

Zircon U-Pb geochronology of hosting rhyolites and mineralized quartz veins at the Tiemurt Pb-Zn-Cu Deposit: Insights for ore genesis

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This contribution reports the finding of zircon-bearing rhyolites and mineralized quartz veins at the Tiemurt deposit, which occurs as veins controlled by NW-extending structures in the Devonian volcanic-sedimentary basin of the Altay orogenic belt Xinjiang, China.

The zircons separated from two hosting meta-rhyolites samples yield weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages of 403.1±5.1 Ma and 393.3±4.9 Ma, respectively. Integrated with their automorphic crystal, the lack of fluid inclusions, high Th/U and high ΣREE values, the ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages ranging from 393Ma to 403Ma can be interpreted as the eruption age of the volcanic rocks in the Early Devonian.

The four mineralized quartz samples yield complicated zircon U-Pb ages. At least two age peaks are recognized, ca. 400Ma and ca. 220Ma. The age of ca.400Ma may be the joining age of the hosting volcanics. The zircons with ca. 220Ma age contain abundant hydrothermal fluid inclusions and coincide with the Ar-Ar ages of biotite in the polymetallic quartz veins. Therefore, the age ca. 220 Ma can represent that of the flowing metamorphism fluids migrations.

In term of the geological characteristics, structural, geochemical and geochronological characteristics of the zircon, the Tiemurt Pb-Zn-Cu deposit may be an example of epigenetic orogenic Pb-Zn+Cu systems formed in the settings of intercontinental collision at the Early Trassic of ca.220Ma.

Phosphorus-bearing pyroxenes in flood basalts with native iron, Khungtukun, Polar Siberia, Russia

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Native iron from the Khungtukun trap intrusion contains melt inclusions, some of which show silicate-silicate liquid immiscibility [1, 2]. We studied in detail composition of the immiscible inclusions (0.2-1 mm). The silicate melts in them represent the aluminosilicate (60-77 wt% SiO₂) and silica-poor, Fe-Ti-Ca-P-rich (in wt%: SiO₂ 15-46; FeO 15-22; TiO₂ 2-7; CaO 11-27; P₂O₅ 5-30) conjugate liquids; one of components mainly occurs as globules in other (Fig. 1).

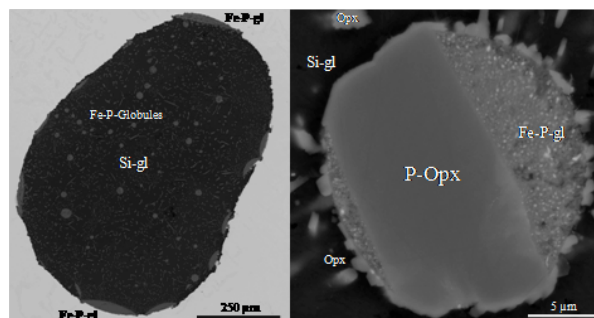


Figure 1: BSE images of an immiscible inclusion in native iron and one of Si-poor, Fe-Ti-Ca-P-rich globules in it.

In contrast with Si-rich part, the Si-poor globules contain ortho- and clinopyroxene with high P₂O₅. Composition of orthopyroxene is (in wt%): SiO₂ 42.2-44.7; P₂O₅ 3.3-4.3 (0.1-0.15 apfu); TiO₂ 2.5-3.2; Al₂O₃ 4.7-6.0; FeO 20.7-22.7; MnO 0.8-0.9; MgO 15.3-18.1; CaO 4.8-6.1; Na₂O 0.05-0.2; Mg# 55-61. Clinopyroxene is richer in P₂O₅ (up to 13 wt%) and has formula Na_{0.05}Ca_{0.55}Fe_{0.7}Mg_{0.6}Ti_{0.1}(Al_{0.4}P_{0.4}Si_{1.2})O₆. In general, Si-poor and P-rich nature of an immiscible liquid and reduced conditions were favourable to incorporation of P in the tetrahedral site in the structures of pyroxenes.

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[1] Ryabov (1989) *Immiscibility in natural glasses*. Nauka, Novosibirsk. [2] Ryabov & Lapkovsky (2010) *Aust J Earth Sci* 57, 707-736.