

1 Metal anomalies in zircon as a record of granite-  
2 hosted mineralization

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21 **ABSTRACT**

22 Granite-hosted magmatic-hydrothermal mineral deposits are major sources of Cu, Mo,  
23 Sn, Li, and W, originating via mineralizing fluids exsolved from volatile-saturated  
24 magmas. We show how trace elements in zircon sampled from the granite-hosted  
25 Zaaiplaats tin deposit, Bushveld Complex, preserve a record of both the enrichment of  
26 incompatible metals during magma fractionation and those arising from magmatic-  
27 hydrothermal mineralization processes. The Zaaiplaats granites are subdivided into  
28 three groups; mineralized, altered, and unmineralized. Zircon trace element contents  
29 define two trends in a plot of Sn against Gd: Sn/Gd ratios in zircons from the  
30 unmineralized samples, as well as the majority of altered samples, define a magma  
31 fractionation trend with increasing Y at constant Sn/Gd, whereas those from the  
32 mineralized samples are displaced to high Sn/Gd ratios at similar Y. Elevated Sn in  
33 the Zaaiplaats zircons is attributed to the introduction of a Sn-rich mineralizing fluid  
34 during zircon growth, which occurred at an advanced stage of crystallization (>85 %)  
35 of the host magma. This model is consistent with the preservation of whole-rock Sn  
36 zonation in the Zaaiplaats granites modelled by closed-system magma differentiation  
37 and the ensuing exsolution of an acidic, saline Sn-rich magmatic-hydrothermal fluid  
38 (Groves and McCarthy, 1978). A metal anomaly,  $\text{Sn}/\text{Sn}^*$ , is defined which describes  
39 the deviation of Sn over that expected through magma fractionation alone ( $\text{Sn}^*$ ), and  
40 arises from Sn mobilization due to magmatic-hydrothermal mineralization processes.  
41 Identification of metal anomalies such as  $\text{Sn}/\text{Sn}^*$  and  $\text{Cu}/\text{Cu}^*$  in mineral archives or at  
42 the whole-rock level, provides an empirical link to the onset of mineralization processes  
43 in magmatic-hydrothermal systems, and can be coupled with geochemical proxies to  
44 yield a better understanding of the conditions leading up to, and subsequent to, volatile  
45 saturation.

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## 47 **1. Introduction**

48 Granite-associated magmatic-hydrothermal mineral deposits, whether intrusion, vein,  
49 or pegmatite related, are major economic sources of Cu, Mo, Au, Sn, Li, and W. These  
50 deposits originate from intermediate to felsic magmas emplaced within the mid- to  
51 upper-continental crust (Burnham, 1997; Černý et al., 2005; Sillitoe, 2010). Volatiles,  
52 together with fluid-mobile elements, initially dissolved in the magma, exsolve during  
53 the process of aqueous/volatile saturation, or degassing (Hedenquist and Lowenstein,  
54 1994; Keppler and Wyllie, 1991; Sillitoe, 2010). Volatile exsolution, and the associated  
55 extraction of metals from magmas into these hydrothermal fluids, is a precursor to the  
56 ultimate precipitation of ore minerals, and represents a critical step in the genesis of  
57 magmatic-hydrothermal deposits (Candela, 1997; Heinrich, 1990; Wilkinson, 2013). A  
58 key requirement is the reliable identification in natural mineral archives of criteria  
59 heralding the onset of fluid-related mineralization versus that of magma fractionation.

60 Experimental and empirical studies of volatile saturation primarily in Cu porphyry  
61 systems, have sought to relate the role of volatile saturation to the relative contributions  
62 of magma fertility, volatile phase solubilities, and the volume and rates of magma  
63 injection (e.g., Audetat et al., 1998; Blundy et al., 2015; Chelle-Michou et al., 2017;  
64 Heinrich et al., 1999; Williams-Jones and Heinrich, 2005). Recent experimental work  
65 on Sn-W deposits has however challenged the paradigm that Sn strongly partitions  
66 into the vapour phase during volatile saturation, instead remaining concentrated within  
67 the magma under some circumstances (Duc-Tin et al., 2007; Schmidt et al., 2020).

68 The genesis and evolution of magmas govern their ability to generate metal-rich fluids  
69 that ultimately form ore deposits (Blevin and Chappell, 1992; Černý et al., 2005; Hart  
70 et al., 2004; Williams-Jones and Heinrich, 2005). Advances in our understanding of  
71 such petrogenetic processes have been achieved through *in-situ* geochemical  
72 analytical techniques, principally applied to the silicate mineral zircon (Hoskin, 2003;

73 Kemp and Hawkesworth, 2013). Zircon is a robust accessory mineral common in  
74 evolved rocks, and its chemistry is sensitive to the conditions and processes that  
75 promote mineralization, including redox and fractionation (e.g., Ballard et al., 2002;  
76 Dilles et al., 2015; Gardiner et al., 2017). Thus, zircon has considerable potential to  
77 record the timing, and the conditions, associated with mineralization in magmatic  
78 systems.

79 Previous studies have looked at the use of zircon chemistry as a pathfinder to granite-  
80 hosted mineralization, such as the role of zircon rare earth elements (REE) to assess  
81 Cu porphyry prospectivity (Ballard et al., 2002; Dilles et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2016),  
82 linking trace element concentrations with U–Pb ages to decipher stages of metal  
83 enrichment, and interaction of zircon with hydrothermal fluids in polymetallic magmatic-  
84 hydrothermal systems (Jiang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2014).

85 In this contribution we explore how zircon trace element contents, including those of  
86 metals of economic interest, trace the effects of magma-fluid evolution associated with  
87 granite-hosted mineralization by examining samples from a mineralized portion of the  
88 Lebowa Granite Suite, at the polymetallic Zaaipplaats Tin Mine, Bushveld Complex,  
89 South Africa. We focus on how zircon mineral chemistry in an evolving granite system  
90 records and discriminates between the processes of magmatic fractionation and that  
91 of metal enrichment associated with co-genetic magmatic-hydrothermal fluids. In doing  
92 so, we define metal anomalies that fingerprint the onset of mineralization processes,  
93 which in the case of Zaaipplaats the anomaly  $\text{Sn}/\text{Sn}^*$  provides a parameter linking  
94 empirical indicators of magmatic processes with the onset of tin mineralization.

## 95 **2. The Zaaipplaats Sn Deposit**

96 The A-type Lebowa Granite Suite (LGS) of the Bushveld Complex, contains  
97 polymetallic (Sn-W-Mo-Cu-Pb-Zn-F) styles of mineralization (Robb et al., 2000). These

98 granites, emplaced as large sills at ca. 2.054 Ga (Walraven and Hattingh, 1993),  
99 overlie the mafic rocks of the ca. 2.056 Ga Rustenburg Layered Suite (Zeh et al.,  
100 2015). The Zaaiplaats Sn deposit is located at approximately 24° 3'S, 28° 45'E, on the  
101 northern limb of the Bushveld Complex, north-east of the town of Mokopane (Fig. 1).  
102 The deposit is hosted by the Bobbejaankop and Lease granite bodies, both of which  
103 fractionated from the voluminous underlying Nebo granite (McCarthy and Fripp, 1980;  
104 Vonopartis et al., 2020), the principal component of the LGS.

105 The Bobbejaankop granite is a medium- to coarse-grained, orthoclase- and quartz-  
106 rich, variably altered grey-red granite, whereas the overlying Lease granite is a thin (75  
107 m), finer-grained aplite-like phase that caps the Bobbejaankop pluton (Coetzee and  
108 Twist, 1989). The Zaaiplaats ore system has been interpreted to have developed as  
109 the result of closed-system magmatic differentiation and the ensuing development of  
110 a volatile fluid phase (Groves and McCarthy, 1978; Vonopartis et al., 2020). The bulk  
111 of its Sn mineralization is found as low-grade disseminated cassiterite (SnO<sub>2</sub>) within  
112 the central mineralized zone of the Bobbejaankop body (Fig. 1A), where the whole-  
113 rock Sn concentrations increase from 2-5 ppm along its margins to values as high as  
114 350 ppm in the central mineralized zone (Coetzee and Twist, 1989). Higher grades of  
115 Sn mineralization occur in the sericitized and reddened upper portions of the  
116 Bobbejaankop and Lease units (Baillie and Robb, 2004; Pollard et al., 1989). This  
117 reddening reflects a dusting of fine-grained hematite within the K-feldspar, whereas  
118 sericitization tracks the emergence of a magmatic-hydrothermal fluid. The highest  
119 grades of Sn ore occur in black pipe-like features (Fig. 1D), comprising sericitized  
120 feldspar, chlorite, tourmaline, fluorite, and cassiterite, found within highly-altered  
121 Bobbejaankop and Lease granites, that define the conduits where hydrothermal fluids  
122 were focused into the upper portions of the system during the later stages of  
123 crystallization.

## 124 **3. Samples and Analytical Methodology**

### 125 *3.1. Samples*

126 Nine samples were taken from a top to bottom section of the Zaaiplaats deposit,  
127 representing a transect across the magmatic-hydrothermal paragenesis (Fig. 1B;  
128 Table 1). Most of the samples are from two drill cores which intersect the Lease and  
129 Bobbejaankop granites, and one was from a surface pipe cropping out at the top of the  
130 Bobbejaankop granite (as in Fig. 1D).

131 We distinguish between granite samples that remain unaltered, and those that are  
132 altered and subject to incipient magmatic-hydrothermal mineralization processes,  
133 which focused fluid flow upwards into discrete pipe- or vug-related features containing  
134 abundant cassiterite (e.g., Fig. 1D). Samples are classified into three types: (i)  
135 unmineralized and unaltered grey granite; (ii) altered, reddened granite, which in hand  
136 specimen shows pervasive K-feldspar reddening and sericitization; (iii) mineralized  
137 samples from the central mineralized zone with obvious disseminated cassiterite and  
138 significantly elevated whole-rock Sn contents (Table 1). We also sampled a cassiterite-  
139 rich pipe (ZA1/9).

### 140 *3.2. Zircon trace element analytical methodology*

141 Approximately 1 kg of each sample was cleaned of surface contamination with  
142 compressed air and a wire brush prior to being crushed in a ceramic jaw crusher and  
143 milled in a tungsten carbide ring mill. The milled material was sieved with disposable  
144 nylon mesh, and the 63—118  $\mu\text{m}$  and 118—250  $\mu\text{m}$  fractions were placed in separate  
145 500 ml beakers and washed repeatedly with water to remove clay particles before  
146 being left to dry overnight in an oven at 80 °C. The dried material from the two size  
147 fractions for each sample were passed through a Frantz isodynamic magnetic  
148 separator configured with a forward tilt of 25°, a side tilt of 15°, and a magnetic field

149 strength of 0.4 A to remove highly magnetic grains. A second pass with a field strength  
150 of 1.40 A removed the remaining mild to weakly magnetic material (i.e., most  
151 ferromagnesium minerals). The non-magnetic fraction from the 1.40 A pass for each  
152 sample was selected for density separation using Diiodomethane heavy liquid (3.33  
153 g/cm<sup>3</sup>). The dense zircon-rich fraction was collected in filter paper, washed repeatedly  
154 with acetone, and left to dry. The dried material was then poured onto doubled sided  
155 tape cast into 1-inch round epoxy mounts.

156 The mounts were cured and polished to a 1 µm diamond finish and carbon coated.  
157 Cathodoluminescence (CL) images of zircons (Appendix Figure A1) were collected  
158 using a Phillips FEI XL30 environmental scanning electron microscope equipped with  
159 a Gatan PanaCL panchromatic CL detector housed at the University of Melbourne,  
160 Australia. The carbon coat was removed from the mounts using a cloth polishing lap  
161 and 1 µm diamond paste, prior to laser ablation analysis. Targets for the laser ablation  
162 analysis were selected on the basis of a range of cores and rims, zircon morphology  
163 and clean versus altered domains, to analyze a range of zircon grains and domains.

164 Laser ablation analyses were carried out over two sessions (Dec 2018 and Jan 2020)  
165 at the Isotopia Laboratory, School of Earth Atmosphere and Environment, Monash  
166 University, Melbourne, using a Resonetics RESOlution-SE 193 nm Excimer Laser  
167 ablation system with the ablated material split evenly between a Thermo iCAP TQ  
168 ICPMS for U-Pb isotopic analysis and a Thermo iCAP RQ ICPMS for trace elements.  
169 The aerosol produced during ablation was carried to the mass spectrometers via an  
170 Ar–He mixture. A 30 µm spot size was used for all analyses, with the laser repetition  
171 rate set to 10 Hz, with a fluence of approximately 4.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup> measured at the sample.  
172 The elements measured were: <sup>29</sup>Si, <sup>39</sup>K, <sup>43</sup>Ca, <sup>49</sup>Ti, <sup>51</sup>V, <sup>57</sup>Fe, <sup>60</sup>Ni, <sup>63</sup>Cu, <sup>66</sup>Zn, <sup>88</sup>Sr, <sup>89</sup>Y,  
173 <sup>91</sup>Zr, <sup>93</sup>Nb, <sup>98</sup>Mo, <sup>109</sup>Ag, <sup>118</sup>Sn, <sup>139</sup>La, <sup>140</sup>Ce, <sup>141</sup>Pr, <sup>146</sup>Nd, <sup>147</sup>Sm, <sup>153</sup>Eu, <sup>157</sup>Gd, <sup>159</sup>Tb, <sup>163</sup>Dy,  
174 <sup>165</sup>Ho, <sup>166</sup>Er, <sup>169</sup>Tm, <sup>172</sup>Tb, <sup>175</sup>Lu, <sup>178</sup>Hf, <sup>181</sup>Ta, <sup>182</sup>W. Dwell times of 10 ms were used for

175 the more abundant elements (e.g., Si, Zr, Nb, etc) while for the lower abundance  
176 elements, including Sn, dwell times of 20 ms were used.

177 All analyses were calibrated using internal standardisation to  $^{29}\text{Si}$  with the glass NIST  
178 610 as the primary reference material, using the Trace Element DRS of the Lolite data  
179 reduction software. Internal standardization for trace elements assumed a  $^{29}\text{Si}$   
180 concentration of 15.20 wt.% in zircon, and used accepted values for the glass  
181 standards. Glass standards NIST 612, BHVO2G and BCR2G glasses as well as zircon  
182 standards Plešovice, GJ1, and 91500, were run to assess data quality, with measured  
183 values within error of accepted values (Appendix Table A1), and Sn (in BCR2G and  
184 BHVO2G) is within 20% of accepted values.

185 In assigning errors to the measured Sm/Gd and Sn/Gd ratios, we calculated the  
186 standard deviation of Sm/Gd and Sn/Gd in primary standard glass NIST 610,  
187 secondary standard glass NIST 612, and secondary standard zircon Plešovice. For  
188 Sm/Gd these gave  $2\sigma$  uncertainties of: 1.5 %, 1.5 % and 6.8 % (610, 612 and Plešovice  
189 respectively), and for Sn/Gd: 7.9 %, 7.5 % and 14.5 %. To be conservative, we  
190 assigned  $2\sigma$  uncertainties of 7 % to all Sm/Gd datapoints, and 15 % to all Sn/Gd  
191 datapoints.

## 192 **4. Results**

193 Sn could be measured in all the zircons analyzed, with concentrations varying from ~1  
194 to 445 ppm (full results in Appendix Table A2). Figure 2 plots zircon Sn, Cu, Mo, W,  
195 Sm, Ti, Y, and Nb versus zircon Gd for all Zaaiplaats samples, colour-coded by type –  
196 unaltered, altered, and mineralized. Gd is used as a measure of fractionation in  
197 Zaaiplaats zircons, because of the range in Gd contents (50-1500 ppm), the tight Gd-  
198 Sm array, and because Gd covaries with Nb which increases with fractionation in the  
199 whole rocks (Figs. 2 & 4).



200 Strikingly, for Sn and Cu in zircon the data fall along two trends. The zircons from  
201 samples classified as mineralized on the basis of their petrography have higher Sn and  
202 Cu contents compared to those from unmineralized samples at similar Gd contents;  
203 the zircons from samples classified as altered tend to have intermediate Sn contents  
204 and relatively low Gd contents, and mostly plot with the unmineralized samples (Fig.  
205 2). In contrast to Sn and Cu, Mo and W show no resolvable difference between  
206 samples. Rare earth element (REE) patterns (Fig. 3) show enrichment in the heavy  
207 REE and Y, over the light REE, typical of igneous zircon (Belousova et al., 2002), and  
208 a pronounced Eu anomaly. The measured REE and Ti contents in the zircons record  
209 a range of abundances from low values (<10 ppm) to values higher than those typically  
210 reported from zircon in igneous rocks (Belousova et al., 2002; Burnham, 2020).

## 211 **5. Discussion**

### 212 *5.1. Whole rock and zircon trace element trends*

213 Figure 4A shows a plot of whole-rock Nb versus a differentiation index (TEDI) for the  
214 three granite units which make up the LGS, namely the Nebo, Bobbejaankop, and  
215 Lease phases (Kleemann and Twist, 1989; Labuschagne, 2004; Vonopartis et al.,  
216 2020). TEDI is a trace element discrimination index, defined as  $[(Ba \times Sr)/Rb]$  that is  
217 used as a fractionation proxy in rock suites such as the LGS (Baillie and Robb, 2004;  
218 Walraven, 1982). Also plotted are whole-rock data for samples 46/8 and 47/10 (red  
219 triangle and grey box respectively), both taken from drill core through the  
220 Bobbejaankop granite. The whole-rock data show that Nb increases with decreasing  
221 TEDI (i.e. increasing fractionation), supporting the Nebo suite as being the parental  
222 granite to the Bobbejaankop and Lease units (McCarthy and Fripp, 1980).

223 A key step in evaluating the zircon record is how the elemental abundances measured  
224 in zircon, and in melts calculated to have been in equilibrium with zircon, compare with

225 the whole rock data. In practice, the zircon samples and the whole rock samples  
226 illustrate trends that represent very different scales. The whole rock data are for  
227 samples from across all three limbs of the LGS (Western, Eastern and Northern,  
228 covering some 30,000 km<sup>2</sup>) whereas the zircons were taken from cores drilled 10's of  
229 metres apart on the Zaaipiaats property itself. Further, the calculated elemental  
230 abundances for magmas in equilibrium with zircon represent those present in the melts  
231 from which the zircons crystallized, whereas the whole rock granite sample  
232 compositions likely represent mixtures of both melt and cumulate crystals (McCarthy  
233 and Hasty, 1976).

234 Figure 4B plots whole-rock Y versus Nb, together with the calculated melt compositions  
235 in equilibrium with the zircons for the two samples for which whole-rock data are  
236 available – 46/8 and 47/10. The calculations were based on partition coefficients of  
237  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}} = 25$  for Y (Gudelius et al., 2020; Pettker et al., 2005), and  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}} = 1$  for Nb,  
238 the latter within the range (0.15–2.2) quoted by Gudelius et al. (2020) and Nardi et al.  
239 (2013). Y increases with increasing Nb in the whole rocks, and also in the melts  
240 calculated to be in equilibrium with the zircons, indicating that Y increases with  
241 increasing fractionation.

242 The Zaaipiaats granites are highly fractionated and REE enriched. The Zaaipiaats  
243 zircon chemistry reflects this, and is similar to other highly evolved granites that also  
244 preserve elevated REE contents in zircon (e.g., Belousova et al., 2002; Pettker et al.,  
245 2005). Gd measured in zircon ranges from ~50–1500 ppm, while the whole-rock  
246 contents vary from 7–1860 ppm. A Gd  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}} = 10$  provides a good fit for the melts  
247 in equilibrium with the zircons with the whole-rock data, and accords with the ranges  
248 (3–27) reported for similar granite systems by Nardi et al. (2013) as well as those from  
249 melt inclusions in zircons from other felsic units of the Bushveld described by Gudelius  
250 et al. (2020).

251 Figure 4C plots whole-rock Y versus Gd as well as melt compositions in equilibrium  
252 with the zircons in samples 46/8 and 47/10, using a  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}} = 10$  for Gd, and  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}}$   
253  $= 25$  for Y. In both the whole-rock and zircon melt data, Y increases with both Gd and  
254 Nb (Fig. 4B), and Nb has been shown to increase with decreasing TEDI and increasing  
255 fractionation (Fig. 4A). Coherent Gd–Sm–Sn trends are observed in the zircons (Fig.  
256 2), and Gd is therefore an index of differentiation in the Zaaiplaats zircon archive.  
257 Overall, the whole-rock data tend to be less evolved than the melts in equilibrium with  
258 the zircons, and the zircon melts from the unmineralized samples (e.g., 46/8) range to  
259 higher degrees of fractionation than those in the mineralized samples (e.g., 47/10).

260 Under some circumstances, incompatible elements in zircon can be remobilized,  
261 potentially disturbing primary magmatic signatures (Burnham, 2020; Geisler et al.,  
262 2007). Cathodoluminescence (CL) images of the analyzed zircons (Appendix Figure  
263 A1) show that whereas many exhibit magmatic growth zoning, there is evidence in  
264 some crystals for a degree of hydrothermal overprinting, including convolute zoning,  
265 micro veinlets, and homogeneous dark patches and rims. Some of our analyses were  
266 from these domains, but no relationship was observed between elevated zircon REE  
267 and altered portions of the grains as indicated by dark CL response.

268 Later fluid-related overprinting of zircon may also be monitored by “non-stoichiometric”  
269 non-lattice bound elements, such as Ca, Fe, and Al. These elements can be involved  
270 in substitution during magmatic zircon growth (Hoskin et al., 2000), but they are  
271 potentially mobile during later alteration, resulting in elevated and variable values that  
272 are independent of any magmatic signature (Geisler et al., 2007). In such cases Ca,  
273 Fe, and Al abundances should not follow trends linked to magmatic fractionation. At a  
274 whole-rock level, Ca, and to a lesser extent Fe, increase with the REE and thus with  
275 magmatic fractionation in the Zaaiplaats granites (Vonopartis et al., 2020). Plotting  
276 zircon Ca versus Gd (Fig. 5A) shows a scatter displaced to relatively low Ca values at  
277 particular Gd contents, which implies disturbance of an original magmatic trend, and a

278 degree of decoupling between Ca (and Fe) and the REEs. This decoupling contrasts  
279 with the well-defined zircon inter-REE trends such as Gd versus Sm (Fig. 2E) observed  
280 in all samples, including those displaying pervasive reddish alteration in hand-  
281 specimen (classified here as both altered and mineralized). Plotting zircon Sn versus  
282 Ca (Fig. 5B) shows reasonable, albeit different, positive arrays in the mineralized and  
283 unmineralized samples, which implies that elevated Sn observed in the mineralized  
284 samples is not associated with concomitant enrichment in Ca, and is similar to the  
285 trends in Sn versus Gd (e.g., Fig. 5C). Taken together, we interpret these trends as  
286 signifying that (a) there was some later (post-magmatic) alteration which partially  
287 disturbed Fe and Ca; and (b) the Zaaiplaats zircons REE and Sn profiles were not  
288 significantly disturbed by this later hydrothermal metasomatism.

289 Plotting zircon Sm/Gd versus Pr/Yb (Fig. 5D) shows similar trends for both mineralized  
290 and unmineralized samples, with the implication that both sets of samples recorded  
291 similar REE fractionation processes. Thus, the variations in REE and HFSE in zircon  
292 (e.g. Gd–Sm, Gd–Nb, Pr/Yb–Sm/Gd), which reflect consistent REE normalized profiles  
293 (Fig. 3) and compare well with the whole-rock fractionation trends, indicate that the  
294 zircon REE profiles were not significantly disturbed by mineralization or subsequent  
295 alteration and that they represent robust magmatic signatures.

296 Plots of Sn and Cu versus Gd in the zircons (Fig. 2A, B) show, however, that both Sn  
297 and Cu are elevated in the mineralized samples over the unmineralized samples, but  
298 that this is not the case for Gd. This highlights that the processes that resulted in  
299 elevated transition metal (Sn and Cu) contents in the zircons of the mineralized  
300 samples did not result in higher concentrations of REE. Thus, even in the altered and  
301 mineralized samples the REE largely represent magmatic signatures and they remain  
302 largely unaffected by the processes giving rise to Sn and Cu enrichment.

303 The Zaaipplaats zircons have concentrations of Ti and REE higher than those typically  
304 reported from zircons in arc-type systems (cf. Burnham, 2020). We argue the  
305 Zaaipplaats zircon trace element concentrations reflect zircon crystallization in systems  
306 which are REE enriched and have already undergone significant magmatic  
307 fractionation. The Bobbejaankop host granite has whole-rock Ti contents of the order  
308 of 200–1600 ppm (Vonopartis et al., 2020) and it does not contain other common Ti  
309 bearing phases; ilmenite, rutile and sphene are mainly absent, as is biotite. Published  
310 zircon-melt  $Kd$  values for Ti range by up to the order of 3 (e.g. Luo and Ayers, 2009).  
311 Thus, the zircon Ti contents of the 100's ppm are considered to reflect Ti partitioning  
312 into zircon in the absence of other Ti-hosting phases, and that Ti is incompatible.  
313 Belousova et al. (2002) reported similar zircon Ti concentrations (500–700 ppm) from  
314 Eastern Australian granites. Such elevated Ti concentrations clearly have implications  
315 for utility of the Ti-in-zircon thermometer (Watson et al., 2006) to similar evolved  
316 systems, since that tool relies upon the co-existence of other Ti-bearing phases, and  
317 it would not be applicable here.

## 318 5.2. *Modelling Rayleigh Fractionation*

319 A magmatic system following closed system crystal fractionation, such as that  
320 represented by the LGS granites (Groves and McCarthy, 1978; Vonopartis et al.,  
321 2020), will exhibit trace element variations that approximate Rayleigh Fractionation.  
322 Assuming that the REE zircon trends represent magmatic fractionation processes  
323 unaffected by mineralization processes or later alteration, they have been modelled in  
324 terms of Rayleigh Fractionation of the host magma from which the zircons crystallized.  
325 Neodymium and O isotopes measured in the Nebo granite, considered to be the  
326 parental melt to the Bobbejaankop granite, have typical  $\epsilon_{Nd}$  values of  $\sim -5$  and  $\delta^{18}O$  of  
327  $\sim 7$  ‰, suggesting that this melt was derived from pre-existing crustal material (Fourie  
328 and Harris, 2011).

329 The Nebo granite is less evolved than the Bobbejaankop and Lease granites, and it is  
330 taken to represent the parent magma (McCarthy and Fripp, 1980). As a starting point  
331 for fractionation modelling, we took a modal mineralogical assemblage for the Nebo  
332 granite (Appendix Table A4), and an initial bulk-rock composition approximating the  
333 minimum Gd, Y and Sn contents of the ten least fractionated (highest TEDI) Nebo  
334 samples, illustrated in Figure 4A. This starting composition has  $X_{\text{Gd}} = 25$  ppm,  $X_{\text{Y}} = 20$   
335 ppm,  $X_{\text{Sn}} = 2$  ppm, a  $\text{SiO}_2$  content of approximately 71 wt.% and Rb/Sr of 0.8. Using  
336 the modal assemblage, we calculated bulk  $D$  values for the elements of interest  
337 (Appendix Table A5), by multiplying individual mineral-melt  $Kd$  values by their mode.

338 We applied the Rayleigh Fractionation equation to model residual melt Gd contents as  
339 the putative Bobbejaankop melt crystallizes. We then applied the previously used  
340  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}}$  values to the calculated residual melt compositions to derive the trace element  
341 contents of zircon crystallizing in equilibrium with those melts. The calculated contents  
342 of Gd in zircon range over 3000 ppm, and readily accommodate the range of measured  
343 values (50–1500 ppm), with the higher values representing the more highly  
344 fractionated melts.

345 In summary, the Bobbejaankop and Lease granite units represent highly evolved A-  
346 type granitic systems. The melts in equilibrium with zircon range to more fractionated  
347 compositions than the whole rocks (e.g., Fig. 4B, 4C), and the zircons are  
348 characterized by unusually high concentrations of, for example, REE, Y and Ti.

### 349 5.3. *Zaaiplaats magma fractionation trend*

350 The incompatible elements Sm, Gd and Y are all measures of magma fractionation in  
351 felsic systems such as Zaaiplaats (Fig. 2E and Belousova et al., 2002), and they  
352 behave similarly following Rayleigh Fractionation trends. Thus, ratios of these  
353 elements in the melt, such as Sm/Gd, are expected to change little with fractional  
354 crystallization. These elements have similar zircon-melt partition coefficients, and their

355 relative abundances are not expected to change significantly across the range of  
356 magma fractionation at Zaaiplaats; zircon Sm/Gd will therefore reflect the evolving melt  
357 Sm/Gd, and it should likewise change little with fractional crystallization.

358 Figure 6A plots zircon Sm/Gd versus zircon Y measured in the same laser ablation  
359 spots. Unmineralized, altered, and mineralized samples have similar zircon Sm/Gd  
360 across their range in Y (500 to 20,000 ppm; Fig. 6A), and all samples, whether  
361 mineralized or not, have similar REE fractionation patterns (Figure 3) with the  
362 implication that: (i) Sm/Gd is unaffected by mineralization processes; and (ii) all  
363 samples are derived from similar parental magmas (cf. Vonopartis et al., 2020). We  
364 take the array in zircon Sm/Gd versus Y as representing the Zaaiplaats magma  
365 fractionation trend, along which the magmatic system evolved by crystal fractionation  
366 processes and from which the zircons crystallized. This fractionation trend is annotated  
367 in Figure 6A as the dashed blue line.

#### 368 5.4. *Tracking mineralization processes*

369 The solubility of tin in granitic melts is complex and its behaviour is dependent on  
370 magma composition, in particular peralkalinity, and the contrasting behaviour of Sn<sup>2+</sup>  
371 and Sn<sup>4+</sup> (Farges et al., 2006). However, tin typically behaves incompatibly in granitic  
372 melts (Heinrich, 1990) and, in most cases, abundances increase with progressive  
373 crystallization, with cassiterite ultimately forming as a minor liquidus phase in the more  
374 fractionated portions of the system. During magma crystallization and fractionation, Sn  
375 should therefore behave in a similar fashion to Gd and the other REEs, and Sn/Gd  
376 should remain constant with fractionation. Thus, assuming a constant  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}}$  during  
377 fractionation, zircons from the unmineralized samples plot in a horizontal array on a  
378 plot of zircon Sn/Gd versus Y (Fig. 6B), and that defines the Zaaiplaats magma  
379 fractionation trend, which we attribute to a magma system dominated by crystal  
380 fractionation processes. In contrast to the unmineralized and altered samples, all the

381 zircon from the mineralized samples have Sn/Gd values displaced to higher values  
382 across their range in Y (Figs. 2 & 6B).

383 The trends that differentiate between unmineralized and mineralized samples (Figs.  
384 2A-D) clearly show elevated Sn and Cu zircon contents in the mineralized samples at  
385 similar Gd. In contrast, Mo and W contents are indistinguishable, and it appears that  
386 in the Zaaiploats magmatic system, both metals were effectively immobile during both  
387 mineralization (and later alteration), and reflect melt concentrations which we interpret  
388 as the product of magma fractionation. Rayleigh Fractionation, however, cannot  
389 account for the whole-rock Sn enrichment within the central Bobbejaankop mineralized  
390 zone (Coetzee and Twist, 1989), and the elevated zircon Sn and Cu contents recorded  
391 in these samples point to processes other than magma fractionation as being  
392 responsible for their elevated concentrations.

393 The Zaaiploats fractionation array in the plot of Sn/Gd versus Y (Fig. 6B) provides a  
394 baseline against which related mineralization processes over those expected by  
395 ordinary magma fractionation alone may be referenced. The mineralization is reflected  
396 in elevated Sn/Gd and plotting log Sn versus log Gd in zircon (Fig. 6C) highlights an  
397 event of Sn enrichment that occurs relatively early in the fractionation history recorded  
398 by the zircons, and that fractionation continues after this point.

399 We therefore extended our Rayleigh Fractionation model to explore how Sn/Gd varies  
400 with magma fractionation when the Sn trend is disturbed by a process, such as the  
401 introduction of a Sn-rich fluid phase. Initially, we modelled the evolution of zircon Sn/Gd  
402 as a function of fractionation alone. There are limited published data for Sn in zircon,  
403 so we took  $Kd_{zcn-melt}^{Sn} = 0.6$  (Pettke et al., 2005), which is consistent with the ranges of  
404 the minimum and maximum whole-rock (2 – 1685 ppm) and zircon (0.5 – 400 ppm) Sn  
405 contents (using the whole-rock data of Vonopartis et al. (2020)). This value for  $Kd_{zcn-}$   
406  $_{melt}^{Sn}$  is similar, albeit slightly lower, to values for the light REEs (Bea et al., 1994). Taking



407 the initial bulk rock composition as before, we applied the Rayleigh Fractionation  
408 equation to model residual melt Sn/Gd as a function of Y, and converted this to zircon  
409 Sn/Gd ratios in equilibrium with the residual melts (Figure 7).

410 Although the modelled concentrations of both Sn and Gd in the melt increase  
411 exponentially with fractionation, Figure 7 shows that Sn/Gd in zircon is constant with  
412 increasing Y (Fig. 7, blue line). Samples that plot at elevated zircon Sn/Gd are  
413 displaced from this fractionation trend at a Y content of ~1900 ppm. We consider this  
414 to effectively mark the onset of mineralization, i.e. the “mineralization step”, at  
415 Zaaiplaats (Fig. 7, red arrow), and thus it defines the point during magma fractionation  
416 at which zircons start to record excess Sn above that attributable to magma  
417 fractionation alone. At this point the residual magma has a bulk Y content of 76 ppm,  
418 which in our modelling corresponds to  $F \sim 0.14$ , or ~86 % crystallization.

419 To explore how zircon Sn/Gd is disturbed during the appearance of a Sn-rich fluid, we  
420 then modelled its introduction after 86 % crystallization. We assumed that the fluid plus  
421 residual magma co-exists, and that zircon continues to crystallize from the fluid-  
422 saturated melt. The fluid-saturation event is marked in the field by vugs and tourmaline-  
423 cassiterite-chlorite rich pipes that emanate from the more fractionated central portions  
424 of the Bobbejaankop granite, and terminate towards its roof and into the Lease granite.  
425 To the modelled system (at 86 % crystallization, or  $F = 0.14$ ) we added additional Sn  
426 to reflect its abundance in the mineralizing fluid. We considered a range of Sn contents  
427 (10–5000 ppm) within the carrying capacity of such high-temperature volatile-rich fluids  
428 (Audetat et al., 1998), and for a range of different fluid:melt ratios (1:4 to 1:100)  
429 reflecting realistic fluid solubilities in magmas (Whitney and Naldrett, 1989), and  
430 representing the addition of between 1–25 % fluid. This excess Sn was “added” to the  
431 modelled fractionating melt at the mineralizing step, after which the melt continued to  
432 fractionate according to Rayleigh Fractionation, and zircon continued to grow.  
433 Assuming zircon grows in equilibrium with combined melt and fluid phase allowed us

434 to calculate a composite “melt + fluid” Sn composition, using the same  $Kd_{\text{zcn-melt}}^{\text{Sn}}$  for  
435 the magma plus fluid (e.g., Pettke et al., 2005) to calculate Sn/Gd in zircon for the  
436 different scenarios (Appendix Table A6). The results from this modelling are seen in  
437 Table 2, which shows calculated Sn/Gd at the mineralization step ( $F = 0.14$ ) as a  
438 function of both fluid:melt ratio and fluid Sn content.

439 Most measured zircons within the mineralized samples record Sn/Gd in the range 0.05  
440 to 0.35 across the range in Y after the mineralization step, and the red lines in Figure  
441 7 model these upper and lower limits of zircon Sn/Gd and its continued fractionation in  
442 the magmatic system after fluid saturation. The range in Sn/Gd (highlighted in green  
443 in Table 2) defines a continuum between higher Sn contents in fluid at lower fluid:melt  
444 ratios (e.g. 2000 ppm at 0.01), and lower Sn contents at higher fluid:melt ratios (e.g.  
445 100 ppm at 0.2), to illustrate different scenarios by which similar Sn enrichment might  
446 be achieved. Fluid inclusion data from the Yankee Tin Lode in the Mole granite of New  
447 South Wales, suggests that typical Sn concentrations before cassiterite deposition  
448 were around 400 ppm (Audetat et al., 1998) which, in terms of our modelling, would  
449 suggest fluid:melt ratios in the range 0.05–0.3.

#### 450 *5.5. Zaaipplaats mineralization model*

451 A crystallizing magma system such as Zaaipplaats will reach the point of volatile  
452 saturation through decompression and/or crystal fractionation, leading to the  
453 exsolution of a separate aqueous phase (Burnham, 1979). Under certain conditions,  
454 this phase will contain volatile ligands (Cl, F) to which metals may bond, allowing it to  
455 scavenge metals as it migrates through the residual melt, facilitating their  
456 transportation and concentration (e.g., Burnham, 1997; Heinrich, 1990).

457 The Zaaipplaats hydrothermal system is thought to have been relatively long-lived.  
458 Emplacement of the LGS was essentially coeval with, but immediately succeeded,  
459 emplacement of the Rustenburg Layered Suite. This thick mafic underplating

460 represented a significant thermal anomaly and it maintained ongoing fluid circulation  
461 perhaps over several million years (Robb et al., 2000). Fluid inclusion evidence  
462 suggests two phases of hydrothermal fluids: (i) early, short-lived magmatically-derived  
463 hot saline fluids, and; (ii) later, cooler, longer-lived less saline fluids derived by  
464 progressive mixing of magmatic fluids with connate waters (Pollard et al., 1991a; Robb  
465 et al., 2000). The Sn (and W) mineralization is thought to be linked to the early fluids  
466 of magmatic-origin, consistent both with studies of the paragenetic sequence (Baillie  
467 and Robb, 2004), and the likelihood that cassiterite would have precipitated out at  
468 temperatures above 400°C (Heinrich, 1990). The later fluid mixing event took place  
469 substantially later than magma emplacement and cooling (possibly at circa 1950 Ma;  
470 Robb et al., 2000); we see no evidence for this event having disturbed the zircon trends  
471 in REE and HFSE.

472 The metals Sn and Cu are both readily soluble in Cl-rich aqueous hydrothermal fluids,  
473 likely forming  $\text{SnCl}_2$  and  $\text{CuCl}_2$  complexes (Candela and Holland, 1984; Keppler and  
474 Wyllie, 1991). In contrast, Mo typically only dissolves in high pH fluids as  $\text{Mo}(\text{OH})_2$   
475 (Candela, 1992), and although W dissolves as  $\text{H}_2\text{WO}_4$  in moderately to highly acidic  
476 fluids (Wood and Samson, 2000), it may behave similarly to Mo (Candela, 1992). Thus,  
477 a saline, acidic hydrothermal fluid will be capable of transporting and concentrating Sn  
478 and Cu, but would be less capable of mobilising Mo and W. At Zaaipplaats, the presence  
479 of such a hydrothermal fluid is implied by the pervasive alteration of the upper,  
480 reddened Bobbejaankop granite, represented here by both altered and mineralized  
481 samples, and in fluorite- and tourmaline- rich vugs and pipes (Ollila, 1981). The initial  
482 hydrothermal system at Zaaipplaats was dominated by fluids of magmatic origin, with  
483 little to no input of external meteoric water (effectively a closed system), and fluid  
484 inclusions linked to this early system have significant concentrations of Cl and F,  
485 consistent with a highly saline fluid (Ollila, 1981; Pollard et al., 1991a). This fluid also

486 appears to have been acidic, as evidenced by the host rock sericitization (Pollard et  
487 al., 1991a).

488 In the preferred model for Zaaiplaats, elevated Sn and Cu contents in the mineralized  
489 samples reflect the exsolution of a magmatically-derived, acidic, volatile-rich  
490 hydrothermal fluid that has significantly concentrated available Sn via migration  
491 through the residual melt in the pluton. The Zaaiplaats granites preserve whole-rock  
492 Sn zonation consistent with such closed-system magma differentiation and the  
493 ensuing exsolution of an acidic, saline, metal-rich magmatic-hydrothermal fluid  
494 (Groves and McCarthy, 1978; Pollard et al., 1991b; Robb et al., 2000). This process  
495 led to the development of Sn mineralization in the fractionated central Bobbejaankop  
496 granite, both as disseminated cassiterite and in focused in cassiterite–tourmaline  
497 pipes, as well as being responsible for the pervasive reddening and alteration of the  
498 host granite. We interpret this mineralization process as being reflected in zircon Sn/Gd  
499 ratios that are elevated above those of the fractionation trend in Figure 6B,  
500 representing zircon growth from the magma after the introduction of a Sn-rich fluid  
501 phase and which marked the onset of mineralization processes. Elevated Sn values  
502 were measured in the cores of zircons as well as the rims, implying early and ongoing  
503 zircon growth in the presence of these metal-rich fluids, and all the zircons from any  
504 one sample plot within the same trends, whether mineralized or not. We suggest that  
505 the addition of excess Sn represents a single event after which melt plus fluid  
506 fractionated along the mineralized trends represented by the red lines in Figure 7. We  
507 prefer the concept of a single input of additional Sn into the melt system, to that of  
508 continuous Sn addition during fractionation. In the latter scenario, keeping Sn/Gd  
509 constant would imply that the amounts of Sn being introduced to the system increased  
510 in-line with fractionation, which we consider unlikely.

511 5.6. *Comparison to earlier work*

512 The ubiquity of zircon in evolved rocks has led to investigations into how its chemistry  
513 may reflect the development of magmatic-hydrothermal mineral deposits. Zircon REE  
514 contents, in particular the utility of Ce anomalies as a proxy oxybarometer, have been  
515 studied as pathfinders primarily for Cu mineralization potential (Ballard et al., 2002;  
516 Dilles et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2016; Shen et al., 2015). Coupled application of zircon Eu  
517 and Ce anomalies have been shown to distinguish between Cu and Sn-hosting  
518 granites (Gardiner et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019). Focusing on complex polymetallic  
519 deposits, Li et al. (2014) used zircon REE, Ti, and Hf contents to discriminate between  
520 magmatic versus hydrothermally-derived zircon, linking these to zircon U–Pb ages to  
521 assess the relative timing of mineralization events. These authors showed that in their  
522 study area Cu (Pb-Zn) mineralization was associated with early granophyric magmas,  
523 whilst later W-Sn mineralization with more evolved granite porphyritic intrusions.  
524 Similarly, Jiang et al. (2020) applied trace elements and Hf isotopes in zircon taken  
525 from a polymetallic deposit to identify those which have interacted with metal-rich  
526 hydrothermal fluids, and to assess the nature of those fluids.

527 In this study we take a different approach. We specifically target those metals of  
528 economic interest within zircon sampled from a well-characterized mineralized system,  
529 and assess how the zircon metal contents may reflect the genesis of the deposit. We  
530 show that metals such as Sn, Cu, W, and Mo can be reliably measured within zircon,  
531 and that coupled with a proxy for the evolution of the magmatic system (here, Gd and  
532 Y), how their concentrations might reflect the introduction of a mineralizing fluid and  
533 hence the processes of mineralization, as monitored via metal anomalies.

534 5.7. *Implications for the genesis of tin deposits*

535 Recent experimental work by Schmidt et al. (2020) focused on the role of Sn and W  
536 during volatile saturation in S-type granite systems. Their data showed that Sn

537 preferentially partitioned into the melt over the hydrothermal fluid, whereas by contrast  
538 W had a strong affinity for the fluid. The implications of this are potentially highly  
539 significant and contradict classic models of tin metallogeny (e.g., Heinrich, 1990),  
540 suggesting that during volatile saturation Sn remains within the melt, and it is therefore  
541 the melt and not hydrothermal fluids which is the main source of Sn for mineralization  
542 processes. Our zircon data appear to contradict these findings. We interpret the pipe-  
543 and vug-hosted tin mineralized zone at Zaaiplaats to have resulted from an input of  
544 additional Sn over that provided by magmatic fractionation processes alone, and for  
545 this to have been delivered by saline hydrothermal fluids. Thus, at Zaaiplaats, it is the  
546 addition of excess Sn via hydrothermal fluids that drives the formation of economically-  
547 viable mineralization. Further, we find W and the REE to be relatively immobile, with  
548 the implication that they were not concentrated to any extent into the hydrothermal fluid  
549 phase at Zaaiplaats. This stands in contrast to the results of Schmidt et al. (2020),  
550 suggesting that the difference in W mobility is likely to be a function of different fluid  
551 chemistry and acidity.

#### 552 *5.8. Metal anomalies and wider implications*

553 In nickel ore deposits formed from mafic rocks, the Ni anomaly ( $Ni/Ni^*$ ) describes the  
554 extent to which olivine-hosted Ni concentration is depleted by the appearance of an  
555 immiscible, Ni-sequestering sulphide phase, relative to that expected for olivine  
556 (silicate) fractionation alone (Naldrett, 1989). A similar concept is developed here for  
557 magmatic-hydrothermal systems based on measurable metal contents in an evolving  
558 granite system.

559 The Zaaiplaats study here defines the tin anomaly,  $Sn/Sn^*$ , as the deviation of Sn,  
560 preferentially sequestered by a fluid phase, from that expected in the magmatic system  
561 alone ( $Sn^*$ ), in this case measured using Sn/Gd (Fig. 7). Importantly, such deviations  
562 occur during mineralization associated with volatile (rather than sulphide) saturation,

563 and thus Sn/Sn\* may be used to fingerprint this process. In our model, the observed  
564 displacement of zircon Sn/Gd above the fractionation trend represents the  
565 development of elevated Sn/Sn\* in the zircon archive of the Zaaipplaats samples. We  
566 suggest that a measurable and resolvable Sn/Sn\*, whether in mineral archives or in  
567 whole-rocks, marks the onset of volatile saturation with accompanying concentration  
568 of metals from the residual magma, and ultimately the precipitation of ore minerals.

569 We further propose that the concept of metal anomalies applied to magmatic-  
570 hydrothermal systems – at the mineral or whole-rock level – can be extended for other  
571 metal enrichments, for example Cu/Cu\*. This concept has utility at Zaaipplaats, which  
572 records Cu mineralization (Appendix Figure A2), and may also be applicable to  
573 magmatic-hydrothermal systems in arc-related settings.

## 574 **6. Conclusions**

575 We demonstrate that the chemistry of zircons, in this case from a profile across the  
576 Zaaipplaats granites, may be used to distinguish between the processes of magma  
577 fractionation and the concentration of metals associated with magmatic-hydrothermal  
578 mineralization. Mineralization at the Zaaipplaats Tin Field lies in the Lebowa Granite  
579 Suite of the Bushveld Complex, and it resulted from closed-system fractionation and  
580 the eventual appearance of a Sn-rich hydrothermal fluid of magmatic origin which  
581 promoted cassiterite precipitation in the mineralized zone.

582 Our study uses unmineralized samples as the benchmark to define a fractionation  
583 trend on the basis of zircon REE and HFSE arrays, where Sn content is dominated by  
584 Rayleigh Fractionation. Deviation from this trend is represented by a significant  
585 enrichment of Sn, and it marks the introduction of a Sn-rich fluid resulting from volatile  
586 saturation and the onset of mineralization processes. In the preferred model, the  
587 deviation is explained by introduction at an advanced stage (> 85 %) of crystallization,

588 of a significant volume of co-existing exsolved fluid that has concentrated Sn to levels  
589 of up to 400 ppm. This model is consistent with the notion that crystal fractionation  
590 accompanied by addition of Sn via a fluid phase is required to create a mineralized tin  
591 granite such as that found at Zaaipiaats. However, at Zaaipiaats, without the formation  
592 of conduits, such as the pipes to focus the fluids, it is unlikely that an economically  
593 viable deposit would have formed.

594 Identification of metal anomalies – Sn/Sn\* and, more widely Cu/Cu\* – in mineral  
595 archives or at the whole-rock level, provides an empirical link to the onset of  
596 mineralization processes in magmatic-hydrothermal systems. Metal anomalies can be  
597 coupled with geochemical proxies for source, redox, and other attributes, to yield a  
598 better understanding of the conditions leading up to, and subsequent to, volatile  
599 saturation, resulting eventually in the development of potentially economically viable  
600 mineralization. Ultimately, identification of metal anomalies can be developed into  
601 exploration tools that will assist with the identification of systems that have experienced  
602 magmatic-hydrothermal mineralization processes.

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803

804 **Figure and Table Captions**

805 **Figure 1. A:** Cross-section of the Zaaipiaats tin deposit, with the Bobbejaankop –  
806 which hosts the central mineralized zone - and Lease granite units. Also shown are  
807 indicative tourmaline-cassiterite-chlorite rich ‘pipes’ in black, and conceptual sampling  
808 section (red line). After Pollard et al. (1989); **B:** Schematic section of sample localities  
809 with respect to their location within the vertical cross section, plotted at mean zircon  
810 Sn/Gd ratios, with the mineralized samples showing elevated Sn/Gd; samples 46/x  
811 and 47/x are from drill core, and ZA1/9 is a sample of pipe. **C:** Outline map of the  
812 Bushveld Complex, showing the location of the Zaaipiaats tin field within the Lebowa  
813 Granite Suite. **D:** Image of the Bobbejaankop granite cut through by a cassiterite and  
814 tourmaline-rich “pipe” feature. This clearly shows the characteristic “reddening”  
815 alteration. Hammer is 28 cm long.

816 **Figure 2.** Zaaipiaats zircon data, annotated by type and sample number. Plotting metal  
817 contents (Sn, Cu, Mo, W, Sm, Ti, Y, and Nb) versus Gd, a measure of fractionation.  
818 The plots of Sn and Cu clearly show elevated contents of these metals in the  
819 mineralized samples, unlike for Mo and W. The coincident trends in Sm vs Gd, Y vs  
820 Gd and Nb vs Gd reflect variations that relate to magma fractionation.

821 **Figure 3. A:** Chondrite (CHUR)-normalized plot of the average REE zircon content per  
822 sample, using the CHUR values of Palme et al. (2014); **B:** Primitive-mantle normalized  
823 plot of the average trace element zircon content per sample, using the primitive mantle  
824 values of Sun and McDonough (1989).

825 **Figure 4. A:** Zaaipiaats whole rock data, plotting TEDI, the trace element differentiation  
826 index (defined as  $[(Ba \times Sr)/Rb]$ ), versus Nb; this shows a fractionation trend (grey  
827 arrow) of increasing fractionation with decreasing TEDI, from the more primitive Nebo  
828 through to the Bobbejaankop and Lease units. Also plotted are the whole-rock data for  
829 the two samples 46/8 (unmineralized) and 47/10 (mineralized), both taken from the  
830 Bobbejaankop granite. The dotted grey box highlights the ten Nebo samples used for

831 deriving a starting composition for Rayleigh Fractionation modelling. **B, C:** Plotting Nb  
832 and Gd versus Y for the whole-rock data and for calculated melts in equilibrium with  
833 zircon using appropriate partition coefficients, for samples 46/8 and 47/10.

834 **Figure 5.** Zaaiplaats zircon data, plotting **A:** Gd against Ca; **B:** Sn against Ca; **B:** Sn  
835 against Gd; **D:** Pr/Yb versus Sm/Gd. Annotated by sample as per Figure 2.

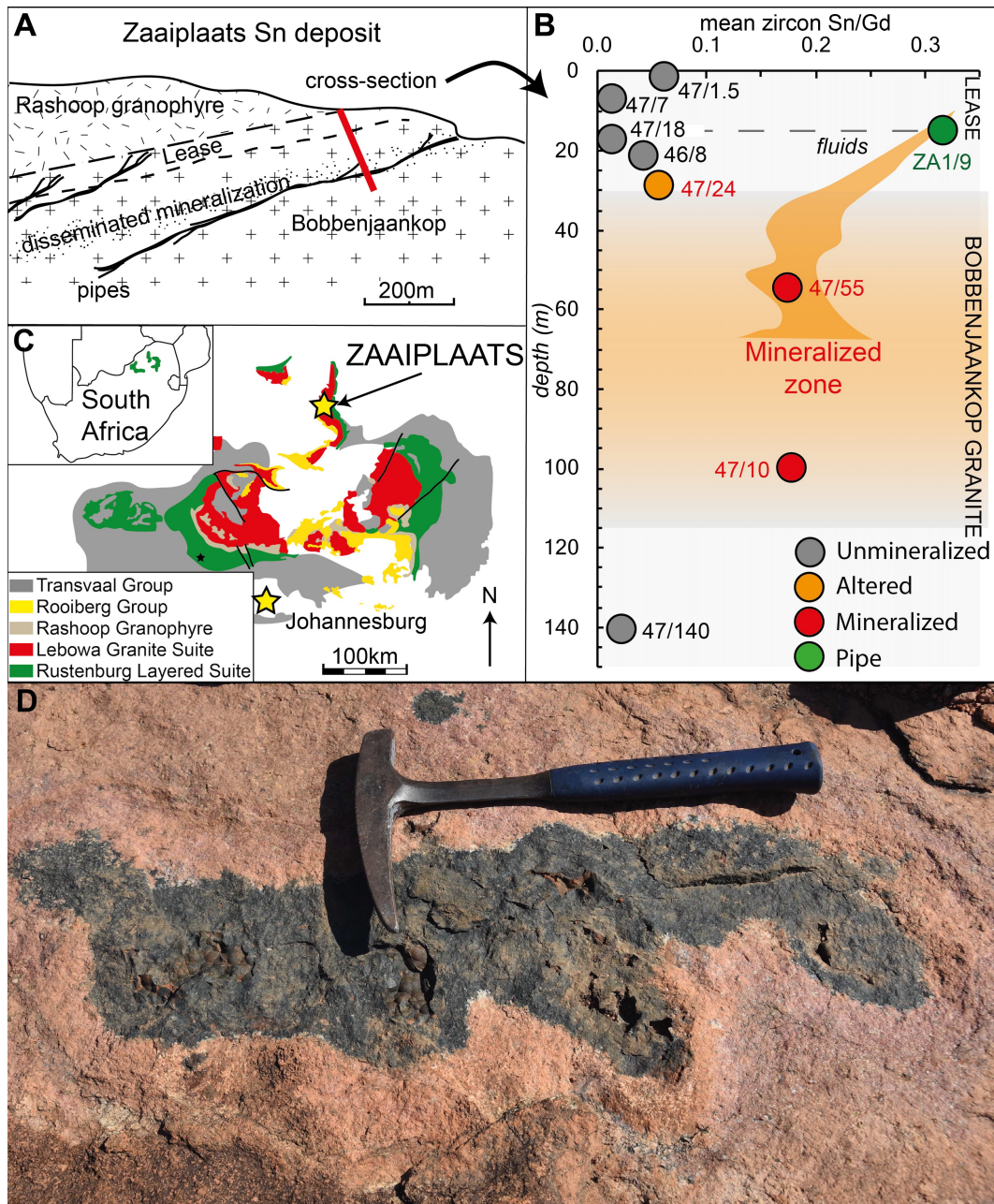
836 **Figure 6. A.** Plot of zircon Sm/Gd versus zircon Y. Error bars on Sm/Gd ratios are 7  
837 %, taken from the calculated uncertainties on reference measurements. **B.** Plot of  
838 zircon Sn/Gd versus Y, with error bars on Sn/Gd ratios of 15 %, taken from the  
839 calculated uncertainties on reference measurements. The interpreted Zaaiplaats  
840 fractionation trend (blue) and mineralization trend (red) are highlighted. **C.** Plot of Sn  
841 vs Gd at a log scale highlighting the development of order-of-magnitude elevated high-  
842 Sn values during magma fractionation.

843 **Figure 7.** The development of a metal anomaly  $\text{Sn}/\text{Sn}^*$  as seen in zircon Sn/Gd as a  
844 function of magma fractionation (zircon Y). Highlighted is the mineralization step, the  
845 point at which excess Sn is added to the system, as a function of fluid:rock ratio and  
846 additional Sn, and which we calculate to occur at ~86 % crystallization of the host  
847 magma. After the mineralization step, fractionation continues. The red lines are  
848 fractionation trends of the upper and lower Sn/Gd values.

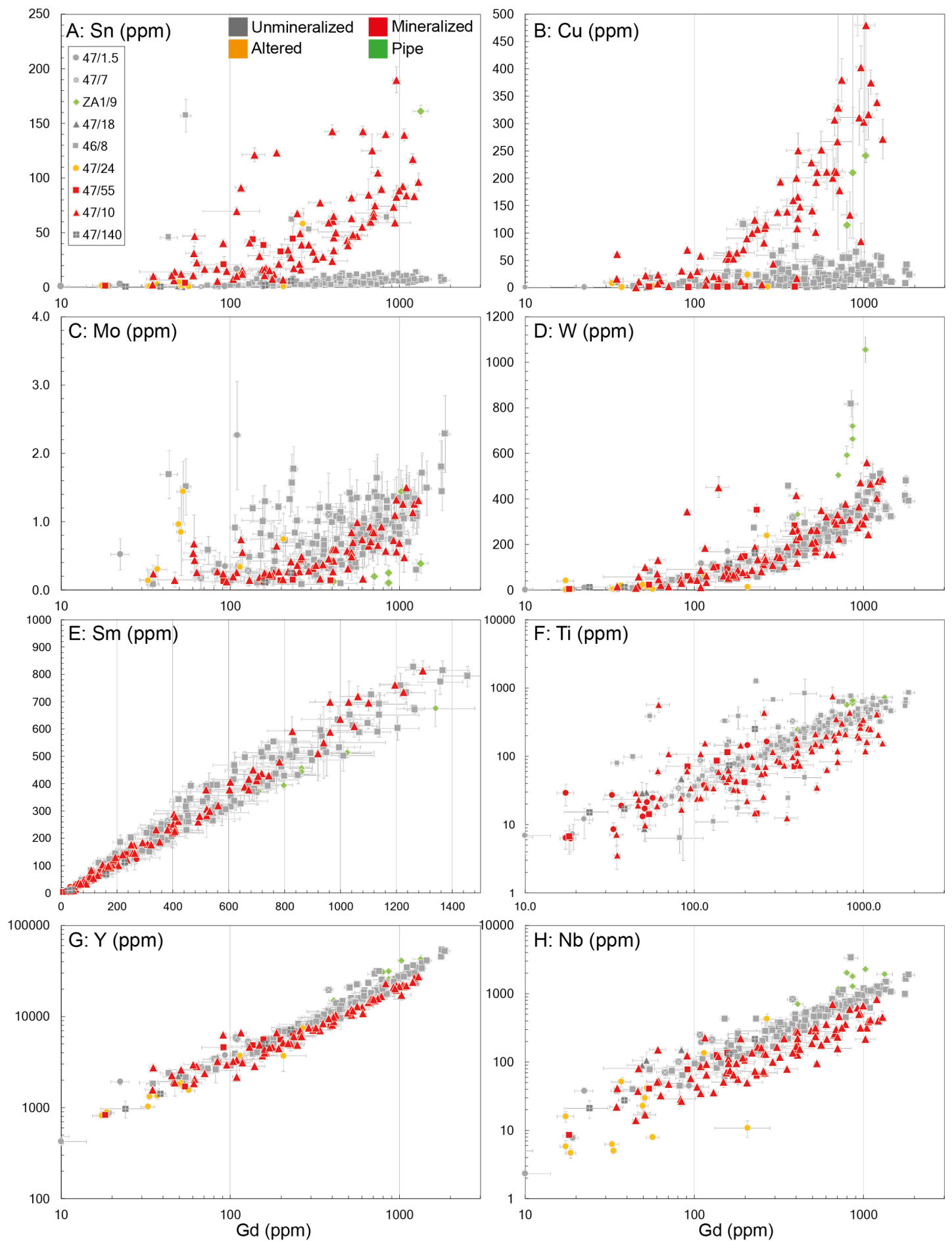
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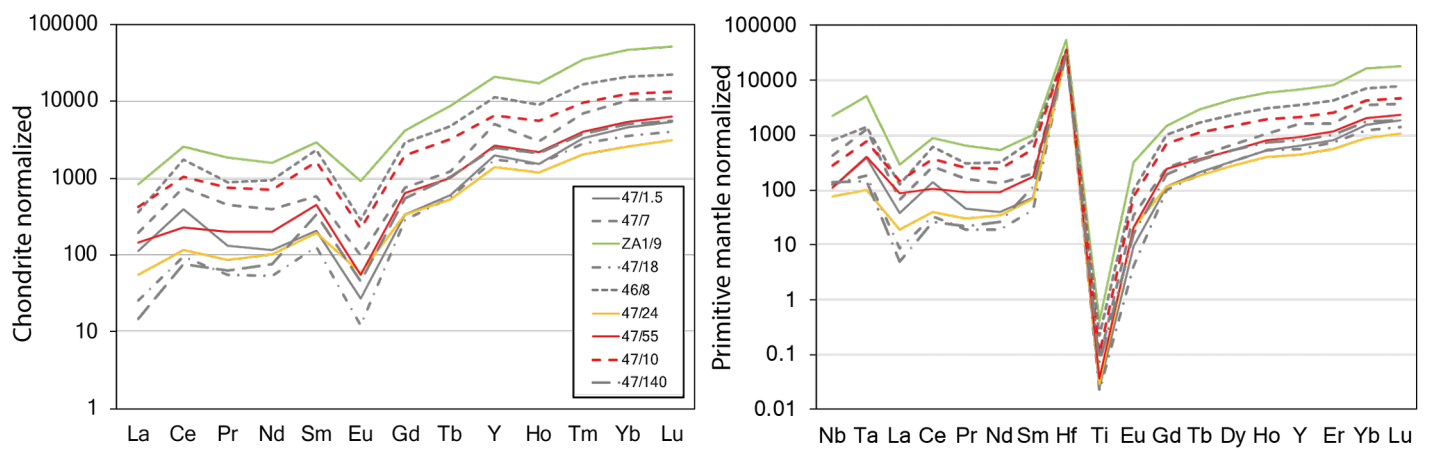
850 **Table 1:** Summary of samples taken from drill core Nos. 46 and 47, and surface  
851 sample ZA1, with approximate whole-rock Sn content.

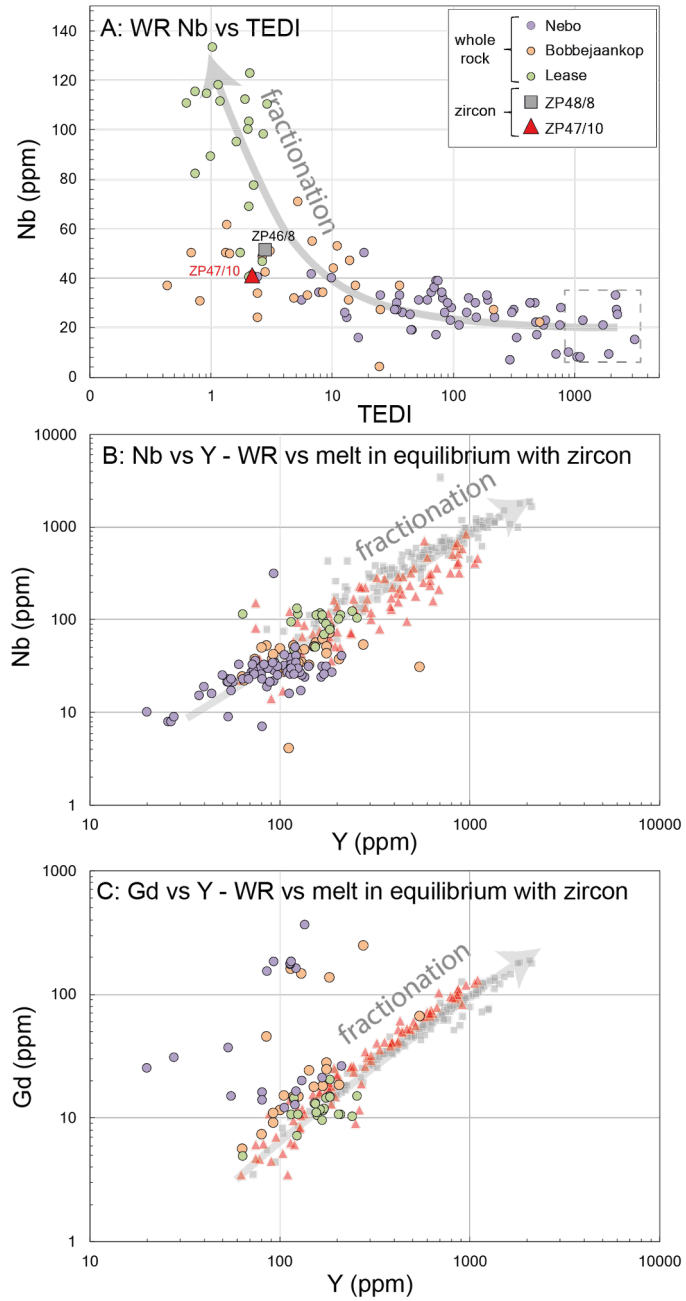
852 **Table 2:** Modelling zircon Sn/Gd after the addition of excess Sn via a mineralizing fluid  
853 at  $F=0.14$ , as a function of fluid:rock ratio and ppm Sn. Highlighted in green are the  
854 Sn/Gd ratios that fall between the upper and lower boundaries (zircon Sn/Gd = 0.05  
855 and 0.35) on Figure 7.

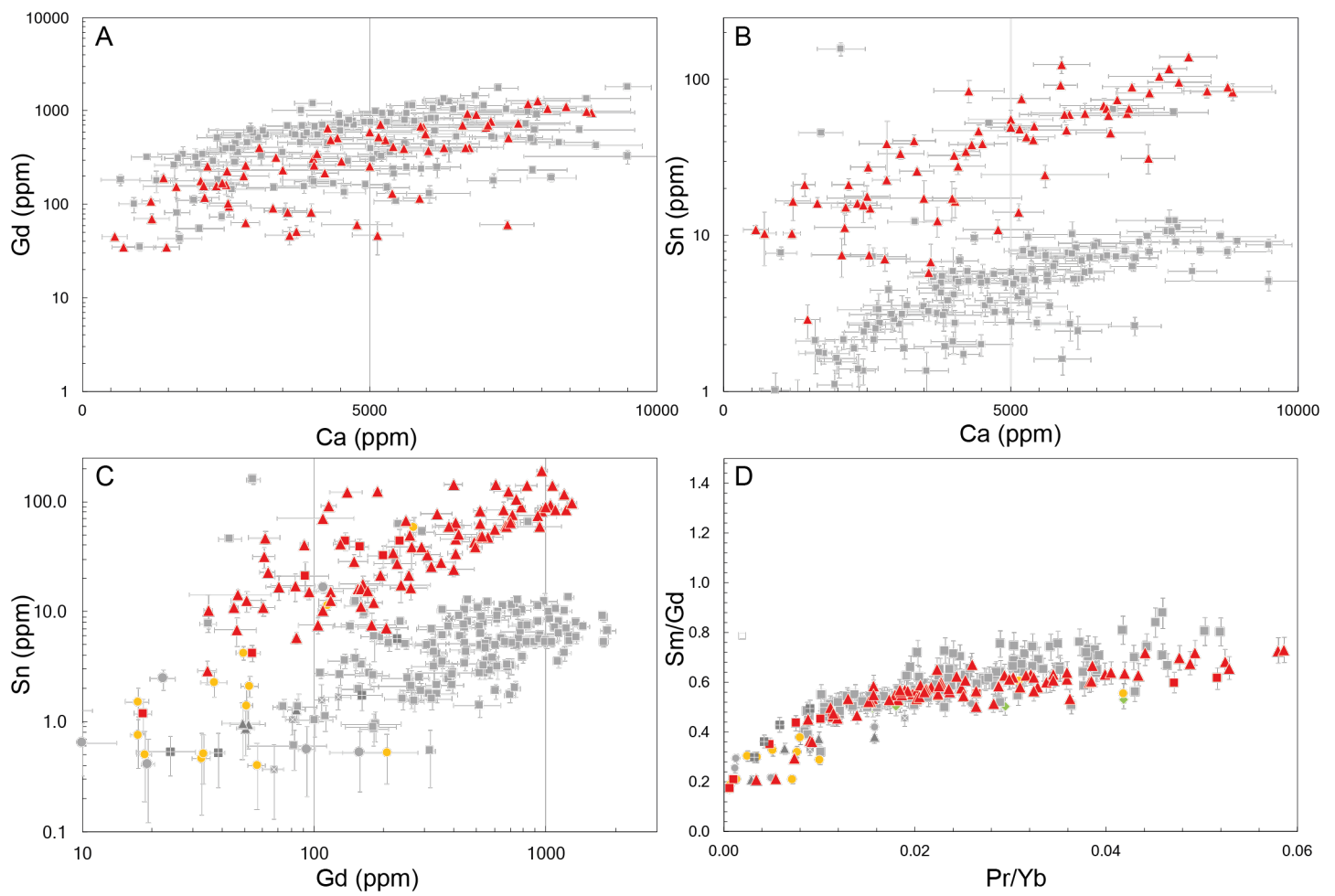


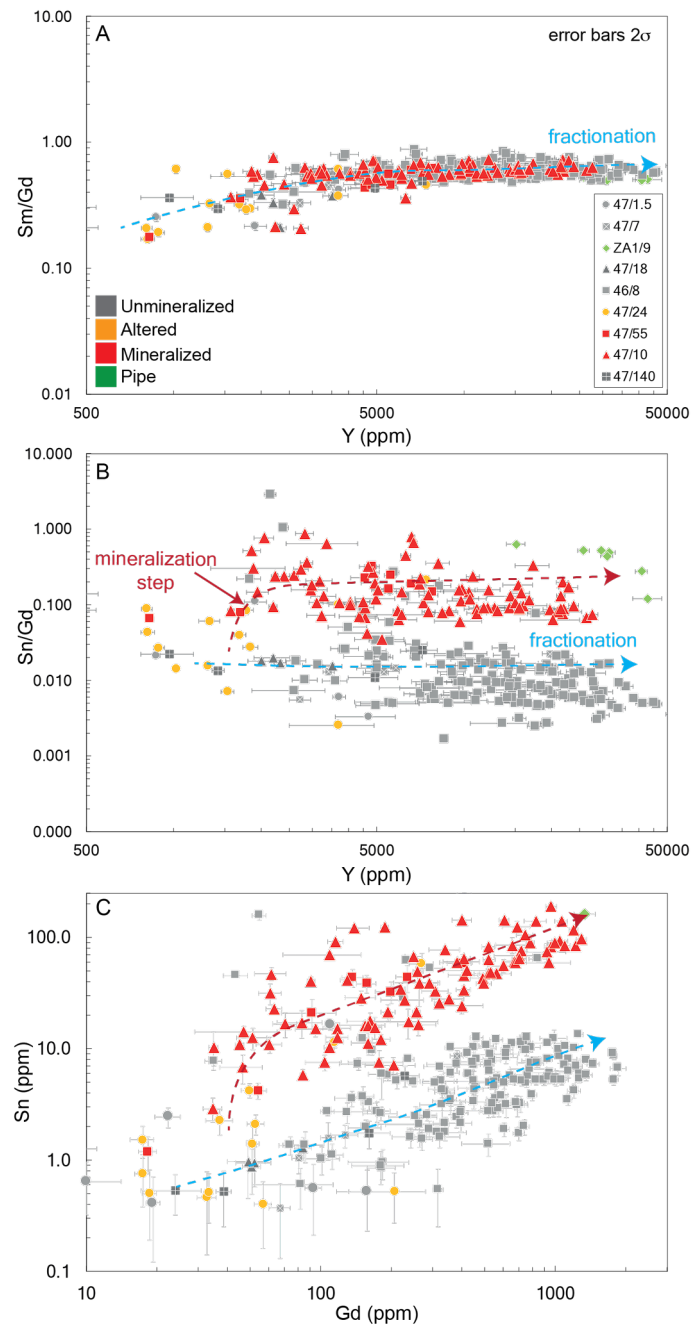


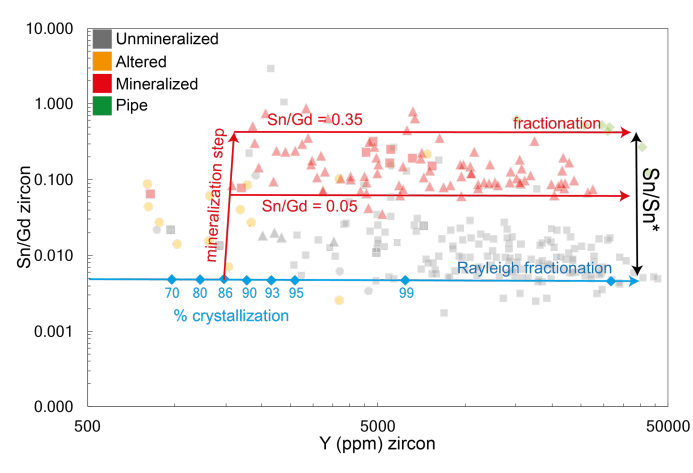












Sample	Unit		WR Sn ppm	Comments
47/1.5	Lease		<10	Unmineralized
47/7			<10	Unmineralized
ZA1/9				Mineralized pipe
47/18	Bobbejaankop	Upper	<10	Unmineralized
46/8		Upper	<10	Unmineralized
47/24		Upper	<10	Altered
47/55		Mineralized zone	562	Mineralized
47/10		Mineralized zone	354	Mineralized
47/140		Lower	<10	Unmineralized

**Table 1:** Summary of samples taken from drillcore Nos. 46 and 47, and surface sample ZA1, with approximate whole-rock Sn content.

**Table 2:** Modelling zircon Sn/Gd after the addition of excess Sn via a mineralizing fluid at  $F=0.14$ , as a function of fluid:rock ratio and ppm Sn. Highlighted in green are the Sn/Gd ratios that fall between the upper and lower boundaries (zircon Sn/Gd = 0.05 and 0.35) on Figure 7.

Fluid: Rock	Sn (ppm)								
	10	25	50	100	250	500	1000	2000	5000
0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.12
0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.24
0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.08	0.15	0.36
0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.24	0.60
0.1	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.12	0.24	0.48	1.19
0.15	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.18	0.36	0.71	1.78
0.2	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.12	0.24	0.48	0.95	2.37
0.25	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.30	0.60	1.19	2.96