Origin and Metamorphic Evolution of Blueschists and Very Low-Grade Rocks of the Meliata Unit, Western Carpathians

Shah Wali FARYAD[1]

[1] *Institute of Petrology and Structural Geology, Charles Universit, Albertov 2, Prague, Czech Republic*

Numerous petrological data on the blueschist facies rocks of the Meliata Unit have been obtained during the last decade (e.g. Faryad, 1995, Ivan and Kronome, 1996). Recently we have examined the very low-grade rocks (Arkai et al., 2003), which occur in the vicinity of this unit and obtained new structural data (Faryad et al., 2003) that help to determine more precisely the exhumation history of the high-pressure rocks. The Meliata accretionary wedge is situated along the southern margin of the West Carpathians in Slovakia and northern Hungary. Geochemical and petrological character of the Meliata metabasites indicates a continental rift volcanism to have taken part during rifting followed by spreading and formation of oceanic crust of the Triassic Meliata basin. Part of the oceanic crust and adjacent continental margin, underwent blueschist facies metamorphism during the Middle Jurassic subduction. These low-grade metamorphic rocks were exhumed and now occur in the mélange complex of the Meliata Unit in southern part of the Gemericum. The crustal rocks are represented by shallow water sediments and basement rocks with relics of amphibolite facies metamorphism. The accretionary wedge is a complex pile of crustal and oceanic units, which are built from bottom to top by three thrust sheets consisting of subblueschist, blueschist and very low-grade metamorphic rocks from bottom to respectively (Faryad et al., 2003). Maximum PT conditions, reached during the Middle Jurassic (155–160 Ma) blueschist facies metamorphism, were10-13 kbar and 400–450 °C. Sedimentary series and related basalts forming the mélange matrix suffered high-T anchizonal prograde regional metamorphism, the temperature and pressure of which might have varied between ca 280 and 340 °C and ca 1.5 and 3 kbar. The mylonitic retrogression of blueschist facies phyllites is characterized by 340 °C and 4 kbar. The mélange rocks are composed of Permian evaporates and Jurassic shells, marls and sandstones, which contain blocks (olistoliths) of Triassic radiolarites, cherts, limestones, serpentinites, gabbros and blueschists. Structural and metamorphic evolution of the Meliata accretionary wedge is characterized by fabrics and mineral assemblages testifying HP stage, retrogression during exhumation and emplacement of thrust sheets and late shortening of the whole wedge due to buttressing. The age of prograde anchizonal and retrograde blueschists ranges between ca 150 and 120 Ma, culminating at around 140–145 Ma. Thus, the very low-grade metamorphism of the Meliata sedimentary pile was younger than the subduction-related blueschist facies metamorphism.

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Application of Multicomponent Diffusion Modeling to Garnets in Polymetamorphic Rocks From the Eastern Alps

Shah Wali FARYAD[1] *and Sumit CHAKRABORTY*[2]

[1] *Institute of Petrology and Structural Geology, Charles University, Albertov 2, Prague, Czech Republic*

[2] *Institute of Geology, Mineralogy and Geophysics, Ruhr University, Germany*

Diffusion that occurs during geological processes in many minerals, e.g. garnet result from simultaneous flow of more than two components. In a multi-component system, the diffusion flux of any component does not depend only on its own chemical potential gradient, but also on those of all other diffusing components. Such systems can be modeled using the D-matrix formulation by Onsager (1945). Diffusion along a non-isothermal path can be modeled either numerically or by using the concept of a characteristic diffusion coefficient.

The multicomponent diffusion profiles measured in the microprobe in natural garnets were modeled using the approach, proposed by Chakraborty and Ganguly (1991). This method is applied to garnet in polymetamorphic rocks from the Austroalpine units of the Eastern Alps. The basement pelitic rocks contain porphyroblastic garnet (up to 2 cm in size) that shows two growth zones: a Pre-Alpine core (Alm_{71-83}, Grs_{3-16}, Sps_{0-15}, Prp_{5-9}) and an Eo-Alpine rim (Alm_{71-82}, Grs_{4-24}, Sps_{0-2}, Prp_{10-21}). Both core and rim are visible in hand specimen, because they contain different amounts of inclusions or opaque minerals (ilmenite and graphite) along their boundaries. These two garnets with distinct Ca, Fe and Mg contents have mostly sharp contact with very narrow diffusion zone. The old garnet reveals progressive zoning with bell shaped Mn profile which suggest either relatively low-temperature or short time span for