

Clay Minerals, Alteration & Terry's pH-Temperature Table

**Kaylene Camuti
Lantana Exploration Pty Ltd**

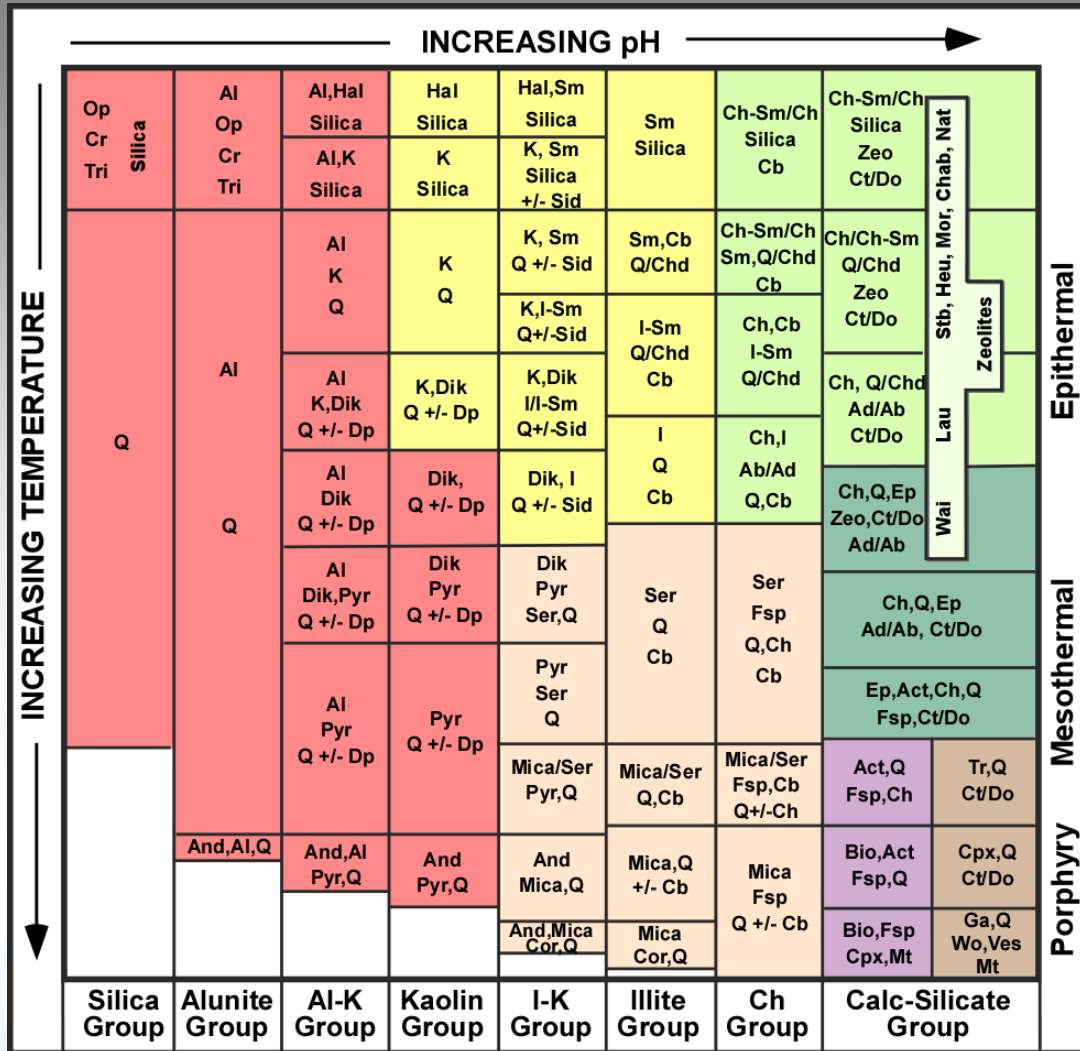
**Additional data provided by:
Greg Corbett - Corbett Geological Services
Jane Harvey, Juli Hugenholtz & Doug Young - ActivEX Limited**

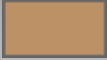



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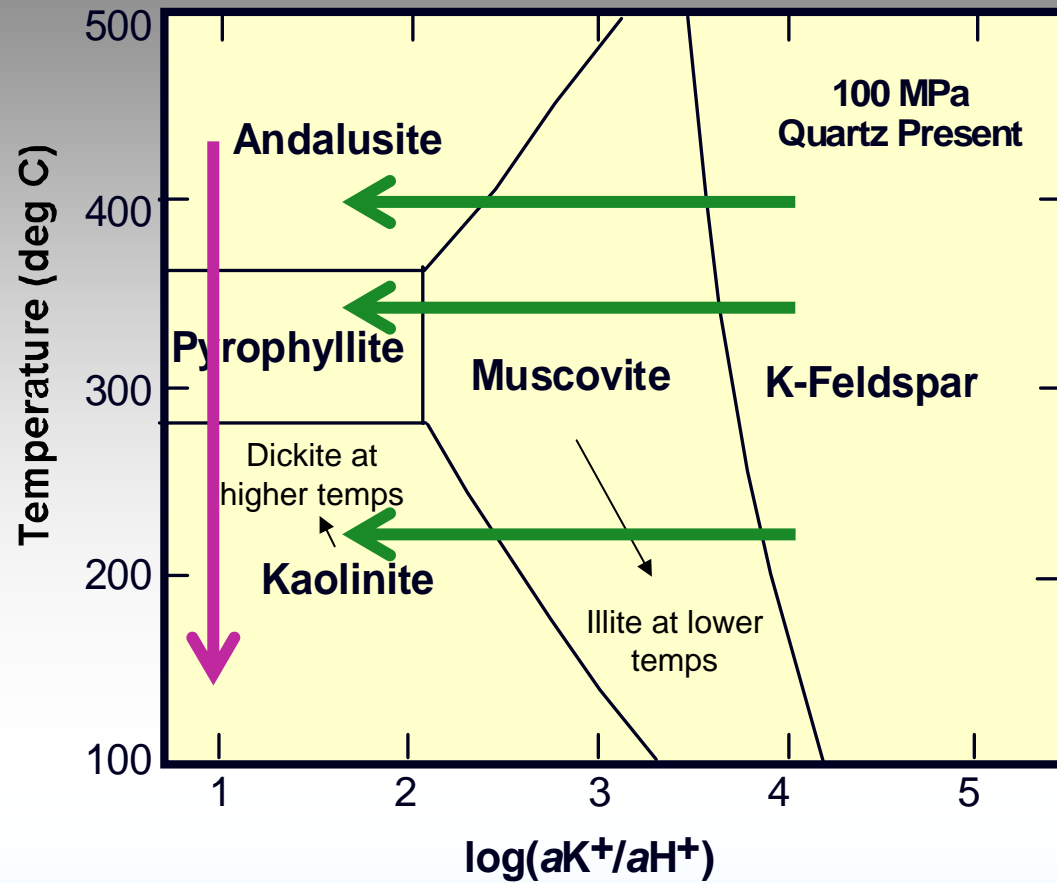
Common Alteration Mineralogy in Hydrothermal Systems



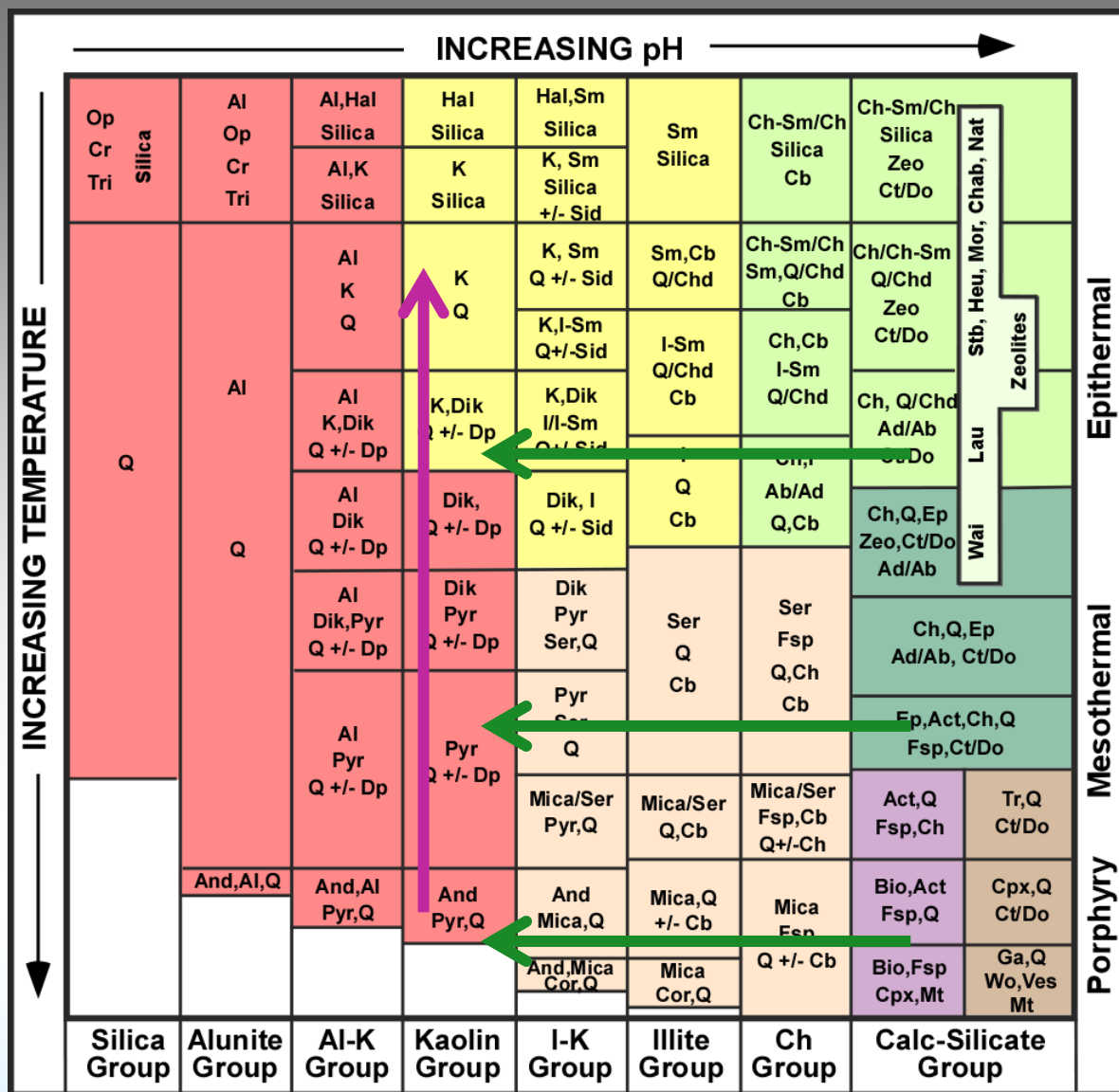
-  Skarn
-  Potassic
-  Propylitic
-  Outer Propylitic
-  Phyllic
-  Argillic
-  Advanced Argillic

Terry Leach 1995

Temperature - K activity Diagram



(from Inoue, 1995, after Sverjensky et al., 1991)



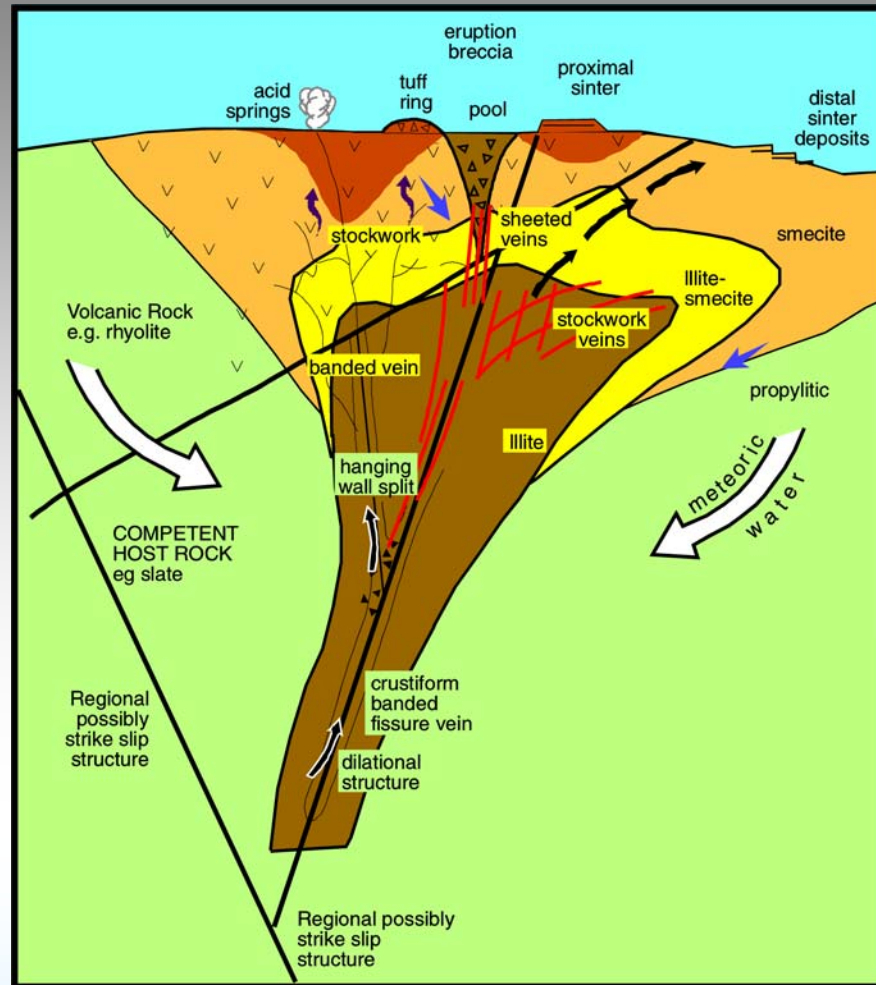
Outline

- Why identify alteration minerals & assemblages?
- Characteristics of alteration minerals & assemblages illustrated in the pH-temperature table
- Using the table to interpret alteration minerals.

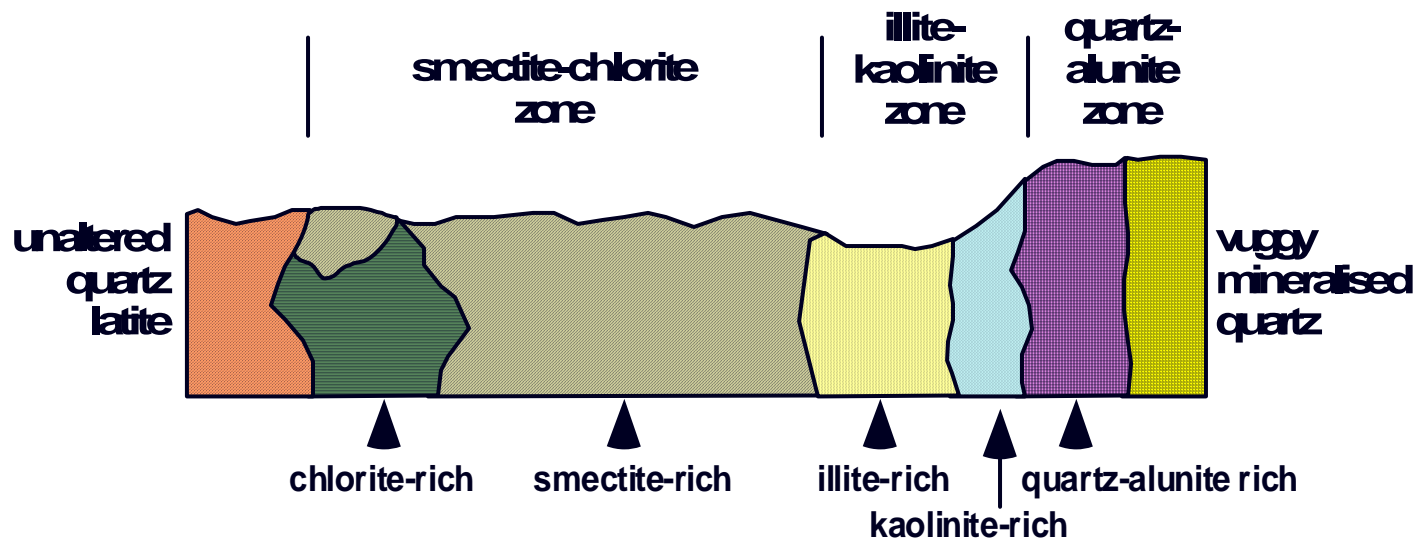
Why identify alteration minerals?

- The chemistry and structure of alteration minerals are a response to their conditions of formation – so the minerals and mineral assemblages provide information on hydrothermal conditions.
- The minerals typically occur in zones that reflect changing conditions of formation.
- The recognition of alteration mineral zoning can help identify hydrothermal fluid channelways and may provide vectors to mineralisation.

Low Sulphidation Systems



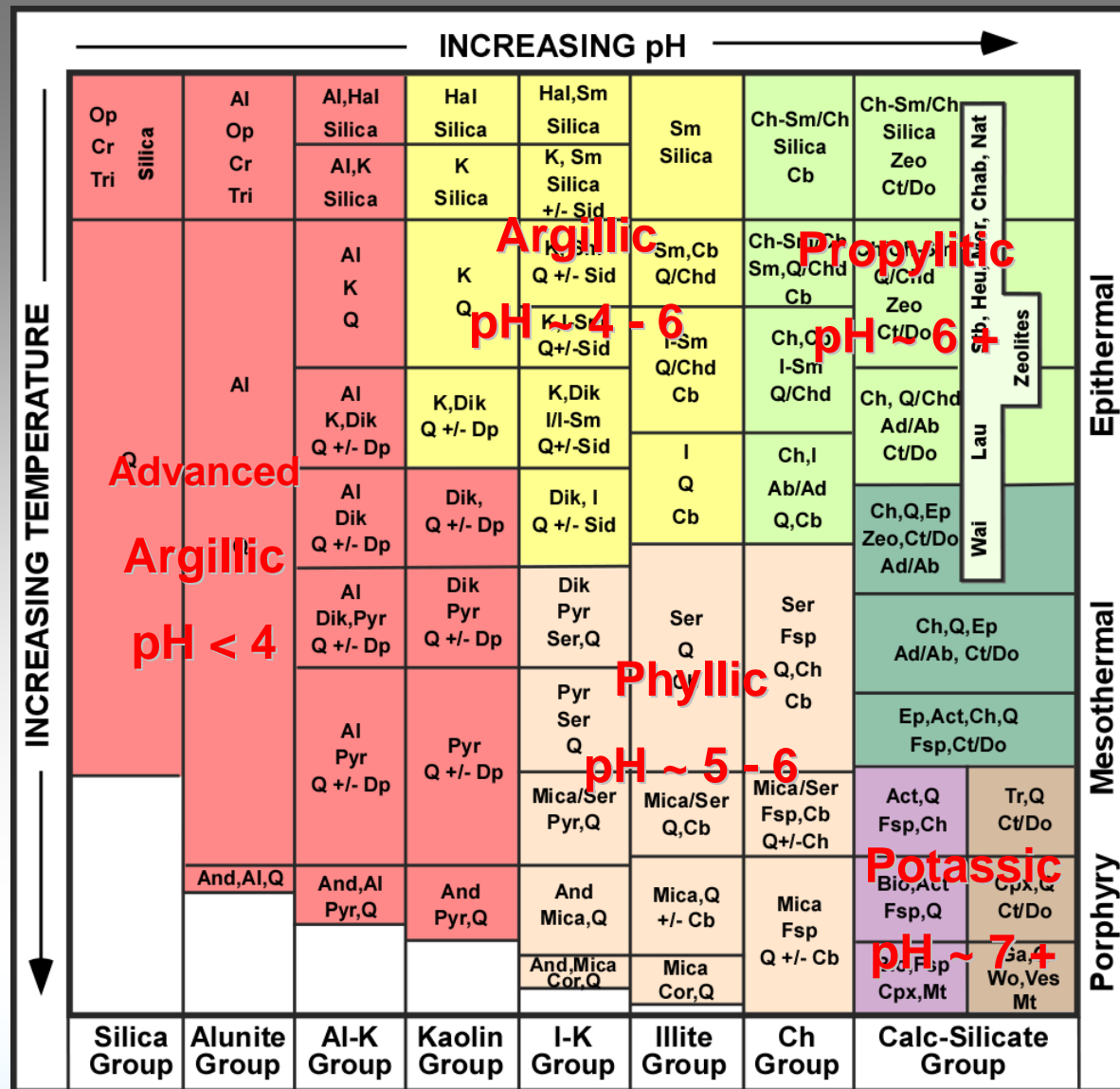
High Sulphidation Alteration - Summitville



(adapted from Steven & Ratte, 1960, in Hayba et al., 1985)

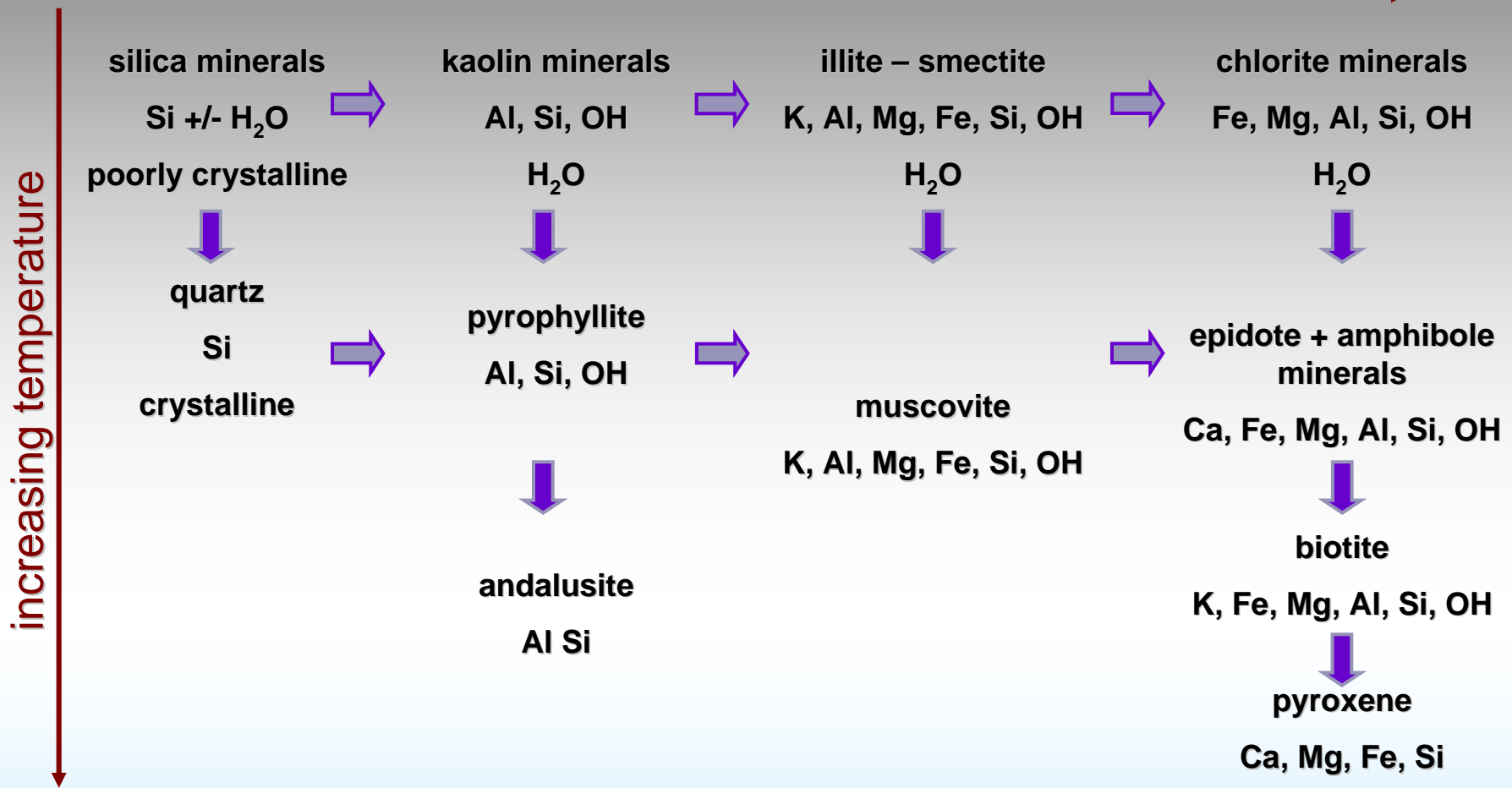
Characteristic Alteration Minerals & Assemblages

- Some alteration minerals or alteration assemblages are characteristic of particular temperature & fluid pH conditions.
- The pH – temperature table has been subdivided into alteration types with diagnostic mineral assemblages.



Silicate Alteration Minerals - characteristics

increasing fluid pH →



Using the table to interpret alteration assemblages in mineral exploration

XRD Summary Results – HS System - table

Minerals	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pyrophyllite		major-dom	major				
Kaolin Group	weak trace ?	trace	minor				trace
Illite	major	major	weak trace?	major	trace-minor?		major
Hydrated Illite	major						major
ML Illite-Smect				major	dom		
Chlorite				major			
Alunite Group		trace?	minor-(major)				
Quartz	dom	major-dom	dom	dom	trace – minor	major	dom
Pyrite	minor	minor	trace	minor	minor		minor-major
Tourmaline	minor						
Rutile	trace?				trace		
Feldspars	trace?	trace?		trace - minor			trace?
Diaspore		minor					

PIMA – list of alteration minerals

Sample ID	Sample Type	Description	Mineral 1	Mineral 2	Mineral 3
DB001A	Outcrop	Fine gr'd porphyry? pale brown alteration	Kaolinite	Dickite	
DB001B	Outcrop	Fine-gr'd porphyry? very pale alteration, sparse hematite microfractures	Dickite	Kaolinite	
DB003A	Outcrop	Very pale clay altered	Dickite	Kaolinite	
DB003B	Outcrop	Very pale clay altered	Dickite	Kaolinite	Topaz
DB003C	Outcrop	Very pale, clay altered	Dickite	Kaolinite	(trace Topaz)
DB004A	Outcrop	Pink porphyry, sericite altered	Sericite	Kaolinite	
DB004C	Outcrop	Pink porphyry, sericite altered	Sericite	Kaolinite	
DB005A	Outcrop	Felspar Porphyry, east of silica zone, pink with sericite	Sericite	Kaolinite	
DB005B	Outcrop	Felspar Porphyry, east of silica zone, pink with sericite	Sericite		
DB006A	Quarry	Very fine-gr'd porphyry, pink	Sericite	Kaolinite	
DB006B	Quarry	Pale clay altd volcanic(?) with local ferruginous stain	Kaolinite	(trace Sericite)	
DB006C	Quarry	Pale green altd fragmental(?) volcanic	Sericite	Kaolinite	
BM1001D	Outcrop	Silicified Qtz porphyry? Pinky-grey with diss hematite spots	Kaolinite	Pyrophyllite	Topaz
BM1001E	Outcrop	Qtz Porphyry? Very red, fine-grained siliceous	Alunite	Kaolinite	
BM1002A	Outcrop	Fine-gr'd Porphyry? Red alteration (Fine-grained, hard)	Kaolinite	Alunite	Pyrophyllite
BM1002B	Outcrop	Fine-gr'd Porphyry? Pink-Red alteration (hard)	Pyrophyllite	Kaolinite	
BM1003B	Outcrop	Outcrop at top (v rocky), pale alteration with yell-brown coating	Alunite	Kaolinite	
BM1003C	Outcrop	Outcrop at top (v rocky), pale alteration with yell-brown coating	Alunite	Kaolinite	
BM1004A	Outcrop	Fine-gr'd Porphyry? Pale grey, fine-grained, hard, with hematite fractures	Smectite		

Drill Log - descriptive

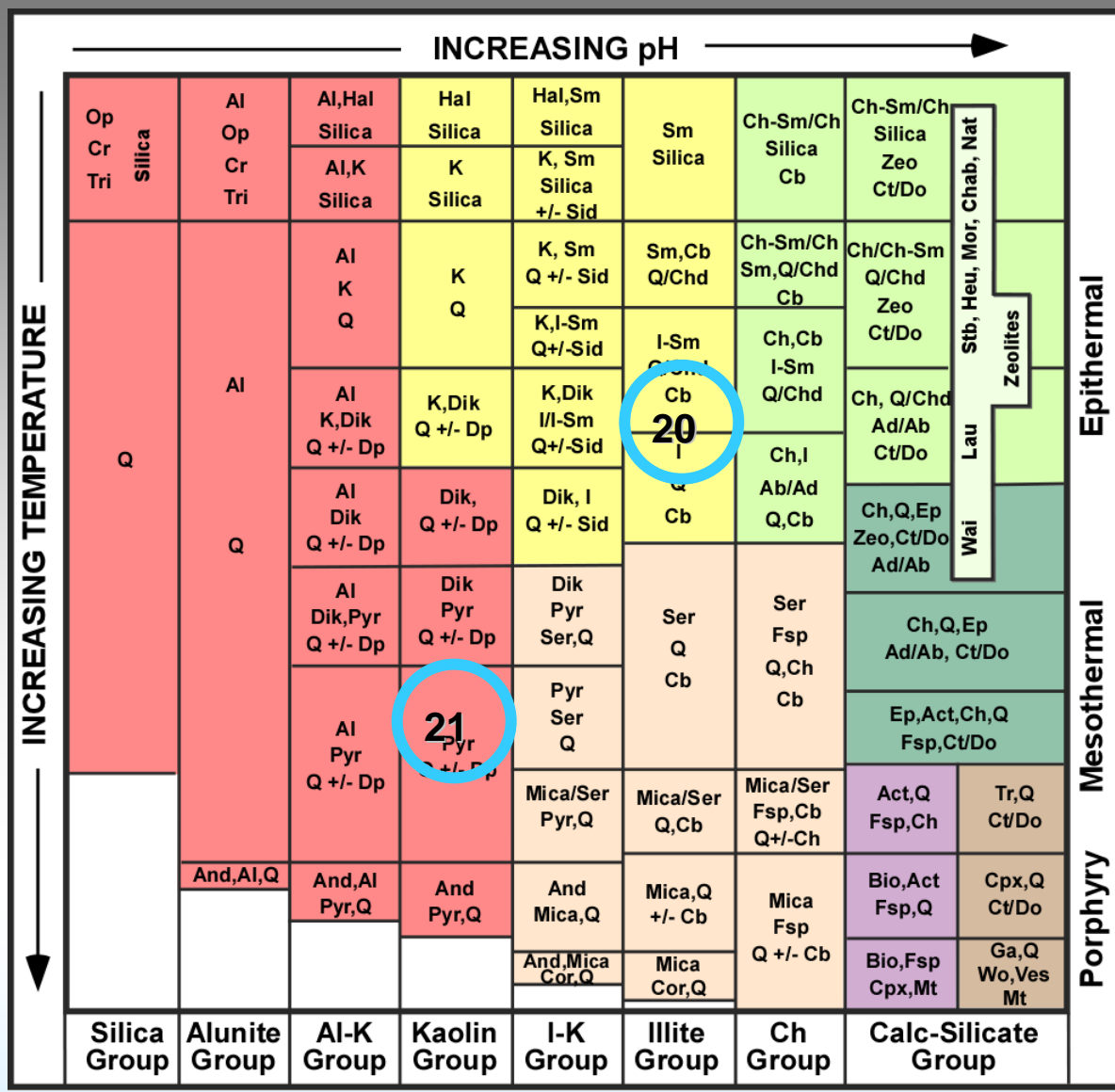
From	To	Style	Int	Description
21.5	24.7	d	m	Weakly disseminated KFs alteration with locally developed moderate Chl.
24.7	32.6	d	w	Weakly disseminated KFs alteration with locally developed moderate Chl.
39.7	40.8	d	s	Pervasive strong Chl replacing KFs & Hblende
83	83.5	p	i	Strong Chl and Ser - texturally destructive
83.8	89.3	d	s	Strong clay alteration of primary KFs. Local disseminated pink secondary KFs.
153.2	160.2	p	s	Pervasive dark green Chlor alteration.

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ML Illite-Smect				major	dom		
Chlorite				major			
Alunite Group		trace?	minor-(major)				
Quartz	dom	major-dom	dom	dom	trace – minor	major	dom
Pyrite	minor	minor	trace	minor	minor		minor-major
Tourmaline	minor						
Rutile	trace?				trace		
Feldspars	trace?	trace?		trace - minor			trace?
Diaspore		minor					

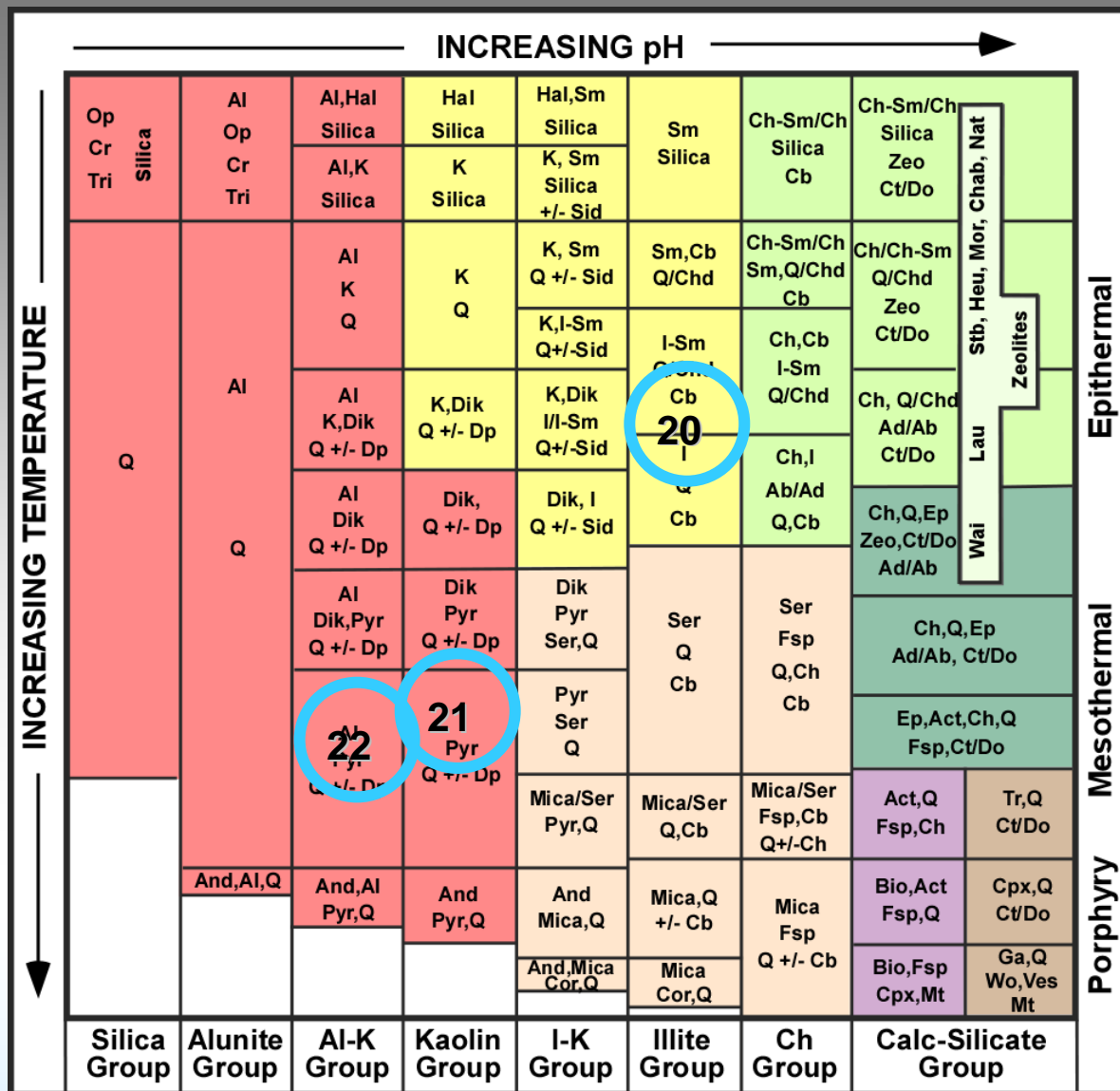
XRD Summary Results – HS System

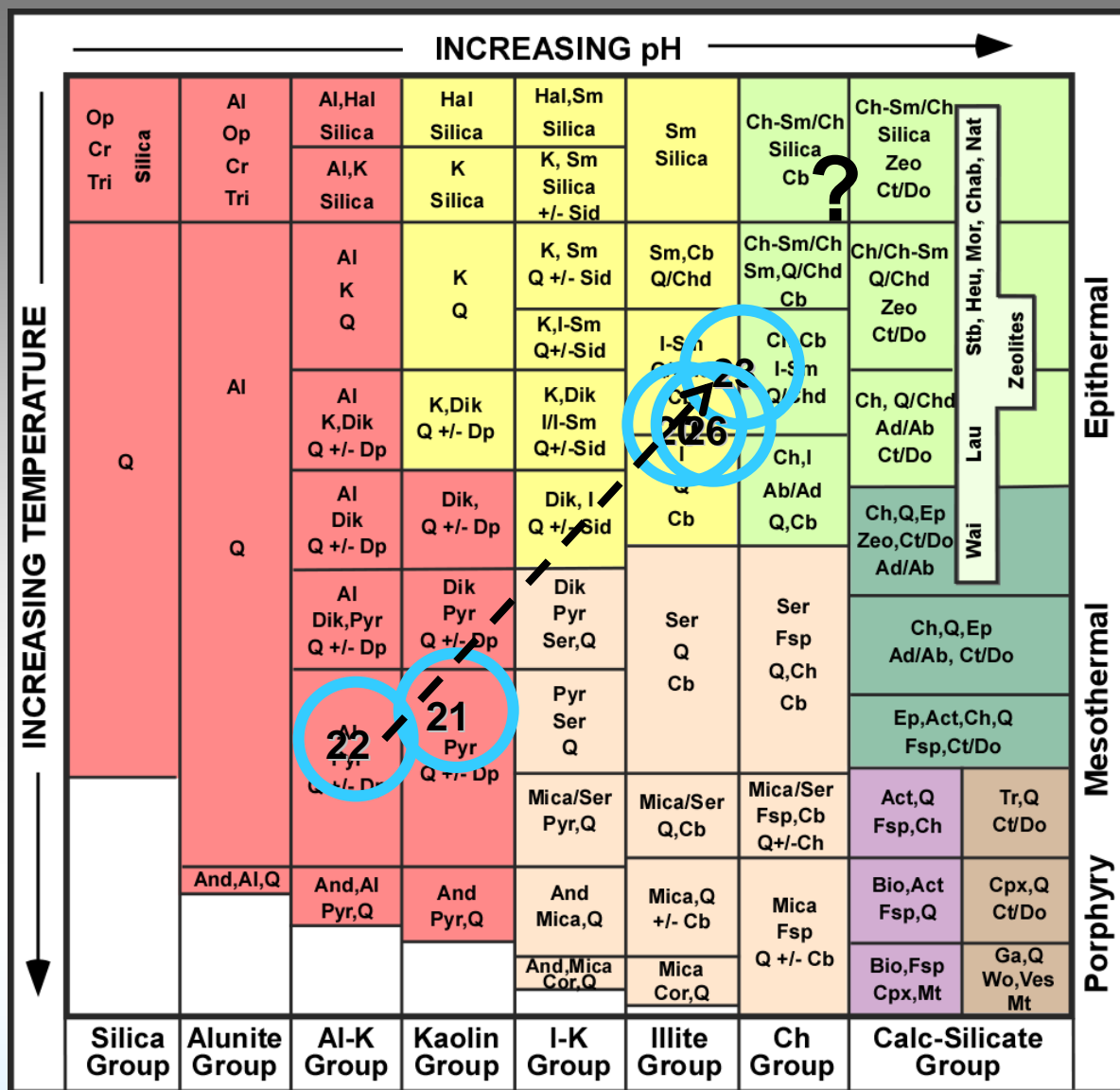
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Feldspars	trace?	trace?		trace - minor			trace?
Diaspore		minor					



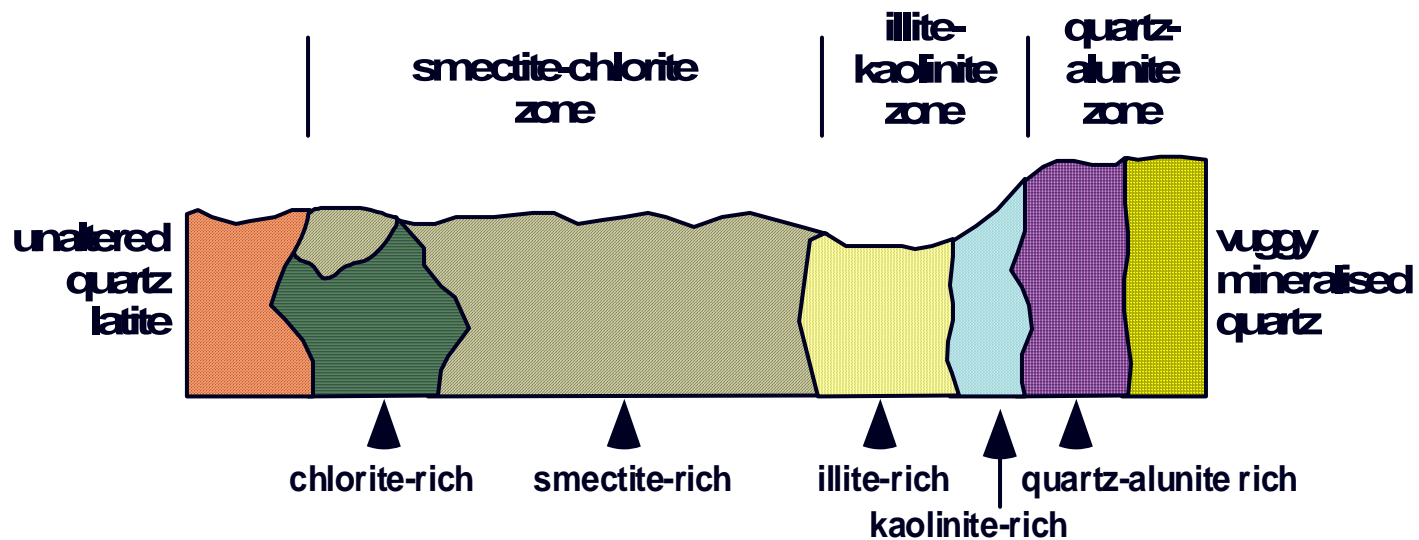
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Diaspore		minor					

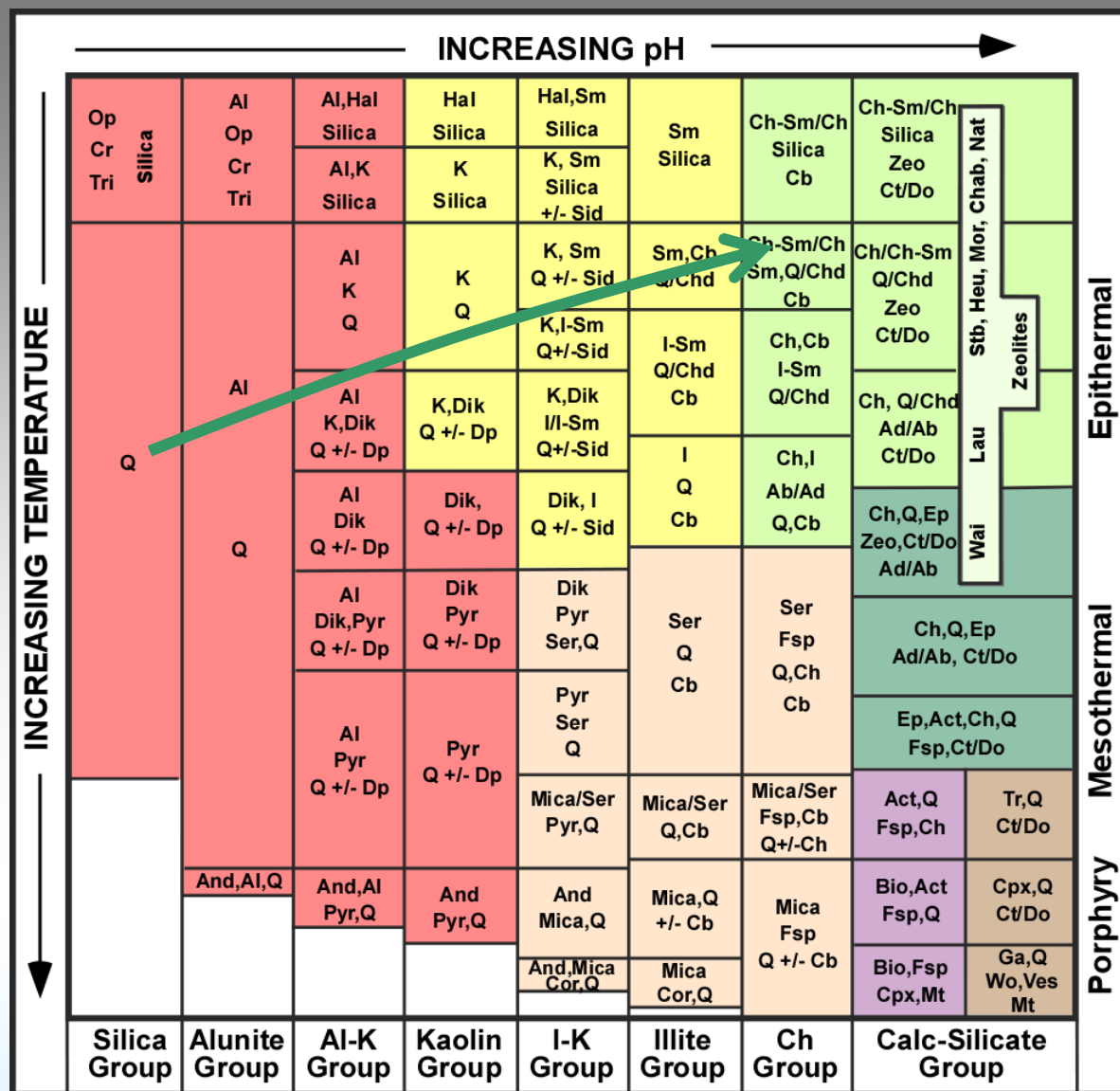


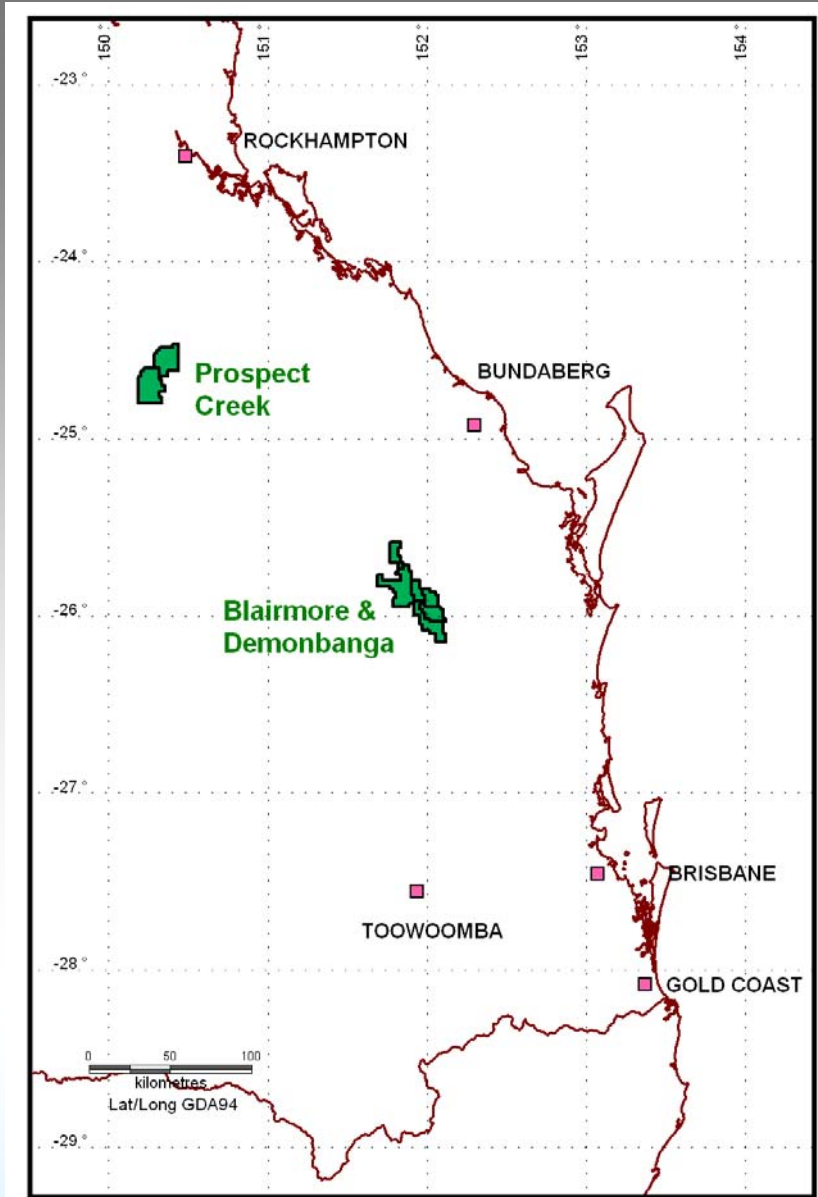


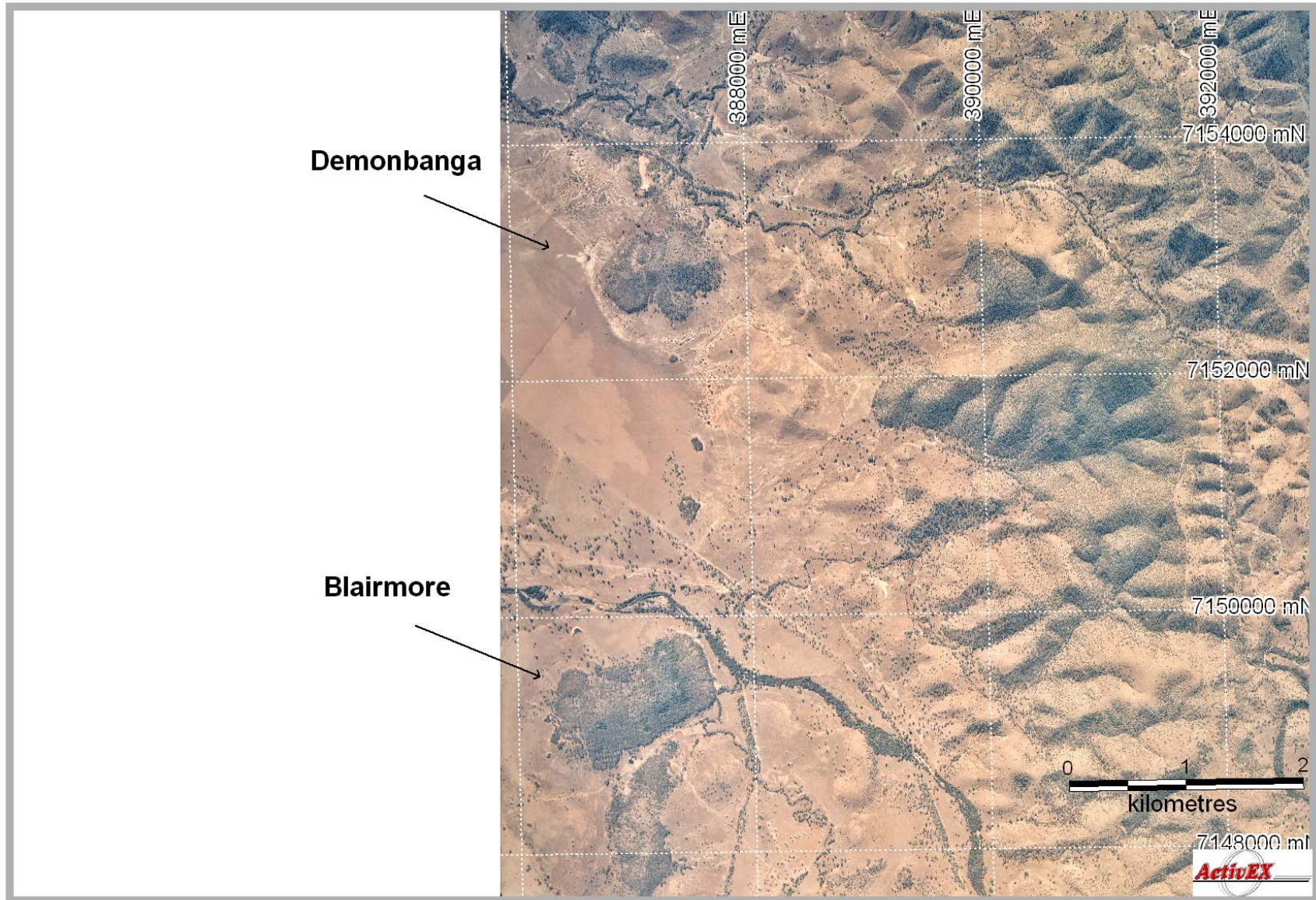
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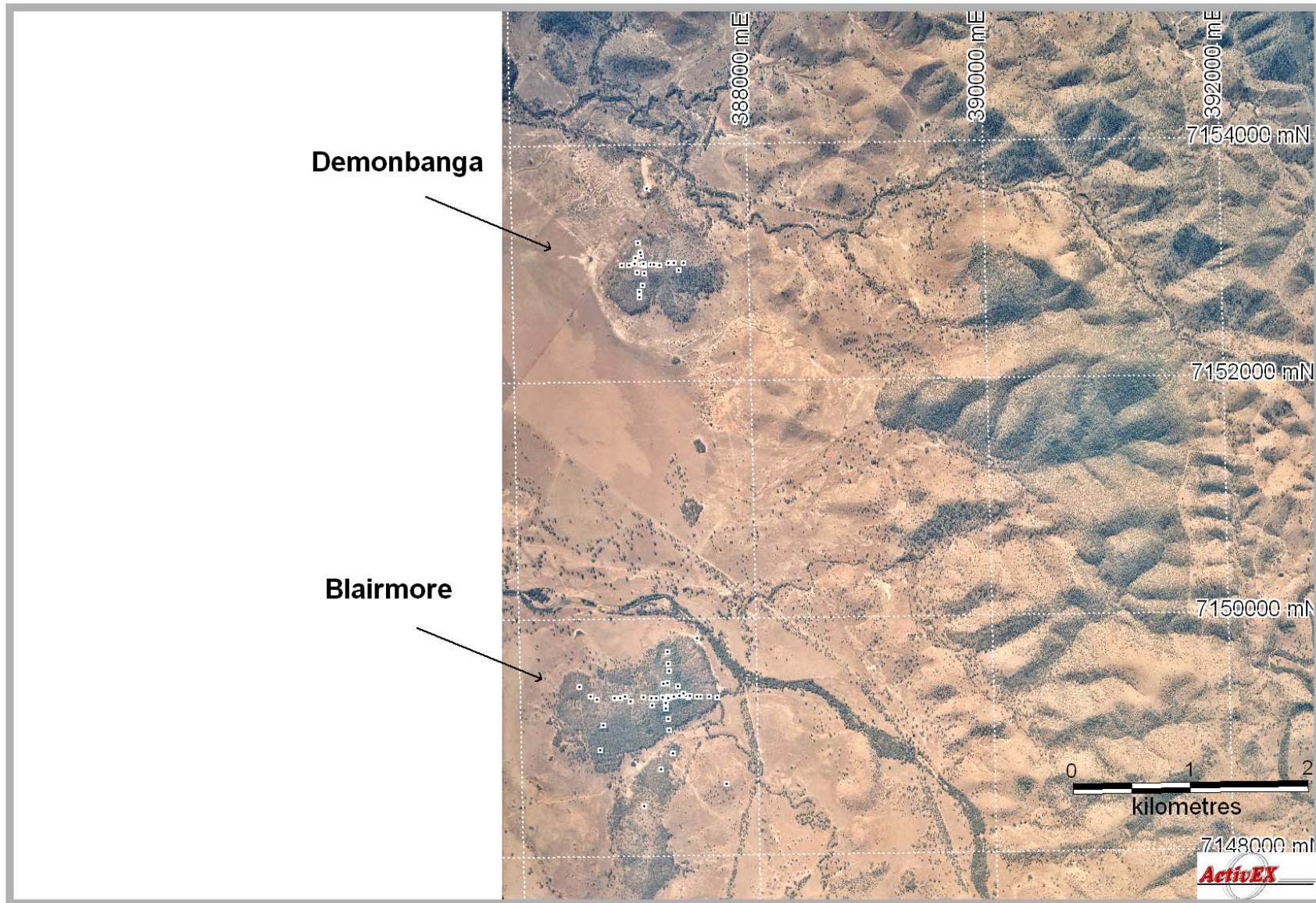


(adapted from Steven & Ratte, 1960, in Hayba et al., 1985)









Blairmore – Demonbanga

Alteration Minerals from PIMA study

Alunite

Pyrophyllite

Dickite

Kaolinite

Diaspore

Topaz

Sericite

Illite-Smectite

Smectite

The minerals occur in a variety of assemblages.

pyrophyllite-alunite



kaolinite-pyrophyllite-topaz



pyrophyllite-kaolinite-diaspore



dickite-kaolinite-topaz



sericite-kaolinite



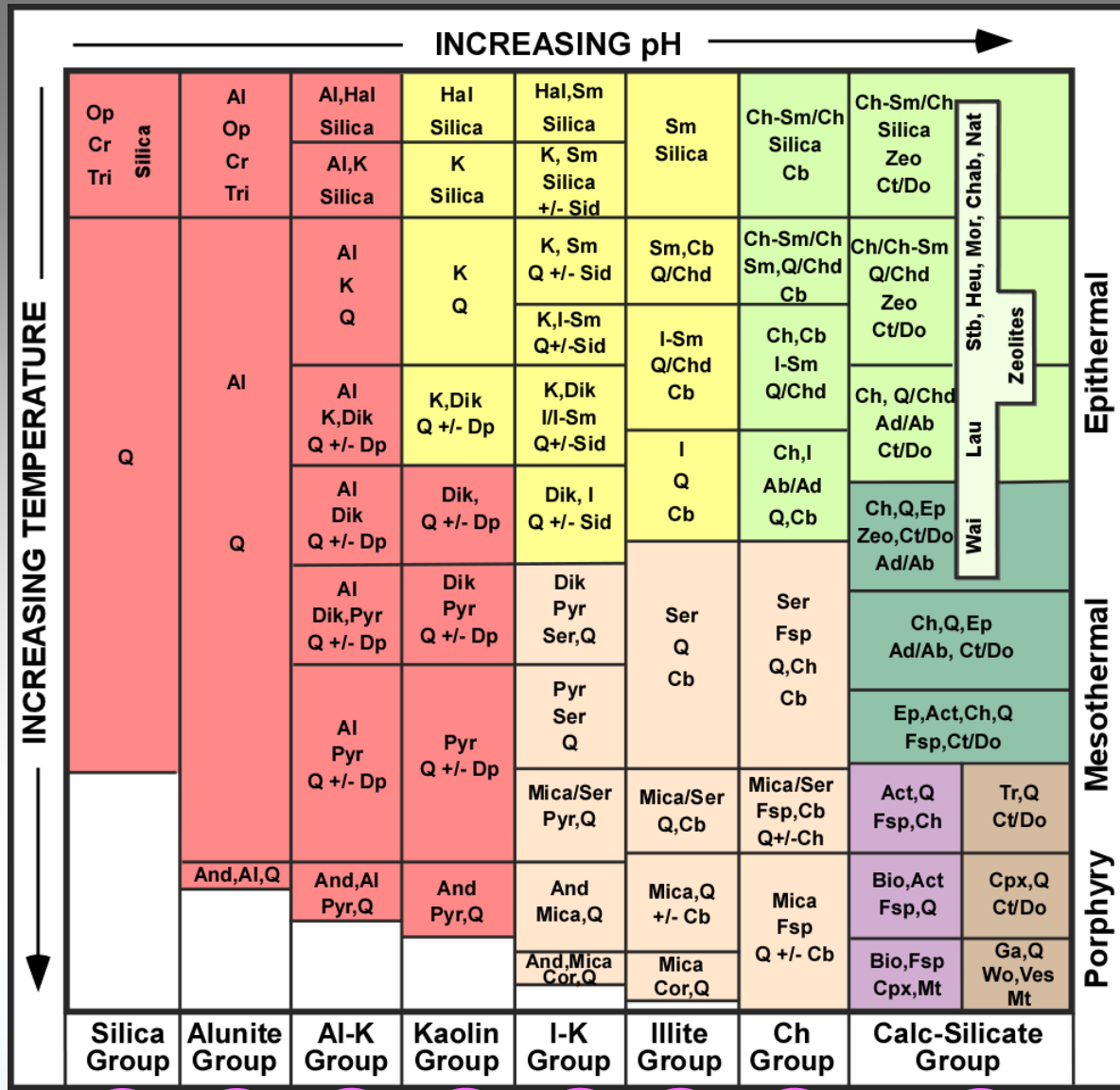
montmorillonite-kaolinite



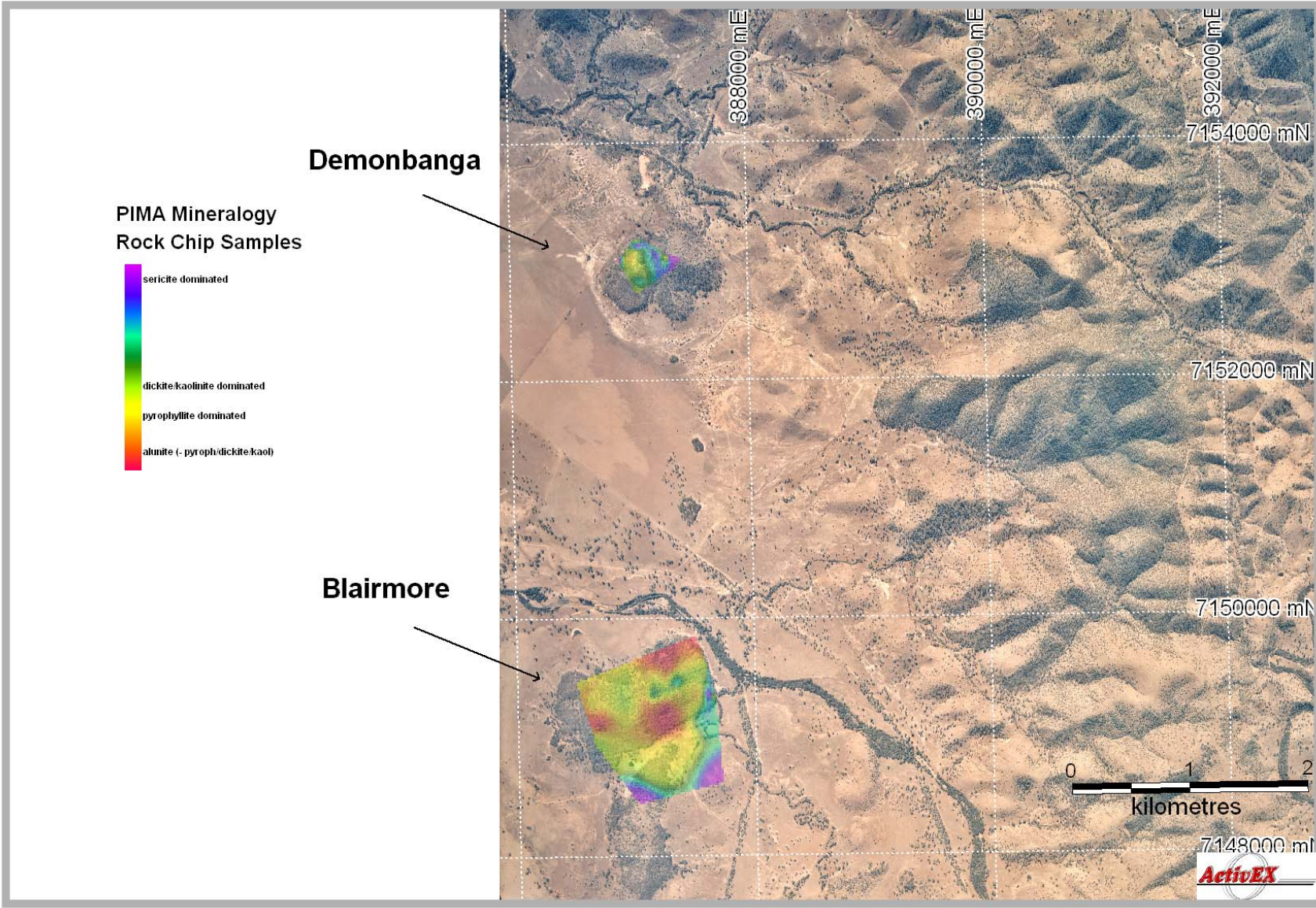
dickite

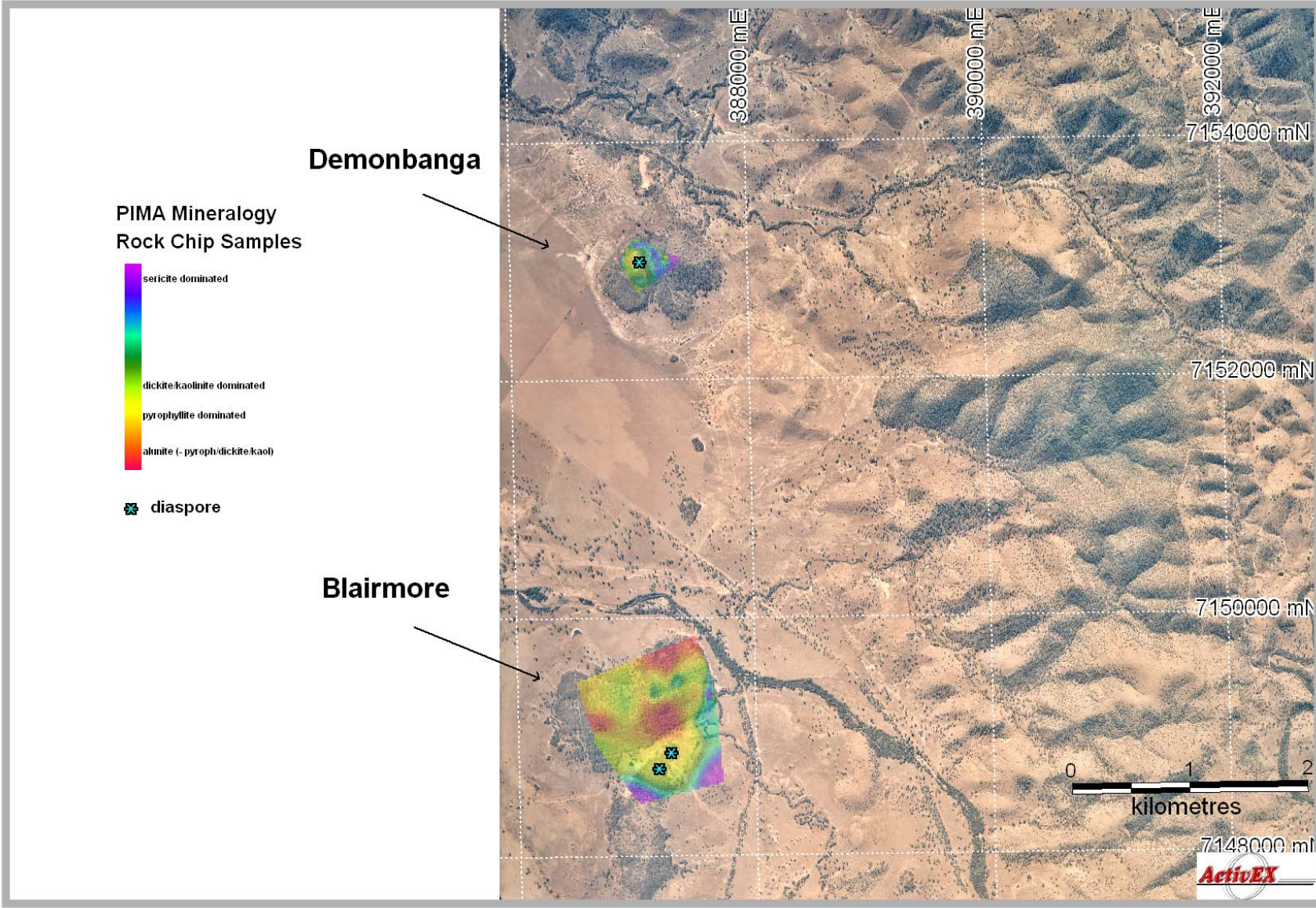
alunite

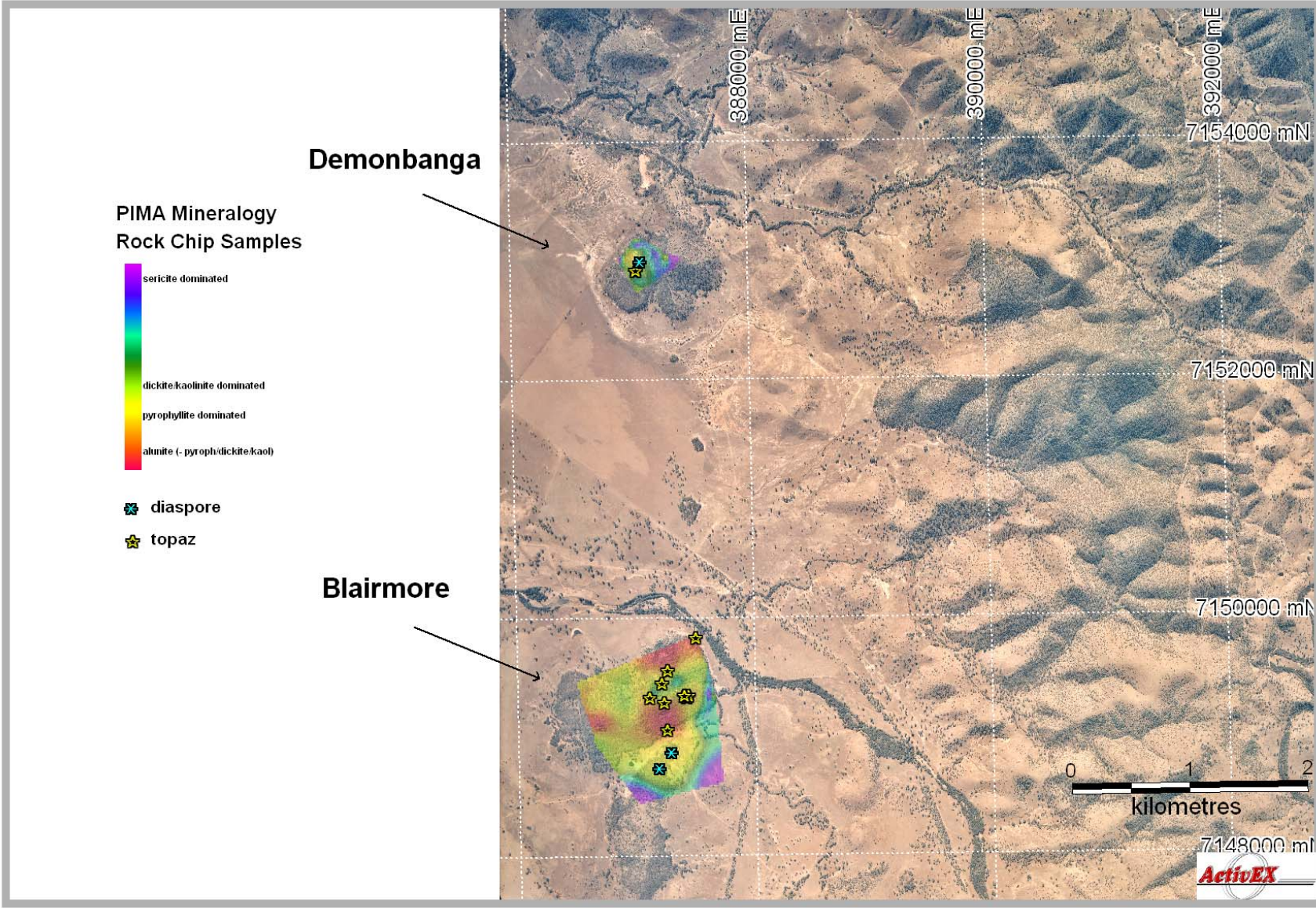


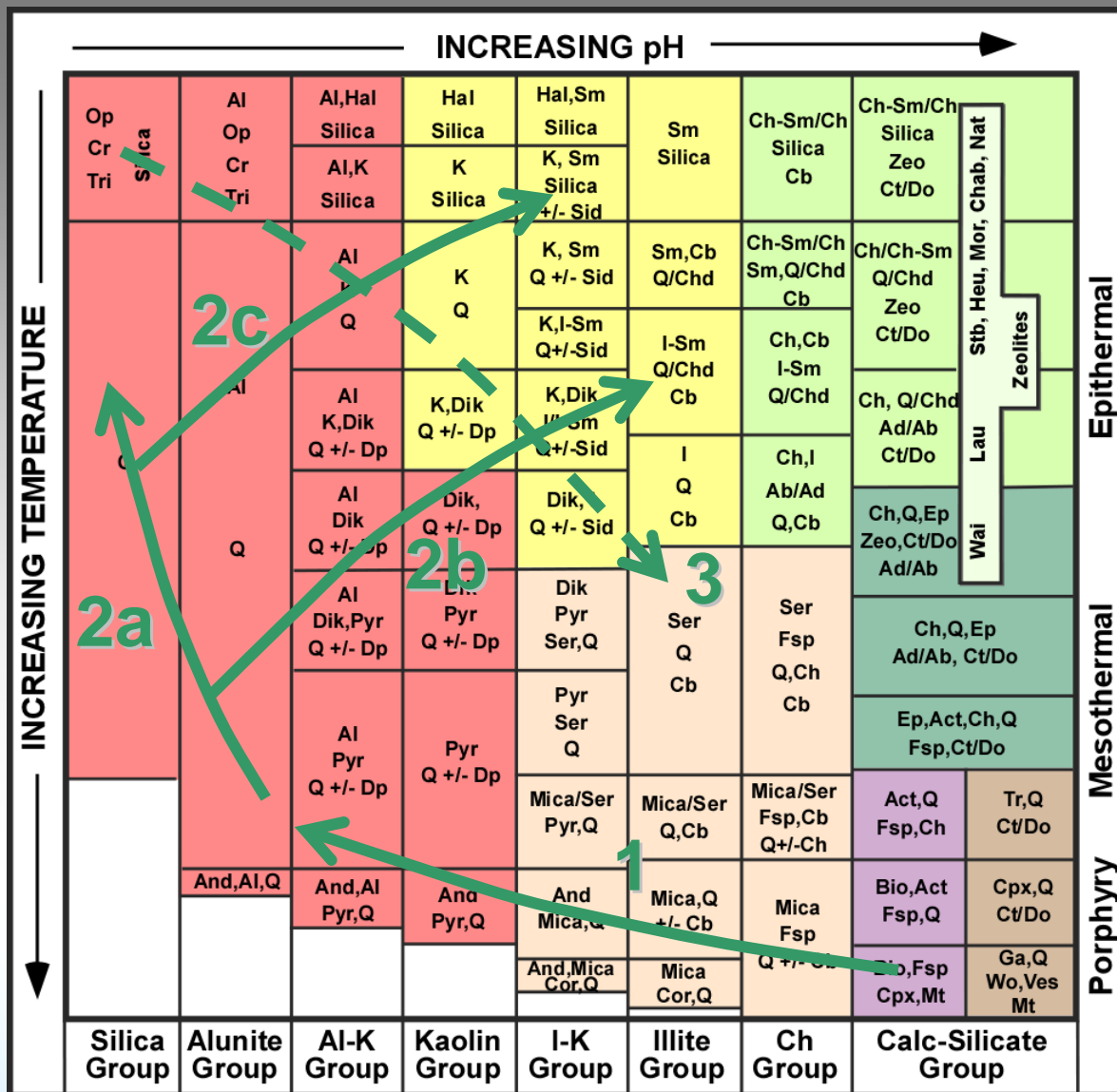


- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8









1. Porphyry high sulphidation systems
2. Structural & lithological high sulphidation systems
 - 2a. Silica Core
 - 2b. Deep peripheral zones
 - 2c. Shallow peripheral zones
3. Descending cool acid sulphate fluids