

Petrogenesis and geodynamic setting of Ediacaran rocks from the Sirwa massif, Central Anti-Atlas of Morocco

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Abstract

The geodynamic evolution of the post-Pan-African Anti-Atlas ~~belt~~ Orogeny (~650 Ma) remains debated, particularly regarding the basement beneath the Central Anti-Atlas, and the geological processes leading to ~~the~~ formation of the Ediacaran Saghro Group (SG), and Ouarzazate Group (OG). New LA-ICP-MS U-Pb ages of 575 ± 3 Ma and 564 ± 2 Ma were obtained from two OG magmatic rocks ~~of the OG~~. ~~In addition,~~ Detrital zircons from the SG yield a 2025 Ma maximum depositional age (MDA) and a prominent 2100 Ma peak, indicating exclusive recycling of Paleoproterozoic basement into the Ediacaran SG basin. Geochemically, two magmatic series are identified: (i) SG mafic rocks displaying with a calc-alkaline, signature of within-plate signature character with and negative Nb-Ta and Ti negative anomalies, consistent with from a back-arc basin setting; and (ii) an OG felsic-intermediate, high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic series ~~of the OG~~ of a post-collisional character. Isotope data ($\epsilon\text{Nd}_{620} = +3.2$ to $+4.6$, TDM = 1.02–0.91 Ga for the SG; $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{570} = -0.8$ to $+1.1$, TDM = 1.30–1.15 Ga for the OG), indicate that the SG formed from a near-pristine mantle source, with limited crustal input, whereas the younger OG involved significant reworking of older, evolved continental crustal material.

These findings sustain support a model where in which early Ediacaran SG sediments and associated magmatic rocks were deposited in a back-arc basin. During this basin development, its shoulders were locally formed by the 2100 Ma Paleoproterozoic basement, supplying Paleoproterozoic zircons to the Saghro basin without interaction with Ediacaran sediments, and corroborating the extension of the Eburnian basement north of the Anti-Atlas Major Fault (AAMF). ~~Subsequently,~~ The younger OG subsequently recorded a late Ediacaran post-collisional crustal collapse event, during which

35 ~~where~~ lithospheric delamination and potential slab break-off drove widespread crustal reworking and ~~the~~ emplacement of a Silicic Large Igneous Province (SLIP).

Keywords

Anti-Atlas; Ediacaran; LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronology; Saghro Group (SG); Ouarzazate Group (OG); 2.1 Ga Paleoproterozoic crust

40 1 Introduction

The Anti-Atlas belt of Morocco, ~~located along~~ in the northern margin of the West African Craton (WAC), bears witness to a long-lived geological evolution since the break-up of Rodinia (Hefferan et al., 2014; Gasquet et al., 2008; Thomas et al., 2002). ~~Accordingly, the~~ Initial rifting at ca. 900–700 Ma ~~is recorded~~ was evidenced by the 885 Ma Tonian mafic dikes. ~~This~~ rifting ~~in question~~ generated a ~~WAC~~ passive margin along the WAC and ~~the~~ eventually led to the development of a Cryogenian oceanic lithosphere (Hefferan et al., 2014). This period is characterized by the deposition of the Lkest-Taghdout Group, a thick sequence of quartzites and carbonates (Alvaro et al., 2014b) (Fig. 1B). The subsequent evolution of the Anti-Atlas belt during the Ediacaran ~~remains is still~~ debated, despite major advances ~~the improvements~~ in the understanding of the multiple Neoproterozoic events that culminated in the final amalgamation of Gondwana ~~prevailed during Neoproterozoic times~~ (D'Lemos et al. 2006; Samson et al. 2004; Gasquet et al. 2008, 2005, 2004; Thomas et al. 2004, 2002; Ennih and Liégeois, 2008, 2001; Walsh et al. 2002), ~~and led to the final amalgamation of Gondwana (D'Lemos et al., 2006; Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005).~~ Within this time frame, and ~~Based on~~ paleogeographic reconstructions and lithostratigraphic correlations (Linnemann et al., 2014; Errami et al., 2021a; Walsh et al., 2012), the Anti-Atlas belt was close to the Cadomian subduction system. Whereas Gondwana amalgamation ~~While the internal amalgamation of Gondwana~~ was driven by large-scale Pan-African collisions between major cratonic blocks, the northern margin of the WAC experienced a synchronous but distinct tectonic regime (Rojo-Pérez et al., 2024; Stern, 2024; Hefferan et al., 2014). During the Ediacaran, this margin lay ~~was~~ proximal to the Cadomian accretionary system, a long-lived subduction-related orogen that developed along the Gondwana periphery (Linnemann et al., 2014; Nance et al., 2008).

~~Moreover, it~~ remains is still debated whether the Anti-Atlas records the post-collisional stage phase of the Pan-African belt, or instead reflects the development if it is related to the establishment of a back-arc basin induced by the southward-dipping Cadomian subduction beneath the amalgamated WAC-Iriri/Tazigzaout arc Complex at ca. 620 Ma (Errami et al., 2021a; Walsh et al., 2012; El Hadi et al., 2010; Abati et al., 2010). The nature of the basement ~~Furthermore, the basement nature~~ north of the AAMF also remains unresolved, is also still a matter of debate (Ennih and Liégeois, 2008, 2001).

In the Zgounder Mine Region (ZGMR), a well-preserved section of Ediacaran sedimentation and magmatism, provides key insights into the final stages of Pan-African tectono-magmatic evolution along the northern margin of the WAC. Here, w ~~We~~ present new whole-rock geochemical, and Sm-Nd isotopic data ~~of these rocks in order~~ to decipher their petrogenesis of these rocks, explore magma sources, and assess ~~investigate~~ their geodynamic significance in the Ediacaran evolution of the WAC.

We also report new LA-ICP-MS U-Pb ~~ages from dating on~~ magmatic and detrital zircons to constrain the lower Ediacaran magmatism and ~~evaluate the provenance challenge the source of~~ the Saghro Group's sedimentary units, ~~thereby hence~~, refining existing geodynamic models.

70 2 Geological background

The Anti-Atlas belt, ~~located on the northern edge of the WAC, and~~ consist of a Proterozoic basement and a late Ediacaran to Paleozoic cover (Leblanc and Lancelot, 1980) (Fig. 1B). ~~It These mountains records~~ two major orogenic cycles: the Paleoproterozoic Eburnean and the Neoproterozoic Pan-African, classically separated by the AAMF (Fig. 1B). The Paleoproterozoic Eburnean Orogeny is preserved in the Western Anti-Atlas, where low- to high-grade metamorphic rocks are

75 intruded by ~~a series of~~ granitoids dated at ~2.2 Ga (Hefferan et al., 2014, and references therein; O'Connor et al., 2010; El Hadi et al., 2010; Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005; Thomas et al., 2002; Walsh et al., 2002; Aït Malek et al., 1998). The Central Anti-Atlas features the ophiolitic sequences and island-arc complexes of the Bou Azzer and Sirwa massifs (Admou et al., 2012; D'Lemos et al., 2006; Thomas et al., 2002, 2004). To the east, the Eastern Anti-Atlas comprises the Jbel Saghro and Ougnat massifs, ~~which are~~ composed exclusively of Neoproterozoic Pan-African units (Fig. 1B): ~~an These include an~~ early

80 Ediacaran ~~SG basement of SG, consisting~~ of folded meta-sedimentary rocks metamorphosed under greenschist facies conditions, ~~and unconformably overlain by the~~ late Ediacaran OG ~~successions of~~ volcanic and volcano-sedimentary ~~nature successions~~ (Ouabid and Garrido, 2023; Errami et al., 2021a; Yajoui et al., 2020; Michard et al., 2017; Blein et al., 2014; Álvaro et al., 2014, 2014b; Walsh et al., 2012; Abati et al., 2010; Errami et al., 2009; Gasquet et al., 2008; Liégeois et al., 2006; Thomas et al., 2002; Fekkak et al., 2001; Bajja, 2001; Ouguir et al., 1996).

85 This study focuses on the Ediacaran ~~period~~ (630–539 Ma) ~~within of~~ the Sirwa massif. ~~The Recent geological mapping of~~ 1/50 000 scale ~~sheet mappings of the~~ Douar Çour, Assarrag, Tachoukacht, Tamallakout, Sirwa, Taghdout, and Aq̣dif (see Fig. 1C ~~for relevant sheets~~) ~~has~~ subdivided the Sirwa massif into several ~~distinct~~ groups (Thomas et al., 2000a; De Beer et al., 2000; Gresse et al., 2000). The oldest ~~mapped~~ units belong to the Bleida Group, comprising schists and orthogneisses dated at 743 ± 14 Ma (Fig. 1C) (Thomas et al., 2002). ~~This is~~ overlain by the SG (Thomas et al., 2002); ~~a thick succession of~~ deformed

90 ~~succession of sedimentary, volcanoclastic, and volcanic rocks characterized by a~~ calc-alkaline ~~volcanic rocks, and sedimentary units composition, and~~ metamorphosed under greenschist-facies ~~metamorphism conditions~~. The SG ~~includes comprises~~ six formations: Tittalt, Agchtim, Imghi, Tizoula, Azarwas, and Tafiāt (Thomas et al., 2002), ~~with a~~ The lower ~~sequence features~~ greywacke/turbidites ~~with volcanic rocks sequence, and while the upper formations consist of~~ coarse-grained clastic ~~formations rocks (Thomas et al., 2002)~~. U-Pb ~~dating on~~ detrital zircons ~~dating~~ indicates a maximum depositional age ~~of at~~ ca.

95 610 Ma (Abati et al., 2010; Liégeois et al., 2006), with more recent ~~detrital ages around of~~ 607 ± 6 Ma and 604 ± 5 Ma (Errami et al., 2021a). ~~Crucially, in Within~~ the Sirwa inlier, ~~the depositional age of the~~ SG is ~~significantly older as it is~~ ~~intruded constrained~~ by the Mzil granite dated at 614 ± 10 Ma (Thomas et al., 2002, 2004).

The Bou Salda Group, a volcano-sedimentary succession from 610 to 580 Ma (Gasquet et al., 2008), represents basin infills of grabens and pull-apart basins within the AAMF (Errami et al., 2021a; Gasquet et al., 2008; Thomas et al., 2002). The age of the Bou Salda Group is derived from the Tadmant and Tamriwine rhyolites, dated respectively at 606 ± 6 Ma and 605 ± 9 Ma (Thomas et al., 2002) (Fig. 1C, and Fig. 2). Pelleter et al. (2016), also dated the Tadmant rhyolite at 610 ± 7 Ma (Fig. 2). Nonetheless, Abati et al. (2010) reported ~~detrital zircon ages of ca. 600 Ma~~ detrital ages in the Bou Salda Group indicating a coeval volcanogenic input, ± 12 , and 603 ± 13 , establishing a maximum depositional age for the Bou Salda Group.

The OG sequences (580–539 Ma; Blein et al., 2014b; Toummite et al., 2013; Thomas et al., 2002, 2004) of immature, coarse clastic sedimentary rocks (conglomerates, arkoses, reworked volcanic rocks), acid to intermediate volcanoclastic rocks (lapilli tuff, volcanic breccias, ignimbrites, etc.), and lavas (minor basalt, andesite and rhyolite) are associated with post-collisional high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic magmatism (Soulaïmani et al., 2018). ~~Briefly, t~~ Throughout the Sirwa inlier, the OG is subdivided into four subgroups: ~~(Fig. 1C for relevant subgroups)~~ (Tiouin, Bouljama, Tafrant, and Achkougchi (Fig. 1C)) (Thomas et al., 2000a; Gresse et al., 2000; De Beer et al., 2000). Under an extensional regime, ~~typical~~ foreland basin successions of the Tata Group were deposited, following the post-orogenic molasse volcanoclastic rocks of the OG (Thomas et al., 2002) (Fig. 1C).

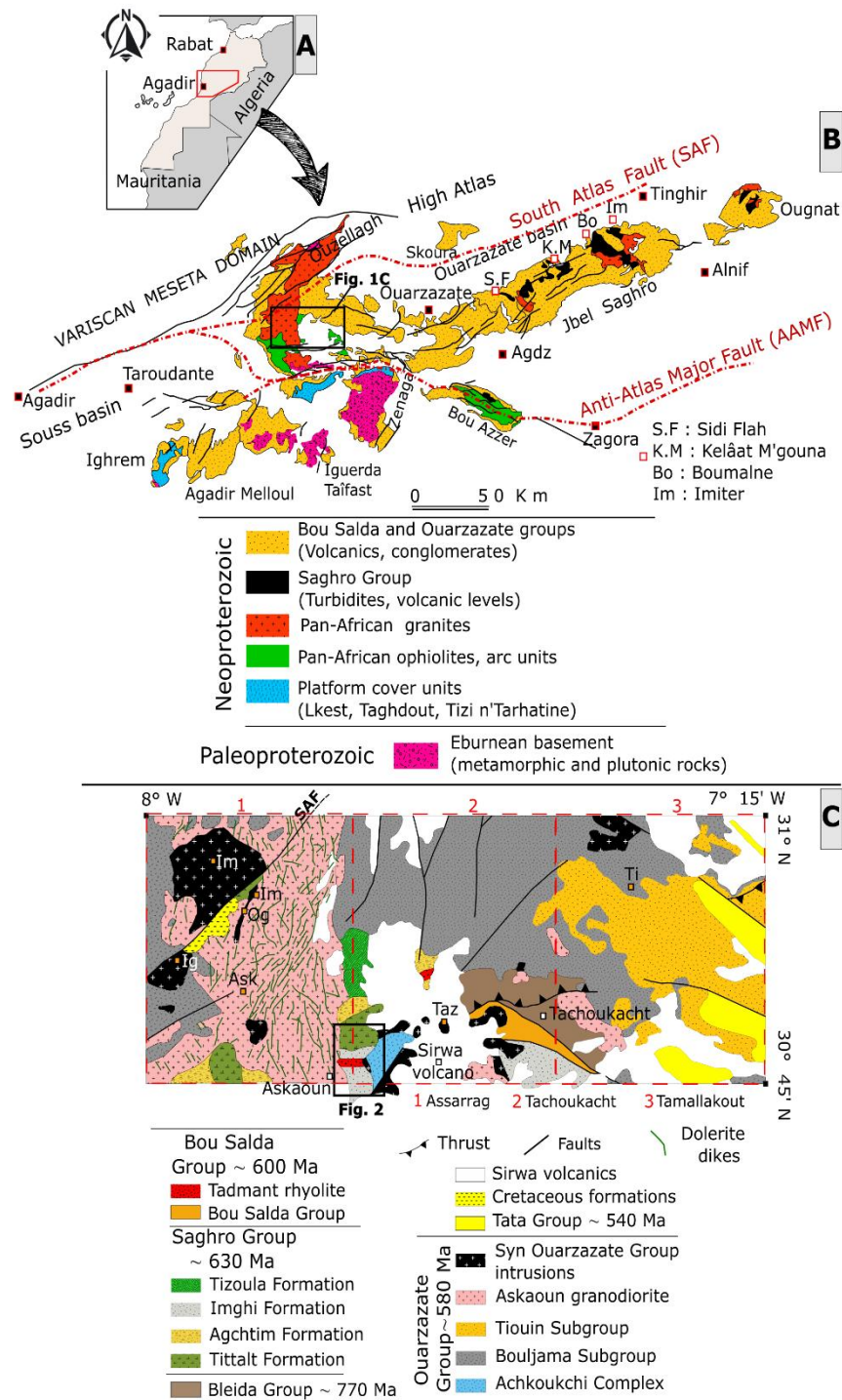


Figure 1. (A) Sketch map locating the Anti-Atlas belt in respect to Morocco (Saadi, 1985); (B): geological map of the Central and Eastern Anti-Atlas Proterozoic inliers (redrawn and modified after Michard et al. (2017); (C): Schematic representation of the

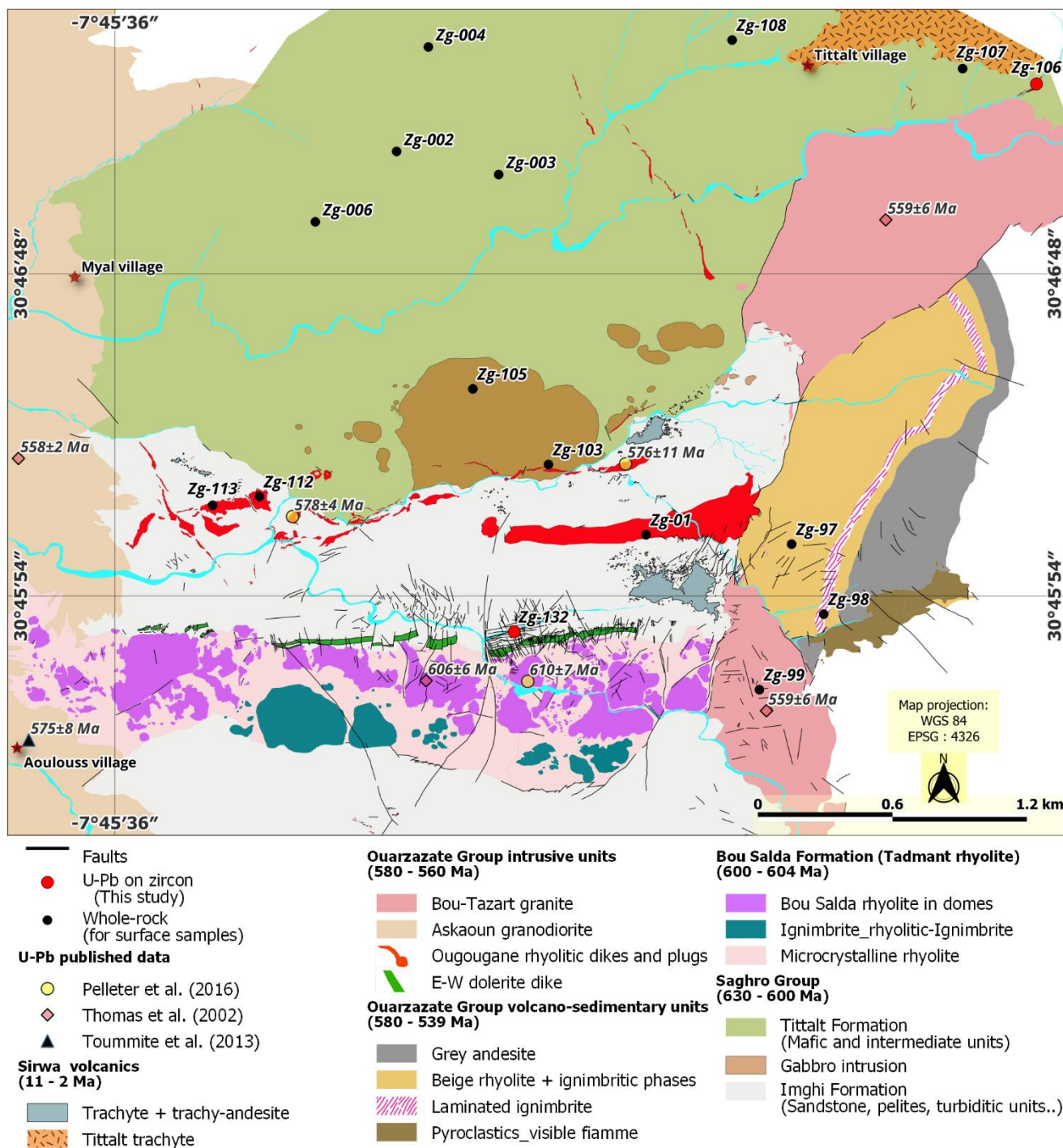
115 geology of the Sirwa massif (compiled and redrawn from Thomas et al. (2002); location of the ZGMR in Figure. 2. Abbreviations: Taz : Tazoult quartz-porphyry (559 ± 6 Ma); Im: Imourkhssen granite (562 ± 5 Ma); Ti: Tikhfist rhyolite (571 ± 8 Ma); Ask: Askaoun granodiorite (575 ± 8 Ma); Ig: Ighrem granite; Og: Ougougane granite; and SAF: South Atlas Fault. U-Pb ages are from Thomas et al. (2002).

2.1 Field characteristics and sample distribution

120 The study area (Fig. 2), ~~hereafter so-called~~ the ZGMR “Zgounder Mine Region” ~~in this contribution~~ corresponds to the vicinity of the Zgounder Ag-Hg deposit, ~~located. The Zgounder deposit is situated at approximately~~ 265 km east of Agadir, and 220 km west of Ouarzazate, along the southern flank of the Ouzellagh-Sirwa Salient in the Central Anti-Atlas Mountains (Ben-Tami et al., 2024). Detailed geological mapping ~~was conducted~~ across the ZGMR ~~to~~ established the primary lithostratigraphic relationships (Fig. 2). The Ediacaran ~~period~~ of the ZGMR (630–539 Ma) ~~comprises, is represented by:~~ (i) the SG sedimentary successions and coeval magmatic rocks deposited ~~at around~~ 630 to 600 Ma (Errami et al., 2021a; Abati et al., 2010); ~~and~~ (ii) large felsic plutons, subvolcanic formations, ~~along with and~~ coeval pyroclastic rocks, referred to as the OG (600–539 Ma; Thomas et al., (2002)).

The oldest rocks in the study area belong to the SG: ~~represented by~~ the northern, E-W-striking Tittalt Formation and the southern Imghi Formation (Fig. 2). The lowermost Tittalt Formation consists of basaltic and andesitic volcanic rocks associated with a gabbroic intrusion, bounded to the south by the Imghi Formation. The Imghi Formation features poorly graded, thick-bedded greywacke ~~composed~~ of stacked fine- to very fine-grained sandstone beds, and greyish-green, well-bedded, graded turbidites ~~that strike~~ ing east and ipping steeply south at 70° (Fig. 2). Felsic magmatism is represented by the E-W-trending Tadmant rhyolite (Bou Salda Group; Thomas et al., 2002), ~~which forms forming~~ the core of the area between the western Askaoun granodiorite and the eastern OG sequences (Fig. 2). Other subvolcanic activities include the E-W-trending rhyolitic dikes and plugs of the Assarrag suite (Thomas et al., 2002). Post-SG, ~~and~~ post-Bou Salda magmatism includes the Askaoun granodiorite, ~~which intrudes~~ the western Imghi Formation, and the syn- to late-Ouarzazate Bou-Tazart granite (Amassine Suite; Thomas et al., 2002). To the east, the sub-horizontal volcano-sedimentary packages of the OG consist of laminated ignimbrites, ignimbritic rhyolites, andesites, and lapilli tuffs containing volcanic glass lenses. Associated mafic activity is recorded by an intermittent, fault-offset dolerite/diabase sill-like body (~ 25 m surface width), ~~running~~ parallel to the rhyolite-sediment contact (Fig. 2).

140 ~~For the purpose of this study, a~~ total of 32 samples were collected from the Saghro and Ouarzazate groups for petrographic and geochemical analysis. For each sample, lithostratigraphic position, sample type, drill core name and depth, short description and analytical methods applied are reported in Supplementary Table 1. ~~Three samples were selected for~~ U-Pb geochronology, ~~three specific samples were selected:~~ (i): a laminated, light-pink to brownish rhyolitic dike crosscutting the Tittalt Formation (Zg-106; 46 m long, 4–5 m thick; Fig. 2); (ii): a fine- to medium-grained, light grey granite (Zg-119) from drill hole ZG-20-21 at 555.30–568.50 m intruding the Imghi Formation; and (iii): a fine- to medium-grained greenish SG sandstone collected near the Zgounder Mine main entrance for detrital zircon analysis (Zg-132; Fig. 2) (Supplementary Table 2).



150 **Figure 2. Detailed geological map of the ZGMR (this study). Locations of surface samples are indicated on the map. Underground samples (Mine levels, drill holes) including the dated Zg-119 are not represented on the map.**

3 Data and methodology

3.1 U-Pb zircon geochronology

Three samples from the ZGMR (Zg-106; Zg-119; Zg-132) were selected for U-Pb zircon geochronology (Fig. 2 for location: Zg-106, and Zg-132). Sample preparation for U-Pb zircon geochronology involved crushing, sieving to 50–250 µm, and weighing (1.4 kg for Zg-106; 1.5 kg for Zg-119; 2.3 kg for Zg-132), at the preparation unit of the Département de Géologie, Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn Zohr, Maroc. Samples were then shipped to the Geotop Research Center, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada. Analytical parameters are detailed in Supplementary Data 1, following Horstwood et al. (2016). Ages of intrusive rocks are reported as weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ dates, calculated using the “exclude outliers” function in Isoplot R, and detrital zircon data as concordia dates. LA-ICP-MS U-Pb data are given in Supplementary Table 2.

3.2 Whole-rock geochemistry and Sm-Nd isotopes

Fresh rock samples were collected for whole-rock geochemistry and Sm-Nd isotopes from outcrops (surface and underground), as well in various diamond drill holes from the ZGMR. Crushing and powdering of the rock samples were performed at the facilities of the Zgounder Millennium Silver Mining Company (ZMSM). Further details on the analytical procedures are given detailed in Supplementary Data 1, and the results are shown in Supplementary Table 3.

4 Results

4.1 Petrography

4.1.1 The SG magmatic rocks

- The SG is mainly represented by fine to medium-grained, dolerite to basaltic-andesite samples. A medium- to coarse-grained, equigranular, and dark green gabbroic facies is also present, and showing heavily altered pyroxenes and amphiboles (Fig. 3a). The SG mafic volcanics contain fine-grained plagioclase and clinopyroxene phenocrysts dispersed in the groundmass. The Dolerite sample (Fig. 3b) has an intergranular texture, with primary Fe-Ti oxides, clinopyroxene aggregates, and lath-shaped plagioclase. Sample Zg-108 is andesitic in composition (Fig. 3c), with an ophitic texture. The texture is microlitic to microlitic porphyritic for Bbasalt and basaltic-andesite samples show a microlitic to microlitic-porphyritic texture (Fig. 3d).

4.1.2 The SG sedimentary sample

- The dated sandstone sample (Zg-132), displays alternating patterns with distinct, well-defined, millimeter-scale laminations, controlled by compositional variations. Darker bands are enriched in chlorite, whereas lighter laminae are mainly composed of quartz and muscovite (Fig. 3e).

4.1.3 The OG magmatic rocks

- Rhyolite samples show a microcrystalline, locally glassy texture. Primary mineral assemblages, are composed of quartz megacrysts and, K-feldspar altered to albite, and are embedded in a devitrified matrix. Secondary alteration minerals include sericite, and albite, with some local carbonate veinlets (Fig. 3f). Dolerite samples (Zg-13, Zg-15; Fig. 3g) are fine-grained, exhibiting an intergranular texture. They It shows equant opaque grains enclosed in the within primary minerals (plagioclase, pyroxene);, with plagioclase crystals, locally transformed to albite, are moderately sericitized and locally altered to epidote. A dolerite sample (Zg-14) collected next to the mineralized zone has an intergranular texture in which laths of black, oxidized plagioclase are were included in pyroxene crystals (Fig. 3h). Clinopyroxene is mainly replaced by hornblende and actinolite, and partially by pyrite, while the plagioclase crystals are strongly altered and replaced by a mixture of blue chlorite, and weak, and sparse grains of epidote. Ignimbrite samples show an eutaxitic texture with remarkable fiamme and dense welded volcanic glass, along with crypto crystalline facies locally fluidal, cryptocrystalline facies, mainly composed of quartz, opaque minerals, sericitized phenocrysts of plagioclase and K-feldspars (Fig. 3i).
- Granodiorite and quartz-diorite samples are grey to light brown, with a moderate pinkish tint related to K-feldspar alteration, and they show a homogenous, coarse-grained texture. Opaque minerals are enclosed in hornblende, biotite and plagioclase. Sericite and clay minerals replace lath-shaped plagioclase phenocrysts, and are associated with chlorite and iron oxides (Fig. 3j). Chlorite replaces biotite, which locally substitutes for hornblende crystals. Granite is medium- to locally fine-grained,; it is distinguished from the granodiorite and quartz-diorite by its white to pink color (Fig. 3k).

More details regarding the mineralogical compositions of the studied samples for both Saghro and the Ouarzazate groups are given as Supplementary Table 4.

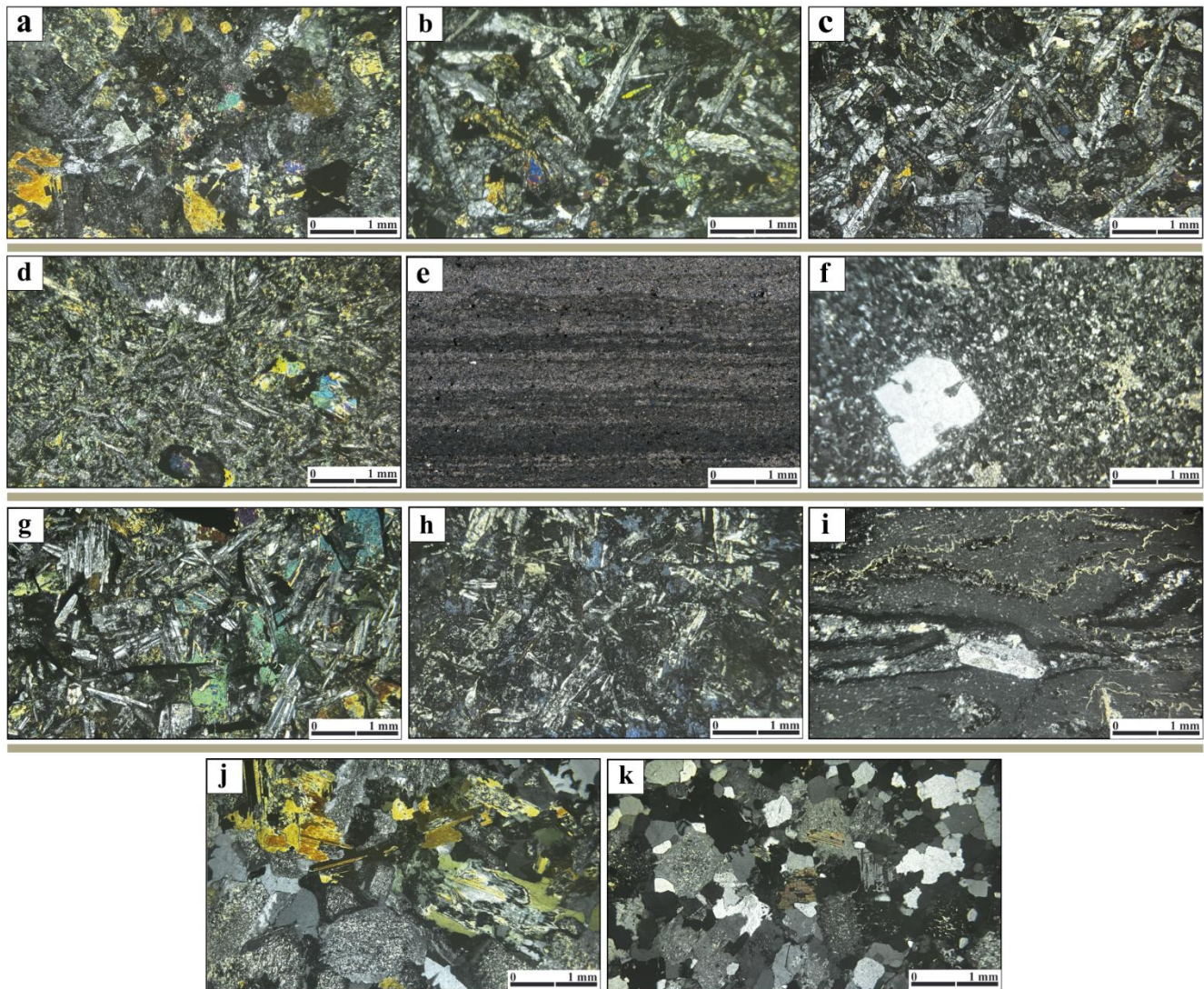


Figure 3. Photomicrographs (all in cross-polarized light) of the studied SG and OG rocks. (a) Gabbro sample showcasing a medium to coarse- grained locally equigranular texture; (b) An intergranular texture for dolerite; (c) Andesite showcasing an ophitic texture; (d) Microlitic-porphyritic texture for basaltic-andesite; (e) Sandstone (Zg-132) exhibiting millimetre-scale laminations showcasing darker bands enriched in chlorite, with quartz-muscovite lighter laminations; (f) Microcrystalline texture for rhyolite with embayed quartz phenocrysts; (g) Dolerite exhibiting an intergranular texture; (h) Diabase characterized by an intergranular texture with patches of blue chlorite; (i) Welded ignimbrite with an eutaxitic texture displaying flow textures with feldspars (sanidine) crystals embedded in a glassy fiamme; (j) Quartz diorite with subhedral to anhedral amphiboles and sericitized plagioclase; (k) Medium to locally fine-grained granite, with an anhedral to subhedral equigranular texture.

4.2 Cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging and LA-ICP-MS U-Pb zircon geochronology

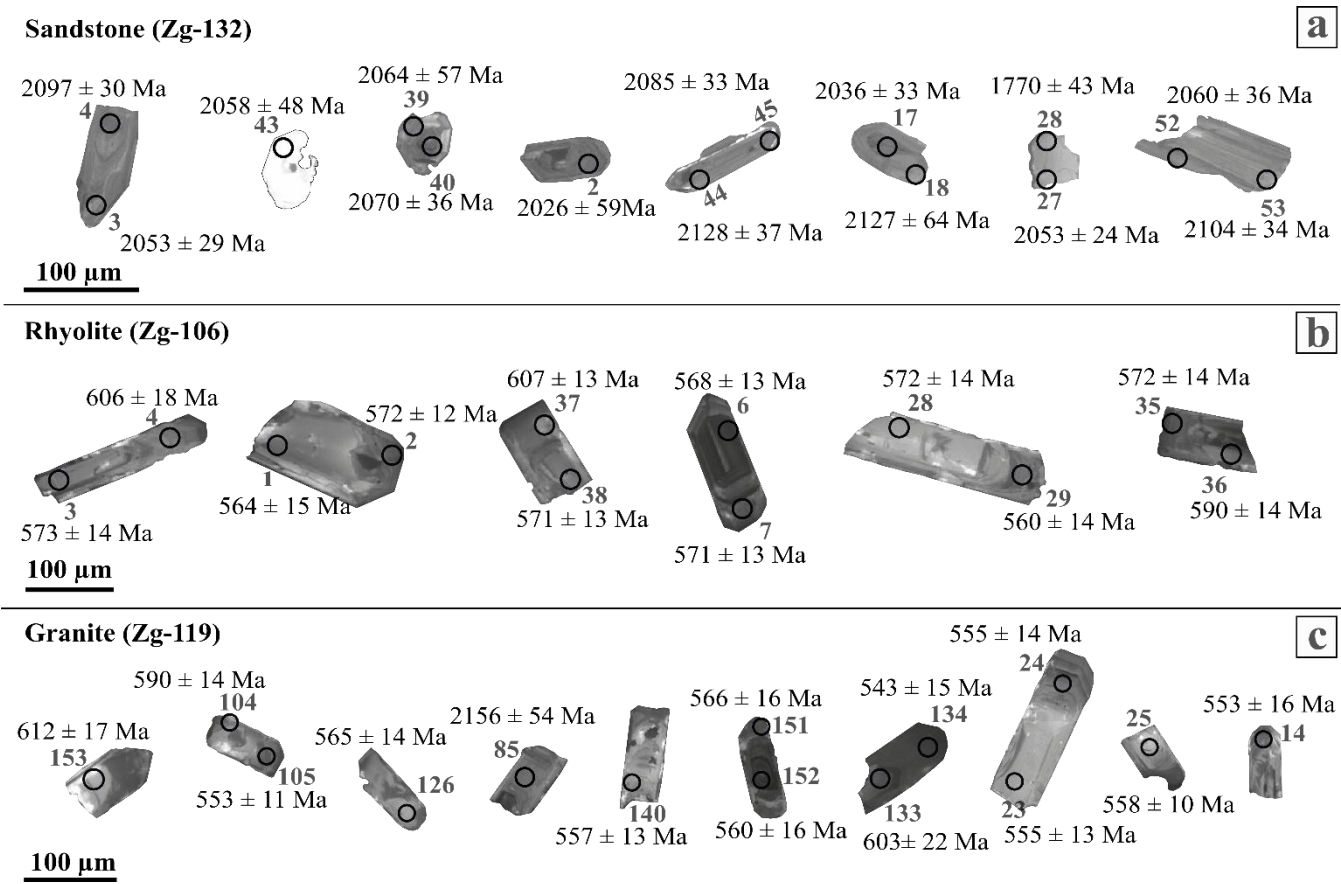


Figure 4. Cathodoluminescence (CL) images of representative zircon grains from the (a): SG sandstone (Zg-132); (b): OG rhyolite (Zg-106); and (c): OG granite (Zg-119). Black circles indicate analytical spots, with corresponding $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages. The reported errors are 2s.

4.2.1 Sandstone (Zg-132)

Most zircons from sample Zg-132 (sandstone) are uniformly rounded and fragmented, with some being subhedral and showing rounded borders. They measure ca. 75–200 µm. They are distinguishable by their low CL signal with some being preferentially zoned (Fig. 4a). A total of hundred and thirty-eight analysis were obtained from ninety-three zircons (rims and cores) from this sample, of which 90 are concordant (Fig. 5A; sSupplementary Ddata 2). The dated zircon grains have Th and U contents of 13–908 ppm and 9–3462 ppm, respectively; Th/U ratios range between 0.03 and 2. For the detrital zircons, we calculated a maximum depositional age (MDA) using the weighted mean of the youngest zircon cluster of three grains with a 98–100% concordance and overlapping in age at 1σ (YC1σ [2+]) (Dickinson and Gehrels, 2009). This yielded a MDA age of 2025 Ma (MSWD = 1.4; n = 3; (Fig. 5A-1)). Moreover, the ages distribution is dominated by one single population, with one

225 uniform peak at 2100 Ma, and one zircon recording an age at 3700 Ma (Fig. 5A-2). The significance of the detrital age will be discussed below (see section 5.4.1).

4.2.2 Rhyolite (Zg-106)

230 Zircon grains from the Zg-106 (rhyolite) are transparent with subhedral to euhedral habitus. They measure ca. 100–350 µm in length. CL images reveal that zircon grains exhibit typical oscillatory zoning with rare and limited dark rim overgrowths (Fig. 4b). Forty analyses were obtained on twenty-eight zircon grains from this sample (Supplementary data 2). The dated zircon grains have Th and U contents of 20–556 ppm and 40–833 ppm, respectively; Th/U ratios range between 0.3 and 0.7. These data yield a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ weighted mean age of 575 ± 3 Ma (MSWD = 1.5; n = 21/40), which is interpreted as the crystallization age of the rhyolite (Fig. 5B).

4.2.3 Granite (Zg-119)

235 Zircon grains from sample Zg-119 (granite) are mostly euhedral to subhedral with some being rounded. They measure ca. 100–300 µm in length. CL images show visible oscillatory zoning with local moderately fractured zircons showing dark overgrowths (Fig. 4c). A hundred and sixty analyses were obtained on a hundred and twenty-two zircon grains from this sample (Supplementary data 2). The dated zircon grains have Th and U contents of 12–619 ppm and 39–934 ppm, respectively; Th/U ratios range between 0.1 and 1.3, supporting their magmatic origin. ~~A total of high-quality concordant Z~~zircon analyses within 95–105% concordance yielded a reliable concordia age of 564 ± 2 Ma (MSWD = 1.6; n = 34/37). One zircon with a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 2156 ± 54 Ma (103.5 % concordance) was excluded from the age calculation ~~after being identified by IsoplotR as a statistical outlier~~ (Fig. 4c). We also calculated a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ weighted mean age using a broader selection of concordant zircons within error, which gave an equivalent age of 564 ± 2 Ma (MSWD = 1.1; n = 76/160) (Fig. 5C). As both ages are statistically identical, we interpret the 564 ± 2 Ma as the crystallization age for the granite.

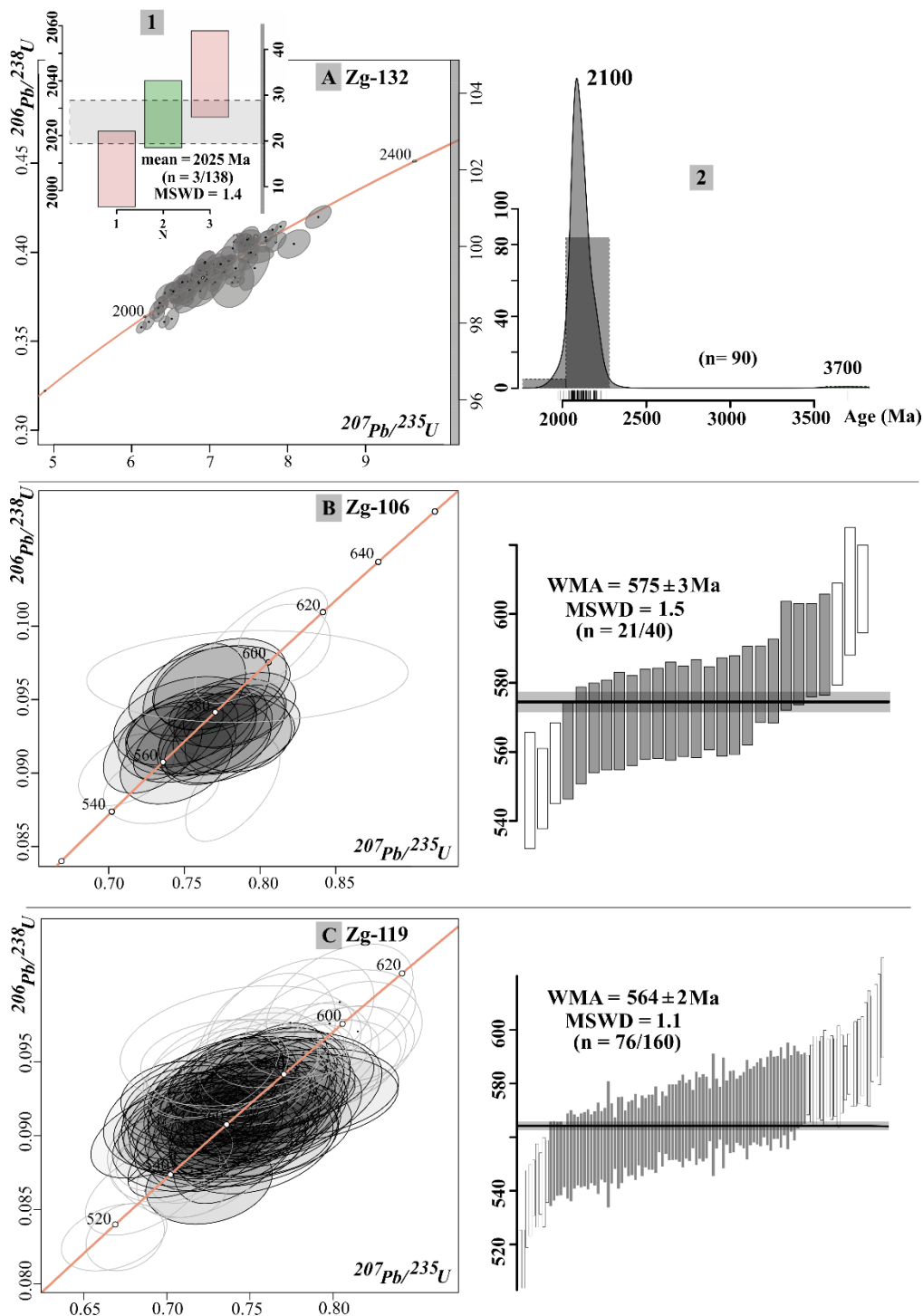


Figure 5. $\text{Pb}^{206}/\text{U}^{238}$ weighted mean age of three concordant grains, U-Pb concordia, and Kernel Density Estimate (KDE) diagram for (A) Zg-132 (sandstone). Along with U-Pb concordia diagrams, and $\text{Pb}^{206}/\text{U}^{238}$ weighted mean ages for (B) Zg-106 (rhyolite), and (C) Zg-119 (granite). Ages were calculated using Isoplot R 1.0 (Vermeesch, 2018).

4.3 Whole-rock geochemical compositions

250 4.3.1 Effects of weathering

Given the samples' distribution and geological diversity, the selected samples are organized according to their lithostratigraphic positions (Supplementary Table 1). The Loss on Ignition (LOI) values at 1100 °C are generally low (< 2 wt.%), except for the mafic terms of the SG, which reach approximately 4 wt.% (Supplementary Table 3; n = 32). When plotted on the alteration box plot of Hughes (1972) (Fig. 6a), most samples fall within the igneous spectrum, defining a homogenous hydrothermal trend. However, sample Zg-106 deviates, plotting in the K-altered zone, reflecting localized potassium enrichment. Conversely, two granite samples (Zg-02 and Zg-109) plot in the Na-altered field, suggesting sodium metasomatism.

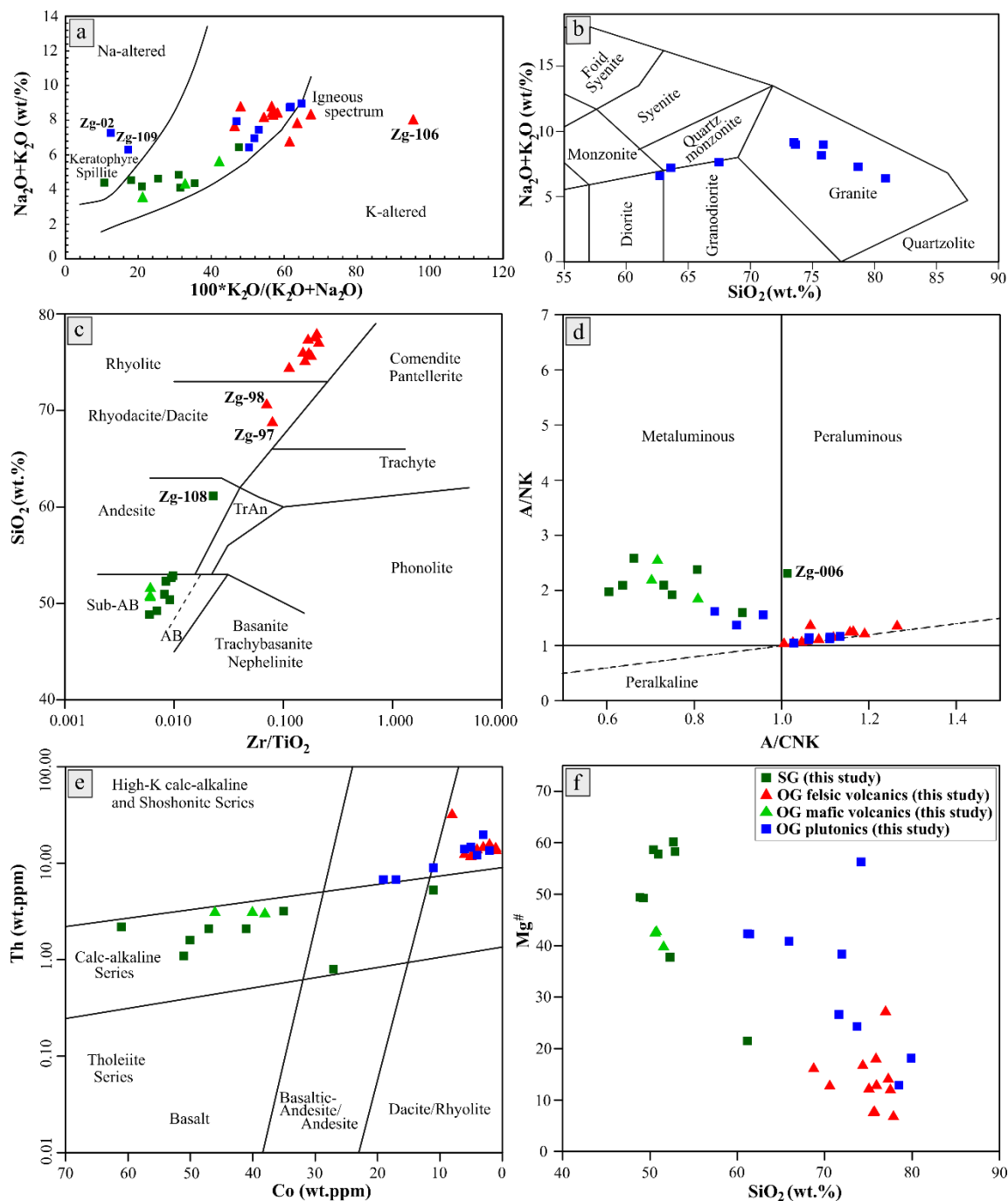


Figure 6. (a) $\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$ (wt. %) versus $100 \times \text{K}_2\text{O} / (\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O})$ plot of Hughes (1972); (b) TAS diagram (after Middlemost, 1994); (c) SiO_2 (wt. %) versus Zr/TiO_2 (Winchester and Floyd, 1977); (d) Plot of A/NK versus A/CNK [A/CNK = molar ratio $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 / (\text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ and A/NK = molar ratio $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 / (\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$] (Shand, 1943); (e) Plot of Th (ppm) versus Co (ppm) of Hastie et al. (2007); (f) $\text{Mg\#}$ value versus SiO_2 contents (wt. %).

4.3.2 The SG magmatic rocks

The analyzed SG rocks belong to the Tittalt Formation ~~of the SG~~ in the study area (Fig. 1C; Fig. 2; Thomas et al., 2004, 2002). Geochemically, they define a narrow range of compositions, with SiO₂ contents from 48.85 wt.% to 52.87 wt.%, except for sample (Zg-108) with SiO₂ of 61.15 wt.%. They contain 1.08—7.45 wt.% MgO, 13.44—15.65 wt.% Al₂O₃, 2.82—3.95 wt.% Na₂O, and 0.47—3.07 wt.% K₂O. ~~Based On~~ the SiO₂ (wt.%) vs Zr/TiO₂ diagram, all samples plot within a sub-alkaline basalt field, except ~~for one~~ sample (Zg-108), ~~which has an~~ andesitic composition (Fig. 6c). Most rocks are metaluminous, except ~~for one~~ sample (Zg-006), which is peraluminous (Fig. 6d). ~~In addition, t~~The SG rocks also display a calc-alkaline signature (Fig. 6e). Mg# ~~values [(Mg# = (MgO+FeO)/MgO×100)]~~ values range from 21.50 to 60.20 (Fig. 6f). The SG samples show ~~a~~ total rare earth elements (Σ REE) ~~contents varying between~~ values ranging from 60.94 to 231.77 ppm, with coherent patterns characterized by a slight enrichments in light rare earth elements (LREEs) and depletion in heavy rare earth elements (HREEs) ~~depletion~~ (Fig. 7a), with (La/Yb)_N ratios ranging from 1.83 to 6.42 (N ~~subscript~~ denotes normalization to Chondrite). Almost all samples have show slight/negligible negative Eu anomalies (Eu/Eu* = 0.89–0.99) to positive one for gabbro Zg-105 (Eu/Eu* = 1.28; Fig. 7a); ~~[(Eu/Eu* = 2Eu_N / (Sm_N + Gd_N), where subscript N denotes normalization against to chondrite Sm and Gd contents)]~~. ~~For On~~ the N-MORB-normalized multi-elements diagram (Fig. 7b), the SG rocks exhibit ~~anshow~~ enrichment ~~of in~~ large ion lithophile elements (LILEs; ~~like e.g.,~~ Cs, Rb, Ba, K) relative to ~~over~~ high field strength elements (HFSEs), with negative Nb-Ta anomalies ~~in Nb, Ta,~~ and a prominent positive Pb anomaly.

4.3.3 The OG magmatic rocks

The studied samples of the OG are composed of both volcanic and plutonic rocks. The felsic volcanic and plutonic samples have high contents of SiO₂ (61.16—79.89 wt.%), Al₂O₃ (10.83—15.18 wt.%), and CaO (0.1—4.42 wt.%), and low MgO (0.06—2.83 wt.%), Ni (20—60 ppm), and Co ~~content~~ (1—19 ppm), except for one granite (Zg-119), ~~that which~~ has a relatively high Co content of 109 ppm (Supplementary Table 3). ~~Moreover, T~~they also have ~~a~~ Na₂O+K₂O (wt.%) values of = 6.31 ~~to~~ 8.97, with a K₂O/Na₂O ratio of 0.14 ~~to~~ 20.75. The plutonic rocks occupy the granite field, with three distinctive granodiorites ~~samples~~ (Fig. 6b). ~~Furthermore, rock types for felsic volcanics~~ Felsic volcanic rocks are as follows: ignimbrites (e.g., Zg-97, Zg-98) ~~are represented~~ classify as rhyodacite and dacite, while rhyolites and rhyolitic-ignimbrites plot inside within the rhyolite field (Fig. 6c). ~~Furthermore,~~ The whole set consists of peraluminous rocks, except for the granodiorite samples (Zg-07, Zg-08, and Zg-09), ~~which that~~ exhibit a metaluminous character (Fig. 6d). They ~~showcase~~ display a high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic signature (Fig. 6e).

Mafic volcanics (dolerite) have moderate SiO₂ ~~contents of~~ (50.58—51.56 wt.%), Al₂O₃ (13.9—14.69 wt.%), ~~moderate~~ CaO (5.61—7.67 wt.%), and ~~moderate~~ MgO (4.56—5.3 wt.%) contents. K₂O/Na₂O ratios range from ~~values are~~ 0.26 to 0.73, with ~~along with~~ Na₂O+K₂O sums of = 3.58 ~~to~~ 5.64 (~~S~~upplementary Table 3). They are sub-alkaline basalts (Fig. 6c), with a metaluminous character (Fig. 6d), and a calc-alkaline signature (Fig. 6e). Mg# values range from 37.19 to 40.16 (Fig. 6f).

The OG samples show a total rare earth elements (ΣREE) contents ranging from varying between 93.52 to 646.17 ppm. In the
 295 REE diagram (Fig. 7c), all felsic volcanic and plutonic samples show homogeneous patterns, with enriched-LREEs enrichment
 relative to over-HREEs. $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ ratios varies-~~vary~~ between 2.91 and 17.93, except for one rhyolitic sample Zg-106, with a
 $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ of 0.89. All samples have highshow pronounced negative Eu negative-anomaly ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.34\text{--}0.61$), except for
 300 sample the same-Zg-106-sample, which that exhibits a prominent Eu anomaly with- $(\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.04)$. In the multi-element
 spider diagram, all samples display enrichments in LILEs (Cs, Rb, Ba, Th, and U) and depletion in HFSEs (Zr, Nb, Hf and
 Ta), relative to Primitive Mantle (Fig. 7d). Plus, sSamples also show a-prominent negative anomalies in Nb, Ta, P and Ti,
 along a-with positive anomalies in Pb, Ba and Th, except for sample Zg-106, which that-lacks a negative Nb anomaly (Fig.
 7d). For the OG dolerites, the-chondrite normalized REE normalized-to-chondritepatterns (Fig. 7c) show moderate LREEs
 enrichments over HREEs, with less fractionated patterns ($(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N = 5.94\text{--}6.22$) and a very low/absent Eu anomaly
 ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.88\text{--}0.98$). However, they are distinguished by their-a homogenous pattern with a-prominent Pb enrichment
 305 and, with-a less significant Sr anomaly (Fig. 7d).

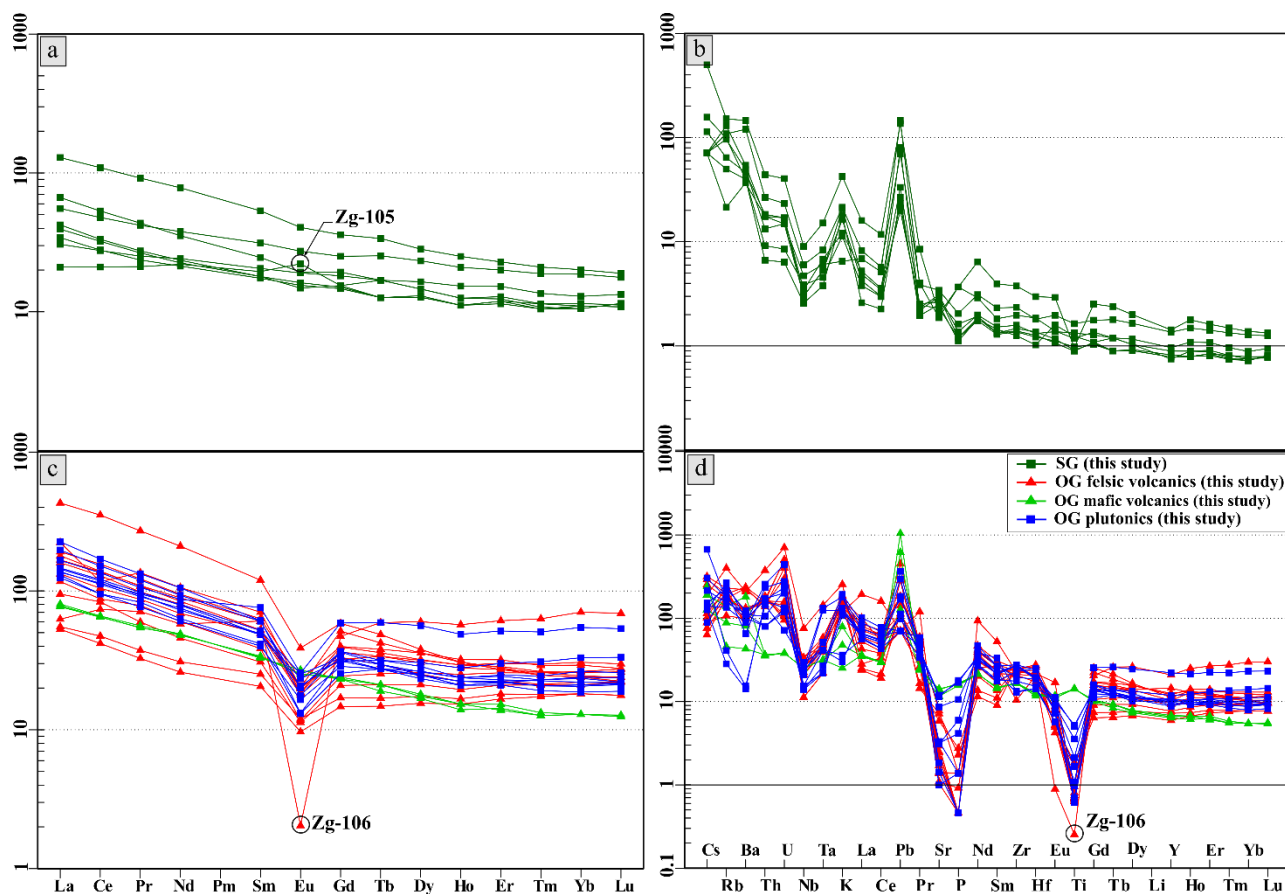


Figure 7. (a) Chondrite-normalized REE diagram of Boynton, (1984) for SG; (b) NMORB normalized diagram of Sun and McDonough (1989) for SG; (c) Chondrite-normalized REE diagram of Boynton, (1984) for OG; (d) Primitive-mantle normalized diagram of Sun and McDonough (1989) for OG.

4.4 Whole-rock Sm-Nd isotope compositions

Sm-Nd isotopic studies of data from seven representative samples covering spanning the Ediacaran record of the Sirwa massif reveal petrogenetic processes and orogenic evolution between the 630 to 539 Ma evolution of the Anti-Atlas belt 630–539 Ma following post-Bou Azzer-Sirwa ophiolite accretion. Results are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Whole rock Nd isotopic compositions for the analyzed SG and OG rocks. TDM Goldstein is the Depleted Mantle Age in Ga calculated using the linear model of Goldstein et al. (1984); and is not calculated for samples with $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios greater than 0.145 (Zg-106). Abbreviations: ± 2 SE: Standard Errors (Uncertainty in Nd isotopic composition); N/A : Not Available.

Sample	Lithology	Age (Ma)	Sm (ppm)	Nd (ppm)	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ measured	± 2 SE	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}_{(t)}$	$\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(t)}$	TDM (Goldstein) Ga	TDM (2stage) Ga
SG rocks											
Zg-105	Gabbro	620	3.73	13.27	0.1704	0.512762	0.000011	0.512071	+4.6	1.36	0.91
Zg-108	Andesite	620	9.94	40.03	0.1351	0.512550	0.000007	0.512002	+3.2	1.16	1.02
OG rocks											
Zg-09	Granodiorite	570	10.23	50.70	0.1220	0.512414	0.000005	0.511959	+1.1	1.22	1.15
Zg-119	Granite	570	9.10	42.92	0.1283	0.512381	0.000009	0.511903	+0.0	1.37	1.24
Zg-14	Dolerite	570	6.51	28.99	0.1359	0.512390	0.000010	0.511884	-0.3	1.50	1.26
Zg-106	Rhyolite	570	11.50	32.75	0.2124	0.512693	0.000007	0.511902	+0.0	N/A	1.25
Zg-117	Rhyolite	570	10.69	50.59	0.1278	0.512332	0.000011	0.511856	-0.8	1.45	1.30

$$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_t = (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_0 + (^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_t \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)$$

$$\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(t)} = [(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{sample}} / (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}} - 1] \times 10000$$

$$T_{\text{DM2}} = 1/\lambda \times \ln \{ 1 + [(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} - (^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{sample}} + ((^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{sample}} - (^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CC}}) \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)] / ((^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} - (^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CC}}) \}$$

$$\lambda^{147}\text{Sm} = 0.654 \times 10^{-11} \text{ a}^{-1}; \text{ the decay constant of } ^{147}\text{Sm}.$$

$$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} = 0.51315; \text{ present-day ratio of the Depleted Mantle (DM).}$$

$$(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{DM}} = 0.2137; \text{ present-day parent/daughter ratio of the DM.}$$

$$(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CC}} = 0.12; \text{ average parent/daughter ratio assigned to the Continental Crust (CC).}$$

Error of initial ratio is calculated from the measurement of error of the isotope ratio, the estimated concentration error and the age error.

The decay constant is considered to be a fixed value.

$$\sigma_{\text{Nd}(t)} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{Nd}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{Sm}}^2 (e^{\lambda t} - 1)^2 + \sigma_t^2 \left(\lambda e^{\lambda t} \left(\frac{^{147}\text{Sm}}{^{144}\text{Nd}} \right) \right)^2}$$

$\sigma_{\text{Nd}(t)}$ is mean-square deviation of $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_t$

σ_{Sm} is mean-square deviation of $(^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{sample}}$

σ_t is mean-square deviation of age

Based on field relationships, an angular unconformity (Errami et al., 2009; Thomas et al., 2002); marks a significant sedimentary/magmatic gap exist between the 630–600 Ma SG and the overlaying 570–539 Ma OG (Errami et al., 2021a). We have used the 620 Ma as a reference age for ϵNd analyses of SG samples (Zg-105, and Zg-108). They show narrow $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})$ 620 Ma ratios, (~ 0.512), and positive ϵNd_{620} values of +3.2 and +4.6. Additionally, the TDM model ages (Fig. 8a), of 1.02 and 0.91 Ga, exceed the individual maximum depositional ages of 630–600 Ma, and the crystallization ages of older

to contemporaneous igneous intrusions found elsewhere in the Anti-Atlas belt, ~~which that~~ fall within ~~the bracket of~~ 640–580 Ma, (Errami et al., 2021a; O'Connor et al., 2010; Liégeois et al., 2006; Gasquet et al., 2005; Mrini, 1993).

The OG rocks, calculated at 570 Ma, exhibit a mostly uniform distribution, with ($^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$) values from 0.5118 to 0.5119. These ratios are close to, or slightly lower than, the Chondritic Uniform Reservoir (CHUR) values. ($\epsilon\text{Nd}_{570} = -0.8$ to $+1.1$). Volcanic rocks show negative ~~to near-zero~~ ϵNd_{570} values: -0.8 (Tadmant rhyolite), $+0.0$ (OG rhyolite), and -0.3 (dolerite). Granitoids have ϵNd_{570} values of $+0.0$ and $+1.1$ for Zg-119 and Zg-09, respectively. ~~In addition, the~~ TDM model ages for all ~~of these~~ samples range from 1.30 to 1.15 Ga (Fig. 8a). Overall, the distinct ϵNd_t isotopic signatures for both groups ~~are~~ further supported by the negative correlation ~~of between~~ ϵNd_t values ~~with and~~ SiO_2 (Fig. 8b).

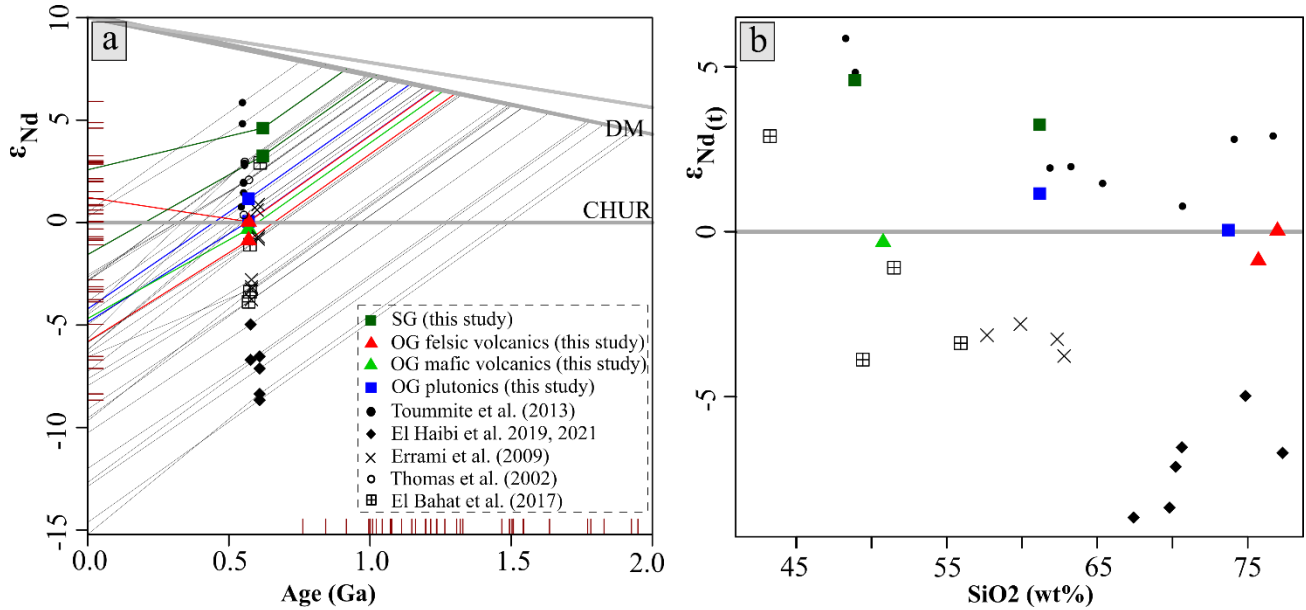


Figure 8. (a) two-stage ϵNd isotope growth diagram for SG and OG rocks versus Age (Ga). DM, Depleted Mantle evolution lines after Goldstein et al. (1984) and Liew and Hofmann (1988); CHUR, Chondritic Uniform Reservoir. The tick marks on the axes denote two-stage Nd model ages along the x-axis and initial ϵNd values along the y-axis; (b) Initial ϵNd versus SiO_2 (wt.%) for SG and OG rocks. All samples are compared with selected and available reference rocks from the literature. Calculations and diagrams are produced using GCDkit (Janoušek et al., 2006).

Further, to quantify the mixing proportions for the Saghro and Ouarzazate groups, this study employs a binary mixing model based on the equations of Faure (1986), ~~utilizing following~~ the computational approach detailed by Janoušek et al. (2016). In this model, the isotopic ratio of a mixture (I_M) is defined as the mean of the isotopic ratios of two end-members (I_1 and I_2), weighted by their respective mass fractions and elemental concentrations. f_1 represents the mass fraction of end-member 1 (where $f_1 + f_2 = 1$), while C_1 , C_2 , and C_M represent the elemental concentrations of the end-members and the resulting mixture, respectively. The mantle end-member 1 is defined by a metasomatized lithospheric source, with values of $I_1 = 0.512265$, $C_1 = 13.27$ ppm, and $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{620} = +8$ from Errami et al. (2009), reflecting ~~mantle an-enrichmented mantle~~ by prior subduction

processes. For ~~the~~ crustal end-member 2, we ~~utilized-used~~ parameters from Ennih and Liégeois, (2008) ($I_2 = 0.511472$; $C_2 = 47$ ppm; $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{620} = -16$), representing the Paleoproterozoic basement of the WAC.

360 The mixing equations are defined as :

$$I_M = I_1 \left(\frac{C_1}{C_M} \right) f_1 + I_2 \left(\frac{C_2}{C_M} \right) (1 - f_1)$$

Where:

(1)

$$C_M = f_1 C_1 + (1 - f_1) C_2$$

365

(2)

$$f_1 = \frac{C_2(I_M - I_2)}{C_1(I_1 - I_M) + C_2(I_M - I_2)}$$

Applying this mixing model reveals that SG rocks are characterized by a dominantly mantle origin; the andesite (Zg-108) and gabbro (Zg-105) yield high mantle-derived mass fractions (f_1) of 88 % and 92 %, respectively, with minor crustal inputs ($f_2 \approx 8$ % ~~to~~ 12 %). Conversely, the OG magmas have mantle mass fractions (f_1) ranging from 75 % to 85 %. Moreover, the calculated crustal contribution (f_2) increases from 15 % in granodiorite (Zg-09) to 25 % in ~~the~~ rhyolite (Zg-117).

5 Discussion

5.1 Petrogenesis

The SG and OG rocks exhibit chemical evolution ~~that can be explained by~~ consistent with fractional crystallization. ~~The~~
375 ~~G~~ general trends for major elements (e.g., Al_2O_3 , CaO, and TiO_2) show positive correlations ~~versus-with~~ Mg# (Fig. 9a,b, and c). ~~For instance,~~ Al_2O_3 contents decrease with decreasing Mg# suggesting ~~the crystallization of~~ plagioclase crystallization (Fig. 9a). CaO contents ~~exhibit a drop~~ sharply ~~drop~~ as Mg# decreases (below ~40), indicating clinopyroxene or calcic plagioclase fractionation (Fig. 9b). TiO_2 also decreases with decreasing Mg#, pointing to ~~the~~ early crystallization of Fe-Ti oxides (e.g., ilmenite or titanomagnetite) (Fig. 9c).

380 On the A/CNK versus Mg# plot (Fig. 9d), the SG rocks are metaluminous ($A/CNK < 1.0$), while the OG felsic and plutonic rocks are peraluminous ($A/CNK > 1.0$). This shift to peraluminous composition s suggests ~~that the felsic rocks involved the~~ melting of aluminum-rich material or ~~the~~ fractionation of aluminum-poor minerals (e.g., hornblende, pyroxene) in the felsic rocks. In Figure. 9e, the SG rocks retain the highest Sr concentrations (~200–350 ppm), indicating a more aluminum-enriched source or less plagioclase removal. ~~Furthermore,~~ This is supported by the absence of a negative Eu anomaly ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.89$ –
385 1.28), ~~to reaching a~~ positive ~~one value~~ for gabbro Zg-105 ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 1.28$), indicating limited plagioclase fractionation (Fig. 7a). ~~On the contrary~~ In contrast, the OG rocks show ~~ease a~~ a marked dramatic drop in Sr decline from ~~the OG mafic volcanics,~~ passing through ~~the OG plutonics to the OG felsic volcanics, indicating. This steep decline proves that~~ plagioclase

crystallization was the dominant driver ~~for of~~ OG differentiation (Fig. 9e). This is corroborated by the prominent negative Eu anomaly in rhyolite Zg-106, while the absence of an Eu anomaly in dolerites suggests limited plagioclase involvement (Fig. 7c).

On the Th (ppm) versus Mg# plot (Fig. 9f), both the SG rocks and OG mafic volcanics show ~~ease~~ low Th concentrations (<5 ppm), typical of mantle-derived melts. ~~However, F~~for the SG, ~~however, the~~ Mg# values of 21.50 to 60.20, reflect early fractionation of ferromagnesian minerals, ~~and suggest that~~ indicating the rocks are not derived from a primitive melt. For the OG, Th levels ~~reach spike to~~ up to 32 ppm ~~in for the OG~~ felsic volcanics and plutonics, suggesting ~~possible influence by~~ crustal melting or assimilation during magma ascent (Fig. 9f). The ~~lack absence~~ of a negative Eu anomaly in the SG rocks (Fig. 7a), despite the evolved nature of the magmas, ~~is likely due to there~~ reflects mixing ~~of between~~ evolved basaltic magmas, ~~and with~~ more primitive magmas that lacked plagioclase fractionation. The OG felsic volcanics and plutonics show Sr and P depletion, consistent with ~~that can be explained by~~ plagioclase and apatite fractionation (Fig. 7d).

Eu/Eu* values versus Sr contents (ppm) evince show a clear positive correlation (Fig. 9g). ~~The m~~ Mafic rocks of the Sagharo and the Ouarzazate groups have high Sr and Eu/Eu* values near 1.0, suggesting plagioclase accumulation consistent with ~~in relation to~~ their more primitive nature. ~~On the contrary~~ In contrast, the OG felsic volcanics and plutonics ~~have show~~ significantly lower Sr and Eu/Eu* values, ~~providing evidence that fractionation of~~ indicating substantial plagioclase fractionation from the melt ~~was significant~~ (Fig. 9g). Whole rock Zr/Sm versus Zr and Rb/Nb versus Rb correlations are as expected for a fractional crystallization process (Fig. 9h-i). ~~The A~~ localized spike in Zr/Sm at high Zr contents (~350 ppm) indicates late-stage mineralogical control, involving zircon or amphibole fractionation in the more evolved ~~OG~~ magmas of the OG, distinct ~~to from~~ the relatively stable ratios ~~for of~~ most samples (Fig. 9h). This implies that the magmatic evolution of the SG and the OG rocks ~~was characterized by~~ involved both fractional crystallization and progressive crustal contamination or a subduction-modified source (Fig. 9i).

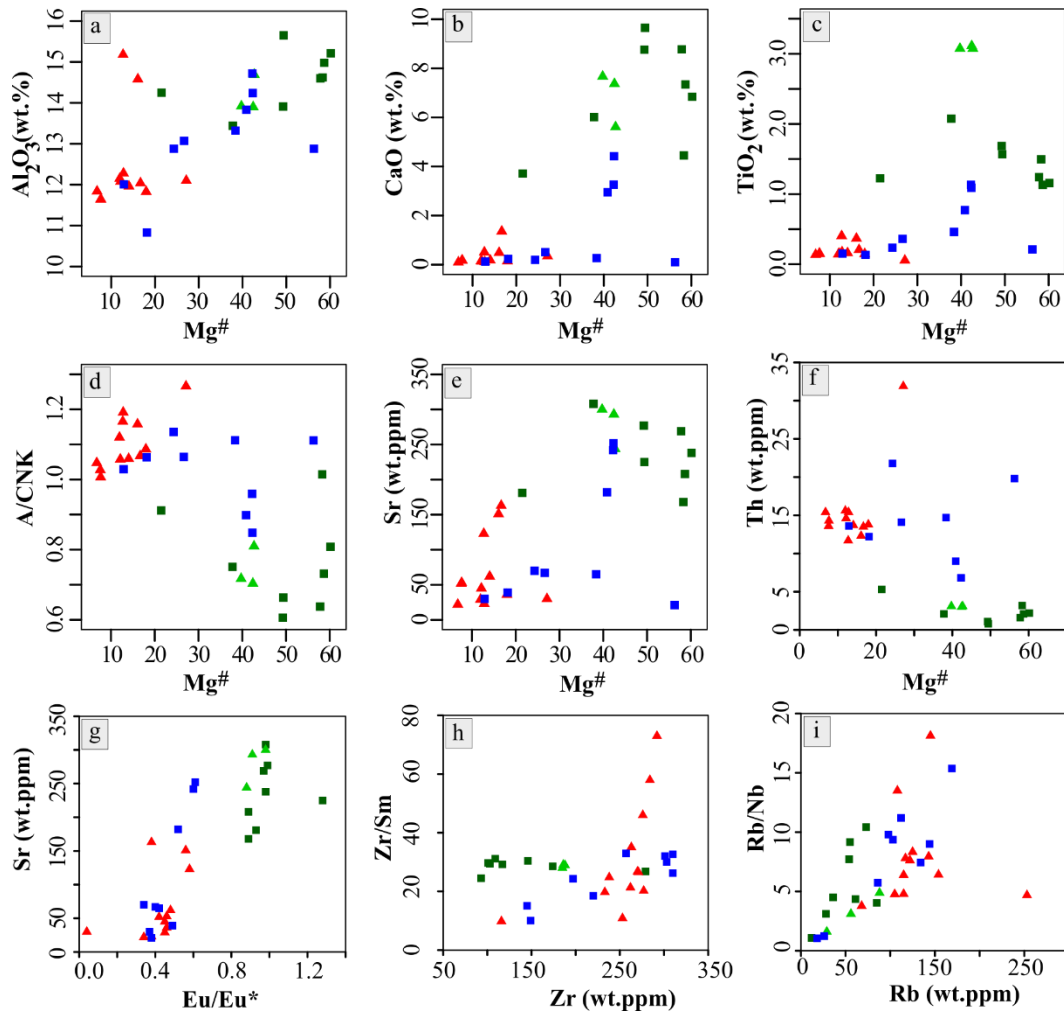


Figure 9. (a) Al_2O_3 (wt.%) versus Mg#; (b) CaO (wt.%) versus Mg#; (c) TiO_2 (wt.%) versus Mg#; (d) A/CNK (A/CNK = molar ratio $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 / (\text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$) versus Mg#; (e) Sr (ppm) versus Mg#; (f) Th (ppm) versus Mg#; (g) Zr / Sm value versus Zr content (ppm); (h) Rb / Nb value versus Rb content (ppm); (i) Eu / Eu^* value versus Sr (ppm). Symbols as those in Figure 6.

The ϵNd_i versus $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ plot ~~evinces a clearly distinction distinguishing between the SG and from the OG rocks~~ (Fig. 10a). The SG rocks ~~exhibit show~~ strongly positive ϵNd_i values ~~of~~ (+3.2 and +4.6), indicating a juvenile, depleted mantle origin with minimal crustal interaction. In contrast, the OG rocks, ~~by contrast~~, cluster near or below the CHUR line (ϵNd_i ~~values of~~ -0.8 to +1.1), ~~signaling reflecting~~ a hybrid source ~~involving the with~~ significant reworking of older, ~~evolved~~ continental crust. ~~Notably, while s~~ Sample Zg-106 shares this near-zero isotopic signature, ~~but~~ its unusually high $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratio ~~of~~ (~0.21) ~~confirms it underwent points to~~ a distinct petrogenetic process, likely ~~a~~ low degree of partial melting that fractionated REE without significantly altering the initial Nd isotopic composition of its source (Fig. 10a).

The ~~geochemical fingerprints for the SG and OG also show~~ are distinct geochemical fingerprints. For samples with Nb < 25 ppm (Fig. 10b), ~~a significant vertical spread in Nb/Ta ratios show a wide spread (~3–15) is observed; specifically, the OG~~

plutonics ~~exhibit a sharp decline sharply in Nb/Ta~~ (~3), indicating advanced fractional crystallization of ferromagnesian and accessory minerals, ~~while. Conversely, the~~ SG mafic rocks maintain higher, stable ratios (~10–15), ~~consistent with identifying them as~~ more primitive melts. ~~Although While~~ Nb and Ta typically behave as geochemical twins, they can fractionate during subduction (Hofmann et al., 1986). The OG rocks cluster below a Nb/Ta ratio of 14, well ~~under below~~ the mantle value of 17.5 (Sun and McDonough, 1989) ~~and close to the, matching the~~ bulk continental crust value of ~11 (Green, 1995), ~~and~~ confirming a dominant crustal signature. This is further corroborated by an enrichment in LILEs ~~(like Rb, Ba, and Th)~~, coupled with prominent negative Nb-Ta and Ti anomalies (Fig. 7d), ~~signature consistent with of~~ subduction-related magmatism or ~~the~~ recycling of metasomatized lithosphere (Ikenne et al., 2007). Finally, the OG rhyolite (Zg-106) displays a horizontal shift toward higher Nb ~~contents~~ at a fixed Nb/Ta ratio (~9) (Fig. 10b), suggesting magma enrichment via a low degree ~~of~~ partial melting from a source already characterized by a low Nb/Ta ratio and a pre-existing subduction-modified signature.

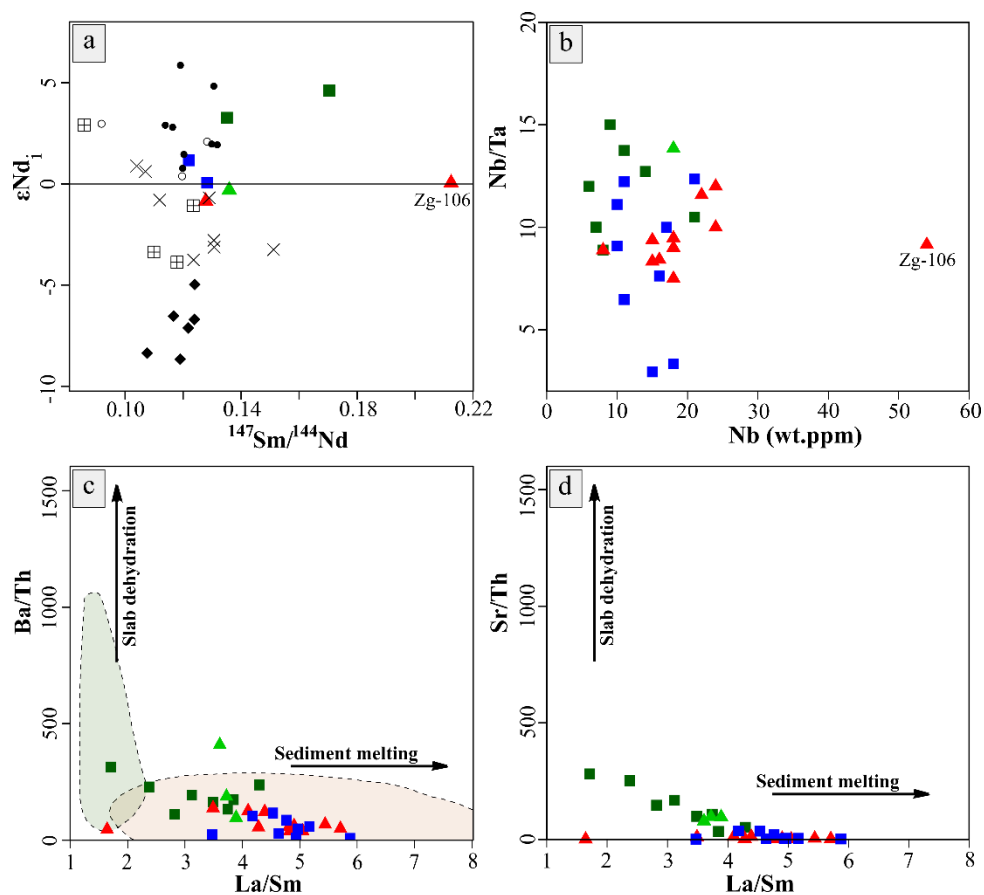


Figure 10. Plots (a) Initial ϵNd versus $^{147}Sm/^{144}Nd$; (b) Nb/Ta versus Nb contents (ppm); (c) Ba/Th versus La/Sm and (d) Sr/Th versus La/Sm (domains are modified from Labanieh et al. (2012). Legend is the same as in Figure 8.

The SG and OG rocks show enrichment in LILEs and LREEs relative to HFSEs and HREEs. They also exhibit pronounced negative anomalies in Nb, Ta, and Ti (Fig. 7), suggesting ~~a~~ subduction zone fluids influence (Wilson, 1989). ~~Admittedly, F~~for

440 the OG rocks, this inherited geochemical signature is attributed to oceanic arc rocks previously subducted into the mantle (Toummite et al., 2013; Gasquet et al., 2008; Ikenne et al., 2007; Thomas et al., 2002).

Trace elements can clarify subduction input versus crustal contamination. ~~As shown in~~ the Ba/Th versus La/Sm diagram (Fig. 10c), most samples display low Ba/Th, ~~and~~ high, ~~and~~ variable La/Sm ratios, favoring ~~the a~~ dominant role ~~of the for~~ sediment melting process. ~~Similarly, the role of the~~ A similar sediment melt signature is also observed for all samples in the 445 Sr/Th versus La/Sm diagram (Fig. 10d). For the SG rocks, ~~their~~ relatively high Sr/Th ratios are attributed to plagioclase accumulation. ~~Furthermore, h~~ High La/Sm ratios ~~further~~ indicate a sediment-dominated influence, suggesting that ~~the~~ slab pressure-temperature conditions were sufficient to trigger sediment melting (Labanieh et al., 2012). ~~This~~ melting process acted as the primary mechanism ~~for~~ transferring the slab signature into the analyzed samples.

5.2 Initial Sm-Nd isotopes composition and magma source characteristics

450 The whole-rock Sm-Nd isotope compositions of the Saghro and Ouarzazate groups suggest a heterogeneous magma source, ~~exhibiting reflected in the~~ negative correlation ~~of between~~ $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(t)}$ values ~~versus and~~ SiO_2 (Fig. 8b). ~~For instance, the~~ The SG maintains high $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(620)}$ values (+3.2 and +4.6) even as silica increase, reinforcing ~~their a~~ juvenile mantle source with minimal crustal input,. ~~Eventually, the obtained~~ The corresponding TDM model ages of 1.02 and 0.91 Ga ~~confirm further support a~~ depleted mantle source. Within the OG, the decreasing trend ~~of in~~ $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{570} = +1.1$ to -0.8 with increasing SiO_2 is a classic 455 signature of Assimilation-Fractional Crystallization (AFC), where ~~by~~ the cooling magma ~~is simultaneously evolving evolves~~ toward a felsic composition ~~and while~~ incorporating more evolved, negative ϵNd continental crust. Notably, ~~the calculated~~ TDM model ages clustering around 1.30 to 1.15 Ga indicate ~~s~~ that the OG magmas were not purely mantle-derived, but involved ~~the~~ significant recycling of much older ~~underlying~~ basement (Mesoproterozoic and/or Paleoproterozoic).

~~Indeed, quantitative~~ The binary mixing model validates these isotopic trends. ~~The~~ The SG rocks show ~~ease~~ a near-pristine mantle 460 signature ($f_1 = 88\text{--}92\%$). However, the increase ~~in the~~ crustal contribution (f_2) of the OG rocks, ~~from 15 % in granodiorite (Zg-09) to 25 % in the rhyolite (Zg-117),~~ confirms a coupling ~~of between~~ increasingly felsic compositions ~~with and~~ higher crustal input. ~~This~~ 25 % contribution from an ancient Paleoproterozoic source ~~with~~ ($\epsilon\text{Nd}_{620} = -16$) ~~constitutes represents~~ a major contamination event, exerting a significant isotopic pull by shifting the ϵNd values of the samples to near zero. Normally, without ~~the~~ recycling of this ancient basement, a purely mantle-derived magma at 570 Ma would ~~be expected to show exhibit~~ 465 strongly positive values ~~up to of~~ +7 to +8. This hybridization is further supported by the TDM model ages of 1.30 to 1.15 Ga, proving the significant involvement of the underlying Eburnean WAC basement.

5.3 Tectonic implications

Previously, the SG basin was interpreted as consisting of distal, deep marine sediments equivalent to the platform series of ~~the~~ Tachdamt Group, formed during ~~the~~ initial rifting associated with the Rodinia breakup (Thomas et al., 2002). However, recent 470 zircon data from ~~the~~ SG sediments in the Sirwa and Saghro inliers suggest ~~its~~ deposition occurred ~~post following the~~ Bou

Azzer–Sirwa ophiolite accretion, during the main Pan-African Orogeny (Abati et al., 2010; Errami et al., 2009; Liégeois et al., 2006). Furthermore, the tectonic setting of Ediacaran OG magmatism ~~of the OG is still~~ also remains debated, having been interpreted as: (i) being fully post-collisional, and linked to asthenospheric rise (upwelling) beneath the WAC during its metacratonic evolution (Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005; Liégeois et al., 2006; Thomas et al., 2002); (ii), or related to subduction related (Walsh et al., 2012; Benziane, 2007; El Baghdadi et al., 2003); or (iii) linked to even representing the Iapetus Ocean opening, with ties to the Ediacaran Central Iapetus Magmatic Province (CIMP; Youbi et al., 2020). Based on age and chemical similarities, ~~in ages and chemical characteristics~~, this magmatism is also associated with the Avalonian-Cadomian marginal belt along the nNorthwestern edge of Gondwana, and constituting a major magmatic flare-up spanning roughly 590–540 Ma (Letsch et al., 2018; Tahiri et al., 2010; Linnemann et al., 2008).

For our samples, ~~the~~ multi-elemental discrimination plots (Fig. 11a–f) provide a framework for deciphering the petrogenesis and tectonic transition of ~~the~~ Ediacaran magmatic sequences in the Anti-Atlas. ~~First~~ for a start, the SG basalts feature high Zr and relatively low Y concentrations, classifying them as within-plate basalts (WPB) (Fig. 11a); and indicating an extensional ~~to~~ transtensional geodynamic setting. On the Th/Nb versus Ti/V diagram of Shervais (2022), these samples plot ~~in~~ within the Continental Flood Basalts (CFB) field (Fig. 11b). ~~Admittedly, and p~~laced in the regional context of the Anti-Atlas; the geodynamic setting of the SG has been interpreted as an intracontinental rift evolving into either a mature back-arc basin (Errami et al., 2009; Fekkak et al., 2001) or a continental passive margin (Fekkak et al., 2002). This evolution is characterized by a transition from early, sediment-influenced tholeiites to more evolved magmatic suites, rather than a massive subaerial flood province. The calc-alkaline character for the SG mafic rocks (Fig. 6e) reflects Th an enrichment ~~in Th~~, typical of subduction-influenced or crustally contaminated suites ~~(Fig. 6e)~~. This ~~apparent~~ transitional character, exhibiting ~~a~~ calc-alkaline affinity (Fig. 6e), ~~yet but a~~ within-plate (Fig. 11a); and continental tholeiites (Fig. 11e) character is interpreted as represents an early Ediacaran extensional phase, where advanced lithospheric thinning allowed asthenospheric decompression, triggering large-scale melting of the Sub-Continental Lithospheric Mantle (SCLM). In contrast, the younger OG volcanic and plutonic rocks plot at higher Th/Nb ratios (>0.5), within along the Upper Continental Crust (UCC) and Andean Arc fields, with extreme Th enrichment pointing to a regional thermal regime shift (Fig. 11b). ~~Th~~ OG magmatism marks a massive crustal melting event, ~~which we~~ interpreted as a response to post-collisional lithospheric delamination and possible slab break-off. This process generated highly differentiated ~~and evolved~~ magmatic suites with wide variations in Ti/V ratios (Fig. 11b).

Furthermore, there is a clear lithospheric transition distinction between the SG and the OG rocks based on ~~their~~ trace element enrichments. ~~For instance, I~~ the SG mafic rocks follow the MORB-OIB array (Fig. 11c), indicating a magma source ~~derived directly from an enriched mantle source~~ akin to ~~the source of~~ enriched mid-ocean ridge basalt (E-MORB). This ~~infers implies~~ that ~~the~~ primary magmas were derived via partial melting of an enriched lithospheric mantle ~~that carry~~ing a fossil subduction signature from earlier Cryogenian cycles. Conversely, the younger OG volcanic and plutonic rocks evidence show considerable crustal contamination. ~~The~~ is shift toward higher Th/Yb ratios reflects ~~an~~ input of continental crust, or the widespread tapping of a SCLM domain deeply metasomatized by subduction-related sediments (Fig. 11c). ~~Moreover, for The~~ SG rocks' their lower Th/Nb ratios further suggest a more primitive, mantle-dominated source modified by an ancient subduction-

505 preconditioned lithospheric root rather than an active deep-mantle plume head, ~~as they cluster~~ing within the vertical Subduction Zone-Modified Lithospheric Mantle (SZLM) array, near the LCC (Lower Continental Crust) (Fig. 11d).

~~In addition,~~ The OG rocks, in contrast, plot within the upper limits of the SZLM array, clustering ~~within~~inside the IAB and CAB fields. This geochemical footprint ~~might may signifies signify~~ slab break-off, where ~~by the~~ crustal recycling or ~~the~~ melting of the thickened lithospheric root was driven directly by the ~~severe~~ thermal anomaly of the upwelling asthenospheric mantle

510 (Fig. 11d).

Ultimately, a coherent geodynamic transition emerges between both Saghro and Ouarzazate groups. On Figure. 11e, the SG mafic rocks cluster within the Continental Tholeiites (CT) field, adjacent to the Back-Arc Basin (BAB) domain. This position, combined with their calc-alkaline signature (~~Fig. 6e~~), and a within-plate character noted above, (~~Fig. 11a~~) ~~confirms that these rocks were supports~~ formationed in an extensional continental setting. The proximity to the BAB field suggests that, while the

515 crust was thinning, the magmatism ~~still~~ retained a slight transitional character, typical of a maturing continental rift or a back-arc basin ~~environment~~, with a distinct geochemical overprint from a pre-modified lithospheric root. ~~Finally,~~ The OG felsic and plutonic samples, meanwhile, plot decisively within the A2-type granite field, supporting ~~their a~~ post-collisional ~~nature~~ origin (Fig. 11f). ~~Eby (1992) suggests that~~ A2-type granites are considered to originate from ~~the~~ partial melting of continental or underplated mafic crust, typically ~~within in~~ extensional ~~environments~~settings (Eby, 1992). In this context, crustal recycling

520 was likely driven by the mechanical and thermal effects of lithospheric delamination and potential slab failure (Blein et al., 2023; Ougadire et al., 2023). This triggered ~~the~~ rapid basin development and ~~the~~ accumulation of the thick volcano-sedimentary sequences characteristic the OG, across the already rigid, ~~and~~ fractured metacratonic margin of the WAC, providing preferential pathways for the rapid upward migration of deep-sourced magmas (Walsh et al., 2012, and references therein; Ennih and Liégeois, 2001, 2008; Gasquet et al., 2008).

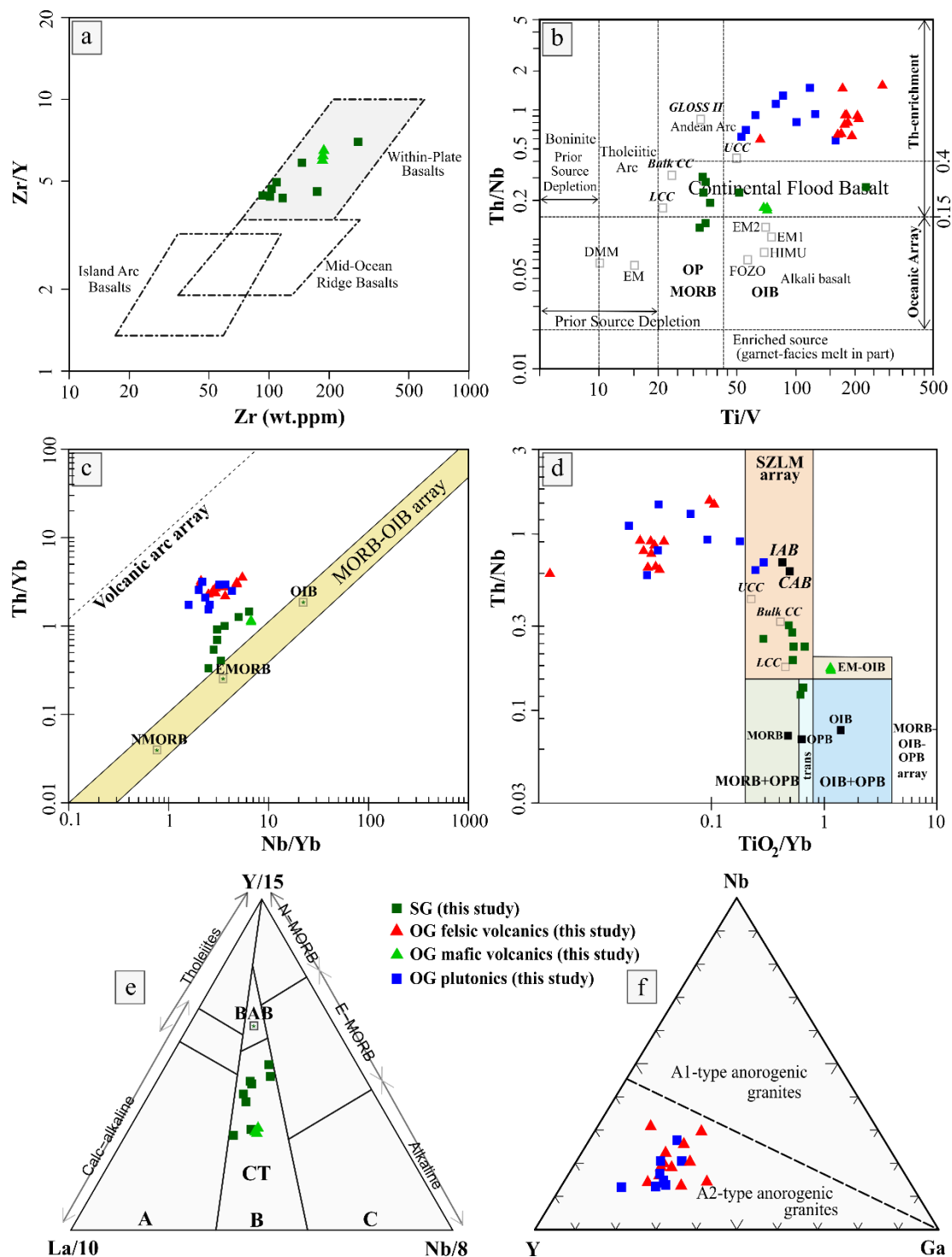


Figure 11. (a) Zr/Y vs Zr (ppm) plot for SG rocks and OG mafic volcanics (Pearce and Norry, 1979); (b) Th/Nb versus Ti/V diagram of Shervais (2022); (c) Th/Yb versus Nb/Yb diagram of Pearce (2008); (d) Th/Nb versus TiO₂/Yb plot of Pearce et al. (2021); (e)

La/10 – Y/15 – Nb/8 ternary diagram for the tectonic discrimination of basaltic rocks (Cabanis and Lecomte, 1989); (f) Nb – Y – Ga ternary diagram for the classification of A1 and A2-type anorogenic granites (Eby, 1992). Abbreviations: Bulk CC: Bulk Continental Crust; GLOSS: Global Subducting Sediment; LCC: Lower Continental Crust; UCC: Upper Continental Crust; EM1 / EM2: Enriched Mantle (Type 1 & 2); DMM: Depleted MORB Mantle; HIMU: High μ (high $^{238}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ratio) mantle reservoir; OIB: Ocean Island Basalt; SZLM: Subduction Zone-Modified Lithospheric Mantle; CAB: Calc-Alkaline Basalt; IAB: Island Arc Basalt; OPB: Oceanic Plateau Basalt; MORB: Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt; N-MORB: Normal Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt; E-MORB: Enriched Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt; EM: Enriched Mantle; OP MORB: BAB: Back-Arc Basin; CFB: Continental Flood Basalt; CT: Continental Tholeiites; A: Orogenic (compressive) domains (island arc, active margins); B: Late to post-orogenic (compressive to distensive) intra-continent domains; C: Anorogenic (distensive) domains.

5.4 Significance of LA-ICP-MS U-Pb data

5.4.1 The SG detrital age

The existence of a Paleoproterozoic basement in the Sirwa massif and the northern margin of the WAC is remains debated (Ennih and Liégeois, 2008). While traditionally thought to be confined to the Western Anti-Atlas (Choubert, 1963), recent studies suggest Paleoproterozoic rocks may also be present in the Central and Eastern Anti-Atlas and the Western Meseta (Liégeois et al., 2013; Abati et al., 2010; Gasquet et al., 2008; Pereira et al., 2015, and references therein; Blein et al., 2014). Historically, the WAC's northern boundary was defined by the deformed Tazagzaout migmatites and gneisses in the Bou-Azzer inlier (Leblanc and Lancelot, 1980). However, new U-Pb dating of the Tazagzaout gneisses (752 ± 2 Ma; D'Lemos et al., (2006) and the Oumlil granite (741 ± 9 Ma; El Hadi et al., (2010)), coupled with juvenile Nd signatures (D'Lemos et al., 2006), indicates a juvenile, depleted mantle source, not akin to the 2 Ga Eburnean WAC basement.

According to Thomas et al. (2002), the Imghi Formation represents the lower, thick bedded greywacke/turbiditic section of the SG, and seems to represent forming a typical flysch succession, which is interpreted as the primary sedimentary fill of a back-arc basin associated with the Khzama ophiolite Complex. For the Zg-132, the alternating patterns (Fig. 3e) suggest fluctuating depositional conditions, specifically changes in hydrodynamic energy and the amount of clay input, consistent with a low-energy, suspension-dominated sedimentation typical of distal turbidites or quiet shallow-marine environment. The calculated MDA at of 2025 Ma ($n=3$; MSWD = 1.4; Fig. 5A-1) is similar to the ages of syn-to-post-tectonic Eburnean granites in the Central and Western Anti-Atlas (Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005; Aït Malek et al., 1998). Moreover, the detrital zircon age distribution is further characterized by a prominent population peaking at ca. 2100 Ma (Fig. 5A-2), reflecting a dominant provenance from the Eburnean-aged WAC basement of the WAC (O'Connor et al., 2010; Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005; Thomas et al., 2002). This primary pulse, coupled with a single Paleo-Archean grain at 3700 Ma, indicates the recycling of ancient cratonic material (Fig. 5A-2). Interestingly, no ages younger than 1600 Ma were found in our sample; in particular, 883–640 Ma Pan-African zircons, which are common in outcrops of the Sirwa inlier and have been consistently reported in SG sediments elsewhere (Letsch et al., 2018; Abati et al., 2010), are absent. Such a narrow gap between the 2100 Ma peak and the 2025 MDA suggests that sedimentation occurred in a basin directly overlaid or adjacent to an uplifted, pristine block of Paleoproterozoic Eburnean basement, which that acted as the exclusive sediment source without interaction with Ediacaran sediments.

~~Indeed, the~~The returned age may reflect insufficient sampling of detrital zircons; ~~h~~However, the number of analyzed zircons (up to 138; ~~see S~~Supplementary Ttable 2) is considered adequate to address paleogeographic questions and sediment source ~~areas-provenance~~ (Vermeesch, 2004). Based on these findings, the WAC crust likely extends beneath the Sirwa massif and continues northward ~~far-well~~ beyond the Anti-Atlas belt. Notably, Paleoproterozoic rhyolites have also been reported in the Meseta Block, north of the Anti-Atlas, with a magmatic age of 2050.6 ± 3 Ma (Pereira et al., 2015). These findings do support the presence of ~~the~~WAC Paleoproterozoic crust northward beyond the AAMF.

5.4.2 Magmatic record on the OG

New U-Pb zircon dating ~~on~~ two magmatic samples (rhyolite Zg-106, and granite Zg-119; Fig. 4), representing the OG ~~from~~ in the Sirwa massif, returned ages of 575 ± 3 Ma and 564 ± 2 Ma, respectively. These ages are consistent with a lower OG affinity, ~~and~~-representing an expression of the Ediacaran magmatism previously described ~~in-across~~ numerous inliers of the Anti-Atlas belt (Yajoui et al., 2020; Walsh et al., 2012; Gasquet et al., 2005; Thomas et al., 2002).

~~Indeed, i~~In the ZGMR, similar volcanic activity of this type can be bracketed between 620 ~~Ma to and~~ 550 Ma (Pelleter et al., 2016; Thomas et al., 2002; this study). Pelleter et al. (2016) reported a mean age of 578 ± 4 Ma ~~from the Zgounder Mine~~ for ~~the~~ rhyolitic dikes and plugs at the Zgounder Mine, using the $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages. ~~Moreover, i~~In the Sirwa massif, similar U-Pb ages of 579 ± 7 Ma, 571 ± 8 Ma, 577 ± 6 Ma, 579 ± 7 , and 575 ± 8 Ma were obtained for the Tourcht diorite, the Tikhfist rhyolite (Tiouin Subgroup, Fig. 1C), the Aguin member (Tafrant Subgroup), the Tilsakht granite, and the Askaoun granodiorite, respectively (Thomas et al., 2002). Given that our rhyolite's age of the 575 ± 3 Ma ~~age of our rhyolite~~ is identical within error to ~~these~~ ages, ~~of these rocks~~, a rapid sequence of intrusive events had to occur within a few million years.

For the granite sample (Zg-119), ~~the~~ obtained age of 564 ± 2 Ma is also identical within error to the ages of the neighbouring Imourkhsen granite, dated respectively at 561 ± 3 Ma, 562 ± 5 Ma, and 558 ± 1 Ma by Toummite et al. (2013), Thomas et al. (2002), and Ferraq et al. (2024) (Fig. 1C). The Imourkhsen granite intrudes the lower, ~~and~~ older part of the OG in the Sirwa massif (Thomas et al., 2002). Additionally, ~~in the Sirwa massif~~, numerous syn- to late-OG granites in the Sirwa massif have similarly yielded-provided ages of c. 560 Ma, making them the youngest components of the OG Quarzazate Group's youngest components (Thomas et al., 2002). According to Thomas et al. (2002), these granites belong to the Achkoukchi Complex (Fig. 1C), and are grouped into the Amassine Suite (e.g., Bou-Tazart, Aït Nabdas, and Tikitar granites, and the Tazoult Quartz-porphyry at 559 ± 6 Ma). The inherited age of 2156 ± 54 Ma in sample Zg-119 indicates a Paleoproterozoic crustal component, ~~confirming-supporting the~~ reworking of ancient Eburnean basement during ~~the genesis of the~~ OG genesis. This result aligns with significant inherited Paleoproterozoic zircon populations reported for the OG rocks across the Anti-Atlas. For instance, Baidada et al. (2019) reported a Paleoproterozoic signature ~~for the in~~ Saghro massif granitoids, while Blein et al. (2014b) and Thomas et al. (2002) documented similar inheritance in OG ignimbrites from the Agadir Melloul area and syn-extensional granites in the Sirwa massif, respectively.

5.5 Further discussions

595 At a regional scale, basaltic flows have been described as interbedded within the ~~SG~~ sediments of the ~~SG in the~~ Saghro massif (Errami et al., 2009; Fekkak et al., 2003, 2001). ~~They~~ These flows exhibit diverse geochemical signatures. ~~For a start,~~ The basalts in Sidi Flah (SF) are of Initial Rift Tholeiites (IRT) and Ocean Island Basalts (OIB) character (Fekkak et al., 2001). In contrast, the Anou N'Izem basalts in the Boumalne (BO) inlier possess typical Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt (MORB) signatures (Errami et al., 2009). U-Pb dating of detrital zircons from the SG in various inliers suggests ~~that~~ this unit was deposited between
600 640–600 Ma across the entire Central-Eastern Anti-Atlas region (Errami et al., 2021a; Abati et al., 2010).
In liaison, this geochemical variation within the SG likely reflects a single, continuous geodynamic event. Specifically, during the evolution of a back-arc basin, the earliest magmas often exhibit magmatic arc-like characteristics due to the proximity of the back-arc to the arc itself. ~~As~~ the back-arc matures and the magma source becomes further removed from the metasomatized mantle, ~~the~~ magmas transition toward within-plate (OIB) and MORB-like signatures (Vasey et al., 2021;
605 Saunders and Tarney, 1984). This interpretation is further supported by sediment geochemistry ~~which~~ pointings toward a back-arc basin depositional environment (Ouguir et al., 1996). In the Anti-Atlas, this footprint is widely ~~ascribed~~ attributed to ~~the~~ activation of a sub continental lithospheric mantle source, previously metasomatized during earlier Cryogenian Pan-African subduction ~~events~~, operating in tandem with distal stress fields from the emerging Cadomian orogenic system (Hefferan et al., 2014). As the basin matured and lithospheric extension advanced, the magma source increasingly tapped deeper,
610 uncontaminated asthenospheric reservoirs, driving a compositional transition toward within-plate (OIB) and MORB-like signatures higher up the stratigraphy. Basaltic magmatism in the SG fits this evolutionary framework: the calc-alkaline basalts from the Sirwa inlier (Thomas et al., 2002; this study) represent the initial stages of back-arc formation, ~~and~~ recording the activation of this strongly metasomatized mantle source. ~~whereas~~ the IRT, OIB, and MORB-type basalts found higher in the stratigraphy indicate a more mature, extensional stage tapping deeper, uncontaminated asthenospheric reservoirs.
615 The thick volcano-sedimentary successions of the OG are dominated by silicic ~~and to~~ intermediate high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic volcanism (Blein et al., 2014b; Toummite et al., 2013; Walsh et al., 2012; Gasquet et al., 2008, 2005; Benziane, 2007; Thomas et al., 2004; El Baghdadi et al., 2003). Based on ~~the our~~ findings ~~of this study~~, and regional correlations with similar magmatism (see Table 1 in Hefferan et al. (2014), for reported precise ages from selected ~~inliers of the~~ Anti-Atlas ~~inliers~~ Mountains), we attribute the OG rocks to a widespread post-collisional event, exemplified recognized across numerous
620 inliers of the Anti-Atlas (Yajoui et al., 2020; Karaoui et al., 2015; Linnemann et al., 2014; Toummite et al., 2013; Walsh et al., 2012; Gasquet et al., 2005, 2004; Thomas et al., 2002). For the studied OG rocks, high Th/Nb ratios suggest that slab break-off induced a thermal pulse supplying heat to melt the Lower Continental Crust (LCC), with variable input from a the metasomatized mantle wedge previously primed during proceeding an earlier subduction phase. ~~Moreover, the c~~ lustering near and above the Upper Continental Crust (UCC) field further indicates that lithospheric delamination provided supplied the
625 necessary thermal energy to trigger widespread crustal melting, leading producing the high-K and shoshonitic signatures of

the OG rocks (Bonin, 2004). This ~~period of~~ magmatism was coeval with a Silicic Large Igneous Province (SLIP) recognized ~~all over across~~ the Anti-Atlas (Ousbih et al., 2024, and references therein; Schulte et al., 2022).

6 Conclusions

In the light of the above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 630 i. LA-ICP-MS U-Pb zircon ages of 575 ± 3 Ma and 564 ± 2 Ma ~~of from~~ the OG ~~evidence an expression of a reflect~~ post-collisional, syn-orogenic magmatism in the ZGMR, ~~spanning roughly 11 million years. They define a highly rapid sequence of felsic intrusive and extrusive events spanning roughly 11 million years.~~ Detrital zircons from the SG reveal a single-population at ca. 2100 Ma and a MDA of 2025 Ma. ~~This total absence of, with no~~ younger Neoproterozoic/Pan-African ~~grains, zircons demonstrating~~ exclusive sediment derivation from an adjacent, uplifted
- 635 ~~pristine block of Eburnean basement, and confirming supporting the northward extension of the WAC further north of beyond~~ the AAMF.
- ii. Based on geochemical proxies (major and trace elements). The SG magmatic rocks were emplaced ~~at during~~ early ~~stages of~~ back-arc basin opening, ~~as indicated testified~~ by their calc-alkaline affinity, geochemical characteristics, and regional correlations. ~~Further, Their~~ ϵNd_{620} ~~=values~~ (+3.2 and +4.6), and TDM ages ~~of~~ (1.02 and 0.91 Ga) reflects a
- 640 mixed ~~mantle-crustal~~ origin, ~~consistent with an underlying mbining mostly mantle derived magma with limited contribution from older crustal material. Thus admitting the existence of an old,~~ Paleoproterozoic to Mesoproterozoic, crust ~~beneath.~~
- iii. ~~For the~~ OG magmatic rocks, ~~the evolution in chemical compositions for the suite of~~ high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic ~~suite rocks was controlled in the most part by~~ evolved mainly through fractional crystallization and crustal
- 645 contamination. They were deposited in a post-collisional setting, ~~and their parental magma was~~ sourced from an enriched continental lithospheric mantle, previously underwent metasomatism by fluids from former Neoproterozoic subduction. ~~Further, Their~~ ϵNd_{570} ~~=values~~ (-0.8 to +1.1), and TDM ages ~~of~~ (1.30 to 1.15 Ga) imply significant reworking of older, evolved Paleoproterozoic continental crustal ~~material~~ during Ediacaran times.
- iv. ~~Overall, the OG rocks of the ZGMR record Investigation of the OG magmatic rocks within the ZGMR provides insights into how~~ lithospheric delamination and potential slab break-off ~~drive the petrogenesis of~~ post-collisional
- 650 ~~petrogenesis magmatism, linked related to the formation of the~~ late Neoproterozoic SLIP along the northwestern edge of the WAC.

Code, data, or code and data availability

Data used in this paper is given in electronic supplements.

Author contributions

Abdelhay Ben-Tami: Field work, Sampling and preparation, Thin-sections preparation, Investigation, Data visualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing of original draft, Finalization. **Said Belkacim:** Supervision, Resources, Writing - review and editing. **Jamal El Kabouri:** Data visualization, Writing of original draft. Review and editing. **Joshua H.F.L. Davies and Morgann G. Perrot:** LA-ICP-MS U-Pb data and methodology, writing of original draft, review and editing. **Mariam Ferraq:** Data curation and visualization. **Mohamed Bouabdellah:** review and editing. **Bouchra Baidada, Mohamed Bhilisse and Mohamed Assalmi:** Resources, accommodation, field trips, hosting.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. Corresponding author (Abdelhay Ben-Tami), discloses an employment relationship with the Zgounder Millenium Silver Mining Company (ZMSM).

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Review statement

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