

Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd isotopic compositions and Petrogenesis of ore-related intrusive rocks of gold-rich porphyry copper Maherabad prospect area (North of Hanich), east of Iran

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A. Malekzadeh Shafaroudi*, M. H. Karimpour, S. A. Mazaheri

*Research Center for Ore Deposits of Eastern Iran, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad
P.O. Box No. 91775-1436, Mashhad, Iran*

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Abstract: The Maherabad gold-rich porphyry copper prospect area is located in the eastern part of Lut block, east of Iran. This is the first porphyry Cu-Au prospecting area which is discovered in eastern Iran. Fifteen mineralization-related intrusive rocks range (Middle Eocene 39 Ma) in composition from diorite to monzonite have been distinguished. Monzonitic porphyries had major role in Cu-Au mineralization. The ore-bearing porphyries are I-type, metaluminous, high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonite intrusive rocks which were formed in island arc setting. These rocks are characterized by average of $\text{SiO}_2 > 59$ wt %, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 15$ wt %, $\text{MgO} < 2$ wt %, $\text{Na}_2\text{O} > 3$ wt %, $\text{Sr} > 870$ ppm, $\text{Y} < 18$ ppm, $\text{Yb} < 1.90$ ppm, $\text{Sr}/\text{Y} > 55$, moderate LREE, relatively low HREE and enrichment LILE (Sr, Cs, Rb, K and Ba) relative to HFSE (Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf and Zr). They are chemically similar to some adakites, but their chemical signatures differ in some ways from normal adakites, including higher K_2O contents and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios and lower Mg#, $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$, $(\text{Ce}/\text{Yb})_N$ and ϵNd in Maherabad rocks. Maherabad intrusive rocks are the first K-rich adakites that can be related with subduction zone. Partial melting of mantle hybridized by hydrous, silica-rich slab-derived melts or/and input of enriched mantle-derived ultra-potassic magmas during or prior to the formation and migration of adakitic melts could be explain their high K_2O contents and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios. Low Mg# values and relatively low MgO, Cr and Ni contents imply limited interaction between adakite-like magma and mantle wedge peridotite. The initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ was recalculated to an age of 39 Ma (unpublished data). Initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios for hornblende monzonite porphyry are 0.7047-0.7048. The $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ isotope composition are 0.512694-0.512713. Initial ϵNd isotope values 1.45-1.81. These values could be considered as representative of oceanic slab-derived magmas. Source modeling indicates that high-degree of partial melting (relatively up to 50%) of a basaltic garnet-bearing (lower than 10%) amphibolite to amphibolite lacking plagioclase as a residual or source mineral can explain most of the moderate to low Y and Yb contents, low $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$, high Sr/Y ratios and lack of negative anomaly of Eu in the rocks of the district. The geochemical signature of the adakites within the granitoid rocks represents a characteristic guide for further exploration for copper porphyry-type ore deposit in Eastern Iran.

Keywords: *Lut block, High-K, Shoshonite, Adakite, REE elements, Porphyry copper deposits.*

Introduction

The study area is situated in ~ 70 km southwestern Birjand (center of South Khorasan province), eastern Iran. Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au prospect area is bounded between $32^\circ 31' 45'' - 32^\circ 26' 12''$

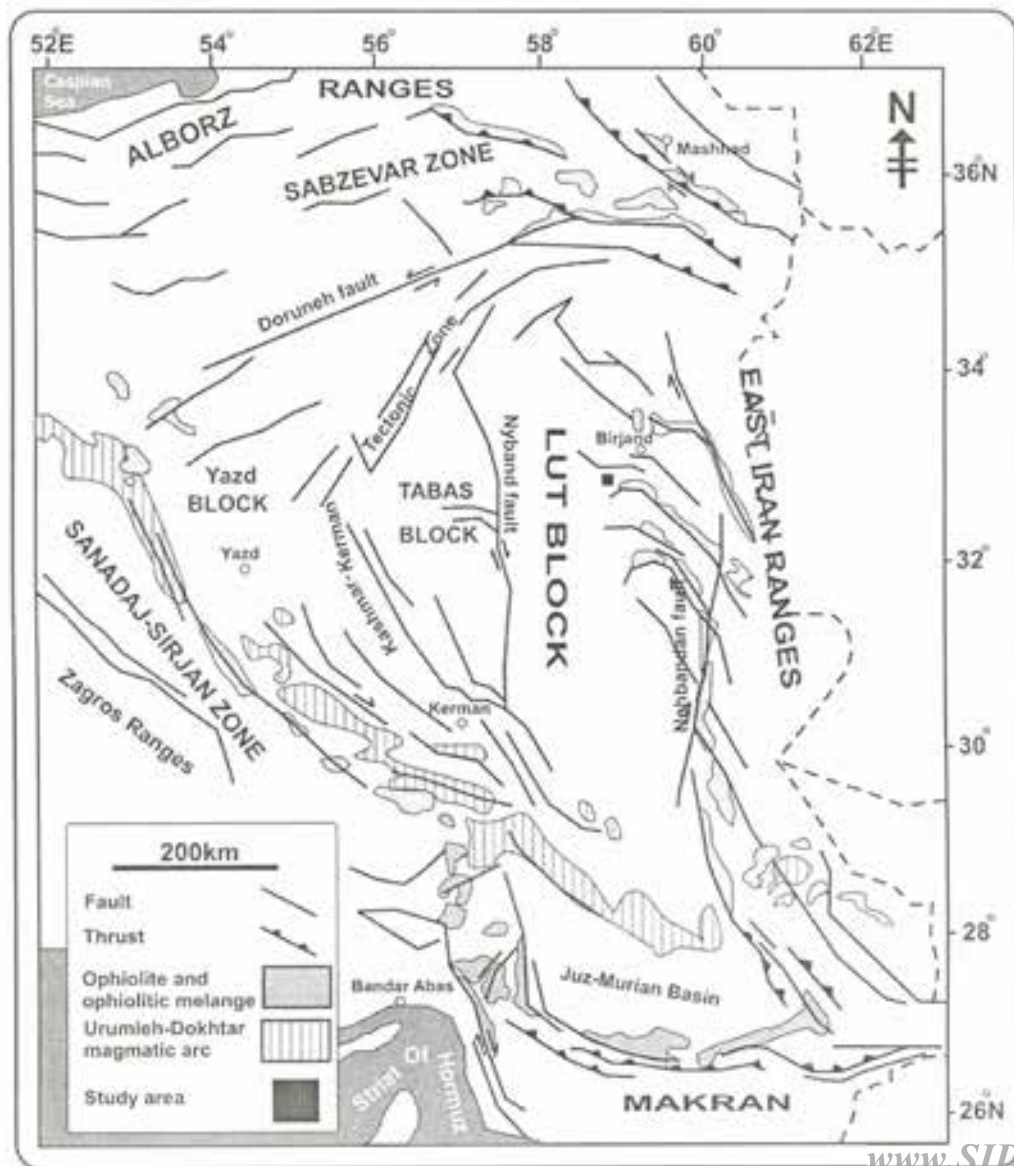
North latitude and $58^\circ 57' 18'' - 58^\circ 49' 46''$ East longitude (Fig.1).

Porphyry copper deposits in east of Iran are less well recognized and understood compared to those in Urumieh-Dokhtar zone in central Iran. Based on

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the presence of subvolcanic calc-alkaline intrusive rocks, well development alteration zones including quartz-sericite-pyrite (QSP), silicified-propylitic, propylitic, carbonate and silicified, style of mineralization such as stockwork, disseminated and hydrothermal breccia, high density quartz and quartz- sulfide veinlets, high anomalies of Cu and Au and witnesses of microthermometry, Maherabad prospect area is the first gold-rich porphyry copper deposit in eastern Iran which has been described. This is at preliminary stage of

exploration. The average assay of Cu and Au is approximately 0.32% and 0.57 g/t, respectively. The aim of this paper is to described the geochemical characters of magmatism associated with this porphyry Cu-Au deposit in eastern Iran and finally to determine its genesis. The geochemical signatures of ore-related intrusive rocks represent a characteristics guide for further exploration for copper porphyry-type ore deposit in eastern Iran.



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Fig 1. The structural map of Central-East Iran and its constituent crustal blocks ([1], with some changing after [2]). The location of study area is shown on figure.

Methods of study

Field and laboratory studies for this study are as follow:

- 1- Geologic, alteration and mineralization mapping were conducted at a scale of 1:10000 in approximately 132 km² area in Maherabad district;
- 2- Detailed petrographic studies of more than 400 thin and polished- thin sections were done from Maherabad intrusive rocks;
- 3- Magnetic susceptibility of least altered mineralization- related intrusive rocks were measured in Maherabad prospect area;
- 4- Representative of the least altered ore-related intrusions of Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au mineralization were selected for analysis of major elements by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) in Ferdowsi university of Mashhad (Iran) and trace and rare earth elements (REE) by ICP-MS in university of Colorado (USA);

Sr and Nd isotopic analyses were performed on a 6-collector Finnigan MAT 261 Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometer at the University of Colorado, Boulder (USA). ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios were analyzed using four-collector static mode measurements. Thirty measurements of SRM-987 during study period yielded mean ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr = 0.71032 ± 2 (error is the 2 sigma mean). Measured ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr were corrected to SRM-987 = 0.71028. Error in the 2 sigmas of mean and refer to last two digits of the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio. Measured ¹⁴³Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd normalized to ¹⁴⁶Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd=0.7219. Analyses were dynamic mode, three-collector measurements. Thirty-three measurements of the La Jolla Nd standard during the study period yielded a mean ¹⁴³Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd=0.511838 ± 8 (error is the 2 sigma mean).

Geological setting

Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au prospect area is situated within the eastern part of the so-called Lut block of east of Iran (Fig. 1). The Lut region constitutes a part of the Central Iran. As a structural unit it evinces a platform character in its sedimentation during the whole Paleozoic period. During Mesozoic and Tertiary, due to intensive orogenic movements, a breaking and splitting of this platform has been occurred; this led to a reactivation of different lineaments, which separated the Central Iran into mosaic-like blocks. The Lut block is characterized by extensive Tertiary magmatism, and is separated from other

regions by north-south faults in the west and east [3].

According to Stocklin and Nabavi [4], the Lut block extends over some 900 km in NS direction from Doruneh fault in north to Juz-Morian basin in south, but is only 200 km wide in EW direction from Nayband fault and Shotori range in the west to East-Iranian range and Nehbandan fault in the east (Fig. 1). Paleotectonic setting of Lut block is less well understood. Some generalized works were done on tectonic and magmatism of Lut, but these are very imperfect and even contradictory [3, 5-10]. However, subduction certainly occurred between the Lut block in the west and Afghan block in the east and was followed by extensive magmatism. Eastern Iran, and particularly the Lut block, has a great potential for different types of mineralization spatially porphyry and epithermal deposits due to these occurrences. However, unfortunately, most of mineral resources in eastern Iran have remained unknown and virgin due to semi-arid to arid type of climate, presence of developed desert, lack of suitable access roads and finally imperfect information.

Regional geological map of Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au prospect area is shown in figure 2. In this area, magmatism was initiated by eruption of the alkaline and calc-alkaline volcanic rocks, closely followed by emplacement of Eocene intermediate - acidic porphyritic intrusive rocks. The volcanic rocks consist predominantly of andesite, dacite and tuff and the intrusive rocks vary from diorite to monzonite (Fig. 2).

Sedimentary rocks such as tuffaceous marl has less developed in this district (Fig. 2). Most of volcanic and plutonic rocks were extensively altered and mineralization is clearly seen on the surface. In addition to Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au mineralization, other prospect areas such as Khopik porphyry Cu-Au, Sheikhabad high-sulfidation epithermal gold and Hanich low-sulfidation epithermal gold occur in this area, but these are not included in the present study. Phyllic, argillic and propylitic alteration are more common zones in the area. Stockwork, disseminated, hydrothermal breccias and vein-style mineralization are observed in different places. All of the mineralization was formed due to intrusion of calc-alkaline porphyritic subvolcanic intrusive rocks into andesite, dacite and tuff.

Local geology *Archive of SID*

Based on detailed field relations and petrographic studies, geology of Maherabad district can be divided into four sections (Fig. 3): 1) pre-mineralization volcanic rocks which are intruded by intermediate porphyritic intrusive rocks, 2) Eocene ore-related intrusive rocks which have interfered to formation of porphyry Cu-Au mineralization, 3) some intrusive rocks have intruded after mineralization, and 4) Quaternary sediments. The oldest rocks in the Maherabad area

are volcanic rocks, including tuffite and dacitic to rhyodacitic tuff. They are exposed in the center of district (Fig. 3). The ore - related porphyries are of Eocene age, and intruded into volcanic rocks. More than fifteen intrusive stocks have been recognized which host porphyry Cu-Au mineralization. The composition of mineralization-related intrusive rocks varies from gabbro to monzonite (Fig. 3). They were subjected to hydrothermal alteration spatially within and adjacent to monzonitic intrusions.

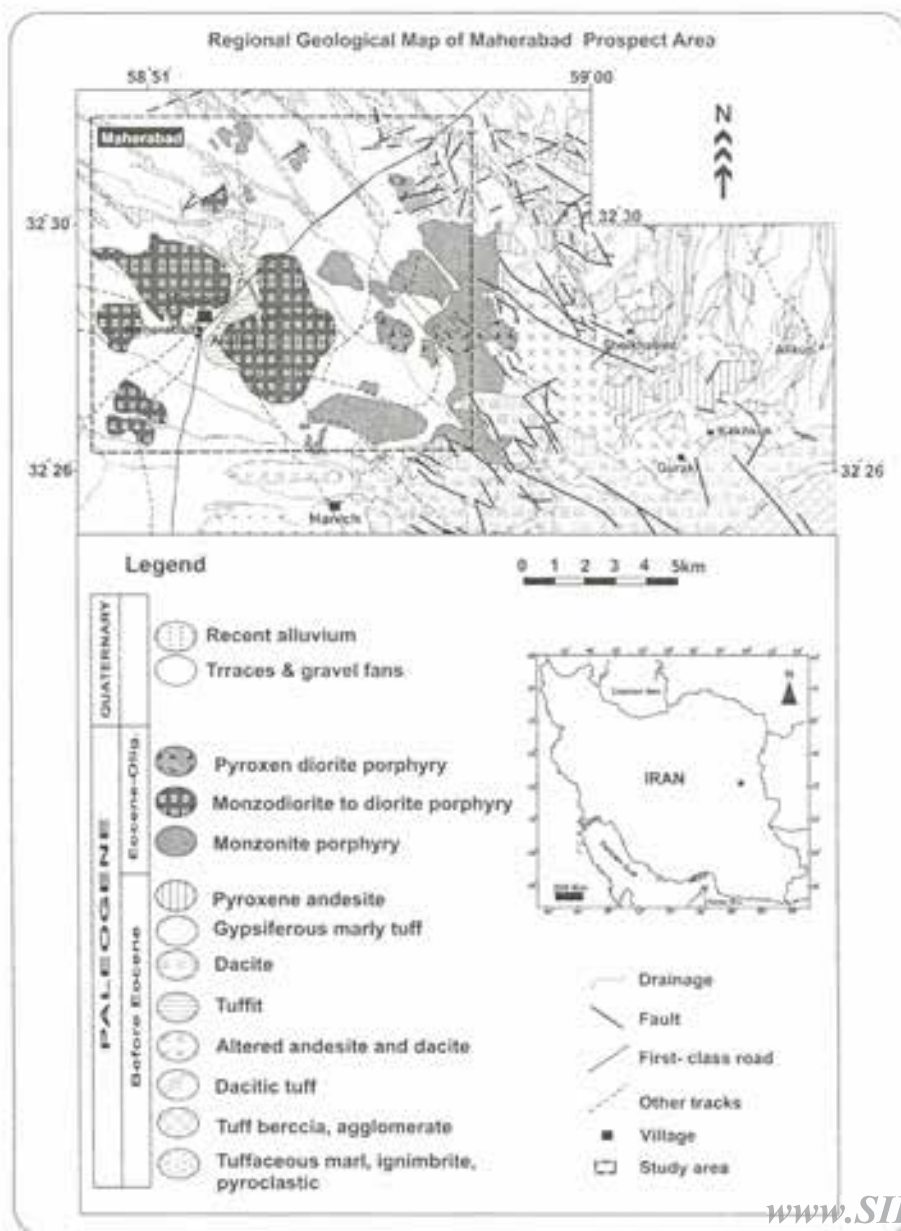


Fig. 2 Simplified regional geological map of study area modified after the Sar-e-Chah-e-Shur map [11], Mokhtaran map [12] and Khosf map [13]. The location of prospect area is shown.

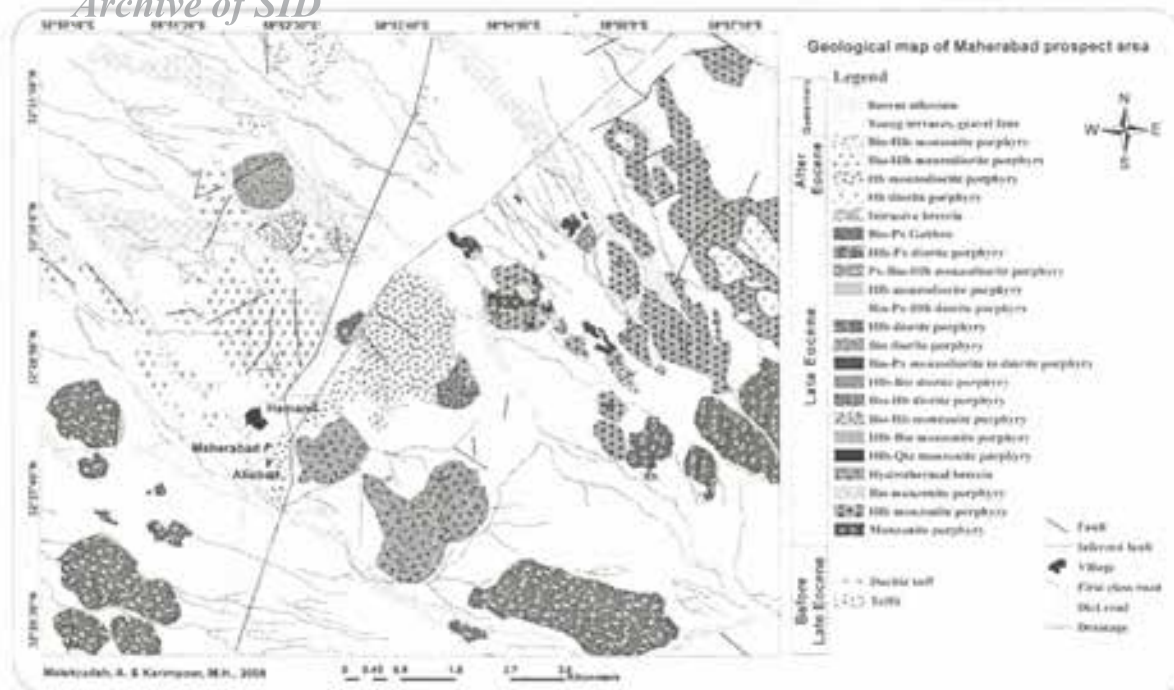


Fig. 3 Geological map of Maherabad prospect area

Monzonitic porphyry rocks with irregular contacts are the main stocks in the area. They are exposed in the eastern part of Maherabad. Petrographically, five monzonitic intrusive phases can be distinguished based on presence and abundance of phenocrysts of quartz and ferromagnesian minerals such as biotite and hornblende: 1) monzonite porphyry, 2) hornblende monzonite porphyry, 3) biotite monzonite porphyry, 4) hornblende quartz monzonite porphyry and 5) biotite hornblende monzonite porphyry (Fig. 3). These subvolcanic rocks were extensively altered and the highest density of veinlets was seen in them (up to 50 veinlets in 1 m^2). Color of these rocks is dominantly yellow to creamy due to quartz-sericite-pyrite alteration. Monzonitic rocks appear to be main source of mineralization.

Monzodiorite porphyries are divided into three units, including biotite pyroxene monzodiorite to diorite porphyry, hornblende monzodiorite porphyry, and pyroxene biotite hornblende monzodiorite porphyry. The exposure of these rocks is small (Fig. 3). They have been mainly influenced by propylitic alteration.

Dioritic mineralization-related stocks have small to large exposures in the east and west of Maherabad area. They are porphyritic, with plagioclase and ferromagnesian minerals such as

hornblende, biotite and pyroxene are main phenocrysts. They are divided into six units: 1) biotite hornblende diorite porphyry, 2) hornblende biotite diorite porphyry, 3) hornblende diorite porphyry, 4) biotite diorite porphyry, 5) biotite pyroxene hornblende diorite porphyry and 6) hornblende pyroxene diorite porphyry (Fig. 3).

These subvolcanic rocks were weakly to intermediately altered to chlorite, epidote, carbonate and quartz. Only one of them (biotite hornblende diorite porphyry) was subjected by intense quartz-sericite-pyrite alteration.

Biotite pyroxene gabbro is the only mineralization-related intrusive rock with mafic composition exposed. It occurs east of the main road (Fig. 3). This gabbro has very small outcrop. Its texture is porphyritic and plagioclase, pyroxene and biotite formed as phenocrysts. The color of unit is green due to presence of minor chlorite as a secondary mineral, in addition to pyroxene. Based on field relation, biotite pyroxene gabbro is a late phase of magmatism involved in porphyry Cu-Au mineralization of Maherabad. In addition to intrusive rocks, hydrothermal breccia and intrusive breccia units have been recognized which are related to mineralization in area.

The ore-related intrusive rocks are intruded by other calc-alkaline subvolcanic rocks emplaced after Cu-Au mineralization (Eocene). These rocks

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are fresh and mineralization is not seen. The composition of post-mineralization rocks varies from diorite to monzonite. Their texture is porphyritic and plagioclase, K-feldspar, biotite and hornblende are main phenocryst minerals. Post-mineralization rocks consist of hornblende diorite porphyry, hornblende monzodiorite porphyry, biotite hornblende monzodiorite porphyry and biotite hornblende monzonite porphyry (Fig. 3).

Petrography

The monzonite porphyry is porphyritic with aplitic groundmass. Phenocrysts comprise about 20-25 vol % of the rock and are plagioclase up to 5 mm in diameter (10-12 vol %), K-feldspar up to 1 mm in diameter (12-13 vol %) and minor quartz up to 0.2 mm (<0.5 vol %). The plagioclase has andesine composition and is zoned. Accessory minerals are zircon and magnetite. Most of the feldspar phenocrysts have been altered to sericite. Quartz and pyrite are commonly seen as veinlets or in the matrix. In places, this rock was affected by silicified-propylitic and propylitic zones, resulting in replacement of plagioclase phenocrysts by calcite, chlorite and epidote. The rock is strongly mineralized by different types of veinlets of quartz and quartz-sulfide, oxidized copper and secondary Fe-oxide minerals.

The hornblende monzonite porphyry has porphyry to glomeroporphyry texture and contains phenocrysts of andesine (15-20 vol %), K-feldspar (10-12 vol %), hornblende (7-8 vol %) and minor quartz (<0.5 vol %) in a fine-grained matrix. The groundmass consists mainly of quartz and feldspar. Plagioclase phenocrysts (up to 4 mm) are euhedral and normally zoned. They also have strongly sericitized. K-feldspar and hornblende phenocrysts are up to 1 mm and 3 mm, respectively and were altered. Accessory minerals include zircon, apatite and magnetite. Sericite and quartz are common secondary minerals. This unit is strongly mineralized by different veinlets of quartz-sericite-pyrite zone.

The biotite monzonite porphyry has plagioclase, K-feldspar, biotite and minor quartz as phenocryst. The phenocrysts are surrounded by a fine-grained quartz/feldspar matrix. Plagioclase phenocrysts (andesine, 20-25 vol %) display occasionally zoning and range in length from 1 to 5 mm. K-feldspar phenocrysts (10-11 vol %) are between 1 to 5 mm. Biotite (4-5 vol %) and quartz (0.5-1 vol %) phenocrysts range from 0.5 to 1.4 mm and 0.1 to 0.3 mm, respectively. Zircon, apatite and magnetite are common accessory

phases. Biotite monzonite porphyry was dominantly affected by intense QSP alteration. In some places, the rock has been subjected by propylitic zone and plagioclase and biotite phenocrysts altered to chlorite, epidote and calcite. Tourmaline is a rare secondary mineral which is recognized. Veinlets of QSP zone are mainly seen in this rock.

The hornblende quartz monzonite porphyry has a porphyritic texture and phenocryst minerals consist plagioclase (andesine, 10-12 vol %) between 1 to 4 mm in length, K-feldspar (8-9 vol %) up to 1 mm, quartz (2-3 vol %) up to 1.5 mm and hornblende (1-3 vol %) up to 3 mm. Zircon and magnetite are accessory minerals. Plagioclase and K-feldspar have been altered to sericite and minor calcite. Also, hornblende was replaced by Fe-oxides. This rock is mineralized by disseminated pyrite.

The biotite hornblende monzonite porphyry comprises phenocrysts of plagioclase (10-12 vol %) up to 3 mm, K-feldspar (10-12 vol %) up to 1 mm, hornblende (3-4 vol %) up to 3 mm, biotite (2-3 vol %) up to 0.9 mm, and rarely quartz (<0.5 vol %) up to 0.4 mm in a fine-grained matrix of quartz and feldspar. Plagioclase phenocrysts have andesine composition. Magnetite, zircon and titanite are accessory minerals. This unit was subjected by QSP or silicified-propylitic zones in different places and is mineralized by quartz-pyrite veinlets.

The biotite hornblende diorite porphyry has porphyry to glomeroporphyry texture with aplitic groundmass. Phenocrysts comprise about 40-45 vol % of the rock and are plagioclase up to 2 mm in diameter (andesine-labradorite, 25-27 vol %), K-feldspar less than 0.4 mm (1-2 vol %), hornblende up to 2 mm (to 10 vol %), biotite up to 1 mm (2-5 vol %) and rarely quartz (<1 vol %). Magnetite is an accessory mineral. The rock was subjected by QSP and propylitic alteration in different places. In places, this unit is associated with high-density veinlets of quartz-sulfide ± calcite.

The hornblende biotite diorite porphyry can be distinguished from the other intrusive rocks by 40-45 vol % phenocrysts, comprising plagioclase (andesine, <0.8 mm, 30-35 vol %), K-feldspar (<0.6 mm, 1 vol %), biotite (up to 1 mm, 4-5 vol %) and hornblende (up to 7 mm, 3-4 vol %). Magnetite is seen as an accessory phase. The rock was affected by propylitic alteration. Biotite phenocrysts have been altered to chlorite, calcite and minor epidote. In this manner, plagioclase and

K-feldspar (up to 1 mm) are weakly altered to sericite, epidote and calcite.

The biotite pyroxene monzodiorite to diorite porphyry consist of up to 30 vol % phenocrysts of plagioclase (1-3 mm), K-feldspar (1-3 mm), pyroxene (up to 1 mm) and biotite (up to 1.5 mm) set in a medium-grained feldspar-dominated groundmass. Plagioclase and pyroxene are compositionally andesine and diopside to augite-diopside, respectively. Accessory phases are magnetite. The rock is affected by silicified-propylitic alteration, resulting in replacement of biotite phenocrysts by chlorite and feldspar phenocrysts by minor sericite. Secondary quartz and pyrite \pm chalcopyrite is seen as veinlet and matrix.

The biotite diorite porphyry show porphyritic texture with aplitic matrix. Phenocryst minerals are 30-37 vol % plagioclase (andesine, up to 3 mm), 1-2 vol % K-feldspar (up to 2 mm) and 3-4 vol % biotite (up to 1 mm). Accessory mineral is only magnetite. This unit was affected by argillie-silicified alteration. Most feldspar has been altered to clay minerals such as kaolinite and illite.

The hornblende diorite porphyry characterized by porphyry texture and contains up to 35 vol % phenocrysts, including 25-28 vol % plagioclase (andesine, 0.5-2 mm), 1-2 vol % K-feldspar (0.1-1 mm), 4-5 vol % hornblende (0.6-5 mm) and rarely <0.5 vol % quartz (to 0.6 mm). Accessory mineral is magnetite. The rock was dominantly affected by propylitic alteration. Hornblende phenocrysts have been altered to chlorite, epidote, calcite and magnetite. Plagioclase phenocrysts have been replaced by calcite too. Secondary quartz is seen.

The biotite pyroxene hornblende diorite porphyry has porphyritic texture with aplitic matrix and normally contains up to 35 vol % phenocrysts, comprising 25-30 vol % plagioclase (andesine, up to 3 mm), 1-2 vol % K-feldspar (up to 1 mm), 2-3 vol % hornblende (up to 3 mm), 1-2 vol % pyroxene (diopside to augite-diopside, up to 1 mm) and 1 vol % biotite (up to 2 mm). Magnetite is only accessory mineral. This unit was very weakly affected by propylitic alteration. Minor chlorite, epidote and quartz are common secondary minerals.

The hornblende monzodiorite porphyry is porphyritic with aplitic groundmass. Phenocryst minerals are plagioclase (20-25 vol %) up to 1 mm, K-feldspar (4-6 vol %) less than 0.6 mm and hornblende (8-10 vol %) up to 2 mm. Accessory mineral is magnetite. Plagioclase and hornblende

have been altered to sericite, epidote, calcite, chlorite and magnetite.

The pyroxene biotite hornblende monzodiorite porphyry comprises of about 35-40 vol % plagioclase phenocrysts (<4 mm), K-feldspar (<3 mm), hornblende (up to 3 mm), biotite (<4 mm) and pyroxene (up to 2 mm) in a fine to medium-grained matrix. Plagioclase and pyroxene are compositionally andesine and diopside to augite-diopside, respectively. Magnetite is only accessory mineral. This rock was very weakly altered. Rarely narrow (0.2-0.5 mm) veinlets of quartz and minor chlorite are observed.

The hornblende pyroxene diorite porphyry has been recognized by porphyry texture with fine to medium-grained groundmass. Phenocryst minerals consist plagioclase (10-13 vol %), K-feldspar (1 vol %), pyroxene (2-3 vol %) and hornblende (1-2 vol %). Plagioclase phenocrysts are up to 1.5 mm and they have andesine-oligoclase composition. K-feldspar and hornblende phenocrysts are up to 0.5 mm and 2 mm in diameter, respectively. Pyroxene is compositionally diopside to augite-diopside. Minor chlorite, calcite and sericite are common secondary minerals in this rock.

The biotite pyroxene gabbro was characterized by 40-45 vol % phenocrysts, including 30-33 vol % plagioclase (up to 2 mm), 9-11 vol % pyroxene (up to 1 mm) and <1 vol % biotite (<0.5 mm). Plagioclase and pyroxene are compositionally labradorite and diopside to augite-diopside, respectively. Magnetite is seen as accessory mineral.

Analytical results

Major, trace and REE elements analysis of the least altered of mineralization-related intrusive rocks at Maherabad are presented in Table 1.

The SiO₂ content of sub-volcanic rocks vary from 54.90 wt % to 62.41 wt % (average SiO₂ of 59.39 wt %) (Table 1). A plot of SiO₂ / (K₂O + Na₂O) [14] shows that Maherabad intrusive rocks plot in the field of monzonite, quartz monzonite, and quartz diorite to gabbro (Fig. 4).

Plot of (A/NK) versus A/CNK) indicate that all of the intrusive rocks are metaluminous with Al₂O₃ / Na₂O + K₂O > 1 and Al₂O₃ / CaO + Na₂O + K₂O < 1 (Fig. 5).

The K₂O contents and K₂O / Na₂O ratios of rocks are between 2.00 wt % to 4.48 wt % and 0.60 to 1.36, respectively (Table 1). All samples plot in the high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonite fields on the K₂O versus SiO₂ diagram (Fig. 6) of [16].

Based on Rb, Y, Nb and Ta concentrations, all ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in volcanic arc granite (VAG) field (Fig. 7) [17]. Plot of Rb/Zr versus Nb [18] shows that all of the

intrusive rocks plot in the field of island arc (Fig. 8).

Table 1 Major, trace and REE elements analysis of least altered of ore-related intrusive rocks from the Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au prospect area

Wt %	MA-52	MA-67	MA-130	MA-178	MA-87	MA-95	MA-93	MA-126	MA-163
X	680523	680824	679915	679775	680892	678998	680890	680112	681337
Y	3597387	3597428	3595860	3597865	3597060	3597180	3597549	3595742	3594400
SiO ₂	62.41	62.25	58.76	54.90	62.42	57.77	62.25	57.89	55.87
TiO ₂	0.47	0.52	0.53	0.75	0.44	0.58	0.51	0.58	0.61
Al ₂ O ₃	14.61	14.70	15.15	16.15	14.12	14.49	15.39	15.11	15.84
TFeO	5.76	6.98	7.13	9.13	5.65	6.52	4.90	7.11	7.45
MnO	0.17	0.22	0.24	0.26	0.17	0.27	0.09	0.18	0.19
MgO	1.87	1.87	2.17	3.59	1.52	2.81	1.46	1.93	2.79
CaO	5.36	5.55	7.31	8.90	4.50	7.65	4.35	7.32	7.30
Na ₂ O	3.31	3.62	3.52	3.33	3.70	3.04	3.17	3.30	3.85
K ₂ O	4.38	4.03	2.40	2.00	4.43	3.46	4.31	2.59	3.05
P ₂ O ₅	0.27	0.27	0.36	0.37	0.29	0.44	0.29	0.38	0.48
L.O.I	1.41	1.51	2.59	0.85	0.81	3.53	2.12	2.35	1.86
Total	100.02	101.52	100.16	100.23	98.05	100.56	98.84	98.74	99.29
K ₂ O/Na ₂ O	1.32	1.11	0.68	0.60	1.20	1.14	1.36	0.78	0.79
Mg#	0.37	0.32	0.36	0.42	0.32	0.44	0.35	0.33	0.41
V	168	190	174	274	157	219	174	176	205
Cr	83	54	24	22	44	29	114	25	15
Mn	1087	1271	1560	1781	976	1603	536	1033	1273
Co	17	20	14	28	16	18	13	17	20
Ni	33	31	30	29	30	32	29	30	27
Cu	100	98	11	47	281	26	64	16	43
Zn	205	223	82	111	276	252	227	26	59
Cs	3.2	5.6	2.7	3.1	3.6	2.6	4.8	3	1.2
Ba	1068	1040	974	892	1074	1104	1133	1109	1041
Rb	121	109	38	29	145	56	130	57	57
Sr	720	630	1018	550	660	875	1730	905	802
Y	14	14	17	19	13	17	15	16	20
Zr	93	90	92	44	85	95	170	98	91
Nb	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Hf	1.5	1.7	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	2.1	1.5	2.4
Ta	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.4
Pb	69.9	46.2	12	8.3	36.7	76.3	61.9	7.5	13.6
Th	10.1	9.8	4.3	3.3	10.6	8.2	10.7	3.9	5.5
U	2.7	2.7	1.1	0.7	2.3	1.8	3	1.1	1.6
Sr/Y	51.43	45	59.88	28.95	50.77	51.47	115.33	56.56	40.1
La	23.2	23.8	19.9	16.5	23	26.1	26.8	20.2	25.3
Ce	45	45	41.3	37.2	43.4	56.6	50.1	42.7	53.6
Pr	5.31	5.30	5.27	5.04	5.03	6.35	5.71	5.26	6.56
Nd	20.3	21.7	20.6	21.5	19.3	27.1	23.7	22.6	27.3
Sm	4.07	4.17	4.11	4.69	3.66	5.57	4.59	4.52	5.75
Eu	1.08	1.07	1.19	1.28	0.93	1.31	1.16	1.28	1.43
Gd	3.51	3.64	3.71	4.45	3.37	4.59	3.92	3.88	4.95
Tb	0.58	0.6	0.62	0.81	0.57	0.72	0.58	0.60	0.81
Dy	2.56	2.87	3.11	3.73	2.48	3.37	2.86	3.09	4.08
Ho	0.56	0.55	0.70	0.95	0.55	0.70	0.62	0.64	0.96
Er	1.66	1.68	1.75	2.15	1.32	1.85	1.70	1.96	2.26
Tm	0.23	0.25	0.3	0.38	0.25	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.35
Yb	1.71	1.69	2.03	2.23	1.60	1.88	1.82	1.91	2.44
Lu	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.39	0.26	0.27	0.29	0.29	0.41
Eu/Eu*	0.87	0.84	0.93	0.85	0.81	0.79	0.83	0.93	0.82
(La/Yb) _N	9.14	9.49	6.60	4.98	9.69	9.36	9.92	7.13	6.99
(Ce/Yb) _N	6.80	6.88	5.26	4.31	7.01	7.78	7.12	5.78	5.68

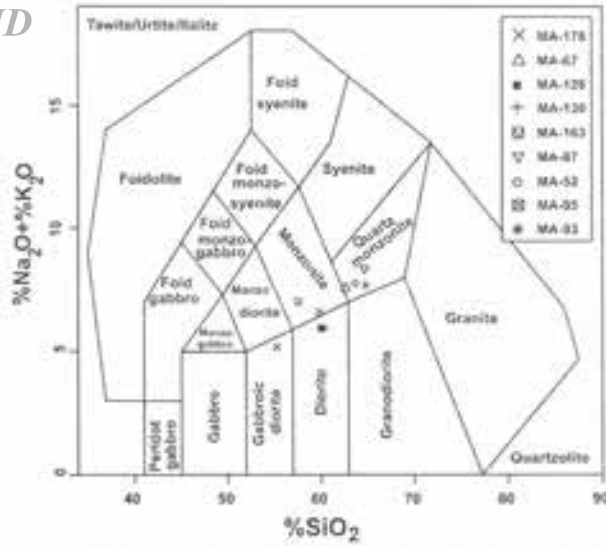


Fig. 4 classification of plutonic rocks by %Na₂O + %K₂O versus %SiO₂ [14].

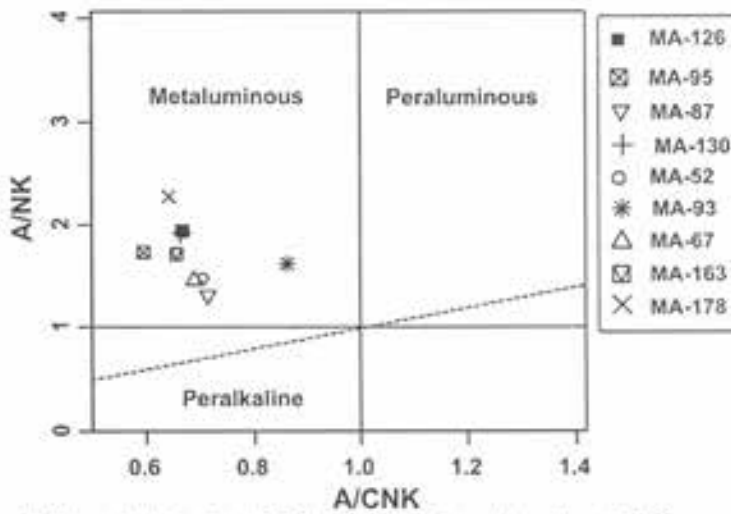


Fig. 5 Intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the field of metaluminous based on A/NK versus A/CNK diagram [15].

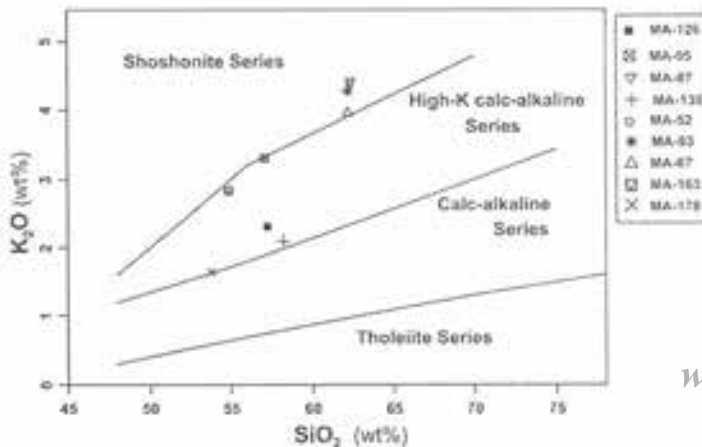


Fig. 6 Intrusive rocks of Maherabad are high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonite based on %K₂O versus %SiO₂ diagram [16].

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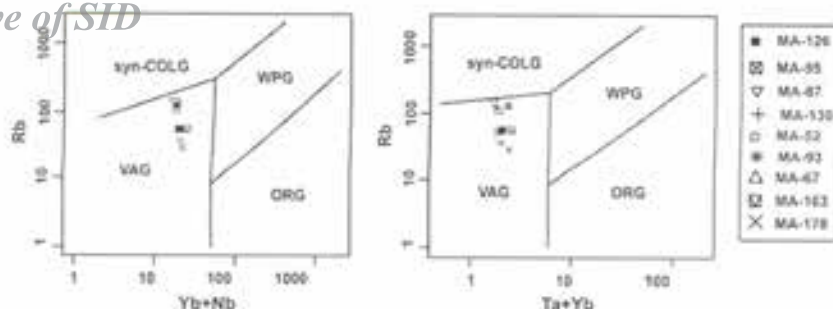


Fig. 7 Intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the field of VAG [17]. VAG = volcanic arc granite, syn-COLG = syn-collision granite, WPG = within plate granite, ORG = Oceanic ridge granite.

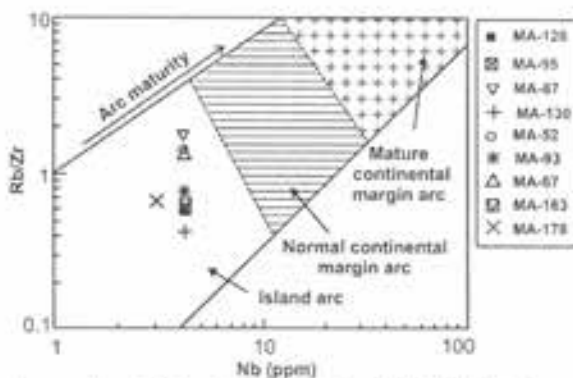


Fig. 8 Intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the field of island arc setting [18].

Rock/primitive mantle normalized spidergrams of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad are plotted in Fig. (9). All samples exhibit typical subduction – related signatures. They are enriched in large-ion-lithophile-elements (LILE) such as Rb, Cs, K, Ba and Th and relatively light REE (LREE) (La and Ce) relative to high-field-strength-elements (HFSE) such as Nb, Zr, Hf, and Ti and heavy REE (HREE) (Yb and Lu). Depletion in Nb and Ti is been interpreted to reflect a residual phase in the source that fractionated Ti-Nb bearing phases [19].

REE analyses of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad are shown in Table 1. Rock REE/chondrite normalized of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad are plotted in Fig. (10). They exhibit similar chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Fig. 10), which are characterized by moderate light rare earth element (LREE) enrichment, and medium heavy REE (HREE). Total REE = 100-180 ppm and $(La/Yb)_N = 4.98$ to 9.92 . The ratio of $Eu/Eu^* = 0.79$ to 0.93 , based on [21] (positive anomalies $1.0 < Eu/Eu^* < 1.0$ negative anomalies), Therefore have small negative or no Eu anomalies.

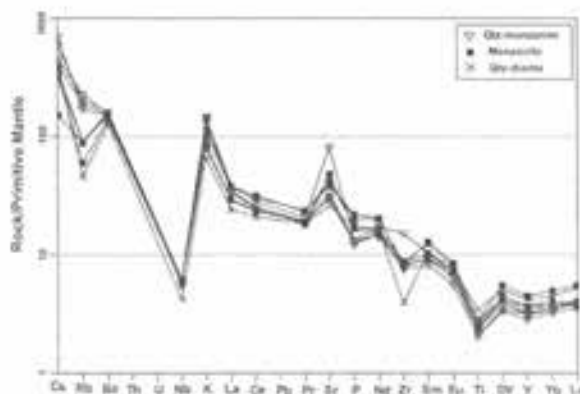


Fig. 9 Primitive mantle- normalized some REE and trace elements diagram for Maherabad samples (Primitive mantle values from [20]).

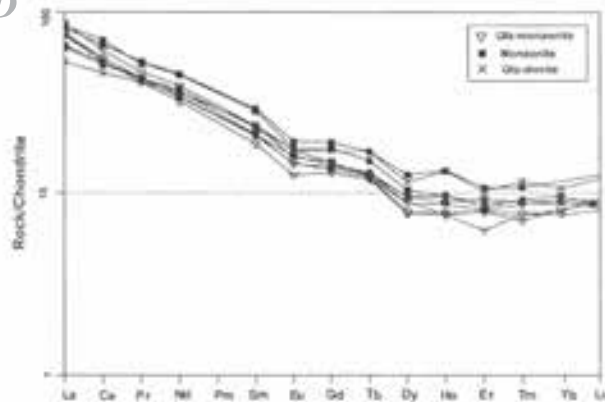


Fig. 10 Chondrite-normalized of REE diagram for Maherabad samples

Magnetic susceptibility

Granitic rocks were classified into magnetite-series and ilmenite-series by Ishihara [22]. Ishihara recognized that in Japan there is a distinct spatial distribution of granitic rocks that contain magnetite coexisting with ilmenite and those that contain ilmenite as the only Fe-Ti oxide. He recognized that the magnetite-series granitoids are relatively oxidized whereas the ilmenite-series granitoids are relatively reduced. Granites showing magnetic susceptibility a value of $> 3.0 \times 10^3$ (SI units) are classified as belonging to the magnetite-series [22]. Magnetic susceptibility of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad is between 760×10^5 to 7627×10^5 SI, therefore they belong to magnetite-series (Fig. 11). Based on composition of intrusive rocks, presence of hornblende, biotite and minor pyroxene as main phenocryst minerals, presence of magnetite as common accessory mineral and

magnetic susceptibility of the least altered intrusions, they are I-type granitoid.

Sr-Nd Isotopes

Rubidium-Sr and Sm-Nd isotope data for representative rocks from hornblende monzonite porphyry (MA-126 & KH-88) samples are given in Table (2 & 3). The initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ was recalculated to an age of 39 Ma (unpublished data). Initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios are 0.7048 and 0.7047 (Table 2) and Initial ϵNd isotope values are 1.81 and 1.45 (Table 3). The $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ isotope composition for hornblende monzonite porphyry 0.512713 and 0.512694 (Table 3). Based on ϵNd versus $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ diagram, these rocks plot in the field of island arc basalts (Fig. 12). These values could be considered as representative of oceanic slab-derived magmas.

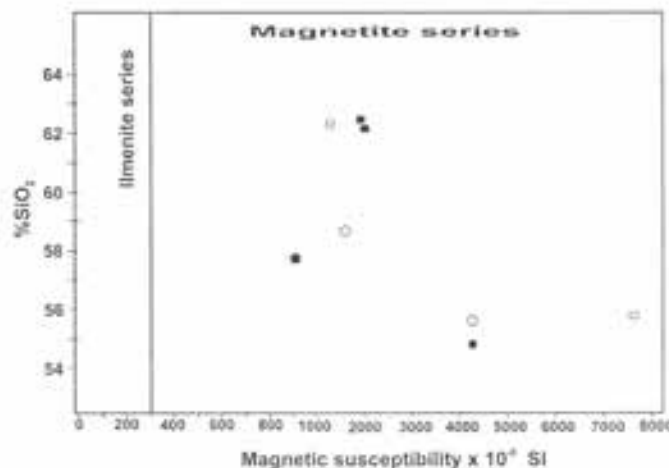


Fig. 11 Magnetic susceptibility of least altered of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad. Table 2- Rb-Sr isotopic analysis of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad prospect area

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Table 2. Rb-Sr isotopic analysis of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad prospect area

Sample	AGE (Ma)	Rb (ppm)	Sr (ppm)	$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})$ initial	Uncertainty on initial ratio
MA-126	39	49.1	906	0.1565	0.704869	0.000009
KH-88	39	66.1	493	0.3873	0.704756	0.000012

Table 3. Sm-Nd isotopic analysis of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad prospect area

Sample	Sm ppm	Nd ppm	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$	ϵNd 1
MA-126	4.29	20.45	0.1269	0.512713	1.81
KH-88	2.40	11.63	0.1251	0.512694	1.45

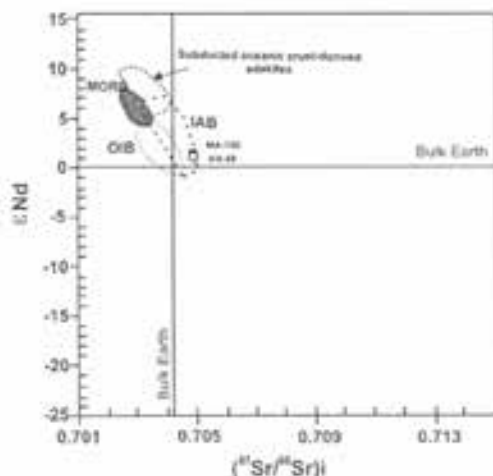


Fig. 12 The ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the island arc basalts (IAB) based on ϵNd versus $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ diagram. MORB, IAB and OIB data from [23].

Discussion and Conclusions

Source of Magma

The Initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad is 0.7047 to 0.7048 and the $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ isotope composition is 0.512713 and 0.512694. Radiogenic isotope compositions of Maherabad ore-related intrusive rocks differ with normal adakite, MORB and OIB fields. $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ and $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ ratios in normal adakite are ≤ 0.7045 and > 0.5129 respectively. MORB has $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i < 0.704$ and ϵNd between +4 and +8. Also, oceanic island basalts have lower $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ than investigated samples. Studied rocks have Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd compositions more similar to calc-alkaline rocks in island arc. Based on radiogenic isotope compositions, source of rocks is slab-derived magma.

Geochemical signatures of Maherabad porphyry Cu-Au ore-related intrusive rocks have some similarity to adakite-like magmatism and are relatively characterized by $\text{SiO}_2 > 59$ wt %, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 15$ wt %, $\text{MgO} < 2$ wt %, $\text{Na}_2\text{O} > 3$ wt %, $\text{Sr} > 870$ ppm, $\text{Y} < 18$ ppm, $\text{Sr}/\text{Y} > 55$, moderate LREE, relatively low HREE and enrichment LILE (Sr, Cs,

Rb, K and Ba) relative to HFSE (Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf and Zr) but they differ in some ways, including higher K_2O contents, $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios and Yb_N and lower $\text{Mg}\#$, $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$, and $(\text{Ce}/\text{Yb})_N$ in studied rocks (Table. 4).

Adakites are intermediate to acidic volcanic or plutonic rocks that characterized by ≥ 56 wt % SiO_2 , ≥ 15 wt % Al_2O_3 , < 3 wt % MgO (rarely > 6 wt %), 3.5 wt % $\leq \text{Na}_2\text{O} \leq 7.5$ wt %, low $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ (~ 0.42), high $\text{Mg}\#$ (~ 0.51), high Ni and Cr contents (24 and 36 ppm, respectively), high Sr (> 400 ppm) and initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$ like to MORB. Rare earth elements (REE) patterns are strongly fractionated ($(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N > 10$) with typically low heavy REE (HREE) contents ($\text{Yb} \leq 1.8$ ppm and $\text{Y} \leq 18$ ppm) [24].

High concentration of Sr (≥ 550 ppm) (Table 1) indicates geochemical characteristics different from typical volcanic arc granite. In the Sr/Y versus Y diagram, seven samples plot in the field of adakite and two rocks plot in the field of typical arc-related calc-alkaline (Fig. 13).

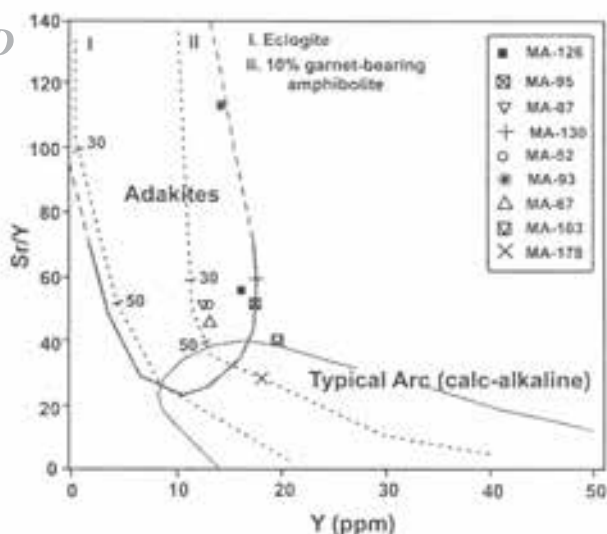


Fig. 13 Ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the field of adakite to classical arc calc-alkaline based on Sr/Y versus Y diagram [24].

High Sr of Maherabad mineralization-related intrusive rocks is similar to normal adakite rocks. Also, Eu in the REE chondrite-normalized diagram has small negative or no Eu anomalies, resulting in relatively high Eu/Eu^* (0.79 to 0.93). Eu^{2+} behaves similarly to Sr and both widely substitutes for Ca^{2+} in plagioclase [25]. The enrichment of Sr and the absence of significant Eu anomalies indicate that the source was plagioclase-free [26].

Y concentrations of investigated rocks are in boundary between calc-alkaline and normal adakite. In fact, moderately low Y contents in Maherabad intrusions could explain presence of minor garnet as residual mineral in the source region.

The K_2O concentrations and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios should be lower than 3 wt % and ~ 0.42 , respectively in adakite rocks. In Maherabad samples, K_2O contents are between 2.00 and 4.43 wt % (average K_2O of 3.40 wt %) and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios are ~ 1 in average (Table 4).

K-rich adakites have been identified in eastern China [33], the Songpar-Garze fold belt (SGFB) of the eastern Tibetan Plateau and southern of the Tibetan Plateau [34]. These rocks, termed "C-type" (continental-type) as described by [33], have all the geochemical attributes of typical subduction related adakites, but with $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O} \sim 1$ and they are distinctly more potassic. However, comparisons of K-adakite and shoshonitic rocks have represented that shoshonite intrusive rocks could be have high Sr and Sr/Y but K-adakite have higher Sr/Y (up to 100), $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ and $(\text{Ce}/\text{Yb})_N$ and lower Y (less to 10). Therefore, Maherabad

ore-related intrusive rocks are more similar to high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonite than adakite in Sr, Sr/Y contents and REE-normalized pattern.

Gold-rich porphyry copper deposits are intimately related to potassic calc-alkaline and shoshonitic rocks such as at Bajo de la Alumbrera, Argentina [35], Bingham, USA [36], Cadia, Australia [37] and etc.

Potassic calc-alkaline rocks are generally formed by partial melting of subcontinental lithospheric mantle modified by previous slab-derived fluids or/and melts [38]. Experiments have demonstrated that metasomatism of mantle peridotite by hydrous, silica-rich slab melts can produce a hybrid phlogopite pyroxenite [39]. Mass balance calculations further show that 15 g of trondhjemitic magmas, typical of slab melts; yield 1 g of phlogopite upon reaction with peridotite [40]. Partial melting of such hybridized mantle would give rise to potassic melts. Also, potassium-rich shoshonites mainly originate from partial melting of an enriched mantle [41].

Therefore, there are at least three possibilities for generation of high-K calc alkaline to shoshonitic rocks in eastern Iran:

- 1- Partial melting of hybridized mantle by hydrous, silica-rich slab-derived melts and
- 2- Or input of enriched mantle-derived ultra-potassic magmas, during the formation and migration of adakitic melts.
- 3- Some K could be added by assimilation of K-rich sedimentary rocks during emplacement of intrusions.

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Table 4 Comparison of Maherabad intrusive rocks with some temporal evaluation of the definition of adakites.

	Defam and Drummond [24]	Defam and Drummond [28]	Drummond et al. [29]	Castille et al. [30]	Martin [27]	Martin et al. [31]	Richards & Kerrick [32]	Maherabad (average)
SiO ₂ (wt %)	≥56					>56	≥56	59
Al ₂ O ₃ (wt %)	≥15	>15 At 70% SiO ₂	>15 At 70% SiO ₂				≥15	35
MgO (wt %)	Usually <1 Rarely ≥6						Normally <1	2.2
Mg#						-0.50	-0.50	0.36
Na ₂ O (wt %)						3.5-7.5	≥3.5	3.42
K ₂ O (wt %)			≤3				≤3	3.40
K ₂ O/Na ₂ O						-0.42	-0.42	0.99
Rb			<65				≤65	82
Sr (ppm)	≥400					300-2000	≥400	876
Y (ppm)	≤18	≤18		<15-18	≤18	≤18	≤18	18
Yb (ppm)	≤1.9	≤1.9		<1-1.5	≤1.8	≤1.8	≤1.9	1.92
Ni (ppm)					20-40	24	≥20	30
Cr (ppm)					30-50	36	≥30	45
Sc/Y		≥20		>40			≥20	35.50
(La/Yb) _N				>20		≥15	≥20	8.14
⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr	<0.7040		<0.7045				<0.7045	0.7048

Another geochemical difference between adakitic magmatism and investigated rocks is lower Mg# in Maherabad intrusions (Table 4). The interaction between adakitic melt and peridotite is suggested to be a possible mechanism for increasing the Mg# value during the upward migration of the adakitic melts [42]. Also, MgO, Ni and Cr contents are relatively low in the studied rocks. Interaction of the slab melt with the overlay mantle wedge is verified to be a possible mechanism for increasing of MgO, Ni and Cr concentrations in normal adakite by experimental studies [43]. Therefore, the decreasing thickness of the mantle wedge by slab shallowing may explain the lower MgO, Mg#, Ni and Cr contents of Maherabad intrusions. Most of samples of Maherabad intrusive rocks

have Yb contents near boundary between calc-alkaline and adakite and/or higher than normal adakite (Fig. 14) and average (La/Yb)_N and (Ce/Yb)_N ratios less than 9.7 due to moderate La and Ce relative to Yb element. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns of Maherabad samples show medium fractionated in LREE and have a flat MREE to HREE pattern. The presence of residual garnet and/or hornblende accounting for the low Yb contents [44]. Adakitic melt was produced from basaltic arc magma by fractional crystallization of a garnet-bearing assemblage [45]. Based on moderate Yb contents and low (La/Yb)_N ratios, the source of Maherabad ore-related intrusive rocks are amphibolite. Slab shallowing may explain lack of garnet in source.

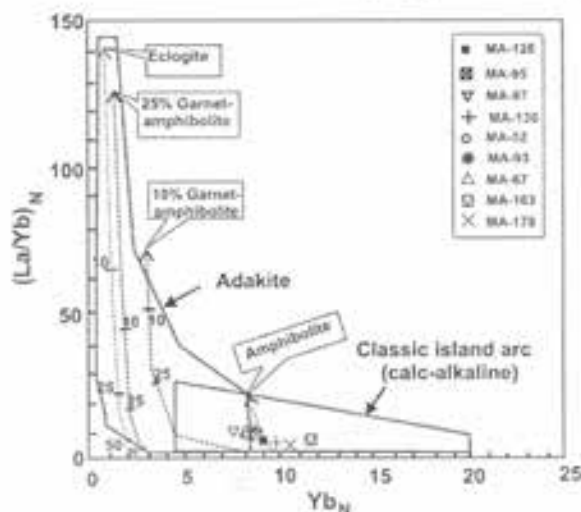


Fig. 14 The most of ore-related intrusive rocks of Maherabad plot in the co-area to boundary of adakite and classical arc calc-alkaline based on (La/Yb)_N versus Yb_N diagram [46].

Depletion of HFSE (Nb, Ta, Ti, Zr, and Hf) of investigated rocks relative to LILE is similar subduction-related rocks. Models explaining the characteristic depletion of HFSE relative to elements of similar compatibility in subduction zone magmas invoke either 1) the presence of HFSE-rich minerals in the subduction regime or 2) a selectively lower mobility of HFSE during subduction metasomatism of the mantle [47]. Presence of amphibole [48] or a residual titanate phase, most likely rutile [49] in the sources of arc magmas can explain depletion of HFSE. Some experimental works [50 & 51] take the position that rutile must be present, in addition to garnet, in order to explain the negative Ti and Nb anomalies shown by adakitic rocks in multi-element diagrams normalized to primitive-mantle or MORB concentrations. This implies magma generation at $P > 1.5$ GPa. Furthermore, the partition coefficients for Nb between ilmenite or zircon and melt are up to 50 [52], suggesting that negative Nb anomalies can have alternative origins, at P-T conditions outside those required for rutile stability. Rather, Drummond and Defant [24] proposed that amphibole, whose $K_d^{amp/liq}$ for Nb-Ta in intermediate to felsic liquids is -4 [53], could be the cause of negative Nb-Ta anomalies. This hypothesis is very attractive, as amphibole is likely to play a role during basalt melting as well as during subsequent fractional crystallization. Based on necessity of higher pressure for stability of rutile relative to garnet and presence of minor garnet as residual mineral in the source region of Maherabad intrusions, other Ti-Nb-bearing phases (such as amphibole) could be explain depletion of these elements.

Finally, Maherabad gold-rich porphyry copper prospect area has been formed by high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic magma, whether derived directly from partial melting of the subducted oceanic slab associated with presence of low garnet (lower than 10%) or garnet-free and without plagioclase in melt residue in island arc setting. This magma has weakly interacted with mantle wedge peridotite because of relatively low MgO, Cr and Ni and low Mg# contents due to slab shallowing. Partial melting of hybridized mantle by hydrous, silica-rich slab-derived melts or/and

input of enriched mantle-derived ultra-potassic magmas, during the formation and migration of adakitic melts could be explain high K_2O contents and K_2O/Na_2O ratios in studied rocks.

Conclusions

In Maherabad Au-Cu porphyry prospect area, 39 Ma years ago, numerous subvolcanic diorite, quartz monzonite and monzonite were intruded into volcanic rocks. The ore-bearing porphyries are I-type, metaluminous, high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonite intrusive rocks which were formed in island arc setting. Based on mineralogy and high values of magnetic susceptibility [$(>500) \times 10^5$ SI], these are classified as belonging to the magnetite-series of oxidized I-type granitoids. These rocks are characterized by average of $SiO_2 > 59$ wt %, $Al_2O_3 > 15$ wt %, $MgO < 2$ wt %, $Na_2O > 3$ wt %, $Sr > 870$ ppm, $Y < 18$ ppm, $Yb < 1.90$ ppm, $Sr/Y > 55$, moderate LREE, relatively low HREE and enrichment LILE (Sr, Cs, Rb, K and Ba) relative to HFSE (Nb, Ta, Ti, Hf and Zr). They are chemically similar to some adakites, but their chemical signatures differ in some ways from normal adakites, including higher K_2O contents and K_2O/Na_2O ratios and lower Mg#, $(La/Yb)_N$ and $(Ce/Yb)_N$ in Maherabad rocks. Maherabad intrusive rocks are the first K-rich adakites that can be related with subduction zone.

The initial $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ and $(^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd)_i$ was recalculated to an age of 39 Ma (unpublished data). Initial $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ ratios for hornblende monzonite porphyry are 0.7047-0.7048. The $(^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd)_i$ isotope composition are 0.512694-0.512713. Initial ϵ Nd isotope values 1.45-1.81. These values could be considered as representative of oceanic slab-derived magmas.

Partial melting of mantle hybridized by hydrous, silica-rich slab-derived melts or/and input of enriched mantle-derived ultra-potassic magmas during or prior to the formation and migration of adakitic melts could be explain their high K_2O contents and K_2O/Na_2O ratios. Low Mg# values and relatively low MgO, Cr and Ni contents imply limited interaction between adakite-like magma and mantle wedge peridotite. Source modeling indicates that high-degree of partial melting (relatively up to 50%) of a basaltic garnet-bearing

(lower than 10%) amphibolite to amphibolite lacking plagioclase as a residual or source mineral can explain most of the moderate to low Y and Yb contents, low $(La/Yb)_N$, high Sr/Y ratios and lack of negative anomaly of Eu in the rocks of the district.

These information verified presence of subduction-related Cu-Au mineralization spatially porphyry-type deposits in east of Iran. Therefore, detailed geological works and further exploration of porphyry copper deposits should be considered more in this area. East of Iran could be second porphyry copper belt after Urumieh-Dokhtar belt.

Acknowledgment

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