

Hydrothermal activity along a strike-slip fault zone and host units in the São Francisco Craton, Brazil – Implications for fluid flow in sedimentary basins

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27 **Abstract**

28 This study combines multiscale analyses of geological, fault, fracture, and stable
29 isotope data to investigate strike-slip deformation and channeling of
30 hydrothermal fluids along the Cafarnaum fault and calcite veins at different
31 distances from the fault, which is a structure in the São Francisco Craton,
32 northeastern Brazil. Meteoric fluids with δD values near -45‰ and $\delta^{18}O$ values
33 near -6.5‰ and temperatures at $40\text{-}70^\circ\text{C}$ precipitated as calcite veins in the host
34 carbonate units. The Cafarnaum fault, a N-S-striking vertical, ~ 170 km long fault
35 zone, juxtaposes Neoproterozoic carbonate rocks in the western block and
36 Mesoproterozoic siliciclastic rocks in the eastern block. A zone of restraining
37 bends occurs at the central part of the fault, whereas termination zones of
38 horsetail geometry occur at both ends of the Cafarnaum fault. These zones are
39 marked by NW-SE-striking extensional faults that are oblique to the main N-S-
40 striking fault zone, where hydrothermal deposits occur. The zone of influence of
41 the Cafarnaum fault is ~ 20 km wide around the main fault. The fault formed
42 during the Brasiliano orogeny (740-560 Ma) after Neoproterozoic carbonate
43 platform deposition. In contrast with the host units, fluids along the fault zone
44 originated in deeper levels of the crust and show much lower $\delta^{18}O$ values,
45 indicating higher crystallization temperatures. These fluids caused brecciation in
46 the Neoproterozoic carbonate host rocks, whereas a subsequent decrease in
47 fluid pressure and cooling near the surface resulted in the precipitation of a
48 hydrothermal paragenesis in veins, also affecting the host rock.

49

50 **Keywords:** carbonate veins, hydrothermal fluid, strike-slip fault, Salitre
51 Formation, São Francisco Craton

52

53 1. Introduction

54 Sedimentary basins display different fluid migration regimes depending on
55 the host rock, particularly in areas subjected to extensional tectonics.
56 Sedimentary stratified layers may allow basinal fluids to migrate laterally parallel
57 to bedding for hundreds of kilometers (Qing and Mountjoy, 1992). In most
58 instances, sedimentary basins display limited vertical fluid flow due to
59 impermeable layers; hence, fluid conduits cannot connect deep and shallow parts
60 of a basin. Pore water usually has a low-velocity flow regime, and its primary
61 geochemical values are therefore easily altered by reactions with host rock
62 minerals and mixing with other fluids (Bjorlykke and Egeberg, 1993).

63 Vertical fluid flow pathways in sedimentary basins are associated with fault
64 zones (Haneberg et al., 1999; Hardebeck and Hauksson, 1999). Depending on
65 the structures and/or permeability properties, fault zones can either act as
66 hydraulic barriers or as preferential conduits for geofluid migration
67 (Gudmundsson, 2001; Rawling et al., 2001; Smeraglia et al., 2021; La Bruna et
68 al., 2021). These characteristics are also linked to the several
69 structural/diagenetic phases affecting the carbonate rocks from the earliest
70 diagenetic stages (e.g., La Bruna et al., 2020). In fact, selective cementation
71 and structural diagenetic processes are key factors in fault permeability control
72 (Hausegger et al., 2010; Ngwenya et al., 2000).

73 Strike-slip faults create complex and heterogeneous permeability
74 anisotropy and strongly influence fluid migration in crustal fault zones (Caine et
75 al., 2010; Bense et al., 2013; Arancibia et al., 2014). A wide variety of processes
76 at various scales can occur during fault growth and lead to a large range of fault
77 architectures and properties that influence fluid flow behavior (Wibberley and

78 [Shipton, 2010](#)). The activity of major and weak strike-slip fault systems is
79 influenced by fluid flow (e.g., [Byerlee, 1990](#); [Rice, 1992](#); [Sleep and Blanpied,](#)
80 [1992](#); [Evans and Chester, 1995](#); [Zhang et al., 2001](#)). The internal structure of
81 strike-slip faults is dominated by vein arrays and hydraulic breccias. These
82 features result from intense, deep-seated, and localized hydrothermal fluid flow
83 ([Cox and Munroe, 2016](#)). Fluid flow history can be investigated in exhumed faults
84 and fractures, which provide information about deformation mechanisms, fluid-
85 rock interactions, and bulk chemical redistributions ([Arancibia et al., 2014](#);
86 [Steyrer and Sturm, 2002](#)). Among other features, synthetic faults, antithetic faults,
87 deformation bands, joints, stylolites, veins, and breccia have been recognized in
88 strike-slip fault zones affected by hydrothermal fluids (e.g., [Fossen and Rotevatn,](#)
89 [2016](#); [Choi et al., 2016](#); [Liao et al., 2017](#); [Peacock et al., 2017a, 2017b](#); [Alsop et](#)
90 [al., 2020](#); [Ostermeijer et al., 2020](#)). However, there is a debate about which of
91 these structures, if any, exerts a primary influence on fluid flow and the role and
92 origin of fluids in strike-slip fault zones (e.g., [Gudmundsson et al., 2002](#);
93 [Gudmundsson, 2007](#)).

94 Several studies show that hydrothermal deposits occur in the São Francisco
95 Craton region, including those around fault zones, while the region remained
96 tectonically stable during the Brasiliano/Panafrican orogenic cycle at 740-540 Ma
97 (e.g., [Almeida et al., 2000](#); [Brito Neves et al., 2014](#)). This study focuses on the
98 Cafarnaum fault zone, which occurs as a lateral ramp ([Fig. 1A, B, C, D](#)). However,
99 the relationship between the location and timing of hydrothermal deposit
100 formation and fault geometry and evolution remains elusive.

101 This study is a multiscale and multidisciplinary approach that uses remote
102 sensing, aeromagnetic data, field observations, petrography, and stable isotope
103 geochemistry to compare the structural evolution of the hydrothermal system in

104 the siliciclastic and carbonate host rocks along the Cafarnaum fault zone and the
105 inner basin. We present stable isotope analyses on carbonate host rocks, veins,
106 pockets, and fluid inclusions of the inner basin to reconstruct fluid-rock
107 interactions and build a model to predict the development of hydrothermal activity
108 on a regional scale, which can be used as a proxy for other basins elsewhere.
109 New stable isotope data of fluid inclusions and veins and previously published
110 data of sulfur in sulfides show that carbonate veins associated with fractures at
111 the edge of the basin record much higher temperatures than those crystallized in
112 the central part of the basin. This study also describes and discusses the
113 kinematics, morphology, and magnetic characteristics of the fault zone and the
114 formation of various types of hydrothermal dilation breccias in the damage zone.
115 Finally, a comparison of the Precambrian Cafarnaum fault system and its host
116 rocks with other faults that affect other carbonate and siliciclastic units helps
117 understand regional predictability. This study concludes that fluid flow occurs
118 mainly along extensional subsidiary faults and investigates the way they deform
119 the host rocks. The isotope data indicate that fluids are meteoric in origin and,
120 compared to the sedimentary basins, fluids that percolated the crystalline terrain
121 may have circulated into much deeper zones.

122 **2. Geological setting**

123 The study area is mainly composed of Mesoproterozoic rocks of the
124 Chapada Diamantina Group and Neoproterozoic units of the Una Group,
125 primarily the Salitre Formation (Fig. 1D, E). The groups contain distinct
126 formations and contrasting structural styles. Both major terrains are bounded by
127 a strike-slip fault that we name the Cafarnaum fault in this study. It acted as a
128 tectonic boundary between the aforementioned Mesoproterozoic and
129 Neoproterozoic units (La Bruna et al., 2021).

130 The Chapada Diamantina Group is 1,000 m thick and includes the Morro
131 do Chapéu Formation, which was deposited at ~1400-900 Ma ([Pedreira et al.,](#)
132 [1975](#); [D'Angelo et al., 2020](#)). This unit was affected by a first contractional
133 inversion event that is mainly marked by symmetrical, N-S-trending, open folds
134 ([Danderfer et al., 2015](#); [D'Angelo et al., 2020](#)). High-angle fractures strike mostly
135 N-S, NE-SW and NW-SE, and have a high degree of symmetry with the N-S
136 regional folds ([Danderfer et al., 2015](#)).

137 The Salitre Formation is ~750 m thick in the central part of the Irecê Basin
138 ([D'Angelo et al., 2020](#)), which was deposited in a carbonate pelitic marine basin
139 ([Misi et al. 2005, 2011](#)) at ~750 Ma ([D'Angelo et al., 2020](#)). This sequence was
140 deposited in the Irecê Basin, an asymmetric graben with an approximately N-S-
141 oriented axis that plunges toward the north ([Lagoeiro, 1990](#); [Kuchenbecker et al.,](#)
142 [2011](#); [Brito Neves et al., 2012](#); [D'Angelo et al., 2020](#)). The Irecê Basin was
143 inverted in the Brasiliano orogeny, with a peak at ~600 Ma, which resulted in
144 anomalous deformation concerning adjacent domains, with a series of south-
145 verging fold and thrust systems ([Lagoeiro, 1990](#); [Teixeira et al., 2019](#); [D'Angelo](#)
146 [et al., 2020](#)).

147 The carbonate units of the Irecê Basin have similar Pb-Pb isochron ages and
148 paleomagnetic poles, which fall close to ~520 Ma. This age is consistent with the
149 Gondwana supercontinent's apparent polar wander path and indicates that
150 isotopic and magnetic systems reset those of the Cambrian ([Trindade et al.,](#)
151 [2004](#)). This event was related to regional-scale fluid migration and subsequent
152 mineralization at the end of the Brasiliano orogenic cycle ([Trindade et al., 2004](#)).

153 An E-W-oriented magnetic telluric section across the Irecê and Morro do
154 Chapéu Basins reveals lithospheric resistive blocks bounded by major conductive

155 deep zones, which are interpreted as faults. It shows that a lithospheric
156 conductor, interpreted as a suture zone, occurs between the Neoproterozoic
157 Irecê Basin and the Chapada Diamantina Group (Fig. 1D). The high
158 conductance zone is a combination of high porosity and high fluid salinity (Padilha
159 et al., 2019).

160 Detailed geological mapping on both sides of the fault indicates a great
161 number of occurrences of hydrothermal minerals associated with faults. These
162 occurrences encompass metals such as Au, Pb-Zn, and Ba. These metals occur
163 in sulfides associated with quartz veins in dolomite units close to the main faults.
164 In a few cases, minerals such as barite also occur in the host carbonate rocks
165 (Sampaio et al., 2001).

166 More detailed studies have also investigated hydrothermal silicification
167 and dolomitization in a few karst systems. Several works, conducted in the São
168 Francisco Craton, have already investigated cave geometry, stratigraphy,
169 geochemistry, and mineralogy to indicate that fault and fracture systems were
170 used as conduits for deep-seated fluid flow (Klimchouk et al., 2016; Cazarin et
171 al., 2019; La Bruna et al., 2021; Pontes et al., 2021). In another case,
172 approximately 100 km to the south of the study area, a N-S-striking, strike-slip
173 fault in the southern part of the Irecê Basin was the pathway for fluid flow confined
174 to the Salitre Formation during the Brasiliano orogeny. The first stage of Mg-
175 rich fluids caused extensive dolomitization in the Salitre Formation, which was
176 subsequently followed by Si-rich fluids that caused pervasive silicification in the
177 host units (Bertotti et al., 2020).

178

179 **3. Methods**

180 The present study integrates (1) remote sensing and structural investigation, (2)
181 Geophysical data and processing, (3) sampling, (4) mineralogy and petrography,
182 (5) stable isotope analysis of veins and host rock, and (6) isotope geochemistry
183 of fluid inclusions. We used the Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM),
184 ALOS-PALSAR to map regional structures, and unmanned aerial vehicle imagery
185 for a detailed investigation of tectonic features (Fig. 2). The aeromagnetic data
186 used to map fault segments are from the Centro Norte Bahia Project is an
187 airborne magnetic survey carried out by Companhia Baiana de Pesquisa Mineral
188 (CBPM) (Fig. 3). The petrography, mineralogy, isotope, and fluid inclusions are
189 based on the analysis of six outcrops in carbonate units of the Salite Formation
190 on both sides of the Cafarnaum fault. We present a complete description of data
191 and methods in the supporting material section (Methods – supporting material).

192

193 **4. Results**

194 *4.1 Qualitative field fracture analysis*

195 Different fracture types were distinguished; joints display their peculiar plumose
196 morphology (Pollard and Aydin, 1988), and are compartmentalized or not within
197 single beds (Fig. 4). For this reason, they are here named stratabound (SB) and
198 non-stratabound (NSB) fractures. Veins are also SB and NSB, but in some
199 outcrops they are subvertical and parallel to the tilted bed layers (Fig. 4C, D and
200 F). Clustered fracture and vein networks were in the proximity of fault zones (Fig.
201 5B,C, D and E). In particular, the high-resolution qualitative structural analysis
202 shows the following fracture sets: subvertical NW-SE fractures and veins (Fig.
203 4G, H and Fig.5B,C, D, E, F, G and H); minor subvertical NE-SW fractures and
204 veins (Fig. 4G and Fig.5B,C, D, E, F, G and H); minor subvertical N-S fractures

205 and veins (Fig.5C, D, and F); and subvertical E-W bed-parallel veins (Fig. 4C, D
206 and F).

207

208 4.2 *Macroscale geometry and kinematics of the Cafarnaum fault*

209 The compiled structural map presents the primary structural alignments in
210 an area of 38,000 km² (Figs. 2A, B, C, 3A, B). The tectonic structures were sorted
211 into strike-slip faults, normal faults, reverse faults, and fold hinges based upon
212 new original data interpretation and previous geological mapping (Cazarin et al.,
213 2019; D'Angelo et al., 2019; Ennes-Silva et al., 2015; Souza et al., 2003). The
214 satellite alignments were divided into the following three fault sets: NNE-SSW,
215 NE-SW, and NW-SE. The NNE-SSW set is generally associated with strike-slip
216 left-lateral faults, as already presented by D'Angelo et al. (2019) and Danderfer
217 Filho et al. (2015). A zone of restraining bends coincides with an uplifted area
218 (Fig. 2A). Additionally, drag folds occur on the west side of the Cafarnaum fault.
219 The folded structures are E-W-striking thrusts of the Irecê Basin that bend where
220 they reach the Cafarnaum fault. Bed layers associated to these thrust faults were
221 tilted to the subvertical position (Fig. 4A). In some case, the aforementioned
222 subvertical bed interfaces were affected by shearing as displayed by several
223 kinematics indicators (Fig. 4B). Many mineralized portions documented as bed
224 parallel veins occur along bed interlayers (Fig. 4C, D and F). Some of the thrust
225 faults display drag folds as they approach the Cafarnaum fault. In contrast, the
226 NE-SW- and E-W-oriented sets are composed of reverse faults, as shown by
227 D'Angelo et al. (2019) and Reis et al. (2013).

228 The NW-SE fault set has been interpreted as composed of normal faults
229 (D'Angelo et al., 2019). Termination zones of horsetail geometry occur at both

230 ends of the Cafarnaum fault (Fig. 2C). A few minor faults associated with veins
231 and breccia bodies also occur at the central part of the fault zone, as at the MAM
232 site (Fig. 5). These zones are marked by NW-SE-striking extensional faults
233 located at the extensional quadrant of the main N-S-striking fault zone (La Bruna
234 et al., 2021). There, hydrothermal deposits concentrate on a 20 km wide zone on
235 both sides of the central fault (Fig. 2A, C). Several hydrothermal minerals (e.g.,
236 barite, galena) were documented in the Mam outcrop (Fig. 5B, C, D and E). In
237 these sites, complex vein/fracture networks were observed. Both veins and
238 fractures form a principal NW-SE striking set and a minor NE-SW set.

239 Both the NE-SW- and NW-SE-striking fault sets terminate against the
240 NNE-SSW- to N-S-striking fault set. Eastward from the Cafarnaum fault, a larger
241 folded zone was documented (Fig. 2B, C). Previous works have described how
242 this sector is affected by several anticlines and synclines (Cazarin et al., 2019;
243 D'Angelo et al., 2019; Danderfer Filho et al., 2015; Ennes-Silva et al., 2015;
244 Souza et al., 2003). The fold hinges mainly trend along the NNE-SSW to N-S
245 directions (Fig. 2B, C).

246 An area of ca. 14,000 km² was analyzed for structural magnetic lineament
247 map characterization (Fig. 3A, B). The 2,818 documented lineaments were sorted
248 into I-order, II-order, and III order lineaments. The I-order lineaments are related
249 to regional-scale magnetic features and are composed of a major NE-SW set and
250 minor sets striking N-S and E-W, respectively. The II-order lineaments are
251 characterized by a major NE-SW lineament and a minor NW-SE to WNW-ESE
252 set associated with secondary magnetic anomalies. Both I- and II-order
253 lineaments are crosscut by the III order lineaments.

254 The III order lineaments exhibit a singular magnetic pattern, distinguished
255 by striking high-amplitude magnetic lineaments with the extension of dozens of
256 kilometers (Figs. 3A, B). They occur isolated or comprising sets with main NW-
257 SE and minor NE-SW orientations. Sometimes, they are stepwise segmented (en
258 echelon) and shifted by hundreds of meters. They truncate other magnetic
259 lineaments in high to moderate angles, indicating a more recent geological event.
260 Due to high magnetization contrast with bedrocks, linear and extensive
261 waveform, and sparse spatial distribution, we associate these magnetic
262 lineaments with mafic dikes as many authors elsewhere (e.g., Schwarz et al.,
263 1987; Demarco et al., 2020). In fact, the NNW-SSE trending Chapada Diamantina
264 mafic dike swarm is intrusive into the Mesoproterozoic sedimentary sequences
265 of the Espinhaço Supergroup within the Paramirim Aulacogen (Brito, 2008;
266 Silveira et al., 2013). The magnetite-bearing dikes are fine to medium-grained
267 diabases. Recently Pessano et al. (2021) associated NW-SE oriented magnetic
268 anomalies in the central portion of the São Francisco Craton with
269 Mesoproterozoic dikes of the Chapada Diamantina swarm.

270

271 4.3 - *Hydrothermal vein and breccia characterization*

272 Two main types of structures related to hydrothermal activity occur in the
273 Cafarnaum fault zone and its surroundings. The first type is hydrothermal
274 breccias, which mainly occur in dilational jogs. The second is calcite veins, which
275 are widespread in the fault zone and the host rocks away from the fault. Two sites
276 of hydrothermal breccias occur along NW-SE striking extensional faults, which
277 we describe below. In addition, we describe four sites with calcite veins at varying
278 distances from the Cafarnaum fault.

279 Hydrothermal breccias are characterized by the interaction between rocks
280 and hydrothermal solutions and are geometrically characterized by several
281 parameters, such as morphology, particle size distribution, fabric, and expansion
282 radius (Jébrak, 1997). Chemical and physical mechanisms can form these
283 breccia bodies: the first by selective dissolution and the second by the excess
284 tension exerted, which exceeds the tensile resistance of the material, or in some
285 combination. The analyzed bodies are classified as mosaic breccias that are
286 formed by fluid-assisted breach (hydraulic fracturing) using the classification
287 given by Jebrák (1984b). Carbonate clasts are present, and clasts that are larger
288 than 2 mm range between 60-75% of clasts and 75-100% of clasts.

289 Hydraulic breccias are rocks composed of angular to subangular
290 fragments of dimensions ranging from 0.4 cm to 5 cm that are cut by several
291 generations of fractures and veins. The fragments are present throughout the
292 breccia bodies and are derived from adjacent rocks. Generally, they are
293 monolithologic and represented by carbonate rocks corresponding to the Salitre
294 Formation.

295 Carbonates also contain calcite and quartz geodes surrounded by intense
296 oxidation (limonitization). The interfragmentary filling is composed of iron oxide
297 or quartz and calcite cement. The oxidized matrix is probably formed to replace
298 rich materials in iron from the cementing fluid. Quartz is associated with calcite,
299 galena, and malachite. There is intense veining by a network of veins with a
300 branched structure that range from millimeters to centimeters thick and reach
301 30% of the total volume, and calcite veins of lesser thickness are related to quartz
302 veins.

303 The description of carbonates can be compared to descriptions made by
304 [Souza et al. \(1993\)](#), such as the association of intensely closed algal laminites
305 corresponding to the Nova América inferior subunit (transgressive cycle III) at the
306 MEL site, as well as area descriptions by [Misi \(1975\)](#) of fine dolomites with
307 ankerite, barite and galena and light dolomites with millimeter bands, calcite
308 impregnations and microcrystals of pyrite and galena. Nevertheless, occurrences
309 only include sedimentary gaps along the Irecê Basin ([Bonfim et al., 1985](#), and
310 [Souza et al., 1993](#)).

311 The descriptions were made under transmitted light optical microscopy of
312 the samples corresponding to MAM and MEL sites ([Fig. 2A, C](#)); the samples were
313 divided into laminated carbonates with veins, laminated carbonates with a brittle
314 aspect, and only the veins. The composition in these three divisions presents the
315 same mineralogy in carbonates and the same mineralogy in the veins,
316 differentiated by laminar and massive textural aspects in the case of carbonate
317 alteration and fragmented textural aspects.

318

319 *4.4 Mineralogy, texture, and isotope geochemistry*

320 Sites from the central part of the basin (SOR, IRE, and ACH) and the
321 eastern block (FAR) ([Fig. 2C](#)) are large carbonate pavements in which primary
322 sedimentary features are observed. Except for the FAR site, these carbonates
323 display vertical bedding and are crosscut by centimetric calcitic veins.

324 The limestones from the SOR site consist of microbial mats. The beds are
325 oriented subvertically within tight N-S-trending folds ([Fig. 2C](#)). Two types of veins
326 are observed at the SOR site. The first type of veins formed on transverse fault
327 planes, which originate in E-W-striking low-angle thrust faults, predating folding

328 to the present-day subvertical position (T16 and T19). The second type forms N-
329 S-trending veins. These veins are associated with younger N-S shortening (T24).
330 Isotope profiles across the veins reveal no significant difference in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
331 concentration between the carbonate host rock and the transverse fault
332 carbonate filling (Fig. 6A-D).

333 The FAR site (Fig. 6E-H) consists of stromatolite bioherm colonies. Two
334 veins were analyzed. The first vein (T9) occurs in inter-stromatolite silt crosscut
335 by a sharp-edged 2.2 mm thick vein, filled with mosaic equidimensional
336 transparent calcite varying from 0.05 mm to 0.2 mm. The other vein (T10)
337 crosscuts a stromatolite unit. It has two different calcite fabrics: an
338 equidimensional mosaic with oriented sparry calcite crystals varying in size from
339 0.1 to 1 mm and a milky white area with no calcite crystals. Most calcite veins
340 from the FAR site display lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values than the stromatolite host
341 rock. Exceptions are a few carbonate samples from the vein that crosscut the
342 inter-stromatolite silt (Fig. 6G-H).

343 The ACH site consists of subvertical NNW-dipping dolostones. The
344 present-day NNE-SSW burial fault carries most veins and is more prominent than
345 its conjugate NW-SE counterpart (Fig. 7A-D). Veins at the ACH site lack signs
346 of shear and are syntaxially filled with blocky crystals. In addition to veins, the
347 ACH site contains a pocket filled with crystal precipitates (T5) in which borders
348 are vein wall remnants and dissolved host rock peloids (Fig. 7B-C). Since these
349 pockets dissolve burial-related fractures and faults, they formed later than the
350 burial fault set. In general, ACH samples show a higher porosity than other sites.
351 Isotope data across these veins reveal much lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values than the
352 isotope values of the host rock (Fig. 7C-D).

353 Carbonate rocks of the IRE site consist of thinly layered (0.2-20 cm) black
354 limestones with local slumps. The beds are vertically tilted and folded, with an
355 orientation of 355/86 (dip azimuth direction). Two types of veins are present (Fig.
356 97E-F): thinner (<1 cm) bedding-perpendicular and bedding-parallel pre- or
357 synfolding veins and thick veins (20 cm) filled with a mixture of calcite and barite
358 that irregularly crosscut folded bedding. They are syn- or post-folding veins.
359 Similar to the SOR site veins, IRE veins have isotope values similar to the host
360 rock (Fig. 7E-F).

361 In contrast to sites in the central part of the basin, sites at the basin edges
362 (i.e., MEL and MAM) are strongly deformed and exhibit pervasive hydrothermal
363 features and hydraulic hydrothermal breccias (Fig. 8A-C). Samples from the MEL
364 site are mostly breccias with white calcite cement. Previous studies by Misi et al.
365 (2005) argue that the Salitre Formation stratigraphy controls the Pb-Zn
366 concentrations. According to these authors, the Pb-Zn ore is associated with
367 silicified stromatolites that overlie a shallowing-upward sequence (Unit B1). The
368 MEL site is located in a flat area where sites are restricted to trenches dug by
369 mining operations. Samples may exhibit primary lamination similar to rocks of the
370 Salitre Formation. These features are obliterated by tectonic and hydrothermal
371 processes toward the center of the brecciated zone at the outcrop scale (Fig. 8A).
372 Clasts of primary carbonate rocks may also occur in the hydrothermal breccia
373 cemented by white calcite devoid of laminations (Fig. 8B). Secondary vugular-
374 type porosity that is less than 1% in the area is also observed under the
375 microscope. The limestones and breccias are crosscut by two generations of
376 veins: one measuring 4 mm thick and made of calcite and, quartz microcrystals
377 and a second measuring approximately 0.3 mm thick and made of quartz. The
378 host carbonate and the cement display quite distinct mineralogy. The primary

379 Salitre carbonates consist mainly of calcite, dolomite, ankerite, siderite, iron
380 oxide, and limonite. SEM, XRD, and QUEMSCAN data indicate that the veins
381 and hydrothermal breccias display complex mineralogy, where the main minerals
382 are calcite, dolomite, galena, barite, quartz, sphalerite, illite, chlorite, zincite,
383 cerussite, malachite, magnesite, apatite, and chalcedony. Barite, apatite, chlorite,
384 and quartz are concentrated along fracture zones (Fig. 8D-G) and, in some
385 instances, may form larger aggregates. Thin section observations indicate that
386 tectonic and hydrothermal processes were accompanied by the formation of
387 stylolites, dolomitization, silicification, limonitization, microfractures, folding, and
388 minerals with wavy extinction.

389 Samples (Figs.8D and E) at the MEL site display different facies of
390 carbonate breccia and isotope $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ analyses performed at specific
391 points in the samples. While the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values range between 0.22‰ and -2.24‰,
392 the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values vary from -6.16‰ to -12.67‰. In most instances, the primary
393 limestone fabric was replaced by milky carbonate with large anhedral crystals.
394 Sample in Fig. 8C displays a cyclic succession of milky calcite and iron-rich
395 dolomite crosscut by veins containing galena. High-resolution $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data
396 indicate that these samples may have an area with homogenous isotope values
397 (Fig.8D-E), as well as areas with variable isotope values.

398 The MAM site is also located in a flat area in which sites are restricted to
399 trenches of the mining operation. Centimetric veins of milky quartz occur in the
400 carbonate host unit. As at the MEL site, XRD and SEM data at the MAM site
401 indicate galena, zincite, ankerite, dolomite, cerussite, apatite, magnesite,
402 anglesite, chlorite, and illite. However, in contrast to the MEL site, the MAM site
403 exhibits strong silicification that may completely obliterate the primary carbonate
404 texture. For instance, the QUEMSCAN images exhibit carbonate breccias

405 replaced by silica in which ghost clasts can still be identified. Pores and laminated
406 illite and chlorite areas indicate that silica-rich fluids replaced mostly carbonate
407 minerals

408

409 *4.5 - Fluid inclusions*

410 Table 01 presents the H and O isotopic compositions of fluid inclusions for 10
411 samples from the ACH, IRE, and SOR sites in the Irecê Basin and at the FAR
412 site in the eastern block of the Cafarnaum fault. The supplemented materials
413 detail linearity and memory effect corrections applied to the H and O fluid isotope
414 data. Table 01 also shows the average $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ isotopic composition of the carbonate
415 associated with the fluid inclusions and the calculated temperature based on the
416 isotope fractionation between calcite and water. The calculated temperature
417 range is 40-74°C, with the highest values obtained in samples from the ACH and
418 FAR sites

419 Except for one sample from the ACH site (ACH01.3Aa T5-1, left), all samples
420 display negative $\delta\text{D}_{\text{SMOW}}$ values. Fig. 9 plots the H and O isotope values with the
421 global meteoric water line (GMWL) by Rozanski et al. (1993) and shows that the
422 trending lines of samples from the ACH and FAR sites converge to a δD value of
423 approximately -45‰ and a $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of -6.5‰.

424

425 **5. Discussion**

426 *5.1 – Fault evolution and hydrothermal fluids*

427 Cratons are composed of thick and cool lithospheric keels with high resistivities
428 and low porosities (e.g., Ferguson et al., 2012; Selway, 2014). However, several
429 studies have increasingly indicated that cratons present low-resistivity zones in
430 the lithosphere that behave as weakness zones prone to deformation, such as

431 ductile shear zones and faults (e.g., [Pinto et al., 2010](#); [Thiel and Heinson, 2013](#);
432 [Dong et al., 2015](#)). These shear zones/faults provide a high permeability and are
433 pathways for deep-seated fluids to ascend through the whole lithosphere ([Caine](#)
434 [et al., 2010](#); [Bense et al., 2013](#)). The study of hydrothermal fluids in fault zones
435 in cratons may explain the permeability of fault zones and host units and deep
436 geothermal exploration constraints ([Taillefer et al., 2017](#)). The boundary between
437 the Irecê Basin and the Chapada Diamantina Group is marked by the Cafarnaum
438 fault ([Figs. 1, 2](#)) ([La Bruna et al., 2021](#)), which coincides with a high conductor
439 mapped by a magnetotelluric survey ([Fig.10](#)). This zone was prone to
440 hydrothermal activity and is consistent with high porosity-permeability, high-fluid
441 salinity, and sulfide emplacement. In a few cases, it served as a conduit for mafic
442 volcanism ([Teixeira et al., 2017](#); [Padilha et al. 2019](#)).

443 Faults behave as high permeability conduits that facilitate fluid flow in the
444 Earth's crust ([Cox and Munroe, 2016](#)). Deep-seated hydrothermal fluids
445 precipitate minerals that form veins and breccias and decrease the permeability
446 of the lithospheric fault zones ([Sibson et al., 1988, 1990](#)). The precipitation of
447 hydrothermal minerals in fault zones and host rocks is caused by decompression
448 and cooler conditions ([Calvin et al., 2015](#)). Therefore, based on the
449 characteristics presented here, the Cafarnaum fault was a structure prone to
450 hydrothermal activity. It controlled the upward hot fluid flow, indicated by the
451 relationship between fault geometry and hydrothermal deposits ([Fig.10](#)).

452 . Hydrothermal fluids channelized along faults can affect thousands of
453 square kilometers, even in nonmagmatic settings ([Nabavi et al., 2020](#)). The
454 hydrothermal activity in faults with shallow crustal levels under fluid overpressure
455 is controlled by the geometry of the crustal-scale fault zone ([Bellot, 2008](#)).
456 Dilational jogs flanking continental-scale strike-slip faults, for example, are

457 locations prone to hydrothermal boiling and implosive brecciation ([Sibson, 1987](#)).
458 Active examples of hydrothermal activity in dilational jogs occur in compressional
459 settings such as New Zealand ([Brathwaite et al., 1986](#) in 24) and the French
460 Pyrenees ([Taillefer et al., 2017](#)).

461 We interpret the N-W-striking faults that arrest against the main N-S-
462 trending Cafarnaum fault as dilational jogs that facilitate hydrothermal fluid
463 ascension and flow ([Fig. 10](#)). Hydrothermal minerals are concentrated in dilational
464 jogs on both sides flanking the Cafarnaum fault, either on carbonate units in
465 the western block or mainly on siliciclastic units in the eastern block ([Fig. 2](#)). This
466 indicates that the structure, rather than the lithology, controls the fluid flow along
467 the fault.

468 Hydrothermal breccias occur in dilational jogs on both sides of the main
469 Cafarnaum fault ([Fig. 2A, C](#)). These breccias form when fluid migration becomes
470 explosive (e.g., [Jébrak, 1997](#)). Subsequent precipitation of hydrothermal minerals
471 forms breccias and heals the fault, decreasing their permeability ([Katz et al.,](#)
472 [2006](#); [Taillefer et al., 2017](#)). Fluid flow and subsequent precipitation have been
473 interpreted with the seismic cycle and fault-valve behavior, influencing breccia
474 occurrence ([Taillefer et al., 2017](#)).

475 The results shown in this study document how strike-slip faults such as the
476 Cafarnaum fault are efficient pathways for fluids and that these fluids caused the
477 widespread silicification and the precipitation of Ca-bearing minerals. A recently
478 performed in the Morro Vermelho Karst System, located some 150km to the S of
479 the Cafarnaum fault and developed within the same carbonate succession,
480 provides more insights into the temporal succession of fluid circulation and
481 precipitation/dissolution ([Bertotti et al., 2020](#)). During the first stage, fluids flowed
482 along two main aquifers, the Chapada Diamantina quartz arenites and the

483 overlying Salitre Formation carbonates, separated by the Bebedouro Formation
484 glacial sediments aquitard. The flow was associated with pervasive dolomitization
485 of a 100s of m wide body overlying a deep-seated strike-slip fault in the
486 carbonates. With increasing displacement, the strike-slip fault grew upward (e.g.,
487 [Dooley and Schreurs, 2012](#)), thereby first affecting the Chapada Diamantina
488 aquifer and eventually reaching the Salitre carbonates. With establishing a
489 through-going fracture zone, Si-rich fluids previously confined to the Chapada
490 Diamantina aquifer invaded the Salitre aquifer, causing widespread dissolution
491 and karst formation and precipitation of Si both in the host rock as a silica-crust
492 coating the caves. We suggest that such a temporal succession could also be
493 applicable to the mineralizations of the Cafarnaum fault zone.

494

495 *5.2 – Geochemistry of hydrothermal fluids, fluid pathways and tectonics*

496 Fluid flow in the crust is a powerful mechanism to remobilize chemical
497 elements and concentrate metals of economic interest ([Heinrich and Candela,](#)
498 [2014, Yardley and Bodnar, 2014](#)).. The efficiency of heat transfer and chemical
499 remobilization depends on heat and chemical gradients, fluid-rock interactions,
500 and tectonic settings. Many studies have addressed the question of how deep
501 fluid penetrates the crust (e.g., [Nesbitt and Muehlenbachs, 1989; Fricke,](#)
502 [Wickham et al., 1992; Haines, Lynch et al., 2016](#)). Most authors agree that fluid
503 may penetrate as deep as 10 to 15 km into the crust, mainly in crystalline terrains
504 submitted to an extensional tectonic regime.

505 The isotope data presented here show that fluid sources in the central part
506 and at the Irecê Basin edges had the same origin but underwent distinct
507 pathways. The new data presented in this study allow a discussion of the source
508 of these fluids, their primary isotopic composition, their interaction with the

509 sedimentary rocks on both sides of the Cafarnaum fault, and how deep they may
510 have penetrated each kind of terrain.

511 Different generations of carbonate veins and breccias crosscut the
512 sedimentary rocks of the Irecê Basin. [Figs. 6](#) and [7](#) show that carbonate
513 veins from the central part of the basin do not display significant carbon and
514 oxygen isotope differences relative to the carbonate host rock. More significant
515 isotopic differences occur in samples from the ACH and FAR sites, where the
516 veins present more negative isotopic values than the host rock ([Fig.6](#)).

517 Data in this study suggest that the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of the carbonate veins may
518 be explained by a meteoric fluid source ([Fig.11](#)), by a higher temperature of
519 crystallization ([Table 02](#)) of these carbonates, or by the combination of both
520 processes. The oxygen isotope fractionation between calcite and water varies
521 from 28‰ to 7‰ in the temperature range of 25-250°C ([Chacko et al. 1991](#); [Kim,](#)
522 [O'Neil et al., 2007](#); [Chacko and Deines, 2008](#)). In contrast, the low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values
523 observed in the carbonate may only be explained by an external source of
524 carbon, since the carbon isotope fractionation values between calcite and HCO_3^-
525 and calcite and CO_2 are much less than 4‰ at temperatures below 200°C
526 ([Deines et al., 1974](#); [Chacko et al., 1991](#); [Chacko and Deines 2008](#)). Samples
527 from the MEL site, which are located at the edge of the basin, display even more
528 negative oxygen isotope values. As shown in [Fig. 11](#), isotope data from this site
529 display a narrow range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and a wide range of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values. Compared
530 to the veins from the central part of the Irecê Basin, the lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of their
531 carbonates indicate interactions with more ^{18}O -depleted fluids or higher
532 crystallization temperatures.

533 [Fig. 11](#) compares the isotopic composition of the carbonates studied here
534 with previous isotope data reported for the same area. The diagram shows that

535 the data in this study have a wide range of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (-13.0‰ to 1.8‰) and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (-
536 10‰ to 10‰) values. However, most of our samples have a narrower range of
537 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (-5‰ to 1‰). The exceptions are samples from the IRE site that exhibit
538 higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values and a few samples from the ACH, FAR, and SOR sites that
539 present $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values below -5‰. Samples from the IRE site are associated with
540 ^{13}C -enriched carbonates from the upper section of the Irecê Basin and plotted as
541 squares in [Fig. 9](#). These primary high $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ carbonates have been reported in
542 both the Irecê Basin ([Misi 1988](#), [Misi and Kyle 1994](#), [Borges, Balsamo et al. 2016](#),
543 [Caird, Pufahl et al. 2017](#)) and other Neoproterozoic basins ([Santos, Alvarenga et
544 al. 2000](#)). Carbonate veins with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values below -5‰ are probably related to
545 the same fluid that is responsible for the carbonates that formed the calcretes
546 previously described in the basin ([Borges, Balsamo et al. 2016](#), [Caird, Pufahl et
547 al. 2017](#)). Published isotope data of these carbonates, plotted as "stars" in [Fig.11](#),
548 also present low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values.

549 The source of fluids related to the carbonate veins from the central part of
550 the Irecê Basin may be further constrained by the isotopic composition of fluid
551 inclusions trapped in the carbonate veins. Based on the oxygen isotopic
552 composition of these fluid inclusions and the associated carbonate, we estimate
553 the temperature of carbonate crystallization to be between 39 and 67°C (Table
554 02). These temperature estimates were based on Kim and O'Neil (1997) oxygen
555 isotope fractionation equation between calcite and water. Since calcite and fluid-
556 inclusions may be affected by post-entrapment isotope exchange during
557 exhumation ([Nooitgedacht et al., 2021](#)), these results should indicate minimum
558 temperature conditions. Assuming an average thermal gradient of 30 C/km, these
559 fluids circulated at depths reaching 1000 m within the crust. [Fig. 9](#) displays the
560 mean global meteoric water line by [Rozanski et al. \(1993\)](#) and the hydrogen and

561 oxygen isotope values of these fluid inclusions. It also shows trending lines for
562 fluid inclusions from the ACH and FAR sites, indicating that they converge to a
563 δD value near -45‰ and a $\delta^{18}O$ value near -6.5‰ along the mean meteoric water
564 line (Fig. 9). We argue that these isotopic values represent the local meteoric
565 water, which upon interaction with the host rock changed its isotopic composition
566 along the mixing lines. A similar process has been described in active
567 hydrothermal systems (Criss and Taylor Jr, 1986), in which there is also a more
568 extensive range of $\delta^{18}O$ values compared to δD values.

569 The isotopic variation observed in Fig. 11 may be explained by different
570 geological scenarios. Arrows I and II represent veins formed by mixing meteoric
571 fluids and carbonate host rocks of the inner part of the basin at low-temperature
572 conditions (between 30 and 40°C). Arrow I indicates mixing between these fluids
573 and carbonates from the lower section. In contrast, arrow II represents the mixing
574 between these fluids and the ^{13}C -enriched carbonates from the upper section.
575 Arrow III represents carbonates formed by the same fluids as those of the
576 calcretes, which have more negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values. Samples from the MEL site,
577 represented by arrow IV, fall within the same range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values for most
578 samples from the central part of the basin. However, they also have more
579 negative $\delta^{18}O$ values, indicating that isotope exchange between the meteoric
580 fluids and carbonates alone may not be reconciled with the observed data. We
581 argue that carbonates from the MEL site crystallized from the same meteoric fluid
582 but at higher temperatures. These fluids percolated through conduits that allowed
583 them to reach deeper parts of the crust and return to shallow crustal levels without
584 losing much heat. Compared to thrust systems alone, thrust followed by strike-
585 slip and extensional faulting may provide deep fluid conduits. Based on hydrogen
586 isotopes, Nesbitt and Muehlenbachs (1989) concluded that the tectonic regime

587 might drastically control the depth of fluid interaction in the crust. This
588 interpretation also agrees with previous studies based on fluid inclusions and
589 sulfur isotope geothermometry performed in the MEL site area ([Misi and Kyle](#)
590 [1994](#), [Misi, Iyer et al. 1999](#), [Misi, Iyer et al. 2005](#)), Fluid-rock interactions may
591 also explain the presence of base metals in these high-temperature veins,
592 suggesting that these chemical elements were scavenged from deeper crustal
593 levels.

594 The role of deep crustal fluids at the MEL and MAM sites is further
595 suggested by the petrographic and mineralogical features observed at these sites
596 ([Fig. 8](#)). In addition to the high concentration of base metals (e.g., Pb, Zn, Fe),
597 these sites display a pervasive replacement of the primary carbonates by silica.
598 Silicification events are recognized as a diagenetic process in which Si-rich fluids
599 affect a host rock, modifying its texture and mineralogy ([Menezes et al., 2019](#)).
600 For example, [Haldar and Tisljer \(2014\)](#) documented a silicification process where
601 opal/chalcedony/low-temperature quartz replaces calcite/aragonite/dolomite.
602 The percolation of meteoric fluids at the deep crustal level provided the required
603 conditions to mobilize silica at the MEL and MAM sites.

604 Deep meteoric fluid circulation along the Carfarnaun fault is comparable
605 to other worldwide geological examples in which surface waters penetrate along
606 tectonic structures. For instance, based on the Friedman and O'Neil (1977)
607 isotope fractionation diagram, [Mozafari et al. \(2015\)](#) reconstructed the
608 composition of the parent fluids that were in equilibrium with the vein infill in the
609 Jabal Qusaybah Anticline (Adam Foothills, North Oman). The authors discussed
610 a paleofluid evolutionary model related to the deformation front of the foreland
611 fold and thrust belt. The strike-slip tectonic regime introduces a different type of
612 fluid flow linked to the fault zone. The shifts in the stable isotope values forming

613 different fields with comparable values (Fig. 12) possibly originate from different
614 phases of strike-slip movement. A similar spread in the fluid inclusion isotope
615 ratios was discussed by de Graaf et al. (2020) after analyzing the wide variety of
616 vein-type mineralization caused by deep-seated brines in the Hartz Mountains,
617 Germany. Other studies examined the complex recrystallization processes along
618 dolomitization fronts causing dissolution of the host limestones and precipitation
619 of dolomite crystal structures depending on the porosity-permeability properties
620 of the sediments present in the fault systems (Koeshidayatullah et al., 2020).

621 Similar to the Cafarnaun fault, the interplay between tectonics and fluid
622 circulation has played a major role in the evolution of the inner Northern
623 Apennines. As shown by Brogi et al. (2020), active transfer zones associated
624 with an extensional tectonism control the deposition of travertine deposits by
625 enhancing fluid circulation. Other studies in the same area have shown that
626 these trending faults have also controlled the development of magmatic activities
627 (Brogi et al., 2021) and Hg-Sb ore deposits (Brogi et al., 2011), further
628 suggesting that these structures may connect different geological systems and
629 play a major role in the remobilization of chemical constituents. They also
630 indicate that competition between crustal stretching and surface uplift
631 continuously switches the local intermediate stress axis, thus promoting quick
632 changes in the direction of the maximum permeability (Liotta and Brogi, 2020).
633 These changes further promote lateral and vertical migration of fluids within the
634 system.

635

636 **6. Conclusion**

637 This study in the São Francisco Craton focuses on the hydrothermal
638 activity in the Cafarnaun fault and its host rock and yields the following

639 conclusions. The São Francisco Craton is a cold and thick block preserved from
640 deformation in the Brasiliano orogeny (740-580 Ma). However, a few tectono-
641 thermal events affected the Craton along its boundary in Neoproterozoic times.
642 One of these events was repeated hydrothermal activity along the Cafarnaum
643 fault, a N-S-striking, 170 km long, strike-slip fault that juxtaposes Neoproterozoic
644 carbonate units and Mesoproterozoic siliciclastic-carbonate units in the northern
645 part of the Craton.

646 Hydrothermal boiling and implosive brecciation occurred along the fault.
647 Decompression and cooler conditions induced precipitation of hydrothermal
648 minerals in N-W-striking dilational jogs, mainly flanking the northern and southern
649 fault terminations. The hydrothermal fluid structures are composed of
650 hydrothermal breccias close to the main fault zones and along dilational jogs. In
651 addition, calcite veins in the host units away from the fault are also part of the
652 hydrothermal system. Therefore, the geometry of faults at shallow crustal levels
653 influences the location of hydrothermal deposits.

654 Based on isotopic geochemistry, we show that meteoric water was the
655 main fluid source that percolated the sedimentary rocks of the Irecê Basin and
656 the Cafarnaum fault zone. Fluid inclusions in carbonate veins from the central
657 part of the basin indicate a meteoric fluid with a δD value near -45‰ and a $\delta^{18}O$
658 value near -6.5‰. Temperature estimates based on the oxygen isotopic
659 fractionation between the carbonate veins from the central part of the basin and
660 the trapped fluid inclusions indicate temperatures ranging between 40 and 70°C.
661 These temperature conditions agree with the lower $\delta^{18}O$ values of veins
662 compared to the carbonate host rock. A similar $\delta^{18}O$ fluid value (-6.5‰) is
663 obtained based on the interaction between these fluids and carbonates from the
664 lower and upper parts of the succession.

665 In contrast, carbonates at the front edges of the basin associated with the
666 Cafarnaum fault exhibit much lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values, indicating higher crystallization
667 temperatures. These carbonates are also associated with base metals and silica-
668 rich fluids, suggesting that the fault behaved as a conduit for deeper fluid
669 circulation in the basement. The mineral paragenesis (e.g., galena, sphalerite,
670 barite, chlorite, illite, and quartz) and brecciated features associated with the
671 veins and fault support this interpretation.

672

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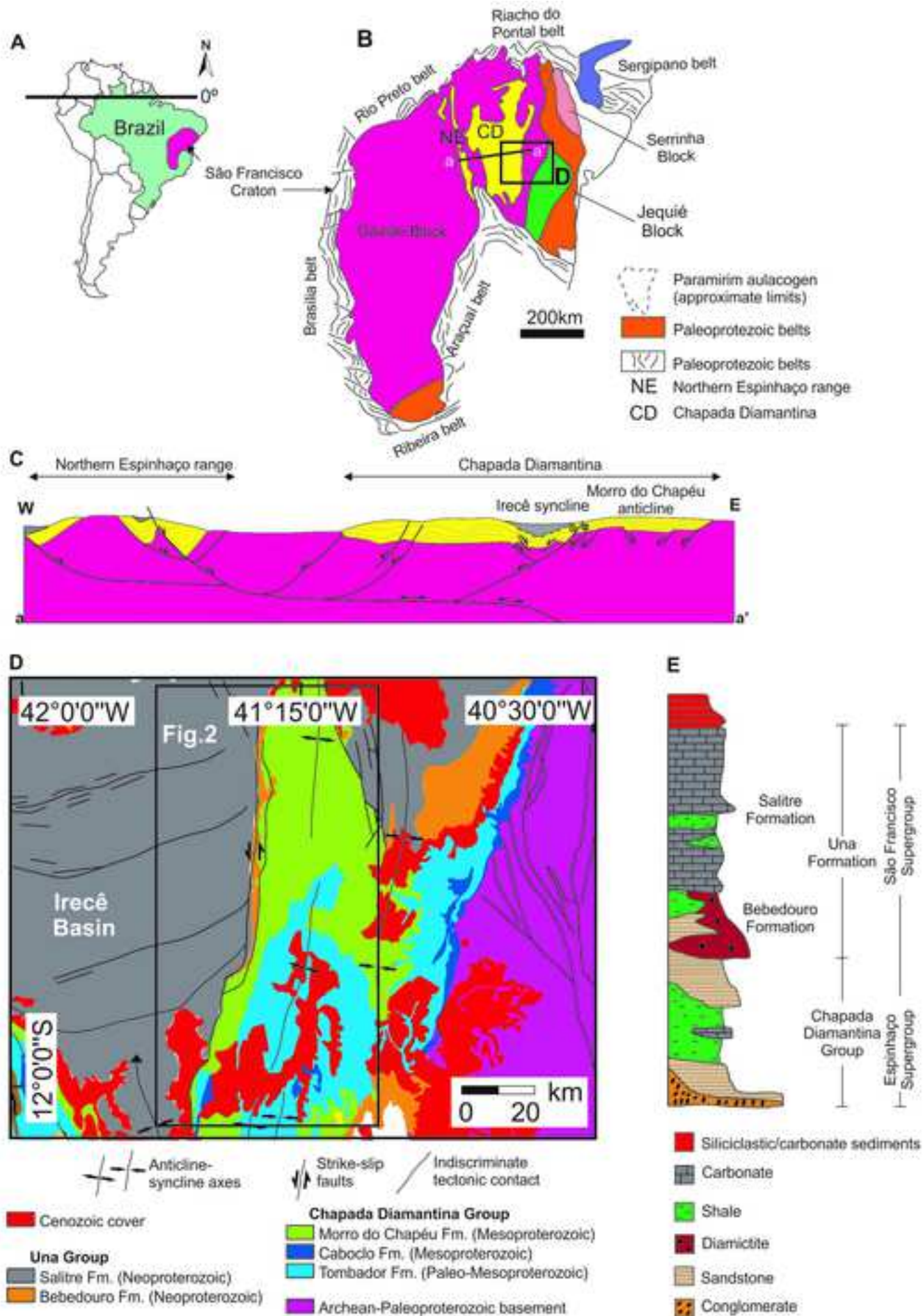
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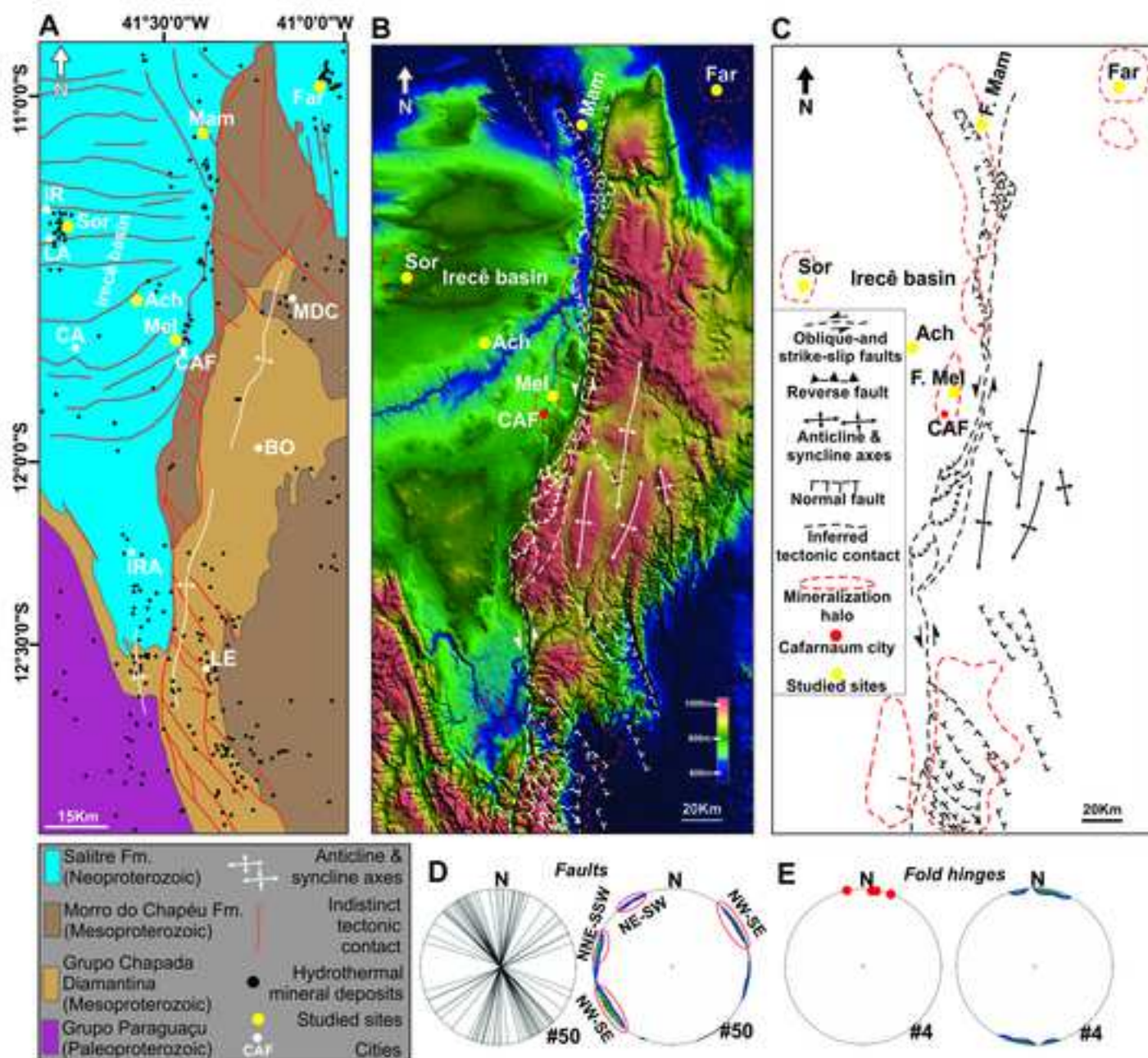


Figure 2. (A) Simplified geological map modified after *Levantamento Aerogeofísico da Área de Centro Norte Bahia - CBPM, 2011/12 Geologia - Mapa Geológico do Estado da Bahia - CBPM/CPRM, 2003*. (B) Structural framework of the study area superposed on ALOS PALSAR imagery. Dashed lines represent the inferred faults. Continuous white lines represent both anticline and syncline axes. (C) Line drawing of the structural framework presented in B. (D) Lower hemisphere equal-area projections of great circles representing the attitude of the documented faults and equal-area projection/density contour plots of the poles of the measured faults. (E) Lower hemisphere equal-area projections of fold hinges and relative density contour plots. (the map location can be found in Fig. Geological map).

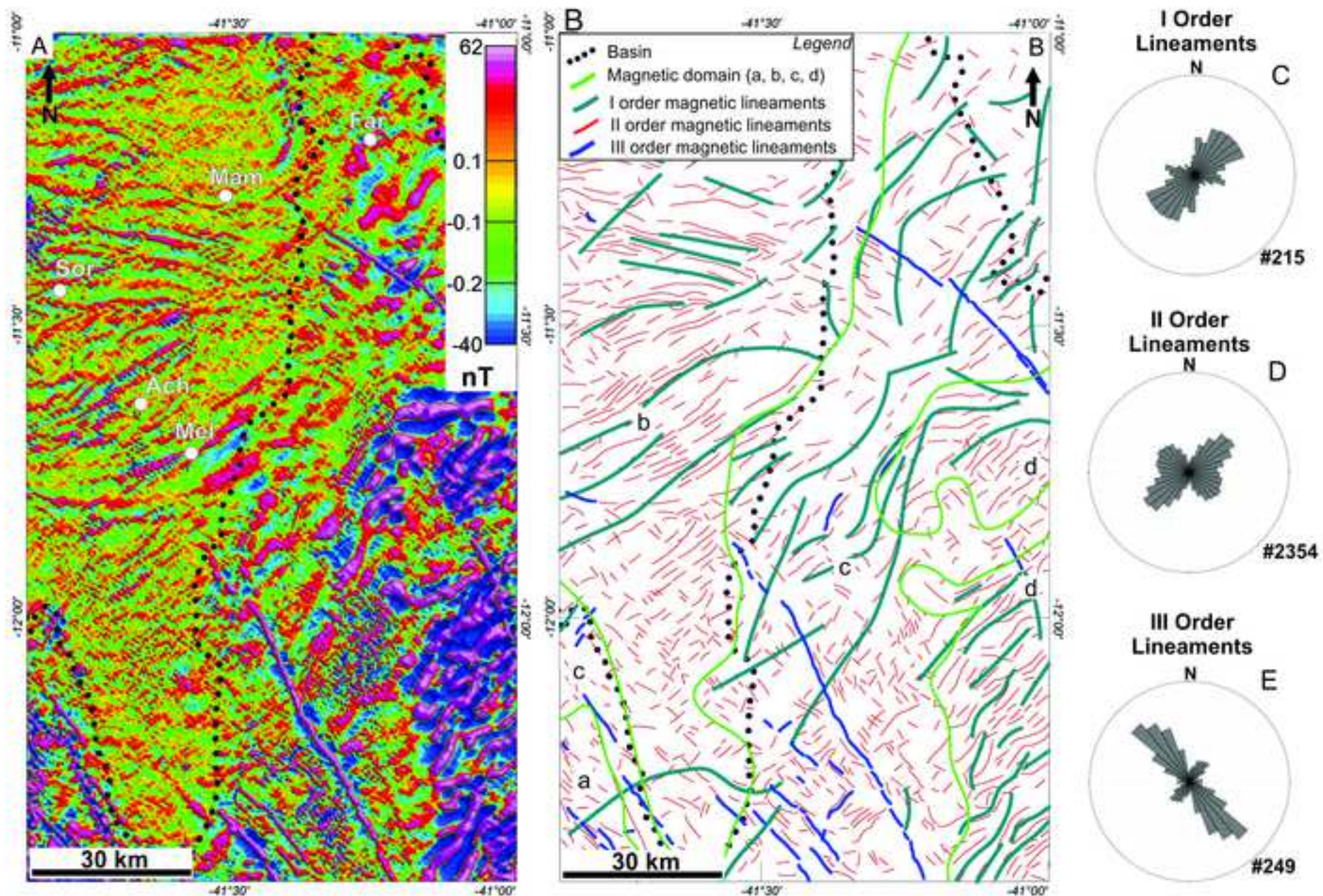


Figure 3. Behavior of magnetic lineaments in the study area: (A) Map of first derivative. (B) Lineaments Line drawing of the map presented in A. (C-D-E) Rose diagram representing the attitude of the documented first, second and third order lineaments.

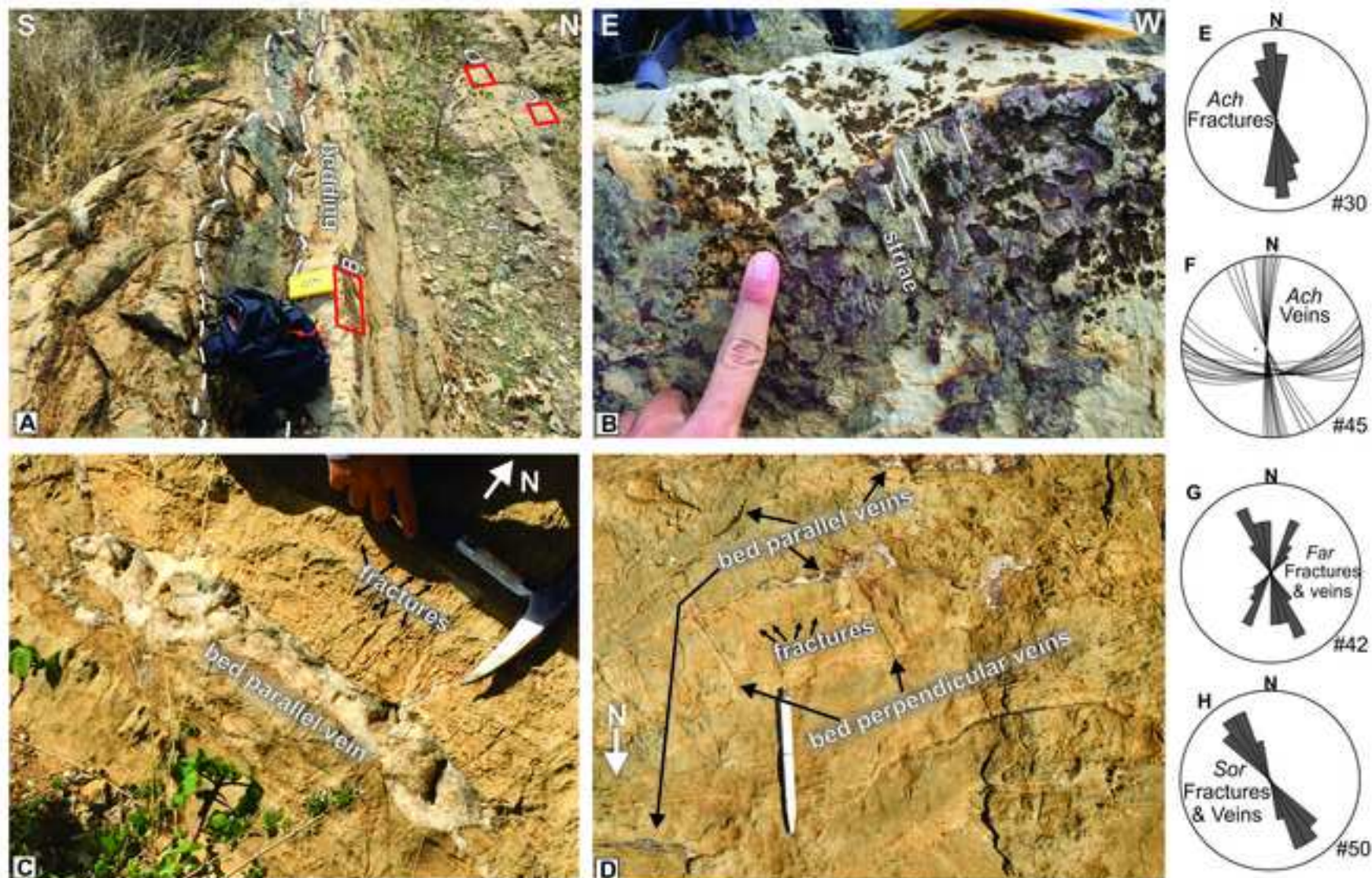


Figure 4. (A) Outcrop view of subvertical bed layers in the Achado outcrop; (B) Close up view of a bed parallel slip surface. Kinematic indicators, such as striae are visible along the slip surface. (C) Close up view of a large bed parallel vein and bed perpendicular fractures; (D) Close up view of bed parallel veins and bed perpendicular fractures and veins. (E) Rose diagram of the documented fractures in the Ach outcrop. (F) Lower hemisphere equal area projection of veins measured in the Ach outcrop. (G) and (H) Rose diagram of the documented fractures and veins in the Far and Sor outcrops. See Fig. 2 for outcrops location.

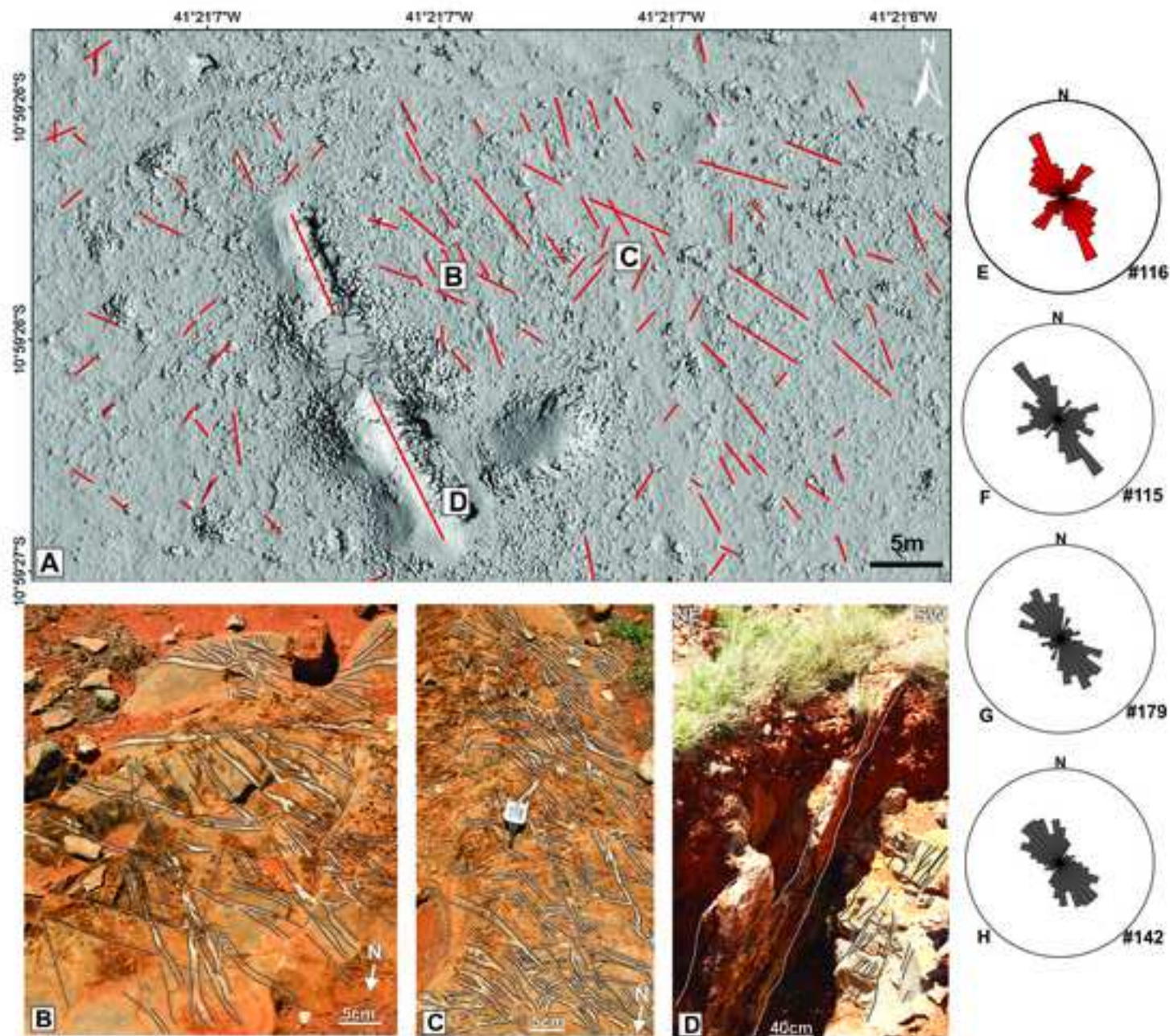


Figure 5. (A) Digital elevation model (DEM) of the Mammonas outcrop (outcrop localization in fig. 2. Mam). Red lines are associated to the structural lineaments; (B)(C) Outcrop view of veins and fractures. (D) Outcrop view of a large vein located in a fault damage zone. (E) Rose diagram of the identified structural features from the DEM in Fig. 5a; (F) Rose diagram of the documented veins and fractures displayed in Fig. 5a; (G) Rose diagram of the documented veins and fractures displayed in fig. 5c; (H) Rose diagram of the documented veins and fractures displayed in fig. 5d. See Fig. 3 for outcrops location.

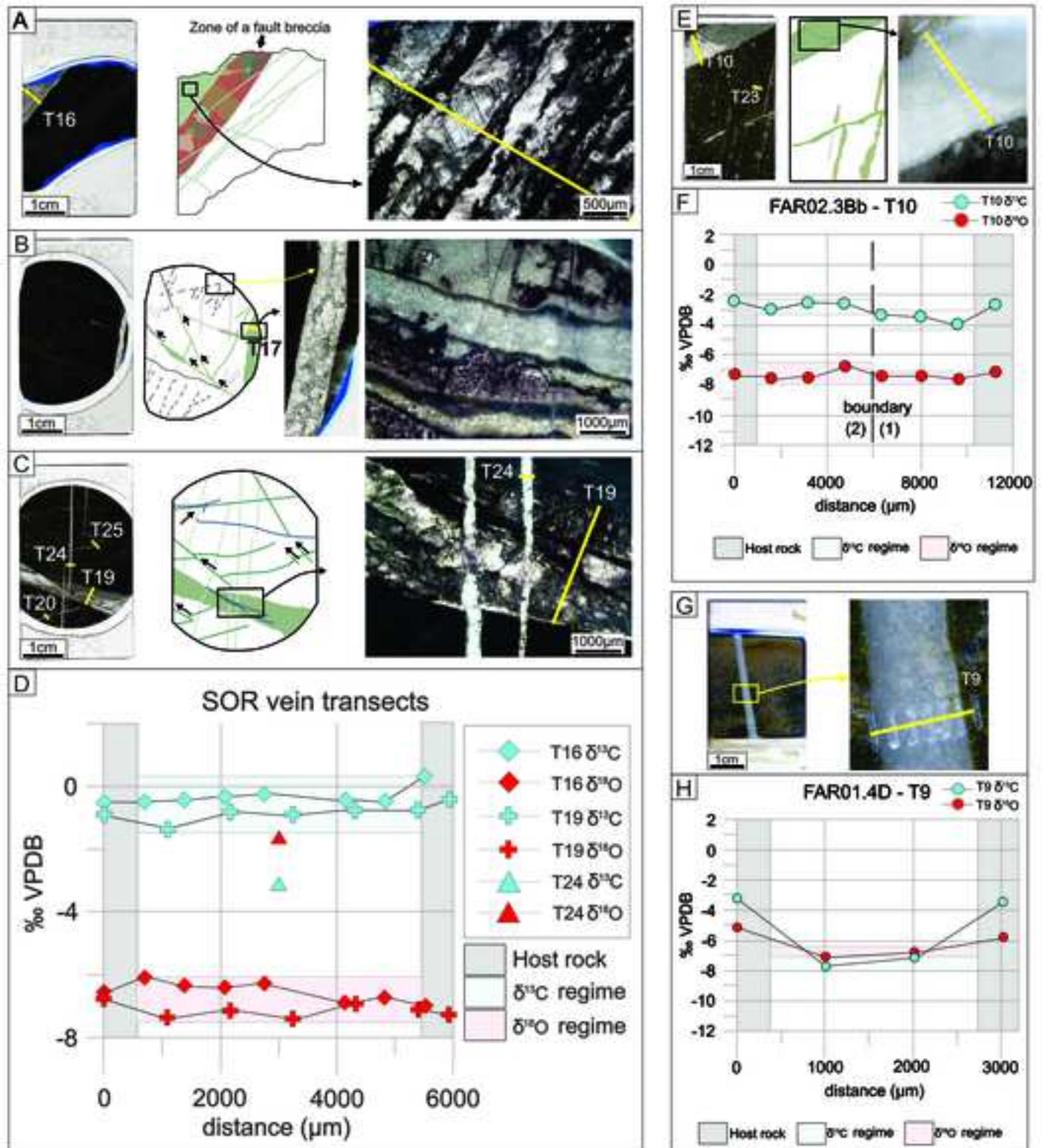


Figure 6. A) On the left, thin section SOR01.2Aa. On the center graphical representation of SOR01.2Aa with veins in green and fault breccia in multicolor. On the right, zoom in on sheeted character of vein T16. B) On the left, thin section SOR01.2Ab. On the center graphical representation of SOR01.2Ab. On the right zoom in on bedding parallel stylolites and N9E-SSW fractures. C) On the left, thin section SOR01.3Aa. On the center Micro map of all present features. On the right, crosscutting of shear fracture T19 and N-S vein T24. D) Stable isotope transects of T16, T19 and T24. E) Thin section FAR02.3Bb. On the center, graphic representation of thin section. On the left, zoom in on transect T10 across two calcite phases including crystallization. F) Transect T10. G) Thin section FAR01.4D, and zoom in on vein T9 with sampling location including crystallization. H) Transect T9.

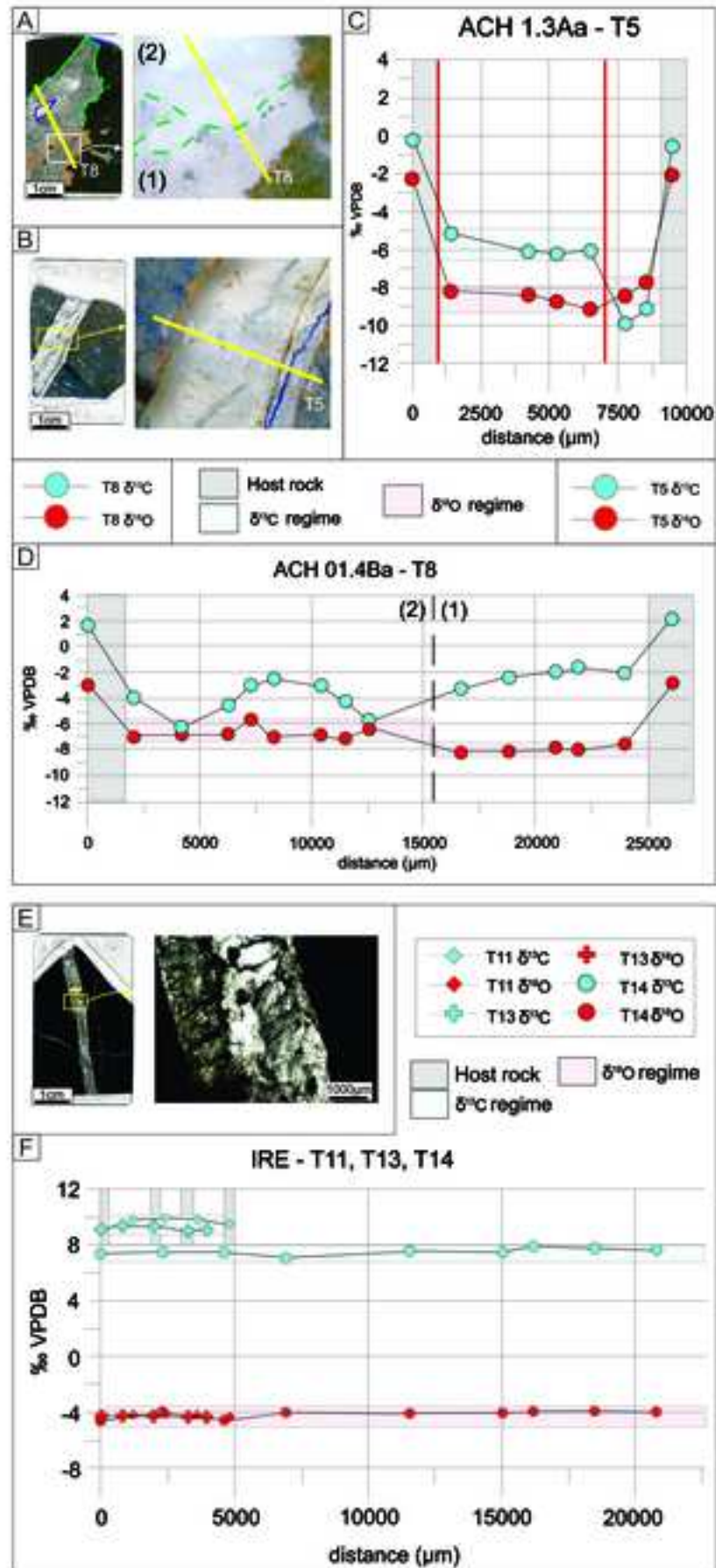


Figure 7. A) Thin section ACH01.4Ba with T8 location and two zones and, zoom in on zone boundary between (1) no host rock remnants and (2) with host rock remnants B) Thin section ACH01.3Aa and, zoom in on transect T5. C) Transect T5. The red lines mark a change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VPDB}}$ and a new growth plane. D) Stable isotope transect of T8. Note the difference in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. E) Thin section IRE01.2Aa, and, zoom in on vein infill with needle shaped anagorite remnants. F) Stable isotope transects of vein T11, T13 and T14 from IRE. Host rock and vein infill have an almost identical isotope composition.

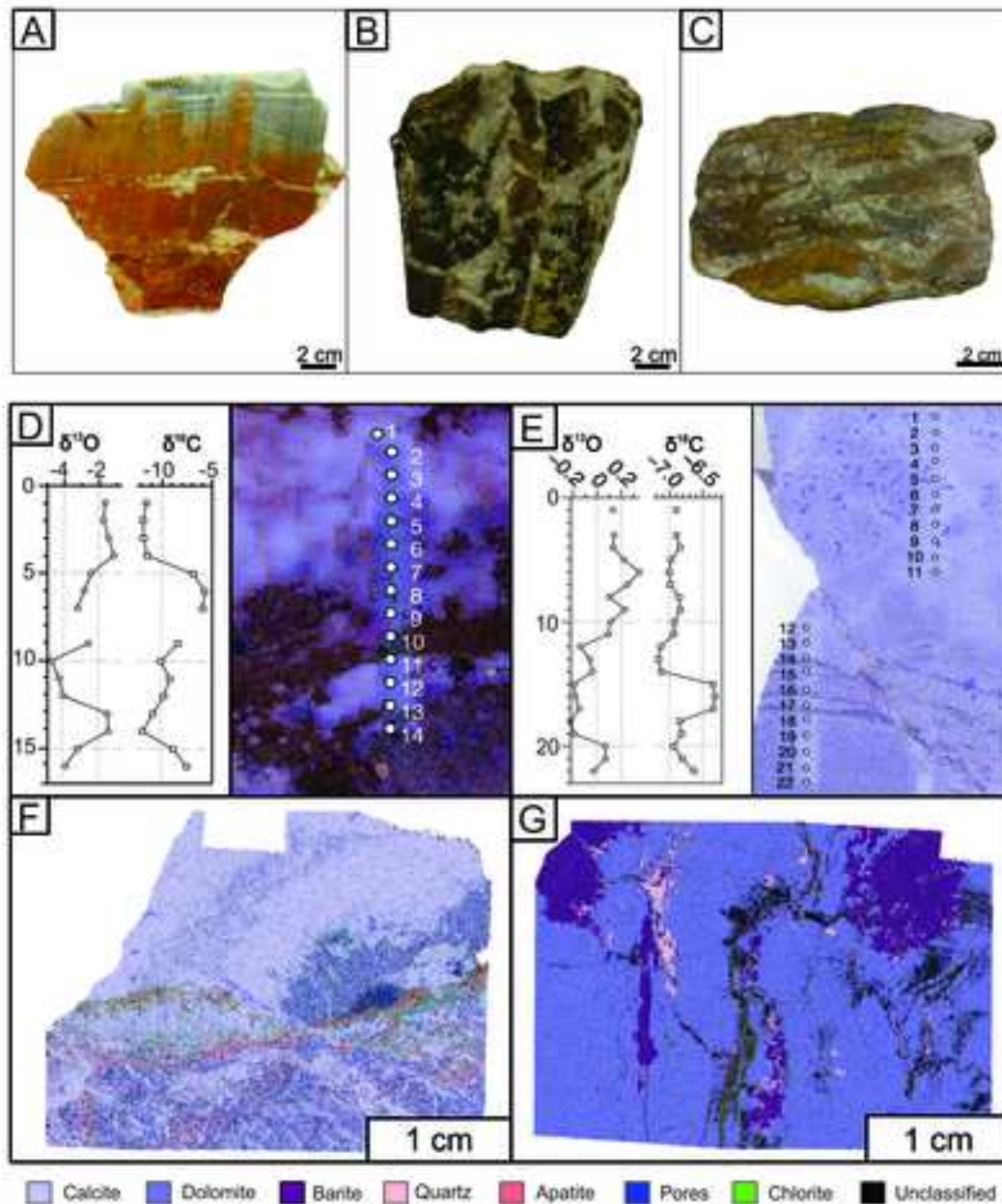


Figure 8. Samples from Melancias area showing the effects of hydrothermal alteration and hydraulic fracturing. A) Carbonate that shows partially preserved primary features grading to a brecciated zone. In the lower part of the sample, the primary features were obliterated by the hydrothermal alteration. B) Vein of carbonate by successive precipitation of carbonate and Fe-rich zones. C) Hydraulic breccia with clasts of the primary carbonate. D) and E) Thin section from Melancias in which calcite is the main mineral. The diagram also presents $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ across profiles. F) and G) QemScan image of samples from Melancias showing the hydrothermal mineralogy made of barite, quartz, illite, and chlorite. Note that these minerals concentrate along fractures.

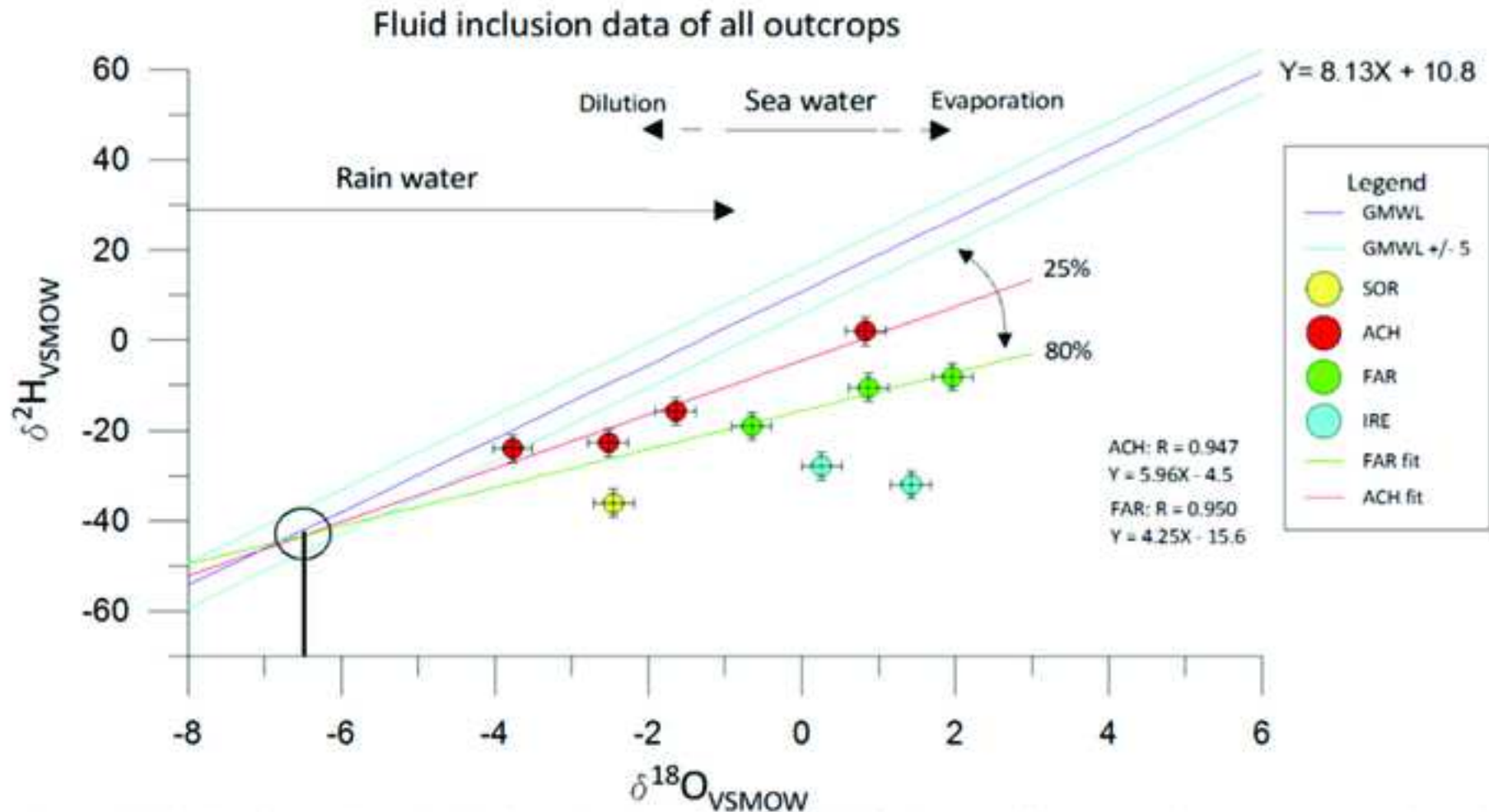


Figure 10. Fluid inclusion data GMWL based on Rozanski et al. (1993). Regions of marine and meteoric waters based on Moore (1989). Sample plot in both meteoric and marine domain. Trend lines of ACG and FAR cross the GMWL on the same point ($\sim -6.5\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$; -45‰ for $\delta\text{D}_{\text{VSMOW}}$).

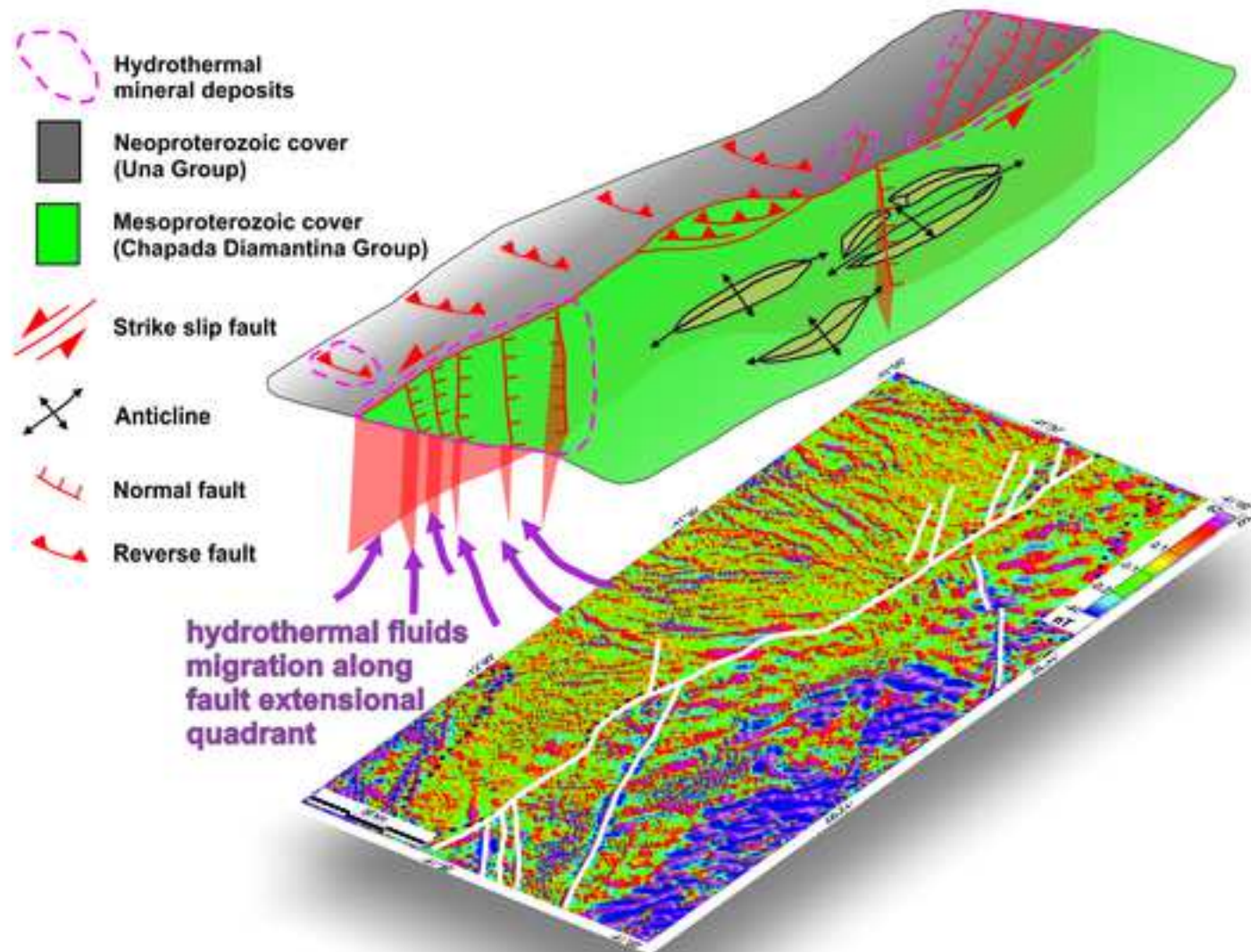


Figure 10. Conceptual model proposed for the study area. Cartoon displaying the current regional scale configuration and the connection with the deep magnetic lineaments.

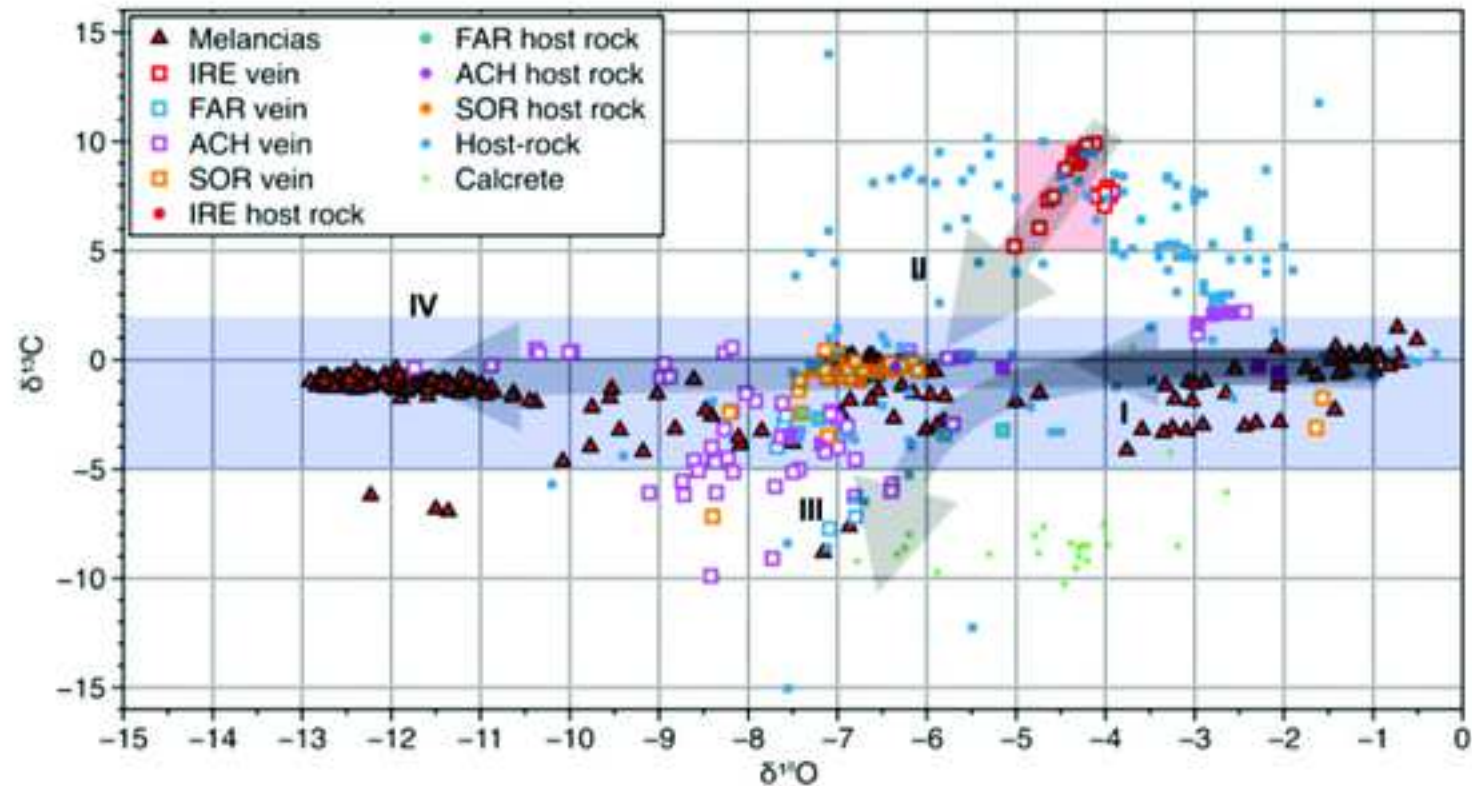


Figure 11. Carbon and oxygen isotopes of samples from the central part of the basin (IRE, FAR, ACH, and SOR) and samples from the Melancias outcrop compared to other published isotope data from the basin. This plot shows different scenarios of isotope evolution: I. Interaction between meteoric fluid and carbonates of the lower stratigraphic section; II. Interaction between meteoric fluid and carbonates of the upper stratigraphic section; III. Low $d^{13}C$ carbonates related to the same fluids responsible for calcrete formation in the area; IV. Carbonates formed by high-temperature fluids that interacted with deep-crustal levels. Host-rock data (Misi and Kyle, 1994; Misi and Veizer, 1998; Borges et al., 2016; Caird et al., 2017); Calcrete data (Borges et al., 2016; Caird et al., 2017).

Table 2: Isotope data from fluid inclusions of carbonates from the central part of the basin. The temperature was calculated based on the oxygen isotopic composition of calcite and fluid, according to Kim & O'Neil (1997).

Sample	Location	Fluid δD_{SMOW}	Fluid $\delta^{18}O_{SMOW}$	Calcite $\delta^{18}O_{PDB}$	Calcite $\delta^{18}O_{SMOW}$	T in C
ACH01.2Bb T4-1	ACH	-22.7	-2.5	-7.4	23.3	39
ACH01.2Bb T4-2	ACH	-24.0	-3.8	-10.1	20.5	47
ACH01.3Aa T5-1 (left)	ACH	1.9	0.8	-8.6	22.1	66
ACH01.4BaT8-1 (grey)	ACH	-15.7	-1.6	-8.0	22.7	48
IRE01.2Aa T11	IRE	-32.0	1.4	-4.2	26.6	43
IRE01.3Ba T14	IRE	-27.9	0.3	-4.1	26.6	37
SOR01.3Aa T19	SOR	-36.0	-2.5	-6.5	24.3	35
FAR01.4D T9	FAR	-10.5	0.9	-7.0	23.7	56
FAR02.3Bb T10-1 (milky, right)	FAR	-8.2	2.0	-7.6	23.1	67
FAR02.3Bb T10-2 (transparent, left)	FAR	-19.0	-0.7	-7.5	23.1	51