

LITHOSPHERIC MANTLE IN EASTERN FINLAND: A 250 KM 3D TRANSECT

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ABSTRACT

Two kimberlite provinces 250 km apart in Eastern Finland within the Karelian craton have produced mantle-derived xenoliths and xenocrysts that record striking differences in the lithospheric mantle in these two areas. To the SW occur the 600 Ma old Group I kimberlites from the Kaavi-Kuopio region of Central-Eastern Finland. To the NE are rocks intermediate to olivine lamproite and Group II kimberlite located in the area of Kuhmo. Chrome diopside thermobarometry from Kaavi-Kuopio fits very well with a 36 mW/m² geotherm calculated based on heat flow constraints and P-T data derived from xenoliths. Preliminary chrome diopside data from Kuhmo indicate a similar geotherm, although the present sparse dataset is limited to low temperatures. Xenocrystic pyrope major and trace element compositions reveal three distinct layers in the lithospheric mantle at the SW edge of the craton: 1. A significant low temperature (700-850 degrees) Ca-rich but Ti, Y and Zr depleted “wehrlitic” pyrope-bearing mantle 2. A variably depleted lherzolite (G9) and harzburgite (G10) bearing horizon from 900-1200 degrees, or 150 to 185 km. 3. A fertile deep layer from 180 to 250 km possibly representing Proterozoic underplating or a melt-enriched version of layer 2. In contrast, xenocrystic pyrope data from the Kuhmo area show this lithospheric mantle to be rather more simple, with a variably depleted lherzolite (G9) and harzburgite (G10) bearing horizon extending from the very top of the garnet bearing mantle at about 80 km depth, to a depth of 260 km. Present data appear to show a melt-metasomatized layer of about 30 km thickness at the very base of the Kuhmo mantle lithosphere, possibly corresponding to layer 3 at Kaavi-Kuopio. The more complicated mantle stratigraphy at Kaavi-Kuopio is explained by its location at the margin of the craton, where significant shortening and overthrusting in the crust occurred from 1.9 to 1.8 Ga. The mantle underlying the Kuhmo area apparently suffered less reactivation during this major collisional event and likely represents an older nucleus of the Karelian craton. Correspondingly, diamond prospective zones in these two areas are significantly different, with about 40 vertical km at Kaavi-Kuopio as opposed to about 110 vertical km of prospective peridotites at Kuhmo.



Figure 1: The map presents the diamond prospective area in Northern Europe where there is a low heat flow (simplified from Kukkonen & Jöeleht 1996) and where the lithosphere is thicker than 170 km based on seismic data (Calcagnile 1982). Generalised geology is modified after Gaál and Gorbatshev (1987). The Archaean/Proterozoic boundary marks the subsurface extent of the Archaean craton. The black diamonds represent diamond-bearing kimberlites and lamproites. The 250 km transect considered here runs from Kaavi-Kuopio to 30 km north of Kuhmo.

INTRODUCTION

The Neoproterozoic Eastern Finland Kimberlite Province situated at the SW edge of the Karelian Craton consists of the Kaavi and Kuopio clusters, with nineteen kimberlites discovered, all with typical Group I mineralogies (Tyni 1997, O'Brien & Tyni 1999). The pipes were emplaced into Archaean (3.5-2.6 Ga) basement gneisses and allochthonous Proterozoic (1.9-1.8 Ga) metasediments at 589-626 Ma based on U-Pb ion probe ages from perovskites (O'Brien H., unpublished). Mantle xenoliths from the Kaavi-Kuopio pipes have been studied in detail by Peltonen et al. (1999) and a geotherm on the order of 36 mW/m² has

been calculated using xenolith P-T data and heat flow constraints (Kukkonen & Peltonen 1999).

The Mesoproterozoic transitional Group II / olivine lamproites in the Kuhmo-Suomussalmi terrain of eastern Finland show many similarities in terms of composition, mineralogy and isotopic composition (Fig. 1) to the diamondiferous rocks of the Lomonosov deposit in the Archangelsk area. However the Kuhmo versions appear to be considerably older, ca. 1250 Ma (perovskite U-Pb, O'Brien, unpubl. data) vs. 365 Ma (Beard et al. 1998).

SAMPLES

Xenocryst samples from the Kaavi-Kuopio field came from 4 kimberlites: 2 ha Lahtojoki (Pipe no. 7 with 26 cph of +0.8 mm diamonds), 2 ha Kylmälahti (no. 17, marginally diamondiferous), 700 m x 30 m Kärenpää (no. 5, v. low diamond grades) and 300 x 50 m Niilonsuo (no. 2, microdiamond-rich). Xenoliths, including those included in Peltonen et al. (1999) and new data presented in Lehtonen et al. (this volume) came from these same pipes plus additional material from 110 x 50 m Kaatronlampi (no. 24, nondiamondiferous).

At this stage in the exploration program in the target area of Lentiira, within the Kuhmo terrain, nearly all of the available data come from heavy mineral concentrates taken from till samples. Indicator fans have led to hard-rock kimberlite discoveries but the xenocrysts and xenoliths from these recent discoveries are only now being analyzed in a similar fashion to the till-derived mantle grains.

ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES

Mineral compositions were determined by a Cameca Camebax SX50 electron microprobe at GTK. An acceleration voltage of 25 kV, probe current of 48 nA, and beam diameter of 1 micrometer were applied. Selected garnet xenocrysts were analysed for trace elements at the University of Cape Town using a Perkin Elmer / Sciex Elan 6000 inductively coupled plasma spectrometer connected to a Cetac LSX-200 laser ablation module. Data was calibrated against an in-house standard. Trace Ni, Mn and Ti data by electron microprobe were obtained on pyropes employing 500 nA probe current, 600s counting times on peak plus background positions and were reduced by the CSIRO TRACE program for the SX50 (Robinson & Graham, 1992). Cross-checking of the two trace methods shows

that Ni, Ti and Mn analyses in pyrope by electron probe can achieve similar precision to those of LA ICP-MS down to the level of ca. 10 ppm.

The garnets were classified into harzburgitic, lherzolitic and non-peridotitic varieties according to Gurney (1984); the compositional field for wehrlitic garnet was separated from the lherzolite field using the division of Sobolev et al. (1973). Equilibration pressures and temperatures of the chrome diopside xenocrysts were calculated using the clinopyroxene thermobarometer of Nimis & Taylor (2000, NT hereafter). Xenolith P-T data were calculated using NT and the method of Brey et al., 1990. For garnet xenocrysts the Ni thermometer based on the partitioning of Ni between garnet and olivine was applied using the method of Griffin et al. (1989) as recalibrated by Ryan et al. (1996).

RESULTS

GEOTHERM

Single-grain chrome diopside thermobarometry fits reasonably well with a geotherm of 36 mW/m² calculated using heat flow constraints and xenolith P-T data from Finland (Kukkonen & Peltonen 1999). Fig. 2 in Lehtonen et al. (this volume) shows the correspondence between the xenolith and xenocryst data. Preliminary P-T data from Kuhmo chrome diopsides using the NT calibration indicate a similar geotherm, although the present sparse dataset is limited to low temperatures.

MANTLE COMPOSITIONS

Pyrope trace Ni data were used to calculate temperatures of equilibration using both the calibration of Ryan et al. (1996; Fig. 2) and that of Canil (1999, not shown but see Lehtonen et al., this volume). The Kaavi-Kuopio data show a bimodal distribution that includes a strong low temperature, low Ti-Zr-Y 'wehrlitic' peak at 650 to 800 °C and a stronger sampling peak at 1000 to 1150 °C, which includes all but one of the G10 pyropes analyzed for Ni and a second population of more typical wehrlitic grains with elevated Ti, Zr, and Y. At temperatures above 1150 °C exists a melt-metasomatized section of coarse granular peridotite that may represent a refertilized version of layer 2.

In the Kuhmo terrain the sampling of mantle seems to have been rather uniform from the highest temperatures at about 1400 °C to the lowest temperatures around 850 °C. Also relatively uniform is the distribution of G10

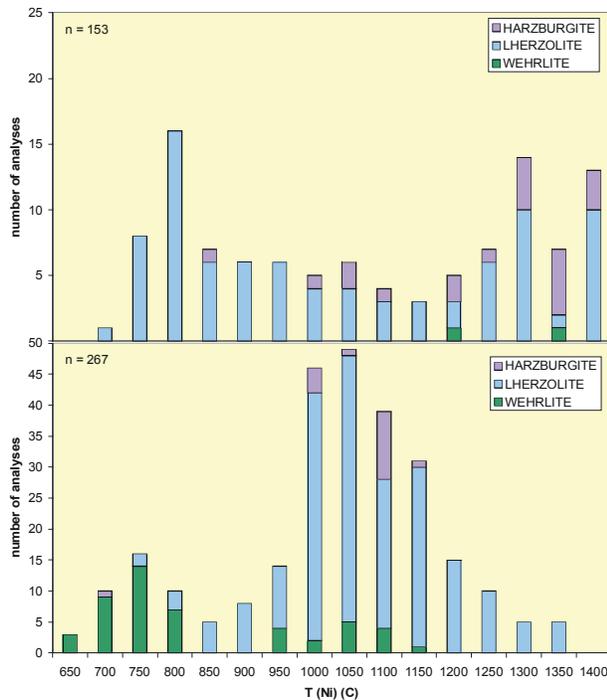


Figure 2: Distribution of TNi for trace element analyzed pyropes from this study, Kuhmo terrain (top) and Kaavi-Kuopio (bottom).

grains (Fig. 2) throughout this section, although there is an obvious concentration of G10s near the base of the unmodified lithosphere from 1250 to 1400 °C and an absence of these grain at temperatures < 850 °C. In both provinces the highest temperature at which G10 exists also represents the highest temperature at which low Zr and Y contents pyropes occur. At least at Kaavi-Kuopio this break does not however demarcate the base of the lithospheric mantle because all xenoliths collected are coarse granular peridotites, even those with equilibration temperatures significantly above 1150 °C.

The two breaks in mantle stratigraphy underlying Kaavi-Kuopio also show up well using Ti contents (Fig. 3) and mg# (Fig. 4) of pyropes, where the TNi have been projected onto the local geotherm (Kukkonen and Peltonen, 1999) to give pressures for each grain. The boundary at about 110 km separates extremely low TiO₂ content pyropes with ‘wehrlitic’ compositions and mg# around 0.80, from a more typical zone with G10 and G9 grains exhibiting a wide range in both parameters. Below the second boundary at roughly 180 km, pyrope TiO₂ contents and mg# are less variable.

In the Kuhmo terrain, variable pyrope TiO₂ contents are the rule, although a general increase with depth seems to be a real trend (Fig. 3). More clear is the strong mg#

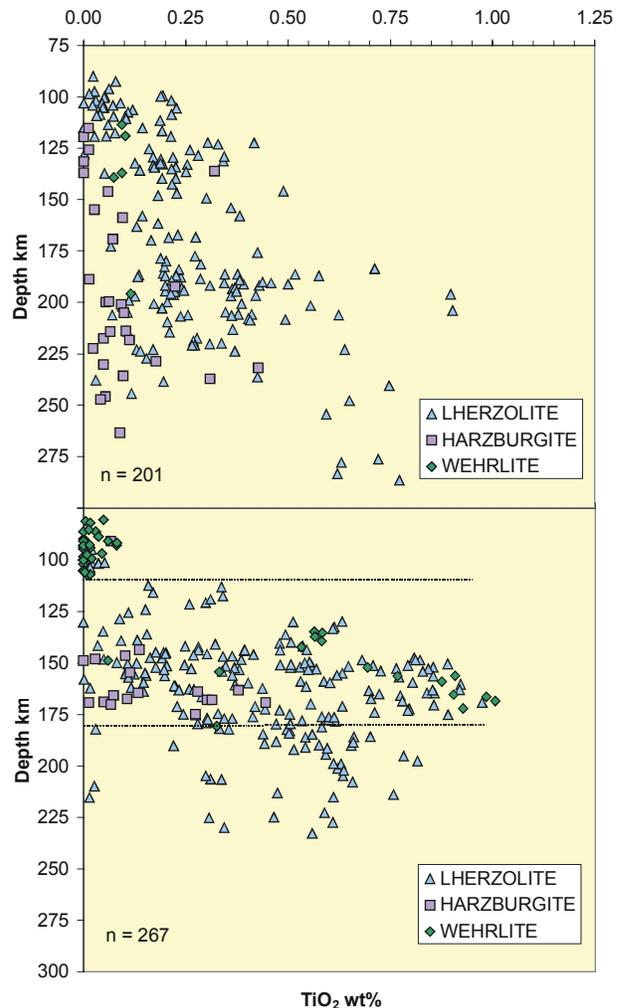


Figure 3: Calculated depth versus TiO₂ content of pyropes from Kuhmo (top) and Kaavi-Kuopio (bottom).

versus depth correlation (fig 4). Although some of this correlation might be due temperature effects on gt/ol Fe/Mg K_D, a more likely mechanism by which this relationship could have been produced is an increase in the degree of partial melting with depth. In either case, we believe that this relationship must represent a primary feature of the Karelian craton from when the crust was first stabilized ca. 3.5 Ga and this highly refractory lithospheric mantle was originally formed.

SUMMARY

A schematic correlation diagram for the two mantle sections discussed here is shown in figure 5. The lithospheric mantle at Kaavi-Kuopio consists of three layers: 1. An upper layer distinguished by extremely low Ti-Zr-Y ‘wehrlitic’ pyropes that occur in modally metasomatized harzburgites, 2. A middle lherzolite to harzburgite layer (with minor wehrlite) representing the

unit most sampled by the kimberlites and the most prospective for diamonds, 3. A lower melt metasomatized layer with a minor amount of remnant depleted material suggesting a previous history as a deeper extension of layer 2. The Kuhmo terrain mantle is simpler, with 150 km of mixed harzburgite – lherzolite, 110 km of it within the diamond stability

field and a roughly 30 km thick melt-modified lower layer. An undisturbed pyrope mg# - depth profile likely represents an original depletion event linked with the formation and ultimately the preservation of the buoyant depleted mantle underlying what may represent one of the original nuclei of the Karelian craton.

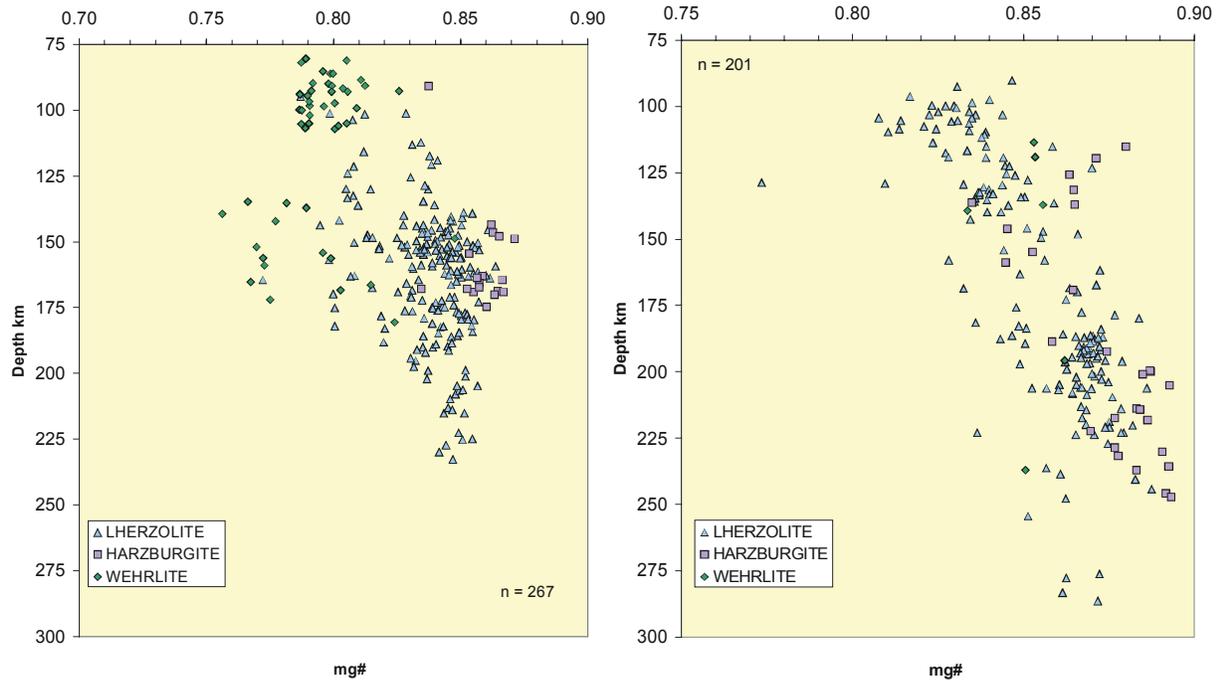


Figure 4: Calculated depth versus mg# for pyropes from Kaavi-Kuopio (left) and the Kuhmo terrain (right).

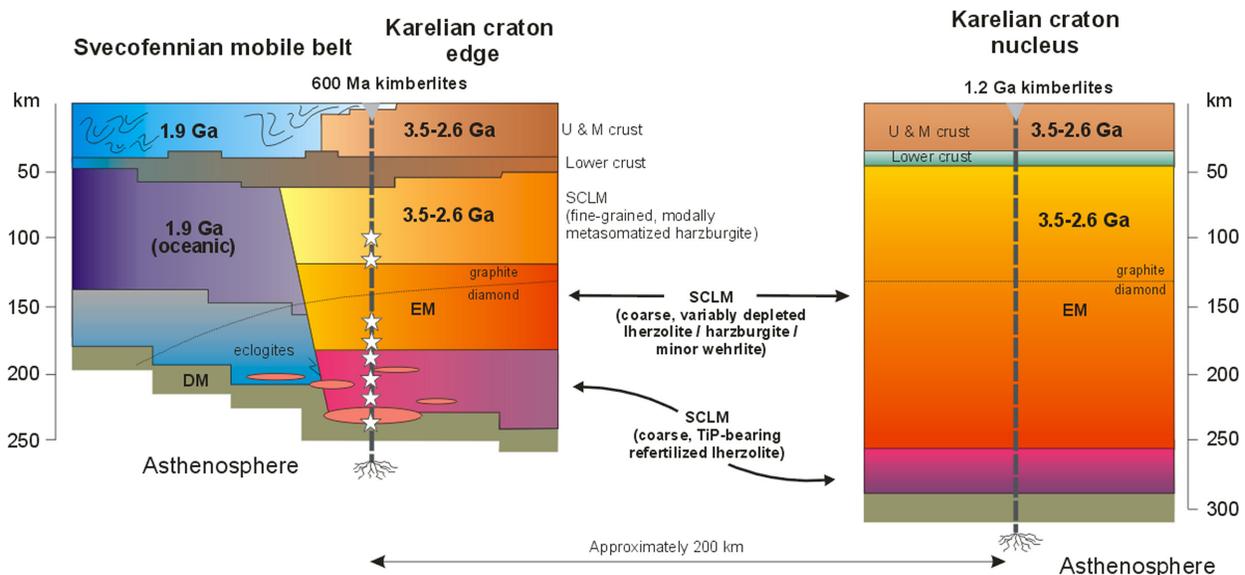


Figure 5: Schematic cross-section through the rifted and redocked edge of the Karelian craton showing the three distinct mantle layers at Kaavi-Kuopio (left) and the more simple structure U inferred for the Kuhmo terrain mantle (right). Graphite – diamond stability curve from Kennedy & Kennedy, 1976.

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