Ultra-potassic and ultra-aluminous hybrid volcanic rock in the Proterozoic of Bastar craton, Madhya Pradesh, India

S. N. Chaturvedi, K. Shivkumar, G. Nagendra Babu, Sohail Fahmi* and S. K. Hansoti
Atomic Minerals Division, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001, India
*Atomic Minerals Division, Jaipur 302 004, India

Late Proterozoic intracratonic Indravati basin of Bastar has been dissected by Sileenjhnodi—Tirathgarh fault zone marked by deep gullies and escarpments which afford access to an unconformable junction between basement crystallines and the overlying basinal sediments. This junction exposes the presence of fine-grained green coloured volcanic rock in certain locations. The rock is anaphitic with phenocrysts of potash feldspars and leucite(?) set in a groundmass which is pervasively sericitized. The rock displays unique chemical character in having high $K_2O$ (\( \approx 11.5\% \)) and $Al_2O_3$ (\( \approx 32\% \)) contents whereas $CaO$, $MgO$, $TiO_2$ and $Na_2O$ contents are low (\( \approx 1\% \)). This ultra-potassic character indicates a deep-seated source for the rock material, whereas its ultra-aluminous character indicates crustal contamination during its ascent.

LATE Proterozoic intracratonic Indravati basin occupies about 9000 km$^2$ area in the southeastern portion of the Bastar craton in Madhya Pradesh. Jagdalpur, the district headquarter of Bastar, is situated in the midst of the Basin, and is located 300 km south of Raipur. Ultra-potassic rock was detected at the base of Tirathgarh waterfall by Shivkumar and Fahmi$^1$ and its sporadic presence has now (1994–95) been traced to extend over a 20 km stretch along WNW–ESE trending Sileenjhnodi–Tirathgarh fault zone (Figure 1). We attempt to report here a unique occurrence of ultra-potassic, ultra-aluminous rock which may have only a few examples in the world. Detailed investigations on the occurrence are under progress and shall be directed to gain insight into its significance in crust–mantle evolutionary processes in the Bastar craton.

The rock type of present interest is the ultra-potassic volcanic flow exposed in Tirathgarh, Batkunta, Koikumari and Sileenjhnodi localities along the fault zone (Figure 1). It occurs at the unconformity overlying the basement granites and just below the sediments of Indravati group (Figure 2). The exposure dimensions vary from 5 m x 2 m (Batkunta) to 200 m x 15 m (Tirathgarh) and it goes under the sedimentary cover. Occurrence of quartz pebbles at the top layer of ultra-potassic rock at Batkunta indicates subaerial nature of volcanism.

The major oxide weight percentage data of the volcanic rock from Bastar craton (Table 1) show very high $K_2O$ (\( \approx 11.5\% \)) and $K_2O/Na_2O$ (> 25) values and confirm its ultra-potassic nature and also indicate their ultra-aluminous ($\approx 32\%$) $Al_2O_3$ character. The table also includes chemical data of ultra-potassic rocks of different continents for comparison. Ultra-potassic rocks of Bastar are rich in $K_2O$, $Al_2O_3$ and depleted in total iron, $MgO$, $TiO_2$ and $CaO$. Foley et al.$^2$ have suggested that potassium-rich igneous rock should be termed as 'ultrapotassic' if they contain high contents of $K_2O$ (> 3%) and have high $K_2O/Na_2O$ (> 3) with an additional requirement of $MgO$ content >3%. They have subdivided ultra-potassic rocks into groups I, II, III and IV based on their major element chemistry and tectonic environments. Attempts of plots on discriminant diagram ($Al_2O_3$ vs $CaO$, $SiO_2$ vs $K_2O$/$Al_2O_3$, $SiO_2$ vs $CaO$) show that ultra-potassic rock of Bastar cannot be
Figure 1. Geological map of south-western margin of Indravati basin showing ultra potassic rock occurrences.

Table 1. Major oxide data of ultrapotassic rock, Indravati basin, Bastar (M.P.)

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<td>33.15</td>
<td>31.85</td>
<td>31.70</td>
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<td>MgO</td>
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<td>99.40</td>
<td>99.55</td>
<td>99.27</td>
<td>100.34</td>
<td>99.52</td>
<td>100.58</td>
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<td>26.91</td>
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<td>41.26</td>
<td>43.44</td>
<td>50.17</td>
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Normative values

| q    | 0.91 | –     | –       | 1.62     | 4.54     | 0.59       | 0.53   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| c    | 21.03 | 21.16 | 19.28   | 18.97    | 19.17    | 18.85      | 19.62  | –     | –     | –     | – |
| or   | 65.44 | 62.77 | 70.38   | 67.83    | 65.89    | 69.39      | 68.28  | –     | –     | –     | – |
| ab   | 0.84 | –     | –       | 0.10     | 2.10     | 2.31       | 2.31   | 1.94  | –     | –     | – |
| le   | –    | 3.58  | 1.09    | –       | –        | –          | –     | –     | –     | –     | – |
| ne   | –    | 1.05  | 2.00    | –       | –        | –          | –     | –     | –     | –     | – |
| hy   | 2.70 | –     | –       | 1.70     | 1.53     | 1.25       | 2.63   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| ol   | –    | 3.50  | 0.70    | –       | –        | –          | –     | –     | –     | –     | – |
| mt   | 0.35 | 0.21  | –       | 0.70     | 0.84     | 0.79       | 0.16   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| hm   | 2.86 | 3.06  | 2.88    | 2.88     | 1.98     | 2.22       | 3.10   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| il   | 0.68 | 0.62  | 0.10    | 0.15     | 0.21     | 0.09       | 0.65   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| ru   | –    | –     | 0.08    | –       | –        | –          | –     | –     | –     | –     | – |
| ap   | 1.01 | 0.34  | 0.10    | 0.13     | 0.10     | 0.10       | 0.10   | –     | –     | –     | – |
| Total| 95.82| 96.29 | 96.61   | 96.08    | 96.57    | 95.59      | 97.01  | –     | –     | –     | – |

*Total iron; 1–7, Ultrapotassic rock, Bastar, M.P., India; 8, Ultrapotassic lava; 9, Group I – Lamproite; 10, Group II – Kamafugites; 11, Group III – Ultrapotassic rock.
characterized by the above classification. Similar attempts on igneous rock classification diagram of Cox et al. and on modified total alkali–silica (TAS) diagram of Le Bas et al. have also failed to specifically assign its position. However, on TAS diagram, the ultra-potassic rock of Bastar indicates a tendency to foidite field. Volcanic rocks with Al₂O₃ content of 32% are a rarity. It is contended that this ultra-aluminous character is acquired through assimilation of meta-argillites and their components within the Bengal gneisses, forming basement of the Indravati basin. The major normative minerals formed in all the samples are orthoclase (62-70%), corundum (18-21%) and haematite (2-3%) with apatite, ilmenite and magnetite as accessories (Table 1). Two samples show undersaturated minerals such as leucite and nepheline, indicating their alkaline character. However samples show sericitization in thin sections, which is a subsequent alteration phenomenon and could be attributed to the formation of normative quartz. From the above discussion, it is obvious that chemically or petrochemically the volcanic rock of Bastar has unique features.


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Dendrochronological reconnaissance of Pinus wallichiana to study glacial behaviour in the western Himalaya

A. Bhattacharyya and R. R. Yadav
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, 226 007, India

Tree ring analysis of Pinus wallichiana growing in the subalpine region of the Kinnaur, north-west Himalaya has been discussed in this paper. A chronology of this species extending from 1621 AD to 1990 AD has shown that tree ring data could be used to study the glacial behaviour in this region. It has been recorded that the annual ring widths of this species are low during the years having positive glacial mass balance recorded from some glaciers of this region and with glacial advances reported during the recent past in the Himalayan and Trans Himalayan region.

Recent studies reveal that tree ring data derived from either of several annual ring characters, viz, width, density, cell size, isotope contents and others are unique sources of proxy records to deal with the various aspects of environmental studies. Using tree ring data, fluctuations of recent glaciers have been analysed from the Alps, Mount-Baker, Canadian Rockies and others.

In India, a great deal of geomorphological studies in the Himalayan glaciers have been done. But, except for two synthesized extrapolated long records based on data from several glaciers, no studies on the history of glacial fluctuations in terms of absolute time scale are available from the Himalayan region. In the present study, the prospect of tree ring study to understand glacial fluctuations in terms of calender years from the Western Himalayan Region has been discussed. This study is based on ring width data of Pinus wallichiana growing in the dry subalpine regions of Kinnaur, in the Western Himalayas.

Several conifers in the Himalayan region have been found to be a potential source for tree ring studies. To extend database from diversified climatic zones, the present study was undertaken on Pinus wallichiana growing in subalpine forest at Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh in western Himalaya. This taxon is widely dis-