

INTRUSIVE EQUIVALENTS OF FLOOD VOLCANICS: EVIDENCE FROM PETROLOGY OF XENOLITHS IN QUATERNARY TANA BASANITES

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ABSTRACT: The Injibara Quaternary basanites enclose a variety of xenoliths spanning in composition from peridotite through pyroxenite and gabbro to granite. This study focuses on the pyroxenite, gabbro and granite xenoliths. The pyroxenite xenoliths (enstatite + diopside + olivine ± spinel ± plagioclase ± ilmenite ± paragasite) are diverse, including olivine-orthopyroxenite, olivine-clinopyroxenite and websterite. They represent a suite of crystal cumulates from basalts with tholeiitic affinity evolving by polybaric crystal fractionation processes, or alternatively they may be related to chemical diversification of parental magma. The gabbro xenoliths, containing widely varying modal proportions of plagioclase, augite, enstatite, olivine and ilmenite, appear to be fragments of cumulate plutonic rocks, fractionated from tholeiitic basalts at high-level. They often show reaction textures, with a vermicular intergrowth of smaller augite, plagioclase and a chemically complex opaque phase composition embedded in glass from orthopyroxene. The granitic xenoliths contain quartz and two distinct feldspars—a sodic plagioclase and a potassic alkali feldspar—coprecipitated from the melt; accompanying mafic minerals are hydrous biotite and muscovite. This suggests that such granite magmas crystallized under water-saturated condition ($P_{H_2O} = 5$ kbar).

Key words/phrases: Cumulate, Ethiopia, Injibara, tholeiitic basalt, xenolith

INTRODUCTION

In intra-continental plate-tectonic setting, ultramafic xenoliths are frequently found in alkali basalts (e.g., Menzies, 1983), believed to have somewhat a deeper origin in the upper mantle. The ultramafic xenoliths are thought to represent the solid residue from the partial fusion event generating the magma containing them. Thus, they provide direct information on the composition, structure and physical properties of upper mantle involved in the generation of the magma hosting them. The hosting basalts appear to have risen relatively rapidly to the surface without undergoing significant fractional crystallization and/or crustal contamination.

Within the Ethiopian volcanic province, mantle xenoliths are common in the Quaternary alkali volcanic fields (Ottonello *et al.*, 1978; Morten *et al.*, 1992; Bedini *et al.*, 1997; Roger *et al.*, 1997; 1999; Conticelli *et al.*, 1999), although they are also recorded in nephelinitic flows interbedded within Oligocene flood basalts (Roger *et al.*, 1997; 1999) and in alkali basalts from shield volcano (Bastien, 2001). The ultramafic xenoliths have variable sizes reaching up to 25 cm in diameter and are mineralogically heterogeneous, showing a variety of compositions including lherzolite, hazburgite,

dunite and rare websterite. They show different textures (granuloblastic, protogranular and porphyroclastic) and have undergone to some extent deformation followed by a later partial recrystallization. Comparison of peridotite xenolith suites from different localities reveals systematic differences suggestive of regional mantle heterogeneities.

Petrologic and geochemical studies (Roger *et al.*, 1999) of peridotite xenoliths in Injibara region reveal that the lithospheric mantle underneath (i) has become refractory (depleted in Rb, Ba, Th, U, Nb, Ta and LREE) as a result of previous partial melting episodes, probably associated with the pan-African orogenesis event, (ii) subsequently, is slightly re-enriched (enriched in Ba, U and La, without significant HFSE negative anomaly) by a metasomatic process, possibly related to the ascent of the Oligocene Afar plume, (iii) is 690 Ma old, an age similar to that of the East African Orogen (e.g., Stern, 1994) and (iv) deviates to higher temperatures with respect to the continental geotherm.

The Ethiopian dome has been undergoing complex tectonic, magmatic and uplift activities since early Oligocene, although the chronology of these events is still debated. The study of mantle and crust xenoliths may help to constrain the

possible evolution of these events. Previous studies have focused mainly on peridotite xenoliths (Roger *et al.*, 1997; 1999; Conticelli *et al.*, 1999). In this study mineralogical compositions are presented for pyroxenite, gabbro and granite xenoliths entrained in Quaternary intraplate alkali basalts near Injibara. The main objective of this study is to assess the petrologic features of the xenoliths in an attempt to relate with the flood basalt volcanism.

GEOLOGIC BACKGROUND

The Ethio-Yemeni volcanic province provides a classic example of continental rifting preceded by the impingement of a mantle plume. Volcanism began in the Oligocene with the emplacement of a massive flood basalt pile and continued to the present day in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden oceanic spreading centers and the east African continental rift (Hofmann *et al.*, 1997). In the northwest Ethiopian plateau, the volcanic succession erupted onto the Mesozoic sedimentary rocks, which in turn covered the late Proterozoic pan-African island arc crust. The volcanic succession consists of a thick (up to 2500 m), distinctly bimodal, sequence of basalts and rhyolite ignimbrites underlying low angle shield volcanoes (Termaber formation). Quaternary alkali basalts (Tana lava) occur locally related to local rift structures, north-south trending extensional faults (Chorowicz *et al.*, 1994). Volcanic plugs of trachytic composition are conspicuous in the region surrounding lake Tana and they penetrate flows of the overlying shield volcanoes (Dercq *et al.*, 2001).

The region south of Lake Tana (Fig. 1) exposes Quaternary volcanic rocks composed of vesicular alkali basalts and cinder cones, indicating the volatile rich nature of the host magma. The host lavas are basanitic in composition and are dated at 0.39 ± 0.03 Ma ($^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating, Hofmann, 1997). The basanites occur as massive, vesicular and fragmented rocks. They are aphyric to sparsely porphyritic containing phenocrysts, in order of decreasing abundance, of olivine, plagioclase, clinopyroxene and occasionally nepheline set in a fine-grained matrix composed of the same phases as the phenocryst assemblage (Begosew Abate *et al.*, 1998). Geochemical studies of basanites, particularly $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ isotopic ratios (Marty *et al.*, 1996), show wide variation ranging from 0.33 to 9.9 Ra, attesting to the involvement of depleted asthenosphere-like mantle source ($^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratios nearly constant at about 8 ± 1 Ra) in their origin. However, the extremely low $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratios are

thought to represent crustal contamination, given the young age of these lavas. Conticelli *et al.* (1999) proposed that the basanites were generated by moderate degrees of partial melting of depleted lithospheric lherzolite and subsequently, have undergone olivine fractionation en route to the surface.

PETROGRAPHY

The Injibara basanites contain a variety of xenoliths spanning in composition from peridotite through pyroxenite and gabbro to granite (Table 1). Detailed petrologic and geochemical features of the peridotite xenoliths are given elsewhere (Roger *et al.*, 1997; 1999; Conticelli *et al.*, 1999) and are thus omitted from this study.

Pyroxenite

There is marked variations in the modal compositions of the pyroxenite xenoliths which are of olivine-orthopyroxenite (I6), olivine-clinopyroxenite (IC) and websterite (IE). Both olivine-orthopyroxenite and websterite contain spinel (up to 3%). In addition, olivine-orthopyroxenite contains rare amphibole crystals, often surrounded by opaque reaction rims/resorbtion. Olivine-clinopyroxenite contains small amounts of plagioclase (~ 2%) and ilmenite (~ 3%). The pyroxenite xenoliths possess inequigranular texture made up of smaller olivine (0.1 to 0.5 mm), somewhat larger clinopyroxene (0.1 to 1 mm) and still larger orthopyroxene (1 to 4 mm). Spinel occurs frequently as vermicular grain (0.1-2 mm in size) or as tiny inclusion within orthopyroxenes. The pyroxenite xenoliths do not display any anisotropic fabric such as lineation and foliation, and exhibit granular texture. Pyroxene grains in the olivine-orthopyroxenite are often strained and show frequently numerous ductile flow features such as kink bands and mechanical twinning. These features suggest that they were emplaced during an episode of tectonic activity affecting the mantle. They also display numerous exsolution features (*e.g.*, orthopyroxene exsolves lamellae of clinopyroxene). Reaction textures (sponge-like circular aggregates) are observed in both olivine-orthopyroxenite and websterite, which are thought to develop as a result of spinel-pyroxene breakdown reactions. Similarly, olivine-clinopyroxenite shows a reaction texture formed in response to pyroxene-plagioclase unstable relationships.

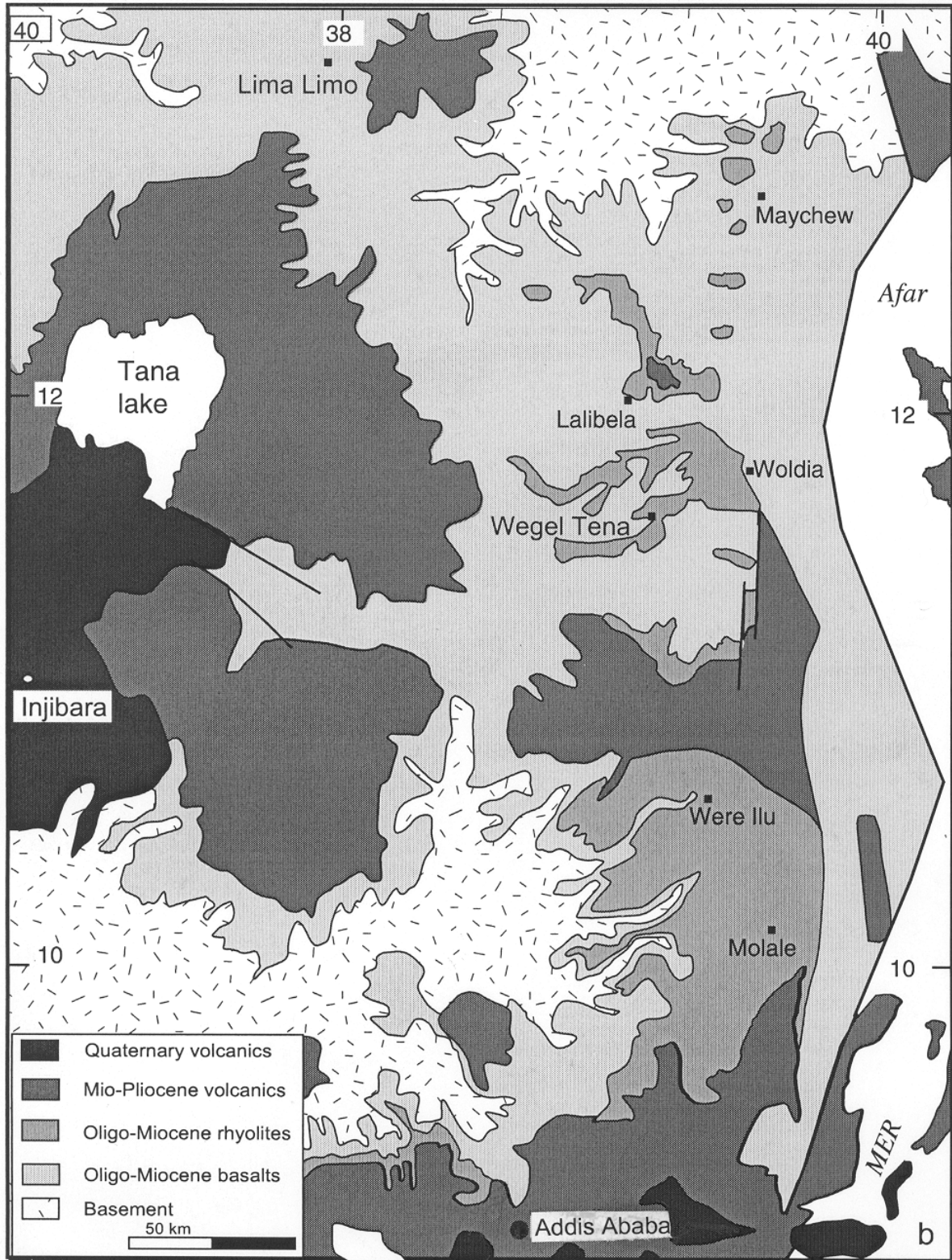


Fig. 1. Geological map of the northern Ethiopian province, showing the distribution of the different types of volcanic rocks (after Merla *et al.*, 1979).

Table 1. Abundances of modal mineralogy (Le Maitre, 1989) in xenoliths from Injibara basanites.

	Pyroxenite			Gabbro		Granite	
	I6	IC	IE	ID	IF	IB	IA
Olivine	9	20	2	2	2		
Orthopyroxene	81	5	77	5	2		
Clinopyroxene	6	70	20	15	5		
Spinel	3		1				
Ilmenite	<1	3		3	1		
Amphibole							
Plagioclase		2		75	90	20	5
K-feldspar						5	80
Quartz						50	15
Biotite						5	
Muscovite						20	

Note: The modal composition or mode was determined by point-counting technique (about 2500 points per thin section).

Gabbro

The gabbroic xenoliths consist of varying proportions of plagioclase (75–90%), clinopyroxene (5–15%), orthopyroxene (~ 3%), olivine (~ 2%) and ilmenite (1–3%), an identical mineral assemblage, with the exception of orthopyroxene, to that observed as a phenocryst phase in the erupted basanites. The gabbroic xenoliths vary in diameter between 2 and 5 cm and possess generally granular texture comprising of small polygonal crystals with quite homogeneous size (≤ 1 mm). They often show reaction textures, which occur in aggregates of rounded domains with irregular outlines of about 2 to 3 mm in diameter, composed of minute skeletal crystals of augite, plagioclase and opaque phase embedded in an interstitial glass. This is thought to relate to partial melting of ancient orthopyroxene, which is preserved as pseudomorphs, and provides a direct petrographic evidence for partial melting.

Granite

The felsic xenoliths consist largely of two alkali feldspars (an albite-rich and an orthoclase-rich, the former being less abundant than the latter) and quartz, with subordinate amounts of muscovite and biotite. They have mineralogical composition of alkali feldspar granite (IA) and monzogranite (IB) and are hereafter referred to as granites for simplicity. The occurrence of peraluminous minerals such as muscovite and biotite clearly denotes peraluminous granite (S-type granites). These xenoliths exhibit granular texture consisting of coarse, more or less polygonal crystals. The granites show numerous perthitic texture of plagioclase in K-feldspar. They display myrmekitic texture, which suggests subsolidus unmixing of K-

bearing plagioclase in a ternary system open to excess Si (Castle and Lindsley, 1993).

MINERALOGY

Pyroxenes

Both clino and orthopyroxenes from the pyroxenites (IE and I6) and gabbros (ID and IF) are analysed (Table 2 and Fig. 2). *Orthopyroxene* consists of enstatite displaying a very restricted range of chemical composition. The enstatites are more Mg-rich in the pyroxenite specimens compared to that of gabbro xenoliths (En₈₄₋₈₇ v. En₅₂₋₅₅). Zoning is rare in enstatites. Enstatites show a remarkably narrow range of Mg values [hereafter Mg# = 100Mg/(Mg + Fe²⁺)] within each suite, varying from 85 to 88 in pyroxenites and from 54 to 57 in gabbros. Al₂O₃ content is high in pyroxenites (4.7–5.3%), whereas it is much lower in gabbros (1.6 to 1.8%). Enstatites of gabbro have augitic rims, comparable in composition to augite from reaction texture. This can be explained by a vermicular intergrowth of smaller less-Al augite, more calcic plagioclase and unknown Fe, Mg opaque phase containing Si formula around orthopyroxene grain boundaries.

Clinopyroxene is diopsidic in composition in the pyroxenite xenoliths. Diopsides of pyroxenites have restricted Mg# in the range 86–89. The composition of phenocryst and microphenocrysts is remarkably similar. Diopside commonly shows exsolution feature, in which augite occurs as minute exsolved plates. Al₂O₃ contents are high and show narrow range (6.9–8.6%). Diopsides of nearly all pyroxenites are characterized by enrichment of Na (0.5–2.1% Na₂O), which may be a consequence of metasomatic enrichment.

Table 2. Representative compositions of pyroxene from Injibara xenoliths.

Sample	Orthopyroxene					Clinopyroxene						
	Pyroxenite		Gabbro			Pyroxenite			Gabbro			
	IE	I6	ID _C	ID _R	ID	Sample	IE _M	I6 _E	I6 _I	ID	ID _{Rx}	IF
SiO ₂	53.9	53.5	51.1	53.9	50.1	SiO ₂	51.38	49.91	49.54	50.84	50.24	48.98
Al ₂ O ₃	5.2	4.9	1.7	0.9	1.6	Al ₂ O ₃	6.93	8.40	8.38	3.48	1.55	6.65
TiO ₂	0.119	0.384	0.157	0.484	0.145	TiO ₂	0.58	1.64	1.50	0.31	0.89	0.81
FeO	7.8	9.5	26.2	15.4	27.6	FeO	3.30	4.22	4.13	11.58	15.58	9.72
MnO	0.187	0.059	0.429	0.349	0.357	MnO	0.046	0.094	0.144	0.209	0.459	0.167
MgO	31.2	30.8	19.5	13.5	18.1	MgO	14.28	13.70	13.52	12.19	14.07	11.74
CaO	0.65	0.55	1.00	14.75	1.00	CaO	20.42	19.77	20.32	20.41	15.39	20.32
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.65	0.09	0.01	0.09	0.00	Cr ₂ O ₃	1.22	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.13	0.02
Na ₂ O	0.027	0.125	0.003	1.016	0.073	NiO	0.002	0.083	0.158	0.002	0.030	0.002
Total	99.7	99.9	100.0	100.5	99.0	Na ₂ O	1.54	1.81	1.81	0.71	0.23	1.31
						K ₂ O	0.020	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
						Total	99.72	99.85	99.73	99.73	98.56	99.72
Si	1.8818	1.8702	1.9341	2.0126	1.9325	Si	1.8697	1.8150	1.8040	1.9110	1.9292	1.8229
Al ^{IV}	0.1182	0.1298	0.0659	0.0000	0.0675	Al ^{IV}	0.1303	0.1850	0.1960	0.0890	0.0702	0.1771
Al ^{VI}	0.0946	0.0719	0.0084	0.0415	0.0065	Al ^{VI}	0.1668	0.1750	0.1638	0.0653	0.0000	0.1144
Fe ³⁺	0.0012	0.0437	0.0494	0.0000	0.0581	Fe ³⁺	0.0063	0.0411	0.0715	0.0576	0.0331	0.1115
Ti	0.0031	0.0101	0.0045	0.0136	0.0042	Ti	0.0158	0.0449	0.0410	0.0087	0.0256	0.0225
Cr	0.0179	0.0026	0.0002	0.0027	0.0000	Cr	0.0352	0.0067	0.0065	0.0001	0.0040	0.0006
Mg	1.6252	1.6042	1.0999	0.7532	1.0401	Ni	0.0000	0.0024	0.0046	0.0000	0.0009	0.0000
Fe ²⁺	0.2261	0.2344	0.7808	0.4814	0.8325	Mg	0.7746	0.7427	0.7338	0.6826	0.8052	0.6509
Mn	0.0055	0.0017	0.0138	0.0110	0.0117	Fe ²⁺	0.0940	0.0867	0.0536	0.3057	0.4668	0.1900
Ca	0.0244	0.0205	0.0405	0.5904	0.0413	Mn	0.0014	0.0029	0.0045	0.0067	0.0149	0.0053
Na	0.0018	0.0085	0.0002	0.0736	0.0055	Ca	0.7962	0.7701	0.7928	0.8218	0.6331	0.8103
En	86.34	84.23	55.43	41.02	52.44	Na	0.1087	0.1275	0.1279	0.0514	0.0169	0.0944
Fs	12.37	14.69	42.53	26.82	45.48	K	0.0009	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Wo	1.29	1.07	2.04	32.15	2.08	En	46.31	45.19	44.31	36.42	41.23	36.82
						Fs	6.08	7.95	7.82	19.73	26.36	17.35
						Wo	47.61	46.86	47.87	43.85	32.41	45.83

Note: Mineral compositions were determined by a CAMECA SX-50 electron microprobe at the University of Henri Poincaré, Nancy, France. Operating conditions were 15 kV acceleration voltage, 10 nA beam current, 1 μ m beam diameter and 3–20 s count times. C, core; R, rim; M, microphenocryst; E, exsolution; I, interstitial, Rx, reaction texture.

Most of the gabbroic clinopyroxenes also plot in the field of diopside, with few augite members. The clear difference is that the gabbroic clinopyroxenes contain less Mg like their respective orthopyroxenes. There are systematic differences in Al and Ti contents between the two gabbro specimens (samples ID and IF), with the former having higher Al (6.2–6.7 v. 3.0–3.5% Al₂O₃) and Ti (0.7–0.8 v. 0.3–0.4% TiO₂). Granular augites from the partial melt texture are more enriched in Fe (15.6% FeO) and depleted in Ca (15% CaO) compared to the rest of augites (Fig. 2).

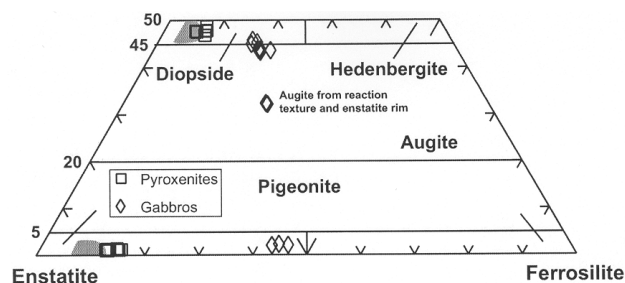


Fig. 2. The pyroxene quadrilateral, showing the compositional ranges for orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene in pyroxenite and gabbro of the Injibara xenoliths. Shown for comparison are pyroxenes in hazburgites (shaded field). Composition in mol per cent.

Oxides

Spinel is a common Al-bearing accessory phase in pyroxenite xenoliths. Compositions of spinel phase (Table 3) are remarkably homogeneous within a single sample, but vary widely from one sample to another, with Al_2O_3 ranging from 43 to 62% and Cr_2O_3 from 4 to 22%. Spinel depleted in Cr_2O_3 are confined to xenoliths with Al-rich pyroxene. Nomenclature of spinel in terms of plot of $\text{Cr}/(\text{Cr} + \text{Al})$ ratios against $\text{Mg}\#$ in spinel (Fig. 3) shows that they are of pleonaste type, with Mg/Fe^{2+} ratios of 2.2–3.0. The Cr_2O_3 and Al_2O_3 contents of spinel are sensitive to the $f\text{O}_2$ fluctuations (Hill and Roeder, 1974) and high Cr_2O_3 contents are consistent with reducing conditions during crystallization.

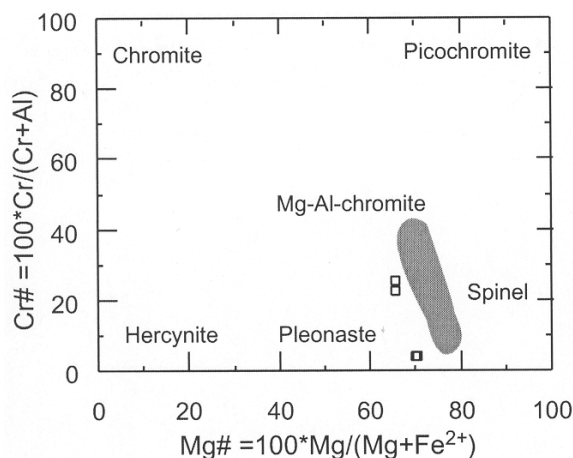


Fig. 3. Classification of spinel in terms of a plot of $\text{Cr}/(\text{Cr} + \text{Al})$ ratios against $100\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}^{2+})$ ratios in spinels from pyroxenite xenoliths in Injibara basanite. Shown for comparison are spinels in hazburgites (shaded field).

Ilmenite, the normal Fe-Ti oxide phase, (Table 3) occurs rarely in the pyroxenite xenoliths being observed only in olivine-clinopyroxenite, but it is common in the gabbro xenoliths (up to 3%).

Feldspars

Plagioclase is the dominant mineral in the gabbroic xenoliths, but occurs in trace amounts in the granitic xenoliths. Plagioclase composition (Table 4) in the gabbro xenoliths is remarkably constant and is uniformly orthoclase poor ($\text{An}_{43-44}\text{Or}_{<3}$). The An content in the gabbroic plagioclase is lower than 50%, other mineralogical proportions tend towards a gabbroic composition, rather than

diorite. Plagioclases become more sodic in granitic xenoliths (An_{15-34}).

K-feldspar is the most abundant constituent of granitic xenoliths, and is orthoclase (Or_{79-81}) and orthoclase perthite (Or_{67}) in composition (Table 4). The orthoclase contains small amounts of Ca-feldspar ($\text{An}_{<1}$), while the orthoclase perthite contains relatively greater amounts of calcium (An_7), which is probably due to the presence of exsolution lamellae of plagioclase. Alkali feldspars that form myrmerkite texture have lower K component (Or_{60}), which is in a very good agreement with the observation of myrmerkite intergrowth.

Hydrous minerals

Amphibole is exceedingly rare, being observed only in olivine-orthopyroxenite, and displays a brown reaction aureole. The composition of amphibole (Table 5), expressed as numbers of (Na + K) and Si atoms per formula unit, is paragasite with $(\text{Na} + \text{K})_{>0.5}$ and $\text{Si}_{<6.5}$. It is thought to be a product of metasomatic origin, as indicated by Na enrichment of the associated clinopyroxene (up to 2.1% Na_2O).

Biotite occurs only in the granite xenoliths. The $\text{Fe}/(\text{Fe} + \text{Mg})$ ratio of biotites (Table 5) is 0.39–0.50, reflecting that the biotites tend to be more magnesium-rich. Mg-rich biotites from the more siliceous igneous rocks reflect constant or increasing $f\text{O}_2$ conditions on the course of crystallization and cooling of magma (Wones and Eugster, 1965). A more magnesium-rich trend may represent saturation of the melt in regard to H_2O .

Equilibrium conditions

The mineral assemblage does not permit us to determine quantitatively the P-T of equilibration. The occurrence of spinel in olivine-orthopyroxenite and websterite corresponds to crystallization at high pressure, because of the increased solubility in basaltic liquid of Cr and Fe at high pressures (Hill and Roeder, 1974). The presence of plagioclase in gabbro constrains their depth of crystallization to less than about 30 km, as plagioclase does not readily crystallize from basic melts at greater depths (Powell, 1978). The common occurrence of andesine plagioclase in the gabbro xenoliths may be ascribed to the product of low-pressure crystallization, as the An content of plagioclase increases with pressure.

Table 3. Compositions of spinel and ilmenite.

Sample	Spinel				Ilmenite		Opaques	
	IE	IE	I6	I6	IC	ID	IC	ID
SiO ₂	0.003	0.026	0.026	0.004	0.003	0.022	35.46	34.72
Al ₂ O ₃	43.35	46.7	61.86	62.04	0.839	0.093	0.224	0.006
TiO ₂	0.199	0.214	0.153	0.238	53.09	53.36	0.047	0.126
FeO	15.52	15.2	14.21	14.29	39.08	43.11	34.01	42.08
MnO	0.074	0.14	0.126	0.002	0.276	0.751	0.976	0.774
MgO	16.71	16.47	18.97	19.12	6.807	3.361	28.36	22.52
CaO	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.046	0.047	0.331	0.296
Cr ₂ O ₃	21.5	19.94	3.703	3.524	0.097	0.074	0.014	0.002
NiO	0.355	0.088	0.319	0.114	0.264	0.001	0.097	0.192
Na ₂ O	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.005	0.061	0.004	0.02	0.016
K ₂ O	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.034
Total	97.72	98.78	99.37	99.35	100.6	100.8	99.54	100.8
Al	11.51	12.18	15.02	15.04	0.281	0.032	0.059	0.002
Ti	0.034	0.036	0.024	0.037	11.35	11.73	0.008	0.022
Fe ³⁺	0.772	0.335	0.492	0.485			0.228	0.118
Cr	3.831	3.489	0.603	0.573	0.022	0.017	0.002	3E-04
V							0.703	0.859
Fe ²⁺	2.154	2.478	1.957	1.975	9.29	10.54	6.105	7.942
Mg	5.614	5.432	5.824	5.864	2.884	1.465	9.413	7.689
Mn	0.014	0.026	0.022	3E-04	0.066	0.186	0.184	0.15
Ni	0.064	0.016	0.053	0.019	0.06	3E-04	0.017	0.035
Mg#	0.657	0.659	0.704	0.705	0.237	0.122	0.598	0.488
Cr#	0.25	0.223	0.039	0.037	0.072	0.348	0.04	0.146

Mg# = Mg/(Mg + Fe²⁺); Cr# = Cr/(Cr + Al)

Table 4. Feldspar analyses.

Sample	Plagioclase				Alkali feldspar		
	IF _M	IF	IB	IA	IA	IA _{Pert}	IA
SiO ₂	55.4	56.3	64.2	60.1	63.8	62.2	63.5
Al ₂ O ₃	27.0	27.1	22.1	24.8	18.9	20.0	19.0
FeO	0.322	0.171	0.126	0.002	0.025	0.002	0.021
CaO	9.0	9.2	3.1	7.1	0.2	1.4	0.1
Na ₂ O	5.9	6.2	9.9	6.7	2.3	3.0	2.1
K ₂ O	0.5	0.5	0.1	1.6	13.4	11.6	13.9
Total	98.1	99.5	99.6	100.2	98.6	98.2	98.6
Si	2.537	2.547	2.843	2.684	2.968	2.899	2.961
Al	1.458	1.443	1.153	1.303	1.035	1.096	1.044
Fe	0.012	0.006	0.005	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.001
Ca	0.444	0.446	0.149	0.340	0.010	0.069	0.004
Na	0.528	0.542	0.849	0.577	0.208	0.273	0.187
K	0.029	0.028	0.005	0.090	0.794	0.690	0.827
An	44.4	43.9	14.8	33.8	0.9	6.7	0.4
Ab	52.7	53.3	84.7	57.3	20.5	26.4	18.4
Or	2.9	2.8	0.5	8.9	78.5	66.9	81.2

M, microphenocryst; pert, perthite.

Table 5. Compositions of amphibole and biotite.

Sample	Amphibole		Sample	Biotite		
	I6	I6		IB	IB	IB
SiO ₂	42.0	45.1	SiO ₂	35.8	34.0	38.0
Al ₂ O ₃	14.8	16.3	Al ₂ O ₃	14.3	15.2	15.9
TiO ₂	5.0	4.5	TiO ₂	2.6	3.2	2.9
FeO	6.4	3.9	FeO	13.8	17.3	13.6
MnO	0.18	0.03	MnO	0.09	0.09	0.23
MgO	15.6	11.7	MgO	11.1	9.8	11.9
CaO	10.5	10.5	CaO	0.58	0.38	0.16
Na ₂ O	4.0	4.4	Na ₂ O	0.44	0.05	0.07
K ₂ O	0.12	0.25	K ₂ O	7.5	7.1	8.6
Total	98.6	96.8	Total	86.2	87.1	91.3
Si	5.65	6.21	Si	5.84	5.59	5.82
Al ^{IV}	2.35	1.79	Al ^{IV}	2.16	2.41	2.18
Ti	8.00	8.00	Al ^{VI}	0.595	0.528	0.696
Al ^{VI}	0.008	0.854	Fe	1.888	2.382	1.750
Ti	0.503	0.462	Mg	2.698	2.404	2.724
Mg	3.134	2.408	Mn	0.012	0.013	0.030
Fe	0.772	0.492	Ti	0.317	0.398	0.329
Mn	0.021	0.004	Ca	0.101	0.066	0.027
Ca	1.514	1.544	Na	0.140	0.017	0.020
Na(M4)	0.486	0.456	K	1.565	1.486	1.678
Na(A)	0.548	0.728				
K	0.021	0.045				

DISCUSSION

The presence of exsolution lamellae in the pyroxene, composition variations (both mineral chemistry and mode) and lack of veins of pyroxenite in mantle peridotite all support the idea that the pyroxenite xenoliths represent a suite of crystal cumulates from basalts with tholeiitic affinity. Large variations in composition of spinel would be a consequence of element fractionation during crystallization. Moreover, spinels of pyroxenites are substantially enriched in ferric iron (up to 0.772 apfu), implying that they have been crystallized from a melt. The pyroxenite xenoliths are, therefore, unlikely to be the solid residue from the partial fusion event generating the alkali magma, which contains them. The variety of pyroxenites encountered can be explained by polybaric crystallization process (*i.e.*, the aluminous phase changes from plagioclase to spinel pyroxenite with increasing pressure/depth), or alternatively they may be related to chemical diversification of parental magma.

A major problem with pyroxenite xenoliths involves what section of the lithosphere they actually represent. The presence of modal spinel in olivine-orthopyroxenite and websterite appear to indicate that these rocks have crystallized at high pressure, probably at the mantle-crust boundary. On the other hand, the occurrence of modal plagioclase in olivine-clinopyroxenites tend to favour that these xenoliths may represent low-pressure cumulates within the crust. It is possible that these different pyroxenites have been sampled by the ascending magma from various levels within the upper mantle and the crust.

The gabbroic xenoliths contain combination of the following minerals: plagioclase-clinopyroxene-orthopyroxene-olivine-ilmenite. Modal proportions of the above minerals vary widely, as might be expected in rocks of an essentially accumulative origin. The occurrence of orthopyroxene is inconsistent with an origin by crystal accumulation from fractionating alkali basalt. Since tholeiitic basalts are rare in the post-Oligocene period, it seems likely that the gabbroic xenoliths may represent cumulates from tholeiitic basalts erupted during the early volcanic phases, possibly the Oligocene tholeiitic flood basalts. Reaction textures between host basanite and gabbroic xenoliths have been observed. This indicates that the gabbro xenoliths have undergone partial melting during heating associated with adiabatic ascent of the host alkali magma.

There are a lot of gabbroic bodies in the low-grade metamorphic belt of western Ethiopia under the volcanic cover (Teklewold Ayalew and Peccerillo, 1998). However, no metamorphic rocks associated with the Injibara xenoliths are present indicating that the gabbroic xenoliths do not belong to the Arabian-Nubian shield, but to the Ethiopian plateau-forming volcanics. The gabbroic xenoliths appear to be fragments of cumulate plutonic rocks, formed by accumulation of minerals as the basaltic magmas were held in crustal magma chambers.

The granite xenoliths contain quartz and two alkali feldspars (an albite-rich and an orthoclase-rich) accompanied by subordinate amounts of muscovite and biotite. Hess (1989) showed that granitic rocks containing quartz and two alkali feldspars are formed from eutectic melt composition only at high water pressures ($P_{H_2O} > 4\text{kb}$). The

presence of muscovite and biotite would require H₂O-rich magma at pressures ($P_{H_2O}=5\text{kbar}$, Morse, 1970), suggesting that the granites were crystallized under water-saturated condition. Usually two-mica granites are described to be an S-type, which is derived by anatexes of sedimentary materials rich in aluminum (Barbarin, 1999). It should be emphasized that a eutectic melt may also be formed by crystal fractionation processes (e.g., Nédélec *et al.*, 1995). A single Sr-Nd isotopic data from the granite xenoliths ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.703032 \pm 11$ with $^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.0089$ and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512786 \pm 32$ with $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.2265$) is consistent with a depleted mantle origin without any significant crustal input. It is highly probable that these granite xenoliths are not anatectic liquids and that they were formed from the crystallization of more mafic magma.

Although the available data limit us to reconcile the genetic relationships, we prefer a model in which the pyroxenite, gabbro and granite xenoliths represent fractionated cumulates related to the Ethiopian flood tholeiitic basalt volcanism. Confirmation of this interpretation would require more detailed geochemical and isotopic data.

Fractionated cumulates and intrusions would cause underplating and thickening of the crust. Seismic data indicate a thickened crust (~ 40 km) and the existence of high velocity (~ 7.4 km/s) lower crust beneath Ethiopian plateau (Ebinger and Casey, 2001). This is in good agreement with our results that imply important volumes of magma have been added to the crust as underplates or cumulates at the time of the emplacement of the flood basalts.

CONCLUSIONS

The pyroxenite xenoliths (olivine-orthopyroxenite, olivine-clinopyroxenite and websterite) are believed to represent a suite of crystal cumulates from basalts with tholeiitic affinity, evolved at different pressures, probably commencing in the crust/mantle boundary (*i.e.*, the aluminous phase changes from spinel to plagioclase pyroxenite with decreasing pressure/depth), or alternatively they may be related to chemical diversification of parental magma.

The mineral assemblages involving plagioclase, olivine, clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene and ilmenite

in gabbro xenoliths suggest the evolution of tholeiitic basaltic magmas fractionating at shallow depths. The gabbro xenoliths show reaction textures, where orthopyroxene grains are surrounded by a vermicular intergrowth of smaller augite, plagioclase and opaque phase, and interstitial glass.

The granite xenoliths are formed from eutectic melts crystallized at relatively high water pressures. The water content, required by muscovite and biotite to appear, increased by the crystallization of anhydrous phases and thus the granite liquids were formed from the crystallization of more mafic magmas.

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