

## An unmetasomatized source for the Malaitan alnöite (Solomon Islands): Petrogenesis involving zone refining, megacryst fractionation, and assimilation of oceanic lithosphere

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**Abstract**—The Malaitan alnöite contains a rich and varied megacryst suite of unprecedented compositional range. We have undertaken trace element and isotope modeling in order to formulate a petrogenetic scheme which links the host alnöite to its entrained megacrysts. This requires that a *proto-almöite* magma is the product of zone refining initiated by diapiric upwelling (where the initial melt passes through 200 times its volume of mantle). Isotopic evidence indicates the source of the proto-almöite contains a time-integrated LREE-depleted signature ( $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51274$ ). Impingement upon the rigid lithosphere halts or dramatically slows the upward progress of the mantle diapir. At this point, the magma cools and megacryst fractionation begins with *augites crystallizing first*, followed by subcalcic diopsides and finally phlogopites. Garnet probably crystallizes over the entire range of clinopyroxene fractionation. Estimated proportions of fractionating phases are 30% augite, 24.5% subcalcic diopside, 27% garnet, 12.9% phlogopite, 5% bronzite, 0.5% ilmenite, and 0.1% zircon. As this proto-almöite magma crystallizes, it assimilates a subducted component of seawater-altered basalt which underplates the Ontong Java Plateau. This is witnessed in the isotopic composition of the megacrysts and alnöite.

### INTRODUCTION

MANTLE-DERIVED MAGMAS, which are explosively erupted to the Earth's surface, contain invaluable samples of the lithospheric and asthenospheric mantle. The presence of monomineralic discrete nodule (BOYD and NIXON, 1973; NIXON and BOYD, 1973a) or megacryst suites (DAWSON, 1980) in these mantle-derived, silica undersaturated magmas is common. However, the relationship of megacrysts to the host magma is unclear. Compositional variations exhibited by members of this suite suggest that they represent a series of crystals precipitating from a single parental magma. IRVING (1974) and BOYD and NIXON (1975) believed this parental melt is unrelated to the magma in which they are ultimately entrained. GURNEY *et al.* (1979) and HARTE and GURNEY (1981) concluded the megacrysts are products of isobaric crystallization from a "proto-kimberlite" magma, and MITCHELL (1977, 1979) advocated a cognate high-pressure origin. SCHULZE and HOOVER (1982) and SCHULZE (1984) demonstrated the dependence of fractionation trends within megacryst suites on the bulk composition of the magma system and the proportions of crystallizing phases. HUNTER and TAYLOR (1984) and SHERVAIS *et al.* (1987) argued for generation of Cr-rich and Cr-poor megacrysts by a process of magma mixing in the low velocity zone. These authors envisage the low velocity zone to contain discrete magma bodies representing various stages of high-pressure crystallization of kimberlite melts. However, the classification of megacrysts as cognate or xenocrystal remains one of the unresolved problems in mantle petrology.

The source composition of mantle-derived magmas is also difficult to determine. This problem is compounded because

of problems in distinguishing between xenolithic, xenocrystal, and phenocrystal material in the kimberlite matrix (NIXON and BOYD, 1973b; MITCHELL, 1986). Experimental evidence suggests a carbonated peridotite source for mantle-derived magmas containing either phlogopite, amphibole, or both minerals (*e.g.*, FRANZ, 1965; EGGLE, 1978; OLAFSSON and EGGLE, 1983; TAYLOR and GREEN, 1986; WYLLIE, 1980, 1986, 1987). However, the observed presence of primary carbonate in mantle peridotites is rare (MCGETCHIN and BESANCON, 1973). The concept of a metasomatically enriched source region is now widely accepted (*e.g.*, KAY and GAST, 1973; LLOYD and BAILEY, 1975; MENZIES and MURTHY, 1980; BAILEY, 1982, 1984; FRASER *et al.*, 1985; MENZIES and HAWKESWORTH, 1987). Such an enrichment process is invoked in order to account for the high abundances of trace elements in these mantle-derived magmas.

The object of this paper is to present a model formulated from the interpretation of geochemical data for host volcanic and megacryst petrogenesis. Questions to be addressed are: (1) Is a metasomatized source required for alnöite petrogenesis? (2) Is the Malaitan alnöite a primary mantle melt? (3) Is there a relationship between the host alnöite and the entrained megacryst suite? Interpretation of Sr, Nd, and O isotopic and trace element data of the host alnöite and megacryst suite allows the formulation of an integrated model for megacryst and alnöite petrogenesis.

### GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Solomon Islands chain delineates the boundary between the Pacific and Indo-Australian plates. The area is dominated by the Ontong Java Plateau (OJP), which is a vastly overthickened portion of oceanic crust (up to 42 km—COLEMAN, 1976; HUSSONG *et al.*, 1979) abutting the Indo-Australian plate (Fig. 1). The OJP has similar seismic velocities to that of normal oceanic crust, but each layer is abnormally thickened (FUROMOTO *et al.*, 1976). However, CARLSON *et al.* (1980) suggested that this interpretation is too simplistic and

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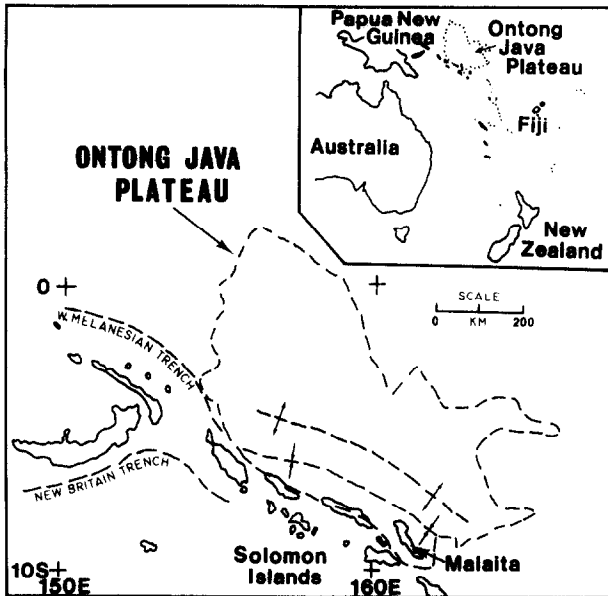


FIG. 1. Tectonic sketch map of the SW Pacific region.

that at least the central part of the OJP is of continental affinity. Seismic refraction studies indicate the presence of a high velocity (7.6 km/sec) basal crustal layer (FUROMOTO *et al.*, 1976; HUSSONG *et al.*, 1979). NIXON and COLEMAN (1978) suggested that this layer comprises garnet granulite and have argued for the continental affinity of the OJP. HOUTZ and EWING (1976) and HUSSONG *et al.* (1979) concluded that this layer represents oceanic basalts or serpentinized peridotites, respectively, whereas NEAL and TAYLOR (1989) suggested the OJP is underplated by a subducted derivative of oceanic crust.

The island of Malaita is geologically distinct from other islands in the Solomons chain, as it is formed from the obducted leading edge

of the OJP. The identification of ultrabasic rocks in streams from central north Malaita in 1951 (RICKWOOD, 1957) led to a fruitless search for diamonds by THOMPSON (1965) and GERRYTS (1965). Six samples of these rocks were collected and subsequently described as alnöites by ALLEN and DEANS (1965). The term *alnöite* was used by ROSENBUSCH (1887) for a suite of dike rocks found on the island of Alnö, off the coast of Sweden. ROCK (1986) has defined alnöites as ultramafic lamprophyres with essential melilite, but with no feldspar.

Pipe-like bodies of alnöite were explosively emplaced in limestones and mudstones which have been folded into NW-SE trending anticlines and synclines (RICKWOOD, 1957; Fig. 2). The pipes at Babaru'u and Kwaiwai have a core of fine-grained, black alnöite containing megacrysts, surrounded by an autolithic (*cf.* DANCHIN *et al.*, 1975) breccia containing xenoliths of peridotite and country rock, macrocrysts, and megacrysts.

THE ALNÖITE

The Malaitan alnöite is silica undersaturated (35.7–36.4 wt% SiO<sub>2</sub>), being olivine and nepheline normative. Only fresh samples were analyzed, and during sample preparation care was taken to exclude contained megacrysts (see Appendix for analytical methods). In general, the Malaitan alnöite is extremely rich in Mg (MgO = 18.0–25.1 wt%; Mg# = 73–79; Table 1) and alkalis, especially K<sub>2</sub>O, which is a function of phlogopite in the groundmass (NIXON *et al.*, 1980). The alnöite is also rich in volatile components, as the loss on ignition is  $\cong 5\%$ .

Table 1: Whole rock major and trace element composition of the Malaitan alnöite. Trace element abundances in ppm.

	CRN233	CRN235	CRN237	CRN242
SiO <sub>2</sub>	36.4	36.0	35.7	36.1
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.83	2.78	2.78	3.07
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	6.95	6.86	6.65	7.15
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> *	12.2	11.9	12.2	12.1
MnO	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.19
MgO	24.2	24.8	25.1	18.0
CaO	6.21	5.98	6.24	14.3
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.76	0.75	0.62	1.25
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.32	2.26	2.27	1.04
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.37
LOI	5.18	5.29	5.15	2.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98.60</b>	<b>98.18</b>	<b>98.25</b>	<b>97.26</b>
Cr	883	875	861	686
Co	65	66	68	62
Ni	668	692	724	563
Cu	36	39	35	39
Zn	123	120	116	115
Rb	66	40	66	57
Sr	1209	1473	928	1562
Y	37	36	37	36
Zr	194	162	230	141
Nb	134	132	134	132
Pb	7	5	10	13
Ba	1714	1718	1728	1393
La	87	89	93	90
Ce	172	176	183	174
Nd	80	79	81	81
Sm	15.3	15.2	15.5	16.3
Eu	4.84	4.80	4.76	5.78
Gd	12.2	12.2	12.7	12.7
Dy	7.78	7.76	11.0	11.0
Er	2.97	2.98	3.52	3.31
Yb	1.94	1.80	1.95	1.76
Lu	0.22	0.23	0.27	0.20
V	205	191	197	242
Sc	21	22	23	23

\* = total Fe.

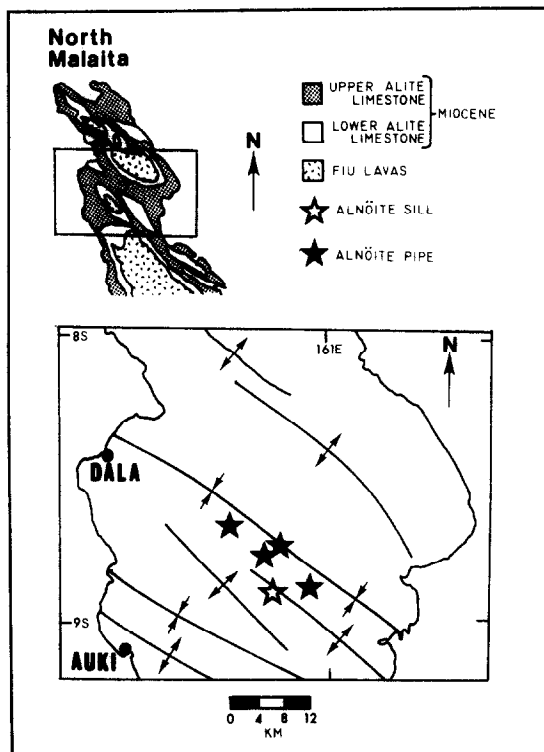


FIG. 2. Location map and general geology of northern Malaita.

The Ba (1393–1728 ppm) and Sr (928–1562 ppm) abundances (Table 1) are in excess of those found in Group 1 kimberlites and alkali basalts (MITCHELL, 1986; BASALTIC VOLCANISM STUDY PROJECT, 1981). However, the Rb/Sr ratio of the Malaitan alnöite ( $\cong 0.044$ ), and Ni and Sc abundances are intermediate between alkali basalt and kimberlite, whereas Zr, Cr, and Co abundances are similar to those in Group 1 kimberlites. The relatively low levels of Zr (141–230 ppm) may indicate some zircon fractionation. Nb is present at higher than usual abundances for within-plate volcanic rocks (PEARCE and CANN, 1973; NORRY and FITTON, 1983; COX, 1983). However, while Nb abundances are higher than in alkali basalts, they are similar to those in kimberlite.

The Malaitan alnöite is LREE enriched ( $La \cong 300$  times chondrite; Table 2 and Fig. 3a). Four samples were analyzed for the REE and patterns are parallel ( $La/Yb = 45.0\text{--}56.8$ ). All show a slight positive Eu anomaly ( $Sm_N/Eu_N \cong 1.2$ ,  $N =$  chondrite normalized). The Malaitan alnöite REE pattern (Fig. 3a) is intermediate ( $La/Yb \cong 47$ ) between alkali basalt ( $La/Yb \cong 17$ ) and Group 1 kimberlites ( $La/Yb \cong 125$ ).

### THE MEGACRYST SUITE

The Malaitan alnöite contains a rich and varied suite of megacrysts which have similar compositions to those found in kimberlites. Large garnet (up to 8.2 kg) and subcalcic diopside (up to 2.5 kg) megacrysts are common. Also present are clinopyroxene-ilmenite intergrowths, bronzite, ilmenite, phlogopite, and minor zircon (NIXON, 1980). Augite megacrysts are also found, akin to megacryst suites from alkali basalts, demonstrating the transitional nature of the alnöite. Olivine is not found as a megacryst phase at Malaita. Major elements were analyzed by electron microprobe and the REE by solid source mass spectrometry (see Appendix for methods).

#### Clinopyroxene megacrysts

The occurrence of augites in this megacryst suite gives an extremely large range in clinopyroxene compositions (Fig. 4; Table 3) practically unparalleled in megacryst suites from kimberlite or alkali basalt. There is a progressive increase in  $Ca/(Ca + Mg)$  and sympathetic decrease

in  $Mg/(Mg + Fe)$  or  $Mg\#$  ( $Fe =$  total iron) from the subcalcic diopsides to the augite megacrysts, with the clinopyroxene-ilmenite intergrowths always intermediate (Fig. 4; Table 3). This correlation is usually interpreted as a decreasing equilibration temperature, using the diopside-enstatite solvus (e.g., LINDSLEY and DIXON, 1976; LINDSLEY and ANDERSEN, 1982). The continuous correlation suggests all three clinopyroxene types crystallized from a single evolving magma. There is a decrease in  $Na_2O$  and  $TiO_2$  from the augites to the subcalcic diopsides, with clinopyroxene-ilmenite intergrowths again being intermediate for Na but containing similar  $TiO_2$  abundances to the augites (Fig. 5). Chromium is only present in appreciable amounts in the subcalcic diopsides.  $SiO_2$  and  $Al_2O_3$  are generally constant throughout all three groups. The high  $Al_2O_3$  content of the clinopyroxene megacrysts, relative to those found in kimberlite, is probably a result of a lower pressure of equilibration (e.g., MACGREGOR, 1974; AKELLA, 1976), but may be related to the high jadeite components of these clinopyroxene megacrysts (e.g., YODER and TILLEY, 1962; KUSHIRO, 1979). The high jadeite component of these megacrysts (Table 3) indicates a relatively high pressure of crystallization (KUSHIRO, 1979).

Six subcalcic diopside and six augite megacrysts were analyzed for the REE (Table 2; Fig. 3b). Both the subcalcic diopsides and augites have LREE-enriched profiles which are convex upwards, with a maximum at Sm and Eu, respectively (NIXON and NEAL, 1987). Both groups have REE abundances up to 10 times chondrite in the middle REE (MREE). The augite megacrysts have generally lower  $La/Yb$  ratios (3.83–4.36) than the subcalcic diopsides (4.25–6.38).

#### Garnet megacrysts

There is a lack of major compositional variation in the Malaitan garnet megacrysts (Fig. 4; Table 4) and only a slight variation in  $100 \cdot [Mg/(Mg + Fe)]$  (71.7 to 77.3). The  $100 \cdot [Ca/(Ca + Mg)]$  ratio is approximately constant (14.0–15.4), consistent with the buffering effect of clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene crystallization. Unlike kimberlitic garnet megacrysts from Monastery Mine (GURNEY *et al.*, 1979),  $Cr_2O_3$  does not increase with  $Mg\#$ , and varies only from 0.03–0.25 wt%. MnO and  $TiO_2$  remain constant throughout the suite at approximately 0.3 wt%.

**Table 2:** Rare earth element (REE) abundances (ppm) in cpx, garnet and phlogopite megacrysts.

Sample	La	Ce	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Dy	Er	Yb	Lu
<b>SUBCALCIC DIOPSIDES</b>										
CRN150	1.86	5.90	5.74	1.88	0.69	2.12	1.67	0.66	0.39	0.05
CRN158	1.35	4.82	5.01	1.66	0.60	1.85	1.39	0.53	0.31	0.04
CRN183	1.36	4.78	4.98	1.68	0.59	1.84	1.25	0.39	0.32	0.03
CRN198	0.51	1.64	1.70	0.56	0.20	0.60	0.45	0.16	0.08	0.01
CRN199	1.65	5.89	6.32	2.15	0.80	2.40	1.77	0.61	0.32	0.04
CRN200	1.70	5.85	6.25	2.12	0.78	2.38	1.76	0.61	0.33	0.04
<b>AUGITES</b>										
PHN3517	1.34	5.19	5.83	2.03	0.75	2.29	1.76	0.59	0.31	0.03
PHN3889	1.38	5.26	5.97	2.11	0.78	2.40	2.17	0.63	0.33	nd
PHN3901	1.26	5.14	6.09	2.18	0.81	2.44	1.85	0.60	0.32	0.03
PHN3905	1.34	5.51	6.70	2.38	0.87	2.64	1.98	0.66	0.35	0.04
PHN3913	1.31	5.02	5.69	2.03	0.74	2.32	1.74	0.59	0.30	0.03
PHN3967	1.19	4.89	5.81	2.06	0.77	2.32	1.72	0.60	0.31	nd
<b>GARNETS</b>										
CRN60	0.06	0.25	0.88	1.02	0.61	2.95	6.11	4.71	4.60	0.68
CRN61	0.02	0.17	0.86	1.04	0.66	3.14	6.17	4.74	4.44	0.72
CRN131	0.02	0.19	0.88	1.01	0.62	2.91	6.23	4.73	4.51	0.66
CRN135	0.03	0.19	0.87	1.01	0.62	2.90	5.15	4.82	4.07	0.63
CRN136	0.02	0.15	0.71	0.88	0.55	2.96	6.45	4.28	4.17	0.64
CRN145	0.02	0.16	0.85	1.03	0.63	3.17	5.50	4.94	5.04	0.76
<b>PHLOGOPITE</b>										
CRN124	1.13	2.21	0.98	0.19	0.07	0.17	0.14	0.04	0.03	nd

nd = not detected.

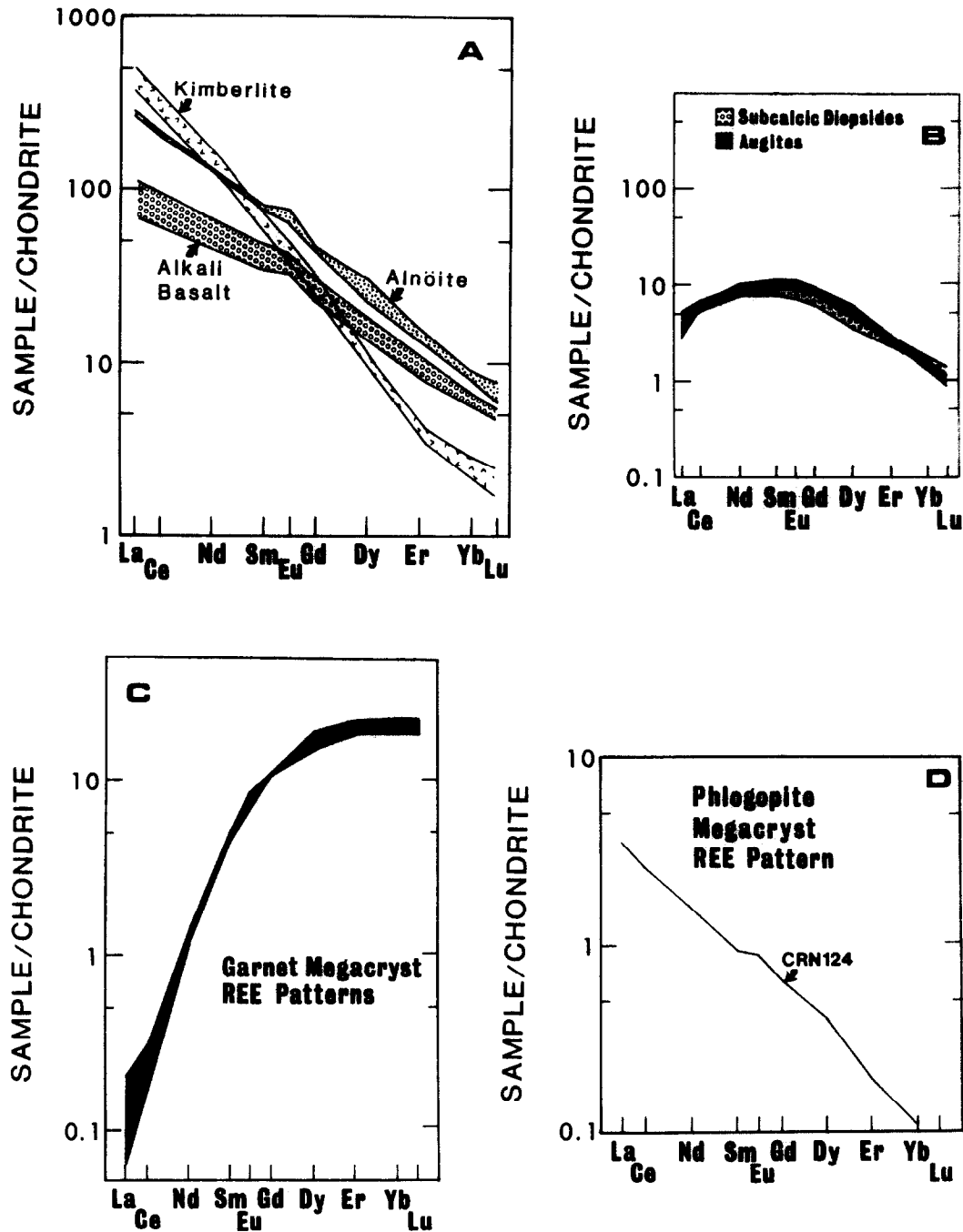


FIG. 3. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns of (A) the host alnöite; (B) the augite and subcalcic diopside megacrysts; (C) the garnet megacrysts; (D) a phlogopite megacryst. Representative alkali basalt from FREY *et al.* (1978); representative kimberlite from JONES (1984) and MITCHELL (1986).

The REE abundances of six analyzed Malaitan garnet megacrysts are given in Table 2 and Fig. 3c. They are typically LREE-depleted (La approximately 0.1 · chondrite) with the HREE enriched up to 20 times chondrite (NIXON and NEAL, 1987). The six show remarkably little variation, in common with their major element chemistry.

*Orthopyroxene megacrysts*

The orthopyroxene or bronzite megacrysts show slight variation in Mg# from 85.7 to 87.3 and have constant Ca/(Ca + Mg) ratios

(Fig. 4). All other elements are approximately constant. Data for the Malaitan bronzite megacrysts are from NIXON and BOYD (1979).

*Clinopyroxene-ilmenite intergrowths and ilmenite megacrysts*

Ilmenites from clinopyroxene-ilmenite intergrowths are homogeneous throughout each specimen and within individual lamellae (Table 5). Discrete ilmenite megacryst compositions overlap those from the intergrowths (Fig. 6) and as with clinopyroxene megacrysts, probably represent a continuous crystallization sequence. The discrete

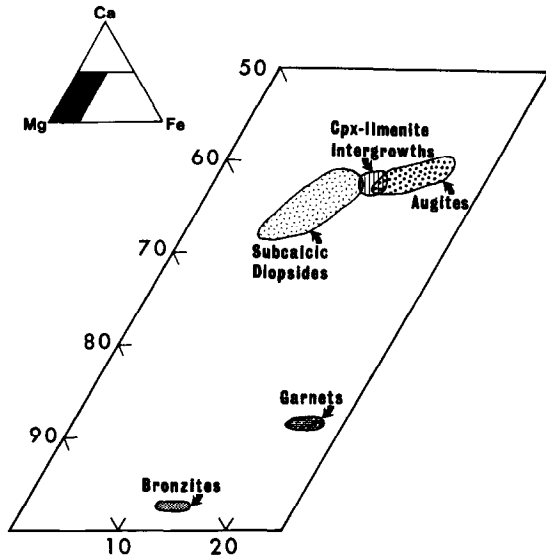


FIG. 4. Compositions of clinopyroxene, garnet, and bronzite megacrysts represented on a Ca-Mg-Fe diagram.

ilmenites have a higher  $\text{FeTiO}_3$  component.  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  was calculated stoichiometrically and is approximately 10% in the intergrowths, but increases slightly in the discrete ilmenites.  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is relatively constant (0.5–0.9 wt%) in both groups (Table 5). Three discrete ilmenites (CRN63A-C) display titanomagnetite spinel exsolution. These spinels are rich in  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , and Al relative to ilmenite (NEAL, 1985). This ilmenite-spinel exsolution relationship is similar to that described by PASTERIS *et al.* (1979) from the Frank Smith Mine, South Africa; HAGGERTY *et al.* (1979) from the Monastery Mine, South Africa; and by LEBLANC *et al.* (1982) from southern Algeria. It is attributed to recrystallization and exsolution in response to the stress imposed during conduit formation (PASTERIS *et al.*, 1979).

#### Phlogopite megacrysts

Three phlogopite megacrysts have been analyzed (Table 6) and there is little compositional variation between them. They all fall into the low-Cr, high-Ti group defined by DAWSON *et al.* (1978). These authors argued that the phlogopite megacrysts have crystallized from the alnöite just prior to eruption, on the basis of high  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contents in both the phlogopites and alnöite. These phlogopites clearly testify to the presence of water in the magma from which they crystallized.

One phlogopite megacryst was analyzed for REE (Table 2; Fig. 3d). It is LREE-enriched with a maximum at La, although all REE abundances are low (La = 3.5 · chondrite; Yb = 0.1 · chondrite). There is a slight positive Eu anomaly present.

## ISOTOPE GEOCHEMISTRY

### Neodymium and strontium

Determination of the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  isotope ratios were carried out on the augite, subcalcic diopside, garnet, and phlogopite megacrysts and the host alnöite. The garnet megacrysts were not analyzed for Sr isotopes, and the phlogopite megacrysts were not analyzed for Nd because of very low Sr and Nd abundances, respectively. There is a general correlation between Sr and Nd isotope systematics (Table 7; Fig. 7), with the augite megacrysts having the least radiogenic isotopic ratios (0.703223–0.703618 and 0.512725–0.512785). There is a progressive increase in  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratios from the augites to the subcalcic diopsides (0.703661–0.704051 and 0.512759–0.512815), to the phlogopite megacrysts (0.703736–0.704203), to the host alnöite (0.704207–0.704645 and 0.512764–0.512852). The garnet megacrysts (0.512727–0.512843) practically span the entire range defined by these three groups. However, the average garnet megacryst  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratio is intermediate to that of the augite and subcalcic diopside megacrysts. The augites

contain lower strontium abundances (27.2–32.2 ppm) compared with the subcalcic diopsides (67.5–87.0 ppm).

### Oxygen

Six augite and five subcalcic diopside megacrysts were analyzed (Table 7) for oxygen isotopes. The subcalcic diopsides have a restricted oxygen isotopic composition,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  ranging from +5.9 to +6.1‰. However, the augite megacrysts show a much larger range, which encompasses that of the subcalcic diopsides ( $\delta^{18}\text{O} = +5.9$  to +7.3‰). Both of these populations are within the range of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values reported in mantle xenoliths from Hawaii (+5.2 to +7.2‰; KYSER *et al.*, 1981) and in ocean island basalts (+4.8 to +7.5‰; KYSER *et al.*, 1982).

Table 3: Representative analyses of the clinopyroxene megacrysts.

	SUBCALCIC DIOPSIDES					
	CRN150	CRN158	CRN183	CRN198	CRN199	CRN200
$\text{SiO}_2$	53.1	53.0	52.8	53.0	52.8	53.0
$\text{TiO}_2$	0.64	0.61	0.70	0.71	0.88	0.75
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	5.72	5.10	5.15	5.87	5.27	5.83
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$	0.13	0.30	0.27	0.10	nd	0.09
$\text{FeO}^*$	6.66	5.66	5.85	5.92	6.74	6.05
MnO	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.10	0.14
MgO	16.6	17.3	17.2	16.7	15.7	16.9
CaO	14.2	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.9	15.3
$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	2.44	2.10	2.25	1.99	2.21	2.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.62</b>	<b>99.69</b>	<b>99.64</b>	<b>99.92</b>	<b>99.60</b>	<b>100.24</b>
Fs	12.2	10.0	10.4	10.7	12.2	10.9
En	54.3	54.8	54.7	53.6	50.8	54.0
Wo	33.5	35.2	34.9	35.7	37.0	35.1

nd = not detected; \* = total Fe.

	CLINOPYROXENE-ILMENITE INTERGROWTHS					
	PHN3865	PHN3866	PHN3867	PHN3869	PHN3870	PHN3960
$\text{SiO}_2$	52.5	52.9	52.0	52.3	53.7	52.3
$\text{TiO}_2$	0.96	0.62	1.04	0.63	0.96	0.92
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	4.83	4.89	2.85	4.84	4.91	4.86
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$	0.01	0.01	nd	nd	nd	nd
$\text{FeO}^*$	8.07	8.23	7.34	7.95	8.07	7.70
MnO	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13
MgO	14.0	14.1	14.9	14.3	14.3	15.1
CaO	16.0	15.8	20.3	15.8	16.0	16.0
$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	2.68	2.65	1.16	2.42	2.48	2.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99.19</b>	<b>99.34</b>	<b>99.73</b>	<b>98.38</b>	<b>100.55</b>	<b>99.53</b>
Fs	15.1	15.3	12.3	14.8	14.9	14.0
En	46.6	47.0	44.3	47.5	47.1	48.9
Wo	38.3	37.7	43.4	37.7	38.0	37.1

nd = not detected; \* = total Fe.

	AUGITES					
	PHN3871	PHN3889	PHN3901	PHN3905	PHN3913	PHN396'
$\text{SiO}_2$	54.0	52.3	52.6	52.0	52.6	53.0
$\text{TiO}_2$	0.89	0.81	0.87	0.82	1.03	0.75
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	5.79	4.75	4.91	5.75	5.72	4.96
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$	nd	0.02	nd	nd	nd	nd
$\text{FeO}^*$	10.0	8.82	9.07	10.0	8.98	9.60
MnO	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
MgO	10.8	13.2	13.6	10.9	12.6	12.1
CaO	15.1	15.0	14.8	15.6	15.0	15.2
$\text{Na}_2\text{O}$	4.12	3.41	3.35	4.41	3.88	3.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.86</b>	<b>98.46</b>	<b>99.35</b>	<b>99.63</b>	<b>99.96</b>	<b>99.67</b>
Fs	20.6	17.1	17.4	20.3	17.8	19.0
En	39.7	45.7	46.3	39.3	44.3	42.7
Wo	39.7	37.2	36.3	40.4	37.9	38.3

nd = not detected; \* = total Fe.

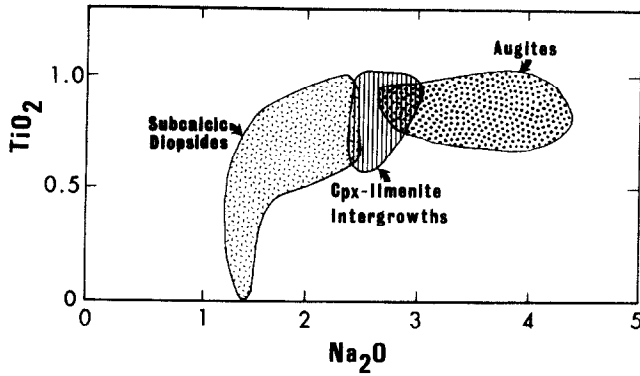


FIG. 5. A plot of Na<sub>2</sub>O vs. TiO<sub>2</sub> for the clinopyroxene megacrysts. Shading is as in Fig. 3.

DISCUSSION

The discussion of the data presented above is divided into two main topics. The first relates megacryst petrogenesis to that of the host alnöite, and the second discusses the origin of the host alnöite. The decoupled nature of the Sm/Nd ("enriched") and <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd ("depleted") isotope ratios from the host alnöite, indicates that it was derived from a source with a time-integrated LREE-depleted signature. Critical in our arguments, is the fact that metasomatism present in peridotite xenoliths has been demonstrated to be a consequence of alnöite magmatism (NEAL, 1988). No analyzed amphiboles contain an isotopic signature akin to the host alnöite. Rather, their signatures are within the range of the megacrysts. However, it is regarded as unlikely that the large degree of trace element fractionation required to generate the highly LREE-enriched liquids from a LREE-depleted source can be achieved by conventional partial melting processes (KAY and GAST, 1973; BAILEY, 1982, 1984; FRASER *et al.*, 1985). Furthermore, the range of Sr and Nd isotopic ratios exhibited by the megacrysts and host alnöite cannot be explained by conventional metasomatic or fractionation models. The isotopic disparity within the megacryst suite, and between the megacrysts and host alnöite, indicates a disequilibrium or open-system process.

In order to present our model of alnöite and megacryst petrogenesis, it is necessary to outline the assumptions and parameters used. In essence, we invoke diapiric upwelling deep within the mantle involving a zone refining process to generate a *proto-almöite* magma. This is followed by a com-

Table 4: Representative garnet megacryst compositions.

	CRN60	CRN61	CRN131	CRN135	CRN136	CRN145
SiO <sub>2</sub>	41.8	41.1	41.2	41.5	40.9	41.5
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.54	0.65	0.49	0.58	0.62	0.58
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	23.4	23.2	23.6	22.7	23.2	22.6
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.19	0.09	0.11	0.21	0.04	0.17
FeO*	10.5	11.4	10.8	11.0	12.6	11.3
MnO	0.27	0.32	0.30	0.28	0.34	0.33
MgO	19.3	18.3	18.9	18.8	17.9	18.5
CaO	4.52	4.63	4.60	4.74	4.28	4.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.52</b>	<b>99.39</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>99.81</b>	<b>99.88</b>	<b>99.67</b>
Mg#	76.7	74.1	75.8	75.4	71.7	74.4
Ca#	14.4	15.4	14.9	15.3	14.6	15.4

\* = total Fe; Ca# = 100\*[Ca/(Ca+Mg)].

Table 5: Representative ilmenite (discrete and lamellar) megacryst compositions.

	DISCRETE ILMENITES					
	PHN3970	PHN4101	CRN63A	CRN63B	CRN63C	CRN63D
TiO <sub>2</sub>	49.9	49.2	52.1	49.6	51.4	51.3
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.83	0.63	0.17	0.60	0.28	0.23
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.02	0.03	nd	nd	nd	nd
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> *	11.0	10.5	4.64	8.23	4.86	6.43
FeO	31.9	34.7	35.8	33.7	35.3	35.5
MnO	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.23	0.18	0.17
MgO	7.13	5.23	6.67	6.56	6.64	6.40
NiO	0.04	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.09	nd
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101.05</b>	<b>100.56</b>	<b>99.67</b>	<b>98.93</b>	<b>98.75</b>	<b>100.03</b>
Mg#	28.5	21.2	24.6	25.8	25.2	24.3

nd = not detected; \* = calculated by stoichiometry.

	CLINOPYROXENE-ILMENITE INTERGROWTHS					
	PHN3867	PHN3868	PHN3959	PHN3960	PHN3972	PHN3973
TiO <sub>2</sub>	50.4	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	49.3
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.39	0.95	0.86	0.99	1.01	0.93
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> *	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.3	12.2
FeO	31.7	32.0	31.3	30.5	31.1	29.3
MnO	0.29	0.21	0.24	0.20	0.23	0.23
MgO	7.38	7.07	7.49	7.96	7.56	8.30
NiO	0.03	nd	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101.11</b>	<b>100.84</b>	<b>100.45</b>	<b>100.13</b>	<b>100.26</b>	<b>100.31</b>
Mg#	29.3	28.2	29.9	31.8	30.3	33.6

nd = not detected; \* = calculated by stoichiometry.

binated assimilation and fractional crystallization (AFC) process at the base of the lithosphere, as the upward progress of the diapir is inhibited. The host alnöite is envisaged as a residual magma from these processes and does not require a metasomatized source.

Megacryst petrogenesis

By employing published crystal/liquid partition coefficients (Table 8) and assuming equilibrium, the REE composition of the liquid from which the megacrysts crystallized can be calculated. This allows the evolution of the proto-almöite to be traced and demonstrates whether the megacrysts have crystallized from the host alnöite. Two independent partition

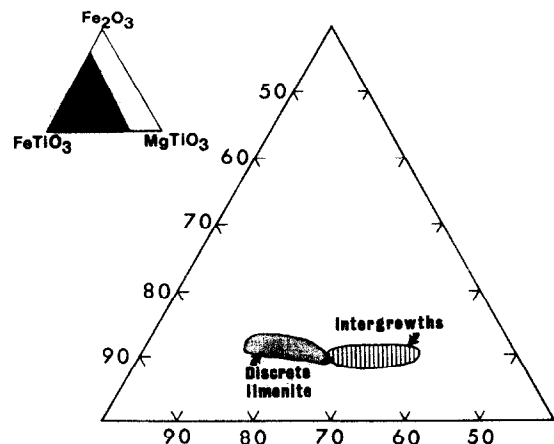


FIG. 6. Ilmenite megacryst compositions represented on a Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-FeTiO<sub>3</sub>-MgTiO<sub>3</sub> diagram.

**Table 6:** Representative compositions of the phlogopite megacrysts.

	CRN123	CRN124	CRN127
SiO <sub>2</sub>	37.5	38.3	37.8
TiO <sub>2</sub>	6.50	6.47	6.52
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.2	15.0	14.7
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	nd	nd	nd
FeO*	8.92	8.96	9.00
MnO	0.05	0.05	0.04
MgO	16.7	17.4	16.9
CaO	0.06	0.12	0.06
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.39	0.75	0.60
K <sub>2</sub> O	10.4	10.4	10.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94.72</b>	<b>97.45</b>	<b>96.22</b>
Mg#	76.9	77.5	77.0

nd = not detected; \* = total Fe.

coefficient determinations were used to check the consistency of this method for clinopyroxene and phlogopite megacrysts, and three for garnet megacrysts (Table 8).

Although not readily demonstrated in Fig. 8a and b because of the logarithmic scale, the augites have crystallized from an equilibrium liquid of generally flatter, more primitive REE profile (La/Yb = 15–18) than the subcalcic diopsides (La/Yb = 17–26). The liquid in equilibrium with the augites is akin to an alkali basalt (La/Yb  $\cong$  17), rather than the alnöite.

Three parent liquids for the garnet megacrysts have been calculated (Fig. 8c). These generally have a convex upwards rather than a LREE-enriched REE profile, probably because the LREE-depleted nature of garnet prohibits accurate Kd determinations for these elements. The results do demonstrate that the middle and heavy REE are subparallel to the alnöite.

The phlogopites have crystallized from a magma with a REE profile similar to that of the host alnöite (Fig. 8d). This supports the contention of DAWSON *et al.* (1978) that phlogopite crystallization occurred just prior to alnöite eruption.

The disparity in <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr and <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd ratios between the augite and subcalcic diopside megacrysts suggests they fractionated from two unrelated magmas. However, the increase in both Sr and Nd isotopic ratios could be generated by the progressive incorporation of an isotopically distinct component into the evolving proto-álnöite magma. The only suitable component able to do this (*i.e.*, with high  $\epsilon$  Nd and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr) is seawater-altered basalt (SWAB) (or derivatives thereof) which is returned to the Earth's interior *via* subduction. Indeed, direct evidence for the presence of subducted oceanic crust beneath the OJP has been reported by NEAL and TAYLOR (1989). The most simplistic scenario would be one of bulk mixing between proto-álnöite and SWAB magmas. However, we consider the most geologically feasible process to be melting of the SWAB component *by* the proto-álnöite magma. Therefore, we envisage an AFC process beneath the OJP (DEPAOLO, 1981), whereby the proto-álnöite magma (alkali basalt) assimilates seawater-altered basalt while fractionating the observed megacryst assemblage, as it impinges upon the rigid lithosphere.

The isotope results suggest the augite megacrysts crystallized first (flattest equilibrium liquid REE profile; least radiogenic Sr and Nd isotopes) followed by the subcalcic diop-

sides. As the equilibrium liquid REE profiles become steeper, the Sr and Nd isotopes become more radiogenic. This indicates a greater influence of seawater-altered subducted oceanic crust upon the proto-álnöite, as it evolves by megacryst fractionation. The calculated equilibrium liquid REE profiles from the garnet megacrysts preclude any definite conclusions, although the isotope data suggest they probably span the range of clinopyroxene crystallization. Phlogopite megacrysts were the last to crystallize, just prior to alnöite eruption, as indicated by an equilibrium liquid similar to alnöite and Sr isotopes approaching alnöite ratios.

The *r* value was determined by consideration of the basalt-basalt interaction and was originally estimated as 0.3. This value was adjusted slightly to 0.36 in order to encompass all data (Fig. 9). This value is in agreement with the modeling of KELEMEN (1986) in which mafic magma interacts with an essentially ultramafic wallrock component. The proportions of the megacryst phases fractionated are: *augite* 30%, *bronzite* 5%, *subcalcic diopside* 24.5%, *garnet* 27%, *ilmenite* 0.5%, and *phlogopite* 13%. Note that the *álnöite* is produced after 60% fractional crystallization in this model. As we envisage this process to occur at the base of the lithosphere, pressure constraints will negate olivine fractionation, resulting in the crystallization of orthopyroxene (bronzite) as the high-Mg phase (*e.g.*, O'HARA and YODER, 1967; THOMPSON, 1974). The decrease in the jadeite component from the augites to the subcalcic diopsides is also a function of the relatively high pressure of megacryst fractionation. Although at lower pressures the crystal/liquid partition coefficient for Na in clinopyroxene is  $\ll$  1, at higher pressures this increases dramatically due to the stability of jadeite (*e.g.*, YODER and TILLEY, 1962; KUSHIRO, 1979). Therefore, a decrease in jadeite component in continuously fractionated clinopyroxenes is expected from a basaltic magma crystallizing at relatively high pressures (20–30 Kbar). A decrease in pressure during crystallization will

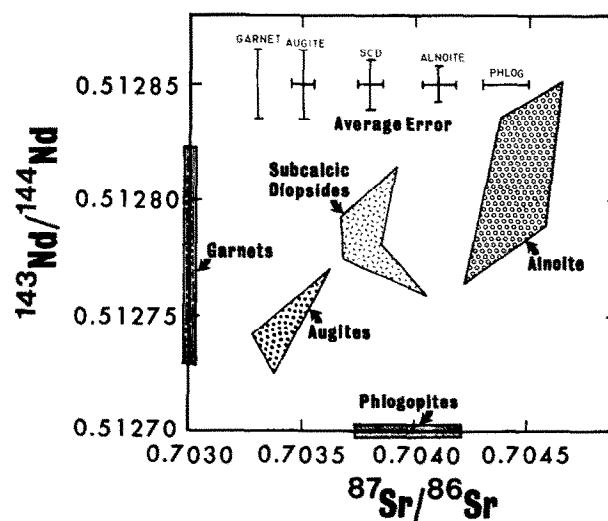


FIG. 7. A <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd vs. <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr diagram for the augite, subcalcic diopside, garnet, and phlogopite megacrysts, and the host alnöite. Note that the garnet megacryst have been analyzed only for Nd isotopes and have been plotted on the <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd axis. Similarly, the phlogopite megacrysts have only been analyzed for Sr isotopes and have been plotted on the <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr axis.

**Table 7:** Isotope results from the megacryst suite and host alnöite. Radiogenic isotope ratios have been corrected to the age of eruption - 34 Ma (Davis, 1977). Duplicate/triplicate oxygen isotope results are given for the cpx megacrysts.

Sample	Rb (ppm)	Sr (ppm)	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}+2\text{sd}$	Sm (ppm)	Nd (ppm)	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}+2\text{sd}$
<b>SUBCALCIC DIOPSIDES</b>						
CRN150	1.10	72.7	0.703908±10	1.88	5.74	0.512815±20
CRN158	0.38	67.5	0.703661±12	1.66	5.01	0.512792±26
CRN183	0.38	73.7	0.703687±12	1.68	4.98	0.512775±20
CRN198	0.18	81.8	0.704051±14	2.15	8.09	0.512759±20
CRN199	0.15	87.0	0.703908±12	2.15	6.32	na
CRN200	0.33	77.3	0.703851±8	2.12	6.25	0.512782±17
<b>AUGITES</b>						
PHN3517	na	na	na	2.03	5.83	0.512783±50
PHN3889	na	29.2	0.703154±10	2.11	5.97	0.512740±20
PHN3901	na	27.2	0.703251±12	2.18	6.09	0.512722±20
PHN3905	na	32.2	0.703489±10	2.38	6.70	0.512767±30
PHN3913	na	27.5	0.703418±10	2.03	5.69	na
PHN3967	na	27.3	0.703094±10	2.06	5.81	na
<b>GARNETS</b>						
CRN60				1.02	0.88	0.512781±30
CRN61				1.04	0.86	0.512727±26
CRN131				1.01	0.88	0.512843±30
CRN136				0.88	0.71	0.512730±42
CRN145				1.03	0.85	0.512773±20
<b>PHLOGOPITES</b>						
MICA 4	440	60.2	0.703771±20			
MICA 5	401	73.3	0.704203±60			
MICA 6	387	67.5	0.703736±14			
CRN123	400	72.1	0.703737±14			
CRN124	391	75.7	0.703934±10			
CRN127	406	71.7	0.703804±10			
<b>ALNÖITE</b>						
CRN233	66.0	1209	0.704568±20	15.3	79.7	0.512788±15
CRN235	40.1	1473	0.704645±18	15.2	79.2	0.512852±14
CRN237	66.0	928	0.704372±8	15.5	80.7	0.512836±13
CRN242	56.9	1562	0.704207±12	16.3	81.2	0.512764±17
<b>OXYGEN ISOTOPES</b>						
<b>SUBCALCIC DIOPSIDES</b>			<b>AUGITES</b>			
Sample	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$		Sample	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$		
CRN158	5.9, 6.1		PHN3517	5.9, 5.9		
CRN183	6.0, 6.1, 6.5		PHN3889	6.1, 7.3, 8.5		
CRN198	6.1, 6.1, 6.7		PHN3901	6.6, 6.8		
CRN199	6.1, 6.5		PHN3905	6.1, 6.3, 6.4		
CRN200	6.1, 6.1, 6.4		PHN3913	7.3, 7.6		
			PHN3967	5.9, 6.0		

na = not analyzed.

also decrease the Na content of the clinopyroxenes, as the stability field of jadeite is diminished.

Evidence that the augites crystallized before the subcalcic diopsides is seen from the Sr abundances in these megacrysts. No megacryst phase present in the Malaitan alnöite has a crystal/liquid partition coefficient of >1 for Sr. Therefore, Sr will increase in the residual liquid, if the megacrysts fractionated from a single magma. As augite and diopside have similar crystal/liquid partition coefficients for strontium (*e.g.*, PHILPOTTS and SCHNETZLER, 1970; ARTH and HANSON, 1975), the change in Sr contents of the clinopyroxene megacrysts is directly related to the Sr content of the liquid from

which they crystallized (Fig. 10a). Using this rationale, the subcalcic diopsides (67–87 ppm Sr) crystallized after the augites (27–32 ppm Sr). Sr abundance correlates also with Mg# of these megacrysts, indicating as Sr abundance increases, Mg# increases (Fig. 10b). Reversed fractionation schemes (*i.e.*, increases in Mg# as crystallization proceeds) have been noted on a smaller scale by WEIBLEN *et al.* (1981) in alkali basalts from Ross Island, Antarctica, where clinopyroxenes exhibit an increase in Mg# from core to rim. A similar situation has also been reported by BROOKS and RUCKLIDGE (1973) in alkali basalts from Greenland. This reversed fractionation scheme has been attributed to oxidation of the magma during



**Table 8:** Crystal/liquid partition coefficients used in modelling calculations.

	Augite <sup>1</sup>	Augite <sup>2</sup>	Augite <sup>3</sup>	SCD <sup>1</sup>	SCD <sup>2</sup>	SCD <sup>3</sup>	OPX <sup>1</sup>	OPX <sup>8</sup>
Rb	0.031	----	----	0.015	----	----	0.022	----
Sr	0.12	----	----	0.12	----	----	0.017	----
Ba	0.026	----	----	0.013	----	----	0.013	----
Ce	0.15	0.077	0.098	0.07	0.043	0.098	----	0.003
Nd	0.31	0.174	0.21	0.12	0.065	0.21	----	0.007
Sm	0.50	0.26	0.26	0.18	0.09	0.26	----	0.01
Eu	0.51	0.273	0.31	0.18	0.091	0.31	----	0.013
Gd	0.61	0.325	0.30	0.19	0.095	0.30	----	0.016
Dy	0.68	0.351	0.33	0.21	0.105	0.33	----	0.022
Er	0.65	0.33	0.30	0.17	0.107	0.30	----	0.03
Yb	0.62	0.294	0.28	0.16	0.092	0.28	----	0.049
	Garnet <sup>1</sup>	Garnet <sup>4</sup>	Garnet <sup>5</sup>	Phlog <sup>2</sup>	Phlog <sup>6</sup>	Phlog <sup>7</sup>	zircon <sup>7</sup>	Ilmenite <sup>9</sup>
Rb	0.042	----	----	3.06	3.06	----	0.25	(0.01)
Sr	0.012	----	----	0.081	0.081	----	----	0.005
Ba	0.023	----	----	1.09	1.09	----	----	0.005
Ce	0.028	0.007	0.021	0.034	----	0.014	0.13	0.006
Nd	0.068	0.026	0.087	0.032	----	0.017	(0.25)	0.008
Sm	0.29	0.131	0.217	0.031	----	0.015	0.38	0.01
Eu	0.49	0.273	0.32	0.03	----	0.029	1.26	0.007
Gd	0.97	0.68	0.498	0.03	----	0.014	(2.5)	0.014
Dy	3.17	1.94	1.06	0.03	----	0.019	(11)	0.025
Er	6.56	4.7	2.0	0.034	----	(0.025)	(50)	0.043
Yb	11.5	8.0	4.03	0.042	----	0.03	138	0.075

Brackets indicate estimated partition coefficient.

1 = Arth and Hanson (1975); 2 = Schnetzler and Philpotts (1970);

3 = Grutzeck et al. (1974); 4 = Irving and Frey (1978); 5 = Shimizu and Kushiro (1975); 6 = Philpotts and Schnetzler (1970); 7 = Irving and Frey (1984); 8 = Hanson (1980); 9 = Binder (1982).

ascent or to complicated local reactions between the pyroxene and the magma. It is unclear which is applicable to the Malaitan megacrysts.

Oxygen isotopes have been measured only from the clinopyroxene megacrysts (Table 7) and have been plotted against strontium (Fig. 11). The oxygen isotopes should also reflect the nature of the inferred assimilated seawater-altered basaltic component. Seawater alteration of oceanic crust results in both enrichments and depletions in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  relative to a mantle average of  $\cong +5.7\%$  (e.g., GREGORY and TAYLOR, 1981). This depends on the temperature at which exchange with seawater occurs, and also the mineralogy of the oceanic crust (altered/unaltered). High temperatures cause depletions and low temperatures cause enrichments in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  relative to the average mantle value.

The oxygen data may be interpreted in two ways: (1) the subcalcic diopsides ( $\delta^{18}\text{O} = +5.9\text{--}6.1\%$ ) crystallized first and the proto-almöite assimilated a portion of subducted oceanic crust which had undergone very limited low-temperature seawater alteration; or (2) the augites ( $\delta^{18}\text{O} = +5.9$  to  $+7.3\%$ ) crystallized first and the proto-almöite assimilated a portion of subducted oceanic crust which had undergone higher temperature seawater alteration. It is possible that this range in augite megacryst  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  is due to submicroscopic grain boundary contamination, but with the stringent handpicking and leaching procedures undertaken (see Appendix), we consider this to be unlikely.

We consider that the range in oxygen isotopes is caused by the second hypothesis, especially as the first hypothesis is in contradiction to the Sr isotope data (see above). If the pillow basalt portion of the oceanic crust was assimilated,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios would be expected to increase with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , but this is not the case. If the proto-almöite assimilated subducted oceanic crust, it is likely to have been the dike portion, as this can contain depleted (relative to mantle values)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (ALT *et al.*, 1986, MUEHLENBACHS, 1986) and also high enough  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  (McCULLOCH *et al.*, 1981) to facilitate the range in isotopic ratios observed at Malaita.

#### *Proto-almöite and host almöite petrogenesis*

Generation of the magma or proto-almöite from which the megacrysts crystallized is difficult to model. It has become widely accepted that metasomatically enriched source region is required to generate kimberlite and alkali basalt (e.g., KAY and GAST, 1973; BAILEY, 1982, 1984). However, the  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratios of the augite megacrysts (first crystallized phase) indicate that the proto-almöite source exhibits a time-integrated LREE-depleted signature. Also, it has been demonstrated that metasomatism of peridotite xenoliths is a consequence of almöite magmatism (NEAL, 1988), and the mechanism of metasomatism just prior to eruption is somewhat fortuitous. Therefore, our model for almöite generation, although somewhat speculative, is intended as a feasible al-

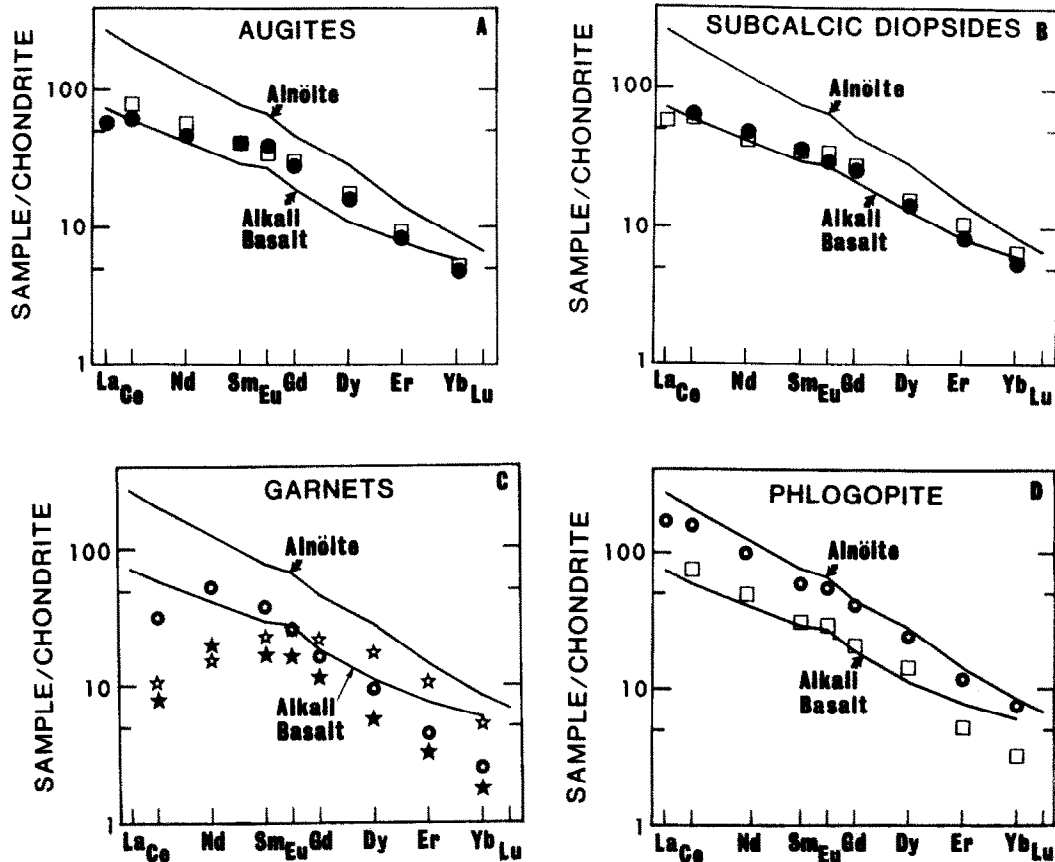


FIG. 8. Calculated "equilibrium liquids" for (A) the augite megacrysts; (B) the subcalcic diopside megacrysts; (C) the garnet megacrysts; and (D) a phlogopite megacryst. Filled circles = GRUTZECK *et al.* (1974); open circles = SCHNETZLER and PHILPOTTS (1970); circled stars = IRVING and FREY (1984); open stars = SHIMUZU and KUSHIRO (1975); filled stars = ARTH and HANSON (1975). The average REE profile of the host alnöite and an alkali basalt (FREY *et al.*, 1978) are shown for reference.

ternative to the idea of metasomatic enrichment, in that an unmetasomatized LREE-depleted source is envisaged. However, the Sm/Nd ratio is not as depleted as in MORB source, as the  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratio of the proto-almöite is only slightly elevated relative to bulk earth.

We invoke the process of zone refining (HARRIS, 1957, 1974; HARRIS and MIDDLEMOST, 1969; HANSON, 1980) to generate the proto-almöite from a LREE-depleted mantle peridotite. This source composition (Fig. 12; Table 9) was compiled from garnet peridotite compositions reported by SHIMUZU (1975), EHRENBERG (1982), and JONES (1984). Melt is produced by diapiric upwelling within the asthenosphere (GREEN and GUEGUEN, 1974) initiated by a thermal density perturbation. As the diapir rises it undergoes partial melting due to pressure-release, and this melt will congregate at the top of the diapir. Using the zone refining formula of HARRIS (1974), the REE abundances have been calculated in a diapiric melt which has passed through 200 times its own volume. The maximum depth for the initiation of diapiric upwelling is 1000 km; as HARTE and GURNEY (1981) have suggested the megacryst magma chamber is <5 km in extent. Furthermore, HARTE and GURNEY (1981) conclude that megacrysts are crystallized under essentially isobaric conditions, consis-

tent with impingement of the diapir upon the rigid lithosphere. The crystallization of the proto-almöite will be accompanied by assimilation of subducted oceanic crust (modeled after DEPAOLO, 1981, Eqn. 6a). The seawater-altered MORB composition has been compiled from LUDDEN and THOMPSON (1979), HUMPHRIS and THOMPSON (1978), and STAUDIGEL *et al.* (1981), and is presented in Table 9.

The zone refining process produces a magma analogous to an alkali basalt, which is expected from equilibrium liquid REE profiles from augite megacrysts. Note that the La/Yb ratio of the alnöite cannot be generated by zone refining alone. The melt produced is LREE-enriched, but will still maintain depleted Nd isotopic signature of the source region as the speed of this process does not allow sufficient time for  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  to reflect the new Sm/Nd ratio. The diapiric rise is either halted or drastically slowed with impingement upon the rigid lithosphere. Here the melt produced begins to crystallize and fractionate the megacryst suite. Note that in Fig. 12 and Table 9 the REE profile for the proto-almöite produced by zone refining is in good agreement with that predicted from clinopyroxene megacryst equilibrium liquids (*i.e.*, an alkali basalt). The proportions of megacrysts fractionated are the same as in the isotope modeling, except zircon has been

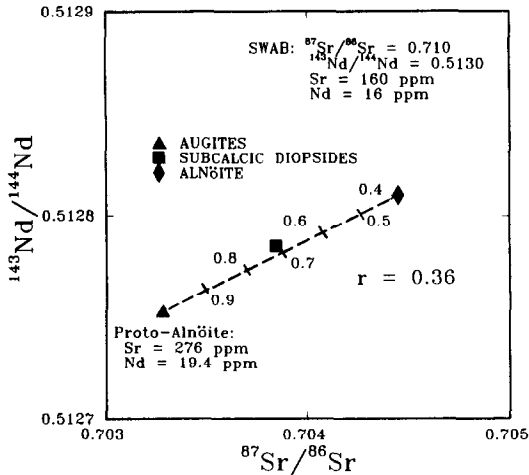


FIG. 9. A  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  vs.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  diagram illustrating a calculated AFC path between a proto-älnöite (represented by the augite megacrysts) and Seawater-Altered Basalt (SWAB). SWAB data from MCCULLOCH *et al.* (1981). Average clinopyroxene megacryst and alnöite compositions are plotted.

included (0.1%) and phlogopite is reduced from 13 to 12.9%. The  $F$  value used in the assimilation fractional crystallization calculation is 0.4 (60% crystallization of the proto-älnöite liquid) and the  $r$  value is 0.36 (also consistent with the isotope modeling). The residual liquid calculated after zone refining, megacryst fractionation, and crustal assimilation compares well with the measured Malaitan alnöite.

Although the oxygen data are within the present mantle  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  range (e.g., KYSER *et al.*, 1981, 1982; GRAHAM and HARMON, 1983), the results are ambiguous (see above). The

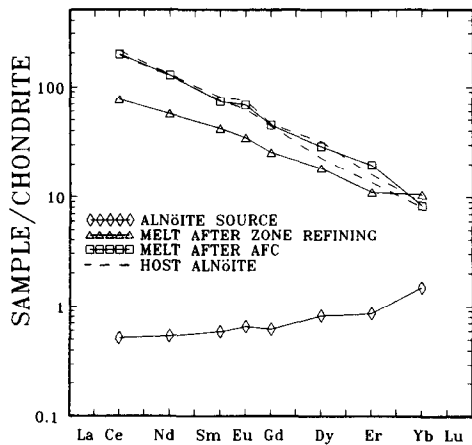


FIG. 10. A chondrite-normalized trace element plot of the REE, Rb, Sr, and Ba. Compositions illustrated are a depleted source (calculated from SHIMUZU, 1975, and EHRENBERG, 1982), the magma after zone refining, and the magma after AFC. The range in the host alnöite is shown for reference. The source mineralogy is taken as: Olivine 79.5%; Orthopyroxene 13.5%; Garnet 3.5%; Diopside 3.5%. The megacrysts are fractionated in the proportions: Augite 30%; garnet 27%; subcalcic diopside 24.5%; phlogopite 12.9%; bronzite 5%; ilmenite 0.5%; zircon 0.1%. Partition coefficients used are as in Fig. 8 and also from IRVING and FREY (1978).  $F = 0.4$ ,  $r = 0.36$ .

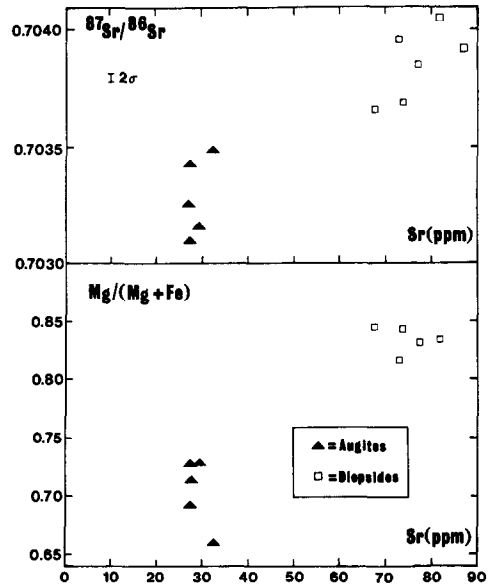


FIG. 11. A plot of Sr abundance vs.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and Mg# of the augite and subcalcic diopside megacrysts.

significance of these oxygen isotope data may be emphasized by comparison with previous oxygen isotope studies of mantle-derived magmas and xenoliths. In one such study, KYSER *et al.* (1982) noted that alkali basalts have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  ranging from +6 to +8‰, higher than that for tholeiitic basalts ( $\approx 5.7\text{‰}$ ). These authors concluded that such elevated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  compositions are a product of a source composition which has already experienced depletion(s) by partial melting. As the inferred proto-älnöite is an alkali basalt derived from a depleted source, it is feasible that the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  will be 7–7.5‰, and will be reflected in the augite megacrysts. Upon assimilation of

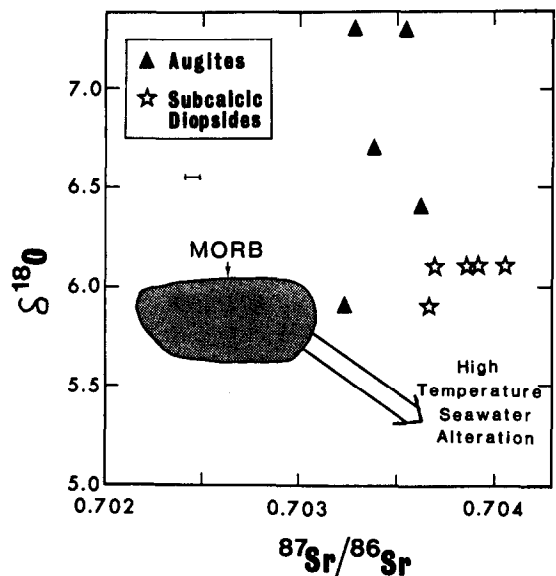


FIG. 12. A plot of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  vs.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  illustrating the effect of SWAB assimilation on the clinopyroxene megacrysts.

**Table 9:** Results of zone refining and fractional crystallization modelling of trace elements from a depleted peridotite. Source mineralogy is: Olivine 50%; Orthopyroxene 29%; Garnet 12%; Diopside 9%. Element abundances are in ppm. Source calculated from Shimizu (1975) and Ehrenberg (1982).

SOURCE	MAGMA AFTER ZONE REFINING	MAGMA AFTER AFC (r=0.36) (P=0.40)	ALNÖITE RANGE	SEAWATER ALTERED MORB	Proportions of Megacrysts Fractionated
Ce	0.45	66.6	170	172-183	Augite 30%
Nd	0.34	35.9	80.0	79.2-81.2	Bronzite 5%
Sm	0.12	8.53	15.0	15.2-16.3	Subcalcic
Eu	0.05	2.66	5.27	4.84-5.78	Diopside 24.5%
Gd	0.17	7.04	12.4	12.2-12.7	Garnet 27%
Dy	0.28	6.31	9.90	1.78-11.0	Ilmenite 0.5%
Er	0.19	2.42	4.30	2.97-3.52	Phlogopite 12.9%
Yb	0.33	2.31	1.83	1.76-1.95	Zircon 0.1%

seawater-altered basalt, the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the magma is decreased, witnessed by the oxygen isotope compositions of the augite and subcalcic diopside megacrysts. As the augites are considered to have crystallized first, the range in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values may reflect the initial effect of seawater-altered basalt on the proto-ahnöite magma. The more constricted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of the later crystallized subcalcic diopsides probably indicate a more homogeneous magma during the later stages of evolution.

Two previous isotopic studies of the Malaitan alnöite and its entrained xenoliths have been conducted (BIELSKI-ZYSKIND *et al.*, 1984; RUBENSTONE and ZINDLER, 1989). RUBENSTONE and ZINDLER (1989) suggested either sequential or singular enrichment of the mantle beneath the OJP by a LREE-enriched component. NEAL (1988) demonstrated that this mantle enrichment was a consequence of alnöite magmatism. BIELSKI-ZYSKIND *et al.* (1984) concluded that the source reservoir for the Malaitan alnöite consisted of either 99% depleted mantle and 1% of enriched continental material, or small proportions of deeply subducted young crustal material and depleted mantle. Our model also requires a crustal component, but differs from BIELSKI-ZYSKIND *et al.* (1984) in that it is seawater-altered MORB rather than of continental origin. With our increased database, more definitive conclusions may be drawn as to the petrogenesis of the Malaitan alnöite and its entrained xenoliths.

The model presented in this study illustrates that the isotopic and REE data from the alnöite can be generated by zone refining of a LREE-depleted source, followed by an AFC process at the base of the lithosphere. We recognize that all trace elements have not been included in this model, due to the lack of data for these elements in the garnet peridotite source and the assumed proto-ahnöite composition (alkali basalt). In order to thoroughly test the proposed model, these will have to be accounted for when the data has been collected. However, the data outlined above can be adequately explained by this zone refining-AFC scheme, and presents a viable alternative to the metasomatic models. The salient features of our proposed model are summarized below.

#### Model for alnöite petrogenesis (Fig. 13)

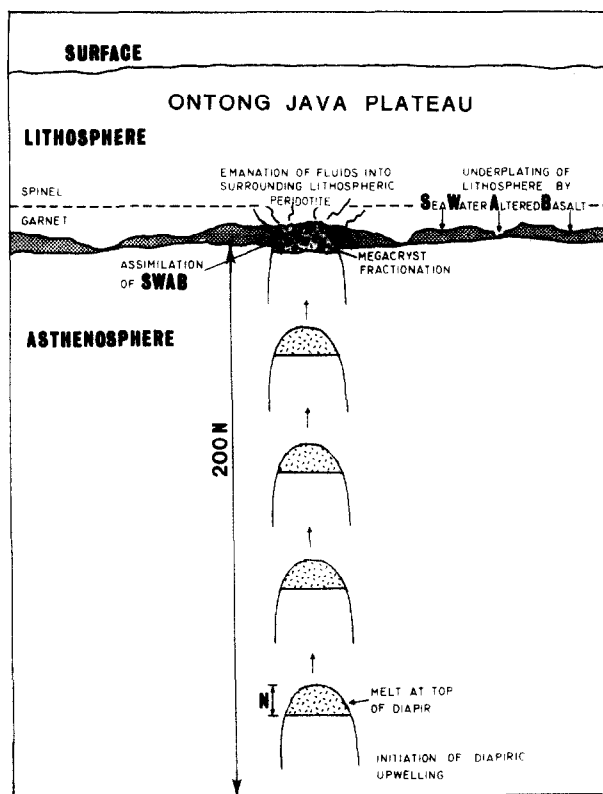
1. Initiation of diapiric upwelling deep within a LREE-depleted asthenosphere.

2. Melt is produced by pressure release and undergoes zone refining as it rises ( $N = 200$ ). This produces a magma which is alkali basalt in character.

3. When the diapir impinges on the rigid lithosphere, its progress is halted and it begins to cool. At this point fractionation of the megacryst suite occurs.

4. A subducted derivative of oceanic crust underplating the OJP is assimilated by the proto-ahnöite magma during megacryst fractionation (an AFC process).

5. The alnöite is therefore a product of zone refining, fractional crystallization, and crustal assimilation.



**FIG. 13.** Illustration of the envisaged processes involved in the petrogenesis of the Malaitan alnöite.

6. Ascent to the surface is controlled by pressure-induced fracture propagation and pre-existing fracture zones (ANDERSON, 1979; SPERA, 1984).

### SUMMARY

Major element trends from the Malaitan megacryst suite indicate fractionation from a single, evolving magma. The host alnöite is the end-product of this process. This hypothesis is supported by REE modeling, where equilibrium liquids calculated for the various megacryst phases demonstrate a steepening of REE profile as fractionation proceeds. Isotopic disparity between the megacrysts and the host alnöite, and within the megacryst suite, is facilitated by an assimilation and fractional crystallization process between a proto-älnöite magma and a subducted derivative of oceanic crust. REE modeling indicates the proto-älnöite magma was alkali basalt in character. Modeling of this AFC process indicates that the alnöite is produced after 60% crystallization of the proto-älnöite magma. The Sr and Nd isotope (and elemental abundances) coupled with REE data indicate *the augite megacrysts fractionated before the subcalcic diopsides*. This requires that the proto-älnöite magma becomes depleted in Ca and enriched in Mg. The trace element and isotope modeling give the same results, namely the alnöite is produced after 60% crystallization of the proto-älnöite magma (fractionating megacryst proportions: augite 30%, bronzite 5%, subcalcic diopside 24.5%, garnet 27%, ilmenite 0.5%, phlogopite 12.9%, and 0.1% zircon), while assimilating 21.6% of subducted oceanic crust ( $r = 0.36$ ).

From the above discussion, it is apparent that the alnöite is not a primary mantle melt. It is derived from a LREE-depleted source, on the basis of Nd isotopes, and no direct evidence of source metasomatism is found. A zone refining process is used to model the REE from a LREE-depleted asthenospheric source to produce the alkali basaltic proto-älnöite composition. After megacryst fractionation, the alnöite which is seen at the surface is produced.

The conclusions drawn from this study indicate that (a) a metasomatized source is not essential for alnöite generation; (b) megacrysts have a relationship, albeit indirect, with the host magma; (c) careful examination is required in order to determine whether these mantle-derived magmas are primary melts; and (d) crustal interaction may be significant in the evolution of such melts. Whether our model is applicable to kimberlites and alkali basalts requires that each case be studied individually. Although the concept of a metasomatized source for mantle-derived magmas cannot be unequivocally disproven, the argument for an unmetasomatized source and megacryst fractionation from a proto-älnöite magma is certainly strong for the petrogenesis of the Malaitan alnöite.

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#### APPENDIX: ANALYTICAL METHODS

Major and trace element whole-rock compositions were determined on fused disks and pressed powder pellets, respectively, using a Philips PW1400 X-ray fluorescence spectrometer. Running parameters for major elements were 40 kV, 60 mA, whereas trace elements were analyzed at 50 kV, 50 mA. Errors are approximately 5–10% for trace elements and  $\pm 1\%$  of the measured value for major elements.

Major element mineral analyses were conducted on a JEOL-50A electron microprobe fitted with an energy dispersive system (Link 860 Series 2). Errors are generally  $\pm 2\%$  of the measured value, except for sodium which is  $\pm 10\%$ . In order to decrease the analytical errors, each reported composition is an average of at least ten individual analyses (where minerals are homogeneous).

Ultraclean mineral separates of the megacrysts were prepared by progressive leaching in HCl, HNO<sub>3</sub>, and HF acids with repeated handpicking. These and whole-rock alnöite samples were analyzed by isotope dilution for the REE (and Sr, Nd and O isotopes). The

REE were separated on ion exchange columns after dissolution and measured automatically on a VG Isomass 54E spectrometer, using the method of THIRLWALL (1982). The terms "depleted" and "enriched" are used to describe REE patterns relative to a flat, chondrite-normalized bulk earth pattern.

Mineral separates and whole-rock alnöite samples for Sr, Nd, and O isotope analysis were prepared as for REE analysis. Sr and Nd were separated on ion exchange columns and loaded on triple filaments (rhenium center, tantalum sides) for Nd analysis, and on single tantalum filaments for Sr analysis. The analyses reported here were included in a much larger study of the Malaitan alnöite (see NEAL, 1985, for a full discussion of the procedure used). External precision over the period of study was monitored by running standard samples. For Nd, 16 measurements of the La Jolla standard gave a  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratio of  $0.511889 \pm 20$ . A fractionation correction is applied to Nd measurements, using the  $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratio of 0.7219. For Sr, 38 measurements of the NBS 987 standard gave an average  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$

ratio of  $0.710281 \pm 4$ . Where needed, all isotopic ratios have been corrected to the age of eruption (34 Ma; DAVIS, 1977).

Oxygen was extracted from clinopyroxene megacrysts using techniques similar to those described by CLAYTON and MAYEDA (1963), but employing  $\text{ClF}_3$  as an alternative reagent (BORTHWICK and HARMON, 1982). Oxygen isotope ratios were measured on a Finnegan MAT 251 triple collector gas source mass spectrometer, and are reported as delta values relative to SMOW. Internal precision is estimated at better than 0.1%. Analyses were repeated two or three times with reproducibility generally better than 0.2%. *Where two of the three results were in obvious agreement, the spurious value was discarded.* These spurious analyses usually coincided with extraction problems such as low gas yields. The two analyses of CRN199 are 0.35‰ different, but insufficient sample was available to perform further measurements. Although PHN3889 was analyzed several times, reproducibility was poor, indicating some problem with sample heterogeneity or purity.