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## Serpentine-to-chlorite transformation in serpentized ultrabasic rocks from the Upper Allochthonous Terrane of the Bragança Complex, NE Portugal

### Transformação de serpentina para clorite em rochas ultrabásicas serpentizadas do Complexo Alóctone Superior do Maciço de Bragança, NE de Portugal

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**Sumário:** A transformação de serpentina para clorite foi identificada nas rochas ultrabásicas serpentizadas do Maciço de Bragança, NE de Portugal. O principal objetivo deste trabalho consiste na caracterização estrutural, cristaloquímica e termodinâmica desta reação. Os espectros de DRX obtidos permitem a identificação de lizardite ( $d[hkl] = 7.32 \text{ \AA}, 4.55 \text{ \AA}, 3.65 \text{ \AA}, 2.65 \text{ \AA}, 2.45 \text{ \AA}, 2.09 \text{ \AA}, 1.74 \text{ \AA}, 1.53 \text{ \AA}$ ) e clorite ( $d[hkl] = 14.25 \text{ \AA}, 7.14 \text{ \AA}, 4.71 \text{ \AA}, 3.55 \text{ \AA}, 2.83 \text{ \AA}$ ). As composições cristaloquímicas gerais obtidas a partir de EPMA são de  $(Mg_{2.65-2.79}, Fe_{0.08-0.20}, Al_{0.01-0.06})(Si_{1.94-2.07}, Al_{0-0.06})O_5(OH)_4$  para a serpentina e de  $(Mg_{2.84}, Fe_{1.79}, Al_{1.23})(Si_{2.82}, Al_{1.18})O_{10}(OH)_8$  para uma Mg,Fe clorite. A reação mineralógica terá resultado da ação de fluidos hidrotermais a temperaturas de aproximadamente  $350 (\pm 50) \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , num evento pós-serpentinização, responsável pela transformação da serpentina em Mg,Fe-clorite através de um processo de dissolução e cristalização.

**Palavras-chave:** serpentina para clorite, Bragança, Portugal

**Key words:** serpentine to chlorite, Bragança, Portugal

#### Introduction

Fe-Mg silicates of ultrabasic rocks may be hydrolysed into serpentine minerals during hydrothermal metamorphism (serpentinization). Lizardite can be transformed into antigorite, talc, chlorite or interstratified structures between 1:1 and 2:1 layers or 2:1:1 layers. The transformation of lizardite into chlorite was identified in serpentized ultrabasic rocks of the Upper Allochthonous Terrane (UAT) of the Bragança Complex, NE Portugal. The main goals of this work are to characterize this reaction structurally and crystal-chemically, and to evaluate its thermodynamic conditions.

#### Geological setting

The Bragança Complex occupies an extension from Bragança to Vinhais (NE Portugal), and preserves the uppermost unit of a nappe stack structure (UAT), encompassing a mafic-ultramafic igneous suite of gabbros, pyroxenites, hornblendites and

metaperidotites (e.g. Pereira, 2000, 2006; Fig. 1), the latter characterized by various degrees of serpentinization.

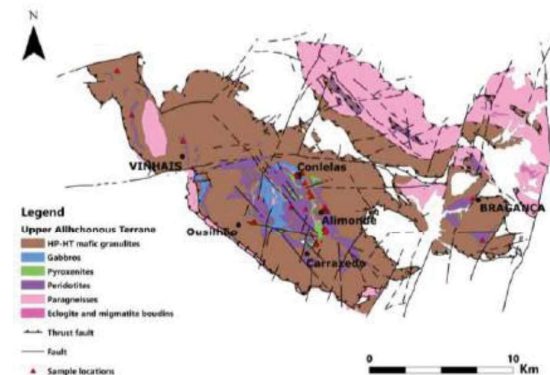


Fig. 1. Geological map of the UAT of the Bragança Complex, NE Portugal (adapted from Pereira, 2000).

## Materials and techniques

Samples of secondary minerals have been collected directed from veins in serpentinized ultrabasic rocks, powdered and prepared for XRD analyses. These have been carried out with a Phillips X'Pert diffractometer equipped with a CuK $\alpha$  radiation and a scanning speed of 1° 2 $\theta$ /min in the range 2–65°2 $\theta$ , at the Earth Sciences Department of University of Minho, Braga, Portugal. Quantitative major element compositions have been determined by EPMA, performed in ultrabasic rock thin sections using a Jeol Hyperprobe JXA-8500F operated at 15 kV accelerating voltage and 10 nA beam current. Detection limits (3 $\tau$ ) above mean background were 0.03 wt.% for most oxides with counting times of 80s. EPMA have been performed at the Scientific and Technical Services of University of Oviedo, Spain.

## Results

Serpentine and chlorite species were identified by XRD. The  $d(hkl)$  plans at 7.32 Å, 4.55 Å, 3.65 Å, 2.65 Å, 2.45 Å, 2.09 Å, 1.74 Å, and 1.53 Å were identified for lizardite (serpentine group), while  $d(hkl)$  plans for chlorite occur 14.25 Å, 7.14 Å, 4.71 Å, 3.55 Å, and 2.83 Å. The crystal-chemical compositions corresponding to serpentine and Mg,Fe-chlorite are, respectively, Mg<sub>2.65-2.79</sub> Fe<sub>0.08-0.20</sub> Al<sub>0.01-0.06</sub>(Si<sub>1.94-2.07</sub> Al<sub>0-0.06</sub>)O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>, and [(Mg<sub>2.84</sub>, Fe<sub>1.79</sub>, Al<sub>1.23</sub>)(Si<sub>2.82</sub>, Al<sub>1.18</sub>)O<sub>10</sub>(OH)<sub>8</sub>]. The crystal-chemical compositions for Mg-Fe-chlorite were plotted in the R<sup>2+</sup> vs Si(IV) diagram (Bourdelle & Cathelineau 2015), indicating

temperatures of chlorite crystallization about 350 (±50) °C (Fig. 2).

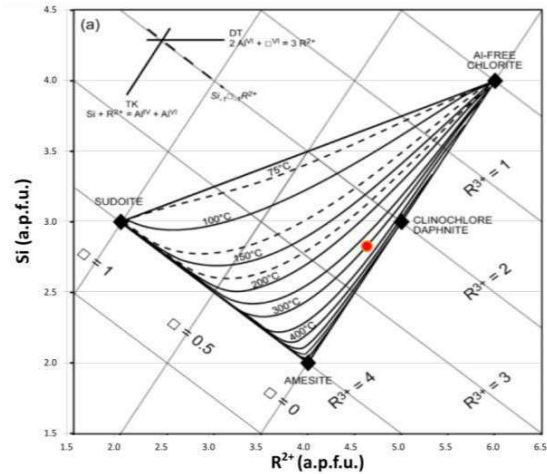


Fig. 2. Diagram of R<sup>2+</sup> vs Si(IV) (Bourdelle & Cathelineau 2015).

Serpentine to chlorite transformation implies a structural transformation of a 1:1 structure to a 2:1:1 structure. Crystal-chemistry implies an increase of Si, Al, Mg and Fe contents reflected in the crystallization of new tetrahedral and tri-octahedral sheets corresponding to Fe,Mg-chlorite. The serpentine-to-chlorite reaction did occur at a T (°C) about 350 (±50) after the serpentinization of ultrabasic rocks.

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