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# Volcanology, chemo-stratigraphy, geochronology, hydrothermal alteration and VMS potential of the Lemoine Member of the Waconichi Formation, Chibougamau district, Abitibi greenstone belt, Québec

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## Abstract

The Archean Lemoine volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposit in the Chibougamau mining district (Abitibi greenstone belt) is one of the richest to have been mined in the world (758,070 t of ore at 4.17% Cu, 9.51% Zn, 4.56 g/t Au and 83.73 g/t Ag). It is hosted by the ~2728 Ma Lemoine Member of the Waconichi Formation. Field mapping, core logging, petrography, lithogeochemistry and U-Pb zircon geochronology helped define the stratigraphy, volcanic architecture, and hydrothermal history of the Lemoine Member east of the former mine, and document the complex relationships between effusive, intrusive and hydrothermal activity. There, the Lemoine Member is informally divided into a 700 to 900 m-thick lower part (~45% extrusive and ~55% intrusive) and a 600 to 700 m-thick upper part (~85% extrusive and ~15% intrusive). Extrusive units in the lower part have a tholeiitic to transitional magmatic affinity and are dominantly felsic, whereas those of the upper part have a transitional to calc-alkaline affinity and are dominantly mafic. The effusive felsic units are mostly interpreted as one or more lobe-hyaloclastite flow(s) per unit. Possible volcanic vent sites for all effusive units were identified. Three types of hydrothermal alteration are present in the lower part of the Lemoine Member in the study area, from stratigraphic base to top: chlorite-sericite, sericite-chlorite and sericite-chlorite-carbonate±epidote. Within this broad pattern, three paleo-hydrothermal upflow zones are proposed, and some correspond with known base and precious metal anomalies and/or proposed volcanic vent locations.

## Introduction

Volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposits are important sources of base (Cu, Zn ±Pb) and precious (Au, Ag) metals. The sulfides accumulate on the seafloor or just below it, and precipitate from hydrothermal fluids that circulate in the oceanic crust (Franklin et al. 2005; Galley et al. 2007). The heat source for fluid circulation is typically a synvolcanic intrusion, which can range from felsic to mafic (Maier et al. 1996; Galley 2003; Piercey et al. 2008; Hollis et al. 2015).

Volcanic rocks are typical in the host successions of VMS deposits (Gibson et al. 1999; Ross and Mercier-Langevin 2014), and these volcanic rocks can be used to vector towards mineralization in different ways. A common strategy is to use lithogeochemistry, and occasionally petrography, to study the hydrothermal alteration in the volcanic rocks, since alteration zones can have a larger footprint than the mineralization (Franklin 1997; Large et al. 2011; Gifkins et al. 2005).

A less commonly employed strategy is to map facies variations within the stratigraphy in order to locate

volcanic vents and reconstruct the volcanic architecture of a prospective area (Gibson et al. 1999; Rogers et al. 2008; Debreil et al. 2018). The importance of locating volcanic vents, or at least identifying vent-proximal environments, is that volcanic vents may coincide with hydrothermal vents, the two being often controlled by syn-volcanic faults (Gibson et al. 1999). Before facies variations can be mapped within individual units, a detailed stratigraphy of the volcanic rocks has to be established, by combining primary textures, such as phenocrysts, and immobile element ratios (MacLean and Barrett 1993; Barrett and MacLean 1999; Rogers et al. 2008; Debreil et al. 2018). This detailed stratigraphic knowledge is also useful to follow prospective horizons laterally, since VMS deposits tend to occur at specific stratigraphic positions within a district (Franklin et al. 2005; Galley et al. 2007) that are often, but not always, manifested by thin “marker” horizons referred to as iron formations, exhalites, or tuffites, depending on their compositions.

The Chibougamau mining district is located in the northern Abitibi greenstone belt of Québec, Canada. Only two significant VMS deposits, Lemoine and Scott Lake, are known so far in the Chibougamau district. Further west, the Matagami district, which has a very similar geology and age, contains 20 known VMS deposits, including the Mattagami Lake (Roberts 1975) and Bracemac-McLeod deposits (Genna et al. 2014; Debreil et al. 2018).

Lemoine was one of the richest VMS deposits in terms of total net smelter return of Au, Cu, Zn and Ag in Canada and the world (758,070 t of ore at 4.17% Cu, 9.51% Zn, 4.56 g/t Au and 83.73 g/t Ag; Riverin 2003; Lafrance and Brisson 2006; Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). The gold grade is high for a VMS deposit, meaning that Lemoine classifies in the “auriferous” category (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2011). Both Lemoine and Scott Lake are hosted by felsic tholeiitic members of the Waconichi Formation (Daigneault and Allard 1990; Leclerc et al. 2012). A better knowledge of the volcanic, stratigraphic and hydrothermal architecture of these members would facilitate future VMS exploration in the Chibougamau district. It would also bring light on the immediate volcanic/subvolcanic architecture of the Lemoine mine host succession and provide further information about this unusually Au-rich VMS deposit.

The stratigraphy and hydrothermal alteration in the area adjacent to the former Lemoine mine is well understood (Lafrance and Brisson 2006; Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014; Ross et al. 2016). However, further east in the Lemoine Member of the Waconichi Formation, there are knowledge gaps that limit our understanding of the overall context in which the exceptionally precious and

base metal-rich Lemoine VMS deposit formed. This hampers the development of improved exploration models that would incorporate the key elements associated with the Lemoine VMS deposit. Rock units of ambiguous origin, either volcanic or intrusive, are present. Moreover, no comprehensive study of the hydrothermal alteration in the area east of the Lemoine deposit exists, which further complicates vectoring towards potential mineralized zones. The area east of the former mine was therefore chosen as a study area.

The main objectives of this study were to: (1) geochemically and texturally define units of the Lemoine Member, east of the former mine, (2) determine the emplacement processes associated with each unit, (3) provide a model for the volcanic architecture of the lower part of the Lemoine Member, and (4) characterize the alteration assemblages and provide an understanding of their spatial distribution in relation to the volcanic architecture. This information will provide further constraints that will help vector toward potential mineralized zones in the study area and in similar settings elsewhere. In the discussion, we highlight the importance of lobe-hyaloclastite lava flows in Archean VMS districts.

## **Geological context**

### ***Chibougamau district***

The Chibougamau district is located in the NE portion of the Archean Abitibi greenstone belt (Superior Province, eastern Canada) (Figs. 1a, 1b). The Archean stratigraphy of the Chibougamau area comprises two major volcano-sedimentary packages, the 2731 to <2721 Ma Roy Group and the overlying <2706-2688.5 Ma Opémisca Group (Daigneault and Allard 1990; David et al. 2007; Leclerc et al. 2011, 2012) (Fig. 1c). These volcanic and sedimentary rocks are cross-cut by the 5-7 km-thick Lac Doré Complex (LDC), a mafic layered intrusive complex (Daigneault and Allard 1990) dated 2728.3 ± 1.2/-1.1 Ma (Mortensen 1993), as well as by 2720 to 2695 Ma (Joanisse 1998; Mortensen 1993; David et al. 2011) granitic intrusions including the Chibougamau Pluton, by Archean gabbroic intrusions (e.g., Bédard et al. 2009), and by Proterozoic mafic dykes.

The Roy Group includes two successions of mafic to felsic volcano-sedimentary rocks representing two cycles of volcanism. The first cycle consists of a 3-4 km-thick tholeiitic basaltic plateau, the Obatogamau Formation, composed of massive and pillowed flows and associated mafic dykes and sills (Pilote 1998; Leclerc et al. 2011). The end of the first cycle consists of the Waconichi Formation, that in the traditional definition comprises mostly felsic to intermediate volcanic rocks (Daigneault and Allard 1990), including

those that host the Scott Lake and Lemoine VMS deposits. The Waconichi Formation has been expanded to include mafic, intermediate and felsic rocks of tholeiitic to calc-alkaline affinity (Leclerc et al. 2012; Fig. 1c). The expanded Waconichi Formation has been dated at ~2731-2726 Ma (Mortensen 1993; Leclerc et al. 2011).

The second cycle of the Roy Group consists of the Bruneau Formation, composed of tholeiitic massive and pillowed basalt and basaltic andesite flows (Leclerc et al. 2011); the  $\leq 1$  km-thick, ~2721 Ma Blondeau Formation, composed of tholeiitic rhyolitic and basaltic flows overlain by calc-alkaline volcanoclastic rocks and volcanic-derived sedimentary units (Daigneault and Allard 1990; Leclerc et al. 2011, 2012); and by the Bordeleau Formation, composed of lithic and immature sandstones and mudstones (Allard et al. 1985; Daigneault and Allard 1990; Moisan 1992).

Uplift and erosion of the Roy Group volcanic rocks is responsible for the unconformity that separates it from the Opémisca Group. The latter is divided into the  $<2704 \pm 2$  Ma Stella Formation conglomerates, feldspathic sandstones and argillites (Daigneault and Allard 1990; Leclerc et al. 2012), and the overlying  $>2691.7 \pm 2.9$  Ma Haïy Formation, composed of sedimentary rocks and K-rich andesites (Allard and Gobeil 1984; David et al. 2007).

Volcanic and sedimentary rocks have been affected by several stages of deformation during the Archean and the Proterozoic (Daigneault and Allard 1990; Chown et al. 1992; Cote-Mantha et al. 2012). Metamorphism is typically of greenschist facies but locally reaches amphibolite facies in proximity of some plutons and large intrusions (Daigneault and Allard 1990). Metamorphic grade also increases with proximity of the Grenville front (Daigneault and Allard 1990).

The Chibougamau district is well known for its “Chibougamau type” Cu-Au vein deposits (Pilote 1998). These deposits are synvolcanic with the first volcanic cycle in the Roy Group and predate major deformation events (Leclerc et al. 2012). The LDC hosts layered-style Fe-Ti±V magmatic deposits in association with magnetite-rich layers of the Layered Series (Allard 1976; Daigneault and Allard 1990; Leclerc et al. 2012). Epithermal-style and mesothermal gold deposits have also been described in the region (Guha et al. 1988; Dubé and Guha 1992; Pilote 1998; Côté-Mantha et al. 2012). Epithermal-style deposits are interpreted to be synvolcanic with the second volcanic cycle of the Roy Group, whereas mesothermal shear zone-hosted deposits are spatially associated with E-W

shear zones and N-E faults (Guha et al. 1988; Dubé and Guha 1992; Leclerc et al. 2012).

The Lemoine (Patel et al. 1977; Donahue 1982; Lafrance and Brisson 2006; Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014) and Scott Lake (Saunders and Allard 1990; Carignan 2010; Salmon 2010; Salmon and McDonough 2011) VMS deposits are both hosted by the Waconichi Formation. Lemoine and Scott Lake are classified as bimodal-mafic VMS deposits (Barrie and Hannington 1999; Franklin et al. 2005; Galley et al. 2007). Lemoine was mined over the period 1975-1983, producing 758,070 t of ore at 4.17% Cu, 9.51% Zn, 4.56 g/t Au and 83.73 g/t Ag (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). Scott Lake is an exploration project with indicated mineral resources of 3.6 Mt averaging 1.0% Cu, 4.2% Zn, 37 g/t Ag, and 0.2 g/t Au and inferred mineral resources of 14.3 Mt averaging 0.8% Cu, 3.5% Zn, 22 g/t Ag, and 0.2 g/t Au (Roscoe and Masun 2017).

### ***Lemoine Member***

The Lemoine VMS deposit is located in the Lemoine Member of the Waconichi Formation, within volcanic cycle 1 of the Roy Group. The Lemoine Member forms a  $\geq 20$  km-long, NE-SW trending volcanic package (Daigneault and Allard 1990; Lafrance and Brisson 2006) (Figs. 1c, 2). It includes dominantly felsic, tholeiitic to transitional volcanic rocks at its base followed by dominantly mafic, transitional to calc-alkaline volcanic rocks at its top. Two felsic units from the lower part of the Lemoine Member were dated by U-Pb on zircons by Mortensen (1993), using outcrops near Lake Yvette (Fig. 2): the Hangingwall quartz and feldspar porphyry (HwQFP) at  $2729.7 \pm 1.9/-1.6$  Ma and the Marelle quartz and feldspar porphyry (Marelle QFP) at  $2728.0 \pm 1.5/-1.4$  Ma. The upper part of the Lemoine Member consists mostly of transitional to calc-alkaline basalts formerly assigned to the Gilman Formation (Morin 1994). The 5 km-long by 1 km-wide study area includes the entire lower part of the Lemoine Member, and the base of the upper part, east of the former Lemoine mine (Fig. 2).

## **Methods**

### ***Field methods***

Over the course of two field seasons, 145 outcrops were studied, six were mapped in detail (~1:100 to 1:200 scale), and core from 18 diamond drill holes (DDH) totalling about 13,500 metres was relogged (Boulerice 2016). Field work focussed on stratigraphy, physical volcanology, and hydrothermal alteration assemblages. Volcanic textures and lithofacies were mapped to elucidate the mode of emplacement for each unit. Study of lateral thickness and facies variations was also utilized to locate volcanic vents.

### ***Lithochemistry***

Lithochemistry is useful both for chemostratigraphy and to map hydrothermal alteration. A total of 283 representative drill core (20-30 cm long, 3.7 to 4.8 cm diameter) and outcrop samples were analyzed by Activation Laboratories in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, for major and trace elements. Samples were first crushed and pulverized using mild steel, mixed with a lithium metaborate and lithium tetraborate flux, and fused by melting. The melts were dissolved in acid and analyzed by ICP-AES for major oxides and some trace elements (Ba, Be, Sc, Sr, V, Y and Zr) and by ICP-MS for 44 trace elements (ESM1). The following reference materials were used for quality control: GSJ JR-1, ICHT CTA-AC-1, NCS DC70009 (GBW07241), NCS DC70014, NCS DC86312, NIST 694, NRCan LKSD-3, OREAS 100a, OREAS 101a, USGS BIR-1a, USGS DNC-1a, and USGS W-2a. In addition, the following reference materials were used for one or two session(s): GBW 07113, NCS DC73372, NRCan SY-4, NRCan TDB-1, SARM 3, SARM ZW-C, and USGS BCR-2. For major oxides, at the concentrations typically found in volcanic rocks, data accuracy was typically better than 5% (relative difference), and always better than 10%. The exception was P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, for which the accuracy was sometimes poor, but this oxide is not used in this study. For the rare earth elements, as well as Nb and Th, accuracy was often better than 5%, and always better than 10%. For Hf, Ta, Y and Zr, accuracy was typically better than 10%. For V, accuracy was better than 15% at the concentrations typical of mafic rocks (this element was not used for felsic rocks). Other trace elements were not used in this study. To give a measure of reproducibility, 6 to 12 duplicates were run for each session. The relative difference between original and repeat analyses was typically less than 5% for major oxides, with the exception of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and for the trace elements used in this study.

Added to the collected samples are 537 analyses of volcanic and intrusive rocks (excluding minor dikes) from Cogitore Resources' database within the study area. However, most of these company analyses do not include the full suite of trace elements. We therefore used the legacy analyses only to calculate alteration indices, as well as in plots and tables involving major oxides, Nb, Y, and Zr.

### ***Hydrothermal alteration***

Outcrop, drill core and petrographic (91 thin sections) observations were used to describe and map different alteration assemblages and their distribution to identify potential hydrothermal upflow zones. These direct mineralogical observations are complemented by laboratory-based lithochemistry and a portable XRF

profile (ESM2). Two alteration indices were calculated based on major oxides, using the laboratory-based geochemistry: the Hashimoto alteration index (AI, Ishikawa et al. 1976) and the chlorite-carbonate-pyrite index (CCPI, Large et al. 2001), where  $AI = 100 * (K_2O + MgO) / (K_2O + MgO + CaO + Na_2O)$  and  $CCPI = 100 * (FeO^t + MgO) / (FeO^t + MgO + Na_2O + K_2O)$ , where FeO<sup>t</sup> is total iron. Both indices are influenced by the destruction of volcanic glass and plagioclase, and by the addition of Mg-rich chlorite. AI is also influenced by sericite, whereas CCPI is also sensitive to Fe-chlorite, pyrite, iron oxides, and some carbonates, as well as to the primary compositions of the rocks.

Precious and base metal anomalies were located to evaluate a spatial correlation with hydrothermal upflow zones and favourable stratigraphic units or horizons, using assays from Cogitore Resources.

### ***U-Pb geochronology***

Three coherent (massive) samples from felsic units were dated. The Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector was sampled in DDH LEM-18 from 154.36 m to 169.40 m downhole depth (Fig. 2). The Lemoine rhyolite was sampled near the former Lemoine mine in DDH LEM-40 from 567.5 m to 590.8 m downhole depth. Finally, the Marelle QFP was taken from a large outcrop north of Lake Yvette, at 565 314 m E, 5 513 841 m N (UTM Nad 83, zone 18), most likely at the same location sampled by Mortensen (1993), because we wanted to increase the precision of this age and use single grain fractions.

U-Pb isotope dilution-thermal ionization mass spectrometry (ID-TIMS) was performed at the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa. Analytical methods utilized in this study are modified after Parrish et al. (1987). Treatment of analytical errors follows Roddick (1987), with regression analysis modified after York (1969). Heavy mineral concentrates were prepared by standard crushing, grinding, Wilfley table, and heavy liquid techniques. Mineral separates were sorted by magnetic susceptibility using a Frantz™ isodynamic separator and were handpicked using a binocular microscope. All analyses are of single zircon grains that have been chemically abraded, following the techniques of Mattinson (2005), including annealing for 48 hours at 1000°C prior to leaching with HF at 180°C for varying lengths of time. Procedural Pb blanks for analyses in this study are generally 1 pg or less. All age uncertainties are presented at the 2σ level.

### ***Stratigraphy of the Lemoine Member***

The detailed stratigraphy of the Lemoine Member in the study area has been refined based on field work and lithochemistry. Volcanic units dip steeply between

70° and 80° towards the SE (Fig. 3). The stratigraphic younging direction is also towards the SE. The study area is subdivided here into the Western, Raft and Eastern sectors (Fig. 2). In the three sectors, the Marelle QFP (intrusive) is a thick unit in the lower part of the Lemoine Member, immediately south of the LDC. In all three sectors, the felsic-dominated lower part of the Lemoine Member is stratigraphically overlain by the thick transitional basalt (extrusive) of the upper part of the Lemoine Member. Underneath this transitional basalt is the HwQFP (extrusive, sometimes called “TxGil” in previous studies), which pinches out eastward. The stratigraphy of the lower part of the Lemoine Member varies significantly from one sector to the next, as detailed below.

The Raft sector contains a >1 km-long and approximately 50 m-thick Lemoine rhyolite enclave or “raft” within the Marelle QFP (Fig. 2). The Lemoine rhyolite is extrusive here. The Lemoine rhyolite raft is surrounded by a partial rim of Alpha rhyolite (called the “high-Zr Marelle QFP” in previous studies), interpreted as intrusive, and younger than the Lemoine rhyolite in the Raft sector. Further up in the stratigraphy, a thin layer of Lemoine dacite (extrusive) overlies the Lemoine rhyolite and is followed by the relatively thick Lemoine andesite (extrusive). The Coco Lake QFP (previously the “Upper-Lemoine rhyolite”) forms two sill-like intrusions.

In the Western sector, the oldest extrusive unit is the Alpha rhyolite, here texturally different from that of the Raft sector. The Lemoine rhyolite overlies the Alpha rhyolite (Fig. 3). The Lemoine dacite is absent and thus the Lemoine andesite is in direct contact with the Lemoine rhyolite.

In the Eastern sector, the lower part of the Lemoine Member is only represented by the Lemoine dacite and the Lemoine andesite. The Marelle QFP intrudes at several stratigraphic levels in the Lemoine Member.

### **Volcanology of extrusive units**

Six extrusive units occur within the Lemoine Member in the study area. They are, from oldest to youngest, the Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector, the Lemoine rhyolite, the Lemoine dacite, the Lemoine andesite, the HwQFP and the transitional basalt (Boulerice 2016). The thickness ranges, main lithofacies, textures, and petrography for each unit are given in Table 1. Volcanic facies variations were examined for five units, four of which are shown in Fig. 4, and discussed below. In the transitional basalt, no analysis of volcanic facies proportions was made. It is composed of massive and pillowed facies where individual pillows are typically separated by thin hyaloclastite bands.

### ***Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector***

In the Western sector, the Alpha rhyolite dominantly contains coherent (“massive”) facies with accompanying lobate, and hyaloclastite facies (Figs. 4, 5a, 5b). Lobes have of a coherent interior whereas the margins commonly contain stretched amygdales, but lack preserved flow banding. Lobe margins often sharply transition into other lobes or into hyaloclastite (Fig. 5b). Lobe borders can be difficult to distinguish in drill core because of the abundance of cross-cutting mafic dykes, and chlorite alteration. Thus, lobate and massive facies have been grouped together, representing over 90% of the observed drill core in each DDH from the Western sector (LEM-15 and LEM-18 on Fig. 4). Although minor at ≤5%, hyaloclastite is defined by well-preserved, but often stretched fragments (Fig. 5b). This facies is more abundant towards the top of the unit. In the Raft sector, the Alpha rhyolite is interpreted as intrusive, is described below.

### ***Lemoine rhyolite***

The Lemoine rhyolite forms the immediate footwall of the Lemoine VMS deposit (Donahue 1982; Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). It extends 10 km along strike from SW of the former mine site to the Raft sector in the northeast (Fig. 2). It reaches a thickness of ~460 m some 0.5 km to the W of the Lemoine deposit (Ross et al. 2014a, Fig. 2). Within the study area it is thickest in the Western sector, reaching 200 m (Fig. 3), and it thins eastward to ~75 m in the Raft sector, including the ~50 m-thick raft.

In the study area, the Lemoine rhyolite is dominated by coherent (massive) zones, which locally display polygonal joints (Fig. 5c), and lobes (Figs. 5d, 5e). Stretched amygdales are present near lobe margins. A lesser proportion of hyaloclastite is also present within the Lemoine rhyolite in the study area, with a westward increase (Fig. 4). Approximately 850 m west of the Lemoine mine, outcrops display meter scale lobes separated by angular hyaloclastite (Fig. 5f), indicating an effusive origin. Near the mine, the Lemoine rhyolite hosts a thin tuffaceous horizon halfway up the unit (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014).

### ***Lemoine dacite***

The Lemoine dacite is present in the Raft and Eastern sectors where it extends from DDH LEM-52 to the edge of the study area to the NE (Fig. 2). The Lemoine dacite ranges from massive and spherulitic to hyaloclastite. The latter facies is characterized by elongated angular fragments. The spatial distribution of volcanic facies in the Lemoine dacite is highly variable (not shown here, see Boulerice 2016). Taken as a whole, the unit contains more massive facies than hyaloclastite.

### ***Lemoine andesite***

The Lemoine andesite forms a lava unit that extends from the Lemoine mine (and even west of it in some cross-sections, see Ross et al. 2016) to the northeast termination of the Lemoine Member (Fig. 2). The Lemoine andesite is thickest in the Raft sector and systematically decreases in thickness with distance from the center of the study area (Fig. 2). The Lemoine andesite consists predominantly of massive flows with lesser pillowed flows (Fig. 5g). Hyaloclastite forms up to a few tens of percent of the rocks.

Individual pillows can be difficult to distinguish because of deformation and alteration. Massive and pillow-lava proportions have been grouped together in drill holes where their identification was ambiguous. The proportion of hyaloclastite and pillow facies (where available) generally increases with distance from DDH LEM-49, situated near the centre of the study area (Fig. 4).

### ***Hangingwall quartz and feldspar porphyry (HwQFP)***

In the mine area, the HwQFP sits directly on top of the Lemoine rhyolite (Fig. 2). There, it forms the immediate hangingwall to VMS mineralization of the Lemoine deposit (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). In the study area, the HwQFP sits on top of the Lemoine andesite, is up to 120 m-thick in the Western sector (Fig. 3), and from there it gradually thins to the northeast where it eventually disappears (Fig. 4). Feeder dykes of HwQFP composition and texture are present in the Western sector.

The HwQFP is mostly coherent (massive) with minor hyaloclastite (Figs. 4, 6a, 6b). The proportion of hyaloclastite is extremely low to absent in the study area (Fig. 4), with the exception of DDH LEM-31 that intersects a local zone of hyaloclastite. West of the study area, near the former Lemoine mine, the HwQFP consists of amygdaloidal lobes (Fig. 6c) and associated volcaniclastic strata (Donahue 1982; Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). In the mine area, the top of the HwQFP has been described as fining upwards and transitioning into a finely laminated tuff (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014).

### ***Transitional basalt***

The upper part of the Lemoine Member is dominated by a thick sequence of the transitional basalt (Fig. 2). The overall thickness of this unit is unknown in the study area but is at least 300 m thick. Although no analysis of volcanic facies proportions was made for the transitional basalt, the unit is composed essentially of massive (Fig. 6d) and pillowed facies.

## **Intrusive units**

### ***Felsic units***

Five felsic intrusive units have been defined in the study area: the Alpha rhyolite in the Raft sector (Fig. 6e), the Coco Lake QFP (Fig. 6f), the Marelle QFP (Fig. 6g), the dacitic porphyry (not shown), and the Gold Hill tonalite (Fig. 6h). The first four are interpreted as forming multiple sills (Boulerice 2016), intruding at different positions within the lower part of the Lemoine Member (Fig. 2). These four units all have a porphyritic texture with an aphanitic groundmass, but the proportion and size of phenocrysts varies (Table 1), and so does the bulk rock chemistry (see next section). The Marelle QFP forms the thickest, and most laterally persistent, sills, especially the one at the base of the volcanic pile, in contact with the LDC (Fig. 2). All of these felsic intrusions, as well as some gabbros, considerably thicken the lower part of the Lemoine Member, making it approximately ~45% extrusive and ~55% intrusive.

The Alpha rhyolite is clearly intrusive in the Raft sector, unlike in the Western sector. In the Raft sector, the Alpha rhyolite cross-cuts the Lemoine rhyolite based on its distribution at several apparent stratigraphic positions (Fig. 2). Other evidence of an intrusive origin includes the uniformly coherent textures, and specific observations on stripped outcrops, including enclaves of Lemoine rhyolite within the Alpha rhyolite (Fig. 6e), very close to the contact between the two units. This indicates that the Lemoine rhyolite was emplaced first, and was then incorporated as clasts in the intrusive Alpha rhyolite.

The Gold Hill tonalite is different from the other felsic intrusive units, with a discordant orientation at high angle to structural fabric, phaneritic texture, and abundant feldspar. It may be related of the Chibougamau pluton (Boulerice 2016).

### ***Gabbro and diorite***

Various gabbros and diorites are present in the study area (“gabbro” on Fig. 2), but they were not studied in detail, and are not included in the following section on geochemistry. In the mine area, the Lemoine diorite is a volumetrically important intrusive unit (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014; Ross et al. 2014a).

## **Geochemistry: lithological discrimination**

Ratios of typically immobile elements such as Al, Nb, Ti, Th, V, Y, Yb, and Zr, were essential to discriminate the various Lemoine Member volcanic and intrusive units and follow them laterally. Variably mobile elements such as Fe, La and Si were also utilized where needed. The main diagrams used in this study to name and discriminate rocks were the Winchester and Floyd

(1977) classification diagrams (Figs. 7a, 7b), the Ross and Bédard (2009) magmatic affinity diagrams (Fig. 7c), a Ti/Al versus Al/Zr diagram (Fig. 7d), and extended trace elements plots (Fig. 8). The geochemical characteristics of Lemoine Member units are summarized in Table 2.

The dacitic porphyry and the Gold Hill tonalite come late in the sequence of volcanic and intrusive events, since they cross-cut all other rock types (Fig. 2). If these two units are excluded, the Lemoine Member forms a bimodal, mafic-felsic, succession. There is a temporal evolution in magmatic affinity from the lower part of the Lemoine Member, which is tholeiitic to transitional, to the upper part, which is mostly transitional to calc-alkaline (Fig. 7c), as also shown by higher average Zr/Y, Th/Yb and La/Lu in the upper part (Table 2).

On the Agrawal et al. (2008) diagram, the Lemoine andesite plots in the mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB) field, whereas the transitional basalt straddles the MORB and island arc basalt fields (Fig. 7e). On the Hart et al. (2004) fertility diagram, felsic units from the lower part of the Lemoine Member plot in the FIIIb field or nearby, whereas the HwQFP from the upper part of the Lemoine Member plots mostly in the FIIIa field, at significantly lower Yb values (Fig. 7f).

### Geochronology

U-Pb ID-TIMS analytical results are presented in Table 3, along with details of zircon morphology, quality, and abrasion time. Results are further displayed in concordia plots (Fig. 9).

#### *Alpha rhyolite in LEM-18 (z11084)*

The dated sample is a quartz-phyric (5-7%, 2 mm), locally amygdaloidal rhyolite, moderately altered to chlorite and sericite. The zircons from this sample were ~100-200  $\mu\text{m}$ , clear, colourless, euhedral prisms to elongate prisms, with inclusions and fractures. Seven single-grain fractions, chemically abraded for 20 hours, were analyzed and yielded concordant to slightly discordant data. A linear regression of all the analyses, with a lower intercept at the origin, has an upper intercept of  $2728.4 \pm 0.7$  Ma (MSWD=0.38), interpreted as the crystallization age of the Alpha rhyolite.

#### *Lemoine rhyolite in LEM-40 (z10760)*

The dated sample is a quartz-phyric (5-7%, 1-2 mm) rhyolite, moderately altered to chlorite and sericite, with no visible sulfides. Zircon grains retrieved from this sample ranged in size from ~50-175  $\mu\text{m}$ , and were clear, colourless, euhedral prisms with fractures and few inclusions. Six single-grain zircon fractions were chemically abraded for 10-16 hours and yielded

concordant to near concordant analyses. A weighted mean of the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ages of all six fractions is calculated to be  $2727.7 \pm 1.0$  Ma (MSWD=0.8), which is interpreted as the crystallization age of the Lemoine rhyolite.

#### *Marelle QFP north of Lake Yvette (z10988)*

The sample is a quartz-phyric (5-7%,  $\leq 3$  mm, blue) and feldspar-phyric (10-15%,  $\leq 3$  mm) rock, with a finely crystalline groundmass, and trace sulfides. The zircons from this sample included clear, colourless, euhedral prisms to stubby prisms, with prominent fractures and few inclusions, and ranging in size from ~100-200  $\mu\text{m}$ . Six single-grain fractions, chemically abraded for 16-20 hours, were analyzed and yielded overlapping concordant data. A weighted mean of their  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ages is calculated at  $2727.5 \pm 0.6$  Ma (MSWD=0.07) and interpreted as the crystallization age of the Marelle QFP.

### Hydrothermal alteration and mineralization

#### *Alteration indices and downhole geochemical profile*

In the study area, portions of the Lemoine rhyolite and part of the Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector have undergone significant hydrothermal alteration. This is shown by a number of analyzed samples plotting near the chlorite pole on the alteration box plot of Large et al. (2001) for these units (Fig. 10a). A distinct trend towards the sericite pole exists for the Lemoine rhyolite samples. By contrast, other extrusive and intrusive units in the Lemoine Member are mostly weakly altered to unaltered, or show low-temperature alteration (Fig. 10b). To show the spatial variations in alteration, gridded AI values are displayed on a map in ESM2. To document the contrast in alteration signatures between different lithological units, a profile of major oxides, AI and CCPI as a function of depth is included for one drill hole in ESM2.

#### *Alteration assemblages*

Three different alteration mineral assemblages have been defined (Boulerice 2016). These are, from stratigraphic bottom to top, (1) chlorite-sericite; (2) sericite-chlorite; and (3) sericite-chlorite-carbonate $\pm$ epidote (Fig. 11a). Quartz is stable in all of these assemblages.

Chlorite-sericite alteration occurs in the Alpha rhyolite (Western sector only), in the Lemoine rhyolite in the Raft sector, and locally in the Lemoine andesite in the Western sector (Fig. 11a), mostly at the lowest stratigraphic levels in the Lemoine Member. This assemblage is characterized by high AI and CCPI values. In thin section, chlorite is oriented parallel to the main foliation plane (Fig. 12a). Smaller ( $\leq 5$   $\mu\text{m}$ ), less abundant, sericite crystals are distributed

homogeneously throughout the groundmass and included within large micropoikilitic feldspar phenocrysts. Larger sericite grains occur with chlorite along foliation planes (Fig. 12b).

Sericite-chlorite alteration occurs in most of the Lemoine rhyolite, both in the Western and the Raft sectors (Fig. 11a). It is also present locally in the Coco Lake QFP. The sericite-chlorite assemblage is characterized by variable AI and moderate CCPI values. In thin section, fine ( $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ) sericite is abundant and widespread (Fig. 12c-d).

The sericite-chlorite-carbonate±epidote assemblage is preferentially developed in the uppermost part of the felsic volcanic package that includes the HwQFP and the intrusions at that stratigraphic level (Figs. 11a, 12e, 12f). This assemblage is also developed in the Lemoine dacite in the Raft sector. It is mostly associated with albite-epidote-carbonate (calcite) trends on the alteration box plot (Fig. 10).

#### ***Metal anomalies and “exhalites” in the study area***

The Lemoine VMS deposit was located between the Lemoine rhyolite and the HwQFP. Drilling in the study area has mostly targeted the same horizon, and no new deposits have been identified thus far. However, the Zn-Cu-Au-Ag metal anomalies that have been found at various positions in the Lemoine Member indicate that several stratigraphic levels are prospective. For simplicity, Figure 11b locates drill core intercepts with  $\text{Zn} \geq 0.5\%$ ,  $\text{Cu} \geq 0.25\%$ , or  $\text{Au} > 0.1 \text{ g/t}$ .

Two potential hydrothermal upflow zones are associated with the Lemoine andesite. The first is located in the Western sector and is associated with Zn values in DDH LEM-49 (3.19% Zn over 1.25 m and 1.29% Zn over 2.0 m) and Cu, Au and Ag anomalies in DDH LEM-50 (e.g., 0.74% Cu and 0.32 g/t Au over 0.81 m) (Fig. 11b). The second is associated with DDH LEM-60 in the Raft sector where anomalous Cu, Au and Ag are present (0.89% Cu over 0.5 m). Apart from these two areas, anomalous Zn values are present in the Lemoine andesite in DDH LEM-15 (0.67% Zn over 1.5 m), and anomalous values of Cu, Au and Ag are locally found higher up in the stratigraphy in the transitional basalt (e.g., 0.46 g/t Au over 0.5 m in DDH LEM-60) (Fig. 11b).

Thin layers of fine-grained silica-rich material and laminated tuff, sometimes with sulfides, occur in the study area. These layers are assumed to originate, at least in part, from exhalative processes associated with hydrothermal activity. Spatial analysis of these exhalative horizons has demonstrated an association with the stratigraphic top of both the Lemoine andesite

and of the HwQFP (Figs. 11c, 11d). Donahue (1982) and Mercier-Langevin et al. (2014) also identified a thin layer of laminated tuff at the top of the HwQFP to the WSW of the Lemoine deposit. In the study area, these horizons are not laterally extensive but the intrusive Coco Lake QFP, at the same stratigraphic position, could be a factor in their preservation.

## **Discussion**

### ***Submarine lava flows and location of volcanic vents***

#### **Felsic lavas**

Two effusive felsic units in the lower part of the Lemoine Member – the Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector and the Lemoine rhyolite – are interpreted as one or more lobe-hyaloclastite flows (Gibson et al. 1999). This is because (i) they are relatively widespread given their thicknesses, and (ii) massive and lobate facies dominate, with a much smaller proportion of hyaloclastite. In lobe-hyaloclastite flows, vent-proximal areas correspond to the maximum flow thickness and maximum proportions of massive facies, whereas distal areas are the thinnest, and contain the most hyaloclastite (Gibson et al. 1999).

Although drill core gives access to the third dimension, the density of drill holes in the study area is not enough to map thickness and facies variations in 3D. Therefore suggestions about possible volcanic vent locations are based on 2D facies variations (Fig. 4). Another caveat is that the effects of tectonic deformation, including faults, have not been specifically considered when positioning these vents.

The Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector is a relatively small lobe-hyaloclastite flow, and its volcanic vent must be somewhere in the Western sector (Fig. 4a).

The Lemoine rhyolite is interpreted to have formed as several lobe-hyaloclastite flows, coming from several volcanic vents. The unit is thickest in the mine area, and there must be a vent or several vents in this general area, although the details of facies variations have not been documented there. The tuffaceous horizon halfway up the unit in the mine area (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014) may separate two stacked flows. Within the study area, the westward increase in hyaloclastite from DDH LEM-34 to DDH LEM-15 (Fig. 4b) suggests that a volcanic vent is located somewhere east of DDH LEM-34.

The origin of the Lemoine dacite is less clear, but the best hypothesis is that it is also a lava flow. Based on thickness variations, the volcanic vent must be located east of the study area (Fig. 2).

The origin of the HwQFP is also more difficult to interpret. Clear lobes exist near Lake Yvette (Fig. 2), so

the unit must be partly effusive. However, the overall low proportion of hyaloclastite in the HwQFP within the study area is distinctive. It could indicate that this unit partly consists of sills. Alternatively, paleo-seafloor topography could be responsible for the greater abundance in fragmental facies to the WSW of the study area. The abundance of HwQFP feeder dykes in the Western sector (e.g., ESM2, Fig. S2, near 390 m) is an argument for a volcanic vent location in this sector.

#### Mafic to intermediate lavas

Mafic to intermediate lavas often form massive and pillowed flows when emplaced underwater. Such lavas tend to thin with distance from the vent, unless strong topography is involved. There is often a general progression from dominantly massive to more pillows and finally more hyaloclastite with distance from the vent (e.g., Dimroth et al. 1978).

Taking this into account, the main vent(s) for the Lemoine andesite must be in the centre of the study area, between DDHs LEM-49 and LEM 36, where the unit's thickness is the greatest and the proportion of hyaloclastite the smallest (Figs. 2, 4). The decrease in the proportion of hyaloclastite in DDH LEM-44 indicates the possibility of a minor volcanic vent in this area (Fig. 4).

### ***Geological evolution and architecture of the Lemoine Member***

#### Lower part of the Lemoine Member

The felsic tholeiitic magmatism in the Waconichi Formation has been interpreted as the product of partial melting of a pre-existing tholeiitic basalt (Bédard et al. 2010). No clear trace of the Obatogamau Formation – the pre-Waconichi tholeiitic basalt – can be found in the Lemoine area, as the felsic rocks of the Waconichi Formation are directly adjacent to the Lac Doré Complex (LDC). But a mafic ocean floor (grey on Fig. 13a) likely existed before felsic magmatism developed.

The oldest part of the Lemoine Member in the study area is the extrusive portion of the FIIIb Alpha rhyolite, dated at  $2728.4 \pm 0.7$  Ma (Fig. 13a). The Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector consists of a small lobe-hyaloclastite flow, with a local volcanic vent (Fig. 4a). High alteration intensity in DDHs LEM-15 and LEM-18 (Figs. 10a, and ESM2, Figs S1a, S2) and the presence of an alteration assemblage (Fig. 11a) similar to one associated with high temperature alteration in the Lemoine deposit area (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014), indicate that the area was proximal to a hydrothermal upflow zone and may be prospective for VMS mineralization.

The extrusive portion of the Alpha rhyolite is overlain by the FIIIb Lemoine rhyolite, dated at  $2727.7 \pm 1.0$  Ma (Fig. 13b). It extends laterally for up to 10 km, with the thickest portion in the Lemoine mine area (Fig. 2). The lateral extent of the Lemoine rhyolite coupled with the quantitative analysis of volcanic facies suggest that the unit consists of several lobe-hyaloclastite flows. Volcanic vents are proposed both near the former mine and in the study area, between DDH LEM-34 in the Western sector and DDH LEM-36 in the Raft sector (Fig. 4). Well-developed high-temperature alteration in the area of DDH LEM-36 (Fig. 11a and ESM2, Fig. S1c) also indicates the presence of a paleo-hydrothermal upflow zone in the Raft sector (Fig. 13b).

The Lemoine dacite represents a thin, yet extensive unit, of possible lava flow origin, located in the Eastern and Raft sectors of the study area (Fig. 2). Lateral thickness variations of the unit imply that the point of origin is located to the east (Fig. 13c). Alteration intensity in the Lemoine dacite is relatively low, as shown by low alteration index values.

The Lemoine andesite is the most laterally extensive extrusive unit of the lower part of the Lemoine Member. It represents the only mafic to intermediate tholeiitic volcanic unit in the study area and consists of massive and pillowed flows, with minor hyaloclastite. Thickness and facies variations point to a volcanic vent located at the center of the study area, somewhere between DDHs LEM-49 and LEM-36 (Figs. 4, 13d). This also coincides with one area of intense alteration displaying the chlorite-sericite assemblage (Fig. 11a) and anomalous Cu-Zn-Au values in DDHs LEM-49 and LEM-50 (Fig. 11b).

The absence of exhalative or finely laminated siliceous sedimentary horizons below the Lemoine andesite in the study area (Fig. 11c) implies that the volcanic units were either emplaced relatively quickly or that these horizons were not preserved. A finely laminated siliceous horizon above the Lemoine andesite indicates a pause in volcanism after the emplacement of the lower part of the Lemoine Member.

#### Upper part of the Lemoine Member

The HwQFP is a felsic unit mostly interpreted as effusive, and perhaps originating in the Western sector (Fig. 14a). Portions of the HwQFP may be intrusive. The HwQFP is overlain by an exhalative horizon (Fig. 11c) indicating another hiatus in effusive volcanism. The bulk of the upper part of the Lemoine Member is composed of the transitional basalt and minor felsic lenses (Fig. 14b).

### Intrusions

The origin of some units in the Lemoine Member was unclear before this study, but the following units are now recognized as intrusive: a portion of the Alpha rhyolite (Fig. 13b); the Coco Lake QFP (Fig. 14c); the Marelle QFP (Fig. 14d); various gabbroic to dioritic intrusions; the dacitic porphyry; and the Gold Hill tonalite. Approximately 55% of the lower part of the Lemoine Member is therefore considered to be intrusive.

The Marelle QFP is dated at  $2727.5 \pm 0.6$  Ma, which is within error of the age obtained for the Lemoine rhyolite ( $2727.7 \pm 1.0$  Ma). Because the Marelle QFP cross-cuts almost all units in the Lemoine Member, this means that the following units were emplaced in quick succession, within a maximum of 1.8 m.y.: the Lemoine rhyolite, the intrusive portion of the Alpha rhyolite, the Lemoine dacite, the Lemoine andesite, the HwQFP, at least a portion of the transitional basalt, the Marelle QFP, and probably the Coco Lake QFP. This shows rapid emplacement of the lower part of the Lemoine Member and that the volcanic hiatuses recorded by exhalite horizons were of relatively short duration.

### *Implications for VMS exploration in the Lemoine Member*

The Lemoine Member east of the former Lemoine mine is considered highly prospective for VMS exploration because: (1) it contains the same stratigraphic succession as that which hosted the Lemoine deposit, including several FIII rhyolites; (2) it contains evidence for high-temperature hydrothermal alteration of the type commonly associated with VMS deposits; (3) several volcanic vents are thought to occur in the area (newly identified by this study), as well as possible synvolcanic faults (Lafrance and Brisson 2006); (4) Zn-Cu-Au-Ag metal anomalies occur at various stratigraphic levels; (5) the geology is similar to that of the prolific Matagami district (Debreil et al. 2018). The high abundance of felsic to mafic intrusions within the lower part of the Lemoine Member, and the proximity with the intrusive LDC, means that focused heat flow was likely (Galley 2003). Geochemistry suggests that the extrusive felsic units from the lower part of the Lemoine Member (Fig. 7f) were derived from magmas generated by low-pressure partial melting (Barrett and MacLean 1999; Hart et al. 2004), implying high heat flux in the upper crust. These criteria, and the investigation techniques employed here, in particular the less commonly utilized physical volcanology methods, can also be applied to VMS exploration globally.

### *Comparison with the Matagami district*

The Chibougamau district bears many similarities in age and geology to the prolific Matagami VMS district (Fig. 1b). Common points are as follows:

- Bimodal-mafic VMS deposits are present in both districts;
- VMS deposits are located close to large synvolcanic mafic layered intrusions (~2728 Ma LDC in Chibougamau, ~2725 Ma Bell River Complex in Matagami; Mortensen 1993; Maier et al. 1996);
- VMS deposits are associated with FIII rhyolites emplaced as lobe-hyaloclastite flows (~2728-2727 Ma Alpha rhyolite and Lemoine rhyolite in Chibougamau, ~2726 Ma Watson Lake rhyolite in Matagami; Ross et al. 2014b; Debreil et al. 2018; this study);
- The hangingwall volcanic sequence is dominantly mafic in both districts.

However, many more VMS deposits have been found so far in the Matagami district. The Lemoine deposit was rich in Au, whereas the Matagami deposits are typically Zn-rich. Mechanisms for Au enrichment at Lemoine were discussed by Mercier-Langevin et al. (2014) and may include a higher Au endowment in the crust or mantle. This is consistent with the several types of gold deposits found in the Chibougamau district. Other explanations for the gold enrichment at Lemoine include a magmatic input to the hydrothermal system, and very effective transport and deposition mechanisms for gold (Mercier-Langevin et al. 2014). Another difference between the Matagami and Chibougamau districts is that the Watson Lake Group at Matagami, which hosts the bulk of the felsic volcanic rocks, is typically considered effusive (Debreil et al. 2018), whereas the lower part of the Lemoine Member has a considerable proportion of felsic intrusive rocks.

### *Association between some VMS deposits and lobe-hyaloclastite flows*

There is an increasing recognition of the spatial association between some VMS deposits and lobe-hyaloclastite flows. In the Abitibi Subprovince, examples include Matagami (Debreil et al. 2018), Noranda (Gibson et al. 1999) and Chibougamau (this study). These lobe-hyaloclastite flows are all FIII-type, indicating high eruption temperatures and probably relatively low viscosities (Hart et al. 2004) compared to lava producing blocky domes. FIII rhyolites indicate shallow melting (Hart et al. 2004) and in the three districts mentioned, are associated with high heat flow environments related with large subvolcanic intrusions.

To our knowledge, no detailed documentation of the association between lobe-hyaloclastite flows and VMS

deposits yet exists outside the Abitibi, but this may be due to a scarcity of detailed volcanological studies in FIII rhyolites elsewhere. In the Iberian Pyrite Belt, near the Rio Tinto mining district, Valenzuela et al. (2011) describe a 60 m-thick, mostly coherent rhyolitic lava that extends laterally over 3 km, and propose that the lava had a low viscosity. No REE analyses are provided, but in the Zr/Y versus Y diagram of Leshner et al. (1986), this lava plots in the joint field for FII and FIIIa rhyolites.

## Conclusions

Volcanic and intrusive units in the Lemoine Member are identified based on a combination of stratigraphic position, texture and immobile element ratios. Based on volcanic facies, we propose a mode of emplacement for each unit that shows that the majority of the felsic rocks in the Lemoine Member is made up of porphyritic, shallow subvolcanic intrusive units. Four of the felsic units are extrusive, and at least two (Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector; Lemoine rhyolite) are interpreted as lobe-hyaloclastite lava flows. Five volcanic vent areas are identified based on a combination of volcanic facies and thickness variations.

Three distinct alteration assemblages have been mapped in the study area, and their pattern is similar to that documented near the Lemoine mine, with high-temperature, chlorite-rich alteration in older volcanic units and lower-temperature, more sericite- and carbonate-rich alteration in younger units. Hydrothermal up-flow zones correspond with inferred synvolcanic faults and contain anomalous Cu-Zn-Ag-Au. The abundance of subvolcanic intrusions, including the LDC, suggests that focused heat flow was present. Some of these intrusions, such as the Marelle QFP, have been shown to have the same age as effusive felsic units, confirming their synvolcanic timing.

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Table 1. Lithofacies characteristics for the Lemoine Member.

Stratigraphic unit	Thickness in study area	Lithofacies in study area	Texture and petrography of coherent rocks
<i>Intrusive units</i>			
Gold Hill tonalite	Discordant	Always coherent	Phaneritic (Fig. 6h) 70% 2-4 mm plag, 10-20% 3-4 mm qtz, minor K-feldspar 10-20% pink to dark grey aphanitic groundmass
Dacitic porphyry	0-80 m in total	Always coherent (multiple subvolcanic sills)	1-2% 1-3 mm round qtz phenocr. 10-20% 1-4 mm subhedr. plag phenocr.
Marelle QFP	165-660 m in total	Always coherent (multiple subvolcanic sills)	10-25% 4-7 mm, euhedr., locally zoned, resorbed blue qtz phenocr. (Fig. 6g) 10-20% 3-5 mm subhedr. to euhedr. micropoikilitic plag. phenocr. Aphanitic groundmass
Coco Lake QFP	0-140 m in total	Always coherent (multiple subvolcanic sills)	7-15% 2-4 mm blue qtz phenocr. (Fig. 6f) 1-5% 2-5 mm plag phenocr.
Alpha rhyolite in Raft sector	0-115 m in total	Always coherent (multiple subvolcanic sills) Contains enclaves of Lemoine rhyolite, near contact (Fig. 6e)	Trace-5%, 1-3 mm qtz phenocr. Coarse “leopard-like” spherulitic texture (Fig. 6e); spherules average 2-4 mm, locally ≤1 cm (larger spherules commonly coalesce)
<i>Extrusive units, upper part of Lemoine Member</i>			
Transitional basalt	>300 m	Massive & pillowed flows Thin hyaloclastite bands	Mostly aphyric and aphanitic (Fig. 6d) Locally amygdaloidal (3-6%, qtz-carbonate)
HwQFP	0-120 m	Overwhelmingly massive One DDH has hyaloclastite	3-7% 1-4 mm qtz phenocr. (Fig. 6a) 5-8% 1-4 mm fp phenocr. Local large Fe-carbonate amygdales (Fig. 6b) Local epidote patches
<i>Extrusive units, lower part of Lemoine member</i>			
Lemoine andesite	≤180 m	Massive > pillows (15-80 cm across, Fig. 5g) 0-30% hyaloclastite	Mostly aphyric & aphanitic Local pyroxene phenocr., local plag phenocr. Locally amygdaloidal (1-5%, 1-3 mm, blue qtz) (Fig. 5h)
Lemoine dacite	0-60 m	Mostly massive 10-45% hyaloclastite	Trace-1% 1 mm blue qtz phenocr. Trace 1 mm fp phenocr. Spherulitic
Lemoine rhyolite	0-200 m	Mostly massive (local polygonal joints, Fig. 5c) & lobate (Figs. 5d, 5e) <5-30% hyaloclastite (Fig. 5f)	1-5%, 1-3 mm euhedr. blue qtz phenocr. surrounded by milky qtz corona (also containing chl+ser) Aphanitic groundmass
Alpha rhyolite in Western sector	0-120 m	Mostly massive (Fig. 5a) & lobate <5% hyaloclastite (Fig. 5b)	3-7% (locally 15%), 1-3 mm resorbed blue qtz phenocr. (Fig. 5a) 0-3% 1-3 mm fp phenocr. Aphanitic groundmass

Abbreviations: chl = chlorite, fp = feldspar, plag = plagioclase, ser = sericite, qtz = quartz

Table 2. Geochemical summary of the Lemoine Member (average concentrations and ratios)\*.

	n	SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>T</sup>	Zr	V	Ti/Zr	Al/Zr	Zr/Y	Th/Yb	La/Lu	La/Sm	Gd/Lu	Composition	Composition	Magmatic affinity
		%	%	%	ppm	ppm					c.n.	c.n.	c.n.	W&F77Fig2	W&F77Fig6	R&B09Fig7
<i>Intrusive units</i>																
Gold Hill tonalite	22	62.9	0.42	3.9	140	n.d.	18	617	8.9	1.9	7.6	2.7	1.6	Andesite to rhyodacite	Andesite to rhyodacite	CA
Dacitic porphyry	13	63.3	0.87	9.1	331	n.d.	17	207	4.8	0.45	2.9	1.7	1.2	Andesite to rhyodacite	Rhyodacite to dacite	TR to CA
Marelle QFP	68	71.5	0.43	4.8	367	n.d.	7.1	178	3.4	0.49	2.9	1.8	1.2	Rhyolite to rhyodacite	Rhyodacite to dacite	TR
Coco Lake QFP	66	75.1	0.20	3.2	344	n.d.	3.5	178	2.8	0.47	2.4	1.8	1.0	Mostly rhyolite	Mostly rhyolite	TH to TR
<i>Extrusive units, upper part of Lemoine Member</i>																
Transitional basalt	221	50.6	1.3	11.8	114	203	69	782	4.8	0.49	3.6	1.8	1.4	Andesite to basalt	Andesite to basalt	Mostly TR to CA
HWQFP	68	70.9	0.42	5.0	476	n.d.	5.3	137	5.3	0.50	2.7	1.9	1.1	Rhyolite to com./pan.	Rhyolite to rhyodacite	TR to CA
<i>Extrusive units, lower part of Lemoine Member</i>																
Lemoine andesite	81	52.4	1.9	15.1	213	92	54	317	3.6	0.23	1.6	1.3	1.2	Andesite to basalt	Andesite to basalt	TH to TR
Lemoine dacite	17	69.1	0.57	7.4	627	n.d.	5.5	94	4.4	0.27	1.6	1.3	1.0	Rhyolite to com./pan.	Rhyodacite	TR
Lemoine rhyolite	119	74.2	0.19	4.6	482	n.d.	2.3	122	2.8	0.36	1.8	1.5	1.0	Rhyolite to com./pan.	Rhyolite	Mostly TH
Alpha rhyolite	40	70.5	0.42	8.0	578	n.d.	4.4	98	4.2	0.26	1.5	1.3	1.0	Rhyolite to com./pan.	Rhyolite to rhyodacite	Mostly TR

Abbreviations: CA = calc-alkaline; c.n. = chondrite normalized (McDonough & Sun, 1995); com./pan. = comendite/pantellerite; n = number of analyses; n.d. = no data; R&B09Fig7 = figure 7 in Ross and Bedard (2009); TH = tholeiitic; TR = transitional; W&F77Fig2 = figure 2 in Winchester and Floyd (1977).

\* Data sources: Actlabs data (ESM1) and Cogitore analyses for SiO<sub>2</sub> to Zr/Y (except V); Actlabs only for V and Th/Yb to Gd/Lu.

**Table 3: U-Pb Zircon ID-TIMS analytical data**

Fraction <sup>1</sup>	Description <sup>2</sup>	Wt. ug	U ppm	Pb <sup>3</sup> ppm	206Pb <sup>4</sup> 204Pb	Pb <sup>5</sup> pg	Isotopic Ratios <sup>6</sup>						Ages (Ma) <sup>8</sup>						% Disc		
							208Pb 206Pb	207Pb 235U	±1SE Abs	206Pb 238U	±1SE Abs	Corr. <sup>7</sup> Coeff.	207Pb 206Pb	±1SE Abs	206Pb 238U	±2SE	207Pb 235U	±2SE		207Pb 206Pb	±2SE
<b>Alpha rhyolite in LEM-18 (Z11084)</b>																					
A20-1 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu El,In,Fr,CA20	9.7	27	16	3623	2.3	0.2	13.50795	0.01655	0.51986	0.00052	0.931	0.18845	0.00009	2698.6	4.4	2715.8	2.3	2728.7	1.5	1.4
A20-2 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu El,In,Fr,CA20	4.8	19	12	632	4.8	0.19	13.67247	0.02954	0.52646	0.00114	0.884	0.18835	0.00020	2727.3	4.1	2726.5	9.6	2727.8	3.4	0.1
A20-4 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,rFr,CA20	3.6	25	16	1244	2.4	0.2	13.69784	0.01917	0.52698	0.00059	0.899	0.18852	0.00012	2728.7	5.0	2729.0	2.6	2729.3	2.1	0.0
A20-5 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,rFr,CA20	3.5	27	17	4483	0.7	0.2	13.70978	0.01867	0.52772	0.00062	0.929	0.18842	0.00010	2729.9	2.6	2731.8	5.3	2728.4	1.7	-0.2
A20-8 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,In,Fr,CA20	4.0	34	21	7987	0.6	0.19	13.59505	0.01626	0.52374	0.00051	0.930	0.18826	0.00009	2721.9	2.3	2715.0	4.3	2727.0	1.5	0.5
A20-10 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,rFr,CA20	5.6	18	11	2409	1.4	0.2	13.63923	0.01822	0.52494	0.00061	0.913	0.18844	0.00010	2725.0	2.5	2720.1	5.1	2728.6	1.8	0.4
A20-11 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,rFr,CA20	3.3	24	15	1265	2.1	0.2	13.67099	0.01957	0.52599	0.00063	0.885	0.18850	0.00013	2727.2	2.7	2724.6	5.3	2729.1	2.2	0.2
<b>Lemoine rhyolite in LEM-40 (Z10760)</b>																					
A10-1 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu tip,fln,CA10	0.6	67	42	1011	1.3	0.2	13.70171	0.02636	0.52758	0.00097	0.908	0.18836	0.00015	2731.3	8.2	2729.3	3.6	2727.9	2.7	-0.2
A10-2 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu El,In,Fr,CA10	2.8	45	28	3008	1.4	0.2	13.66998	0.01745	0.52674	0.00056	0.929	0.18822	0.00009	2727.7	4.7	2727.1	2.4	2726.7	1.6	-0.1
A12-2 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,Fr,CA12	1.0	37	23	682	1.8	0.2	13.73851	0.02805	0.52909	0.00099	0.886	0.18832	0.00018	2727.6	3.1	2737.6	8.4	2731.9	3.9	-0.5
A16-3 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,Fr,CA16	1.2	55	34	695	1.1	0.2	13.72468	0.03060	0.52786	0.00120	0.890	0.18857	0.00020	2732.4	10.1	2730.9	4.2	2729.8	3.5	-0.1
A16-5 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu tip,Fr,CA16	0.6	61	39	666	1.9	0.2	13.71554	0.02795	0.52771	0.00097	0.874	0.18850	0.00019	2731.8	8.2	2730.3	3.9	2729.1	3.3	-0.1
A16-6 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,Fr,CA16	1.2	58	36	1972	0.8	0.2	13.62622	0.01875	0.52459	0.00062	0.925	0.18839	0.00010	2718.6	5.3	2724.1	2.6	2728.1	1.8	0.4
<b>Marelle QFP (Z10988)</b>																					
A16-1 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,Fr,CA16	5.5	31	19	2090	2.7	0.2	13.66117	0.01793	0.52614	0.00058	0.899	0.18831	0.00011	2725.2	4.9	2726.5	2.5	2727.5	1.9	0.1
A16-2 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,Fr,fln,CA16	4.6	40	25	4695	1.3	0.2	13.64998	0.01725	0.52578	0.00056	0.921	0.18829	0.00009	2723.6	4.8	2725.7	2.4	2727.3	1.7	0.2
A16-3 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,Fr,fln,CA16	3.1	41	25	2663	1.6	0.2	13.69243	0.01814	0.52740	0.00059	0.919	0.18830	0.00010	2730.5	5.0	2728.7	2.5	2727.3	1.7	-0.1
A20-1 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu St,Fr,CA20	9.1	51	31	10384	1.5	0.2	13.67861	0.01577	0.52684	0.00048	0.944	0.18830	0.00008	2728.1	4.0	2727.7	2.2	2727.4	1.4	0.0
A20-2 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,fln,rFr,CA20	6.9	42	26	5753	1.6	0.2	13.69150	0.01600	0.52729	0.00049	0.942	0.18832	0.00008	2730.0	4.1	2728.6	2.2	2727.6	1.4	-0.1
A20-3 (1;CA)	Co,Clr,Eu Pr,Fr,In,CA20	7.7	39	24	5635	1.8	0.2	13.67533	0.01635	0.52658	0.00050	0.944	0.18835	0.00008	2727.0	4.3	2727.5	2.3	2727.8	1.4	0.0

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>Number in bracket refers to the number of zircon grains in the analysis. CA = chemically abraded; PA = physically abraded.

<sup>2</sup>Fraction descriptions: Co=Colourless, Clr=Clear, Eu=Euhedral, Pr=Prismatic, St=Stubby Prism, El=Elongate, Tip=Tip, rFr=Rare Fractures, fFr=Few Fractures, Fr=Fractures, rIn=Rare Inclusions, fln=Few Inclusions, In=Inclusions, CA10=Chemically Abraded for 10 hours, CA12=Chemically Abraded for 12 hours, CA16=Chemically Abraded for 16 hours, CA20=Chemically Abraded for 20 hours.

<sup>3</sup>Radiogenic Pb

<sup>4</sup>Measured ratio, corrected for spike and fractionation

<sup>5</sup>Total common Pb in analysis corrected for fractionation and spike

<sup>6</sup>Corrected for blank Pb and U and common Pb, errors quoted are 1 sigma absolute; procedural blank values for this study ranged from <0.1- 0.1 pg for U and 0.5-2 pg for Pb; Pb blank isotopic composition is based on the analysis of procedural blanks; corrections for common Pb were made using Stacey and Kramers (1975) compositions

<sup>7</sup>Correlation Coefficient

<sup>8</sup>Corrected for blank and common Pb, errors quoted are 2 sigma in Ma

## Figures

Fig. 1. (a) Location of the Abitibi Subprovince in eastern Canada. (b) Simplified geology of the Abitibi Subprovince showing the location of the Chibougamau district. (c) Simplified geology of the Chibougamau district (modified from Leclerc et al. 2012) showing the location of the Scott Lake and Lemoine VMS deposits, in felsic rocks of the Waconichi Formation.

Fig. 2. Geology of the area around the Lemoine Mine and to the NE. The trace of section A-A' shown in Fig. 3 is marked. Map modified from Lafrance and Brisson (2006), Mercier-Langevin et al. (2014) and Boulerice (2016); U-Pb ages from Mortensen (1993) and this study.

Fig. 3. Cross-section A-A' through the Western sector of study area (see Fig. 2 for location). The section shows the steep dips of the volcanic strata, the stratigraphic order of the units, and their thicknesses.

Fig. 4. Maps of facies variations within volcanic units: (a) Alpha rhyolite, (b) Lemoine rhyolite, (c) Lemoine andesite, (d) HwQFP.

Fig. 5. Photos and detailed map illustrating extrusive facies from the lower part of the Lemoine Member. (a) Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector, coherent facies, with quartz-phyric texture, in DDH LEM-18, near 71.5 m depth. Ruler shows cm and mm graduations. (b) Alpha rhyolite, lobate facies with spherulites (upper two rows) and hyaloclastite facies (lower row) in DDH LEM-36, 180 m depth. (c) Lemoine rhyolite on outcrop 13-ARB-13 (see Fig. 2 for location), coherent facies, with polygonal joints. (d) Lemoine rhyolite on outcrop 13-ARB-18, showing lobe surrounded by hyaloclastite. Notebook is 18 cm long. (e) Map of Lemoine rhyolite on outcrop 13-ARB-18. (f) Lemoine rhyolite on outcrop 13-ARB-01, hyaloclastite facies. (g) Lemoine andesite, pillowed facies, DDH LEM-36, 425 m depth. (h) Lemoine andesite, with epidote patches (**EP**) and quartz-pyrrhotite-chlorite-epidote amygdales (**Amyg**), DDH LEM-52, 454 m depth.

Fig. 6. Photographs illustrating extrusive facies from the upper part of the Lemoine Member, and intrusive units. (a) HWQFP showing lapilli-sized fragment and porphyritic texture, DDH LEM-52, near 289 m depth. (b) HwQFP on outcrop 13-ARB-03, showing large iron carbonate amygdales. (c) Lobe in HwQFP near Lake Yvette. (d) Transitional basalt, foliated, with quartz-carbonate veinlets, DDH LEM-44, 165 m depth. (e) Alpha rhyolite in the Raft sector, outcrop 13-ARB-28. Note the spherulitic texture and the enclave of Lemoine rhyolite. (f) Coco Lake QFP with blue quartz and white feldspar phenocrysts, DDH LEM-31E, 1142.03 m depth. (g) Marelle QFP, from the U-Pb geochronology outcrop near Lake Yvette. (h) Gold Hill tonalite, DDH LEM-52, 542.6 m depth. All cores shown are BQ size (3.7 cm diameter).

Fig. 7. Geochemistry of the Lemoine member. (a)-(b) Classification diagrams from Winchester and Floyd (1977). AB = alkali basalt. (c) Magmatic affinity diagram from Ross and Bedard (2009). (d) Ti/Zr versus Al/Zr diagram useful for separating the felsic units. (e) Tectonic discrimination diagram for mafic rocks, from Agrawal et al. (2008). MORB = mid-ocean ridge basalt, IAB = island arc basalt, CRB = continental rift basalt, OIB = ocean island basalt. The two axes, DF1 and DF2, are linear combinations of the elements La, Nb, Sm, Th, and Yb. (f) Rhyolite "fertility" diagram from Hart et al. (2004). The subscript 'cn' denotes normalization to the average chondrite of Nakamura (1974). Data sources: our Activation Laboratories data in (a) to (f), and company data in (a)-(d).

Fig. 8. Extended trace element diagrams for volcanic and intrusive units of the Lemoine member. Only the Activation Laboratories data were used here. Primitive mantle normalization values from Sun and McDonough (1989).

Fig. 9. Concordia plots for the three dated samples: (a) Alpha rhyolite; (b) Lemoine rhyolite; (c) Marelle QFP.

Fig. 10. Alteration box plot from Large et al. (2001). (a) Alpha rhyolite in the Western sector and Lemoine rhyolite. (b) All other extrusive and intrusive units in the Lemoine Member, including Alpha rhyolite in the Raft sector. Least altered boxes are from Gifkins et al. (2005) for modern volcanic arcs and Rogers et al. (2014) for modern mid-ocean ridge basalts. Data sources: our Activation Laboratories data, plus Cogitore data.

Fig. 11. Maps of (a) hydrothermal alteration assemblages, (b) metal anomalies, and (c) exhalative horizons (Fig. 2 for geology legend). Alteration assemblages were drawn from a combination of drill core observations, petrography and geochemistry. Assay samples in drill holes were projected vertically to the surface, but exhalites are shown at the correct stratigraphic position. (d) Photo of exhalative horizon above the HwQFP in DDH LEM-52, 279.7 m.

Fig. 12. Photomicrographs of alteration assemblages, using plane polarized light (a, c, e) and cross-polarized light (b, d, f). (a)-(b) Chlorite (**Chl**)-sericite (**Ser**) alteration in the Alpha rhyolite, Western sector, DDH LEM-15, 177.0 m depth. **Qz** = quartz. (c)-(d) Sericite-chlorite alteration in the Lemoine rhyolite, DDH LEM-18, 360 m depth. The quartz phenocryst is resorbed but has developed an alteration corona rich in quartz. Minor biotite (**Bt**) is present. (e)-(f) Carbonate (**Cb**)-sericite-chlorite alteration in the HwQFP, DDH LEM-61, 38.6 m.

Fig. 13. Early volcanic evolution of the lower part of the Lemoine Member. (a) Emplacement of the Alpha rhyolite on the paleoseafloor with an active hydrothermal upflow zone. (b) Effusion of the Lemoine rhyolite through two different volcanic vents. The hydrothermal upflow zone active in (a) is partly active through this stage. The emplacement of the Alpha rhyolite continues in the Raft sector after the Lemoine rhyolite. (c) Emplacement of the Lemoine dacite originating east of the study area. (d) Emplacement of the Lemoine andesite possibly associated with two volcanic vents. Hydrothermal upflow is associated with the area proximal to the volcanic vent in the Western sector. The end of the Lemoine andesite is marked by a hiatus in volcanism represented by a tuffaceous layer (not shown), and the Lemoine VMS deposit probably developed at this stage and perhaps in (c) as well. Although the timeline for the emplacement of the LDC is not well defined, it is interpreted here to have migrated upwards in the crust at the same time as the emplacement of the Lemoine Member units as suggested by the two U-Pb ages on the LDC. Only a small portion of the LDC in contact with the Lemoine Member is shown here. The size of the alteration footprint around the inferred hydrothermal vents has been exaggerated to emphasize this important feature.

Fig. 14. Volcanic evolution of the upper part of the Lemoine Member, and some intrusions. (a) Emplacement of the HwQFP from one vent in the study area and a possible second vent to the west, followed by a hiatus in effusive volcanism. (b) Emplacement of the transitional basalt and intercalated felsic lenses. (c) Intrusion of the Coco Lake QFP that forms sills located at contact boundaries between the HwQFP and the Lemoine andesite as well as the HwQFP and the transitional basalt. The Coco Lake QFP also intrudes the Lemoine rhyolite in the Raft sector. (d) Intrusion of the Marelle QFP forming the raft structure in the Raft sector. Gabbros not shown.

## Tables

Table 1. Lithofacies characteristics for the Lemoine Member.

Table 2. Geochemical summary of the Lemoine Member (average concentrations and ratios).

Table 3. U-Pb zircon ID-TIMS analytical data.

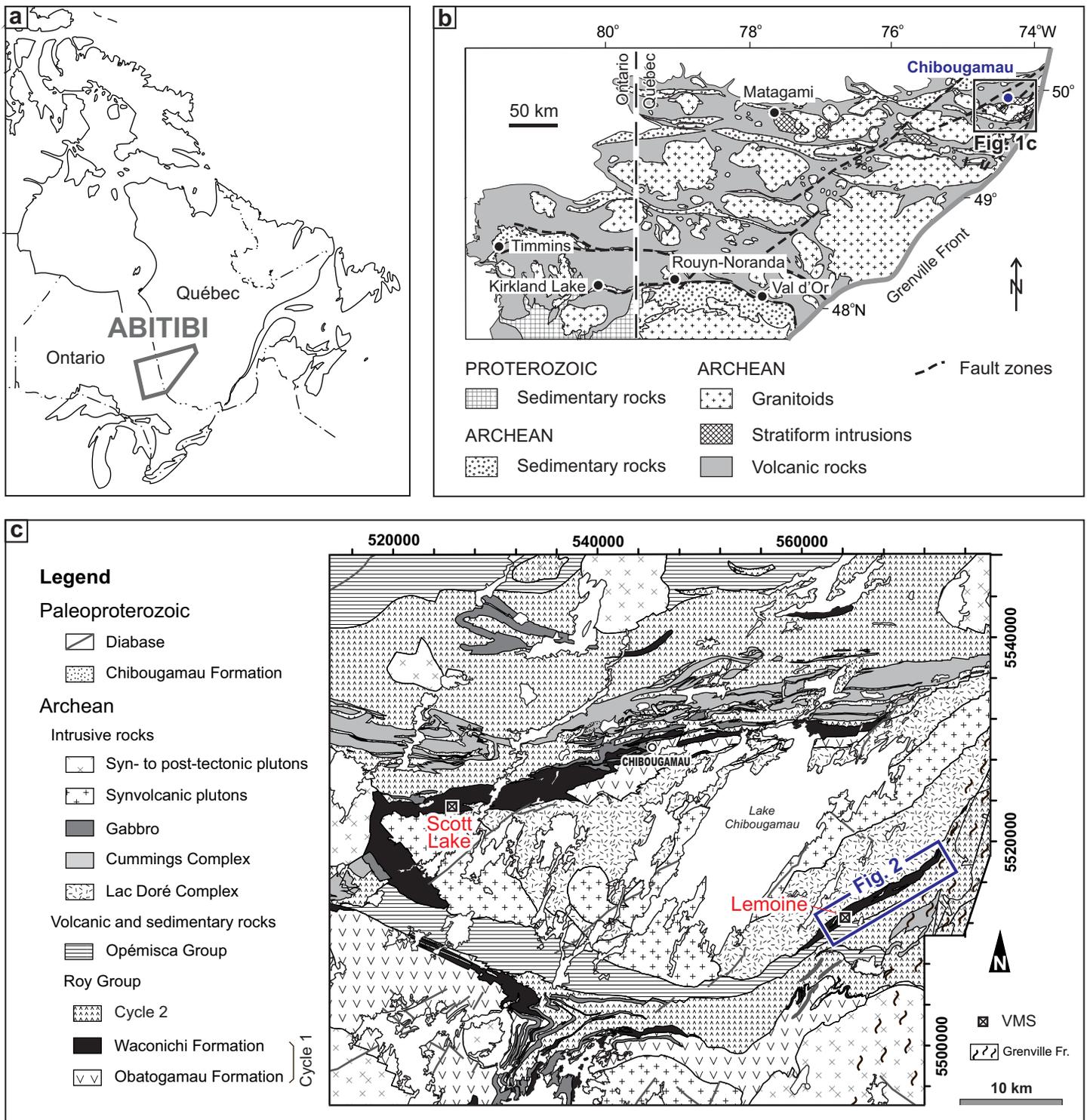


Fig. 1

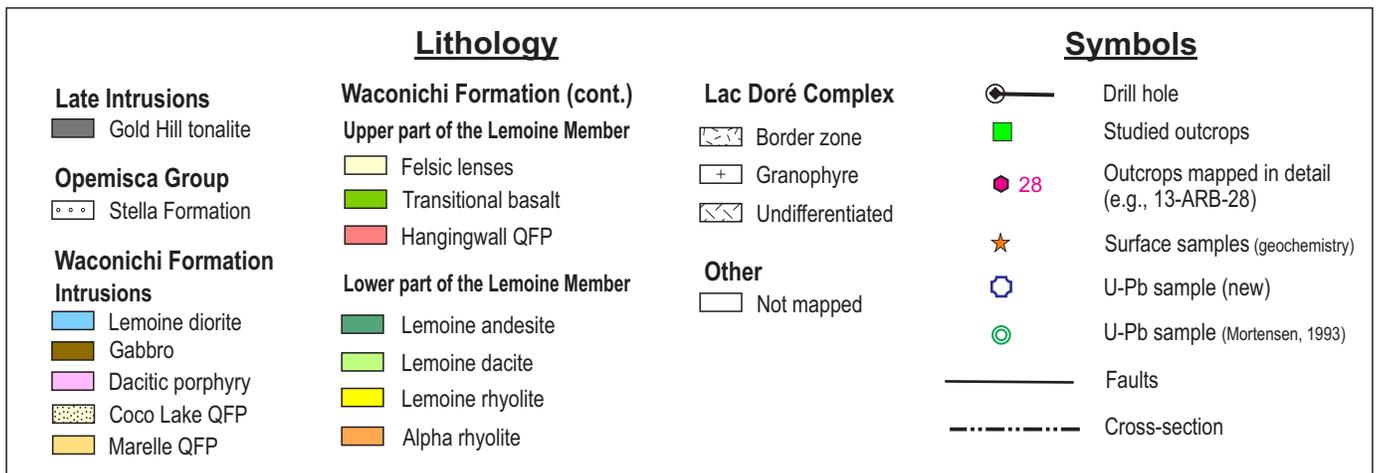
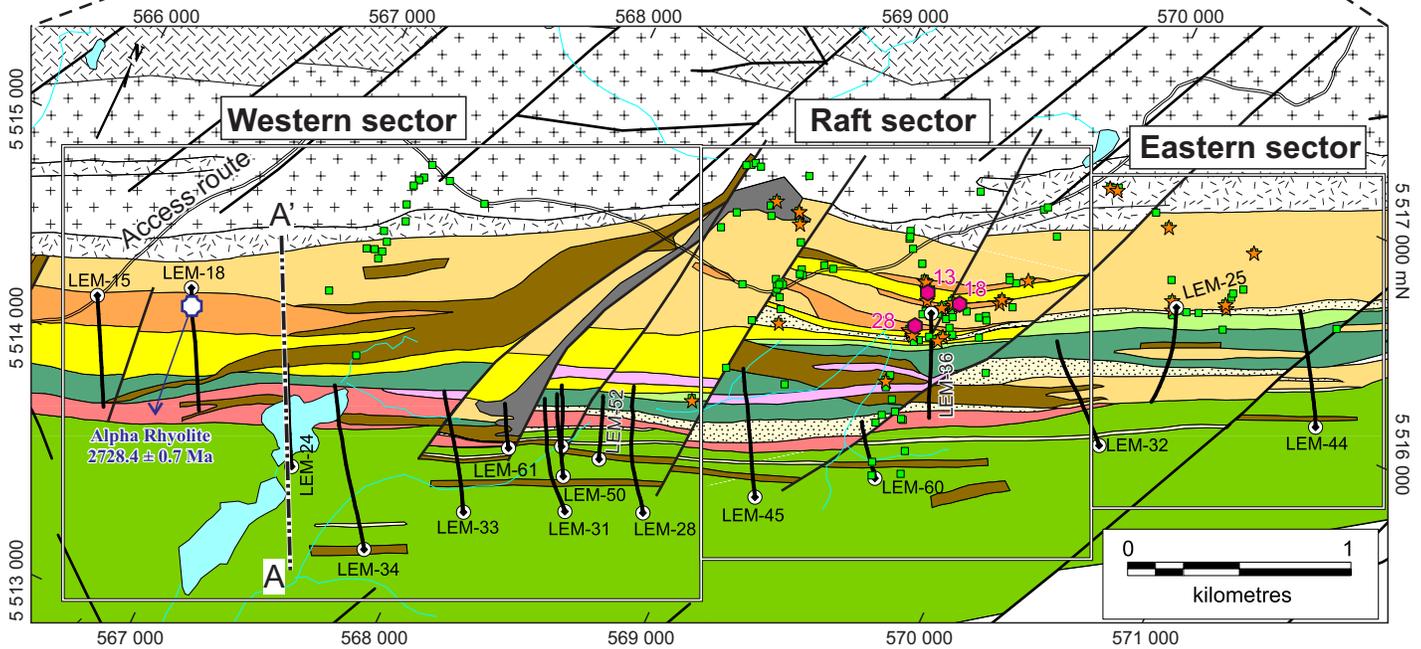
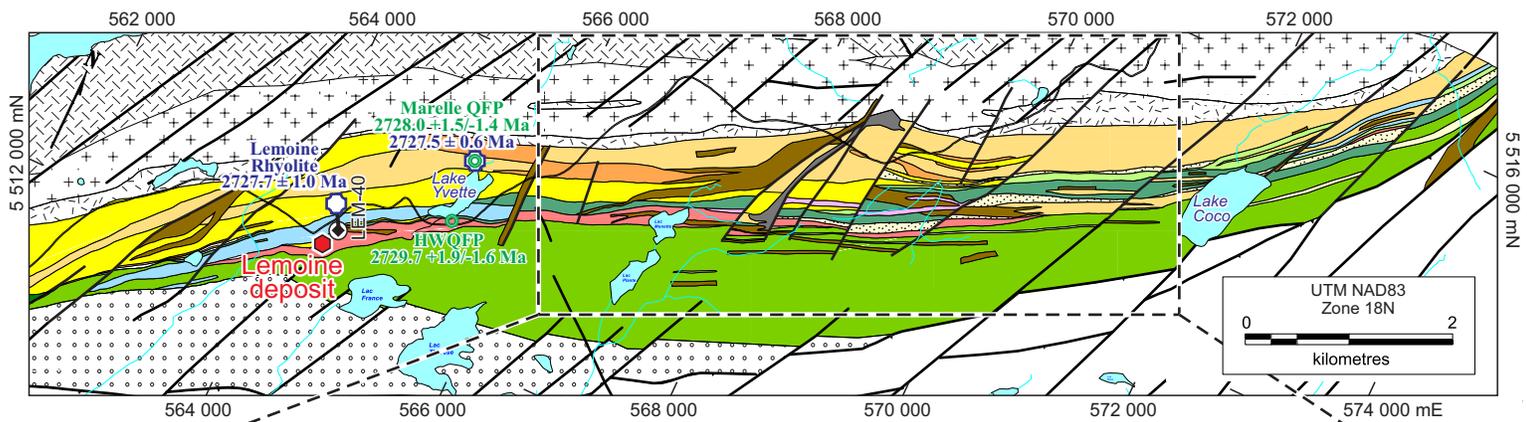


Fig. 2

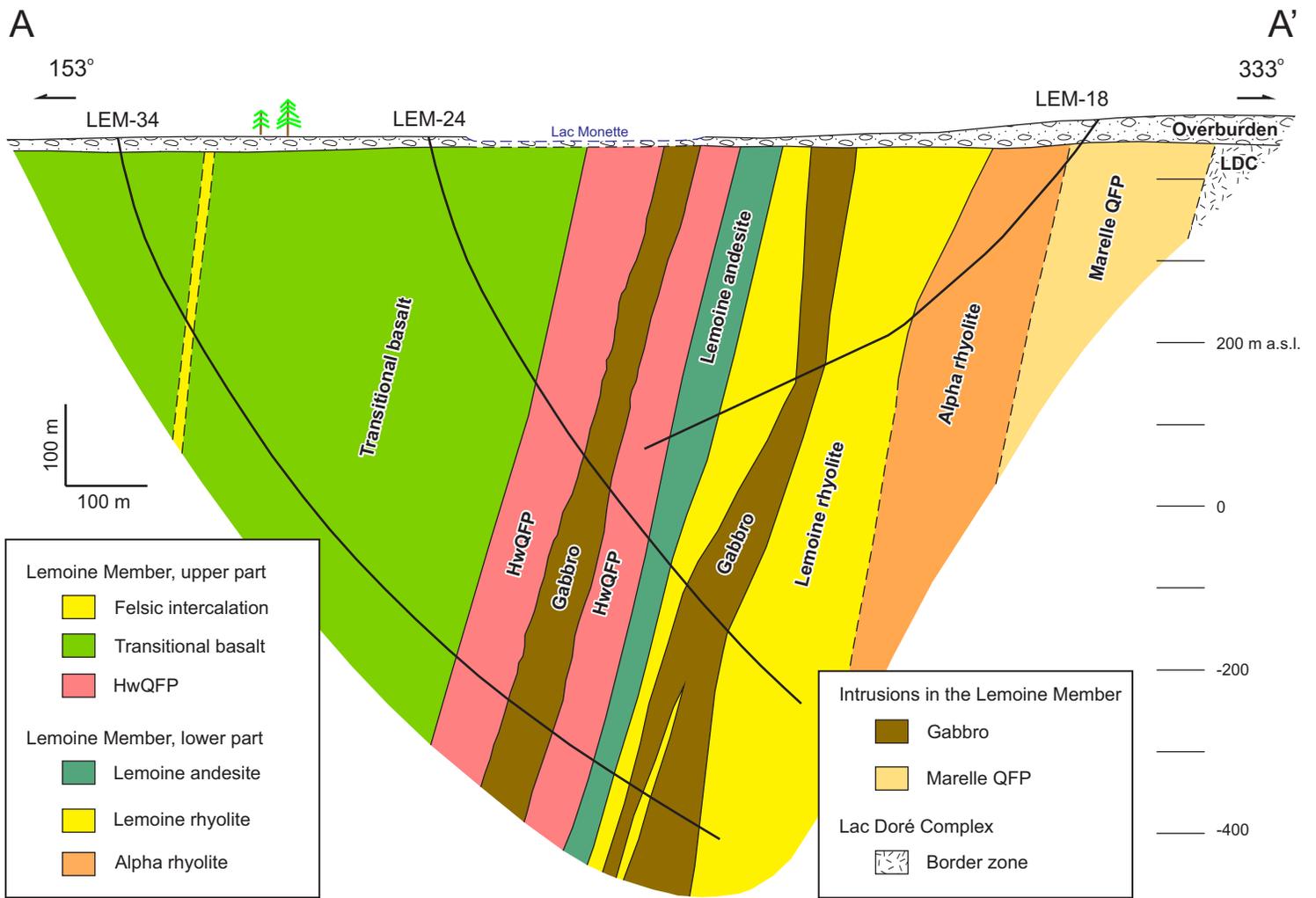
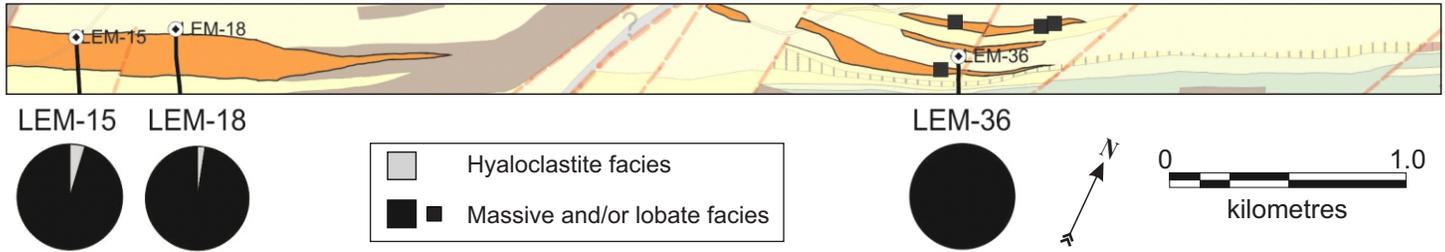
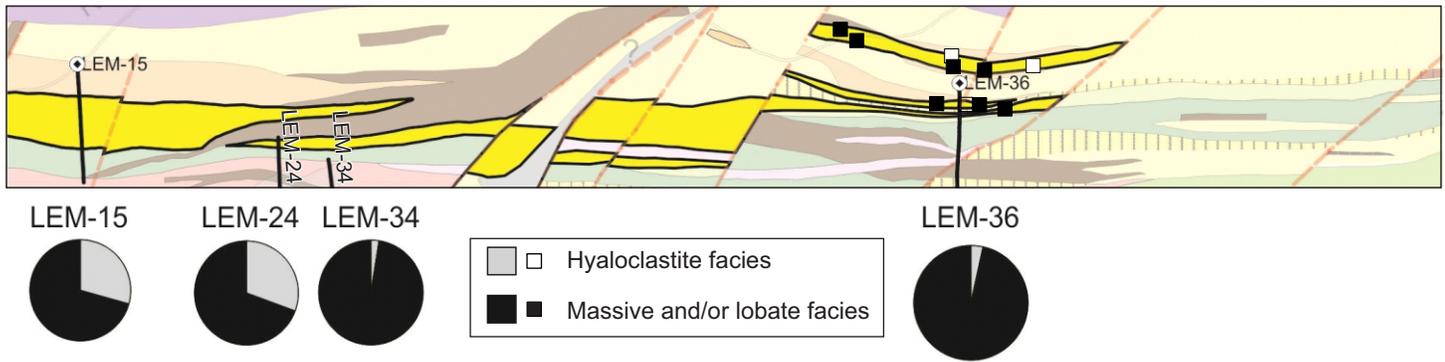


Fig. 3

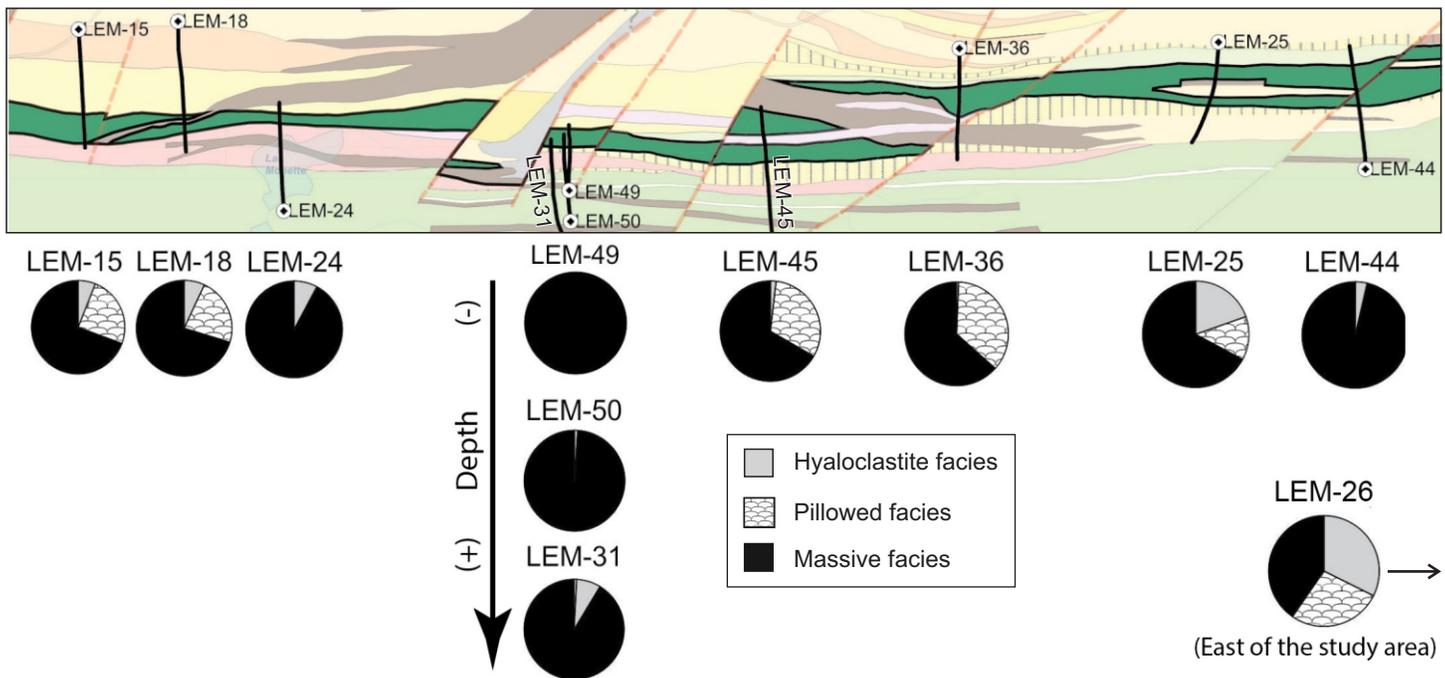
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**b Lemoine rhyolite**



**c Lemoine andesite**



**d HwQFP**

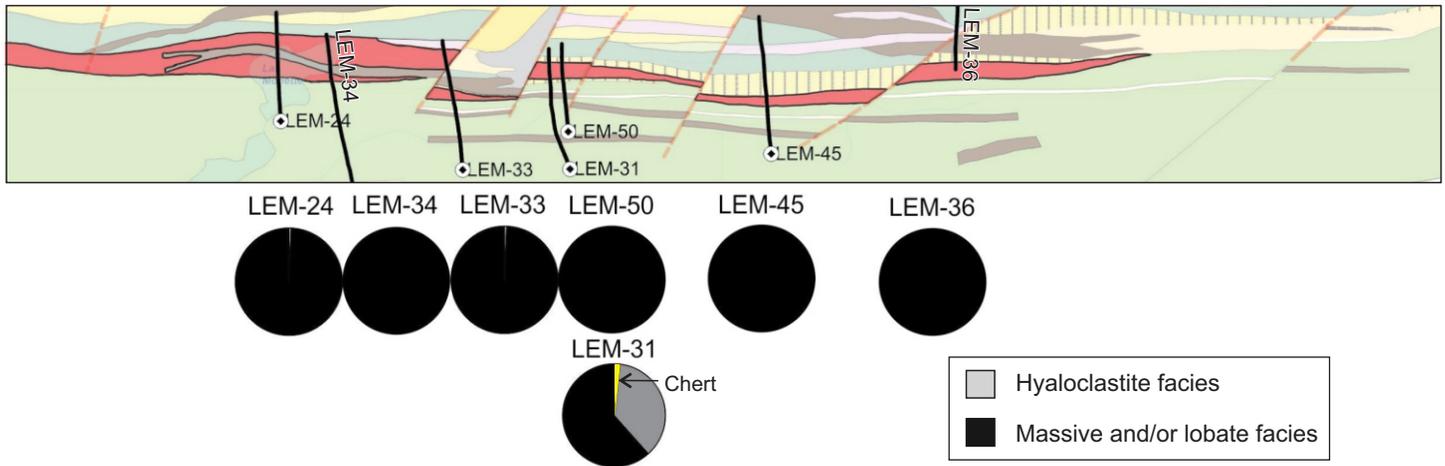


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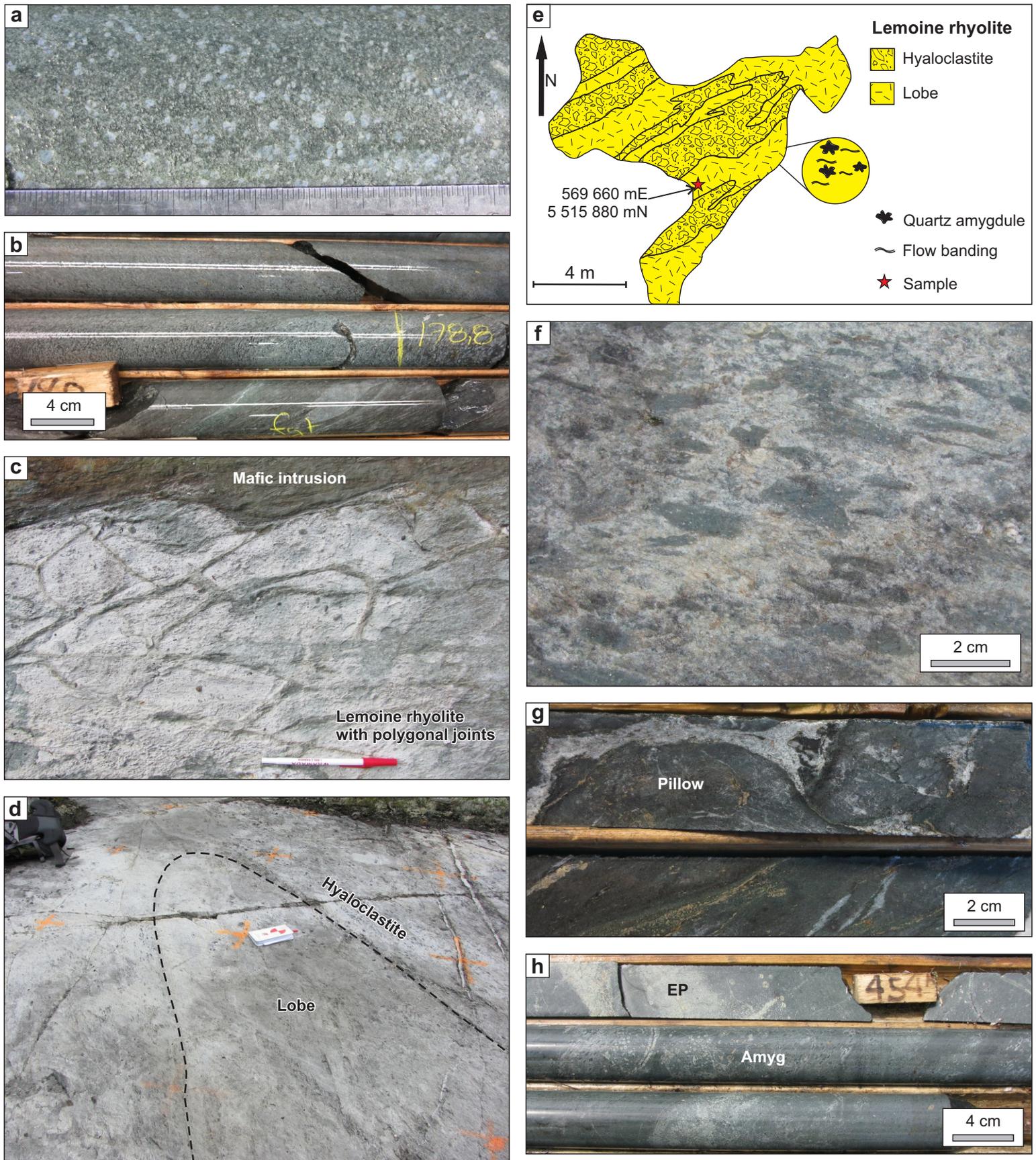


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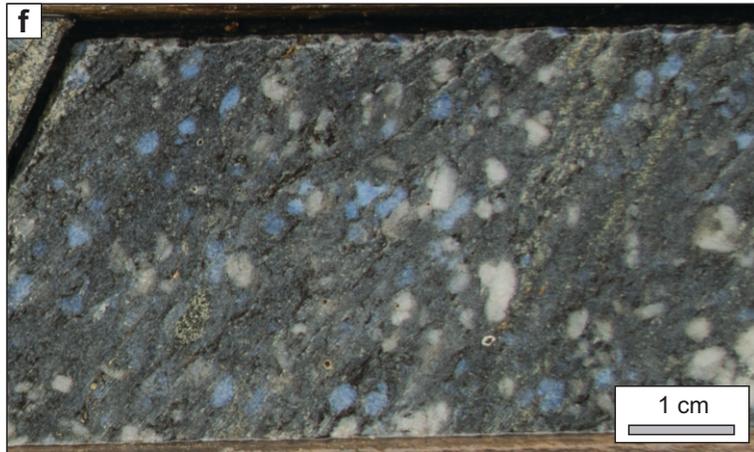
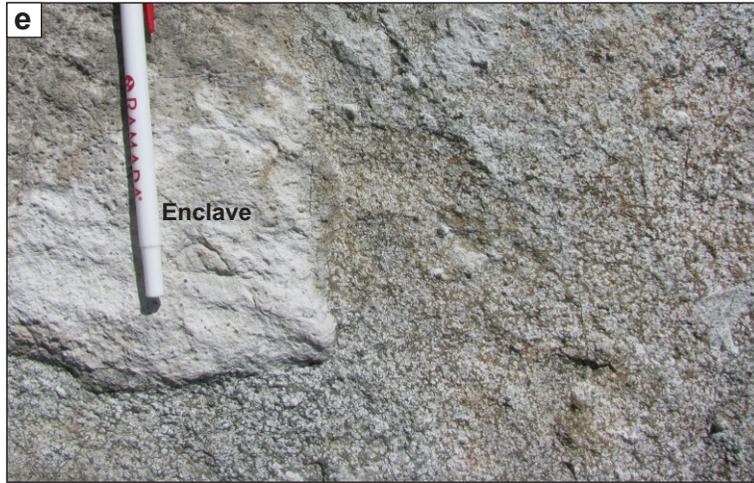


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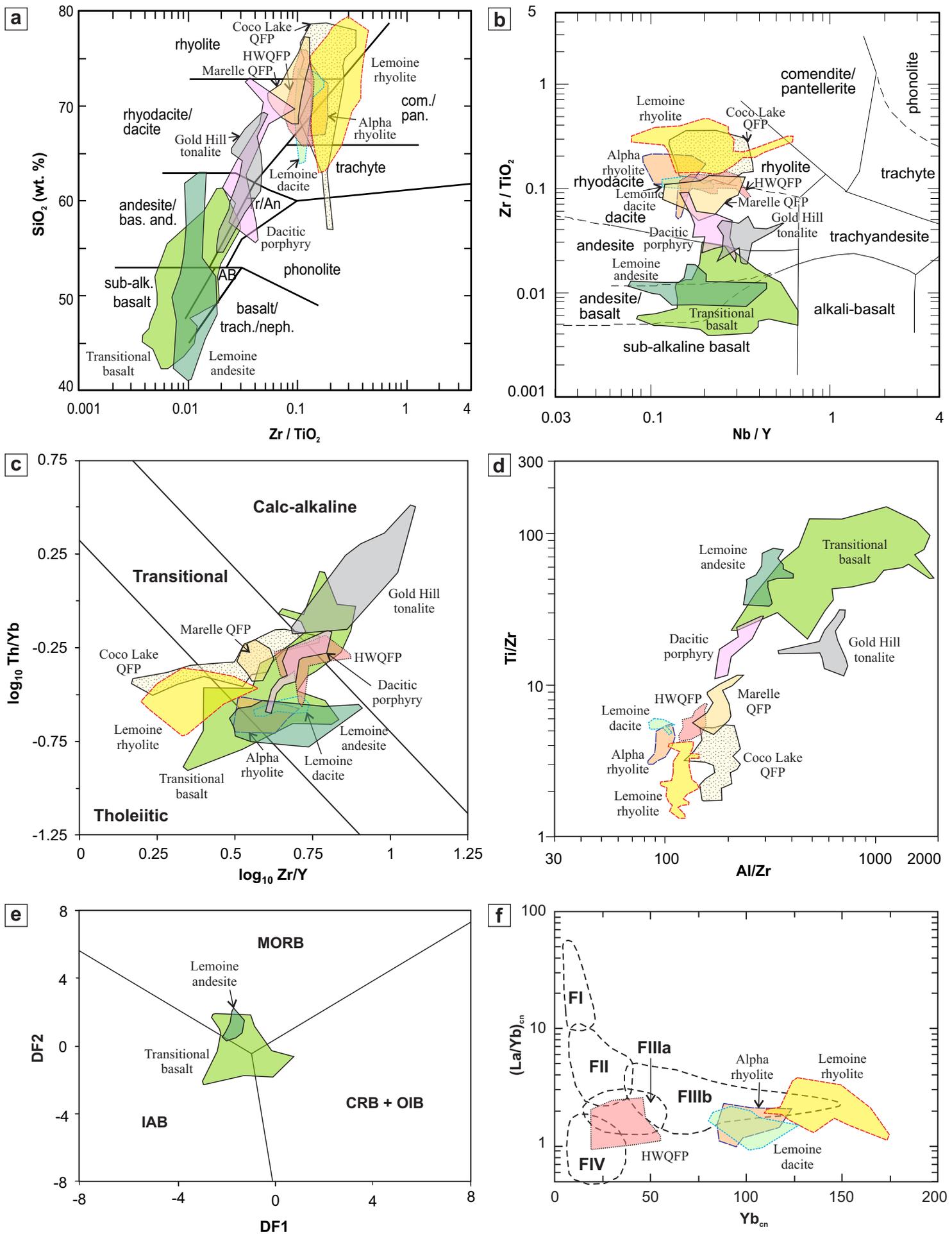


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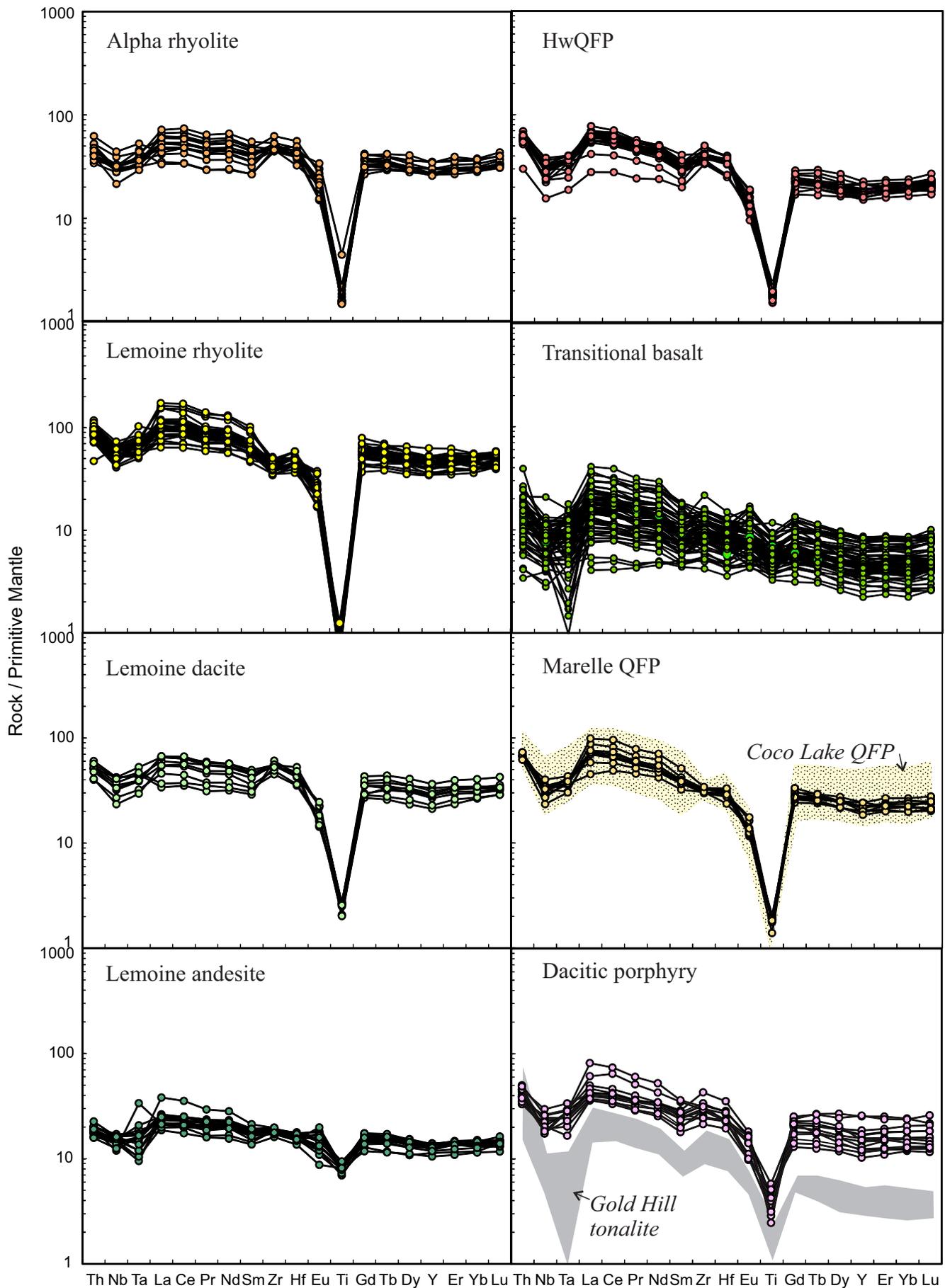


Fig. 8

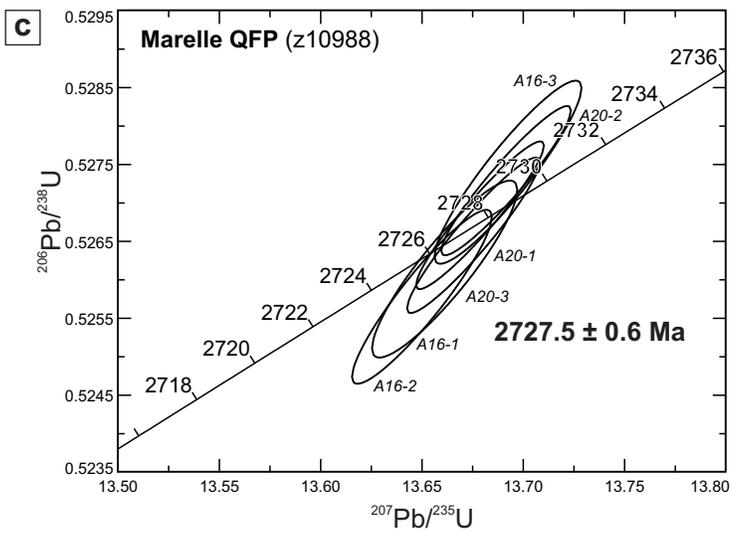
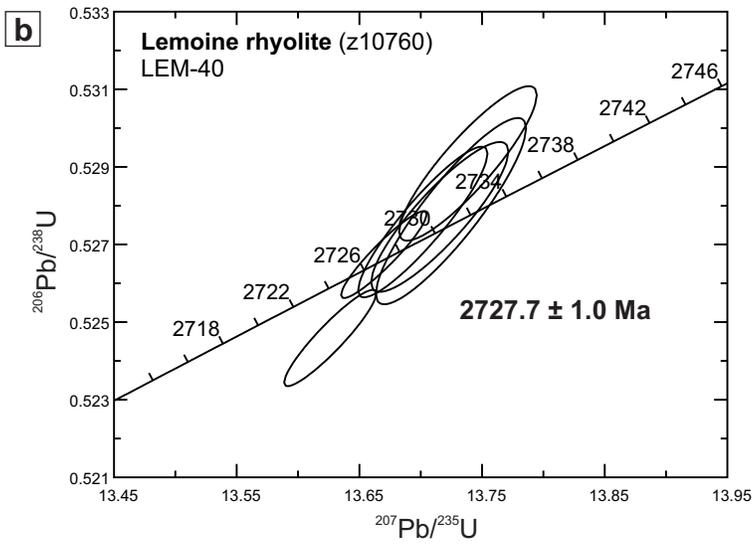
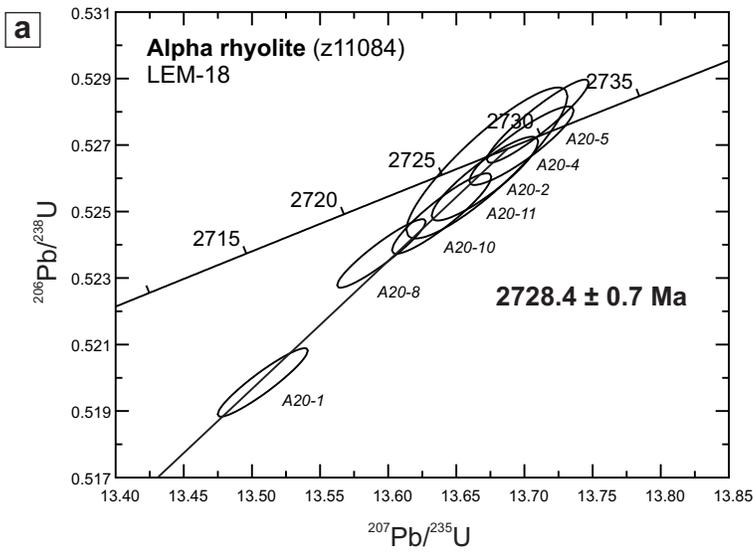


Fig. 9

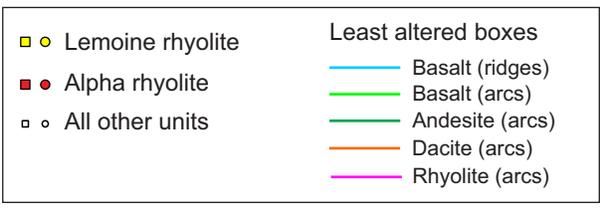
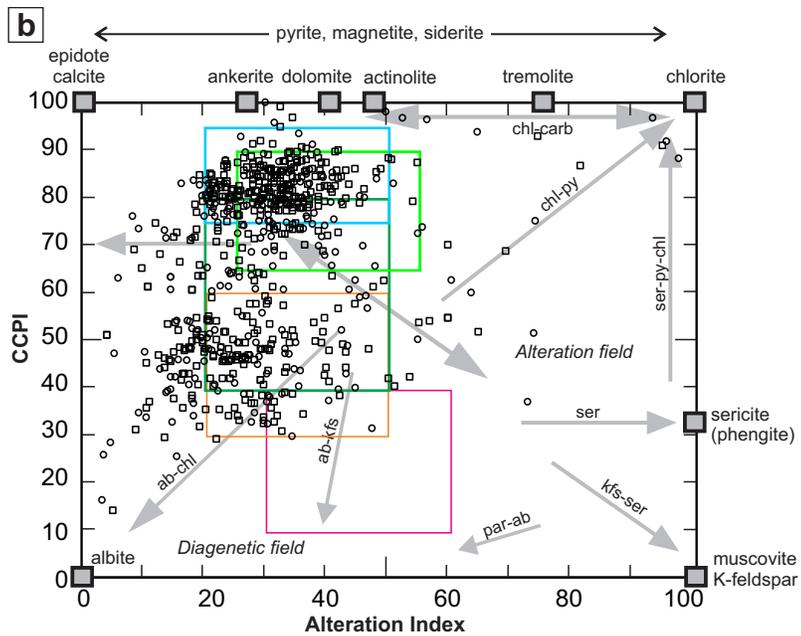
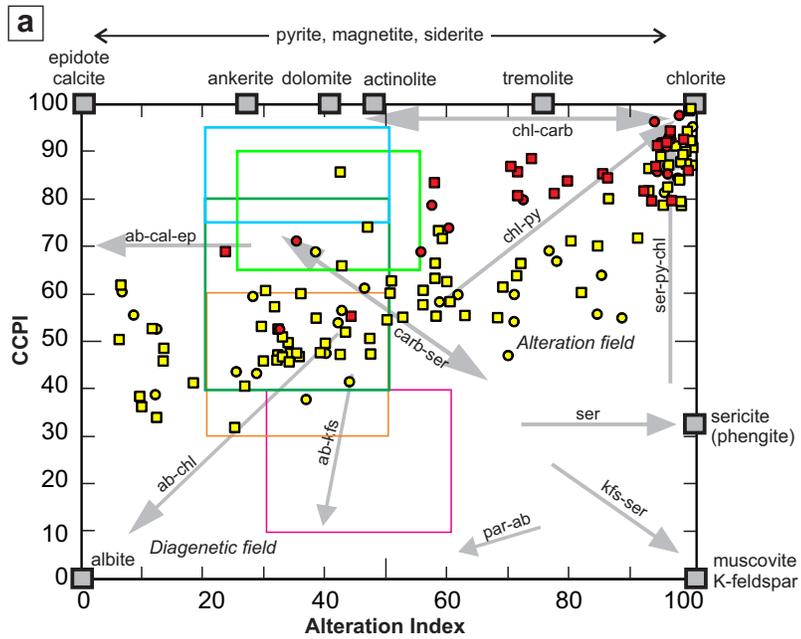


Fig.10

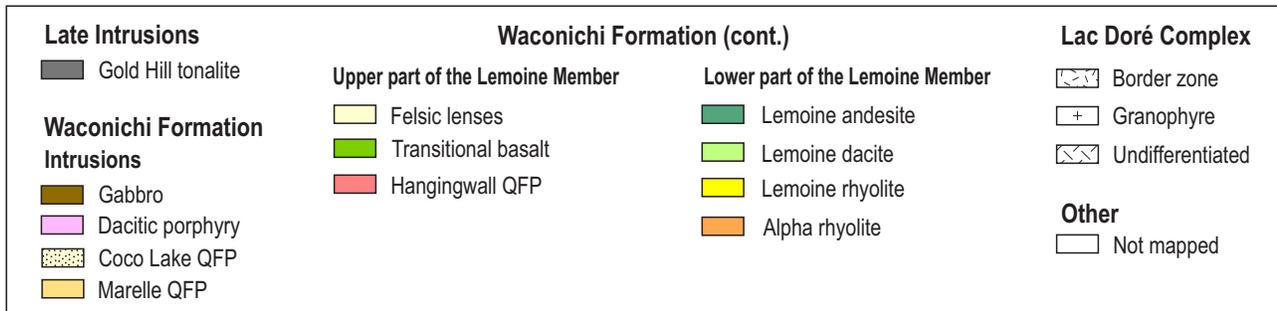
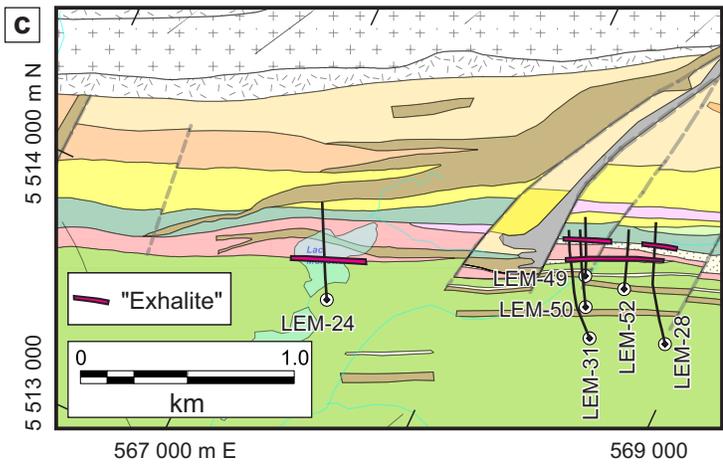
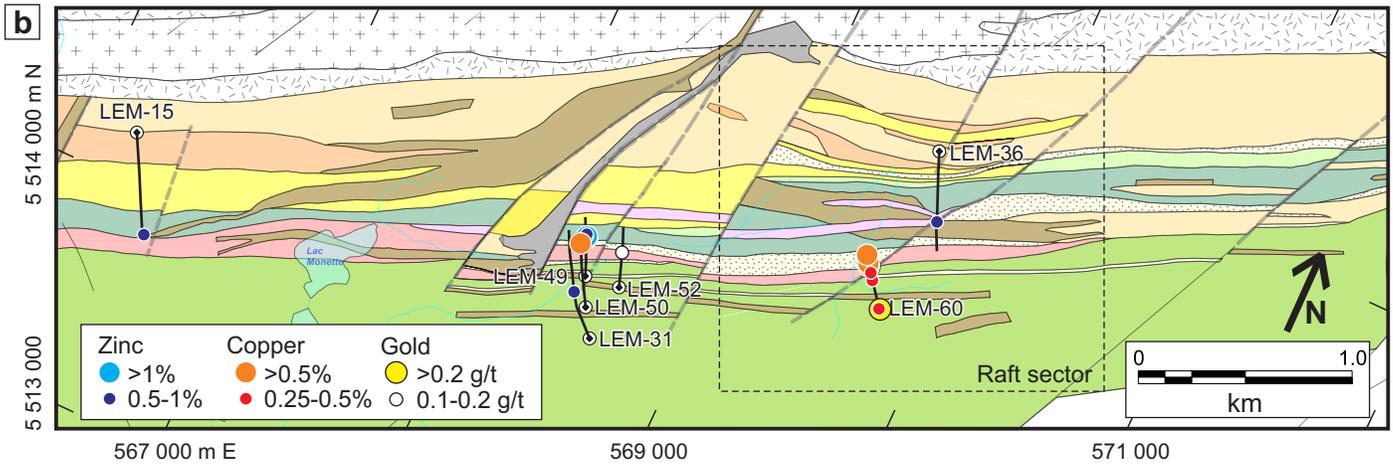
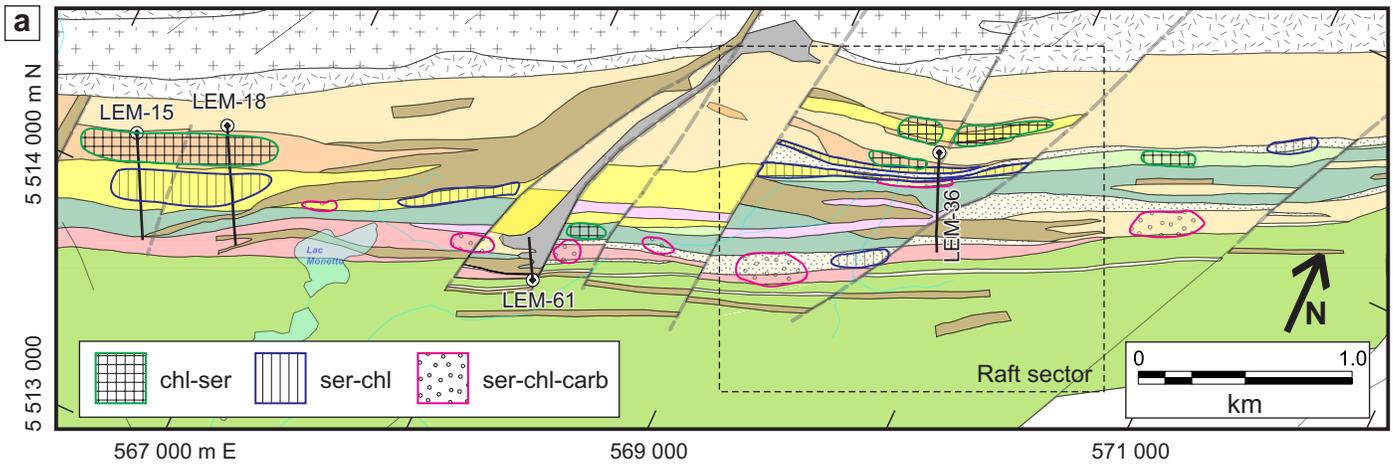


Fig. 11

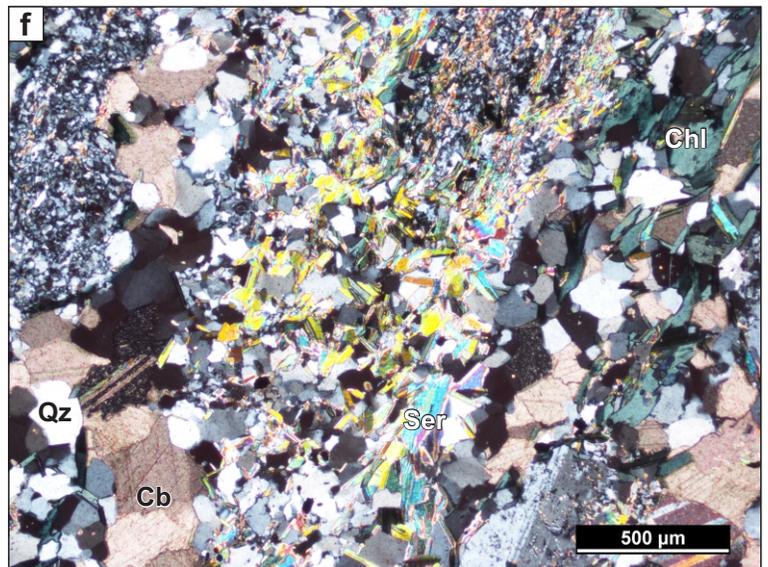
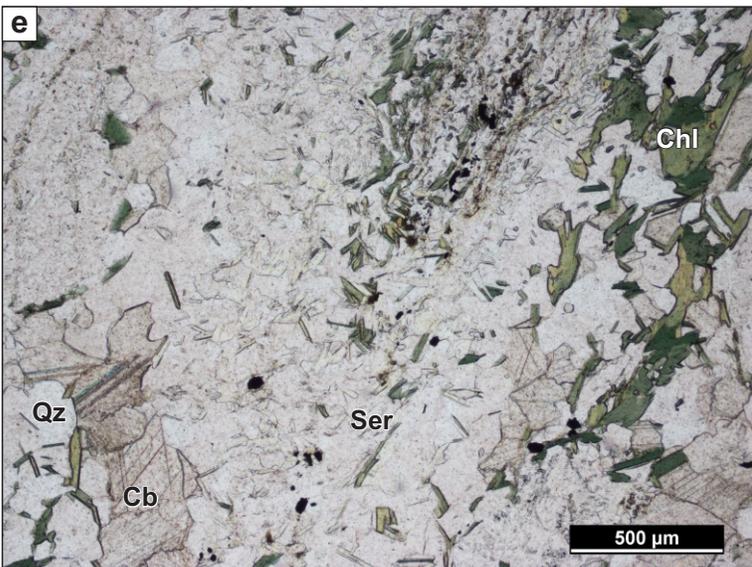
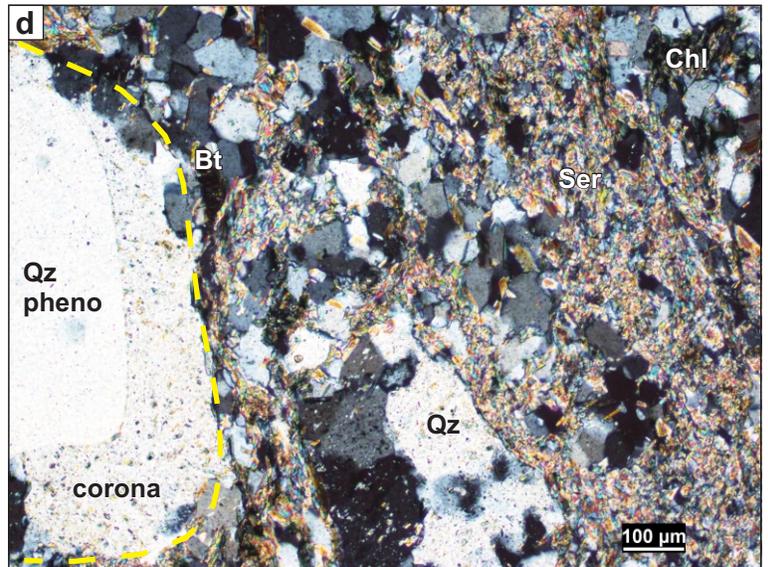
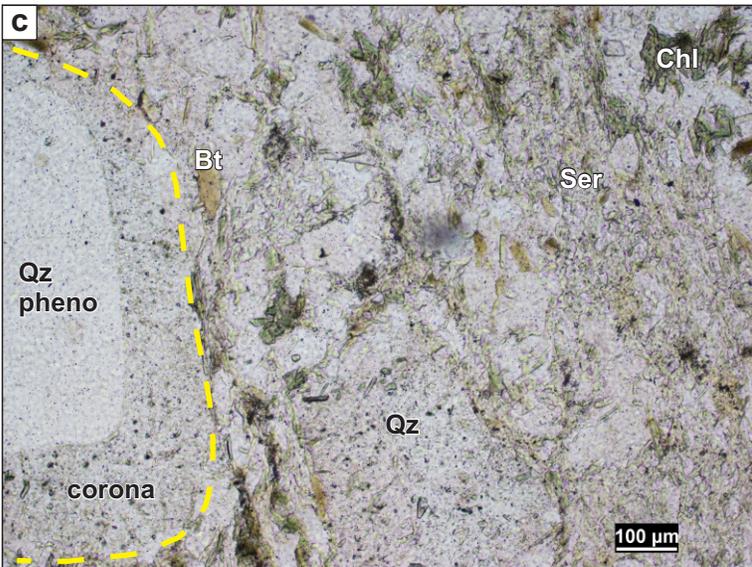
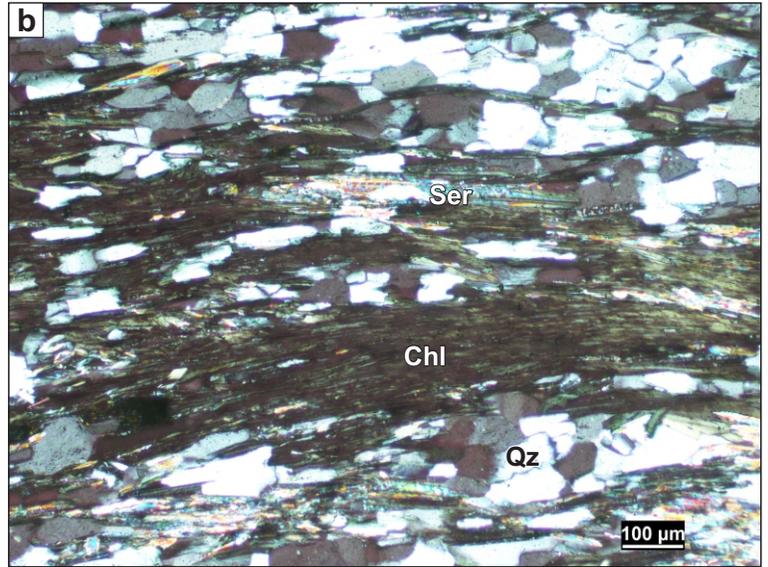
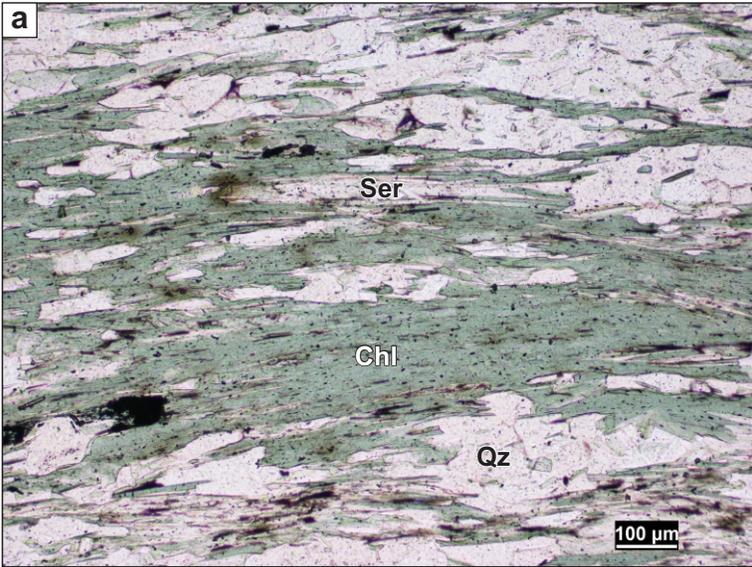


Fig. 12

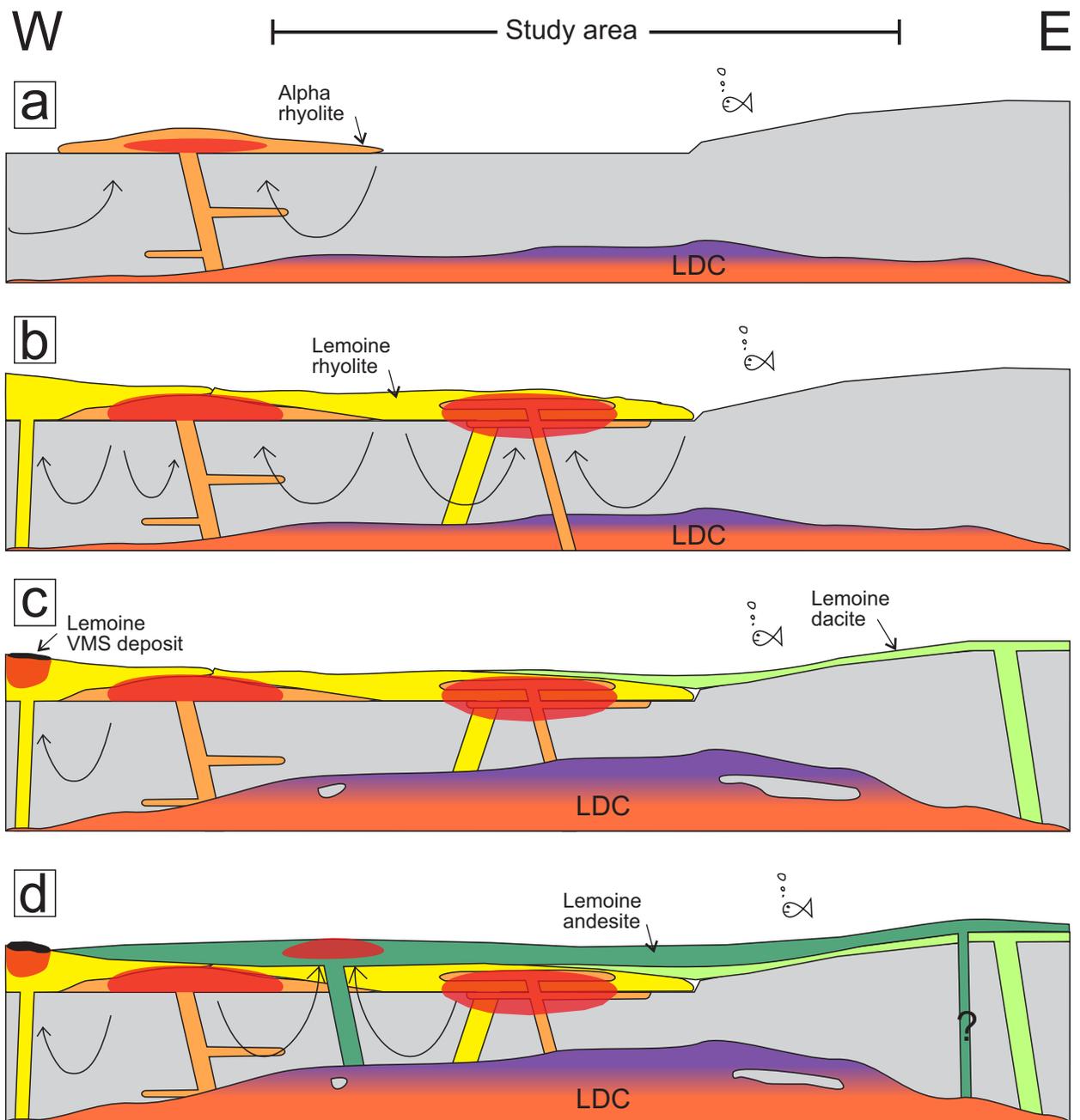


Fig. 13

