

Feature and evolution of metamorphic fluids during continental collision

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In the past three decades, fluid inclusions in granulites and eclogites have been intensively studied. In general, CO₂ predominates in granulites, against N₂ and H₂O in eclogites. Examples from the Triassic Dabie-Sulu orogenic belt in eastern China also show no difference in fluid regime between high- and ultrahigh-pressure eclogites, but significant distinction between granulites, granulitized eclogites and eclogites. Typically, a complete fluid history has been well preserved in granulitized eclogites and garnet clinopyroxenites (e.g., Weihai & Huangweihe): from early N₂ and high-salinity brines at eclogite-facies, to CO₂ at granulite-facies and finally low-salinity fluids at retrograde amphibolite-facies conditions. While some of the H₂O can be considered to originate from hydroxyl exsolution during exhumation, the origin of CO₂ – internally or externally-derived – is still unclear. Electron microprobe results show that solid needles or rods abundantly in clinopyroxene (formerly supersilicic) are SiO₂±NaAlSi₃O₈ in composition, but no Laser Raman spectra indicate a structure corresponding to quartz or albite. Thus, the solid phase that commonly contains CO₂±CH₄ inclusions is believed to be glass. It may represent remnants of melt inclusions, formed during granulite-facies overprinting.

Based on SEM-EDX and laser Raman techniques a solid phase, ferropyrosmalite [(Fe, Mn)₈Si₆O₁₅(OH, Cl)₁₀, where Fe >> Mn] has been identified in CH₄-bearing, multisolid brine inclusions in coesite-bearing eclogites. Ferropyrosmalite may result from retrogression of clinopyroxene in the saline fluid at low temperatures after trapping. Laser ablation ICP-MS results show large amounts of Na, K, Mg, Ca, Mn, Fe, Sr, Ba and Pb in the brine.

Fluid inclusions in quartz veins within high- and ultrahigh-pressure eclogites and gneisses indicate that late low-salinity fluids are ubiquitous, whereas relics of early fluids are either Ca- and Na-rich or nearly pure waters. In particular, high-salinity brines have been preserved in high- ¹⁸O quartz veins and host rocks (i.e., high- ¹⁸O eclogites and gneisses), whereas very low-salinity fluids occur in low- ¹⁸O equivalents. It appears that the extent of meteoric-hydrothermal alteration to their protoliths before the Triassic subduction has exerted a primary control on the fluid salinity and ¹⁸O value.

Discovery of ubiquitous 50 nanometers carbon particles in the atmosphere

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Elemental carbon (EC) aerosols in the atmosphere have been observed by scientists, since EC aerosols are reported to absorb sunlight, heat the air, and eventually contribute to global warming (Jacobson, 2001). The morphology of EC particles will affect their optical properties, therefore the study on morphology is very important when studying the warming effect of EC aerosols. The aim of this study is to observe the difference in the morphology of EC particles of different sizes in the atmosphere.

Different sized aerosols were collected at 10 m latitude in JAERI (Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Tokai-mura, Ibaraki, Japan, N: 36.30, L: 140.29) and in RIKEN (Wako, Saitama, Japan, N: 35.50, L: 139.29) with an Andersen type air sampler. EC particles in different-sized aerosols were separated by chemical process, and morphologies of them were observed in detail with SEM.

The results of this study showed that most of EC particles in the atmosphere is 50 nanometers spherical particles (Fig. 1), and the 50 nanometers carbon ball aggregate with other aerosols or themselves to form bigger aerosols of different sizes in the atmosphere. The 50 nanometers spherical carbon particle was found different from fullerene reported by Utsunomiya et al. (2002). All EC particles showed the same ratio of carbon and oxygen (O/C) independent of their size and morphology.

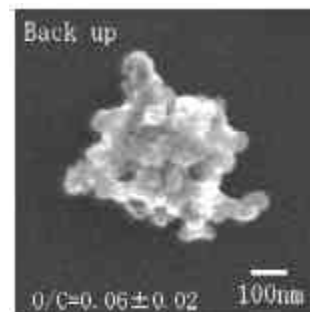


Fig. 1: The SEM image of EC particles separated from the aerosols collected on back-up stage of an Andersen air sampler.

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References

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