

**New Late Middle to Early Upper Ordovician U-Pb zircon ages
of extension-related felsic volcanism in the Eastern
Pyrenees (NE Iberia): Tectonic implications. .**

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Keywords:	Upper Ordovician volcanism, Eastern Pyrenees, U-Pb zircon geochronology, rheomorphic ignimbrites

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2 **New Late Middle to Early Upper Ordovician U-Pb zircon ages of extension-related felsic**
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4 **volcanics in the Eastern Pyrenees (NE Iberia): Tectonic implications.**

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26 **Abstract**

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28 Pre-Variscan basement rocks from the Pyrenees provide evidence of several magmatic episodes with
29 complex geodynamic histories from the upper Neoproterozoic to the Palaeozoic. One of the most
30 significant episodes, consisting of several granitic and granodioritic bodies and volcanic rocks, mostly
31 pyroclastic in nature, dates from the Upper Ordovician. In the eastern Pyrenees this magmatism is
32 well represented in the Ribes de Freser and Núria areas; here, the Núria orthogneiss and the Ribes
33 granophyre, both dated at ca. 457–460 Ma, seem to form a calc-alkaline plutonic suite emplaced at
34 different crustal levels. The presence of numerous pyroclastic deposits and lavas interbedded with
35 Upper Ordovician (Sandbian-Early Katian, formerly Caradoc) sediments, intruded by the Ribes
36 granophyre, suggests that this magmatic episode also generated significant volcanism. Moreover, the
37 area hosts an important volume of rhyolitic ignimbrites and andesitic lavas affected by Alpine
38 deformation. These volcanic rocks were previously attributed to Late-Variscan volcanism,
39 extensively represented in other areas of the Pyrenees. Here we present the first five laser ablation U-
40 Pb zircon dates for this ignimbritic succession and two new ages of the Ribes granophyre. The ages
41 of the ignimbrites overlapping within error are 460 Ma, the same, suggesting a genetic relation
42 between the plutonic and volcanic rocks and indicating that the Sandbian-Katian magmatism is much
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more voluminous than reported in previous studies, and possibly includes mega-eruptions linked to the formation of collapse calderas..

Keywords: Upper Ordovician volcanism, Eastern Pyrenees, U-Pb zircon geochronology, rheomorphic ignimbrites

Introduction

The Pyrenees are a WNW-ESE trending Alpine fold and thrust belt that contains pre-Variscan basement rocks, late Neoproterozoic-to-Carboniferous in age. Pre-Variscan basement rocks form a large belt in the core of the cordillera and provide evidence of several pre-Variscan and Variscan magmatic episodes. Recently, the extensive use of U-Pb zircon geochronology, together with new geochemical and isotopic data, have produced significant advances in the understanding of these magmatic episodes, including the importance of subduction-related Ediacaran magmatism (Castiñeiras et al. 2008; Casas et al. 2015; Padel et al., 2017), Ordovician magmatic events linked to the formation of the northern Gondwana passive margin (Cocherie et al. 2005; Castiñeiras et al. 2008; Casas et al. 2010; Navidad et al. 2010) and Carboniferous magmatic rocks formed during the Variscan collision (Pereira et al. 2014; Denèle et al. 2014; Martínez et al. 2016; Van Lichtenvelde et al. 2017). In some cases, where there is a lack of fossils and of reference stratigraphic horizons, the geochronological data also enable us to assess the age of the pre-Middle Paleozoic metasedimentary sequences and correlate them along the whole margin (Padel et al. 2017). This is the case for the pre-Upper Ordovician sequences of the eastern Pyrenees where Ediacaran, Ordovician and Carboniferous magmatic rocks are interbedded with or mainly intrude into an almost unfossiliferous thick (up to 5000? m) pre- Upper Ordovician series.

In this study we focus on a thick sequence of strongly welded, rheomorphic (i.e: showing secondary flow structures) rhyolitic ignimbrites that crop out extensively in the Campelles-Bruguera area, along the southern slope of the Canigó massif, (Fig. 1). These volcanic rocks were initially attributed to Upper Carboniferous-Lower Permian magmatism (Robert, 1980), lying unconformably

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1
2 on an undated pre-Variscan slate-dominated succession (Cambrian-Ordovician?; Muñoz, 1985). We
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4 present new geochronological results that demonstrate these rocks correspond to a late Middle to
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6 early Upper Ordovician magmatic event rather than a late Palaeozoic one. Unlike other Unlike other
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8 Ordovician igneous rocks in the Pyrenees, the impressive volume of the rhyolitic ignimbrites
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10 represent an important volcanic event. We compare our new radiometric ages with existing ones
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12 from plutonic and subvolcanic rocks from the same late Middle to early Upper Ordovician magmatic
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14 episode found near the study area and suggest a possible genetic relationship among all of them..
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20 **Geological setting**

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22 Ordovician magmatic events have been well studied in most of the Ordovician terrains of the
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24 North Gondwana margin and other margins of the Rheic Ocean (Holland and Patzkowsky, 1996;
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26 Herrmann et al., 2004; Finney and Berry, 2010, and references herein; Huff et al., 2010), where they
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28 are mainly represented by calc-alkaline granites and granodiorites, and silicic volcanic rocks. A
29
30 number of large eruptions that may even had implications for climate change have also been identified
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32 from the period (Huff et al., 1992; Young et al. 2009; Buggisch et al., 2010; Hermann et al., 2010;
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34 Lefebvre et al., 2010; Sell et al., 2013; Jones et al., 2017). In Alpine peri-Mediterranean domains,
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36 Ordovician magmatic rocks are well represented in several areas, including the French Massif Central
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38 (Roger et al., 2004; Pitra et al., 2012; Lotout et al. 2017), Sardinia (Helbing and Tiepolo, 2005;
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40 Gaggero et al., 2012), Sicily (Trombetta et al., 2004) and the central, southern and eastern Alps
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42 (Heinisch, 1981; Zurbriggen et al., 1997; von Raumer, 1998; Guillot et al., 2002; Schaltegger et al.,
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44 2003).
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50 In the Pyrenees, Ordovician magmatic events form part of successive magmatic pulses that
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52 are well documented in the pre-Variscan basement rocks (Figs. 1 and 2). According to radiometric
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54 data, this Ordovician magmatism lasted for about 30 myr (ca. 477–446 Ma) (Castiñeiras et al., 2008;
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56 Denéle et al., 2009; Casas et al., 2010; Martinez et al., 2011; Mezger and Gerdes, 2016) and although
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58 the magmatic activity seems to be continuous, geochronological and geochemical data reveal the
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1
2 existence of two separate magmatic events, one of Lower to Middle Ordovician age and the other of
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4 late Middle to Upper Ordovician age. The Lower-Middle Ordovician magmatic events (ca. 477-467
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6 Ma) gave rise to voluminous granites that constitute the protoliths of the gneisses of the Aston,
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8 Hospitalet, Canigó, Roc de Frausa and Albera massifs (Cocherie et al. 2005; Castiñeiras et al. 2008;
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10 Denèle et al. 2009; Liesa et al. 2011; Mezger and Gerdes 2016). Lower-Middle Ordovician granites
11
12 are of calc-alkaline and metaluminous composition and some authors relate to arc magmatism,
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14 generated by subduction beneath the northern Gondwanan margin (e.g., von Raumer et al., 2003; von
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16 Raumer and Stampfli, 2008). It should be noted that coeval mafic plutonic and silicic volcanic rocks
17
18 are scarce. By contrast, the late Middle to Upper Ordovician magmatic pulse (ca. 467-446 Ma)
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20 yielded a varied suite of magmatic rocks especially well represented in the Canigó massif: calc-
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22 alkaline ignimbrites, andesites, volcanoclastic rocks, diorites and various types of small granitic
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24 bodies (Martí et al., 1986; Casas et al., 2010; Martinez et al., 2011).

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29 The Ediacaran-Lower Ordovician sedimentary sequence, that crops out extensively in the
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31 Central and Eastern Pyrenees, is covered unconformably by a well dated Upper Ordovician
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33 succession (Cavet, 1957; Hartevelt, 1970). This younger succession constitutes a broad, fining-
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35 upward megasequence of clastic deposits bearing a key limestone-marlstone interbed, which lies
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37 unconformably upon older Cambrian-Ordovician beds (Santanach 1972; García-Sanseguno et al.,
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39 2004; Casas and Fernández 2007; Padel et al., in press) (Figs. 2, 3 and 4), and which has been
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41 interpreted as related to extensional tectonics (e.g., García-Sanseguno et al., 2004; Alvaro et al.,
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43 2018; Puddu et al., 2018). The presence of volcanic rocks interbedded with the Upper Ordovician
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45 sediments has been noted from Pierrefite (Calvet et al., 1988) and but mainly from the Ribes de Freser
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47 area (Robert and Thiebaut, 1976; Robert, 1980; Ayora, 1980). These volcanic rocks compose a
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49 predominantly pyroclastic succession, which indicates the predominantly explosive character of this
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51 volcanic episode; associated lavas and subvolcanic intrusive rocks are scarce (Martí et al. 1986). The
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53 composition of these pyroclastic rocks includes andesite, rhyodacite and rhyolite and in volume
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2 provide only a relatively minor contribution to the sedimentation of their corresponding Ordovician
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4 basins.
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7 Additionally, our study area (Campelles-Bruguera, along southern slope of the Canigó)
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9 includes a subvolcanic granitic body, the Ribes granophyre, an undeformed, fine-grained, leucocratic
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11 granofels with a microscopic granophyric texture, emplaced in the lower part of the Sandbian-Early
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13 Katian succession and dated at 458 ± 3 Ma by Martínez et al. (2011) (Figs. 2, 3 and 4 a-d). Several
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15 other granitic orthogneissic bodies are emplaced in the lower part of the pre-Variscan succession: for
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17 example, the Núria gneiss is a homogeneous, medium-to-coarse-grained, two-mica granite gneiss
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19 (protolith age of 457 ± 4 Ma, Martínez et al 2011), and the contemporaneous Queralbs gneiss is an
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21 augen gneiss that forms a ring around and on top of this two-mica gneiss (with a igneous
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23 crystallization age of 457 ± 5 Ma, Martínez et al., 2011, who used the name Núria augen gneiss for the
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25 Queralbs gneiss).
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30 In addition to volcanic rocks clearly interbedded with Upper Ordovician sediments, the study
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32 area contains a thick (> 1000 m) succession of rheomorphic rhyolitic ignimbrites (the Campelles-
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34 Bruguera ignimbrites), occasionally associated at their bases with basaltic andesites (Figs. 2, 3 and 4
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36 e-f). This succession lies unconformably over undated rocks, attributed to the Cambrian or early
37
38 Ordovician (Muñoz, 1985), that include an occasional thin, poorly exposed succession of continental
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40 sedimentary fan deposits. The presence of some pollen remains in these fan deposits motivated Robert
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42 (1980) to attribute them and the overlying volcanic rocks to a Late Paleozoic volcanic episode whose
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44 effects are noted throughout the Pyrenees. This assumption was never questioned by subsequent
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46 studies (Muñoz, 1986; Martí, 1986; 1991) despite the fact that these pollen remains were described
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48 as “badly preserved and poor representative association that is insufficient to precisely indicate the
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50 age of the sediment” by Robert (1980). The ignimbrites are rhyolitic in composition and show clear
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52 secondary silicification due to post-emplacement alteration processes (Martí, 1986). They are very
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54 crystal-poor possessing only phenocrysts of sodium-rich plagioclase, quartz and minor biotite. The
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56 main characteristic of these rocks is their flow banding with some flow folds caused by the extreme
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1 stretching and welding of the original pumice fragments due to rheomorphism (Martí, 1986) (Fig. 4
2 e-f). Stretched pumices (fiammes) are still visible in some outcrops, evidence of their primary
3 pyroclastic character (Fig. 4f).
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9 In the Pyrenees Lower-Middle Ordovician magmatic events developed during an episode of
10 folding, uplift and erosion that led to the formation of the Upper Ordovician (“Sardic”) unconformity,
11 whereas a subsequent extensional pulse developed normal faults that controlled the post-Sardic
12 sediments and infilled palaeorelief depressions (García-Sansegundo et al., 2004; Casas and
13 Fernández, 2007; Casas, 2010). In order to complete our understanding of the Middle-Upper
14 Ordovician magmatism, we present here the first zircon U-Pb age data from the thick sequence of
15 rheomorphic rhyolitic ignimbrites outcropping in the vicinity of the towns of Campelles and
16 Bruguera. This succession of volcanic rocks was deformed during the Variscan orogeny but is not
17 affected by metamorphism. It is only partially affected by post-emplacement hydrothermal alteration
18 that produced the silicification of the original glass components and transformed the juvenile
19 phenocrysts into clay aggregates, microcrystalline quartz and carbonates, but their original forms and
20 textures are preserved.
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36 37 38 **Analytical Methodology** 39

40 To determine the age of the Campelles-Bruguera welded ignimbrites, we selected five
41 samples (CAM-6, CAM-7, CAM-9, CAM-13 and CAM-18) that were prepared for laser ablation
42 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) isotopic dating of single zircon
43 crystals. Samples CAM 18, CAM 6 and CAM 7 are located, from base to top, respectively, along the
44 same rheomorphic ignimbrite unit, cropping out about 4 km west of the town of Campelles (Fig. 2).
45 Sample CAM 9 corresponds to the same unit that occurs in an isolated outcrop about 2 km north of
46 Campelles. Sample CAM 13 comes from a thick unit of rheomorphic ignimbrites located north of the
47 town of Bruguera (Fig. 2). We also collected two samples (CAM-11 and CAM-12) from the Ribes
48 granophyre that was previously dated by Martínez et al. (2011). Zircon grains were separated from
49 fresh rock samples in the FCT-UNL laboratories using standard heavy mineral separation techniques
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1 including the application of heavy liquids and a Frantz isodynamic separator. The final selection of
2 the zircon grains for U-Pb dating was performed by hand-picking under a binocular microscope. Most
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4 euhedral zircons, with well-preserved facets and no sign of resorption were selected for analysis.
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6 Prior to analysis, the mounted and polished grains were imaged under cathodoluminescence, using
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8 an ELM-3R luminoscope (Marshall et al., 1988). CL images were used to avoid inclusions of minerals
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10 that can contain radiogenic Pb (e.g. apatite), and to avoid analysing inherited cores and overgrowths.
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15 The laser ablation system at Laboratorio de Estudios Isotópicos, Centro de Geociencias,
16 UNAM, has been described by Solari et al. (2010). It consists of a Thermo ICap Qc quadrupole
17 ICPMS equipped with an LPX 200 Excimer laser, and a new M151 two-volume cell,
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29 with even greater stability than the cell described by Müller et al. (2009). The instrument is run
30 through a Resonetics M050 workstation. A 'squid' signal homogeniser is used immediately after the
31 cell, approximately 2 m before the ablated material enters the plasma. A total of 350 ml of He is used
32 as carrier gas and mixed downstream with 4.5 ml of N₂. A frequency of 5 Hz was used during the
33 work, with a constant on-target fluence of 6 J/cm², measured with an external energy meter. An
34 analytical spot of 23 µm was systematically used throughout the whole study, while the pit depth is
35 estimated to be less than 8 µm . The zircon standard 91500 (Wiedenbeck et al. 2004) was used as the
36 primary standard, and the Plešovice standard (Slama et al., 2008) was employed as secondary (quality
37 control) standard. Both were interspersed in the sequence with unknown zircon crystals: two 910500
38 and one Plešovice followed by 10 unknown zircon grains, Additionally, NIST SRM 610 was also
39 analyzed to calculate the elemental concentrations in zircon, monitored to check for inclusions or
40 subtle changes in composition that could be indicative of different domains. We used ²⁹Si as an
41 internal standard, assuming a stoichiometry of 32.77% SiO₂ in zircon.
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2 The data reduction was performed using Iolite 3.0 (Paton et al., 2010; 2011) employing the
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4 VizualAge data reduction scheme developed by Petrus and Kamber (2012). Uncertainties of the
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6 primary standard during the analytical session were propagated using Iolite protocols. The calculated
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8 age uncertainties correspond to 2 standard errors. Data were exported from Iolite and the concordia
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10 diagrams and weighed mean dates were calculated and plotted using Isoplot v.3.7 (Ludwig, 2008).
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12 No common Pb correction was applied as the small ^{204}Pb count rates were insignificant when
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14 compared to the ^{204}Hg signal typically seen in our system. Analyses that fell outside +30% and -5%
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16 discordancy, or which had more than 10% 2-sigma errors, were discarded. The external
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18 reproducibility of the Plešovice secondary standard measured during the analytical session in which
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20 the current analyses were performed yielded a mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of $3\,340.7 \pm 1$ Ma (2SE, n=39,
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22 MSWD= 1.1). The range of this variation is -0.86 to +0.71% of the (recalculated) accepted $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$
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24 date of Horstwood et al (2016) that corresponds to 337.16 ± 0.11 Ma. The long-term variation of the
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26 secondary standard is thus within the accepted uncertainty for the LA-ICPMS dating, currently stated
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28 at ca. 1-2% (e.g. Klotzli et al, 2009; Horstwood et al., 2016)
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36 Results

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38 The seven selected samples described above yielded 218 U-Pb analyses that, after filtering,
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40 were used to determine crystallization ages. Oscillatory zoning, observed under
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42 cathodoluminescence, was interpreted as magmatic. The analyses performed on those domains were
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44 thus interpreted as indicative of zircon crystallization in the magma chamber” Results are presented
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46 in Figure 5 (and Table 1, supplementary material).
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50 Thirty zircon crystals were analyzed from the ignimbrite sample CAM-6, collected from the
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52 middle zone of the thick ignimbritic succession of Campelles (Fig. 2). In all, 24 satisfied the filtering
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54 criteria. Some of the zircon crystals are prismatic and stubby in shape, barely zoned under CL, and
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56 cluster around a mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ date of 459.5 ± 4.2 Ma (n=12, MSWD= 1.4), which is interpreted as
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58 the crystallization age of the ignimbrite. Some other crystals with anhedral to corroded shapes yielded
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2 older ages, ranging from the Neoproterozoic (the youngest, 824 Ma) to the Paleoproterozoic and even
3
4 Neoproterozoic (Fig. 5A). One slightly discordant younger crystal is indicative of Pb loss.
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6 Sample CAM-7 corresponds to top of the same ignimbrite unit as sample CAM-6. Only 20
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8 zircon crystals were recovered, 17 of which met the filtering criteria. They are up to 280 μm in length,
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10 generally prismatic and elongated. Under CL they show oscillatory zoning developed parallel to the
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12 crystallographic c-axis. A group of 10 analyses straddle the concordia curve, with a mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$
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14 age of 459.1 ± 5.3 Ma (N= 10, MSWD= 2.1), interpreted as the ignimbrite crystallization age (Fig.
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16 5B). A few zircon grains were younger and variably discordant, indicative of Pb loss, whereas three
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18 others were older inherited crystals ranging from 652 to ca. 2300 Ma in age.
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23 CAM-18 belongs to the base of the same welded ignimbrite unit as samples CAM-7 and
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25 CAM-6. Out of the 35 analyzed zircon crystals, 33 met the filtering criteria. They range from
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27 elongated prisms with pyramidal terminations, to short and stubby. Under CL they show moderate
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29 luminescence, with faint oscillatory zoning. Most analyses are concordant including six grains that
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31 give older ages (Neoproterozoic, Ediacaran to Cryogenian in age, Table 1), which we interpret as
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33 xenocrysts (Fig. 5C). The most abundant group clusters on the Concordia curve and gives a mean
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35 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ date of 460.4 ± 2.2 Ma (21 analyses, MSWD= 0.96, Fig. 5C) which we interpret as the age
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37 of ignimbrite crystallization.
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41 Sample CAM-9 also consists of a welded ignimbrite cropping out several kilometers towards
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43 the NW from the site of samples CAM-6, CAM-7, and CAM-18. Only 20 zircon grains were
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45 recovered from CAM-9, 16 of which satisfied the filtering criteria. They are small compared with
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47 zircons from the previously described samples, not exceeding 140 μm , with mostly oval to rounded
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49 morphologies. Although being poorly luminescent under CL, igneous zoning is observable in some
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51 of the crystals. Few of these crystals are concordant, instead most are variably discordant (Fig. 5D).
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53 Three of the least discordant are Ediacaran, ranging in age from 592 to 625 Ma (Table 1); the others
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55 range in age from the early Neoproterozoic to the Paleoproterozoic. While stratigraphic correlations
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1 suggest for this unit a similar Ordovician age as the other dated samples, we were unable to recover
2 any magmatic zircon.
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6 Sample CAM-13 corresponds to a different outcrop of welded ignimbrite, belonging to the
7 Bruguera succession (Fig. 2). In all, 33 out of 35 analyzed zircon crystals met the filtering criteria.
8 They are stubby grains with bipyramidal terminations, faintly zoned under CL and up to 220 μm in
9 length. Most of the analyzed crystals are concordant. Apart from one clearly inherited zircon, with an
10 apparent age of 759 ± 28 Ma, and another, slightly discordant one with an apparent age of 379 ± 12 Ma,
11 almost all the other crystals define a cluster whose mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 459.6 ± 1.9 Ma (N=26,
12 MSWD= 0.46) is interpreted as the age of crystallization (Fig. 5E).
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23 Finally, samples CAM-11 and CAM-12 both belong to a granophyre, previously dated at
24 458 ± 3 Ma by Martínez et al. (2011). In all, 35 zircon grains were analyzed from sample CAM-11, all
25 of which except one met the filtering criteria. They range in shape from elongated to bipyramidal
26 short prisms, up to 260 μm in length. Under CL, they show homogeneous luminescence, with faint
27 oscillatory-zoning only developed in few crystals. A few of the analyzed zircon grains were slightly
28 discordant. A group of 23 coherent analysis yield a mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ date of 460.1 ± 2 Ma (N= 23,
29 MSWD=0.49), interpreted as the age of granophyre crystallization (Fig. 5F, inset). A small number
30 of zircon crystals, although concordant, yield a slightly older mean age of ca. 488 Ma, and probably
31 correspond to either inherited grains or antecrysts formed in the magma chamber during an earlier
32 episode of magma crystallization. Three discordant grains ranging from ca. 438 to ca. 410 Ma are
33 interpreted as recording Pb loss. Sample CAM-12 also yielded a good number of zircon crystals, 35
34 of which were analyzed and met the filtering criteria. They are generally stubby and bipyramidal, up
35 to 240 μm in length, although some are fragmented prisms belonging to larger crystals. Under CL
36 they often show oscillatory zoning, with some high-luminescent inclusions, possibly apatite crystals.
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Apart from a few discordant data, which probably experienced Pb loss, the overall behavior of the remaining crystals have a consistent age. The mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ date of 461.5 ± 2.3 Ma (N= 25, MSWD= 1.4, Fig. 5G inset) obtained from a coherent group of 25 analyses is interpreted as the crystallization

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1 age of the granophyre. Only two grains were slightly older but discordant; three other younger and
2 discordant analyses probably experienced variable amount of Pb loss.
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8 **Discussion and conclusions**

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10 The new isotopic ages obtained in this study demonstrate that the Campelles-Bruguera
11 rheomorphic rhyolite ignimbrites, previously attributed to a Late Paleozoic volcanic event, are in fact
12 Sandbian-Katian in age and are part of a Middle-Upper Ordovician magmatic event in the Eastern
13 Pyrenees. In addition to the stratigraphic implications that these results have for understanding the
14 pre-Variscan evolution of Pyrenees, there are also significant implications for the origin,
15 characteristics and importance of volcanism associated with Middle to Late Ordovician magmatism
16 in the Eastern Pyrenees. All the ages obtained indicate that a single magmatic event produced the
17 emplacement of the silicic intrusive Ribes granophyre and Campelles-Bruguera ignimbrites. Despite
18 the fact that volcanic rocks interbedded with Middle-Upper Ordovician metasediments are abundant
19 and present in nearly the whole Middle-Upper Ordovician stratigraphic succession in the Eastern and
20 Central Pyrenees, they were previously recognised as neither volumetrically significant nor indicative
21 of the provenance or location of source vents. The predominance of pyroclastic rocks (e.g. ignimbrites
22 and ashfall beds) was already noted by Martí et al. (1986) as indicative of the explosive character of
23 this volcanism. The recognition of the Campelles-Bruguera rheomorphic ignimbrites as products of
24 the Middle-Upper Ordovician magmatism in this area increases their extent by several thousands of
25 km³, thereby suggesting that this volcanic episode was much more significant than once thought.
26 This, together with the thickness of the Campelles ignimbritic succession, which is on the order of
27 1000 m, suggest the occurrence of Sandbian-Katian mega-eruptions possibly linked to the formation
28 of collapse calderas.
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54 First, this implies that much greater magma production was needed to sustain the volcanism
55 and, secondly, that the mechanisms for storing and expelling such large amounts of rhyolitic magmas
56 were favored by the regional and local tectonics operating at that time. Such a large volume of
57 volcanic rocks and their particular characteristics (i.e. rheomorphic ignimbrites) suggest that one or
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1
2 more large caldera structures were the source of the volcanism in this area, as was suggested when
3
4 these rocks were still considered to be Late Paleozoic in age (Robert, 1980; Martí, 1986, 1991).
5
6 Moreover, it has been proposed (Navidad et al 2010) that the most probable tectonic setting for the
7
8 emplacement of the Middle-Upper Ordovician volcanic and plutonic rocks is an extensional regime..
9
10 An extensional geodynamic setting would favour the large-scale eruption of silicic magma, as it
11
12 occurs in other similar settings in more modern analogs (Basin and Range, USA, Lipman, 1992;
13
14 Sierra Madre Occidental, México, Aguirre-Díaz and McDowell, 1993). Thus by 460 Ma, the
15
16 extensional breakup of the Gondwanan margin and the rifting away of terranes, including the Eastern
17
18 Pyrenees, was in progress.
19
20
21

22
23 Existing petrological and geochemical data of the volcanic rocks dated here (Martí, 1986;
24
25 Martí et al., 1986) reveal a calc-alkaline character coincident with that of the coeval intrusive rocks
26
27 cropping out in the same area (Martínez et al., 2011). Martínez et al. (2011) proposed that these
28
29 intrusive rocks were derived from the melting of Ediacaran sediments formed from the erosion of
30
31 previous Neoproterozoic arc rocks, which were contaminated by older components, possibly due to
32
33 the partial melting of a pre-Neoproterozoic basement. Inherited Neoproterozoic – and even a few
34
35 Paleoproterozoic-to-Archean – zircon grains found in nearly all the samples we dated (Fig. 6) support
36
37 the existence of pre-Neoproterozoic components in the source region of these magmatic rocks.
38
39 However, pre-Paleozoic crystalline basement does not outcrop in the eastern Pyrenean part of the
40
41 Variscan Chain and so the exact source of the late Middle-early Upper Ordovician magmas remains
42
43 uncertain.
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48 The Middle-Upper Ordovician magmatic episode in the Eastern Pyrenees would have been
49
50 triggered by extensional tectonics affecting a crust previously thickened by a compressional episode
51
52 of mid-Ordovician age (Casas, 2010; Navidad et al, 2010), which followed the Neoproterozoic-early
53
54 Cambrian subduction-related magmatism (Casas et al., 2015). This tectonic scenario involving
55
56 compression followed by extension resembles the events that occurred at the end of the Variscan
57
58 orogeny in relation to the Upper Carboniferous-Lower Permian volcanism, which is widely found
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1
2 throughout the Pyrenees in pull-apart basins. These basins were generated during a late-orogenic
3
4 extensional phase that also generated large-volume eruptions of calc-alkaline magmas (Gisbert, 1981;
5
6 Martí, 1986; Gilbert, 1989; Lago et al., 2004). This Late-Paleozoic volcanism was coeval with the
7
8 emplacement of granodioritic plutons at very shallow crustal levels (García-Sansegundo et al., 2004;
9
10 Pereira et al., 2013). Likewise, our new age data show that all studied magmatic products from the
11
12 area attributed to a Middle-Upper Ordovician magmatic episode – i.e. the Núria gneisses, the Ribes
13
14 granophyre and the Campelles-Bruguera volcanic rocks – lie within a very narrow age range.
15
16 Consequently, we must assume that all these magmatic products have a genetic connection. However,
17
18 the lack of xenocrysts in the Ribes granophyre, in contrast with their presence in most of the
19
20 ignimbritic samples, poses an interesting question on whether or not both magmas shared the same
21
22 source, which deserves to be investigated in further studies in order to understand this potential
23
24 plutonic-volcanic connection.
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32
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Fig. 6. Diagram of the relative probability with all the inherited zircon grains analysed in this study. The probability plot was produced using Isoplot/Ex 3.7 (Ludwig, 2008). The $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age was taken for interpretation for all zircons >1.0 Ga, and the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age for younger grains.

Table 1. U-Pb data table

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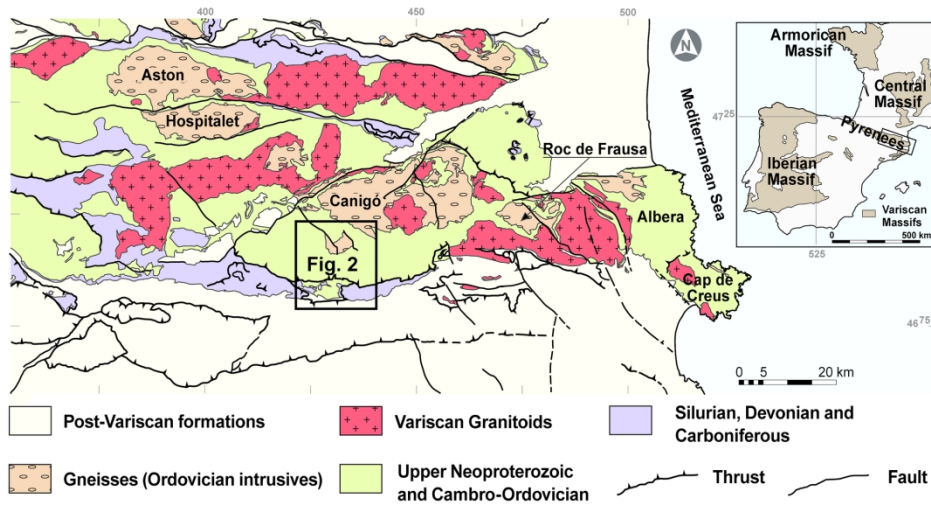


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187x104mm (300 x 300 DPI)



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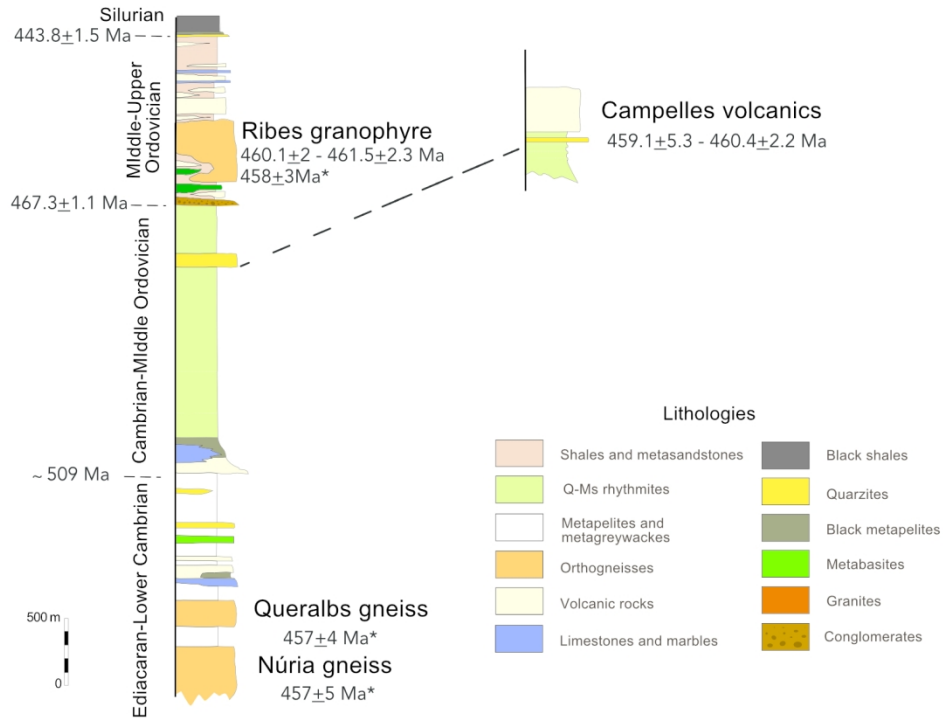


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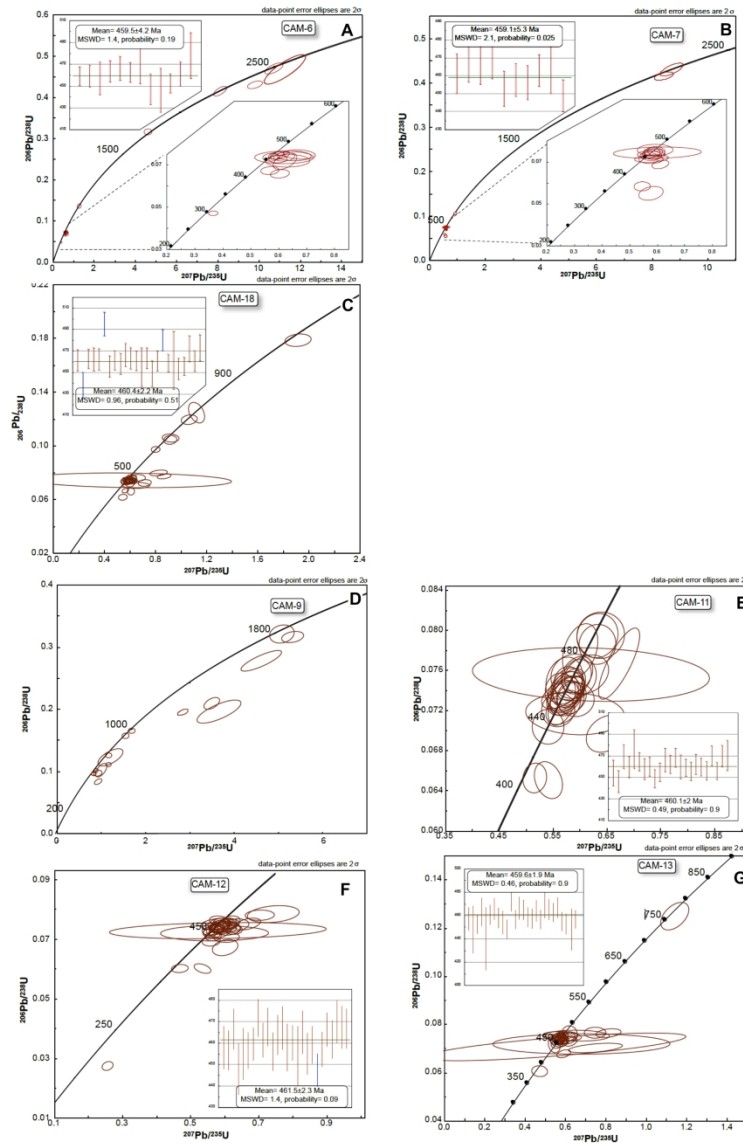


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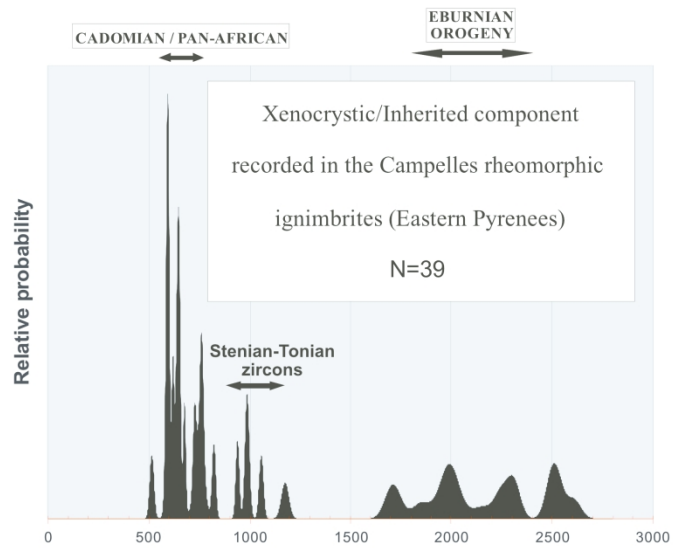


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CORRECTED RATIOS ²										CORRECTED AGES (Ma)											
U (ppm) ¹	Th (ppm) ¹	Th/U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±2σ abs	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	±2σ abs	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	±2σ abs	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³² Th	±2σ abs	Rho	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	±2σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	±2σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±2σ	Best age (Ma)	±2σ	Disc %	
Zircon_01_CAM-6	101	47	0.47	0.1057	0.0044	4.6100	0.1600	0.3165	0.0058	0.0965	0.0042	0.05	1772	29	1755	30	1726	75	1726	75	-0.97
Zircon_02_1	383	112	0.29	0.0562	0.0027	0.5720	0.0240	0.0736	0.0014	0.0225	0.0010	0.17	459	9	459	16	440	110	459	9	0.07
Zircon_04_1	694	188	0.27	0.0561	0.0027	0.3660	0.0150	0.0471	0.0009	0.0170	0.0008	0.09	297	5	317	12	460	110	297	5	6.37
Zircon_06_1	217	118	0.54	0.0670	0.0032	0.6040	0.0270	0.0657	0.0016	0.0204	0.0009	0.24	410	10	479	17	820	100	410	10	14.34
Zircon_07_1	126	69	0.55	0.0600	0.0034	0.6190	0.0310	0.0738	0.0017	0.0263	0.0013	0.15	459	10	488	19	600	120	459	10	5.94
Zircon_09_1	201	121	0.60	0.0610	0.0120	0.6190	0.0860	0.0735	0.0024	0.0234	0.0014	0.01	457	15	488	46	680	240	457	15	6.35
Zircon_10_1	133	85	0.64	0.0582	0.0030	0.6040	0.0280	0.0746	0.0016	0.0244	0.0012	0.43	464	10	479	17	520	110	464	10	3.22
Zircon_11_1	108	53	0.49	0.0662	0.0056	0.6730	0.0470	0.0749	0.0018	0.0287	0.0020	-0.17	466	11	525	26	750	130	466	11	11.24
Zircon_12_1	273	148	0.54	0.0624	0.0031	0.5680	0.0270	0.0672	0.0014	0.0222	0.0011	0.06	419	9	456	17	690	110	419	9	8.14
Zircon_13_1	419	376	0.90	0.0580	0.0025	0.5910	0.0230	0.0743	0.0015	0.0226	0.0009	0.40	462	9	471	15	520	94	462	9	1.85
Zircon_14_1	412	200	0.49	0.0740	0.0140	0.7170	0.0410	0.0697	0.0039	0.0243	0.0012	0.15	434	24	547	23	1040	200	434	24	20.66
Zircon_16_1	120	228	1.90	0.0683	0.0035	1.2690	0.0550	0.1363	0.0032	0.0437	0.0016	-0.03	824	18	830	25	890	110	824	18	0.72
Zircon_19_1	169	121	0.72	0.0881	0.0048	0.9270	0.0430	0.0757	0.0029	0.0255	0.0017	0.21	470	18	664	23	1380	110	470	18	29.22
Zircon_20_1	1155	318	0.28	0.1416	0.0053	8.1100	0.2700	0.4153	0.0095	0.1153	0.0049	0.71	2239	44	2243	31	2246	62	2246	62	0.18
Zircon_21_1	93	85	0.91	0.1652	0.0066	10.7100	0.3600	0.4700	0.0110	0.1316	0.0049	0.69	2481	51	2497	33	2506	67	2506	67	0.64
Zircon_22_1	203	98	0.48	0.1643	0.0063	9.8100	0.3000	0.4307	0.0076	0.1292	0.0047	0.44	2309	34	2416	29	2499	64	2499	64	4.43
Zircon_23_1	210	64	0.30	0.0676	0.0036	0.7490	0.0360	0.0801	0.0019	0.0262	0.0015	-0.07	497	11	566	21	830	110	497	11	12.19
Zircon_24_1	50	25	0.50	0.1744	0.0070	11.2500	0.8200	0.4680	0.0290	0.1237	0.0072	0.83	2470	140	2541	91	2609	70	2609	70	2.79
Zircon_25_1	235	76	0.32	0.0623	0.0042	0.6310	0.0650	0.0719	0.0024	0.0265	0.0020	0.03	447	14	500	35	710	140	447	14	10.60
Zircon_26_1	396	321	0.81	0.0644	0.0081	0.6220	0.0350	0.0717	0.0032	0.0229	0.0012	0.50	446	20	496	22	740	180	446	20	10.08
Zircon_27_1	297	205	0.69	0.0607	0.0032	0.5970	0.0270	0.0727	0.0014	0.0234	0.0010	0.03	452	9	474	17	610	110	452	9	4.56
Zircon_28_1	96	51	0.53	0.0640	0.0053	0.6540	0.0500	0.0742	0.0018	0.0232	0.0014	-0.06	461	11	508	29	690	180	461	11	9.25
Zircon_29_1	148	100	0.68	0.0810	0.0110	0.8860	0.0680	0.0769	0.0034	0.0300	0.0017	0.43	478	21	633	34	1340	190	478	21	24.49
Zircon_30_CAM-6	240	179	0.75	0.1678	0.0067	5.9000	0.2100	0.2512	0.0066	0.0545	0.0028	0.74	1444	34	1959	32	2533	65	2533	65	26.29
Zircon_31_CAM-7	207	138	0.67	0.1466	0.0057	8.7000	0.3400	0.4300	0.0120	0.1026	0.0038	0.71	2305	54	2305	35	2303	67	2303	67	0.00
Zircon_33_1	95	13	0.14	0.0628	0.0036	0.9270	0.0470	0.1064	0.0024	0.0273	0.0025	-0.08	652	14	672	25	710	120	652	14	2.98
Zircon_35_1	225	178	0.79	0.0682	0.0035	0.5450	0.0240	0.0584	0.0018	0.0119	0.0007	0.05	366	11	441	16	870	110	366	11	17.01
Zircon_36_1	194	119	0.61	0.0565	0.0026	0.5770	0.0270	0.0742	0.0018	0.0252	0.0012	0.27	461	11	464	17	475	95	461	11	0.65
Zircon_37_1	259	273	1.05	0.0561	0.0031	0.5860	0.0270	0.0750	0.0016	0.0213	0.0009	0.01	466	10	467	17	450	110	466	10	1.69
Zircon_38_1	300	275	0.92	0.0583	0.0028	0.5960	0.0260	0.0751	0.0019	0.0229	0.0011	-0.08	467	12	474	17	530	100	467	12	1.48
Zircon_39_1	196	121	0.62	0.0575	0.0048	0.5920	0.0530	0.0758	0.0022	0.0230	0.0013	0.03	471	13	470	33	500	170	471	13	-0.21
Zircon_40_1	282	249	0.88	0.0641	0.0031	0.6110	0.0250	0.0689	0.0017	0.0182	0.0009	0.32	430	10	488	16	750	110	430	10	11.89
Zircon_41_1	140	110	0.79	0.0748	0.0045	0.5770	0.0360	0.0551	0.0027	0.0141	0.0009	0.27	345	16	461	22	1020	130	345	16	25.16
Zircon_42_1	139	70	0.50	0.0586	0.0041	0.5770	0.0360	0.0713	0.0016	0.0231	0.0013	0.04	444	10	460	23	490	150	444	10	3.46
Zircon_43_1	179	122	0.68	0.0571	0.0034	0.5720	0.0280	0.0727	0.0016	0.0228	0.0012	-0.20	453	10	461	17	490	130	453	10	1.82
Zircon_44_1	136	87	0.64	0.0570	0.0042	0.5780	0.0410	0.0736	0.0015	0.0240	0.0017	-0.03	458	9	462	25	480	140	458	9	0.97
Zircon_45_1	175	96	0.55	0.0581	0.0031	0.5830	0.0270	0.0733	0.0016	0.0238	0.0011	-0.09	456	10	468	18	500	120	456	10	2.54
Zircon_46_1	192	133	0.69	0.0574	0.0032	0.5890	0.0310	0.0744	0.0015	0.0232	0.0010	0.04	463	9	472	19	500	110	463	9	1.97
Zircon_47_1	133	129	0.97	0.1467	0.0059	8.4200	0.2800	0.4154	0.0076	0.1163	0.0042	0.52	2239	35	2276	31	2313	66	2313	66	1.63
Zircon_49_1	402	318	0.79	0.0580	0.0100	0.6000	0.1300	0.0745	0.0022	0.0247	0.0046	0.16	463	13	476	67	530	220	463	13	2.73
Zircon_50_CAM-7	247	150	0.61	0.0582	0.0052	0.5790	0.0500	0.0717	0.0015	0.0222	0.0014	0.25	446	9	463	29	520	160	446	9	3.63
Zircon_51_CAM-9	303	52	0.17	0.1207	0.0054	3.4700	0.1400	0.2092	0.0080	0.1146	0.0076	0.55	1224	43	1519	34	1961	90	1961	90	19.42
Zircon_52_1	311	84	0.27	0.1223	0.0068	4.5800	0.1700	0.2780	0.0130	0.1040	0.0180	0.80	1580	64	1745	58	1987	95	1987	95	9.46
Zircon_53_1	223	57	0.26	0.1336	0.0076	3.6300	0.4100	0.1970	0.0150	0.0290	0.0017	0.75	1158	79	1564	80	2160	110	2160	110	25.96
Zircon_55_1	421	169	0.40	0.1044	0.0041	2.8190	0.0980	0.1951	0.0041	0.0706	0.0025	0.61	1149	23	1360	26	1701	72	1701	72	15.51
Zircon_56_1	167	202	1.21	0.0720	0.0035	1.5320	0.0640	0.1572	0.0031	0.0470	0.0019	0.11	941	17	947	25	970	100	941	17	0.63
Zircon_57_1	124	156	1.26	0.0743	0.0035	1.6730	0.0640	0.1656	0.0034	0.0487	0.0020	0.03	988	19	997	26	1034	97	988	19	0.90
Zircon_58_1	776	157	0.20	0.0708	0.0091	1.2000	0.2300	0.1230	0.0110	0.0370	0.0170	0.69	746	60	801	80	950	180	746	60	6.97
Zircon_59_1	175	143	0.82	0.1135	0.0059	5.0500	0.2200	0.3210	0.0120	0.0934	0.0042	0.09	1794	61	1827	38	1852	86	1852	86	1.81
Zircon_61_1	115	105	0.91	0.1224	0.0053	5.2900	0.2000	0.3161	0.0070	0.0931	0.0039	0.23	1770	34	1865	32	1995	75	1995	75	5.09
Zircon_62_1	326	135	0.41	0.0758	0.0034	1.1660	0.0460	0.1110	0.0021	0.0447	0.0018	0.17	678	12	784	22	1095	88	678	12	13.52
Zircon_63_1	155	35	0.23	0.0673	0.0036	1.1520	0.0570	0.1258	0.0026	0.0460	0.0022	0.01	764	15	781	27	820	110	764	15	2.18
Zircon_65_1	162	111	0.69	0.0634	0.0035	0.8190	0.0410	0.0962	0.0021	0.0304	0.0015	0.02	592	13	606	23	690	110	592	13	2.31
Zircon_66_1	238	219	0.92	0.0627	0.0028	0.8680	0.0320	0.1012	0.0019	0.0312	0.0013	0.01	621	11	633	18	700	100	621	11	1.90
Zircon_67_1	119	4	0.03	0.0680	0.0051	0.9060	0.0720	0.0974	0.0042	0.0630	0.0120	0.04	509	24	633	28	830	150	509	24	8.27
Zircon_69_1	979	28	0.03	0.0702	0.0046	0.9880	0.0940	0.1019	0.0095	0.0870	0.0780	0.60	625	53	697	43					

