

1 Topaz magmatic crystallization in rhyolites of the Central Andes (Chivinar  
2 volcanic complex, NW Argentina): constraints from texture, mineralogy and rock  
3 chemistry

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21 Abstract: Topaz-bearing rhyolite lavas were erupted as domes and cryptodomes during the early  
22 history of the Late Miocene Chivinar volcano, in Central Andes. These are the only topaz rhyolite  
23 lavas recognized in Central Andes. Textural, mineralogical and geochemical data on the Chivinar  
24 rhyolites suggest that topaz crystallized from strongly residual, fluorine-rich, peraluminous silicate  
25 melts of topazite composition before the complete solidification of the lava domes. Crystallization  
26 of the rhyolitic magma began with sodic plagioclase and alkali feldspar phenocrysts in the magma  
27 chamber, followed by groundmass quartz+alkali feldspar+minor sodic plagioclase during dome  
28 emplacement, and terminated with quartz+topaz+vapour bubbles forming small scattered miaroles.  
29 Fluorine partitioning into the fluid phase occurred only in the final stage of groundmass  
30 crystallization. The magmatic origin of topaz indicates the presence of a fluorine-rich highly  
31 differentiated magma in the early history of the Chivinar volcano and suggests the possibility of  
32 rare metals mineralizations related to the cooling and solidification of a silicic magma chamber. A  
33 late fluid circulation phase, pre-dating the andesitic phase of the Chivinar volcano, affected part of  
34 the topaz rhyolite lavas. The presence of Nb, Ta and Mn minerals as primary accessories in the  
35 rhyolites and as secondary minerals in veins suggests a connection of the fluid circulation phase  
36 with the silicic magmatic system. Although at the edge of the active volcanic arc, the Chivinar topaz  
37 rhyolites are in correspondence of the transtensive Calama-Olacapato-El Toro fault system,  
38 suggesting preferred extensional conditions for the formation of magmatic topaz in convergent  
39 settings, consistently with evidence from other known cases worldwide.

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42 Key words: Topaz-bearing rhyolite, fluorine, magmatic volatiles, miarolitic texture, Central Andes

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## 47 1. Introduction

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49 Although more frequently interpreted as the product of post-magmatic vapour-phase alteration (e.g.;  
50 Taylor, 2009), topaz is also a rare primary constituent of magmatic rocks, originated by the  
51 crystallization of peraluminous and fluorine-rich silicic magmas (Scaillet and MacDonald, 2004;  
52 Lukkari, 2002; Agangi et al., 2010). The silicatic melts enriched in fluorine have particular physical  
53 properties, i.e. low viscosity and density (Aiuppa et al., 2009). These enhance the efficiency of the  
54 petrogenetic processes, allowing segregation of unusually low fractions of partial melt from the  
55 source, as well as favouring crystal-melt fractionation during magma ascent. By that, fluorine (F)  
56 promotes the production and release of very small volumes of felsic magma enriched in a wide  
57 variety of incompatible elements (Keppler, 1993) and, consequently, potentially related to  
58 economically interesting ore mineralizations (e.g.; Burt et al., 1982; Xie et al., 2013).

59 In this paper we report the occurrence and the mineralogical, petrographic and chemical  
60 characteristics of rhyolitic lavas bearing topaz from the Late Miocene Chivinar volcano, located in  
61 Central Andes (Fig. 1; Koukharsky et al., 1991; Orlandi et al., 2011). While several high-silica,  
62 topaz-bearing rhyolitic lavas of Cenozoic age have been recognized in North America (western  
63 United States and Mexico; Christiansen et al., 1986; Huspeni et al., 1984; Sinclair, 1986;  
64 Rodríguez-Ríos et al., 2007), the Chivinar topaz rhyolites are, to date, the only occurrence in the  
65 Andes of South America.

66 Owing to their location at the intersection of the Andean active magmatic arc with a major NW-  
67 striking fault system (Fig. 1A) and to their peculiar mineralogy, the Chivinar rocks present a two-  
68 fold interest. First, the knowledge of the petrogenetic processes responsible for the composition of  
69 these lavas may add new elements for the interpretation of the genesis and evolution of magmas at  
70 the arc-back-arc boundary in Central Andes (Matteini et al., 2002; Acocella et al., 2011). Second,  
71 understanding the origin of topaz in magmatic rocks may contribute to explain mineralizations in  
72 rare, economically interesting elements (Xie et al., 2013 and references therein). For both purposes,

73 the determination of the primary (magmatic) vs. secondary (hydrothermal) origin of topaz is crucial.  
74 This contribution presents the textural, mineralogical and geochemical constraints to the magmatic  
75 origin of topaz in the Chivinar rhyolite and proposes a model for the magmatic crystallization of  
76 topaz rhyolite.

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## 79 2. Geological framework

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81 Cerro Chivinar is a Miocene volcano located in the western Puna plateau of the Central Andes  
82 ( $24^{\circ}14'S - 67^{\circ}27'W$ ; 5125 m above sea level, a.s.l.), at the intersection between the N-S trending  
83 active magmatic arc (Western Cordillera) and the NW-SE trending Calama-Olacapato-El Toro  
84 (COT) transtensive fault zone (Salfity, 1985; Acocella et al., 2011) (Figs. 1A and 1B). The COT  
85 fault zone coincides with a well-defined volcanic belt, consisting of stratovolcanoes, lava domes  
86 and some monogenetic scoria centres and formed in the last 15 Ma. The composition of the magmas  
87 erupted along the COT volcanic belt includes calcalkaline magmas ranging from basaltic andesites  
88 to dacites and rhyolites, and shoshonitic magmas erupted at the mafic monogenetic scoria centres  
89 (Acocella et al., 2011 and references therein).

90 The geology of the Chivinar volcano has been never described in detail. The main geological  
91 features were formerly sketched in Koukharsky and Munizaga (1990) and Koukharsky et al. (1991),  
92 reporting the occurrence of topaz in the rhyolitic lavas of the volcano. Our new geologic field  
93 mapping shows that Chivinar is a polygenetic volcanic complex built by three superposed and  
94 distinct eruptive packages (Figs. 1C and 2A). The oldest unit is made up of a cluster of topaz  
95 rhyolite lava domes exposed on the N and W basal platform of the volcano, between 3500 and 4000  
96 m a.s.l.. The following unit consists of radially emplaced coarse dacite breccia and pumice deposits  
97 that resulted from lava dome catastrophic destruction events. Finally, an andesite lava cone caps the  
98 volcanic edifice. A K/Ar age of  $9.0 \pm 0.4$  Ma was determined on andesite of the Chivinar lava cone

99 (Koukharsky and Munizaga, 1990). The substratum of the volcano is represented by continental  
100 terrigenous and evaporitic deposits of Late Eocene-Miocene age (Fig. 1B; Geste, Pozuelos and Sijes  
101 Formations; Jordan and Alonso, 1987; Blasco et al., 1996). The most active tectonic systems are  
102 WNW-ESE trending transtensive and extensional faults (Figs. 1 and 2), similarly to the ones found  
103 along the eastern continuation of the COT (Acocella et al., 2011). These systems seem also to  
104 control the preferred WNW-ESE elongation of the volcano.

105 The Chivinar topaz rhyolites consist of a group of coalescent lava domes that were extruded as  
106 small, endogenous lava domes and shallowly emplaced intrusive domes and plugs (Fig. 1C). The  
107 lava emplacement lacks of associated explosive products. Field evidence excludes the association of  
108 the rhyolite with one or more caldera structures. Rhyolite rests directly on or intrudes the Eocene-  
109 Miocene sedimentary substratum (Fig. 2B). Intrusive and cooling histories of individual lava bodies  
110 are locally constrained by lava textures, as marginal vitrophyres, flow-banding and breccias, at the  
111 contact with host sediments. The remnant domes range from 0.3 to 1 km in diameter and are up to  
112 250 m high. The rhyolite dome field makes up nearly one third of the volume of the Chivinar  
113 complex.

114 At the end of the oldest Chivinar eruptive episode, the rhyolite lavas were intensely deformed,  
115 eroded and altered. The pervasiveness of the deformation and hydrothermal alteration contrasts with  
116 the fresh younger breccias and lavas that make up the rest of the edifice, suggesting that tectonism  
117 and fluid circulation followed by exogenous weathering occurred prior to renewed construction of  
118 the edifice.

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### 121 3. Sampling and analytical methods

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123 Three samples of the rhyolitic domes showing no macroscopic evidence of alteration were selected  
124 for the preparation of polished thin sections and for crushing and powdering. TG-9 rhyolite

125 represents the external part of a dome near the contact with the host evaporitic rock; TG-10 and TG-  
126 16 come from the inner part of the coalescent dome cluster (Figs. 1C and 2). Also, three samples of  
127 the rhyolites were collected from outcrops showing hydrothermal alteration evidence, to evaluate  
128 the relationships between the primary and secondary mineralogy. Finally, representative samples of  
129 the Chivinar dacites and andesites capping the volcanic edifice were selected for comparing the  
130 major elements composition with the silicic lavas.

131 Whole-rock X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyses of major oxides were done on fused samples with  
132 an ARL 9400 XPP instrument at the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa, Italy.  
133 Accuracy is 4–7% for concentrations <1 wt%, 2–4% for concentrations 1–10 wt%, 1% for  
134 concentrations >10 wt%. Trace-element analyses and Loss on Ignition determinations were carried  
135 out on powdered rock samples at Acme Laboratories, Ontario, Canada.

136 Microanalytical data were collected on polished and carbon-coated rock sections with a Philips  
137 XL30 scanning electron microscope equipped with microanalysis EDAX (standard-less software  
138 DXi4) at Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa, Italy (acceleration voltage 20 kV,  
139 beam current 5 nA, live time 100 s). The accuracy is better than 0.5% if abundance is >15 wt%, 1%  
140 if abundance is around 5 wt%, and better than 20% if abundance is around 0.5 wt%.

141 Mineral separations were carried out to investigate the heavy mineral fraction by means of SEM-  
142 EDS with the above described facilities. XRD analysis of selected mineral grains were carried out at  
143 Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa with a Gandolfi camera (114.6 mm in  
144 diameter) and CuK $\alpha$  radiation.

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#### 147 4. Petrography and mineral chemistry

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149 The Chivinar rhyolites are characterized by a very homogeneous white to creamy white colour. The  
150 hand samples show porphyritic texture, with about 10 % in volume of transparent phenocrysts, 0.5

151 to 3 mm in size, rare coloured minerals, <1 mm in size, and very fine voids. No xenocrysts nor  
152 xenoliths from the andesitic magmatic system have been found in the silicic lava samples.

153 The phenocrysts are plagioclase, consisting of euhedral stubby oligoclase with moderate direct  
154 zoning, and sanidine, with low 2V angle (15-20°), with elongated lath shape and lower size than  
155 plagioclase (Figs. 3 and 4A-B; Table 1). In sample TG-9, oligoclase is the only phenocryst.

156 The groundmass of the Chivinar rhyolites is holocrystalline and shows a fine-grained (40-100  
157 microns), isotropic granular texture, consisting of equant subidiomorphic quartz, alkali feldspar and  
158 sodic plagioclase (Fig. 4B-C). The quartz microlites locally show rounded corners.

159 Trails of minute vapour-rich secondary fluid inclusions cross-cutting phenocrysts are rather  
160 common (Fig. 4A). The groundmass crystals mainly host solid inclusions of accessory minerals and  
161 minute vapour-rich inclusions of primary formation.

162 Voids, mainly 50-200 microns in size, are disseminated in the lavas. The void boundaries are  
163 irregular, following the boundaries of the rock crystals, which sometimes protrude into the void.

164 The composition of plagioclase phenocrysts is quite constant, with modest direct zoning  $An_{15}Ab_{79}$ -  
165  $An_{10}Ab_{85}$ , and the groundmass microlites have the same composition of the phenocryst's rims. The  
166 composition of alkali feldspar covers the range  $Or_{65}Ab_{35}$ - $Or_{51}Ab_{47}$  from phenocrysts to groundmass  
167 microlites (Fig. 3). The alkali feldspar crystals in the groundmass show subtle lamellae of Na-rich  
168 feldspar, 0.5-1 microns thick (Fig. 4D), developing preferentially from the rim inward.

169 The average volume proportions of quartz, plagioclase and alkali feldspar in the rocks are  $36\pm 2$ ,  
170  $14\pm 3$  and  $49\pm 2$  vol. %, respectively, determined with image analysis using microphotos and  
171 backscattered electrons SEM images (ImageJ version 1.42q). Several other minerals occur in <3  
172 vol. % to trace amounts, including topaz, magnetite, both interstitial and included in quartz,  
173 ilmenite, a F-bearing tri-octahedral mica (montdorite/fluor-phlogopite; see Table 1), calcic  
174 amphibole, zircon and xenotime-Y. Zircon and xenotime-Y are commonly included in feldspar  
175 phenocrysts (Fig. 4B). In addition, topaz, zircon and xenotime sometimes show crystallization with  
176 idiomorphic terminations in voids (Fig. 4E-F).

177 Other accessories have been identified in the heavy mineral fraction (see below). In sample TG-9,  
178 muscovite-like di-octahedral mica minerals are disseminated as clusters of fine-grained flakes in the  
179 groundmass of the lava (Table 1; Fig. 4H).

180 Topaz is easily encountered in the samples TG-10 and TG-16, while it is sporadic in TG-9; it occurs  
181 in the matrix in association with quartz, or forms glomeroporphyric aggregates of acicular crystals  
182 as described in Arizona ongonites (Kortemeier and Burt, 1988). In samples TG-10 and TG-16 it  
183 concentrates in particular in correspondence of clusters of voids (e.g.; Fig. 4C-G), with both  
184 allotriomorphic and idiomorphic crystals.

185 The heavy mineral concentrates of the Chivinar topaz-bearing samples reveal a variety of accessory  
186 minerals in the fraction with density higher than  $2.9 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , which represent between 1 and 2 wt% in  
187 the studied samples. The most abundant mineral phase is topaz, representing around 50% by weight  
188 of the heavy fraction (Fig. 4F), followed by a Nb-rich rutile variety. Monazite-(Ce), xenotime-(Y,  
189 REE), an Fe-bearing tourmaline variety, zircon (with Th, U and Hf) and Mn-garnet (spessartine) are  
190 present in trace amounts. All these mineralogical phases have been identified by SEM-EDS semi-  
191 quantitative chemical analyses (Table 1). The content of Nb in the presumed rutile resulted  
192 remarkably high; therefore, the identification was confirmed by an X-ray powder pattern collected  
193 with a Gandolfi camera.

194 In the samples from the outcrops affected by hydrothermal alteration, the rhyolitic lavas show the  
195 same primary mineralogy and texture of the unaltered samples. They are porphyritic, with  
196 millimetric plagioclase and sanidine phenocrysts in a quartz-feldspathic groundmass. The secondary  
197 minerals are both disseminated and in veinlets that stand out for their dark green to black colour  
198 (Fig. 4I-J) and include Mn-bearing silicates (Mn-bearing sodic amphibole and sodic pyroxene), Mn-  
199 bearing Fe-Ti oxides of the magnetite and ilmenite series, Mn-bearing apatite and Nb-Ta-bearing  
200 rutile (Table 2). Secondary alkali feldspar occurs in the host rock at the vein contact (Table 2). In  
201 some places, instead, alteration resulted in complete leaching of feldspars and silicification, with the



202 resultant rock composed of relict fine-grained quartz and scattered Nb-Ta-bearing rutile and  
203 secondary silica phases.

204 The rocks of the Chivinar volcanic units following the rhyolitic lava domes are mainly andesitic  
205 lavas and minor pumiceous deposits. They are porphyritic, with phenocrysts of plagioclase and  
206 hornblende, minor orthopyroxene and scarce clinopyroxene, biotite and Fe-oxides in a groundmass  
207 made of the same mineral phases and a variable amount of glass. The least evolved andesite  
208 samples show abundant olivine phenocrysts with iddingsite rims.

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210

## 211 5. Whole-rock major and trace element composition

212

213 The composition of the Chivinar topaz-bearing lavas falls in the TAS diagram in the rhyolite field,  
214 with a  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O}$  around 8 wt% (Fig. 5A) and  $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O} = 1$  (Table 3). The rhyolites with silica  
215 around 75-77 wt% are peraluminous and corundum appears in their CIPW norm, while the TG-9  
216 rhyolite with 74 wt%  $\text{SiO}_2$  is metaluminous. The composition of other volcanic rocks forming the  
217 Chivinar volcanic complex is remarkably different, ranging in silica from 59 to 63 wt% (Fig. 5A):  
218 the pumice clasts in the pyroclastic breccias are dacites and the final lava flows are andesites,  
219 belonging to the high-K calcalkaline series.

220 A comparison of the Chivinar rhyolites with other topaz-bearing silicic rocks indicates similarly  
221 high Rb, Th, U, Pb, and Y but even higher Nb, Ta, while the LREE values are lower (e.g.;  
222 Christiansen et al., 1983; 1986; 2007; Lukkari, 2002; Rodríguez-Ríos et al., 2007) (Fig. 5B, C). The  
223 REE patterns are notably flat, with  $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_n = 2.5$ , and display a strong Eu negative anomaly, with  
224  $\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.11$  (Fig. 5B).

225 The Chivinar rhyolites have the same geochemical characteristics ( $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 < 0.1$  wt%,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 < 14.5$   
226 wt%,  $\text{SiO}_2 > 73$  wt%) of the low- $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  subtype of topaz-granites after Taylor and Fallick (1997), and  
227 of low- $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  granites from Central Europe and Scandinavian described by Breiter (2012) and

228 Lukkari (2002). The low  $P_2O_5$  in the Chivinar topaz rhyolites is in agreement with the absence of  
229 apatite as accessory (all Ca contributed to plagioclase) and contributes to distinguish these silicic  
230 magmas from S-type peraluminous magmas, suggesting a derivation by partial melting of an  
231 igneous protolith rather than of a pelitic one. In the discrimination diagram suggested by Whalen et  
232 al. (1987) for granites, the Chivinar topaz rhyolites fall in the field for intraplate settings (Fig. 6).  
233 The North America topaz rhyolites show the same major elements characteristics and similarly high  
234 Nb content and Nb/Y value (Fig. 6), and are explained with melting of continental crust previously  
235 intruded by mafic magmas with an intraplate signature (Christiansen et al., 2007; Rodríguez-Ríos et  
236 al., 2007).

237

238

## 239 6. Discussion

240

241 Whether topaz has a late magmatic (primary) or hydrothermal (secondary) origin has been a matter  
242 of discussion for several silicic igneous complexes. There is abundant petrographic evidence for  
243 topaz having formed as a liquidus phase in many topaz granites (Taylor, 1992, Lukkari, 2002) and,  
244 also, in sub-volcanic rhyolites (Xie et al., 2013). Indeed, the occurrence of melt inclusions in topaz  
245 has been taken as a proof of a magmatic origin for topaz hosts (Eadington and Nashar, 1978).  
246 Nevertheless, topaz is a frequent greisen mineral and in granites it has often been considered a sub-  
247 solidus replacement phase linked to autometasomatic processes, i.e. to alteration by the last water-  
248 rich fluid trapped within the rock, or to external fluids (Manning and Exley, 1984; Kleeman, 1985).  
249 Sometimes, it is developed in miarolitic cavities of granites and pegmatites as a late vapour phase  
250 (e.g.; Williamson et al., 1997; Colombo et al., 2009).

251

252 *6.1 Textural and compositional evidence for a primary crystallization of topaz in the Chivinar*  
253 *rhyolite*

254

255 The topaz crystals in the Chivinar rhyolitic lavas show different modes of occurrence. Two of these  
256 suggest igneous textural relationships: (a) in correspondence of concentration of voids, topaz forms  
257 anhedral/subhedral grains in association with quartz (Fig. 4C-G); (b) scattered in the matrix, topaz  
258 forms glomeroporphyritic elongate grains, again in association with quartz but without a noticeable  
259 concentration of voids. A third mode of occurrence (c) is within voids, where it shows idiomorphic  
260 terminations (Fig. 4F) indicating crystallization in fluid-filled cavities. Topaz is never associated to  
261 secondary minerals; indeed, the Chivinar rhyolites lack any evidence of replacement of primary  
262 minerals by secondary phases out of the alteration zone (i.e. no albite, sericite or topaz replacing  
263 plagioclase and alkali feldspar). White mica is frequently encountered in sample TG-9, but it is  
264 never found in replacement of feldspars; rather, it is interstitial in the groundmass, suggesting  
265 crystallization from the residual melt. Moreover, the miaroles in all the samples are never lined or  
266 filled by secondary phases. Thus, all topaz occurrences in the Chivinar rhyolite belong to the final  
267 phases of magmatic crystallization of the rhyolitic magma.

268 From the point of view of the chemical composition, the presence of magmatic topaz requires a  
269 fluorine-rich and peraluminous melt. Generally, in the final stages of differentiation, rhyolitic  
270 magmas may become volatile-rich, particularly in halogens. While chlorine tends to be  
271 characteristic of peralkaline rhyolites, fluorine (and a high F/Cl) is characteristic of peraluminous  
272 rhyolites (Scaillet and MacDonald, 2004; and references therein). Fluorine tends to remain in the  
273 silicate melt until late in the magma differentiation process, having a low  $D_{\text{fluid/melt}}$  (0.15-0.04 is  
274 reported in peraluminous melts, see Baker and Alletti, 2012) and is not lost into the volatile phase  
275 until very low pressures (Aiuppa et al., 2009). Thus, the F content of the final Chivinar rhyolite melt  
276 was presumably very high, also in the presence of an exsolved aqueous phase. At this stage, the  
277 peraluminous composition of the Chivinar rhyolite and the subtraction of most Ca from melt by the  
278 former crystallization of plagioclase phenocrysts, favoured the crystallization of topaz in respect to

279 fluorite. Therefore, the chemistry of the Chivinar rhyolite is in agreement with the interpretation of  
280 topaz as a primary, late magmatic phase.

281 Since topaz occurs in the groundmass, when it crystallized from the residual melt an aqueous fluid  
282 phase was already exsolved. This is demonstrated by the presence of fluid inclusions in crystals,  
283 also. The F vapour/melt partition coefficient depends on F abundance: concentrations as high as  
284  $\geq 7\text{--}8$  wt % F in melt will result in F preferentially partitioning into the fluid phase (Webster, 1990;  
285 Carroll and Webster, 1994; Dolejš and Baker, 2007). Such high concentrations are not common in  
286 nature, but could have been achieved in the very residual melt of the Chivinar rhyolite, allowing F  
287 escape into the vapour phase. This explains how crystallization of topaz could continue into the  
288 fluid-filled bubbles (Fig. 4F).

289

## 290 *6.2 Crystallization history of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites*

291

292 The composition of the Chivinar topaz rhyolite rocks, with very low Sr and Ba and high Rb and Nb,  
293 indicates that the melt was highly differentiated. The low phenocryst content of the Chivinar  
294 rhyolitic lavas suggests a low liquidus temperature, due to the presumably high F content of the  
295 silicic melt. The presence of two feldspars in equilibrium indicates subsolvus crystallization, in  
296 agreement with high P-fluid. The magmatic garnet with  $>20$  wt% MnO indicates a relatively low  
297 crystallization pressure,  $<300$  MPa, according to experimental and geological reconstructions in  
298 peraluminous plutons (Miller and Stoddard, 1981 and reference therein). Therefore, the storage  
299 pressure of the rhyolitic magma can be assessed at 300-400 MPa.

300 The crystallization temperature in the magma chamber, estimated from the phenocrysts - oligoclase  
301 and sanidine – composition, is 720-730°C for 4 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O, according to the geothermometer of  
302 Putirka (2008) for a pressure of 300-400 MPa. As a comparison, 775 $\pm$ 40°C to 800°C were  
303 calculated for Taylor Creek rhyolite, based on two feldspar equilibrium and the Fe-oxides

304 geothermometer (Duffield and Brey, 1990). The same authors estimated 700°C to 800°C for  
305 crystals in miarolitic cavities of Taylor Creek lava.

306 Quartz, sanidine and plagioclase form the groundmass crystallizing assemblage, whose nucleation  
307 was in response to magma ascent, decompression and fluid exsolution. The size, shape and mutual  
308 relationships of the groundmass crystals, lacking the skeletal microlites indicative of high  
309 undercooling, suggests a moderate nucleation rate, as well as moderate growth rate in response to a  
310 rather slow cooling of the interior of the domes. Exsolution of an aqueous fluid, evidence of which  
311 remains in the abundant primary fluid inclusions in the late groundmass crystals (particularly in  
312 topaz) and in the trails of secondary fluid inclusions in the phenocrysts (Fig. 4A), began early  
313 during magma ascent, but was important at the late stage of groundmass crystallization. The  
314 absence of glass and of devitrification textures is in agreement with the low viscosity of the final F-  
315 rich melt, allowing element diffusion and complete groundmass crystallization during the final  
316 stages of cooling of the lava domes. The isotropic texture of the rocks indicates that crystallization  
317 took place without flowing of magma, that is after the dome emplacement.

318 During the slow cooling above the solidus, crystallization of the groundmass crystals (quartz,  
319 sanidine, sodic plagioclase) forced the melt composition to a very residual chemistry. The F-rich  
320 and low-viscosity interstitial melt could migrate through the microlite framework (Fig. 8), in a  
321 similar way to the gas filter-pressing process forming segregation vesicles in basaltic dykes  
322 (Sanders, 1986). This mechanism permitted the formation of the quartz+topaz+vapour bubbles  
323 concentrations, similar to the miaroles that form in felsic fine-grained intrusions crystallizing at  
324 shallow crustal levels (Fig. 8). This was because the composition of the local residual magma  
325 attained high fluorine content, resulting in moving the eutectic composition and enlarging the quartz  
326 field. The residual melt at this point was probably of topazite, rather than ongonite, composition  
327 (i.e.; Kortemeier and Burt, 1988), and the fluorine content was high enough to allow F partitioning  
328 into the vapour phase and crystallization of vapour-phase topaz (Fig. 8).

329 The fact that the miaroles have irregular shapes, controlled by the crystals already present in the  
330 groundmass, is in agreement with their formation during a late stage release of volatiles (Vernon,  
331 2004; Agangi et al., 2010). Besides topaz, quartz and sporadic other minerals concluded their  
332 crystallization in the fluid-filled vesicles by precipitation from the vapour phase (Candela and  
333 Blevin, 1995) (Fig. 8).

334 The rounded shape shown by quartz crystals in the groundmass may be due to the high volatile  
335 content of the final interstitial melt, inhibiting crystallization. Alternatively, taking into account that  
336 quartz shows resorption while feldspars do not, and that the field of stability of quartz was  
337 expanded at the expenses of feldspars by the presence of fluorine, we propose that the  
338 crystallization of topaz, decreasing fluorine in melt, may have resulted in quartz instability causing  
339 the rounded corners. Resorption of early quartz crystals in silicic systems may be caused by  
340 adiabatic decompression, also, as proposed in several recent studies (e.g. Agangi et al., 2011), but  
341 this mechanism is not suitable to explain the texture of the Chivinar rhyolites. In the Chivinar  
342 domes, rounding affects groundmass quartz microlites in the inner dome portion, therefore it  
343 occurred after dome emplacement; decompression of the partially molten dome interior after dome  
344 emplacement, possibly provoked by carapace brecciation episodes, would result in rapid microlite  
345 nucleation and growth in the residual melt, originating a texture completely different from that  
346 observed.

347 Cooling of the dome interior continued slowly below the solidus. The Na-rich lamellae in alkali  
348 feldspar crystals could represent exsolution lamellae due to feldspar unmixing, indicating that  
349 cooling below the solidus was sufficiently slow to allow cryptoperthite development (Fig. 4G). On  
350 the other hand, it cannot be excluded that the Na-rich lamellae indicate incipient albitization of  
351 sanidine in the presence of a Na-bearing fluid. In this hypothesis, albitization would represent a late,  
352 autometasomatic process in the interior of the dome. The discrimination between the two processes  
353 is complicated by the fact that albitization develops along the same planes of perthitic textures

354 (Norberg et al., 2011). However, even if any albitization may have occurred, it must have been an  
355 incipient process without noticeable consequences on the rock composition.

356

### 357 *6.3 Rare metals minerals*

358

359 Accessory minerals in the Chivinar rhyolites account for their high content in Nb and Ta, and this is  
360 in agreement with the chemistry of the lavas. For instance, Nb-bearing rutile is one of the main  
361 accessories found in the heavy mineral fraction, and the partition coefficients  $D_{Nb}$  and  $D_{Ta}$   
362 between rutile and melt for peraluminous magmas with  $ASI=1.22$ , the same of the Chivinar  
363 rhyolite, are reported to be close to 4900 and 1900, respectively (Linnen and Keppler, 1997). The  
364 accessories are sometimes found inside phenocrysts (Fig. 4B) but they are often interstitial in the  
365 groundmass or even in correspondence of the vesicles. This indicates that they crystallized also  
366 from the final residual melt+vapour phase. This behaviour, already reported in volatile-rich silicic  
367 magmas (Agangi et al., 2010), supports a role of F-rich fluids in transporting immobile elements  
368 such as Nb and Ta.

369 The data collected so far indicate the existence, in Late Miocene, of a F-H<sub>2</sub>O-rich and rare metal-  
370 rich magma chamber feeding the silicic Chivinar volcanic phase. This suggests that rare metals  
371 mineralizations formed in the Chivinar region (René and Škoda, 2011). The extent of the  
372 mineralization depends, besides the extent of the silicic magma system after the rhyolitic lava  
373 effusion, on the timing and extent of F partitioning in the fluid phase and of Nb and Ta entering  
374 accessories. The secondary mineralogy present in the Chivinar rocks, dominated by Nb-Ta-Mn  
375 oxides and silicates and devoid of chalcophile elements, and the fact that alteration affects only the  
376 rhyolitic rocks and not the younger andesite sequence, suggests a genetic link of the alteration  
377 mineralogy with the topaz rhyolite magmatic system, rather than with an andesitic one.

378

### 379 *6.4 Geodynamic setting*

380

381 In addition to the Central Andes, rhyolitic lavas with magmatic topaz have been previously found in  
382 the western United States and Mexico, in the Basin and Range Province (Burt et al., 1982;  
383 Christiansen et al., 1983, 1986, 2007), and in the Nanling Range, in southern China (Xie et al.,  
384 2013). A common feature of these provinces is the presence of lithospheric extension in an  
385 intraplate setting, with crust-mantle interaction having an important role in the generation of the  
386 magmas. Magmatism in these provinces consisted of the intrusion of hot mafic magmas at the base  
387 and within the crust, providing a heat source for partial melting. Very similar tectono-magmatic  
388 conditions are found also for the topaz rhyolites of Chivinar, in the Central Andes. Even though  
389 Chivinar lies at the edge of the N-S trending volcanic arc of the Central Andes, its main structures  
390 are the WNW-ESE transtensive faults associated with the transverse COT structure. This suggests  
391 that, from a structural point of view, rhyolitic volcanism of Chivinar may be mostly related to the  
392 back-arc transtensive conditions of COT (Acocella et al., 2011), rather than to the arc structures. In  
393 fact, even though the overall tectonic setting of the Central Andes is contractional, transtensive or  
394 extensional conditions are found along the NW-SE trending fault zones in the back-arc (e.g. Riller  
395 et al., 2001). Among these is the transtensive COT, possibly carrying most of the extension in the  
396 Central Andes (Acocella et al., 2011). In this context, the compositional features of the Chivinar  
397 topaz rhyolites, in particular the high Nb-Ta and low Y/Nb (Fig. 6), could indicate partial melting of  
398 a continental crust previously intruded by mafic igneous bodies in an extensional regime, similarly  
399 to the North America topaz rhyolites (Christiansen et al., 2007). Therefore, despite the overall  
400 contractional or strike-slip setting of the arc, it is interesting to underline a connection between the  
401 transtensive/extensional features of the COT and intraplate extensional settings elsewhere. These  
402 similarities highlight preferred conditions for the formation of magmatic topaz.

403

404

405 7. Conclusions



406

407 The late magmatic origin of topaz in the Chivinar rhyolite lavas is supported by its igneous textural  
408 relationships with magmatic crystals and is in accordance with the peraluminous composition of the  
409 rhyolites. In addition, the topaz lacks any evidence of relationships with post-emplacment  
410 hydrothermal alteration. Textural evidence indicates that the phenocryst-poor lava of the domes  
411 interior underwent very slow cooling, and final crystallization took place in a large temperature  
412 interval. During the crystallization of the quartz-feldspathic groundmass, we propose that the F-rich,  
413 low-viscosity residual melt migrated in the crystal network and was concentrated, forming miaroles  
414 in which an assemblage topaz+quartz+vapour bubbles formed. In this final stage of groundmass  
415 crystallization, the F content in melt was so high that F could escape into the vapour phase,  
416 allowing also the final crystallization of topaz in the fluid-filled vesicles.

417 Given the magmatic origin of topaz, the topaz-bearing mineral assemblage in the Chivinar rhyolites  
418 suggests the existence of F-rich and rare metals-rich Late Miocene magma chambers. In addition,  
419 the alteration dominated by Nb-Ta-Mn oxides and silicates, affecting localized areas of the rhyolitic  
420 domes and pre-dating the following andesitic phase of the Chivinar volcano, suggests a genetic link  
421 with the topaz rhyolite magmatic system. This raises the possibility of the existence of veins or  
422 replacement deposits of rare metals, as well as of rare metals pegmatite bodies, in the Chivinar area.  
423 The extensional regime due to the presence of the transtensive COT structure suggests a  
424 correspondence with topaz rhyolites in North America and China, sharing similar geochemical  
425 features unrelated to subduction, and, thus highlights preferred conditions for the formation of  
426 magmatic topaz in overall intraplate settings.

427

428

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436

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575 Figure captions

576 Fig. 1. Geological framework of the Chivinar volcanic complex. (A) Location of the studied area  
577 with respect of the morpho-structural units of the Central Andes. The Western Cordillera is the  
578 active magmatic arc. Miocene to Quaternary volcanism develops in the backarc along some  
579 transverse NW-trending lineaments as the Calama-Olacapato-El Toro (COT) fault system. (B)  
580 Regional geologic map of the Puna plateau showing the location of the Chivinar volcano at the  
581 boundary between the magmatic arc and backarc. SAC: San Antonio de los Cobres. (C)  
582 Geologic map of the Chivinar volcano based on our new field mapping. Location of the samples  
583 studied is shown.

584 Fig. 2. Field photos of volcanic features of the Cerro Chivinar volcanic complex. Location of  
585 the studied samples is also shown. (A) The northern flank of the Cerro Chivinar shows three  
586 superposed and distinct eruptive packages, from bottom: TR = topaz-bearing rhyolite lava  
587 domes; Mb = dacite megabreccia and pumice deposits; Lc = andesite lava cone. The red line is  
588 the trace of the major NW-SE striking transpressive fault (white circles indicate a sinistral  
589 kinematics). (B) The western flank of the Cerro Chivinar shows the stratigraphic and intrusive  
590 relationships between the topaz-bearing rhyolite lava domes (TR) and the Eocene-Miocene  
591 sedimentary substratum (Rp = red pelites; Gy = gypsum). Af = alluvial fan. Red lines are the  
592 traces of the major NW-SE transpressive (white circles indicate a sinistral kinematics) and NS  
593 transpressive striking faults.

594 Fig. 3. Composition of feldspars of the topaz rhyolites reported in the ternary An (anorthite)-Ab  
595 (albite)-Or (orthoclase) diagram. The composition of the primary feldspars of the rhyolitic lavas  
596 in the alteration zone is also reported.

597 Fig. 4. Petrographic thin section photos with crossed nicols (A, B) and backscattered electrons SEM  
598 images (C...J) of Chivinar topaz rhyolite samples. A. Fluid inclusions trails in plagioclase  
599 phenocryst (arrow shows an example). B. Sanidine phenocryst and zircon, xenotime accessories  
600 in the holocrystalline, equant, quartz-feldspathic groundmass. C. Topaz concentration with



601 voids. D. Cryptoperthitic lamellae in alkali feldspar in the topaz rhyolite, testifying the final  
602 slow cooling phase of the lava dome; note the homogeneous core, representative of a former  
603 crystallization step at higher temperature. E. Zircon in void, in epitaxis with xenotime. F. Topaz,  
604 with syntaxial growth. G. Textural relationships between topaz and quartz (arrow indicates  
605 quartz-topaz contact). Note the frequent fluid inclusions in topaz. H. Di-octahedral mica flakes  
606 in the groundmass of Chivinar rhyolites, sample TG-9. I. Detail of veinlet in Chivinar rhyolite.  
607 Secondary minerals in vein are Mn-bearing amphiboles and Nb-bearing oxide. J. Detail of the  
608 rhyolite hosting veinlet in I: note the disseminated Nb-Ta-Ti oxides, compared to the rhyolite  
609 lava in C.

610 Fig. 5. A. Composition of the Chivinar rhyolites (open circles) reported in the TAS diagram (total  
611 alkali vs. silica, le Bas et al., 1986) and compared with the fields for topaz rhyolites from  
612 Christiansen et al. (2007) (light grey) and from Rodríguez-Ríos et al. (2007) (dark grey); the  
613 dashed line divides alkaline and subalkaline rocks after Irvine and Baragar (1971). The Chivinar  
614 andesitic rocks are also reported as black dots. B. Rare Earth Element patterns of the Chivinar  
615 topaz rhyolites normalized to chondrite after Sun and MacDonough (1989). Symbols and fields  
616 as in Figure 5A. C. Multielement spiderdiagrams of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites normalized to  
617 Primitive Mantle after Sun and MacDonough (1989). Symbols and fields as in Figure 5A.

618 Fig. 6. Chivinar topaz rhyolites plotted in the discrimination diagram for intraplate setting after  
619 Whalen et al. (1987). Open circles are Chivinar topaz rhyolites from this work (the two samples  
620 nearly coincide); light grey field is topaz rhyolites from Christiansen et al. (2007), white field is  
621 from Rodríguez-Ríos et al. (2007), dark grey field is from Xie et al. (2013).

622 Fig. 7. The “granite” system (Qz–Ab–Or) with the composition of Chivinar topaz rhyolite rocks  
623 (open circles). The solid line indicates the quartz–feldspar cotectic and the minimum melt  
624 composition at 1 kbar, H<sub>2</sub>O-saturated conditions (Tuttle and Bowen, 1958). The arrow shows  
625 the eutectic variation for F added to the haplogranite composition (Johannes and Holtz, 1996;

626 and references therein). Grey field is topaz rhyolites from Christiansen et al. (2007) and white  
627 field is topaz granites from Taylor and Fallick (1997).

628 Fig. 8. Conceptual model of formation of the topaz+quartz+voids association in the Chivinar  
629 rhyolite.

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634 Table captions

635 Table 1. Representative EDS analyses of primary minerals in the Chivinar rhyolitic lavas.

636 Table 2. Representative EDS analyses of secondary minerals in the Chivinar altered rhyolitic lavas.

637 Table 3. A. Whole rock major element composition and CIPW norm of the analyzed Chivinar

638 rocks. ASI: Alumina Saturation Index, molecular  $[\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3]/[\text{CaO}]-1.67*[\text{P}_2\text{O}_5]+[\text{Na}_2\text{O}]+[\text{K}_2\text{O}]$ .

639 B. Trace element composition of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites.

640

641

1 Topaz magmatic crystallization in rhyolites of the Central Andes (Chivinar  
2 volcanic complex, NW Argentina): constraints from texture, mineralogy and rock  
3 chemistry

4  
5  
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20

21 **Abstract:** Topaz-bearing rhyolite lavas were erupted as domes and cryptodomes during the early  
22 history of the Late Miocene Chivinar volcano, in Central Andes. These are the only topaz rhyolite  
23 lavas recognized in Central Andes. Textural, mineralogical and geochemical data on the Chivinar  
24 rhyolites suggest that topaz crystallized from strongly residual, **fluorine**-rich, peraluminous silicate  
25 melts of topazite composition before the complete solidification of the lava domes. Crystallization  
26 of the rhyolitic magma began with sodic plagioclase and alkali feldspar phenocrysts in the magma  
27 chamber, followed by groundmass quartz+alkali feldspar+minor sodic plagioclase during dome  
28 emplacement, and terminated with quartz+topaz+vapour bubbles forming small scattered miaroles.  
29 Fluorine partitioning **into** the fluid phase occurred only in the final stage of groundmass  
30 crystallization. The magmatic origin of topaz indicates the presence of a **fluorine**-rich highly  
31 differentiated magma in the early history of the Chivinar volcano and suggests the possibility of  
32 rare metals mineralizations related to the cooling and solidification of a silicic magma chamber. A  
33 late fluid circulation phase, pre-dating the andesitic phase of the Chivinar volcano, affected part of  
34 the topaz rhyolite lavas. The presence of Nb, Ta and Mn minerals as primary accessories in the  
35 rhyolites and as secondary minerals in veins suggests a connection of the fluid circulation phase  
36 with the silicic magmatic system. Although at the edge of the active volcanic arc, the Chivinar topaz  
37 rhyolites are in correspondence of the transtensive Calama-Olacapato-El Toro fault **system**,  
38 suggesting preferred extensional conditions for the formation of magmatic topaz in convergent  
39 settings, **consistently with evidence from other known cases worldwide**.

40

41

42 **Key words:** Topaz-bearing rhyolite, fluorine, magmatic volatiles, miarolitic texture, Central Andes

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## 47 **1. Introduction**

48

49 Although more frequently interpreted as the product of post-magmatic vapour-phase alteration (e.g.;  
50 Taylor, 2009), topaz is also a rare primary constituent of magmatic rocks, originated by the  
51 crystallization of peraluminous and fluorine-rich silicic magmas (Scaillet and MacDonald, 2004;  
52 Lukkari, 2002; Agangi et al., 2010). The silicatic melts enriched in fluorine have particular physical  
53 properties, i.e. low viscosity and density (Aiuppa et al., 2009). These enhance the efficiency of the  
54 petrogenetic processes, allowing segregation of unusually low fractions of partial melt from the  
55 source, as well as favouring crystal-melt fractionation during magma ascent. By that, **fluorine (F)**  
56 promotes the production and release of very small volumes of felsic magma enriched in a wide  
57 variety of incompatible elements (Keppler, 1993) and, consequently, potentially related to  
58 economically interesting ore mineralizations (e.g.; Burt et al., 1982; Xie et al., 2013).

59 In this paper we report the occurrence and the mineralogical, petrographic and chemical  
60 characteristics of rhyolitic lavas bearing topaz from the Late Miocene Chivinar volcano, located in  
61 Central Andes (Fig. 1; Koukharsky et al., 1991; Orlandi et al., 2011). While several high-silica,  
62 topaz-bearing rhyolitic lavas of Cenozoic age have been recognized **in North America (western**  
63 **United States and Mexico;** Christiansen et al., 1986; Huspeni et al., 1984; Sinclair, 1986;  
64 Rodríguez-Ríos et al., 2007), the Chivinar topaz rhyolites are, to date, the only occurrence in the  
65 Andes of South America.

66 Owing to their location at the intersection of the Andean active magmatic arc with a major NW-  
67 striking fault system (Fig. 1A) and to their peculiar mineralogy, the Chivinar rocks present a two-  
68 fold interest. First, the knowledge of the petrogenetic processes responsible for the composition of  
69 these lavas may add new elements for the interpretation of the genesis and evolution of magmas at  
70 the arc-back-arc boundary in Central Andes (Matteini et al., 2002; Acocella et al., 2011). Second,  
71 understanding the origin of topaz in magmatic rocks may contribute to explain mineralizations in  
72 rare, economically interesting elements (Xie et al., 2013 and references therein). For both purposes,

73 the determination of the primary (magmatic) vs. secondary (hydrothermal) origin of topaz is crucial.  
74 This contribution presents the textural, mineralogical and geochemical constraints to the magmatic  
75 origin of topaz in the Chivinar rhyolite and proposes a model for the magmatic crystallization of  
76 topaz rhyolite.

77

78

## 79 **2. Geological framework**

80

81 Cerro Chivinar is a Miocene volcano located in the western Puna plateau of the Central Andes  
82 ( $24^{\circ}14'S - 67^{\circ}27'W$ ; 5125 m above sea level, a.s.l.), at the intersection between the N-S trending  
83 active magmatic arc (Western Cordillera) and the NW-SE trending Calama-Olacapato-El Toro  
84 (COT) transtensive fault zone (Salfity, 1985; Acocella et al., 2011) (Figs. 1A and 1B). The COT  
85 fault zone coincides with a well-defined volcanic belt, consisting of stratovolcanoes, lava domes  
86 and some monogenetic scoria centres and formed in the last 15 Ma. The composition of the magmas  
87 erupted along the COT volcanic belt includes calcalkaline magmas ranging from basaltic andesites  
88 to dacites and rhyolites, and shoshonitic magmas erupted at the mafic monogenetic scoria centres  
89 (Acocella et al., 2011 and references therein).

90 The geology of the Chivinar volcano has been never described in detail. The main geological  
91 features were formerly sketched in Koukharsky and Munizaga (1990) and Koukharsky et al. (1991),  
92 reporting the occurrence of topaz in the rhyolitic lavas of the volcano. Our new geologic field  
93 mapping shows that Chivinar is a polygenetic volcanic complex built by three superposed and  
94 distinct eruptive packages (**Figs. 1C and 2A**). The oldest unit is made up of a cluster of topaz  
95 rhyolite lava domes exposed on the N and W basal platform of the volcano, between 3500 and 4000  
96 m a.s.l.. The following unit consists of radially emplaced coarse dacite breccia and pumice deposits  
97 that resulted from lava dome catastrophic destruction events. Finally, an andesite lava cone caps the  
98 volcanic edifice. A K/Ar age of  $9.0 \pm 0.4$  Ma was determined on andesite of the Chivinar lava cone

99 (Koukharsky and Munizaga, 1990). The substratum of the volcano is represented by continental  
100 terrigenous and evaporitic deposits of Late Eocene-Miocene age (Fig. 1B; Geste, Pozuelos and Sijes  
101 Formations; Jordan and Alonso, 1987; Blasco et al., 1996). The most active tectonic systems are  
102 WNW-ESE trending transtensive and extensional faults (**Figs. 1 and 2**), similarly to the ones found  
103 along the eastern continuation of the COT (Acocella et al., 2011). These systems seem also to  
104 control the preferred WNW-ESE elongation of the volcano.

105 The Chivinar topaz rhyolites consist of a group of coalescent lava domes that were extruded as  
106 small, endogenous lava domes and shallowly emplaced intrusive domes and plugs (Fig. 1C). The  
107 lava emplacement lacks **of** associated explosive products. Field evidence excludes the association of  
108 the rhyolite with one or more caldera structures. Rhyolite rests directly on or intrudes the Eocene-  
109 Miocene sedimentary substratum (**Fig. 2B**). Intrusive and cooling histories of individual lava bodies  
110 are locally constrained by lava textures, as marginal vitrophyres, flow-banding and breccias, at the  
111 contact with host sediments. The **remnant** domes range from 0.3 to 1 km in diameter and are up to  
112 250 m high. The rhyolite dome field makes up nearly one third of the volume of the Chivinar  
113 complex.

114 At the end of the oldest Chivinar eruptive episode, the rhyolite lavas were intensely deformed,  
115 eroded and altered. The pervasiveness of the deformation and hydrothermal alteration contrasts with  
116 the fresh younger breccias and lavas that make up the rest of the edifice, suggesting that tectonism  
117 and fluid circulation followed by exogenous weathering occurred prior to renewed construction of  
118 the edifice.

119

120

### 121 **3. Sampling and analytical methods**

122

123 Three samples of the rhyolitic domes showing no **macroscopic** evidence of alteration were selected  
124 for the preparation of polished thin sections and for crushing and powdering. TG-9 rhyolite



125 represents the external part of a dome near the contact with the host evaporitic rock; TG-10 and TG-  
126 16 come from the inner part of the coalescent dome cluster (**Figs. 1C and 2**). Also, three samples of  
127 the rhyolites were collected from outcrops showing hydrothermal alteration evidence, to evaluate  
128 the relationships between the primary and secondary mineralogy. Finally, representative samples of  
129 the Chivinar dacites and andesites capping the volcanic edifice were selected for comparing the  
130 major elements composition with the silicic lavas.

131 Whole-rock X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyses of major oxides were done on fused samples with  
132 an ARL 9400 XPP instrument at the Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa, Italy.  
133 Accuracy is 4–7% for concentrations <1 wt%, 2–4% for concentrations 1–10 wt%, 1% for  
134 concentrations >10 wt%. Trace-element analyses and Loss on Ignition determinations were carried  
135 out on powdered rock samples at Acme Laboratories, Ontario, Canada.

136 Microanalytical data were collected on polished **and carbon-coated** rock sections with a Philips  
137 XL30 scanning electron microscope equipped with microanalysis EDAX (standard-less software  
138 DXi4) at Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa, Italy (acceleration voltage 20 kV,  
139 beam current 5 nA, live time 100 s). The accuracy is better than 0.5% if abundance is >15 wt%, 1%  
140 if abundance is around 5 wt%, and better than 20% if abundance is around 0.5 wt%.

141 Mineral separations were carried out to investigate the heavy mineral fraction by means of SEM-  
142 EDS with the above described facilities. XRD analysis of selected mineral grains were carried out at  
143 Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Pisa with a Gandolfi camera (114.6 mm in  
144 diameter) and CuK $\alpha$  radiation.

145

146

#### 147 **4. Petrography and mineral chemistry**

148

149 The Chivinar rhyolites are characterized by a very homogeneous white to creamy white colour. The  
150 hand samples show porphyritic texture, with about 10 % in volume of transparent phenocrysts, 0.5

151 to 3 mm in size, rare coloured minerals, <1 mm in size, and very fine voids. No xenocrysts nor  
152 xenoliths from the andesitic magmatic system have been found in the silicic lava samples.

153 The phenocrysts are plagioclase, consisting of euhedral stubby oligoclase with moderate direct  
154 zoning, and sanidine, with low 2V angle (15-20°), with elongated lath shape and lower size than  
155 plagioclase (Figs. **3 and 4A-B**; Table 1). In sample TG-9, oligoclase is the only phenocryst.

156 The groundmass of the Chivinar rhyolites is holocrystalline and shows a fine-grained (40-100  
157 microns), isotropic granular texture, consisting of equant subidiomorphic quartz, alkali feldspar and  
158 sodic plagioclase (**Fig. 4B-C**). **The quartz microlites locally show rounded corners.**

159 **Trails of minute vapour-rich secondary fluid inclusions cross-cutting phenocrysts are rather**  
160 **common (Fig. 4A). The groundmass crystals mainly host solid inclusions of accessory**  
161 **minerals and minute vapour-rich inclusions of primary formation.**

162 **Voids, mainly 50-200 microns in size, are disseminated in the lavas. The void boundaries are**  
163 **irregular, following the boundaries of the rock crystals, which sometimes protrude into the**  
164 **void.**

165 The composition of plagioclase phenocrysts is quite constant, with modest direct zoning  $An_{15}Ab_{79}$ -  
166  $An_{10}Ab_{85}$ , and the groundmass microlites have the same composition of the phenocryst's rims. The  
167 composition of alkali feldspar covers the range  $Or_{65}Ab_{35}$ - $Or_{51}Ab_{47}$  from phenocrysts to groundmass  
168 microlites (Fig. **3**). The alkali feldspar crystals in the groundmass show **subtle** lamellae of Na-rich  
169 feldspar, 0.5-1 microns thick (Fig. **4D**), **developing preferentially from the rim inward.**

170 The average volume proportions of quartz, plagioclase and alkali feldspar in the rocks are  $36\pm 2$ ,  
171  $14\pm 3$  and  $49\pm 2$  vol. %, respectively, determined with image analysis using microphotos and  
172 backscattered electrons SEM images (ImageJ version 1.42q). Several other minerals occur in <3  
173 **vol.** % to trace amounts, including topaz, magnetite, both interstitial and included in quartz,  
174 ilmenite, a F-bearing tri-octahedral mica (montdorite/fluor-phlogopite; see Table 1), calcic  
175 amphibole, zircon and xenotime-Y. Zircon and xenotime-Y are **commonly included in** feldspar

176 phenocrysts (Fig. 4B). **In addition, topaz, zircon and xenotime sometimes show crystallization**  
177 **with idiomorphic terminations in voids (Fig. 4E-F).**

178 Other accessories have been identified in the heavy mineral fraction (see below). In sample TG-9,  
179 **muscovite**-like di-octahedral mica minerals are disseminated as clusters of fine-grained flakes in  
180 the groundmass of the lava (Table 1; Fig. 4H).

181 Topaz is easily encountered in the samples TG-10 and TG-16, while it is sporadic in TG-9; it occurs  
182 in the matrix in association with quartz, or forms glomeroporphyric aggregates of acicular crystals  
183 as described in Arizona ongonites (Kortemeier and Burt, 1988). In samples TG-10 and TG-16 it  
184 concentrates in particular in correspondence of clusters of voids (e.g.; Fig. 4C-G), with both  
185 allotriomorphic and idiomorphic crystals.

186 The heavy mineral concentrates of the Chivinar topaz-bearing samples reveal a variety of accessory  
187 minerals in the fraction with density higher than 2.9 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, which represent between 1 and 2 wt% in  
188 the studied samples. The most abundant mineral phase is topaz, representing around 50% by weight  
189 of the heavy fraction (Fig. 4F), followed by a Nb-rich rutile variety. Monazite-(Ce), xenotime-(Y,  
190 REE), an Fe-bearing tourmaline variety, zircon (with Th, U and Hf) and Mn-garnet (spessartine) are  
191 present in trace amounts. All these mineralogical phases have been identified by SEM-EDS semi-  
192 quantitative chemical analyses (Table 1). The content of Nb in the presumed rutile resulted  
193 remarkably high; therefore, the identification was confirmed by an X-ray powder pattern collected  
194 with a Gandolfi camera.

195 In the samples from the outcrops affected by hydrothermal alteration, the rhyolitic lavas **show the**  
196 **same primary mineralogy and texture of the unaltered samples.** They are porphyritic, with  
197 millimetric plagioclase and sanidine phenocrysts in a quartz-feldspathic groundmass. The secondary  
198 minerals are both disseminated and in veinlets that stand out for their dark green to black colour  
199 (Fig. 4I-J) and include Mn-bearing silicates (**Mn-bearing sodic amphibole and sodic pyroxene**),  
200 Mn-bearing Fe-Ti oxides of the magnetite and ilmenite series, Mn-bearing apatite and Nb-Ta-  
201 bearing rutile (Table 2). Secondary alkali feldspar occurs in the host rock at the vein contact (Table

202 2). In some places, **instead, alteration resulted in complete leaching of feldspars and**  
203 **silicification, with the resultant rock composed of relict fine-grained quartz and scattered Nb-**  
204 **Ta-bearing rutile and secondary silica phases.**

205 The rocks of the Chivinar volcanic units following the rhyolitic lava domes are mainly andesitic  
206 lavas and minor pumiceous deposits. They are porphyritic, with phenocrysts of plagioclase and  
207 hornblende, minor orthopyroxene and scarce clinopyroxene, biotite and Fe-oxides in a groundmass  
208 made of the same mineral phases and a variable amount of glass. The least evolved andesite  
209 samples show abundant olivine phenocrysts with iddingsite rims.

210

211

## 212 **5. Whole-rock major and trace element composition**

213

214 The composition of the Chivinar topaz-bearing lavas falls in the TAS diagram in the rhyolite field,  
215 with a Na<sub>2</sub>O+K<sub>2</sub>O around 8 wt% (Fig. 5A) and K<sub>2</sub>O/Na<sub>2</sub>O = 1 (Table 3). The rhyolites with silica  
216 around 75-77 wt% are peraluminous and corundum appears in their CIPW norm, while the TG-9  
217 rhyolite with 74 wt% SiO<sub>2</sub> is metaluminous. The composition of other volcanic rocks forming the  
218 Chivinar volcanic complex is remarkably different, ranging in silica from 59 to 63 wt% (Fig. **5A**):  
219 the pumice clasts in the pyroclastic breccias are dacites and the final lava flows are andesites,  
220 belonging to the high-K calcalkaline series.

221 A comparison of the Chivinar rhyolites with other topaz-bearing silicic rocks indicates similarly  
222 high Rb, Th, U, Pb, and Y but even higher Nb, Ta, while the LREE values are lower (e.g.;  
223 **Christiansen** et al., 1983; 1986; 2007; Lukkari, 2002; Rodríguez-Ríos et al., 2007) (Fig. **5B**, C).  
224 The REE patterns are notably flat, with (La/Yb)<sub>n</sub> = 2.5, and display a strong Eu negative anomaly,  
225 with Eu/Eu\* = 0.11 (Fig. **5B**).

226 The Chivinar rhyolites have the same geochemical characteristics (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> <0.1 wt%, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> <14.5  
227 wt%, SiO<sub>2</sub> >73 wt%) of the low-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> subtype of topaz-granites after Taylor and Fallick (1997), and

228 of low-P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> granites from Central Europe and Scandinavian described by Breiter (2012) and  
229 Lukkari (2002). The low P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in the Chivinar topaz rhyolites is in agreement with the absence of  
230 apatite as accessory (all Ca contributed to plagioclase) and contributes to distinguish these silicic  
231 magmas from S-type peraluminous magmas, suggesting a derivation by partial melting of an  
232 igneous protolith rather than of a pelitic one. **In the discrimination diagram suggested by**  
233 **Whalen et al. (1987) for granites, the Chivinar topaz rhyolites fall in the field for intraplate**  
234 **settings (Fig. 6).** The North America topaz rhyolites show the same major elements characteristics  
235 and similarly high Nb content and Nb/Y value (Fig. 6), and are explained with melting of  
236 continental crust previously intruded by mafic magmas with an intraplate signature (**Christiansen**  
237 **et al., 2007; Rodríguez-Ríos et al., 2007).**

238

239

## 240 **6. Discussion**

241

242 **Whether topaz has a late magmatic (primary) or hydrothermal (secondary) origin has been a**  
243 matter of discussion for several silicic igneous complexes. There is abundant petrographic evidence  
244 for topaz having formed as a liquidus phase in many topaz granites (Taylor, 1992, Lukkari, 2002)  
245 and, also, in sub-volcanic rhyolites (Xie et al., 2013). Indeed, the occurrence of melt inclusions in  
246 topaz has been taken as a proof of a magmatic origin for topaz hosts (Eadington and Nashar, 1978).  
247 Nevertheless, topaz is a frequent greisen mineral and in granites it has often been considered a sub-  
248 solidus replacement phase linked to autometasomatic processes, i.e. to alteration by the last water-  
249 rich fluid trapped within the rock, or to external fluids (Manning and Exley, 1984; Kleeman, 1985).  
250 Sometimes, it is developed in miarolitic cavities of granites and pegmatites as a late vapour phase  
251 (e.g.; Williamson et al., 1997; Colombo et al., 2009).

252

253 6.1 Textural and compositional evidence for a primary crystallization of topaz in the Chivinar  
254 rhyolite

255

256 The topaz crystals in the Chivinar rhyolitic lavas show different modes of occurrence. Two of these  
257 suggest igneous textural relationships: (a) in correspondence of concentration of voids, topaz forms  
258 anhedral/subhedral grains in association with quartz (Fig. 4C-G); (b) scattered in the matrix, topaz  
259 forms glomeroporphyritic elongate grains, again in association with quartz but without a noticeable  
260 concentration of voids. A third mode of occurrence (c) is within voids, where it shows idiomorphic  
261 terminations (Fig. 4F) indicating crystallization in fluid-filled cavities. Topaz is never associated to  
262 secondary minerals; indeed, the Chivinar rhyolites lack any evidence of replacement of primary  
263 minerals by secondary phases out of the alteration zone (i.e. **no albite, sericite or topaz replacing**  
264 **plagioclase and alkali feldspar). White mica is frequently encountered in sample TG-9, but it**  
265 **is never found in replacement of feldspars; rather, it is interstitial in the groundmass,**  
266 **suggesting crystallization from the residual melt.** Moreover, the **miaroles in all the samples** are  
267 never lined or filled by secondary phases. Thus, all topaz occurrences in the Chivinar rhyolite  
268 belong to the final phases of magmatic crystallization of the rhyolitic magma.

269 From the point of view of the chemical composition, the presence of magmatic topaz requires a  
270 fluorine-rich and peraluminous melt. Generally, in the final stages of differentiation, rhyolitic  
271 magmas may become volatile-rich, particularly in halogens. While chlorine tends to be  
272 characteristic of peralkaline rhyolites, fluorine (and a high F/Cl) is characteristic of peraluminous  
273 rhyolites (Scaillet and MacDonald, 2004; and references therein). Fluorine tends to remain in the  
274 silicate melt until late in the magma differentiation process, having a low  $D_{\text{fluid/melt}}$  (0.15-0.04 is  
275 reported in peraluminous melts, see Baker and Alletti, 2012) and is not lost into the volatile phase  
276 until very low pressures (Aiuppa et al., 2009). Thus, the F content of the final Chivinar rhyolite melt  
277 was presumably very high, also in the presence of an exsolved aqueous phase. At this stage, the  
278 peraluminous composition of the Chivinar rhyolite and the subtraction of most Ca from melt by the

279 former crystallization of plagioclase phenocrysts, favoured the crystallization of topaz in respect to  
280 fluorite. Therefore, the chemistry of the Chivinar rhyolite is in agreement with the interpretation of  
281 topaz as a primary, late magmatic phase.

282 Since topaz occurs in the groundmass, when it crystallized from the residual melt an aqueous fluid  
283 phase was already exsolved. This is demonstrated by the presence of fluid inclusions in crystals,  
284 also. The F vapour/melt partition coefficient depends on F abundance: concentrations as high as  
285  $\geq 7-8$  wt % F in melt will result in F preferentially partitioning into the fluid phase (Webster, 1990;  
286 Carroll and Webster, 1994; Dolejš **and Baker**, 2007). Such high concentrations are not common in  
287 nature, but could have been achieved in the very residual melt of the Chivinar rhyolite, allowing F  
288 escape into the vapour phase. This explains how crystallization of topaz could continue into the  
289 fluid-filled bubbles (Fig. **4F**).

290

## 291 *6.2 Crystallization history of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites*

292

293 The composition of the Chivinar topaz rhyolite rocks, with very low Sr and Ba and high Rb and Nb,  
294 indicates that the **melt was** highly differentiated. The low phenocryst content of the Chivinar  
295 rhyolitic lavas suggests a low liquidus temperature, due to the presumably high F content of the  
296 silicic melt. The presence of two feldspars in equilibrium indicates subsolvus crystallization, in  
297 agreement with high P-fluid. The magmatic garnet with  $>20$  wt% MnO indicates a relatively low  
298 crystallization pressure,  $<300$  MPa, according to experimental and geological reconstructions in  
299 peraluminous plutons (Miller and Stoddard, 1981 and reference therein). Therefore, the storage  
300 pressure of the rhyolitic magma can be assessed at 300-400 MPa.

301 The crystallization temperature in the magma chamber, estimated from the phenocrysts - oligoclase  
302 and sanidine – composition, is 720-730°C for 4 wt% H<sub>2</sub>O, according to the geothermometer of  
303 Putirka (2008) for a pressure of 300-400 MPa. As a comparison, 775 $\pm$ 40°C to 800°C were  
304 calculated for Taylor Creek rhyolite, based on two feldspar equilibrium and the Fe-oxides

305 geothermometer (Duffield and Brey, 1990). The same authors estimated 700°C to 800°C for  
306 crystals in miarolitic cavities of Taylor Creek lava.

307 Quartz, sanidine and plagioclase form the groundmass crystallizing assemblage, whose nucleation  
308 was in response to magma ascent, **decompression and fluid exsolution. The size, shape and**  
309 **mutual relationships of the groundmass crystals, lacking the skeletal microlites indicative of**  
310 **high undercooling, suggests a moderate nucleation rate, as well as moderate growth rate in**  
311 **response to a rather slow cooling of the interior of the domes.** Exsolution of an aqueous fluid,  
312 evidence of which remains in the abundant primary fluid inclusions in the late groundmass crystals  
313 (particularly in topaz) and in the trails of secondary fluid inclusions in the phenocrysts (Fig. 4A),  
314 began early during magma ascent, but was important at the late stage of groundmass crystallization.  
315 The absence of glass **and of devitrification textures** is in agreement with the low viscosity of the  
316 final F-rich melt, allowing element diffusion and **complete** groundmass crystallization during the  
317 final stages of cooling of the lava domes. **The isotropic texture of the rocks indicates that**  
318 **crystallization took place without flowing of magma, that is after the dome emplacement.**

319 During the slow cooling **above the solidus**, crystallization of the groundmass crystals (quartz,  
320 sanidine, sodic plagioclase) forced the melt composition to a very residual chemistry. The F-rich  
321 and low-viscosity interstitial melt could migrate through the microlite framework (Fig. 8), in a  
322 similar way to the gas filter-pressing process forming segregation vesicles in basaltic dykes  
323 (Sanders, 1986). This mechanism permitted the formation of the quartz+topaz+vapour bubbles  
324 concentrations, similar to the miaroles that form in felsic fine-grained intrusions crystallizing at  
325 shallow crustal levels (Fig. 8). This was because the composition of the local residual magma  
326 attained high fluorine content, resulting in moving the eutectic composition and enlarging the quartz  
327 field. The residual melt at this point was probably of topazite, rather than ongonite, composition  
328 (i.e.; Kortemeier and Burt, 1988), and the fluorine content was high enough to allow F partitioning  
329 into the vapour phase and crystallization of vapour-phase topaz (Fig. 8).



330 The fact that the miaroles have irregular shapes, controlled by the crystals already present in the  
331 groundmass, is in agreement with their formation during a late stage release of volatiles (Vernon,  
332 2004; Agangi et al., 2010). Besides topaz, quartz and sporadic other minerals concluded their  
333 crystallization in the fluid-filled vesicles by precipitation from the vapour phase (Candela and  
334 Blevin, 1995) (Fig. 8).

335 The rounded shape shown by quartz crystals in the groundmass may be due to the high volatile  
336 content of the final interstitial melt, inhibiting crystallization. Alternatively, **taking into account**  
337 **that quartz shows resorption while feldspars do not, and that the field of stability of quartz**  
338 **was expanded at the expenses of feldspars by the presence of fluorine, we propose** that the  
339 crystallization of topaz, decreasing **fluorine** in melt, may have resulted in quartz instability causing  
340 the rounded corners. **Resorption of early quartz crystals in silicic systems may be caused by**  
341 **adiabatic decompression, also, as proposed in several recent studies (e.g. Agangi et al., 2011),**  
342 **but this mechanism is not suitable to explain the texture of the Chivinar rhyolites. In the**  
343 **Chivinar domes, rounding affects groundmass quartz microlites in the inner dome portion,**  
344 **therefore it occurred after dome emplacement; decompression of the partially molten dome**  
345 **interior after dome emplacement, possibly provoked by carapace brecciation episodes, would**  
346 **result in rapid microlite nucleation and growth in the residual melt, originating a texture**  
347 **completely different from that observed.**

348 Cooling of the dome interior continued slowly below the solidus. **The Na-rich lamellae in alkali**  
349 **feldspar crystals could represent exsolution lamellae due to feldspar unmixing, indicating that**  
350 **cooling below the solidus was sufficiently slow to allow cryptoperthite development (Fig. 4G).**  
351 **On the other hand, it cannot be excluded that the Na-rich lamellae indicate incipient**  
352 **albitization of sanidine in the presence of a Na-bearing fluid. In this hypothesis, albitization**  
353 **would represent a late, autometasomatic process in the interior of the dome. The**  
354 **discrimination between the two processes is complicated by the fact that albitization develops**  
355 **along the same planes of perthitic textures (Norberg et al., 2011). However, even if any**

356 **albitization may have occurred, it must have been an incipient process without noticeable**  
357 **consequences on the rock composition.**

358

### 359 *6.3 Rare metals minerals*

360

361 Accessory minerals in the Chivinar rhyolites account for their high content in Nb and Ta, and this is  
362 in agreement with the chemistry of the lavas. For instance, Nb-bearing rutile is one of the main  
363 accessories found in the heavy mineral fraction, and the partition coefficients  $D_{Nb}$  and  $D_{Ta}$   
364 between rutile and melt for peraluminous magmas with  $ASI=1.22$ , the same of the Chivinar  
365 rhyolite, are reported to be close to 4900 and 1900, respectively (Linnen and Keppler, 1997). The  
366 accessories are sometimes found inside phenocrysts (Fig. **4B**) but they are often interstitial in the  
367 groundmass or even in correspondence of the vesicles. This indicates that they crystallized also  
368 from the final residual melt+vapour phase. This behaviour, already reported in volatile-rich silicic  
369 magmas (Agangi et al., 2010), supports a role of F-rich fluids in transporting immobile elements  
370 such as Nb and Ta.

371 The data collected so far indicate the existence, in Late Miocene, of a F-H<sub>2</sub>O-rich and rare metal-  
372 rich magma chamber feeding the silicic Chivinar volcanic phase. This suggests that rare metals  
373 mineralizations formed in the Chivinar region (**René and Škoda, 2011**). The extent of the  
374 mineralization depends, besides the extent of the silicic magma system after the rhyolitic lava  
375 effusion, on the timing and extent of F partitioning in the fluid phase and of Nb and Ta entering  
376 accessories. The secondary mineralogy present in the Chivinar rocks, dominated by Nb-Ta-Mn  
377 oxides and silicates and devoid of chalcophile elements, and the fact that alteration affects only the  
378 rhyolitic rocks and not the younger andesite sequence, suggests a genetic link of the alteration  
379 mineralogy with the topaz rhyolite magmatic system, rather than with an andesitic one.

380

### 381 *6.4 Geodynamic setting*

382

383 In addition to the Central Andes, rhyolitic lavas with magmatic topaz have been previously found in  
384 the western United States and Mexico, in the Basin and Range Province (Burt et al., 1982;  
385 Christiansen et al., 1983, **1986**, 2007), and in the Nanling Range, in southern China (Xie et al.,  
386 2013). A common feature of these provinces is the presence of lithospheric extension in an  
387 intraplate setting, with crust-mantle interaction having an important role in the generation of the  
388 magmas. Magmatism in these provinces consisted of the intrusion of hot mafic magmas at the base  
389 and within the crust, providing a heat source for partial melting. Very similar tectono-magmatic  
390 conditions are found also for the topaz rhyolites of Chivinar, in the Central Andes. Even though  
391 Chivinar lies at the edge of the N-S trending volcanic arc of the Central Andes, its main structures  
392 are the WNW-ESE transtensive faults associated with the transverse COT structure. This suggests  
393 that, from a structural point of view, rhyolitic volcanism of Chivinar may be mostly related to the  
394 back-arc transtensive conditions of COT (Acocella et al., 2011), rather than to the arc structures. In  
395 fact, even though the overall tectonic setting of the Central Andes is contractional, transtensive or  
396 extensional conditions are found along the NW-SE trending fault zones in the back-arc (e.g. Riller  
397 et al., 2001). Among these is the transtensive COT, possibly carrying most of the extension in the  
398 Central Andes (Acocella et al., 2011). In this context, the **compositional features of the Chivinar**  
399 **topaz rhyolites, in particular the high Nb-Ta and low Y/Nb (Fig. 6)**, could indicate partial  
400 melting of a continental crust previously intruded by mafic igneous bodies in an extensional regime,  
401 similarly to the North America topaz rhyolites (Christiansen et al., 2007). Therefore, despite the  
402 overall contractional or strike-slip setting of the arc, it is interesting to underline a connection  
403 between the **transtensive/extensional features of the COT** and intraplate extensional settings  
404 elsewhere. These similarities highlight preferred conditions for the formation of magmatic topaz.

405

406

407 **7. Conclusions**

408

409 The late magmatic origin of topaz in the Chivinar rhyolite lavas is supported by its igneous textural  
410 relationships with magmatic crystals and is in accordance with the peraluminous composition of the  
411 rhyolites. In addition, the topaz lacks any evidence of relationships with post-emplacement  
412 hydrothermal alteration. Textural evidence indicates that the phenocryst-poor lava of the domes  
413 interior underwent very slow cooling, and final crystallization took place in a large temperature  
414 interval. During the crystallization of the quartz-feldspathic groundmass, we propose that the F-rich,  
415 low-viscosity residual melt migrated in the crystal network and **was** concentrated, **forming** miaroles  
416 in which an assemblage topaz+quartz+vapour bubbles formed. In this final stage of groundmass  
417 crystallization, the F content in melt was so high that F could escape into the vapour phase,  
418 allowing **also** the final crystallization of topaz in the fluid-filled vesicles.

419 Given the magmatic origin of topaz, the topaz-bearing mineral assemblage in the Chivinar rhyolites  
420 suggests the existence of F-rich and rare metals-rich Late Miocene magma chambers. In addition,  
421 the alteration dominated by Nb-Ta-Mn oxides and silicates, **affecting** localized areas of the rhyolitic  
422 domes and pre-dating the following andesitic phase of the Chivinar volcano, suggests a genetic link  
423 with the topaz rhyolite magmatic system. This raises the possibility of the existence of veins or  
424 replacement deposits of rare metals, as well as of rare metals pegmatite bodies, in the Chivinar area.  
425 The extensional regime due to the presence of the transtensive COT structure suggests a  
426 correspondence with topaz rhyolites in North America and China, sharing similar geochemical  
427 features unrelated to subduction, and, thus highlights preferred conditions for the formation of  
428 magmatic topaz in **overall intraplate settings**.

429

430

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432

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438

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- 579

580 **Figure captions**

581 Fig. 1. Geological framework of the Chivinar volcanic complex. (A) Location of the studied area  
582 with respect of the morpho-structural units of the Central Andes. The Western Cordillera is the  
583 active magmatic arc. Miocene to Quaternary volcanism develops in the backarc along some  
584 transverse NW-trending lineaments as the Calama-Olacapato-El Toro (COT) fault system. (B)  
585 Regional geologic map of the Puna plateau showing the location of the Chivinar volcano at the  
586 boundary between the magmatic arc and backarc. SAC: San Antonio de los Cobres. (C)  
587 Geologic map of the Chivinar volcano based on our new field mapping. Location of the samples  
588 studied is shown.

589 **Fig. 2. Fig. 2. Field photos of volcanic features of the Cerro Chivinar volcanic complex.**  
590 **Location of the studied samples is also shown. (A) The northern flank of the Cerro**  
591 **Chivinar shows three superposed and distinct eruptive packages, from bottom: TR =**  
592 **topaz-bearing rhyolite lava domes; Mb = dacite megabreccia and pumice deposits; Lc =**  
593 **andesite lava cone. The red line is the trace of the major NW-SE striking transtensive fault**  
594 **(white circles indicate a sinistral kinematics). (B) The western flank of the Cerro Chivinar**  
595 **shows the stratigraphic and intrusive relationships between the topaz-bearing rhyolite**  
596 **lava domes (TR) and the Eocene-Miocene sedimentary substratum (Rp = red pelites; Gy =**  
597 **gypsum). Af = alluvial fan. Red lines are the traces of the major NW-SE transtensive**  
598 **(white circles indicate a sinistral kinematics) and NS transpressive striking faults.**

599 Fig. 3. Composition of feldspars of the topaz rhyolites reported in the ternary An (**anorthite**)-Ab  
600 (**albite**)-Or (**orthoclase**) diagram. The composition of the primary feldspars of the rhyolitic  
601 lavas in the alteration zone is also reported.

602 **Fig. 4. Petrographic thin section photos with crossed nicols (A, B) and backscattered electrons**  
603 **SEM images (C...J) of Chivinar topaz rhyolite samples.** A. Fluid inclusions trails in  
604 plagioclase phenocryst (arrow shows an example). B. Sanidine phenocryst and zircon, xenotime  
605 accessories in the holocrystalline, equant, quartz-feldspathic groundmass. C. Topaz

606 concentration with voids. D. Cryptoperthitic lamellae in alkali feldspar in the topaz rhyolite,  
607 testifying the final slow cooling phase of the lava dome; note the homogeneous core,  
608 representative of a former crystallization step at higher temperature. E. Zircon in void, in  
609 epitaxis with xenotime. F. Topaz, with syntaxial growth. G. Textural relationships between  
610 topaz and quartz (arrow indicates quartz-topaz contact). Note the frequent fluid inclusions in  
611 topaz. H. **Di-octahedral mica** flakes in the groundmass of Chivinar rhyolites, **sample TG-9**. I.  
612 Detail of veinlet in Chivinar rhyolite. Secondary minerals in vein are Mn-bearing amphiboles  
613 and Nb-bearing oxide. J. Detail of the rhyolite hosting veinlet in I: note the disseminated Nb-Ta-  
614 Ti oxides, **compared to the rhyolite lava in C**.

615 Fig. **5. A. Composition of the Chivinar rhyolites (open circles)** reported in the TAS diagram (total  
616 alkali vs. silica, le Bas et al., 1986) and compared with the fields for topaz rhyolites from  
617 Christiansen et al. (2007) (light grey) and from Rodríguez-Ríos et al. (2007) (dark grey); the  
618 dashed line divides alkaline and subalkaline rocks after Irvine and Baragar (1971). The Chivinar  
619 andesitic rocks are also reported **as black dots**. B. Rare Earth Element patterns of the Chivinar  
620 topaz rhyolites normalized to chondrite after Sun and MacDonough (1989). **Symbols and fields**  
621 **as in Figure 5A**. C. Multielement **spiderdiagrams** of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites normalized  
622 to Primitive Mantle after Sun and MacDonough (1989). **Symbols and fields as in Figure 5A**.

623 Fig. **6. Chivinar topaz rhyolites plotted in the discrimination diagram for intraplate setting**  
624 **after Whalen et al. (1987). Open circles are Chivinar topaz rhyolites from this work (the**  
625 **two samples nearly coincide); light grey field is topaz rhyolites from Christiansen et al.**  
626 **(2007), white field is from Rodríguez-Ríos et al. (2007), dark grey field is from Xie et al.**  
627 **(2013).**

628 Fig. **7. The “granite” system (Qz–Ab–Or) with the composition of Chivinar topaz rhyolite rocks**  
629 **(open circles)**. The solid line indicates the quartz–feldspar cotectic and the minimum melt  
630 composition at 1 kbar, H<sub>2</sub>O-saturated conditions (Tuttle and Bowen, 1958). The arrow shows  
631 the eutectic variation for F added to the haplogranite composition (Johannes and Holtz, 1996;

632 and references therein). Grey field is topaz rhyolites from Christiansen et al. (2007) and white  
633 field is topaz granites from Taylor and Fallick (1997).

634 Fig. 8. Conceptual model of formation of the topaz+quartz+voids association in the Chivinar  
635 rhyolite.

636

637

638

639

640 **Table captions**

641 Table 1. Representative **EDS** analyses of primary minerals in the Chivinar rhyolitic lavas.

642 Table 2. Representative **EDS** analyses of secondary minerals in the Chivinar altered rhyolitic lavas.

643 Table 3. A. Whole rock major element composition and CIPW norm of the analyzed Chivinar

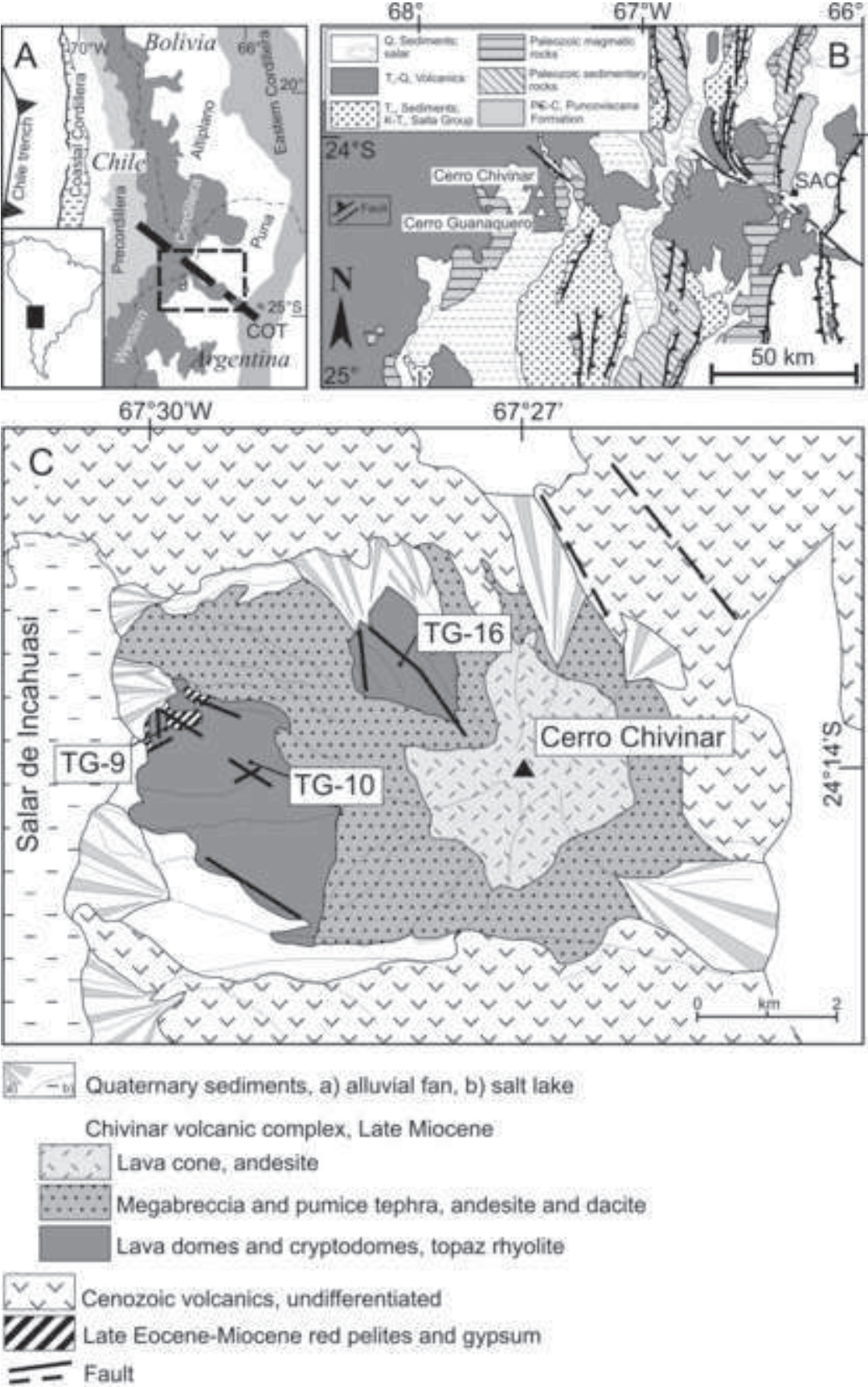
644 rocks. ASI: Alumina Saturation Index, molecular  $[\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3]/[\text{CaO}]-1.67*[\text{P}_2\text{O}_5]+[\text{Na}_2\text{O}]+[\text{K}_2\text{O}]$ .

645 B. Trace element composition of the Chivinar topaz rhyolites.

646

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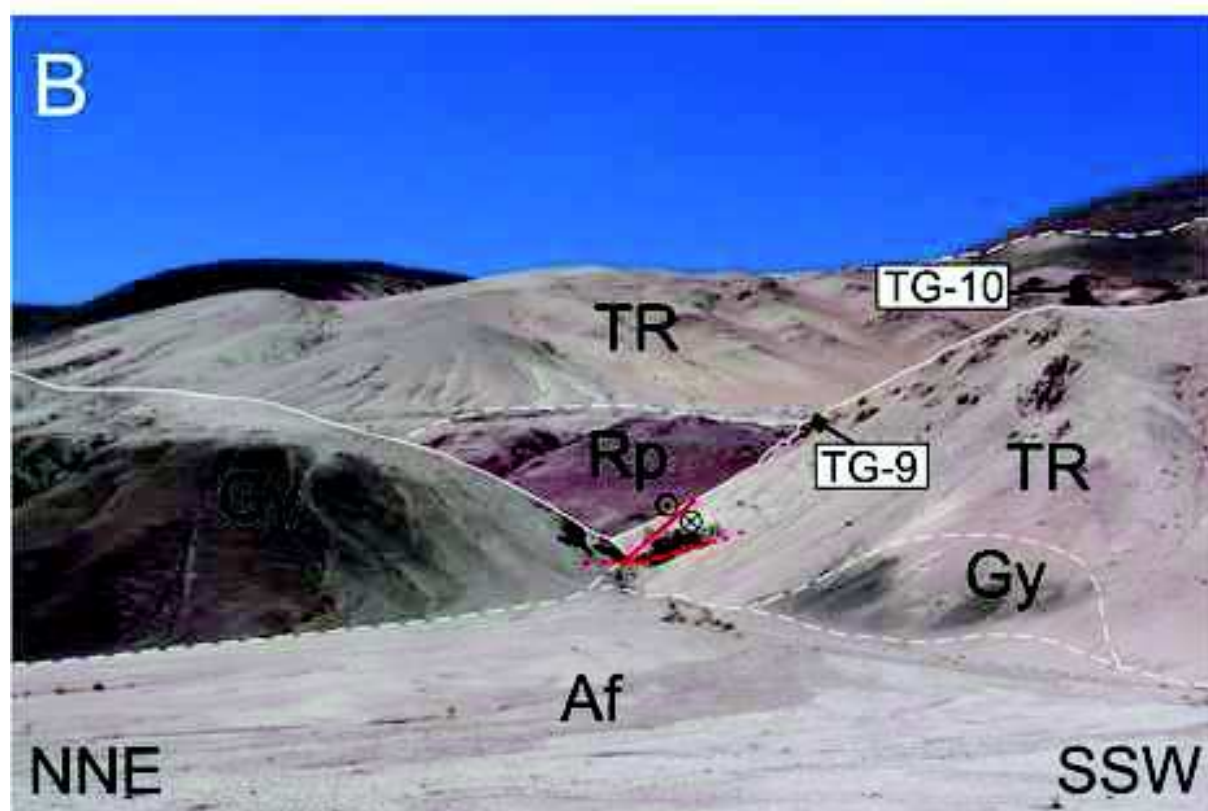
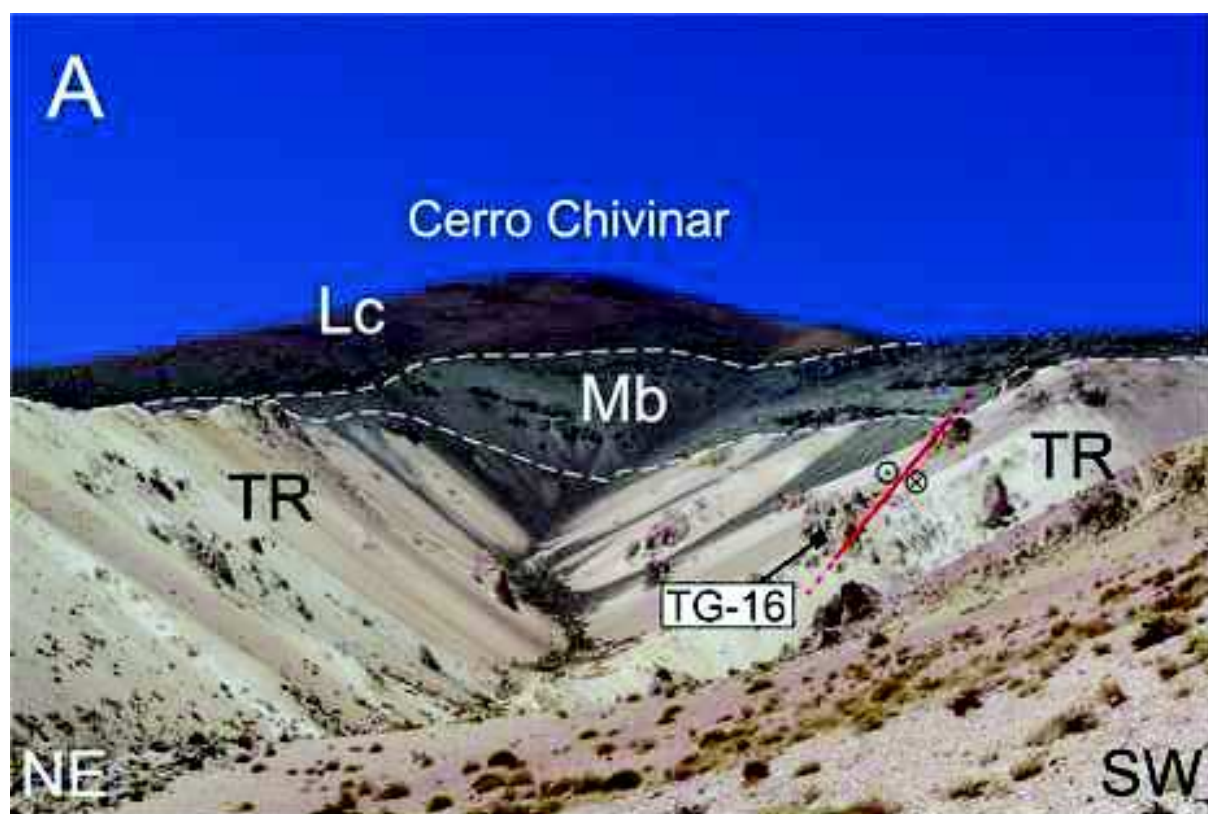
Figure\_1  
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Gioncada et al Figure 1



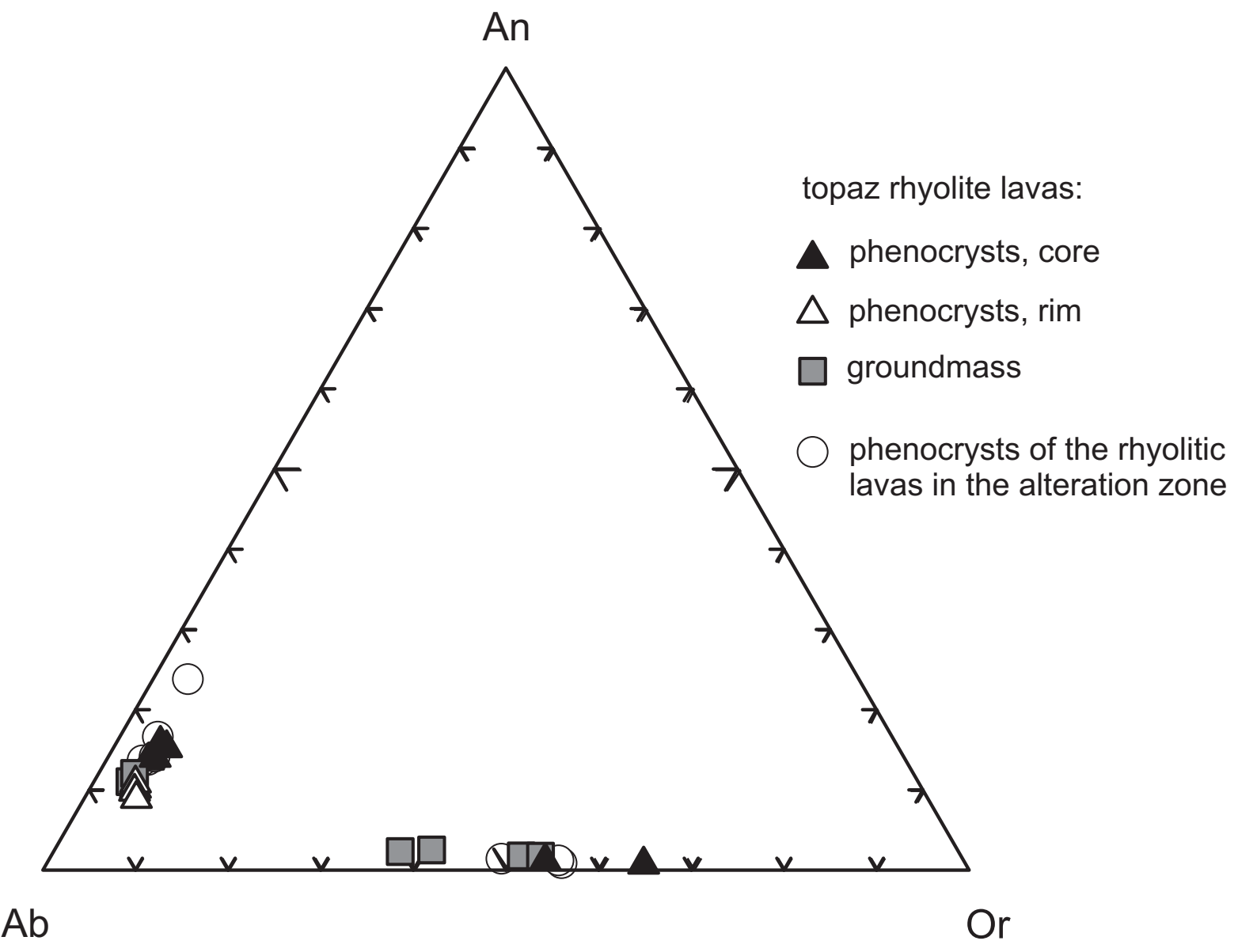
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Gioncada et al. Fig.2

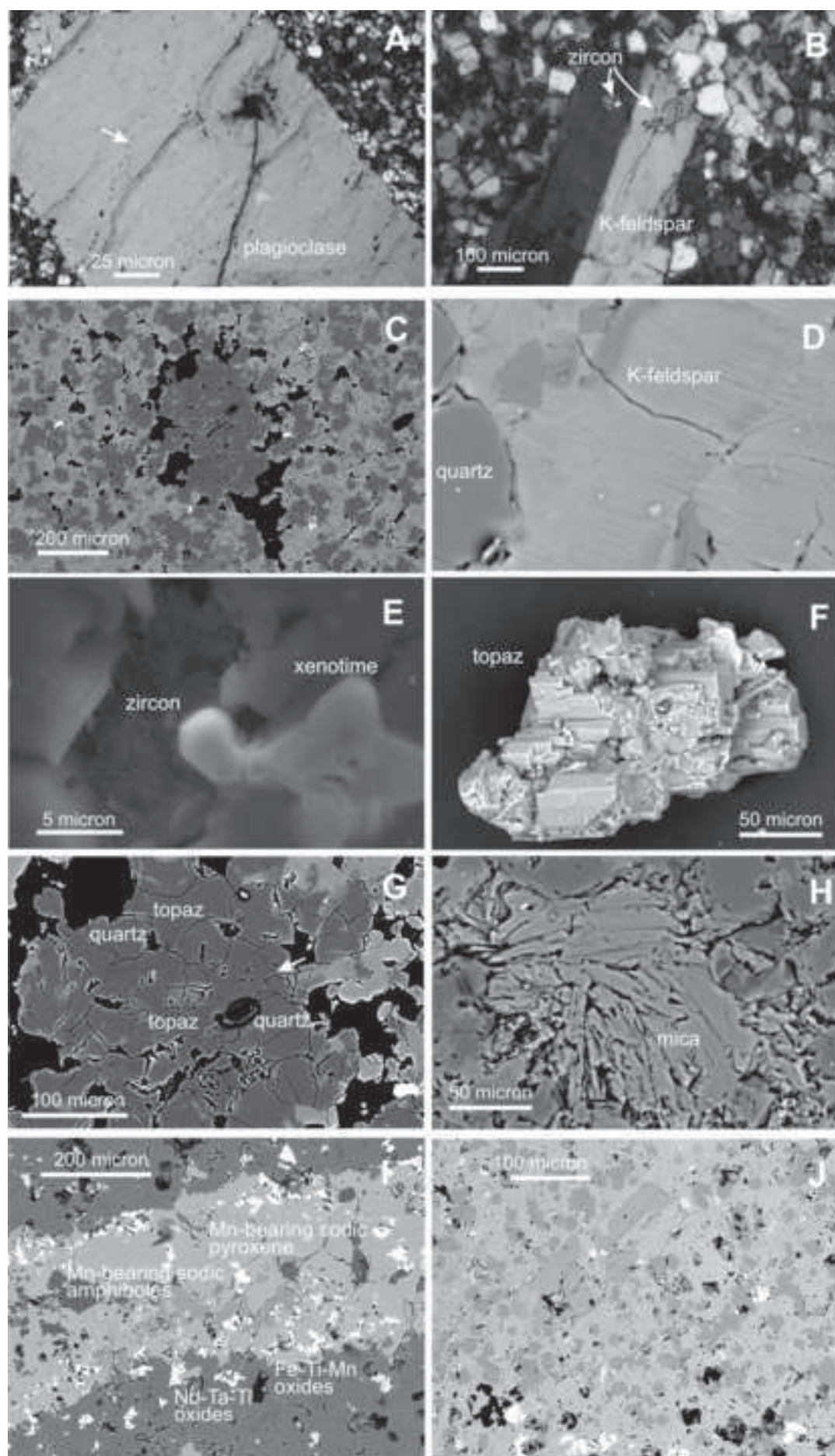


Figure\_3

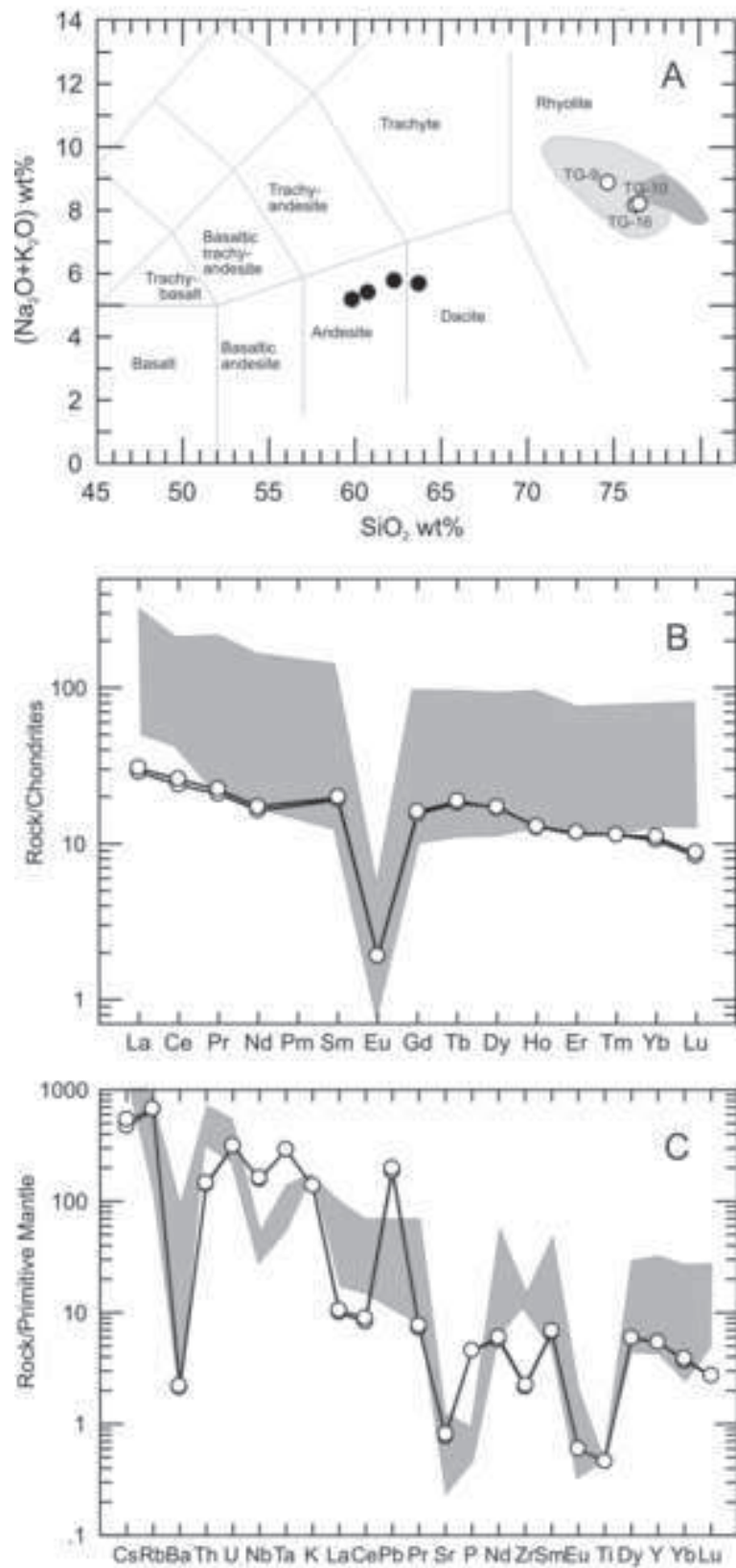


Gioncada et alii Figure 3

Figure\_4  
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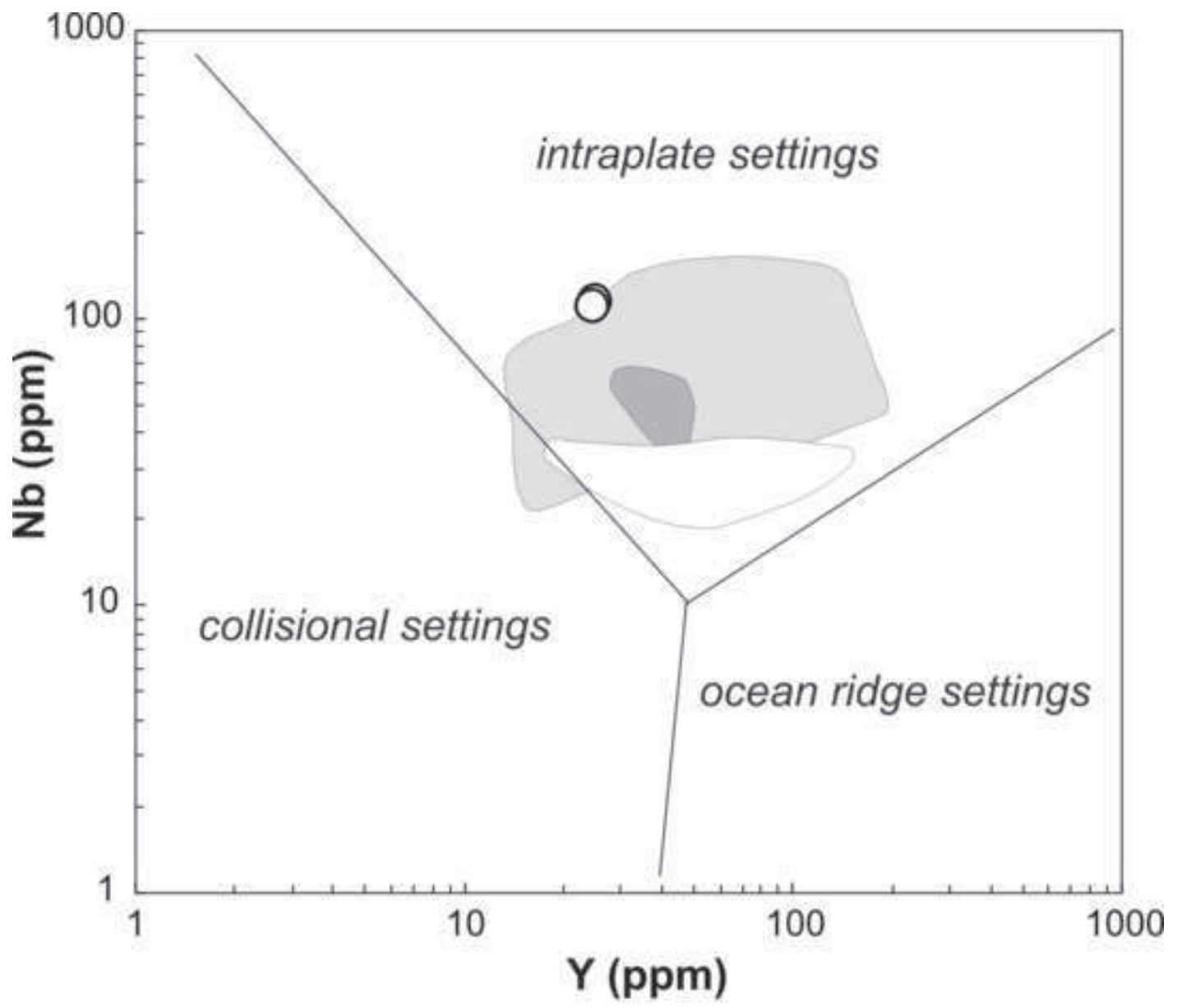


Figure\_5  
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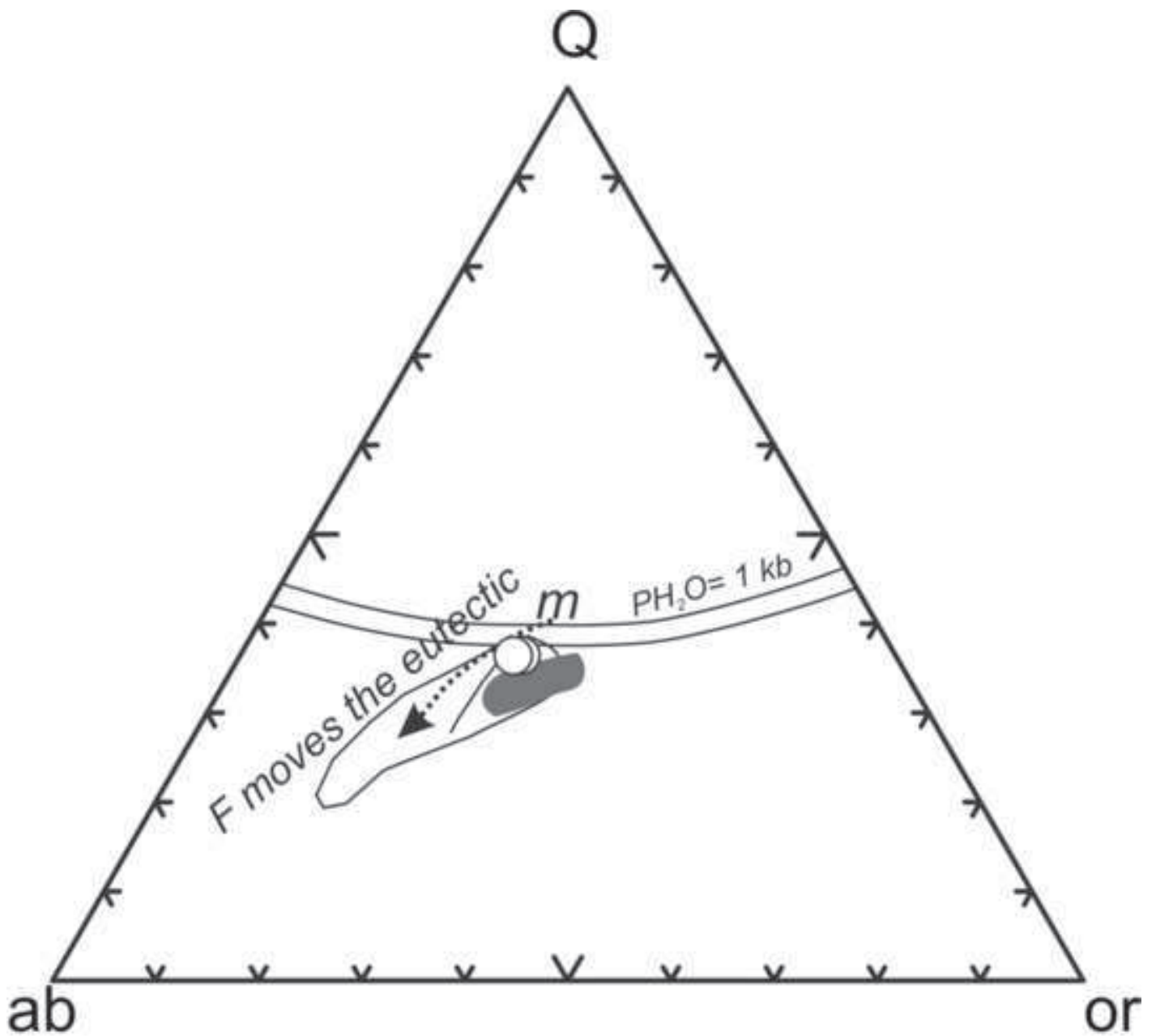
Gioncada et alii Figure 5

Figure\_6  
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Gioncada et alii Figure 6

Figure\_7  
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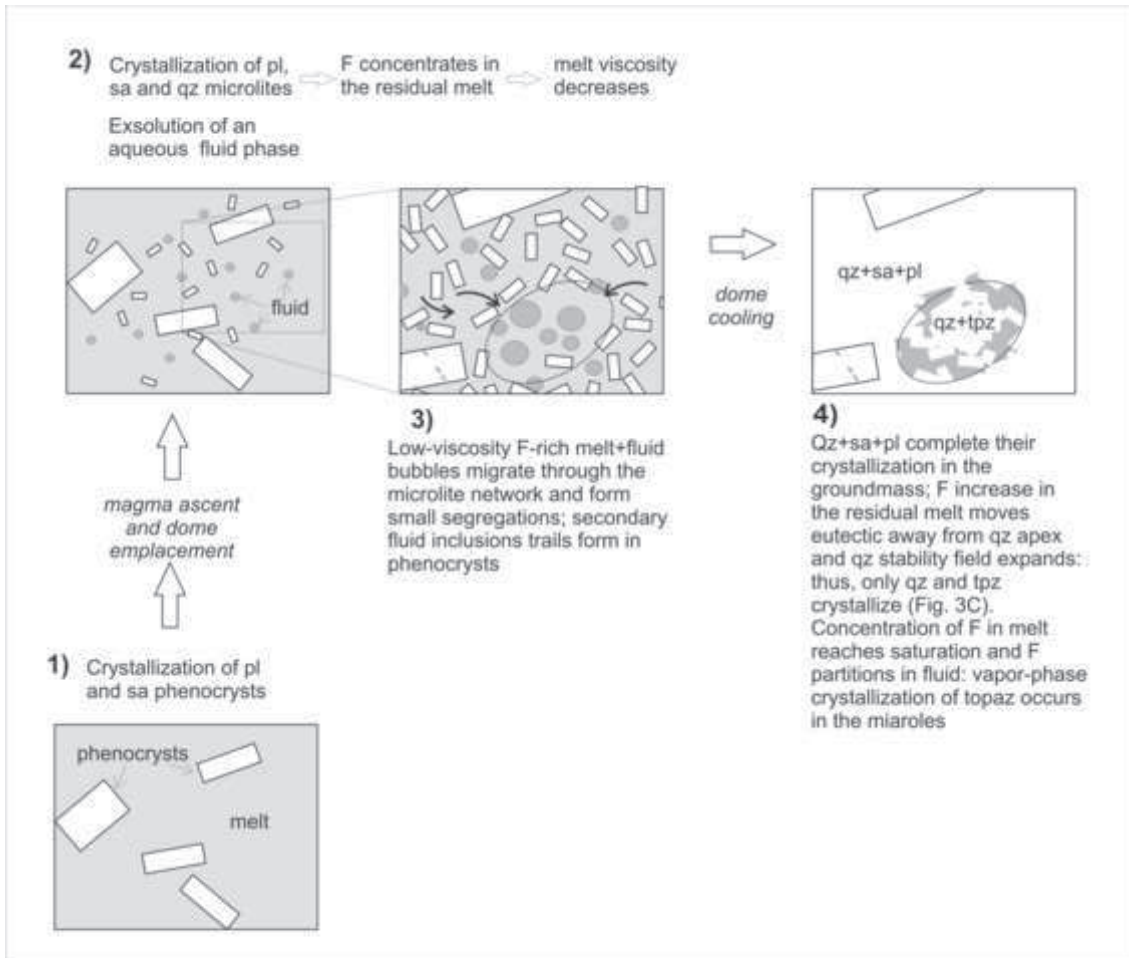


Gioncada et alii Figure 7



Figure\_8

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Gioncada et alii Figure 8

Gioncada et alii\_Table 1

sample	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-9 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>pl</i>	TG-16 <i>Kf</i>	TG-16 <i>Kf</i>	TG-16 <i>Kf</i>	TG-9 <i>Kf</i>			
wt %	core	rim	core	rim	core	rim	core	grm	grm	core	grm	grm	grm			
SiO <sub>2</sub>	64.37	65.38	64.09	65.90	63.46	65.46	63.61	65.30	64.76	65.29	65.70	65.52	65.12			
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	22.49	21.71	22.70	21.58	23.11	22.03	23.02	21.80	22.67	19.53	19.49	19.43	19.36			
FeO	bdl	0.15	bdl	0.07	0.14	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.26	bdl	bdl	0.20	0.07			
CaO	2.86	1.86	3.15	1.99	3.28	2.07	3.42	2.32	2.40	0.14	0.37	0.36	0.24			
Na <sub>2</sub> O	9.48	9.90	9.06	9.59	9.15	9.59	9.03	9.89	9.26	3.94	5.50	5.23	3.62			
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.81	1.00	1.01	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.92	0.69	0.65	11.11	8.94	9.26	11.60			
An	13.63	8.87	15.18	9.77	15.73	10.13	16.40	11.03	12.04	0.68	1.76	1.73	1.16			
Ab	81.77	85.45	79.02	85.20	79.41	84.92	78.35	85.07	84.08	34.78	47.47	45.39	31.80			
Or	4.60	5.68	5.80	5.03	4.85	4.95	5.25	3.90	3.88	64.53	50.77	52.88	67.04			
sample	TG-16 <i>garnet</i>	TG-16 <i>garnet</i>					TG-16 <i>tri-oct.</i> <i>mica</i>			TG-9 <i>di-oct.</i> <i>mica</i>	TG-9 <i>di-oct.</i> <i>mica</i>			TG-16 <i>topaz</i>		
wt %					wt %								wt %			
SiO <sub>2</sub>	37.15	34.9					SiO <sub>2</sub>	41.90			51.74	51.01			SiO <sub>2</sub>	33.55
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	20.92	20.86					TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.99			0.08	0.22			Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	49.32
FeO	15.81	16.34					Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	20.71			31.18	31.22			F <sup>(1)</sup>	17.13
MnO	24.11	25.82					FeO	13.39			1.82	1.78				
MgO	1.54	1.36					MnO	4.06			0.12	0.11				
CaO	0.47	0.72					MgO	7.92			3.79	3.84				
							Na <sub>2</sub> O	bdl			0.66	0.5				
[Al <sup>VI</sup> . Fe <sup>2+</sup> ]	4.04	3.85					K <sub>2</sub> O	11.04			10.61	11.32				
[Mn. Mg. Ca]	5.92	6.34														

<sup>(1)</sup> semi-quantitative; bdl: below detection limit. Pl: plagioclase; Kf: alkali feldspar; grm: groundmass.

## Gioncada et alii\_Table 2a

sample	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589
	primary feldspars			secondary feldspars				
	grdm	grdm	c	r	r	vein	vein	vein
SiO2	65.84	66.09	65.49	65.33	65.58	65.72	65.66	65.79
Al2O3	19.08	19.24	19.34	19.87	19.67	19.41	19.76	19.12
FeO	1.44	bdl	0.14	0.06	0.05	0.34	0.09	0.25
CaO	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.13	0.06	0.24	bdl
Na2O	5.25	4.81	4.26	4.97	4.99	4.93	5.75	4.75
K2O	8.39	9.86	10.77	9.77	9.58	9.54	8.5	10.09
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

recalculated based on 8 oxygens

Si	2.97	2.98	2.97	2.95	2.96	2.97	2.96	2.98
Al	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.06	1.05	1.03	1.05	1.02
Fe	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Ca	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Na	0.46	0.42	0.37	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.50	0.42
K	0.48	0.57	0.62	0.56	0.55	0.55	0.49	0.58
An	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.29	1.16	0.00
Ab	48.75	42.58	37.55	43.60	43.91	43.86	50.11	41.71
Or	51.25	57.42	62.45	56.40	55.46	55.84	48.74	58.29

c: core; r: rim; grdm: groundmass; bdl: below detection limit.



## Gioncada et alii\_Table 2b

sample	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589	18589
	vein	vein	vein	vein	vein	vein	vein	vein
	Mn-bearing sodic amphibole	Mn-bearing sodic amphibole	Mn-bearing sodic amphibole	Mn-bearing sodic pyroxene	Mn-bearing sodic pyroxene	Mn-bearing sodic pyroxene	Mn-bearing sodic pyroxene	Mn-bearing sodic pyroxene
SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt%)	58.96	58.08	58.63	53.93	53.45	55.28	54.31	54.34
TiO <sub>2</sub>	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.91	0.42	0.61	0.28	0.25	0.83	0.75	0.87
FeO	19.29	21.26	21.26	29.07	27.3	29.04	26.74	28.06
MnO	4.82	5.97	5.55	4.14	6.53	2.8	5.27	4.21
MgO	6.36	4.52	4.45	0.2	0.97	0.38	0.77	0.68
CaO	0.26	0.56	0.63	3.18	4.35	0.56	3.75	2.03
K <sub>2</sub> O	8.45	8.46	8.16	9.2	7.15	11.11	8.42	9.81
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.96	0.72	0.71	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Total	100.01	100	100	99.99	100	100.01	100	100.00
	Cations recalculated on the basis of 23 oxygens			Cations recalculated on the basis of 6 oxygens				
Si	8.542	8.565	8.616	2.08	2.09	2.09	2.10	2.078
Al vi	0.155	0.073	0.106	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.039
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	0.128	0.065	0.006	0.51	0.34	0.59	0.40	0.532
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	2.209	2.558	2.607	0.43	0.55	0.33	0.46	0.365
Mn	0.591	0.746	0.691	0.14	0.22	0.09	0.17	0.136
Mg	1.374	0.994	0.975	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.039
Ca	0.040	0.088	0.099	0.13	0.18	0.02	0.16	0.083
Na	2.374	2.419	2.325	0.69	0.54	0.82	0.63	0.727
K	0.177	0.135	0.133	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

bdl: below detection limit.

## Gioncada et alii\_Table 2c

sample	18589 Fe-Mn-Ti oxide	18589 Fe-Mn-Ti oxide	18589 Mn-bearing phillosilicate	18589 Mn-bearing phillosilicate	18589 Mn- apatite	18601 Nb-Ta- bearing rutile	18601 Nb-Ta- bearing rutile	18601 Nb-Ta- bearing rutile
SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt%)			40.83	41.92				
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.98	6.86	2.48	1.96		61.71	56.96	55.82
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.23	bdl	18.67	20.25				
FeO	82.39	83.54	11.08	9.62		15.53	17.08	14.57
MnO	11.02	8.18	5.68	5.36	7.21			
MgO	0.38	bdl	9.76	9.76				
CaO					59.07			
K <sub>2</sub> O			10.36	10.34				
Na <sub>2</sub> O			0.49	0.6				
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>					33.73			
ZnO	bdl	1.41	0.66	0.2				
Nb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>						18.72	23.73	23.77
Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>						4.05	2.23	4.74
Total	100.00	99.99	100.01	100.01	100.01	100.01	100.00	98.90

bdl: below detection limit

## Gioncada et alii\_Table 3 a

sample	TG 17	TG 11	TG 18	TG 14	TG9	TG16	TG10
SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt%)	59.85	60.74	62.14	63.78	74.68	76.43	76.49
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.96	0.88	0.73	0.75	0.06	0.05	0.05
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	16.98	16.92	16.84	16.20	14.16	14.41	14.42
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> tot.	7.06	6.80	6.08	5.55	0.39	0.23	0.20
MnO	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.02	0.02
MgO	3.03	2.81	2.37	2.48	0.30	0.05	0.08
CaO	6.50	6.11	5.69	5.19	1.42	0.54	0.50
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.96	3.05	3.32	2.89	4.25	4.08	4.00
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.19	2.26	2.42	2.79	4.64	4.10	4.15
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.08	0.09	0.09
LOI	0.78	1.34	1.55	2.50	1.65	0.87	0.93
ASI	0.91	0.93	0.93	0.96	0.98	1.20	1.21
q	14.1	15.15	16.21	20.13	28.9	36.0	36.4
pl	52.0	51.93	52.29	47.65	41.8	36.6	35.7
or	13.0	13.41	14.36	16.55	27.5	24.2	24.5
c	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.7
di	3.0	2.10	1.93	0.75	0.5	0.0	0.0
hy	13.9	13.51	11.76	11.23	0.8	0.3	0.3
il	1.8	1.69	1.39	1.42	0.1	0.1	0.1
mt	1.6	1.49	1.33	1.61	0.2	0.1	0.1
ap	0.8	0.72	0.72	0.65	0.2	0.2	0.2

Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> tot.: all Fe recalculated as Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

## Gioncada et alii\_Table 3 b

sample	TG10	TG16
Ba (ppm)	15.3	14.7
Co	<0.5	0.6
Cr	10	<10
Cs	3.71	4.16
Cu	<5	9
Ga	34.5	33.3
Hf	2.1	2.2
Mo	<2	<2
Nb	113	111
Ni	<5	<5
Pb	13	14
Rb	419	426
Sn	2	1
Sr	17.1	16.2
Ta	11.7	11.8
Th	11.8	12.25
Tl	1.7	1.7
U	6.47	6.63
V	5	<5
W	3	3
Y	24.9	24.5
Zn	23	27
La	6.8	7.2
Ce	14.6	15.8
Pr	1.98	2.11
Nd	7.6	8.1
Sm	2.91	3.01
Eu	0.11	0.11
Gd	3.18	3.29
Tb	0.68	0.7
Dy	4.36	4.3
Ho	0.72	0.73
Er	1.93	1.93
Tm	0.29	0.29
Yb	1.78	1.87
Lu	0.21	0.22
(La/Yb) <sub>n</sub>	2.46	2.48
Eu*/Eu	0.11	0.11