more than 60 mineral species have been documented on the island. Among them are the centimetric chloritoid crystals, and the very rare mineral deerite. In all, and the minerals acmite, omphacite, ilmenite, rutile, impressive multi-nese-bearing minerals piemontite, tephroïte, jacobsite, rhodochrosite; famous. Also seen were lawsonite pseudomorphs; barroisite; the manga-
course, the famous blue-to-violet glaucophane that makes Groix so
garnets (note the plural) and micas (phengite, paragonite) and, of
from all over France and included a range of academic post-doctorates,
mineralogy and soil science. Georges made pioneering
to clay science over a broad range of organi-
zational scales, from the crystal structure of clay minerals
to the spatial organization of weathering profiles and the global distri-
bution of soils. Operating at the intersection between agronomy, crop
science, and surface geoscience, he developed a general interpretation
of pedogenetic processes. He was a pioneer in alerting society for
the need to protect soil resources and was among the first to under-
line the major importance of soils in sustainable development issues.
He always encouraged the combining of modern mineralogical and
geochemical approaches with field and experimental studies. This
allowed him to develop an overarching synthesis viewpoint on the
structural organization and physico-chemical properties of clays, the
associated minerals and organic matter in soils, and the constraining
parameters that govern rock weathering and soil formation. His field
studies in Europe, South America, and Africa allowed him to focus on
the influence of climate on soil mineralogy and geochemistry. These
original research contributions were recognized by the
CNRS Silver Medal in 1980.
While having a full research position, he invested a lot in teaching, in particularly in the French national
masters program on soils. He was an exceptional guide
to clay mineralogy and soil formation and development,
appealing to the intelligence of his students with a very
mechanistic approach, captivating them with examples
from all over the world and his wide knowledge.
A member of the Academia Europaea and of several French
Academies (Academy of Sciences; Academy of Agriculture,
of which he was Perpetual Secretary from 1998 to 2004
inclusive; and Academy of Technology), Georges Pedro received many
major French distinctions. For many decades he was involved in
French scientific life, chairing a large number of scientific committees and
professional organizations, always curious and caring while simultane-
ously rigorous and demanding. In addition to his professional activi-
ties, he was a very generous man who possessed great culture. And he
always had a smile that invited you to have a discussion. His death
is a great loss to the mineralogical and soil science communities and
to all of his friends and colleagues around the world. He is survived
by his wife, Marie-Joséphine, and their children, grandchildren, and
great-grandchildren. Our thoughts are with his family.

George Pedro

FIELD TRIP TO THE ÎLE DE GROIX
(BRITTANY, FRANCE)
The SFMC organized a two-day field trip (28–29 March 2019) to the Île de Groix (Groix Island) in Brittany in northwest France. The aim was to
explore the famous greenschist to blueschist to eclogite metamor-
phic facies that outcrops all around the island. The 21 attendees came
from all over France and included a range of academic post-doctorates,
researchers and teachers. They specialized not only in petrology and
mineralogy but also in geotechnics or paleontology. We were guided in
the field by Michel Ballèvre (Géosciences Rennes), a longtime specialist
in Île de Groix mineralogy and petrology who seemed to know by
heart every stone.

We observed numerous mineral species, including classics such as
garnets (note the plural) and micas (phengite, paragonite) and, of
course, the famous blue-to-violet glaucophane that makes Groix so
famous. Also seen were lawsonite pseudomorphs; barroisite; the manga-
nese-bearing minerals piemontite, tephroïte, jacobsite, rhodochrosite;
and the minerals acmite, omphacite, ilmenite, rutile, impressive multi-
centimetric chloritoid crystals, and the very rare mineral deerite. In all,
more than 60 mineral species have been documented on the island.

The mafic rocks (greenschist, garnet–epidote glaucophanite, eclogite)
account for about 20 vol% of the island and are embedded in felsic
rocks, mostly mica schists. All are deeply deformed in both ductile
and brittle regimes, generating beautiful structural features. The most
impressive of them are centimetre to decametre mafic sheath folds and
boudinages hosted within the felsic matrix. We discovered how diffi-
cult it is to interpret the observed petro-structural features in terms of
the regional geology of the Variscan Belt. At all stages of the trip, we
appreciated the numerous hypotheses proposed by Michel to interpret
the observed features, and we imagined the nature of the protoliths and
the processes involved in their transformation. This generated among
the participants numerous discussions and constructive debates, which
were greatly appreciated.

We warmly thank Michel for his charismatic enthusiasm and willing-
ness to impart information not only on the local geology but also on
the botany, ornithology, and local history. We also thank Léa Trifault
and Catherine Robert, curators in charge of the Île de Groix Nature
Reserve, for their welcome, and the local people responsible for some
gastronomic wonders on this fabulous island.