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Ultramafic and mafic pseudotachylyte-like rocks in the Finero complex, the Western Italian Alps

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The Finero mafic-ultramafic complex represents the northwestern basal portion of the Ivrea-Verbano zone, a slice of lower crustal rocks of the African plate accreted onto the European plate during the Alpine orogenesis, at the western end of the Southern-Alpine domain. The entire complex has been folded into a tight antiform and divided into four main units: (1) upper metagabbro, (2) amphibole peridotite, (3) lower metagabbro, and (4) phlogopite peridotite. A small pseudotachylyte-like veins within ultramafic and mafic rocks were often observed at the Finero complex. Although ultramafic pseudotachylytes were reported from other ultramafic complexes in the Ivrea-Verbano zone, they are still not common. Hence it is still worth to study ultramafic pseudotachylytes and also associated mafic pseudotachylytes for the understanding of brittle deformation of the ultramafic rocks. We here report microstructural and petrological characteristics of pseudotachylyte-like rocks of ultramafic to mafic compositions in the Finero complex, and reveal the microstructural development of pseudotachylyte-like rocks.

Keywords: Pseudotachylyte-like rock, Finero massif