Consistent occurrence of moderately elevated δ^{18} O magmas in Acasta gneiss complex from 4.0 to 3.5 Ga.

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Oxygen isotope ratios of zircons from 5 felsic gneisses (ca. 4.0 to 3.5 Ga) of the Acasta Gneiss Complex (AGC) [1] were measured with an ion microprobe, CAMECA IMS 1280-HR at Kochi Institute, JAMSTEC. A new kimberlite zircon standard: KC-KLV-Zrc1 from Kaalvallei, South Africa (d¹⁸O=5.43±0.14‰ VSMOW, 2SD, laser fluorination) was used as a running standard for SIMS analysis.

The 4.0 to 3.5 Ga AGC zircons consistently have moderately elevated $d^{18}O$ values (6.0 to 6.8%) with a few exceptions having mantle-like $d^{18}O$ values (Figure). No low $d^{18}O$ (<4.7%) zircon (e.g., phase II in [2]) was recognized in our samples, indicating that production of low $d^{18}O$ magma was not major igneous process in this area after ca. 4.0 Ga.

Constant d¹⁸O values of AGC zircons for 500 Myr, with a narrower range than Jack Hills detrital zircons (d¹⁸O=4.7 to 7.5‰ [3]) or zircons from SW Greenland (mostly mantle-like or lower d¹⁸O values [4]), indicate that uncontaminated primitive magma in this region and time period was limited and that recycling of pre-existing crust with a small contribution of aqueous alteration products has consistently occurred after ca. 4.0 Ga.



Iizuka et al. (2007) Precam. Res. 153, 179-208. [2]
Reimink et al. (2014) Nat. Geosci. 7, 529-533. [3] Cavosie et al. (2005) EPSL 235, 663-681. [4] Hiess et al. (2011) Contrib. Mineral. Pet. 161, 1027-1050.