

Chair of Geology and Economic Geology

Master's Thesis

Aplite Hosted Reichenspitz-Type Molybdenite Mineralization in the Central Tauern Window, Salzburg/Tyrol

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Abstract

Vein-type Mo mineralization is known from the Subpenninic Central Gneis units in the Tauern Window of the Eastern Alps; the type locality is located at the Alpeinerscharte in the Tux gneiss core. The aplitic granite (known as Reichenspitzgranit) building up the Reichenspitze at the border Salzburg/Tyrol (Austria) is host to low-grade molybdenum mineralization showing slightly differing structural and mineralogical attributes. It is bound to the area Reichenspitze-Gabler-upper Mannlkar-upper Roßkar and the ridge N-Zillerscharte to Zillerplattenscharte. Both areas yield variably sized aplitic stocks. Significant glacial retreat of the last 60 years made an update of the geological map necessary, as additional aplite bodies and faults became exposed. The post-orogenic A-type aplitic granites intruded at 282±6 Ma (Besang et al., 1968) into older Variscan I-type plutons. $SiO₂$ contents of the aplites range from 73-77%, clearly distinguishable from 70-73% $SiO₂$ of the gneisses. Both lithologies are low in CaO (1-3% for the gneisses; below 1% for the aplites), and the aplites are enriched in K_2O compared to the gneisses (3-4% for the gneisses; 4-6% for the aplites). The aplites have a high content of high field strength elements and a negative Eu anomaly (chondrite normalized). In the pneumatolytic stage, a low-grade low fluorine calc-alkaline molybdenum porphyry system developed, probably similar to the Endako porphyry in British Columbia. The molybdenite formed in quartz veins and impregnations, that are often associated with ENE-WSW trending regional faults. Accessory minerals are pyrite, traces of chalcopyrite, minor Bi-Te minerals (native bismuth, bismuthinite and other phases), uraninite and thorite. The mineralization is enriched in Mo, Cu, Y, Ce, Rb, Th and U, and depleted in Ba, Sr and Li with respect to the host rocks. The Oligocene thermal event (Tauernkristallisation) of the Alpine orogenesis reached at least upper greenschist facies conditions and produced a widespread saussuritisation of plagioclase. During this event, a complex assemblage of secondary Mo-bearing minerals, rare earth element-bearing minerals (e.g., a conspicuous allanite-zircon-thorite assemblage) and a variety of poorly characterized Bi-bearing phases formed due to remobilization.

Zusammenfassung

In den subpenninischen Zentralgneisen des Tauernfensters treten ganggebundene Molybdänmineralisationen auf; die Typlokalität ist die Alpeiner Scharte im Tuxer Kern. Im die Reichenspitze aufbauenden Aplitgranit ist eine Molybdänmineralisation mit abweichenden mineralogischen und strukturellen Eigenschaften entwickelt. Die Mineralisation ist an die Bereiche Reichenspitze-Gabler-oberes Mannlkar-oberes Roßkar und den Grat N-Zillerscharte zur Zillerplattenscharte gebunden. Ein signifikanter Gletscherrückgang in den letzten 60 Jahren machte ein Update der geologischen Karte notwendig, da dadurch zusätzliche aplitische Intrusionskörper und Störungen aufgeschlossen wurden. Der postorogene A-Typ Aplitgranit ist vor 282±6 Millionen Jahren (Besang et al., 1968) in die umgebenden älteren, ebenfalls variszischen I-Typ Plutone intrudiert. Der Aplitgranit hat SiO₂ Gehalte von 73-77%, die Gneise weisen 70-73% SiO² auf. Beide Lithologien haben einen niedrigen CaO-Gehalt (1-3% bei den Gneisen; unter 1% bei den Apliten) und die Aplite sind im Verhältnis zu den Gneisen an K2O angereichert (3-4% bei den Gneisen; 4-6% bei den Apliten). Die Aplite sind mit high field strength elements angereichert und weisen eine negative chondritnormalisierte Eu Anomalie auf. Im pneumatolytischen Stadium entwickelte sich ein low-grade low fluorine calc-alkaline molybdenum porphyry system, das Ähnlichkeit mit dem Mo Porphyry in Endako, British Columbia hat. Der Molybdänit tritt in Quarzgängen und Imprägnationen gemeinsam mit wenig Pyrit und Spuren von Chalkopyrit, Bi-Te-Mineralen (gediegen Wismut, Bismuthinit und andere Phasen), Uraninit and Thorit auf und ist oft mit ENE-WSW streichenden regionalen Störungen assoziiert. In der Mineralisation sind Mo, Cu, Y, Ce, Rb, Th und U gegenüber dem Nebengestein angereichert, Ba, Sr und Li sind abgereichert. Während der alpidischen Orogenese wurden im Zuge der Tauernkristallisation zumindest Bedingungen der oberen Grünschieferfazies erreicht und es erfolgte eine verbreitete Saussuritisierung der Plagioklase. Dabei bildeten sich durch Remobilisation sekundäre Molybdänminerale, Seltene Erden enthaltende Minerale (z.B. eine auffällige Allanit-Zirkon-Thorit Vergesellschaftung) und verschiedene analytisch schlecht charakterisierbare Bi-Phasen.

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1 Introduction

The studied area is located at the western margin of Salzburg, SW of Krimml in the Reichenspitzgruppe. 35 km W is the Alpeinerscharte Mo deposit, at which exploration work was conducted during World War II (Anonymus, 1943). The studied mineralization is one of 8 known Mo mineralizations ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018) in the Tauern Window and a typical occurrence regarding the aplitic host rock, as the others are hosted in various granite types and sulfide-quartz veins (Meixner, 1952).

The Mo mineralization in the Reichenspitze area is known since the geological mapping in the 1960´s (Karl, 1964; Schmidegg, 1964), but there was almost no work conducted on the mineralization except some collectors searching for mineral specimen (Burgsteiner, 2017; Walter et al., 2016). Exploratory fieldwork has been conducted by scientists of the Montanuniversität Leoben in collaboration with collectors of the Schurfgemeinschaft Zinkwand in the years 2012-2017. This thesis aims to summarize existing information on this occurrence and to characterize it further.

2 Geological Overview

The working area is situated in the W Tauern window in the Alpine orogen. [Figure 1](#page-9-0) shows the location marked with the sampled locations mostly in the Tux nappe bordering the Zillertal nappe to the S. Together with the Post-Variscan cover, the Tux nappe, the Zillertal nappe and the Ahorn nappe form the W part of the Venediger duplex complex (Schmid et al., 2013). Altogether, they belong to the Subpenninic nappe system (Schmid et al., 2013, 2004), i.e., they derive from the distal European margin. In the Carboniferous, during the Variscan orogeny and metamorphism, the Tauern Batholith intruded over 100 Ma during four magmatic pulses at ≥370 Ma, 340 Ma, 300-280 Ma and <280 Ma (Eichhorn et al., 2000; Veselá et al., 2011). The intrusive ages correspond to the evolution of the Variscan orogen from an active margin over the collision stage to the orogenic collapse (Eichhorn et al., 2000). In the Triassic (ca. 215 Ma), the breakup of Pangea caused an increased heat-flow resulting in a thermal overprint and crustal-scale faulting (Finger et al., 2017). In the Paleocene, an eclogite event affected the S Tauern Window, which was followed by a blueschist metamorphic event in the Eocene (Schmid et al., 2004). In the Oligocene (30 Ma, Christensen et al., 1994; Finger et al., 2017) conditions reached amphibolite facies related to the closure of the Alpine Tethys (Schmid et al., 2013; Schuster et al., 2004). In the literature, this event is often referred to as Tauernkristallisation.

Due to the exhumation along detachment faults (Brenner fault and Katschberg fault) after the Oligocene, N-S oriented "alpine joints" opened which host the famous Tauerngold.

Figure 1: Tectonic overview of the W part of the Tauern Window, the studied area is marked with green and blue points (sampled locations). Modified from Schmid et al. (2013). Legend: 1 = Periadriatic plutons (Oligocene; 2 = Southern Alps; 6 = Basement complexes; 7 = Mesozoic cover; 8 = Variscan basement; 9 = Schneeberg-Radenthein Units; 11 = Innsbruck-Wagrain-Katschberg Quartzphyllite Units; 12 = High-grade Variscan basement; 15 = Lower Austroalpine unit south of the Tauern Window; 16 = Hippold Nappe including Hochfeind Nappe; 17 = Matrei Zone; 19 = Glockner Nappe System; 20 = Modereck Nappe system; 22 = Wolfendorn Nappe; 23 = Post-Variscan cover of nappesin the Venediger Duplex; 24 = Zillertal-Riffl, Sonnblick-Romate and Mureck-Storz nappes; 25 = Tux-Granatspitz and Hochalm nappes; 26 = Ahorn and Göss nappes. The Tauern Window experienced a polyphase metallogeny starting in the Cambrian and finishing in the Miocene. The ore provinces are described in the IRIS ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018): The oldest deposits are stratabound polymetallic massive sulfide deposits in ophiolitic sequences ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018). The next generation was formed during the Variscan orogeny, outstanding amongst them the Alpeinerscharte Mo deposit (Langthaler et al., 2004; Melcher et al., 1996; Mostler et al., 1982) deposit and the Felbertal scheelite deposit (Höll and Eichhorn, 2000; Kozlik et al., 2016b and references therein). In the Mesozoic, some sedimentary deposits (evaporites) formed on the cover sequences ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives

RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018). During the Alpine orogeny, many deposits were metamorphosed and remobilized leading amongst others to U-Cu mineralizations ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018). Finally, in the Miocene gold mineralizations formed in structurally controlled veins in granite gneiss and the schist cover in the central and western Tauern Window due to regional extension ("GBA: IRIS - Interaktives RohstoffInformationsSystem," 2018; Paar et al., 2006).

3 Methods

3.1 Fieldwork

◄Figure 2: Panoramic view from the ascent to the Richterhütte, red triangles mark samples with Mol, red lines are walked tracks.

The fieldwork was conducted in the years 2012-2018 by scientists of the Montanuniversität Leoben and members of the Schurfgemeinschaft Zinkwand. Fieldwork for this thesis has been carried out during the summer months in 2017 and 2018. Logistics depended on the alpine hut used as basecamp:

Richterhütte: Drive by car to Krimml (4-5 hours from Leoben), from there with a tourist taxi to the Krimmler Tauernhaus and by foot to the Richterhütte. A ropeway covers the last 300 m altitude difference for material transport, that was used for sample transportation. Up to this place, cycling is possible, but not further on the way up. See Figure [2](#page-10-2) for a panoramic view of the working area in the Richterhütte area.

Zittauer Hütte: Drive by car to the Familienhotel Finkau (4-5 hours from Leoben), from there by foot or bike (no speed difference uphill) to the ropeway for material transport to the Zittauer Hütte. The last 300 m altitude gain must be walked, but the backpack can be

transported. The bike was used for a fast and comparatively easy descent with heavy loaded backpacks.

Plauener Hütte: Drive by car to Bärenbad (5 hours from Leoben), from there with a public bus to the dam and by foot in 1.5 hours to the Plauener Hütte.

The fieldwork itself was no mapping but reconnaissance work, see [Figure 4](#page-12-2) for the tracks and Figures [2](#page-10-2) and [3](#page-11-0) for field images: The existing paths and easily accessible outcrops were walked and checked for molybdenite mineralization. Lithology changes were noted, but not mapped laterally. Also, the newly ice-free rocks below the glaciers were walked and wherever possible the ridges were climbed or at least approached. In sum, one-fourth of the fieldwork was conducted on paths, the remaining trackless in mostly high-alpine rocky or moraine terrain. Aside from the dangers of the environment one of the main challenges was, that outcrops were either extremely large (e.g., rock faces or giant inclined slabs below glaciers) or covered by moraine material, glaciers or snow.

Figure 3: View to the N from below the Zillerplattenspitze, red lines are walked tracks.

For sampling, a 2.5 kg hammer and sometimes a chisel were used to get samples of about 1 kg for geochemical analysis. More was not possible due to the challenging terrain and the long hauling distances to the car to gather a reasonable number of samples. In the years 2017 and 2018, every sample was recorded with GPS coordinates, which were rechecked at the office with georeferenced aerial photographs (Orthophotos from Basemap.at), since the GPS accuracy can be insufficient in high-relief areas. The list of all samples with GPS coordinates, description and thin section number if available can be found in the Appendix.

3.2 Microscopy

Most samples examined with one of the other methods were examined by optical microscopy as polished 30 μm thin sections with an Olympus B201 and an Olympus BX40 with a Canon EOS 450D for microphotos.

Figure 4: Map of the tracks in the working area. Green points are samples, blue points are mapped features.

3.3 XRF

All samples measured with the XRF were prepared by the following steps:

- 1. Crushing of at least 500 g sample and milling of at least 100 g with an agate disc mill
- 2. Drying at 105 °C for at least 2 hours to determine dry mass
- 3. Burning at 1050 °C for two hours to determine the loss on ignition (LOI)
- 4. Melting 1 g of the burnt powder with 8 g Lithium borate ($Li_2B_4O_7$) to XRF fused discs

The measurements were conducted with Panalytical/Malvern AXIOS XRF instruments at the chair of Geology and Economic Geology the Chair of General and Analytical Chemistry, both at the Montanuniversity Leoben.

3.4 ICP-MS

All samples measured with ICP-MS at the Chair of General and Analytical Chemistry were prepared by the following steps to obtain a sodium peroxide digestion:

- 1. Weighting in 0.1000 g milled sample and 0.6 g sodium peroxide $(Na₂O₂)$
- 2. Burning for 45 minutes at 500 $^{\circ}$ C in graphite crucibles
- 3. After cooling putting the crucibles in Teflon cups, filling up the crucibles with deionized water
- 4. 5 minutes time for reactions while heated to 90 °C and stirred until reactions in the crucibles stop
- 5. Pouring and washing the graphite crucible in the Teflon cup with deionized water
- 6. Filling everything from the Teflon cup in a tube and centrifuge
- 7. Decanting in a 100 ml flask
- 8. Filling the solid residue with 3 ml 3 molar hydrochloric acid (HCl) and shake until complete dissolution, then pouring in the flask
- 9. Washing the graphite crucible with 2 ml concentrated HCl and pouring that in the flask
- 10. Filling up the 100 ml flask with deionized water and homogenizing
- 11. Keeping 50 ml for the measurements in a screw tube
- 12. Pipetting 1 ml from the screw tube in a test tube
- 13. Pipetting 4 ml nitric acid (HNO3) and 100 μl of a Ge/In/Re standard solution in the test tube

The measurements were conducted with an Agilent Technologies 7500ce ICP-MS.

3.5 SEM

All samples analyzed using the SEM, a Zeiss Evo MA 10, were polished 30 μm thin sections with vacuum graphite coating. Measuring conditions were 15-20 kV with a Bruker EDX detector.

3.6 Raman

The measurements were conducted with a Jobin Yvon Labram with a 532.2 nm Nd-YAG laser and diffraction gratings of 1200 grooves/mm with an Olympus BX 40 microscope with transmitted light at room temperature.

3.7 Software

For statistical analysis and graph production, the software R with installed GCDkit (Janoušek et al., 2006) was used. Simple diagrams were produced with Microsoft Excel. Maps were produced in QGIS 3.2. The structural data were plotted with Stereonet (Allmendinger et al., 2011; Cardozo and Allmendinger, 2013).

4 Results

4.1 Petrography

Although Schermaier (1993) introduced a new classification scheme for the central gneisses (Zentralgneise) in this area, this study uses modernized names after Karl (1964, 1963, 1962, 1961), which are also used in the geological map (Karl and Schmidegg, 1979). The exact classification would have gone beyond the scope of a master thesis. Moreover, it is not relevant for the problem and comparison with the geological map is easier for successor researchers. For the new classification, the reader is referred to Schermaier (1993) pages 115-118.

4.1.1 Granitic Ortho-Gneiss (Augen- und Flasergneise sensu Karl)

Augengneiss is the dominant lithology in the studied area. As the German name suggests, they are orthogneisses with large (up to 3 cm) bright feldspar clasts, mostly K-feldspar, and many mafic enclaves [\(Figure 5b](#page-14-4)). The modal composition leads to granitic protoliths originating from fractional crystallization. The orthogneiss is nearly everywhere foliated and in some areas mylonitic. The mylonitic shear zones formed during a late stage of the Alpine orogenesis since they do not show any younger deformation, strike SW-NE and contain sheared alpine joints.

[Figure 5a](#page-14-4) shows a typical Augengneiss with a sheared joint.

Figure 5: Orthogneiss; a: sheared alpine joint in sheared gneiss. 300 m SW of N Zillerscharte on glacial polish in the shear zone; undeformed gneiss with mafic enclaves at the Hanemannweg below the N Zillerscharte.

[Figure 6](#page-15-1) shows a typical example of the Augengneiss with large K-feldspar clasts surrounded by smaller grains of quartz, chlorite, often biotite or muscovite (in this case not visible) and plagioclase. Note, that the plagioclase is strongly saussuritizised. This is not everywhere the case, but very often and especially in the proximity to the aplitic granite and can change even on the scale of a thin section. Garnet, zircon and epidote are common accessories.

Figure 6:Microscopic images of the Augengneiss. (a) II N, (b) X N. The large crystal to the left is a twinned K-feldspars, in the center are saussuritizised plagioclases, the rounded grey grains to the right are quartzes, the greenish grains are chlorites and the grains with higher interference colors are zircons. Sample 15RH16.

4.1.2 Mafic dykes (Basischer Gang sensu Karl)

Distributed throughout the area are mafic dykes following the general foliation trend. Most of them are 1-5 m thick, although there are some thicker examples (about 20 m seen on the N face of the Roßkarscharte). They contain xenoliths of the host rock and [\(Figure 8,](#page-16-1) sample 17PH13 from the Zillerplattenscharte).

Figure 7: Microscopic images of the mafic dykes. (a) II N, (b) X N. Colorless minerals are plagioclase and quartz, green minerals are chlorite, epidote and amphibole, the dark cube to the lower right is pyrite. Sample 15RH14.

Figure 8: Mafic dyke with aplitic xenoliths (next to the hammer) in aplitic granite, E flank of mount Gabler.

[Figure 7](#page-15-2) shows microscopic images of the mafic dykes. As they encountered at least two metamorphic events, they are present as amphibole-bearing chlorite-epidote-schists now. Other main components are quartz, plagioclase and orthoclase; accessories are calcite, pyrite, titanite and apatite. The minerals were identified using Raman spectroscopy.

4.1.3 Aplitic Granite (Aplitgranit des Typus Reichenspitze sensu Karl)

The type locality of the aplitic granite is the highest peak in the studied area, the Reichenspitze (3303 m). It is the youngest granite in the area (Finger et al., 1993; Karl, 1962, 1961; Schermaier, 1993), which could be confirmed as intrusion contacts are visible. [Figure 9](#page-17-0) shows hand specimen of the aplitic granite in the typical coarse-grained, aplitic and slightly greenish appearance.

Figure 9: Hand specimen of the aplitic granite; a: sample 17PH01, b: sample 17PH10.

Figure 10: Microscopic images of the aplitic granite. (a) II N, (b) X N. The large crystals with polysynthetic twinning and microliths are plagioclase, in the left part is quartz (destructive interference), the green platy minerals are chlorites and the small grains with higher interference colors in the lower left corner are zircons. Sample 17PH01.

The main components of the aplitic granite are quartz, plagioclase and K-feldspar; minor components are garnet, chlorite, muscovite and biotite. Accessories are zircon and epidote. Kfeldspars are often broken to pieces and look similar to quartz. Most plagioclase is strongly saussuritizised and filled with microlites. Nests of chlorite, garnet, zircon, epidote, the latter often with elevated rare-earth-element (REE) content, are typical. The typical texture is shown in [Figure 10.](#page-17-1)

4.1.4 Molybdenite mineralization

Figure 11: Hand specimen of Augengneiss with mineralized quartz joint (molybdenite and pyrite), sample 18PH5.

Molybdenite occurs in the studied area in two types: in quartz-filled veins (Figures [11](#page-18-1) and [12d](#page-19-0)) and disseminated [\(Figure 13\)](#page-20-0). The former is less abundant and does not occur in every mineralized zone. However, both are mainly bound to mineralized zones [\(Figure 17\)](#page-23-0), that differ from non-mineralized zones in terms of field appearance, mineralogy and field appearance. Features are a rusty, often spotted appearance (Figures [11-](#page-18-1)[14\)](#page-20-1) and a slight greenish chlorite alteration. Both are also developed outside these zones, but there is an association with the mineralization. The area around the N-Zillerscharte including some aplitic stocks to the S is mineralized. The Gabler/Reichenspitze area is mineralized (Walter et al., 2016) and there is a mineralization striking from the Mannlkar to the Roßkar, which is probably connected with the Reichenspitze/Gabler mineralization. All occurrences are cut by faults, which are associated with the mineralization, the N-Zillerscharte is the most obvious example with the mineralization reaching the highest grades directly in the shear zone. Molybdenite was sparsely found outside these zones [\(Figure 17\)](#page-23-0), and if, only in boulders.

The aplite bound disseminated type (Figure [12](#page-19-0) c and e, and [Figure 13\)](#page-20-0) occurs often as flakes lacking obvious fluid paths [\(Figure 12e](#page-19-0)) and in the vicinity of intrusion contacts (sample 18PH12). The vein type has a rusty halo and occurs in aplites (sample 18ZT2) and gneisses [\(Figure 11,](#page-18-1) sample 18PH5).

Figure 12: Molybdenites in the field, red ellipses mark molybdenite. a: near the Richterhütte in debris, b: SW of the N-Zillerscharte, c: in the Mannlkar directly on the hiking path, e: in the upper Mannlkar near the ridge to the W, e: near the Richterhütte in debris, f: S of the old Richterhütte below mount Gabler.

Also, mixed types [\(Figure 12](#page-19-0) a, b and f, and [Figure 14\)](#page-20-1) can be found, where macroscopically no quartz joint is visible, but the mineralization is distributed along planes. Under the microscope, this type often shows very large muscovite and quartz crystals surrounding the molybdenite. In the mineralized zones abundant molybdenite of either type can be easily found, but outside it is very scarce. Molybdenite is oriented parallel to the Alpine schistosity in all mineralization types.

Figure 13: Hand specimen of aplitic granite with disseminated molybdenite mineralization, sample 17PH07.

Figure 14: Hand specimen of mineralized Augengneiss with the mixed type mineralization, molybdenite is circled red, sample 17RH37.

Under the microscope, the two types are clearly distinguishable. The disseminated type [\(Figure](#page-21-2) [15\)](#page-21-2) yields molybdenite aggregates directly in the normal texture. The joint type [\(Figure 16\)](#page-21-3) yields large quartz and muscovite around the molybdenite aggregates, together they differ significantly from the host rock regarding grain size (larger), texture (no foliation) and paragenesis (no feldspar or accessories). Both mineralization types are often surrounded by heavily saussuritizised plagioclase, a remarkably high density of micro fluid inclusions or rusty grain borders. Unfortunately, the fluid inclusions were too small for further measurements.

Figure 15: Microscopic images of disseminated molybdenite in aplitic granite. (a) II N, (b) X N. The opaque platy aggregate to the lower left is molybdenite, the squarisch crytals with microliths are plagioclase, in between are small quartz and muscovite (blue and yellow interference colors) and in the lower right corner is a garnet (slightly pinkish in II N, isotropic). Sample 17PH09.

Figure 16: Microscopic images of a quartz joint with molybdenite in granite. (a) reflected light, (b) X N. The grains with low interference colors in the central part are quartz, the platy grains with higher interference colours are muscovite grown in the joint, the platy aggregates with a high white reflection are molybdenite and the small yellow reflecting grain to the lower right is pyrite. Note the significantly smaller grain size of the host rock at the lower and upper edge. Sample 17RH18.

4.1.5 Alpine veins

Throughout the whole area Alpine shear veins, which appear in any lithology are distributed. Most of them are filled with a typical paragenesis of adular (hydrothermal formed orthoclase), quartz, carbonate, chlorite and sometimes muscovite or sulfides in variable portions. Sometimes, the joints are not filled completely and show isomorphic crystals of the named minerals. A typical example can be seen in [Figure 5.](#page-14-4)

4.2 Map and Field Observations

The results of the fieldwork were compiled into an update of the geological map "Blatt Krimml 1:50 000" (Karl and Schmidegg, 1979). The mineralization in the areas Reichenspitze, Rosskar and Gabler is known from the geological mapping, but it was only mentioned without further research (Karl, 1964; Schmidegg, 1964). Most of the geological borders were taken as they are, but there were some changes made:

- Karl and Schmidegg (1979) differentiate between tonalitic gneiss ("Tonalitischer Gneis", unit 47), Augengneiss with aplitic dykes ("Augen- und Flasergneis", unit 48) and granitic gneiss ("Granitischer Gneis", unit 49). This study yielded, that all of them are the same granitic orthogneiss, showing variably strong deformation and a slight fractionation trend. This is particularly obvious at the S limit of the map below the Zillerplattenscharte. There, the hiking path follows a distinct \sim 50m wide mylonitic shear zone in the granitic orthogneiss, but the geological map displays a lithology change.
- Some large shear zones were mapped
- The glaciers were updated to their extent in the year 2015 (in this year the newest available orthographic photos were produced)
- Due to the glacial retreat, large areas, which were covered by ice during the original mapping, are accessible – although dangerous and not recommended for people without sound alpine experience – and were mapped. In these areas, two additional bodies of aplitic granite were found.
- Some moraines were changed to Alluvium and vice versa based on field evidence and analysis of airborne imagery and the digital elevation model. This could be caused by glacial retreat or availability of modern methods.

It is noticeable, that below 2500 m above sea-level no outcrops of aplitic granite or molybdenite bearing rocks exist, both are concentrated along the ridges with the Reichenspitze as a prominent example and highest peak of the area. It is reasonable to assume, that the aplitic granite as youngest pluton is the most competent and therefore had a higher resistance against the forces of tectonics and erosion producing the highest peaks of the area. Furthermore, it has to be noted, that there is a spatial correlation between large mapped ENE-WSW trending alpine faults or shear zones and molybdenite.

Regarding the young sediments, a differentiation is important in areas being ice-free in 1850 and areas not being ice-free in 1850. While the former are overgrown and stable, the latter yield no significant vegetation and are highly unstable and are regularly affected by debris flows. This is particularly problematic in the area N of the Richterhütte since the hydroelectric power station supplying the hut was destroyed every year since 2016. The best solution to face this

Figure 17: Geological map of the working area. Grid coordinates are in the GK M31 (31255) Austria Central coordinate system.

Figure 18: Geological map of the working area with the official geological map (Karl and Schmidegg, 1979) as background.

Figure 19: The official geological map (Karl and Schmidegg, 1979), modified to fit the extent of the map area with a reduced legend.

problem would be a reconstruction of the power station in a safe, overgrown area some 100m away since the current one was built directly in the fan.

[Figure 17](#page-23-0) shows the compiled map with a topographic map as background. [Figure 18](#page-24-0) compares this map with the geological map (Karl and Schmidegg, 1979) and [Figure 19](#page-25-0) shows only the geological map for a better comparison.

4.3 Structural geology

The whole Reichenspitz area was affected by Alpine shearing resulting in a uniform E-W striking cleavage dipping steeply to the N [\(Figure 20\)](#page-26-2). This is also the direction of the major faults [\(Figure 17\)](#page-23-0) and of many mafic dykes. For the latter, it can be assumed, that they were sheared into this direction. Sheared Alpine mineralized veins [\(Figure 5a](#page-14-4)) suggest a dextral shear sense during the late Alpine orogeny. Sharp, straight contacts of mafic dykes [\(Figure 8\)](#page-16-1) and the aplitic granites [\(Figure 20b](#page-26-2)) point to intrusions in a brittle regime and hence low temperatures.

The morphology formed due to the Pleistocene glaciation and is dominated by U-shaped valleys with steep glacial polished walls and moraines in the valley floor. Higher peaks and ridges (e.g. the ridge Zillerplattenscharte-Spaten-Richterspitze-Reichenspitze-Gabler-Mannlkarkopf) are former nunataks and hence deeply cracked and rugged.

Figure 20: a: Schmidt net of the schistosity planes' pole points, b: intrusive veins of the aplitic granite in gneiss at the hiking path below the Roßkarscharte on the S side.

4.4 Geochemistry

Most samples were measured as fused discs at the XRF of the Chair of Geology and Economic Geology in Leoben. Five samples were also measured for comparison and high-precision trace

element geochemistry at the Chair of General and Analytical Chemistry by ICP-MS and XRF. All data can be found in the Appendix.

4.4.1 Full Digestion

The following samples were measured at the Chair of General and Analytical Chemistry:

- 17PH01: The reference sample for the aplitic granite from the type locality on the summit of the Reichenspitze in the central part of the intrusion. This sample was used as a reference for inter-sample comparison and geotectonic classification.
- 17PH08, 17PH09, 17PH10: Samples from a mineralized fault in the N Zillerscharte with 17PH10 being the most unaltered. Those were chosen to observe gradients in the alteration.
- 17RH26: A mineralized sample from the Roßkar with allanite. The sample is somewhat similar to the aplitic granite microscopically and macroscopically despite its allanite content and was chosen to check geochemical similarity.

The trace element analyses of these samples are used in the discussion for geotectonic classification of the aplitic granites.

Figure 21: (a) Streckeisen diagram calculated with CIPW norm, (b) TAS diagram (Middlemost, 1994) of all samples measured with XRF

[Figure 21](#page-27-2) shows the normative classification of all 38 measured samples, following the TAS classification all of them except 15RH02 are granites. The cluster in the granite field marked with the red ellipse represents the aplitic granite samples. See chapter [5.1](#page-56-1) for a discussion of the streckeisen diagram.

The aplites [\(Figure 23\)](#page-29-0) show $SiO₂$ contents of 73-77%, below 1% CaO and 4-6% K₂O. The gneisses are lower in $SiO₂$ (mainly 70-73%, up to 77%) distinctly higher in CaO (1-3%) and lower in $K_2O(3-4\%)$.

The samples show differentiation trends for Ti, Al, Mg, Mn, Ca, P, Fe and K with rising $SiO₂$ content from the orthogneisses to the aplitic granite (Figures [23](#page-29-0) and [25,](#page-30-0) the latter with samples from other sites for comparison). K shows a positive correlation, whereas all other elements show a pronounced negative correlation. For Na, no trend can be observed, and for Mn a negative correlation is likely. Amongst the trace elements (Cu, Ce, Nb, Zr, Y, Sr, Rb, Th, Pb, Ga, Zn, Ni, Co, V, La, Ba, Sc, Cr, Cs, Hf and Nd were measured) only V, Y, Zn and Zr showed a correlation with the $SiO₂$ content [\(Figure 22\)](#page-28-0). Except for Y, all correlations are negative.

The data are similar to the data of the Felbertal scheelite deposit, but there are major differences to the Alpeinerscharte Mo deposit. This is particularly evident in the spider diagram [\(Figure](#page-31-0) [26\)](#page-31-0), where the highest similarity of the Richterspitz data exists with the light colored K1-K3 gneisses and the aplites of the Felbertal deposit. However, both are significantly enriched in high field strength elements.

Figure 22: Trace elements showing a differentiation trend with SiO2. Se[e Figure 24](#page-29-1) for symbology.

Figure 23: Harker diagrams of all samples of the major elements versus SiO2. Red circles=aplites, black circles=gneisses, black square=Alpine vein.

о	gneiss
	aplitic granite
	Qz vein
┿	$dK1-K3$
	$+$ IK1-k3
	ap
	Alpeiner

Figure 24: Symbols used in Figures [22](#page-28-0) to [26](#page-31-0). The first three categories are from this work, "Qz vein"= quartz vein. "dK1-K3" are dark colored K1-K3 gneisses, "lK1-K3" are light colored K1-K3 gneisses and "ap" are aplites, all from the scheelite deposit Felbertal (Kozlik, 2015). "Alpeiner" are samples from the Alpeiner Scharte Mo deposit (Melcher et al., 1996).

Figure 25: Harker diagrams of all samples and samples from the Alpeiner Scharte (Melcher et al., 1996) and the Felbertal scheelite deposit (Kozlik, 2015) of the major elements versus SiO2. Se[e Figure 24](#page-29-1) for symbology.

Figure 26: Spider diagrams of the samples (a) and reference samples (b) normalized to upper continental crust (Taylor and McLennan, 1995). See [Figure 24](#page-29-1) for symbology.

4.5 Mineralogy

All minerals described in this chapter were measured with the EDX detector of the SEM. Hence only the chemical composition and no crystallographic properties could be determined.

4.5.1 Feldspars

As mentioned in the petrography section (chapter [4.1\)](#page-14-2), in most samples the majority of plagioclase is at least medium and often strong or completely saussuritisized. See chapter [5.1.1](#page-56-2) for a discussion and an element mapping SEM image [\(Figure 58a](#page-57-0)) on that. Figures [6,](#page-15-1) [10](#page-17-1) and [15](#page-21-2) show typical appearances of plagioclase. As visible in [Figure 27,](#page-32-2) most feldspars belong to the end members albite or orthoclase and solid solutions are quite rare.

Figure 27: Feldspar composition triangle of 109 spot analyses (circles) with the SEM. Modified from (Muskid, 2018).

4.5.2 Garnet

Figure 28: Ternary diagram of garnet compositions.

Garnet is present in the aplitic granites and the gneisses in various frequencies. In the mafic dykes and the alpine veins, no garnet was observed. From 32 SEM measurements, the chemical composition of the garnet grains was calculated. For this the atomic percent were converted in atoms per formula unit, then the tetrahedral Al substituting Si was removed $(Al_{\text{non-tetrahedral}} = Al 3 + Si$). After this, the Al content was used to calculate the Fe³⁺ content (Fe³⁺ = 2 - Al_{non-tetrahedral}; $Fe^{2+} = Fe$ - Fe^{3+}). As the Fe^{3+} content equivalent to the andradite end member is in most cases below 0.25 atoms per formula unit, it was not used for the classification. Plotting the Ca, Fe^{2+} and Mn contents of the garnet grains [\(Figure 28\)](#page-33-2) yields that they are grossular-almandine solid solutions with a minor component of spessartine.

4.5.3 Silicates

In addition to the other minerals, also muscovite, biotite, titanite and quartz were observed. Muscovite appears as rock-forming mineral and in molybdenite-quartz veins as larger crystals. Biotite is often altered to chlorite, and in the aplitic granites, it frequently contains exsolution lamellae of rutile. In mineralized zones, the rutile lamellae in biotite are more abundant. Quartz appears as rock-forming mineral and as main constituent of quartz veins and contains in both cases micro fluid inclusions. Very rarely, crystals of halite and sylvite could be observed in/on quartz [\(Figure 29\)](#page-34-2). As the preparation process uses water and 2 μm sized salt crystals would dissolve immediately, it is likely, that they grew after the preparation. Assuming they originate from the sample, it is possible that fluid inclusions were opened during polishing, leading to evaporation of the contained fluid with dissolved salt that spontaneously crystallized halite and sylvite. This is taken as evidence for high salinities in the fluid inclusions.

Figure 29: Sample 17RH26, analyses 87-91. Hl=halite, Qz=quartz.

4.5.4 Epidote

Throughout the aplitic granites and less abundant in the gneisses, various members of the epidote family were observed. If occurring together with zircon or U-Th minerals, often REE are incorporated in the epidote grains forming allanite. Y, La, Ce and Nd are the elements which reach the highest concentration with 12.5 atomic percent Y as the highest single value [\(Table](#page-51-1) [5\)](#page-51-1).

4.5.5 Zircon

55 zircon grains were analyzed using the SEM [\(Table 1\)](#page-35-2). Most zircons are isomorphic and frequently occur with U-Th minerals or REE-bearing phases. In rare cases [\(Figure 57\)](#page-56-3) inclusions can be observed. The Hf contents range from 0 to 0.03 atoms per formula unit.

Table 1: Zircon analyses from the SEM, all numbers are atoms per formula unit.

4.5.6 Apatite

Apatites were observed in several aplitic granite samples and usually contain about 3-4 atomic percent F. In their vicinity REE-bearing phosphates such as xenotime, monazite and brabantite are frequently observed.

4.5.7 Carbonates

Calcite is a widespread, but rare alteration mineral in many samples and appears as pervasive alteration and replaces other grains [\(Figure 30\)](#page-36-1).

Figure 30: Sample 15RH05, analyses 1-6. Ab=albite, Bt=biotite, Cal=calcite, Or=orthoclase, Py=pyrite, FeOx=iron oxides 4.5.8 Oxides

As many samples have a rusty appearance in the field, this is also observable in thin sections. Primary Fe minerals are hematite, ilmenite and magnetite; they are often altered to various Fe oxides. The latter could not be determined accurately with the SEM. Therefore, they are pointed out as FeOx. The FeOx are often associated with molybdenite and form pseudomorphs after their predecessor minerals [\(Figure 34\)](#page-38-0) as well as crack fillings [\(Figure 33\)](#page-38-1). [Figure 30](#page-36-0) shows calcite with an alteration of FeOx. This is an alteration and no weathering, as weathering would dissolve calcite rather than precipitating Fe oxides. This was only observed near sulfides although calcite is distributed equally on this thin section. As the oxidation also affected galena, a Pb oxide or carbonate species was found.

In the gneiss sample 15RH05, an unusual large aggregate of pyrrhotite [\(Figure 31\)](#page-37-0) with a cavity filled with Cr-Ni-magnetite was found. Cr contents are 6-7 atomic percent, Ni contents range from 3-4 atomic percent while the Fe content is about 33 atomic percent [\(Figure 32\)](#page-37-1). The crystals seem to be of hydrothermal origin as they are in a cavity. The Ni source is probably pentlandite previously coexisting with the pyrrhotite. For the Cr source, only speculations are possible: 15RH05 is a loose block found in a moraine, it is possible that it was initially located near to a mafic dyke which may have served as a source for Cr.

Figure 31: Sample 15RH05, analyses 29-31, the Mag is a Cr-Ni-magnetite. Mag=magnetite, Po=pyrrhotite.

Figure 32: Atomic composition diagram of the measured Cr-Ni-magnetites, sample 15RH05.

Figure 33: Sample 17RH18, analyses 98-101. Or=orthoclase, Qz=quartz. 4.5.9 Sulfides

Although the major part of the mineralization is molybdenite, there are also other sulfides present and associated with it. In order of frequency: pyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite ($Fe₇S₈$), galena and sphalerite. Pyrite also occurs solely. All of them but especially pyrite are often oxidized at the rims [\(Figure 34b](#page-38-0)) or pervasive [\(Figure 34a](#page-38-0)).

Figure 34: (a) sample 17PH09, analyses 7-9; (b) sample 18PH4, analyses 17-18. Ab=albite, Py=Pyrite.

4.5.10 Molybdenite

Figure 35: Molybdenite in sample 17PH09.

Figure 36: SEM image of Mol in sample 15RH05.

Molybdenite appears as platy, often deformed aggregates with no internal structure (Figures [15,](#page-21-0) [16](#page-21-1) and [35\)](#page-39-0) except the undulous anisotropy colors under X N and the strongly developed cleavage. This is also mainly true in chemical terms [\(Figure 36\)](#page-39-1). Most molybdenite aggregates

consist over large homogeneous areas of pure molybdenite with sporadic cracks following the cleavage plains, very rarely there are small blebs of native Bi or Bi alloys.

4.5.11 Bismuth phases

Figure 37: (a) Sample 15RH05, analyses 216-219; (b) S Sample 15RH05, analyses 23-25.

Figure 38: Sample 15RH05; a: analyses 208-211, b: analysis 4. Ab= albite, Mol = molybdenite, Or = orthoclase.

Figure 39: (a) Sample 15RH20, analysis 22, (b) sample 18ZT2 analysis 36. Bt=biotite.

Figure 40: (a) Sample 18ZT2, analyses 40, 41; (b) sample 15RH05, analyses 26, 27.

Figure 41: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 6-12. Mol=molybdenite.

Bi-Minerals are present in several thin sections. They occur completely enclosed in molybdenite and as free grains, but always near to molybdenite or other sulfides. Most frequent are bismuthinite (Bi2S3) and native bismuth. Bismuthinite [\(Figure 38a](#page-40-0)) yielded about 40 atomic percent Bi and 60 atomic percent S. [Table 2](#page-44-0) shows the results of the analyses of Bi-containing minerals.

Figure 42: Sample 15RH05, analyses 46-52.

Bismuth tellurides are frequent amongst Bi containing minerals: A mineral similar to sztrókayite ($Bi₃TeS₂$, [Figure 38b](#page-40-0)) yielded 45 atomic percent Bi, 17 atomic percent Te and 32 atomic percent S, which fits well with $Bi₃TeS₂$. This mineral was only found as inclusions in molybdenite, often associated with other Bi minerals. Similar are joséite-B (Bi₄Te₂S, 50 atomic percent Bi, 30 atomic percent Te, 10 atomic percent S) and hedleyite $(Bi₇Te₃, 65$ atomic percent Bi, 35 atomic percent Te), both are not exactly stoichiometric, but best fits.

Bismuth oxide phases [\(Figure 50\)](#page-52-0) were frequently encountered and yielded 30-60% O in the analysis. As there is no exact calibration for O in such minerals available at the used SEM, it can be assumed, that at least some of them are bismite $(Bi₂O₃)$ grains. However, they are clearly alteration phases.

Analysis FM100 22 (Figure 39a) yielded a chemical composition between bismoclite (BiOCl) and demicheleite (BiSCl). However, it is questionable how much O is really in the mineral.

A variety of Pb-Bi-S minerals was found, they were interpreted as cannizarite $(Pb_8Bi_{10}S_{23}$, [Figure 39b](#page-40-1)), cosalite ($Pb_2Bi_2S_5$, Figure 40a) and galenobismutite ($PbBi_2S_4$, Figure 42) as best fits. As the differences between cannizzarite and cosalite minerals are comparatively small, it can only be concluded, that at least one of them probably exists in the thin sections.

As the only observed sulfosalt and Ag bearing phase, probably pavonite $(AgBi₃S₅, 30$ atomic percent Bi, 5 atomic percent Ag and 65 atomic percent S, [Figure 36\)](#page-39-1) was found.

Molybdenum-containing Bi minerals, namely probably cannizzarite, koechlinite, sardignaite and suseinargiuite are described in chapter [4.5.13.](#page-46-0)

Interestingly, native Bi seems often to be a relict core [\(Figure 37b](#page-40-2)) but also forms complete crack fillings [\(Figure 43\)](#page-44-1). This points to a multiphase evolution of the mineralization, but also to spatial differences within the mineralization. Inside molybdenite, only bismuthinite, Sztrókayite, cosalite and native Bi occur and are mostly pure (Figures [37a](#page-40-2) and [40a](#page-41-0)).

Outside molybdenite, complex intergrowths dominate (Figures [37b](#page-40-2) and [50\)](#page-52-0). The assemblage in [Figure 50](#page-52-0) is of particular interest because it is the only occurrence of lillianite ($Pb_3Bi_2S_6$) and acanthite (Ag2S) in the working area. In the direct surroundings (1 cm) of this complex are large molybdenite plates, accompanied by pyrite and chalcopyrite in the thin section.

Possible Mineral	Spektrum	Figure	\overline{O}	Na	Al	Si	S	C1	Fe	As	Mo	Ag	Te	Re	Pb	Bi
Bismuthinite	FM0993		22.40				42.54				0.00		0.00			35.06
Bismuthinite	FM0994		41.13				28.77				0.00		0.04			30.06
Bismuthinite	FM099 1		4.46				57.34				0.00		0.25			37.96
Bismuthinite	FM099 11		5.78				57.72				0.00		0.00			36.50
Bismuthinite	FM099 14						56.14				0.00	7.32	0.00	0.92		35.61
Bismuthinite	FM099 16		4.67				57.43					0.00	0.00			37.91
Bismuthinite	FM099 17		12.85				48.34					0.00	0.43			38.38
Bismuthinite	FM099 19		3.80				57.66					0.34	0.00			38.19
Bismuthinite	FM099 20		24.09				40.66						0.15			35.10
Bismuthinite	FM099 22		17.40				45.22						0.00			37.39
Bismuthinite	FM099 25		12.76				50.28						0.00			36.96
Bismuthinite	FM099 27	Figure 40b5.80					57.26						0.00			36.94
Bismuthinite	FM099 7						61.27				3.78 0.00		2.67	0.00		32.27
Cannizarite	18ZT2 36	Figure 39b5.66					50.69					2.96			17.0123.67	
Cannizarite	18ZT2 40		9.95				45.66				18.032.16				10.19 14.02	
Cosalite	18ZT2 41	Figure 40a8.82					55.40					2.68			16.92 16.18	
Galenobismutite FM089		Figure 42 46			2.04		53.01								16.6228.32	
Galenobismutite FM089		Figure $42\,$ 46			2.04		53.01								16.6228.32	
Hedleyite	FM089	Figure 42											35.07-			64.93
Joséite-B	FM099 26	Figure 40b10.55					9.24						29.14			51.07
Koechlinite	18ZT2 10	Figure 41 59.34									25.12					15.54
Koechlinite	18ZT2 8	Figure 41 62.83									24.24					12.64
Koechlinite	18ZT2 9	Figure 41 69.71									17.28					12.96
Lillianite	18ZT2 26	Figure 50 6.07					51.85					3.38			17.1921.50	
Pavonite?	GR2	11 $Figure 36$					64.18				0.00 5.25		0.00			30.57
	(FM099)															
Sardignaite	18ZT2 12	Figure 41 62.57									23.97					13.43
Suseinargiuite	18ZT2 54	Figure 46b67.535.68									16.950.92					8.92
Suseinargiuite	18ZT2 55	Figure 46b68.894.20									18.31 1.05					7.55
Sztrókayite	FM099 4	Figure 38b6.22					32.16						17.01			44.61
Sztrókayite	GR2	12Figure 36					38.72				$0.00\ 0.82$		15.240.00			45.22
	(FM099)															

Table 2: SEM EDX analyses of Bi containing minerals. Note, that the mineral names are only proposed according to the approximate composition without H2O, CO² and only roughly estimated O contents. All numbers are normalized atomic percent.

Figure 43: Sample 15RH05, analyses 33-39. Bi=native Bi, Po=pyrrhotite, Py=pyrite.

4.5.12 Uranium-Thorium phases

Figure 44: Uranium, Fe and Th contents in uraninite-thorite grains.

In most aplitic granites, U-Th minerals are present and often associated with zircon, allanite or phosphates (see Assemblages section [4.5.16\)](#page-53-0). Most frequent are thorite and uraninite and solid solutions of them, often with a significant Fe content [\(Figure 44\)](#page-45-0). In both minerals are often considerable Pb contents of several percents, see [Table 3.](#page-46-1) In addition, also cheralite $(CaTh(PO₄)₂)$ and calciothorite $((Th,Ca₂)SiO₄ · 3.5H₂O)$ were found.

Table 3: SEM EDX analyses of U-Th minerals, all numbers are normalized atomic percent. Urn = uraninite, Thr thorite, Fe-Thr=Fe-thorite, U-Thr=U-Thr.

4.5.13 Molybdenum alteration phases

Figure 45: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 1-5. Bt=biotite.

In most thin sections, Mo occurs only in molybdenite, which is rather pure except some inclusions of Bi-minerals (see chapter [4.5.11\)](#page-40-3) and a minor Re content. However, there is one thin section, 18ZT2, for which this is not true. This sample is one of the few, in which molybdenite-quartz veins with a surrounding alteration could be observed. With the SEM, the common alteration minerals wulfenite (PbMoO4; [Figure 41\)](#page-41-1) and powellite (Ca(MoO4); Figure [48\)](#page-50-0) could be identified. [Table 4](#page-48-0) shows all analyses of Mo containing minerals except molybdenite and possible corresponding mineral names fitting the chemistry.

Fine-grained "alteration phases" ([Figure 46\)](#page-49-0) which do not fit with which any known mineral were found frequently and are considered as the Mo bearing equivalent of FeOx. Besides Mo, they contain Pb, Fe, O and elements typical for silicates (Na, Al, Si and Ca) in various portions. In this category probably also the Mo-galena and the Mo-hematite should be included.

A mineral probably chemically similar to Betpakdalite-CaCa $([Ca₂(H₂O)₁₇Ca(H₂O)₆]$ $[Mo⁶⁺₈ As⁵⁺₂Fe³⁺₃O₃₆(OH)]$ was only found in one analysis, unfortunately at an inappropriate zoom level [\(Figure 47\)](#page-49-1) at the examination after the measuring.

Ichnusaite $[Th(MoO₄)₂·3H₂O,$ monoclinic (Orlandi et al., 2014)] and nuragheite $[Th(MoO₄)₂·H₂O,$ no crystal structure known (Orlandi et al., 2015a)] differ only in their H₂O contents. As there are many similar measurements in adequate sized grains [\(Figure 45,](#page-46-2) right bright grain), which fit these minerals' chemistry it is sure that at least one of them was measured. In figures, this phase is referred to as ichnusaite.

Sardignaite $[BiMo₂O₇(OH)$ ² $H₂O$, monoclinic, [Figure 41](#page-41-1) (Orlandi et al., 2010)] is also a mineral, which can be assumed to exist due to reasonable analyses in sample 18ZT2. However, it is to note, that sardignaite has a high content of O and H which could not be measured.

Although only present in one grain [\(Figure 46b](#page-49-0)), it is likely, that suseinargiuite $[(Na_{0.5}Bi_{0.5})(MoO₄),$ no crystal structure known (Orlandi et al., 2015b)] is present in sample 18ZT2, as the combination of Na, Bi and Mo is only present in suseinargiuite. However, it cannot be excluded, that new minerals with this composition will be described which fit the analysis or structure better.

Orlandi and coworkers described Ichnusaite/nuragheite, sardignaite and suseinargiuite from the Mo mineralization Su Seinargiu in Sardinia. Sardignaite is already known from the Reichenspitzgruppe at the Gabler (Burgsteiner, 2017; Walter et al., 2016), suseinargiuite and ichnusaite are not yet described outside the type locality. Unfortunately, this finding cannot contribute mineralogical data to the incomplete descriptions of suseinargiuite/nuragheite as the grains are very small as at the type locality.

Table 4: SEM EDX analyses of Mo containing minerals. Note, that the mineral names are only proposed according to the approximate composition without H2O, CO² and only roughly estimated O contents. All numbers are normalized atomic percent.

Figure 46: Sample 18ZT2, (a) analyses 61, 62 white is Bi oxide, grey is Mo-Pb-Bi-O alteration phase (analysis 18ZT2_61 in [Table 4\)](#page-48-0); (b) analyses 54, 55.

Figure 47: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 13-16.

[Figure 45](#page-46-2) shows two ichnusaite aggregates in a larger former crystal, which is now composed of FeOx. The most outstanding proof that these minerals formed during a later alteration is shown in [Figure 48,](#page-50-0) where powellite pseudomorphous after molybdenite can be observed. [Figure 47](#page-49-1) is similar, although it can only be speculated, that the powellite is pseudomorphous after molybdenite, though the probable betpakdalite-CaCa in the cracks is a very distinct sign for the alteration present here.

Figure 48: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 67, 68. Mol=molybdenite 4.5.14 REE phases

In the aplitic granites, REE-bearing minerals are common (see [Table 5](#page-51-0) for REE contents in the REE containing minerals). Allanite is most widespread and often zoned [\(Figure 49\)](#page-52-1), but there are also numerous other phases: aeschynite-(Y) $((Y, La, Ca, Th)(Ti, Nb)_2(O, OH)_6)$, bastnäsite $((Ce, La)(CO₃)F)$, euxenite $((Y, Ca, Ce, U, Th) (Nb, Ta, Ti)₂O₆)$, monazite $(Ce(PO₄))$, monaziteapatite, synchysite-(Ce) $(CaCe(CO_3)_2F)$ and xenotime (Y(PO₄), Xtm). Those minerals rarely occur solitary but most often together with zircon or U-Th minerals (see Assemblages section [4.5.16\)](#page-53-0).

Mineral	Spektrum	Y	Nb	La	Ce	Nd Hf		Ta	Pr+Sm+Eu+Gd+Dy+Yb+Hf Th	
Allanite	17RH18 134				1.55 2.68	0.95			0.89	4.16
Allanite	17RH18 141				3.96 7.38	3.11			1.66	0.73
Allanite	17RH18 143				2.97 5.84	1.86			0.65	0.57
Allanite	17RH18 146 1.57				3.47 5.85	2.18			2.47	$0.08\,$
Allanite	17RH18 147 1.84				3.59 6.52	2.56			0.97	0.13
Allanite	17RH26				0.95 2.04	0.99			0.00	0.11
Allanite	17RH26				1.12 2.17	0.73			$0.00\,$	0.06
Allanite	17RH26				0.76 1.41	0.00			$0.00\,$	0.00
Allanite	17RH26			0.55 1.27		0.40			$0.00\,$	0.13
Allanite	17RH26				0.81 1.59	0.53			0.00	0.11
Allanite	17RH26				1.05 2.40	0.77			$0.00\,$	0.14
Allanite	17RH26				0.50 1.02	0.10			0.00	0.01
Allanite	17RH37 182				1.22				0.16	
Allanite	17RH37_1				2.04				1.31	
Allanite	17RH37_7				1.04 1.65	0.50			0.64	
Allanite	17RH37_8				0.01 0.03	0.00			0.01	
Allanite	18PH4 16	0.00			0.08				0.00	
Allanite	18PH4 22	0.74			0.05				0.00	
Allanite	18PH4 28	0.34			0.01				0.00	0.03
Allanite	18PH4 30	0.06			0.04				0.00	0.05
Allanite	18ZT2_18	1.51							0.00	
Allanite	18ZT2 76	1.80			0.05				0.00	
Allanite	18ZT2 77	2.05			0.04				0.00	
Allanite	FM099 10								0.00	0.81
Allanite	FM099 17				2.07	0.83			1.08	
Allanite	FM099 18				3.19 6.18	3.40			0.00	
Allanite	FM099 223				0.04				$0.00\,$	0.84
Allanite	FM100 173				0.31 0.82	0.42			0.51	0.04
Allanite	FM100 174				0.09 0.38	0.11			0.09	
Allanite	FM100 182				0.41 1.02	0.44			0.37	4.15
Allanite	FM100 184				0.62 1.47	0.49			0.51	0.69
Bastnäsit	17RH18				5.62 9.99	2.82			1.17	1.14
Euxenite	17PH01 39 13.44 17.93				0.19	$0.00\,$			0.73	
Euxenite	17PH01_43 14.60 17.85				0.17	0.06			0.36	
Monazite	18PH5 22			2.67 5.61		2.08			$0.00\,$	6.80
Monazite	18PH5 25				3.18 5.89	2.62			$0.00\,$	
Monazite	18PH5 38	0.00			4.75 7.97		2.45 0.26		0.26	0.11
Monazite	18PH5 40				3.33 6.58	2.74			0.00	
Monazite Monazite	18PH5 46				3.74 7.23 3.42 6.93	2.80			0.00	
	18PH5 48				4.24 8.37	3.15 3.33			0.00 0.00	0.27
Monazite Monazite	18PH5 60 18PH5 62				3.69 7.14	2.92			0.00	0.64
					2.78 5.88	2.19				
Monazite-Apatite Monazite-Apatite	18PH5 41 18PH5 42				3.34 6.62	2.22			0.00 $0.00\,$	2.16 0.97
Monazite-Apatite	18PH5 43				3.17 6.32	2.71			$0.00\,$	1.98
Synchisite	17RH18 129 2.53				$3.13 \, 5.84$	3.30			0.00	0.70
Synchisite	17RH18 129 2.53				3.13 5.84	3.30			$0.00\,$	0.70
Xenotime	17PH01 26	13.40							0.92	
Xenotime	17PH01 27	13.67							0.79	
Xenotime	17PH01 55 12.96				0.00				0.06	
Xenotime	17PH01 66 12.57								0.00	
Xenotime	18PH4 34	10.70							$0.00\,$	
Xenotime	18PH4 44	13.69			0.00				1.78	0.14
Xenotime	18PH5 44	12.57 0.00							0.62 1.52	0.32
Xenotime	18PH5 50	12.81							1.01	
Y-Allanite	18PH4 13	9.41			0.07				0.00	
Y-Allanite	18PH4 23	12.77			0.06				1.61	
Y-Allanite	18PH4 25	12.81			0.00				$0.00\,$	0.14

Table 5: SEM EDX analyses of REE contents in REE containing minerals. Note, that the mineral names are only proposed according to the approximate composition without H2O, CO² and only roughly estimated O contents. All numbers are normalized atomic percent. The complete analyses are in the appendix.

4.5.15 Very rare accessories

In sample 18ZT2, which contains many rather exotic phases also acanthite/argentite (Ag2S) and lillianite ($Pb_{3-2x}Ag_xBi_{2+x}S_6$) were found. Ag is known from the area as a component in electrum

(Burgsteiner, 2017; Walter et al., 2016), but not yet as sulfide. In sample 17PH01 tiemannite (HgSe; 48 atomic percent Se, 40 atomic percent Hg, 8 atomic percent O and 2 atomic percent Si, the latter two are probably from the surrounding quartz) was found as an inclusion in quartz.

Figure 49: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 15-18. Note the visible zoning of the allanite in the lower part visible due to an enrichment of REE (mainly Y) in the core. Aln (Y)=allanite (Y), Thr=thorite, Zrn=zircon.

Figure 50: Sample 18ZT2, analyses 25-29. Bi=Bismuth oxide (bismite?)

4.5.16 Assemblages

Figure 51: Sample 17RH37, analyses 9-10. Ccp=chalcopyrite, Mol= molybdenite, Py=pyrite.

Figure 52: Sample 18PH5, analyses 5-8. Ccp=chalcopyrite, Mol=molybdenite, Py=pyrite, Qz=quartz.

This chapter deals with assemblages, that frequently occur throughout the examined thin sections, although all presented minerals were also observed alone. [Figure 51](#page-53-1) shows an assemblage typical for porphyry deposits including molybdenite, chalcopyrite and pyrite. This assemblage is very rare in the Reichenspitze area. Most (~90%) of the molybdenite are without additional ore minerals. Few are associated with pyrite, and chalcopyrite is even less abundant. [Figure 52](#page-53-2) is even more special, as it shows molybdenite inclusions in pyrite, a clear proof, that they formed contemporaneously.

Figure 53: Sample 17PH01, analyses 20-24.Aln=allanite, Ap=apatite, Thr=thorite, Zrn=zircon.

Figure 54: Sample 17RH37, analyses 1-6. Aln=allanite, Ep=epidote, Hl=halite, Thr=thorite.

Figure 55: Sample 18PH4, analyses 34-38. Qz=quartz, Thr=thorite, Xtm=xenotime, Zrn=zircon.

Figures [53](#page-54-0) to [56](#page-55-0) show variations of the very common allanite/epidote-zircon-thorite assemblage also often including phosphates (apatite, xenotime, monazite) and biotite. Note in Figures [53](#page-54-0) and [49,](#page-52-1) that the allocation of REE is dependent on the availability of P. If P is present, REEbearing phosphates are formed, else the REE with Y as the most common element are incorporated in allanite. Most REE-bearing allanites (Figures [49,](#page-52-1) [54](#page-54-1) and [56\)](#page-55-0) are zoned, this can be well observed on the backscatter SEM images as REE have a high atomic mass and appear brighter than the surroundings.

Figure 56: Sample 17RH26, analyses 75-81. Ab=albite, Aln=allanite, Grt=garnet, Or=orthoclase.

A special case of the allanite/epidote-zircon-thorite assemblage is shown in [Figure 56.](#page-55-0) This is very typical for the molybdenite bearing aplitic granite, as it also includes skeletal garnet. Some of these garnets together with biotite could be used for geothermometry (chapter [5.1.3\)](#page-59-0). Another exceptional case of this assemblage is shown in [Figure 57,](#page-56-0) where zircon contains Th bearing uraninite inclusions.

Figure 57: Sample 18PH4, analyses 20, 21. Bt=biotite, Urn=uraninite, Zrn=zircon.

5 Discussion

5.1 Petrology

5.1.1 Saussuritization

The chemical analyses yield normative compositions on the far left side of the Streckeisen diagram [\(Figure 21a](#page-27-0)), which accord neither with the TAS classification, nor with the modal composition, nor with what can be expected from the literature (Schermaier, 1993 and references therein). The classification after Streckeisen (1976) was initially designed for use with modal compositions, although being widespreadly used also with the normative composition calculated with the CIPW norm (in this work using the GCDkit in R). The CIPW norm assigns minerals to major elements and calculates a theoretical composition with standard minerals.

In the Streckeisen triangle, the A (alkali feldspar) component is defined as the sum of orthoclase and albite, the P component is defined as the anorthite content (Streckeisen, 1976). In terms of chemistry, this means that nearly the whole K and Na content is accounted for the A component and the Ca content for the P component. As plagioclase is a solid solution of anorthite and albite, this can lead to problems. Therefore Streckeisen and Le Maitre (1979) invented a slightly

different calculation [\(Figure 58b](#page-57-0)), that is indeed better, but still not what can be expected from microscopy. The strong saussuritisation of the plagioclase to saussurite is the problem. [Figure](#page-57-0) [58a](#page-57-0) shows an element map produced with the SEM. The large pink ($Na = 0$ albite component) crystal in the left part is a saussurite with microliths. Under the microscope with X N still polysynthetic twinning is recognizable. Chemically, this is albite and hence counts for the A component, but mineralogically this would count as anorthite for the P component.

Figure 58: (a): SEM image of 13ZH09; (b): Q'-ANOR plot after Streckeisen and Le Maitre (1979) with all 38 measured samples, field names: 2 alkali feldspar granite 3 granite 4 granodiorite 5 tonalite 6 quartz alkali feldspar syenite 7* quartz syenite 8* quartz monzonite 9* quartz monzodiorite/quartz monzogabbro 10* quartz diorite/quartz gabbro 6 alkali feldspar syenite 7 syenite 8 monzonite 9 monzodiorite/monzogabbro 10 diorite/gabbro*

Following Exner and Faupl (1970), anorthite contents of 20-30% in plagioclase can be expected in the studied area. However, the SEM data indicate systematically lower anorthite contents, producing the biased classification with the Streckeisen diagram. Karl (1962) suggested an alkali metasomatism from field evidence. However, this is not likely as not only plagioclase would be affected. As a N-S gradient was observed with strongest saussuritization in the N, it can be assumed, that this is an effect of the Miocene metamorphic event which yielded a N-S gradient from greenschist to amphibolite facies (Schuster et al., 2004).

5.1.2 Zircon analysis

Figure 59: Zircon analyses of aplitic granites; (a) Histogram of HfO² contents; (b) Histogram of of Zr/Hf ratios; (c) Zr/Hf-Hf plot. All numbers are normalized weight percent.

Figure 60: Zircon analyses of gneiss samples; (a) Histogram of HfO² contents; (b) Histogram of Zr/Hf ratios; (c) Zr/Hf-Hf plot. All numbers are normalized weight percent.

Using the SEM, 55 zircon grains were analyzed [\(Table 1\)](#page-35-0). The data was interpreted following Wang et al. (2010). Hf = 0 values were excluded to avoid division by 0. The data show trends of exponentially decreasing Zr/Hf with rising Hf for the aplitic granites [\(Figure](#page-58-0) 59) and the gneisses [\(Figure 60\)](#page-58-1). For the aplitic granites, the median value for Zr/Hf is 31.7 and for $HfO₂$ 1.78. For the gneisses, the median value for Zr/Hf is 32.7 and for $HfO₂$ 1.63. The numbers of Wang et al. (2010) for granitic zircon are somewhat higher with 38.5 respectively 1.43. As the

observed trends and distributions are very similar to those of Wang et al. (2010), it can be concluded from a comparison of the diagrams, that the majority of zircon in the samples is of early magmatic origin with some evolution towards late magmatic origin by fractionation. This suggests a rather slow initial cooling of the aplitic granite which allowed most zircon to crystallize and a low fractionation of the magmas (Wang et al., 2010).

5.1.3 Garnet-Biotite thermometry

Figure 61: Red circles mark pairs of SEM point analyses (yellow crosses), sample 18PH6. Bt=biotite, Grt=garnet, Qz=quartz. In one of the samples, 18PH6, direct contacts of garnet and biotite were found, see [Figure 61](#page-59-1) for a typical example of this section. The compositions of garnet and biotite at the rims were measured to carry out geothermometry. The Mg and Fe contents in garnet and biotite in contact vary according to a temperature dependent dynamic equilibrium. The formula of Bhattacharya et al. (1992) uses an updated formula for grossular-pyrope-almandine equilibria and is therefore well suited for this work:

 $T(HW) = [20286 + 0.0193P - {2080(X_{\text{GtMg}})}^2 - 6350(X_{\text{GtFe}})^2 - 13807(X_{\text{GtCa}})(1 - X_{\text{GtMn}}) +$ $8540(X_{GtFe})(X_{GtMg})(1 - X_{GtMn}) + 4215(X_{GtCa})(X_{GtMg} - X_{GtFe})} + 4441(2X_{BtMg} - 1)]/[13.138 +$ 8.3143 InK_D + $6.276(X_{GtCa})(1 - X_{GtMn})$ (Bhattacharya et al., 1992)

"HW" means that the thermodynamic model is based on Hackler and Wood (1989) (Bhattacharya et al., 1992). [Figure 62](#page-60-0) shows the results of the calculation with 6 kbar for the 9

analysis points at 3 sites of the section. 6 kbar were chosen following Schuster et al. (2004) for the greenschist to amphibolite facies conditions of the Miocene metamorphic event. It is to note that in total 12 pairs of points were measured, but at three of them the values for Mg in biotite respectively in garnet were 0, so the formula could not be used to avoid division by 0. The data show a clear plateau at 400°, which is also near the median (398 °C) and the mean value (390 °C). This corresponds to greenschist facies conditions and is significantly lower than the 550- 600 °C and 6.5-10.3 kbar reported from the Alpeiner Scharte (Langthaler et al., 2004; Melcher et al., 1996). This difference could be explained by a more S position of the Alpeinerscharte, as the metamorphic gradient is N-S directed from greenschist to amphibolite facies (Schuster et al., 2004). Another explanation are the low Mg contents of garnet rarely exceeding 0.2 atoms per formula unit. At such low values, the relative error is large resulting in a high uncertainty of the temperature mainly dependent on the Mg content. To conclude, at least upper greenschist facies conditions were reached by the last thermal event forming the examined garnets.

Figure 62: Diagram of yielded temperatures in the order of the temperature.

5.2 Geotectonic setting

Figure 63: AFM diagrams; a: gneisses, b: aplitic granites (Irvine and Baragar, 1971).

The gneisses are calk-alkaline to high-K-calc-alkaline (Figures [63a](#page-61-0) and [65a](#page-62-0)) and mostly peraluminous [\(Figure 64a](#page-61-1)). The frequent mafic enclaves point to magma mingling with M-type melts (Vigneresse, 2004) and assimilation of wall-rocks (Lammerer, 1986). However, the enclaves have not been analyzed. The aplitic granites are high-K-calc-alkaline (Figure[s 63b](#page-61-0) and [65b](#page-62-0)), peraluminous [\(Figure 64b](#page-61-1)) and show a noticeably smaller scatter than the gneisses for all data. The aplitic granites were classified as A-type (Schermaier, 1993).

Figure 64: Classification after Shand (1943); a: gneisses, b: aplitic granites.

Figure 65: Classification after Peccerillo and Taylor (1976); a: gneisses, b: aplitic granites.

Following the classification after Batchelor and Bowden (1985), the gneisses are classified as mantle fractionates [\(Figure 66a](#page-63-0)) and the aplitic granites as post-orogenic melts [\(Figure 66b](#page-63-0)). Hence the gneisses could be classified as former I-type granites in accordance with other workers (Finger et al., 1997, 1993; Schermaier, 1993). On the other hand, the gneisses are classified following Chappell and White (2001, 1974) and Shand (1943) as S-type, or at least mixed with S-type melts. The best explanation, also brought up by Finger et al. (1993) with other arguments and supported by the review of Barbarin (1999), is magma mixing. In this model, the major part of the magma volume would have an igneous origin, which is modified by small batches of S-type magmas. This is also a suitable explanation for observed lateral changes within the gneisses, which were not significant enough to map. The classification of the aplitic granites as post-orogenic calc-alkaline is confirmed by the plot after Harris et al. (1986) shown in [Figure 67a](#page-63-1) (Group $3 =$ post-orogenic calc-alkaline). Two samples, 17PH01 and 17PH10, are close to the border of the field with syn-orogenic melts (Group 2).

Figure 66: (a) R1-R² plot (Batchelor and Bowden, 1985); a: gneisses, b: aplitic granites.

Figure 67: (a) Geotectonic classification after Harris et al. (1986); (b) Chondrite-normalized REE pattern of the five samples measured with ICP-MS

[Figure 68](#page-64-0) shows a diagram used by Haunschmid et al. (1991). They describe the A-type granites in the Hohe Tauern Batholith as having "much higher Rb/Sr rations than the felsic I-type granites $(>1.4;$ <0.5)" and "significantly higher in Y (30-60; <20 ppm)". Generally, this can also be observed in this sample set. Examining the REE patterns of the aplitic granites [\(Figure](#page-63-1) [67b](#page-63-1)) also yields the same result since they are very similar to the ones published by Haunschmid et al. (1991). They are characterized by an enrichment of light REE and distinctive negative Eu anomaly, the latter indicating an early crystallization in a magma chamber with a subsequent plagioclase loss. To conclude, the gneiss can be classified as contaminated I-type and the aplitic granite as A-type. Having a strongly calc-alkaline character, the mineralization belongs to the calc-alkaline stockwork molybdenum deposit type of (Westra and Keith, 1981).

Figure 68: Rb-Sr-Y diagram; a: a: gneisses, b: aplitic granites. Note different axis labeling.

Figure 69: Spider diagram of the aplitic granites normalized to upper continental crust (Taylor and McLennan, 1995). The red marked sample is 18ZT5.

18ZT5 : [scaled] original rock (wt. % or ppm)

Figure 70 (previous page): Isocon diagrams of 17PH01 (a), 17PH08 (b), 17PH10 (c), 17PH10 without Ni and Cr (d), 18PH9 (e) and 18ZT3 (f). Plotted elements: SiO2, Al2O3, Fe2O3, CaO, MgO, Na2O, K2O, TiO2, MnO, P2O5, Sc, V, Cr, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Cs, Ba, La, Ce, Nd, Hf, Pb and Th. Green lines are Al = constant isocons, red lines are Ti = constant isocons.

5.3 Mineralization geochemistry

Of the aplitic granites, 18ZT5 is least evolved (Figures [69,](#page-64-1) [68b](#page-64-0) and [63b](#page-61-0)) and therefore suited as a reference sample to study the mineralization and the magmatic evolution of the aplitic granites. Isocon diagrams are well suited for this purpose, as they provide a graphic inter-sample comparison without modifying the data (Grant, 1986). An isocon is a line of equal mass or volume, everything that plots above is enriched and vice versa (Grant, 1986). Al and Ti were chosen to form the reference isocon as no data on rock densities are available. [Figure 70](#page-66-0) shows isocon diagrams with the reference sample 18ZT5. 17PH10 was plotted twice to avoid extreme scaling caused by a comparatively high Ni content. All chosen samples contained molybdenite, which was excluded from the isocon plots for a better visibility of the other elements. Together with Mo, the elements Ni, Cu, Y, Rb, K, Th, Ce and Nb are enriched, while Ba, Sr and La are depleted in the mineralized samples. Note, that 18ZT5 has a very low Ni content resulting in an apparent Ni enrichment in the other samples. There is no depletion of Ca as this is not part of the mineralization but an effect of the Alpine metamorphism. Mo, Cu, Y, Ce, Th and Nb bearing minerals were identified in the mineralogy section. Those are incompatible elements. For comparison also isocon diagrams within an already highly fractionated zone were made [\(Figure](#page-67-0) [71\)](#page-67-0) to characterize the mineralization. At the N-Zillerscharte three samples were taken within 20 m from unaltered aplitic granite to a mineralized shear zone. 17PH10 is the unaltered sample, 17PH08 is directly in the shear zone and 17PH09 is in between. The diagrams show an enrichment of REE, U and Ni, while V, Ca, Pb and Li are depleted. This fits with the microscopic evidence, as the enriched elements correspond to the frequently observed allanite/epidote-zircon-thorite assemblage (Chapter [4.5.16\)](#page-53-0), which is associated with the mineralization. Elevated Ni could have been mobilized from Ni-bearing pyrrhotite or pentlandite. As Li is an incompatible element, it is likely, that it was removed by a high fluid flow in the shear zone. Vanadium loss can be explained by rutile breakdown in the shear zone. The enrichment patterns are similar to those observed during magmatic fractionation as REE and high field strength elements – incompatible elements – are enriched.

To conclude, it is likely, that the mineralization formed during a late cooling stage of the intrusion of the aplitic granites. This is supported by the fractionation trend pointing towards the mineralization and the enrichment of REE and U in the mineralized zones in comparison with the direct surroundings.

Figure 71: Isocon diagrams of 17PH09 (a) and 17PH08 (b) compared with 17PH10. Plotted elements are: SiO2, Al2O3, Fe2O3, CaO, MgO, Na2O, K2O, TiO2, MnO, P2O5, LOI, Li, Be, Sc, V, Cr, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, As, Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Nb, Cd, Sn, Sb, Cs, Ba, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Hf, Ta, W, Tl, Pb, Th and U. All samples contained Mo and Cu, which were excluded to enhance visibility of the other elements. Green lines are Al = constant isocons, red lines are Ti = constant isocons.

5.4 Comparison with the Alpeiner Scharte Mo deposit

The Alpeiner Scharte Mo deposit is located 30 km W of the Reichenspitzgruppe, also in the Tux core (Melcher et al., 1996). It is one of several Variscan vein type Mo deposits in the Alpine realm, another well-known is in the Aar massif (Steck and Hügi, 1970). The host rocks are Itype granites with an S-type affinity but have not been classified as A-type granites (Melcher et al., 1996). Even the enriched elements are very similar to the results of the present study: Mo, Cu, Cr, Nd, MgO, MnO, Fe₂O₃, Zn, Sc, Ce, Co, Cs, W, Th, and most of the REEs with the first three extremely enriched and a depletion of Pb, Sr, Ba and Na2O (Melcher et al., 1996). Garnet found in the gneisses by Melcher et al. (1996) yields similar compositions as in the Reichenspitzgruppe, but higher formation conditions when coexisting with biotite in quartz vein selvages (550-600°C, Langthaler et al., 2004). Re-Os dating of molybdenite at the Alpeiner Scharte yielded 306.8 ± 3.1 Ma (Upper Carboniferous, Langthaler et al., 2004).

Molybdenite is restricted to quartz veins in this gneiss (Langthaler et al., 2004; Melcher et al., 1996). The quartz veins comprise of mainly quartz with biotite and garnet at the rims and molybdenite flakes (Melcher et al., 1996). In the Reichenspitz area, the veins contain quartz, molybdenite and muscovite, and molybdenite occurs also disseminated in the gneiss and aplite.

The origin of the Reichenspitz mineralization and the Alpeiner Scharte deposit is in both cases related to late Variscan extension leading to intrusions. However, a genetic link between the A- type granites and the calc-alkaline rocks was excluded by Schermaier (1993), and the geochemical data show pronounced differences. Therefore, a common magma source is unlikely. The similar garnet compositions are explained by thermodynamic equilibria and similar whole rock chemistry. The similar enrichment patterns of incompatible elements seem to be typical for porphyries (Westra and Keith, 1981).

5.5 Comparison with other Molybdenum deposits

Most magmatic Mo deposits are classical porphyries with pyrite and chalcopyrite being major ore minerals. Therefore, the interpretation of the Reichenspitze mineralization as porphyry style is problematic. However, there is Su Seinargiu in Sardinia to compare. Su Seinargiu is the type locality of ichnusaite (Orlandi et al., 2014) and suseinargiuite (Orlandi et al., 2015b) and still the only published occurrence, of many minerals that were also observed in this study. Su Seinargiu is a late Variscan intrusion with a porphyry style Mo mineralization with molybdenite as sole ore mineral and only little pyrite (Boni et al., 2003; Caboi et al., 1978; Orlandi et al., 2014). Boni et al. (2003) compare the Su Seinargiu deposit with Climax-type Mo-porphyry deposits. Even though Schermaier (1993) reported fluorite in the aplitic granites, their F content is far too low to consider the Reichenspitz mineralization as Climax-type (Ludington and Plumlee, 2009). Similar to the Climax-type, but with lower contents of F, Sn and W are low fluorine porphyry molybdenum deposits with Endako (British Columbia, Canada) as a typical example (Selby et al., 2000; Selby and Creaser, 2001). Endako is also classified as calc-alkaline molybdenum stockwork deposit (Westra and Keith, 1981). These porphyry deposits are hosted by granites to aplitic granites and yield a pervasive alkali metasomatism expressed as Kfeldspar veinsin the orebody and the surroundings (Selby et al., 2000; Selby and Creaser, 2001). This is not observed at the Reichenspitze mineralization, but ore grades seem to be much lower there pointing to less initial alteration which was also overprinted by several metamorphic events. Therefore it is not surprising, that there are no obvious signs of an alkali metasomatism, although it is to note, that Karl (1962) suggested an alkali metasomatism originating from the Reichenspitze aplitic granite. Ore mineralogy, mainly molybdenite with some pyrite and traces of bismuthinite, scheelite, beryl, specularite and galena (Selby et al., 2000), is very similar to the observations in the Reichenspitz area.

The occurrence of molybdenite as impregnations rather than veinlets in many cases makes the Reichenspitze mineralization unique amongst other Mo deposits in the Tauern Window. This can be explained by the rather small grade of the mineralization. The polymetamorphic history of the mineralization can explain the occurrence of many exotic Bi and Mo minerals. Therefore,

it can be concluded, that the Reichenspitze Mo mineralization is a polymetamorphic low-grade, low fluorine calc-alkaline Molybdenum porphyry. With these characteristics, it is classified in this thesis as aplite hosted Reichenspitz-type molybdenite mineralization. It is to be questioned, if this type can also produce economic deposits, but Su Seinargiu and Endako would be wellsuited candidates for further studies.

5.6 Conclusions

Mainly based on the results of the fieldwork, microscopic and SEM analysis the following order of events is proposed:

- 1. Variscan orogeny: Metamorphism of pre-Variscan sediments and intrusion of the Tauern Batholith, which is present as granitic orthogneiss in the working area.
- 2. Late- to post Variscan orogeny: Intrusion of the aplitic granite at 282±6 Ma (Rb/Sr age, Besang et al., 1968) and subsequent formation of the molybdenite (+pyrite+chalcopyrite+Bi-minerals+REE bearing minerals as minor components) assemblage in the pneumatolytic stage of the intrusion. Most zircon present in the samples crystallized during the cooling of the magma including U and Th.
- 3. Intrusion of mafic dykes: unknown timing, the intruded crust was already brittle.
- 4. Triassic extension: Crystallization of uraninite (Finger et al., 2017).
- 5. Tauernkristallisation: Metamorphism reaching at least upper greenschist facies with remobilization leading to the formation of the allanite/epidote-zircon-thorite assemblage (Chapter [4.5.16\)](#page-53-0). Zircon and thorite were probably not remobilized and acted as a geochemical trap for the other minerals. Remobilization of minor molybdenite, U-Th and Bi at few places leading to the formation of molybdenite-quartz veins, Mo-minerals and sulfosalts. This is probably related to extension with enhanced fluid flow and faulting. Hence, it can be concluded, that this happened at an early stage of the exhumation of the Tauern Window. As a result of the N-S directed metamorphic gradient, plagioclase experienced intense saussuritisation following this gradient.
- 6. Late Alpine orogeny: Regional extension with the formation of the Alpine mineralized veins, due to already low temperatures no molybdenite, but only minor hydrothermal pyrrhotite and pyrite formed. At this stage, the REE minerals were overprinted (Uher et al., 2015) leading to the formation of calcite. Even later, oxidized fluids caused pervasive oxidation along existing paths – as the Alpine mineralized joints are comparatively resistant to alteration, this affected mainly the fluid paths related to the

molybdenite mineralization resulting in the formation of FeOx rims of calcite and the sulfides.

6 Summary and Outlook

The aplite hosted Reichenspitz-type Mo mineralization at the Reichenspitze is a low-grade, low fluorine calc-alkaline molybdenum porphyry with special mineralogy and unique structures. As in other similar porphyries, it is likely, that similar mineralized intrusions occur nearby. In this context, particularly the Alpeiner Scharte, and the area to the W of the working area should be mentioned. In the former, some slope debris rocks with a polymetallic assemblage are known (Mostler et al., 1982). From the latter, one sample (18PH12) containing molybdenite in an aplitic dyke was collected. The aplitic granites were dated with Rb/Sr, a method sensitive to metamorphic overprinting. Hence they and the hosting gneisses should be redated with a more robust method. As Finger et al. (2017) only believed to date the same aplitic granite as present at the Reichenspitze (Reichenspitzgranit; Schermaier, 1993), follow up work should date uraninite present in the samples examined by the SEM. Also, it is necessary to date molybdenite and possibly also secondary Mo minerals to confirm the metallogenetic model. From the currently available data, it cannot be recommended to conduct exploration work on the Reichenspitz mineralization as it is located in the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern, in rugged highalpine terrain and total resources seem to be rather small as outcrops with a high molybdenite abundance are scarce.

7 References

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Appendix

In this printed volume are only the sample list and a table of the major elements from the XRF analyses, the list of all SEM analyses and the complete chemical analyses are in the digital appendix.

Sample list

The column "Mol" indicates if molybdenite is present in the sample.

XRF analyses

Major elements (oxides) are given in percent, trace elements are given in ppm.

