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2	Lithospheric mantle evolution monitored by overlapping large igneous
3	provinces: case study in southern Africa.
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20	Keywords : Large igneous province ; lithospheric mantle, mantle sources, Umkondo, Karoo,
21	mantle plume.
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23	Abstract
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25	Most of the studies on the large igneous provinces (LIPs) focus on Phanerozoic times and in

particular those related to the disruption of Pangea (e.g. CAMP, Karoo, Parana-Etendeka,)
while Precambrian LIPs (e.g. Ventersdorpf, Fortescue) remain less studied. Although the
investigation of Precambrian CFBs is difficult because of their poorly preserved character,
assessing their chemical composition in parallel with younger overlapping LIP is fundamental
for monitoring the evolution of the mantle composition through time.

- 31 Recent 40 Ar/ 39 Ar dating of the Okavango giant dyke swarm (and related sills) showed that ~
- 32 90% of the dykes were emplaced at 179 ± 1 Ma and belong to the Karoo large igneous

33 province whereas ~10% of dykes yielded Proterozoic ages (~1-1.1 Ga). Here, we provide 34 new major, trace and Rare Earth element analyses of the low-Ti Proterozoic Okavango dyke 35 swarm (PODS) that suggest, combined with age data, a cognate origin with the 1.1 Ga 36 Umkondo large igneous province (UIP).

The geochemical characteristics of the PODS and UIP basalts are comparable to those of overlapping low-Ti Karoo basalts and suggest that both LIPs were derived from similar enriched mantle sources. A mantle plume origin for these LIPs is not easily reconciled with the chemical dataset and the coincidence of two compositionally similar mantle plume acting 900 Myr apart is unlikely. Rather, we propose that the Umkondo and Karoo large igneous provinces monitored the slight evolution of a shallow enriched lithospheric mantle from Proterozoic to Jurassic.

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Keywords: Large igneous provinces, Continental flood basalts, Lithospheric mantle,
Umkondo, Karoo, Geochemistry.

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48 **1. Introduction**

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50 The Continental Flood Basalts (CFB) consist of large volume of magma (on the order of several million km³) emplaced over a relatively brief time span. Whereas most of the studies 51 52 focus on the Phanerozoic CFBs and particularly those related to the Pangea disruption (e.g. 53 CAMP, Karoo-Ferrar, Parana-Etendeka, Deccan; see for instance Hawkesworth et al., 1999 54 and, Courtillot and Renne, 2003), Precambrian CFBs such as Ventersdorpf, Fortescue, 55 Umkondo (Eriksson, 2002; Ernst and Buchan, 2003) remain less studied. Precambrian CFBs 56 are frequently highly deformed and eroded and are mostly represented by dykes, sills, layered 57 intrusions and more rarely minor remnants of flood basalts (Ernst and Buchan, 2003). 58 Although the investigation of Precambrian CFBs is hindered by their poorly preserved 59 character, their study is fundamental for monitoring the evolution of the mantle composition 60 through time. This is particularly relevant when old CFB are spatially overlapped by younger 61 ones (Iacumin et al., 2003).

62 Recent geochronological studies of the Okavango giant dyke swarm (Le Gall et al., 2005)

63 (and related sill satellites) showed that ~ 88% of the dykes were emplaced at 179 ± 1 Ma (n=

64 14; Le Gall et al., 2002, Jourdan et al., 2004, Jourdan et al., 2005) and belong to the Karoo

65 large igneous province. However, it has also been demonstrated that the swarm includes ~

10% of Proterozoic dykes (Jourdan et al., 2004). The latter yielded a wide range of imprecise 66 ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar "speedy step-heating" (2-3 heating steps on few plagioclase minerals used only to 67 discriminate Jurassic and Precambrian dykes; Jourdan et al., 2004) ages ranging from 850 to 68 69 1700 Ma. One plateau age (959 \pm 5 Ma) and one weighted-mean age (983 \pm 4 Ma), both 70 possibly suffering of some Ar perturbation, approximate the emplacement age of the swarm. 71 In addition, geochemistry was used as a discriminant tool between Jurassic and Proterozoic 72 populations. Whereas Karoo dykes were shown to be exclusively high-Ti tholeiites (TiO₂ > 273 wt.%, the Proterozoic Okavango dyke swarm and related sills (PODS hereafter) consist only 74 of low TiO₂ (< 2 wt.%) tholeiites. The latter are compositionally similar to the Karoo low-Ti 75 basaltic sub-province that represents the prevailing volume of the Karoo LIP (Jourdan et al., 76 2007). The purpose of the initial study was to demonstrate that the Jurassic dyke swarm was 77 emplaced following a reactivated direction, and does not represent a Jurassic pristine structure 78 (Jourdan et al., 2004). However, poor consideration was addressed to the Proterozoic dykes 79 and their geodynamic significance. Here, we provide new major, trace and rare earth elements 80 analyses of the Precambrian dykes. We will discuss two hypotheses for the PODS origin: (1) 81 it is part of the recently discovered 1.1 Ga Umkondo igneous province (UIP, Hanson et al., 82 1998) or (2) it belongs to a Kibaran post-orogenic rifting. In a second part, we compare the 83 composition of the PODS and the low-Ti Karoo Jurassic magmatism in order to monitor the 84 evolution of the underlying mantle through time.

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86 **2. Geological setting and samples descriptions**

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88 The N110°-trending giant Okavango dyke swarm and related sills intrude mainly Archaean (Zimbabwe craton) and Proterozoic (e.g. the Magondi belt) rocks and the metamorphic 89 90 Limpopo-Shashe belt (Le Gall et al., 2002). The swarm is crosscut at high angle by the ~100 91 km long dry Shashe River, allowing efficient sampling. From the 77 rocks sampled along the 92 Shashe River and surroundings, 11 were assigned to the Proterozoic, based on their speedy 93 step-heating ages and major element composition (Jourdan et al., 2004). Eight dykes and 2 94 sills were sampled along the Shashe River and 1 sill (Bot0003) comes from further south of 95 the swarm (Fig. 1).

Whereas the dimension of the Jurassic dyke swarm is relatively well constrained by aeromagnetic survey (~1500 x 100 km; Reeves et al., 2000; Chavez Gomez, 2001), the extension of the Proterozoic swarm remains unknown, because it is virtually impossible to

99 differentiate between the two swarms by aero-magnetic measurements (Tshoso et al., 2002; 100 Aubourg et al., 2008). Along the Shashe river (the only section allowing a systematic sampling across the dyke swarm), ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dating coupled with geochemistry (Jourdan et al., 101 102 2004) show that Proterozoic dykes represent ~ 10 % of the ODS and are mostly restricted 103 within a 20 km-wide corridor located in the center of the ODS (Fig. 1b-c). The Proterozoic 104 dykes inside the Shashe River vary in thickness from 4 to 20 m. The three sills investigated 105 consist of small elongated and rounded sheets of dolerites located in the Shashe River (Bot11 106 and Bot01) and in eastern Botswana (Bot0003; Fig. 1b,c).

107 The Proterozoic dykes and sills consist of fine to medium grained olivine-free dolerites with 108 an ophitic to sub-ophitic texture. They contain mostly plagioclase and pyroxene (augite and 109 pigeonite) with minor Ti-magnetite and pyrite. Amphibole occurs in almost all samples 110 (except the two sills Bot11 and Bot0003) as replacement of the pyroxene, suggesting the 111 occurrence of a weak low-grade greenshist metamorphism. Amphibole is sometimes 112 accompanied by minor biotite. The alteration phases are mostly chlorite and sericite. The 113 modal composition of the Proterozoic dykes is not easily distinguishable from that of the 114 Jurassic dykes of the Okavango swarm. The most reliable discriminant seems to be amphibole 115 which is not observed in Karoo dolerites except in rare more differentiated samples (Jourdan 116 et al., 2004). However, the existence of Proterozoic amphibole-free rocks makes this criteria 117 somewhat misleading.

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119 **3. Geochemistry**

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The eleven Proterozoic samples were analyzed for major, trace and rare earth (REE) elements (Table 1). They were crushed and powdered in an agate miller. Major and trace elements were determined on fused disc and pressed powder pellets, respectively and were analyzed by XRF (Philips PW 1404 spectrometer) at University of Lyon. REE, U and Th were measured at the Chemex University (Canada). Analytical uncertainties vary from 1% to 2% and from 10% to 20% for major and trace elements respectively, depending on the concentration of the element.

The eight dykes and three Proterozoic sills have low TiO_2 (0.5-2.1 wt.%) and low P_2O_5 (0.03-0.23 wt.%) contents (Fig. 2). They are quartz- or olivine-normative tholeiites. SiO₂ and alkali contents range from 48.9 to 54.3 wt.% and from 2.3 to 4 wt.%, respectively. They are classified as basalts and basaltic-andesites in the TAS diagram (Le Bas et al., 1986; not

shown). MgO and Mg# [100 x Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺), considering Fe₂O₃/FeO =0.15] vary from 3.9 132 133 to 8.2 wt.% and from 34 to 63, respectively, indicating the moderately evolved character of 134 the rocks (Fig. 2). Mg# exhibits a negative co-variation with SiO₂, Na₂O and TiO₂, and a 135 positive co-variation with CaO and Al_2O_3 (Fig. 2). These trends suggest that dolerites have 136 been affected by differentiation processes involving fractional crystallization. The Proterozoic 137 rocks can be subdivided into two sub-groups: (i) a group including 3 samples with relatively 138 moderate TiO₂ and SiO₂ contents (≥ 1.7 wt.% TiO₂ and ≤ 52.1 wt.% SiO₂) and with a low 139 Mg# (\leq 47), and (ii) a group of 8 samples with lower TiO₂ and higher SiO₂ contents (\leq 1wt.% TiO₂ and \geq 52.5wt.% SiO₂; Fig. 2) and with a Mg# > 47. Hereafter these two groups are 140 141 referred to as the high- and low-Mg# groups, respectively. The low-Mg# sub-group includes 142 two sills (Bot01 and Bot11) and one dyke (Bot15) from the Shashe River and thus the 143 difference between the two groups cannot be related to the nature of the intrusion (i.e. sill or 144 dyke). Moreover, it is unlikely that the chemical difference between the groups was produced 145 by different degrees of alteration as the discriminant elements do not co-vary with LOI 146 contents which are relatively low in the two groups (0.5 to 1.4 wt.%).

The two sub-groups mentioned above display distinct trends on most trace elements plots (Fig.3). The amount of incompatible (e.g. Rb, Y) and compatible (e.g. Cr) trace elements increases and decreases, respectively, as Mg# decreases, in accordance with fractional crystallization within each sub-group. The PODS have low Ce/Pb values (from 0.5 to 5.8), largely lower than the accepted values for OIB and MORB (~25; Chauvel et al., 1995) and plots in the field of subduction-related rocks.

153 On the multi-elements normalized diagrams, the Proterozoic dolerites show a moderate 154 enrichment in the most incompatible trace elements (ITE; $Rb/Y_n = 6-34$ Fig. 4). The patterns are characterized by negative anomalies for Nb (Nb/Nb* = 0.18-0.43), Sr (Sr/Sr* = 0.28-155 156 0.71), P (P/P* = 0.53 to 0.79) and Ti (Ti/Ti* = 0.54 to 0.90) which are more pronounced for 157 the high-Mg# sub-group. The REE patterns (Fig.5) show a relatively slight Light REE (LREE) enrichment compared to Heavy REE (HREE; $La/Yb_n = 3.3-4.4$) and a poor HREE 158 fractionation (Sm/Yb_n = 1.5-1.7). A slight negative anomaly in Eu (Eu/Eu* = 0.70-0.92) 159 160 concurs with the Sr anomaly as an indication of plagioclase fractionation.

161 The dyke compositions display no chemical variation across the width of the swarm. The 162 sills have indistinguishable composition compared to the dykes.

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164	4. Discussion
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166	4.1. Petrogenesis of the PODS
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168	4.1.1. Partial melting
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170	Equilibrium non-modal melting has been modeled by using the standard equation of Shaw
171	(1967). In order to explain the poor fractionation of the Middle REE (MREE) and HREE, we
172	used a garnet-free, spinel bearing lherzolite (< 80 km depth) with the same modal
173	composition as used by Jourdan et al. (2007) for the Karoo low-Ti basalts (55% olivine, 15%
174	orthopyroxene, 28% clinopyroxene and 2% spinel). A slightly more enriched source
175	composition has been chosen to account for the small difference between PODS and Karoo
176	rocks (La/Yb _{source} =3.27 and 2, respectively). Partition coefficients are from McKenzie and
177	O'Nions (1991). We reported the melting curves in the $(La/Yb)_n$ vs. $(Eu/Yb)_n$ and $(Sm/Yb)_n$
178	vs. $(La/Sm)_n$ plots (Fig. 6). The calculated melts, produced in the range of 5-10% melting,
179	adequately match the observed REE variations. The low-Mg# group requires a higher melting
180	rate (9-10 %) compared to the high-Mg# group (5-8%), in order to fit the lower $(La/Sm)_n$
181	values of the former group.

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4.1.2. Fractional crystallization

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185 Petrographic observations and major and REE element behavior show that the PODS rocks 186 cannot be considered as primary mantle melts and that they underwent fractional 187 crystallization of gabbroic assemblages. MELTS algorithm (Ghiorso and Sack, 1995; Smith 188 and Asimow, 2005) calculates the liquid lines of descent of magmas and provides the 189 composition of both residual liquids and cumulate minerals. We carried out isobaric runs 190 using various pressures (P=0.5-5 Kbars) and H₂O contents (H₂O=0-2 wt. %) conditions (e.g. 191 Fig. 7) and fO₂=QFM (quartz-favalite-magnetite). We used one of the less differentiated 192 sample as starting composition (Bot0003; Mg# = 66). The homogeneous composition of the 193 PODS hinders the best estimate of the run conditions, yet the fractional crystallization at low 194 pressure (1-2 Kbars) under anhydrous conditions satisfactorily fits the high-Mg# group. The 195 amount of fractionation (up to ~80 %) of a gabbroic assemblage (clinopyroxene + 196 plagioclase) seems however too high to be realistic, ruling out that the data spread can be 197 explained by fractional crystallization alone. The low-Mg# group shows much more 198 dispersion of the sample compositions but does not include enough samples (n=3) to allow 199 fractional crystallization modeling. In any case, this group requires different source starting 200 conditions (higher degree of partial melting (Fig. 6) or different source composition?) to be 201 accounted for.

Minor variations within the data set not accounted for by differentiation processes could be best explained by the contribution of (1) small crustal contamination, but this is hard to verify in absence of isotope data and/or (2) weak hydrothermal alteration (if present) that may have happened during the low grade metamorphism phase. In addition, the starting composition assumed in this model is not a primary magma and does not take into account earlier fractionating assemblages which can explain substantial differences among the samples if several magma chambers are involved.

In summary, a combination of partial melting of a common mantle source and subsequent fractionation processes may account for most of the variations of the PODS samples. However, minor alteration, crustal contamination or mantle source heterogeneity (or any combination of the three) seems also to be required to account for some of the observed discrepancies.

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215 *4.2. Mantle source of the PODS*

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217 The geochemical characteristics of the low-Ti PODS are similar to those reported for low-Ti 218 Phanerozoic CFB (e.g. Karoo-Ferrar, CAMP, Parana-Etendeka). For instance, the rocks are 219 enriched in ITE and in LREE relatively to HREE and display a strong Nb anomaly. The 220 mantle sources at the origin of CFBs are yet not well resolved with models ranging from 221 mantle plume head (Morgan, 1981; White and McKenzie, 1989; Campbell and Griffiths, 222 1990; Hill, 1991; Wilson, 1997, Courtillot et al., 1999) to the sub-continental lithospheric 223 mantle (SCLM; Hawkesworth et al., 1984, 1999; Bertrand, 1991; Molzahn and Reisberg 224 1996; Jourdan et al., 2003, 2007) or perispheric mantle (Anderson et al., 1992, 1994). Some 225 authors have suggested that each CFB is more or less distinctive and that the origin of these 226 provinces cannot be explained by a unique "dogmatic" model (e.g. Hawkesworth et al., 1999; 227 Jourdan et al., 2007). For instance, the Deccan (Peng et Mahoney, 1995) or Ethiopia-Yemen 228 (Pick et al., 1999) traps fit particularly well the deep mantle plume model as suggested by 229 their OIB-like elemental and isotopic geochemistry, whereas the Karoo mantle sources are

- more likely located either partially or totally in the SCLM (e.g. Sweeney et al., 1994;
 Molzahn and Reisberg., 1996; Jourdan et al., 2007).
- 232 The La/Nb-La/Ba plot is commonly used to investigate the origin of CFB rocks (Fig. 8, 233 Saunders et al., 1992; Hawkesworth et al., 1999, Nomade et al., 2002, Jourdan et al., 2007) 234 and is particularly relevant when isotopic analyses are not available. Positive correlations 235 between La/Nb and La/Ba reflect OIB and/or asthenospheric mantle source(s) whereas 236 negative correlations are diagnostic of a strong lithospheric contribution. These ratios are 237 almost not modified by petrogenetic processes (Hawkesworth et al., 1999) and thus, likely 238 represent mantle source signature(s). The PODS rocks display a similar mantle trend as the 239 Karoo magmas (Jourdan et al., 2007), though with a shallower slope. Both groups point 240 toward relatively low La/Ba and high La/Nb values. Following Saunders et al. (1992), we 241 interpret these values as indicating a strong contribution from the SCLM. Similarly, the Zr/Y-242 Ti/Y plot (Fig. 9) shows that the PODS rocks are clustered between the bulk earth 243 composition and a "post-Archaean shale" component. This pole has been commonly 244 interpreted as representing a subducted sediment signature (Brewer et al., 1992 and references 245 inside) possibly located in the SCLM. Two samples align themselves on the primitive 246 mantle/MORB - OIB array, in direction of the OIB field. This might be interpreted as a 247 potential evidence of a small contribution of a lamproitic or a mantle plume component in the 248 genesis of these two rocks, but the evidences are tenuous.
- 249 As mentioned above, the Ce/Pb (0.5-5.8; Fig. 3) is by far too low to reflect OIB or MORB 250 mantle (Ce/Pb>20; e.g. Chauvel et al., 1995) and is closer in composition to subduction-251 related magmas (Ce/Pb<10). Although the PODS do not display calc-alkaline characteristics, 252 fluids released from a previous subduction may have "polluted" the SCLM (Hawkesworth et 253 al., 1999). Concerning the two PODS sub-groups (i.e. low- and high-Mg#), their similarities 254 in ITE and REE patterns and concentrations, and their behavior in discriminant diagrams 255 strongly suggest that they are issued from a similar mantle source. The difference between the 256 two groups is mostly expressed by P, Ti and Nb anomaly. However, these anomalies are 257 neither correlated with the Mg# nor with the LREE/HREE variations (not shown), suggesting 258 that these differences are not due to fractionation or melting processes. Therefore, we suggest 259 that these differences might be induced by small scale heterogeneities of a common mantle 260 source.
- In summary, the PODS rocks are hardly assigned to an OIB-like asthenospheric or mesospheric mantle source model (i.e. mantle plume; Campbell and Griffiths, 1990) neither to a calk-alkaline subduction-related magmatism (despite common features as low Ce/Pb and

264 Nb anomaly). The best source candidate suggested by our data is therefore likely to be located 265 in the lithospheric mantle (La/Nb>2) metasomatically enriched by a previous subduction event (Zr/Y~6-7, Ce/Pb<10). A 1.4-1.3 Ga subduction event (Kibaran subduction) has been 266 267 reported in the Namagua orogenic belt (Kampunzu et al., 2000 and references therein) and 268 was suspected to have been responsible for the enriched signature of the 1.1 Ga Kwebe 269 within plate volcanism (Fig. 10; Kampunzu et al., 2000). We speculate that the Kibaran 270 subduction may have been also responsible for the PODS and related sills mantle source 271 enrichment. Crucial isotopic analyses would be required for assessing this hypothesis.

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4.3. Geodynamic setting of the PODS?

4.3.1. Age of the PODS

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The PODS samples yielded "speedy step-heating" ages ranging from 850 to 1700 Ma (Jourdan et al., 2004). This age range does not reflect an extremely long-lasting geological process but is induced by the poor constraints inherent to the speedy step-heating method which cannot resolve the complex interaction between alteration and excess of Ar (Jourdan et al., 2004). A plateau and a weighted-mean ages of 983 ± 4 (sample Bot0083) and 959 ± 5 Ma (sample Bot0003) were obtained on plagioclase-separates using standard step-heating method Jourdan et al., 2004).

- The younger sample has a flat³⁷ Ar_{ca} /³⁹ Ar_{K} spectrum, apparently indicative of a negligible 284 alteration. On the other hand, the older sample shows a strongly tilde-shaped ${}^{37}Ar_{Ca}/{}^{39}Ar_{K}$ 285 that can be attributed either to important alteration (Verati and Féraud, 2003) or to strong 286 287 mineral zoning. When plagioclase has been altered into a significant amount of sericite (i.e. > 288 20 %), this can produce statistically valid but spuriously young "alteration" plateau ages due 289 to the large K content of sericite (K₂O ~10 wt.%) compared to plagioclase (~0.05 wt.%). In 290 any case, it is not clear whether these ages represent crystallization ages or a partial/total reset 291 of the isotopic system by a subsequent low-degree metamorphism (as evidenced by 292 amphibolitisation of the pyroxene phenocrysts).
- For comparison, ${}^{40}\text{Ar}/{}^{39}\text{Ar}$, K/Ar and Rb/Sr ages obtained so far on the basic Mesoproterozoic CFB-related rocks from southern-Africa/Antarctica (Umkondo large igneous province (UIP); Fig. 10) appear to be strongly perturbed with ages ranging from 600 ± 24 to 1802 ± 100 Ma (Kruger et al., 2000; Key and Ayers, 2000; Reimold et al., 2000; Burger and Valreven, 1979
- and 1980). In contrast, robust zircon and baddelevite U/Pb TIMS ages obtained on the same

formations (plus additional rocks from different localities) are restricted between 1106.1 ± 2.0 and 1112.0 ± 0.5 Ma (Shwartz et al., 1996; Hanson et al, 1998, 2004, 2006; Singletary et al., 2003). This suggests that rocks emplaced during the Mesoproterozoic period suffered strong perturbations that so far preclude the use of the K/Ar, Rb/Sr and even 40 Ar/ 39 Ar geochronometers for investigating their crystallization ages.

In absence of further evidence on the meaning of the 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages obtained in Jourdan et al. (2004), we could propose two different hypotheses; (1) these ages reflect alteration/metamorphism processes with strong perturbation of the 40 Ar/ 39 Ar chronometer and thus the magmatism is likely to be substantially older (possibly as old as and belonging to the 1.1 Ga Umkondo magmatism; Hanson et al., 1998 and 2004), or (2) these dates are true crystallization ages and are possibly representative of a distention process associated to the late-Kibaran orogeny (1.0 Ga), In the following parts, we test these two hypotheses.

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4.3.2. Post-Kibaran failed rift dykes hypothesis

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313 The "Kibaran" Mesoproterozoic belt stretches over 3000 km long through central and 314 southern Africa. The Kibaran belt is a broad patchwork of smaller similarly aged belts. It is 315 located along the eastern and southern part of the Congo craton (Fig. 10; Kampunzu et al., 316 1998; Kokonyangi et al., 2004). Between 1.4 and 1.0 Ga, Kibaran metasedimentary and 317 igneous rocks were involved in two compression events (Johnson and Oliver, 2000) that 318 cannot be truly dissociated into 2 distinct orogens (Kampunzu et al., 1998). The Kibaran 319 orogeny includes an active continental margin (Kibaran orogeny sensu stricto, 1.4-1.2 Ga) 320 followed by a continental collision (Namaquan orogeny; 1.1-1.0 Ga). The late stage of the 321 Namaquan orogeny was marked by numerous granitic intrusions, which yielded Rb-Sr 322 isochron ages ranging from 966 ± 21 to 1006 ± 44 Ma (Cahen and Ledant, 1979; Cahen et al., 1984; Ikingura et al., 1990) and U/Pb ages on zircon separate at 1.02-1.0 Ga (Singletary et al., 323 324 2003). Very few examples of major dyke swarm emplaced in compressive environments 325 exist. Féraud et al. (1987) identified alkaline dykes linked with the Indo-European, African 326 and Arabian plate collision. These dykes are narrow (0.5 to few meters wide) and follow the 327 direction of the maximum horizontal compressive stress. Another example is given by the 328 ~700 km- long Independence dyke swarm, occurring throughout southeastern California in 329 relation to the subduction of the Farallon plate beneath the North American plate (Chen and 330 Moore, 1979; Coleman et al., 2000). The Independence swarm shows a typical bimodal arc-331 magmatism-type composition (e.g. Coleman et al., 2000; Jourdan et al., 2005) and is

emplaced perpendicular to the direction of the subducting plate and to the main compressivestress vector.

The PODS is roughly located at high-angle to the Kibaran belt, following its maximum compressive vector, and could therefore represent a direct expression of the Kibaran orogeny. However, two points argue against this hypothesis: (1) the PODS dykes are substantially thicker than those mentioned in pure collisional settings (Féraud et al., 1987), (2) they do not exhibit an alkaline or a calc-alcaline composition as expected in a compressive system, but a typical CFB composition not commonly reported in an orogenic context.

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4.3.3. Comparison between PODS and the Umkondo igneous province

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343 Recent paleomagnetic and geochronological (mainly zircon U/Pb analyses) investigations 344 suggest a common origin to Proterozoic tholeiites occurring throughout the southern Africa 345 and possibly Antarctica (Fig. 10; Hanson et al., 2004). These terms are regrouped as the 346 Umkondo igneous province (UIP), given from the name of Umkondo Zimbabwe dolerite 347 formation of the same age. The UIP is now defined as a widespread Mesoproterozoic 348 continental flood basalt emplaced in southern Africa and Antarctica (Hanson et al., 1998 and 349 2004). It consists of tholeiitic mafic intrusions (sills and dyke swarms) and scarce remnants of eroded basaltic lava-flows emplaced over an estimated paleo-surface of $\sim 2.5 \cdot 10^6$ km² (Fig. 350 10). This igneous event is contemporaneous but not directly related to the collision of the 351 352 Laurentia and Kalahari cratons (Grenville-Llano and Namagua-Natal Orogeny) which 353 contributed to the formation of the Rodinia mega-continent (Hanson et al., 1998; Dalziel et 354 al., 2000).

355 Robust ages clustered around 1.1 Ga have been obtained using zircon and baddelevite U/Pb 356 TIMS technique (Hanson et al., 1998 and 2004). Unfortunately, contrary to geochronological 357 data, complete sets of major, trace and rare earth elements are still scarce and restricted to few 358 outcrops. We therefore compare the PODS only to the 1105 ± 2 Ma Zimbabwe Umkondo 359 dolerites (eastern Zimbabwe; Munyaniwa, 1999), the geochemically-related Guruve and 360 Mutare dykes (Northern Zimbabwe; Ward et al., 2000), although several generations of dykes 361 might be involved in this swarm (Hanson et al., 2006) and the 1108.6 \pm 1.2 Ma Anna rust's 362 sheet (South Africa; Reimold et al., 2000 and references herein) (Fig. 10). The bimodal 363 (acidic and basic) sequence from Kwebe (western Botswana) yielded U-Pb zircon ages of 364 1106 ± 2 Ma and 1104 ± 16 Ma (Schwartz et al., 1996) but these rocks are not considered here because their chemical composition present a large scatter due to alteration and
greenschist metamorphism (Kampunzu et al., 1998).

- The UIP dolerites are mostly low-Ti basaltic rocks (TiO₂ = 0.4-1.9 wt.%; except two high-Ti 367 368 samples) and are moderately evolved rocks with SiO₂ and Mg# mainly ranging from 48.8 to 369 57.0 wt.% and from 45 to 63, respectively. They show a moderate ITE enrichement (Rb/Y_n = 370 3.0-33.1) and a variable negative Nb anomaly (33 samples range from 0.12 to 0.95). Five 371 rocks from Kwebe (Kampunzu et al., 1998), 1 dyke from Mutare (Ward et al., 2000) and 1 372 dolerite from Zimbabwe (Munyaniwa, 1999) exhibit a positive Nb anomaly ranging from 1.14 373 to 2.28. However, it is not clear if the positive Nb anomaly feature is pristine or if it is due to 374 secondary K loss (K is used to in this study to calculate the Nb anomaly) during the slight 375 greenshist metamorphism. UIP dolerites display moderate REE fractionation mainly 376 concerning light REE (La/Ybn = 1.7-7.7; La/Sm_n = 1.3 to 4.3). Ce/Pb is low and varies from 377 1.6 to 7.3 for all the rocks. Compared to the PODS, the Umkondo dolerites share striking 378 similar characteristics. They display important overlap in major (Fig. 2) and trace (Fig. 3) 379 elements with for instance similar correlations between Mg# and TiO₂, SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and CaO 380 and between Zr and Y (not shown). Both groups show noticeable dominant Nb and Sr 381 anomaly and a low Ce/Pb ratio (<8). PODS and UIP are also characterized by a moderately 382 enriched ITE patterns (Fig. 4a, 4b) and REE (Fig. 5a, 5b) with unfractionated HREE. In the 383 Zr/Y-Ti/Y diagram (Fig. 9), most of the UIP and PODS rocks overlap pointing mainly toward 384 post Archaean shale component (except three outlier samples trending toward a high Ti/Y
 - 385 component).

In order to compare the genesis of UIP and PODS rocks, the former were reported on the melting modeling diagram (Fig.6). They strikingly plot on the same modeled curves as the PODS and can be reproduced by a wider range (1.5 to 15 %) of melting of the same spinel lherzolite source (Fig. 6). The only two high-Ti UIP dolerites identified so far, also match the (2wt. %) garnet-bearing curve calculated by Jourdan et al. (2007) for the Karoo high-Ti

391 basalts.

The only significant difference between UIP and POD samples is shown by the Ba/Nb vs. La/Nb plot (Fig. 8). The UIP rocks are subdivided into two groups showing different trends.

- La/Nb plot (Fig. 8). The UIP rocks are subdivided into two groups showing different trends.
 The Umkondo dolerites from Zimbabwe display the same negative trend as the PODS rocks,
- 395 pointing toward a lithospheric component whereas the Anna rust's sheet apparently follows a
- 396 positive (asthenospheric-like) correlation trend.
- 397 In summary, although the PODS might have been triggered by the intrusion of magma in 398 relation to the Kibaran compressional orogeny, it is more likely to be related to a CFB event

399 as monitored by its geochemical data. The only known CFB occurring at the end of the 400 Mesoproterozoic is the Umkondo magmatism. The Umkondo rocks share strikingly similar 401 composition with the PODS samples, thus arguing for the same mantle source. However, it is 402 still not clear if this mantle source has been tapped at two different periods or in a few Myr 403 time span. As the apparent ages obtained on PODS are possibly perturbed, the simplest 404 explanation would be that the PODS was emplaced contemporaneously to the UIP (1.1 Ga) 405 and may have a cognate magmatic origin. However, further dating based on robust zircon and/or baddeleyite U/Pb analyses are required to test this hypothesis. 406

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4.4. Overlapping Umkondo and Karoo CFBs: a witness of SCLM evolution through time? 409

410 The partial geographical overlap of Umkondo and Karoo CFBs (Fig. 1 and 10) provides a 411 good opportunity to test whether these two provinces share a similar mantle source or not. In 412 addition, the former case would allow to assess to what extent this common mantle source 413 may have evolved ~900 Myr apart, from 1.1 Ga to 180 Ma.

414 Since four decades, the Karoo magmatism was chemically investigated by various authors 415 (e.g. Cox, 1967; Hawkesworth et al., 1984; Sweeney et al., 1994; Jourdan et al., 2007). Data 416 gleaned through these studies show that the Karoo magmatism, as most of the CFBs, consists 417 of low- and high-Ti basalts (Cox, 1988). Although some authors have proposed a OIB-like 418 mantle plume origin for the Karoo magmatism (Ellam et al., 1992), a vast majority of workers 419 argue for a dominant contribution of a subduction-modified SCLM (e.g. Duncan et al., 1984; 420 Cox, 1988, Sweeney and Watkeys, 1990; Sweeney et al., 1994; Hawkesworth et al., 1999; 421 Elburg and Goldberg, 2000 Jourdan et al., 2007) with heat source provided by mechanisms 422 such as supercontinent shield effect (Coltice et al., 2007 and submitted)

423 Here, we compare the geochemistry of the Proterozoic UIP, exemplified by the low-Ti 424 PODS, to Jurassic low-Ti Karoo basalts from Botswana and Zimbabwe (Jourdan et al., 2007 425 and references insides). High-Ti rocks will not be considered here, as they are unknown in the 426 PODS, so far and are represented by only two samples in the UIP. These two CFB provinces 427 share many similar features. Both groups show a significant overlap concerning most of the 428 major (Fig. 2) and trace (Fig. 3) elements. They display similar enriched ITE patterns (Fig. 4). 429 All but seven (see discussion above) UIP samples bear a negative Nb anomaly ranging from 430 0.12 to 0.95 that compares to 0.22 to 0.81 for the low-Ti Karoo basalts. Both provinces have 431 REE patterns that show moderately fractionated LREE (La/Yb_n = 2.0 to 3.4 for Karoo low-Ti 432 basalts vs. 1.7-7.7 for UIP low-Ti basalts) but unfractionated mid-REE vs. HREE (Sm/Yb_n

433 from 1.2 to 1.6 for Karoo vs. 1.3-1.9 for UIP; Fig. 5).

- 434 However, significant differences distinguish the Proterozoic from the Jurassic basalts. In 435 general, PODS rocks have higher SiO₂ and ITE (e.g. Rb) contents and slightly lower contents 436 for other major and compatible elements (e.g. TiO₂ and Cr; Fig. 2, 3), for a given Mg#. The 437 most striking differences concern the ITE patterns, which display pronounced negative Sr. P 438 and Ti anomalies for the PODS basalts but not for the Karoo low-Ti basalts (Fig. 4). The UIP 439 also display more pronounced negative Nb anomalies as well as slightly lower Ce/Pb ratios in 440 average (Fig. 3). On the Zr/Y vs. Ti/Y diagram (Fig. 9) the trend toward the shale component 441 is more pronounced for the PODS than for Karoo low-Ti basalts. Globally, the PODS shows 442 stronger subduction characteristics than the Karoo basaltic rocks (e.g. Nb anomaly, Ce/Pb, 443 low Ti/Y and high La/Nb).
- We further test if the Karoo and PODS low-Ti rocks have a similar mantle source by comparing their batch melting model curves (Fig. 6). The Karoo trend is reproduced by 3 to 20 % melting of a slightly more depleted mantle source (La/Yb = 2 against 3.27 for UIP) and using the same modal composition compared to the PODS (Jourdan et al., 2007). The two curves are almost overlapping, strongly attesting for a similar, although not identical mantle source for the two CFBs.

450 Therefore, the data suggest that the PODS and the Karoo low-Ti basaltic rocks originate 451 from enriched mantle sources that bear very close characteristics. These two magma suites 452 show strong and dominant SCLM mantle signatures (e.g. low Ce/Pb and important Nb 453 negative anomalies). Considering the 900 Myr interval between the two CFB events, the 454 differences observed between the Proterozoic and Jurassic rocks are tenuous. They can be 455 interpreted in term of (1) lateral and vertical heterogeneities in the SCLM, (2) evolution of the 456 SCLM from 1.1 Ga to 180 Ma or a combination of both. Consequently, hypothesis (2) would 457 imply that the (subduction-enriched?) SCLM underwent only a slight depletion since 458 Proterozoic times. Such depletion might be due to extraction of the widespread Umkondo 459 CFB. In that case, the enriched composition of the SCLM would be already established before 460 the 1.1 Ga Umkondo event. This proposition is strengthened as the Karoo rocks show a noticeable decoupling between ²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁴Pb and ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁴Pb which was interpreted by Jourdan 461 462 et al. (2007) as reflecting the contribution of a stable and old-enriched mantle source. As 463 mentioned above, and also proposed for Ferrar rocks from Droning Maud Land (Lutinen and 464 Furnes, 2000), the chemical enrichment of the source was suggested to represent a feature 465 inherited from a Proterozoic orogeny, possibly the 1.4-1.3 Ga Kibaran subduction (Kampunzu

et al., 1998). A similar approach has been conducted for the Late Archaean-Proterozoic (2.7
and 1.0 Ga) and Mesozoic (200 and 130 Ma) CFB magmatism in South America and
concluded also for only a slight evolution of the composition of the SCLM through time
(Iacumin et al., 2003).

These results have important bearing on the mantle plume issue at the origin of Umkondo and Karro CFBs. As discussed above, no mantle plume signature is recognized in the PODS and UIP dataset. Moreover the mantle plume hypothesis for both UIP and Karoo would assume that two distinct plume heads sharing similar compositions would have been emplaced 900 Myr apart, coming from laterally distinct source regions (considering the drift of the African plate from 1.1Ma to 180Ma). It is unlikely that these requirements were fulfilled, and we favor the persistence of a SCLM source slightly evolving through time.

Further work is required to monitor the evolution of the LIP mantle source through time in southern Africa. This includes isotopic analysis on the PODS to highlight the similarities and differences with the Karoo province, and investigation of Proterozoic and Archaean dykes of other dykes swarms (e.g. Save-Limpopo, Olifant River and Palabora dyke swarms; Jourdan et al., 2006).

482

483 **5.** Conclusions

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The geochemical investigations on the mafic Proterozoic Okavango dyke swarm and relatedsills (PODS) lead us to draw several conclusions:

487 (1) Geochemical characteristics (e.g. Nb anomaly, Ce/Pb ratio, ITE and REE pattern) suggest
488 that the PODS was derived from the melting of a shallow mantle source. This source is
489 different from the OIB or MORB mantle and is thought to represent sub-continental
490 lithospheric mantle (SCLM) enriched by fluids released during the 1.4-1.3 Ga Kibaran
491 subduction.

492 (2) The PODS shares similar geochemical characteristics with basaltic remnants scattered in
493 Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa and attributed to the 1.1 Ga Umkondo large igneous
494 province (UIP). Considering younger ~1 Ga disturbed Ar/Ar ages previously obtained, the
495 PODS is considered as either part of the UIP or issued from a UIP-like source reactivated
496 ~100 Myr later.

497 (3) The PODS and UIP CFB overlap and share similar characteristics with the 180 Ma low-Ti498 Karoo CFB. Modeling suggests that both were derived from melting of a similar but not

499 identical enriched spinel-bearing mantle source. The resemblance between these Proterozoic 500 and Jurassic CFBs supports the tapping, 900 Ma apart, of a common enriched stabilized 501 SCLM attached to the African plate and is hard to reconcile with the melting of two distinct 502 mantle plumes. The slight depletion of the Karoo basalts relatively to the PODS suggests that 503 the extraction of the Umkondo magmas from the SCLM may have contributed to its relative 504 depletion. The southern African SCLM therefore inherited its characteristics since the 505 Mesoproterozoic and has probably undergone no major enrichment since this period.

506

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- 729 **Figure and table captions**
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732 Figure 1: A) Distribution of the Karoo magmatism and major related dyke swarms (modified 733 after Jourdan et al., 2004 and references inside). ODS: Okavango dyke swarm; PODS: 734 Proterozoic Okavango dyke swarm; ORDS: Olifants River dyke swarm; SBDS: South 735 Botswana dyke swarm; SLDS: Sabi-Limpopo dyke swarm; SleDS: South Lesotho dyke 736 swarm; SMDS: South Malawi dyke swarm; RRDS: Rooi Rand dyke swarm; LDS: Lebombo 737 dyke swarm (undated, intruding Karoo lava-pile); GDS: Gap dyke swarm (undated, intruding 738 Karoo sediments). Dotted line corresponds to Botswana border. Thick dashed line 739 corresponds to the hypothesized limit of the Umkondo large igneous province (UIP; cf. Fig. 740 10). B) Sketch map of northeastern Botswana showing the N110° oriented ODS-PODS and 741 location of Bot0003 samples. Lava flows exposures are indicated. C) 100 km-long section 742 along the Shashe River, with the location of Proterozoic samples only (modified after Jourdan 743 et al., 2004).

744

Figure 2: Selected major elements vs. Mg# [100 x atomic ratio of Mg/(Mg+Fe²⁺) with Fe₂O₃/FeO normalized to 0.15]. Low-Ti Karoo basalts (Jourdan et al., 2007) and Umkondo igneous rocks (see text for references) were indicated for comparison (see discussion). The low-Mg# group is surrounded by dashed curve.

749

750 Figure 3: Selected trace elements vs. Mg#. Caption as in Figure 2.

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Figure 4. Primitive mantle normalized (Sun and McDonough, 1989) incompatible trace elements patterns for (A) PODS and related sills with the low-Mg# group indicated by dashed curves (B) Umkondo igneous province (UIP; see text for references) and (3). Karoo low-Ti basalts and sills (Jourdan et al., 2007).

756

Figure 5. Chondrite-normalized (Boynton, 1984) REE compositions for (A) PODS and related sills with the low-Mg# group indicated by dashed curves, (B) Umkondo igneous province (UIP; see text for references) and (C) Karoo low-Ti basalts and sills (Jourdan et al., 2007).

761

Figure 6. $(Sm/Yb)_n$ vs. $(La/Sm)_n$ and $(La/Yb)_n$ vs. $(Eu/Yb)_n$ plots for the PODS and related sills, Karoo low- and high-Ti basalts and sills and UIP. Non-modal batch melting modeling curves of lherzolite mantle source are indicated. Partition coefficients are from McKenzie and O'Nions (1991). The ticks on the curves correspond to melting rates. Melting curve of a spinel-bearing lherzolite source (modal composition 55% olivine, 15% orthopyroxene, 28% clinopyroxene and 2% spinel). Melting mode: 20% olivine, 20% orthopyroxene, 55% clinopyroxene, 5% spinel. PODS source preferred composition: La=1.80, Sm=0.75 Eu=0.23 and Yb=0.55 (black dashed curve). Karoo best-fit source composition: La=1.10, Sm=0.67 Eu=0.24 and Yb=0.55 (gray plain curve). The gray dashed-dotted curve represents the calculated garnet-bearing mantle source as proposed in Jourdan et al. (2007), indicated for comparison.

773

Figure 7. Al₂O₃ and CaO vs. Mg# for the basaltic samples and MELTS (Ghiorso and Sack, 1995) fractional crystallization modeling curves. Calculation parameters: Pressure and H₂O content are varying between 0.5 Kbars and 5 Kbars and 0% and 2% respectively. fO_2 =QFM (quartz-fayalite-magnetite). Starting composition: rock Bot0003 (Mg# = 66); note that adding H₂O in the starting rock composition shift its SiO₂ composition because the total composition is normalized to 100%.

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Figure 8. La/Ba vs. La/Nb plot for the PODS, UIP and Karoo low-Ti basalts and sills. Fields
reported as in Saunders et al. (1992).

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Figure 9. Ti/Y vs. Zr/Y plot for the PODS, UIP and Karoo low-Ti basalts and sills. Fields
reported from Brewer et al. (1992). The low-Mg# group is indicated by a dashed curve.

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Figure 10. Distribution of the 1.1 Ga Umkondo large igneous province (after Hanson et al.,
1988 and 2004). The locations of the samples used for geochemical comparison are quoted in
bold. PODS black dashed line indicates possible extension of the dyke swarm by comparison
with the ODS. Thin dotted line: Botswana border. Thick dashed line: schematic "Kibaranaged" belts represented with basement fabrics.

792

Table 1. Major (wt%) and trace and RE elements (ppm) analyses for the PODS and related
sills rocks. LOI: loss on ignition. Most trace elements of most samples were determined by
ICPMS except those quoted in italic, measured by XRF.

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Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 3





Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7: Jourdan et al.



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

Туре	Sill	Sill	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Dyke	Sill
Sample	Bot01	Bot11	Bot15A	Bot1/	Bot0083	Bot0084	B010085	Bot0093	B0t0094	B010095	Bot0003
Major elemen	nts (wt%)										
SiO ₂	52.06	49.49	48.93	52.39	53.31	54.32	53.95	53.42	53.70	53.65	51.09
AlaOa	12.36	16.56	14.43	14 54	14 59	14.13	14.37	13.49	13 75	13.85	15.08
Fi O	12.30	10.00	14.43	0.05	14.39	14.15	14.57	13.49	13.75	11.00	13.08
Fe_2O_3	16.36	12.89	15.09	9.95	11.11	11.76	5.20	11.43	12.19	11.96	9.92
MgO C-O	3.91	4.49	5.74	8.20	0.32 10.42	4.75	5.20	0.19	4.94	5.15	8.20
CaO N= O	7.84	9.54	9.23	11.09	10.42	8.78	9.30	8.58	8.95	8.92	11.57
Na ₂ O	2.67	3.13	2.62	1.98	1.86	2.06	2.06	2.29	2.15	2.10	1.68
K_2O	1.39	0.92	0.87	0.63	1.04	1.65	1.39	1.87	1.48	1.69	0.58
TiO2	2.09	1.70	1.85	0.50	0.82	0.97	0.94	0.94	0.96	0.93	0.73
P_2O_5	0.23	0.17	0.20	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.08
MnO	0.21	0.18	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.17
LOI	0.51	0.89	0.62	0.93	0.51	1.14	1.17	0.88	1.35	1.42	0.83
H2O-	0.18	-	0.18	-	0.13	0.17	0.09	0.90	0.18	0.21	-
TOTAL	99.81	99.96	99.97	100.43	100.37	100.02	100.35	100.26	99.95	100.17	99.93
Mg#	35.77	44.81	46.99	65.76	57.00	48.49	51.22	55.79	48.57	50.09	65.83
Trace elemen	ıts (ppm)										
Rb	54	27	29	36	47	77	64	99	67	87	21
Ba	351	261	215	163	219	351	320	473	309	343	152
Th	6.48	3.50	3.67	3.06	-	6.38	5.62	-	6.19	5.91	2.72
Nb	10.24	8.12	8.61	2.92	3.40	6.10	5.33	4.30	5.65	5.42	3.20
Sr	142	188	161	129	118	131	132	197	135	134	132
Hf	5.27	3.76	4.05	1.72	-	3.61	3.19	-	3.33	3.30	2.26
Zr	182	139	147	68	95	122	113	99	114	122	91
Y	47.2	32.1	35.7	15.2	24.2	30.1	26.8	20.9	28.2	27.5	17.2
Pb	10.59	6.79	7.04	9.59	-	7.36	9.37	-	10.12	79.46	7.23
Та	0.79	0.59	0.61	<0.5	-	< 0.5	<0.5	-	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.5
U	1.30	0.71	0.64	0.77	-	1.24	1.08	-	1.09	1.09	0.56
Sc	33	33	31	31	32	30	31	20	34	33	30
V C	406	330	328	208	239	247	249	227	255	252	206
Cr	10	8/	100	17	109	50 45	09 45	185	32 47	28 47	210
CO Ni	49 52	18	55	128	07	4J 76	4J 83	47 60	70	78	104
I a	24.11	16 32	15.09	17.78	10.09	70	19.51	17.34	17.22	17.33	0 10
Ce	52 50	33.61	32.45	37.22	21.06		42.92	36.83	39.20	38.88	19 59
Pr	7 14	4 70	4 48	5 10	2.69	_	5 16	4 60	4 66	4 60	2.63
Nd	28.16	18.69	18.02	20.21	9.98	-	19.77	17.03	18.11	18.03	10.03
Sm	7.10	4.71	4.51	5.23	2.31	-	4.68	4.07	4.36	4.05	2.65
Eu	1.85	1.48	1.36	1.57	0.59	-	1.11	1.09	1.08	1.08	0.77
Gd	7.46	5.27	5.00	5.82	2.44	-	4.88	4.35	4.65	4.51	2.90
Tb	1.18	0.85	0.80	0.89	0.40	-	0.77	0.68	0.73	0.69	0.47
Dy	7.59	5.14	4.81	5.59	2.36	-	4.57	4.21	4.40	4.33	2.85
Ho	1.69	1.22	1.13	1.28	0.54	-	1.03	0.98	1.03	1.03	0.63
Er	4.80	3.28	3.19	3.53	1.59	-	2.94	2.80	2.77	2.78	1.73
Yb	4.85	3.35	3.16	3.58	1.64	-	3.04	2.97	2.72	3.01	1.70
Lu	0.73	0.50	0.47	0.53	0.25	-	0.47	0.42	0.45	0.44	0.27

Table	1: .	Jourdan	et	al.
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