

93: T171. Oblique Motion on the North American Cordilleran Margin I: Jurassic to Paleogene

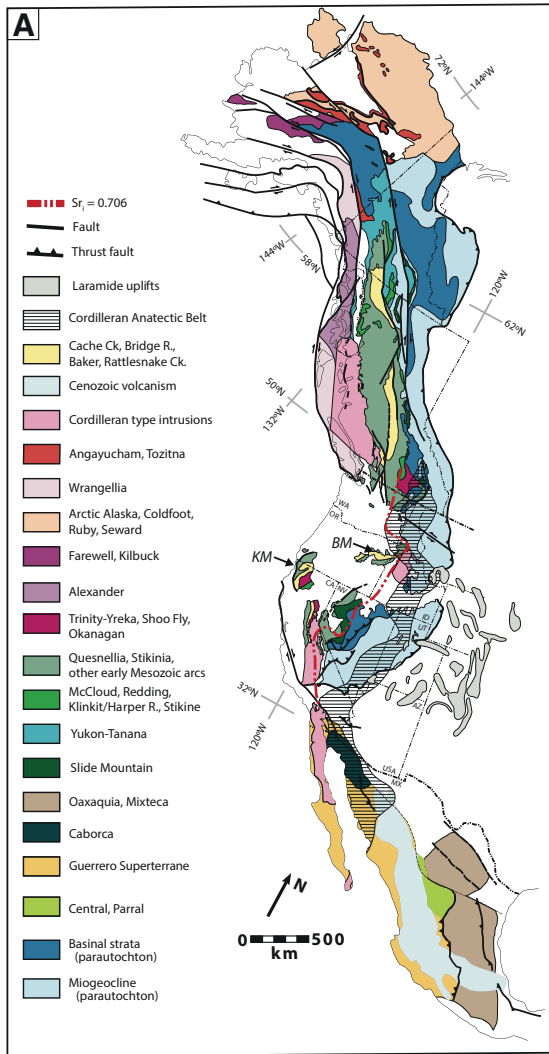
## Inferred Early Jurassic deposition (U-Pb in detrital zircon) followed by Middle Jurassic and Cretaceous metamorphism (Sm-Nd in garnet) of metasedimentary rocks from the southern Peninsular Ranges Batholith, Baja California, Mexico

**Contreras-López Manuel**<sup>1\*</sup>, Delgado-Argote Luis A.<sup>2</sup>, Weber Bodo<sup>2</sup>, Torres-Carrillo Xóchitl G.<sup>3</sup>, Ávila-Ortiz N. Adhara E.<sup>2</sup>, and Quintana-Delgado J. Andres<sup>2</sup>

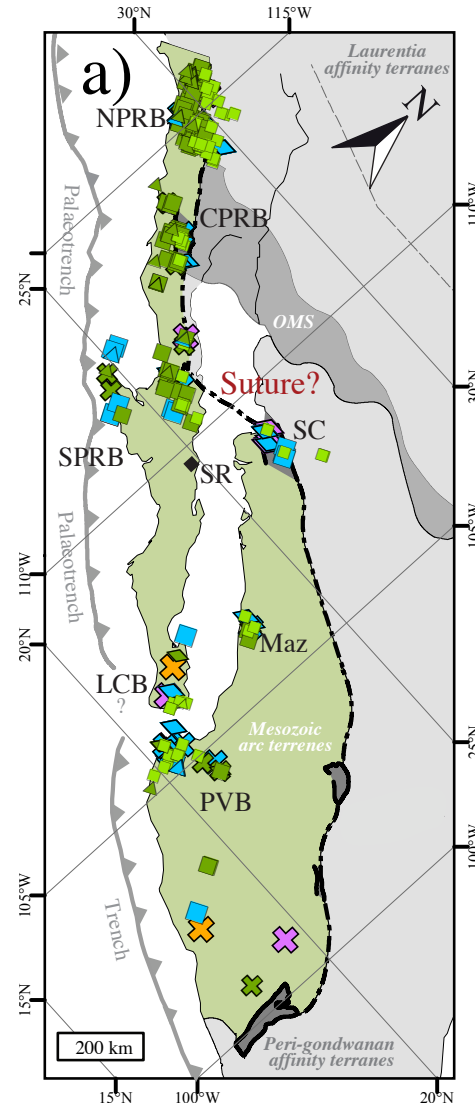
\*[mcontreras@igeofisica.unam.mx](mailto:mcontreras@igeofisica.unam.mx)

<sup>1</sup>LUGIS, Instituto de Geofísica, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), <sup>2</sup>Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, Baja California, <sup>3</sup>Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa

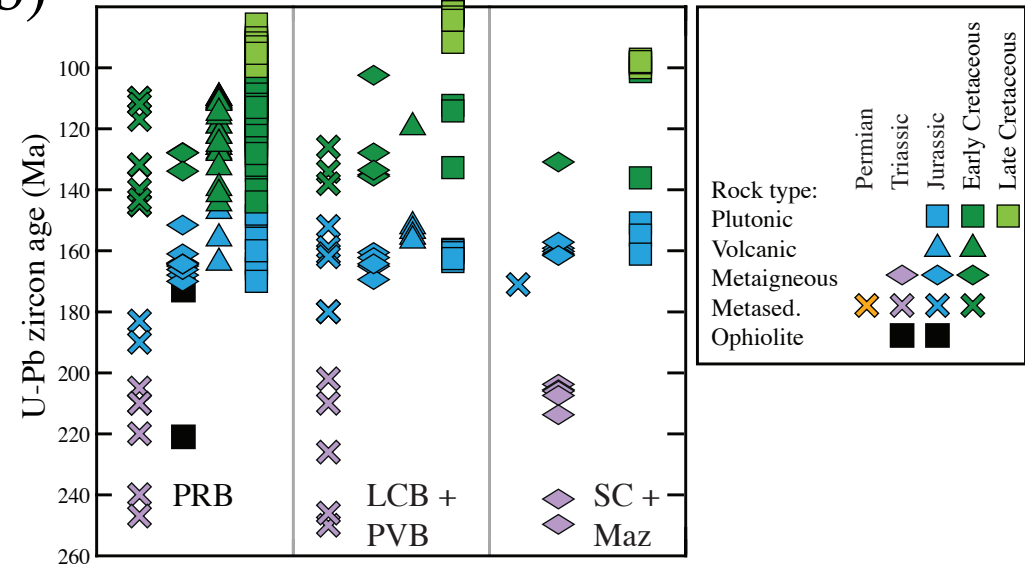
# Geologic context: The Peninsular Ranges batholith (PRB)



Tikoff et al. (2023, GSA memoir 220)



## b) Batholiths of northwestern Mexico



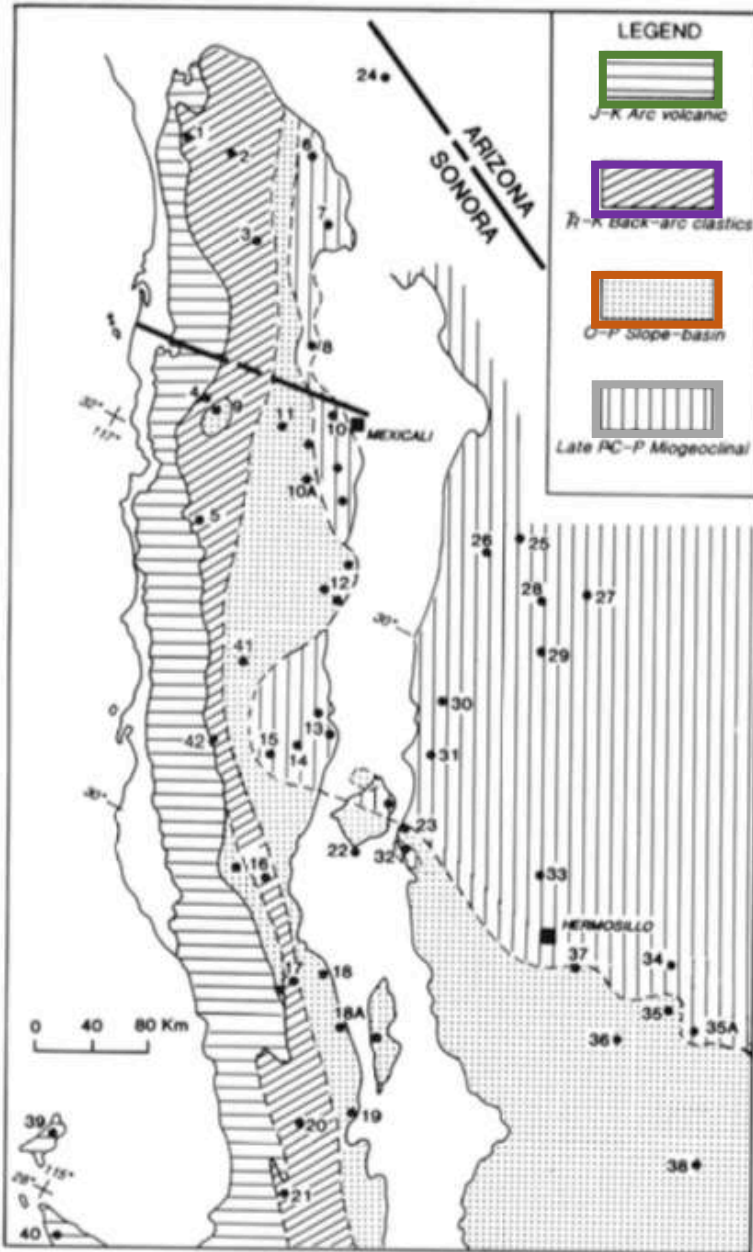
Contreras-López et al. (2021, Lithos)

**PRB:** Continuous magmatism from **170-85 Ma** developed into a Triassic-Jurassic metamorphic basement

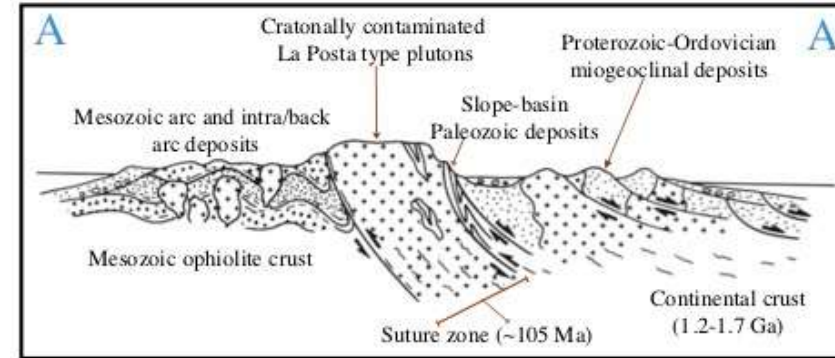
Coeval magmatism with the Guerrero terrane (**LCB, PVB, SC, and Maz** regions).

**SC** Triassic magmatism

# Geologic context: The Peninsular Ranges batholith (PRB) and its host rocks



Gastil (1993, GSA special paper 279)



Gastil (1993, GSA special paper 279)

**J-K Arc volcanics:** Middle Jurassic to Cretaceous volcanic-arc rocks and associated sedimentary rocks.

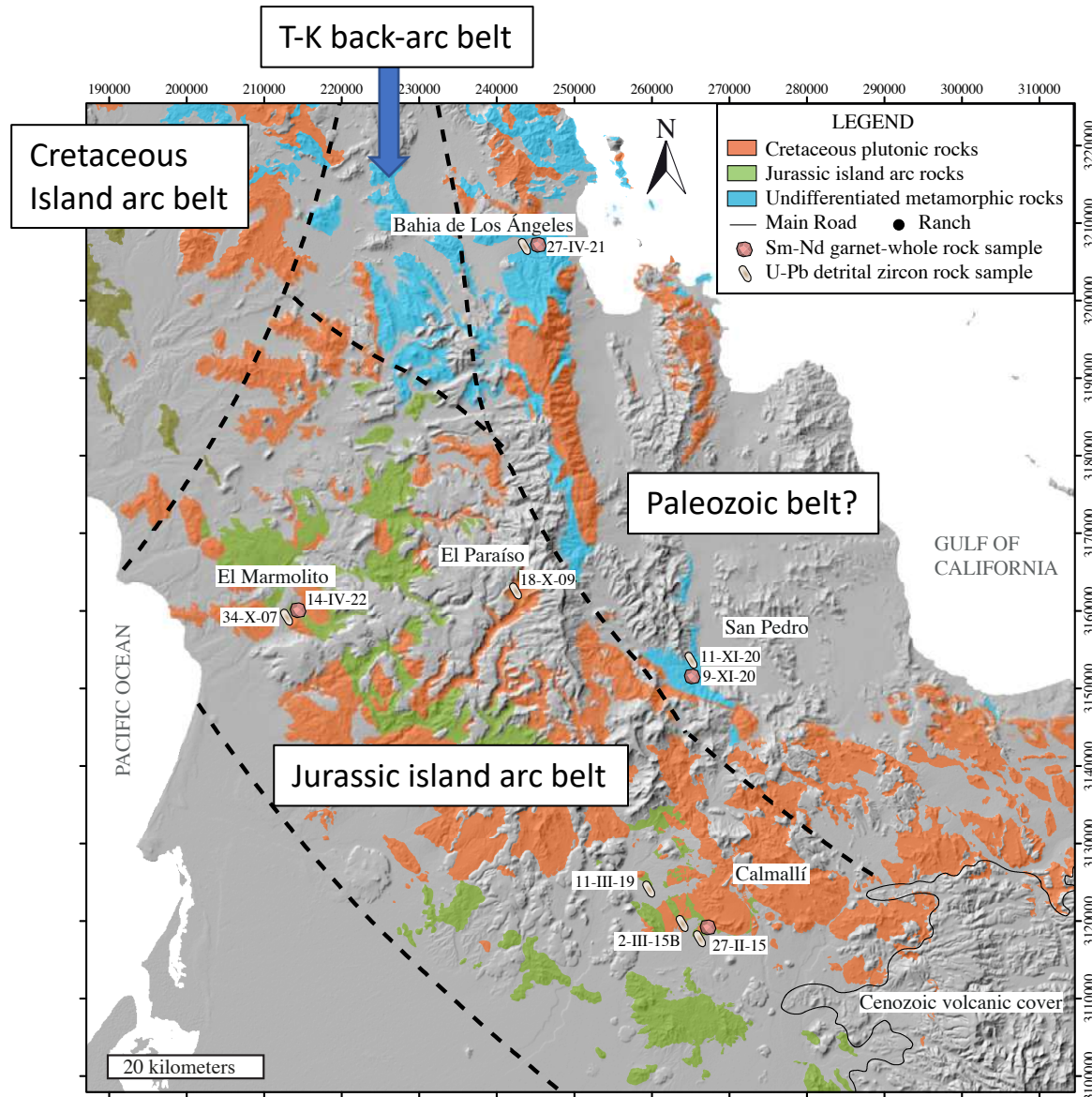
**T-K back-arc clastics:** Late Triassic to Mid Cretaceous flysch sequence of intra-arc and back-arc.

**O-P Slope-basin:** Ordovician to Permian thin-bedded carbonate rocks and chert of deep-water paleoenvironments (slope and basin).

**Late PC-P shallow marine:** Upper Proterozoic to Middle Cambrian clastic and carbonate rocks.

**North America craton:** Paleo to Meso-Proterozoic basement (metasedimentary rocks, granite, and gneiss).

# Sampling: metasedimentary rocks of the southern PRB



**Objective:** to characterize the metamorphic basement of the SPRB by U-Pb detrital Zrn and Sm-Nd Grt-WR geochronology to obtain maximum depositional ages, provenance, and timing of metamorphism, respectively.

7 samples for U-Pb in detrital zircons

4 samples for Sm-Nd in garnet and whole-rock aliquots

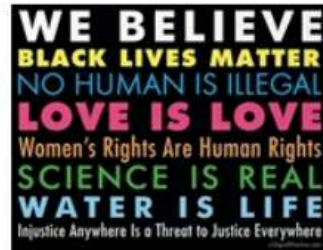
Belt	Sample	Coordinates		Locality	Rock type	Geochronology	
		Longitude	Latitude			U-Pb in Zircon	Sm-Nd in Grt-WR
W	27-II-15	-113.3700	28.1806		Bt-Grt paragneiss	✓	✓
W	2-III-15B	-113.4020	28.1800	Calmalli	Bt-Sill paragneiss	✓	
W	11-III-19	-113.4530	28.2259		Bt schist	✓	
W	34-X-07	-113.9253	28.5304	El Marmolito	Bt schist	✓	
W	14-IV-22	-113.9236	28.5312		Bt-Grt schist		✓
W	18-X-09	-113.6328	28.5628	El Paraíso	Bt schist	✓	
E	11-XI-20	-113.3980	28.4751		Bt schist	✓	
E	9-XI-20	-113.3990	28.4793	San Pedro	Bt-Grt paragneiss		✓
E	10-XI-20	-113.3980	28.4751		Felsic dike	✓	
E	27-IV-21	-113.6075	28.9708	Bahía de LA	Bt-Grt paragneiss	✓	✓

# Methodology: U-Pb LA-ICP-MS in detrital zircons

Arizona LaserChron Center



ARIZONA  
LASERCHRON  
CENTER



Best age  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  for Zrn < 800 Ma and  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  for Zrn > 800 Ma.

Concordance filter:

Zrn < 500 Ma Conc. < 70% & > 120%.

Zrn > 500 Ma Conc. < 80% & > 105%

**Ablation cell:** Photon Machines Analyte G2 193 nm – ArF Excimer

**2013**

Two samples (34-X-07 and 18-X-09)

**Spot** = 35  $\mu\text{m}$

**N** = 100

**Nu Instruments® MC ICP MS**

**2022**

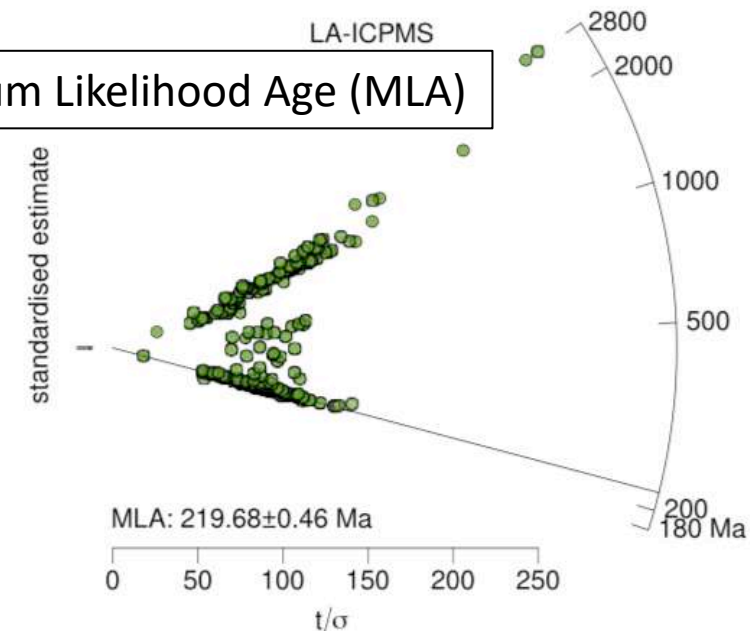
Five samples (11-III-19, 27-IV-21, 27-II-15, 2-III-15B, and 11-XI-21)

**Spot** = 20  $\mu\text{m}$

**N** = 315 (except 27-II-15 where N = 45)

**Thermo Scientific Element 2 HR SF ICP MS**

Maximum Likelihood Age (MLA)



Diagrams generated with IsoplotR (Vermeesch, 2018, Geosci. Front.). Radial plots after Vermeesch (2021, Geosci. Front.).

Procedures according to Gehrels et al. (2008) and Pullen et al. (2018).

# Methodology: Sm-Nd in whole-rock and lixivated garnet aliquots



- ~60 mg Garnet aliquots (partial dissolution method; Pollington and Baxter, 2010, EPSL):
  1. Without lixiviated
  2. Lixivated with  $\text{HNO}_3$
  3. Lixivated with HF
  4. Lixivated with  $\text{HNO}_3$  and HF
- Whole-rock aliquot

Digested and elemental separation by routine procedures (Weber et al., 2012)

Sm-Nd isotope analysis by TIMS with Faraday cups:

Sm  $10^{10}$   $\Omega$  preamplifiers

Nd  $10^{11}$   $\Omega$  preamplifiers

Nu instruments® TIMS



<https://posgrados.cicese.mx/posgrado/laboratorio/159/5/2>

Western belt

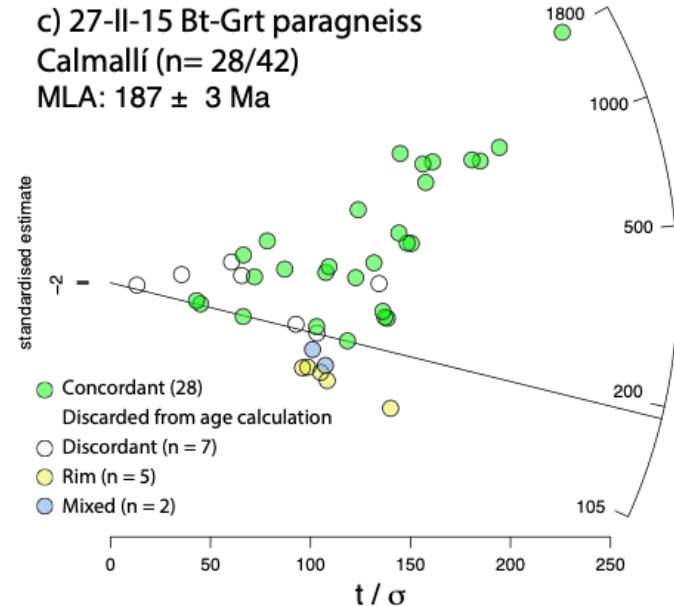
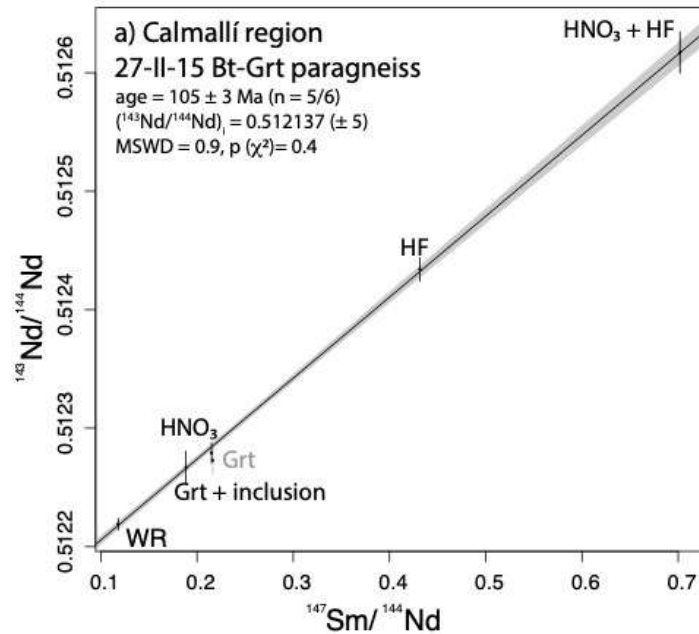
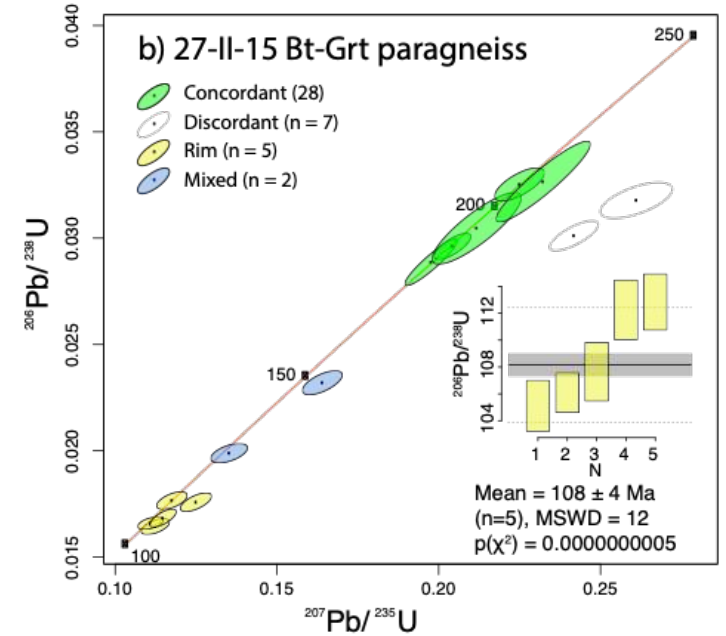
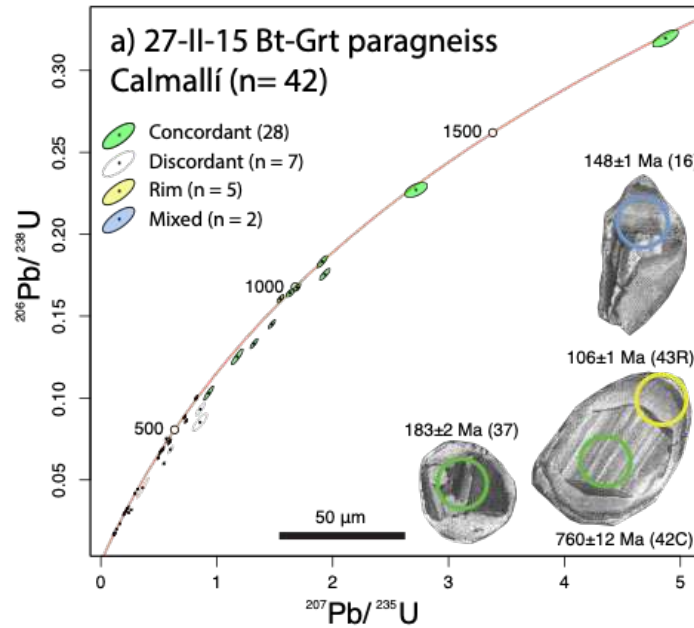
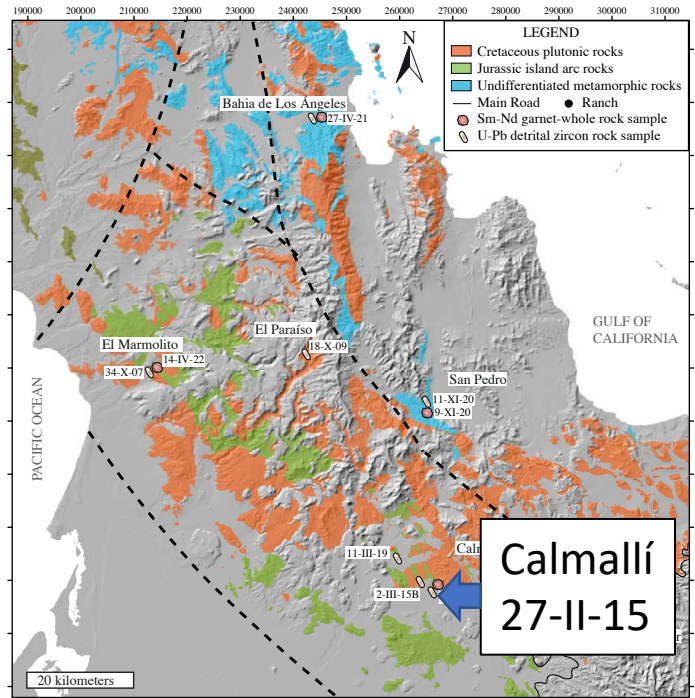
# Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb apparent ages  $105 \pm 1$  to  $1809 \pm 12$  Ma

**Rims: Mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age  $108 \pm 4$  Ma**

**Sm-Nd Grt-WR age:  $105 \pm 3$  Ma**

**MLA:  $187 \pm 3$  Ma**



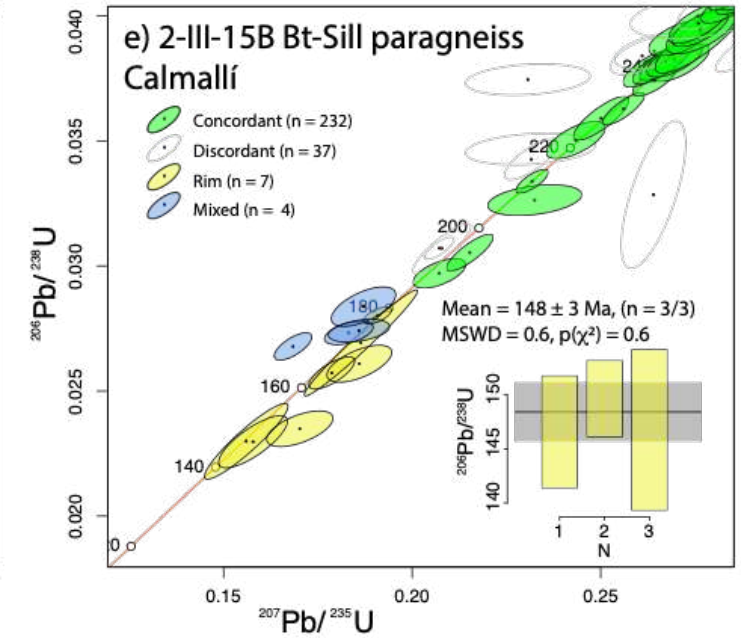
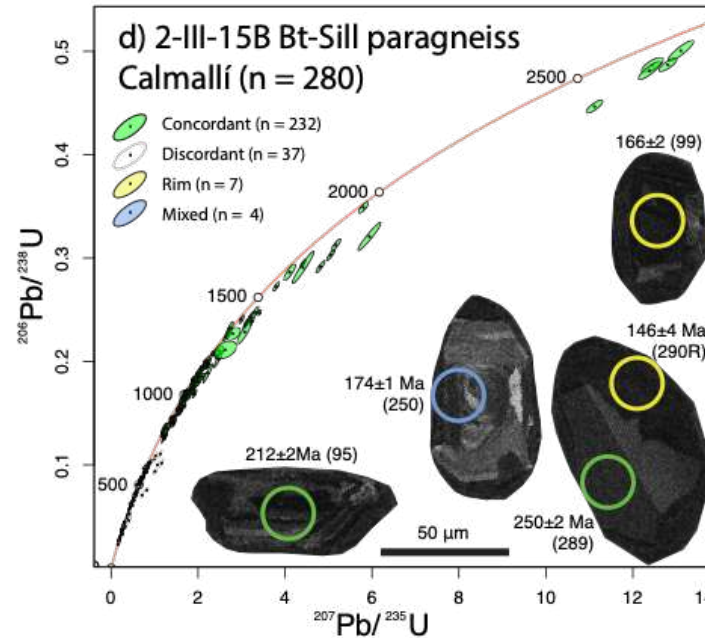
Western belt

# Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

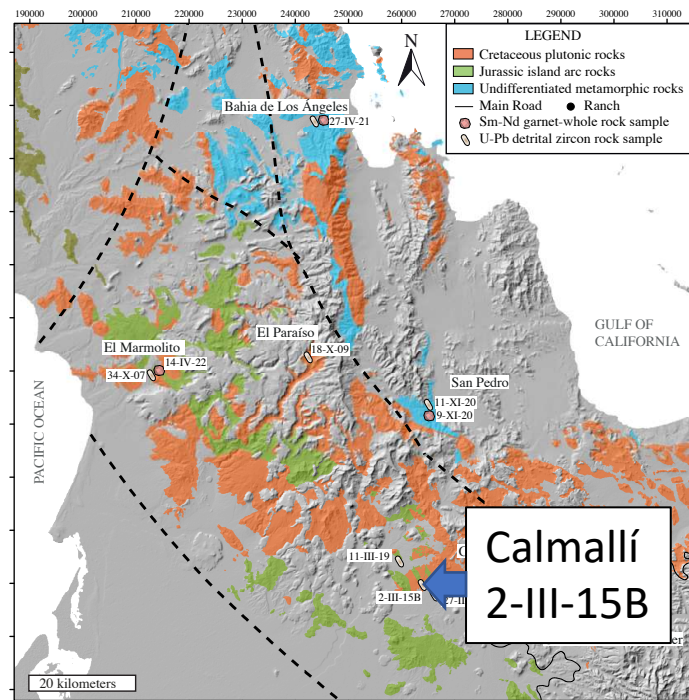
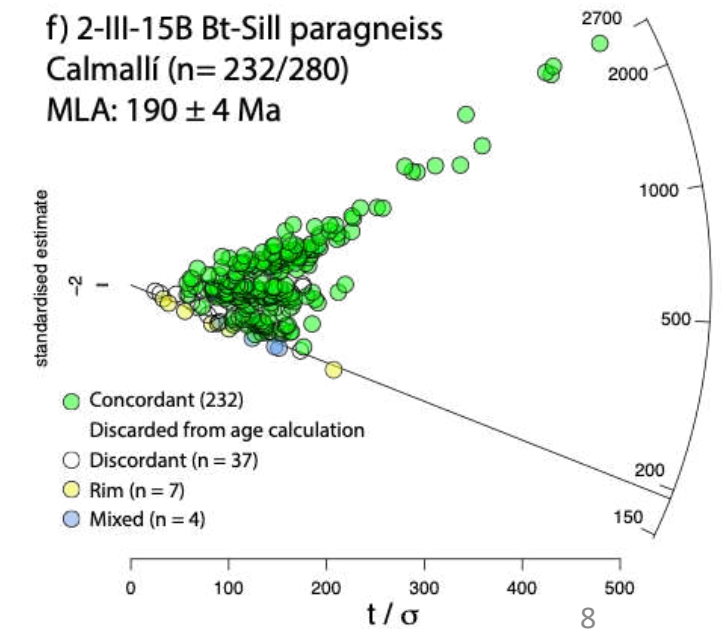
U-Pb apparent ages:  $146 \pm 3$  to  $2749 \pm 6$  Ma

Zrn rims: Mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age  $148 \pm 3$  Ma

MLA:  $190 \pm 4$  Ma



f) 2-III-15B Bt-Sill paragneiss Calmallí (n = 232/280)  
 MLA:  $190 \pm 4$  Ma



**Calmallí**  
**2-III-15B**



Western belt

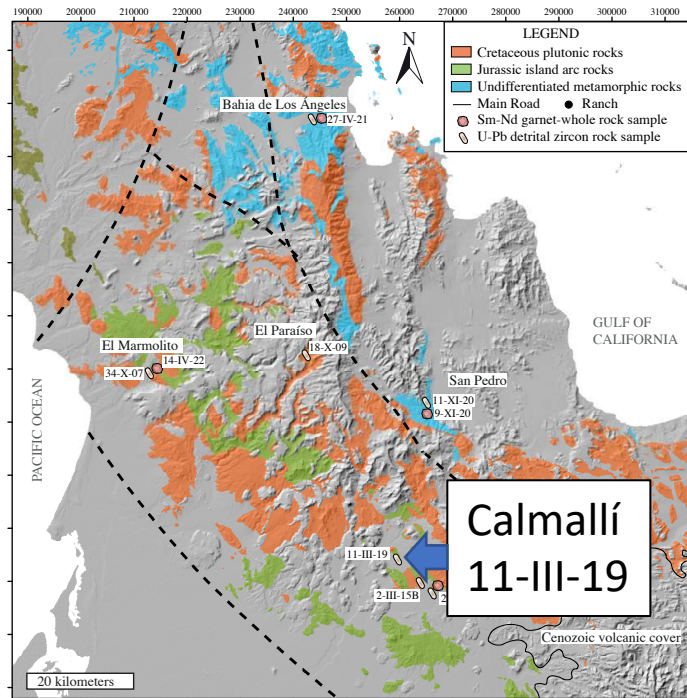
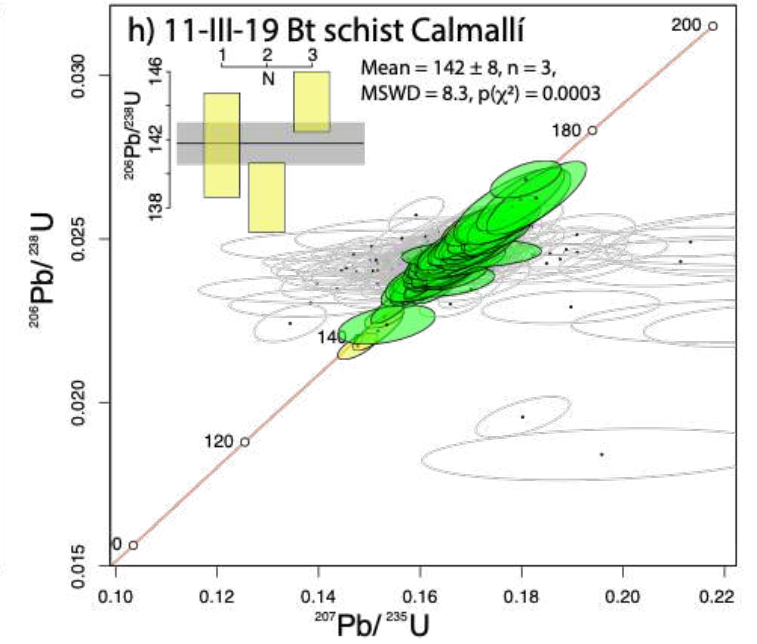
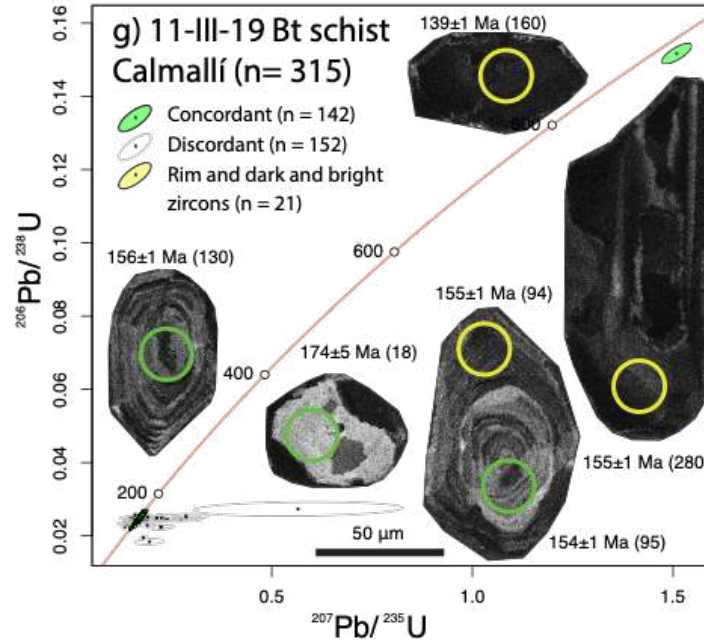
# Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb apparent ages:  $143 \pm 2$  to  $171 \pm 1$  Ma

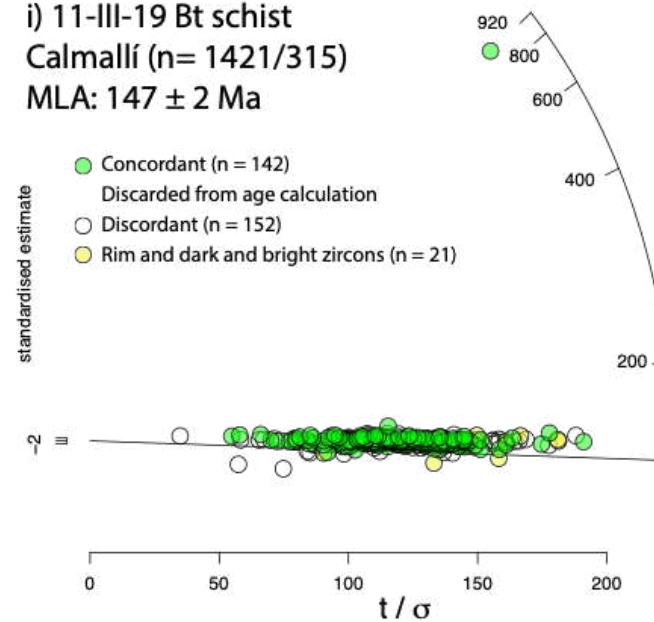
and an older Zrn of  $991 \pm 13$  Ma

**Younger Zrn rims (n= 3):  $142 \pm 8$  Ma**

**MLA:  $147 \pm 2$  Ma**



i) 11-III-19 Bt schist Calmallí (n= 1421/315)  
MLA:  $147 \pm 2$  Ma



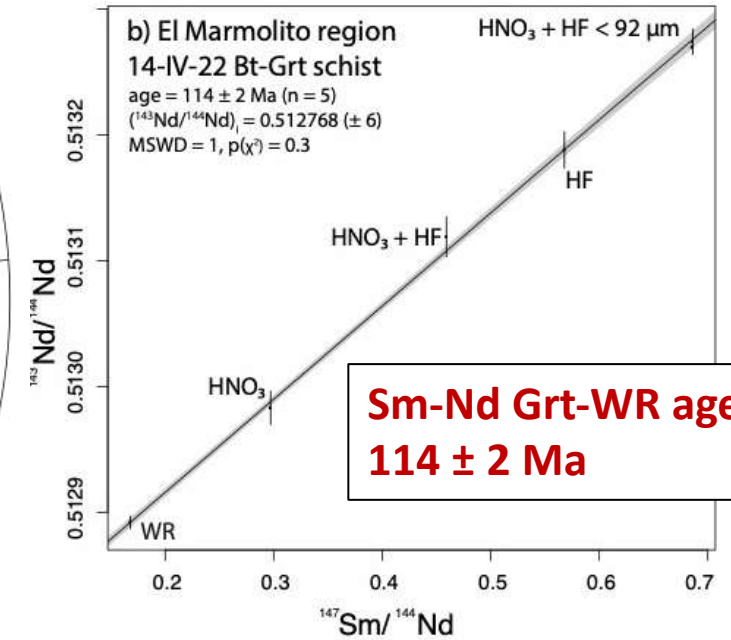
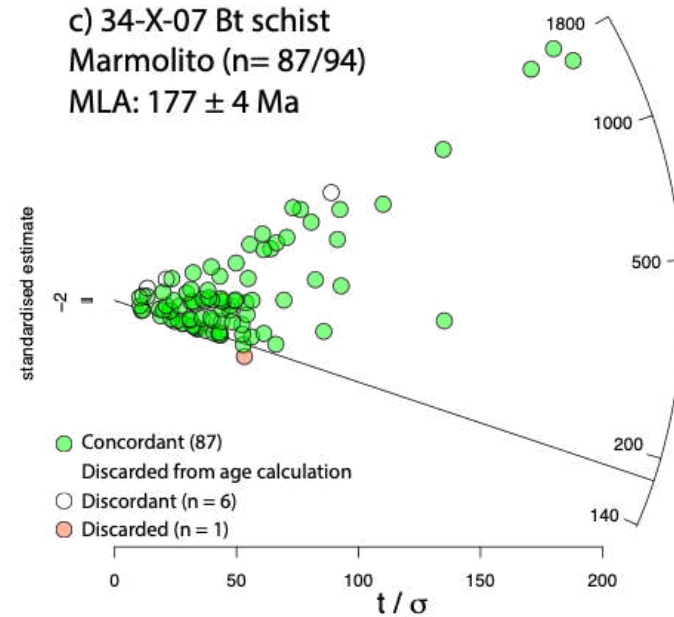
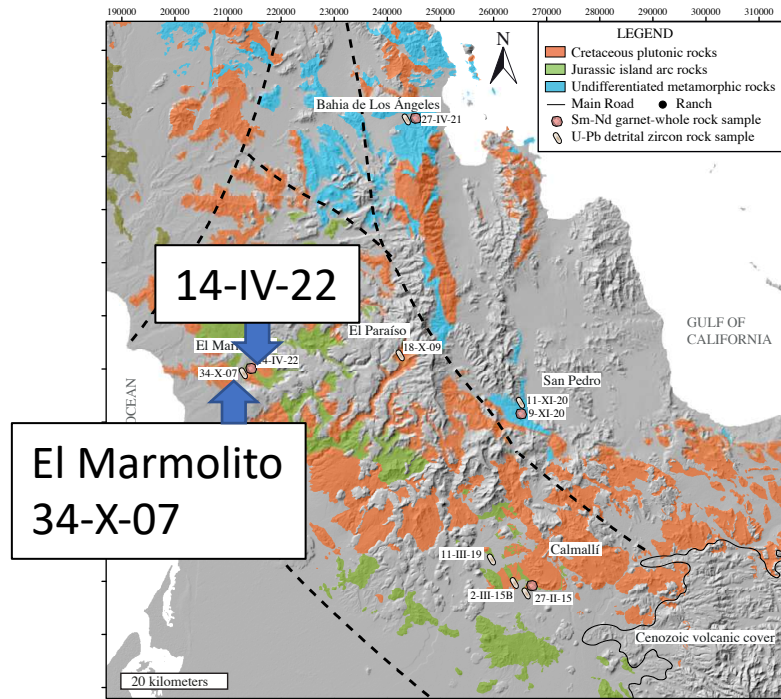
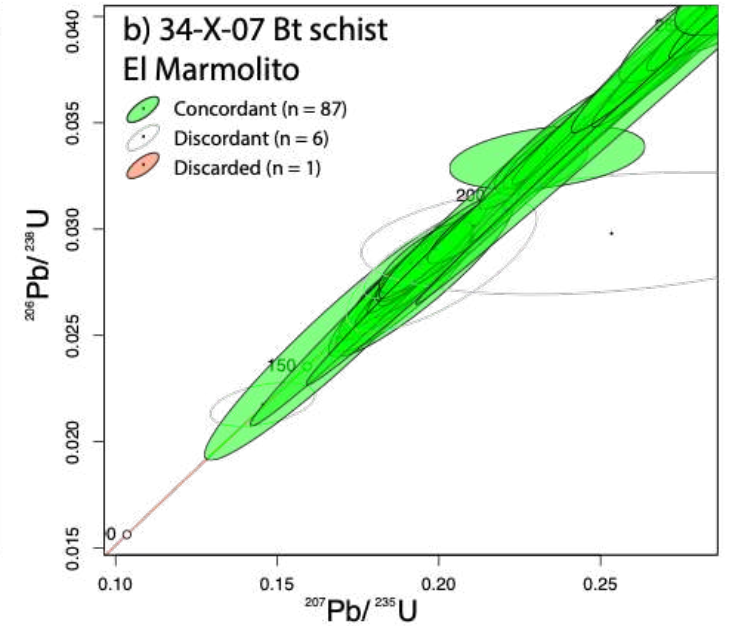
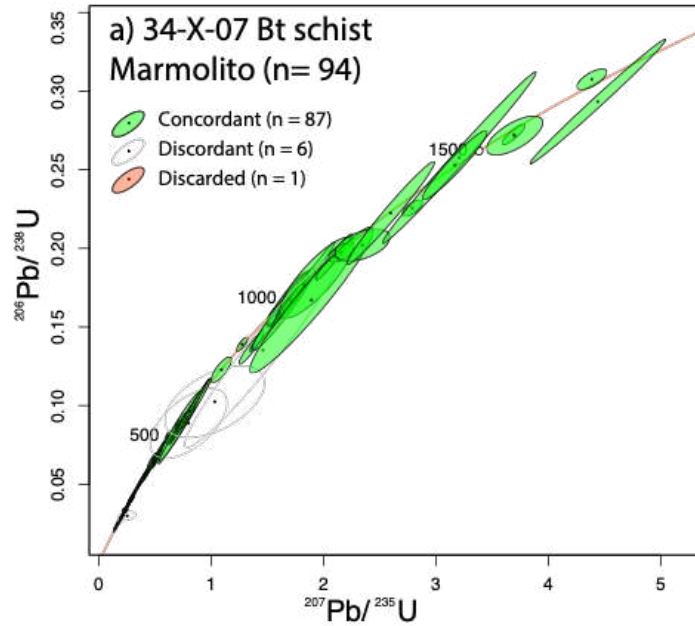
Zircons highly discordant, Pb loss!  
No good MLA estimation!

# Western belt Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb apparent ages:  $139 \pm 3$  to  $1795 \pm 11$  Ma

No CT images, but Th/U ratios > 0.4

**MLA:  $177 \pm 4$  Ma**



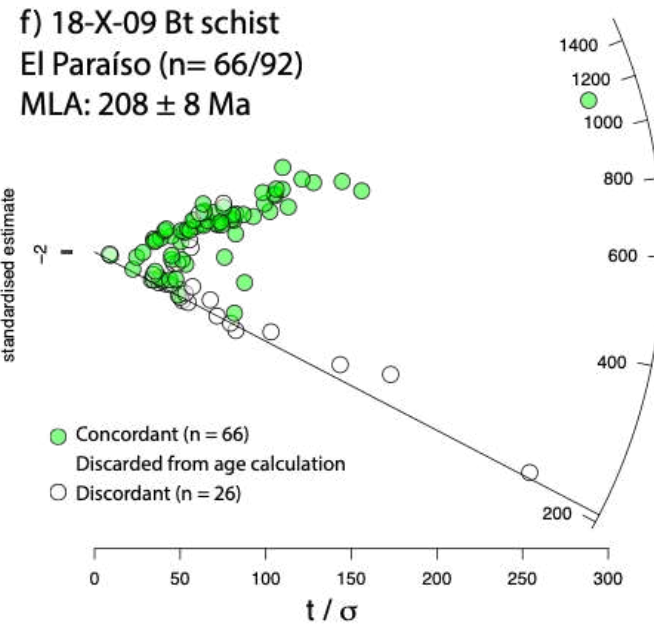
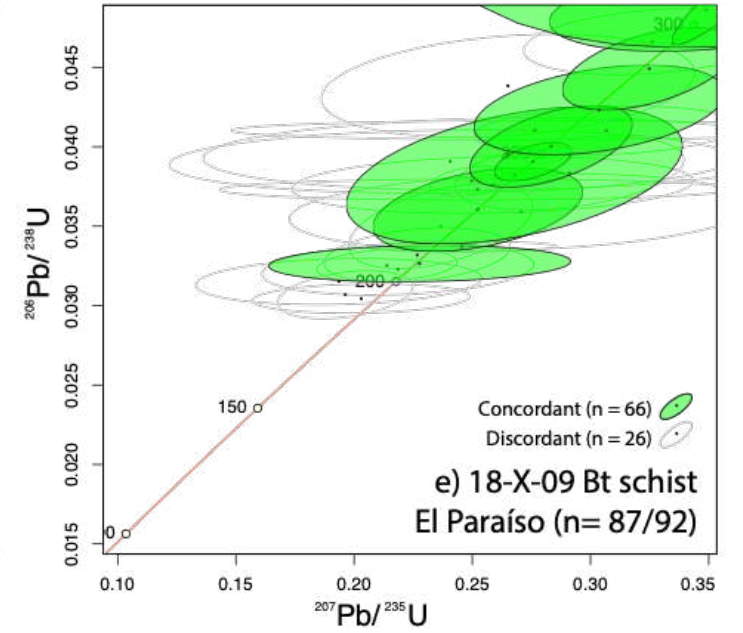
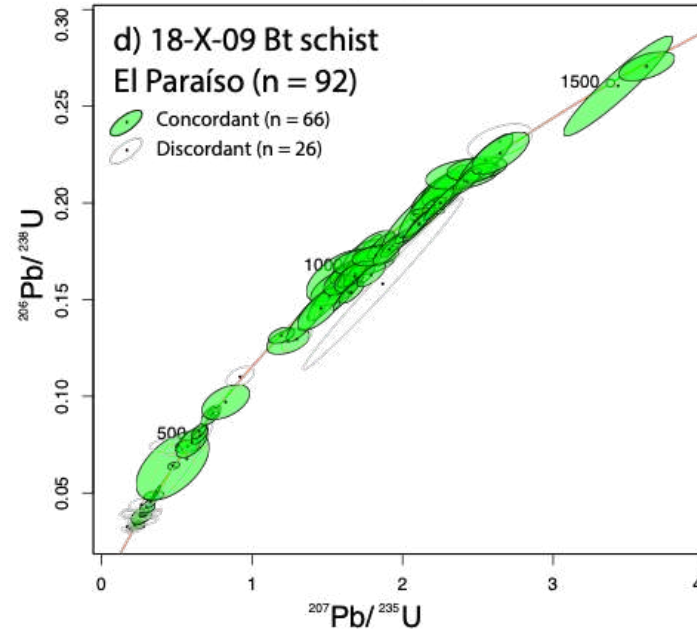
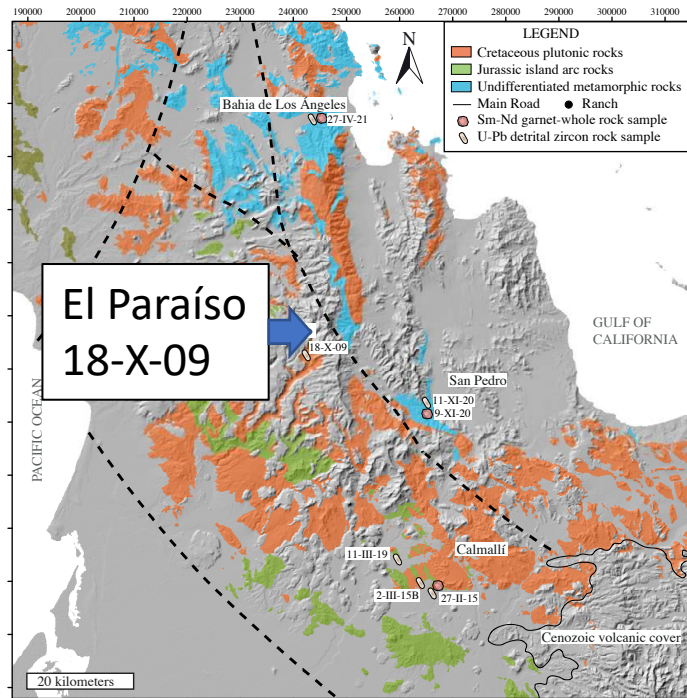
Western belt

# Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb ages:  $194 \pm 2$  to  $1568 \pm 32$  Ma

No CT images, but  $\text{Th}/\text{U} > 0.1$

**MLA:  $208 \pm 8$  Ma**

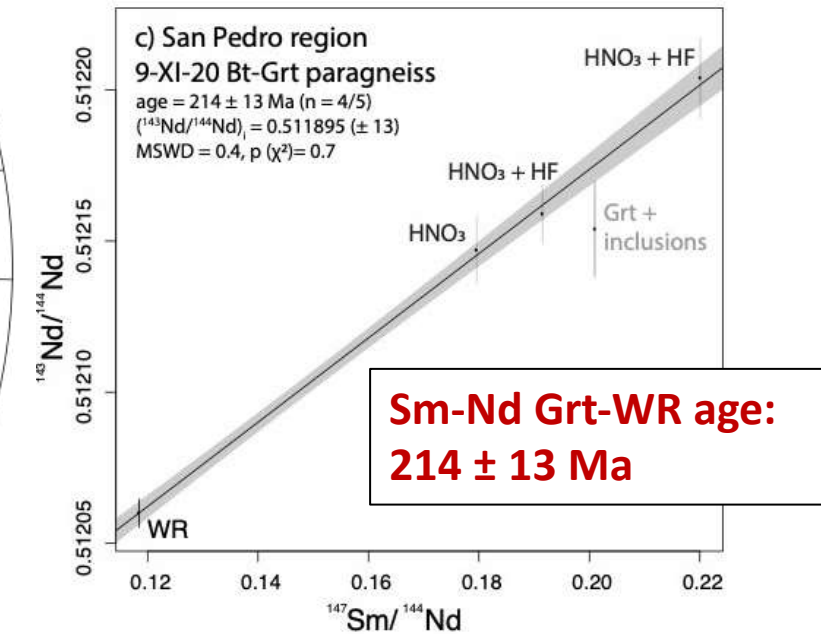
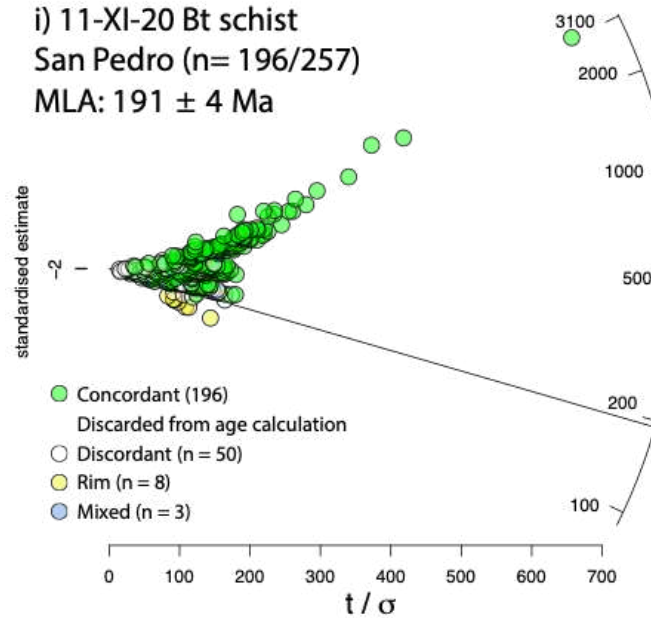
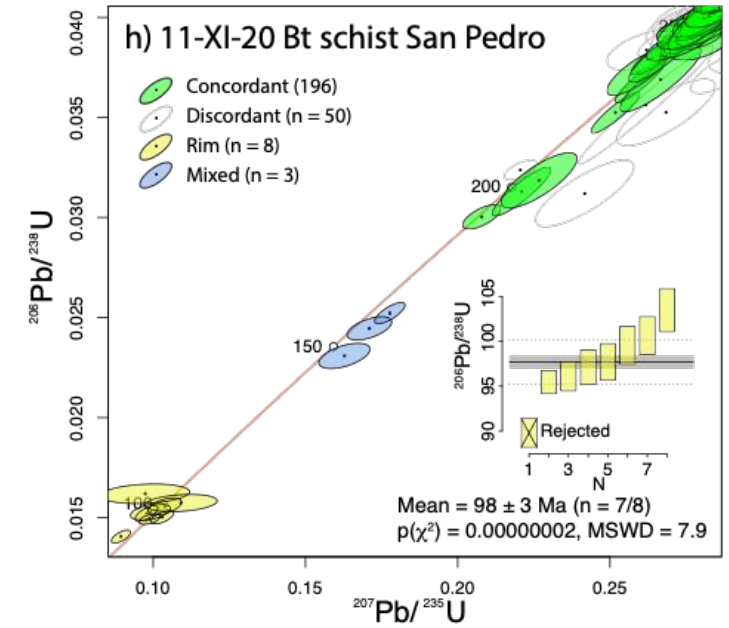
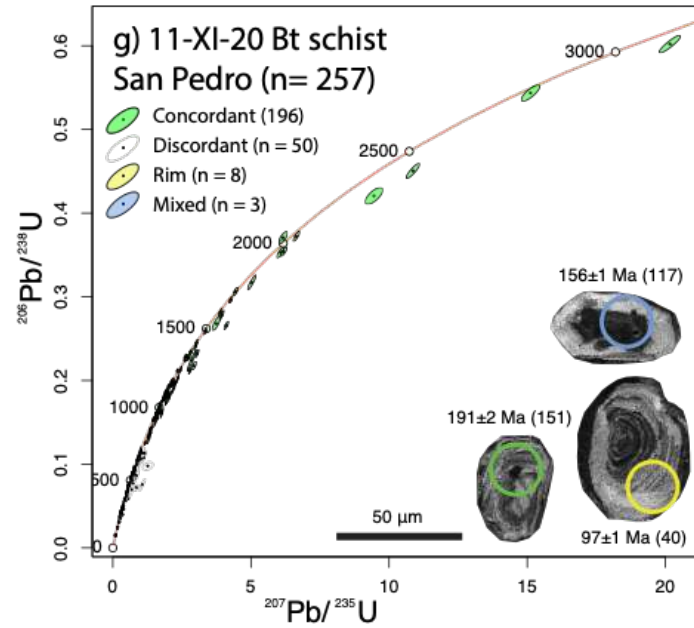
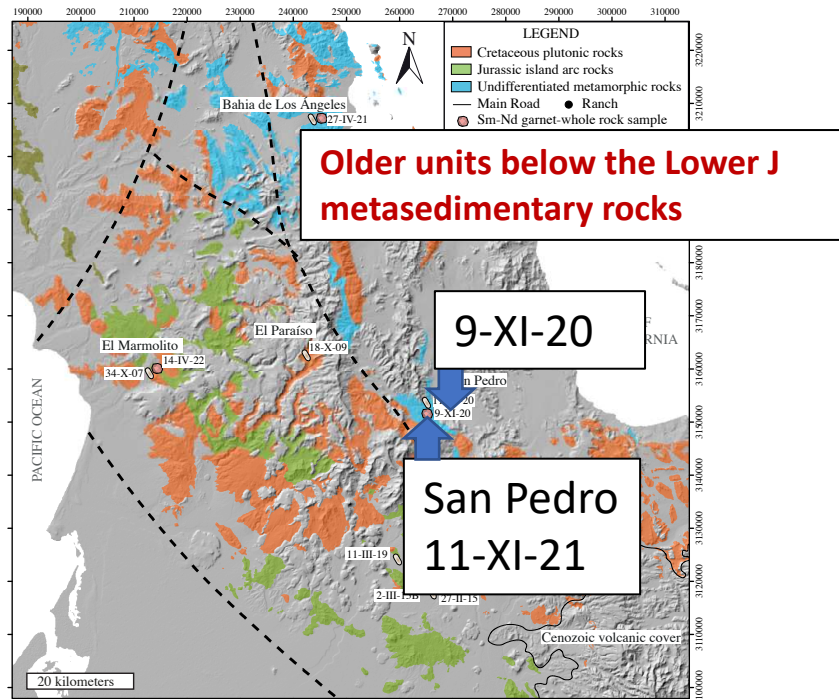


# Eastern belt Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb ages:  $90 \pm 1$  and  $3139 \pm 5$  Ma

**Zrn Rims: Mean age  $98 \pm 3$  Ma**

**MLA:  $191 \pm 4$  Ma**



Eastern belt

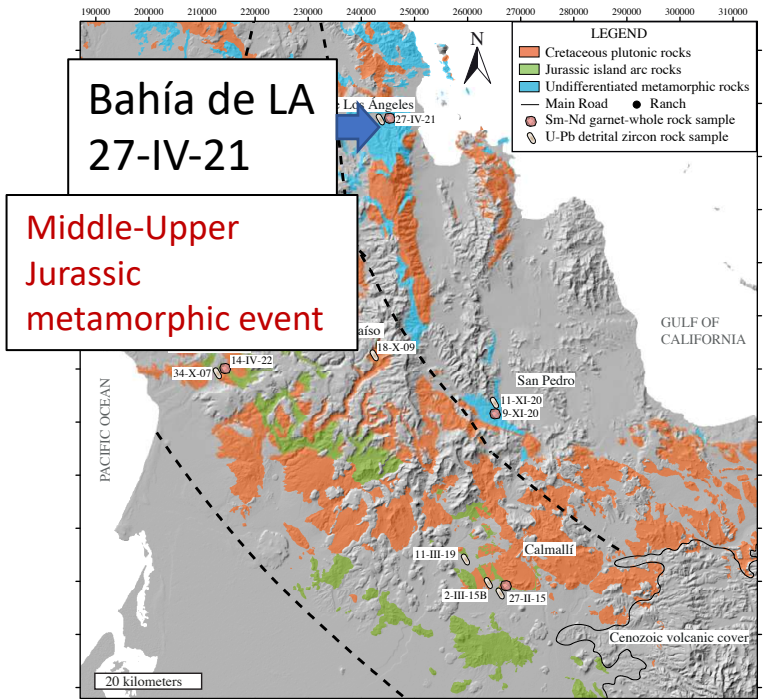
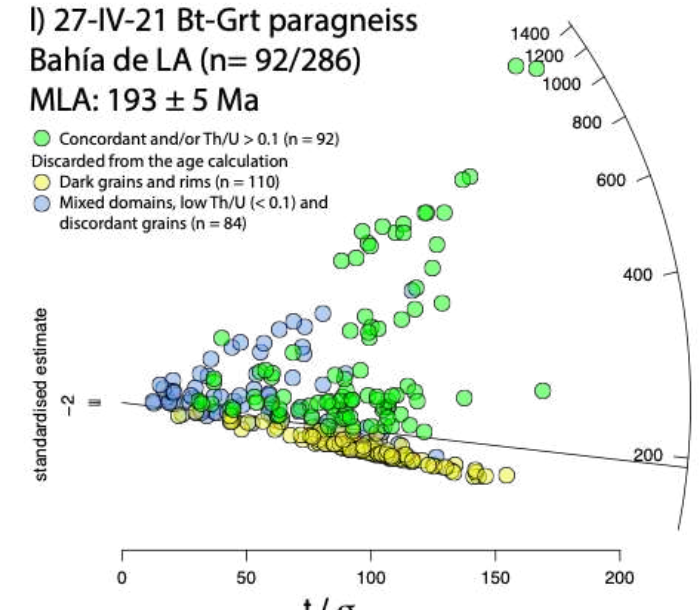
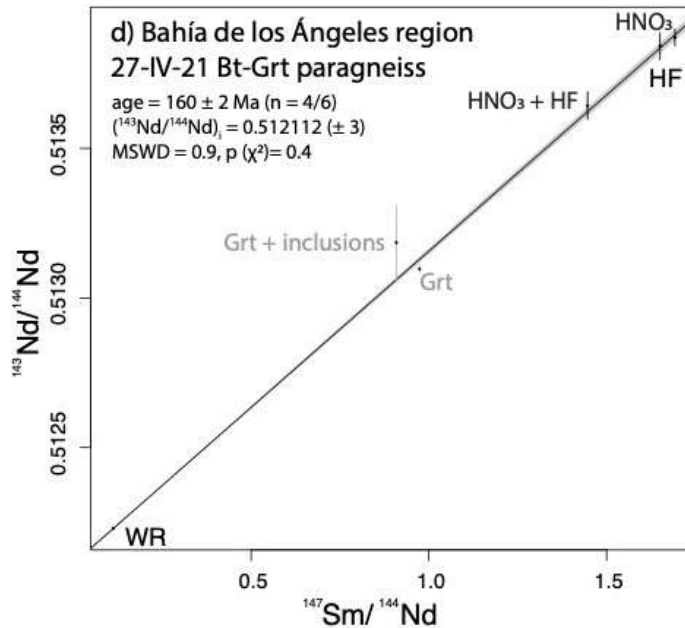
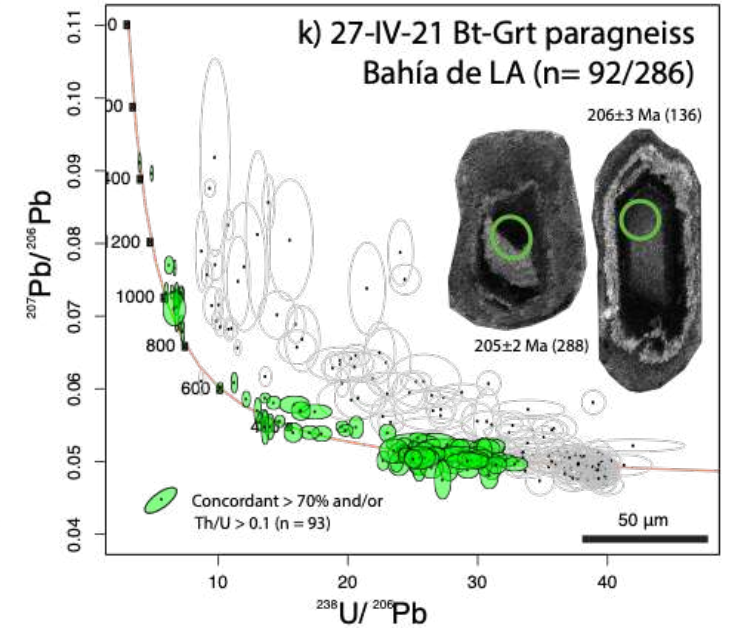
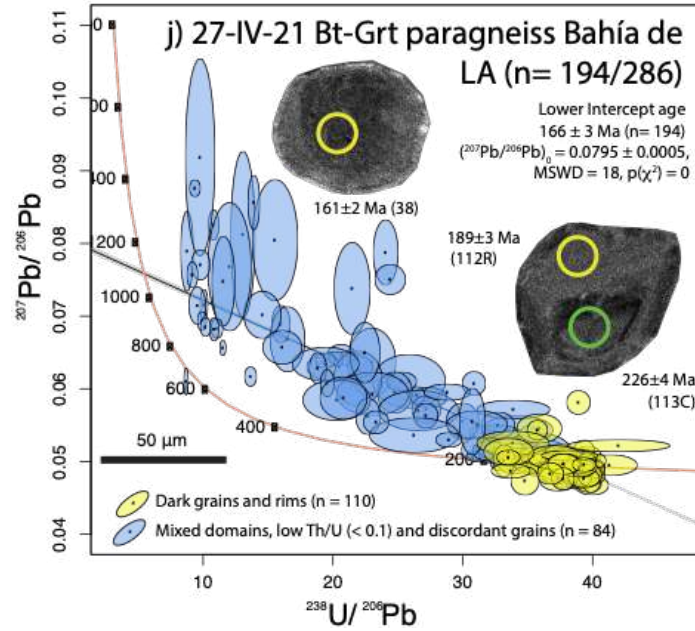
# Results: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology

U-Pb ages:  $105 \pm 1$  to  $1809 \pm 12$  Ma

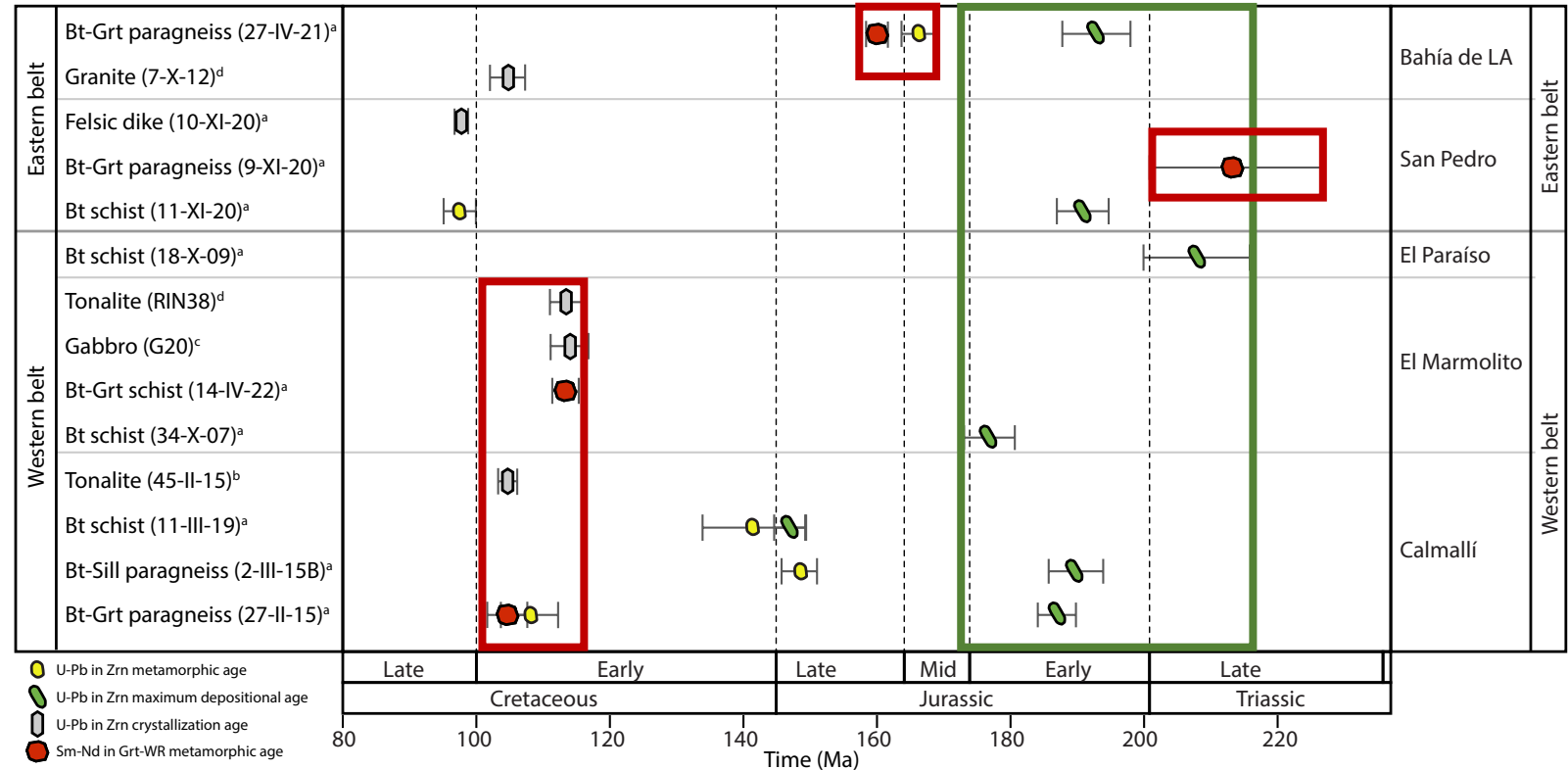
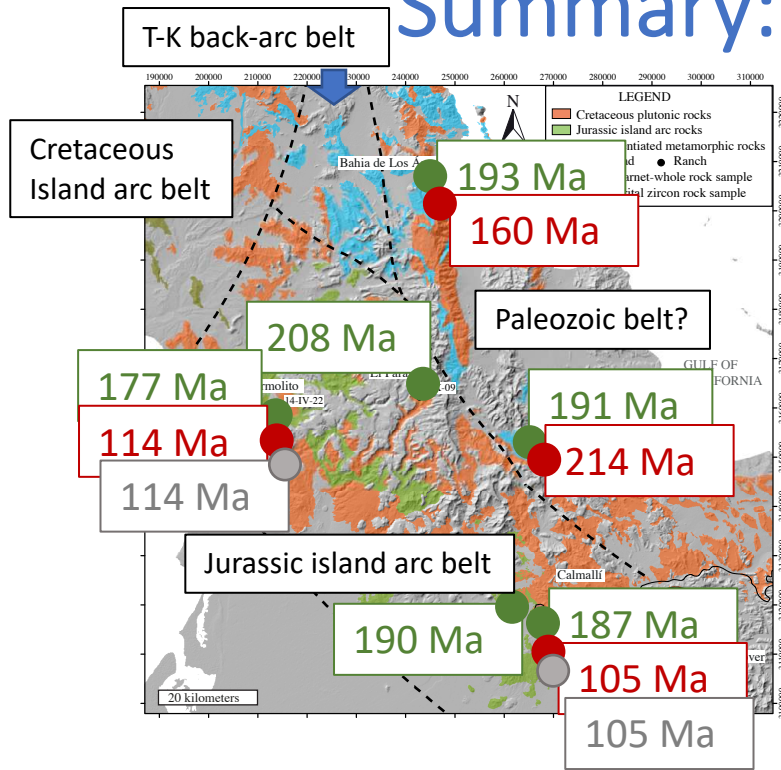
Zrn rims Lower intercept age of  $166 \pm 3$  Ma

Sm-Nd Grt-WR age:  $160 \pm 2$  Ma

MLA:  $193 \pm 5$  Ma



# Summary: U-Pb and Sm-Nd geochronology



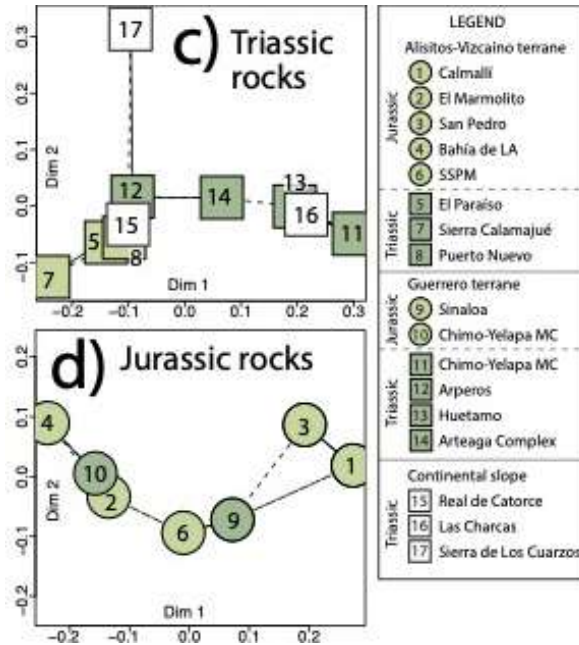
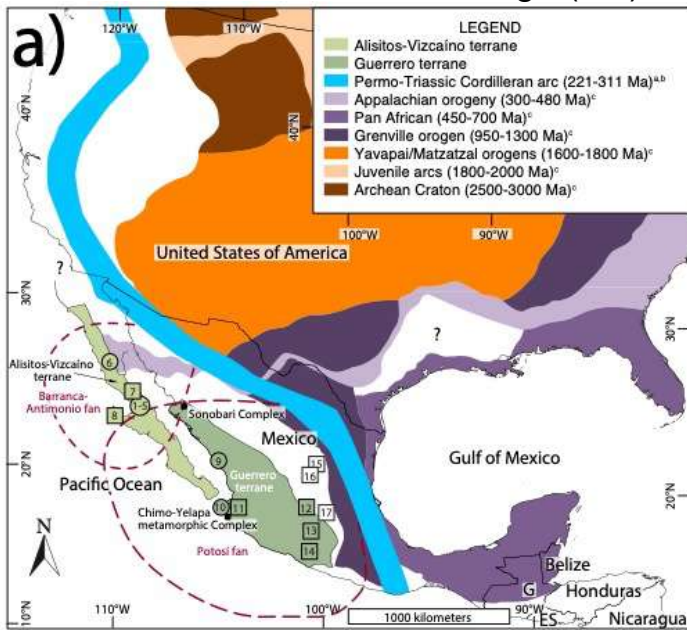
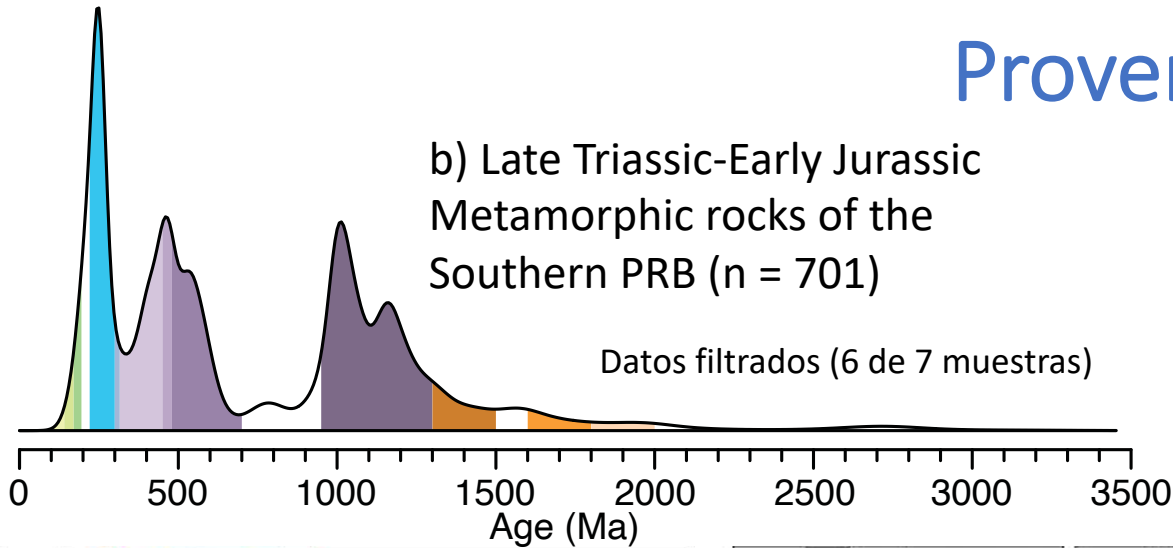
- Metasedimentary rocks of the SPRB show L Triassic and L Jurassic maximum depositional ages.
- **Bahía:** Middle-Upper Jurassic metamorphic event defined by Zrn U-Pb and Grt-WR Sm-Nd ages.
- **Calmallí & El Marmolito:** Garnet growth coeval with K-magmatism.
- **San Pedro:** An older (Triassic) garnet growth event. Related with Triassic magmatism in the continental margin?

<sup>a</sup>Torres-Carrillo et al. (2022, Int. Geol. Rev.)  
<sup>b</sup>Kimbrough et al. (2015, Bull. Geol. Soc. Am. 127)  
<sup>c</sup>Contreras et al. (2018, South Am. Earth Sci.)

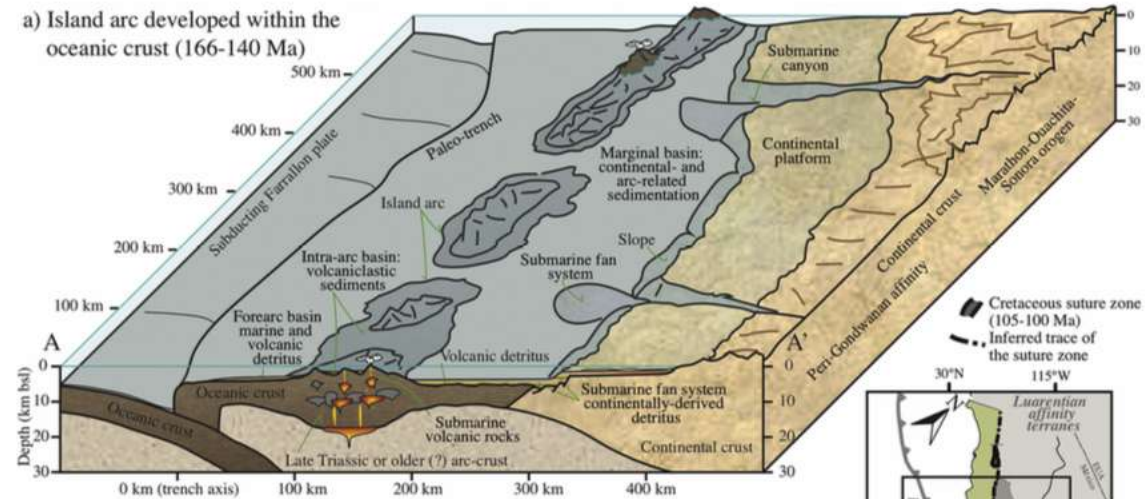
# Provenance

b) Late Triassic-Early Jurassic  
Metamorphic rocks of the  
Southern PRB (n = 701)

Datos filtrados (6 de 7 muestras)

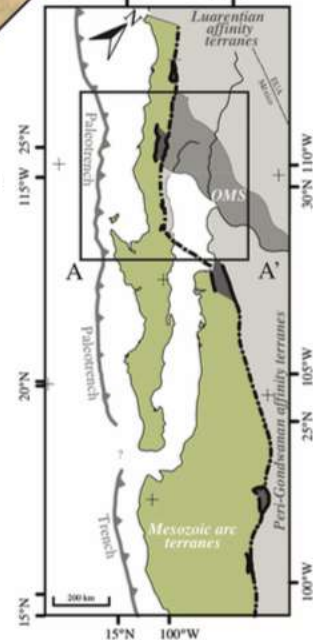


**Permo-Triassic Peak:** Permo-Triassic Cordilleran arc  
**Ordovician Peak:** Appalachian and Pan African orogens  
**Neo to Meso-Proterozoic Peaks:** Grenville orogen



Contreras-López et al. (2021, Lithos)

Sedimentary protoliths formed in marginal basins that received continentally-derived detritus (Peri-Gondwanan affinity terranes).



Modified after Chapman & Laskowski (2019, Lithosphere). Permo-Triassic Cordilleran arc from Arvizu & Iriondo (2015, Boletín la Soc. Geológica Mex). Barranca-El Antimonio and Potosí submarine fans (Busby, 2023; GSA v 1220).

## Concluding remarks:

- The **PRB** defines a continuous magmatic activity (**170-85 Ma**) developed into a Paleozoic and Mesozoic (Triassic-Jurassic) metamorphic basement.
- The **U-Pb detrital Zrn** geochronology of four samples from the western belt and two from the eastern belt indicates **Late Triassic and Early Jurassic MDA** (208-177 Ma).
- The detrital Zrn **provenance** analysis of SPRB host rocks provides evidence of the **continental influence** in the sedimentation of the protoliths since the **Late Triassic**.
- The **Sm-Nd Grt-WR** rock geochronology allowed us to identify **four metamorphic** events in the southern PRB, **coeval with magmatism**.





Thanks for your attention! Questions?  
[mcontreras@igeofisica.unam.mx](mailto:mcontreras@igeofisica.unam.mx)