

Early Cretaceous adakitic granites in the Northern Dabie Complex, central China: Implications for partial melting and delamination of thickened lower crust

Qiang Wang ^{a,*}, Derek A. Wyman ^b, Jifeng Xu ^a, Ping Jian ^c, Zhenhua Zhao ^a,
Chaofeng Li ^d, Wei Xu ^e, Jinlong Ma ^a, Bin He ^a

^a Key Laboratory of Isotope Geochronology and Geochemistry, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, PR China

^b School of Geosciences, Division of Geology and Geophysics, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

^c Chinese Academy of Geological Science, 26 Beiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, PR China

^d Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100029, PR China

^e Academy of Geological Survey of Anhui Province, Ningguo Road 19, Hefei 230001, PR China

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Abstract

To date, few adakitic rocks have been reported in direct association with contemporary intra-continental extensional structures, which has cast doubt on genetic models involving partial melting of the lower crust. This study presents Early Cretaceous (143–129 Ma, new Sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP) zircon U–Pb ages) adakitic granites, which are directly associated with a contemporary metamorphic core complex (i.e., the Northern Dabie Complex in the Dabie area). These granites exhibit relatively high Sr contents, negligible to positive Eu and Sr anomalies, high La/Yb and Sr/Y ratios, but very low Yb and Y contents, similar to subducted oceanic crust-derived adakites. They are also characterized, however, by very low MgO or Mg[#] and Ni values, and Nd–Sr isotope compositions ($\epsilon_{Nd}(t) = -14.6$ to -19.4 and $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i = 0.7067\text{--}0.7087$) similar to Triassic continent-derived eclogites subducted in the Dabie–Sulu Orogen. Additionally, late granitic dikes in the adakitic intrusions exhibit low Sr contents, clearly negative Eu and Sr anomalies, low La/Yb and Sr/Y ratios, but relatively high Yb and Y contents, similar to 118–105 Ma granites in the Northern Dabie Complex. Based on composition and geochronology data of Neoproterozoic amphibolites and orthogneisses, Triassic high- to ultra-high pressure metamorphic rocks, and Early Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks, and the constraints provided by experimental melt data for tonalites, metabasaltic rocks and eclogites, we suggest that the adakitic granites were most probably generated by partial melting of thickened amphibole or rutile-bearing eclogitic lower crust as a consequence of Triassic–Middle Jurassic subduction and thrusting. The late dikes probably originated from plagioclase-bearing intermediate granulites. Moreover, we suggest that late Mesozoic delamination or foundering of thickened eclogitic lower crust is also a more plausible mechanism for the petrogenesis of Early Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the Dabie area, and probably involved partial melting of a mixed source comprising eclogitic lower crust that had delaminated or foundered into upper lithospheric or asthenospheric mantle peridotite. Asthenospheric upwelling in response to post-collisional delamination of lithospheric mantle was likely to have provided the heat source for the Cretaceous magmatism.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since Defant and Drummond (1990) first distinguished adakites in Cenozoic arcs on the basis of their distinctive geochemical characteristics (e.g., high Sr, Sr/Y and La/Yb

* Corresponding author. Fax: +86 20 85290130.
E-mail address: wqiang@gig.ac.cn (Q. Wang).

values and low Y and Yb contents), these rocks have frequently been cited as possible examples of partial melts of subducted oceanic crust (e.g., Kay et al., 1993; Stern and Kilian, 1996; Smithies and Champion, 2000; Martin et al., 2005). It has also been suggested, however, that some Cenozoic adakitic rocks may be derived by partial melting of thickened lower crust (e.g., Atherton and Petford, 1993; Petford and Atherton, 1996; Topuz et al., 2005; Castillo, 2006) or by assimilation and fractional crystallization (AFC) processes acting on parental basaltic magmas, in an arc setting (e.g., Castillo et al., 1999).

In theory, intra-continental occurrences of adakitic rocks should be less contentious examples of granitic magmas generated by partial melting of thickened or delaminated lower crust (e.g., Zhang et al., 2001; Rapp et al., 2002; Xu et al., 2002; Chung et al., 2003; Gao et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2005a, 2006a,b). None of these examples of lower crust-derived adakitic rocks are directly associated with contemporary intra-continental extensional structures, however, and their tectonic setting therefore remains ambiguous. Given the uncertainties in the tectonic settings of these earlier studies, occurrences of post-collisional Cretaceous adakitic rocks of the Dabie area may provide a unique test case for non-subduction genetic models. The area is dominated by the Hong'an–Dabie–Sulu ultrahigh-pressure (UHP) metamorphic belt, which is the largest among seven recognized UHP belts in the world (Hacker et al., 1996) and was formed by Triassic collision between the North China and Yangtze Blocks (e.g., Zhai and Cong, 1996; Rowley et al., 1997; Hacker et al., 1998, 2000, 2004; Li et al., 2000; Ayers et al., 2002; Sun et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2004, 2006; Wan et al., 2005). The discovery of UHP minerals (coesite and diamond) (e.g., Xu et al., 2003 and references therein) and the texture of pyroxene exsolution from garnet (Ye et al., 2000) in the UHP metamorphic rocks indicated that continental crust was deeply subducted to >120–200 km and then rapidly exhumed from mantle depths back to crustal levels. Although some degree of melting has taken place during the subduction and subsequent exhumation of continental crust in some other UHP metamorphic belts (e.g., Hermann et al., 2001), the lack of Triassic and Jurassic granites or any orogenic magmatism (e.g., Tsai et al., 2000) suggests that significant syn-collisional or subsequent (during exhumation) partial melting of subducted continent did not take place in the Dabie UHP metamorphic belt. In contrast, Cretaceous intrusive and volcanic rocks comprising 47% of the surface exposure of the Dabie Orogen (e.g., Ratschbacher et al., 2000) indicate that post-collisional melting occurred widely

in the area. Apart from occurrences of Neoproterozoic metamorphic rocks in the area (Bryant et al., 2004), the Northern Dabie Complex mainly consists of these Cretaceous granite intrusions (Hacker et al., 1998; Ratschbacher et al., 2000; Bryant et al., 2004). Detailed structural studies and geochronological data indicated that the Northern Dabie Complex is an asymmetric structural dome (i.e., metamorphic core complex) that formed during Cretaceous NW–SE sub-horizontal extension (Hacker et al., 1998, 2004; Ratschbacher et al., 2000).

Our recent investigation indicates that adakitic rocks occur in the Northern Dabie Complex (Wang et al., 2001). Here, new sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP) zircon geochronology data show that the adakitic rocks were intruded in the Early Cretaceous (143–129 Ma). These Early Cretaceous adakitic granites not only provide important evidence for the post-collisional evolution of the Dabie Orogen, but also represent the first case of adakitic rocks that are directly associated with an intra-continental extensional metamorphic core complex. Accordingly, they represent an important case study for models of adakite genesis from thickened lower continental crust.

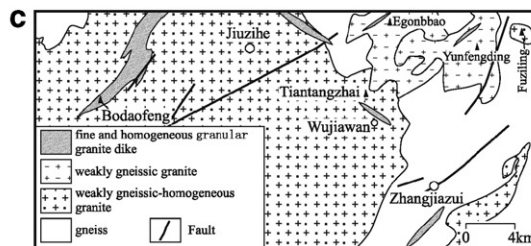
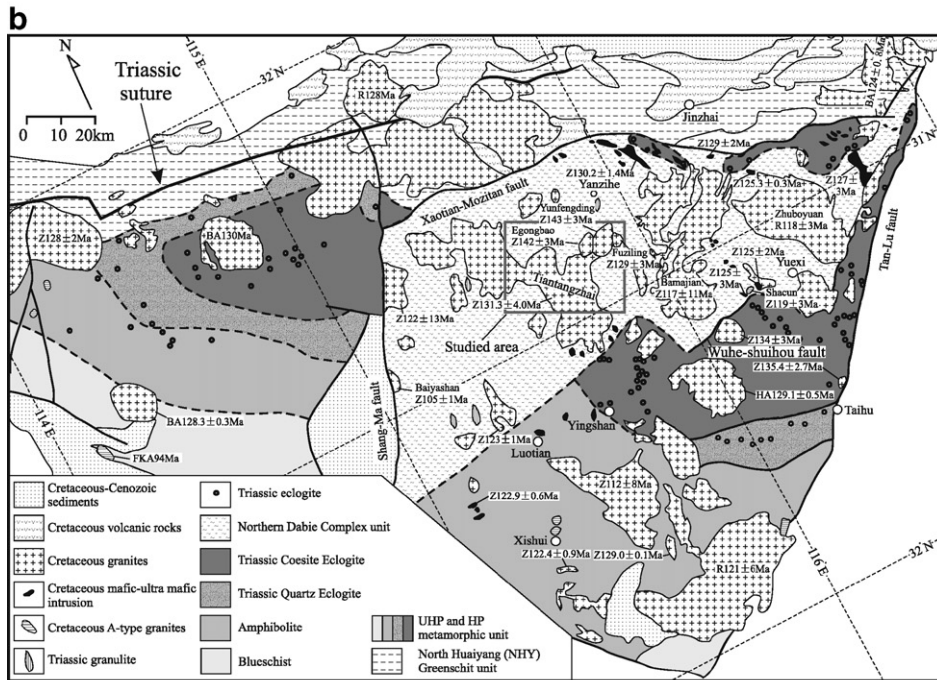
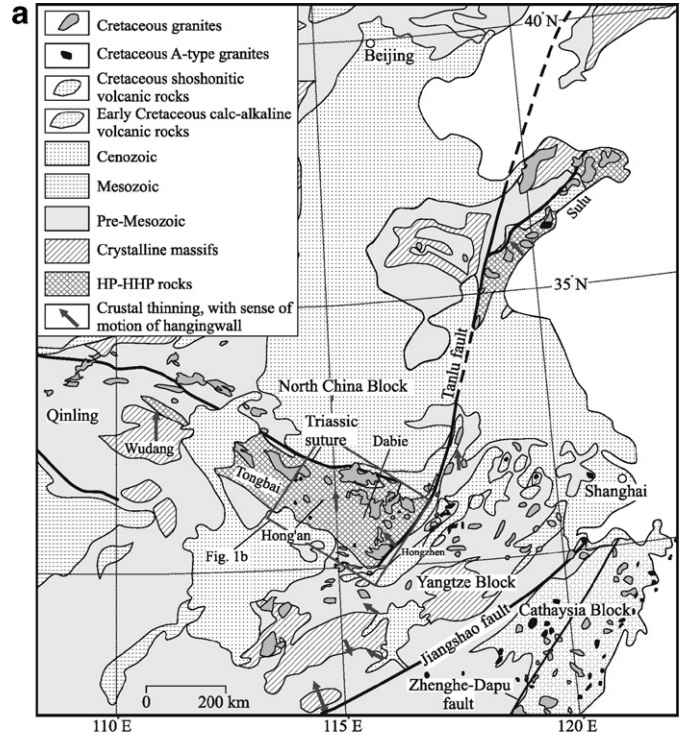
2. GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Dabie ultrahigh-pressure (UHP) metamorphic belt is part of the 2000 km long Qinling–Hong'an–Dabie–Sulu Orogen and formed by subduction of the Yangtze Block beneath the Northern China Block in the Triassic (Fig. 1a) (e.g., Ratschbacher et al., 2003; Hacker et al., 2004). The Dabie Orogen can be divided, from north to south, into the North Huaiyang (NHY), the Northern Dabie Complex (NDC), and the UHP–HP (high-pressure) metamorphic units (e.g., Zhai and Cong, 1996; Hacker et al., 1998; Ratschbacher et al., 2000).

The NHY unit, which is located between the Triassic suture to the north and Xiaotian–Mozitan fault to the south (Fig. 1b), consists of greenschist-facies metamorphic rocks of the Foziling and Luzhengguan Groups. Their protoliths have zircon ages of 700–800 Ma (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Chen et al., 2003), suggesting that the NHY unit was a part of the Yangtze Block rather than the Northern China Block (NCB) because it contains ~770 Ma zircons whereas the southern margin of the NCB is characterized by ~400 and 480 Ma zircons (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000).

The NDC unit is bounded by the Xiaotian–Mozitan fault to the north, the Wuhe–Shuihou fault to the south, the Shang–Ma fault to the west and the Tan–Lu fault to the east (Fig. 1b). In addition to large-scale Cretaceous

Fig. 1. (a) The Mesozoic Qinling–Tongbai–Hong'an–Dabie–Sulu collisional orogen in eastern China (after Ratschbacher et al., 2003; Hacker et al., 2004). Cretaceous granites from Gilder et al. (1999), Li (2000) and Cretaceous A-type granites from Wang et al. (2000b, 2005b), Xie et al. (2004) and references therein. (b) Geological map of the Dabie and Hong'an area (after Hacker et al., 1998, 2000, 2004). Eclogite locations in the Northern Dabie Complex are from Xu et al. (2003), Hacker et al. (2004), Liu et al. (2005). Other eclogite locations are after Hacker et al. (2000, 2004) and references therein. Geochronology data for Cretaceous granites and mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks are from Li and Wang (1991), Xue et al. (1997), Hacker et al. (1998), Ma et al. (1998), Wang et al. (1998), Jahn et al. (1999), Li et al. (1999), Wang and Deng (2002), Zhang et al. (2002a), Bryant et al. (2004), Xie et al. (2004), Zhao et al. (2005), and this study. Age data: Z, zircon U–Pb ages; R, whole rock and mineral Rb–Sr isochronal ages; HA, hornblende ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar ages; BA, biotite ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar ages; FKA–feldspar K–Ar ages. (c) Geological map of the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area.



granitic and minor mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks, the NDC unit also contains Neoproterozoic (700–800 Ma) tonalite–trondhjemite–granodiorite orthogneisses and amphibolites (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Zheng et al., 2003; Bryant et al., 2004), minor metasedimentary rocks (e.g., marble, quartzite, calc-silicates and biotite schist) and granulites, and rare peridotites (e.g., Zhang et al., 1996; Bryant et al., 2004). The peridotites occur as lenses along the northern borders of the NDC, and are considered to be deformed Alpine-type metaperidotites (e.g., Zhang et al., 1996). Recently, some eclogites and microdiamond-bearing eclogites have also been discovered in the northernmost NDC just south of the Xiaotian–Mozitan fault (Fig. 1b) (e.g., Xu et al., 2003; Hacker et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2005) where they overlie the gneisses (e.g., Suo et al., 2003). Geological observations indicate that these eclogites and microdiamond-bearing eclogites are always separated from the underlying gneiss by a detachment fault (Suo et al., 2003). Therefore, the peridotites and eclogites may represent erosional remnants of the portion of the UHP slab that penetrated most deeply into the mantle and then experienced exhumation along the northern (i.e., Xiaotian–Mozitan) fault (Suo et al., 2003; Bryant et al., 2004; Hacker et al., 2004).

The UHP–HP unit contains four sub-units from north to south: coesite eclogite, quartz eclogite, amphibolite and blueschist (Fig. 1b). Both coesite eclogite and quartz eclogite sub-units are mainly composed of eclogites, garnet-bearing peridotites, jadeite quartzites, marble, garnet-mica schists and gneisses. The eclogites occur as lenses, boudins, enclaves or layers in ortho- and paragneisses gneisses of granitic compositions, marbles or garnet-mica schists, and ultramafic rocks (e.g., Jahn, 1998). The coesite eclogite unit is characterized by the occurrence of UHP metamorphic rocks such as coesite- and even microdiamond-bearing eclogites (e.g., Liou et al., 1996; Xu et al., 2003), whereas the quartz eclogite unit lacks such minerals (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Ratschbacher et al., 2000). The amphibolite unit contains amphibolite-facies hornblende-rich orthogneisses. The epidote-bearing blueschist unit occurs in the southernmost part of the UHP–HP unit. Geochronological studies indicate that the UHP–HP metamorphism took place between 245 and 210 Ma (Rowley et al., 1997; Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Li et al., 2000; Ayers et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2004, 2006; Wan et al., 2005, and references therein) and was followed by “rapid cooling” from peak metamorphic temperatures to ~200 °C between 210 and 170 Ma (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Li et al., 2000; Liu et al., 2004).

The Hong’an area to the west of the Shang–Ma fault contains tectonic units similar to the Dabie area but lacks a middle unit similar to the NDC (Fig. 1b). Structural evidence and geochronological data suggest that the difference is due to the result of stronger Cretaceous (~140–120 Ma) NW–SE extension in the Dabie area (Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Ratschbacher et al., 2000). Hacker et al. (1998) suggested that the extension in the NDC area doubled the width of crust in the Dabie area, resulting in the present 140-km wide mountain belt. Therefore, the NDC has consistently been interpreted as a Cretaceous asymmetric structural dome or metamorphic core complex (Hacker et al.,

1998, 2004; Ratschbacher et al., 2000; Bryant et al., 2004).

All three units of the Dabie Orogen are also characterized by large-scale Cretaceous granitic and minor mafic–ultramafic intrusions (e.g., Ma et al., 1998; Zhang et al., 2002a; Fan et al., 2004). Previous zircon geochronology data (e.g., Xue et al., 1997; Hacker et al., 1998; Jahn et al., 1999; Bryant et al., 2004; Zhao et al., 2005) and this study suggest that these Cretaceous granitic and mafic–ultramafic intrusions have ages of 143–94 and 130–123 Ma, respectively (Fig. 1b). Two kinds of Cretaceous granitic rocks in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area of the NDC are distinguished on the basis of their textures and ages. Early granitoids emplaced between 143 and 129 Ma are (weakly) gneissic and include the Tiangtangzhai, Yunfengding, Egongbao and Fuziling intrusions (Fig. 1b and c). The Tiangtangzhai intrusion is the biggest of the early granites with an outcrop area of more than 400 km² whereas the smallest is the Fuziling intrusion, which has an outcrop area of about 1.8 km². Late granitoids were emplaced between 118 and 94 Ma and display relatively homogeneous textures. They include the Baiyashan, Zhuboyuan, and Baimajian intrusions (Xue et al., 1997; Hacker et al., 1998; Ma et al., 1998; Zhang et al., 2002a; Bryant et al., 2004; This study). Late dikes (e.g., in the Bodaofeng and Wujiawan areas: Fig. 1c) intrude all the four of the early granitoid intrusions (Fig. 1c), and exhibit homogeneous structures similar to the late granites (e.g., Bryant et al., 2004). The gneissic structure in the early granites probably reflects the fact that they were emplaced during the formation of the northern Dabie metamorphic core complex whereas the younger homogeneous granites and dikes post-dated formation of the core complex.

3. PETROGRAPHY

The early granites are all weakly gneissic but display some variation in K-feldspar phenocryst content and groundmass composition. The Egongbao granites exhibit inequigranular texture with coarse granular (~1 cm) phenocryst K-feldspar (1–5%, by volume) and medium-grained granular (0.35–0.1 cm) groundmass minerals (K-feldspar, plagioclase, quartz, biotite, and accessory sphene, magnetite and zircon). The Yunfengding granite exhibits a similar texture but with coarser (1.5–2 cm) and more abundant phenocryst K-feldspar (5–30%) in a medium- to fine-grained granular (0.3–0.05 cm) groundmass minerals (plagioclase, K-feldspar, quartz, biotite, minor hornblende, and accessory magnetite, sphene and zircon). The early Tiangtangzhai intrusion is composed of weakly gneissic-homogeneous granite-granodiorites and minor trondhjemites. The granite-granodiorites exhibit inequigranular texture with coarse granular (0.6–2 cm) K-feldspar phenocrysts and granular fine- to medium-grained (0.35–0.05 cm) K-feldspar, plagioclase, quartz, biotite, hornblende, minor albite, and accessory sphene, magnetite and zircon. The K-feldspar phenocrysts are distributed unevenly in the intrusion and their abundance ranges from 1% to 30% by volume. The Fuziling intrusion is composed of weakly gneissic-homogeneous monzo-granites that display medium- to fine-grained

granular (0.25–0.05 cm) texture and consist of plagioclase, K-feldspar, quartz, biotite, and accessory magnetite and zircon.

The late granites (e.g., the Baiyashan, Baimajian and Zhuboyuan intrusions: Ma et al., 1998; Bryant et al., 2004) and granitic dikes exhibit homogeneous and fine granular (0.12–0.05 cm) texture and mainly consist of K-feldspar, quartz, plagioclase, biotite, and accessory minerals (magnetite, sphene, and zircon).

4. ANALYTICAL METHODS

Samples from the four early granites and associated late granite dikes were examined by optical microscopy and unaltered or the least-altered samples were selected for further analysis.

Zircons were separated using conventional heavy liquid and magnetic separation techniques. Representative zircon grains were handpicked and mounted in an epoxy resin disc, and then polished and coated with gold film. Their internal morphology was examined using cathodoluminescence prior to U–Pb isotopic analysis. The U–Pb isotopic analyses were performed using the sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP-II) at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing, following the procedures described in Jian et al. (2003) and Liu et al. (2006). For the zircon analyses, nine ion species of Zr_2O^+ , $^{204}Pb^+$, background, $^{206}Pb^+$, $^{207}Pb^+$, $^{208}Pb^+$, U^+ , Th^+ , ThO^+ , and UO^+ were measured on a single electron multiplier by cyclic stepping of the magnetic field, recording the mean ion counts of every five scans. A primary ion beam of c. 4.5 nA, 10 kV O_2^- and c. 25–30 μm spot diameter was used. Interelement fractionation in the ion emission of zircon was corrected for using the RSES reference standard TEM (417 Ma). The software of Ludwig (SQUID1.0) and accompanying ISOPLOT were used for data processing (Ludwig, 2001). Ages were calculated using the constants recommended by IUGS (Steiger and Jager, 1977). Uncertainties in the ages listed in Table 1 are cited as 1σ , and the weighted mean ages are quoted at the 95% confidence level.

Except for sample TS-10T, major elements were analyzed at the Hubei Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources by wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometry. Analytical errors are usually less than 1%. FeO contents of the samples were determined by conventional wet chemical titration methods. The analytical procedures used to determine FeO and the other major elements are described in detail by Gao et al. (1995). Major elements of sample TS-10T were determined using a Varian Vista PRO ICP-AES at the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Details of the analytical procedures were described by Li et al. (2002). Trace elements of some samples (Table 2), including the rare earth elements (REE), were analyzed using a Perkin-Elmer ELAN 6000 inductively-coupled plasma source mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) at the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences following procedures described by Li et al. (2002). Analytical precision for most elements is better than 3%. Trace

elements of the other samples (Table 2) were analyzed at the Hubei Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources by ICP-AES as described in detail by Gao et al. (1995) and Ma et al. (1998, 2000). The analytical precision for REE and Y is better than 4% and 5–10% for other trace elements.

Sr and Nd isotopic compositions were determined using a Finnigan MAT-262 mass spectrometer operated in a static multi-collector mode at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, following procedures similar to those of Zhang et al. (2002b). The $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratio of NBS standard 987 and the $^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd$ ratio of the La Jolla standard measured during the period of analysis were 0.710234 ± 7 ($2\sigma_m$) and $^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd = 0.511838 \pm 8$ ($2\sigma_m$), respectively. Procedural blanks were about 50 pg for Sm and Nd and 0.2–0.5 ng for Rb and Sr. The Rb, Sr, Sm, and Nd concentrations were also measured by isotope dilution; the concentrations exhibit good agreement with the data obtained by ICP-MS. The measured $^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd$ and $^{86}Sr/^{88}Sr$ ratios are normalized to $^{146}Nd/^{144}Nd = 0.7219$ and $^{86}Sr/^{88}Sr = 0.1194$, respectively.

5. RESULTS

5.1. SHRIMP U–Pb zircon geochronology

Zircons were analyzed from samples of three of the early granites (the Egongbao, Yunfengding, and Fuziling intrusions: EGB-8, YFD-8, and FZL-3). The zircons are mostly prismatic (about 150–350 μm length) with well-developed pyramidal faces. Cathodoluminescence images clearly display oscillatory zoning most crystals and the presence of old cores in some zircons. The results of SHRIMP U–Pb zircon analyses are listed in Table 1 and illustrated on a concordia plot in Fig. 2.

Twelve analyses of zircons from the Egongbao sample EGB-8 yield $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ a single age population of 132–145 Ma, with a weighted mean age of 142 ± 3 Ma (2σ) (Table 1, and Fig. 2a and b), which is the best estimate for crystallization ages of the Egongbao granites. In addition, two zircons from sample EGB-8 also gave two discordant (1566 ± 41 and 160 ± 5 Ma) ages (Fig. 2a). Ten analyses of zircons from Yunfengding sample YFD-8 yield $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ a single age population of 132–149 Ma, with a weighted mean age of 143 ± 3 Ma (2σ) (Table 1 and Fig. 2c), which is the best estimate for crystallization ages of the Yunfengding granites. Core and rim analyses of one zircon from sample YFD-8 also gave a concordant inherited age (1710 ± 39 Ma) and a concordant magmatic crystallization age (132 ± 5 Ma), respectively (Fig. 2c). Additionally, thin rims on four zircon grains with 142–149 Ma cores yield $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ a single age population of 113–119 Ma, with a weighted mean age of 116 ± 4 Ma (2σ) (Table 1 and Fig. 2c). The rim age (116 ± 4 Ma) is similar to the crystallization ages (117–118 Ma) of the late Baimajian and Zhuboyuan granites in the NDC (Fig. 1b; Zhang et al., 2002a; Bryant et al., 2004), indicating that late magmatism might have caused recrystallization of the rims of some zircons in the Yunfengding granites. Fourteen analyses of zircons from the Fuziling sample FZL-3 yield

Table 1
SHRIMP U–Pb isotopic data for zircons from the Egongbao, Yunfengding, and Fuziling adakitic granites

Spot	$^{206}\text{Pb}_c$ (%)	U ppm	Th ppm	$^{232}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$	$^{206}\text{Pb}^*$ (ppm)	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ (age, Ma)	$^{207}\text{Pb}^*/^{206}\text{Pb}^*$	±%	$^{207}\text{Pb}^*/^{235}\text{U}$	±%	$^{206}\text{Pb}^*/^{238}\text{U}$	±%
<i>EGB-8 (Egongbao)</i>												
C1.1	—	2118	338	0.17	37.9	132.1 ± 3.4	0.0491	4.0	0.1401	4.7	0.02071	2.6
C2.1	—	482	113	0.24	8.84	132.9 ± 3.7	0.0508	11	0.146	12	0.02084	2.8
C3.1	—	3162	567	0.19	65.2	152.0 ± 3.8	0.0481	2.9	0.1583	3.9	0.02386	2.5
C4.1	—	800	385	0.50	14.9	136.5 ± 3.6	0.0506	7.9	0.149	8.4	0.02140	2.6
C5.1	—	1544	124	0.08	27.4	130.4 ± 3.3	0.0504	4.3	0.1419	5.0	0.02044	2.5
C6.1	—	347	68	0.20	7.07	145.2 ± 4.4	0.051	22	0.161	22	0.02277	3.0
C7.1	—	1736	353	0.21	33.9	144.6 ± 3.6	0.0531	3.0	0.1663	3.9	0.02269	2.5
C8.1	—	417	228	0.57	8.08	142.8 ± 3.9	0.0765	8.3	0.236	8.8	0.02241	2.8
C9.1	—	311	81	0.27	6.18	141.4 ± 4.3	0.063	18	0.192	18	0.02217	3.0
C10.1	—	295	128	0.45	5.77	139.1 ± 4.2	0.057	19	0.170	19	0.02180	3.0
C11.1	—	362	139	0.40	7.31	144.7 ± 4.5	0.061	21	0.190	21	0.02271	3.1
C12.1	—	323	91	0.29	6.39	142.1 ± 5.5	0.0585	15	0.180	15	0.02229	3.9
C13.1	—	671	46	0.07	159	1,566 ± 41	0.1167	1.1	4.42	3.2	0.2749	3.0
C14.1	—	301	69	0.24	6.43	159.7 ± 4.6	0.1076	3.5	0.372	4.6	0.02508	2.9
C15.1	—	666	213	0.33	13.0	141.7 ± 3.8	0.0509	9.1	0.156	9.5	0.02222	2.7
C16.1	0.63	2169	234	0.11	41.2	140.4 ± 3.5	0.0532	3.1	0.1614	4.0	0.02202	2.5
<i>YFD-8 (Yunfengding)</i>												
L1.1	7.92	145	2	0.01	3.09	145.8 ± 6.1	0.0531	16	0.168	17	0.02288	3.3
L1.2	0.42	975	593	0.63	15.7	119.4 ± 3.9	0.0541	4.3	0.1393	5.1	0.01869	2.8
L2.1	0.41	905	95	0.11	18.2	148.5 ± 3.9	0.0486	2.6	0.1562	3.7	0.02331	2.6
L2.2	1.74	301	33	0.11	4.67	113.3 ± 3.4	0.0474	6.1	0.1159	6.7	0.01772	2.9
L3.1	1.45	301	7	0.02	5.83	141.8 ± 4.1	0.0483	5.6	0.1481	6.3	0.02224	2.8
L3.2	0.59	931	100	0.11	14.4	114.1 ± 3.2	0.0487	4.6	0.1200	5.4	0.01786	2.8
L4.1	0.58	1064	160	0.16	21.0	145.4 ± 3.8	0.0467	3.6	0.1470	4.4	0.02281	2.6
L5.1	1.35	484	49	0.10	9.01	136.4 ± 3.6	0.0507	4.6	0.1495	5.3	0.02139	2.6
L6.1	1.32	512	157	0.32	10.2	145.9 ± 4.0	0.0467	3.1	0.1475	4.0	0.02290	2.6
L7.1	0.77	1082	112	0.11	17.3	118.3 ± 3.3	0.0460	5.2	0.1174	5.9	0.01852	2.7
L7.2	2.97	123	6	0.05	2.43	142.0 ± 4.8	0.0472	10	0.145	11	0.02227	3.2
L8.1	—	1701	313	0.19	443	1,710 ± 39	0.2055	0.65	8.61	2.6	0.3039	2.5
L8.2	4.71	199	11	0.06	3.71	131.8 ± 4.6	0.045	23	0.127	23	0.02065	3.1
L9.1	0.62	630	47	0.08	12.2	142.8 ± 4.0	0.0503	4.4	0.1554	5.2	0.02240	2.8
L10.1	0.53	1266	156	0.13	25.0	145.9 ± 3.7	0.04737	2.0	0.1495	3.2	0.02289	2.5
<i>Fuzl-3 (Fuziling)</i>												
M1.1	10.30	96	118	1.27	1.91	132.9 ± 7.3	0.041	39	0.119	39	0.02083	3.5
M2.1	12.13	128	137	1.11	2.46	125.7 ± 5.9	0.031	47	0.083	47	0.01969	3.0
M3.1	2.40	281	193	0.71	5.73	147.8 ± 4.9	0.0474	4.7	0.1515	5.5	0.02320	2.9
M4.1	7.33	153	89	0.60	2.77	124.6 ± 4.7	0.0472	14	0.127	15	0.01951	3.0
M5.1	4.96	333	806	2.50	5.83	123.5 ± 6.3	0.0306	7.8	0.0816	8.3	0.01934	2.7
M6.1	2.61	427	230	0.56	8.54	144.6 ± 4.9	0.0471	4.2	0.1473	5.2	0.02268	3.0
M7.1	4.05	324	567	1.81	5.62	123.6 ± 5.3	0.0382	13	0.102	13	0.01936	2.8
M8.1	7.74	94	42	0.46	1.80	130.7 ± 5.5	0.048	38	0.136	38	0.02048	3.3
M9.1	0.69	1719	348	0.21	28.9	124.3 ± 3.2	0.04761	1.8	0.1278	3.1	0.01946	2.5
M10.1	1.89	289	131	0.47	5.04	127.1 ± 4.0	0.0509	9.3	0.140	9.7	0.01992	2.8
M11.1	0.62	1242	119	0.10	22.3	132.8 ± 3.6	0.0489	3.3	0.1403	4.2	0.02082	2.6
M12.1	0.45	1947	76	0.04	36.1	137.2 ± 3.6	0.04969	1.7	0.1474	3.1	0.02151	2.6
M13.1	0.41	2157	329	0.16	39.2	134.4 ± 3.4	0.04728	1.6	0.1374	3.0	0.02107	2.5
M14.1	11.71	128	46	0.37	2.38	121.4 ± 5.8	0.040	44	0.104	44	0.01902	3.1
M15.1	5.03	244	334	1.42	4.44	128.3 ± 5.5	0.0435	15	0.120	15	0.02010	3.0
M16.1	4.29	214	96	0.46	3.96	131.1 ± 4.4	0.0501	12	0.142	12	0.02054	2.8

(1) Errors are 1-sigma; Pb_c and Pb^* indicate the common and radiogenic portions, respectively; (2) error in standard calibration was 0.33% (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts); (3) common Pb corrected using measured ^{204}Pb for the Egongbao intrusion; (4) common Pb corrected by assuming $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U} - ^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ age-concordance for the Yunfengding and Fuziling intrusions.

$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ a single age population of 122–137 Ma, with a weighted mean age of 129 ± 3 Ma (2σ) (Table 1 and Fig. 2d), which is the best estimate for crystallization ages

of the Fuziling granites. Two zircons from sample FZL-3 also give inherited ages (148 ± 5 and 145 ± 5 Ma; Fig. 2d).

Table 2
Major (wt%) and trace (ppm) elements concentrations for the adakitic granites and late dikes in the Northern Dabie Complex

Intrusion sample	Yunfengding										
	YFD-1 ^a	YFD-2 ^a	YFD-3 ^a	YFD-5 ^a	YFD-8 ^a	YFD-9 ^a	Y-1 ^a	906-1c	231-1b	237-1c	
SiO ₂	68.22	67.57	68.60	67.31	67.90	67.44	67.50	67.19	70.17	68.91	
TiO ₂	0.50	0.60	0.45	0.55	0.57	0.54	0.51	0.56	0.34	0.44	
Al ₂ O ₃	15.75	15.58	15.83	15.87	15.61	16.00	15.62	15.79	15.16	15.42	
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.79	1.10	0.80	0.94	1.01	0.94	1.03	1.38	0.86	1.00	
FeO	1.78	1.85	1.48	1.83	1.92	1.85	1.78	1.41	0.86	1.24	
MnO	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	
MgO	1.03	1.13	0.87	1.19	1.23	1.13	1.07	1.14	0.75	1.06	
CaO	2.31	2.54	2.14	2.49	2.39	2.31	2.27	2.68	1.75	1.75	
Na ₂ O	4.47	4.25	4.27	4.28	4.38	4.20	4.63	4.56	4.39	4.43	
K ₂ O	3.77	3.65	4.06	4.06	3.58	4.17	4.09	3.60	4.24	4.41	
P ₂ O ₅	0.16	0.16	0.10	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.12	0.16	
H ₂ O	0.68	1.02	0.76	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.77	1.05	0.41	0.31	
CO ₂	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.07	
Σ	99.57	99.56	99.47	99.49	99.58	99.51	99.57	99.69	99.15	99.22	
Cr	11.9	11.8	15.2	23.8	12.3	16.7	4.99	19.0	19.3	19.3	
Ni	7.94	7.74	7.62	9.56	9.10	8.31	6.70	8.30	5.90	9.50	
Co	5.43	7.61	6.39	6.09	6.51	5.85	6.39	8.50	5.20	7.10	
Sc	3.18	3.79	3.11	3.96	3.63	2.73	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	
V	39.4	54.5	44.9	45.6	49.2	41.1	42.9	54.7	27.2	35.9	
Pb	24.5	23.1	29.2	22.9	21.6	23.6	21.4	27.6	23.3	24.9	
Rb	79.3	77.4	106	82.5	79.7	88.2	80.3	78.0	82.6	91.6	
Cs	0.424	0.379	0.498	0.817	0.618	0.603	0.344				
Ba	2047	2155	3027	2175	2022	2476	2287	2115	1890	2260	
Sr	983	981	1301	941	1000	950	1052	956	817	928	
Ga	20.6	20.7	25.4	19.6	20.5	19.7	22.3				
Ta	0.361	0.439	0.282	0.369	0.344	0.306	0.379		0.27	0.71	
Nb	6.56	7.94	6.51	7.13	6.84	5.93	6.75	6.8	4.6	7.3	
Hf	2.55	2.43	5.64	2.08	2.38	1.92	2.79		3.9	6.8	
Zr	96.8	91.3	219	80.0	89.3	73.1	93.0	203	137	196	
Y	6.19	7.90	6.16	7.69	7.21	5.57	6.33	6.27	3.87	4.89	
Th	11.2	13.3	17.8	11.9	13.4	12.5	13.3	12.7	8.60	11.2	
U	0.316	0.320	0.352	0.298	0.358	0.298	0.375		0.39	0.62	
La	44.0	55.1	65.6	44.9	51.9	48.5	52.9	55.7	35.3	62.6	
Ce	78.9	98.9	115	80.8	95.3	83.8	96.1	103	64.8	113	
Pr	9.04	11.3	12.9	9.23	10.8	9.19	10.1	11.0	7.29	12.3	
Nd	31.6	40.0	44.0	32.2	37.5	30.8	35.8	38.5	24.1	39.3	
Sm	4.59	5.91	5.99	4.72	5.35	3.94	5.73	5.60	3.56	5.67	
Eu	1.21	1.34	1.63	1.14	1.26	1.09	1.61	1.31	0.910	1.26	
Gd	2.45	3.02	2.77	2.57	2.85	1.96	3.63	3.30	2.15	3.07	
Tb	0.320	0.417	0.353	0.350	0.363	0.266	0.393	0.41	0.26	0.36	
Dy	1.32	1.71	1.42	1.54	1.54	1.14	1.54	1.51	0.930	1.18	
Ho	0.203	0.259	0.207	0.254	0.237	0.183	0.242	0.257	0.170	0.205	
Er	0.52	0.64	0.50	0.665	0.60	0.46	0.59	0.52	0.41	0.43	
Tm	0.068	0.080	0.062	0.086	0.077	0.058	0.074	0.07	0.05	0.06	
Yb	0.400	0.474	0.379	0.521	0.478	0.358	0.456	0.35	0.30	0.34	
Lu	0.063	0.072	0.060	0.074	0.071	0.055	0.058	0.05	0.04	0.06	
	Egongbao							Tiantangzhai			
	158-1c	1794-1b	EGB-1 ^a	EGB-2 ^a	EGB-3 ^a	EGB-4 ^a	EGB-7 ^a	EGB-8 ^a	1071	1095	Pan2
SiO ₂	68.95	72.20	70.48	69.02	76.24	71.90	71.66	72.94	70.53	70.53	71.44
TiO ₂	0.36	0.26	0.40	0.53	0.23	0.29	0.24	0.21	0.27	0.31	0.26
Al ₂ O ₃	15.73	14.17	14.20	15.27	12.16	14.33	14.77	14.02	15.52	14.96	14.46
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.00	0.84	1.57	1.00	0.48	0.48	0.85	0.54	0.87	1.02	0.89
FeO	1.06	0.73	1.85	1.45	0.77	1.22	0.88	1.03	0.61	0.91	0.85
MnO	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
MgO	0.65	0.49	1.06	0.63	0.25	0.53	0.46	0.44	0.35	0.65	0.63
CaO	1.85	1.86	2.59	1.84	0.73	1.28	1.50	1.52	1.89	1.96	1.84
Na ₂ O	4.50	3.93	4.40	3.90	3.10	4.05	4.54	4.06	4.44	3.7	3.78
K ₂ O	4.28	3.70	1.94	4.87	5.03	4.77	4.13	4.34	4.44	4.68	4.16
P ₂ O ₅	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.11

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Table 2 (continued)

	Tiantangzhai											
	1020	TT17	1648	H14	1016-1	1008-3	Ts-28c	TT-21c-1	1019-2c	1555-1c		
Ba	899	932	2210	2206	1629	2649	2285	1518	2442	1927		
Sr	261	368	743	531	591	884	955	626	764	723		
Ga	16.0				21.0	26.2			18.6	18.1		
Ta	0.90				0.61	0.81			1.07	0.49		
Nb	4.7	5.5	6.5	5.3	7.4	12.1	10.8	10.5	9.0	7.5		
Hf	4.0				7.3	8.4			6.7	6.9		
Zr	104	121	155	92.0	238	262	230	205	180	189		
Y	4.49	4.88	6.23	7.97	7.87	12.14	10.17	8.57	12.64	8.82		
Th	6.5	6.9	10.1	6.4	10.1	12.3	14.5	11.4	11.1	7.40		
U	0.7				0.30	1.11			0.86	0.25		
La	18.2	24.0	35.5	24.6	70.6	82.3	75.0	51.8	67.5	62.4		
Ce	31.0	41.9	64.5	44.7	115	142	135	88.9	120	114		
Pr	3.50	4.45	6.30	5.22	13.2	15.9	14.4	9.09	12.7	11.8		
Nd	11.2	13.9	21.3	16.8	43.3	52.1	46.4	30.5	41.2	37.8		
Sm	1.78	1.92	2.90	2.95	6.41	7.69	6.49	4.54	5.92	4.98		
Eu	0.59	0.60	0.32	0.31	1.30	1.70	1.45	1.09	1.35	1.19		
Gd	1.25	1.37	1.78	2.12	4.35	5.12	4.02	2.98	3.79	2.84		
Tb	0.18	0.15	0.24	0.28	0.53	0.64	0.50	0.29	0.42	0.26		
Dy	0.9	0.84	1.23	1.64	2.03	2.57	2.25	1.66	2.50	1.68		
Ho	0.18	0.18	0.23	0.31	0.35	0.49	0.43	0.32	0.51	0.34		
Er	0.47	0.48	0.58	0.77	0.75	1.16	0.94	0.73	1.21	0.86		
Tm	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.18	0.14		
Yb	0.49	0.52	0.54	0.64	0.43	0.97	0.74	0.70	1.10	0.78		
Lu	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.17	0.13		
	Tiantangzhai				Fuziling							
	1541-c	022-1c	H-5	TS-10T ^a	Z249	FZL-1 ^a	FZL-2-1 ^a	FZL-2-2 ^a	FZL-2-3 ^a	FZL-2-4 ^a	FZL-3 ^a	
SiO ₂	66.80	69.82	67.09	61.8	71.01	71.05	72.11	72.46	72.63	72.62	71.58	
TiO ₂	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.72	0.13	0.30	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.22	
Al ₂ O ₃	16.42	15.43	16.04	16.31	15.40	15.14	15.13	15.13	14.91	14.97	15.01	
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.67	1.63	1.41	4.90	0.61	0.52	0.44	0.18	0.16	0.20	0.52	
FeO	1.64	1.29	1.93		0.55	1.03	0.48	0.68	0.63	0.77	0.75	
MnO	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	
MgO	1.17	0.35	1.60	1.26	0.51	0.44	0.27	0.25	0.25	0.27	0.33	
CaO	2.35	2.29	2.63	3.20	1.28	1.55	1.31	1.04	1.16	1.10	1.29	
Na ₂ O	4.53	4.32	4.60	5.23	4.72	4.08	5.54	4.81	5.05	4.91	3.75	
K ₂ O	4.61	4.25	3.83	4.87	4.60	4.98	3.78	4.47	4.24	4.23	5.56	
P ₂ O ₅	0.26	0.16	0.23	0.32	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	
H ₂ O	0.35	0.51	0.83		0.31	0.45	0.50	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.49	
CO ₂	0.04	0.03	0.11	0.74 (LOI)	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	
Σ	100.39	100.54	100.94	99.36	99.23	99.66	99.74	99.70	99.70	99.73	99.62	
Cr	21.8	11.2	29.8		15.5	2.13	2.75	2.83	2.90	2.59	3.65	
Ni	8.1	12.2	15.3	4.88	4.0	1.89	1.44	1.43	1.89	1.48	1.78	
Co	8.8	4.1	10.4	7.04	3.4	2.31	0.83	0.92	0.94	0.84	1.57	
Sc	5.1	1.3		3.05		1.03	0.47	0.44	1.06	0.52	0.57	
V	45.9	47.1	58.8	81.1	14.1	15.8	4.86	6.00	6.56	7.05	10.1	
Pb	22.4		26.4	24.8	33.6	36.0	47.2	44.0	43.0	45.1	40.6	
Rb	104	136	105	93.0	87.5	103	104	81.4	91.8	93.6	98.4	
Cs	3.0					0.412	0.358	0.232	0.244	0.250	0.288	
Ba	2204	1773	1963	2293	1850	1718	1103	922	1076	1085	1814	
Sr	827	528	732	899	731	830	563	589	567	589	768	
Ga	22.0	21.5		21.2		20.7	22.9	22.8	22.7	22.3	22.1	
Ta	1.73	1.72		0.783	0.13	0.084	0.079	0.038	0.029	0.041	0.023	
Nb	14.6	12.3	11.7	12.6	2.5	3.02	1.56	1.22	1.01	1.04	1.50	
Hf	7.6	3.4		3.40	3.6	4.23	2.05	1.43	1.95	2.09	2.53	
Zr	237	142	219	161	101	152	53.6	36.3	51.9	54.2	73.5	
Y	13.14	11.76	13.21	13.3	0.84	1.37	0.535	0.452	0.575	0.608	0.67	
Th	12.7	22.5	17.1	12.3	3.1	7.04	0.913	0.411	2.07	2.59	4.31	
U	2.23			1.97	0.09	0.324	0.336	0.180	0.296	0.278	0.267	
La	74.4	44.7	71.2	61.3	15.7	25.2	5.07	6.22	8.31	9.26	18.49	

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Table 2 (continued)

	Tiantangzhai				Fuziling							
	1541-c	022-1c	H-5	TS-10T ^a	Z249	FZL-1 ^a	FZL-2-1 ^a	FZL-2-2 ^a	FZL-2-3 ^a	FZ1-2-4 ^a	FZL-3 ^a	
Ce	139	81.4	122	102	26.5	45.8	8.18	10.4	14.5	16.8	31.3	
Pr	15.3	10.1	12.4	12.1	2.98	5.01	0.968	1.19	1.67	1.91	3.50	
Nd	50.1	31.7	40.8	42.6	8.25	16.57	3.40	4.03	5.93	6.76	11.9	
Sm	7.37	5.28	5.88	6.81	1.07	2.17	0.534	0.628	0.822	0.934	1.45	
Eu	1.74	1.28	1.41	1.71	0.520	0.682	0.412	0.385	0.352	0.376	0.669	
Gd	4.72	3.74	3.95	4.55	0.61	0.903	0.295	0.289	0.297	0.323	0.529	
Tb	0.51	0.44	0.40	0.619	0.05	0.099	0.031	0.032	0.035	0.037	0.055	
Dy	2.79	2.48	2.59	2.92	0.210	0.337	0.114	0.109	0.164	0.159	0.162	
Ho	0.52	0.46	0.49	0.489	0.039	0.046	0.017	0.014	0.022	0.022	0.022	
Er	1.17	1.18	1.22	1.22	0.090	0.116	0.044	0.037	0.044	0.051	0.052	
Tm	0.17	0.16	0.18	0.175	0.010	0.016	0.007	0.005	0.006	0.007	0.007	
Yb	1.01	1.23	1.15	1.31	0.067	0.088	0.042	0.0330	0.046	0.044	0.046	
Lu	0.16	0.17	0.13	0.216	0.010	0.017	0.008	0.005	0.009	0.008	0.008	
	Fuziling FZL-3* (Re)		Dikes				Baiyashan			Int. granite standard		
			2028-2c	2087-2c	1001-3	1651-3	YFD-7 ^a	EGB-6 ^a	B1-2	b11-2	G-2	G-2(RV)
SiO ₂			72.26	72.75	72.77	71.12	72.66	72.84	73.6	70.12		
TiO ₂			0.29	0.24	0.13	0.36	0.28	0.28	0.2	0.38		
Al ₂ O ₃			14.08	13.65	14.20	14.04	13.81	13.58	14.05	15.17		
Fe ₂ O ₃			0.99	0.90	0.74	1.27	0.77	0.69	0.81	1.04		
FeO			0.91	0.83	0.82	1.00	1.22	1.28	0.64	1.4		
MnO			0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06		
MgO			0.62	0.54	0.25	0.52	0.50	0.45	0.22	0.46		
CaO			1.32	1.18	1.54	1.68	1.39	1.28	1.18	1.92		
Na ₂ O			3.71	3.62	3.85	3.70	3.51	3.46	3.5	3.62		
K ₂ O			4.66	4.70	4.48	5.08	4.87	5.10	4.66	4.86		
P ₂ O ₅			0.08	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.14		
H ₂ O			0.68	0.46	0.56	0.48	0.57	0.60	0.51	0.47		
CO ₂			0.07	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.12	0.29	0.12		
Σ			99.71	99.02	99.44	99.38	99.78	99.79	99.75	99.76		
Cr	5.28		18.1	14.0	4.0	11.0	7.20	8.00	13.1	12.2	8.84	8.7
Ni	1.48		3.00	4.00	2.0	2.3	3.53	3.36	5.5	8.6	5.45	5
Co	1.58		3.80	4.00	3.0	4.0	2.38	2.42			4.50	4.6
Sc	0.58						3.15	4.33	3.5	4.3	3.49	3.5
V	9.64		22.0	19.0	16.0	23.9	18.7	16.1			36.3	36
Pb	41.3		26.0	25.0	41.0	28.0	26.6	28.7			31.2	30
Rb	97.6		209	221	228	193	181	218	260	936	171	170
Cs	0.284						1.89	1.79			1.38	1.34
Ba	1877		870	728	724	1529	863	938	582	287	1894	1882
Sr	794		218	161	156	236	253	224	122	217	491	478
Ga	22.6			22.0	25.0		17.8	19.5			22.7	23
Ta	0.021			3.50	2.29		0.955	1.29	2.6	3.1	0.870	0.88
Nb	1.50		21.2	18.6	18.7	20.0	14.83	18.64	22.1	29.8	11.9	12
Hf	2.56			6.0	4.3		5.36	6.65	5.3	6.7	7.79	7.9
Zr	72.8		218	169	167	333	181	222	167	249	308	309
Y	0.68		27.8	27.0	14.0	26.5	20.9	31.4	35.3	36.1	9.76	11
Th	4.43		19.2	17.4	16.7	29.4	27.1	34.8	18.2	21.5	24.4	24.7
U	0.328						2.85	3.90	7.54	3.40	1.89	2.07
La	18.17		59.2	50.9	42.7	108	65.1	87.7	57.4	78.2	89.6	89
Ce	30.6		113	97.2	77.5	197	127	170	100	139	161	160
Pr	3.38		12.2	10.3	8.85	21.0	13.3	18.0	11.7	16.3	16.9	18
Nd	11.5		40.3	33.4	26.7	67.7	42.9	58.9	42.8	56.6	58.5	55
Sm	1.42		6.86	5.80	5.05	9.68	6.33	8.60	7.28	9.25	7.25	7.2
Eu	0.678		0.859	0.640	0.718	1.14	0.704	0.852	0.76	1.26	1.30	1.4
Gd	0.552		5.17	4.75	3.88	6.54	3.841	5.341	6.0	7.08	4.46	4.3
Tb	0.052		0.72	0.71	0.56	0.77	0.656	0.954	1.03	1.16	0.52	0.48
Dy	0.164		4.57	4.65	2.86	5.15	3.50	5.20	5.7	6.19	2.26	2.4
Ho	0.022		0.92	0.92	0.53	0.98	0.670	1.00	1.12	1.26	0.364	0.4
Er	0.055		2.56	2.59	1.39	2.53	1.91	2.90	3.33	3.69	1.02	0.92
Tm	0.008		0.42	0.41	0.21	0.38	0.285	0.462	0.54	0.61	0.122	0.18

Table 2 (continued)

	Fuziling FZL-3* (Re)	Dikes						Baiyashan		Int. granite standard	
		2028-2c	2087-2c	1001-3	1651-3	YFD-7 ^a	EGB-6 ^a	B1-2	b11-2	G-2	G-2(RV)
Yb	0.050	2.77	2.51	1.19	2.25	1.92	3.12	3.59	3.87	0.714	0.8
Lu	0.010	0.44	0.39	0.17	0.33	0.312	0.503	0.53	0.58	0.110	0.11

Data of the Baiyashan granites are after Ma et al. (1998), other data are from this study. Re, repeated; RV, recommended values.

^a Analysed by ICP-MS, others by ICP-AES.

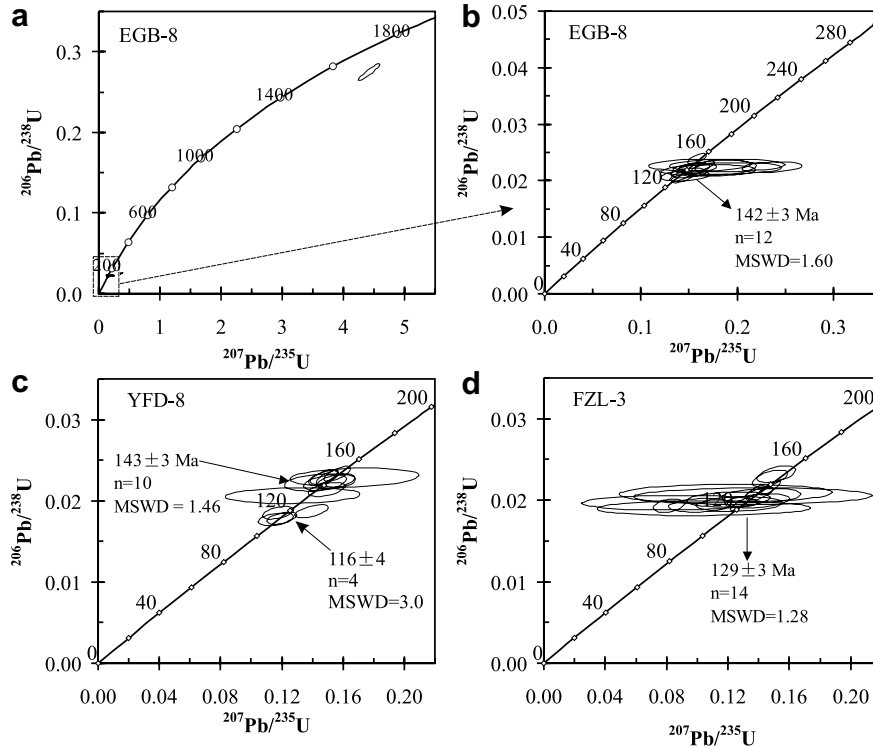


Fig. 2. SHRIMP zircon U–Pb concordia diagrams for samples EGB-8 (Egongbao) (a,b), YFD-8 (Yunfengding) (c), and FZL-3 (Fuziling) (d).

Wang et al. (1998) reported a zircon U–Pb age of 131.3 ± 4.0 Ma for the early Tiantangzhai intrusion. Thus, the main early granite intrusions in the study area formed between 143 and 129 Ma. Given the range of previously published age data of Cretaceous granites (137–94 Ma: e.g., Hacker et al., 1998; Bryant et al., 2004) and mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks (130–123 Ma: e.g., Jahn et al., 1999; Zhao et al., 2005) in the Dabie Orogen (Fig. 1b), we suggest that the Egongbao and Yunfengding granites (142–143 Ma) are the oldest of all Cretaceous intrusive rocks in this area. The associated granitic dikes, however, exhibit geological and petrographic characteristics similar to the late (118–105 Ma) granites in the NDC, and have similar geochemical characteristics, as discussed below. Accordingly, we infer that the dikes and late granites (the Bamajian, Zhuboyuan, and Baiyashan intrusions) were products of approximately contemporaneous magmatism.

5.2. Major and trace-element geochemistry

The major and trace element compositional characteristics and classification of the granites in the study area are shown in Figs. 3 and 4a. Fields of Cretaceous (130–123 Ma) pyroxenites and gabbros in the Dabie Orogen are also plotted in Figs. 3 and 4. Apart from several samples in the trondhjemite field, all of the Cretaceous intrusions plot in the granite field in the Albite–Anorthite–Orthoclase diagram (Fig. 3a). Most samples plot in the medium-Fe field (Fig. 3b) and high-K field (Fig. 4a) of igneous rocks, in contrast to slab-derived adakites in the low-Fe and middle- and low-K fields (Fig. 2 of Wang et al. (2004a)). Almost all samples plot near the boundary between metaluminous and peraluminous compositions ($ACNK (Al_2O_3/(CaO + Na_2O + K_2O)) = 0.91–1.04$) (Fig. 3c). The late dikes define fields similar to those of the four granites on major element Harker diagrams (Figs. 4 and 5),

which are separated from the fields of mafic–ultramafic samples by a distinct compositional gap in silica contents between $\text{SiO}_2 = 56\%$ and 64% . On trace element plots, however, the early granitoids clearly display higher Sr (Fig. 5b) but lower Th, Rb, Y and Yb (Fig. 5c–f) contents than the late dikes.

Chondrite-normalized REE and N-MORB normalized trace element patterns (Fig. 6) show that all sampled granites and dikes are enriched in light REE (LREE) and depleted in Nb, Ta, and Ti. However, the granites exhibit strong depletion in heavy REE (HREE) (Fig. 6a, c, and e) and negligible to positive Eu and Sr and positive Ba anomalies, except for Tiantangzai granites samples 1648 and H14, which clearly shows negative Eu anomalies. Apart from these two samples, the early Egongbao, Yufengding, and Tiantangzai granites display REE and trace element patterns which are distinct from those of the late granites (Ma et al., 1998; Chen et al.,

2002; Bryant et al., 2004) but similar to slab-derived adakites (e.g., Defant and Drummond, 1990; Kay et al., 1993; Stern and Kilian, 1996; Aguillón-Robles et al., 2001; Martin et al., 2005) (Fig. 6a–d). The Fuziling granite samples are notable for their clearly positive Eu and Sr anomalies, extraordinarily high Sr/Y (607–1303) and La/Yb (121–402) ratios (Fig. 7a and b, and Table 2), and depletions in HREE that are much lower than even those of slab-derived adakites (Fig. 6e and f). In contrast, the granitic dikes exhibit clearly negative Eu and Sr anomalies and no fractionation between the MREE and HREE, which is similar to the late granites (Ma et al., 1998; Chen et al., 2002; Bryant et al., 2004) (Fig. 6e and f). These distinctions are emphasized on Sr/Y versus Y and $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ versus Yb_N diagrams (Fig. 7a and b) where the early granites plot in the adakite field, but most of the late dikes and granites fall in the “normal” andesite–dacite–rhyolite field.

5.3. Nd and Sr isotopes

The early adakitic granites in the study area have relatively homogeneous $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values ranging from -14.6 to -19.4 , and $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ (initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) ratios ranging from 0.7067 to 0.7087 (Table 3). These isotopic characteristics are clearly different from those of Cenozoic slab-derived adakites ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} > +6.0$; $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i < 0.7045$) (Defant et al., 1992; Kay et al., 1993; Aguillón-Robles et al., 2001) and late Mesozoic delaminated lower crust-derived adakitic rocks in the eastern Yangtze Block ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} = -9.7$ to $+1.8$; $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i = 0.7044$ – 0.7073) (Xu et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2004a,b, 2006a,b), but are similar to that of thickened lower crust-derived adakitic granites in the eastern Yangtze Block ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} = -18.1$ to -17.0 ; $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i = 0.7071$ – 0.7072) (e.g., Hongzhen area; Fig. 1a; Wang et al., 2004a; Fig. 8). In the $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ versus $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ diagram (Fig. 8), samples of

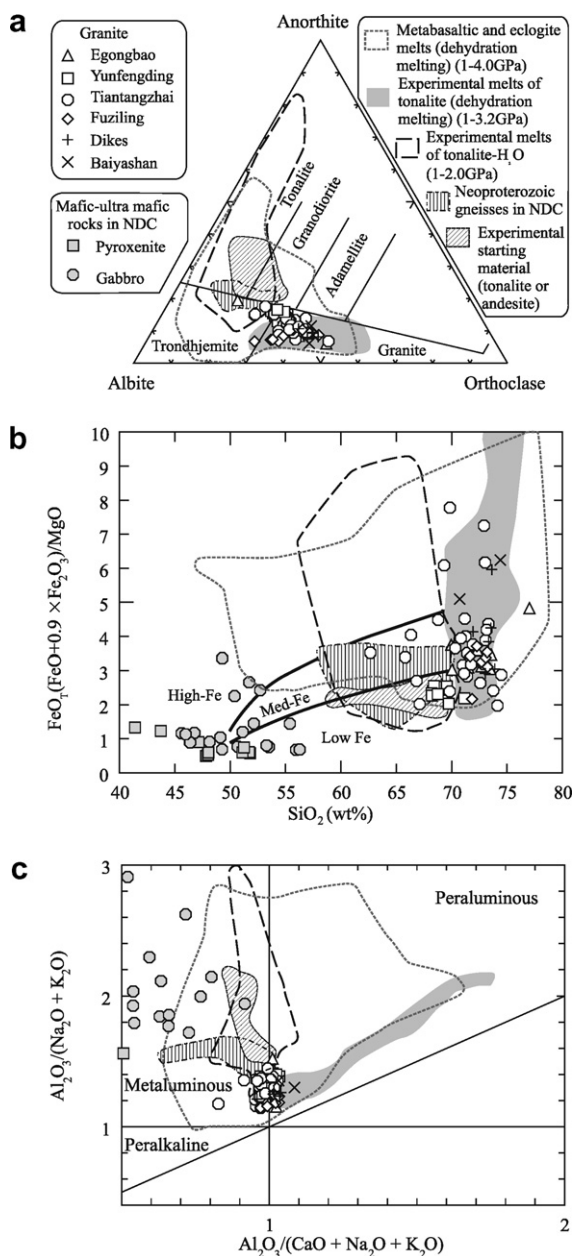


Fig. 3. (a) Albite–Anorthite–Orthoclase diagram of the Cretaceous granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area. (b) SiO_2 versus FeO_T ($\text{FeO} + 0.9\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$)/ MgO diagram. The discriminant boundaries (bold lines) between low-, medium-, and high-Fe igneous rock suites are from Arculus (2003). (c) $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ versus $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ diagram. The field of metabasaltic and eclogite melts (dehydration melting) (1–4.0 GPa) is constructed using data from the following: Sen and Dunn (1994); Rapp and Watson (1995); Rapp et al. (1999, 2002, 2003); Skjerlie and Patiño Douce (2002), and references therein. The field of experimental melts of tonalite–H₂O (1–2.0 GPa) is constructed using data from the following: Carroll and Wyllie, 1989, 1990, and references therein. The field of experimental melts of tonalite (dehydration melting) (1–3.2 GPa) is constructed using data from the following: Skjerlie and Johnston (1993); Patiño Douce and McCarthy (1998); Patiño Douce (2005), and references therein. The field of experimental starting material (tonalite or andesite) is constructed using data from the following: Skjerlie and Johnston (1993); Patiño Douce and McCarthy (1998); Carroll and Wyllie (1989, 1990); Patiño Douce (2005), and references therein. The data of Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the Dabie area are from Jahn et al. (1999), Wang and Deng (2002), and Zhao et al. (2005). The data of Neoproterozoic gneisses in the northern Dabie Orogen and the Baiyashan granites are from Ma et al. (1998) and Bryant et al. (2004), respectively. The data of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from Li and Wang (1991) and Table 2.

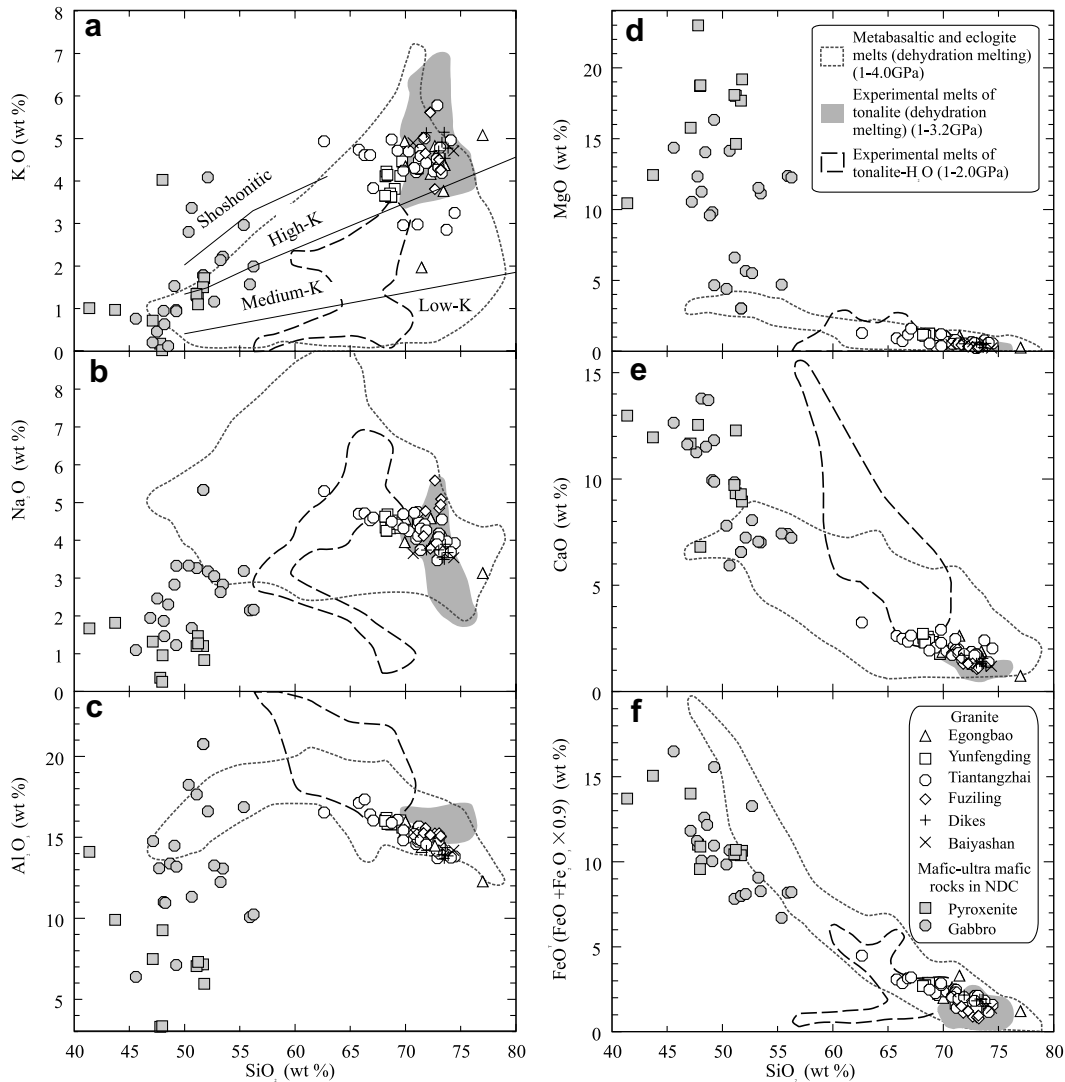


Fig. 4. Harker variation diagrams showing the major element variations of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiiazui area and mafic–ultramafic rocks in the Dabie area. The fields of metabasaltic and eclogite melts (dehydration melting) (1–4.0 GPa), experimental melts of tonalite–H₂O (1–2.0 GPa), experimental melts of tonalite (dehydration melting) (1–3.2 GPa), and Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks are constructed using the same data sources as in Fig. 3. The data of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiiazui area are from the same data sources as in Fig. 3.

the early granites plot in or near to the fields of Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the Dabie, but are distinct from the field of Neoproterozoic (700–800 Ma) orthogneisses and amphibolites (e.g., Bryant et al., 2004; Figs. 8 and 9). The granite dikes and the late Baimajian and Zhuboyuan granites located east of the study area (Fig. 1b) have similar isotopic compositions but are displaced to slightly more negative $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values than the four early granites. Only the late Baiyashan intrusion to the west of the study area (Fig. 1b) exhibits lower $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ and distinctly higher ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)_i than the adakitic granites (Fig. 8).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Potassium and the adakite classification

The early granites described here from the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiiazui area of the NDC clearly fall within the adakite

field on commonly used discrimination diagrams such as the Sr versus Y plot and the (La/Yb)_N versus Yb plot illustrated in Fig. 7. In addition, they plot in the field of metabasalt and eclogite melting (Fig. 3). An important question then, is whether these rocks should be classified as adakites or whether their K contents represent the grounds for an a priori disqualification from the adakite classification. While trondhjemites and sodic rhyolites were described as a common components of adakite suites in the Defant and Drummond (1990) paper that introduced the term, these authors did not list Na contents as a defining characteristic of the adakites, which were classified on the basis of Y, Yb, Sr/Y, Si, Al, and Mg contents. We argue that the term is appropriate here on the basis of sound petrological practice and precedence.

First, the notion that adakites are only derived from subducted metabasaltic sources, and therefore are consistently K-poor, is contrary to the general concept that petrological

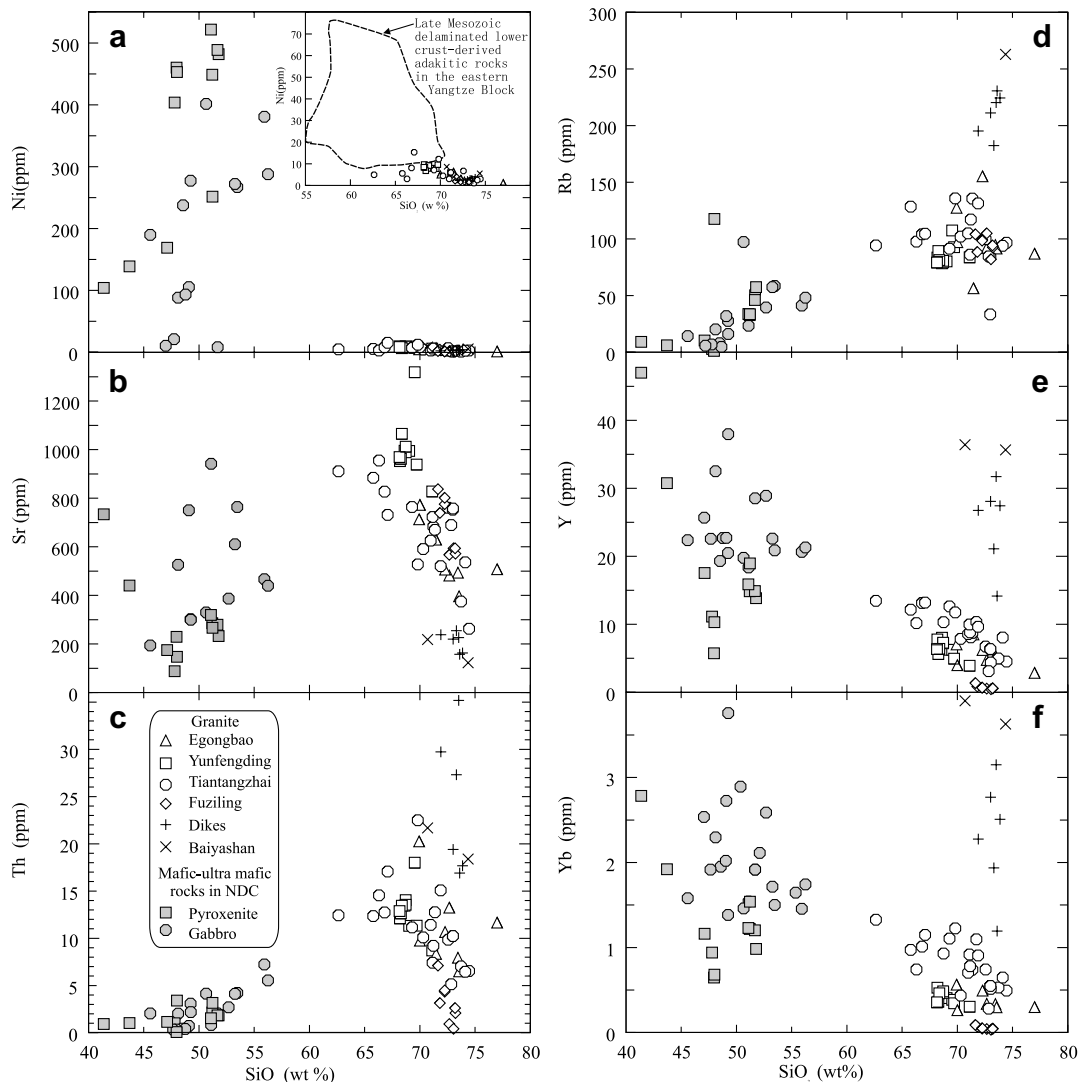


Fig. 5. Harker variation diagrams showing the trace element variations of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area. The fields of Late Mesozoic delaminated lower crust-derived adakitic rocks in the eastern Yangtze Block are constructed using data from the following: Xu et al. (2002) and Wang et al. (2004a,b, 2006a,b). The data of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from the same data sources as in Fig. 3.

definitions should be independent of genetic theories that could be subsequently disproved. The evolving concepts associated with A-type granites or boninites illustrate the pitfalls of linking a genetic interpretation to a rock type definition. At very least, a restrictive characterization of adakites as the K-poor products slab melting could fail to accommodate natural variations in mainly slab-derived adakite compositions that might arise from sediments on the slab or interaction with continental crust. More generally, many reviews of adakites explicitly acknowledged the possibility of sources other than subducted basaltic crust. For example, Kay and Kay (2002) suggest that Andean adakites may be generated by tectonic thickening of Andean crust or subduction erosion of fore-arc crust as well by subduction of young oceanic crust. Defant et al. (2002) also included lower crustal delamination as a possible mechanism for adakite formation and noted that, if this process occurred then “the term adakite should not be restricted to processes related only to slab

melting but must include those involving the melting of the lower crust” (p. 129). Many other workers such as Harris et al. (1996), Arculus et al. (1999), Rapp et al. (2002), Gao et al. (2004), and Castillo (2006) have suggested that certain lower-crust derived rocks can properly be termed adakites, adakite-like or adakitic.

Second, some K-rich rocks have already been described as “adakitic”. For example, the well known high-K–calc alkaline Cordillera Blanca granodiorites, inferred by Atherton and Petford (1993) and Petford and Atherton (1996) to be derived by underplating of new lower crust, were subsequently characterized as adakites by Gutscher et al. (2000) and others. Some Cenozoic granitic rocks in Tibet and the Andes have K_2O (4.35–8.56 wt%) and K_2O/Na_2O ratios (1.63–3.71) that are far higher than those of the study area (2.94–5.74 wt%; 0.63–1.64) and have been termed “adakitic rocks” (Chung et al., 2003; Hou et al., 2004; Qu et al., 2004; Kay et al., 2005). Similarly, the compilation of adakite data

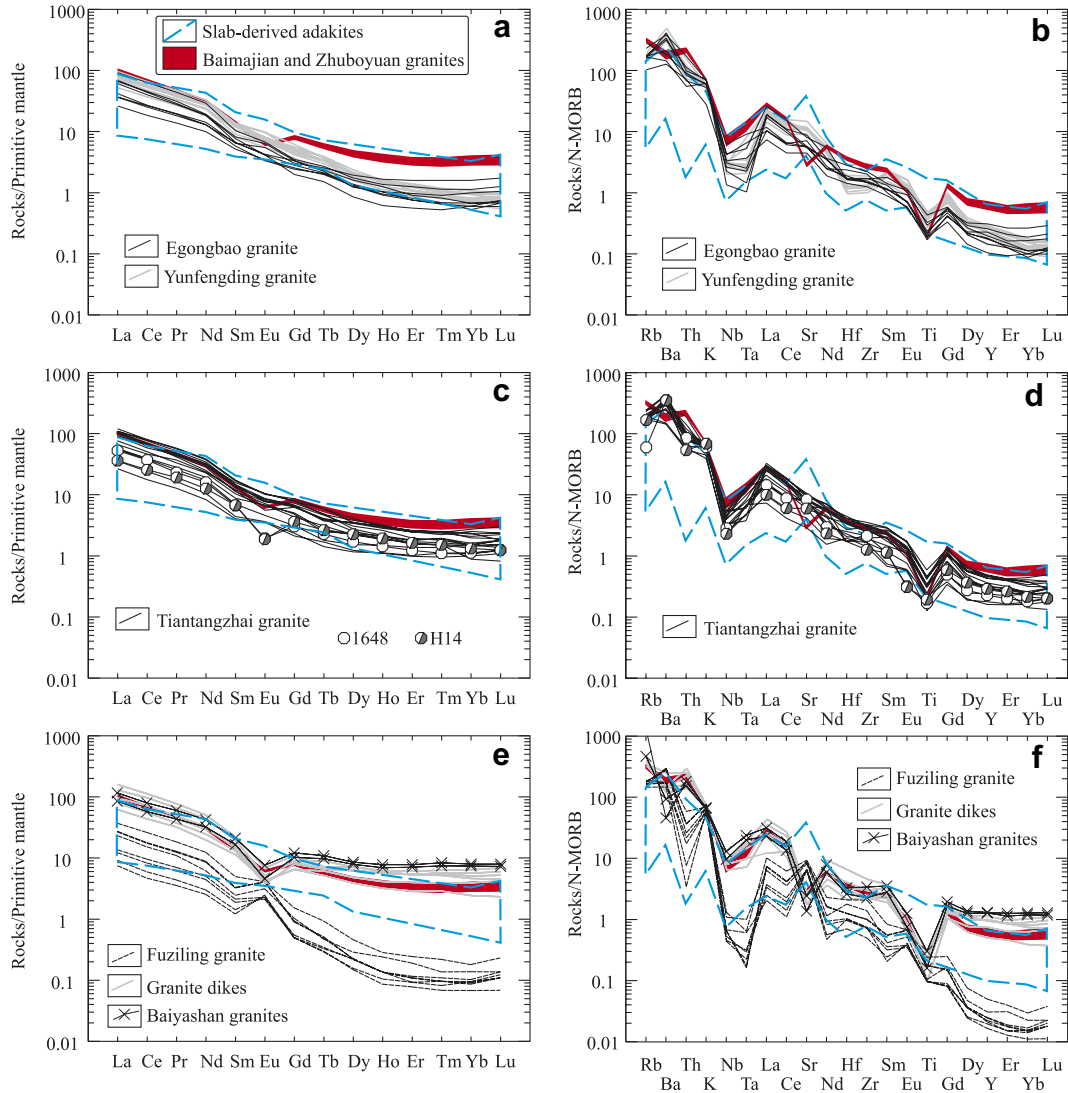


Fig. 6. Primitive mantle normalized rare earth element (REE) patterns and N-MORB normalized multi-element profiles of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area. Primitive mantle and N-MORB normalizing values are from Sun and McDonough (1989). (a) REE patterns of the Egongbao and Yunfengding adakitic granites. (b) Multi-element profiles of the Egongbao and Yunfengding adakitic granites. (c) REE patterns of the Tiantangzhai adakitic granites. (d) Multi-element profiles of the Tiantangzhai adakitic granites. (e) REE patterns of the granitic dikes in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area and the Fuziling adakitic granites. (f) Multi-element profiles of the granitic dikes in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area, the Fuziling adakitic granites and the Baiyashan granites. The REE and trace element data for the Baiyashan, Zhuboyuan, and Baimajian granites are from Ma et al. (1998), Chen et al. (2002), and Bryant et al. (2004). The REE and trace element data of subducted oceanic crust-derived adakites are from Defant and Drummond (1990), Kay and Kay (1993), Stern and Kilian (1996), Aguillón-Robles et al. (2001), Defant et al. (2002), Martin et al., 2005, and references therein. The data of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from the same data sources as in Fig. 3.

presented by Martin et al. (2005) includes a plot of adakite K content that extends beyond 35,000 ppm (4.2 wt% K_2O). In addition, Rapp et al. (2002) described some high-K–calc alkaline igneous rocks from eastern China as “potassium-rich adakites” and Xiao and Clemens (2007) refer to the Tiantangzhai granite of the Dabie area as “potassic adakite”.

In summary, the use of the term “adakite” or “adakitic” for the early granites of the NDC study area is consistent with their conformity to key discrimination criteria, with current usage of the terms, and emphasizes petrogenetic

comparisons with the most relevant igneous rock types world-wide.

6.2. Petrogenesis of the adakitic granites in the NDC

On the basis of the tectonic setting, geochemical characteristics, and zircon dating, three commonly invoked models of adakite genesis (slab melting, assimilation and fractional crystallization process (AFC), and melting of delaminated lower crust) appear to be untenable explanations for the adakitic granites in the NDC. We first discuss the

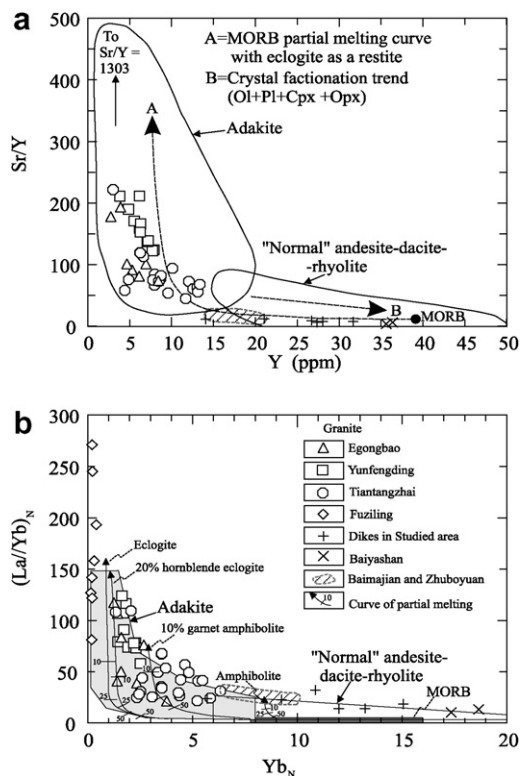


Fig. 7. (a) Sr/Y versus Y (after Defant et al. (2002)); (b) $(La/Yb)_N$ versus Yb_N diagram (after Drummond and Defant (1990)). Ol, olivine; Pl, plagioclase; Cpx, clinopyroxene; Opx, orthopyroxene. The data for the Zhuboyuan, Baimajian, and Baimajian granites are from the same data sources as in Fig. 6. The data of the granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from the same data sources as in Fig. 3.

weaknesses of these models and then focus in more detail on partial melting of thickened lower crust as a mechanism for generation of the adakitic rocks.

6.2.1. Models 1–3: slab melting, AFC processes, and melting of delaminated lower crust

The adakitic early granites in the study area occur in the core of a contemporaneous metamorphic core complex (i.e., NDC), which resulted from 100% crustal stretching of a pre-existing ~245 Ma collisional crustal architecture (Hacker et al., 1998) in an interior continental setting (Fig. 1a and b). This association argues strongly against any Cretaceous subduction in this area. In addition, the adakitic granites have extraordinarily low $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$ and relatively high initial $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ isotopic compositions (Fig. 8; Table 3) that are improbable for granitic melts produced by partial melting of subducted oceanic crust in the Cretaceous. Their very low compatible element abundances (e.g., Ni; Fig. 5a) and $Mg^{\#}$ values (Fig. 10) are also not consistent with melts that have traversed mantle peridotites in either (a) a wedge above a subducting slab or (b) the gap created above delaminated and melting lower crust (Xu et al., 2002; Gao et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2004a,b, 2006a,b).

Two Tiantangzhai granite samples (1648 and H14) have negative Eu anomalies, probably resulting from the fractional crystallization of minor plagioclase (Fig. 6c). All other adakitic granite samples exhibit either no Eu and Sr anomalies or positive anomalies (Fig. 6), arguing against a significant role for plagioclase fractional crystallization in their genesis (Wilson, 1989). Ma et al. (1998) suggested that AFC processes could only be responsible for Cretaceous Y- and Yb-depleted and Al_2O_3 - and Sr-enriched granites in the Dabie area if amphibole fractionation had taken place. However, the adakitic granites in the study area lack any obvious depletion in middle REE (Fig. 6), suggesting that amphibole fractionation did not play an important role in their petrogenesis (Gromet and Silver, 1987). In addition, the adakitic granites lack clear compositional trends indicative of fractional crystallization from Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic magmas in the Dabie Orogen (Figs. 4, 5, 7a, 10, and 11a) and there is a compositional gap (e.g., SiO_2 : 55–62 wt%) between the granites and mafic–ultramafic rocks (Figs. 4 and 5), suggesting that the fractional crystallization could not be main factor responsible for compositional variation of the early granites (e.g., Castillo et al., 1999). Moreover, the mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks formed at 130–123 Ma and postdated the earliest adakitic granites (e.g., the 143–142 Ma Yunfengding and Egongbao granites), ruling out a genetic link. The mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks were contemporaneous with the 131–129 Ma Tiantangzhai and Fuziling adakitic granites, but there is nothing to suggest that Tiantangzhai formed by different mechanisms than the 143–142 Ma intrusions, apart from some minor fractionation documented in two samples. The size of the Tiantangzhai intrusion (400 km²) also suggests that it could not be produced solely by AFC processes. The Fuziling intrusion has an outcrop area of only about 1.8 km², but its distinctive geochemical characteristics (e.g., strongly positive Eu and Sr anomalies) argue against fractional crystallization involving plagioclase and hornblende from mafic–ultramafic magmas.

6.2.2. Model 4: partial melting of thickened lower crust

The early NDC adakitic granites display compositional trends consistent with partial melting (Figs. 11a), suggesting that this process was responsible for their petrogenesis. Chen and Jahn (1998) suggested that Cretaceous granites in the NDC were derived from remelting of old (Mid-Proterozoic) continental crust, probably at a lower crustal level. Zhang et al. (2002a) suggested that all Cretaceous granites were derived by partial melting of a source similar to the Proterozoic gneisses and amphibolites in the NDC. Zhao et al. (2005) argued that partial melting of the thickened (or subducted) and sandwich-structured mafic–ultramafic and felsic layers of Neoproterozoic ages beneath the collisional orogen was a viable mechanism for genesis of the Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic and granitic intrusive rocks, respectively. New geochemical and isotopic data show, however, that the NDC Neoproterozoic (700–800 Ma) gneisses and amphibolites have distinct Nd isotope composition and therefore could not generate the Cretaceous granites via partial melting (Bryant et al., 2004) (Figs. 8 and 9).

Table 3
Sr-d isotopic compositions for the adakitic granites and late dikes in the Northern Dabie Complex

Intrusion	Rock type	Sample	Sm (ppm)	Nd (ppm)	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$2s_m$	T (Ma)	$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$	$f_{\text{Sm}/\text{Nd}}$	$\varepsilon\text{ND}(t)$	T_{DM} (Ga)	Rb (ppm)	Sr (ppm)	$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$2s_m$	$(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$	References
Tiantangzhai	AG	I16			0.107	0.511617	10	2.18	0.511525	-0.46	-18.4	2.18			0.4378	0.70855	6	0.7077	Ma et al. (1998)
	AG	I17			0.0914	0.511688	19	1.82	0.511610	-0.54	-16.8	1.82			0.5268	0.70875	1	0.7078	Ma et al. (1998)
	AG	JZ34			0.0949	0.511665	8	1.90	0.511584	-0.52	-17.3	1.90			0.6981	0.70804	4	0.7067	Ma et al. (2000)
	AG	H-5	6.493	40.42	0.1012	0.511560	9	2.15	0.511473	-0.49	-19.4	2.15	99.85	791.9	0.3558	0.707960	39	0.7073	This study
Fuziling	AG	1648-1	4.837	31.34	0.0973	0.511734	8	1.85	0.511651	-0.51	-16.0	1.85	94.30	762.6	0.3490	0.708661	47	0.7080	This study
	AG	FZL-1	1.972	14.54	0.08202	0.511645	2	1.74	0.511576	-0.58	-17.5	1.74	104.6	863.4	0.3506	0.708710	5	0.7081	This study
	AG	FZL-2-1	0.5564	3.65	0.09221	0.511693	12	1.82	0.511615	-0.53	-16.7	1.82	82.29	609.4	0.3910	0.708972	10	0.7083	This study
Yunfengding	AG	FZL-3	1.433	11.39	0.07611	0.511712	6	1.59	0.511648	-0.61	-16.1	1.59	101.1	800.0	0.3658	0.708649	13	0.7080	This study
	AG	YFD-1	4.671	30.91	0.09138	0.511757	7	1.73	0.511679	-0.54	-15.4	1.73	84.20	1036	0.2354	0.708492	7	0.7081	This study
	AG	YFD-5	5.102	34.46	0.08955	0.511768	9	1.69	0.511684	-0.54	-15.0	1.69	87.80	994.1	0.2557	0.708936	9	0.7084	This study
	AG	YFD-3	4.562	32.04	0.08611	0.511705	6	1.72	0.511624	-0.56	-16.2	1.72	87.16	1061.1	0.2378	0.708731	21	0.7082	This study
	AG	YFD-8	4.867	32.94	0.08937	0.511749	5	1.71	0.511665	-0.55	-15.4	1.71	81.91	1020	0.2325	0.708479	11	0.7080	This study
Egongbao	AG	YFD-9	4.111	30.59	0.08129	0.511724	11	1.64	0.511648	-0.59	-15.7	1.64	92.20	986.9	0.2705	0.709245	11	0.7087	This study
	AG	Y-1	5.402	36.07	0.09059	0.511785	5	1.69	0.511700	-0.54	-14.7	1.69	83.36	1058	0.2280	0.708402	7	0.7079	This study
	AG	EGB-1	2.894	17.14	0.1021	0.511800	12	1.84	0.511705	-0.48	-14.6	1.84	57.45	649.6	0.2560	0.707992	9	0.7075	This study
	AG	EGB-2	4.63	37.8	0.07408	0.511715	12	1.56	0.511646	-0.62	-15.8	1.56	120.9	680.8	0.5141	0.708458	7	0.7074	This study
	AG	EGB-5	15.53	99.96	0.09398	0.511667	16	1.88	0.511580	-0.52	-17.1	1.88	89.98	1630	0.1598	0.707538	8	0.7072	This study
	AG	EGB-7	2.692	16.58	0.0982	0.511610	8	2.03	0.511519	-0.50	-18.3	2.03	160.8	531.0	0.8769	0.709701	13	0.7079	This study
Baiyashan	AG	EGB-8	2.141	12.3	0.1053	0.511777	10	1.92	0.511679	-0.46	-15.1	1.92	121.0	681.0	0.5144	0.708456	9	0.7074	This study
	GD	EGB-6	8.266	53.87	0.0928	0.511558	10	2.00	0.511479	-0.53	-19.4	2.00	225.1	226.1	2.883	0.714558	8	0.7092	This study
	G	BYS-2			0.1012	0.511520	7	2.20	0.511434	-0.49	-20.2	2.20			3.043	0.716750	4	0.7111	Ma et al. (1998)
Hongzhen	G	B11-2			0.1058	0.511612	7	2.16	0.511522	-0.46	-18.5	2.16			5.670	0.723400	1	0.7129	Ma et al. (1998)
	AG	aq-5	3.149	21.6	0.08870	0.511656	9	1.82	0.511586	-0.55	-17.5	1.82	99.14	453.7	0.6323	0.708207	17	0.7071	Wang et al. (2004a)
	AG	aq-6	3.265	21.86	0.09090	0.511682	11	1.82	0.511609	-0.54	-17.0	1.82	97.60	432.6	0.6528	0.708354	14	0.7072	Wang et al. (2004a)
	AG	aq-6-2	3.114	19.47	0.09672	0.511629	11	1.98	0.511552	-0.51	-18.1	1.98	100.8	452.2	0.6451	0.708204	10	0.7071	Wang et al. (2004a)

AG, adakitic granite; GD, granitic dike; G, granite.

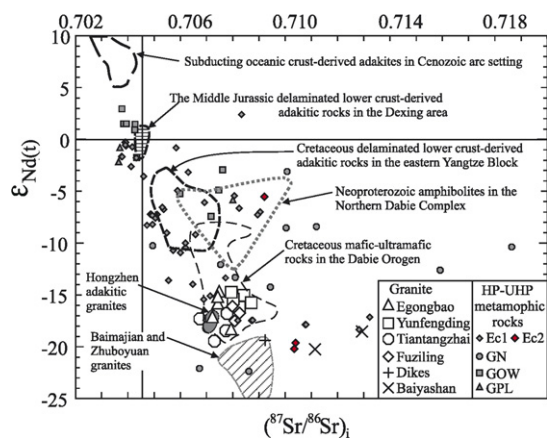


Fig. 8. Nd–Sr isotope compositions of Cretaceous adakitic granites and granitic dikes in the Northern Dabie Complex. Ec1, eclogites in or interlayers with gneisses and ultramafic rocks; Ec2, eclogites in or interlayers with marbles; GN, gneiss; GOW, garnet pyroxenite–orthopyroxenite–websterite; GPL, garnet peridotite–garnet lherzolite. Data source are as follows: the adakitic granites and granitic dikes in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from Table 3; Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic rocks in the Dabie Orogen are from Chen et al. (1998), Jahn et al. (1999), Li and Yang (2003), Wang and Deng (2002), and references therein; the Baiyashan, Baimajian and Zhuboyuan granites are from Ma et al. (1998), Chen et al. (2002) and Bryant et al. (2004); Cenozoic subducted oceanic crust-derived adakites are after Defant et al. (1992), Kay et al. (1993), Aguillón-Robles et al. (2001); delaminated lower crust-derived adakitic rocks are from Xu et al. (2002), Wang et al. (2004a,b, 2006a,b); the Hongzhen Cretaceous adakitic granites are from Wang et al. (2004a); Triassic HP–UHP eclogites and gneisses in the Dabie–Sulu Orogen are from Jahn (1998), Li et al. (2000), and references therein; Neoproterozoic amphibolites in the Northern Dabie Complex are from Ma et al. (2000) and Bryant et al. (2004).

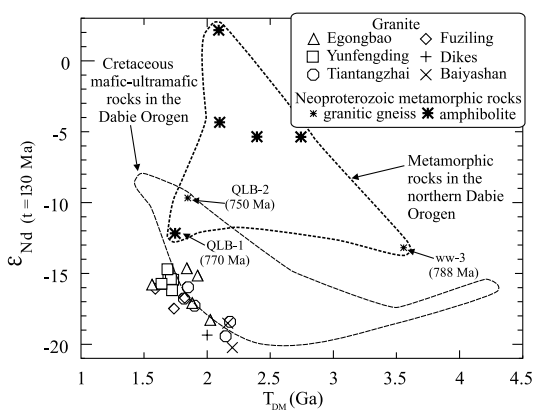


Fig. 9. Nd model age (T_{DM}) versus $\epsilon_{Nd}(t=130 \text{ Ma})$ for the adakitic granites and granitic dikes in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area compared to amphibolites and gneisses in the Northern Dabie Complex (Ma et al., 2000; Bryant et al., 2004) and Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic rocks in the Dabie Orogen (Jahn et al., 1999; Wang and Deng, 2002, and references therein).

Moreover, discordant or concordant zircon core ages of ~1500–1700 Ma in the early Egongbao and Yunfengding adakitic granites have not been recovered from the

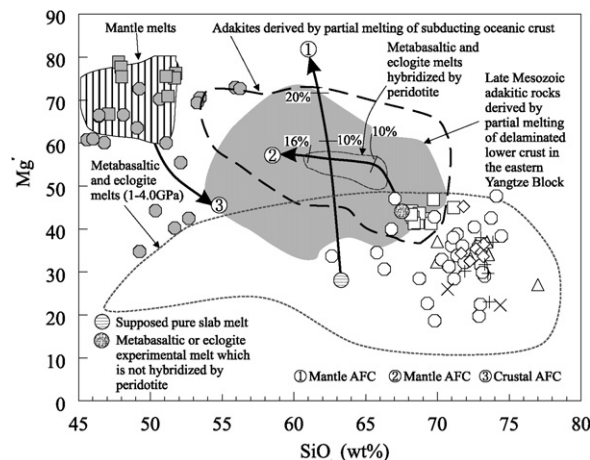


Fig. 10. $Mg^{\#}$ versus SiO_2 (wt%) diagrams for the adakitic granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area. Mantle AFC curves are after Stern and Kilian (1996) (curve 1) and Rapp et al. (1999) (curve 2), and the proportion of assimilated peridotite is also shown. The crustal AFC is after Stern and Kilian (1996) (curve 3). The jumping-off point of Curve 1 represents the composition of a pure slab melt, which is supposed by Stern and Kilian (1996). The jumping-off point of Curve 2 represents the composition of a metabasaltic or eclogite experimental melt, which is not hybridized by peridotite (Rapp et al., 1999). Fields of delaminated lower crust-derived adakitic rocks, subducted oceanic crust-derived adakites are constructed using the same data sources as in Fig. 8. Data of metabasaltic and eclogite experimental melts (1–4.0 GPa) and mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks are from the same data sources as in Fig. 3. The field of metabasaltic and eclogite experimental melts hybridized with peridotite is after Rapp et al. (1999). Sample symbols are the same as those in Fig. 3.

700–800-Ma NDC gneisses and amphibolites, which possess no zircon ages greater than 1088 Ma (e.g., Bryant et al., 2004).

Experimental data also suggests that the adakitic granites could not be generated by the partial melting of the tonalitic orthogneisses in the Dabie Orogen (Fig. 3; Bryant et al., 2004) on the basis of the following evidence:

(1) Melting in the system tonalite– H_2O generally produces tonalitic and trondhjemitic magmas (Fig. 3a) that have higher ANK ($Al_2O_3/(Na_2O + K_2O)$) values (Fig. 3c) and lower K_2O contents (Fig. 4a) than the early granites. Moreover, the amount of pore fluid in the deep continental crust is likely to be small (e.g., Rutter and Wyllie, 1988), implying that natural equivalents of the experimental tonalite– H_2O systems are restricted to special settings, mainly subduction zones.

(2) Dehydration melting of tonalites at pressures less than 0.8 GPa will generate A-type granites (Patiño Douce and McCarthy, 1998 and references therein) with low Al_2O_3 (generally ≤ 12 wt%) and high Y, Nb, and HREE contents and distinct negative Eu and Sr anomalies (e.g., Whalen et al., 1987), which are completely different from those of the adakitic early granites.

(3) High-pressure (1.0–3.2 GPa) dehydration melting of tonalites produces granitic melts with SiO_2 of more than 70 wt% and slightly to strongly peraluminous compositions (Fig. 3b and c). However, many samples of the adakitic

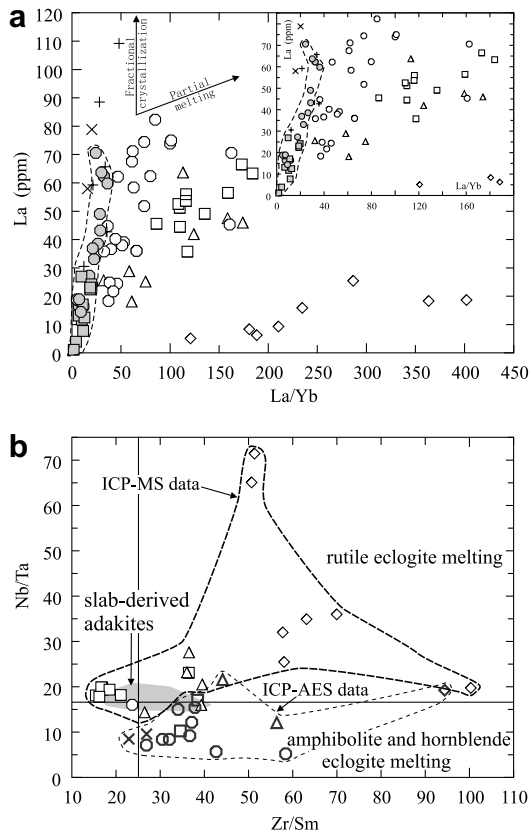


Fig. 11. (a) La/Yb versus La diagram for the adakitic granites and granitic dikes in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area and mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the Dabie Orogen. (b) Nb/Ta versus Zr/Sm diagram (Condie, 2005). Lines represent primitive mantle values from Sun and McDonough (1989) and melting fields from Foley et al. (2002). The field of slab-derived adakites is after Condie (2005). The ICP-MS and ICP-AES data of the adakitic granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area are from the Table 2. Sample symbols are the same as those in Fig. 3.

granites have SiO₂ contents ranging from 60 to 70 wt% (Fig. 3b), and all samples are metaluminous to slightly peraluminous (Fig. 3c), arguing against high-pressure dehydration melting of tonalite gneisses.

In contrast, high-pressure (1.0–4.0 GPa) dehydration melting of metabasaltic rocks and eclogites can readily generate high-K granitic melts (Figs. 3 and 4a). Experimental data suggests that K₂O content of melts are mainly controlled by the K₂O contents of source rocks, high pressure and dehydration melting, indicating that K-rich metabasalts/gabbros/eclogites are suitable source rocks for K-rich adakitic rocks (Sen and Dunn, 1994; Prouteau et al., 2001; Rapp et al., 2002; Skjerlie and Patiño Douce, 2002; Xiao and Clemens, 2007). For example, the alkali basaltic starting material (K₂O = 0.82 wt%, K₂O/Na₂O = 0.32) used by Sen and Dunn (1994) produced melts with K₂O contents (3.05–5.85 wt%) and K₂O/Na₂O ratios (0.66–1.31) comparable to the NDC adakitic rocks with K₂O contents (2.94–5.74 wt%) and K₂O/Na₂O ratios (0.63–1.64) at $P = 1.5\text{--}2$ GPa and $T = 900\text{--}950$ °C (Fig. 12). However,

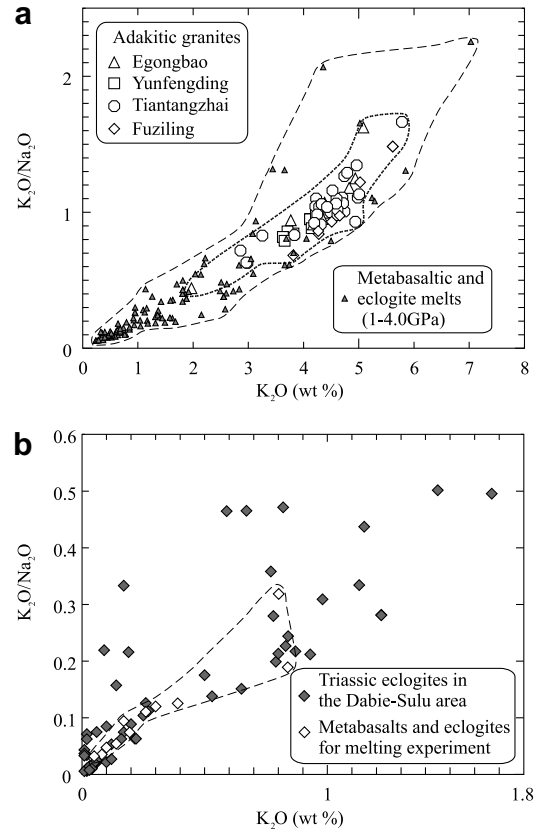


Fig. 12. K₂O/Na₂O versus K₂O diagrams for the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui adakitic granites and metabasaltic and eclogite melts (1–4.0 GPa) (a), and Triassic eclogites in the Dabie–Sulu area and Metabasalts and eclogites for melting experiment (b). The data for metabasalt and eclogite and their melts (1–4.0 GPa) are from Sen and Dunn (1994), Rapp and Watson (1995), Rapp et al. (1999, 2002, 2003), Skjerlie and Patiño Douce (2002), and references therein. The data for Triassic eclogites in the Dabie–Sulu area are from Jahn (1998), Li et al. (2000), and references therein. The data for the experimental melts with high K₂O contents (3.05–7.03 wt%) and K₂O/Na₂O ratios (0.66–2.25) are from Sen and Dunn (1994), Rapp et al. (1999, 2002), and Skjerlie and Patiño Douce (2002).

the experiments of Rapp et al. (2002, 1999), Skjerlie and Patiño Douce (2002) demonstrate that the melting of even low-K metabasaltic rocks (0.08–0.21 wt% K₂O and 0.04–0.19 K₂O/Na₂O) can also generate adakitic magmas with appropriate K₂O contents (3.53–7.03 wt%) and K₂O/Na₂O ratios (0.61–2.25) at high pressure and temperature (2.7–3.8 GPa; 1000–1200 °C; Fig. 12a). Additionally, dehydration melting more readily gives rise to K-rich melts than fluid-present melting (e.g., Prouteau et al., 2001). Many Triassic eclogites in the Dabie–Sulu area exhibit higher K₂O contents and K₂O/Na₂O ratios than the starting materials (e.g., metabasalts and eclogite) used for melting experiments (Fig. 12b) (e.g., Sen and Dunn, 1994; Prouteau et al., 2001; Rapp et al., 2002; Skjerlie and Patiño Douce, 2002). Dehydration melting of such a source, involving the breakdown of hornblende or zoisite (e.g., Sen and Dunn, 1994; Skjerlie and Patiño Douce, 2002; Patiño Douce, 2005) at high pressures (>2 GPa) and temperature

(>900 °C), could generate the high-K adakitic rocks of the central NDC. New experimental data derived from near-whole melting of Tiantangzhai adakitic granite samples (Xiao and Clemens, 2007) further suggest that the original magma could only be generated at high temperature (>1050 °C) and pressure (>2 GPa).

The relatively high Al_2O_3 and Sr and very low Y and Yb contents, combined with negligible to positive Eu and Sr anomalies in the early granites are suggestive of garnet but little or no plagioclase in the source residue after melt extraction (e.g., Wilson, 1989; Defant and Drummond, 1990; Atherton and Petford, 1993). Fig. 7 illustrates that the compositions of these adakitic granites are distributed along the partial melting curves of eclogite, hornblende eclogite and garnet amphibolite. Experimental studies (e.g., Rapp et al., 2003 and references therein) have also shown that mafic crustal rocks can melt to produce adakitic liquids at sufficient depths (>40 km, i.e., ~1.2 GPa) for garnet to be stable within the residual assemblage (e.g., garnet–amphibolite, amphibole-bearing eclogite and/or eclogite). The Nd–Sr isotopic compositions of the adakitic granites of the study area are comparable to those of Cretaceous adakitic rocks of the Hongzhen area of the Eastern Yangtze Block, east of the Tanlu Fault (Fig. 1a), which Wang et al. (2004a) showed were most plausibly derived by partial melting of thickened lower crust (Fig. 8). Notably, all samples from the central NDC study area and Hongzhen adakitic rocks plot in the field of Triassic eclogites in the Dabie–Sulu Orogen in Fig. 8. Moreover, zircon core or upper intercept ages of ~1300–2000 Ma for NDC Cretaceous granitic rocks (Xue et al., 1997; Bryant et al., 2004), including the adakitic granites (Table 1), are broadly consistent with previously reported ages from an upper concordia intercept and the discordant or concordant ages of zircon cores from the UHP zone, which span 700–2347 Ma (Maruyama et al., 1998; Ayers et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2004, 2006). In summary, derivation of the NDC adakitic granites by partial melting of thickened eclogitic lower crust is consistent with both numerous experimental results and with specific chemical and isotopic data from the Dabie–Sulu Orogen.

The Nb/Ta ratios of adakitic rocks provide a means of distinguishing rutile eclogite melting from amphibolite and hornblende eclogite melting (e.g., Condie, 2005). In this study, we use only high precision ICP-MS Nb and Ta data, as suggested by Condie (2005), which indicates that Nb/Ta ratios of three of the early adakitic granites (the Egongbao, Yunfengding and Tiantangzhai granites) are close to or somewhat higher than the primitive mantle value of 16.7. In contrast, the Nb/Ta (19.8–71.4) ratios of the early Fuziling adakitic granite is distinctly higher than the primitive mantle value (Fig. 11b). High Nb/Ta ratios (>16.7) in the adakitic magmas can be attributed to one of two possible causes: (a) a source with similar high Nb/Ta ratios (Rapp et al., 2003; Xiong et al., 2005) or (b) partial melting of eclogites in the rutile stability field, given that the distribution coefficient of Ta between rutile and melt is significantly greater than that of Nb (e.g., Foley et al., 2002; Xiong et al., 2005; Xiao et al., 2006). The

similar Nd–Sr isotope compositions of both the Fuziling (129 ± 3 Ma) and older (131–143 Ma: Egongbao, Yunfengding, and Tiantangzhai) adakitic granites (Figs. 8 and 9) suggest that they have similar source rocks and therefore argue against a unique high Nb/Ta source for the Fuziling intrusion. As a consequence, the Egongbao, Yunfengding, and Tiantangzhai adakitic granites were probably generated on the boundary between rutile eclogite and hornblende eclogite melting whereas the slightly younger Fuziling granite was likely derived by rutile eclogite melting (Fig. 11b). The fact that the composition of the Fuziling adakitic granite samples are distributed along the partial melting curve of eclogite but other adakitic granite samples are distributed along the partial melting curves of hornblende eclogite and garnet amphibolite in Fig. 7b, further supports this distinction.

6.3. Petrogenesis of the late granitic dikes in the NDC

The late granitic dikes exhibit geochemical characteristics that differ from the adakitic granites in the study area (e.g., negative Eu and Sr anomalies, higher Y and Yb contents, distinct $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$); Figs. 6–8), suggesting that their petrogenesis differs from the larger intrusions. However, their geochemical and isotopic characteristics are similar to the late Baimajian, Zhuboyuan, and Baiyashan granites located to the east and west of the studied area (Figs. 3–8), which suggest the dikes formed by petrogenetic mechanisms similar to the latter. Zhang et al. (2002a), Chen et al. (2002), and Bryant et al. (2004), have all suggested that some or all of the late granites may have been generated by partial melting of NDC Neoproterozoic gneisses and amphibolite basement rocks, which must have had significant plagioclases in the residue to produce negative Eu and Sr anomalies of the granites (Ma et al., 1998). This model is in agreement with Gao et al. (1998a,b), who proposed that the present lower crust of the Dabie Orogen mainly consists of intermediate granulites. On this basis, we suggest that genesis of the late (118–105 Ma) granitic dikes was related to a widespread partial melting event in lower crustal granulites of the Dabie Orogen.

6.4. Petrogenetic implications for the Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusions

A wide variety of genetic models have been proposed for the origin of Cretaceous (130–123 Ma) mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the NDC and UHP–HP terrane (Fig. 1b), but until the geochronological and geochemical results of the present study there was no obvious requirement that their genesis must be consistent with the coeval formation of adakitic magmas.

We suggest that any petrogenetic model for the mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks of the Dabie Orogen must explain the following features: (a) the suite is distributed across the whole Dabie Orogen to the south of Triassic suture between the Yangtze Block and Northern China Block (i.e., in the footwall–Yangtze Block (e.g., Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Chen et al., 2003; Bryant et al., 2004)) and formed in an extensional setting (e.g., Ratschbacher et al.,

2000; Tsai et al., 2000); (b) zircon age data (Li et al., 1999; Wang and Deng, 2002; Zhao et al., 2005) indicates they formed at 130–123 Ma, postdating Triassic (245–210 Ma) continental subduction and the earliest adakitic granites (e.g., the 143–142 Ma Yunfengding and Egongbao granites), but contemporaneous with the 131–129 Ma Tiangtangzhai and Fuziling adakitic granites, and predating the non-adakitic 118–105 Ma Bamajian, Zhuboyuan or Baiyashan granites. (c) olivine mineral compositions (Jahn et al., 1999; Tsai et al., 2000) and ubiquitous low FeO_T/MgO and high MgO or $\text{Mg}^\#$ and Ni values (Figs. 3b, 4d, 5a, and 10) suggest that these rocks must be derived from mantle peridotites, because partial melting of metabasaltic and eclogite only generates the mafic-felsic melts with high FeO_T/MgO and low MgO or $\text{Mg}^\#$ values (Figs. 3b, 4d, and 10); (d) the mafic-ultramafic intrusive rocks are characterized by the high-LREE enrichment, pronounced negative Nb and Ti anomalies, and positive Ba anomalies similar to those of adakitic granites in the Jiuzihe–Zhangjiazui area, and low $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ (–8.5 to –19.5) or ($^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$)_i (0.5115–0.5120) combined with relatively high ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)_i (0.7067–0.7094) (Chen et al., 1998; Ma et al., 1998; Jahn et al., 1999; Wang and Deng, 2002); (e) the Pb isotope compositions of the mafic-ultramafic intrusive rocks are close to that of the Mesozoic granitoids and eclogites from the Dabie–Sulu Orogen (Huang et al., 2007).

Petrogenesis of 143–129 Ma adakitic granites suggests that the thickened (>40–50 km) eclogitic lower crust still existed beneath the Dabie Orogen in the early Cretaceous, because the stability pressure of garnet and rutile is more than 1.2–1.5 GPa (e.g., Rapp et al., 1999; Xiong et al., 2005). The experimental data regarding approximately whole melting of the Tiangtangzhai adakitic granite samples (Xiao and Clemens, 2007) further suggests that their magma could only be generated at high pressure (>2 GPa, i.e., >66 km crustal thickness). Given that eclogite has a higher density than mantle peridotite, these melting events are most plausibly linked to lower crustal delamination or foundering beneath the Dabie Orogen in the early Cretaceous (e.g., Arndt and Goldstein, 1989; Kay and Kay, 1991; Rudnick, 1995, and references therein). Geochemical and geophysical data suggest that the present lower crust of the Dabie Orogen mainly consists of intermediate granulites (e.g., Gao et al., 1998a,b) and the present thickness of crust in the Dabie area is less than ~41.5 km (e.g., Wang et al., 2000a). Lower crustal delamination or foundering can account for this thinning process (e.g., Gao et al., 1998a,b), although the crustal extension resulting from the Cretaceous doming of the NDC cannot be neglected (Ratschbacher et al., 2000). Taking into account the five key features noted above and the petrogenesis of the Cretaceous adakitic granites, we proposed a new model for the genesis of the mafic-ultramafic rocks: partial melting of a source formed by the mixing of asthenospheric mantle (Lustrino, 2005) or ancient enriched lithospheric mantle of the Yangtze Block (e.g., Wang et al., 2006b) and eclogitic lower crust mobilised by delamination or foundering. Given the similarity of the adakitic granites, mafic-ultramafic rocks, and the Dabie–Sulu UHP–HP eclogites in terms of Nd–Sr isotopic

compositions and shared trace element characteristics such as positive Ba anomalies (Fig. 4 of Zhao et al., 2005 and Figs. 6 and 8), the partial melting of the mixed source could generate the mafic-ultramafic rocks. Our model is supported by the O isotopic study of zircons in Dabie–Sulu pyroxenites by Xia et al. (2002). Based on the range of isotopic compositions in the zircons and evidence that they did not undergo re-equilibration, these authors argue that mixing of mafic lower crust and mantle must have occurred in less than several million years. They also calculated that these magmas probably contained a large proportion (>37%) of mafic lower crust.

6.5. Geodynamic model for lower crustal melting and delamination

The prerequisite conditions for lower crustal delamination generally include (a) crustal thickening and (b) high temperature. Crustal thickening that results from shortening may result in a crustal root that, due to gabbro–eclogite phase transformation, becomes denser than the underlying mantle lithosphere (e.g., Kay and Kay, 1991, 1993). Instability times calculated for a two-dimensional Rayleigh–Taylor convective instability, where a dense lower crustal layer sinks into a lower-density mantle, show that high temperatures (>700 or >500–700 °C with a background strain rate) are required for this process to occur on a timescale of 10 Ma with rheological parameters expected for the crust and mantle (Jull and Kelemen, 2001). In the Dabie area, high temperature probably caused melting of eclogitic lower crust to generated early Cretaceous adakitic magmas, which left denser resitite minerals that strongly favoured lower crustal foundering or delamination (e.g., Arndt and Goldstein, 1989).

6.5.1. Crustal thickening

Numerous detailed studies of the Dabie Orogen HP–UHP metamorphic rocks have gradually established a consensus that UHP–HP metamorphism occurred between 245 and 210 Ma and was followed by the “rapid cooling” between 210 and 170 Ma (e.g., Hacker et al., 1998, 2000; Li et al., 2000; Ayers et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2004). These ages can be best explained by the diachronous exhumation of UHP–HP metamorphic units in response to Triassic subduction (Fig. 13a and b) (e.g., Hacker et al., 2000, 2004; Liu et al., 2004). In this model, the subduction of slices of the Yangtze continental crust was facilitated by the nearly concomitant uplift of older overlying slices during the 245–210 Ma interval (Fig. 13a). Subduction of continental fragments continued up to the Middle to Late Jurassic boundary (~159 Ma; e.g., Gilder and Courtillot, 1997; Gilder et al., 1999), but was associated with the 210–170 Ma southward thrusting of previously exhumed UHP–HP slices in the Yangtze Block (e.g., Liu et al., 2004; Fig. 13b). The combination of southward thrusting and coeval normal sense shear from beneath the Northern China Block, led to an upward extrusion of the subducted slices onto the Yangtze Block (Fig. 13b; Hacker et al., 2000, 2004; Liu et al., 2004).

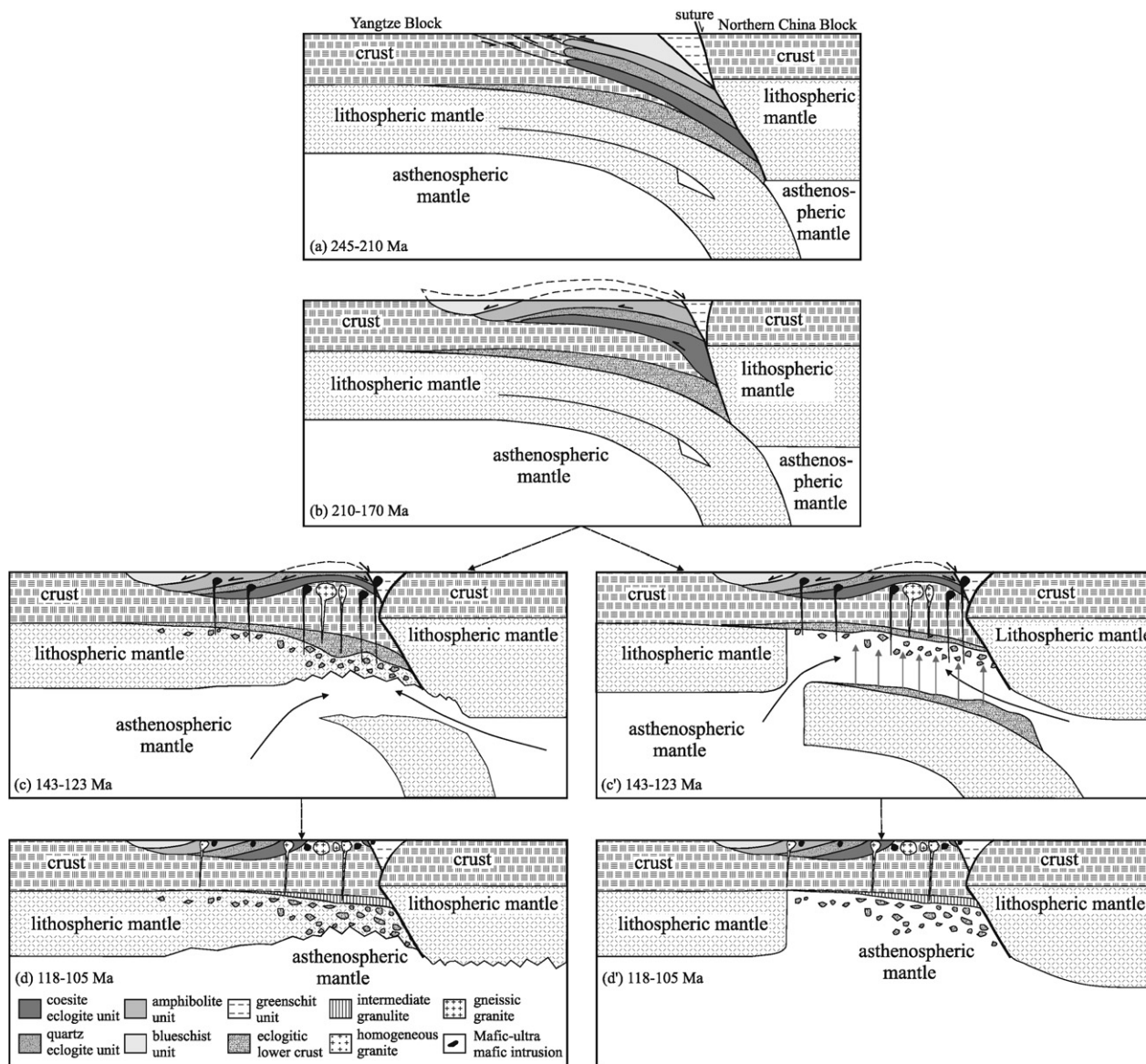


Fig. 13. A suggested model to produce the Dabie Cretaceous magmatic rocks including adakitic granites via partial melting of thickened lower crust. (a) Successive subduction of underlying slices with nearly concomitant uplift of overlying slices during the Triassic (240–210 Ma) collision between the Northern China Block and the Yangtze Block (modified from Hacker et al., 2000 and Liu et al. (2004)). (b) Extrusion and thrusting of subducted slices onto the Yangtze Block during the Jurassic (210–170 Ma) convergence (modified from Liu et al. (2004)). In the Stages (a) and (b), the crust and lithospheric mantle beneath the orogen were probably thickened. (c) Doming and partial melting of eclogitic lower crust and enriched upper lithospheric mantle, in response to a hot asthenosphere upwelling possibly resulting from delamination of lower lithospheric mantle during 143–123 Ma. (d) Successive upwelling of hot asthenosphere lead to partial melting of intermediate granulites during 118–105 Ma. (c') Doming and partial melting of eclogitic lower crust and changed asthenospheric mantle, in response to an hot asthenosphere upwelling resulting from delamination of whole lithospheric mantle as well as the lower part of lower crust during 143–123 Ma. SiO_2 -rich partial melts derived from delaminated lower crust possibly metasomatised the uprising asthenospheric mantle (thick and straight arrows) (Lustrino, 2005) and caused the formation of enriched mantle source of mafic–ultramafic rocks. (d') Successive upwelling of hot asthenosphere lead to partial melting of intermediate granulites during 118–105 Ma. In the Stages (c and d or c' and d'), the delamination or foundering of the eclogitic lower crust was an important geodynamic process which took place beneath the orogen.

In addition to the subduction of the Yangtze Block and exhumation of the UHP–HP metamorphic rocks, we suggest that another important process—the thickening of the crust and lithospheric mantle beneath the orogen must be taken into account. Crustal thickening would clearly occur as a result of the successive subduction or thrusting episodes (e.g., Tapponnier et al., 2001) and would produce a

transformation of mafic lower crust to eclogite (e.g., Kay and Kay, 1991, 1993; Lustrino, 2005; Fig. 13a and b) as the lithosphere was simultaneously depressed to greater depths. The occurrence of the Early Cretaceous adakitic granites originating from lower crust also indicates that an eclogitic source remained in the lower crust beneath the Dabie Orogen until that time.

6.5.2. Heat source for melting and delamination

To date, no Triassic–Jurassic magmatic rocks have been reported in the Dabie Orogen, which argues against any early episode of crustal extension or asthenospheric upwelling. Although many researchers document large-scale Early Cretaceous igneous rocks in the area, the mechanism for generating these magmas remains contentious. Recent studies have suggested a variety of heat sources for Cretaceous magmatism in the Dabie Orogen including (a) asthenospheric upwelling in response to Pacific back-arc extension (Ratschbacher et al., 2000, 2003; Tsai et al., 2000), (b) slab breakoff (Ma et al., 1998), (c) lithospheric thinning or delamination (Chung et al., 1997; Qian et al., 2003; Bryant et al., 2004; Wu et al., 2005) or (d) a Cretaceous superplume event (Jahn et al., 1999; Zhao et al., 2005). Space considerations do not permit a detailed review of these models. We note, however, that the magmas were emplaced in a post-collisional extensional setting. The NW–SE-oriented belt of Cretaceous magmatic rocks mainly consisting of granites is linear over a distance of ~1000 km along the Qinling–Hong'an–Dabie Orogen (Fig. 1a), suggesting that their petrogenesis was likely related to late evolution (e.g., extensional collapse) of a collisional orogen belt.

Convective instability of the lower crust in continental regions may be possible if the conductively cooled upper mantle first becomes convectively unstable (Jull and Kelemen, 2001). Convective instability of the upper mantle has been proposed as a process which might account for the observation that compressional thickening precedes extensional collapse of many orogens (e.g., Molnar et al., 1998). Commonly, the combined effect of decreased effective viscosities due to horizontal shortening and entrainment of the lower crust with a convectively down-welling upper mantle may cause dense lower crust to participate in “mantle” convective down-welling (e.g., lower crustal foundering or delamination) (e.g., Kay and Kay, 1993; Jull and Kelemen, 2001). However, if only a portion of the conductive upper mantle is convectively removed due to increased viscosities at shallow levels, then the remaining thinner conductive upper mantle would have a higher temperature, potentially allowing dense lower crustal cumulates to subsequently become unstable (e.g., Jull and Kelemen, 2001).

Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusions in the Dabie Orogenic Belt (Fig. 8) resemble Cenozoic potassium-rich magmatic rocks of Tibet (e.g., Turner et al., 1996) in that both exhibit low $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ and high $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ values and were generated from an enriched mantle source. Based on the Tibetan example (e.g., Turner et al., 1996), it is most probable that only lower lithospheric mantle was thinned or delaminated in the Dabie Orogen. Loss of the lower lithosphere would radically increase heat flow into the base of the crust and would trigger lower crustal melting or crustal foundering (or delamination) (e.g., Menzies et al., 2007). Additionally, heating also probably converted rigid, strong and highly viscous remaining lithospheric mantle into soft, weak and less viscous asthenosphere (e.g., Niu, 2005). Whether or not this conversion took place in the Dabie area in the Early Cretaceous, the viscosities of mantle beneath the eclogitic lower crust probably decreased due to heating

at that time (Jull and Kelemen, 2001; Niu, 2005), which caused the eclogitic lower crust to become unstable and sink into underlying mantle (i.e., lower crustal delamination).

The delamination or foundering of the residual eclogitic crust probably caused it to sink into the underlying hotter and more plastic lithosphere (Fig. 13c) (Xu et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2006a,b) or the asthenospheric mantle (Fig. 13c') (e.g., Arndt and Goldstein, 1989; Kay and Kay, 1991; Rudnick, 1995; Lustrino, 2005). We suggest that upwelling of hot asthenosphere caused partial melting of eclogitic lower crust and the upper enriched lithospheric mantle containing delaminated mafic lower crust to generate Early Cretaceous (143–123 Ma) adakitic and mafic–ultramafic magmas, respectively (Fig. 13c). Alternatively, the entire lithospheric mantle as well as the lower part of lower crust may have delaminated (Fig. 13c') (e.g., Bryant et al., 2004). In this case, partial melting of the remaining intact upper part of lower crust would generate the adakitic magmas. Metasomatic reactions between SiO_2 -rich partial melts derived from delaminated lower crust and the upwelling asthenospheric mantle (replacing the volume formerly occupied by the detached lithospheric mantle and lower part of the lower crust) lead to the formation of enriched mantle source (e.g., Arndt and Goldstein, 1989; Lustrino, 2005). Partial melting of such a source generated mafic–ultramafic magmas with low $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ and relatively high $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ values (Fig. 8) and Pb isotope compositions similar to Triassic eclogites (Huang et al., 2007). At the same time, the upwelling of hot asthenosphere may have initiated crustal extension and doming in the Dabie Orogen (Ratschbacher et al., 2000, 2003; Bryant et al., 2004; Hacker et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2004) (Fig. 13c and c'). Additionally, widespread Early Cretaceous plutonism in the NDC likely accelerated this extension and doming (e.g., Hollister, 1993; Hill et al., 1995). Thus, the UHP–HP metamorphic rock slices in the NDC were quickly eroded (Fig. 13c and c').

With the continued upwelling of hot asthenosphere and the delamination of eclogitic lower crust, the intermediate granulites above the eclogitic lower crust of the Dabie Orogen were also heated and began to be melt to generate late granitic magmas between 118 and 105 Ma (Fig. 13d and d') (e.g., Chen et al., 2002; Bryant et al., 2004). Given that the UHP–HP metamorphic rock slices in the NDC continued to be uplifted and eroded throughout this period (Fig. 13d and d'), relict UHP mafic rocks just south of the Xiaotian–Mozitang fault probably represent the portion of the slab that penetrated most deeply into the mantle and experienced the highest pressures (e.g., Bryant et al., 2004; Hacker et al., 2004).

7. CONCLUSIONS

(1) Early Cretaceous (143–129 Ma) adakitic granites in the Northern Dabie Complex are directly associated with a contemporary extensional structure (e.g., a metamorphic core complex) in the interior of a continent.

(2) These adakitic granites were most probably generated by partial melting of amphibole or rutile eclogites similar to Triassic eclogites in the Dabie–Sulu Orogen. The

granites most plausibly originated from lower crust that was thickened (>40–50 km) as a result of Triassic–Middle Jurassic subduction and thrusting.

(3) Dense eclogitic lower crust mixed with the underlying lithospheric or asthenospheric mantle, possibly by delamination or foundering. The early Cretaceous mafic–ultramafic intrusive rocks in the Dabie Orogen were derived from the resulting mixed or hybrid source.

(4) Late granitic dikes in the adakitic intrusions were generated by the melting of plagioclase-bearing intermediate granulites and have a petrogenesis similar to the 118–105 Ma granites in the Orogen. Given that the late granites occur both to the east (e.g., the Baimajian, Zhuboyuan granites: Fig. 1b) and to the west (e.g., Baiyashan granite) of the study area, the presence of the dikes demonstrate regional continuity of the late granite-forming event.

(5) The upwelling of asthenosphere, most probably in response to post-collisional delamination of lithosphere mantle, provided the heat source for the Cretaceous magmatism.

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