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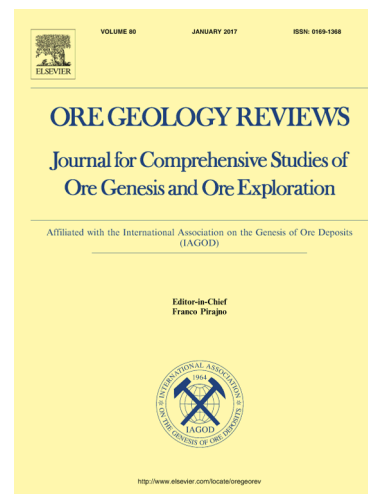
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2 **Characteristics and genesis of the Mnogovershinnoe gold-silver deposit, SE Russia**

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14

15 **Research Highlights**

16

17 • The largest Au-Ag deposit in South East Russia

18 • Lateral and vertical zoning of mineral deposit

19 • Geodynamic model for the mineralization

20

21

22

23 **Abstract**

24 The Mnogovershinnoe ore deposit is part of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic complex,  
25 located on the northern flank of the East-Sikhote-Alinsky belt in SE Russia. The complex  
26 was developed in two stages during the Senonian (Upper Cretaceous) and Paleocene-  
27 Eocene. The early stage is represented by a poorly differentiated andesite-granodiorite  
28 association and the late stage is marked by subalkaline monzodiorite-granite intrusions.  
29 The vein-metasomatic zones with Au-Ag mineralization are associated with magmatic  
30 units of the early stage and are crosscut by large dikes of the late stage. The deposit  
31 shows features of epithermal mineralization and a higher temperature overprint. The total  
32 ca. 1000 m zone of productive mineralization shows vertical zoning characterized by gold-  
33 sulfosalt-sulfide, gold-sulfide, then gold-telluride-sulfide, and telluride-sulfide, from bottom  
34 to top. The hydrothermal system of the deposit shows evidence for mixing between fluids  
35 derived from the volcano-plutonic units and meteoric water. The mineralization is inferred  
36 to have formed from the mixing between these fluids and by the fluctuations of fluid  
37 pressure in the system.

38 Key words: Gold; Silver; Zoning; Fluid mixing; Ore genesis.

39

## 40 **1. Introduction**

41

42 The Mnogovershinnoe gold-silver mineralization represents one of the largest  
43 precious metal deposits in southeast Russia. It was discovered in 1959 and has been  
44 exploited since 1991. Although not yet fully prospected, the reserve estimates at the  
45 beginning of exploitation shows more than 80 tonnes (2,822 million ounces) of gold  
46 (Yushmanov, 2014), which is expected to far exceed when more detailed investigations  
47 are completed.

48 In this study, we present a summary of the geological and ore mineralogical  
49 features of the mineralization in order to constrain ore genesis. We propose a new

50 interpretation for the spatial distribution of the ore deposit, located above a paleo-transform  
51 fault at the convergence of the Paleo-Pacific Ocean and the Asian continent based on  
52 seismic tomographic investigations. The deep-seated geodynamics has influenced the  
53 scale of development of the magmatic, vein-metasomatic, and ore-bearing associations  
54 and the formation of the mineralogical and geochemical zoning. The source, stages of the  
55 formation of gold-bearing zones, and their relation to intrusions are evaluated.

56

## 57 **2. Geological and geophysical background**

58

59 The Mnogovershinnoe ore deposit is located in the Lower Amur ore district on the  
60 northern flank of the East Sikhote-Alin marginal continental volcanic belt (Fig. 1).  
61 Geophysicists interpret the thickness of the lithosphere in the region to be 100-120 km,  
62 with a crustal thickness of 30-34 km (Didenko et al., 2010).

63 Based on previous studies, some workers consider that this deposit occurs on the  
64 boundary of the Gorinsky and Lower Amursky terranes (Khanchuk, 1993), or at the  
65 junction of the horst structure of the Amur-Okhotsk accretionary system, within the  
66 Amursky rift-graben system (Utkin, 1999); the latter is supported by the density  
67 heterogeneities at different depths (Khomich and Petrishchevsky, 2004; Petrishchevsky and  
68 Yushmanov, 2014).

69 Correlation with global seismic tomographic investigations (Maruyama et al., 2007;  
70 Zhao et al., 2010; Li and van der Hilst, 2010) indicates that the ore district (Fig. 2c) is  
71 related to an extensive (> 2000 km) magmatic and metallogenic belt, above a major paleo-  
72 transform fault (Khomich and Boriskina, 2014 a, b) (Fig. 2). The region lies above the  
73 perimeter of a stagnant slab in the mantle transitional zone over which the world-class  
74 Aldan, Balei, and Zhao-E gold deposits are located (Fig. 2; Khomich et al., 2014, 2015).  
75 This is consistent with a proposal from geophysicists that the ore deposits are related to

76 asthenospheric upwelling, with a lower ( $3.20 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ) density of the lithospheric mantle,  
77 particularly characterized by a subvertical zone at depth (Didenko et al., 2010).

78 The Mnogovershinnoe ore deposit is part of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic center  
79 (30x30 km) that formed during the Cretaceous-Paleogene period (Fig. 3). The  
80 interpretation of geophysical data shows a heterogeneous density distribution at a depth of  
81 ~100 km (Khomich and Petrishchevsky, 2004) and a laccolith-like form of a magma  
82 chamber. The laccolith thickness is ~5-6 km and decreases from the arch to flanks  
83 (Petrishchevsky, 1988). A notable feature of the volcano-plutonic center is the presence of  
84 a serpentized ultramafic block (2x4 km), suggesting magma generation at depth (Fig.3).  
85 The volcano-plutonic center was formed in two stages: early Senonian (Upper  
86 Cretaceous) and late Paleocene-Eocene. In the first stage, poorly differentiated andesite-  
87 granodiorite association was formed, and the second stage is characterized by subalkaline  
88 differentiated monzo-granodiorite-granite association (Fatyanov and Khomich, 1997). The  
89 early stage of magmatic activity is related to the formation of thick vein-metasomatic zones  
90 with gold-silver mineralization whereas the late stage is represented by tourmaline-quartz  
91 veins without significant concentrations of precious metals.

92

### 93 **3. Geology of the district**

94

95 The ore district is located within the UI volcanic feature (10-14 km x 5-7 km, Fig. 4),  
96 represented by a graben-like depression in the western part of the volcano-plutonic center  
97 and bound in the north by a large latitudinal fault. The eastern and southern margins are  
98 marked by dislocations along the contact of the Bekchiul granitoid massif, and the western  
99 boundary is overlain by Neogene-Quaternary deposits. The basement is represented by  
100 the Upper Jurassic-Lower Cretaceous terrigenous deposits. The depression is filled with  
101 volcanic rocks of predominantly intermediate composition.

102 The sedimentary rocks underlying the volcanic facies are deformed into linear folds  
103 with northeast strike. The orientation of the folds that extend into the basement was  
104 inherited from the tectonic dislocations of the volcanic structure. It is assumed that the  
105 mineralized zones are aligned with the axial zones of anticlinal folds. Effusive-pyroclastic  
106 sediments, extrusive and subvolcanic bodies, located in the ore field, formed in the Late  
107 Cretaceous-Paleogene (Table 1, Fig. 3). Faults trending northeast and northwest are also  
108 common.

109 *The northeast faults* have steeply dipping dislocations, with displacements  
110 responsible for the block-faulted step-like structure of the district and an increase in  
111 thickness of the volcanic units with distance from the Bekchiul massif. Thick zones (up to  
112 100 m) of extensive (to 5-7 km) veins with metasomatic halos and gold-silver  
113 mineralization are restricted to faults. These zones occur in volcanic rocks and extend into  
114 the basement to a depth of several hundred meters. The zones trace the system of  
115 dislocations that are responsible for the block structure of the district, with different  
116 degrees of erosion. The Vodorazdel'naya zone near the pluton is mostly eroded, whereas  
117 the Glavnaya zone is partly preserved and the Promezhutochnaya zone is little eroded.  
118 The Medvezh'ya zone, farthest from the pluton, about 3 km to the northwest, is largely  
119 unaffected by erosion, and has a halo of metasomatic alteration that formed above the ore  
120 zone (Fig. 4).

121 *The northwest faults* are oriented orthogonally to ore zones and offset these zones  
122 into several members with differential erosion. The central part is less eroded, whereas the  
123 flanks were more uplifted and underwent stronger erosion (Fig. 4). The northwestern  
124 system of dislocations controls tourmaline-quartz veins that do not contain significant  
125 concentrations of precious metals. Dikes, dike-like bodies and intrusions crosscut the  
126 volcanic structure and are also oriented northwest. The largest intrusion represented by  
127 granodiorite-porphyrries divides the ore field into two domains. The major portion of the

128 ore-bearing zones occurs in the eastern part. Those in the western part are oriented both  
129 northeast and northwest.

130

#### 131 **4. Nature of ore-bearing veins**

132

133 The mineralized zones occur as steeply dipping thick plate-like quartz bodies with  
134 lateral extents up to 100 m and are characterized by complex structure (Fig. 5). Around  
135 plate-like bodies, biotite-epidote-albite and sericite-chlorite-epidote-albite (biotite-free)  
136 facies have been identified (Fig 6). A summary of the salient features of mineralization is  
137 given below.

138 The volcano-plutonic complex at the center formed a dome-like edifice. Stress  
139 propagation occurred along both the earlier emplaced tectonic dislocations and orthogonal  
140 (across the strike of the former) faults with large fault-shift displacements. The dislocation  
141 fractures were almost synchronously healed with quartz-veins.

142 The altered halo at the top is several tens of meters thick, fringing the quartz veins.  
143 The lower part of altered zones is composed of light-grey quartz with various amounts K-  
144 feldspar and sericite. The upper part of the quartz body includes pyrite, chlorite, albite,  
145 sericite, and K-feldspar.

146 The veins are composed of fine-grained quartz with various amounts of adularia,  
147 sericite, and ore minerals (Fig. 7, 8). Adularia and sericite are usually dispersed in the  
148 quartz aggregate of the veins, and forms nest-like accumulations or are locally banded.  
149 Adularia is represented by two structural varieties: intermediate orthoclase (in the areas of  
150 brecciation) and high and intermediate microcline within the aureoles of the recrystallized  
151 quartz, fringing the brecciation areas (Fatyanov et al., 1989). Ore minerals include sulfides,  
152 sulfosalts, tellurides, and native gold ( $\leq 0.5-3$  vol% of the vein), as thin and finely dispersed  
153 impregnations, and rarely as streak-like separations, or nest-like accumulations. A notable

154 feature of the ore mineralization is a wide spectrum of mineral species with low sulfide  
155 content of ores (Fig. 9). Among the sulfides, pyrite dominates, together with chalcopyrite  
156 (Fig. 7E), galena, and sphalerite, with sporadic pyrrhotite and arsenopyrite. Sulfosalts  
157 (grey ore, pearceite-polybasite) and tellurides (hessite, petzite) are present in subordinate  
158 amounts (Fig. 10). Tellurobismuthite, altaite, scheelite, and the following selenides occur  
159 rarely: naumannite, telluroselenides of silver, and galena-clausthalite (Fatyanov and Sapin,  
160 1988). Native gold is distributed irregularly with fineness varying widely from 650 to 925.

161 In some areas, explosive breccias and cementation of fragments with quartz,  
162 adularia-quartz, and in some cases carbonate-quartz aggregates are also identified.

163 The carbonate fillings are represented by small lens-like carbonate bodies in the  
164 veins marked the latest stage of hydrothermal activity. In the Glavnaya zone, they are  
165 composed of dolomite and in Promezhutochnaya zone of calcite, usually Mn-bearing. The  
166 veins were cut along the northwestern faults by subalkaline granitoid intrusions, with skarn  
167 alteration of carbonates, now preserved in fragments. Carbonate precipitation may have  
168 continued after intrusion, as inferred from the presence of lenses of calcite with pyrite,  
169 galena, and sphalerite without evidence of skarn in the Glavnaya zone (Fig. 11).

170 The skarn-like Mn, Fe, and Mg-Fe metasomatic zone is related to late intrusion of  
171 subalkaline granitoid magmas and rejuvenation of the late-stage hydrothermal activity. In  
172 general, the skarn-like associations are usually developed at the contact of quartz veins  
173 with altered volcanic rocks.

174 The composition of the Mn-rich skarn zone is dominated by Mn-bearing  
175 wollastonite, bustamite and rare rhodonite (Fig. 7, 8). Garnet (spessartite, grossular-  
176 andradite) and Mn-bearing diopside and axinite occur in subordinate amounts. The Fe-rich  
177 altered unit is composed of grossular-andradite garnet (largely the andradite component),  
178 pyroxene (diopside-salite), and magnetite. Amphibole (tremolite-actinolite series), epidote,  
179 quartz, calcite, and hematite are present in variable amounts locally. Pyroxenes (diopside,

180 diopside-salite), amphiboles (tremolite, actinolite), epidote, serpentine, and magnetite  
181 occur in the Mg-Fe metasomatic domain.

182 The ore-forming associations of the skarn-altered zones do not show mineral  
183 diversity. In the area of replacement of Mn carbonates by skarn there are related galena,  
184 iron-free sphalerite (cleiophane), and locally gold (820-890 fineness). In the Fe-rich  
185 alteration, oxides (magnetite, locally hematite) and sulfides (pyrite and chalcopyrite) are  
186 common. In the Mg-Fe alteration zone, in addition to the dominance of magnetite and  
187 pyrite, the high-fineness gold (93.6%) and tellurobismuthite occur.

188 The contact-metamorphosed vein-related alteration is exposed in the aureole of the  
189 late-stage intrusions. At the contact with monzogranodiorites, dense fine-grained quartz is  
190 transformed into semi-transparent coarse-grained (up to 5-7 mm) quartz aggregate  
191 containing emulsion-like coatings of K-feldspar. With distance from the contact, this quartz  
192 gradually transforms to fine-grained sugary aggregates. This zone also shows the  
193 formation of hornfels in hydrothermally altered rocks along with the development of a  
194 biotite-amphibole-K-feldspar association.

195 Superimposed tourmaline-quartz also occurs in the vein zones, represented by  
196 quartz with variable quantities of tourmaline and rare feldspar. Usually the streaks and  
197 veinlets show a northwest orientation orthogonal to the strike of ore zones.

198 Among the various zones described above, the quartz veins are dominant and  
199 others comprise only 3-7 % of the total volume.

200

## 201 **5. Lateral zoning of vein-related alteration**

202

203 The genesis of Mnogovershinnoe deposit is complex, with combined features of  
204 epithermal deposits overprinted by higher temperature mineralization. Geochemical  
205 investigations indicate vertical zoning in the distribution of Au (Fig. 12) and others ore-

206 forming elements, characterized by Mo, Sn, and locally W, Cu, Ni, and Co at deeper  
207 levels, with change at shallower levels to anomalous Pb, Zn, Ag, and Au (Table 2).

208 In the individual deposits of the vein zones, the lower and middle levels are  
209 characterized by maximum thickness of the quartz vein and alteration halo (Fig. 5, 6). The  
210 thickness decreases at shallower levels, then splits into several vein-like bodies, and  
211 finally into a series of veins. Significant decrease in thickness also occurs downward from  
212 of the main ore zone.

213 The zonation also occurs in the cover of the hydrothermally altered rocks around  
214 the quartz veins (Fatyanov and Khomich, 1989).

215 The alteration halos around the quartz veins also show lateral zoning (Fig. 6). Two  
216 zones are distinct: an inner zone composed of quartz with variable quantities of sericite  
217 and K-feldspar and an outer zone with sericite, K-feldspar, albite, chlorite, and pyrite,  
218 developed in the host rocks (Fatyanov and Khomich, 1989). Lateral zoning also occurs  
219 in the skarn-like Mg-Fe alteration zone developed in dolomites near their contact with the  
220 hydrothermally altered andesitic tuffs, with a zonation of serpentine, tremolite, diopside,  
221 and actinolite-epidote facies as the tuffs are approached. The first three formed in  
222 dolomites, whereas the fourth occurs in the andesitic tuffs.

223 At shallower levels along the vein and alteration halo, the carbonate unit shows a  
224 marked change in composition. In the partly eroded Glavnaya zone, representing the lower  
225 levels of mineralization, the preserved fragments of carbonate bodies are represented by  
226 dolomite, whereas in the less eroded Promezhutochnaya zone this is represented by  
227 calcite, usually Mn-bearing. The skarn mineralogy is governed by the matrix composition:  
228 with Mg-Fe skarn is developed on dolomites, Mn-skarn forms from Mn-bearing calcites,  
229 and Fe skarn in the quartz-rich zones.

230 The main ore mineralization of the deposit is also vertically zoned. At deep levels in  
231 ore zones, a gold-sulfosalt-sulfide association occurs (Au-Ag – 1:0.5 to 13.6), which

232 changes at shallower levels to gold-sulfide ore (Au:Ag – >1:0.5), thereafter to gold-  
233 telluride-sulfide association (Au:Ag – 1:0.5 to 3), and finally to telluride-sulfide (Au:Ag –  
234 1:3-1:10) (Fatyanov et al., 2007), Fig. 13. Thus, the Mnogovershinnoe deposit is a good  
235 example of vertical zoning of gold-silver mineralization.

236

## 237 **6. Discussion**

238

239 The diversity of geological settings in which the epithermal precious metal deposits  
240 are formed has been addressed in various studies (Fatyanov, 1980; Goncharov, 1982;  
241 Petrenko, 1999; Konstantinov et al., 2000; Cox, 2005; Simmons et al., 2005; Fatyanov et  
242 al., 2009; Fig. 14. The formation of the Mnogovershinnoe deposit has been evaluated  
243 based on an analysis of available information on structure and geophysical data on the  
244 veins and alteration halos (Bondarenko, 1977; Konstantinov et al., 2000; Khomich et al.,  
245 2004; Vartanyan and Novikov, 2015). Here we address the main stages of the deposit  
246 formation based on the model presented in Fig. 15.

247 We envisage that the formation of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic complex was  
248 related to heat input into the upper domains of the mantle from the dehydrating stagnant  
249 oceanic slab in the mantle transitional zone (Fig. 15A).

250 The emergence of a peripheral magmatic chamber at hypabyssal level and the  
251 formation of volcanic regime (the earliest manifestation of which is dated as Late  
252 Cretaceous (85-78.5 Ma; Bondarenko, 1977) resulted in the reconstruction of the  
253 hydrothermal system surrounding the volcano-plutonic complex. The early stage of the  
254 fluid system during the development of the andesite-granodiorite correlates with the  
255 magma chamber of the volcanic center, followed which was later replaced by meteoric  
256 regime. The processes of voluminous metasomatic transformation (propylitization, in  
257 particular) continued until equilibrium of the fluid-rock system was attained (propylitized

258 andesites are dated as 81-76 Ma; Bondarenko, 1977). Along the linear steeply dipping  
259 tectonically weakened structures, which served then the channels for the fluid filtration,  
260 intensive leaching occurred with the formation of the metasomatic zone characterized by  
261 sericite-quartz (Fig. 15B). The age of the quartz-sericite zone is dated as 76-65 Ma  
262 (Konstantinov et al., 2000).

263 The volcano-plutonic complex at the center formed a dome-like edifice. Stress  
264 propagation along both the earlier emplaced tectonic dislocations and orthogonal (across  
265 the strike of the former) faults with large fault-shift displacements occurred. The dislocation  
266 fractures were almost synchronously healed with quartz-veins. The major stage of mineral  
267 deposition resulted in the formation of mineral "plugs" and increase of fluid pressure at the  
268 regions of fluids ponding, leading to explosive brecciation and cementation of fragments  
269 with quartz, adularia-quartz, and in some cases carbonate-quartz aggregates. This may  
270 suggest a stable tectonic setting during the development of ore, with extension of  
271 localizing structures through the domal uplift of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic center  
272 (Fatyanov et al., 2010). In vast the aureoles around the brecciation zones, the streaky  
273 recrystallization of the earlier formed hydrothermal components occurred with the  
274 development of breccia-like streaky megastructures (Fig. 15C). The adularia-quartz zones  
275 are dated as 75,4-66,4 Ma (Khomich et al., 2004), Table 1.

276 Gradual exhaustion of the source of the magmatic fluids led to the fluid pressure  
277 decrease in the hydrothermal system to the levels providing again the connection to the  
278 drainage channels of infiltration from the pore spaces surrounding the rocks. The formation  
279 in some areas of ore-localizing structures of small carbonate bodies is related with this  
280 stage of filtration (Fig. 15D).

281 During the culmination of the hydrothermal activity, the system was replenished by  
282 the near-neutral fluids (Fig. 15E). However, the late stage intrusion of magmas that  
283 generated the monzogranodiorite-granite association resulted in heating of the

284 surrounding rocks (the monzogranodiorites are dated as 66.4-57,3 Ma (Khomich et al.,  
285 2004), Table 1. The carbonate component of the earlier zones underwent skarnization.  
286 The skarn-like associations were developed locally and on the quartz filling of zones. In  
287 the contact aureole of monzogranodiorites, the vein-metasomatic zones were  
288 recrystallized. Cooling to temperatures of the pre-skarn period caused the resumption of  
289 the carbonate deposition. The post-skarn carbonate bodies mark the final completion of  
290 the activity of the hydrothermal system responsible for the formation of the mineralized  
291 vein-metasomatic zones of the deposit (Fig. 15F).

292 The development of a new hydrothermal system and formation of the tourmaline-  
293 quartz vein-streaky series is related with the intrusion of subalkaline granitoid magmas  
294 (monzodiorite-granite association of the volcano-pluton – 66.4-57,3 Ma (Khomich et al.,  
295 2004), Table 1.

296 The hydrothermal system of Mnogovershinnoe deposit is considered to be  
297 polygenic. At the early stage, the system was fed from the peripheral part of the volcano-  
298 plutonic complex. At the waning stage of the magmatic system, the fluids mixed with those  
299 of meteoric origin (Fatyanov et al., 2009).

300 The heated meteoric waters penetrated into the hydrothermal system, when the  
301 fluid pressure decreased allowing the convective cell to percolate within the pore spaces of  
302 the surrounding rocks. The hydrothermal activity and ore deposit formation are shown in a  
303 schematic illustration in Fig. 14. The dynamic scheme also demonstrates the possibility of  
304 both synchronous and successive development of the structures and mineral deposit (Fig.  
305 15A-F).

306

## 307 **7. Conclusion**

308

309 1. The formation of the Mnogovershinnoe gold-silver deposit is related with the  
310 hydrothermal activity of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic complex in the Late Cretaceous-  
311 Paleogene time.

312 2. Steeply dipping rupture dislocations, inherited from the deformation of the  
313 Jurassic-Cretaceous basement, functioned as the main ore-localizing structures. They  
314 enclose thick alteration zones (to 100 m) and long veins (to 5-7 km) with precious-metal  
315 mineralization in the volcanic host and its terrigenous basement for several hundred  
316 meters vertically.

317 3. Ore-bearing zones show a complex structure. The various zones recognized are:  
318 metasomatic zone of acid leaching, quartz-vein and carbonate filling, skarn-like  
319 metasomatic bodes, contact-metamorphosed substratum, and tourmaline-quartz vein-  
320 streaky series. Among these, the quartz-vein filling and their vast cover of the  
321 hydrothermally altered rocks are the major zones.

322 4. The development of ore-bearing zones is governed by the hydrothermal activity  
323 accompanying the emplacement of the Bekchiul volcano-plutonic complex and interaction  
324 with meteoric waters. The Mnogovershinnoe deposit provides a case for polychronous ore-  
325 forming systems.

326

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328

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334

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444 **Figure captions**

445

446 **Fig. 1.** Schematic geological map of southeast Russia, along the coast of the  
447 Okhotsk Sea. Modified after Krasnyi and Peng (1998).

448 **Fig. 2.** A) Part of the Asia-Pacific zone of convergence, showing the longitudinal  
449 seismic wave velocities; B) location of giant gold deposits in East Asia with respect to the  
450 of deep-seated tectonic divisions; C) density distribution (1 unit =  $10^{-2}\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{km})$ .  $Z_0=31\text{-}50$   
451 km depth, marking the centers of density inhomogeneities,  $H_c=30$  is the depth of the  
452 surface to which density inhomogeneities of the layer is condensed. Figures compiled after  
453 data in Zorin et al. (2006), Zhao et al. (2010), Khomich et al. (2014), Khomich and  
454 Boriskina (2014 b), and Petrishevsky and Yushmanov (2014), with additions.

455 **Fig. 3.** Schematic geological map of the Bekchiul volcanic-plutonic structure.

456 **Fig. 4.** Geological map and section of the Mnogovershinnoe ore field. Based on  
457 geological exploration work.

458 **Fig. 5.** Section of Promezhutochnoe ore body, hor. 305 m (ad. 11).

459 **Fig. 6.** Zoning scheme of the Verkhnee ore body (Mnogovershinnoe deposit).  
460 Modified after Konstantinov (2010).

461 **Fig. 7.** Typical textures of ores in the vein metasomatic zones of the  
462 Mnogovershinnoe deposit. A - Striped adularia quartz ore with fragments of early fine-  
463 grained quartz (Q). Ore body of Verkhnee. B - Striped adularia quartz ore with fragment of  
464 siltstone (black). Ore body of Verkhnee. C-D - Wollastonite (Woll) and bustamite (Bust)  
465 substitutes carbonates (Carb). Sphalerite and galena is confined to the contact and  
466 distributed along margins. Ore zone of Promezhutochnaya. E - Sulfide pyrite chalcopyrite  
467 ore. Ore body Severnoe. F - Fragment of the striped adularia quartz ore in the dike of  
468 basalt porphyrite (Porph). Ore body Verkhnee.

469 **Fig. 8.** Relationship between different stages of mineral formation in the  
470 Mnogovershinnoe deposit. A - Zonal magnesian-ferruginous metasomatite. Diop –  
471 diopside, Ep+Act - epidote and actinolite, Py – pyrite, Neph – nephritis, Tre – tremolite; B –  
472 Q – quartz, Tell – tellurides, Py – pyrite, Exp. brecc. - explosive breccia; C - Dol -  
473 hydrothermal dolomite, Mt – magnetite; D – Bust+Rod - bustamite and rhodonite, Q –  
474 quartz; E – Q+ Bust+Rod – quartz, bustamite and rhodonite; F – Q+Woll - quartz and  
475 wollastonite.

476 **Fig. 9.** Stages and mineral associations of the Mnogovershinnoe deposit.

477 **Fig. 10.** Photomicrographs of representative minerals of ore bodies  
478 (Mnogovershinnoe deposit). A, B – fahlore; C-H – petzite (light gray) and hessite (gray)  
479 relationships; I – naumannite.

480 **Fig. 11.** Verkhnee ore body (ad. 4) in the Glavnaya ore zone (Mnogovershinnoe  
481 deposit).

482 **Fig. 12.** Gold distribution in the Verkhnee ore body (Mnogovershinnoe deposit).  
483 The projection on the vertical plane. After Konstantinov (2010) with modifications.

484 **Fig. 13.** Generalized scheme of vertical zoning in the the Mnogovershinnoe deposit.

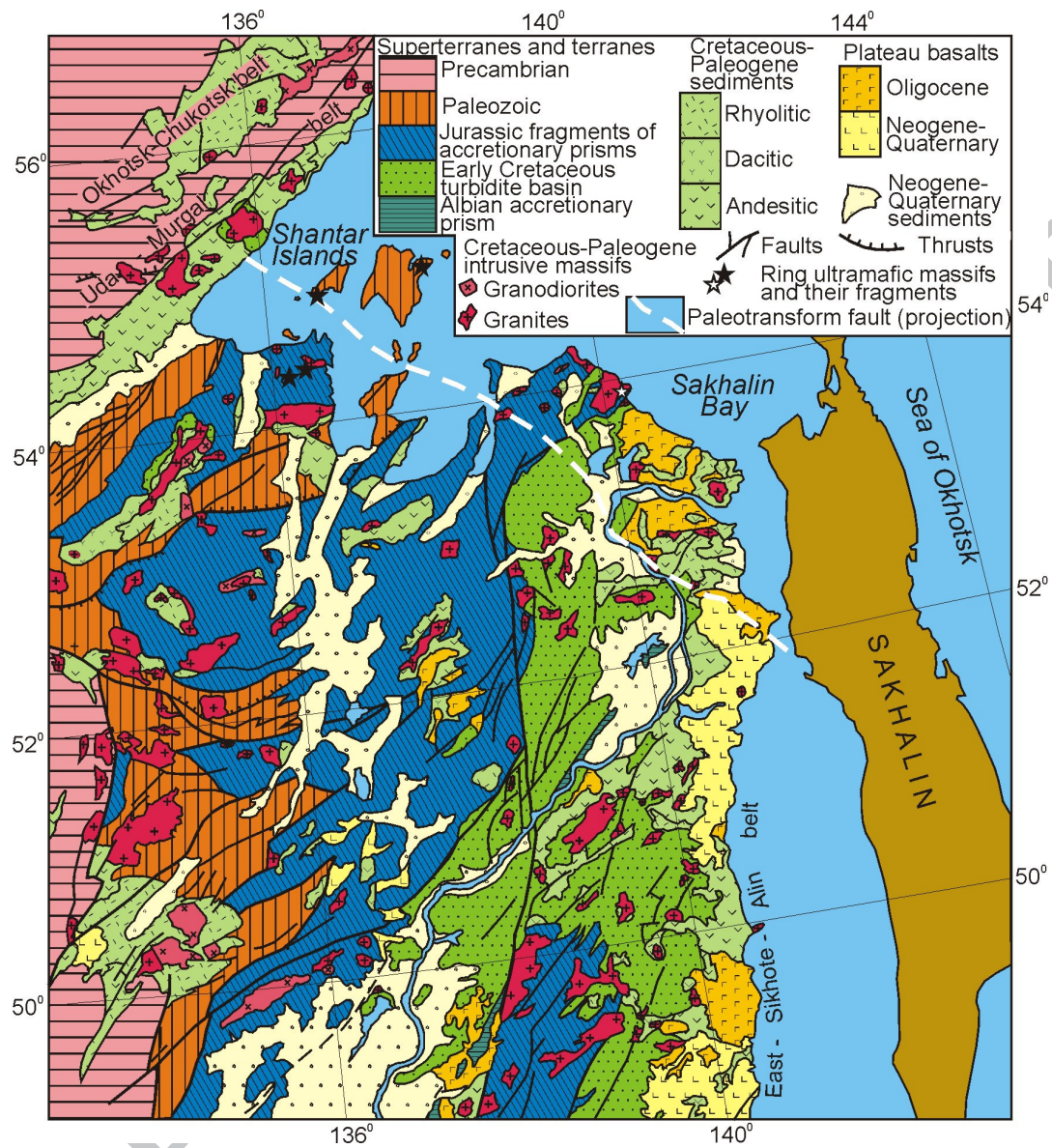
485 **Fig. 14.** Schematic illustration showing the interaction of magmatic hydrothermal  
486 fluids and meteoric water in the convective cell leading to the formation of the mineral  
487 deposit. After Fatyanov et al. (2009) with modifications and additions.

488 **Fig. 15.** A schematic model for the formation of the Mnogovershinnoe deposit. After  
489 Fatyanov et al. (2009) with modifications and additions.

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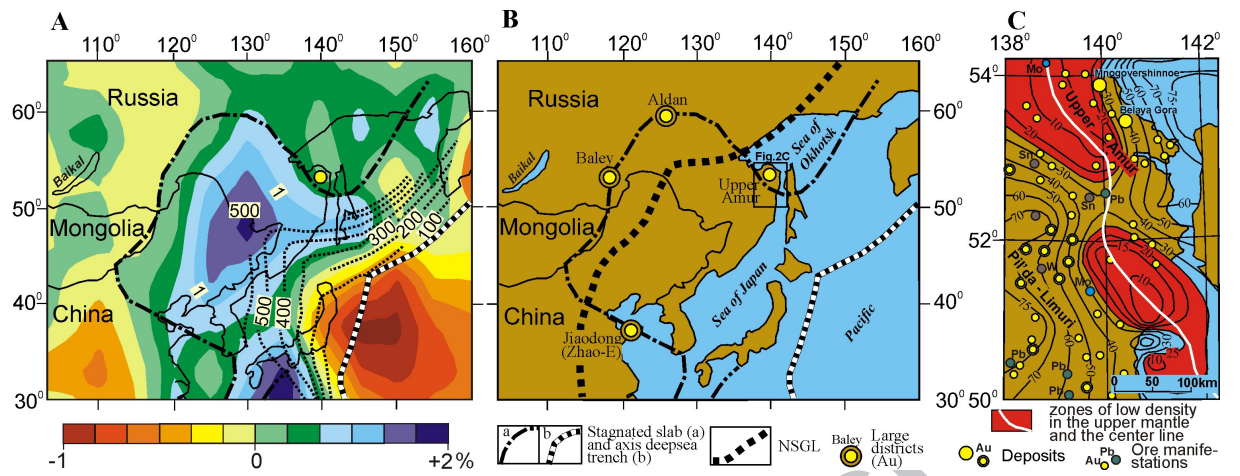
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Fig. 1



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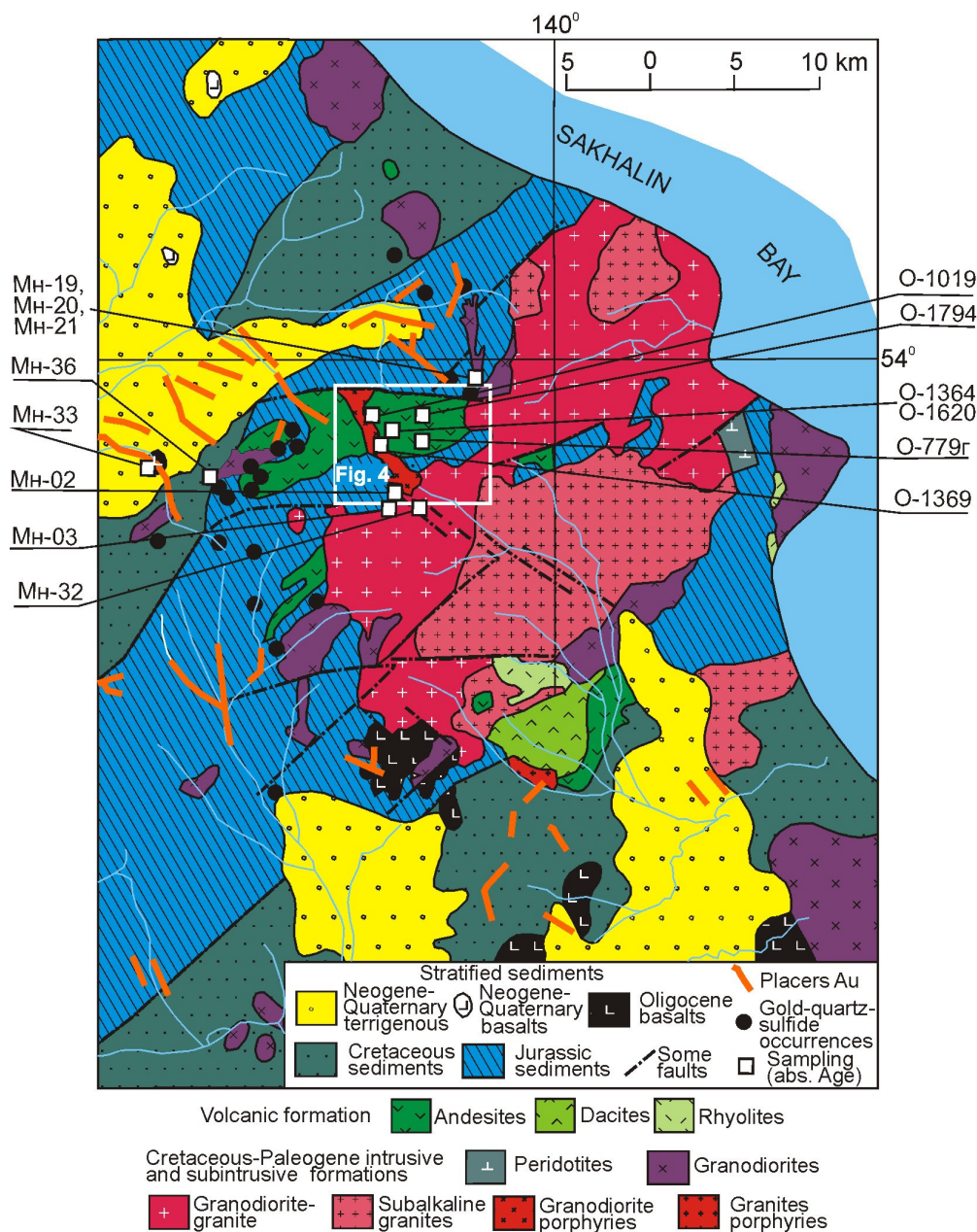
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Fig. 2

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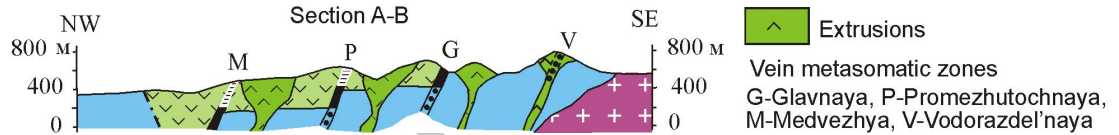
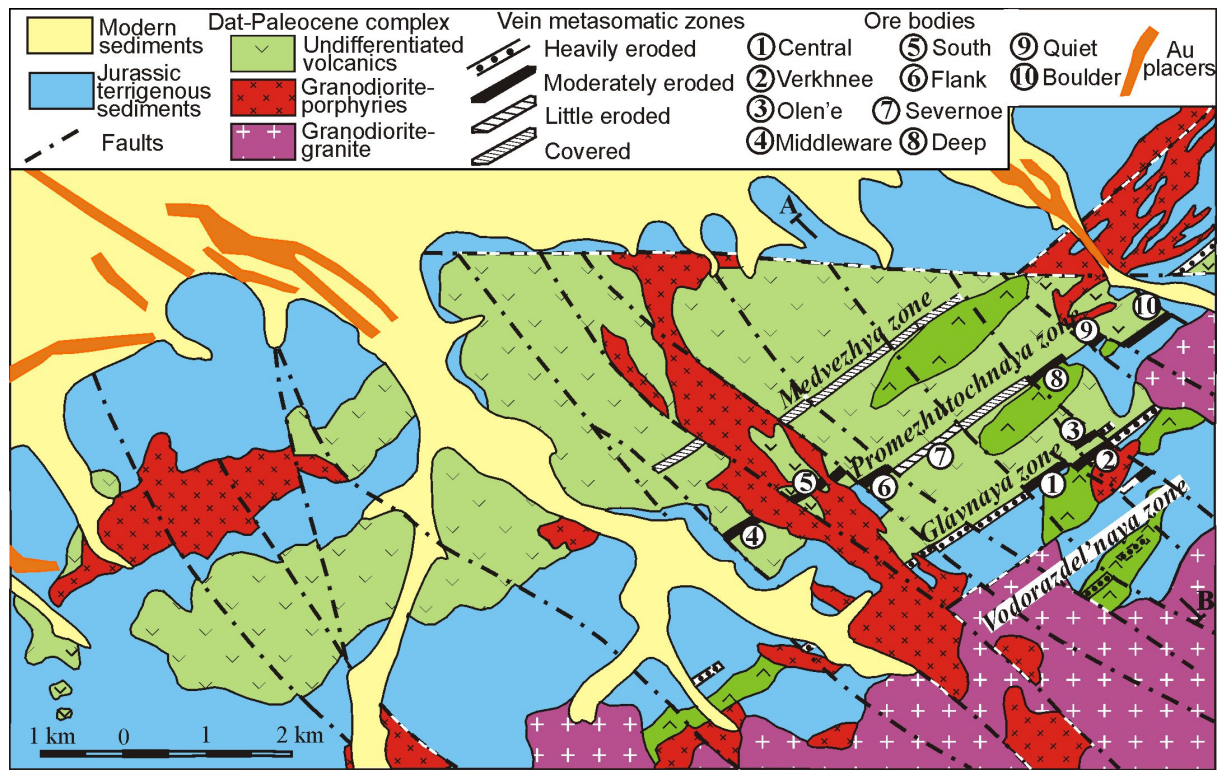
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508 Fig. 3

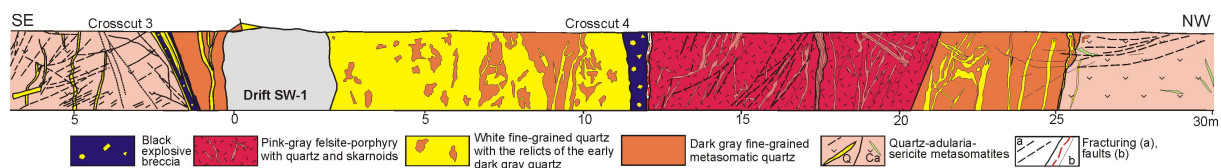
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Fig. 4



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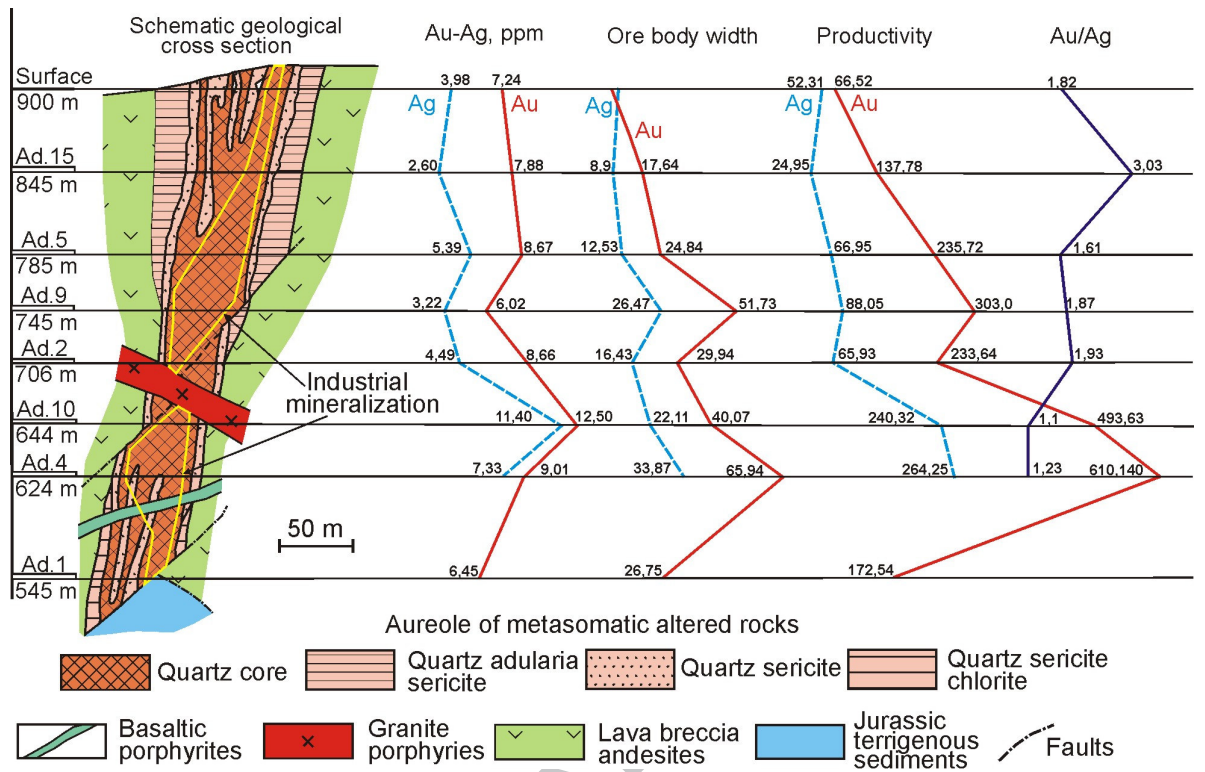
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Fig. 5

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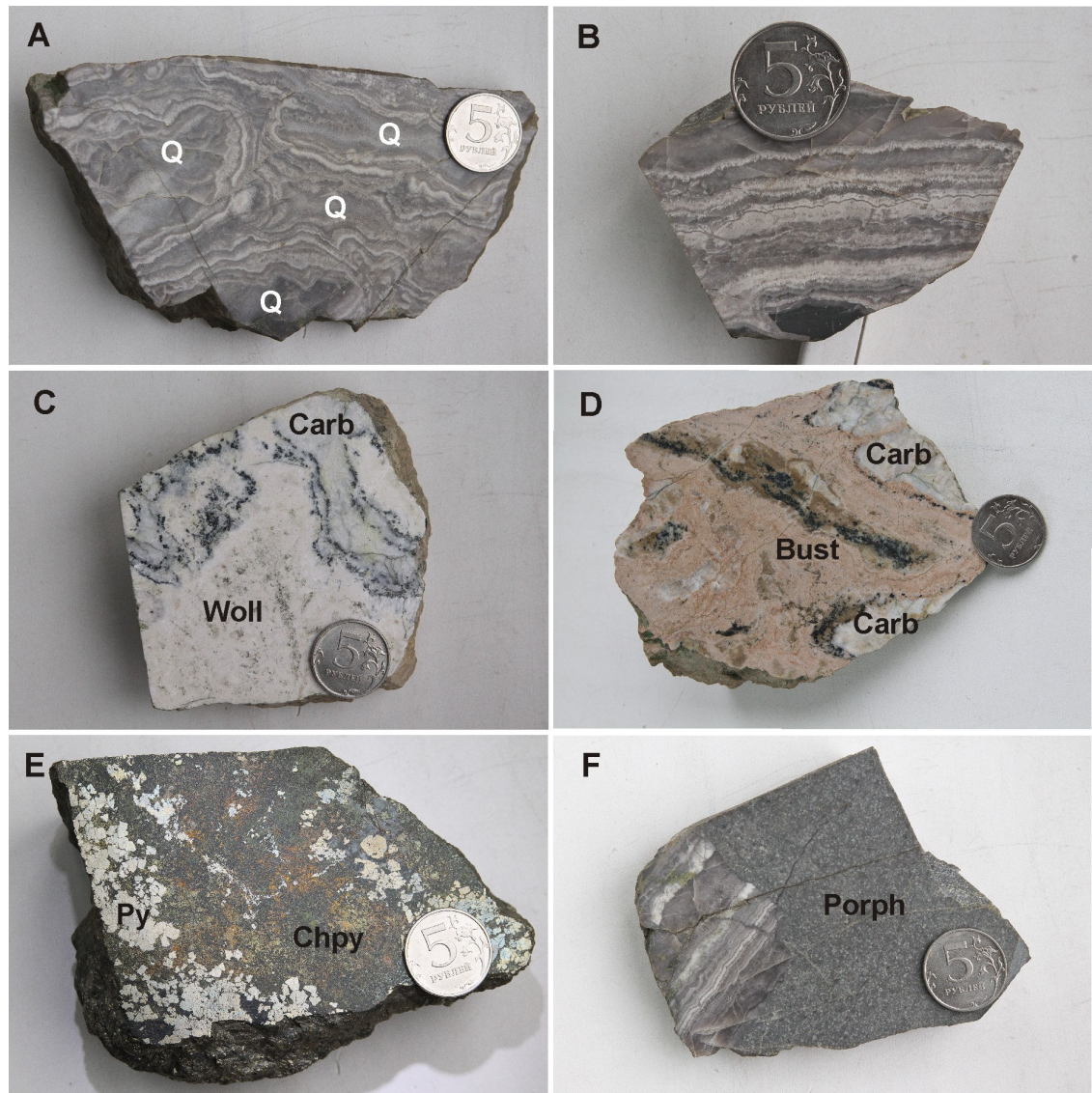
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Fig. 6

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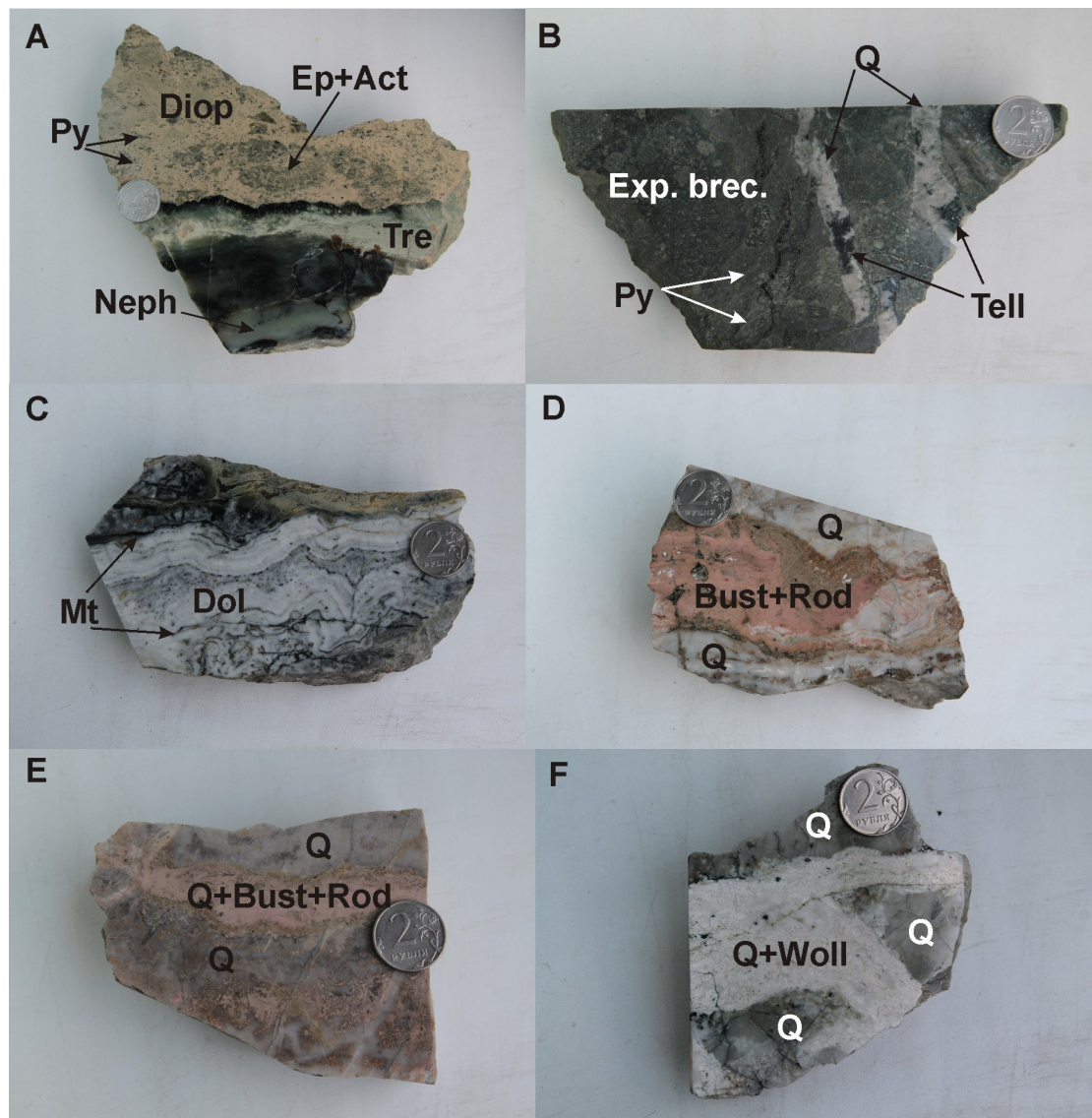
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Fig. 7

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537 Fig. 8

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Stages	Main gold ore			Skarn-hydrothermal				Late Hydrothermal		
Association	Quartz sericite metasomites	Gold- quartz	Gold- carbo- nate	Pyroxene- garnet- wollasto- nite	Epidote- garnet	Tremolite- epidote- magnetite	Actinolite- chlorite with sulfides	Tourma- line- quartz	Carbona- te-poly- metallic	Clay- hydro- mica
Minerals										
Quartz	■	■	■					■		
Sericite	■									■
Pyrite										■
Adularia		■								
Albite	■	■								
Apatite		■								
Barite	■									
Hydromica										■
Sphalerite		■								■
Galena		■								■
Tetrahedrite		■								■
Freiberite		■								■
Tennantite		■								■
Chalcopyrite		■								■
Gold		■								■
Hessite		■								■
Tetradymite		■								■
Arsenopyrite		■								■
Rhodonite		■								■
Axinite					■					
Scheelite					■					
Calcite										■
Calcite+Mn										■
Dolomite										■
Argentite										■
Pyrrhotite										■
Wollastonite				■						
Bustamite				■						
Scapolite				■						
Knebelite				■						
Grossular				■						
Diopside				■						
Andradite				■						
Spessartite					■					
Clinzoisite					■					
Petzite						■				
Tremolite						■				
Actinolite						■				
Serpentine						■				
Phlogopite						■				
Chlorites						■				
Chabazite						■				
Laumontite						■				
Prehnite						■				
Magnetite						■				
Titanomagnetite						■				
Hematite						■				
Chalcosite						■				
Bornite						■				
Covellite						■				
Tourmaline							■			
Cassiterite							■			
Rutile							■			
Anatase							■			
Brookite							■			
Kaolinite								■		
Montmorillonite									■	
Scorodite									■	
Chrysocolla									■	
Hydroxides Fe									■	
Hydroxides Mn									■	

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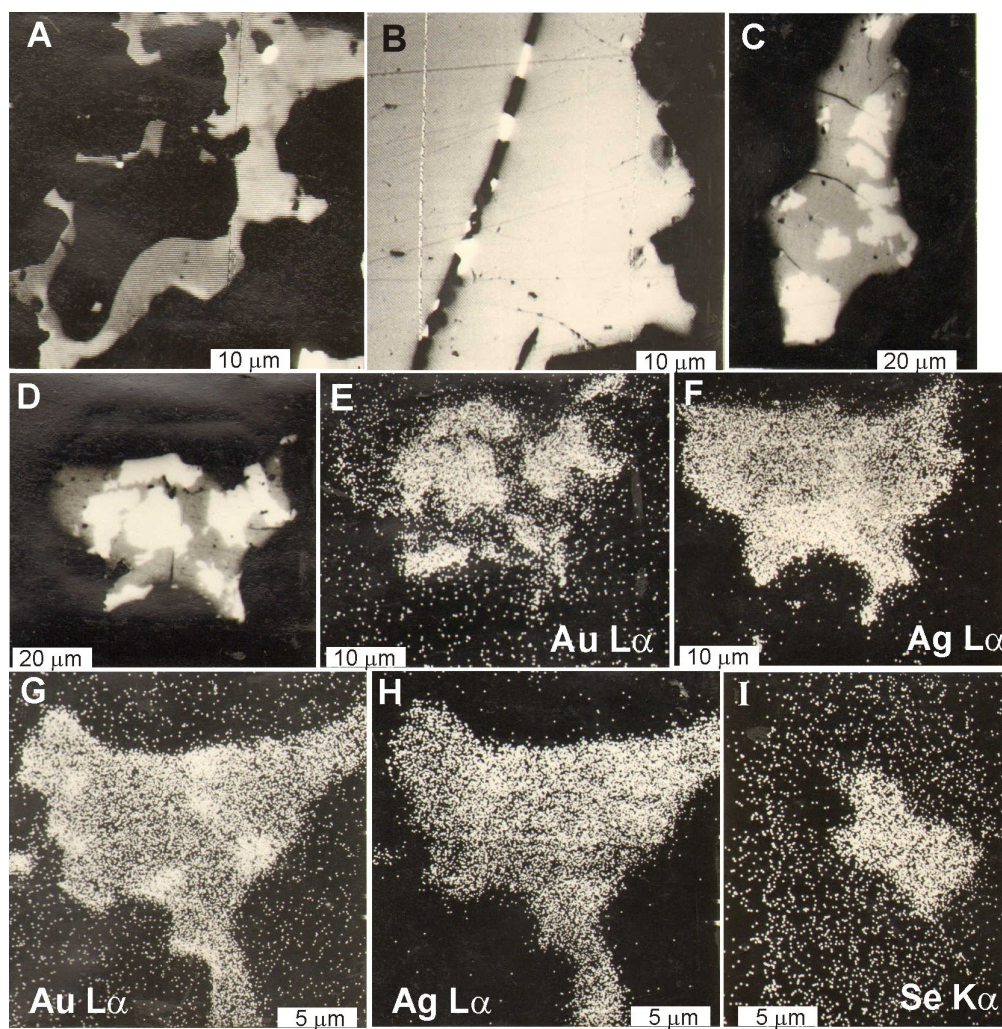
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Fig. 9

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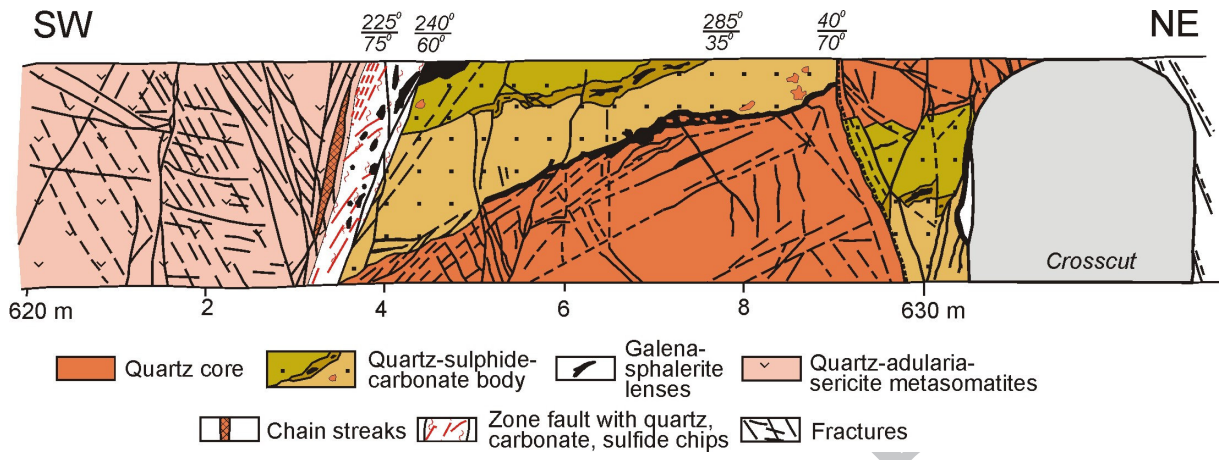
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Fig. 10



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Fig. 11

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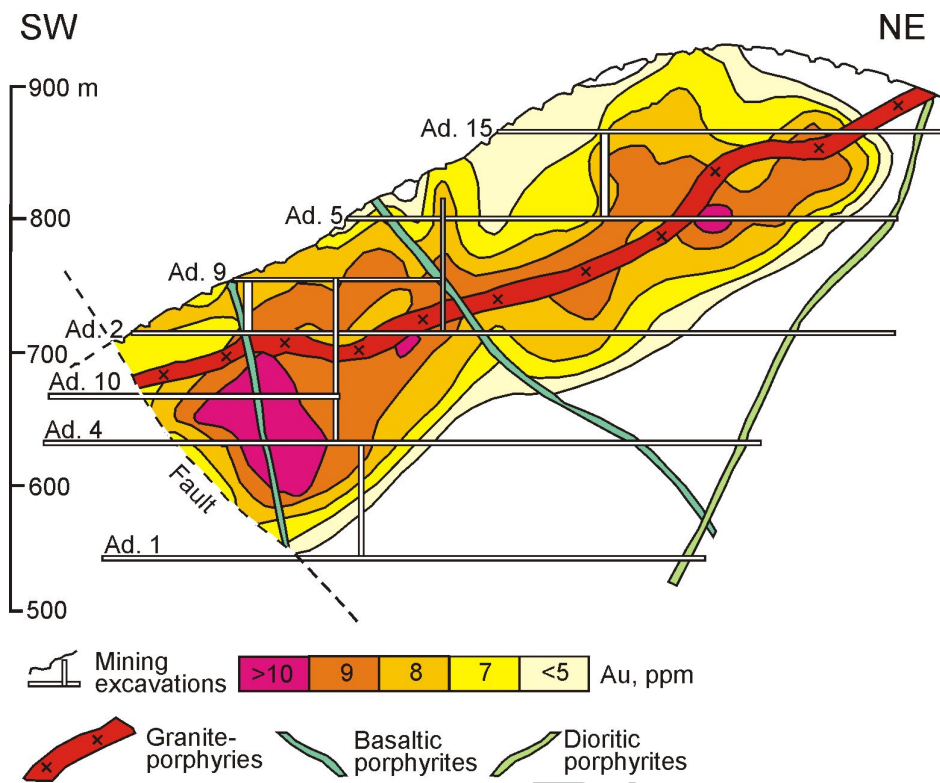
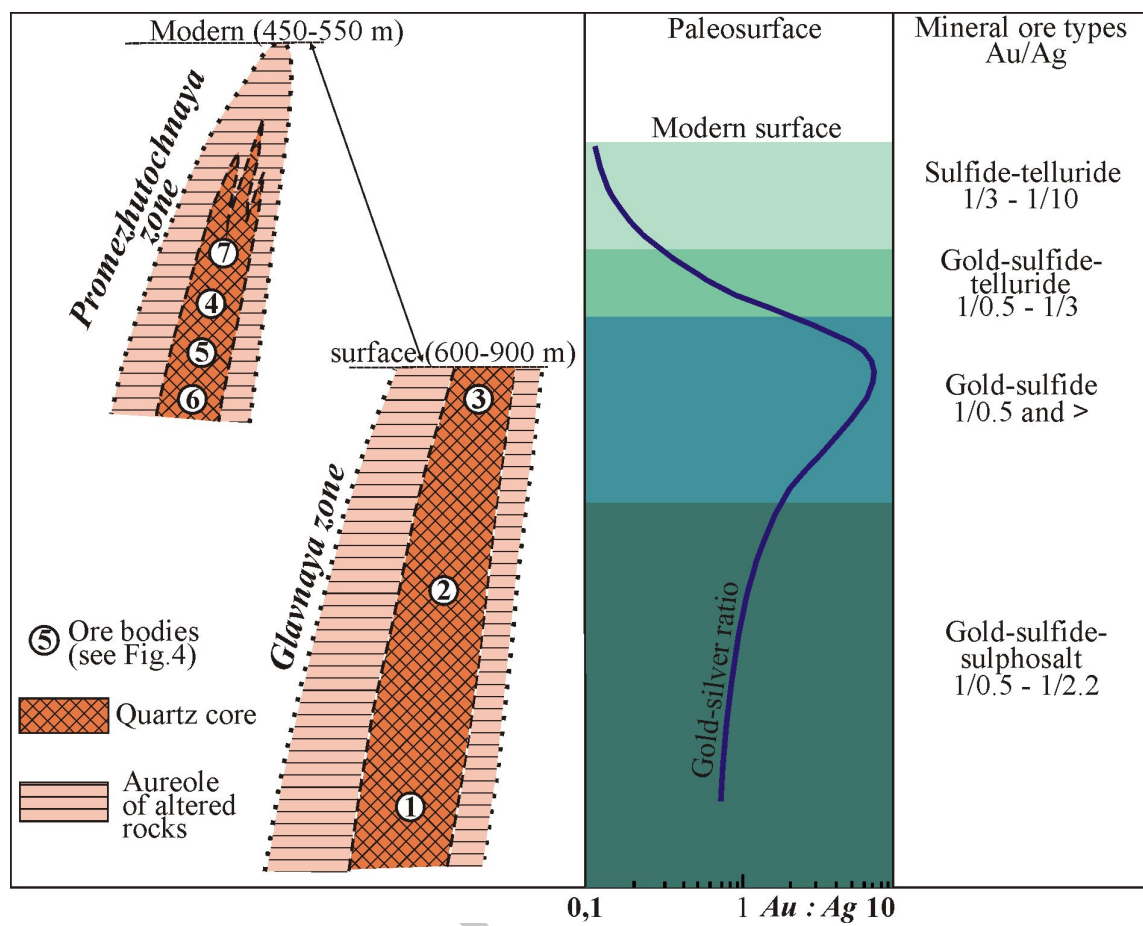


Fig. 12

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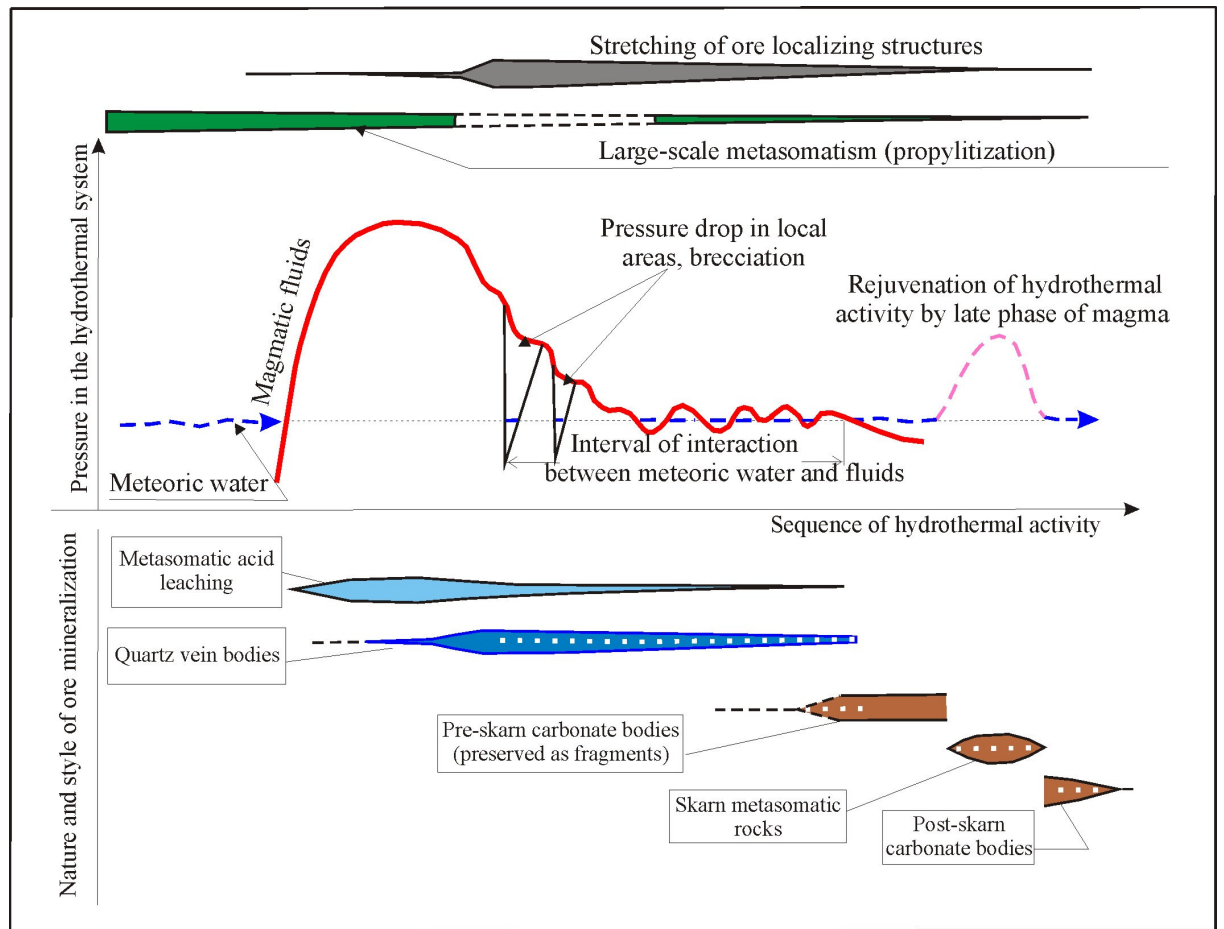
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Fig. 13

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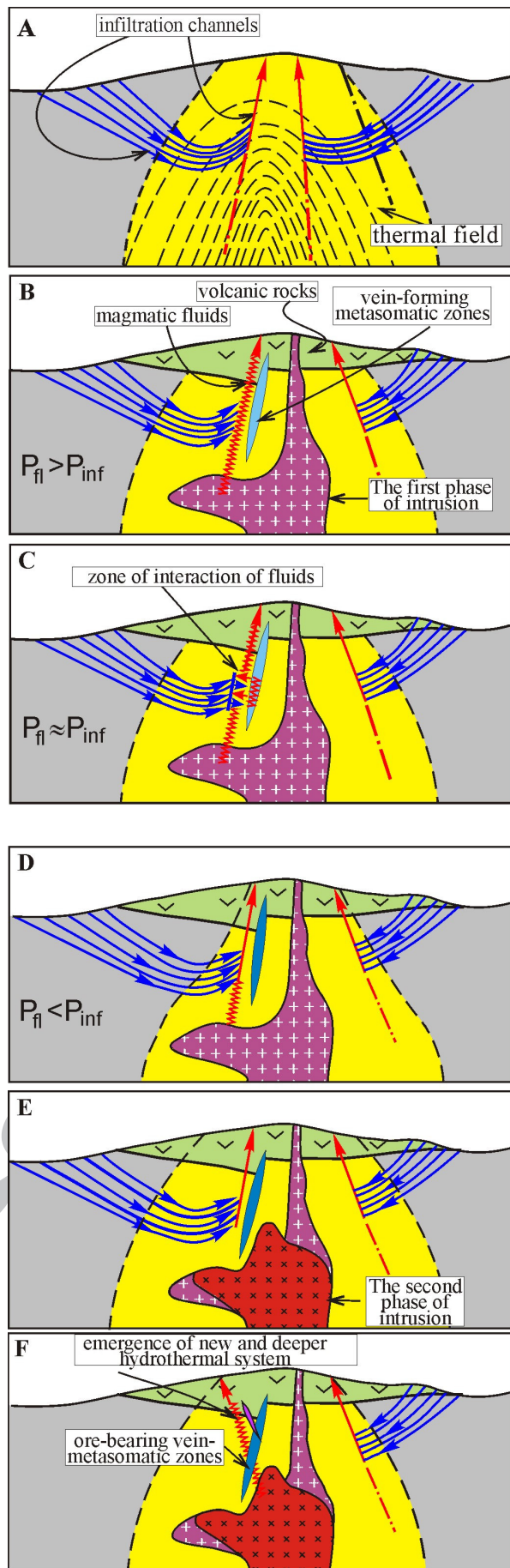
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Fig. 14

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Table 1

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The absolute age of rocks and ores in the Mnogovershinnoe ore field

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Sample	Rock, mineral	Potassium, % $\pm \sigma$	$^{40}\text{Ar}_{\text{rad}}$ (ppb) $\pm \sigma$	Age, Ma $\pm 1.6\sigma$
O-1369	<b>Granodiorite-porphry: K-feldspar+ quartz</b>	3,34 $\pm$ 0,05	18,3 $\pm$ 0,6	77,1 $\pm$ 3,2
O-779Г	Adularia, Glavnaya zone, Verkhnee body	8,97 $\pm$ 0,07	42,4 $\pm$ 0,8	66,9 $\pm$ 2,4
O-1019	Adularia, Medvezhya zone	10,58 $\pm$ 0,10	56,5 $\pm$ 0,7	75,4 $\pm$ 2,0
O-1364	Adularia, Promezhutochnaya zone, South and Flank body	12,61 $\pm$ 0,12	64,2 $\pm$ 1,2	71,9 $\pm$ 2,4
O-1620	Adularia, Promezhutochnaya zone, South and Flank body	11,36 $\pm$ 0,12	57,1 $\pm$ 0,8	71,1 $\pm$ 2,0
O-1794	Adularia, Promezhutochnaya zone, Severnoe body	12,11 $\pm$ 0,12	56,8 $\pm$ 0,8	66,4 $\pm$ 1,8
МН-02	Granodiorite-porphry	3,98 $\pm$ 0,04	18,2 $\pm$ 0,6	64,9 $\pm$ 3,0
МН-36	Granodiorite-porphry	3,95 $\pm$ 0,05	21,1 $\pm$ 0,5	75,5 $\pm$ 3,0
МН-21	Granodiorite	3,98 $\pm$ 0,04	19,2 $\pm$ 0,5	68,3 $\pm$ 2,5
МН-19	Andesite-dacite porphyrite	3,30 $\pm$ 0,04	16,7 $\pm$ 0,5	71,3 $\pm$ 2,5
МН-20	Andesite-dacite porphyrite	3,33 $\pm$ 0,04	16,2 $\pm$ 0,5	68,6 $\pm$ 3,2
МН-03	Monzonite diorite	3,73 $\pm$ 0,04	15,1 $\pm$ 0,5	57,3 $\pm$ 3,0
МН-32	Monzonite diorite	2,97 $\pm$ 0,04	12,0 $\pm$ 0,4	57,5 $\pm$ 2,6
МН-33	Basalt	1,96 $\pm$ 0,03	3,35 $\pm$ 0,15	24,5 $\pm$ 2,0

584 \*Radiogenic Ar abundances were measured on a specialized mass spectrometric unit

585 at IGEM RAS using isotopic dilution with  $^{38}\text{Ar}$  as a spike, and K abundance were

586 measured by flame photometry. The constants used in age calculations were:

587  $\lambda_{\text{K}}=0.581 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{yr.}^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{B}}=4.962 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{yr.}^{-1}$ ,  $^{40}\text{K}=0.01167$  (at. %).

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Concentration's change in the ore components of the gold-quartz stage in the

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vertical section of the Glavnaya ore zone, weight %.

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Based on geological exploration work.

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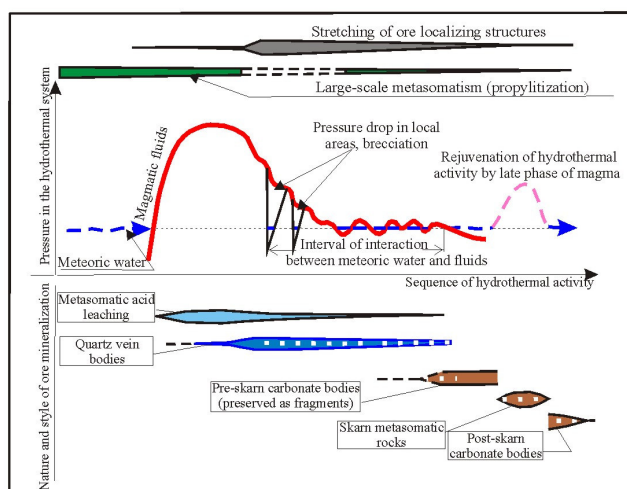
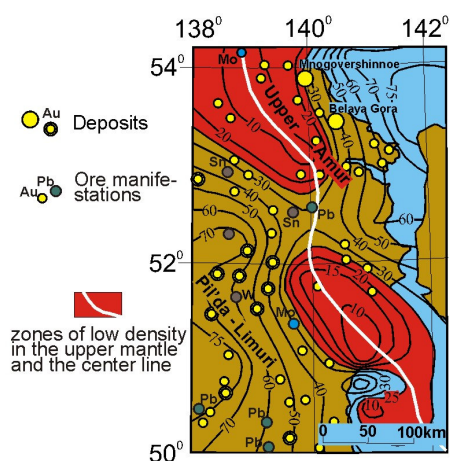
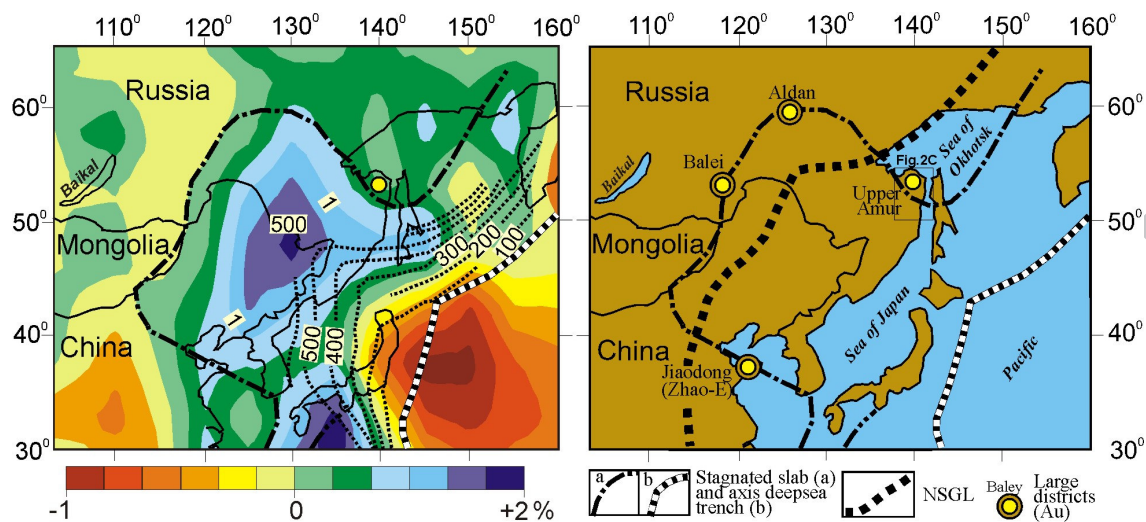
Components	Horizons (abs. levels)		
	Upper (725-845 m)	Middle (625-725 m)	Lower (<625 m)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	92,51	93,24	92,23
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3,39	2,68	3,0
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0,26	0,02	0,068
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0,79	0,90	0,70
FeO	0,95	0,93	1,20
MnO	0,07	0,08	0,064
CaO	0,68	0,47	0,58
MgO	0,392	0,82	0,30
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0,18	0,12	0,15
K <sub>2</sub> O	0,96	0,73	0,60
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0,04	0,034	0,18
Lt	0,00053	not detected	0,0009
Be	0,0003	not detected	0,00023
B	0,005	0,0026	0,0118
V	0,004	0,0014	0,0083
Cr	0,004	0,0014	0,0096
Co	0,002	0,0003	0,002
Ni	0,008	0,003	0,014
Mo	0,001	0,0006	0,0016
Ga	0,00051	0,0003	0,00072
Sn	0,0016	0,0006	0,0018
Zn	0,024	0,0008	0,001
Pb	0,0034	0,0016	0,0046
As	not detected	not detected	0,0049
Cu	0,011	0,0074	0,012
Ag, ppm	19,95	4,48	28,66
Au, ppm	9,75	6,688	97,81
Pb/Zn	0,142	2	4,6
Co/Ni	0,25	0,1	0,143

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Graphical abstract

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