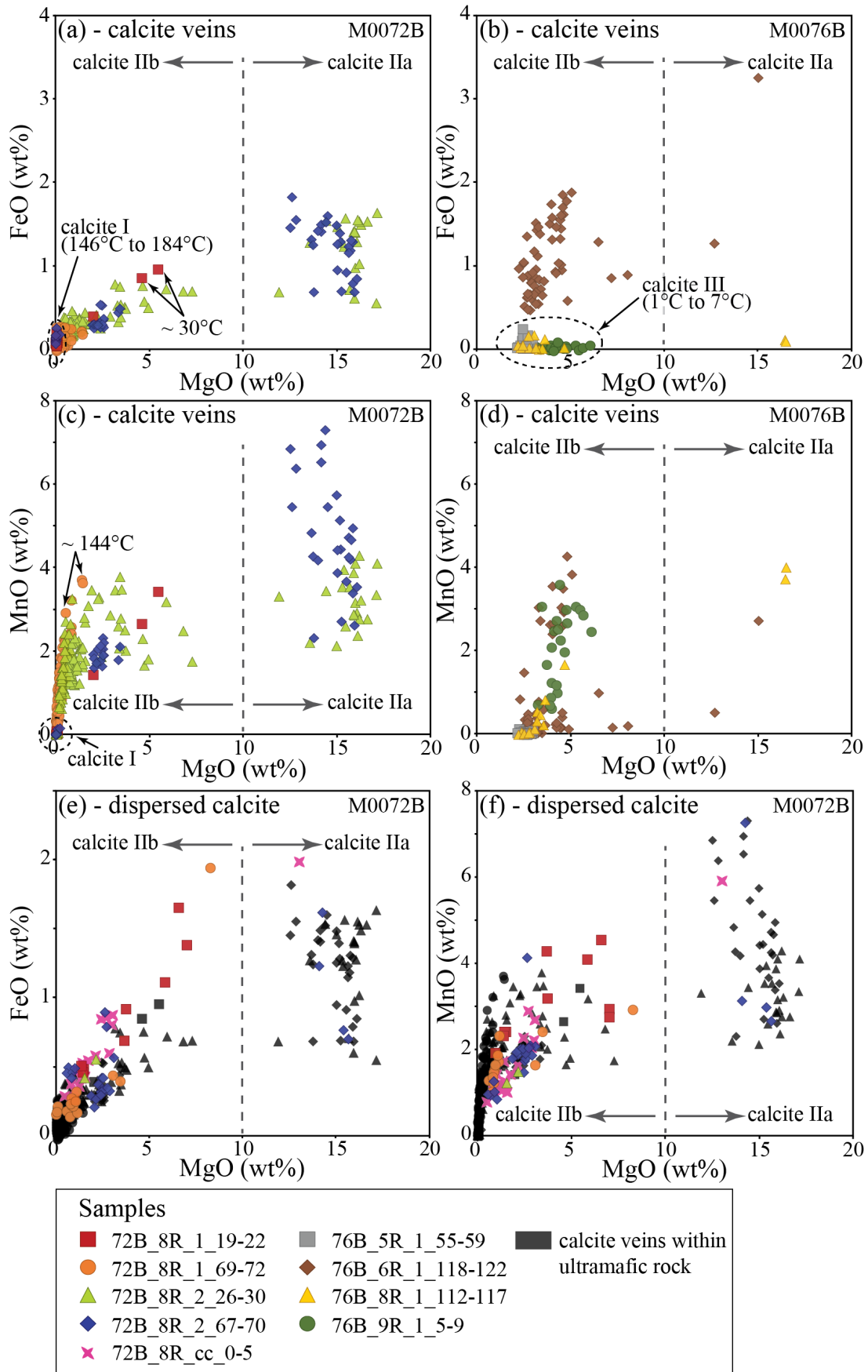
Figure 6. Variations in (a) FeO versus MgO content and (b) MnO versus MgO content of carbonate veins hosted by serpentinized peridotites from two samples of Hole M0076B from the southern wall at the Atlantis Massif (76B_8R_1_112-117, 76B_9R_1_5-9). The ultramafic rocks show a diverse assemblage of carbonate phases in one sample (aragonite, calcite, dolomite, magnesite). Pictures of the samples in Fig. 3h and i, and Fig. 4d and e. Clumped isotope temperatures of carbonate formation and radiocarbon age data from Ternieten et al. (in prep).

4.3.1 Carbonate generations

Cathodoluminescence (CL) in carbonates results from trace-element substitution for Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} and is the most suitable method to identify different carbonate generations with only minor chemical variations. Although various trace elements are capable of influencing carbonate CL (Machel, 1985), the ion Mn^{2+} is the most critical “activator”, and Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Ni^{2+} , and Co^{2+} are common “quenchers” (Götze, 2012). The intensity and colour of luminescence are dependent on the relative proportions of Mn and Fe (Barnaby & Rimstidt, 1989). Additionally, the stimulated luminescence bands depend on the position in the crystal structure in which the Mn^{2+} ion is integrated (Mg^{2+} or Ca^{2+} position) (Götze, 2012). Thus, the same MnO content can result in different CL. This is particularly well illustrated in Figure 5, which shows simplified time logs of carbonate vein formation of three different samples based on CL investigations. Six carbonate generations with dolomite, magnesite, calcite III, and aragonite (Figure 5a) were identified in

Sample 76B_9R_1_5-9 (Figure 3h - i). Dolomite is characterized by multiple generations within a single vein, and we identified three generations with partial dissolution and pitted textures between them and separated by magnesite precipitation. Dolomite veins from this sample showed significant variations in the MnO content ($\text{MnO}_{\text{dol}} = 1.9$ to 6.0 wt%) and only a limited range of FeO from 0.1 to 0.3 wt%, which makes variations in Mn^{2+} concentration the most likely cause for the differences in luminescence (Figure 6a - b). Sample 76B_8R_1_112-117 (Figure 4d - e) contains four different generations with magnesite, dolomite, calcite IIa and calcite III (Figure 5b). Similar to sample 76B_9R_1_5-9, dolomite is the volumetrically dominant carbonate phase in this sample; however, the vein network is much finer, and no distinct generations within the dolomite can be identified. This coincides with homogeneous MnO and FeO content of the dolomite (Figure 6a - b). However, both samples show a decrease in the FeO content with time from 0.6 to 1.0 wt% in the earliest generations of magnesite to < 0.1 wt% in the latest aragonites and calcite III. Sample 72B_8R_2_67-70 (Figure 3a) is representative for Hole M0072B and contains three generations of calcite: calcite I, calcite IIa, calcite IIb (Figure 5c). The different generations observed by CL are also reflected by distinct major element compositions (Figure 7a and c). In addition, calcite IIa and IIb show a decreasing FeO content with time from $\text{FeO}_{\text{cc IIa}} = 1.2$ wt% to $\text{FeO}_{\text{cc IIb}} = 0.3$ wt%, similar to samples from Hole M0076B.

Figure 7. Variations in FeO and MnO versus MgO content of calcite veins hosted by serpentinized peridotites from the southern wall at the Atlantis Massif of (a and c) Hole M0072B and (b and d) Hole M0076B, and of carbonates replacing fully serpentinized serpentine olivine cores from Hole M0072B (e and f). Clumped isotope temperatures of carbonate formation from Ternieten et al. (in prep). The dashed lines mark the difference between calcite IIa and IIb. Black symbols in figure (e and f) represent the chemical composition of calcite veins from the same sample.



5 Discussion

Carbonation reactions in serpentinized peridotites are controlled by temperature, protolith composition and activities of dissolved constituents, and are particularly influenced by fluctuations in $a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ and $a\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$. Figure 8 shows two activity-activity diagrams depicting phase relations in the MgO-CaO-SiO₂-H₂O-CO₂ system. It has long been recognized that serpentinized peridotites are highly reactive in the presence of dissolved CO₂ (Johannes, 1967, 1969), and with increasing $a\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$, the characteristic alteration assemblage of serpentine + brucite will successively be replaced by serpentine + magnesite, followed by talc+magnesite and finally quartz + magnesite (Figure 8a) (e.g., Boschi et al., 2009; Hansen et al., 2005). Even at low temperatures, moderate concentrations of CO_{2(aq)} are sufficient to dissolve brucite in favour of carbonate. Thermodynamic models and experimental studies show that the $a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ and $a\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ are intimately linked and will ultimately affect silicate mineral stabilities, Mg/Ca ratios in the fluids and thus the composition of the precipitating carbonate (e.g., Frost & Beard, 2007; Grozeva et al., 2017; Hövelmann et al., 2011). Low $a\text{Mg}^{2+}$ will favour the precipitation of calcite, whereas high concentrations of CO₂ and Mg²⁺ in the fluids will favour dolomite and magnesite precipitation (Figure 8) (Grozeva et al., 2017).

Altered peridotites were recovered in all seven holes drilled across the AM southern wall. The exceptional core recovery preserved multiple carbonate generations that allow the reconstruction of the alteration history. One of the most remarkable features is the high variability in composition and distribution of carbonate phases, including magnesite, dolomite, calcite and aragonite. The diverse carbonate phases record progressive fluid infiltration and alteration during extension, unroofing and uplift of the AM and the simultaneous evolution from pervasive- to localized serpentinization. Figure 9 shows an interpretative cross-section of the Atlantis Massif, highlighting the most critical processes affecting alteration and carbonate formation of the oceanic core complex. Previous studies (e.g., Boschi et al., 2006; Karson et al., 2006; Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018) showed that the alteration of the AM is affected by seawater infiltration via grain boundary flow and a complex network of steeply dipping normal faults. Fluids are focused along the detachment fault zone and discrete ductile shear zones triggering serpentinization and silica metasomatism of serpentinites and gabbros, resulting in talc-amphibole-chlorite schist lenses. Different carbonate occurrences are characteristic for different locations within the AM and timing during its uplift. Black squares within Figure 9 indicate locations that are recorded by

samples from the different drill holes. A conceptual model for the hydrothermal evolution of the AM is presented in Figure 10, which summarizes the alteration history of the peridotites that are in proximity to mafic intrusions (Figure 10.1 - 10.3) compared to those in the periphery to intrusions (Figure 10.4 - 10.6). Our model follows work of Rouméjon and Cannat (2014), who argued that the combination of anisotropic thermal contraction and tectonic stresses in the brittle domain of the mantle leads to pervasive micro-fracturing of peridotites at mid-ocean ridges. This provides an efficient permeability network of pathways for serpentinization and initial carbonate precipitation.

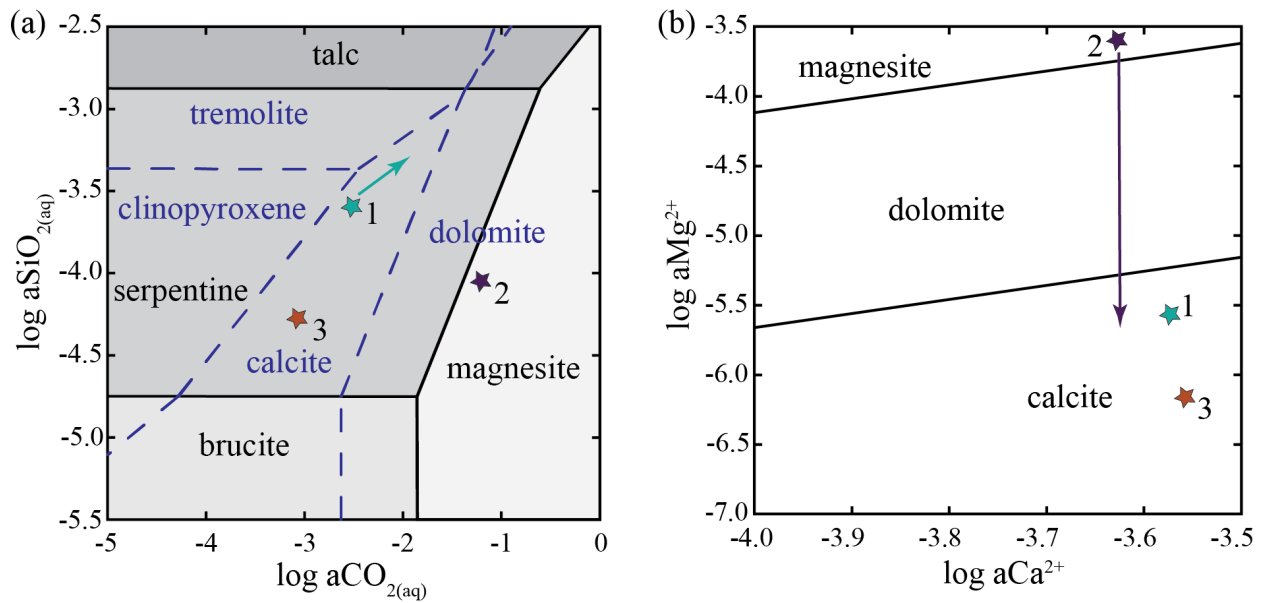


Figure 8. Activity-activity diagrams depict phase relations in the $\text{MgO-CaO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O-CO}_2$ system at 300°C and 35 MPa modified after Grozeva et al. (2017). Numbered stars indicate potentially compositions of fluids from the three central sites representing distinct alteration conditions at the Atlantis Massif; 1 = strong influence of mafic intrusion (M0072B), 2 = minor influence of mafic intrusion (M0076B), 3 = alteration of abyssal peridotites (M0069A). (a) The plot of $\log a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ vs $\log a\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ showing the stability fields of various silicate minerals and carbonates. Continuous lines denote equal activities of phases in the $\text{MgO-H}_2\text{O-CO}_2$ system. Dashed blue lines indicate equal activities of phases in the $\text{MgO-CaO-H}_2\text{O-CO}_2$ system. The Fluid composition of M0072B moved to higher $a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ and $a\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ values over time. (b) The plot of $\log a\text{Mg}^{2+}$ vs $\log a\text{Ca}^{2+}$. The fluid composition of M0076B moved out of the stability field of

magnesite and into the stability field of calcite with successively uplift and alteration of the AM.
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5.1 Alteration heterogeneities along the southern wall of the Atlantis Massif

Our detailed petrological, textural and geochemical observations point to three main controlling factors that affect carbonate precipitation at the Atlantis Massif: (i) fluid composition and flux, (ii) temperature of the system, and (iii) presence of mafic intrusions. We focus on the three central sites (M0069, M0072, M0076), each of which provides distinct pieces of information about the complex history of fluid infiltration and alteration during exhumation of the massif.

5.1.1 Carbonate formation in the presence of mafic intrusions

Interlayers of mafic intrusions are most prevalent at Hole M0072B, which shows the highest degree of silica metasomatism, marked by talc-, amphibole- and chlorite-rich domains, and which provides the best information about the influence of mafic intrusions on fluid and carbonate chemistry. This hole is characterized by a lack of magnesite and dolomite in the ultramafic rocks, which suggest that Mg^{2+} transport was strongly limited in the proximity of the metasomatic interlayered mafic intrusions and was locked into other silicate alteration assemblages (Figure 10, frame 1 - 3).

At Hole M0072B, the initial carbonate phase is calcite I, which formed syn-serpentinization and is intergrown with serpentine in veins (Figure 10.2). The lack of magnesite and dolomite suggests that removal of Mg^{2+} resulted in low Mg/Ca ratios and favoured calcite precipitation (Figure 8b) (e.g., Hövelmann et al., 2011; Lumsden et al., 1995; Peuble, Godard, et al., 2015). Alteration of mafic intrusions and an associated static replacement of serpentine by talc has been previously identified at the Atlantis Massif (Boschi et al., 2006; Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018). Talc formation can result from either Si-addition to or Mg-removal from the serpentinized peridotite. Previous studies (Bach et al., 2004; Boschi et al., 2006; Rouméjon, Früh-Green, et al., 2018) assumed that Si-addition rather than Mg-removal is responsible for talc formation, given that the alteration of mafic rocks releases significant amounts of silica compared with ultramafic rocks (Malvoisin, 2015; Wetzel & Shock, 2000). The metasomatism of gabbro and dolerites in the peridotites provide a source of Ca^{2+} and SiO_2 from the dissolution of plagioclase

and pyroxenes and removal of Mg^{2+} through talc formation (Berndt et al., 1989; Bischoff & Dickson, 1975). In an experimental study at 400°C, Allen and Seyfried (2003) showed that high-temperature alteration could lead to a faster dissolution of clinopyroxene compared to olivine, providing an additional input of SiO_2 and Ca^{2+} and lower input of Mg^{2+} . Elevated temperatures in the subsurface of the Atlantis Massif are indicated by the oxygen isotope composition of serpentine ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{recrystallized serp}} = 1.6$ to 2.9 ‰, Rouméjon, Williams, et al., 2018) which correspond to formation temperatures between 320 and 360°C (assuming $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}} = 2.4$ ‰, Rouméjon, Williams, et al., 2018) and which would be sufficient for clinopyroxene dissolution. Calcite I veins yield one of the highest carbonate formation temperatures of all carbonates across the AM ($T_{447} = 145$ to 185 °C) and indicate that temperatures in the hydrothermal system remained high during later alteration. We propose that the hydrothermal fluid in proximity to silica metasomatism is depleted in Mg^{2+} and in combination with moderate $a\text{CO}_2$ and the dissolution of clinopyroxene with slower olivine serpentinization was sufficient to maintain low Mg/Ca ratios in the hydrothermal fluid and prevent magnesite and dolomite precipitation. Calcite I veins have MgO, FeO, and MnO concentrations below the detection limit, which distinguish them from other carbonates at the AM and suggests that all dissolved Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , and Mn^{2+} was taken up by secondary silicate minerals (serpentine, talc, chlorite).

Calcite II is the second carbonate phase at Hole M0072B and occurs post-serpentinization within veins or replacing serpentine and/or olivine (Figure 10.3). Calcite II has higher MgO contents, which may be linked to an increase in Mg/Ca ratio resulting from an addition of unmodified seawater in the evolved hydrothermal fluids. A higher influx of seawater increase $\text{CO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ and $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{(\text{aq})}$ concentrations, shifting the equilibrium towards the Mg-carbonate stability fields (Figure 8a). This may also lead to faster dissolution rates of the primary minerals of the mafic and ultramafic rocks, which can add additional SiO_2 , Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} to the fluids. Calcite II is separated into two subgroups, a Mg-rich calcite IIa and a Mg-poor calcite IIb (Figure 7). Calcite IIb precipitates from a fluid with lower $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{(\text{aq})}$ concentration in areas where silica alteration minerals consumed more $\text{Mg}^{2+}_{(\text{aq})}$ from solution. The Mg-rich calcite IIa precipitated from a fluid that was more influenced by serpentinization resulting in higher Mg^{2+} concentrations probably in more peripheral areas of the mafic intrusions. Some veins contain both calcite II subgroups, but without a clear chronology. This may reflect changes in the influence of the mafic intrusions on

the composition of the fluids over time, by either changes in the fluid pathway or variations in dissolution and/or formation rates of primary and secondary minerals.

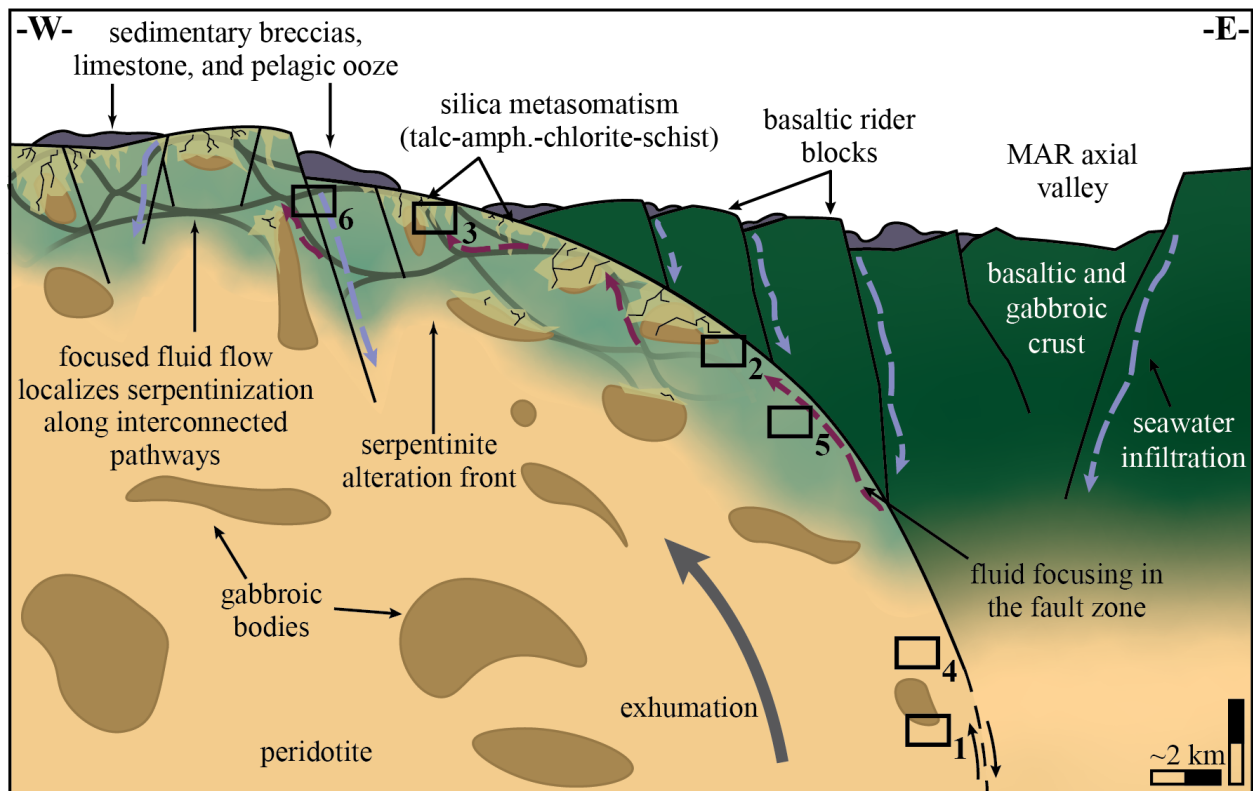


Figure 9. Interpretative cross-section of the Atlantis Massif, showing fluid pathways, metasomatic zones, and extent and development of serpentinization (light green shaded region and lines) related to detachment faulting and steep normal faults (modified after Karson et al., 2006, Boschi et al., 2006, and Rouméjon et al., 2018). The oceanic core complex forms as a result of extension, unroofing, and uplifting on the edge of the MAR. The shear zone along the detachment surface is characterized by heterogeneous, variably altered and deformed gabbroic and peridotite lithologies with extensive silica metasomatism. Fluids were focused along the detachment and discrete ductile shear zones triggering metasomatism of serpentinites and gabbros, resulting in talc-amphibole-chlorite schist lenses. The footwall shows widespread, ongoing serpentinization related to a complex network of steeply dipping faults that enhance infiltration of seawater into the fresh peridotite promoting the development of pervasive to localize serpentinization and propagation of the serpentinization front, which ultimately lead to the formation of the LCHF. Black squares

indicate hypothetical locations within the oceanic core complex of carbonate formation during different stages in the hydrothermal evolution of the Atlantis Massif and are detailed in Figure 10.

Calcite IIa is not only characterized by higher MgO but also by higher FeO contents (Figure 7a). We suggest that high temperatures and higher fluid fluxes may result in elevated Fe^{2+} concentrations in the fluid and consequently in the calcites. McCollom and Bach (2009) showed that high temperatures ($T = 100^\circ\text{C}$) and high water/rock ratios ($\text{W}:\text{R} > 2$) result in lower concentrations of Fe in the secondary minerals brucite and serpentine, leading to the formation of a higher amount of magnetite and H_2 (see also Malvoisin, 2015). This may also result in higher Fe^{2+} concentration in solution. In fact, at the Atlantis Massif, higher magnetite concentrations (5 to 8 vol%) are observed at sites influenced by mafic intrusions. In addition, higher amounts of magnetite have been associated with more oxidizing conditions caused by higher fluid flow (Andreani et al., 2009; Ulrich et al., 2014) supporting the argument of higher water/rock ratios and influx of seawater. High alteration temperatures and increased mixing of fresh seawater in the hydrothermal fluid is also supported by clumped isotope investigations of the same samples ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cc I}} = -2.7\text{‰}$, $T_{\Delta 47} = 145$ to 185°C ; $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cc II}} = -0.7\text{‰}$, $T_{\Delta 47} = 145^\circ\text{C}$). Calcite II in olivine cores occurs either dispersed in the rocks or is associated with calcite II veins. The similarity of the element patterns suggests that replacive calcite II formed simultaneously from a similar hydrothermal fluid as calcite II in the veins.

5.1.2 Magnesite and dolomite formation within oceanic peridotites

Hole M0076B consists mainly of peridotites and exhibits the highest diversity of carbonate phases, including magnesite, dolomite, calcite and aragonite. The ultramafic rocks of this hole show no evidence of silica metasomatism and thus provide constraints on carbonate formation in the absence of mafic intrusions (Figure 10, frame 4 - 6). The first generation of carbonate is either magnesite or dolomite forming syn- to post- serpentinization in veins and/or replacing serpentine and olivine (Figure 10.5). Dolomite, and especially magnesite precipitation, requires high Mg/Ca ratios in the fluids (e.g., Hövelmann et al., 2011; Lumsden et al., 1995; Peuble, Godard, et al., 2015). Thermodynamic studies predict that magnesite should form during the reaction of serpentinite and CO_2 -bearing aqueous fluids (e.g., Grozeva et al., 2017; Klein & Garrido, 2011).

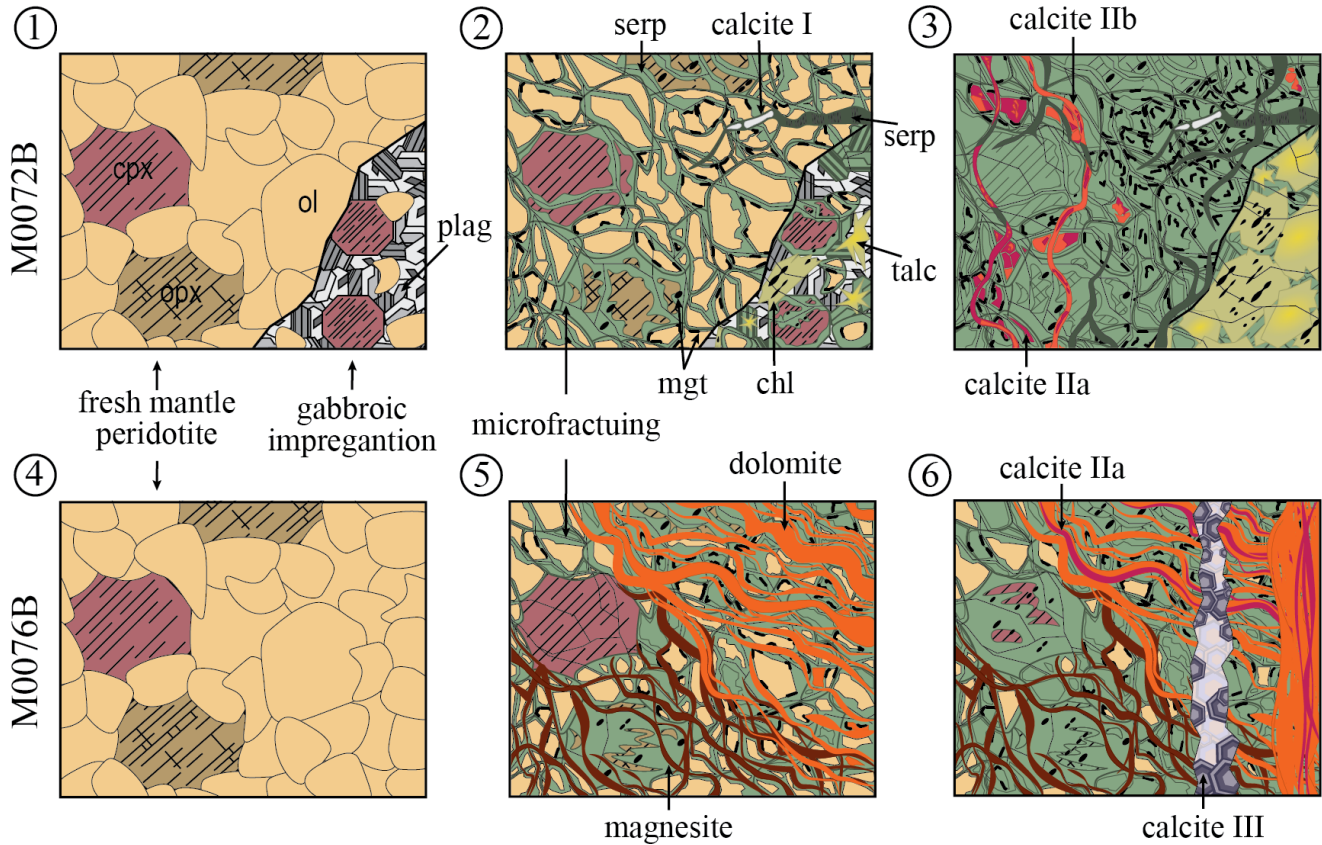
604 However, only a few studies have reported magnesite in oceanic serpentinites (Gablina et al., 2006)
605 whereas it is more common in altered ultramafic rocks on land (soapstone and listvenite). Previous
606 studies suggest that magnesite in oceanic settings may form in Ca-poor ultramafic rocks, such as
607 dunite or completely serpentinitized peridotite, or where a sustained influx of CO₂-rich fluids leads
608 to silica activities in the fluid ($a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$) exceeding the stability of serpentine and consequently
609 leading to high Mg/Ca ratios in the fluid (Figure 8a) (Barnes & O'Neil, 1969; Grozeva et al., 2017;
610 Klein & Garrido, 2011). However, magnesite veins at the Atlantis Massif are found in highly
611 serpentinitized harzburgites with no evidence for serpentine instability. Indeed thermodynamic
612 studies predict that relatively low $a\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$, imposed by serpentine and brucite formation and lower
613 dissolution rates of the primary minerals, leads to stabilization of clinopyroxene and thus to lower
614 $\text{Ca}^{2+}_{(\text{aq})}$ in the fluids (Figure 8a) (e.g., Klein et al., 2013). Based on thermodynamic models
615 (Grozeva et al., 2017), we argue that high CO_{2(aq)} and moderate SiO_{2(aq)} concentrations in the
616 hydrothermal fluid has led to serpentinitization of orthopyroxene and olivine, while preserving
617 clinopyroxene, which should have been sufficient to maintain high Mg/Ca ratios and favour the
618 precipitation of Mg-rich carbonates (Figure 8b).

619 Magnesite is absent in most samples, even though high MgO content in calcites indicates
620 high Mg²⁺ in solution. This suggests that CO_{2(aq)} concentration alone does not control magnesite
621 precipitation at the Atlantis Massif. An additional factor, such as confined flow pathways with
622 limited fluid fluxes may be necessary for magnesite formation. Pokrovsky & Schott (2002) and
623 Schott et al. (2009) showed that a high fluid flux kinetically favours the formation of Ca-rich rather
624 than Mg-rich carbonates, due to different properties of Mg²⁺ and Ca²⁺ ions. The limiting step for
625 carbonate crystallization is the dehydration of cations at the crystal surface. The lower the rate of
626 water molecule exchange in the first hydration sphere of a metal ion, the lower the crystallization
627 rate of a metal carbonate. Studies showed that the rate of water molecule exchange from the fluid
628 into the cation hydration sphere is faster for Ca²⁺ than Mg²⁺ (e.g., Pokrovsky & Schott, 2002),
629 which explains the different precipitation rates of Ca-rich (fast) and Mg-rich (slow) carbonates.
630 Thus, dolomite will precipitate under conditions of moderate fluid fluxes when the fluid contains
631 Ca even in a Mg-rich system, and magnesite will precipitate in rock-dominated systems in zones
632 of more-reduced fluid flow (Peuble, Andreani, et al., 2015). Dolomite replacing serpentine or
633 olivine occurs either dispersed in the rocks or is associated with dolomite veins. The similarity of

the element patterns suggests that replacive dolomite formed at the same time from a similar hydrothermal fluid as dolomite in the veins.

The formation of magnesite and dolomite is followed by precipitation of calcite II at Hole M0076B (Figure 10.6). The continuous hydration of the basement can lead to an increase of the activity of SiO_2 , which would lead to a dissolution of clinopyroxene (Figure 8a) and consequently to a lower Mg/Ca ratios in the fluids favouring calcite formation. In addition, a potential higher influx of seawater caused by the progressive uplift of the massif may also result in an increase in fluid fluxes through brittle deformation, which favours the formation of Ca-rich carbonates (see magnesite discussion). Both calcite II (calcite IIa, calcite IIb) subgroups are observed (Figure 7b and d), indicating that high Mg^{2+} concentrations are maintained as the system evolves. The compositional variability of the hydrothermal fluids can be caused by changes in precipitation and/or dissolution rates, in the influx of fresh seawater and changing temperatures. The high variability is also observed in the variable and high FeO and MnO contents of calcite II; whereby, a systematic difference between the subgroups cannot be observed.

The last carbonate phases are calcite III and aragonite precipitating in veins (Figure 10.6): They have low FeO contents, which points to precipitation in equilibrium with cold hydrothermal fluids and mixing with unaltered seawater. In some cases, the botryoidal texture of calcite III (Figure 4d - e; Figure 6) indicates precipitation from a percolating solution within an open space. These spaces are often fractures crosscutting all minerals and deformation textures of the ultramafic rock, indicating that they formed after tectonic deformation of the serpentinite (Klein et al., 2015). Precipitation from cold, unaltered seawater mixing with evolved hydrothermal fluid is confirmed by clumped isotope temperatures of calcite III of $T_{\Delta 47} = 1$ to 8°C ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cc III}} = \sim 4.0$ ‰ VPDB) and seawater like carbon isotopes $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{cc III}} = +1.7$ to $+2.2$ ‰, and for aragonite by $T_{\Delta 47, \text{arg}} = 1$ to 4°C ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{arg}} = \sim 3.9$ ‰ VPDB), and a $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{arg}} = -1.5$ to -0.1 ‰. This range also matches the isotopic composition of the carbonate chimneys from the LCHF that are caused by mixing of the venting fluid with the surrounding seawater, and show $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values close to marine values within 2 per mil of 0 ‰ for most of the samples and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values >2 ‰ VPDB (Kelley et al., 2005), which is consistent with late precipitation of calcite III and aragonite.



662

663 **Figure 10.** Conceptual model for the development of alteration heterogeneities in domains of the
 664 footwall along the detachment fault plane at the Atlantis Massif illustrating (1 to 3) alteration
 665 characteristics of Hole M0072B and (4 to 6) representative alteration textures of Hole M0076B.
 666 The combination of anisotropic thermal contraction and tectonic stresses in the brittle domain of
 667 the mantle leads to pervasive micro-fracturing (Rouméjon et al., 2014), providing a fine network
 668 of pathways for serpentinization and carbonate precipitation. Hypothetical location of the
 669 illustrated lithologies can be seen in Figure 9. Hole M0072B is characterized by fully serpentinized
 670 peridotites with high magnetite concentration and carbonate precipitation in proximity to
 671 significant silica metasomatism of gabbroic and peridotite lithologies. The alteration of gabbroic
 672 lithologies provides a higher concentration of Ca in the hydrothermal fluid and leads to calcite I,
 673 IIa and IIb formation. Calcite I represents carbonate formation during early hydration, whereas
 674 calcite IIa and IIb represent later formation. Carbonate precipitation at Hole M0076B is controlled
 675 by a high Mg/Ca ratio and zones of reduced flow due to structural heterogeneities, which leads to

the early formation of magnesite and dolomite along microfractures. As exhumation and serpentinization proceeds, alteration of clinopyroxene provides enough Ca for calcite IIa formation and less altered seawater leads later to calcite III precipitation inside fractures. See text for a detailed discussion.

5.1.3 Carbonate formation at the periphery of the hydrothermal system

Peridotites at Hole M0069A are covered by ~7 m of sediments and dolerites but do not show evidence for silica metasomatism. Rouméjon, Fröh-Green, et al. (2018) showed that the basement at this site is characterized by pervasive serpentinization without late overprinting and recrystallization. Thus, this site provides information on the alteration at the periphery of an active hydrothermal system with low degrees of fluid-rock interactions.

Carbonate is only present in aragonite veins, which are the volumetrically dominant carbonate phase at the AM. Geochemical and textural features are comparable to aragonite from sites in the vicinity of the hydrothermal system. Aragonite formed at low temperatures ($T_{\Delta 47, \text{arg}} = 1$ to 7°C) from fairly unmodified seawater ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{arg}} = -0.2$ to 1.6‰). At such conditions, aragonite precipitation is favoured over calcite due to high Mg^{2+} and sulfate concentrations (Burton, 1993; Eickmann, Bach, & Peckmann, 2009). The lack of carbonate veins within the dolerite, and the relative high vein density in the peridotites below it, strengthens previous interpretations that dolerite domains constitute impermeable barriers and fluids are channelled along the walls of the intrusion (Rouméjon & Cannat, 2014).

5.2 Manganese concentration in carbonates from the Atlantis Massif

Carbonates are in general a favourable sink for Mn (Deer et al., 1992) and hydrothermal systems are important sources of manganese (e.g., Charlou et al., 2002; Klinkhammer et al., 1977). Laboratory studies have shown that seawater tends to leach manganese from mid-ocean ridge basalts at elevated temperatures ($T > 200^{\circ}\text{C}$) and pressures ($P > 500$ bar), causing an increase of Mn^{2+} in solution (Bischoff & Dickson, 1975; Mottl et al., 1979). Previous studies of calcite cements formed in shallow fresh-water aquifers provide evidence that the uptake of Mn^{2+} in carbonates is mainly dependent on Eh which controls Mn solubility (Barnaby & Rimstidt, 1989; Dromgoole & Walter, 1990). Most marine low-temperature carbonates have MnO contents of ~1

wt% (e.g., Eickmann, Bach, Rosner, et al., 2009; Picazo et al., 2020). At the Atlantis Massif, carbonates exhibit remarkably high and variable MnO concentrations, and we argue that this is caused by a change in the redox state of the hydrothermal fluid. The high MnO contents would indicate a low redox state, typical of serpentinizing environments, and a shift to lower MnO would indicate a progressive increase in Eh. Most carbonate veins at the AM do not show a systematic change with their sequence of precipitation except for a thicker dolomite vein. In this vein, early dolomites have higher MnO ($\text{MnO}_{\text{max, dol}} = 6 \text{ wt\%}$) than younger generations (Figure 6b), which may indicate a change to higher oxygen fugacity of the fluid over time. This change in fluid composition is also indicated by dissolved surfaces and pitted textures in early dolomites (Figure 3i).

At the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, carbonates with extremely high MnO contents (max. 9.5 wt% Mn; Schroeder et al., 2015) have been previously reported. Carbonates from ODP Site 1275 (35 km north of the 15°20' Fracture Zone and 30 km west of the MAR axis) have high MnO contents and were correlated to an early, high-temperature ($T_{\text{max}} = 174^\circ\text{C}$) stage of formation. These carbonate veins occur within gabbros and troctolites, which most likely were the source of the elevated Mn. At the AM, carbonates are less common in the mafic rocks and contain MnO contents below 0.1 wt%. However, we do observe higher MnO ($\text{MnO}_{\text{max, M0072B}} = 7.3 \text{ wt\%}$) in carbonates in proximity to mafic intrusions, compared to carbonates that formed in the periphery to mafic intrusions. We propose that the high MnO concentrations are consistent with highly reducing serpentinizing fluids at the AM, leaching high amounts of Mn^{2+} from the interlayered gabbroic bodies, and transport to domains where cooling of hydrothermal fluids and or mixing with seawater leads to the formation of carbonates.

5.3 Carbonates as a CO_2 sink within the oceanic lithosphere

Recently, carbonate formation in ultramafic rocks has received considerable attention as a means to sequester atmospheric CO_2 (e.g., Kelemen & Matter, 2008), and studies of various ophicalcites showed that carbon is stored over millions of years (Bachu et al., 1994; Kelemen et al., 2011; Schwarzenbach, Fröh-Green, et al., 2013; Seifritz, 1990). Studies of modern and ancient serpentinites estimate that up to 10 wt% total inorganic carbon is fixed as carbonates during serpentinization and carbonate precipitation, and that approximately 10% of all carbon that is cycled through the ocean is incorporated into the oceanic lithosphere during alteration of oceanic

crust (Alt et al., 2013; Schwarzenbach, Fröh-Green, et al., 2013). To better evaluate the potential of ultramafic rocks as long term storage for CO₂, quantitative information on the sources and sinks of carbon is necessary. One critical factor contributing to the continuing uncertainty on this topic is the difficulty in obtaining samples directly from subsurface environments near mid-ocean ridges for analysis of carbon compounds, and most estimations are based on information inferred from analysis of hydrothermal fluids discharged at the seafloor. Most of these hydrothermal vents have CO₂ concentrations that are substantially higher than the amount of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC: CO_{2(aq)} + HCO₃⁻ + CO₃²⁻) in seawater. However, ¹³C and ¹⁴C isotope analyses of CO₂ in hydrothermal fluids from the Endeavour system (high temperature basaltic dominated hydrothermal system) indicates that most of the seawater DIC is removed from circulating fluids and stored as carbonates within the basement before discharge at hydrothermal vents on the seafloor (Proskurowski et al., 2004). It is assumed that this is true for most hydrothermal systems (McCollom, 2008; and references therein).

In contrast to basalt-hosted hydrothermal systems, the vent fluids from the Lost City hydrothermal system are highly depleted in DIC (Proskurowski et al., 2008), which leads to the assumption that the AM should contain significant carbonate deposits. Thus, one of the main goals of IODP Expedition 357 was to investigate the distribution of carbonate deposits within the basement of the Atlantis Massif. Our results show that the amount of inorganic carbon in the shallow basement holes is relatively low. Carbonates are almost exclusively observed close to the active venting LCHF and rarely at other locations along the southern wall. The distribution of carbonates throughout the cores from the central Sites (M0069, M0072, M0076) is heterogeneous with an overall carbonate vein abundance estimated at ~2 vol%. However, because the maximum depth reached was 16.4 mbsf, we do not know how high the concentrations are at depth. We propose that most of the DIC removal occurred during deeper circulation of the fluid and that shallow parts of the AM record carbonate precipitation associated with present-day hydrothermal circulation and driven by localized shallow fluid circulation along fractures.

Additionally, the AM is a relatively young exhumed mantle sequence, and our study provides evidence that CO₂ uptake by low-temperature aragonite formation is, in general, low at young serpentinized mantle, but may increase if fracturing and veining continue for tens of millions of years. A low abundance of low-temperature aragonite veins in young serpentinized mantle is also observed at ODP Site 895 at Hess Deep (Blusztajn & Hart, 1996), ODP Site 920

south of the Kane Fracture Zone (Alt & Shanks, 1998) and from ODP Site 175 at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (Schroeder et al., 2015). The data presented here provide information on the fate of carbon in the oceanic lithosphere and will help to better evaluate whether hydration and serpentinization of oceanic crust is a globally significant sink for CO₂. Further investigations of deeper drill holes and older oceanic core complexes would be necessary.

6 Conclusions

We investigated the alteration of peridotites in seven drill holes at five sites across the southern wall of the Atlantis Massif recovered during IODP Expedition 357. We developed a conceptual model for the genesis of carbonates in oceanic lithosphere. Detailed textural, mineralogical and geochemical investigations reveal variable alteration between holes that represent different portions of the footwall exhumed in the vicinity of the detachment fault zone. Three characteristic types of carbonate occurrences, including the minerals magnesite, dolomite, calcite and aragonite, could be identified. All occurrences formed close to the actively venting LCHF under different conditions and were controlled by (i) fluid composition and flow, (ii) temperature, and (iii) influence of mafic intrusions. SiO_{2(aq)}, CO_{2(aq)} and Mg²⁺ concentrations of the hydrothermal fluid have particularly significant impacts on the carbonate compositions.

Even though carbonates within this oceanic hydrothermal system indicate ubiquitous high Mg²⁺ concentrations, only limited amounts of magnesite and/or dolomite, are formed, suggesting that kinetic factors impede the formation of Mg-bearing carbonates relative to Ca-carbonates. This supports the hypothesis that both a high Mg/Ca ratio and confined flow are necessary to precipitate Mg-carbonates. In addition, our study indicate that lower Mg²⁺ concentrations in solution characterize hydrothermal fluids in proximity to mafic intrusions. This lower Mg²⁺ in solution in proximity to mafic intrusions in combination with the necessary lower fluid flow may limit magnesite formation in the oceanic lithosphere, since we know that hydrothermal systems at mid-ocean ridges often contain mafic intrusions and are, in general, characterized by high fluid flow (Bach et al., 2011). Therefore, the formation of magnesite in oceanic settings is likely limited to domains of ultramafic rocks without major mafic intrusions and less rapid upflow of hydrothermal fluids.

Our study shows that Ca-Mg carbonates, as a significant part of the process of hydration and alteration of oceanic peridotites, represent an important tool to reconstruct alteration histories

of serpentinized peridotites. Moreover, Ca-Mg carbonates may represent a significant sink of carbon from the seawater and or the mantle that would otherwise reenter/enter the oceans. Thus, carbonate-containing oceanic serpentinite transported into subduction zones may represent an additional carbon reservoir recycled into the deep mantle. Age determinations show that shallow carbonates formed over a narrow time interval from 37,000 to 23,000 yr, corresponding to the early stages of the Lost City hydrothermal system (Früh-Green et al., 2003). The active vents at Lost City still show highly depleted DIC contents, which suggests that carbonate is continuing to be formed at deeper levels of this off-axis hydrothermal system.

The results of our study are of interest not only for the investigation of ancient and present-day carbonation systems, but they may also be of interest for the interpretation of artificial carbonation of serpentinite on land, at the seafloor or in laboratory experiments. We show that thermodynamically predicted magnesite precipitation occurs locally within oceanic serpentinized and highlights the high heterogeneity of hydrothermal fluids circulating within the footwall exhumed at the Atlantis Massif, and probably in any detachment system.

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