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### Abstract

The complex European–Adria geodynamic framework, which led to the formation of the Alpine belt, is considered responsible for the orogenic magmatism that occurred in the Central Alps along the Periadriatic/Insubric Line (late Eocene–early Oligocene) and the anorogenic magmatism that occurred in the Southeastern Alps (late Paleocene–early Miocene). While subduction–related magmatic activities are expected near convergent margins, the presence of the intraplate–related magmatic products is still puzzling. Therefore, in this work new geochemical and geochronological data of magmatic products from the Veneto Volcanic Province (VVP, north–east Italy) are provided in order to constrain the Cenozoic intraplate magmatism of the Southeastern Alps. The VVP is formed by dominant basic–ultrabasic (from nephelinites to tholeiites) magmatic products and by localized acid (latitic, trachytic, and rhyolitic) volcanic and sub–volcanic bodies. Trace element patterns and ratios suggest that the mantle source of the basanitic magma types was a phlogopite–bearing garnet lherzolite, while those of the tholeiitic magma types was an anhydrous (i.e., without residual phlogopite and amphibole) garnet lherzolite. All the basic–ultrabasic VVP magmatic products exhibit enrichments in Ba, Sr, and P, indicating the mantle sources could be metasomatized by carbonatitic melts. According to the biostratigraphic records and our new  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages, VVP eruptions occurred in several pulses, reflecting the extensional phases experienced by the Eastern Alpine domain. The volcanism started in the late Paleocene in the western sector of the VVP where activity was widespread also during the Eocene ( $45.21 \pm 0.11$  Ma –  $38.73 \pm 0.44$  Ma). In the eastern sector eruptions took place only in the early Oligocene ( $32.35 \pm 0.09$  Ma –  $32.09 \pm 0.29$  Ma) and in the early Miocene (~ 22 – 23 Ma). Previously, as suggested for neighboring orogenic magmatism, also the anorogenic magmatic activities were interpreted as resulting from mantle upwellings through slab window(s) following the European slab break–off occurred ~ 35 Ma. However, considering i) new tomographic images evidencing a continuous subvertical slab beneath the Central Alps, and ii) the onset of magmatic activity in the VVP in the late Paleocene (i.e., before the slab break–off) and its continuation until Miocene, we propose an alternative geodynamic scenario to explain the anorogenic magmatism. The westward rollback of the European slab caused the retreat and steepening of the sinking plate. As a consequence, the sub–slab mantle material escaped and upwelled from the front of the slab and created a poloidal mantle flow. The latter induced the breakdown of carbonates in calcareous metasediments and carbonated metabasics within the subducting oceanic slab, providing carbonatitic melts, which could be responsible for the metasomatism of the VVP mantle sources. After that, the poloidal mantle flow also induced i) the extensional deformation in the overriding Adria microplate and ii) the decompressional melting of VVP mantle sources, iii) triggering the magmatism with intraplate affinity. During these processes, the Adria microplate also rotated counterclockwise, allowing the poloidal mantle flow to affect different portions of the overlying lithosphere and generating up to five eruptive centers within the VVP.

<b>Keywords</b>	Intraplate magmatism; $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ geochronology; Poloidal mantle flow; Southeastern Alps; Veneto Volcanic Province
<b>Corresponding Author</b>	Costanza Bonadiman
<b>Corresponding Author's Institution</b>	University of Ferrara, Department of Physics and Earth Sciences
<b>Order of Authors</b>	Valentina Brombin, Costanza Bonadiman, Fred Jourdan, Guido Roghi, Massimo Coltorti, Laura E. Webb, Sara Callegaro, Giuliano Bellieni, Giampaolo De Vecchi, Roberto Sedeà, Andrea Marzoli
<b>Suggested reviewers</b>	Gilles Chazot, Marco Brenna, Maurizio Mazzucchelli, Alberto Zanetti

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Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the manuscript: **Intraplate magmatism at a convergent plate boundary, the case of the Cenozoic northern Adria magmatism** by Valentina Brombin, Costanza Bonadiman, Fred Jourdan, Guido Roghi, Massimo Coltorti, Laura E. Webb, Sara Callegaro, Giuliano Bellieni, Giampaolo De Vecchi, Roberto Sedeà, and Andrea Marzoli for a potential publication in Earth-Science Reviews.

The manuscript presents new geochemical and geochronological data of Cenozoic intraplate-related ultrabasic, basic, and acid magmatic products from the Veneto Volcanic Province, a magmatic province of the Southeastern Alpine domain (north-east Italy). Such products were investigated in order to explain the occurrence of magmatic products with anorogenic signature in the Southeastern Alps domain, during the Alpine orogenesis.

The new major and trace element geochemical data of the Southeastern Alps magmatic products allowed to constrain the potential nature and evolution of their mantle source(s), while the combination of the biostratigraphic data and the new high-resolution  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages allowed to reconstruct the temporal evolution of the Veneto Volcanic Province magmatism.

Finally, both geochemical and geochronological data were used to review the intriguing geodynamic scenario of the Alpine domain, to explain the occurrence of anorogenic magmatic events in a subduction-dominated geological setting.

For all these aspects, we believe this work may be considered for publication with Earth-Science Reviews. This manuscript is an original work, which has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

All the authors have seen the manuscript and agree about its submission to Earth-Science Reviews.

Even if we have no particular preferences about potential reviewers, we suggest the following scientists: Maurizio Muzzucchelli (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy); Marco

Brenna (Univesity of Otago, New Zealand); Gilles Chazot (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, UBO, France); Alberto Zanetti (IGG-CNR, Pavia, Italy).

Thank you very much for your consideration and handling.

For the authors,

Costanza Bonadiman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Costanza Bonadiman", written over a thin horizontal line.

## **Intraplate magmatism at a convergent plate boundary, the case of the Cenozoic northern Adria magmatism**

Valentina Brombin<sup>a</sup>, Costanza Bonadiman<sup>a\*</sup>, Fred Jourdan<sup>b</sup>, Guido Roghi<sup>c</sup>, Massimo Coltorti<sup>a</sup>,  
Laura E. Webb<sup>d</sup>, Sara Callegaro<sup>e</sup>, Giuliano Bellieni<sup>f</sup>, Giampaolo De Vecchi<sup>f</sup>, Roberto Sede<sup>f</sup>  
Andrea Marzoli<sup>c,f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, Università di Ferrara, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility, School of Earth and Planetary Sciences & JdL Centre, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia;*

<sup>c</sup> *Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse, CNR, Padova, Italy*

<sup>d</sup> *Department of Geology, University of Vermont, Vermont, USA;*

<sup>e</sup> *Centre for Earth Evolution and Dynamics, University of Oslo, Norway;*

<sup>f</sup> *Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Università di Padova, Italy*

\* Corresponding author: [bdc@unife.it](mailto:bdc@unife.it)

## ABSTRACT

The complex European–Adria geodynamic framework, which led to the formation of the Alpine belt, is considered responsible for the orogenic magmatism that occurred in the Central Alps along the Periadriatic/Insubric Line (late Eocene–early Oligocene) and the anorogenic magmatism that occurred in the Southeastern Alps (late Paleocene–early Miocene). While subduction–related magmatic activities are expected near convergent margins, the presence of the intraplate–related magmatic products is still puzzling. Therefore, in this work new geochemical and geochronological data of magmatic products from the Veneto Volcanic Province (VVP, north–east Italy) are provided in order to constrain the Cenozoic intraplate magmatism of the Southeastern Alps. The VVP is formed by dominant basic–ultrabasic (from nephelinites to tholeiites) magmatic products and by localized acid (latitic, trachytic, and rhyolitic) volcanic and sub–volcanic bodies. Trace element patterns and ratios suggest that the mantle source of the basanitic magma types was a phlogopite–bearing garnet lherzolite, while those of the tholeiitic magma types was an anhydrous (i.e., without residual phlogopite and amphibole) garnet lherzolite. All the basic–ultrabasic VVP magmatic products exhibit enrichments in Ba, Sr, and P, indicating the mantle sources could be metasomatized by carbonatitic melts. According to the biostratigraphic records and our new  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages, VVP eruptions occurred in several pulses, reflecting the extensional phases experienced by the Eastern Alpine domain. The volcanism started in the late Paleocene in the western sector of the VVP where activity was widespread also during the Eocene ( $45.21 \pm 0.11$  Ma –  $38.73 \pm 0.44$  Ma). In the eastern sector eruptions took place only in the early Oligocene ( $32.35 \pm 0.09$  Ma –  $32.09 \pm 0.29$  Ma) and in the early Miocene ( $\sim 22$  –  $23$  Ma). Previously, as suggested for neighboring orogenic magmatism, also the anorogenic magmatic activities were interpreted as resulting from mantle upwellings through slab window(s) following the European slab break–off occurred  $\sim 35$  Ma. However, considering i) new tomographic images evidencing a continuous subvertical slab beneath the Central Alps, and ii) the onset of magmatic activity in the VVP in the late Paleocene (i.e., before the slab break–off) and its continuation until Miocene, we propose an alternative geodynamic scenario to explain the anorogenic magmatism. The westward rollback of the European slab caused the retreat and steepening of the sinking plate. As a consequence, the sub–slab mantle material escaped and upwelled from the front of the slab and created a poloidal mantle flow. The latter induced the breakdown of carbonates in calcareous metasediments and carbonated metabasics within the subducting oceanic slab, providing

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16 7 <sup>a</sup> *Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, Università di Ferrara, Italy*

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18 8 <sup>b</sup> *Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility, School of Earth and Planetary Sciences & JdL Centre,*  
19  
20 9 *Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia;*

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22 10 <sup>c</sup> *Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse, CNR, Padova, Italy*

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24 11 <sup>d</sup> *Department of Geology, University of Vermont, Vermont, USA;*

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26 12 <sup>e</sup> *Centre for Earth Evolution and Dynamics, University of Oslo, Norway;*

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28 13 <sup>f</sup> *Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Università di Padova, Italy*

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63 **16 ABSTRACT**  
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151 55 **KEYWORDS**  
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153 56 Intraplate magmatism;  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  geochronology; Poloidal mantle flow; Southeastern Alps; Veneto  
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155 57 Volcanic Province  
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183 **58 1. INTRODUCTION**  
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185 59 Synchronous orogenic (or subduction-related) and anorogenic (or intraplate-like) magmatic events  
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187 60 can occur near subductive zones (*e.g.*, Okete–Alexandra Volcanic Province in New Zealand, Briggs  
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189 61 and McDonough 1990; Cook et al., 2005; Faccini et al., 2018; north–west Turkey, Aldanmaz et al.,  
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191 2006; Perşani volcanic field and South Harghita, in south-east Carpathian, Seghedi et al., 2011;  
192 62 Faccini et al., 2018; Kurdistan Province, western Iran, Allen et al., 2013; Trans–Mexican Volcanic  
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194 63 Belt, Neumann et al., 2016; Payenia Volcanic Province in Argentina, Pallares et al., 2016). Calc–  
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196 64 alkaline volcanism is expected at convergent margins (*e.g.*, Fytikas et al., 1984; de Boer et al., 1988;  
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198 65 Bradley et al., 2003; Kay et al., 2007; Aragón et al., 2013), whereas many interpretations have been  
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200 66 proposed to explain the apparently unusual occurrence of magmatism with intraplate geochemical  
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202 67 signatures in collisional settings. These magmas have been related to i) upwelling of a mantle plume  
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204 68 through a slab window after a slab detachment (*e.g.*, Ferrari, 2004); ii) activation of extensional  
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206 69 faulting in the foreland after a collisional event (*e.g.*, Verma, 2002; Aldanmaz et al., 2006); and iii)  
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208 70 lateral and frontal ingress of asthenosphere into the mantle wedge region induced by sinking and  
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210 71 rollback of the slab (*e.g.*, Ferrari et al., 2001; Faccenna et al., 2011; Neumann et al., 2016).  
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213 73 In order to contribute to this (global scale) debate we investigated the relationship between the Alpine  
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215 74 regional tectonic evolution and the alkaline to tholeiitic magmatic activity that affected the  
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217 75 Southeastern Alps from Paleocene to Miocene. Such activity generated the Veneto Volcanic Province  
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219 76 (VVP), one of the widest magmatic districts of the Adria microplate (Fig. 1). The VVP magmas are  
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221 77 characterized by an intraplate geochemical signature, whereas contemporaneous middle Eocene-early  
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223 78 Oligocene sub-alkaline to calc-alkaline basic plutons and dikes along the Periadriatic/Insubric Line  
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225 79 in the Central Alps display a subduction fingerprint (*i.e.*, Bergell, Triangia, Adamello; Brack, 1981,  
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227 80 1984; Kagami et al., 1991; von Blanckenburg, 1992; Callegari and Brack, 2002; Oberli et al., 2004;  
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229 81 Harangi et al., 2006; Conticelli et al., 2009; Schaltegger et al., 2009; Alagna et al., 2010; Bergomi et  
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231 82 al., 2015; Fig. 1a). The Periadriatic Cenozoic subduction-related magmatism of the Central Alps is  
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233 83 generally related to upwelling of asthenospheric mantle material through a slab window after the late  
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84 Eocene Adria–Europe continental collision (~ 35 Ma; Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum and  
85 Lister, 2005). The mantle flow heated the supra-subduction hydrated mantle wedge, causing melting  
86 of the subcontinental lithosphere (Bergomi et al., 2015). According to the literature, the slab break–  
87 off occurrence may explain also the alkaline magmatism in the Southeastern Alps: mantle diapirs  
88 were sucked into the slab window and upwelled towards shallower levels heating the overriding  
89 lithospheric plate to the point of triggering partial melting (Macera et al., 2003; Bergomi et al., 2015).  
90 However, this interpretation is not consistent with the late Paleocene onset of the Southeastern Alps  
91 magmatism, *i.e.* before the supposed slab break–off, as suggested by biostratigraphic data. Aiming to  
92 unravel the interaction between the alkaline magmatism and the Alpine orogenesis, we combine the  
93 literature biostratigraphic data with new high–resolution  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages of magmatic products from  
94 the Southeastern Alps. In doing this, we also present new major and trace element geochemical data  
95 of the Southeastern Alps magmatic products to constrain the potential nature and evolution of their  
96 mantle source(s).

## 98 2. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF THE ALPS

99 Both orogenic and anorogenic igneous activities within the Alpine realm are connected with the  
100 relative movements of the European plate and Adria microplate, which are still debated after a century  
101 of detailed structural work. Convergence of the two plates is considered to have started in the Early  
102 Cretaceous as a result of the final closure of the Meliata Ocean, a back–arc basin, which separated  
103 the two continental plates since the early Permian (Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum et al.,  
104 2002; Dézes et al., 2004; Schmid et al., 2004, Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). The convergence of the  
105 Adria microplate and European plate marks the onset of the Alpine orogenesis, which occurred along  
106 the northern margin of the Adria microplate (Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum et al., 2002;  
107 Schmid et al., 2004, Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). In particular, orogenic processes took place first  
108 in the Eastern Alps (peak of high–pressure metamorphism at ~ 100–90 Ma) and then in the Western  
109 Alps (peak of high–pressure metamorphism at ~ 85–60 Ma) (Manzotti et al., 2014 and references

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therein). During the Paleocene (at ~ 65–55 Ma), convergence ceased for a period of 10 My due to Adria–Europe continental collision in the Eastern Alps after the subduction of the easternmost portion of Piedmont–Liguria Ocean beneath the advancing orogenic wedge (Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum et al., 2002; Dézes et al., 2004; Schmid et al., 2004; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). Since the early Eocene the reprise of the Adria–Europe convergence led to the subduction and final closure of the Piedmont–Liguria Ocean and Valais Ocean in the Western Alps domain at ~ 45 Ma and ~ 35 Ma, respectively (Rubatto et al., 1998; Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). According to literature, the subducted oceanic lithospheric slab of the Central and Eastern Alps detached from the European foreland lithosphere after closure of the Valais Ocean (*e.g.*, von Blanckenburg and Davies, 1995; Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Dézes et al., 2004). During the Eocene with the ongoing Adria–Europe collision, E–W extension developed parallel to the belt in the Eastern Alps (Ratschbacher et al., 1989; Zampieri et al., 1995). Such rifting phase extended also into the Central Alps, in the Oligocene from ~ 34 to ~ 28 Ma (Ring, 1994; Nievergelt et al., 1996; Challandes et al., 2003; Glodny et al., 2008; Pleuger et al., 2008; Steck, 2008; Beltrando et al. 2010; Ring and Gerdens, 2016; Schmid et al., 2017). This extensional phase of the overriding plate was probably induced by the rollback of the retreating SE–dipping slab (Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). From ~ 30 Ma until the Oligocene–Miocene boundary (~ 23 Ma), the extensional processes stopped and large-scale coarse clastic sedimentation occurred in the Eastern Alps in response to an accretionary event (Frisch et al., 2000; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). Another phase of extension occurred during the early and middle Miocene due to the onset of lateral tectonic extrusion at the Oligocene–Miocene boundary, which rearranged the structural pattern and created the present elongated shape of the Eastern Alps (Ratschbacher et al., 1991; Frisch et al., 2000). This lateral tectonic extrusion is ascribed to a combination of gravity–driven orogenic collapse because of an over–thickened lithosphere, and tectonic escape along conjugate fault zones driven by tangential forces due to continuing N–S convergence between the Adriatic microplate and the European plate (Ratschbacher et al., 1991; Frish et al., 2000). However, the amount of Oligocene extension was limited, focused in the eastern Tauern

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136 Window ([Fig. 1a](#)) and to the east of it, whereas Miocene extension occurred at a larger scale  
137 ([Ratschbacher et al., 1991](#)).

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139 **3. THE CENOZOIC CENTRAL AND SOUTHEASTERN ALPINE MAGMATISM**

140 Cenozoic magmatism within the Alpine realm is variable in time and space reflecting the changing  
141 geodynamic framework during the convergence of the Adria microplate and the European plate  
142 ([Bassi et al., 2008](#)). In the Central Alps, the magmatic activity was orogenic and essentially intrusive  
143 along the Periadriatic/Insubric line ([Fig. 1a](#)), represented by sub-alkaline and calc-alkaline basic  
144 intrusive bodies and basaltic and andesitic dikes with calc-alkaline to shoshonitic affinity. Based on  
145 radioisotopic ages, the climax of such magmatism ranged from ~ 34 to ~ 28 Ma ([von Blanckburg](#)  
146 [and Davis, 1995](#); [Rosenberg, 2004](#)). However, the first evidence of igneous activity dates back at ~  
147 42 Ma with the emplacement of the southern Adamello batholith and coeval dikes ([Schaltegger et al.,](#)  
148 [2009](#); [Schoene et al., 2012](#); [Bergomi et al., 2015](#)). On the contrary, in the Southeastern Alps the  
149 magmatic activity was anorogenic with effusive to subvolcanic character. It occurred in an elongated  
150 NNW-SSE area of about 1500 km<sup>2</sup>, defining from north-west to south-east five main volcanic  
151 districts: Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Marosticano, Berici Hills, and Euganean Hills ([Beccaluva et al.,](#)  
152 [2007](#)). Together, these districts constituted a Cenozoic magmatic province in the Southeastern alpine  
153 domain known in literature as Veneto Volcanic Province (VVP; *e.g.*, [De Vecchi and Sedeà, 1995](#);  
154 [Beccaluva et al., 2001, 2007](#); [Macera et al., 2003, 2008](#); [Visonà et al., 2007](#); [Fig. 1, 1a](#)).

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**Figure 1.** Simplified geological map of the Veneto Volcanic Province (VVP; De Vecchi and Sedeà, 1995), showing the locations of the samples collected for this work. Ages (in Ma) of the magmatic rocks occurring in the VVP are framed with blue dashed line (literature data) and red continuous line (this work). Ages in italics are derived from mini-plateaus (50–70%  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released) and are considered minimum ages (see explanation in section 9, and in section S2 of Supplementary materials). Red stars are  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages, blue diamonds are U–Pb ages, blue triangles are Rb–Sr ages, blue circles are K–Ar dates, and black squares are samples of this work for which  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  analyses were not performed. Previously published ages for Lessini Mts. are from Savelli and Lipparini (1979) and Visonà et al. (2007); ages for Euganean Hills are from Zantendeschi (1994) and Bartoli et al. (2014); ages for Marosticano area are from Savelli and Lipparini (1979). Inset a) present-day location of VVP in the Italian peninsula, in relation to European, African plates and Adria microplate (modified from Carminati and Doglioni, 2012) and locations of Periadriatic basic and acid plutons, in blue and in black, respectively, along the Periadriatic/Insubric line. For comparative purpose, in this work only the Periadriatic basic plutons of the Central Alps were considered. Abbreviation for plutons: B = Bergell, T = Trigia, A = Adamello, R = Rensen, VdR = Vedrette di Ries. **[2 columns fitting]**

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### 3.1 Geological outline

Magmatic activity started in the VVP already in the Paleocene (Beccaluva et al., 2007; Bassi et al., 2008), along the Jurassic Trento carbonate platform, which encompassed the Val d'Adige and Lessini Mts. areas (Winterer and Bosellini, 1981; Dewey et al., 1989; Zampieri et al., 1995). After the Adria–Europe collision in the Eastern Alps (~ 65 Ma; Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum et al., 2002; Dézes et al., 2004; Schmid et al., 2004; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005), extension developed (Ratschbacher et al., 1989). As a consequence in the Southeastern Alpine domain the rigid Trento platform block–faulted forming a horst and graben structure, called the Alpone–Agnò Graben (Zampieri, 1995). Until the middle Eocene the extensional tectonics of the new NNW–SSE transtensional fault systems and the Alpone–Agnò Graben controlled the deposition of limestone and the volcanic activity, which manifested with short–lived pulses (Barbieri et al., 1991) in the Monte Baldo area for the Val d'Adige district and along the Lessini Mts. district (Luciani, 1989). Therefore, in the troughs of the horst and graben structure basic–ultrabasic hyaloclastites, volcanoclastics, subaqueous, and subaerial lava flows were accumulated and interbedded between the Scaglia Rossa (Upper Cretaceous–late Paleocene) and the Eocene limestones, or within the latter (Fig. 2). According to biostratigraphic data the magmatic activity occurred later in the eastern VVP districts (*i.e.*, Euganean Hills and Marosticano areas; Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981; Luciani, 1989; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979). From the late Eocene to early Oligocene basic volcanic deposits were interbedded with marls of the Euganean Hills pelagic environment (De Vecchi et al., 1976; Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981; Fig. 2). In the early Oligocene, the Euganean magmatism changed and was dominated by rhyolites, trachytes and subordinately by trachyandesites (latites) and basalts, which formed mainly subvolcanic bodies and less abundant lava flows (De Vecchi et al., 1976; Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981). In the middle Oligocene, the magmatic activity resumed in the Marosticano (Fig. 2) and Lessini Mts. districts in a subaqueous environment as testified by the marine sediments (sandstones, calcarenites and limestones; Gavioli, 1972; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979) interbedded with the volcanic deposits (Fig. 2). Sparse Oligocene explosive and effusive volcanic activity is documented also in the Berici



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199 Hills (west of the Euganean Hills; Bassi et al., 2008). At the end of the late Oligocene, the  
200 Marosticano and Lessini Mts. areas emerged (Frasconi Ritondale Spano and Bassani, 1973) shortly  
201 before eruption of the last subaerial volcanic products at the beginning of the Miocene (Savelli and  
202 Lipparini, 1979). These volcanic deposits are overlain by coralline calcarenites of early Miocene age  
203 (Frasconi Ritondale Spano, 1969; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; [Fig. 2](#)), testifying to a new  
204 transgression event.

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**Figure 2.** Simplified Upper Cretaceous to lower Miocene stratigraphy of the studied areas: Monte Baldo northern sector (Val d'Adige district; Luciani, 1989; De Vecchi and Sedea, 1995), Eastern Lessini Mts. (De Vecchi and Sedea, 1995; Bassi et al., 2008), Euganean Hills (Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981), and Marosticano (Frascari Ritondale Spano and Bassani, 1973; De Vecchi and Sedea, 1995; Bassi et al., 2008). Ages and uncertainties are reported in Ma. Ages in italics are derived from mini-plateaus (50–70% <sup>39</sup>Ar released) and are considered minimum ages only (see explanation in section 9 and in the section S2 of Supplementary materials). Ages derived from pre-erupted zircons from Lessini Mts. and Euganean Hills districts are considered maximum ages (see explanation in section 4). Previously published geochronological data for eastern Lessini Mts. are from Borsi et al. (1969), Savelli and Lipparini (1979), and Visonà et al. (2007), for Euganean Hills are from Borsi et al. (1969), Zantendeschi (1994), and Bartoli et al. (2014), and for Marosticano are from Savelli and Lipparini (1979). In the figure the main geodynamic events, extension phases, and coarse clastic sedimentation occurred in Central and Eastern Alps are reported, as well as the climax of the orogenic Periadriatic Central Alps magmatism. **[2 columns fitting]**

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#### 4. PREVIOUS GEOCHRONOLOGICAL STUDIES OF VVP

The integration of stratigraphic records with reliable radioisotopic ages allows to i) better constrain the distribution and the timeframe of such highly variable, but temporally short, magmatic activity and ii) infer the geodynamic evolution of this magmatic province. Previously obtained geochronological data are mainly K–Ar ages on basic–ultrabasic whole–rocks (Borsi et al., 1969; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; Fig. 1). These K–Ar data yielded eruption ages of  $42.5 \pm 1.5$  to  $20.4 \pm 0.8$  Ma for the Lessini Mts.,  $42.0 \pm 1.5$  Ma for the Euganean Hills, and from  $33.7 \pm 1.2$  to  $20.4 \pm 0.8$  Ma for the Marosticano district. However, the reliability of such ages is questionable, as the K–Ar dating technique is not able to recognize (and correct for) non–atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratios and alteration effects (Oostingh et al., 2017). Zantendeschi (1994) dated Euganean trachytes and rhyolites using the whole–rock Rb–Sr method (Fig. 1), the obtained eruption ages span from  $34 \pm 2$  to  $28 \pm 1$  Ma. These ages also must be treated with caution, as the  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  decay constant is still poorly defined and Rb/Sr isotopic system is prone to secondary alteration (Begemann et al., 2001; Schmitz et al., 2003). The most recent radioisotopic data available (Fig. 1) are U–Pb ages obtained using a sensitive high–resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP) on zircons hosted i) in a porphyritic basanite lava and in two altered dykes of the Lessini Mts. (Visonà et al., 2007) and ii) in magmatic enclaves within trachytes of the Euganean Hills (Bartoli et al., 2014). These ages may be interpreted as maximum ages of eruptions as the analysed zircons were not crystallized directly from the erupted magma. The Lessini Mts. zircons yielded Eocene ages spanning from  $51.1 \pm 1.5$  to  $44.9 \pm 2.8$  Ma (Visonà et al., 2007), even if it should be considered that these data are not concordant. Zircons from the Euganean Hills xenoliths yielded Oligocenic ages of  $31.9 \pm 1.3$  Ma and  $30.6 \pm 1.5$  Ma (Bartoli et al., 2014). From this overview on the currently available geochronological data and related uncertainties, it is clear that more accurate age data are essential for the temporal reconstruction of the VVP magmatism. In this work, new high–resolution ages were obtained using the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  systematic on groundmass samples on mineral separates, which is currently widely accepted as an accurate dating technique (McDougall and Harrison, 1999).

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## 5. SAMPLING

Following biostratigraphic information we selected our samples in order to encompass most of the time range of the VVP magmatism. From Val d'Adige and Lessini Mts., the two oldest magmatic districts, samples were collected from basic–ultrabasic lava flows and volcanic necks. BAL1 and BAL7, two out of three samples of Val d'Adige district, are from the northeastern part of Monte Baldo (Table 1; Fig. 1). BAL1 was collected nearly at the top of a subaqueous lava flow interbedded between middle and late Eocene limestones (Calcare di Torbole and Calcare di Nago; Fig. 2), whereas BAL7 was sampled from a thin sill between Cretaceous–Paleocene (Scaglia Rossa) and middle Eocene limestones (Calcare di Torbole; Fig. 2). The third sample from Val d'Adige district, BI14, was collected from a volcanic neck exposed in a quarry near Rovereto (Table 1; Fig. 1). The sampling for Lessini Mts. district was focused near the famous Bolca Fossil–Lagerstätte area (Papazzoni et al., 2014, and references therein). Sample TER1 (Table 1; Fig. 1) was collected from a lava flow interbedded with red clays of unknown age, whereas sample BOL1 (Table 1; Fig. 1) was collected from the volcanic neck preserved near the mentioned fossiliferous area. This neck cuts 10–20 m of freshwater–brackish sediments of probable Ypresian age (Barbieri and Medizza, 1969; Medizza, 1980; Sorbini, 1989; Giusberti, et al., 2014).

The Euganean Hills are the only VVP magmatic district where basic, intermediate, and acid magmas erupted or intruded at shallow–depth forming lava flows and subvolcanic bodies (mainly laccoliths) during late Eocene–Oligocene (Fig. 2). We have sampled and analysed rocks in order to investigate the entire range of the lithologies. Samples EU1AB, EU53, EU52, EU8B, and EU13A represent the least differentiated products of the Euganean sample suite. The basaltic andesite lava flow EU1AB was collected from an outcrop in the western part of the Euganean Hills (Table 1; Fig. 1). The basaltic andesite sample EU53 was collected from a subvolcanic body at the center of the Euganean Hills, and basaltic trachyandesite EU52 from an intrusion cutting this basaltic andesite body (Table 1; Fig. 1). The basaltic trachyandesite EU8B and the latite EU13A were collected from subvolcanic bodies

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273 (Monte Oliveto and Monte Cecilia), in the eastern and southern sectors of the Euganean Hills,  
274 respectively (Table 1; Fig. 1). Samples EU4, EU5B, and EU9 represent the most acid products  
275 available for the Euganean Hills. The trachyte EU4 (Monte Merlo quarry, northern sector of the  
276 Euganean Hills; Table 1; Fig. 1), the rhyolite EU5B (Monte Alto, eastern sector; Table 1; Fig. 1), and  
277 the rhyolite EU9 (Monte Ricco, southeastern sector; Table 1; Fig. 1), were collected from laccoliths  
278 intruded in the Euganean Marls Formation (Oligocene; Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981; Fig. 2).  
279 Finally, for the Marosticano district, where one of the last VVP magmatic events occurred, we  
280 sampled two specimens (LB1 and 25B). These samples were collected from the ultrabasic volcanic  
281 neck cutting the middle Oligocene marine sediments of the Salcedo formation at Monte Glosio  
282 (Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; Table 1; Figs. 1, 2).

## 284 6. ANALYTICAL METHODS

285 Whole-rock major and trace elements were determined by Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray  
286 Fluorescence Spectrometry (WDXRF) at the University of Ferrara (IT; ARL Advant-XP  
287 spectrometer) and at the University of Padova (IT; Philips PW1404). Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Hf, Ta, Th,  
288 U, and rare-earth elements (REEs) were performed with Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass  
289 Spectrometry (ICP-MS) at the University of Ferrara (Thermo Series X-I spectrometer) and at the  
290 University of Bretagne Occidentale, Brest (FR; Thermo Element2). Clinopyroxene compositions  
291 were determined by means of a CAMECA SX50 electron microprobe at the IGG-CNR of Padova.  
292 For  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  geochronological analyses, after irradiation in TRIGA Reactor at the Oregon State  
293 University (USA) or US Geological Survey nuclear reactor (Denver, USA), groundmass and mineral  
294 separates were analysed by laser step-heating with i) ARGUS VI (samples BAL1, BAL7, TER1,  
295 BOL1, LB1, and EU52) and ii) MAP 215-50 (samples EU4, EU5B, EU8B, and EU13A) mass  
296 spectrometers at Curtin University within the Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility (WAAIF)  
297 of the John de Laeter Centre and iii) Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass

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298 spectrometer (samples BI14 and 25B) at the Noble Gas Lab of the University of Vermont. Extended  
299 analytical procedures and details are reported in [section S1 of the Supplementary materials](#).

## 300 7. PETROGRAPHY AND ROCK CLASSIFICATION

301 Samples BAL7, BI14 (Val d'Adige district), BOL1 (Lessini Mts. district), LB1, and 25B  
302 (Marosticano district) are classified as basanites in the total alkali vs. silica (TAS) diagram (Le Maitre  
303 et al., 2002; [Fig. 3](#)) and they are nepheline-normative ([Table 1](#)). These rocks show porphyritic texture  
304 with large (up to 1 mm across) phenocrysts of euhedral olivine and smaller clinopyroxene  
305 (prevalently diopside; up to 0.5 mm across) as dominant phenocrysts set in a microcrystalline  
306 groundmass constituted by acicular plagioclase, clinopyroxene, and oxides. Interestingly, BOL1,  
307 LB1, and 25B host small (3–4 mm) spinel peridotite xenoliths, probably fragments of the bigger (5–  
308 15 cm) counterparts already discovered in alkaline basalts of the Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., and  
309 Marosticano districts (Morten et al., 1989; Siena and Coltorti, 1989, 1993; Beccaluva et al., 2001;  
310 Gasperini et al., 2006; Brombin et al., 2018). These fragments were extracted from the samples before  
311 proceeding with the chemical analyses.

312 BAL1 (Val d'Adige district) and TER1 (Lessini Mts. district) are two basalts according to the TAS  
313 classification ([Fig. 3](#)), in particular the first sample is olivine/hyperstene normative, while the second  
314 one is quartz-normative ([Table 1](#)). They have intergranular texture characterized by elongated and  
315 euhedral plagioclase (up to 2 mm across) and subhedral–anhedral clinopyroxene, olivine and oxides  
316 filling spaces between plagioclase crystals. The presence of scarce iddingsite (substituting for olivine)  
317 and amygdules of secondary hydrothermal minerals are indicative of slight alteration. According to  
318 the TAS diagram, EU1AB and EU53 (Euganean Hills district) are classified as basaltic andesites  
319 ([Fig. 3](#)). Both samples are quartz-normative ([Table 1](#)) and they have clinopyroxene, plagioclase, and  
320 oxides as phenocrysts and in the groundmass.

321 EU52 and EU8B (Euganean Hills district) are classified as basaltic trachyandesites in the TAS  
322 diagram ([Fig. 3](#)). EU52 is nepheline-normative, while EU8B is quartz-normative ([Table 1](#)). The  
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903 324 phenocrysts of these two samples are plagioclase, amphibole and clinopyroxene in a microcrystalline  
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905 325 groundmass of plagioclase and oxides. The plagioclase phenocrysts (up to 2 mm across in EU8B and  
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907 326 up to 5 mm across in EU52) are generally euhedral with occasional sieved-textured centers (EU8B).  
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910 327 The clinopyroxene phenocrysts (up to 1 mm across) are subhedral with rounded edges. Only EU52  
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912 328 exhibits large (up to 5 mm across) euhedral amphibole without any sign of alteration.  
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914 329 Sample EU13A (Euganean Hills district) is classified as latite (Fig. 3) and it is quartz-normative  
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916 330 (Table 1). It contains medium-grained (0.5–1.5 mm across) plagioclase, biotite, and clinopyroxene  
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918 331 in a microcrystalline groundmass of plagioclase feldspar, and oxides. The plagioclase phenocrysts  
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920 332 (up to 1.5 mm across) are generally euhedral; a sieved-textured core is also present. The  
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922 333 clinopyroxene crystals (1 mm across) are subhedral with rounded edges. Biotite (1 mm across) is  
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924 334 subhedral and partly replaced by oxides along the rims.  
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927 335 EU4, EU5B, and EU9 (Euganean Hills district) are the most felsic samples of the entire suite.  
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929 336 According to the TAS diagram, EU4 is a trachyte, whereas EU5B and EU9 are rhyolites (Fig. 3). All  
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931 337 of them are quartz-normative (Table 1). They exhibit glomeroporphyritic texture and the phenocrysts  
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933 338 are predominantly alkali feldspar (sanidine, up to 5 mm across), plagioclase (up to 5 mm across), and  
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935 339 biotite (1–2 mm across) in a microcrystalline groundmass consisting of alkali feldspar and Fe–Ti  
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937 340 oxides. Only in EU4 phenocrysts of amphibole (1–2 mm across) are present. The glomerocrysts, up  
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939 341 to 1 cm in diameter, are both monomineralic (alkali feldspar) or formed by plagioclase and alkali  
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941 342 feldspar in the same cluster. Crystals within these glomerocrysts are subhedral with rounded corners  
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943 343 on the edges of grains.  
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**Figure 3.** Total Alkali vs. Silica (TAS) classification diagram (Le Maitre et al., 2002) of the magmatic products from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Marosticano, and Euganean Hills studied in this work (large symbols) and in literature (small symbols). Val d'Adige compositions are from Beccaluva et al. (2007); Lessini Mts., and Marosticano compositions are from Macera et al. (2003) and Beccaluva et al. (2007); Euganean Hills compositions are from Milani et al. (1999) and Macera et al. (2003). The fields for trachybasalt and trachyandesite are labelled here “potassic trachybasalt” and “latite”, respectively, as most of the samples of this study display  $(\text{Na}_2\text{O} - \text{K}_2\text{O}) \leq 2.0$  and are therefore potassic, as defined by Le Maitre (2002). The alkaline–tholeiitic discrimination line is from Irvine and Baragar (1971). **[1 column fitting]**



## 8. GEOCHEMISTRY

Bulk major and trace element compositions of the analysed magmatic rocks are reported in [Tables 1 and 2](#). On the TAS diagram ([Fig. 3](#)) this group of magmatic rocks overlaps with those previously published for the VVP (Milani et al., 1999; Macera et al., 2003; Beccaluva et al., 2007), spanning a wide range of compositions from alkaline to subalkaline and encompassing ultrabasic, basic, intermediate, and acid rocks.

The basic–ultrabasic rocks span a relatively wide range in terms of SiO<sub>2</sub> (42.01 to 53.22 wt.%; [Table 1](#)), MgO (12.26 to 3.85 wt.%; [Table 1](#)), and mg# [69.64 to 43.06, where mg# is defined as  $100 \times \text{Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}^{2+})_{\text{mol}}$ , Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Fe<sup>2+</sup> being 0.15; [Table 1](#)] reflecting the different degree of evolution for the VVP lithologies (*i.e.*, from basanites to basaltic trachyandesites). The analysed samples have predominantly alkaline affinities with the majority of the samples having potassic affinity [(Na<sub>2</sub>O – K<sub>2</sub>O) ≤ 2.0 wt.%] with (Na<sub>2</sub>O – K<sub>2</sub>O) ranging from 0 to 1.72 wt.%. Only BI14, EU53, and EU1AB have sodic affinity [(Na<sub>2</sub>O – K<sub>2</sub>O) = 2.51 - 3.48 wt.%]. Chondrite–normalized rare earth element (REE) patterns are generally parallel for all basic–ultrabasic rocks ([Fig. 4a](#)). These patterns are strongly light REE (LREE) enriched with a significant LREE to heavy REE (HREE) fractionation [(La/Yb)<sub>N</sub> = 5.5 to 24.3; (Dy/Lu)<sub>N</sub> = 1.8 to 2.4; [Fig. 4a](#)]. Irrespective to the lithology, samples from Val d’Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills (EU1AB and EU53), and Marosticano exhibit negative Rb and K anomalies and spikes for Ba, Sr, and P in the primitive mantle–normalized incompatible trace element diagram ([Fig. 4b](#)). Basaltic trachyandesite EU52 (Euganean Hills) mimics the general trace element features of the basic–ultrabasic samples. However, it lacks significant Sr and P spikes and it is depleted in Ba, consistently with its more evolved character and with possible feldspar and apatite fractionation ([Fig. 4b](#)).

The intermediate–acid rocks have higher SiO<sub>2</sub> (55.63 to 72.00 wt.%; [Table 1](#)) and lower MgO (3.14 to 0.14 wt.%; [Table 1](#)) contents with respect to the previous group, consistent with their more evolved nature. All the samples of this group have potassic affinity [(Na<sub>2</sub>O – K<sub>2</sub>O) = 0 -1.55]. No trace element analyses were performed for this group, as in this work we preferred to focus on the geochemistry of

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381 basic-ultrabasic samples that can shed light on their mantle sources, while more evolved rocks may  
382 be significantly affected by fractional crystallization.

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Sample	BAL1	BAL7	BI14	TER1	BOL1	EU1AB	EU53	EU52	EU8B
Rock	Basalt	Basanite	Basanite	Basalt	Basanite	Basaltic andesite	Basaltic andesite	Basaltic trachyandesite	Basaltic trachyandesite
District	Val d'Adige	Val d'Adige	Val d'Adige	Lessini Mts.	Lessini Mts.	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills
Coordinates	45°47'02.12"N 10°54'18.26"E	45°44'37.00"N 10°53'04.00"E	45°47'02.12"N 10°54'18.26"E	45°35'34.05"N 11°12'58.89"E	45°35'51.84"N 11°12'31.34"E	45°19'40.08"N 11°38'58.00"E	45°32'87.00"N 11°68'48.00"E	45°32'87.88"N 11°68'48.75"E	45°19'07.08"N 11°46'31.04"E
SiO <sub>2</sub>	46.83	42.62	42.01	48.72	43.00	52.00	53.22	51.70	55.63
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.75	3.71	3.22	2.80	3.44	2.45	2.37	2.75	2.01
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.59	13.04	14.65	13.53	13.21	14.85	14.83	16.29	15.53
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.61	14.56	13.11	11.00	14.35	10.02	11.24	10.43	8.82
MnO	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.36	0.19	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13
MgO	6.94	8.96	8.28	10.77	9.55	6.25	6.22	3.85	3.41
CaO	10.39	11.03	10.34	9.93	10.23	9.50	8.66	6.12	6.47
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.24	3.09	4.98	1.09	3.06	3.10	3.24	4.35	4.23
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.75	1.37	1.42	1.17	1.45	0.59	0.43	3.23	2.68
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.70	1.53	1.81	0.64	0.97	0.35	0.26	0.97	0.59
Tot	100.01	100.10	100.00	100.00	99.45	99.23	100.59	99.81	99.50
LOI	3.02	1.10	2.17	3.30	0.55	3.69	3.11	0.83	2.34
mg#	49.32	55.77	56.40	66.72	57.69	56.10	53.13	43.06	44.20
Quartz	-	-	-	1.4	-	2.6	4.4	-	2.6
Nepheline	-	7.9	18.3	-	8.2	-	-	0.43	-
Diopside	16.2	22.3	21.6	13.4	21.8	16.5	13.6	7.2	10.6
Hyperstene	16.1	-	-	30.9	-	18.1	19.6	-	11.6
Olivine	6.0	18.0	15.3	-	19.5	-	-	11.2	0-

mg# = 100 x Mg/(Mg+Fe<sup>2+</sup>)<sub>mol</sub> considering Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Fe<sup>2+</sup> 0.15

**Table 1.** Whole-rock major element compositions (wt.%) and CIPW normative compositions of magmatic products from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano.

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Sample	EU13A	EU4	EU5B	EU9	LB1	25B
Rock	Latite	Trachyte	Rhyolite	Rhyolite	Basanite	Basanite
District	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Marosticano	Marosticano
Coordinates	45°15'07.02"N 11°41'27.00"E	45°20'20.09"N 11°39'06.09"E	45°19'16.00"N 11°45'24.00"E	45°14'57.02"N 11°44'28.07"E	45°76'72.83"N 11°67'78.97"E	45°76'72.00"N 11°67'78.00"E
SiO <sub>2</sub>	56.90	65.52	69.86	72.00	43.22	44.02
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.00	0.69	0.39	0.32	3.47	3.12
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15.68	16.51	15.41	14.81	11.52	12.80
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	7.27	3.71	2.05	1.26	13.12	10.95
MnO	0.09	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.19	0.16
MgO	3.14	0.72	0.17	0.14	11.29	12.26
CaO	5.68	1.59	0.65	0.49	11.85	10.89
Na <sub>2</sub> O	4.11	5.23	4.80	4.63	3.06	3.22
K <sub>2</sub> O	3.59	5.11	5.77	5.56	1.36	1.53
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.57	0.30	0.07	0.03	0.97	1.06
Tot	99.03	99.44	99.26	99.27	100.05	100.00
LOI	1.64	0.35	0.66	0.14	1.17	1.08
mg#	46.95	28.45	14.52	18.54	63.81	69.64
Quartz	3.5	10.3	17.6	22.3	-	-
Nepheline	-	-	-	-	11.0	10.4
Diopside	9.0	-	-	-	31.5	25.1
Hyperstene	9.8	5.6	2.6	1.5	-	-
Olivine	-	-	-	-	17.9	20.1

mg# = 100 x Mg/(Mg+Fe<sup>2+</sup>)<sub>mol</sub> considering Fe<sup>3+</sup>/Fe<sup>2+</sup> 0.15

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392 **Table 1 (continued).** Whole-rock major element compositions (wt.%) of magmatic products from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and  
393 Marosticano.

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Sample	BAL7	TER1	BOL1	EU1AB	EU53	EU52	LB1
Rock	Basanite	Basalt	Basanite	Basaltic andesite	Basaltic andesite	Basaltic trachyandesite	Basanite
District	Val d'Adige	Lessini Mts.	Lessini Mts.	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Euganean Hills	Marosticano
Rb	29.6	27.8	37.4	17.0	15.0	71.0	46.6
Ba	860	664	553	348	264	777	777
Th	6.80	5.87	5.99	2.95	2.85	10.1	6.85
U	1.77	1.34	1.42	0.83	0.82	2.56	2.00
Nb	124	74.3	91.4	28.0	21.0	96.6	118
Ta	4.47	2.52	3.74	1.38	1.43	4.64	4.67
La	66.6	39.0	47.0	18.4	13.7	72.4	57.5
Ce	131	75.8	96.1	38.5	28.5	128	109
Pr	15.5	8.37	11.5	4.68	3.71	14.4	12.1
Sr	1744	736	1060	473	349	929	1071
Nd	67.4	35.6	52.0	20.4	16.9	55.9	53.3
Zr	413	235	354	175	168	456	382
Hf	8.29	5.01	7.58	3.93	4.03	9.11	7.91
Sm	12.6	6.73	10.1	5.36	4.85	10.9	9.68
Eu	3.86	2.16	3.13	1.83	1.75	3.25	2.91
Gd	11.7	6.66	9.32	5.55	5.47	8.82	8.92
Tb	1.64	0.99	1.38	0.83	0.85	1.19	1.27
Dy	7.20	4.63	6.23	4.48	4.77	6.15	5.61
Y	40.8	28.7	35.4	24.1	24.0	34.6	31.5
Ho	1.28	0.88	1.10	0.83	0.88	1.10	1.00
Er	3.05	2.22	2.62	1.97	2.20	2.64	2.42
Yb	2.21	1.84	1.93	1.56	1.70	2.03	1.78
Lu	0.31	0.27	0.27	0.21	0.23	0.27	0.25

All trace elements (ppm) were analysed by ICP-MS except Ba (XRF).

**Table 2.** Trace element (ppm) compositions of magmatic products from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano.

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**Figure 4.** Chondrite-normalized rare earth elements (a) and primitive mantle-normalized trace element patterns (b) for basic-ultrabasic rocks from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano. The least evolved Euganean Hills samples are also shown for comparison. Previously published trace element compositions for basic-ultrabasic rocks from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano (Macera et al., 2003; Beccaluva et al., 2007) are reported as a shaded area. Ocean Island Basalt composition (OIB; Sun and McDonough, 1989) is shown with a black dashed line. The average trace element compositions of orogenic calc-alkaline and sub-alkaline magmas of the Periadriatic Central Alps magmatism are from Bergomi et al. (2015) and are shown with a black continuous line. Normalizing factors are from McDonough and Sun (1995).

## 9. $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ GEOCHRONOLOGICAL RESULTS

Detailed  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  results of the analysed magmatic rocks are reported in [Tables 3, 4](#). Groundmass samples of BAL1, BAL7, TER1, BOL1, and LB1 as well as amphibole and plagioclase separates of EU52 were analysed with a new generation noble gas multicollector mass spectrometer (ARGUS VI). Instead, mineral separates (*i.e.*, biotite, feldspar, sanidine) from EU8B, EU13A, EU4, EU5B, and EU9 were analysed with the MAP215–50 mass spectrometer. EU1AB and EU53, two basaltic andesites from the Euganean Hills district, could not be dated due to the lack of fresh K–rich minerals. Many analysed samples are characterized by  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratios, which are above or below the atmospheric value ( $298.56 \pm 0.31$ ; Lee et al., 2006). Supra-atmospheric intercepts are indicative of excess  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  whereas sub-atmospheric ratios are too low to be due to isotopic fractionation (Oostingh et al., 2017) and are rather interpreted in term of hydrothermal alteration signature (Baksi, 2006). In addition, many samples yielded only mini–plateaus (50–70% cumulative  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ ; Jourdan et al., 2007). The latter are less robust than their plateau counterparts and should be treated with caution. They might indicate the true crystallization age, but they might equally represent minimum age values, not too far from the crystallization age (Oostingh et al., 2017). The complete description of the dating result is reported in [section S2 of Supplementary materials](#).

For Val d’Adige, the basalt BAL1 and basanite BAL7  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercepts are similar and slightly sub–atmospheric (BAL1 =  $266 \pm 23$  and BAL7 =  $264 \pm 15$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5 a, c](#)), which allow equally calculating a plateau age of  $41.69 \pm 0.37$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5b](#)) and a mini–plateau age of  $41.98 \pm 0.20$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5d](#)), respectively.

TER1 and BOL1 were analysed for the Lessini Mts. district and yielded different  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  and intercept ages. The basalt TER1 shows sub–atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept ( $253 \pm 25$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5e](#)) defining a mini–plateau age of  $45.21 \pm 0.11$  Ma ([Fig. 5f](#)). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept of basanite BOL1 is  $278 \pm 19$  ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5g](#)), close to the atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio. This sample yielded a mini–plateau age of  $38.73 \pm 0.44$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5h](#)).

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432 For the basaltic trachyandesite EU52 both amphibole and plagioclase were analysed. The amphibole  
433 is characterized by a  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept ( $295 \pm 14$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5i](#)) indistinguishable from  
434 atmosphere, and yielded a mini-plateau age of  $32.35 \pm 0.09$  Ma ([Fig. 5j](#)). The plagioclase  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$   
435 intercept value is supra-atmospheric ( $397 \pm 19$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5k](#)), indicating excess  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ . Using the  
436 latter value, we obtained a plateau age of  $32.16 \pm 0.06$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5l](#)). The alkali-feldspar  
437 separate of the basaltic trachyandesite EU8B shows a value of  $305 \pm 99$  ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5m](#)) for the  
438  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept, which is indistinguishable from the atmospheric ratio and allows calculating a  
439 plateau age of  $32.17 \pm 0.32$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5n](#)). The feldspar separate of the latite EU13A yielded  
440 a  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept of  $349 \pm 136$  ([Fig. 5o](#)) and a plateau age of  $32.34 \pm 0.51$  Ma ([Fig. 5p](#)). The  
441  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept age for the biotite separate of trachyte EU4 is  $328 \pm 43$  ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5q](#)) and  
442 defines a plateau age of  $32.09 \pm 0.29$  Ma ([Fig. 5r](#)). Also for the sanidine separate of rhyolite EU5B  
443 the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept is slightly supra-atmospheric ( $343 \pm 58$ ; [Fig. 5s](#)); the calculated plateau age is  
444  $32.30 \pm 0.52$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5t](#)). The sanidine separate of rhyolite EU9 shows a  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept  
445 value ( $315 \pm 68$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5u](#)) indistinguishable from atmosphere and we obtained a plateau age  
446 of  $32.17 \pm 0.27$  Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5v](#)). It is clear that irrespective to the lithology all analysed  
447 Euganean samples yielded nearly indistinguishable ages, allowing to calculate a mean weighted age  
448 of  $32.21 \pm 0.09$  Ma.

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449 The basanite from the Marosticano district, LB1, yielded the youngest integrated age of the VVP  
450 samples analysed at WAAIF using the ARGUS VI mass spectrometer. It did not return isochron and  
451 plateau age, but almost all the steps indicate apparent ages between 20.5 and 23.2 Ma ([Table 3](#); [Fig.](#)  
452 [5w, x](#)).

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453 Two additional basanites BI14 and 25B, from Val d'Adige and Marosticano, respectively, were  
454 analysed at the Noble Gas Geochronology Laboratory of the University of Vermont using the Nu  
455 Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer with the purpose to expand the  
456 VVP geochronological dataset. Sample BI14 yielded a  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept of  $207 \pm 138$  and a mini-  
457 plateau age of  $40.73 \pm 0.48$  Ma ([Table 4](#); [Fig. 6a, b](#)). This age is similar to those recorded by BAL1



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and BAL7. As occurred for LB1, also the Marosticano basanite 25B did not provide ages (Table 4; Fig. 6c, d). However, for both Marosticano samples almost all the steps indicate apparent ages of ~ 22 – 23 Ma (Fig. 6d).

General characteristics				Isochron characteristics					Plateau characteristics			
Sample	Lithology	Instrument	Separate	Inverse isochron age (Ma, $\pm 2\sigma$ )	n	$^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$ intercept ( $\pm 2\sigma$ )	MSWD	P (%)	Plateau age (Ma, $\pm 2\sigma$ )	Total $^{39}\text{Ar}$ released (%)	MSWD	P (%)
<i>Val d'Adige</i>												
BAL1	Basalt	ARGUS VI	Groundmass	<b>41.70 <math>\pm</math> 0.82</b>	16	266 $\pm$ 23	0.78	69	<b>41.69 <math>\pm</math> 0.37</b>	75	0.39	98
BAL7	Basanite	ARGUS VI	Groundmass	<i>41.95 <math>\pm</math> 0.46</i>	15	264 $\pm$ 15	0.82	64	<i>41.98 <math>\pm</math> 0.20</i>	60	0.25	100
<i>Lessini Mts.</i>												
TER1	Basalt	ARGUS VI	Groundmass	<i>45.21 <math>\pm</math> 0.15</i>	12	253 $\pm$ 25	1.00	44	<i>45.21 <math>\pm</math> 0.11</i>	57	0.83	61
BOL1	Basanite	ARGUS VI	Groundmass	<i>40.60 <math>\pm</math> 1.76</i>	17	278 $\pm$ 19	0.75	74	<i>38.73 <math>\pm</math> 0.44</i>	62	0.99	46
<i>Euganean Hills</i>												
EU52	Basaltic trachyandesite	ARGUS VI	Amphibole	<i>32.37 <math>\pm</math> 0.12</i>	10	295 $\pm$ 14	0.52	85	<i>32.35 <math>\pm</math> 0.09</i>	67	0.48	89
			Plagioclase	<b>32.16 <math>\pm</math> 0.08</b>	21	397 $\pm$ 19	0.65	87	<b>32.16 <math>\pm</math> 0.06</b>	100	0.58	93
EU8B	Basaltic trachyandesite	MAP 215–50	Feldspar	<b>32.11 <math>\pm</math> 0.98</b>	15	305 $\pm$ 99	0.85	61	<b>32.17 <math>\pm</math> 0.32</b>	100	0.79	68
EU13A	Latite	MAP 215–50	Feldspar	<b>31.96 <math>\pm</math> 1.13</b>	14	349 $\pm$ 136	0.52	91	<b>32.34 <math>\pm</math> 0.51</b>	88	0.53	91
EU4	Trachyte	MAP 215–50	Biotite	<b>31.83 <math>\pm</math> 0.50</b>	14	328 $\pm$ 43	0.88	57	<b>32.09 <math>\pm</math> 0.29</b>	100	0.97	48
EU5B	Rhyolite	MAP 215–50	Sanidine	<b>31.87 <math>\pm</math> 0.79</b>	15	343 $\pm$ 58	0.86	59	<b>32.30 <math>\pm</math> 0.52</b>	100	1.00	45
EU9	Rhyolite	MAP 215–50	Sanidine	<b>32.02 <math>\pm</math> 0.67</b>	14	315 $\pm$ 68	0.51	91	<b>32.17 <math>\pm</math> 0.27</b>	100	0.48	94
<i>Marosticano</i>												
LB1	Basanite	ARGUS VI	Groundmass	No isochron age					No plateau age			

Data in italics are derived from mini-plateaus (50–70%  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released) and are considered minimum ages only, bold font represents statistically significant plateau ages. Mean square weighted deviation (MSWD) for isochron, plateau, and mini-plateau, number of analyses included in the isochron,  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept, percentage of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  degassed used in the plateau calculation, probability (P) for isochron, plateau and mini-plateau are indicate. Analytical uncertainties on the ages and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercepts are quoted at 2 sigma ( $2\sigma$ ) confidence levels.

**Table 3.** Summary table of  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  results for Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano samples analysed at Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility (WAAIF).

General characteristics			Isochron characteristics				Plateau characteristics			
Sample	Lithology	Separate	Inverse isochron age (Ma, $\pm 2\sigma$ )	n	$^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$ intercept ( $\pm 2\sigma$ )	MSWD	Plateau age (Ma, $\pm 2\sigma$ )	Total $^{39}\text{Ar}$ released (%)	MSWD	P (%)
<i>Val d'Adige</i>										
BI14	Basanite	Groudmass	$42.2 \pm 8.2$	7	$207 \pm 138$	11.3	$40.73 \pm 0.48$	57	0.8	45
<i>Marosticano</i>										
25B	Basanite	Groudmass	No isochron age				No plateau age			

Data in italics are derived from mini-plateau (50–70%  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released) and are considered minimum ages only. Mean square weighted deviation (MSWD) for isochron and mini-plateau, number of analyses included in the isochron,  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept, percentage of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  degassed used in the plateau calculation and probability (P) for mini-plateau are indicated. Analytical uncertainties on the ages and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept are quoted at 2 sigma ( $2\sigma$ ) confidence levels.

**Table 4.** Summary table of  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  results for Val d'Adige, and Marosticano samples analysed at the Noble Gas Geochronology Laboratory of the University of Vermont with Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer.

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**Figure 5.**  $^{39}\text{Ar}/^{40}\text{Ar}$  vs.  $^{36}\text{Ar}/^{40}\text{Ar}$  inverse isochrons and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  apparent age and K/Ca spectra, plotted against the cumulative percentage of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released for VVP rocks analysed at Curtin University. Plateau ages (bold) are inverse isochron intercept corrected. Mini-plateaus (50–70% cumulative  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ ) are indicated in italics. Mean square weighted deviation (MSWD) and probability of fit (P) are indicated. Errors on plateau ages are quoted at  $2\sigma$  and do not include systematic errors (*i.e.*, uncertainties on the age of the monitor and on the decay constant). These plots are obtained at Curtin University within the Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility (WAAIF) of the John de Laeter Centre using ARGUS VI and MAP 215–50 mass spectrometers. Abbreviations: gm = groundmass; bt = biotite; san = sanidine; fsp = feldspar; pl = plagioclase; amph = amphibole. **[2 pages, 2 columns fitting]**

**Figure 6.**  $^{39}\text{Ar}/^{40}\text{Ar}$  vs.  $^{36}\text{Ar}/^{40}\text{Ar}$  plot and  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  apparent age and K/Ca spectra, plotted against the cumulative percentage of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released for VVP rocks analysed at University of Vermont. The mini-plateau age is inverse isochron intercept ( $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ) corrected and indicated in italics. Mean square weighted deviation (MSWD) and probability of fit (P) are reported. Error on the plateau age is quoted at  $2\sigma$ . These plots are obtained at the Noble Gas Geochronology Laboratory of the University of Vermont with Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer. Abbreviations: gm = groundmass. **[1 column fitting]**

## 10. DISCUSSION

### 10.1 Temperature and pressure of mineral crystallization

Crystallization temperature and pressure are calculated mainly through analysis of mineral and whole rock pairs using the recent Fe–Mg cation exchange reaction [ $K_{\text{d}_{\text{Fe-Mg}}} = (\text{Fe}^{\text{clinopyroxene}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{melt}}) \times (\text{Mg}^{\text{melt}}/\text{Mg}^{\text{clinopyroxene}})$ ]; [Table 5](#)] (Putirka, 2008; Neave and Putirka, 2017). For each VVP district, we used equilibrium clinopyroxene–melt pairs having pyroxene–melt  $K_{\text{d}_{\text{Fe-Mg}}}$  close to  $0.27 \pm 0.03$ , as indicated by Putirka et al. (2003). Furthermore, the difference between predicted and observed diopside+hedenbergite (DiHd) values should approach zero as indicated by Neave and Putirka (2017; see also Putirka et al., 2009) and Mollo et al. (2013; 2017). Calculated clinopyroxene crystallization temperatures and pressure for all VVP districts are reported in [Table 5](#) and in Figure 7. For Val d’Adige, Lessini Mts, and Marosticano calculated temperature ranges are similar (Val d’Adige:  $T = 1142^\circ\text{C} - 1174^\circ\text{C}$ ; Lessini Mts.  $T = 1148 - 1204^\circ\text{C}$ ; Marosticano:  $T = 1209 - 1219^\circ\text{C}$ ; [Table 5](#); [Fig. 7](#)) and higher than those for Euganean Hills ( $T = 1129 - 1162^\circ\text{C}$ ; [Table 5](#); [Fig. 7](#)). Lessini Mts. clinopyroxene–melt pairs record the highest pressure values ( $P = 0.4 - 0.8$  GPa; [Table 5](#); [Fig. 7](#)), while those from the Euganean Hills are the lowest ( $P = 0.1 - 0.4$  GPa; [Table 5](#); [Fig. 7](#)). Val d’Adige and Marosticano clinopyroxenes record narrow pressure ranges (Val d’Adige:  $P = 0.3 - 0.6$  GPa; Marosticano:  $P = 0.5 - 0.6$ ; [Table 5](#); [Fig. 7](#))

It is interesting to note that several of the investigated rocks (*e.g.*, samples BOL1, LB1, and 25B) contain small fragments of mantle peridotite xenoliths, implying that magmas rose rapidly from the mantle to the surface. Therefore, it can be proposed that the highest calculated pressure, measured in Lessini Mts. ( $\sim 0.8$  GPa) likely corresponds to the topmost mantle and can be used to infer the depth of the Moho during the VVP activity. Hence, the estimated depth of the Moho under the magmatic region is  $\sim 26$  km, in accordance with geophysical data indicating relatively thin continental crust of  $\sim 28$  km under the VVP (Ansorge et al., 1992; Giese and Bunn, 1992; Grad et al., 2009).

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Sample	Lithology	Cpx		Clinopyroxene compositions											Determined pressures and temperatures			
				SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt.%)	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FeO <sub>tot</sub>	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Tot	T (°C) Eqn. 33	P (GPa)	DiHd error	Kd (Fe-Mg)
<i>Val d'Adige</i>																		
BAL7	Basanite	cpx 1	point 1	47.93	2.25	4.73	6.57	0.06	14.2	22.6	0.36	0.0	0.02	98.76	1142	0.3	0.02	0.28
			point 2	48.20	2.26	4.64	6.39	0.14	14.5	22.5	0.38	0.0	0.03	98.70	1150	0.4	0.01	0.28
		cpx 2	point 1	48.64	2.23	4.35	6.55	0.10	14.4	22.4	0.42	0.0	0.00	99.23	1137	0.3	0.05	0.28
			point 2	47.77	2.34	4.96	6.61	0.12	14.3	22.0	0.37	0.0	0.00	98.57	1167	0.5	-0.01	0.29
			point 3	48.02	2.14	4.91	6.45	0.11	14.4	22.0	0.39	0.0	0.02	98.51	1174	0.6	-0.03	0.29
			point 4	48.49	2.12	4.43	6.22	0.09	14.5	22.4	0.35	0.0	0.00	98.71	1151	0.4	0.00	0.28
<i>Lessini Mts.</i>																		
TER1	Basalt	cpx 1	point 1	50.29	1.07	3.36	5.15	0.11	15.8	22.7	0.31	0.0	0.39	99.28	1195	0.6	-0.15	0.30
			point 2	50.38	1.12	3.47	5.10	0.11	15.7	23.2	0.31	0.0	0.35	99.83	1185	0.5	-0.14	0.30
			point 3	49.47	1.60	4.26	6.10	0.13	14.9	22.7	0.29	0.0	0.02	99.53	1204	0.7	-0.16	0.30
BOL1	Basanite	cpx 1	point 1	47.88	1.98	5.32	6.56	0.10	14.3	22.0	0.55	0.0	0.08	98.84	1190	0.8	-0.08	0.30
			point 2	47.92	1.99	4.88	6.14	0.07	14.5	22.5	0.71	0.0	0.00	98.80	1148	0.4	-0.01	0.29
<i>Euganean Hills</i>																		
EU1A B	Basaltic andesite	cpx 1	point 1	49.14	2.11	4.12	8.65	0.15	14.8	19.8	0.32	0.0	0.49	99.73	1136	0.2	0.03	0.28
			point 1	50.23	1.95	3.18	10.48	0.20	13.1	19.6	0.33	0.0	0.05	99.20	1143	0.3	-0.01	0.28
		cpx 2	point 2	49.68	1.87	2.88	13.71	0.22	11.9	19.1	0.37	0.0	0.05	99.95	1132	0.1	0.02	0.27
			point 1	50.93	1.19	3.61	7.64	0.11	15.4	19.7	0.42	0.0	0.74	99.81	1162	0.4	-0.03	0.28
		cpx 3	point 2	50.09	1.33	3.44	7.45	0.20	15.3	20.2	0.32	0.0	0.73	99.15	1141	0.2	-0.01	0.28
			point 3	50.58	1.43	3.18	8.17	0.14	15.4	20.0	0.31	0.0	0.33	99.58	1141	0.2	0.04	0.27
			point 4	50.34	1.96	3.77	8.85	0.13	14.2	20.3	0.34	0.0	0.22	100.1	1142	0.3	-0.01	0.28

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			point 5	49.49	1.88	3.69	9.43	0.17	14.3 4	19.7 5	0.30	0.0 3	0.18	99.26	1140	0.2	-0.01	0.28	
			point 6	49.31	2.12	3.65	9.71	0.17	14.0 8	19.9 3	0.32	0.0 0	0.13	99.44	1129	0.1	0.01	0.28	
<i>Marosticano</i>																			
	<b>LB1</b>	Basanite	cpx 1	point 1	44.47	3.44	7.56	7.12	0.12	13.0 8	22.1 3	0.43	0.0 0	0.22	98.57	1219	0.6	0.00	0.30
			cpx 2	point 1	49.64	1.08	3.87	5.17	0.08	15.8 7	22.1 4	0.52	0.0 0	0.24	98.61	1209	0.5	-0.05	0.30

**Table 5.** Clinopyroxene compositions in wt.% from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano magmatic products and calculated temperatures and pressures using the equation 33 from Putirka (2008) and the equation from Neave and Putirka (2017), respectively. Only clinopyroxenes with the appropriate range in  $K_{\text{Fe-Mg}}^{\text{cpx/melt}}$  values ( $K_{\text{Fe-Mg}} = 0.27 \pm 0.03$ ; Putirka et al., 2003; Putirka, 2008) and DiHd error ( $\text{DiHd}_{\text{predicted-observed}}$ ; Neave and Putirka, 2017; Mollo et al., 2013, 2017) approaching zero are presented.

The corresponding whole rock compositions are in [Table 1](#).

Abbreviations: cpx = clinopyroxene; DiHd = Diopside+Hedenbergite solid solution.

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**Figure 7.** Clinopyroxene/melt equilibrium temperatures (°C) and pressures (GPa) of Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano magmatic products calculated from equation 33 of Putirka (2008) and the equation from Neave and Putirka (2017), respectively.



## 10.2 The mantle source of VVP magmatism

Most analysed magmatic products of the VVP show mg# significantly lower than typical primary magmas (Table 1), *i.e.*, they have undergone at least some fractional crystallization before being erupted to the surface. However, at least a few rocks have mg# higher than 60 and, as mentioned before, host millimeter to centimeter-sized fragments of peridotite xenoliths, which point to fast transport of magma from mantle depths to the surface. Conservatively, we consider only the trace elements contents of the less evolved VVP samples exhibiting MgO > 8 wt.% and mg# > 55 (BAL7, TER1, BOL1, and LB1) to constrain the nature and evolution of their mantle source. The selected samples are characterized by low LILE/HFSE, LREE/HFSE ratios, and high-Nb contents (Fig. 4a, b). Notably, also slightly more evolved basic samples, including those from the Euganean Hills, display similar trace element features. These trace element and REE patterns are clearly distinct from those of the Periadriatic Central Alps calc-alkaline and sub-alkaline products with arc signature (Bergomi et al., 2015; Fig. 4a, b) and are instead consistent with the within-plate signature already noticed by previous studies on the VVP (Milani et al., 1999; Beccaluva et al., 2007; Macera et al., 2008; Fig. 4a, b). In fact, Beccaluva et al., (2001, 2007) invoked an Ocean Island Basalts (OIB)-like mantle source (Sun and McDonough, 1989) for these magmas, justifying the deviations of VVP samples from typical OIB trace element patterns (Fig. 4b), with the identification of a spinel lherzolite enriched with hydrated-carbonated components as potential source. However, large uncertainties were attributed to the mantle region where melting occurred.

Using the geochemical features of the sample suite of this study we determined i) the depth of partial melting; ii) the mineralogical and geochemical features of melting mantle; and iii) the geodynamic evolution that may be responsible for the enrichment/depletion processes in the VVP mantle source region.

### 10.2.1 The depth of the VVP mantle partial melting

The trace elements patterns and ratios of the selected VVP basic-ultrabasic rocks were at first used

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560 to constrain the depth of the VVP mantle source, *i.e.*, if it was in the garnet or in the spinel stability  
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561 field. The steep middle (M)–HREE profiles of the selected VVP samples suggest a possible presence  
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562 of garnet in the mantle source, as this mineral progressively takes up the HREE over MREE  
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563 ( $Kd_{\text{Sm}}^{\text{garnet/melt}}/Kd_{\text{Yb}}^{\text{garnet/melt}} \sim 10^{-3}$ ; *e.g.*, van Westrenen et al., 2001; Niu et al., 2011). When garnet is  
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564 no longer stable, clinopyroxene becomes the sole peridotitic phase that can accommodate REE  
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565 (Hellebrand et al., 2002). This mineral has an almost equal partition coefficient for MREE and HREE  
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566 during melting ( $Kd_{\text{Sm}}^{\text{clinopyroxene/melt}}/Kd_{\text{Yb}}^{\text{clinopyroxene/melt}}$  close 1.0; Green et al., 2000; Niu et al., 2011),  
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567 imposing melt REE profiles with almost flat M–HREE patterns. Taking this into account, values of  
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568  $(\text{Sm}/\text{Yb})_N$  higher than 1.0 are considered evidence for garnet signature in OIBs (Niu et al., 2011).  
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569 Such consideration may apply also to VVP basic–ultrabasic samples [ $(\text{Sm}/\text{Yb})_N = 3.9$  to 6.1].  
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570 Lanthanum is highly incompatible during melting and difficult to accommodate in both garnet and  
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571 clinopyroxene. This implies that any fertile or moderately fertile mantle source in the early stages of  
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572 melting, produces melts with positive fractionated REE pattern [ $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N \gg 1$ ] in both garnet or  
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573 spinel stability fields. However, by combining REE ratios such as La/Yb and Dy/Yb, it is possible to  
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574 constrain the presence or absence of garnet in the mantle source and consequently inferring the  
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575 melting depth (*e.g.*, Thirlwall et al., 1994). In fact, Dy/Yb is fractionated in the presence of residual  
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576 garnet and this effect is seen for relatively high degrees of melting (Bogaard and Wörner, 2003). On  
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577 the contrary, the presence of spinel in the source does not significantly fractionate La, Dy, and Yb as  
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578 these elements are all moderately incompatible in this mineral. Therefore, in the spinel stability field,  
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579 La/Yb is only slightly fractionated for small degrees of melting, and Dy/Yb is not fractionated at all  
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580 (Bogaard and Wörner, 2003).  
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581 La/Yb vs. Dy/Yb of melts calculated for non-modal batch melting model (Shaw, 1970) are compared  
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582 to the selected basic–ultrabasic VVP magmatic products (Fig. 8) to confine the chemical composition  
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583 and mineralogy of the VVP magma source(s), as well as to estimate the degree of partial melting.  
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584 The calculated melts were obtained for fertile and/or moderately fertile lherzolites (modal  
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585 clinopyroxene 15–20%; Table 6) with garnet or spinel in the peridotite assemblage. In addition, we  
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586 modelled also the possible presence of metasomatic phases (i.e, phlogopite and amphibole) in the  
587 lherzolitic source. The relative starting and melting modes of (phlogopite-bearing) garnet and  
588 (phlogopite-bearing) spinel lherzolites are reported in [Table 6](#). In Figure 8 the selected VVP samples  
589 as well as basic–ultrabasic magmatic products from previous studies (Beccaluva et al., 2007) lie  
590 closer to the melting curves of the garnet peridotites rather than of the spinel peridotites. In particular,  
591 the basanitic samples and the majority of the alkaline primary lavas from Lessini Mts. (data from  
592 Beccaluva et al., 2007) cluster around 3–4% of melting of a phlogopite enriched-garnet mantle  
593 source. On the other hand, the basalt TER1, which can be classified as tholeiite for its normative  
594 character (see [Table 1](#)), and the tholeiitic samples from the Lessini Mts. (data from Beccaluva et al.,  
595 2007) require slightly higher melting degrees (about 5–6%), and perhaps an anhydrous (*i.e.*,  
596 phlogopite and amphibole–free) source.

597 This melting model and the REE patterns clearly indicate that for the selected samples partial melting  
598 occurred dominantly within the garnet–peridotite stability field, *i.e.*, at depths higher than about 70  
599 km (*e.g.*, Green and Ringwood, 1970; Frost, 2008; Ziberna et al., 2013). Geophysical data indicate  
600 the depth of lithosphere–asthenosphere boundary under the VVP at ~100km (Panza and Suhaldoc,  
601 1990), therefore we infer that melting occurred within the deep lithosphere. This is also consistent  
602 with the inferred presence in the VVP mantle source of phlogopite (see section 10.2.2), a mineral that  
603 would rapidly melt out in the asthenospheric mantle wedge (Frost, 2006 and references therein)  
604 overlying the subducting European slab.

605 Unlike VVP basanites and basalt, the calc–alkaline and sub–alkaline basic dykes and intrusive rocks  
606 from the Periadriatic Central Alps magmatism exhibit flat HREE profile (Bergomi et al. 2015; Fig.  
607 4a, b) more consistent with a spinel-bearing peridotite. This implies a relatively shallower melting  
608 depth for the orogenic compared to the intraplate VVP magmas.

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	olivine	orthopyroxene	clinopyroxene	spinel	garnet	phlogopite
<b>Garnet lherzolite</b>						
Mode of the source	0.57	0.16	0.14	—	0.13	—
Melting mode	0.03	0.03	0.44	—	0.50	—
<b>Spinel lherzolite</b>						
Mode of the source	0.56	0.22	0.19	0.03	—	—
Melting mode	0.10	0.20	0.68	0.02	—	—
<b>Phlogopite-bearing garnet lherzolite</b>						
Mode of the source	0.60	0.14	0.15	—	0.03	0.08
Melting mode	0.10	0.10	0.30	—	0.34	0.16
<b>Phlogopite-bearing spinel lherzolite</b>						
Mode of the source	0.58	0.15	0.18	0.03	—	0.06
Melting mode	0.10	0.10	0.54	0.10	—	0.16

**Table 6.** Source and melting mineral phases used in the non-modal batch model. Mineral modes of garnet lherzolite and spinel lherzolite in primitive mantle are taken from McDonough and Rudnick (1998). Mineral modes of phlogopite-bearing garnet lherzolite and phlogopite-bearing spinel are modified from Pfänder et al. (2018 and reference therein). Values are weight fractions.

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**Figure 8.** Dy/Yb vs. La/Yb in selected basic–ultrabasic VVP samples (large symbols) and alkaline and tholeiitic Lessini Mts. magmatic products from Beccaluva et al. (2007; small symbols) having MgO > 8 wt.% and mg# > 55. Also shown are non–modal batch partial melting curves for different mantle sources: i) garnet lherzolite (thick continuous line); ii) spinel lherzolite (thin continuous line); iii) phlogopite–bearing garnet lherzolite (thick dashed line); iv) phlogopite–bearing spinel lherzolite (thin dashed line). The partition coefficients are from GERM (<http://earthref.org/>). The source and melting mineral modes are reported in Table 6. Mineral modes of garnet lherzolite and spinel lherzolite in primitive mantle are taken from McDonough and Rudnick (1998). Mineral modes of phlogopite-bearing garnet lherzolite and phlogopite-bearing spinel are modified from Pfänder et al. (2018 and reference therein). The source compositions for phlogopite–garnet lherzolite and phlogopite–spinel lherzolite are modified from Pfänder et al. (2018); the source compositions for garnet lherzolite and spinel lherzolite are those of the primitive mantle from McDonough and Sun (1995). Numbers on model curves indicate the percentage of melting.

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### 628 **10.2.2 Is phlogopite really the K (Rb)–bearing residual phase in the VVP mantle source?**

629 Although all the selected basic–ultrabasic samples have potassic affinity, on the primitive–mantle  
630 normalized multi–element diagram K and Rb are depleted, whereas Ba is enriched with respect to  
631 neighboring elements (Fig. 4b). Such features suggest the presence of a residual K (Rb)–bearing  
632 phase (i.e., amphibole and/or phlogopite) in the mantle source region (Greenough et al., 1988; Wilson  
633 and Downes, 1992). Previously, we inferred that the partial melting of the VVP mantle source took  
634 place probably within the garnet stability field (i.e., at pressures higher than 2.5 GPa; Robinson and  
635 Wood, 1998). The stability field of amphibole in upper mantle rocks ranges from 0.5 to 4 GPa at  
636 temperatures in the range of 970–1170°C (e.g., Konzett et al., 1997; Frost, 2006; Mandler and Grove,  
637 2016), whereas that of phlogopite ranges from 1 to 9 GPa and temperatures in the range of 800–  
638 1500°C (e.g., Sato et al., 1997; Konzett and Ulmer, 1999; Conceição and Green, 2004; Sokol et al.,  
639 2017). Therefore, both phases are thus stable at the mantle depths where VVP magmas formed.  
640 However, the calculated crystallization temperatures, based on the empirical equation of Putirka  
641 (2008) for the clinopyroxene/melt equilibrium, range from ~ 1150 to ~ 1220°C for the selected VVP  
642 basanites (Table 5), slightly lower than the temperature of ~ 1250°C obtained by Beccaluva et al.  
643 (2007) for the same lithotype. The temperatures of crystallization of the VVP clinopyroxenes are  
644 generally above than the stability temperature of amphibole. Taking this into account and considering  
645 its chemical–physical properties (Zanazzi and Pavese, 2002; Gemmi et al., 2008; Gatta et al., 2011)  
646 phlogopite appears to be the most likely potassic residual mantle phase. The hypothesis of amphibole  
647 as residual phase in the VVP mantle source is also ruled out by the REE patterns of VVP samples.  
648 Calcic amphiboles have affinity for the MREE (Gd to Ho) relative the HREE (Er to Lu; Tiepolo et  
649 al., 2007; Meyzen et al., 2016). Therefore, basanitic melts derived from an amphibole–bearing mantle  
650 source are fingerprinted by a typical convex–upward pattern in the MREE (Meyzen et al., 2016),  
651 which is absent in the VVP samples. Further evidence for the presence of phlogopite as the K-bearing  
652 residual phase is the Ba/Rb ratio. Both Rb and Ba are more compatible in phlogopite ( $D_{\text{Rb}}^{\text{phlogopite/melt}}$   
653 = 1.44,  $D_{\text{Ba}}^{\text{phlogopite/melt}}$  = 1.03; LaTourette et al., 1995; Furman and Graham, 1999; Tiepolo et al.,

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654 2007) than in amphibole ( $D_{\text{Rb}}^{\text{amphibole/melt}} = 0.15$ ,  $D_{\text{Ba}}^{\text{amphibole/melt}} = 0.29$ ; LaTourette et al., 1995;  
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655 Furman and Graham, 1999; Schmidt et al., 1999). Considering these partition coefficients, residual  
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656 amphibole would produce melts enriched in Ba/Rb ( $> 50$ ), the opposite being true for phlogopite ( $<$   
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657 20; Furman and Graham, 1999; Tiepolo et al., 2007; Meyzen et al., 2016). The relatively low Ba/Rb  
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658 (10 to 20) of most VVP basic–ultrabasic products thus supports the presence of residual phlogopite  
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659 rather than of amphibole within their mantle source.  
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### 661 **10.2.3 The origin of the VVP mantle source enrichment**

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662 In the spider diagrams (Fig. 4a, b) as well as to the K and Rb depletions, the basic–ultrabasic VVP  
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663 magmatic products exhibit enrichments also in Ba, Sr, and P. The same positive anomalies have been  
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664 described in within–plate magmatic suites generated from an enriched mantle source metasomatized  
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665 by CO<sub>2</sub>–rich fluids, which are able to carry Ba, Sr, and P (Yaxley et al., 1991; Ionov et al., 1996;  
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666 Beccaluva et al., 2007; Dixon et al., 2008). For example, Merle et al. (2017) suggested that basic–  
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667 ultrabasic magmatic rocks from Cameroon, which are geochemically characterized by enrichments  
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668 in LREE, Ba, Sr, and P and depletions in Zr, were derived from a mantle source that underwent  
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669 metasomatism from carbonatitic melts.  
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670 In the case of VVP basic–ultrabasic magmatic rocks, CO<sub>2</sub>–rich fluids may have been provided by the  
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671 subduction of the Tethys oceanic slab, which included calcareous metasediments and carbonated  
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672 metabasics (Malusà et al., 2018). Following the latter authors, this subduction was “cold” allowing  
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673 for major amounts of subducted carbonates to survive decarbonation and to be delaminated and stored  
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674 at depths higher than 180 km, generating a long low velocity layer from Central Southalpine to the  
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675 Eastern Southalpine domains (Malusà et al., 2018). In fact, according to Maierov et al. (2018) in any  
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676 collision-subduction process, if the subducted sediments detach from the slab at large depth ( $> 100$   
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677 km), their exhumation will be hindered by the thick overlying lithosphere and the subducted materials  
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678 are forced to flow laterally forming a “long sheet” under the upper plate.  
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679 Malusà et al. (2018) proposed that after the slab carbonates emplacement under the Adria microplate  
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680 lithosphere, their breakdown occurred, due to the progressive rise of mantle temperatures at the slab  
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681 interface. The new generated carbonate-rich melts, characterized by low density and viscosity  
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682 (Frezzotti et al., 2009, Malusà et al., 2018), upwelled and infiltrated the overlying (garnet-bearing)  
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683 mantle domain. These processes possibly involved the mantle source of the VVP.  
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684 Several authors (*e.g.*, Aulbach et al., 2004; Su et al., 2010; Meyzen et al., 2016; Sokol et al., 2017)  
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685 invoked metasomatic processes of silicatic and/or carbonatitic melts and/or fluids to explain the  
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686 presence of phlogopite in mantle sources. Similarly, we can think that the presence of phlogopite in  
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687 the VVP mantle source could be responsible for the formation and stabilization of the potassic phase.  
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689 To summarize, the trace element data seem to indicate that VVP magmas were derived by partial  
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690 melting of metasomatized phlogopite-bearing garnet lherzolite (basanitic magmas) and anhydrous  
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691 garnet lherzolite (tholeiitic magmas). The metasomatic processes occurred at depth with carbonatitic  
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692 melts. Except for an ancient carbonatitic signature recorded in Marosticano mantle (Brombin et al.,  
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693 2018), the Val d'Adige and Lessini Mts. mantle peridotites show no evidence for carbonatitic  
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694 metasomatism. Therefore, we have not enough elements to constrain the age of the carbonatitic  
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695 metasomatism recorded in the VVP magmatic products. However, according to Beccaluva et al.  
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696 (2007), the VVP melts are characterized also by low  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and high  $^{144}\text{Nd}/^{143}\text{Nd}$  isotope ratios, as  
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697 typical of magmas derived from incompatible element depleted mantle sources. Such decoupling of  
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698 enrichment in trace elements and depletion in isotopic compositions observed for the VVP magmatic  
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699 products indicates that the carbonatitic metasomatic event must have occurred recently enough to be  
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700 unable to significantly affect the isotope composition of the VVP magmas. This consideration  
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701 emphasizes our suggestion that the infiltration of carbonate fluids in the VVP mantle portion could  
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702 have occurred after the breakdown of carbonates during the subduction of Tethys oceanic slab.  
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### 10.3 The temporal evolution of the magmatic activity of the VVP

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705 For basic–ultrabasic rocks older than Quaternary, the dating of mineral separates is preferred over  
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706 groundmass for which separation of altered from fresh grains is difficult during sample preparation  
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707 (Jourdan et al., 2007; Verati and Jourdan, 2013). However, due to the lack of relatively abundant and  
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708 fresh phenocrysts of K-rich minerals in the VVP basanitic and basaltic samples, groundmass dating  
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709 was carried out. For these samples, slight alteration is suggested by i) the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercepts  
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710 substantially lower than atmospheric values for VVP whole–rock data ( $<298.56 \pm 0.31$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig.](#)  
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711 [5a, c, e, g](#)), ii) the absence of proper plateau ages (i.e.,  $<70\%$   $^{39}\text{Ar}$  released; [Tables 3, 4](#); [Fig. 5d, f, h,](#)  
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712 [j, x, 6b, c](#)), and iii) convex K/Ca spectra ([Figs. 5b, d, f, h, 6b, d](#)). In view of this, all the obtained mini–  
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713 plateau ages are considered as minimum crystallization ages. However, the geological significance  
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714 of these minimum ages is reinforced and confirmed by biostratigraphic data, when available.  
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715 Therefore, we are confident that the reported whole-rock ages approximately constrain the actual  
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716 crystallization ages, but we are aware that the true eruption age of a rock that yielded a mini-plateau  
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717 could lie well outside of the 95% confidence level given by the sample uncertainties. Only  
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718 Marosticano groundmass data did not define any isochron or plateau ages. However, the age spectra  
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719 indicating a crystallization age of  $\sim 22$ – $23$  Ma ([Figs. 5w, x, 6c, d](#)) are confirmed by biostratigraphic  
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720 data supporting a late Oligocene to early Miocene eruption in this district. Ages for the Euganean  
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721 samples were all obtained on mineral separates and are thus of higher quality. All Euganean samples  
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722 yielded statistically robust plateau ages based on  $> 88\%$  of gas released ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5l, n, p, r, t, v](#)),  
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723 only the amphibole separate from EU52 yielded a mini–plateau age (defined by 67% of the released  
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724 gas; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5j](#)).

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725 Based on the new age determinations and considering the available biostratigraphic data, we  
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726 reconstructed the temporal evolution of the Cenozoic magmatism occurred in the Southeastern Alpine  
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727 domain ([Fig. 2](#)). The VVP magmatic activity was discontinuous and took place with several pulses,  
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728 covering a time–span of about 30 My (from late Paleocene to early Miocene). The oldest activity was  
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729 always subaqueous, thus difficult to date by the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  technique due to the pervasive alteration of  
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730 the volcanic products. However, biostratigraphic data constrain the Paleocene onset of VVP  
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2363 731 magmatism in the Val d'Adige and Lessini Mts., as well as a late Eocene onset in the Euganean Hills  
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2365 732 (Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; Luciani, 1989; De Vecchi and Sedeà, 1995;  
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2367 733 Bassi et al., 2008). The oldest age here obtained with the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  method is Lutetian and is recorded  
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2369 734 by a basaltic lava flow ( $\text{TER1} \geq 45.21 \pm 0.11 \text{ Ma}$ ; [Table 3](#); [Figs. 2, 5e, f](#)) from the Lessini Mts. The  
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2371 735 basanitic neck of the same district records a quite younger age ( $\text{BOL1} \geq 38.73 \pm 0.44 \text{ Ma}$ ; Bartonian;  
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2373 736 [Table 3](#); [Figs. 2, 5g, h](#)) consistent with its stratigraphic position, cutting the lava flow from which  
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2375 737 TER1 was collected. The Val d'Adige district records  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  ages similar to those obtained for the  
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2377 738 Lessini Mts. In particular at Monte Baldo the lava flow (BAL1) and the sill (BAL7) record ages of  
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2379 739  $41.69 \pm 0.37 \text{ Ma}$  and  $41.98 \pm 0.20 \text{ Ma}$ , respectively while the basanitic neck near Rovereto (BI14)  
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2381 740 shows an age of  $40.73 \pm 0.48 \text{ Ma}$  ([Tables 3, 4](#); [Figs. 5a–d, 6a, b](#)). These ages are consistent with  
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2383 741 biostratigraphic ages for the interbedded carbonates ([Fig. 2](#)).  
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2386 742 All analysed basic to acid Euganean Hills samples yielded indistinguishable ages pointing to a main  
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2388 743 magmatic phase in this district at  $\sim 32.21 \pm 0.09 \text{ Ma}$  (average value). In particular, for the basaltic  
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2390 744 trachyandesite sample (EU52) both amphibole and plagioclase separates were analysed and the  
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2392 745 resulting plateau ages are similar ( $32.35 \pm 0.09 \text{ Ma}$  and  $32.16 \pm 0.06 \text{ Ma}$ , respectively; [Table 3](#); [Fig.](#)  
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2394 746 [5j, l](#)). The slight difference between the two ages for this sample may be tentatively attributed to the  
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2396 747 different closure temperatures of these two minerals, i.e.,  $\sim 550 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for hornblende and  $\sim 300 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$   
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2398 748 plagioclase. This would suggest a relatively slow cooling rate ( $\geq 1.3^\circ\text{C}/\text{Ka}$ ) for the EU52 sub-  
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2400 749 intrusive body. This relatively slow cooling rate of the magma is easily understandable if we consider  
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2402 750 that EU52 intruded other basic intrusive units, which were probably nearly synchronous and thus still  
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2404 751 hot. These host basic units are geochemically equivalent to the tholeiitic basaltic products of the  
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2406 752 Euganean Hills, while EU52 is representative of the basic alkaline products of this district. The  
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2408 753 plateau age of EU52 overlaps that of the other dated Euganean basaltic trachyandesite ( $\text{EU8B} = 32.17$   
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2410 754  $\pm 0.32 \text{ Ma}$ ; [Table 3](#); [Fig. 5n](#)). The plateau ages for the latitic, trachytic, and rhyolitic Euganean  
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2412 755 samples range between  $32.09 \pm 0.29$  and  $32.34 \pm 0.51 \text{ Ma}$  ([Table 3](#); [Fig. 5p, r, t, v](#)). Therefore,  
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2414 756 according to the new geochronological data the peak phase of both basaltic and acidic Euganean  
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2421 757 magmatism occurred during the Rupelian (lower Oligocene; Fig. 2) in a time-span possibly shorter  
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2423 758 than 0.3 My.  
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2425 759 Finally, both the Marosticano samples, collected in Monte Glosio quarry, point to an Aquitanian (early  
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2427 760 Miocene; ~ 22 Ma) eruption age (Table 3; Figs. 2, 5w, x, 6c, d). According to biostratigraphic studies  
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2429 761 and field evidences, no eruptions occurred during the Miocene neither in Val d'Adige nor in  
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2431 762 Euganean Hills. Therefore, the Miocene magmatic products of the eastern Lessini Mts. indicated by  
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2433 763 biostratigraphic data (Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; Fig. 2) and those of the Marosticano district  
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2435 764 represent the most recent known magmatic activity in the VVP.  
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2437 765 The evidence for several VVP magmatic pulses reflects the main extensional phases of the  
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2439 766 southernmost portion of the Eastern Alps, which were intermitted by episodic accretionary events of  
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2441 767 the Alpine orogen (Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). The decompressional melting of the upwelling  
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2443 768 mantle during extension of continental lithosphere is known as viable mechanism for intraplate  
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2445 769 magmatism (Pedersen and Ro, 1992). In the Paleocene (65–55 Ma) the Adria–Europe convergence  
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2447 770 stopped after the continental collision in the Eastern Alps and the following reprise of the convergence  
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2449 771 was slower than the rollback of the subducting European slab (Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum  
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2451 772 et al., 2002; Dézes et al., 2004; Schmid et al., 2004; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005). The extension in  
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2453 773 the overriding plate is promoted when slow convergence rates do not exceed the rates of subduction  
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2455 774 rollback (Pacanovsky et al., 1999; Jolivet and Faccenna, 2000; Rosenbaum et al., 2002; Heuret and  
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2457 775 Lallemand, 2005; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005; Brenna et al., 2015). Therefore, from the Paleocene  
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2459 776 to the middle Eocene, an extensional regime developed in the Southeastern Alps (Ratschbacher et al.,  
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2461 777 1989), triggering the magmatism in Val d'Adige (Luciani, 1989; De Vecchi and Sedeà, 1995) and in  
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2463 778 Lessini Mts. (Borsi et al., 1969; Savelli and Lipparini, 1979; Luciani, 1989; De Vecchi and Sedeà,  
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2465 779 1995; Bassi et al., 2008) along the transtensional fault systems of the Alpone–Agnò Graben  
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2467 780 (Zampieri, 1995). From the late Eocene until ~30 Ma an extensional regime developed in the  
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2469 781 easternmost VVP parts triggering magmatism also in the Euganean Hills (Piccoli et al., 1976, 1981;  
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2471 782 Zantendeschi et al., 1994; Milani et al., 1999; Bartoli et al., 2014) and Marosticano (Savelli and  
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Lipparini, 1979). From ~30 Ma to ~23 Ma (Oligocene-Miocene boundary) the extensional processes stopped in the Southeastern Alps (Frisch et al., 2000). The magmatic activity reprised in the early Miocene, but it was quite rare and limited to the easternmost areas. No magmatic activity younger than ~ 20–23 Ma is documented (Savelli and Lipparini, 1979).

#### 10.4 Geodynamic implications of the magmatism in the VVP

According to the new age determinations, the VVP magmatism ranges from  $45.21 \pm 0.11$  Ma (TER1, Lessini Mts. district) to ~ 22 – 23 Ma (LB1 and 25B, Marosticano district). If we consider also the biostratigraphic evidence for early subaqueous activity in Val d’Adige and Lessini Mts., the VVP magmatism probably started from the late Paleocene (Luciani, 1989; De Vecchi and Sedeà, 1995; Bassi et al., 2008). Magmatism in the Central Alps started slightly later, in the Eocene along the Periadriatic/Insubric Line, with the emplacement of the Adamello batholith and its feeder dykes at ~ 42 Ma (Bergomi et al., 2015 and reference therein). However, the climax of the Periadriatic Central Alps orogenic magmatism occurred from 34 Ma to 28 Ma (Bergomi et al., 2015 and reference therein), during the Oligocenic extensional phase that characterized both the Central and the Eastern Alpine domains (Ring, 1994; Nievergelt et al., 1996; Challandes et al., 2003; Glodny et al., 2008; Pleuger et al., 2008; Steck, 2008; Beltrando et al. 2010; Ring and Gerdens, 2016; Schmid et al., 2017). Despite the geographic proximity and despite similar emplacement ages, the Periadriatic Central Alps intrusive bodies and the VVP magmatic products are characterized by quite different geochemical signatures. The first one is characterized by sub-alkaline and calc-alkaline affinities, exhibiting trace element features typical of subduction-related magmas (high LILE/HFSE, high LREE/HFSE ratios, and low-Nb contents; Bellieni, 1980; Bergomi et al., 2015). In particular, the enrichments in LILE, Th and U of the least evolved Periadriatic Central Alps calc-alkaline and sub-alkaline dykes ( $MgO > 6$  wt.% and  $mg\# > 60$ ; Fig. 4b), may result from a mantle source contaminated by subducted and recycled continental material, probably the crystalline basement of the Central Southern Alps (Bergomi et al., 2015; Fig. 4b). Contrarily, the VVP magmas span dominant alkaline to rare

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809 subalkaline compositions including ultrabasic, basic, intermediate, and acid rocks, with the least  
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810 evolved magmatic products exhibiting trace element signature typical of intraplate magmas (*e.g.*, high  
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811 HFSE contents, high LREE/HREE ratios, and relatively low LILE/HFSE ratios). Nb/La ratio when  
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812 plotted against MgO concentrations, becomes a good proxy to discriminate between arc or intraplate  
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813 magmatic affinities (Kay et al., 2006b, 2013; Pallares et al., 2016). Low Nb/La can be associated with  
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814 an arc–magmatism, while high Nb/La reflects intraplate chemical signature. The Periadriatic Central  
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815 Alps magmatic products show Nb/La values significantly lower than those of VVP magmatic  
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816 products (0.14–0.45 vs. 0.78–2.08, respectively), confirming a mantle source with an arc affinity for  
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817 the Periadriatic Central Alps magmatism and a mantle source with an intraplate affinity for the  
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818 Southeastern Alps (Fig. 9).  
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819 Despite the clearly different geochemical compositions of the Periadriatic Central Alps and VVP  
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820 magmatism, both events were explained by the slab break–off model by several authors (*e.g.*, von  
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821 Blanckenburg and Davies, 1995; Dal Piaz et al., 2003; Macera et al., 2003; Bergomi et al., 2015).  
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822 According to this model, at ~ 35 Ma, after the Adria–Europe collision in the Western Alps, the  
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823 subducting oceanic slab detached from the European margin (von Blanckenburg and Davies, 1995;  
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824 Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Dézes et al., 2004). The break–off of the subducting slab allowed  
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825 asthenospheric upwelling above the supra–subduction hydrated mantle wedge, causing its melting.  
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826 The occurrence of high seismic velocity anomalies (*i.e.*, “cold” material) observed on tomographic  
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827 images lying above the mantle transition zone under the Central Alps has been proposed to represent  
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828 the detached European slab (*e.g.*, Macera et al., 2003; Piromallo and Morelli, 2003; Giacomuzzi et  
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829 al., 2011; Zhao et al., 2016). According to these tomographic images, such high velocity anomalies  
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830 are discontinuous, reflecting gaps larger than 100 km (Lippitsch et al., 2003; Piromallo and Morelli,  
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831 2003). The low–velocity anomalies (*i.e.*, “hot” material) below the VVP could be interpreted as  
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832 mantle diapirs sucked into these lithospheric gaps and upwelled towards shallower levels inducing  
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833 partial melting of the surrounding subcontinental lithospheric material and providing an intraplate  
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834 geochemical signature to the VVP magmatic products (Macera et al., 2003). However, the  
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835 biostratigraphic ages suggest that the Cenozoic magmatism started in the late Paleocene and also our  
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836 new radioisotopic ages confirm that the peak activity in the Val d'Adige and Lessini Mts. was Eocene  
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837 in age (~ 45–38 Ma), i.e., it was formed well before the supposed slab break–off event. Therefore,  
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838 only the Oligocene magmatic activity from the Euganean Hills may be related to slab detachment.  
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839 Macera et al. (2003) justified the early VVP eruptions (Paleocene) as the result of the mantle diapir  
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840 action. On the contrary, Bergomi et al. (2015) proposed a partial melting of supra–subduction mantle  
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841 wedge in the VVP area in response to the low–angle Alpine subduction that shifted the magmatism  
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842 into the foreland.  
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843 Recent high–resolution P wave isotropic tomography (Zhao et al., 2016) and the first P wave  
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844 anisotropic tomography of the Alps performed (Hua et al., 2017), allow reconstructing the complex  
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845 mantle structure and dynamics of the Alps and adjacent regions. Isotropic tomography simply  
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846 provides snapshots of the present crust and upper mantle structures beneath the Alps (Zhao et al.,  
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847 2016; Hua et al., 2017). On the contrary, seismic anisotropy is produced by the preferred orientation  
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848 of olivine crystals induced by mantle flow (*e.g.*, Savage, 1999; Savage and Sheehan, 2000; Park and  
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849 Levin, 2002; Lucente et al., 2006; Savage et al., 2016). Therefore, it reveals information on the actual  
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850 upper mantle flow field (Long and Silver, 2008; Hua et al., 2017). These new images document a  
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851 continuous European slab beneath the Central Alps without evidence of any gaps down to 450 km in  
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852 depth, which rules out the hypothesis of the slab break–off as a viable mechanism for the Cenozoic  
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853 magmatism in the Alps. In particular, the length of the subducted slab in the Central Alps ranges from  
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854 450 to 500 km (Hua et al., 2017), which is in accordance with the estimation of the length of a  
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855 hypothetical continuous subducting slab below the Central Alps and contrasts with the more reduced  
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856 slab length of 300 km estimated by Piromallo and Faccenna (2004) that was taken as evidence of slab  
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857 break–off.  
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858 Furthermore, Freeburn et al. (2017) showed by numerical modelling that magmatism induced by slab  
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859 break–off occurs only when the latter is shallower than the base of the overriding lithosphere. Such  
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860 processes are not common as slab break–off occurs typically deeper than the overriding plate  
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861 thickness (Duretz et al., 2011; van Hunen and Allen, 2011; Freeburn et al., 2017), too deep to generate  
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862 any decompressional melting of dry upwelling asthenosphere or sufficient thermal perturbations  
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863 within the overriding lithosphere. These new results allow reconsidering the mechanism generating  
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864 the magmatic processes in the VVP. In particular, in the frame of our new geochronological results  
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865 and source modelling, the tomographic results of Zhao et al. (2016) and Hua et al. (2017) provide  
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866 elements for also an alternative model to explain the Alpine geodynamics. Since the continental  
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867 collision in the Eastern Alps (65 Ma), the European slab became not only progressively steeper, but  
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868 also retreated in response to rollback mechanisms (Stampfli et al., 1998, 2002; Rosenbaum et al.,  
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869 2002; Dézes et al., 2004; Schmid et al., 2004; Rosenbaum and Lister, 2005; Singer et al., 2014;  
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870 Bergomi et al., 2015; Schlunegger and Kissling, 2015, Kissling and Schlunegger, 2018).

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871 Laboratory analogue solutions, 3D experiments, and numerical modelling reproducing the retreating  
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872 slab movements show that the rollback subduction generates a complex mantle circulation pattern  
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873 characterized by the presence of poloidal and toroidal mantle flows, escaping from beneath the slab  
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874 and upwelling from the tip and the lateral edges of the sinking plate, respectively (Fig. 10a; Kincaid  
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875 and Griffiths, 2003; Funicello et al., 2006; Piromallo et al., 2006; Faccenna et al., 2011, Strak and  
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876 Schellart, 2014). The poloidal mantle flow can affect areas located far away from the trench, while  
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877 the toroidal flow produces upwellings located only slightly laterally away from the sub-slab domain  
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878 (Fig. 10a; Strak and Schellart, 2014). However, the mantle circulation is intermittent: when the slab  
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879 approaches the upper/lower mantle discontinuity at 660 km, the poloidal circulation reduces  
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880 significantly, as the slab represents a barrier for material exchange in vertical direction, whereas the  
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881 toroidal mantle motion is particularly vigorous (Kincaid and Griffiths, 2003; Funicello et al., 2006;  
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882 Faccenna et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2016). Irrespective of the dominant component (poloidal or  
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883 toroidal), the subduction-induced mantle flow i) drives deformation, mainly extensional, in the  
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884 overriding plate (Chen et al., 2016) and ii) triggers volcanism induced by decompressional melting  
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885 (Faccenna et al., 2011).

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886 Taking all of this into account, we speculate that within the Alpine geological setting, the progressive  
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887 retreat of the European slab caused upwelling of a subduction-induced mantle flow (Fig. 10). This  
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888 was probably mainly poloidal, as the European slab tip is presently at ~ 450 km (Hua et al., 2017),  
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889 still far from the 660 km discontinuity. The circulation of this mantle flow could be also the cause of  
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890 the rising temperature at the slab interface, responsible for the breakdown of the subducted carbonates  
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891 stored at depth higher than 180 km. Then the carbon-rich melts infiltrated and metasomatized the  
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892 overlying mantle lithosphere or the mantle wedge. The mantle flow upwelling induced also  
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893 extensional deformation in the overriding plate and decompressional melting of the phlogopite-  
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894 bearing and anhydrous (i.e., phlogopite and amphibole-free) garnet lherzolite sources metasomatized  
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895 by CO<sub>2</sub>-rich melts. This process triggered magmatism with intraplate signature instead of arc affinity  
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896 (Fig. 10). The VVP magmatism occurred in the Paleocene-Eocene in the westernmost side (i.e., Val  
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897 d'Adige-Lessini Mts. domain) and only since the Oligocene in its eastern areas (i.e., Euganean Hills-  
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898 Marosticano domain). The southeastward migration and rejuvenation of the magmatism can be  
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899 accounted for considering that Adria microplate underwent counterclockwise rotation of the order of  
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900 40–50° since ~ 35 Ma (Lowrie and Alvarez, 1975; Dewey et al., 1989; Rosenbaum et al., 2002; Ring  
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901 and Gerdens, 2016). Such movement could have controlled the asthenospheric upwelling to affect  
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902 different portions of the overlying lithosphere.  
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903 In this work, we ruled out the need of passive upwelling of mantle flow through slab window(s) to  
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904 explain the occurrence of the VVP magmatism. Although this was not the aim of this work, in the  
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905 frame of the geodynamic model we also speculate that the Periadriatic orogenic magmatism in Central  
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906 Alps is related to the dehydration of the subducting oceanic slab, which triggered the partial melting  
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907 of the overlying spinel-bearing mantle wedge (Fig. 10).  
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**Figure 9.** MgO (wt.%) vs. Nb/La diagram showing arc (grey field) and intraplate (colored fields) affinities of mantle sources for Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., Euganean Hills, and Marosticano rocks studied in this work (large symbols) and in previous studies (small symbols delimiting fields). Val d'Adige compositions are from Beccaluva et al., (2007); Lessini Mts. and Marosticano compositions are from Macera et al. (2003) and Beccaluva et al. (2007); Euganean Hills compositions are from Macera et al. (2003) and Milani et al. (1999). **[1 column fitting]**

**Figure 10.** Schematic model (not in scale) for magmatism in the Central and Southeastern Alpine domains at Eocene/Oligocene. The slab rollback and steepening of the subducted European slab induced the upwelling of a poloidal mantle flow, which causes i) the breakdown of carbonates in calcareous metasediments and carbonated metabasics dragged at depth by the subducting slab (*i.e.* Malusà et al., 2018); ii) extensional deformation within the Adria microplate, and iii) melting of the carbonatitic metasomatized phlogopite-bearing and anhydrous (*i.e.*, phlogopite and amphibole-free) garnet-peridotite sources, which generated the basanitic and the tholeiitic magmas, respectively. In the Central Alps domain, the dehydration of the subducting oceanic slab induced partial melting of the overlying spinel-bearing mantle wedge, which triggered the Periadriatic orogenic magmatism. Inset a) Sketch showing the paths of poloidal and toroidal mantle flows. The poloidal mantle flow escapes from beneath the slab and upwells from its tip, affecting mantle region(s) located far away from the sinking plate; the toroidal flow escapes from the lateral edges of the slab and upwells only in the mantle portion(s) near the slab. **[2 columns fitting]**

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2834 **11. CONCLUSION**  
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2837 931 For this work new geochemical and geochronological data are provided to investigate the occurrence  
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2839 932 of the intraplate magmatism of VVP, which emplaced in an extensional setting (inferred depth Moho:  
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2841 933 ~ 26 km) at the same time of the Alpine orogeny.

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2843 934 The geothermobarometric and geochemical data of basanitic magmatic products are consistent with  
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2845 935 ~ 3–4% degree of partial melting of a phlogopite-bearing garnet peridotite mantle source and those  
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2847 936 of tholeiitic magmatic products are consistent with ~ 5–6% degree of partial melting of an anhydrous  
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2849 937 (i.e., phlogopite and amphibole-free) garnet peridotite mantle source. All basic–ultrabasic VVP  
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2851 938 magmatic products exhibit enrichments in Ba, Sr, and P, indicating that the mantle sources could be  
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2853 939 metasomatized by carbonatitic melts, maybe provided by the breakdown of carbonates in calcareous  
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2855 940 metasediments and carbonated metabasics dragged at depth by the subducting Tethys slab.

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2858 941 By integrating literature biostratigraphic data with new  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  geochronological data of the VVP  
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2860 942 magmatic products, we reconstructed the temporal evolution of the magmatic activity of this  
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2862 943 province. In the Paleocene–Eocene the first magmatic activities occurred in the westernmost VVP  
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2864 944 domain (i.e., Val d’Adige and Lessini Mts.) when an extensional regime was imposed in the  
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2866 945 Southeastern Alps by the rollback of the subducted oceanic slab. During the Oligocene–Miocene  
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2868 946 another extensional phase occurred promoting the magmatic activities also in the easternmost VVP  
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2870 947 domain (i.e., Euganean Hills and Marosticano districts). According to this reconstruction the first  
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2872 948 VVP eruptions are pre–Oligocene in age, ruling out the hypothesis that the magmatism was due to  
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2874 949 the upwelling of mantle diapirs through a slab window after the European slab detachment, which  
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2876 950 occurrence was dated after ~ 35 Ma. Moreover, in accordance with new tomographic images, the  
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2878 951 present European slab is continuous and nearly vertical, with a tip at ~ 450 km in depth, as expected  
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2880 952 for a hypothetical continuous subducting slab in the Central Alps. Therefore, in this study a new  
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2882 953 geodynamic model is proposed:

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2885 954 the progressive retreatment and steepness of the European slab induced the escape of the sub–slab  
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2887 955 mantle material and its upwelling mainly from the front the slab. The subduction–induced mantle  
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956 flow caused the increasing temperature at the slab interface and, by consequence, the generation of  
957 the metasomatizing CO<sub>2</sub>-rich melts after the breakdown of carbonates dragged at depth by the  
958 subducting Tethys. The upwelling of the mantle flow also caused the intraplate magmatism in the  
959 Alpine collisional setting driving i) extensional deformation in Adria microplate and ii)  
960 decompression melting of the carbonatitic metasomatized mantle wedge beneath the VVP. It is also  
961 speculated that the migration and rejuvenation of the magmatism southeastward is an effect of the  
962 Adria counterclockwise rotation, which started ~ 35 Ma. Finally, we suggest that the coeval  
963 Periadriatic orogenic magmatism occurred in the Central Alps is related to the partial melting of the  
964 spinel-bearing mantle wedge induced by dehydration of the subducting slab.

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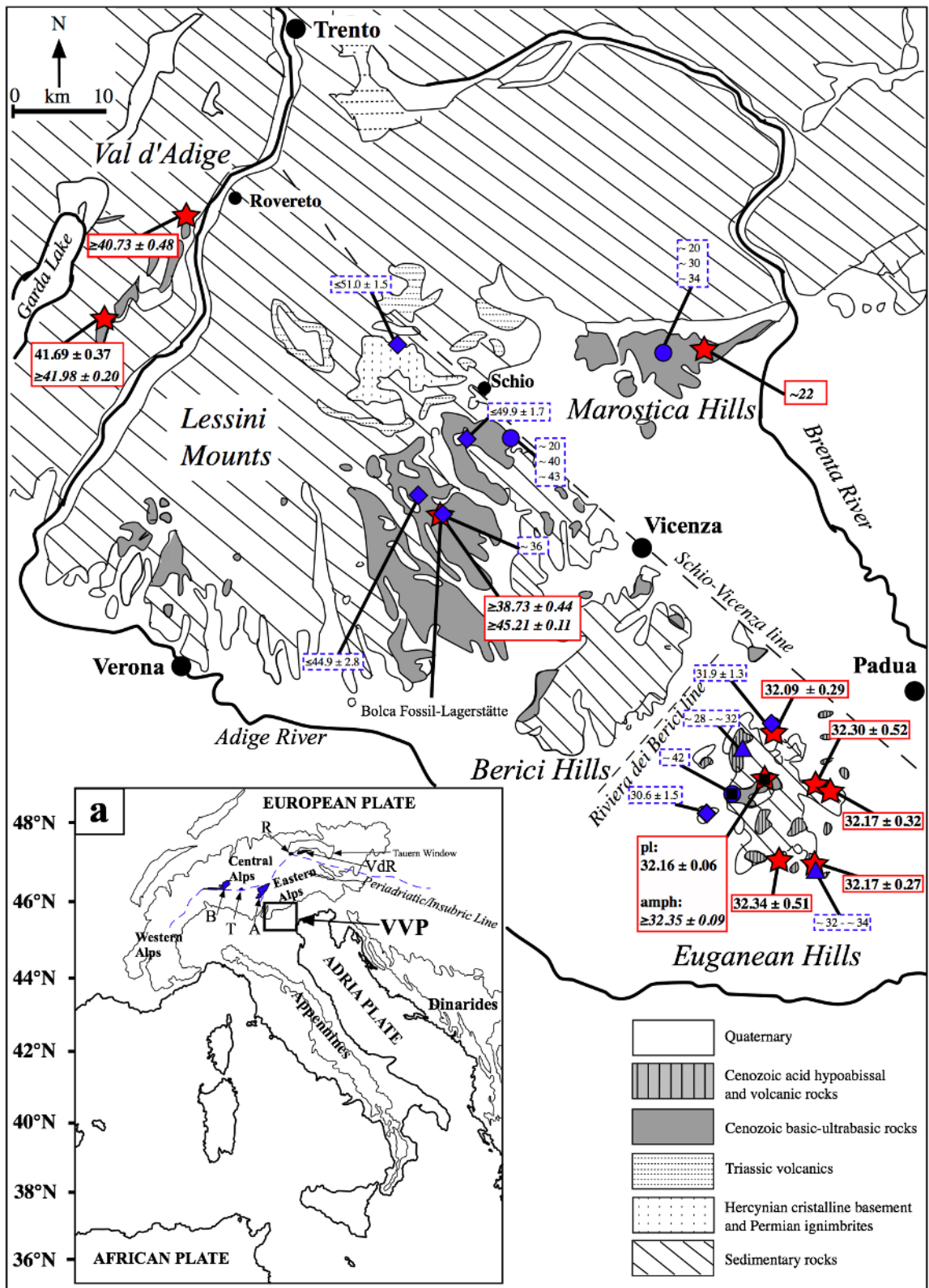
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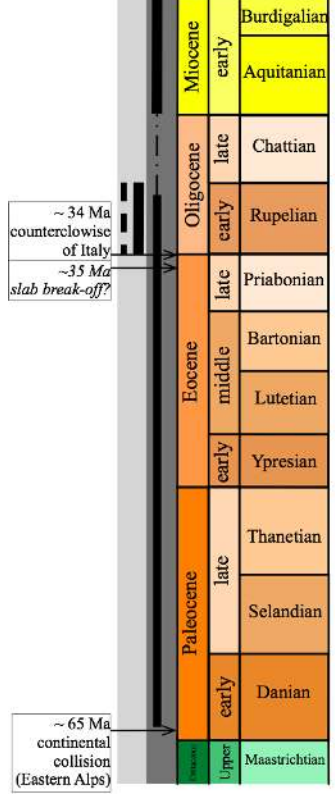
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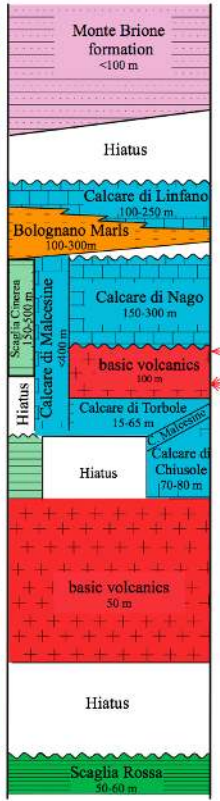
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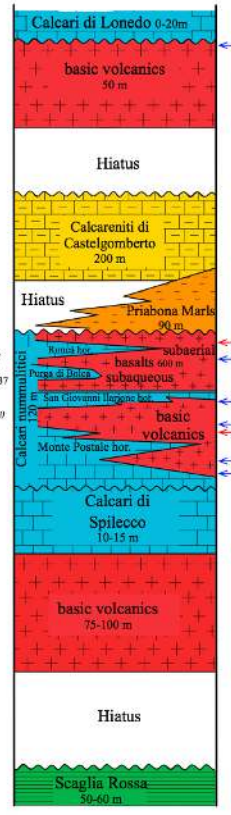
Principal events  
Central Alps  
Eastern Alps  
Epoch  
Age



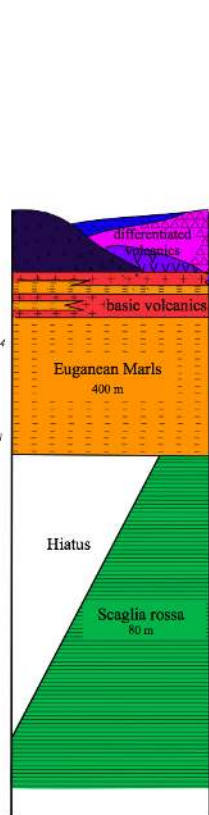
Monte Baldo-northern sector (Val d'Adige)



Eastern Lessini Mts.



Euganean Hills

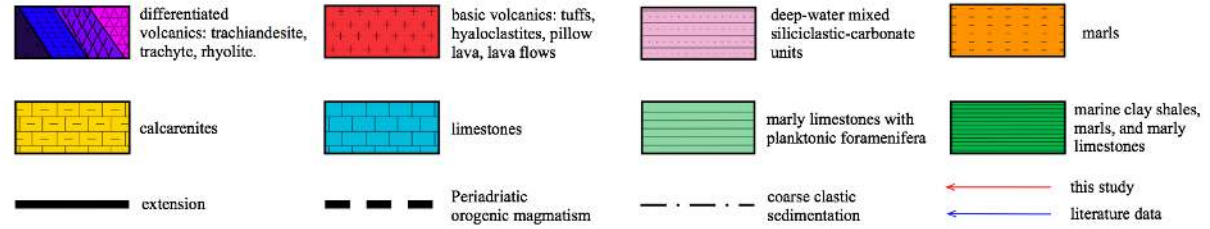


Marosticano

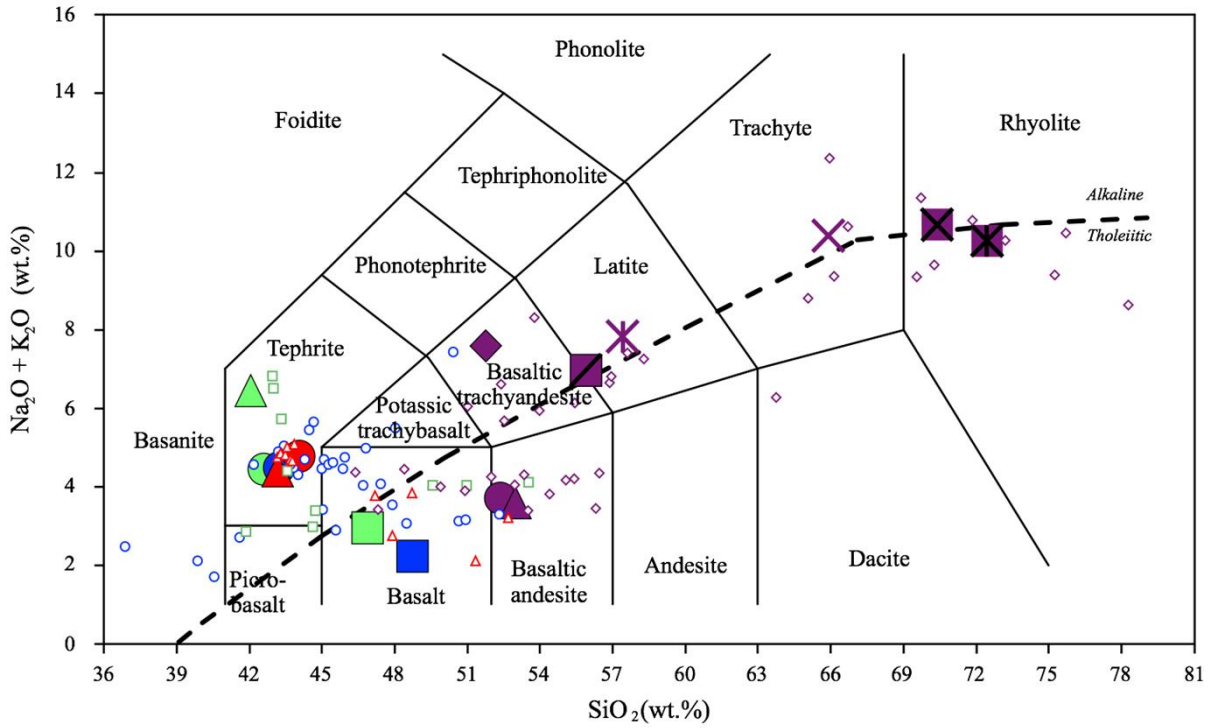


$B114 \geq 40.73 \pm 0.48$   
 $BAL1 = 41.69 \pm 0.37$   
 $BAL7 \geq 41.98 \pm 0.20$

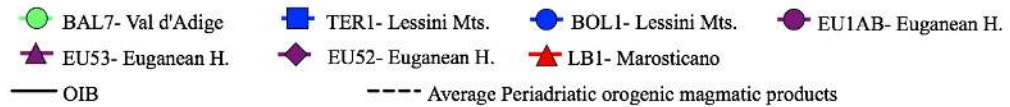
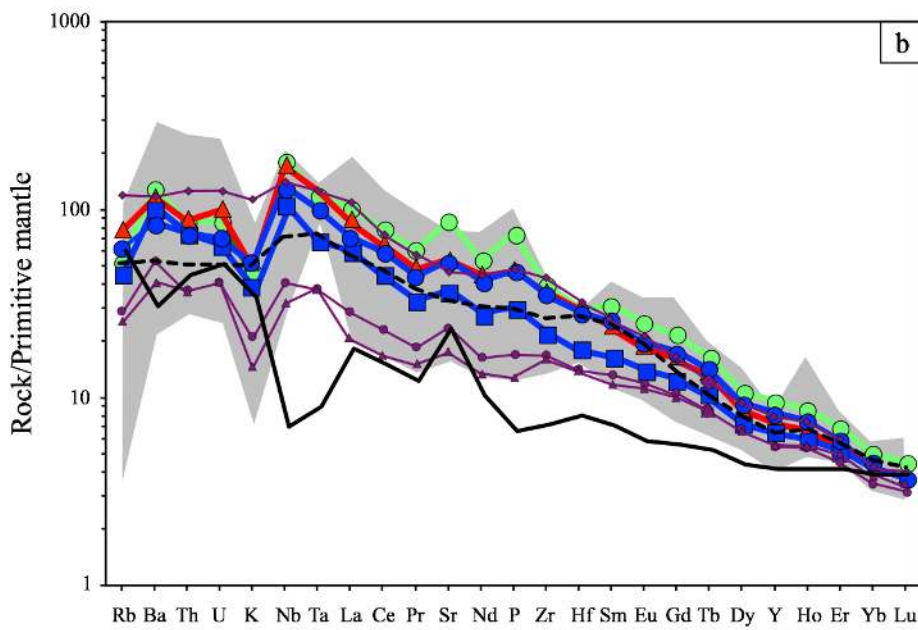
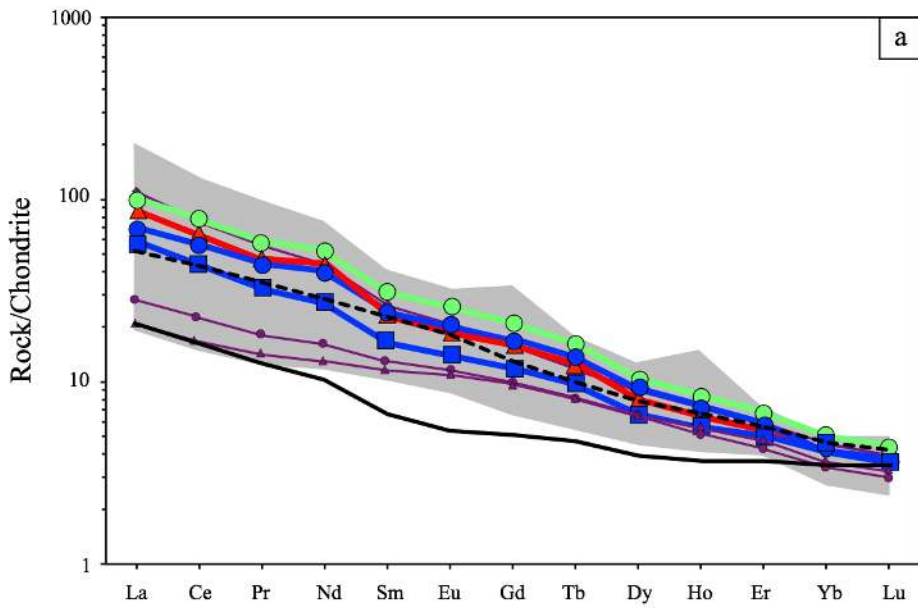
$\leq 30.6 \pm 1.5$   
 $\leq 31.9 \pm 1.3$   
 $\leq 32$   
 $EU4 = 32.09 \pm 0.20$   
 $EU52 (pl) = 32.16 \pm 0.06$   
 $EU9 = 32.17 \pm 0.27$   
 $EU8B = 32.17 \pm 0.32$   
 $EU5B = 32.30 \pm 0.52$   
 $EU13A = 32.34 \pm 0.51$   
 $EU52 (amph) \geq 32.35 \pm 0.09$

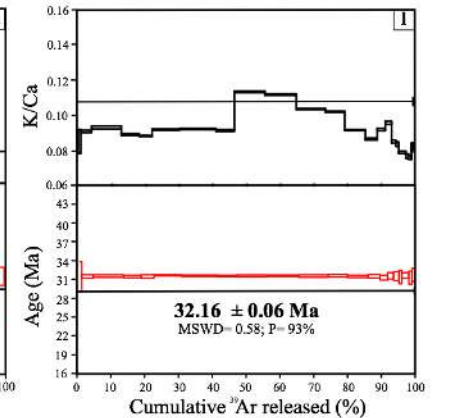
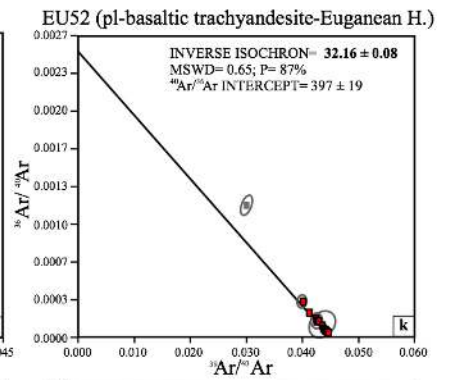
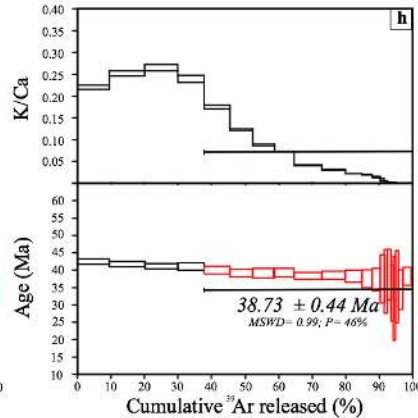
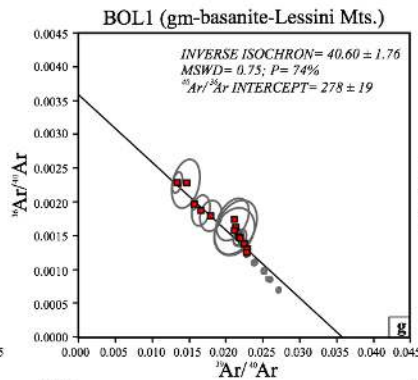
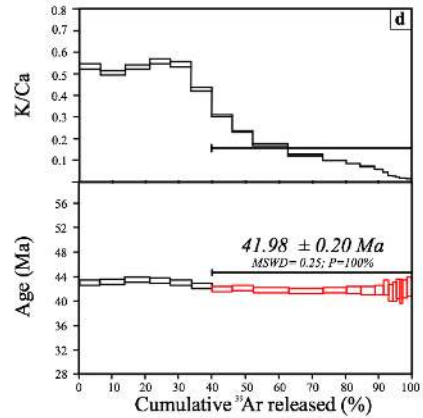
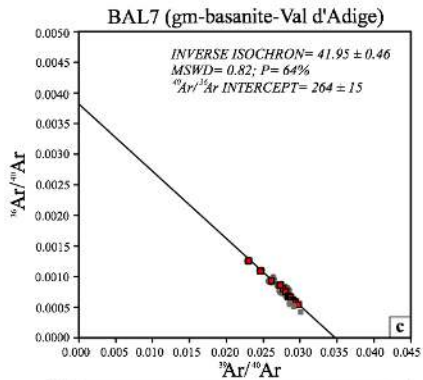
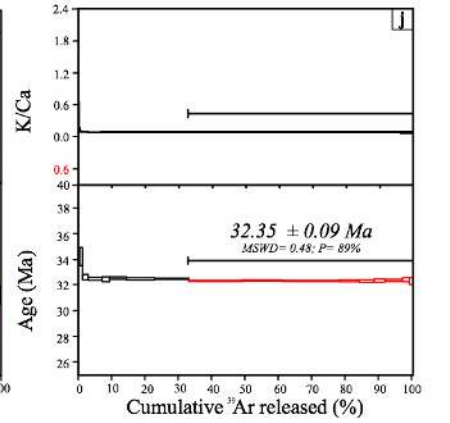
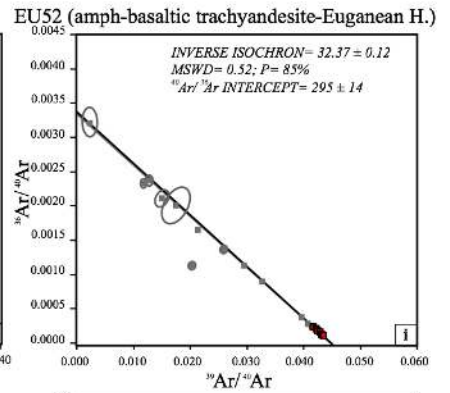
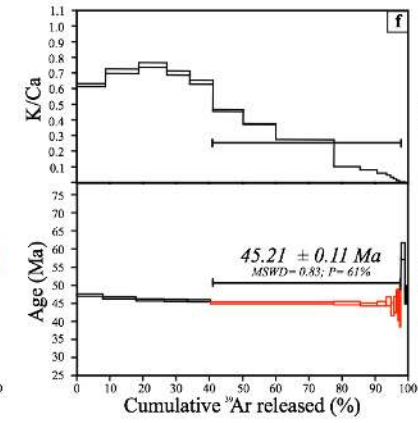
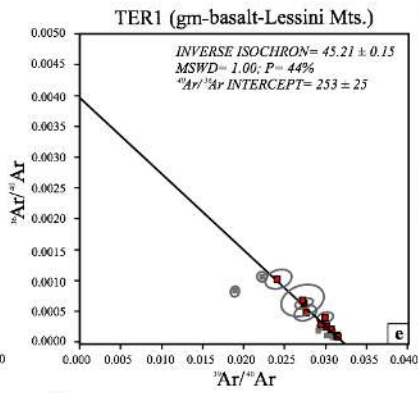
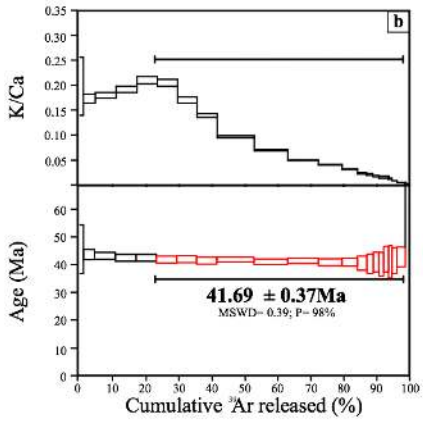
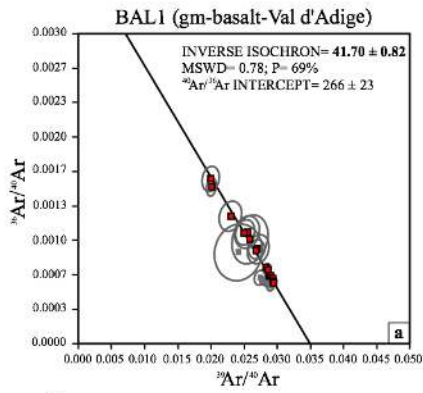


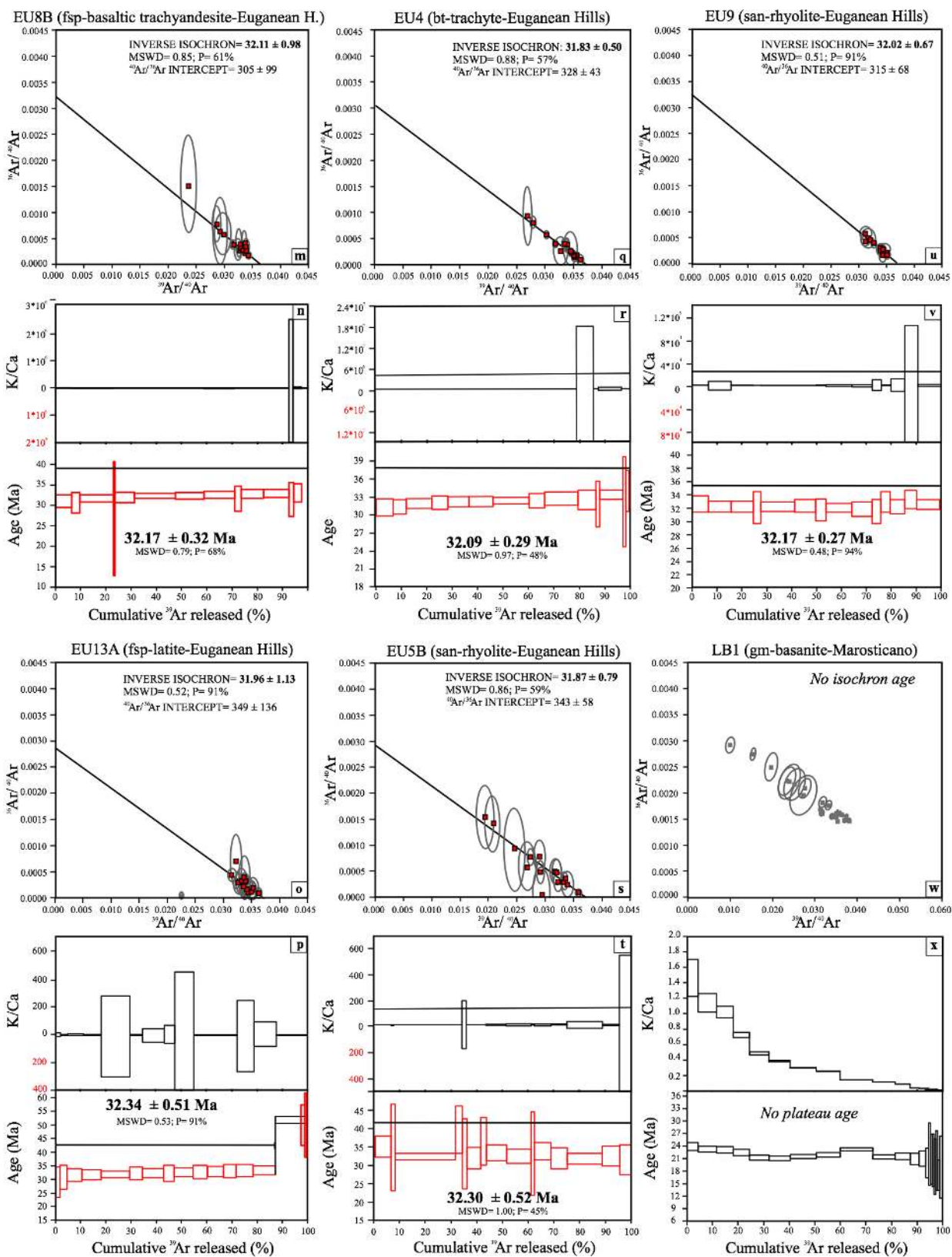


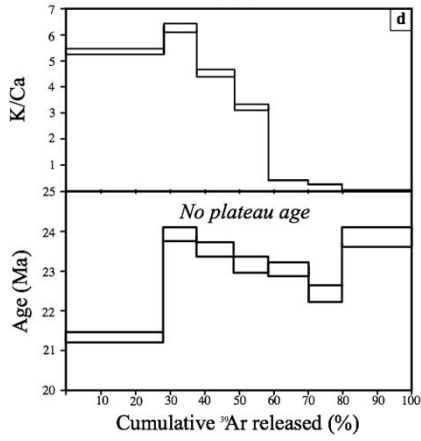
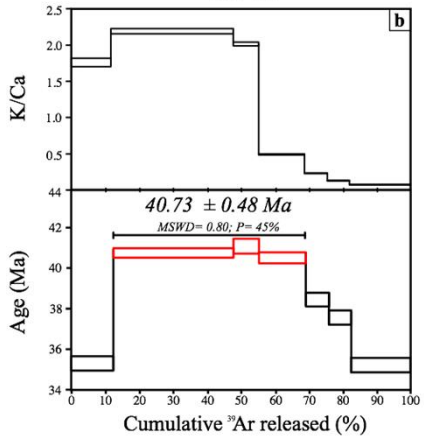
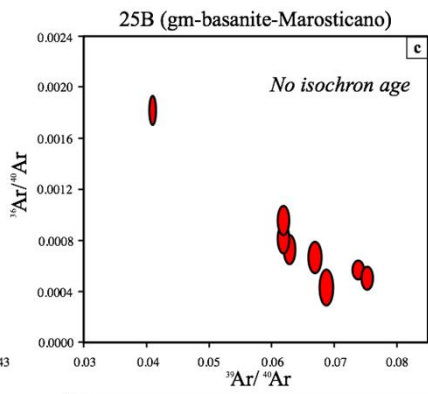
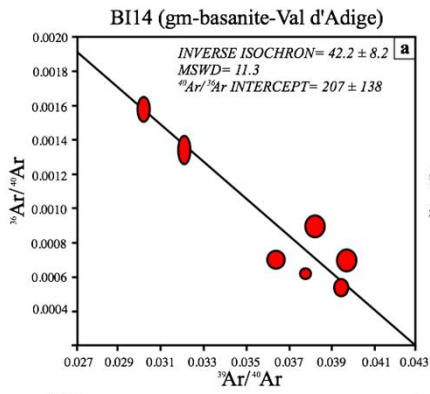


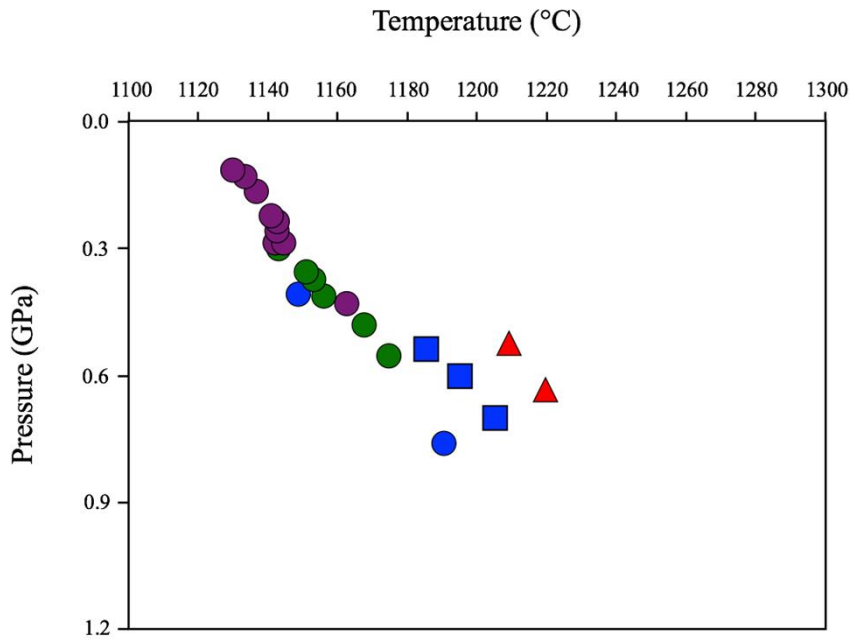
- |   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> BAL1- Val d'Adige  | <span style="color: green;">●</span> BAL7- Val d'Adige | <span style="color: green;">▲</span> BI14- Val d'Adige   | <span style="color: blue;">■</span> TER1- Lessini Mts.  | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> BOL1- Lessini Mts.  |
| <span style="color: red;">▲</span> LB1- Marosticano     | <span style="color: red;">●</span> 25B- Marosticano    | <span style="color: purple;">●</span> EU1AB- Euganean H. | <span style="color: purple;">×</span> EU4- Euganean H.  | <span style="color: purple;">■</span> EU5B- Euganean H. |
| <span style="color: purple;">■</span> EU8B- Euganean H. | <span style="color: purple;">■</span> EU9- Euganean H. | <span style="color: purple;">×</span> EU13A- Euganean H. | <span style="color: purple;">◆</span> EU52- Euganean H. | <span style="color: purple;">▲</span> EU53- Euganean H. |
| <span style="color: green;">□</span> Val d'Adige        | <span style="color: blue;">○</span> Lessini Mts.       | <span style="color: red;">▲</span> Marosticano           | <span style="color: purple;">◇</span> Euganean Hills    |   |



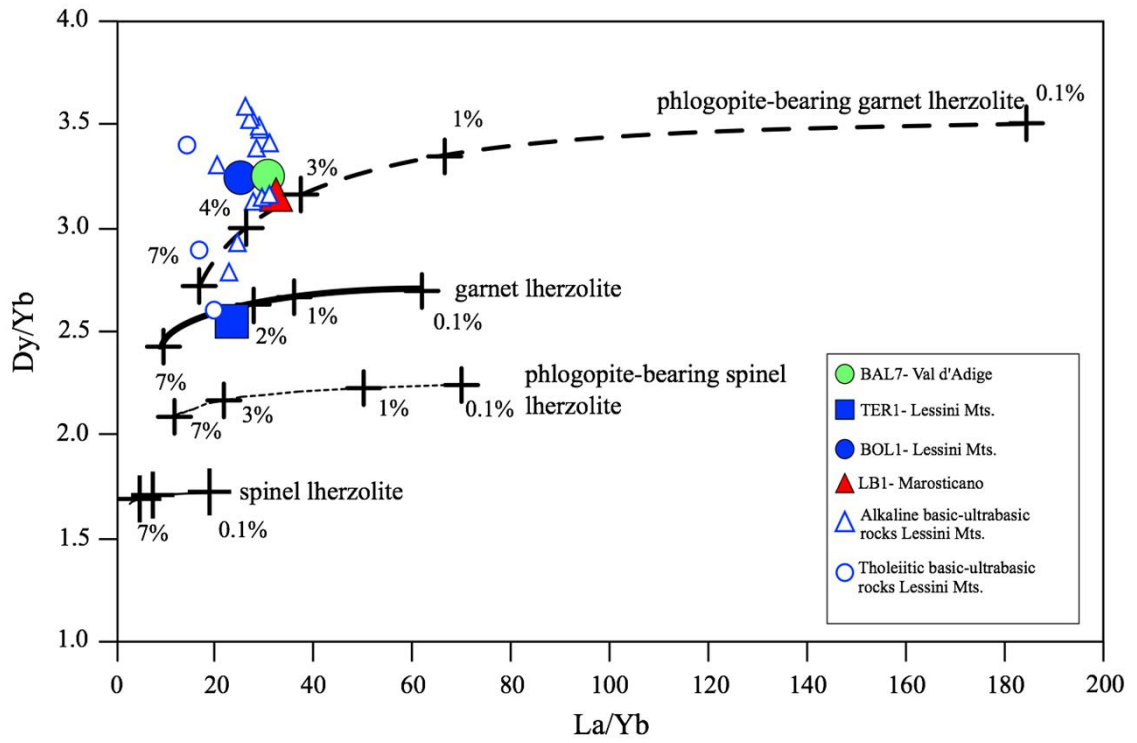


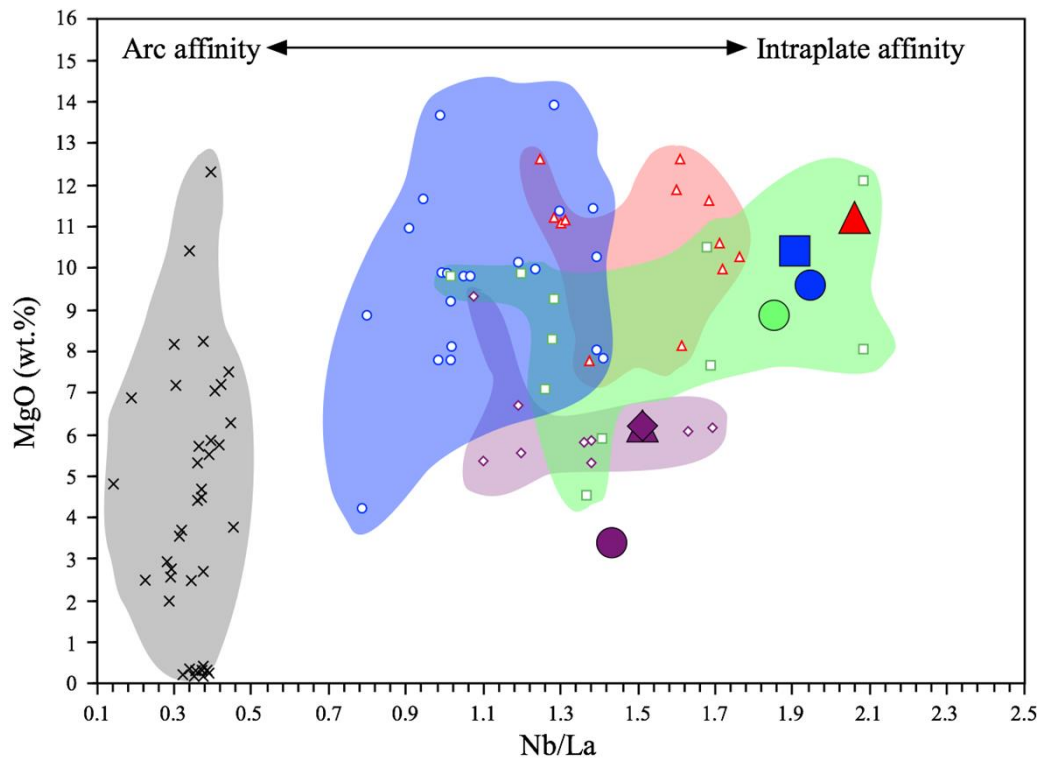






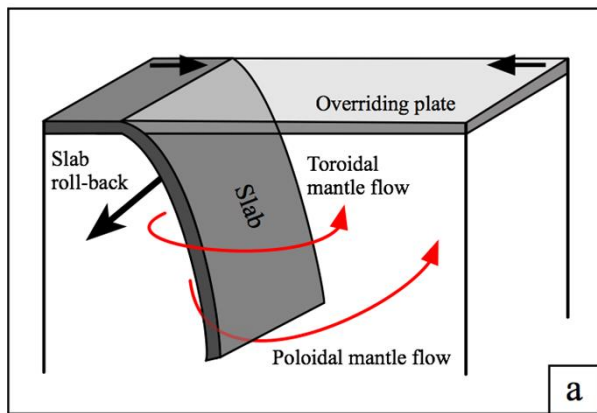
- BAL7- Val d'Adige
- TER1- Lessini Mts.
- BOL1- Lessini Mts.
- EU1AB- Euganean H.
- ▲ LB1- Marosticano





- BAL7- Val d'Adige      ■ TER1- Lessini Mts.      ● BOL1- Lessini Mts.      ● EU1AB- Euganean H.
- ▲ EU53- Euganean H.      ◆ EU52- Euganean H.      ▲ LB1- Marosticano
- Val d'Adige      ○ Lessini Mts.      ◇ Euganean Hills      △ Marosticano
- × Periadriatic Central Alps magmatism

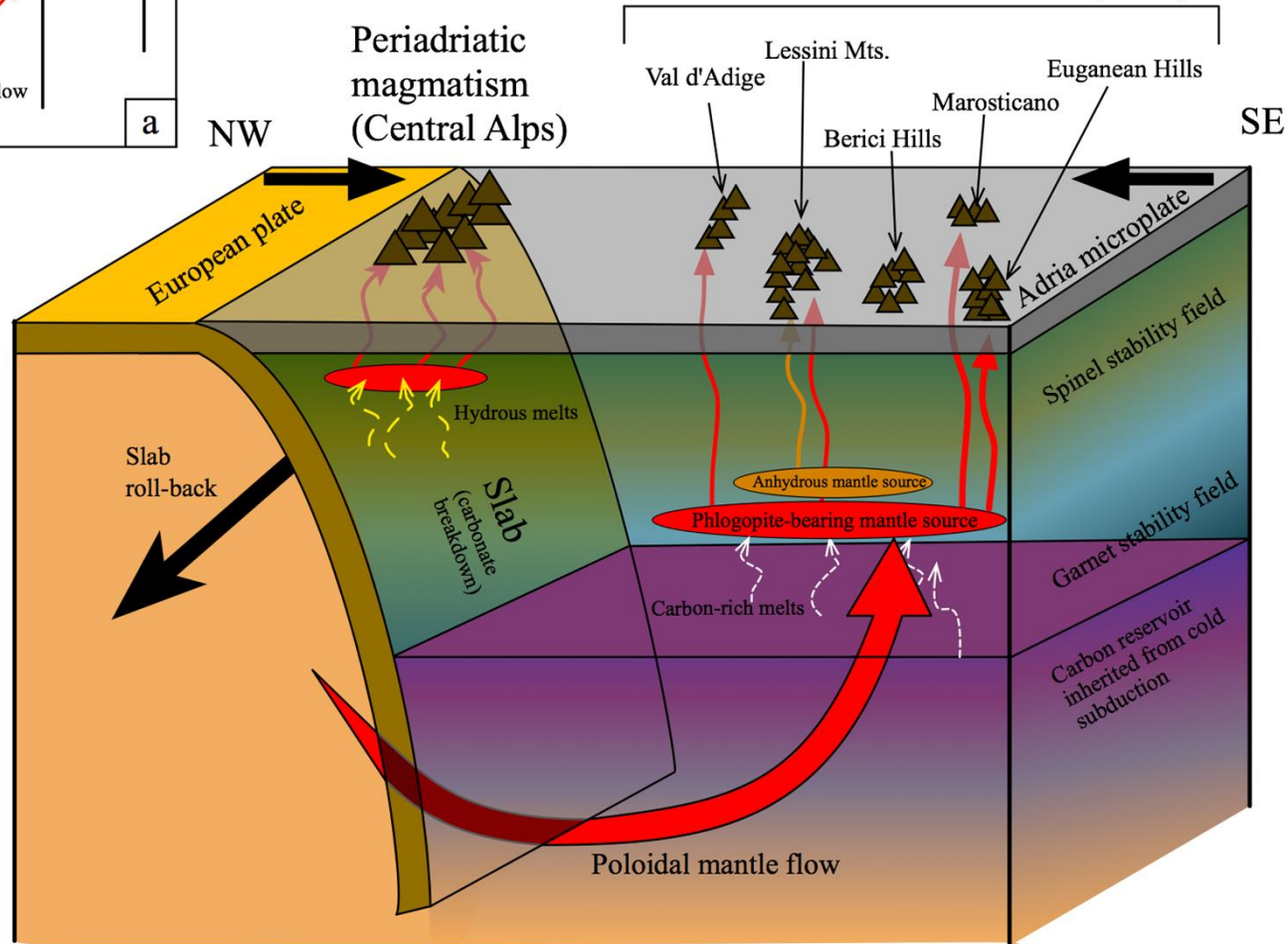




# Eocene-Oligocene

← Extension →

## Veneto Volcanic Province (VVP)



## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

### **Intraplate magmatism at a convergent plate boundary, the case of the Cenozoic northern Adria magmatism**

Valentina Brombin<sup>a</sup>, Costanza Bonadiman<sup>a\*</sup>, Fred Jourdan<sup>b</sup>, Guido Roghi<sup>c</sup>, Massimo Coltorti<sup>a</sup>,  
Laura E. Webb<sup>d</sup>, Sara Callegaro<sup>e</sup>, Giuliano Bellieni<sup>f</sup>, Giampaolo De Vecchi<sup>f</sup>, Roberto Sedeo<sup>f</sup>  
Andrea Marzoli<sup>c,f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, Università di Ferrara, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility, School of Earth and Planetary Sciences & JdL Centre, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia;*

<sup>c</sup> *Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse, CNR, Padova, Italy*

<sup>d</sup> *Department of Geology, University of Vermont, Vermont, USA;*

<sup>e</sup> *Centre for Earth Evolution and Dynamics, University of Oslo, Norway;*

<sup>f</sup> *Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Università di Padova, Italy*

## **S1. ANALYTICAL METHODS**

### **S1.1. Major and trace elements**

Whole-rock major and trace elements of samples BAL1, BAL7, BI14, TER1, BOL1, LB1, and 25B were determined by Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (WDXRF) on pressed powder pellets at the Department of Physics and Earth Sciences, University of Ferrara (Italy), using an ARL Advant-XP spectrometer, following the full matrix correction method proposed by Lachance and Traill (1966). Accuracy is generally lower than 2% for major oxides and less than 5% for trace

element determinations, whereas the detection limits for trace elements range from 1 to 2 ppm. Volatile contents were determined as loss on ignition (LOI) at 1000 °C.

Whole-rock major and trace elements of samples EU1AB, EU53, EU52, EU8B, EU13A, EU4, EU5B, and EU9, were determined by X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) on glass bead samples at the Department of Geosciences, University of Padova (Italy), using Phillips PW1404. Analytical uncertainty ranges from 1 to 2% for major elements and from 10 to 15% for trace elements. LOI was measured at 1000 °C. In addition, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Hf, Ta, Th, U, and Rare Earth elements (REEs) of samples BAL7, TER1, BOL1 and LB1 were determined by Inductively Coupled Plasma–Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) using a Thermo Series X-I spectrometer at Department of Physics and Earth Sciences, University of Ferrara. Accuracy and detection limits were determined using several international reference standards, as well as internal standards run as unknowns. Same analyses for samples EU4, EU9, EU8B, EU13A, and EU52 were performed using a Thermo Element2 HR-ICP-MS at University of Bretagne Occidentale, Brest (France), after a repeated HF-HClO<sub>4</sub> digestion and HNO<sub>3</sub> dilutions (see Li and Lee, 2006 for details). The repeated analysis of the international standards BCR-2 and BIR-1 demonstrated an external reproducibility better than 5–10 % depending on the element and concentration.

Clinopyroxene compositions of samples BAL7, TER1, BOL1, EU1AB, and LB1 were determined *in-situ* by means of a CAMECA SX50 electron microprobe (EMP) at the IGG–CNR of Padova. using ZAF on-line data reduction and matrix correction procedures.

### **S1.2. Analytical procedure for <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar radio-isotopic dating**

Basaltic and basaltic samples from Val d'Adige, Lessini Mts., and Marosticano districts (BAL1, BAL7, BOL1, TER1, LB1, BI14, and 25B) lack K-rich minerals suitable for geochronology, therefore <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar analyses were performed on groundmass. The sample fraction (30-40 g) was crushed with a rigorously cleaned steel hydraulic press, sieved to a size fraction of 90-250 µm and rinsed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O to remove any dust or powder. In order to collect only the sample grains

constituted by the groundmass, the sample fraction was handpicked under a binocular microscope to remove any phenocrysts (pyroxene and olivine). However, due to the dark color of these grains it was impossible to clearly observe if inclusions were present, and therefore exclude the possibility of alteration. The grains were leached in dilute HF in order to remove at least the alteration phases along the surface and cracks. Samples were then rinsed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O in an ultrasonic cleaner.

As basaltic trachyandesites (EU52, EU8B), latite (EU13A), trachyte (EU4), and rhyolites (EU5B, EU9) from the Euganean district are characterized by phenocrysts that are good candidates for <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating, *i.e.*, plagioclase and amphibole in the most basic sample, and biotite, sanidine, or feldspar in the more acid samples, <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar analyses were performed on mineral separates. The sample fraction (>1kg) was crushed with a rigorously cleaned steel hydraulic press, sieved to size fractions of 150-215 μm and 215-315 μm, and rinsed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O to remove any dust or powder. Phenocrysts were separated from these fractions using a Frantz isodynamic magnetic separator and were hand-picked grain-by-grain under the binocular stereomicroscope. Mineralic separates were further leached using diluted HF (2N) for 5 minutes to remove any potential adhering alteration product within superficial cracks that were not removed during hand picking (Jourdan et al., 2009b) and then were rinsed in distilled H<sub>2</sub>O in an ultrasonic cleaner.

The Ar isotopic ratios were measured through laser step-heating with i) ARGUS VI (samples BAL1, BAL7, BOL1, TER1, EU52, and EU52) and ii) MAP 215–50 (samples EU4, EU5B, EU8B, and EU13A) mass spectrometers at Curtin University within the Western Australian Argon Isotope Facility (WAAIF) of the John de Laeter Centre and iii) Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer (samples BI14 and 25B) at the Noble Gas Lab of the University of Vermont. Irrespective to the instrument used for the analyses, our criteria for the determination of plateau are as follows. Plateaus must include at least 70% of <sup>39</sup>Ar. The plateau should be distributed over a minimum of 3 consecutive steps agreeing at 95% confidence level and satisfying a probability of fit (P) of at least 0.05. Plateau ages at the 2σ. All the plateau ages are calculated using the mean of all the plateau steps, each weighted by the inverse variance of their individual analytical error. Mini-

plateaus are defined similarly except that they include between 50% and 70% of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ . Inverse isochrons include the maximum number of steps with a probability of fit  $\geq 0.05$ . All sources of uncertainties are included in the calculation.

The sample irradiations and the analytical procedures performed are reported in detail below.

### **S1.3. Sample irradiation and analyses for samples analysed with ARGUS VI mass spectrometer**

The cleaned groundmass (BAL1, BAL7, TER1, BOL1, LB1) and mineral separates (EU52) were loaded into several 1.9 cm in diameter by 0.3 cm depth aluminum discs. The discs were then stacked together and placed in quartz tubes. The discs hosting the groundmass included also GA1550 biotite, while the discs hosting plagioclase and amphibole included FCs. GA1550 and FCs were used as neutron fluence monitors, adopting an age of  $99.738 \pm 0.100$  Ma and  $28.294 \pm 0.036$  Ma ( $1\sigma$ ), respectively (Renne et al., 2011). The discs were Cd-shielded (to minimize undesirable nuclear interference reactions) and irradiated for 3 hours at the TRIGA Reactor at Oregon State University (USA). The mean J-values computed from standard grains within the small pits range from 0.0008098 ( $\pm 0.07\%$ ) to 0.0008121 ( $\pm 0.11\%$ ) for groundmass sample and yielded values of 0.0008098 ( $\pm 0.07\%$ ) and 0.0008121 ( $\pm 0.13\%$ ) for the plagioclase and hornblende samples, respectively. For all the samples, the mass discrimination was monitored regularly through the analysis using an automated air pipette and provided the mean value is 0.993485 ( $\pm 0.02\%$ ) per dalton (atomic mass unit) relative to an air ratio of  $298.56 \pm 0.31$  (Lee et al., 2006). The correction factors for interfering isotopes were  $(^{39}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 6.95 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ),  $(^{36}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 2.65 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 0.84\%$ ) and  $(^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}} = 7.30 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 12.4\%$ ; Renne et al., 2013). At the WAAIF plagioclase, amphibole crystal and groundmass populations were step-heated using a continuous 100 W PhotonMachine© CO<sub>2</sub> (IR, 10.4  $\mu\text{m}$ ) laser fired on the crystals during 60 seconds. Each of the standard crystals was fused in a single step. The gas was purified in an extra low-volume stainless steel extraction line of 240cc and using one SAES AP10 and one GP50 getter. Ar isotopes were measured in static mode using a low volume (600 cc) ARGUS VI mass spectrometer from Thermofisher© set with a permanent resolution of  $\sim 200$ .

Measurements were carried out in multi-collection mode using four faradays to measure mass 40 to 37 and a 0-background compact discrete dynode ion counter to measure mass 36. We measured the relative abundance of each mass simultaneously using 10 cycles of peak-hopping and 33 seconds of integration time for each mass. Detectors were calibrated to each other electronically and using Air shot beam signals. The raw data were processed using the ArArCALC software (Koppers, 2002) and the ages have been calculated using the decay constants recommended by Renne et al. (2011). Blanks were monitored every 2 steps.

#### **S1.4. Sample irradiation and analyses for samples analysed with MAP 215-50 mass spectrometer**

Euganean mineral separates (EU8B, EU13A, EU4, EU5B, EU9) were loaded into five large wells of two 1.9 cm diameter by 0.3 cm depth aluminum discs. In one disc the wells were bracketed by small pits that included GA1550 biotite, while in the other disc, the wells were bracketed by seven pits that included Fish Canyon sanidine (FCs). GA1550 and FCs were used as neutron fluence monitors, adopting an age of  $99.738 \pm 0.100$  Ma and  $28.294 \pm 0.036$  Ma ( $1\sigma$ ), respectively (Renne et al., 2011). The discs were Cadmium-shielded (to minimize undesirable nuclear interference reactions) and irradiated for 3 hours in the US Geological Survey nuclear reactor (Denver, USA) in central position. The mean J-values computed from standard grains within the small pits is  $0.000661 \pm 0.00000099$  (0.15%) determined as the average and standard deviation of J-values of the small wells for each irradiation disc. Mass discrimination was monitored using an automated air pipette and provided a mean value ranging from  $1.006254 \pm 0.00030188$  (0.03%) to  $1.006589 \pm 0.00030198$  (0.03%) per dalton (atomic mass unit) relative to an air ratio of  $298.56 \pm 0.31$  (Lee et al., 2006). The correction factors for interfering isotopes were  $(^{39}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 7.30 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 11\%$ ),  $(^{36}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 2.82 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 1\%$ ), and  $(^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}} = 6.76 \times 10^{-4}$  ( $\pm 32\%$ ). At the WAAIF the samples were step-heated using a 110 W Spectron Laser Systems, with a continuous Nd-YAG (IR; 1064 nm) laser rastered over the sample during 1 minute to ensure an homogeneously distributed temperature. The gas was purified in

a stainless steel extraction line using two SAES AP10 getters, a GP50 getter and a liquid nitrogen condensation trap. Ar isotopes were measured in static mode using a MAP 215-50 mass spectrometer (resolution of  $\sim 500$ ; sensitivity of  $4 \times 10^{-14}$  mol/V) with a Balzers SEV 217 electron multiplier mostly using 9 to 10 cycles of peak-hopping. The data acquisition was performed with the Argus program written by M.O. McWilliams and ran under a LabView environment. The raw data were processed using the ArArCALC software (Koppers, 2002) and the ages have been calculated using the decay constants recommended by Renne et al. (2010). Blanks were monitored every 3 to 4 steps and typical  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  blanks range from  $1 \times 10^{-16}$  to  $2 \times 10^{-16}$  mol.

### **S1.5. Sample irradiation and analyses for samples analysed with Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer**

The cleaned groundmass were loaded into aluminum foil packets, arranged in suprasil vial, and placed in an aluminum canister for irradiation. Samples were irradiated with multigrain aliquots of FCs to act as a flux monitor (age: 28.03 Ma; Renne et al., 1998) to monitor the neutron dose, and  $\text{CaF}_2$  and  $\text{KSO}_4$  were also irradiated to determine corrections for interfering nuclear reactions. Samples were irradiated for four hours at the Cd-Lined In-Core Irradiation Tube (CLICIT) reactor of Oregon State University, USA. Correction factors used to account for interfering nuclear reactions for the irradiated samples are:  $(^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}} = 8.87 \times 10^{-3} \pm 5.30 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $(^{36}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 2.7 \times 10^{-4} \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $(^{39}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}} = 6.7 \times 10^{-4} \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$ . At the Noble Gas Lab of the University of Vermont, laser step heating for  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  dating was conducted with a Santa Cruz Laser Microfurnace 75 W diode laser system. Flux monitors were loaded into degassed Nb foil packets before being loaded in the wells of the copper planchette sample holder. The volcanic samples were loaded directly into wells of the copper planchette. The gas released during heating was purified with SAES getters and argon isotopes were analysed on a Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer during step-heating analyses. Data from samples and flux monitors were corrected for blanks, mass discrimination, atmospheric argon, neutron-induced interfering isotopes, and the decay of  $^{37}\text{Ar}$  and

$^{39}\text{Ar}$ . Mass discrimination was calculated by analyzing known aliquots of atmospheric argon for which the measured  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  was compared with an assumed atmospheric value of  $298.56 \pm 0.31$  (Lee et al., 2006). A linear interpolation was used to calculate J factors for samples based on sample position between flux monitor packets in the irradiation tube. All ages were calculated using the isotope decay constants recommended by Steiger and Jäger (1977). The age calculations for inverse isochron and apparent age data were achieved using both an in-house data reduction program and Isoplot 3.0 (Ludwig, 2003).

## **S2. RESULTS FROM $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ GEOCHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSES**

All ages obtained and here reported correspond to plateau ages corrected for deviations from the atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio of  $298.56 \pm 0.31$  (Lee et al., 2006). For most samples, the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratios are above or below the atmospheric values. Supra-atmospheric values can be explained by the presence of excess  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  (e.g., Oostingh et al., 2017), whereas the sub-atmospheric values are indicative of fluid circulation and alteration. In fact  $^{36}\text{Ar}$  concentrations are extremely low in mantle derived magmas and fluids, therefore  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio of a predominantly magmatic fluid is sensitive to trace additions of hydrothermal fluids (Burnard and Polyá, 2004). For these reasons, in this study ages from samples with low  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratios have been considered as only minimum ages.

The basalt BAL1 from Val d'Adige shows an inverse isochron age of  $41.70 \pm 0.82$  Ma [mean square weighted deviation (MSWD) = 0.78; probability (P) = 69%; Table 3; Fig. 5a]. The measured intercept of the inverse isochron indicates an initial  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  value of  $266 \pm 23$ , which is slightly below the atmospheric value ( $298.56 \pm 0.31$ ; Lee et al., 2006). Using the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept value, we calculated a plateau age of  $41.69 \pm 0.37$  Ma (MSWD = 0.39; P = 98%; Table 3; Fig. 5b) based on 75% of the total gas. From the same district, the basanite BAL7 yielded an inverse isochron age of  $41.95 \pm 0.46$  Ma (MSWD = 0.82; P = 64; Table 3; Fig. 5c). Like the previous sample, the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept value is sub-atmospheric ( $264 \pm 15$  Ma); this allows calculate a mini-plateau age of  $41.98 \pm 0.20$  Ma (MSWD = 0.25; P = 100%), including 60% of the released  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  (Table 3; Fig. 5d). Both in BAL1 and



BAL7, the K/Ca spectra show typical trends observed for basaltic rock fragments with relatively high values (0.20-0.55) at the low temperature steps that decrease steadily (0.10 to 0.00) towards higher temperature steps, indicating that the K-rich phases degassed predominantly at lower temperatures and high Ca/K-phases dominate at higher temperatures (Fig. 5b, d). TER1 and BOL1 are a basalt and a basanite, respectively, analysed for the Lessini Mts. district and yielded different ages. TER 1 yielded an inverse isochron age of  $45.21 \pm 0.15$  Ma (MSWD = 1.00; P = 44%; Table 3; Fig. 5e). The sub-atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ( $253 \pm 25$ ) defines a mini-plateau age of  $45.21 \pm 0.11$  Ma (MSWD = 0.83; P = 61%) including 57% of the released  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  (Table 3; Fig. 5f). In general the K/Ca ratio decrease from 0.75 to 0.01. BOL1 yielded an inverse isochron age of  $40.60 \pm 1.76$  Ma (MSWD = 0.75; P = 74%; Table 3; Fig. 5g). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept is  $278 \pm 19$ , close to the atmospheric  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio. This sample yielded a mini-plateau age of  $38.73 \pm 0.44$  Ma (MSWD = 0.99; P = 46%) based on 62% of the total gas (Table 3; Fig. 5h). The basanite BOL1 shows the lowest K/Ca (0.27 to 0.007) of all analysed samples (Fig. 5h).

The amphibole separate of basaltic trachyandesite EU52 yielded an inverse isochron age of  $32.37 \pm 0.12$  Ma (MSWD = 0.52; P = 85%; Table 3; Fig. 5i), with  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept ( $295 \pm 14$ ) indistinguishable from atmosphere and yielded a mini-plateau age of  $32.35 \pm 0.09$  Ma (MSWD = 0.48; P = 89%) based on 67% of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  (Table 3; Fig. 5j). The K/Ca spectrum is flat and the values (0.098 to 0.104) are low, as expected for amphibole (Fig. 5j). The plagioclase inverse isochron age of EU52 is  $32.16 \pm 0.08$  Ma (MSWD = 0.65; P = 87%; Table 3; Fig. 5k). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept value is  $397 \pm 19$  and may indicate presence of excess  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ . Using the latter value we obtained a plateau age of  $32.16 \pm 0.06$  Ma (MSWD = 0.58; P = 93%), based on 99.5% of the gas (Table 3; Fig. 5l). It should however be considered that the low K/Ca makes all steps cluster at very low  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercepts. The K/Ca values range from 0.079 to 0.114, consistent with the plagioclase separate analysed (Fig. 5l). The alkali-feldspar separate of basaltic trachyandesite EU8B shows an inverse isochron age of  $32.11 \pm 0.98$  Ma (MSWD = 0.85; P = 61%; Table 3; Fig. 5m). Using its  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept value ( $305 \pm 99$ ) we obtained a plateau age of  $32.17 \pm 0.32$  Ma (MSWD = 0.79; P = 68%;

Table 3; Fig. 5n), defined by 100% of the released  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ . The high K/Ca values (10-5478) are consistent with the mineral phase analysed (Fig. 5n). For the feldspar separate of the latite EU13A we obtained an inverse isochron age of  $31.96 \pm 1.13$  (MSWD = 0.52; P = 91%; Table 3; Fig. 5o). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept is  $349 \pm 136$  and defines a plateau age of  $32.34 \pm 0.51$  Ma (MSWD = 0.53; P = 91%) that includes 88% of the total  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  (Table 3; Fig. 5p). Despite their large uncertainties, the K/Ca values (0.58-12.50) are consistent with the low-Ca plagioclase phase analysed (Fig. 5p). The inverse age for the biotite separate of trachyte EU4 is  $31.83 \pm 0.50$  Ma (MSWD = 0.88; P = 57%; Table 3; Fig. 5q). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept is  $328 \pm 43$  and defines a plateau age of  $32.09 \pm 0.29$  Ma (MSWD = 0.97; P = 48%) based on 100% of the total released gas (Table 3; Fig. 5r). The K/Ca spectrum is flat and the high ratios (157-3762) are consistent with the mineral phase analysed (Fig. 5r). The sanidine separate of rhyolite EU5B yielded an inverse isochron age of  $31.87 \pm 0.79$  Ma (MSWD = 0.86; P = 59%; Table 3; Fig. 5s) with  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept slightly supra-atmospheric ( $343 \pm 58$ ; Fig. 5s). The calculated plateau age is  $32.30 \pm 0.52$  Ma (MSWD = 1.00; P = 45%) defined by 100% of the released  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  (Table 3; Fig. 5t). The K/Ca spectrum is flat with typical ratios for sanidine (0.02-2.48) (Fig. 5t). The sanidine separate of rhyolite EU9 shows inverse isochron ages of  $32.02 \pm 0.67$  Ma (MSWD = 0.51; P = 91%; Table 3; Fig. 5u). With the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept value ( $315 \pm 68$ ) indistinguishable from atmosphere, the calculated plateau age is  $32.17 \pm 0.27$  Ma (MSWD = 0.48; P = 94%; Table 3; Fig. 5v), defined by 100% of the gas released. The K/Ca spectrum is flat and exhibits typical values for the mineral phase analysed (42-2233; Fig. 5v). It is clear that irrespective to the lithology all analysed Euganean samples yielded nearly indistinguishable ages, which allow us to calculate a mean weighted age of  $32.21 \pm 0.09$  Ma.

The basanite from Marosticano district, LB1, it is the most recent aged VVP sample analysed at WAAIF using the ARGUS VI mass spectrometer. It did not return isochron and plateau ages, but almost all the steps indicate apparent ages between 20.5 and 23.2 Ma (Table 3; Fig. 5w, x). The K/Ca diagram shows a monotonically decreasing plot from 1.69 to 0.003 (Fig. 5x).

The samples BI14 and 25B, two basanites from Val d'Adige and Marosticano, respectively, were analysed at the Noble Gas Geochronology Laboratory of the University of Vermont using the Nu Instruments Noblesse magnetic sector noble gas mass spectrometer with the purpose to expand the VVP geochronological dataset. Despite the poor fit of the measured inverse isochrons, the results from these samples are concordant with the Val d'Adige and Marosticano samples analysed at the WAAIF. For the sample BI14 the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  intercept of the inverse isochron is  $207 \pm 138$  (Table 4; Fig. 6a) defining a mini-plateau age ( $40.73 \pm 0.48$  Ma; MSWD = 0.80; Table 4; Fig. 6b) based on 57% of the released  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ . The calculated age is similar to BAL1 and BAL7 ages. In the first three steps the K/Ca ranges from 1.8 to 2.3, while in the last steps it decrease from 0.5 to 0.1 (Fig. 6b). As the LB1, also the sample 25B did not provide isochron and plateau ages and the K/Ca decreases (0.06-6.27; Table 4; Fig. 6c, d). In fact, for both Marosticano samples, almost all the steps indicate apparent ages of  $\sim 22 - 23$  Ma.

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