Subduction initiation deduced from peridotites of the Izu-Bonin-Mariana forearc and ophiolites: Implicatins for Arc MOHO diversity

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Compared with comprehensive studies on arcrelated volcanic rocks [1], there have been still few studies of the lower crust/mantle evolution related to igneous activity in the earliest stages of subduction initiation. We examine peridotites recovered from an exhumed crust/mantle section exposed along the landward slopes of the northern Izu-Bonin Trench [2] and peridotite bodies from the so-called "suprasubduction ophiolite" such as, the Mirdita ophioite, Albania [3]. The Cr# (=Cr/(Cr+Al) atomic ratio) of spinel in the IBM and ophiolites coupled with chemical compositions of silicate inclusions within spinel, two distinctive melts are in equilibrium with these dunites: a boninitic melt for the high-Cr# dunite (> 0.7) and a mid- oceanic ridge basalt (MORB)-like melt for the medium-Cr# dunite (< 0.65). In the case of the Eastern Mirdita ophiolite, porphyroclast-bearing harzburgite срх (Cpxharzburgite) occurs structurally in the lower parts of the peridotite massifs, whereas harzburgite and dunite are more abundant towards the upper parts. The Cpxharzburgite is formed as the residue of less-flux partial melting that is similar to those in abyssal peridotites from MOR systems. On the other hand, harzburgite is produced as a result of enhanced partial melting of depleted peridotites triggered by infiltration of hydrous LREE-enriched fluids/melts. The wide range of variation in dunites from the IBM forearc and the uppermost section of ophiolites probably reflects changing melt compositions from MORB-like melts to boninitic melts in the forearc setting due to an increase of slab-derived hydrous fluids/melts during subduction initiation. This scenario is consistent with the temporal and spatial variation of volcanic rocks in the Izu-Bonin-Mariana arc [1]. Ultramafic rocks above the mantle section of ophiolites, such as ultramafic-mafic layered sequence and late ultramafic intrusions in gabbros can be also explained by crystallization from hydrous MORBtype and boninitic compositions. Observations from ophiolites indicate that arc magmatisms during subduction initiation modify the pre-existing MOHO significantly.

 Reagan et al. (2010) G-cubed 11, doi:10.1029/2009GC002871. [2] Morishita et al. (2011) Geology 39, 411-414. [3] Morishita et al., (2011) Lithos 124, 215-226.