

The use of atmospheric chemistry to characterise how mantle processes have contributed to Earth's environmental distinction

SAMI MIKHAIL^{1,2}, AUBREY L ZERKLE^{1,2}, DUNCAN H FORGAN^{1,2}, MICHAEL J HEAP³, DIMITRI A SVERJENSKY⁴, PETER H BARRY⁵

¹The University of St. Andrews, UK [sm342@st-andrews.ac.uk]; ²Centre for Exoplanet Science, St. Andrews; ³Institut de Physique de Globe de Strasbourg Université, EOST, France; ⁴Johns Hopkins University, USA; ⁵The University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Earth's atmosphere is chemically distinct among the telluric planets of our Solar System. The interplay between volcanism and tectonics have resulted in Earth's atmosphere showing a relative enrichment for N₂/primordial noble gases (Mikhail & Sverjensky, 2014) due to a subduction-induced chemical effect on the speciation of mantle nitrogen (Mikhail et al., 2017; Zerkle, & Mikhail, 2017). For Venus, the absence of Earth-like tectonics has resulted in a relative quiescence of volcanism, which is reflected in the less radiogenic ⁴⁰Ar/³⁶Ar ratio of its atmosphere (Mikhail & Heap, 2017). Venus also has a much more massive atmosphere than Earth, which can be expressed as a higher ²⁰Ne/²⁸Si ratio of the bulk planet. The relative difference in the Hill Spheres of Earth and Venus has resulted in dissimilar post-accretionary exogenic fluxes to the telluric planets which effected their atmospheric development (Forgan & Mikhail, *under review*). This presentation will synergise several insights into one narrative to describe and explain some key distinctions between the atmospheres of Earth and the other telluric planets can be ascribed to the direct influence of plate tectonics on mantle petrology, and geochemistry.

Forgan, D.H., Mikhail, S. The role of the late veneer in the formation of Earth's habitable surface environment. *Submitted*
Mikhail, S., Barry, P.H., Sverjensky, D.A. 2017. The relationship between mantle pH and the deep nitrogen cycle. *Geochimica Cosmochimica et Acta*, 209, 149–160

Mikhail, S., Heap, M.J. 2017. Hot climate inhibits volcanism on Venus: constraints from rock deformation experiments and argon isotope geochemistry. *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors*, 268, 18-34

Mikhail, S., Sverjensky, D.A. 2014. Nitrogen speciation in upper mantle fluids and the origin of Earth's nitrogen-rich atmosphere. *Nature Geoscience*, 7, 816–819

Zerkle, A.L., Mikhail, S. 2017. The Geobiological Nitrogen Cycle: From Microbes to the Mantle. *Geobiology*, 1–10