

# Granulite-facies metamorphism at ca. 570-580 Ma in the Porangatu Granulite Complex, central Brazil: implications for the evolution of the Transbrasiliano Lineament

*Metamorfismo da fácies granulito em 570-580 Ma no Complexo Granulítico Porangatu, centro do Brasil: implicações para a evolução do Lineamento Transbrasiliano*

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**ABSTRACT:** The Porangatu Granulite Complex is exposed in the central part of the Neoproterozoic Tocantins province in central Brazil, along the boundary between the Brasília Belt to the east and the Araguaia Belt to the west. This is part of the transcontinental Transbrasiliano-Kandi shear system. The complex includes garnet-rich enderbite and charnockite, high-grade gneisses as well as lenses of garnet-bearing mafic granulite or amphibolites, and in situ anatectic charnockite, elongated in the NNE-SSW direction along the Talismã Shear Zone (TSZ). These rocks represent suites of ortho-derived rocks of calc-alkaline affinity and small contributions of tholeiitic basalts and aluminous paragneisses. The structural framework records thrust components probably related to the early stages of an oblique collision during the evolution of Neoproterozoic Brasiliano orogens, and can be understood as involving a collisional system of two crustal blocks, initially with thrust components which in its final stage evolved to a transcurrent system with dextral movement. This led to intense imbrication, generation of mylonitic foliation, stretching lineation, tectonic banding and rotation of structures and minerals. The heterogeneous and progressive ductile deformation was accompanied by metamorphic re-equilibrium in late Neoproterozoic time. Granulite facies conditions reached a metamorphic maximum at temperature and pressure above 850°C and 10 kbar, in an almost anhydrous environment, with or without anatexis. Zircon U-Pb SHRIMP analyses for two selected rock samples indicated the combined age of  $580 \pm 7$  Ma for a charnockite and  $548 \pm 48$  Ma for a mafic granulite from which the charnockite is thought to have been derived. The mafic granulite contains zircon grains of ca. 2.1 Ga, indicating Paleoproterozoic igneous protoliths involved in Neoproterozoic high-grade metamorphism. In addition, older inherited zircon grains of ca. 3.1 and 2.0 Ga ( $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ )

**RESUMO:** O Complexo Granulítico Porangatu está exposto na porção central da Província Tocantins, do Neoproterozoico, no centro do Brasil, ao longo da fronteira entre o Cinturão Brasília, a leste, e o Cinturão Araguaia, a oeste. Esta região faz parte do sistema de cisalhamento transcontinental Transbrasiliano-Kandi. O complexo inclui enderbitos e charnockitos ricos em granada, gnaisses de alto grau metamórfico, bem como lentes de granada granulitos máficos ou granada anfíbolitos, e charnockitos anatócticos in situ, o qual forma corpos alongados na direção NNE-SSW, ao longo da Zona de Cisalhamento Talismã (ZCT). Esse conjunto de rochas representam suítes de rochas ortoderivadas de afinidade cálcio-alcálica e pequenas contribuições de basaltos tholeiíticos e paragnaisses aluminosos. O quadro estrutural registra componentes de cavalgamento relacionados provavelmente com os estágios iniciais de uma colisão oblíqua durante a evolução dos orógenos Brasilianos do Neoproterozoico e pode ser compreendido como envolvendo um sistema colisional de dois blocos crustais, inicialmente com componentes de cavalgamento que evoluiu em sua fase final para um sistema transcorrente com cinemática dextral. Isso levou à intensa imbricação, geração de foliação milonítica, lineação de estiramento, bandamento tectônico e rotação de estruturas e minerais. A deformação dúctil heterogênea e progressiva foi acompanhada por reequilíbrio metamórfico no Neoproterozoico tardio, que atingiu condições metamórficas máximas na fácies granulito a temperatura e pressão acima de 850°C e 10 kbar, respectivamente, em ambiente quase anidro, atingindo a anatexia. As análises U-Pb SHRIMP em zircão realizadas em duas amostras de rochas selecionadas indicaram idade combinada de 580 ± 7 Ma para um charnockito e 548 ± 48 Ma para um granulito máfico do qual o charnockito foi derivado. O granulito máfico contém cristais de zircão datados de 2,1 Ga, indicando protólito ígneo do Paleoproterozoico envolvidos no metamorfismo de alto grau no Neoproterozoico. Além disso, os grãos de zircão mais antigos herdados de 3,1 e 2,0 Ga (idades  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ) em

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ages) in charnockite also confirm the existence of older Archaean and Paleoproterozoic material in this region, possibly derived from the Goiás Massif. A 0.88 Ga inherited zircon grain is suggestive of derivation from the Goiás Magmatic Arc. This Neoproterozoic age for the high-grade metamorphism is substantially younger than those reported for other granulites in the Brasília Belt (ca. 0.65 Ga), suggesting that the Porangatu Granulite Complex is more probably associated with the evolution of the younger Araguaia Belt. The new field, structural, petrographic and geochronological data suggest that the Porangatu Granulite Complex was involved in a high-temperature ductile strike-slip shear zone juxtaposing terrains of different ages (Archaean, Paleoproterozoic, Neoproterozoic), crustal nature and level (lower and middle continental crust), strongly reworked during the final stages of the Brasiliano orogeny, and represents the exposed roots of the Tocantins orogen.

**KEYWORDS:** High-grade metamorphism; Porangatu Granulite Complex; SHRIMP U-Pb zircon geochronology; Transbrasiliano Lineament; Tocantins Orogen.

## INTRODUCTION

The Porangatu Granulite Complex (Gorayeb 1996a) is exposed in the central part of the Tocantins Province, a large Neoproterozoic orogenic area in central Brazil formed during the collision between the Amazonian and São Francisco-Congo cratons. The province is formed by three main belts: the Brasília Belt, in the eastern half of the province; the Araguaia Belt, along the eastern margin of the Amazonian Craton; and the Paraguay Belt, in the southwestern part of the province (Fig. 1). Granulitic rocks are exposed in several areas of the Brasília Belt (Dardenne 2000) and have been the object of recent mapping and geochronological studies (Dantas *et al.* 2007).

The Porangatu granulite belt is exposed in an area of approximately 80 x 25 km, extending in a NNE-SSW direction between the westernmost exposures of the Paraguay Belt, the Goiás magmatic arc, the Brasília Belt and the metasedimentary rocks of the Araguaia Belt to the north, which forms a larger geotectonic unit (Tocantins orogen) and could represent the roots of this Neoproterozoic orogen. The granulitic rocks appear as lens-shaped bodies along the 10 km-wide Talismã Shear Zone (TSZ), comprising mainly high-grade mylonitic gneisses. This is part of the transcontinental transcurrent dextral shear zone system, known as the Transbrasiliano Lineament (TBL), which crosses much of the South American continent (Schobbenhaus Filho *et al.* 1975, Cordani *et al.* 2013). The mega-shear zone is exposed from Argentina and Paraguay, through central Brazil, and may be traced through northeastern Brazil into western Africa, where it is known as the Kandi Lineament. The total length of the lineament is estimated to be approximately 4,000 km, making it the most extensive shear zone on Earth (Schobbenhaus Filho *et al.* 1975, Trompette 1994, Oliveira & Mohiak 2003, Arthaud *et al.* 2008, Attoh & Brown 2008, Santos *et al.* 2008b, Cordani *et al.* 2013, Cacama *et al.* 2015).

*charnockito também confirma a existência de material Arqueano e Paleoproterozoico nesta região, possivelmente derivado do Maciço de Goiás. Um grão de zircão herdado de 0,88 Ga é sugestivo de derivação do Arco Magnético de Goiás. Essa idade neoproterozoica para o metamorfismo de alto grau é substancialmente mais jovem do que a relatada para outros granulitos do Cinturão Brasília (cerca de 0,65 Ga), sugerindo que o Complexo Granulítico Porangatu está mais provavelmente associado à evolução do Cinturão Araguaia mais jovem. Os novos dados de campo, estruturais, petrográficos, e geocronológicos, sugerem que o Complexo Granulítico Porangatu foi envolvido em uma expressiva zona de cisalhamento transcorrente dúctil estabelecida em alta temperatura, que justapôs unidades de rochas de diferentes idades (Arqueano, Paleoproterozoico, Neoproterozoico), naturezas e níveis crustais (crosta continental inferior e média) fortemente retrabalhadas nos estágios finais da orogenia Brasiliano e representam as raízes expostas do Orógeno Tocantins.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Metamorfismo de alto grau; Complexo Granulítico Porangatu; Geocronologia U-Pb SHRIMP em zircão; Lineamento Transbrasiliano; Orógeno Tocantins.

The main objective of the present study, based on the petrographic, structural and geochronological characteristics of high-grade metamorphic rocks, is to enhance understanding of the evolution of this granulite belt and of its significance in the development of the TBL, as well as in the tectonic evolution of the Araguaia and Brasília belts. Although other granulite complexes in central Brazil have been investigated in some detail — for example the Anápolis-Itauçu and the Uruaçu complexes (Fischel *et al.* 1998) —, the high-grade metamorphic rocks of Porangatu remain poorly known. Therefore, the main focus of the present study is to investigate their field, structural and petrographic characteristics, as well as their age.

## GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

In the eastern part of the Tocantins Province (Fig. 1), the Brasília Belt includes:

1. several metasedimentary units deposited on a Paleoproterozoic sialic basement (Almeida *et al.* 1981, Fuck *et al.* 1993, Pimentel *et al.* 2000, 2011);
2. one small allochthonous sialic fragment made dominantly of Archean trondhjemite-tonalite-granodiorite (TTG) terranes and greenstone belts (the Goiás Archean block of Jost *et al.* 2013);
3. three large mafic-ultramafic complexes (Barro Alto, Niquelândia and Cana Brava; Ferreira Filho *et al.* 2010);
4. the Neoproterozoic Goiás Magmatic Arc in the west (for a brief review see Laux *et al.* 2005, Brito-Neves *et al.* 2014);
5. a large Neoproterozoic high-grade terrain known as the Anápolis-Itauçu complex, interpreted as the roots of the Brasília orogen (Piuzana *et al.* 2003, Giustina *et al.* 2011).

The Araguaia Belt forms the central and northern parts of the Tocantins Province, representing a N-S collisional orogen

extending for more than 1,200 km, 150 - 200 km in width. It consists dominantly of metasedimentary units, associated with ophiolite, exposed along the eastern margin of the Amazonian Craton (Alvarenga *et al.* 2000, Moura *et al.* 2008, Gorayeb *et al.* 2008). The orogen started its evolution at ca. 870 Ma with the deposition of the Araguaia basin and the formation of the ophiolitic suites represented by Morro do Agostinho, Quatipuru and Serra do Tapa suites (Kotschoubey *et al.* 2005, Paixão *et al.* 2008, Miyagawa & Gorayeb 2013, Paixão & Gorayeb 2014, Barros 2015). The main orogenic phase took place at ca. 550 Ma, with tectonic transportation towards the Amazonian Craton, accompanied by a metamorphism that

increases gradually from anchimetamorphism, in the west, to middle-amphibolite facies, in the east, with emplacement of syn- to late-orogenic granites (Alvarenga *et al.* 2000).

The Paraguay Belt is a fold-and-thrust belt established along the southern margin of the Amazonian Craton and to the east of the Rio Apa cratonic block. It forms a 1,000 km long curved orogen convex toward the cratonic areas. It shows polyphase deformation with large-scale linear synforms and antiforms, as well as reverses and thrust faults. Magmatic rocks are very scarce and represented mostly by post-orogenic K-rich granite intrusions (Almeida 1984, Alvarenga *et al.* 2000, McGee *et al.* 2012). The belt comprises distinct

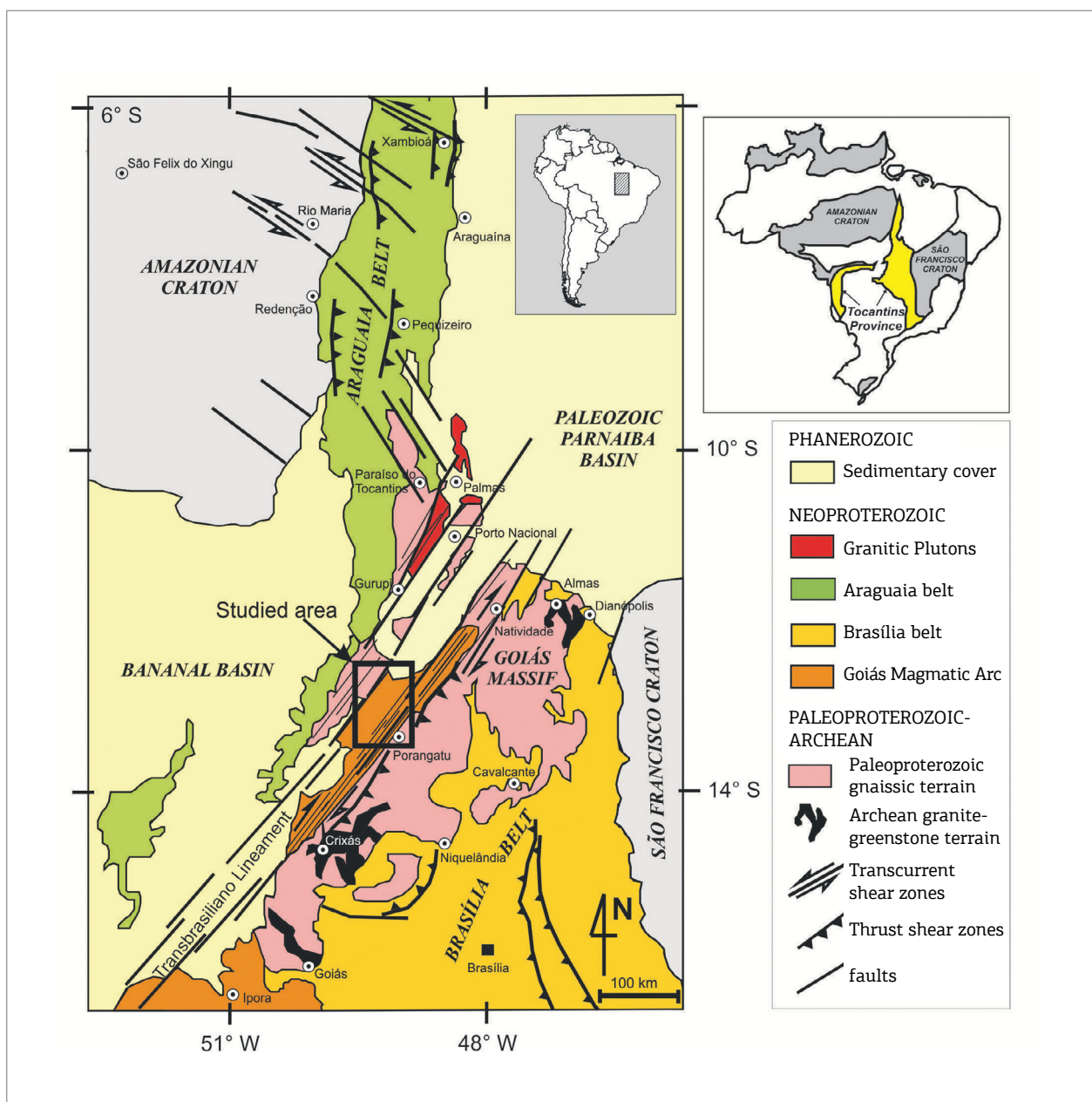


Figure 1. Geological map of the Tocantins Province, adapted from Gorayeb *et al.* (2013).

structural zones: a sedimentary platform cover, an unmetamorphosed folded external zone, a metamorphic (greenschist facies) internal zone, and granite plutons (Alvarenga & Trompette 1993). Ediacaran fauna found in rocks of the external zone of the southern part of the belt, as well as U-Pb SHRIMP data in zircon grains of volcanic tuffs, indicate a depositional age of ca. 543 Ma (Boggiani *et al.* 2010).

The Goiás Magmatic Arc, in the western part of the Brasília Belt, comprises calc-alkaline volcano-sedimentary sequences associated with plutonic counterparts, represented mainly by tonalite and granodiorite. The arc was initiated at ca. 900 Ma with the growth of intra-oceanic island arcs, comprising meta-basalt, meta-andesite, meta-dacite and meta-rhyolite, as well as the corresponding plutonic rocks. These rocks display primitive geochemical and isotopic characteristics with initial  $\epsilon_{Nd}$  values mostly ranging between +6 and +3, and Nd  $T_{DM}$  ages between 0.8 and 1.1 Ga (Pimentel *et al.* 1991, 1997, 2000; Pimentel & Fuck 1992, Laux 2004, Laux *et al.* 2005). Trace element and isotopic data suggest that some of the tonalites are similar to Phanerozoic adakites (Pimentel *et al.* 1991, 1997). Arc magmatism was two pulses at ca. 900-800 Ma and ca. 640 Ma, and the younger rocks tend to be more evolved geochemically and isotopically, presenting evidence of reworking of older sialic crust. The main metamorphic event took place at ca. 630 Ma, as indicated by U-Pb titanite data and Sm-Nd garnet ages (Laux *et al.* 2005). This is similar to the regional metamorphic event observed in several other parts of the Brasília Belt, and has been interpreted as representative of the final closure of the ocean and continental collision (for a review see Cordani *et al.* 2013).

The TBL is part of the transcontinental transcurrent dextral shear zones that extends across a large part of the South American continent with records in Argentina and Paraguay, across central to northwestern Brazil in the Atlantic coastal area of Ceará. In the central portion of Brazil, the lineament is represented by extensive shear zones and its ramifications, with dextral movement, consisting of mylonite affecting protoliths of different nature, origin and age, such as the Tocantins Shear Belt (Gorayeb 1996a, 1996b, Gorayeb *et al.* 2000) and the TSZ (Gorayeb 1996a, Dantas *et al.* 2007). The TBL and its extension in West Africa were first recognized by Kroener & Cordani (2003), Caby (2003) and Cordani *et al.* (2013).

Several grabens associated with fault systems are identified. They were reactivated from latest Palaeozoic to Quaternary times. The studies of Oliveira & Mohiak (2003) and Santos *et al.* (2013) demonstrate that the TBL influenced the formation and deposition of the Palaeozoic-Mesozoic Parnaíba Basin.

The Kandi Lineament in Africa (Cordani *et al.* 2013, Caby 2003, Kroener & Cordani 2003) is an extension of the Sobral-Pedro II Lineament (Gama Junior *et al.* 1988, Gorayeb and Abreu 1998, Cavalcante *et al.* 2003, Gorayeb & Lima 2014).

In the northwest of the Borborema Province, the Neoproterozoic evolution started with an early collision associated with the closure of the Pharusian-Goiás ocean at 620–600 Ma and generalized crustal thickening, marked by the development of high-grade metamorphic rocks and high-T thrusting foliation, defining a West Gondwana orogen. This was subsequently reactivated by a set of transcurrent dextral shear zones, forming the Transbrasiliano-Kandi strike-slip belt, which acted as a transform plate boundary, allowing the closure of the ocean and collision with the São Francisco Craton at ca. 590 Ma. Interactions between the two collisions between 590 and 570 Ma and continuous cratonic indentation led to the province-wide switch to transcurrent system and block escape, generally to the NE, associated with wide magmatism and regional rotation of the maximum shortening axis (Araujo *et al.* 2014). This situation is similar to that of the Tocantins Province, which extends under the Parnaíba Basin.

## RESULTS

### Geology and tectonics of the Porangatu-Alvorada region

In the Porangatu-Alvorada region, high-grade metamorphic rocks may be grouped into two main litho-structural units:

1. the Gneissic-supracrustal terrain and
2. the Porangatu Granulite Complex within the TSZ, just to the west of the Serra Azul Granitoid (Fig. 2).

The initial cartographic studies were carried out by the Brazilian Geological Survey (CPRM) through the Porangatu Project (Machado *et al.* 1981), where the main lithostratigraphic units of the region were delimited and defined, followed by the cartographic and petrographic studies of Gorayeb (1996a), and the mapping in more detail executed by Dantas *et al.* (2007).

The gneissic-supracrustal terrain occupies a large area east of the Serra Azul-Cajueiro-Talismã Lineament, which represents the boundary between two crustal terranes within the ductile shear zone; according to the Sm-Nd isotopic data reported by Dantas *et al.* (2006), it belongs to the Goiás Magmatic Arc. It comprises mainly migmatized orthogneisses of tonalitic, quartz dioritic and granitic composition, as well as paragneisses, micaschists bearing biotite, garnet and staurolite, amphibolites, calc-silicate rocks, quartzites, banded iron rock (BIF) and meta-ultramafic rocks.

The Porangatu Granulite Complex is exposed to the west of the Serra Azul-Cajueiro Lineament, within the TSZ,

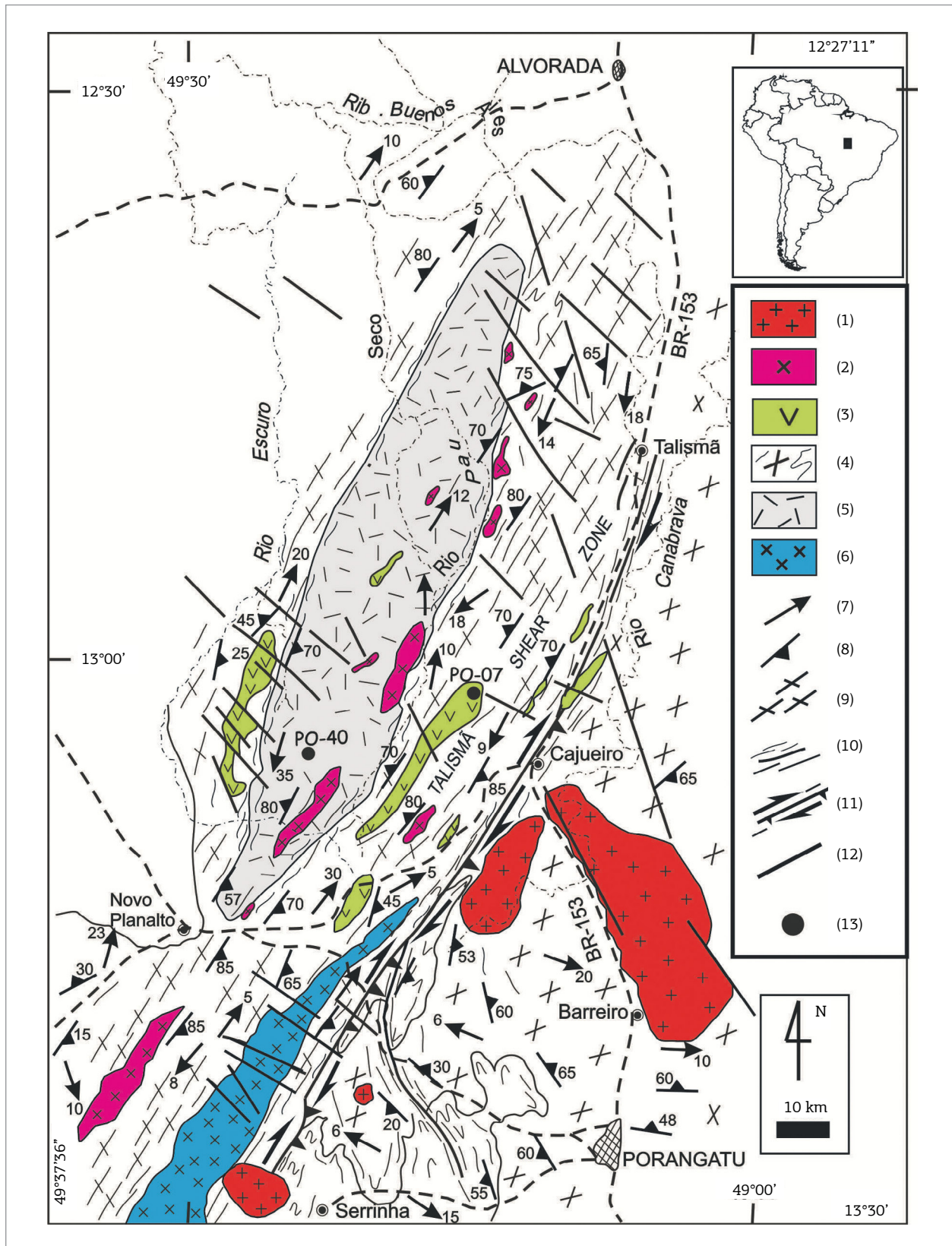


Figure 2. Geological map of the Porangatu-Alvorada region displaying the main geological units: (1) Post-tectonic granites; (2) Pau Seco granitoid suite; (3) Amphibolite bodies; (4) Gneissic-supracrustal complex; (5) Porangatu Granulite Complex; (6) Serra Azul granitoid suite; (7) Talismã Shear Zone (mylonitic para- and orthogneisses, garnet-pyroxene amphibolites, mylonitic granites and mylonitic granulites); (8) Structural trends; (9) Oblique-thrust shear zone; (10) Faults; (11) Foliation; (12) Stretching lineation; (13) Dated samples.

and forms an 80 x 25 km elongated complex in the N25°E direction (Fig. 2). The rock units form lens-shaped bodies and the main rock types are garnet-rich enderbitic, charno-enderbitic and charnockitic granulite, and less abundant garnet mafic granulite and biotite-garnet mylonitic gneiss. Amphibolite and mafic granulite form large lenses such as the Bocaina and Barreirinho Vermelho amphibolites, as well as small dismembered boudins mixed with mylonitic ortho- and paragneisses. These rocks represent a suite of ortho-derived rocks of calc-alkaline affinity and small contributions of tholeiitic basalts and rare garnet paragneisses. Another type of charnockite forms small (cm to m) irregular bodies of leucosome as veins or patchy migmatitic structures within the enderbitic and mafic granulites, and represents *in situ* anatexis during high-grade metamorphism.

The Talismã Shear Zone (TSZ) extends for at least 25 km in the N20-30°E direction, representing a zone of strong tectonic mobility juxtaposing terrains of different ages and crustal levels (lower and middle continental crust). In the southern part of the area, the Archean Serra Azul Granitoid (Dantas *et al.* 2006, 2007) forms a large lens representing a crustal slice tectonically interleaved with other TSZ rock units. Similarly, several smaller and elongated syn-tectonic granites are known, such as the Pau Seco Granitoid Suite (Fig. 2, 3A, B).

The main structural features are the mylonitic foliation and tectonic transposition banding, as well as the strong stretching lineation. Noteworthy is the strong linearity of the structural features displayed by the rocks, which were transformed into L- and L-S tectonites (Fig. 3C). The foliations generally have NNE-SSW trends with high dips, predominantly to the SE. The stretch lineation has low dip, around 0° to 21° to the NE (predominantly) or SW quadrants (Fig. 2). The tectonic kinematic indicators, developed in high-temperature gneiss tectonites, are defined by the stretching, flattening and rotation of sigmoidal porphyroclasts of feldspars, pyroxene and garnet, and pressure shadows in asymmetric patterns (Fig. 3); anastomosing mylonitic foliation with S-C foliation, and intrafolial folds in Z-patterns.

In addition, inflections of foliation and dragfolds identified at the macroscale were caused by the curving of supracrustal rock structures near the TSZ, such as Serra Verde to NW of Porangatu (Fig. 2). All these features reaffirm the evolution of a continental transcurrent shear system with dextral kinematics in this region, similar to that recognized in the Porto Nacional High-Grade Metamorphic Complex to the north (Gorayeb 1996b, Gorayeb *et al.* 2000), in the Cariré Granulite Belt (Gorayeb & Abreu 1989) and the Macaco Granulite body (Gorayeb & Abreu 1998), northwest of Borborema Province.

The heterogeneous and progressive ductile deformation was accompanied by re-equilibrium in metamorphic conditions of upper-amphibolite or granulite facies. This led to intense

imbrication, generation of mylonitic foliation, stretch lineation, tectonic banding and rotation of structures and minerals (Fig. 3).

The gneiss-migmatite-supracrustal domain, east of the Serra Azul-Cajueiro Lineament presents very different structural behavior, in which the foliation shows approximately N-S direction with low to medium dip (8-35°) to ESE and WSW. The complex structural pattern is due to folding and drags, and to the rotation of these structures in the vicinities of the TSZ (Fig. 2). This structural framework records thrust components probably related to the early stages of an oblique collision during the evolution of Neoproterozoic Brasiliano orogens in this portion of the Tocantins Province. Thus, the tectonic evolution of the region can be understood as involving a collisional system of two crustal blocks, initially with thrust components which in its final stage evolved to a transcurrent system with dextral movement.

### Petrography and metamorphism of the granulitic rocks

Enderbitic and charnoenderbitic (leucoenderbitic) granulite are the most abundant rock types in the Porangatu Complex. They are generally homogeneous, with only a very weak banding, except for some local shear zones where mylonitic textures are recognized. They are normally fine-grained rocks, greenish to gray, and locally with brownish to red spots due to the presence of garnet (Fig. 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B). They normally contain decimetric to metric enclaves of mafic granulites and are composed of plagioclase, alkali-feldspar, quartz, orthopyroxene and garnet and minor biotite, zircon, apatite and opaque minerals.

In the enderbites and charnoenderbitic, oligoclase-andesine ( $An_{28-39}$ ) shows antiperthitic intergrowth and albite or albite-pericline twinning, although, in many cases twinning has been erased by deformation. Antiperthitic texture is formed by small lamellae of alkali feldspar and parallel bands or rectangular patches, following the plagioclase cleavage. Myrmekitic textures occur along the contacts between plagioclase and alkali feldspar, and become more common in deformed zones. Alkali feldspar is a minor constituent, ranging in abundance from 0 (enderbitic) to 30% modal (charnoenderbitic). Twinning is faint or absent and they present perthitic texture (mesoperthite). Quartz is abundant and exhibits strong undulose extinction in larger crystals or polygonal recrystallized aggregates. Orthopyroxene is less deformed and frequently constitutes relict crystals, partially altered to green or brown biotite. Clinopyroxene is rare and is partially altered to light green amphibole. Garnet is abundant (5 to 15% modal) and occurs as porphyroblasts and poikiloblastic crystals with irregular contacts and plagioclase, quartz, apatite and biotite inclusions; idioblastic hexagonal crystals are not as common. Biotite is commonly

present and in general defines a weak foliation. Two generations of biotite are recognized: one is primary with reddish-brown strong pleochroism, and the other is secondary,

after orthopyroxene, presenting weak pleochroism. The first generation represents crystals which are stable at the granulite facies and the second is a retrograde mineral phase.

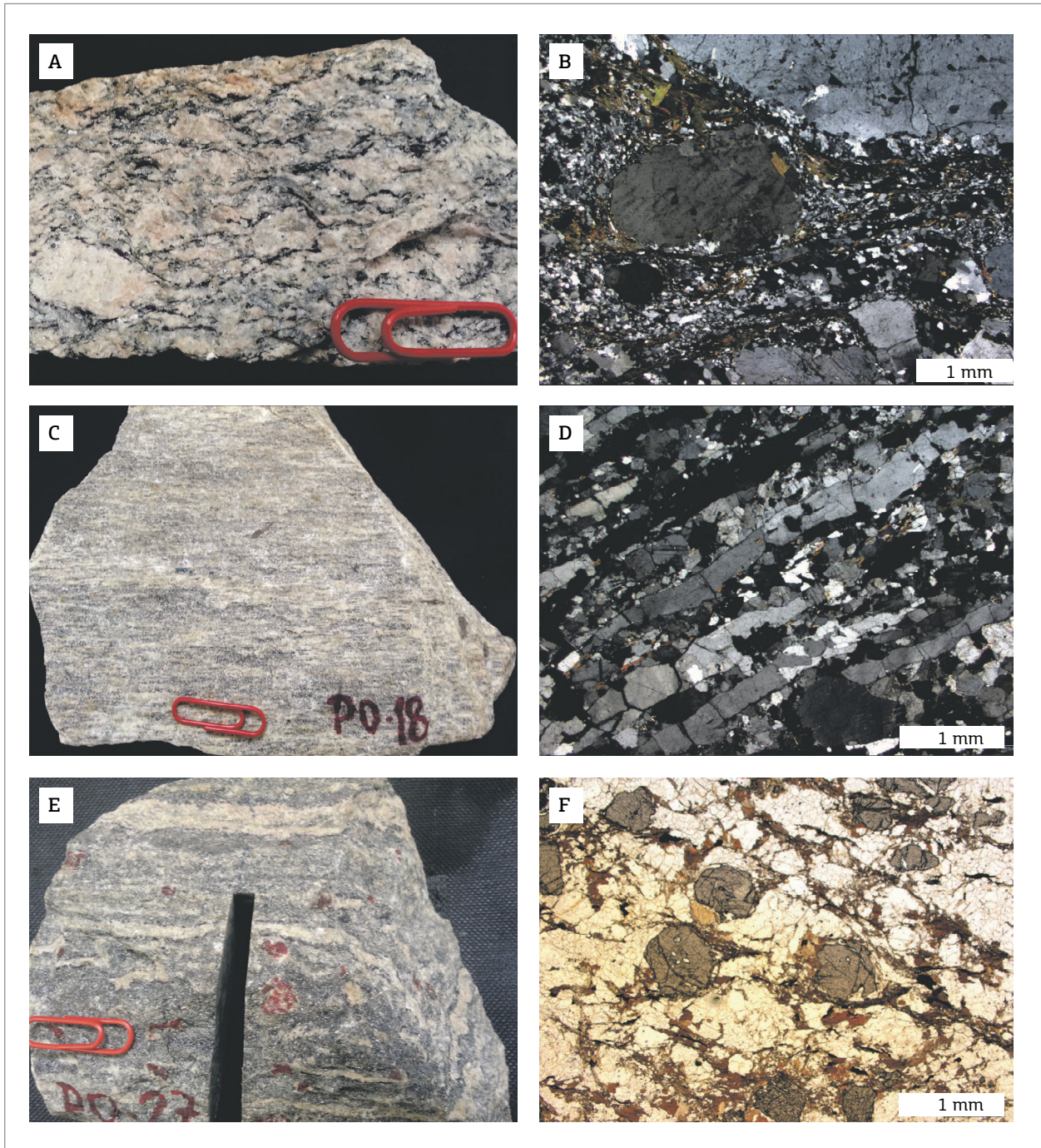


Figure 3. Microstructural features of paragneisses and granitoids of the studied area: (A, B) Augen alkali-feldspar porphyroclasts involved by anastomosed milonitic foliation of in a fine comminuted aggregate of quartz-feldspar matrix of the middle-temperature mylonite (Pau Seco Granite); (C, D) Strong lineation and ribbon quartz together with plagioclase and microcline in striped leucogneiss, defining the high-temperature mylonite (L-tectonite) along the Talismã Shear Zone; (E) Porphyroblastic garnet gneiss with neosome veins; (F) Rotated garnet porphyroblasts (dextral) enveloped by the anastomosed foliation defined by biotite and quartz-feldspar aggregates in paragneiss of the Porangatu Granulite Complex. Optical conditions: F - parallel polarizers; B and D - crossed polarizers.

Charnockite forms small (cm to m) irregular bodies or leucosome veins within the enderbite and mafic granulites; they are coarse-grained, highly leucocratic, isotropic and present greenish-gray colour, sometimes with a bluish tint given by blue quartz (Fig. 6A, 6B). The mesoperthite alkali feldspar forms relatively large crystals (up to 3 cm) with rounded inclusions of quartz with string and patch perthitic intergrowth. The plagioclase is antiperthitic oligoclase-andesine ( $An_{24-35}$ ), present albite and pericline twinning. Orthopyroxene is rare and mostly altered to amphibole and biotite.

Mafic granulite is the least abundant rock type in the Porangatu complex and in some cases occurs as enclaves in enderbite and charnoenderbite. It is fine-grained, equigranular, and presents a polygonal granoblastic texture (Fig. 7). It contains plagioclase, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, garnet and hornblende. Accessory minerals are apatite, zircon, rutile and opaque minerals.

Plagioclase varies compositionally between andesine-labradorite ( $An_{37-54}$ ) and bytownite ( $An_{73}$ ), presenting huttenlocher intergrowth (Smith & Brown 1974, Ribbe 1983), a characteristic of high temperature Ca-plagioclase.

Orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene (diopside) are partially altered to hornblende. Two generations of hornblende are recognized: one is in equilibrium with pyroxenes and the other is the product of retrograde reaction.

Garnet forms coronitic microstructures and, in some cases, displays honeycomb-type texture surrounding plagioclase, amphibole or pyroxene grains formed by the reaction  $Pl + Cpx_1 (Opx) = Grt + Cpx_2 + Qtz$ , typical of high-pressure metamorphism (Bard 1980, Best 1982, De Waard 1965, Harley 1985). In some other cases, the progression of this reaction forms larger poikiloblastic crystals with abundant inclusions of orthopyroxene, plagioclase and opaque minerals.

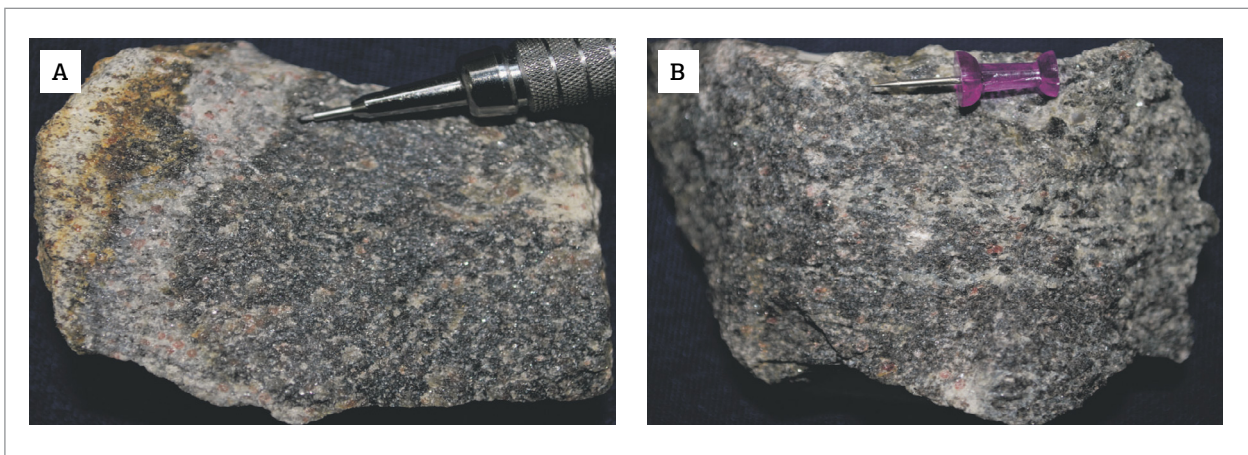


Figure 4. Hand specimen aspects of garnet enderbite of Porangatu Granulite Complex: (A) Isotropic texture in garnet-rich, fine-grained granulite; (B) Coarse-grained garnet charnockite leucosome forming irregular masses in the finer-grained enderbite.

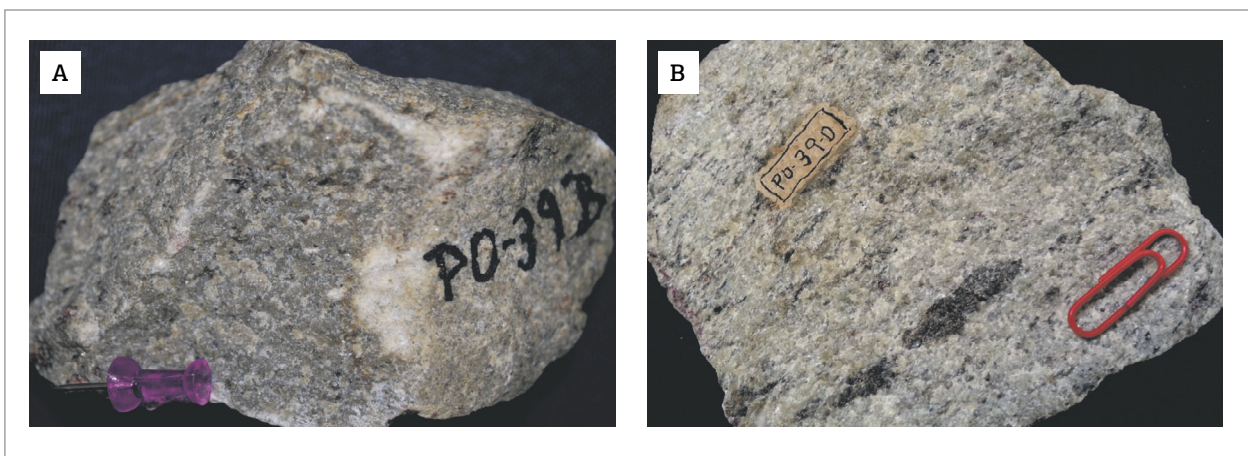


Figure 5. General aspects of garnet-bearing leuco-enderbite of Porangatu Granulite Complex: (A) Isotropic texture of fine-grained garnet granulite; (B) Slightly oriented biotite and garnet aggregates.



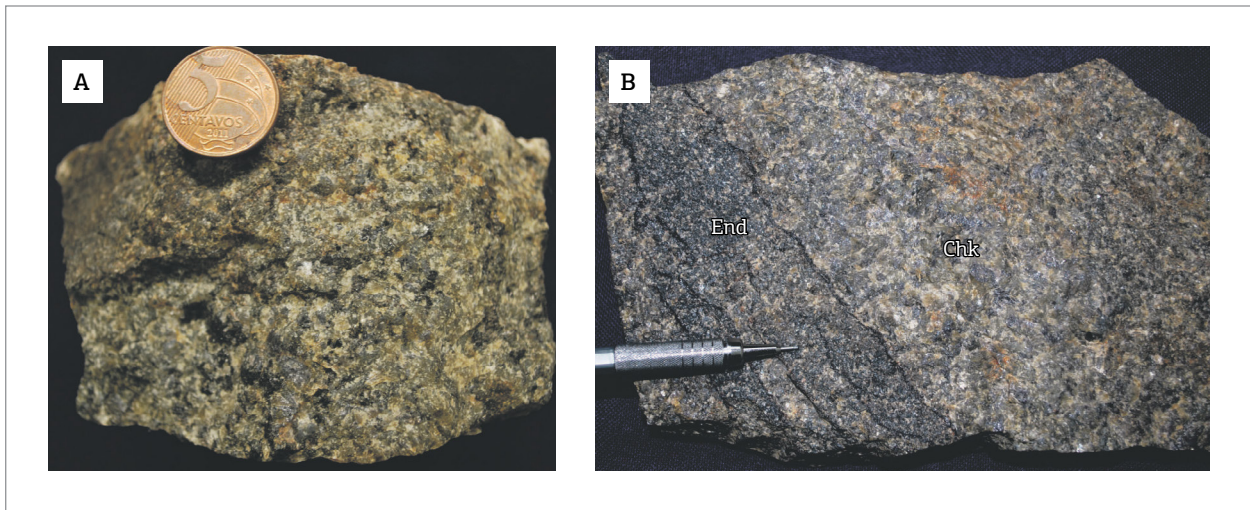


Figure 6. Hand specimens of the charnockite veins and irregular masses (Chk) of Porangatu Granulite Complex, showing their greenish colour and coarse-grained aspect with blue quartz (A) and fine-grained enclaves of the garnet enderbite (B).

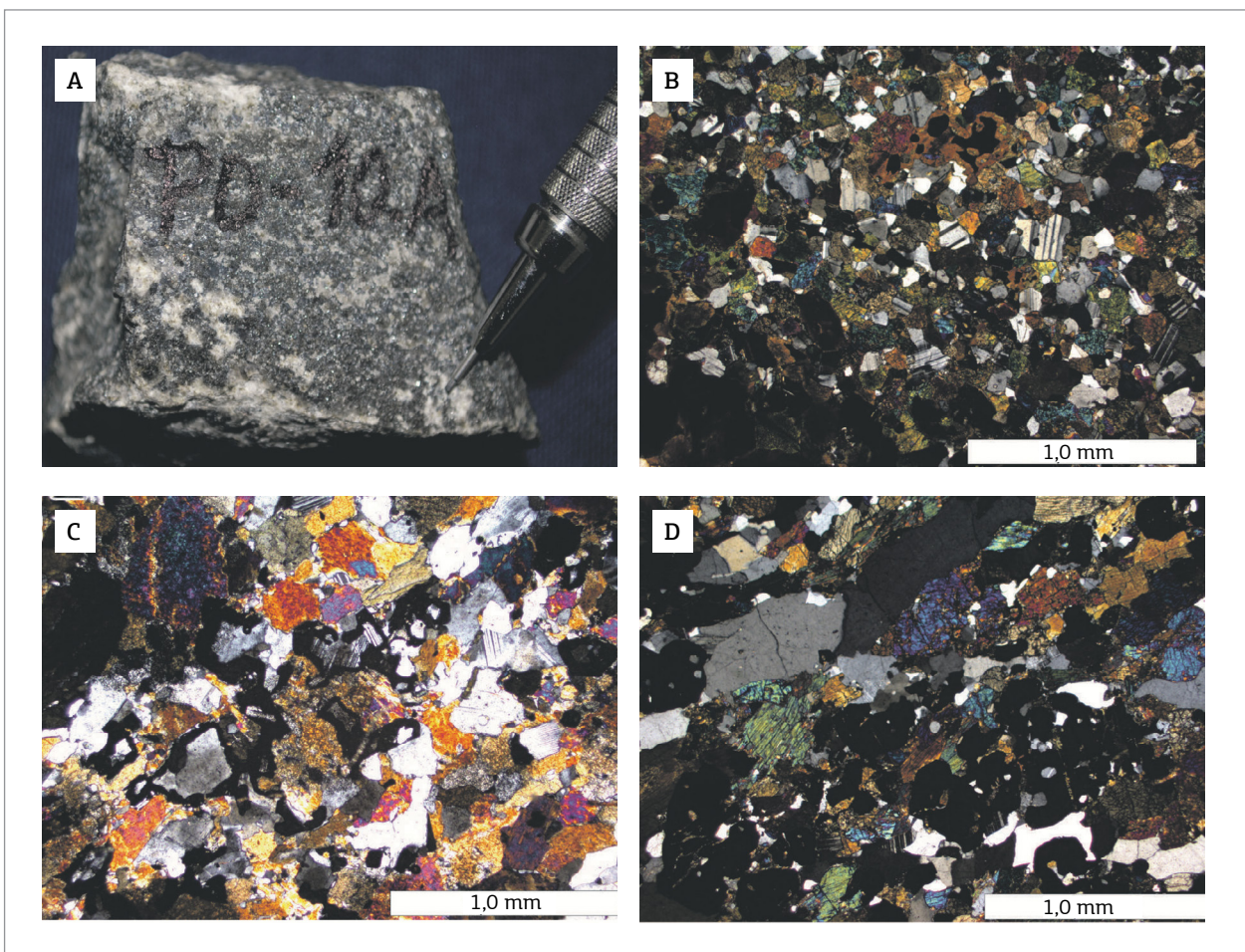


Figure 7. Petrographic aspects of the mafic granulites of Porangatu Granulite Complex: (A) isotropic fine-grained granulite; (B) Polygonal granoblastic texture defined by plagioclase, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene and hornblende; (C) Honeycomb-type garnet texture formed by reaction  $Pl + Cpx_1 (Opx) = Grt + Cpx_2 + Qtz$ ; (D) Garnet porphyroblasts rich in plagioclase and pyroxene inclusions. All photomicrographs under crossed polarizers.

The amphibolites form narrow or lens-shaped bodies within the mylonitic zone, oriented parallel to the main structural trend of NNE-SSW. They are mainly exposed along the eastern and western margins of the mylonitic domain. Their dimensions vary from metres to tens of kilometres. The largest of such bodies are the Serra da Bocaina and Barreirinho Vermelho amphibolites (Fig. 2). The first constitutes an 18-km long body with width ranging between 900 and 2,000 m. The Barreirinho

Vermelho Amphibolite also comprises a lens-shaped body of approximately the same size and is also elongated parallel to the regional mylonitic foliation. Several other smaller bodies are also present in the gneissic-supracrustal domain. They present nematoblastic or granoblastic texture and are formed by hornblende, diopside, calcic plagioclase ( $An_{63-75}$ ), minor amounts of titanite, biotite and quartz, and accessory apatite and opaque minerals (Fig. 8). Garnet amphibolites contain up

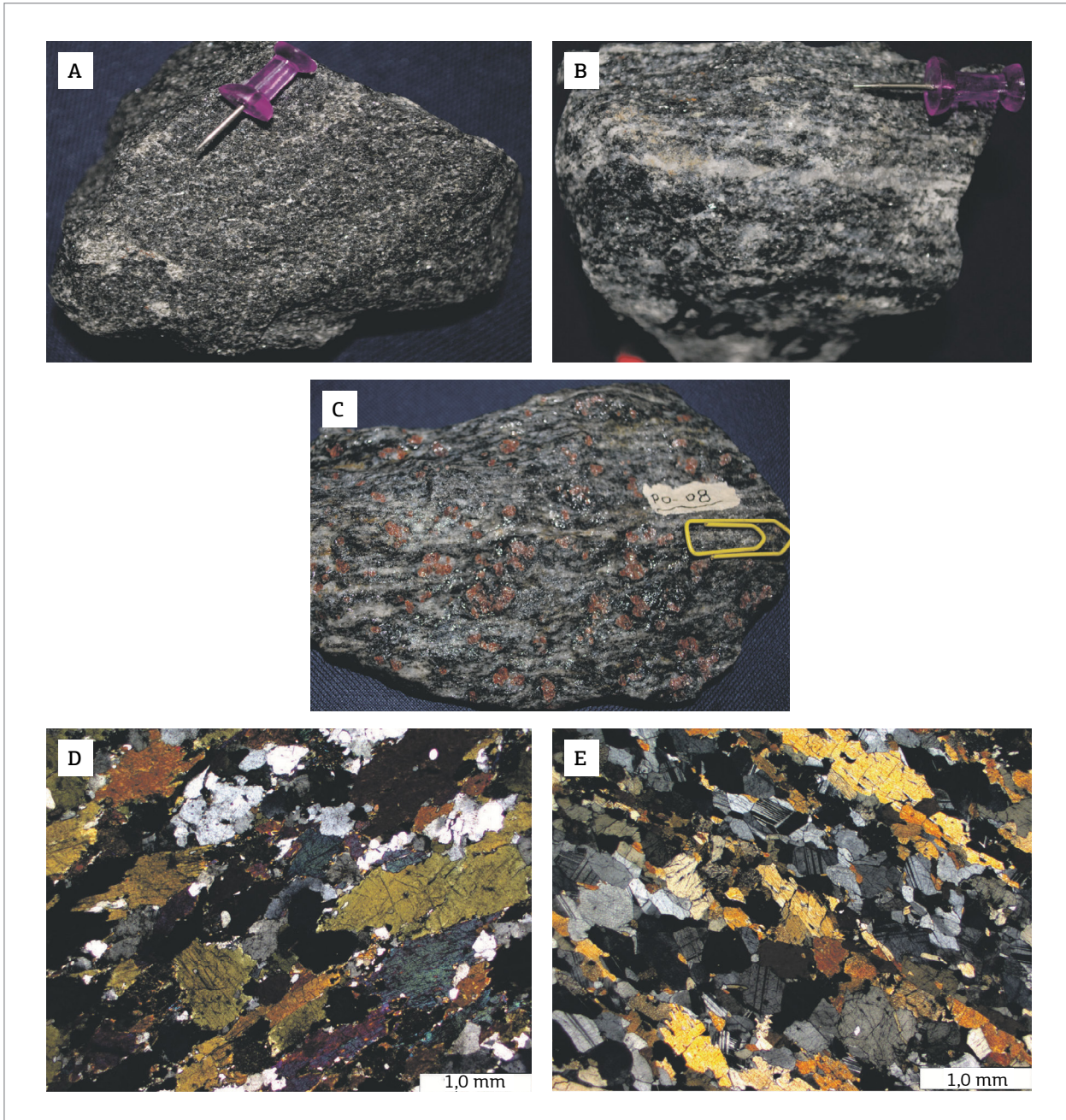


Figure 8. Petrographic aspects of the amphibolites of Porangatu Granulite Complex: (A) hornblende and plagioclase are oriented along the foliation; (B) Banded leucotonalitic leucosome (Pl-Qtz); (C) Garnet porphyroblasts in mylonitized amphibolite; (D) Nematoblastic texture marked by preferential orientation of hornblende and plagioclase; (E) Clinopyroxene amphibolite showing alteration of hornblende/clinopyroxene-rich bands with plagioclase-rich bands. All photo micrographs under crossed polarizers.

to 40% modal garnet, accompanied by labradorite (An<sub>50-56</sub>) and hornblende, and display porphyroblastic texture marked by ocellar garnet porphyroblasts. Coronitic textures are common, defined by garnet-clinopyroxene-quartz symplectites, which represent metamorphic reactions between plagioclase and clinopyroxene or hornblende. Amphibolites which do not contain garnet display a simple mineralogical association of calcic plagioclase, hornblende and titanite (up to 2% modal).

The metamorphic studies reveal that the Porangatu Complex comprises a high-grade metamorphic terrain that reached maximum metamorphic conditions in the granulite facies. Temperature and pressure above 850°C and 10 kbar are suggested by the following mineral parageneses: Opx + Cpx + Qtz + Ca-Pl Antip ± Mc + Grt ± Bt (felsic granulites, enderbites and charnockites); Opx + Cpx + Ca-Pl ± Hbl + Grt (mafic granulite); Ca-Pl + Cpx + Hbl ± Grt ± Ttn (amphibolites). Moreover, the occurrence of small charnockitic bodies and veins (patch and veinlet migmatite structures) isolated in enderbites and mafic granulites are indicative of anatectic processes at high-temperature in almost anhydrous environment.

### SHRIMP U-Pb Geochronology

For geochronological studies, samples were collected from two outcrops of the granulite terrain to the west of Cajueiro Village (Fig. 2). Zircon concentrates were obtained by conventional gravimetric and magnetic methods at the Institute of Geosciences of the Federal University of Pará. SHRIMP U-Pb geochronological analyses were carried out by ion microprobe at the Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra. Analytical work followed the general procedures described by Williams & Claesson (1987) and Compston *et al.* (1992). Concordia ages were calculated using Isoplot/Ex ([http://www.bgc.org/isoplot\\_etc/isoplot.html](http://www.bgc.org/isoplot_etc/isoplot.html)). Errors on ages reported in the figures and text are 2 sigma.

Two samples were selected for geochronology: a garnet mafic granulite and a charnockite. The latter represents small isolated bodies in garnet enderbite (see Fig. 6B), which are interpreted as anatectic melts formed at the climax of the granulite metamorphism.

Geochronological data for the mafic granulite (PO-07) are scattered (Tab. 1). Most analysed spots yield Paleoproterozoic ages between 1.8 and 2.2 Ga, although two spots give <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages of ca. 570 and 550 Ma, and another one, 485 Ma. The high Th/U ratios for all spots (0.27–0.49) are typical of igneous zircon. In the Wetherill diagram (Fig. 9) the majority of the data fall around a Discordia with an upper intercept at 2092 ± 16 Ma and an imprecise lower intercept at 548 ± 48 Ma, albeit with a high MSWD (4.1). This rough alignment suggests late Neoproterozoic Pb-loss

from Paleoproterozoic zircon formed at ca. 2.1 Ga, which is taken as the crystallization age of the protolith. The Pb-loss event is thought to be the high-temperature metamorphism, the age of which is better constrained by results on the charnockite.

In case of the charnockite (sample PO-40C), most zircons (22) gave Early Cambrian and Neoproterozoic <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages between 516 and 630 Ma (Table 2), with an upper intercept in the Wetherill concordia diagram at 583 ± 15 Ma (mean square of the weighted deviates – MSWD = 1.17) (Fig. 10A). Two groups are distinguished: (i) high Th/U (0.1 – 1.0, i.e., igneous grains) and (ii) low Th/U (0.01 – 0.04) metamorphic overgrowths that in cathodoluminescence images show as low luminescent rims around the igneous zircons, typical of metamorphic growth. Data for the first group (8 samples) give a Concordia age of 581 ± 15 Ma (Fig. 10B), of which 5 cluster at 567 ± 12 Ma (Fig. 10C). The <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages for the 14 low-Th/U zones range from 516 to 590 Ma, but the 9 most concordant of these give a Concordia age of 580 ± 8 Ma (Fig. 11). This is taken as clear evidence that the charnockite underwent high-T metamorphism at ca. 580 Ma, with possible slight Pb loss in some zircon. The age of the Neoproterozoic high Th/U grains in this rock cannot be distinguished from that of metamorphism and they are interpreted as having formed during the generation of charnockite neosomes in enderbite at granulite facies conditions; the combined age of this event is 577 ± 7 Ma.

There also are three older grains of 3.08, 1.96 and 0.88 Ga (<sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb ages) (Table 2). The Archaean and Paleoproterozoic ages have records in the Goiás Massif, and the 0.88 Ga inherited zircon grains are correlated with the Goiás Magmatic Arc.

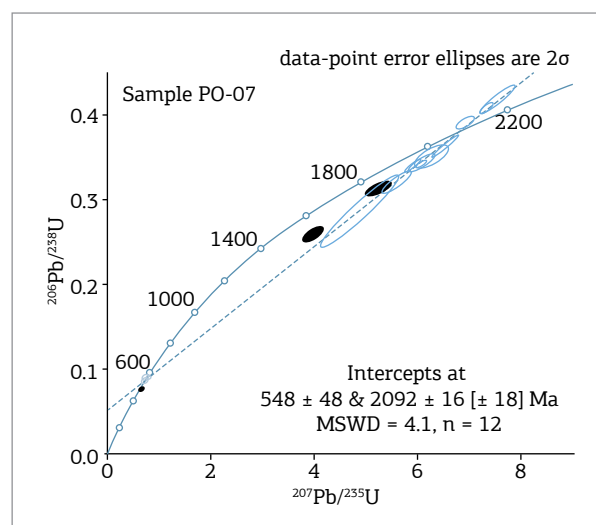


Figure 9. Zircon U-Pb concordia diagram for sample PO-07 (mafic granulite), with data of Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of SHRIMP U-Pb zircon data for sample PO-07.

Zircon	f206	U	Pb	Th	Th/U	Ratios <sup>#</sup>						
						<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	1s	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1s	Rho	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	1s
Spot	(%)	ppm	ppm	ppm			(%)		(%)			(%)
1.1	0.05	115	39	38	0.34	6.91152	0.95	0.39176	0.74	0.78	0.12795	0.60
1.2 *	0.62	84	19	22	0.27	3.96548	2.00	0.26110	1.26	0.63	0.11015	1.55
2.1	0.09	115	9	30	0.27	0.75867	4.22	0.09211	0.90	0.21	0.05973	4.12
3.1	0.35	52	13	18	0.36	4.86480	6.43	0.28736	6.21	0.97	0.12278	1.68
4.1 *	0.00	212	57	75	0.37	5.23078	1.91	0.31427	1.13	0.59	0.12071	1.54
5.1	0.05	258	91	123	0.49	7.34117	0.69	0.40912	0.59	0.86	0.13014	0.35
6.1	0.06	331	97	108	0.34	5.88674	1.02	0.34065	0.95	0.93	0.12533	0.36
7.1	0.05	372	110	177	0.49	6.07389	0.68	0.34250	0.56	0.82	0.12862	0.39
8.1	0.09	148	53	60	0.42	7.53998	1.76	0.41932	1.68	0.95	0.13041	0.53
9.1	0.14	112	34	38	0.35	6.24359	2.15	0.35222	1.53	0.71	0.12856	1.52
10.1	0.07	246	19	98	0.41	0.71813	2.83	0.08853	1.61	0.57	0.05883	2.33
10.2 *	0.21	149	10	43	0.30	0.63423	3.32	0.07809	1.56	0.47	0.05890	2.93
11.1	0.02	1245	369	324	0.27	6.06551	1.62	0.34482	1.43	0.88	0.12758	0.76
11.2	0.02	1307	361	397	0.31	5.59211	2.12	0.32124	1.86	0.88	0.12625	1.01
12.1	0.03	431	135	165	0.40	6.53532	1.45	0.36460	1.41	0.98	0.13000	0.30

Table 1. Continuation.

Zircon	Ages (Ma)						Conc.
	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1s	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	1s	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	1s	
Spot		abs		abs		abs	(%)
1.1	2131.0	15.7	2100.1	20.0	2070.0	12.5	101.5
1.2 *	1495.4	18.8	1627.2	32.5	1801.9	27.9	91.9
2.1	568.0	5.1	573.2	24.2	594.0	24.5	99.1
3.1	1628.3	101.1	1796.2	115.5	1997.1	33.5	90.7
4.1 *	1761.7	20.0	1857.6	35.5	1966.8	30.3	94.8
5.1	2210.9	13.0	2153.8	14.8	2099.9	7.4	102.6
6.1	1889.8	17.9	1959.3	19.9	2033.5	7.4	96.5
7.1	1898.7	10.7	1986.5	13.6	2079.2	8.0	95.6
8.1	2257.4	37.8	2177.8	38.3	2103.5	11.2	103.7
9.1	1945.2	29.7	2010.6	43.3	2078.4	31.6	96.7
10.1	546.8	8.8	549.6	15.6	561.0	13.1	99.5
10.2 *	484.7	7.5	498.7	16.6	563.5	16.5	97.2
11.1	1909.8	27.2	1985.3	32.1	2064.9	15.7	96.2
11.2	1795.8	33.4	1914.9	40.5	2046.4	20.7	93.8
12.1	2004.0	28.3	2050.7	29.6	2098.0	6.3	97.7

f206 is the percentage of the common Pb found in <sup>206</sup>Pb, # is the ratios corrected for common Pb, \*Zircons excluded from the calculation of age. Error in Standard calibration was 0.63% (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts). Rho is the error correlation defined as the quotient of the propagated errors of the <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U and the <sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>235</sup>U ratio. Concordance: Degree of concordance = (<sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U age / <sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>235</sup>U age)\*100.

Table 2. Summary of SHRIMP U-Pb zircon data for sample PO-40C distinguishing high Th/U and low Th/U.

Zircon	f206	U	Pb	Th	Th/U	Ratios <sup>#</sup>						
						<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	1s	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1s	Rho	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	1s
Spot	(%)	ppm	ppm	ppm			(%)		(%)			(%)
1.1	0.27	426	38	86	0.20	0.83859	2.92	0.10350	2.67	0.92	0.05892	1.17
2.2 c	0.01	236	18	156	0.66	0.72839	3.05	0.08863	2.72	0.89	0.05961	1.38
7.1	0.23	615	52	169	0.27	0.81020	2.94	0.09809	2.67	0.91	0.06004	1.24
8.2 *	0.17	766	85	498	0.65	1.18506	2.80	0.12872	2.70	0.97	0.06688	0.73
9.1 c	0.39	265	21	230	0.87	0.73486	3.74	0.09129	2.70	0.72	0.05861	2.59
9.2 c	0.36	211	17	141	0.67	0.74935	3.52	0.09294	2.70	0.77	0.05869	2.25
10.1 *	0.11	116	48	77	0.66	15.44790	5.37	0.48086	4.65	0.87	0.23325	2.69
10.2 *	0.08	487	92	180	0.37	3.65378	2.74	0.22108	2.67	0.98	0.11996	0.57
11.1 c	0.24	147	12	14	0.09	0.76112	3.52	0.09157	2.72	0.77	0.06043	2.23
13.1	0.08	222	18	187	0.84	0.81900	3.62	0.09616	3.20	0.88	0.06182	1.68
16.2 c	0.20	328	27	340	1.04	0.76837	2.95	0.09430	2.68	0.91	0.05921	1.23
2.1	0.37	215	16	1	0.01	0.69955	4.81	0.08579	3.84	0.80	0.05936	2.89
3.1 c	0.04	498	41	9	0.02	0.79422	2.84	0.09582	2.70	0.95	0.06013	0.86
4.1 c	0.13	538	43	4	0.01	0.75297	2.91	0.09283	2.71	0.93	0.05890	1.06
5.1	0.14	422	31	3	0.01	0.70267	3.05	0.08542	2.67	0.87	0.05974	1.48
6.1 c	0.08	751	60	5	0.01	0.76500	2.75	0.09289	2.66	0.97	0.05978	0.72
6.2	0.09	281	21	12	0.04	0.70103	3.05	0.08526	2.71	0.89	0.05969	1.39
8.1 c	0.15	368	30	6	0.02	0.78585	2.94	0.09572	2.69	0.91	0.05963	1.20
11.2 c	0.05	478	39	4	0.01	0.77155	2.85	0.09425	2.71	0.95	0.05940	0.87
12.1	0.15	296	23	3	0.01	0.74167	2.92	0.08865	2.68	0.92	0.06076	1.16
14.1	0.24	416	30	5	0.01	0.66730	2.87	0.08336	2.70	0.94	0.05820	0.98
15.1 c	0.12	504	40	3	0.01	0.76411	2.83	0.09340	2.66	0.94	0.05940	0.96
16.1 c	0.11	406	33	4	0.01	0.76594	2.87	0.09504	2.67	0.93	0.05852	1.05
17.1 c	0.08	383	31	5	0.01	0.76125	2.91	0.09301	2.72	0.94	0.05940	1.03
18.1 c	0.17	513	42	5	0.01	0.76623	2.88	0.09482	2.66	0.92	0.05871	1.10

Continue...

Table 2. Continuation.

Zircon	Ages (Ma)						Conc.
	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	1s	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$	1s	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	1s	
Spot		abs		abs		abs	(%)
1.1	634.9	16.9	618.4	18.0	564.1	6.6	102.7
2.2 c	547.5	14.9	555.6	17.0	589.4	8.1	98.5
7.1	603.2	16.1	602.6	17.7	605.1	7.5	100.1
8.2 *	780.6	21.1	793.7	22.2	834.1	6.1	98.4
9.1 c	563.2	15.2	559.4	20.9	552.6	14.3	100.7
9.2 c	572.9	15.5	567.8	20.0	555.5	12.5	100.9
10.1 *	2531.0	117.7	2843.3	152.8	3074.5	82.7	89.0
10.2 *	1287.6	34.4	1561.3	42.7	1955.7	11.2	82.5
11.1 c	564.8	15.3	574.7	20.2	619.1	13.8	98.3
13.1	591.9	18.9	607.5	22.0	668.0	11.2	97.4
16.2 c	580.9	15.6	578.8	17.1	575.0	7.1	100.4
2.1	530.6	20.4	538.5	25.9	580.3	16.8	98.5
3.1 c	589.9	16.0	593.6	16.8	608.4	5.2	99.4
4.1 c	572.2	15.5	569.9	16.6	563.6	6.0	100.4
5.1	528.4	14.1	540.4	16.5	594.2	8.8	97.8
6.1 c	572.6	15.2	576.9	15.9	595.5	4.3	99.3
6.2	527.4	14.3	539.4	16.4	592.3	8.2	97.8
8.1 c	589.3	15.8	588.8	17.3	590.2	7.1	100.1
11.2 c	580.6	15.7	580.7	16.5	581.8	5.0	100.0
12.1	547.6	14.7	563.4	16.5	630.9	7.3	97.2
14.1	516.2	13.9	519.1	14.9	537.2	5.3	99.4
15.1 c	575.6	15.3	576.4	16.3	581.8	5.6	99.9
16.1 c	585.3	15.6	577.4	16.6	549.1	5.8	101.4
17.1 c	573.3	15.6	574.7	16.7	581.9	6.0	99.8
18.1 c	584.0	15.6	577.6	16.6	556.3	6.1	101.1

$f_{206}$  is the percentage of the common Pb found in  $^{206}\text{Pb}$ , # is the ratios corrected for common Pb, \*Zircons excluded from the calculation of age. Error in Standard calibration was 0.85% (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts). Rho is the error correlation defined as the quotient of the propagated errors of the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  and the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  ratio. Concordance: Degree of concordance =  $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U} \text{ age} / ^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U} \text{ age}) * 100$ , c = Concordia Age

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Geological mapping, structural data combined with petrographic and geochronological studies using the SHRIMP U-Pb technique of high-grade metamorphic rocks of the Porangatu Granulite Complex indicate the presence of Archaean and Paleoproterozoic continental crustal material, which was strongly reworked during Brasiliano orogeny. The field and structural data reveal the presence of Neoproterozoic granulitic

rocks preserved within the wide, ductile, high-temperature NNE-SSW Talismã Shear Zone (TSZ), flanked to the east by older gneiss terrains. The granulite rocks are juxtaposed with medium-high grade mylonitic gneisses, representing a mixture of lower and middle crustal rocks.

The SHRIMP U-Pb geochronological data indicate that the protoliths of mafic granulite are Paleoproterozoic (ca. 2.1 Ga) which were metamorphosed under high-grade conditions at 500-600 Ma, as indicated by an imprecise lower intercept

age. The high-grade metamorphism also caused anatexis resulting in charnockite derived from enderbite gneiss. U-Pb ages for anatectic igneous zircon and metamorphic zircon are indistinguishable within the limits of their combined age of  $580 \pm 7$  Ma. These Neoproterozoic ages for the granulite

metamorphism are smaller than those reported for other granulites (ca. 0.65 Ga) within the Brasília Belt, suggesting that the evolution of the Porangatu Granulite Complex is more likely associated with the evolution of the younger Araguaia Belt, and suggests that the final closure of the Araguaia ocean separating the Amazonian and São Francisco-Congo Craton took place later than previously suggested.

The structural data for this region suggest a collisional setting initiated by oblique thrusts followed by a dextral strike-slip system (TSZ), which is part of the transcontinental Transbrasiliano-Kandi Lineament. It is likely, however, that the initial deformational features involved important thrust components, responsible for the exhumation of rocks of the lower crust such as large lenses of infracrustal granulites (> 30 km) with several elongated amphibolite and anatectic granitoid bodies, all emplaced at the same crustal level as the old gneiss-migmatite terrains. The granulites are juxtaposed with mylonitic gneisses, representing an important tectonic mixture of rock units of different crustal levels and ages (Archean, Paleoproterozoic, Neoproterozoic). The data suggest that charnockite PO-40C was emplaced at deep crustal levels and, therefore, igneous and metamorphic zircon crystals show essentially the same age (0.57 – 0.59 Ga). Inherited Archean and Paleoproterozoic zircon grains indicate the presence of older crustal material, as recorded in the Goiás Massif and Goiás Magmatic Arc.

Two relevant observations should be investigated in the future:

1. granulites and other metamorphic rocks, just to the west of the Serra Azul-Cajueiro Lineament, indicate younger high-grade metamorphic ages compared to the general pattern of Neoproterozoic granulites in other areas of

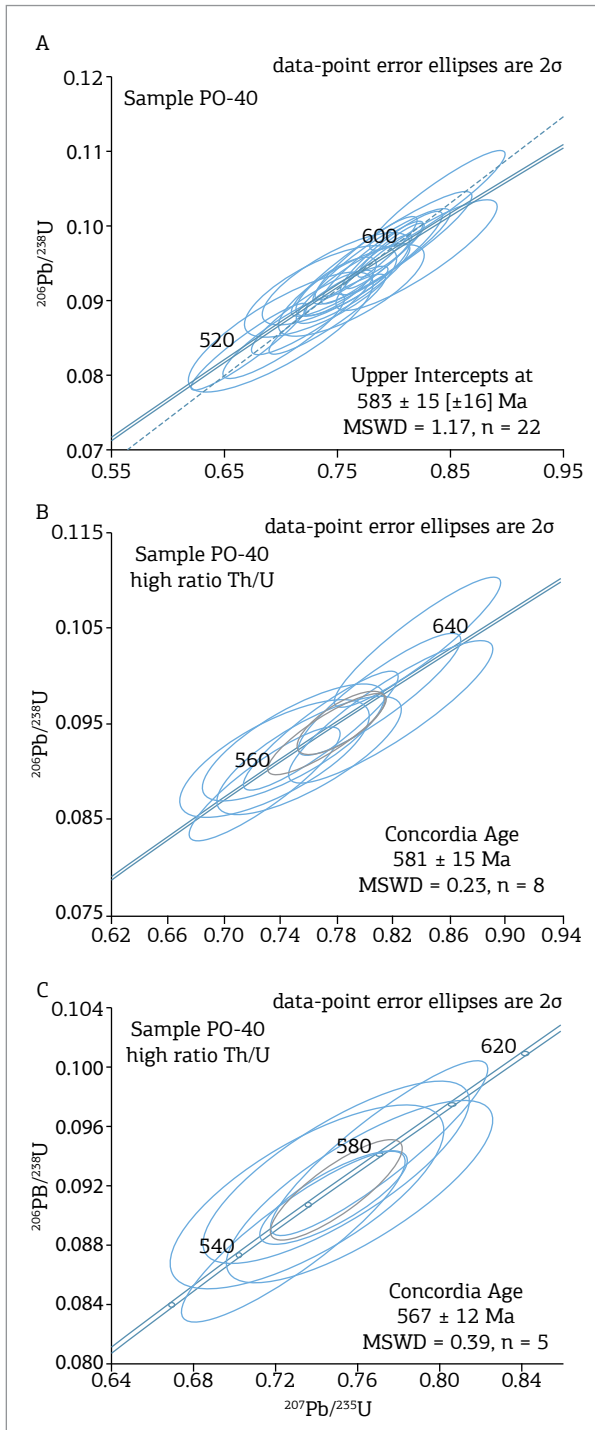


Figure 10. U-Pb concordia diagram for zircon grains sample PO-40C (neosome charnockite) of Table 2: (A) All zircon grain; (B) High Th/U for eight zircon grains; (C) High Th/U for five zircon grains.

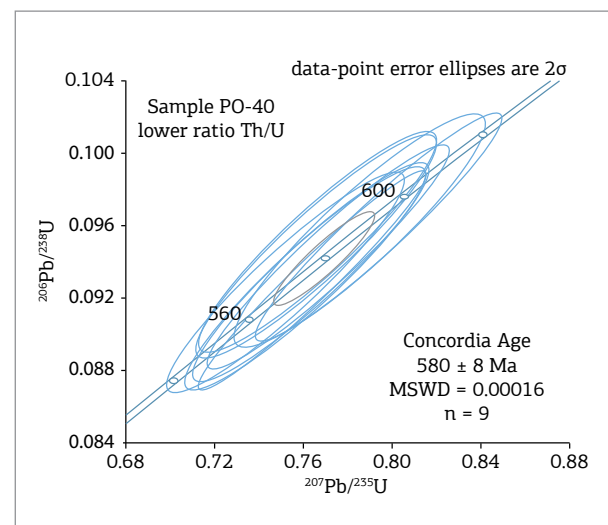


Figure 11. U-Pb concordia diagram for a selection of the most concordant low Th/U zircon grains from sample PO-40C (charnockite).

the Brasília Belt; for instance, granulites of the Uruaçú and Anápolis-Itaçu complexes have metamorphic zircon ages between ca. 0.65 - 0.63 Ga, approximately 60 Ma older than the Porangatu granulites; and

2. young high-grade rocks are identified in other areas along the TBL, for example granulitic rocks of Porto Nacional Complex associated with the Carreira Comprida Anorthosite further to the north, which yielded igneous age of ca. 0.53 Ga (Lima *et al.* 2008), and granitic orthogneisses in the region of São Miguel do Araguaia to the south, with U-Pb ages of ca. 0.57 - 0.53 Ga (Dantas *et al.* 2006, 2007).

These two observations probably mean that the high-grade rocks exposed roughly along the Transbrasiliiano Lineament (TBL) may be related to late Neoproterozoic or even early Cambrian tectonic events along this shear zone, an event that is most likely related to the evolution of the Araguaia Belt, rather than to the Brasília Belt.

The metamorphic studies reveal that the Porangatu Complex comprises a high-grade metamorphic terrain which reached maximum metamorphic conditions in granulite facies, with temperatures above 850°C and a pressure greater than 10 kbar. This condition is suggested by the parageneses Opx + Cpx + Qtz + Ca-Pl Antip ± Mc + Grt ± Bt (felsic granulites, enderbites and charnockites); Opx + Cpx + Ca-Pl + Hbl + Grt (mafic granulite); Ca-Pl + Cpx + Hbl ± Grt ± Ttn (amphibolites). Moreover, small bodies of charnockitic neosomes within the enderbitic and mafic granulites are the products of in situ anatexis during high-grade metamorphism in an anhydrous environment. Published data and those reported here indicate that the TBL is a high-grade ductile shear-zone superimposed and clearly discordant to the Brasília Belt and that its age is ca. 570-580 Ma, i.e., Late Neoproterozoic.

Along the TBL from the center of Tocantins State as far as the northwest of Ceará are mega-lenses of granulitic rocks representing slices of the lower crust in the aligned NNE-SSW direction. The main representatives are the granulitic complexes of Porangatu, Porto Nacional, Granja, Cariré and Macaco (Gorayeb 1996a, Gorayeb & Abreu 1998, Gorayeb *et al.* 2000, Amaral *et al.*, 2012, Praxedes *et al.* 2012). These bodies are closely associated with high temperature ductile shear zones in several branches of the TBL and record of the

initial stages of the continental collision, which led to the exhumation of infracrustal rocks at the end of the Neoproterozoic. In spite of the great distances between these granulitic bodies, the common point in addition to the reworking in shear zones is the similarity in the age of the high-grade metamorphism in the Neoproterozoic (Granja - 572 ± 32 Ma; Cariré - ca. 589 Ma) on Paleoproterozoic protolith, which are coincident with the ages of Porangatu. The age of the TBL is still imprecise, and requires specific studies in the high-temperature mylonite zones. However, anorogenic granitic plutons from the Lageado suite dated between 552 and 545 Ma (Gorayeb *et al.* 2013) cut the granulitic rocks and TBL structures, at the end of the Neoproterozoic. Emplacement of these plutons is related to an extensional tectonic system representing reactivation of this lineament. This makes it possible to bracket the formation of the TBL between approximately 550 and 580 Ma.

We may compare the geological data of the granulitic rocks of Porangatu with those of Porto Nacional to the north (Gorayeb *et al.* 2000), and the Cariré Granulite Belt in northwestern Ceará (Gorayeb & Abreu 1989, Santos *et al.* 2008a, 2008b). The structural and geochronological characteristics are very similar and reveal an intimate association with TBL, which can be interpreted as representing lower portions (roots) of the Tocantins Orogen at 570 - 580 Ma. The data presented here are significant for the evolutionary understanding of the Brasiliiano system, and consequently of the geology of central Brazil, and even for West Gondwana amalgamation.

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