Thermal modeling of pluton emplacement and associated contact metamorphism: Parashi stock emplacement in the Serranía de Jarara (Alta Guajira, Colombia)

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ABSTRACT

In the northernmost portion of the Serranía de Jarara (Alta Guajira, Colombia), low-medium grade metamorphic rocks from the Etpana Metamorphic Suite were thermally affected by emplacement of a small calc-alkaline intrusion (Parashi Stock). Detailed petrographic analysis in collected rock samples across the NE and NW plutonic contacts show occurrences of textural and mineralogical changes in the country rock fabric that evidence contact metamorphism overprinting regional metamorphism of the Etpana Suite. These changes include growth of andalusite (chiastolite), calcic clinopyroxene and amphibole porphyroblast crosscutting Sn+1 metamorphic foliation. Hornblende-plagioclase barometry (ca. 3.1 kbar) and cooling models for the stock show maximum time temperature evolution in the country rock at the interpreted depth of intrusion (ca. 11 km) and help to evaluate the behavior of the country rock with the changing local geotherm.

RESUMEN

En el norte de la Serranía de Jarara (Alta Guajira, Colombia), rocas metamórficas de grado bajo – medio asociadas al Conjunto Metamórfico de Etpana fueron térmicamente afectadas por el emplazamiento de una pequeña intrusion calco-alcalina (Stock de Parashi). Un análisis petrográfico de muestras de rocas colectadas a lo largo de los contactos NE y NW del pluton muestran cambios mineralógicos y texturales en la roca caja que evidencia metamorfismo de contacto superpuesto al metamorfismo regional del Conjunto Etpana. Estos cambios incluyen el crecimiento de porfiroblastos de andalusita (quiastolita), clinopiroxeno cálcico y de anfíboles cortando la dirección de foliación Sn+1. Cálculos barometricos, usando la asociación hornblende-plagioclase (aprox. 3.1 kbar), y modelos de enfriamiento del stock muestran una evolución de las temperaturas máximas en la roca caja a la profundidad de emplazamiento interpretada (ca. 11 km) y ayudan a evaluar el comportamiento de la roca caja con los cambios que ocurrieron en la geoterma local.

Introduction

Many of the geologic events that affected northern South America since the late Proterozoic are almost completely recorded in rocks of the region known as Alta Guajira, in Colombia (Zuluaga et al., 2009). Precambrian and Paleozoic collisions are recorded by a granulitic gneiss of Grenvillian age (Gordani et al., 2005, Cardona et al., 2006) and by a Paleozoic gneiss that is related either to the Taconic orogeny or the Alleghenian orogeny (Cardona et al., 2006; Zuluaga et al., 2009). Jurassic continental rifting and development of a passive continental margin and subsequent Cretaceous-Tertiary compressive events have also left traces in the Alta Guajira geologic record (Zuluaga et al., 2009). The present tectonic configuration of the Alta Guajira is mostly due to interactions of the Caribbean, Pacific and South American tectonic plates during late Mesozoic and Cenozoic times (James, 2000; Zuluaga et al., 2009).

The focus of this paper is to study overprinting contact metamorphism related to a small calc-alkaline intrusion in low to medium grade regional metamorphic rocks and to model the thermal effects of pluton emplacement at depths of less than 12 km. The NW portion of the Serranía de Jarara (Alta Guajira, Colombia) offers a unique opportunity of such study thanks to the well-preserved surface geology of the area and its excellent outcrops. In the Serranía de Jarara, a quartzdioritic Cenozoic pluton intrudes a Late Cretaceous (?) melange with metasedimentary matrix and mafic-ultramafic blocks. Especially, our research addresses the emplacement conditions of the pluton in the low-medium grade metamorphic country rock that produced a contact metamorphic aureole around the pluton.
Sampling and methodology

Two areas (NW and NE of the Stock) were selected for systematic rock sampling along 2 km sections, starting at the pluton contact. Sampling was accompanied by a detailed structural description including data collection from joints, cleavage, foliation, and folds' axes. Nearly 100 samples were collected, but only 20 representative samples were selected for petrographic analyses in thin section and four samples were selected for microprobe analyses (MO-2IVD-5, MO-2IVD-12, AG-2IVD-3, GM-2IVD-58). The petrographic analyses of chosen samples consisted in textual description and mineral identification. On one specific sample, with evidence of contact metamorphism, microstructures were described in more detail in order to characterize those linked to contact metamorphism. Microprobe analyses followed petrographic interpretation. Core and rim compositions were determined for 3 amphibole grains and 3 plagioclase grains in a sample from the pluton (sample GM-2IVD-58). Microprobe analyses were carried out with the JEOL 8600 Probe Microanalyzer hosted at the University of Alabama. The quantitative mineral analyses were performed using a probe of 1 μm beam diameter, 20 nA beam current, 15 kV accelerating voltage and counting times of 30 to 45 msec in each peak. Structural formulae for amphibole and plagioclase were calculated following the methodology of Robinson et al. (1982) and amphibole compositional classification followed Leake et al. (1997, 2004). Hb-Pl thermobarometry, to determine emplacement pressure and temperature, followed the methodology of Hammarstrom and Zen (1986) and Hollister et al. (1987) for crystallization pressure (total Al in hornblende) and the Holland and Blundy (1994) hornblende – plagioclase thermometer for crystallization temperature.

A cooling two-dimensional model for the pluton was obtained with the HEAT 3D program (Wohletz and Heiken, 1992; Wohletz et al., 1999) freely available from the Los Alamos National Laboratory Geodynamics KWare HEAT 3D web page (http://geodynamics.lanl.gov/Wohletz/Heat.htm). This computer program is based in the solution of the heat transfer equation in multiple dimensions with non-linear elements of rock heterogeneity and spatially and temporally variable convection. This program uses a numerical solution for the heat conduction equation:

\[
\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} \right)
\]

which overcomes the problems faced when trying to solve analytically the equation. In the above equation K is the thermal diffusivity, t is the time, and T is the temperature.

The program allows to quantify heat flow around a magma body and to understand changes in the local geothermal gradient that resulted in contact metamorphism. The model predictions for maximum and minimum temperatures reached in the country rock were used to evaluate microstructures that indicate contact metamorphism overprinting regional metamorphism.

Geological setting

The Serrania de Jarara is located in the central portion of the Alta Guajira, Colombia (Fig. 1), as a small slightly mountainous northwest-trending elongated area. Lithologically, this zone is characterized by low-medium grade metamorphic rocks (Etpana Metamorphic Suite) and a pluton (Parashi Stock), surrounded by Tertiary sedimentary rocks (Siamana and Uitra Formations) and Quaternary deposits.

Parashi stock

The Parashi Stock is located in the northernmost portion of the Serrania de Jarara. This is a small elongated intrusive of approximately 56 km² with the long axis oriented N 45º E (Fig. 1). Lithologic varieties observed in the stock include a compositional range from tonalites to monzogranite, with enclaves of melanocratic diorites (Fig. 2), aplastic dikes (mainly towards the contact) and andesite-dacite dikes intruding the stock and the Etpana Metamorphic Suite. A contact metamorphic aureole is observed around the pluton, in the west margin, the width of the aureole is about 50 m. A sericite-chlorite-
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Figure 1. Generalized geologic map of the Serrania de Jarara showing sample localities mentioned in the text.

Figure 2. Outcrop characteristics of the Etpana Metamorphic Suite (left) and the Parashi Stock (right). Note the compositional variation in fine layers and the folding in the Etpana Suite. Note also the enclaves within the tonalite. Hammer and chisel give an idea of the scale in the photographs.
quartz-feldspar phyllite was metamorphosed to a coarse-grained biotite-quartz-hornblende schist. The aureole is larger in the north and east margins (up to 75 m) where metasedimentary calcareous rocks were metamorphosed to diopside-plagioclase-calcite-garnet-quartz hornfels (Looikwood, 1965).

Structurally, the pluton is characterized in map view by its high aspect ratio and by deflection of regional markers (host rock structures), this deflection is most notable in a narrow structural aureole. Other structural characteristics of the pluton are a poorly developed magmatic fabric and the presence of a few stope blocks observed near the contact with variable dimensions from tens of meters to centimeters.

Tonalite is the most common lithology in the stock; however, variations to granodiorite and monzogranite are observed locally. The most common mineral assemblage is plagioclase + quartz + hornblende + biotite with titanite, zircon, apatite and pyrite as accessory minerals (Fig. 3). Euhedral to subhedral zoned oligoclase to andesine plagioclase (30% to 40%) and anhedral quartz (20% to 30%), in small pods, are the primary constituents of the rock. The most abundant mafic mineral is subhedral to anhedral olivine green to green brown magnesio-hornblende (10% to 30%), which is often accompanied by anhedral olivine green to green brown biotite (8% to 10%). Inclusions in hornblende are abundant and consist mainly of titanite, zircon and locally biotite. Hornblende and plagioclase analyses for sample GM-2IVD-58a are shown in Table 1. Diopside enclaves are observed commonly within tonalite towards the contacts of the stock. They are fine grained and composed mainly of plagioclase + hornblende + biotite + quartz. Abundant dikes are observed intruding the stock and the Etpana Metamorphic Suite in a N-S array. Aplitic dikes occur in the boundaries of the stock as gray-pink fine-grained aplites and are composed primarily by quartz (61%) and alkali feldspar (24%) with minor plagioclase (14%). Andesite-dacite dikes have a porphyritic microstructure and contain phenocrysts of zoned plagioclase, quartz, hornblende and biotite. Note that the relationship between the stock and the dike is still unknown.

### Etpana metamorphic suite

This metamorphic unit consists mainly of a metasedimentary matrix with embedded mafic and ultramafic blocks. The matrix is variably composed of quartzites, mica schist, graphite schist ad tremolite schist (Fig. 2). Foliated quartzites appear like discontinuous lenses within the suite and are observed commonly folded. They are composed of quartz with minor hornblende, biotite, garnet, and plagioclase. Mica schist has a paragenesis of quartz + muscovite + biotite with minor garnet, chloritoid and plagioclase, and locally andalusite porphyroblasts cutting the S\textsubscript{n+1} regional metamorphic foliation (Fig. 3). Retrograde chlorite is common in quartzite and mica schist. Tremolite schist consists mainly of tremolite-actinolite + calcic clinopyroxene + talc with minor plagioclase. Porphyroblasts of tremolite are also observed crosscutting the S\textsubscript{n+1} metamorphic foliation (Fig. 3). Blocks of serpentine, gabbro, and blue schist are observed throughout the unit, and eclogite blocks are suspected to be present. Serpentinite consists essentially of antigorite locally with relic pyroxene, minor magnetite, chlorite and carbonate veins. Gabbros are medium grained equigranular with cataclastic microstructure near fault zones (milonites). They are composed of plagioclase + pyroxene + amphibole ± olivine ± epidote. Blocks of glaucophane schist are found within serpentinite bodies and are composed of clinoclore + glaucophane + chlorite + sodic plagioclase, minor titanite and calcite. Boulders of Eclogite and other high pressure rocks present in a Tertiary conglomerate are suspected to be originated from the suite.

Quartzites and tremolite schist are the most common lithologies near the contact with the Parashi Stock and commonly appear in interlayered white and black millimetric bands (MO-2IVD-5). Although it is possible to observe local silicification in the outcrops near the contact, the regional metamorphic foliation is still present in rocks from the contact aureole and the overprinting contact metamorphism is mainly evident in thin section. The presence of tremolite, calcic clinopyroxene and plagioclase porphyroblasts cross cutting S\textsubscript{n+1} regional metamorphic foliation within the tremolite schist (samples MO-2IVD-5, Fig. 3) and porphyroblasts of andalusite also cross cutting S\textsubscript{n+1} in graphite-biotite schist (samples AG-2IVD-3 y MO-2IVD-15, Fig. 3) support field observations of the contact metamorphic aureole around the pluton.

### Pluton emplacement

#### Emplacement depth and emplacement process

In calc-alkaline intrusives, the Al content in calcic amphibole in the presence of an appropriated buffer assemblage can be used to determine...
pressure of crystallization because of a linear relationship between crystallization pressure and Al content. Several calibrations use this empirical relationship to calculate emplacement pressure (e.g., Hammarstrom and Zen, 1986; Hollister et al., 1987; Johnson and Rutherford, 1989; Schmidt, 1992; Anderson and Smith, 1995). In this work, the experimental calibration of Anderson and Smith (1995) based on the previous calibrations of Schmidt (1992) and Johnson and Rutherford (1989) was chosen because it considers the temperature effect on the estimated pressure.

The crystallization temperature was calculated using the Holland and Blundy (1994) hornblende-plagioclase thermometry, were stable hornblende and plagioclase coexist in calc-alkaline rocks. The hornblende-plagioclase thermometry actually consist of two reactions, the A thermometer uses the edenite-tremolite reaction (edenite + 4 quartz = tremolite + albite, in quartz rich rocks) and the B thermometer uses the edenite-richetrite reaction (edenite + albite = richterite + anorthite) (Holland and Blundy, 1994). Thermometry and barometry results for two amphibole-plagioclase mineral pairs (mineral analyses shown in Table 1) using the Anderson and Smith (1995) calibration and temperatures from Holland and Blundy (1994) calibration gives a crystallization pressure of 3.1 ± 0.6 kbar with temperatures in the range 670 – 692 °C.

The calculated pressure (3.1 ± 0.6 kbar) indicates upper level crustal emplacement in agreement with field evidence, as microstructural observations points mostly to elastic deformation (e.g., mixtures of lithologies in the aureole and deflection of regional markers). However, viscous flow is not completely disregarded because of the presence of boudinage. The emplacement process of this pluton will fit better a description of emplacement-ascent driven by buoyancy and regional stress as a viscoelastic diapir in the sense of Miller and Paterson (1999), where the rheologic behavior of the country rock varies both temporally and spatially from brittle to ductile. The form of the pluton also points to a viscoelastic diapir interpretation since diapirs tend to have high aspect ratios (Weinberg & Podladchikov, 1994) in contrast with dyke-fed intrusions that are expected to be typically sheet-like, with a low aspect ratio (e.g., McCaffrey & Perford, 1997, Cruden & McCaffrey, 2001).

**Cooling model**

It must be emphasized that the conductive cooling model used here only applies to static, or motionless, magma bodies and do not consider heat transfer facilitated by fluid circulation. Nonetheless, it is useful as a valuable "base-line" against which to evaluate thermal histories of more dynamic advective and convective systems where movement of liquids facilitates heat transfer. The cooling model attempts to estimate the highest temperature reached in the country rock at the emplacement depth. Using a pressure near the value calculated above (3 kbar) and tonalite average density of 2.8 gr/cm³ the emplacement depth for the intrusive is ca. 11 km. The assumed stock geometry for thermal modeling is that of a cylindrical body of 9 km diameter and 9 km height. Since there are not available data for the extension of the stock with depth, the height from the stock was assumed. It was also assumed that the stock was emplaced at 3 km below the surface; this implies that the shallowest part of the stock was probably in a zone with brittle to elastic deformation; however, this assumption has not implications in model results since this emplacement depth could be any value between the assumed above and the current erosion level as inferred from thermobarometry. Other model assumptions are:

- magma temperature of ca. 690 °C (silicic magma), magma thermal conductivity of 3.0 W/m K, magma heat capacity of 1800 J/kg K (Murase and Mcbirney, 1973; Clauser and Huenges, 1995; Waples and Waples, 2004), an initial local geothermal gradient inside the magma body of 20 °C/km, a near surface geothermal gradient of 25 °C/km, a closed simple conductive cooling magmatic system, and high rate of cooling magma and an anomalous high temperature geotherm in the country rock. The temperature of the country rock increased up to 461 °C at 11 km depth and 100 m from the contact. In the subsequent 20 x 10³ and 30 x 10³ years after the intrusion, the temperature of more than half of the magma body had decreased to less than 600 °C. In the country rock, the horizontal thermal profile show that the maximum temperature at 4 x 10³ years is 467 °C, which represents the contact metamorphic peak and indicates that the temperature in the inner aureole increased beyond the peak at 3 x 10³ years, this contact metamorphic peak last from the time the maximum temperature is reached to 8 x 10³ years. More than 80% of the magma has crystallized at 10 x 10³ years after the intrusion and temperature at 11 km depth in the inner aureole has dropped to 463 °C. The temperature into the country rock fell to 428 °C at 3 x 10³ years after the intrusion. When semipelitic schist and serpentinite country rocks are considered as the country rock instead of pelitic schist, the disturbance of the local geotherm behaves differently. With a semipelitic country rock, contact metamorphic peak is reached earlier than in a
pelitic country rock; the maximum temperature of 422 °C is reached at 2 x 10^4 years and this disturbance extends through 3 x 10^4 years. A serpentine country rock will reach the maximum temperature of 475 °C at 5 x 10^4, and the disturbance will last up to 10 x 10^4 years. Calculated latent heat in the model shows that during the first 1 x 10^4 years only 35% of the magma body has crystallized; subsequently, at 5 x 10^4 years 69% of the body has crystallized, and at 10 x 10^4 years 88% of the body has crystallized. This indicates that the crystallization is faster during the initial stages after emplacement, and that the complete crystallization of magma body occurs at about 12 x 10^4 years after intrusion.

**Discussion and conclusions**

The thermal behavior in the contact aureole shows that the thermal peak is not reached at the same time in all areas around the pluton, while rocks in the inner aureole start cooling after its thermal peak those further out of the contact are still below their thermal peak. In the model, the country rock at 1 km from the stock reaches its maximum temperature (ca. 465 °C) at 1 x 10^4 years after the intrusion; this is the thermal metamorphic peak of the contact metamorphism. Rocks 10 km away from the contact reach their maximum temperature at 15 x 10^4 years after the intrusion.

The assemblage andalusite + biotite (sample MO-2IVD-15) occurs in a wide field at low pressure; however, the absence of cordierite restrict temperatures below the first cordierite producing reaction (Mg-chlorite + Al2SiO5 = Mg-cordierite + H2O), i.e., below 500 °C. This is in agreement with results from the thermal model of pluton emplacement where modeled temperatures in a pelitic host rocks gives a maximum temperature of ca. 465 °C.

Thermal modeling, following the observed geological features and with reasonable assumptions for physical and chemical magma and country rock properties, helps to understand the geologic history of intrusive – country rock system and has to be used only as an approximation to the real behavior of the system. Model predicts that, at a depth of 11 km, temperatures above 400 °C that could produce a metamorphic contact aureole in the country rock are only reached in a narrow zone of less than 200 m around the contact and that the peak temperature is reached soon after the intrusion (ca. 465 °C at 1 x 10^4 years after the intrusion, see Fig. 4).

![Figure 4. Thermal modeling results of a run with a pelitic country rock. The red lines in the figures represent the contact of the intrusive with the country rock. The color bar the bottom represents the temperature scale.](image-url)
Figure 5. Peak temperature reached at ca. 50 m from the contact at 11 km depth in the models shown in figure 4.

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