

ELEMENTAL AND Sr-Nd ISOTOPIC EVIDENCE FOR THE ORIGIN AND GEODYNAMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLCANIC ROCKS FROM OXYLITHOS (CENTRAL EUBOEA, GREECE)

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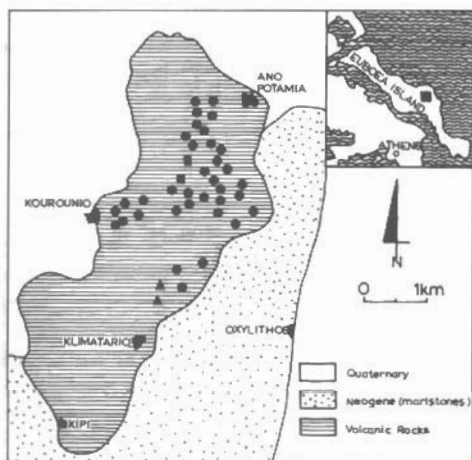
ABSTRACT

Major- and trace-element contents of 32 samples of Upper Miocene volcanic rocks (mainly dacites, infrequent andesites and shoshonites s.l.) from Oxyolithos, central Euboea, have been determined together with selected Sr- and Nd-isotope ratios. The Oxyolithos volcanics, that are calc-alkaline of adakitic affinity, show similar elemental and Sr-Nd isotopic (0.70981-0.71012; 0.51223-0.51230 respectively) compositions that indicate both an origin from a common parental magma and magmatic differentiation without significant crustal contamination. The chemical and isotopic compositions suggest a three-component magma source represented by both depleted and enriched mantle and less than 7% of sediments. The enriched mantle was derived from a metasomatic event older than 1.0 Ga. Subduction took place less than 40 Ma.

KEY WORDS: Oxyolithos, volcanic rocks, Sr-Nd isotopes, three-component mixing, mantle metasomatism.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the central Aegean vestiges of an Oligocene-Miocene volcanism, show products of calc-alkaline to shoshonitic affinity. The Oxyolithos volcano in the central-eastern part of Euboea is probably the most prominent remnant of such volcanism in the area (Fig. 1).



Although this volcano has been the subject of many studies (e.g. Fytikas et al., 1976, 1980; Pe-Piper and Piper, 1989, 1994; Pe-Piper, 1994), this paper presents a further contribution, focused on the Sr-Nd isotopic composition of the volcanic products, providing a deeper insight to the origin and geodynamic significance of Oxyolithos volcanism in the Tertiary framework of the Aegean area.

Fig. 1: Geological sketch map of the Oxyolithos volcanic area, showing sample locations (andesite, dacite and shoshonite s.l. are represented by full triangle, circle and square, respectively). The inset map shows Oxyolithos location in central Euboea.

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2. GEOLOGICAL SETTING AND SAMPLING

The Oxyolithos volcano, in the northern part of central Euboea (Fig. 1), is composed of trending NE-SW lava flows and domes. Its products overlie a sedimentary formation consisting mainly of limestones and limestone conglomerates of inferred lacustrine origin and ranging in age from the Aquitanian to the Pontian (Lemeille, 1977). The volcanic rocks show K/Ar radiometric ages of 13.2 ± 0.45 Ma, (Fytikas et al., 1976). According to Pe-Piper and Piper (1994) dacites of porphyritic and subordinately aphyric type occur mainly in the northern and central part of the volcanic complex, whereas andesites occur in the southern part.

The samples studied were collected mainly from the best exposures in the central-northern part of the volcano. The rocks display a porphyritic texture with zoned labradorite phenocrysts and minor ortho- and clino-pyroxene microphenocrysts; orthopyroxene is sometimes mantled by clinopyroxene; biotite is common, often totally altered to leucoxene and chlorite; hornblende is rare as well as quartz, and, finally, the groundmass is usually microgranophytic.

3. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Geochemistry

Table 1 shows average major- and trace-element contents of the studied rocks, obtained by XRF analysis except for FeO (by titrimetric method) and LOI; Table 2 shows the Sr- and Nd-isotope ratios of selected samples. The experimental procedure of the isotopic analysis is given in Table-2 note.

TABLE 1. Average major (wt%) and trace (ppm) element contents of Oxyolithos volcanic lithotypes (dacite A and B characterised by LOI < and > 2 wt%, respectively); standard deviation in brackets.

sample (*)	Andesite (2)		Dacite A (10)		Dacite B (18)		Latite (1)	Shoshonite (1)
SiO ₂	60.79	(0.23)	64.86	(0.93)	63.28	(0.93)	55.79	53.09
TiO ₂	0.44	(0.00)	0.44	(0.02)	0.44	(0.03)	0.58	1.07
Al ₂ O ₃	14.47	(0.05)	15.16	(0.42)	15.11	(0.65)	19.79	16.17
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.15	(0.48)	3.55	(0.31)	3.64	(0.32)	4.21	5.94
FeO	1.06	(0.36)	0.53	(0.21)	0.46	(0.19)	0.41	0.97
MnO	0.09	(0.01)	0.11	(0.02)	0.09	(0.02)	0.12	0.17
MgO	5.71	(0.01)	3.17	(0.32)	3.67	(0.62)	2.96	7.09
CaO	5.55	(0.23)	4.69	(0.45)	4.84	(0.32)	4.82	7.29
Na ₂ O	2.96	(0.08)	3.36	(0.10)	3.29	(0.08)	4.14	2.89
K ₂ O	2.12	(0.04)	2.39	(0.14)	2.29	(0.08)	3.88	3.43
P ₂ O ₅	0.14	(0.01)	0.14	(0.02)	0.14	(0.01)	0.16	0.17
LOI	3.42	(0.05)	1.25	(0.23)	2.75	(0.19)	3.1	1.71
Total	99.87	(0.03)	99.99	(0.08)	99.9	(0.06)	99.96	99.99
Rb	63.5	(0.7)	73.4	(27.0)	65.7	(12.5)	115	105
Sr	876.5	(55.9)	718.1	(67.1)	705.0	(112.4)	100	272
Ba	950.0	(35.4)	924.7	(29.4)	913.8	(154.6)	473	472
La	30.5	(3.5)	28.2	(4.1)	31.2	(9.5)	29	30
Ce	40.0	(5.7)	43.8	(9.3)	45.8	(6.6)	58	53
Y	13.0	(2.8)	14.2	(2.0)	14.4	(3.3)	29	23
Zr	144.5	(2.1)	135.3	(14.0)	135.7	(18.7)	269	173
Nb	7.8	(0.5)	8.5	(0.6)	8.2	(0.6)	13.6	6.2
Ni	40.2	(1.6)	26.0	(1.0)	24.3	(0.9)	14	33.8
Cu	34.9	(0.5)	27.1	(1.0)	25.2	(0.8)	47.4	29.9
Zn	55.5	(0.2)	55.0	(0.4)	51.3	(0.9)	98.1	60.6
Cr	122.0	(15.6)	78.2	(22.0)	101.3	(33.5)	9	219
V	90.5	(17.7)	82.3	(15.4)	81.1	(18.3)	38	159

(*) number of analysed samples

TABLE 2. Sr- and Nd-isotope ratio of Oxylythos volcanic rocks.

sample	Rb	Sr	$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}(\text{a})$	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}(\text{b})$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}(\text{c})$
Andesite						
L-1	3	837	0.218	0.70952	0.70952	0.51223
L-2	64	916	0.200	0.70937	0.70950	0.51225
Dacite						
K-1	72	728	0.286	0.70955	0.70950	0.51228
K-23	70	743	0.273	0.70948	0.70944	0.51229
O-2	66	810	0.236	0.70935	0.70931	0.51227
Latite						
K-26	115	100	3.328	0.71012	0.70933	0.51224
Shoshonite						
O-14	105	272	1.117	0.70981	0.70948	0.51223

Samples were analysed with Finnigan MAT 262 RPQ mass spectrometer at Centro di Studio per il Quaternario e l'Evoluzione Ambientale, CNR, Rome. Sr and Nd were analysed after separation by matrix following standard procedures.

(a) Errors on $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio = 0.00001 as mean standard error; measured $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio normalised to $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$, NBS 987 Sr Standard analysed during the course of this study yielded $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.71026 \pm 1$ (2σ ; $n = 6$),

(b) Initial ratios calculated at 13 Ma.

(c) Errors on $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratio = 0.00001 as mean standard error; measured $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratio normalised to $^{144}\text{Nd}/^{146}\text{Nd}$ ratio = 0.7219, La Jolla Nd Standard analysed during the course of this study yielded $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51186 \pm 1$ (2σ ; $n = 5$).

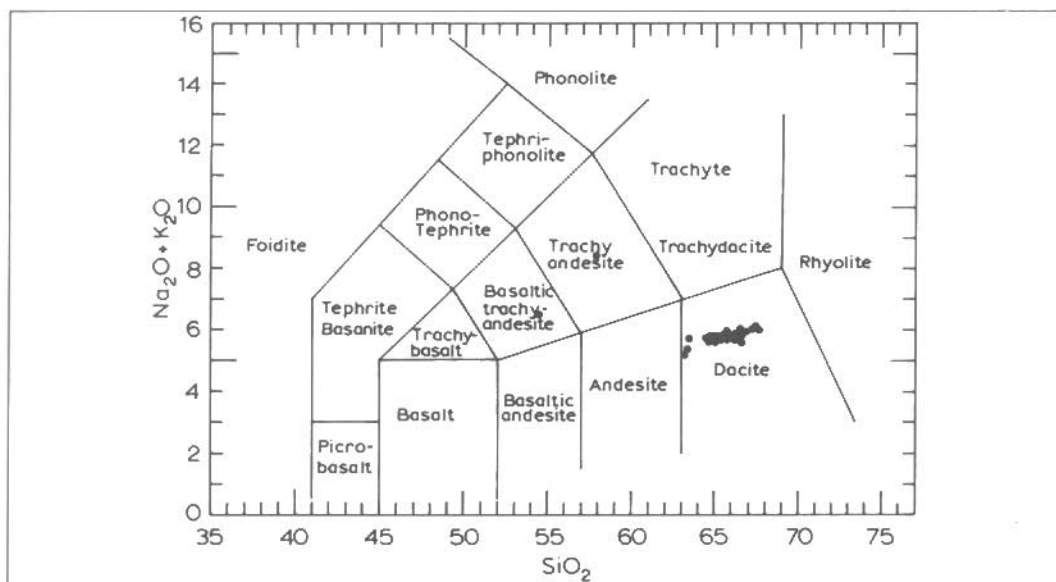


Fig. 2: Alkalies vs. SiO_2 classification diagram for Oxylythos volcanic rocks (after Le Bas et al., 1986).

Major- and trace-elements

10 samples show LOI contents less than 2 wt.%, whereas 22 samples show higher (however < 3.6 wt.%) contents. Comparison of the chemical compositions of the two groups of rocks shows no significant differences for major elements.
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The petrographic distinction of the samples into dacite and andesite is confirmed by the alkali-silica relationship (Fig. 2). Apart from SiO_2 and alkalis, the rocks generally show similar contents of the major elements. On the basis of the values (≤ 0.70) of the $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratio all the samples are moderately potassic calc-alkaline except two, that are alkaline (shoshonitic): sample K-26 is a latite ($\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O} = 0.94$) and sample O-14 is a shoshonite s.s. ($\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O} = 1.19$).

A characteristic feature of all the rocks studied is their high MgO content, that is not explained by the presence of crystal cumulates, because there is no such microscopic evidence, as already noted by Pe-Piper and Piper (1994); thus, the high MgO contents appear to be an intrinsic characteristic of the parental magmas, which are of adakitic affinity (Defant and Drummond, 1990).

The compositions of the studied rocks are consistent with these results presented by Pe-Piper and Piper (1994). Moreover, the Oxyolithos rocks are compositionally similar to analogous in age volcanic rocks from Skyros (Fytikas et al., 1980; Pe-Piper, 1991), though MgO and K_2O are higher and lower respectively, in the Oxyolithos rocks.

Sr-Nd isotope ratios

The measured Sr-isotope ratios range narrowly from 0.70981 to 0.71012 and are not related to various lithotypes; the isotopic ratios corrected for age also vary narrowly, as expected because of both the young age and the moderate Rb/Sr ratios of the rocks.

The isotopic ratios are similar to the values measured by Pe-Piper and Piper (1994) in analogous lithotypes from both Oxyolithos and Skyros.

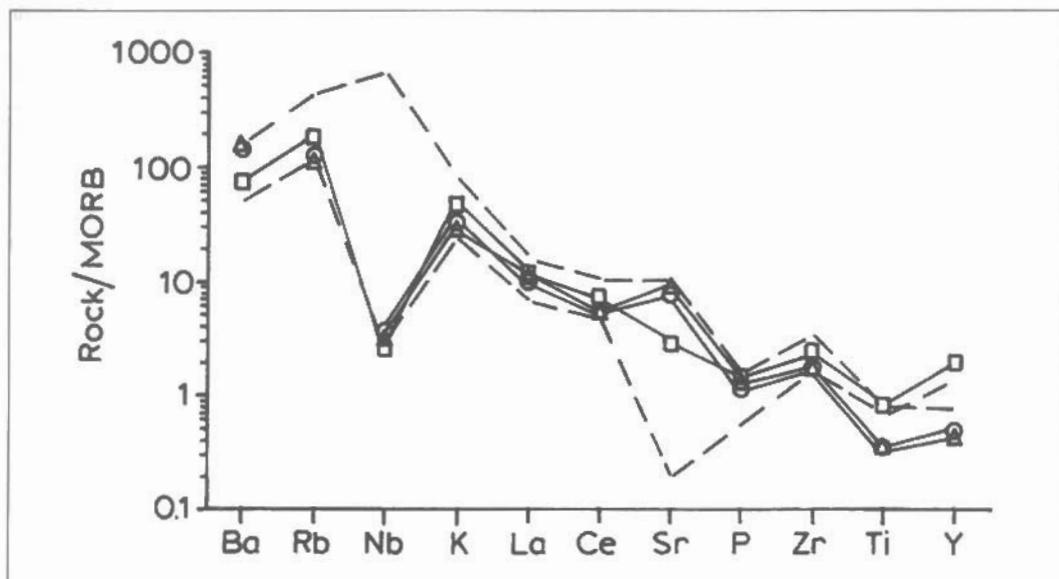
As well as the Sr-isotope ratios, the Nd-isotope ratios range narrowly from 0.51223 to 0.51230, being irrespective of the various lithotypes.

4. DISCUSSION

The broadly similar chemical and isotopic compositions suggest an origin of Oxyolithos rocks from a common parental magma and rule out that crustal assimilation controlled magmatic evolution from andesite to shoshonite. Moreover, the calc-alkaline signature along with other chemical characteristics such as high Zr/Y ratios, high LIL/HFSE ratios and negative Nb, Ti and P anomalies (Fig 3) indicate an affinity of the Oxyolithos rocks to volcanic rocks of active continental margins (Atherton et al., 1984). However, their adakitic affinity distinguishes Oxyolithos rocks from common arc products and sets some constraints on both the characteristics of the magma source(s) and the age of the subduction. In fact, as other adakites (e.g. Kay, 1978; Yagodzinski et al., 1995; Stern and Kilian, 1996;), Oxyolithos rocks are not derived from parental basaltic magmas, whose lack or outcrop exposure is thus explained. With respect to the timing of subduction, since adakites are genetically related to subduction of young (< 25 Ma) oceanic crust (Defant and Drummond, 1990), then, at Oxyolithos subduction took place later than 40 Ma and most likely during collision between the African and Eurasian plates, which occurred in the Early Tertiary (e.g. Innocenti et al., 1981).

However, if the Oxyolithos magmas can be considered as mantle liquids derived by mantle and slab melt interaction, similar to other adakitic rocks (e.g., Stern and Kilian, 1996), such a process does not explain their high Sr and low Nd isotopic values. In this respect, the high Sr and low Nd isotopic ratios might indicate some crustal contribution to the adakitic parental magmas (Fig.4a). Crustal contamination may also be suggested by the presence of small gneiss xenoliths found in the Oxyolithos rocks. Calculations show that AFC processes require the involvement of more than 30 wt.% of S-type crust (Stern and Kilian, 1996) to explain the isotopic values of those rocks, and that is unrealistic. Moreover, AFC processes would likely have removed most Mg, Cr, Sr, V and associated elements from the magmas, and that is not apparent from the chemical composition of the rocks. The Sr-isotope compositions of Oxyolithos rocks also rule out mere assimilation of Aquitanian limestone, which represents the basement rock-type of the volcanic edifice, because this rock has a Sr isotopic ratio lower than Oxyolithos volcanic rocks (Hodell et al., 1991).

Fig. 3: Spiderdiagram of incompatible elements for Oxyolithos volcanic rocks normalised to N-MORB (Sun and McDonough, 1989); andesite, dacite and shoshonite are represented by open triangle, circle and square, respectively. The field between the dashed lines represents mixtures of metasedimentary materials and granitoids (Mason et al., 1996).



Therefore, the high Sr and low Nd isotopic compositions must be an intrinsic characteristic of the magma source(s).

According to Pe-Piper (1994), the Pb isotopic compositions of Oxyolithos volcanic rocks suggest magma derivation from mantle source(s) enriched because of an old (> 1.0 Ga) metasomatic event. Nd - model ages, varying between 900 and 1100 Ma, support such a conclusion, that is also suggested by the negative correlation between Sr/La and Sr-isotope ratios and trend towards the EM II component (Zindler and Hart, 1986) (Fig 4a); Moreover, the Sr-Nd isotope ratios of Oxyolithos rocks are similar to those of K-rich volcanic rocks from the eastern Aegean (e.g. Robert et al., 1993), and Roman province (e.g. Roger et al., 1985), as well as from other subduction-related areas (e.g. White and Dupre, 1986; Wheller et al., 1987), where the role played by an old metasomatic mantle component in the petrogenesis has been inferred.

As a whole, the significant correlation between the Sr-Nd isotope ratios and trace-element contents indicates to the existence of a three-component magma source, represented by the depleted ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7032$; $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.5131$) and metasomatic mantle ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7048 - 0.7085$; $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51237 - 0.5123$), and sediments. Graphical modelling of the three-component mixing process is shown in Fig. 4b. As a potential sedimentary source in the calculations a mixture of old metasedimentary materials and granitoids ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7234$; $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51212$; Mason et al., 1996) was chosen on the base of each trace element similarity to Oxyolithos rocks (Fig.3), instead of the local crust under Euboea, whose characteristics are not well known. Mixing calculations show that adding to the magma source(s) up to 7% of such sediments yields the Sr-Nd isotope ratios of Oxyolithos rocks. The relatively large amount of sediments involved, however falling within the range inferred for subduction processes (Ellam and Hawkesworth, 1988), is realistic. This is also constrained by the high Ba/La ratios of the studied rocks, which suggest elevated fluxes of fluids from the subducted slab carrying sediments. On the contrary, AFC processes acting on the magma produced from the enriched mantle might explain the chemical and isotopic characteristics of all the rocks except the shoshonites, which, however are geochemically and isotopically indistinguishable from other Oxyolithos rocks (Fig.3).

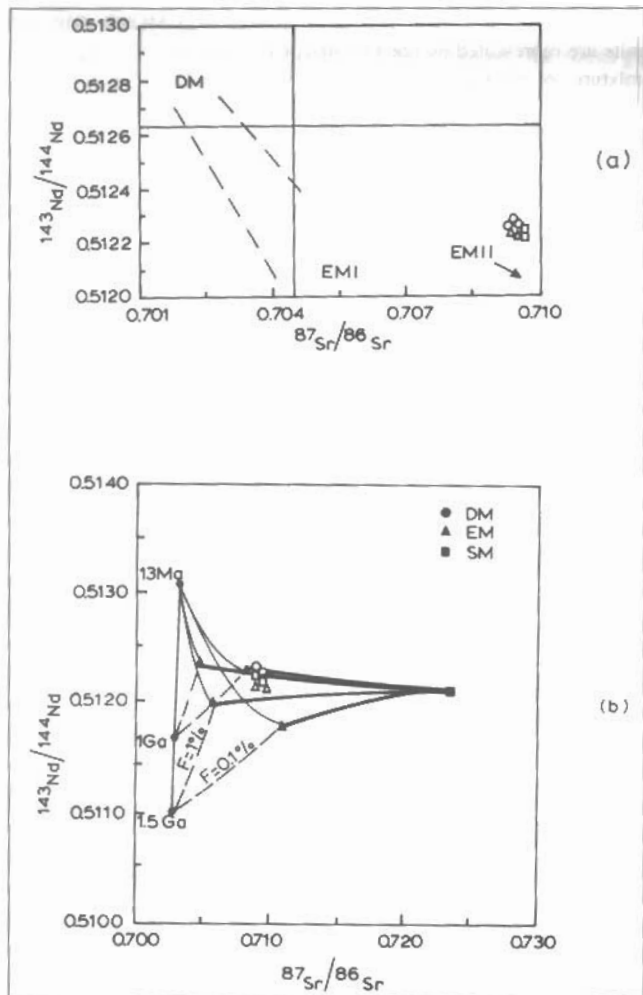


Fig. 4:

Sr-Nd isotope plot of the Oxyliθος volcanic rocks.

(a) Initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ versus $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ diagram showing compositional ranges between the dashed lines represents MC and OIB fields, DM corresponds to depleted mantle, while EMI and EMII indicated locations of enriched mantle (Zindler & Hart, 1986); symbols as in figure 2.

(b) Schematic modelling showing possible isotopic derivation of Oxyliθος magmas. Filled circles represent the isotopic compositions of the depleted mantle (DM) at 13 Ma, 1.0 and 1.5 Ga, respectively. Filled triangles represent the isotopic compositions of enriched mantle (EM) component produced by 0.1 - 1.0% melting of a depleted mantle source. Curves connecting DM and sediments show the evolution of isotopic processes at 13 Ma; Oxyliθος symbols as in Fig. 2.

Parameters used in the modelling:

- DM: $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7032$, $\text{Rb}/\text{Sr} = 0$, $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51311$, $\text{Sm}/\text{Nd} = 0.293$;
 - Sediments: $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.7234$, $\text{Sr} = 7$, $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51212$, $\text{Nd} = 24$ ppm.
 - Bulk distribution coefficients: $\text{Rb} = 0$, $\text{Sr} = 0.075$, $\text{Sm} = 0.0487$, $\text{Nd} = 0.0223$;
- Data source of isotopic and elemental composition of DM and distribution coefficients from McKenzie and O'Nions (1991, 1995); Mason et al., (1996).

Finally, the high Sr-isotope ratios of the Oxyliθος volcanic rocks are not unique among volcanic rocks of the Aegean area, since they are similar to these magnesian andesites of Skyros (Pe-Piper and Piper, 1994) and they are also analogous to the younger (3.4-0.5 Ma), more mafic and shoshonitic volcanic rocks from the Volos-Atalanti area (PE Innocenti et al., 1979). As a whole, a volcanic province exists extending from Euboea, to Skyros to Thessaly (ESET), whose activity developed from Middle Miocene to Pleistocene and was characterised by the emplacement of rocks of high MgO and high Sr-isotope ratios; volcanic activity migrated through the province from the east to the northwest becoming progressively more shoshonitic and basic. All volcanics from this province seem to have been derived from a mantle wedge characterised by the presence of a metasomatic component.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The Upper Miocene volcanic rocks of Oxyliθος range from andesite through dacite to shoshonitic dacite is the most common lithotype. Geochemically, the rocks show broad homogeneity of chemical and isotopic compositions. They are characterised by high MgO, Cr, V contents and high Sr isotope ratios (0.70981- 0.71012) and low Nd (0.51223 to 0.51230) isotopic ratios that indicate derivation from a common parental magma of adakitic affinity and subsequent magmatic differentiation with significant enrichment of crustal incompatible elements.

similar to arc magmas. The adakitic affinity sets the timing of the subduction less than 40 Ma during collision between the Eurasian and African plates and attributes the origin of Oxyolithos rocks to the interaction between mantle-melts and mantle-wedge melts. However, the adakitic affinity does not explain the high Sr and low Nd isotopic ratios of these rocks. The Sr-Nd isotopic ratios cannot also be explained by AFC processes because they would require an unrealistic (> 30%) amount of upper crustal material to be involved. The Sr and Nd isotopic compositions can be explained by the contribution from an enriched mantle. To summarise, the Sr-Nd isotopic and other elemental signatures indicate that Oxyolithos magmas were derived from a composite source involving both depleted and enriched mantle and less than 7% of sediments, in a subduction-related environment. The Nd-model ages support the hypothesis that the enriched mantle was derived by a metasomatic event older than 1.0 Ga, as suggested by the Pb-isotope composition of the studied rocks by Pe-Piper (1994).

Finally, the Oxyolithos volcanic rocks share with similar coeval rocks from Skyros and younger, more mafic and K-rich rocks from eastern Thessaly many elemental and isotopic characteristics, thus identifying a volcanic province (ESET) in central Aegean of converging magmatism underlain by a segment of old metasomatic enriched mantle.

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