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## CAN BE PARENTAL KIMBERLITE MELTS ALKALI-CARBONATE LIQUIDS: RESULTS INVESTIGATIONS COMPOSITION MELT INCLUSIONS IN MANTLE XENOLITHS FROM KIMBERLITES

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### INTRODUCTION

Recovery of mantle-derived melt compositions usually based on results of bulk-rock analyses of lavas, erupted at the Earth's surface, or intrusive magmatic rocks. Often these lavas and rocks compositions attributed to composition of parental melts. However liquation, crystallization differentiation and assimilation of crustal and mantle xenoliths are very likely during uplift of the melts. Secondary alterations of the rocks are further puzzling the problem of reconstruction of the melt compositions. All these processes can drastically change the initial compositions of mantle-derived melts, and also can be accompanied by replacement of primary mineral assemblages by secondary one in the rocks.

Study of melt inclusions, occurring in minerals from mantle xenoliths, is alternative source of information for reconstruction of mantle-derived melt compositions. The origin of these inclusions can be related to mantle metasomatic processes, partial melting or interaction of minerals with transporting melts, but in any case they represent isolated microportion of mantle melts (see reviews e.g. Schiano, Clocchiatti, 1994; Andersen et al., 2001; Frezzotti, 2001; Golovin et al., 2007). Since the host-minerals is a good container the problems related with secondary alteration of melt composition can be avoided.

In this paper we present the results of the study of melt inclusions in minerals from the one of the deepest mantle xenoliths - sheared garnet-bearing peridotite (Fig 1). P-T conditions of the origin of these xenoliths estimated as high as 6.0-7.3 GPa and 1230-1370 °C. Detail description of the chemical compositions of the xenoliths can be found elsewhere (Agachev et al., 2010).



**Fig 1.** Samples of sheared garnet-bearing peridotite from unique ultra-fresh «salty» kimberlite from Udachnaya East pipe (see Kamenetsky et al., 2007, 2012)

### MELT INCLUSIONS

Secondary melt inclusions (up to 100 microns in size), consisting of bubbles and fine-grained aggregate of carbonates, sulphates and chlorides, as well as transparent daughter phases and ore minerals, were identified in sealed cracks in rock-forming olivine and clinopyroxene (Fig. 2). The daughter phase is generally very small (less than 20 microns in size) and often can escape together with fine-grained aggregates. Furthermore some of daughter phases are strongly hygroscopic and interacted with atmosphere. Therefore one of the main task of the paper was identification of mineral composition of intact inclusions by non-destructive methods (e.g. Raman spectroscopy). Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Electron Micro Probe Analyses (EMPA) were used for further identification of mineral compositions. Carbonates: northupite, shortite, nyerereite, Na-Mg-carbonates,

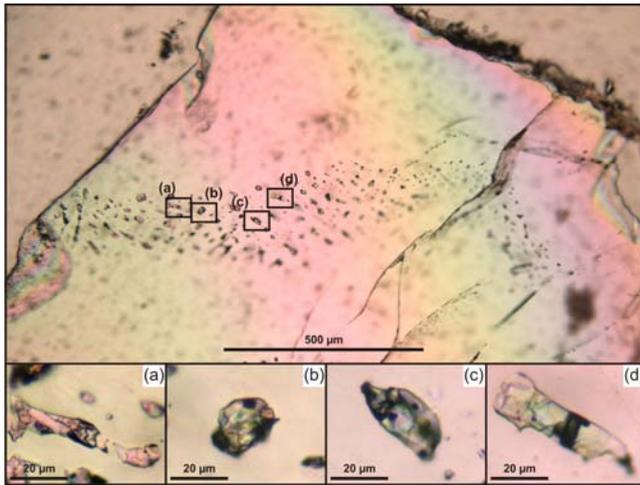


Fig 2. Secondary melt inclusions in olivine porphyroclast from sheared lherzolite xenolith. a-d – individual melt inclusions.

Ba-Na-Sr-carbonates, dolomite, aragonite, calcite; sulfates: burkeite, aphtitalite; chlorides: halite, silvine, chlorine-magnetite; sulfides: pyrrhotite, pentlandite, djerfisherite, K-Fe sulfide (possible rasvumite?); phosphates: apatite; oxides: perovskite, chromite, magnetite, ilmenite; silicates: phlogopite, tetraferriphlogopite, olivine, diopside, sodalite were identified among daughter phases within the inclusions (Fig 3).

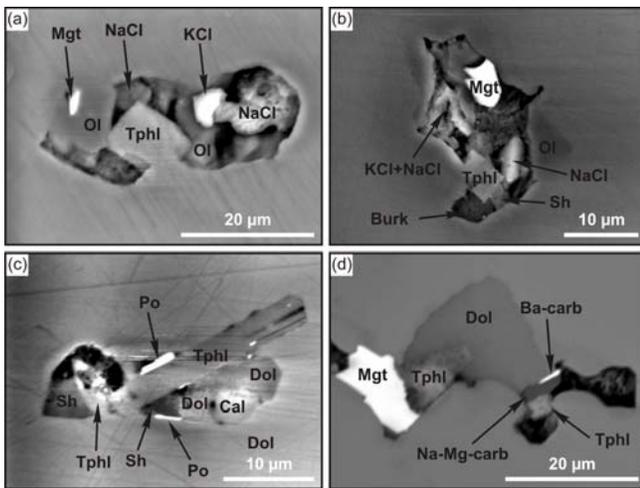


Fig. 3. BSE images of daughter phases from melt inclusions. Ol – olivine, Tphl - tetraferriphlogopite, Mgt – magnetite, NaCl – halite, KCl – silvine, Sh – shortite, Burk – burkeite, Dol - dolomite, Cal – calcite, Po – pyrrhotite.

Homogenisation temperature is as high as 800 °C. This temperature estimates is the lowest temperature of the melt-mantle xenolith interaction. It is worth noted that both calcite and aragonite was identified in the inclusions. Their chemical compositions were constrained by EMPA. While Raman spectroscopy was used to distinguish the polymorph modification of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. In mantle xenolith aragonite was identified by presence of main bands at 153, 181, 208, 703, 1086, 1464 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fig 4). Main bands at 1086 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and 283

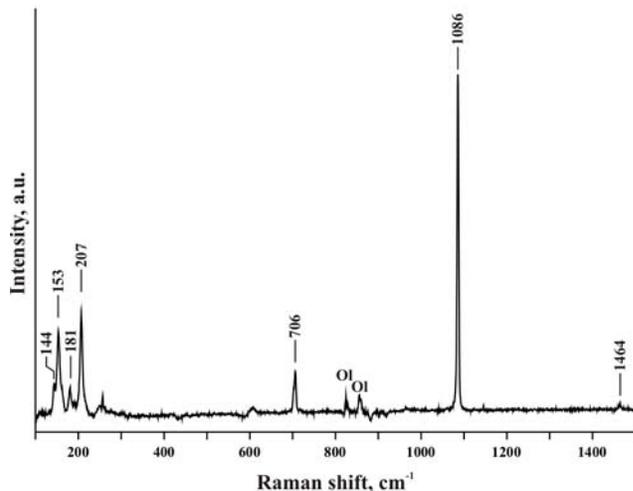
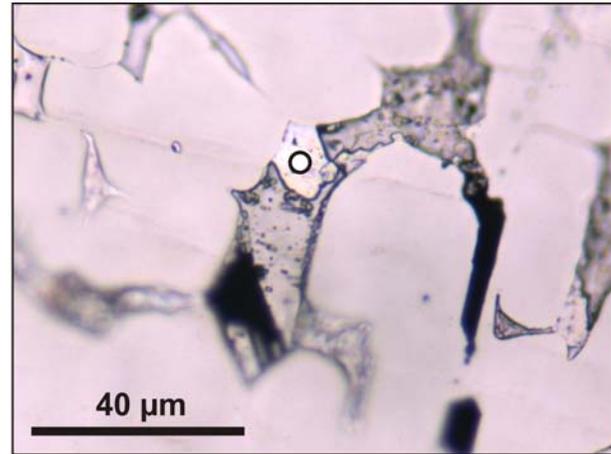


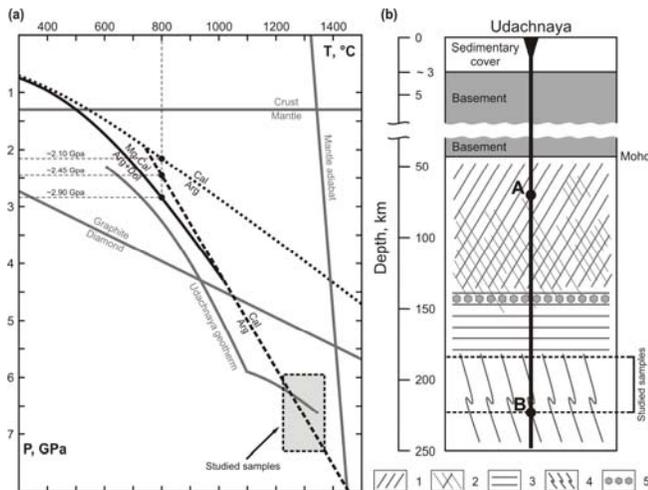
Fig. 4. Representative Raman spectra of aragonite from melt inclusion,

cm<sup>-1</sup> were attributed to calcite (e.g. Edwards et al., 2005). The first finding of aragonite in mantle xenoliths is one of the major point in this study. Experimental investigation (Irving and Wyllie, 1975; Carlson, 1980; Suito et al., 2001) and study of natural samples of ultra-high pressure metamorphic rocks (Hermann et al., 2006; Korsakov and Hermann, 2006; O'Brien, 2008; Korsakov et al., 2009) reveal that aragonite is reliable geobarometer. The presence of aragonite in the melt inclusions, considering as relics of the melt, is unequivocal evidence for mantle origin of the melt, excluding contamination of this melt by crustal materials. Thus the presence of aragonite in the inclusions indicates that crystallization of the melt has started at mantle depth, because accordingly to experimental results the pressure of aragonite-calcite equilibrium line should exceed 2 GPa at 800°C. Higher pressure estimates (as high as 3 GPa) can be obtained by equilibrium Mg-calcite = aragonite + dolomite, since dolomite was found in the melt inclusions (Fig 5, A). Raman imaging of 10 inclusions reveals that carbonates occupy more than 50 % of inclusion volumes. The alkali-



carbonates are predominant carbonates within the inclusions, indicating that melt was alkali-carbonate in compositions.

Presence of aragonite and dolomite in the inclusions displays that this melt interact with xenoliths at depth >90 km namely mantle depth (Fig. 5, B).



**Fig 5.** Schemes display the possible depth of entrapment of the melt inclusions. a) P-T diagram with results of temperature homogenization of melt inclusions Calcite (Cal) – Aragonite and Mg-Cal = Arg + Dol after (Irving, Wyllie 1975; Suito et al., 2001) b) Schematic cross-sections of mantle under Udachnaya kimberlite pipe ~370 Ma after (Pokhilenko et al., 1999) A - B – interval of the depth where melt infiltration in sheared peridotites may occur: A – the minimum depth ~ 70 km or 2.1 GPa; B – the maximum depth ~ 225 km or 7.3 GPa. 1 – spinel peridotites; 2 – garnet peridotites; 3 – garnet coarse peridotites; 4 – garnet sheared peridotites; 5 – graphite-to-diamond transformation.

## DISCUSSION

Kimberlites are usually considered as mantle rocks and their compositions represent the parental kimberlite melts. SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgO, CaO and H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub> (up to 90% in total) are major rock-forming components of kimberlites. The concentration of SiO<sub>2</sub> + MgO in kimberlites may exceed 55 wt.%. Serpentine (olivine in fresh unaltered samples) and carbonates are the major rock-forming minerals. The serpentine or olivine contents in the kimberlite are generally 50 vol.% (however in some case it may even exceed 50 vol.%). Thus presence of olivine or serpentine, which are the main concentrators of SiO<sub>2</sub> and MgO, controls the ultramafic compositions of kimberlites. But this statement is strongly debated now (see review Kamenetsky et al., 2012 submitted). Previous investigation of melt inclusions, which have alkali-carbonatite composition, in olivine from kimberlites (Golovin et al., 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky et al., 2004; 2009 a, 2009 b; Mernagh et al., 2011) and zonation pattern of olivine microphenocryst from kimberlites worldwide make questionable existing paradigm on ultramafic nature of kimberlite magmas.

The study of internal morphology and variation of compositions of microphenocrysts of olivine from unaltered

kimberlites reveals that predominant part of olivine cores are xenocrysts and they represent restites of mantle xenolith (Kamenetsky et al., 2008; Brett et al., 2009; Arndt et al., 2010). Brett et al. (2009) suggested that up to 95 % of olivine microphenocrysts in kimberlites are indeed relics of mantle rocks and only about 5% of olivine grew from kimberlite melt. But this hypothesis is only under development and it requires reliable statistics confirmation.

Results of the melt inclusions study of secondary melt inclusions in minerals from mantle xenoliths display a lot of similarity with previous results on melt inclusions in olivine from kimberlite from Udachnaya East kimberlite pipe (Golovin et al., 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky et al., 2004). Furthermore, chlorides, alkali-carbonates and sulphides were found in ground mass of kimberlites. Concentration of alkalis and Cl in some samples may exceed 8 and 6 wt.%, respectively (Kamenetsky et al., 2007; Kamenetsky et al., 2012 in press). All this information indicates that there are genetic relations between melts, which interact and sheared lherzolites, and kimberlite magmatism. We believe that the presence of melt inclusions in the sheared lherzolites is the first direct evidence that at least on the early stage kimberlite melts had alkali-carbonatite compositions. The kimberlite melts could have alkali-carbonate composition at initial stage of their origin or even during subsequent uplift. There are several factors which could change drastically the chemical composition of kimberlite melt. First of all it is contamination of mantle and crustal materials, as well as secondary alteration processes during interaction of kimberlite melts or kimberlite rocks with ground water or/and atmosphere.

Accordingly experimental study (e.g. Pal'yanov et al., 1999, 2002, 2007; Sokol et al., 2004) the alkali-carbonate systems are good diamond-forming media. Recently, there has been increasing evidence that carbonatite melts/fluids play important role in diamond origin (e.g. Izraeli et al., 2001; Klein-BenDavid et al., 2004; Zedgenizov et al., 2004, 2007; Logvinova et al., 2008; Shatsky et al., 2008; Araujo et al., 2009).

If the protokimberlite melts indeed were alkali-carbonatite melts this rise question that at least some diamond may have close relation with kimberlite magmatism (e.g. Araujo et al., 2009). Findings of the melt inclusions in mineral form one of the deepest mantle-derived xenoliths confirm the possibility of generation alkali-carbonatite melts at lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary.

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