

# Modification of subcontinental lithospheric mantle in SE China

XISHENG XU<sup>1,2</sup>, W. L. GRIFFIN<sup>2</sup>, DONGGAO ZHAO<sup>3</sup> AND S. Y. O'REILLY<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> State Key Laboratory for Mineral Deposit Research,  
Department of Earth Sciences, Nanjing University,  
Nanjing 210093, P.R. China; [sxu@nju.edu.cn](mailto:sxu@nju.edu.cn)

<sup>2</sup> GEMOC, Dept of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia

<sup>3</sup> Department of Geological Sciences, University of South Carolina, SC 29208, USA

Studies of mantle-derived xenoliths are important for understanding the composition of the subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM), its evolution through time, and continental dynamics. The removal or modification of the older lithospheric mantle beneath eastern China is interpreted to be mainly a Mesozoic process. However, the mechanism and timing of lithospheric thinning in eastern China have not been clearly documented.

Our recent work, focussing on peridotites with no volatile-bearing phases, reveals other evidence of metasomatism and provides more constraints for identifying the metasomatic agent(s).

*In situ* Re-Os isotopic data for sulfides in mantle xenoliths from eastern China show a wide range in Os isotopic composition, reflecting the complexity of mantle events. The data suggest the widespread presence of Proterozoic mantle, which has been repeatedly flushed with sulfur-bearing metasomatic fluids since Proterozoic time.

Detailed compositional profile analysed by electron microprobe show that primary olivine and clinopyroxene have higher mg numbers (0.89-0.91), while neoblast olivine and clinopyroxene have lower mg numbers (0.65-0.88). No significant zoning has been found for spinel and orthopyroxene, but olivine has very distinctive composition zoning with mg number decreasing from 0.90 to 0.73 from core to rim. Feldspar- and carbonate-bearing peridotites, rare in other peridotite xenoliths worldwide, have been identified. The feldspar occurs as interstitial material, but typically forms fine-grained aggregates made up of secondary olivine, plagioclase, clinopyroxene and very small grains of Cr-rich spinel, ilmenite. Feldspar is relatively rich in titanium (0.15-0.46% TiO<sub>2</sub>). The formation of feldspar is inferred to be due to the reaction: sp+opx+cpx+fluid=fs+ol and indicates that the most recent metasomatic process was related to infiltration of an alkali-rich fluid into the peridotites.