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Abstract title

PALEOPROTEROZOIC MAFIC DYKES FROM THE CENTER-WESTERN REGION OF THE GOIAS STATE, BRAZIL: PETROLOGY, GEOCHEMISTRY AND GEOCHRONOLOGY

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Abstract

Precambrian mafic dyke swarms occur in the Central Brazilian Shield Goiás State, Brazil. These dykes intrude Achaean granite-gneiss terrains of the Goiás Massif along two main trends (NE and NW).

The dykes were subdivided in three groups based on petrographyc data: diabases, metabasites and amphibolites. Some of the thicker dykes (~100 meters) vary from ophitic to subophitic diabases in the center to granoblastic amphibolites in the recrystallised borders. These textural and petrographyc features, and the similarity of geochemical characteristics of the lithotypes indicate that the dykes have the same crystallization age.

The mafic dykes have tholeiitic affinities and predominantly basaltic composition. Because of the important chemical differences they were divided into two rock-types based on TiO2 contents: 1 - high TiO2 (TiO2 > 1,5%); 2 - low TiO2 (TiO2 < 1,5%). In general, the high TiO2 type occurs mainly in the southern portion of the area, while the low TiO2 dykes crosscut northern and southern terrains.

The mg# values range from 0,49 to 0,31 and from 0,33 to 0,18 in the low and high TiO2 groups respectively. In both cases, with decreasing mg# Fe203T, P205, K20, Na20, Zr, Y, La, Nb, Ba, Zn, Ce increase of and Al203, CaO, Cr and Ni decrease. Sr is virtually constant. High TiO2 dykes are the richest group in incompatible elements and REE.

Rb-Sr whole-rock diagram and Ar40-Ar39 (amphibole) analyses indicate that the crystallization age of the mafic swarm is 2.4 Ga. In the e(Sr) - e(Nd) diagram most of the samples plot near to the Bulk Earth composition.

The different geochemical characteristics of the high and low TiO2 groups can be attributed to four possible reasons: fractional crystallization, crustal contamination, variable degrees of melting of a homogeneous mantle, and a heterogeneous source. The available data indicate a heterogeneous mantle as the most probable source of the different magmas. The geochemical and isotopic similarities with São Francisco and Amazonia Craton dykes suggest that the emplacement of the Goiás swarm occurred in an intracratonic continental environment.

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