

Senior Thesis

**MEASUREMENTS OF THE WATER CONTENT OF
BASALT FROM PATMOS ISLAND, GREECE**

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Bachelor of Science in the
Department of Geological Sciences

by

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SPO-1993

ABSTRACT

The focus of this study was the examination of basalt samples from Patmos Island, Greece. The samples were examined using microprobe analysis and the relative concentrations of the elements present determined. It was hoped that through this analysis it could be determined whether or not the magma from which the rock formed was generated by the interaction of a subducting slab and a mantle source. The concentrations of calcium and sodium in the plagioclase phenocrysts was plotted against whole rock concentrations. These values were then compared against known values of the distribution coefficient and an estimate of the water content was made.

From the plots made, it was determined that the source of the parent magma *was* a mantle source interacting with a subducting slab. However, one of the samples had anomalously low amounts of water and calcium. It is suggested that further study of this sample be conducted to determine if the data used in this study was in error, or to determine the possible causes for these low abundances

INTRODUCTION

Patmos is a small island of the Hellenic arc, Greece. The island is located approximately fifty kilometers east of Turkey and 200 kilometers northwest of Crete in the Southern Aegean Sea. Like several islands of the Aegean Sea, Patmos is made of extrusive igneous rocks, mainly basalt. The examination of these basalt with the use of geothermometers and geobarometers give geologist an idea of the conditions of temperature and pressure that the magma was under while it crystallized. Another important factor determined in analyzing these rocks is the water content of the rock. Knowing the water content of a basalt is important for several reasons, including what effects the water may have had on the magma. Among the effects that water content has on magma are reduction of melt viscosity, increase of diffusion rates, and the decrease of the crystallization temperature. Water content can also indicate the source of the magma that formed the rock. A high water content is a strong indicator that the magma was derived from a mantle source interacting with a subducting slab. A low water content or no water indicates that the possible source of the magma was from the mantle.

The focus of this paper is to estimate the water content of various basalt samples from Patmos Island. Several samples of Patmos basalt were analyzed with the electron microprobe, these samples have been labeled Pat 167, Pat 97, and Pat 26. The data collected was then analyzed and an approximate water content was found. In doing this, it was hoped that the source of the magma that

created Patmos would be determined.

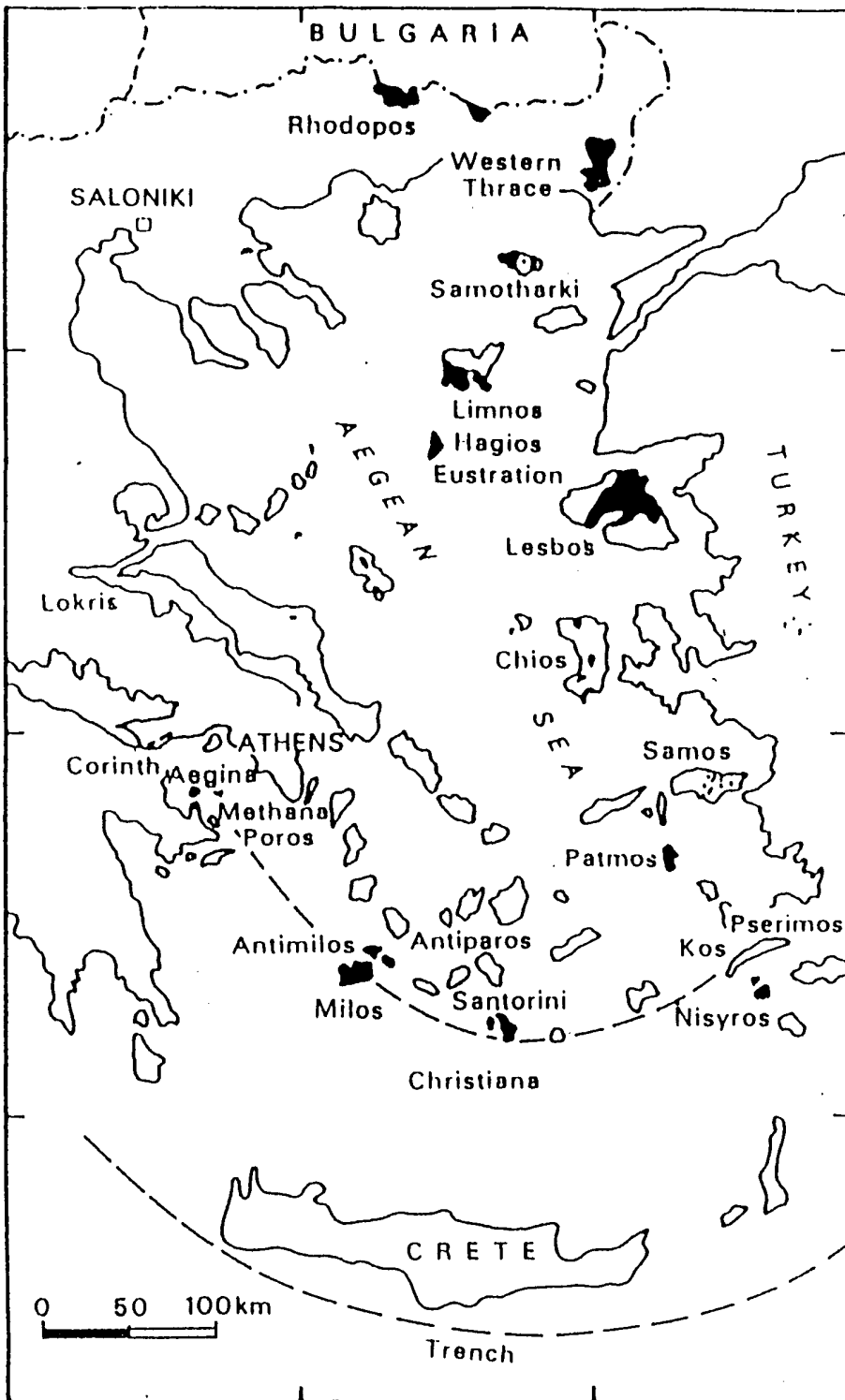


Figure 1

Map of the Aegean Sea showing major outcrops of volcanic rocks
 The dashed lines mark the Hellenic Trench and the Hellenic Arc.
 (From Barton and Wyers, 1991)

GEOLOGY

The geology of Patmos Island is described in Wyers and Barton (1986). The basalts of Patmos are alkaline in nature, that is they have high concentrations of alkalies (Na, K) relative to silica. Several phases of volcanic activity are recognized on Patmos, including the eruption of ne-trachybasalts, hy-trachybasalts and Q-trachytes which occurred 5.5 - 5.7 million years ago; and the eruption of ne-trachybasalts which occurred 4.5 - 4.6 million years ago (Barton and Wyers, 1991). These basalts account for a large amount of the rock that makes up the island (fig. 2) Other rock types found on Patmos include rhyolite, phonolite, pyroclastics and marble. With the possible exception of zircon, major and trace element data for the ne-trachybasalts, hy-trachybasalts, trachyandesites and the trachytes are consistent with an evolutionary model involving fractional crystallization in an intermediate depth (about 8 kilometers) magma chamber (Wyers and Barton, 1986).

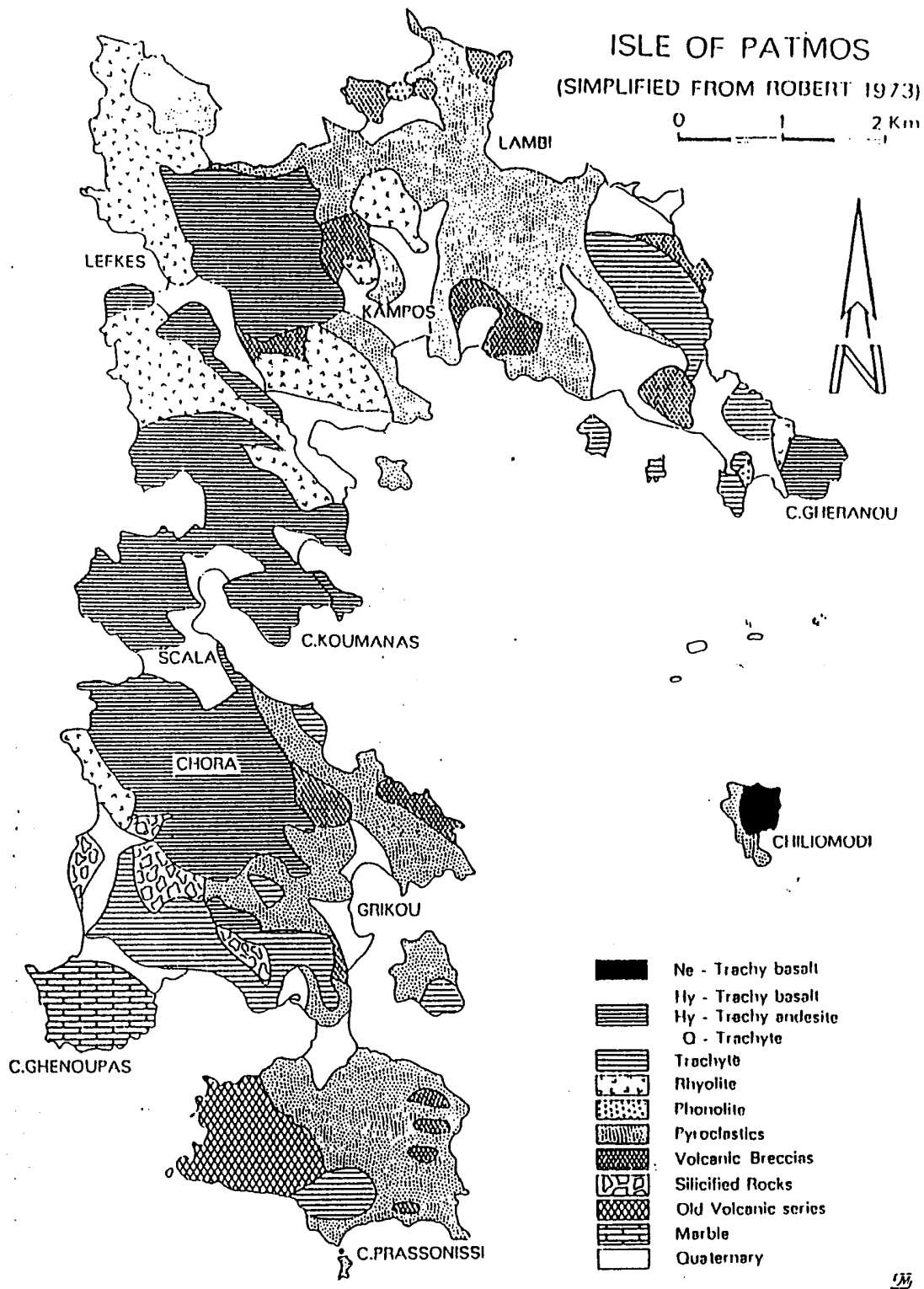


Figure 2

Simplified geologic map of Patmos Island, Greece (from Barton and Wyers, 1986)

METHODS

Three samples collected from Patmos Island were examined for this study, Pat 26, Pat 97, Pat 167. The samples were made into thin sections and then analyzed with the electron microprobe. The microprobe analyzes the sample by bombarding a specific part of the thin section with electrons. X-Rays are produced as a result of this bombardment. Using the wavelength and intensity of the lines in the X-ray spectrum the elements present in the thin section may be identified and their concentrations estimated.

The analysis of the samples involved scanning the thin sections for plagioclase phenocrysts. When the phenocrysts were located, a probe analysis of the grain's core and rim was conducted. The evolution of the magma that the basalt formed from is reflected by the change in composition, or zonation that takes place from the core of the grain to its rim. This will give the researcher an idea of the conditions that existed as the magma cooled.

Given that:

$$K_D = \frac{(Ca/Na)_{plag}}{(Ca/Na)_{liquid}}$$

Values of $[Ca/Na]_{plag}$ were calculated for all three samples by calculating the molar values of the CaO and Na₂O concentrations that were determined by the microprobe analysis. The values for $[Ca/Na]_{liquid}$ were calculated from whole

rock analysis of the three samples conducted previous to this study (Barton and Wyers, 1991). The results of these calculations are displayed in Tables 1 and 2.

It should be noted that the K_D analysis of the plagioclase phenocryst was limited to the more Anorthitic (more calcic) phenocryst. Very calcic plagioclase ($>An_{90}$) form in basaltic melts with high water content, but cannot form from dry melts with normal arc Na_2O and CaO concentrations (Sisson and Groves, 1992). Since no plagioclase phenocryst with $>An_{90}$ were found in these samples, the more calcic phenocryst present were examined. Since very calcic plagioclase will not form in dry melts, it was believed that examination of the most calcic phenocryst would be the best to study to confirm water was indeed present. The $[Ca/Na]$ ratios tabulated were then plotted and compared against known values of K_D , and an estimate of water content was made.

SAMPLE	GRAIN #	CORE/RIM	[Ca/Na] _{plag}
PAT 167	4	CORE	8.2583
PAT 167	7	CORE	7.7456
PAT 167	9	CORE	12.293
PAT 167	9	RIM	7.9796
PAT 167	24	CORE	15.39
////////	////////	////////	////////
PAT 26	1	CORE	10.186
PAT 26	2	CORE	18.29
PAT 26	2	RIM	12.55
PAT 26	4	RIM	10.18
PAT 26	6	CORE	10.03
PAT 26	8	CORE	9.51
PAT 26	8	RIM	16.21
PAT 26	9	CORE	12.92
PAT 26	9	RIM	11.36
PAT 26	10	CORE	11.68
PAT 26	11	RIM	9.253
////////	////////	////////	////////
PAT 97	---	CORE	7.41

TABLE 1
[Ca/Na] Ratios for Plagioclase Phenocryst
for Basalt Samples, Patmos, Greece

SAMPLE	[Ca/Na] _{liquid}
PAT 26	3.66
PAT 97	2.31
PAT 167	2.535

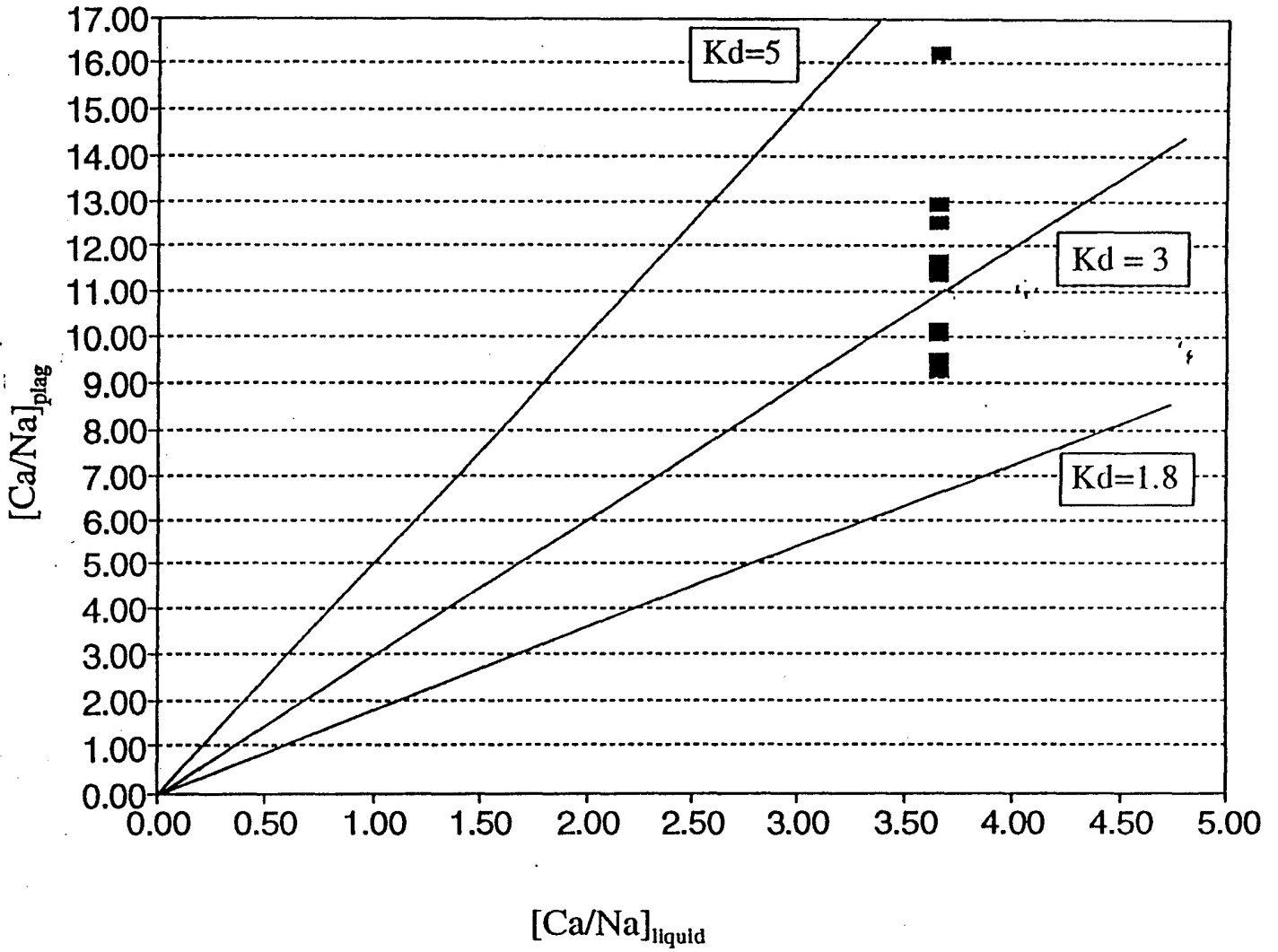
TABLE 2
[Ca/Na] Ratios for magma
Basalt Samples Patmos, Greece

RESULTS

The data for the three samples was plotted against three known values of K_D . From the plots (see pp. 9-11) it was determined that the samples did indeed contain various amounts of water. Given that K_D values of 1.8, 3, and 5 roughly correspond to water percentages of 2, 4, and 6, the water weight percentage of the samples was estimated. The sample PAT 26 possessed phenocryst with water content varying from about 2% H_2O to 6% H_2O . Sample PAT 97 possessed a water content of about 4% and PAT 167 had a water weight percentage that varied from 4% to values greater than 6%.

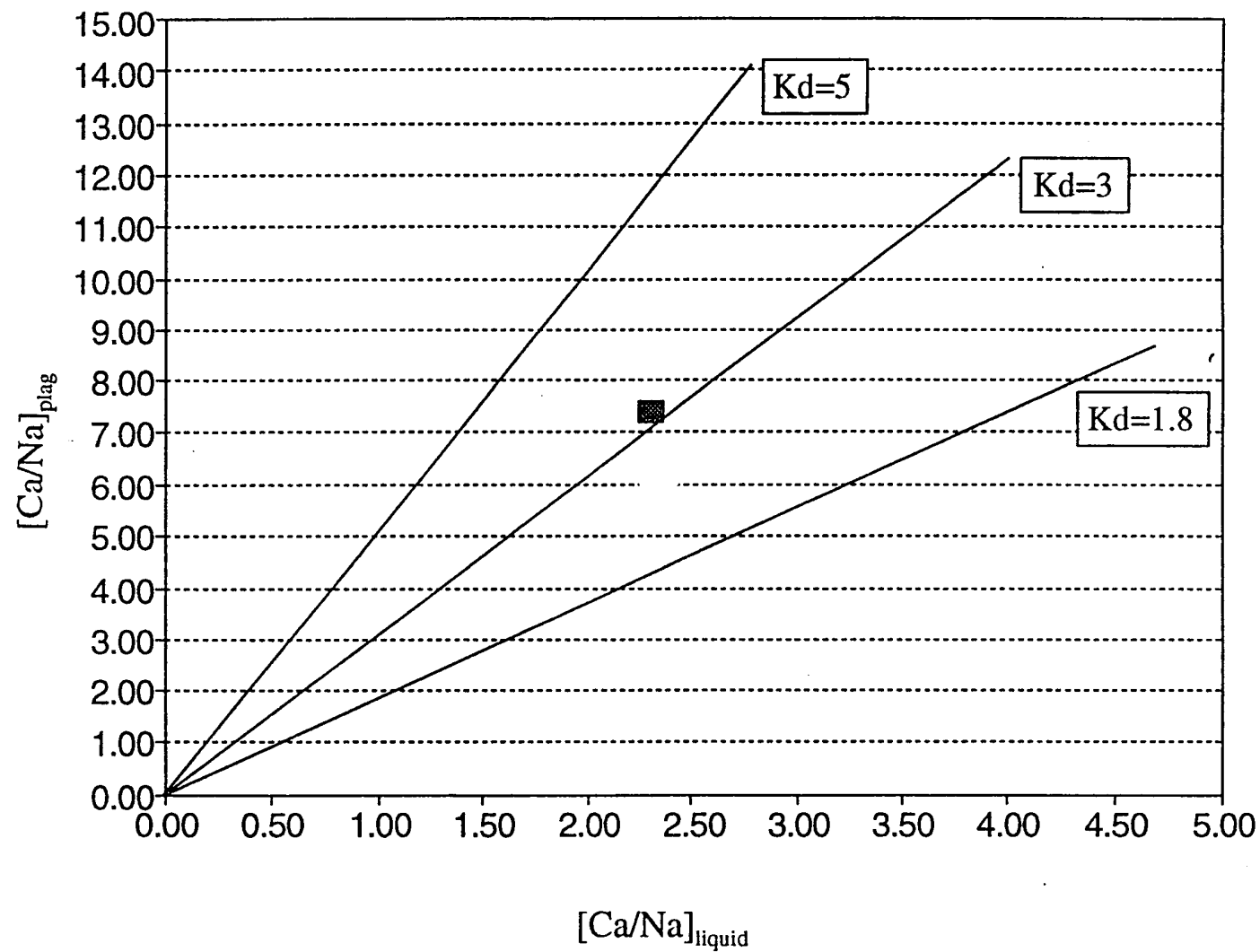
Graph of $[Ca/Na]_{plag}$ vs $[Ca/Na]_{liquid}$

PAT 26 BASALT SAMPLES



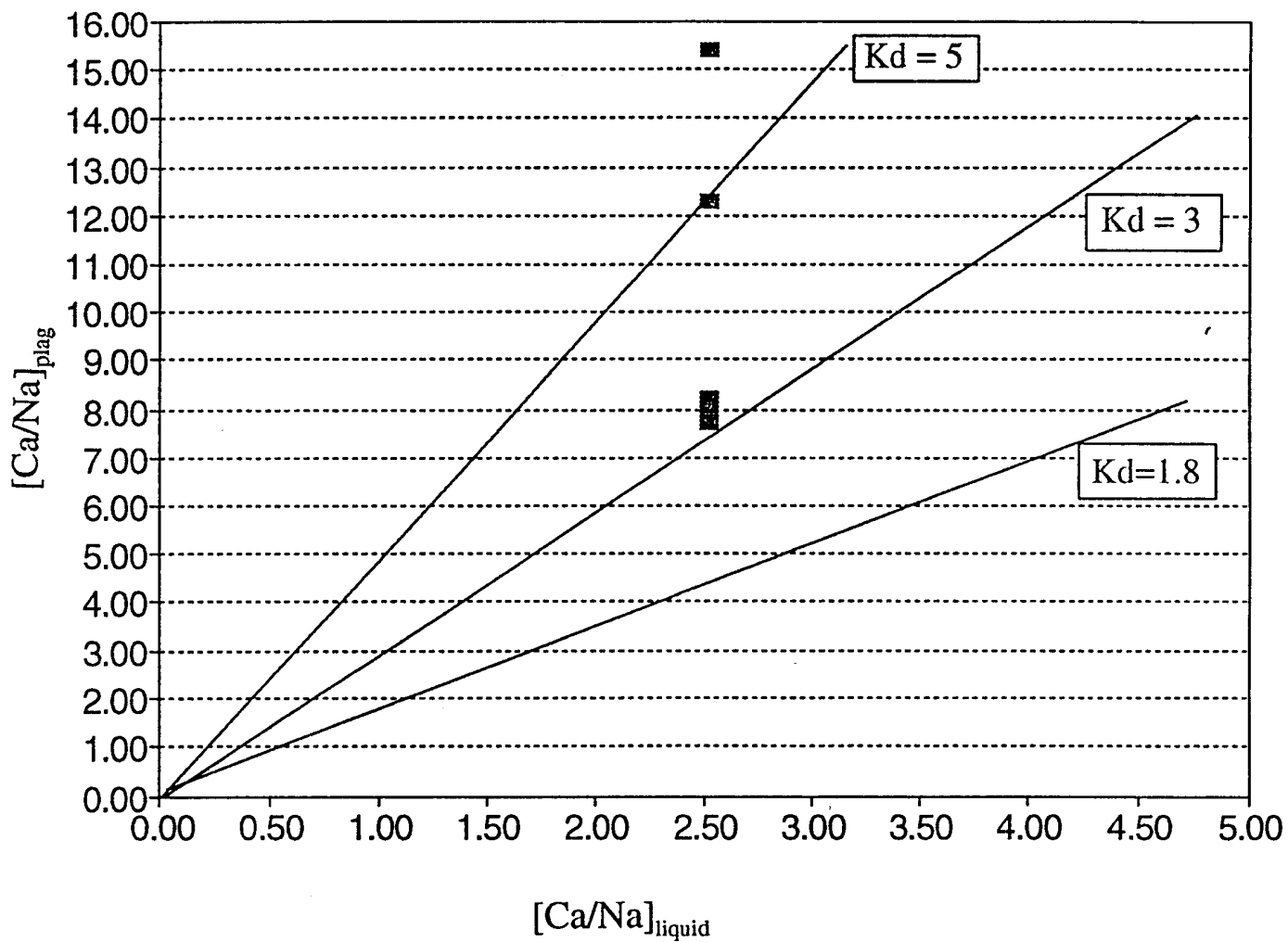
Graph of $[\text{Ca}/\text{Na}]_{\text{plag}}$ vs $[\text{Ca}/\text{Na}]_{\text{liquid}}$

PAT 97 BASALT SAMPLE



Graph of $[Ca/Na]_{plag}$ vs $[Ca/Na]_{liquid}$

PAT 167 BASALT SAMPLES



DISCUSSION

The data collected and calculated seem to have shown that water was indeed present in the magmas that formed these rocks. Samples PAT 167 and PAT 26 have many high calcic plagioclase phenocryst present. From these two samples it appears that there is enough evidence to suggest that plate subduction did indeed play a part in the genesis of the magma. The problem arises when the data for PAT 97 is examined. Of all the plagioclase cores and rims examined in this sample, only one core was very calcic (An_{78}). The other phenocryst had calcium concentrations ranging from An_5 to An_{63} . A calculation of water content for the low calcic plagioclase, An_5 , revealed that even though small amounts of calcium were present, there was still water present in the sample ($\approx 1\%$ H_2O).

The decreasing water content and low calcium content of PAT 97 may indicate that the magma from which this sample originated crystallized later than the parent magmas which produced PAT 26 and PAT 167. As the magma crystallized perhaps the water and calcium present in the magma was depleted early. As a result, later cooling of the magma produced rocks that were depleted in water and calcium relative to the earlier crystallized basalts. This would also explain why the rims of the plagioclase phenocryst in sample PAT 97 show a large change in calcium and water content from the cores to the rims.

CONCLUSIONS

The water content of these samples of basalts from Patmos Islands strongly suggest that the original magma from which these samples originated was derived from a mantle source interacting with a subducting slab. Water content in the samples from Patmos Island ranges from 2% H₂O to >6% H₂O. Sample PAT 97 has anomalously low percentages of calcium and water relative to the other samples. This may be a result of fractional crystallization. It might be worthwhile re-examine this sample for a future study. This would have to involve a very rigorous and detailed study of the sample with the electron microprobe, to determine if the sample possesses any amounts of highly anorthitic plagioclase.

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APPENDIX I

Part 7 Phosphorus op basis van DO

Zaf-corr -15.000KV - driftfact. 1,000 - 30 sec count-time.

Element	10k	100k	1000k	10000k	100000k	1000000k	10000000k	100000000k	1000000000k	10000000000k	100000000000k	1000000000000k	10000000000000k	100000000000000k	1000000000000000k	10000000000000000k	100000000000000000k	1000000000000000000k	10000000000000000000k	
Si	2304	2371	2376	2276	2285	2195	2251	2288	2165	2194	2139	2189	2106	2225	2318	2318	2318	2318	2318	2318
Al	1608	1699	1632	1720	1715	1707	1738	1695	1714	1701	1677	1609	1680	1689	1663	1663	1663	1663	1663	1663
Cr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ti	1006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fe	1020	1027	1035	1016	1019	1029	1026	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029
Mn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ca	1626	1690	1621	1705	1721	1683	1758	1682	1711	1682	1680	1669	1655	1697	1680	1680	1680	1680	1680	1680
Nd	231	283	277	303	317	295	341	300	322	311	289	274	295	277	276	276	276	276	276	276
K	1019	1019	1016	1018	1011	1011	1023	1021	1026	1025	1028	1027	1025	1024	1026	1026	1026	1026	1026	1026
Sum	4990	5000	4992	5013	5024	5024	5045	5002	5007	4997	4990	4995	5004	5016	5022	5022	5022	5022	5022	5022
Ca*	71	70	63	70	69	75	80	76	79	79	71	68	67	81	77	77	77	77	77	77
Mn*	24	29	35	30	23	29	26	28	25	25	26	28	30	18	17	17	17	17	17	17
K*	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

PAT 99

Plagioclases of basis van 320.

	PA lens	PA rand	PB lens	PB rand	PL lens	PL rand	PD lens	PD rand	PE lens	PE rand	SA lens
2	53.0 ^s	54.0 ^s	52.2 ^s	54.0 ^s	47.1	51.2 ^s	53.7 ^s	64.6 ^s	54.5 ^s	65.0	
3	28.7 ^s	28.2	29.7 ^s	27.6 ^s	34.8 ^s	30.5	27.9	20.3 ^s	27.9 ^s	20.2 ^s	
4	.5	.7	.5 ^s	.6 ^s	.4 ^s	.5 ^s	.8	.4	.8 ^s	.3 ^s	
5	4	10.7 ^s	12.3 ^s	.0 ^s	15.7 ^s	12.8	10.9	1.8 ^s	10.7 ^s	.0	
6	11.3 ^s	8.2 ^s	4.2	10.3	2.3 ^s	4.0	5.1 ^s	6.6 ^s	5.2	6.9 ^s	
7	4.6 ^s	5.2 ^s	3 ^s	.5	.1	2 ^s	.5 ^s	5.4 ^s	.4 ^s	6.9	
8	.4	.4 ^s								6.9	
9	99.6 ^s	99.4	99.4 ^s	99.2 ^s	100.6	99.3	99.0	99.3 ^s	99.6	99.6 ^s	
10	9.74	9.86	9.54	10.00	8.60	9.40	9.86	11.66	9.92	11.72	
11	6.18	6.06	6.42	5.94	7.50	6.58	6.04	4.32	6.00	4.30	
12	.08	.10	.08	.10	1.33	.08	.12	.06	.10	.06	
13	2.30	2.10	2.42	2.00	3.08	2.52	2.14	.36	2.10	2.18	
14	1.64	1.84	1.48	1.86	.84	1.42	1.82	2.32	1.84	2.14	
15	-10	.10	.08	.12	.02	.06	.12	1.26	.10	1.60	
16	20.04	20.06	20.02	20.02	20.10	20.06	20.10	19.98	20.06	20.00	
17	57	52	61	50	70	63	52	9	52	5	
18	41	46	37	47	21	36	45	59	46	55	
19	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	32	2	41	

Recap.

PAT. 26 PLANT OCCASION SNTHE BASIS 0-0

① ② ③

	2 ^c	3 ^c	4 ^c	5 ^c	6 ^c	7 ^c	8 ^c	9 ^c	10 ^c	11 ^c	12 ^c	13 ^c
2	477	4750	4421	5200	4853	4694	5073	4772	5012	4697	4569	6007
20	3440	3457	3295	3105	3200	3149	3177	3374	3099	3313	3430	3234
20	579	552	582	574	575	595	544	548	569	547	547	587
10	517	500	520	525	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
20	1532	1700	1547	1634	1393	1521	1673	1452	1470	1680	1436	1746
20	177	108	145	253	324	240	176	302	301	186	334	119
20	922	979	920	937	916	937	916	945	907	919	900	911
Σ =	9425	10203	10655	10300	10444	10102	9933	10116	10097	9997	10002	9920

15	2172	2157	2157	2215	2173	2300	2795	2174	2297	2164	2121	2144
15	1900	1933	1885	1757	1812	1600	1629	1825	1675	1804	1877	1831
20	9031	9025	9023	9028	9028	9036	9033	9032	9027	9030	9030	9022
1	9015	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
5	9212	9065	9000	9089	9074	9072	9074	9077	9050	9035	9064	9072
15	9079	9095	9028	9022	9022	9015	9024	9027	9027	9076	9010	9036
2	9014	9013	9046	9016	9021	9020	9022	9010	9026	9021	9004	9010
Σ =	5013	4984	5007	5007	5004	5005	5005	5003	5005	5005	4997	5015

14	825	829	821	750	824	707	715	825	606	812	806	5012
15	1011	903	131	215	290	224	264	165	289	172	110	5012
Σ =	19	13	47	11	22	54	22	10	26	11	04	5012

100

?

5

POINT N : 17 X= -5596 Y= 31998 Z= -6 FELDSPAR
 PAT/

ELT.	PEAK POS.	PEAK (C/S)	BACKGR. (C/S)	I.X./I.STD.	K.RATIO	SIG/K	BEAM
Na	46367	144.14	11.90	0.16851	0.00609	2.7	20.
K	42723	27.70	10.70	0.01053	0.00113	6.0	
Si	27742	6678.02	74.81	0.69420	0.16800	0.5	
Al	32454	5676.83	86.02	0.96069	0.14061	0.5	
Ca	38379	1845.08	15.80	0.88849	0.10731	0.9	
Mg	38488	22.70	20.00	0.00277	0.00009	6.7	
Fe	48078	19.80	5.90	0.06124	0.00357	7.3	
Ba	31715	18.50	18.10	0.00011	0.00005	7.4	

FELDSPAR CATIONS ON 8. <0> BASIS

	WT.%	CATIONS
SiO2	48.2645	Si 22.5610 2.1725
Al2O3	34.4771	Al 18.2474 1.8290
MgO	0.0215	Mg 0.0130 0.0014
CaO	16.9507	Ca 12.1148 0.8175
FeO	0.5650	Fe 0.4392 0.0213
BaO	0.0091	Ba 0.0081 0.0002
Na2O	1.5234	Na 1.1301 0.1330
K2O	0.1581	K 0.1312 0.0091
TOTAL	101.9693	4.9840

AB: 13.86 DR: 0.95 AN: 85.20 FM: 0.94

POINT N : 18 X= -5594 Y= 32024 Z= -10 FELDSPAR
 PAT/167, R-#9

ELT.	PEAK POS.	PEAK (C/S)	BACKGR. (C/S)	I.X./I.STD.	K.RATIO	SIG/K	BEAM
Na	46367	205.08	15.50	0.24177	0.00873	2.3	20.
K	42723	34.60	8.70	0.01606	0.00173	5.4	
Si	27742	6926.65	72.51	0.72055	0.17438	0.4	
Al	32454	5461.21	83.02	0.92412	0.13526	0.5	
Ca	38379	1709.93	16.50	0.82247	0.09933	0.9	
Mg	38488	20.20	19.10	0.00113	0.00004	7.1	
Fe	48078	20.10	4.70	0.06785	0.00396	7.2	
Ba	31715	22.50	17.40	0.00141	0.00069	6.7	

FELDSPAR CATIONS ON 8. <0> BASIS

	WT.%	CATIONS
SiO2	49.9218	Si 23.3357 2.2390
Al2O3	33.2851	Al 17.6165 1.7595
MgO	0.0088	Mg 0.0053 0.0006
CaO	15.7121	Ca 11.2296 0.7550
FeO	0.6262	Fe 0.4868 0.0235
BaO	0.1154	Ba 0.1033 0.0020
Na2O	2.1770	Na 1.6150 0.1893
K2O	0.2421	K 0.2010 0.0139
TOTAL	102.0886	4.9828

AB: 19.76 DR: 1.45 AN: 78.80 FM: 0.98

POINT N : 19 X= -7809 Y= 31361 Z= -11 FELDSPAR
 PAT/167, C-#10