



# Characterisation and tracing of Permian magmatism in the south-western segment of the Gondwanan margin; U–Pb age, Lu–Hf and O isotopic compositions of detrital zircons from metasedimentary complexes of northern Antarctic Peninsula and western Patagonia



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## ABSTRACT

Metasedimentary rocks in the Antarctic Peninsula and south-western Patagonia record detrital zircon evidence for significant Permian magmatic events along the Palaeo-Pacific margin of south West Gondwana. However, it is unclear where and how this magmatism formed due to the lack of outcropping Permian igneous sources at similar latitudes. Combined U–Pb, O, and Lu–Hf isotope analyses of detrital zircon grains in Permo–Triassic metasedimentary rocks indicate that the Permian magmatism resulted from the interaction of crust- and mantle-derived sources in an active continental margin. Permian detrital zircons from the Trinity Peninsula Group in the Antarctic Peninsula range from crustal signatures in the northern part ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of  $\sim 8\%$ , initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  of  $\sim -6$ ) to mantle-like values in the south ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of  $\sim 5\%$ , initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  of  $\sim +3$ ). Zircons from the northern domain have isotopic features similar to those from the Patagonian Duque de York Complex. They also share a secondary Ordovician component of ca. 470 Ma. The Middle Jurassic Cape Wallace Beds in Low Island record a ca. 250 Ma igneous source, with stronger crustal signatures ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values of 7.5 to 10.8‰ and  $-3.2$  to  $-14.2$ , respectively). In contrast, zircons from the upper Jurassic Miers Bluff Formation on Livingston Island and Cretaceous sediments on James Ross Island have similar Permian U–Pb ages, O and Hf trends to their Trinity Peninsula Group counterparts, suggesting reworking after the late Jurassic. Our results provide evidence for a Permian subduction-related magmatic arc, partly located in Patagonia and extending to West Antarctica. The southerly decrease in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  coupled with increasing initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  indicate fewer sedimentary components in the magma source and is consistent with a glaciated cold and dry climate. These conditions are comparable with West Antarctica climate settings, located close to the South Pole during the Carboniferous and Permian.

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## 1. Introduction

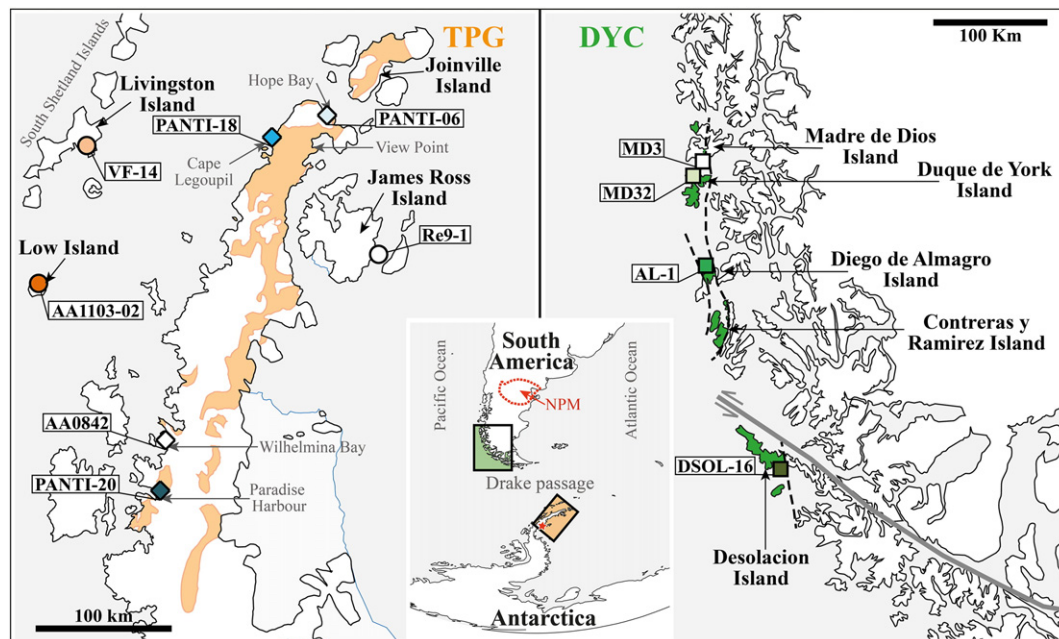
The Permian Period was an extremely dynamic time for Gondwana due to dramatic tectonic and climatic changes. The most extensive Phanerozoic glaciation occurred in southern Gondwana during the Carboniferous and the beginning of the Permian (Crowell, 1978; Eyles, 1993). This glaciation was followed by a period of global warming (e.g. Joachimski et al., 2012), and the greatest extinction event in Earth's history occurred during the end of the Permian (Erwin, 1994; Erwin et al., 2002). In the Palaeo-Pacific margin of southern Gondwana all these events undoubtedly influenced erosion, sedimentation and therefore could also have affected magmatism (and vice versa). Upper Palaeozoic–lower Mesozoic metasedimentary rocks represent the

most extensive vestiges of Gondwana in southern Patagonia and the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 1). These rocks are host to a major population of Permian igneous zircons (Hervé et al., 2003; Hervé et al., 2005; Barbeau et al., 2010; Fanning et al., 2011), indicating significant Permian magmatism along the southern margin of Gondwana. However, the location and characteristics of the Permian source(s) and the triggers for that significant erosion are still not well known.

Most palaeogeographic reconstructions that include the Antarctic Peninsula and South America locate the Antarctic Peninsula immediately west of southern Patagonia during the Palaeozoic–early Mesozoic (Lawver et al., 1998; Ghidella et al., 2002; König and Jokat, 2006). This implies a Patagonian source for these zircons. However, Permian igneous rocks do not outcrop at similar latitudes in South America. The closest outcrops are found in the North Patagonian Massif (Fig. 1, Pankhurst et al., 2006). In West Antarctica, Permian magmatic rocks are reported from isolated outcrops in the Antarctic Peninsula (Eden Glacier, Adie

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**Fig. 1.** Sketch map of the northern Antarctic Peninsula and south-western Patagonia showing the sample locations, Trinity Peninsula Group, Duque de York Complex and localities mentioned in the text. NPM stands for the North Patagonian Massif and the red star in the Antarctic Peninsula denotes the location of Permian igneous rocks (Eden Glacier, Adie Inlet and Bastion Peak).

Inlet and Bastion Peak in Fig. 1, Millar et al., 2002; Riley et al., 2012) and Marie Byrd Land (Pankhurst et al., 1998b). A detailed study of the Permian detritus can provide further clues about the nature and evolution of this Permian magmatism along the southern margin of West Gondwana.

In this study, we combine U–Pb geochronology, Lu–Hf and O isotope data for detrital zircon grains from metasedimentary rocks from southern Patagonia and northern Antarctic Peninsula. Detrital zircons preserve the age and isotopic record of the source area thereby avoiding post-depositional and low grade-metamorphic effects that typically affect sedimentary rocks. This allows characterisation and discrimination between likely provenances within a single zircon age population and therefore the testing of tectonic correlations. Additionally, detailed isotopic knowledge of selected detrital igneous zircons helps us to understand the magmatic and geological processes. Lu–Hf and O isotopes provide information into crust and mantle processes important in the formation of the original magmatic rocks from which the zircons crystallised (Hawkesworth and Kemp, 2006; Kemp et al., 2006; Kemp et al., 2007). These new data, in combination with existing zircon U–Pb data, are used to constrain the palaeogeographic and sedimentary setting of the southern margin of West Gondwana and to characterise and track the Permian magmatism in this area.

## 2. Geological setting

### 2.1. The Antarctic Peninsula: the Trinity Peninsula Group, Miers Bluff Formation and Cape Wallace Beds

The upper Carboniferous–Triassic Trinity Peninsula Group (TPG) comprises principally fine grained metasedimentary rocks that crop out widely in the northern Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 1). They have been interpreted as turbidites or debris flows, deposited along an active continental margin (Hyden & Tanner, 1981; Bradshaw et al. 2012). The geological setting of the TPG is not clear, with conflicting interpretations ranging from an accretionary complex (e.g. Dalziel, 1984; Storey and Garrett, 1985) to an upper slope basinal setting (Smellie, 1987; Smellie, 1991; Bradshaw et al., 2012). A Permian–Triassic depositional age has been assigned for most parts of the TPG based on detrital zircon

U–Pb ages (Hervé et al., 2005; Barbeau et al., 2010) with fossil evidence suggesting that at least parts of the TPG at Cape Legoupil are Triassic (Thomson, 1975). View Point may be the only location where the TPG is late Carboniferous–early Permian in age (Bradshaw et al., 2012). Provenance analyses suggest a dominant Permian igneous source (Hervé et al., 2005; Barbeau et al., 2010; Fanning et al., 2011) with a likely tonalite–granodioritic average composition (Castillo et al., 2015).

The Miers Bluff Formation (MBF) crops out exclusively at Hurd Peninsula on Livingston Island (South Shetland Islands, Fig. 1). It is a turbiditic deposit originally correlated with the TPG (Trouw et al., 1997), but now considered to be a younger sedimentary succession, on the basis of the occurrence of a Tithonian ammonite (Pimpirev et al., 2002) and the youngest detrital zircon population of ca. 170 Ma (Hervé et al., 2006). On Low Island (southern island of the South Shetland Islands, Fig. 1), the Cape Wallace Beds (CWB) represent a similar turbiditic succession (Smellie, 1979). It was deposited in the Jurassic as inferred from ammonite and Mollusca fossil occurrences (Thomson, 1982). Although sediments of the MBF and CWB were deposited after sediments of the TPG, during the Jurassic, the U–Pb zircon age patterns show the same broad prominent Permian age peak (Hervé et al., 2006; Bastias, 2014).

### 2.2. Patagonia: the Duque de York complex

The Patagonian and Fuegian Andes are comprised in part by several upper Palaeozoic to Mesozoic metamorphic complexes (Hervé et al., 2008). The Duque de York Complex (DYC) crops out extensively along the western margin of the Chilean part of Patagonia (Fig. 1). It has been interpreted as a turbidite complex, deposited unconformably over pillow lavas, red and white cherts (the Denaro Complex) and lower Permian pelagic fusulinid-bearing limestones (the Tarlton limestone). These three units form the Madre de Dios Accretionary Complex (Forsythe and Mpodozis, 1979; Forsythe and Mpodozis, 1983) and are interpreted to have been frontally accreted during the Middle Triassic to earliest Jurassic times (Sepúlveda et al., 2008; Willner et al., 2009). Lacassie et al. (2006) suggested that the DYC detritus was derived from a geochemically intermediate igneous source, similar to a granodiorite, that originated within a continental magmatic arc. The basin was

probably located close to the continent in an active margin tectonic setting (Faúndez et al., 2002; Lacassie et al., 2006). Detrital zircon age patterns document a Permian principal source with a maximum possible depositional age of late Permian–early Triassic (Hervé et al., 2003; Sepúlveda et al., 2010). Similarities with the Torlesse Terrane, in New Zealand, led Lacassie et al. (2006) to propose a common provenance for both, probably located along the Marie Byrd Land margin in West Antarctica.

### 3. Analytical methods

In this provenance study, seven metasediment samples have been analysed from the northern Antarctic Peninsula and four metasediment samples from south-western Patagonia (Fig. 1). Sample selection was based on geographical distribution and stratigraphic relationships. For the U–Pb detrital zircon analyses, four samples were selected from the TPG (from north to south: PANTI-06, –18, AA0842 and PANTI-20) and a new sample from the DYC on Desolación Island (DSOL-16). Detailed chemistry and petrography for these samples are reported in Castillo et al. (2015). O and Lu–Hf isotope ratios were measured for a selection of Permian zircon grains, interpreted as being igneous in origin on the basis of the internal cathodoluminescence (CL) structure. Some randomly selected older zircon grains were also analysed. In order to extend the study to the Jurassic and Cretaceous sedimentary record in Antarctic Peninsula, O and Lu–Hf isotopes were analysed in three samples from the MBF (VF-14, previously dated by Hervé et al., 2006), the CWB (AA1103-02, previously dated by Bastias, 2014) and the Rabot Formation on James Ross Island (Re9-1, dated as middle Campanian by Olivero (2012a,b)). Three additional samples from the DYC were analysed for O and Lu–Hf (from north to south: MD3, MD32 and AL-1). Those samples were specifically analysed to extend the geographical coverage. They were previously dated by Hervé et al. (2003) and later analysed by Fanning et al. (2011), who reported Lu–Hf analyses in some grains.

Zircon grains were separated using standard crushing, hydraulic, magnetic and heavy liquid procedures. Several hundred randomly poured grains from each sample were cast in epoxy mounts together with the Temora reference zircon and polished to about halfway through the grains. The grains were photographed under an optical microscope using transmitted and reflected light, and their internal structure was CL imaged using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The zircon U–Pb isotopic compositions were measured using SHRIMP II and RG ion microprobes at the Research School of Earth Sciences, ANU, following standard procedures (see Williams, 1998 and references therein). Approximately 70 to 80 zircon grains were randomly selected, but with particular attention paid to ensure analysis of only areas free of inclusions and fractures. An  $O_2^-$  primary ion beam was focused to a spot of ~20 µm diameter and each analysis consisted of the measurement of five cycles through the isotope mass sequence. U–Pb ratios were determined by reference to Temora ( $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U} = 0.06683$  equivalent to 417 Ma, Black et al., 2003) and U concentrations were referenced to analyses of SL13 (U = 238 ppm). The data were processed using the SQUID Excel Macro (Ludwig, 2001); calculations and plots were done using ISOPLOT (Ludwig, 2003) and DensityPlotter (Vermeesch, 2012).

After the U–Pb analyses, all spots were removed by polishing and where necessary, the samples were modified into megamounts (Ickert et al., 2008), with the addition of the Duluth Gabbro FC1 reference zircon. The O isotopic compositions were measured using SHRIMP II following methods similar to those given by Ickert et al. (2008). The selected grains were analysed in exactly the same locations as the U–Pb spot using a positive Cs primary ion beam with a ~25 µm spot diameter. Some of the grains of interest had previously been analysed for Lu–Hf by Fanning et al. (2011), and so it was necessary to locate a new spot nearby, but within the same growth zone as determined from the CL images. The measurements were performed in five sessions and data acquisition comprised two sets of six isotope ratio measurements. All analyses were

corrected for low levels of isotopically light electron-induced secondary ion emission (EISIE; Ickert et al., 2008) and when necessary, we applied small corrections for drift in the measured compositions of the reference zircons. The O isotopic ratios and calculated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{VSMOW}}$  values were normalized relative to an FC1 standard weighted mean value of  $\delta^{18}\text{O} = 5.61\text{‰}$  (Valley, pers. comm.). The reproducibility of the FC1  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value (or spot-to-spot precision) ranged from 0.31 to 0.45‰ (2σ uncertainty) for the analytical sessions, and this error has been added in quadrature to the individual within-run errors. A detailed account of the analytical session and results of secondary standards used in this study can be found in Supplementary Table 2C.

Following the acquisition of O data, Lu–Hf isotopic measurements were carried out by a laser ablation multi-collector inductively-coupled plasma mass-spectrometry (LA-MC-ICPMS) using a Neptune MC-ICPMS coupled with a HelEx 193 nm ArF Excimer laser ablation system (Eggins et al., 2005). The laser ablation site was centred as closely as possible to the spot where the O and U–Pb data had been measured, using CL images to ensure that analysed domains were of sufficient size to accommodate the ~47 µm diameter laser pit. For each session, the mass spectrometer was first turned to optimal sensitivity using a zircon grain from the Mud Tank carbonatite (Woodhead and Hergt, 2005).  $^{171}\text{Yb}$ ,  $^{173}\text{Yb}$ ,  $^{174}\text{Hf}$ ,  $^{175}\text{Lu}$ ,  $^{176}\text{Hf}$ ,  $^{177}\text{Hf}$ ,  $^{178}\text{Hf}$ ,  $^{179}\text{Hf}$  and  $^{181}\text{Ta}$  isotopes were simultaneously measured in static-collection mode on nine Faraday cups. A gas blank was acquired at the beginning of the analytical sessions and every twelve analyses thereafter. The laser was pulsed at 5–8 Hz repetition rate providing an energy density on the sample surface of 3.2–3.6 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Total Hf signal intensity typically fell from five to two V during a single analysis. Each analysis corresponds to an 80 s count time, but in some cases only a selected interval was used from that total data acquisition: the interval over which the  $^{179}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$  ratio was stable. This was the case for any small or zoned zircons. To assess data quality, several reference zircons were measured (Supplementary Table 2D): 91500, Temora 2, FC1, Mud Tank, QGNG (Woodhead and Hergt, 2005) and Plešovice (Sláma et al., 2008).

## 4. Results

A summary of the new SHRIMP U–Pb zircon age determinations is given in Supplementary Table 1. Data are plotted on Tera–Wasserburg concordia plots, age versus probability and kernel density estimation diagrams (Figs. 2 and 4). Previously published SHRIMP U–Pb zircon data have been replotted in Figs. 3 and 5 for comparison purposes. The time scale is that of the International Stratigraphic Chart from the International Commission on Stratigraphy (IUGS, 2014).

### 4.1. Antarctic Peninsula

Detrital zircon age patterns in all TPG samples are similar, particularly the high proportion of Permian age grains (peaking between ca. 266 and 281 Ma, Fig. 2). These grains have mainly euhedral to subhedral external morphologies, between 60–160 µm in length, pale brown with weakly round terminations and some show well-preserved crystal faces. The CL images show oscillatory and sector zoning in most of the grains (Fig. 6: E to J). The Th/U ratio ranges from 0.1 to 1.8 which is common for igneous zircon (Williams and Claesson, 1987; Williams et al., 1996). Both characteristics indicate that the zircons are igneous in origin (98% of Permian zircon grains). Early Palaeozoic zircons have similar characteristics, as do the Precambrian grains, although the latter are anhedral and have round terminations (Fig. 6: N to R). Samples from northern localities (PANTI-06 and PANTI-18, Fig. 1) have Permian age peaks at ca. 273 and 278 Ma, representing 39% and 34% of the total population respectively (Fig. 2). They also have an important Ordovician component, which is more prominent in PANTI-18, and a small population of Proterozoic zircons (Fig. 2). In the southern localities (AA0842 and PANTI-20, Fig. 1), the Permian peak is the more prominent, representing

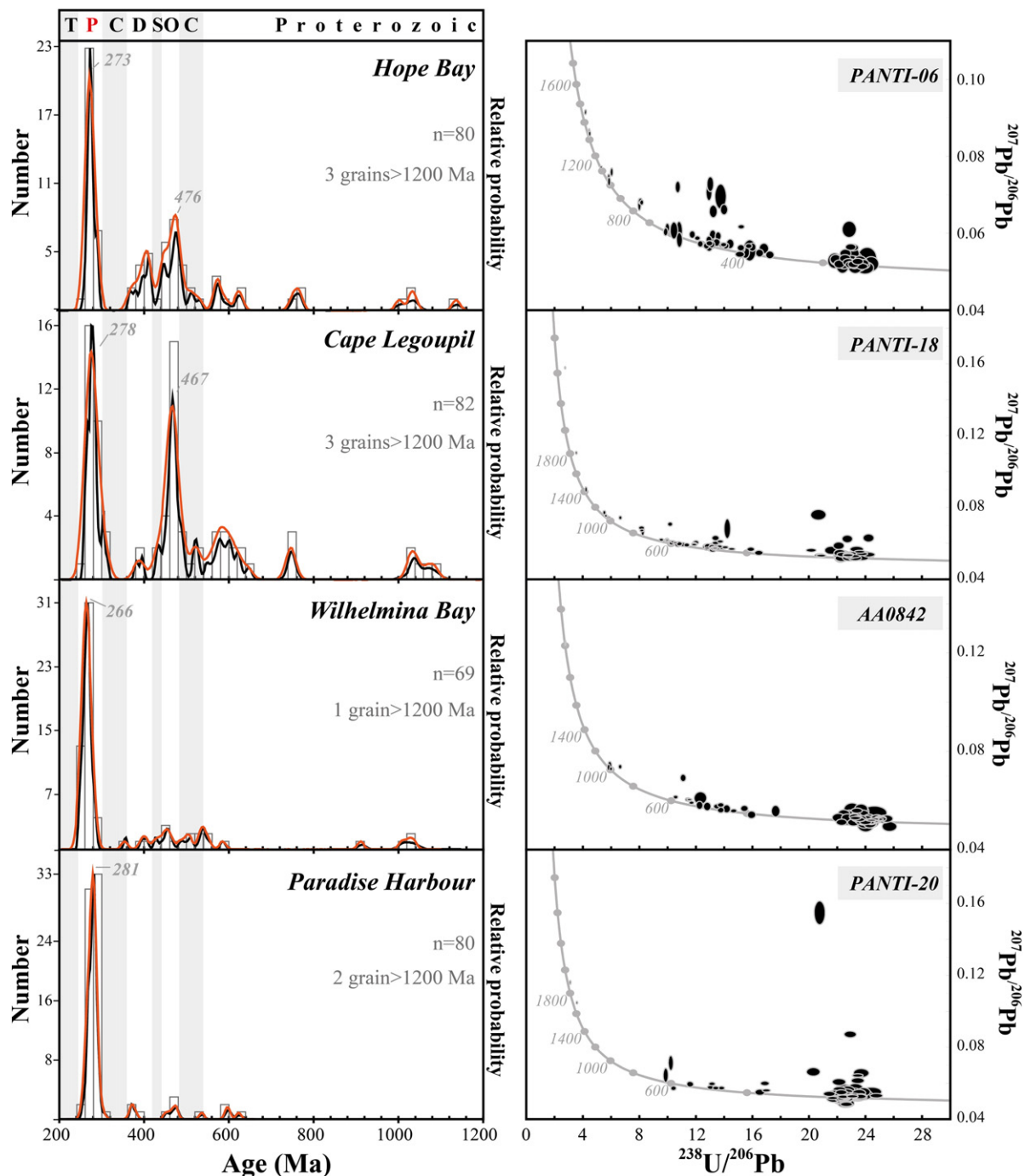


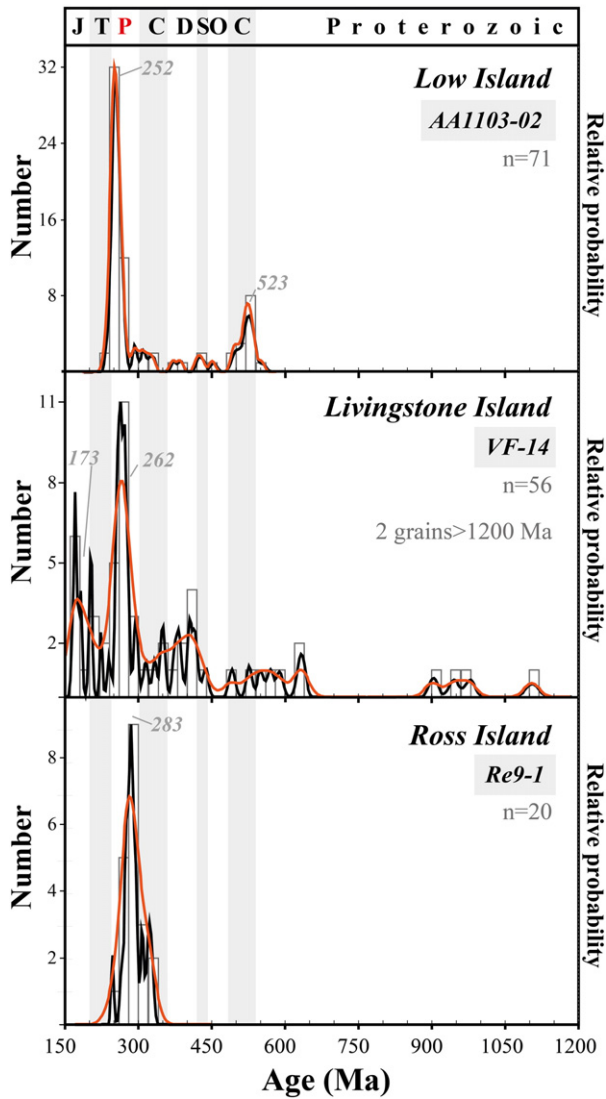
Fig. 2. Relative probability density plot (black line), kernel density estimator (orange line) and Tera–Wasserburg plot of SHRIMP U–Pb zircon data from Trinity Peninsula Group samples. Ellipses are 2 sigma errors.

more than 70% of the total population. Older age peaks are small and the grains are few in number (Fig. 2).

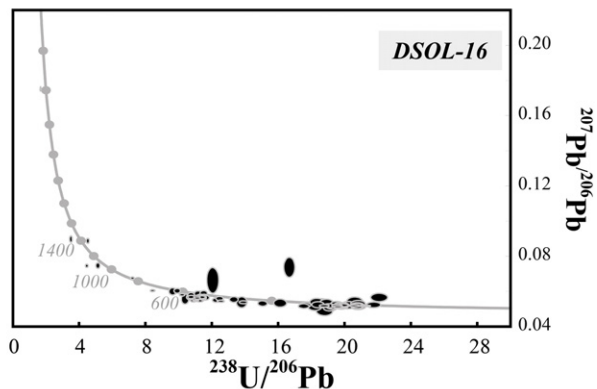
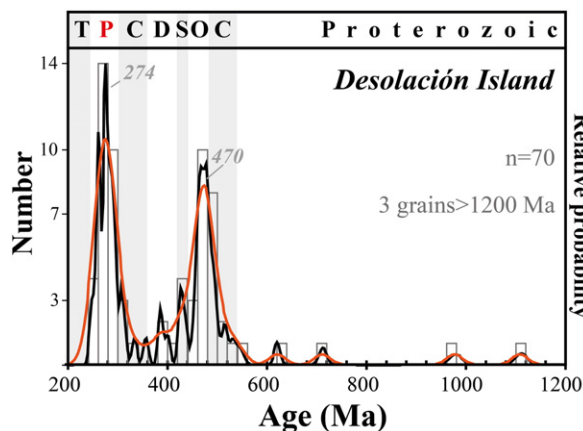
Between 16 and 18 zircon grains from three TPG samples were selected for O and Lu–Hf analyses (Supplementary Table 2A). In general, TPG zircons have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values ranging from 4.3 to 10.4‰, with the Permian zircon grains having a narrower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  range between 4.3 and 7.7‰ (Fig. 7). Zircon grains from the southernmost sample (PANTI-20) have the lowest  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values, between 4.5 and 6.4‰, which is within the range for zircons with mantle  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values (Valley et al., 2005). Permian zircon grains from sample PANTI-20 yield initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values ranging between  $-1.3$  and  $+5.2$ . Sample PANTI-18 has Permian zircons with more negative initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values, ranging from  $-5.5$  to  $-1.6$ . Sample PANTI-06 shows a larger variation in initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values ranging from

$-5.5$  to  $+3.3$  (with one grain yielding  $-21.1$ ). Earlier Palaeozoic grains have initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values varying from  $-5.5$  to  $+1.9$  (Fig. 7).

The U–Pb spectra of sample AA1103-02 is dominated by a prominent peak at ca. 252 Ma and a minor peak at ca. 523 Ma (Fig. 3). As seen in the CL images, most zircon grains are igneous in origin and some display core–rim structures with Permo–Triassic rims and Cambrian cores (Bastias, 2014) (Fig. 6: A and B). The Permo–Triassic zircon grains have higher  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  than the TPG, ranging from 7.3 to 10.6‰, with lower  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values from  $-14.2$  to  $-4.9$  (Fig. 7). The Cambrian zircon components (including some cores) yield  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of 6.5 to 8.7‰ and initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  of  $-1.6$  to  $-5.8$ . Sample VF-14, from Livingston Island, has a prominent broad Permian age peak, but also a significant Jurassic age peak (Fig. 3). The ten Permian zircons analysed have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$



**Fig. 3.** Relative probability density plot (black line) and kernel density estimator (orange line) of SHRIMP U–Pb ages for detrital zircon grains from previously analysed Antarctic Peninsula samples. Sample AA1103-02 is replotted from Bastias (2014), whereas VF-14 is replotted from Hervé et al. (2006).



**Fig. 4.** Relative probability density plot (black line), kernel density estimator (orange line) and Tera–Wasserburg plot of SHRIMP U–Pb zircon data from sample DSOL-16. Ellipses are 2 sigma errors.

values between 5.1 and 8.7 and initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values from  $-6.2$  to  $+2.4$ , similar to the TPG range and in contrast with the Low Island sample (Fig. 7). Sample Re9-1, from James Ross Island, yields only Permian and late Carboniferous zircon grains (Fig. 4). A selection of those grains have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values ranging from 5.0 to 7.9‰ and initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values between 0.9 and  $-2.6$ , overlapping with the TPG zircon grain values (Fig. 7).

#### 4.2. Patagonia: the Duque de York Complex

Zircon grains from Desolación Island (DSOL-16) have similar morphological, CL and isotopic characteristics to the TPG zircon grains (Fig. 6: C and D). They are between 80 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$  in length, euhedral to subhedral with sub-round terminations. Most of the grains show oscillatory and sector zoning and have Th/U ratios between 0.04 and 1.43, although 97% of the total population has Th/U > 0.1 (Supplementary Table 1). The U–Pb zircon age distribution shows a major input of Permian age grains (39%), with a peak at ca. 274 (KDE, Fig. 4). An additional Ordovician peak represents 25% of the total population and there are a few older zircon grains. This secondary Ordovician age peak differs from U–Pb age distributions previously published by Hervé et al. (2003) for the DYC, which are replotted in Fig. 5.

Between 14 and 21 zircon grains from each DYC sample were selected for O and Lu–Hf isotopic analyses (Supplementary Table 2B). The Permian DYC zircons show a range in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  from  $\sim 5.3$ ‰ to higher values of  $\sim 8.8$ ‰, but with 83% of the population above the range for mantle zircon (Fig. 7). The initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values of these zircons range from  $-5.4$  to  $+0.9$ ; only one grain from MD3 yields a more evolved value of  $-14.4$  (Fig. 7). Positive initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values are recorded in only 16% of the Permian population (within  $2\sigma$  errors) in grains older than 280 Ma. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of the older zircon grains are slightly more variable than the Permian ones, ranging from 4.7 to 12.1‰. They also have more positive initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values ( $\sim 50\%$  of the population), but scatter between  $-4.7$  and  $+3.5$  (Fig. 7).

### 5. Discussion

#### 5.1. Timing of sediment deposition

It is generally accepted that the youngest grains of a detrital zircon population can be used to constrain the maximum depositional age of a sedimentary rock (e.g. Dickinson and Gehrels, 2009). This is a particularly valuable approach in placing age constraints on unfossiliferous sedimentary rocks such as the TPG. The youngest TPG concordant zircon dated here has a  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $248 \pm 3$  Ma (sample AA0842). How-

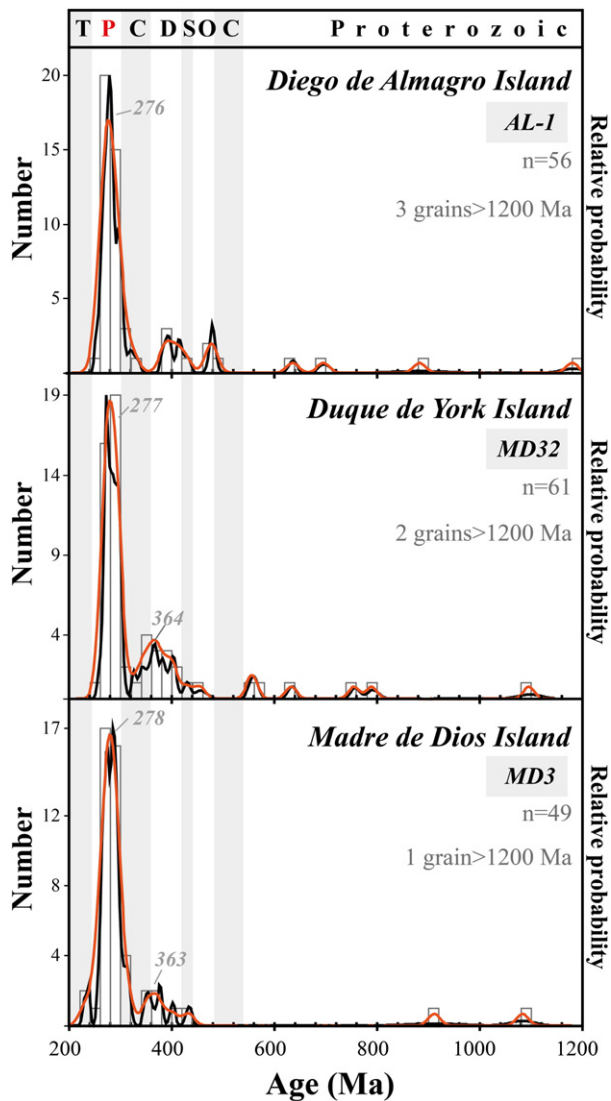


Fig. 5. Relative probability density plot (black line) and kernel density estimator (orange line) of SHRIMP U–Pb ages for detrital zircon grains from the previously analysed DYC samples. Samples are replotted from Hervé et al. (2003).

ever, because of the possibility that any individual analysis (i.e. single spot) might be affected by radiogenic Pb loss, or a contaminant, a more robust estimate for the maximum depositional age would be the weighted mean for the youngest zircon group. We have defined the youngest zircon group as three or more grains which overlap in age at the  $1\sigma$  level. For sample AA0842, the youngest group gives a weighted mean of  $250 \pm 3$  Ma (5 grains, MSWD = 0.66), on the boundary between the Permian and Triassic. Other TPG samples reveal a maximum possible depositional age of  $264 \pm 5$  Ma (7 grains, MSWD = 0.35) for sample PANTI-20,  $260 \pm 3$  Ma (4 grains, MSWD = 0.6) for PANTI-18 and  $264 \pm 3$  Ma (5 grains, MSWD = 0.51) for PANTI-06. These results are similar to the youngest predominant detrital zircon U–Pb age component previously reported by Barbeau et al. (2010) and Fanning et al. (2011). If we consider that the TPG was deposited in an active continental margin (Castillo et al., 2015) which is characterized by a large proportion of zircon ages close to the depositional age (Cawood et al., 2012), we can assume that the TPG sediments were deposited during the Guadalupian to Early Triassic.

In Patagonia, for sample MD3 from the DYC, the two youngest grains are ca. 235 Ma (see Fig. 5, replotted from Hervé et al., 2003) suggesting a

Triassic maximum depositional age. However, due to their high U concentration (>2700 ppm for one of those grains, Hervé et al., 2003) and thus possible radiogenic Pb loss in the analysed area, a more robust estimation of the maximum depositional age is  $266 \pm 3$  Ma (8 grains, MSWD = 0.57). This age is more in line with an age of  $258 \pm 3$  Ma (4 grains, MSWD = 0.8) for the DSOL-16 sample (this study) and the early to middle Permian palynological data published by Sepúlveda et al. (2010).

## 5.2. Provenance of sediments

All detrital zircon age patterns have distinctive features that warrant discussion as part of this provenance study. Two features are common to all samples: (1) high abundance of zircons in the Permian age range, but with isotopic differences; and (2) scarcity of Proterozoic, Silurian, Devonian and Carboniferous zircon grains (although the absence of components is not absolutely diagnostic, it may provide useful additional constraints). Two other important features belong to few particular samples only: (1) abundance of Ordovician zircon grains in samples from the southern part of the DYC and northern part of the TPG; and (2) moderate abundance of Cambrian zircon grains and zircon cores in the CWB.

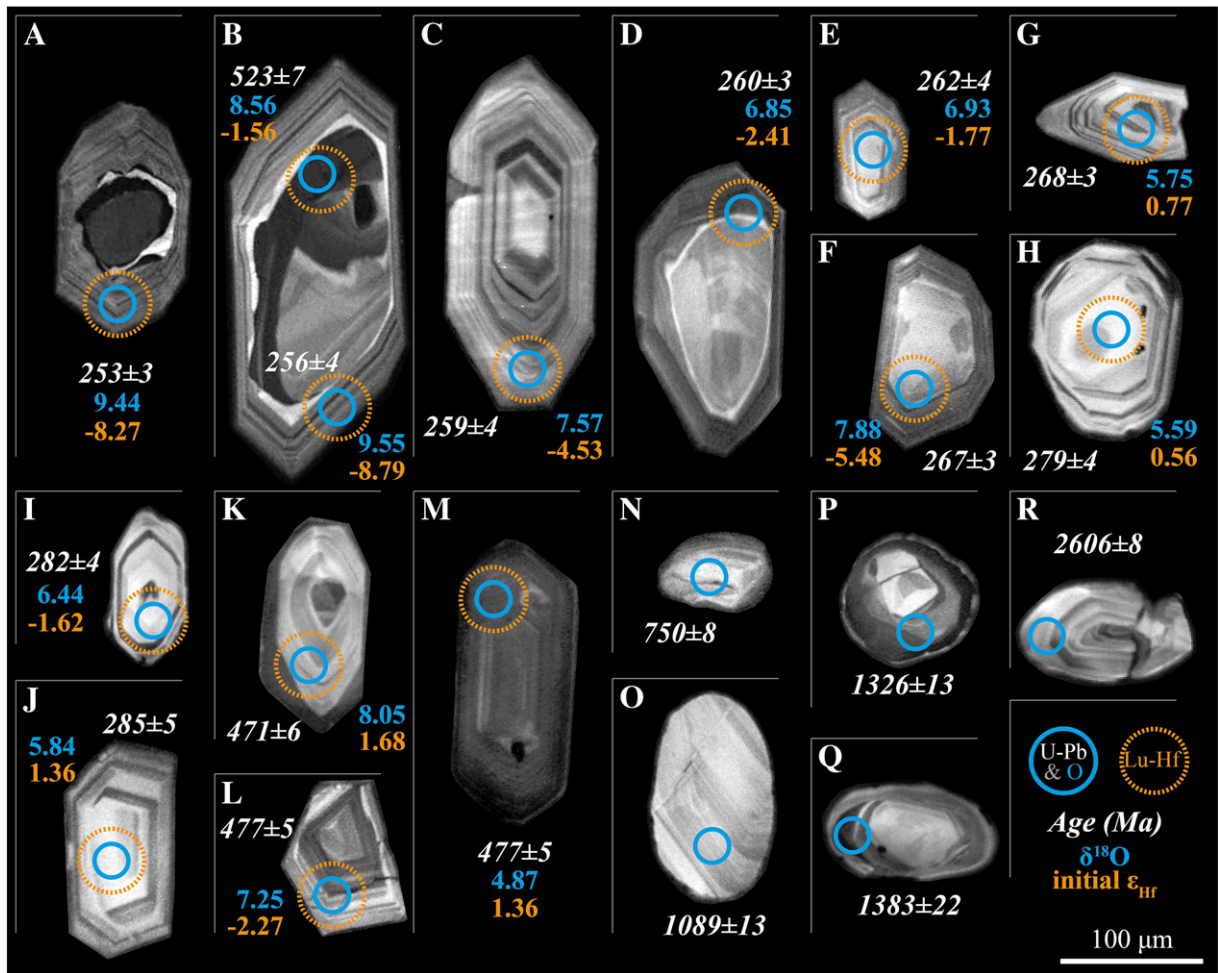
### 5.2.1. Older components

In the miscellaneous, scarce population of >540 Ma detrital zircon indicates that the major Proterozoic basement shields of Gondwana were mainly isolated from the depositional basins during the Permian to Jurassic periods. We infer the minor Neoproterozoic component seen in some patterns (e.g. sample PANTI-18, PANTI-06) to represent the exposure of older crystalline components due to basement uplift, although they need not be derived first order from an exposed source, but could equally be recycled components from sedimentary rocks such as the oldest part of the TPG at View Point (Bradshaw et al., 2012) or the Eastern Andean Metamorphic Complex in Patagonia (Hervé et al., 2003; Augustsson et al., 2006). Anhedra Precambrian zircon grains with round terminations support the latter interpretation (Fig. 6: N to R).

Zircon grains and inherited cores of Cambrian age are common in CWB, but not in the TPG, MBF and DYC (Fig. 2). It might be expected that the extensive Cambrian rocks in the basement of the Magallanes basin in central and northern Tierra del Fuego (Hervé et al., 2010a) provided Cambrian zircon grains. In Permian–Triassic times, Tierra del Fuego was probably not proximal or restricted to the TPG and DYC depositional basins. This configuration had changed by the Jurassic when the CWB sediments were deposited. However, in the Middle to late Jurassic, the Cambrian basement of Tierra del Fuego was totally covered by the volcanic rocks of the Tobífera Formation. These rocks are associated with the break-up of Gondwana and correlated with known volcanic rocks on the eastern coast of the Antarctic Peninsula (Pankhurst et al., 2000). Sample VF-14 has Jurassic zircon grains (at ca. 173 Ma; Fig. 3) probably derived from Tierra del Fuego and the eastern Antarctic Peninsula, when the Cambrian basement was covered.

Ordovician igneous zircons are an important population in the samples from Hope Bay, Cape Legoupil and Desolación Island (Figs. 2 and 4). Possible sources for Ordovician grains are located in the Antarctic Peninsula: the Ordovician protolith and conglomerate clast in Eden Glacier area (Riley et al., 2012) and in the late Carboniferous–Permian View Point Formation (Millar et al., 2002; Bradshaw et al., 2012), and/or in South America: the Famatinian magmatic arc of northwestern Argentina (Pankhurst et al., 1998a) and the northern part of the North Patagonian Massif (Pankhurst et al., 2006; Pankhurst et al., 2014).

The occurrence of Ordovician conglomerate clasts in the View Point Formation suggests that the Ordovician source was proximal during the late Carboniferous–early Permian. The clasts have zircons with positive initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values (Bradshaw et al., 2012) in the same range of Ordovician zircon grains from the Permian–Triassic part of the TPG and DYC. It is



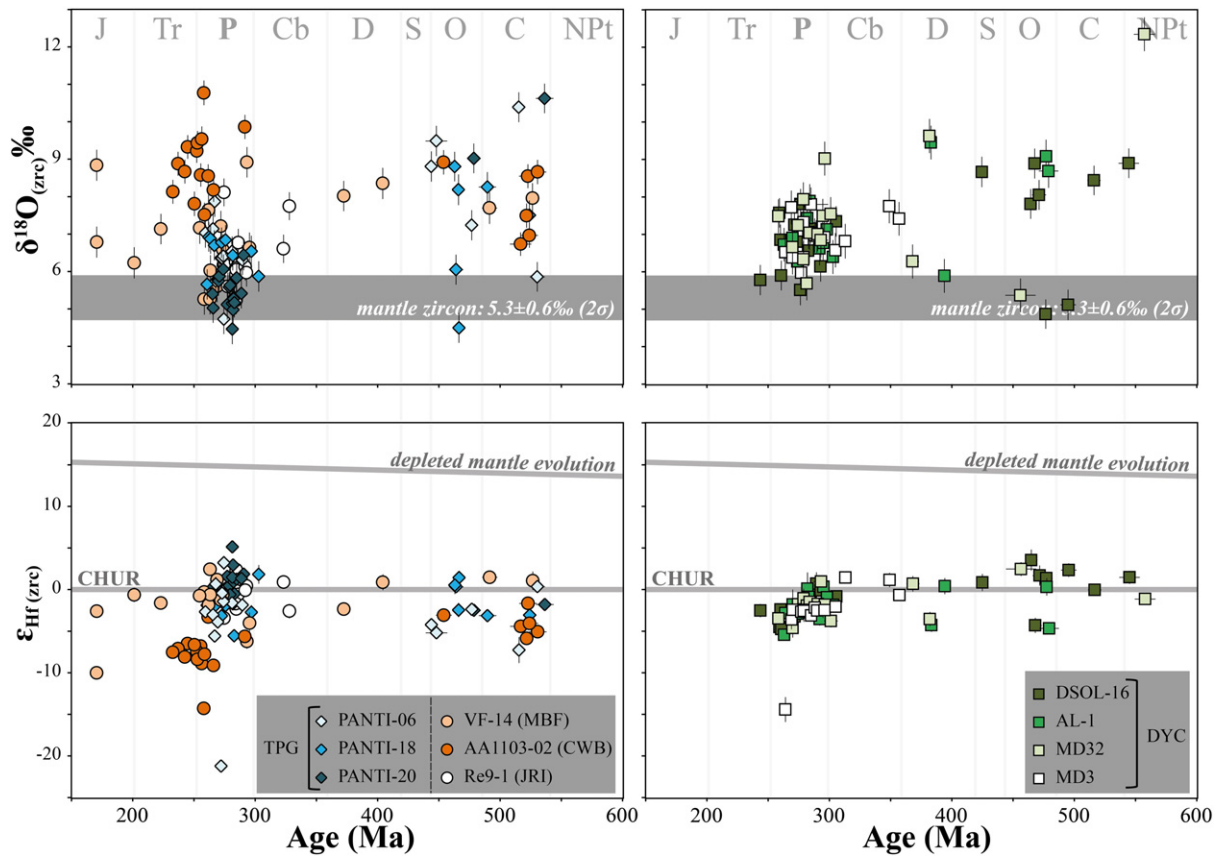
**Fig. 6.** Representative CL images of zircon grains that were used for U–Pb dating, O and Hf analyses. Round zircon grains predominantly yield Proterozoic ages (N–R), whereas the euhedral grains mainly have ages younger than 500 Ma (Permian: A–J, Ordovician: K–M). (A) AA1103-02:31.1. (B) AA1103-02:2.1 (rim) and 2.2 (core). (C) DSOL-16:68.1. (D) DSOL-16:65.1. (E) PANTI-18:31.1. (F) PANTI-06:5.1. (G) PANTI-06:5.1. (H) PANTI-20:1.1. (I) PANTI-118:15.1. (J) PANTI-20:25.1. (K) DSOL-16:35.1. (L) PANTI-06:30.1. (M) DSOL-16:32.1. (N) PANTI-18:78.1. (O) PANTI-18:32.1. (P) PANTI-06:16.1. (Q) DSOL-16:21.1. (R) DSOL-16:25.1.

possible that the source of the conglomerate was exposed and eroded in later Permian and Triassic times, shedding sediments to the TPG (Cape Legoupil and Hope Bay, proximal localities of View Point) and to the southern part of the DYC, or that the primary Ordovician source was exposed throughout, i.e. during the Carboniferous, Permian and Triassic. With regard to the first option, the Permo–Triassic TPG and DYC lack the typical View Point zircon population at ca. 550 Ma, with very negative initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values (Bradshaw et al., 2012) which is also common in the Ellsworth Mountains in West Antarctica (Flowerdew et al., 2007). This suggests that the View Point Ordovician clasts and TPG–DYC Ordovician zircons are possibly derived from the same source. Riley et al. (2012) reported Ordovician-age protoliths in the Eden Glacier, ~350 km. SSW of View Point. They suggested an extension of the Famatinian arc from South America and discarded a correlation with Marie Byrd Land or Northern Victoria Land. As discussed by those authors, this implies a significant overlap of South America with the Antarctic Peninsula due to the lack of Ordovician rocks south of the North Patagonian Massif. However, Ordovician granitic clasts also occur in the Deseado Massif (Pankhurst et al., 2003) and the Cordillera Darwin Metamorphic Complex (Hervé et al., 2010b), suggesting a proximal source. Probably, the southern Antarctic prolongation of the Famatinian arc or a contemporaneous one could be the source for the Ordovician detrital zircon grains.

Zircons from the Famatinian arc differ slightly from those of the TPG and DYC in terms of O and Hf isotopic compositions. Values for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  (from 4.5 to 9.5‰ and +3.5 to –5.1, for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and

$\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  respectively; Fig. 7) indicate the presence of a supracrustal component in the magma from which the TPG and DYC zircons crystallised, but also mixed with mantle-derived components. Zircons from the Famatinian magmatic arc have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values above that for the mantle zircon and negative initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  (Dahlquist et al., 2013; Pankhurst et al., 2014). Ordovician igneous rocks from Sierras Pampeanas have zircon grains with initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values between –3.3 and –14.7 and initial whole rock  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$  values from –3.3 to –6.3 (Dahlquist et al., 2013). This is the same range as recorded in the  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$  values from Ordovician magmatic rocks from the North Patagonian Massif (Pankhurst et al., 2006). Additionally, in central and northern Chile, Palaeozoic accretionary complexes have Ordovician zircon grains probably derived directly from the Famatinian arc (Bahlburg et al., 2009; Hervé et al., 2013). In the late Palaeozoic accretionary complex in central Chile Ordovician zircons yield  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values >6‰ and negative initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  from –0.5 to –6.6 (Willner et al., 2008; Hervé et al., 2013), in the same range as initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values from the accretionary orogens from northern Chile (Bahlburg et al., 2009).

Silurian and Devonian zircons are a very minor component in the studied samples. Carboniferous zircons are practically absent in the Antarctic Peninsula samples and very scarce in the DYC, apart from some late Carboniferous grains in the latter (Fig. 5). According to Riley et al. (2012), Devonian and Carboniferous magmatism is a discrete event in the Antarctic Peninsula, which is restricted to Target Hill. The occurrence of Devonian clasts in the View Point Formation suggests a proximal source (Bradshaw et al., 2012). In South America, there is

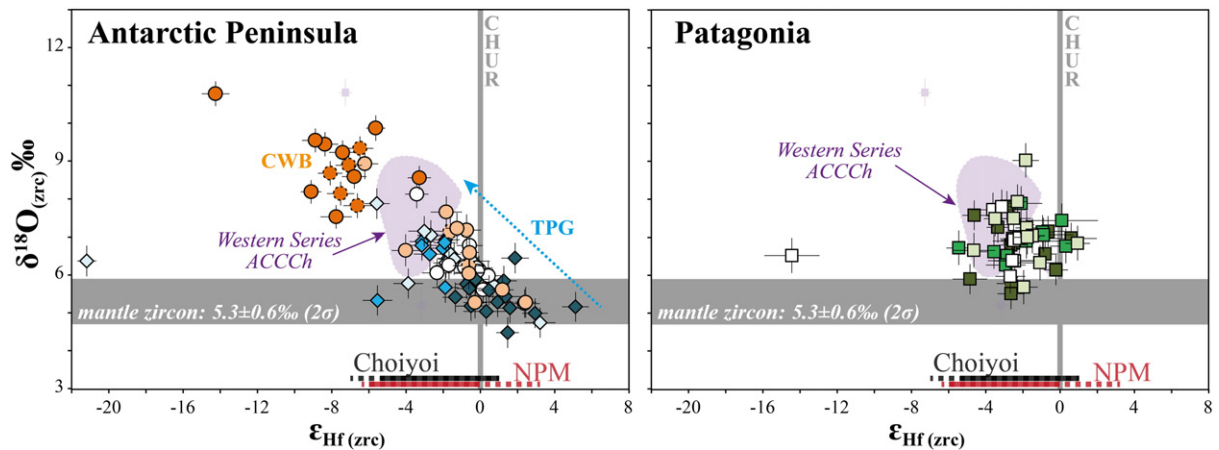


**Fig. 7.** U–Pb zircon ages ( $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ) versus initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values for zircon grains analysed in this study. Diagrams on the left are for samples from the Antarctic Peninsula and those on the right are for samples from Patagonia. Error bars are indicated as 2 sigma. The mantle zircon  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value is from Valley et al. (2005).

evidence for Devonian magmatism and deformation in the eastern flank of the main Andean cordillera between  $39^\circ$  and  $42^\circ\text{S}$  (Hervé et al., 2013 and references therein). Late Carboniferous magmatism, related to subduction, is quite extensive in central Chile (Deckart et al., 2014) with extension as far as the North Patagonian and Deseado Massifs (Pankhurst et al., 2003). Therefore, all these probable source areas were covered or isolated from the Antarctic Peninsula and DYC basins during the Permian.

#### 5.2.2. Principal component: Permian igneous detrital zircon grains

Permian igneous zircon grains were found in all samples from the TPG, recording magmatic activity for at least 30 My, (from ca. 290 to 260 Ma). Fig. 8 shows the negative correlation of initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in Permian TPG zircon grains, i.e. high  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  corresponds with low  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . Such a correlation reflects the interaction of different isotopic reservoirs during zircon crystallisation in a co-genetic magmatic suite (Kemp et al., 2007). Lower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  zircon grains crystallised from a mantle-like derived



**Fig. 8.** Initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  versus  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values for Permian detrital zircon grains in this study. Symbols are the same as those used in Figs. 1 and 7. Dotted symbols are zircons of Triassic age (from CWB). Errors are plotted as 2 sigma. The overlain fields represent the range of the Permian detrital zircon grains from the western series of the late Palaeozoic accretionary complex of Central Chile (AC Cch, Hervé et al., 2013). Initial  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values of zircons from the Choiyoi (Kleiman and Fanning, unpublished) and granitoids from the North Patagonian Massif (Fanning et al., 2011) are plotted in the figure. Dotted lines represent 100% of the data. Continuous lines represent 85% of total data.



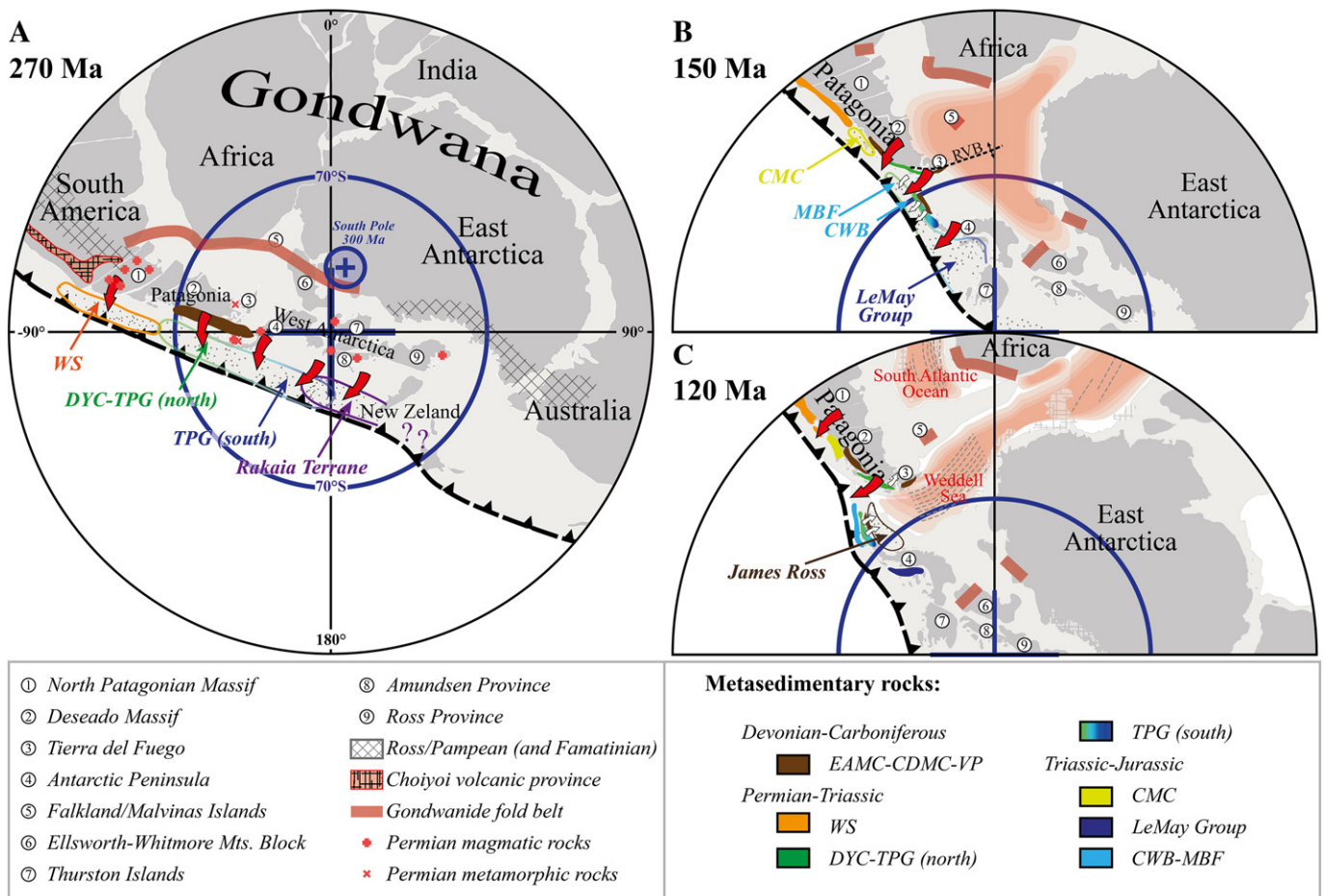
melt. The increase of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , and also the decrease of  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values, records the progressive interaction of this melt with a ‘supracrustal’ component (sedimentary or altered volcanic rocks). Therefore, Hf and O isotope systematics indicate that this Permian magmatism likely formed through incorporation of ancient materials by mantle-derived magmas. Assimilation of continental crust during magma ascent can explain the isotopic differences seen in Permian detrital zircons (e.g. a thicker continental crust to the north), but such isotopic signatures can also be caused by differential amount of subducted continental material (Nebel et al., 2011).

Our results allow the distinction of two different Permian provenance domains within the Permo–Triassic metasediments. These domains were fed from slightly different sources, but it is likely that these came from the same evolving magmatic arc, suggested by a change from a mantle-like signature in the southern domain to more crustal signatures in the northern domain. Permian igneous zircon grains from the DYC have similar isotopic characteristics to those from the northern domain of the TPG (Fig. 8). Different provenance domains and north–south variations were also observed in the petrography and cathodoluminescence colour spectra of detrital quartz (Castillo et al., 2015). The southern domain (or Petrofacies B of Castillo et al., 2015) was derived from a continental block, without any contribution of volcanic lithic fragments, unlike in the northern domain (or Petrofacies A

of Castillo et al., 2015) where a dissected arc provenance was determined (Smellie, 1987; Smellie, 1991; Castillo et al., 2015).

Zircon grains from sample AA1103-02 have a late Permian source with stronger crustal signature (Fig. 8). They have inherited Cambrian zircon cores derived from melting of Cambrian sources. These zircon grains could represent a local and later stage of the Permian arc magmatism, not exposed until the Middle Jurassic when Gondwanan break-up had already started (Fig. 9B). On the other hand, igneous zircon grains from samples VF-14 and Re9-1 overlap with the O and Hf compositions of both domains of the TPG (Fig. 8). Moreover, the detrital record of the Middle to Late Jurassic Botany Bay Group also lacks the ca. 250 Ma population (Barbeau et al., 2010) of the CWB. This suggests a common provenance, or a sedimentary reworking of the TPG in the Middle to Late Jurassic. With the available data we cannot discern between the two possibilities, but it seems unlikely that the CWB did not receive any Permian zircon, with the typical TPG age, O and Hf compositions, if that Permian source was exposed. Exhumation of the TPG by crustal extension during the break-up of Gondwana could have led to reworking of these rocks and also the transportation of Jurassic zircons from the eastern Antarctic Peninsula or southern Patagonia.

The Choiyoi magmatic province is the largest silicic magmatic event in western Gondwana (Kay et al., 1989; Mpodozis and Kay, 1991). It ranges from the arc related magmatism at ca. 281 Ma or lower Choiyoi



**Fig. 9.** Reconstruction of Gondwana from the palaeo-South Pole showing geological elements explained in the text. Sedimentary rocks described in the text: CDMC, Cordillera Darwin Metamorphic Complex; EAMC, Eastern Andes Metamorphic Complex; DYC, Duque de York Complex; TPG, Trinity Peninsula Group; VP, View Point (part of the TPG); WS, western series late Palaeozoic Accretionary Complex of central Chile. (A) Mid Permian reconstruction showing the possible extension of the Permian magmatic arc with southern extension in the South Pole. Red arrows denote the main sediment path. (B) Late Jurassic reconstruction. Reddish area shows the massive extension of continental crust. RVB is the Rocas Verdes Basin. Notice the opposed rotation of the Falkland/Malvinas Islands (clockwise) and the Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountain Block (counter-clockwise). CMC is the Chonos Metamorphic Complex. White arrows denote possible sediment path derived from erosion of the TPG. (C) Mid Cretaceous reconstruction. Grey dotted lines denote the opening of the South Atlantic Ocean and the Weddell Sea floor. White arrows indicate sedimentation in the James Ross basin, in the Upper Cretaceous, with sediments coming from the Antarctic Peninsula (TPG). All reconstructions were modified from Plates UTIG, (König and Jokat, 2006; Dalziel et al., 2013).

(Kleiman and Japas, 2009), to the intraplate post-orogenic suites at ca. 264 Ma and ca. 251 Ma or upper Choiyoi (Rocha-Campos et al., 2011).

To the west and south (present coordinates), the late Palaeozoic accretionary complex of central Chile is the host to a major Permian igneous zircon population. These zircons are clearly traceable to the Choiyoi province and the North Patagonian Massif (the Western Series; Hervé et al., 2013) with similar, or even stronger, crustal isotopic signatures than the DYC Permian zircons (Fig. 8). In case of the TPG, age peaks of ca. 266 to 281 Ma can be coincident with peaks of volcanism, but as discussed by Sepúlveda et al. (2010), the entire Permian can be regarded as a period of active and geographically widespread magmatism in this region of Gondwana. The proposed southern and deeper extensions of the Choiyoi province are the Permian intrusions of the North Patagonian Massif (Fanning et al., 2011). Igneous zircon grains from this area overlap in age and  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values with the TPG, the MBF and the DYC, even though they lack the low  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  CWB population (Fanning et al., 2011). This implies long transport patterns, but such patterns are considered unlikely due to the textural characteristics of the TPG (Castillo et al., 2015) and the DYC (Lacassie et al., 2006).

Permian magmatism involves possible extension further south of the North Patagonian Massif. Subduction along the south Patagonian margin commenced in the late Carboniferous (Augustsson et al., 2006) and active subduction during the Permian is also recorded further south in Marie Byrd Land (Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000). Ramos (2008) proposed a late Palaeozoic magmatic arc with a southern extension under the younger sedimentary and volcanic rocks in the NNE forming the ridge known as the Dungeness High. Moreover, a Permian high T metamorphic event in the basement of Tierra del Fuego has been described by Hervé et al. (2010a). Permian magmatism and metamorphism are also known to have occurred in the central and southern parts of the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 9; Millar et al., 2002; Riley et al., 2012) and Marie Byrd Land (Pankhurst et al., 1998b). In the Antarctic Peninsula, metamorphic and magmatic zircon grains record two Permian events at ca. 252–258 Ma and ca. 272–278 Ma (Riley et al., 2012), but no early Permian zircons are reported; as yet no O, Hf nor Nd isotopic data exist. Permian granitoids from Marie Byrd Land yield zircons with ca. 285, 275 and 253 Ma ages (Pankhurst et al., 1998b; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000). They are I-Type (Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000) and yield whole-rock initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}$  values between  $-1.1$  and  $0.2$  (Pankhurst et al., 1998b), slightly higher than Permian granitoids in the North Patagonian Massif (between  $-2$  and  $-10$ ; Pankhurst et al., 2006), indicative of lower crustal components.

### 5.3. The Permian magmatic arc and regional palaeoenvironmental conditions

We propose that the main source was a Permian magmatic arc with a north–south disposition. Extending from Patagonia (the northern domain), with stronger crustal signatures, towards the Antarctic Peninsula and Marie Byrd Land (southern domain), with mantle-like isotopic signatures (Fig. 9). In Permian times, the South Pole was located in Antarctica (Torsvik et al., 2008; Domeier et al., 2011) and thus the southern domain of the proposed arc magmatism probably occurred along a glaciated margin (Fig. 9A). The glaciation in the Carboniferous–early Permian has been attributed to the high latitude position of Gondwana (Visser, 1996). It initiated in western South America during the Mississippian and concluded in Australia during the Guadalupian with a diachronous deglaciation (Buatois et al., 2006 and references therein). Low chemical weathering in the source area of the TPG also suggests that dry and cold climate in the Antarctic Peninsula persisted during the Permian and Triassic times (see discussion by Castillo et al., 2015). Conversely, in Patagonia or the northern domain, deglaciation started earlier (Lindström and McLoughlin, 2007) and even a humid forest environment has been proposed during the Permian (see discussion by Sepúlveda et al. 2010).

In a cold and dry climate there is less contribution of sediments to the subducting assemblage, therefore magmas formed by subduction at higher latitudes could have lower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , i.e. a warm and wet climate led to more erosion than in colder and dryer times. Additionally, water and specifically meltwater from glacial ice is depleted in  $^{18}\text{O}$  in high latitudes and rocks that interact with this water have low whole-rock  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (Zheng et al., 2007). Therefore, sediments contributed to the subducting assemblage and derived from glaciated sources have lower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  than a normal ‘supracrustal’ magma component (sedimentary rocks have  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  between 10 and 30‰ and altered volcanic rocks ~20‰; Eiler, 2001). Therefore, the contemporaneous northern and southern domains would interact with different climates, which probably affected the isotopic signature of the magma. Although deglaciation from north to south could be fast, a very short time interval of ca. 15 My has been reported between burial of the source sediments and start of partial melting in early Permian granites of the New England Orogen in Australia (Jeon et al., 2012). The initial  $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  of DYC Permian zircons decreases with time (Fig. 7), indicating a consistent rise of sedimentary components in the magma source.

A possible sequence of sedimentary events is presented in Fig. 9:

- (1) After deposition of the sediments of the Eastern Andes Metamorphic Complex in a passive margin, subduction along the south Patagonia–Antarctic Palaeo-Pacific margin commenced in the late Carboniferous to early Permian (Augustsson et al., 2006; Augustsson and Bahlburg, 2007). The sediments of this complex are not glacial deposits and have been compared and correlated, using their detrital zircon age spectra, with samples from the Cordillera Darwin Metamorphic Complex basement (Tierra del Fuego; Hervé et al., 2010b) and the View Point Formation (northern Antarctic Peninsula; Bradshaw et al., 2012; Castillo et al., 2015). We suggest a common origin for these rocks and deposition prior to exhumation and erosion of the Permian arc in the northern domain. Sediments with similar characteristics have not yet been identified in the southern domain (southern Antarctic Peninsula and Marie Byrd Land). Carboniferous glacier deposits are identified in the Ellsworth–Whitmore Mountains block (Matsch and Ojakangas, 1992). They are overlain by Permian and Triassic volcanoclastic rocks with palaeocurrent directions suggesting sources in Marie Byrd Land (Collinson et al., 1992; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000; Elliot et al., 2016). A similar situation is described for the Transantarctic Mountain region (Elliot and Fanning, 2008). Those sediments were probably located in a back arc position at similar latitudes to the southern domain of the TPG.
- (2) The end of the Permian was a time of rapid change from icehouse to greenhouse, which predates the latest Permian–Early Triassic shift to hothouse conditions (Kidder and Worsley, 2004). The most severe mass extinction occurred in this transition (e.g. Erwin, 1994). Although the causes of this extinction are still controversial and probably there was more than one pulse of extinction (Retallack et al., 2006; Song et al., 2013), the correlation with a change in climate suggests that global warming was one of the main causes (Joachimski et al., 2012). It is possible that the widespread volcanism in southern Gondwana could have contributed to global warming and therefore the mass extinction. However, the effect on land was substantial (Benton and Newell, 2014). The release of freshwater during deglaciation, isostatic rebound and stripping of vegetation facilitated massive erosion of the Permian arc and consecutive sedimentation during the Permian and Triassic. The DYC and TPG sediments were deposited in a north–south trend (Fig. 9A). Although Permian igneous rocks do not crop out in southern South America, evidence of Permian high-grade metamorphism (Hervé et al., 2010a) and magmatism (our unpublished data) beneath younger rocks on Tierra del Fuego Island support that extension.

- (3) Stronger convergence from the end of Triassic and early Jurassic and oblique subduction resulted in the breakup and displacement of the sediments deposited in the late Carboniferous and Permian.
- (4) In Jurassic times, the CWB sediments were deposited (Fig. 9B), probably shortly before the Middle Jurassic extrusion of silicic volcanic rocks in Patagonia and the Antarctic Peninsula (Pankhurst et al., 2000). The initial fragmentation of Gondwana involved extreme intercratonic extension, and therefore exposure of the Permo–Triassic sedimentary rocks. This resulted in reworking and deposition of the MBF sediments in the late Jurassic.
- (5) As the Weddell Sea opened (Fig. 9C), in the mid-Cretaceous, the Scotia arc was initiated (Dalziel et al., 2013). This arc is the locally emergent mountain chain extending from the southernmost Andes through the South Sandwich volcanic arc to the Antarctic Peninsula (Dalziel et al., 2013). In the eastern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, the James Ross Basin (northern part of the Larsen Basin) developed in a back-arc setting and received detritus from the nearby volcanic arc and the TPG in the Antarctic Peninsula (Fig. 9C).

## 6. Conclusions

Detrital zircon grains from the Trinity Peninsula Group (TPG) have major age peaks at ca. 266, 275 and 288 Ma, similar to the Duque de York Complex (DYC). Morphological characteristics of the detrital zircon grains and internal structures indicate that they are igneous in origin and had a short transport from the source region, consistent with previous provenance studies. Hf and O isotopes for those zircon grains suggest that their magmatic protoliths were formed by interaction between crust- and mantle-derived magmas, consistent with continental arc magmatism. Although the TPG and DYC have a common major Permian age peak, the DYC lacks a mantle-like source component as found in the southern TPG (sample PANTI-20). These isotopic variations were interpreted as being the result of the increase of the sedimentary component in the arc magma source to the northern regions.

Ordovician detrital zircon grains at ca. 470 Ma are a significant age component in the northern TPG and Desolación Island in Patagonia. This age is associated with the Famatinian orogenic belt in South America. However, Hf and O isotopes record juvenile compositions for the TPG and DYC, a feature yet to be recorded in South America.

Late Permian zircon grains from the Cape Wallace Beds (CWB) record a subordinate, probably local magmatic episode exposed to erosion by the Middle Jurassic. Inheritance and higher  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  coupled with lower  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}$  values point to a stronger supracrustal influence in the magma from which the CWB zircon crystallised. In contrast, the Miers Bluff Formation and Re9-1 samples have Permian zircon grains with the same U–Pb ages, O and Hf compositions as their TPG counterparts. Those sediments are probably derived from the erosion of the TPG.

The Choiyoi group and the North Patagonian Massif are the most popular source candidates for the Permian zircon grains. However, Ordovician mantle-like and Cambrian zircons, added to climate considerations suggest a different location of the source: probably an extension from Tierra del Fuego Island into West Antarctica.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jgr.2015.07.014>.

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