Geochemical and Nd-Sr-Ca isotopic compositions of carbonatites and alkaline igneous rocks from the Deccan igneous province: role of recycled carbonates, crustal assimilation and plume heterogeneity

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Carbonatites and associated alkaline silicate rocks from the Ambadongar province of Western India are spatially and temporally linked to the peak-volcanism of Deccan basalts which erupted ~65 Ma ago^[1]. Nd, Sr, C and O isotopic compositions of these carbonatites indicate their mantleorigin^[2] while high δ^{11} B of one carbonatite sample from this location has been explained by the presence of recycled components in the mantle-source of these rocks ^[3]. Signatures of recycled crustal components, if present, should be potentially traceable using $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca compositions of these rocks as crustal carbonates typically show lower $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca than the BSE ^[4].

We investigate the petrogenesis of these carbonatites and the associated silicate rocks using their stable Ca isotopic $(\delta^{44/40}Ca_{NISTSRM915a})$ and radiogenic Nd and Sr isotopic compositions as well as major and trace element compositions. The $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca of the carbonatites range from 0.58-1.1% (n=7) while the associated silicate rocks show a range from 0.50-0.92‰ (n=14). Based on co-variations in plots of $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca versus ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr and ¹⁴⁴Nd/¹⁴³Nd, the variability in $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca of the carbonatites is explained by the presence of ~160 Ma old recycled carbonates in the Deccan plume-mantle source. Our model calculations suggest upto 20% contribution of the recycled carbonates which is heterogeneously distributed in the plume-mantle source. The large variability in $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca values in the associated alkaline silicate rocks can be explained by upto 20% assimilation of the Precambrian granite gneiss basement ($\delta^{44/40}$ Ca =-1.35‰). The co-variation of $\delta^{44/40}$ Ca versus K/Rb in the carbonatites and alkaline igneous rocks are explained by derivation of carbonatite and silicate melts from different depths, both within the mantle-plume source.

[1] Ray and Pande, 1999, Geophy. Res. Lett., 26(13), 1917–1920;
[2] Simonetti et al., 1995, Chem. Geol., 122(1-4), 185–198;
[3] Hulett et al., 2016, Nat. Geosc., 9(12), 904;
[4] Huang et al., 2011, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 75(17), 4987–4997.