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Petrology, geochemistry and petrogenesis of the dykes from the Zhob Ophiolite, Pakistan

Abstract

The highly deformed Zhob ophiolite comprises the Ali Khanzai, Naweoba, and Omzha blocks. Each of these blocks contains both felsic and mafic dyke swarms. The felsic dykes occur as patches and pods in gabbroic bodies of crustal sections while mafic dykes crosscut the mantle peridotite of these blocks. Felsic dykes are plagiogranite and are composed of quartz, plagioclase and accessory ferromagnesian minerals whereas mafic dykes are basaltic in composition and contain largely plagioclase, clinopyroxene, and hornblende with minor quartz grains. Major, trace and rare earth elements have been analyzed in the felsic and mafic to assess the tectonomagmatic setting of the Zhob ophiolite. The felsic dykes are calc-alkaline oceanic plagiogranites while mafic dykes are tholeiitic in composition. Chondrite normalized patterns for the felsic dykes are characterized by low values of the REEs and positive Eu anomalies which indicate that they were formed by partial melting of basic rocks under hydrous conditions. The mafic dykes show very slight Nb depletion and enrichment in large ion lithophile elements (LILE) over high field strength elements (HFSE) which suggest that mafic dyke swarms are derived from an undepleted mantle source. Oceanic rocks with such characteristics are generally thought to have formed by processes involving a subduction zone component in the source region by fluids released from the subducting slab. These features suggest a subduction related setting which indicates an island arc, back arc or supra-subduction zone affinity for the formation of both felsic and mafic dykes of the Zhob ophiolite.

Keywords: Mafic and felsic dykes, plagiogranite, supra-subduction zone, Zhob ophiolite

1. Introduction

Ophiolites are fragments of oceanic lithosphere that have been obducted tectonically along continental margins during orogenic processes. An intact ophiolite has almost a complete stratigraphy from mantle peridotite to crustal rocks (Robertson, 2002). Partial melting of peridotites produces mafic melt which forms the oceanic crust while the partial melting of the mafic rocks of oceanic crust under hydrous conditions produces minor felsic rocks known as plagiogranites (Klein and Langmuir, 1987; Arndt et al., 2009; Korenaga, 2013). Fractional crystallization of basaltic magma and partial melting of the mafic rocks have been proposed

33 for the formation of the felsic and basaltic dyke swarms, respectively (Beccaluva et al., 1999;
34 France et al., 2010; Wanless et al., 2010; Brophy and Pu, 2012).

35 The Bela-Zhob Valley-Waziristan ophiolitic belt extends from south to north in
36 Pakistan and demarcates the western boundary of the Indian plate with the Afghan block of
37 Eurasian plate (Fig. 1a; Gansser, 1979). The Zhob Valley contains three ophiolites namely
38 Khanozai, Muslim Bagh and Zhob Ophiolites (Fig. 1b). Studies suggest that the felsic and
39 mafic dyke swarms of Waziristan and Muslim Bagh ophiolites (north and south of Zhob
40 ophiolite, respectively) formed in a subduction-related setting (island arc, back arc basin and
41 supra-subduction zone setting) (Khan et al., 2001; Kakar et al., 2014). The Zhob ophiolite
42 contains three detached blocks: the Naweoba, Omzha and Ali Khanzai blocks (Fig. 1c, d, e),
43 which are highly tectonised. It is therefore challenging to distinguish the different rock types
44 in these deformed blocks. All blocks of Zhob Ophiolite contain ultramafic gabbros and
45 volcanic rocks (Naeem et al., 2021, 2022; Khan et al., 2020a, b). These rocks were first reported
46 as intrusive bodies by Jones (1961), however, prior to this study little petrographic data and no
47 geochemistry was available on these rocks. In this study, we report the first detailed fieldwork,
48 petrography and the first major and trace element geochemistry of the felsic and mafic dyke
49 swarms from the Zhob ophiolite in Pakistan to determine the geologic and tectonic setting of
50 the Zhob ophiolite and the origin of the dykes.

51

52 **2. Geological Setting**

53 The Zhob ophiolitic blocks are part of the Waziristan-Muslim Bagh ophiolites of Neo-
54 Tethyan origin that represent the suture zone between the Indian plate and Afghan block (Fig.1;
55 Ahmed and Abbas, 1979). The Waziristan ophiolite occurs in the north of the Zhob ophiolite
56 and comprises crustal sections, well-exposed mantle sections and upper volcano-sedimentary
57 units, that formed in a back-arc basin (Khan, 2000). In the south of the Zhob ophiolite, the
58 Muslim Bagh ophiolite comprises mostly ophiolitic rock units including the crustal section,
59 transition zone, mantle section, lava and metamorphic sole rocks in a back-arc basin setting and
60 hosts chromitite, volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS), and manganese deposits (Fig. 1; Kakar
61 et al., 2014; Khan et al., 2020 a, b). Further to the south, the Bela ophiolite is found, and this
62 was generated in a supra-subduction zone setting (Ahmed, 1991, 1993). The Katwaz basin
63 occurs in the west of the Zhob ophiolite and is comprised of a thick sequence of shallow marine
64 flysch sediments between the central Afghan block and Indian plate (Cassaigneau, 1979).

65 Two tectonic blocks: the Zhob valley ophiolite and Katwaz basin are found between the
66 Indian plate and Afghan block. The Zhob ophiolitic blocks in the Zhob Valley are divided into
67 three tectono-stratigraphic rock units: 1) the flysch zone, 2) Zhob ophiolite and 3) the
68 calcareous zone (Naeem et al., 2021, 2022) with the Zhob ophiolite being thrust over the
69 calcareous zone (Fig.1; Şengor, 1987; Kazmi and Jan, 1997). The Zhob ophiolitic blocks,
70 known as the Naweoba, Ali Khanzai, and Omzha blocks (Jones, 1961) are further divided into
71 six fault-bounded tectonostratigraphic units: a) Hyaloclastite-mudstone unit (Zhm), b) Basalt-
72 chert unit (Zbc), c) Plutonic crustal rocks unit (Zpc), d) Mantle section rocks unit (Zms), e)
73 Metamorphic rocks unit (Zmr), and f) Upper and lower sedimentary rocks unit (Zus and Zls)
74 (Fig.1c,d,e; Naeem et al., 2021).

75 The rocks of the flysch zone were formed in a fluvial to shallow marine environment in
76 a large sedimentary basin (Trelor and Izatt, 1993). The Nisai Formation of Eocene age
77 unconformably overlies the Zhob ophiolitic blocks (Allemann, 1979). Felsic dyke rocks such
78 as plagiogranite occur in the west of Naweoba, southwest of Ali Khanzai and southeast of
79 Omzha blocks. The Naweoba block is the largest among these blocks with well exposed felsic
80 and mafic dykes. The felsic dykes are found in the plutonic rocks as pods, lenses, and intrusions
81 and occasionally crosscut the ultramafic rocks of Ali Khanzai block in contrast to the Naweoba
82 and Omzha blocks. The Zhob ophiolitic blocks and their underlying and overlying rocks began
83 to form and extend from the continental margin of the Indian subcontinent over the Neo- Tethys
84 Ocean floor and obducted along with the Muslim Bagh ophiolite (Naeem et al., 2021). Studies
85 on the petrography, geochemistry, geology and tectonic setting of the Zhob ophiolitic blocks
86 and their comparison with Waziristan and Muslim Bagh ophiolite suggest that the Zhob
87 ophiolite was also formed at the same time as the formation and emplacement of the Muslim
88 Bagh ophiolite (Naeem et al., 2022).

89

90 **3. Field Features of Felsic and Mafic Dykes**

91 The felsic (plagiogranite) dykes of the Zhob ophiolite are intruded into the volcanic and
92 plutonic mafic crustal rock units as lenses, pods, pockets, xenoliths and inclusions. The felsic
93 dyke rocks (plagiogranite) are medium to coarse-grained, hard, compact and creamy white to
94 white-green in colour, composed of quartz, plagioclase, apatite, zircon and accessory
95 ferromagnesian minerals such as, biotite and magnetite. The intrusions of felsic dykes in the
96 basal part of the gabbroic rocks in all blocks are common (Fig. 2a, b). Small light gray felsic
97 dyke occurs in the gabbroic section the Omzha block which is intensely tectonized by faults

98 and shear zones (Fig. 2c). The tectonic inclusions of the felsic and mafic dyke swarms are
99 found in the serpentine mélanges which are derived from fragmented sections of ophiolite (Fig.
100 2d). In the Ali Khanzai block, parts of the plagiogranite body are highly altered and most of
101 the samples show epidotization (Fig. 2e). significant number of fresh and altered felsic dykes
102 are present in the lower part of the gabbroic rocks near Naweoba Killi in the Naweoba block
103 (Fig. 2f). The felsic rocks are in faulted contact with volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks and are
104 in transitional contact with mafic rocks at several localities in the Zhob ophiolite.

105 The mafic (dolerite) dykes are light gray to dark gray, fine to medium-grained with
106 variable degrees of alteration. The mafic dykes range in thickness from a few centimeters to
107 five meters and several hundred meters in length. The mafic dykes crosscut the mafic and
108 ultramafic rocks of all three ophiolitic blocks. In the Ali Khanzai block these mafic dykes are
109 not well-exposed and are mostly broken and sheared along with country rocks. The dykes do
110 not show cross-cutting relationships with one another, but joints and fractures are very
111 common. Massive dolerite dyke in Naweoba block intruded in ultramafic rocks (Fig. 3a).
112 Dolerite dyke showing intruded contact with harzburgite in Omzha block of the Zhob ophiolite
113 (Fig. 3b). The dykes in Naweoba block are intruded as massive bodies in gabbroic rocks (Fig.
114 3c). Hard and compact dolerite dykes intruded in gabbroic rock of the Naweoba block (Fig.
115 3d). The interaction of dolerite rocks remelted host rocks and formed chilled margin near
116 Shiakhan Killi north of Ali Khanzai block of the Zhob ophiolite (Fig. 3e). Furthermore, the
117 studied dykes are common in the peridotite and make sharp intrusive contacts with peridotite
118 at some localities in the Ali Khanzai block (Fig. 3f). The dolerite dykes are altered and
119 fragmented near Konnai Killi in the south of Omzha Block due to extensive tectonic activity
120 and several concealed faults in the region (Fig. 3g). These dykes commonly exhibit usually
121 intrusive contacts with host peridotite in the Naweoba block (Fig. 3h).

122

123 **4. Petrography**

124 **4.1. Felsic Dykes**

125 The Zhob ophiolite plagiogranite dykes are light grey to creamy white, fine to coarse-
126 grained, and contain abundant quartz, microcline, orthoclase and plagioclase. In thin section
127 the plagiogranite is extremely fractured and quartz is present as clusters that are surrounded by
128 epidote crystals aggregates (Fig. 4a). The quartz grains are fresh and comprised on average
129 40% of the rock with (35%) plagioclase, with mafic (usually hornblende and pyroxene) minerals

130 being minor constituents (<10%) and K-feldspar (orthoclase) being a rare phase. A few samples of
131 plagiogranite show large crystals of euhedral to subhedral plagioclase with quartz and minor
132 amphibole (Fig. 4b). Accessory minerals are biotite, amphibole, calcite and opaque minerals.
133 Chlorite, which is the alteration product of biotite and hornblende is present in Zhob ophiolite
134 plagiogranite. Euhedral crystals of zircon with quartz and plagioclase are observed in a few
135 thin sections of plagiogranite from the Naweoba block (Fig. 4c). Most plagioclase feldspar is
136 partially altered. The epidote grains have a partially chloritized rim and sericite is observed as
137 an alteration product of alkali feldspar. Plagiogranite shows massive, subhedral to anhedral,
138 hypidiomorphic and inter-granular texture and anhedral to subhedral crystals of plagioclase
139 with quartz (Fig. 4d). Phenocrysts of plagioclase, quartz, hornblende and pyroxene are
140 surrounded by a fine groundmass composed of plagioclase, quartz, hornblende, pyroxene,
141 potassium feldspar and accessory phases. The plagioclase mostly shows zoning, and pyroxene
142 is partially altered to chlorite (Fig. 4e). Anhedral crystals of quartz have undulose extinction.
143 Plagiogranite from the Ali Khanzai and Omzha blocks has quartz, plagioclase and deformed
144 biotite with inter-grown muscovite (Fig. 4f).

145

146 **4.2. Mafic Dykes**

147 Dolerite dykes of the Zhob ophiolitic blocks are aphanitic, fine to medium-grained,
148 allotriomorphic, intergranular and have sub-ophitic texture. The dolerite dykes are composed
149 of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, hornblende, magnetite and quartz grains and are chloritized with
150 quartz aggregates (Fig. 5a, b). Clinopyroxene and plagioclase are primary minerals while
151 zeolites, quartz and calcite are secondary minerals. Dolerite rocks are granular and have
152 interlocking contacts between plagioclase and pyroxene crystals (Fig. 5c, d). Plagioclase occurs
153 as phenocrysts and is partially altered to sericite. Sub-ophitic plagioclase phenocrysts occur
154 both as laths and larger anhedral to subhedral prisms (Fig. 5e, f). The plagioclase laths are
155 partially to completely altered to epidote, sericite and calcite and penetrate the hornblende and
156 pyroxene minerals (Fig. 5g, h). The hornblende is commonly altered to chlorite but is replaced
157 by biotite in places. Clinopyroxene is augite which is partly to completely altered to amphibole
158 and magnetite and forms a considerable part of groundmass, while in the rocks from the
159 Naweoba it is present as phenocrysts. In few thin sections of the Ali Khanzai block the augite
160 is anhedral and has faint zoning. The fine-grained quartz aggregates are found among the main
161 minerals. Secondary minerals such as calcite, epidote, chlorite, amphibole and quartz suggest

162 that the dykes have been subjected to metamorphism under greenschist facies conditions. Tiny,
163 rounded grains of iron oxides fill the interstices between primary minerals while calcite veins
164 occupy fractures in the rock.

165

166 **5. Analytical Methods**

167 Rock samples of both felsic and mafic dykes from the three ophiolitic blocks of the
168 Zhob ophiolite were analyzed. Samples were powdered to 200mesh after removing the
169 weathered surfaces. Each powder sample was heated for two hours to 900°C in a porcelain
170 crucible to obtain the loss on ignition. Inductively coupled plasma optical emission (ICP-OES)
171 and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) were used to analyze the major,
172 trace and rare earth elements in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Cardiff
173 University, Wales, UK.

174 In a platinum crucible 0.4 g of lithium metaborate flux was mixed with 0.1 g ignited
175 sample. A few drops of wetting agents such as lithium iodide were added in each mixture for
176 fusion by using the Claisse Flaxy automated fusion system. The mixture was then dissolved in
177 30ml of de-ionized water and 20 ml of 10% HNO₃ by using the Milli-Q purification system.
178 When the mixture had fully dissolved, and the solution was made up to 100 ml with 20 de-
179 ionized water then 1 ml of 100 ppm Rh spike was added to the solution. At the end 20 ml of
180 each solution was run on ICP-OES to determine the major element and some trace element
181 abundances. To obtain the abundances of trace elements, 1 ml of each solution was added to 1
182 ml of In and Tl and 8 ml of 2% HNO₃ was run on the ICP-MS. The instruments used to analyze
183 elements were, a JY von Horiba Ultima 2 ICP-OES and a thermos elemental X7 series ICP-
184 MS at Cardiff University Wales, UK.

185

186 **6. Results**

187 Five mafic (dolerite) and four felsic (plagiogranite) dyke samples from Zhob ophiolites
188 were analyzed for major, trace and rare earth element geochemistry.

189 The major oxides from the mafic dykes of the Zhob ophiolite have the following range
190 of compositions: MgO (1.7–5.7 wt.%), CaO (4.0 –14.3 wt.%), TiO₂ (0.3 –1.3 wt.%), Na₂O
191 (0.4 – 6.0 wt.%), K₂O (0.02–1.3 wt.%), SiO₂ (47.6 –56.7 wt.%), Al₂O₃ (12.8 –15.2 wt.%), and
192 Fe₂O₃ (10.7–12.5 wt.%). The range of trace elements are; Sc (8 – 43 ppm); V (11 – 351 ppm),

193 Cr (3 – 39 ppm), Co (3 – 552 ppm), Ni (1 – 501 ppm), Cu (8 – 173 ppm), Zn (15 – 69 ppm),
194 Sr (68 – 799 ppm), Y (16 – 31 ppm), Zr (29 – 77 ppm), and Ba (11 – 238 ppm).

195 The major oxides from the felsic dykes of the Zhob ophiolite have the following
196 compositional range: CaO (0.5 – 18.4 wt.%), TiO₂ (0.03 – 0.2 wt.%), alkalis (Na₂O + K₂O =
197 3.1–10.7 wt.%), MgO (0.1 – 1.3 wt.%), Al₂O₃ (10.1 – 18.2 wt.%), Fe₂O₃^t (0.2 – 1.4 wt.%), and
198 SiO₂ contents (68.9 – 77.9 wt.%). The range of trace elements are; Sc (1 – 21 ppm), V (0 – 30
199 ppm), Cr (1 – 14 ppm); Co (1 – 5 ppm), Ni (2 – 13 ppm), Cu (2 – 4 ppm), Zn (2 – 26 ppm), Sr
200 (59 – 163 ppm), Y (13 – 32 ppm), Zr (23 – 65 ppm), and Ba (8 – 43 ppm).

201 The felsic and mafic dyke samples were plotted on Zr and MgO Harker-type binary
202 diagrams against other major and trace elements to determine fractionation trends of these
203 rocks. On binary plots of the MgO versus other elements, the felsic and mafic dykes show
204 some degree of clustering and scattering (Fig. 6 a, b). Major oxides and trace elements of felsic
205 dykes such as Fe₂O₃, SiO₂, TiO₂, Sr, Nb, and Co versus MgO show clustering while Na₂O,
206 Al₂O₃, CaO, Ni, Zr, and V versus MgO exhibit scattered patterns. Major oxides and trace
207 elements of mafic dykes such as SiO₂, Na₂O, Al₂O₃, Co, and Ni versus MgO show clustering
208 while CaO, TiO₂, Fe₂O₃, Zr, Nd, and Nb versus MgO exhibit scattered patterns. On binary plot
209 of TiO₂ vs. Mg the dolerite dykes of the Zhob ophiolites with high MgO and low TiO₂ show
210 small degrees of fractional crystallization. On the TiO₂ versus Mg plot for dolerite dykes TiO₂
211 increases during fractional crystallization and decreases when the degree of partial melting
212 increases.

213 Binary plots of Zr versus other elements for the felsic and mafic dykes also show some
214 degree of scattering (Fig. 7a, b). The ratio of TiO₂ and Zr on TiO₂ versus Zr plot of dolerite
215 dykes increases during fractional crystallization and decreases when the degree of partial
216 melting increases. On total alkali versus silica (TAS) diagram (Le Bas et al., 1986), two
217 samples of dolerite dykes fall in the field of basaltic andesite, two in trachy-basalt and one in
218 the basalt field while two samples of felsic dykes fall in the dacite field and two samples fall
219 in rhyolite field (Fig. 8a). On an immobile trace element Th versus Co diagram (after Hastie et
220 al. 2007) the dolerite rocks plot in the basalt to dacitic – rhyolitic field (Fig. 8b). The felsic
221 rocks were plotted on K₂O vs SiO₂ a diagram and indicate that these rocks are plagiogranites
222 and calc-alkaline in composition (Fig. 9a, b). The Y versus Nb diagram (Pearce et al., 1984),
223 (Fig. 9c) classify these felsic rocks as volcanic arc granites (VAG) or ocean ridge granites
224 (ORG). A volcanic arc setting is also confirmed by the Y versus Nb/Th plot (Jenner et al.,

225 1991), (Fig. 9d). La-SiO₂ diagram (Brophy, 2009) suggests melting of a depleted source region
226 for these felsic/mafic dyke rocks (Fig. 10).

227 The dolerite dyke samples fall in basalt andesite and basalt field when plotted on Nb/Y
228 versus Zr/Ti diagram of Pearce (1996), (Fig. 11a). On Zr versus P₂O₅ and Nb/Y versus Ti/Y
229 diagrams (Winchester and Floyd, 1976; Pearce, 1982), (Fig. 11 b, c) the dolerite rock samples
230 classify as N-MORB and arc rocks. Similarly, on Ti versus Zr (Pearce, 1981), Y versus Nb/Th
231 (Jenner et al., 1991) and V versus Ti diagrams (Shervais, 1982), these mafic dyke rocks plot as
232 N-MORB and IAT or BAB (Fig. 11d, e, f). The Na₂O vs K₂O diagram (Fig. 10g) confirms the
233 sodic composition of rocks while the Ba versus Zr plot (Saunders and Tarney, 1991) further
234 indicate their BABB and N-MORB type nature (Fig. 11h). Triangular MnO/TiO₂/P₂O₅ diagram
235 (Mullen 1983) conform the tholeiitic nature of these mafic rocks (Fig. 11i). On an N-MORB
236 normalized plot (Sun and McDonough, 1989), both the plagiogranite felsic and dolerite mafic
237 dykes have flat high field strength (HFS) element patterns parallel to N-MORB (Fig. 12a),
238 while the large ion lithophile (LIL) elements are more enriched than N-MORB (Fig. 13a). On
239 chondrite normalized diagrams (Fig. 12b and 13b), the REE patterns of these dykes are almost
240 flat like those of N-MORB with slight enrichment in LREE and negative Eu anomalies. The
241 enrichment of LILEs may be due to either alteration or addition through adding a slab derived
242 hydrous component to the melt source region, i.e. a depleted mantle wedge. However, the
243 positive anomaly of Th and negative anomaly of Nb relative to other incompatible elements in
244 the NMORB-normalized plots support the latter possibility (Wood, 1980). The flat pattern of
245 both the LREEs and the HREEs of the dyke suggest derivation from a depleted mantle source.

246

247 **7. Discussion**

248 Plagiogranites that contain more than 15 wt.% Al₂O₃ were likely generated in a
249 continental setting whereas those containing less than 15 wt.% Al₂O₃ are considered to have
250 been formed in an oceanic ridge setting (Arth, 1979; Pearce et al., 1984). The felsic dykes of
251 the Zhob ophiolite contain less than 15 wt.% Al₂O₃ are oceanic plagiogranite. The Zhob
252 plagiogranite dyke rocks are calc-alkaline in composition and fall below the line of partial
253 melting of depleted source that formed in volcanic arc setting. The dolerite dyke rocks of the
254 Zhob ophiolitic are basaltic to basalt-andesite in composition with low concentrations of TiO₂
255 and P₂O₅ and so are tholeiitic. The P₂O₅ versus Zr diagram and Ti/Y versus Nb/Y diagram
256 further confirm the tholeiitic composition of these dolerite rocks. The dolerite dykes on Ti
257 versus Zr, Nb/Th versus Y, V versus T, Ba versus Zr, TiO₂/MnO/P₂O₅ diagrams and the large

258 ion lithophile (LIL) elements are more enriched than N-MORB while high field strength (HFS)
259 elements show a flat pattern parallel to N-MORB on an N-MORB normalized plot and suggest
260 that these dykes are transitional between IAT and MORB. The enrichment of LIL elements
261 over the high field strength (HFS) elements and depletion in Nb indicate an arc-related origin
262 (Tankut et al., 1998; Dilek et al., 2006; Robinson et al., 2008). This is explained by the addition
263 of a hydrous slab derived component to a depleted mantle wedge (Thirlwall et al. 1996). The
264 crustal part of the Zhob ophiolite has a less-well developed gabbroic section with a relatively
265 thick ultramafic-mafic cumulate section and geochemical signatures that indicate an island arc
266 or supra-subduction setting (Naeem et al., 2022). The REE patterns of both felsic and mafic
267 dykes are almost flat like those of N-MORB with slight enrichment in LREE and negative Eu
268 anomalies on chondrite diagrams. The normalized REE and trace diagrams further indicate the
269 transitional character of these felsic and mafic dykes between N-MORB and IAT and the
270 enrichment of LIL element and depletion of Nb suggest supra subduction zone tectonic setting.

271

272 **7.1 Petrogenesis**

273 The bulk chemical compositions of the plagiogranites are similar to granite and rhyolite
274 but plagiogranite contains $K_2O < 1\%$ while granite and rhyolite contain $K_2O > 3\%$. The felsic
275 dyke rocks of the Zhob ophiolite with low TiO_2 , MgO and K_2O concentrations (< 1 wt.%) and
276 high SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 and Na_2O are considered a key characteristic of oceanic plagiogranites that
277 have been derived by partial melting, as opposed to oceanic plagiogranites derived through
278 fractional crystallization that display higher TiO_2 contents (> 1 wt.%; Koepke et al., 2004,
279 2007).

280 Oceanic plagiogranite can be formed by fractional crystallization of sub-alkaline
281 tholeiitic magma (Cox et al., 2019; Grimes et al., 2011) or partial melting of crustal rocks under
282 hydrous conditions (Barker, 1979) or by liquid immiscibility or metasomatism (Dixon and
283 Rutherford, 1979). On binary plots the major oxides and trace elements of felsic dykes such as
284 Fe_2O_3 , SiO_2 , TiO_2 , Sr, Nb, and Co versus MgO show clustering while Na_2O , Al_2O_3 , CaO, Ni,
285 Zr, and V versus MgO exhibit scattered patterns which indicate the fractional crystallization
286 process (Fig. 6a, 7a).

287 The plagiogranites of the Zhob ophiolite show their own distinct field (Fig.6a, 7a)
288 which indicates that they are not related to the other units by simple fractional crystallization
289 processes. The Zhob ophiolite sequence is mostly mafic, ultramafic and felsic rocks with the
290 absence of intermediate composition rocks, which indicate the fractional crystallization process

291 for the origin of the plagiogranite by a basic parental melt. Moreover, the SiO₂ range of the
292 plagiogranites would suggest that fractional crystallization did not play a significant role in
293 their petrogenesis. On chondrite normalized diagrams (Fig. 12b), the enrichment of La, Ce, Pr
294 and concave-upwards patterns displayed by the plagiogranites support a role for amphibole
295 during their petrogenesis, due to amphiboles preference for MREE over LREE and HREE
296 (Davidson 2012). The enrichment of La, Ce and Pr does not indicate whether amphibole was
297 crystallizing from a parental magma or acting as a residual phase during the fusion of a mafic
298 protolith. An origin by silicate–liquid immiscibility (Dixon and Rutherford, 1979) is unlikely
299 for the Zhob ophiolite plagiogranites. This is evidenced by the absence of the associated
300 immiscible Fe-rich liquid (as Fe-rich mafic units) from the Zhob ophiolite.

301 The Zhob plagiogranite dykes with high SiO₂ and low TiO₂ suggest that they were
302 derived by partial melting of gabbroic rocks in the crustal sequence. The Brophy (2009) model
303 on the behavior of REEs and SiO₂ was used to determine the petrogenesis of felsic rock of the
304 Zhob ophiolite (Fig. 10). It is estimated that almost 70% felsic rocks within ophiolite
305 complexes were generated by partial melting of depleted basalts or gabbros (Furnes and Delik,
306 2017). Based on geochemical characteristics and petrogenetic models, the Zhob plagiogranite
307 dykes were formed as a result of high degrees of partial melting in the presence of water from
308 subduction.

309 The mafic dykes of the Zhob ophiolite with high contents of LILEs and the flat pattern
310 of the HFSEs and REEs, with no depletion in the LREEs are indicative of an IAT signature
311 (Figure 12a, 13a). The enrichment of LILEs may be due to either alteration or addition of a
312 slab derived hydrous component to the melt source region, i.e. a depleted mantle wedge.
313 However, the positive anomaly of Th and negative anomaly of Nb relative to other
314 incompatible elements in the NMORB-normalized plots support the latter possibility (e.g.
315 Wood, 1980; Hofmann, 1997). The flat pattern of both the LREEs and the HREEs (with the
316 exception of elements La and Ce) of the dolerite dyke suggest derivation from a depleted
317 mantle source. The mafic rocks of the Zhob ophiolite (basalt and gabbro) have very low
318 contents of La and the plagiogranite and diorite samples plot below the line of partial melting
319 of a highly depleted source with no indication of derivation by fractional crystallization (Fig.
320 10). Hence, both felsic and mafic dyke rocks of the Zhob ophiolite are likely derived from
321 partial melting of a depleted source.

322

323 7.2 Tectonic Setting

324 The Zhob, Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites plagiogranite dykes (Khan, 2000;
325 Kakar et al., 2014) have K_2O and SiO_2 relationships, which suggest that these rocks were
326 formed in oceanic tectonic setting. The Muslim Bagh Ophiolite formed $\sim 80.2 \pm 1.5$ Ma ago
327 (Kakar et al. 2012) in a supra-subduction zone tectonic setting related to the west–northwest
328 dipping subduction (Gnos et al., 1997) of a narrow branch of the Neo-Tethys Ocean (Mahmood
329 et al., 1995; Kakar et al., 2014). Various plots based on LIL elements and HFS elements, e.g.,
330 Fig. 8c and d, suggest that the plagiogranite dykes of the Zhob, Muslim Bagh and Waziristan
331 ophiolites are transitional between volcanic arc granite (VAG) and oceanic ridges granite
332 (ORG). The Nb content of volcanic arc granite (VAG) is less than 15 ppm while in plate granite
333 (WPG) it is more than 15 ppm. The N-MORB normalized pattern of the Zhob plagiogranite
334 shows LREE enrichment relative to HREE with very slight negative Nb and Ta anomalies and
335 a marked depletion in Ti with a positive Th anomaly (Fig. 12a), which indicate that these rocks
336 were generated in N-MORB and island arc settings and are supportive of a supra-subduction
337 zone environment. Volcanic arc plagiogranites are chemically indistinguishable from back arc
338 basin (Supra-subduction) plagiogranites (Pearce et al., 1984). Low TiO_2 contents (0.03 wt. %)
339 and Nb depletion in plagiogranite dyke samples of the Zhob ophiolite indicate a back-arc
340 setting. The Zhob ophiolite dolerite dykes' rocks are transitional between island arc and mid
341 oceanic basalt that disproves a typical mid-ocean ridge origin for these dykes. The depletion of
342 Nb and enrichment of the LILE over the HFSE suggest the involvement of a subduction fluid
343 component in the source region and suggest that both the felsic and mafic dykes are formed in
344 a back-arc basin or supra-subduction zone setting.

345

346 **8 Conclusions**

- 347 1. The Zhob ophiolite contains plagiogranite and dolerite dykes. The felsic dykes are
348 intruded in gabbroic bodies of ultramafic and mafic rock unit as patches, pods and
349 intrusions. The mafic dykes crosscut the whole sequence of the ophiolite and their
350 relationship indicates that the emplacement of the dyke swarms postdated the formation
351 of the Zhob ophiolite.
- 352 2. The felsic plagiogranite dykes of the Zhob ophiolite are calc-alkaline oceanic
353 plagiogranites while dolerite dykes are tholeiitic and basaltic in composition.
- 354 3. The low value of REEs and positive Eu anomaly indicates that these felsic dykes are
355 formed by partial melting of basic rocks under hydrous conditions. The mafic dyke
356 swarms are derived from an undepleted mantle source.

357 4. The enrichment of the LILE over the HFSE and the slight depletion of Nb suggest that
358 both dyke swarms of the Zhob ophiolite are formed in a back-arc basin or supra-
359 subduction zone setting.

360

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366

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550

551

Figures and Tables

552 **Figure 1.** (a) Geotectonic map of the western and north-western boundary of the Indian Plate
553 with Afghan Block showing the ophiolites occurrences (b) shows Khanozai, Muslim Bagh and
554 Zhob Ophiolites and surrounding sedimentary rocks (c, d and e) Geological map of Naweoba,
555 Omzha blocks and Ali Khanzai blocks of the Zhob ophiolite. BO; Bela Ophiolite, KO;
556 Khanozai Ophiolite, MO; Muslim Bagh Ophiolite, ZO; Waziristan Ophiolite, ZO; Zhob
557 Ophiolite, DO; Dargai Ophiolite, CO; Chilas Ophiolite, CF; Chaman Fault, PS; Penjwai Suture,
558 HF; Herat Fault, KB; Karakorum Block; MMT; Main Mantle Thrust; MBT; Main Boundary
559 Thrust (modified after Jones, 1961; Naeem et al, 2021).

560 **Figure 2.** Field photographs showing, (a) a network of felsic veins (b) plagiogranite intruding
561 gabbroic rock the intruded in the gabbroic rocks of the Zhob ophiolite (c) granitic rock intrusion
562 in mafic rocks in the south of Yaseenzai Killi of the Omzha block (d) plagiogranite inclusions
563 in serpentine mélanges (e) highly altered plagiogranite body in the Ali Khanzai block near
564 Babar Killi (f) large intrusion of plagiogranite bodies in plutonic rocks near Naweoba Killi in
565 Naweoba block

566 **Figure 3.** Field photographs showing, (a) dolerite dykes in ultramafic rocks in Naweoba block
567 (b) in Omzha block (c) dolerite dykes (d) close-up view of dolerite dykes in gabbroic rocks in
568 Naweoba block (e) chilled margin of dolerites near the Shiakhan Killi north of Ali Khanzai
569 block (f) sharp intrusive contact of dolerite dykes with peridotite rocks in Ali Khanzai block
570 (g) dolerite dykes near Konni Killi south of Omzha Block (h) dolerite rocks in dunite and
571 harzburgite in Naweoba block.

572 **Figure 4.** (a) plagiogranite showing subhedral quartz surrounded by epidote aggregates (XPL)
573 (b) plagiogranite with large crystals of euhedral to subhedral plagioclase with quartz and minor
574 amphibole (XPL) (c) plagiogranite containing plagioclase, quartz, minor clinopyroxene and
575 euhedral crystals of zircon (XPL) (d) massive plagiogranite with subhedral to anhedral,
576 hypidiomorphic and inter-granular texture and anhedral to subhedral crystals of plagioclase
577 with quartz (XPL) (e) clinopyroxene in the plagiogranite partially altered to chlorite (XPL). (f)
578 plagiogranite showing quartz, plagioclase and deformed biotite with inter-grown muscovite
579 (XPL).

580 **Figure 5.** (a and b) Naweoba block dolerite dyke with sub ophitic texture and shows
581 chloritization and fine quartz aggregates (a. PPL, b. XPL) (c and d) Omzha block dolerite dyke
582 showing granular and interlocking contacts between plagioclase and pyroxene crystals (c. PPL,
583 d. XPL). (e and f) Ali Khanzai block dolerite dyke with anhedral to subhedral plagioclase
584 phenocrysts and augite phenocrysts with chloritization (e. PPL, f. XPL) (g and h) plagioclase
585 laths penetrating pyroxene and hornblende (g. PPL, h. XPL).

586 **Figure 6. (a)** Diagrams of MgO versus representative major and trace elements of the felsic
587 dykes (blue) **(b)** diagrams of MgO versus selected major and trace elements of the mafic dykes
588 (yellow) of the Zhob ophiolite. The analyses from the Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites
589 are taken from (Kakar et al., 2014; Khan, 2000) respectively.

590 **Figure 7. (a)** Diagrams of Zr versus representative major and trace elements of the felsic dykes
591 (blue) **(b)** diagrams of Zr versus selected major and trace elements of the mafic dykes (orange)
592 of the Zhob ophiolite. The analyses from the Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites are taken
593 from Kakar et al. (2014) and Khan, (2000). respectively.

594 **Figure 8. (a)** Total alkali versus SiO₂ plot of the mafic dolerite dykes (yellow), (after Le Bas
595 et al., 1986). **(b)** Classification of altered mafic dolerite dykes (yellow) of Zhob ophiolite using
596 the Th–Co classification diagram (immobile trace elements) (after Hastie et al., 2007). The
597 analyses from the Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites are taken from Kakar et al. (2014)
598 and Khan, (2000), respectively.

599 **Figure 9. (a)** Tectonic discrimination plots of the Zhob ophiolite granite SiO₂ versus K₂O plot
600 (after Coleman and Peterman, 1985) **(b)** Co versus Th classification of altered granite using
601 immobile trace elements (after Hastie et al., 2007) **(c)** Nb versus Y plot diagram (Pearce et al.,
602 1984) **(d)** Nb/Y versus Y tectonic discrimination diagram (after Jenner et al., 1991). The
603 analyses from the Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites are taken from Kakar et al. (2014)
604 and Khan, (2000), respectively.

605 **Figure 10.** Felsic rocks and diorite dykes of the Zhob ophiolite are shown on La-SiO₂ diagram
606 which is used to help determine the partial melting and fractional crystallization trend
607 (Modified after Brophy, 2009).

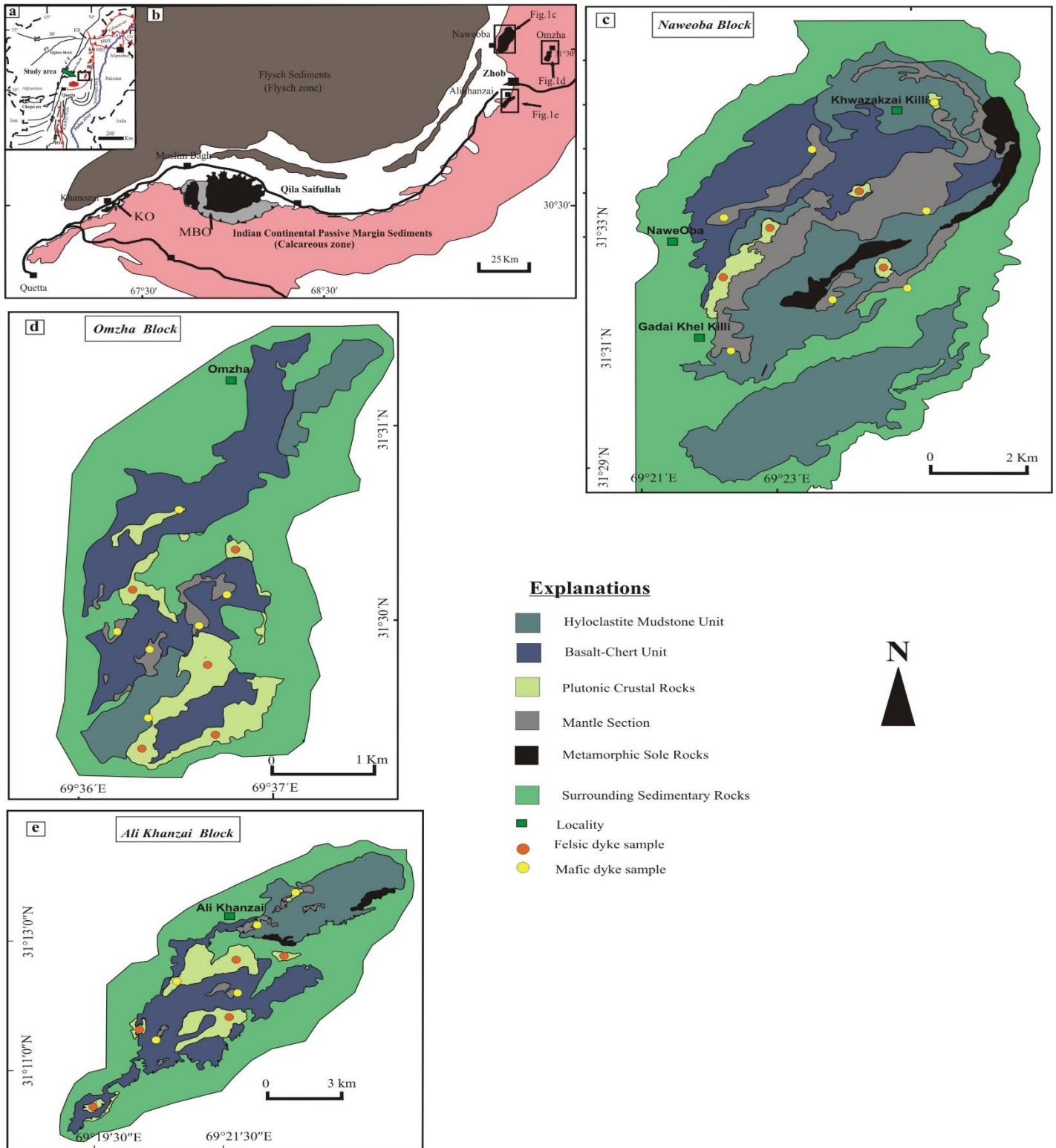
608 **Figure 11. (a)** Tectonic discrimination diagram of mafic dolerite dykes (yellow) on Zr/Ti
609 versus Nb/Y (after Pearce, 1996) **(b)** Zr/P₂O₅ versus TiO₂ diagram (after Winchester and Floyd,
610 1976) **(c)** Nb/Y versus Ti/Y diagram (after Pearce, 1982) **(d)** Zr versus Ti diagram (after Pearce
611 et al., 1981) **(e)** Nb/Y versus Y tectonic discrimination diagram (after Jenner et al., 1991) **(f)**
612 Ti versus V diagram (after Dilek et al., 2011) **(g)** Na₂O versus K₂O diagram (after Middlemost,
613 1975) **(h)** MnO/TiO₂/P₂O₅ triangular diagram (after Mullen, 1983) **(i)** Ba versus Zr
614 tectonomagmatic discrimination diagram (after Saunders and Tarney, 1991). The analyses of
615 the Muslim Bagh and Waziristan ophiolites are taken from Kakar et al. (2014) and Khan,
616 (2000), respectively.

617 **Figure 12. (a)** Multi-element N-MORB normalized diagram of the felsic granite dykes (blue)
618 of the Zhob ophiolite **(b)** chondrite normalized REE diagrams of the felsic granite dykes (blue)
619 of the Zhob ophiolite (after Sun and McDonough, 1989). The analyses from the Muslim Bagh
620 ophiolite are taken from Kakar et al., (2014).

621 **Figure 13. (a)** Multi-element N-MORB normalized diagram of the mafic dolerite dykes
622 (yellow) of the Zhob ophiolite **(b)** chondrite normalized REE diagrams of the mafic dolerite
623 dykes (yellow) of the Zhob ophiolite (after Sun and McDonough, 1989). The analyses from the
624 Muslim Bagh ophiolite are taken from Kakar et al., (2014).

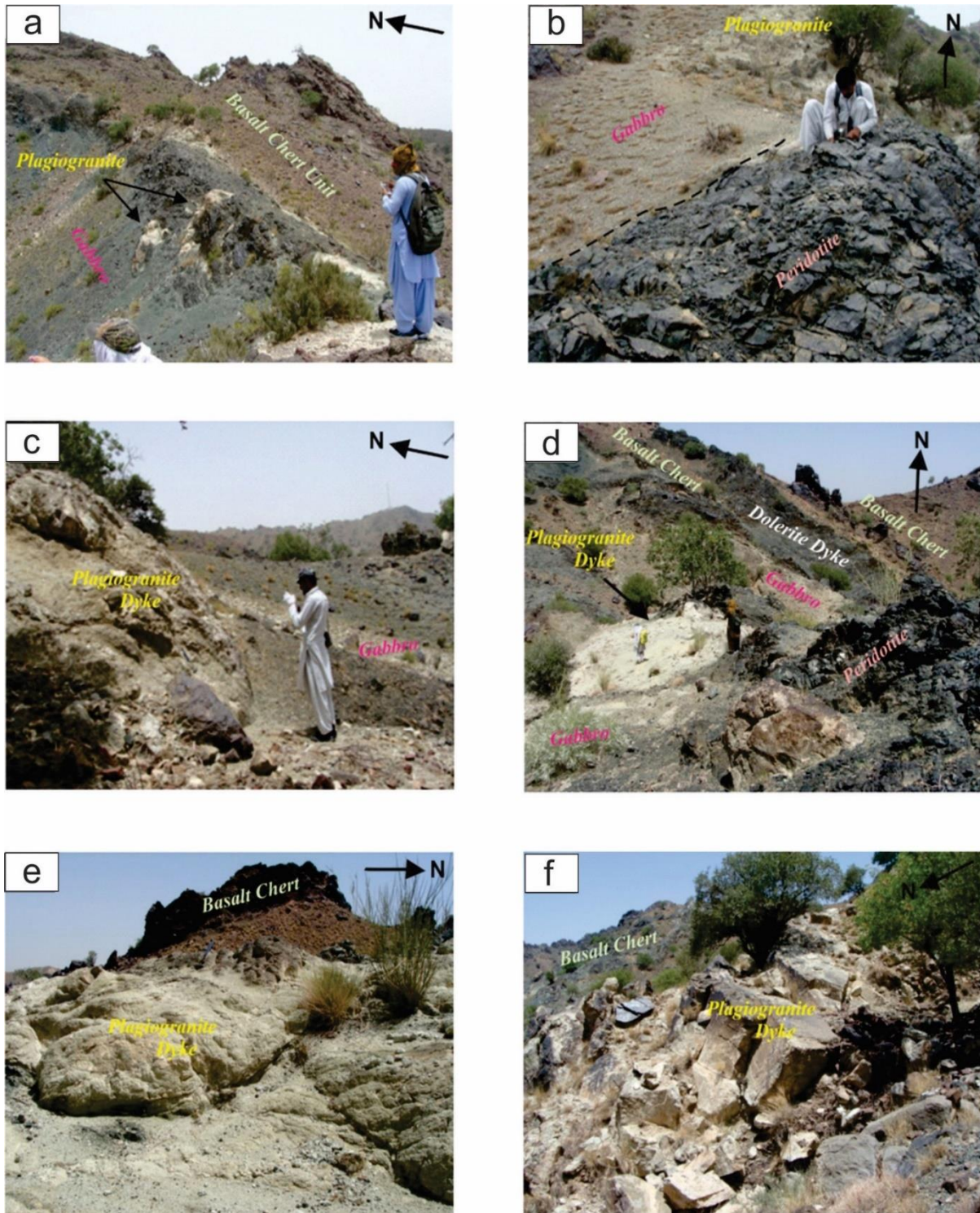
625 **Table 1.** Major oxides (wt %), trace and REE elements (ppm) of the dolerite and plagiogranite
 626 dykes of the Zhob ophiolite.
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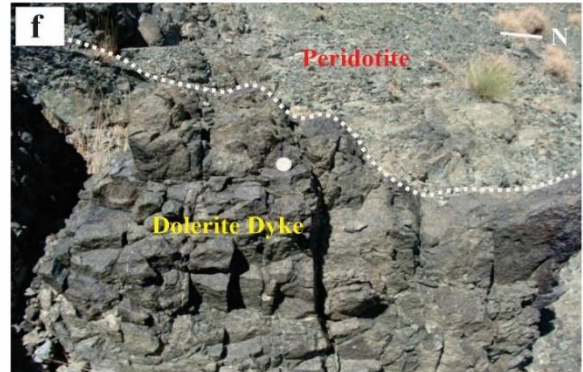
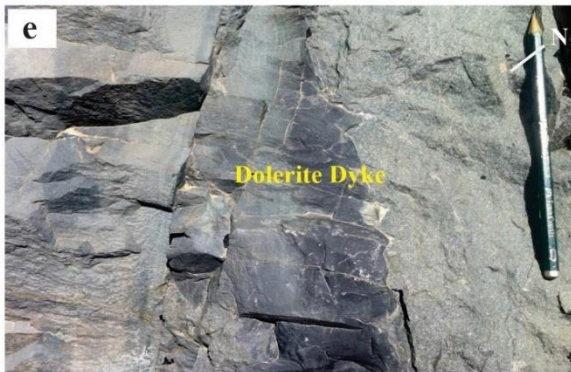
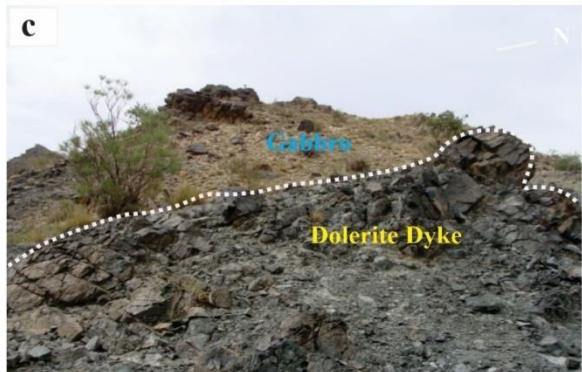
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631 **Figure 1.**



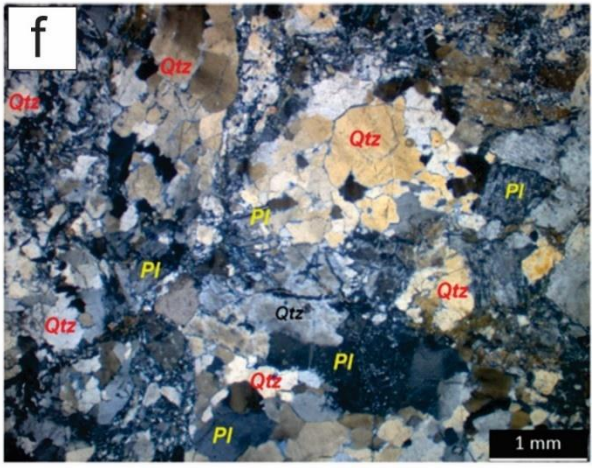
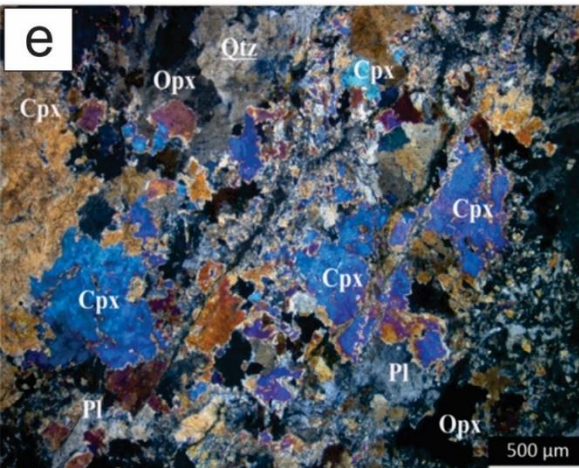
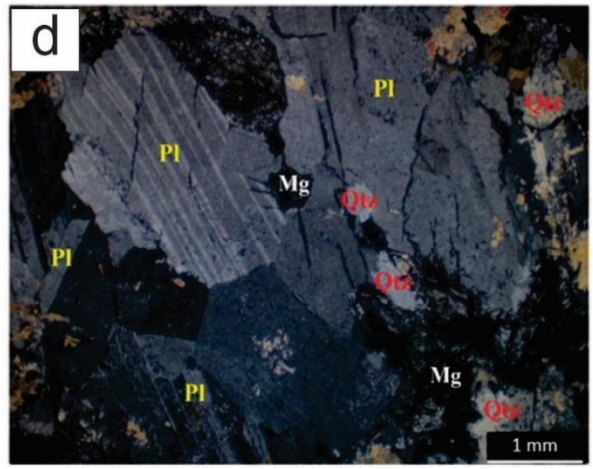
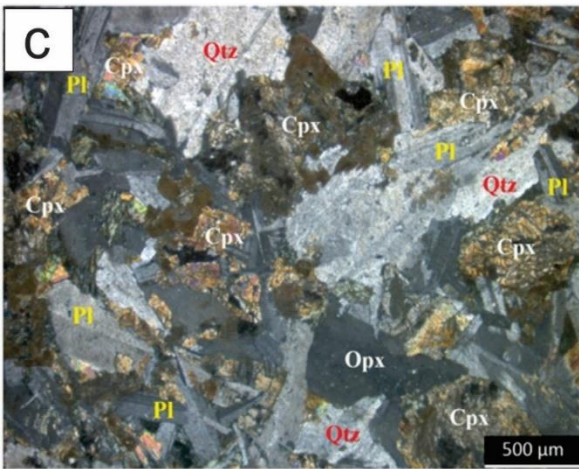
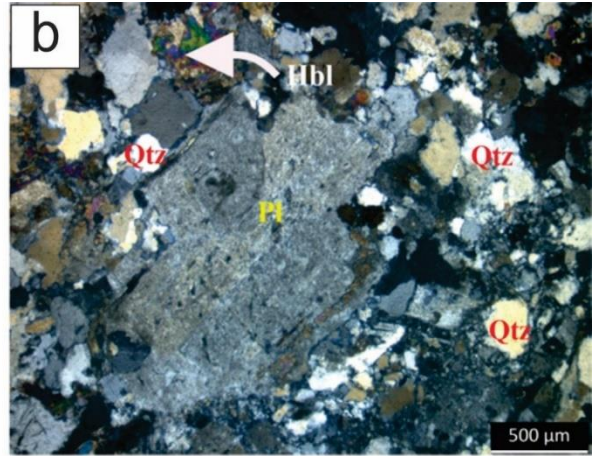
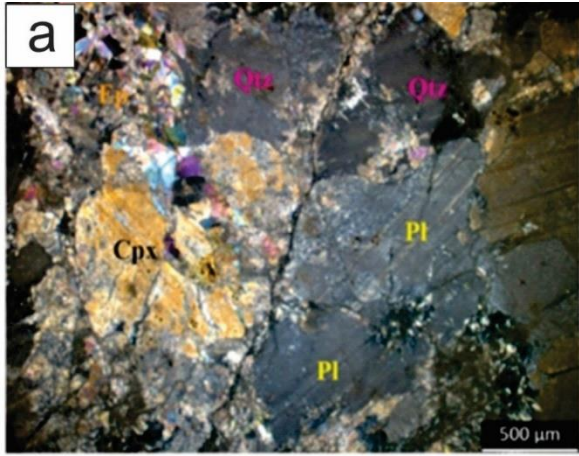
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633 **Figure 2.**



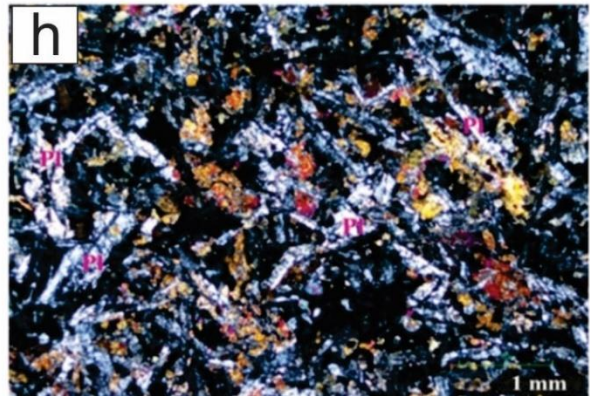
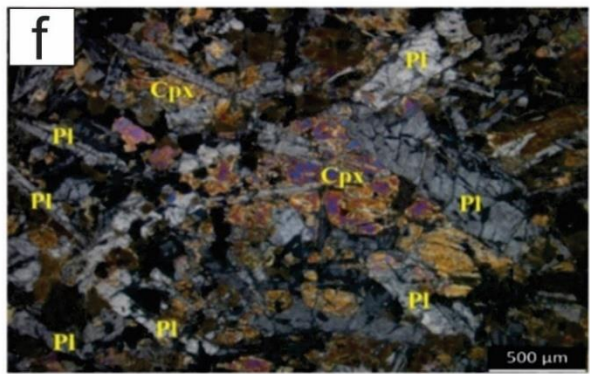
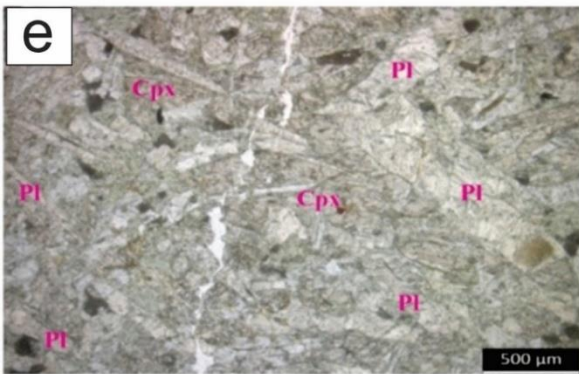
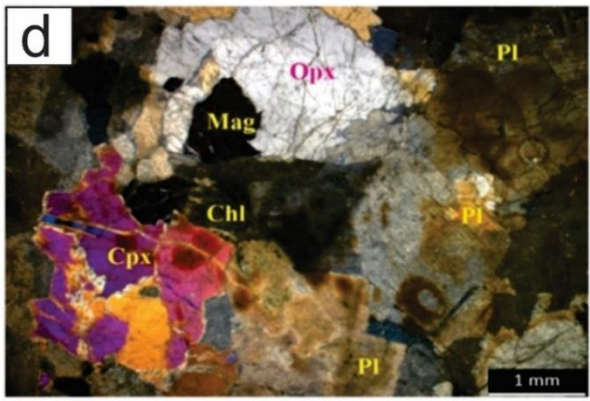
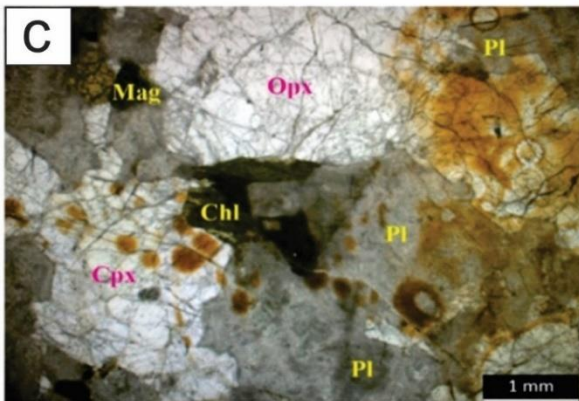
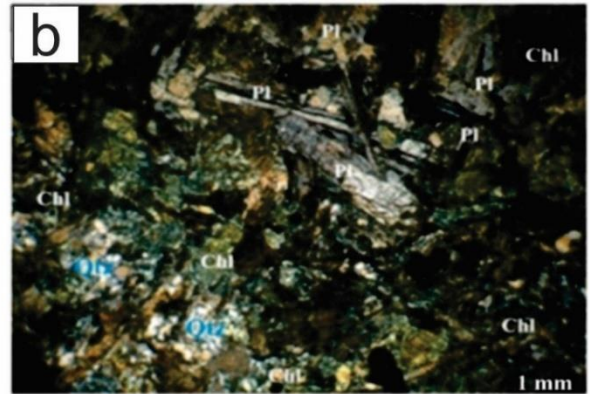
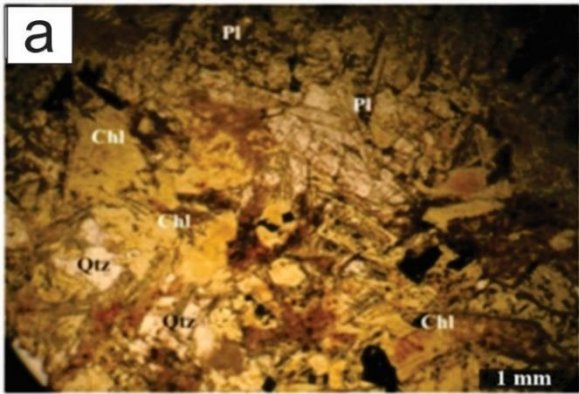
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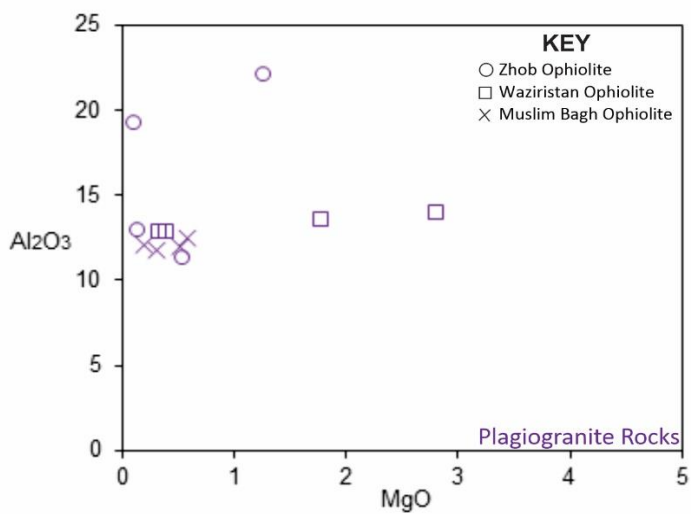
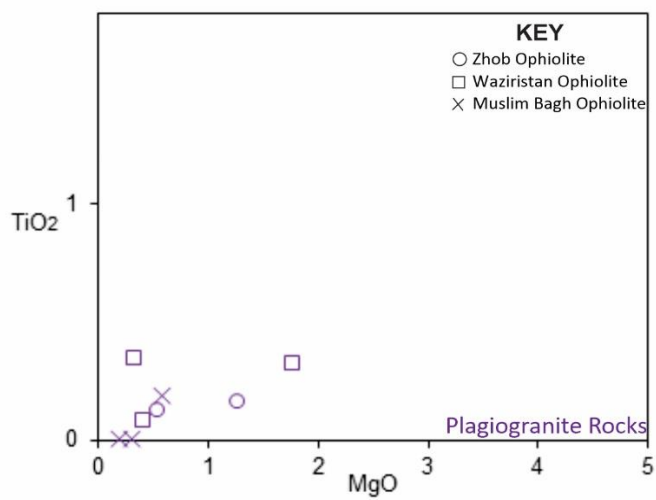
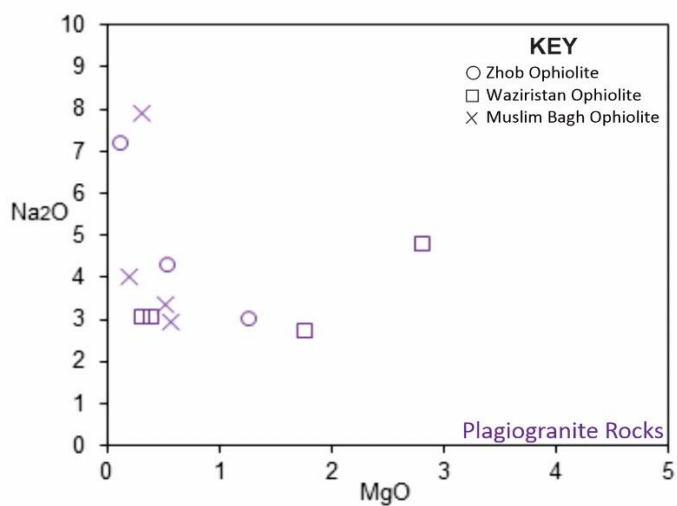
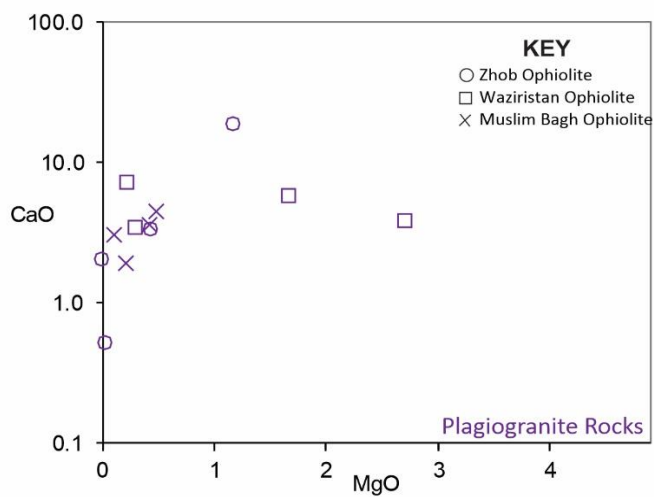
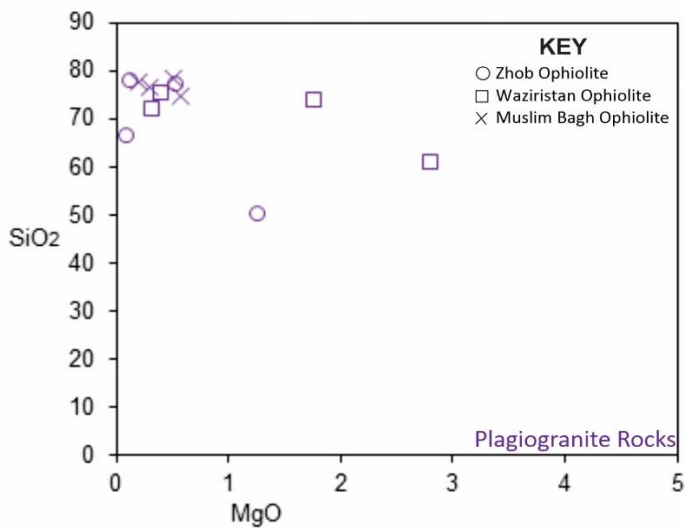
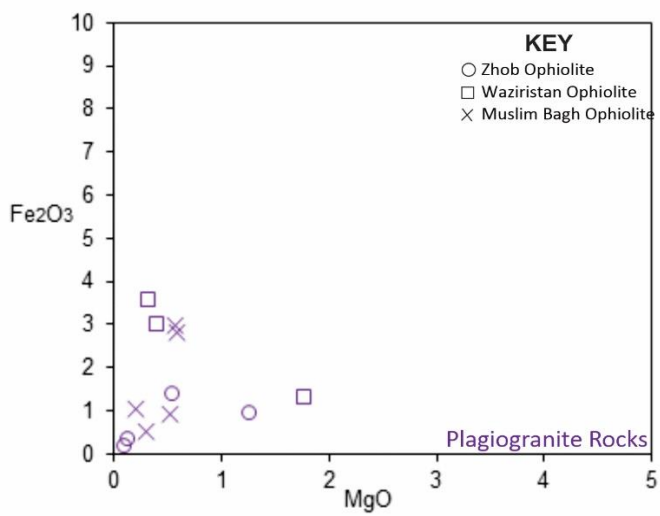
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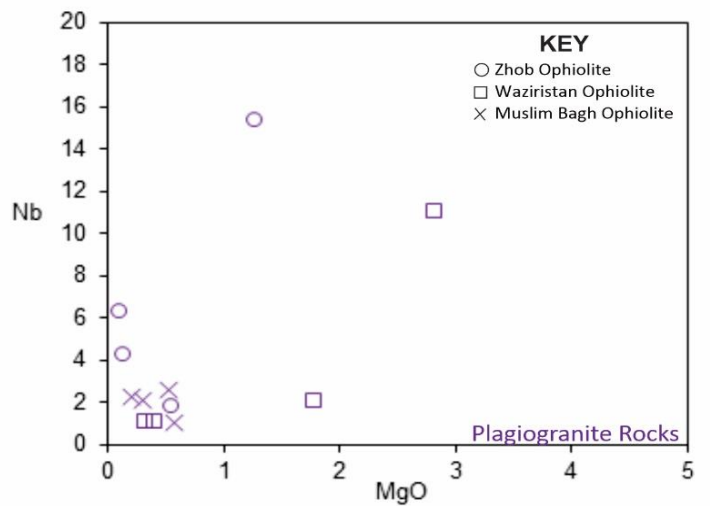
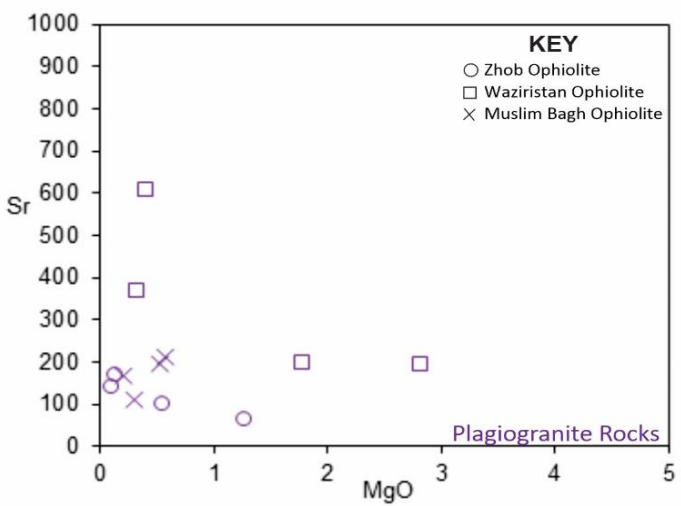
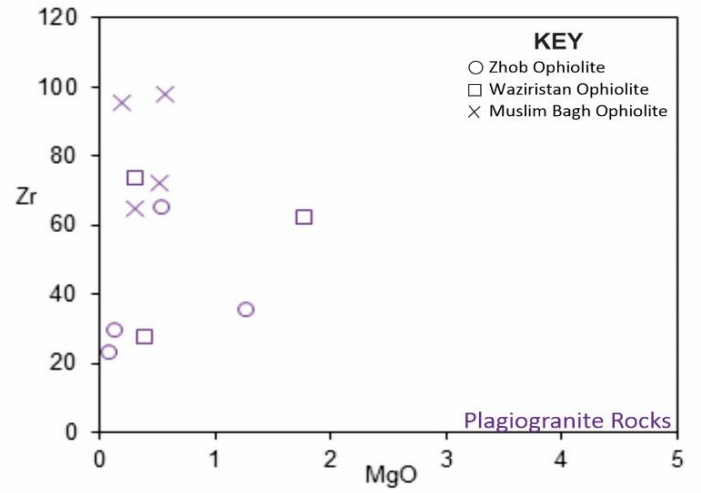
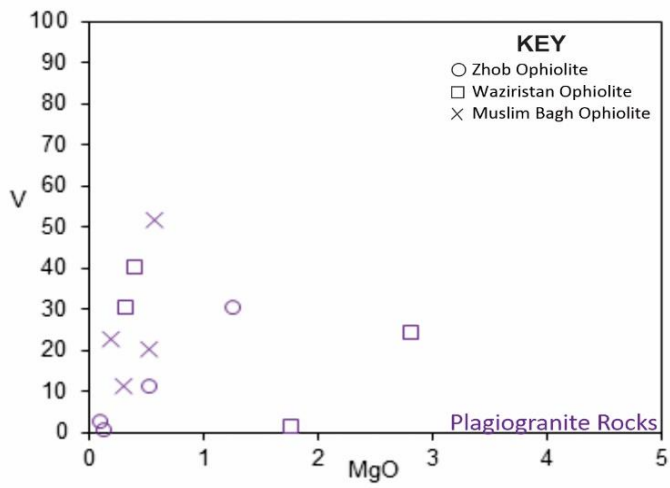
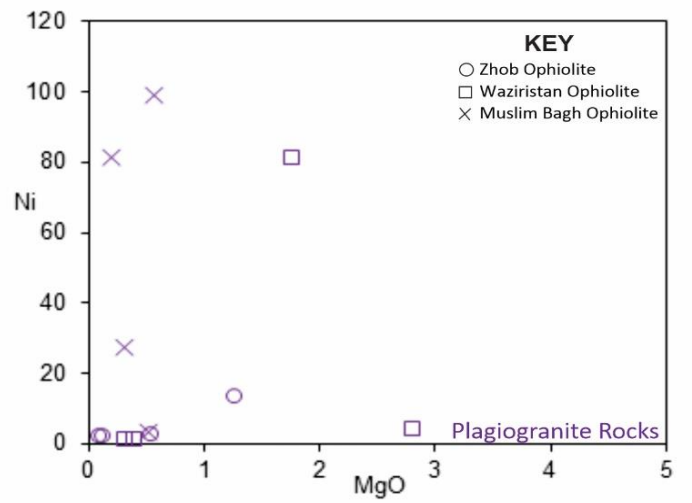
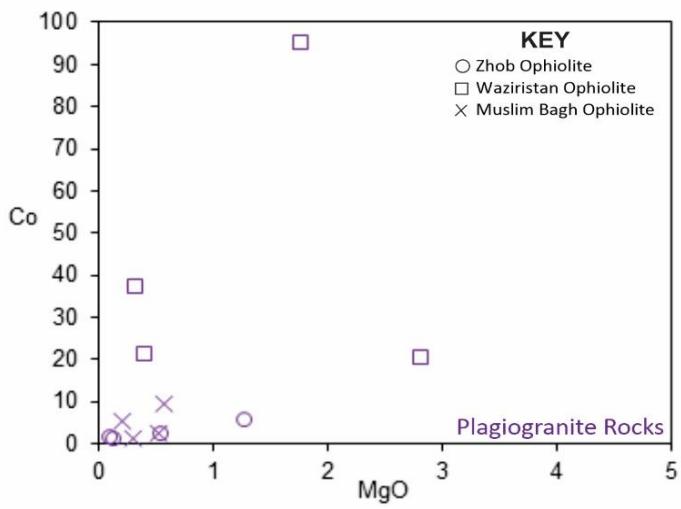
637 **Figure 4.**



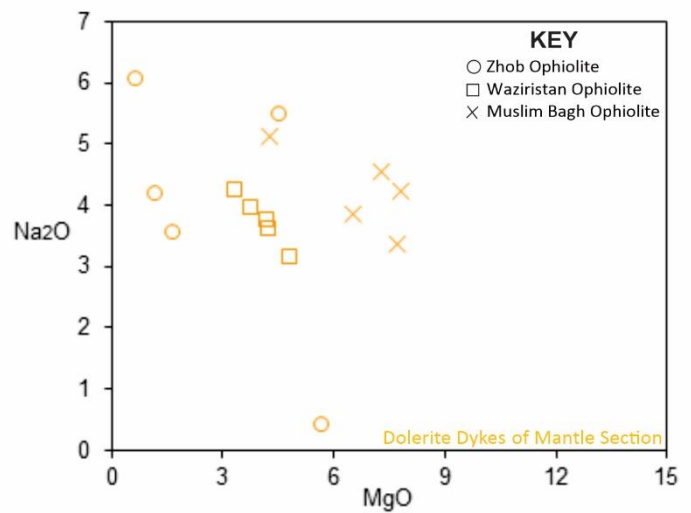
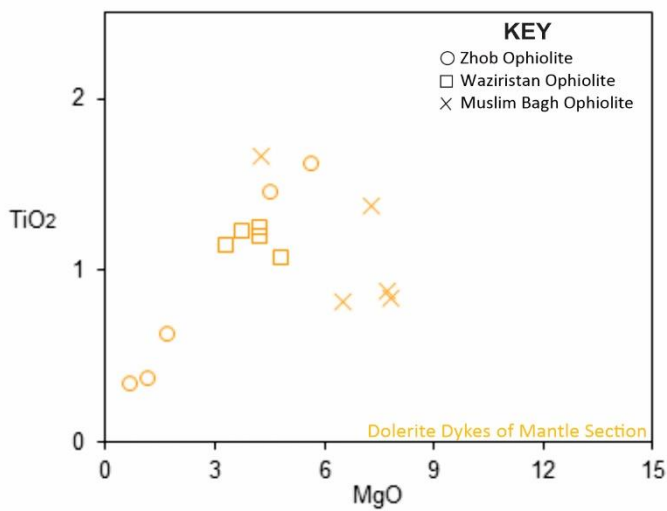
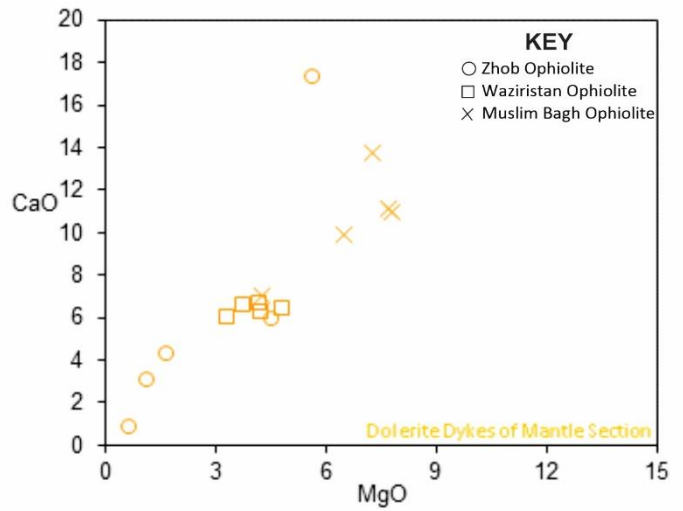
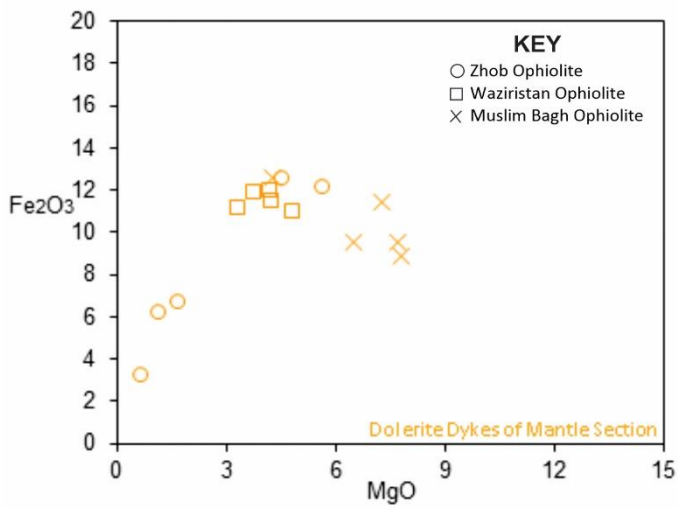
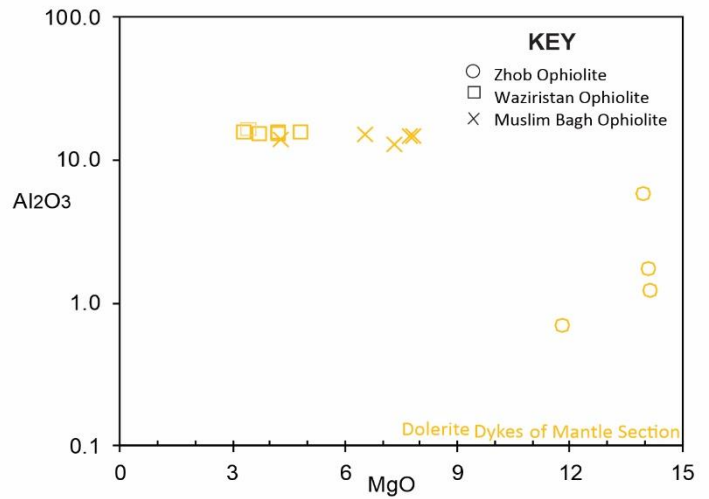
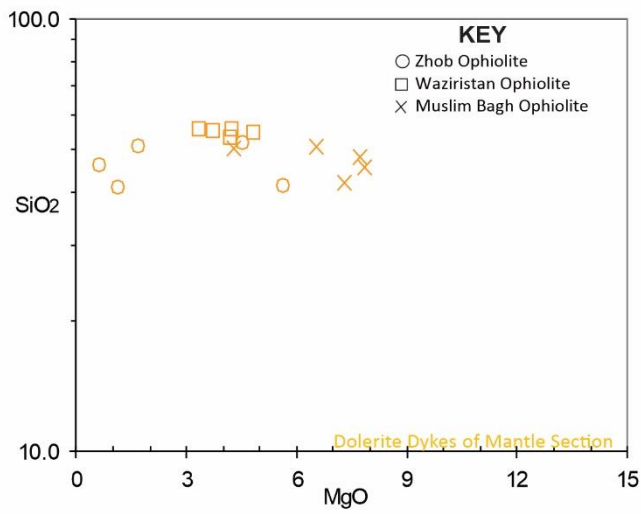
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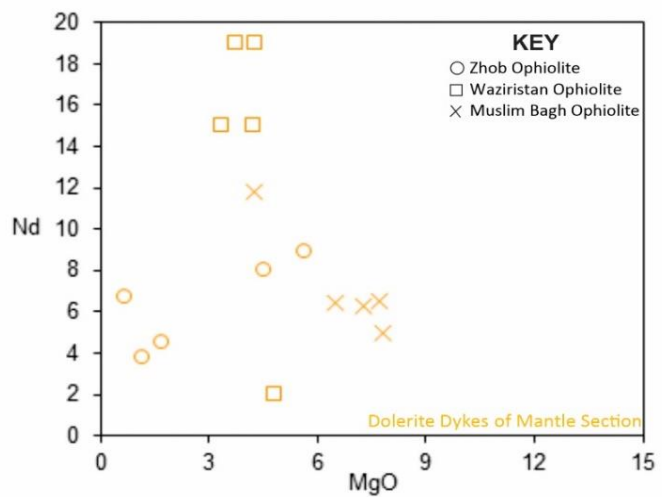
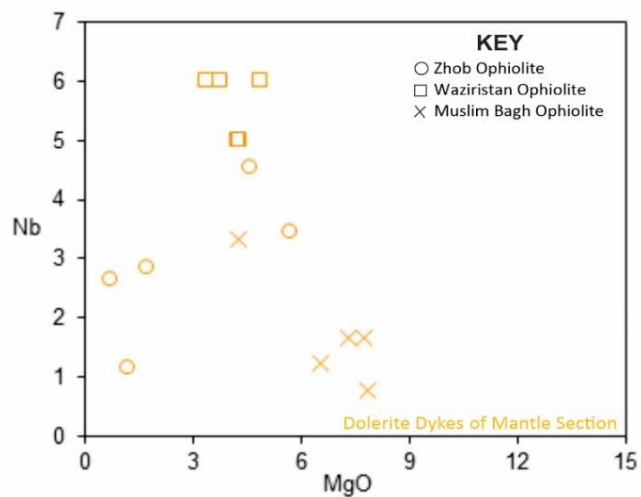
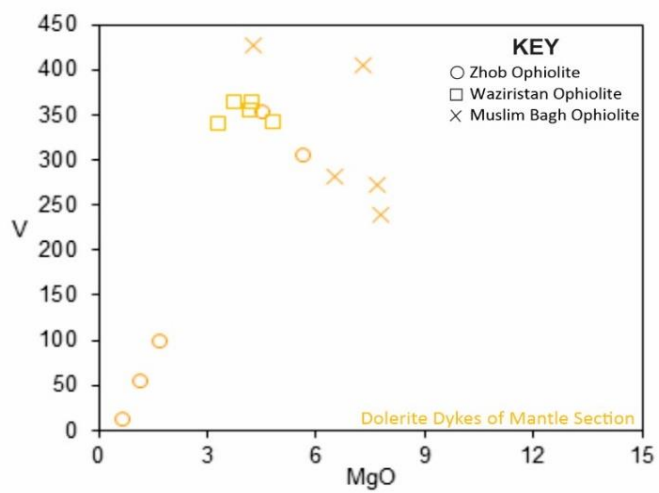
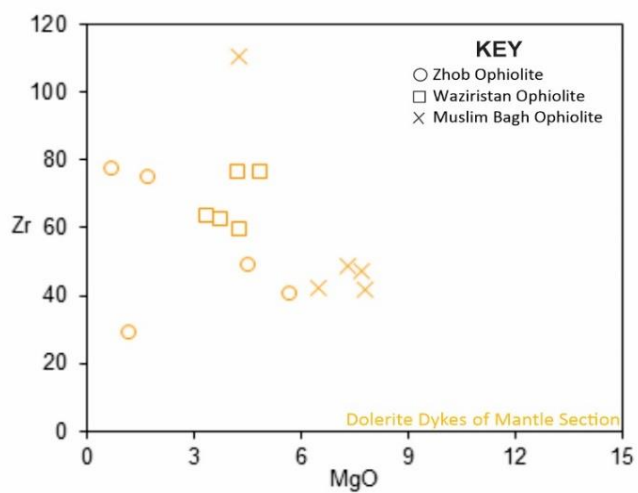
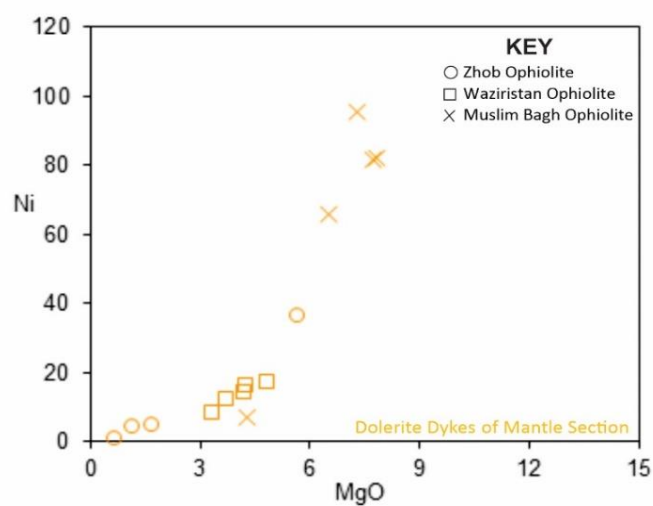
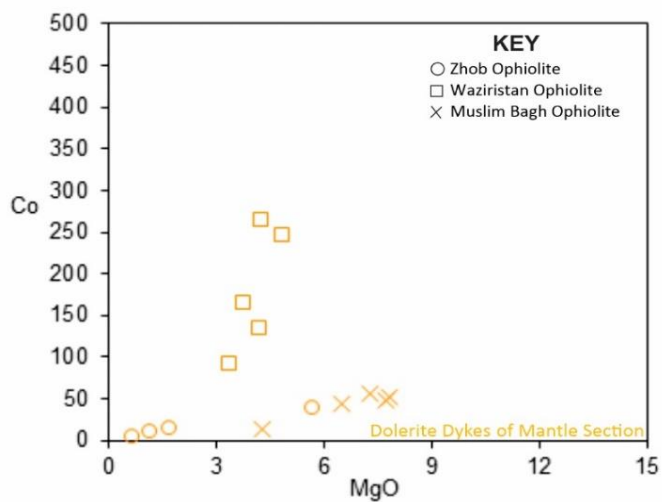
639 Figure 5.



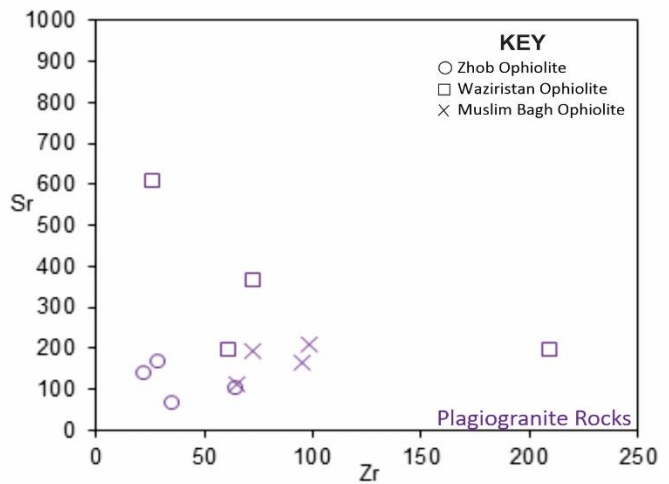
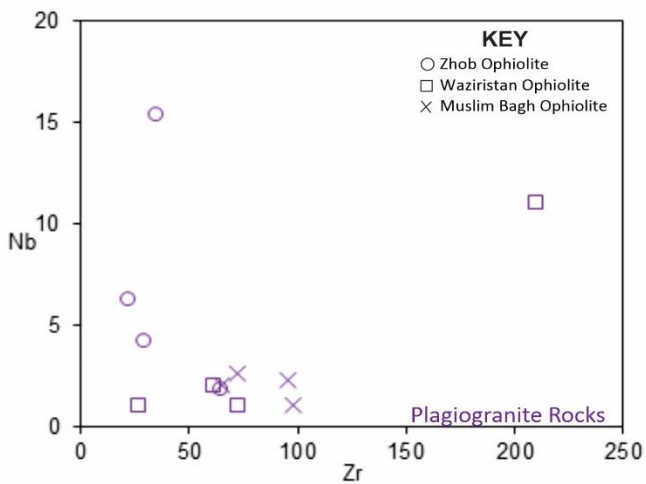
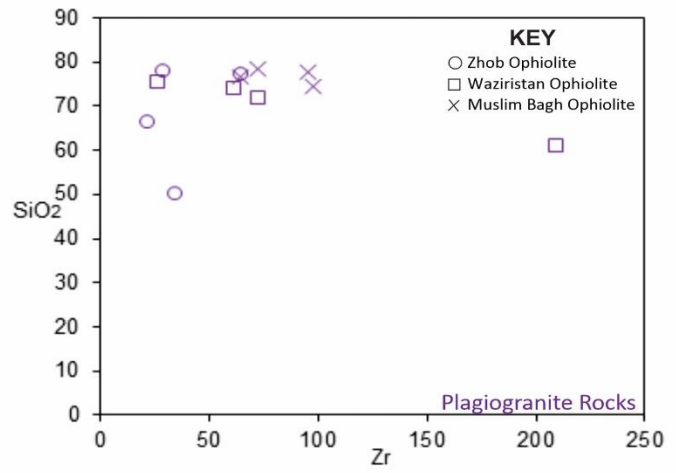
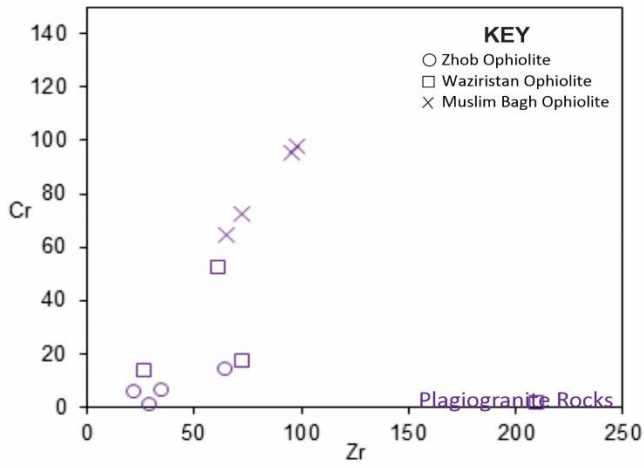
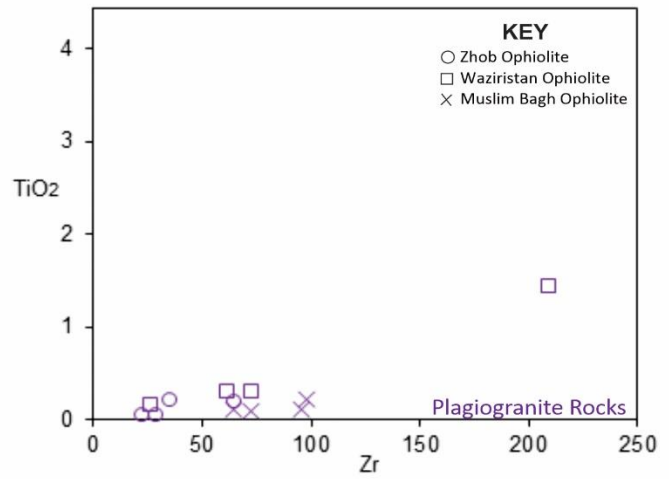
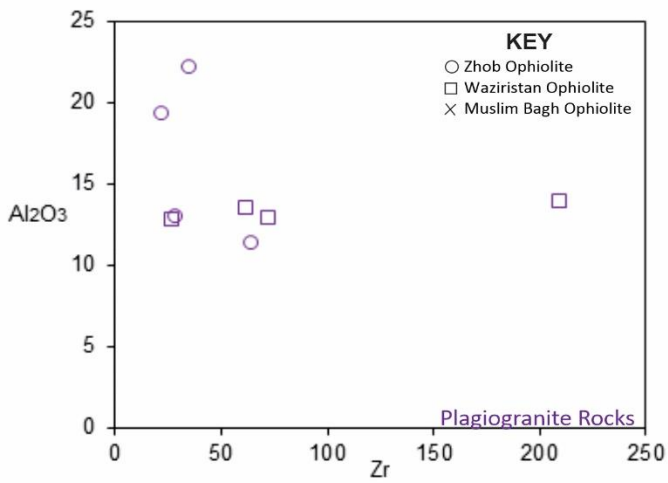


642 Figure 6a.

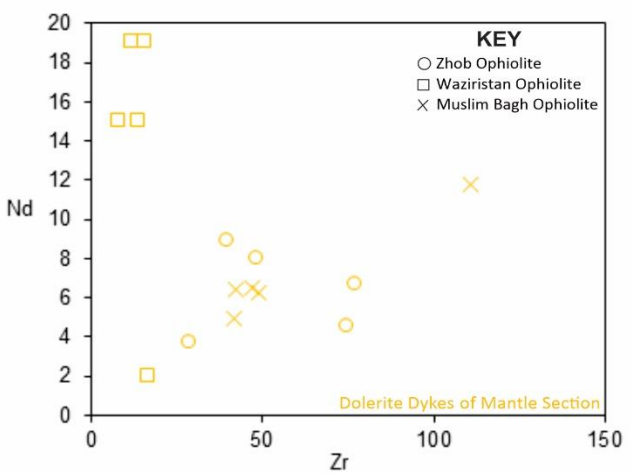
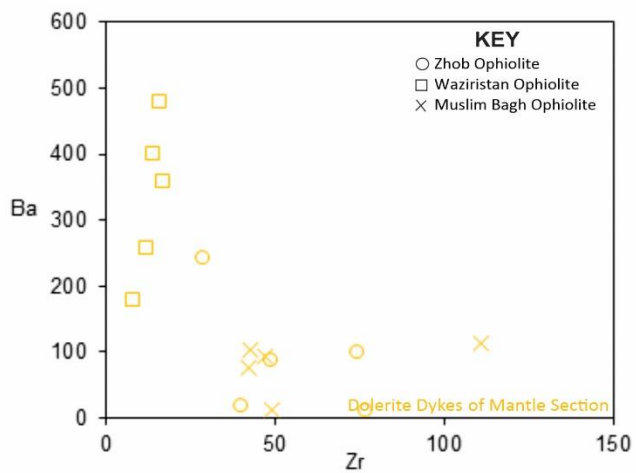
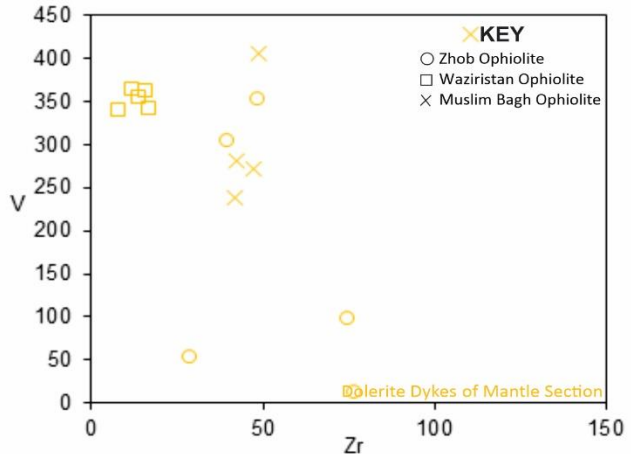
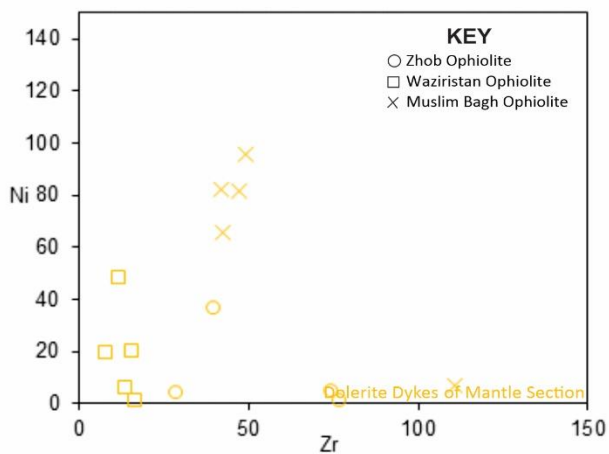
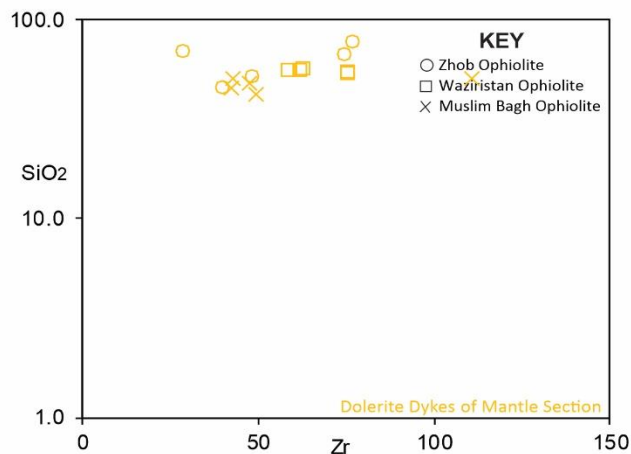
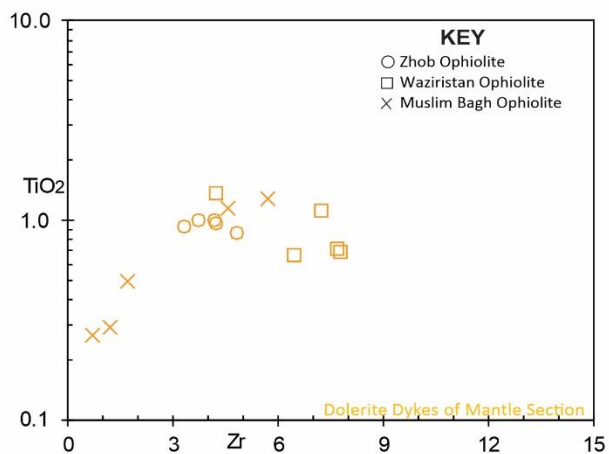




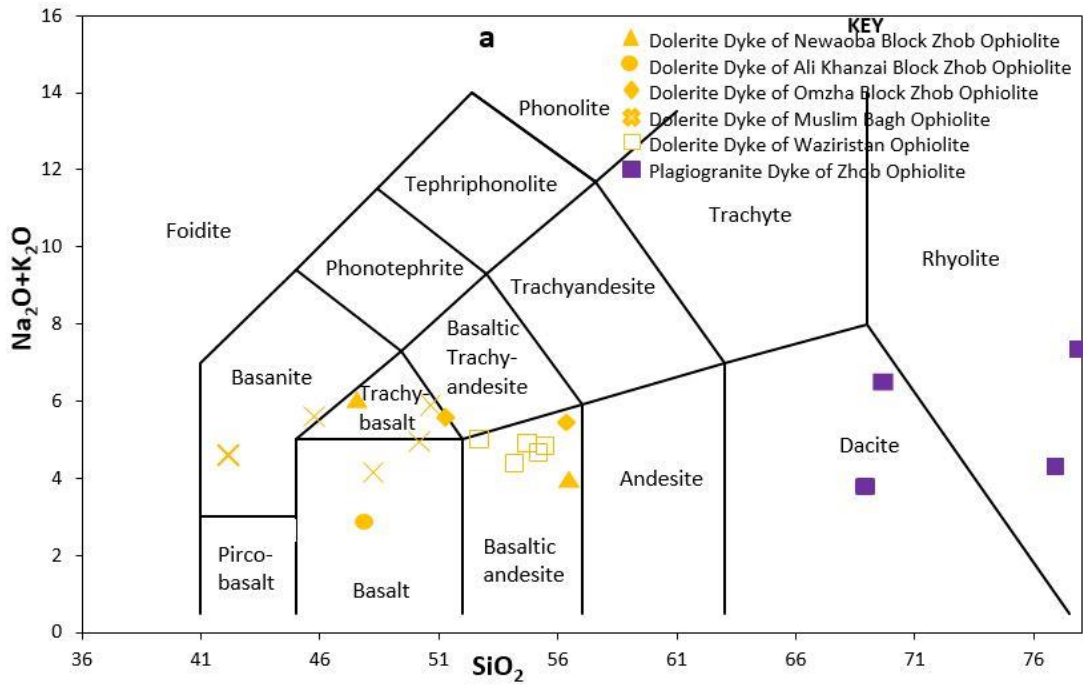
646 **Figure 6b.**



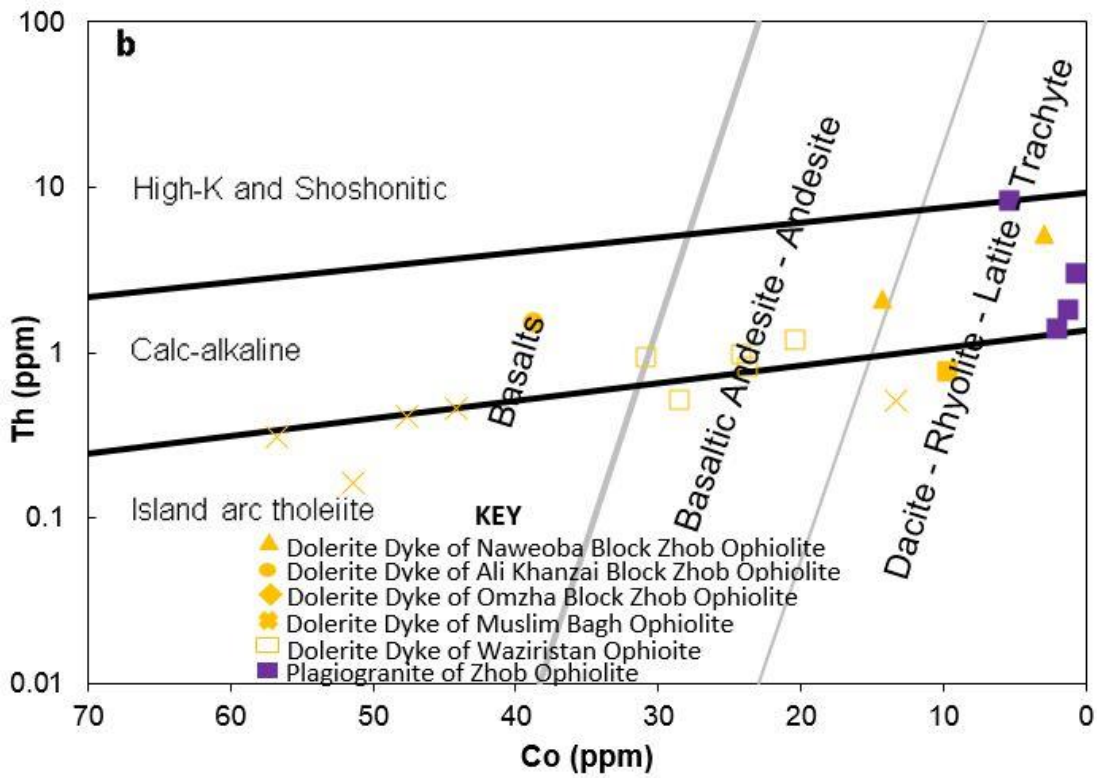
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 649 **Figure 7a.**



651 **Figure 7b.**



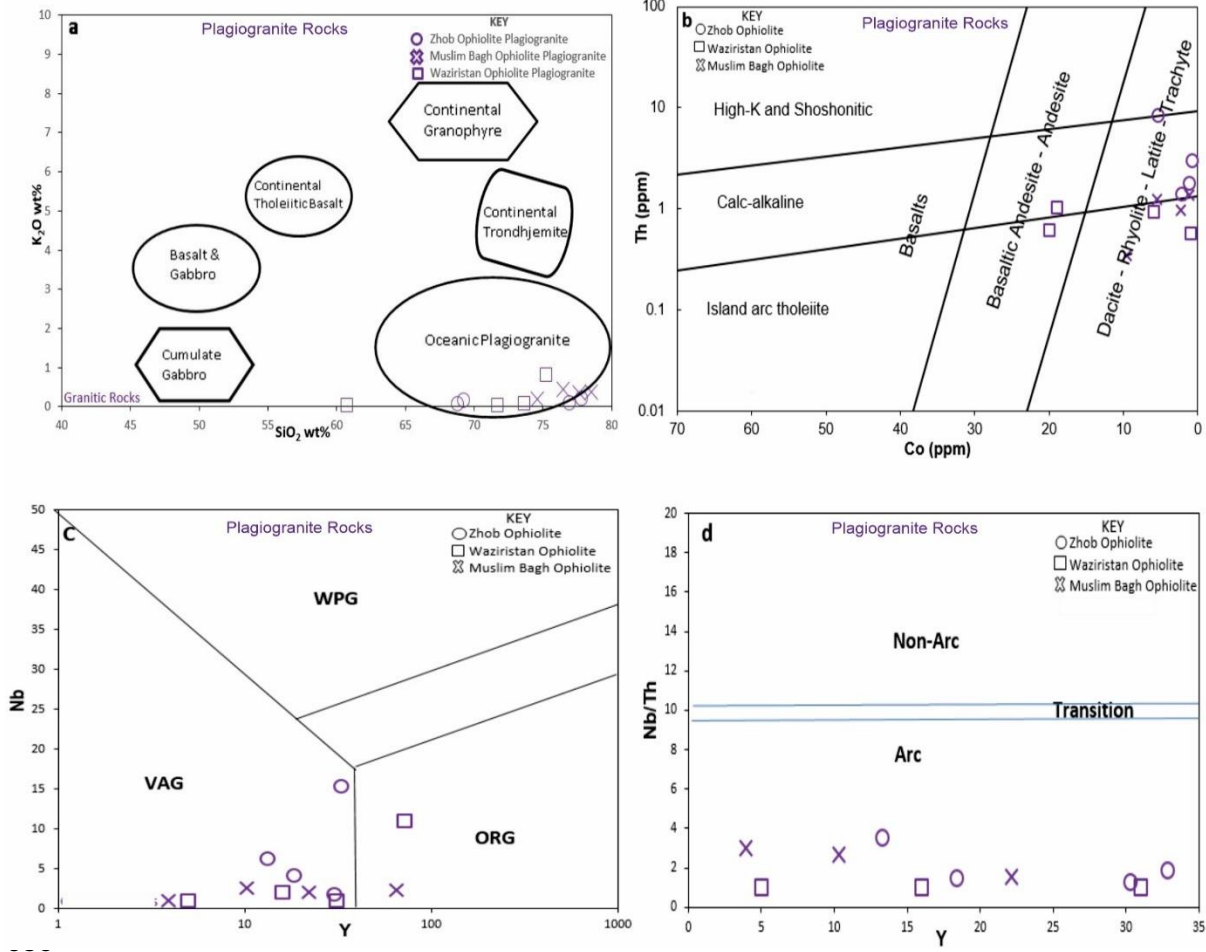
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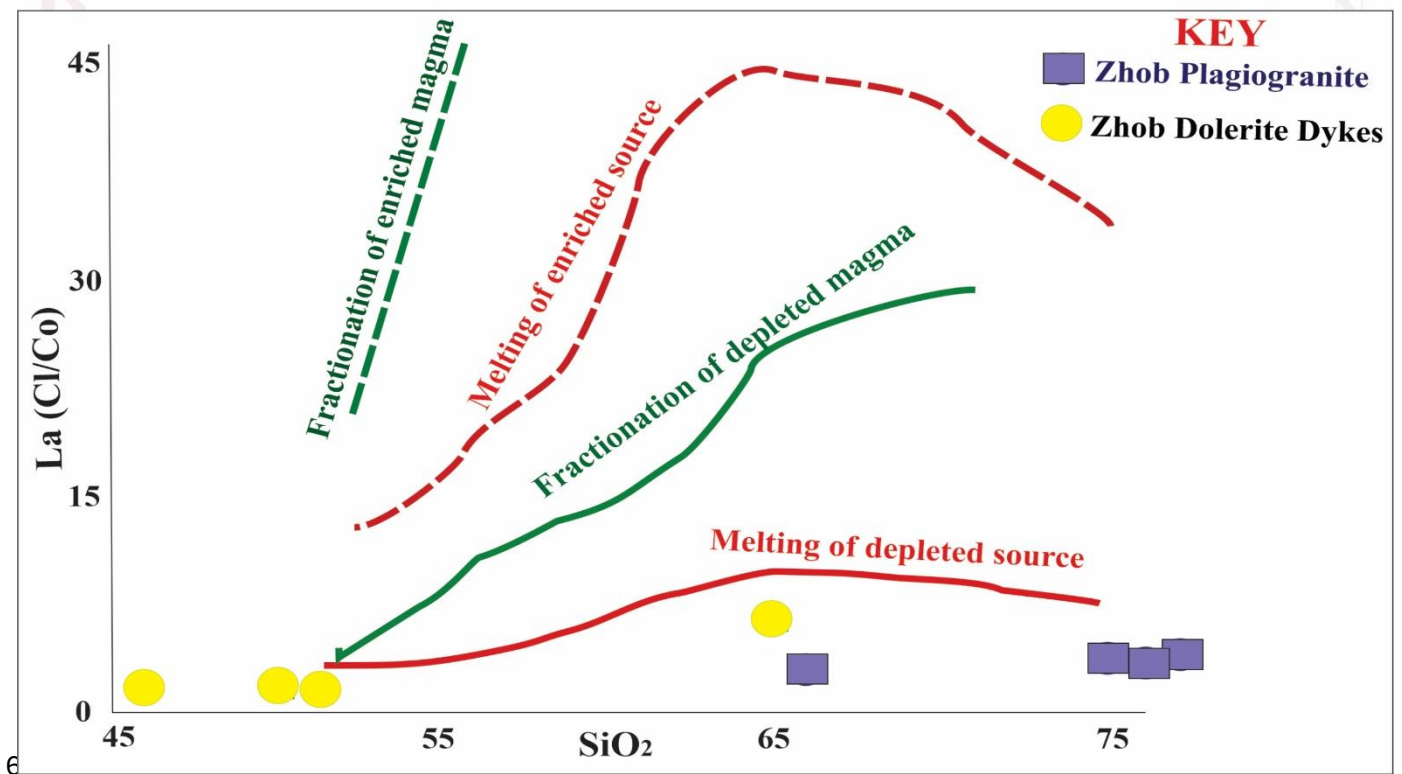
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655 **Figure 8.**



657 **Figure 9.**

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661 **Figure 10.**

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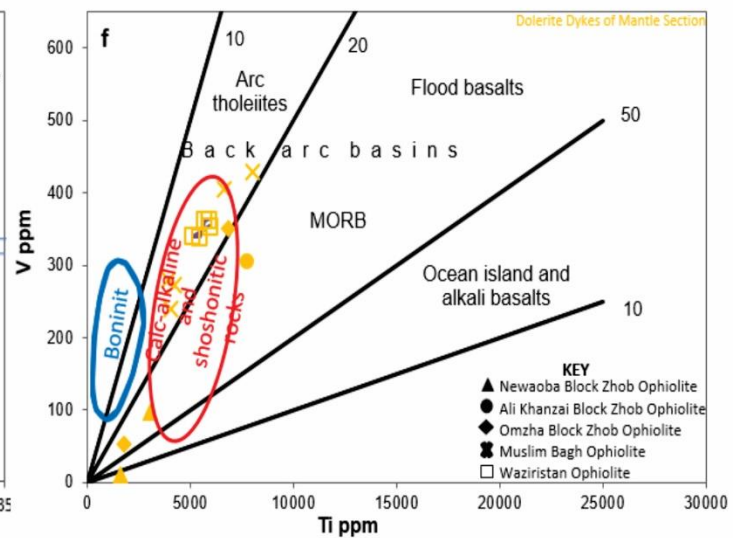
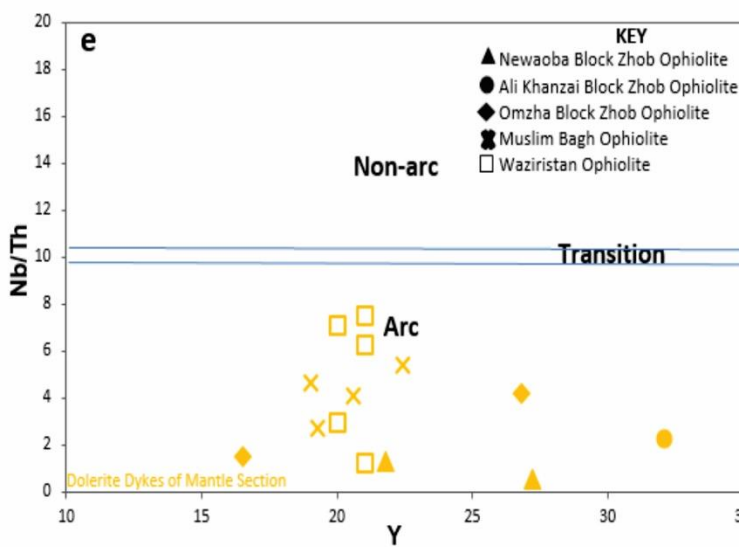
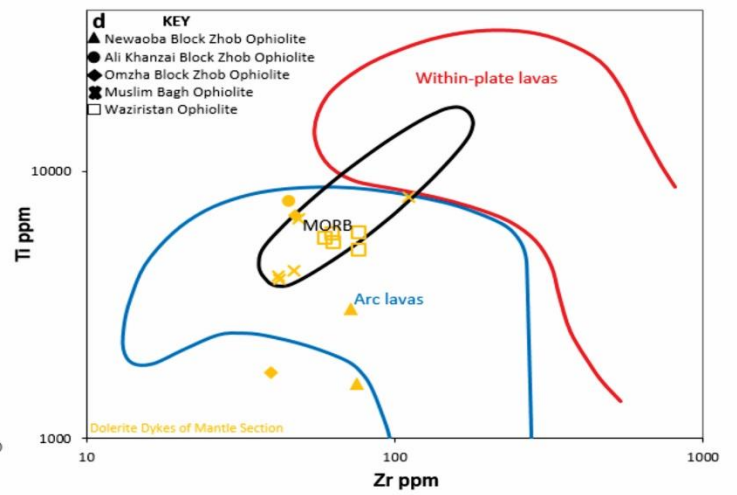
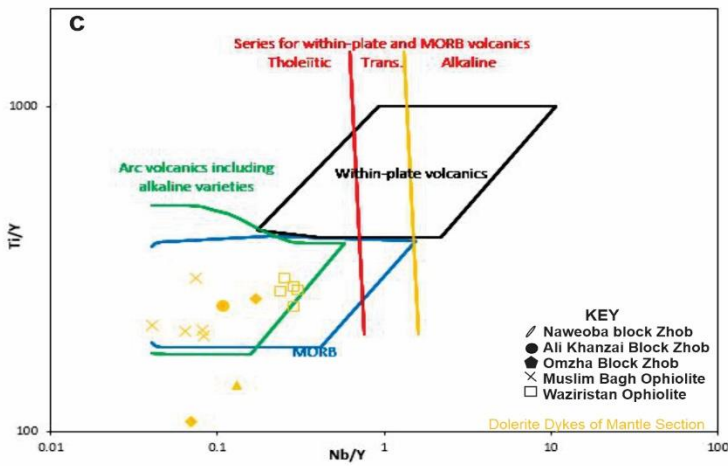
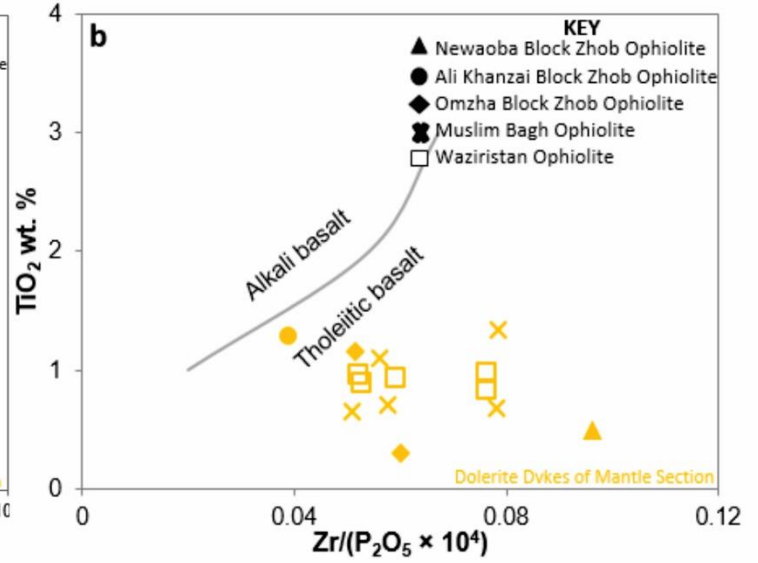
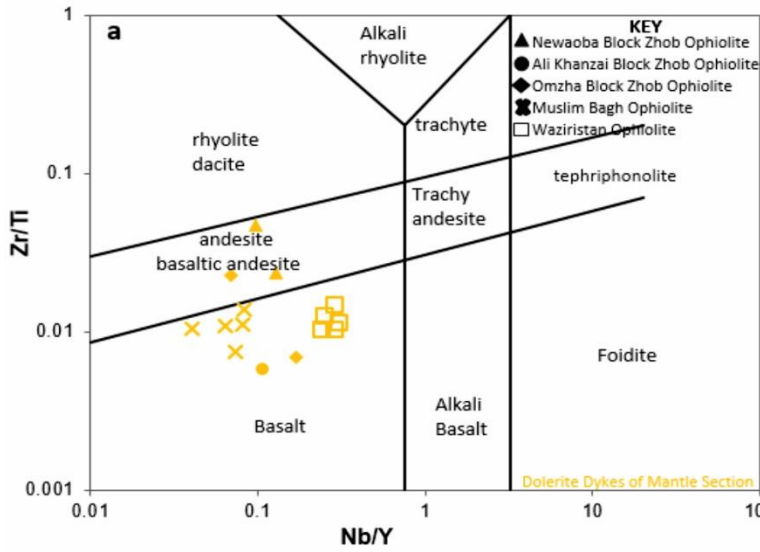
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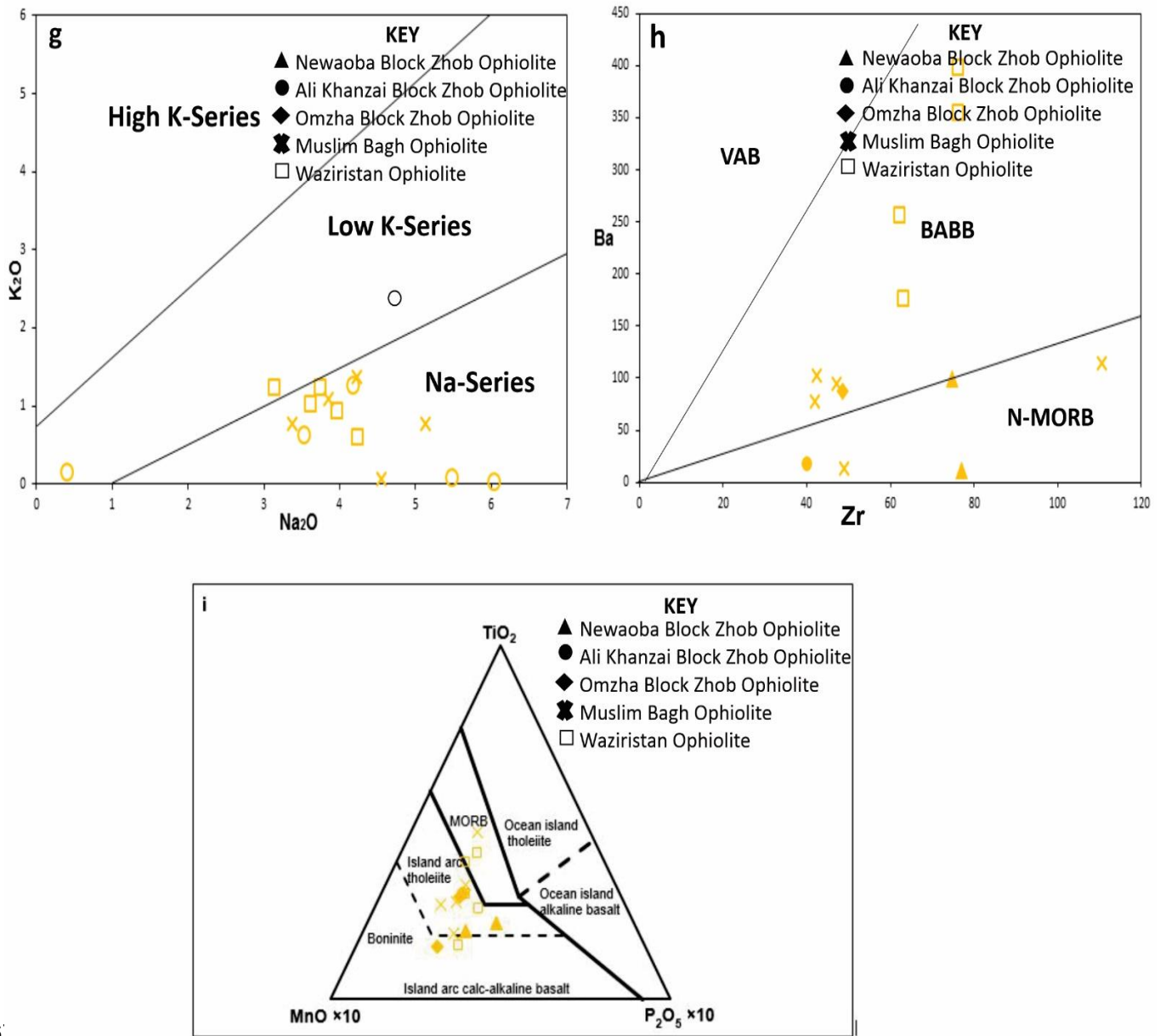
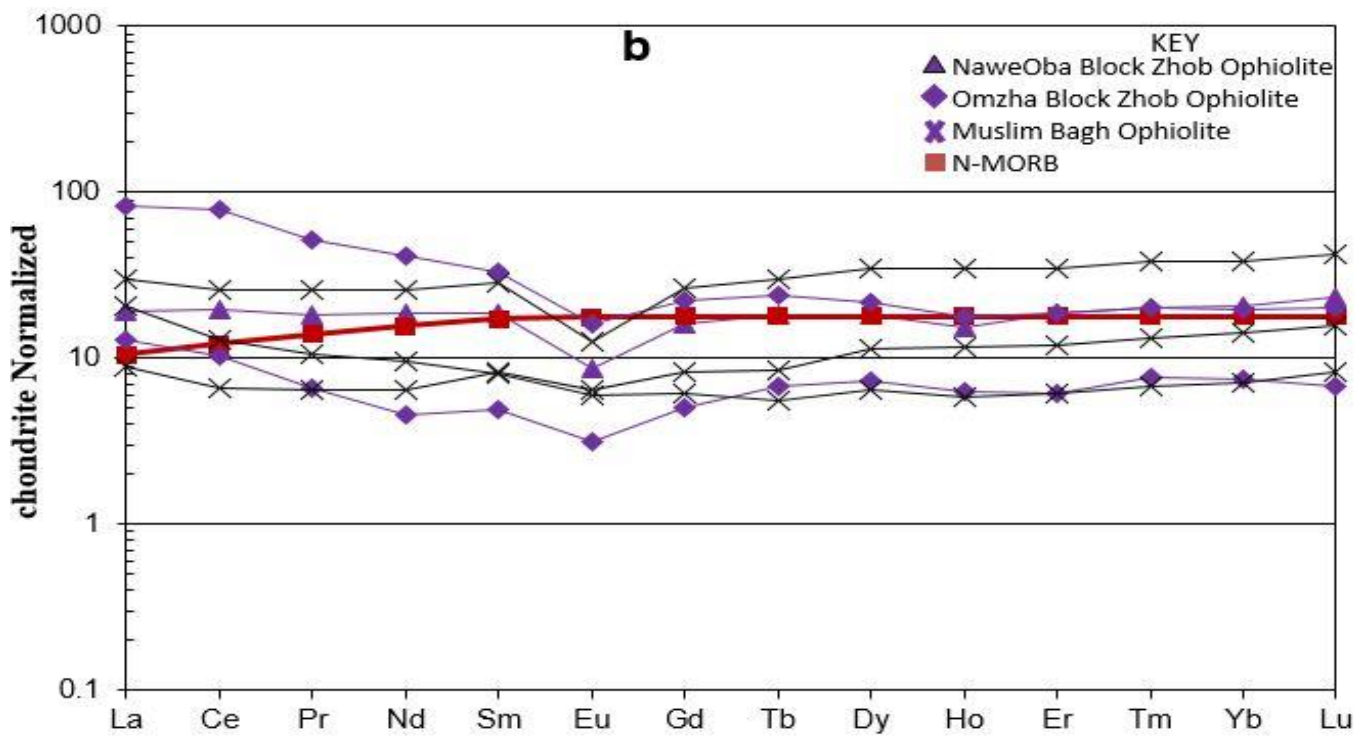
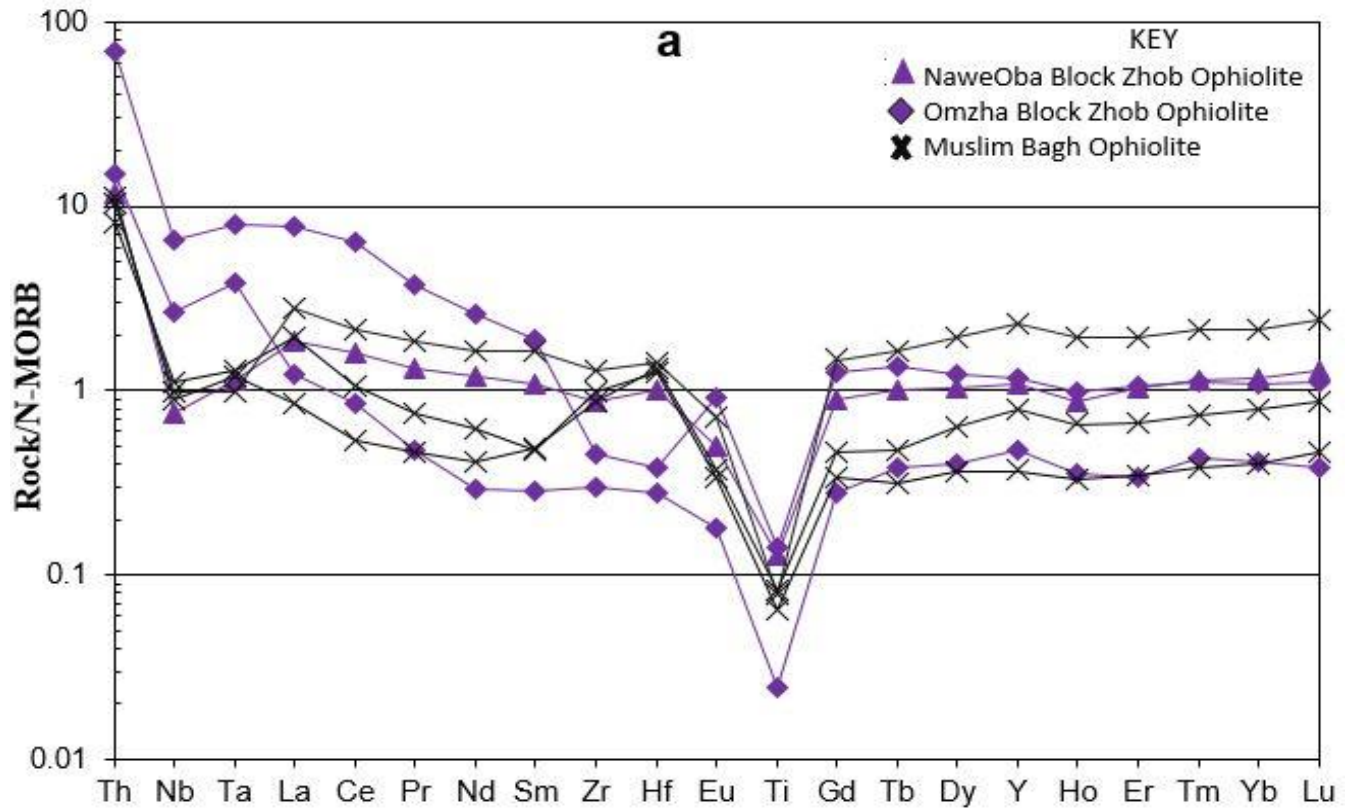
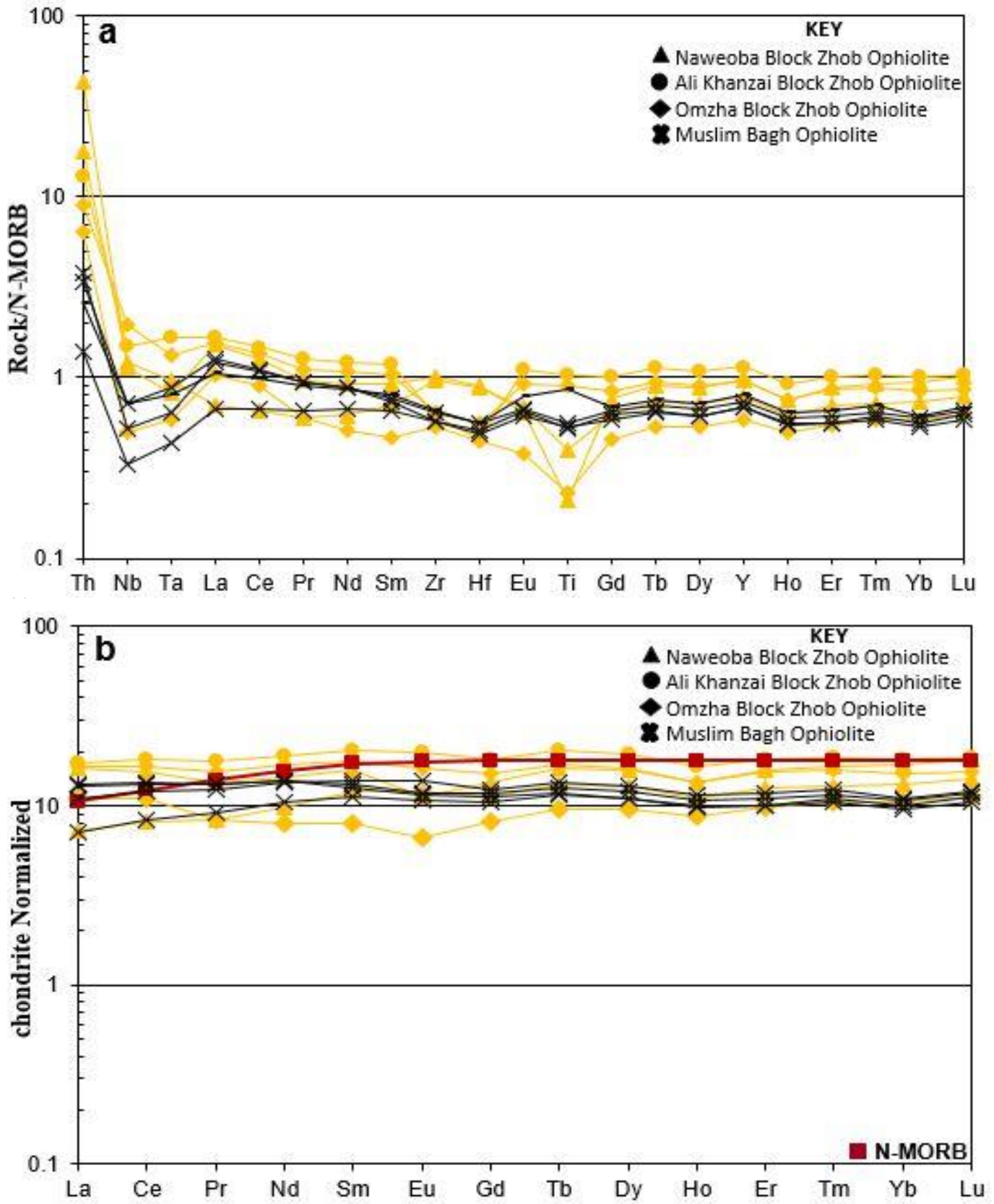


Figure 11.

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683 Figure 12.



686 Figure 13.

688 **Table 1.** Major oxides (wt %), trace and REE elements (ppm) of the doleritic and
689 plagiogranite dykes of the Zhob ophiolite.
690

Sample No	NB 08	NB 20	AK 30	OMZ 03	OMZ 04	NB 45	OMZ 06	OMZ 43	OMZ 49
Rock Type	Dolerite	Dolerite	Dolerite	Dolerite	Dolerite	Plagiogranite	Plagiogranite	Plagiogranite	Plagiogranite
SiO ₂	56.69	47.61	47.93	51.31	56.70	76.94	69.29	77.85	68.85
TiO ₂	0.50	0.27	1.29	1.16	0.29	0.16	0.03	0.04	0.18
Al ₂ O ₃	14.12	12.84	13.99	15.20	14.20	11.29	18.23	12.92	10.07
Fe ₂ O ₃	10.68	11.19	12.06	12.47	11.12	1.35	0.16	0.31	0.92
MnO	0.13	0.05	0.20	0.19	0.12	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02
MgO	1.71	4.68	5.68	4.56	1.19	0.55	0.11	0.14	1.28
CaO	4.22	9.79	14.28	5.92	3.99	3.26	2.01	0.51	11.41
Na ₂ O	3.53	6.04	0.41	5.48	4.18	4.25	10.42	7.15	2.99
K ₂ O	0.62	0.02	0.16	0.08	1.27	0.07	0.14	0.19	0.05
P ₂ O ₅	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.12
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOI	6.55	6.09	2.72	1.86	6.20	0.13	0.40	0.26	4.19
Total	98.92	98.61	98.84	98.33	99.31	98.04	98.84	99.45	100.08
Sc	20.5	8.1	42.9	31.1	19.6	8.7	3.0	1.2	21.4
V	97.0	11.0	303.9	351.4	52.4	11.1	2.4	0.3	30.2
Cr	6.5	4.5	39.1	8.4	2.8	13.9	5.5	0.7	6.1
Co	14.3	2.9	38.7	552.0	9.7	2.1	1.2	0.8	5.3
Ni	4.4	0.6	36.3	500.7	3.9	2.4	1.8	1.9	13.2
Cu	16.0	40.2	97.1	173.3	8.1	3.2	1.9	1.8	4.4
Zn	58.2	14.7	66.8	69.1	55.2	8.7	2.1	26.3	8.9
Sr	135.2	68.2	134.9	799.9	614.3	96.15	131.85	163.65	59.6
Y	20.8	26.8	31.4	26.1	16.35	30.00	13.1	18.9	32.25
Zr	74.7	77.0	40.0	48.7	29.0	64.9	22.6	29.3	35.4
Ba	99.05	11.85	18.4	86.45	238.9	12.35	43.75	39.6	8.75
Ga	11.6	9.5	12.6	13.6	10.9	10.8	6.5	8.5	16.0
Rb	5.6	0.7	1.3	1.4	13.9	0.9	1.6	2.3	1.1
Nb	2.83	2.65	3.45	4.54	1.16	1.77	6.26	4.23	15.35
Cs	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.55	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
La	1.74	3.82	4.14	3.88	2.59	4.58	3.04	5.03	19.37
Ce	4.94	9.54	11.04	10.10	6.79	12.11	6.39	13.27	48.24
Pr	0.80	1.28	1.68	1.45	0.79	1.74	0.63	1.43	4.89
Nd	4.52	6.69	8.86	7.95	3.73	8.78	2.12	5.43	19.20
Sm	1.84	2.40	3.09	2.74	1.21	2.87	0.75	1.48	5.02
Eu	0.70	0.66	1.14	0.94	0.39	0.51	0.18	0.02	0.94
Gd	2.29	2.80	3.76	3.09	1.67	3.32	1.04	1.62	4.56
Tb	0.49	0.60	0.76	0.64	0.35	0.67	0.25	0.35	0.89
Dy	3.24	4.02	4.96	4.11	2.44	4.66	1.83	2.44	5.55
Ho	0.62	0.76	0.94	0.77	0.50	0.88	0.36	0.49	1.00
Er	2.07	2.61	3.00	2.54	1.63	3.07	1.01	1.66	3.11
Tm	0.33	0.42	0.47	0.40	0.27	0.51	0.20	0.32	0.51
Yb	2.25	2.85	3.06	2.57	1.78	3.53	1.26	2.22	3.31
Lu	0.36	0.46	0.47	0.39	0.28	0.59	0.17	0.37	0.51

