



# Underplating of basaltic magmas and crustal growth in a continental arc: Evidence from Late Mesozoic intermediate–felsic intrusive rocks in southern Qiangtang, central Tibet



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## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received 8 April 2015

Accepted 16 September 2015

Available online 28 September 2015

### Keywords:

Crustal growth  
Underplating  
Adakites  
Late Mesozoic  
Qiangtang  
Tibet

## ABSTRACT

Phanerozoic growth of continental crust has widely been considered as an important geological phenomenon and mainly occurs in an arc setting. However, the crustal growth models (mantle-derived basalt underplating or accretion of island or intra-oceanic arc complexes or oceanic plateau) have been disputed. Here we present new zircon LA–ICPMS U–Pb age, whole-rock major and trace element, Sr–Nd and zircon Hf isotopic data for Late Mesozoic intermediate–felsic intrusive rocks in the Rena Co area in southern Qiangtang, central Tibet. LA–ICP–MS zircon U–Pb dating for two granodiorite and three diorite samples and one granodiorite porphyry sample gives ages of ca. 150 Ma, ca. 112 Ma, respectively, indicating they were generated in the Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous. All rocks are sub-alkaline in composition and belong to the high-K cal-alkaline series. The ~150 Ma diorites (SiO<sub>2</sub> = 57.9–61.2 wt.%) exhibit relatively high MgO (3.13–3.88 wt.%) and Cr (52.4–282 ppm) contents and Mg<sup>#</sup> (47–51) values, similar to magnesian diorites. They are geochemically characterized by uniformly low ε<sub>Nd</sub>(t) (–5.5 to –5.2), high (<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr)<sub>i</sub> (0.7071 to 0.7078) and Th/La (0.22–0.32), and variable zircon ε<sub>Hf</sub>(t) (–8.7 to +4.8) values. They were probably generated by melting of oceanic sediment diapirs, followed by interaction with the surrounding mantle during the northward subduction of Bangong–Nujiang Oceanic lithosphere. The ~150 Ma granodiorites and ~112 Ma granodiorite porphyries are characterized by low MgO (<3 wt.%) contents and Mg<sup>#</sup> (<45) values, high Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (>15 wt.%) and Sr (>400 ppm) and low Y (<18 ppm) and Yb (<1.9 ppm) contents, and high Sr/Y and La/Yb ratios, which are similar to those of typical adakites. The granodiorites have low ε<sub>Nd</sub>(t) (–7.6 to –3.7) and zircon ε<sub>Hf</sub>(t) (–9.8 to +0.2) and high (<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr)<sub>i</sub> (0.7069 to 0.7086) values, and were likely produced by partial melting of a thickened and heterogeneous ancient lower continental crust. The relatively depleted isotope compositions [(<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr)<sub>i</sub> = 0.7054–0.7065; ε<sub>Nd</sub>(t) = –0.61 to +0.25; zircon ε<sub>Hf</sub>(t) = +4.7 to +9.7] of the granodiorite porphyries indicate that they were most probably generated by partial melting of newly underplated and thickened basaltic lower crust. Taking into account ophiolites in the Bangong–Nujiang Suture and Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks in the southern Qiangtang sub-block, we suggest that this area was located in a continental arc setting. Moreover, from the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous, the ancient lower crust in the southern Qiangtang sub-block was gradually replaced by mantle-derived juvenile materials. The crustal evolution indicates that, in a continental arc, basaltic magma underplating plays a key role in vertical crustal growth.

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## 1. Introduction

One of the Earth's unique features when compared with other planets in our Solar System is the presence of the continental crust (Rudnick, 1995). However, the growth and evolution of the continental crust remains the topic of considerable debate (e.g., Hawkesworth and Kemp, 2006; Jahn, 2004). It is widely accepted that the formation of

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the continental crust was essentially complete in the Precambrian (Condie, 1998; Taylor and McLennan, 1995). However, in recent decades, this idea was challenged by isotope investigations in western North America (Sierra Nevada, Peninsular Range, and Canadian Cordillera) (Lee et al., 2007; Samson et al., 1989), South America (Andean) (Mišković and Schaltegger, 2009), eastern Australia (Lachlan and New England Fold belts) (Collins, 1998; McCulloch and Chappell, 1982), the central Asian Orogenic Belt (also known as the Altaid Tectonic Collage) (e.g., Jahn, 2004; Kröner et al., 2014; Sengör et al., 1993) and south Tibet (Gangdese belt) (e.g., Chu et al., 2006; Ji et al., 2009; Ma et al., 2013a; Mo et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2014c; Zhu et al., 2011), which revealed that a substantial proportion of Phanerozoic crust is juvenile. Phanerozoic continental crustal growth primarily occurs in subduction zones by lateral accretion of island or intra-oceanic arc complexes and oceanic plateaus or by vertical addition by underplating of basaltic magmas in the crust–mantle interface (Chen and Arakawa, 2005; Jahn, 2004; Rudnick, 1995).

Numerous studies in southern Tibet indicate that Jurassic–Early Eocene Gangdese granitoids with high and positive  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  have important implications for Gangdese crustal growth (e.g., Chu et al., 2006; Ji et al., 2009; Ma et al., 2013a; Zhang et al., 2014c). Geochemical investigations of Early Cretaceous igneous rocks along an east–west traverse in central and northern Lhasa sub-block reveal basalt underplating-related vertical crustal growth, plausibly triggered by break-off in a continent–continent collision setting in central Tibet (e.g., Sui et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011). Recently, however, Zhang et al. (2014a) reported the occurrence of a Meso-Tethyan oceanic plateau in the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean, in the Late Mesozoic (193–173 Ma and 128–104 Ma), indicating lateral crustal growth by accretion of oceanic plateau. Therefore, we suggest that the mechanism and tectonic setting for Late Mesozoic crustal growth in central Tibet remains unclear.

Granitoids are the main components of continental crust. Much work has been done on their Sr–Nd isotopic compositions to better understand their genesis and thus the origin and evolution of the continental crust (e.g., Jahn, 2004). Phanerozoic granitoids that originated from juvenile crust have rather different initial Sr–Nd isotopic compositions compared to those derived from ancient crust because juvenile crust (middle oceanic ridge basalt (MORB), oceanic island basalt (OIB), and newly underplated basalts) have positive  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  and low ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ )<sub>i</sub>, while old continental crustal rocks generally have negative  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  and high ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ )<sub>i</sub> (e.g., Chen and Arakawa, 2005). Recently, Hf isotope analyses on zircons have been widely used to trace the source regions of their host magmas. Due to the mineral's physiochemical resistance, the isotopic data can readily distinguish the involvement of newly derived mantle melts from the remelting of old mature crust (Griffin et al., 2002; Kemp et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2007; Zhu et al., 2011).

Mesozoic intermediate–felsic intrusive rocks are widely distributed in the southern Qiangtang, central Tibet (e.g., Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2014a). In this study, we report zircon LA–ICPMS U–Pb age, whole-rock major and trace element, Sr–Nd and zircon Hf isotopic data for Late Jurassic granodiorites and diorites and Early Cretaceous granodiorite porphyries in the Rena Co area, north of Gerze County in southern Qiangtang. We systematically investigate their petrogenesis and tectonic setting and trace the temporal variations of their source regions, with important implications for crustal growth in central Tibet.

## 2. Geological setting and petrographical characteristics

The Tibetan plateau consists of five blocks (from north to south: Qaidam, Songpan–Ganze–Hoh Xil, Qiangtang, Lhasa, and Himalaya), mainly separated by four sutures (Animaqin–Kunlun–Muztagh, Jinsha, Bangong–Nujiang and Indus–Yalu Sutures, respectively. Fig. 1a) (Chung et al., 2005; Yin and Harrison, 2000). The Qiangtang block is located in

central Tibet, and is bounded by the Jinsha Suture (JS) to the north and the Bangong–Nujiang Suture (BNS) to the south (Yin and Harrison, 2000). It is divided into southern and northern Qiangtang sub-blocks by Longmu–Shuanghu suture (Li et al., 2006; Pan et al., 2004).

The Bangong–Nujiang Suture Zone (BNSZ), which extends over 2000 km across central Tibet, is characterized by mainly Jurassic–Cretaceous flysch, mélangé and scattered ophiolitic fragments representing remnants of the Bangong–Nujiang ocean basin (Kapp et al., 2003; Pan et al., 2004). The main strata exposed in southern Qiangtang sub-block consist of Carboniferous and Permian interbedded sandstone and shale, Triassic limestone, and Jurassic sandstone (Pan et al., 2004) (Fig. 1c). Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks are widely distributed in the southern Qiangtang from the Rotug to Amdo area (Fig. 1b). These rocks are dominated by intermediate–felsic magmatic rocks and currently available geochronological data (e.g., Chang et al., 2011; Guynn et al., 2006; Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2011, 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014; Zhang et al., 2012a) indicate that they were emplaced between 183 and 101 Ma.

The Rena Co (lake) area, approximately 40 km north of Gerze County, is located in the southern Qiangtang sub-block (Fig. 1b) and includes five unnamed intermediate–felsic plutons. As numbered in Fig. 2, plutons ① and ②, ③ and ④, and ⑤ consist of granodiorites, diorites and granodiorite porphyries, respectively.

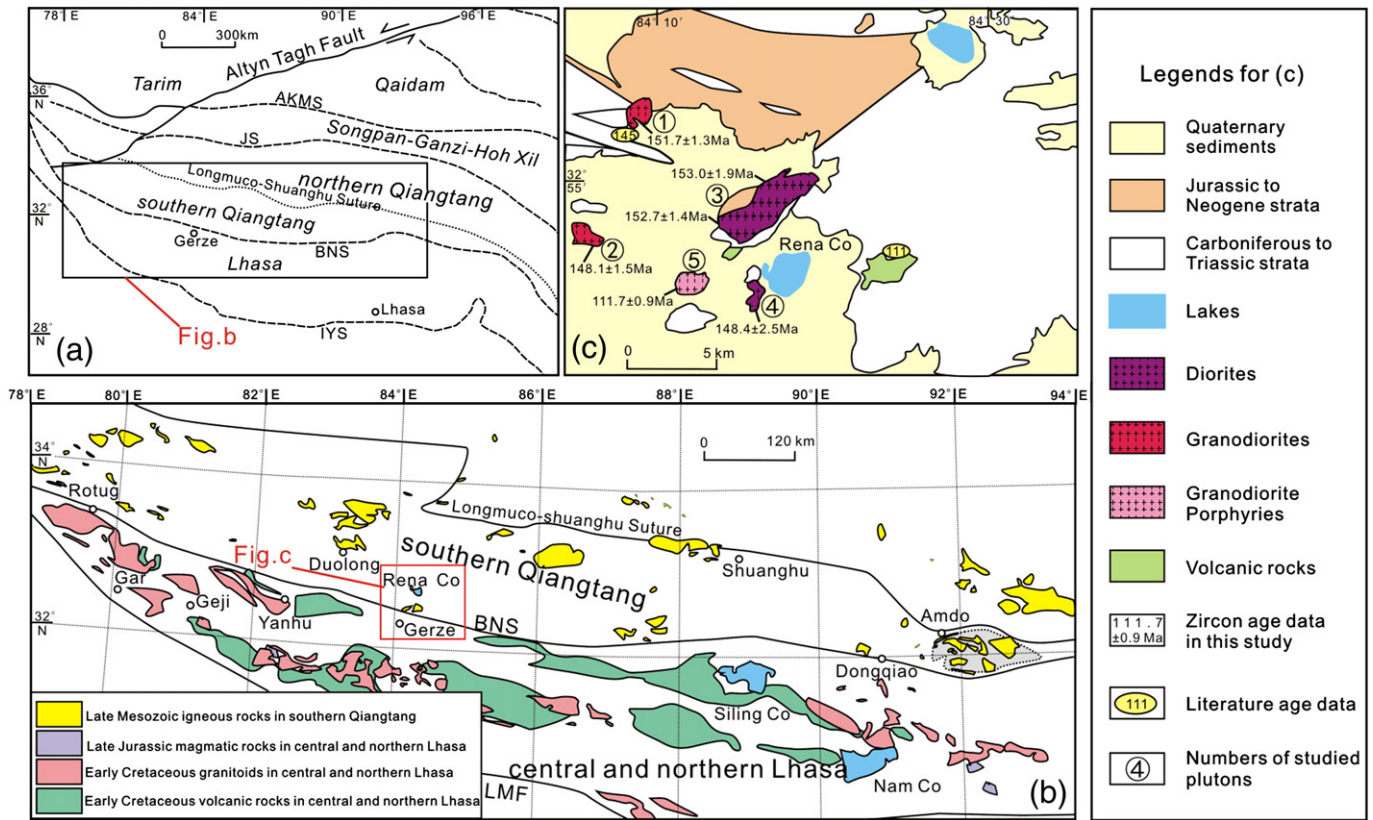
Granodiorites contain amphibole (5–10 vol.%), biotite (10–15 vol.%), plagioclase (60–65 vol.%), and quartz (10–15 vol.%) with accessory zircon, apatite and Fe–Ti oxides (Fig. 2a–d). Diorites contain amphibole (10–15 vol.%), biotite (20–25 vol.%), plagioclase (55–60 vol.%), and quartz (~5 vol.%) with accessory zircon, apatite, titanite, and Fe–Ti oxides (Fig. 2e–h). Granodiorite porphyries are typically porphyritic, with 40–50 vol.% phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite and quartz and matrix composed mainly of K-feldspar and quartz (Fig. 2i–j).

## 3. Analytical methods

The samples used for geochemical analyses were powdered to ~200-mesh size in an agate mortar. Major element oxides were analyzed on fused glass beads using a Rigaku RIX 2000 X-ray fluorescence spectrometer at the State Key Laboratory of Isotope Geochemistry, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (SKLaBIG, GIGCAS). Calibration lines used in quantification were produced by bivariate regression of data from 36 reference materials encompassing a wide range of silicate compositions (Li et al., 2004). Analytical uncertainties are between 1% and 5%. Trace elements were analyzed using an Agilent 7500a ICP–MS at GIGCAS. Analytical procedures were similar to those described by Li et al. (2004). A set of USGS and Chinese national rock standards, including BHVO-2, GSR-1, GSR-2, GSR-3, AGV-2, W-2 and SARM-4 were chosen for calibration. Analytical precision typically is better than 5%. The major and trace element data are listed in Table 1.

Sr and Nd isotope analyses were performed using a Micromass Isoprobe multi-collector mass spectrometer (MC–ICPMS) at SKLaBIG, GIGCAS. Analytical procedures are described by Li et al. (2004). The  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio of the NBS987 standard and  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  ratio of the Shin Etsu JNdi-1 standard measured were  $0.710251 \pm 6$  ( $n = 19$ ,  $2\sigma$ ) and  $0.512087 \pm 3$  ( $n = 11$ ,  $2\sigma$ ), respectively. All measured  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  and  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr}$  ratios are fractionation corrected to  $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$  and  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$ , respectively. The Sr–Nd isotope data are presented in Table 1.

Zircon crystals were separated from six rock samples using standard density and magnetic separation techniques. Zircon grains were handpicked and mounted in an epoxy resin disk, and then polished and coated with gold. Cathodoluminescence (CL) images were taken at SKLaBIG, GIGCAS with a JEOL JXA-8100 Superprobe for inspecting



**Fig. 1.** (a) Tectonic framework of the Tibetan Plateau (modified from diagrams of Chung et al. (2005) and Yin and Harrison (2000)). Main suture zones between major blocks: AKMS, Ayimaqen–Kunlun–Mutztagh suture; JS, Jinsha suture; BNS, Bangong–Nujiang suture; and IYS, Indus–Yalu suture. (b) Map of the central Tibetan Plateau showing the distribution of Late Mesozoic igneous rocks in southern Qiangtang and central and northern Lhasa sub-blocks. LMF, Luobadui–Milanshan Fault. (c) Simplified geologic map showing outcrops of magmatic rocks in the Renji Co area, southern Qiangtang, central Tibet. Literature age data are from Kapp et al. (2005) and Chang et al. (2011).

internal morphology of individual zircons and for selecting positions for U–Pb age and Lu–Hf isotope analyses.

Zircon U–Pb dating was conducted at the MC–ICPMS laboratory of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGGCAS) in Beijing, China. Detailed operating conditions for the laser ablation system and the ICP–MS instrument and data reduction were the same as those described in Xie et al. (2008). An Agilent 7500a quadrupole (Q)–ICPMS and a Neptune multi-collector (MC)–ICPMS with a 193 nm excimer ArF laser-ablation system (GeoLas Plus) attached were used for simultaneous determination of zircon U–Pb ages. Uncertainties on individual analyses in the data tables are reported at a 1 $\sigma$  level. Mean ages for pooled U/Pb and Pb/Pb analyses are quoted with 2 $\sigma$  and/or 95% confidence intervals.  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ratios were calculated using the ICPMSDataCal software (Liu et al., 2009), using the zircon standard 91500 as an external standard. Common Pb was corrected according to the method proposed by Andersen (2002). The weighted mean U–Pb ages and concordia plots were processed using the Isoplot/Ex v.3.0 program (Ludwig, 2003). LA–ICP–MS zircon U–Pb isotopic data are presented in the Supplementary Data.

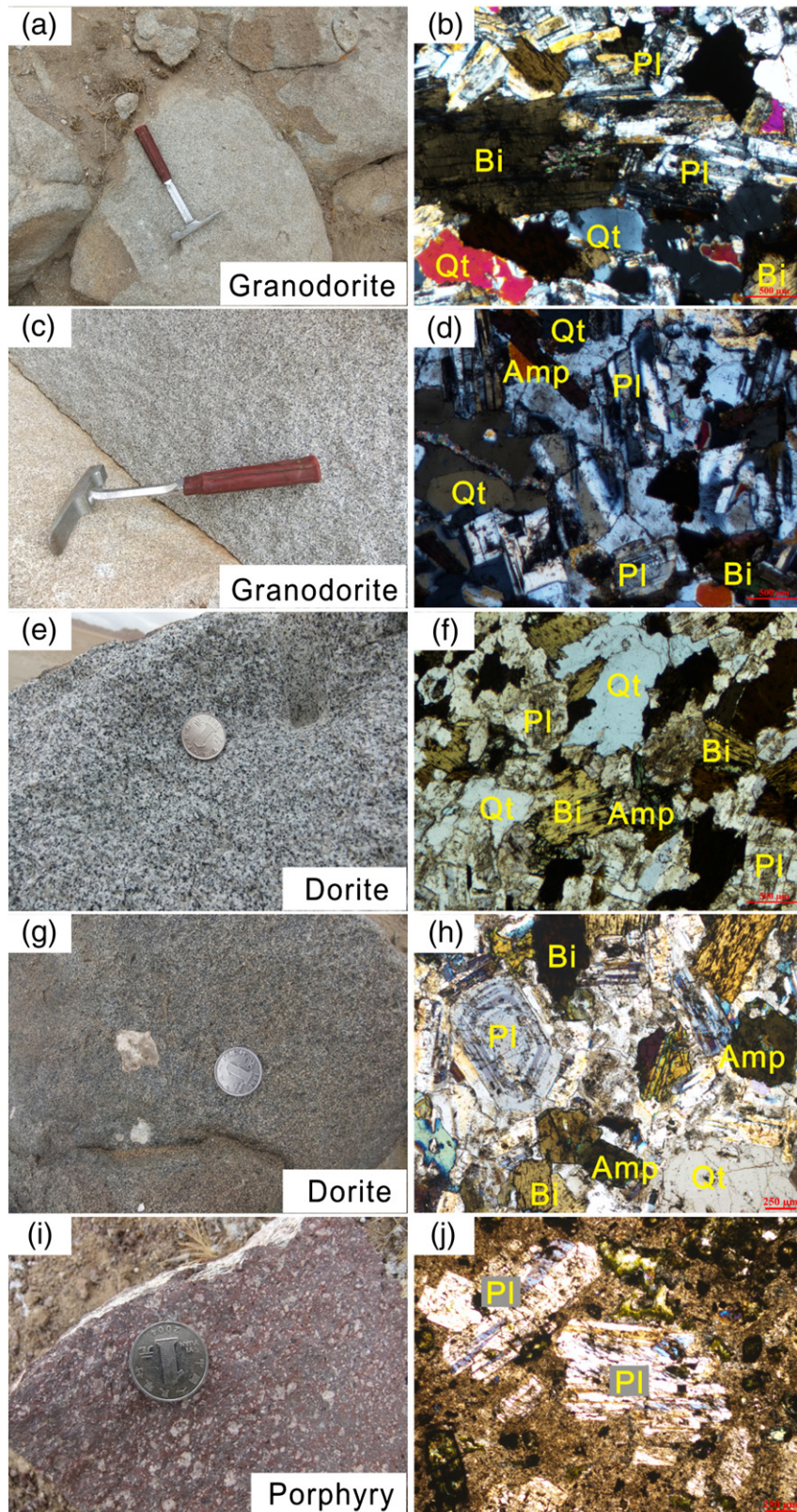
In situ Hf isotope measurements were subsequently undertaken using LA–ICPMS with a beam size of 60  $\mu\text{m}$  and laser pulse frequency of 8 Hz at the MC–ICPMS laboratory of IGGCAS. Lu–Hf isotopic analyses were conducted on the same zircons that were previously analyzed for U–Pb isotopes. Details of instrumental conditions and data acquisition were given in Wu et al. (2006). Our determined  $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$  ratios for zircon standards MUD ( $0.282504 \pm 0.000002$ ) and GJ-1 ( $0.282018 \pm 0.000004$ ) were in good agreement within errors with the reported values (e.g., Wu et al., 2006). Zircon Hf isotopic data are listed in the Supplementary Data.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Zircon U–Pb dating results

Zircons from six samples including three diorite samples, two granodiorite samples and one granodiorite porphyry sample are mostly euhedral to subhedral, with lengths of 80–250  $\mu\text{m}$ , and length to width ratios of 1:1 to 4:1 (Fig. 3). Most grains show oscillatory zoning (Fig. 3), which is characteristic of igneous zircons (Belousova et al., 2002). Zircon U–Pb age data for six samples are shown in Fig. 3.

Eighteen and twenty-one zircon U–Pb analyses for diorite samples 13GZ09-1 and 13GZ11-1 yield weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages of  $153.0 \pm 1.9$  Ma,  $152.7 \pm 1.4$  Ma, respectively (Fig. 3a–b). Nine analyses for one diorite sample 13GZ15-1 are concordant and give a weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $148.4 \pm 2.5$  Ma and the remaining five analyses produce slightly younger and discordant ages (Fig. 3c) due to significant radiogenic Pb loss probably caused by the later tectono-thermal events. Nineteen analyses for a granodiorite sample 13GZ03 yield a weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $151.7 \pm 1.3$  Ma (Fig. 3d). In Fig. 3e, three zircons of the granodiorite sample 13GZ25 exhibit variable  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$  ages so that they deviate from the concordia curve (Fig. 3e). This is most likely due to inaccurate radiogenic  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  measurements because of its low concentration in these zircons (e.g., Ma et al., 2013a). However, their  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages are nearly concordant with a weighted mean age of  $148.1 \pm 1.5$  Ma that could represent the emplacement age. Twenty-one analyses of one granodiorite porphyry sample (13GZ20-1) yield a weighted mean  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  age of  $111.7 \pm 0.9$  Ma (Fig. 3f), apart from one spot that shows an inherited age of 145 Ma.



**Fig. 2.** Field photos (left) and corresponding thin section photomicrographs (right) of the Rena Co intrusive rocks. (a–b) the granodiorite from the pluton ①. (c–d) the granodiorite from the pluton ②. (e–f) the diorite from the pluton ③. (g–h) the diorite from the pluton ④. (i–j) the granodiorite porphyry from the pluton ⑤. Abbreviations: Pl = plagioclase, Amp = amphibole, Kfs = K-feldspar, Bi = biotite, and Qt = quartz.

In summary, (1) the granodiorites and diorites were generated in the Late Jurassic (ca. 150 Ma), with ages similar to those obtained for (~145–160 Ma) intrusive rocks near the Rena Co area by the single zircon U–Pb ion microprobe and  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ – $^{39}\text{Ar}$

dating (Kapp et al., 2005); (2) the granodiorite porphyries were formed in the late Early Cretaceous (ca. 112 Ma), similar to volcanic rocks in the Rena Co area (Chang et al., 2011; Kapp et al., 2005).

## 4.2. Major and trace elements

The studied samples include diorites, granodiorites and granodiorite porphyries (Fig. 4a), all of which plot within the high-K cal-alkaline field on the diagram of  $K_2O$  versus  $SiO_2$  (Fig. 4b).

The Rena Co diorites have  $SiO_2$  ranging from 57.9 to 61.2 wt.% (volatile-free) and low FeO/MgO ratios (Fig. 4f). They exhibit high

compatible element concentrations with variable Cr (52.4–282 ppm) and Ni (11–33 ppm) contents. They are characterized by MgO contents (3.13 to 3.88 wt.%) and  $Mg^\#$  (47–51) [ $Mg^\# = Mg^{2+} / (Mg^{2+} + Fe^{2+}) \times 100$ ], that are higher than those of metabasaltic and eclogite experimental melts (Fig. 4c–d) (Rapp et al., 1999), but similar to those of magnesian andesites (e.g., Kelemen et al., 2014; McCarron and Smellie, 1998), such as the Duogecuoren magnesian

**Table 1**  
Major, trace elemental and Sr–Nd isotopic compositions for the Rena Co plutons.

Sample	13GZ02	13GZ03	13GZ04	13GZ05	13GZ08-1	13GZ08-2	13GZ19	13GZ22-1
Type	Granodiorite							
No.	①	①	①	①	①	①	②	②
GPS	84.084°E 32.889°N	84.084°E 32.889°N	84.084°E 32.889°N	84.083°E 32.889°N	84.048°E 32.889°N	84.048°E 32.889°N	84.048°E 32.889°N	84.025°E 32.768°N
Age (Ma)	151.70							
$SiO_2$	64.14	64.35	64.55	66.07	63.26	63.62	64.78	66.18
$TiO_2$	0.70	0.68	0.66	0.60	0.73	0.72	0.63	0.47
$Al_2O_3$	17.12	16.89	16.81	16.42	17.29	17.09	16.59	16.26
$Fe_2O_3$ T	4.72	4.63	4.92	3.99	5.03	5.12	4.67	3.27
MnO	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.08
MgO	1.26	1.21	1.20	1.01	1.31	1.29	1.57	0.91
CaO	4.68	4.75	4.73	4.30	5.05	4.91	3.77	3.16
$Na_2O$	3.22	3.69	3.22	3.46	3.33	3.23	3.14	3.77
$K_2O$	2.90	2.71	2.79	3.02	2.75	2.77	3.37	3.26
$P_2O_5$	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.17	0.22	0.21	0.14	0.10
L.O.I.	0.50	0.32	0.32	0.40	0.46	0.45	0.76	2.07
Total	99.51	99.52	99.51	99.51	99.51	99.52	99.51	99.54
Mg#	35	34	33	33	34	33	40	35
A/CNK	1.01	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.99	1.06	1.05
T Zr (°C)	823	826	696	821	816	824	776	810
Sc	4.44	4.11	4.27	3.57	4.86	4.80	8.93	3.91
V	25.2	26.6	23.5	22.9	28.2	24.4	48.4	17.5
Cr	190	42.9	43.2	21.4	232	68.8	244	71.1
Co	7.42	6.45	6.93	5.51	7.91	7.19	9.01	4.83
Ni	15.4	3.51	4.56	3.11	18.5	4.27	24.7	4.14
Cu	19.6	3.78	4.44	3.43	23.2	4.20	28.9	3.61
Zn	105	112	115	103	108	113	75.2	91.6
Ga	25.8	26.1	26.5	25.0	25.9	26.2	20.3	24.2
Ge	1.87	2.14	2.19	1.84	2.05	2.13	1.85	1.45
Cs	4.37	4.98	4.55	3.77	3.61	3.66	8.92	2.61
Rb	101	101	97.3	99.5	100	104	126	107
Ba	751	658	696	676	621	647	923	748
Th	10.8	13.2	12.5	9.13	11.9	12.6	7.64	10.3
U	1.40	1.70	1.21	1.43	1.70	1.67	1.26	1.35
Nb	20.7	23.2	22.0	22.7	20.6	20.6	13.4	16.2
Ta	1.48	1.68	1.50	1.68	1.48	1.42	0.96	1.01
La	37.6	47.4	47.1	33.4	40.7	47.4	26.1	34.8
Ce	77.3	97.1	93.9	66.8	84.5	92.1	51.1	63.5
Pb	17.7	18.1	17.2	17.9	17.0	17.8	21.3	20.8
Pr	8.96	11.6	11.2	8.24	9.75	11.1	5.98	7.00
Sr	654	634	640	610	651	635	613	635
Nd	33.4	43.9	41.9	32.0	37.1	41.5	22.3	24.4
Zr	290	323	63	287	286	305	158	227
Hf	7.33	8.44	1.83	7.50	7.27	7.77	4.39	5.94
Sm	6.24	7.83	7.35	6.32	6.79	7.40	4.04	3.78
Eu	1.84	2.03	1.96	1.78	1.92	1.94	1.18	1.07
Gd	4.77	5.60	5.22	4.71	5.05	5.41	3.13	2.71
Tb	0.54	0.60	0.54	0.53	0.57	0.58	0.41	0.28
Dy	2.32	2.35	2.08	2.11	2.43	2.36	2.06	1.17
Y	8.51	7.86	6.80	6.94	8.81	7.98	9.23	4.63
Ho	0.35	0.32	0.27	0.28	0.36	0.33	0.38	0.19
Er	0.73	0.63	0.52	0.52	0.78	0.66	0.94	0.43
Tm	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.08	0.14	0.06
Yb	0.55	0.46	0.35	0.34	0.57	0.48	0.82	0.36
Lu	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.13	0.05
$^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$		0.708150		0.708211		0.708021	0.707960	0.707983
$\pm 2\sigma$		0.000006		0.000007		0.000009	0.000007	0.000008
( $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ) <sub>i</sub>		0.70717		0.70720		0.70701	0.70669	0.70694
$^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd$		0.512346		0.512362		0.512363	0.512340	0.512315
$\pm 2\sigma$		0.000004		0.000004		0.000005	0.000004	0.000005
$\epsilon Nd(t)$		−4.0		−3.9		−3.7	−4.2	−4.3
$T_{2DM}$ (Ma)		1274		1267		1247	1287	1302

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

Sample	13GZ23	13GZ24-1	13GZ24-2	13GZ25	13GZ09-1	13GZ09-2	13GZ10-1	13GZ10-2
Type	Granodiorite				Diorite			
No.	②	②	②	②	③	③	③	③
GPS	84.023°E	84.022°E	84.022°E	84.021°E	84.204°E	84.204°E	84.204°E	84.204°E
	32.768°N	32.768°N	32.768°N	32.769°N	32.79°N	32.79°N	32.784°N	32.784°N
Age (Ma)				148.10	153.00			
SiO <sub>2</sub>	63.53	65.74	65.94	64.95	60.14	59.90	60.18	60.43
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.62	0.49	0.49	0.60	0.81	0.82	0.87	0.86
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	17.15	16.41	16.05	16.73	16.54	16.60	16.48	16.50
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> T	4.43	3.30	3.45	4.39	7.08	7.03	6.90	6.79
MnO	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.21	0.18	0.16	0.15
MgO	1.60	0.93	0.90	1.60	3.10	3.20	3.12	3.09
CaO	4.24	3.27	2.97	4.00	5.26	5.28	5.13	5.45
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.51	3.91	3.79	3.22	2.74	2.69	2.44	2.48
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.91	3.17	3.52	3.03	2.66	2.75	2.78	2.73
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.19
L.O.I.	1.33	2.14	2.23	0.91	0.79	0.87	1.25	0.82
Total	99.52	99.52	99.54	99.64	99.52	99.51	99.51	99.50
Mg#	42	36	34	42	46	47	47	47
A/CNK	1.03	1.04	1.04	1.06	0.98	0.98	1.01	0.97
T Zr(°C)	786	816	808	796	762	770	780	776
Sc	7.11	3.83	3.80	6.53	16.7	17.4	17.6	18.5
V	32.0	20.0	18.3	35.8	111	117	106	104
Cr	43.4	247	42.4	38.8	101	72.2	282	198
Co	7.80	6.08	4.44	7.90	14.2	14.3	14.0	13.7
Ni	5.68	19.5	6.03	6.72	15.6	15.2	27.9	24.7
Cu	4.35	23.8	4.61	6.25	6.98	7.65	27.0	23.7
Zn	87.4	92.9	68.7	83.1	87.8	90.3	84.7	86.7
Ga	22.8	24.9	23.2	22.4	20.1	20.5	19.5	19.4
Ge	1.51	1.44	1.50	1.60	2.47	2.47	2.49	2.42
Cs	4.47	2.96	2.13	5.43	7.40	7.45	6.58	6.30
Rb	104	106	121	113	107	110	103	102
Ba	683	737	755	671	615	638	624	568
Th	8.79	10.9	10.7	10.4	7.37	7.70	11.1	7.42
U	1.36	1.47	1.45	1.54	0.65	0.68	1.19	1.08
Nb	12.1	16.8	15.9	11.5	13.8	14.2	12.5	12.5
Ta	0.82	1.05	1.00	0.76	1.05	1.06	0.96	0.98
La	25.9	36.0	35.0	30.8	24.0	24.0	38.0	25.6
Ce	49.2	64.9	64.0	58.8	50.0	48.1	74.1	54.3
Pb	19.8	20.4	19.5	22.4	17.5	18.0	15.9	16.0
Pr	5.74	7.26	7.13	6.68	5.94	6.01	8.93	6.63
Sr	534	656	615	475	460	459	456	422
Nd	21.1	25.1	24.8	23.8	23.2	23.9	33.4	26.3
Zr	189	250	227	201	166	183	194	194
Hf	5.00	6.63	5.93	5.61	4.42	4.79	5.26	5.19
Sm	3.87	3.94	3.89	4.09	4.77	4.90	6.07	5.27
Eu	1.09	1.12	1.07	1.09	1.33	1.34	1.56	1.56
Gd	3.14	2.77	2.77	3.25	4.25	4.35	5.10	4.65
Tb	0.40	0.28	0.28	0.40	0.63	0.65	0.72	0.69
Dy	1.99	1.21	1.19	2.02	3.49	3.64	3.97	3.94
Y	8.27	4.84	4.73	9.39	16.8	17.4	18.8	19.0
Ho	0.35	0.19	0.19	0.35	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.79
Er	0.82	0.45	0.44	0.85	1.84	1.90	2.06	2.12
Tm	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.28	0.28	0.31	0.32
Yb	0.70	0.38	0.37	0.73	1.74	1.81	1.96	2.02
Lu	0.10	0.06	0.05	0.11	0.27	0.28	0.30	0.31
<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	0.709809			0.710030	0.708556	0.708577		0.708924
±2σ	0.000007			0.000005	0.000007	0.000008		0.000007
( <sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr) <sub>i</sub>	0.70861			0.70856	0.70712	0.70710		0.70743
<sup>143</sup> Nd/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	0.512163			0.512158	0.512285	0.512300		0.512289
±2σ	0.000004			0.000003	0.000004	0.000005		0.000005
εNd(t)	−7.6			−7.6	−5.5	−5.2		−5.4
T <sub>2DM</sub> (Ma)	1571			1568	1397	1373		1386
Sample	13GZ11-1	13GZ11-2	13GZ13-1	13GZ13-2	13GZ15-1	13GZ15-2	13GZ20-1	13GZ20-2
Type	Diorite				Granodiorite porphyry			
No.	③	③	④	④	④	④	⑤	⑤
GPS	84.199°E	84.199°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.173°E	84.173°E
	32.777°N	32.777°N	32.714°N	32.714°N	32.708°N	32.708°N	32.723°N	32.723°N
Age (Ma)	152.70				148.4 ± 2.5		111.72	
SiO <sub>2</sub>	56.91	57.13	59.20	59.41	58.38	58.30	67.09	68.24
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.98	1.01	0.91	0.88	0.87	0.85	0.45	0.44

Table 1 (continued)

Sample	13GZ11-1	13GZ11-2	13GZ13-1	13GZ13-2	13GZ15-1	13GZ15-2	13GZ20-1	13GZ20-2
Type	Diorite			Granodiorite porphyry				
No.	③	③	④	④	④	④	⑤	⑤
GPS	84.199°E	84.199°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.234°E	84.173°E	84.173°E
	32.777°N	32.777°N	32.714°N	32.714°N	32.708°N	32.708°N	32.723°N	32.723°N
Age (Ma)	152.70			148.4 ± 2.5			111.72	
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	17.16	17.06	16.76	16.61	16.49	16.67	15.31	15.32
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> T	7.89	7.87	7.38	7.12	7.43	7.64	3.81	3.68
MnO	0.18	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.18	0.18	0.08	0.07
MgO	3.54	3.50	3.39	3.66	3.81	3.77	0.34	0.49
CaO	6.08	6.22	5.49	5.39	5.61	5.54	2.11	1.70
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.74	2.62	2.52	2.50	2.40	2.51	5.47	4.85
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.49	2.46	2.63	2.78	2.92	2.90	3.03	2.90
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.24	0.25	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.20	0.14	0.14
L.O.I.	1.30	1.21	0.87	0.83	1.19	0.95	1.68	1.67
Total	99.52	99.51	99.51	99.50	99.51	99.50	99.51	99.52
Mg#	47	47	48	50	50	49	15	21
A/CNK	0.94	0.93	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.96	0.95	1.08
T Zr (°C)	754	759	768	766	766	762	751	766
Sc	21.1	21.4	19.0	19.4	20.8	21.4	6.81	6.80
V	128	127	125	119	141	144	64.1	51.1
Cr	90.9	52.4	202	67.6	102	117	263	209
Co	14.9	14.5	16.7	17.0	18.3	17.9	7.07	6.90
Ni	13.5	11.2	32.7	20.3	22.6	21.0	41.4	24.1
Cu	5.95	8.22	21.8	7.45	15.8	15.7	39.4	33.0
Zn	103	102	88.2	89.1	91.4	90.1	37.3	39.4
Ga	20.6	20.5	20.6	20.3	20.7	20.4	11.2	12.0
Ge	2.75	2.73	2.51	2.61	2.75	2.64	1.39	1.45
Cs	5.44	4.77	8.74	5.70	5.65	5.68	3.33	4.23
Rb	90.6	89.5	105	107	114	108	76.1	85.3
Ba	564	553	624	655	691	641	980	917
Th	6.54	6.57	8.69	8.13	12.0	9.66	8.65	8.57
U	1.22	1.10	1.08	0.98	1.51	1.13	1.72	1.85
Nb	12.8	13.2	14.3	13.9	16.0	16.3	6.81	6.91
Ta	0.92	0.91	1.03	0.99	1.18	1.17	0.58	0.59
La	29.9	29.7	33.3	29.7	39.7	33.1	21.5	21.8
Ce	62.0	64.2	65.8	57.9	75.2	63.3	39.0	41.0
Pb	13.5	13.2	14.6	15.1	16.3	13.7	15.4	16.0
Pr	8.13	8.13	7.79	7.22	8.94	7.59	4.52	4.57
Sr	497	443	467	474	459	428	438	472
Nd	32.5	32.7	29.9	27.7	33.7	28.8	16.0	16.3
Zr	172	183	178	176	189	177	131	130
Hf	4.57	4.77	4.53	4.54	4.97	4.64	3.40	3.43
Sm	6.47	6.65	5.77	5.44	6.29	5.49	2.74	2.82
Eu	1.67	1.69	1.48	1.48	1.53	1.40	0.73	0.75
Gd	5.64	5.89	5.03	4.81	5.47	4.86	2.33	2.42
Tb	0.83	0.87	0.75	0.70	0.79	0.71	0.33	0.33
Dy	4.67	4.87	4.16	3.99	4.50	4.08	1.85	1.87
Y	21.8	23.7	20.0	19.3	21.6	19.9	8.62	8.61
Ho	0.92	0.97	0.82	0.80	0.91	0.82	0.36	0.38
Er	2.41	2.52	2.17	2.13	2.42	2.22	0.97	1.01
Tm	0.35	0.37	0.32	0.31	0.36	0.33	0.15	0.15
Yb	2.20	2.33	2.02	1.99	2.27	2.10	0.96	1.00
Lu	0.34	0.35	0.31	0.30	0.35	0.32	0.15	0.16
<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	0.708883			0.708761	0.708678		0.707265	0.707359
± 2σ	0.000008			0.000008	0.000006		0.000008	0.000008
( <sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr) <sub>i</sub>	0.70776			0.70738	0.70714		0.70646	0.70653
<sup>143</sup> Nd/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	0.512296			0.512288	0.512279		0.512577	0.512583
± 2σ	0.000004			0.000004	0.000004		0.000004	0.000004
εNd(t)	−5.2			−5.3	−5.4		0.1	0.2
T <sub>2DM</sub> (Ma)	1374			1383	1389		904	895
Sample				13GZ21-1		13GZ21-2		
Type				Granodiorite porphyry				
No.				⑤				
GPS				84.173°E		84.173°E		
				32.724°N		32.724°N		
Age (Ma)								
SiO <sub>2</sub>				65.33		66.04		
TiO <sub>2</sub>				0.56		0.58		
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>				14.86		15.13		

(continued on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

Sample	13GZ21-1	13GZ21-2
Type	Granodiorite porphyry	
No.	⑤	⑤
GPS	84.173°E	84.173°E
	32.724°N	32.724°N
Age (Ma)		
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> T	4.79	4.56
MnO	0.08	0.07
MgO	0.58	0.91
CaO	3.76	3.38
Na <sub>2</sub> O	4.20	4.00
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.77	2.96
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.20	0.16
L.O.I.	2.39	1.74
Total	99.53	99.52
Mg#	19	28
A/CNK	0.89	0.95
T Zr(°C)	730	743
Sc	10.1	10.1
V	114	106
Cr	331	310
Co	10.9	9.99
Ni	45.5	41.3
Cu	68.1	61.9
Zn	45.0	45.9
Ga	14.1	14.7
Ge	1.71	1.64
Cs	6.05	6.22
Rb	91.4	104.5
Ba	1029	964
Th	7.73	7.96
U	1.77	2.07
Nb	5.95	6.39
Ta	0.44	0.47
La	24.0	24.1
Ce	44.9	43.8
Pb	11.8	12.4
Pr	5.12	5.02
Sr	484	502
Nd	18.6	18.1
Zr	112	118
Hf	2.94	3.11
Sm	3.14	3.01
Eu	0.81	0.78
Gd	2.57	2.42
Tb	0.33	0.32
Dy	1.82	1.75
Y	8.46	8.23
Ho	0.35	0.35
Er	0.93	0.92
Tm	0.14	0.14
Yb	0.87	0.87
Lu	0.13	0.13
<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	0.706252	
±2σ	0.000007	
( <sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr) <sub>i</sub>	0.70538	
<sup>143</sup> Nd/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	0.512537	
±2σ	0.000004	
εNd(t)	−0.6	
T <sub>2DM</sub> (Ma)	966	

Corrected formula as follows (Chu et al., 2006):

$$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}(i) = ^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} - (^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}) * (e^{\lambda T} - 1)$$

$$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr} = (\text{Rb}/\text{Sr}) * 2.8956$$

$$\lambda (\text{Rb}-\text{Sr}) = 0.0142 \text{ Ga}^{-1};$$

$$\epsilon\text{Nd}(T) = [(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}}(T) / (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}(T) - 1] * 10^4$$

$$\lambda (\text{Sm}-\text{Nd}) = 0.00654 \text{ Ga}^{-1}$$

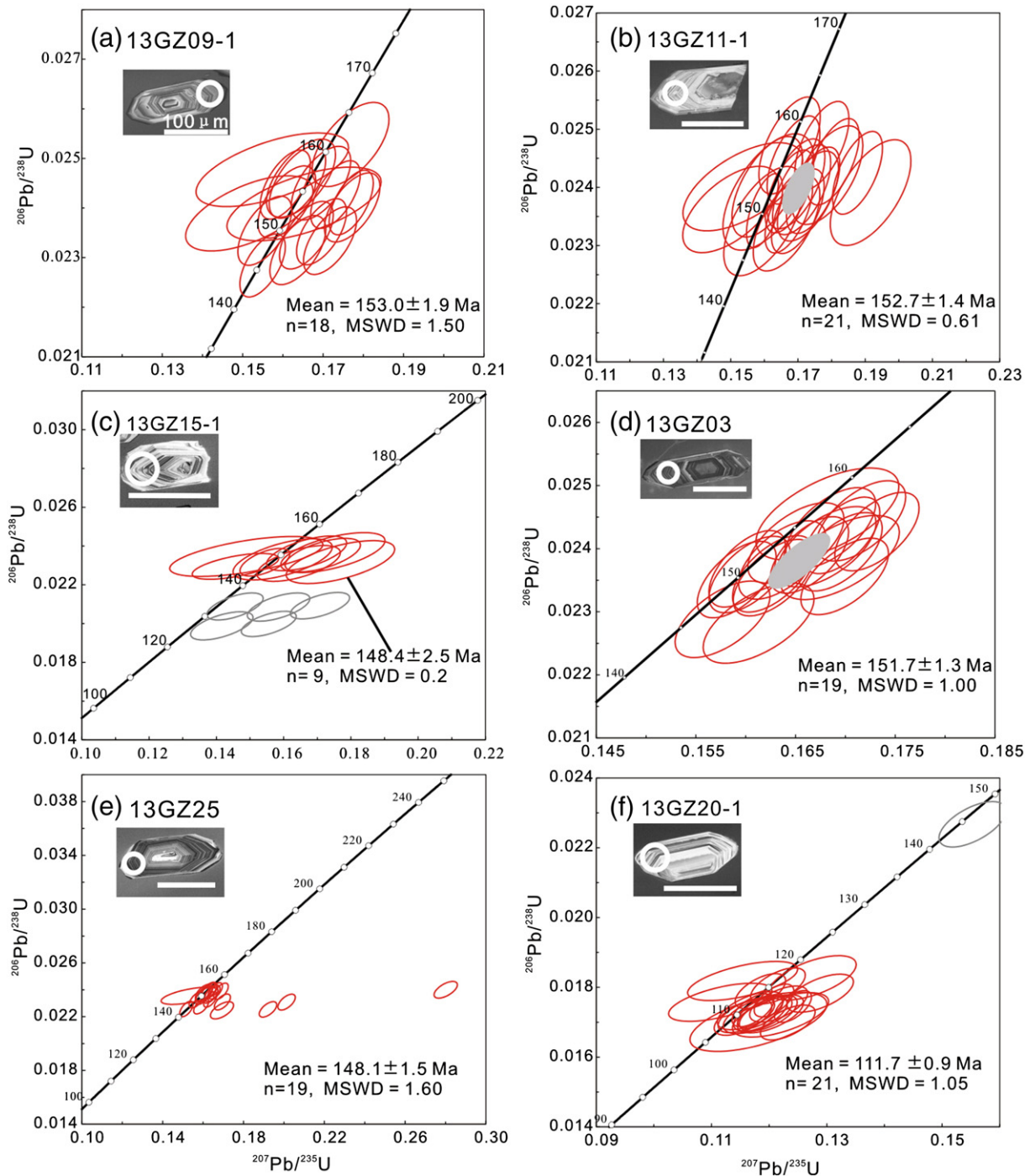
$$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}}(T) = (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}} - (^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}} * (e^{\lambda T} - 1)$$

$$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd} = (\text{Sm}/\text{Nd}) * 0.60456$$

$$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}(T) = 0.512638 - 0.1967 * (e^{\lambda T} - 1)$$

$$T_{2DM}(\text{Nd}) = 1/\lambda * \ln\{1 + [((^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}} - [(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{Sample}} - 0.118] * (e^{\lambda T} - 1) - 0.513151) / (0.118 - 0.2136)]\}$$



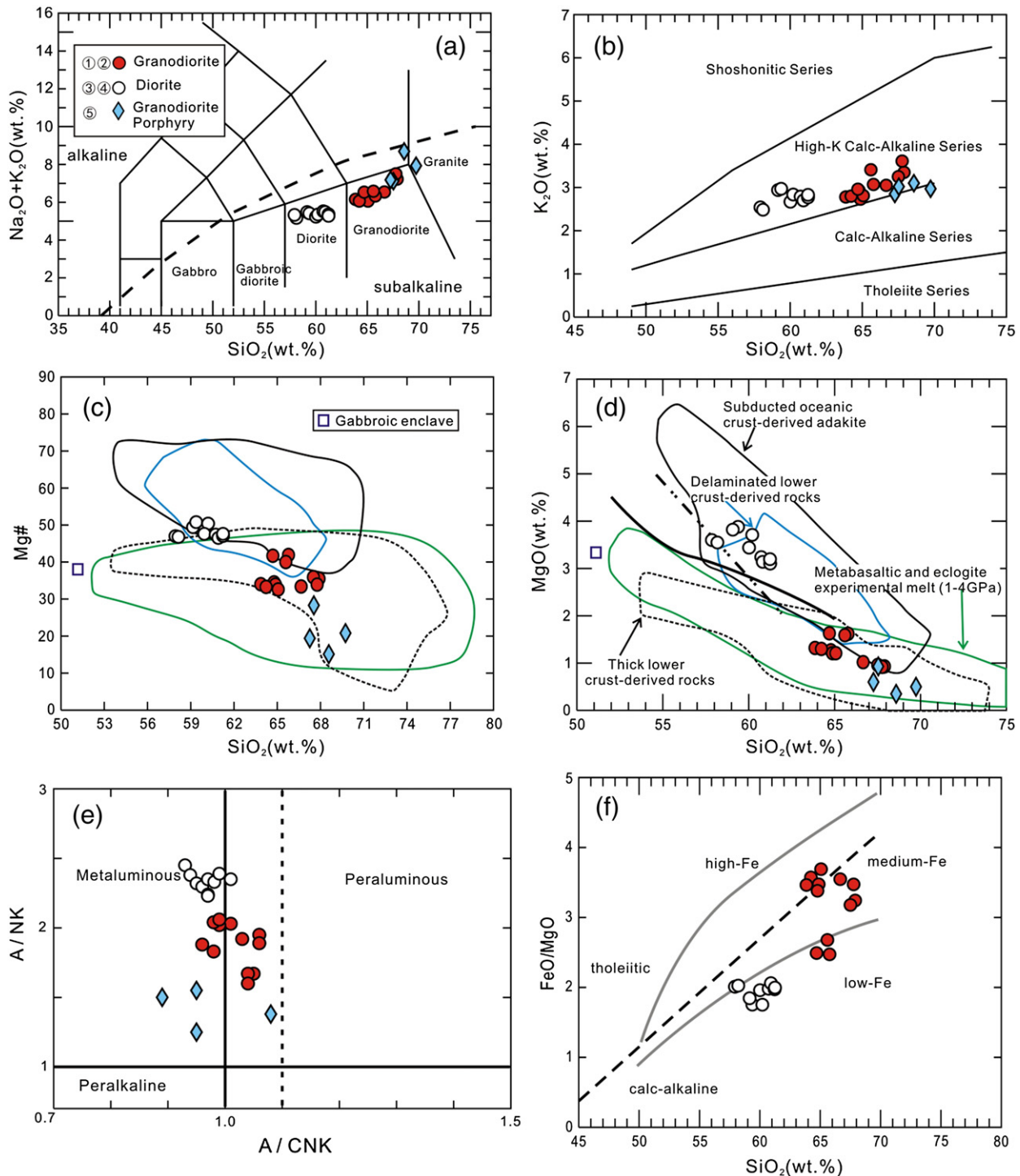


**Fig. 3.** LA-ICP-MS zircon U–Pb concordia diagrams with CL images for the Rena Co intrusive rocks. (a–c): diorites, (d–e): granodiorites, and (f) granodiorite porphyry.

andesites in central Qiangtang (Wang et al., 2008a). Li et al. (2014b) also reported Late Jurassic dioritic rocks from the Larelaxin and Caima plutons in the southern Qiangtang sub-block with similar magnesian andesite compositions. Therefore, we suggest the Rena Co diorites belong to a regional magnesian diorite suite. It should be noted, however, that these magnesian andesites/diorites are slightly different from typical high-Mg andesites/diorites (e.g., sanukites, Piip-type high-Mg andesites and boninites) in that they have slightly lower MgO contents. The Rena Co magnesian diorites are dominantly metaluminous as indicated by the uniform aluminum saturation index  $[A/CNK = Al_2O_3/(CaO + Na_2O + K_2O)]$  (0.93–0.99) with the exception of one sample

(1.01) (Fig. 4e). They show light rare earth element (LREE)-enriched distribution patterns with  $(La/Yb)_N = 9.1$ –13.9 and slightly negative Eu anomalies ( $Eu/Eu^* = 0.79$ –0.97) (Fig. 6a). On the trace element spider diagram (Fig. 6b), they exhibit a strong enrichment in large ion lithosphere elements (e.g., Cs, Rb, Th, U, K and Pb), a distinct depletion in high field strength elements (e.g., Nb, Ta, Ti, P) and negative Ba anomalies, consistent with typical characteristics of arc-type magmas worldwide.

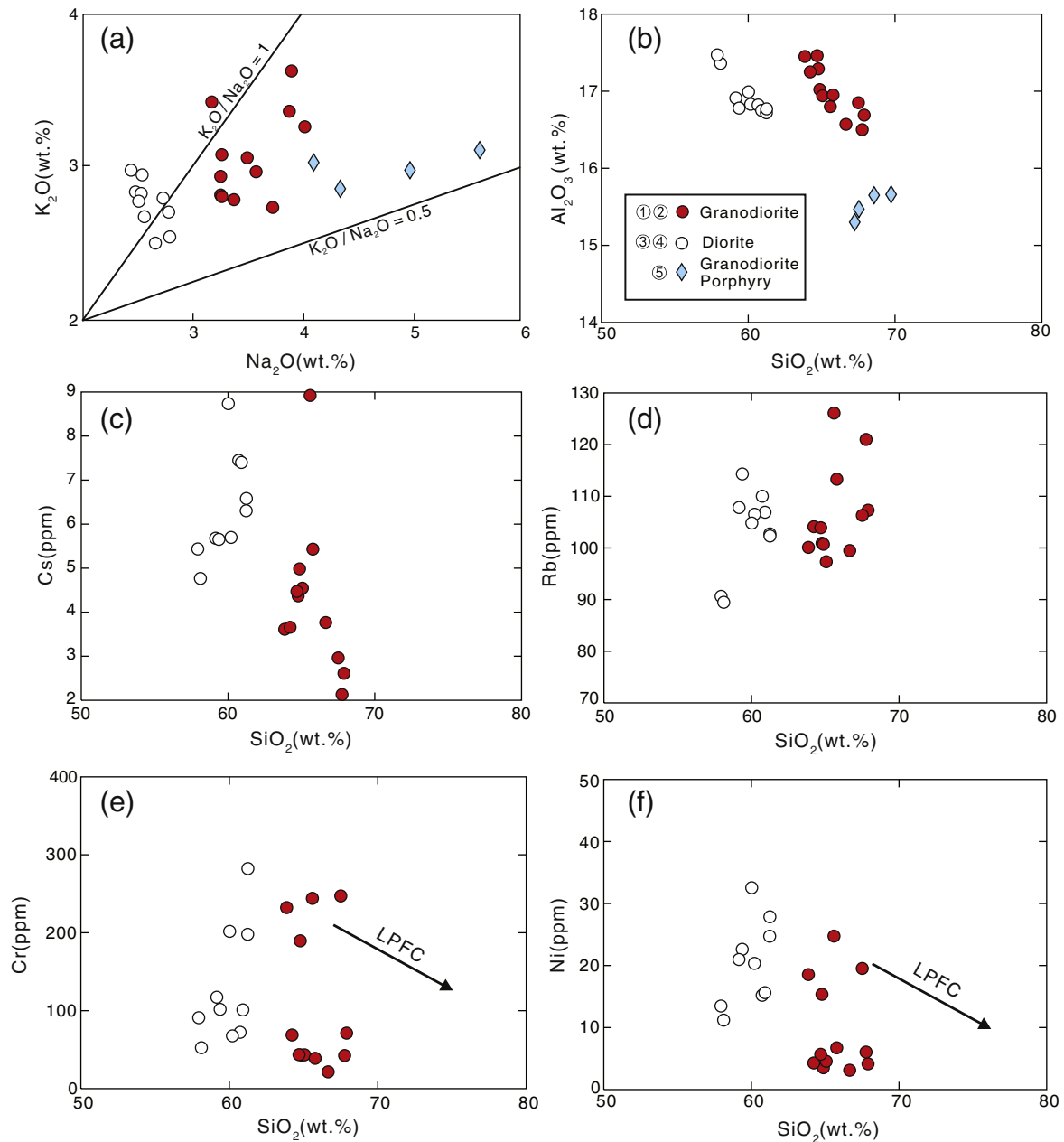
In the Rena Co area, the granodiorite porphyries ( $SiO_2 = 67.2$ –69.7 wt.%) are slightly higher in silica than the granodiorites ( $SiO_2 = 63.8$ –67.9 wt.%). Both the granodiorites and granodiorite



**Fig. 4.** (a) TAS classification diagram (Middlemost, 1994). (b)  $K_2O$  versus  $SiO_2$  diagram. (c):  $Mg\#$  versus  $SiO_2$ . (d):  $MgO$  versus  $SiO_2$ . Data for metabasaltic and eclogite experimental melts (1–4.0 Ga) are from Rapp et al. (1999) and references therein. The fields of subducted oceanic crust-, delaminated lower crust-, and thickened lower crust-derived adakites are after Wang et al. (2006a,b). Bold solid and dotted lines are two boundaries between magnesian and normal diorites defined by Deng et al. (2009) and McCarron and Smellie (1998), respectively. (e)  $A/NK$  versus  $A/CNK$ . (f)  $SiO_2$  versus  $FeO^1/MgO$  (Miyashiro, 1974).

porphyries are metaluminous to peraluminous with  $A/CNK$  values of 0.96–1.08 and 0.89–1.08 (Fig. 4e), sodium-rich with the ratios of  $Na_2O/K_2O$  of 0.93–1.36 and 1.35–1.80, respectively (Fig. 5a). They are geochemically characterized by high  $Al_2O_3$  (15.3–17.5 wt.%) (Fig. 5b), low  $MgO$  (0.35–1.63 wt.%) and  $Mg\#$  (15–42) values (Fig. 4c–d). The granodiorites show subparallel patterns with distinctly enriched light REEs (LREEs) ( $[La/Yb]_N = 23$ –96) and negligible Eu anomalies ( $Eu/Eu^* = 0.92$ –1.03) on the chondrite-normalized rare earth element

diagrams (Fig. 6a), and a strong enrichment in large ion lithophile elements (e.g., Cs, Rb, Th, U, K, Pb) and a distinct depletion in high field strength elements (e.g., Nb, Ta, Ti, P and heavy REEs) on the extended trace element diagrams (Fig. 6b). The granodiorite porphyries also show LREE enrichments ( $[La/Yb]_N = 16$ –20), slightly negative Eu anomalies ( $Eu/Eu^* = 0.87$ –0.89) and enrichment of large ion lithophile elements (LILEs) and depletion of HFSEs (Fig. 6). Both the granodiorites and granodiorite porphyries have low Y (4.7–9.4 ppm) and Yb



**Fig. 5.** (a)  $K_2O$  versus  $Na_2O$ . (b–f) Plots of  $SiO_2$  vs.  $Al_2O_3$ , Cs, Rb, Cr, and Ni for the Rená Co intrusive rocks. LPFC, low-pressure fractional crystallization (Castillo et al., 1999).

(0.34–0.99 ppm) contents, high Sr (438–656 ppm) values, resulting in high La/Yb (22–133) and Sr/Y (51–137) ratios. All the above geochemical characteristics indicate they have adakitic affinities (Fig. 7a) as defined by Defant and Drummond (1990).

#### 4.3. Sr–Nd–Hf isotopes

The whole-rock Sr–Nd isotopic data of the Rená Co intrusive rocks are listed in Table 1. The diorites have slightly variable and high initial  $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$  isotopic ratios (0.7071–0.7078) and constant  $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$  values of  $-5.5$  to  $-5.2$  corresponding to two-stage Nd model ages ( $T_{2DM}$ ) of 1373–1397 Ma (Fig. 8). The granodiorite porphyries exhibit low and highly variable ( $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ) values (0.7054 to 0.7065) but constant  $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$  values ( $-0.61$  to  $+0.25$ ) corresponding to  $T_{2DM}$  of 895–966 Ma (Fig. 8). The granodiorites, show variable and high ( $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ) values (0.7069 to 0.7086) and low  $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$  values ( $-7.6$  to  $-3.7$ ) (Fig. 8).

Zircon Hf isotopic data are presented in the Supplementary Data. The diorite samples (13GZ09-1, 13GZ11-1 and 13GZ15-1) have a wide

range of  $\epsilon_{Hf}(t)$  of  $-8.6$  to  $+4.9$ , corresponding to Hf crustal model ages (TC DM) of 895–1748 Ma (Fig. 9). The granodiorites show a wide range of  $\epsilon_{Hf}(t)$  values extending from  $-9.7$  to  $+0.2$  with TC DM values of 1190–1814 Ma (Fig. 9). Except for one inherited zircon (145 Ma) with a low  $\epsilon_{Hf}(t)$  value ( $+1.0$ ), the granodiorite porphyries have a narrow range of  $\epsilon_{Hf}(t)$  of  $+4.6$  to  $+9.7$  with TC DM values of 550–874 Ma (Fig. 9).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Late Mesozoic magmatism in southern Qiangtang

Our new zircon U–Pb age data, together with currently available high-quality zircon U–Pb geochronological data (e.g., Chang et al., 2011; Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2011, 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014; Zhang, 2007; Zhang et al., 2012a), corroborate the presence of a Middle Jurassic–Early Cretaceous continental arc extending ca. 1100 km along the length of southern Qiangtang sub-block from

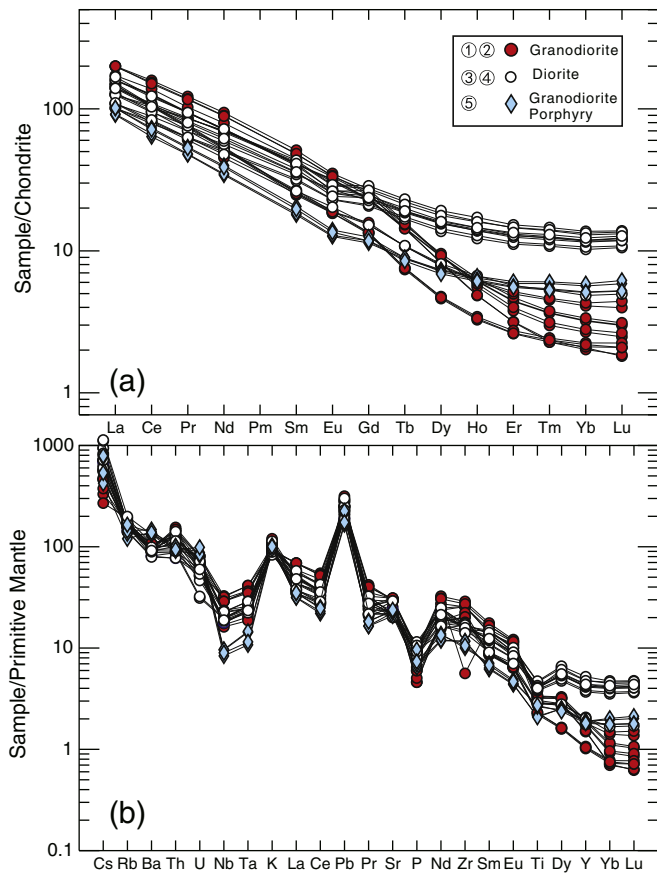


Fig. 6. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns (a) and primitive mantle normalized trace element diagrams (b) for the Rena Co intrusive rocks. Chondrite and primitive mantle normalized values are from Sun and McDonough (1989).

Rotug to Amdo (Fig. 11a). Nevertheless, it should be noted that this 170–102 Ma continental arc is younger than the arc proposed by Guynn et al. (2006) on the basis of the 185–170 Ma granitoids from the Amdo area. In fact, the Amdo block has been interpreted as an isolated microcontinent in the Tethyan Ocean that experienced complex tectono-thermal events, such as Jurassic (~190–170 Ma) high-pressure granulite-facies metamorphism (e.g., Guynn et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012b, 2014b). Therefore, the coeval (Early Jurassic) magmatism in the Amdo microcontinent may have been related to deep subduction of this microcontinent beneath southern Qiangtang in a collisional setting rather than to northward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean (e.g., Guynn et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012b, 2014b).

Late Mesozoic magmatism in the region has been widely attributed to the northward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang oceanic lithosphere (Geng et al., 2011; Li et al., 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2014). From ~140 to ~130 Ma, however, there is a noticeable magmatic gap (Fig. 11a). Similar magmatic lulls occur in the Andes and southern Gangdese areas in response to flat or low-angle subduction (e.g., Coulon et al., 1986; Ma et al., 2013a,b; Zhang et al., 2012a). The renewal of magmatism following this gap is considered to be the result of slab roll-back and rapid steepening of the subducting slab (e.g., Ma et al., 2013a,b). During the transition process from flat- to normal angle subduction, upwelling asthenospheric mantle would induce intense magmatism. Therefore, we suggest that the slab roll-back process also accounts for the renewed Early Cretaceous magmatism in southern Qiangtang after the ~140 to ~130 Ma gap. In southern Qiangtang, there appears to be a young age trend from north to south, consistent with the slab roll-back model. It also should be noted that there is a magmatic flare-up at  $118 \pm 6$  Ma in Early Cretaceous (Fig. 11a).

## 5.2. Petrogenesis

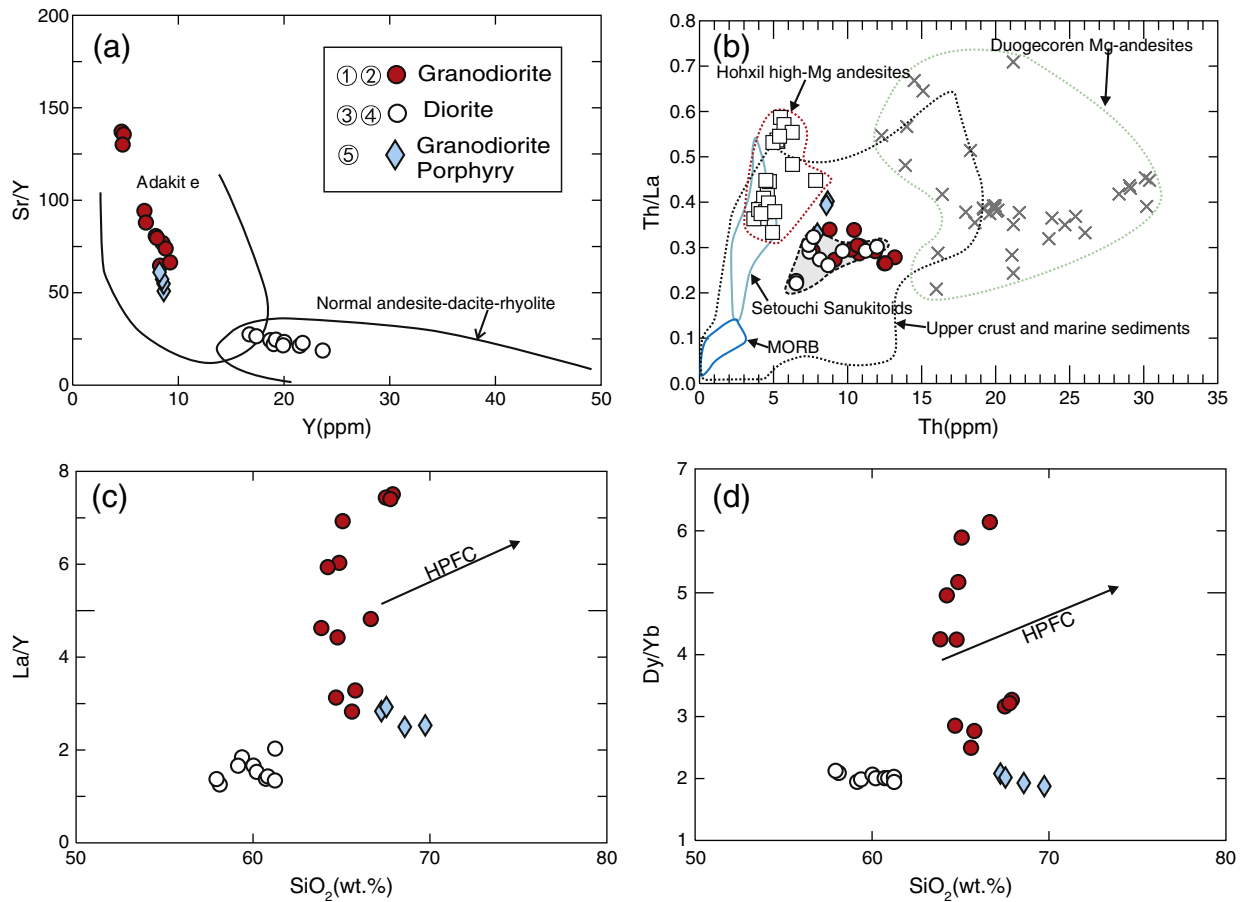
### 5.2.1. Relationship between granodiorites and diorites

The Rena Co granodiorites and diorites are contemporaneous, however, they are unlikely to have originated from a common parent magma based on the following evidence. First, if the granodiorites evolved from the diorites by fractional crystallization, then the most abundant phase in the diorites, plagioclase, should be a common fractionated phase. However, although the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contents of both the diorites and granodiorites display decreasing trends with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  contents, the trends do not overlap to form a common trend, which is inconsistent with a diorite fractionation origin for the granodiorites (Fig. 5b) (e.g., Chen et al., 2010; Li et al., 2014b). Similarly, if diorites and granodiorites were derived from a common source, then the dioritic magma should have higher Cr and Ni plus lower Cs and Rb than granitic magma because the latter would experience more fractionation of mafic minerals and plagioclase (e.g., Chen et al., 2010; Li et al., 2014b). However, in our study, they do not display such trends (Fig. 5c–f), indicating that they were unlikely to have originated from a common parent magma. In addition, some diorite samples are potassium-rich while most granodiorites are sodium-rich, empirically suggesting that they cannot have been derived from the same magma (Fig. 5a). Finally, the diorites exhibit lower  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  and higher initial  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  than those of most of the granodiorites (Figs. 8, 9), which is inconsistent with AFC (assimilation and fractional crystallization) or magma mixing models. Therefore, the diorites and granodiorites could not have a common source.

### 5.2.2. Granodiorites

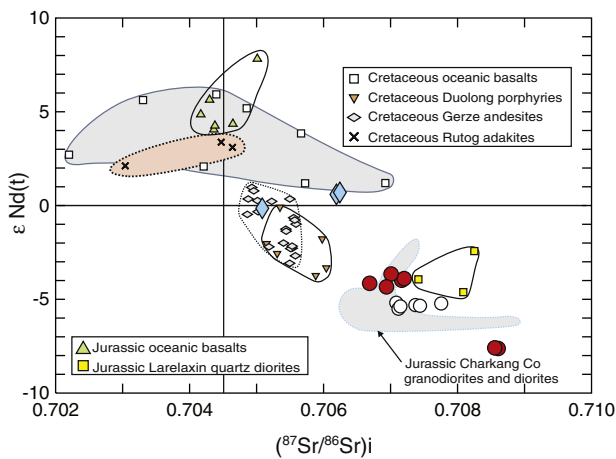
Several models have been proposed for the generation of adakitic rocks such as the Rena Co granodiorites, including (a) melting of subducted young and hot oceanic crust, generally followed by interaction with the overlying mantle wedge (Defant and Drummond, 1990; Rapp et al., 1999); (b) high-pressure fractional crystallization (involving garnet) of basaltic melts (Macpherson et al., 2006); (c) crustal assimilation and low pressure fractional crystallization process from parental basaltic magmas (Castillo et al., 1999); (d) magma mixing between felsic and basaltic magmas (Guo et al., 2007; Streck et al., 2007); (e) melting of delaminated lower continental crust (Gao et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2006b; Xu et al., 2002); (f) melting of the subducted continental crust (Wang et al., 2008a); and (g) melting of thickened mafic lower continental crust (Atherton and Petford, 1993; Chung et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2005). We consider these alternative processes in the following sections with specific reference to the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites.

First, the distinctive geochemical characteristics of the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites indicate that they could not have been generated by partial melting of subducted Bangong–Nujiang oceanic crust. The geochemical compositions of oceanic slab-derived adakites are usually controlled by the basaltic portions of the slabs rather than the overlying sediments. For example, this type of adakite generally has mid-ocean-ridge basalt (MORB)-like Sr–Nd isotopic compositions, and relatively low  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , Th and Th/La values (Wang et al., 2008a), even if in some cases, particular slab-derived adakites were formed from the mixing of melts from altered oceanic crust and sediment-derived melts (e.g., Tang et al., 2010). The Rena Co adakitic granodiorites, however, have much more enriched Sr–Nd isotopic compositions, which are very distinct from those of Mesozoic oceanic basalts found in ophiolites along the Bangong–Nujiang Suture (Fig. 8) (e.g., Bao et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2014a; Zhu et al., 2006b). Their  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ , Th and Th/La values are also higher than those of MORB and slab-derived adakites (Tang et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2007) (Fig. 7b). Their Sr–Nd isotopic compositions likely represent those of their source because they have  $\text{Mg}^\#$  (32–42) values that are lower than those (>47) of metabasaltic rock-derived experimental melts contaminated by mantle peridotites (Rapp et al., 1999). Accordingly, interaction between felsic magmas and fertilized mantle



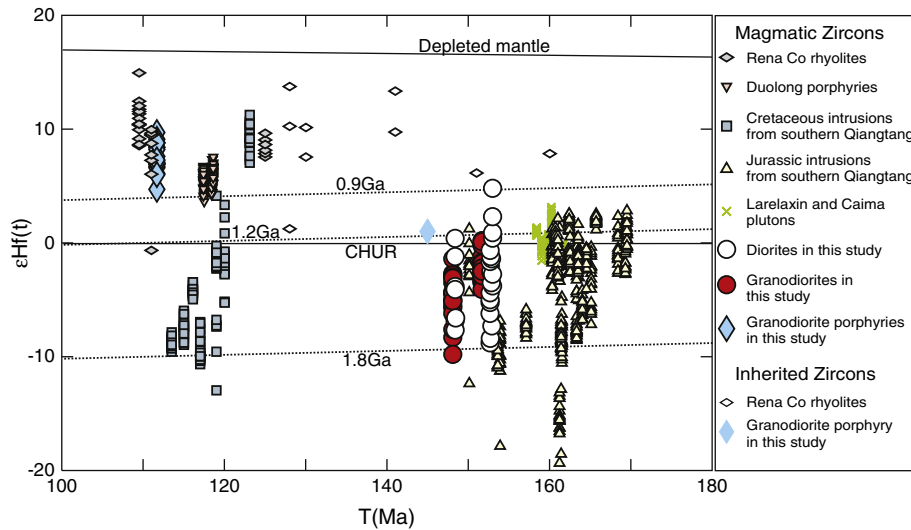
**Fig. 7.** (a) Y (ppm) versus Sr/Y diagram (Defant and Drummond, 1993). (b) Th versus Th/La diagram. Upper crust and sediments are from Plank and Langmuir (1998) and Plank (2005). The field of MORB is from Niu and Batiza (1997). The Setouchi Sanukitoids in SW Japan are from Shimoda et al. (1998) and Tatsumi (2001). The data for the Hohxil magnesian andesites are from Wang et al. (2011) and for the Duogecoren Mg-andesites are from Wang et al. (2008a). (c) La/Y versus SiO<sub>2</sub>. (d) Dy/Yb versus SiO<sub>2</sub>. HPFC, high-pressure fractional crystallization involving garnet (Macpherson et al., 2006).

was unlikely. In addition, some of the granodiorite samples in this study are peraluminous (Fig. 4e) whereas slab-derived adakites are mainly metaluminous (Wang et al., 2008a).



**Fig. 8.**  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  versus  $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ . Data for the Jurassic and Cretaceous oceanic basalts are from Bao et al. (2007), Zhang et al. (2014a) and Zhu et al. (2006b). Data for the Cretaceous Rutog adakites and Jurassic Lareixin granites are from Liu et al. (2014). Data for the Cretaceous Duolong granodiorite porphyries, Gerze andesites and Jurassic Charkang granodiorites and diorites are from Li et al. (2013), Liu et al. (2012) and Zhang (2007), respectively. Note that Sr and Nd isotopic data are all corrected to 150 Ma.

Second, it is also unlikely that the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites were generated by high- or low-pressure crystallization from parental basaltic magmas. Suites of adakitic rocks derived from high-pressure fractional crystallization involving a garnet-bearing assemblage will have a wide range of SiO<sub>2</sub> and generally exhibit distinct geochemical trends (Macpherson et al., 2006). In such suites, the La/Y and Dy/Yb ratios clearly increase with the increasing of SiO<sub>2</sub> contents because crystallization of garnet will cause a decrease in HREEs and Y contents. However, the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites display a small range of SiO<sub>2</sub> of 63.8–67.9 wt.% and, rather than showing fractionation trends on La/Y and Dy/Yb versus SiO<sub>2</sub> diagrams (Fig. 7c,d), they define near-vertical trends. During low-pressure fractional crystallization involving olivine and pyroxene, the derived magmas should show a clear decrease in Mg<sup>#</sup> values, Cr and Ni contents with the increasing SiO<sub>2</sub> contents (Castillo et al., 1999) but no such trends occur for the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites (Figs. 4c, and 5e–f). The decreases of MgO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents with increasing SiO<sub>2</sub> suggest that these rocks probably underwent amphibole fractionation (Fig. 4d) (Ma et al., 2013b). However, amphibole fractionation is typically accompanied by plagioclase removal in natural systems and the Rena Co granodiorites do not show the compositional trends consistent with the net effect of combined amphibole and plagioclase fractionation (Ma et al., 2013b; Moyen, 2009). In addition, Moyen (2009) suggested that amphibole + plagioclase fractionation has little or no potential to actually yield adakitic signatures in the first place because the amount of amphibole that can be formed is limited by the Fe and Mg budget to a small mass fraction (in the region of 20%), strongly reducing its potential effect.



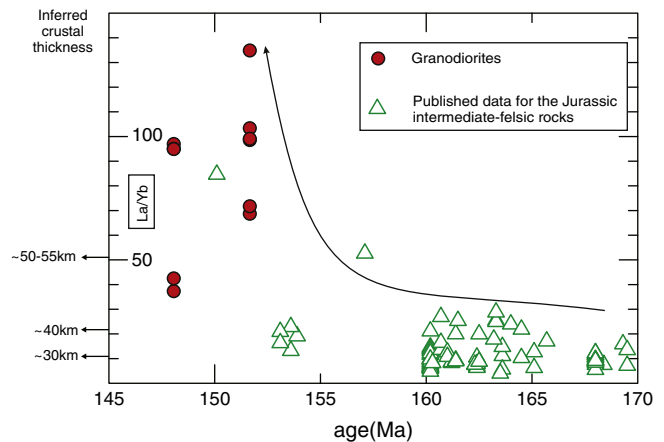
**Fig. 9.** Plots of  $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$  (parts per  $10^4$  deviation of initial Hf isotope ratios between zircon samples and the chondritic reservoir at the time of zircon crystallization) versus ages of the Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks in southern Qiangtang sub-block. The sub-horizontal lines are Hf “crustal” model ages (TC DM), which are calculated by assuming its parental magma to have been derived from an average continental crust (with  $^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf} = 0.015$ ) that originated from the depleted mantle source (Griffin et al., 2002). Data for the Rena Co rhyolites, the Larelaxin and Caima granitoids are from Chang et al. (2011) and Li et al. (2014b), respectively. The Jurassic and Cretaceous intrusive rocks from southern Qiangtang sub-block are from Li et al. (2014a). Other data are the same as in Fig. 8.

Third, the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites could not be generated by partial melting of the delaminated or subducted continental crust. As a result of contamination by mantle peridotites, adakitic rocks derived from the delaminated lower crust often have higher  $\text{MgO}$  contents and  $\text{Mg}^\#$  values (Wang et al., 2006b; Xu et al., 2002), than those of the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites. Moreover, lower crust delamination is generally restricted to regions undergoing extension in a continental setting (Wang et al., 2006a,b; Xu et al., 2002). In the Late Jurassic, however, the Rena Co area was in an arc setting related to oceanic subduction (Geng et al., 2011; Li et al., 2014a). In addition, the absence of contemporaneous continental collision largely rules out the possibility that melting of subducted continental crust formed the adakitic granodiorites. In addition, key geochemical characteristics (e.g., Th, Th/La) also do not match those of adakitic rocks derived from subducted continental crust (Fig. 7b) (Wang et al., 2008a).

We therefore suggest that the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites were generated by partial melting of thickened lower continental crust (e.g., Atherton and Petford, 1993; Chung et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2005). Two distinct possible sources (ancient mafic lower crust or newly underplated basaltic juvenile crust) may be delineated using the isotope compositions of adakitic magmas. Ancient mafic lower crust often exhibits more enriched isotopes (e.g., Wang et al., 2005, 2006a) whereas newly underplated basaltic crust, involving mantle-derived materials, often has depleted or less evolved Sr–Nd–Hf isotopic compositions (Wang et al., 2007). In this study, all the granodiorites have enriched Sr–Nd isotopic compositions nearly comparable to those of the existing Larelaxin (Liu et al., 2014) and Charkang Co intrusive rocks (Zhang, 2007) in southern Qiangtang sub-block (Fig. 8) which are considered to be derived from the partial melting of the ancient lower continental crust. In this context, the Rena Co adakites probably indicate crustal thickening. In the plot of La/Yb versus magmatic ages (Fig. 10) (Chung et al., 2009), the La/Yb ratios of the Jurassic intermediate–felsic rocks in southern Qiangtang gradually increased from 10 to 150 corresponding to crustal thickening from 30 km to >50 km between ~170 Ma and ~145 Ma. This gradual thickening was probably due to northward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean given that it is a common geological phenomenon in arc settings. The same process occurred in central and northern Lhasa as exemplified by the occurrence of ~112 Ma adakitic rocks (Sui et al., 2013) and ~140 Ma leucogranite produced by anatexis during crustal thickening (Ding and Lai, 2003). Numerous Late Cretaceous (~90 Ma) magnesian andesites/diorites also

indicate the subsequent delamination of the thickened lithospheric following the final Lhasa–Qiangtang amalgamation (e.g., Wang et al., 2014). Taking into account the closure of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean at ~100 Ma, it is likely that the lithosphere had probably already been thickened during prior subduction, allowing for the generation of the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites.

It should be noted that the variable Sr–Nd isotopes of these granodiorites can be attributed to either a heterogeneous lower continental crust source or magma mixing between crust-derived melts and mantle-derived melts. In the latter case, strong correlations are expected between isotopes and chemical components but none are evident between Sr, Nd isotopic compositions and  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$  or Sm/Nd. Given the lack of mafic microgranular enclaves (MMEs) observed in the field, we suggest the granodiorites were probably derived from a thick and heterogeneous lower continental crust source. This scenario is also supported by the overall negative  $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$  values of zircons in the granodiorites (Fig. 9), which demonstrate that the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites could be generated from such a source.



**Fig. 10.** Plot of La/Yb ratios versus magmatic ages for the Jurassic intermediate–felsic rocks in southern Qiangtang (from the diagram of Chung et al. (2009)), with published data from Li et al. (2014a,b), Liu et al. (2014).

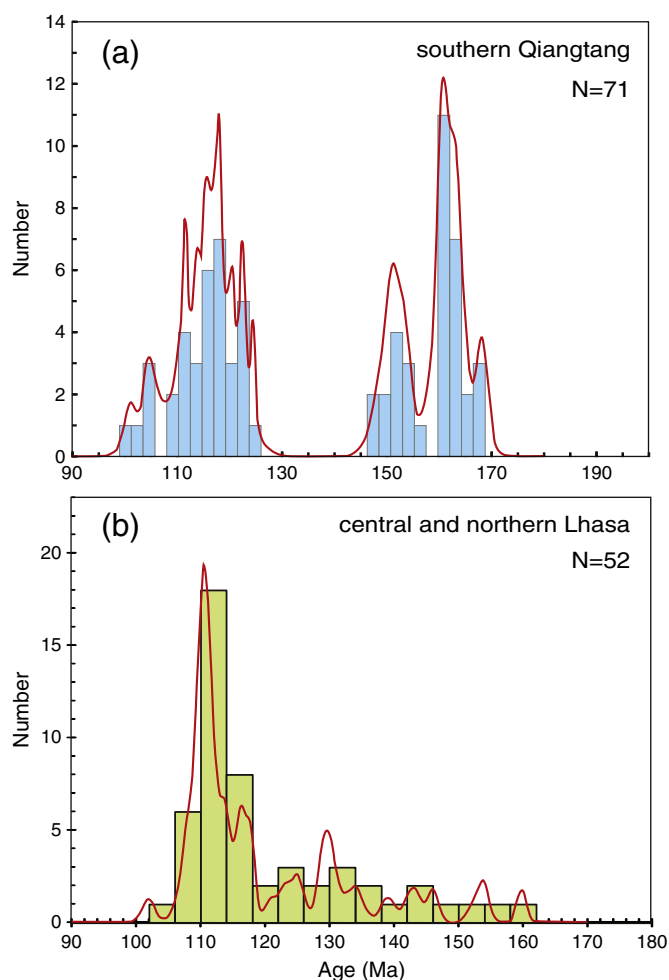
### 5.2.3. Diorites

In a continental arc, intermediate magmatic rocks are generally considered to form by the crystallization of mantle-derived basaltic magmas or the interaction between hot basaltic magmas and felsic magmas in MASH zones (melting, assimilation, storage, and homogenization) (Annen et al., 2006). In the case of high-Mg andesites (HMA) and their Mg-rich diorite derivatives (Kamei et al., 2004; Shimoda et al., 1998), however, a variety of models may account for their petrogenesis, including hydrous melting of peridotites (Falloon and Danyushesky, 2000; Tatsumi, 2001; Taylor et al., 1994), mixing between mantle-derived basaltic magma and crust-derived felsic melt (Guo et al., 2007; Streck et al., 2007), or the interaction between slab-derived melts and mantle wedge peridotites (e.g., Shimoda et al., 1998; Tang et al., 2010; Tatsumi, 2001; Tatsumi and Hanyu, 2003; Wang et al., 2008b, 2011).

We argue that the first two models are not applicable to the Rena Co magnesian/Mg-rich diorites based on the following observations. First, although the coeval gabbroic enclaves reported by Li et al. (2014b) cannot be considered to represent primary basaltic magma, they still should have higher MgO contents than diorites because diorites probably experienced more extensive fractional crystallization of mafic minerals and plagioclase if diorites and gabbroic enclaves were derived from a common mantle source. Therefore, the relatively lower MgO contents of coeval gabbroic enclaves than the diorites could preclude magma mixing and AFC for the formation of the Rena Co magnesian diorites. In addition, magnesian andesites/diorites formed by magma mixing between mantle-derived basaltic and crust-derived felsic magmas usually have adakitic affinities (Guo et al., 2007; Streck et al., 2007), but the Rena Co diorites do not plot in the adakites field (Fig. 7a). Moreover, the Rena Co diorites differ from boninites in the Bonin Island (Japan), which are high-Mg magmas derived directly from partial melting of the mantle wedge peridotites fluxed by slab-derived H<sub>2</sub>O-rich fluids (Falloon and Danyushesky, 2000). The diorites have higher TiO<sub>2</sub> (0.82–1.02 wt.%) and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (16.72–17.47 wt.%) contents than boninites that typically have TiO<sub>2</sub> < 0.5 wt.% and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> < 15 wt.% (Taylor et al., 1994). In addition, the Rena Co diorites have high Th (6.5–12 ppm) and Nb (12.5–16 ppm) contents and Th/La (0.22–0.32) ratios, indicating the metasomatic agents are slab-melts rather than slab-fluids because HFSEs are insoluble in fluids but compatible in melts (e.g., Class et al., 2000).

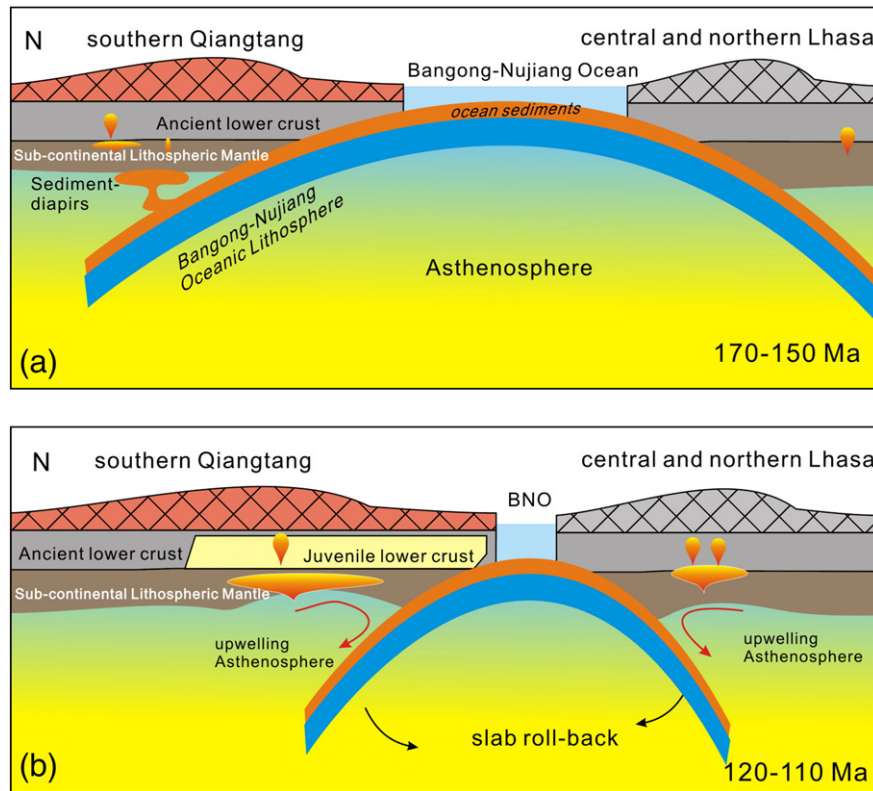
Alternatively, the interaction between subducted-slab-derived melts and overlying mantle peridotites has been increasingly considered as a possible mechanism for generation of magnesian magmas (Kelemen et al., 2014; Shimoda et al., 1998; Tang et al., 2010; Tatsumi, 2001; Tatsumi and Hanyu, 2003; Wang et al., 2007, 2008b, 2011). Such melts can be derived from either subducted sediments alone or oceanic crust with variable proportions of overlying sediments. We suggest the Rena Co magnesian diorites probably originated from sediment-derived melts for the following two reasons. On the one hand, they exhibit relatively high initial <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr and low ε<sub>Nd</sub>(t), which are very distinct from those of Jurassic basalts (Fig. 8) or mixtures of basalt-derived melts and oceanic sediment-derived melts (Tang et al., 2010; Tatsumi, 2001; Tatsumi and Hanyu, 2003). On the other hand, their Th contents (6.6–12 ppm) and Th/La ratios (0.22–0.32) are similar to those of marine sediments or upper crust and they resemble those of the Hohxil magnesian andesites, which are distinctly higher than those of MORB (Wang et al., 2011). The Hohxil magnesian andesites were generated by the interaction between subducting sediment-derived melts and mantle wedge peridotites (Wang et al., 2011). Tatsumi (2001) suggested that the composition of a sediment-derived melt could change from rhyolitic to andesitic (or dioritic) as it dissolved olivine and clinopyroxene in mantle peridotites. Qian and Hermann (2010) also proposed that the interaction of felsic melts with ultramafic material can produce Mg-rich rocks.

Based on a recent experimental study, however, Mann and Schmidt (2015) concluded that fluid-saturated melting of subducting sediments



**Fig. 11.** Histograms of age dates for Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks in southern Qiangtang sub-block (a) and central and northern Lhasa sub-block (b). Data sources: (Chang et al., 2011; Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2011, 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014; Sui et al., 2013; Zhang, 2007; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011; this study).

at sub-arc depths is not sufficient to effectively transfer trace elements such as LILE because of the stability of phengite. Fluid-absent melting, however, requires high temperatures of >850 °C at sub-arc depths, which are not reached in most subduction zones. Behn et al. (2011) also suggested that the trace elements that form sediment melt signature are retained in the sediments until the rocks have experienced temperatures exceeding 1050 °C. Thus, according to subduction zone thermal models, these temperatures are much higher than those at the surface of subducted slabs at the relevant pressures. Nonetheless, a sediment imprint including high Th contents and Th/La ratios exists in many arc rocks, including the Rena Co diorites. An alternative mechanism involves cold sediment diapirs that rise into the mantle wedge and act as the source of the sediment signature in arc rocks (e.g., Behn et al., 2011; Mann and Schmidt, 2015). In this model, subducted sediments detach from the downgoing slab at temperatures of 500–850 °C to form buoyant diapirs. The diapirs rise through the overlying hot mantle wedge, where temperatures exceed 1050 °C, undergo dehydration melting, and release the trace elements that later form the sediment melt signature in arc rocks (e.g., Behn et al., 2011; Marschall and Schumacher, 2012). A wide range zircon ε<sub>Hf</sub>(t) values from –8.7 to +4.8 (up to 13-ε units) in the Rena Co magnesian diorites is consistent with the interaction of sediment diapir-derived melts and asthenosphere mantle-derived melts and we therefore suggest that oceanic sediment diapirs are a likely source for the Rena Co magnesian diorites.



**Fig. 12.** A conceptual model illustrating the tectonic and magmatic rock evolution of central Tibet during the Late Mesozoic. (a) In the Late Jurassic, sediment diapirs melted and ascended through mantle wedge to form the Rena Co magnesian diorites. Meanwhile, mantle-derived magmas underplated and provided heat to prompt partial melting of the thickened and heterogeneous ancient crust to generate the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites. (b) In the Early Cretaceous, partial melting of the newly underplated basaltic crust at  $118 \pm 6$  Ma resulted in formation of the Rena Co granodiorite porphyries. Magmatic flare-ups occurred in both southern Qiangtang and central and northern Lhasa sub-blocks as a result of slab roll-back.

#### 5.2.4. Granodiorite porphyries

The Early Cretaceous Rena Co adakitic granodiorite porphyries have much in common with the Late Jurassic adakitic granodiorites discussed above, which might suggest a similar petrogenesis. Their Sr–Nd isotopic compositions, however, are distinct from those of the ancient lower crust-derived Jurassic adakitic granodiorites in the Rena Co area, the Cretaceous and Jurassic oceanic basalts in the Bangong–Nujiang Suture Zone (Bao et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2014a; Zhu et al., 2006b), or adakitic granites in the Rutog area that were derived from subducted Bangong–Nujiang Oceanic crust (Liu et al., 2014) (Fig. 8). Instead, their Sr–Nd isotopic compositions are similar to those of the Early Cretaceous andesites in the Gerze area (ca. 124 Ma) and granodiorite porphyries in the Duolong area (ca. 118 Ma), which recent studies link to fractionated products of basaltic melts derived from mantle wedge peridotites (Li et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2012). In addition, their  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  values of +4.7 to +9.7 are similar to those of the Early Cretaceous granodiorite porphyries (ca. 118 Ma) in the Duolong area (Li et al., 2013) and rhyolites in the Rena Co area (ca. 110 Ma) (Chang et al., 2011) (Fig. 9) and consistent with derivation from juvenile crust. An inherited zircon from sample 13GZ20-1 exhibits a slightly older age of 145 Ma and positive  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  of +1.0, which is also feature of the Rena Co rhyolites (ca. 110 Ma) where numerous inherited zircons show slightly older ages of 160–125 Ma and positive  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  values (Chang et al., 2011) (Fig. 9). This suggests that the basaltic source rocks of these Early Cretaceous rocks, which may have been underplated at the base of southern Qiangtang sub-block since Late Jurassic, melt and produce the Early Cretaceous felsic magmas. Hence, the characteristic of the Early Cretaceous rocks would inherited from the juvenile basaltic source rocks. For example, the Rena Co adakitic granodiorite porphyries show positive zircon  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  values of +4.7 to +9.7 and corresponding whole-rock  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$  ranging from  $-0.61$  to  $+0.25$ , indicating a decoupling of Hf

and Nd isotopic compositions from the mantle (Chauvel et al., 2008) and crustal arrays (Vervoort et al., 1999). The same feature was also reported in the Duolong granodiorite porphyries by Li et al. (2013) who suggested that the decoupling probably inherited from newly underplated basalts. This process can occur in a mantle wedge metasomatized by slab-derived fluid and melt where Nd has a high solubility compared to Hf (Kessel et al., 2005).

Based on the evidence summarized above, we propose a two-stage model for the generation of the Early Cretaceous adakitic granodiorite porphyries in the Rena Co area similar to that presented for the generation of the Cordillera Blanca batholith (Atherton and Petford, 1993). This model emphasizes the input of mafic magmas originating from a metasomatized mantle, forming underplated basaltic lower crust. This thickened juvenile crust later partially melted, producing the adakitic magmas at ca. 112 Ma. It should be noted that there is a significant change in whole-rock Sr–Nd isotopic compositions (Fig. 8) and zircon  $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$  (Fig. 9) from the Late Jurassic to the Early Cretaceous magmatic rocks. This points to an increased contribution of a mantle or juvenile crust component in the Early Cretaceous igneous rocks in southern Qiangtang sub-block. A similar pattern was documented in central and northern Lhasa by Zhu et al. (2009).

## 6. Geodynamic processes and implications for crustal growth

### 6.1. Geodynamic processes

The Bangong–Nujiang Ocean must have survive until the Late Cretaceous because studies of ophiolitic mélanges on the Bangong–Nujiang Suture identify numerous Early Cretaceous oceanic basalts (Bao et al., 2007; Baxter et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2014a; Zhu et al., 2006b) where an angular unconformity separates the continental



deposits of the Late Cretaceous Jingzhushan formation from the underlying ophiolitic mélanges (Geng et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2014). However, the subduction polarities of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean remain the subject of debate. Although some authors have suggested that the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean subducted southward beneath the central and northern Lhasa (Pan et al., 2006; Sui et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2006a, 2009, 2011, 2013), a larger number of studies have argued that the subduction direction was northward (Ding et al., 2003; Geng et al., 2011; Kapp et al., 2003; Qiu et al., 2005; Qu et al., 2009; Shi et al., 2004; Zhang et al., 2012a) and that the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean began to subduct beneath the southern Qiangtang sub-block in the Late Triassic–Early Jurassic (Qiu et al., 2005; Qu et al., 2009; Shi et al., 2004; Zhang et al., 2012a).

As discussed above, the presence of extensive (>1000 km long) Late Mesozoic continental arc magmatism (170–102 Ma) along the southern Qiangtang sub-block strongly indicates the northward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang ocean (Fig. 11a) (e.g., Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014). The present study provides additional evidence for this northward subduction because the Rena Co magnesian diorites formed by the interaction of oceanic sediments diapirs-derived melts and mantle wedge peridotites.

In contrast to the evidence provided by the Rena Co rocks, an east–west belt of Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks (164–102 Ma) in central and northern Lhasa (Fig. 11b) have been attributed to the southward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean (e.g., Pan et al., 2006; Zhu et al., 2006a, 2009, 2011). A slab break-off model has also been suggested to explain a magmatic flare-up with an increased mantle contribution at  $110 \pm 3$  Ma (Fig. 11b) in the central and northern Lhasa sub-block following the Lhasa–Qiangtang amalgamation at ca. 145 Ma (Sui et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011). However, we note that an identical magmatic flare-up, also accompanied by an increased contribution of a mantle component, occurred in the southern Qiangtang sub-block at  $118 \pm 6$  Ma (Figs. 9 and 10a). If the Bangong–Nujiang oceanic basin remained open in the Early Cretaceous, as suggested above, then it is difficult for a slab break-off model to account for contemporary magmatic flare-ups in both southern Qiangtang and central and northern Lhasa sub-blocks during the Late Early Cretaceous.

The bidirectional subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean has recently been suggested (Xu et al., 2014; Zhang, 2007; Zhu et al., 2016), and such a scenario can better account for the twin magmatic flare ups if slab break-off events did not occur. We suggest that, during Late Mesozoic, the Bangong–Nujiang oceanic basin most probably subducted both northward under southern Qiangtang and southward under central and northern Lhasa, respectively (Fig. 12). This model can account for the formation of the Rena Co intrusive rocks, including the Late Jurassic adakitic granodiorites and magnesian diorites and the Early Cretaceous adakitic granodiorite porphyries in the southern Qiangtang sub-block, while still allowing for later final closure of the Bangong–Nujiang oceanic basin (Fig. 12).

In this model, sediments detach from the downgoing slab during northward subduction (from ~170 Ma to ~140 Ma) and form buoyant diapirs (Fig. 12a). The diapirs rise, melt and interact with the surrounding mantle wedge to generate the Rena Co magnesian diorites. Contemporaneous basaltic magmas derived from the mantle wedge underplate the base of the southern Qiangtang sub-block crust, providing heat and material for partial melting of the older lower crust, resulting in the generation of intermediate-felsic magmas (Chang et al., 2011; Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2011, 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014) and the Rena Co adakitic granodiorites, given that local crustal thickness was >45 km. The basaltic underplating would gradually replace the ancient lower crust and accumulate to form juvenile crust. This newly underplated basaltic crust would be heated further by the upwelling asthenosphere as a result of Early Cretaceous slab roll-back, resulting in, melting and the generation of the Rena Co adakitic granodiorite porphyries at ca. 112 Ma (Fig. 12b). This mechanism may also apply to the geologic processes in central and northern Lhasa (Fig. 12b).

## 6.2. Implications for crustal growth

The Tibetan plateau is characterized by the thickest continental crust (60–80 km) on Earth, twice as thick as average continental crust (Kind et al., 1996; Mo et al., 2007). Crustal thickening is often largely attributed to tectonic effects (e.g., Ding et al., 2003; Harrison et al., 1992; Kapp et al., 2005; Yin and Harrison, 2000) but magmatic contributions are also important for the formation of thickened juvenile crust (e.g., Chu et al., 2006; Chung et al., 2003; Ji et al., 2009; Ma et al., 2013a, 2013b; Mo et al., 2007, 2008; Niu, 2009; Wang et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2014c; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011).

Previous Nd–Hf isotopic studies highlighted the importance of mantle and oceanic crust contributions to the crustal growth of southern Tibet in association with the Neo-Tethyan Ocean northward subduction and the India–Asia continental collision since the Mesozoic (Chu et al., 2006; Chung et al., 2003; Ji et al., 2009; Ma et al., 2013a; Mo et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2014c). The geodynamics of Late Mesozoic crustal growth in central Tibet, however, have not been clear. For example, recent geochemical investigations have revealed that basalt underplating-related vertical crustal growth may have occurred in the continent–continent collision setting of the central and northern Lhasa sub-block, central Tibet (Sui et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011). Conversely, Zhang et al. (2014a) reported the occurrence of a Meso-Tethyan oceanic plateau in the Bangong–Nujiang Ocean in Late Mesozoic (193–173 Ma and 128–104 Ma), implying that oceanic plateau accretion contributed to lateral crustal growth in the southern Qiangtang sub-block.

In the present study, taking into account ophiolites in the Bangong–Nujiang Suture (Bao et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2014a; Zhu et al., 2006b) and the nature of Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks (e.g., Kapp et al., 2005; Li et al., 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014; Sui et al., 2013; Zhu et al., 2009, 2011, 2016; this study) in southern Qiangtang and central and northern Lhasa sub-blocks, we suggest that both southern Qiangtang and central and northern Lhasa sub-blocks were located in continental arc settings related to bidirectional subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang oceanic basin as outlined above (Zhu et al., 2016; this study).

The data obtained in this study and in the literature (e.g., Chang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2013, 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2012, 2014), together with the foregoing discussion, indicate an important role for underplated basaltic magmas in the vertical crustal growth in a continental arc, as exemplified by the Reno Co Early Cretaceous granodiorite porphyries.

In terms of Nd–Hf isotopic compositions (Figs. 8, 9), the Jurassic intermediate–felsic intrusive rocks of the southern Qiangtang sub-block primarily exhibit negative whole-rock  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  and zircon  $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$  (Li et al., 2014a,b; Liu et al., 2014; this study), indicating that they were largely derived from mature or recycled continental crust materials. In contrast, the Early Cretaceous magmatic rocks from the southern Qiangtang sub-block mainly show positive to near-zero  $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$  and positive  $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$  values (Chang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2013, 2014a; Liu et al., 2012, 2014; this study), indicating they were probably derived from the juvenile crust. These results imply that the ancient lower crust of southern Qiangtang sub-block was gradually replaced by mantle-derived juvenile materials between the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous and that the underplating of arc basaltic magmas played a key role in vertical crustal growth.

## 7. Conclusions

- (1) The Rena Co intrusive rocks from southern Qiangtang sub-block contain adakitic granodiorites and granodiorite porphyries, and magnesian diorites.
- (2) LA–ICP–MS zircon U–Pb dating suggests that the Rena Co granodiorites and diorites have consistent ages of ca. 150 Ma and were emplaced in Late Jurassic and that the granodiorite porphyries were emplaced at ca. 112 Ma in Early Cretaceous.

- (3) The Jurassic magmatism was related to northward subduction of the Bangong–Nujiang Oceanic basin and the Early Cretaceous magmatism was most plausibly the result of the slab roll-back. The granodiorites were probably produced by partial melting of a thickened and heterogeneous ancient mafic lower continental crust whereas the diorites were derived from sediment diapirs and the mantle wedge. The younger granodiorite porphyries were generated by partial melting of newly underplated basaltic crust.
- (4) In southern Qiangtang, the pre-existing lower crust was gradually replaced by mantle-derived juvenile materials between the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous. This process demonstrates that, in a continental arc, underplating of arc basaltic magmas plays a key role in vertical crustal growth.

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.lithos.2015.09.015>.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Editor-in-Chief Professor Sun-Lin Chung, Guest Editor Dr. Di-Cheng Zhu and two anonymous reviewers for their constructive and helpful reviews. We also appreciate the assistance of Yue-Heng Yang, Xi-Rong Liang, Xiang-Lin Tu, Jin-Long Ma, Guang-Qian Hu, Lie-Wen Xie and Ying Liu for zircon age and geochemical analyses. Financial support for this research was provided by the Strategic Priority Research Program (B) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (grant no. XDB03010600), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 41025006, 41202040 and 41421062) and the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIGCAS 135 project Y234021001). This is contribution no. IS-2143 from GIGCAS.

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