

# Indium and selenium distribution in the Neves-Corvo deposit, Iberian Pyrite Belt, Portugal

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[Received 1 March 2017; Accepted 10 October 2017; Associate Editor: Nigel Cook]

## ABSTRACT

High concentrations of indium (In) and selenium (Se) have been reported in the Neves-Corvo volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposit, Portugal. The distribution of these ore metals in the deposit is complex as a result of the combined effects of early ore-forming processes and late tectonometamorphic remobilization. The In and Se contents are higher in Cu-rich ore types, and lower in Zn-rich ore types. At the deposit scale, both In and Se correlate positively with Cu, whereas their correlations with Zn are close to zero. This argues for a genetic connection between Cu, In and Se in terms of metal sourcing and precipitation. However, re-distribution and re-concentration of In and Se associated with tectonometamorphic deformation are also processes of major importance for the actual distribution of these metals throughout the whole deposit. Although minor roquesite and other In-bearing phases were recognized, it is clear that most In within the deposit is found incorporated within sphalerite and chalcopyrite. When chalcopyrite and sphalerite coexist, the In content in sphalerite (avg. 1400 ppm) is, on average, 2–3 times higher than in chalcopyrite (avg. 660 ppm). The In content in stannite (avg. 1.3 wt.%) is even higher than in sphalerite, but the overall abundance of stannite is subordinate to either sphalerite or chalcopyrite. Selenium is dispersed widely between many different ore minerals, but galena is the main Se-carrier. On average, the Se content in galena is ~50 times greater than in either chalcopyrite (avg. 610 ppm) or sphalerite (avg. 590 ppm). The copper concentrate produced at Neves-Corvo contains very significant In (+Se) content, well above economic values if the copper smelters recovered it. Moreover, the high In content of sphalerite from some Cu-Zn ores, or associated with shear structures, could possibly justify, in the future, a selective exploitation strategy for the production of an In-rich zinc concentrate.

**KEYWORDS:** Neves-Corvo, indium, selenium.

## Introduction

THE Neves-Corvo volcanic-hosted massive sulfide (VHMS) deposit stands out among the numerous

Iberian Pyrite Belt (IPB) deposits, as well as among other VHMS deposits worldwide, due to its unique massive cassiterite mineralization (up to 60% SnO<sub>2</sub>), extremely high-grade cupriferous ores (the initial resource was 34 Mt @ 8.5% Cu; the mine operated for 5 years before the head grade dropped below 10% Cu; the maximum Cu grade in a production face exceeded 40% Cu), and large

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<https://doi.org/10.1180/minmag.2017.081.079>

This paper is part of a special issue entitled 'Critical-metal mineralogy and ore genesis'. The Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society and the IMA Commission on Ore Mineralogy have contributed to the costs of Open Access publication for this paper.

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resources of Zn-rich ores (>117 Mt @ 5.86 wt.% Zn). Today, the deposit is one of the leading producers of copper and zinc concentrates in the European Union (Gurmendi, 2013). In addition to this, the Neves-Corvo mine is also known to contain very significant amounts of indium (In) and selenium (Se). Previous studies have revealed significant In and Se abundances associated with tin and cupriferous ores. However, the spatial distribution and the mineral speciation of these added-value metals in its ores have only been reported to a limited extent (e.g. Pinto *et al.*, 1997, 2014; Serranti *et al.*, 1997, 2002; Relvas, 2000; Schwarz-Schampera, 2000; Benzaazoua *et al.*, 2002, 2003; Gaspar, 2002; Schwarz-Schampera and Herzig, 2002; Carvalho *et al.*, 2013, 2014, 2015; Frenzel *et al.*, 2015). This contribution focuses for the first time on the overall distributions of In and Se in the Neves-Corvo deposit and their spatial relationships, abundances and mineral speciation. The study was developed in close collaboration with the Neves-Corvo mine geology department and benefited from the detailed geological knowledge of the deposit, powerful 3D software tools and huge geochemical database available at Somincor-Lundin Mining. The elucidation of abundances in In and Se, their spatial distribution and their relationships and geochemical affinities in the deposit not only addresses important issues in the general context of the IPB, it also represents an important assessment for the operation of the mine. Further investigation is nevertheless needed to obtain a detailed understanding of In- and Se-mineral speciation in this complex, multi-stage and multi-sourced deposit.

### The Neves-Corvo deposit

The Neves-Corvo deposit is located at the south-eastern termination of the Rosário-Neves-Corvo antiform, in the Portuguese part of the IPB, and is composed of seven known massive and stringer sulfide orebodies (the Neves, Corvo, Graça, Lombador, Zambujal, Semblana and Monte Branco orebodies; Fig. 1). Excluding the stockwork zones, these orebodies contain a total of 369 million tonnes (Mt) of massive sulfide mineralization, of which 198 Mt are massive sulfide ores @ 2.10% Cu, 4.28% Zn, 0.92% Pb, 0.13% Sn, 59.13 ppm Ag and 0.47 ppm Au. Recognition of the local stratigraphic sequence came about as a result of thorough palynostratigraphic and physical volcanology studies (Oliveira *et al.*, 1997, 2004; Pereira

*et al.*, 2004; Rosa *et al.*, 2005, 2008), coupled with surface and underground mapping and observation by several authors, including a number of on-site mine geologists (e.g. Albouy *et al.*, 1981; Leca *et al.*, 1983, 1985; Carvalho and Ferreira, 1994; Silva *et al.*, 1997; Pacheco *et al.*, 1998). Collectively, these studies have revealed a very complex local lithostratigraphic sequence, which extends from the late Famennian (Upper Devonian) to the late Viséan (Lower Carboniferous), and comprises an autochthonous and an allochthonous sequence which, between them, make up the three main lithostratigraphic units recognized in the IPB (from base to top): the Phyllite-Quartzite Formation (PQ Group; Givetian–Strunian, base unknown), the Volcanic-Sedimentary Complex (VSC; Famennian–Upper Viséan) and the Baixo-Alentejo Flysch Group (Mértola Formation; Late Viséan; Oliveira *et al.*, 2004, 2013). The massive sulfide mineralization (~359–360 Ma) is generally hosted on top of the Neves Formation, in direct contact with either dark shales, or felsic volcanic rocks (Oliveira *et al.*, 2004; Kaufmann, 2006; Rosa *et al.*, 2008). However, at the Lombador orebody the massive sulfide mineralization may also contact directly with the PQ Group rocks, thus indicating a variable basin palaeomorphology which reflects a very dynamic and compartmented rift-basin environment during ore formation in the region (Carvalho *et al.*, 2013). The tectonically piled up sequences are separated by major low-angle thrust faults that repeat sections of the VSC and of the Mértola Formation under low-grade metamorphism (up to lower greenschist facies). This structural setting was a consequence of synorogenic, NW-trending and SW-verging fold-thrust thin-skinned tectonics (from the Upper Viséan onwards; Munhá, 1990; Silva *et al.*, 1990; Oliveira *et al.*, 2004). Late sub-vertical faults, represented predominantly by left-lateral faults with a N–S to N20E and N40E to N60E strike, and right-lateral faults with a N30W to E–W strike disrupted the whole sequence.

The footwall hydrothermal alteration zonation recognized at the Neves-Corvo deposit comprises a chlorite ( $\pm$ donbassite)-dominated core (alteration zone I) that is surrounded by a sericite-dominated zone (alteration zone IIa), which becomes richer in sodium towards its peripheral envelope (alteration zone IIb) (Relvas *et al.*, 2006a). The alteration mineralogy, geochemistry and stable isotopes indicate that ore fluids at the Neves-Corvo deposit were hotter and more acidic than typical IPB ore-forming fluids (Relvas *et al.*, 2006a,b).

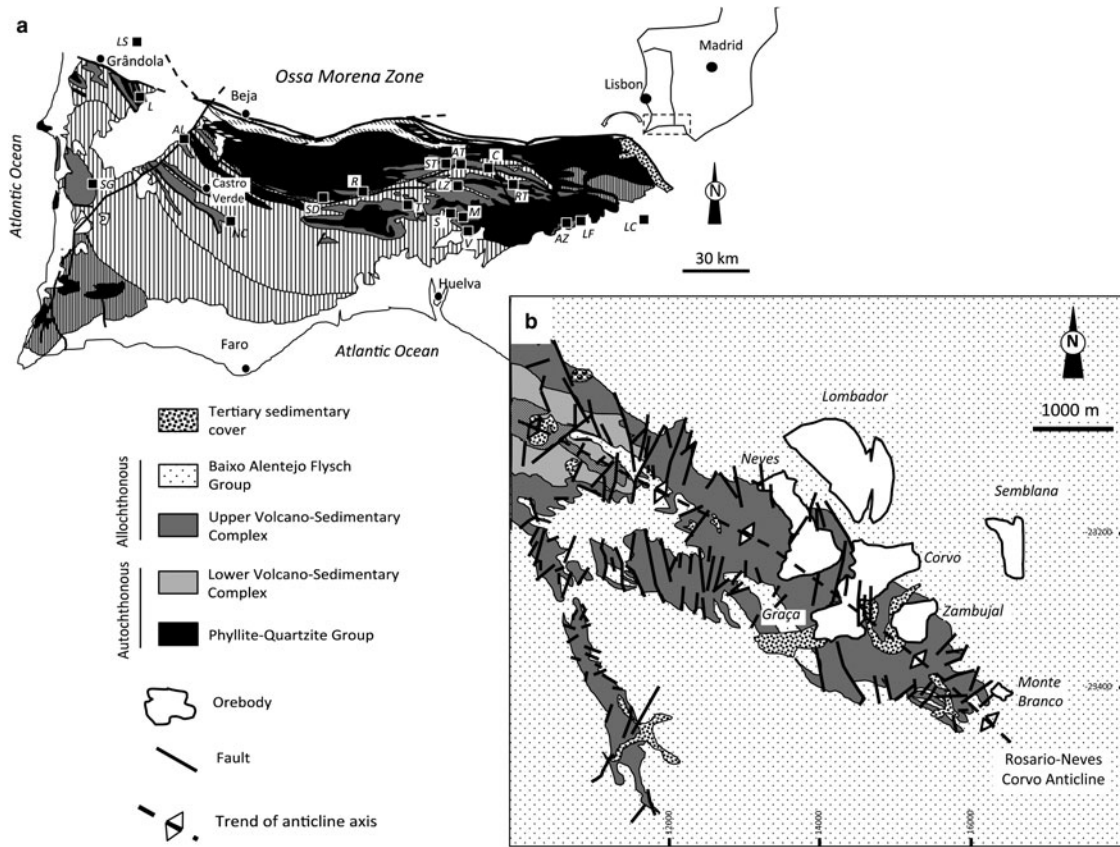


FIG. 1. (a) Geological map of the IPB, with location of the Neves-Corvo deposit (adapted from Oliveira, 1990; Carvalho *et al.*, 1999, and references therein). (b) Geological map of the Neves-Corvo mine area showing the location of the seven orebodies currently known in the deposit (modified after Oliveira *et al.*, 2004, and references therein). AT – Aguas Tenidas; AL – Aljustrel; AZ – Aznalcollar; C – Concepcion; L – Lousal; LC – Las Cruces; LF – Los Frailes; LG – Salgadinho; LS – Lagoa Salgada; LZ – La Zarza; M – Migollas; NC – Neves Corvo; R – Romanera; RT – Rio Tinto; S – Sotiel; SG – Salgadinho; SD – São Domingos; ST – San Telmo; T – Tharsis; V – Masa Valverde.

The exceptional ore geochemistry and stable isotope signatures, and the uniqueness of some of the radiogenic isotope signatures of the Neves-Corvo ores are consistent with a magmatic-hydrothermal model for the deposit (Relvas *et al.*, 2001, 2002, 2006a,b; Huston *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, recent, IPB-like, Sr, Nd and Pb isotope data from the Lombador orebody highlight the equally relevant role of footwall leaching for the metal budget of the deposit (Carvalho, 2016). A large, focused, long-lived, multi-sourced magmatic-hydrothermal ore-forming system is thought to have been responsible for this outstanding mineralization. In addition to a major derivation of metals leached from the IPB footwall sequence, which include contributions from an evolved, deep-seated, seawater-derived, metal-rich brine equilibrated with the PQ metasediments, a direct magmatic contribution is envisaged to have been added to the Neves-Corvo metal budget and to have contributed, in different moments of the ore-forming process, to the Sn contents of the deposit, as well as to part of its Cu, In and Se contents (Relvas *et al.*, 2001, 2006a,b; Munhá *et al.*, 2005; Jorge *et al.*, 2007; Huston *et al.*, 2011; Carvalho, 2016).

## Sampling and methods

The study of In and Se abundance and distribution in the Neves-Corvo deposit was based on a systematic drill-core sampling campaign run at the giant, Zn-rich Lombador orebody, and on a more specific and targeted sampling strategy at the Corvo, Graça, Zambujal and Neves orebodies, directed at settings known to host Zn- and Cu-Zn massive sulfide ores that are particularly rich in both In and Se. The ore types considered in this study follow the categories defined in the mine, which include stockwork ores, either Zn-rich (FZ), or Cu-rich (FC); and Cu (MC), Cu-Zn (MCZ), Zn (MZ), Zn-Pb (MZP) and Pb (MP) massive sulfide ores. Barren, pyritic stockwork and massive sulfide mineralization are named FE and ME, respectively.

Selection of the studied drill holes was guided by the Vulcan® 3D software available at Somincor-Lundin Mining, and took into consideration the spatial distribution of the drill holes, ore types intersected and metal grades, particularly Cu, Zn, In and Se. At the Lombador orebody, 16 drill holes were selected, distributed along 12 NE–SW cross-sections that cover the south, central (E and W) and north sectors of the orebody. At the remaining

orebodies, a total of 15 drill holes was selected for study: three at the Neves orebody, five at the SW area of the Graça orebody, two at the Zambujal orebody and five at the SE area of the Corvo orebody (Fig. 2).

A total of 330 polished thin and round sections, corresponding to >300 representative samples, were inspected under both reflected and transmitted light, and a detailed petrographic study and refinement of the micro-textures, mineralogy and mineral assemblages was undertaken. All samples were prepared for microscopic observation at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal. A sub-set of 50 samples, representative of the different ore types, was selected to yield quantitative estimates of the ore-sulfide mineralogy by means of point counting (1000 points per section).

After detailed optical microscopic inspection, a total of 1758 electron probe micro analysis (EPMA) points were performed on 66 carefully selected ore samples representative of the different ore types collected. These analyses were carried out at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto (UT), Canada, using a Cameca SX-50/51 (DCI 1300 DLL) electron microprobe equipped with three tunable wavelength-dispersive spectrometers, and at the Helmholtz Institute of Freiberg for Resource Technology (HIF), Freiberg, Germany, using a JEOL JXA-8530F electron microprobe equipped with five tunable wavelength-dispersive spectrometers. For each set of probed samples, the beam was aligned at the beginning of each working session, and calibration of the standard X-ray intensities of the elements to be measured were run both at the beginning and at the end of each working session to check for reproducibility. Unknown and standard intensities were corrected for dead time, and the standard intensities were corrected for standard drift over time. Interference corrections were applied to As-Pb, to S-Co and to In-Sn. The matrix-correction method was either ZAF, or Phi-Rho-Z. The beam diameter was =1 µm. The operating conditions used at the UT were: beam energy of 25 keV and current of 50 nA, whereas at HIF they were beam energy of 20 KeV and current of 20 nA. The corresponding minimum detection limits (MDL; mean background + 3σ) are indicated in Table 1. Many grains were analysed twice, in both microprobe facilities, yielding very consistent results, with deviations systematically <2.4%. Nevertheless, in order to guarantee maximum quantification confidence, in particular for the In and Se analytical

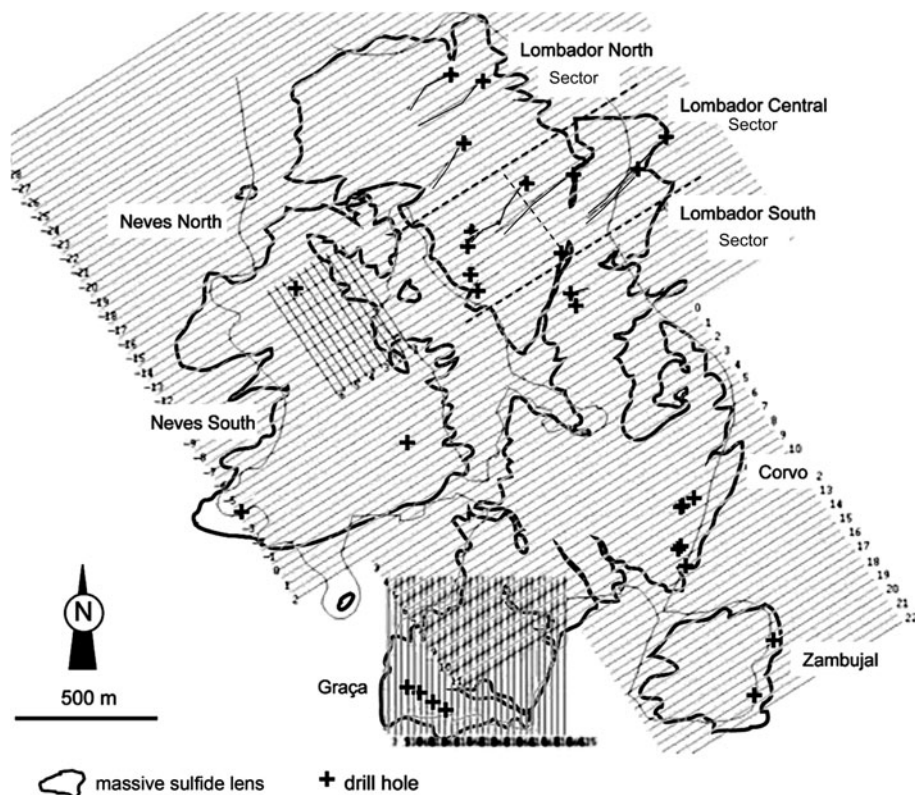


FIG. 2. Locations of the drill holes selected for the present study.

results, the MDL adopted for each element was always the highest value reported in Table 1.

High-resolution images by means of secondary electrons or back-scattered electrons, and semi-quantitative X-ray microanalysis by means of energy-dispersive spectrometry were performed at UT on a set of 14 representative ore samples. The equipment used was a JEOL 6610LV scanning electron microscope (SEM), equipped with an EDS Oxford silicon drift detector system capable of high count rates and good energy resolution, and an Oxford INCA data acquisition software application. The use of this technique was directed, in particular, at the acquisition of high-resolution images of In- and Se-bearing mineral grains. After carbon coating, the acceleration voltage was set at 15 kV, and the automatic peak identification option selected to minimize spurious peaks by adjusting the auto ID sensitivity.

The overall characterization and interpretation of the In and Se spatial distribution, metal grades and element-element correlations were based on data

provided by, or collected in collaboration with, the mine geology department of Somincor-Lundin Mining. The Somincor-Lundin mining whole-rock chemical database available includes almost half a million of analyses ( $n = 419,386$ ) performed at the accredited chemical laboratory of the company (AAS, XRF, ICP), on 1–2 m-wide intervals of ore drill cores, and was managed by mining software tools (*Leapfrog®* and *Vulcan®* 3D) that provided 3D models of the orebodies, ore-type distribution maps and cross sections, metal grades, and correlation matrix tables for a large set of major and minor ore elements (with a confidence level of 95%).

## Results

### *Ore mineralogy and textures*

Detailed petrographic inspection of the ore mineral assemblages, coupled with extensive EPMA and SEM data revealed a widely varied mineralogy

TABLE 1. Electron microprobe minimum detection limits (MDL), X-ray lines, crystals and peak counting times for In, Se and other elements given by the two probes used in this study.

	EPMA UT				EPMA HIF			
	MDL (ppm)	Line	Crystal	Peak counting times (s)	MDL (ppm)	Line	Crystal	Peak counting time (s)
S	190	<i>Kα</i>	PET	20	60	<i>Kα</i>	PETH	20
Fe	210	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	20	100	<i>Kα</i>	LIFH	30
Cu	310	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	20	180	<i>Kα</i>	LIFH	30
Zn	170	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	60	160	<i>Kα</i>	LIFH	40
Pb	890	<i>Mα</i>	PET	20	200	<i>Mα</i>	PETH	40
As	320	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	60	150	<i>Lα</i>	TAP	60
Ni	250	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	20	120	<i>Kα</i>	LIFH	40
Sb	190	<i>Lα</i>	PET	60	270	<i>Lβ</i>	PETH	40
Sn	330	<i>Lα</i>	PET	20	160	<i>Lα</i>	PETL	40
Co	70	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	60	330	<i>Kα</i>	LIFH	10
Mn	90	<i>Lα</i>	PET	20				
Hg	910	<i>Lα</i>	LiF	60	310	<i>Mα</i>	PETH	40
Ag	300	<i>Lα</i>	PET	60	170	<i>Lα</i>	PETL	40
Au	880	<i>Lα</i>	LiF	40				
Bi	970	<i>Lα</i>	LiF	60	250	<i>Mα</i>	PETH	40
Ge	30	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	60	110	<i>Lα</i>	TAP	60
Se	380	<i>Kα</i>	LiF	60	180	<i>Lα</i>	TAP	60
In	180	<i>Lα</i>	PET	60	110	<i>Lα</i>	PETL	80
Cd	340	<i>Lα</i>	PET	60	150	<i>Lα</i>	PETL	40
Tl	590	<i>Lα</i>	LiF	60				
Te	1400	<i>Lα</i>	LiF	120				

(Table 2; Figs 3 and 4). Although the different orebodies and ore types studied present essentially the same major ore minerals, their relative proportions in the various ore types are highly variable, and some mineral phases were only found in particular ore types and ore settings. Pyrite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite and galena represent the main ore minerals, whereas arsenopyrite and tetrahedrite constitute the most common accessory minerals, together with variable amounts of tennantite, stannite, kesterite, ferrokesterite, bournonite, boulangerite, cassiterite, pyrrhotite, cobaltite, glaucodot, cosalite, löllingite, naumannite, idaite, mawsonite, carrollite, gustavite and native bismuth (see also Pinto *et al.*, 1997, 2014; Gaspar, 2002). Roquesite and gold/electrum were seldom identified. It was also possible to positively identify fine-grained intergrowths of complex Se-bearing Pb–Bi-sulfosalts that seem to correspond to the compositions of junosite, cannizzarite and wittite, as well as unnamed complex Bi–Se and Se-bearing Pb–Bi phases containing >20 wt.% Se, and very fine-grained (usually <2 μm) In-bearing phases, tentatively classified as sakuraiite and/or a sakuraiite-roquesite intermediate phase. The gangue

mineralogy consists mainly of quartz, chlorite, sericite and siderite (mainly sideroplesite), together with minor amounts of donbassite, rutile and florencite.

Most primary textures and textural relationships between the sulfide ore minerals were obscured either by hydrothermal re-working processes (e.g. zone refining), and/or by subsequent tectonometamorphic overprinting effects (e.g. brecciation, ductile deformation, recrystallization) (Figs 3 and 4). Nevertheless, some early hydrothermal assemblages and textures are still preserved. Commonly, the textural signatures of the early stages of ore formation are better preserved in the low-temperature ore types (ME, MP, MZ and MZP), and include partly recrystallized pyritic colloform overgrowths (often polymineralic), framboidal pyrite and porous pyrite aggregates with sphalerite and galena dispersed nuclei, as well as brecciated to banded semi-massive ore layers intergrown with siderite, and/or with interbedded siderite-rich layers, which indicate direct exhalation on the seafloor, distal deposition and redepositional processes (Fig. 3). Many minerals associated with the early stages of ore generation (e.g. pyrite,

TABLE 2. Summary table of the mineralogy identified in the major ore types of the Neves-Corvo deposit.

		Ore types								
		Stockwork			Massive sulfide					
		FE	FZ	FC	MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	ME
Major minerals	Pyrite	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++
	Sphalerite	(+)	+++	(+)	(+)	++	+++	+++	(+)	(+)
	Chalcopyrite	(+)	(+)	+++	++++	+++	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Accessory and minor minerals	Galena	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	+	(+)	++	++	(+)
	Arsenopyrite	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++
	Tetrahedrite	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	+	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	Tennantite				(+)	(+)				
	Stannite				(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)		(+)
	Kesterite					(+)	(+)			
	Ferrokesterite					(+)	(+)	(+)		
	Cobaltite				(+)	(+)				
	Glaucodot					(+)				
	Bourmonite					(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	Boulangerite					(+)	(+)			(+)
	Löllingite				(+)	(+)				
	Cosalite				(+)	(+)				
	Naumannite				(+)					
	Idaite				(+)					
	Mawsonite				(+)					
	Stannoidite				(+)					
	Carrollite				(+)					
	Covellite				(+)					
	Pyrrhotite	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
Bismuth			(+)		(+)					
Gustavite			(+)							
Junoite (?)			(+)							
Wittite (?)			(+)							
Cannizzarite (?)			(+)							
Cassiterite				(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)			

(continued)

TABLE 2. (contd.)

		Ore types								
		Stockwork			Massive sulfide					
		FE	FZ	FC	MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	ME
Trace minerals	Gold/electrum			(+)						
	Roquesite				(+)	(+)				(+)
	Unknown Bi–Se and Pb–Bi–Se phases					(+)				
Ore-related gangue minerals	Sakuraiite or roquesite–sakuraiite phase			(+)		(+)				
	Quartz	++++	+++	+++	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)
	Ripidolite	+	++++	++++		(+)	(+)			
	Brunsvigite	(+)	(+)	(+)						
	Donbassite	(+)	(+)	(+)						
	Sericite	++	++	+						
	Siderite	+++	+++	+++		+	+	+		
	Ankerite		+							
	Dolomite		(+)							
	Rutile	(+)	(+)	(+)			(+)			
	Florencite	(+)	(+)	(+)						

FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork; FC – copper stockwork; MC – massive copper ore, MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; ME – massive barren sulfides. Relative abundances (symbols): (+): ≤1%; +: 1–10%; ++: 10–20%; +++: 20–50%; ++++: ≥50%.



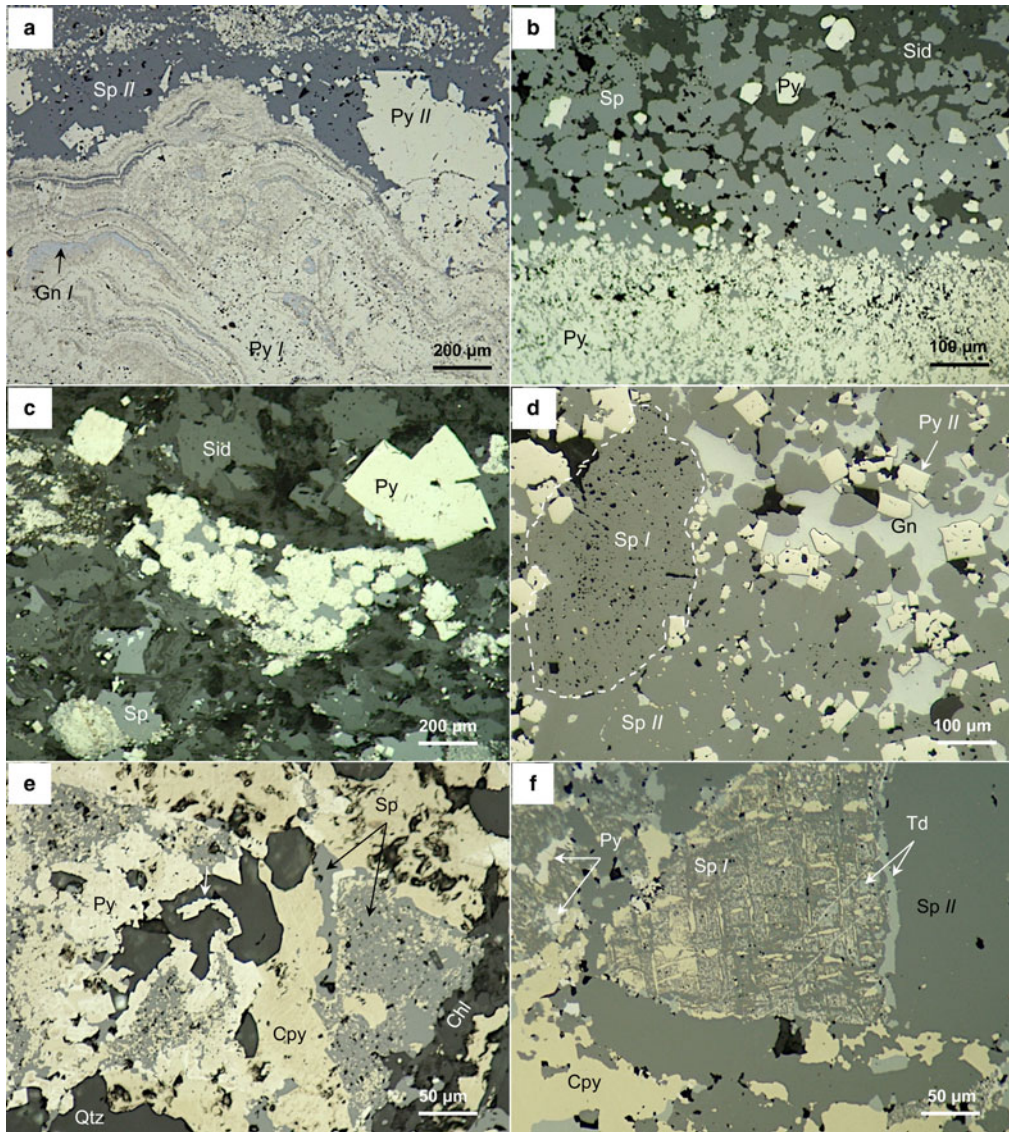


FIG. 3. Photomicrographs depicting textural features and ore minerals identified related to early stage ore-forming processes and subsequent replacement. (a) Remnants of partly recrystallized early-generation pyrite (Py I) colloform overgrowths filled by sphalerite (Sp I) and galena (Gn I) involved with later-generation sphalerite (Sp II) and pyrite (Py II). (b) Low-temperature, banded, zinc-rich ores intergrown with siderite-rich layers (Sid) indicating direct exhalation onto the seafloor. (c) Pyrite- and sphalerite-rich sulfide clasts within a siderite-rich groundmass as a result of re-depositional processes. (d) Replacement of early generation sphalerite (Sp I) by a late generation sphalerite (Sp II) in the zinc-rich ores which is often annealed and intergrown with galena. (e,f) Replacement of sphalerite (Sp) and pyrite (Py) crystals by chalcopyrite (Cpy) and tetrahedrite (Td).

arsenopyrite) are variably preserved in sphalerite- and chalcopyrite-rich domains, whereas other ore minerals formed during subsequent tectonometamorphic stages are found either filling veins,

veinlets and/or fractures in pre-existing mineral phases (e.g. chalcopyrite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite, galena), or as very fine-grained blebs along the boundaries of recrystallized and annealed

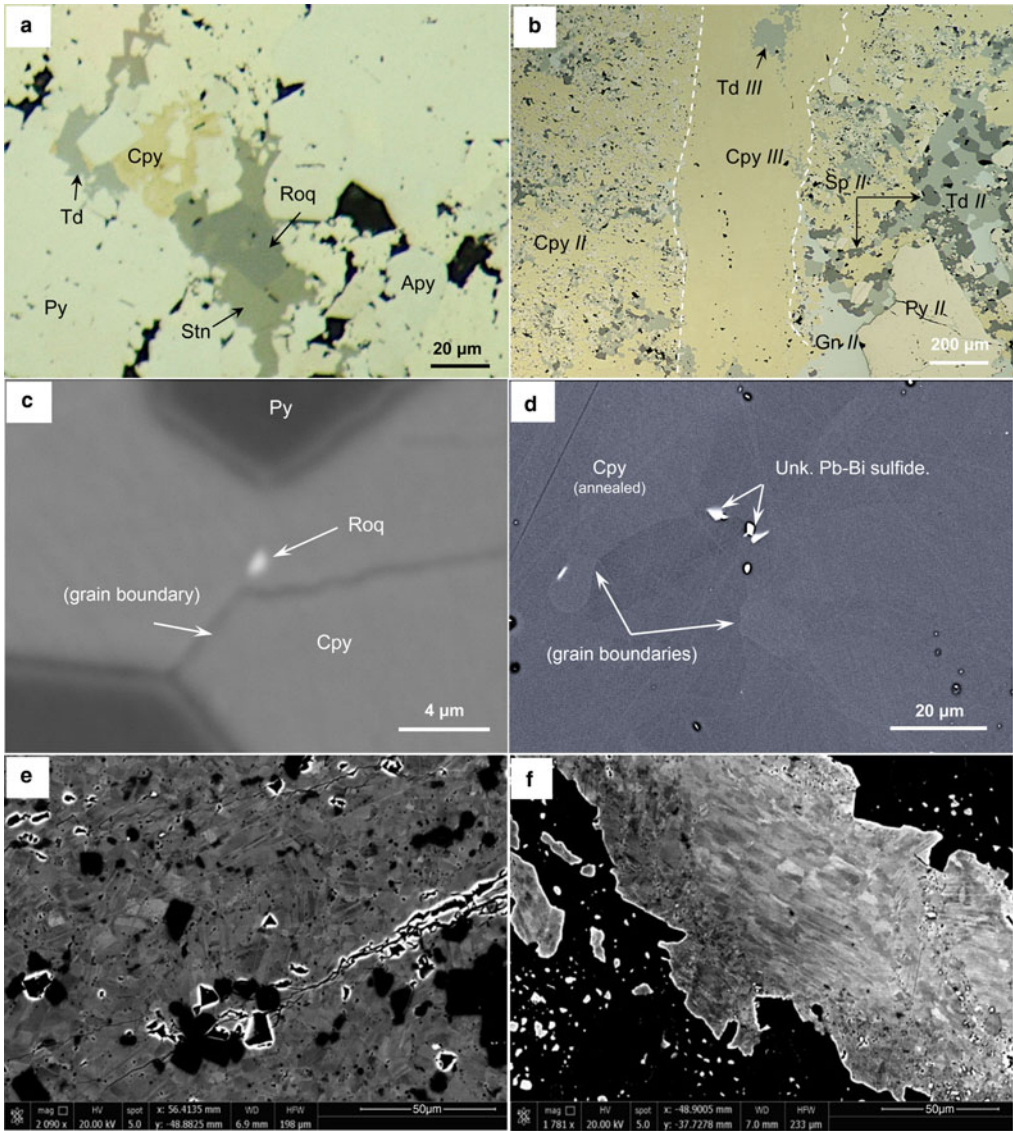


FIG. 4. Photomicrographs and high-resolution SEM images depicting textural features and ore minerals identified related to replacement and late, tectonometamorphic deformation. (a) Roquesite (Roq) intergrown with stannite (Stn). (b) Late, post-metallogenetic and tectonometamorphism-related generation chalcopyrite (Cpy III) and tetrahedrite (Td III) veinlet cross-cutting a metallogenesis-related chalcopyrite (Cpy II) groundmass that replaces pyrite (Py II), sphalerite (Sp II) and tetrahedrite (Td II) and galena (Gn II). (c,d) Occurrence of indium- and selenium-rich phases along chalcopyrite grain boundaries due to tectonometamorphic overprinting effects. (e) High-resolution back-scattered image depicting recrystallized sphalerite crystals within a massive zinc ore due to late tectonometamorphic deformation. (f) High-resolution back-scattered image depicting recrystallized chalcopyrite crystals due to late tectonometamorphic deformation.

chalcopyrite and/or chalcopyrite-sphalerite grains (e.g. stannite, roquesite and unnamed Se-bearing Pb–Bi phases; Fig. 4). Nevertheless, *in situ* replacement of one or more minerals by another is

fairly common. Interstitial filling of pyrite by sphalerite, galena, chalcopyrite and, to a lesser extent, tetrahedrite is ubiquitous, and pyrite and arsenopyrite are most frequently replaced by

sphalerite, galena and/or chalcopyrite. Chalcopyrite replaces sphalerite in the Cu-Zn (MCZ) ores (Fig. 3). Textures produced as a result of brittle and ductile tectonic deformation and tectonometamorphic recrystallization are very common throughout the different ore types and orebodies, and strongly influenced the distribution of the ore mineral assemblages and mineral associations, as well as the chemical composition of most of the major ore sulfides and the distribution of In and Se in the Neves-Corvo ores (Fig. 4). Very significant recrystallization and annealing effects related to tectonometamorphic overprinting have promoted: (1) the precipitation of phases held in solid solution and their migration into the host grain boundaries; (2) the development of non-equigranular mosaics of crystals with ~120° interfacial angles, in particular within the sphalerite- and chalcopyrite-dominated layers; and (3) the chemical re-equilibration of the ore sulfide assemblages in general. At least three major generations of the main ore minerals could be distinguished on the basis of textural interpretation of the complex succession of syn- and post-mineralization processes identified (Figs 3 and 4).

*Indium and selenium distribution in the Neves-Corvo deposit*

The distributions of In and Se in the Neves-Corvo deposit are complex, and reflect the combined effects of ore-forming processes, including the redistribution associated with long-lasting hydrothermal reworking and zone-refining, and the redistribution and concentration processes related to late tectonometamorphic remobilization and ore-recrystallization overprint.

Based on the observed metal correlations and estimated ore grades provided by the Leapfrog® and Vulcan® 3D mining software, at the deposit scale both In and Se correlate positively with Cu ( $r=0.44$  and  $r=0.55$ , respectively; Table 3), and high grades of In and Se are found mainly in the Cu (FC, MC, RC) and Cu-Zn (MCZ) ore types (Fig. 5). Mine-block estimation models indicate In and Se average grades of 58 and 63 ppm, respectively, for the deposit as a whole. The Cu-rich ores have average grades of 64 ppm In and 71 ppm Se. Locally, the In grade may reach >640 ppm in the Cu stockwork ores (FC), and >2000 ppm in the massive Cu (MC) and Cu-Zn (MCZ) ore types, whereas Se grade can exceed 2450 ppm locally in massive Cu ores. However, not all Cu-rich ores are necessarily rich in In and/or Se.

TABLE 3. Correlation matrix for major and minor elements in the Neves-Corvo deposit, based on the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, database.

(n)	Cu 419,386	Zn 419,386	Sn 411,810	Pb 419,386	Fe 418,430	Ag 83,292	Hg 75,052	As 412,818	Sb 408,631	Bi 409,772	Au 19,391	Se 150,046	In 150,046
Cu	1												
Zn	0.10	1											
Sn	0.14	-0.02	1										
Pb	-0.10	0.41	-0.04	1									
Fe	-0.05	0.08	-0.16	0.09	1								
Ag	0.18	0.12	0.02	0.14	0.03	1							
Hg	0.12	0.74	0.00	0.34	0.11	0.31	1						
As	0.04	0.26	-0.04	0.17	0.09	0.17	0.35	1					
Sb	0.21	0.11	0.02	0.05	-0.02	0.62	0.35	0.20	1				
Bi	0.11	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.17	0.08	0.07	0.08	1			
Au	0.11	0.02	-0.01	0.11	-0.01	0.26	0.06	0.29	0.17	0.22	1		
Se	0.55	0.09	0.08	-0.01	0.06	0.02	0.25	0.11	0.19	0.26	0.00	1	
In	0.44	0.05	0.19	-0.02	-0.06	0.18	-0.07	0.15	0.40	0.26	0.04	0.20	1

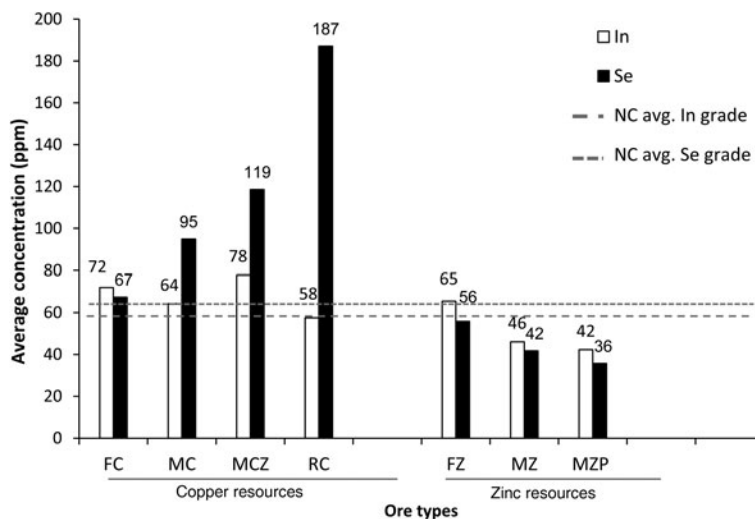


FIG. 5. Indium and Se average grades in the different stockwork and massive sulfide ore types mined at the Neves Corvo deposit (after Somincor-Lundin Mining, 2013, database). The dashed lines represent the average In (58 ppm) and Se (63 ppm) grades in the deposit. FZ – zinc stockwork ore; FC – copper stockwork ore; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; RC ore type (copper ‘rubané’ ore) corresponds to a copper stockwork ore (FC) emplaced tectonically into a hanging-wall position (Oliveira *et al.*, 2004; Relvas *et al.*, 2006a); NC avg. – In and Se average grades in the Neves Corvo deposit.

No correlation was found between In or Se with either Zn or Pb at the deposit scale ( $r=0.05$  and  $r=0.09$ , respectively, for Zn, and  $r=-0.02$  and  $r=-0.01$ , respectively, for Pb; Table 3). Nevertheless, significant In and Se grades (up to 400 and 8000 ppm, respectively) have been found locally in some Zn and Zn-Pb ores, in particular in close spatial dependence of fault/fracture zones (Pinto *et al.*, 2014; Carvalho *et al.*, 2015). On average, the In and Se grades in the zinc-rich ores (FZ, MZ, MZP) are  $\sim 45$  and  $\sim 37$  ppm, respectively. Similar to the Cu ores, the In and/or Se contents in the Zn-rich ores are not homogeneous.

In addition to a slightly positive correlation with Se ( $r=0.20$ ), In also displays a small positive correlation ( $r \leq 0.40$ ) with other elements, such as Sb, Sn, As and Bi (Table 3). Selenium displays a slightly positive correlation ( $r \leq 0.26$ ) with Hg, As, Sb and Bi.

Tables 4 and 5 show the correlation coefficients between the main ore metals, In and Se, when taken as a function of the various ore types, and the various orebodies, respectively. Overall, the correlations between In and Zn are low, reaching its maximum value for the massive Zn ore type (MZ;  $r=0.30$ ). Once again, both In and Se consistently show higher correlation coefficients with Cu than with the remaining elements, in particular in the

Cu-rich ores types and in the Cu-rich orebodies (Table 6). The only exception is the Zambujal orebody, where both In and especially Se depict a slight but unexpected positive correlation with Zn ( $r=0.17$  and  $r=0.42$ , respectively). This reflects the strong tectonic deformation undergone by this particular orebody, which is responsible for important high-grade Cu ore shoots resulting from significant secondary Cu remobilization, and accounted for re-distribution and re-concentration of trace elements, including In and Se. In fact, the complex geometric intercalations and variations of ore types seen both vertically and laterally throughout the Zambujal orebody are due to a succession of tectonically stacked massive sulfide lenses folded to the west (low-angle Hercynian thrust tectonics).

The overall correlation between In and Se with Cu at several scales, as well as their higher abundances in Cu-rich ores, are strongly indicative of a genetic connection between the three elements. Moreover, by analogy with present-day submarine hydrothermal systems (e.g. Hannington *et al.*, 1986; Auclair and Fouquet, 1987; Herzig *et al.*, 1998; Schwarz-Shampera, 2000), the abundance and distribution of In and Se in the Neves-Corvo orebodies suggest that, at the scale of the whole hydrothermal field, the various orebodies represent

TABLE 4. Correlation matrix between In and Se with major and minor ore metals in the various ore types at the Neves-Corvo deposit, based on the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, chemical database.

			Cu	Zn	Sn	Pb	Fe	Ag	Hg	As	Sb	Bi	Au	Se
Zinc-rich ore types	(n)	4711												
	FZ	Se	0.45	-0.07	-0.04	0.05	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.19	-0.02	0.02	0.00	1
		In	0.34	0.19	0.09	0.07	-0.18	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.05	0.15	0.00	0.20
	(n)	19,087												
	MZ	Se	0.05	-0.13	-0.05	0.08	0.07	-0.16	0.09	-0.14	-0.18	-0.08	-0.04	1
		In	0.04	0.30	0.00	-0.02	-0.27	0.12	-0.02	0.15	0.00	0.08	-0.09	-0.03
Copper-rich ore types	(n)	9540												
	MZP	Se	-0.04	-0.08	0.01	-0.02	0.05	-0.14	0.13	-0.05	-0.13	-0.06	-0.02	1
		In	0.10	0.23	-0.05	0.03	-0.21	0.14	-0.10	0.11	0.03	0.04	-0.27	-0.06
	(n)	45,012												
	FC	Se	0.66	0.18	0.17	0.02	0.06	0.17	0.29	0.05	0.13	0.29	0.26	1
		In	0.33	0.14	0.15	0.05	0.05	0.33	0.18	0.14	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.17
Barren and lead ores	(n)	21,729												
	MC	Se	0.49	0.10	0.04	-0.02	-0.18	-0.02	0.34	-0.03	0.14	0.23	-0.22	1
		In	0.45	0.15	0.22	0.00	-0.22	0.18	0.21	0.16	0.50	0.17	0.07	0.21
	(n)	8344												
	MCZ	Se	0.72	0.42	-0.07	-0.26	-0.59	-0.07	0.71	0.34	0.26	0.32	-0.31	1
		In	0.42	0.16	0.33	-0.17	-0.34	0.33	0.10	0.16	0.48	0.21	0.03	0.17
Barren and lead ores	(n)	20,389												
	FE	Se	0.11	0.07	-0.01	0.09	0.05	0.17	0.32	0.04	0.07	0.22	0.02	1.00
		In	0.10	-0.06	0.01	-0.03	-0.10	-0.03	-0.11	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.05
	(n)	15,235												
	ME	Se	0.02	0.00	-0.05	0.21	0.06	-0.02	-0.01	-0.14	-0.17	-0.09	-0.16	1.00
		In	0.08	-0.01	0.03	-0.05	-0.23	0.06	-0.03	0.14	0.04	0.04	-0.03	-0.01
Barren and lead ores	(n)	580												
	MP	Se	-0.12	-0.03	0.08	-0.16	0.11	0.63	0.16	-0.10	-0.17	-0.15	0.18	1.00
	In	0.07	0.00	0.04	-0.02	-0.10	0.53	0.36	0.12	0.07	-0.01	0.06	0.00	

FC – copper stockwork ore; FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork ore; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; ME – barren massive sulfides.

TABLE 5. Correlation matrix between In and Se, and a number of other ore metals in the five orebodies currently exploited at the Neves-Corvo mine, based on the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, database.

		Cu	Zn	Sn	Pb	Fe	Ag	Hg	As	Sb	Bi	Au
Corvo ( <i>n</i> = 39,099)	Se	0.74	-0.01	0.18	-0.02	0.00	0.15	-0.05	0.14	0.20	0.42	0.04
	In	0.38	0.10	0.13	-0.01	-0.05	0.22	0.01	0.12	0.39	0.23	0.11
Neves ( <i>n</i> = 51,649)	Se	0.56	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.14	0.11	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.26	-0.01
	In	0.68	0.00	0.31	0.00	-0.02	0.26	0.03	0.12	0.36	0.25	0.05
Graça ( <i>n</i> = 7459)	Se	0.80	-0.06	0.48	-0.14	-0.09	0.05	-0.02	0.02	0.38	0.34	0.60
	In	0.56	0.13	0.53	-0.06	-0.11	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.63	0.31	0.51
Zambujal ( <i>n</i> = 22,315)	Se	0.58	0.42	-0.03	0.10	0.17	0.04	0.30	0.31	0.25	0.29	-0.02
	In	0.47	0.17	0.02	-0.04	-0.13	0.14	-0.03	0.22	0.56	0.23	0.03
Lombador ( <i>n</i> = 28,624)	Se	0.38	-0.05	0.06	-0.01	0.03	0.06	-0.05	0.04	0.22	0.40	0.19
	In	0.46	0.01	0.08	0.00	-0.09	0.16	-0.13	0.08	0.50	0.40	0.21

different stages of an evolving ore-forming system. It is shown below that other factors and overprinting effects become relevant at smaller scales.

#### *Ore-formation vs. tectonometamorphic overprint at the Lombador orebody*

##### *Primary control*

The Zn-rich Lombador orebody depicts the lowest In and Se grades of the whole deposit (Table 6). The metal distribution maps in this orebody are particularly clear in indicating that higher In and Se grades correlate with the ore zones that are richer in Cu, in the central-W sector of the orebody, where the innermost zone of the feeder system occurs, and where the more chalcopyrite-rich ores (FC, MC, MCZ) dominate (Fig. 6; Carvalho *et al.*, 2013, 2015; Carvalho, 2016). The distribution of Cu, In and Se at the Lombador orebody (as well as Ag, Bi and, to a lesser extent, Au) is associated closely with a major NNW-SSE-trending, sub-vertical fault zone (Fig. 6) that denounces a net tectonic

control over the focusing of the high-temperature Cu-rich hydrothermal fluids. Hence, this metal association is particularly well represented in the copper stockwork ore samples (FC). Conversely, in the Zn-rich ore zones, both In and Se display lower concentrations and broader distribution patterns. Therefore, at the scale of the Lombador orebody, it is again very clear that most, or at least a significant part, of the In and Se must have been introduced with Cu into the mineralizing system, probably sharing a common source and common histories of transport and precipitation from Cu-rich mineralizing fluids. Nevertheless, the present data do not preclude other possible metal sources for these metals, namely leaching of the footwall sequence.

##### *Tectonometamorphic overprint*

In addition to the primary control over In and Se distributions in the Lombador orebody, there is ample evidence for prominent In- and Se-enrichment and re-distribution due to tectonometamorphic remobilization. Figure 7 shows

TABLE 6. Size, selected major and minor ore elements concentrations, and copper ratio ( $100 \times \text{Cu}/(\text{Cu}/\text{Zn})$ ) for the five orebodies currently exploited at the Neves-Corvo deposit, based on the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, database.

Orebody	Tonnage (Mt)	Cu (%)	Zn (%)	Pb (%)	Sn (%)	Ag (ppm)	Se (ppm)	In (ppm)	Cu ratio
Lombador	106.2	0.78	4.42	1.16	0.04	53.34	36	47	15
Corvo	50.6	5.61	2.07	0.42	0.28	49.84	103	67	73
Neves	63.2	1.93	2.61	0.59	0.14	59.59	47	65	43
Graça	11.3	5.61	3.72	0.44	0.31	61.42	75	72	60
Zambujal	14.7	2.30	2.52	0.49	0.04	35.09	154	63	48

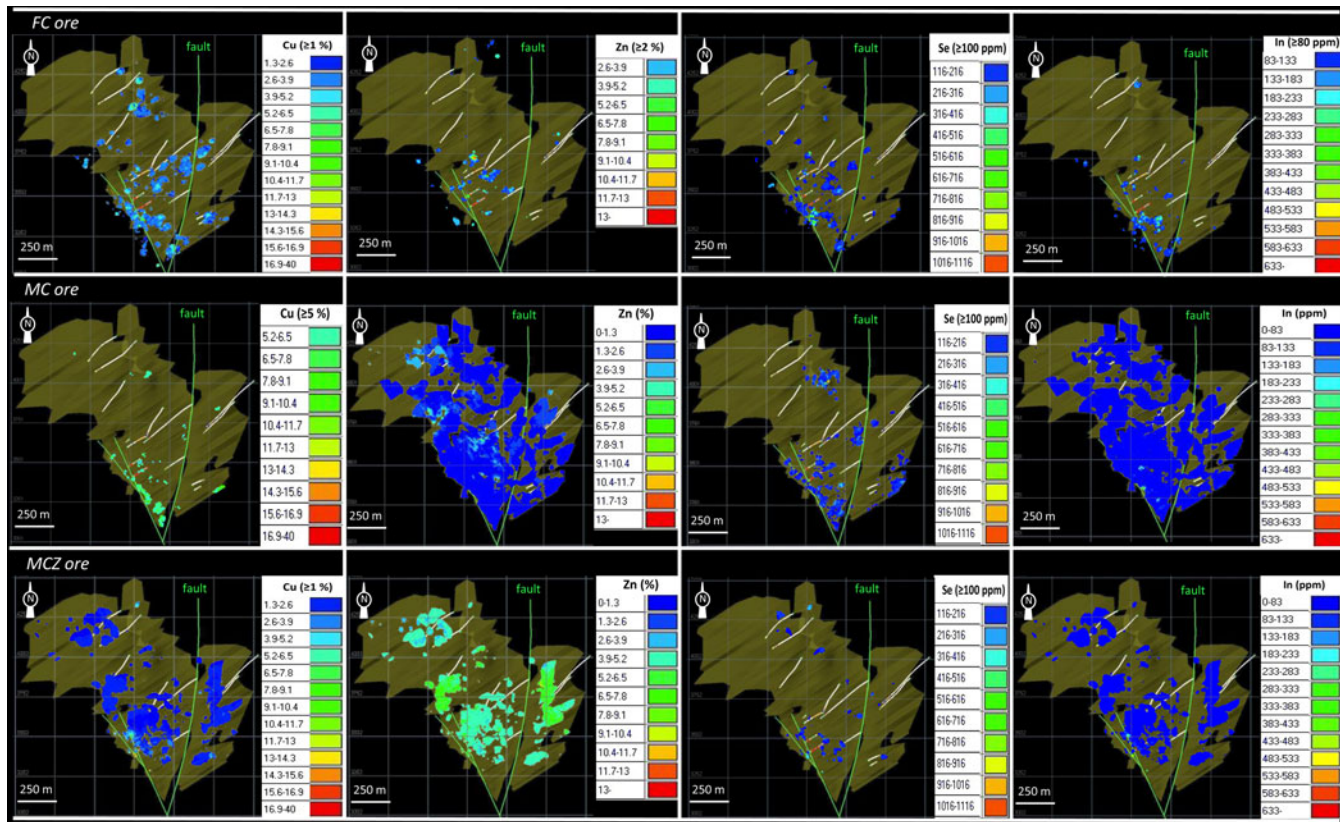


FIG. 6. Copper, Zn, Se and In distribution in four of the more represented ore types at the Lombador orebody: stockwork copper ore (FC), massive copper ore (MC), massive copper-zinc ore (MCZ) and massive zinc ore (MZ). Note the positive correlation between the high Cu, In and Se grades around the NNW–SSE fault zone, and the poor, if any, correlation between Zn, In and Se at the Lombador orebody. Data from the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, database.

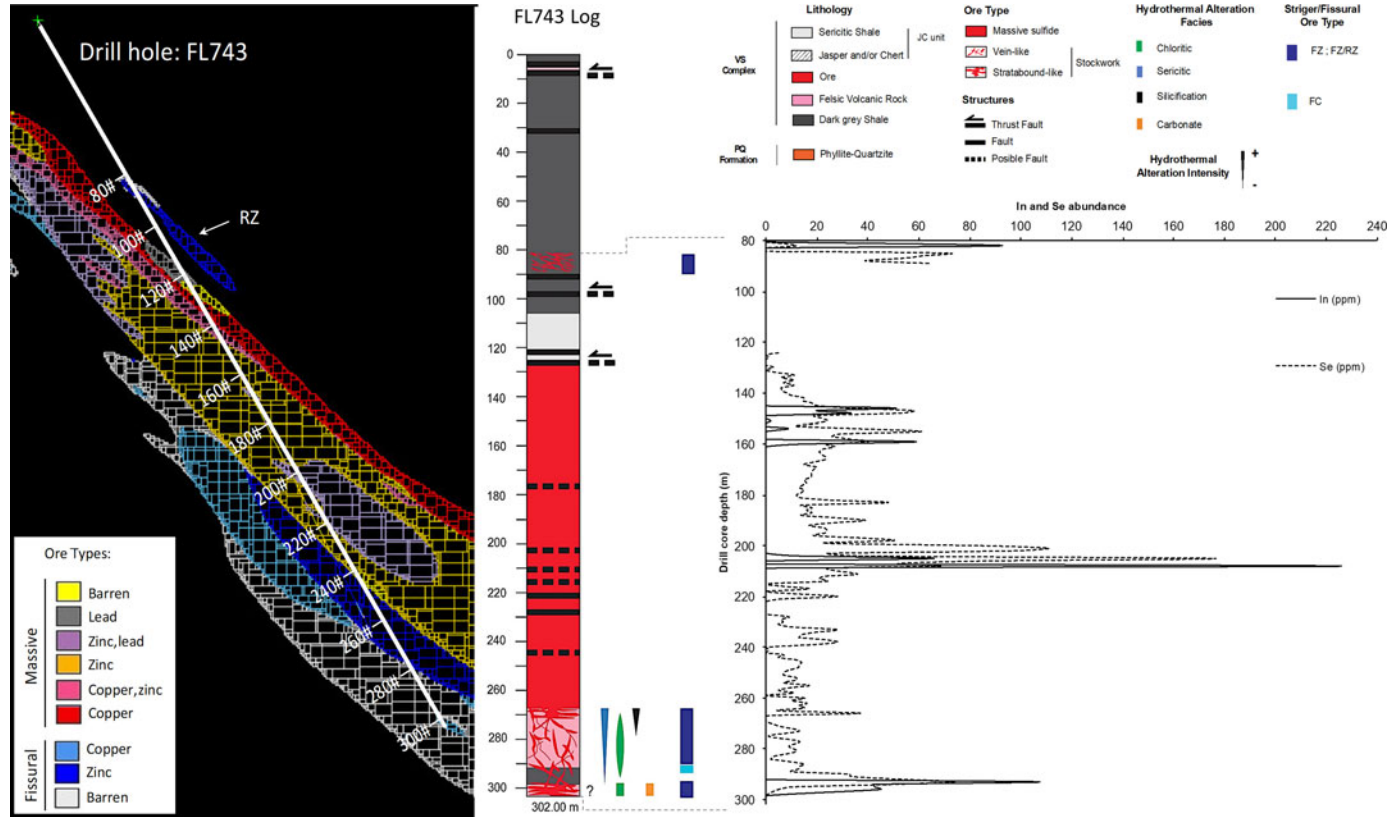


FIG. 7. Schematic representation of drill hole FL743 intersecting the Lombador orebody, together with its log features (ore types, alteration facies), and In and Se concentration profiles. Cross-section and metal grades are from the Somincor-Lundin mining, 2013, database.



schematically the distribution profile of In and Se concentrations along a selected drill hole intersecting the Lombador orebody. Indium and Se concentrations were correlated with the various features recognized (hydrothermal alteration, ore types, faults, Cu, Zn and Pb grades). It is very clear that high In and Se concentrations occur either associated with Cu-rich intervals intersected (FC, MC and MCZ ore types), or are associated with shear zones occurring within the Zn-rich (MZ and MZP) ore zones. In the example presented, In and Se concentrations in the tectonically deformed MZ and MZP ore zones reach up to 226 and 176 ppm, respectively, which represent an enrichment of ~500% and 200% relative to the average abundances (47 ppm In and 36 ppm Se) in the Lombador orebody. The ore layers classified as MC and MCZ in a hanging-wall position correspond to intervals characterized by significant remobilization of chalcopyrite and, to a lesser extent, tetrahedrite, which accounted for pronounced secondary Cu enrichment that has been accompanied also by concomitant In and Se enrichment. In places, this late generation of remobilized chalcopyrite can represent up to 96% of the existing chalcopyrite.

Re-distribution and re-concentration of In and Se associated with tectonometamorphic deformation are processes of major importance for the actual distribution of these metals, not only in the Lombador orebody, but also throughout the whole Neves-Corvo deposit. Moreover, remobilization is thought to have also contributed to the local enrichment of other IPB deposits in In and/or Se. For example, the Barrigão deposit, a remobilization vein-type mineralization located 10 km SE of Neves-Corvo, is reported to show significant In enrichment (*cf.* Reiser *et al.*, 2009).

#### Indium and selenium mineral allocation

Without detailed data on the modal compositions of individual ore samples, acquired by automated SEM-based mineralogy measurements, no quantitative assessments of In (and Se) deportment equivalent to those presented by Bachmann *et al.* (2017) were possible in the present study. Therefore, the following observations are qualitative only, being based on orders of magnitude of typical sulfide mineral abundances in the ores, as presented in Table 2, as well as concentrations in individual minerals determined by EPMA. The results are, nevertheless, instructive and may serve

as important guides for future studies. We note that for In, our results are generally compatible with the quantitative results presented by Bachmann *et al.* (2017) for a more limited sample suite. For Se, no equivalent pre-existing data are available.

Tables 7 and 8 summarize the In and Se contents of the main ore minerals analysed, representing the various Neves-Corvo ore types. Although roquesite is the most In-rich ore sulfide found, the most abundant In-bearing sulfide minerals analysed are, by far, sphalerite and chalcopyrite given their overall abundance in the deposit (Table 2). Despite its high In content, stannite (together with ferrokesterite, kesterite, and tennantite) is probably only a minor contributor to the overall In budget in the Neves-Corvo deposit due to its overall abundance in the ores.

In contrast, Se is distributed much more widely over the different ore-forming minerals than In. The data in the present study might suggest that Se is mainly allocated in galena given its wide occurrence (Table 2). Nevertheless, arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, pyrite and, to a lesser extent, tetrahedrite also constitute fairly important Se-bearing ore minerals due to their overall abundance in the deposit. Other Se-carriers include Cu-Sn-sulfosalts such as stannite, kesterite, mawsonite and stannoidite, cobaltite, tennantite, naumannite and glaucodot, in order of decreasing abundance and likely importance as Se carriers. Despite the fairly high concentrations (up to 21.54 wt.% Se) in individual Pb-Bi phases (see below), these make negligible contributions to the bulk Se abundance in the deposit due to their restricted occurrence (Table 2). Nonetheless, these complex phases may represent important Se carriers within some Cu-rich ores.

#### Chemical characteristics of the main In- and Se-bearing minerals

Chemical re-equilibration imposed on the ore sulfides as a result of the late Hercynian tectonometamorphic overprint has resulted largely in localized homogenization of trace- and minor-element concentrations within the minerals. Individual sphalerite, chalcopyrite, galena, etc. grains are generally not compositionally zoned (e.g. Fig. 4e,f), and show relatively constant In/Se concentrations within samples. Only the more refractory minerals, e.g. pyrite and arsenopyrite are often seen to preserve vestigial zonation patterns. These textural observations indicate that measured In and Se concentrations in most of the

TABLE 7. Indium content (wt.%) of the Neves-Corvo ore sulfides by means of EPMA and SEM-EDS analysis.

		Stockwork ore			Massive sulfide ore						
		FE	FC	FZ	MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	ME	Avg. Comp.
EPMA	Py ( <i>n</i> = 2)							0.02	0.02		0.02
	Sp ( <i>n</i> = 289)		0.05		0.19 (0.02–1.73)	0.15 (0.02–0.82)	0.03 (0.02–0.15)	0.15 (0.02–0.50)	2.13 (1.39–4.30)		0.14 (0.03–4.30)
	Cpy ( <i>n</i> = 113)		0.02 (0.02–0.03)		0.09 (0.02–0.15)	0.06 (0.02–0.12)	0.06 (0.02–0.12)	0.02	0.10 (0.05–0.12)	0.09 (0.05–0.12)	0.07 (0.02–0.15)
	Gn ( <i>n</i> = 1)								0.02		0.02
	Td ( <i>n</i> = 8)					0.03	0.05			0.06 (0.05–0.07)	0.05 (0.03–0.07)
	Tn ( <i>n</i> = 9)				0.26 (0.22–0.37)						0.26 (0.22–0.37)
	Stn ( <i>n</i> = 36)				1.47	1.30 (0.98–1.66)	0.50 (0.10–1.12)	0.15 (0.10–0.20)		1.05 (0.11–3.21)	0.99 (0.10–3.21)
	Fe-Kst ( <i>n</i> = 19)					0.21 (0.06–0.35)	0.19 (0.06–0.35)	0.06			0.20 (0.06–0.35)
	Kst ( <i>n</i> = 13)					0.14 (0.12–0.17)	0.07 (0.04–0.13)				0.11 (0.08–0.17)
	Roq ( <i>n</i> = 3)									44.64 (40.84–46.69)	
SEM	Roq ( <i>n</i> = 5)					41.89 (36.97–43.85)					
	Roq-Sak ( <i>n</i> = 5)				21.21	25.75 (17.28–34.22)					

Py – pyrite; Sp – sphalerite; Cpy – chalcopyrite; Gn – galena; Td – tetrahedrite; Tn – tennantite; Stn – stannite; Fe-Kst – ferrokesterite; Kst – kesterite; Roq – roquesite; Roq-Sak – roquesite-sakuraiite; FC – copper stockwork; FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; ME – barren massive ore.

TABLE 8. Selenium content (wt.%) of Neves-Corvo ore sulfides by means of EPMA and SEM-EDS analysis.

		Stockwork ore		Massive sulfide ore						
		FE	FC	MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	ME	Avg. Comp.
EPMA	Py ( <i>n</i> = 30)	0.08 (0.05–0.11)	0.07 (0.04–0.13)	0.07 (0.04–0.12)	0.13 (0.04–0.25)	0.13 (0.06–0.20)				0.09 (0.04–0.25)
	Sp ( <i>n</i> = 28)		0.05		0.07 (0.04–0.14)	0.06 (0.04–0.12)	0.06	0.04		0.06 (0.04–0.14)
	Cpy ( <i>n</i> = 37)	0.04	0.06 (0.05–0.08)	0.05 (0.04–0.05)	0.07 (0.04–0.11)			0.04	0.06 (0.06–0.07)	0.06 (0.04–0.11)
	Gn ( <i>n</i> = 67)	0.46 (0.45–0.47)	2.09 (1.12–3.80)	6.32 (0.40–15.56)	1.49 (0.06–4.88)			0.14 (0.04–0.31)		1.00 (0.04–15.56)
	Apy ( <i>n</i> = 48)		0.40 (0.05–0.82)	0.24 (0.08–0.93)	0.28 (0.09–0.75)	0.11 (0.10–0.12)	0.11 (0.10–0.13)			0.26 (0.05–0.93)
	Cbt ( <i>n</i> = 18)		0.32 (0.12–0.61)		0.19					0.32 (0.12–0.61)
	Gdt ( <i>n</i> = 5)		0.17	0.50 (0.41–0.60)						0.44 (0.17–0.60)
	Carr ( <i>n</i> = 4)			0.19 (0.17–0.21)						
	Td ( <i>n</i> = 28)		0.13 (0.13–0.14)	0.13 (0.04–0.25)	0.09 (0.05–0.13)	0.05			0.10 (0.10–0.11)	0.10 (0.04–0.25)
	Tn ( <i>n</i> = 13)			0.11 (0.06–0.13)	0.13 (0.04–0.20)					0.11 (0.04–0.20)
	Stn ( <i>n</i> = 16)			0.07	0.13 (0.07–0.17)				0.06 (0.04–0.07)	0.11 (0.04–0.17)
	Kst ( <i>n</i> = 5)					0.15 (0.08–0.33)				
	Mwt ( <i>n</i> = 7)			0.21 (0.13–0.26)						
	Nmt ( <i>n</i> = 7)			24.81 (24.21–25.56)						
	Gtv ( <i>n</i> = 1)		0.15							
	Clt ( <i>n</i> = 1)		1.63							
Jnt (?) ( <i>n</i> = 3)		7.33 (4.77–9.79)								

(continued)

TABLE 8. (contd.)

	Stockwork ore				Massive sulfide ore				Avg. Comp.
	FE	FC	MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	ME	
Czt (?) (n = 4)		2.65 (1.61–3.95)							
Wtt (?) (n = 1)		2.65							
Pb–Bi–Se (n = 5)		3.64 (1.04–4.44)							
SEM				16.76 (15.73–18.68) 19.88 (16.11–21.54)					

Py – pyrite; Sp – sphalerite; Cpy – chalcopyrite; Gn – galena; Apy – arsenopyrite; Cbt – cobaltite; Gdt – glaucodot; Carr – carrollite; Td – tetrahedrite; Tn – tennantite; Sln – stannite; Kst – kesterite; Mwt – mawsonite; Nmt – naumannite; Gtv – gustavite; Clt – cosalite; Jnt – junotite; Czt – cannizzarite; Wtt – wittite; Pb–Bi(–Se) – unknown selenium-bearing complex lead-bismuth intermediate phases; Bi–Se – complex lead-selenium intermediate phases; FC – copper stockwork; FE – barren stockwork; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; ME – barren massive ore.

ore minerals analysed are present as atomic substitutions in the crystal lattice (e.g. sphalerite, chalcopyrite). This would also be in accordance with the observations of other authors (e.g. Cook *et al.*, 2009; George *et al.*, 2016). It is not surprising, therefore, that the main In- and Se-bearing sulfides were found to follow roughly the commonly described substitution mechanisms. The main substitution mechanisms for In incorporation into sulfides include (1)  $2Zn^{2+}$  or  $3Zn^{2+}$  replacement by  $Cu^+ + In^{3+}$  or  $Cu^+ + In^{3+} + Fe^{2+}$  in sphalerite, respectively; (2)  $Fe^{3+}$  replacement by  $Cu^+ + In^{3+}$  in chalcopyrite, and (3)  $Cu^+ + Sn^{4+}$  replacement by  $(Fe^{2+}, Zn^{2+}) + In^{3+}$  in the stannite group minerals (cf. Johan, 1988; Ohta, 1989; Bente and Doering, 1995; Schwarz-Schampera, 2000; Benzaazoua *et al.*, 2003; Sinclair *et al.*, 2006; Cook *et al.*, 2009; Frenzel *et al.*, 2016). Selenium on the other hand usually substitutes for sulfur (cf. Large and Mumme, 1975; Healy and Petruk, 1992; Huston *et al.*, 1995a,b; Marcoux *et al.*, 1996). As reported for fossil and present-day deposits, incorporation of both In and Se into the sulfide lattice is favoured by higher formation temperatures (cf. Large and Mumme, 1975; Auclair *et al.*, 1987; Huston *et al.*, 1995a,b; Zabarina *et al.*, 1961 in Moura *et al.*, 2007; Frenzel *et al.*, 2016), which is consistent with the deposit-scale In and Se distribution.

Although In and Se appear to be present mostly in solid solution, this is not necessarily the case for all other elements measured by EPMA. For instance, Cu in sphalerite seems to be related frequently to nano-inclusions of chalcopyrite (chalcopyrite disease). These relationships are discussed for each mineral in more detail below. In general, low concentrations of Cu, Pb and Zn detected in minerals where these elements are not stoichiometric components appear to be due to either inclusions or secondary X-ray fluorescence effects generated by adjacent Cu, Pb and Zn-bearing minerals rather than actual substitution within the mineral lattice.

### Sphalerite

The variation of In and other major and trace elements in sphalerite determined by EPMA are shown in Table 9 and in Fig. 8 as inter-element plots. In general, the variations in the trace-element contents of sphalerite are relatively subtle. However, despite the significant annealing and recrystallization effects already described, it is often possible to discriminate the various ore types

TABLE 9. Average chemical composition of sphalerite for the different ore types from the Neves-Corvo deposit by means of EPMA.

	Avg. Comp.	Stockwork ore			Avg.	Massive sulfide ore					Avg.
		FE	FC	FZ		MC	MCZ	MZ	MZP	MP	
<i>n</i>	595	29	119	64	212	40	120	155	64	4	383
S	32.79	33.25	32.54	33.39	32.83	32.37	32.65	32.77	33.00	33.27	32.74
Fe	2.35	1.37	2.30	1.31	1.96	2.69	2.13	3.15	2.18	3.10	2.62
Cu	0.32	0.31	0.22	0.13	0.22	0.39	0.48	0.21	0.22	1.45	0.36
Zn	64.06	64.98	64.27	65.00	64.54	63.56	63.84	63.57	64.46	59.83	63.76
Pb	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.20	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.14
As	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.09	0.10	0.06	0.13	0.09	0.10
Ni	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	bdl	bdl	0.04	0.04	bdl	0.04
Sb	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.13	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.06
Sn	0.12	bdl	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.30	0.08	0.09	0.18	bdl	0.14
Co	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	bdl	0.02
Mn	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	bdl	0.02
Hg	0.21	0.34	0.41	0.50	0.38	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16
Ag	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	bdl	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.04
Au	0.09	bdl	bdl	0.09	0.09	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Bi	0.15	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.13	0.18	bdl	0.15
Ge	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	bdl	0.00	0.01	0.01	bdl	0.01
Se	0.06	bdl	0.05	bdl	0.05	bdl	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.06
In	0.14	bdl	0.05	bdl	0.05	0.19	0.15	0.03	0.15	2.13	0.17
Cd	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.07	0.11	0.20	0.20	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.16
Te	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Total	100.86	100.69	100.34	100.90	100.62	100.16	100.27	100.64	101.13	100.42	100.74

FC – copper stockwork ore; FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork ore; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; bdl – below detection limit.

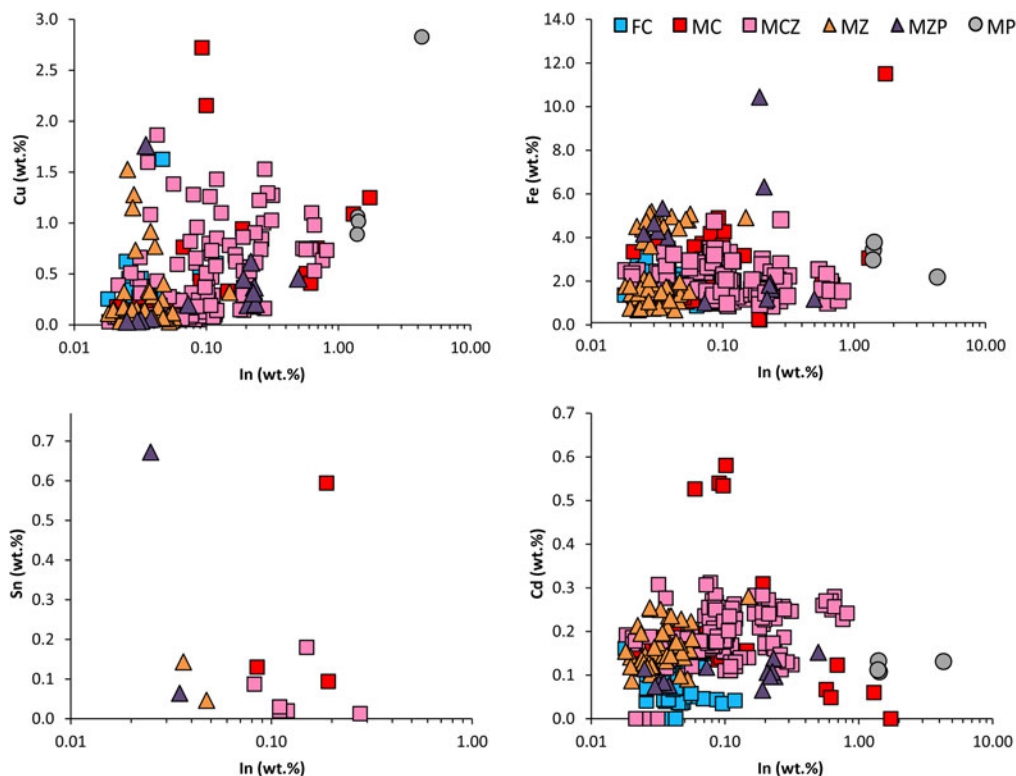


FIG. 8. Inter-element plots for selected trace elements in sphalerite from the Neves-Corvo deposit. Abbreviations as in Table 9.

studied on the basis of the Fe, Cu, Sn, Cd and In contents in sphalerite. Concentrations of other trace elements in sphalerite, such as Pb, As, Ni, Sb, Co and Ag are remarkably uniform and usually quite low ( $\leq 0.2$  wt.%, Carvalho, 2016).

From an overall perspective, sphalerite in the massive sulfide ores displays higher concentrations in trace elements than that in the stockwork ores. On average, the Fe content is fairly low (2.3 wt.%), although it can reach up to 11.5 wt.% (marmatite composition). This is consistent with the predominant yellowish brown colour and red-brown internal reflections shown by sphalerite under reflected light. However, no obvious trend has been detected between the Fe content of sphalerite and the different ore types and generations (Carvalho, 2016). The largest concentrations of Fe in sphalerite were nevertheless measured in the Cu-rich stockwork (FC) and massive ores (MC), which is in good agreement with the higher formation temperatures expected for these ore types. However, considerably high Fe concentrations in sphalerite grains were also found in the

low-temperature massive Zn (MZ) and Pb-rich (MZP) ore types. In fact, some analyses of single sphalerite grains in both these ore types gave Fe concentrations that attain the composition of marmatite. Copper concentration in sphalerite is consistently higher in massive Cu-Zn (MCZ) ores, where it averages 0.48 wt.% (up to a maximum of 1.86 wt.%). However, Cu in sphalerite also reached elevated concentrations in the MC (up to 2.7 wt.%) and in the MP (up to 2.83 wt.%) ore types. In the low-temperature MZ and MZP ore types, the maximum Cu concentrations in sphalerite are lower, reaching up to 1.53 wt.% (average 0.21 wt.%) and 1.76 wt.% (average 0.22 wt.%), respectively. The notable maximum Cu contents in sphalerite grains from the different ore types result mostly from the presence of micro-inclusions of chalcopyrite within sphalerite, which occur either as fine-grained dispersed blebs, or as blebs oriented along the crystallographic directions of sphalerite (e.g. Fig. 3e,f).

The Sn contents in sphalerite from both the stockwork and massive sulfide ores mostly fall

below MDL (0.03 wt.%), particularly in the barren stockwork (FE) and in the massive Pb-rich (MP) ore types. In some cases, however, single sphalerite grains (>12% of the sphalerite analysed) in the Zn stockwork (FZ) and Cu stockwork (FC) ore types display detectable Sn (up to 0.10 wt.%, averaging 0.06 wt.% in FZ; up to 0.05 wt.%, averaging 0.05 wt.% in FC). In the massive sulfide ores, modest Sn contents in sphalerite are frequent in the MZP ore type. About 14% of the sphalerite grains in this type of ore show Sn contents above MDL, reaching up to 0.70 wt.%. In the MC ore, only 7% of the sphalerite grains analysed have Sn contents above MDL and, in these, their maximum Sn content reaches 0.62 wt.%. In the remaining ore types, sphalerite with Sn contents above MDL were only found in about 6% of the grains analysed. The highest Sn concentrations in sphalerite are thought to result from the presence of nano-, and/or small micro-inclusions of cassiterite, which are relatively common in the IPB massive sulfides (Marcoux *et al.*, 1998). However, despite very detailed petrographic inspection, we were not able to observe cassiterite inclusions in our sphalerite samples. In addition, or as an alternative to this possibility, these high Sn contents in sphalerite may correspond to intergrowths with mineral phases belonging to the sphalerite–stannite solid solution series. In fact, variably sized blebs ( $\leq 1\text{--}20\ \mu\text{m}$ ) or films of Sn-sulfosalts, such as stannite, kesterite, ferrokesterite, or intermediate phases, were observed, especially at contacts between sphalerite and the gangue minerals.

Cadmium concentrations in sphalerite grains are higher in the massive sulfide ores, and particularly in the MC ore type from the Lombador orebody. In the MC ore type, the Cd concentration reaches as much as 0.58 wt.%, whereas in the remaining ore types, Cd concentrations are consistently <0.30 wt.%.

Selenium contents above MDL were detected in ~5% of the sphalerite grains analysed. High Se contents in sphalerite were mostly found in sphalerite grains from the massive sulfide ores types, in particular in those from the MCZ ore type (up to 0.14 wt.%). Nevertheless, significant Se concentrations were also found in some single sphalerite grains from Zn-rich ore types (up to 0.12 wt.%). In the stockwork ores, Se-bearing sphalerite was only found in the FC ore type (up to 0.08 wt.%; average 0.05 wt.%).

Finally, In concentrations in sphalerite reach up to 4.30 wt.% (average 0.14 wt.%). Although the highest In concentration in sphalerite were measured locally in a sample from the massive Pb (MP)

ore from the Lombador orebody (4.30 wt.% In), sphalerite grains from the Cu-rich ores (FC, MC and MZC) consistently display higher In contents (up to 1.73 wt.%) than those in the remaining ore types. In fact, the In concentration in sphalerite correlates roughly with Cu (Fig. 8), in particular in the MCZ ore, but it shows no evident correlation with Fe, Sn or Cd (neither with other elements such as Bi, Ag, or As). Moreover, high-resolution SEM images coupled with semi-quantitative analysis have shown very small micro-inclusions of In-bearing minerals, such as roquesite and/or roquesite–sakuraiite intermediate phases, within chalcopyrite-diseased sphalerite grains. Although it was not possible to acquire high-contrast BSE images of these particular sphalerite grains, detailed microscopic inspection have shown oriented chalcopyrite blebs in these grains, associated with late chalcopyrite ( $\pm$ tetrahedrite) ribbons formed through remobilization and exsolution processes triggered by tectonic deformation.

#### *Chalcopyrite*

Chalcopyrite shows, in general, low concentrations (typically <0.15 wt.%) of most trace elements. Nevertheless, noticeable concentrations of Zn, Pb, Sn and In and, to a lesser extent, Se enable some discrimination between the different ore types (Table 10), as well as among the different generations of chalcopyrite. Concentrations of other trace elements in chalcopyrite are relatively uniform and usually very small (<0.1 wt.%) or <MDL. About 74% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed exhibit Zn concentrations above MDL, reaching up to 0.90 wt.% (average 0.12 wt.%). However, there is no obvious relationship between the Zn content of chalcopyrite (as well as that of Sn or In), and the different ore types. Chalcopyrite grains in the FZ and MZ ores display, on average, the largest Zn contents (0.23 and 0.26 wt.%, respectively), whereas in the remaining ore types, Zn concentration in chalcopyrite is usually <0.1 wt.%. Nevertheless, high zinc concentrations (up to 0.85 wt.%) were found in single chalcopyrite grains from the FC, MC and MCZ ores, indicating that higher formation temperatures would have favoured incorporation of ZnS into the chalcopyrite structure. Lead concentrations above MDL (0.09 wt.%) occur in ~12% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed, and reach up to 0.54 wt.% (average 0.13 wt.% Pb). Chalcopyrite from the FC ore type possesses, on average, the highest Pb contents (mean 0.25 wt.%; ranging from 0.09 to 0.54 wt.%),

TABLE 10. Average chemical composition of chalcopyrite for the different ore types from the Neves-Corvo deposit by means of EPMA.

<i>n</i>	Avg. Comp. 381	Stockwork ore				Massive sulfide ore						
		FE 25	FC 90	FZ 28	Avg. 143	MC 63	MCZ 108	MZ 19	MZP 20	MP 5	ME 18	Avg. 233
S	34.61	35.08	34.31	35.10	34.60	34.56	34.68	34.49	34.46	34.75	34.74	34.62
Fe	30.61	30.87	30.63	30.81	30.71	30.58	30.58	30.36	30.64	29.87	30.69	30.56
Cu	34.20	34.14	34.22	33.91	34.15	34.20	34.29	34.19	34.17	34.57	34.01	34.23
Zn	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.23	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.26	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.11
Pb	0.13	0.13	0.25	0.13	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.14	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.12
As	0.08	bdl	0.11	bdl	0.11	0.04	0.07	0.15	0.06	bdl	bdl	0.08
Ni	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.04	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Sb	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	bdl	0.04	0.02	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.03
Sn	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.16	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.08
Co	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	bdl	0.04	0.05
Mn	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Hg	0.20	bdl	bdl	0.37	0.37	0.09	0.10	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.09	0.10
Ag	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.04	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.04
Au	0.11	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.11	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.11
Bi	0.12	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.13	bdl	bdl	0.10	bdl	bdl	0.12
Ge	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	bdl	0.00	0.00
Se	0.06	0.04	0.06	bdl	0.05	0.05	0.07	bdl	0.04	bdl	0.06	0.06
In	0.07	bdl	0.02	bdl	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.10	0.09	0.07
Cd	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	bdl	0.04	bdl	0.04	0.04
Tl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Te	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Total	100.64	100.67	100.03	100.88	100.61	100.19	100.43	99.86	99.86	99.50	100.00	100.43

FC – copper stockwork ore; FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork ore; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; MP – massive lead ore; ME – barren massive ore; bdl – below detection limit.



whereas in the remaining ore types, Pb contents in chalcopyrite are generally <0.15 wt.%. Traces of Sn (0.03–0.44 wt.%, averaging 0.08 wt.%) in chalcopyrite grains are also relatively common, occurring above MDL in ~46% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed. Generally speaking, Sn concentrations in chalcopyrite grains are greater in the massive sulfide ores, particularly in the MZ ore type, where it can reach up to 0.41 wt.%, and occur in almost 95% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed. Tin contents in chalcopyrite from the MC and MCZ ore types reach up to 0.44 and 0.23 wt.%, respectively, and occur in ~60% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed. However, the higher Sn concentrations (the same for Zn and Pb) should reflect the presence of very fine-grained (<5 µm) blebs or films of stannite along the chalcopyrite grain boundaries. This is corroborated by the fact that >65% of the chalcopyrite grains that fill ribbons and display visible (under the microscope) stannite or stannite ± sphalerite blebs along grain boundaries, show Sn contents well above MDL. Traces of In above MDL (0.02 wt.%) and ranging up to 0.15 wt.% (average 0.07 wt.%) were found in ~30% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed, particularly in those from the massive Cu-rich ore types (MC and MCZ ore types; Fig. 9). In these ore types, In concentrations in chalcopyrite reach as much as 0.15 wt.%, and correlate roughly with Zn, particularly in the MCZ ore type. No correlation was seen between In and other major or trace elements in the different ore types, except for some chalcopyrite grains from the MZ ore, where In correlates positively with Sn (Fig. 9). Chalcopyrite from the MZ, MP ores and massive barren sulfides (ME) show In concentrations of up to 0.12 wt.% (averaging 0.06%, 0.10% and 0.09 wt.% In, respectively), whereas in the MZP ore type, In concentration in chalcopyrite grains is usually below MDL. As for sphalerite, the higher In concentrations measured in chalcopyrite grains from the MZ, MZP, MP and ME ore types were found in remobilized chalcopyrite grains that fill chalcopyrite ribbons and/or carbonate(-quartz) + chalcopyrite(±sphalerite, tetrahedrite, galena) veins and veinlets. This is particularly clear in the MP and ME ores, which show In concentrations between 0.05 and 0.12 wt.% (avg. 0.10 wt.%). Chalcopyrite in these ore types occurs almost exclusively as a late generation, resulting from tectonometamorphic remobilization. The high In concentrations found in these chalcopyrite grains result mostly from extremely fine-grained (<5 µm) blebs and films of roquesite and/or a roquesite-sakuraiite intermediate phase that fill

micro-fractures or occur along the grain boundaries (e.g. Fig. 4c).

Selenium concentrations in chalcopyrite grains mostly fall below MDL. Concentrations above MDL (0.04 wt.%) only occur in <10% of the grains analysed, where they reach up to 0.11 wt.% Se (average 0.07 wt.%). The chalcopyrite grains with higher Se contents were found in the cupriferous ore types (FC, MC, MCZ; Fig. 9), and, in particular, in the MCZ ore samples representative of the Zambujal orebody, which resulted mostly from secondary copper enrichment. There, Se concentrations above MDL were found in >60% of the chalcopyrite grains analysed, although no correlation is seen between Se and Cu. Measurable Se contents (0.06 wt.% on average) were also found in remobilized chalcopyrite grains occurring in the ME ore, which result from extremely fine-grained (<5 µm) inclusions of Se-bearing mineral phases such as galena, consistently with a positive correlation between Se and Pb in these crystals (Fig. 9).

#### *Stannite, kesterite, and ferrokesterite*

Stannite is the principal Cu-Sn-sulfide found in several of the studied ore types. It deviates from its ideal chemical formula ( $\text{Cu}_2\text{FeSnS}_4$ ) due to incorporation of significant amounts of zinc, ascribed to intergrowths with kesterite and/or ferrokesterite (Table 11). Zinc concentrations (1.56–4.27 wt.%, averaging 2.67 wt.%) tend to correlate with Fe, which ranges from 9.83 to 12.73 wt.% (averaging 11.38 wt.%). Fe/(Fe + Zn) ratios in stannite range between 0.75 and 0.90 (averaging 0.83), but show no obvious correlation with ore type. As a general tendency, lower Fe/(Fe + Zn) (<0.83) can be found in stannite grains from the MCZ and MZ ores, whereas higher Fe/(Fe + Zn) values (>0.83) are found in stannite grains from the MZP ores. Stannite grains from the massive barren sulfides display both low and high Fe/(Fe + Sn) values. The lack of an obvious Fe/(Fe + Zn) compositional trend that can be correlated with ore type again reflects the impact of tectonometamorphic overprinting. Copper concentrations in the stannite grains range between 27.25 and 30.07 wt.% (averaging 28.91 wt.%), whereas Sn concentrations range between 24.13 and 28.51 wt.% (averaging 26.79 wt.%). Stannite contains significant In concentrations (0.10–3.21 wt.%, averaging 0.99 wt.%), in particular in grains occurring in veinlets filled with remobilized stannite, either in massive Cu-rich ores, or within massive barren sulfides. On average, stannite

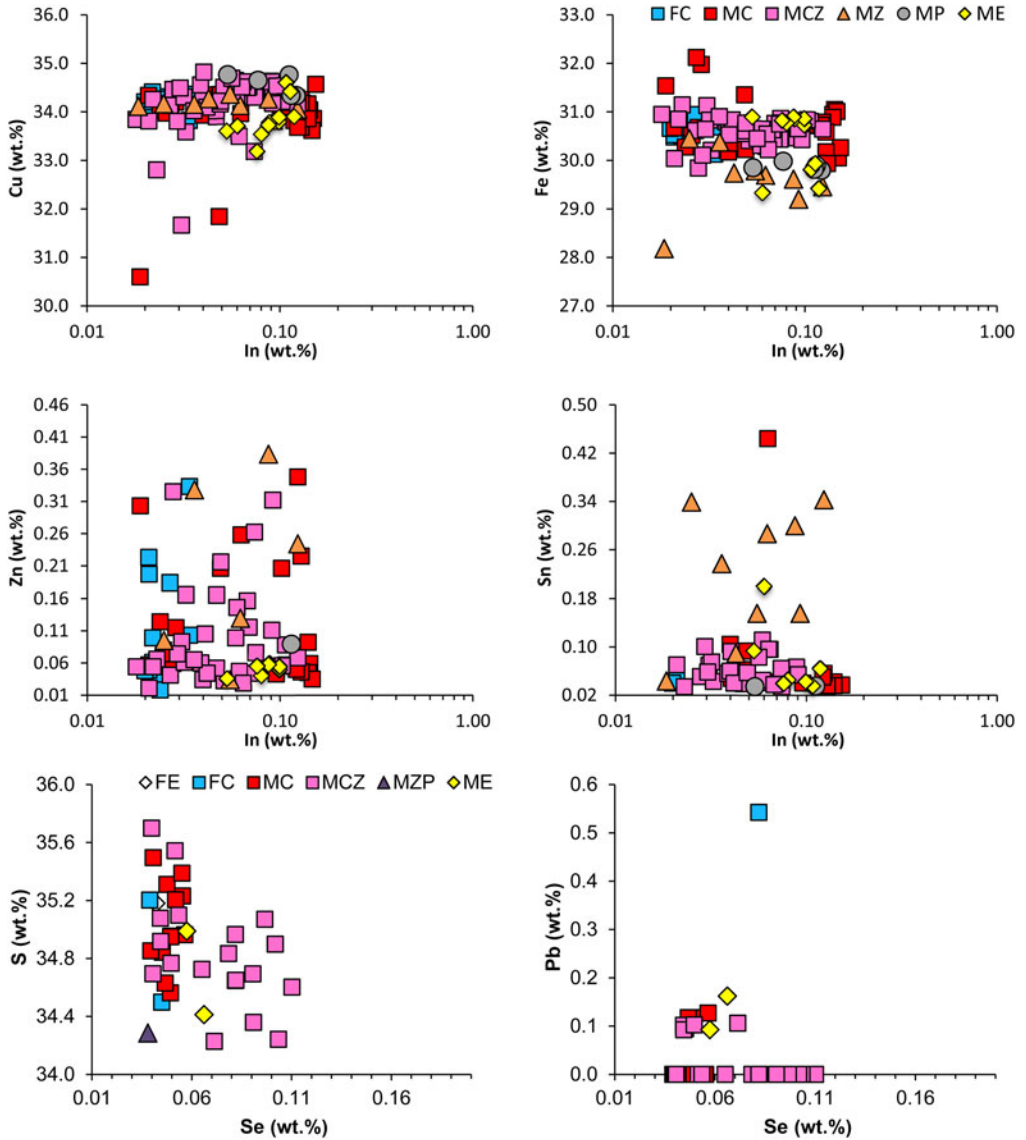


FIG. 9. Inter-elements plots for major and trace elements in chalcopyrite from the Neves-Corvo deposit. Abbreviations as in Table 10.

associated with late remobilization processes yields higher In concentrations (1.34 wt.%) than the ore-related generation of stannite (0.70 wt.% In). Concentrations of other trace elements are generally <0.1 wt.%, although detectable Ag (up to 0.25 wt. %), Hg (up to 0.18 wt.%) and Se (up to 0.17 wt.%) can also be found in single stannite grains occurring in remobilized stannite veinlets. Indium in stannite correlates roughly with Sn, Cu, Fe and Zn (Fig. 10),

which is consistent with the substitution mechanism proposed for stannite group minerals (e.g. Cook *et al.*, 2009). Similar behaviour occurs in ferrokesterite and kesterite.

In ferrokesterite, Cu (up to 30.07 wt.%), Sn (up to 28.25 wt.%), Zn (up to 6.96 wt.%) and Fe (up to 10.12 wt.%) concentrations are relatively uniform among the various ore types. Ratios of (Total Fe)/(Fe + Zn) range between 0.60 and 0.70, and, as for

TABLE 11. Average chemical composition of stannite, ferrokesterite and kesterite for the different ore types from the Neves-Corvo deposit by means of EPMA.

n	Stannite					Ferrokesterite					Kesterite		
	Avg. Comp. 44	Massive sulfide ore				Avg. Comp. 19	Massive sulfide ore			Avg. Comp. 13	M. sulfide ore		
		MC 1	MCZ 13	MZ 8	MZP 2		ME 20	MCZ 13	MZ 5		MZP 1	MCZ 7	MZ 6
S	29.22	29.11	29.27	29.24	29.50	29.16	29.00	29.10	28.87	28.34	28.95	28.84	29.08
Fe	11.38	11.54	10.95	10.98	12.22	11.72	9.64	9.71	9.55	9.10	5.06	5.37	4.69
Cu	28.91	29.25	28.41	28.85	29.44	29.19	29.25	29.48	28.76	28.64	29.34	29.47	29.20
Zn	2.67	2.46	2.95	2.95	1.73	2.48	5.63	5.60	5.83	5.02	10.67	11.00	10.29
Pb	0.12	bdl	0.12	bdl	0.10	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.11	bdl	0.11
As	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.08	bdl	0.08
Sb	0.12	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.12	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Sn	26.79	25.97	26.67	27.34	27.86	26.59	27.16	27.09	27.12	28.25	26.83	26.94	26.69
Co	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	bdl	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	bdl	0.02	0.02	bdl
Mn	0.01	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.01	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Hg	0.13	bdl	0.12	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.19	0.16	0.20	0.25	0.13	bdl	0.13
Ag	0.12	bdl	bdl	0.03	bdl	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl
Ge	0.00	bdl	0.00	0.00	bdl	0.00	bdl	bdl	0.00	0.00	bdl	bdl	bdl
Se	0.11	0.07	0.13	bdl	bdl	0.06	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.15	bdl	0.15
In	0.99	1.47	1.30	0.50	0.15	1.05	0.20	0.21	0.19	0.06	0.11	0.14	0.07
Cd	0.05	bdl	bdl	0.05	bdl	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.12	0.06	bdl	0.06
Total	100.65	99.87	99.95	100.09	101.13	100.72	101.19	101.47	100.67	99.78	101.51	101.78	100.55

MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; ME – barren massive ore; bdl – below detection limit.

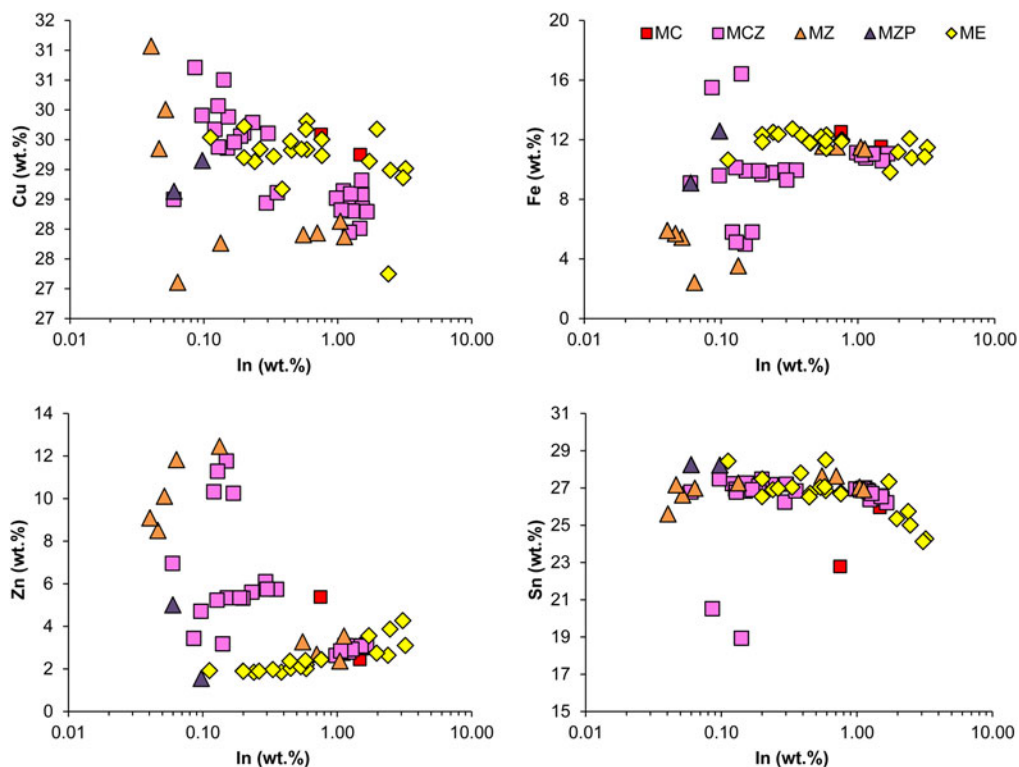


FIG. 10. Inter-elements plots for major and trace elements in stannite from the Neves-Corvo deposit. Abbreviations as in Table 11.

stannite, there is no obvious relationship between these ratios and ore type. Measurable In concentrations (up to 0.35 wt.%, averaging 0.20 wt.%) were found in all ferrokesterite grains analysed, but the highest In content was measured in a ferrokesterite grain from the MZ ore at the Lombador orebody. Concentrations of other trace elements are generally low (<0.1 wt.%), or <MDL.

Finally, the kesterite crystals found in the MCZ and MZ ores show concentrations of Fe (2.42–5.91 wt.%, averaging 5.06 wt.%) and Zn (8.51 and 12.46 wt.%, averaging 10.67 wt.%) that are in excess relative to the ideal chemical formula of kesterite ( $\text{Cu}_2\text{ZnSnS}_4$ ). This is probably a consequence of intimate intergrowths with stannite. The Fe/(Fe + Zn) ratios in kesterite range from 0.19 to 0.44 (averaging 0.36), but there is no obvious relationship between composition and ore type. The Cu and Sn concentrations reach up to 31.07 wt.% (averaging 29.34 wt.% Cu) and 27.27 wt.% (averaging 26.83 wt.% Sn), respectively. Indium concentrations of up to 0.17 wt.% (averaging 0.11 wt.% In) were measured in over 90% of the

kesterite grains analysed. As for stannite and ferroskesterite, concentrations of other trace elements are generally low (<0.1 wt.%), or below MDL.

#### *Roquesite and sakuraiite–roquesite intermediate phase*

Roquesite is a relatively rare ore component, occurring mainly as sub-microscopic, anhedral to subhedral grains (<10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in the MC and MCZ ore types, in particular in those depicting secondary copper enrichment, either in close dependence of the chalcopyrite grain boundaries, or within sphalerite grains with chalcopyrite disease (Fig. 11). Roquesite crystals were also found locally in some ME ore samples associated with variable proportions of stannite-chalcopyrite-tetrahedrite-sphalerite that interstitially fill spaces between fractured and recrystallized pyrite and arsenopyrite crystals. The possible occurrence of an early, primary generation of roquesite cannot be precluded. However, most, if not all, roquesite crystals observed probably formed in response to a late episode of chemical reequilibration and

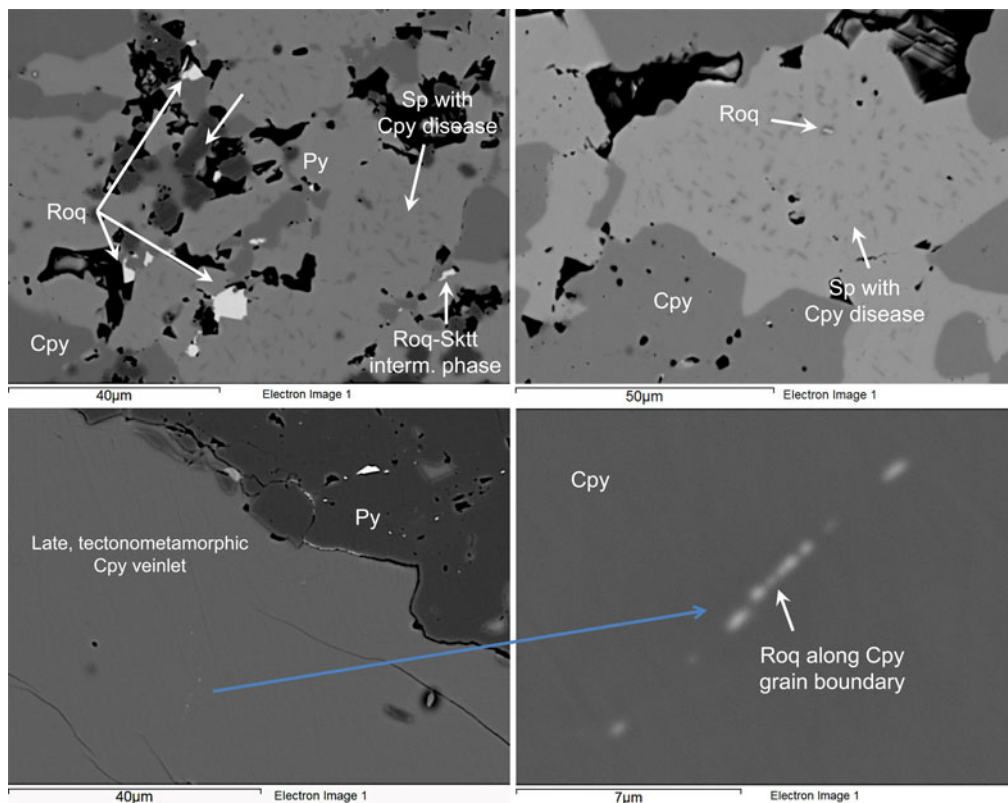


FIG. 11. High-resolution SEM-BSE images depicting the occurrence of roquesite (Roq) and the roquesite–sakuraiite (Roq-Skt) intermediate phase associated with replacement (upper images) and late tectonometamorphic remobilization and reprecipitation along chalcopyrite (Cpy) grain boundaries (lower images).

homogenization. Outward migration of In accounted for crystallization of mineral inclusions and/or segregations towards the grain boundaries of recrystallized sulfides, such as chalcopyrite, sphalerite, stannite and pyrite. Roquesite is essentially stoichiometric, although detectable amounts of Fe (up to 1.82 wt.%, averaging 1.56 wt.% Fe), zinc (up to 1.07 wt.%, averaging 0.71 wt.% Zn), and, to a lesser extent, Se (0.17 wt.%) were found (Table 12).

The roquesite–sakuraiite intermediate phase was mostly found in the MCZ ore samples that show prominent tectonometamorphic copper enrichment. As roquesite, this phase also occurs in the dependence of the chalcopyrite grain boundaries, or within sphalerite grains with chalcopyrite disease (Fig. 11). The SEM-EDS semi-quantitative data indicate a widely variable range of Cu, Fe, Zn and In contents that may result either from incomplete segregation between roquesite and sakuraiite, or mixed analyses due to the small size

of these inclusions. The In content ranges between 17.28 and 34.22 wt.%, and the higher abundances occur in the MCZ ore samples.

### Galena

Similarly to sphalerite and chalcopyrite, galena is essentially stoichiometric throughout the different ore types studied and generations identified. Notwithstanding, some analyses of galena have shown fairly reasonable concentrations of trace elements such as Fe, Cu and Bi, and significant Se (Table 13). Selenium substitutes for sulfur in the structure of galena, in particular in the Cu-rich ore types (Fig. 12). The highest Se concentrations measured in galena (up to 15.6 wt.%) were found in the cupriferous ore types (FC, MC and MCZ). In these ore types >70% of the galena grains analysed contain Se concentrations above MDL, as is the case for a high-grade (>35 wt.% Cu) MC ore lens

TABLE 12. Representative EPMA and SEM-EDS analysis of roquesite and the roquesite–sakuraiite intermediate phase for the different ore types from the Neves-Corvo deposit.

	EPMA			SEM-EDS										
	Roquesite			Roquesite					Roquesite–sakuraiite					
	ME			MC					MCZ					
				Spectrum	1	2	3	4	5	MC 6	7	8	9	10
S	26.29	26.05	29.18	S	23.53	23.46	23.21	24.85	23.39	26.98	28.30	29.66	24.88	26.98
Fe	1.44	1.43	1.82	Fe	0.65	1.07	0.94	1.92	1.48	11.45	10.72	10.96	2.47	4.02
Cu	26.18	26.15	26.21	Cu	29.7	29.25	29.95	28.58	28.82	30.57	26.80	26.1	24.67	24.88
Zn	0.52	0.55	1.07	Zn	1.91	3.16	1.79	5.43	4.54	9.79	16.95	14.1	13.75	11.95
Sb	bdl	bdl	0.32	In	43.85	42.36	42.31	39.21	41.77	21.21	17.28	19.28	34.22	32.2
Sn	0.24	0.35	bdl	Ag	0.6	0.71	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Co	0.02	bdl	0.01											
Se	bdl	bdl	0.17											
In	46.69	46.40	40.84											
Cd	bdl	bdl	0.04											
Total	101.37	100.92	99.67	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; ME – barren massive ore; bdl – below detection limit; ‘–’ not detected.

TABLE 13. Average chemical composition of galena for the different ore types from the Neves-Corvo deposit.

<i>n</i>	Avg. Comp. 120	Stockwork ore				Massive sulfide ore					
		FE 6	FC 20	FZ 4	Avg. 30	MC 26	MCZ 25	MZ 8	MZP 26	MP 5	Avg. 90
S	12.94	12.72	12.69	13.57	12.81	10.77	12.83	13.54	13.10	13.13	12.39
Fe	0.30	0.10	0.30	0.04	0.24	0.54	0.38	0.31	0.33	bdl	0.41
Cu	0.22	bdl	0.06	bdl	0.06	0.37	0.29	bdl	0.33	0.04	0.33
Zn	0.16	0.33	0.19	0.44	0.26	0.13	0.19	0.48	0.20	0.02	0.20
Pb	85.13	85.18	84.79	85.28	84.93	82.75	84.76	84.77	85.34	85.66	84.40
As	0.22	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.22	0.27	0.25	0.65	0.30
Ni	0.05	0.05	bdl	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.03	bdl	0.10	bdl	0.05
Sb	0.06	0.05	bdl	0.05	0.05	bdl	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06
Sn	0.06	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.06	bdl	0.06
Co	0.01	0.02	0.01	bdl	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	bdl	0.02
Mn	0.03	0.03	bdl	0.01	0.02	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.07	0.01	0.06
Hg	0.17	0.26	bdl	bdl	0.26	bdl	bdl	0.11	0.40	bdl	0.31
Ag	0.14	0.11	0.40	bdl	0.27	0.26	0.17	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.17
Bi	0.62	bdl	0.11	bdl	0.11	0.69	0.57	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.65
Ge	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Se	1.00	0.46	2.09	bdl	1.52	6.32	1.49	bdl	0.14	bdl	3.35
In	0.02	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	bdl	0.02	0.02
Cd	0.07	0.08	bdl	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.08
Total	101.20	99.41	100.66	99.52	100.67	101.98	101.09	99.71	100.57	99.76	102.87

FC – copper stockwork ore; FE – barren stockwork; FZ – zinc stockwork ore; MC – massive copper ore; MCZ – massive copper-zinc ore; MZ – massive zinc ore; MZP – massive zinc-lead ore; ME – barren massive ore; bdl – below detection limit.

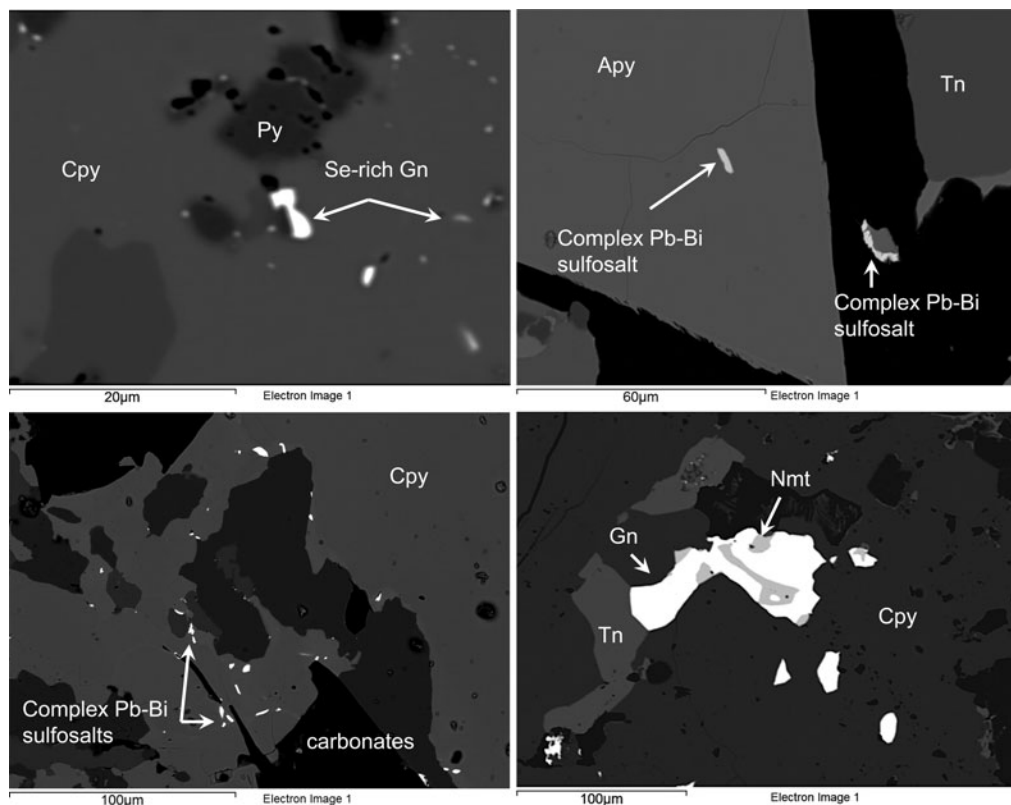


FIG. 12. High-resolution SEM-BSE images depicting the occurrence of Se-rich galena (Gn) inclusion in chalcopyrite (Cpy), complex Pb–Bi and Bi–Se sulfosalts in arsenopyrite (Apy) and tennantite (Tn), and the occurrence of naumanite (Nmt) associated with galena.

discovered recently and exploited at the central-west sector of the Lombador orebody. In the copper stockwork ore (FC), 55% of the galena grains analysed yielded Se concentrations above MDL, the maximum value being 3.8 wt.%, whereas in the MCZ ore samples Se concentrations in galena reached up to 4.9 wt.% Se, in particular in the Zambujal orebody. In the remaining ore types studied, Se concentrations in galena mostly fall below MDL. Detectable Se concentrations were only occasionally measured in galena grains from the MZP ore (up to 0.31 wt.%) and from the barren stockwork mineralization (FE; up to 0.47 wt.%).

Iron, copper and zinc are relatively common trace elements in galena. On average, the Fe concentration found in galena grains is 0.30 wt.%, whereas average Cu and Zn contents are 0.22 and 0.16 wt.%, respectively. The maximum concentrations of these elements in galena grains reached up to 0.98 wt.% Fe, 0.80 wt.% Cu and 0.78 wt.% Zn.

Detectable As (up to 0.68 wt.%, averaging 0.22 wt.%) was measured in 10% of the galena grains analysed. This is particularly true in the MCZ and MZP ore types, and is thought to result from very fine-grained arsenopyrite inclusions in the galena grains. Bismuth concentrations (up to 1.13 wt.%, averaging 0.62%) were only found in galena grains from high-temperature cupriferous ores, in particular in the MC ore samples. Concentrations of other trace elements in galena are relatively uniform and either very low (<0.1 wt.%), or below MDL.

Indium contents barely above MDL (0.02 wt.%) were found only once in a grain of galena associated with remobilized chalcopyrite ( $\pm$ tetrahedrite) in a MP ore sample. Again, extremely fine-grained (<5  $\mu$ m) blebs and/or films of roquesite and/or roquesite–sakuraiite intermediate phases along the crystallographic directions of galena explain this anomalous result.



*Complex Pb–Bi and Bi–Se sulfosalts*

Microprobe analyses performed on Se-bearing Pb–Bi sulfosalts enabled identification of several species, including gustavite, cosalite, possible junoitte, cannizzarite and wittite, and a number of other, unnamed Pb–Bi and Bi–Se intermediate phases (Supplementary Table S1, see below). Most of these minerals were found in FC ore samples, and occur as fine-grained intergrowths of leafy-shaped crystals associated with tetrahedrite, either in mineralized veins and veinlets, or associated with tectonically-enriched MCZ ores (in particular from the Zambujal orebody). The latter occur as fine-grained ( $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ) blebs close to the grain boundaries of annealed chalcopyrite, within tetrahedrite, or underlining the contact between chalcopyrite-tetrahedrite, and chalcopyrite-tetrahedrite-sphalerite (Fig. 12).

The chemical composition of gustavite deviates slightly from its ideal formula ( $\text{PbAgBi}_3\text{S}_6$ ) due to a small depletion in Pb (16.26 wt.%), coupled with relative enrichment in Fe (0.54 wt.%), Cu (0.50 wt.%), As (0.48 wt.%) and Sb (1.86 wt.%), which suggests the presence of fine-intergrowths of tetrahedrite and/or other mineral phases. Despite the depletion in lead, the Pb/Bi ratio (0.31) and Ag contents measured (8.17 wt.%) are within the compositional range reported for gustavite. The Se concentration measured is 0.15 wt.%.

Probable junoitte shows noticeable concentrations of trace elements such as Ag (up to 1.36 wt.%, averaging 0.52 wt.%), Sb (up to 0.89 wt.%, averaging 0.87 wt.%) and Fe (up to 0.21 wt.%, averaging 0.14 wt.%). This trace-element content deviates from the junoitte ideal composition ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{Cu}_2\text{Bi}_8(\text{Se},\text{S})_{16}$ ) and may reflect fine intergrowths with tetrahedrite. Nevertheless, the calculated Pb/Bi ratios obtained (0.31–0.38) are within the compositional range reported for junoitte (Large and Mumme, 1975; Anthony *et al.*, 2003). The Pb and Cu concentrations are relatively uniform, ranging from 18.01 to 19.46 wt.% (averaging 18.55 wt.% Pb) and from 2.85 to 3.35 wt.% (averaging 3.11 wt.% Cu), respectively, whereas Bi concentrations are more variable (50.79–58.50 wt.%, averaging 53.52 wt.%). Selenium concentrations are equally variable, and range from 4.77 to 9.79 wt.% (averaging 7.33 wt.%). Concentrations of other trace elements are usually small ( $<0.1$  wt.%) or below MDL.

The cannizzarite-like phase shows fairly significant concentrations of Cu (up to 1.44 wt.%, averaging 0.83 wt.%), Ag (up to 1.76 wt.%, averaging 1.10 wt.%), Sb (up to 0.78 wt.%, averaging 0.47 wt.%), Fe (up to 0.40 wt.%, averaging 0.23 wt.%) and Zn (up to 0.15 wt.%,

averaging 0.10 wt.%). This trace-elements content represents a shift relative to the ideal composition of cannizzarite ( $\text{Pb}_{46}\text{Bi}_{54}\text{S}_{127}$ ; Anthony *et al.*, 2003). Again, this suggests the presence of fine-grained intergrowths of tetrahedrite. Nevertheless, measured Pb (33.98–36.12 wt.%, averaging 35.01 wt.%) and Bi (43.01–44.42 wt.%, averaging 43.70 wt.%), as well as calculated Pb/Bi ratios (0.78–0.85) are within the compositional range for cannizzarite (*cf.* Mozgova *et al.*, 1985; Borodaev *et al.*, 2000; Anthony *et al.*, 2003). Selenium concentrations are equally variable, ranging from 1.61 to 3.95 wt.% (averaging 2.65 wt.%). Concentrations of other trace elements are generally low ( $<0.1$  wt.%), or below the minimum limits of detection.

A complex Pb–Bi-sulfide with a composition close to wittite was analysed. It shows significant Cu, Ag and Sb contents that deviate from the ideal composition of wittite [ $\text{Pb}_3\text{Bi}_4(\text{SeS}_6)$ ; Supplementary Table S1]. Nevertheless, the Pb, Bi and Se concentrations, as well as its Pb/Bi ratio (0.73) are within the compositional range admitted for wittite (*cf.* Mozgova *et al.*, 1992; Anthony *et al.*, 2003).

Other Se-bearing Pb–Bi mineral phases analysed seem to correspond with intermediate compositions characterized by relatively uniform Bi and S concentrations, and widely variable contents of Pb, Cu, Sb, Ag and Se (1.04–4.44 wt.%; Supplementary Table S1). Concentrations of other trace elements are generally low ( $<0.1$  wt.%) or below MDL, and the Pb/Bi ratios for these phases range between 0.75 and 0.87. Some analyses may correspond to nuffieldite with a chemical formula close to  $\text{Cu}_4\text{Pb}_{11}\text{Bi}_{16}\text{S}_{37}$  as reported by Marcoux *et al.* (1996) for several IPB deposits.

Semi-quantitative SEM-EDS analyses of unknown Pb–Bi and Bi–Se phases found in MCZ ore samples gave very high Se concentrations (16.11–21.54 wt.%, and 15.73–18.68 wt.%, respectively; Supplementary Table S2).

## Discussion and conclusions

This study has shown that, as in many other deposits (e.g. Auclair and Fouquet, 1987; Huston *et al.*, 1995b; Hannington *et al.*, 1999; Schwarz-Shampera, 2000; Layton-Matthews *et al.*, 2013), In and Se are mainly associated with Cu-rich ores in the Neves-Corvo deposit, which is consistent with joint transport and co-precipitation of In and Se from high-temperature, acidic, reduced, saline and Cu-rich ore fluids (*cf.* Relvas *et al.*, 2006a,b; Huston *et al.*,

2011). Sphalerite and chalcopyrite are the most important In carriers at Neves-Corvo deposit, their relative importance being a function of the ore types considered. Selenium is accommodated preferentially by galena, although arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite and pyrite also constitute significant Se carriers given their larger abundance in the deposit.

In the Cu-rich ores, In partitioning between coexisting sphalerite and chalcopyrite is asymmetrical. Indium concentration in sphalerite is, on average, two to three times higher than in coexisting chalcopyrite, particularly in the MCZ ores where these two ore sulfides are both very abundant. In this ore type, when stannite co-exists with chalcopyrite and sphalerite, In concentrations are about nine times higher in stannite than in sphalerite, and 23 times higher in stannite than in chalcopyrite. In the MC ore samples, the partition coefficients are slightly lower, but these tendencies remain. Although the In concentrations in the ore sulfides from the Zn-rich ores are significantly lower, the overall partitioning behaviour described above is still maintained. However, tectonometamorphic In enrichments, which can reach 500% locally, distort the described partitioning between coexisting ore minerals.

Regarding Se, its partition coefficient in galena is extremely high, in particular in the richer MC ores (>35 wt.% Cu). In this type of ore, Se concentrations can be almost 130 times higher in galena than in chalcopyrite, 87 times higher in galena than in pyrite and 27 times higher in galena than in arsenopyrite. In the FC ore, Se concentration is up to 33 times higher in galena than in chalcopyrite and pyrite, whereas in the MCZ ore, Se concentration is up to 21 times higher in galena than in chalcopyrite and sphalerite. In the MZP ore type, Se concentrations are roughly three times higher in galena than in coexisting sphalerite.

Although roquesite, naumannite and complex Pb–Bi sulfo- and selenosalts constitute the more In- and Se-rich ore phases found, their overall low abundance and small size imply that these do not represent important In- and Se-carriers at the deposit scale. Given the large abundance of chalcopyrite in the deposit, its comparatively low but fairly constant In content, together with the occurrence of micro- and, probably, nano-inclusions of roquesite and/or roquesite–sakuraiite intermediate phases along borders of its recrystallized grains, chalcopyrite is probably the most important In carrier at the deposit scale, despite the fact that its In content is less than that of coexisting sphalerite in the Cu–Zn massive ores (MCZ).

The average In concentrations reported for chalcopyrite and sphalerite from the copper concentrate (417 and 611 ppm, respectively), and from the zinc concentrate (560 and 246 ppm, respectively) produced at the Neves-Corvo mine (Frenzel *et al.*, 2015) are quite consistent with the conclusions of this study. The sphalerite present in the copper concentrate of Neves-Corvo comes mostly from the MCZ type of ore, where the In concentration in sphalerite has been shown to be maximal. Conversely, in the Zn-rich ore types, which are the main sources of sphalerite for the zinc concentrate at Neves-Corvo, sphalerite has very low In contents, whereas the chalcopyrite present there is mainly the result of tectonometamorphic copper remobilization, which, as shown, represents a major mechanism of In enrichment.

In conclusion, the various types of Cu-rich ores (MCZ, MC and FC) constitute the main sources of In in the deposit, and therefore the copper concentrate represents an industrial product that could (and should) be valorized for this critical by-product. The MCZ ores, in particular, combine in a favourable way two of the main factors controlling the In distribution in the deposit: favourable sourcing (In–Cu metallogenetic affinity), and favourable mineral allocation (In–sphalerite crystallochemical affinity). In addition to this, some zinc-rich ores could possibly also represent important In resources, especially in tectonically deformed settings. There, sphalerite shows fairly reasonable and constant In abundances, in particular in zones where the Cu grade was enhanced by tectonometamorphic remobilization, which favoured significant In enrichment. This means that there is also potential for the recovery of In from an ‘In-enriched’ zinc concentrate provided that it could be produced selectively either from ores exploited in MCZ ore zones, or from Zn-rich ores exploited from particularly deformed settings within the deposit.

## Acknowledgements

The work of JRSC was supported by a PhD scholarship from Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT; SFRH/BD/74047/2010). The study is a contribution to ZHINC research project (PTDC/CTE-GIX/114208/2009), and was also supported by FCT project UID/GEO/50019/2013 – IDL. Thorough reviews by Fernando Tornos and an anonymous reviewer, and comments, insightful suggestions and encouragement by the editors, John Bowles and Nigel Cook, contributed significantly to improving the quality of the manuscript, and are

greatly appreciated and acknowledged. The authors affiliated with Somincor-Lundin Mining wish to thank the Administration Board for permission to publish this paper. Steve Scott, Yanan Liu, Duane Smythe, George Kretschmann from the University of Toronto, and Filipa Marques from the University of Bergen are acknowledged for their various contributions.

## Supplementary material

To view supplementary material for this article, please visit <https://doi.org/10.1180/minmag.2017.081.079>

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