Using mineral isotope stratigraphy to understand crustal contamination in the Lesser Antilles arc

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Arc lavas from the central and southern Lesser Antilles show diverse radiogenic isotopic compositions and considerable variation at individual volcanic centres [1]. Debate centers on whether this variation represents addition of subducted sediment to the mantle source, or assimilation of arc crust by magma *en route* to the surface.

⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios of zoned plagioclase from cumulate xenoliths, entrained in erupting lavas, record changing melt compositions during crystallization in crustal reservoirs so should track contamination of host magma. It may also be possible to determine ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr records of magmas at different crustal levels since thermobarometric and petrological data suggest cumulate formation over a range of depths (≤15 km, pressures of ≤4 GPa) [2]. Cores of zoned plagioclase or deep formed cumulates enriched in radiogenic strontium would support a significant sedimentary input to mantle sources. However, increasing ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios from core to rim, and/or in progressively shallower cumulates, would indicate the presence of crustal contamination.

We will analyse cumulates from Martinique and St Vincent. Martinique whole-rock (WR) ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr data span the whole arc range so we anticipate evidence for this in the cumulate isotope stratigraphy. Less diversity (and less radiogenic compositions) in WR ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr of St Vincent lavas suggests that its cumulates will either disprove significant contamination or, perhaps, preserve cryptic evidence for assimilation not visible beyond the crystal scale. Plagioclase core ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr compositions from both islands will be used to evaluate the sediment content of mantle sources.

 MacDonald, R., Hawkesworth, C.J., Heath, E (2000), *Earth-Science Reviews*, 49, 1-76.
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