

# GRANULITE/CHARNOCKITE FROM THE JUIZ DE FORA DOMAIN, CENTRAL SEGMENT OF THE BRASILIANO RIBEIRA BELT

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**ABSTRACT** The Ribeira Belt is the product of the last stage of Brasiliano collage in southeastern Brazil. Its Occidental Terrane comprises the reworked margin of the San Francisco Craton, which is composed by two thrust sheets: the Andrelândia and the Juiz de Fora domains (Heilbron *et al.* 1998). The latter includes three different tectonically bounded litho-stratigraphic units: pre-1.8 Ga. granulite facies orthogneisses; post-1.8 Ga. metasedimentary rocks; and Brasiliano-Pan-African granitoids and charnockitoids. Each unit comprises a characteristic type of granulite/charnockite. The pre-1.8 Ga. unit is composed of basic to acid orthopyroxene-bearing orthogneisses with a granoblastic fabric. Field and petrological data indicate that granulite metamorphism is the result of infiltration of CO<sub>2</sub>-rich fluids. A late mylonitic foliation and retrogressive mineral products are contemporaneous to the Brasiliano-Pan-African tectonic stacking. The paragneisses display granulite facies parageneses within a foliated and/or mylonitic structure and show features of *in situ* migmatization caused by the breakdown of biotite. Charnockite bodies occur as garnet-(orthopyroxene)-bearing leucosomes within the paragneisses and also as isotropic to slightly foliated individualized igneous bodies with enclaves of the other units. They are interpreted as the product of anatexis of the paragneisses with minor contributions of the orthogneisses. Granulite facies metamorphism of the paragneisses, and anhydrous melting were caused by tectonic stacking related to the Brasiliano collage.

**Keywords:** Precambrian; Ribeira Belt; Granulite; Igneous Charnockite

**INTRODUCTION** The term *Juiz de Fora* was first used by Ebert (1955) who defined the Juiz de Fora Series as composed of paragneisses with granulite facies parageneses, which crop in southeast Minas Gerais.

The identification of associated granulite facies orthogneisses led several authors to include these rocks under the same denomination (Juiz de Fora Series or Complex; Cordani *et al.* 1973; Fonseca *et al.* 1979; Oliveira 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983; Machado Filho *et al.* 1983; Barbosa and Grossi Sad 1983a, 1983b, 1983c; Grossi Sad and Barbosa 1985; Pinto 1991).

In several areas of the Ribeira Belt it was verified that only orthogneisses bore granulite facies parageneses. This fact induced some authors to use the denomination of Juiz de Fora to group these rocks (Figueiredo *et al.* 1989; Campos Neto & Figueiredo 1990; Figueiredo and Campos Neto 1993; Teixeira and Figueiredo 1991; Heilbron 1993, 1995; Nogueira 1994; Nogueira and Trouw 1993; Heilbron *et al.* 1995, 1996; Machado *et al.* 1996).

Therefore, through the last two or three decades, the practical use of the denomination of Juiz de Fora has been gradually drifting apart from the original definition leading to a strong association of the term with the granulite facies ortho-derived gneisses.

U-Pb zircon analyses on charnockitic orthogneisses yielded ages of » 2.0 Ga, which were interpreted as the age of the protolith (Machado *et al.*, 1996). Pb-Pb and U-Pb analyses were carried out on detrital zircons from quartzites of the metasedimentary unit and the obtained ages of 2.0 Ga. indicate a Paleoproterozoic crust as its source (Valladares *et al.* 1997, 2000).

In order to avoid further confusion, this work uses the term Juiz de Fora Complex to name the group of orthogneisses with granulite facies diagnostic parageneses. However, besides the granulitic orthogneisses of the Juiz de Fora Complex, other distinct groups of granulite were identified in the study area and data point to the existence of three different granulite litho-stratigraphic units, each one formed by a distinct petrological process. The present work aims to present and characterize each of these units.

## STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE RIBEIRA BELT

The Brasiliano-Pan-African Ribeira Belt is located on the south/southeast margin of the São Francisco Craton and its crustal organization is defined as follows (Heilbron *et al.*, 1998) (Fig. 1): 1) the Occidental Terrane comprises two crustal scale thrust sheets (Andrelândia and Juiz de Fora domains) which are considered as the Neoproterozoic products of the reworked cratonic margins; 2) the Oriental Terrane constitutes another microplate (part of the Congo Plate), which was accreted during the Brasiliano Orogeny and comprises the following domains: a) the Costeiro or Serra do Mar Domain; b) the Ribeira Magmatic Arc (Tupinambá *et al.*, 1998); c) the Paraíba do Sul Klippe, which is the uppermost domain in this segment of the belt; and d) the Cabo Frio Domain, which occupies a restrict portion at the coast of Rio de Janeiro and is a product of relatively late amalgamation (Schmitt *et al.* 1999).

## GEOLOGY OF THE JUIZ DE FORA DOMAIN Structural Organization, Lithological Units, Metamorphism and Magmatism

The Juiz de Fora Domain (JFD) includes three different litho-stratigraphic units: pre-1.8 Ga granulitic orthogneisses (Juiz de Fora Complex); post-1.8 Ga metasedimentary rocks; and Brasiliano-Pan-African granitoids and charnockitoids (Duarte *et al.* 1994; Duarte 1998) (Fig. 2). The pre- and post-1.8 Ga units and also some of the granitoid rocks are tectonically bounded and occur as thrust sheets within this domain. As a result, the JFD is characterized by imbrications of lithological units and strong mylonitization. Further, stratigraphic correlations with units of the Andrelândia Nappe or the cratonic area are still a subject of discussion. Field and petrographic data indicate that, with the exception of the granitoid rocks, all lithotypes display granulite facies (or anhydrous) mineral parageneses. Brasiliano-Pan-African magmatism is represented by I- and S-type, syn-collisional, granitoids or charnockitoids (Duarte 1998; Valladares *et al.* 2000) and I-type post-collisional leucogranite (Nogueira 1994).

Within all three different lithostratigraphic units, there was identified a characteristic type of granulite/charnockite, each displaying features of having been generated by a distinct petrological process.

## GRANULITE/CHARNOCKITE OF THE JUIZ DE FORA DOMAIN Pre-1.8 Ga Granulites: the Juiz de Fora Complex

The Juiz de Fora Complex consists of granulite facies orthogneisses with lithotypes of a wide range of composition, from basic to acid. Although noritic and quartz-rich granulites (quartz > 80% volume) occur, enderbite, charno-enderbite and charnockitic compositions are the most widespread. Strong deformation processes together with high-grade metamorphism caused obliteration of original textures and structures and the current configuration comprises bands, lenses and/or boudins of norites within quartz noritic to charno-enderbitic orthogneisses (Fig. 3A). In spite of obliteration of primary structures, field data indicate that charnockitic and quartz-rich charnockitic types are intrusive within the other lithotypes (Fig. 3B).

The rocks of the Juiz de Fora Complex are greenish or brown. Banding is common and migmatitic structures, when present, display green leuco-, meso- and melanosomes, suggesting that *in situ* anatexis took place before granulite facies metamorphism. Granulites become greyish protomylonites, mylonites or ultramylonites when close to the thrust planes developed during the Brasiliano Orogeny. Together with petrographic data, this indicates that the Brasiliano metamorphism produced retrogressive mineral parageneses after the granulite facies ones. Hydrated minerals such as hornblende and / or biotite occur at the borders of and within pyroxene grains, attesting the development of retrogressive reactions. These new minerals are usually oriented along the younger foliation of mylonitic nature.

**Post-1.8 Ga Granulites: the metasedimentary unit** This unit comprises quartz-feldspathic, pelitic and semipelitic gneisses with minor quartzite, feldspathic quartzite, calcsilicate rocks, and associated

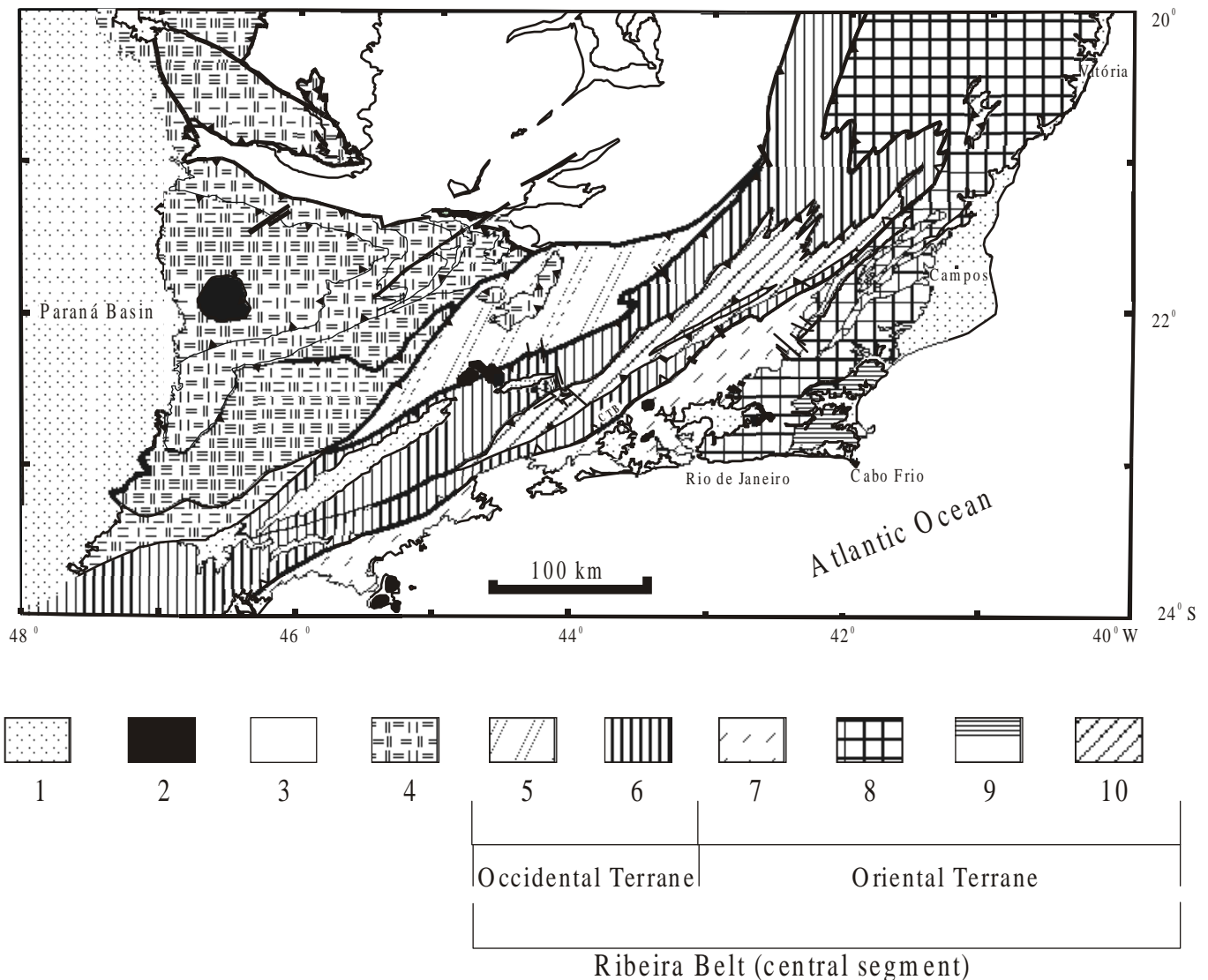


Figure 1-Tectonic Map of southeastern Brazil (Heilbron et al. 1998). 1 - Phanerozoic cover; 2 - Cretaceous / Tertiary alkaline rocks; 3 - São Francisco Craton and foreland domains; 4 - Brasília belt nappes domain; 5 - Andrelândia domain; 6 - Juiz de Fora domain; 7 - Ribeira magmatic arc; 8 - Costeiro domain; 9 - Cabo Frio domain; 10 - Paraíba do Sul Klippe.

mafic bodies. The subordinate lithotypes occur as lenses and/or *boudin* shaped-like bodies within the paragneisses. All these rocks are disposed along thrust sheets, which are interlayered with the orthogneisses of the Juiz de Fora Complex. Contacts between two distinct paragneisses or between paragneisses and quartzites within the same thrust sheet are usually gradational. Close to the shear zones, these rocks show mylonitic foliation. The paragneisses of semipelitic composition are strongly migmatized and the resultant structures are mainly of stromatic type (Fig. 3C). Garnet and orthopyroxene are common mineral phases of the leucosome of these migmatites, suggesting the breakdown of biotite as the main  $H_2O$  source of the migmatization/dehydration process. Mineral parageneses with orthopyroxene occur in the quartz-feldspathic and the semipelitic gneisses. Associated with evidences of biotite breakdown, this feature indicates that the rocks were metamorphosed under granulite facies conditions.

**Brasiliano-Pan-African Charnockite: Salvaterra Charno-enderbite** The Salvaterra Charno-enderbite is a garnet-bearing plutonic parautochthonous body which crops out in Salvaterra district of the city of Juiz de Fora, in close association with the semipelitic paragneisses of the Juiz de Fora Domain. It consists of an isotropic to slightly foliated body with a spotted structure of alternating green and grey colors, reflecting, probably,  $a_{H_2O}$  gradients or heterogeneous fluid phase distribution during its magmatic evolution: green portions reflect

anhydrous and/or  $H_2O$ -poor fluid phase conditions; grey portions reflect hydrated and/or  $H_2O$ -rich fluid phase conditions. Field data indicate that the contact between paragneisses and Salvaterra charno-enderbite is of gradational kind, developing through the following stages: 1) incipient to strong migmatization of paragneiss, forming mainly stromatic migmatite with leucosome structurally and compositionally similar to the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite (Fig. 3C); 2) diatexite, also structurally and compositionally similar to the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite, with schlieren structures composed mainly of biotite and garnet (Fig. 3D); Salvaterra Charno-enderbite with enclaves of paragneiss, calcsilicate rock and orthogneiss of the Juiz de Fora Complex (Figs. 3E and 3F). Oriented schlieren structures, which parallel the main regional foliation, resemble ghost features that were inherited from the pre-existing gneiss. Intrusive contacts hardly occur. The rock is medium to coarse grained and shows granoblastic to grano-porphyroblastic textures. Locally, igneous porphyritic texture is preserved with phenocrysts of feldspar (Fig. 4A), garnet and orthopyroxene. Close to the thrust planes, the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite acquires a mylonitic texture, which shows that this body was at least locally affected by the thrust tectonism that evolved within the Juiz de Fora Domain.

#### METAMORPHIC EVOLUTION OF THE ROCKS FROM THE JUIZ DE FORA DOMAIN

Two metamorphic events were

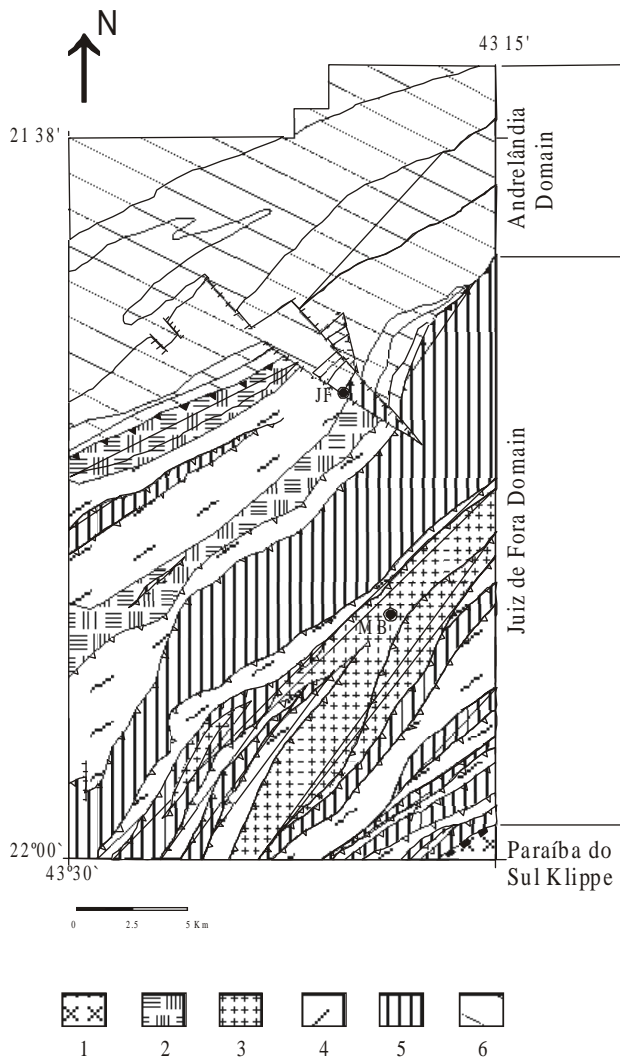


Figure 2-Geologic map of the Juiz de Fora region (modified from Duarte et al. 1994). Ortho- and paragneisses, Paraíba do Sul Klippe (1); Juiz de Fora domain: Salvaterra Charno-enderbite (2); Matias Barbosa Intrusive Suite (3); Post-1.8 Ga metasedimentary rocks (4); Granulite facies orthogneisses, Juiz de Fora Complex (5); and Ortho and paragneisses, Andreiândia domain (6). Towns: Juiz de Fora (JF); Matias Barbosa (MB).

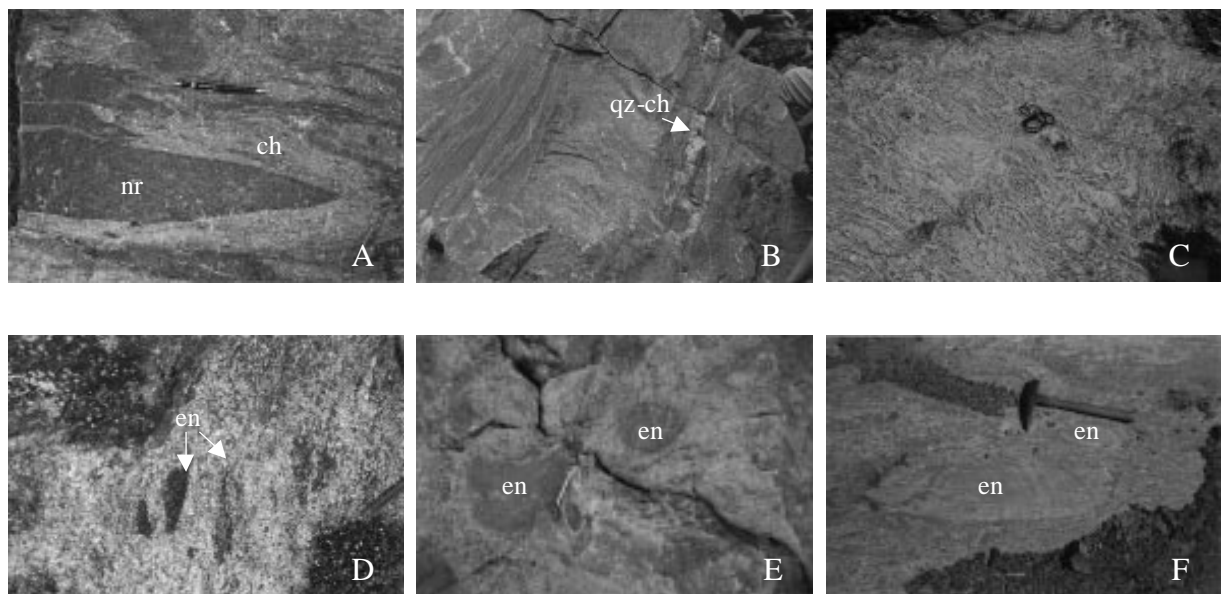


Figure 3- A) Intrusive charnockites (ch) and norites (nr) of Juiz de Fora Complex; B) Banded granulites and intrusive quartz - charnockites (qz-ch) of Juiz de Fora Complex; C) Stromatic migmatite of the metasedimentary unit; D) Diatexite with biotite + garnet enclaves (en); E) Enclaves (en) of Juiz de Fora Complex granulites within the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite; F) Enclaves (en) of calcsilicate rock of the metasedimentary unit within the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite.

identified in the study area. The early one ( $M_1$ ) is recorded only in the pre-1.8 granulites, *i.e.*, in all of the orthogneisses of the Juiz de Fora Complex, including leucosomes and paleosomes of migmatitic gneisses. Such rocks show a granoblastic mineral fabric and granulite facies parageneses (orthopyroxene + clinopyroxene + plagioclase + orthoclase + quartz  $\pm$  hornblende), which are clearly prior to the Brasiliano-Panafrican-related penetrative foliation (Figs. 4B and 4C). Thermometry data indicate  $M_1$  thermal peak conditions around  $\approx 800 - 895^\circ\text{C}$  and chemical composition of granulite facies amphiboles point to  $M_1$  low to intermediate (?) pressure conditions (Duarte 1998). Overall, a  $M_1$  passive metamorphism resulted from the heat and  $\text{CO}_2$  fluids, possibly released during an extensional event by underplated basic magma, related to a Paleoproterozoic (Transamazonian) or Mesoproterozoic event. An anti-clockwise P-T-t path of  $M_1$  metamorphism is proposed on the basis of these observations.

The late metamorphic event ( $M_2$ ) can be identified in all the orthogneisses and paragneisses of the JFD, being associated to the main phase of deformation. This is characterized by the growth of its mineral parageneses within the penetrative foliation. Temperature and/or fluid pressure gradients occur within the JFD. For instance, the metasedimentary rocks record dehydration reactions, turning them to granulite facies paragneisses, whereas retrogressive hydration reactions along the main foliation and shear zones appear in the Juiz de Fora Complex orthogneisses (Figs. 4C). Garnet coronas around pyroxenes and  $M_2$ -related hornblendes record the latest stages of  $M_2$  metamorphism in the Juiz de Fora Complex (Figs. 4D and 4E). The pelitic gneisses (*s.s.*) of the JFD did hardly develop metamorphic facies diagnostic parageneses. However, the relatively more immature pelitic gneisses (semipelitic types) show  $M_2$  orthopyroxene-bearing mineral parageneses (Fig. 4F) and there is evidence of vapor-absent partial melting process generated by the breakdown of biotite. Products of this process are the observed leucosomes and the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite plutonic body. Geothermobarometry supports field and petrographic data and shows that  $M_2$  evolved under the following conditions: Temperature  $> 700 - 750^\circ\text{C}$ , pressure between 6 and 7 Kb and gradients of fluid ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) pressure (Duarte 1998). A clockwise P-T-t path, associated with compression and thrust tectonism, is proposed for the evolution of the  $M_2$  metamorphic event (Duarte and Heilbron 1999).

**CONCLUSION** Three different petrological types of granulite/charnockite occur within the Juiz de Fora Domain in the central segment of the Ribeira Belt. The pre-1.8 rocks are orthogneisses of the Juiz de Fora Complex and field, petrographic and geothermobarometric data indicate that they were formed by the evolution of a pre-Brasiliano passive metamorphic process ( $M_1$ ).

Resultant parageneses contain pyroxenes but no garnet and this is attributed to the low pressures within which this process has evolved. During the Brasiliano-Pan-African Orogeny, the mafic granulites developed orthopyroxene + clinopyroxene + quartz + orthoclase + garnet + hornblende granulite facies parageneses, whereas the intermediate to acid granulites originated hornblende and/or biotite plus the pre-Brasiliano granulite facies metastable mineral phases.

The post-1.8 Ga metasedimentary rocks record high-grade metamorphism only during the Brasiliano-Pan-African Orogeny. Data indicate that metamorphism caused H<sub>2</sub>O to migrate from the metasedimentary rocks to the orthogranulites of the Juiz de Fora Complex.

The Salvaterra Charno-enderbite is interpreted as an autochthonous to parautochthonous igneous body, generated by vapor-absent partial

melting of the paragneiss association with minor contributions of orthogranulites of the Juiz de Fora Complex (Duarte *et al.* 1999). Enclaves are considered as restite portions of the source rocks. Field, petrographic and petrological data indicate that this body was originated during the period of M<sub>2</sub> metamorphic peak and thrust tectonism, which characterize the syn-collisional stage (> 565-595 My.; Valladares *et al.* 2000) of the Panafrican-Brasiliano Orogeny within the central segment of the Ribeira Belt.

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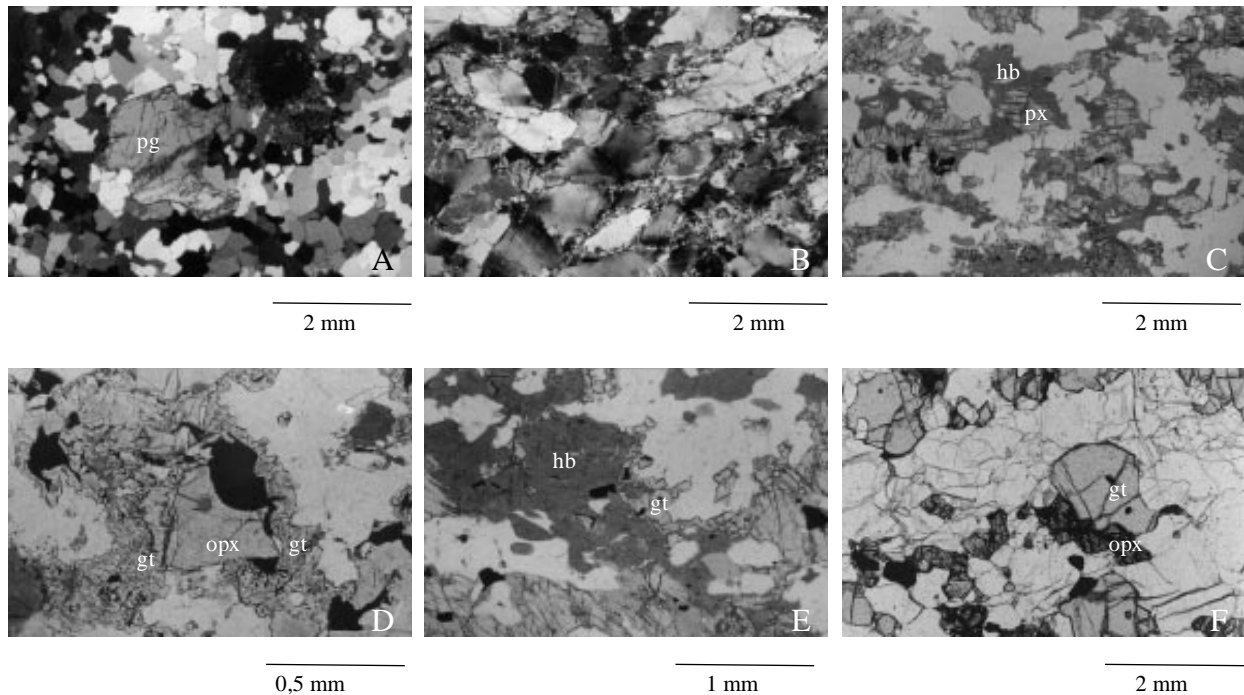


Figure 4- A) Igneous texture of the Salvaterra Charno-enderbite - Corroded plagioclase (pg); B) Pre-Brasiliano granoblastic texture partially obliterated by a Brasiliano mylonitic foliation - Enderbite of the Juiz de Fora Complex; C) Old ortho and clinopyroxenes (px) partially replaced by Brasiliano-oriented hornblende grains (hb) - norite of Juiz de Fora Complex; D) Late garnet corona (gt) around old orthopyroxene grain (opx) - norite of Juiz de Fora Complex; E) Late garnet (gt) at the borders of Brasiliano hornblende grain (hb) - norite of the Juiz de Fora Complex; F) Biotite-garnet (gt)-orthopyroxene (opx) gneiss of the metasedimentary unit.

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