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Textural and chemical variations of micas as indicators for tungsten mineralization: Evidence from highly evolved granites in the Dahutang tungsten deposit, South China

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Abstract

The Dahutang tungsten deposit, located in the Yangtze Block, South China, is one of the largest tungsten deposits in the world. Tungsten mineralization is closely related to Mesozoic granitic plutons. A drill core through a pluton in the Dalingshang ore block in the Central segment of the Dahutang tungsten deposit shows that the pluton is characterized by multi-stage intrusive phases including biotite granite, muscovite granite, and Li-mica granite. The granites are strongly peraluminous and rich in P and F. Decreasing bulk-rock $(La/Yb)_N$ ratios and total rare earth element (ΣREE) concentrations from the biotite granite to muscovite granite and Li-mica granite suggest an evolution involving the fractional crystallization of plagioclase. Bulk-rock Li, Rb, Cs, P, Sn, Nb, and Ta contents increase with decreasing Zr/Hf and Nb/Ta ratios, denoting that the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite have experienced a higher degree of magmatic fractionation than the biotite granite. In addition, the muscovite and Li-mica granites show M-type lanthanide tetrad effect, which indicates hydrothermal alteration during the post-magmatic stage. The micas are classified as lithian biotite and muscovite in the biotite granite, muscovite in the muscovite granite, and Li-muscovite and lepidolite in the Li-mica granite. The Li, F, Rb, and Cs contents of micas increase, while FeO^T, MgO, and TiO_2 contents decrease with increasing degree of magmatic fractionation. Micas in the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite exhibit compositional zonation in which Si, Rb, F, Fe, and Li increase, and Al decreases gradually from core to mantle, consistent with magmatic differentiation. However, the outermost rim contains much lower contents of Si, Rb, F, Fe, and Li, and higher Al than the mantle domains due to metasomatism in the presence of fluids. The variability in W contents of the micas matches the variability in Li, F, Rb, and Cs contents, indicating that both the magmatic and hydrothermal evolutions were closely associated with W mineralization in the Dahutang deposit. The chemical zoning of muscovite and Li-micas not only traces the processes of W enrichment by magmatic differentiation and volatiles but also traces the leaching of W by the fluids. Therefore, micas are indicators not only for the magmatic–hydrothermal evolution of granite, but also for tungsten mineralization.

Keywords: Mica, Dahutang tungsten deposit, highly evolved granite, magmatic evolution, hydrothermal evolution, South China

Introduction

Tungsten deposits are mainly involved in vein-like bodies, including quartz–greisen, quartz–sericite–K-feldspar, skarn, pegmatite, and quartz–tourmaline–chlorite rocks (Beus 1986), in which wolframite and scheelite are the two main tungsten-bearing ore minerals. Tungsten deposits are spatially and temporally associated with differentiated granites (Förster et al. 1999; Li et al. 2015; Lecumberri-Sanchez et al. 2017). The much higher partition coefficient of W in fluid than in granitic magma (Linnen and Cuney 2005) inhibits its mineralization in magma. Instead, W is leached by fluids and deposited in hydrothermal veins. It is therefore uncertain whether this spatial association implies a direct genetic link between tungsten mineralization and silicic magmatism, and how magmatic–hydrothermal processes contribute to tungsten mineralization (Hulsbosch et al. 2016). Whereas, the similar geochemical and isotopic features (including age) of both granites and vein-like W deposits might provide indirect evidence for a genetic link (Song et al. 2012; Huang and Jiang 2014; Zhang et al. 2017). The trace element and rare earth element (REE) compositions of scheelite and wolframite have been used to trace the source of W-bearing fluids (Song et al. 2014; Sun and Chen 2017; Harlaux et al. 2018; Zhang et al. 2018). However, the genetic source studies of tungsten cannot easily be constrained directly by investigation of ore veins alone. In addition, because differentiated intrusions are commonly concealed and unexposed, a direct genetic relationship with the ore deposit becomes difficult to establish.

Tungsten deposits are widely distributed globally, and China contains more than 60% of the world's tungsten reserves, which are particularly abundant in South China (Mao et al. 2013a). The Dahutang tungsten deposit in South China has enormous

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resources estimated at up to two million tons of WO_3 (Huang and Jiang 2014). Quartz-vein-type wolframite associated with granite-related veinlets and disseminated scheelite are the dominant ore minerals in the Dahutang tungsten deposit (Huang and Jiang 2014; Jiang et al. 2015). Tungsten ore veins intrude Neoproterozoic biotite granodiorites and have a genetic link with buried late Mesozoic granites (Huang and Jiang 2014). Previous studies on the Dahutang tungsten deposit proposed that highly evolved granites in the late Mesozoic provided further enrichment of W in the magmatic intrusions (Mao et al. 2013b, 2014; Huang and Jiang 2014). However, little is known about the mechanisms of W enrichment and its relationship to the magmatic and/or hydrothermal evolution. Indicator minerals in highly evolved granites may provide answers to these questions, in that they record the processes of both enrichment and transportation of tungsten. The chemical evolution and textural variation of micas have been suggested to trace the degree of differentiation and the magmatic–hydrothermal transition in highly evolved granite (Roda et al. 2007; Li et al. 2015; Breiter et al. 2017; Stepanov et al. 2014). Thus, micas may provide constraints on the mechanisms of W mineralization (Neiva 1987; Johan et al. 2012; Legros et al. 2016, 2018). In this paper, we present comprehensive in situ analyses of micas and whole-rock major and trace element compositions from drill cores through granite in the Dalingshang ore block of Dahutang tungsten deposit. These data, together with the previously determined compositions of apatite and rutile (Han et al. 2015), offer an insight into the magmatic and hydrothermal evolution of the granitic pluton and the mechanisms of W mineralization, which can also provide the direct evidence of a genetical link of tungsten deposit with the highly evolved granite.

Geological background, samples, and petrography

The South China Block consists of the Yangtze Block in the northwest and the Cathaysia Block in the southeast (Fig. 1a). After amalgamation during the early Neoproterozoic, the two blocks experienced Caledonian, Indosinian, and Yanshanian tectono–magmatic activities (Li et al. 2002, 2008, 2009; Zhao et al. 2011). The extensive developments of rare metal mineralization are closely related to Mesozoic granitic magmatism (Mao et al. 2013a). Mesozoic granitoid and volcanic rocks are widespread in the South China Block, and the large tungsten deposits (e.g., the Dajishan W deposit, the Xihuashan W deposit, and the Piaotang W–Sn deposit) are distributed mainly in the Nanling W–Sn polymetallic mineralization region (NLR; Fig. 1a), which is an area of significant economic rare metal mineralization in the Cathaysia Block (Zhao et al. 2017). Recently, large and super-large W deposits, such as Dahutang and Zhuxi deposits, have been discovered in the Yangtze Block (Huang and Jiang 2014; Song et al. 2018a).

The Dahutang tungsten deposit is located near the southeastern margin of the Yangtze Block and the northern part of Jiuling Mountain in the center of the Jiangnan massif, part of the Qinhang belt (Mao et al. 2011) (Fig. 1a). Jiuling Mountain is a Neoproterozoic granodiorite batholith intruding in the Shuangqiaoshan Group, which consists mainly of pelitic and psammitic metasedimentary rocks with metavolcanic horizons (Huang et al. 2003). The late Mesozoic granitic rocks, consisting of biotite granite, two-mica granite, muscovite granite, and granite porphyry, intruded mostly as stocks and veins into the Neoproterozoic granodiorite batholith and low-grade metamorphic rocks of the Shuangqiaoshan Group over multiple stages (Fig. 1b) (Lin et al. 2006; Huang and Jiang 2014; Mao et al. 2014). Late Mesozoic granitic stocks and veins are considered genetically related to tungsten mineralization.

The Dahutang tungsten deposit includes the Shimensi ore block in the north segment, the Dalingshang ore block in the central segment, and the Shiweidong ore block in the south segment (Song et al. 2018b; Fig. 1b). The deposit is composed mainly of veinlets and disseminated orebodies, wolframite- and scheelite-bearing quartz veins, and W–Sn greisen (Jiang et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2018). Jiang et al. (2015) and Song et al. (2018b) have summarized the published geochronological data of the Mesozoic granites from the Dahutang tungsten deposit and recognized two episodes of Mesozoic granitic magmatism (i.e., late Jurassic Period and early Cretaceous Period). The late Jurassic magmatism includes muscovite granite and biotite granite in the Shiweidong and Shimensi ore blocks, corresponding to LA-ICP-MS zircon U-Pb ages of 148–144 Ma (Jiang et al. 2015; Song et al. 2018c). The early Cretaceous intrusions consist of medium- to fine-grained two-mica granite, muscovite granite or granitic porphyry that occur in the Shiweidong and Dalingshang ore blocks, which have younger ages of 135–130 Ma (Jiang et al. 2015; Song et al. 2018c). The granitic porphyry, cutting through the granites and the orebodies, is considered as the latest intrusion (Lin et al. 2006; Song et al. 2018b).

The samples described in this study were all collected from core ZK15-1 that was drilled in the Dalingshang ore block, where Neoproterozoic biotite granodiorite is the host rock and was intruded by the late Mesozoic granites (Fig. 2) that are composed of biotite granite, muscovite granite, and granite porphyry. The studied samples are predominantly biotite granite and muscovite granite with minor Li-mica granite (Fig. 3), and the detailed petrographic features of these rocks are provided below.

Biotite granite

The biotite granite is porphyritic and consists predominantly of quartz (35–40%), K-feldspar (34–36%), plagioclase (18–20%), and biotite (7–10%) with minor muscovite (2–4%). The phenocrysts include quartz (1–8 mm), K-feldspar (2–5 mm), and biotite (1–3 mm) in a groundmass of fine-grained plagioclase, quartz, biotite, and muscovite. Biotite grains contain abundant inclusions of zircon, apatite, ilmenite, and monazite (Figs. 3a, 3b, and 3c), and some have been partially altered to chlorite. Muscovite always occurs at the margin of biotite or at the interfaces between other major rock-forming minerals (Fig. 3d).

Muscovite granite

The muscovite granite is medium- to fine-grained and contains quartz (20–30%), K-feldspar (20–30%), plagioclase (35–45%), and muscovite (5–15%). The muscovite occurs in two forms: coarse grains with irregular crystal boundaries that are euhedral to subhedral and 1–3 mm across, and fine grains that are several tens to hundreds of micrometers across and occur within feldspar as a result of sericitization (Fig. 3e). Accessory minerals include niobian rutile, cassiterite, pyrite, fergusonite-(Y), and apatite.

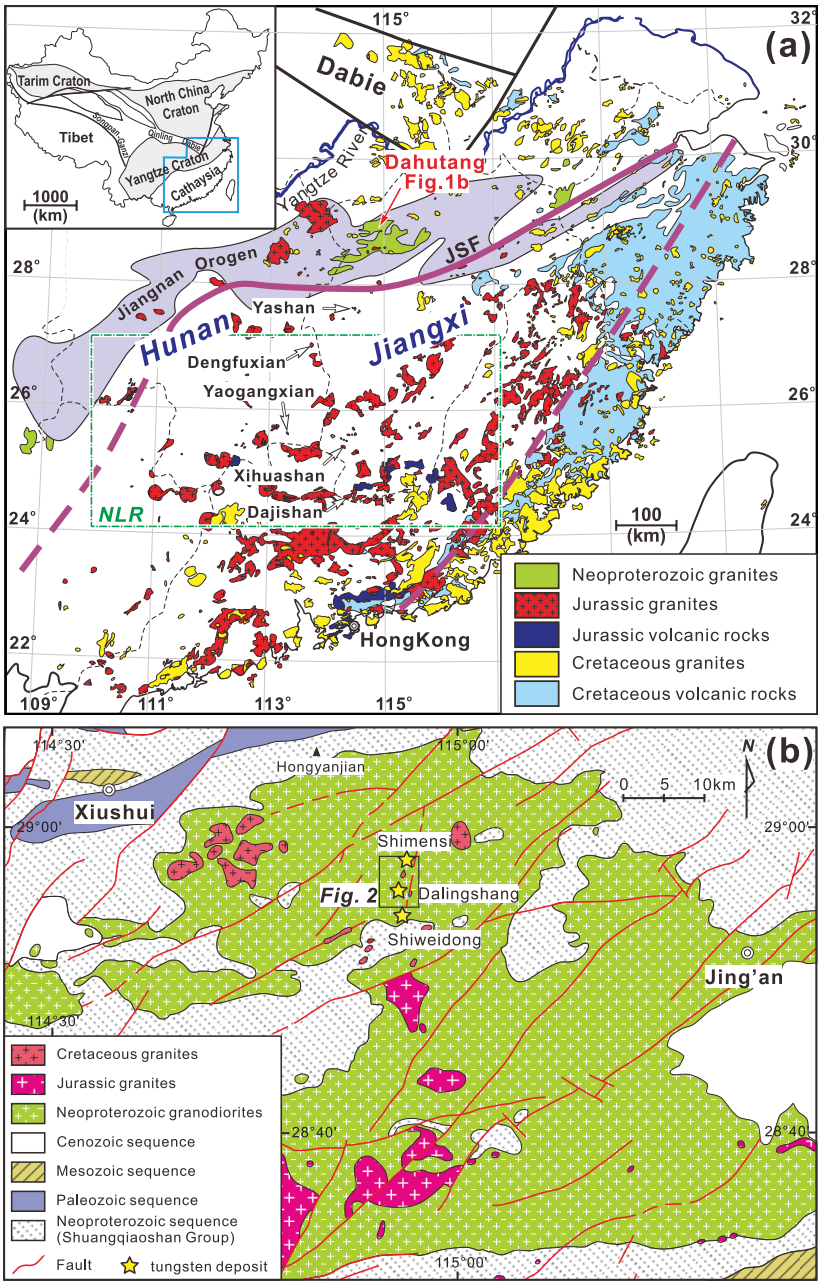

FIGURE 1. (**a**) Distribution of Neoproterozoic granites and Mesozoic granites and volcanic rocks in South China (modified from Li et al. 2010), and locations of the Nanling W–Sn polymetallic region (NLR) and the Dahutang tungsten deposit. (**b**) Geological sketch map of the Dahutang tungsten deposit and surrounding areas in northwestern Jiangxi Province, South China (after Jiangxi Western Geological Brigade). Abbreviation: Jiangshan-Shaoxin fault (JSF). (Color online.)

Li-mica granite

The Li-mica granite is porphyritic and represented by of quartz (25–35%), K-feldspar (35–45%), plagioclase (20–25%), and Li-mica (5–10%). The phenocrysts are represented by quartz (2–4 mm), K-feldspar (4–5 mm), plagioclase (1–3 mm), and Li-mica (1–2 mm). The larger Li-mica grains show irregular crystal boundaries (Fig. 3f). Fine-grained micas (300–800 μm) also occur in the interstices between other main minerals. Apatite, zircon, fluorite, and columbite-group minerals are common accessory minerals.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

Only fresh samples were selected for bulk-rock analysis. The rocks were crushed to <0.5 cm diameter, cleaned with deionized water in an ultrasonic bath, then dried and powdered in an agate mortar. The samples were prepared as glass disks using a Rigaku desktop fusion machine. Bulk-rock major element oxides were analyzed using a Rigaku RIX 2000 X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF) at the State Key Laboratory of Isotope Geochemistry (SKLABIG), Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIG-CAS). 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. 2006). Calibrations incorporated matrix corrections based on the empirical Traill–Lachance procedure,

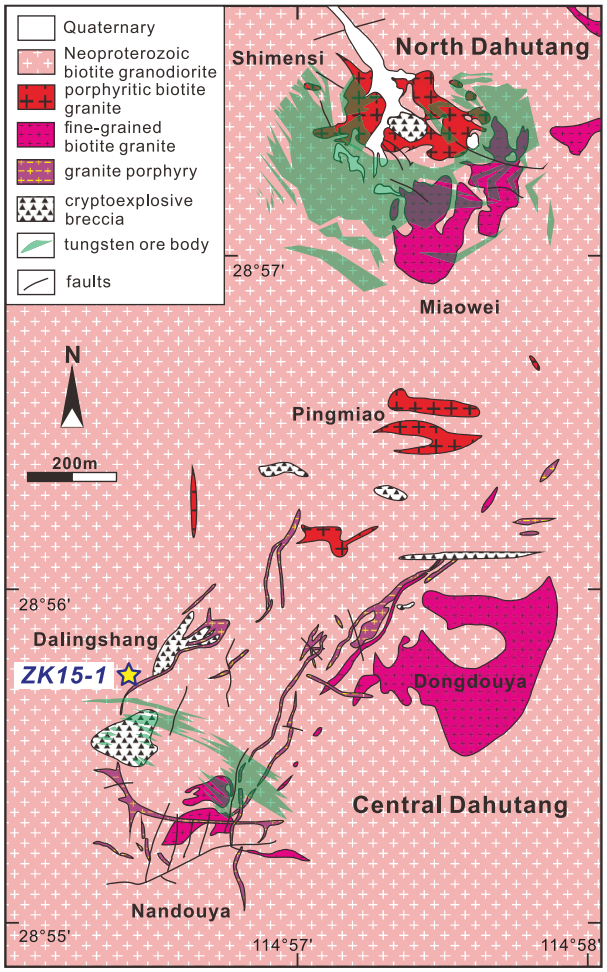

Figure 2. Geological map of the Central and North ore blocks of Dahutang tungsten deposit, and location of drilling Site ZK 15-1 (modified from Northwestern Geological Brigade, Jiangxi Bureau of Geology, Mineral Resources, Exploration and Development 2012). (Color online.)

and analytical uncertainties are mostly between 1% and 5% (Li et al. 2006). Additional determinations of F were performed by ALS Chemex (Guangzhou) Co Ltd, China, using the methods of KOH fusion and ion selective electrode, or Na_2O_2 fusion, citric acid leaching, and ion selective electrode transduction. F concentrations have <10% deviation from certified values. Trace elements were analyzed using inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) following acid digestion of samples (using a mixture of HF and HNO_3) in high-pressure "Teflon" (polytetrafluoroethylene) vessels; details of the procedures are provided by Li et al. (2006). The USGS and Chinese National standards SARM-4, W-2, BHVO-2, AGV-2, GSR-1, GSR-2, and GSR-3 were chosen for calibrating the elemental concentrations of measured samples. Analytical precision for rare earth element (REE) and other incompatible element analyses is typically 1–5%.

Polished thin sections were observed using a polarizing optical microscope and by scanning electron microscopy. The backscattered electron (BSE) images of micas and qualitative analysis of accessory minerals were obtained using field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM; Zeiss Supra55) or electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) using a JEOL JXA-8100 equipped with an Oxford Inca-X20 energy-dispersive spectroscope (EDS) at the SKLABIG-GIG-CAS.

The major element compositions of micas were obtained by EPMA under the following conditions: 15 kV accelerating voltage, 20 nA beam current, 5 μm beam diameter, and a ZAF correction procedure for data reduction. The crystals used for the wavelength-dispersive X-ray spectrometer (WDS) were TAP (for Si, Mg, Rb, Al, Na), LIF (for Fe, Mn, Ti), LDE1 (for F), and PETH (for K, Cs, Ca, P). A variable peak counting time of 7–60 s was used, depending on the intensity of the characteristic X-ray line and the desired precision. The detection limits for all elements were lower than 300 ppm. The following natural and synthetic standards were used: K-feldspar (for Si, K), pollucite (for Rb, Cs), apatite (for F, P), olivine (for Fe), albite (for Na, Al), MnO (for Mn), kaersutite (for Ti), pyrope garnet (for Mg, Ca), and tugtupite (for Cl). Chemical formulas of micas were calculated based on 24 anions (O, F, OH), and Fe^{3+} was calculated following Lin and Peng (1994). The Li_2O content of micas was calculated following Tischendorf et al. (1997, 1999), and H_2O was calculated following Tindle and Webb (1990).

In situ trace element analyses of micas were obtained through laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) using an Agilent 7500a ICP-MS coupled with a RESOlution M-50 laser ablation system at the SKLABIG-GIG-CAS. A spot size of 42 μm, a repetition rate of 5 Hz, and a maximum energy of 90 mJ were applied during analysis. External calibration used the National Institute of Standards NIST samples SRM 612 and T1-G with Al as the internal standards to correct for instrumental drift. Data reduction was performed using the commercial software ICPMSDataCal 6.7 (Liu et al. 2008). The detection limits of LA-ICP-MS range from 0.002 ppm for REE to 1 ppm for Ni. Repeat analyses of USGS rock standards SRM 612 and T1-G indicate that both precision and accuracy are better than 5% for most of the elements analyzed. For mica, the relative standard deviations (RSDs) of Rb, Cs, Nb, Ta, W, and Sn are better than 1%; those of REE, Th, U, and Pb range from 20 to 30%.

Bulk-rock compositions

Nine granite samples (including three biotite granite, five muscovite granite, and one lepidolite granite) from the Dalingshang ore block of the Dahutang tungsten deposit were analyzed for major and trace element compositions (Appendix[1] 1). For comparison, we also collected data of two-mica granite from the Shiweidong ore block, as published by Huang and Jiang (2014).

Major elements

The analyzed rocks are strongly peraluminous (A/CNK = 1.25–1.42; Fig. 4a) with high SiO_2 (68.79–76.00 wt%), Al_2O_3 (12.8–17.2 wt%; Fig. 4b), and alkali ($K_2O + Na_2O$ = 4.53–8.67 wt%) contents (Appendix[1] 1). There is a general trend of decreasing TiO_2, MgO, and Fe_2O_3 and from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Figs. 4c and 4d), and TiO_2 contents are positively correlated with MgO contents (Fig. 4c). The rocks are P- and F-rich granites with F contents of 0.28–1.65 wt% and P_2O_5 contents of 0.12–1.54 wt% (Appendix[1] 1).

Trace elements

The studied samples contain relatively low REE contents (ΣREE = 12–224 ppm). In chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Fig. 5a), they show strongly negative Eu anomalies (Eu/Eu* = 0.02–0.47). The muscovite granite and Li-mica granite samples show the convex M-type lanthanide tetrad effect (Fig. 5a) with $TE_{1,3}$ values of 1.15–1.21 (Appendix[1] 1). In addition, the ΣREE contents and Eu/Eu* and $(La/Yb)_N$ values decrease gradually from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Appendix[1] 1). In the mean upper crust normalized multi-elements diagram, the rocks are depleted in Ba, Sr, Ti, and REE, and enriched in Cs, Rb, W, Nb, Ta, P, Sn, and Li (Fig. 5b). Overall, the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite samples have much higher Li, Rb, Cs, P, W, Sn, Nb, and Ta contents, and are depleted in Ba, Sr, Ti, and REE relative to the biotite granite samples (Fig. 5b).

Mica chemistry

Micas in the biotite granite are compositionally homogeneous with abundant zircon, monazite, ilmenite, and apatite inclusions (Figs. 3b and 3c). In contrast, micas in the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite exhibit compositional zoning

that consists of core, mantle, and rim domains (Fig. 6). The mantle domain is brighter than the core and rim domains in BSE images with a sharp compositional boundary between mantle and rim (Figs. 6b and 6d). The irregular rim is usually thin and may show a "clinker"-like or porous morphology (Figs. 6b and 6d).

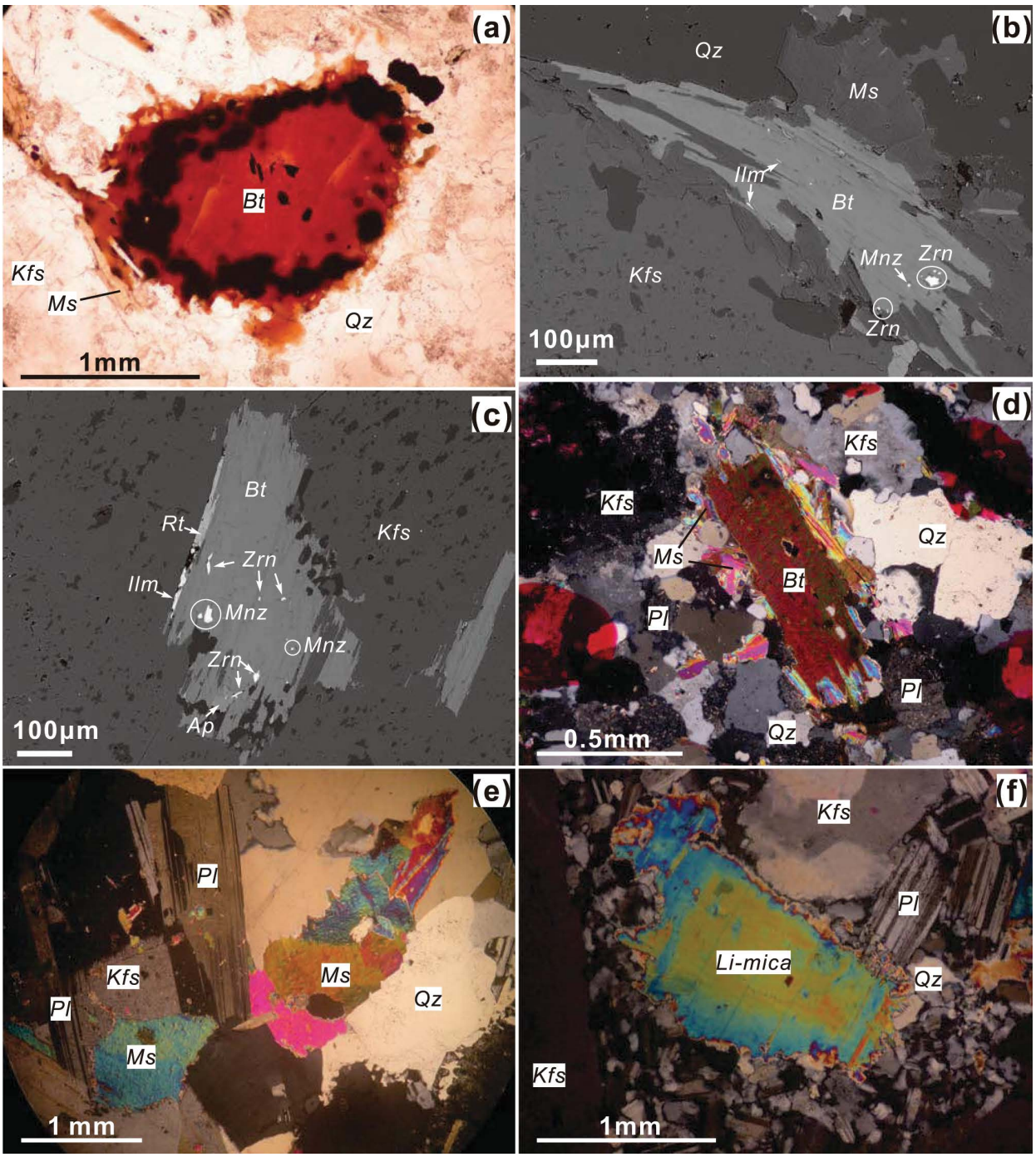

FIGURE 3. Petrographic characteristics of granites in the Dalingshang ore block, Central Dahutang tungsten deposit. (**a**) Photomicrograph of biotite granite, mineral inclusions in biotite phenocryst form a dark rim; (**b** and **c**) backscattered electron (BSE) images of biotite granite show mineral inclusions (e.g., zircon, rutile, ilmenite, monazite, and apatite) in biotite phenocrysts; (**d**) photomicrograph of biotite granite, fine-grained muscovite surrounding the biotite phenocryst; (**e**) photomicrograph of muscovite granite; (**f**) photomicrograph of Li-mica granite. Mineral abbreviations: biotite (Bt), muscovite (Ms), quartz (Qz), plagioclase (Pl), K-feldspar (Kfs), zircon (Zrn), rutile (Rt), ilmenite (Ilm), monazite (Mnz), apatite (Ap). (Color online.)

Major elements

Micas in studied samples show systematic chemical variability between different granite types. The micas in biotite granite samples consist of biotite and muscovite, which all have low Li_2O (0.17–1.10 wt%) and F (0.36–2.68 wt%) contents. The biotite has much higher FeO^T (18.7–25.0 wt%) and TiO_2 (1.53–3.18 wt%) contents and Fe/(Fe+Mg) and Fe^{2+}/Fe^{3+} ratios (0.58–0.78 and 9.17–13.51, respectively) than the muscovite (FeO^T = 1.40–4.35 wt%; TiO_2 = 0.23–1.02 wt%). Micas in muscovite granite and Li-mica granite samples show relatively high and variable Li_2O (0.21–2.59 and 1.99–5.34 wt%, respectively) and F (0.07–7.87 and 0.60–7.30 wt%, respectively) than the micas in biotite granite samples. They have low FeO^T (1.43–6.08 and 0.02–5.43 wt%, respectively) and TiO_2 (≤0.72 and ≤0.21 wt%, respectively) contents.

The micas in biotite granite samples are classified as lithian biotite (plotting between annite–phlogopite and zinnwaldite) and muscovite (Fig. 7). With increasing evolution from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite, the micas show a trend of increasing Li content and decreasing Al and R^{2+} (where $R^{2+} = Fe^{2+} + Mn^{2+} + Mg^{2+}$) contents in the octahedral site (Fig. 7b). In the muscovite granite, the micas belong to muscovite with compositional changes toward zinnwaldite as increasing Li and Fe contents (Fig. 7). The micas in the Li-mica granite sample have higher Li but lower Fe contents than those in muscovite granite samples, which also show the compositional trend to trilithionite and polylithionite and are classified as Li-muscovite (0.5 trilithionite) or lepidolite (Fig. 7).

Overall, the Rb_2O contents of micas increase from biotite granite (≤0.46 wt%) through muscovite granite (0.11–1.43 wt%) to Li-mica granite (0.48–3.00 wt%). The micas also show a positive correlation between F and Rb_2O and exhibit a trend of decreasing K/Rb ratio from biotite granite through muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Figs. 8 and 9). Cesium is most enriched within trilithionite grains in the Li-mica granite (up to 1.39 wt% Cs_2O) (Fig. 8b). The Li, Rb, and F contents of micas increase with decreasing K/Rb ratio from biotite granite through muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Fig. 8).

Rare metal and other trace elements

Micas in studied samples have high and variable W, Sn, Nb, and Ta contents (Fig. 9; Appendix[1] 2), but contain extremely low REE contents, with most analyses being below the detection limits (bdl; Appendix[1] 2). High K/Rb micas in biotite granite samples have relatively low W (1–99 ppm), Sn (15–273 ppm), Nb (21–151 ppm), and Ta (3–43 ppm) contents with variable Nb/Ta ratios (3.24–20.5) (Fig. 10; Appendix[1] 2). Compared with the biotite granite, micas in the muscovite and Li-mica granites have higher Ta contents (10–182 ppm) and large variable Nb contents (9–261 ppm), which show overall lower Nb/Ta ratios (0.21–10.5) (Fig. 10; Appendix[1] 2). Tungsten contents in micas increase from muscovite granite (7–140 ppm) to Li-mica

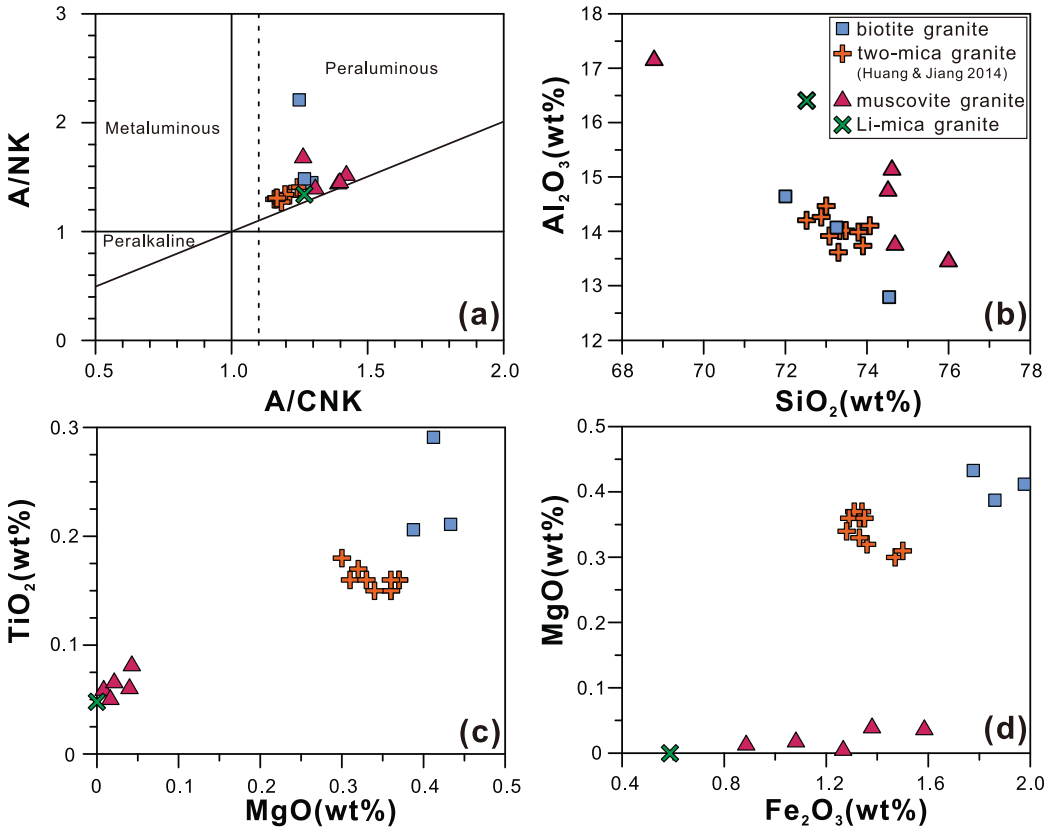

Figure 4. (**a**) A/NK vs. A/CNK diagram indicating the peraluminous nature of granites from the Dalingshang ore block; plots of (**b**) Al_2O_3 vs. SiO_2, (**c**) TiO_2 vs. MgO, (**d**) MgO vs. Fe_2O_3 show the variation in the major element composition of the granites from the Dalingshang ore block. The data of two-mica granites from the Shiweidong ore block (Huang and Jiang 2014) were shown for comparison. (Color online.)

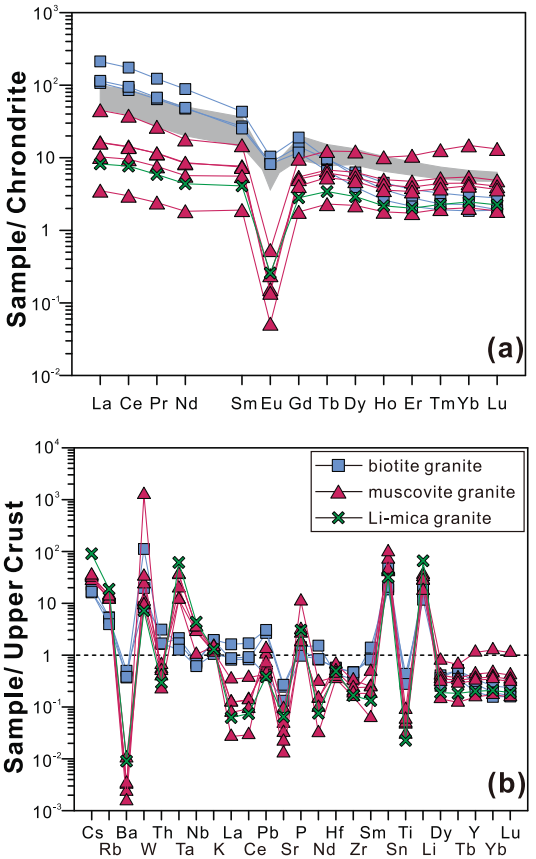

Figure 5. (**a**) Chondrite-normalized REE patterns and (**b**) mean upper-crust-normalized multi-element diagrams showing the trace element composition of granites from the Dalingshang ore block. Chondrite and mean upper crust values are from Taylor and McLennan (1985) and Rudnick and Gao (2003), respectively. The shaded area represents the chondrite-normalized REE patterns of two-mica granites from the Shiweidong ore block (Huang and Jiang 2014). (Color online.)

granite (98–339 ppm), while Sn contents display a decreasing trend (89–737 and 183–464 ppm, respectively). There is also an apparent decreasing trend in Sc contents from biotite granite (5.8–38.1 ppm) to muscovite granite (0.4–109 ppm) to Li-mica granite (0.3–0.8 ppm) (Appendix[1] 2).

Compositional zoning

The zoned micas in muscovite granite samples have almost constant Si and Na contents and slightly decreasing Mg contents from core to mantle to rim (Fig. 11a). In contrast, the Fe, Rb, and F contents increase gradually from core to mantle and then decrease in the rim. Aluminum contents decrease from core to mantle and increase in rim (Fig. 11a). The mantle has higher Nb, Ta, W, Sn, Li, and F contents than the core and rim (Fig. 12). The mean Nb/Ta ratio decreases gradually from core to mantle to rim (Fig. 12).

In zoned micas from Li-mica granite samples, the Si, Fe, Mn, Rb, Cs, and F contents increase from core to mantle and show a notable decrease in rim, whereas Al contents decrease from core to mantle and then increase in rim (Fig. 11b). The core to

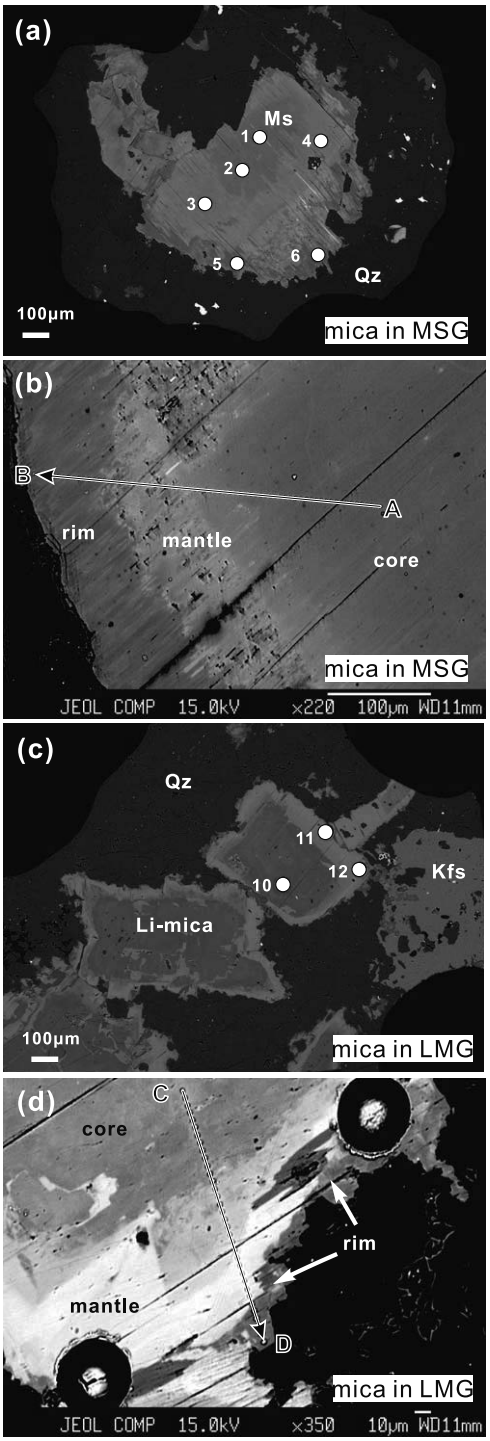

Figure 6. BSE images of zoned micas in muscovite granite (**a** and **b**) and Li-mica granite (**c** and **d**). The zoned micas in both granite types consist of core, mantle, and rim domains. The mantle forms the brightest domain and has an irregular diffuse boundary where in contact with darker core domain. The rim shows the darkest contrast and exhibits an irregular boundary and clinkery relict of the mantle and sometimes the porous. Mineral abbreviations: muscovite (Ms), quartz (Qz), plagioclase (Pl), K-feldspar (Kfs). The marked numbers are corresponding to analyses of representative compositions, as provided in Appendix[1] 2.

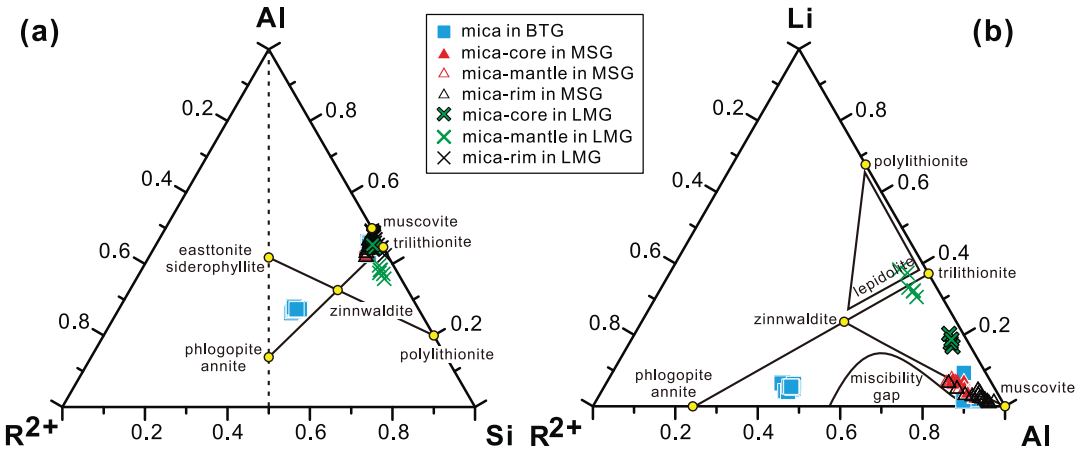

FIGURE 7. Chemical composition of micas in granites from the Dalingshang ore block, shown on ternary diagrams with the apices Al–R^{2+}–Si (**a**) and Li–R^{2+}–Al (**b**) (see main text for details), $R^{2+} = Fe^{2+} + Mn^{2+} + Mg^{2+}$. These diagrams have been constrained using an experimental calibration (Monier and Robert 1986; Foster 1960). Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), Li-mica granite (LMG). (Color online.)

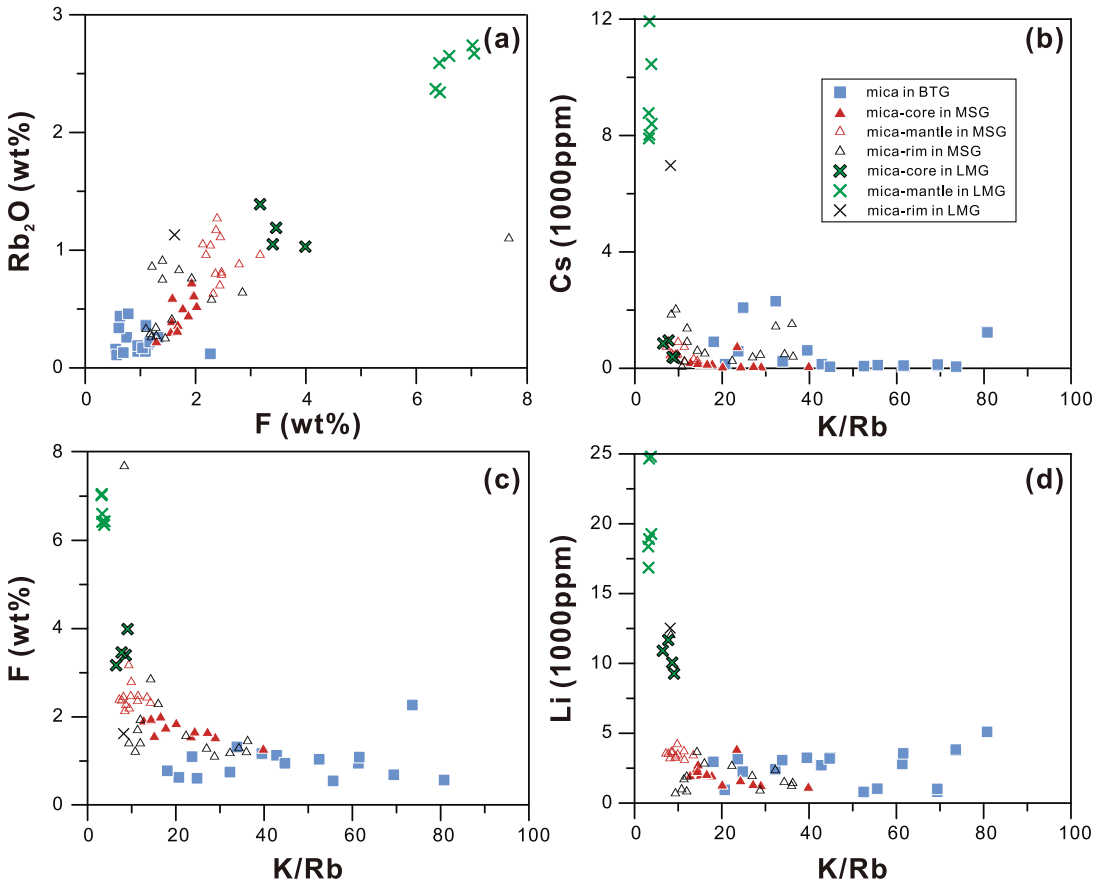

FIGURE 8. Plots of (**a**) Rb_2O vs. F, (**b**) Cs vs. K/Rb, (**c**) F vs. K/Rb, and (**d**) Li vs. K/Rb for micas in granites from the Dalingshang ore block. Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), Li-mica granite (LMG). (Color online.)

mantle domains are characterized by compositions that change from Li-muscovite to lepidolite (Fig. 7); the rim domains are muscovite with relatively low Li and high Al contents (Fig. 7). The mantle domains have higher W, Ta, Li, Cs, and F contents than the core and rim domains (Fig. 12). The Nb and Sn contents are higher in the core domains than in the mantle domains (Fig.

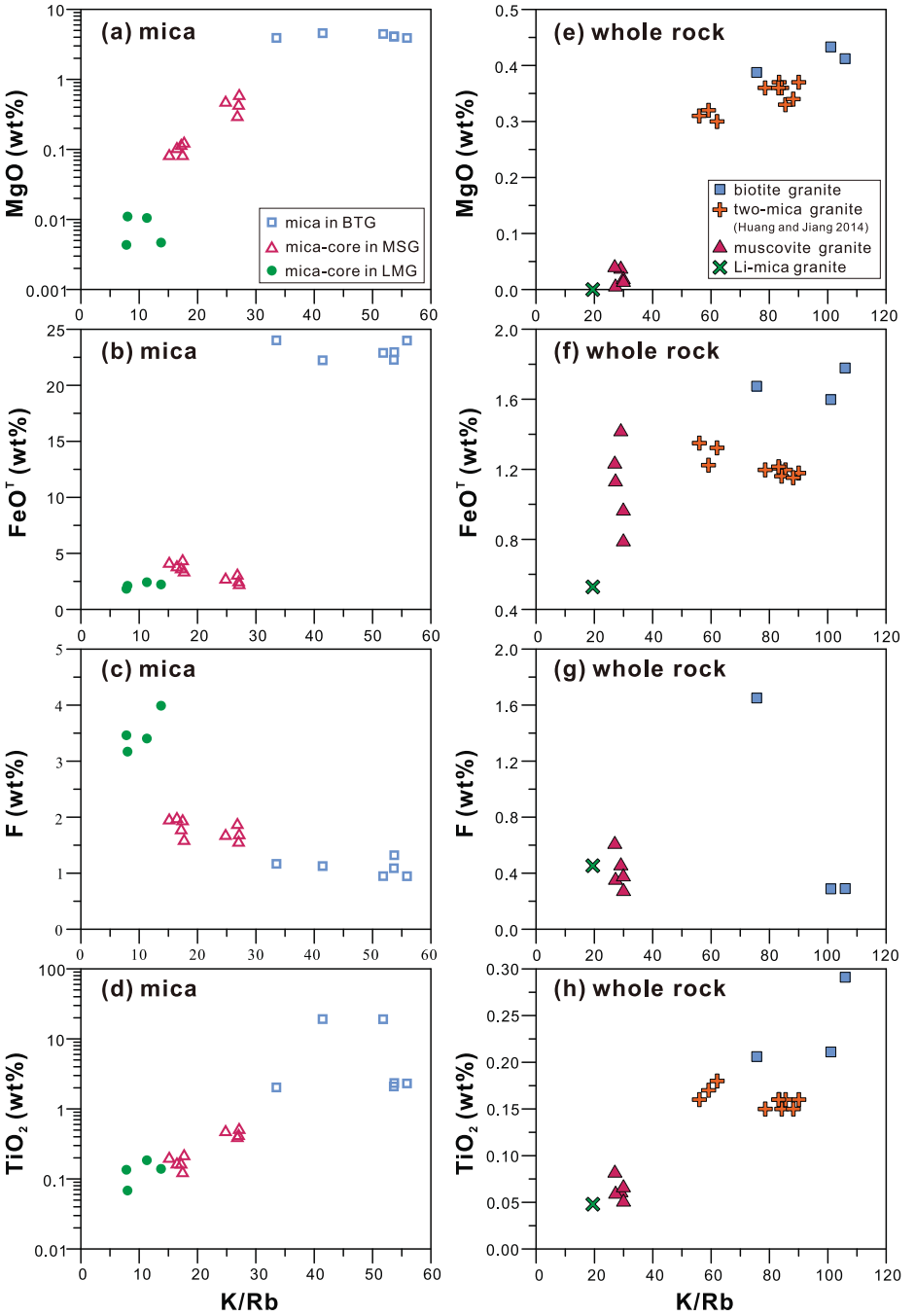

FIGURE 9. (**a**–**d**) Plots of MgO, FeO^T, F, and TiO_2 vs. K/Rb for micas, and (**e**–**h**) for whole-rock compositions from granites in the Dalingshang ore block. Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), and Li-mica granite (LMG). (Color online.)

12). The Nb/Ta ratio also decreases from core (mean 7.68) to mantle (mean 0.54) to rim (mean 0.21) (Fig. 12).

DISCUSSION

Magmatic–hydrothermal evolution of the Dalingshang granite

Rare metal granites are considered to be highly fractionated bodies that record the transition between magmatic and hydrothermal processes (Cuney et al. 1992; Yin et al. 1995; Ballouard et al. 2016; Wu et al. 2017). The studied samples collected from ZK15-1 in the Dalingshang ore block of the Dahutang tungsten deposit are the late Mesozoic granites that intruded into the Neoproterozoic biotite granodiorite, and show a gradational variation in bulk-rock compositions from biotite granite through muscovite granite to Li-mica granite, which might reflect the varying degree of differentiation. The markedly negative Eu anomalies in bulk-rock composition (Fig. 5a) indicate extensive fractional crystallization of feldspars (plagioclase and K-feldspar). In addition, the gradual decrease in the $(La/Yb)_N$ ratio and ΣREE

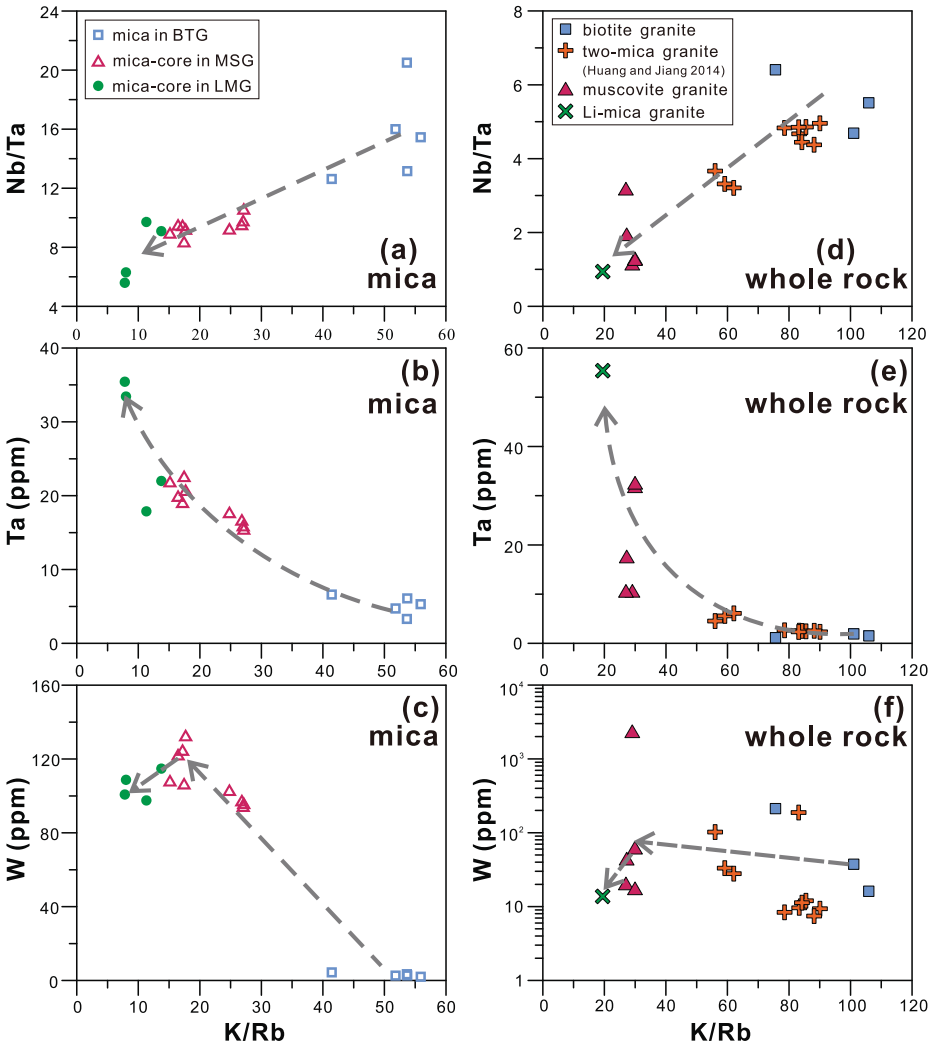

FIGURE 10. (**a**–**c**) Plots of Nb/Ta, Ta, and W vs. K/Rb for micas, and (**d**–**f**) whole-rock compositions from granites in the Dalingshang ore block. Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), and Li-mica granite (LMG). (Color online.)

contents from biotite granite to muscovite granite and Li-mica granite (Appendix[1] 1) are consistent with fractional crystallization of plagioclase, as the REEs are compatible in plagioclase in phosphorus-rich peraluminous felsic magmas with $D_{La} > D_{Yb}$ (Bea et al. 1994). The fractionation of K-feldspar and plagioclase in highly evolved granites also depletes the melt in Ba and Sr, respectively (Nash and Crecraft 1985; Bea et al. 1994), corresponding to negative Ba and Sr anomalies in studied samples (Fig. 5b). The depletion in Ti is likely caused by the fractional crystallization of Fe-Ti oxides, in particular rutile and ilmenite.

Plagioclase preferentially incorporates Sr over Rb (Nash and Crecraft 1985; Bea et al. 1994), zircon partitions Zr over Hf (Linnen and Keppler 2002; Yin et al. 2013), and micas and columbite-group minerals preferentially incorporate Nb over Ta (Linnen and Keppler 1997; Stepanov et al. 2014). In addition, Rb would be enriched in the residual melt, whereas K is almost invariable. Therefore, K/Rb, Zr/Hf, Nb/Ta, and Rb/Sr ratios are useful indicators of the degree of differentiation of magmas (Bau 1996; Dostal and Chatterjee 2000; Deering and Bachmann 2010; Ballouard et al. 2016). The studied samples show increasing Rb/Sr ratio and decreasing Zr/Hf, Nb/Ta, and K/Rb ratios from biotite granite to muscovite granite and Li-mica granite (Appendix[1] 1), indicating the elevated degree of differentiation.

Whole-rock Nb/Ta ratios of <5 have been regarded as geochemical marker of highly evolved melt with hydrothermal interaction (Ballouard et al. 2016). Both the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite samples have very low Nb/Ta ratios (0.94–3.19; Appendix[1] 1), suggesting a magmatic-hydrothermal evolution. In their REE patterns, the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite samples show convex M-type lanthanide tetrad effect ($TE_{1,3}$ > 1.1; Fig. 5a, Appendix[1] 1) similar to many highly evolved granites related to W-Sn deposit (e.g., Zhao et al. 1992; Monecke et al. 2007). In general, the lanthanide tetrad effect is due to different partition coefficients of REE-F and REE-Cl complexes in the fluid phase (Bau 1996; Irber 1999; Monecke et al. 2011). The F-rich hydrosaline magmatic fluid-melt interaction might enhance the M-type lanthanide tetrad effect in the silicate melt (Wu et al. 2011; Peretyazhko and Savina 2010). In addition, fluid-melt interaction

in an open system may produce M-type lanthanide tetrad effect because of the remove of coexisting or exsolved fluids that show complementary W-type REE pattern (Irber 1999). As a result, both the rock-forming minerals and accessory minerals can also show M-type lanthanide tetrad effect (Monecke et al. 2002; Wu et al. 2011). Therefore, we proposed that the M-type lanthanide tetrad effect recorded in studied samples reflects interaction with hydrothermal fluids during the post-magmatic stage. However, crystallization of niobian rutile, cassiterite, and fergusonite-(Y) in the muscovite granite and columbite-group minerals in the Li-mica granite represent the saturation of rare metal elements in the melt.

The evolutionary trend of the magma and the degree of fractionation inferred from mica compositions are comparable to those deduced from zircon and columbite-group minerals in rare metal granites (Van Lichtervelde et al. 2008; Stepanov et al. 2014; Li et al. 2015; Breiter et al. 2017). In rare metal granites, volatile elements (e.g., F and P) and incompatible elements (e.g., Li, Rb, Cs) are gradually enriched as the magma evolves and fractionates to become saturated during the post-magmatic stage (Huang et al. 2002; Wu et al. 2017). In the granites of the Dalingshang ore block, the differentiation of the granitic plutons means that the Li, Rb, and F contents in the micas increase in proportion to their concentrations in the magma (Fig. 8). The crystallization of F-enriched mica in the muscovite and Li-mica granite is an important mineralogical marker of the saturation of volatile elements during the post-magmatic stage. A trend of increasing frac-

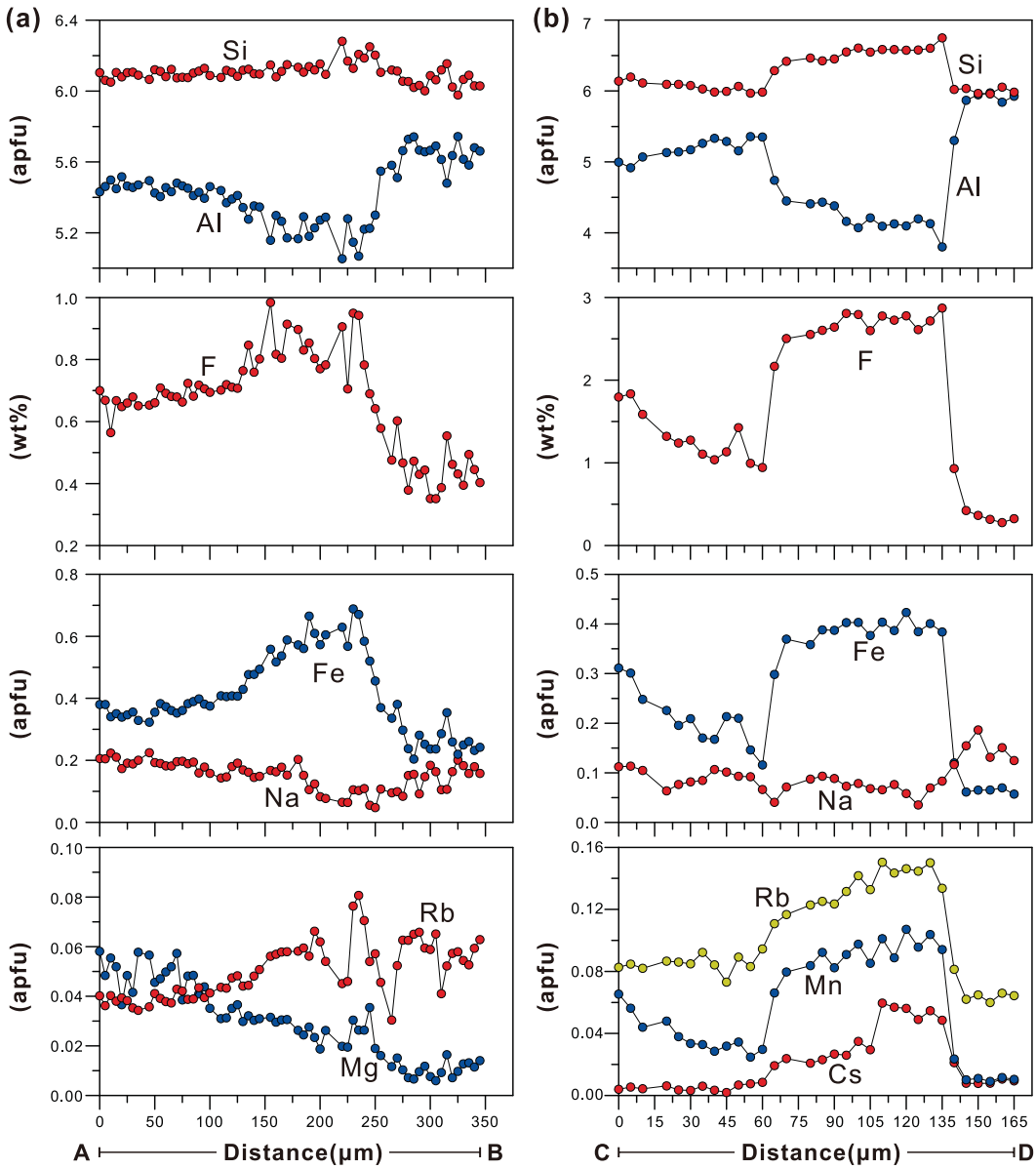

FIGURE 11. Traverse EPMA analyses of micas from core to mantle to rim along (**a**) line A–B (muscovite) shown in Figure 6b, and (**b**) line C–D (Li-mica) shown in Figure 6d. (Color online.)

tionation is also indicated by the decreasing Nb/Ta ratios recorded in the micas, according to the higher compatibility of Nb over Ta in micas in granite magmas (Stepanov et al. 2014). The FeO^T, MgO, and TiO_2 contents and Nb/Ta and K/Rb ratios in micas all decrease from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Figs. 9 and 10), consistent with a fractional crystallization trend. The K/Rb and Nb/Ta ratios in micas from studied samples (3.1–73 and 0.21–21, respectively) are higher than those within the Yashan granite (1.67–41 and 0.26–7, respectively; Li et al. 2015) that hosts a Ta deposit in South China, thereby indicating a lower degree of fractionation than the Yashan granite.

The micas in the muscovite granite and the Li-mica granite show distinctive patterns of zoning (Fig. 6), suggesting a change in the composition of the melt, which may record differentiation, magma mixing, or fluid metasomatism (e.g., Vernon et al. 1988; Clarke and Bogutyn 2003; Roda et al. 2007; Li et al. 2013). For compositional zoned mica, the core would crystallize from original magma. The F, Li, Fe, Rb, and Cs contents in zoned muscovite-lepidolite of studied samples increase gradually from core to mantle, which leads to different brightness of zoning texture in BSE (Fig. 6), consistent with the trend of magmatic evolution (e.g., Roda et al. 2007). Given the high partition coefficient of Cs in fluids (Webster et al. 1989), the distinct enrichment of Cs in the mantle domains of zoned micas suggests interaction with hydrothermal fluids that may have exsolved from the granitic magma as it differentiated (Černý et al. 1985; Wang et al. 2004). The irregular rims, which are characterized by a porous "clinker-like" structure, possibly indicate later metasomatism of relict mantles (Fig. 6b). As the rim domains contain very low Li, F, and Rb contents relative to the core and mantle domains (Fig.

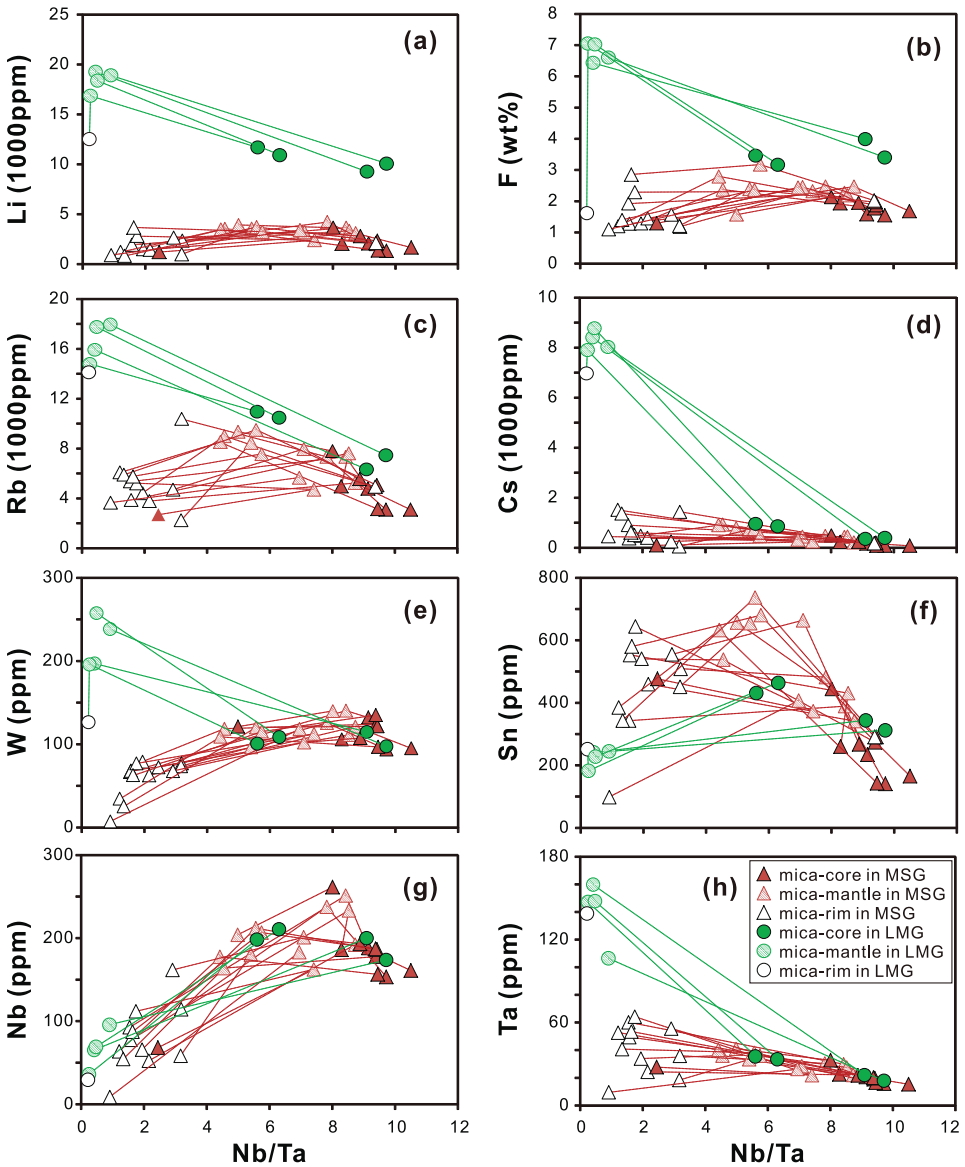

FIGURE 12. Plots of Li, F, Rb, Cs, W, Sn, Nb, and Ta vs. Nb/Ta for zoned micas in muscovite granite and Li-mica granite. Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), Li-mica granite (LMG). (Color online.)

11), we propose that an exotic aqueous fluid was involved in the magmatic–hydrothermal evolution (see in the following section).

Tungsten enrichment during magmatic evolution

Rare metal granites are an important host of W-Sn-Nb-Ta polymetallic deposits (Černý et al. 2005). These rare metals have a similar ionic radius and electronegativity, and show similar geochemical characteristics (Linnen and Cuney 2005). However, they exhibit different geochemical behaviors during mineralization according to slight differences in solubility and fluid–melt partition coefficients (Linnen 1998; Linnen and Cuney 2005). Columbite-group minerals, ixiolite and microlite, are homogeneously disseminated within the granites, consistent with a magmatic origin for Nb and Ta mineralization. The volatile elements, especially Li and F, promote Ta crystallization and Nb-Ta differentiation (Linnen 1998; Van Lichtervelde et al. 2008). Sn is disseminated in granites or closely related to hydrothermal processes, including the formation of greisen, skarns, and felsic veins (Lehmann 1987; Pollard et al. 1987; Bhalla et al. 2005). Tungsten is mainly deposited in hydrothermal veins (Lecumberri-Sanchez et al. 2017). The three types of ore-bearing granites exhibit different evolutionary trends, in which W or W–Sn mineralization is closely related to biotite granites, two-mica granites, or muscovite granites, and Nb–Ta deposits mostly relate to albite granites that record a higher degree of differentiation (Huang et al. 2002; Chen et al. 2008; Li et al. 2015; Wang et al. 2017).

Tungsten is incompatible in granitic melt and is consequently enriched in highly evolved granites that are aluminous and volatile-enriched. For example, the Erzgebirge granites exhibit increasing W contents from low-F biotite granite through low-F two-mica granite to high-F and high-P Li-mica granite (Förster et al. 1999). Experimental studies show that W exists mainly as the W^{6+} ion and constitutes WO_4^{2-} tetrahedra within the granitic melt (Farges et al. 2006). Because of the different geometric properties and larger volume of $[WO_4]$ relative to $[SiO_4]$, $[WO_4]$ is not readily incorporated into the crystal lattice of rock-forming minerals. Therefore, tungsten becomes enriched in the residual melt during differentiation due to the fractional crystallization of plagioclase. Alkali metals such as Na and K are available to interact with WO_4^{2-} tetrahedra to promote W solubility (Linnen and Cuney 2005). Tungsten is likely to become saturated in aluminous granites because of the lower solubility of wolframite in aluminous melt compared with alkali melt (Che et al. 2013). The fluorine input may increase the abundance of non-bridging O atoms (NBOs) (Mysen 1990; Keppler 1993), which may increase the proportion of WO_4^{2-} tetrahedral in the melt (Che et al. 2013). Therefore, tungsten will become enriched in the melt of the post-magmatic stage, when the melt is highly fractionated and depolymerized.

Granites in the Dalingshang ore block are peraluminous and highly evolved. The muscovite granite and Li-mica granite have lower K/Rb ratios than the biotite granite and show lanthanide tetrad effect, consistent with the magmatic–hydrothermal stage. The muscovite granites have slightly higher W contents than the biotite granite and Li-mica granite (Fig. 10f), whereas muscovite and Li-mica (Li-muscovite and lepidolite) show much higher W contents than biotite grains (Fig. 10c). This indicates that the precipitation of W has a close affinity with mica growth, in particular muscovite and Li-mica. The ionic radius of W^{6+} (0.68 Å) is close to that of Ti^{4+} (0.69 Å), and tungsten is able to enter octahedral vacancies such as occur in rutile and biotite (Shannon 1976). Thus, during the early magmatic stage of the Dalingshang granite, biotite and rutile were the major carriers of W. Because of the similar ionic radii and electronegativity of W^{6+} (0.68 Å, 984 kJ/mol) and Al^{3+} (0.61 Å, 921 kJ/mol) (Shannon 1976), W^{6+} can replace tetrahedral Al^{3+} in muscovite. The trace element contents of micas are also dependent on the partition coefficient of W between micas and melts, although few data exist. Antipin et al. (1981) reported that W is compatible within micas. Simons et al. (2017), in a study of peraluminous granites of the Cornubian Batholith in Europe, showed that micas are major rock-forming minerals containing W, in which muscovite and Li-micas have higher W contents than biotite. Muscovite has a much higher D_W value than biotite with calculation (Simons et al. 2017). Therefore, muscovite and Li-mica are effective carriers of tungsten, which resulted in the muscovite granite and Li-mica granite in the Dahutang tungsten deposit being enriched in W.

The zoned micas in the muscovite and Li-mica granites in the Dalingshang ore block could be utilized to investigate magmatic–hydrothermal processes through variations in the concentrations of trace elements such as Li, F, Rb, and Cs. Enrichment in Ta and W is greater in the mantle domain of zoned micas and shows positive correlations with Li, F, Rb, and Cs contents (Fig. 12). In contrast, Nb and Sn contents decrease from core to mantle (Fig. 12), which may record the crystallization of other accessory minerals, such as columbite-group minerals, or may indicate the role of fluid-related alteration. Both W and Ta contents in micas are strongly correlated with Li, F, Rb, and Cs contents, suggesting that enrichment of W and Ta is associated with magmatic evolution and has a close affinity with Li and F (Fig. 12).

Effect of fluid on W mineralization

The predominant occurrences of scheelite and wolframite are dip-dying veinlet-type and quartz-vein-type, respectively, rather than magmatic type, which suggests that a tungsten deposit is unlikely to form in magma although magmatic evolution may result in enrichment in W (Beus 1986; Lecumberri-Sanchez et al. 2017). Tungsten is different from other rare metals that are commonly enriched in magmatic–hydrothermal ore deposits as it is transported mainly as anionic species such as $NaWO_{4-}$, HWO_{4-}, and WO_4^{2-} within mineralizing fluids (Wood and Samson 2000; Zajacz et al. 2008). Consequently, tungsten can be transported long distances via aqueous fluids. The selective crystallization of wolframite or scheelite from aqueous fluids is controlled by different cationic species (Fe^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, or Ca^{2+}) under suitable physicochemical conditions (Wood and Samson 2000).

The zoned micas in the muscovite and Li-mica granite from the Dalingshang ore block of the Dahutang tungsten deposit trace not only the enrichment but also the leaching process of rare metal elements. Most high field strength elements (i.e., W, Sn, and Nb) in the rim domains have concentrations that are distinctly lower than in the core and mantle domains (Figs. 12e, 12f, and 12g), which may reflect the alteration in the presence of fluids. Fluid cannot effectively transport Nb and Ta due to extremely low fluid–melt partition coefficients (Linnen and Cuney 2005). However, as the Nb/Ta ratios are lowest in the rim domains of zoned micas, we suggest that Nb is more easily taken away than Ta in fluid. The

partition coefficient for W between melt and fluid varies greatly from 0.37 to 4.1 (Keppler and Wyllie 1991), due to the combined effect of the chlorine content of the fluid, pH value, and oxygen fugacity (Zajacz et al. 2008). The $D_W^{fluid/melt}$ value is lower in high-HCl or high-HF aqueous solutions (Kepple and Wyllie 1991). Manning and Henderson (1984) reported a positive correlation between $D_W^{fluid/melt}$ and the NaCl and NaF contents of the fluid, whereas Bai and van Groos (1999) noted a decrease in $D_W^{fluid/melt}$ with the addition of NaCl. Therefore, the decrease of W in the rim of zoned Li-micas reflects the extraction of W by a fluid. In addition, bulk-rock Nb and Ta contents increase gradually from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite (Fig. 10), which differs from the trend in W, further demonstrating that hydrothermal fluids played an important role in W mineralization (Li et al. 2015).

Based on the occurrence and compositions of apatite and rutile in granites of Dalingshang ore block, a late hydrothermal stage is inferred, in which oxygen fugacity is significantly low and corresponds to a relatively reducing environment (Han et al. 2015). Under such conditions, Mn and Fe mainly exist in a divalent state, enabling complexing with WO_4^{2-} to form wolframite ([Fe,Mn]WO_4). In addition, Ca^{2+} derived from hornblende and plagioclase due to fluid-mediated wall-rock alteration (Jiang et al. 2015) may combine with WO_4^{2-} to form scheelite ($CaWO_4$). A detailed fluid-inclusion study reported that ore-forming fluids in the Dahutang tungsten deposit were of low salinity and low to moderate temperature (Gong et al. 2013). The homogenization temperatures of the fluid inclusions in the Shimensi ore block are mainly 200–270 °C and the salinity (NaCl equiv.) is in the range 0.18–9.47 wt% (Gong et al. 2013). Wang et al. (2015) studied the composition of sulfur isotopes in the Dahutang tungsten deposit and showed that $\delta^{34}S$ values of chalcopyrite and molybdenite show slight variation (–3.1 to 0.9‰) and have the characteristics of magmatic sulfur. In addition, hydrogen and oxygen isotopic data from ore-bearing quartz in the Dahutang tungsten deposit ($\delta D_{V\text{-}SMOW}$ = –76‰ to –64‰; $\delta^{18}O_{H_2O}$ = 4.5 to 7.3‰) plot in the field of magmatic water in the δD vs. $\delta^{18}O_{H_2O}$ diagram, with a small component of meteoric water (Wang et al. 2015).

Implications for W mineralization

The crystallization and differentiation of granitic magma lead to an enrichment in incompatible elements and play an important role in rare metal mineralization (Förster et al. 1999; Huang et al. 2002; Linnen and Cuney 2005). The process is also accompanied with the magmatic-hydrothermal evolution and the saturation of volatile elements. The granites of the Dalingshang ore block are highly evolved, which have been inferred to be the parent rocks of the Dahutang tungsten deposit (Huang and Jiang 2014) and may have undergone multiple stages of mineralization (Song et al. 2018c). However, little is known of magmatic–hydrothermal processes that influenced the behavior of rare metal enrichment in the granites. Based on the chemical evolution and textural variation of micas in the Dalingshang granites, we proposed the ore-forming processes in the Dahutang tungsten deposit as shown in the schematic diagram (Fig. 13) and discussed below.

(1) The magmatic evolution is from biotite granite to muscovite granite to Li-mica granite. The biotite granite represents the early magmatic stage. The highly evolved muscovite granite and Li-mica granite were formed from hydrous and low-viscosity magmas in a magma and hydrothermal fluid coexisting environment, which represent the post-magmatic stage. The ore-

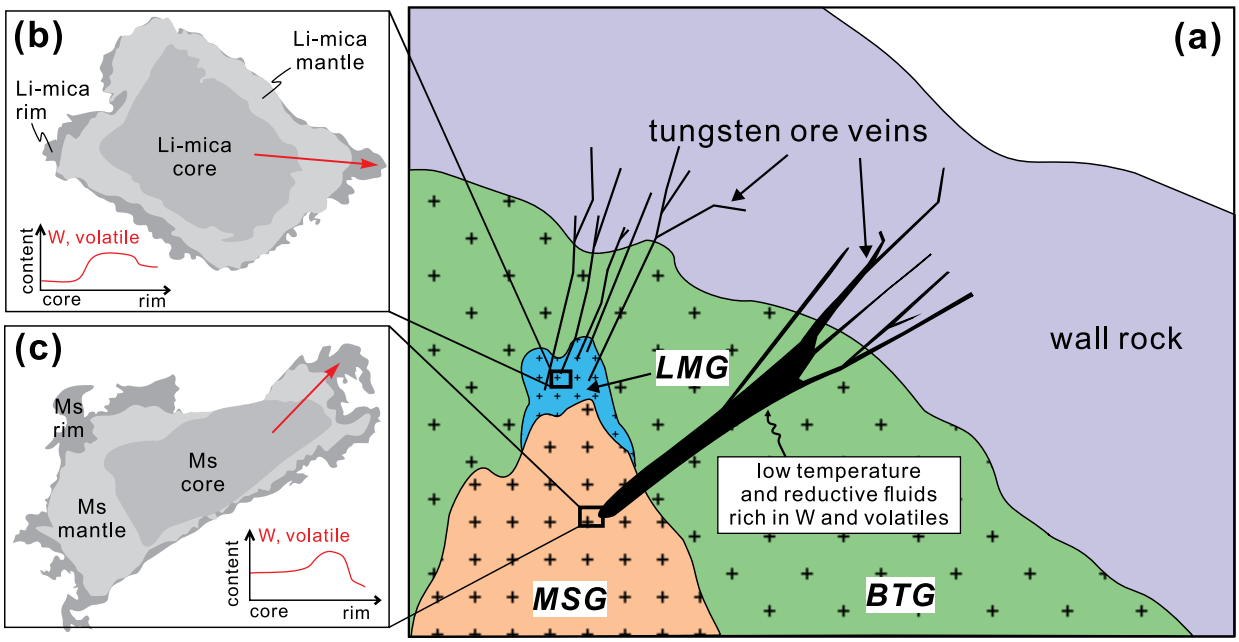

Figure 13. Schematic representation of the processes of enrichment and migration of tungsten in the Dahutang granite and the formation of the Dahutang tungsten deposit. (**a**) The formation of Dahutang tungsten deposit. The sequence of intrusion is according to the sampling depth and Song et al. (2018b, 2018c). Abbreviations: biotite granite (BTG), muscovite granite (MSG), Li-mica granite (LMG), muscovite (Ms). (**b**) Sketch showing the textural and compositional variations of micas in the Li-mica granite. (**c**) Sketch showing the textural and compositional variations of micas in the muscovite granite. (Color online.)

forming elements and volatiles became saturated during the post-magmatic stage.

(2) Micas are an effective indicator not only for the magmatic-hydrothermal evolution of the granite but also for the tungsten mineralization process. The enrichment of W has an affinity with volatiles. When the residual melts interact with internally or externally derived fluid, this fluid can extract rare metals in the melts and micas and form a low tungsten rim in zoned muscovite.

(3) Tungsten can be taken away distantly by the fluid (Lecumberri-Sanchez et al. 2017). The ore-forming elements, in particular tungsten, are unlikely to be deposited directly in the granite, and reducing fluids and fluid–rock interaction plays an import role in forming large ore deposits.

Tungsten mineralization is always related to highly evolved S-type granites (Förster et al. 1999; Zhao et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2017). In Dahutang tungsten deposit, the textural and componential variations of micas could be utilized as an optimal proxy to judge the parent rocks of W deposit and estimate the W metallogenic potential of the granites. In this study, enrichment in W is closely related to the crystallization of muscovite and Li-mica (Li-muscovite and lepidolite) during the post-magmatic stage. The rims of zoned muscovite record the interaction by fluids, which is a universal feature of tungsten-bearing granites and veins (Li et al. 2013, 2015, 2018; Legros et al. 2016, 2018). Thus, muscovite and Li-micas are indicator minerals for tungsten ore-forming potential in the granites. It is a common feature that the micas of the tungsten-bearing granites, such as the Xihuashan granites in South China (Li et al. 2013), Yashan rare-metal granite (Li et al. 2015), and the Erzgebirge granites in Germany (Breiter et al. 2017), all exhibit a large extent of compositional variation or variable compositional zoning that would be important for reconstructing tungsten ore-forming process. The textural of zoned micas and geochemical variations of micas in these tungsten-bearing granites may also record the processes of both enrichment and transportation of tungsten during the magmatic-hydrothermal evolution.

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