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Geochronology of Mid-Devonian Clastic Sediments in the Barrandian, Bohemian Massif

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The deposition of Givetian siliciclastic turbidites and calciturbidites in the Teplá-Barrandian Zone in Central Bohemia is often interpreted as resulting from an early stage of Variscan orogeny (Kukal and Jager, 1988; Strnad and Hladil, 2001). The sediments contain variable amounts detrital silicate minerals and carbonate component. K-Ar age of detrital muscovites in this formation is ca 490 Ma (Ahrendt et al., 1998), however ages and source of other detrital components have not been previously studied. Clastic minerals include mostly angular and subangular grains of quartz and alkali feldspar. Biogenic fragments such as spicules of sponges, radiolaria, dactyloconoids and other non-identified calcareous organic detritus are also present. Illite crystallinity (Ahrendt et al., 1998) and optical microscope study suggest that the mid-Devonian clastic sediments experienced only a weak diagenetic transformation. The heavy mineral assemblage recovered from six sediment samples consists of several size, shape and colour populations of garnet and zircon, pyroxene, tourmaline, apatite, hornblende, leucoxene and Fe-sulphides. Size of zircon grains does not usually exceed 200 microns. Rounded elongate and spherical zircons are present in all studied samples and often show extensive mechanical abrasion, idiomorphic crystals are less common. The U-Pb isotopic system in zircons hence represents an ideal tool to study the provenance of the Givetian sediments in the Barrandian.

The U-Pb and Pb-Pb laser ablation ICP MS isotopic data from studied detrital zircons indicate that the source area included Archean to early Palaeozoic rocks with ages between 3.0–0.4 Ga. The secondary and backscattered electron images of zircons suggest that the Archean (3.0 and 2.6 Ga) and early Proterozoic ages (2.2–2.0 Ga) represent a strongly reworked and recycled Gondwana material. Detrital zircons of Grenvillian age (ca 1.65 Ga) are scarce in the studied sediments. The late Proterozoic – early

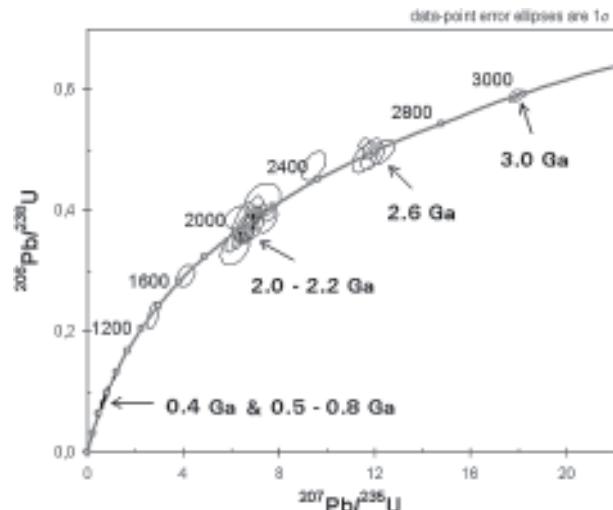


Fig. 1. U-Pb Concordia plot of detrital zircon analyses from samples of Barrandian Mid-Devonian sediments.

Palaearctic (Pan-African) ages between 800–550 Ma correspond to zircons with variable shapes and internal zoning. The c. 600 Ma zircon data may correspond to ages on granitic magmatism, the relics of which are also found in the Cambrian and Neoproterozoic conglomerates (Dörr et al., 1992). The late Cambrian ages of ca 500 Ma correspond to idiomorphic elongate zircons such as are found in magmatic and metamorphic rocks along the south-western margin of the Teplá-Barrandian (Bowes and Aftalion, 1991; Zulauf et al., 1997; Dörr et al., 1998). This may suggest that in the Mid-Devonian times a significant amount of material was transported to the Barrandian basin from the south and southwest. The youngest identified zircons so far yielded Lower Devonian ages.

Six analysed whole rock samples from the Srbsko formation gave identical mean crustal residence Nd single stage model ages, suggesting that the source rocks of the sediments were derived from a depleted mantle at ca 1.6 Ga, i.e. similar to the Nd model ages for Barrandian Proterozoic graywackes (1.6–1.8 Ga; Janoušek and Vokurka 1998). Collectively, our U-Pb zircon and Nd whole-rock data suggest that the studied Givetian sediments were mostly derived from Proterozoic rock sequences, with contribution of Cambro-Ordovician magmatic rocks. Significant contribution of Devonian magmatic and metamorphic rocks still remains unclear.

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Apatite Fission Track Analyses from the Polish Western Carpathians

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Introduction

The Polish Western Carpathians (PWC) form the northernmost part of the Carpathian belt, which belongs to the Alpine-Carpathian orogenic system (Fig. 1). The PWC are subdivided into two main tectonic units: 1) The Inner Carpathians (IC), interpreted as representing the Southern (Apulian) margin of the Tethyan ocean and 2) The Outer Carpathians (OC) composed of turbiditic sequences (Fig. 2) developed on the northern margin of the Tethys, which are commonly correlated with the Alpine flysch (e.g., Csontos et al., 1992). The OC flysch sequences were thrust towards NNE during early-middle Miocene forming a nappe stack (Zytko, 1999), (Fig. 2). The IC and the OC are separated by the narrow Pieniny Klippen Belt (PKB), which comprises dominantly strongly deformed carbonates. Between PKB and the Tatra Mts. an intra-mountain Podhale basin developed, which contains Paleogene flysch deposits (Fig. 2).

In order to constrain exhumation history of the PWC and to estimate the effects of Neogene thrusting on the thermal structure of the OC, we performed apatite fission track analyses (AFT) on major tectonic units along Kraków – Zakopane section (Fig. 2). Our preliminary results are presented below.

Results

Seven samples were analysed from the crystalline rocks of the Tatra Mts, which represent the IC unit. Our results are broadly

similar to those obtained by Burchart (1972). Three samples from the High (eastern) Tatra (T5-T7) yielded nearly identical ages of c. 11 Ma (Fig. 1), while other three, from the Western Tatra (T1-T3), show a rather wide scatter of ages from c. 12 to 20 Ma. This difference in ages is probably resulting from slightly larger uplift in the High Tatra and some faulting. Track length analyses suggest moderate exhumation rates (Fig. 2).

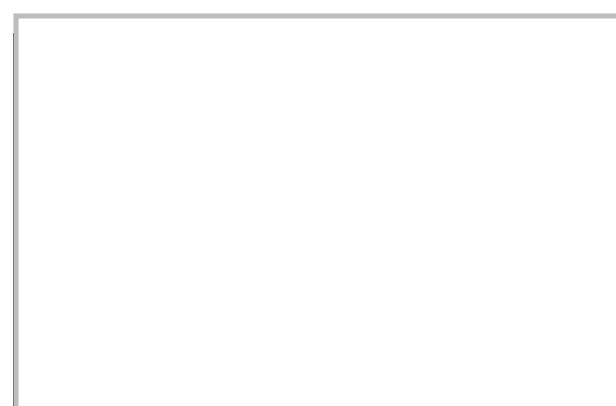


Fig. 1 Simplified geological map of the Alpine-Carpathian belt (based on Roca et al., 1995). Rectangular marks area shown in Fig. 2.