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Recent tectonic activity of Iran deduced from young magmatism evidences

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Abstract:Closure of the Neo-Tethys Ocean during Mesozoic and Cenozoic is one of the most important stages of tectonic evolution of Iranian Plateau. Subduction of the oceanic lithosphere under the southwestern border of Central Iran, caused plutonic and volcanic activity between the Jurassic and Quaternary within and adjacent to the southern margin of Central Iran. During closure of the ocean, two major subduction-related arcs trending parallel to the Main Zagros Thrust, the Mesozoic Sanandaj-Sirjan (SSMA) and the Tertiary to Plio-Quaternary Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arcs (UDMA) have been formed. Quaternary volcanic activity, generated by a complex combination of geodynamic and petrogenetic processes associated with the evolution of the Alpine-Himalayan collision belt. This volcanic activity has produced both andesitic stratovolcanoes and fields of basaltic cones and plateau lavas. Upper Miocene to Pliocene-Quaternary volcanic activity is observable in Makran, UDMA, Qom-Baft, Anar and northern Lut.

Keywords: Active Tectonics, Magmatism, Quaternary volcanism, UDMA, Central Iran, Iran.

I. Introduction

The tectonic evolution of Iran involves several deformation stages (Berberian and Berberian, 1981). One of the most important stages is tectonic evolution of the Neo-Tethys Ocean after Permian and its closure in Cenozoic. Northward motion of Arabia in the late Mesozoic and early Cenozoic was associated with subduction under the southern margin of Eurasia.

The Zagros Orogen is a young, active and linear collisional orogen that is formed after closure of the Neo-Tethys Ocean and constitutes part of the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt (e.g. Sto¨cklin 1968; Ricou 1971; Dewey *et al*. 1973; Berberian and King 1981; Koop and Stoneley 1982; Ziegler and Stampfli 2001; Blanc *et al*. 2003). The age of initial collision is disputed, with suggested ages ranging from \sim 10-12 Ma (Late Miocene, Dewey *et al*., 1986; McQuarrie *et al*., 2003) to ~35-40 Ma (Middle-Late Eocene; Hempton, 1987; Hessami *et al*., 2001; Vincent *et al*., 2005). Early deformation and changing sedimentation patterns on both sides of the Arabia-Eurasia (Bitlis-Zagros) suture indicate a Late Eocene age $(\sim 35$ Ma), consistent with a sharp reduction in magmatism between the Eocene and Oligocene (Allen and Armstrong, 2008).

Collision between the Arabian and Eurasian plates is active, shown by the complex seismicity of SW Asia, the GPS-derived velocity field and abundant evidence for neotectonic faulting in Iran, Turkey and adjacent countries (Jackson *et al*., 1995; Vernant *et al*., 2004). The Turkish-Iranian plateau is not undergoing major active crustal thickening (e.g. Berberian and Yeats, 1999), although earlier collision-generated thickening is indicated by both present Moho depths (commonly 45-60 km) and the record of mid Cenozoic compressional deformation (Allen *et al*., 2004). The plateau has typical elevations of 1.5-2 km, trailing off westwards in to western Turkey and eastwards in to the deserts of eastern Iran. Folding and thrusting are active at its margins, in ranges such as the Zagros and Alborz (Jackson *et al*., 1995), but far less so within the plateau interior. Active tectonics of NW Iran involve a counterclockwise rotating array of NW-SE trending, right-lateral strike-slip faults (Copley and Jackson, 2006).

The major tectonic zones of the Zagros orogenic belt (Fig. 1) recorded several deformation events since Cretaceous

Figure 1. Tectonic zones of the Zagros Orogen: ZSFB- Zagros Simply Folded Belt, ZIB-Zagros Imbricate Belt (High Zagros Belt), SSZ- Sanandaj-Sirjan Zone, UDMA- Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc.

Major faults: MFF- Mountain Front Fault, HZF- High Zagros Fault, MRF- Main Recent Fault and MZT- Main Zagros Thrust (Stöcklin 1968; Falcon 1974; Berberian and King 1981, Alavi 1994; Berberian 1995; Agard et al. 2005). Red stars mark Quaternary volcanoes with craters and calderas (based on Huber 1977).

times (Falcon 1969, 1974; Haynes and McQuillan 1974; Koop and Stoneley 1982; Alavi 1994; Berberian 1995; Agard *et al*. 2005). The Zagros Orogen is sub-divided into several tectonic units. Falcon (1969, 1974) sub-divided the Zagros Orogen into three zones: the Thrust Zone, the Imbricate Zone and the Simply Folded Zone. The main deformation zone according to Stöcklin (1968, 1974) is defined as the Main Zagros Thrust, which is the suture between the Arabian and Eurasian plates (Iranian Plate) and the northeast border of the Zagros Fold-Thrust Belt (Fig. 1).

Based on previous studies (e.g. Stöcklin 1968; Falcon 1974; Alavi 1994; Berberian and King 1981, Berberian 1995; Agard *et al*. 2005), the following sub-division of tectonic units in the Zagros Orogen, located north-eastwards of the Persian Gulf Foreland Basin will be applied in this research: the Zagros Simply Folded Belt, the Zagros Imbricate Belt, the Sanandaj-Sirjan Zone and the Urumieh-Dokhtar

Magmatic Arc (Fig. 1).

The Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA) is an Andean-type volcanic magmatic arc (Schröder 1944), with an almost continuous calc-alkaline magmatic activity from the Eocene till present (e.g. Berberian and Berberian 1981; Berberian and King 1981; Bina *et al*. 1986), which peaked during the Oligocene-Miocene. This belt is one of the most important magmatic belts of Iran and adjacent areas that is formed during subducting of the Tethyan oceanic crust under the Central Iran.

The aim of this paper is review and describing the recent tectonic activity of Iran deduced from young magmatism evidences during Miocene-Quaternary. These magmatism activity usually started from Mesozoic and are continued until present.

Ⅱ.Geological settings

1. Outline

The collision of two continental plates produces a zone of very complex tectonic structures. Many kinds of such tectonic structures formed also during Cenozoic times in the Zagros Orogen and other parts of Iranian Plateau, as a consequence of the collision between the Arabian and the Eurasian plates (e.g., Stöcklin, 1968). Most of these structures are still active. Addition to young magmatism, tectonic deformation in Iran during the last 3-5 Ma resulted in the N-S-trending convergence, dextral strike-slip faulting (e.g., Berberian and King, 1981; Berberian, 1981) and partly in thrusting and accompanying folding.

2. Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Belt

The Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA) forms a distinct linear, over 4 km thick intrusive- extrusive complex (Alavi 1994), which extends along the entire length of the Zagros Orogen (Fig. 1). The UDMA ranges in age from the Cretaceous till Recent, but is dominated by 50-35 Ma intermediate to acidic volcanic and plutonic rocks (Alavi 1980; Berberian and King 1981; Berberian *et al*. 1982). The UDMA comprises various lithological units including gabbros, diorites, granodiorites and granite bodies of different size (e.g. Haghipour and Aghanabati 1985). Basaltic lava flows, trachybasalts, ignimbrites and pyroclastic rocks, mostly tuffs and agglomerates, are also widely distributed in the unit (Alavi 1994).

Extrusive volcanism in the UDMA began in the Eocene and continued for the rest of this period, with a climax in the Middle Eocene (Berberian and King 1981). Geochemical studies indicate that the UDMA is composed of subductionrelated calc-alkaline (e.g. Forster *et al*. 1972; Jung *et al*. 1976; Berberian *et al*. 1982), and calc-alkaline and tholeiitic rocks (e.g. Ahmad and Posht Kuhi 1993).

It is generally assumed that the UDMA was the magmatic arc overlying the slab of the Neo-Tethyan oceanic lithosphere, which was subducted beneath the Iranian Plate (Alavi 1980, 1994; Berberian and Berberian 1981). Amidi *et al*. (1984) proposed a rift model for the interpretation of the origin of Eocene volcanic rocks. Ghasemi and Talbot (2006) suggested a post-collision model for post-Middle Eocene igneous rocks of the UDMA. However, based on geochemical studies of igneous rocks from the Shahr Babak region (NW of Sirjan town), Hassanzadeh (1993) proposed a continental-arc setting.

This is supported by geochemical studies and isotope data

from the Miocene Sar-Cheshmeh porphyry copper deposit that is located in the UDMA, indicating a primitive to mature island-arc setting for the deposit (Shahabpour and Kramers 1987; Shahabpour 2007). Other evidence are Eocene alkaline rocks of the south Rafsanjan region (Hassanzadeh 1993), Upper Eocene calk-alkaline volcanic rocks from the boundary of the Iranian Plate and the Rafsanjan basin (Nazari *et al*., 1994), and an increase in slab dip of the subducting Neo-Tethys oceanic crust during the Early Miocene (Berberian and Berberian 1981).

Magmatism in the UDMA occurred chiefly during the Eocene but later resumed, after a quiescent period, during the Upper Miocene to Plio-Quaternary. Age constraints for the UDMA volcanics are mostly inferred from their position with respect to fossil-bearing sedimentary units, except for a few isotopic ages (37.5 \pm 1.4 to 2.8 \pm 0.2 Ma in the Anar-Shahr Babak region; Hassanzadeh, 1993; 33-20 Ma for Natanz pluton; Berberian *et al*., 1982). Note that this Eocene magmatic activity in the UDMA is also coeval with a widespread magmatic activity throughout most of the Iranian plateau.

III. Neo-Tethys and Tethyan oceans

Subduction of the Tethyan oceanic lithosphere under the southwestern border of Central Iran, caused plutonic and volcanic activity between the Jurassic and Quaternary within and adjacent to the southern margin of Central Iran (Fig. 1) (Ricou *et al*., 1977; Berberian and King, 1981; Berberian, 1983; Mohajjel *et al*., 2003). The tectonic history of the Tethyan region has been studied by many authors (e.g., Takin, 1972; Stocklin, 1974; Berberian, 1981; Berberian and King, 1981; Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Berberian *et al*., 1982; Sengor, 1984, 1990; Shahabpour and Kramers, 1987; Alavi, 1994; Nadimi 2002; Shahabpour, 2005; Torsvik and Cocks, 2013). Since Paleozoic time, Central Iran was part of the Gondwana, separated from the Laurasian plate by the Paleo-Tethys (Fig. 2).

The closure of Paleo-Tethys during Triassic time by northward motion of the Central Iran micro-continent resulted in its welding with the Eurasian plate (e.g., Shahabpour 2007). Sometime prior to the Middle Triassic, the Late Paleozoic ophiolites were emplaced in the north, presumably at the time of collision of continental fragments with the Laurasian plate.

About the same time during closure of the Paleo-Tethys in the north, rifting along the present Zagros thrust zone (Fig. 1) took place, resulting in opening of a new ocean called the

Figure 2. Reconstruction of Paleo-Tethys Ocean and adjacent continent. Orthographic projection with Europe fixed in its present-day position.

Paleopoles of Baltica are used as reference for the paleolatitudes (Stampfli and Borel, 2002).

Neo-Tethys. With disappearance of the Paleo-Tethys in the north, the floor of Neo-Tethys started to subduct beneath Central Iran during Triassic-Jurassic time (Fig. 3).

This led to an Early Cimmerian metamorphic event, recorded southwest of the Sanandaj-Sirjan zone (Berberian and King, 1981; Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Hooper *et al*., 1994), and also Upper Triassic emplacement of intrusive bodies such as Siah Kuh granite batholith (Sabzehei, 1994; Berberian and Berberian, 1981) within this zone (Fig. 1). The final closure of Neo-Tethys and collision between Arabia and Central Iran took place during the Neogene (Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Berberian *et al*., 1982).

IV. Magmatism in Iran

Implications for initiation of Neo-Tethys subduction It is generally believed that the detachment of Central Iran from Arabia during Late Permian and its northwestward movement led to the formation of a new ocean (Neo-Tethys) along the present main Zagros folded-thrust belt (Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Berberian and King, 1981). The Middle Triassic orogeny in Iran is interpreted as the result of subduction of the Neo-Tethys oceanic crust underneath Central Iran, which initiated regional metamorphism and magmatism along the Sanandaj-Sirjan zone (Berberian and King, 1981).

Little is known, however, about the long-lasting magmatic activity (150 m.y.) of the two presumably subduction-related

Figure 3. Reconstruction of Neo-Tethys Ocean and adjacent continent. Orthographic projection with Europe fixed in its present-day position. Paleopoles of Baltica are used as reference for the paleolatitudes (Stampfli and Borel, 2002).

arcs trending parallel to the Main Zagros Thrust, namely, the Mesozoic Sanandaj-Sirjan (SSMA) and the Tertiary to Plio-Quaternary Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arcs (UDMA) (Fig. 4). Despite abundant exposures of igneous rocks in both the SSMA and the UDMA (Fig. 4a), few studies are available (Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Berberian *et al*., 1982; Shahabpour, 2005; Ahmadi Khalaji *et al*., 2007) and no geochemical data have been acquired on a regional scale to better constrain the subduction history of Zagros. During this period, plutonic activity was episodic, probably due to episodic plate motions and changes in the consumption rate of the oceanic crust, with climaxes around the Middle Triassic, Late Jurassic and Late Cretaceous (Berberian and Berberian, 1981). The distribution of Mesozoic plutonic bodies in Iran is mostly restricted to regions close to the eventual active plate margins marked by ophiolitic-melange belts. They appear to have been generated extensively along and above the early Mesozoic subduction zone of the Sanandaj-Sirjan zone.

Arc magmatism provides useful insights into mantle or crust melting processes in subduction zones (e.g., Pearce *et al*., 1990; Davidson, 1996; Macdonald *et al*., 2000), and in the case of Zagros, it should also help to solve some firstorder geodynamic problems, such as: (1) The shift of ~ 300 km of subduction-related magmatism from the Mesozoic SSMA to the Tertiary UDMA. Does this result from a change in subduction processes (e.g., a change in slab dip; Berberian and Berberian, 1981) or from the existence of two distinct subduction zones? (2) The geochemical nature and significance of the recent, Upper Miocene to Plio-Quaternary

Figure 4. Maps showing the distribution of magmatic rocks in Iran (SSMA and UDMA: Sanandaj-Sirjan and Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arcs, respectively) (Omrani et al., 2008).

These maps were redrawn from the geological 1/2,500,000 scale map of Iran after careful checks on more detailed available geological maps (scale 1/250,000; Geological Survey of Iran). (a) Volcanic rocks in the SSMA and the UDMA. Volcanic and plutonic rocks of the SSMA are of Mesozoic age, whereas UDMA volcanic rocks start from the Eocene onwards. This magmatic shift in time and space is marked with arrows. (b) Distribution of the UDMA volcanic rocks through time, showing two prominent stages of magmatic activity during the Eocene and the Plio-Quaternary. (c) Distribution of Tertiary igneous rocks throughout Iran, showing that the Eocene magmatic activity is widespread and not restricted to the UDMA. Its origin remains largely unknown. (d) Sampling localities in both the SSMA and UDMA with three age groups: 1) SSMA volcanic rocks of Jurassic or Jurassic-Cretaceous age (grey symbols); 2) pre-collisional Eocene volcanics of the UDMA (black symbols); 3) Upper Miocene to Plio-Quaternary volcanic rocks of the UDMA post-dating the onset of collision (white symbols). Extensive sampling in the UDMA covers approximately half of the arc, from three main areas (from north to south: Qom, Anar and Baft regions). See Supplementary data for GPS locations.

Figure 5. Schematic reconstruction for Quaternary volcanism across the Arabia-Eurasia collision zone and its foreland, in the region of NW Iran and eastern Turkey (Kheirkhah et al., 2009). Volcanic centre names are included to give examples for each setting of magmatism, and do not fall on a linear section line. Inset cartoons show spider diagrams of basalts derived from asthenosphere and mantle lithosphere

magmatic activity postdating the onset of collision (c. 25 Ma; Agard *et al*., 2005).

The Triassic plutonic rocks are well exposed in the southeastern part of the Sanandaj-Sirjan zone in the Sirjan and Esfandagheh area. The absence of these rocks in the central and northwestern sections of this zone is probably either due to their being covered by Jurassic and Cretaceous sedimentary rocks or because subduction of Neo-Tethys started from the southeast and propagated northward (Berberian and Berberian, 1981). Berberian and Berberian, 1981 suggested that the Triassic plutonic rocks might form as a result of steeply dipping Neo-Tethys oceanic slab (Marianatype) underneath southeastern Central Iran.

V. Plutonic activity

Two magmatic belts dominated by calc-alkaline igneous rocks (Berberian and Berberian, 1981) run parallel to the Main Zagros Thrust on the Eurasian upper plate and cut across central Iran (Fig. 4a). The magmatic activity was restricted to the Sanandaj-Sirjan magmatic arc (SSMA) during the Mesozoic and to the Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arc during the Tertiary (UDMA; Fig. 4a).

Subduction inception dates back to the Late Triassic-Early Jurassic (Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Arvin *et al*., 2007). The oldest magmatic rocks in the SSMA comprise the 199 \pm

sources.

3 Ma Siah Kuh pluton (Arvin *et al*., 2007) and several other plutons of Triassic age (Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Eshraghi and Jafarian, 1996; Sahandi, 2006). No age constraints younger than 65 Ma were found in the SSMA (Braud and Bellon, 1974; Valizadeh and Cantagrel, 1975; Sheikholeslami *et al*., 2003; Ahmadi Khalaji *et al*., 2007).

To the northeast of the SSMA, the parallel Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arc (Stöcklin, 1968; Alavi, 1994) forms an elongate volcanoplutonic belt running from eastern Turkey to southeast Iran and has been interpreted as subductionrelated (Takin, 1972; Berberian and Berberian, 1981; Berberian *et al*., 1982). The finding of rare, spatially restricted alkaline or shoshonitic volcanic rocks in this zone, however, led to alternative and contradictory interpretations (Amidi *et al*., 1984; Hassanzadeh, 1993; Aftabi and Atapour, 2000).

VI. Young volcanic activity

Quaternary volcanic activity, generated by a complex combination of geodynamic and petrogenetic processes associated with the evolution of the Alpine-Himalayan collision belt, has occurred in a broad area running from westto-east though Turkey, Iran and into Pakistan (Fig. 5). This volcanic activity has produced both andesitic stratovolcanoes, such as Ararat in Turkey (Kheirkhah *et al*., 2009; Pearce *et* *al*., 1990) and Damavand in Iran (Davidson *et al*., 2004; Liotard *et al*., 2008), as well as fields of basaltic cones and plateau lavas.

In eastern Iran, the area of Quaternary magmatic activity extends over a south-to-north distance of 900 km, from the Makran arc in the south (Fig. 1; Farhoudi and Karig, 1977) to north of the northern margin of the Lut microcontinental block (Saadat, 2010; Saadat *et al*., 2010). The Makran volcanic arc, which consists of the Bazman (Salkhi, 1997) and Taftan (Biabangard and Moradian, 2008) stratovolcanoes in southeastern Iran, and the Koh-e-Sultan volcano in southwestern Pakistan (Nicholson *et al*., 2010), is produced by plate convergence involving the subduction of Oman Sea oceanic lithosphere beneath the Eurasian continent (Farhoudi and Karig, 1977). This relatively short volcanic arc segment is one of the simpler of the many different magmatic active sections of the Alpine-Himalayan collision belt, but only very limited geochemical information is available for these volcanoes. Bazman volcano, in addition to having erupted intermediate and silicic magmas, is surrounded by an extensive field of small mafic monogenetic Quaternary cones and associated lava flows. This paper presents petrochemical data for and discusses

1. Mesozoic SSMA and Eocene UDMA

SSMA Jurassic volcanics comprise andesites and basaltic andesites, together with some felsic tuffs and pyroclastics and so vary considerably in composition and texture (Table 1). UDMA volcanic rocks range from basalt to dacite and minor rhyolite. The Eocene samples show the widest range in composition (Table 2) and comprise andesite and intermediate tuff/pyroclastics, with minor basalts and dacites and rare rhyolites.

2. Upper Miocene to Plio-Quaternary (UMPQ) UDMA

Upper Miocene to Plio-Quaternary volcanic rocks postdating collision are less variable in composition. Andesites are abundant in the Qomand Baft regions, whereas in the central UDMA, near Anar, more differentiated rocks are found (trachyte, dacite, and rhyolite).

The petrography in intermediate and evolved rocks is dominated by plagioclase, amphibole and Fe-Ti oxides. Subcalcic augite is rare in these volcanic rocks, and is mostly found in phonolites and basaltic andesites. Biotite only occurs sporadically. Minor oxides (<5%), mainly titanomagnetite and very rarely hemoilmenite, are present in all samples. K-feldspar can be abundant in dacite, trachyte and rhyolite (e.g., A.05-06-07-08, Q.01-02).

All samples are slightly porphyritic with pheno- to mesocrysts of plagioclase, amphibole, biotite and rare pyroxene (Omrani *et al*., 2008). They also commonly contain titanomagnetite and apatite. Their composition varies from andesite to dacite. Plagioclase is the most abundant phenocryst in most samples and generally exhibits normal zoning patterns, but oscillatory zoning is also found occasionally (A.06). The oscillatory zoning might reflect some complex processes at the crystal-liquid interface during super cooling conditions at lower temperatures (L'Heureux and Fowler. 1996). The wide range in anorthite (An) content of normally zoned plagioclases (An55 to An30 from core to rim) is classically interpreted as disequilibrium under fast cooling in a magma undergoing decreasing water pressure (e.g., Gill, 1981, p. 169). The unusually low An content of most of the samples with respect to average calc-alkaline magmas could indicate a lower liquidus temperature under relatively low water pressures (Sisson and Grove, 1993; Scaillet and Evans, 1999).

Amphiboles are calcic to sodic-calcic in composition and mainly lie in the field of pargasite to edenite (Leake *et al*., 1997). Amphiboles from A.05d and A.06 show no clear chemical zoning. Pressure estimates based on Al-inhornblende barometers (Hammarstrom and Zen, 1986; Johnson and Rutherford, 1989; Schmidt, 1992), suggest that these amphiboles formed at c. 5 and 2-3 kbar, respectively, thus excluding a mantle origin.

4. UMPQ volcanic rocks from Qom and Baft

These rocks mainly consist of basalts and basaltic andesites (B.01). The An content of plagioclase is relatively high in the pyroxene-rich basaltic andesites (e.g., An97 to 67; sample Q.21). In sample B.01 there is an obvious core-to-rim zonation, from high temperature pargasite to lower temperature edenite, respectively, with an evolution along both Si-Al and Fe-Mg solid solutions (Table 2). Pressure estimates suggest that this zoning took place between 8 and 5 kbar. One sample from the UDMA comprises orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene (Q.21) of enstatite and diopside compositions, respectively.

5. Makran volcanic arc

The two large dormant Neogene/Quaternary Bazman and Taftan stratovolcanoes form the western part of the Makran volcanic arc along the southern part of the Lut block and Sistan suture zone, southeastern Iran (Fig. 1). K-Ar ages for basalts from Bazman indicate that these rocks were erupted at

al., 2008). Table 1. Major and trace element data for 62 samples (Omrani et al., 2008). Table 1. Major and trace element data for 62 samples (Omrani et

Table 1. continued Table 1. continued

4.6 Ma and 0.6 Ma, respectively (Conrad *et al*., 1981). Taftan consists of pyroclastic, tuffs, ignimbrites and lava flows, including basalts, basaltic-andesites, andesites and dacites (Ghazban, 2004). Biabangard and Moradian (2008) determined, from K/Ar ages of selected andesitic and andesite-basalt samples that volcanic activity at Taftan began by at least 6.95 Ma and the youngest eruption probably occurred at b0.71 Ma. Also, 40Ar/39Ar ages of b0.8 and 2.6 Ma were obtained for two samples of andesitic lava on the northwestern flank of Taftan (Moinvazire, 1998). A lava flow was reported at Taftan in 1993, but may instead have actually been an observation of a molten sulfur flow (Siebert and Simkin, 2002). Koh-e-Sultan, located at the eastern end of the Makran volcanic arc in Pakistan, is less than 2.5 Ma in age (Siddiqui, 2004). It has a compositional range from basaltic andesites to dacites and a calc-alkaline fractionation trend (Biabangard and Moradian, 2008; Nicholson *et al*., 2010).

WI . Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the studies:

- 1. Subduction of the Tethyan oceanic lithosphere under the southwestern border of Central Iran, caused plutonic and volcanic activity between the Jurassic and Quaternary within and adjacent to the southern margin of Central Iran.
- 2. Two magmatic arcs of Mesozoic and Tertiary age, Sanandaj-Sirjan and Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arcs formed due to the convergence between Arabia and Eurasia along the strike of the Zagros Mountains. Magmatism was active during subduction and later resumed in the UDMA after the inception of collision, from the Late Miocene onwards.
- 3. The shift of the magmatic activity from the Mesozoic SSMA to the UDMA later in the Eocene is not well understood at present. Geochemical data however suggests that they both originated from typical, subduction-related mantle wedge sources.
- 4. After Late Miocene adakitic magma in some parts of the UDMA was formed. The presence and distribution of these mostly high- $SiO₂$ adakites imply that some subducted slab relicts melted at depth due to slab break-off.
- 5. Quaternary volcanic activity, generated by a complex combination of geodynamic and petrogenetic processes associated with the evolution of the Alpine-Himalayan collision belt. This volcanic activity has produced both andesitic stratovolcanoes and fields of basaltic cones and plateau lavas.
- 6. Upper Miocene to Pliocene-Quaternary volcanic activity is

observable in Makran, UDMA, Qom-Baft, Anar and northern Lut.

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