

THE OPHIOLITE COMPLEX OF VOSKOPOJA AND HIS RELATION TO THE ALBANIAN OPHIOLITE BELT

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The Albanian ophiolites form outstanding fully developed ophiolitic sections within the eastern mediterranean ophiolites. Generally they are divided in an eastern and a western belt, where the former show a SSZ, the latter a MORB signature, a subdivision mainly developed in northern Albania. The ophiolite complex of Voskopoja (113 km² surface) is located in the southernmost part of the Albanien ophiolites (of about 4500 km²) and forms together with the complexes of Shebeniku, Shpati, Devolli, Vallamara, Morava and Bitincka the southern Mirdita ophiolites.

Contrary to the north Albanian ophiolites little has been published about the south Albanian ophiolites. We present here the first data from the south Albanian ophiolites including the Shpati, Vallamare, Devolli and Voskopoja Massif as well as the Morava and Shebeniku Massif. The former are interpreted as continuation of the western belt, the latter are compared to the ophiolites of the eastern belt.

The contrast between the western and the eastern ophiolites, well developed in northern Albania, is not so clearly recognizable in southern Albania.

Most of the ophiolitic sections contain harzburgite together with lherzolite in the mantle segment and plagioclase-lherzolites in the ultramafic cumulate section. Troctolites are common in Devolli and Voskopoja. Pyroxenites are restricted to the Shebeniku Massif. Sheeted dikes are missing in all profiles. Only three ophiolites (Shpati, Vallamare and Voskopoja) contain a volcanic section directly overlying the ultramafic and/or mafic cumulate sequence. First geochemical data of the Voskopoja lavas indicate an intermediate geochemistry between typical MORB and island arc tholeiites erupted in a SSZ environment. This is documented by the enrichment of elements such as Sr, K, Rb, Ba and a small depletion of Ti. The Pindos ophiolite in Greece, a continuation of the south Albanian ophiolites, shows a SSZ genesis indicating that a geochemical variation from MORB to SSZ tholeiites not only exists between the eastern and the western belt, but also in a north-south direction along the main axis of the ophiolites on a regional scale.