

Carbonatite/Lamproite liquid immiscibility in the Earth's mantle through the Nefeline-Diopside-Kalsilite \pm CO₂, CH₄, H₂O diagram

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The presence and speciation of volatile C-H-O elements in the silicate systems play an important role in the genesis of magmas on the Earth's mantle, due to the fact that these elements, mainly in the form of H₂O, CO₂, CH₄ and C_xH_y, decrease the solidi temperatures of source rocks, making magmatism possible in Earth's present day thermal conditions [1]. Among those elements, carbon is the only element that changes its valence according to the oxygen fugacity (fO₂) conditions of the environment, resulting in different speciation, as: CO₃⁻², CO₂, C_{graphite/diamond}, CH₄ or heavier hydrocarbons. In the present work, we are determining phase stability of minerals, water, CO₂ and CH₄ in the system Nefeline-Kalsilite-Diopside. Our experiments are conducted under 4.0 GPa and temperatures up to 1300°C, using a 1000 tonf hydraulic press coupled with toroidal chambers. Preliminary experiments performed at 1300°C and 4.0GPa (initial composition in the Olivine-Quartz-Kalsilite/Nepheline system: 40mol% Ol90, 40mol% Nph50Kls50 and 20mol% Qz, PH₂O,CO₂=P_{total}) resulted in the formation of forsterite (Fo90) in equilibrium with phlogopite (Phl), melt and volatile phases (CO₂ and CH₄). Closer to the Diopside vertice, the addition of CO₃ to the sample resulted in a immiscibility of a carbonatitic and a silicatic melt, in which the carbonatitic melt is enriched in sodium, while the silicate melt is enriched in potassium. Apart from that, experiments in different parts of the diagram suggest compositions from nephelinite-kalsilitite to lamproites composition for the silicate melt in equilibrium with diopside (solid solution with omphacite) and phlogopite. This work is a continuation of previous work in the anhydrous diagram and future works will provide the addition of CH₄ as the volatile phase.

References:

[1] J.F. Kenney, V.A. Kutcherov, N.A. Bendeliani, V.A. Alekseev. PNAS 99, 10976-109981 (2002).