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Geochemistry of volcanic and plutonic rocks from the Nahlin ophiolite with implications for a Permo-Triassic arc in the Cache Creek terrane, northwestern British Columbia

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Geochemistry of volcanic and plutonic rocks from the Nahlin ophiolite with implications for a Permo-Triassic arc in the Cache Creek terrane, northwestern British Columbia

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1 **Geochemistry of volcanic and plutonic rocks from the Nahlin ophiolite with**
2 **implications for a Permo-Triassic arc in the Cache Creek terrane,**
3 **northwestern British Columbia**

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21 **Abstract**

22 In northwestern British Columbia, the Permian Nahlin ophiolite in the northern Cache Creek
23 terrane comprises spinel harzburgite tectonite with minor lherzolite, lower crustal mafic and
24 ultramafic cumulates, gabbroic rocks including dikes intruding mantle harzburgite, and basaltic
25 volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks. New lithochemical data from the Menatutline Range area
26 confirm that plutonic and volcanic rocks of the ophiolite are tholeiitic and arc-related, while only
27 a minor component of volcanic rocks are alkaline intraplate basalts. Tholeiitic basalts of the
28 Nahlin ophiolite represent the products of 2 - 20% fractional melting, and their complementary
29 residue may be peridotite from the ophiolite mantle section. Correlative tholeiitic volcanic
30 sections can be found elsewhere in the northern Cache Creek terrane, and may be linked to a
31 regionally extensive (~200 km) intraoceanic arc. The arc tholeiite geochemistry of the plutonic
32 and volcanic rocks, and the highly depleted nature of the mantle residues imply that the Nahlin
33 ophiolite formed in a supra-subduction zone (SSZ) environment. The Nahlin ophiolite therefore
34 occupied the upper plate during intraoceanic collision prior to emplacement of the Cache Creek
35 terrane. The volumetrically minor OIB-type volcanic rocks in the northern Cache Creek terrane
36 are associated with carbonate successions bearing Tethyan fauna. These sequences are likely
37 fragments of oceanic plateaux and their carbonate atolls sliced off of the subducting plate, and
38 are unrelated to the Nahlin ophiolite - arc system.

39 **Introduction**

40 Ophiolites are ubiquitous features of Phanerozoic orogens where they represent
41 fragments of oceanic lithosphere preserved along suture zones. Upper Paleozoic–Lower
42 Mesozoic ophiolites exposed throughout the Canadian Cordillera are commonly interpreted to
43 mark remnants of closed ocean basins (e.g., Tempelman-Kluit 1979, Ash and Arksey 1990,

44 Struik et al. 2001). The Cache Creek terrane in northwestern British Columbia preserves aerially
45 extensive ophiolites, but few detailed petrological and geochemical studies of these rocks have
46 been carried out, despite their importance to tectonic models of the Cordillera (Terry 1977, Ash
47 and Arksey 1990, Ash 1994, Canil et al. 2006). Herein we build on work by English et al. (2010)
48 in the northern Cache Creek terrane, which identified two distinct magma suites in this region:
49 abundant subalkaline plutonic and volcanic rocks with arc signatures, and minor alkaline within-
50 plate volcanic rocks, an association also noted in central British Columbia (Tardy et al. 2001,
51 Lapierre et al. 2003). The close spatial association of volcanic rocks originating in two different
52 plate settings has implications for the emplacement of the Nahlin ophiolite, and models involving
53 closure of ocean basin for Cache Creek terrane accretion, and overall continental growth in the
54 northern Cordillera.

55 In this contribution, we investigate the geological relationships and petrochemistry of the
56 Nahlin ophiolite and adjacent rocks in the Menatatuline Range area of northern British
57 Columbia. The Nahlin ophiolite is the largest, best-preserved and well-exposed ophiolite in the
58 Cache Creek terrane (**Figure 1; Table 1**), however, due to its remote location it has not been
59 investigated in detail since Terry (1977). We present new field and litho-geochemical data
60 constraining the relationships between mantle, lower crustal and supracrustal rocks in the Nahlin
61 ophiolite, and the spatial connection to accreted alkaline basalt and carbonate platform sequence.

62 **Regional Geology**

63 The Mississippian to Lower Jurassic Cache Creek terrane is discontinuously exposed
64 through British Columbia and southern Yukon and is bound by the peri-Laurentian Yukon-
65 Tanana, Quesnellia and Stikinia terranes. Permian carbonate rocks of the Cache Creek terrane
66 contain Tethyan fauna that is distinct from that in adjacent Stikinia and Quesnellia, indicating

67 that parts of the Cache Creek terrane are exotic with respect to Laurentia and adjacent terranes
68 (Monger and Ross 1971, Orchard et al. 2001). The Cache Creek and adjacent terranes were
69 amalgamated and stitched together by crosscutting plutons by the Middle Jurassic (Gabielse
70 1991, Mihalynuk et al. 1992, 1998). The aforementioned contrasting faunal assemblages
71 between the accreted terranes has strongly influenced tectonic models for the northern Cordillera
72 (e.g., Mihalynuk et al. 1994, Johnston and Borel 2007). Although central to several such models,
73 the tectono-stratigraphy and tectonic setting of the Cache Creek terrane remain poorly
74 understood. Some authors treat the whole or parts of the Cache Creek terrane as a subduction
75 zone melange or an accretionary complex (e.g., Mihalynuk et al. 1994, 2004b, Mihalynuk 1999,
76 English and Johnston 2005, English et al. 2010).

77 The geology of northern Cache Creek terrane near Atlin, BC and extending southeast to
78 the Menatatuline Range has been the focus of several studies that are mostly regional in scope
79 (e.g., Aitken 1959, Souther 1971, Monger 1975, Terry 1977, Bloodgood and Bellefontaine 1990,
80 Ash 1994, Mihalynuk et al. 1994). Varied interpretations based on these studies suggest that the
81 Cache Creek terrane in this region comprises several distinct and possibly unrelated components
82 including: an ophiolite and/or rifted arc (e.g., Childe and Thompson 1997, English et al. 2010,
83 Bickerton et al. 2012, Schiarizza 2012), seamounts and/or oceanic plateaus (e.g., English et al.
84 2010), and a subduction-related accretionary complex (Monger 1975, Terry 1977, Ash 1994,
85 Mihalynuk et al. 1998, English and Johnston 2005).

86 **Geology of the Menatatuline Range area**

87 The Nahlin ophiolite was first recognized in this region by Aitken (1959). Recent
88 geochronological data indicate a regional age variation of magmatism in the Nahlin ophiolite of
89 261 to 245 Ma (**Figure 1; Table 1**). A summary of the geology of the ophiolite is presented

90 below. Detailed descriptions of all the lithological units within the Menatatuline Range area are
91 presented elsewhere (Zagorevski et al. 2015, 2016a, McGoldrick et al. 2016).

92 *Ultramafic rocks in the Nahlin ophiolite*

93 The best exposures of ultramafic rocks occur in a discontinuous belt from Atlin townsite
94 to Nahlin Mountain about 150 km southeast (**Figure 1**). For convenience we herein subdivide
95 the Nahlin ophiolite into the Atlin, Hardluck, and Menatatuline massifs. The Menatatuline massif
96 trends northwest from Nahlin Mountain through the Menatatuline Range (Aitken 1959, Terry
97 1977). The Hardluck massif trends west-northwest from the Menatatuline (**Figure 2**; Mihalynuk
98 et al. 2004b).

99 Ultramafic rocks in both the Hardluck and Menatatuline massifs comprise variably
100 serpentinized harzburgite (0 – 50%) with pyroxenite dikes, and replacive dunite pods
101 (McGoldrick et al. 2016). Massive and layered harzburgite is the dominant lithology and
102 contains ~45-65% olivine, ~25-40% orthopyroxene, 3-8% clinopyroxene, and <5% spinel.
103 Layering defined by modal variation of pyroxene is variably developed in both massifs.
104 Lherzolite with up to 15% emerald-green clinopyroxene occurs in the Hardluck massif
105 (Mihalynuk et al. 2004b). A primary mantle tectonite fabric (S_1) defined by orthopyroxene
106 porphyroclasts is variably developed in both massifs. Pyroxenite dikes (5–10 cm wide) are
107 variably abundant. In both the Hardluck and Menatatuline massifs, pyroxenite dikes can be
108 layer-discordant or concordant with respect to the harzburgite layering (**Figure 3a**). Dikes are
109 locally deformed into meter-scale folds (**Figure 3b**) and rarely cut folded harzburgite-pyroxenite
110 layering. Discrete dunite pods comprise as much as 20% of the Menatatuline and Hardluck
111 massifs. The size of individual pods is variable, ranging from sub-metre scale up to 100 m
112 across. Dunite bodies have sharp contacts against harzburgite, are locally deformed and crosscut

113 pyroxenite, indicating that there are several generations of these features. The dunite likely
114 represents melt channels formed as a result of melt-rock interaction with the host harzburgite
115 (Kelemen and Dick 1995).

116 *Cumulates*

117 Mafic-ultramafic cumulates are rare in the Nahlin ophiolite and have only been
118 documented in few localities (Terry 1977, Gabrielse 1998, Mihalynuk et al. 2004b, Zagorevski et
119 al. 2016b). Minor cumulates have been documented in the Hardluck massif northwest of the
120 study area (“Moho Saddle”, **Figure 1**; Mihalynuk et al. 2004b). Pods of pyroxenitic to gabbroic
121 cumulates intrude variably serpentinized harzburgite on the southern margin of the Hardluck
122 massif in the Tseta Creek area (**Figure 2**). Some pods have highly irregular scalloped margins
123 against the host harzburgite suggesting high temperature, ductile deformation within the
124 lithosphere (**Figure 4a**). Cumulates include varitextured plagioclase-bearing olivine websterite
125 and gabbronorite, that vary in grain size from fine grained to pegmatitic over meters.
126 Granoblastic textures and primary mineralogy are variably overprinted by green amphibole,
127 chlorite, serpentine, sericite and/or prehnite.

128 *Gabbroic rocks*

129 Fine grained to pegmatitic gabbros (plagioclase- pyroxene \pm amphibole) intrude the
130 harzburgite tectonite along the southern margin of the Hardluck massif, and throughout the
131 Menatatuline massif. In the Hardluck massif, gabbroic dikes and pods with chilled margins
132 commonly intrude serpentinite, most notably north of the Nahlin fault near Peridotite Peak
133 (**Figure 4b**). Foliated amphibole- and plagioclase-rich zones are locally present in the gabbro.
134 Gabbro becomes less abundant toward the north, where it typically forms thin dikes \pm sills and
135 reticulated dike and vein swarms within variably serpentinized peridotite. It is unclear whether

136 these gabbroic intrusions exclusively represent dikes, sills, or a combination of both, as their
137 original orientation within the mantle is ambiguous. Some exposures of gabbro are completely
138 enveloped within fresh peridotite.

139 Gabbroic dikes ± sills ranging in width from <2 to 20 m occur as a west- to north-
140 trending swarm crosscutting the Menatatuline massif. Some are undeformed (**Figure 4c**),
141 whereas others are boudinaged (**Figure 4d**). Dike cores typically comprise fine to medium
142 grained equigranular plagioclase (40–50%) and pyroxene (1–3 mm). Many of these dikes display
143 subophitic to intergranular textures, and are variably plagioclase ± clinopyroxene ±
144 orthopyroxene-phyric (<5%, 2-4 mm phenocrysts). Some dikes have chilled margins against the
145 host harzburgite. Primary mafic mineralogy, including sparse igneous amphibole, is variably
146 altered to lower greenschist facies assemblages of chlorite + epidote ± actinolite ± sericite.

147 *Nahlin ophiolite volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks*

148 Volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks are aerially extensive in the northern Cache Creek
149 terrane. Some of these rocks were previously mapped as the Nakina Formation (Monger 1977,
150 Mihalyuk et al. 1996, 2002, English et al. 2002), although this stratigraphic name was originally
151 defined only for Mississippian – Permian volcanic rocks associated with carbonate successions
152 (Monger 1975). Here we avoid this nomenclature to prevent confusion.

153 Brecciated, massive and rare pillowed flows, with locally pervasive chlorite ± hematite
154 alteration are exposed northeast of the Menatatuline massif, and between it and Hardluck massif
155 (**Figure 2**). Younging directions and contact relationships within these sequences are unclear.
156 The mafic volcanic rocks are plagioclase, clinopyroxene, and orthopyroxene porphyritic. Some
157 plagioclase phenocrysts display sieve textures and growth zoning. Flows are locally highly

158 vesicular, with calcite \pm chlorite-filled amygdules. Primary mafic minerals are variably altered to
159 chlorite \pm actinolite (clinopyroxene), and to chlorite + calcite \pm epidote \pm sericite (plagioclase).

160 The volcanoclastic rocks comprise mafic crystal and lapilli tuffs that are fine grained,
161 locally vesicular and flow banded. Lapilli and crystal fragments are rounded to subangular, and
162 rarely elongate or shard-like (**Figure 5**). Crystal fragments comprise plagioclase \pm orthopyroxene
163 \pm clinopyroxene, and one sample contains serpentine pseudomorphs of equant olivine
164 phenocrysts. Lapilli fragments in the pervasively chloritized \pm hematized groundmass preserve
165 volcanic textures, such as intergranular and pseudotrachytic groundmass textures, to varying
166 degrees.

167 **Geochemistry**

168 *Methods*

169 Representative samples of all the lithologies described above were selected for
170 lithochemical analysis to constrain the petrogenesis of the igneous rocks in the Nahlin
171 ophiolite. The major, minor, and trace element data presented herein are from 28 samples of
172 intrusive and extrusive rocks. A more detailed study of the harzburgite tectonite will be
173 presented elsewhere. Samples were cut into slabs with a rock saw, and were crushed and
174 processed for bulk rock geochemistry at Activation Laboratories in Ancaster, Ontario (**Table 2**).
175 Major oxides were measured by lithium metaborate/tetaborate fusion and ICP-OES, whereas
176 minor and trace elements were determined by ICP-MS. The suite of standards analysed along
177 with the samples reproduce reported concentrations of major elements to within 9%, large-ion
178 lithophile elements (LILE) to within 13%, high-field strength elements (HFSE) to within 9%,
179 and rare-earth elements (REE) to within 7% (**Table 2**).

180 *Element Mobility*

181 All the samples have experienced up to greenschist facies metamorphism, which can
182 result in element mobility. Elements such as Ti, Zr, Hf, Nb, and Ta, and the REE have been
183 shown to be relatively immobile during hydrothermal alteration and up to greenschist facies
184 metamorphism (MacLean 1990, Jenner 1996, Pearce 1996). Using discriminant diagrams
185 involving the immobile elements Nb, Y, Zr and Ti, the vast majority of the intrusive, volcanic,
186 and volcanoclastic samples of the Menatatlina Range area classify as subalkaline, and basaltic to
187 basaltic andesite (**Figure 6a**). An identical result is obtained for these rocks using the more
188 traditional alkalis-silica classification scheme (**Figure 6b**), showing Na and K have not been
189 compromised by metamorphism. Molecular proportion diagrams (**Figure 7**), which compare the
190 composition of the whole rocks with the stoichiometry of minerals involved in their
191 differentiation, suggest that most major elements (Na, K, Si, Mg, Fe, Ca) were largely unaffected
192 by metamorphism. For example, with the exception of two samples, the gabbros, dikes and mafic
193 volcanic rocks lie along tielines between plagioclase, clinopyroxene and olivine components
194 (Figure 7), a trend that is predicted during low-pressure crystallization of basaltic magma.

195 *Basalts and gabbro dikes*

196 Most of the basalts and gabbros of the Menatatlina Range area are subalkaline and
197 basaltic in terms of major and trace elements (**Figure 6**). These rocks lie along differentiation
198 trends consistent with accumulation or removal of plagioclase and clinopyroxene (CPX –
199 $\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$, CaTs - $\text{CaAl}_2\text{SiO}_6$), as observed petrographically in the rocks (**Figure 7**). Many of
200 the samples are similar to the reference N-MORB composition (grey triangle, **Figure 6a**), and
201 major and trace element data indicate that these rocks are predominantly tholeiitic (**Figure 6, 8**).
202 Ratios of Nb/Yb indicate that the volcanic and plutonic samples from the Nahlin ophiolite plot

203 near reference values for N-MORB (**Figure 9**), suggesting derivation from a depleted source.
204 However, many of the Nahlin ophiolite rocks also show variable enrichment of Th/Nb over N-
205 MORB, and plot along the subduction enrichment trend. On N-MORB normalized trace element
206 plots, the volcanic and plutonic rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite have similar flat trace element
207 profiles displaying consistent negative Nb-anomaly (**Figure 10**).

208 A narrow unit of distinctly more enriched volcanic rocks also occurs in the Menatatuline
209 Range area (**Figure 2**). These are subalkaline basalts with higher Nb/Y ratios than the majority
210 of the volcanic rocks of the ophiolite and close to the reference value for E-MORB (**Figure 6b**;
211 Sun and McDonough 1989). Trace element data indicate that these volcanic rocks are tholeiitic
212 to transitional (**Figure 8**). Other trace element ratios indicate that these samples have E-MORB-
213 like chemistry, and plot along the source enrichment trend between reference compositions for
214 N-MORB (depleted source) and OIB (enriched source) (**Figure 9**). The E-MORB-like volcanic
215 rocks lack the subduction enrichment of Th/Nb recorded in the volcanic rocks of the ophiolite
216 (**Figure 9**). Multi-element diagrams highlight the enrichment of LREE over HREE, and lack of
217 Th-Nb and Ti anomalies in these samples (**Figure 10**).

218 A series highly vesicular basalts are petrographically and geochemically distinct from the
219 other basalts of the ophiolite in the field. These rocks contain serpentine pseudomorphs after
220 subhedral to euhedral 0.5 to 1 mm olivine phenocrysts, sparse subhedral to euhedral 1-4 mm
221 plagioclase phenocrysts which are variably altered to sericite + calcite, and up to 30% calcite-
222 filled amygdules that are typically 1 mm in diameter. These highly vesicular basalts plot along an
223 olivine control line (**Figure 7ab**) consistent with olivine accumulation observed petrographically.
224 Two samples of these mafic volcanic rocks lack Nb anomalies, have significant enrichment in

225 LREE over HREE, and Nb/Y typical of alkali basalts (**Figures 6, 9, and 10**) such as typical
226 ocean island basalt (OIB; Sun and McDonough 1989).

227 *Ultramafic and mafic cumulates*

228 The major element composition of the cumulates lie along tielines between either olivine,
229 clinopyroxene or plagioclase – all phases observed to vary modally in these rocks (Figure 7).

230 Some of the trace element diagrams employed above to characterize the volcanic and plutonic
231 rocks are inappropriate for cumulates (Langmuir 1989, Bédard 1994, Pearce 1996). Multi-
232 element plots, however, can still be useful in the petrogenetic interpretation of these non-liquidus
233 compositions (Bédard 1994). The plagioclase-bearing olivine websterite and gabbroic
234 cumulates have flat trace element profiles nearly an order of magnitude more depleted than the
235 other intrusive rocks of the ophiolite (**Figure 10**). The plagioclase-bearing olivine websterite has
236 a pronounced negative Eu anomaly, whereas the gabbroic cumulates show slight positive Eu
237 anomalies, reflecting variable fractionation and accumulation of plagioclase. All the cumulate
238 samples are enriched in Th ± Nb relative to the REE, but lack the negative Nb anomalies
239 characteristic of other plutonic rocks of the ophiolite (**Figure 10**).

240 **Discussion**

241 *Stratigraphy and structure of the Nahlin ophiolite*

242 The Nahlin ophiolite contains some components of the classic Penrose-style ophiolite
243 (Anonymous 1972), and though some primary contact relations may be obscured by faulting, it
244 is still possible to constrain the stratigraphy of the ophiolite (**Figure 11**). The harzburgite massifs
245 at the base of the Nahlin ophiolite are interpreted as mantle lithosphere and are locally crosscut
246 by multiple generations of gabbroic dikes, some of which are unstrained (**Figure 4c**) whereas

247 others have been boudinaged within the mantle (**Figure 4d**). Lower crustal cumulates and
248 sheeted dike complexes are volumetrically minor in the Nahlin ophiolite. Locally, gabbroic dike-
249 and-sill complexes extensively intrude the mantle rocks. These melt conduits presumably fed
250 volcanic flows at the surface, which are represented by the aerially-extensive basalt and related
251 mafic volcanoclastic rocks in the Menatatuline Range area (in part formerly mapped as Nakina
252 Formation). Some of these massive mafic rocks have previously been mapped as volcanic flows,
253 even where they lack any extrusive textures (Gabrielse 1998, Mihalynuk 1999, Mihalynuk et al.
254 2003) but are now recognized as hypabyssal dike-and-sill and sill-sediment complexes
255 (Zagorevski et al. 2016a).

256 Constraining the stratigraphic way-up in the Nahlin ophiolite is not everywhere
257 straightforward. A section through the uppermost mantle and into the lowermost crust is exposed
258 at the “Moho Saddle” (**Figure 2**) to the northwest of Peridotite Peak, and indicates that the
259 ophiolite youngs towards the south (Mihalynuk et al. 2004b). The presence of rare pyroxenitic
260 and gabbroic cumulates exclusively on the southern side of the Hardluck massif supports this
261 interpretation. Elsewhere in the Nahlin ophiolite, however, the harzburgite massifs are fault-
262 bound, leaving little evidence as to the way-up in stratigraphy. These fault-bound sections of
263 mantle harzburgite tectonite are often juxtaposed against basalt or chert. A possible interpretation
264 for this juxtaposition and the locally missing lower crustal section, is that the Nahlin ophiolite
265 represents an intraoceanic core complex (Zagorevski et al. 2015). Similar to other fossil oceanic
266 core complexes recognized in the rock record (e.g., Ohara et al. 2003, Maffione et al. 2013,
267 Lagabrielle et al. 2015), the spinel-facies harzburgite tectonite may have been exhumed along a
268 low angle normal fault to shallow depths (plagioclase stability zone), where it acted as a rigid
269 body during the intrusion of later gabbroic dikes.

270 *Tectonic setting of the Nahlin ophiolite*

271 The reconstructed stratigraphy of the Nahlin ophiolite based on recent field work in the
272 northern Cache Creek terrane can be corroborated using lithogeochemical data. The gabbro and
273 diabase dikes that crosscut the mantle sections of the Nahlin ophiolite have arc tholeiitic
274 chemistry, and REE profiles identical to those of spatially associated basalt and mafic
275 volcanoclastic rocks (**Figure 10**). The flat to low positive slope of the REE profiles (**Figure 12**),
276 and the low Nb/Yb ratios, indicate derivation from a LREE-depleted mantle source that
277 experienced earlier melt extraction (Jenner 1996, Pearce 1996). The intrusive and extrusive rocks
278 are enriched in Th/Yb over typical N-MORB values (**Figure 9**), suggesting that subduction-
279 related fluids played a role in the genesis of the ophiolite crust. All of the plutonic and volcanic
280 rocks display a negative Th-Nb-La anomaly (**Figure 10**) and enrichment of LILE over HFSE.
281 These characteristics are generally considered a subduction zone signature similar to that of
282 island arc tholeiites (IAT), and are linked to relative contributions of these elements from the
283 subducting slab to the source of the arc magmas (Pearce and Norry 1979, Saunders et al. 1988,
284 Pearce and Peate 1995, Jenner 1996, Pearce 1996). The remarkably consistent arc tholeiite
285 chemistry, subduction-related enrichment, and the crosscutting relationships linking the gabbroic
286 rocks to the mantle suggest that the Hardluck and Menatatuline massifs are part of a supra-
287 subduction zone (SSZ) ophiolite.

288 Rare earth element profiles of the extrusive igneous rocks in the Nahlin ophiolite can be
289 compared to melt compositions produced by fractional melting of peridotite, to constrain the
290 degree of melting required to generate the crust of the Nahlin ophiolite. Melting models
291 employed in this study follow the methodology of Warren (2016), in which a depleted MORB
292 mantle (DMM) source (Workman and Hart 2005) undergoes non-modal fractional melting in the

293 spinel stability field according to the melting reaction $0.56 \text{ Opx} + 0.72 \text{ Cpx} + 0.04 \text{ Sp} = 0.34 \text{ Ol}$
294 $+ 1.0 \text{ Melt}$ (Wasylenki et al. 2003). Partition coefficients melt for the REE are after Sun and
295 Liang (2014) and Warren (2016), and are calculated assuming a mantle of DMM composition at
296 a potential temperature of 1300 °C. The range of REE profiles of the Nahlin ophiolite basaltic
297 rocks is reproduced by 2 to 20% non-modal fractional melting (**Figure 12**). This suggests that
298 some of the volcanic rocks represent erupted products of low degrees of partial melting, whereas
299 others result from combined segregated melts of up to 20% melting. Considering the range of
300 MgO values (~4 to 9 wt %; **Table 2**), we assume that most of these volcanic rocks do not
301 represent primary or primitive melts (Niu and Batiza 1991, Kinzler and Grove 1992). The REE
302 in basalt will increase in abundance with crystal fractionation of early olivine. In this way the
303 concentrations of REE in Nahlin arc tholeiites are higher than in their original primitive parental
304 melts, requiring that our melt fraction estimates are minima.

305 The mantle melting model described above also provides a residual mantle composition,
306 which can be compared to peridotites of the Nahlin ophiolite. Whole-rock REE data from
307 peridotite samples near the “Moho Saddle”, Peridotite Peak, and Peridotite Peak East (Babechuk
308 et al. 2010) require 10 to 20% partial melting to reproduce measured HREE concentrations
309 (**Figure 12**). Light REE enrichment of the Nahlin peridotites is not predicted by the modeled
310 residue compositions, but may be related to cryptic mantle metasomatism or refertilization that is
311 observed in many abyssal and ophiolite peridotites (e.g., Bizimis et al. 2000, Warren and
312 Shimizu 2010, Uysal et al. 2016). The range of melt depletion recorded in the peridotites (10 –
313 20 %) overlaps with the melt estimates necessary to generate the basaltic rocks of the Nahlin
314 ophiolite (2 – 20 %). This indicates that the arc tholeiite intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks in
315 the Menatatuline Range area are demonstrably the products of the Nahlin harzburgites with

316 which they are spatially associated. Alternatively, the arc tholeiite magmatism in the Nahlin
317 ophiolite was established on mantle lithosphere that experienced previous history of arc
318 magmatism. Geochronological constraints on the timing of volcanism are needed to discriminate
319 between these hypotheses. Regardless, the mantle harzburgites of the Nahlin ophiolite are thus
320 not related to the OIB and E-MORB sequences.

321 *Connection to other Cache Creek assemblages*

322 Tholeiitic plutonic and volcanic rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite display a predominantly
323 arc-backarc geochemical signature. A similar arc-backarc setting has been inferred along-strike
324 to the north in the Nakina area (English et al. 2010), and to the south in the Kutcho assemblage
325 (Childe and Thompson 1997, Mihalynuk and Cordey 1997) (**Figure 1**). The oceanic crustal
326 assemblage in the Nakina area (**Figure 1**) (English et al. (2010) comprises Middle to Late
327 Permian intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks of variable affinity (e.g., IAT, backarc basin basalt
328 (BABB), calc-alkaline) that formed from a depleted N-MORB-like source in an arc or backarc
329 setting (Devine 2002, English et al. 2010). As these rocks are physically continuous with and
330 chemically similar to those in the Nahlin area, they could form part of the same arc-backarc
331 system as the Nahlin ophiolite (**Figure 10**).

332 The Early to Middle Triassic Kutcho arc exposed near Dease Lake (**Figure 1**) was
333 previously correlated with the Nakina area (English and Johnston 2005, English et al. 2010). The
334 Kutcho assemblage is characterized by bimodal tholeiitic volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks that
335 formed in an intra-oceanic arc (ca. 254-242 Ma: (Barrett et al. 1996, Childe and Thompson 1997,
336 Barrett and MacLean 1999, Schiarizza 2012). The Kutcho assemblage and the Nahlin ophiolite
337 likely represent different segments of the same, extensional Late Permian to Middle Triassic arc-
338 backarc system, similar to the modern Izu-Bonin-Mariana or Tonga-Tofua-Kermadec arcs

339 (Reagan et al. 2010, 2013, Ishizuka et al. 2011 ; Smith and Price 2006)). In such analogues, the
340 Nahlin ophiolite could represent more advanced stages of rifting, similar to the Lau and Parece-
341 Vela basins, whereas the Kutcho assemblage either represents an incipient rift or highly extended
342 arc (e.g., southern termination of west Mariana Trough or parts of the of the Lau basin).

343 Alternatively, the Kutcho assemblage and Nahlin ophiolite may represent along strike
344 variations in magmatic versus tectonic-accommodated extension in the backarc region, and in the
345 nature of the slab derived components added to the mantle wedge as described in the southern
346 Havre Trough (Wysoczanski et al. 2010, Todd et al. 2011). This configuration reflects
347 anomalous thermal regimes in the mantle wedge (“hot fingers”, Tamura et al. 2002, Todd et al.
348 2011) which result in cross-arc chains of constructive volcanic centres separated by basinal ‘rift
349 regimes’ in which BABB are erupted (Wysoczanski et al. 2010). Application of such a setting to
350 the northern Cache Creek composite terrane can explain the apparent lack of a mature Permo-
351 Triassic arc spatially associated with the Nahlin ophiolite (**Figure 13**).

352 Alternatively, the Nahlin ophiolite may have formed in a proto-forearc setting associated
353 with subduction initiation. Similar to the proposed origin of the Izu-Bonin-Mariana arc,
354 nucleation of a new intraoceanic subduction zone may have been accompanied by seafloor
355 spreading in what would become the forearc region (**Figure 13**; Stern et al. 2012, Maffione et al.
356 2015). A progressive change in volcanic chemistry from initial forearc spreading to development
357 of a mature arc follows from the evolution of tholeiitic MORB-like volcanic rocks (forearc
358 basalts) at the base to volcanic arc-like basalts including boninites at the top of the volcanic
359 sequence in the forearc (Reagan et al. 2010, 2013, Ishizuka et al. 2011, Stern et al. 2012). This
360 chemostratigraphy is recognized in other SSZ ophiolites (Mirdita and Pindos ophiolites -
361 (Saccani and Photiades 2004, Dilek et al. 2008, Whattam and Stern 2011), but is not recognized

362 in the Nahlin ophiolite, perhaps due to structural dismemberment. A subduction initiation origin
363 may also account for the lack of a preserved arc associated with the Nahlin ophiolite, as a newly
364 nucleated convergent margin may be short-lived and need not develop a mature arc (Whattam
365 and Stern 2011).

366 *The relevance of OIB and E-MORB*

367 The two E-MORB-type volcanic rocks in the Menatatuline Range area define a thin belt
368 along the contact of the volcanic rocks of the ophiolite and the Kedahda Formation (**Figure 2**).
369 Enriched MORB-like basalts have been described to the north in the Nakina area (English et al.
370 2010). These volcanic rocks require an enriched non-arc source indicating that these rocks
371 cannot be directly related to the arc tholeiites of the Nahlin ophiolite. The volumetrically minor
372 E-MORB magmatism could represent continued spreading in the backarc environment and
373 tapping of a more enriched mantle source or it may reflect a heterogeneous mantle source that
374 includes both depleted and enriched components (e.g., Pomonis et al. 2006, Dilek and Furnes
375 2009, Gale et al. 2013, Wilson et al. 2013). Alternatively, the E-MORB-type volcanic rocks may
376 be unrelated to the ophiolite. The complete lack of any subduction zone signature, and the
377 proximity of these basalts to a fault imbricated package of siliciclastic, chert and carbonate rocks,
378 may indicate that the E-MORB-type samples are a part of the Tethyan carbonate successions.

379 Non-arc magmatism is well-documented elsewhere in the northern Cache Creek terrane.
380 For example, the Teslin Formation limestone with its Permian Tethyan fauna is stratigraphically
381 intercalated with French Range Formation E-MORB-type basalt and related felsic volcanic rocks
382 which yielded a ca. 263 Ma U-Pb zircon crystallization age (Monger 1975, Mihalynuk and
383 Cordey 1997, English et al. 2010). Permian Teslin Formation limestone in the Hall Lake area is
384 also intercalated with OIB (Monger 1975, Mihalynuk and Cordey 1997). Carboniferous OIB and

385 related rhyolite is also known to occur within the Horsefeed Formation limestone (Devine 2002,
386 Merran 2002).

387 The intraplate (OIB) volcanic rocks and their associated carbonate platforms have been
388 proposed to represent fragments of exotic oceanic plateaux or seamounts (Monger 1975, English
389 et al. 2010). These successions were likely sheared off the down-going plate and accreted to the
390 Late Permian to Early Triassic arc which is, in part, represented by the Nahlin ophiolite (c.f.
391 English et al. 2010). Incorporation of the E-MORB-OIB-carbonate platform sequences in to the
392 subduction channel is supported by local preservation of blueschist-facies metamorphism in the
393 French Range Formation (Mihalynuk et al. 1998).

394 *Significance to Cordilleran tectonic models*

395 Field and lithogeochemical data indicate that mantle, lower crustal and supracrustal rocks
396 of the Nahlin ophiolite formed within a Permo-Triassic arc system. Rocks of the ophiolite in
397 northern Cache Creek terrane were previously grouped with the intraplate volcanic rocks, and
398 Tethyan carbonate successions, as part of the subducting slab of the Cache Creek ocean basin
399 (e.g., Ash, 1994; Monger 1975, 1977, Mihalynuk et al. 1992, 1994, 1999, 2004a, Nelson and
400 Colpron 2007). But the preservation potential of large tracts of ophiolite that forms part of the
401 subducting plate is poor, because subducting lithosphere lacks the buoyancy to cause orogenesis
402 (Cloos 1993). Furthermore, the accreted ophiolites are typically small and lack lower crust and
403 mantle sections (Kimura and Ludden 1995, Zagorevski et al. 2009, Zagorevski and van Staal
404 2011). In contrast, the herein proposed arc-backarc setting of the Nahlin ophiolite has a greater
405 preservation potential and is consistent with the occurrence of an extensive mantle section, which
406 is characteristic of obducted ophiolites (Zagorevski and van Staal 2011). The Nahlin ophiolite
407 thus represents the upper plate at an intraoceanic convergent margin. The structurally-imbricated

408 Mississippian to Permian limestone, alkaline volcanic rocks and chert, including those that are
409 characterized by Tethyan fauna, must represent part of the subducting ocean basin. This view is
410 supported by preservation of blueschist in the nearby French Range (Mihalynuk et al. 1998).

411 The regional map patterns in the northern Cache Creek composite terrane are complicated
412 by overprinting by deformation episodes including poorly exposed obduction structures, Jurassic
413 E-W trending folds and thrust faults, and northwest trending Cretaceous strike-slip faults. The
414 ophiolite is generally exposed to the southwest of the 'Cache Creek Complex' (the subduction
415 accretionary complex including OIB-carbonate successions, English et al. 2010). This
416 distribution suggests that the ophiolite was obducted along northeast-vergent structures over a
417 southwest dipping intraoceanic subduction zone (cf. English et al 2010).

418 Nonetheless, the upper and lower plate domains we identify herein (**Figure 11**) represent
419 fundamentally different associations of rocks, and therefore meet the definition of two separate
420 "terrane": fault-bound areas possessing unique tectonic assemblages that differ from those of
421 adjacent terranes (Gabrielse et al. 1991). The true terrane-bounding fault in the northern Cache
422 Creek terrane is not, therefore, the Nahlin fault (**Figure 1**), but rather the suture between the
423 upper and lower plate assemblages, where it is exposed. Contrary to the current terrane
424 boundaries, this suture cannot be neatly drawn as an orogen near-parallel fault, but its
425 approximate equivalents can be observed in outcrop. At Mount Nimbus (**Figure 1**), for example,
426 ophiolite is thrust over Mississippian carbonate successions bearing OIB-type volcanic rocks
427 (Zagorevski et al. 2016a).

428 The proposed separation of the composite Cache Creek terrane into arc and seamount
429 terranes has significant implications for the interpretation of oceanic terranes in the Cordillera,
430 including the Cache Creek composite terrane further south, where grouping of overriding and

431 subducting plates into a single terrane results in significant misadventure. For example, the
432 presence of OIB, E-MORB and N-MORB-like basalts in the Cache Creek terrane near Fort St.
433 James led to a suggestion for its formation in a ridge-centered or near-ridge oceanic island
434 plateau environment (Tardy et al. 2001, Lapierre et al. 2003). Some of the Cache Creek MORB-
435 like samples of Lapierre et al. (2003; Type 1 N-MORB) actually show significant negative Nb
436 anomalies indicating that these samples are likely island arc tholeiites and are not related to
437 alkaline lavas at all. Their association with gabbroic and harzburgitic rocks suggest that, together
438 with the mantle harzburgite, the basalts are correlative to the Nahlin ophiolite, consistent with
439 their inferred age (ca. 257 Ma; Struik et al. 2001). These rocks also lie adjacent to the Sitlika
440 Assemblage (Childe and Schiarizza 1997), a correlative of the Kutcho Assemblage. Following
441 our proposed tectono-stratigraphic relationships for the northern Cache Creek terrane, the
442 alkaline and E-MORB volcanic rocks and associated carbonates in Fort St. James area form part
443 of the lower, partly subducted plate onto which the Trembleur ophiolite and Kutcho - Sitlika arc
444 rocks were obducted.

445 **Conclusions**

446 Intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite in the northern Cache Creek
447 composite terrane are dominantly subalkaline and of arc-affinity. The arc tholeiites represent the
448 products of up to 20% partial melting, and are the melt complement to similar levels of melting
449 recorded by harzburgite residues in the mantle section of the ophiolite. The volcanic rocks of the
450 Nahlin ophiolite are likely correlative to the nearby subalkaline volcanic rocks in the Nakina
451 transect and Kutcho assemblage, and may be linked to a regionally extensive Permo-Triassic
452 intraoceanic arc. During the amalgamation of the composite Cache Creek terrane, this arc
453 occupied the upper plate thereby facilitating the preservation of extensive fragments of oceanic

454 lithospheric mantle. The volumetrically minor OIB-type volcanic rocks associated with Tethyan
455 fauna-bearing carbonate successions represent fragments of oceanic plateaux and their carbonate
456 atolls sliced off of the subducting plate and incorporated into a subduction accretionary complex.
457 These sequences are older than and petrogenetically unrelated to the Nahlin ophiolite. This
458 configuration challenges some accepted models for the Cache Creek terrane and the terrane-
459 bounding Nahlin fault. A re-evaluation of terrane-bounding structures in this light is paramount
460 to a better understanding of the assembly and displacement of terranes in the northern Cordillera.

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469 **Figure Captions**

470 **Figure 1:** Lower inset map shows terranes of northern British Columbia and Yukon highlighting
471 the Cache Creek terrane (CC; yellow) and location of the Menatatuline Range study area (red
472 star). Main panel shows the regional geology of the northern Cache Creek composite terrane in
473 Yukon and British Columbia. The Menatatuline Range study area is outlined in red dashed lines.
474 Other localities referenced in text include: Nakina transect (NK, black dashed box), Hall Lake
475 (HL), “Moho Saddle” (MS), Mount Nimbus (MN), French Range (FR), and the Kutcho
476 assemblage (KT). Diamonds refer to locations of geochronological data in Table 1. Inset map
477 modified after Nelson and Colpron (2011). Main panel map modified after Zagorevski et al.
478 (2015).

479 **Figure 2:** Bedrock geology of the Menatatuline Range area, from Peridotite Peak to Nahlin
480 Mountain, based on 2015 – 2016 mapping and compiled from previous data of Mihalynuk et al.
481 (1996). Sample locations symbolized by lithology and chemical affinity as discussed in text.
482 Names of geological features referenced in text are in italic font (e.g. Nahlin fault). Informal
483 place names are indicated by quotation marks (e.g., “Tseta Creek area”). Background
484 topographic raster image from Natural Resources Canada (1990a, 1990b).

485 **Figure 3:** Field pictures of ultramafic rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite. (A) Primary tectonic fabric
486 (S_1), and pyroxenite dike transposed into S_1 , in harzburgite tectonite truncated by a replacive
487 dunite pod on Peridotite Peak. (B) Tight, near isoclinal folding of a pyroxenite dike in
488 harzburgite tectonite on Peridotite Peak.

489 **Figure 4:** Field images of intrusive rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite in the Menatatuline Range area.
490 (A) Boudinaged altered ultramafic cumulate (pale) with scalloped margins surrounded by

491 harzburgite (dun brown), on the southern side of the Hardluck massif. **(B)** Varitextured gabbro
492 intrusion on the southern side of the Hardluck massif. Grain size within the gabbroic intrusions
493 can vary from fine grained (top) to pegmatitic (bottom) for the sample shown. **(C)** Planar
494 margins (white dashed lines) of a gabbroic dike intruding harzburgite at Nahlin Mountain. **(D)**
495 Boudinaged gabbroic dikes protruding along the slopes of Nahlin Mountain among recessively
496 weathering serpentinite scree.

497 **Figure 5:** Images of mafic volcanic rocks previously grouped as part of the Nakina Formation, in
498 northwestern British Columbia. **(A)** Locally fragmental texture in pervasively hematized
499 volcanoclastic rocks. **(B)** Photomicrograph of an ultramafic crystal tuff with orthopyroxene
500 crystal fragments, and serpentine pseudomorphs after rounded olivine fragments in PPL, and **(C)**
501 in XPL. **(D)** Photomicrograph of a mafic tuff with lapilli in PPL, and **(E)** in XPL.

502 **Figure 6:** Igneous rock discrimination diagrams using **(A)** trace element ratios (Pearce 1996) and
503 **(B)** SiO₂ versus total alkalis (Le Maitre 1989). The mafic volcanic rocks, gabbros, and gabbroic
504 dikes of the Nahlin ophiolite are all subalkaline and basaltic to andesitic in composition, with
505 the exception of one gabbro, which may have experienced enrichment in alkalis. One of the
506 alkali basalts (blue circles) plots within the subalkaline basalt field, suggesting it may have
507 experienced variable degrees of silicification and/or alkali loss. Reference composition for
508 normal mid-ocean ridge basalt (N-MORB), enriched mid-ocean ridge basalt (E-MORB), and
509 ocean island basalt (OIB) shown in grey symbols for comparison (Sun and McDonough 1989).
510 Data from igneous rocks of the Nakina transect shown for comparison (black crosses; English et
511 al. 2010).

512 **Figure 7:** Covariation of molar (a) Na+K, (b) Ca+Na and (c) Mg+Fe with Si+Al in the intrusive
513 and extrusive rocks of the Menatatlina range area (this study) as well as other literature data for
514 the Nakina region in northern Cache Creek terrane (English et al, 2010). Plotting in molar space
515 shows the mineral stoichiometric control on bulk rock compositions. Note the trend of the
516 intrusive and extrusive mafic rocks along control lines (dashed) between clinopyroxene
517 components (CPX, CaTs) and plagioclase (PL), and of the olvine-phyric alkali basalts and
518 cumulate rocks toward olivine (OL). CPX, clinopyroxene; CaTs - Ca-tschermaks pyroxene; OL,
519 olivine; PL, plagioclase.

520 **Figure 8:** Discrimination of magma series by trace element data following the method of Ross
521 and Bédard (2009). The rocks of the ophiolite are predominantly tholeiitic. Volcanic rocks from
522 the southern Cache Creek terrane shown for comparison with northern Cache Creek data (black
523 “x” symbols; Tardy et al. 2001, Lapierre et al. 2003). All other symbols as in Figure 6.

524 **Figure 9:** Lithogeochemical data for samples from the northern Cache Creek terrane plotted in
525 Nb/Yb – Th/Yb space. Reference compositions for N-MORB, E-MORB, and OIB are shown for
526 comparison (grey symbols; Sun and McDonough 1989). Samples derived from an enriched
527 source plot near the OIB reference point with high Th/Yb and Nb/Yb ratios. The majority of the
528 Nahlin ophiolite samples of both plutonic and volcanic rocks plot near the N-MORB reference
529 value, but show evidence of subduction-related enrichment. Data from the Nakina Transect
530 (English et al. 2010), and from volcanic rocks in the southern Cache Creek terrane in central BC
531 (Tardy et al. 2001, Lapierre et al. 2003) are shown for comparison. Samples from the southern
532 Cache Creek plot along the source enrichment trend, and appear to lack any subduction
533 enrichment. Modified after Pearce (1982), and English et al. (2010).

534 **Figure 10:** Rare-earth element (REE) multi-element concentrations relative to N-MORB (Sun
535 and McDonough 1989) for intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks of the Menatatuline Range area.
536 **(A)** Volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks of the Nahlin ophiolite (green triangles) compared to the
537 range of compositions of island-arc tholeiites (IAT) and backarc basin basalts (BABB) in the
538 Nakina transect, and to mafic volcanic rocks from the Kutcho assemblage (white triangles,
539 Childe and Thompson 1997). **(B)** Two E-MORB-type (red triangles) and two OIB-type (blue
540 circles) volcanic rocks from the Menatatuline Range area, compared to the range of compositions
541 of E-MORB and OIB volcanic rocks in the Nakina transect. **(C)** Gabbroic rocks of the Nahlin
542 ophiolite, including dikes \pm sills (blue squares) and gabbro pods (red circles). Data from Nakina
543 transect gabbros shown by the grey shaded region. **(D)** Ultramafic and gabbroic cumulates from
544 the Nahlin ophiolite. All data for the Nakina transect (shaded regions) from English et al. (2010).

545 **Figure 11:** Schematic stratigraphic columns for the upper plate, lower plate, and overlap
546 assemblages of the northern Cache Creek terrane based on new and existing geochronological
547 data. Age constraints for lower plate sedimentary rocks after Monger (1975, 1977), Cordey et al.
548 (1991), and Mihalynuk et al. (2003, 2004b). Age constraints for the overlap assemblage
549 sedimentary rocks after Cordey et al. (1991), and Mihalynuk et al. (2003, 2004b), and for the
550 upper plate (ophiolite) assemblage after Gordey et al. (1998), Devine (2002), Mihalynuk et al.
551 (2004b), Zagorevski (2016), and Zagorevski et al. (2016a, 2017).

552 **Figure 12:** **(A)** Volcanic rock compositions of the Nahlin ophiolite (grey triangles; this study)
553 and correlative Nakina transect BABB and IAT compositions (light and dark grey shaded areas;
554 English et al. 2010) compared to partial melting models. Dot-dashed black line indicates the
555 bulk-peridotite starting composition, and coloured dashed lines reflect segregated melt
556 compositions after 1 - 20% non-modal fractional partial melting of a DMM source in the spinel

557 stability field. All results normalized to chondrite. **(B)** Bulk-rock REE concentrations for
558 peridotite samples from nearby Peridotite Peak, “Moho Saddle”, and Peridotite Peak East (grey
559 circles; Babechuk et al 2010) compared to modeled residue compositions after depletion by 1 –
560 20% non-modal fractional partial melting of a DMM source in the spinel stability field. All
561 model parameters for (A) and (B) follow those of Warren (2016). Starting bulk-rock composition
562 for DMM is after Workman and Hart (2005), with partition coefficients calculated for a mantle
563 of DMM composition at a potential temperature of 1300 °C (Sun and Liang 2014, Warren 2016).
564 Melting follows the reaction of Wasylenki et al. (2003) for DMM1 composition at 1.0 GPa : 0.56
565 $\text{Opx} + 0.72 \text{Cpx} + 0.04 \text{Sp} = 0.34 \text{Ol} + 1.0 \text{Melt}$.

566 **Figure 13:** Potential configurations of the lower plate OIB-carbonate assemblage and the Nahlin
567 ophiolite during the formation of the Nahlin ophiolite as a result of subduction initiation (A, B
568 and C; modified after Maffione et al. 2015), or during spreading in a backarc setting (D) and in a
569 southern Havre Trough-like setting (E). (A) Progressive development of a new subduction zone
570 parallel to a paleo-spreading centre or other pre-existing plane of weakness in the oceanic crust.
571 In response to far-field ridge-perpendicular compression, deformation is localized along a pre-
572 existing detachment fault and an underthrust develops. (B) The underthrust propagates laterally,
573 nucleating a new subduction zone. Fluids are released from the subducting plate. (C) Extension
574 on the overriding plate triggers renewed magmatism along the paleo-spreading centre, thereby
575 forming new SSZ-type crust, preserved in what may later become the forearc region of a mature
576 arc, and thus propensity to be preserved as a SSZ-type ophiolite. (D) Plate configuration for
577 development of the Nahlin ophiolite along a backarc spreading centre. Combination of
578 decompression (dry) and flux melting reconciles the back arc chemistry of the volcanic rocks of
579 the Nahlin ophiolite. (E) Formation of the Nahlin ophiolite in a southern Havre Trough-like

580 setting, where cross-arc chains of volcanic centres are separated by zone of tectonically
581 accommodated extension erupting back arc basalt along basinal rifts (Wysoczanski et al. 2010).
582 Along-strike variations in volcanic chemistry, from volcanic arc basalts (e.g., Kutcho arc
583 assemblage) to back arc basalt (e.g., arc tholeiites of the Nahlin ophiolite), may explain the lack
584 of preserved arc in the immediate vicinity of the Nahlin ophiolite.

585 **Table 1:** Summary of geochronological data constraining the timing of magmatism related to
586 Permo-Triassic arc activity, including evolution of the Nahlin ophiolite, in the northern Cache
587 Creek composite terrane.

588 **Table 2:** Lithogeochemical data from plutonic and volcanic rocks of the Menatatuline Range
589 area (n.d. indicates no data).

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Table 1: Summary of ophiolitic and arc rocks in the northern Cache Creek terrane

Map	Location	Lithologies	Affinity
A	King Mountain (BC)	ophiolite, mantle, gabbro, dykes	IAT, BON
B	Kutcho	bimodal volcanic rocks	IAT
C	Nakina area (BC)	quartz diorite intruding into mantle	IAT
D	Tseta Creek (BC)	diorite in mafic volcanic and intrusive rocks	IAT
E	Graham Creek (BC)	basalt, diabase, mantle and chert	BAB
F	Jakes Corner (YK)	gabbro stitching mantle and basalt	IAT
G	Teslin (YK)	trondhjemite in ophiolite	IAT

*¹Zagorevski et al. (2016a), ²Zagorevski et al.(2016c), ³Schiarrizza (2011), ⁴Childe and Thomp
⁷Mihalynuk et al. (2003), ⁸Mihalynuk et al. (1998); ⁹Zagorevski et al. (2017) ¹⁰Gordey et al. (:

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Method	Age (Ma)	Reference*
U-Pb zrn, ttn; Ar-Ar hbl	ca. 250-255	1, 2
U-Pb zrn	ca. 242-251.71	3, 4
U-Pb zrn	255±2.8	5, 6, 2
U-Pb zrn	261.4±0.3	6, 7
Radiolaria	Middle Triassic	8, 9
U-Pb zrn	ca. 245	1, 2
U-Pb zrn	245.4±0.8	1, 2, 8

son (1997), ⁵Devine (2002), ⁶English et al. (2010),
1998)

Draft

Figure 1

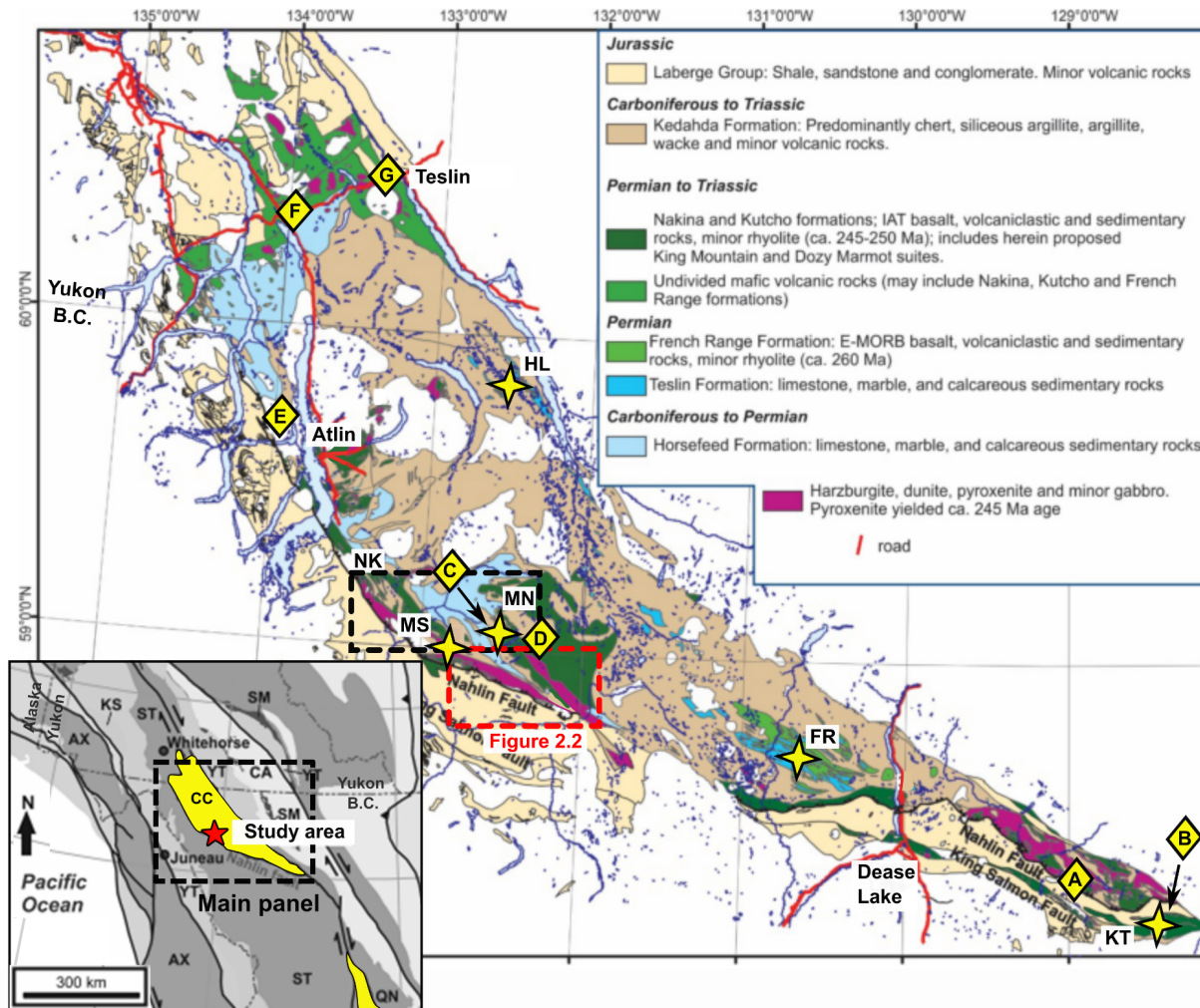
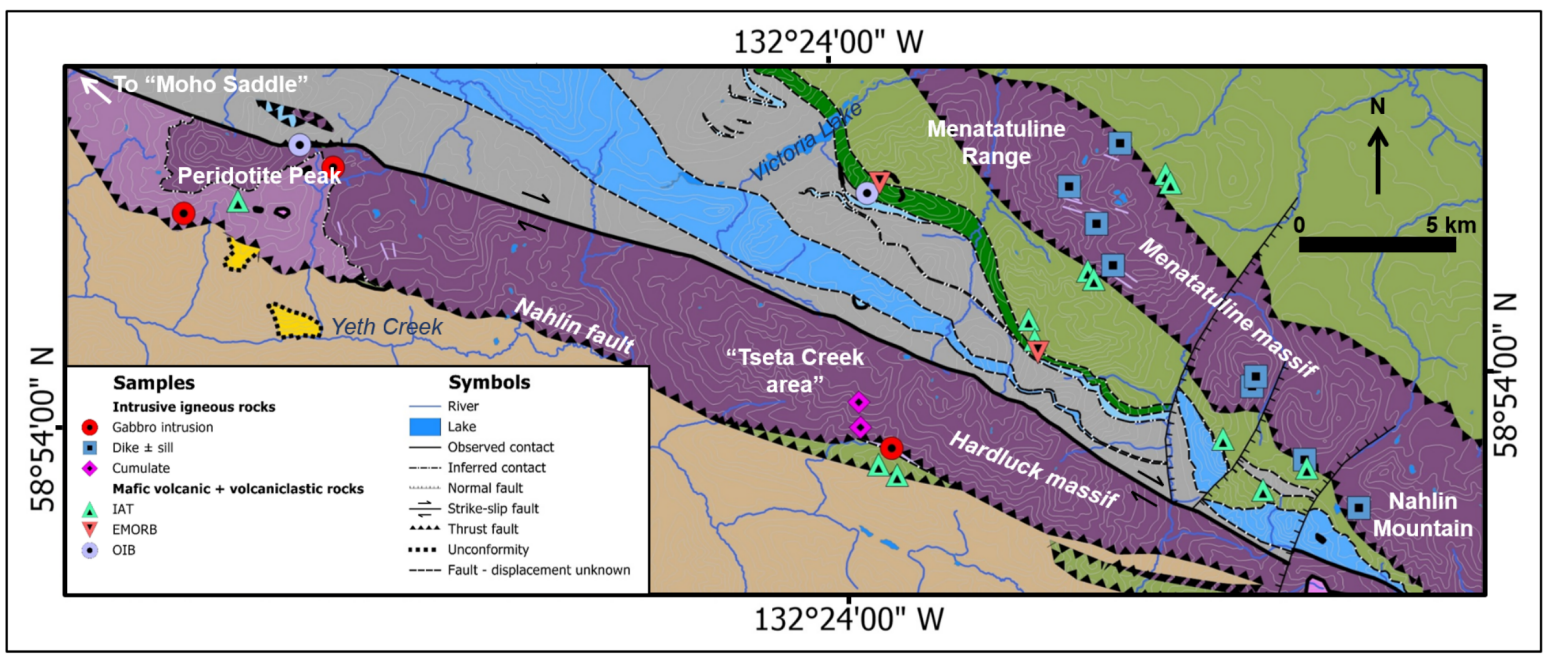


Figure 2



Post-Cache Creek emplacement (Jurassic - Eocene)	Upper plate Nahlin ophiolite (Permian - Triassic)	Lower plate assemblage (Carboniferous - Permian)
Eocene	■ Volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks	■ Kedahda Formation (?): limestone
■ Sloko Group: quartz-phyric rhyolite	— Gabbroic dikes	■ Kedahda Formation: siliciclastic rocks
Jurassic	■ Gabbro	■ Horsefeed Formation: limestone
■ Three Sisters Plutonic Suite: biotite tonalite	■ Serpentine + gabbro dike and sill complex	■ Alkaline mafic volcanic rocks
Jurassic	■ Peridotite, predominantly harzburgite with minor lherzolite	
■ Laberge Group: siltstone, lithic sandstone and conglomerate		

Figure 3

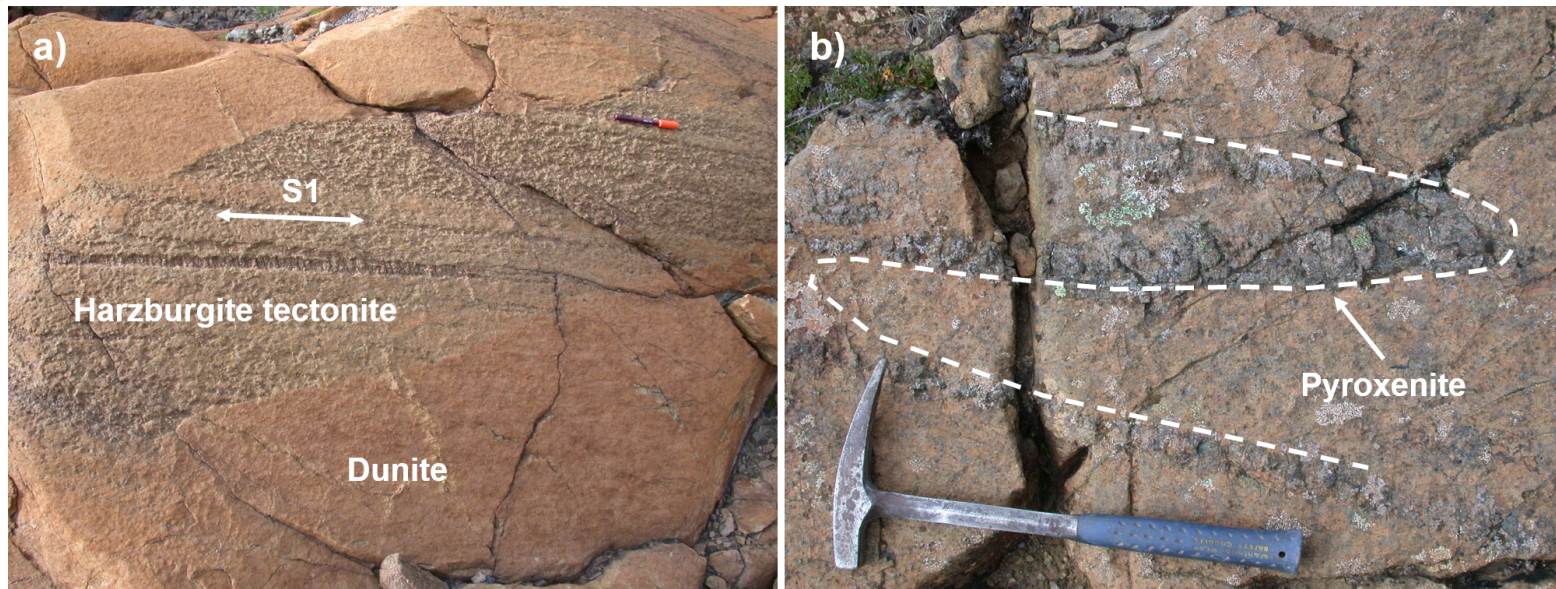


Figure 4

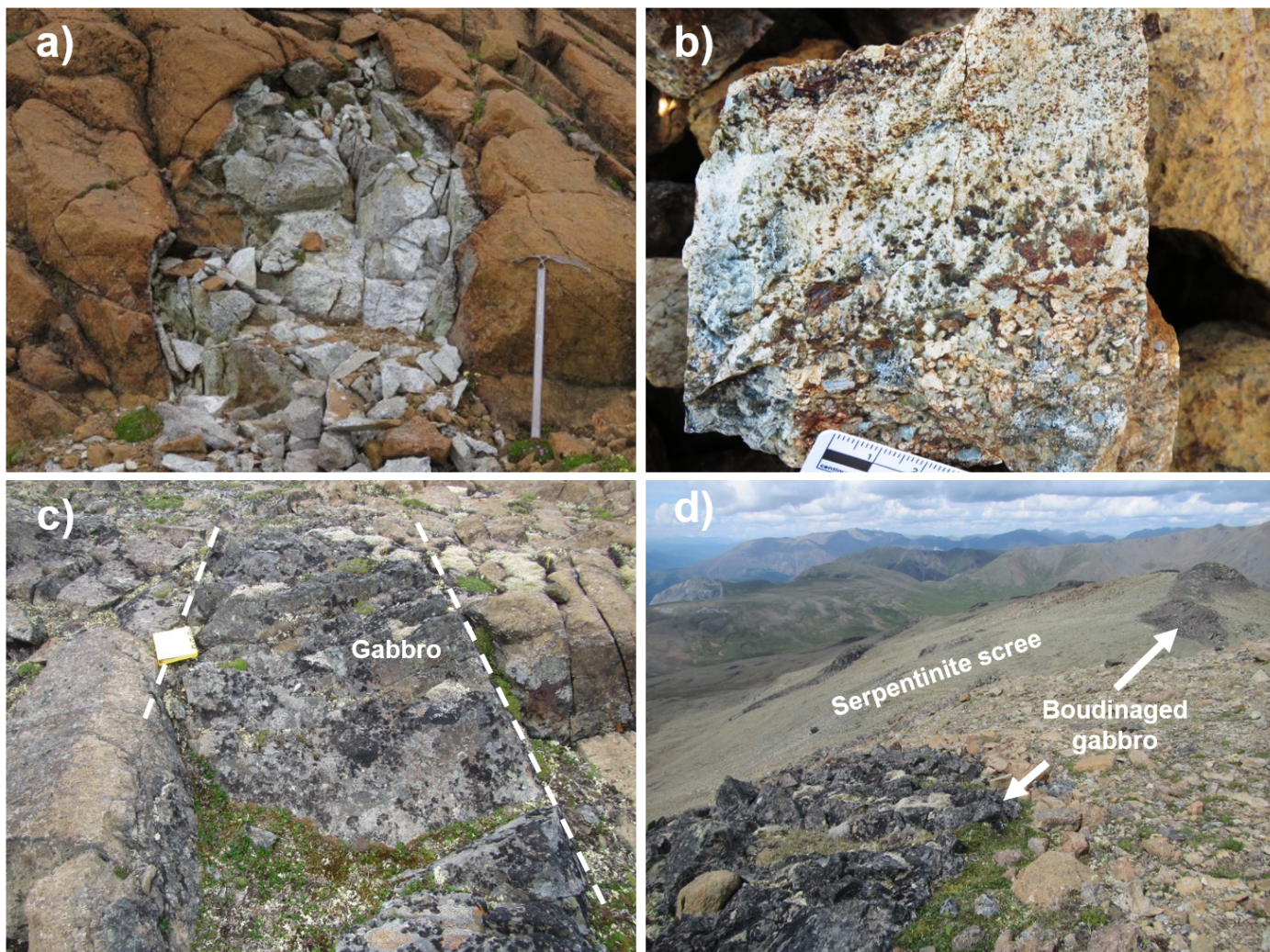


Figure 5

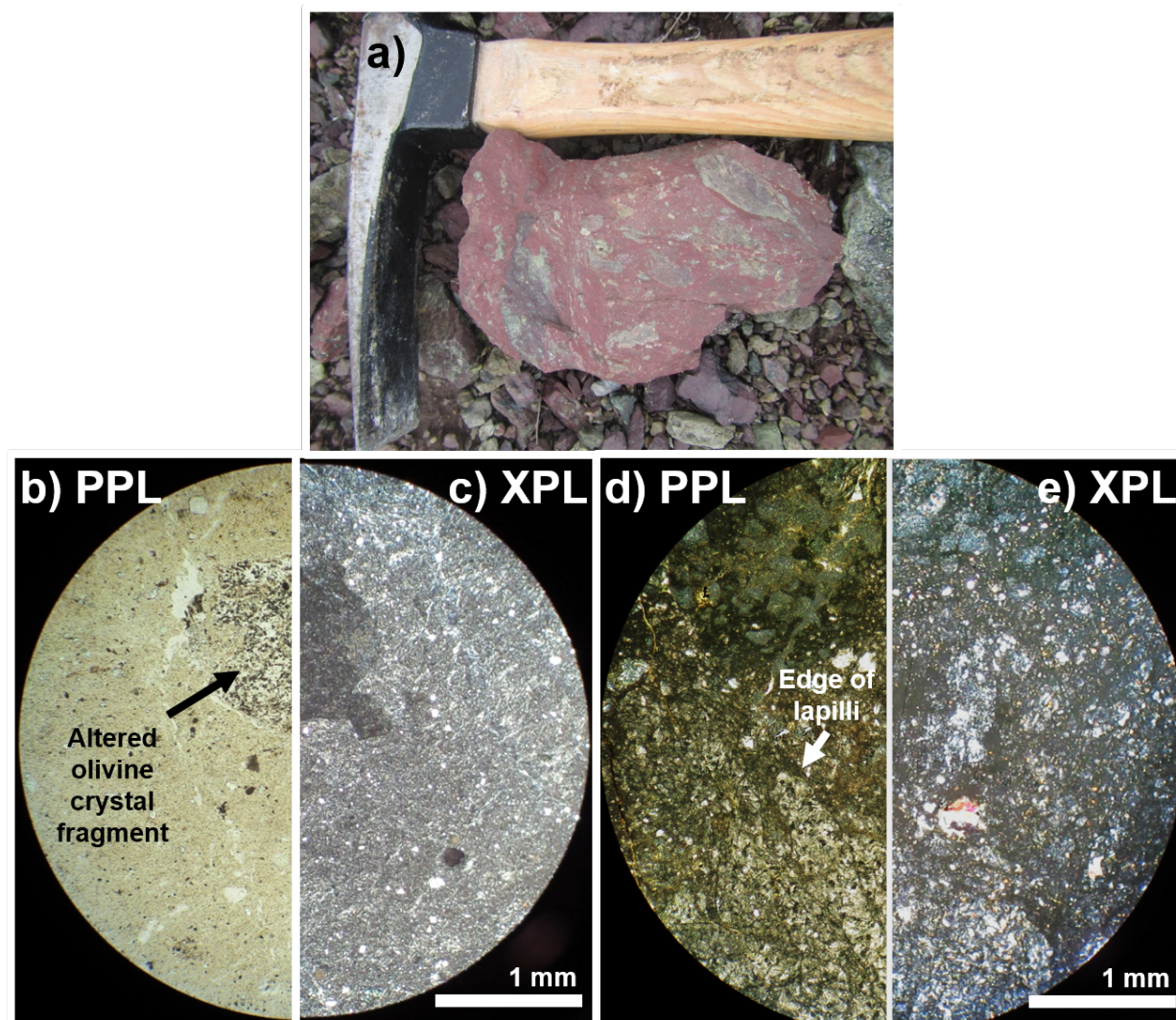


Figure 6

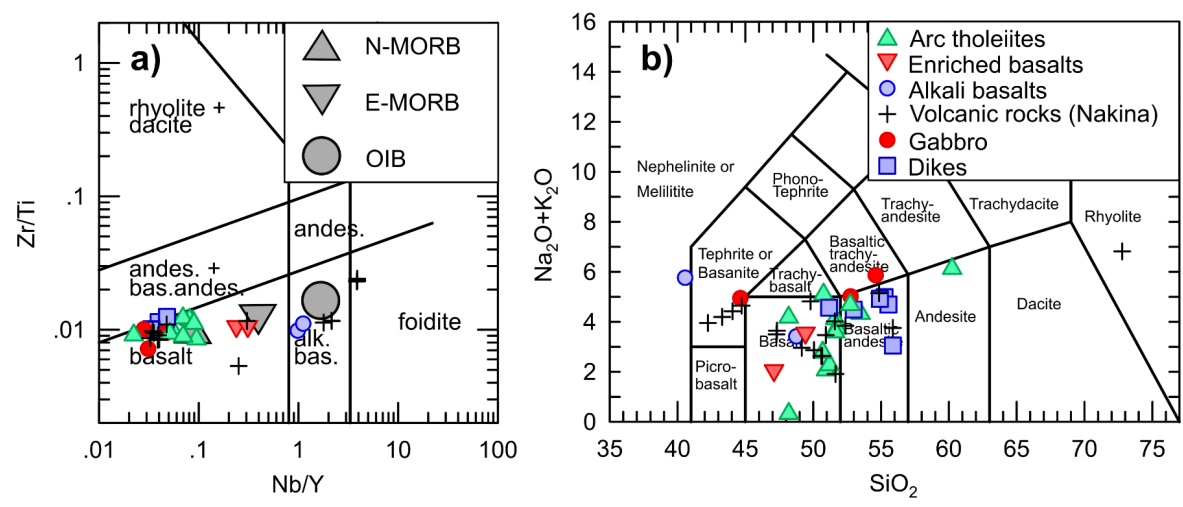


Figure 7

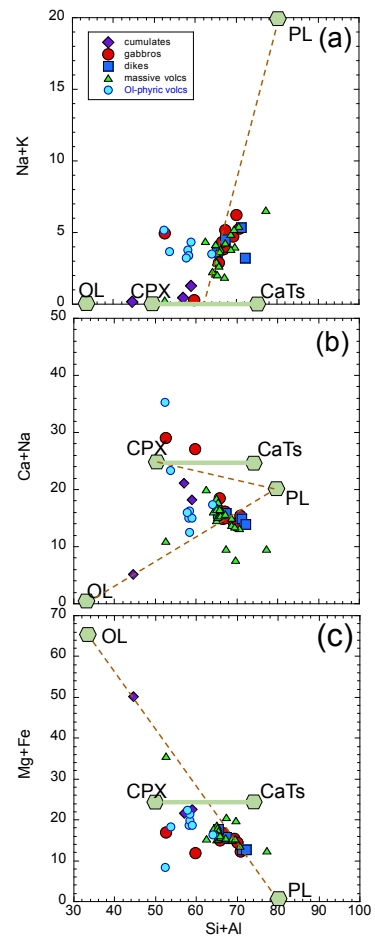


Figure 8

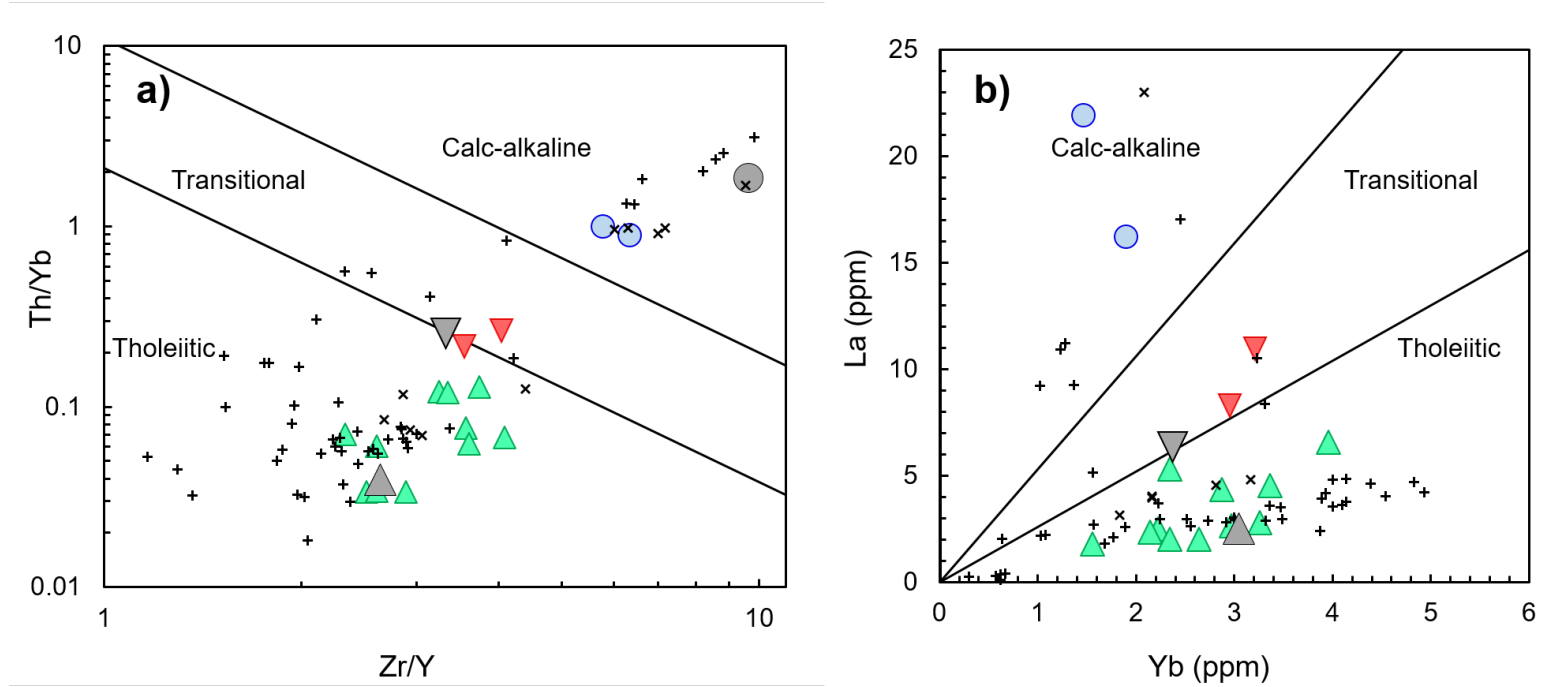


Figure 9

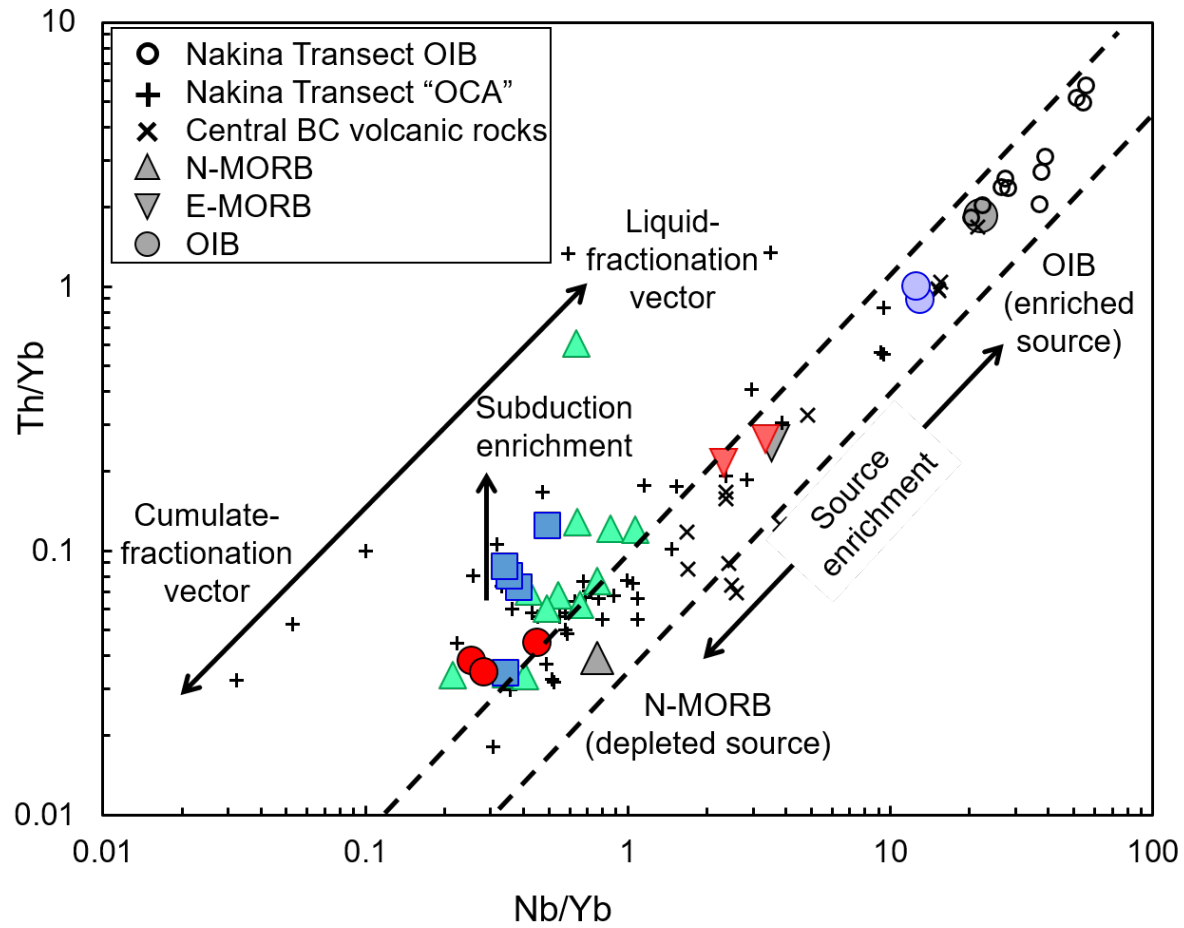


Figure 10

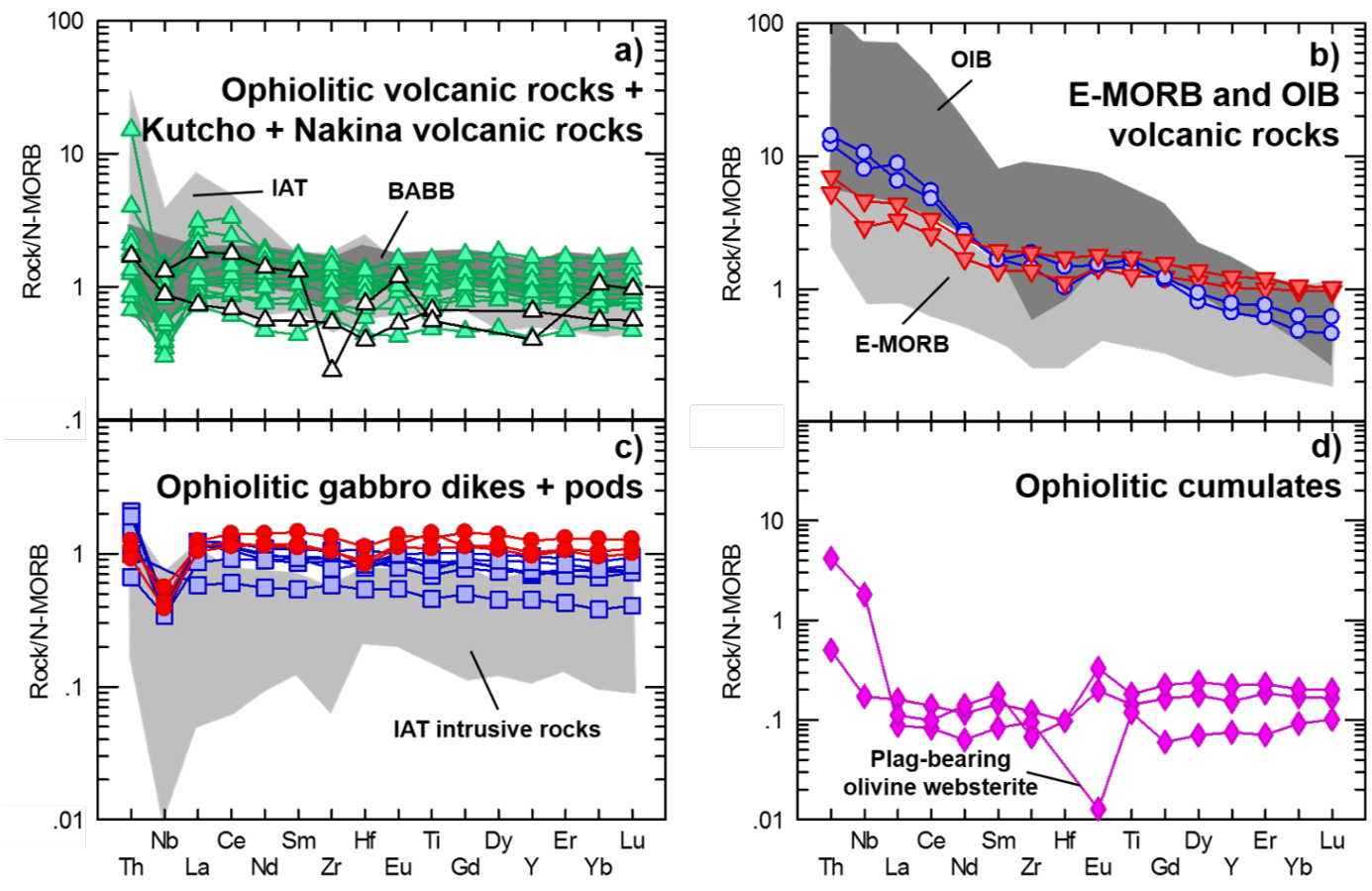


Figure 11

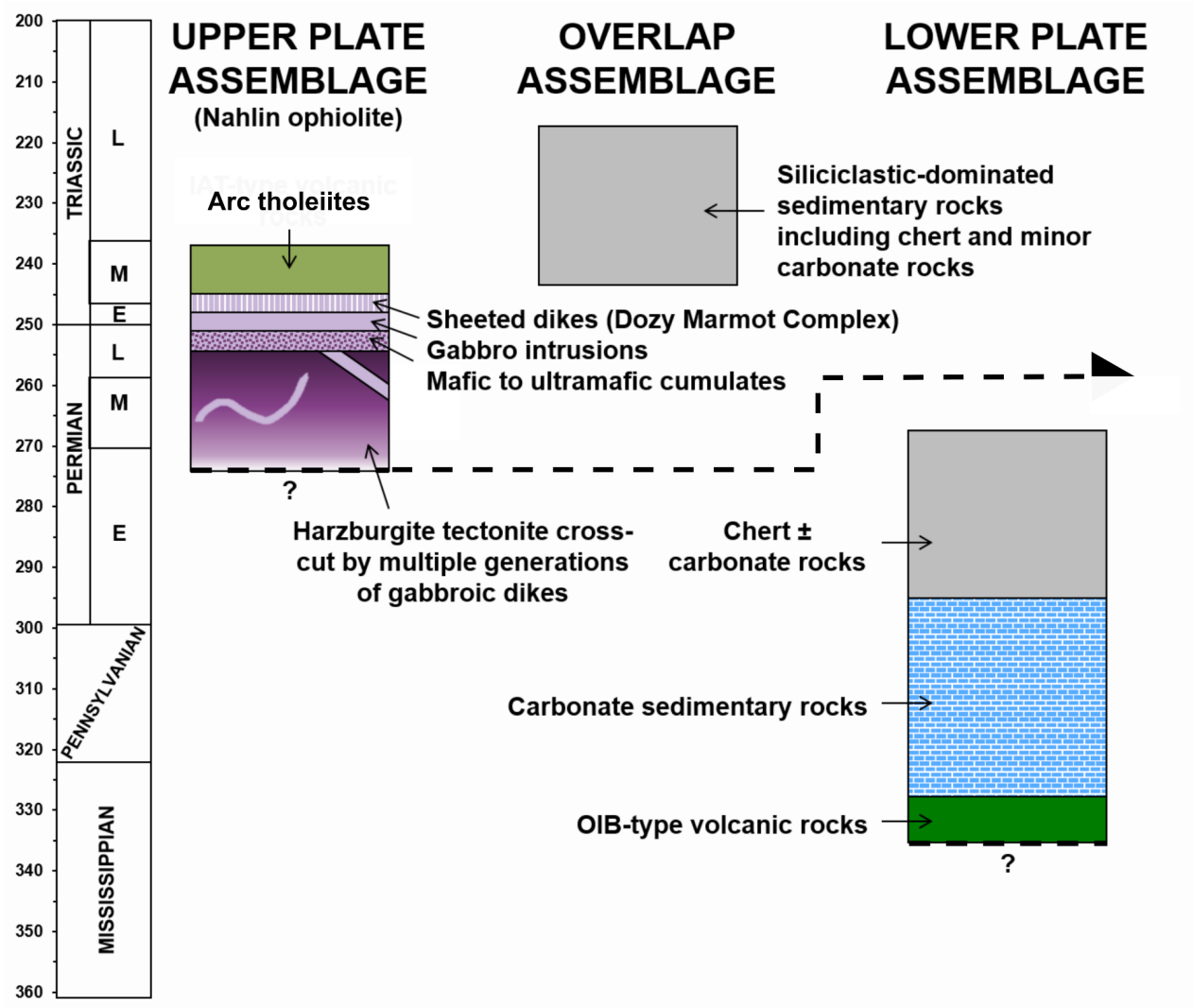


Figure 12

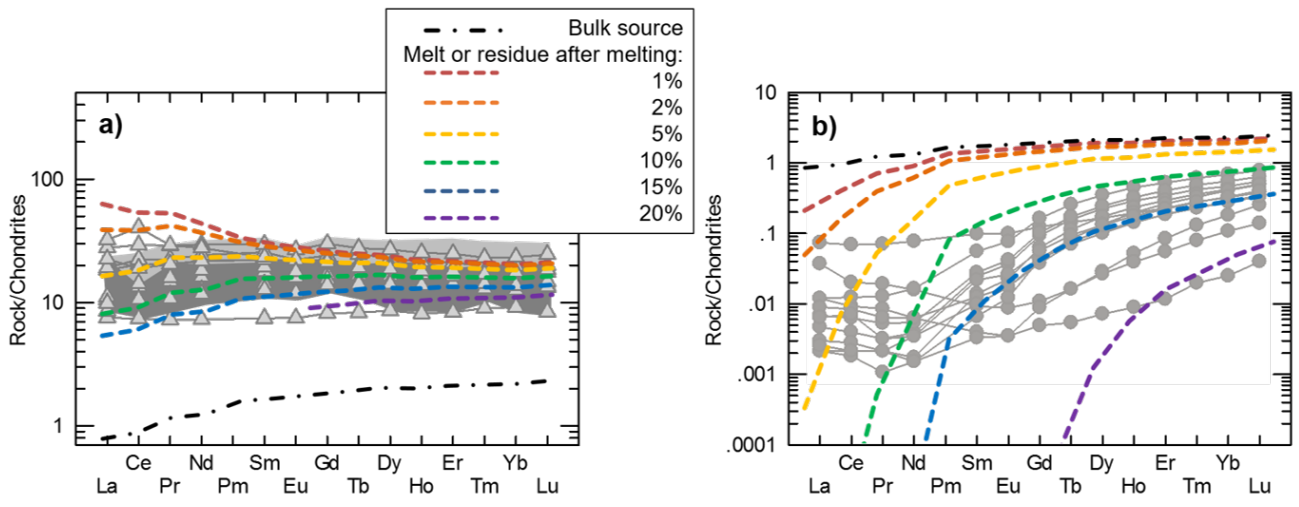


Figure 13

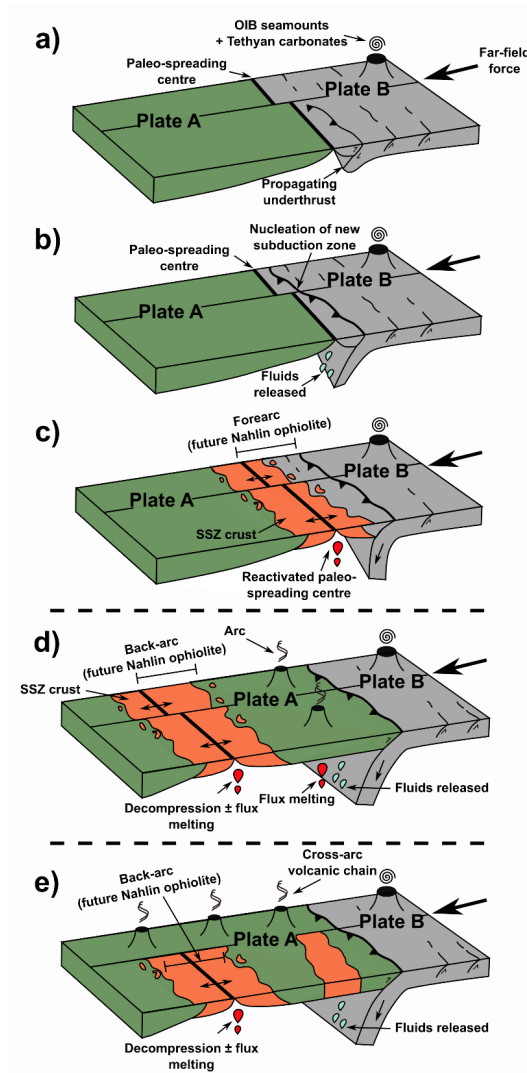


Table 2 - Supplemental - Lithogeochemical Data for Igneous Rocks of the Menetatauline Area

Sample	15ZE-0943	15ZE-0944	15ZE953	15ZE955	15ZE-0985	ZE15SM030
Latitude	58.921	58.915	58.878	58.881	60.328	58.935
Longitude	-132.294	-132.291	-132.371	-132.381	-133.323	-132.260
Rock type	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcaniclastic
Affinity	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT
SiO ₂	50.17	51.13	52.81	59.62	52.01	51.08
Al ₂ O ₃	15.43	14.93	15.60	15.85	14.30	14.70
Fe ₂ O ₃	10.80	10.28	13.11	10.33	13.79	10.68
MnO	0.17	0.17	0.10	0.14	0.22	0.16
MgO	6.47	8.37	8.39	4.78	5.21	8.70
CaO	12.63	10.30	4.14	2.53	7.63	9.09
Na ₂ O	2.62	3.00	2.50	5.99	4.07	3.79
K ₂ O	0.12	0.55	1.77	0.07	0.54	0.27
TiO ₂	1.45	1.18	1.49	0.62	2.02	1.36
P ₂ O ₅	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.19	0.14
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.05
Total	100.00	100.01	100.00	99.99	99.99	99.98
Cs	n.d.	0.3	1.1	0.2	4.5	0.3
Rb	2	12	22	n.d.	14	5
Sr	49	38	194	25	97	81
Ba	14	34	301	17	781	20
Y	31.4	25.3	22.5	11.5	45.9	27.2
Zr	79	66	92	43	108	97
Hf	2.1	1.8	2	0.9	2.7	2.1
Nb	0.7	1.3	1.2	1	3.2	2.2
Ta	0.14	0.37	0.04	0.04	0.37	0.13
Sc	41	35	35	32	41	37
V	318	264	366	184	393	288
Ni	80	190	130	40	70	180
Cu	70	60	50	n.d.	80	80
Zn	80	70	90	70	120	90
W	n.d.	1.8	0.6	0.6	1.8	0.7
As	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Tl	n.d.	0.08	n.d.	n.d.	0.14	n.d.
Pb	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Th	0.11	0.16	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.22
U	0.18	0.11	0.09	0.15	0.14	0.14
La	2.81	2.03	2.49	1.78	3.14	4.35
Ce	9.2	6.91	8.17	4.53	10.8	12.4
Pr	1.57	1.29	1.4	0.69	1.99	1.94
Nd	9.13	7.22	7.5	3.4	11.2	10.1
Sm	3.36	2.76	2.72	1.14	4.36	3.38
Eu	1.29	1.04	1.05	0.433	1.64	1.06
Gd	4.68	3.8	3.49	1.68	6.37	4.34
Tb	0.88	0.71	0.62	0.31	1.15	0.76
Dy	5.64	4.46	4.13	2.18	8.25	5.11
Ho	1.16	0.95	0.83	0.46	1.69	1.04
Er	3.35	2.69	2.5	1.38	4.93	3.02
Tm	0.501	0.413	0.348	0.229	0.758	0.462
Yb	3.26	2.64	2.22	1.56	4.95	2.87
Lu	0.52	0.404	0.336	0.213	0.739	0.447

ZE15SM031A	ZE15SM039B	ZE15SM040	ZE15SM105	16SM 167	16SM 172	ZE15SM033
58.932	58.962	58.959	58.964	58.885	58.869	58.936
-132.257	-132.214	-132.212	-132.734	-132.188	-132.167	-132.246
Mafic volcaniclastic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcaniclastic	Mafic volcanic	Ultramafic volcaniclastic	Mafic volcaniclastic	Diabasic dike
IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT
50.50	50.68	51.19	47.57	47.71	50.03	54.62
16.05	14.38	15.01	13.81	8.03	17.14	14.97
8.88	10.63	10.87	13.48	12.16	15.40	11.55
0.15	0.18	0.18	0.22	0.24	0.27	0.16
7.08	8.22	6.72	5.61	20.58	3.74	4.52
14.23	11.93	10.80	13.18	9.91	6.53	8.03
1.85	2.04	3.39	3.87	0.30	4.34	4.78
0.20	0.21	0.33	0.25	0.02	0.68	0.15
0.98	1.56	1.41	1.85	0.96	1.73	1.10
0.06	0.16	0.10	0.19	0.09	0.15	0.10
0.04	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.20	0.09	0.01
99.99	99.99	100.01	100.03	100.00	100.00	100.00
0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	n.d.
3	4	3	2	n.d.	13	2
53	151	94	424	18	90	137
9	9	49	149	9	124	19
20.7	31.6	28	37.9	22.7	26.3	19.3
54	114	81	123	53	88	68
1.2	2.4	1.8	2.8	1.4	2.4	1.6
0.8	2.2	1.2	3.4	0.9	2.5	0.9
n.d.	0.11	0.04	0.19	0.07	0.19	0.02
36	35	37	37	39	33	34
261	303	317	379	229	277	359
110	170	70	60	460	280	40
70	50	60	60	40	70	60
60	60	80	100	110	210	90
0.6	n.d.	0.5	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	10	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	7	n.d.	n.d.	28
0.08	0.21	0.1	0.48	0.15	0.28	0.17
0.12	0.12	0.05	0.2	0.18	0.32	0.11
2.02	4.53	2.63	6.58	2.34	5.32	2.88
6.34	13.7	8.69	17.9	6.48	11.6	8.51
1.09	2.13	1.51	2.75	1.02	1.94	1.37
5.9	11.3	8.51	13.8	5.47	10.2	7.27
2.15	3.91	2.98	4.52	1.94	3.39	2.4
0.928	1.29	1.08	1.55	0.694	1.28	0.979
3.17	4.94	4.2	6.16	2.85	4.5	3.23
0.56	0.92	0.76	1.03	0.53	0.76	0.54
3.71	5.81	5.01	6.82	3.57	4.83	3.62
0.8	1.21	1.06	1.43	0.78	0.96	0.77
2.28	3.47	3.07	4.11	2.35	2.69	2.21
0.362	0.506	0.452	0.589	0.33	0.363	0.346
2.34	3.36	2.97	3.96	2.14	2.34	2.34
0.346	0.507	0.471	0.621	0.339	0.375	0.338

ZE15SM054A	16SM 161	16SM 163	16SM 178	16SM 186	ZE15AC062	ZE15SM050
58.948	58.902	58.899	58.863	58.878	58.961	58.971
-132.254	-132.169	-132.171	-132.114	-132.143	-132.764	-132.239
Diabasic dike	Gabbroic dike	Amph-bearing gabbroic dike	Amph-bearing gabbroic dike	Gabbroic dike	Gabbro	Gabbro
IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT
55.21	52.57	55.08	54.28	50.72	53.95	44.25
15.28	16.57	14.91	14.69	16.84	14.14	9.32
11.87	7.89	8.67	11.86	9.20	12.55	10.69
0.17	0.13	0.13	0.20	0.15	0.20	0.19
4.36	7.71	7.26	4.21	7.77	5.23	7.87
8.98	10.03	8.32	8.50	9.78	6.30	21.34
2.87	4.04	4.13	4.76	3.19	5.55	4.74
0.14	0.41	0.52	0.10	1.33	0.21	0.13
1.01	0.58	0.87	1.29	0.95	1.66	1.39
0.10	0.05	0.10	0.13	0.06	0.15	0.13
0.01	0.01	0.02		0.04	0.02	0.04
100.00	99.98	100.00	100.02	100.00	99.95	100.03
n.d.	n.d.	0.1	n.d.	0.1	0.2	0.3
n.d.	7	7	n.d.	14	3	4
162	223	218	171	365	142	27
27	40	51	27	30	24	n.d.
20.2	12.6	20.8	26.7	24.2	35	27
69	43	65	78	57	99	78
1.6	1.1	1.8	2.2	1.7	2.3	1.7
0.8	n.d.	1	0.9	0.8	1	1.3
n.d.	0.01	0.08	0.08	0.06	n.d.	0.05
35	36	32	32	35	33	38
357	185	234	333	227	297	306
30	90	60	40	120	100	120
40	120	60	60	60	40	50
80	50	50	70	60	100	70
0.7	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.7	0.7
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	33	n.d.
0.18	0.12	0.25	0.23	0.08	0.15	0.13
0.11	0.07	0.15	0.16	0.04	0.1	0.05
2.87	1.45	2.89	3.08	2.16	3.12	2.85
8.36	4.51	7.95	9.1	6.86	10.6	9.08
1.35	0.77	1.19	1.5	1.14	1.87	1.48
7.06	4.04	6.57	8.03	6.51	10.3	8.35
2.49	1.42	2.25	2.82	2.43	3.83	2.92
0.92	0.554	0.803	1	1.02	1.4	1.14
3.16	1.83	2.86	3.7	3.32	5.32	4.16
0.57	0.31	0.5	0.68	0.61	0.97	0.77
3.6	2.04	3.35	4.47	4.06	6.34	4.89
0.78	0.43	0.71	0.94	0.87	1.33	1.02
2.24	1.26	2.04	2.75	2.48	3.88	3.14
0.356	0.187	0.311	0.404	0.346	0.583	0.458
2.25	1.16	2.02	2.65	2.33	3.93	2.89
0.335	0.185	0.329	0.427	0.373	0.584	0.457

ZE15SM090	15ZE956A	15ZE959A	15ZE965	15ZE971	ZE15SM112A	15ZE-0945
58.973	58.886	58.892	58.899	58.960	58.980	58.912
-132.679	-132.373	-132.390	-132.391	-132.382	-132.698	-132.290
Amph-bearing gabbro	Gabbronorite cumulate	Gabbronorite cumulate	Plag-bearing olivine websterite cumulate	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic	Mafic volcanic
IAT	IAT	IAT	IAT	OIB	OIB	EMORB
52.12	45.60	49.55	43.47	48.32	40.38	46.56
13.44	15.63	14.22	10.73	16.50	14.09	19.10
13.26	7.36	5.90	3.63	10.33	5.90	12.24
0.20	0.13	0.11	0.03	0.18	0.07	0.21
5.76	11.99	13.22	36.56	7.15	3.66	7.04
8.39	18.57	15.48	5.24	11.83	27.40	11.05
4.47	0.42	1.28	0.18	3.16	3.58	1.58
0.45	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.19	2.12	0.45
1.81	0.23	0.18	0.15	2.10	1.84	1.59
0.09	-	0.01	-	0.25	0.95	0.18
0.02	0.08	0.11	0.56	0.01	0.04	0.05
99.99	99.98	100.02	100.01	100.02	99.98	100.00
0.5	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.6	2.7	0.2
6	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	7	35	10
118	257	323	4	136	159	620
24	12	13	4	43	275	44
28.5	6.2	4.3	2.1	21.7	18.5	28.5
77	5	9	7	138	107	101
1.8	0.2	0.2	n.d.	3	2.1	2.3
0.9	n.d.	0.4	4.2	24.6	18.5	6.8
n.d.	0.04	n.d.	0.05	2.12	1.27	0.6
37	40	41	11	36	20	46
474	138	150	74	277	160	274
90	240	320	1110	60	80	140
40	130	80	10	100	40	90
90	40	n.d.	n.d.	80	40	130
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.6	1.8	1.1	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	9	n.d.	n.d.
n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	0.07	0.07
n.d.	n.d.	35	11	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
0.11	n.d.	0.06	0.5	1.7	1.47	0.63
0.07	n.d.	0.02	0.01	0.5	0.52	0.26
2.6	0.28	0.4	0.22	16.2	21.9	8.25
8.51	0.74	1.04	0.62	35.7	40.9	19.1
1.44	0.15	0.15	0.11	4.45	4.67	2.61
8.6	1.02	0.85	0.46	18.7	19.8	12.3
3.09	0.48	0.38	0.22	4.34	4.41	3.61
1.2	0.335	0.201	0.013	1.55	1.46	1.47
4.17	0.82	0.6	0.22	4.47	4.27	4.53
0.81	0.16	0.11	0.04	0.7	0.62	0.79
5.23	1.09	0.8	0.32	4.23	3.64	5.18
1.09	0.25	0.18	0.07	0.79	0.66	1.06
3.2	0.68	0.55	0.21	2.23	1.81	2.98
0.487	0.101	0.083	0.037	0.329	0.235	0.443
3.18	0.62	0.52	0.28	1.9	1.47	2.95
0.498	0.091	0.075	0.046	0.279	0.21	0.438

15ZE-0972	Standards							
58.962	DNC-1			OREAS 101B			W-2a	
-132.374	DNC-1			OREAS 101B			W-2a	
Mafic volcanic	DNC-1			OREAS 101B			W-2a	
EMORB	Certified	Measured	% accuracy	Certified	Measured	% accuracy	Certified	Measured
48.78	47.15	47.26	0.23				52.40	52.31
15.86	18.34	17.67	3.65				15.40	15.37
13.49	9.97	9.43	5.42				10.70	10.64
0.24	0.15	0.15	2.67				0.16	0.17
5.77	10.13	9.74	3.85				6.37	6.45
9.90	11.49	11.44	0.44				10.90	10.95
3.02	1.89	1.93	2.12				2.14	2.17
0.49	0.23	0.22	5.98				0.63	0.60
2.19	0.48	0.47	1.88				1.06	1.08
0.27	0.07	0.07	0.00				0.13	0.13
0.03	0.04	0.04	3.70				0.01	0.01
100.01	99.90	98.38					99.89	99.86
0.6								
11							21	20
114	144	139	3.5				190	192
116	118	102	13.6				182	170
34.4	18	17.7	1.7	178	180	1.1	24	21.7
139	38	37	2.6				94	95
3.5							2.6	2.5
10.7							7.9	7.3
0.92								
43	31	31	0.0				36	35
330	148	157	6.1				262	267
130	247	270	9.3	9	< 20		70	70
60	100	100	0.0	416	420	1.0	110	110
170							80	90
1.9							0.3	< 0.5
n.d.								
0.1							0.2	0.06
n.d.								
0.84				37.1	39.8	6.8	2.4	2.5
0.22				396	426	7.0	0.53	0.55
10.9				789	820	3.9		
25				1331	1430	7.4	23	24.8
3.64				127	129	1.6		
17.1				378	389	2.9	13	13.3
5.12				48	50	4.2	3.3	3.4
1.83	0.59	0.63	6.8	7.77	8.34	7.3		
5.73								
1				5.37	5.46	1.7	0.63	0.64
6.24				32.1	32.5	1.2		
1.27				6.34	6.44	1.6	0.76	0.81
3.57				18.7	19.4	3.7	2.5	2.3
0.505				2.66	2.82	6.0		
3.21	2	2.1	5.0	17.6	18.2	3.4	2.1	2.1
0.468				2.58	2.63	1.9	0.33	0.32

% accuracy
0.17
0.19
0.56
1.23
1.26
0.46
1.40
4.15
1.51
0.00
8.70
4.8
1.1
6.6
9.6
1.1
3.8
7.6
2.8
1.9
0.0
0.0
12.5
70.0
4.2
3.8
7.8
2.3
3.0
1.6
6.6
8.0
0.0
3.0

Draft

Standard	DNC-1			OREAS 101B			W-2a		
	Certified	Measured	% accuracy	Certified	Measured	% accuracy	Certified	Measured	% accuracy
SiO ₂	47.15	47.26	0.23				52.40	52.31	0.17
Al ₂ O ₃	18.34	17.67	3.65				15.40	15.37	0.19
Fe ₂ O ₃	9.97	9.43	5.42				10.70	10.64	0.56
MnO	0.15	0.15	2.67				0.16	0.17	1.23
MgO	10.13	9.74	3.85				6.37	6.45	1.26
CaO	11.49	11.44	0.44				10.90	10.95	0.46
Na ₂ O	1.89	1.93	2.12				2.14	2.17	1.40
K ₂ O	0.23	0.22	5.98				0.63	0.60	4.15
TiO ₂	0.48	0.47	1.88				1.06	1.08	1.51
P ₂ O ₅	0.07	0.07	0.00				0.13	0.13	0.00
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.04	0.04	3.70				0.01	0.01	8.70
Total	99.90	98.38					99.89	99.86	
Cs									
Rb							21	20	4.8
Sr	144	139	3.5				190	192	1.1
Ba	118	102	13.6				182	170	6.6
Y	18	17.7	1.7	178	180	1.1	24	21.7	9.6
Zr	38	37	2.6				94	95	1.1
Hf							2.6	2.5	3.8
Nb							7.9	7.3	7.6
Ta									
Sc	31	31	0.0				36	35	2.8
V	148	157	6.1				262	267	1.9
Cr	270	280	3.7				92	100	8.7
Ni	247	270	9.3	9	< 20		70	70	0.0
Cu	100	100	0.0	416	420	1.0	110	110	0.0
Zn							80	90	12.5
W							0.3	< 0.5	
As									
Tl							0.2	0.06	70.0
Pb									
Th				37.1	39.8	6.8	2.4	2.5	4.2
U				396	426	7.0	0.53	0.55	3.8
La				789	820	3.9			
Ce				1331	1430	7.4	23	24.8	7.8
Pr				127	129	1.6			
Nd				378	389	2.9	13	13.3	2.3
Sm				48	50	4.2	3.3	3.4	3.0
Eu	0.59	0.63	6.8	7.77	8.34	7.3			
Gd									
Tb				5.37	5.46	1.7	0.63	0.64	1.6

Dy				32.1	32.5	1.2			
Ho				6.34	6.44	1.6	0.76	0.81	6.6
Er				18.7	19.4	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.0
Tm				2.66	2.82	6.0			
Yb	2	2.1	5.0	17.6	18.2	3.4	2.1	2.1	0.0
Lu				2.58	2.63	1.9	0.33	0.32	3.0

Draft