Fingerprints of rare metal enrichment in alkaline igneous systems, as recorded by aegirine pyroxene

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Nepheline Syenite Intrusions as a source for REE









REE + Zr at Thor Lake, Canada





Möller & Williams-Jones, J.Pet 2016





Problem:

- Sodic pyroxenes have high REE (Marks 2004).
- Evolved alkaline melts • attain high REE contents (e.g. Gardar, Nechalacho)



NaFeSi₂O₆

Scientific objectives:

Quantify physiochemical controls on element partitioning

- Determine optimal conditions for magmatic enrichment of REE



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Demonstrate application of model on natural system





Determine pyroxene-melt partition coefficients



Internally heated pressure vessel





Run products:



H5_2, IHPV-5: 700°C, 2 KBar, Aegirine Augite





Preliminary experiment pyroxenes

~ 0.25 mm

Element partitioning

!! D_{REE} > 1

~ 0.25 mm

Element partitioning

D_{REE} correlated with aegirine fraction

Redhammer et al., 2006, Am. Min

Fluorine – The link to natural systems?

Ponader and Brown, 1989, Geochimica

Future:

- Build partitioning model which predicts changes with mineral chemistry
- Mafic and F-bearing experiments

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