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Provenance of modern sands from Baja California Rivers (Mexico): Petrographic constraints from light and heavy minerals

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Abstract:	<p>We used high-resolution petrographic and dense-mineral data on modern sand to investigate erosion patterns of El Rosario, San Fernando, and San Vicente rivers basins of the Baja California (Mexico) for better understanding the interrelationships between a complex magmatic arc terrane and surface processes. Modern sand composition of these three rivers reflects the nature of the source region, which lies in the central part of the Alisitos arc (Peninsular Ranges, Baja California, Mexico). The sand detrital modes correspond well with the main structural units drained by El Rosario, San Fernando, and San Vicente rivers: (1) the Early Cretaceous oceanic arc of the Alisitos Group, (2) the Paleozoic to Mesozoic continental margin metasedimentary rocks, (3) the Cretaceous plutons, (4) the Upper Cretaceous to Tertiary sedimentary rocks, and (5) the Tertiary volcanics. San Vicente, San Fernando, and El Rosario rivers modern sand is chiefly fed from erosion of a magmatic arc and mostly consists of minor feldspatho-lithic (Fl) to quartzo-litho-feldspathic (qFL) sand and dominant quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qLF) and litho-feldspatho-quartzose (IQF) sand. Framework petrography also suggests a progressive increase in quartz, K-feldspar, sedimentary, and metamorphic lithic fragments, and decreasing in volcanic lithic fragments. Sand, within the Lv field, microlitic (Lvmi), contains felsitic (Lvf), and lathwork (Lvl) types, and trace amounts of vitric grains (Lvv), such as pumice particles. Andesitic volcanic province of the Alisitos arc shed quartz-poor sand containing mainly microlitic lithic fragments and plagioclase, whereas sand derived from more felsic rhyolites and rhyodacitic and trachyandesitic products contains largely felsitic volcanic lithics and minor lathwork lithics are mainly derived from subordinate basalts. The abundance of intrusive rock fragments and volcanic and sedimentary lithics of the sampled river sands faithfully represents the relative abundance of a heterogeneous bedrock exposure consisting of sedimentary/metasedimentary rocks, as well as volcanic, plutonic, and medium to high grade metamorphic rocks in each drainage basin. Transparent heavy-mineral assemblages including major amounts of amphibole, pyroxene, epidote, titanite, zircon, and minor amounts of staurolite, rutile, actinolite, tourmaline, garnet, kyanite, andalusite, sillimanite, and apatite are in good agreement with a mixed provenance characterized mainly by magmatic, primarily volcanic (andesite, rhyolite, and basalt) and secondarily plutonic (granitoid rocks) and metamorphic source rocks. Some labile species such as hornblende and pyroxene grains show mainly corroded to etched morphologies due to dissolution processes and by chemical weathering processes occurring in a paleo and current semi-arid climate. Zircon+Tourmaline+Rutile index of the heavy-mineral modes, coupled with their sub-rounded to rounded grain surface texture, indicates recycling from the sedimentary source rocks. Heavy-mineral abundance and weathering textures in San Fernando and San Vicente rivers sands match predominantly volcanic bedrock lithologies while El Rosario river sands match sedimentary and metasedimentary source rocks.</p>

1 **Provenance of modern sands from Baja California Rivers (Mexico): Petrographic constraints**
2 **from light and heavy minerals**

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16

17 **Abstract**

18 We used high-resolution petrographic and dense-mineral data on modern sand to investigate erosion
19 patterns of El Rosario, San Fernando, and San Vicente rivers basins of the Baja California (Mexico)
20 for better understanding the interrelationships between a complex magmatic arc terrane and surface
21 processes. Modern sand composition of these three rivers reflects the nature of the source region,
22 which lies in the central part of the Alisitos arc (Peninsular Ranges, Baja California, Mexico). The
23 sand detrital modes correspond well with the main structural units drained by the El Rosario, San
24 Fernando, and San Vicente rivers: (1) the Early Cretaceous oceanic arc of the Alisitos Group, (2) the
25 Paleozoic to Mesozoic continental margin metasedimentary rocks, (3) the Cretaceous plutons, (4) the
26 Upper Cretaceous to Tertiary sedimentary rocks, and (5) the Tertiary volcanics. The modern sand of
27 the San Vicente, San Fernando, and El Rosario rivers is fed chiefly from erosion of a magmatic arc

28 and consists mostly of minor feldspatho-lithic (Fl) to quartzo-litho-feldspathic (qFL) sand and
29 dominant quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qLF) and litho-feldspatho-quartzose (lQF) sand. Framework
30 petrography also suggests a progressive increase in quartz, K-feldspar, sedimentary, and metamorphic
31 lithic fragments, and decreasing in volcanic lithic fragments. Sand, within the Lv field, microlitic
32 (Lvmi), contains felsitic (Lvf) and lathwork (Lvl) types, and trace amounts of vitric grains (Lv_v),
33 such as pumice particles. The andesitic volcanic province of the Alisitos arc shed quartz-poor sand
34 containing mainly microlitic lithic fragments and plagioclase, whereas sand derived from more felsic
35 rhyolites and rhyodacitic and trachyandesitic products contains largely felsitic volcanic lithics, and
36 minor lathwork lithics are mainly derived from subordinate basalts. The abundance of intrusive rock
37 fragments and volcanic and sedimentary lithics of the sampled river sands faithfully represents the
38 relative abundance of a heterogeneous bedrock exposure consisting of sedimentary and
39 metasedimentary rocks, as well as volcanic, plutonic, and medium-to high-grade metamorphic rocks
40 in each drainage basin. Transparent heavy-mineral assemblages including major amounts of
41 amphibole, pyroxene, epidote, titanite, zircon, and minor amounts of staurolite, rutile, actinolite,
42 tourmaline, garnet, kyanite, andalusite, sillimanite, and apatite are in good agreement with a mixed
43 provenance characterized mainly by magmatic, primarily volcanic (andesite, rhyolite, and basalt) and
44 secondarily plutonic (granitoid rocks) and metamorphic source rocks. Some labile species such as
45 hornblende and pyroxene grains show mainly corroded to etched morphologies due to dissolution
46 processes and by chemical weathering processes occurring in a paleo and current semiarid climate.
47 The Zircon+Tourmaline+Rutile index of the heavy-mineral modes, coupled with their subrounded to
48 rounded grain surface texture, indicates recycling from the sedimentary source rocks. Heavy-mineral
49 abundance and weathering textures in San Fernando and San Vincente rivers sands match
50 predominantly volcanic bedrock lithologies, while El Rosario river sands match sedimentary and
51 metasedimentary source rocks.

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53 *Key words: volcanoclastic sand, magmatic arc, heavy minerals, volcanic provenance*

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INTRODUCTION

56 This paper examines sand-size sediments from modern streams within the climatic and physiographic
57 context of an undissected to transitional magmatic arc (*sensu* Dickinson, 1985) where a variety of
58 dominantly extrusive parent rocks produce volcanoclastic sand mixed with sedimentoclastic and
59 plutoclastic detritus (e.g., Ingersoll, 1983). The petrographic composition of this sand with
60 andesitic>>rhyolitic>>basaltic provenance can be used as a guide for the interpretation of
61 volcanoclastic sand(stone)s from other volcanic progenitors (Garzanti and Andò, 2007a, 2007b;
62 Morrone et al., 2017, 2020, 2021; Garzanti et al., 2018; Le Pera and Morrone, 2018; Dinis et al.,
63 2019; Le Pera et al., 2021) and for the identification of (paleo)volcanic magmatic affinities (e.g.,
64 Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995) and provinces (e.g., Garzanti et al., 2002).

65 We focus on sand-size sediment carried by the El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers,
66 draining largely within the Alisitos arc terranes (Fig. 1). In this study, sand petrography was
67 conducted, integrating light-and heavy-minerals compositional analyses. Such an integrated approach
68 allowed us to characterize the various components of the erosion across this oceanic arc terrane
69 characterized by two distinct evolutionary phases, such as: (I) extensional oceanic-arc, characterized
70 by intermediate to silicic explosive and effusive volcanism, culminating in caldera-forming silicic
71 ignimbrite eruptions at the onset of arc rifting, and (II) rifted oceanic arc, characterized by mafic
72 effusive and hydroclastic rocks and abundant dike swarms (e.g., Busby, 2004). The light- minerals
73 composition of the three drainage systems has been used to verify how well sand composition reflects
74 major tectono-morphologic provinces of the Alisitos Arc terranes in terms of petrofacies (e.g.,
75 Ingersoll, 1983). The study of the heavy-mineral assemblages is extensively used as an important tool
76 to constrain provenance information in several sedimentary environments such as dune, beach,
77 alluvial deposits, and rivers (e.g., Frihy, 1994; Mange and Otvos, 2005; Kasper-Zubillaga et al., 2008;
78 Caracciolo, 2020), degree of chemical weathering (Andò et al., 2012; Tangari et al., 2021), hydraulic

79 regimes (e.g., Cascalho and Fradique 2007; Garzanti et al., 2020), as well as intrastratal dissolution
80 during burial diagenesis (e.g., Morton and Hallsworth, 2007; Velbel, 2007; Andò et al., 2012), added
81 precision to identify contribution from minor sources, or input from source rocks with low Sand
82 Generation Index (e.g., Palomares and Arribas, 1993), such as carbonate source rocks (e.g., Arribas,
83 and Tortosa, 2003), and mixed sedimentary nappes (e.g., Vezzoli et al., 2004), that are otherwise
84 diluted or unrecognizable using only the Q F L and Lm Lv Ls approach.

85

86 **GEOLOGICAL SETTING AND CLIMATE**

87 Early Cretaceous rocks dominantly of intermediate-composition volcanism in the Peninsular ranges
88 of northern Baja California produced large volumes of volcanoclastic detritus that were deposited in
89 two basins of the Rosario segment of the Alisitos arc by both primary and reworked pyroclastic
90 deposits (e.g., Marsaglia et al., 2016). Busby (2004) divided the Peninsular Ranges batholith into
91 Western and Eastern belts. The Western Belt, also referred to as Alisitos Group (e.g., Busby, 2004),
92 consists of dominantly intermediate composition volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks, and lesser mafic
93 and silicic volcanic rocks, with abundant marine fossils, and associated hypabyssal and plutonic rocks
94 (Silver et al., 1963; Fackler-Adams and Busby, 1998; Busby, 2004; Busby et al., 2006). Volcanic
95 rocks are mainly Early Cretaceous andesites and andesitic breccias, rhyolites, and rhyolitic tuffs of
96 Miocene age, and Miocene basalts (Fig. 1). The host rocks of the Eastern Belt are interpreted as
97 continental-margin rocks and are restricted to Paleozoic-Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks of the
98 eastern Peninsular Ranges (Busby, 2004). The Western and Eastern belts comprise a major batholith
99 divided axially into a western gabbro to monzogranite belt and an eastern granodioritegranite belt
100 (Silver et al., 1979; Silver and Chappal, 1988; Walawander et al., 1990). Sedimentary rocks of the
101 Late Cretaceous-Cenozoic are dominated by marine conglomerate, shallow marine, and lesser fluvial
102 gravel and sand and slide sheets of marine mudstone (Busby, 2004). Paleozoic to Mesozoic

103 metasedimentary rocks are represented by phyllites, schists, metalimestones, and hornfels, varying
104 from greenschists to amphibolite facies (Fig. 1).

105 In the study area, the present annual rainfall is 250 mm with an average annual temperature of 16°C
106 and, since the Late Eocene, a variety of indicators suggest semiarid paleoclimate (e.g., Abbott et al.,
107 1976; Peterson and Abbott, 1979). Specifically, the mean annual precipitation shows an extreme of
108 about 207 mm at El Rosario on the Pacific coast (Bullock, 2003). In the San Fernando and San Vicente
109 areas mean annual precipitation varies from 115 to 153 mm with the precipitation occurring
110 predominantly in the cool season (61-91% in November-April). Warm-season precipitation, of
111 tropical or low subtropical origin, can be extremely high but is usually very local (Bullock et al.,
112 2005).

113

114

SAMPLING AND METHODS

115 All sediment samples have been collected from active river bars with a total of 20 medium sand
116 samples from the El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers analyzed for framework
117 petrography and 13 medium to fine sand samples for heavy-mineral analyses (Fig. 1; Appendix 1).
118 These were washed using H₂O₂ to remove clays and organic matter, air-dried, and sieved (using 1-
119 phi intervals). The 0.25-0.50 mm size fraction was used to prepare thin sections and then analyzed
120 for the petrographic composition of the medium sand. Choice of this size fraction enables the direct
121 comparison with other studies on provenance for both modern rivers (Heins, 1993) and beach sands
122 (Picard and McBride, 1993), and of arenites from the stratigraphic record (e.g., Weltjie, 1992; Dutta
123 and Wheat, 1993). Moreover, this limited part of the grain-size spectrum proves to be a useful
124 provenance tracer for both polymineralic grains and monocrystals (Blatt et al., 1980; Garzanti, 2016).
125 Each thin section was etched and stained using hydrofluoric acid and sodium cobaltinitrite for
126 identification of feldspar grains. A total of three hundred grains per sample were counted on each thin
127 section using the *Gazzi-Dickinson* method (Ingersoll et al., 1984; Zuffa, 1985). Point-count raw data

128 and recalculated point-count parameters of framework petrography are presented in Table 1 and
129 Appendix 2, respectively. In addition to gross composition of sand (Fig. 2A, B), a specific point-
130 count analysis of the volcanic lithic fragments group was carried out on 100 volcanoclastic grains per
131 sample (Appendix 3). Operational categories of volcanoclastic sand-size grains, adopted during
132 specific point-counting of this lithic fragments subgroup, are those of the pioneering paper by
133 Dickinson (1970), recognized as Lv categories, then developed later by Zuffa (1980), Marsaglia
134 (1991, 1993), and Marsaglia and Ingersoll (1992), and recently revised and defined as textural
135 descriptors by Affolter and Ingersoll (2019). We have used the volcanoclastic detrital modes of the
136 Alisitos arc river sand because of their high potential as source-sensitive lithic fragments, because
137 their composition and textures have been used extensively to identify clastic supplies from mafic or
138 felsic effusive or pyroclastic source rocks, and their associated sedimentary basins and geodynamic
139 settings (Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991; Marsaglia, 1991; Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995; Marsaglia et al.,
140 2016). The sand-size volcanoclastic textural descriptors (e.g., Affolter and Ingersoll, 2019), used in
141 this paper, have been summarized as follows: (1) Volcanic lithic with lathwork texture (Lvl); (2)
142 Volcanic lithic with microlitic texture (Lvmi); (3) Volcanic lithic with vitric texture (Lvvt); (4)
143 Volcanic lithic with felsitic seriate texture (Lvfsr); (5) Volcanic lithic with felsitic granular texture
144 (Lvfg); (6) Volcanic lithic with altered and undetermined composition (Lvalt/und). These categories
145 are applied to epiclastic particles derived from physical weathering of volcanic terranes and not
146 intended as lithic fragments dependent on the texture and mechanical properties of the older host rock
147 units broken up during an eruption (e.g., Schmid, 1981; Di Capua et al., 2022). A brief description
148 and interpretation of the main volcanoclastic sand-size-grains operational categories adopted in this
149 study, using an optical polarizing microscope, have been defined as follows: (1) Lathwork (Lvl) and
150 (2) Microlitic (Lvmi) volcanic lithic fragments which are glassy fragments that contain variable
151 amounts of plagioclase, olivine, pyroxene, and opaque crystals. Fragments with lathwork texture
152 contain some sand-size microlites and phenocrysts whereas fragments with microlitic texture contain
153 silt-sized microlites. Lathwork particles (Lvl), as first defined by Dickinson (1970), have sand-size

154 phenocrysts in a groundmass of glass or devitrified glass, and this texture is characteristic of
155 provenance from basaltic and basaltic andesite lavas and pyroclastite source rocks. Microlitic texture
156 (Lv_{mi}) is typical of andesites, but it also commonly occurs in basalts, basaltic andesites, and
157 phonolitic lava flows (e.g., Le Pera et al., 2021). (3) Vitric fragments (Lv_v) are characterized by their
158 lack of microlites and are defined as pumice or scoria and glass shards, but also include partially to
159 wholly altered glass (Dickinson, 1970; Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991; Marsaglia, 1992). Felsitic
160 volcanic lithic fragments (Lv_f) may include two types, (4) seriate and (5) granular (Dickinson, 1970;
161 Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991). Felsitic seriate texture is an anisometric mosaic, with a wide range of
162 crystal sizes and shapes, composed mainly of feldspar, quartz, and/or mafic minerals. Felsitic seriate
163 texture is typical of dacites and andesites (Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991). Felsitic granular texture
164 consists of anhedral microcrystalline mosaics, with uniform, very fine grain size, composed mainly
165 of feldspar and quartz and/or mafic minerals. Felsitic granular texture is typical of rhyolites and
166 dacites (Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991). (6) Lv_{alt/und} is a less common volcanic category of lithic
167 fragments we used but not covered by the Dickinson (1970) categories, thus hindering any attempt to
168 correlate texture and composition of the Lv grains with provenance input. Moreover, a size fraction
169 of 0.25 mm to 0.063 mm was used for heavy-minerals separation by gravity settling in bromoform
170 (density = 2.89 gr/cm³ at 20°C). This separation with bromoform was performed under a fume hood
171 - as a routine technique used traditionally by many other authors (e.g., Mange and Maurer, 1992;
172 Arribas et al., 2000; Mange et al., 2007; Smale, 2007).

173 In the case of modern river sediments, the 0.25mm to 0.063 mm grain-size fraction yields the greatest
174 range of heavy-minerals concentration (e.g., Mange-Rajetzky, 1983; Palomares et al., 1989; Morton
175 and Smale, 1990; Garzanti et al., 2008; Garzanti et al., 2009; Garzanti et al., 2018). Magnetite grains
176 were separated from this size fraction magnetically, using a bar magnet, while the remaining mineral
177 groups were concentrated by multiple passes of the fraction through a Frantz Isodynamic magnetic
178 separator to concentrate other five electromagnetic fractions (0.2, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, and >1.5 Å), to
179 facilitate the mineral identification (Parfenoff et al., 1970). One hundred transparent heavy minerals

180 were counted per each electromagnetic fraction by ribbon strip counting procedure (Mange and
181 Maurer, 1992). Petrographic identification and counting of detrital heavy species are listed in Table
182 2. For each magnetic class, the heavy-mineral fraction was placed on a glass slide and embedded in
183 Canada balsam for optical observation. Surface textures of detrital grains were carefully described to
184 evaluate the stages of weathering (unweathered, corroded, etched, deeply etched, skeletal) (Andò et
185 al., 2012; Tangari et al. 2021). Heavy-mineral concentration was calculated as the volume percentage
186 of total (HMC) and transparent (tHMC) heavy-minerals assemblages (Garzanti and Andò, 2007a,
187 2007 b; Garzanti, 2019) considering the magnetic and nonmagnetic fraction obtained using the Frantz
188 instrument. In particular, the tHMC was used to integrate the provenance information from bulk
189 petrography and heavy-minerals analysis (e.g., Garzanti et al., 2004, 2005, 2006). The hornblende
190 color index (HCI) was used for tracing the average metamorphic grade of source rocks (Garzanti et
191 al., 2004; Andò et al. 2014).

192 RESULTS

193 *Framework Petrography*

194 Sand classification was based on the main standard count of components such as quartz (Q), feldspars
195 (F), and lithic fragments (L) (e.g., Garzanti, 2016, 2019) (Fig. 2A), and of partial detrital populations
196 such as Qm K P (Fig. 2B), Lm Lv Ls (e.g., Ingersoll and Suczek, 1979) (Fig. 2C) to Qp Lvm Lsm
197 (Graham et al., 1976) (Fig. 2D) which display proportions of lithic fragments of quartzose (Qp),
198 volcanic, metavolcanic, hypabyssal (Lvm), and unstable sedimentary (Ls) and metasedimentary
199 (Lsm) character. Moreover, a plot, Rg (granitic and gneissic rock fragments) Rv (volcanic rock
200 fragments) Rm (metamorphic rock fragments) (Fig. 2E), combining phaneritic rock fragments (grains
201 having crystals > 0.0625 mm) and aphanitic lithic fragments (grains having crystals < 0.0625 mm),
202 has been considered, too. This plot allows evaluation of all information derived from a point count of
203 medium-grained sand, recalculating both phaneritic and aphanitic lithic types using the Gazzi-
204 Dickinson method of counting (e.g., Critelli and Le Pera, 1994; Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995).

205 Considering that the Lm Lv Ls ternary plot of determining aphanitic sedimentary and
206 metasedimentary lithics (e.g., Ingersoll and Suczek, 1979) might overlook significant information
207 within the medium-grained fraction (e.g., White et al., 2002; Garzanti, 2019), especially for the
208 metamorphic rank of the metamorphic detrital grains (e.g., Garzanti and Vezzoli, 2003), the use of
209 another ternary diagram (Dorsey, 1988) greatly increased the resolution of provenance reconstruction
210 (Fig. 3A), based upon metamorphic and sedimentary aphanitic lithics. In addition, the Lv_f-Lv_{mi}-Lv_l
211 plot (Fig. 3B, C) has been considered to better identify the eroded volcanic source terranes (e.g.,
212 Marsaglia, 1991, 1992) of the Alisitos arc.

213 **Quartz.---**

214 This component occurs as single monocrystalline grains, as fine-grained polycrystalline grains, and
215 as crystals in coarse-grained (phaneritic) rock fragments (sandstone, metamorphic, abundant plutonic
216 rock fragments, and as phenocrysts in rarer volcanic rock fragments) (Fig. 4A-H; Fig. 5 C, D, G, H;
217 Fig. 6A-F, H). Quartz ranges from 0.6% to 22.0 % (Table 1) of the total framework grains.

218 **Feldspars.---**

219 K-feldspar is subordinate in all samples and generally does not exceed 4.3%. Plagioclase is always
220 more abundant than K-feldspar, and it ranges from 15.3% to 44.0% of the total framework grains
221 (Table 1). Both K-feldspar and plagioclase occur dominantly in plutonic phanerites though
222 plagioclase is also common as phenocrysts and embedded in volcanic lithic fragments in the amount
223 of 3.4% (Fig. 4A-D, G, H; Fig. 5A-D, G, H; Fig. 6 A-H; Fig. 7 A-F). Secondary epidote often
224 originates at the expense of crystal plagioclase cores.

225 **Lithic Fragments.---**

226 This category includes only fine-grained (aphanitic) fragments (Appendix 2) because the coarse-
227 grained (phaneritic) rock fragments were not counted as rock fragments, but assigned to their
228 respective monomineralic categories (i.e., quartz, feldspars, micas) depending on which crystal was
229 encountered at the crosshair, according to the Gazzi-Dickinson method. However, the abundance of

230 phaneritic rock fragments (Fig. 4 A, B; Fig. 5C, D; Fig. 6 G, H; Fig. 7 A, B, E, F) has been recalculated
231 from the Gazzi–Dickinson database (e.g., Critelli and Le Pera, 1994). Unaltered volcanic grains were
232 subdivided using their textural attributes into the following categories as explained in the method
233 section. In order of decreasing abundance, they include the following categories: volcanic lithic with
234 microlitic texture (Lv_{mi}), with felsitic granular texture (Lv_{fgr}), with lathwork texture (Lv_l), lithic
235 with felsitic seriate texture (Lv_{fser}), and lithic with vitric texture (Lv_v). In the latter category are
236 included pumice grains of the El Rosario and San Vicente rivers which these range from 0.3% to
237 5.6% of the total framework grains (Table 1). Lv_{mi} contain variable amounts of microlites of feldspar
238 and ferromagnesian minerals, such as brown amphibole and biotite, opaques, and rutile, visible at
239 high magnification (Fig. 5A-D; Fig. 6 A, B, D-F; Fig. 7 A-F). These grains range from 2.3% to 19.3%
240 with respect to the total framework grains (Table 1).

241 Another volcanic category includes holocrystalline aggregates of silt-to sand-size crystals not covered
242 by the Dickinson (1970) categories (e.g., Lv_o of Marsaglia, 1993; Fig. 5E, F). These, as suggested by
243 Marsaglia (1993) are probably fragments of glomerocrysts or holocrystalline basalt to microgabbro.
244 Some Lv_{mi} grains are unaltered; others show microlites of plagioclase sericitized and the glassy
245 groundmass often oxidized or replaced by clay minerals and palagonite (Fig. 7G, H). Felsitic volcanic
246 lithic fragments (Lv_f) with granular texture are more abundant than those with seriate texture (Fig.
247 4G,H; Fig. 6E, F; Fig. 7A,B) with Lv_{fgr} grains 2.3 times higher than Lv_{fser} (Appendix 3). Lv_{fser} are
248 characterized by phenocrysts of quartz and brown amphibole in a glassy groundmass. Some
249 phenocrysts less commonly are replaced by calcite. Volcanic grains with lathwork texture (Lv_l) rank
250 third in abundance of the Lv grains groups with respect to both total framework grains and in the
251 specific point-count analysis of the only volcanic lithic fragments group carried out on 100
252 volcanoclastic grains (Appendix 3; Fig. 3B). They range from trace amounts (0.6%) to a maximum
253 value of 8.3% of the total framework grains (Appendix 2). The glassy groundmass is sometimes
254 altered to Fe-oxides or clay minerals, and the phenocrysts are made up of amphibole and plagioclase
255 laths. Rare Lv_l grains show the epidotization alteration process. Both Lv_{mi} and rarer Lv_l grains have

256 been found also in sandstone grains (Fig. 6A, B). Volcanic lithic grains with vitric texture (Lv_v) are
257 colorless (Fig. 5G, H) and mostly altered. Some grains show vesicles filled with clay minerals and
258 probable zeolite (Fig. 7G, H). Other Lv grains have been altered to chlorite and Fe-oxides (Lv_{alt}, Fig.
259 6 C, E, F; Fig. 7C-F). This category of Lv includes trace amounts of pumice grains and shards (Lv_v,
260 Fig. 5G, H) in the sand of the El Rosario and San Vicente rivers (Table 1). Furthermore, a moderate
261 percentage of altered and undetermined volcanic lithic grains (Appendix 3) wholly altered and thus
262 unrecognizable or with a relict texture have been ascribed to a vesiculated hyaloclastite texture (Fig.
263 6C, E, F; Fig. 7C-H). Subvolcanic-hypabyssal lithic grains may be ascribed to granodiorite and
264 tonalite clastic supply.

265 Sedimentary aphanitic lithic grains (L_s) are more abundant than metamorphic aphanitic lithic grains
266 (L_m). L_s are dominated by both siliciclastic grains (siltstone+shale) and carbonate lithics (micritic,
267 sparitic, silty-arenitic, and biomicrites limestones); metamorphic aphanitic lithic grains are mainly
268 phyllites and minor fine-grained schists (Appendix 1; L_m, Fig. 6C, E, F; Fig. 7C, D). Single spar of
269 calcite, occur in very low amounts (Fig. 5G, H).

270 The most common phaneritic rock fragments have plutonic and gneissic compositions (Fig. 4A, B;
271 Fig. 5C, D; Fig 6G, H; Fig. 7A, B, E, F). Granodiorite and tonalite are the dominant plutonic grains
272 derived from the Upper Cretaceous plutonic suite including granodiorite and tonalite intrusions (Fig.
273 1). Fe-oxides concretions and alterites have been counted, as well.

274 The gross composition of the river sands incorporate also results from the recognized heavy-mineral
275 spectrum under thin section during the Gazzi-Dickinson point counting (Table 1). This is
276 characterized by both transparent, most prevalent, and opaque minerals. The suite of transparent
277 heavy minerals, found in the three sampled river sands, consists mainly of single crystals of green-
278 brown and green hornblende (Fig. 4A, B ; Fig.6E, F), epidote (Fig.4G, H), titanite, and minor
279 quantities of garnet and trace amount of tourmaline (Fig.6A, B), cordierite, pyroxene (Fig.5C, D;
280 Fig.6H) and zircon (Table 2). Hornblende is contained also mainly in plutonic rock fragments
281 (Fig.6G, H) and in minor metamorphic and volcanic lithic grains.

Modal Sand Composition

282

283 El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers sands, derived from the Early Cretaceous Alisitos
284 arc terranes (Busby, 2004; Marsaglia et al., 2016) and the Cretaceous batholith belt (Morris et al.,
285 2019), display a restricted feldspathic lithic composition, characterizing sediments deposited along a
286 convergent plate margin (e.g., Dickinson, 1985). These rivers carry minor feldspatho-lithic (Fl) to
287 quartzo-litho-feldspathic (qFL) sand and dominant quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qLF) and litho-
288 feldspatho-quartzose (lQF) sand (Fig. 2A), with $P > K$ -feldspar (Fig. 2B). From the Qm K P
289 recalculation (Appendix 2; Fig. 2B), on average, plagioclase exceeds K-feldspar with a P/F ratio of
290 0.91. El Rosario drainage contributes more monocrystalline and zoned plagioclase grains to the river
291 sand (e.g., Fig. 4C, D) with little changes in their proportions downstream (Appendix 2).

292 In the Q F L diagram (Fig. 2A), the composition of the three rivers sands seems to be homogeneous,
293 but some changes in composition, related to the transport process can be observed. In the upstream
294 sand of San Vicente River (SC229), the total lithics of 70% (Fig. 8A; Appendix 2) record an abrupt
295 decrease to 42% in nearly 10 km of downstream transport (Fig. 8A). Specifically, sedimentary lithic
296 fragments of this river sand record a decrease of 7% from the upper (km 0) to the lower reaches (km
297 34) of the drainage (Fig.8B). The Lv_f Lv_{mi} Lv_l diagram (Fig. 3B) emphasizes the mixed proportion
298 of microlitic, felsitic, and lathwork volcanic grains, and underlines a relative downstream decrease of
299 the Lv_l volcanic lithic grains for sand of all the three rivers. The Lv_f Lv_{mi} Lv_l grains population
300 suggests that the most durable volcanic grains (Lv_{mi} and Lv_f) preserve their abundance from the
301 upper to the lower reaches of the drainages whereas the more labile volcanic grains (Lv_l) show a
302 discontinuous trend for both San Vicente and San Fernando rivers (Fig. 8C). On the contrary, the El
303 Rosario River is characterized by a downstream increase of the Lv_l grains that might be produced by
304 minor tributaries input.

305 The volcanoclastic detritus is dominated by microlitic and felsitic grains and minor lathwork grains
306 (Figs. 2E, 3B).

307

Heavy Minerals

308 The results of grain counting of heavy-mineral analysis are listed in Table 2. The tHMC is generally
309 defined as moderately poor ($1 \leq \text{tHMC} < 2$), moderately rich ($2 \leq \text{tHMC} < 5$), and rich ($5 \leq \text{tHMC} <$
310 10). The unique difference is shown in the sample SC217 related to the San Fernando River defined
311 as very rich ($10 \leq \text{tHMC} < 20$), and the SC260 sample collected from El Rosario River reaching up
312 an extremely rich $\text{tHMC} > 20$.

313 The heavy-minerals suite observed in the San Fernando, San Vicente, and El Rosario rivers system
314 includes mainly amphibole, pyroxene, epidote, titanite, and zircon, and a minor amount of staurolite,
315 rutile, actinolite, tourmaline, garnet, and apatite (Fig. 9A-C). The main difference in composition is
316 shown by San Fernando river sand where minor andalusite, as well as sillimanite and kyanite, are
317 also present. Specifically, a minor amount of sillimanite in some samples of San Vicente and kyanite
318 in El Rosario sands respectively are also observed.

319 Magmatic heavy minerals predominate in El Rosario River (~ 60%) compared to San Fernando and
320 San Vicente rivers sand (~ 50%), which are enriched in metamorphic heavy minerals ranging from
321 30% to 45% (Fig 10A). Metasedimentary heavy minerals are more abundant in San Fernando,
322 reaching up to 25%, than in the San Vicente and El Rosario rivers sands where the range is between
323 6% and 10% (Fig 10A).

324 The electromagnetic Franz fraction indicates different concentrations in the heavy-mineral species
325 (Fig. 11). Specifically, zircon, titanite, sillimanite, kyanite, andalusite, and apatite are concentrated
326 mainly in the electromagnetic fraction $> 1.5 \text{ \AA}$ and 1.5 \AA , respectively. Titanite predominates in the
327 fraction at 1.5 \AA . Epidotes are concentrated in all electromagnetic fractions analyzed with a major
328 content at 1.0 \AA . In contrast amphibole and pyroxene characterize the lower magnetic fraction at 1.0
329 \AA , 0.5 \AA , and 0.2 \AA . Specifically, orthopyroxene including hypersthene prevails in the 0.2 \AA and 0.5
330 \AA electromagnetic fractions. Amphibole is characterized mainly by hornblende (Fig. 9A1-3) and
331 subordinately by actinolite and tremolite. Specifically, the San Fernando and San Vicente rivers are

332 enriched mainly in magmatic hornblende (Hbl magmatic from 64% to 86%, as oxyhornblende and
333 green-brown in color, Figs. 9A1-2, 10B) compared to the El Rosario River sands, where an
334 enrichment in metamorphic hornblende occurs (Hbl Metamorphic from ~ 55% to 66%, from green to
335 bluish green in color;, Figs. 9A3, 10B). An exception showing enrichment in metamorphic
336 hornblende in the sample SC215 related to the San Fernando River occurs (Hbl Metamorphic ~ 64%,
337 Figs. 9A3, 10B). The HCI index, ranges from 26 to 43 in San Fernando and from 31 to 41 in San
338 Vicente and El Rosario rivers, respectively (Table 2). A minor amount of tremolite is observed only
339 in some samples of San Fernando sands (SC2019, SC210, SC211 samples). Pyroxene detrital grains
340 include mainly augite and hypersthene (Fig. 9A4-5) and low amounts of diopside (Fig. 9A6) and
341 enstatite. These minerals exhibit low proportions in San Vicente River sands (Fig. 11). Specifically,
342 hypersthene shows higher abundance than the augitic clinopyroxene component in El Rosario sands
343 with the presence of spinel as inclusion. Diopside is observed only in the San Fernando River in
344 addition to the low amount of enstatite which is detected also in the sample SC235 collected in the
345 San Vicente River.

346 Most of the analyzed heavy minerals display angular and subangular morphologies (Fig. 9A1-C1)
347 but subrounded to rounded detrital grains are also present (Fig. 9C2-5). Hornblende and pyroxene
348 show mainly corroded to etched morphologies (Fig. 9A1, 2, 5, 6; Fig. 10C, D). Specifically, etched
349 morphology characterizes mainly the pyroxene more than the amphibole (Fig. 10D). Unweathered
350 morphologies of hornblende and pyroxene (mainly hypersthene, Fig. 9A4) are also often observed.
351 Epidote, including also minor piemontite, pistacite clinozoisite, and zoisite, was observed in San
352 Fernando River sand. These minerals show mainly unweathered morphologies except in the San
353 Vicente River, sands where the corroded morphologies prevail (Fig. 9B1). Epidotes with etched
354 morphologies are observed mainly in El Rosario River sands.

355 Staurolite, kyanite, andalusite, and sillimanite showing prismatic habit are mainly corroded in
356 morphologies (Fig. 9B2-3). Specifically, staurolite often exhibits the presence of mamillae on its
357 surface (Fig. 9B3). Garnet is mainly colorless from unweathered to corroded in morphology (Fig.

358 9B4). Titanite is predominantly colorless with some grains yellow and pink in color (Fig. 9B5-6).
359 This mineral shows unweathered morphology except in the San Vicente River sand where a higher
360 corrosion degree is detected.

361 Zircon, rutile, and tourmaline (Fig. 9C1-6) are mainly subrounded (> 40%) with rounded grains
362 ranging from 10 to 50% are concentrated mainly in the San Fernando River sand (Fig. 9C2-5). ZTR
363 assemblage, showing euhedral habit, is predominant in the San Fernando River sand (Fig. 9C1; Fig.
364 10A). Some broken grains of zircon in the San Fernando River sands are also observed. Zircon is
365 colorless (Fig. 9C1-2) with some pink grains observed in the San Fernando River sand, where a higher
366 abundance of this mineral is observed.

367 Tourmaline, ranging from about 1% to 4%, include also yellow-brown dravite and green-bluish
368 schörlite species (Mange and Maurer 1992; Van Loon and Mange, 2007). Schörlite is observed in El
369 Rosario River and San Fernando sand where the dravite as well as San Vicente is also present (Fig.
370 9C3-4). Rutile is mainly brown in color with some grains in the shade of red and yellow in the San
371 Fernando River sand (Fig. 9C5-6). Generally, heavy minerals show a higher degree of alteration in
372 San Vicente, which reach 63%, than in the San Fernando and El Rosario rivers sands, where the
373 altered grains reach mean values of 28% and 53% respectively.

374

375

DISCUSSION

376

Baja California Source-rock Types and their Detrital Contributions

377 The main sources of the El Rosario River are volcanic with subordinate sedimentary and
378 metasedimentary and felsitic plutonic rocks such as diorite+granodiorite+tonalite.

379 The sand detrital modes of this river exhibit a quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qLF) to a litho-feldspatho-
380 quartzose (lQF) composition (Fig. 2A), as a typical characteristic of Circum Pacific volcano-plutonic
381 sand (e.g., Garzanti, 2016, 2020). Unroofing of deeper crustal levels of the source terranes (e.g.,
382 Garzanti et al., 2021), and a higher Sand Generation Index (e.g., Palomares and Arribas, 1993) of the

383 Upper Cretaceous-Paleocene diorite and Upper Cretaceous granodiorite and tonalite source rocks,
384 might provide a greater amount of monomineralic quartz (Q) and feldspar (F) grains to these sand
385 detrital modes.

386 The San Vicente and San Fernando rivers, even if draining mainly sedimentary source rocks, are also
387 dominated by a quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qlF) to a litho-feldspatho-quartzose (lQF) composition. In
388 more specific plots (Fig. 2B-D), the volcanoclastic supply among the three drainage rivers is better
389 reflected by a high P/F ratio (Fig. 2B) and a cluster of the sands in the volcanoclastic field (Fig. 2C,
390 D). San Fernando and San Vicente are dominated by siliciclastic grains such as
391 mudstones+shale+siltstone+chert+argillite. Recalculated percentages of Ls Lm1 Lm2 parameters
392 (Appendix 1; Fig. 3A) reveal that all the fluvial sand compositions plot on the Ls/Lm2 side of the
393 triangular diagram and the absence of the Lm1 grains subpopulation. This triangular diagram displays
394 that Ls show higher percentages compared to the Lm2; these latter comprise mainly phyllite and
395 schist grains (e.g., Dorsey, 1988) (Fig 6C, E, F; Fig. 7C, D). If considering each drainage-basin sand,
396 Ls grains prevail over Lm2, especially for San Vicente and San Fernando rivers (Fig. 3A) attesting
397 to the significant recycling related to Upper Cretaceous-Cenozoic clastic rocks (e.g., Busby, 2004).
398 On the other hand, the El Rosario River sand has higher Lm2 abundances (Fig. 3A) related to the
399 erosion of Lower Cretaceous metasediments of the Alisitos arc terranes. Low-grade metamorphic
400 lithic grains (Lm1 of Dorsey, 1988) are totally lacking in the sand of all three drainages (Fig. 3A)
401 confirming their greatly reduced supply during sediment transport and reworking in the depositional
402 environment (e.g., Suttner 1974; Mack 1978; Picard and McBride, 1993; Arribas et al., 2000). When
403 differentiating among different types of sedimentary and metasedimentary source rocks (Appendix
404 2), sedimentary siliciclastic lithic grains prevail over carbonate lithic grains in all the sand of the three
405 drainage basins. The results shown in the Appendix 2 provide further confirmation that El Rosario
406 River sand is dominantly metamorphiclastic and that sedimentoclastic detritus is mainly
407 carbonoclastic for the San Fernando River sand and siliciclastic for the San Vicente River sand.

408

409

Comparison of El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando Rivers Rands

410 The main source rock types of the study area consist largely of volcanic, sedimentary, plutonic, and
411 metamorphic rocks (Fig. 1). El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers are good examples of
412 mixed sand deposits from a compound source (e.g., Palomares and Arribas, 1993) (Fig. 12).

413 The two dominant sources in the drainage basin of the El Rosario River are volcanic and sedimentary,
414 whereas those of the San Vicente and the San Fernando are sedimentary and volcanic (Fig. 12). All
415 the drainages are characterized by subordinate plutonic and metamorphic source rocks. Because lithic
416 grains, both aphanitic and phaneritic, are unequivocally related to their source, the contrast between
417 their abundance in the sand and the areal extent of the source lithology in the drainage basin, allows
418 us to evaluate the extent to which each grain type is representative of that source (e.g., Le Pera and
419 Arribas, 2004; Le Pera et al., 2021). The influence of differing proportions of specific bedrock types
420 in the source area (Fig. 12) on the composition of the fluvial sand have been assessed by petrographic
421 methods (Figs. 2-11). Sedimentary source rocks of the three drainages have a poor productivity in the
422 carbonate and siliciclastic lithic fragments (Ls), compared with the Lv productivity. Indeed, an
423 outcrop area of volcanic rocks of about 19.1% to 26.3% (Fig. 12) produce 77% to 68% of the total
424 lithic population (Table 1; Fig. 2C, D, E), values comparable or equal to an outcrop area of this
425 lithology of about 44.5% (Fig. 12). The amounts of volcanic lithic grains with felsitic and microlitic
426 textures remain virtually unchanged throughout the river channels (Appendix 3; Fig. 3B). The
427 relatively rapid rate of disintegration, causing comminution of lathwork volcanic (Lv1) lithic grains,
428 can be related to the preferential widening of straight mineral boundaries of the plagioclase-
429 plagioclase interfaces rather than sinuous mineral contacts (e.g., Le Pera and Morrone, 2020). Glass-
430 poor microlitic lithic (Lvmi) grains, ascribed to andesitic provenance (e.g., Marsaglia, 1993) and
431 chemically and mechanically durable felsitic (Lvfi) grains, such as rhyolite and dacite fragments
432 (Garzanti et al., 2002), record a persistent abundance from upstream reaches to the lower reaches of

433 the rivers by virtue of their high durability during long- distance transportation (e.g., Cameron and
434 Blatt, 1971; Cather and Folk, 1991; Smith and Lotosky, 1995).

435 The San Fernando and San Vicente rivers, draining mainly very low-grade Paleozoic to Mesozoic
436 metasedimentary rocks (Fig. 1), carry quartzo-lithic sand dominated by shale and slate and siltstone
437 and volcanic rock fragments, derived from the Alisitos arc lavas and ignimbrites (Fig. 2C, D). Other
438 than the decrease of the Lvl volcanic grains, another marked downstream reduction is the
439 sedimentary- grain (Ls) content of the sand of the three river systems (Appendix 2; Fig. 2C, D),
440 although both San Vicente and the San Fernando drainage basins receive mainly clastic supplies from
441 sedimentary and metasedimentary source rocks (Fig. 1). The Ls under representation in these fluvial
442 sands, and their progressive reduction in less than 100 km of downstream transport, have been
443 addressed by many studies that showed that no prolonged or intense abrasion is required for the rapid
444 destruction of labile lithic grains (e.g., Shukis and Ethridge, 1975; Picard and McBride, 1993; Arribas
445 et al., 2000). Moreover, dissolution during pedogenesis and intense weathering under tropical
446 climates are other significant factors that enhance dissolution rates of sedimentary and
447 metasedimentary particles (e.g., Johnsson, 1990; Cavazza et al., 1993; Garzanti, 2017). El Rosario
448 carries quartz-litho-feldspathic and litho-feldspatho-quartzose sand derived mostly from the Alisitos
449 arc terranes and minor metasedimentary rocks (Fig. 2C, D). The Lv_f Lv_{mi} Lvl diagram of Fig. 3C is
450 a sensitive indicator of volcanic provinces and tectonic settings (e.g., Marsaglia, 1991, 1993; Critelli
451 and Ingersoll, 1995; Critelli et al., 2002; Marsaglia et al., 2016). Andesitic provenance has microlitic-
452 rich sand with dominant Lv_{mi} volcanic textures (e.g, Morrone et al., 2017, 2021) and sandstones
453 (e.g., Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995), whereas basaltic provenance has dominantly lathwork lithics (e.g.,
454 Marsaglia, 1993; Le Pera et al., 2021) with textural types of Lvl particles dominant. Moreover, felsitic
455 volcanic lithic fragments including the two types, granular and seriate (Dickinson, 1970; Ingersoll
456 and Cavazza, 1991) are ascribed to rhyolitic and dacitic provenances and to dacitic and andesitic
457 provenance, respectively (Ingersoll and Cavazza, 1991). The proportions of the three sampled river
458 sands are microlitic-rich, suggesting a prevalent detrital input from Early Cretaceous andesites and

459 andesite breccias source rocks. El Rosario and San Fernando river sands are more shifted towards the
460 Lvf pole (Fig. 3B), and in this case, the Lvf content could be ascribed to provenance from the Miocene
461 rhyolite source rocks. All three fluvial sand samples contain minor quantities of volcanic grains, with
462 Lvl texture ascribed to a basaltic provenance. These grains having a very low preservation potential
463 during the sediment routing system (e.g., Hatzenbuehler et al., 2022), in the case study, range from
464 10% to 20% and these probably have been preserved because controlled by a semiarid
465 climate/paleoclimate of the study area (Abbott et al., 1976; Peterson and Abbott, 1979) that have not
466 caused a significant decrease in volcanic lithic population. Moreover, few altered particles of Fe-
467 oxides concretions and alterites could be ascribed to provenance from soil horizons (e.g., Johnsson,
468 1990), even if a detrital supply from altered glassy volcanic grains cannot be ruled out (e.g.,
469 Marsaglia, 1993).

470 *Provenance and Weathering of Heavy Minerals*

471 We observed that heavy-mineral assemblages detected in San Fernando, San Vicente, and El Rosario
472 river sands indicate a mixed provenance characterized mainly by magmatic source rocks (Fig. 10A).
473 Specifically, the dominance of oxy-hornblende and green-brown hornblende associated with
474 hypersthene, augitic clinopyroxene, titanite, and minor diopside suggest a provenance from andesite,
475 rhyolite, and basalts (Fig. 10A) (e.g., Garzanti and Andò, 2007b; Garzanti et al., 2013).

476 A major presence of magmatic hornblende in the San Fernando and San Vicente River sands (Fig.
477 10B) also suggests a clear signal of provenance from magmatic rocks volcanic and plutonic,
478 respectively. This can be related to a higher Sand Generation Index produced by the granitoid rocks,
479 drained from the San Fernando and San Vicente Rivers respectively, from 14 to 20 times greater than
480 metasedimentary rocks (e.g., Palomares and Arribas 1993; Caracciolo, 2020). In contrast, in the El
481 Rosario sands, the major presence of metamorphic hornblende can be related to metasedimentary
482 source rocks (Fig. 1).

483 The presence of garnet, staurolite, andalusite, kyanite, sillimanite, tremolite, and actinolite, and some
484 epidotes (such as pistacite, zoisite, and clinozoisite), mainly in San Fernando River system, also
485 suggests a provenance from metasedimentary and metamorphic rocks such as phyllite, schist, and
486 gneiss (e.g., Singh et al., 2004; Garzanti et al., 2020). Staurolite generally forms in metasedimentary
487 rocks (e.g., Mange and Morton 2007), and the presence of mamillae on its surface (Fig. 9B3) indicates
488 a more advanced stage of weathering (Velbel et al, 1996; Andò et al., 2012). Epidote can be
489 considered derived from the Carboniferous-Permian to Triassic metasediments (Fig. 1) or from
490 hydrothermally altered plagioclase in mafic or felsitic source rocks (e.g., Banerjee and Gillis; 2001
491 Humphris and Thompson, 1978; Tangari et al., 2018). The partly magmatic provenance of the epidote
492 is in good agreement with the point counting of light minerals which shows this mineral included
493 mainly in plutonic rock fragments (Table 1). Furthermore, the formation during diagenetic
494 authigenesis as suggested by Marsaglia et al.(2016) is also considered.

495 Epidote is mainly unweathered but shows mainly corroded and etched shapes in San Vicente and El
496 Rosario sands, respectively, in good agreement with its lower stability during the burial diagenesis
497 than that of garnet, staurolite, and kyanite (Morton, 1984; Morton and Hallsworth, 1999).
498 Specifically, garnet, staurolite, and kyanite show a major degree of corrosion in the San Vicente and
499 San Fernando sands suggesting burial depths ranging from 1100 to 1400 m (Morton, 1984; Morton
500 and Hallsworth, 1999).

501 Hornblende and pyroxene commonly display a degree of corrosion (Fig. 10C, D) more shifted toward
502 the etched morphology in the pyroxene grains (Fig. 10D) due to the diagenetic dissolution (e.g.,
503 Berner et al., 1980; Andò et al., 2012). Furthermore, the two well-developed cleavage planes in
504 pyroxenes and amphiboles undoubtedly contribute to their vulnerability to chemical weathering.
505 Specifically, the texture of orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene, more shifted towards the etched
506 morphologies (Fig. 9A5-6), are in good agreement with their highly unstable nature in sandstones,
507 being more stable only than olivine (e.g., Pettijohn, 1975; Morton, 1984). Furthermore, these minerals

508 become depleted more rapidly than amphibole and epidote during burial, and by the advanced
509 development of grain surface corrosion textures in the shallow subsurface (Turner and Morton, 2007).
510 Predominant subrounded ultrastable zircon, tourmaline, and rutile (ZTR), also including some
511 rounded surface textures (Fig. 9C2-5), suggest mechanical abrasion during reworking processes
512 and/or long-distance transport related to the sedimentary and metasedimentary source rocks (e.g.,
513 Knox et al., 2007; Garzanti et al., 2013; 2017; Cascalho, 2019; Zoleikhaei et al., 2021). Nonetheless,
514 the presence of ZTR with euhedral habits, mainly zircon observed in the San Fernando River, can be
515 defined as likely to be of first-cycle origin (Knox et al., 2007) suggesting a provenance from igneous
516 source rocks (e.g., Wilson, 1981). Specifically, zircon with typical euhedral and prismatic habit (Fig.
517 9C1) showing pink color has been detected in the San Fernando River. This mineral suggests a
518 magmatic provenance (i.e., granite and granodiorite) as observed in other river sands (Brondi et al.
519 1972; Wilson 1981). Likewise, the magmatic provenance of tourmaline and rutile has been widely
520 investigated (e.g., Mehinold 2010; Yücel-Öztürk et al., 2015; Beyranvand et al., 2021). In particular,
521 these minerals are widely detected in many igneous and plutonic rocks such as granite (e.g., Povondra
522 et al., 1998; Carruzzo et al., 2006; Clarke and Carruzzo, 2007; Mehinold 2010; Salata , 2014;
523 Kotowski et al., 2020; Naidu et al., 2020). Specifically, tourmaline detected in igneous rocks is often
524 enriched in schörlite and dravite species (e.g., Henry et al 2011; Salata , 2014; Kotowski et al., 2020),
525 in agreement with the type of tourmaline detected in the river sand analyzed in the study area.

526 ***Comparison to Other Magmatic Arcs and Mafic vs. Intermediate-Felsic Volcanic Provenances***

527 The studied modern volcanoclastic sand of the El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers
528 exhibits a composition data set similar to that of both Cenozoic magmatic arc (Marsaglia and
529 Ingersoll, 1992) and Rio Grande Rift sand (Marsaglia, 1991) (Fig. 3C). In Fig. 3C we have plotted
530 mean L_{vf} L_{vmi} L_{vl} values for Lower Cretaceous Alisitos oceanic arc, separating between the marine
531 Rio Del Rosario measured section and the subaerial to the marine measured section at Arroyo San
532 Fernando of the arc (Marsaglia et al., 2016). The Rio Del Rosario measured section mean falls along

533 the line dividing the *felsic* and the *mixed petrofacies*, whereas the Arroyo San Fernando section mean
534 plots in the mixed petrofacies we called *mixed*. The higher proportion of fragments with Lvf texture
535 of the Rio Del Rosario section with respect to the San Fernando section might be related to a very
536 thick exposure of a silicic ignimbrite widespread only in the Rio El Rosario section of the Alisitos
537 Group (Busby et al., 2006; Marsaglia et al., 2016). Both the Rio El Rosario and San Fernando
538 measured sections contain nearly equal proportions of grains with lathwork texture (Lvl), consistent
539 with a main source of more mafic composition, that which in the two studied sections are represented
540 by basaltic blocks and sills (Marsaglia et al., 2016). The El Rosario and San Fernando rivers sands,
541 largely reworked from older Alisitos Group volcanoclastic rock outcrops (Marsaglia et al., 2016), plot
542 in the intermediate field of the Lvf Lvmi Lvl space, evidencing a decrease from a maximum value of
543 16% to a minimum value of 10% of the Lvl lithic grains (Fig. 3C), thus confirming their low
544 mechanical and/or chemical durability during the sediment dispersal by grain fracturing (e.g., Le Pera
545 and Morrone, 2020). Conversely, an increase of the volcanoclastic sandy particles with Lvmi and Lvf
546 textures of the studied modern sands with respect to Alisitos Group volcanoclastic rocks (Fig. 3C) can
547 be attributed to a transport process of rounding through abrasion of these volcanoclastic grains (e.g.,
548 Le Pera and Morrone, 2020). Specifically, the abundance of more brittle grains such as those with
549 Lvl textures seems to be controlled by a comminution process that splinters them into smaller grains
550 whereas that of volcanoclastic grains with Lvf and Lvmi textures are influenced mainly by rounding
551 through abrasion (e.g., Cather and Folk, 1991; Le Pera and Morrone, 2020; Le Pera et al., 2021). The
552 main mineralogical signatures of sand generated in the El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando
553 catchments reflect erosion of the lithological units exposed as described in Busby (2004), such as the
554 (I) extensional oceanic arc, characterized by intermediate to silicic explosive and effusive volcanism,
555 culminating in caldera-forming silicic ignimbrite eruptions at the onset of arc rifting, and (II) rifted
556 oceanic arc, characterized by mafic effusive and hydroclastic rocks and abundant dike swarms. The
557 contribution of volcanoclastic supply and the varying proportions of Lvf Lvmi Lvl sand detrital modes
558 of the three studied rivers attest to provenance from largely intermediate and silicic effusive

559 volcanism arc terranes and from minor mafic effusive rocks, whereas compositional signatures from
560 hydroclastic rocks are absent.

561 A dominant provenance from Early Cretaceous andesites and with subordinate supply of felsitic sand
562 from the Miocene rhyolites and rhyolitic tuff has been recorded by the El Rosario, San Fernando, and
563 San Vicente river sands, even if in this case it has not been possible to confidently discriminate
564 between paleovolcanic and neovolcanic particles (e.g., Garzanti et al., 2013) but only between Lvmi
565 and Lvf textures.

566 The mean composition of the three studied rivers of the Baja California roughly correlates with a
567 dominant *andesitic* provenance in the intermediate petrofacies field of Figure 3C, where have been
568 plotted other arc-related sand and sandstone compositions such as those recovered on Leg 64 (Gulf
569 of California; Marsaglia, 1991), Leg 126 (Izu-Bonin Arc; Marsaglia, 1992) of the Deep Sea Drilling
570 Project, of the Cenozoic Magmatic Arc (e.g., Marsaglia and Ingersoll, 1992), and of the Miocene
571 deep-marine turbidite sandstones of the Topanga Group (e.g., Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995).

572 The El Rosario, San Fernando, and San Vicente rivers, draining an orogenic andesitic arc (Busby,
573 2004), contain abundant loose monocrystals of plagioclase and a lower content of rock fragments
574 (Fig. 2A, B). This crystal-rich andesiticlastic sand may account for an epiclastic origin of the detritus
575 that is not a product deposited penecontemporaneously with active volcanism characterized by higher
576 contents of volcanogenic rock fragments that reflect syneruptive and interruptive volcanism (e.g.,
577 Smith and Lotosky, 1995). The Lvf Lvmi Lvl diagram adequately represents the extrusive source
578 rocks in the source area of the drainages characterized by Early Cretaceous andesites and Miocene
579 basalts+rhyolites+rhyolitic tuffs (Fig. 3C). These sand detrital modes, enclosed in the Intermediate
580 petrofacies field in the Lvf Lvmi Lvl space, are comparable with those of Cenozoic magmatic-arc
581 related terranes (e.g., Marsaglia and Ingersoll, 1992), Plio-Pleistocene Gulf of California Leg 64 sand
582 (e.g., Marsaglia, 1991), Quaternary sand of the Izu-Bonin Leg 126 (Marsaglia 1992) and of the
583 Miocene deep-marine sandstone of the Topanga Group (e.g., Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995). The higher
584 volcanic lithic content of lathwork (Lvl) grains in the Izu-Bonin sand suggest that the more mafic

585 component is probably derived from intrarift mafic volcanic centers supplying sediment to the Sumisu
586 Rift via turbidity currents and gravity flows (e.g., Marsaglia, 1991). Lesser Lvl grain types of the
587 three studied rivers could suggest that these labile volcanic textures (e.g., Le Pera and Morrone, 2020)
588 are affected by stream transport before transport into deeper water. The Topanga Group sandstones
589 suggest a principal volcanic provenance from mafic lavas such as basalts and basaltic andesites lava
590 flows with minimal diagenetic alteration (Critelli and Ingersoll, 1995). Offshore Plio-Pleistocene
591 sand of the Gulf of California (Leg 64; Marsaglia, 1991) and the Cenozoic magmatic-arc sand (e.g.,
592 Marsaglia and Ingersoll, 1992) are more shifted towards the mean values of the three sampled river
593 sands. The andesitic source terranes of Baja California provide predominantly microlitic volcanic
594 lithic fragments to the offshore sand, but the Plio-Pleistocene offshore sand is more depleted in the
595 felsitic lithic fragments (Marsaglia, 1991) with respect to the modern Baja California river sands.
596 Moreover, Cenozoic magmatic-arc sands (e.g., Marsaglia and Ingersoll, 1992), reflecting a spectrum
597 of volcanic rocks ranging from tholeiitic basalts to calc-alkaline basalts, andesites and dacites, have
598 higher microlitic proportions and minor amounts of felsitic and lathwork proportions (Fig. 3C).
599 Moreover, glass color of volcanic grains, as a proxy for composition in intraoceanic magmatic-arc
600 basin fills were detailed in Marsaglia (1992) and later by Marsaglia and Devaney (1995). This latter
601 points out that except for tachylitic glass, color can be lost via diagenetic overprinting in older
602 successions limiting interpretations, thus emphasizing the need to rely on other textural evidence that
603 may better survive diagenesis such as Lv_f, Lv_{mi}, Lvl grains, as also documented by Marsaglia and
604 Tazaki (1992).

605 *The Recycling Problem*

606 Signals of recycling of grains from sedimentary and metasedimentary source rocks (Fig. 1) are
607 evident in the composition of sands from the El Rosario, San Vicente, and San Fernando rivers.
608 The difficulties involved in the reconstruction of the provenance of the studied Baja California river
609 sands are related to a complex geodynamic setting including a mixture of detrital sources supplying

610 both first-cycle and multicycle detritus. Nonetheless, during the petrographic analysis, useful textural
611 parameters helped in provenance diagnosis and allowed us to add some details in evaluating a
612 distinction between first-cycle detritus as opposed to polycyclic origin (e.g., Blatt, 1967; Zuffa, 1987).
613 In addition to the application of the criteria listed by Zuffa (1987), such as main types of carbonates
614 (paleo-CE or neo-CI), and paleovolcanic (V1) or neovolcanic (V2a, V2b, V3 and V4) sand particle
615 compositions, we also suggest consideration of the roundness of the detrital sandy particles as an
616 integral part of the provenance analysis, as suggested by Garzanti (2017), to infer recycling. Indeed,
617 hard volcanic lithic grains such as Lvf Lvmi and Lvl (Fig. 4G, H; Fig. 5A-D, G, H; Fig.6A, B, D, F;
618 Fig. 7A-F) and Lvo (Fig. 5E, F), are very well rounded with a texture not sufficient to establish that
619 most of this volcanoclastic detritus is of first-cycle origin (Garzanti, 2017). The high roundness of the
620 Baja California sandy particles is observed to be also important on hard heavy minerals such as zircon,
621 tourmaline, and rutile (Fig. 9C). Specifically, in Fig. 9C it is clear to distinguish between a sharp
622 euhedral crystal of zircon (Fig. 9C1), probably magmatic in origin, and a very well-rounded clast of
623 polycyclic origin (Fig. 9C2), between a subrounded clast of tourmaline (Fig. 9C3) and of a very well-
624 rounded clast of the same mineral (Fig. 9C4), and between a more elongated crystal of rutile (Fig.
625 9C5) and a more rounded clast of the same heavy species (Fig. 9C6). In this case, we suggest
626 observing the roundness attained by the heavy-mineral assemblage of ultrastable species such as
627 zircon+tourmaline+rutile (the ZTR index of Hubert, 1962) beyond the composition and/or color
628 (Mange and Wright, 2007; Andò et al.,2012) and the chemical composition (e.g., Morton and
629 Chenery, 2009; Meinhold, 2010; Wotzlaw et al., 2011; Salata, 2014). Therefore, the concentration
630 index of transparent HM, combined with the suite of HM observed, confirms a multiple cycle of
631 weathering and recycling in the sedimentary system.

632

633 CONCLUSIONS

634 The present study focused on modern river sands draining largely within the Alisitos arc terranes in
635 Baja California. Because of the semiarid climate since Late Eocene time, the modern fluvial sand
636 detrital modes are consistent with a provenance from a mixture of sedimentary, volcanic, plutonic,
637 and metamorphic source rocks. Provenance terranes from the fluvial sand detrital modes of the study
638 area are defined by valuable source-rock indicators such as rock fragments, both aphanitic and
639 phaneritic, and source-sensitive heavy minerals. El Rosario is characterized by a dominance of
640 volcanic-rock exposure. On the other hand, although Paleozoic to Mesozoic-Tertiary sedimentary and
641 metasedimentary rocks represent most exposure area in the San Vicente and San Fernando rivers,
642 quartzo-feldspatho-lithic (qLF) and litho-feldspatho-quartzose (lQF) sand detrital modes dominate
643 the framework composition. This suggests a dominant provenance from the Cretaceous Alisitos arc
644 terranes generated from an undissected to a transitional magmatic arc. Prevalence of andesitic to
645 rhyolitic detritus from the Cretaceous-Miocene Alisitos Group is indicated by the high content of
646 Lvmi and Lvf paleovolcanic grains whereas minor Lvl textures were plausibly shed from the Tertiary
647 to Quaternary basalts. The volcanoclastic modern sediment flux of the three rivers is mainly
648 paleovolcanic and is derived mainly from erosion of the extensional phase of the oceanic Alisitos arc
649 terranes characterized by intermediate to silicic explosive and effusive volcanism, culminating in
650 caldera-forming eruptions of silicic ignimbrite. In contrast, the rifted oceanic arc phase terranes,
651 characterized by mafic effusive and hydroclastic rocks and abundant dike swarms, contain less
652 abundant volcanoclastic detritus, probably because of a limited mechanical and chemical durability
653 of the mafic and glass-rich volcanic rock fragments.

654 Considering the relative abundance of framework petrography, sandy grains recycled from the Upper
655 Cretaceous to Tertiary sedimentary rocks are less significant with respect to the volcanoclastic detritus
656 whereas the ZTR index of the heavy-minerals modes, coupled with their subrounded to rounded grain
657 surface texture, indicates a recycling process from the sedimentary source rocks, adding precision to
658 identification of the contribution from sources with low Sand Generation Index such as those drained
659 by the three Baja California rivers.

660 The transparent heavy-mineral assemblages are in good agreement with a mixed provenance
661 characterized mainly by magmatic, primarily volcanic (andesite, rhyolite, and basalt) and secondarily
662 plutonic (granitoid rocks) source rocks detected through analysis of the framework petrography,
663 based on primary parameters such as quartzose, feldspathic and lithic grains (QFL) and among
664 proportions of diverse aphanitic and phaneritic rock fragments (Lm Lv LS and Rg Rv Rm).
665 Specifically, heavy-mineral abundance and weathering textures in San Fernando and San Vicente
666 river sands match predominant volcanic bedrock lithologies and El Rosario sedimentary and
667 metasedimentary source rocks. The presence of angular to very angular surface textures of some
668 heavy minerals suggests that mechanical weathering could directly affect the magmatic-arc terranes.
669 The corroded and etched morphologies of the heavy minerals suggest that more labile species, such
670 as amphibole and pyroxenes, still show inherited diagenetic dissolution features from the Mesozoic
671 volcanoclastic successions and by further chemical weathering processes occurring in a paleo and
672 current semiarid climate. Therefore, the use of both light-mineral and heavy detrital mineralogy in
673 sandstone petrological studies should be considered if they are to interpret ancient orogenic
674 petrofacies provenances successfully.

675

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688

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1094 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

1095

1096 Fig. 1. — Geological map of the study area (modified from Servicio Geologico Mexicano
1097 <https://www.sgm.gob.mx/GeoInfoMexGobMx/>) with the location of sampling sites.

1098

1099 Fig. 2. — Ternary compositional diagrams. **A**) Framework petrography (Q, quartz; F, feldspar; L,
1100 lithic fragments) (e.g., Garzanti, 2016, 2019). **B**) Qm, monocrystalline quartz; K, potassium feldspar;

1101 Pl plagioclase. **C**) Lithic fragments (Lm, metamorphic; Lv, volcanic; Ls, sedimentary) (e.g., Ingersoll
1102 and Suczek, 1979). **D**) Qp, polycrystalline quartz; Lvm, volcanic and metavolcanic lithic fragments;
1103 Lsm, sedimentary and metasedimentary lithic fragments. **E**) Rg, granitic/gneissic rock fragments, Rv,
1104 volcanic rock fragments, Rm, metamorphic rock fragments (e.g., Critelli and Le Pera, 1994; Critelli
1105 and Ingersoll, 1995).

1106

1107 Fig. 3.— Ternary compositional diagrams of lithic fragments. **A**) Ls, sedimentary; Lm1, low-grade
1108 metamorphic; Lm2, medium-grade metamorphic (e.g., Dorsey 1988). **B**) Proportions of volcanic
1109 rock-fragment textures (Lvf, felsitic texture; Lvmi, microlitic; Lvl, lathwork) (e.g., Marsaglia 1993;
1110 Critelli et al. 2002; Morrone et al. 2017, 2020). **C**) Comparison between the relative proportions of
1111 Lvf, Lvmi, and Lvl in the river sand analyzed in this study (green circle, San Fernando River; red
1112 circle, San Vicente River; blue circle, El Rosario River) to other volcanic settings.

1113

1114 Fig. 4.— Photomicrographs from petrographic thin sections illustrating diagnostic grains of El
1115 Rosario (A-D), San Fernando (E, F), and San Vicente (G, H) rivers. **A, B**) Monocrystalline grains of
1116 quartz (Qz), plagioclase (Pl), biotite (Bt) and hornblende (Hbl), polymineralic grains made up of
1117 quartz, biotite and feldspar (Qz in Rg). **C, D**) Monomineralic grains of altered (Pl alt) and zoned
1118 plagioclase (Pl), quartz grains (Qz). **E**) Quartz overgrowth on a monomineralic grain. **F**) Carbonate
1119 cement surrounding a quartz grain. **G, H**) Opaque mineral in a volcanic lithic with lathwork texture
1120 (Op in Lvl), quartz phenocryst in a volcanic lithic with felsitic seriate texture (Qz in Lvf), epidotized
1121 plagioclase (Plalt), Epidote (Ep). A, C, E, F, and G are crossed-nicols photomicrographs, and B, D,
1122 and H are plane-polarized-light photomicrographs. A-D are from sample SC251. E, F are from sample
1123 SC217. G, H are from sample SC237.

1124 Fig. 5. —Photomicrographs from petrographic thin sections illustrating diagnostic grains of San
1125 Fernando (A-D; G, H) and El Rosario (E, F) rivers. **A, B**) Volcanic lithic with lathwork texture (Lvl)

1126 with black (upper) and orange (lower) glassy groundmass, pyroxene phenocrysts immersed in a black
1127 and orange glassy groundmass (Px), plagioclase phenocryst immersed in a black glassy groundmass
1128 and plagioclase single crystal grains (Pl, lower right), volcanic lithic with microlitic texture with
1129 brown glassy groundmass (Lvmi). **C, D**) Volcanic lithic with lathwork texture (Lvl) made up of laths
1130 of plagioclase (Pl) and pyroxene (upper Px) immersed in a brown and black glassy groundmass,
1131 pyroxene single crystal (Px), quartz single crystal (Qz), siltstone with micritic matrix (Ss), granitoid
1132 rock fragment (Rg), volcanic lithic with microlitic texture; microlites are immersed in a brown glassy
1133 groundmass (Lvmi). **E, F**) Volcanic lithic with holocrystalline texture (Lvo) (Marsaglia 1993) with
1134 hornblende and biotite. **G, H**) Volcanic lithic with vitric texture (Lvvt), volcanic lithic with lathwork
1135 texture (Lvl) with pyroxene (Px) phenocrysts immersed in a brown glassy groundmass, calcite single
1136 spar (Cal), monocrystalline quartz (Qz), polycrystalline quartz (Qp), plagioclase single crystals (Pl).
1137 A, C, E, and G are crossed-nicols photomicrographs, and B, D, F, and H are plane-polarized-light
1138 photomicrographs. A and B are from SC215. C and D are from sample SC210. E, F are from sample
1139 SC262 sample and G, H are from sample SC209.

1140 Fig. 6. — Photomicrographs from petrographic thin sections illustrating diagnostic grains of San
1141 Fernando rivers (A-H). **A, B**) Tourmaline (Tur), plagioclase (Pl), and quartz (Qz) single crystals,
1142 polymineralic volcanic (Lvmi) and sedimentary (SS = sandstone) lithic grains, volcanic lithic in
1143 sandstone grain (Lv in SS). **C**) Metamorphic (Lm) and sedimentary (Ss = siltstone) lithic grains,
1144 volcanic lithics with plagioclase phenocrysts (Lvl), altered and undetermined volcanic lithic fragment
1145 (Lvalt), polycrystalline (Qp) and monocrystalline (Qz) quartz grains, plagioclase single crystal (Pl).
1146 **D**) Volcanic lithic fragment with microlitic texture (Lvmi), silt-size sedimentary lithic fragment (Ss
1147 = siltstone), polycrystalline quartz (Qp), and plagioclase single crystal (Pl). **E, F**) Volcanic lithics
1148 with lathwork (Lvl), microlitic (Lvmi), and felsitic (Lvft) texture, altered and undetermined volcanic
1149 lithic fragment (Lvalt), metamorphic lithic fragment (Lm) quartz (Qz), plagioclase (Pl) and
1150 hornblende (Hbl) single crystals. **G**) Zoned plagioclase (Pl) and hornblende (Hbl) in a granitoid rock

1151 fragment (Rg), plagioclase single crystal (Pl). **H**) Quartz (Qz), plagioclase (Pl), and hornblende (Hbl)
1152 in a granitoid rock fragment (Rg), pyroxene single crystal (Px). A, C, D, E, G, and H are crossed-
1153 nicols photomicrographs, and B and F are plane-polarized-light photomicrographs. A, B, E, and F are
1154 from sample SC215. C and D are from sample SC213. G is from sample SC217 and H is from sample
1155 SC212.

1156

1157 Fig.7. — Photomicrographs from petrographic thin sections illustrating diagnostic grains of San
1158 Vicente (A-D) and San Fernando (E-H) rivers. **A, B**) Rounded volcanic lithic grains with microlitic
1159 texture (Lvmi), altered plagioclase with sericite and clay minerals replacement (Plalt), volcanic lithic
1160 with felsitic granular texture (Lvfi), granitoid rock fragment (Rg). **C, D**) Vesiculated volcanic lithic
1161 grain with microlitic texture and black glass (Lvmi), metasedimentary lithic fragment (Lsm),
1162 plagioclase single crystal (Pl), metamorphic lithic fragment (Lm), K-feldspar single crystal (K). **E,**
1163 **F**) Altered and undetermined volcanic lithic fragment showing vesicles replaced with chlorite and
1164 clays (Lvalt), plagioclase in a granitoid rock fragment (Pl in Rg), polymineralic grains made up of
1165 quartz, biotite, and feldspar (Rg), bended biotite flake (Bt), volcanic lithic fragments with plagioclase
1166 laths (Lvl) and microlites (Lvmi), plagioclase single crystal (Pl). **G, H**) Hyaloclastite grain with
1167 vesicles filled by zeolite (**Zeo**) and clay minerals and with palagonite and zeolite replacement of
1168 original glass (**Pal**). A, C, E, and G are crossed-nicols photomicrographs, and B, D, F, and H are
1169 plane-polarized-light photomicrographs. A is from sample SC236. C and D are from sample SC229.
1170 E and H are from sample SC215.

1171

1172 Fig.8. — Histograms showing the abundance of the detrital modes from the upstream to the
1173 downstream in all three river systems. **A**) Quartz (Q), Feldspar(F), and lithic fragment (Lt) abundance.
1174 **B**) Lithic fragments abundance: Lm = metamorphic lithic fragments, Lv = volcanic lithic fragments,
1175 Ls = sedimentary lithic fragments. **C**) Abundance of various volcanic lithic fragments: Lvfi = felsitic
1176 texture, Lvmi = microlitic, Lvl lathwork.

1177

1178 Fig.9. — Dissolution of transparent heavy minerals with related surface texture in the river sands of
1179 San Fernando (SF), San Vicente (SV), and El Rosario (ER). **A)** Unstable heavy minerals. **A1)**
1180 Corroded brown hornblende (SF, SC217) (Hbl), **A2)** etched green-brown hornblende (SF, SC210)
1181 (Hbl), **A3)** blueish-green hornblende (SF SC215) (Hbl), **A4)** euhedral (SF, SC218) (Hyp), and **A5)**
1182 etched (ER, SC261) (Hyp) hypersthene respectively with spinel inclusions, **A6)** etched diopside (SF,
1183 SC211) (Di). **B)** Moderately stable heavy minerals. **B1)** Corroded green epidote (SF SC211) (Ep),
1184 **B2)** corroded kyanite (Ky), and **B3)** staurolite with the presence of mamillae on its surface (St) in the
1185 SF SC215 respectively, **B4)** corroded colorless garnet (SF SC211) (Grt), **B5)** unweathered titanite
1186 (SF SC215) (Tnt), **B6)** corroded colorless titanite (SV SC35) (Tnt). **C)** Stable heavy minerals. **C1)**
1187 Euhedral (Zrn) and **C2)** subrounded zircon (Zrn) respectively in the SF SC211, **C3)** subrounded
1188 brown tourmaline (SF SC215) (Tur), **C4)** subrounded bluish tourmaline (SF SC217) (Tur), **C5)**
1189 subrounded red rutile (SF SC210) (Rt), **C6)** corroded brown rutile (ER SC251) (Rt).

1190

1191 Fig. 10. — **A)** Ternary diagram showing the different provenance of heavy mineral grains.
1192 Sedimentary = Zr+Tur+Rt, magmatic = Hbl (oxyhornblende and green-brown in colour)
1193 +Cpx+Opx+Ttn), metamorphic = Hbl (blue-green) +Act+Grt+Sill+Ky+And+Ep). **B)** Histogram
1194 showing the provenance of the different grains of hornblende. Hbl volcanic = Oxyhornblende+green-
1195 brown, Hbl metamorphic = blue-green hornblende. **C)** Ternaryplot exhibiting the main weathering
1196 stages of the pyroxene grain. **D)** Ternary plot exhibiting the main weathering stages of the hornblende
1197 grains.

1198

1199 Fig.11. — Pie diagrams indicating the distribution of the transparent heavy-minerals grains in the
1200 various electromagnetic Frantz fractions expressed in Amperes (Å). ZTR = zircon, tourmaline, and
1201 rutile, Ttn = titanite, Ap = Apatite, Amp =Amphibole, Cpx =clinopyroxene, Opx = Orthopyroxene,
1202 Ep = Epidote, Grt = Garnet, SKA = Sillimanite, Kyanite, Andalusite.

1203

1204 Fig.12 — Proportion of source rocks in each drainage basin.

1205

1206 **TABLE CAPTIONS**

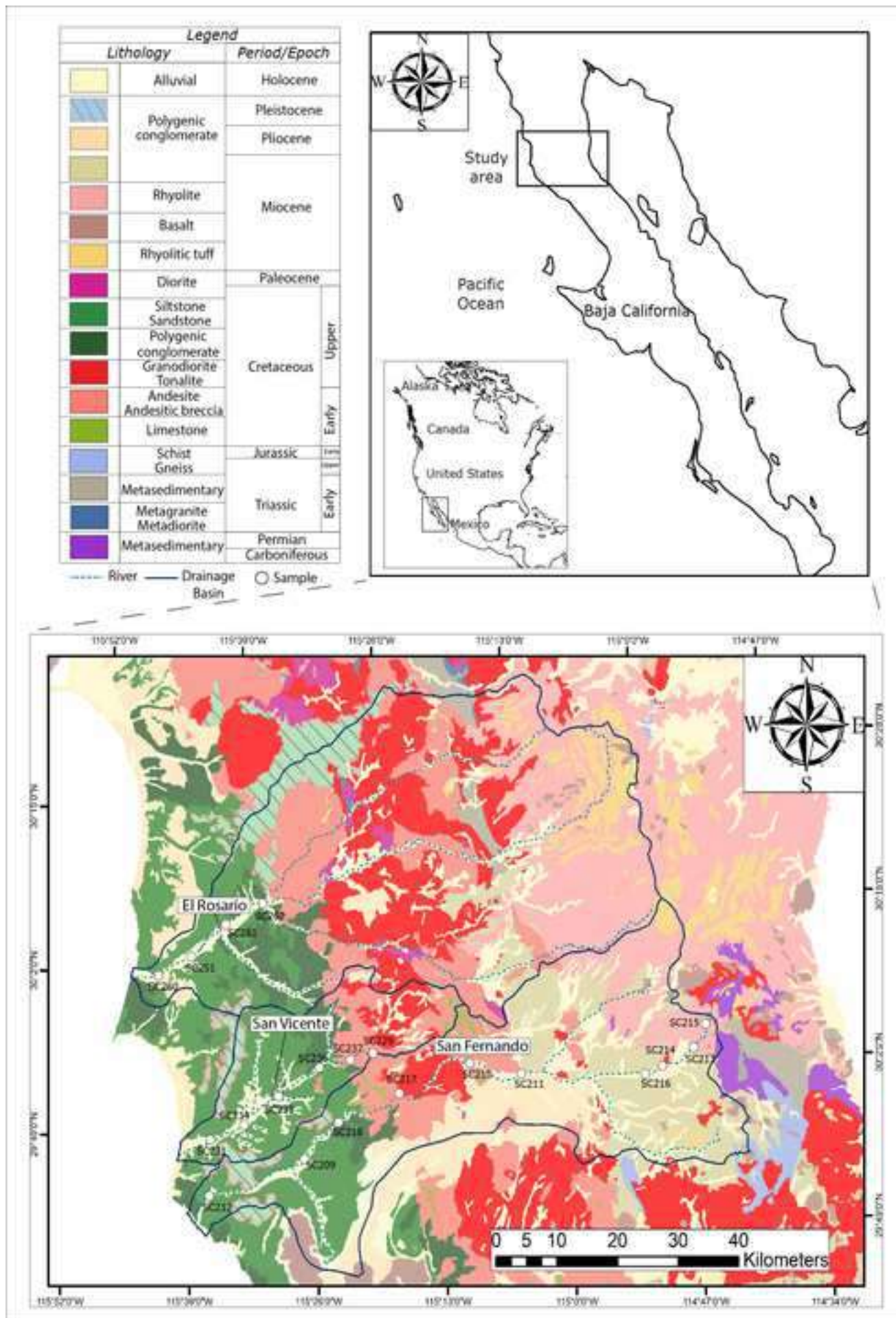
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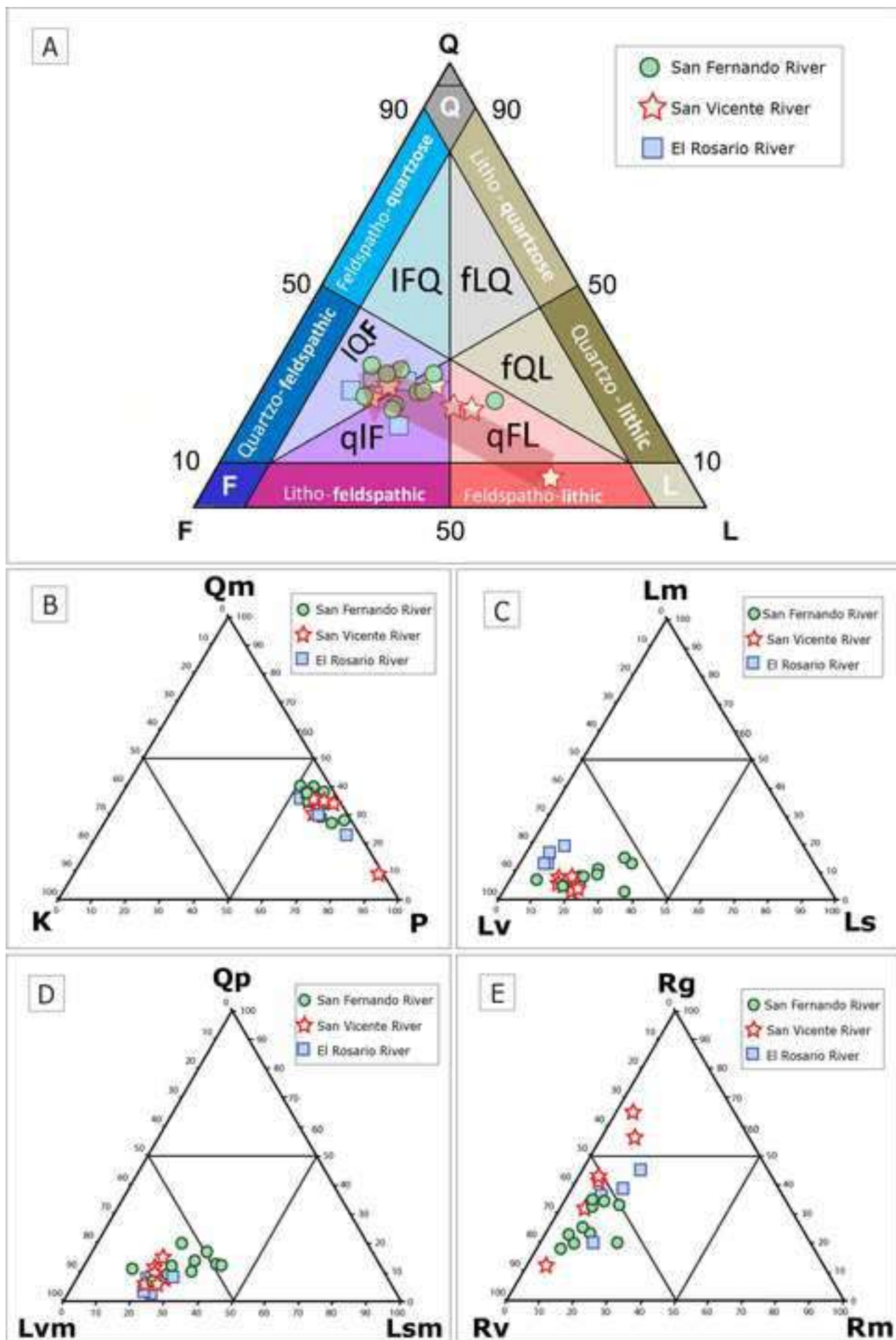
1208 Tab.1. — Grain point counting of light minerals expressed in wt%.

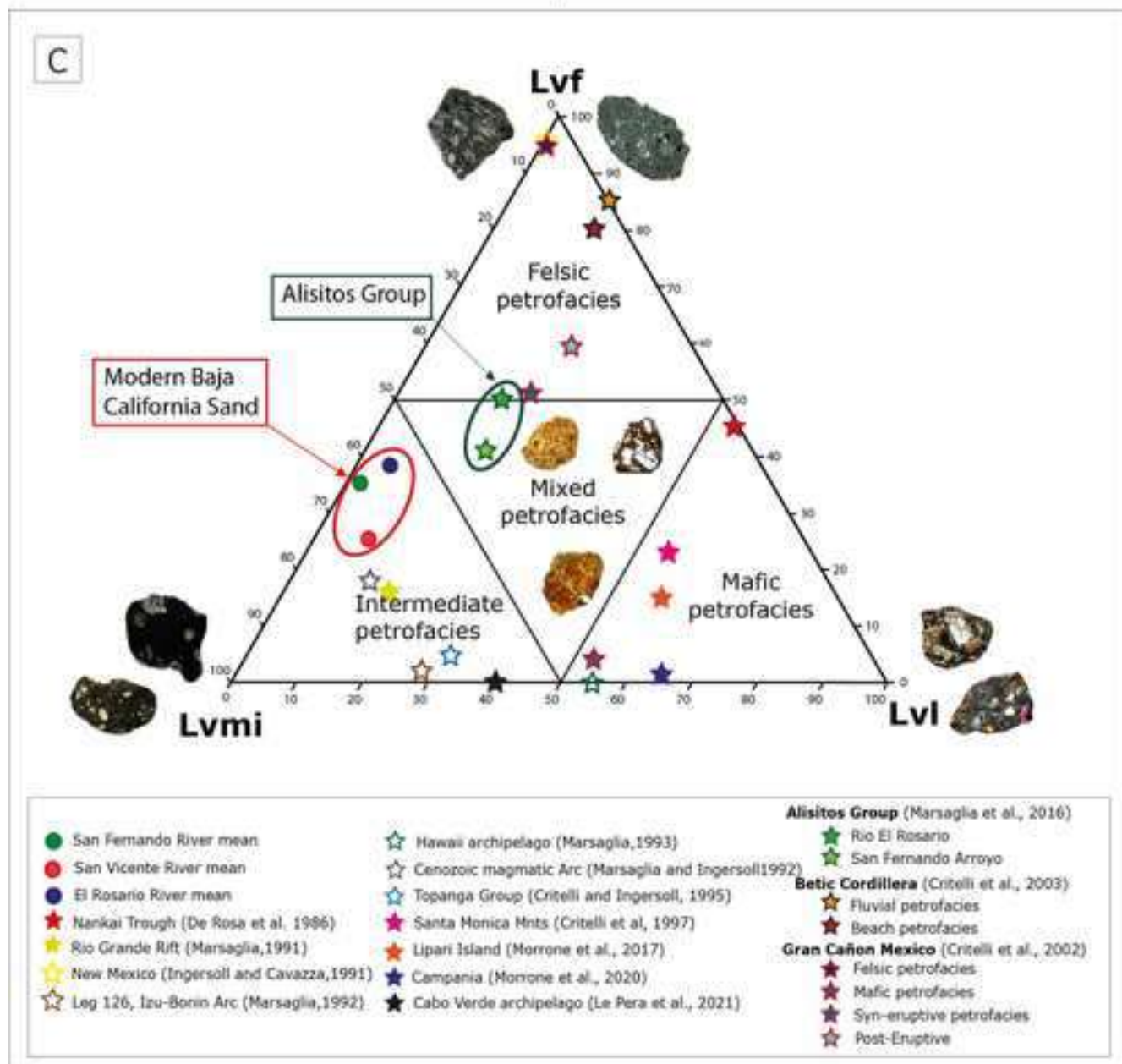
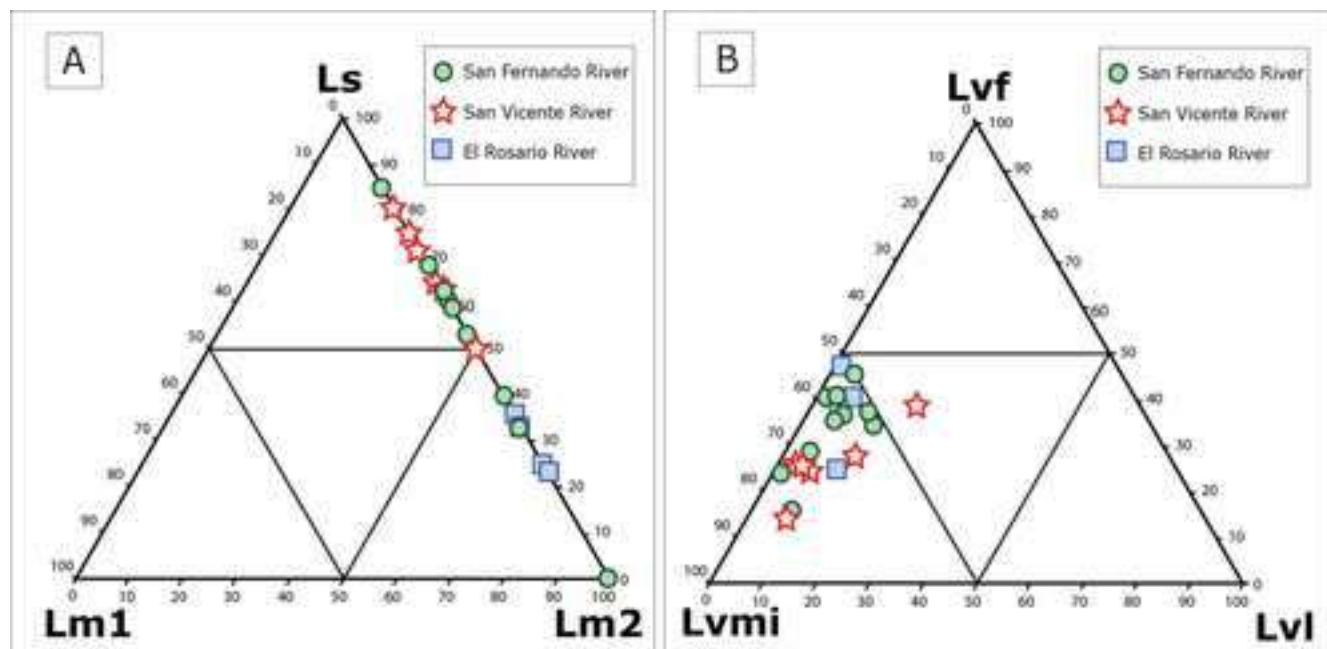
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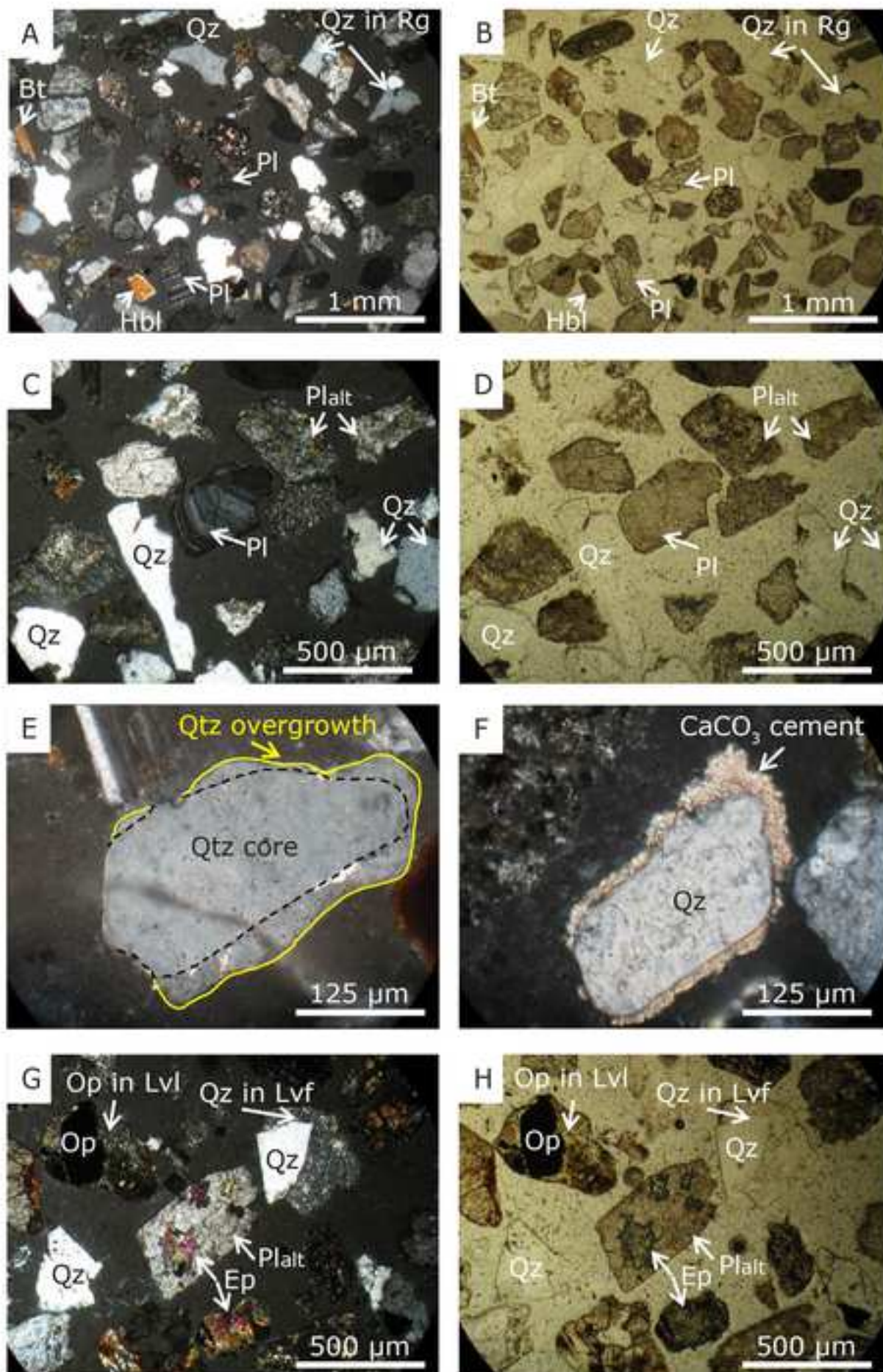
1210 Tab.2. — Heavy-mineral concentrations in the studied river sand samples. Total (HMC) and
1211 transparent heavy minerals (tHMC) are expressed as wt%. HCl = hornblende color index; ZTR =
1212 zircon, tourmaline, and rutile.

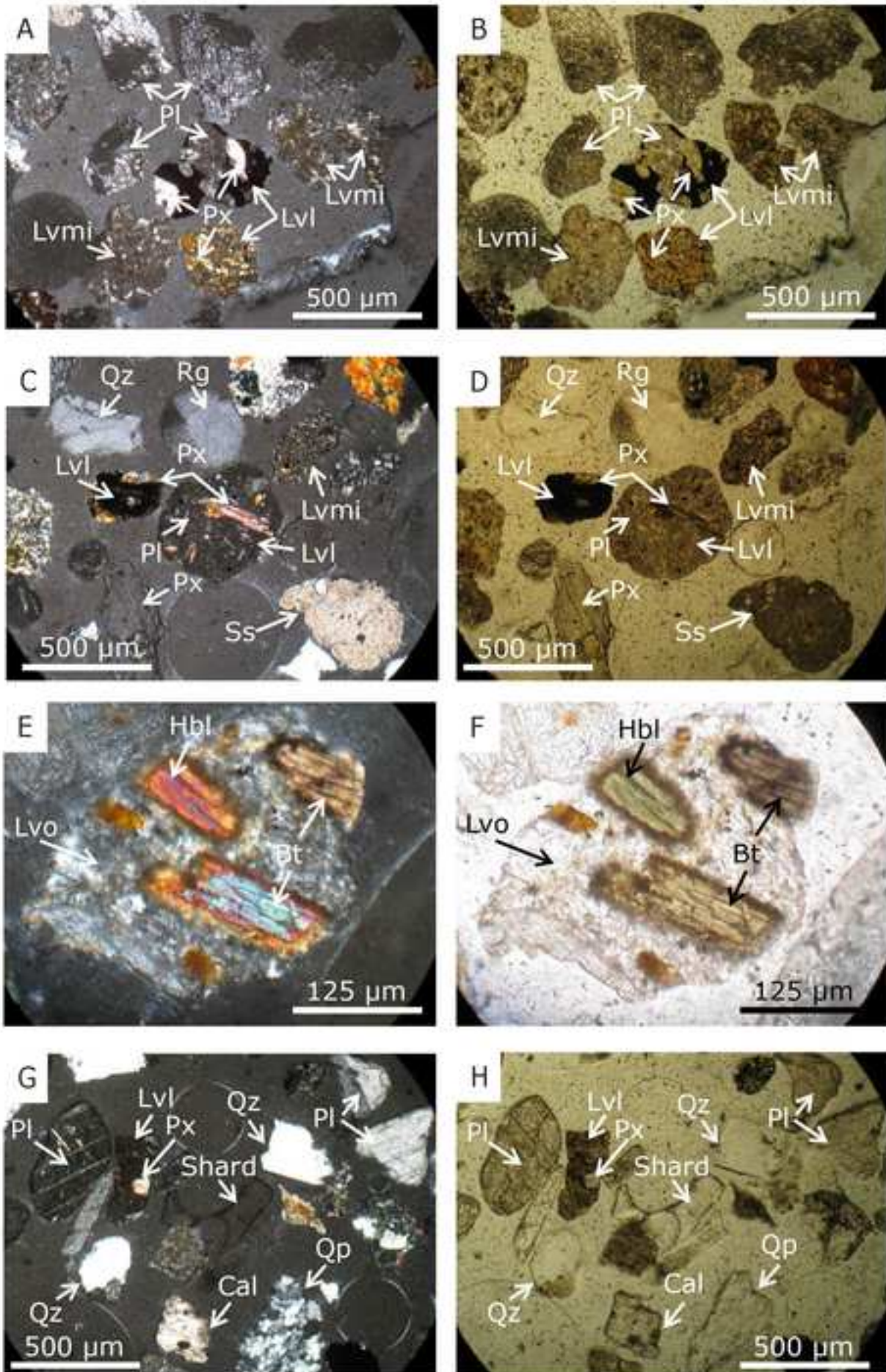
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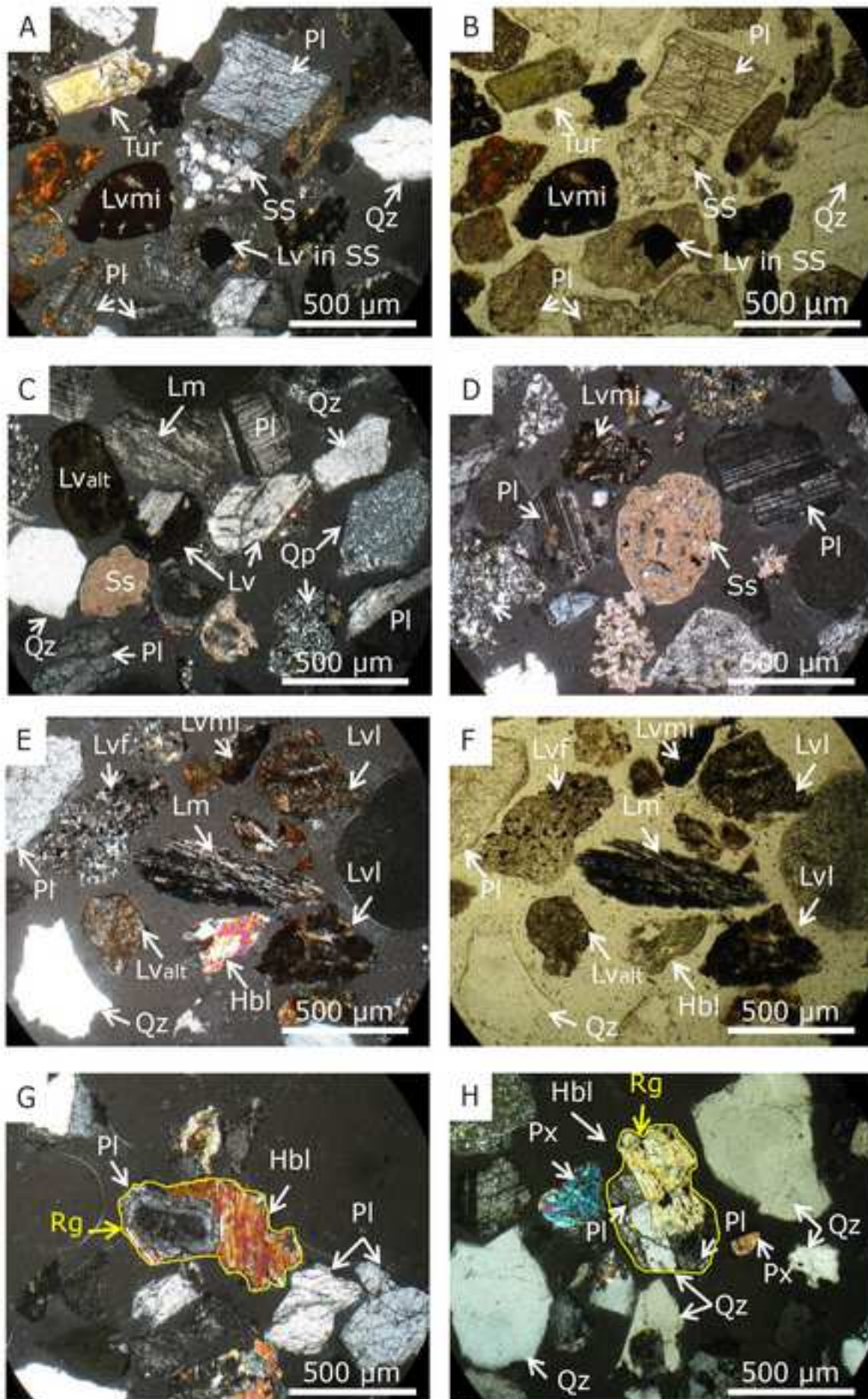


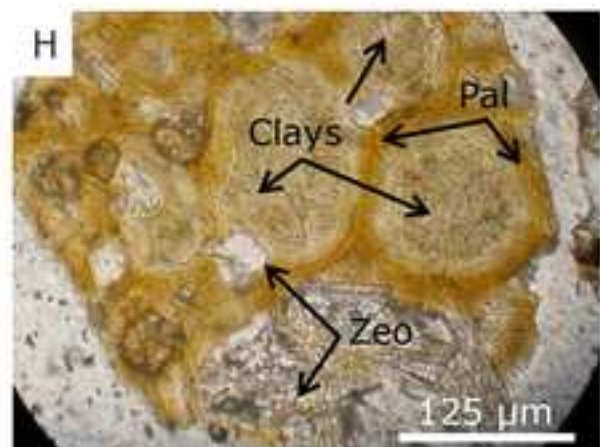
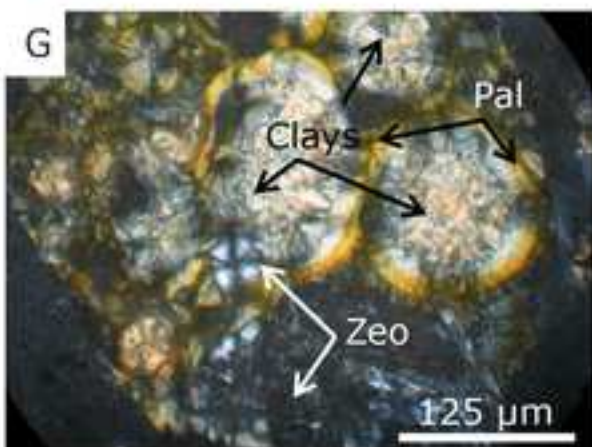
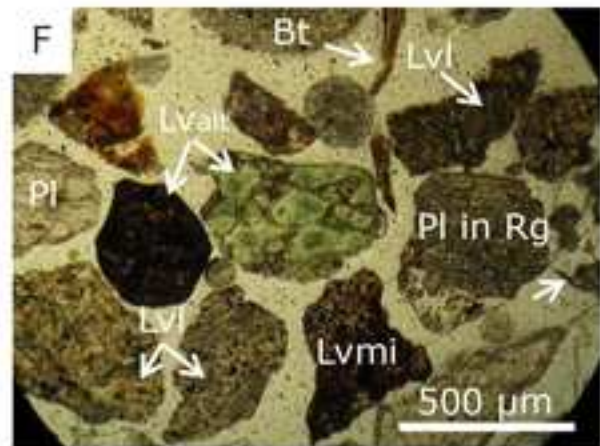
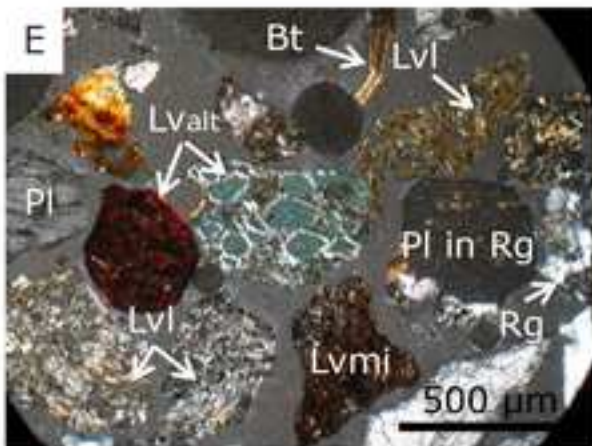
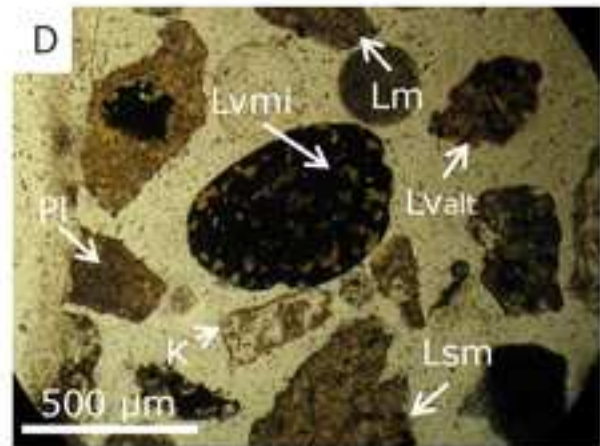
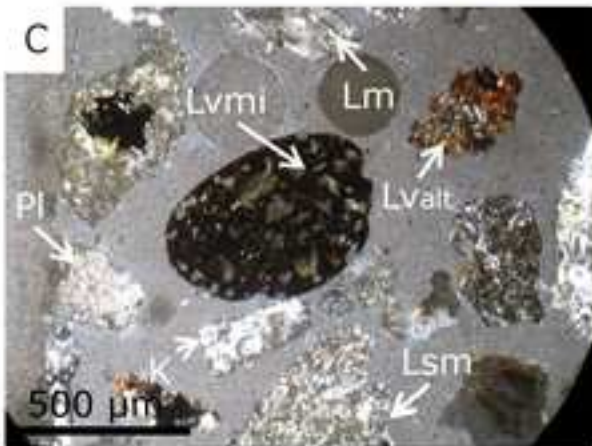
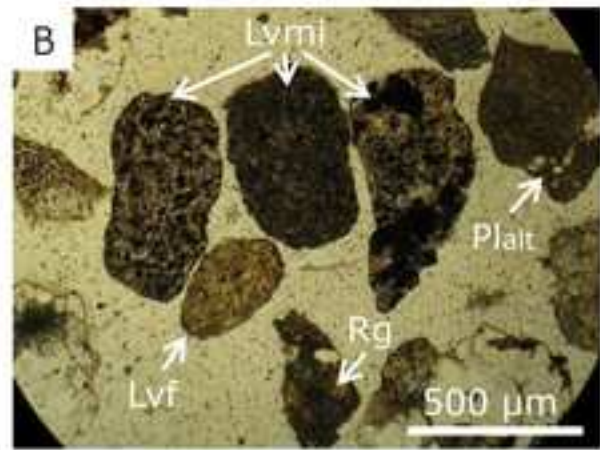
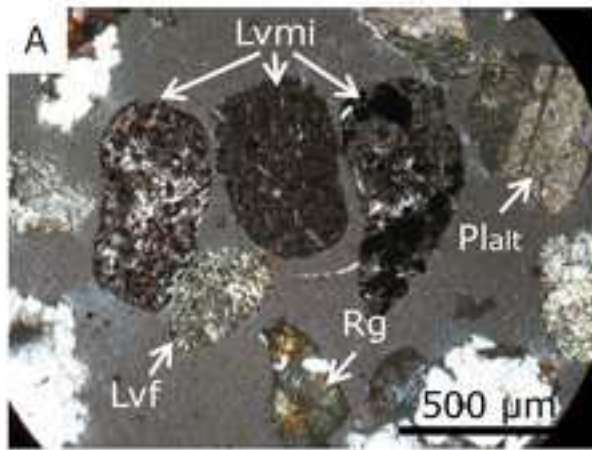


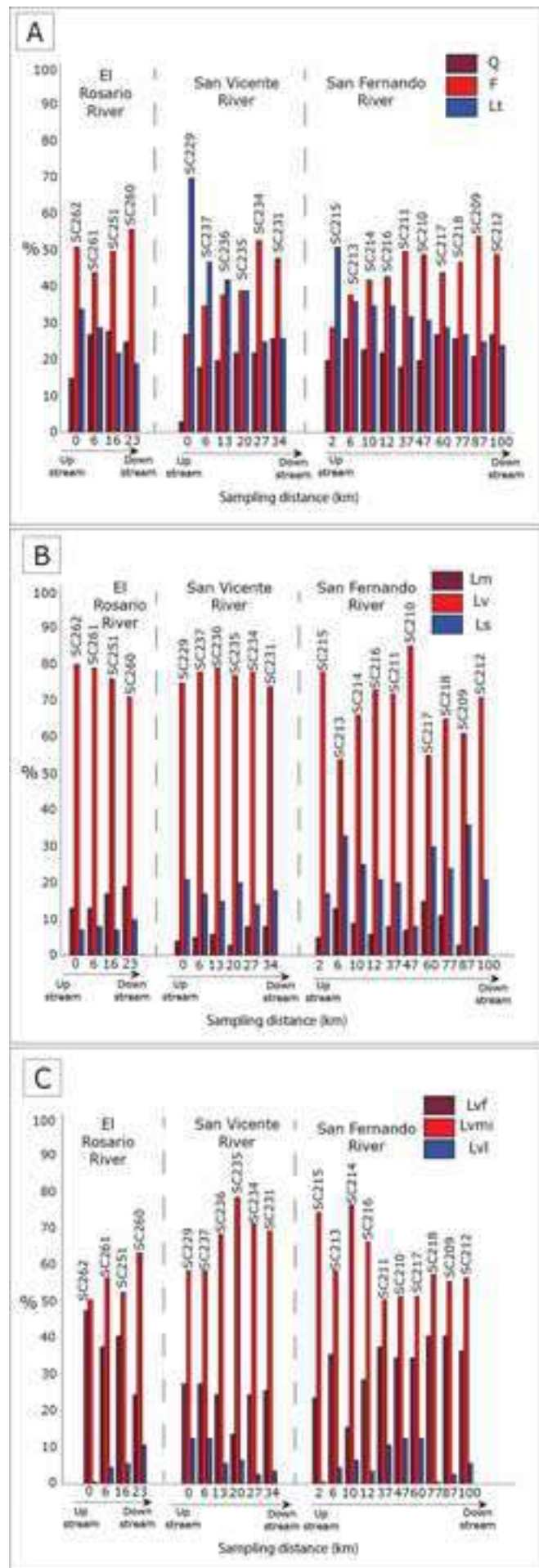


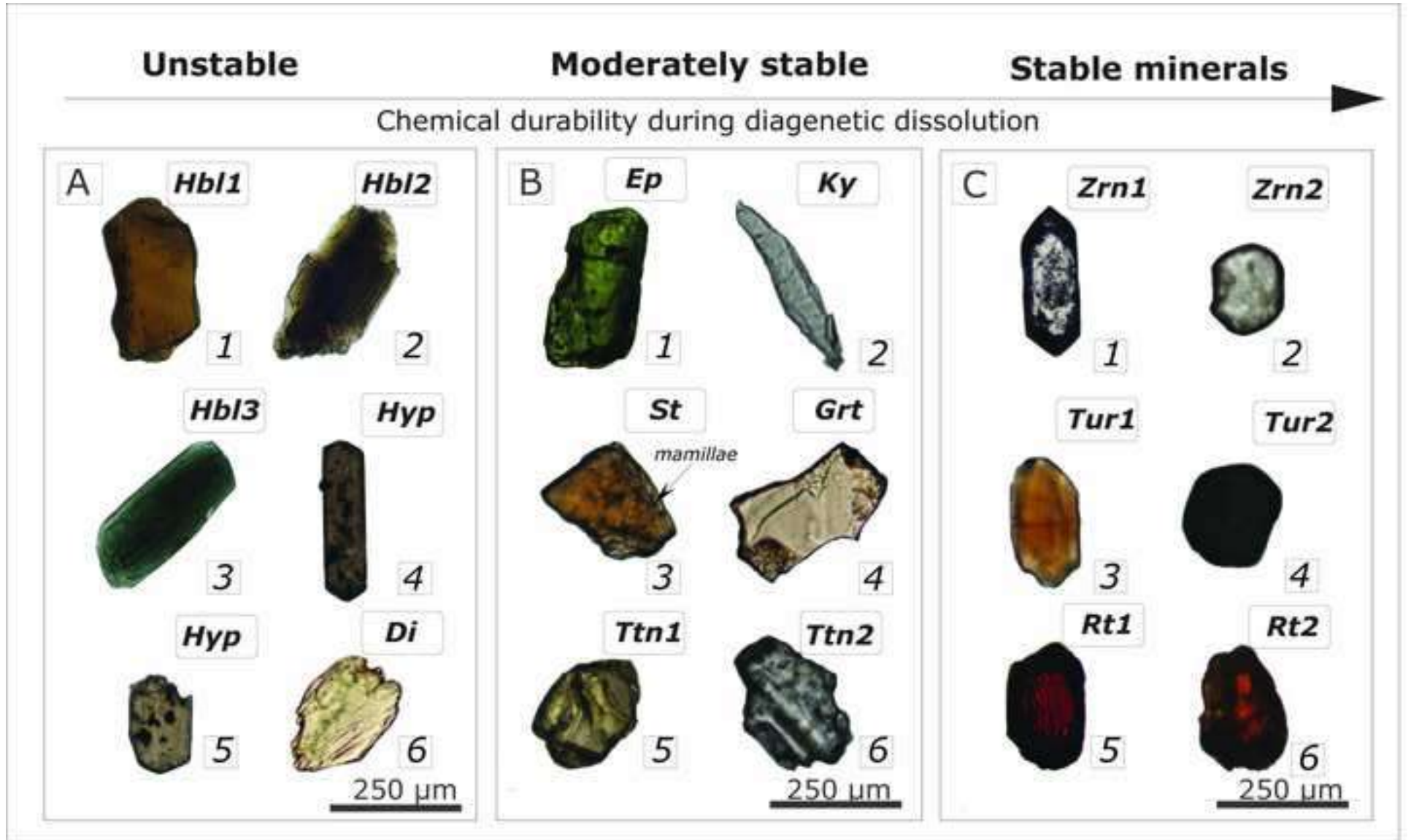


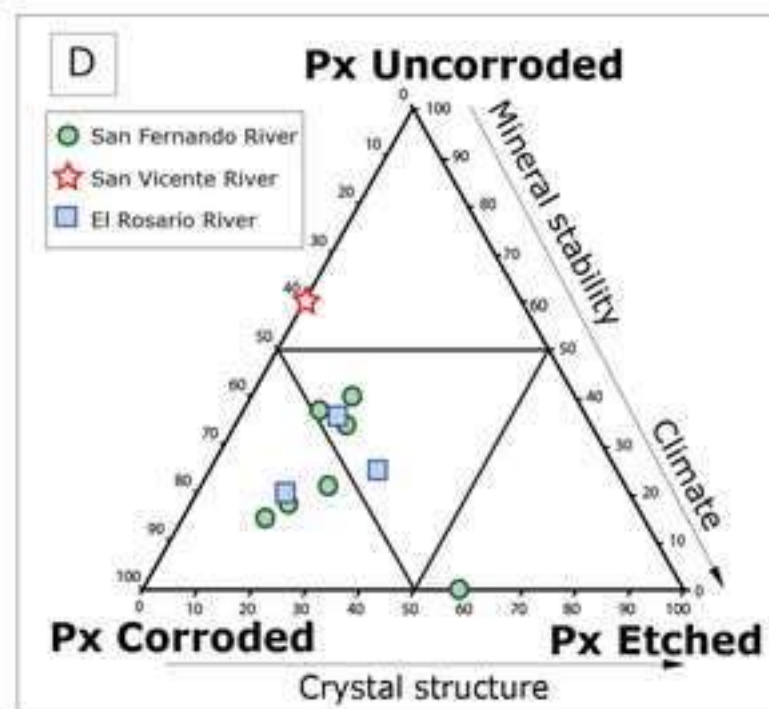
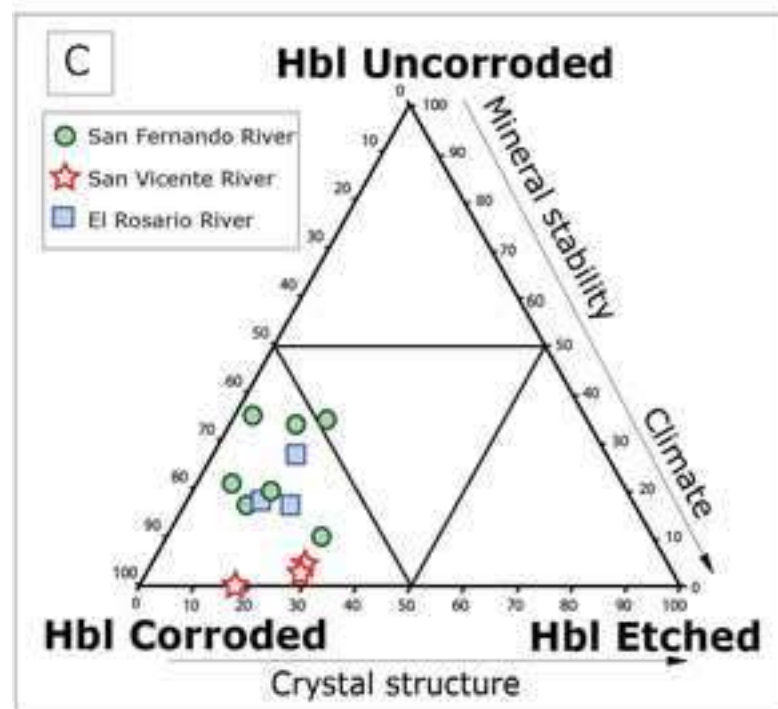
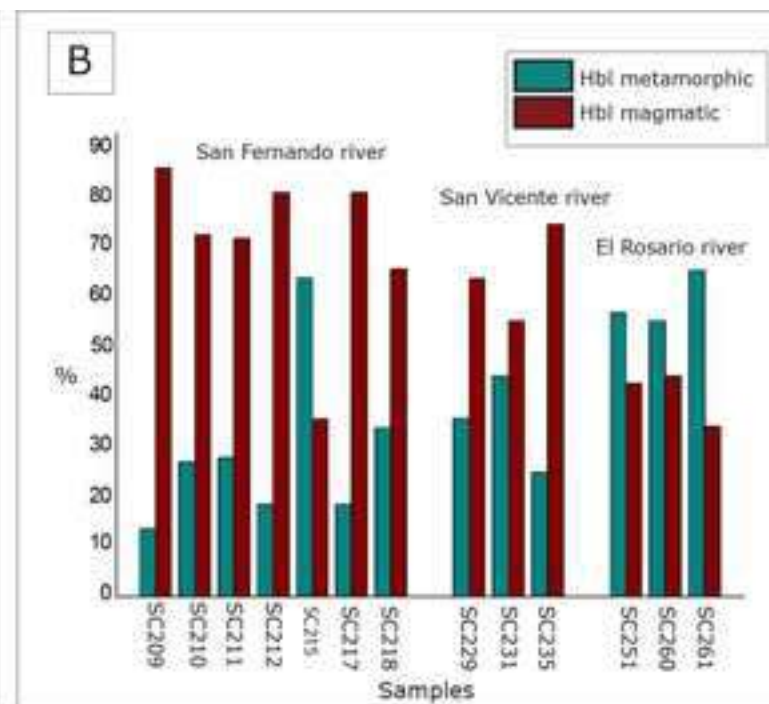
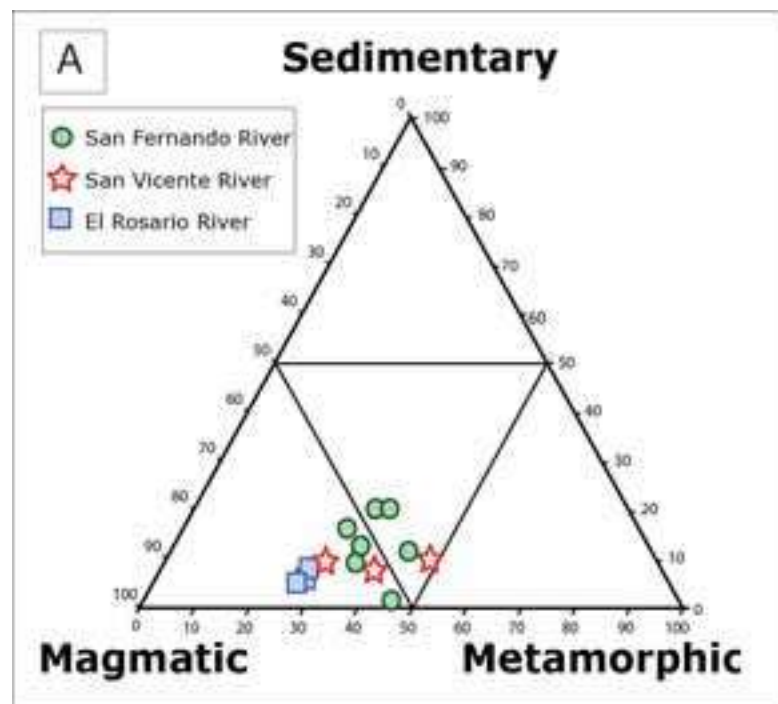


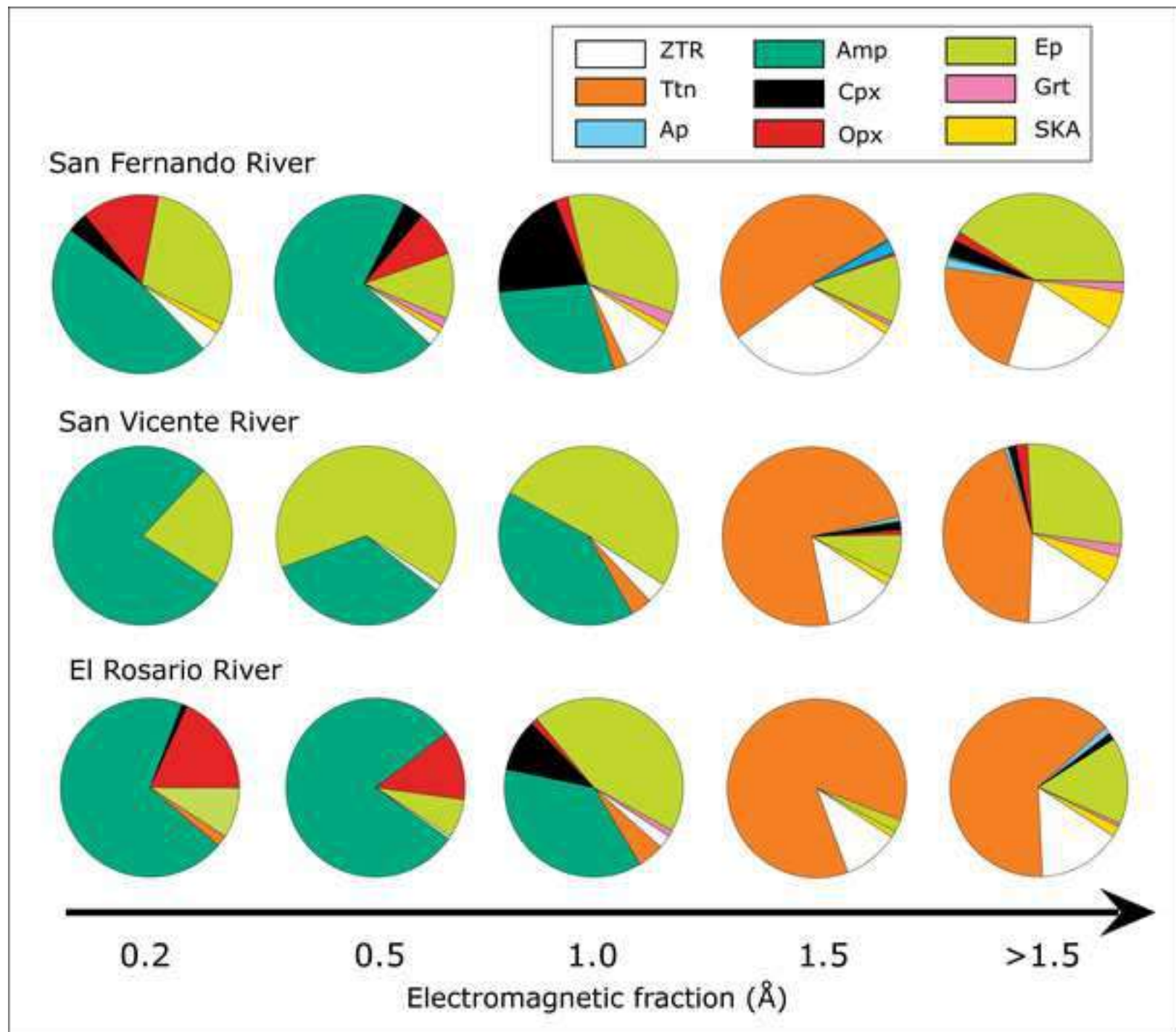


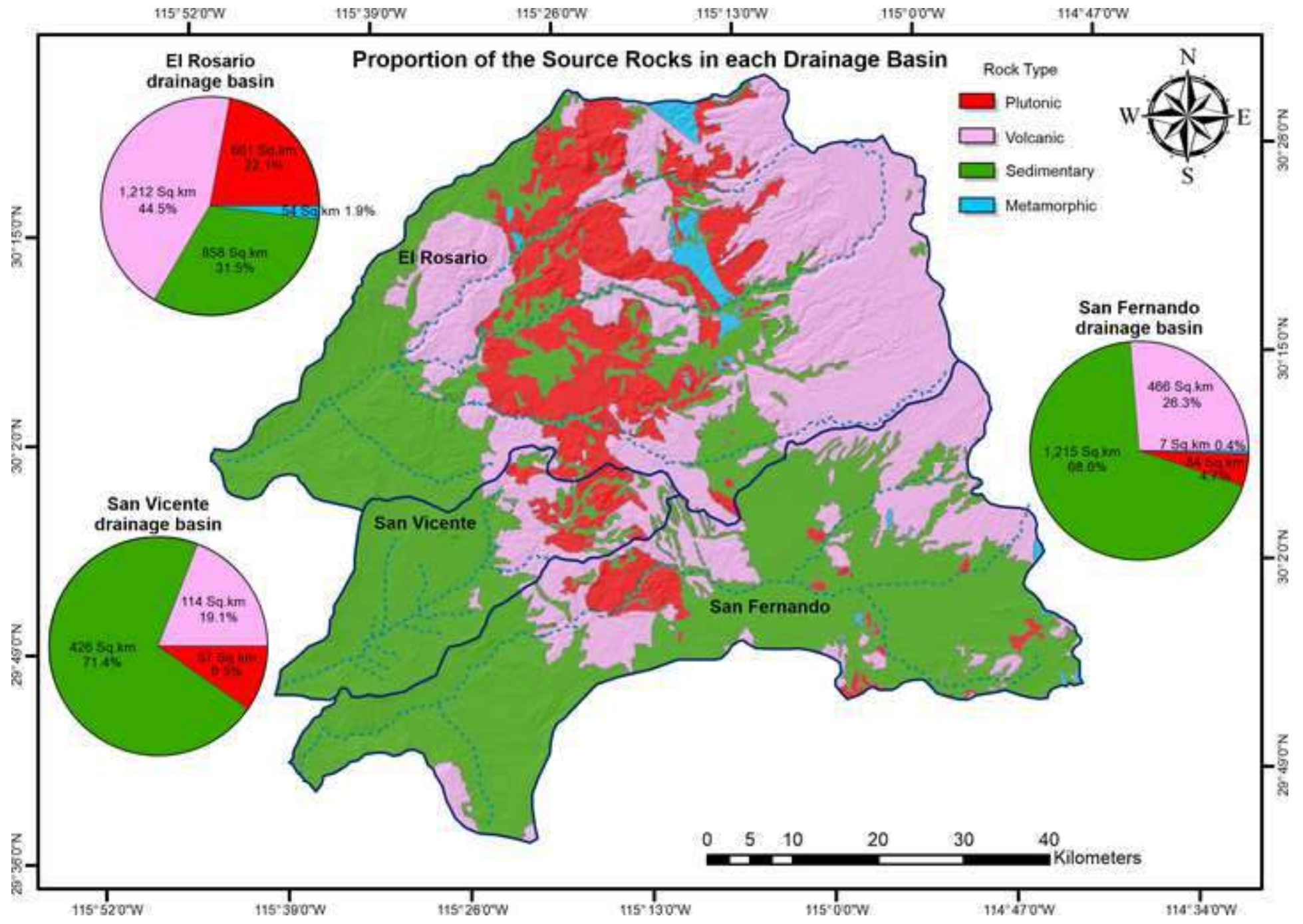













River	Sample	Q (single crystal)	Qp with tectonic fabric	Qp without tectonic fabric	Q in VRF	Q in MRF	Q in PRF	Q in sandstone	K (single crystal)	K in VRF	K in MRF	K in PRF	K in sandstone	P (single crystal)	P in VRF	P in MRF	P in PRF	P in sandstone	Micas and chlorite (single crystal)	Micas and chlorite in MRF	Micas and chlorite in PRF	Volcanic lithic with microlitic texture	Volcanic lithic with lathwork texture	Volcanic lithic with vitric texture	Volcanic lithic with felsitic granular texture	Volcanic lithic with felsitic seriate texture	Pumice	Volcanic lithic with lathwork texture in sandstone	Subvolcanic-hypabissal lithic	Phyllite	Fine-grained schist	Siltstone	Shale	Volcaniclastic shale	Metavolcanic lithic	Cement or matrix in sandstone	Tourmaline (single crystal)	Epidote (single crystal)	Epidote in VRF	Epidote in PRF	Epidote in MRF	Hornblende (single crystal)	Hornblende in PRF	Hornblende in MRF	Hornblende in VRF	Titanite (single crystal)	Titanite in PRF	Garnet (single crystal)	Opaque (single crystal)	Opaque in PRF	Cordierite (single crystal)	Pyroxene (single crystal)	Pyroxene in VRF	Zircon	Calcite (single spar)	Micritic limestone	Biomictic limestone	Spartic limestone	Silty-arenitic limestone	Fe-Oxid concretions	Alterite	Und	Tot	Light minerals %	Heavy minerals %
San Fernando river	SC209	54	0	12	0	1	2	2	3	0	0	2	0	132	4	1	8	1	0	0	0	10	4	4	11	6	0	0	0	1	1	7	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	1	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	300	93	7		
	SC210	44	3	6	0	4	5	1	9	0	0	5	0	104	3	1	10	0	0	0	0	21	15	5	10	10	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	11	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	6	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	300	90	10		
	SC211	43	1	9	0	4	3	0	9	0	0	2	0	110	3	0	14	0	3	0	1	30	6	1	10	4	0	0	4	6	0	3	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	4	2	0	4	0	300	94	6		
	SC212	63	3	10	0	3	7	0	7	0	0	5	0	100	7	0	12	0	2	0	0	7	8	3	6	10	0	0	3	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	13	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	2	2	4	0	300	92	8	
	SC213	58	5	8	0	5	11	2	10	0	0	6	0	75	2	0	18	1	1	0	0	16	5	1	17	6	0	0	5	8	4	12	7	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	300	98	2		
	SC214	56	5	6	1	0	10	2	13	0	1	1	2	88	4	0	14	4	0	0	0	28	9	7	12	4	0	0	0	9	0	4	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	300	99	1			
	SC215	42	3	8	0	3	12	0	3	6	0	4	0	63	6	0	9	0	0	0	0	40	9	17	20	10	0	0	9	6	1	4	10	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	300	98	2				
	SC216	43	1	9	0	3	15	2	3	0	0	4	0	89	3	0	23	0	2	0	0	23	25	7	6	5	0	0	0	5	0	9	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	1	5	0	300	97	3			
	SC217	66	3	8	0	6	4	0	5	0	0	1	0	102	7	0	11	0	4	0	0	14	7	2	12	4	0	0	0	8	2	5	7	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	300	96	4			
	SC218	63	3	8	0	3	8	0	13	0	0	3	0	98	3	0	13	1	0	0	0	10	11	2	7	7	0	0	4	6	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	2	3	0	300	94	6			
San Vicente	SC229	2	5	7	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	46	11	1	15	0	1	0	3	58	23	16	17	7	17	0	0	4	4	8	7	19	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	6	0	300	96	4		
	SC231	36	3	3	0	2	33	0	5	0	13	0	54	2	1	58	1	2	0	0	15	5	2	22	2	0	0	3	3	2	3	1	5	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	300	94	6					
	SC234	35	5	4	0	4	25	0	5	0	1	15	0	80	2	5	42	1	0	0	23	4	3	13	2	0	0	5	2	3	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	300	96	4							
	SC235	34	5	11	0	4	20	2	1	0	0	10	0	65	3	3	24	0	1	0	0	28	3	7	22	5	0	0	4	3	0	3	3	3	0	6	0	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	5	0	9	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	300	91	9			
	SC236	23	1	6	0	3	30	0	2	0	0	5	0	61	1	0	34	1	1	0	0	39	5	7	26	9	0	0	12	6	0	5	4	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	300	95	5			
	SC237	30	3	10	1	4	13	1	1	0	0	2	0	62	1	0	31	0	2	1	0	24	6	9	38	10	0	0	6	4	2	4	6	5	0	3	1	5	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	300	95	5		
El Rosaro river	SC251	66	1	1	0	6	9	0	9	0	0	16	0	101	3	0	14	0	1	0	24	2	2	13	2	1	0	2	5	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	300	96	4			
	SC260	51	2	3	0	6	11	1	9	0	1	10	0	116	3	0	19	1	3	1	0	15	4	2	7	4	0	0	2	6	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	95	5			
	SC261	55	1	1	1	1	17	1	8	0	0	8	0	86	4	2	16	0	1	0	0	26	4	5	15	6	1	0	5	6	4	2	2	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	93	7			
	SC262	31	4	4	2	6	5	0	3	0	0	3	1	120	4	0	14	0	4	1	0	32	3	2	17	16	0	0	1	7	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	300	97	3			

Sample	River	Geographic coordinates
SC251		30°03'55.841"N 115°42'2765"W
SC260	El Rosario	30°02'14.578"N 115°45'19.688"W
SC261		30°06'52.675"N 115°38'53.932"W
SC262		30°09'5.718"N 115°35'20.111"W
SC229		29°58'10.536 N 115°22'28.448"W
SC231		29°44'26.634N 115°39'18,261"W
SC234	San Vicente	29°50'54.596"N 115°35'33,144"W
SC235		29°53'21.508"N 115°32'41,216"W
SC236		29°55'49,69"N 115°28'11.568"W
SC237		29°57'1.604"N 115°22'28.448"W
SC209		29°48'25.395"N 115°29'31.31"W
SC210		29°57'59.343"N 115°13'9.458"W
SC211		29°57'28.772"N 115°07'36.248"W
SC212		29°44'26.634"N 115°38'45.818"W
SC213	San Fernando	30°01'28.085N 114°49'51.094"W
SC214		29°59'23.869"N 114°52'49.509"W
SC215		30°03'3.905"N 114°49'4.082"W
SC216		29°58'38.071N 114°54'24.007"W
SC217		29°54'51.582"N 115°19'50.814"W
SC218		29°51'50.325"N 115°26'3.829"W

River	Sample	Qm	F	Lt	Qt	F	L	Qm	K	P	Qp	Lvm	Lsm	Lm	Lv	Ls	Ls	Lm1	Lm2	Rg	Rv	Rm							
San Fernando	SC209	21	54	25	100	25	54	21	100	28	2	70	100	17	50	33	100	3	61	36	100	85	0	15	100	23	70	7	100
	SC210	20	49	31	100	23	49	28	100	29	8	63	100	11	76	13	100	7	85	8	100	0	0	100	100	20	70	10	100
	SC211	18	50	32	100	22	50	28	100	27	6	67	100	12	64	24	100	8	72	20	100	40	0	60	100	23	64	13	100
	SC212	27	49	24	100	32	49	19	100	36	6	58	100	20	57	23	100	8	71	21	100	33	0	67	100	33	58	9	100
	SC213	26	38	36	100	30	38	32	100	40	9	51	100	12	48	40	100	13	54	33	100	61	0	39	100	33	50	17	100
	SC214	23	42	35	100	26	42	32	100	35	9	56	100	10	59	31	100	9	66	25	100	59	0	41	100	25	65	10	100
	SC215	20	29	51	100	24	29	47	100	40	5	55	100	7	72	21	100	5	78	17	100	68	0	32	100	18	75	7	100
	SC216	22	43	35	100	26	43	31	100	34	4	62	100	10	66	24	100	6	73	21	100	64	0	36	100	35	57	8	100
	SC217	27	44	29	100	31	44	25	100	38	3	59	100	13	49	38	100	15	55	30	100	63	0	37	100	20	57	23	100
SC218	26	47	27	100	30	47	23	100	38	8	54	100	14	56	30	100	11	65	24	100	53	0	47	100	34	54	12	100	
															85	680	235	526	0	474									
San Vicente	SC229	3	27	70	100	7	27	66	100	9	1	90	100	6	71	23	100	4	75	21	100	64	0	36	100	12	82	6	100
	SC231	26	48	26	100	28	48	24	100	35	9	56	100	8	68	24	100	8	74	18	100	50	0	50	100	65	30	5	100
	SC234	22	53	25	100	25	53	22	100	30	10	60	100	12	69	19	100	8	78	14	100	75	0	25	100	56	34	10	100
	SC235	22	39	39	100	28	39	33	100	36	7	57	100	15	65	20	100	3	77	20	100	65	0	35	100	41	52	7	100
	SC236	20	38	42	100	23	38	39	100	35	4	61	100	6	75	19	100	6	79	15	100	71	0	29	100	43	51	6	100
	SC237	18	35	47	100	22	35	43	100	34	2	64	100	10	70	20	100	5	78	17	100	81	0	19	100	32	61	7	100
															34	461	105	406	0	194									
El Rosario	SC251	28	50	22	100	29	50	21	100	36	11	53	100	3	74	23	100	17	76	7	100	23	0	77	100	39	46	15	100
	SC260	25	56	19	100	26	56	18	100	30	9	61	100	9	65	26	100	19	71	10	100	36	0	64	100	45	38	17	100
	SC261	27	44	29	100	28	44	28	100	38	8	54	100	3	77	20	100	13	79	8	100	33	0	67	100	36	54	10	100
	SC262	15	51	34	100	18	51	31	100	23	4	73	100	8	73	19	100	13	80	7	100	25	0	75	100	20	64	16	100
															62	306	32	117	0	283									
		436	886	678		503	886	611		651	125	1224		206	1304	490		181	1447	372		1049	0	951		653	1132	215	

River	Sample	Lvmi	Lvl	Lvv	Lvfgr	Lvfser	Lvalt/und	Tot
San Fernando	SC209	50	3	0	18	19	10	100
	SC210	49	12	0	15	18	6	100
	SC211	47	10	0	22	13	8	100
	SC212	55	6	0	17	19	3	100
	SC213	51	4	1	23	9	12	100
	SC214	74	7	0	11	4	4	100
	SC215	62	1	6	10	10	11	100
	SC216	60	4	2	13	13	8	100
	SC217	45	4	0	22	19	10	100
SC218	50	1	0	18	17	14	100	
		543	52	9	169	141	86	
San Vicente	SC237	50	11	5	17	7	10	100
	SC229	69	4	0	20	5	2	100
	SC231	62	3	2	17	5	11	100
	SC234	71	6	1	8	5	9	100
	SC235	59	5	1	17	5	13	100
	SC236	41	19	2	24	14	0	100
		352	48	11	103	41	45	
El Rosaro	SC251	49	6	2	15	23	5	100
	SC260	60	10	6	6	18	0	100
	SC261	54	5	4	7	29	1	100
	SC262	49	1	2	9	38	1	100
		212	22	14	37	108	7	
		1671	192	59	449	439	190	



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