

EVIDENCE FOR BIMETASOMATISM BETWEEN ECLOGITE AND ADJACENT ROCKS FROM THE TAUERN WINDOW, AUSTRIA

Aßbichler, D.^{1,2} & Proyer, A.^{1,3}

¹Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Graz, Universitätsplatz 2, A-8010 Graz, Austria

²now at Department of Geo- and Environmental Sciences, LMU Munich, Theresienstraße 41, 80333 Munich, Germany

³now at: Department of Geology, University of Botswana, Private Bag UB 00704, Gaborone, Botswana
e-mail: d.assbichler@lmu.de

The Eclogite Zone (Austria) is characterized by the occurrence of eclogite interbedded with other rocks, mainly metapelites and minor marbles, metapsammites and talc schists. According to geothermobarometry, PT-conditions of at least 26 kbar and about 580 °C were achieved. An open question is whether fluid-mediated compositional changes occur between the interlayers during subduction zone metamorphism. Therefore, the mineralogy and geochemistry of the contacts eclogite–metapelite and eclogite–talc schists were investigated.

The eclogite in contact to the metapelite shows almost no change in volume, with minor gain of Si, Ca and Na and loss of Mg. The metapelite, however, shows 30 % volume loss, mainly as Si and Ca, coupled with enrichment of K, Mg, Fe and Na; the latter two stem from an external source. Trace element changes are less spectacular but corroborate changes in the major elements (Sr goes with Ca, Ba with K, etc.).

The eclogite in contact to the talc schist also underwent no significant change in volume, with minor enrichment in Mg and depletion in Na. The talc schist is ultrabasic in composition and of uncertain origin. It experienced more than 30 % volume loss towards the contact, where Mg, Fe, Si, Na and Ti are depleted and no major element is enriched.

These changes in bulk composition are expressed in mineralogical, textural and mineral chemical changes of considerable complexity. There is clear evidence that they are not caused by retrograde interactions. The compositional changes are too systematic and complex to be explained as primary (volcano-) sedimentary layering or mixing of clays and ashes. As the lithological boundaries are planar over distances of tens of metres at least, the volume loss is not induced by folding but rather by (pure or general) shear. Some compositional changes cannot be explained by material exchange between the two lithologies (bimetasomatism) alone but must have been caused by advection parallel to the lithological boundaries. Rare garnets and epidotes with oscillatory zoning patterns near the contact indicate the effect of locally abundant fluids.