Zircon CHIME dating of durbachite from the Třebíč Pluton, Central European Variscides

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Durbachite, a distinct type of ultrapotassic plutonic rock, occurs widely in Moldanubian Zone that represents the orogenic root of the Central European Variscides. Emplacement of the Třebíč Pluton postdates granulite-facies metamorphism (350-340 Ma) [1] and the emplacement of calc-alkaline plutons (350-330 Ma) in the area. The Třebíč Pluton has yielded U-Pb zircon ages of 340±8 Ma [2]; however, durbachite is known to contain complex zircon grains with discordant U-Pb ages [3]. In this study, durbachite was sampled from the north margin of the Třebíč Pluton at Velke Meziřičí. Separated zircon was dated by CHIME (chemical Th-U-total Pb isochron method).

Zircon occurs as skeletal and euhedral crystals 0.1-0.3 mm in length. Most grains have concentric growth zoning. Analyses were carried out on a JEOL JCXA-733 EPMA with 4 WD spectrometers, operated at 15 kV accelerating voltage, 0.2µA probe current and with a defocused 3µm beam diameter. UMB, ThMa PbMa and YLa lines were measured simultaneously with PET crystals and sealed Xe X-ray detectors. CaKa, SKa, KKa, ZrLa, SiKa and NbLß lines were also measured. Of 160 spots on 8 grains, 123 spots contain detectable amounts of Pb (PbO>0.003 wt%). Of these, 90 spots with low CaO (<0.05 wt%) and K₂O (<0.03 wt%) were chosen for age calculation. These spots contain 0.006 to 0.726 wt% ThO2, 0.122 to 1.132 wt% UO2, 0.0046 to 0.0639 wt% PbO and 0.006 to 0.263 wt% Y_2O_3 . Data regression yields an isochron of 332±14 Ma. The CHIME zircon age matches the 335 Ma zircon U-Pb age for genetically related syenite within the Třebíč Pluton and 334±2.5 Ma for durbachite in the alpine domain [4].

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