

Remnant ancient lithospheric fragments in Proterozoic Dunzhugur Ophiolites in southern Siberia

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The most ancient ophiolite of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt, Dunzhugur ophiolites in Eastern Sayan, Russia dated at 1020 Ma^[1], is considered to have formed in the fore-arc setting of the Dunzhugur island arc, facing the Gargan Block continent. The oceanic plate separating these was subducting beneath the arc^[2]. Recent Nd isotope results ($\epsilon\text{Nd}(t) = -1.0$ to $+1.5$ and $t_{\text{Nd(DM)}} = 1.8$ -1.6 Ga) of Dunzhugur ophiolites are interpreted as recording the infiltration of melts mixed with subducted continental sediments from Gargan Block, lending support to the above scenario^[3]. New whole-rock platinum-group elements (PGE), and Re–Os isotope data plus one sulfide Re–Os result from peridotites of Hara-Nur and Ulan-Sardag massifs associated with Dunzhugur ophiolites in this study reveal the existence of an ancient domain in the underlying lithospheric mantle. Dunite, harzburgite and chromitite showing residual PGE patterns ($\text{Pd/Ir} = 0.07$ -0.62) with low $^{187}\text{Re}/^{188}\text{Os}$ ratios (0.0037-0.0632) yield t_{MA} model ages of 2.38, 1.84, 1.44 and 1.22 Ga ($^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os} = 0.11353$ -0.11978). A low $^{187}\text{Re}/^{188}\text{Os}$ harzburgite with IPGE-depleted PGE pattern and one sulfide in dunite yield t_{MA} model ages of 1.38 and 1.53 Ga. The pristine residual signatures, along with the ancient Os model ages *older than* the Dunzhugur ophiolites cannot be ascribed to recycled (subducted) ancient crustal materials in the lithospheric mantle. Similar crustal event age peaks occur in the South China Block/Laurentia, suggesting a connection with the southern Siberian Craton before the opening of the Paleo-Asian Ocean. Thus remnant lithospheric fragments stranded by rifting of the ancient continental regions are inferred to occur in the Neoproterozoic Dunzhugur ophiolites as observed in modern ocean basins^[4].

^[1]Khain et al., EPSL, 2002; ^[2]Kuzmichev, *CAOB: Geology, Evolution, Tectonics & Models*. A. Kröner (ed.), 2015;

^[3]Sklyarov et al., RGG, 2016; ^[4]O'Reilly et al., *Lithos*, 2009.