

MELTING AND METASOMATISM IN UPPER MANTLE PERIDOTITE XENOLITHS FROM LABAIT, NORTH-CENTRAL TANZANIA, AND CONTRASTING METASOMATIC STYLES IN THE TANZANIAN LITHOSPHERIC MANTLE

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Labait (40° 34'S, 35° 26'E) is a small Quaternary scoria cone with an associated lava flow, that lies adjacent to the major nephelinite/carbonatite volcano Hanang at the southern tip of the Gregory Rift Valley in North-Central Tanzania. The scoria and lava contain garnet-bearing and garnet-free peridotite xenoliths. Geothermometry of the garnet peridotites (Dawson et al. 1977) indicates a higher geothermal gradient beneath this part of the Gregory Rift, than further east in the Mozambique Belt and on the Tanzania Craton. Further, compared with primitive mantle (Taylor and McLellan, 1985) the garnet peridotites are depleted in Si, Ti, Al, Ca, Na and K, but contain higher concentrations of Nb, Rb, Th, Pb, and Ba, the implication being that they have undergone a depletion event followed by a cryptic metasomatic overprint.

The garnet-free peridotites are lherzolite, harzburgite and dunite with olivine (Fo₈₇₋₉₀), enstatite (En₉₀₋₉₂, Al₂O₃ 1.2-1.5 wt%, CaO 0.5-1.0 wt%), clinopyroxene (Ca/[Ca+Mg] 41.9-48.2), and spinel (*s.l.*) (Cr₂O₃ 43-53 wt%, MgO 10-14 wt%, and some lherzolites and dunites contain texturally-equilibrated Ti-phlogopite (*mg* 91-92, TiO₂~3.5 wt%, BaO <0.4 wt%). Some samples have veins and/or pools of glass adjacent to which primary olivines have serrated margins with euhedral protrusions into the glass; these margins are more magnesian (Fo₉₂) and calcic (CaO up to 0.25 wt%) than olivine away from veins (Fo₉₀, CaO 0.08 wt%). Rims of peridotite mica protruding into melt patches are darker brown and richer in TiO₂ (5.66 wt%) compared with the light-brown primary micas (3.65 %).

The glass patches and veins contain precipitated Ti-augite, high Ti-phlogopite (*mg* 80, TiO₂ >9 wt%) and spinel, all containing less Cr and Mg, but more Fe and Ti than their peridotite analogues; harmotome, two unidentified Ba-rich phases, perovskite and calcite also occur. The glasses also contain euhedral olivine grains that, because of their optical continuity with the euhedral protrusions from the primary olivines and high magnesian content (Fo₉₂₋₉₃) are interpreted as relics of partially-melted primary olivine grains, rather than having been precipitated from the melts.

The glasses include high-FeO (11.8 wt%), high-BaO (18.5 %) and high-K₂O (13.3 %) varieties, and compositions may vary between veins and melt pockets within single specimens; vesiculation of some glasses and low analytical totals indicate dissolved volatiles.

Similar to the garnet-bearing peridotites at Labait, the mica-free spinel peridotites are depleted in Si, Ca, Al and Na but contain higher K, Rb, Ti, Nb, Th, Pb, Zn and Ba than primitive mantle, reflecting a similar sequence of having undergone an early depletion event, followed by a metasomatic overprint that is particularly highlighted by the formation of phlogopite. However, the presence of high Ba and most of the relatively-low Ca appears to be tied to melt formation. Although some glass compositions could be generated by melting of phases in the mica-bearing peridotites, there is a mass balance problem with Ti, Ba and CO₂ which must have been introduced during a second metasomatic event.

The absence of a major influx of Ca but significant Ti and Ba addition during the Labait metasomatic events contrasts with metasomatism observed in other Tanzanian peridotite xenolith suites in the Quaternary volcanics at Lashaine (Ridley and Dawson, 1975; Dawson, 1987; Rudnick

et al., 1994) and Olmani (Jones et al., 1983; Rudnick et al., 1993) where CO₂-rich fluids are believed to be the metasomatic agent, and at Pello Hill (Dawson and Smith, 1988) where the metasomatism results is due to injection of a silicate melt of potassic melilitite composition. Each have different and distinctive metasomatic signatures, indicating a variety of metasomatic effects and agencies in the Tanzania lithospheric mantle.

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