

Modeling of subduction components in the Genesis of the Meso-Cenozoic igneous rocks from the South Shetland Arc, Antarctica

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Abstract

Isotope data and trace elements concentrations are presented for volcanic and plutonic rocks from the Livingston, Greenwich, Robert, King George and Ardley islands (South Shetland arc, Antarctica). These islands were formed during subduction of the Phoenix Plate under the Antarctica Plate from Cretaceous to Tertiary. Isotopically ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)_o ratios vary from 0.7033 to 0.7046 and ($^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$)_o ratios from 0.5127 to 0.5129. ϵNd values vary from +2.71 to +7.30 that indicate asthenospheric mantle source for the analysed samples. $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratios vary from 38.12 to 38.70, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratios are between 15.49 and 15.68, and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ from 18.28 to 18.81. The South Shetland rocks are thought to be derived from a depleted MORB mantle source (DMM) modified by mixtures of two enriched mantle components such as slab-derived melts and/or fluids and small fractions of oceanic sediment (EM I and EM II). The isotopic compositions of the subduction component can be explained by mixing between at least 4 wt.% of sediment and 96 wt.% of melts and/or fluids derived from altered MORB.

Keywords: Subduction; Fluids; Island arc magmas; Pb isotopes; Nd isotopes; Sr isotopes

1. Introduction

Island arcs are central to the understanding of mantle evolution because they represent the site where crustal material of various types may be returned to

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the deep mantle. Island-arc magmatism may allow us to sample this material that is in the process of being recycled.

White and Dupre (1986) and Ellam and Hawkesworth (1988) proposed three component-mixing models for the island arcs mantle evolution. These involve contamination of the depleted-mantle source of IAB with partial melts of subducted sediment and large-ion lithophile element-enriched slab-derived fluids. Evidence for such a process is seen when abundances of low-field-strength large-ion lithophile elements (LILE), such as Cs, Rb, Ba, Sr, are normalized against high-field-strength elements (HFSE), such as Nb, Zr, Hf, Y. This argument is based on the ratios of mobile and immobile elements in aqueous fluids, ratios of LILE, HFSE and light rare earth elements (Ishikawa and Nakamura, 1994; Ryan et al., 1995; Scambelluri and Philippot, 2001).

The South Shetland Islands arc (Fig. 1) provides an opportunity to compare and contrast the effects of fluids and sediment involvement in a subduction zone. The rocks from the South Shetland Islands are apparently uncontaminated by intra-crustal components and they should have largely evolved through simple fractional crystallization from a primitive island arc basalt precursor. These samples are similar in most aspects to

typical island arc rocks, which constitute the bulk of the worldwide database for subduction-related compositions.

In this paper, Sr, Nd and Pb isotopic ratios, together with trace element compositions are presented from samples of the South Shetland Islands. We use these data to discuss the South Shetland Arc mantle source and processes of magma genesis. The studied samples were collected at western Livingston Island (Byers Peninsula, Fig. 2), southeastern Greenwich Island (Fort Point, Fig. 3), western Robert Island (Coppermine Peninsula, Fig. 4), southwestern King George Island (Fildes Peninsula, Fig. 5) and northeastern Ardley Island (Fig. 5). The ages from the South Shetland samples vary from 143 Ma to 44 Ma. (Grikurov et al., 1970; Gracanic, 1983; Smellie et al., 1984; Hathway, 1997; Oteiza, 1999; Pankhurst et al., 2000).

2. Geological setting

The continent of Antarctica is divided into two large geologic areas: East and West Antarctica. East Antarctica is the large bean-shaped land mass centered on 90° east longitude. West Antarctica is the area centered on 90° west longitude and includes the Antarctica Peninsula.

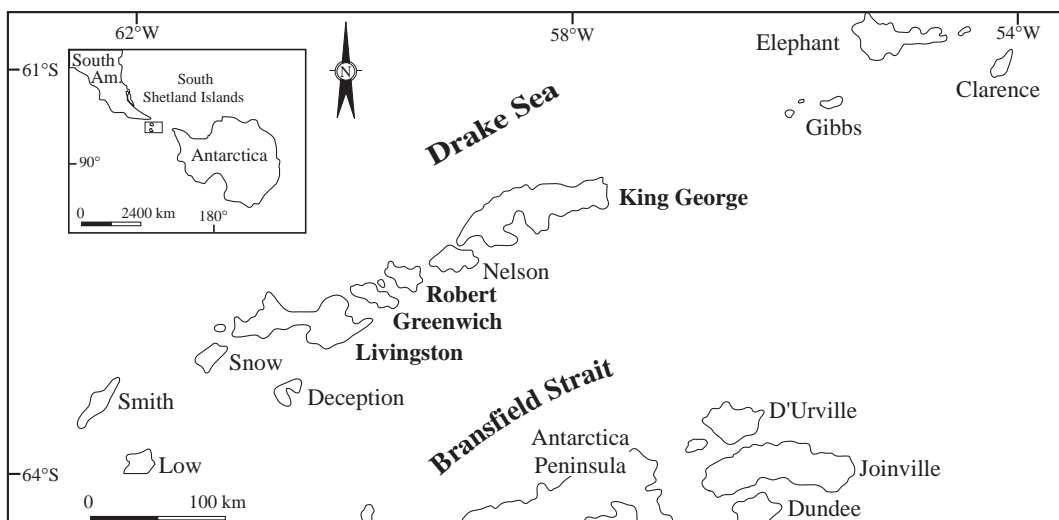


Fig. 1. Location map of the South Shetland Islands (modified from Machado, 1997).

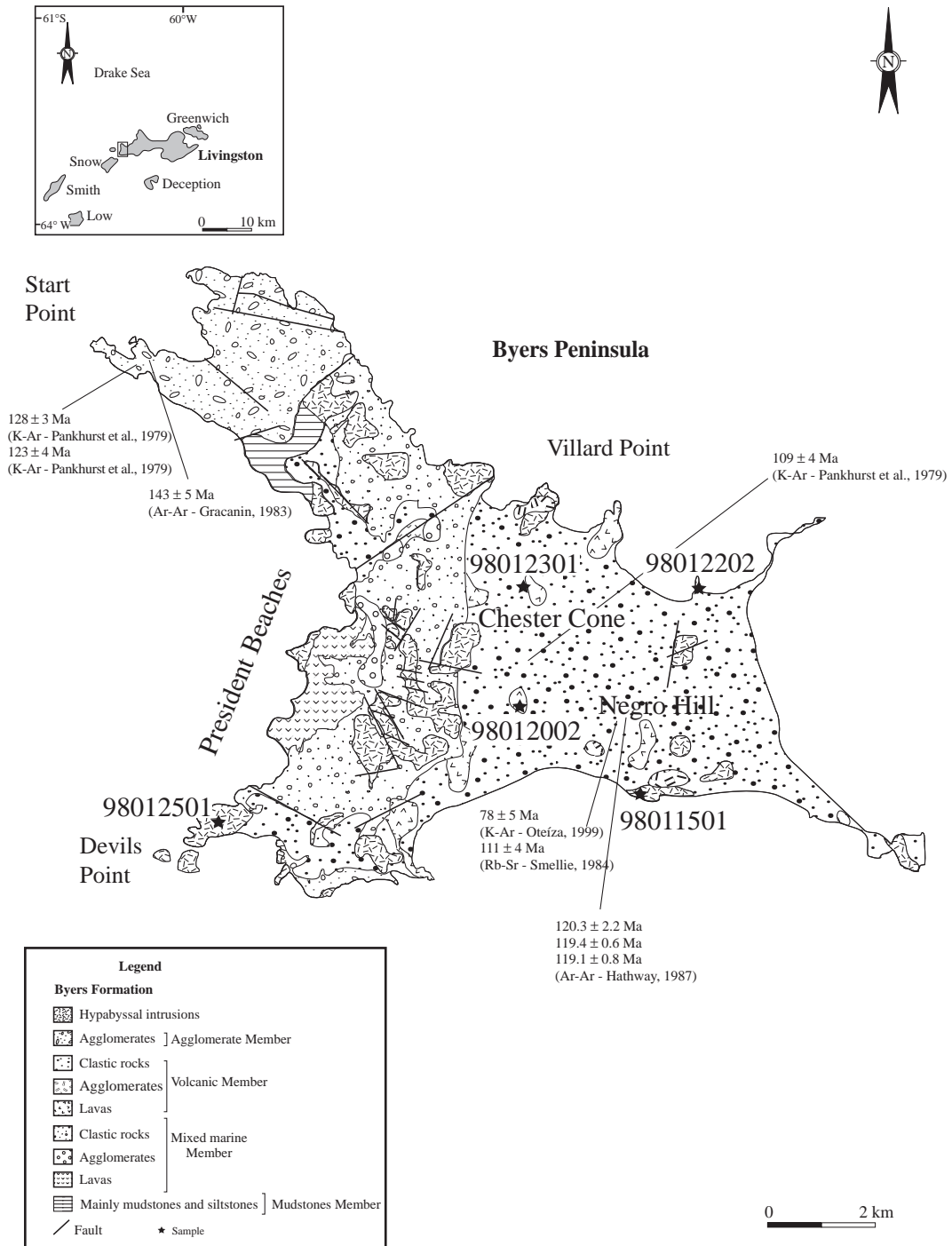


Fig. 2. Sketch of the geological map of Byers Peninsula (Livingston Island) showing sample locations and age of the studied rocks (modified from Smellie et al., 1984).

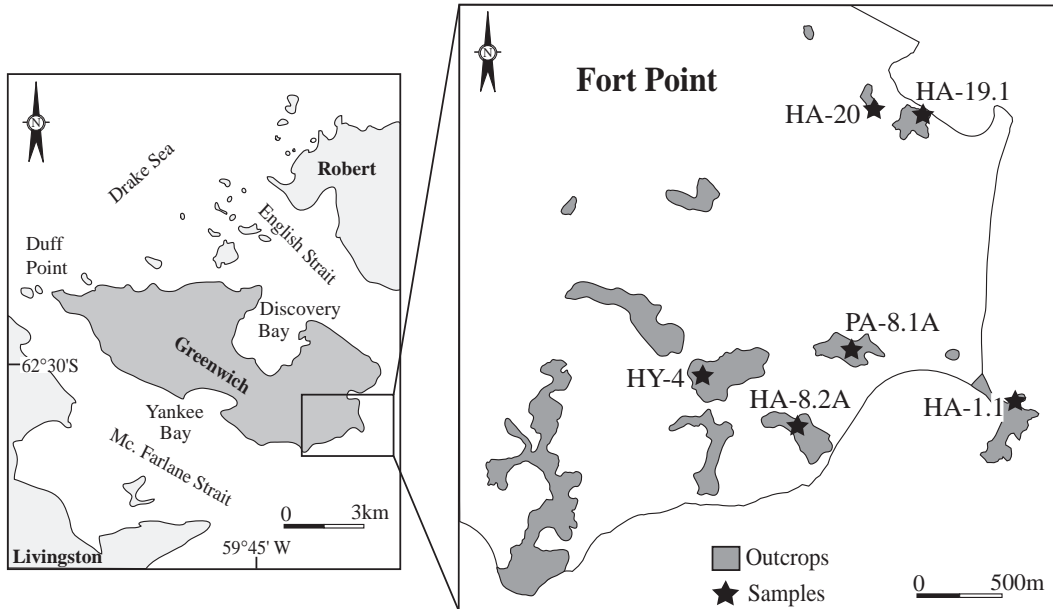


Fig. 3. Sketch of the geological map of Fort Point (Greenwich Island) showing sample locations of the rocks (modified from Azevedo, 1992).

East Antarctica is a large Precambrian shield; a stable portion of a continent composed of old rocks that have changed very little over a long time. The oldest rocks found in this area are over 3 billion years old. These are metamorphic rocks overlaid by younger, flat-lying ocean-deposited sediment. The rocks were recrystallized during a mountain building episode caused by plate collision, in the early Paleozoic Era (about 500 Ma).

West Antarctica was built up over the last 500 million years by the addition of small continental fragments (microplates) that have built up the mountains of West Antarctica. Unlike East Antarctica, if the ice were removed in the west, the land would have considerable relief. The area would probably appear as a series of island chains and mountain ranges.

The Antarctica Peninsula and the rest of West Antarctica were the most recent additions. The Andean Orogeny of late Mesozoic and early Cenozoic (about 60–80 million years ago) formed the peninsula. This activity coincided with the final breakup of Gondwana as South America, Australia, and Antarctica split apart. The peninsula is an extension of the Andes of South America, and

likewise these mountains, is made of igneous intrusive and volcanic as well as metamorphosed sedimentary rocks.

The Antarctica Peninsula is bordered by a complex system of tectonic plates, including the South America, Scotia, Drake/Phoenix, South Orkney and Sandwich plates, which are dominated by extensional and strike-slip tectonic limits (Fig. 6). This configuration was formed only in the last 38 Ma with the opening of Drake Passage and Scotia Sea (Barker and Burrell, 1977; Barker et al., 1991). Before 38 Ma the relationships between the major plates were marked by destructive plate interaction generating Mesozoic–Cenozoic accretionary wedges, island arcs and back-arc basins recorded at the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica Peninsula and Patagonia (Dalziel, 1984; Lawver et al., 1996).

The tectonic context of the South America–Scotia–Antarctica plate junction has been related to a complex evolution from Paleozoic–Mesozoic to the present. This evolution is marked by several tectonic episodes from 250 Ma to 20 Ma, such as the Paleozoic–Mesozoic Samfrau Orogeny, early processes of Gondwana fragmentation, Gondwana break-up, Phoenix plate subduction, arc volcanism in the South

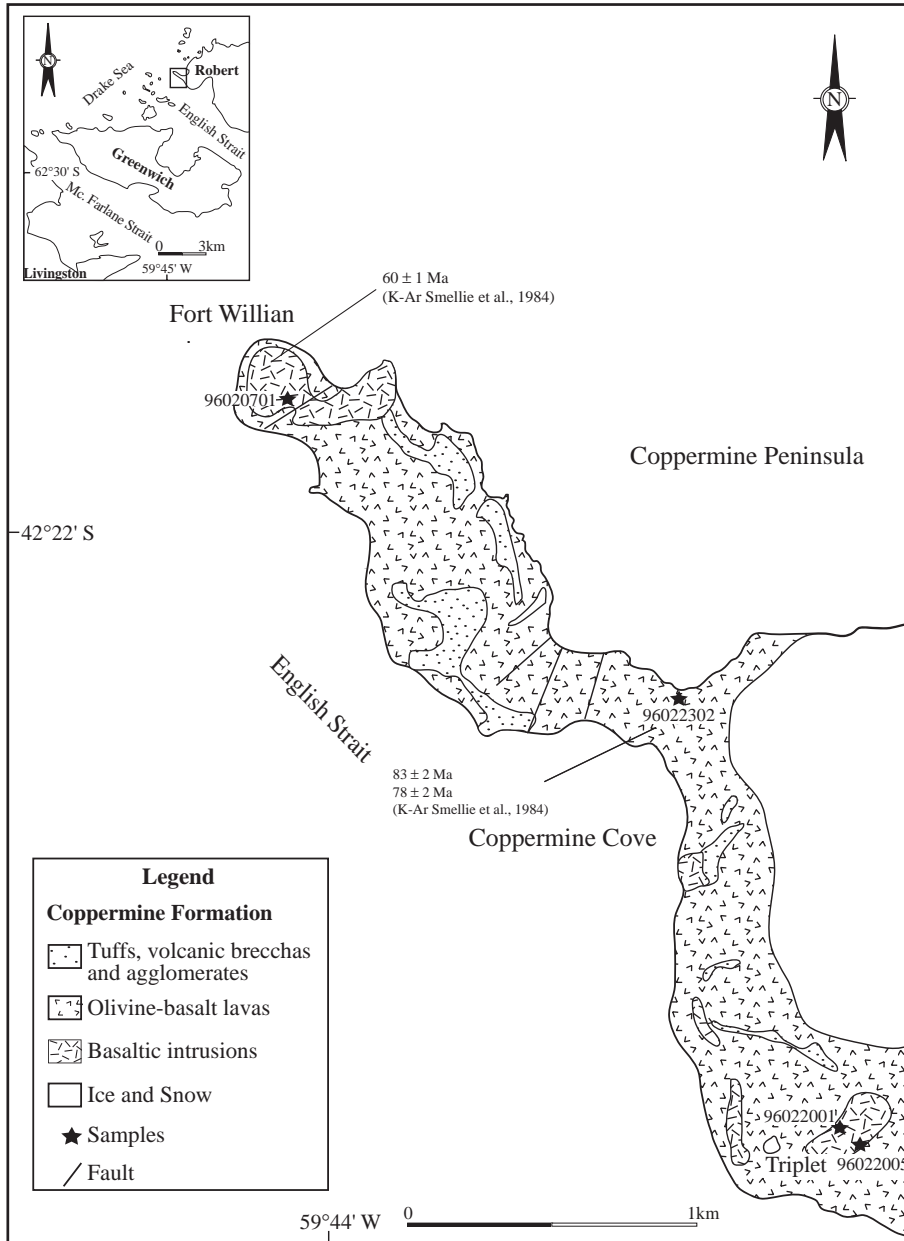


Fig. 4. Sketch of the geological map of Coppermine Peninsula (Robert Island) showing sample locations and age of rocks (modified from Smellie et al., 1984).

Shetland Islands, and extensional tectonism in the Antarctica Peninsula.

The collision of a spreading centre at the Antarctica Peninsula trench caused the migration of magmatism along Antarctica Peninsula from Palmer and Graham

lands to South Sandwich Arc where four phases of island arc volcanism have been identified: 130–110 Ma; 90–70 Ma; 60–40 Ma; 30–20 Ma (Birkenmajer et al., 1986). The last two phases define the end of compressive arc at the Shetland Islands through

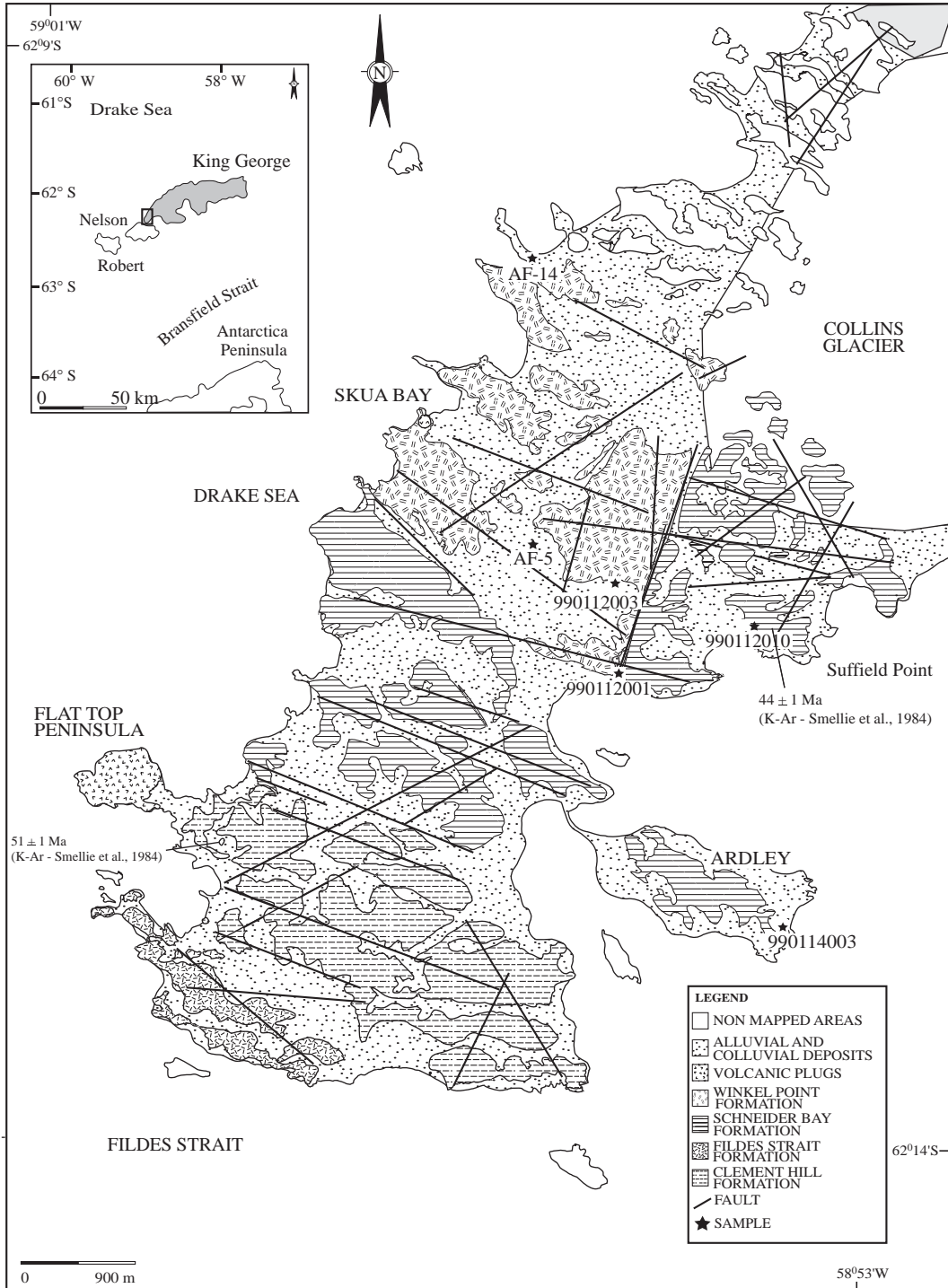


Fig. 5. Sketch of the geological map of Fildes Peninsula (King George Island) and Ardley Island, showing sample locations and age of rocks (modified from Machado, 1997).

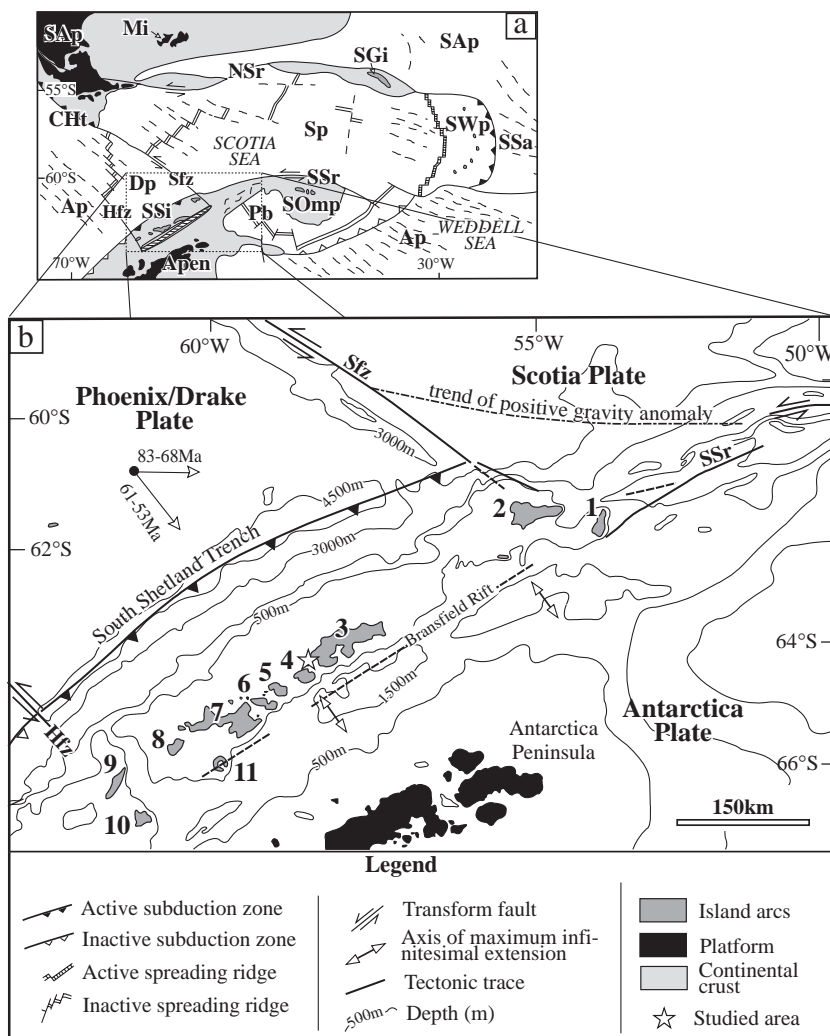


Fig. 6. (a) Geotectonic map of southern of South Atlantic showing the distribution of main tectonic plates—SAP: South America Plate; Sp: Scotia Plate; Ap: Antarctica Plate; SOMP: South Orkney Microplate; SWP: Sandwich Plate; Dp: Drake Plate and features; Mi: Malvinas Islands; CHt: Chile Trench; SGi: South Georgia Island; SSa: South Sandwich Arc; NSr: North Scotia Ridge; SSr: South Scotia Ridge; Pb: Powell Basin; SSi: South Shetland Islands; Hfz: Hero Fault Zone and Sfz: Shackleton Fault Zone (modified from Trouw et al., 2000). (b) Tectonic setting of the South Shetland. Arc islands are represented by the following islands: Clarence (1); Elephant (2); King George (3); Nelson (4); Robert (5); Greenwich (6); Livingston (7); Snow (8); Smith (9) and Low (10) (modified from Lawver et al., 1996). Arrows indicate direction of plate motion in the Cretaceous and Tertiary (McCarron and Larter, 1998).

tholeiitic to calc-alkaline magmatism reported in King George Island (Smellie et al., 1984; Jwa et al., 1991; Machado, 1997).

The South Shetland Islands form a 550 km long archipelago at the southwestern end of the Scotia Ridge, an arcuate structure of islands and sub-

merged continental blocks linking southern South America to the Antarctic Peninsula. That archipelago is on a small crustal plate (Shetland microplate) between South Shetland trench (>5 km deep) and Bransfield Strait, a back arc basin (Keller et al., 1991).

Antarctica is currently tectonically stable in that it experiences little or no volcanism, earthquakes, and is not in motion.

3. Studied samples and petrography

The samples used in this paper were collected during Brazilian and Chilean expeditions to the South Shetland Islands. The main characteristics of the samples are summarized below.

3.1. Plutonic rocks

Plutonic rocks used in this study are from Greenwich Islands. We did not find plutonic rocks in other islands during the fieldtrips.

The gabbro from Fort Point (sample PA-8.1A) is a fine-grained rock consisting essentially of plagioclase, augite and olivine. The plagioclase is mainly labradorite and bytownite with rather irregular or rounded outlines. Albite twinning is very common. Augite (Wo_{23-48} ; En_{40-58} ; Fs_{9-21}) is greenish, rarely shows concentric zoning and occasionally displays twin lamellae. Olivine (Fo_{71} to Fo_{82}) in most cases is altered to bowlingite or iddingsite, often with bands of dark magnetite granules along its cleavages and cracks. The groundmass is composed of lath-shaped plagioclase, augite, olivine, and accessory minerals (apatite, magnetite, ilmenite).

Tonalites (samples HA-8.2A, HA-20, HY-4) are composed of phenocrysts of plagioclase associated with brown biotite and hornblende in nearly equal proportions, and a small number of opaque minerals. The hornblende is green, sometimes with a tinge of brown; the biotite is always brown and strongly pleochroic. Often these two minerals are clustered together irregularly or in parallel growths. Both of them alter into chlorite, epidote and carbonates. Quartz occurs as irregular simple grains. Accessory minerals are apatite and zircon.

3.2. Volcanic rocks

Among the studied volcanic rocks, porphyritic types are dominant, while aphyric rocks are rare. Basaltic lavas usually contain subhedral-anhedral phenocrysts of plagioclase, augite, and olivine set in

a groundmass of plagioclase, augite, olivine and opaque minerals. Rare orthopyroxene may be present and all phenocryst minerals show signs of magmatic resorption, which is more common in plagioclase that frequently shows finger-like features consisting of blebs of dark brown glass. Altered olivine occurs only in basalts and basaltic andesites, whereas orthopyroxene is only present in the basaltic andesites. Almost all samples from Robert Island present well preserved olivine phenocrysts. Glomeroporphyritic clusters are common in the youngest rocks. The matrix exhibits pilotaxitic, intergranular and intersertal textures, and is composed of lath-shaped plagioclase microlites, pyroxene grains, opaque minerals and green-yellow or green-brown alteration material. Pigeonite is rarely present and there may be some micro-phenocrysts of opaque minerals; dark brown glass and green-brown alteration material sometimes occur interstitially. Weathering and formation of clay minerals, such as bowlingite and smectite, caused high LOI in some samples, which were excluded from this chemical and isotopic study.

4. Geochemistry

4.1. Analytical methods

Whole-rock samples were analyzed for major and trace elements by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) at the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Adelaide, Australia. Selected trace elements were analyzed by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) at the Institute of Energetic and Nuclear Research-IPEN, São Paulo, Brazil according to the [Figueiredo and Marques \(1989\)](#) methodology. All samples were crushed in a WC jaw crusher after removal of weathered rims. LOI was determined on approximately four grams of pre-dried sample by heating to 960 °C overnight. Major elements were determined on fused glass discs of sample mixed with lithium meta/tetraborate flux (ratio sample: flux=1/4) with a Philips PW 1480 100 kV spectrometer. Trace elements were analyzed on pressed powder pellets. Reproducibility is generally better than 1% for major elements and around 5% for trace elements. Accuracy of the measurements, as determined by analyses of international standards, is better than 5% for all

elements, except for Ba, Ni, Zn, Cu, Cr, for which accuracy is better than 10%. REE were determined by ICP-MS at ACTLABS, Canada.

Isotope determinations were carried out at the Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory of University of Kansas (UK), USA, and at the Isotope Geology Laboratory (IGL), Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil.

Rock powders for Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd analysis were dissolved in Teflon bombs in a microwave using an HF–HNO₃ mixture and 6 N HCL with spike ⁸⁷Rb–⁸⁴Sr and ¹⁴⁹Sm–¹⁵⁰Nd (UK) and without spike (IGL). Sr and REE were extracted using a standard AG-50W cation resin; Sm and Nd were extracted using HDEHP-coated Teflon powder.

Rb was loaded on a single Ta filament with H₃PO₄ and analyzed in static mode. Sr was loaded on a single Ta filament with H₃PO₄. Isotopic compositions were measured with a VG Sector multicollector mass spectrometer using dynamic mode (UK) and static mode (IGL). All analyses are adjusted due to periodic adjustment of collector positions as monitored by measurements of an internal laboratory; which yielded the following values: SRM987=0.710262±0.000023 (*n*=47, IGL), and 0.710253±0.000024 (*n*=12, UK).

Sm was loaded on a single Ta filament with H₃PO₄ and analyzed as Sm⁺ using static multicollector. Nd was loaded with phosphoric acid on a single Re filament having a thin layer of AGW-50 resin beads and analyzed as Nd⁺ using dynamic mode at the UK and on triple Ta-Re-Ta filament using static mode at the IGL. We normally determine 100 ratios with a 1-V ¹⁴⁴Nd beam. External precision based on repeated analyses of our internal standard is ±20 ppm (1 standard deviation); all analyses are adjusted for variations instrumental bias due to periodic adjustment of collector positions as monitored by measurements of an internal laboratory standard. This yields La Jolla Nd isotopic ratio=0.51186±0.000020 (UK) and 0.51185±0.000029 (IGL). Sm–Nd ratios were corrected to within ±0.5 percent, based on analytical uncertainties. ϵ Nd (*t*=crystallization age) values were calculated using Ar–Ar and K–Ar ages (Table 2) taken from the literature.

During the course of the analyses Sr, Nd and Sm blanks were lesser than 1.5 ng, 500 pg and 100 pg, respectively.

For the Pb isotopic measurements, an aliquot of 1 ml from dissolved WR samples used for Sr and REE analysis has been taken. Pb was extracted with ion-exchange techniques, with AG-1 ×8, 200–400 mesh, anion resin. Isotopic analyses of Pb composition were carried out with VG Sector mass spectrometer of UK and IGL. Samples were loaded on single Re filaments with silica gel and H₃PO₄. Pb isotopic ratios were corrected to a fractionation factor of 0.13% amu, based on successive determinations of NBS981 and NBS882 common Pb standards. External variations in isotopic ratios are normally 0.1% or lower, based on repeated analyses of NBS981 and NBS982 standards.

4.2. Results

Major and trace element concentrations of the studied samples are given in Table 1. The rocks have variable SiO₂ ranging from ~46 to 64 wt.%, MgO from ~2 to 9 wt.%) and moderate to very high Al₂O₃ contents from ~15 to 26 wt.% that probably reflect variations in the plagioclase modal compositions.

Most samples have low Cr and Ni, indicating they have undergone significant fractional crystallization from mantle-derived melts.

All of the South Shetland samples are enriched in Rb, Ba, K and Sr relative to N-MORB, but they are depleted in Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti (Fig. 7). All samples show positive Ba and Sr anomalies, and pronounced negative Nb and Ti anomalies. On average, the rocks have depleted HFSE characteristics, and enrichment in light and middle REE compared to N-MORB.

All the analyzed samples have chondrite-normalized patterns enriched in LREE relative to HREE, similar to calc-alkaline suites, with (Ce/Yb)_N ranging from 5 to 19 and (Gd/Lu)_N>3. The relatively low Yb_N values in all rocks under consideration point to residual garnet in the source.

Nb and Ti show strong negative troughs, and HFSE are less abundant than LILE, relative to N-MORB (Fig. 7) suggesting that the mantle source underlying the Cretaceous–Tertiary South Shetland Islands arc could be a depleted MORB. Stability of Nb-rich phases in the mantle may explain the ubiquitous depletion of Nb in arc-related magmas (Woodhead et al., 1993).

Table 1

Selected major and trace elements whole-rock analyses and ages of the studied plutonic and volcanic rocks from the South Shetland Islands

| Sample | Lithology | Age | SiO ₂ | TiO ₂ | Al ₂ O ₃ | FeO ^T | MgO | MnO | CaO | Na ₂ O | K ₂ O | P ₂ O ₅ | LOI | Total | Rb | Ba | Sr | Ni | Cr | Co | Nb | Zr |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------|------|-------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|--------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| <i>Ardley and King George Islands</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 990114003 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 53.71 | 0.70 | 18.91 | 9.58 | 3.72 | 0.14 | 7.78 | 3.74 | 0.84 | 0.23 | 0.84 | 100.18 | 11 | 257 | 696 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 2.0 | 65 |
| 990112001 | basalt | 58 | 46.91 | 0.62 | 23.15 | 7.83 | 4.61 | 0.16 | 10.99 | 2.66 | 0.51 | 0.09 | 2.54 | 100.08 | 6 | 263 | 672 | 16 | 13 | 35 | 0.4 | 29 |
| 990112003 | andesite | 44 | 55.39 | 0.70 | 19.19 | 8.81 | 2.90 | 0.16 | 7.34 | 4.06 | 0.92 | 0.22 | 0.36 | 100.06 | 17 | 242 | 615 | 3 | 1 | 31 | 1.0 | 98 |
| 990112010 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 54.16 | 0.78 | 19.08 | 8.03 | 3.70 | 0.20 | 8.48 | 3.14 | 0.91 | 0.21 | 1.29 | 100.00 | 23 | 280 | 593 | 21 | 50 | 31 | 4.5 | 100 |
| AF-5 | basalt | 58 | 50.34 | 0.45 | 20.56 | 7.59 | 6.15 | 0.12 | 10.90 | 2.16 | 0.79 | 0.09 | 1.78 | 100.93 | 11 | 155 | 609 | 6 | 105 | 33 | 1.0 | 54 |
| AF-14 | basalt | 58 | 50.19 | 0.84 | 19.89 | 9.64 | 4.31 | 0.18 | 9.97 | 3.31 | 0.57 | 0.13 | 1.01 | 100.04 | 5 | 149 | 575 | 88 | 59 | 31 | 1.0 | 44 |
| <i>Greenwich Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HA-1.1 | basalt | 98 | 47.47 | 0.83 | 25.74 | 8.67 | 3.06 | 0.12 | 9.33 | 3.23 | 0.45 | 0.04 | 2.01 | 100.95 | 10 | 184 | 687 | 23 | 82 | 23 | 1.0 | 44 |
| HA-8.2A | tonalite | 80 | 58.69 | 0.69 | 17.62 | 6.74 | 2.85 | 0.11 | 6.97 | 3.75 | 1.63 | 0.19 | 0.63 | 99.87 | 45 | 340 | 570 | 8 | 30 | 15 | 4.6 | 108 |
| HA-19.1 | basalt | 98 | 56.22 | 0.45 | 17.10 | 6.70 | 4.78 | 0.12 | 8.54 | 2.95 | 1.05 | 0.20 | 1.96 | 100.18 | 25 | 263 | 491 | 5 | 31 | n.d. | 5.0 | 235 |
| HA-20 | tonalite | 80 | 63.80 | 0.53 | 15.58 | 5.30 | 2.19 | 0.12 | 4.36 | 3.93 | 2.05 | 0.15 | 1.43 | 99.46 | 57 | 395 | 443 | 7 | 36 | 12 | 4.1 | 157 |
| HY-4 | tonalite | 80 | 60.70 | 0.82 | 15.90 | 7.30 | 2.60 | 0.12 | 5.70 | 3.60 | 2.70 | 0.19 | 0.70 | 100.30 | 79 | 486 | 412 | 28 | 69 | 19 | 7.5 | 176 |
| PA-8.1A | gabbro | 80 | 50.00 | 0.72 | 16.80 | 9.20 | 7.40 | 0.16 | 10.40 | 2.80 | 0.50 | 0.15 | 1.40 | 99.50 | 7 | 202 | 533 | 34 | 208 | 32 | 2.0 | 53 |
| <i>Livingston Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 98011501 | basalt | 115 | 49.50 | 1.42 | 15.90 | 12.80 | 4.20 | 0.18 | 9.30 | 3.60 | 0.62 | 0.21 | 2.30 | 100.30 | 8 | 75 | 461 | 15 | 27 | 60 | 1.0 | 67 |
| 98012002 | basalt | 130 | 49.60 | 1.31 | 17.30 | 11.60 | 4.10 | 0.18 | 9.30 | 3.90 | 0.33 | 0.28 | 1.80 | 100.50 | 5 | 126 | 476 | 15 | 20 | 22 | 1.0 | 60 |
| 98012202 | basalt | 115 | 48.40 | 0.91 | 18.29 | 9.24 | 7.59 | 0.16 | 11.51 | 2.37 | 0.42 | 0.18 | 1.17 | 100.25 | 5 | 295 | 574 | 15 | 115 | 49 | 1.0 | 40 |
| 98012301 | andesite | 130 | 57.96 | 1.31 | 15.07 | 9.46 | 2.36 | 0.19 | 6.42 | 3.72 | 0.66 | 0.39 | 2.15 | 99.71 | 25 | 329 | 438 | 15 | 20 | 34 | 3.0 | 159 |
| 98012501 | basaltic andesite | 130 | 53.88 | 1.02 | 19.63 | 8.34 | 2.79 | 0.13 | 8.80 | 3.97 | 0.96 | 0.13 | 2.36 | 102.01 | 22 | 176 | 369 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 5.0 | 82 |
| <i>Robert Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 96020701 | basalt | 82 | 48.09 | 0.97 | 16.93 | 9.50 | 8.86 | 0.14 | 10.03 | 2.66 | 0.58 | 0.35 | 1.63 | 99.73 | 13 | 327 | 538 | 154 | 455 | 41 | 2.0 | 76 |
| 96022001 | basalt | 82 | 49.31 | 0.89 | 17.50 | 9.60 | 8.00 | 0.17 | 10.82 | 2.51 | 0.21 | 0.15 | 1.08 | 100.24 | 3 | 122 | 482 | 100 | 329 | 47 | 1.0 | 42 |
| 96022005 | basalt | 82 | 49.40 | 0.79 | 18.30 | 8.90 | 7.33 | 0.14 | 10.54 | 2.64 | 0.30 | 0.13 | 1.41 | 99.88 | 6 | 126 | 473 | 79 | 281 | 34 | 2.0 | 45 |
| 96022302 | basalt | 60 | 49.25 | 0.63 | 18.09 | 8.18 | 8.16 | 0.16 | 12.85 | 1.93 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.74 | 100.23 | 2 | 73 | 636 | 64 | 248 | 52 | 1.0 | 20 |

| Sample | Y | Hf | U | Th | Pb | Ga | Cu | Zn | Sc | V | La | Ce | Pr | Nd | Sm | Eu | Gd | Tb | Dy | Ho | Er | Tm | Yb | Lu |
|---------------------------------------|----|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|----|-----|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Ardley and King George Islands</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 990114003 | 16 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 5 | 22 | 74 | 87 | 17 | 213 | 10.30 | 24.00 | n.d. | 12.00 | 3.30 | 1.21 | n.d. | 0.61 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | 1.30 | 0.18 |
| 990112001 | 11 | n.d. | 0.6 | 3.0 | 3 | 19 | 108 | 55 | 27 | 273 | 4.00 | 12.00 | n.d. | 9.00 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. |
| 990112003 | 19 | n.d. | 1.5 | 3.5 | 4 | 21 | 81 | 86 | 16 | 171 | 12.00 | 30.00 | n.d. | 17.00 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. |
| 990112010 | 21 | n.d. | 1.0 | 4.5 | 9 | 22 | 101 | 95 | 22 | 211 | 14.00 | 35.00 | n.d. | 17.00 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. |
| AF-5 | 10 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 5 | 20 | 64 | 31 | 26 | 167 | 6.24 | 13.88 | 1.70 | 8.76 | 2.15 | 0.63 | 1.57 | 0.27 | 1.86 | 0.30 | 0.93 | 0.14 | 1.06 | 0.16 |
| AF-14 | 12 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 5 | 24 | 113 | 34 | 31 | 319 | 6.45 | 14.00 | 1.82 | 9.68 | 2.76 | 0.92 | 2.36 | 0.39 | 2.34 | 0.45 | 1.27 | 0.16 | 1.08 | 0.20 |
| <i>Greenwich Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HA-1.1 | 13 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 5 | 23 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 73 | 5.22 | 12.17 | 1.61 | 8.72 | 2.19 | 0.94 | 2.05 | 0.39 | 2.46 | 0.44 | 1.26 | 0.16 | 1.47 | 0.20 |
| HA-8.2A | 24 | 6.5 | 2.8 | 5.8 | 12 | 18 | 100 | 57 | 18 | 160 | 18.81 | 40.42 | 4.44 | 20.94 | 5.06 | 1.13 | 4.97 | 0.81 | 4.51 | 0.90 | 2.83 | 0.40 | 2.84 | 0.45 |
| HA-19.1 | 26 | 6.5 | n.d. | 5.5 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | 23 | 183 | 12.11 | 24.15 | 2.52 | 11.34 | 2.69 | 0.72 | 2.65 | 0.41 | 2.15 | 0.44 | 1.39 | 0.21 | 1.47 | 0.22 |
| HA-20 | 22 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 8.8 | 8 | 16 | 42 | 71 | 12 | 90 | 17.39 | 34.86 | 3.60 | 16.19 | 3.62 | 0.98 | 3.66 | 0.61 | 3.13 | 0.64 | 1.95 | 0.29 | 2.03 | 0.34 |
| HY-4 | 30 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 9.0 | 9 | 23 | 171 | 2 | 21 | 162 | 22.70 | 46.05 | 5.16 | 25.01 | 6.60 | 1.21 | 4.81 | 0.92 | 5.61 | 1.08 | 2.73 | 0.43 | 3.27 | 0.53 |
| PA-8.1A | 14 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 5 | 13 | 49 | 40 | 33 | 193 | 8.13 | 17.91 | 2.37 | 12.00 | 2.90 | 0.93 | 2.32 | 0.51 | 2.66 | 0.55 | 1.46 | 0.17 | 1.34 | 0.23 |
| <i>Livingston Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 98011501 | 27 | 2.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 5 | 21 | 140 | 88 | 43 | 442 | 6.30 | 15.30 | 2.24 | 11.70 | 3.60 | 1.43 | 4.30 | 0.70 | 4.60 | 1.00 | 3.00 | 0.45 | 2.80 | 0.44 |
| 98012002 | 20 | 2.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 5 | 17 | 33 | 57 | 31 | 273 | 7.20 | 17.30 | 2.47 | 12.30 | 3.60 | 1.28 | 3.70 | 0.60 | 3.50 | 0.70 | 2.00 | 0.31 | 2.00 | 0.29 |
| 98012202 | 10 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 5 | 15 | 57 | 53 | 27 | 237 | 4.50 | 10.70 | 1.50 | 7.60 | 2.10 | 0.87 | 2.10 | 0.30 | 1.80 | 0.40 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 0.90 | 0.13 |
| 98012301 | 36 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 5.0 | 7 | 19 | 10 | 91 | 24 | 97 | 18.50 | 40.80 | 5.31 | 25.70 | 6.10 | 1.83 | 6.60 | 1.00 | 6.10 | 1.30 | 3.60 | 0.55 | 3.40 | 0.55 |
| 98012501 | 25 | 3.0 | n.d. | 2.5 | n.d. | n.d. | 38 | 78 | 24 | 189 | 10.00 | 25.00 | n.d. | 16.00 | 3.70 | 1.26 | 3.98 | 0.58 | 4.72 | 0.96 | 2.65 | n.d. | 2.70 | 0.40 |
| <i>Robert Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 96020701 | 18 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 5 | 18 | 108 | 71 | 20 | 250 | 13.90 | 30.40 | n.d. | 18.30 | 4.46 | 1.30 | n.d. | 0.91 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | 1.59 | 0.21 |
| 96022001 | 16 | n.d. | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2 | 19 | 72 | 65 | 28 | 270 | 3.00 | 15.00 | n.d. | 9.00 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. |
| 96022005 | 13 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 1 | 18 | 80 | 58 | 26 | 221 | 4.90 | 11.00 | n.d. | 6.24 | 2.08 | 0.79 | n.d. | 0.38 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | 1.31 | 0.21 |
| 96022302 | 10 | n.d. | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2 | 18 | 83 | 61 | 34 | 270 | 5.00 | 20.00 | n.d. | 9.00 | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. | n.d. |

Major elements in wt.%, trace elements in ppm. Ages in Ma.
n.d.=not determined.

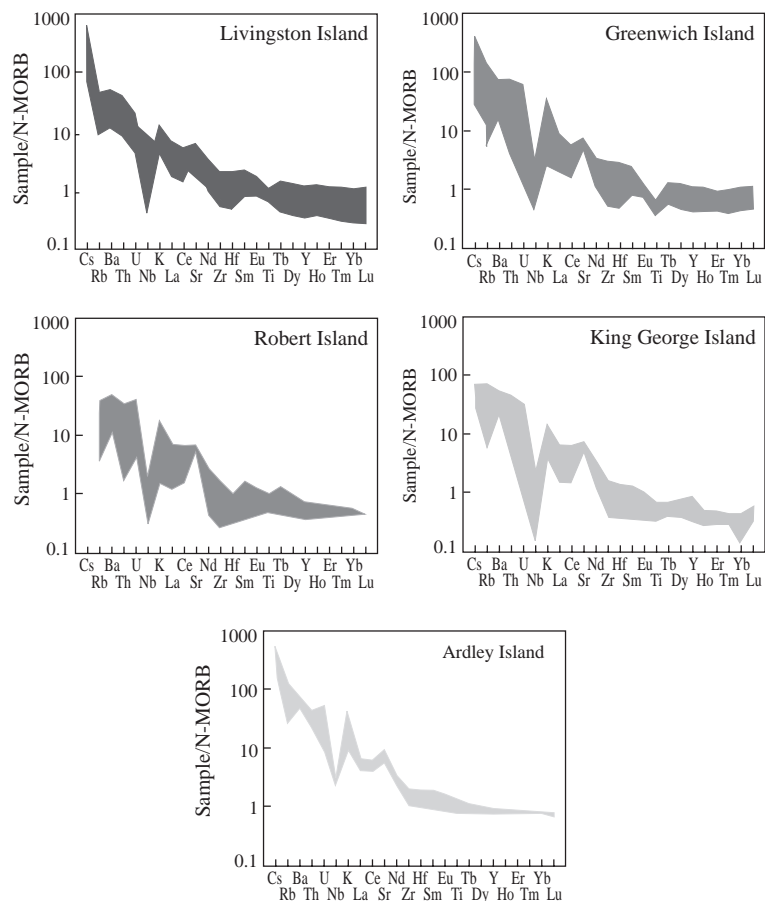


Fig. 7. Trace element variation diagrams for the studied South Shetland magmatic rocks, normalized to the N-type MORB of Sun and McDonough (1989).

Isotope data are summarized in Tables 2 and 3. Initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios vary from 0.7033 to 0.7046. Initial $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_0$ ratios are between 0.5127 and 0.5129, and ϵNd values vary from +2.71 to +7.30, which suggest asthenospheric mantle source for the analyzed samples. $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratios vary from 38.12 to 38.70, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratios are between 15.49 and 15.68, and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ range from 18.28 to 18.81.

The Sr and Nd isotopic composition of the South Shetland samples broadly plot close to data of other arc magmas (Fig. 8), such as Aleutians, Kurile, Marianas, Tonga-Kermadec, Luzon, Lesser Antilles, Sunda and NE Japan. However, the South Shetland Arc magmas present lower ϵNd , and therefore lower

$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios, than the Aleutians, Marianas, South Sandwich and N Lesser Antilles magmas.

5. Discussion and conclusions

The discussion that follows will try to better understand the source of the South Shetland Arc magmas through trace elements and mainly through isotopic data.

Experimental studies have shown that certain elements, such as Sr, Ba, U, and Pb, can be easily transported in a water-rich fluid, whereas other elements, such as Nb, Zr, and Ti, are normally much less mobile in this medium (Brenan et al.,

Table 2
Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd isotopic data for the studied plutonic and volcanic rocks from the South Shetland Islands

| Sample | Lithology | Age | Rb (ppm) | Sr (ppm) | (⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr) _m | Error (in ppm) | ⁸⁷ Rb/ ⁸⁶ Sr | (⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr) _I | Sm (ppm) | Nd (ppm) | ¹⁴³ Nd/ ¹⁴⁴ Nd | Error (in ppm) | ¹⁴⁷ Sm/ ¹⁴⁴ Nd | εNd (<i>t</i>) ^a |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <i>Ardley and King George Islands</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 990114003 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 11 | 510 | 0.70362 | 20 | 0.06255 | 0.70357 | 4 | 18 | 0.51295 | 22 | 0.13436 | 6.58 |
| 990112001 | basalt | 58 | 6 | 672 | 0.70376 | 17 | 0.02589 | 0.70374 | 2 | 9 | 0.51294 | 10 | 0.13436 | 6.37 |
| 990112003 | andesite | 44 | 17 | 615 | 0.70360 | 20 | 0.08020 | 0.70355 | 4 | 17 | 0.51276 | 17 | 0.14226 | 2.78 |
| 990112010 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 23 | 593 | 0.70340 | 18 | 0.11201 | 0.70331 | 4 | 17 | 0.51292 | 10 | 0.14226 | 5.91 |
| AF-5 | basalt | 58 | 9 | 551 | 0.70337 | 10 | 0.04632 | 0.70333 | 3 | 9 | 0.51300 | 11 | 0.14839 | 7.30 |
| AF-14 | basalt | 58 | 4 | 636 | 0.70347 | 23 | 0.01997 | 0.70346 | 3 | 10 | 0.51297 | 14 | 0.15353 | 6.72 |
| <i>Greenwich Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HA-1.1 | basalt | 98 | 9 | 736 | 0.70384 | 9 | 0.03449 | 0.70379 | 3 | 10 | 0.51292 | 10 | 0.15878 | 5.87 |
| HA-8.2A | tonalite | 80 | 47 | 476 | 0.70399 | 14 | 0.28634 | 0.70367 | 5 | 21 | 0.51290 | 8 | 0.14395 | 5.62 |
| HA-19.1 | basalt | 98 | 25 | 491 | 0.70399 | 17 | 0.14766 | 0.70379 | 3 | 11 | 0.51292 | 11 | 0.16489 | 5.90 |
| HA-20 | tonalite | 80 | 54 | 443 | 0.70438 | 17 | 0.35350 | 0.70398 | 4 | 16 | 0.51284 | 12 | 0.15115 | 4.44 |
| HY-4 | tonalite | 80 | 73 | 424 | 0.70411 | 14 | 0.49526 | 0.70354 | 6 | 25 | 0.51289 | 9 | 0.13909 | 5.35 |
| PA-8.1A | gabbro | 80 | 6 | 548 | 0.70404 | 9 | 0.02963 | 0.70400 | 3 | 11 | 0.51287 | 10 | 0.14821 | 4.90 |
| <i>Livingston Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 98011501 | basalt | 115 | 8 | 461 | 0.70440 | 19 | 0.05033 | 0.70431 | 4 | 12 | 0.51287 | 12 | 0.20153 | 4.52 |
| 98012002 | basalt | 130 | 5 | 476 | 0.70413 | 28 | 0.03046 | 0.70407 | 4 | 12 | 0.51284 | 14 | 0.20153 | 3.92 |
| 98012202 | basalt | 115 | 5 | 574 | 0.70428 | 16 | 0.02526 | 0.70424 | 2 | 8 | 0.51288 | 8 | 0.15115 | 5.06 |
| 98012301 | andesite | 130 | 25 | 438 | 0.70460 | 18 | 0.16553 | 0.70429 | 6 | 26 | 0.51274 | 9 | 0.13952 | 2.71 |
| 98012501 | basaltic andesite | 130 | 22 | 369 | 0.70427 | 16 | 0.17290 | 0.70395 | 4 | 16 | 0.51282 | 16 | 0.15115 | 4.05 |
| <i>Robert Island</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 96020701 | basalt | 82 | 13 | 538 | 0.70421 | 35 | 0.07007 | 0.70413 | 5 | 18 | 0.51280 | 42 | 0.15115 | 3.54 |
| 96022001 | basalt | 82 | 3 | 482 | 0.70402 | 23 | 0.01805 | 0.70400 | 2 | 9 | 0.51284 | 11 | 0.13436 | 4.55 |
| 96022005 | basalt | 82 | 6 | 473 | 0.70354 | 34 | 0.03372 | 0.70350 | 2 | 6 | 0.51284 | 10 | 0.20153 | 3.95 |
| 96022302 | basalt | 60 | 2 | 636 | 0.70383 | 25 | 0.00912 | 0.70382 | 2 | 9 | 0.51291 | 9 | 0.13436 | 5.84 |

Ages are in Ma.

^a $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t) = \left(\frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}[\text{sample}, t]}{{}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}[\text{CHUR}, t]} - 1 \right) \times 10^4$. For ϵNd^0 (today) assuming ${}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}$ today = 0.512638 (${}^{146}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}$ = 0.72190); $\epsilon\text{Nd}^0 = \left(\frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}[\text{sample}, \text{now}]}{0.512638} - 1 \right) \times 10^4$.

1995). Recognition of this behavior has enabled the reconnaissance a separate fluid component (derived from the subducting slab itself) and a sedimentary component, introduced as partial melt, in the source of arc magmas (Ellam and Hawkesworth, 1988). These studies allow the affirmation that HFSE such as Zr and Nb are relatively insoluble in aqueous fluids, in contrast to LILE. Therefore, in island arc magmas, these elements are believed to be derived predominantly from the mantle wedge, and their relative high concentrations reflect the composition of the mantle wedge beneath the arc (Keppler, 1996). South Shetland Arc magmas show enrich-

ment of LILE in samples from the island, following the sequence: Ardley > (Livingston and Greenwich) > (Robert and King George). The negative Nb and Zr anomalies obey the same sequence. Such evidence suggests that the source of the South Shetland Arc magmas has changed along time with more contribution from the subducting slab (e.g. Livingston Island–130 Ma) with high contents of LILE, to more contribution from the mantle material (e.g. King George Island–50 Ma) with high contents of HFSE.

εNd values together with (⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr)₀ ratios (Fig. 8) are compatible with absence of ancient, more

Table 3
Pb isotopic data of the studied plutonic and volcanic rocks from the South Shetland Islands

| Sample | Lithology | Age | $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ | Error (%) | $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ | Error (%) | $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ | Error (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Ardley and King George Islands</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 990114003 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 18.603 | 0.062 | 15.603 | 0.065 | 38.350 | 0.063 |
| 990112001 | basalt | 58 | 18.505 | 0.021 | 15.566 | 0.022 | 38.221 | 0.022 |
| 990112003 | andesite | 44 | 18.544 | 0.015 | 15.532 | 0.016 | 38.151 | 0.016 |
| 990112010 | basaltic andesite | 58 | 18.577 | 0.025 | 15.517 | 0.027 | 38.126 | 0.025 |
| AF-5 | basalt | 58 | 18.555 | 0.006 | 15.568 | 0.005 | 38.254 | 0.013 |
| AF-14 | basalt | 58 | 18.455 | 0.292 | 15.490 | 0.245 | 38.123 | 0.602 |
| <i>Greenwich Island</i> | | | | | | | | |
| HA-1.1 | basalt | 98 | 18.576 | 0.048 | 15.551 | 0.041 | 38.204 | 0.100 |
| HA-8.2A | tonalite | 80 | 18.687 | 0.026 | 15.577 | 0.025 | 38.415 | 0.025 |
| HA-19.1 | basalt | 98 | 18.697 | 0.026 | 15.568 | 0.026 | 38.437 | 0.025 |
| HA-20 | tonalite | 80 | 18.712 | 0.042 | 15.608 | 0.044 | 38.534 | 0.045 |
| HY-4 | tonalite | 80 | 18.709 | 0.005 | 15.592 | 0.005 | 38.438 | 0.011 |
| PA-8.1A | gabbro | 80 | 18.634 | 0.006 | 15.573 | 0.005 | 38.343 | 0.011 |
| <i>Livingston Island</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 98011501 | basalt | 115 | 18.560 | 0.018 | 15.593 | 0.017 | 38.354 | 0.017 |
| 98012002 | basalt | 130 | 18.591 | 0.023 | 15.570 | 0.021 | 38.311 | 0.020 |
| 98012202 | basalt | 115 | 18.567 | 0.033 | 15.582 | 0.033 | 38.254 | 0.034 |
| 98012301 | andesite | 130 | 18.808 | 0.086 | 15.677 | 0.089 | 38.703 | 0.089 |
| 98012501 | basaltic andesite | 130 | 18.281 | 0.027 | 15.609 | 0.028 | 38.179 | 0.029 |
| <i>Robert Island</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 96020701 | basalt | 82 | 18.409 | 0.062 | 15.630 | 0.066 | 38.404 | 0.082 |
| 96022001 | basalt | 82 | 18.513 | 0.025 | 15.615 | 0.025 | 38.388 | 0.025 |
| 96022005 | basalt | 82 | 18.527 | 0.028 | 15.606 | 0.028 | 38.329 | 0.028 |
| 96022302 | basalt | 60 | 18.508 | 0.019 | 15.571 | 0.019 | 38.223 | 0.019 |
| NBS 981 ($n=9$) | standard | | 16.893 | 0.0109 | 15.442 | 0.0119 | 36.558 | 0.0133 |
| NIST ^a | standard | | 16.937 | 0.0011 | 15.941 | 0.0015 | 36.721 | 0.0036 |

Ages are in Ma.

^a Data from Walder et al. (1993).

radiogenic continental crust involved in the formation of the South Shetland magmas, which suggest that any contribution of LILE could not be originated from an old lithosphere. The studied samples show changes in their isotope composition with time, the oldest rocks having the lowest ϵ_{Nd} (Table 2, Fig. 8). Such feature ratifies the modification of the source of the magmas with time. Such change could also account changes in the composition of the subducted material that would be mixed with the mantle and result different its isotopic characteristics along time.

The Sr, Nd and Pb isotopic data for the studied samples are represented in Figs. 8–10. In Fig. 9 ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ vs. $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$) samples form a trend from the depleted MORB mantle (DMM) field to

enriched mantle II (EMII) field. However, a secondary trend towards the enriched mantle I (EMI) is also suggested by some King George and Robert islands samples. $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ vs. $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ vs. $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (Fig. 10a,b) shows that most samples form a trend from the DMM field toward the EMI field, except for two samples (one from the Robert Island and another one from the Livingston island) that plot outside this major trend. The observed moderate enrichments of ^{207}Pb and ^{208}Pb suggest involvement of sedimentary rocks in the mantle source. These isotopic compositions could be explained by variations in the composition of melt and/or fluids, or variations in the composition of the sedimentary rocks, or even a combination of both.

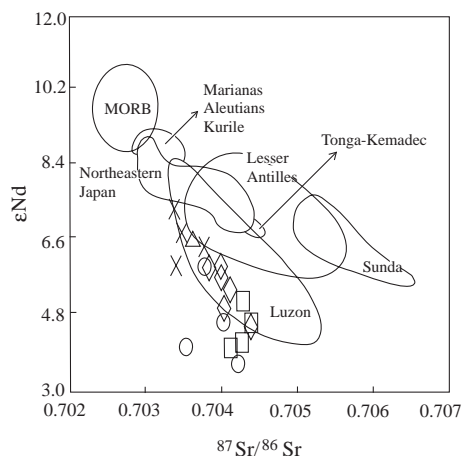


Fig. 8. Isotopic signature of the South Shetland Meso-Cenozoic magmatic rocks compared with other island arcs. Aleutians (Morris and Hart, 1983); Kurile (Zhuravlev et al., 1987); Marianas (Woodhead, 1989); Tonga-Kermadec (Regelous et al., 1997); Luzon (Chen et al., 1990); Lesser Antilles (Macdonald et al., 2000); Sunda (Stolz et al., 1990) and NE Japan (Shibata and Nakamura, 1997).

These Sr–Nd–Pb-isotope diagrams (Figs. 8–10) suggest a combination of DMM and EM II (and in a less extent EM I) as major source for the studied South Shetland magmas. This behavior could be

explained by contamination of large volume of magma derived from the depleted asthenospheric mantle (DMM) with lithospheric fluids enriched in LILE and radiogenic Sr generated mainly from dehydration of detritic sediments during the subduction (EM II), and secondarily from pelagic sediments (EM I). As there is no trend towards the HIMU (high $^{238}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ mantle) field in Fig. 10a,b and due to the values of ϵNd , we argue that oceanic crust is not contributing to the isotopic composition of the source. The contribution from the EM II is more important in the beginning of the volcanic events (Livingston Island–130 Ma) and less important in the end (King George Island–50 Ma), in which EM I contribution is also important.

DMM is generally assigned to the upper mantle and is considered to be source of N-type MORB basalts. Since it is highly depleted in LILE and other incompatible elements, and characterized by non-radiogenic Sr but radiogenic Nd isotope ratios, DMM is commonly assumed to represent the refractory residue of previous events of magma extraction (Hofmann et al., 1986; Hart, 1988).

EM II component in the source of the studied rocks can be interpreted inherited from recycled continental crust (e.g. Zindler and Hart, 1986). EM I

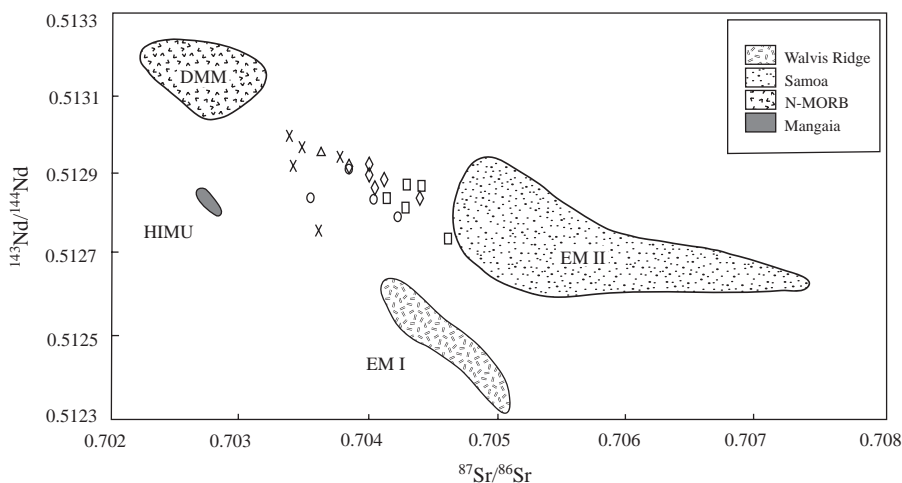


Fig. 9. Variation of $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ of the studied igneous rocks from South Shetland Arc compared with representative compositions of mantle end members. Data sources: Walvis Ridge, for DMM (depleted mantle) is from Richardson et al. (1982); Tutuila and Upolu in Samoa, for EMII (Enriched mantle II) is from Wright and White (1986/87); Palacz and Saunders (1986) and Farley et al. (1992); Mangaia, for HIMU (high μ) is from Palacz and Saunders (1986); and Atlantic N-MORB, for EM I (Enriched mantle I) is from Ito et al. (1987), with the exception of sample P6906-28B. Symbols: \square =Livingston Island; \diamond =Greenwich Island; \circ =Robert Island; \times =King George Island and \triangle =Ardley Island.

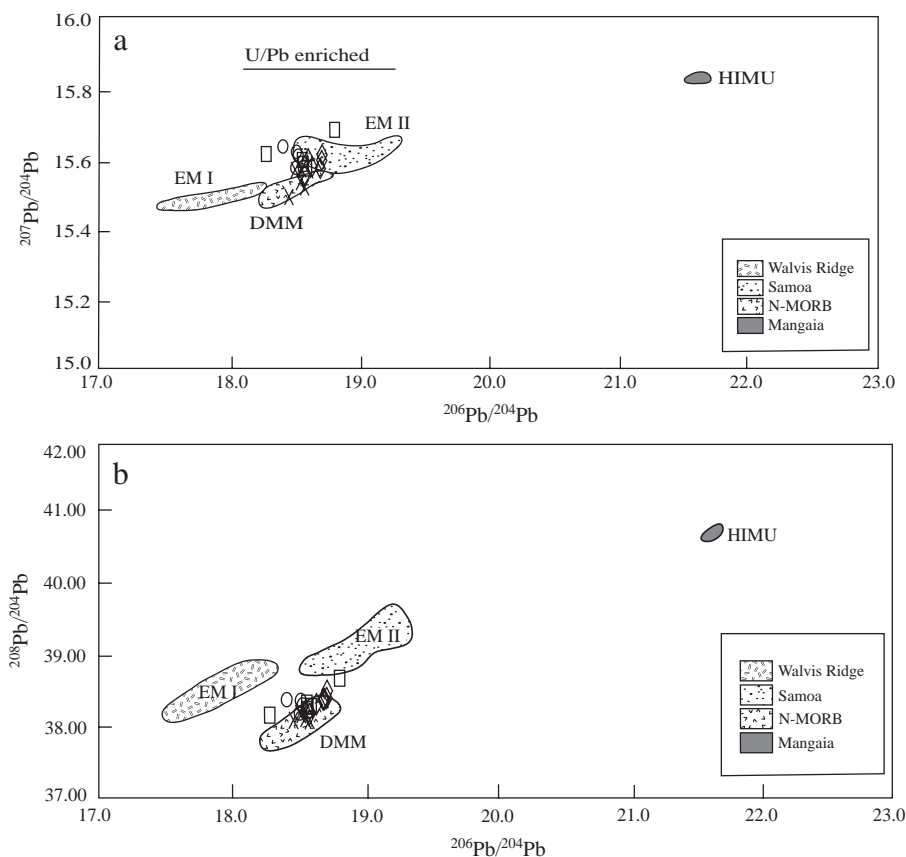


Fig. 10. Pb-isotope diagrams of the studied igneous rocks from South Shetland Arc. Compositional fields were defined on data from the literature as listed in the caption of Fig. 5. Symbols as in Fig. 9.

is not an important component for the samples analysed here, except in the younger volcanic events (around 50 Ma). Such component could be explained by: (i) recycling and ageing of pelagic sediments together with underlying oceanic crust (e.g. Weaver, 1991; Chauvel et al., 1992; Hémond et al., 1994), (ii) delamination or thermal erosion of subcontinental lithosphere that became part of the convecting upper mantle (e.g. Hoernle et al., 1991; Anderson, 1994), or (iii) metasomatism of lithosphere during subduction processes (e.g. Liu et al., 1994; Chung et al., 1995).

Modeling using the Sr and Nd content and the Sr and Nd isotopic composition (Fig. 11) indicates that the majority of samples can be explained by mixing between ≈ 96 wt.% of melts with N-MORB characteristics (from DMM source) and $\approx 4\%$ of

sedimentary end member, isotopically similar to the Pacific sediment (the detrital sediments-EM II). Modeling was done using the two-end-member assumption described in Faure (1986) following the equation described below, the Sr and Nd concentrations and Sr and Nd isotopic composition of an N-MORB (Cohen et al., 1980) estimated as originated from 10% of a depleted mantle (DMM) melting. The results are displayed in Table 4 and the equation is:

$$R_M^x = \frac{R_A^x X_A f + R_B^x X_B (1-f)}{X_A f + X_B (1-f)}$$

where R_M^x is na isotope ratio of X in a mixture of components A and B, X_A and X_B are concentrations

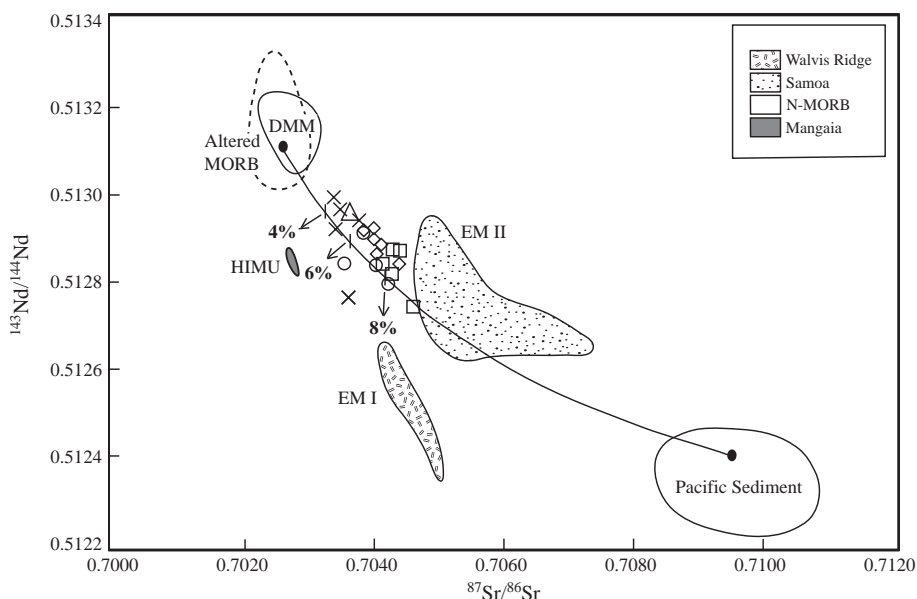


Fig. 11. Estimation of the isotopic composition of the subduction component as discussed in the text. The continuous curved line represents a mixing between altered MORB (DMM field) and sediments (Pacific sediments filed). It indicates the bulk mixture between 4 wt.% of sediment and 96 wt.% of altered MORB. The isotopic ratios of Sr and Nd of the sediments are from Othman et al. (1989). Symbols and fields as in Fig. 5. The dashed field next to the DMM field is the altered MORB filed, which represent the effect of alteration by seawaters on the DMM.

of X in A and B , and f is the weight fraction of A defined as:

$$f = \frac{A}{A + B}$$

where A and B are the weight of the two components in a given mixture.

On $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ versus $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$, and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ versus $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ diagrams (Fig. 10A,B) moderate enrichment in ^{207}Pb and ^{208}Pb is observed, which imply involvement of sedimentary material in the source. It is not possible to demonstrate unequivocally whether the isotope systematics are best explained by

variations from the melt and/or fluids composition or variations in the composition of the sediment, or even a combination of both. Both processes are likely to have been active, and the question of their relative importance still remains open until more data is available.

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Table 4

Sr, Nd and Pb isotopic ratios, and Sr, Nd and Pb concentrations of altered MORB and Pacific sediments used as members for the modeling of the isotopic characteristics of the subducted component as discussed in the text and shown in Fig. 11

| | $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ | $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ | $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ | Sr (ppm) | Nd (ppm) | Pb (ppm) |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Altered MORB | 0.70260 | 0.51310 | 18.480 | 114 | 17 | 0.54 |
| Pacific Sediment | 0.70950 | 0.51240 | 18.700 | 329 | 116 | 110 |

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