

Multiple origins of charnockite in the Mesoproterozoic Natal belt, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

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Four charnockite genetic models from the Natal belt are described, two of which have not previously been formally described in the literature.

New C isotope data indicate a mantle origin for the CO₂ inclusions previously reported from the magmatic charnockitic Port Edward Pluton.

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14 Received 1 December 2011; Received in revised form 20 April 2012; accepted 24 May 2012

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16 **Abstract** Four different varieties of charnockitic rocks, with different modes of formation, from
17 the Mesoproterozoic Natal belt are described and new C isotope data presented. Excellent coastal
18 exposures in a number of quarries and river sections make this part of the Natal belt a good
19 location for observing charnockitic field relationships. Whereas there has been much debate on
20 genesis of charnockites and the use of the term charnockite, it is generally recognized that the
21 stabilization of orthopyroxene relative to biotite in granitoid rocks is a function of low $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ (\pm
22 high CO_2), high temperature, and composition (especially $\text{Fe}/(\text{Fe}+\text{Mg})$). From the Natal belt
23 exposures, it is evident that syn-emplacement, magmatic crystallization of charnockite can arise
24 from mantle-derived differentiated melts that are inherently hot and dry (as in the Oribi Gorge

granites and Munster enderbite), as well as from wet granitic melts that have been affected through interaction with dry country rock to produce localized charnockitic marginal facies in plutons (as in the Portobello granite). Two varieties of post-emplacement sub-solidus charnockites are also evident. These include charnockitic aureoles developed in leucocratic, biotite, garnet granite adjacent to cross-cutting enderbitic veins that are attributed to metamorphic-metasomatic processes (as in the Nicholson's Point granite, a part of the Margate Granite Suite), as well as nebulous, patchy charnockitic veins in the Margate Granite that are attributed to anatexis metamorphic processes under low- $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ fluid conditions during a metamorphic event. These varieties of charnockite show that the required physical conditions of their genesis can be achieved through a number of geological processes, providing some important implications for the classification of charnockites, and for the interpretation of charnockite genesis in areas where poor exposure obscures field relationships.

Key Words: Charnockite igneous; Metamorphic; Natal belt; Dehydration CO_2

1. Introduction

Charnockitic rocks are broadly defined as granitoids in terms of Quartz-Alkali feldspar-Plagioclase (QAP) ternary space but contain orthopyroxene (or fayalite + quartz) and, typically, perthite, mesoperthite or antiperthite (Le Maitre, 2002). Although not included in the formal definition, charnockitic rocks are typically characterized by meso- to melanocratic colour indices, being commonly described as having a "dark green, greasy" lustre and in contrast to the

leuco appearance normally expected of granitoids. The stabilization of orthopyroxene in granitic rocks and quartzofeldspathic granulites in high grade terrains essentially requires low $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ and/or high temperatures typical of granulite grade environments. If $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ is high, then typically orthopyroxene is replaced by biotite or amphibole, either in the solid state or as crystallizing phases in the melt at appropriate temperatures. The genesis of charnockitic rocks was widely debated during the 80's and 90's with numerous models revolving around the modes of genesis between magmatic and metamorphic varieties and the distinction of these (e.g. Bohlen et al., 1992) and particularly in the role of CO_2 in the fluid phase (Newton et al., 1980; Friend, 1981; Janardhan et al., 1981; Kumar, 2004; Santosh and Omori, 2008; Huizenga and Touret, 2012; Touret and Huizenga, 2012). Carbon isotopic composition of fluid inclusions and graphite have served as distinct markers in identifying the mantle signatures of carbonic fluids in many occurrences of charnockite formation (e.g. Jackson et al., 1988; Farquhar and Chacko, 1991; Santosh et al., 1991; Luque et al., 2012).

A number of variations of these genetic models have been put forward over the years, including:

- Primary magmatic charnockite generated, with the crystallization of orthopyroxene, from high temperature magmas with low $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ (Saxena, 1977; Martignole, 1979; Wickham, 1988; Stern and Dawoud, 1991; Kilpatrick and Ellis, 1992).
- Magmatic charnockite generated by the melting of granulites at high pressures in the presence of a carbon dioxide-rich fluid phase (Wendlandt, 1981).
- Metamorphic charnockites which are anhydrous restites of lower crust material from which partial melts have been removed (Fyfe, 1973; Newton and Hansen, 1983; Clemens, 1992).
- Metamorphic charnockites formed during granulite grade metamorphism under fluid

71 conditions of low oxygen fugacity and high partial pressures of carbon dioxide involving
72 the breakdown of hydrous mafic phases and the generation of orthopyroxene (Janardhan
73 et al., 1979; Newton et al., 1980; Friend, 1981; Hansen et al., 1984; Hansen et al., 1987;
74 Hansen et al., 1995).

75 • Metasomatic charnockites formed by the dehydration of hydrous minerals by brines
76 (Perchuk and Gerya, 1993; Aranovich and Newton, 1995).

77 • Metamorphic charnockites formed by thermal desiccation in aureoles adjacent to hot
78 anhydrous intrusions emplaced into granitic rocks (van den Kerkhof and Grantham,
79 1999).

80 Each of these mechanisms contributes to the fundamental requirements of high temperatures and
81 low $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ for charnockite genesis. However, since many of these examples occur in isolation, the
82 interpreted mechanism was often extrapolated as the mechanism of formation of all charnockites,
83 hence the debates. Many of the debates have since subsided with little resolution of the matter
84 except to accept that multiple origins of orthopyroxene-bearing granitoid rocks are recognized.

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86 Charnockitic rocks from the southern portion of the Mesoproterozoic (ca. 1.2 to 1.0 Ga) Natal belt
87 of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (Fig. 1), were first reported by Gevers (1941) and Gevers and
88 Dunne (1942). The original mapping of this area was done by du Toit (1946) and later McIver
89 (1963, 1966) provided a regional study of the area and described the major lithologies.
90 Subsequently, we have recognized four distinct types of charnockite genesis in the area,
91 comprising two magmatic and two metamorphic varieties. The description of these varieties and
92 their interpreted genetic environments are the topic of this paper, supported by new C isotope data
93 from some of the localities.

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2. Natal Metamorphic Province

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97 The Natal Metamorphic Province (“Natal belt” for short) consists of three tectonic terranes
98 (Thomas, 1989; Fig. 1). A summary of the lithologies for which emplacement ages have been
99 reported is depicted in Fig. 2, which shows that the Natal belt has a tectonomagmatic history
100 spanning a period of time from >1200 Ma to ~1026 Ma. Geochemical data from lithologies from
101 all three terranes (Thomas et al., 1994; Arima et al., 2001; Mendonidis et al., 2009) suggest
102 island arc leading to the interpretation that the terranes were island arcs accreted onto the
103 southern margin of the Archaean Kaapvaal Craton (Jacobs et al., 1993; Arima et al., 2001;
104 McCourt et al., 2006).

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106 The northernmost Tugela Terrane comprises plutonic, volcanic and sedimentary rocks that were
107 obducted onto the southern margin of the Kaapvaal Craton, which they now overlie (Matthews,
108 1972; Barkhuizen and Matthews, 1990; Johnston et al., 2003). The southern margin of the
109 Tugela Terrane is marked by the Lilani-Matigulu shear zone (Thomas, 1989).

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111 The Mzumbe Terrane covers a large area south of the Lilani-Matigulu shear zone, and comprises
112 supracrustal gneisses, dated at ca. 1230 Ma (Thomas et al., 1999), which were intruded by a wide
113 range of meta-igneous rocks including TTG orthogneisses and later gabbros (Thomas, 1989;
114 Thomas and Eglington, 1990). The Mzumbe Terrane is separated from the southernmost Margate
115 Terrane by the Melville thrust. The southernmost Margate Terrane consists of paragneisses
116 intruded by calc-alkaline and tholeiitic, mafic to intermediate meta-igneous suites and a number

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3 117 of granitic sheets and plutons (Talbot and Grantham, 1987). Large plutons of a rapakivi-
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6 118 charnockitic association collectively called the Oribi Gorge Suite (Thomas, 1988a, b; Thomas et
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9 119 al., 1993a; Grantham et al., 2001; Eglington et al., 2003) punctured both the Margate and
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11 120 Mzumbe Terranes between 1090–1025 Ma (Fig. 2) indicating that these two terranes were
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13 121 juxtaposed by that date (Thomas, 1989; Eglington et al., 2003; Eglington, 2006).

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18 123 All three terranes experienced multiple deformational events and are characterized by pervasive
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20 124 E-W trending fabrics and northward-verging overall structure (Talbot and Grantham, 1987;
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23 125 Mendonidis and Strydom, 1989; Thomas, 1989; Jacobs et al., 1993; McCourt et al., 2006;
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25 126 Bisnath et al., 2008). However, the timing of the events in the different terranes was not coeval
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28 127 as shown in Fig. 2. Multiple metamorphic events have been reported from each terrane and
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30 128 metamorphic textures suggest that metamorphism coincided with the deformation events
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33 129 (Mendonidis, 1989; Mendonidis et al., 2002; Mendonidis and Grantham, 2003; Bisnath et al.,
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35 130 2008). Metamorphic grade generally increases from greenschist facies in the north to granulite
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38 131 facies in the south (Matthews, 1972; Thomas et al., 1994; McCourt et al., 2006).

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42 133 The earliest recognition and descriptions of charnockite in the Natal belt were by Gevers and
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45 134 Dunne (1942) and McIver (1963, 1966). Local, but excellent exposures, mostly above and in the
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48 135 intertidal zone along the coast, have facilitated the recognition of the various types of
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50 136 charnockite described here, making the Natal Metamorphic Province an almost unique area to
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52 137 study charnockite genesis, even by comparison with the classic charnockite areas of southern
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56 57 139 **3. Magmatic charnockites**

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141 The magmatic charnockites in the Natal belt are related to three distinct plutonic igneous rock
142 units: the Oribi Gorge Suite (OGS) (Thomas, 1988a, b; Thomas et al., 1991), the Munster Suite
143 (Mendonidis and Grantham, 1989, 1990) and the Margate Granite Suite (Thomas et al., 1991)
144 (Figs. 1 and 3). Within these intrusive suites, two charnockite varieties are distinguished based
145 on the dominant controlling factors of their genesis, namely fractionational crystallization and
146 fluid activity.

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148 *3.1 Charnockites with evidence of magmatic crystallization*

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150 Two chemically distinct plutonic suites of megacrystic granitoids are recognized in the Natal belt
151 namely the Oribi Gorge Suite and the Munster Suite. The Oribi Gorge Suite contains the most
152 extensive development of charnockites in the Natal belt, where it is restricted to the Margate and
153 Mzumbe Terranes in the southern part of the belt (Thomas, 1988b, 1989; Fig. 1). The Oribi
154 Gorge Suite was intruded between ca. 1090 and 1025 Ma (Eglington et al., 2003). It is made up
155 of ten major plutons (up to 750 km² in extent), consisting of very coarse-grained, feldspar
156 porphyritic, locally rapakivi-textured, granitoid and charnockite. Eglington et al. (2003) provided
157 U-Pb SHRIMP ages for some of the plutons as follows: Two samples from the Oribi Gorge
158 plutons provided magmatic ages of 1082 ± 7 Ma and 1064 ± 5 Ma and a metamorphic rim age of
159 1029 ± 8 Ma, and the Fafa and Port Edward plutons provided ages of 1037 ± 10 Ma and $1025 \pm$
160 8 Ma respectively. These data suggest two episodes of intrusion at ~1070 and 1030 Ma
161 (Eglington et al., 2003). Intrusions in which charnockitic rocks are known to be developed
162 include the Port Edward, Oribi Gorge, Ntimbankulu, Fafa, KwaLembe, Mgeni and Glendale

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4 163 plutons (Fig. 1). Some intrusions contain very little charnockite (e.g. the Mvenyane pluton),
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6 164 whereas others are exclusively charnockitic (e.g. the Port Edward pluton). In the Oribi Gorge
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8 165 Suite, a primary igneous flow fabric, formed by sub-parallel alignment of tabular feldspar
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10 166 phenocrysts, can be seen locally in low-strain zones. Elsewhere, a weak to strong regional S_2
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12 167 fabric is developed, giving a pronounced gneissic foliation, especially around and parallel to
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14 168 pluton margins where augen gneisses locally predominate. Pluton cores may contain low-strain
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16 169 zones devoid of a tectonic fabric, though many are deformed by later ductile, transcurrent shears
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18 170 which produced extensive, west-trending, sub-vertical augen gneiss and mylonite belts (Thomas,
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20 171 1989; Thomas et al., 1991). The Oribi Gorge Granitoid Suite is characterized by megacrystic (up
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22 172 to 6 cm) subhedral to euhedral feldspar grains with interstitial quartz, ferromagnesian and
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24 173 accessory minerals (Fig. 4A). The ratio of K-feldspar and plagioclase is variable, so that within a
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26 174 single pluton the normal granitic (charnockitic) composition grades to granodiorite (enderbite)
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28 175 with increasing plagioclase, or monzonite/quartz monzonite (mangerite/mangeronorite) with
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30 176 decreasing quartz. Rapakivi textures are locally recognizable in some plutons (Fig. 4C). The
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32 177 Oribi Gorge charnockites (*sensu lato*) are typically very dark green to black in colour, have a
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34 178 resinous lustre and consist of perthitic K-feldspar and/or antiperthitic plagioclase phenocrysts in
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36 179 enderbite rocks. The coarse-grained groundmass is composed of quartz (8%–30%), antiperthitic
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38 180 plagioclase (An_{25} ; 25%–60%) and subordinate microcline or orthoclase (12%–45% +
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40 181 myrmekite). Mafic minerals, which form interstitial aggregates, include brown/brownish-green
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42 182 hornblende (~5%), reddish-brown biotite (0–5%; locally symplectically intergrown with quartz),
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44 183 weakly pleochroic orthopyroxene (5%–15%) \pm pale-green clinopyroxene (0–5%), partially
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46 184 altered fayalite (0–5%) and late garnet (up to ~5%; commonly in garnet-quartz symplectite).
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48 185 Accessory minerals include sulphides, ilmenite, zircon, apatite, allanite and graphite. Apatite,
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3 186 ilmenite and zircon commonly occur as inclusions in interstitial ferromagnesian minerals
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6 187 suggesting late crystallization. Olivine grains are locally mantled by orthopyroxene suggesting
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8 188 the following reaction: fayalite + quartz \rightarrow orthopyroxene (Grantham et al., 2001).
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13 190 The geochemistry from the various intrusions has been described and discussed in Grantham
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15 191 (1984), Kerr (1985), Eglington et al. (1986), Thomas (1988b), Thomas and Mawson (1989) and
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18 192 Grantham et al. (2001). The Oribi Gorge Suite is typically tholeiitic with high FeO/(FeO+MgO
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20 193 (Fig. 5) and shows A-type, within plate- and rapakivi-granite geochemical characteristics
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23 194 (Thomas, 1988b). K₂O, Na₂O, FeO and P₂O₅ are high for average granitoids with comparable
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25 195 silica contents. (Na₂O+K₂O)/CaO ratios, TiO₂ and P₂O₅ contents are high. Trace element
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27 196 abundances are also typical of A-type granitoids, with high contents of the HFS elements Nb, Y,
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30 197 Zr and Ba. Within individual plutons, major and trace element distributions show strong linear
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33 198 trends on Harker diagrams. The least evolved of the plutons, the Port Edward pluton has
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35 199 marginal contact phases with relatively low SiO₂ contents of ~53% (Grantham, 1984), typical of
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37 200 basic rocks, albeit with a high Fe/(Fe+Mg) ratio.
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42 202 The geology and geochemistry of the Munster Suite has been described in detail by Mendonidis
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44 203 and Grantham (1989, 1990) and has an age of ~1092 Ma (Mendonidis et al., 2009) indicating it
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47 204 is older than the Oribi Gorge Suite. The Munster Suite comprises older mafic granulites and
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50 205 younger intermediate charnockites. The older generation of coarse- to fine-grained, mafic rocks
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52 206 contain plagioclase, two pyroxenes, biotite, minor K-feldspar \pm hornblende and quartz. The
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55 207 younger, coarse-grained charnockitic generation is quartz-monzonitic in composition and
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57 208 consists of quartz, K-feldspar, plagioclase, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, biotite, opaque
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3 209 mineral and apatite. These rocks are typically characterized by megacrystic (2–3 cm) plagioclase
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6 210 with interstitial quartz, ferromagnesian phases and accessory minerals, Mendonidis (1989)
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8 211 recognized two generations of orthopyroxene in these rocks; an earlier magmatic variety and
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11 212 later metamorphic pyroxene derived from biotite and hornblende. The suite defines a calc-
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13 213 alkaline trend and the rocks are characterized by high TiO_2 and P_2O_5 contents (Fig. 5).
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15 214 Mendonidis and Grantham (1989) concluded that the basic and intermediate components of the
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18 215 Munster Suite were co-genetic.

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23 217 Two pyroxene geothermometry on the basic rocks of the Munster Suite (after Lindsley, 1983),
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25 218 using mineral core compositions, yielded magmatic temperatures of ~ 1050 °C, whereas rim
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27 219 compositions suggest far lower temperatures of ~ 600 °C, reflecting metamorphic cooling or
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30 220 closure temperatures (Mendonidis and Grantham, 1989). This interpretation is supported by the
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33 221 occurrence of oscillatory zoning in clinopyroxene cores, interpreted as relict igneous features.
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35 222 Conversely, no oscillatory zoning is seen in adjacent orthopyroxene, which is interpreted as a
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38 223 metamorphic rather than an igneous phase. Furthermore, petrographic textures indicate that
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40 224 orthopyroxene developed at the expense of biotite and hornblende during prograde
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42 225 metamorphism from amphibolite to granulite facies (Grantham, 1984).

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47 227 Evidences for very high temperatures of ~ 1000 °C in the Port Edward pluton of the Oribi Gorge
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50 228 Suite are derived from two pyroxene thermometry reported in Grantham et al. (2001). Saturation
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52 229 surface thermometers based on the solubility studies of Zr and P_2O_5 (Watson, 1979; Watson and
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55 230 Pabianco, 1981; Watson and Harrison, 1983) in granitic melts using available whole rock
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57 231 chemistry (Grantham 1984; Mendonidis and Grantham, 1989) support high crystallization

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3 232 temperatures. P_2O_5 and Zr contents of the Port Edward pluton suggest temperatures of 1000–
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6 233 1050 °C and ~825–925 °C respectively whereas the data from the Munster Suite suggest
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8 234 temperatures of 975–1025 °C and 825–850 °C respectively (Fig. 5). Similarly comparison of the
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10 235 TiO_2 contents of these rock units with the solubility data of TiO_2 of Green and Pearson (1986)
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12 236 suggest temperatures of 1000–1050 °C and ~950 °C for the Port Edward pluton and Munster
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15 237 Suites respectively (Grantham et al., 2001 and Fig. 5).

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18 239 Another group of rocks with magmatic charnockitic affinity is the Turtle Bay Suite, an undated
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21 240 meta-igneous association intruded along the tectonic boundary between the Mzumbe and
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23 241 Margate terranes. The suite comprises a mantle-derived assemblage of mafic two-pyroxene
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25 242 granulites and fractionated enderbites metamorphosed under granulite facies conditions of ca.
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27 243 850 °C and ca. 6 kb (Thomas et al., 1992).

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32 245 Radiogenic isotope data (Sm/Nd and Rb/Sr) indicate that the Oribi Gorge Suite is juvenile with
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35 246 Sm/Nd and Rb/Sr data showing no significant contributions from older crust (Eglington et al.,
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37 247 1986; Grantham et al., 2001). No radiogenic isotope data are available from the Munster Suite.
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39 248 Fluid inclusion studies on the Port Edward pluton reveal high density CO_2 inclusions with
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41 249 subordinate N_2 and CH_4 contents (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999).

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45 251 To further understand the genesis of these rocks and the source of the CO_2 , which is present in
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47 252 high levels in fluid inclusions (along with native graphite in the OGS charnockites) a carbon
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49 253 isotope study was conducted on samples from the Port Edward and Oribi Gorge plutons. Sample
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51 254 preparation and cleaning procedures followed the methods described in Miller and Pillinger
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3 255 (1997). Bulk rock and mineral separates of 0.5 to 1 mm in size were hand-picked under a
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6 256 binocular microscope for the extraction of fluid inclusions by the heating method. Samples were
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8 257 treated with hot 6 M HCl to remove any surficial carbonate contaminants and washed in distilled
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10 258 water. Subsequently, the samples were ultrasonically cleaned in dichloromethane. Prior to
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13 259 extraction, 1 to 2 g of mineral separate was loaded into preheated (1100 °C, 12 h) 9 mm quartz
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15 260 tubes and heated at 500 °C overnight to remove any surface and organic contaminants. An
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18 261 oxidizing agent (V₂O₅) was added to one aliquot each of bulk sample to check whether small
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20 262 amounts of CH₄ or graphite are present, which can affect the isotopic composition (Satish-
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23 263 Kumar, 2005). The quartz tubes were then sealed under high vacuum and heated to 800 °C or
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25 264 1000 °C and released gases were cryogenically purified and CO₂ was separated, and analyzed for
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28 265 its carbon isotope composition using a MAT-250 mass spectrometer at Shizuoka University,
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30 266 Japan. CO₂ blanks during the heating experiments were always less than 0.005 mol.

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35 268 The results of carbon isotopic composition of CO₂ extracted from fluid inclusions in two
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37 269 representative samples are given in Table 2. The whole rock samples gave slightly lower $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
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40 270 values at 1000 °C, when compared to those at 800 °C. This trend is again observed in CO₂
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42 271 extracted in samples with oxidizing agent, which implies that at 1000 °C there is a possibility that
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45 272 CO₂ was partly derived from the oxidation of small amounts of graphite. Graphite can be
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47 273 deposited inside the fluid inclusions or in mineral grain boundaries during retrogression from
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50 274 CO₂-rich fluids (e.g. Van der Kerkhof et al., 1991; Satish-Kumar, 2005; Papineau et al., 2010)
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52 275 and is a primary constituent of some of the charnockites (Thomas, 1988b). Furthermore, minerals
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55 276 like quartz are vulnerable for secondary fluid inclusion entrapment and it is difficult to separate
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57 277 primary and secondary fluid inclusions with heat extraction. The samples were pre-heated at 500
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3 278 °C to decrepitate all possible low temperature secondary fluids. Therefore, the carbon isotopic
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6 279 composition of CO₂ extracted from fluid inclusions at 800 °C is considered as the best
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8 280 approximate values for the fluid inclusions. The carbon isotopic composition of fluid inclusions
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10 281 in both charnockite samples gave values comparable to mantle derived carbon (Table 2), which
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12 282 is reported to have $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values around -5.5‰ (Mattey, 1991; Deines, 2000). These values are
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14 283 also comparable with the fluid inclusion carbon isotope data described in southern Indian
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16 284 charnockite, which envisages a deep crustal or mantle source (e.g. Jackson et al., 1988; Santosh
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18 285 et al., 1991). Significant differences between the quartz and whole rock values may reflect
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21 286 additional C bearing phases (carbonates?) in the whole rocks.
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28 288 Recognizing the basic composition of some of the samples of the Oribi Gorge Suite (with SiO₂
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30 289 contents of <55% in, for example the Port Edward pluton) and the Munster Suite, their high
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32 290 temperatures of crystallization of ~950–1050 °C, indicated by two pyroxene thermometry and
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34 291 saturation surface thermometry, and the juvenile radiogenic and stable isotope data from the
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37 292 Oribi Gorge Suite, it is concluded that the magmas from which these rocks crystallized were
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39 293 mantle derived. The original magmas were probably basaltic in origin. In the case of the Port
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41 294 Edward pluton and probably the Oribi Gorge Suite in general, the magmas may have undergone
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43 295 two phases of crystallization with earlier crystallization at depth resulting in typical tholeiitic
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45 296 Fe/(Fe+Mg) enrichment before emplacement and continued fractional crystallization at higher
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47 297 crustal levels. In contrast, basic members of the Munster Suite are recognized at the current
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50 298 levels of exposure (Mendonidis and Grantham, 1989). The two suites are genetically distinct; the
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52 299 Oribi Gorge Suite including the Port Edward Pluton has Fe/(Fe+Mg) ratios of ~0.75 and the
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55 300 Munster Suite an Fe/(Fe+Mg) ratio of ~0.6 (Figs. 5 and 6 in Grantham et al., 2001).
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302 The overall texture of the megacrystic charnockites of the Munster and Oribi Gorge Suites may
303 also be interpreted in terms of experimental work by Wyllie et al. (1976) and Naney (1983),
304 Whitney (1975) and Naney and Swanson (1980), who demonstrated that in granitic and
305 granodioritic magmas, under conditions of reduced or low $p(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ ($w(\text{H}_2\text{O}) < 4.5\%$), plagioclase
306 and alkali feldspar are early phases on the liquidus and commonly precede the crystallization of
307 quartz and ferromagnesian phases (typically hornblende or orthopyroxene). In granodioritic
308 systems with $w(\text{H}_2\text{O}) > 4.5\%$, on the other hand, hornblende is typically the first liquidus phase.
309 Concomitant with low $p(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ is the need for high magmatic temperatures of the order of
310 ~ 1000 °C. The inferred crystallization path of these rocks is shown in Fig. 6. The path shows
311 early crystallization of megacrystic plagioclase on the liquidus followed by orthopyroxene. Later
312 as the K-feldspar field is crossed separate grains of orthoclase or as rapakivi overgrowths on
313 plagioclase are formed with later interstitial or intercumulate orthopyroxene, opaque oxides and
314 accessory phases zircon and apatite. The crystallization sequence will vary also due to changes in
315 residual bulk composition with fractionation. The inferred crystallization sequence is reflected in
316 Fig. 4B which shows a ~ 1 cm plagioclase grain rimmed by quartz, ilmenite and poikilitic
317 orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene grains, all of which contain inclusions of apatite and zircon.
318 These inclusions indicate crystallization after the feldspars but preceding the pyroxene and
319 ilmenite and imply near saturation of Zr, P_2O_5 and TiO_2 in the melt.

320 321 *3.2 Magmatic fluid activity charnockites in the Portobello Granite*

322 A second generation of leucocratic magmatic charnockites, with granitic (sensu stricto)
323 composition, is recognized in the southern Margate Terrane of the Natal belt (Thomas, 1988a).

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3 324 These charnockites are associated with non-charnockitic, often garnetiferous leucogranites. One
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6 325 body, the Portobello Granite shows both charnockitic and non-charnockitic facies. The non-
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8 326 charnockitic variety is typically a red-coloured, biotite-chlorite granite exposed at the Portobello
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10 327 headland and along Palm Beach (Figs. 3, 4d and 7) in which chlorite post-dates and mostly
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12 328 replaces biotite, indicative of later, low-temperature alteration (Fig. 8a, b). There are also rare
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14 329 chlorite grains which may be pseudomorphs after orthopyroxene, but no preserved
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16 330 orthopyroxene has been recognized in the pink granite. Unequivocal contact relationships show
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18 331 that the Portobello Granite intruded quartz monzonorites and metabasites of the Munster Suite
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20 332 (Fig. 7). Wherever the granite is in contact with the quartz monzonorites, it is characterized by a
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22 333 0.5 to 1.5 m wide grey-coloured, charnockitic marginal phase that contains biotite and
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24 334 orthopyroxene as mafic phases (Figs. 4d and 8c, d). The charnockitic margins show a much
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26 335 lower degree of chlorite alteration than the rest of the granite. A U-Pb zircon (SHRIMP)
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28 336 discordant intercept age of 1057 ± 27 Ma was determined for the main body of red-coloured
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30 337 biotite-chlorite granite of the Portobello Granite from metamict zircon grains (Mendonidis and
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32 338 Armstrong, 2009). The metamict nature of the zircons may be related to low temperature
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34 339 alteration. Zircons from the charnockitic margins, on the other hand, produced a near-concordant
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36 340 age of (1093 ± 7) Ma that is statistically identical to the age of the adjacent Munster Suite quartz
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38 341 monzonoritic country rocks (1091 ± 7) Ma (Mendonidis and Armstrong, 2009; Mendonidis et al.,
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40 342 2009). The zircons from the charnockitic margins were pristine, clear, transparent, light-brown
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42 343 grains distinctly different from the milky, metamict grains of the rest of the granite, and
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44 344 resembled those from the quartz monzonorites country rocks. Therefore, the zircons from the
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46 345 charnockitic margins were interpreted as being xenocrysts derived from the partial assimilation
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48 346 of the quartz monzonoritic country rocks (Mendonidis and Armstrong, 2009).
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6 348 In comparison to the granite, the charnockitic margins are depleted in K, Rb, P, Y, Nb and REE,
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8 349 and enriched in Ca, Ba and Sr (Mendonidis and Grantham, 2000, 2005; Table 3, Fig. 9). The
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10 350 depletion of K and Rb in the marginal zones is inferred to be due to the migration of these
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12 351 hydrophilic elements with the fluid into the country rock where they facilitated retrograde
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14 352 alteration of orthopyroxene to biotite and/or to reduced crystallization of primary biotite in the
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16 353 contact zone with Rb being typically strongly partitioned into K feldspar. The hydrous fluid may
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18 354 also have fluxed melting reactions in the quartz monzonorite involving the breakdown of
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20 355 plagioclase allowing partial assimilation, thus explaining the enrichment in Ca, Ba, and Sr in the
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22 356 charnockitic margins. Phosphorous is relatively insoluble in felsic melts (Harrison and Watson,
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24 357 1984) and may have precipitated and nucleated onto existing apatite in the country rock. The
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26 358 depletion of Nb, Y and the REE can also be accounted for in terms of their being preferentially
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28 359 partitioned into apatite in the quartz monzonoritic country rock.
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37 361 An interpretation that accounts for all the observed features noted above is that the Portobello
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39 362 Granite intruded as a wet felsic magma into the dry quartz monzonorite. On solidification, the
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41 363 water that was dissolved in the melt remained as a hydrous fluid that promoted chloritic
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43 364 alteration of the mafic phases in the granite. In the marginal zones, the fluid migrated along a
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45 365 fluid gradient into the dry country rock, leaving the marginal zones relatively dry and thus
46
47 366 limiting retrograde alteration. This relationship is reflected in Fig. 10 in which the solidus curve
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49 367 for wet granite is shown along with two curves for the dehydration reaction of $Bt + Qtz \rightarrow Kfs +$
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51 368 $Opx + H_2O$ with the two curves reflecting Mg and Fe end members (Mineral abbreviations after
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53 369 Kretz, 1983). The two horizontally oriented arrows on Fig. 10 for the two curves show how with
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370 a decreasing H₂O fluid gradient, it would be possible to contribute to orthopyroxene
371 crystallization/stabilization near the contact of the intrusion with dry country rock.

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373 4. Metamorphic charnockites

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375 In addition to the charnockites which we interpret as of magmatic origin, as discussed above,
376 two varieties of metamorphic charnockite, hosted in the Margate Granite Suite are recognized.
377 The two types are further subdivided on the basis of the dominant controlling factor of their
378 genesis namely, “thermal metamorphic charnockite” or “aureole charnockite” and “metamorphic
379 fluid activity charnockite”.

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381 4.1 Thermal metamorphic charnockite (“aureole charnockite”)

382 This variety of charnockite is recognized in the Nicholson’s Point granite, a leucocratic biotite
383 garnet granite and a member of the Margate Granite Suite, and has been described in detail by
384 Grantham et al. (1996) and Van der Kerkhof and Grantham (1999). The critical exposures are
385 seen at Nicholson’s Point (Fig. 11). At this locality the country rock Nicholson’s Point granite is
386 intruded by veins of Port Edward Enderbite (Oribi Gorge Suite magmatic charnockite) up to ~10
387 m thick as well as by pegmatitic veins up to ~30 cm wide. Adjacent to the veins of Port Edward
388 enderbite, charnockitic aureoles with diffuse margins up to ~4 m wide are developed in the
389 leucocratic biotite garnet Nicholson’s Point granite (Figs. 4A and 11). Aureoles in the granite
390 adjacent to pegmatite veins are up to 0.5 m wide with aureole/vein width ratios ~10:1 (Fig. 4E)
391 (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999).

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3 393 The medium- to coarse-grained Nicholson's Point granite is a leucogranite composed of anhedral
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6 394 granoblastic orthoclase, plagioclase, quartz, biotite and garnet with accessory pyrite, ilmenite,
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8 395 zircon and apatite. The charnockitic phase contains hypersthene (Fig. 8g, h), less biotite, but
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11 396 more plagioclase, myrmekite and opaque minerals relative to the granite. The sulphide in the
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13 397 charnockite is pyrrhotite rather than pyrite. Garnet occurs both in the leucogranite and the
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15 398 charnockite, either as euhedral to subhedral inclusion-free crystals (Fig. 8e, f) or as xenomorphic
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17 399 poikilitic grains in symplectic intergrowth with quartz. The former generation is restricted to the
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20 400 granitic phase in which it occurs as isolated grains, commonly enclosed within feldspars and is
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23 401 interpreted as a primary igneous phase (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999). The garnet-
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25 402 quartz symplectites occur adjacent to opaque minerals and around hypersthene in the
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27 403 charnockitic phase and are interpreted to represent isobaric cooling reactions of $\text{Opx/Mt} + \text{Pl} \rightarrow$
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30 404 $\text{Grt} + \text{Qtz}$ (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999). Where the two generations are in contact, the
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32 405 symplectic garnet is seen to post-date the inclusion-free variety. Biotite is randomly distributed
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35 406 in the leucogranite, but occurs in association with mafic and opaque minerals in the charnockite.
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37 407 This is interpreted as partial retrogressive hydration (Fig. 8g, h).
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42 409 The same phenomenon is seen on a regional scale, where similar variations are observed
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44 410 involving granites of the Margate Granite Suite comprising leucocratic pale grey to cream-
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46 411 coloured garnetiferous granite with dark greyish green charnockite (Fig. 3; Thomas, 1988a;
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48 Thomas et al., 1991) forming discontinuous, non-pervasive large-scale aureoles (> 1 km wide)
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50 412 around plutons of the Oribi Gorge Suite (Fig. 3).
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3 415 Thermobarometry and fluid inclusions studies were completed on the Nicholson's Point granite
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6 416 to investigate the causes of the charnockitisation. The minimum temperature conditions for the
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8 417 charnockite forming reaction were constrained by the breakdown of pyrite to pyrrhotite at
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10 418 ~700 °C, recognizing that the enderbite intruded with a temperature of ~900–1000 °C.
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13 419 Thermobarometry using compositional data from coexisting garnet and orthopyroxene yielded
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15 420 lower unrealistic temperature estimates which were interpreted to represent cooling temperatures
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18 421 (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999).

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23 423 Fluid inclusions studies of the rock units involved in this process showed that the intruding hot
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25 424 Port Edward enderbite was characterized by dense CO₂ and N₂ fluid inclusions, the metamorphic
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28 425 aureole by virtually pure H₂O inclusions, whereas the country rock Nicholson's Point granite
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30 426 was characterized by saline H₂O inclusions (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999). These
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33 427 differences indicate that the charnockitic aureoles were not the result of CO₂ causing a reduction
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35 428 in the *a*H₂O and stabilizing Opx and indicating a different mechanism for genesis. The densities
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38 429 of the H₂O-rich inclusions in the charnockite showed a wide range which was interpreted to
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40 430 reflect re-equilibration and implosion during the isobaric cooling path inferred in the area (Van
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42 431 der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999). In contrast, the CO₂ inclusions in the intruding enderbite
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45 432 showed a limited density range consistent with their entrapment at high temperatures of
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48 433 crystallization. The survival of these inclusions was attributed to the isochores for CO₂ inclusions
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50 434 having shallower slopes and consequently being closer to the isobaric cooling path inferred for
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52 435 the area (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999).

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3 437 Even though the charnockitisation occurred at temperatures >700 °C the Nicholson's Point
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6 438 granite country rock did not melt because it was virtually anhydrous. The granite contains only
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8 439 ~5% biotite, containing a maximum of ~4% stoichiometric H_2O , so the amount of H_2O released
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10 440 from the biotite breakdown reaction $Bt + Qtz \rightarrow Opx + Kfs + H_2O$ was only ~0.2% of the rock by
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13 441 volume (Van der Kerkhof and Grantham, 1999). The effect of the low a_{H_2O} is summarized in
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16 442 Fig. 10. The vertical double-headed arrow on the figure defines the trajectory of the charnockite
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18 443 forming reaction showing the crossing of the $Bt + Qtz \rightarrow Opx + Kfs + H_2O$ reaction curve with
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20 444 increasing temperature with the production of pyroxene in the solid state.
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25 446 No significant differences are evident in the major element chemistry between the leucogranite
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28 447 and the charnockite phases of the Nicholson's Point granite, showing that the process is
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30 448 essentially isochemical (Fig. 12). However, Grantham et al. (1996) noted that the charnockite is
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33 449 slightly depleted in Rb, Th, Nb, Y and REE (except Eu) whereas the charnockite is enriched in S,
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35 450 Ba and Sr (Fig. 12).

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40 452 The chemical variations are consistent with a combination of trace elements being incompatible
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42 453 in the products of the charnockite-forming reaction and metasomatic introduction of mobile
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44 454 elements from the intruding magma. Depletions in the charnockite of Rb, Th, and Nb are
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47 455 correlated with biotite being replaced by orthopyroxene whereas the REE depletions are
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50 456 correlated with the replacement of garnet by pyroxene recognizing that the REE are
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52 457 preferentially partitioned into garnet and Rb, Th and Nb being preferentially partitioned into
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55 458 biotite (Grantham et al., 1996). The higher S, Ba and Sr are interpreted to be metasomatic
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57 459 introductions from the enderbite.
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461 The discontinuous regional charnockite developed in the leucogranitic country rocks of the
462 Margate Granite Suite adjacent to magmatic charnockite intrusions thus probably represent
463 large-scale thermal aureoles in which biotite was dehydrated to form hypersthene and garnet was
464 altered to hypersthene. No p - T studies have been done to understand the physical conditions with
465 such studies being dependant on identifying methods independent of fluid content and not
466 affected by subsolidus cooling and exchange. Charnockite aureoles adjacent to pegmatites show
467 identical geochemical features to those around enderbites. However, in view of the high
468 aureole/vein width ratio, they could not have developed as a result of high temperatures and it is
469 suggested that the charnockite-forming reaction in this case was fluid driven with the pegmatite
470 providing a sustained, possibly hypersaline, fluid source (Aranovich and Newton, 1995).

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472 *4.2 Metamorphic fluid activity charnockite (fluid-induced charnockitisation)*

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474 Vein-like and nebulous patches of coarse-grained charnockite have been described from southern
475 Natal (Thomas, 1988a). These resemble in appearance the well-documented “arrested
476 charnockites” of the Kerala region of southern India (e.g. Allen et al, 1985; Kumar, 2004; Raith
477 and Srikantappa, 2007) and like most of those, they post-date the metamorphic fabric and appear
478 to have originated by the introduction of fluids (Saunders, 1995).

479

480 In southern Natal, these charnockitic zones occur within the granite-gneisses of the Margate
481 Suite and Glenmore Granite, mostly in a wide belt around the southern margin of the Oribi
482 Gorge Pluton and close to the high-grade marbles of the Marble Delta Formation of the

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3 483 Mzimkulu Group (Thomas, 1988a; Fig. 3). The granites of both the Margate Suite and Glenmore
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6 484 Granite are strongly foliated and locally preserve evidence of two fabrics (Talbot and Grantham,
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8 485 1987; Mendonidis and Strydom, 1989). They both have S-type chemical characteristics (
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10 486 Mendonidis et al., 1991; Thomas et al., 1991) and may be interpreted as having originated by
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12 487 fluid absent melting of metasediments (of the Mzimkulu Group?) during the high temperature-
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14 488 low pressure D1 (S1, M1) granulite event recognized by Mendonidis and Grantham (2003). Both
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16 489 these granites contain garnetiferous and charnockitic leucosomes that are concordant to the S2
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18 490 fabric, and probably originated through syn-M2 fluid-absent anatexis (Saunders, 1995).
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25 492 Post-S2 vein and patch charnockites crop out at two quarries in the northern part of the Margate
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27 493 Terrane (Thomas, 1988a; Fig. 3). They are composed of typical, rather heterogeneous Margate
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29 494 Suite garnet leucogranite and augen gneiss and are cut by a number of discordant charnockite
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31 495 veins (Fig. 3; Thomas, 1988a). The charnockites in the two quarries were described in detail and
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33 496 interpreted by Saunders (1995). The distribution of the discordant pegmatitic charnockitic veins
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35 497 is controlled by small ductile shear zones with predominantly sinistral displacements. The host-
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37 498 vein boundary is typically sharp and marked by a five-fold grain-size increase from ~0.5–2.5 mm
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39 499 and a colour change from the light grey leucogranite to a typically charnockitic greenish-grey.
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41 500 The charnockitic veins have an unoriented igneous texture that almost, but not entirely,
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43 501 obliterates the gneissic texture of the host rock (Fig. 4F), and there is no evidence of a chilled
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45 502 margin. They comprise randomly oriented subhedral megacrystic plagioclase, perthite,
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47 503 micropertite and aggregates of fine-grained biotite, chlorite, calcite, dolomite and ilmenite
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49 504 which are pseudomorphic after orthopyroxene grains. Relative to the host gneisses, the
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51 505 charnockitic veins are depleted in Fe, Mg, Mn, Ti, Ca, P, Nb, Zr, Y, U, Th, Ta, Sc and HREE,
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506 and enriched in K, Ba, Sb, Pb, Sr, Rb and LREE. Si, Al and Na were immobile (Saunders, 1995;
507 Fig. 13).

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509 The igneous textures of the charnockite veins indicate a super-solidus, i.e. melting, origin, but
510 the lack of evidence for magmatic intrusion (e.g. local preservation of “ghost” foliation within
511 the charnockite that is continuous from the country rock across the contact, see Fig. 4F) suggests
512 that they were produced *in situ*. *In situ* fluid-absent melting of a biotite (hydrous phase) bearing
513 gneiss can be initiated by an increase in temperature (>850 °C) or a decrease in pressure at high
514 temperature through the breakdown of biotite by reaction with quartz to produce an anhydrous
515 phase such as orthopyroxene or garnet which releases water that in turn fluxes a partial melt
516 (Waters and Whales, 1984; Clemens, 1993; Stevens and Clemens, 1993; Vielzeuf and Montel,
517 1994; Stevens et al., 1997). It is this anatexis process that was proposed for the origin of the
518 concordant syn-D2 garnetiferous and charnockitic leucosomes by Saunders (1995). However, the
519 post-D2 charnockitic veins are not associated with the regional metamorphic event as they are
520 discordant to the regional tectonic fabric, and they do not display any of the typical migmatitic
521 features such as mafic selvages of restitic material as seen in the syn-D2 leucosomes. Instead,
522 their restriction to small sinistral faults favours a fluid-initiated melting process rather than a
523 pervasive temperature increase. Saunders (1995) proposed that charnockitisation was a result of
524 the introduction of partially hydrous (C-O-H) fluids under granulite facies conditions along
525 structural dislocations. The introduction of such fluids would flux localized anatexis adjacent to
526 the discontinuities to produce the pegmatitic charnockite veins. The water would be
527 preferentially partitioned into the melt phase leaving behind a CO₂-rich fluid, thus explaining the
528 abundant CO₂ fluid inclusion within these charnockites. Moreover, the retrograde carbonate

alteration of the orthopyroxene can be ascribed to low temperature reaction with the remnant CO₂-rich fluids. The small sinistral faults were probably produced during post-D2 uplift while the rocks were still hot (granulite facies). The origin of the carbonic (C-O-H) fluids could be related to granulite facies devolatilization of the nearby carbonate supracrustals of the Marble Delta Formation in the Margate Terrane (Fig. 3; Saunders, 1995). Alternatively, adjacent plutons of intruding Oripi Gorge Suite which probably had CO₂ bearing fluids similar to those recorded in the Port Edward Pluton could have provided a source.

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537 **5. Conclusions**

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Exposures in the Mesoproterozoic Natal belt show four main types of charnockite formation and their inter-relationships. It thus constitutes an important area for studies of charnockite genesis on a par with, if not superior to, the classic southern India localities. The descriptions of the four varieties of charnockites from the Natal belt in this article show that orthopyroxene-bearing rocks with igneous textures can originate both from crystallization of dry, high-temperature, mantle-derived, differentiated mafic melts (magmatic charnockites), and by subsolidus metamorphic and metasomatic alteration of granitoid rocks at high temperatures and in the presence of fluids with low water activities (metamorphic charnockites). New C isotope data presented here show that the CO₂-rich fluids associated with magmatic charnockites were mantle-derived. The origins of the metamorphic fluids involved in sub-solidus fluid related charnockitisation are not as well constrained, but field evidence suggests that these may have been introduced by intruding magmas and/or devolatilization of nearby carbonates during metamorphism. However, the distinction between magmatic and metamorphic charnockites can

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552 be blurred as in the example of nebulous charnockitic veins of the Margate Suite Granite which
553 have been interpreted as originating from *in situ*, post-emplacement, localized, fluid-induced
554 melting (super-solidus charnockitisation) during later metamorphism. Moreover, the required
555 low water activities in magmatic fluids need not be an inherent characteristic of the parent
556 magmas but can also arise through interaction with country rock as in the case of the Portobello
557 granite. The unequivocal field relationships and exposures in the Natal belt facilitate the clear
558 distinction between magmatic and subsolidus charnockite genesis. In areas where such
559 unequivocal exposures of orthopyroxene-bearing granitoid are absent, the uncertainty in
560 recognizing whether the rocks are magmatic or metamorphic in origin has implications for the
561 applicable nomenclature of such rocks, in view of a recent suggestion that the term charnockite
562 should be reserved for those rocks clearly of magmatic origin (Frost and Frost, 2008). We do not
563 subscribe to this view.

564

565 **Acknowledgments**

566

567 RJT thanks the CEO, NERC BGS for permission to publish. This paper is dedicated to John
568 McIver who made the first detailed study of the charnockites of the Natal South Coast and who
569 sadly passed away while it was being prepared. We would like to acknowledge constructive
570 reviews by Dr. R. Voordouw and Dr. Lopamudra Saha. Samples with the prefix UND from the
571 Port Edward pluton were analyzed from powders supplied to GHG by Bruce Eglington who is
572 gratefully acknowledged.

573

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835 Figure Captions

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837 Figure 1 Locality map of southern Natal Metamorphic Province showing other locality maps and
838 distribution of the Oribi Gorge Suite.

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840 Figure 2 Graphical tabulation of the Natal Metamorphic belt lithologies for which there are
841 published emplacement ages, sorted according to the age scale on the left (After Mendonidis and
842 Armstrong, 2009). Superscripts refer to the source of the age as follows: ¹ Johnston et al., 2001; ²
843 Thomas et al., 1999; ³ Thomas and Eglington, 1990; ⁴ Eglington et al., 2010; ⁵ Eglington et al.,
844 2003; ⁶ Mendonidis et al., 2002; ⁷ Mendonidis et al., 2009; ⁸ Mendonidis and Armstrong, 2009; ⁹
845 Cornell and Thomas, 2006; ¹⁰ Thomas et al., 1993; ¹¹ Thomas et al., 2003; The Sikombe Granite
846 occurs to the south of the Margate Terrane and may or may not be part of a separate block
847 (Thomas et al., 2003). The shaded blocks indicate lithologies that contain charnockitic rocks.

848

849 Figure 3 Locality map of Margate Terrane showing the distribution of Munster Suite and other
850 charnockite varieties including the Oribi Gorge Suite and the Margate Granite thermal aureoles
851 and fluid gradient charnockites. Also shown are the locations of detailed maps shown in Figs. 7
852 and 10. Note also the location of Marble Delta as well as the quarry location where fluid-driven
853 charnockites are exposed.

854

855 Figure 4 Photos of various charnockite localities from Natal. (A) The contact zone between the
856 Oribi Gorge Suite (OGS) (Port Edward pluton) and Margate Suite (Nicholson's Point granite,
857 NPG) at Nicholson's Point showing the megacrystic OGS at left. The first 30–40 cm of NPG
858 from the contact is opx-bearing whereas the rest of the NPG has garnet and biotite; (B) Thin
859 section micrograph in plane polarised light of the OGS showing porphyritic plagioclase rimmed
860 by intercumulate quartz, ilmenite and poikilitic pyroxene containing inclusions of apatite and
861 zircon. The field of view is 10 mm; (C) Rapakivi texture in the OGS; (D) Photograph of the
862 contact zone between the Munster Suite (at left), the marginal orthopyroxene zone and the pink
863 Portobello granite at Palm Beach; (E) Charnockitic aureole developed adjacent to a pegmatitic
864 quartz vein intruding the Nicholsons Point granite (Margate Suite) at Nicholsons Point; (F)

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3 865 Charnockite vein (right) in the garnet biotite bearing Margate Suite at left. The pegmatitic vein
4 866 intruding the Margate Suite is traceable through the charnockite vein indicating the metamorphic
5 867 origin of the charnockite. The dark coarse crystals in the charnockite zone are porphyroblastic
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9 868 orthopyroxene.

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12 870 Figure 5 (A) AFM diagram after Irvine and Barager (1971) showing the difference in Fe/(Fe+Mg)
13 871 between the Munster Suite (MS) and the Oribi Gorge Suite (PE); (B) Saturation surface
14 872 thermometry using the Zr and P₂O₅ contents of the Port Edward pluton of the Oribi Gorge Suite
15 873 (PE) and the Munster Suite (MS); (C) Comparison of the TiO₂ contents of the Port Edward
16 874 pluton of the Oribi Gorge Suite (PE) and the Munster Suite (MS) with saturation curves at
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22 875 various temperatures after Green and Pearson (1986).

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25 877 Figure 6 Interpreted crystallization sequence for the Port Edward pluton of the Oribi Gorge Suite
26 878 and the Munster Suite, modified after Naney (1983) and Naney and Swanson (1980).

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31 880 Figure 7 Detailed geological map of the charnockitic zones adjacent to the Munster Suite at Palm
32 881 Beach. Note the development of the charnockitic Margate Suite adjacent to the quartz
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34 882 monzonitic Munster Suite.

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38 884 Figure 8 Thin section photographs from the Portobello granite (A, B, C and D) and the
39 885 Nicholsons's Point granite. Field of view is ~3 mm with plane polarised light images at left and
40 886 crossed polar images at right. A–B: Photomicrographs from the chlorite bearing Portobello
41 887 granite. Note also the more altered feldspars; C–D: Photomicrographs from the charnockitic
42 888 Portobello granite; E–F: Photomicrographs from the garnet+biotite bearing Nicholsons Point
43 889 granite. Note the inclusion free subhedral garnet inferred to be of igneous origin; G–H:
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49 890 Photomicrographs from the charnockitic Nicholsons's Point granite.

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52 892 Figure 9 Plot of whole rock chemistry of charnockitic marginal zones of the Portobello granite
53 893 normalized against the host biotite chlorite granite. Data from Mendonidis and Grantham
54 894 (unpublished). The marked depletion in yttrium and niobium is probably because the distribution
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58 895 and migration of these elements is largely controlled by accessory phosphate phases that are
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3 896 relatively insoluble in felsic liquids. Clear enrichment in Ca, Ba and Sr is evident in the
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5 897 charnockitic Portobello granite, which is probably due to assimilation of country rock
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7 898 plagioclase.

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11 900 Figure 10 T - $X_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ diagram for the wet granite solidus after Ebadi and Johannes (1991) and two
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13 901 dehydration reaction curves for quartz plus annite (Fe) and phlogopite (Mg) to form
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15 902 orthopyroxene and K feldspar (in the melt) at 5 kb. The reaction curves were calculated using
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17 903 THERMOCALC (Holland and Powell, 1998). The horizontal arrows show the effect of a
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19 904 decreasing fluid gradient inferred to have assisted the crystallization of orthopyroxene in the
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21 905 contact zone applicable to the Portobello Granite at Palm Beach. The vertical double-headed
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23 906 arrow shows the thermal dessication effect of heating by adjacent intrusions resulting in contact
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25 907 metamorphic charnockitic aureoles as seen at Nicholson's Point.

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27 908
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29 909 Figure 11 Geological map of Nicholson's Point showing the development of charnockite in
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31 910 aureoles adjacent to Port Edward enderbite of the Oribi Gorge Suite as well adjacent to thin
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33 911 pegmatite veins.

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35 912
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37 913 Figure 12 Plot of whole rock chemistry of charnockitic aureoles normalized against the mean of
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39 914 the garnet biotite granite from Nicholson's Point Granite at Nicholson's Point. Data from
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41 915 Grantham et al. (1996).

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43 916
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45 917 Figure 13 Plot of whole rock chemistry of post-D2 charnockitic veins normalized against the
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47 918 immediate host rocks, from the Mzimkulu and Beacon Lot quarries. Data from Saunders (1995).

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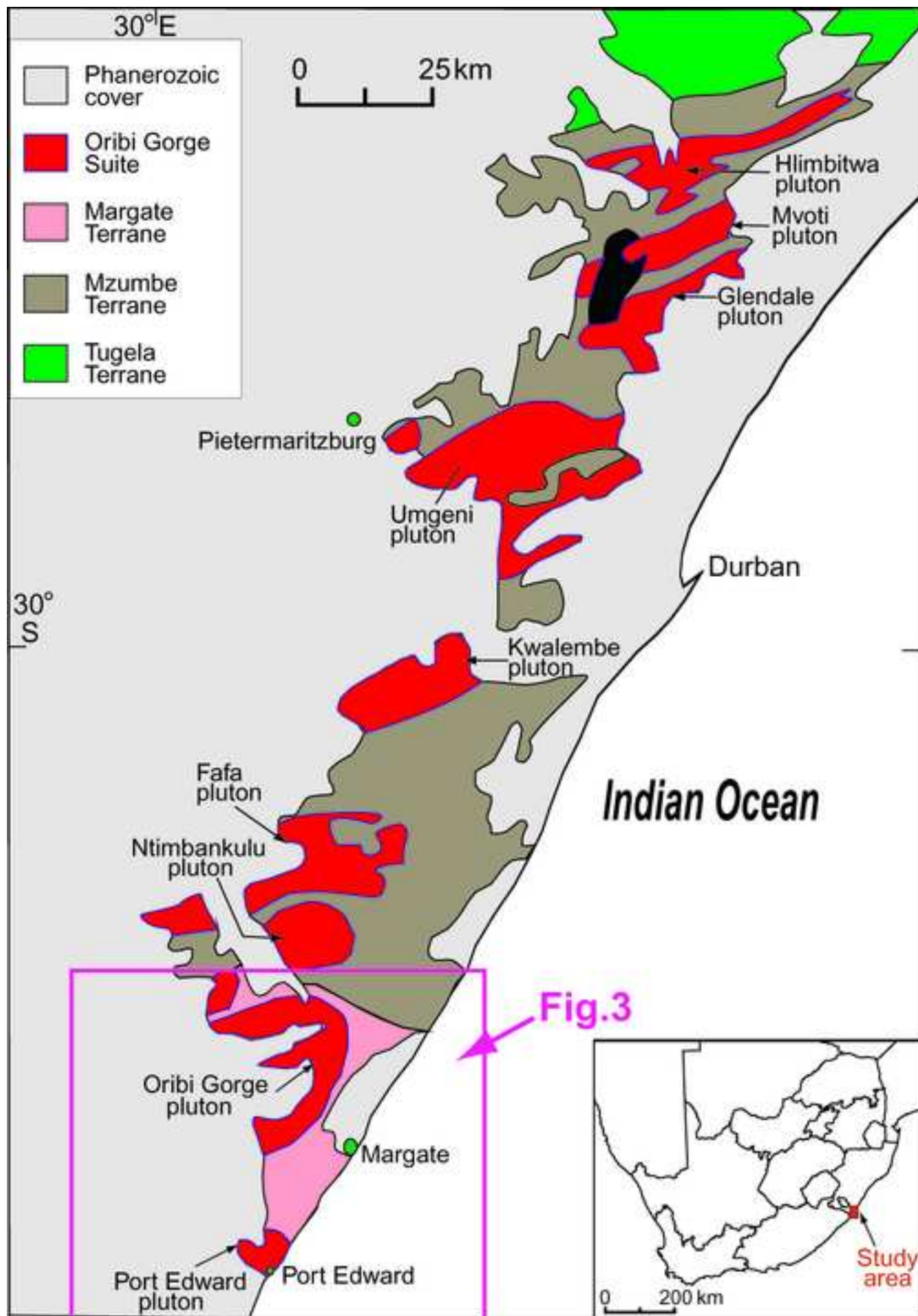


Figure 2

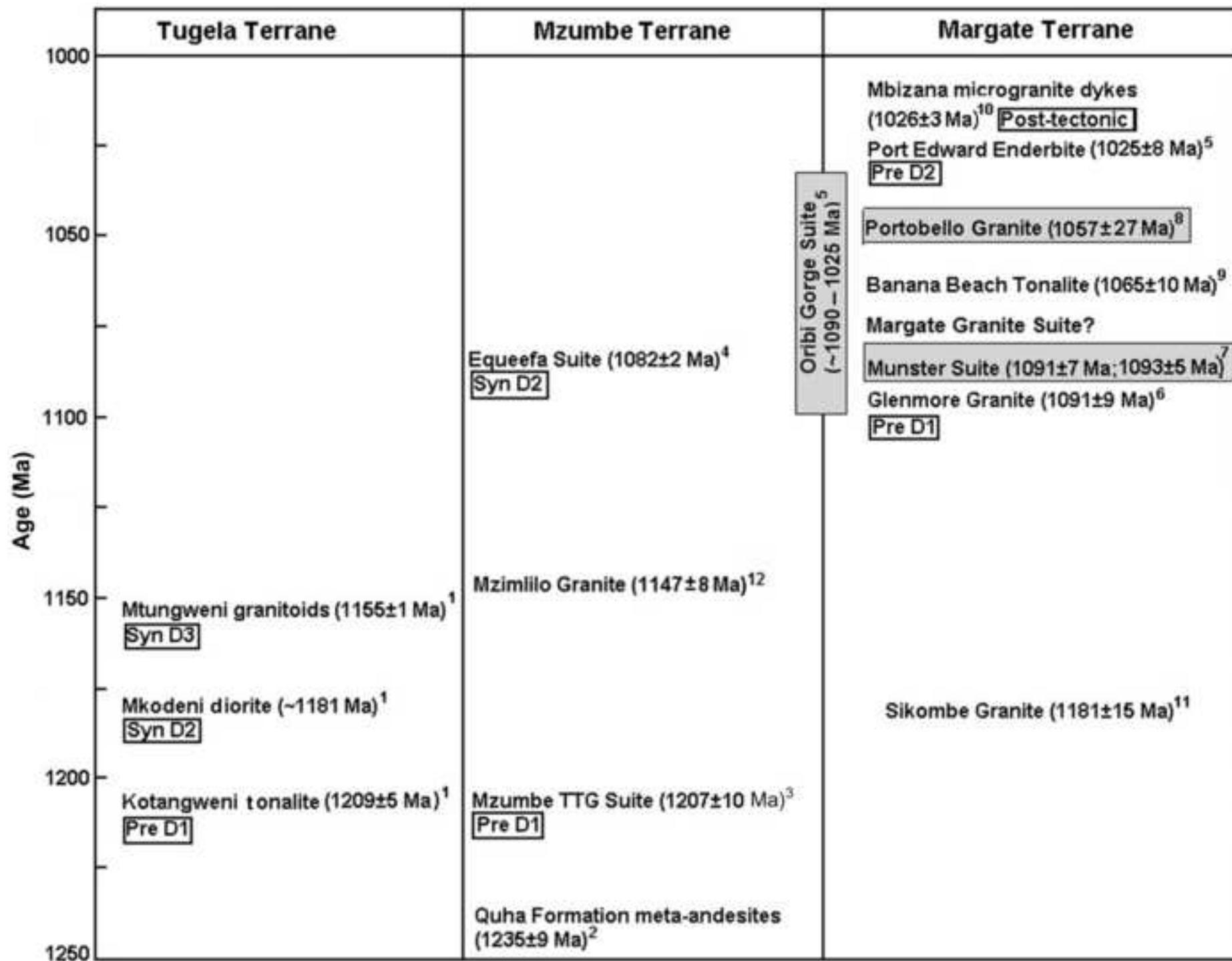
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Figure 3

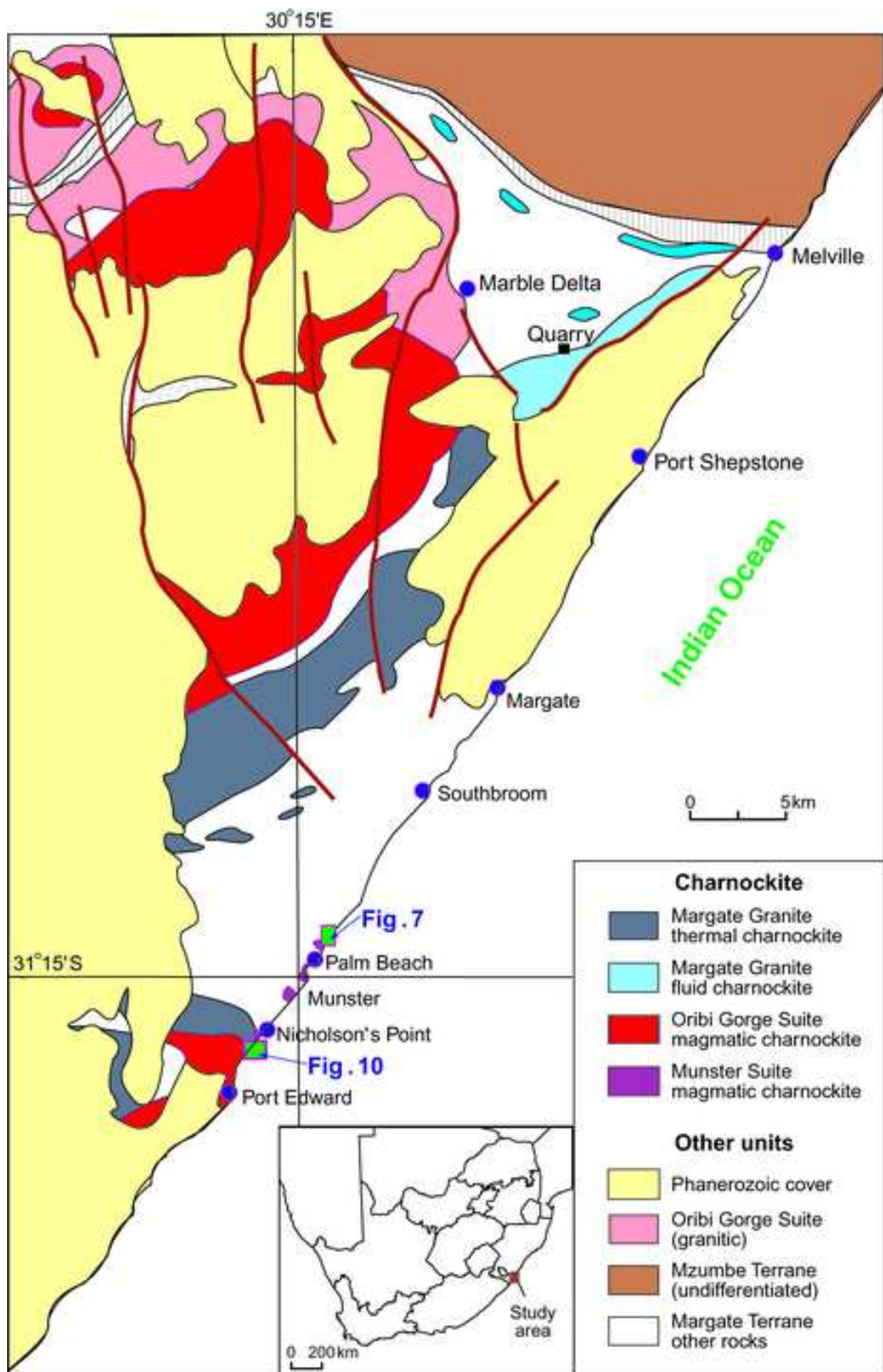


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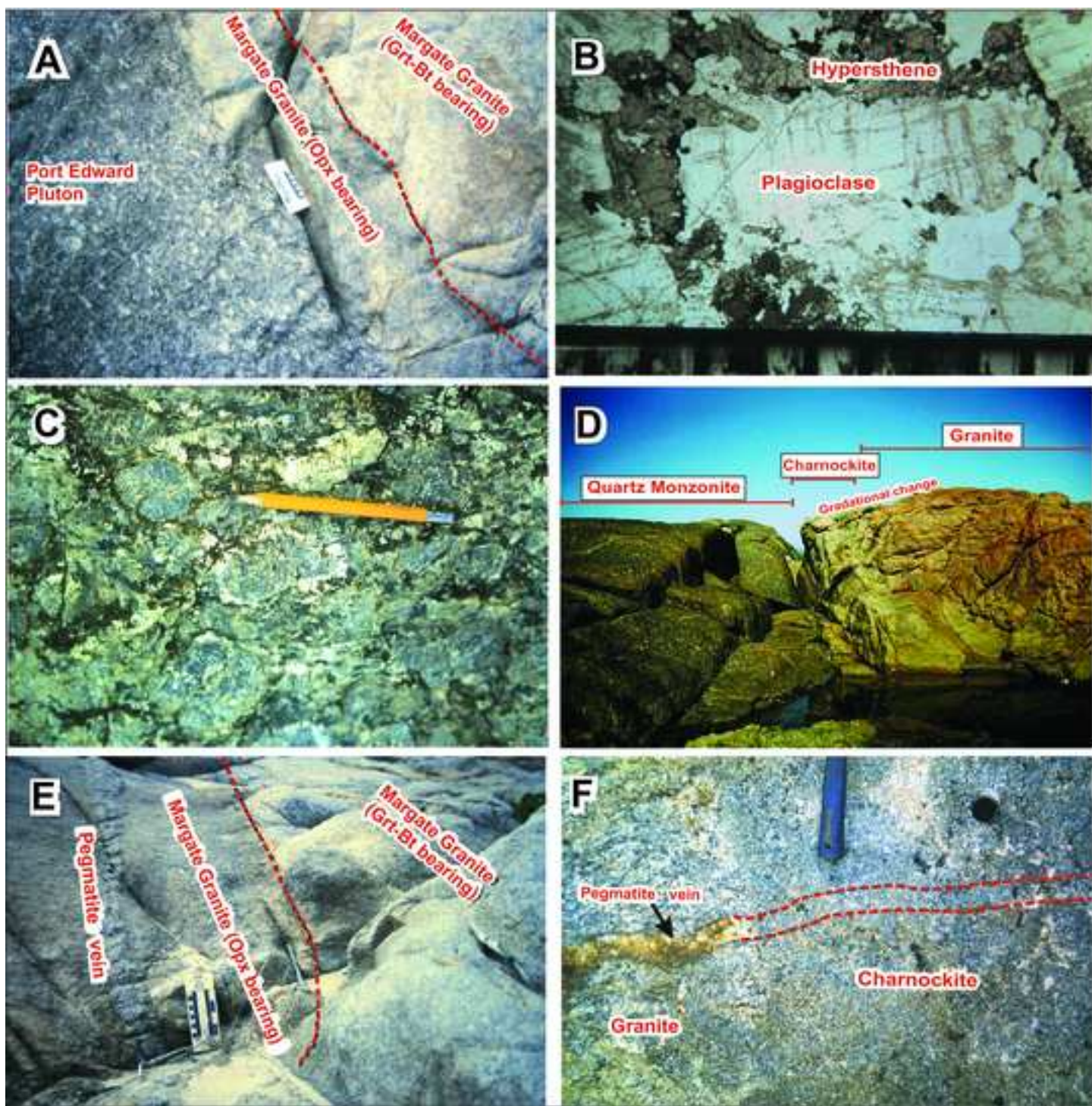
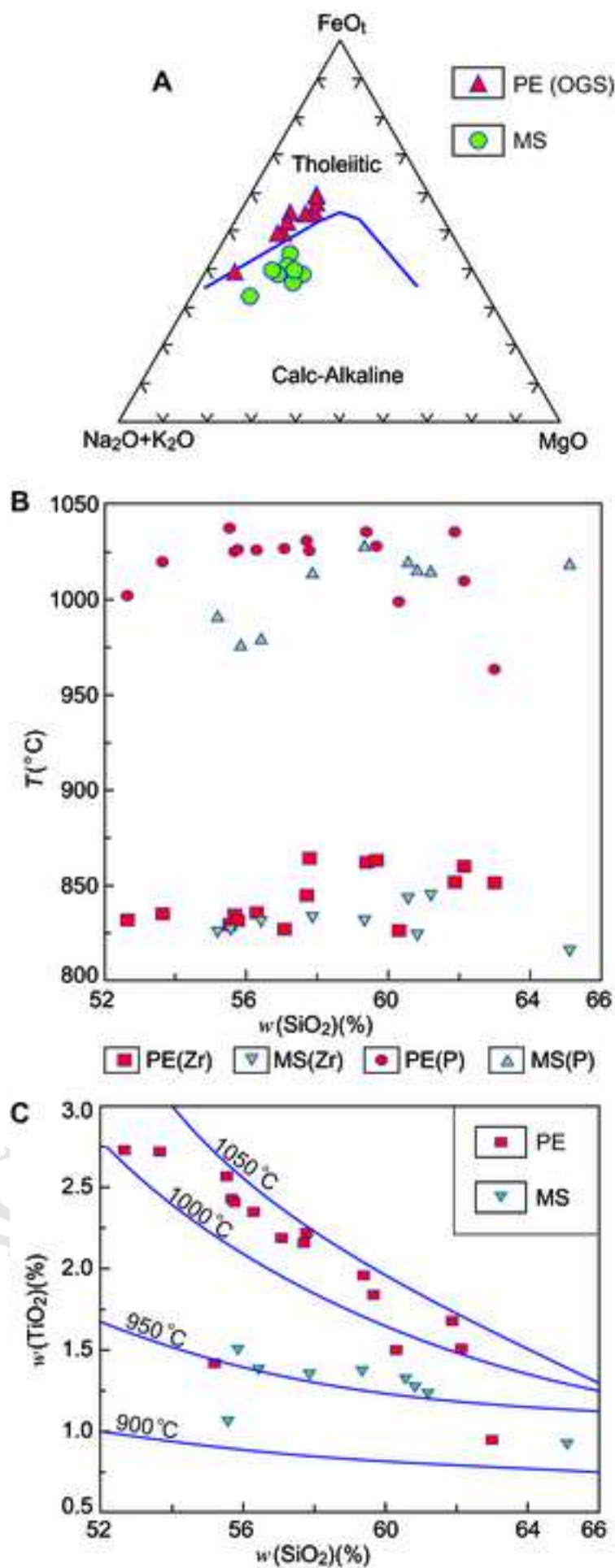


Figure 5

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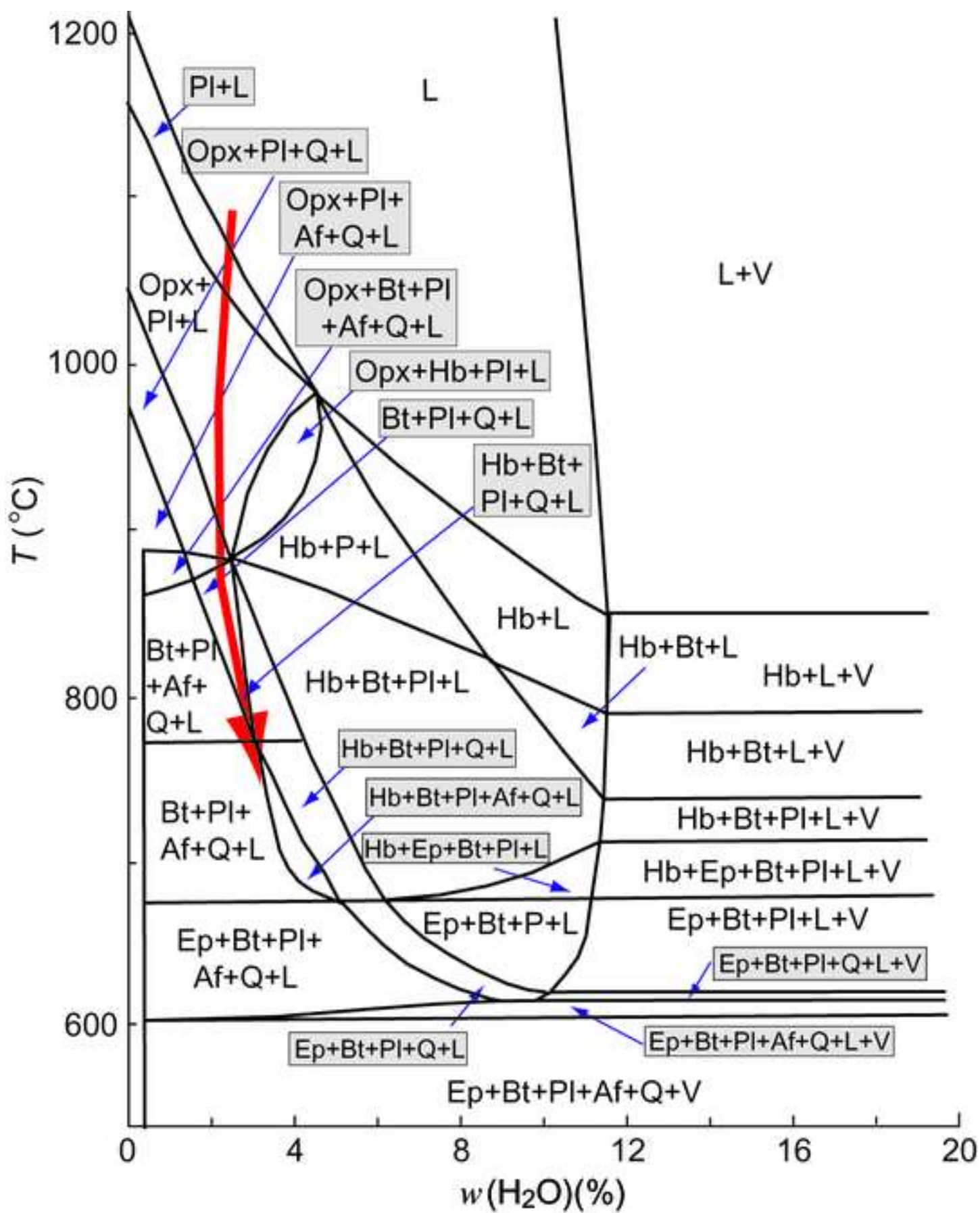


Figure 7

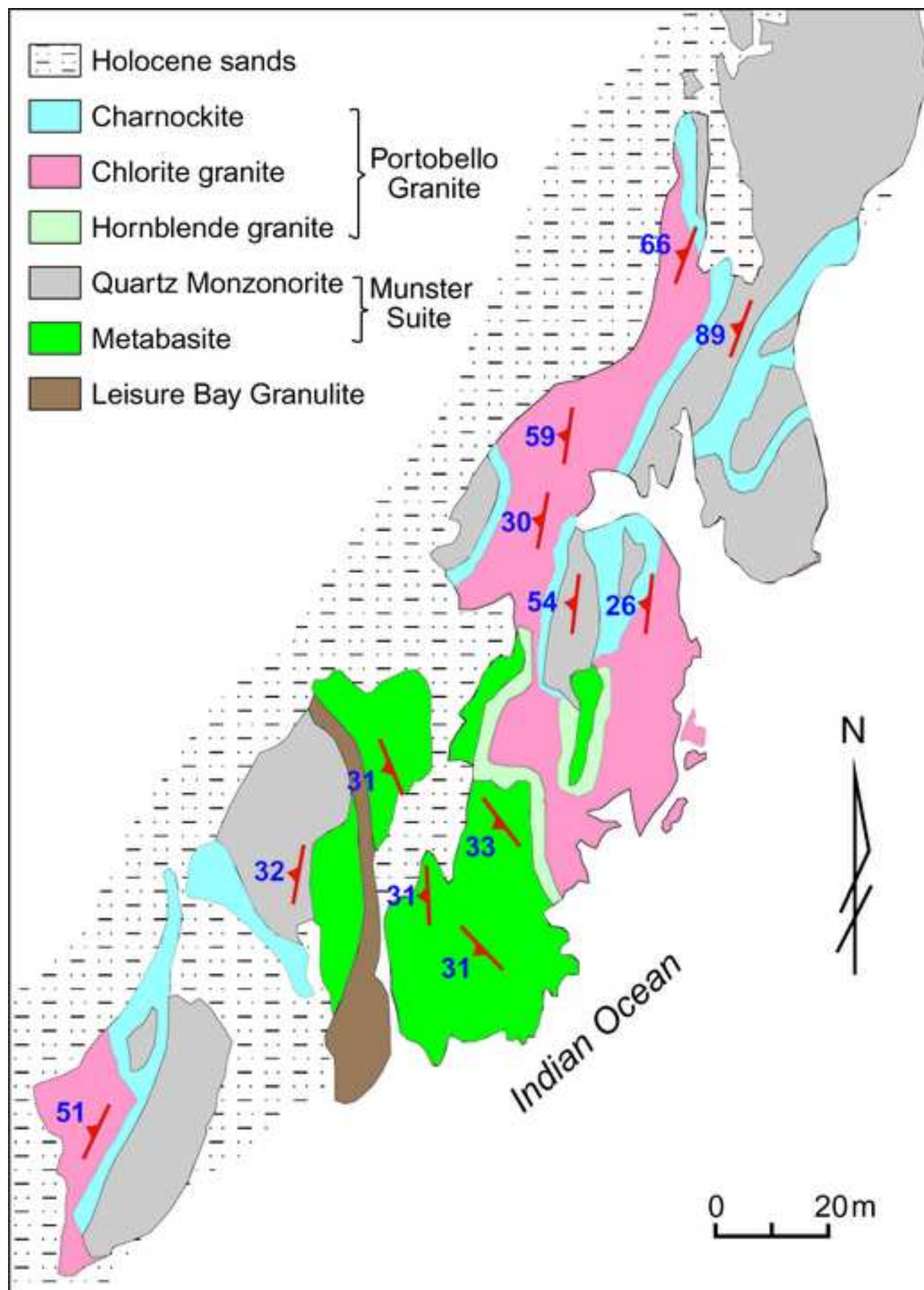
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Figure 8

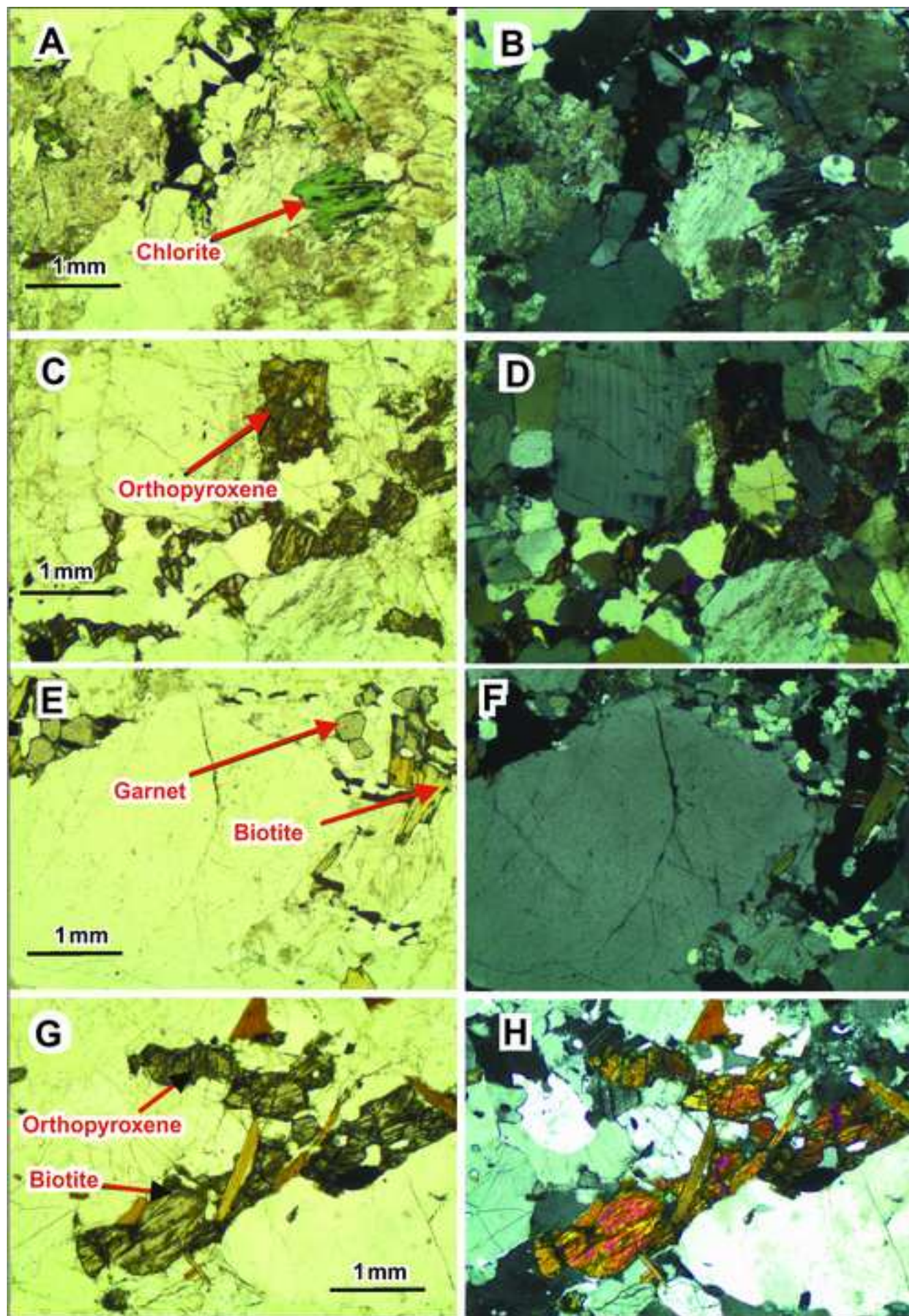


Figure 9

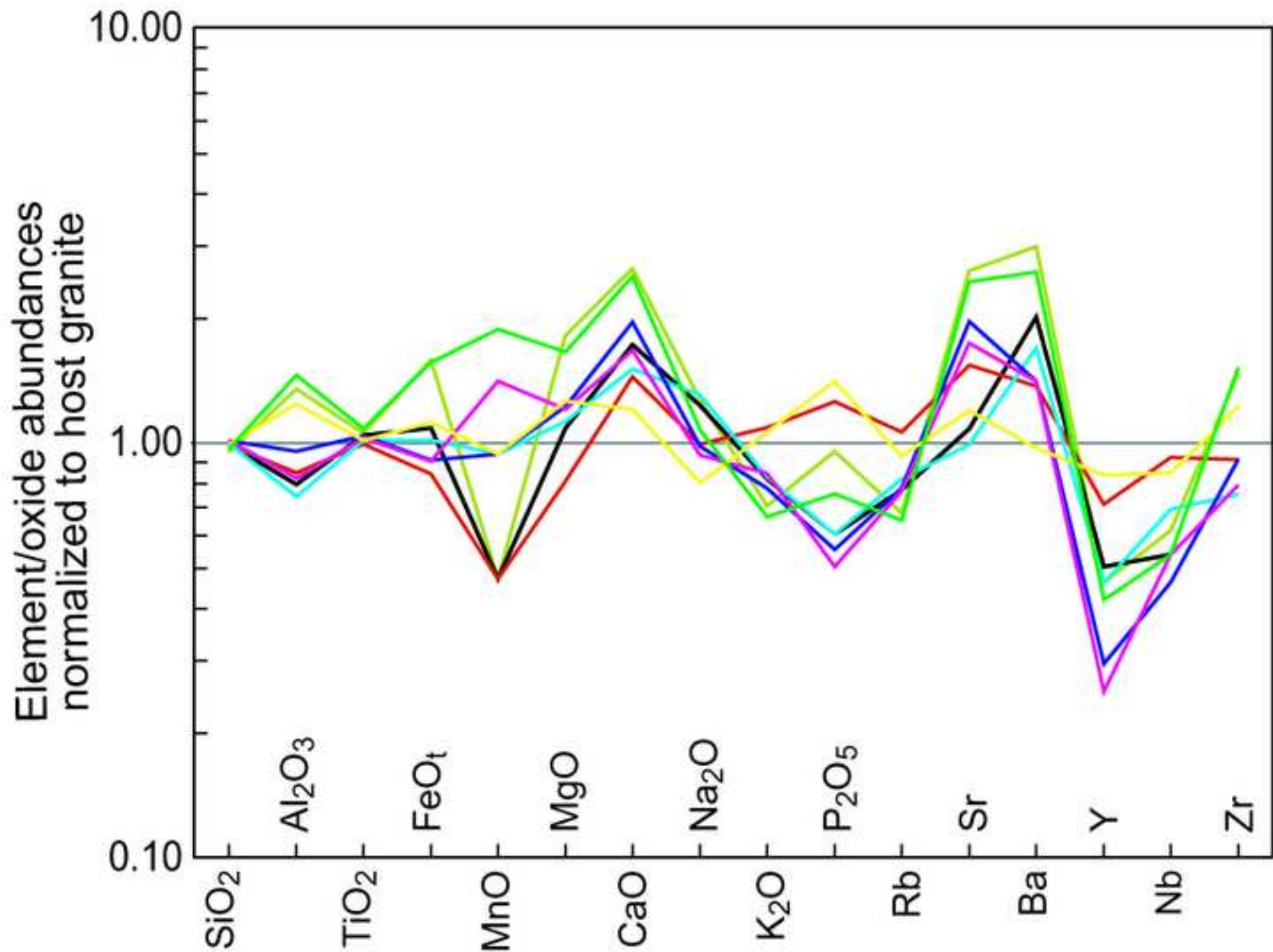


Figure 10

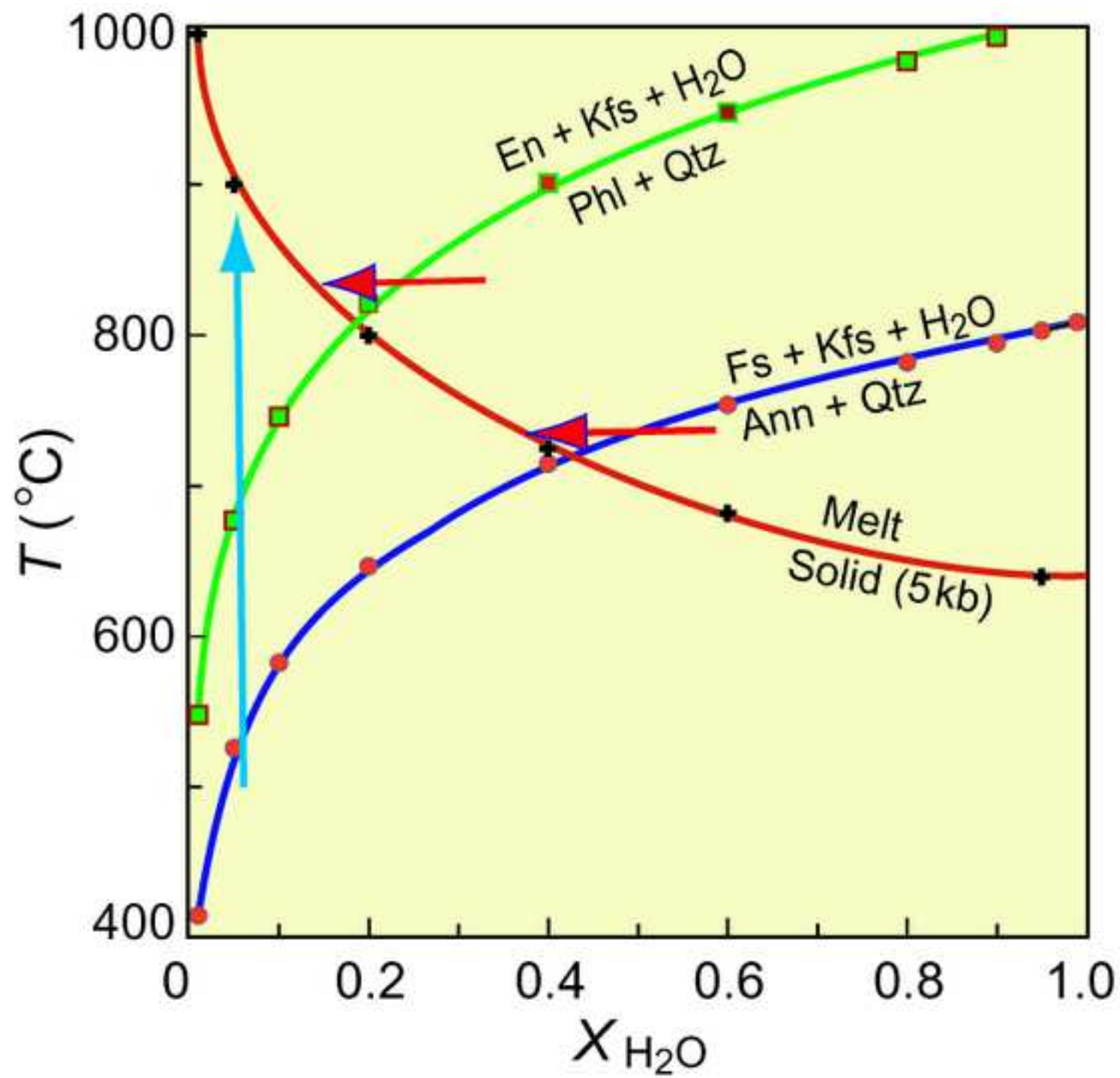
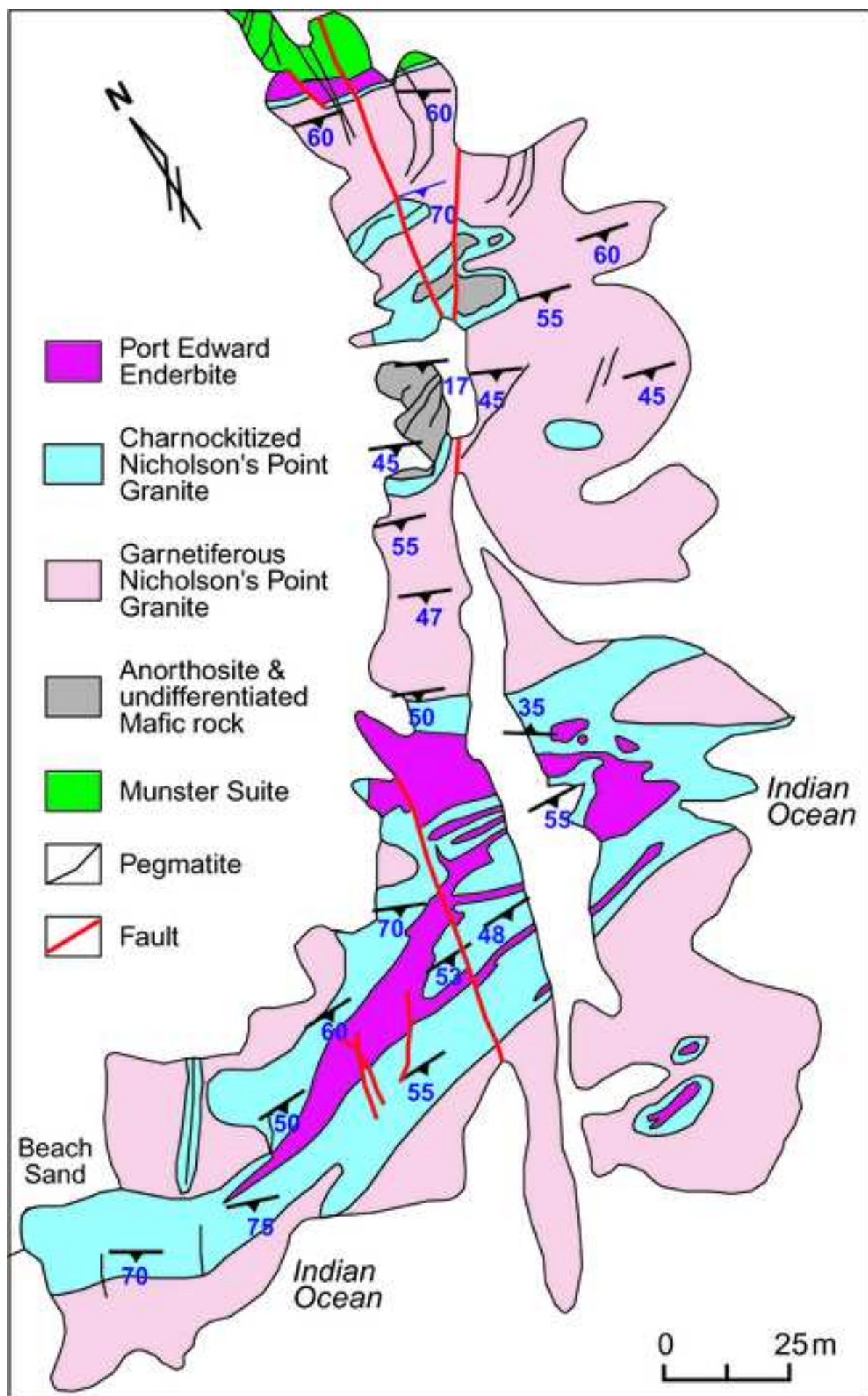
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Figure 11



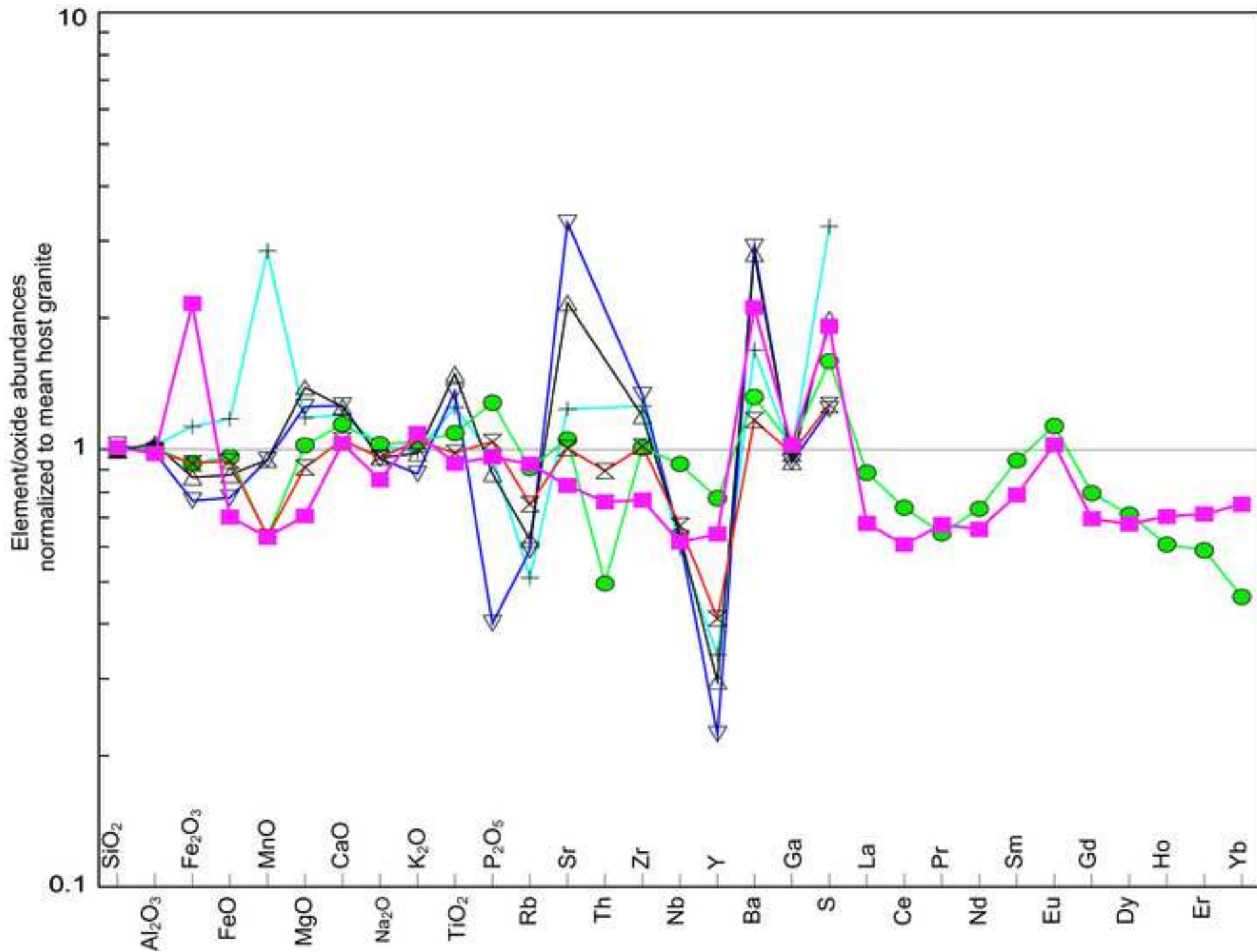
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Figure 13

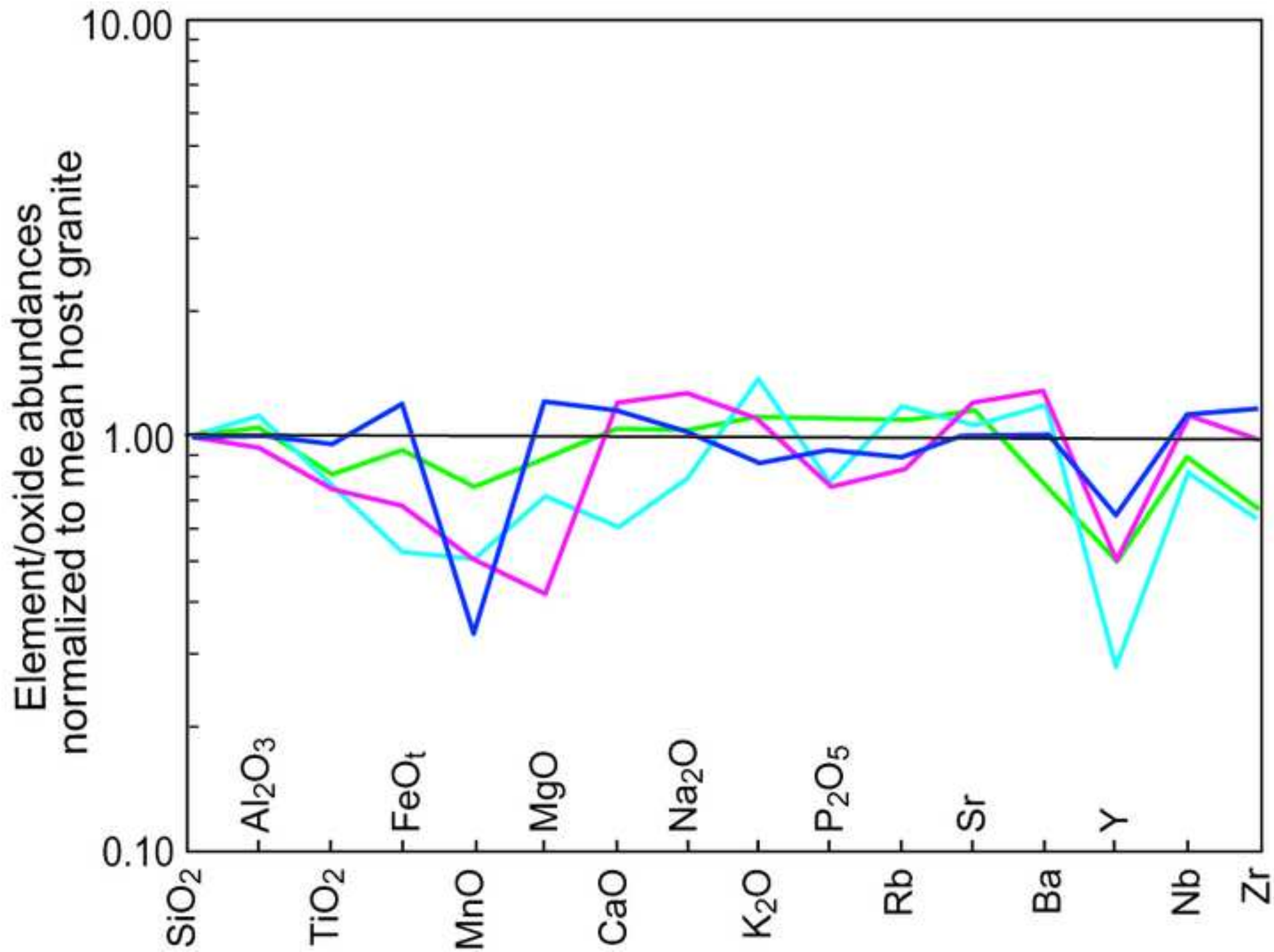
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Table 1 Major and trace element chemistry from the Port Edward pluton of the Oribi Gorge Suite. Major elements are in wt.% whereas trace elements are in ppm.

	GG75	GG67	GG71	GG74	UND4	UND3	GG83	RG5	UND2	UND5	UND1	RG4	GG85	GG97	GG86
SiO ₂	52.66	53.65	55.54	55.68	55.76	56.3	57.08	57.71	57.78	59.39	59.67	60.3	61.88	62.14	63
Al ₂ O ₃	16.55	16.15	15.98	15.53	15.37	15.45	15.57	14.68	14.62	15.58	15.65	14.45	14.72	14.99	15.52
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.59	2.46	2.38	2.46	2.45	2.39	2.39	2.40	2.34	2.18	2.13	2.46	1.88	1.93	1.85
FeO	9.21	9.58	8.47	8.67	8.62	8.30	7.77	7.74	8.07	7.15	6.95	6.81	6.08	6.28	4.48
MnO	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.11	0.15	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.09
MgO	3.08	3.10	2.71	2.60	2.53	2.46	2.42	2.24	2.23	2.00	1.89	2.17	1.66	2.06	1.38
CaO	6.53	6.57	5.80	6.00	5.95	5.77	5.68	5.28	5.26	4.88	4.90	3.65	4.78	4.21	3.23
Na ₂ O	3.26	3.51	3.31	3.11	3.00	2.94	3.31	3.17	2.85	2.91	3.02	2.25	3.24	2.92	2.43
K ₂ O	2.14	1.24	2.16	2.42	2.59	2.72	2.90	3.08	2.88	3.28	3.23	5.22	3.14	3.35	6.44
TiO ₂	2.73	2.72	2.57	2.43	2.41	2.35	2.19	2.16	2.22	1.96	1.84	1.50	1.68	1.51	0.95
P ₂ O ₅	1.04	1.06	1.01	0.93	0.93	0.89	0.84	0.82	0.79	0.74	0.69	0.54	0.61	0.50	0.33
Total	99.97	100.22	100.10	100	99.78	99.72	100.30	99.39	99.19	100.20	100.10	99.48	99.78	100.01	99.70
Rb	53	25	42	43	52	55	58	74	55	69	72	117	68	71.8	144
Y	83	100	74	76	73	72	71	80	69	66	64	49	70	59.2	38
Nb	26	29	30	22	21	22	19	22	23	20	20	14	18	18.7	8
Sc	30	35	29	33	29	29	24	29	27	26	21	24	25	24	19
La	69	66	65	59	57	66	66	77	68	64	66	25	78	65.1	40
V	128	131	118	111	110	110	100	96	102	90	85	105	86	80.1	56
Sr	429	478	548	509	499	478	527	442	446	456	429	512	406	322	487
Zr	572	572	479	544	528	522	499	595	666	565	572	376	534	495	455
Ba	1184	483	1178	1343	1187	999	1337	1153	1115	1179	1106	2671	1065	1111	2247
Cr	24	29	58	21	17	52	19	47	17	16	12	39	28	37.9	8
Cu	10	13	10	14	13	12	11	13	11	9	9	8	8	10.7	37
Ni	10	9	21	9	6	15	7	14	5	6.6	4	5	8	12	9
Zn	193	197	187	180	177	180	157	161	177	157	155	153	142	131	103

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Table 2 Tabulation of data from the stable isotope analysis of fluids released during decrepitation experiments on samples from the Port Edward pluton and Oribi Gorge plutons of the Oribi Gorge Suite.

Results showing the carbon isotopic composition of fluid inclusions in charnockites					
Sample Nos.	Sample type	Decrepitation temperature (°C)	CO ₂ gas released (mmol/g)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$	1 σ
GG-67 (Port Edward pluton)	Quartz	800	19.30	-7.99	0.03
	Whole rock	800	25.70	-6.82	0.02
	Whole rock	1000	38.42	-9.72	0.03
	Whole rock + V ₂ O ₅	1000	34.17	-10.15	0.01
UM-2 (Oribi Gorge pluton)	Quartz	800	6.97	-1.1	0.04
	Whole rock	800	14.51	-5.61	0.01
	Whole rock	1000	15.83	-6.15	0.01
	Whole rock + V ₂ O ₅	1000	16.39	-6.94	0.02

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Table 3 Major and trace element chemistry from the Portobello granite. Major elements are in wt.% whereas trace elements are in

	Charnockite								Pink granite							
	PB1	PB2	PB3	PB4	PB11	PB13	PB14	PB16	PB5	PB6	PB7	PB8	PB15	PB12	PB17	PB18
SiO ₂	68.12	71.22	71.17	71.43	72.66	72.83	70.99	69.33	71.94	70.93	71.67	70.46	72.19	73.15	71.60	71.96
Al ₂ O ₃	14.59	14.40	13.72	14.01	14.36	14.17	14.02	14.95	13.15	13.63	13.93	14.51	13.82	13.82	13.69	13.82
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.21	2.20	1.71	2.06	1.84	1.83	2.27	3.17	1.90	2.16	1.88	2.11	1.98	1.75	2.21	2.22
FeO	0.40	0.27	0.21	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.28	0.39	0.24	0.27	0.23	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.27	0.27
MnO	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
MgO	0.92	0.55	0.41	0.57	0.62	0.61	0.64	0.84	0.53	0.54	0.50	0.56	0.48	0.42	0.52	0.50
CaO	2.64	1.73	1.45	1.51	1.96	1.68	1.21	2.53	0.86	1.11	1.12	0.81	0.98	1.05	1.19	0.90
Na ₂ O	3.53	3.44	2.77	3.64	2.74	2.61	2.24	3.00	3.49	3.08	3.09	3.63	2.20	2.38	2.13	2.33
K ₂ O	4.20	4.88	6.50	4.93	4.64	5.04	6.34	3.95	5.36	6.06	5.88	5.60	6.31	6.03	6.23	6.24
TiO ₂	0.51	0.30	0.32	0.28	0.36	0.31	0.47	0.55	0.40	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.28	0.43	0.40
P ₂ O ₅	0.19	0.12	0.25	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.28	0.15	0.16	0.23	0.22	0.23	0.19	0.13	0.23	0.20
LOI	1.10	0.73	0.01	0.56	0.12	0.22	0.46	0.38	1.22	1.12	0.88	0.97	0.56	0.39	0.64	0.68
Total	99.41	99.85	98.53	99.38	99.66	99.66	99.22	99.28	99.27	99.50	99.79	99.56	99.36	99.64	99.16	99.55
Rb	130	148	204	157	149	147	178	125	173	212	181	208	174	183	201	203
Sr	499	208	296	190	377	334	230	469	284	131	267	221	188	162	152	130
Ba	1779	1204	820	1014	843	842	582	1546	785	501	686	705	532	605	517	451
Y	11	12	17	11	7	6	20	10	17	27	23	27	15	14	25	43
Nb	8	7	12	9	6	7	11	7	15	12	15	15	11	9	13	14
Zr	397	213	245	202	246	213	329	410	302	261	271	284	274	187	299	274
Sc	9	5	5	4	4	4	4	6	6	4	8	5	3	3	3	3
Ga	20	18	20	19	20	19	20	21	18	16	19	21	19	20	21	20
V	30	16	7	13	38	32	39	55	17	10	13	13	34	27	40	35
Cu	11	8	10	7	5	5	6	5	7	9	8	9	7	5	5	5
Ni	3	5	3	6	5	5	5	5	7	3	3	3	5	5	5	5
Zn	56	48	30	41	41	36	50	62	36	45	37	44	39	40	53	41

ppm.