

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Magma Petrogenesis Study Based on Morphology and Texture Of Zircon Minerals: Case Study At The Causative Intrusive In The HLE Porphyry Copper-Gold Prospect, Sumbawa Island, Indonesia

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Abstract

The zircon mineral is one of the accessory minerals within igneous rocks for its ability to resist hydrothermal and metamorphic processes. By examining their morphology and texture, zircon minerals can provide valuable insights into magma's petrogenesis, including temperature and composition. Two methods used to reach the research objectives include Petrography and SEM-CL analysis of the zircon grain from the diorite porphyry of the HLE prospect. On the basis of Petrography observation, the grain size of zircon ranges from 50 to 300 μm in size, and most have a transparent to grey color with prismatic, non-prismatic euhedral-subhedral elliptical, and non-prismatic rounded in shape. The zircon crystal typologies from the diorite porphyry are classified into S10, P2, S12, S13, S16, and S17 types, indicating the wide range of the crystallization temperature of zircon, ranging from 700 to 800 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The zircon from the diorite porphyry of the HLE prospect shows the medium values of pyramids typology, which is $\{101\} = \{211\}$. It corresponds to a medium Al/Na + K ratio (A index) value, indicating zircon as a product from the calc-alkaline magmas series. The trend of the calc-alkaline/sub-alkaline in typology suggests crustal sources mixed with mantle material. Furthermore, based on SEM-CL analysis the zircon shows dominantly oscillatory zoning with thin bands, and some grains show weak zoning in the outer core, typical of magmatic zircon. Moreover, the presence of lamellae texture of magnetite-ilmenite mineral under the scanning electron microscopy (BSE image) can be interpreted as the magma related to the high oxidizing magma.

Keywords: Zircon morphology, Pupin methods, petrography, cathodoluminescence (CL), Sumbawa Island

1. Introduction

Zircon is one of the accessory minerals within igneous rocks, zircon is known for its resistance to hydrothermal and metamorphic processes (Rubatto, 2017; Li et al., 2023). Based on previous studies related to granitic rock by Pupin, 1976; Pupin and Turco, 1972; Pupin and Turco 1975. Generally, the crystallization temperature and aluminum-alkali balance in the formation of zircon can influence the variance of the crystal morphology. This has led to using zircon populations as tracers of the petrogenesis of granitic magmas. Various morphological parameters can be used to identify petrogenetic information, such as crystal habits, which are variable among them. Pupin and Turco, 1972; Pupin and Turco, 1975; Pupin, 1976; and Pupin, 1980, 1985; and Pupin, 1988 have all pointed out this important petrogenetic information. Several geoscientists have conducted similar studies related to that topic, such as Dias et al., 2002, Martins et al., 2009; 2013; 2014 using the classic method by Pupin (1980) against the information of petrogenetic related to geochemistry and stable isotopic data. Our research purpose is to apply morphological study of

zircon in order to understand the petrogenetic of the diorite rock as a causative intrusion at the HLE prospect relating to temperature formation and magma petrogenetic.

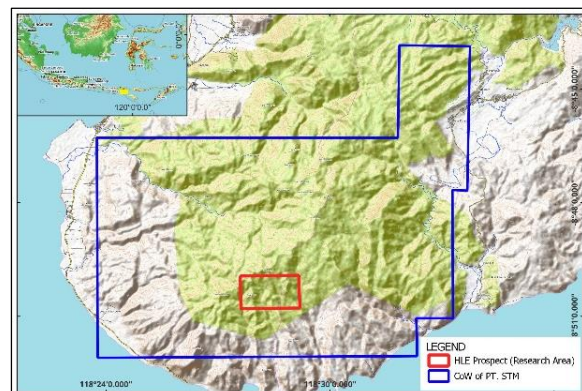


Fig. 1. Sumbawa Timur Mining tenement area of Hu'u district, where the HLE prospect is situated.

The research area is in Hu'u district, Dompu Regency, Sumbawa Island, Indonesia, within the tenement area of

Sumbawa has been intruded by that intrusion. On the basis of cross-cutting relationships and radiometric dating and cross-cutting relationship shows that these intrusion ages range from Middle Miocene to Pliocene (Garwin, 2000). According to K/Ar radiometric dating, the quaternary volcanic lava from Sangenges and Tambora volcano ages range from 1.71 ± 0.05 to 0.043 ± 0.02 ma (Barberi et al., 1987). Whole rocks and minerals of active Sangeang Api excess ^{226}Ra . Suggest by $^{226}\text{Ra} - ^{230}\text{Th}$ -Ba data, the magmatic evolution beneath the arc volcano occurs over timescales of about 2000 years (Turner et al., 2003).

The geological framework of the Hu'u district, characterized by a paleo-volcanic morphology originating from Puma and Wawosigi volcano products. According to Sundhoro et al, (2005). Fusion track dating of Puma lava samples indicates an age of 5.8 ± 0.2 million years. The Hu'u district is surrounded by lowlands and coastal plains, and the highest elevation of the mountains in this district reaches approximately 1020 MASL. The geological composition of the Hu'u district comprises andesite lava and breccias with interspersed sandy tuff, tuff, and tuffaceous sandstone (Ratman & Yasin, 1978; Sudrajat et al. 1998). Geological mapping (PT. STM, 2018) and Landsat imagery studies have classified the Hu'u district into eleven lithological units. During the Early Miocene, the activity of calc-alkaline magmatism decreased, caused by extensive erosion and sedimentation formation. The mineralization at the Sunda-Banda belt is generally linked to the magmatism of the tectonic island arc boundary (Carlike and Mitchell, 1994; Setijadji et al., 2006; Setijadji and Maryono, 2012; Maryono et al., 2018). The transition zone between Sunda and Banda Arc is still unknown, but some scientists suggested that the location is between Flores and Sumbawa Island. The tectonic setting, particularly in the eastern part of the Sunda arc, is still debatable, whether it is related to an island arc or an active continental arc. Hamilton, 1979; Katili, 1975 proposed that arcs relate to the continental arc. This perspective is supported by several publications, including Reubi et al. (2002), Gertisser & Keller (2003), Elburg et al. (2004), Gardner et al. (2013), and Fadlin et al. (2018; 2021; 2023).

Lithologically, the HLE porphyry Cu-Au prospect is composed of by sequences of volcanic rocks, including tuffs (andesitic & crystalline), volcanic breccia, subvolcanic intrusions, diorite intrusions, and andesitic lava (PT. STM 2018). The existence of diorite intrusion as a window suggests that the erosion in this area is not too deep and occurs within a subvolcanic environment (refer to Fig. 3).

Diatreme breccia in research area covering about 500m with orientation southwest-northeast spreading, which is formed by post intrusion process, evidenced by including intrusive rock fragments within the breccia.

Typically, the mineralization in the research area is related to porphyry Cu deposit, with characterized by hypogene mineralization and multiphase diorite porphyry intrusion which can be divided into three phases including early, intermediate, and late mineral phases (Sillitoe, 2012). The early porphyries exhibit an average composition of 0.5 percent Cu and 0.5 grams per ton Au. In contrast, the inter-mineral porphyries have a significantly lower grade, Cu averaging from 0.2 to 0.3 percent and 0.2 to 0.5 grams per ton Au. However, the eastern side of the intrusion shows a much higher gold content, averaging 0.3 percent Cu and 1 gram per ton Au.

The late mineral stages are nearly barren, containing only 0.1 percent Cu and 0.01-0.05 grams per ton of gold (Sillitoe, 2012). As part of a previous project (Fadlin et al., 2023), the author also has identified the mineral constituents of diorite intrusive rocks in the research area. Through petrographic observations, the study revealed a multiphase intrusion characterized by two distinct types of intrusive rock: quartz diorite and diorite porphyry (Fadlin et al., 2023).

2. Sampling and Analytical Method

Samples for this research were collected from intrusions, representing multiple intrusion phases (early, intermediate, and late) at the HLE prospect. Approximately 2 kg of diorite porphyry from three borehole samples (VHD006/500-502, VHD009A/250-252, and VHD001R/600-602) underwent crushing and milling processes to achieve a particle size of $< 300 \mu\text{m}$. Conventional techniques, such as crushing, panning, magnetic separation, and heavy liquid (utilizing sodium poly-tungstate), were employed to separate zircon grains from the particle, followed by a meticulous handpicking technique using a microscope. Zircon that has been separated, placed in epoxy resins, and polished to reveal its inside. We used polished sections of samples to facilitate mounting into SEM specimen holders approximately 1 cm thick. The polish section samples were also polished with 3 m and 1 m diamond polish. Two observation methods that are used to reach the research objectives include Petrography observation and SEM-CL analysis. Petrography observation is purpose to determine the morphology and typology of zircon mineral using a Nikon ECLIPSE LV100N POL, and the SEM-CL method was also used to understand the zircon mineral's internal texture. In addition, the sample was coated by the carbon coating method before going to analysis under the SEM-CL method. The Oxford Instrument JEOL JSM-6610 SEM-EDS equipment was used for this analysis. These assessments were conducted at the Economic Geology Laboratory, Department of Earth Resource Science, International Resource Sciences Graduate School, Akita University, Japan.

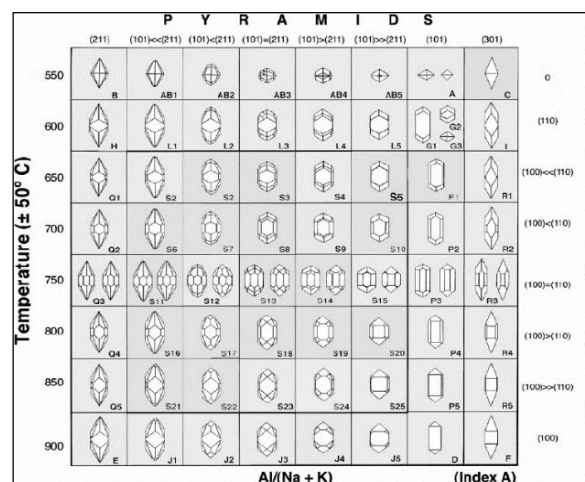


Fig. 4. Zircon typological classification proposed by Pupin (1980)

The zircon typology will be classified using the Pupin classification method to understand magma petrogenesis (Fig. 4). Zircon typological classification proposed by Pupin (1980) show the relationship an index A reflects the

Al/alkali ratio, controlling the development of zircon pyramids, whereas temperature affects the development of different zircon prisms. The methodology employed in this study was initially developed for magmatic zircon associated with granitic rock. However, in the current investigation, this method is adapted to analyze magmatic zircon derived from diorite porphyry. This modification allows for applying the established technique to the specific geological context of the diorite porphyry samples under examination.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Morphology of Zircon

Under transmitted light microscope images, the zircon grain of porphyry intrusion from the HLE prospect shows

variation in the external morphology. The zircon is grey to transparent in color, the size ranges from 50 to 300 μm . The morphology of zircon grain varies within a single rock sample from a prismatic, non-prismatic euhedral-subhedral elliptical, and non-prismatic rounded. The zircon crystal typologies are classified based on "Pupin diagram", from the relative development of prismatic form ($\{100\}$ vs. $\{110\}$) and the pyramidal form ($\{211\}$ vs. $\{101\}$), which shows that the HLE zircon crystals are classified as S10, P2, S12, S13, S16, and S17 (Fig. 5). A zircon typological classification corresponds to a geothermometric scale based on the crystal faces (Pupin, 1980). The ratio of Al/Na + K (A index) contributes to the development of pyramidal faces.

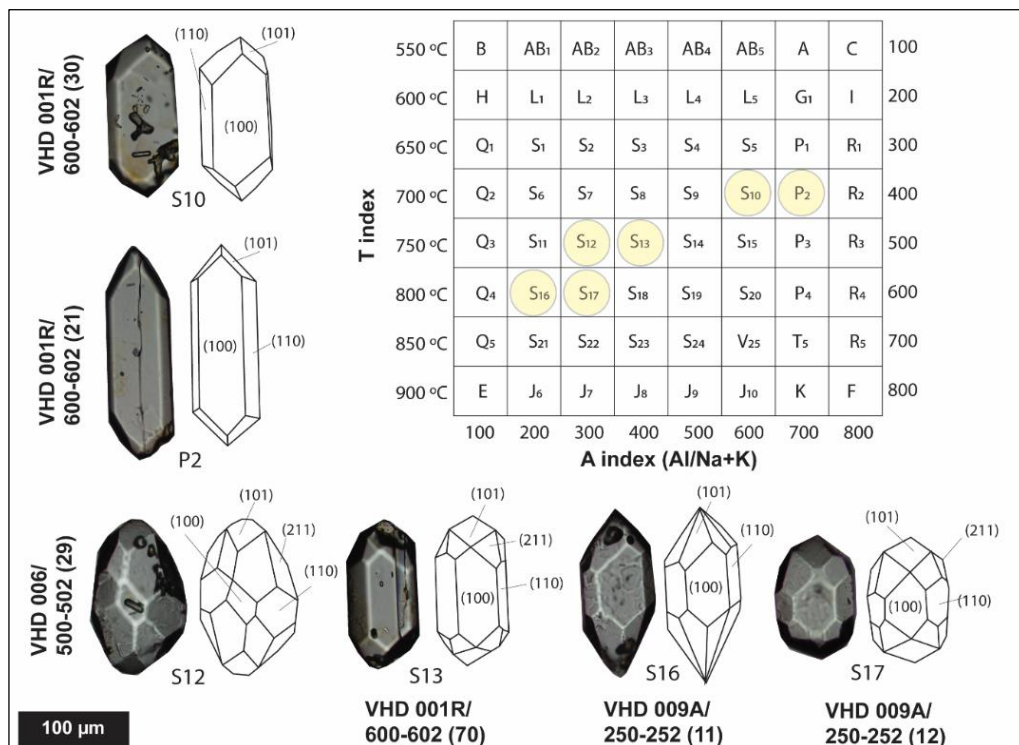


Fig. 5. A proposed typological classification of zircons from diorite porphyry of HLE prospect (after Pupin, 1980). Index A represents the Al/(NA+K) ratio (100-800) which is responsible for the development of zircon pyramids, while the form of the prism is influenced by temperature. The HLE zircon typology includes S10, P2, S12, S13, S16, and S17 (yellow box).

The T index represents the zircon crystallization temperature, which is a control for the prismatic faces. A high T index ($\{100\}$ prism) implies a higher temperature than a low T index ($\{110\}$ prism). (Martins et al., 2014; Pupin, 1980). The external structure of the HLE zircon shows slightly more variation on prism typology values, which are from ($\{100\} < \{110\}$) to ($\{100\} > \{110\}$), indicating the wide range of the crystallization temperature of zircon, ranging from 700 OC to 800 OC (Pupin, 1980).

The zircon typology study can interpret the magma affinity series, which refers to the ratio of Al/Na + K (A index). The high Al/Na + K index is related to the alkaline magma series, and the medium index of Al/Na + K is related to the calc-alkaline magma series. Similarly, the causative intrusion geochemistry of various porphyry Cu-Au prospects or deposits throughout the eastern Sunda arc, such as Kumbokarno (Aldan et al., 2022), Tumpangpitu (Harrison et al., 2018), Batu Hijau (Idrus et al., 2007; 2009), and Brambang (Idrus et al., 2021),

demonstrates this. In contrast, a low Al/Na + K index is related to the tholeiitic magma series (Pupin, 1980). Zircon typology from Pupin, 1980 shows an effective and efficient for applying magma genesis study, especially in the case of magma affinity and the formation of zircon temperature. The HLE zircon shows the medium values of pyramids typology, which is $\{101\} = \{211\}$ (Fig. 5). It corresponds to a medium value of the Al/Na + K ratio (A index), indicating zircon as a product from the calc-alkaline magmas series (Martins et al., 2014). Furthermore, the trend of the calc-alkaline or sub-alkaline in typology suggests crustal sources mixed with mantle material (Fig. 6)

It is in agreement with previous research, which analyzed magma affinity using whole rock geochemistry to show that the rock affinity in the research area is classified as calc-alkaline series, with some evidence of magma contamination by the mantle (Carlile and Mitchell, 1994; Maryono et al., 2018; Setijadji et al., 2006; Setijadji and Maryono, 2012; Fadlin et al., 2013).

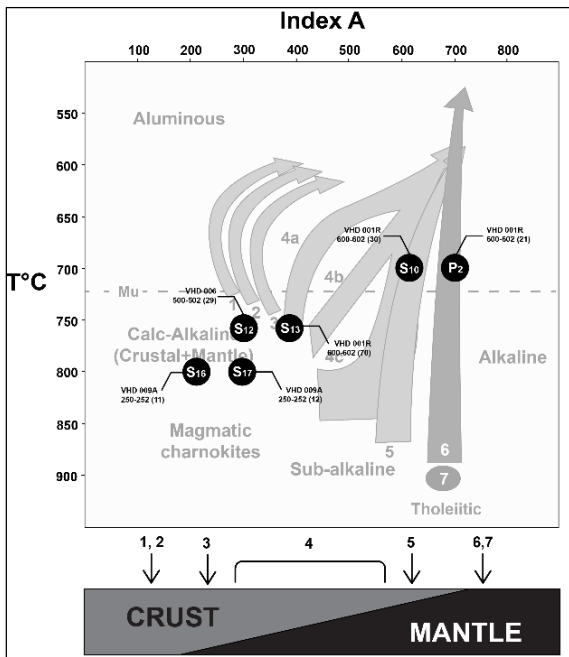


Fig. 6. Typology zircon populations from diorite porphyry of HLE prospect diagram (Modified Pupin, 1988). Crustal origin (orogenic): (1) aluminous rock; (2) (sub) autochthonous rock; (3) intrusive aluminous rock. Calc-alkaline rock (crustal + mantle origin) (subduction-related): (5) sub-alkaline series granites. Mantle origin (within plate): (6) alkaline series and (7) tholeiitic series

3.2 Internal Texture of Zircon

Several zircon grains have mineral and melt inclusions, and a few grains have bubble inclusions (Fig. 7). Based on SEM-EDS analysis, the mineral inclusions consist of apatite, magnetite-ilmenite mineral with lamellae texture, the size varying from 5 μm to 30 μm . Melt inclusions occur in every grain of zircon, with 30-100 μm in size (Fig. 7B). Potassium feldspar, quartz, glass, and Fe-oxide are also present and occur together with the melt inclusions, 3 to 15 μm in size (Fig. 7B).

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The cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging is used to describe the internal structure of zircon grains. Primary magmatic oscillatory zoning (growth zoning) is the most common type of zoning that shows a dark and bright banding texture (Fig. 7A). Under images of SEM-CL and Backscattered Scanning Electron Microscope (BSE), the HLE zircon shows dominantly oscillatory zoning with thin bands, and some grains show weak zoning in the outer core, typical of magmatic zircon (Martins et al., 2014). A few grains show continuous thin bands zoning from the core to the rim (Fig. 7A). A thin band zoning is common and occurs around a larger core, and some zircons also show weak magmatic zoning in the core, followed by thin bands zoning in the outer rim (Fig. 7A). Furthermore, several grains show a sector zoning in images (Fig. 7A) which show a different brightness on different facets. There are several causes of crystal sector zoning, including differences in the crystal growth rate ratio to element diffusion near the surface of the crystal, differences in adsorption of the cation on face surface, and crystallization force (Watson, 1996; Levashova et al., 2021).

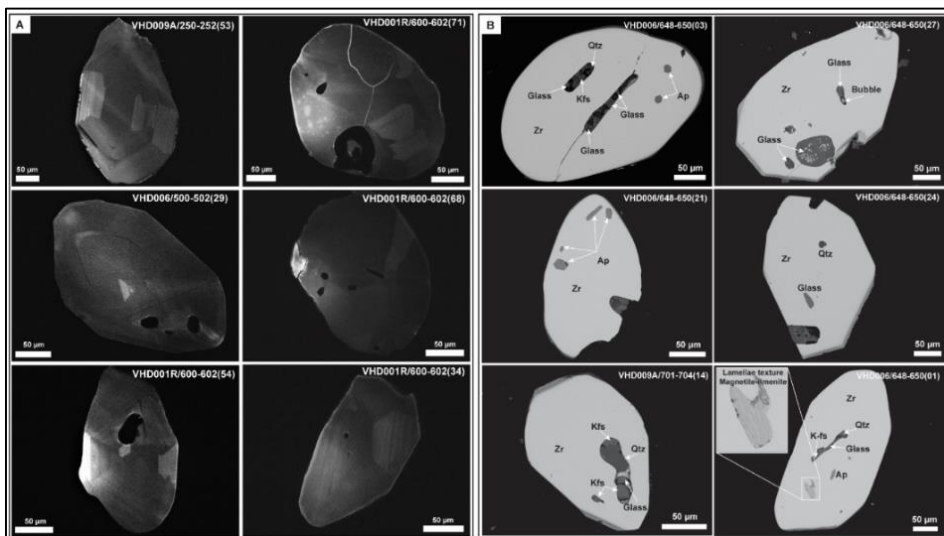


Fig. 7. Representative CL-Images (A) and BSE images by SEM analysis of zircon from diorite porphyry of HLE prospect which showing an inclusion of a several minerals such as apatite, quartz, glass (melt) and lamellae texture of magnetite-ilmenite (B). Abbreviation: Zr= Zircon, Ap= Apatite, Qtz= Quartz, K-fs= Potassium feldspar

4. Conclusion

- The zircon crystal typologies from the diorite porphyry are classified into S10, P2, S12, S13, S16, and S17 types, indicate the wide range of the crystallization temperature of zircon, ranging from 700 to 800 °C.
- The zircon from the diorite porphyry of the HLE prospect shows the medium values of pyramids typology, which is {101} = {211}. It corresponds to a medium Al/Na + K ratio (A index) value, indicating zircon as a product from the calc-alkaline magmas series.
- The trend of the calc-alkaline series magma in typology suggests that the material from crustal which slightly contaminated by the mantle source. Furthermore, based on SEM-CL analysis the zircon shows dominantly oscillatory zoning with thin bands, and some grains show weak zoning in the outer core, typical of magmatic zircon.
- Moreover, the present of lamellae texture of magnetite-ilmenite mineral under the scanning electron microscopy (BSE) can be interpreted that the magma related to the high oxidizing magma.

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