Geochemistry of the Larvik Plutonic Complex and its implications for the genesis of its Fe-Ti-P-REE mineralization

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The Larvik Plutonic Complex (LPC, SE Norway) is a large multi-sections complex which crystallized in the early stages of the Oslo Rift (~302-288 Ma), and has already been studied for its quartz to nepheline normative alkaline series [e.g. 1-4]. Its youngest ring-sections host local occurrences of Fe-Ti-P-REE rocks whose concentrations in phosphorus may be of economic importance, with REE as a byproduct [5]. The Kodal deposit is the largest occurrence and consists in a ~2000m dyke-like shaped orebody cutting through larvikite, with magnetite, ilmenite, apatite, titanium-bearing augite and phlogopite as main minerals. Previous studies offer mineralogical investigations but contrasting hypotheses about its formation (in-situ accumulation, silicate-liquid immiscibility and xenolith-like ascent) [5-8]. Here, we discuss the origins of these mineralization by comparing for the first time their geochemical signatures with those of the surrounding monzonitic rocks. Whole-rock elemental analyses, such as Nb/Ta ratios and REE spidergrams, indicate a common magmatic source for both the different ring-sections of host larvikite/lardalite and the Fe-Ti-P-REE mineralization. Light and heavy REE, as well as Eu/Eu* variations, also show that the parental magma underwent successive extractions of plagioclaserich magmas with very close to identical geochemical features to each other. Therefore, the orebodies did not form locally by insitu fractional crystallization of a single batch of already emplaced monzonitic magma. Rather, mineralization is likely formed in the magmatic chamber of the LPC, by either silicateliquid immiscibility or fractional crystallization of a residual melt, and is later brought up in the cooling larvikites [8]. Further whole-rock and in-situ measurements are planned in order to identify the source of the LPC and better constraint the formation of its mineralization.

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