Neoproterozoic dioritic-granitic complexes of the Yangtze craton, petrogenesis and its tectonic significances

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Among the Neoproterozoic plutons, the Hannan and Huangling complexes, located at the northern margin and central region of the Yangtze craton, respectively, are two of the most representative dioritic-granitic intrusive groups.

The Huangling complex (~2100km²), emplaced into the Archean basement and covered by the stratotype for the Sinian System of South China (740-540 Ma), is composed of four suites. The Huanglingmao (tonalite-granodiorite in Shandouping (tonalite), and (granodiorite-monzogranite) suites were dated at 819±7, 795±8 and 794±7 Ma[1], respectively. Most samples from the suites display high (La/Yb)_N (4-60) and Sr/Y (30-180) ratios and depleted in Nb, Ta, Ti and P, which typical of Archean TTG gneisses or Phanerozoic adakite. However, dioritic samples exhibit high MgO (>6 wt%), Mg# (>60) and Cr (>100ppm), Ni (>300ppm) at SiO₂≤60 wt %, characteristic of Archean high Mg diorite or sanukitoid rocks. The Huangling samples are also featured by highly negative $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values of -8 to -21 and T_{DM} ages of 2.9 to 1.8 Ga.

The Hannan complex are composed of bimodal dioritic-granitic and gabbroic plutons, which were dated at $789\pm10[1]$ and 819-808 Ma[2], respectively. The felsic intrusives are tonalitic dominate and show similar elemental geochemistry with those from the Huangling. However, the Hannan felsics demonstrate $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$ of 0 to 4 and T_{DM} ages of 1.4 to 1.0 Ga, which are indiscriminating from basaltic rocks from the Xixiang Group, early Neoproterozoic basement in the region.

Both of the coeval complexes reveal a genesis of lower crustal anatexis of mafic rocks caused by underplate conductive heating joined with variable mantle fluxes, suggesting that the dioritic-granitic complexes should be resulted from a common tectono-thermal event with a craton-crosing scope in active range. Coupled with a continental interior setting for the Huangling complex, a reasonable interpretation of a mantle plume development during 0.82-0.79 Ma beneath the Yangtze craton is advocated.

References

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