



Magmatic structures and kinematics emplacement of the Variscan granites from Central Portugal (Serra da Estrela and Castro Daire areas)

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 17 December 2009

Received in revised form

23 August 2010

Accepted 6 September 2010

Available online 16 September 2010

Keywords:

Variscan granites

AMS

Strike-slip fault

Forceful emplacement

Portugal

ABSTRACT

The late-D3 Variscan granites, which represent the most important volume of granites of Central Portugal, are studied here for their magmatic and solid-state fabrics by means of the Anisotropy of Magnetic Susceptibility (AMS) technique in a 5000 km² area located between Guarda and Castro Daire, including the Serra da Estrela region. Two main directions, N150E and N20E, of stretching lineations are found indicating that the emplacement of these “late kinematic” granitoids was tectonically controlled. A three-stage model is proposed in which a) openings along N150-striking dextral strike-slip faults allow the first granitic magmas to be emplaced in the upper crust of Palaeozoic metasediments and syn-D3 granitoids; b) openings along N20-striking possibly sinistral strike-slip faults conjugates to the prior strike-slip faults and allow the enlargement of the granitic plutons; and c) the final emplacement of this huge volume of granitic rocks was mainly controlled by the magma pressure, which explains the rarity of structures related to this stage of granites emplacement in the country rocks. This structural study of granitic rocks yields new constraints on the tectonic evolution of this part of the Variscan orogenic belt at c. 300 Ma.

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1. Introduction

In the absence of direct geochronological evidence, correlating the deformations and the mode of emplacement of granite bodies with regional tectonic events is a challenge because granitic rocks do not always display deformation fabrics at a mesoscopic scale. Anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) studies may be used to characterize and measure weak anisotropic fabrics (foliations and lineations), either magmatic or solid-state ones, which are essential to describe the different deformations for a granite, to identify the constraints leading to the granite intrusion, and finally to link these features to the regional tectonics.

A large area (c. 5000 km²) of Variscan granitic outcrops, in Central Portugal between Serra da Estrela and Castro Daire massifs, was studied for this work. Despite a good geological mapping and documented geochemistry and petrography for these granites, the relationship between the emplacement of these granites and regional tectonics has so far remained unexplored. Microstructural

and AMS data were gathered, described and analyzed to infer emplacement and tectonic relationships for these granites.

2. General framework

2.1. The Iberian Massif

The Iberian Variscan belt, also known as the Iberian Massif, is a large arcuate segment of the European Variscan Fold Belt which extends over more than 3000 km from eastern Germany to the Iberian Peninsula. Julivert et al. (1974) subdivided the Iberian Massif into five main zones with different geological characteristics: the Cantabrian Zone, the West Asturian Leonese Zone, the Central Iberian Zone (CIZ), the Ossa Morena Zone and the South Portuguese Zone. Later, Farias et al. (1987) included the allochthonous and parautochthonous units of the CIZ in a separate zone called the Galicia Trás-os-Montes Zone. According to this classification, the studied area is located within the autochthonous terrains of the CIZ (Fig. 1).

The Variscan orogeny was a major event in the tectonic evolution of Western Europe resulting from the Laurussia–Gondwana collision through the late Devonian and most of the Carboniferous (Ribeiro et al., 1990; Martínez Catalán et al., 2009). Its magmatic

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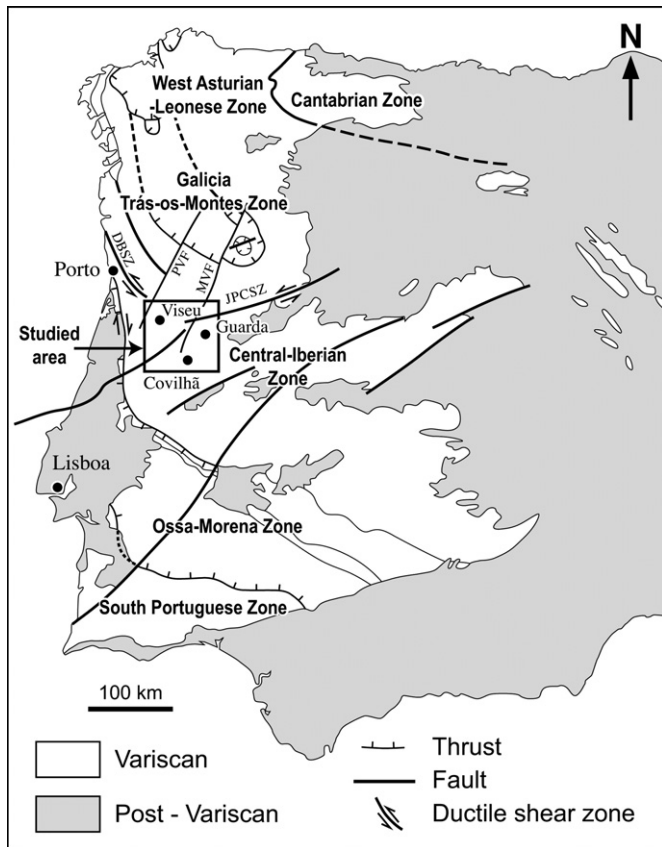


Fig. 1. Location of the studied area in the Central Iberian Zone (CIZ), part of the Variscan Chain in Western Iberia. MVF: Manteigas-Vilarica Fault; PVF: Penacova-Verin Fault; DBSZ: Douro-Beira Shear Zone; JPCSZ: Juzbado-Penalva do Castelo Shear Zone.

and tectonometamorphic features have been explained by an obduction-collision orogenic model with left lateral-transpression (Dias and Ribeiro, 1994). In the northwestern part of the Iberian Peninsula, three main phases of ductile deformation (D1, D2 and D3) have been described (Ribeiro, 1974; Noronha et al., 1979; Ribeiro et al., 1983). They are characterized by the generation of subvertical D₁ folds with a steep slaty cleavage and, particularly in the allochthonous terrains of the Galicia Trás-os-Montes Zone, D₂ recumbent folds with axial plane crenulation cleavage or schistosity associated to large thrust units or sub-horizontal extensional shear zones. Late stage D₃ ductile deformation produced vertical folds with sub-horizontal axes and subvertical strike-slip shear zones, both right and left lateral. In central Portugal, especially in the studied area, the CIZ is characterized by a domain of D₃ vertical folds deforming D₁ sub-horizontal structures. However, earlier D₁ fabrics overprinted by an extensional event prior to D₃, are described in the Spanish part of the CIZ (Diez Balda et al., 1990, 1995; Escuder Viruete, 1998). A post-D₃ brittle phase is characterized by a set of conjugate strike-slip faults (NNW-SSE dextral and NNE-SSW sinistral) late structures, whose geometry is often strongly influenced by pre-existent discontinuities (Ribeiro, 1974; Arthaud and Matte, 1975; Pereira et al., 1993).

Based on geological, petrographic and geochemical studies, the Portuguese Variscan granites were divided into two main groups: dominant biotite granites (biotite >> muscovite) and two-mica (muscovite > biotite) granites. Considering their relation with the D₃ deformation phase, syn-D₃, late-D₃ and late to post-D₃ granites were defined (Ferreira et al., 1987). The CIZ zone is characterized by huge volumes of granitic rocks that represent about 60–70% of the outcropping rocks. The syn-D₃ granites are represented by two-mica

peraluminous granites, granodiorites and biotite granites. The late and post-D₃ granites are represented by biotite and two-mica granites, and also by gabbros, diorites, quartz-monzodiorites and granodiorites (Azevedo and Valle Aguado, 2006).

Isotopic ages for some granitoids in the Portuguese sector of the CIZ are recently published. These data are as follows:

- granitoids which have been interpreted as syn-D₃ by most authors because of their strong deformation fabrics are dated in the 314–307 Ma time-span (e.g. U–Pb on zircon and monazite datings of Maceira pluton, 314 ± 5 Ma; Casal Vasco pluton, 311 ± 1 Ma; Junqueira pluton, 307.8 ± 0.7 Ma, by Valle Aguado et al. (2005) and Azevedo and Valle Aguado (2006)).
- granitoids which have been interpreted either as syn-D₃ (de Carvalho et al., 1992) or late to post-D₃ (Ferreira et al., 1987; Azevedo and Valle Aguado, 2006) have yielded two ages groups: (i) in the 308–301 Ma time-span (e.g. U–Pb on zircon datings of the Cota-Viseu granite: 307.7 ± 7.8 Ma and 305.2 ± 4.4 Ma by Valle Aguado et al. (2005); U–Pb or Th–Pb on monazite datings of the Cabeço do Faraó/Cabeço do Meio plutons: 302.8 ± 2.4 Ma (U–Pb) and 303.8 ± 2.4 Ma (Th–Pb), and of the Seia granite: 304.1 ± 2.9 (U–Pb) and 301.4 ± 1.6 (Th–Pb) by Neiva et al. (2009); and (ii) in the 295–287 Ma time-span: Calde granite: 294.1 ± 3.5 Ma (U–Pb on monazite) and 294.8 ± 2.9 Ma (U–Pb on zircon) by Mota Leite et al. (2005); Covilhã granite: 290.1 ± 2.4 Ma and 288.6 ± 1.5 (U–Pb and Th–Pb on monazite, respectively) by Neiva et al. (2009); Catielos granite: 287.7 ± 2.0 Ma and 288.7 ± 1.6 Ma (U–Pb and Th–Pb on monazite, respectively) by Neiva et al. (2009). The Manteigas biotite granite considered as syn-D₃ by de Carvalho et al. (1992) was dated at 481.1 ± 5.9 Ma (U–Th–Pb on zircon), i.e. early Ordovician, by Neiva et al. (2009).

The interpretation of some of these ages with respect to other geological data is difficult. For instance, the Seia and Covilhã granites, interpreted by Ferreira and Vieira (1999) as two facies with different grain size of the same granite type with very gradual transitions between them, have yielded very different ages.

Geochronological data from nearby granitoids of the Spanish sector of the CIZ are distributed in the same time-spans as those inferred for the Portuguese sector. Concerning late-D₃ intrusions, Zeck et al. (2007) found ion-microprobe U–Pb ages of 305.6 ± 1.4 Ma (Navahermosa meta-gabbronorite), 306.5 ± 1.5 Ma (Colmenar cordierite bearing biotite granite) and 306.8 ± 1.9 Ma (Ledrada biotite granite). In the southern part of the CIZ, U–Pb dating of the granodiorite and granite units of the “Los Pedroches” batholith yield an age of 308 ± 2 Ma for the Los Pedroches granodiorite and 314.2 ± 1.9 Ma and 304 ± 2 Ma for Campanario La-Haba and Cerro Mogábar granites respectively (Carracedo et al., 2009). These authors proposed an emplacement for this batholith during and after D₃.

2.2. Geological setting

The studied area is located between latitudes $40^{\circ}15'–40^{\circ}55'$ N and longitudes $7^{\circ}15'–8^{\circ}10'$ W (Figs. 1 and 2a). Most of this area is occupied by Variscan granitoids attributed to the syn- and late-D₃ groups (Ferreira et al., 1987; de Carvalho et al., 1992) which are intruded into metasedimentary rocks corresponding to the autochthonous formations of the CIZ. Lithostratigraphically the metasediments are characterized by:

- (a) pre-Ordovician strata which constitute a monotonous mega-sequence of metapelites and metagreywackes of uncertain age, generally referred to as the ‘Complexo Xisto-Grauváquico’ (CXG) (Teixeira, 1954; Sousa, 1971).

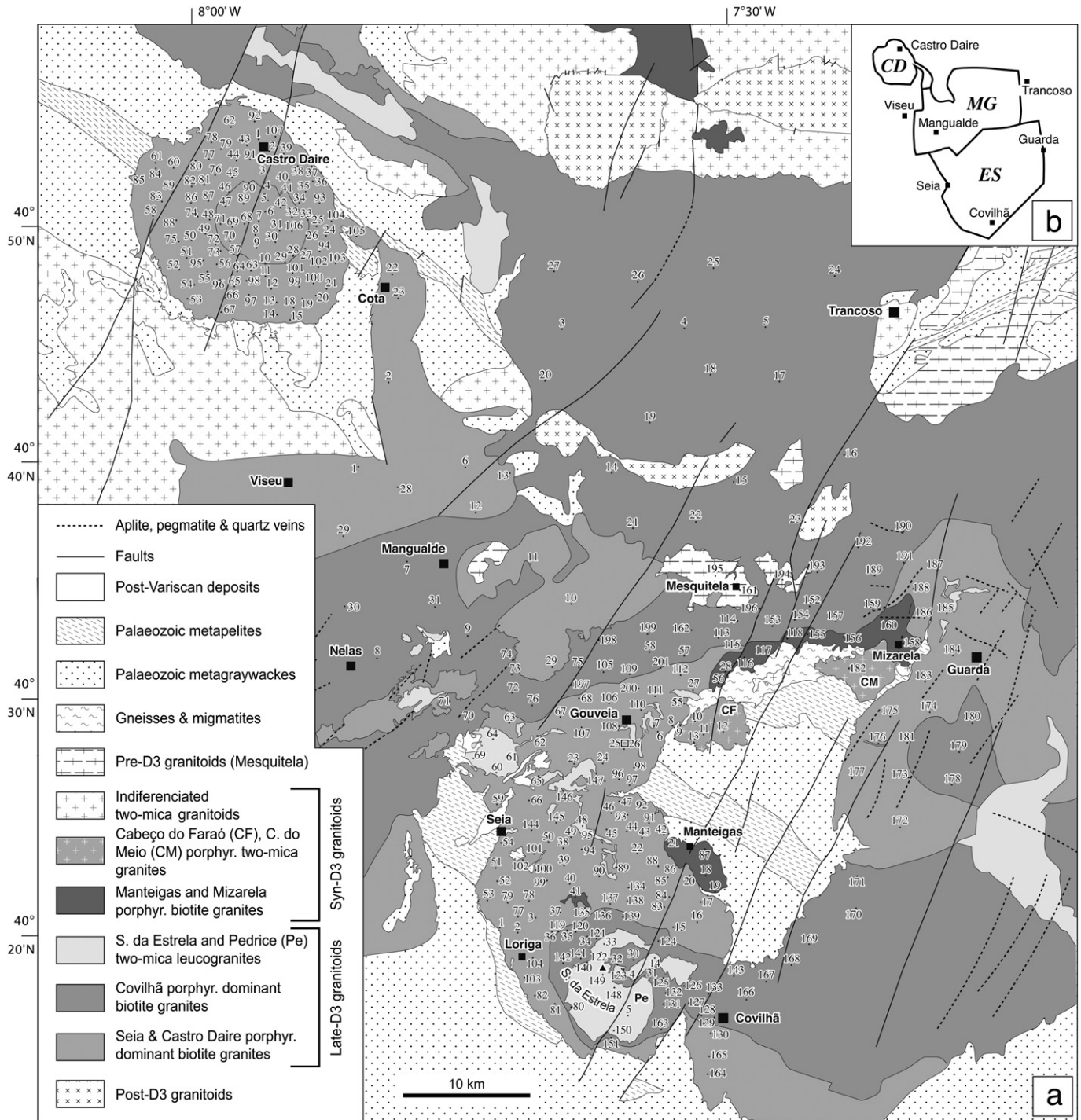


Fig. 2. a – Simplified geological map of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire area and sampling sites. (Modified from Schermerhorn, 1980; Ferreira et al., 1987; de Carvalho et al., 1992; Ferreira and Vieira, 1999; Azevedo and Valle Aguado, 2006). b – Sketch map of the three studied sub-zones (CD: Castro Daire; MG: Mangualde; ES: Estrela) with place names for reference to the geological map.

(b) a succession of Ordovician, Silurian, Lower Devonian and Upper Carboniferous rocks exposed in the core of the Porto-Satão Syncline (Valle Aguado et al., 2005).

The studied area contains large ductile shear zones related, at least partly, to the D3 phase (Fig. 1): (i) the NW-SE-trending Douro-Beira sinistral shear zone (DBSZ) that deforms the Porto-Satão Syncline (Ribeiro et al., 1990; Valle Aguado et al., 2005), (ii) the ENE-WSW-trending Juzbado-Penalva do Castelo sinistral shear zone

(JPCSZ) (Iglesias and Ribeiro, 1981; Ferreira Pinto et al., 1993) and (iii) the NNW-SSE- to NS-trending Porto-Tomar dextral shear zone. NNE-SSW-trending brittle structures, such as the Manteigas-Vilarça fault (MVF) or Penacova-Verin Fault (PVF), are treated as later structures.

The study area (Figs. 1 and 2a) is located in the quadrilateral formed by the cities of Castro Daire – Seia – Covilhã – Guarda. For an easier description, we have subdivided this large area in three zones: Serra da Estrela (ES) to the south, Castro Daire (CD) to the north and Mangualde (MG) in between (Fig. 2b).

In the Serra da Estrela, the biotite-dominant granitoids are represented by Seia, Covilhã, Mizarela and Manteigas intrusions and the two-mica granitoids are represented by Estrela, Pedrice, Cabeço do Faraó, Cabeço do Meio and Mesquitela intrusions (Ferreira and Vieira, 1999). No consensus exists for the relationships of these granitoids to tectonic events. Therefore, these granitoids are grouped in combinations of their petrographic and structural features according to Schermerhorn (1980), Ferreira et al. (1987), de Carvalho et al. (1992), Ferreira and Vieira (1999) and Azevedo and Valle Aguado (2006). This grouping will be further discussed on the basis of our new results.

The Castro Daire zone corresponds to the Castro Daire biotite-dominant pluton composed of a peripheral porphyritic facies (Calde granite) and a central fine-grained two-mica facies (Alva granite) (Schermerhorn, 1980). Between the Serra da Estrela granites and the Castro Daire pluton, the central zone between Mangualde and Trancoso is known as “Granitos das Beiras” (Boorder, 1965), which is composed of a large volume of biotite-bearing and two-mica porphyritic granites. All described granites are crosscut by aplite and pegmatite veins with a variety of orientations and by dominantly NE-trending quartz veins.

3. Sampling and analytical technique

An AMS study was conducted to acquire a complete data set for the fabrics of the granites. This study is based on 339 sampling sites (Fig. 2a) distributed on a roughly kilometric grid in the Serra da Estrela and Castro Daire zones. In the Mangualde – Trancoso zone, the sampling grid is less dense with a spacing of about 4–5 km. At each site, four oriented cores (25 mm in diameter and 60–70 mm in length) were collected. Then, each core was sawed in two (eventually three) 22 mm long specimens. At least 8 specimens per station were available for magnetic measurements that were performed using a KLY-2 Kappabridge susceptometer ($\pm 3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ T; 920 Hz, AGICO, Czech Republic) at the ‘Laboratoire des Mécanismes et des Transferts en Géologie’ in Toulouse, France. A sequence of 15 susceptibility measurements along different orientations of each specimen allowed us to compute the orientation and magnitude of the three main axes $k_1 \geq k_2 \geq k_3$ of the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility ellipsoid. For each site, the AGICO software enabled us to calculate the mean susceptibility K_m , which is the mean of the eight (or more) individual arithmetic means $k_1 + k_2 + k_3/3$. Also calculated were the intensities and orientations of the three axes $K_1 \geq K_2 \geq K_3$, which are the tensorial means of the $k_1 \geq k_2 \geq k_3$ axes for the eight specimens, and the 95% confidence angles E12, E23 and E31 corresponding to these three axes. K_1 , the long axis of the mean ellipsoid, is the magnetic lineation of the site and K_3 , the short axis, is the normal to the magnetic foliation. P , the magnetic anisotropy ratio, corresponds to K_1/K_3 . In this study we will use the parameter $Ppara\% = ((K_1 - D/K_3 - D) - 1) \times 100$, where $D (= -1.46 \times 10^{-5}$ SI) is the diamagnetic component carried by the quartz and feldspars (Rochette, 1987). This parameter, $Ppara\%$, is more convenient than P for rocks displaying a small susceptibility for which it is necessary to subtract D , which is constant and isotropic, in order to avoid an artificial enhancement of the anisotropy (Bouchez et al., 1987). The values of K_m and $Ppara\%$, the direction and inclination of K_1 , the mean magnetic lineation, and of K_3 , the normal to the magnetic foliation, the azimuth and dip of this foliation, and the 95% confidence angles of K_1, K_2, K_3 axes for each station are given in Table 1.

4. AMS data

4.1. Magnetic susceptibility values (K_m)

Almost all the granites have magnetic susceptibilities less than 30×10^{-5} SI (Table 1 and Fig. 3), typical of a dominantly paramagnetic

behaviour, i.e. they are magnetite-free (Rochette, 1987). In such paramagnetic granites, K_m linearly correlates to the iron content, allowing a rough characterization of the petrographic type (Gleizes et al., 1993). Such a characterization is essential in this region for which few chemical analysis of the granitic rocks were published and generally not precisely located. In a frequency histogram of the magnetic susceptibility magnitude, five classes were defined for the study area (K_m in 10^{-5} SI): $0 \leq K_m \leq 7.5$; $7.6 \leq K_m \leq 10.0$; $10.1 \leq K_m \leq 15.0$; $15.1 \leq K_m \leq 20.0$ and $K_m > 20.0$. A K_m map was then constructed to show the spatial distribution of the five classes (Fig. 3).

4.1.1. Serra da Estrela granites

The AMS study of these granites is based on 201 sampling stations. K_m values range between 2.1 and 28×10^{-5} SI (Fig. 3). Small values, less than 7.5×10^{-5} SI, are essentially found in a circular zone between Loriga and Covilhã, corresponding to the muscovite >> biotite leucogranites forming the highest parts of the Serra da Estrela. These leucogranites are surrounded by a semicircular zone of granites with $7.6 \leq K_m \leq 10 \times 10^{-5}$ SI, which are in turn surrounded by a discontinuous circular zone of granites with $10.1 \leq K_m \leq 15.0 \times 10^{-5}$ SI (to the south and north of Loriga, between Seia and Manteigas and to the southwest and north of Covilhã). This susceptibility values interval, which corresponds to the frequency peak, is also well represented between Covilhã and Guarda and between Seia and Gouveia. The [7.6–10.0] and [10.1–15.0] classes of K_m values correspond to the Covilhã and Seia porphyritic biotite-dominant granites. However, the distribution in map view of these two classes of K_m values (Fig. 3) does not exactly correspond to the cartographic distribution of these two granites as admitted by previous authors (Fig. 2) (see Discussion). Finally, the greatest values ($K_m \geq 15.1 \times 10^{-5}$ SI) are essentially found in small areas to the north of Gouveia and in the Manteigas and Mizarela biotite granites to granodiorites. Only two sites of the Manteigas granite display very large K_m values (1483.3 and 1673.2×10^{-5} SI) typical of a ferromagnetic behaviour, probably due to the presence of magnetite grains.

4.1.2. Castro Daire pluton

The AMS study of this pluton is based on 105 sampling stations. The magnetic susceptibility values range between 3.8 and 13.7×10^{-5} SI (mean 8.1×10^{-5} SI) in the pluton, but values up to 18.9×10^{-5} SI were measured in the southeastern prolongation of the pluton near Cota (Fig. 3). The smallest values are mainly found in the Alva two-mica, fine-grained central facies ($4.3 \leq K_m \leq 7.2 \times 10^{-5}$ SI) and also in a semicircular zone of the Calde facies, on the western border of the pluton ($5.1 \leq K_m \leq 6.9 \times 10^{-5}$ SI). This peripheral facies is mainly characterized by values ranging from 7.5 to 10×10^{-5} SI around the Alva central facies, and the greatest values ($10.1 \leq K_m \leq 13.7 \times 10^{-5}$ SI) occur especially in its northeastern porphyritic part near Castro Daire.

4.1.3. Mangualde – Trancoso area

Magnetic susceptibility data are based on 31 sampling stations. The K_m values range between 3.6 and 23.1×10^{-5} SI (mean 11.0×10^{-5} SI) (Fig. 3) corresponding to different rock types. The histogram of susceptibility values shows two peaks in the classes $0 \leq K_m \leq 7.5 \times 10^{-5}$ SI, corresponding to the Trancoso area, and $10.1 \leq K_m \leq 15.0 \times 10^{-5}$ SI, mainly to the north of Mangualde, both corresponding to two-mica facies. The values between 7.6 and 10×10^{-5} SI are found in a large area to the south and east of Mangualde. The greatest values ($>20.0 \times 10^{-5}$ SI) are found in porphyritic biotite facies, to the north of Mangualde.

4.2. Magnetic anisotropy and microstructures

$Ppara\%$, the paramagnetic anisotropy parameter, ranges from 0.7 to 8.3% (mean 2.5%) for the whole area (see below for the two higher anisotropies measured in the Manteigas granite) (Table 1

and Fig. 4). In a frequency histogram four classes, used for drawing the zones of equal anisotropy on the map, have been defined: $Ppara\% \leq 2.0$, $2.1 \leq Ppara\% \leq 3.5$, $3.6 \leq Ppara\% \leq 5.0$, $Ppara\% > 5.0$. For the three zones of study, the highest frequency corresponds to the class $2.1 \leq Ppara\% \leq 3.5$.

$Ppara\%$ is correlated to the finite deformation of a rock. This correlation depends on many factors (regime of deformation, mineralogical composition and grain size of the rock, etc.), therefore only a qualitative equivalence may generally be established. In the studied area, for $Para \leq 2\%$, the deformation is hardly visible to

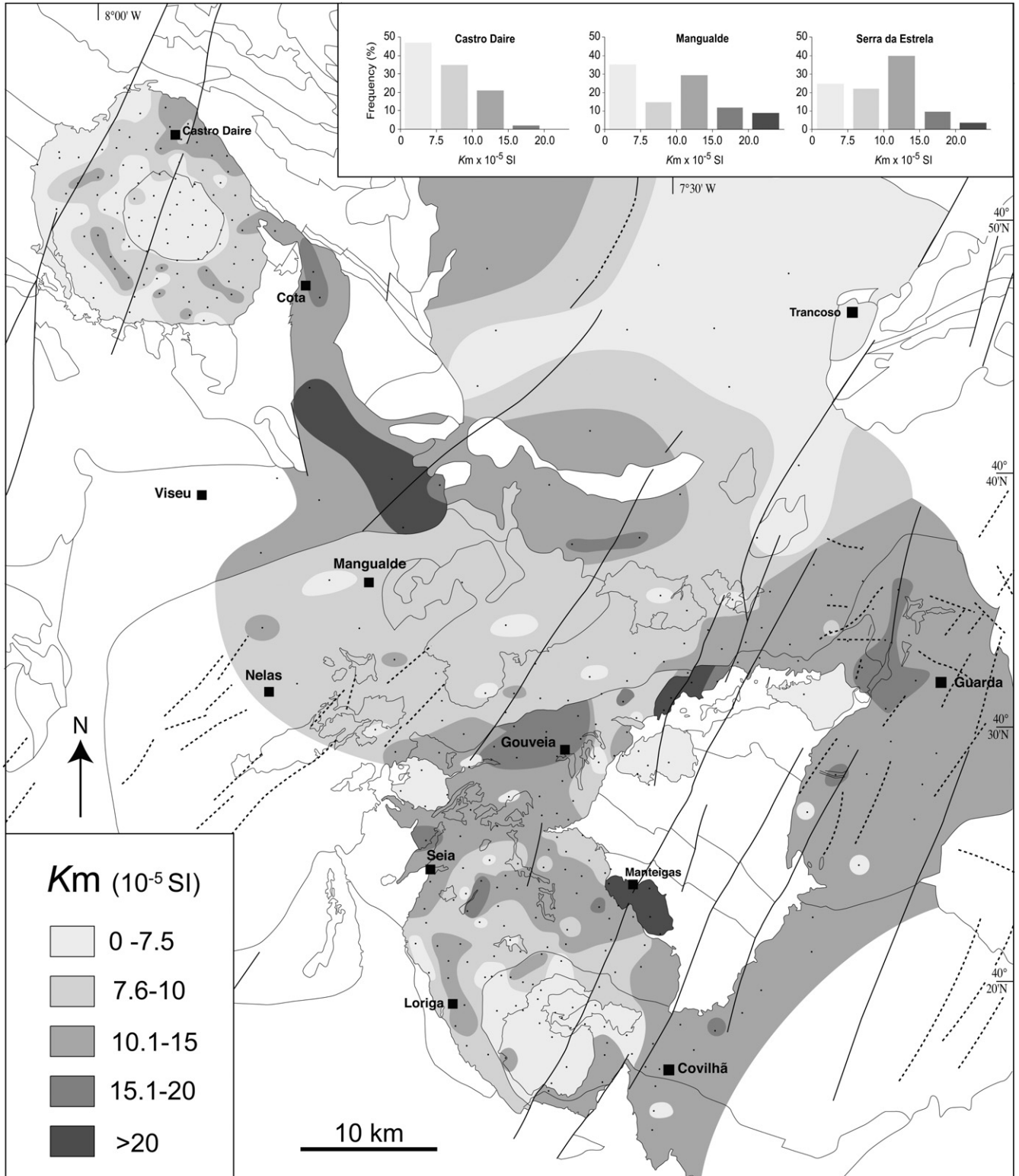


Fig. 3. Map of the magnetic susceptibility (Km) of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire area and histograms of susceptibility values for the three sub-zones.

the naked eye, for $2\% < Ppara \leq 5\%$, a weak orientation of the fabric may be observed, for $Ppara > 5\%$ the planar and/or linear anisotropy is well marked.

The magnetic anisotropy may correspond, in granitic rocks, either to magmatic or eventually superimposed solid-state microstructures. Criteria for this distinction have been described in the

literature (e.g. Blumenfeld and Bouchez, 1988; Paterson et al., 1989, 1998; Bouchez et al., 1992) and the significance of the different microstructures is defined according to magma rheology considerations (Nicolas, 1992; Vigneresse et al., 1996).

The microstructures observed in thin sections from about half of the sampling sites in this study were grouped into four types (Fig. 5):

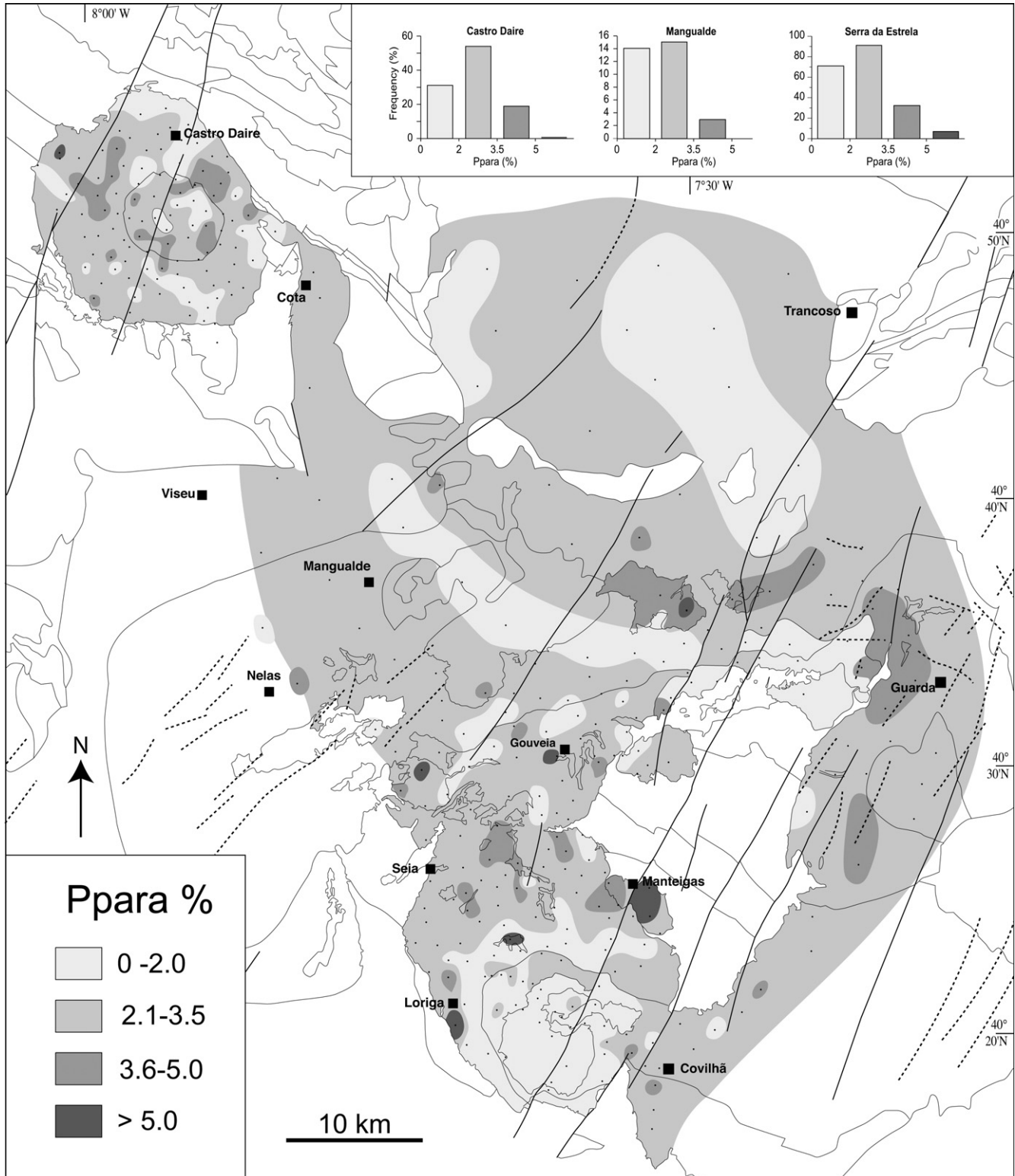


Fig. 4. Map of the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (Ppara%) of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire area and histograms of Ppara% values for the three sub-zones.

(i) magmatic microstructures (no or rare undulatory extinction in quartz); (ii) submagmatic (i.e. subsolidus) microstructures ((0001) subgrains boundaries in quartz and, eventually, folded or kinked biotites); (iii) high to medium temperature microstructures (square-shaped subgrains in quartz, recrystallized quartz grains, eventually kinked biotites and bands of quartz surrounded by mica flakes); (iv) medium to low temperature microstructures (total recrystallization of quartz grains and transformation into gneiss).

In the three studied zones, the various granite types display almost ubiquitous magmatic to submagmatic microstructures. Some high to low temperature solid-state deformation microstructures have been observed locally (see below).

4.2.1. Serra da Estrela granites

The Ppara% values range from 0.7 to 8.3% (mean 2.6%). The two highly ferromagnetic sites of the Manteigas granite have stronger anisotropies of 10.1% and 15.7%, which is probably a function of the shape anisotropy of magnetite grains. A circular zone, located in the southern part of the Serra da Estrela horst, between Loriga and Covilhã, has values between 0.7% and 2.0%. The magnetic anisotropy increases toward the periphery of this circular zone with values ranging from 2.1 to 4.9% (values >5% may be observed very locally, as 6.7% for the site ES103 to the south of Loriga), forming a zonation in the Covilhã and Seia granites (Fig. 4).

About 80% of the thin sections display microstructures corresponding to magmatic or submagmatic deformation. Microstructures corresponding to a generally slight solid-state deformation, mainly characterized by recrystallization of a part of the quartz grains, were observed especially near the contacts with the CXG

country rocks of the Serra da Estrela zone, to the SE of Gouveia (sites ES6, 7, 8, 92, 96–98) and SW of Guarda (sites ES176, 177, 181). Gneissic microstructures, with quartz almost entirely recrystallized into elongated subgrains and forming continuous layers, were observed in only one site (ES128) to the west of Covilhã.

4.2.2. Castro Daire pluton

The Ppara% values range between 0.8% and 5.6% (mean 2.6%) (Fig. 4). Most sites have values between 2% and 3.5%. Small sectors to the SW and SE of Castro Daire show higher values ($3.5 \leq \text{Ppara} \% \leq 5$), whereas the northern and southern parts of the pluton display values of $\text{Ppara} \% < 2$. Unlike with the spatial distribution of the Km values, Ppara% are not arranged geometrically with respect to the pluton shape, but rather are scattered within the body.

Most sites are characterized by magmatic or submagmatic microstructures. Some sites located to the northeast of this pluton (sites CD35, 93, 104) display a moderate solid-state deformation, whereas some sites located to the northwest (sites CD61, 77, 80, 84) display textures that can be interpreted to be the result of a strong solid-state deformation, the rocks being partly transformed into gneiss (i.e. site CD61 with $\text{Ppara} = 5.6\%$, Fig. 5).

4.2.3. Mangualde – Trancoso area

Ppara% values range between 0.9% and 4.1% (mean 2.4%) (Fig. 4). Between the Castro Daire pluton and the Serra da Estrela granites most values are between 2.0% and 3.5%. Smaller values are mainly observed to the west of Trancoso and to the east and southeast of Mangualde.

Almost all sites display magmatic or submagmatic microstructures. Only four sites (MG1, 2, 14 and 15) display microstructures

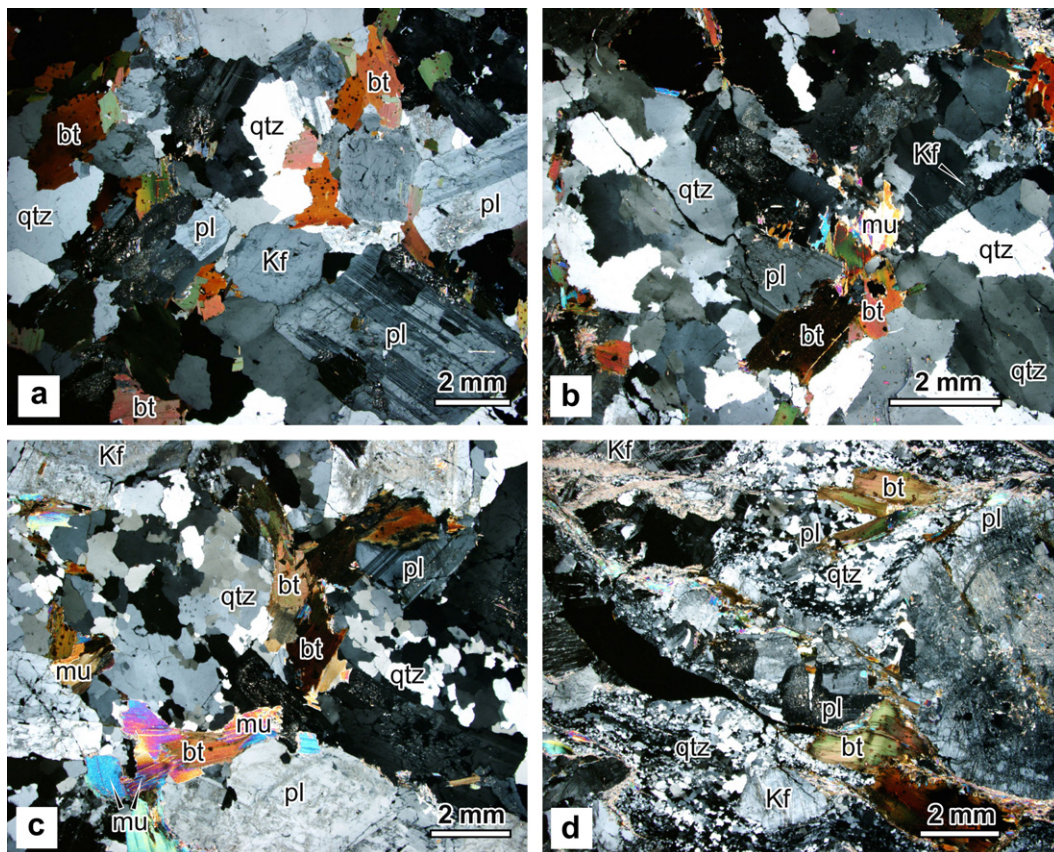


Fig. 5. Four main types of microstructures in the granitoids from the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire region. Microphotographs under crossed polars. a – Magmatic texture: undeformed biotite and feldspars, no or rare undulatory extinctions and no subgrains in quartz (ES 106); b – Weak submagmatic deformation: sub-boundaries in quartz, rare subgrains of quartz (ES 16); c – Incipient solid-state deformation: frequent sub-boundaries and subgrains in quartz (CD 93); d – Strong solid-state deformation: complete dynamic recrystallization of quartz into small grains, kinked biotites, broken feldspars (CD 61). - bt: Biotite; mu: Muscovite; Kf: K-feldspar; pl.: Plagioclase; qtz: Quartz.

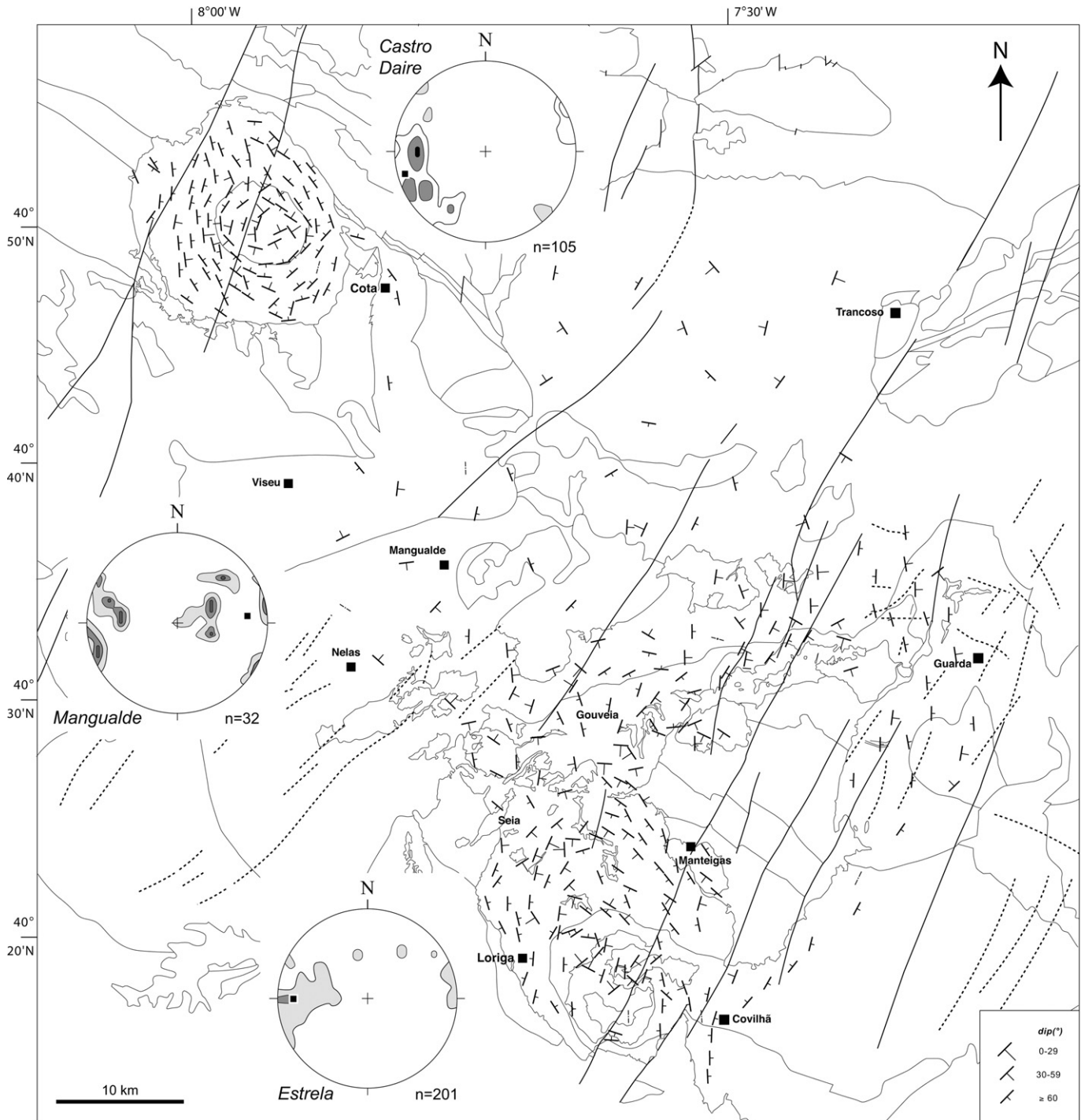


Fig. 6. Map of the magnetic foliations with orientation stereonet for the magnetic foliation poles (Schmidt, lower hemisphere projection, 1% area contours; black square: mean foliation pole).

indicative of moderate solid-state deformation as indicated by the recrystallization of some quartz grains.

4.3. Magnetic fabric patterns

The magnetic fabric, foliation and lineation, is generally parallel to the mineral fabric in the paramagnetic granites (Heller, 1973; Tarling and Hrouda, 1993; Bouchez, 1997). In the studied granites, which display magmatic to submagmatic microstructures, the magnetic foliation and lineation are markers of the flattening and

stretching, respectively, of the magmas in the latest stages of their emplacement.

4.3.1. Serra da Estrela granites

The magnetic foliations of the Gouveia, Seia, Loriga and Covilhã quadrangle are concentrically distributed with inward medium to steep dips. The centre of this structure, which we named the Estrela pluton, is located near the highest reliefs of the Serra da Estrela (Fig. 6). To the east of the Estrela pluton, between Covilhã and Guarda, foliations are dominantly NE-SW- to NNE-SSW-striking

with rather steep dips, either to the NW or SE. The mean foliation orientation for the Serra da Estrela region is $N0^{\circ}E72^{\circ}$.

The magnetic lineations plunge to the NNW or SSE mainly in the Estrela pluton, but more plunges are to the SSE at medium inclination. To the east of a line connecting the localities of Gouveia and Covilhã, the magnetic lineations are dominantly NE-SW- to N-S-plunging with generally shallow northeast or north plunges (Fig. 7). The regional mean orientation is $170^{\circ}/33^{\circ}$.

4.3.2. Castro Daire pluton

The magnetic foliations of the peripheral rock facies are concentrically distributed with inward steep dips exceeding 60° typically, except in the NE part where the foliations are very steep and eastward dipping. In the central facies, the foliations are also concentrically distributed but with outward moderate dips displaying a dome-like structure (Fig. 6). The mean orientation for the foliations of this pluton is $N164^{\circ}E80^{\circ}$.

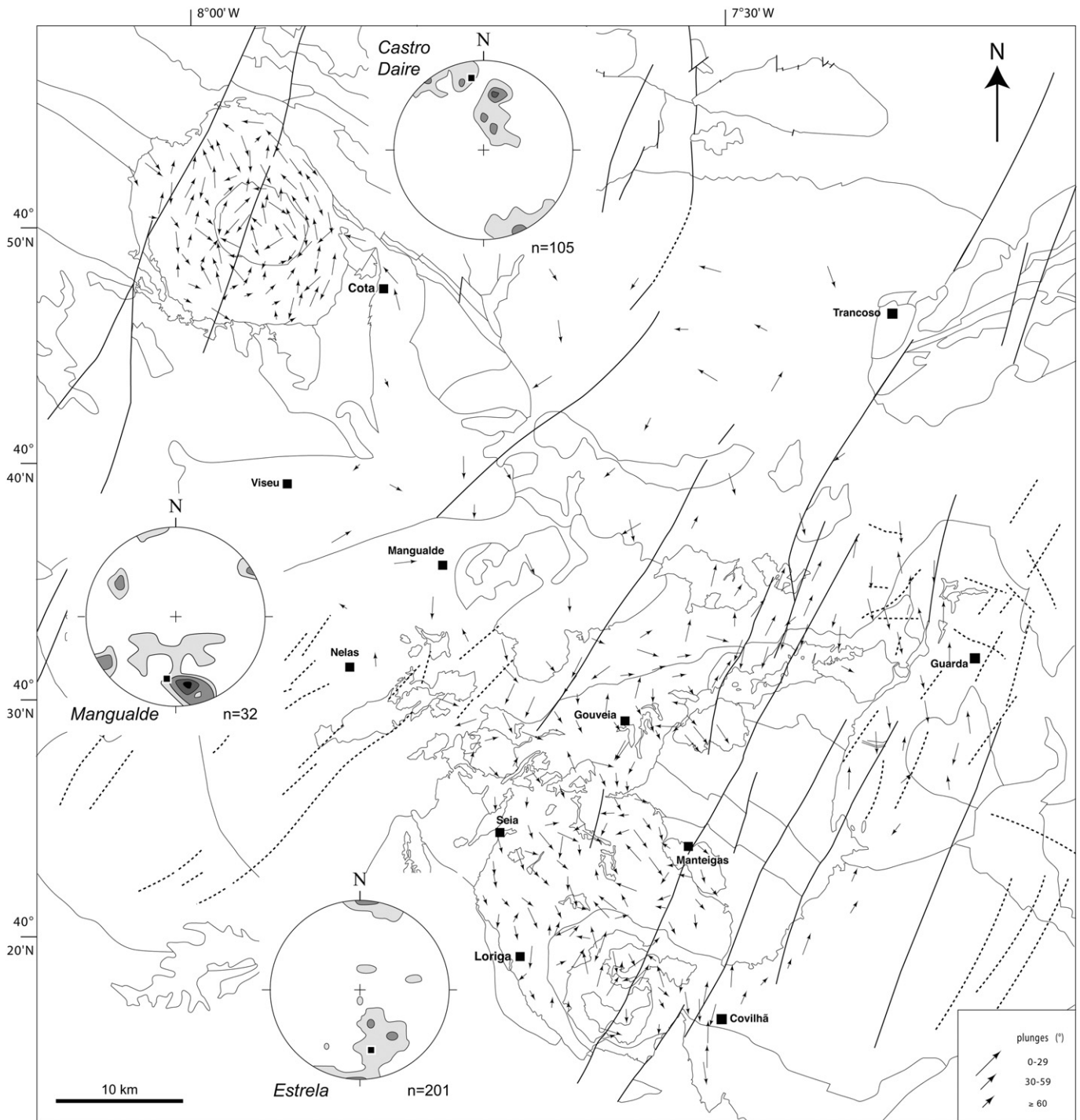


Fig. 7. Map of the magnetic lineations with orientation stereonet for the magnetic lineation (Schmidt, lower hemisphere projection, 1% area contours; black square: mean lineation).

Most magnetic lineations are NNW-SSE-trending with shallow plunges, especially in the central and eastern part of the pluton. To the south, the magnetic lineations are generally NE-SW-trending with shallow to steep plunges (Fig. 7). The mean lineation orientation is $351^{\circ}/20^{\circ}$.

4.3.3. Mangualde sector

The magnetic foliations are scattered in orientation with a tendency to display an NS-strike with a range of dips (Fig. 6). The mean orientation for the magnetic foliation in this area is $N175^{\circ}W66^{\circ}$.

The magnetic lineations are dominantly NS-trending with shallow to medium plunges. Couto et al. (2003) have measured magnetic foliations and lineations in the Viseu region with an NNW-SSE direction being dominant (Fig. 7). The mean lineation orientation for our sites is $188^{\circ}/31^{\circ}$.

5. Discussion and interpretation

5.1. Interpretation of the structures of the granitoids of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire area

The combination of the different magnetic parameters measured in the granite rocks (K_m , $P_{para\%}$, magnetic fabrics) shows that the area is composed of a complex set of granitoid intrusions. The study of the magnetic susceptibility K_m allows a characterization of the various granitic types more accurately than with the previous determinations mainly obtained by field observations (Schermhorn, 1980; de Carvalho et al., 1992; Ferreira and Vieira, 1999). In particular, the Seia and Covilhã granitic facies have the same values of magnetic susceptibility, although they have been represented on the previously published geological maps as different plutons (ref. cit.). Moreover, we found that the Castro Daire and the Estrela plutons have petrographic zonations, rather complex for the Castro Daire pluton, simpler and normal for the Estrela pluton, i.e. from silicic in the center to more mafic on the perimeter.

All the studied granites display in most sites microstructures formed under magmatic or submagmatic state. High to medium temperature solid-state microstructures are not common, indicating that the magnetic fabrics determined by our AMS study correspond to mineral fabrics developed during, or just after, the complete crystallization of the magmas in their sites of emplacement. Syn-emplacement deformation is heterogeneously distributed throughout the area. Zones of rather strong anisotropies ($P_{para\%} > 3.0$) occur on the borders of the Estrela pluton, in the Guarda region, in the Mangualde-Cota NS-striking band and in many sites within the Castro Daire pluton. However, zones of strong deformation, such as shear zones, were very scarcely found at the outcrop scale within the granites or in the metasedimentary country rocks.

For the magnetic/magmatic foliations, we found that the two more or less circular intrusive plutons (Estrela and Castro Daire) display steep concentric foliations, and the large granitic zones, without clear boundaries and with medium to steep foliations appear to the east of the Covilhã–Gouveia line, including the Mizarela granite.

The lineations display rather constant orientations over large areas, essentially NNW-SSE and NNE-SSW to N–S, with shallow to moderate plunges. These lineations may be interpreted as stretching directions of the granitic magmas developed during late emplacement (Bouchez, 1997), and are oblique to the NW-SE-striking Douro-Beira sinistral shear zone (Ribeiro et al., 1990; Valle Aguado et al., 2005) and to the ENE-WSW-striking Juzbado-Penalva do Castelo sinistral shear zone (Iglesias and Ribeiro, 1981; Ferreira

Pinto et al., 1993) previously identified in this part of the CIZ. The NNW-SSE lineations cover a large region, which includes the eastern part of the Castro Daire pluton, where they are associated with sub-vertical foliations, the Cota-Mangualde zone, and the Estrela pluton. The NNE-SSW lineations occur in the more differentiated facies located in the core of the Estrela pluton, in the granites to the east of the Covilhã–Gouveia line, where they occur with sub-vertical foliations, and to the south and east of the Castro Daire pluton.

Determining the relative ages of the two lineations where they are locally associated, such as in the western part of the peripheral facies of the Castro Daire pluton, is difficult. The NNW-SSE-trending lineations may be interpreted as earlier because they are found in granitic facies that are locally cut by other granitic facies displaying NNE-SSW-trending lineations in the southern part of the Estrela pluton. In their structural study of the region located to the east of Viseu, Couto et al. (2003) also concluded that the “Viseu-Cota” (=Seia) granite which displays NNW-SSE-trending lineations was emplaced before the “Alcafache” (=Covilhã) granite which displays NE-SW lineations. However, the granites displaying different directions of lineations have no clear-cut contacts, pointing out that they were subcontemporaneously co-deformed. In the same way, Azevedo and Nolan (1998), in their study of the Fornos de Algodres granitic intrusions (some km to the NW of Guarda), have considered that this ‘granite sequence could have been emplaced within a relatively short range of time with partial overlap between consecutive intrusive phases’.

5.2. Tectonic constraints on the emplacement of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire granites

The studied granites are mostly late to post-D3 with an age that is poorly constrained to 308–287 Ma, excluding the special case of the Manteigas granite which could be Ordovician in age (Neiva et al., 2009). The emplacement of these granites, called ‘post-kinematic granitoids’ by Marques et al. (2002), does not, in fact, postdate the regional tectonics because their syn-emplacement stretching lineations, regularly oriented over large areas and NNW-SSE- to NNE-SSW-trending, should record the evolution of regional

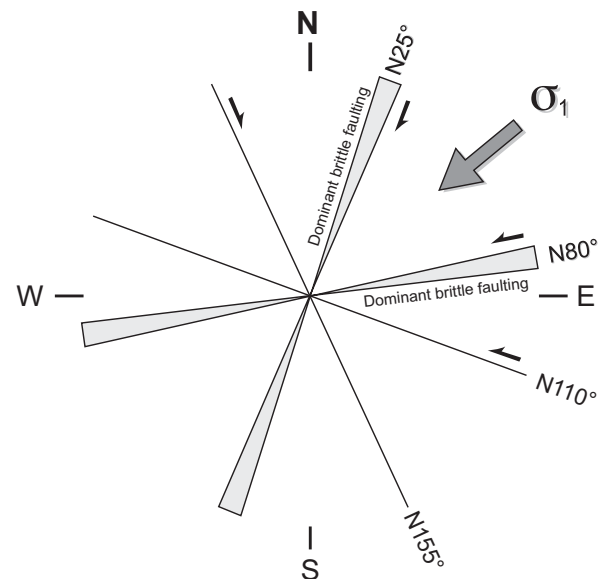


Fig. 8. Geometry and kinematics of the syn-D3 main fault systems according to Marques et al. (2002).

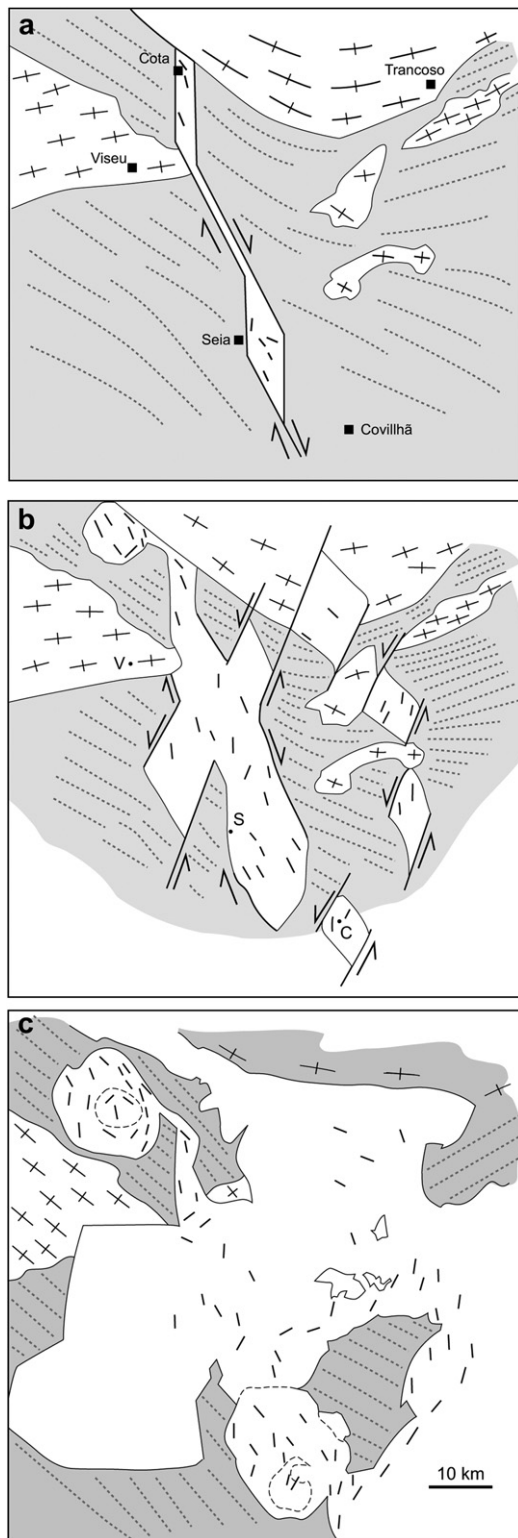


Fig. 9. Kinematic emplacement model of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire granites. a – Early granite emplacements. b – Enlargement of the previous zones of granite emplacement, beginning of emplacement of the Castro Daire and Estrela circular plutons and emplacement of granites in the Guarda area. c – Inflation of the granitic plutons mainly due to magma pressure, more or less independently of the tectonics.

strain in the central domain of the CIZ during late-Variscan times. Even so, the tectonic control was only moderate because no related stretching lineations appear in the country rocks. Yenes et al. (1999) reached the same conclusion in their structural study of the La Alberca-Béjar granitic area, located in the Spanish part of the CIZ about 100 km to the east of the Serra da Estrela region.

The two major directions of syn-emplacement stretching lineations, N150 and N20, are generally characterized by shallow plunges in steep foliations, as for example in the northeastern part of the Castro Daire pluton. Such relationships between stretching lineations and foliations point to an emplacement of the granitic magmas dominated by shear strain, possibly related to strike-slip zones roughly parallel to these stretching lineations (see Bouchez, 1997, 2000, for similar examples). However, the corresponding shear senses were not determined because of the weak shape anisotropy of these rocks. Structural data concerning the granites emplaced before and after the late-D3 granites may yield constraints for this problem.

For the syn-D3 granites, possibly emplaced in the 314–307 Ma time-span (see General framework), it has been proposed that their emplacement was related to two main directions of strike-slip faulting, the sinistral N70–80-trending direction (Valle Aguado et al., 2000; Marques et al., 2002) and the dextral N25-trending direction (Ribeiro, 1974; Marques et al., 2002). For the latter, the older dextral N155- and sinistral N110-trending directions of strike-slip faults are considered to play a minor role during this event (Fig. 8).

During the emplacement of the late-D3 granitic rocks the sinistral N70–80-trending direction was almost inactive because no lineations of this direction were found in the intrusions studied here. The N110–120-trending branch was also almost inactive at that time as demonstrated especially by the fact that the Castro Daire pluton does not display fabrics of such orientation, except some solid-state shear bands on its northwestern part, though this pluton was emplaced in country rocks strongly deformed by a sinistral N120 shearing which is therefore older than the pluton emplacement.

Taking into account these data, we propose that the late-D3 granites were emplaced during the reactivation of the N150–155 and N20–25 strike-slip faults inherited from D3. The first direction would be still dextral, whereas the second would be either dextral if during D3, or sinistral if during the emplacement of post-D3 granites (e.g. Vila Pouca de Aguiar pluton, Sant'Ovaia et al., 2000). Likewise, the many NE-SW-striking veins of quartz crosscutting the granites would be release structures corresponding to the N150–155 direction of stretching recorded in these late-D3 granitic rocks.

5.3. Possible mechanism of emplacement of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire granites

Granite emplacement is a highly debated question (see de Saint Blanquat et al., 2010, for a recent review) especially concerning the mechanisms (progressive vs discontinuous, forceful vs passive) and the duration (thousands or millions of years) of pluton or batholith construction. The orientation and distribution of the magmatic fabrics that characterize granitic bodies are essential for constraining emplacement interpretations. When no precise dates are available for the various units of a pluton or a batholith, duration of emplacement may be inferred from the nature of the contacts between these units.

Plutons which are interpreted as diapirically emplaced display a circular shape in map view, concentric steep foliations and steep lineations, and show an emplacement-related deformation of their country rock, such as a rim syncline (e.g. He et al., 2009). Such a model of diapiric emplacement does not explain the structures

that are observed in this study. Even the circular Castro Daire and Estrela plutons lack evidence of deformation of the country rock related to emplacement or a vertical lineation.

Plutons interpreted as laccoliths are supposed to 'undergo a birth stage, characterized by lateral spreading, followed by an inflation stage marked by vertical thickening' (Petford et al., 2000). In such intrusions, the magmatic foliations are roughly parallel to the contacts with the country rocks, a feature not observed in our study area.

When pluton emplacement is considered to be controlled by tectonics, especially by shear zones, they generally display elongated or rhomb shapes in map view. Their magmatic fabrics, mostly with horizontal lineations and steep foliations, pass progressively to solid-state fabrics toward the borders (Guineberteau et al., 1987; de Saint Blanquat et al., 1998). Only a part of these features, namely the magmatic horizontal or shallow plunging lineations and steep foliations developed at the kilometer scale, are observed in the present region. Therefore, a purely tectonically controlled emplacement of the Castro Daire – Serra da Estrela magmas is not appropriate for explaining all our observations and measurements. Consequently, we believe that the magma pressure also played an important role especially during the last stages of emplacement.

5.4. Model of emplacement of the granites in the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire area

From the previous data and discussion, we propose a three-stage model of emplacement for the late-D3 granitoids of the Serra da Estrela – Castro Daire region.

- The first stage of emplacement (Fig. 9a) may have been triggered by offsets along the N150-striking dextral strike-slip faults. These movements could have led to local openings in the upper crust favouring the ascent of magmas and the beginning of emplacement of granites, especially along the Cota – Seia zone.
- The second stage (Fig. 9b) may have corresponded to the enlargement of the previously emplaced granites, to the beginning of emplacement of the Castro Daire and Estrela circular plutons and also to the emplacement of granites in the Guarda area related to offsets along possibly sinistral N20-trending strike-slip faults. In this way, these faults could be interpreted as conjugates of the N150-trending faults.
- The third stage (Fig. 9c) may have been characterized by the inflation of the granitic plutons in various directions, more or less independently of the tectonics, leading to their present distribution. In other words, the end of emplacement would be forceful, i.e. essentially related to the magma pressure itself.

The post-emplacement tectonics was just characterized by very local solid-state deformations of the granites and the injection of quartz veins.

6. Conclusion

The present study allows a first structural characterization of a wide outcrop of the late-D3 (or late to post-D3) Variscan granitoids of Central Portugal. The regular fabric patterns here determined demonstrate that granitoid emplacement was controlled by the reactivation of previous crustal-scale strike-slip faults and involved magmatic pressure as a driver. Our structural study points to a rather quick emplacement, whereas the geochronological data indicate that this event might have been c. 20 Ma long (308–287 Ma time-span). More age data could probably help to solve this apparent contradiction. Detailed structural analyses of the late-D3 granites in chosen sites such as the junction of the DBSZ

and JPCSZ faults, or the contacts between syn- and late-D3 granites could provide data to improve and refine our model.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported by grants from the French Embassy in Portugal (Project 324 BO) and the Portuguese "Instituto de Cooperação Científica e Tecnológica Internacional" (ICCTI). We thank Ch. Cavaré-Hester for the drawings, A.M. Roquet, F. de Parseval and J.-F. Mena for the thin sections. The manuscript has benefited from constructive reviews by W. Dunne, G. Gutiérrez-Alonso and an anonymous reviewer. We thank J.L. Bouchez, M. de Saint Blanquat, A. Mateus and A. Ribeiro for useful discussions.

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