



# In-situ determination of major and trace elements in calcite and apatite, and U–Pb ages of apatite from the Oka carbonatite complex: Insights into a complex crystallization history

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## ABSTRACT

This study reports in-situ determination of major and trace element compositions of calcite and apatite, and U–Pb ages of apatite for carbonatites and associated okaites and ijolites from the Oka carbonatite complex (Canada). Both apatite and calcite are rare earth element (REE)-enriched (total REEs > 4 wt.%), with REE and SiO<sub>2</sub> contents that correlate positively in apatite. This result supports the previously proposed substitution scheme of  $REE^{3+} + Si^{4+} = Ca^{2+} + P^{5+}$ . With the exception of Ba, Sr, and Mn, the other trace elements investigated preferentially partition into apatite relative to calcite. Trace element abundances for apatite and calcite both within and between different samples exhibit large variations, which cannot be reconciled with equilibrium or fractional crystallization from a single parental melt using available partition coefficient data. In-situ U–Pb ages determined by laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) on individual apatite grains (total of 215 analyses) from carbonatites (n = 7), okaites (n = 4), and ijolites (n = 2) define a relatively large range, from ~111 and ~129 Ma. Evidence for protracted magmatic history is also present within individual samples. Apatite from one ijolite defines two distinct ages; an older age of  $127 \pm 3.6$  Ma is recorded in apatite inclusions within early-formed melanite, whereas apatite within matrix calcite is characterized by a younger age of  $115 \pm 5.1$  Ma. U–Pb ages obtained for all apatite from carbonatites, okaites and ijolites yield bimodal distributions with peaks at ~113 to ~117 and ~125 to ~127 Ma. Our multi-faceted investigation of individual minerals has documented, for the first time, a bimodal age distribution and simultaneous emplacement of the carbonatites and associated okaites and ijolites at the Oka carbonatite complex. The combined large variations in major and trace element compositions recorded by both apatite and calcite, and petrographic textural evidences are consistent with a complex crystallization history involving mixing of discrete partial melts.

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## 1. Introduction

The Oka carbonatite complex, located ~40 km west of Montréal, is one of the most westerly intrusions of the Monteregian Igneous Province (MIP; Gold, 1972; Gold et al., 1986; Fig. 1). The carbonatites and feldspathoid-bearing rocks of the Oka carbonatite complex intrude Precambrian basement rocks and form two distinct intrusive centers; these are the northern and southern ring structures that impart a distorted figure eight structure (Gold et al., 1967; Gold, 1972; Fig. 2). Both the northern and southern ring centers are composed of an earlier outer annulus of alkalic silicate-rich rocks and a later central plug of carbonatite (Treiman and Essene, 1985). Alnöitic breccia pipes and dikes of dolomitic carbonatite cut through the complex (Gold et al., 1986). The Oka carbonatite complex is one of the youngest carbonatite complexes in North America (~110 Ma; e.g., Wen

et al., 1987), and contains both carbonatite and silicate rocks, which have been investigated for their major and trace element compositions (e.g., Eby, 1975; Gold et al., 1986; Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998). The Oka complex was mined several years ago for Nb (pyrochlore), and three significant occurrences of Nb are found within the Oka complex—St. Lawrence Columbian Deposit, the Bond Zone, and the NIOCAN deposit (Fig. 2). Zurevinski and Mitchell (2004) were the first to report a detailed mineralogical study of pyrochlore-group minerals from the NIOCAN deposit. Despite the significant number of previous investigations of the alkaline rocks from Oka, there remain several unanswered, important questions in relation to its petrogenetic history. For example, the temporal (age) and petrological relationship between the alkaline silicate rocks and the carbonatites has yet to be thoroughly investigated.

A brief summary of the main geological units for the Oka complex (taken from Gold et al., 1986) is provided here. The main rock type at Oka is a coarse-grained calciocarbonatite (sövite) containing accessory minerals such as biotite, apatite, nepheline, monticellite, melilite, pyrochlore, perovskite, niocalite, magnetite, wollastonite, richterite, pyrite, Na-augite, and pyrrhotite. Ijolite (~50% pyroxene, ~50%

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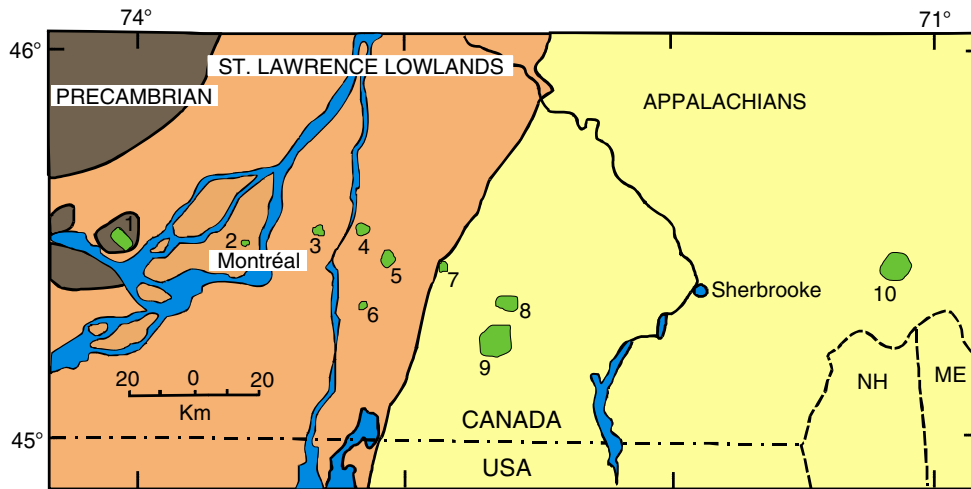


Fig. 1. Regional map showing distribution of intrusions associated with the Monteregian Igneous Province (MIP) including the Oka carbonatite complex (after Foland et al., 1986). Intrusions identified on the map are: 1–Oka; 2–Royal; 3–Bruno; 4–St. Hilaire; 5–Rougemont; 6–Johnson; 7–Yamaska; 8–Shefford; 9–Brome; 10–Megantic.

nepheline) and okaite are amongst the most common undersaturated silicate rock types found at Oka. Okaite occurs solely in the northern ring and is composed of melilite (60–90%), nepheline (40–10%), and minor or accessory amounts of hauyne, perovskite, apatite, biotite, magnetite and calcite. Amongst the minor minerals, apatite, which commonly makes up 2–5% by volume of the carbonatites at Oka, is considered important because of its petrogenetic significance in magmatic carbonate systems (Bühn et al., 2001; Hammouda et al., 2010). In addition, apatite possibly controls the whole rock rare earth element (REE) budget of carbonatites (Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998), and occurs in both the carbonatite and silica-undersaturated rocks at Oka. Moreover, Chew et al. (2011) have shown that in-situ U–Pb age determination of magmatic apatite by laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) is an effective geochronometer.

Available geochronological data for various minerals and/or rock types from the Oka carbonatite complex define a wide range of ages

since Wen et al. (1987) reported a Rb–Sr biotite-whole rock isochron age of  $109 \pm 2$  Ma. In contrast, Cox and Wilton (2006) obtained a perovskite age from carbonatite by LA-ICP-MS of  $131 \pm 7$  Ma. Apatite fission track ages for the Oka complex vary from  $118 \pm 4$  Ma to  $133 \pm 11$  Ma (Gold et al., 1986). On the basis of apatite fission track ages for the Monteregian Igneous Province, Eby (1985) suggested that the Monteregian Igneous Province-related intrusions were emplaced during two distinct time intervals; an early voluminous event between 129 and 141 Ma, and a later event at 117 to 121 Ma, which produced the carbonatites and K-rich alnöites from a garnet lherzolite source.

The main focus of this study is to document the major and trace element compositions of both calcite and apatite at the micron scale from various carbonatite, okaite, and ijolite samples from Oka, and obtain *in-situ* U–Pb ages for apatite. These trace element data will then be used to test the feasibility of equilibrium and/or fractional crystallization modeling assuming derivation from a single parental

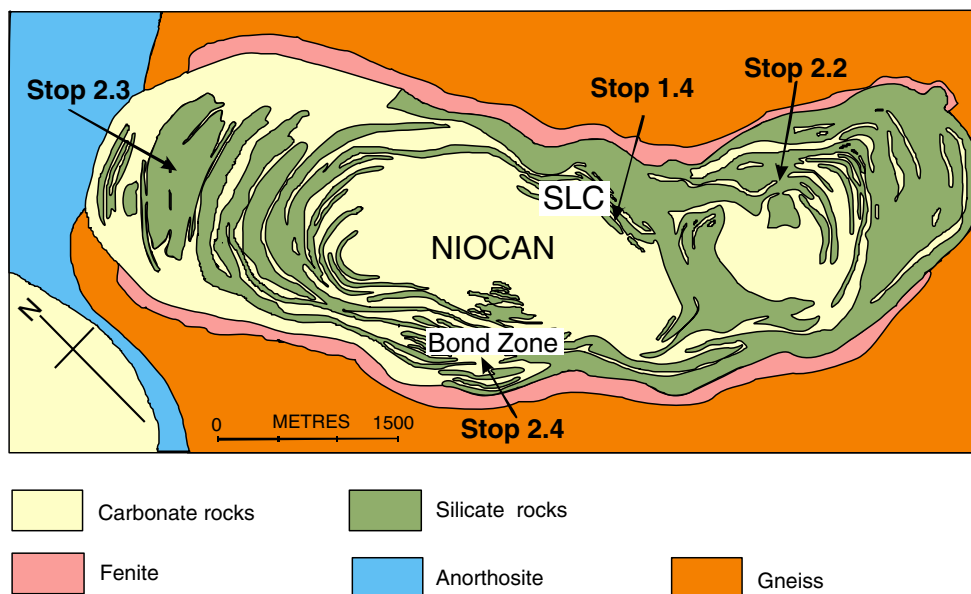


Fig. 2. Geological map of the Oka carbonatite complex (after Gold, 1972; Gold et al., 1986). Sample stop numbers correspond to those from the 1986 GAC-MAC-sponsored Oka field excursion (Gold et al., 1986). Figure adapted from Wen et al. (1987) and Zurevinski and Mitchell (2004). Locations shown for the Nb deposits are: SLC (St. Lawrence Columbian), NIOCAN, and Bond Zone.

**Table 1**  
Petrographic descriptions (modal%) and locations of samples investigated.

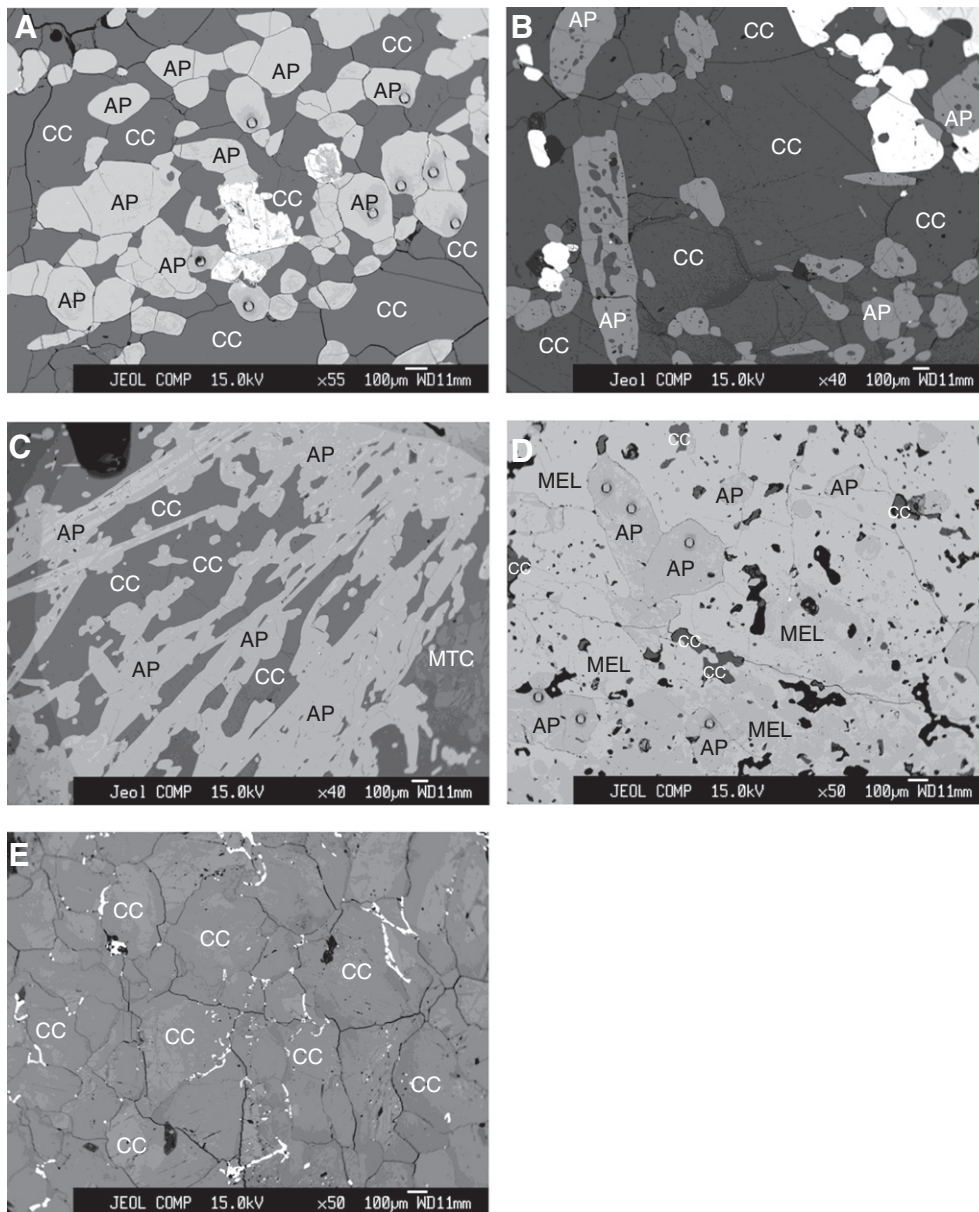
Location	Latitude	Longitude	Sample number	Rock type	Calcite	Apatite	Biotite	Monticellite	Oxides	Melilite	Melanite	Wollastonite	Pyrochlore	Perovskite	Pyroxene	Nepheline	Niocalite			
Stop1.4	74°02'N	45°30'W	Oka50	Calcio-carbonatite	99	1														
			Oka51	Calcio-carbonatite	70	5	3	15	8											
			Oka53	Calcio-carbonatite	93	2		5												
			Oka92	Calcio-carbonatite	84	7	7	2												
			Oka100b	Calcio-carbonatite	88	5	7													
			Oka109	Calcio-carbonatite	95	<1	3				1									
Stop2.2	74°00'50"N	45°29'40"W	Oka119	Calcio-carbonatite	99			1												
			Oka21	Melanite calcitic ijolite	5	5						30				30	30			
			Oka31	Melanite calcitic ijolite	10	5						40					25	20		
Stop2.3	74°03'30"N	45°31'35"W	Oka89	Melanite calcio-carb.	45	2					40				7	3				
			Oka200a	Calcio-carbonatite	83	7		10												
			Oka200b	Calcio-carbonatite	70	10	15			2						3				
Stop2.4	74°03'N	45°30'8"W	Oka200c	Calcio-carbonatite	80	5	2	1	3											
			Oka137	Okaite	15	10	23				6				2					
			Oka138	Okaite	20	5	10				5	6								
			Oka229	Okaite	20	5	5					62				8				
			Oka4a	Calcio-carbonatite	62	3					10	15		10						
			Oka4b	Calcio-carbonatite	63	5			2		5	10		15						
Stop2b	74°03'N	45°30'8"W	Oka7	Calcio-carbonatite	50	15			5	10		20								
			Oka72	Calcio-carbonatite	58	10	2	2	10											
			Oka144	Calcio-carbonatite	75	3	1			5	6		10							
			Oka147	Calcio-carbonatite	75	5	3	15		2										
			Oka153	Calcio-carbonatite	67	7				3			7				15			
			Oka206	Calcio-carbonatite	57	10			1	5	3		15		1				5	
			Oka227	Calcio-carbonatite	78	5	8					8								
			Oka203	Calcio-carbonatite	50	15					5	5		5			5		15	

magma. The combined elemental abundances and U–Pb ages will help to evaluate the temporal relationship between the carbonatites and associated alkaline silicate rocks. Finally, to our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate in detail the mineralogy and composition of the okaites and ijolites at Oka, and their temporal relationship to the carbonatites.

## 2. Samples

Petrographic descriptions and locations of the samples investigated here are listed in Table 1 and shown in Fig. 2. The stop numbers outlined in Fig. 2 refer to the locations for most of the samples investigated and correspond to those reported in the Oka field guide of Gold et al. (1986). Stop1.4 is located in the southern ring within the abandoned mine workings of the St. Lawrence Columbian and Metals Corporation.

Coarse-grained carbonatites investigated lack pyrochlore and contain accessory apatite, biotite, monticellite, and oxides. Melanite carbonatite and calcitic ijolite are the dominant rock types in Stop2.2, which are also located in the southern ring (proximal to the Nature Center), and consist predominantly of melanite, clinopyroxene, nepheline and accessory apatite. Stop2.3 is located in the Husereau Hill area within the northern ring, and it is the type locality for okaite. The latter is a melilite-bearing rock, with accessory calcite, apatite, biotite, perovskite and other oxides; examples include samples Oka137, Oka138 and Oka229. Coarse-grained carbonatites within the Husereau Hill area can contain >5 modal% apatite along with other accessory minerals such as biotite, monticellite, and oxides. Carbonatites from Stop2.4 located within the Bond Zone, contain a variety of accessory minerals; i.e., apatite, monticellite, oxide, melilite, biotite, pyroxene, wollastonite, niocalite and pyrochlore.



**Fig. 3.** Back-scattered electron (BSE) images of apatite and calcite grains from Oka. (A) accumulation layer of apatite grains within sample Oka153 (carbonatite, Stop 2.4); (B) apatite grains riddled with inclusions of calcite from Oka51 (carbonatite, Stop 1.4); (C) elongate, skeletal apatite grains from Oka137 (okaite, Stop 2.3); (D) apatite inclusions within large melanite (MEL) crystal, which define 'older' ages from Oka31 (calcitic ijolite, Stop 2.2)—see text for details; (E) zoned calcite from Oka109 (carbonatite, Stop 1.4). Laser ablation spots for U–Pb analysis within apatites are shown in (A) and (D).

### 3. Analytical methods

#### 3.1. Electron microprobe analysis

Major element analyses and back-scattered electron (BSE) mapping (Fig. 3) were conducted by electron microprobe analysis (EMPA) using a JEOL JXA 8200 at Washington University, St. Louis. Calcite and apatite were analyzed for Ca, P, Fe, Mn, Mg, Sr, Si, La, Ce, Pr, Sm, F, Cl using ~75 to ~100  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, 1-inch round petrographic thin sections. For P, Ca, Mg, Fe and Mn, counting time was 30 s on peak, using standards of apatite, calcite, forsterite, fayalite, and Mn olivine, respectively. For Si, the counting time was 30 s and calibrated using a forsterite standard. Fluorine was analyzed on a LDE1 crystal with 100 s counting time and the Durango apatite standard. For Cl, tugtupite was used as the standard with a 30 s count time. For Sr, the  $\text{L}\alpha$  line and Sr titanite standard were employed with a counting time of 30 s. REEs were analyzed with a LiFH crystal using  $\text{L}\alpha$  line for La and Ce, and  $\text{L}\beta$  line for both Nd and Sm. Counting times were 30 s on peak and using the USNM phosphate standards. The typical beam size was 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , an accelerating voltage of 15 kV, and a beam current of 35 nA. Polynomial background corrections were used for F and Si, whereas a linear background correction was used for the remaining elements. Analyses were acquired using the Probe for Windows software and X-ray correction was performed using the CITZAF software (Armb, 1995).

#### 3.2. Trace element analysis by LA-ICP-MS

In-situ trace element analyses of individual calcite and apatite grains were obtained using a UP213 nm laser ablation system coupled to a Thermo-Finnigan Element2 sector field high-resolution ICP-MS. Table 2a lists the instrument parameters and conditions used for the in-situ trace element analysis. The analytical protocol employed is similar to that outlined in Simonetti et al. (2008a). The NIST SRM 610 international glass standard was used for external calibration and  $^{43}\text{Ca}$  ion signal intensities were employed as the internal standard to monitor instrumental drift. The content (wt.%) of CaO was obtained using EMPA. The NIST SRM 610 standard, and calcite and apatite grains were ablated using a 25  $\mu\text{m}$  spot size, 4–5 Hz repetition rate, and 80% power output corresponding to an energy density of ~10 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Analyses were conducted in a He atmosphere (0.7 to 1.0 l/min) within the ablation cell, and mixed with Ar (0.6 to 1.0 l/min) prior to entering the torch assembly. A typical analysis consisted of a ~60 s background measurement followed by data acquisition and ablation for ~60 s using a rapid peak jumping and dwell time of 8 ms for each element reported. Data reduction, including concentration determinations, method detection limits and internal uncertainties were obtained using GLITTER laser ablation software (Van Achterbergh et al., 2001). The accuracy of the laser ablation protocol employed here was assessed by repeat analysis of the matrix-matched, in-house Durango apatite standard (Simonetti et al., 2008a; Table 3b). In addition, the in-situ trace element abundances for both calcite and apatite

**Table 2a**

Instrumental parameters and conditions for in-situ trace element analysis.

<i>ICP-MS</i>	
Type	Magnetic sector field
Brand and model	ThermoFinnigan Element2
Forward power	1250 W
Cooling gas (Ar)	16.1 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Auxiliary gas (Ar)	0.94 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Sample gas (Ar)	1.123 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Carrier gas (He)	0.7 l min <sup>-1</sup>
<i>LASER</i>	
Type	Nd:YAG
Brand and model	New Wave Research UP213
Wavelength	213 nm
Pulse duration	5 ns
Spot size	25 $\mu\text{m}$
Repetition rate	5 Hz
Nominal energy output	80%
Laser fluency	13–14.5 J cm <sup>-2</sup>
<i>Data acquisition parameters</i>	
Resolution mode	Medium
Data acquisition protocol	Time-resolved analysis
Scan mode	E-scan
Scanned masses	<sup>43</sup> Ca, <sup>45</sup> Sc, <sup>47</sup> Ti, <sup>53</sup> Cr, <sup>55</sup> Mn, <sup>59</sup> Co, <sup>60</sup> Ni, <sup>69</sup> Ga, <sup>85</sup> Rb, <sup>86</sup> Sr, <sup>89</sup> Y, <sup>90</sup> Zr, <sup>93</sup> Nb, <sup>133</sup> Cs, <sup>138</sup> Ba, <sup>139</sup> La, <sup>140</sup> Ce, <sup>141</sup> Pr, <sup>146</sup> Nd, <sup>147</sup> Sm, <sup>153</sup> Eu, <sup>160</sup> Gd, <sup>159</sup> Tb, <sup>163</sup> Dy, <sup>165</sup> Ho, <sup>166</sup> Er, <sup>169</sup> Tm, <sup>172</sup> Yb, <sup>175</sup> Lu, <sup>180</sup> Hf, <sup>181</sup> Ta, <sup>208</sup> Pb, <sup>232</sup> Th, <sup>238</sup> U
Settling time	0.001–0.300 s
Sample time	0.008 s
Samples per peak	1
Number of scans	167
Detector mode	Both counting and analog
Detector deadtime	25 ns
Background collection	60 s
Ablation time for concentration calculation	60 s
Washout	30 s
<i>Standardisation and data reduction</i>	
External standard	NIST SRM 610
Data reduction software used	GLITTER

**Table 2b**

Instrumental parameters and conditions for in-situ U–Pb dating analysis.

<i>ICP-MS</i>	
Type	Magnetic Sectorfield
Brand and model	ThermoFinnigan Element2
Forward power	1250 W
Cooling gas (Ar)	16.1 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Auxiliary gas (Ar)	0.94 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Sample gas (Ar)	1.123 l min <sup>-1</sup>
Carrier gas (He)	0.7 l min <sup>-1</sup>
<i>LASER</i>	
Type	Nd:YAG
Brand and model	New Wave Research UP213
Wavelength	213 nm
Pulse duration	5 ns
Spot size	55 $\mu\text{m}$
Repetition rate	5 Hz
Nominal energy output	55%
Laser fluency	3 J cm <sup>-2</sup>
<i>Data acquisition parameters</i>	
Resolution mode	Medium
Data acquisition protocol	Time-resolved analysis
Scan mode	E-scan
Scanned masses	<sup>202</sup> Hg, <sup>204</sup> (Pb + Hg), <sup>206</sup> Pb, <sup>207</sup> Pb, <sup>208</sup> Pb, <sup>232</sup> Th, <sup>235</sup> U, <sup>238</sup> U and <sup>232</sup> Th <sup>16</sup> O
Settling time	0.001 s
Sample time	0.006 s
Samples per peak	4
Number of scans	1000
Detector mode	counting
Detector deadtime	25 ns
Background collection	30 s
Ablation time for age calculation	30 s
Washout	15 s
<i>Standardisation and data reduction</i>	
External standard	Madagascar and Emerald Lake apatites
Data reduction software used	in-house



**Table 3a**  
Average trace element compositions for calcite by LA-ICP-MS.

Stop	Stop1.4							Stop 2.3					
	Oka50	Oka51	Oka53	Oka92	Oka100b	Oka109	Oka119	Oka137	Oka138	Oka229	Oka200a	Oka200b	Oka200c
	n = 10	n = 13	n = 10	n = 11	n = 17	n = 27	n = 8	n = 5	n = 6	n = 9	n = 11	n = 16	n = 13
Mn	1641	622	5140	915	3144	4284	1493	326	486	574	3159	1793	1571
Rb	0.92	0.28	0.27	1.43	1.80	1.33	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	0.49	0.39	3.39	
Sr	7262	8946	8680	28660	4857	77718	7870	12219	13639	14850	10237	9895	3979
Y	42.42	9.57	44.70	16.62	34.99	33.55	22.45	11.46	14.13	10.65	42.08	29.03	45.96
Ba	1172	787	1318	610	1930	1962	1251	1321	1269	1653	1227	927	1229
La	407	106	454	259	676	253	328	400	540	356	444	299	416
Ce	527	128	616	316	816	422	446	462	624	411	581	326	446
Pr	53.86	9.62	57.08	30.54	75.58	43.82	40.82	35.65	48.30	31.93	54.98	31.20	50.74
Nd	192	27	168	86	239	147	116	99	134	94	178	100	116
Sm	24.29	2.88	18.15	10.50	23.25	19.91	11.40	8.95	12.66	8.31	19.90	10.54	13.26
Eu	6.05	0.97	5.95	3.07	7.16	6.02	4.16	2.35	3.66	2.29	5.72	2.52	4.64
Gd	12.62	1.63	11.72	4.44	13.17	11.80	7.30	4.60	5.67	4.55	10.52	5.12	9.95
Tb	1.71	0.21	1.60	0.65	1.29	1.26	0.95	0.54	0.67	0.47	1.33	0.77	1.37
Dy	8.16	1.14	8.03	3.02	6.99	7.66	4.06	2.08	2.53	1.93	7.73	4.75	5.54
Ho	1.41	0.26	1.60	0.56	1.00	1.04	0.66	0.40	0.48	0.41	1.39	0.84	1.36
Er	3.46	0.86	4.46	1.48	2.92	2.88	1.87	0.89	1.00	0.85	3.88	2.33	3.75
Tm	0.51	0.12	0.60	0.28	0.38	0.42	0.20	0.10	0.12	0.10	0.49	0.37	0.45
Yb	3.13	0.91	4.14	1.52	2.22	2.61	1.54	0.64	0.81	0.56	3.66	2.28	4.55
Lu	0.54	0.15	0.63	0.34	0.60	0.39	0.19	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.50	0.40	0.78
Pb	6.35	0.75	8.58	0.98	5.16	5.61	3.76	1.48	1.00	2.65	8.28	2.00	7.85
Th	0.23	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.09	0.33	0.04	0.01	b.d.	0.02	0.04	0.04	b.d.
U	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.44	0.08	b.d.	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05
REE	1240	279	1352	717	1865	920	964	1017	1374	913	1312	785	1074
La/Yb	130	117	110	171	304	97	213	621	668	633	121	131	92
(La/Yb) <sub>N</sub>	14	12	11	18	32	10	22	64	69	66	13	14	10

Stop	Stop2.2			Stop2.4								
	Oka21	Oka31	Oka89	Oka4a	Oka4b	Oka7	Oka72	Oka144	Oka147	Oka153	Oka206	Oka227
	n = 2	n = 6	n = 14	n = 13	n = 12	n = 9	n = 10	n = 17	n = 9	n = 15	n = 14	n = 9
Mn	1665	753	786	894	556	469	270	463	687	810	559	1326
Rb	b.d.	b.d.	0.46	b.d.	0.80	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	0.39	b.d.	0.61
Sr	3770	22424	5813	4275	9375	9041	11558	3262	10679	10620	15628	11718
Y	5.57	6.89	6.59	4.13	3.15	2.08	5.23	3.78	8.53	4.14	3.81	26.19
Ba	1682	1677	1254	1107	1128	821	705	882	927	1290	1062	930
La	280	290	289	168	131	97	86	139	104	109	140	383
Ce	335	374	393	177	155	126	107	208	128	133	167	494
Pr	27.21	34.32	32.91	15.68	12.71	9.62	8.38	12.64	10.19	10.34	13.86	43.92
Nd	77.60	93.27	79.01	38.62	31.27	23.39	25.22	37.26	28.61	25.64	37.46	128.48
Sm	6.64	7.31	5.89	2.92	2.18	1.72	2.40	2.52	2.73	2.20	3.28	11.48
Eu	1.53	2.06	2.09	1.06	0.83	0.59	1.28	1.26	1.21	0.86	0.82	4.25
Gd	3.20	4.14	3.73	3.74	1.29	0.85	2.24	1.93	1.79	1.32	1.19	7.82
Tb	0.41	0.29	0.31	0.25	0.16	0.08	0.21	0.24	0.25	0.11	0.12	1.00
Dy	1.07	0.98	1.31	0.61	0.52	0.30	0.93	1.53	1.16	0.54	0.57	4.44
Ho	0.17	0.13	0.17	0.16	0.12	0.05	0.17	0.15	0.24	0.12	0.10	0.83
Er	0.44	0.45	0.46	0.52	0.20	0.14	0.78	0.66	0.67	0.28	0.24	2.47
Tm	0.03	0.07	0.05	0.10	0.06	0.02	0.25	0.16	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.29
Yb	0.17	0.19	0.35	0.70	0.23	0.08	0.48	0.78	0.73	0.28	0.14	2.14
Lu	b.d.	0.05	0.09	0.12	0.04	0.02	0.21	0.24	0.13	0.06	0.03	0.31
Pb	6.59	5.60	3.87	0.84	0.79	0.60	0.90	0.88	0.73	0.87	0.82	1.94
Th	0.01	0.02	0.02	b.d.	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.03
U	b.d.	b.d.	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
REE	733	808	809	409	335	260	236	406	279	285	364	1084
La/Yb	1647	1517	815	239	562	1165	178	178	142	396	1022	179
(La/Yb) <sub>N</sub>	171	157	85	25	58	121	18	18	15	41	106	19

Note: b.d. = below detection limit.

determined here (Tables 3a and 3b) are in good agreement with those obtained by bulk (mineral separates) digestion methods and solution mode-ICP-MS analyses of calcite and apatite for different samples of carbonatite from Oka (Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998; Fig. 4).

### 3.3. U–Pb analysis by LA-ICP-MS

The same instrumental configuration was employed for the in-situ U–Pb age determination of apatite as described above for the trace element determinations. Table 2b lists the instrument parameters and

conditions used for the in-situ U–Pb analyses. The analytical protocol employed is similar to the one described in Simonetti and Neal (2010). Single apatite grains were ablated using a 55 μm spot size and corresponding fluence of ~3 J/cm<sup>2</sup> and repetition rate of 5 Hz. Data acquisition typically consisted of the first ~30 s for measurement of the background ion signals, followed by 30 s of ablation, and a minimum 15 s of washout time. The following ion signals were acquired: <sup>202</sup>Hg, <sup>204</sup>(Pb + Hg), <sup>206</sup>Pb, <sup>207</sup>Pb, <sup>208</sup>Pb, <sup>232</sup>Th, <sup>235</sup>U, <sup>238</sup>U and <sup>232</sup>Th<sup>16</sup>O. <sup>202</sup>Hg was measured to monitor the <sup>204</sup>Hg interference on <sup>204</sup>Pb (using a <sup>204</sup>Hg/<sup>202</sup>Hg value of 0.229883; Simonetti and Neal, 2010).

**Table 3b**

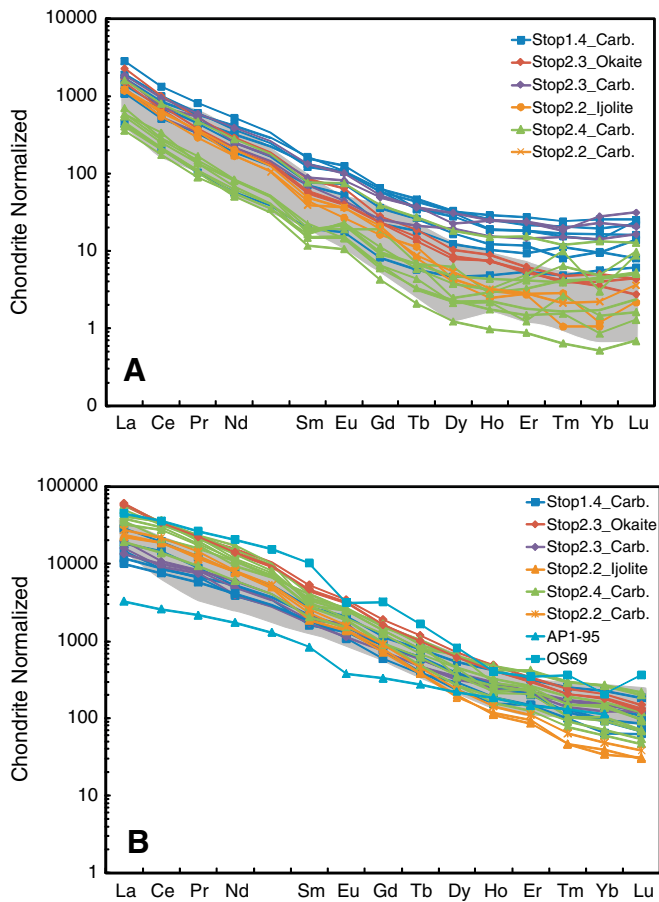
Average trace element compositions for apatite by LA-ICP-MS.

Stop	Stop1.4					Stop2.3						
Sample	Oka50	Oka51	Oka53	Oka92	Oka100b	Oka137	Oka138	Oka229	Oka200a	Oka200b	Oka200c	Durango
	n = 1	n = 15	n = 6	n = 9	n = 10	n = 28	n = 17	n = 23	n = 32	n = 12	n = 13	n = 5
Mn	450	238	525	369	312	641	657	691	532	473	271	96
Rb	1.55	0.51	0.43	1.83	1.88	0.46	0.47	0.34	0.85	0.64	4.58	0.53
Sr	5646	5198	7226	20,119	5654	6670	7174	7502	6282	4444	15,420	461
Y	372	589	364	246	223	538	547	646	409	378	454	945
Ba	69.5	81.4	43.8	50.9	94.0	173.2	179.7	204.8	82.1	67.3	74.8	22.3
La	3461	6725	2382	2771	4315	13,722	13,264	14,194	4618	3751	3183	4234
Ce	5259	11,849	4638	5350	8884	20,677	20,125	20,850	6625	5636	6157	5073
Pr	633	1133	535	618	819	2049	1970	2032	768	697	746	433
Nd	2394	3566	1875	1778	2367	6441	6147	7090	2728	1797	2246	1389
Sm	325	411	266	277	239	697	667	783	313	253	277	198
Eu	87	119	75	61	73	178	176	191	87	64	95	17
Gd	181	226	175	117	151	322	319	376	173	148	145	190
Tb	21.23	28.90	22.59	13.84	14.74	36.29	36.64	43.05	20.76	16.89	17.18	27.43
Dy	91	134	95	72	57	151	153	175	96	86	79	150
Ho	15.81	22.96	14.94	10.10	8.31	22.81	23.20	26.73	16.08	13.71	14.43	31.45
Er	33.29	51.78	31.55	23.35	23.57	48.16	49.21	55.27	35.60	32.30	32.69	85.49
Tm	4.19	6.27	2.96	3.23	2.45	5.09	5.14	5.97	4.24	4.05	3.39	10.70
Yb	22.15	37.09	14.71	15.18	10.17	28.91	29.11	33.30	24.62	23.71	19.64	60.06
Lu	2.62	4.47	1.67	2.09	1.54	3.07	3.25	3.64	2.88	3.09	3.01	6.93
Pb	2.57	0.76	2.26	0.76	1.56	18.44	19.10	18.76	1.73	0.90	1.82	1.09
Th	53	8	47	3	6	1227	1178	1485	2	1	1	346
U	0.16	6.43	0.39	0.06	1.31	97.8	100.0	104.6	0.04	0.03	0.37	14.52
REE	12,531	24,316	10,129	11,112	16,966	44,381	42,967	45,859	15,513	12,526	13,019	11,906
La/Yb	156	181	162	183	424	475	456	426	188	158	162	70
(La/Yb) <sub>N</sub>	16	19	17	19	44	49	47	44	19	16	17	7
Stop	Stop2.2			Stop2.4								
Sample	Oka21	Oka31	Oka89	Oka4a	Oka4b	Oka7	Oka72	Oka144	Oka147	Oka153	Oka206	Oka227
	n = 14	n = 16	n = 10	n = 11	n = 21	n = 19	n = 23	n = 10	n = 30	n = 28	n = 36	n = 10
Mn	496	358	345	589	523	485	281	657	441	565	555	383
Rb	0.61	b.d.	b.d.	2.53	0.54	0.18	3.16	2.59	0.51	0.78	1.04	0.70
Sr	1952	2002	17,496	11,238	12,525	6437	39,761	5147	5334	5952	8328	7065
Y	165	177	213	328	259	249	622	435	672	497	332	354
Ba	129	117	118	183	160	137	119	185	103	164	174	71
La	5599	5292	6455	11,783	10,029	9074	7688	9647	8372	10,052	13,585	4541
Ce	11,600	11,407	13,288	19,654	21,263	18,457	16,815	21,629	12,905	22,162	21,113	8503
Pr	1065	1173	1328	1967	1827	1666	1608	2146	1468	2035	2135	873
Nd	3540	3514	3686	5963	4828	5073	4301	7838	4827	5322	6821	2774
Sm	276	347	379	474	419	421	590	438	540	502	606	303
Eu	77	79	89	110	105	104	143	139	151	139	147	86
Gd	142	157	181	249	191	180	333	271	301	274	308	186
Tb	13.85	14.07	16.48	24.53	17.56	17.52	32.25	28.53	37.74	28.76	33.90	22.21
Dy	45.3	49.1	58.5	110.9	66.3	65.2	156.9	168.8	157.0	112.9	85.4	88.4
Ho	6.34	6.01	7.72	11.73	10.09	8.63	22.95	15.65	26.36	18.02	12.28	14.58
Er	15.05	13.67	17.68	32.72	22.78	19.71	67.80	41.15	63.99	42.12	39.21	36.42
Tm	1.14	1.13	1.55	2.55	2.23	1.90	7.44	3.60	7.24	4.70	2.55	3.72
Yb	5.47	6.25	7.70	16.60	11.29	9.65	42.88	23.93	43.48	25.74	14.80	22.02
Lu	0.76	0.73	0.93	1.73	1.33	1.15	4.89	2.27	5.39	2.94	1.67	2.39
Pb	14.83	15.19	14.76	2.06	2.43	2.94	4.55	2.09	4.49	1.99	3.96	0.94
Th	956	1071	1069	85	76	126	231	68	217	25	181	6
U	48.6	55.5	72.2	66.5	73.9	119.4	126.1	107.4	72.0	81.0	171.4	0.0
REE	22,386	22,059	25,516	40,400	38,794	35,097	31,815	42,391	28,906	40,720	44,905	17,457
La/Yb	1023	847	838	710	888	940	179	403	193	391	918	206
(La/Yb) <sub>N</sub>	106	88	87	74	92	98	19	42	20	41	95	21

Note: b.d.=below detection limit.

Apatite is an accessory U-bearing mineral that contains a significant amount of common Pb (Chew et al., 2011). Correction for the common Pb component involved a U–Pb age determination approach that does not require knowledge of the accurate abundance of  $^{204}\text{Pb}$ ; this is the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  method and was employed for various common Pb-bearing accessory minerals in the studies of Storey et al. (2006), Cox and Wilton (2006), Simonetti et al. (2006), Banerjee et al. (2007), Simonetti et al. (2008b), and Chew et al. (2011). In the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  method, the common lead isotopic composition is determined by projecting the uncorrected data on a Tera-Wasserburg diagram ( $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  vs.  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ), with the y-intercept delineating the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratio for common lead. The

latter can then be used to apply a common lead correction to the measured  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ratios using well established common lead–radiogenic lead mixing equations (e.g., Cox and Wilton, 2006; Simonetti et al., 2008b; Chew et al., 2011). All Tera-Wasserburg diagrams and weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages reported here were determined with IsoPlot v3.0 (Ludwig, 2003). A gem quality apatite (Madagascar apatite, ~2 mm × ~2 mm piece; Thomson et al., 2009) was utilized as the external standard for the purposes of monitoring instrumental drift and laser induced elemental fractionation (LIEF) via a ‘standard-sample bracketing’ technique. Each set of 10–12 unknown analyses was bracketed with 5 analyses of the Madagascar apatite both prior and after the



**Fig. 4.** Chondrite-normalized REE patterns for average calcite (A) and apatite (B) compositions for samples investigated here. These overlap the range defined by bulk dissolution of calcite and apatite mineral separates from Oka (grey shaded area in the background; Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998). Typical REE patterns for apatite shown in (B) are: AP1-95 from Hogarth (1988); OS69 from Bühn et al. (2001). Chondrite values are from McDonough and Sun (1995).

unknown analyses. The Madagascar apatite standard is well characterized and dated by both LA-MC-ICP-MS and ID-TIMS, the latter yielding a concordia age of  $485.18 \pm 0.81$  Ma (Thomson et al., 2009).

Instrumental drift and Pb-U laser induced fractionation was corrected based on the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  ratios for the Madagascar apatite of 0.0781 and 0.6123, respectively. The external reproducibility or relative standard deviation associated with the repeated measurements of the Madagascar apatite standard was approximately 4% for both the  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  ratios (2 sigma level) for individual sessions. This uncertainty was propagated along with the individual run precision using the quadratic equation (e.g., Horstwood et al., 2003; Simonetti et al., 2005) using an in-house excel-based program similar to that developed by Frei and Gerdes (2009). A fragment of Emerald Lake apatite, which is also well characterized and has an age of  $92.5 \pm 3.3$  Ma (Chew et al., 2011), was donated by Dr. Paul Sylvester, Memorial University, and used as a secondary apatite standard. Repeated analyses of the Emerald Lake apatite ( $n=30$ ) obtained throughout the course of this study yields an age of  $92.6 \pm 1.8$  Ma (Table 5; Fig. 6a,b), which is identical to the age reported by Chew et al. (2011). This result in turn serves to validate the analytical methods employed here.

### 3.4. Common Pb isotope analysis of calcite

The in-situ common Pb isotope compositions of calcite (Table 6) were determined using the latest generation NWR 193 nm laser ablation system (ESI-New Wave Research) coupled to a Nu Plasma II MC-ICP-MS instrument (Nu Instruments Ltd) housed within the MITERAC Facility at the University of Notre Dame. The carbonates were analyzed in line raster mode using a  $150 \mu\text{m}$  spot size, 12 Hz repetition rate, and an energy density  $\sim 12 \text{ J}/\text{cm}^2$ . Pb ion signals were acquired in static mode using an all Faraday cup configuration. Data reduction involved using a 45 s 'on-peak' blank measurement and the Time Resolved Analysis (TRA) software from Nu Instruments. Analyses of the carbonates were bracketed by the repeated measurement of the NIST SRM 612 standard (Pb isotope values taken from Baker et al., 2004) in order to monitor for elemental fractionation and instrument drift. The accuracy and validation of the analytical protocol was evaluated with repeated analysis ( $n=3$ ) of an amazonite feldspar in-house standard from the Broken Hill deposit, Australia. The average Pb isotope values obtained for the amazonite feldspar (Table 6) are indistinguishable from those previously reported by TIMS (thermal ionization mass spectrometry) measurement (Gulson, 1984) and LA-MC-ICP-MS (Schmidberger et al., 2007) for the ore and feldspar from the Broken Hill deposit, respectively.

**Table 4a**

Average major element analyses of calcite.

Stop	Stop1.4							Stop2.3					
	Oka50	Oka51	Oka53	Oka92	Oka100b	Oka109	Oka119	Oka137	Oka138	Oka229	Oka200a	Oka200b	Oka200c
Sample	n=10	n=13	n=10	n=11	n=17	n=27	n=8	n=5	n=6	n=9	n=11	n=16	n=13
MgO	0.31	0.06	0.84	0.15	0.52	0.33	0.24	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.54	0.10	0.49
MnO	0.28	0.09	0.87	0.17	0.32	0.70	0.21	0.05	0.08	0.11	0.50	0.24	0.46
FeO	0.07	0.00	0.09	0.05	0.07	0.25	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.07
CaO	53.25	54.78	51.87	53.71	53.57	52.62	54.18	53.81	53.49	53.09	52.54	53.81	53.12
SrO	1.29	1.32	1.33	1.43	1.38	2.36	0.90	2.20	2.37	2.46	1.54	1.98	1.50
CO <sub>2</sub>	43.32	43.11	43.39	43.29	43.26	42.95	43.34	42.99	42.93	43.01	43.31	43.04	43.28
Total	98.74	99.47	98.61	98.83	99.15	99.23	99.02	99.22	99.23	98.89	98.68	99.24	98.94

Stop	Stop2.2			Stop2.4								
	Oka21	Oka31	Oka89	Oka4a	Oka4b	Oka7	Oka72	Oka144	Oka147	Oka153	Oka206	Oka227
Sample	n=2	n=6	n=14	n=13	n=12	n=9	n=10	n=17	n=9	n=15	n=14	n=9
MgO	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.10
MnO	0.18	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.20
FeO	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05
CaO	53.86	54.83	54.53	53.38	53.65	54.02	53.97	53.36	54.28	53.97	54.01	53.56
SrO	1.27	1.34	1.29	2.12	2.07	2.11	1.60	1.98	1.55	1.85	2.14	1.76
CO <sub>2</sub>	43.33	43.11	43.27	43.15	43.12	42.99	43.23	43.21	43.13	43.20	42.97	43.14
Total	98.76	99.47	101.42	98.81	98.98	99.30	98.90	98.70	99.23	101.54	99.33	98.98



**Table 4b**

Average major element analyses of apatite.

Stop	Stop1.4					Stop2.3					
	Oka50	Oka51	Oka53	Oka92	Oka100b	Oka137	Oka138	Oka229	Oka200a	Oka200b	Oka200c
	n = 1	n = 15	n = 6	n = 9	n = 10	n = 28	n = 17	n = 23	n = 32	n = 12	n = 13
F	2.93	1.38	3.28	1.63	2.27	1.48	1.48	1.69	2.40	1.92	1.90
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	39.38	38.97	41.40	41.05	41.28	34.42	33.30	34.37	40.75	41.30	39.38
CaO	53.37	52.80	53.98	52.80	51.58	49.78	50.04	49.81	53.35	53.06	49.77
SrO	0.64	0.73	0.96	0.78	0.80	1.04	1.01	1.06	0.86	0.99	0.83
Cl	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.09
SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.89	1.64	0.33	0.68	1.06	3.73	4.18	3.86	0.71	1.09	1.33
La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.35	0.81	0.14	0.34	0.36	1.86	1.71	1.84	0.50	0.50	0.46
Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.76	1.62	0.63	0.85	0.99	3.15	3.01	3.04	0.84	0.93	0.89
Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.06	0.16	0.10	0.12	0.15	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.15	0.12	0.12
Nd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.25	0.40	0.17	0.24	0.26	0.89	0.82	0.89	0.25	0.23	0.25
CO <sub>2</sub>	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Total	100.45	100.94	102.65	97.87	97.89	99.07	98.32	99.24	101.84	99.37	94.31

Stop	Stop2.2			Stop2.4								
	Oka21	Oka31	Oka89	Oka4a	Oka4b	Oka7	Oka72	Oka144	Oka147	Oka153	Oka206	Oka227
	n = 14	n = 16	n = 10	n = 11	n = 21	n = 19	n = 23	n = 10	n = 30	n = 28	n = 36	n = 10
F	2.51	2.20	1.88	1.10	1.15	1.31	1.27	1.18	1.54	1.42	1.26	1.79
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	39.44	39.48	38.70	34.38	34.78	34.95	35.84	34.35	36.94	36.01	34.06	39.87
CaO	52.15	52.29	51.78	48.30	48.58	50.20	50.45	48.21	51.46	50.10	50.26	52.85
SrO	0.66	0.68	0.67	1.00	1.01	1.00	0.80	0.90	0.79	0.93	1.01	0.94
Cl	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
SiO <sub>2</sub>	1.81	1.84	2.15	3.48	3.45	3.90	3.25	4.47	2.59	3.24	4.01	0.93
La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.76	0.74	0.92	1.49	1.51	1.73	1.17	1.68	1.09	1.50	1.68	0.58
Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.53	1.51	1.83	2.98	2.98	3.13	2.43	3.15	2.14	2.96	3.13	1.14
Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.18	0.17	0.20	0.32	0.31	0.38	0.27	0.34	0.29	0.31	0.40	0.13
Nd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.50	0.49	0.59	0.75	0.76	0.83	0.72	0.89	0.63	0.78	0.83	0.33
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Total	98.51	98.50	97.98	96.40	97.10	99.92	98.71	96.98	99.85	99.46	99.13	100.84

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Calcite compositions

Calcite typically occurs as milli-to-centimeter-sized grains in carbonatites, okaites and ijolites, and most display uniform major and trace element compositions based on EMP analyses (Tables 3a and 4a) and BSE images (Fig. 3a–c). In contrast, calcite from carbonatite sample Oka109 (from Stop1.4) is zoned (Fig. 3e). EMP analyses listed in Table 4a indicate that calcite is generally characterized by high abundances of SrO (1.29–2.60 wt.%) and low FeO, MnO, and MgO wt.% contents. Ba and LREEs are the most abundant trace elements in calcite with concentrations > 100 ppm (Table 3a). Calcite displays steeply negative chondrite-normalized distribution patterns that overlap the range defined by bulk dissolution of calcite mineral separates from Oka (Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998; Fig. 4a). The degree of LREE enrichment varies significantly among the samples investigated [(La/Yb)<sub>N</sub> = 11–171], with REE patterns and degree of LREE enrichment dependent on sample locations; samples from Stop1.4 are the most enriched, whereas those from Stop2.2 define the highest (La/Yb)<sub>N</sub> values (Table 3a). Moreover, the calcite in carbonatites from Stop2.3 is more enriched in REEs than calcite from okaites from the same location, but the latter defines steeper chondrite-normalized patterns (Fig. 4a).

### 4.2. Apatite compositions

Apatite occurs as small rounded (0.1–0.5 mm) or acicular grains in most carbonatites, okaites, and ijolites and tends to occur at grain boundaries or in ‘accumulation’ layers (Fig. 3a–c). Apatite from Oka is fluorapatite (Tables 3b and 4b) and similar in composition compared to those reported by Hogarth (1989). Of note, Table 4b indicates that apatite is F-bearing (between 1.0 and 3.0 wt.%) and virtually devoid of Cl<sup>–</sup>,

characteristics consistent with apatite of magmatic origin (e.g., O’Reilly and Griffin, 2000; Patiño Douce et al., 2011). The fluorapatite from Oka is characterized by high contents of SiO<sub>2</sub>, SrO and (REE)<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Table 4b). REE contents exhibit a positive correlation with Si abundances (Fig. 5), which suggests the coupled substitution scheme of: Si<sup>4+</sup> + REE<sup>3+</sup> = P<sup>5+</sup> + Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Pan and Fleet, 2002; Liferovich and Mitchell, 2006). Since the LREE abundances make-up > 95% of the total REE budget for the apatite investigated, the LREE contents will be used as a first-order approximation for the latter. In addition, the data shown in Fig. 5 does not exhibit a simple 1:1 relationship between the Si and LREE abundances, but instead defines a slope of ~1.8. A similar result was reported by Hammouda et al. (2010) for the ‘In Ouzzal’ apatite standard, which indicates a coupled substitution. Given the high Th concentrations (Table 3b), one possibility is that Th<sup>4+</sup> is involved in the substitution. Thus, the substitution mechanism that may have occurred is: Th<sup>4+</sup> + 2Si<sup>4+</sup> = Ca<sup>2+</sup> + 2P<sup>5+</sup>.

Compared to calcite, fluorapatite is significantly enriched in REEs and in particular the LREEs but overall display similarly sloped distribution patterns (Fig. 4b). The steep negatively-sloped REE chondrite-normalized distribution patterns resemble those typical for apatite from carbonatites (e.g., Hogarth, 1988, 1989; Bühn et al., 2001; Fig. 4b). The latter are characterized by high La contents and high (La/Yb)<sub>N</sub> ratios. With the exception of a few samples, the chondrite-normalized patterns also indicate that their normalized REE distribution patterns are sample location dependent (Fig. 4b). Apatite within carbonatites from Stop2.4 and okaites from Stop2.3 is the most enriched, whereas apatite found in carbonatites from Stop1.4 and Stop2.3 defines the least LREE-enriched patterns. In addition, REE enrichment in apatite correlates inversely to that for calcite from the same location; i.e. calcite from Stop2.4 is the most depleted in REEs whereas their counterpart apatite is the most enriched. The opposite trend is observed for calcite and apatite from Stop1.4.











Table 5 (continued)

Sample	Analyses	<sup>206</sup> Pb	<sup>232</sup> Th	<sup>238</sup> U	Th/U	<sup>238</sup> U/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 s error	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 s error	<sup>208</sup> Pb/ <sup>232</sup> Th	2 s error	<sup>208</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	2 s error	F206	F208	Rad.	Rad.	2 s error	Rad.	2 s error
		cps	cps	cps		<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U		<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U		Age (Ma)		<sup>208</sup> Pb/ <sup>232</sup> Th				Age (Ma)				
Emerald Lake	ap12	800	89,434	36,743	2.43	35.481	2.127	0.446	0.041	0.014	0.00084	1.378	0.108	0.50	0.73	0.014045	90	5	76	6
	ap13	810	98,683	38,663	2.55	36.973	1.943	0.423	0.040	0.012	0.00075	1.361	0.071	0.47	0.70	0.014249	91	5	76	6
	ap14	834	91,226	37,084	2.46	36.512	2.290	0.415	0.040	0.013	0.00062	1.413	0.085	0.46	0.66	0.014711	94	6	91	6
	ap15	607	83,197	32,336	2.57	36.068	2.337	0.407	0.039	0.013	0.00072	1.418	0.087	0.45	0.64	0.015174	97	6	94	6
	ap16	738	77,881	31,890	2.44	36.029	2.286	0.411	0.034	0.012	0.00068	1.328	0.089	0.46	0.69	0.015059	96	6	78	5
	ap17	759	72,610	30,956	2.35	35.749	3.072	0.431	0.030	0.014	0.00103	1.481	0.117	0.48	0.65	0.014481	93	8	100	8
	ap18	559	20,537	28,720	0.72	35.844	2.410	0.463	0.033	0.014	0.00316	1.410	0.110	0.52	0.74	0.013292	85	6	73	17
	ap19	720	27,421	39,497	0.69	38.031	2.258	0.385	0.041	0.013	0.00273	1.329	0.075	0.42	0.64	0.015121	97	6	95	20
	ap20	626	25,653	35,232	0.73	39.358	2.071	0.416	0.030	0.012	0.00213	1.331	0.087	0.46	0.70	0.013625	87	5	72	13
	ap21	677	24,894	35,040	0.71	35.274	2.525	0.433	0.039	0.012	0.00284	1.317	0.080	0.49	0.74	0.014593	93	7	64	15
	ap22	673	24,095	34,415	0.70	35.736	1.831	0.442	0.044	0.012	0.00278	1.259	0.092	0.50	0.79	0.014106	90	5	50	12
	ap23	603	23,448	33,010	0.71	37.490	2.424	0.459	0.053	0.012	0.00302	1.429	0.115	0.52	0.72	0.012869	82	5	69	17
	ap24	630	24,527	34,338	0.71	36.470	2.571	0.407	0.044	0.011	0.00213	1.350	0.093	0.45	0.67	0.015019	96	7	77	14
	ap25	700	27,884	37,549	0.74	37.161	2.334	0.432	0.050	0.011	0.00311	1.274	0.090	0.48	0.76	0.013884	89	6	51	15
	ap26	655	28,500	38,300	0.74	39.376	2.361	0.417	0.041	0.011	0.00212	1.392	0.114	0.46	0.67	0.013597	87	5	73	14
	ap27	679	27,627	37,913	0.73	37.143	2.262	0.416	0.050	0.010	0.00200	1.297	0.103	0.46	0.72	0.014436	92	6	60	12
	ap28	647	26,849	37,463	0.72	37.316	2.172	0.407	0.031	0.011	0.00261	1.369	0.104	0.45	0.66	0.014671	94	5	76	18
	ap29	619	24,823	34,360	0.72	35.412	2.243	0.434	0.035	0.012	0.00151	1.334	0.102	0.49	0.73	0.014498	93	6	65	9
	ap30	592	23,560	33,113	0.71	35.543	2.329	0.451	0.059	0.013	0.00304	1.470	0.172	0.51	0.69	0.013847	89	6	82	19

Note: F206 = proportion of common <sup>206</sup>Pb; F208 = proportion of common <sup>208</sup>Pb.

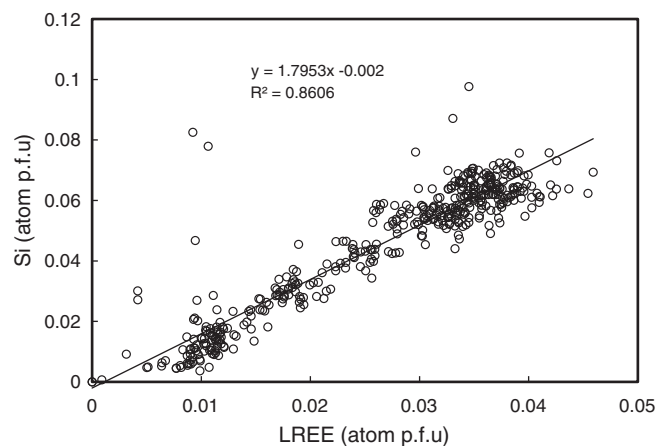
**Table 6**  
Pb–Pb isotope analyses of calcite.

Sample	Analyses	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	$2\sigma$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	$2\sigma$
Amaz. feldspar	1	0.9608	0.0000	2.2274	0.0001
	2	0.9608	0.0000	2.2276	0.0001
	3	0.9607	0.0000	2.2275	0.0002
Accepted values		0.9609	0.0012	2.2248	0.0046
Oka153	Stop1	0.7942	0.0078	1.995	0.012
	Stop1–2	0.7971	0.0034	2.007	0.008
	Stop2	0.7969	0.0036	2.003	0.006
	Stop3	0.7636	0.0042	1.911	0.008
	Stop4	0.7951	0.0046	1.986	0.008
	Stop6	0.7970	0.0038	1.994	0.009
Oka21	Stop1	0.7967	0.0013	1.990	0.002
Oka89	Stop1	0.7969	0.0017	1.997	0.003
	Stop1–2	0.7537	0.0147	1.902	0.032
	Stop5–2	0.7904	0.0052	1.976	0.011
Oka31	Stop6	0.8036	0.0017	1.999	0.003
	Stop3	0.7974	0.0068	1.986	0.011
	Stop4	0.8048	0.0084	2.025	0.011
Oka229	Stop3	0.7596	0.0062	1.992	0.007
	Stop5	0.7904	0.0028	2.085	0.006
	Stop6	0.7461	0.0048	2.175	0.018

Note: Accepted values from Gulson (1984).

#### 4.3. In-situ U–Pb geochronology of apatite

U–Pb geochronological data for apatite is listed in Table 5 and shown in Fig. 6. Apatite defines a large variation in U, Th, and Pb contents and hence radiometric ages were determined only for those grains containing > 1 ppm of U and Th (Table 3b). With the exception of apatite from samples Oka21 (Fig. 6g) and Oka31, the isotopic compositions for apatite from the remaining samples cluster and do not spread along the common-Pb–radiogenic-Pb mixing line (e.g., Fig. 6c,e). Consequently, this leads to larger uncertainties associated with the calculated y-intercept in the Tera–Wasserburg plot, which corresponds to the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  composition for the common-Pb component. For apatite from samples Oka21 and Oka31, the mixing arrays yield  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  intercept values of  $0.799 \pm 0.069$  and  $0.772 \pm 0.052$ , respectively. Both these values overlap (given their associated uncertainties) the  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  value of  $0.796 \pm 0.003$  obtained on calcite mineral separates from Oka carbonatite measured by ID-TIMS (Grünenfelder et al., 1986), and the y-intercept value ( $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ) of  $0.792 \pm 0.06$  for perovskite from Oka dated by LA-ICP-MS (Cox and Wilton, 2006). Thus, for all of the



**Fig. 5.** Plot illustrates a positive, linear relationship between Si and LREE atomic contents. In general, the LREEs comprise > 95% of the total REEs, therefore this relationship can also be extended to include all of the REEs, and hence supporting the substitution scheme of  $\text{Si}^{4+} + \text{REE}^{3+} = \text{P}^{5+} + \text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

Tera–Wasserburg Concordia plots, we adopt the common lead  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  values of  $0.796 \pm 0.003$  and  $0.790 \pm 0.005$  (both values taken from Grünenfelder et al., 1986) to ‘anchor’ the in-situ U–Pb data for apatites from carbonatites and okaites and ijolites, respectively. This is a more accurate reflection of the Pb isotopic composition for the common Pb component rather than assuming the ratios at ~130 Ma provided by the Stacey and Kramers (1975) Pb evolution model. Calculated U–Pb ages using the same data set with both ‘anchored’ and ‘unanchored’ y-intercepts (i.e.  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  value) in a Tera–Wasserburg plot yield the same age (given their associated uncertainties); however, the anchored ages are more precise. For example, the ‘unanchored’ age for apatite from sample Oka72 yields an age of  $107 \pm 6.1$  Ma, whereas the result for the regression ‘anchored’ through a  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  of 0.796 (Grünenfelder et al., 1986) gives a more precise age of  $113 \pm 2.1$  Ma.

In order to further investigate the effect of varying the Pb isotope composition of the common Pb component in relation to the calculated ages, in-situ Pb–Pb isotope analyses (Table 6) were conducted on calcite within samples (carbonatites and okaites) exhibiting a ‘bimodal’ age distribution. The  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratios for the calcites investigated range between 0.800 and 0.750 (Table 6), with most overlapping the value of ~0.79 reported by both Grünenfelder et al. (1986) and Cox and Wilton (2006). Of importance, using a  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  of 0.75 for the composition of the common Pb component changes the calculated ages by 1 or 2 Myr, well within the reported analytical uncertainty. However, the total range in Pb isotope compositions listed in Table 6 is significantly larger than the associated analytical uncertainties and therefore these results are consistent with crystallization within an ‘open’ magma system.

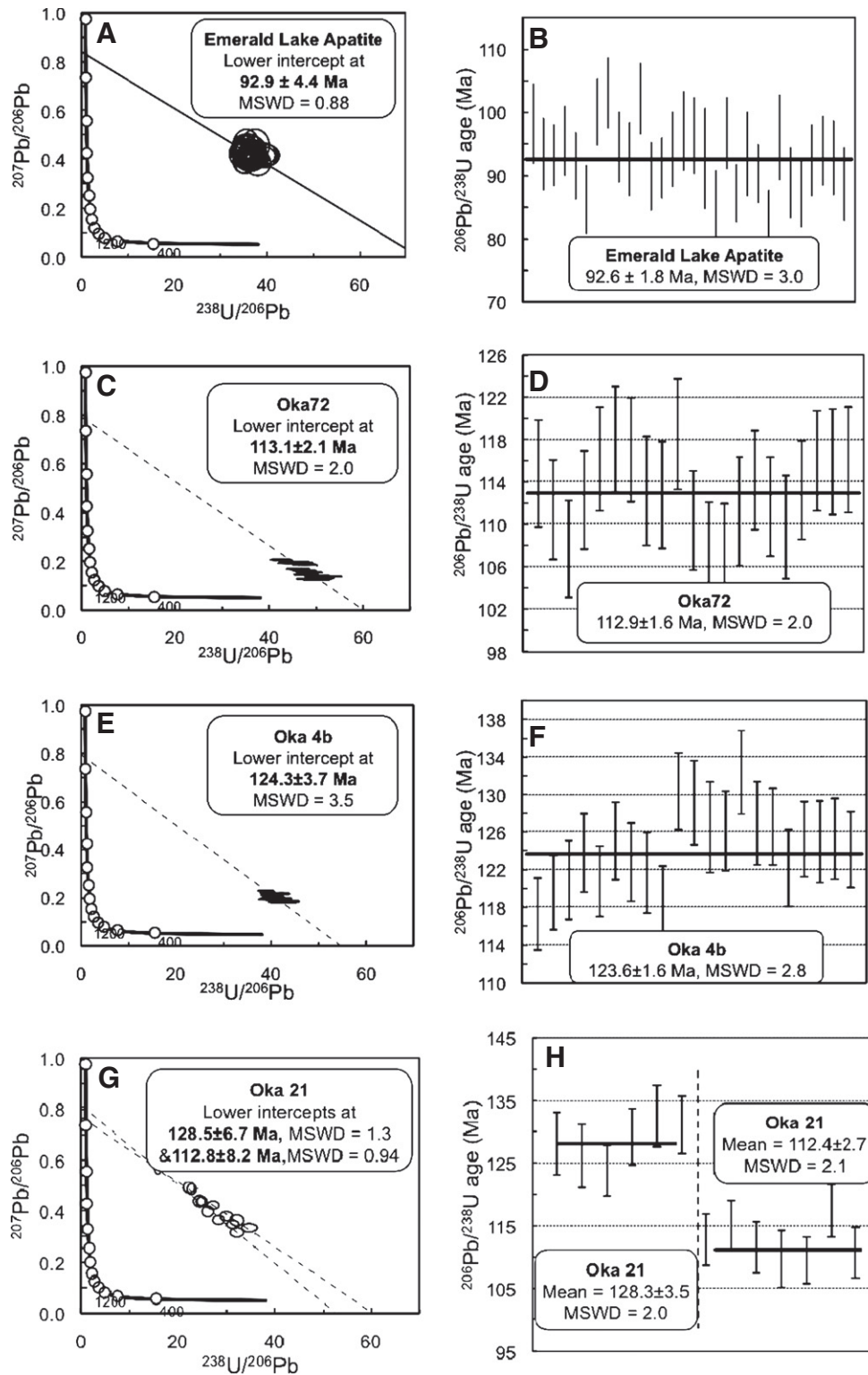
Apatite is also a Th-bearing mineral and is therefore suitable for determining  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ – $^{232}\text{Th}$  ages as outlined in the recent paper by Chew et al. (2011). The  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ -correction method works particularly well for apatites with very low  $^{232}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$  (<0.5) ratios. The  $^{232}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$  ratios for the apatites investigated here vary both within and between different samples but is again generally location-related (Table 5), with those from Stop2.4 characterized by the lowest values (0.07–1.85). Using common Pb compositions of  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 0.796 \pm 0.003$  and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 1.990 \pm 0.003$  (both from Grünenfelder et al., 1986), the weighted mean  $^{207}\text{Pb}$ - and  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ -corrected ages are  $113 \pm 2.1$  Ma and  $110 \pm 3.9$  Ma, respectively for apatite from sample Oka72 (Table 5). In general, for individual samples, the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$ -corrected ages are more uniform compared to the  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ -corrected ages (Table 5).

Apatite from five samples defines a bimodal age distribution (Table 5). Oka21 and Oka31 are melanite-bearing calcitic ijolites and Oka89 is melanite-bearing carbonatite from Stop2.2. The apatite grains that yield the bimodal ages are found in distinct petrographic contexts since they are either included within melanite (e.g., Oka31 older age; Fig. 3d), or surrounded by clinopyroxene (e.g., Oka21 and Oka89). For samples Oka153 (carbonatite from Stop 2.4) and Oka229 (okaite from Stop 2.3), the bimodal aged apatites are located in different spots within their respective thin sections. A histogram including all of the U–Pb dates obtained for apatite from carbonatites (Fig. 7a) indicates a bimodal age distribution with peaks at ~113 and ~125 Ma. A bimodal age distribution is also defined by the okaites and ijolites (Fig. 7b) with peaks at ~117 and ~127 Ma. A combined histogram yields peaks at ~115 and ~125 Ma (Fig. 7c).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Crystallization modeling

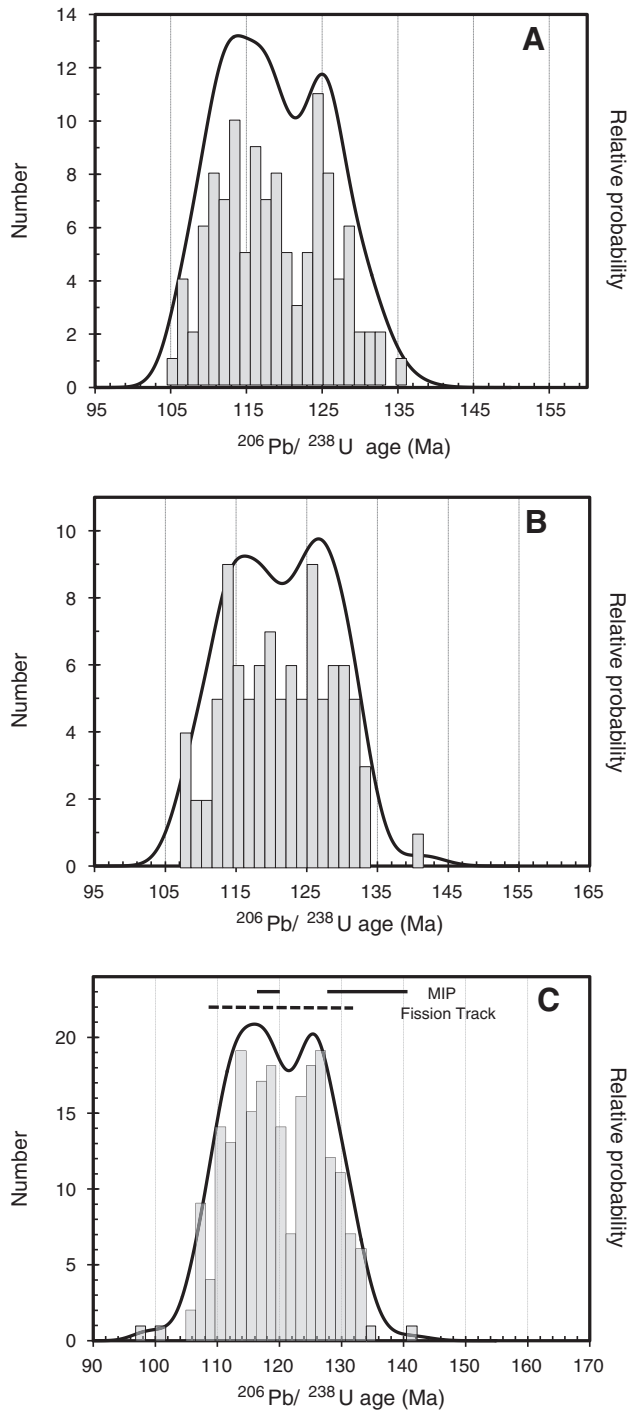
As described previously, the major and trace element compositions for calcite and apatite from Oka are sample location-dependent. Average trace element abundances for individual sample locations were calculated using selected samples and ‘screened’ based on their  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  isotope values for carbonates; virtually



**Fig. 6.** Tera-Wasserburg plots and diagrams illustrating weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages, respectively for the Emerald Lake apatite standard (A, B), a 'young'-aged sample—Oka 72 (carbonatite, Stop2.4; C, D), an 'older'-aged sample—Oka 4b (carbonatite, Stop2.4; E, F), and a bimodal age sample—Oka 21 (calcitic ijolite, Stop2.2; G, H).

all carbonates analyzed plot within the 'carbon mantle box' (Deines, 1989; Keller and Hoefs, 1995), with  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  isotope values ranging from  $-4.32$  to  $-6.52\%$  and  $6.09$  to  $7.47\%$ , respectively (W. Chen, unpublished data) and confirm their pristine nature (i.e. inherited mantle signatures).

The exact origin of carbonatite parental melts remains unresolved (Bell et al., 1998 and references therein); nonetheless the three most acceptable models involve either 1—direct partial melting of a carbonated peridotitic mantle, 2—fractional crystallization at crustal pressures of a mantle-derived parental magma, and 3—immiscible



**Fig. 7.** Relative probability diagrams for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages for apatites analyzed here from carbonatites (A), okaites and ijolites (B) and combined carbonatites and silicate rocks (C). In the latter, the solid lines represent the ranges of ages for MIP-related alkaline intrusives (Eby, 1985), and the dashed line represents the variation in ages for Oka defined by apatite fission track (Gold et al., 1986).

separation from an alkaline, silica-undersaturated silicate magma. An alternative interpretation is that apatite and/or calcite represent cumulate grains (e.g., Foley et al., 2009) that crystallized from different batches of melt and subsequently mixed.

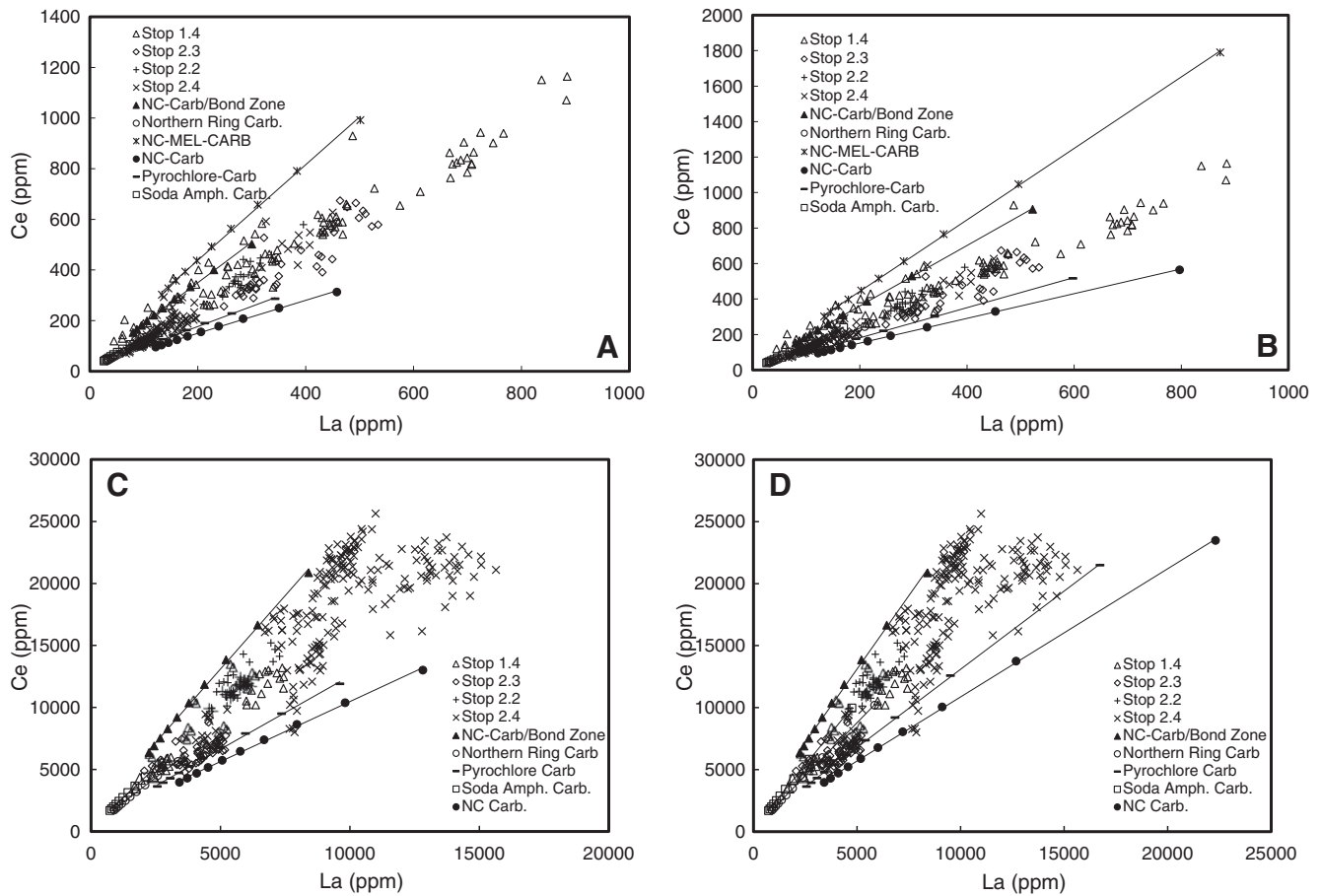
Although the trace element data for calcite and apatite reported here cannot be used to directly test all three of the proposed models for carbonatite melt generation listed above, it can be used to test

equilibrium and fractional crystallization models and the validity of a “closed” magmatic system for Oka. The modeling presented here is based on La and Ce abundances (Tables 3a and 3b) since partition coefficients for these two elements are available for calcite (Bühn et al., 2001), whereas those for apatite are from Hammouda et al. (2010). In addition, La and Ce are amongst the most abundant trace elements for these two minerals. An average apatite:calcite ratio of 0.1:0.9 was employed in the calculations (i.e. bulk distribution coefficient) based on observed modal abundances for the Oka carbonatites. In both equilibrium and fractional crystallization modeling, F (fraction of remaining liquid) is modeled from 1.0 to 0.1. Several ‘initial’ carbonatite melt compositions were selected (Fig. 8) based on whole rock data reported in Gold et al. (1986) and Hornig-Kjarsgaard (1998). The equilibrium and fractional crystallization modeling results for calcite and apatite are shown in Fig. 8. In summary, all of the various modeling results do not reconcile adequately with the measured La and Ce abundances for both calcite and apatite. The modeling results either overlap the data well but do not extend into the higher ranges of La and Ce concentrations, even with melt fractions of 0.1 (e.g., Fig. 8c,d); or the modeling trends cover the entire extent of the La and Ce concentrations but the evolution lines do not overlap with the data (e.g., Fig. 8a, b). It can be argued that whole rock compositions for carbonatites do not represent those of ‘primary’ liquid compositions as these may be viewed as cumulates (Foley et al., 2009); however, the more important point to be taken from Fig. 8 is that regardless of the composition for the initial melt, it will be practically impossible to attribute the total variation in La and Ce abundances to closed-system differentiation involving a *single parental melt*. In general, the fractional crystallization modeling results explain the in-situ trace element data more adequately than the equilibrium crystallization values. Of importance, variations in the REE concentrations do not correlate or define systematic (increases or decreases) from core-to-rim within individual grains (Fig. 10). These features suggest a complex crystallization history taking place in an ‘open’ magma system, similar to the interpretation based on complex zonation patterns documented in pyrochlore from Oka (Zurevinski and Mitchell, 2004).

## 5.2. Geochronology of the Oka intrusion

A detailed summary of the ages reported for the alkaline intrusives and carbonatites at Oka, and the former associated with the Monteregian Igneous Province is provided by Cox and Wilton (2006). With the exception of the Rb–Sr biotite–whole rock isochron age of  $109 \pm 2$  Ma (Wen et al., 1987), most of the ages for the MIP-related complexes (Eby, 1984; Gold et al., 1986) have been determined by the K–Ar method or apatite fission track. These combined results define two age groups of 110–125 Ma and 125–140 Ma (as also noted by Eby, 1984) and these are outlined in Fig. 7c. Cox and Wilton (2006) obtained an in-situ U–Pb age of  $131 \pm 7$  Ma for perovskite from a monticellite-perovskite-carbonatite, thus suggesting that this sample belongs to the older phase of igneous activity associated with the MIP. As illustrated in Fig. 7c, the range of previous ages determined for MIP-related intrusives overlaps the range of in-situ U–Pb dates for apatite reported here. The latter result clearly indicates a protracted magmatic history at Oka that spanned ~20 Myr.

The variation in the U–Pb ages for apatite (Table 5; Fig. 7), in particular the younger ones, might be attributed to recent Pb loss. Typically, the degree of recent Pb loss is positively correlated with U abundances, as higher U contents are more likely to cause metamictization and damage to the crystal structure; this in turn enhances the possibility for Pb loss. Fig. 9a examines the relationship between U concentrations and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages for the apatite grains investigated here and clearly there is no correlation between the two parameters. Thorium abundances are also high for the apatites (Tables 3a and 3b) but these also do not correlate with Pb/U ages (not shown). In addition, if the younger Pb/U ages are the result of recent Pb loss, one may expect to see a positive correlation between



**Fig. 8.** Equilibrium and fractional crystallization modeling diagrams based on La and Ce abundances for calcite and apatite. (A) equilibrium crystallization modeling results for calcite; (B) fractional crystallization modeling curves for calcite; (C) equilibrium crystallization modeling trends for apatite; (D) fractional crystallization modeling lines for apatite. The model evolution lines use various carbonatite whole rock compositions from Oka (taken from Gold et al., 1986; Hornig-Kjarsgaard, 1998) to represent possible parental liquid compositions. Symbols represent individual analyses for apatite and calcite from different stop locations within Oka (Fig. 2). NC-Carb/Bond Zone = niocalite-bearing carbonatite from Bond zone; Northern Ring Carb = coarse-grained carbonatite within northern ring; NC-MEL-CARB = niocalite-mellilite-bearing carbonatite; Soda-Amph. Carb. = Na-amphibole-bearing carbonatite; NC-Carb = niocalite-bearing carbonatite and Pyrochlore-Carb. = pyrochlore-bearing carbonatite.

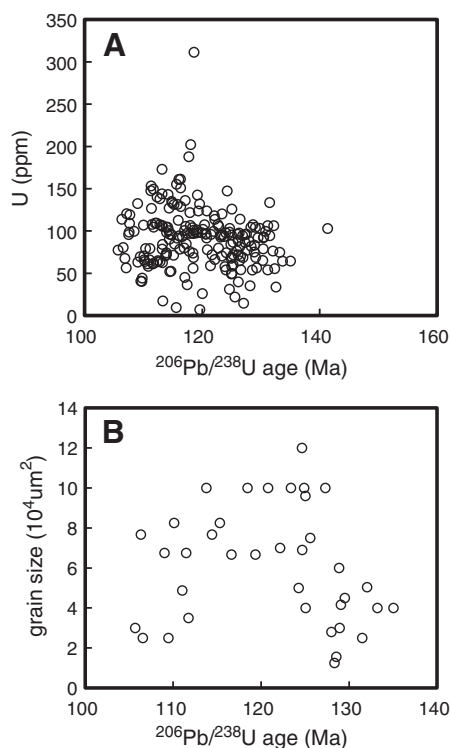
overall grain size and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age (e.g., Schmidberger et al., 2005), with larger grains recording older ages. Fig. 9b clearly exhibits a scattered pattern between grain size and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age for apatites from samples Oka153 and Oka4a, the former yields a bimodal age distribution. It might also be argued that the bimodal age distribution is a function of major/trace element abundances (i.e., matrix-effect) as a majority of the apatites investigated exhibit complex zoning (Fig. 10). However, the BSE images for complexly zoned apatites in Fig. 10 are superimposed with  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages and total REE contents, and these indicate that there is no correlation between compositions and Pb/U ages (given their associated uncertainties). Moreover, it was noted during the course of this study that calculated Pb/U ages do not correlate with the optical orientation of the apatite grains; i.e. perpendicular or parallel to the c-axis within the petrographic thin section.

Gittins (1989) describes the typical crystallization history of apatite within a magmatic carbonate system, where apatite usually precipitates early and its formation can persist into the late-stage mineralization events. The solubility of  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  in most carbonate liquids is low (Gittins, 1989). However, continued crystallization of abundant carbonates contributes to further concentrate  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  in the residual melt and hence maintain melt saturation (relative to  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ ), such that apatite precipitation is possible throughout most of the solidification history of the carbonatite melt (Gittins, 1989). This protracted

crystallization model for apatite formation may therefore be consistent with the ~15 to 20 Myr interval defined by the Pb/U ages for the apatite.

Other examples of alkaline complexes defining a protracted history of magmatic activity include the carbonatites and kimberlites associated with Sarfartoq and Tikiusaaq centers, West Greenland (Secher et al., 2009; Tappe et al., 2009, 2011). U–Pb ages obtained from both kimberlites and carbonatites for both these complexes record a protracted history of volatile-rich magma generation beneath the North Atlantic Craton that occurred between ~590 and ~550 Ma (Sarfartoq) and ~170 and ~155 Ma (Tikiusaaq; Secher et al., 2009; Tappe et al., 2009, 2011). U–Pb perovskite emplacement ages for ultramafic lamprophyre dykes (aillikite, mela-aillikite, damtjernite) and dolomite-bearing carbonatite in the vicinity of Aillik Bay, coastal Labrador yield ages between 590 and 555 Ma, thus spanning a period of ~35 Myr (Tappe et al., 2006). Moreover, Simonetti and Neal (2010) recently reported in-situ U–Pb dates for megacrystic zircons from alnöite intrusions on the island of Malaita (Solomon Islands), which define weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages that range between ~35 and ~52 Ma. Correlations between the zircon ages and chemical compositions, and their uniform Hf isotope compositions were attributed to zircon formation from a common Ontong Java Plateau (OJP)-like mantle undergoing progressive  $\text{CO}_2$ -dominated metasomatism over a ~17 Myr interval (Simonetti and Neal, 2010).





**Fig. 9.** Diagrams plotting  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages vs. U concentrations (A) and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages vs. grain size (B). (A) U concentrations are from Table 2; (B) grain sizes are estimated based on petrographic observations and BSE images. Data from samples Oka153 (carbonatite, stop 2.4; the sample with a bimodal age distribution) and Oka4a (carbonatite, stop 2.4) are illustrated.

The ~15 to 20 Myr range in U–Pb apatite ages reported here might have several other interpretations. These include: 1—formation of apatite during a ~127 Ma mantle metasomatic event, and these ‘metasomatic’ mantle apatites were later entrained into a magmatic/melt phase that occurred at ~115 Ma; or 2—the ~127 Ma apatites crystallized (and solidified) from an older melt, and these were later entrained/scavenged by a later magmatic phase at ~115 Ma. However, petrographic and textural evidences characteristic of scavenging and/or post-solidification entrainment, such as embayment and/or resorption/corrosion features are lacking for the apatite investigated. Of importance, the apatite investigated here is F-bearing and essentially devoid of  $\text{Cl}^-$  (Table 4b), compositions that are consistent with a magmatic origin and not associated with apatite formed via mantle metasomatism (O’Reilly and Griffin, 2000; Patiño Douce et al., 2011). Thus, based on the chemical and petrographic evidences reported here, it is difficult to advocate for either of these alternative interpretations.

### 5.3. Proposed model

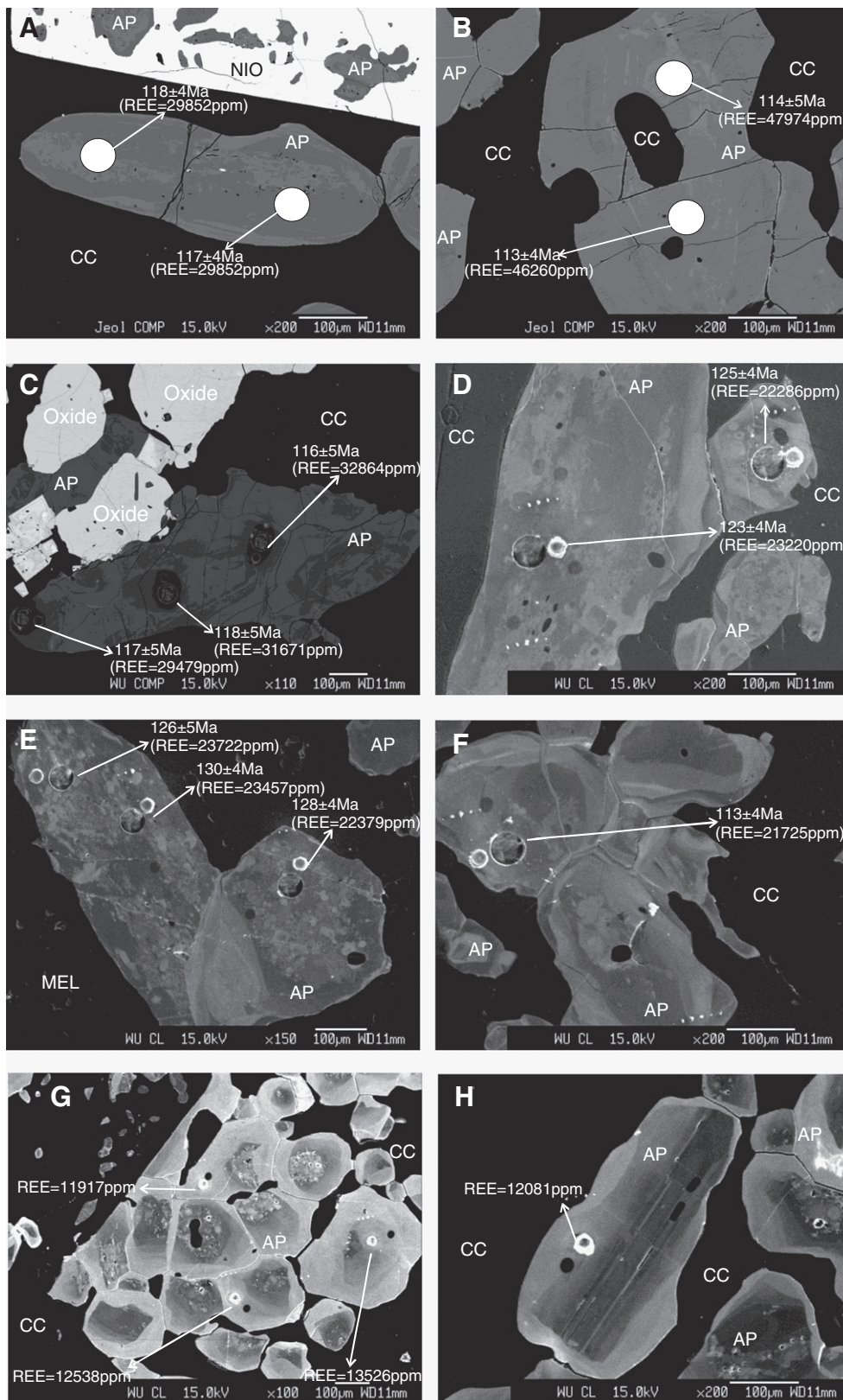
Based on the trace element and geochronological data for the apatite reported here, it is difficult to assess the exact petrogenetic relationship between the carbonatites, okaites and ijolites other than to state that their emplacement was contemporaneous. However, the latter interpretation can be ascertained with greater certitude via the further investigation of their radiogenic (Sr, Nd, and Pb) isotope signatures. This will be attempted in the near future by LA-MC-ICP-MS using the exact same apatite grains that were characterized here for their major and trace element compositions and Pb/U ages. Combining radiogenic isotope analyses with Pb/U geochronological results is a powerful tool for deciphering

magmatic processes and large scale tectonic processes (e.g., Tappe et al., 2007; Corfu and Dahlgren, 2008; Simonetti and Neal, 2010).

As discussed above, both equilibrium and fractional crystallization modeling results cannot be reconciled with the highly variable trace element abundances recorded in the combined calcite and apatite grains investigated here (Fig. 8). The complex compositional zoning (oscillatory and sector) in relation to REE abundances that is illustrated in Fig. 10, and the protracted magmatic history of apatite (~20 Myr) documented here are consistent with a model involving magma mixing. Magma mixing was proposed by Zurevinski and Mitchell (2004) for the Oka complex based on the fact that two or more compositional and textural varieties of pyrochlore coexist in very close proximity (2–5 mm). Therefore, it is possible that pyrochlores may have crystallized from different batches of magma and were juxtaposed at a later stage. As with the Zurevinski and Mitchell (2004) study, we demonstrate here that apatites in very close proximity to one another (i.e. within one thin section) can yield significantly different ages. The latter feature suggests that these apatite grains may represent cumulates. The fact that complexly zoned apatite is surrounded by calcite of uniform major and trace element composition, as evidenced by EMP and BSE imaging, lends further support to a cumulate origin for the apatite. The typical, low viscosity of carbonatite melts will certainly aid crystal cumulation processes. Future work will integrate both radiogenic and stable isotope results in order to better constrain the crystallization history, help elucidate the relationship between the carbonatites and associated silica-undersaturated rocks, and identify the nature of the mantle sources involved in the generation of the different rock types present at Oka.

## 6. Conclusions and future work

This study reports for the first time results from an integrated, in-situ study involving major and trace element compositional analysis of calcite and apatite, and U–Pb dating of apatite using standard petrographic thin sections from the Oka carbonatite complex. As pointed out by Simonetti et al. (2006, 2008a), the main advantages of conducting in-situ investigations using standard thin sections is that the petrographic context of the grains investigated is preserved. This point is well served in this study given the complex petrographic/textural nature of the samples investigated. The Pb/U ages for apatite from both carbonatite, okaite and ijolite document for the first time a bimodal distribution with magmatic events at ~113–117 Ma and ~125–127 Ma. The bimodality in ages was also recorded within individual (thin section) samples (e.g., Oka21). The ‘older’ ages are indistinguishable (given their associated uncertainties) relative to a recently published in-situ Pb/U age of  $131 \pm 7$  Ma obtained for perovskite from a monticellite–perovskite–carbonatite at Oka (Cox and Wilton, 2006). The ‘younger’ ages do not correlate with either U and Th abundances, or apatite grain size, which does not favor recent Pb loss (or U gain) as a possible explanation. In addition, the bimodal age distribution does not seem to be related to major and/or trace element compositions of the apatite grains (i.e. matrix-related). The combined petrographic evidences, major and trace element abundances, and Pb/U ages reported here are most consistent with crystallization of the carbonatites, okaites and ijolites occurring within an open system involving magma mixing. This interpretation is consistent with that of Zurevinski and Mitchell (2004) based on complex zoning observed within pyrochlore from Oka. Moreover, open system processes involving mixing of (isotopically) distinct batches of magma have been previously documented in numerous carbonatite–alkaline centers world-wide (e.g., Simonetti and Bell, 1993, 1994, 1995; Bizzarro et al., 2003).



**Fig. 10.** (A) Apatite from Oka 147 (carbonatite, Stop 2.4) illustrating sector zoning; (B) Apatite from Oka 206 (carbonatite, Stop 2.4) displaying complex oscillatory zoning; (C) Apatite from Oka 72 (carbonatite, Stop 2.4) showing oscillatory zoning; (D) Apatite from Oka 89 (carbonatite, Stop 2.2) characterized by complex zoning patterns; (E) and (F) Illustrate apatite from Oka 31 (calcitic ijolite, Stop 2.2) with complex sector zoning; (G) and (H) Both display complex sector zoning in apatite from sample Oka200b. The cathodoluminescence (CL) images also indicate the approximate positions of the laser ablation spots used to determine the trace element contents and U–Pb ages.

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