TRACE ELEMENT ABUNDANCES OF THE LATE TERTIARY VOLCANIC ROCKS IN SOUTHWEST HOKKAIDO

by

Satoshi Okamura*

(with 11 text-figures and 1 table)

Abstract

Abundances of trace elements including REE were determined for 22 Late Tertiary (Late Miocene to Pliocene) volcanic rocks from southwest Hokkaido. Geochemical features of the Late Tertiary volcanic rocks show that LIL elements, K2O and Th, increase at a given SiO2 content across the arc from the Pacific to the Japan Sea side, being similarly to those of the Quaternary volcanic rocks in the same region. However, the Late Tertiary volcanic rocks are higher in Hf/Yb ratios than the Quaternary rocks. This geochemical feature suggests that the former rocks may have derived from a more enriched source mantle than the source material of the latter ones.

Introduction

It is well established that the consistent increase in incompatible element concentrations of volcanic rocks away from the trench occur for many arc systems (Kuno, 1959, 1966; Katsui, 1961; Dickinson and Hatherton, 1967; Hatherton and Dickinson, 1969; Katsui et al., 1978). It has also been claimed that, during the development of an arc system, there is a consistent change with time from primitive island arc tholeiites to alkaline or shoshonitic rocks through calc-alkali rocks (Jakes and Gill, 1970; Jakes and White, 1972; Ringwood, 1974). Arculus and Johnson (1978), however, pointed out several exceptions to the above tendency of change in arc magmas with time, i.e. incompatible element contents at a given SiO2 content either increase often with time in Fiji (Gill, 1970) and Mariana-Bonin arc (Shiraki et al., 1978), or decrease with time in the Cascades (White and McBirney, 1979) and Antilles (Gunn et al., 1974).

Abundant Late Cenozoic volcanic rocks occur in southwest Hokkaido in the northern part of the north Honshu arc. The Early to Middle Miocene volcanic rocks have the nature of non-orogenic volcanic rocks as evidenced by their incompatible element abundances, i.e. high P2O5, Hf and TiO2 contents (Okamura et al., 1984). The Miocene volcanic rocks exhibit a striking contrast in geochemical aspects to the Quaternary volcanic rocks of typical island arc in the same region (Katsui et al., 1978). Thus, an important problem of when the island arc system commenced in southwest Hokkaido arises in studying magmatism as well as tectonics evolution.

Recently the author determined trace element abundances of the Late Miocene to Pliocene volcanic rocks from southwest Hokkaido. In the present paper, their com-

positional variations in space and time are discussed in comparison with both the Early Miocene volcanic rocks and the Quaternary rocks from the same region.

**Geological setting and samples**

Southwest Hokkaido is located in the northern part of the north Honshu arc, and characterized by the extensive distribution of the Late Miocene to Pliocene volcanic rocks as well as the Quaternary ones (Text-fig. 1). These Late Tertiary volcanic rocks are arranged in a few zones of NW-SE trend. Matsui (1955) pointed out that the geologic structure with NW-SE trend has been formed during Late Miocene and Pliocene time (the Kuromatsunai stage). These volcanic rocks are composed mainly of andesitic hyaloclastites which intercalate basaltic and rhyolitic hyaloclastites. The volcanic activity which yielded such a large amount of volcanic materials occurred generally under shallow submarine environment, in terms of both central (Okamura, 1984) and fissure type of eruption (Yamagishi, 1982).

The samples of the Late Miocene to Pliocene volcanic rocks were collected for chemical analysis from Suttsu, Okushiri and Tate on the Japan Sea side, and Muroran and Kurohajiri on the Pacific side (Text-fig. 1). Major and trace elements were analyzed for 22 volcanic rocks. Most of the rocks, except the Kurohajiri rocks, belong to the hypersthenic rock series (Kuno, 1954) which is regarded as the calc-alkali rock series. The Kurohajiri rocks, however, are comprised to the pigeonitic rock series (ditto) which is regarded as the tholeiitic rock series. The rocks of the Japan Sea side carry commonly hornblende and biotite phenocrysts, on the other hand, those of the Pacific side do not. The petrographic character of these Late Miocene to Pliocene volcanic rocks is similar to that of the Quaternary volcanic rocks (Katsui et al., 1978).

Major elements were analyzed by X-ray fluoscence. The abundances of trace elements including REE were determined by instrumental neutron activation analysis at the Atomic Energy Research Laboratory of the Musashi Institute of Technology following the method of Masuda et al. (1975).

**Results and discussion**

The analytical data are listed in Table 1. The Japan Sea side volcanic rocks show a strong increase in K₂O and Th abundances with increasing SiO₂, but the Pacific side volcanic rocks bear only a slight increase (Text-figs. 2 and 3). As shown in Text-figs. 2 and 3, at any given SiO₂ content, there is a progressive increase in both K₂O and Th contents of volcanic rocks from the Pacific side to the Japan Sea side. This increasing tendency of K₂O and Th contents toward the Japan Sea side is found also in the Quaternary volcanic rocks in the same region (Katsui et al., 1978).

The chondrite-normalized patterns of rare earth elements (REE patterns) for the Suttsu, Tate and Kurohajiri volcanic rocks are shown in Text-figs. 4, 5 and 6, respectively. The Suttsu and Tate volcanic rocks on the Japan Sea side are characteristically enriched in light REE, whereas the Kurohajiri volcanic rocks on the Pacific side show
flat patterns subparallel to the chondritic REE patterns of the island arc tholeiites as defined by Jakeš and Gill (1970). An increase in light REE relative to heavy REE of the rocks from the Pacific to the Japan Sea side is also found in the Quaternary volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido (Katsui et al., 1978). However, in respect to other chemical features, the Early to Middle Miocene volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido
Table 1 Trace element abundances in the Late Tertiary volcanic rocks from southwest Hokkaido

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Text-fig. 2 K₂O versus SiO₂ diagram for the Late Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido. The Quaternary volcanic rocks are from Katsui et al. (1978) and Yamamoto (1984).

have considerably different nature from the island arc volcanic rocks. Okamura et al. (1984) showed that the Oshima-Fukushima district at the southwestern end of southwest Hokkaido, are distinguished from island arc basalts by the high TiO₂, Hf contents and low Th/Hf ratios, but similar to some non-orogenic alkali basalts in continental region. The subsequent Middle Miocene volcanic rocks in the same region, however, consist of low-K andesites which are characteristically high in Na₂O and TiO₂ contents and enriched in LREE, which distinguishes them from island arc tholeiites.
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n.d. = not determined.

K-45 Augite-hypersthene basalt, Kurohajiri. (Kurohajiri Agglomerates; Konoya et al., 1967)
K-46 Augite-hypersthene basalt, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
K-47 Plagioclase-phyric andesite, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
K-48 Plagioclase-phyric andesite, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
K-51 Plagioclase-phyric andesite, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
K-52 Hypersthene-augite andesite, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
K-53 Augite-hypersthene andesite, Kurohajiri. (ditto)
M-76 Hypersthene-augite dacite, Muroran. (Muroran Formation; Osanai and Sako, 1953)
M-77 Augite andesite, Muroran. (ditto)
M-78 Hypersthene-augite andesite, Muroran. (ditto)
M-79 Hypersthene-augite andesite, Muroran. (ditto)

These geochemical variations of volcanic rocks with geologic time suggest that arc magmas have commenced to erupt since Late Miocene in southwest Hokkaido,
although the tectonic movement to build the island arc system may have preceded to this age.

The Hf-SiO₂ relation is shown in Text-fig. 7. Hf has a low radius/charge ratio and is comprised in high field strength (HFS) elements. Consequently it behaves as an incompatible element in magmatic systems (Saunders et al., 1980). Both the Late Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks exhibit no apparent spatial variations in Hf abundances, but the former rocks are generally higher in Hf content at the SiO₂ poor range than the latter.

The Hf/Yb-Hf relation is shown in Text-fig. 8. This kind of diagram was originally used by Pearce and Norry (1979) as Zr/Y versus Zr diagram. Hf and Zr are grouped
TRACE ELEMENTS OF LATE TERTIARY ROCKS

Text-fig. 8 Hf/Yb versus Hf diagram. Star = Early Miocene basalts from Oshima-
Fukushima district (Okamura et al., 1984); HA = Hawaii alkali series basalts; HT =
Hawaii tholeiites (Basaltic Volcanism Study Project, 1980); M = Reykjanes Ridge
basalts (Wood et al., 1979); PM = Primordial Mantle (Wood et al., 1979 and
Ganapathy et al., 1974). a = source enrichment (no garnet); b = partial melting trend
(no garnet). Other symbols same as in Text-fig. 2.

with the HFS elements, and Yb and Y appear to occupy an intermediate position be-
tween large ion lithophile (LIL) and HFS elements (Saunders et al., 1980). Text-fig. 9
shows petrogenetic modeling observed when plotted Hf/Yb against Hf following the
method of Pearce and Norry. A, B and C indicate equilibrium partial melting trends,
and give composition of melts derived from a mantle source at various degree of partial
melting, assuming the melt remains in equilibrium with the residue prior to segre-
gation. The trend A represents the melt composition from a fertile mantle (starting com-
position) with an assemblage Ol_{0.6}Op_{x_{0.2}}Cpx_{x_{0.1}}Pl_{0.1}, and the trend B does that with an
assemblage Ol_{0.6}Op_{x_{0.2}}Cpx_{x_{0.2}}. Similarly, the trend C does that with an assemblage Ol_{0.6}
Op_{x_{0.2}}Cpx_{x_{0.1}}Gl_{x_{0.1}}. The implication of the model is that, unless garnet is a residual phase
(D^{3b}_{Gt} > 4 for basic melt composition; Cox et al., 1979), the degree of partial melting
will affect significantly the Hf content of the melt but only slightly the Hf/Yb ratio.

D, E, F and G indicate source heterogeneity trends. The enrichment trends D and E
show changing source composition as successive melt increments are added, while the
depletion trends F and G show changing source composition as successive melt in-
crements are removed. The trends D and F represent the melt composition from a
mantle with an assemblage Ol_{0.6}Op_{x_{0.2}}Cpx_{x_{0.1}}Pl_{0.1}, and the trends E and G do that with
an assemblage Ol_{0.6}Op_{x_{0.2}}Cpx_{x_{0.2}}.

As shown in Text-fig. 8, the Late Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic rocks in
southwest Hokkaido increase in Hf/Yb ratios with increasing Hf. The Late Tertiary basalts and basaltic andesites are clearly higher in Hf/Yb ratios than the Quaternary rocks (Usu and Oshima-Oshima). This trend can be explained from the modeling in two ways; a systematic heterogeneity of source materials, and variation in degree of partial melting of a garnet lherzolite source material (Text-fig. 9). If the source material is spinel lherzolite, the Late Tertiary volcanic rocks may have originated from more enriched mantle than the source material of Quaternary rocks. If the source material is garnet lherzolite, heavy REE abundances should decrease rapidly from high to low degree of partial melting. However, both the Late Tertiary and Quaternary basalts exhibit practically no apparent differences in heavy REE abundances (Table 1; Katsui et al., 1978, Table 6). Accordingly, the partial melting solution of garnet lherzolite source seems implausible. It is worthy to note that the Early Miocene basalts from Oshima-Fukushima district are higher in Hf/Yb ratios than the Late Tertiary and Quaternary basalts (Text-fig. 8). This suggests that the source material of the volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido has become more depleted with geologic time since Early Miocene.

Text-figs. 10 and 11 show Hf/Yb-K2O/Yb and Th/Yb relations, respectively. The normalized factor used (Yb) is, as in the previous diagrams, effective in largely eliminating variations due to partial melting and fractional crystallization (Pearce, 1982). K2O and Th are characterized by their low ionic potential (charge/radius) and hence their greater tendency to be mobilized by aqueous fluids (Pearce, 1982, 1983). Pearce pointed out that since within plate enrichment events enrich Hf, K and Th equally, its vector on these diagrams has a slope of unity, whereas the subduction events which cause transport of LIL element via aqueous fluids affects K and Th but not Hf. The Late Tertiary volcanic rocks exhibit a shift to higher K2O/Yb and Th/Yb ratios relative to the restricted band of non-orogenic basalts (mid-ocean ridges and ocean islands) and the primordial mantle composition estimated by Wood (1979) (Text-fig. 10). This band is termed "array of basalts from non-subduction settings" by
Pearce (1983), and accounts for mantle variations. The Quaternary basalts exhibit a shift to higher $K_2O/Yb$ and $Th/Yb$ ratios than the Late Tertiary basalts from the array. This evidence can be interpreted presumably in terms of the introduction of more aqueous fluids into the mantle source region in Quaternary than in Late Tertiary. The Kurohajiri and Muroran volcanic rocks on the Pacific side are plotted close to the array, and hence seem to have been only slightly affected by the subduction events of Pearce (1983). The Early Miocene basalts from Oshima-Fukushima district plot in the array (Text-figs. 10 and 11), suggesting that the Early Miocene volcanism have not yet been affected by the subduction events.

Accordingly, during the development of an arc system in southwest Hokkaido, the effects of aqueous fluids into the mantle source region have increased from Late Miocene to Quaternary. The Early Miocene basalts in southwest Hokkaido are distinguished from island arc basalts by high $TiO_2$, $Hf$ and low $Th/Hf$, but similar to some non-orogenic alkali basalts in continental region (Okamura et al., 1984). Hence, it is considered that the magmatism from Early Miocene to Quaternary has occurred possibly in relation to the geotectonic movement which converted from a continental environment to an island arc one.
Text-fig. 11 Hf/Yb versus Th/Yb diagram. Symbols same as in Text-figs. 2, 8 and 10.

Conclusion

The Late Miocene to Pliocene volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido increase in K/Si, Th/Si and LREE/HREE ratios away from the present trench. A similar pattern of variation in LIL element abundances is also found in the Quaternary volcanic rocks in the same region.

The basalts of Late Miocene to Pliocene have high Hf/Yb ratios relative to the Quaternary basalts in southwest Hokkaido. The difference in Hf/Yb ratios between both of these basalts is probably related to source heterogeneities.

The Quaternary volcanic rocks exhibit a shift to higher K₂O/Yb and Th/Yb ratios than the Late Tertiary volcanic rocks from the array of basalts from non-subduction settings of Pearce (1983). This tendency suggests increasing of mobile elements into the mantle source region with time.

The Early to Middle Miocene volcanic rocks in southwest Hokkaido have different nature from the island arc volcanic rocks, especially the Early Miocene basalts are similar to non-orogenic alkali basalts in continental region (Okamura et al., 1984). This suggests that arc magmas have commenced to erupt since Late Miocene.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Prof. Y. Katsui of Hokkaido University for his encouragement throughout this work. I am grateful to Drs. K. Niida and M. Yamamoto of the same university and Dr. K. Onuma of Tohoku University for their valuable discussions.
Thanks are also due to Mr. T. Honda of Musashi Institute of Technology for the use of the equipment for γ-ray spectrometry and neutron irradiation facilities.

References


(Manuscript received on Apr. 3, 1985; and accepted on Apr. 23, 1985)