Re-Os and PGE systematics of 3.46 Ga meta-komatiites from the Dwalile greenstone Remnant, SW Swaziland

HOFFMANN, J.E.^{1,*}, GANS, P.¹, KRÖNER, A.²³

Institut für Geologische Wissenschaften, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; 'jeh@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Institut für Geowissenschaften, Universität Mainz, Germany

^aBeijing SHRIMP Center, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China

Based on the PGE abundances of high degree mantle melts, it has been proposed that chondritic material was mixed into the Earth's mantle throughout the Archean [1]. In contrast, Eoarchean mantle peridotites show almost the full inventory of PGE [2], suggesting either a heterogeneous mantle or the full inclusion of late veneer by c. 3.8 Ga.

Here we measured geochemically well-characterized serpentinized meta-komatiites and meta-komatiitic basalts from the 3.46 Ga Dwalile greenstone remnant in SW Swaziland for their Re-Os isotope composition and PGE abundances to place constraints on the PGE contents of their mantle sources.

Primitive mantle-normalized PGE patterns are flat and show ca. 0.3 to 2 times depletion and enrichment compared to the primitve mantle estimate as well as a strong Re depletion. The measured ¹¹³Os/¹¹⁴Os isotope compositions of maifc to ultramafic samples vary from 0.1041 to 0.5473, indicating crustal contamination by older felsic crust as is also supported by Sm-Nd and Lu-Hf isotope and trace element systematics.

The least contaminated samples yielded initial "Os/"Os isotope compositions of 0.1034, close to the chondritic composition at 3.46 Ga. Together with the high PGE abundances, this argues for a full addition of late accreted chondritic material to the Dwalile mantle source. This is contrasting to the mantle source of the ca. 3.5 Ga Schapenburg komatiite mantle source farther N in South Africa that has only approximately 20% of the modern day PGE abundance present in its mantle source. Given the close areal proximity to the two komatiite system this indicates large heterogeneities within the Palaeoarchean mantle.

^[1] Maier, W. et al. (2009) Nature 460(7255), pp. 620-623.

^[2] van de Löcht et al. (2018) Geology 46(3), 199-202.

^[3] Puchtel, I.S. et al. (2016) Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst. 17 (6), 2168–2193.