

Cl incorporation in amphibole and biotite from granulite-facies iron formations: interplay among crystallography and fluids

DARRELL J. HENRY¹

NICHOLAS DAIGLE¹

¹Department of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA.
glhenr@lsu.edu

Cl-rich calcic amphibole (cam) and biotite (bt) are found in Archean iron-formations of the Beartooth Mtns, Montana, USA. These rocks, typified by mineral assemblages of quartz + magnetite + orthopyroxene + garnet ± clinopyroxene, equilibrated at granulite facies conditions of ~775–800°C and 6–8 kbar. The Fe-rich cam (mostly Cl-rich potassic-hastingsite and magnesio-ferri-hornblende) and bt contain Cl concentrations up to 2.9 wt% and 3.4 wt%, respectively. Threshold values of the $X_{\text{Fe}^{2+}}$, $^{\text{A}}\text{K}$ (cam) and $^{\text{T}}\text{Al}$ must be attained before significant amounts of Cl are incorporated. The high Cl content suggests a coexisting brine (~25 wt% NaCl and $f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}/f_{\text{HCl}} \sim 0.75$). There is evidence for brine-CO₂ immiscibility during peak metamorphism. Fe²⁺-Mg partitioning of cam and the coexisting mafic silicates changes such that cam preferentially partitions Fe²⁺. A feedback mechanism can be generated such that the more Cl available from a fluid the more Fe²⁺-rich the cam can become, and this produces a crystal structure that can accommodate more Cl and the Fe-Cl enrichment cycle continues until depleted.