High-K and shoshonitic intrusions in southeastern Tibet: implications for metasomatized lithospheric mantle and enriched continental crust

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High-potassium to shoshonitic suites are volumetrically small but widespread in various parts of the Tethyan orogen and provide key information on mantle-crust interactions. However, their spatial-temporal distribution and origin have not yet been fully constrained. A ca. 75 - 50 Ma "restricted high-K to shoshonitic intrusion zone" has been identified (width ca. 20-30 km, length ca. 150 km) in the central Tengchong terrane of southeastern Tibet. These late-Cretaceous to early-Cenozoic intrusions have high LILE and LREE and depletion of Nb-Ta-Ti with enriched "crustal" whole-rock Sr-Nd-Pb and in situ zircon Lu-Hf isotopic signatures. Late-Cretaceous (ca.70 Ma) mafic intrusions are shoshonitic (K₂O, ca. 3.3 wt.%) with low SiO₂ (52.0 wt.%), high MgO (ca. 5.1 wt.%) with high-Mg# (57), and low CaO/Al₂O₃ (<0.50). They also have low Ba/Th, Ba/La, Sm/La (all <0.3), Nb/Yb and ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁶Pb ratios but high Hf/Sm (>0.70), Th/Yb, Th/La (>0.2) and La/Sm, and lack negative Eu anomalies. Such characteristics suggest derivation from melting of sub-continental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) metasomatized by sediment-derived melts and/or fluids. The associated felsic granitic intrusions (ca. 70-50 Ma) have high SiO₂, alkali content (up to 10.0 wt.% Na₂O + K₂O) and incompatible elements, with large negative Eu anomalies, and were likely derived from the continental crust enriched by fluids released from potassic mafic magmas crystallising at depth. Thus, the SCLM acted as water donors that triggered extensive melting of enriched continental crust. Combined with other geological data, these two-stage shoshonitic intrusions record processes arising from subduction of the Neo-Tethyan ocean slab to initial collision of India-Asia, from steepening subduction to slab rollback and breakoff.