

Orthopyroxenite hosted chromitite veins anomalously enriched in platinum-group minerals from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite, Cuba

Vetas de cromitita en ortopiroxenita anómalamente enriquecidas en minerales del grupo del platino de la ofiolita Habana-Matanzas, Cuba

Júlia Farré-de-Pablo^{1,*}, Núria Pujol-Solà¹, Harlison Torres-Herrera², Thomas Aiglsperger³, José María González-Jiménez⁴, Angélica Isabel Llanes-Castro⁵, Antonio García-Casco^{4,6}, Joaquín A. Proenza¹

¹Departament de Mineralogia, Petrologia i Geologia Aplicada. Facultat de Ciències de la Terra, Universitat de Barcelona. C/ Martí i Franquès, s/n, 08028, Barcelona, Spain.

² Fundación Universitaria del Area Andina – Sede Valledupar. Transv 22 Bis 4-105, Valledupar, Colombia.

³ Department of Civil Engineering and Natural Resources, Luleå University of Technology. SE 97187, Luleå, Sweden.

⁴ Departamento de Mineralogía y Petrología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Granada. Avda. Fuentenueva, s/n, 18002, Granada, Spain.

⁵ Departamento de Petrología y Mineralogía, Instituto de Geología y Paleontología. Vía Blanca 1002, San Miguel del Padrón, Cuba.

⁶ Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra (CSIC-UGR). Avda. de las Palmeras 4, E-18100 Armilla, Granada, Spain.

* Corresponding author: (J. Farré de Pablo) jfarrdepablo@gmail.com

How to cite this article:

Farré-de-Pablo, J., Pujol-Solà, N., Torres-Herrera, H., Aiglsperger, T., González-Jiménez, J. M., Llanes-Castro, A. I., García-Casco, A., Proenza, J. A., 2020, Orthopyroxenite hosted chromitite veins anomalously enriched in platinum-group minerals from the Havana-Matanza Ophiolite, Cuba: Boletín de la Sociedad Geológica Mexicana, 72 (3), A110620. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18268/BSGM2020v72n3a110620>

Manuscript received: May 11, 2020
Corrected manuscript received: June 5, 2020
Manuscript accepted: June 10, 2020

Peer Reviewing under the responsibility of Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

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ABSTRACT

The Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite contains one of the few examples of ophiolitic platinum group minerals (PGM)-rich chromitites associated with orthopyroxenites in the mantle section of ophiolitic complexes. The chromitites occur as veins hosted by orthopyroxenite bands within mantle peridotites. The peridotites are mostly harzburgites and their accessory chromite shows high-Al compositions (Cr# [Cr/(Cr+Al), atomic ratio] = 0.39–0.50), which are typical of spinels in abyssal peridotites. Conversely, chromite from the chromitite veins and their host orthopyroxenite are high-Cr (Cr# = 0.72–0.73 and 0.62–0.69, respectively), with lower Mg# [Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺), atomic ratio]. This suggests that both the chromitite and the orthopyroxenite formed from melts with boninitic affinity. The abundant PGM inclusions found in the chromitites are mainly Os-rich laurite grains, which is also characteristic of chromitites formed from magmas with boninitic affinity. Therefore, we propose that the chromitite veins and the orthopyroxenite bands probably formed contemporaneously in the fore-arc setting of an intra-oceanic arc during subduction. The chromitite-orthopyroxenite pair of the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite could form after the reaction of a Si-rich melt with boninitic affinity and mantle harzburgite, with the orthopyroxenite bands preserving fingerprints of the infiltration of boninitic-affinity melts within the mantle. The small volume of forming chromitite could maximize the efficiency for the mechanical collection of the PGM forming in the parental melt of these rocks, resulting in the anomalous enrichment of primary PGM in the chromitites.

Keywords: chromitite, Cuba, ophiolite, orthopyroxenite, PGM.

RESUMEN

La ofiolita de Habana-Matanzas contiene uno de los pocos ejemplos de cromititas ricas en minerales del grupo del platino (MGP) asociadas a ortopiroxenitas de la sección mantélica de complejos ofiolíticos. Las cromititas ocurren como venas encajadas en bandas de ortopiroxenita dentro de la peridotita mantélica. Las peridotitas son mayoritariamente harzburgitas con cromita accesoria rica en Al (#Cr [Cr/(Cr+Al), cociente atómico] = 0.39–0.50), lo cual es típico de espinelas en peridotitas abisales. Por otro lado, la cromita perteneciente a las venas de cromitita y a la ortopiroxenita encajante es rica en Cr (#Cr = 0.72–0.73 y 0.62–0.69, respectivamente) y con bajo #Mg [Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺), cociente atómico]. Esto sugiere que tanto las venas de cromitita como la ortopiroxenita se formaron a partir de fundidos de afinidad boninitica. Las abundantes inclusiones de MGP encontradas en las cromititas son principalmente granos de laurita ricos en Os, lo cual también es propio de cromititas formadas a partir de magmas con afinidad boninitica. Por lo tanto, proponemos que las venas de cromitita y las bandas de ortopiroxenitas se formaron contemporáneamente en un contexto de ante-arco en un arco intra-océanico durante el proceso de subducción. El conjunto cromitita-ortopiroxenita de la ofiolita de Habana-Matanzas se formó por la reacción de fundidos ricos en Si con afinidad boninitica y la harzburgita mantélica. Las bandas de ortopiroxenitas sería la huella química que habrían dejado estos fundidos boniniticos al infiltrarse por el manto. El volumen reducido de las cromititas que se formaron maximizó la eficiencia del proceso de recolección mecánica de los MGP que se formaban en el fundido parental, dando lugar al enriquecimiento de MGP primarios como inclusiones en las cromititas.

Palabras clave: cromititas, Cuba, MGP, ofiolita, ortopiroxenita.

1. Introduction

Chromitite bodies from the mantle section of ophiolites are frequently enveloped by dunites hosted in mantle harzburgites (*e.g.*, Leblanc and Nicolas, 1992; González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2014, and references therein). The formation of these mantle chromitites is commonly associated with basaltic melts reaching the mantle–crust transition zone of the oceanic lithosphere through percolation processes and their consequent melt–rock reaction in the upper mantle (*e.g.*, Arai and Miura, 2016, and references therein). Typically, high-Al chromitites ($\text{Cr\#} [\text{Cr}/(\text{Cr}+\text{Al})]$, atomic ratio) < 0.60) are located near the Moho Transition Zone, while high-Cr ($\text{Cr\#} > 0.60$) occur deeper in the upper mantle levels from the ophiolitic sequence (*e.g.*, Proenza *et al.*, 1999). High-Al mantle chromitites are usually enriched in TiO_2 (~ 0.5 wt.%) and depleted in platinum group elements (PGE: Os, Ru, Ir, Pt, Pd, Rh), whereas high-Cr chromitites are depleted in TiO_2 (< 0.25 wt.%) and enriched in PGE (*e.g.*, Gervilla *et al.*, 2005; González-Jiménez, 2011a). The mineralogical expression of PGE enrichment is the presence of abundant micro inclusions of platinum group minerals (PGM) in chromite, especially members of the solid solution series laurite (RuS_2) – erlichmanite (OsS_2), Os-Ir alloys and Ir-sulfarsenides (*e.g.*, Zhou *et al.*, 1996; Ahmed and Arai, 2002).

Even if chromitites are globally associated with dunite bodies hosted in harzburgite, chromitites are locally associated with orthopyroxenites, such as in the Bay of Islands ophiolites in Newfoundland (Canada) (Bédard and Hebert, 1998), in the northern part of the Oman ophiolite (Ahmed and Arai, 2002), and the Ouen Island in New Caledonia (González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2011b). In the Bay of Islands ophiolites, high-Cr chromitite replaces orthopyroxenite, interlayered with peridotite (mostly dunite), along its rim. According to Bédard and Hebert (1998), the composition of chromite from their studied chromitites depends more on the nature of the minerals being assimilated than on the composition of the magma. In Oman, high-Cr chromitite pods with unusually

high IPGE (Os, Ru, Ir) contents are described in the deep mantle section related to orthopyroxenite bands within harzburgite (Ahmed and Arai, 2002). Their origin is linked to trapped refractory mafic melts derived from high-degree partial melting of peridotite in a suprasubduction zone (SSZ) environment (Ahmed and Arai, 2002). In New Caledonia, the chromitites from Ouen Island formed from small-volume hydrous silicate melts and are high-Al and very PGE-rich. They are associated to orthopyroxenite pockets within wehrlitic units (González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2011b). Another good example of the chromitite–orthopyroxenite association is from the subcontinental mostly lherzolitic massif of Ronda (Spain), where high-Cr and high-Al chromitites are spatially associated with clinopyroxenites and orthopyroxenites (Gervilla *et al.*, 2019). Here, chromitite occurs as entwined and contorted veins replacing pyroxenites with a clear correlation between the composition of chromite grains and the type of pyroxene relicts found in them, orthopyroxene in high-Cr versus clinopyroxene in high-Al chromitite, which would reflect the $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratio of the reacting mafic rock (González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2013).

In this work, we study an unprecedented case of chromitite veins hosted in orthopyroxenite bands in the mantle tectonites from the Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite, in Cuba. These chromitites are characterized by being extremely rich in platinum-group mineral (PGM) inclusions. We provide detailed petrographic and geochemical description of the host peridotites, orthopyroxenites, and chromitite veins and their PGM inclusions in order to shed some light on the genesis of the chromitites and the possible genetic relations with their orthopyroxenite host.

2. Geological setting

The northern margin of the island of Cuba contains the largest and more abundant ophiolite bodies of the Caribbean region, extending ca. 1000 km from SE to NW (Figure 1A; Iturralde-Vinent, 1996, 1998; Garcia-Casco *et al.*, 2006; Lewis *et al.*, 2006; Iturralde-Vinent *et al.*, 2016). These ophiolites are

part of the Cuban orogenic belt, and represent slices of oceanic lithosphere (~136 to 70 Ma; Rojas-Agramonte *et al.*, 2010) obducted onto the North American continental paleo-margin in Late Cretaceous to mid Eocene times during the collision of the Caribbean volcanic arc with the Jurassic-Cretaceous passive margins of the continental Maya block and the Bahamas platform (Iturralde-Vinent, 1996, 1998; Garcia-Casco *et al.*, 2008; Iturralde-Vinent *et al.*, 2008, 2016). The ophiolite assemblages are highly tectonically dismembered, but sections of large volumes of mantle tectonites and a Moho Transition Zone (dunite, wehrlite, plagioclase- and clinopyroxene-bearing peridotites, sills and dikes of gabbro) associated with a crustal sequence (layered gabbros, mafic volcanic rocks and sediments) can be recognized. Field relations, petrography, mineral chemistry, and whole rock compositions indicate a predominance of oceanic lithosphere formed above subducting plates (*i.e.*, SSZ-type ophiolites) (*e.g.*, Proenza *et al.*, 1999; Iturralde-Vinent *et al.*, 2016). These SSZ ophiolites from the basement of the Pacific (Farallon)-derived Caribbean plate are intimately related to the origin and evolution of the Caribbean volcanic arc (~135–70 Ma).

The Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite is located at the west-central part of the island (Figure 1A). It consists of a complete but tectonically dismembered ophiolitic sequence with a predominance of upper mantle rocks over crustal rocks (Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015, and references therein). As part of a tectonic *mélange*, the Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite are tectonically imbricated with Mesozoic sedimentary rocks of the southern paleo-margin of North America, Cretaceous intra-oceanic volcanic arc units, and Late Cretaceous to Eocene synorogenic sedimentary sequences (Figure 1B; Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015). The tectonic blocks/slices of ophiolitic rocks crop out as bodies that extend up to 15–20 km long and 2–3 km wide, although the sequence may reach 4 km in thickness (Iturralde-Vinent, 1996). The reconstructed Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite sequence consists of a lower unit of upper mantle peridotites, the Moho Transition Zone, and a crustal section composed of massive (isotropic) gabbros, dolerites

dykes, pillow lavas with island-arc tholeiite (IAT) and boninitic affinities, and volcano-sedimentary rocks on top (Fonseca *et al.*, 1985; Kerr *et al.*, 1999; Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015). The mantle peridotites are plagioclase lherzolites and highly serpentinized harzburgites with porphyroclastic fabric (Fig. 1C), which contain ubiquitous orthopyroxenite veins and minor sub-concordant dunite layers (Lewis *et al.*, 2006; Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015).

The Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite contains a total of 10 chromitite occurrences (Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015, and references therein). These chromitites occur as small bodies (around 0.5 m wide and 2 m long) with tabular to lenticular shapes. They are spatially related to mantle tectonites from the Moho Transition Zone and are enclosed in deformed serpentinized dunites within highly serpentinized harzburgite (Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015). The majority of these chromitites are concordant with the foliation of their host peridotites. They display predominantly massive texture, but also nodular to disseminated textures at the margin of some chromitite bodies (Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015). Chemically, they are classified as both high-Al (Cr# = 0.44–0.46) and high-Cr (Cr# = 0.65–0.74) chromitites (Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2015). According to these authors, the composition of the parental magmas of the high-Al chromitites had a back-arc basin basalt (BABB) affinity, and the composition of the high-Cr parental magmas had IAT affinity. This is also in accordance with the occurrence of platinum group mineral (PGM) inclusions, mainly laurite, in high-Cr chromitites, which indicates crystallization at high temperatures (~1300°C) typical of boninitic magmas.

Chromitites in Havana–Matanzas Ophiolite also occur as small veins within orthopyroxenite bands (Figure 1D to 1E). The orthopyroxenite bands are up to 1.5 m in thickness and are systematically emplaced in highly serpentinized harzburgites. The chromitite veins hosted by the pyroxenites are centimetric in thickness with a lateral extension of several decimeters. They display massive fabric (> 80 vol.% chromite) which tends to be disseminated (20–80 vol.% chromite) at the contact with the pyroxenite (Figure 1E).

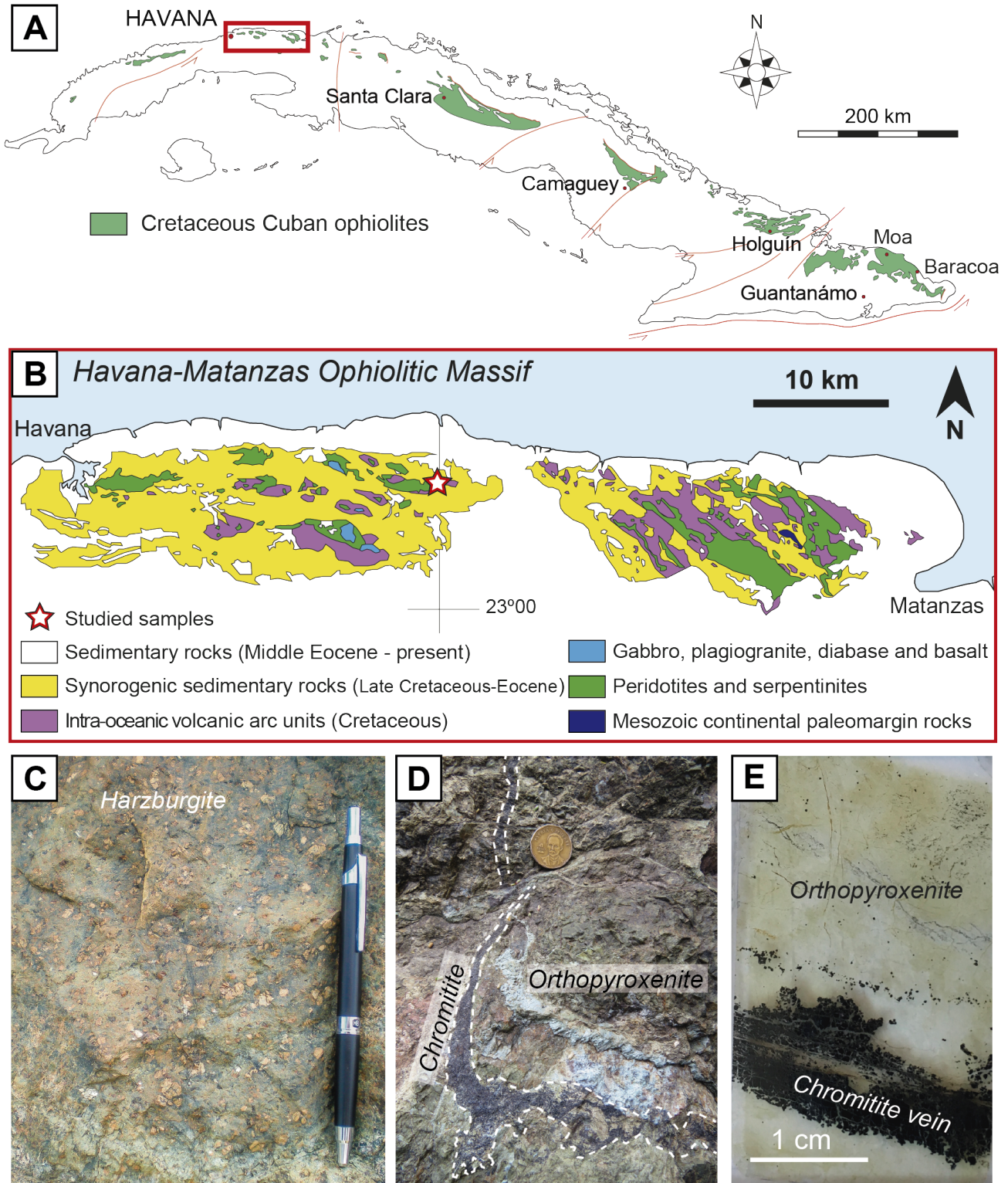


Figure 1 A: Geological sketch map showing location of the Cuban ophiolitic belt. The red rectangle marks the position of the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolitic Massif (modified after Iturralde-Vinent *et al.*, 2016). B: Geological map of the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolitic Massif with the location of the studied samples (modified after Llanes-Castro *et al.*, 2019). C: field photograph of harzburgite with porphyroclastic texture. D: field photograph of a chromitite vein and the host orthopyroxenite. E: thin section of a chromitite vein and the host orthopyroxenite.

3. Samples and analytical methods

Samples of the chromitite veins and their host orthopyroxenite and peridotites were collected from the area indicated in Figure 1B, in the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolitic Massif. We prepared thin and thick polished sections and studied them under optical microscope and scanning electron microscope (SEM), using a Quanta 200 FEI XTE 325/D8395 equipped with an INCA Energy 250 EDS at the *Centres Científics i Tecnològics de la Universitat de Barcelona* (CCiT-UB). Representative mineral composition of olivine, orthopyroxene, chromite, and platinum group minerals (PGM) were obtained using a JEOL JXA-8230 electron microprobe equipped with five WDS spectrometers and one EDS spectrometer at the CCiT-UB. The analytical conditions were 20 kV accelerating voltage, 15 nA beam current with spot diameter 1–5 μm , and 20 s count time.

The calibration standards used for silicates and oxides were: hematite (Fe-LIF-K α), rutile (Ti-PET-K α), periclase (Mg-TAP-K α), rhodochromite (Mn-LIF-K α), Al_2O_3 (Al-TAP-K α), Cr_2O_3 (Cr-PET-K α), diopside (Si-TAP-K α), wollastonite (Ca-PET-K α), albite (Na-TAP-K α), and orthoclase (K-PET-L α). The analytical conditions for the PGM were 15 kV accelerating voltage, 10–20 nA beam current, 2 μm spot diameter and 20 s count time. The calibration standards used were: native metals (Os-LIF-L α , Ir-LIF-L α , Ru-PETJ-L α , Rh-PETJ-L α , Pt-LIF-L α , Pd-PETJ-L β , Co-LIFH-K α , Cr-LIFH-K α , Ni-LIFH-K α), FeS_2 (Fe-LIFH-K α , S-PETJ-K α), chalcopyrite (Cu-LIF-L α), and GaAs (As-TAPH-L β).

A representative chromitite vein sample (~300 g) was processed in order to obtain heavy mineral concentrates. The sample was crushed, grinded and sieved into different fractions (106–75 μm , 75–53 μm , 53–30 μm , and <30 μm) that were processed at the Hydroseparation Laboratory of the University of Barcelona (www.hslab-barcelona.com). The resulting concentrates were mounted into thick sections which were polished and studied by means of field emission scanning electron

microscopy (FE-SEM) using a JEOL JSM-7100 at the CCiT-UB.

4. Petrography

4.1. HARZBURGITE

Harzburgites hosting pyroxenite bands with chromitite veins consist of partially serpentinized olivine (65–75 vol.%), orthopyroxene (25–35 vol.%), clinopyroxene (<2 vol.%) and accessory chromian spinel (<1 vol.%). Their texture is characterized by plastic deformation of orthopyroxene porphyroclasts, typical of mantle tectonites deformed at high temperature. Olivine grains (<2 mm in size) occur as partially serpentinized neoblasts that constitute the matrix of the rock (Figure 2A and 2B). Orthopyroxene porphyroclasts are up to 5 mm in size with rounded shapes (Figure 2A and 2B). They are locally replaced by olivine in embayments along their boundaries (Figure 2B). Clinopyroxene grains are scarce and generally altered to amphibole. The accessory chromian spinel grains (referred hereafter as chromite, for convenience) are subhedral to anhedral with size ranging between 10 μm and 1 mm. Locally, they are partially or completely altered to ferrian chromite and magnetite plus chlorite. Mesh and bastite textures were produced during pseudomorphization of previous minerals by serpentine group minerals, mainly lizardite (Figure 2A).

4.2. ORTHOPYROXENITE BANDS

Orthopyroxenite bands within harzburgite mainly consist of orthopyroxene (80–90 vol.%) and olivine (up to 18 vol.%), with minor clinopyroxene (<3 vol.%) and accessory chromite (<2 vol.%). Generally, they display equigranular texture with orthopyroxene grains up to 5 mm in size and olivine and clinopyroxene grains around 0.5 mm in size (Figure 2C to 2D). Accessory chromite grains are euhedral and less than 0.2 mm in size. They are hosted both in orthopyroxene and olivine grains (Figure 2D).

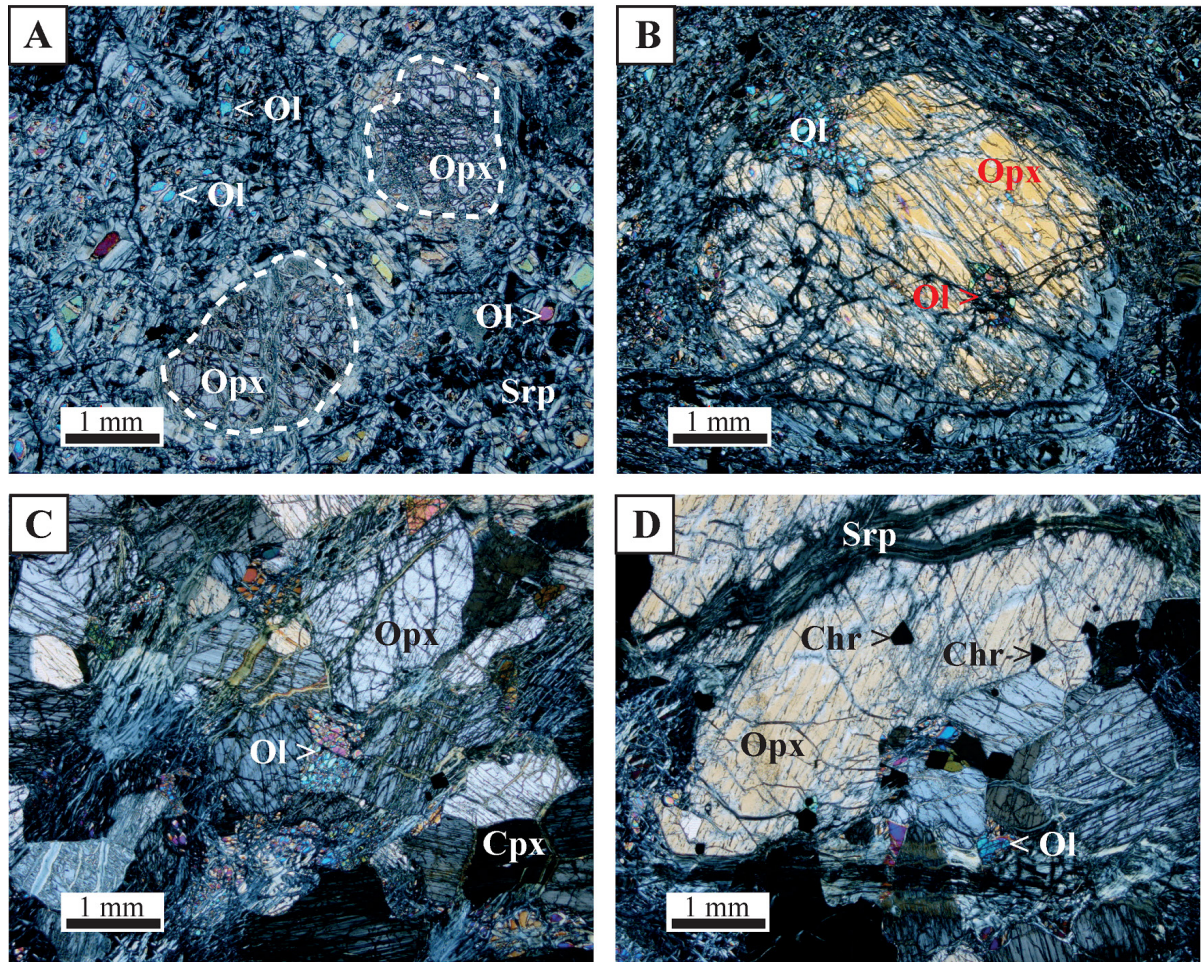


Figure 2 Optical microscope images of harzburgite (A, B) and orthopyroxenite (C, D). A: orthopyroxene porphyroclasts in a serpentinized matrix of olivine from a harzburgite sample. B: orthopyroxene porphyroclast with embayments filled by olivine surrounded by a serpentinized matrix of olivine neoblasts in harzburgite. C: orthopyroxene, olivine and clinopyroxene grains showing granoblastic texture in orthopyroxenite. D: accessory chromite associated with both orthopyroxene and olivine in orthopyroxenite. Opx = orthopyroxene; Ol = olivine; Srp = serpentine; Cpx = clinopyroxene; Chr = chromite.

4.3. CHROMITITE VEINS

The chromitite veins in the orthopyroxenite bands show massive textures (> 80 vol.% chromite) with euhedral to subhedral chromite grains which are locally intensely fractured (Figure 3A and 3B). Serpentine fills the fractures and the interstitial spaces between chromite grains. The chromite grains are homogeneous, with no alteration rims, and their sizes vary from larger grains (<0.5 mm) in the middle of the veins, to smaller grains (down to 50 µm) towards the contact with the orthopyroxenite. Chromite grains locally show embayment at the contact with the host orthopyroxenite (Figure 3C), and may host silicate inclusions and PGM. The silicate inclusions are around 10 µm

in size with euhedral to round shapes, and they are often aligned along trails crossing the chromite grains (Figures 3D to 3F). These inclusions consist of phlogopite, olivine and orthopyroxene that, in most cases, have been altered to serpentine and bastite, respectively. PGM inclusions are very abundant in the chromitite veins, which is one of their most remarkable characteristics.

4.4. PGM IN THE CHROMITITE VEINS

Platinum group minerals (PGM) were identified both in situ in unaltered chromite grains from the chromitite veins (3 PGM grains; Figure 4A and 4B) and in the heavy mineral concentrates from the processed chromitite vein samples (17 PGM

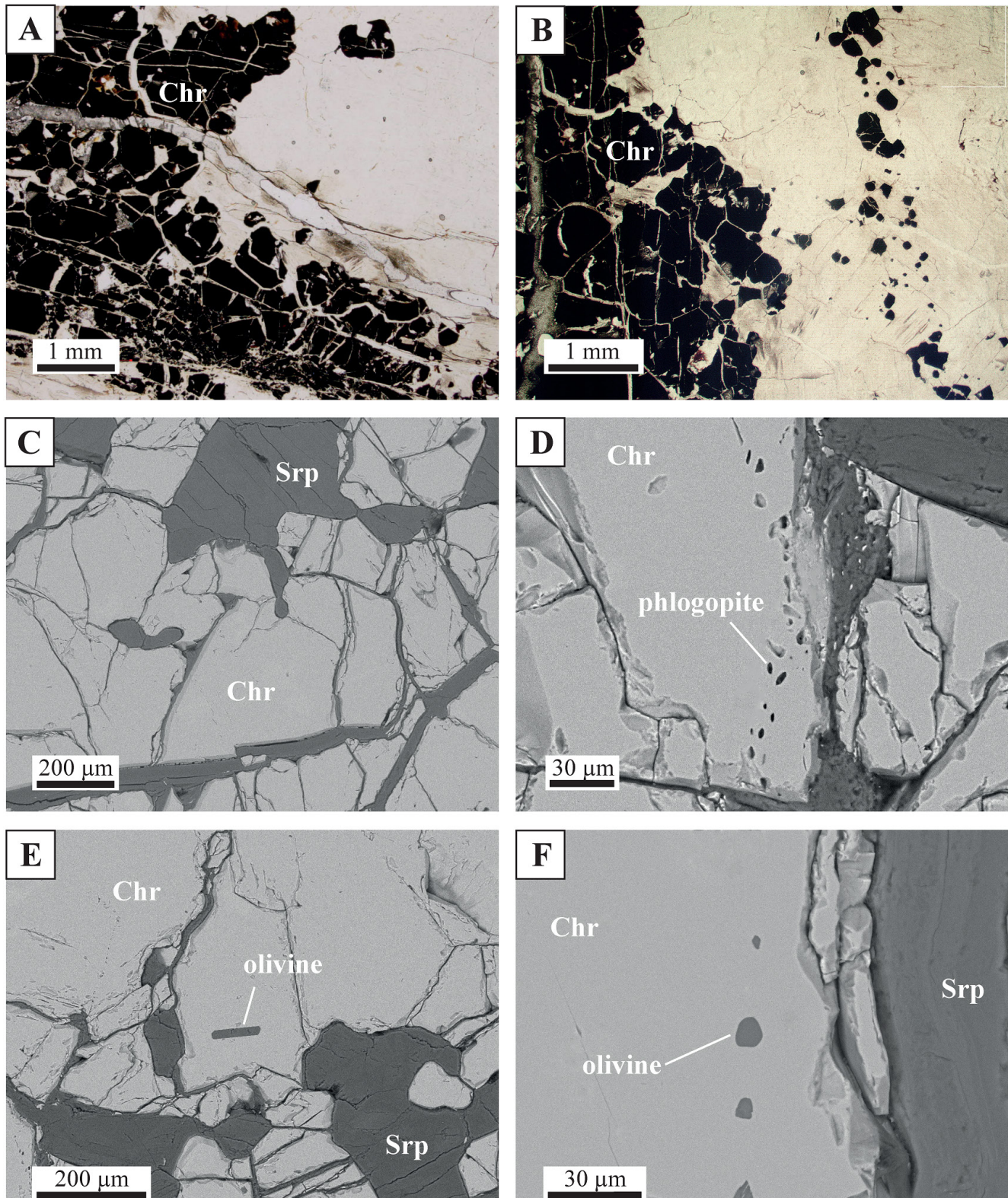


Figure 3 Optical microscope (A, B) and BSE (C-F) images of the chromitite veins. A and B: contact of the chromitite vein with the host orthopyroxenite. C: chromite grains at the contact with the host rock. D: trail of subhedral inclusions (olivine, clinopyroxene and serpentine) across chromite grains. E: single elongated olivine inclusion within chromite. F: trail of rounded inclusions (olivine and serpentine). Chr = chromite; Srp = serpentine.

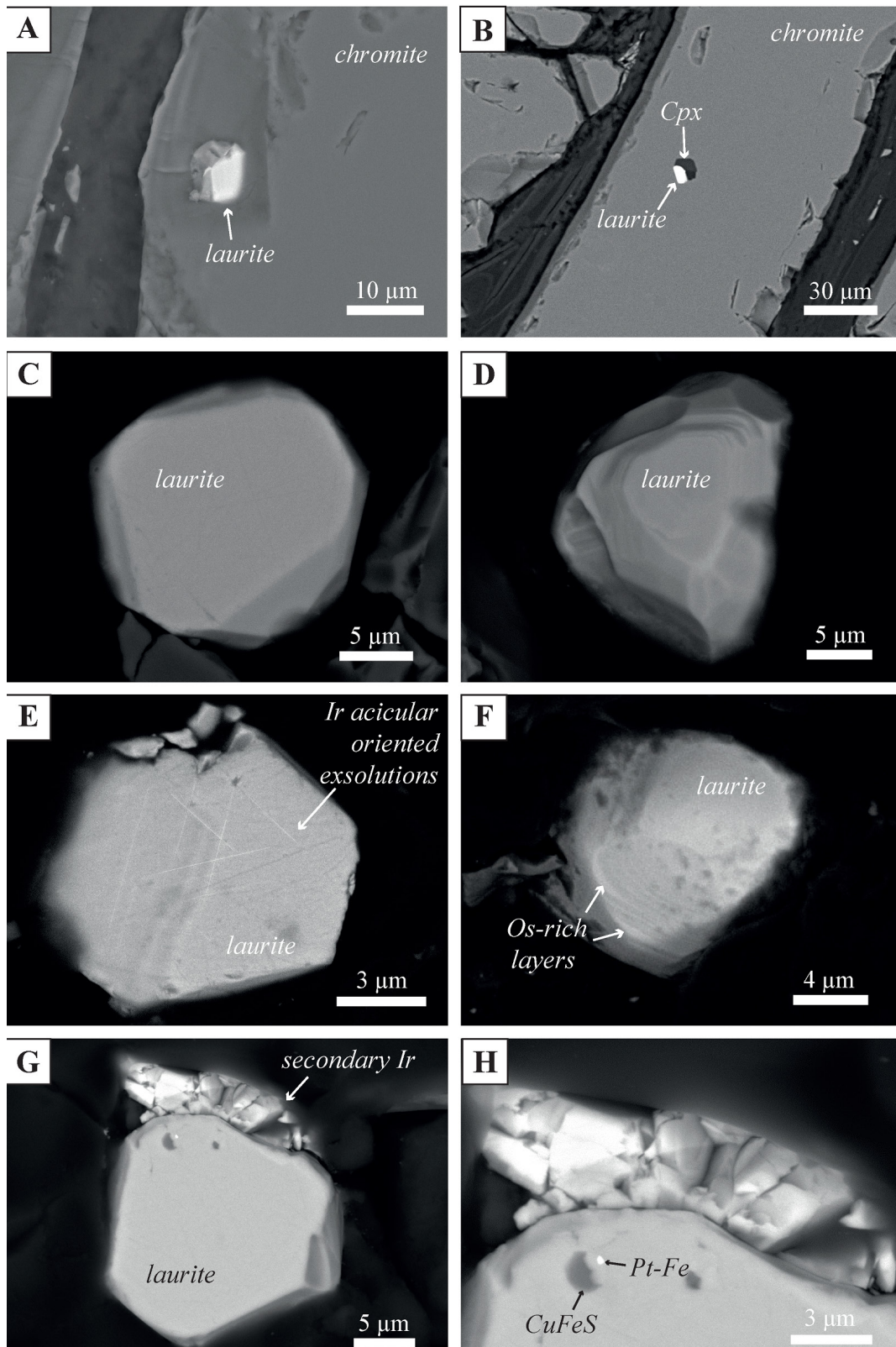


Figure 4 BSE images of PGM found in the chromitite veins from Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite. A: in situ grain of laurite within a chromite grain. B: in situ laurite grain together with clinopyroxene (Cpx). C: homogeneous euhedral Os-rich laurite. D: homogeneous subhedral Os-rich laurite with crystal growth bands. E: euhedral laurite grain with acicular oriented exsolutions of Ir along crystallographic planes. F: laurite crystal with oscillatory zoning. G: euhedral laurite with nanometric inclusions and Ir on the surface. H: detail of the nanometric inclusions of the laurite crystal shown in G.

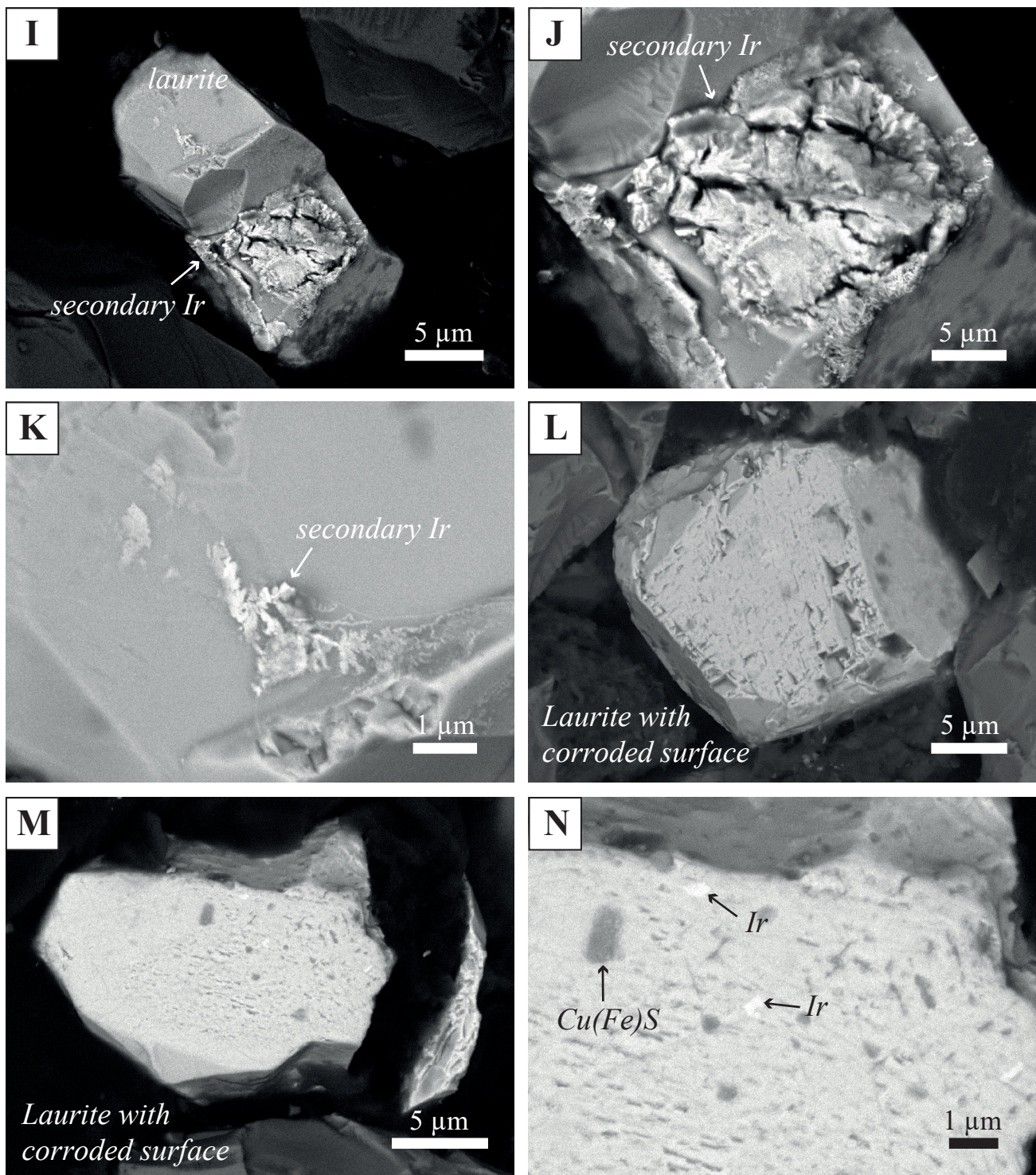


Figure 4 (Continuation) BSE images of PGM found in the chromite veins from Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite. I: subhedral Os-rich laurite with overgrowth of Ir on the surface. J: detail of I showing fibrous texture of Ir. K: detail of I showing aggregate almost dendritic texture of Ir. L: euhedral laurite with corroded surface. M: subhedral laurite with corroded surface and nanoinclusions. N: detail of the nanometric inclusions of laurite shown in M.

Table 1. Representative electron microprobe analyses of olivine from harzburgites (Hz) and orthopyroxenites (Opyr) from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite. Fo = Mg/(Mg + Fe²⁺) x 100.

Rock type	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr
SiO ₂ (wt.%)	40.61	40.78	40.99	40.70	41.21	40.56	40.65	40.39	40.52	40.26
TiO ₂	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.01
Al ₂ O ₃	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.01	0.02	0.01	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.02	0.01
V ₂ O ₃	0.01	0.01	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.01	0.01	0.02	<i>bdl</i>	0.02
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.02	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.01	0.03	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.02	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>
FeO	9.05	8.97	8.93	9.10	8.82	10.22	10.38	10.08	10.06	10.33
MnO	0.13	0.16	0.12	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.15
MgO	50.54	49.92	50.83	50.04	50.51	49.24	49.13	49.64	49.54	49.71
CaO	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.01	<i>bdl</i>	0.02	0.01
Na ₂ O	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.03	<i>bdl</i>	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>
NiO	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.41	0.42	0.50	0.49	0.45	0.45	0.47
Total	100.83	100.31	101.36	100.47	101.18	100.75	100.84	100.77	100.77	100.97
<i>Formula based on 4 oxygens</i>										
Si (apfu)	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98
Ti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Al	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00
V	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Cr	0.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	-	-
Fe ²⁺	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21
Mn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mg	1.83	1.82	1.83	1.82	1.82	1.79	1.79	1.81	1.80	1.81
Ca	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
Na	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Ni	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fo	90.87	90.84	91.03	90.74	90.78	89.57	89.41	89.78	89.78	89.56

**bdl – below detection limit*

grains; Figures 4C to 4N). The PGM grains have sizes ranging from 5 to 25 μm and they occur as single inclusions or as polyphasic inclusions. The main PGM observed in the samples is euhedral to subhedral laurite (Figure 4C and 4D). Laurite grains may display growth bands (Figure 4D). They may contain acicular oriented Ir exsolutions along crystallographic planes (Figure 4E) or show oscillatory zoning (Figure 4F). Locally, laurite grains contain nanometric mineral inclusions of Cu-Fe sulfides and Pt-Fe and Ir alloys (Figures 4G to 4H and 4M to 4N). Some of the

laurite grains exhibit corroded surfaces with rugged textures (Figures 4L to 4N). Another type of PGM observed in the chromitite samples consists of grains Ir-Rh-Pt(-Cu-Co-Ni) composition. This type of PGM occurs systematically associated with laurite grains as overgrowths on the surfaces of the crystals (Figures 4G to 4K). They show a wide range of morphologies and textures, such as micrometric clustered irregular grains (Figures 4G to 4H), nanometric aggregates (Figure 4K) and grain-forming fibers with slightly radial disposition (Figure 4J).

Table 2. Representative electron microprobe analyses of orthopyroxene from harzburgites (Hz) and orthopyroxenites (Opyr) from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite. Mg# = Mg/(Mg + Fe²⁺).

Rock type	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr
SiO ₂ (wt.%)	55.69	55.70	56.00	55.68	55.53	56.16	56.60	57.02	56.76	56.40
TiO ₂	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.04
Al ₂ O ₃	2.60	2.70	2.47	2.59	2.55	1.08	1.06	1.05	1.03	1.12
V ₂ O ₃	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.02	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.80	0.75	0.69	0.82	0.75	0.38	0.33	0.36	0.37	0.40
FeO	6.00	5.86	5.72	5.91	5.98	6.87	6.94	6.84	6.89	6.86
MnO	0.14	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.16	0.15	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.21
MgO	34.36	33.03	34.04	34.27	33.83	34.19	34.98	34.51	34.85	34.64
CaO	0.97	2.20	1.66	1.25	0.97	1.04	0.95	0.91	0.61	1.08
Na ₂ O	0.01	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.03	0.01	0.03	<i>bdl</i>	<i>bdl</i>	0.01
NiO	0.13	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.09
Total	100.77	100.57	100.85	100.76	99.94	100.02	101.20	100.98	100.85	100.83
<i>Formula based on 6 oxygens</i>										
Si (apfu)	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.91	1.92	1.95	1.94	1.96	1.95	1.94
Ti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Al	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	-	-	-
Cr	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Fe ²⁺	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Mn	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Mg	1.76	1.70	1.74	1.76	1.75	1.77	1.79	1.77	1.79	1.78
Ca	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.04
Na	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00
Ni	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mg#	0.92	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.91	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
En	89.38	87.33	88.86	88.95	89.32	88.09	88.21	88.52	89.06	88.15
Fe	8.63	8.73	8.17	8.59	8.68	9.95	9.86	10.00	9.95	9.90
Wo	1.99	3.94	2.97	2.46	2.00	1.95	1.93	1.48	0.99	1.94

**bdl* – below detection limit

5. Mineral chemistry

5.1. OLIVINE

Olivine from the harzburgite shows a typical mantle composition with forsterite content (Fo = 100 x Mg/[Mg+Fe²⁺], atomic ratio) between 90.7 and 91.1, NiO contents between 0.42 and 0.44 wt.%, and MnO between 0.12 and 0.16 wt.% (Table 1). Olivine from the orthopyroxenite bands shows slightly lower Fo values (89.1–89.8) and similar NiO and MnO contents (0.43–0.50 wt.% and 0.11–0.18 wt.%, respectively) to olivine from harzburgite (Table 1).

5.2. ORTHOPYROXENE

Orthopyroxene in harzburgite is very rich in Mg, with Mg# (Mg/[Mg+Fe²⁺], atomic ratio) of 0.91, corresponding to enstatite (En_{87.17–89.52}Fe_{8.17–10.16}Wo_{0.99–4.00}). It contains 2.4–2.6 wt.% Al₂O₃, 0.7–0.8 wt.% Cr₂O₃, and 0.01–0.04 wt.% TiO₂ (Table 2). Orthopyroxene from the orthopyroxenite bands is slightly less magnesian (Mg# = 0.89–0.90), but still corresponds to enstatite in composition (En_{89.69–90.03}Fe_{9.97–10.31}Wo_{1.12–3.14}). Compared to orthopyroxene from the harzburgites, it has lower Al₂O₃ and Cr₂O₃ contents (0.9–1.2 wt.% and 0.3–0.5 wt.%, respectively) but similar TiO₂ content (0.02–0.06 wt.%) (Table 2).

Table 3. Representative electron microprobe analyses of chromite from harzburgites (Hz), orthopyroxenites (Opyr) and chromitite veins (VChr) from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite. Cr# = Cr/(Cr + Al); Mg# = Mg/(Mg + Fe²⁺).

Rock type	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Hz	Opyr	Opyr
SiO ₂ (wt.%)	<i>bdl</i>	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.00
TiO ₂	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.19	0.19
V ₂ O ₅	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.18	0.25	0.26
Al ₂ O ₃	30.43	32.03	27.99	28.16	27.14	28.22	30.27	30.27	15.52	15.67
Cr ₂ O ₃	35.20	34.83	38.57	37.73	40.16	38.74	37.81	37.62	45.81	46.16
FeO(&)	12.81	13.70	12.54	12.70	13.95	13.27	12.68	12.59	20.51	20.62
Fe ₂ O ₃ (&)	4.85	3.08	5.24	6.07	4.15	4.63	4.02	4.19	8.05	7.79
MgO	16.07	15.71	15.56	15.46	14.54	15.12	15.86	15.85	8.85	8.90
MnO	0.20	0.24	0.25	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.24	0.26	0.43	0.38
NiO	0.11	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.09	0.11
Total	99.92	99.95	100.05	100.21	100.27	100.21	100.92	100.58	98.91	99.31
<i>Formula based on 32 oxygens</i>										
Ti (apfu)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Al	1.10	1.12	0.97	0.98	0.95	0.98	1.04	1.04	0.60	0.60
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cr	0.79	0.78	0.49	0.88	0.95	0.91	0.87	0.86	1.19	1.19
Fe ²⁺ (&)	0.30	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.35	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.56	0.56
Fe ³⁺ (&)	0.10	0.07	0.12	0.14	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.20	0.19
Mg	0.69	0.67	0.69	0.68	0.65	0.67	0.69	0.69	0.43	0.43
Mn	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ni	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cr#	0.42	0.41	0.48	0.47	0.50	0.48	0.46	0.45	0.66	0.66
Mg#	0.69	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.67	0.69	0.69	0.43	0.43
<i>*bdl = below detection limit; & = estimated by stoichiometry</i>										
Rock type	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	Opyr	VChr	VChr	VChr	VChr	VChr
SiO ₂ (wt.%)	<i>bdl</i>	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.03
TiO ₂	0.18	0.22	0.23	0.19	0.23	0.25	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.24
V ₂ O ₅	0.27	0.22	0.29	0.28	0.25	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.21	0.20
Al ₂ O ₃	14.79	14.96	15.77	15.26	15.70	13.38	13.22	13.14	13.03	13.31
Cr ₂ O ₃	46.33	48.86	47.98	48.04	47.88	51.22	51.34	51.73	51.79	51.92
FeO(&)	20.01	17.80	18.03	18.30	18.35	14.47	14.69	12.61	14.45	15.04
Fe ₂ O ₃ (&)	8.05	6.87	7.23	6.88	6.52	7.08	6.92	8.84	7.29	6.23
MgO	9.07	10.68	10.78	10.29	10.38	12.68	12.47	14.19	12.75	12.26
MnO	0.42	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.33	0.29	0.34	0.28	0.29	0.34
NiO	0.09	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.13	0.13	0.13
Total	98.69	99.45	100.14	99.13	99.12	99.05	98.97	100.53	99.52	99.06
<i>Formula based on 32 oxygens</i>										
Ti (apfu)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Al	0.57	0.57	0.59	0.58	0.60	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.49	0.51
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cr	1.20	1.25	1.21	1.23	1.22	1.30	1.31	1.29	1.31	1.32
Fe ²⁺ (&)	0.55	0.48	0.48	0.50	0.50	0.39	0.40	0.33	0.39	0.41
Fe ³⁺ (&)	0.21	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.21	0.18	0.15
Mg	0.44	0.51	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.61	0.60	0.67	0.61	0.59
Mn	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ni	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cr#	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.72	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.72
Mg#	0.45	0.52	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.61	0.60	0.67	0.61	0.59
<i>*bdl = below detection limit; & = estimated by stoichiometry</i>										

5.3. CHROMITE

Accessory chromite from harzburgite is high-Al in composition (Cr# = 0.39–0.50; Figure 5A), with 0.65–0.71 Mg# values, Al₂O₃ contents between 27 and 39 wt.%, Fe₂O₃ contents between 2.71 and 6.39 wt.%, and TiO₂ contents between 0.02 and 0.07 wt.% (Figures 5B to 5D; Table 3). Conversely, chromite from the orthopyroxenite dykes is high-Cr in composition (Cr# = 0.62–0.69; Figure 5A), with lower Mg# values (0.39–0.52), lower Al₂O₃ contents (14–16 wt.%) and higher Fe₂O₃ and TiO₂ contents than the chromite from harzburgite (6.52–9.67 wt.% and 0.16–0.23 wt.%, respectively; Figures 5B to 5D; Table 3). Chromite from the chromitite veins shows similar composition to accessory chromite from the orthopyroxenite veins (Table 3): high-Cr chromite (Cr# = 0.72–0.73) and 0.59–0.67 Mg# values, with 11.67–13.62 wt.% Al₂O₃, 6.23–8.84 wt.% Fe₂O₃ and 0.17–0.26 wt.% TiO₂ contents (Figures 5A to 5D). The chromite composition of the chromitite veins is homogeneous across the veins, with no chemical variations at the contact with the host orthopyroxenite (Figure 5E).

5.4. PLATINUM GROUP MINERALS (PGM)

Laurite shows varied composition [(Ru_{0.64-0.78}Os_{0.16-0.19}Ir_{0.06-0.12}Fe_{0.01-0.02})S_{1.94-2.06}] (Figure 6; Table 4), classifying as Os-rich laurites. Laurite analyses also show Ni (0.13–0.44 wt.%), Cu (up to 0.09 wt.%) and Co (0.01–0.11 wt.%) that, together with the amount of Fe, suggest contamination of the analyses by nanometric Ni-Fe-Cu sulfide inclusions, which can be locally observed within the laurite grains (Figure 4H).

6. Discussion

6.1. PETROGENESIS OF ULTRAMAFIC ROCKS FROM HAVANA-MATANZAS OPHIOLITE

The composition of minerals forming the harzburgites and the orthopyroxenite bands from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite suggests that both

types of rock have different origin and petrogenetic evolution. Olivine and orthopyroxene from harzburgite show compositions typical of residual rocks derived from partial melting of primitive mantle (*e.g.*, Hirauchi *et al.*, 2008; Pagé *et al.*, 2008). The degree of partial melting F (%) of these rocks can be inferred from the Cr# of chromite, using the following equation: $F = 10 \times \ln(\text{Cr\#}) + 24$ (Hellebrand *et al.*, 2001). According to this equation, the sampled Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite harzburgites experienced 15 to 17% partial melting. The composition of accessory chromite corresponds to chromite derived from abyssal peridotites of mid-ocean ridge or back-arc settings (Figures 5B and 5D). This suggests that the harzburgites are residual peridotites resulting from melt extraction in a slow to ultra-slow spreading mid-ocean ridge setting or back-arc basin (*e.g.*, Hellebrand *et al.*, 2001; Hirauchi *et al.*, 2008). On the other hand, the replacement of orthopyroxene by olivine reflects the incongruent dissolution of orthopyroxene and consequent crystallization of olivine occurring in the mass transfer reaction between peridotite and a fractionating basalt (Kelemen, 1990). This is typical in subduction-related magmatic arcs, where tholeiitic primary liquids pass slowly upwards through high-temperature wall rock in the upper mantle (Kelemen, 1990).

Conversely, chromite from the orthopyroxenite bands shows compositions which are typical of chromite from boninite-like magmas (Figure 5C), providing evidence for the hypothesis that the orthopyroxenites formed from boninitic magmas in a fore-arc setting, probably during subduction initiation stages of a nascent intra-oceanic arc (Pagé *et al.*, 2008; Whattam and Stern, 2011). The orthopyroxenite bands represent a reaction product between the upward migrating melt and the host peridotite in the upper mantle. The liquid from which the orthopyroxenite formed represents a relatively Si-rich Mg-rich andesite melt (boninitic-like) that migrated through the mantle harzburgite (*e.g.*, Berly *et al.*, 2006; Grant *et al.*, 2016; Wang *et al.*, 2016) and that became Si-enriched by reactive dissolution of mantle pyroxene. Therefore, the orthopyroxenite bands from Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite are inter-

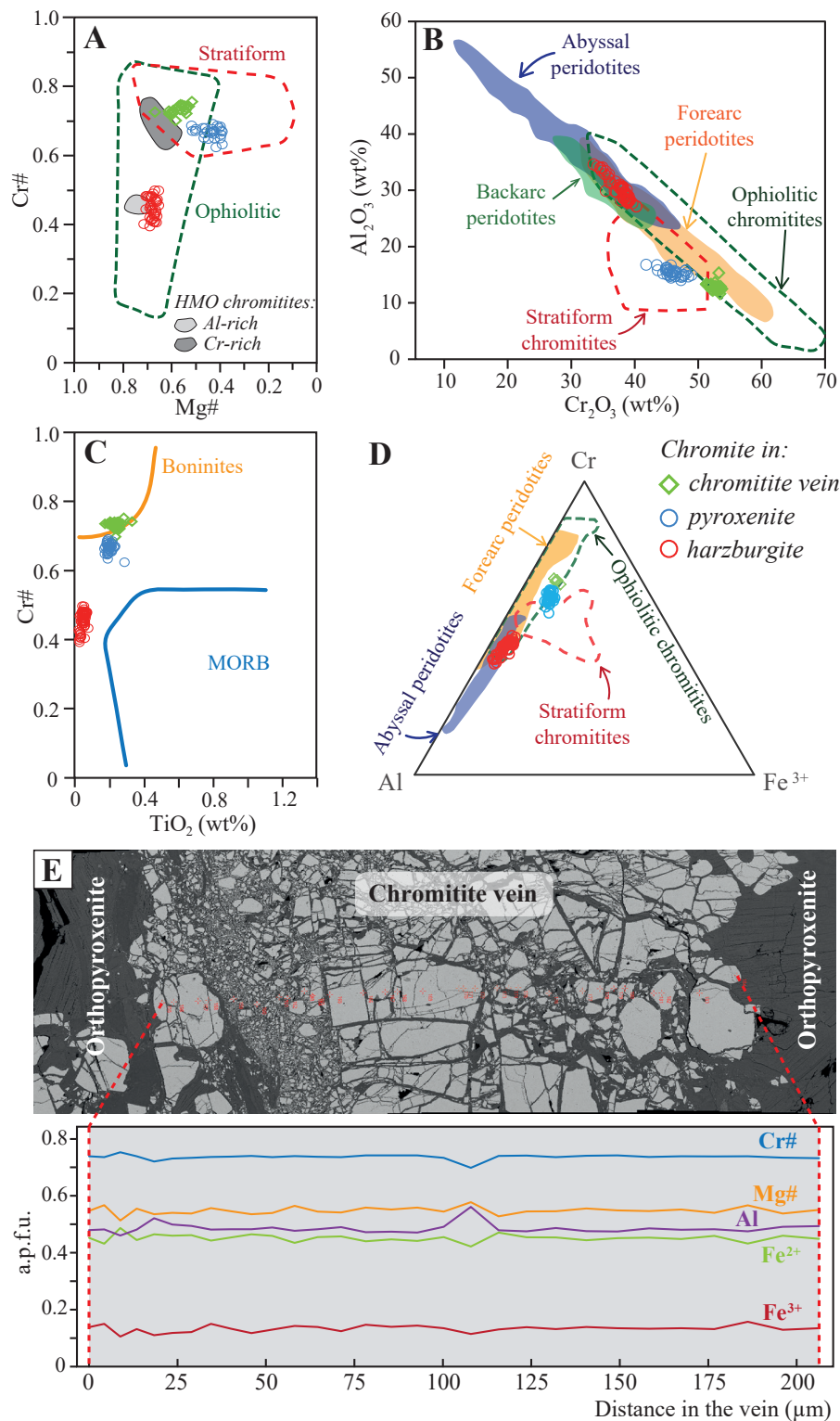


Figure 5 Chemical composition of chromite from the studied samples. A: Cr# [Cr/(Cr+Al)] vs. Mg# [Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺)] diagram. Compilation of the composition fields from Leblanc and Nicolas (1992). Al-rich and Cr-rich chromitites fields from Llanes-Castro *et al.* (2015). B: Al₂O₃ vs. Cr₂O₃ diagram. Ophiolitic and stratiform chromitites fields from Bonavia *et al.* (1993). C: Cr# vs. TiO₂ diagram. Composition fields from Arai (1992). D: Cr-Al-Fe³⁺ atomic ratios diagram. Ophiolitic and stratiform chromitite fields are from Ferrario and Garuti (1987) and Arai *et al.* (2004). Abyssal and forearc peridotite fields are from Ishii *et al.* (1992) and Dick and Bullen (1984), respectively. E: Composition profile of chromite across the chromite vein. HMO = Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite.

Table 4. Representative electron microprobe analyses of the PGM from chromitite veins of the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite.

Mineral	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite	Os-rich laurite
Os (wt.%)	16.57	17.54	16.09	15.94	16.84	16.35	18.97	17.23	18.01	15.45	15.97	15.67
Ir	8.60	9.20	8.30	9.21	6.86	10.08	6.60	7.27	12.07	9.52	10.06	10.12
Ru	35.31	33.46	37.18	38.17	40.59	35.09	39.47	39.06	34.38	36.04	36.28	36.34
Pt	0.23	0.41	bdl	0.13	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Pd	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.17	0.61	bdl	bdl	0.11	0.16	0.30	0.22
Rh	0.52	0.42	0.73	0.71	bdl	0.59	0.13	0.46	0.41	1.04	1.04	1.01
Fe	0.32	0.46	0.56	0.52	0.34	0.67	0.30	0.45	0.26	0.33	0.37	0.30
Ni	0.27	0.29	0.38	0.30	0.23	0.44	0.22	0.31	0.13	0.27	0.25	0.19
Cu	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.03	bdl	0.02	0.08	0.09	bdl
Co	0.11	0.02	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.04
S	34.26	34.27	35.27	31.12	32.12	31.66	33.70	33.90	32.76	33.10	33.81	32.87
Total	96.36	96.15	98.68	96.24	97.28	95.56	99.44	98.72	98.17	96.01	98.23	96.77
Os (apfu)	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.16	0.16
Ir	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.07	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.10
Ru	0.67	0.64	0.68	0.75	0.78	0.70	0.74	0.73	0.67	0.69	0.69	0.70
Pt	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rh	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
Fe ²⁺	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ni	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
S	2.05	2.06	2.04	1.94	1.95	1.98	1.99	1.99	2.00	2.01	2.01	2.00

*bdl – below detection limit

preted as the “footprint” of boninitic-affinity melt circulation in the mantle, which gives place to dykes and lavas in the upper crustal parts of the ophiolitic sequence (e.g., Varfalvy *et al.*, 1997). Similar parental melts were inferred for orthopyroxenites in the Speik Complex (Eastern Alps, Austria), which are interlayered with abundant pods and layers of chromitites (Melcher and Meisel, 2004). Using the composition of orthopyroxene, olivine, and chromite from the orthopyroxenite bands, we applied several geothermometers (Brey and Köhler, 1990; Köhler and Brey, 1990) and obtained equilibrium temperatures for the orthopyroxenite samples between 700 and 1100°C, which we interpret as post-interaction cooling temperatures.

6.2. PETROGENESIS OF THE CHROMITITE VEINS AND THE PGE MINERALIZATIONS

6.2.1. CHROMITITE VEINS HOSTED IN THE ORTHOPYROXENITE BANDS

Major element composition of chromite from the chromitite veins is similar to that of chromite

formed from boninitic magmas (Figure 5C) (e.g., González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2014, and references therein). The composition of the chromitite parental melt can be inferred from the composition of their crystallized chromite grains using the following equations (Zaccarini *et al.*, 2011):

$$Al_2O_3_{melt} = 4.1385 \times \ln(Al_2O_3_{chromite}) + 2.2828$$

$$TiO_2_{melt} = 0.708 \times \ln(TiO_2_{chromite}) + 1.636$$

$$\ln(FeO/MgO)_{chromite} = 0.47 - 1.07Al\#_{chromite} + 0.64Fe\#_{chromite} + \ln(FeO/MgO)_{melt}$$

with $Al\#_{chromite} = Al/(Cr+Al+Fe^{3+})$ atomic ratio, and $Fe\#_{chromite} = Fe^{3+}/(Cr+Al+Fe^{3+})$ atomic ratio. The calculations yield to average composition of 12.29–12.43 wt.% Al_2O_3 , 0.33–0.37 wt.% TiO_2 and 0.96 FeO/MgO ratio for the parental melt. This composition overlaps those of magmas with boninitic affinity, which are Ti-poor (<0.5 wt.% TiO_2) with low FeO/MgO ratios (>0.8 wt.% MgO) (Le Bas, 2000). Boninite melts have

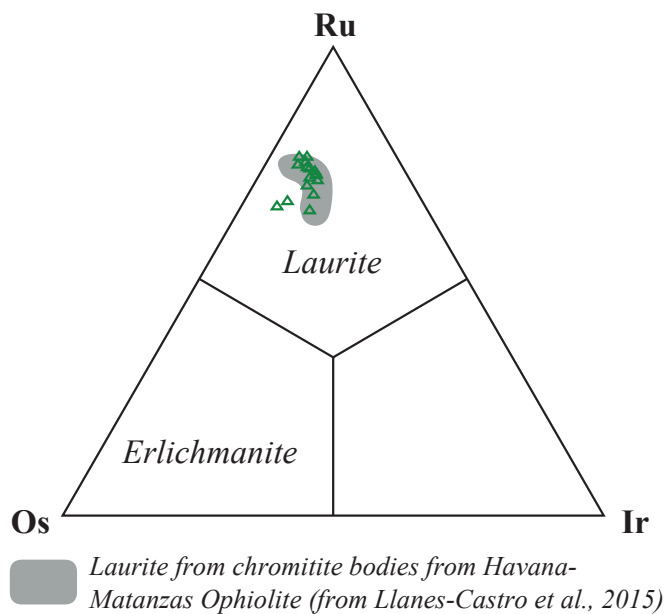


Figure 6 Composition (at.%) of laurite grains from the chromitite veins.

relatively high SiO_2 contents and are normally saturated in orthopyroxene (Falloon and Danyushevsky, 2000, and references therein). Therefore, we consider that the chromitite veins from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite formed from low-Ti high-Mg andesitic melts with boninitic affinity that originated in the fore-arc of an intra-oceanic island arc. This interpretation is in accordance with models of formation of high-Cr ophiolitic chromitites by melt–rock reaction processes (e.g., Zhou and Robinson, 1997; Melcher *et al.*, 1997; Proenza *et al.* 1999; González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2014, and references therein). On the other hand, it has been proposed that two olivine-saturated liquids, one residual to dunite and the other extracted from harzburgite at higher pressure, could mingle to produce chromite-saturated hybrid melts from which chromitite can form (Ballhaus, 1998). This has been demonstrated by thermodynamic modeling (Abuamarah *et al.*, 2020).

In the case of the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite chromitite veins, we interpret the systematic occurrence of the chromitite within orthopyroxene and the lack of chromitite compositional variations towards their contact as evidence for the contemporaneous formation of the two types

of rock. We infer that a Mg-rich andesitic melt with boninitic affinity interacted with harzburgite upon infiltration, triggering the peritectic reaction $\text{Ol} + \text{Liquid} = \text{Opx} + \text{Chr}$ that led to consumption of olivine and precipitation of orthopyroxene and chromite (Kelemen *et al.*, 1992, 1995; Wang *et al.*, 2016). Further infiltration of new batches of liquid would mix with the residual liquids to yield secondary chromite-saturated melt which would precipitate chromite to form the chromitite veins (Irvine, 1977). The small volume of the chromitite veins indicates that the volume of parental magma required for their formation is lower than for the rest of chromitite bodies from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite.

6.2.2. PGE MINERALIZATIONS AND THEIR GENETIC IMPLICATIONS

As mentioned above, high-Cr chromitites are interpreted to crystallize from magmas with boninitic affinity. These magmas are S-undersaturated and normally contain higher PGE contents than tholeiitic magmas, hence explaining the PGE-rich composition of high-Cr chromitites relative to high-Al chromitites (e.g., Peck *et al.*, 1992; Zhou *et al.*, 1998; Saha *et al.*, 2015, and references therein). In the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite chromitite veins, the abundant PGM inclusions reflect the PGE-rich composition expected for high-Cr chromitites. The main PGM phase found in the studied chromitites is laurite, which is also the main PGM observed in other ophiolitic chromitites worldwide (e.g., Lugué *et al.*, 2007; González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2014, and references therein). This PGE mineralogy also reflects the IPGE (Os, Ir, Ru) enrichment relative to PPGE (Rh, Pt and Pd) typical for mantle-hosted ophiolitic chromitites (e.g., Zhou *et al.*, 1996; Ahmed and Arai, 2002).

On the basis of their textural features and composition, the PGM identified in the chromitite veins can be divided into primary and secondary phases. Laurite crystals with homogeneous compositions or displaying magmatic textures (crystal growth bands and oscillatory zoning; Figures 4C to 4F) are considered primary. In contrast, those

PGM grains displaying rugged surfaces or that overgrow the surface of primary laurite (Figures 4L to 4N) are interpreted as secondary in origin, very likely originated by alteration of pre-existing PGM initially included in chromite and by local remobilization and redeposition of PGE during serpentinization (*e.g.*, Garuti and Zaccarini, 1997; Proenza *et al.*, 2008). Regarding primary laurite grains, most authors agree that they form at high-temperature stages from S-undersaturated mafic melts before or coeval with crystallization of chromite. In the studied samples, their predominantly euhedral morphology and their location in unaltered chromite suggests that they crystallized from a magma and were entrapped by growing grains of chromite (*e.g.*, Melcher *et al.*, 1997; González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2009).

As mentioned above, the composition of the laurite inclusions from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite chromitite veins is generally Os-rich (Table 4). The Ru–Os contents of laurite are strongly influenced by sulfur fugacity ($f S_2$) and temperature (*e.g.*, Brenan and Andrews, 2001; Andrews and Brenan, 2002): the solubility of Os in laurite increases with decreasing temperature and/or increasing $f S_2$ (*e.g.*, González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2009). Nearly stoichiometric laurite (RuS_2) has a maximum temperature of crystallization around 1200°C, at very low sulfur fugacity ($\log f S_2 < -2$; Brenan and Andrews, 2001; Andrews and Brenan, 2002). Therefore, the Os-rich composition of laurite from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite chromitite veins indicates that they probably crystallized at relatively lower temperatures and/or higher $f S_2$ than stoichiometric laurite. Lower temperatures for the Os-rich laurite formation would be in accordance with the cooling temperatures calculated for the orthopyroxenite (700–1100°C), which formed contemporaneously with the chromitite veins containing the PGM. Moreover, the oscillatory zoning displayed by some laurite crystals (Figure 4F), with Ru–Os variations, lead to suggest that the PGM crystallized within a system dominated by short-term variations of $f S_2$ and temperature (González-Jiménez *et al.*, 2009). That

could be the case of the model proposed for the chromitite formation, in which variations in the physicochemical properties of the parental melt would be a natural consequence of the melt–rock reactions. The chromite-bearing melts from the proposed model could efficiently concentrate high amounts of PGE along with already nucleated chromite. In this context, PGM tend to wet and/or nucleate along the edges of growing chromite (*e.g.*, Finnigan *et al.*, 2008, and references therein). Therefore, chromite would act as a PGM collector, favoring the PGM concentration process. The efficiency of the mechanical collection is maximized when the magma crystallizing the PGM is in contact with small volumes of chromite (Augé *et al.*, 2005). For this reason, the small and thin chromitite veins from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite show extreme enrichment in PGM inclusions.

7. Conclusions

Orthopyroxenite bands within the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite harzburgites formed from magmas with boninitic affinity, which are typical of fore-arc settings in intra-oceanic arcs. Small and thin PGM-rich chromitite veins are hosted within the orthopyroxenite. The chromitites are in equilibrium with the host orthopyroxenite and they also show boninitic affinity. We propose that the orthopyroxenite and the chromitite are formed contemporaneously after the reaction between pre-existing harzburgite and a Si-rich melt, probably of boninitic affinity. This reaction generated orthopyroxenite and a secondary melt that would mix with newly infiltrated liquid to form a Cr-saturated liquid from which chromite would precipitate to form chromitite veins within the orthopyroxenite. The growing chromite would act as a PGM collector due to the PGE affinity for chromite. The small volume of chromitite formed would maximize the efficiency of the mechanical collection, resulting in the high abundance of primary PGM inclusions observed in the chromitite veins from the Havana-Matanzas Ophiolite.

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