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Magmatic epidote in the Grenvillian granitoids of North Purulia Shear Zone, Chhotanagpur Gneissic Complex, India and its significance

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Magmatic epidotes of granitoid pluton from North Purulia Shear Zone, eastern India, are identified by textural and chemical criteria. The accessory sphene, epidote, allanite and magnetite in the granitoid indicate high fO_2 during crystallization. Hornblendes were crystallized between 1.2 and 4.8 kbar, 753°C and 783°C as well as high fO_2 (>Ni–NiO buffer). Preservation of magmatic epidote in pluton emplaced at low pressure is due to rapid magma ascent (>3.1 km/year). Fast upward transportation of parental magma of the pluton took place through extensional voids along the regional shear zone.

Keywords. Granitoids, magmatic epidote, oxygen fugacity, shear zone emplacement.

THE petrological implications of magmatic epidote (mEp) have been petrographically and experimentally demonstrated by several workers^{1–4}. The presence of mEp in tonalites and granodiorites suggests that the plutons crystallized under lithostatic pressure >6 kbar (refs 2, 3). Survival of mEp in calc-alkaline granitoids implies rapid upward movement of the magma⁴. Consequently, mEp can be used for estimating crystallization pressure, oxygen fugacity and rate of upward movement of melt. Studies on mEp in the Neoproterozoic granitoids of Srinivaspura (Eastern Dharwar Craton) and the Paleoproterozoic Malanjkhanda Granitoid (Central India) revealed upward magma migration rate of 27.65 and 0.45 km/year respectively^{5,6}. In the present study, mEp is distinguished from secondary epidote based on textural and chemical criteria in the granitoids of Agarpur pluton lying in the North Purulia Shear Zone (NPSZ) of Chhotanagpur Gneissic Complex (CGC) of eastern India. The significance of mEp on emplacement mechanism of granitoids is also discussed.

The ENE–WSW-trending Central Indian Tectonic Zone and CGC mark the Grenvillian collisional zone between the North Indian Block and the South Indian Block^{7–9} (Figure 1a). The CGC is mainly composed of granitoid and migmatitic gneisses with older enclaves of para- and ortho-metamorphic rocks¹⁰. The structural trend of the rocks is E–W with steep northern dip. Younger

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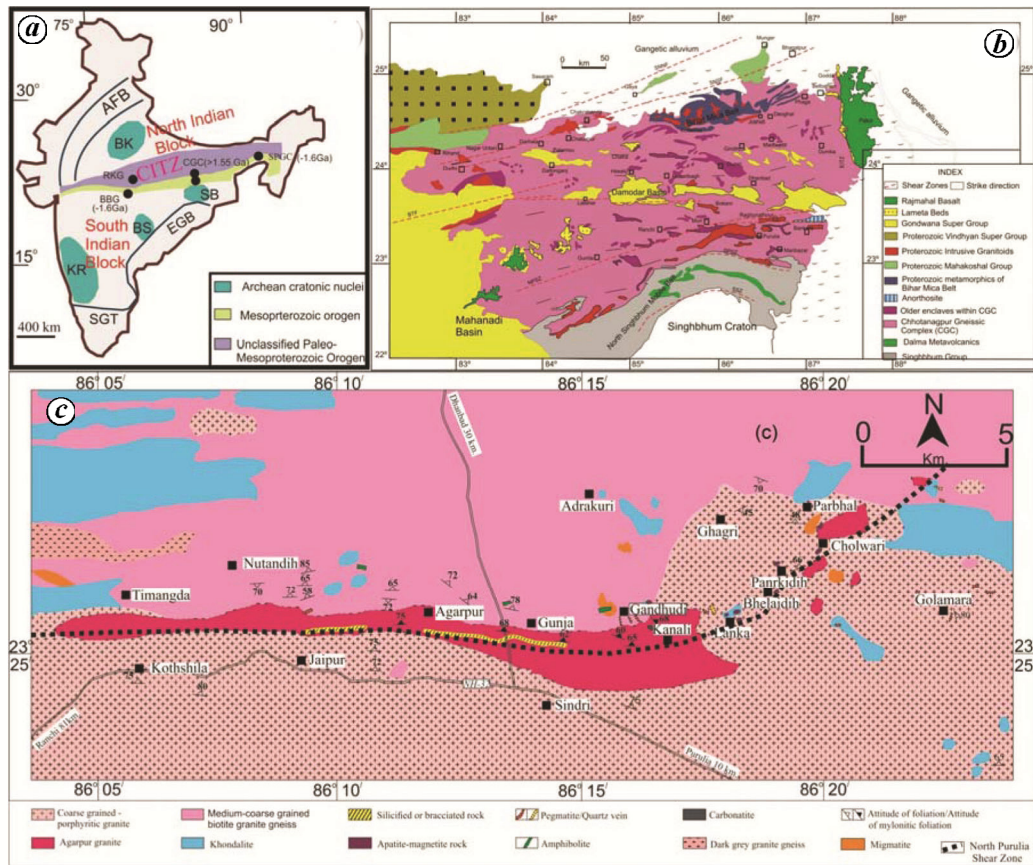


Figure 1. *a*, Disposition of the major cratonic blocks and tectonic elements within peninsular India. AFB, Aravalli Fold Belt; BBG, Bhandara–Balaghat granulite; CGC, Chhotanagpur Gneissic Complex; EGB, Eastern Ghats Belt; RKG, Ramakona–Katangi granulite; SPGC, Shillong Plateau Gneissic Complex. Archean cratons: BK, Bundelkhand; BS, Bastar; KR: Karnataka; SB, Singhbhum. SGT, Southern Granulite Terrain (modified after Naganjaneyulu and Santosh²⁴). *b*, Generalized geologic map of CGC, showing the distribution of major granitoid plutons (after Mazumdar²⁵). SNNF, Son–Narmada North Fault; SNSF, Son–Narmada South Fault; NPSZ, North Purulia Shear Zone; SSZ, Singhbhum Shear Zone. *c*, Simplified geological map of the area in and around Agarpur, Purulia district, West Bengal, India (modified after Jana and Basu, unpublished).

granitoids, basic and ultrabasic rocks intrude into the granitoid gneisses. The NPSZ in Purulia district, West Bengal, with a trend of E–W to ENE–WSW is a prominent structural feature⁹ (Figure 1 *b*). This shear zone is characterized by the occurrence of porphyritic granitoids and lenticular bodies of alkaline rocks (aegirine–riebeckite granite, alkali feldspar–salite granite/syenite, nepheline syenite and minor carbonatite)¹¹. Calc-alkaline nature, high oxygen fugacity and high H₂O of the parental magma of Agarpur pluton, lying along the NPSZ suggest the pluton to have been emplaced in a convergent setting¹².

The Agarpur pluton (23 km × 2.5 km; Figure 1 *b*) shows intrusive relation with the country rock comprising migmatitic granite gneisses and porphyritic granitoids. Mylonitic foliation in Agarpur pluton and in the country rocks gives evidence for ductile deformation along the NPSZ. However, locally E–W trending fault breccia develops in the Agarpur pluton (Figure 1 *c*).

The granitoids (alkali feldspar granite, syenogranite and quartz syenite) of Agarpur pluton are coarse-grained, hypidiomorphic and granular. However, distinct preferred orientation of lenticular/ribbon-shaped quartz through the matrix of medium-sized quartzofeldspathic grains defining mylonitic foliation¹³ develops along the southern margin of the pluton (Figure 2 *a*). Notwithstanding these textural diversities, mineral assemblages are the same in both the above two textural varieties: K-feldspar (microcline, microcline perthite), quartz, plagioclase (generally albite, acid oligoclase), diopside, hornblende, actinolite, epidote, allanite, sphene, magnetite, apatite and zircon. In hypidiomorphic granitoids aggregates of coarse tabular megacrystic microcline occur with random orientation. Occasionally microcline contain exsolved thin, elongate blebs as well as coarser stringers/veins of albite parallel to its cleavage. Diopside (and hedenbergite) is present as sporadic coarse- to medium-sized skeletal grains containing large inclusions of felsic grains. Amphiboles (both

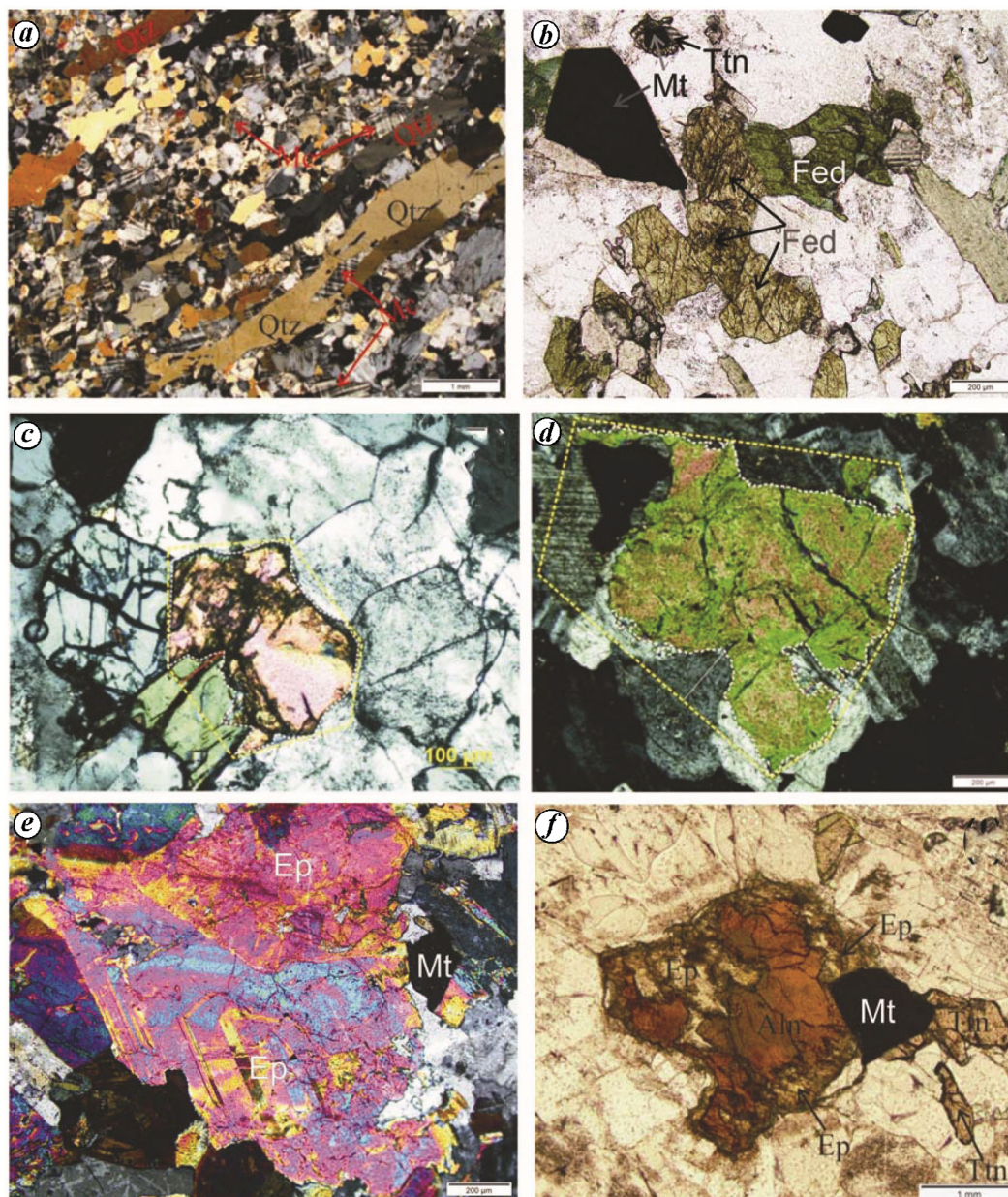


Figure 2. *a*, Occurrence of thin bands of finer-grained minerals of the matrix in the foliated variety. *b*, Aggregate of laths of ferroedenite (sample P20B). *c*, Resorbed outline of epidote in hypidiomorphic granular variety. *d*, Resorbed epidote showing width of the dissolution zone. *e*, Magmatic zoning in epidote. *f*, Epidote rim around allanite.

actinolite and hornblende) occur as (1) aggregates of thin laths (Figure 2*b*), (2) coarse poikilitic grains enclosing crowds of opaque minerals, feldspar and sphene, (3) thin, irregular stringers along the contact of feldspar and (4) partial replacement of diopside with preservation of relicts of the latter.

Epidote forms medium to coarse subhedral, elongated grains with resorbed boundary at the interspaces of microcline (Figure 2*c* and *d*). Some epidotes show concentric zoning (Figure 2*e*), often grading to allanite towards the margin indicating their magmatic origin³. Allanite occurs as elongated, irregular or subhedral grains

in the interspaces of microclines, and is commonly associated with epidote and magnetite and accompanying radial cracks (Figure 2*f*). Coarse tabular allanite grains may contain small inclusions of sphene and opaque minerals. From the mineralogical assemblage of sphene + epidote + allanite + magnetite in *Agarpur granitoids*, it is suggested to have crystallized under high oxygen fugacity ($>Ni-NiO$ buffer)^{12,14}.

Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) of epidotes and amphiboles of *Agarpur granitoids* was performed using CAMECA SX5 instrument (at the Department of Geology, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University,

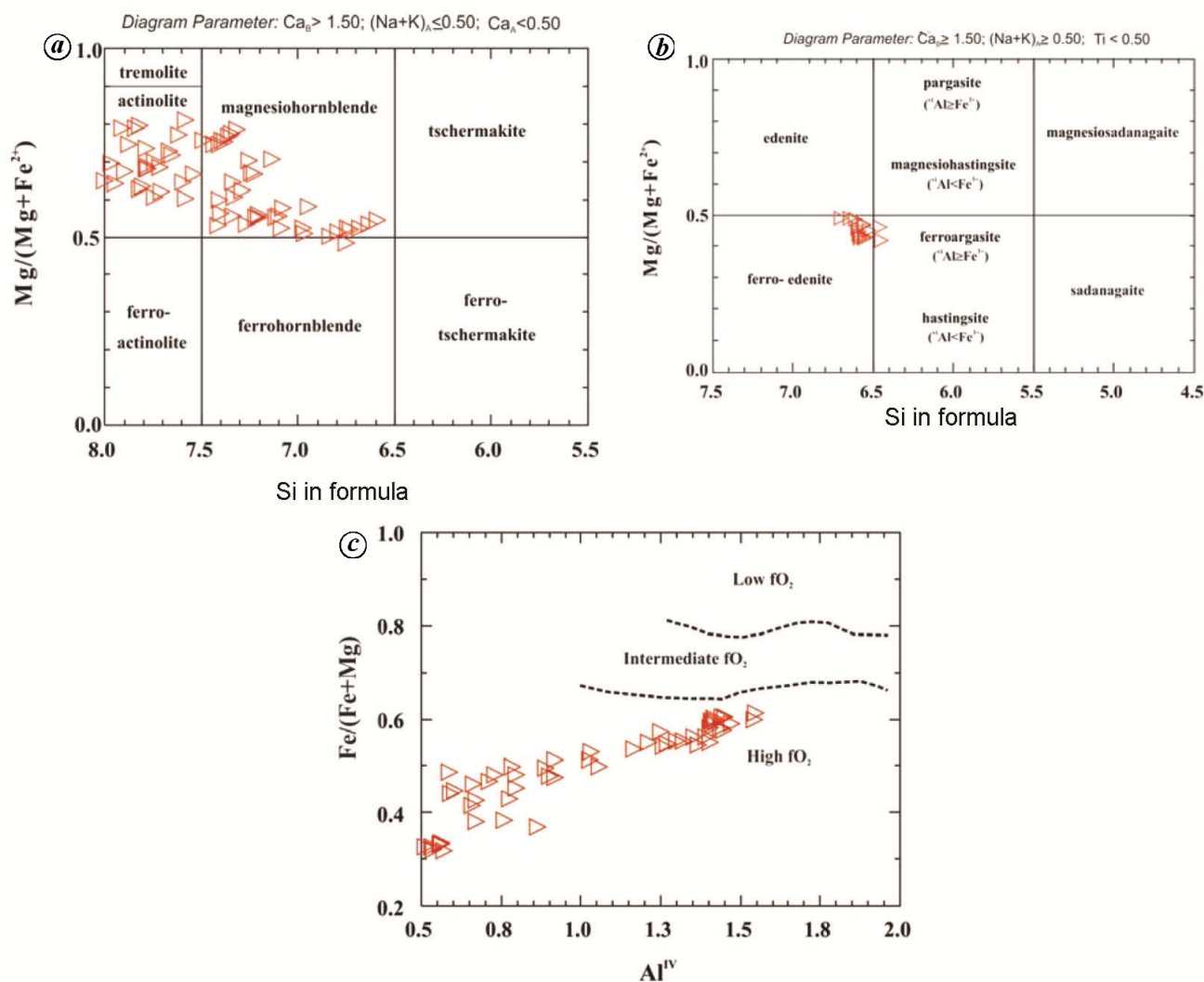


Figure 3. *a, b*, Classification of amphiboles of Agarpur granitoids according to the scheme of Leake *et al.*²⁶. *c*, Al^{IV} versus Fe/(Fe + Mg) diagram of Anderson and Smith¹⁹ showing the compositional fields of amphiboles crystallized under high, medium and low fO_2 conditions.

Varanasi) and CAMECA SX100 instrument (at the EPMA Laboratory, Central Head Quarter, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata) (Table 1).

The ‘pistacite’ component ($Ps = \text{molar}[\text{Fe}^{3+}/(\text{Fe}^{3+} + \text{Al}) \times 100]$) of magmatic epidotes of granitoid rocks is suggested to range from 20 to 39 (refs 2, 15, 16). The ‘pistacite’ component (Ps_{22} – Ps_{35}) and low TiO₂ (0.003–0.42 wt%, av. 0.12 wt%) of epidotes from the Agarpur pluton (Table 1) are consistent with their magmatic origin¹⁷. The epidote composition (Ps_{25} – Ps_{35} ; Table 1) corresponds mostly with epidotes from plutons emplaced at or above 3 kbar pressure when fO_2 would lie between nickel–nickel oxide (NNO) and copper–copper oxide (CCO) buffers (25% and 33% Ps in the epidote respectively)^{3,18}.

All the amphibole species of the studied pluton (Figure 3 *a* and *b*; Table 1) show low Fe/(Fe + Mg) ratio (<0.6; Figure 3 *c*), which suggests crystallization under high fO_2

condition¹⁹. Al-in-hornblende barometry (calibration of Mutch *et al.*²⁰) yields 4.8–1.2 kbar pressure of emplacement for the Agarpur pluton (Table 1). The temperature (753–783°C) and ΔNNO (+2) values calculated using the formulations of Ridolfi *et al.*²¹ from hornblende composition of the studied rocks are consistent with calc-alkaline nature of the Agarpur granitoid magma, as already described elsewhere (Table 1)¹².

The time for partial dissolution of epidote may be given by $t = dz^2/(5 \times 10^{-17})$, where dz is the width of the dissolution zone (m)⁴. Several epidote grains in the present study show width of dissolution zone ranging from 80 to 220 μm (Figure 2 *d*), which gives dissolution time between 1.2 and 30 years, and corresponding upward ascent rate between 438 m and 3115 m/year for a decompression from 4.8 to 1.2 kbar pressure as revealed from amphibole chemistry (Table 1). The upward transportation rate of the Agarpur magma is comparable (e.g. 455–1800 m/year)

to that from epidote-bearing granitoids of northeastern Brazil²². The fairly rapid rate of ascent contradicts diapiric emplacement of the *Agarpur pluton*. Remarkable E–W elongation of the *Agarpur pluton* along the NPSZ, presence of both mylonitic and hypidiomorphic granular texture together with the occurrence of associated fault breccia suggest emplacement of the pluton along with shear movement. The rapid upward movement of magma is possible when it would use a pathway along extensional fractures within a regional shear zone²³. The preservation of mEp, and rapid upward movement of magma together with the linear dyke-like map pattern of the *Agarpur pluton* suggest emplacement of magma along extension-related fractures in the regional NPSZ.

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