

Geochemical constraints on the origin of Early Cretaceous alkaline intrusions and its tectonic implication, Sulu Orogenic Belt, Eastern North China Craton

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Abstract Post-orogenic alkaline intrusions from the Sulu Orogenic Belt of eastern North China Craton consist of A-type granites. In this study, we report U–Pb zircon ages, geochemical data, Sr–Nd–Pb, and zircon Hf isotopic data for these rocks. The LA-ICP-MS U–Pb zircon analyses yield consistent ages ranging from 127.1 ± 2.4 to 119.5 ± 4.8 Ma for four samples. The alkaline rocks are characterized by high total alkalis ($K_2O + Na_2O = 8.32\text{--}10.11$ wt%), light rare-earth element enrichment, and heavy rare-earth element depletion, with a wide range (La/Yb_N values (20–48), moderate negative Eu anomalies ($Eu/Eu^* = 0.50\text{--}0.74$), enrichment in large-ion lithophile elements (LILEs, i.e., Rb, Th, U and Pb), and depletion in Ba, Sr and high field strength elements (HFSEs, i.e., Nb, Ta, and Ti), high $(^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr)_i$ ranging from 0.708 to 0.7089, low $\epsilon_{Nd}(t)$ values from -19.4 to -16.8 , $(^{206}Pb/^{204}Pb)_i = 16.751\text{--}16.935$, $(^{207}Pb/^{204}Pb)_i = 15.381\text{--}15.535$, $(^{208}Pb/^{204}Pb)_i = 37.472\text{--}37.838$, negative $\epsilon_{Hf}(t)$ values between -21.3 and -25.7 for the magmatic zircons, and larger T_{DM2} model ages from 2.5 to 2.8 Ga. These results suggest that the rocks were derived from a common enriched lithospheric mantle source that was metasomatized by foundered lower crustal eclogitic materials before magma generation. Furthermore, the geochemical and isotopic feature implies that the primary magma of these rocks originated through partial melting of ancient lithospheric mantle that was variably hybridized by melts derived from

lower crust eclogite. These rocks in this study may have been generated by subsequent fractionation of potassium feldspar, plagioclase, ilmenite, and/or rutile. However, negligible crustal contamination occurred during the diagenesis process.

Keywords Post-orogenic magmatism · Alkaline rocks · Contamination · Sulu Orogenic Belt · North China Craton

1 Introduction

As a typical Archaean craton, the North China Craton (NCC) exhibits distinct characteristics from other cratons (Menzies et al. 2007; Griffin et al. 1998; Menzies and Xu 1998; Xu et al. 1998a, b; Fan et al. 2000; Zheng et al. 2001, 2006; Gao et al. 2002, 2004; Zhang et al. 2002, 2003; Wu et al. 1998, 2003, 2005a, b, 2006; Chen et al. 2004; Wilde et al. 2004; Zhai et al. 2007). For example, strong lithospheric destruction has occurred since the Mesozoic. Nevertheless, there are still many controversial issues concerning the destruction of the NCC, such as the destruction time, space, mechanism, and control factors (Wu et al. 2006; Yang et al. 2006; Menzies et al. 2007; Zhai et al. 2007; Zhang et al. 2007; Zheng et al. 2007; Wu et al. 1998; Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009; 2013c). The main reasons for the above disagreement are the lack of understanding of Mesozoic lithospheric mantle properties and deep processes beneath the NCC (Wu et al. 1998). In recent years, it is generally accepted that the NCC was in an extensional tectonic background during Mesozoic (Wu et al. 1998). Therefore, it is particularly important to study the chronology, elements, and isotope geochemistry of mantle-derived magmatic rocks produced in an extensional setting (e.g., mafic dykes, carbonates and alkaline rocks).

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Mesozoic mafic dykes and carbonates are widely spread in the NCC. More than 200 dykes has been found, and the mafic dykes are mostly distributed along the NE, NW, and EW directions, the length of them is between 10 and 35 km, and the width is more than 8.0 km (Cheng et al. 1998; Zhang and Sun 2002; Liu et al. 2004a, b, 2005a, b, 2006, 2008a, b, 2009, 2010a, b, 2012a, b, 2013a, b, d, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017a, b, 2018; Yang et al. 2004, 2012, 2013a, b; Tang et al. 2014; Guo et al. 2016; Shao et al. 2003, 2005; Yan et al. 2000, 2007; Qiu 1993; Ying et al. 2004).

In contrast, as one special petrographic type, alkaline rocks belong to the alkaline-peralkaline magmatic rocks. They are characterized by unsaturated silicic acid, high alkali content, obvious feldspar, and alkaline dark minerals, and invisible quartz (Harker 1896; Daly 1914; Wright 1969; Irvine and Baragar 1971). Furthermore, alkaline rocks can be subdivided into ultrabasic rocks (e.g., kimberlite, carbonite, aegirinite, and cabernet sauvignon), basic rocks (e.g., alkaline gabbro and basalt), medium rocks (e.g., alkaline normal-alkaline coarse-nepheline normal-sounding rock), acidic rocks (e.g., alkaline granite,

alkaline rhyolite), and alkaline dykes. In general, alkaline rocks are often late products of the magmatic activity in the mantle source region. The study of alkaline rocks thus has important implications for the development, evolution and dynamic processes of orogenic belts (Wu 1966; Ding 1989; Li 1991; Eby 1992; Qiu 1993; Kogarko et al. 1995; Li et al. 1999; Zhou et al. 1995, 2009; Zheng and Bian 1996; Zhang and Xie 1997; Tan 1997; Xu et al. 1998a, b, 2017; Xie et al. 1999, 2006; Altherr et al. 2000; Mingram et al. 2000; Wang et al. 2000; Han 2000; Yan et al. 2000, 2002, 2007; Zhang 2001; Zhang et al. 2002, 2005, 2015; Wu et al. 2002; Litvinovsky et al. 2002; Chen et al. 2003, 2013; Ren et al. 2004; Yang et al. 2005a; Huang et al. 2005, 2016; Ke et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2006, 2008a, 2013c; Wang et al. 2009, 2010a, b; Yu et al. 2010; Chen and Jiang 2011; Kim et al. 2016). However, alkaline rock has not received due attention for a long time because of its small distribution area (Yan et al. 2002).

In this study, we report new results from LA-ICP-MS zircon U–Pb, major and trace element geochemistry, Sr–Nd–Pb isotopic studies, and zircon Hf data for four

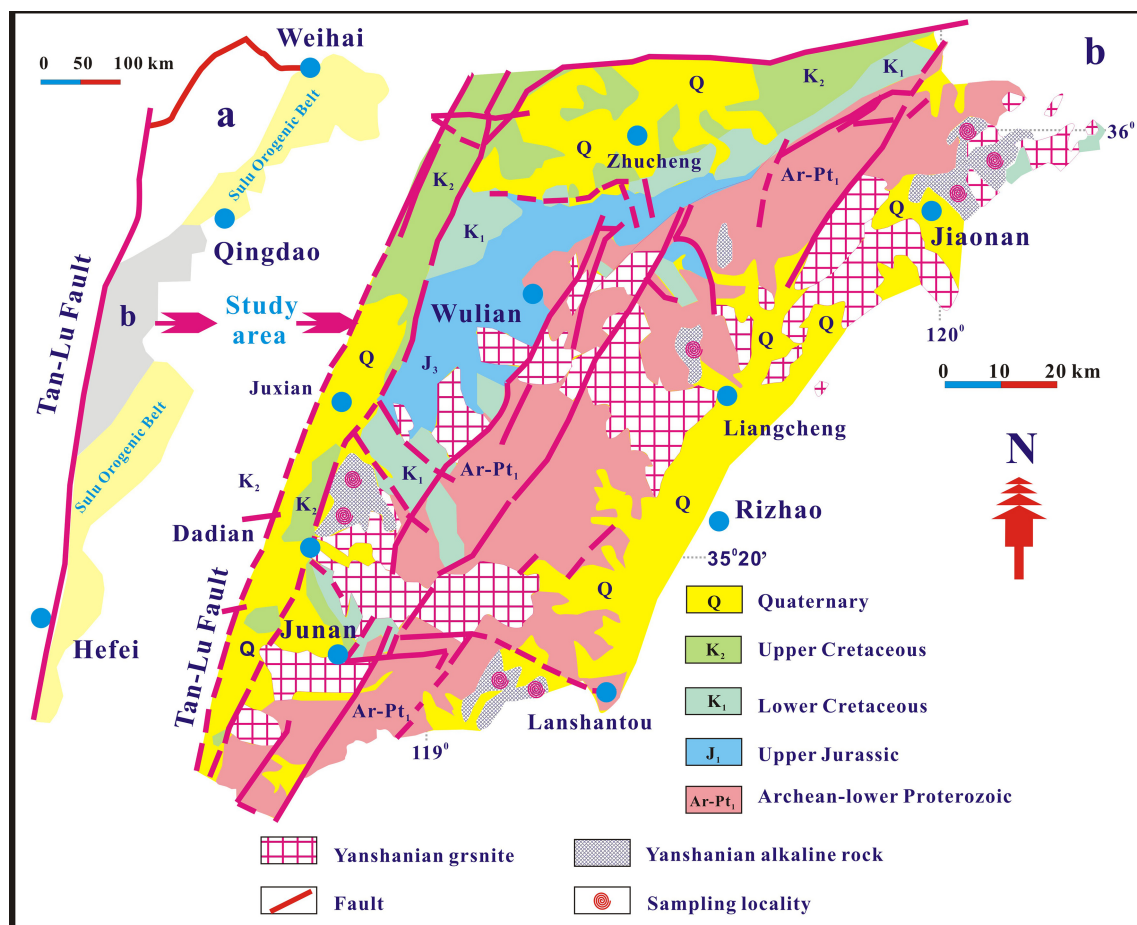


Fig. 1 **a** Simplified tectonic map of the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC (Guo et al. 2004). **b** The geologic map of study areas and the distributions of the alkaline intrusions

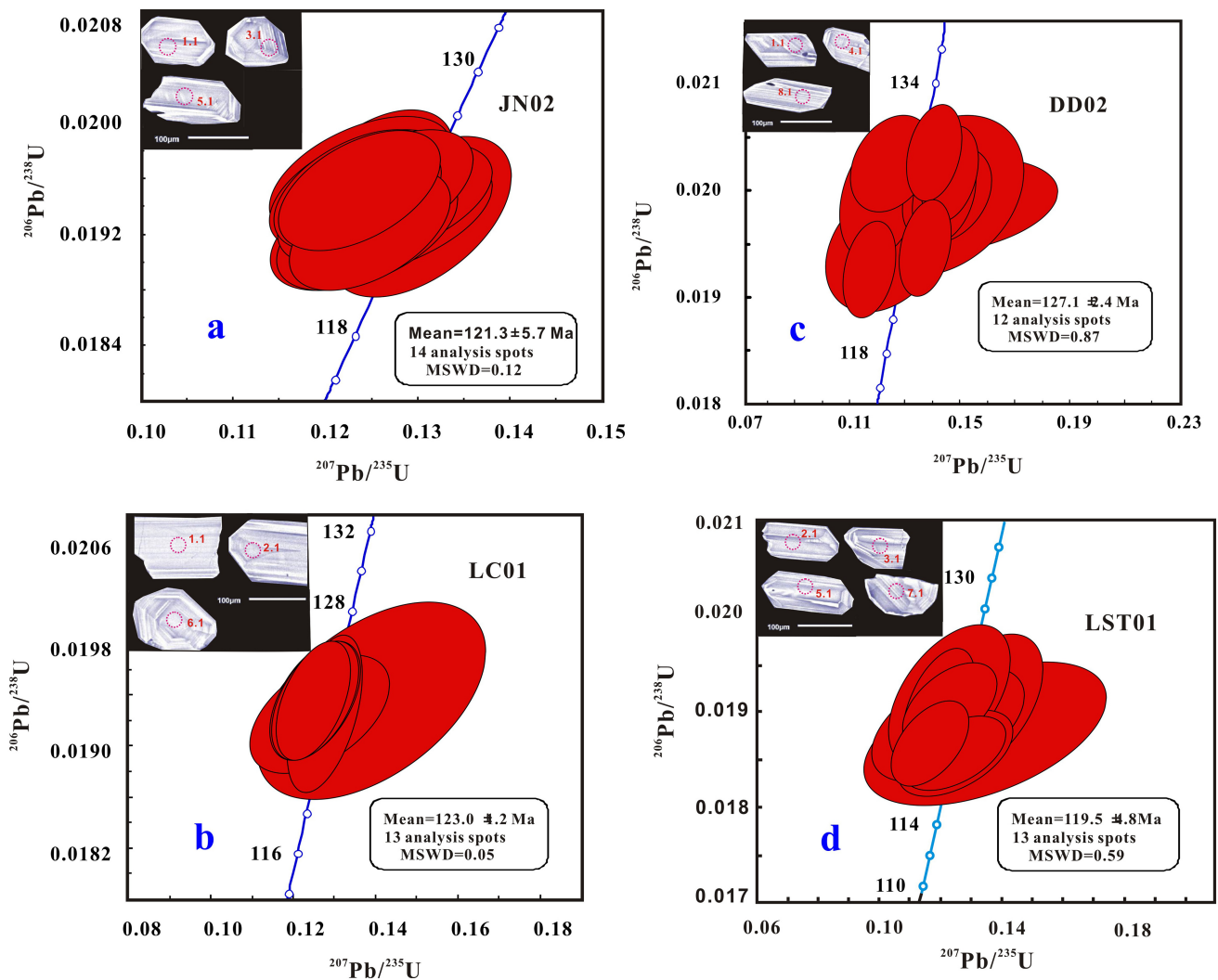


Fig. 2 Representative CL images of zircon grains and zircon LA-ICP-MS zircon U–Pb concordia diagrams for representative A-type granites (JN02, DD02, and LST01) and (LC01) from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

representative felsic plutons from central Sulu Orogenic Belt. These allow us to: (1) document the reliable age and geochemical characteristics of these rocks; (2) investigate their magma source(s) and origin; and (3) define the tectonic implication during the Early Cretaceous in the study areas.

2 Geological setting and petrography

As the world's largest high-pressure (HP)-ultra-high pressure (UHP) Orogenic rock area, the Sulu Orogenic Belt is located in the eastern part of the NCC. Currently, it has been accepted as the eastern part of Qinling-Dabie collisional Orogenic Belt between the north China and Yangtze Blocks in the Triassic (e.g., Yin and Ni 1993; Ye et al. 1996a, b, 2000; Jahn et al. 1996; Zheng et al. 2002),

generally, which can be divided into Orogenic parts, i.e., an HP blueschist unit to the south and a UHP Orogenic granitic gneiss, granulite and subordinate eclogite, schist, amphibolite, marble, and quartzite association unit to the north (Zhai et al. 2000; Chen et al. 2003; Guo et al. 2004). The northern belt also includes Mesozoic Laiyang Basin. In addition, the Sulu orogenic belt is the region with the post-collision magmatic activity during the ultrahigh-pressure and high-pressure rock (e.g., Chung et al. 2005; Dilek and Altunkaynak 2007), especially the Mesozoic magmatism (225–110 Ma; Zhao et al. 1997; Zhou and Lu 2000; Fan et al. 2001; Chen et al. 2003; Zhou et al. 2003; Guo et al. 2004, 2005, 2006; Huang et al. 2005; Zhang et al. 2005; Meng et al. 2005; Yang et al. 2005a, b; Hou et al. 2007; Zhang and Zhang 2007; Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009, 2013c, 2014; Zhao and Zheng 2009; Zhang et al. 2010; Zhang 2010). Geological data indicate that Mesozoic alkaline

Table 1 Zircon LA-ICP-MS U–Pb isotope data for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

Spot	Th	U	Pb	Th/U	²³⁸ U/ ²³² Th	Isotopic ratios				Age (Ma)							
						²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1 σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1 σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1 σ
LST01																	
1	586	428	15.4	1.37	1.45	0.0485	0.0042	0.12628	0.0106	0.0186	0.0003	128	158	121	9	119	2
2	636	478	14.8	1.34	1.44	0.0556	0.0073	0.1265	0.0118	0.0186	0.0003	431	181	121	11	118	2
3	488	368	11.2	1.33	0.85	0.0485	0.0041	0.1263	0.0105	0.0187	0.0003	129	158	121	9	119	2
4	382	272	8.26	1.40	0.73	0.0461	0.0032	0.1186	0.0081	0.0187	0.0003	124	155	115	7	119	2
5	295	223	6.88	1.32	0.78	0.0461	0.0051	0.1188	0.0128	0.0186	0.0002	352	218	115	12	119	1
6	235	171	5.15	1.37	0.73	0.0461	0.0031	0.1212	0.0075	0.0191	0.0004	523	144	116	7	122	2
7	231	168	5.24	1.38	0.76	0.0461	0.0038	0.1209	0.0101	0.0191	0.0003	564	185	116	9	122	2
8	286	226	6.93	1.27	0.82	0.0475	0.0036	0.1248	0.0098	0.0191	0.0003	71	181	120	9	122	2
9	242	173	5.41	1.40	0.76	0.0482	0.0045	0.1261	0.0115	0.019	0.0003	106	208	121	10	121	2
10	208	174	5.09	1.20	0.86	0.0515	0.0062	0.1241	0.0158	0.0189	0.0004	262	273	128	14	121	2
11	166	94	3.25	1.77	0.58	0.0522	0.0096	0.1359	0.0251	0.0188	0.0005	295	363	129	22	120	3
12	355	228	6.35	1.56	0.56	0.0586	0.0046	0.1346	0.0128	0.0191	0.0005	555	175	119	10	122	3
13	766	565	15.8	1.36	0.74	0.0586	0.0046	0.1246	0.0126	0.0192	0.0005	555	176	119	11	122	3
LC01																	
1	855	635	16.5	1.35	0.88	0.0535	0.0065	0.1283	0.0115	0.0193	0.0004	351	173	123	11	123	2
2	638	475	16.3	1.34	0.83	0.0562	0.0028	0.1246	0.0066	0.0193	0.0003	455	98	119	6	123	2
3	896	675	17.6	1.33	1.16	0.0583	0.0045	0.1304	0.0115	0.0193	0.0004	545	163	124	10	123	2
4	456	345	11.4	1.32	0.78	0.0516	0.0043	0.1255	0.0105	0.0192	0.0003	267	158	120	9	123	3
5	881	665	17.3	1.32	0.76	0.05445	0.0025	0.1242	0.0058	0.0193	0.0003	392	82	119	5	123	2
6	308	218	6.85	1.41	0.68	0.0535	0.0065	0.1283	0.0115	0.0193	0.0004	351	173	123	10	123	2
7	431	276	8.43	1.56	0.66	0.0562	0.0026	0.1246	0.0068	0.0193	0.0003	455	98	119	6	123	2
8	366	261	9.25	1.40	0.93	0.0535	0.0025	0.1268	0.0056	0.0192	0.0004	352	68	121	5	123	3
9	244	161	5.54	1.52	0.78	0.0583	0.0045	0.1303	0.0115	0.0193	0.0004	544	163	124	11	123	2
10	465	342	13.5	1.36	0.92	0.0516	0.0042	0.1256	0.0105	0.0192	0.0003	266	158	120	9	123	3
11	255	185	5.86	1.38	0.76	0.0545	0.0025	0.1242	0.0056	0.0193	0.0003	391	81	119	5	123	2
12	434	323	10.6	1.34	0.83	0.0545	0.0024	0.1243	0.0058	0.0193	0.0003	385	78	119	5	123	2
13	133	102	3.13	1.30	0.78	0.0517	0.0065	0.1375	0.0172	0.0193	0.0005	275	283	132	15	123	3
DD02																	
1	316	225	7.23	1.40	0.72	0.0558	0.0028	0.1508	0.0068	0.0201	0.0003	446	73	144	6	127	2
2	223	176	5.68	1.27	0.83	0.0461	0.0036	0.1265	0.0098	0.0199	0.0004	553	175	121	9	127	2
3	378	232	7.74	1.63	0.63	0.0554	0.0041	0.1501	0.0105	0.0199	0.0003	428	128	143	9	127	2
4	219	176	5.78	1.24	0.82	0.0542	0.0072	0.1485	0.0191	0.0199	0.0005	376	296	142	17	127	3
5	255	208	6.49	1.23	0.86	0.0589	0.0108	0.1525	0.0245	0.0198	0.0003	565	328	145	22	126	2
6	305	221	6.94	1.38	0.75	0.0553	0.0028	0.1491	0.0075	0.0199	0.0003	426	82	143	7	127	2

Table 1 continued

Spot	Th	U	Pb	Th/U	²³⁸ U/ ²³² Th	Isotopic ratios				Age (Ma)							
						²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1 σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	1 σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	1 σ	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	1 σ
7	228	146	5.02	1.56	0.69	0.0521	0.0038	0.1358	0.0092	0.0197	0.0004	292	123	128	8	126	2
8	356	275	8.49	1.29	0.82	0.0542	0.0025	0.1422	0.0062	0.0194	0.0003	381	74	135	5	124	2
9	216	155	4.85	1.39	0.83	0.0479	0.0055	0.1282	0.0142	0.0194	0.0004	95	238	122	13	124	2
10	233	212	7.73	1.10	0.96	0.0461	0.0025	0.1222	0.0063	0.0192	0.0003	385	118	118	6	123	2
11	336	275	8.78	1.22	0.86	0.0532	0.0025	0.1454	0.0065	0.0203	0.0003	335	75	138	6	129	2
12	337	295	9.36	1.14	0.94	0.0469	0.0035	0.1302	0.0096	0.0202	0.0003	45	166	124	9	129	2
JN02																	
1	1462	355	53.5	4.12	4.16	0.0524	0.0028	0.123	0.006	0.0194	0.0003	305	78	118	5	124	2
2	643	236	46.5	2.72	2.15	0.0523	0.0026	0.122	0.006	0.0195	0.0003	302	78	118	5	124	2
3	458	445	412	1.03	1.56	0.0554	0.0026	0.123	0.006	0.0195	0.0003	428	75	118	5	124	2
4	73	60	12.5	1.20	1.65	0.0518	0.0026	0.126	0.006	0.0195	0.0003	278	78	120	5	124	2
5	364	225	27.2	1.62	1.62	0.0462	0.0028	0.1254	0.0072	0.0194	0.0003	5	98	120	6	124	2
6	425	338	21.3	1.26	1.63	0.0519	0.0028	0.124	0.006	0.0195	0.0004	282	65	118	5	124	3
7	238	121	17.3	1.97	1.62	0.0522	0.0024	0.123	0.006	0.0195	0.0003	295	85	118	6	124	2
8	526	135	161	3.90	1.61	0.0525	0.0025	0.129	0.006	0.0193	0.0004	305	75	123	6	123	3
9	173	135	8.9	1.28	1.58	0.0521	0.0025	0.123	0.006	0.0192	0.0003	290	85	118	6	123	2
10	183	106	11.3	1.73	1.63	0.0525	0.0026	0.124	0.006	0.0192	0.0003	306	75	118	5	123	2
11	536	215	18.4	2.49	2.13	0.0523	0.0025	0.123	0.006	0.0192	0.0003	298	86	118	6	123	3
12	575	158	26.4	3.64	2.12	0.0461	0.0026	0.125	0.007	0.0193	0.0003	277	98	120	6	123	2
13	1265	445	116	2.84	2.12	0.0521	0.0025	0.123	0.006	0.0196	0.0003	290	85	118	6	125	2
14	872	316	32.4	2.76	2.12	0.0519	0.0025	0.125	0.006	0.0196	0.0003	281	78	120	5	125	2

Table 2 Major element concentrations (wt %) for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC; LOI = loss on ignition, $Mg^{\#} = 100 \text{ Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe})$ in atomic proportions, RV = recommended values, MV = measured values

Sample	SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	LOI	Total	Mg [#]
JN1	61.95	0.68	15.56	5.21	0.11	2.38	3.92	4.43	5.68	0.42	0.03	100.37	47.5
JN2	61.93	0.73	16.03	5.88	0.10	2.75	4.42	3.63	4.69	0.51	0.03	100.70	48.1
JN3	62.48	0.65	15.72	5.26	0.10	2.51	3.88	4.06	5.48	0.43	0.04	100.61	48.6
JN4	62.51	0.71	15.72	5.41	0.11	2.42	4.02	3.88	5.16	0.44	0.02	100.40	47.0
JN5	62.53	0.65	15.71	5.25	0.10	2.51	3.87	4.09	5.51	0.43	0.03	100.68	48.6
JN6	61.92	0.73	16.02	5.88	0.11	2.75	4.39	3.64	4.68	0.49	0.03	100.64	48.1
JN7	61.86	0.74	16.12	5.76	0.10	2.72	4.31	3.78	4.83	0.50	0.03	100.75	48.3
JN8	62.05	0.66	15.61	5.18	0.11	2.36	3.88	4.42	5.65	0.42	0.03	100.37	47.4
LC1	73.41	0.18	14.28	1.58	0.06	0.36	1.08	3.84	5.71	0.05	0.12	100.67	31.1
LC3	73.32	0.22	13.82	1.66	0.06	0.35	1.26	3.83	5.05	0.06	0.35	99.98	29.5
LC4	73.38	0.21	14.02	1.62	0.06	0.31	1.18	3.78	5.25	0.05	0.12	99.98	27.5
LC5	73.48	0.22	13.71	1.78	0.06	0.35	1.12	3.82	5.33	0.06	0.23	100.16	28.0
LC7	72.83	0.22	14.12	1.75	0.06	0.39	1.22	3.88	5.36	0.06	0.22	100.11	30.6
LC8	72.91	0.24	14.33	1.92	0.07	0.42	1.36	3.78	5.25	0.07	0.35	100.70	30.2
DD1	60.72	0.75	16.42	5.71	0.10	2.33	4.12	3.81	5.38	0.36	0.26	99.96	44.7
DD2	62.51	0.71	15.82	6.26	0.15	2.16	3.75	3.75	5.26	0.36	0.06	100.79	40.6
DD3	60.83	0.75	16.32	5.82	0.10	2.45	4.08	3.68	5.38	0.36	0.32	100.09	45.5
DD4	61.05	0.75	16.33	5.98	0.12	2.43	4.12	3.82	5.36	0.38	0.12	100.46	44.6
DD5	60.82	0.76	16.31	5.73	0.11	2.38	4.15	3.82	5.32	0.36	0.13	99.89	45.1
DD6	60.78	0.75	16.32	5.82	0.10	2.46	4.12	3.68	5.38	0.36	0.35	100.12	45.6
DD7	60.76	0.75	16.32	5.76	0.11	2.38	4.12	3.79	5.32	0.37	0.13	99.81	45.0
DD8	60.86	0.75	16.43	5.65	0.13	2.32	4.06	3.89	5.36	0.38	0.06	99.89	44.9
DD9	60.89	0.73	16.43	5.63	0.11	2.32	4.04	3.86	5.37	0.36	0.08	99.82	44.9
LST1	62.22	0.73	15.91	5.38	0.10	2.42	3.75	3.88	5.45	0.45	0.05	100.34	47.1
LST4	62.15	0.61	16.12	5.42	0.10	2.35	3.72	3.96	5.54	0.45	0.03	100.45	46.2
LST5	62.05	0.72	16.06	5.36	0.11	2.35	3.78	3.92	5.61	0.45	0.12	100.53	46.5
LST6	61.86	0.71	16.12	5.46	0.12	2.38	3.82	4.05	5.36	0.45	0.11	100.44	46.3
LST7	62.13	0.62	16.12	5.42	0.12	2.33	3.72	3.96	5.54	0.43	0.03	100.42	46.0
LST8	62.12	0.68	15.81	5.25	0.10	2.33	3.72	3.94	5.33	0.42	0.13	99.83	46.8
LST9	62.11	0.72	15.82	5.25	0.10	2.31	3.68	3.93	5.31	0.42	0.15	99.80	46.6
GSR-3	44.64	2.37	13.83	13.4	0.17	7.77	8.81	3.38	2.32	0.95	2.24	99.88	
GSR-3	44.75	2.36	14.14	13.35	0.16	7.74	8.82	3.18	2.30	0.97	2.12	99.89	
GSR-1	72.83	0.29	13.40	2.14	0.06	0.42	1.55	3.13	5.01	0.09	0.70	99.62	
GSR-1	72.65	0.29	13.52	2.18	0.06	0.46	1.56	3.15	5.03	0.11	0.69	99.70	

Values for GSR-1 and GSR-3 are from Wang et al. (2003)

complex and alkaline rocks are widespread in Sulu Orogenic Belt (Jiazishan, Jiaonan, Wulian, Juxian, Dadian, and Junan; Shandong Province Geology and Mineral Resources Bureau 1991; Han 2000). At present, investigation on some alkali rock mass (e.g., Jiaonan, Jiazishan, Juxian, Junan) has been carried out (215–115 Ma; Yang et al. 2005a; Zhang et al. 2005; Xie et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2006, 2008a; Wang et al. 2009; Chen and Jiang 2011). Nevertheless, a large number of controversies still exist for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt (e.g., the origin and

evolution, the genetic mechanism, and tectonic implication).

The studied area is located in the central section of the Sulu Orogenic Belt from Jiaonan to Lashantou (Jiaonan, Liangcheng, Dadian, and Lanshantou; Fig. 1), and the alkaline rocks mainly include quartz-monzonites (JN1, JN2, JN3, JN4, JN5, JN6, JN7, JN8, DD1, DD2, DD3, DD4, DD5, DD6, DD7, DD8, DD9, LST1, LST4, LST5, LST6, LST7, LST8, LST9) from Jiaonan, Dadian, and Lanshantou, and the A-type granites (LC1, LC3, LC4, LC5, LC7, LC8) from Liangcheng.

Table 3 Trace element compositions (in ppm) of the alkaline rocks from from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

Sample	JN1	JN2	JN3	JN4	JN5	JN6	JN7	JN8	LC1	LC3	LC4	LC5
V	99.4	103	108	106	106	84.5	89.6	99.4	16.8	15.5	12.4	14.2
Cr	27.6	24.6	33.2	31.8	32.5	32.5	33.6	30.6	11.8	13.2	19.3	33.6
Co	14.2	16.8	16.2	14.5	15.5	10.8	10.5	14.3	2.55	2.16	1.86	1.95
Ni	89.3	14.5	15.5	15.2	13.6	13.6	11.5	14.5	30.2	5.5	6.0	17.2
Ga	46.2	48.4	46.5	49.2	48.5	49.3	49.5	50.2	45.3	44.8	45.2	45.3
Rb	175	167	177	172	174	185	192	183	138	144	148	125
Sr	368	394	423	405	388	384	397	399	236	223	208	180
Y	23.3	23.5	24.9	24.0	24.9	25.6	25.8	24.7	18.4	17.7	15.0	14.3
Zr	365	288	348	285	301	374	266	233	240	245	250	239
Nb	19.2	16.8	17.2	19.1	18.1	20.5	18.6	19.1	17.1	15.3	11.3	13.5
Ba	1573	1609	1818	2475	2348	2085	2112	2365	839	914	1135	958
La	141	141	164	150	152	213	199	150	97	99	61	63
Ce	271	255	294	277	292	391	363	272	165	165	104	105
Pr	26.7	23.9	27.6	27.6	28.0	36.3	32.9	27.7	15.8	14.4	10.2	10.4
Nd	93.9	79.4	94.0	94.8	95.3	116.3	107	93.9	50.9	42.1	32.4	32.9
Sm	14.3	11.2	13.5	14.0	13.5	15.0	13.8	13.5	7.5	5.9	4.7	4.8
Eu	2.85	2.38	2.72	2.53	2.72	2.60	2.55	2.64	1.09	0.90	0.82	0.74
Gd	9.77	7.75	9.68	9.47	9.15	9.86	8.92	9.60	5.46	4.17	3.48	3.38
Tb	1.19	0.94	1.16	1.19	1.19	1.23	1.14	1.19	0.82	0.60	0.53	0.54
Dy	6.24	4.72	5.98	6.40	6.15	6.22	5.84	6.28	4.63	3.69	3.12	2.93
Ho	1.09	0.86	1.08	1.18	1.15	1.12	1.04	1.18	0.90	0.70	0.65	0.58
Er	3.15	2.51	3.07	3.40	3.27	3.40	3.15	3.40	2.73	2.17	1.93	1.80
Tm	0.44	0.33	0.42	0.48	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.46	0.39	0.32	0.29	0.28
Yb	2.86	2.37	2.72	3.07	2.89	3.10	2.80	3.05	2.68	2.24	1.99	1.91
Lu	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.46	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.35	0.32	0.30
Hf	11.1	8.01	8.76	8.35	8.83	10.2	8.15	7.25	6.89	6.83	6.67	6.52
Ta	0.46	0.35	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.43	0.41	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.28	0.32
Pb	24.6	26.6	26.5	31.4	27.5	28.5	28.8	25.8	25.3	24.5	23.6	20.5
Th	42.2	45.3	45.6	52.5	49.2	77.5	67.3	50.9	29.3	33.5	25.2	25.8
U	7.41	5.523	5.65	7.68	7.455	5.72	4.46	6.89	3.00	3.13	2.69	2.77
(La/Yb)N	33.2	40.1	40.6	33.0	35.4	46.4	47.8	33.3	24.4	29.8	20.6	22.1
Eu/Eu*	0.70	0.74	0.70	0.64	0.71	0.61	0.66	0.67	0.50	0.53	0.59	0.53
TZr (°C)	873	860	875	857	860	887	851	830	869	871	874	868
LC7	LC8	DD1	DD2	DD3	DD4	DD5	DD6	DD7	DD8	DD9	LST1	LST4
16.8	13.6	108	108	107	103	106	108	112	108	108	103	99.8
11.8	10.3	35.5	30.3	31.8	54.6	29.3	15.5	38.1	29.7	31.8	73.8	58.5
2.53	1.86	14.5	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.5	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
29.8	3.7	16.3	14.1	15.2	25.6	13.5	16.5	19.2	14.2	15.3	21.3	20.5
44.6	45.3	49.3	49.8	48.6	48.9	49.2	49.5	49.5	49.8	48.9	47.6	47.8
138	169	188	178	173	196	186	186	194	183	174	206	208
236	232	329	336	352	340	333	308	293	325	298	473	496
18.3	16.4	28.1	28.3	28.2	28.8	28.3	28.4	28.3	27.7	27.9	28.9	22.7
241	249	286	265	315	293	268	295	256	253	282	398	377
11.0	11.8	19.1	18.2	19.4	22.2	18.6	19.3	19.2	18.2	19.3	19.8	15.8
1045	1052	1243	1265	1368	2068	2482	2316	2225	2391	2473	2264	2327
97	66	165	150	150	161	158	167	181	150	152	146	133
165	115	312	284	275	293	306	312	333	284	280	272	240
15.8	11.5	29.8	27.6	27.6	28.9	29.0	29.9	31.6	27.6	27.6	27.1	23.9

Table 3 continued

LC7	LC8	DD1	DD2	DD3	DD4	DD5	DD6	DD7	DD8	DD9	LST1	LST4
50.9	37.0	101.2	95.3	94.6	96.6	99.3	101.2	106	95.3	94.8	93.3	84.0
7.5	5.6	14.3	14.3	14.3	13.8	14.4	14.3	15.5	14.3	14.3	13.5	12.6
1.09	0.93	2.74	2.70	2.57	2.38	2.80	2.74	2.80	2.69	2.56	2.85	2.69
5.44	4.31	10.28	9.64	9.48	9.14	10.3	10.3	10.1	9.65	9.48	9.55	8.76
0.82	0.60	1.28	1.21	1.19	1.19	1.28	1.23	1.29	1.21	1.19	1.19	1.08
4.63	3.59	6.54	6.35	6.40	6.22	6.53	6.54	6.86	6.35	6.40	6.22	5.53
0.90	0.67	1.21	1.17	1.18	1.17	1.22	1.21	1.22	1.17	1.18	1.09	0.99
2.73	2.18	3.49	3.34	3.40	3.38	3.57	3.49	3.69	3.36	3.40	3.21	2.83
0.41	0.32	0.48	0.46	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.48	0.43	0.39
2.68	2.07	3.15	3.11	3.09	3.23	3.15	3.15	3.17	3.11	3.10	2.78	2.41
0.44	0.32	0.48	0.46	0.46	0.53	0.48	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.46	0.42	0.35
6.98	6.74	8.01	8.16	8.53	8.13	8.23	7.91	7.82	7.91	7.97	10.9	11.4
0.38	0.28	0.36	0.36	0.38	0.52	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.42	0.32
25.4	23.3	29.4	38.4	31.4	28.4	29.8	29.2	28.5	38.4	31.4	25.3	24.8
29.3	39.6	54.2	50.6	52.6	60.8	48.8	54.5	56.4	50.6	52.6	47.8	44.9
3.00	2.55	7.10	7.06	6.62	6.91	7.18	6.47	5.38	6.15	7.68	4.36	3.46
24.4	21.6	35.3	32.6	32.9	33.5	33.9	35.9	38.4	32.6	33.0	35.5	37.3
0.50	0.55	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.61	0.67	0.66	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.73	0.74
869	873	857	853	868	859	850	861	846	845	856	892	887
LST5	LST6	LST7	LST8	LST9	OU-6 (RV*)		OU-6 (MV*)		GBPG-1 (RV*)		GBPG-1 (MV*)	
97.5	105	112	103	96.8	129		131		96.5		103	
30.2	30.3	93.3	37.3	30.3	70.8		73.5		181		187	
14.1	15.3	15.8	14.2	14.6	29.1		30.3		19.5		20.2	
15.2	16.8	18.5	20.3	17.5	39.8		42.5		59.6		60.6	
48.6	49.3	48.8	48.5	48.7	24.3		26.5		18.6		20.9	
212	209	208	207	203	120		122		56.2		61.4	
509	471	515	477	494	131		136		364		377	
23.0	22.6	22.2	22.5	22.8	27.4		26.2		18.0		17.2	
379	366	386	379	400	174		183		332		224	
17.3	17.5	16.8	18.3	18.5	14.8		15.3		9.93		8.74	
2278	2411	2544	2488	2348	477		486		908		921	
165	154	148	141	150	33.0		33.1		53.0		51.0	
280	285	272	261	259	74.4		78.0		103		105	
27.5	27.7	26.7	26.3	24.7	7.8		8.1		11.5		11.6	
93.5	94.0	91.9	91.6	83.0	29		30.6		43.3		42.4	
13.1	13.1	13.8	13.5	12.0	5.92		5.99		6.79		6.63	
2.64	2.60	2.76	2.60	2.47	1.36		1.35		1.79		1.69	
9.15	8.89	9.55	9.59	8.17	5.27		5.5		4.74		4.47	
1.14	1.11	1.19	1.14	1.03	0.85		0.83		0.60		0.59	
5.64	5.69	5.77	5.86	5.22	4.99		5.06		3.26		3.17	
0.99	0.99	1.08	1.07	0.95	1.01		1.02		0.69		0.66	
2.87	2.97	2.96	3.06	2.70	2.98		3.07		2.01		2.02	
0.39	0.38	0.42	0.42	0.36	0.44		0.46		0.30		0.29	
2.41	2.41	2.56	2.62	2.41	3.00		3.09		2.03		2.03	
0.33	0.35	0.41	0.42	0.35	0.45		0.47		0.31		0.31	
10.8	11.3	11.1	11.0	11.2	4.70		4.86		6.07		5.93	
0.38	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.32	1.06		1.02		0.40		0.46	

Table 3 continued

LST5	LST6	LST7	LST8	LST9	OU-6 (RV*)	OU-6 (MV*)	GBPG-1 (RV*)	GBPG-1 (MV*)
23.8	24.4	27.4	25.4	34.2	28.2	32.7	14.1	14.5
45.6	49.6	46.2	45.7	44.7	11.5	13.9	11.2	11.4
4.62	5.25	5.43	4.54	4.03	1.96	2.19	0.90	0.99
46.1	43.2	39.0	36.4	42.1				
0.70	0.70	0.70	0.66	0.72				
886	883	890	887	907				

Values for GBPG-1 and OU-6 are from Thompson et al. (2000) and Potts and Kane (2005), respectively

2.1 Jiaonan quartz-monzonites

The Jiaonan quartz monzonitic intrusion ($\sim 390 \text{ km}^2$) mainly intruded into Archean or lower Proterozoic gneisses and is the largest intrusion in the study area. It is associated with the Yanshanian granites (Fig. 1). These alkaline rocks are light grey and characteristically medium- to coarse-grained with granular and porphyritic textures. They are dominated by K-feldspar (40 %–43 %), quartz (11.0 %–14.0 %), andesine (30 %–33 %), minor amphibole, and biotite (2.0 %–4.0 %). Accessory minerals include apatite, zircon, magnetite, and titanite.

2.2 Dadian quartz-monzonites

Dadian A-type granites outcrop over ca. 180 km^2 ; these alkaline rocks also intruded into the Archean or lower Proterozoic gneisses and were intruded by the Yanshanian granite (Fig. 1). The rocks are commonly light grey, medium- to coarse-grained with granular and porphyritic textures. In addition, the Dadian A-type granites consist predominantly of K-feldspar (40 %–45 %), quartz (10.0 %–14.0 %), andesine (32 %–34 %), diopside (8.0 %–9.0 %), subordinate ($\sim 2.0 \text{ %}$ – 3.0 %) amphibole and biotite, and accessory minerals including apatite, zircon, magnetite, and titanite.

2.3 Lanshantou quartz-monzonites

The Lanshantou A-type granitic intrusion ($\sim 160 \text{ km}^2$) mainly intruded into Archean or lower Proterozoic gneisses. They are light grey and characteristically medium- to coarse-grained with granular and porphyritic textures. Furthermore, these alkaline rocks are dominated by K-feldspar (40 %–44 %), quartz (10.0 %–15.0 %), andesine (30 %–35 %), diopside (8.0 %–10.0 %), subordinate ($\sim 2.0 \text{ %}$) amphibole and biotite, and accessory minerals including apatite, zircon, magnetite, and titanite.

2.4 Liangcheng A-type granites

The Liangcheng A-type granites ($\sim 85 \text{ km}^2$) also intruded into Archean or lower Proterozoic gneisses (Fig. 1). These alkaline rocks are commonly light grey to pink in color and composed of quartz (25 %–33 %), perthite (30 %–45 %), albite (An 0–5) (15.0 %–20 %), and minor muscovite. Accessory minerals include zircon, magnetite, and apatite.

3 Analytical procedures

Thirty samples from the alkaline rocks were collected for this study (Fig. 1). Zircon grains were separated from four samples (JN02, LC01, DD02, and LST01) using conventional heavy liquid and magnetic techniques at the Langfang Regional Geological Survey, Hebei Province, China. After separation and mounting, the morphology and internal structure of the zircon were imaged using transmitted and reflected light and by cathodoluminescence (CL) techniques at the State Key Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Northwest University (Fig. 2). Prior to zircon U–Pb dating, grain mount surfaces were washed in dilute HNO_3 and pure alcohol to remove any potential lead contamination. Zircon U–Pb and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ weighted average ages were determined by LA-ICP-MS (Table 1; Fig. 2) using an Agilent 7500a ICP-MS instrument equipped with a 193 nm excimer laser at the State Key Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Northwest University. The zircon standard 91500 was used for quality control, and a NIST 610 standard was used for data optimization. A spot diameter of $24 \mu\text{m}$ was used during analysis, employing the methodologies described by Liu et al. (2010a, b, c). Common Pb correction was undertaken following the approach of Andersen (2002), and the resulting data were processed using GLITTER and ISOPLOT (Table 1; Fig. 2). Uncertainties on individual LA-ICP-MS analyses are quoted at the 95 % (1σ) confidence level.

Major oxides were analyzed with a PANalytical Axios-advance X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF) at the

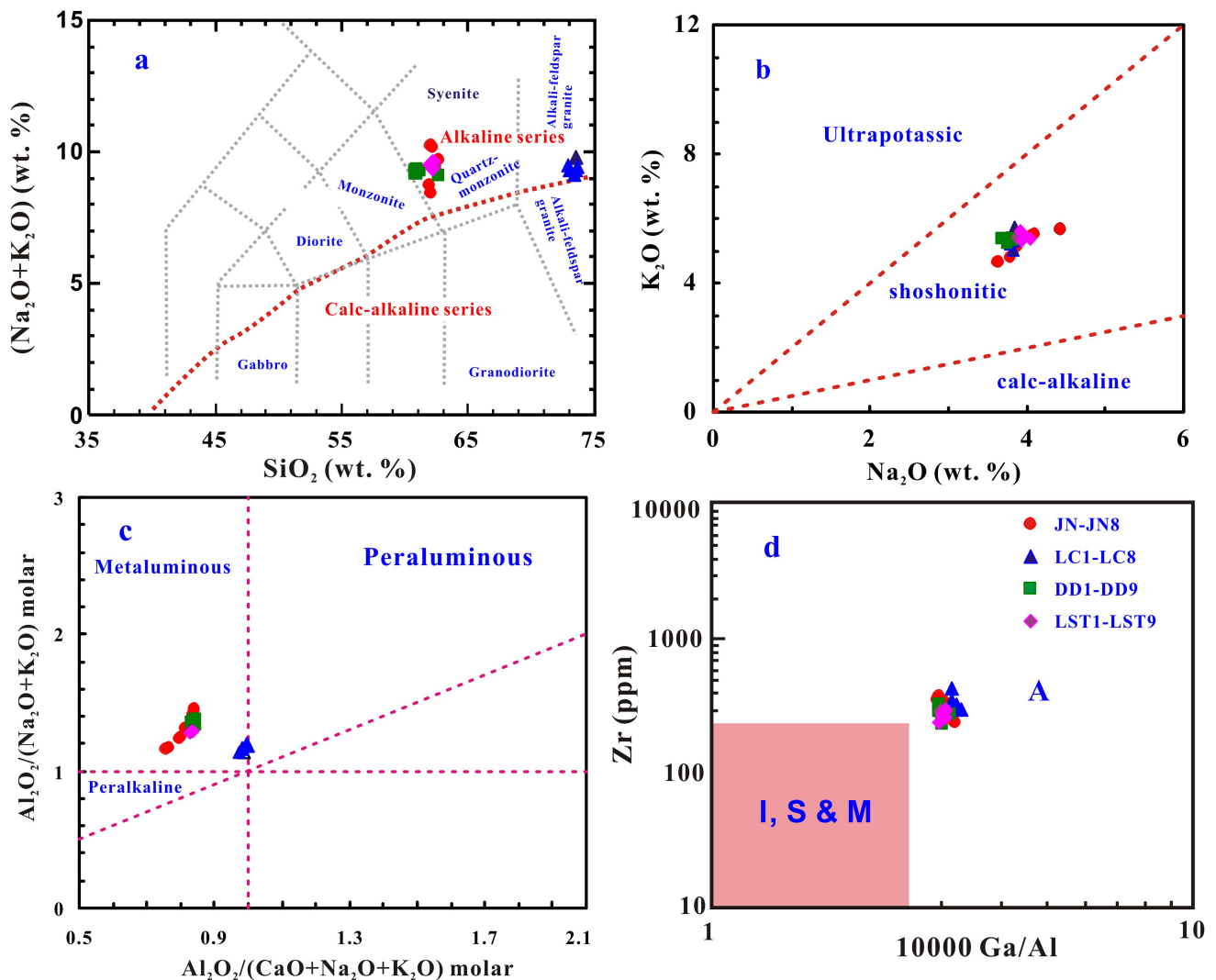


Fig. 3 Classification of the quartz monzonites and A-type granites from the Sulu Orogenic Belt on the basis of **a** the TAS diagram. All the major element data have been recalculated to 100% on a LOI-free basis (Middlemost 1994; Le Maitre 2002); **b** Na_2O versus K_2O diagram, showing the alkaline rocks to be shoshonitic (Middlemost 1972); **c** $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ molar versus $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ molar plot. Most samples fall in the metaluminous field except some A-type granites straddle the metaluminous and peralkaline boundary; **d** $(10000) * \text{Ga}/\text{Al}$ versus Zr plot, all the sample fall in the A-type field. Legends in other figures are the same as in this figure

State Key Laboratory of Ore Deposit Geochemistry (LODG), Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Fused glass disks were used and the analytical precision as determined on the Chinese National standard GSR-3 was better than 5.0 % (Table 2). Loss on ignition was obtained using 1.0 g powder heated up to 1100 °C for 1 h. Trace elements were performed with an ELAN 6000 ICP-MS at the LODG, following procedures described by Qi et al. (2000). The discrepancy between triplicate analyses is less than 5.0 % for all elements. Analyses of international standards OU-6 and GBPG-1 are in good agreement with recommended values (Table 3).

For Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd isotope analyses, sample powders were spiked with mixed isotope tracers, dissolved in Teflon capsules with $\text{HF} + \text{HNO}_3$ acids, and separated by conventional cation-exchange technique (Zhang et al. 2001). Isotopic measurements were performed using a Finnigan Triton Ti thermal ionization mass spectrometer at the LODG. Procedural blanks yielded concentrations of < 200 pg for Sm and Nd and < 500 pg for Rb and Sr, and mass fractionation corrections for Sr and Nd isotopic ratios were based on $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$ and $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$, respectively. Analysis of the NBS987 and La Jolla standards yielded values of $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.710246 \pm 16$ (2 σ), and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.511863 \pm 8$ (2 σ), respectively.

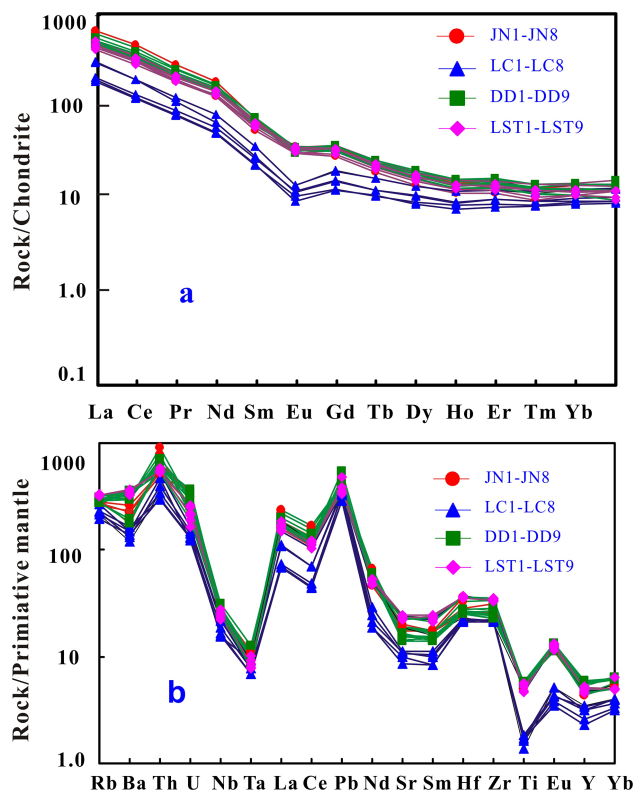


Fig. 4 Chondrite-normalized REE and **b** Primitive mantle-normalized multi-element variation diagrams for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC. Concentrations are normalized to chondrite composition of Sun and McDonough (1989)

In-situ zircon Hf isotopic analyses were performed on a Nu Plasma HR MC-ICP-MS equipped with a GeoLas 2005 193 nm ArF-excimer laser-ablation system. Analyses were carried out using a spot size of 44 μm and He was also used as a carrier gas. The laser repetition rate is 10 Hz and the energy density applied is 15–20 J/cm^{-2} . During the analysis, the $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ ratio of the standard zircon (91500) was 0.282295 ± 0.000027 ($n = 14$, 2σ), which is in good agreement with the recommended $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ ratio within 2σ (0.2823075 ± 58 , 2σ ; 0.282015 ± 0.000029 , 2σ) (Griffin et al. 2006; Wu et al. 2006). All the above analysis was performed at the Key state Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Northwest University, Xi'an, China.

4 Results

4.1 Zircon U–Pb ages

Euhedral zircons in samples JN02, LC01, DD02, and LST01 are clean and prismatic and show clear oscillatory magmatic zoning (Fig. 2). Fourteen zircon grains from

sample JN02 yielded a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 121.3 ± 5.7 Ma (1σ , 95 % confidence interval; Table 1; Fig. 2a). Thirteen zircon grains from sample LC01 yielded a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 123.0 ± 1.2 Ma (1σ ; 95 % confidence interval; Table 1; Fig. 2b). Twelve zircon grains from sample DD02 yielded a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 127.1 ± 2.4 Ma (1σ ; 95 % confidence interval; Table 1; Fig. 2c). Thirteen zircon grains from sample LST01 yielded a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 119.5 ± 4.8 Ma (1σ ; 95 % confidence interval; Table 2; Fig. 2d). These new-age data provide the best estimates of the crystallization ages of alkaline rocks within the study area. No major zircon inheritance was observed in any of the samples.

4.2 Major and trace element geochemistry

Geochemical data for the A-type granites from Sulu Orogenic Belt are listed in Tables 2 and 3. The alkaline rocks have a wide range of chemical compositions, with $\text{SiO}_2 = 60.76\text{--}73.48$ wt %, $\text{TiO}_2 = 0.18\text{--}0.76$ wt %, $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 13.71\text{--}16.43$ wt %, $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 = 1.58\text{--}6.26$ wt %, $\text{MnO} = 0.06\text{--}0.15$ wt %, $\text{MgO} = 0.31\text{--}2.75$ wt %, $\text{CaO} = 1.08\text{--}4.42$ wt %, $\text{Na}_2\text{O} = 3.63\text{--}4.43$ wt %, $\text{K}_2\text{O} = 4.68\text{--}5.71$ wt %, and $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5 = 0.05\text{--}0.51$ wt %. These rocks are relatively high in total alkalis, with $\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O}$ range from 8.32 to 10.11 wt%. All alkaline rocks plot in the alkaline field on the total alkali-silicon (TAS) diagram (Fig. 3a). All samples straddle the shoshonitic series in the Na_2O versus K_2O (Fig. 3b). In a plot of molar ratios of $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$, the alkaline rocks are all metaluminous (Fig. 3c). In addition, the $10,000 \times \text{Ga}/\text{Al}$ ratios of the A-type granites range from 2.75 to 3.45. In the Ga/Al versus Zr discrimination diagram (Fig. 3d) of Whalen et al. (1987), the felsic rocks are all classified as A-type granite. The A-type granites display an inconspicuous correlation between MgO , Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , CaO , TiO_2 , P_2O_5 , Zr, Sr, Ba, and SiO_2 , Na_2O , K_2O , and Rb (not shown).

The A-type granites are all characterized by LREE enrichment and HREE depletion, with a wide range (La/Yb)_N values (20–48) and moderate negative Eu anomalies ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.50\text{--}0.74$) (Fig. 4a). In the primitive mantle-normalized trace element diagrams, the A-type granites show enrichment in LILEs (i.e., Rb, Th, U, and Pb) and depletion in Ba, Sr and REEs (i.e., Nb, Ta, and Ti) (Fig. 4b).

4.3 Sr–Nd–Pb isotopes

Sr, Nd, and Pb isotopes for the A-type granites from Sulu Orogenic Belt are listed in Tables 4 and 5. The studied alkaline rocks show very uniform ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$)_i ranging from

Table 4 Sr–Nd isotopic compositions of the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

Sample	Age (Ma)	Rb (ppm)	Sr (ppm)	$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$\pm 2\sigma$	Sm (ppm)	Nd (ppm)	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$\pm 2\sigma$	$(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$	$(^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd})_i$	$\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$
JN1	121.3	115	1132	0.294	0.708955	12	10.4	72.5	0.086	0.511653	9	0.708448	0.511584	– 17.5
JN2	121.3	125	1165	0.311	0.709033	13	10.6	68.3	0.094	0.511652	10	0.708497	0.511578	– 17.6
JN5	121.3	136	1072	0.367	0.709063	14	11.3	73.8	0.092	0.511648	10	0.708430	0.511575	– 17.7
JN6	121.3	134	1065	0.364	0.709074	13	11.5	76.2	0.091	0.511651	10	0.708446	0.511579	– 17.6
JN7	121.3	122	1161	0.304	0.709005	14	10.5	66.4	0.096	0.511649	8	0.708480	0.511573	– 17.7
JN8	121.3	119	1153	0.299	0.708984	11	11.7	83.5	0.085	0.511644	12	0.708469	0.511576	– 17.6
LC1	123.0	138	236	1.693	0.711508	12	5.98	40.5	0.089	0.511572	10	0.708548	0.511500	– 19.1
LC3	123.0	116	143	2.349	0.712655	13	3.43	23.6	0.088	0.511563	10	0.708549	0.511492	– 19.3
LC5	123.0	153	215	2.061	0.712148	12	3.75	25.2	0.090	0.511557	10	0.708546	0.511484	– 19.4
LC8	123.0	126	148	2.465	0.712853	13	5.51	36.4	0.092	0.511564	9	0.708544	0.511488	– 19.3
DD1	127.1	186	812	0.663	0.709305	12	11.4	78.8	0.0871	0.511648	9	0.708107	0.511576	– 17.5
DD3	127.1	175	846	0.599	0.709308	14	11.4	75.3	0.092	0.511645	9	0.708226	0.511569	– 17.7
DD4	127.1	173	865	0.579	0.709293	13	10.8	74.5	0.088	0.511648	8	0.708247	0.511575	– 17.5
DD5	127.1	168	858	0.567	0.709201	12	11.2	74.2	0.091	0.511646	10	0.708177	0.511570	– 17.6
DD9	127.1	184	864	0.617	0.709244	14	12.5	83.6	0.090	0.511662	9	0.708130	0.511591	– 17.4
LST1	119.5	135	1025	0.381	0.709515	12	4.03	20.4	0.119	0.511716	9	0.708867	0.511623	– 16.8
LST5	119.5	131	1006	0.377	0.709465	10	4.27	21.3	0.121	0.511719	9	0.708825	0.511624	– 16.8
LST6	119.5	128	1023	0.362	0.709436	14	4.43	21.6	0.1240	0.511721	7	0.708821	0.511624	– 16.8
LST8	119.5	136	1012	0.389	0.709478	13	5.24	23.7	0.134	0.511758	10	0.708817	0.511758	– 17.2

The compositions were calculated using Chondrite Uniform Reservoir values and decay constants of $\lambda_{\text{Rb}} = 1.42 \times 10^{-11} \text{ year}^{-1}$ (Steiger and Jäger 1977) and $\lambda_{\text{Sm}} = 6.54 \times 10^{-12} \text{ year}^{-1}$ (Lugmair and Harti 1978)

Table 5 Pb isotopic compositions of the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

Sample	Age (Ma)	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	U (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Th (ppm)	$^{238}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{235}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{232}\text{Th}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$	$(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$	$(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$
JN1	121.3	16.9246	15.385	37.611	1.75	47.6	8.26	2.2	0.0163	11.0	16.882	15.383	37.545
JN2	121.3	16.965	15.3862	37.711	1.62	22.3	4.65	4.5	0.0323	13.2	16.880	15.382	37.631
JN5	121.3	16.9741	15.428	37.823	1.66	21.4	5.35	4.8	0.0345	15.9	16.883	15.424	37.727
JN6	121.3	16.923	15.383	37.671	1.25	38.2	4.27	2.0	0.0145	7.1	16.885	15.381	37.628
JN7	121.3	16.925	15.421	37.672	1.32	37.5	4.16	2.2	0.0156	7.0	16.884	15.419	37.630
JN8	121.3	16.934	15.423	37.678	1.44	35.2	4.25	2.5	0.0182	7.6	16.886	15.421	37.631
LC1	123.0	16.834	15.479	37.715	1.37	19.4	12.2	4.3	0.0313	39.7	16.751	15.475	37.472
LC3	123.0	16.837	15.478	37.705	1.48	20.8	12.5	4.3	0.0315	37.9	16.753	15.474	37.472
LC5	123.0	16.893	15.483	37.691	2.19	18.6	10.4	7.2	0.0522	35.3	16.754	15.476	37.474
LC8	123.0	16.811	15.479	37.616	2.21	45.3	16.2	3.0	0.0216	22.6	16.751	15.476	37.473
DD1	127.1	16.997	15.447	37.982	2.36	46.5	16.9	3.1	0.0227	23.1	16.935	15.444	37.836
DD3	127.1	16.991	15.449	37.971	2.31	46.4	15.3	3.1	0.0222	21.0	16.930	15.446	37.838
DD4	127.1	16.978	15.447	37.915	1.68	47.2	9.41	2.2	0.0159	12.7	16.934	15.445	37.835
DD5	127.1	17.036	15.451	37.957	1.76	20.5	6.35	5.3	0.0383	19.7	16.930	15.446	37.832
DD9	127.1	16.974	15.446	37.914	1.54	45.3	9.26	2.1	0.0152	13.0	16.935	15.444	37.837
LST1	119.5	16.983	15.436	37.943	2.38	46.4	13.3	3.2	0.0229	18.2	16.924	15.433	37.835
LST5	119.5	17.006	15.437	37.955	2.65	38.1	12.4	4.3	0.0310	20.7	16.926	15.433	37.832
LST6	119.5	17.045	15.441	38.036	2.46	23.2	12.4	6.5	0.0473	34.0	16.922	15.435	37.834
LST8	119.5	16.923	15.535	37.836	1.15	16.5	5.61	4.3	0.0311	21.6	16.923	15.535	37.836

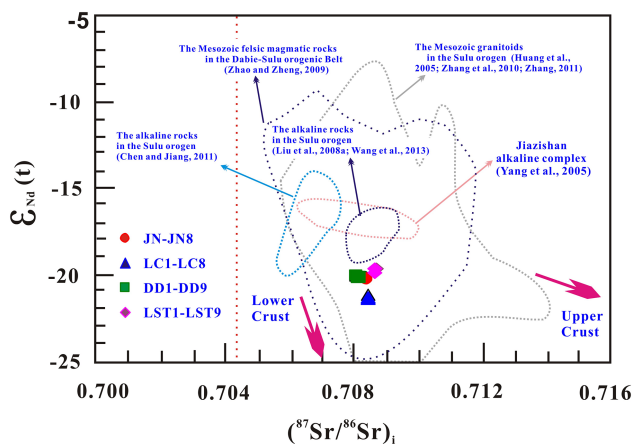


Fig. 5 Variations in initial $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ versus $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC. The studied rocks analyzed during this study plot within the enriched mantle source field

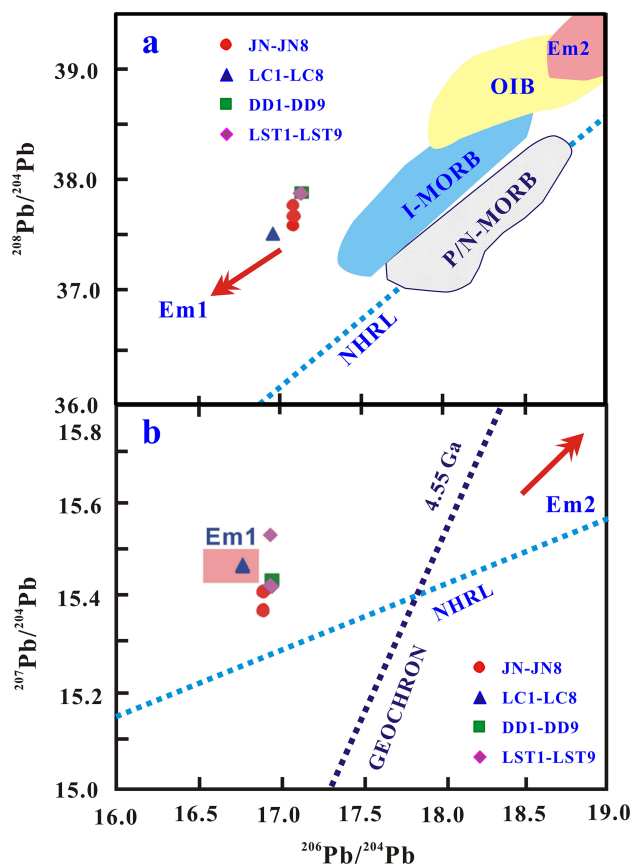


Fig. 6 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ versus $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ diagrams for the alkaline rocks. Fields for I-MORB (Indian MORB) and P&N-MORB (Pacific and North Atlantic MORB), OIB, NHRL and 4.55 Ga geochron are after Barry and Kent 1998; Zou et al. 2000), and Hart (1984), respectively

0.708 to 0.7089 and relatively small variation in initial $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values from -19.4 to -16.8 , which suggests a common source region. In addition, the Sr–Nd isotopic

compositions (Fig. 5) are comparable to those of the Mesozoic medium-acid rocks, granitoids, gabbros, lamprophyres, adakites, and alkaline rocks in Sulu-Dabie Orogenic Belt (Zhao et al. 1997; Zhou and Lu 2000; Fan et al. 2001; Zhang et al. 2005; Meng et al. 2005; Huang et al. 2005; Yang et al. 2005a; Liu 2004; Liu et al. 2005a, b, 2006, 2008a, 2009, 2011, 2012a, b, 2013a, b, c, d, 2014; Zhang et al. 2010; Chen and Jiang 2011; Wang et al. 2013). The Pb isotopic ratios in the alkaline rocks are characterized by $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.751\text{--}16.935$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.381\text{--}15.535$, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 37.472\text{--}37.838$ (Table 5). They are significantly different from those of the Yangtze lithospheric mantle ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 17.649\text{--}18.603$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.422\text{--}15.623$, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 37.674\text{--}38.521$; Chen et al. 2001; Yan et al. 2003, 2005; Yang et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2005) and are identical to those of alkaline complex and mafic rocks from the central NCC and Sulu-Dabie Orogen ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} < 17.5$; Yan et al. 2003; Zhang et al. 2004; Xie et al. 2006), having a clear EM1 affinity (Fig. 6).

4.4 Zircon Hf isotopes

Zircon Hf isotope results are listed in Table 6. Nineteen spot analyses were obtained for sample JN02, yielding relatively uniform $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of between -21.8 and -25.7 , corresponding to T_{DM2} model ages of between 2652 and 2792 Ma (Table 6; Figs. 7, 8, 9), and giving an average of $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t) = -23.9$ and $T_{\text{DM2}} = 2683$ Ma. Twenty spot analyses were obtained for sample LC01; they show a narrow range of $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values -23.4 and -24.3 , corresponding to T_{DM2} model ages between 2632 and 2684 Ma (Table 6; Figs. 7, 8, 9), and yielded a mean $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t) = -23.7$ and $T_{\text{DM2}} = 2668$ Ma. Nineteen spot analyses were obtained for sample DD02. The determined $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values vary between -21.3 and -22.4 , corresponding to T_{DM2} model ages in the range from 2525 Ma and 2595 Ma (Table 6; Figs. 7, 8, 9). These nineteen spots gave a mean $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t) = -21.9$ and $T_{\text{DM2}} = 2562$ Ma. Nineteen spot analyses were obtained for sample LST01, giving $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values between -21.1 and -25.5 , corresponding to T_{DM2} model ages between 2504 and 2595 Ma (Table 6; Figs. 7, 8, 9), thus yielding an average of $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t) = -22.0$ and $T_{\text{DM2}} = 2565$ Ma.

5 Discussion

5.1 Source, fractional crystallization, and crustal assimilation

The studied alkaline rocks are characterized by similar patterns of rare earth and trace elements (Table 3; Fig. 4a,

Table 6 Hf isotopic compositions of representative alkaline samples in the the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

Spot	$^{176}\text{Yb}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	2σ	ε_{Hf} (t)	T_{DM1} (Ma)	T_{DM2} (Ma)	$f_{\text{Lu/Hf}}$
<i>JN02</i>								
1	0.029586	0.000964	0.281993	0.000016	– 25.0	1771	2749	– 0.97
2	0.052717	0.001625	0.282003	0.000018	– 24.7	1788	2730	– 0.95
3	0.098563	0.002924	0.282086	0.000019	– 21.8	1731	2552	– 0.93
4	0.059815	0.001915	0.281975	0.000018	– 25.7	1842	2792	– 0.94
5	0.034469	0.001118	0.282003	0.000017	– 24.6	1764	2727	– 0.97
6	0.063329	0.001972	0.282027	0.000015	– 23.9	1771	2678	– 0.94
7	0.046168	0.001496	0.282011	0.000017	– 24.4	1771	2711	– 0.95
8	0.038843	0.001332	0.282034	0.000018	– 23.6	1731	2660	– 0.96
9	0.050533	0.001683	0.282064	0.000018	– 22.5	1705	2595	– 0.95
10	0.064315	0.002143	0.282033	0.000016	– 23.7	1770	2665	– 0.94
11	0.032746	0.001257	0.282031	0.000016	– 23.7	1731	2666	– 0.96
12	0.045333	0.001536	0.282024	0.000015	– 23.9	1754	2683	– 0.95
13	0.063869	0.002204	0.282013	0.000016	– 24.4	1802	2710	– 0.94
14	0.056225	0.001562	0.282024	0.000016	– 23.9	1755	2683	– 0.95
15	0.058065	0.001561	0.282034	0.000018	– 23.6	1741	2661	– 0.95
16	0.042815	0.001208	0.282036	0.000019	– 23.5	1722	2655	– 0.96
17	0.043579	0.001295	0.282023	0.000015	– 23.9	1745	2684	– 0.96
18	0.055138	0.001481	0.282015	0.000016	– 24.2	1764	2702	– 0.96
19	0.036295	0.000983	0.282031	0.000016	– 23.6	1719	2665	– 0.97
<i>LC01</i>								
1	0.037236	0.000994	0.282037	0.000019	– 23.4	1712	2652	– 0.97
2	0.047835	0.001377	0.282013	0.000016	– 24.3	1763	2706	– 0.96
3	0.045227	0.001318	0.282026	0.000020	– 23.8	1741	2676	– 0.96
4	0.027637	0.000774	0.282022	0.000015	– 23.9	1722	2683	– 0.98
5	0.038285	0.001162	0.282042	0.000018	– 23.2	1712	2641	– 0.97
6	0.040084	0.001056	0.282037	0.000017	– 23.4	1715	2652	– 0.97
7	0.055067	0.001479	0.282039	0.000016	– 23.4	1730	2648	– 0.96
8	0.038793	0.001336	0.282036	0.000017	– 23.4	1728	2654	– 0.96
9	0.050527	0.001679	0.282047	0.000018	– 23.1	1728	2632	– 0.95
10	0.06435	0.002146	0.282036	0.000016	– 23.5	1766	2658	– 0.94
11	0.032754	0.001261	0.282029	0.000016	– 23.7	1734	2670	– 0.96
12	0.045338	0.001543	0.282027	0.000017	– 23.8	1750	2675	– 0.95
13	0.063874	0.002207	0.282015	0.000016	– 24.3	1799	2704	– 0.93
14	0.056235	0.001559	0.282026	0.000016	– 23.8	1752	2677	– 0.95
15	0.058076	0.001564	0.282038	0.000018	– 23.4	1736	2651	– 0.95
16	0.042842	0.001211	0.282038	0.000019	– 23.4	1720	2650	– 0.96
17	0.043586	0.001285	0.282026	0.000016	– 23.8	1740	2677	– 0.96
18	0.055144	0.001485	0.282023	0.000016	– 23.9	1753	2684	– 0.96
19	0.036295	0.001332	0.282034	0.000016	– 23.5	1731	2659	– 0.96
20	0.044775	0.001286	0.282014	0.000018	– 24.2	1757	2704	– 0.96
<i>DD02</i>								
1	0.027363	0.000784	0.282073	0.000018	– 22.0	1652	2568	– 0.98
2	0.036883	0.001106	0.282081	0.000015	– 21.7	1654	2551	– 0.97
3	0.048760	0.001306	0.282092	0.000020	– 21.4	1649	2529	– 0.96
4	0.018478	0.000564	0.282085	0.000016	– 21.6	1626	2540	– 0.98
5	0.054609	0.001574	0.282071	0.000016	– 22.1	1690	2576	– 0.95
6	0.036307	0.001058	0.282085	0.000016	– 21.6	1648	2543	– 0.97

Table 6 continued

Spot	$^{176}\text{Yb}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	2σ	ε_{Hf} (t)	T_{DM1} (Ma)	T_{DM2} (Ma)	$f_{\text{Lu/Hf}}$
7	0.036924	0.001042	0.282093	0.000014	− 1.3	1636	2525	− 0.97
8	0.068916	0.001931	0.282084	0.000016	− 21.7	1688	2549	− 0.94
9	0.023981	0.000728	0.282083	0.000014	− 21.6	1636	2545	− 0.98
10	0.060873	0.001688	0.282091	0.000018	− 21.4	1666	2531	− 0.95
11	0.017424	0.000518	0.282061	0.000014	− 22.4	1657	2593	− 0.98
12	0.046217	0.001325	0.282062	0.000019	− 22.4	1692	2595	− 0.96
13	0.044683	0.001348	0.282065	0.000018	− 22.3	1688	2588	− 0.96
14	0.044962	0.001336	0.282068	0.000018	− 22.2	1684	2582	− 0.96
15	0.017465	0.000476	0.282073	0.000020	− 22.0	1639	2566	− 0.99
16	0.056252	0.001493	0.282082	0.000015	− 21.8	1671	2552	− 0.96
17	0.043658	0.001294	0.282066	0.000016	− 22.4	1684	2588	− 0.96
18	0.055181	0.001496	0.282075	0.000016	− 22.1	1681	2569	− 0.95
19	0.036246	0.001354	0.282068	0.000016	− 22.3	1684	2584	− 0.96
<i>LST01</i>								
1	0.001814	0.000851	0.282104	0.000014	− 21.1	1612	2504	− 0.97
2	0.001977	0.000832	0.282092	0.000016	− 21.5	1628	2531	− 0.96
3	0.002215	0.000745	0.282082	0.000014	− 21.8	1638	2552	− 0.98
4	0.001867	0.000904	0.282093	0.000018	− 21.5	1629	2529	− 0.97
5	0.001569	0.000685	0.282064	0.000016	− 22.5	1660	2591	− 0.98
6	0.004118	0.000744	0.282063	0.000016	− 22.5	1664	2595	− 0.98
7	0.003533	0.000563	0.282067	0.000014	− 22.4	1651	2585	− 0.96
8	0.004534	0.000731	0.282063	0.000018	− 22.5	1664	2595	− 0.98
9	0.004764	0.000653	0.282089	0.000015	− 21.6	1624	2536	− 0.98
10	0.006185	0.000495	0.282070	0.000018	− 22.3	1644	2578	− 0.99
11	0.003542	0.000724	0.282069	0.000017	− 22.3	1655	2581	− 0.98
12	0.002865	0.000834	0.282069	0.000019	− 22.3	1659	2581	− 0.97
13	0.006735	0.000465	0.282087	0.000017	− 21.7	1619	2540	− 0.99
14	0.003096	0.000747	0.282066	0.000015	− 22.4	1660	2587	− 0.98
15	0.005066	0.000750	0.282070	0.000019	− 22.3	1655	2580	− 0.96
16	0.002098	0.000781	0.282089	0.000019	− 21.6	1629	2537	− 0.98
17	0.043665	0.001285	0.282073	0.000016	− 22.2	1674	2574	− 0.96
18	0.055253	0.001508	0.282076	0.000018	− 22.1	1680	2569	− 0.95
19	0.036261	0.001375	0.282064	0.000017	− 22.5	1691	2595	− 0.96

b), comparable Sr–Nb–Pb isotopic composition (Tables 4, 5; Figs. 5, 6), large T_{DM2} model ages (2.8–2.5 Ga; Table 6) and negative ε_{Nd} (t) (from − 19.4 to − 16.8; Table 4) and ε_{Hf} (t) (between − 25.7 and − 21.3; Table 5), implying the ancient enriched and mixed source (crustal and lithospheric mantle). This further supported by their relatively high $\text{Mg}^\#$ values (27–49; Table 2; Rapp et al. 1999), Ce/Pb average ratios (10.4; Rudnick and Fountain 1995), Nb/Ta ratios (29–58; Table 3; Dostal and Chatterjee 2000), Zr/Hf ratios (32–40; Table 3; Green 1995), and lower Nb/U average ratios (3.53; Table 3; Rudnick and Fountain 1995). Moreover, in the major element versus MgO diagrams (not shown), the studied rocks plot along an extension of the

homochronous mafic rocks from Sulu Orogenic Belt trend (Fan et al. 2001; Yang et al. 2005a; Liu 2004; Liu et al. 2005a, b, 2006, 2008a, 2009, 2011, 2012a, b, 2013a, b, c, d, 2014), indicating they were the result of crystal fractionation of a mafic magma similar to the parental magma of the mafic rocks. The studied alkaline rocks thus were products of a mafic magma derived from a mantle source, but with some crustal involvement.

As an important geological process, at present, fractional crystallization has received a certain degree of attention. The studied samples are characterized by higher Rb (125–212 ppm) and Th values (25.2–77.5 ppm; Table 3), $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (15.381–15.535; Table 5), low Sr/Y

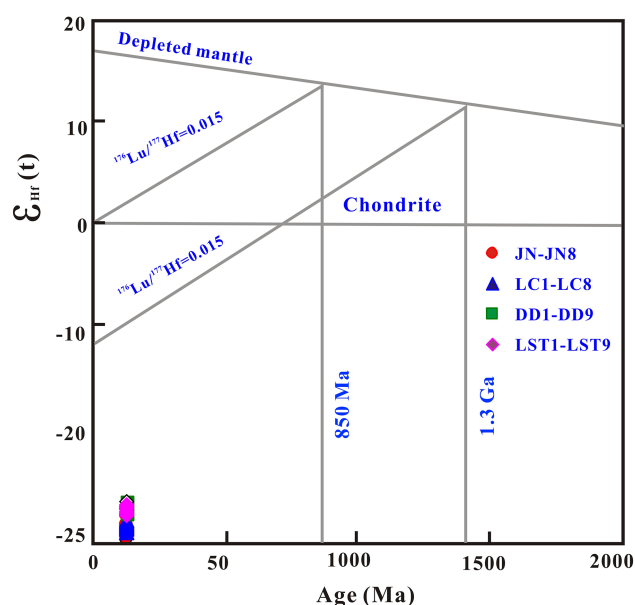


Fig. 7 Plots of zircon ages versus $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values (JN02, LC01, DD02, and LST01) for the alkaline rocks from Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

ratios (10.3–21.6; Table 2), implying the fractional crystallization is relatively obvious, on the plots between Ba, Sr, and Eu anomalies (Fig. 10a, b). The parent magma of the studied granites occurred fractionation of potassium feldspar and plagioclase and the plagioclase fractionation is further supported by the Eu negative anomalies ($\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 0.50\text{--}0.74$) (Fig. 4a). This is also evident in the Ba versus Rb/Sr diagrams (Fig. 11). In general, negative Ti anomalies in all felsic rocks (Fig. 4b) agree with the fractionation of Fe–Ti oxides such as rutile and ilmenite. In contrast, the LC1–LC8 sample experienced a higher degree of separation and crystallization in the genetic process (Fig. 3b, c; Wu et al. 2015).

Assimilation, crystallization fractionation (AFC), or magma mixing is usually postulated to explain the occurrence of felsic rocks (e.g., Depaolo 1981; Marsh 1989). The major and trace element characteristics indicate that crustal contamination is negligible. Generally, for felsic rocks, the AFC process and magma mixing would result in a possible linear correlation between MgO versus $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ and $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ (Fig. 12), these correlations, however, are not observed in the studied alkaline rocks (not shown), indicating that magma evolution is not significantly affected by crustal contamination of magma mixing.

5.2 Genetic mechanism

As discussed above, the alkaline rocks in this study are derived from the partial melting of an ancient and enriched

mantle source. A dynamic mechanism, however, is required to decipher the origin of the enriched mantle. Currently, at least three competing mechanisms can be envisaged (Yang et al. 2005a, b; Zhang et al. 2005; Liu et al. 2006, 2008a, 2013c): (1) partial melting of lower-crustal rocks under fluxing of volatile (e.g., Lubala et al. 1994); (2) partial melting of the subducted lithospheric mantle of the Yangtze Craton that has experienced extensive fractionation and minor contamination by crustal material (Yang et al. 2005a); (3) partial melting of the metasomatized mantle, subsequent fractionation of mantle-derived magma with or without crustal contamination (e.g., Sutcliffe et al. 1990; Lynch et al. 1993; Liu et al. 2008a, 2013c). The studied alkaline rocks are characterized by relatively higher $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values than lower-crustal values published for the NCC (Jahn et al. 1999), ruling out the first genetic mechanism for these rocks. At present, it is generally accepted that there is no basic lower crust in eastern China (Gao et al. 1998), however, the first genetic model so far cannot give a reasonable explanation. As discussed above, the studied alkaline rocks were derived from the partial melting of an ancient enriched and mixed source. The parental magma of them thus in this study were derived from the melting of the lithospheric mantle of the NCC, and some ancient continental crust materials were involved during magma ascent by crustal contamination or the source region due to metasomatism. In the Late Mesozoic (160–120 Ma), lithospheric mantle beneath the North China and Yangtze Craton shared similar trace element characteristics, but different Sr–Nd–Pb isotopic ratios (Xie et al. 2006). As discussed above, the Pb isotopic ratios of the studied alkaline rocks from Sulu Orogenic Belt (Table 5) are significantly different from those of the Yangtze lithospheric mantle, and are similar to those of mafic rocks from the central NCC, implying that the studied rocks are not derived from the subducted Yangtze plate, but from the overlying NCC. Therefore, the second genetic model can be eliminated in this study. Owing to its higher density than that of lithospheric mantle peridotite by $0.2\text{--}0.4\text{ g cm}^{-3}$, foundering of lower crustal eclogites into underlying convecting mantle has been proposed to play a role in plume magmatism, crustal evolution and formation of chemical heterogeneities within the mantle (Arndt and Goldstein 1989; Kay and Kay 1991; Rudnick and Fountain 1995; Jull and Kelemen 2001; Escrig et al. 2004; Gao et al. 2004; Elkins-Tanton 2005; Lustrino 2005; Anderson 2006; Gao et al. 2008). This mechanism currently has been reasonably used for explaining the origin of some Mesozoic igneous rocks from the NCC (e.g., Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009, 2010a, b, 2012a, b, 2013a, b, c, d, 2014, 2015, 2017a, b, 2018). The Pb-isotopic differences observed in the studied rocks from Sulu Belt are not related to the subducted Yangtze lithosphere but result from the contribution

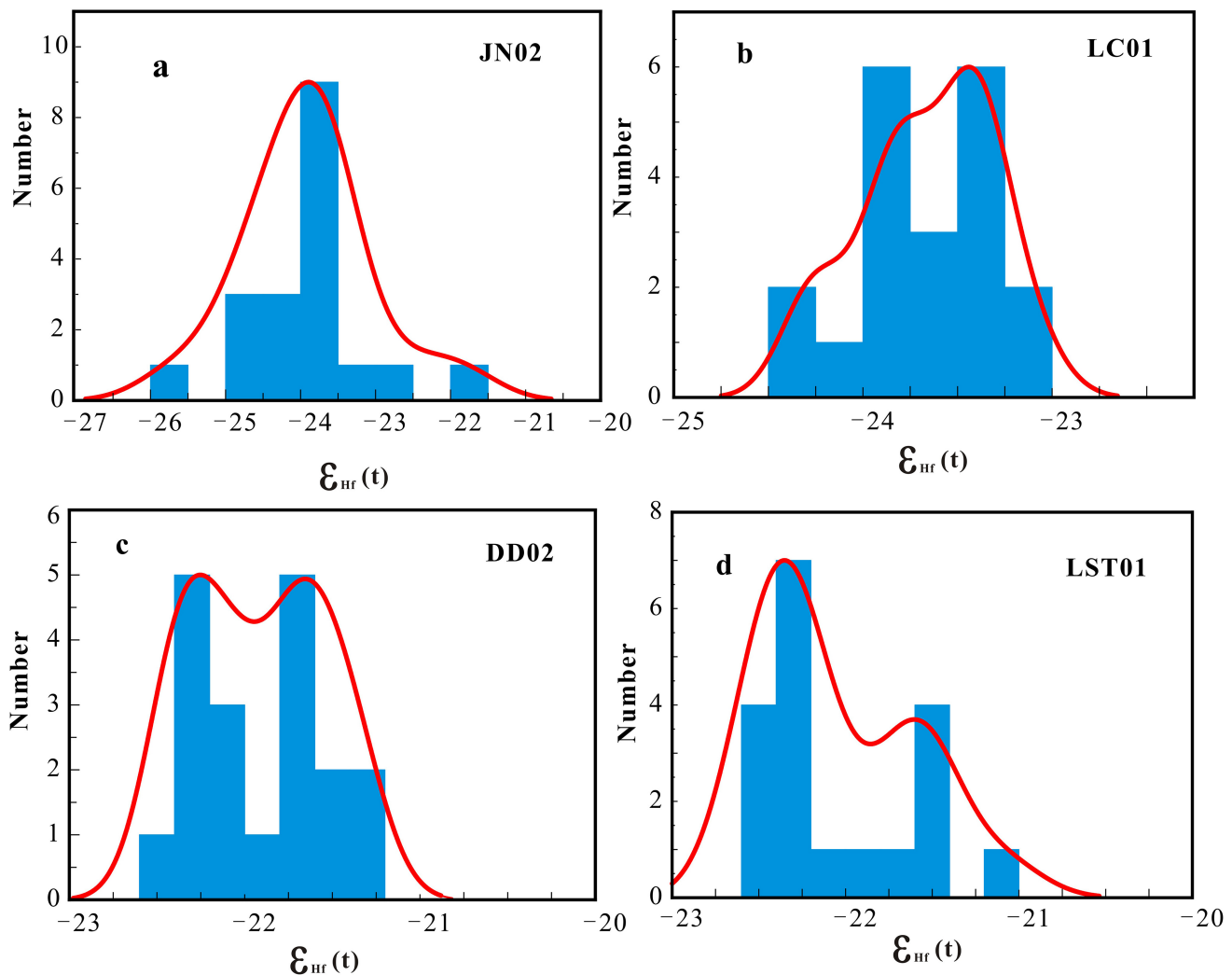


Fig. 8 Histogram of zircon $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

made by the ascending asthenospheric mantle following Late Mesozoic lithospheric thinning (200–120 Ma; Yang et al. 2004). This also can be used to interpret the origin of the Early Cretaceous mafic rocks from Dabie terrane (Huang et al. 2003). Consequently, we suggest that the Sr, Nd, Pb, and zircon Hf isotopic compositions of the alkaline rocks from central Sulu Orogenic Belt is not due to the involvement of subducted Yangtze lithosphere, but essentially caused by the upwelling of asthenospheric mantle following foundering of lower crustal materials during the Late Triassic (< 200 Ma) and Early Cretaceous (120 Ma; Guo et al. 2004). Nevertheless, the genetic mechanism and process for the studied alkaline rocks must be given a reasonable explanation (Fig. 13).

Nowadays, it is generally believed that between ~ 240 and 220 Ma (Zhang et al. 2005; Yang et al. 2005b; Liu

et al. 2008a, b, c, 2009, 2013c), the continual collision between the NCC and Yangtze Craton induced a thickened crust (e.g., Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009, 2013c), as well as the peak metamorphism and rapid exhumation of the HP–UHP Orogenic terrane (Guo et al. 2006); during ~ 225–205 Ma, the break-off of the subducted Yangtze plate occurred (Chen et al. 2003); between ~ 205 and 185 Ma, further thickened crust appeared due to intracontinental compression between the NCC and Yangtze Craton (e.g., Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009, 2013c). Subsequently, at ~ 185–165 Ma, asthenospheric upwelling, uplift of Sulu Orogenic Belt, lithospheric collapse, extension and thinning, and emplacement of alkaline magmas occurred beneath the Sulu-Dabie Orogenic Belt and eastern NCC (150–110 Ma; e.g., Li et al. 2002; Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009, 2013c). And then decompression

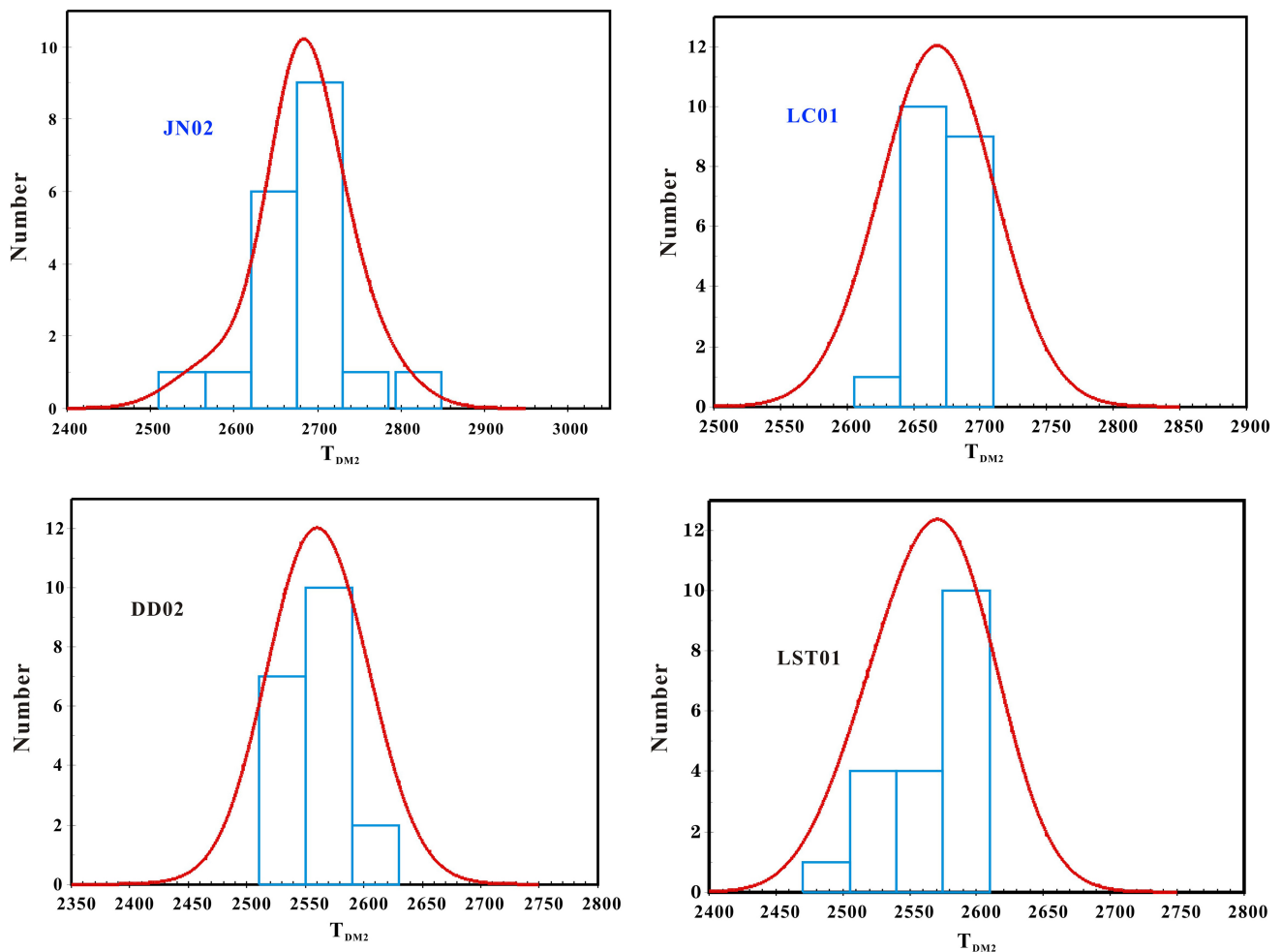


Fig. 9 Histogram of zircon TDM model ages for the alkaline rocks from the Sulu Orogenic Belt, eastern NCC

melting of the thickened crust produced primary melts, which underwent fractionation (i.e., potassium feldspar and plagioclase, rutile and ilmenite) without crustal contamination to produce the alkaline rocks intrusions in the study areas.

6 Tectonic implications

In general, A-type granites occur in the lithospheric extensional setting, and their research has been highly concerned (Liu et al. 2008a; Jiang et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2020). Previous studies have shown that (Jiang et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2020), A-type granites can be divided into two types: non-orogenic and post-orogenic (A1 and A2). The A1-type granites were formed in the extension stage after the stability of the continental lithosphere, while the A2-type granites were a sign of the end of orogeny (Eby 1992). The study of A-type granite thus is of great significance in

tectonic indication. Currently, it is generally accepted that there exist three stages of magmatism after the UHP metamorphic event (240–220 Ma; Yang et al. 2005b), i.e., Late Triassic, Late Jurassic, and Early Cretaceous. Early Cretaceous magmatic activities (130–110 Ma) were widespread in Sulu Orogenic Belt, petrological, geochronological and geochemical data emphasize that the Early Cretaceous magmatism from the Dabie-Sulu Orogenic Belt has been proposed to result from partial melting of a metasomatized lithospheric mantle source post-collisional extension and thinning after the collision of the NCC and Yangtze Craton (Zhao et al. 1997; Ma et al. 1998; Jahn et al. 1999; Fan et al. 2001; Chen et al. 2001, 2004; Yan et al. 2003, 2005; Li et al. 2004; Yang et al. 2004, 2005a, b; Wang et al. 2005; Huang et al. 2005; Zhang et al. 2005, 2010; Xie et al. 2006; Liu et al. 2006, 2008a, b, 2009; Zhang 2010; Zhao and Zheng 2009; Wang et al. 2009, 2010a, b; Chen and Jiang 2011), displaying features similar to other alkaline rocks referred to in the literature as post-

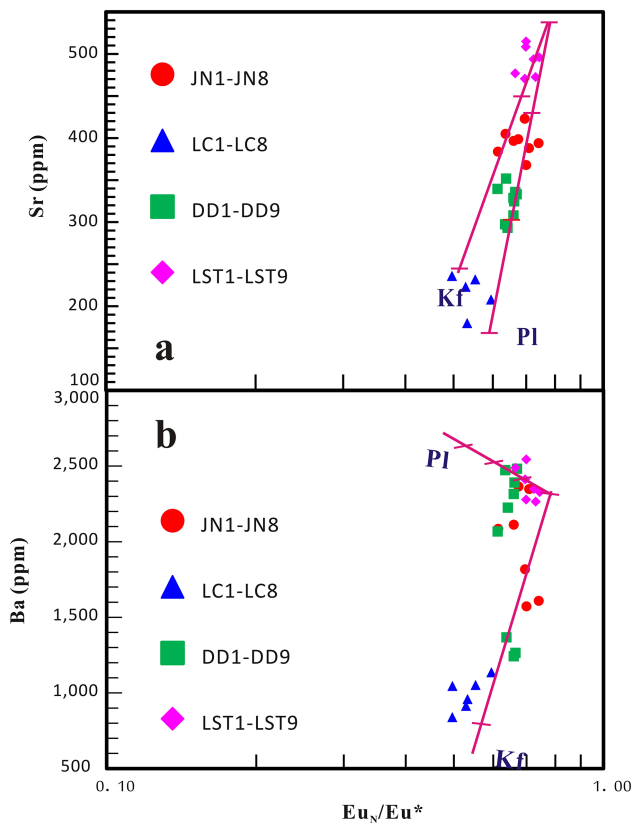


Fig. 10 Plots of **a** Eu_N/Eu^* versus Sr, and **b** Ba for the A-type granites. Mineral fractionation vectors calculated using partition coefficients from Schnetzler and Philpotts (1970). Tick mark indicate percentage of mineral phase removed, in 10% intervals. Pl-plagioclase; Kf-potassium feldspar

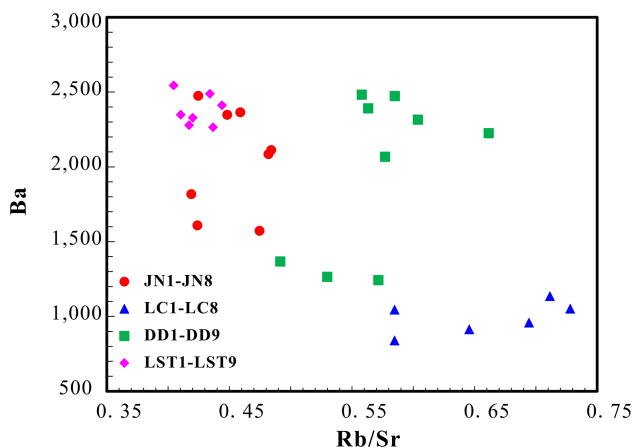


Fig. 11 Plots of Ba versus Rb/Sr for the A-type granites

collisional (Sylvester 1989) or post-orogenic/anorogenic syenites (Bonin 1990). The exact mechanism of lithospheric extension and thinning, however, remains controversial. Firstly, previous studies have shown that all

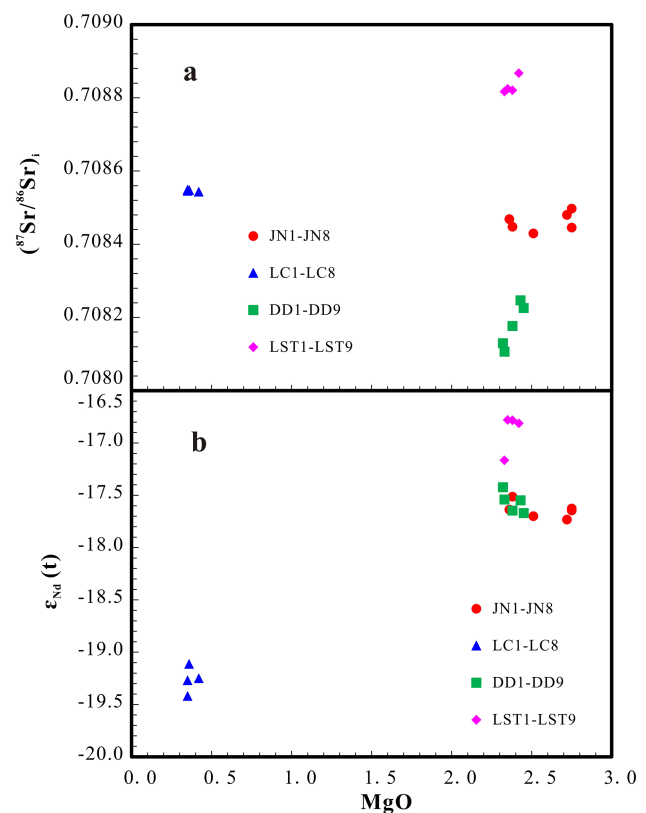


Fig. 12 Plots of MgO versus $(^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr})_i$ and $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ for the A-type granites

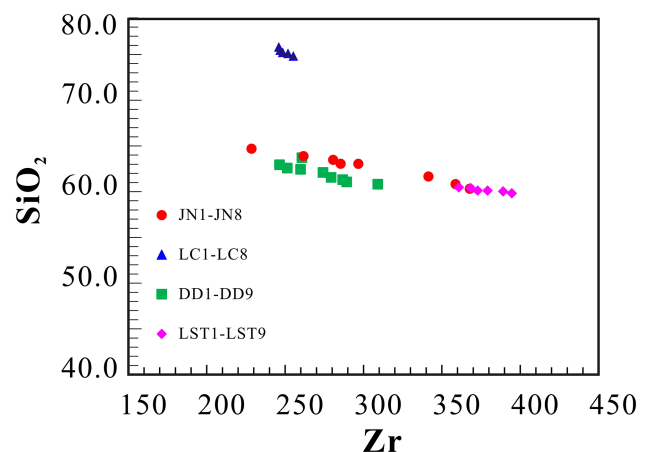


Fig. 13 Plots of Zr versus SiO_2 for the A-type granites

Mesozoic magmatism in eastern China was the result of a back-arc extensional setting due to the subduction of Iza-nagi Plate beneath the East Asian continent (Chen et al. 2004). Nevertheless, the Early Cretaceous was a period when the Iza-nagi Plate primarily moved toward the north or north-northeast, thence, providing little chance for inducing broad back-arc extension in the study areas (Maruyama and Send 1986; Kimura et al. 1990; Li et al.

2004; Liu et al. 2008a). In addition, another model also is recommended (Houseman et al. 1981), i.e., lithospheric extension and thinning have been induced by convective instability of a thickened mantle boundary layer. However, this model has been excluded due to the absence of magmatism (185–165 Ma) in the Sulu Orogenic Belt (Zhao et al. 1997; Fan et al. 2001; Chen et al. 2003; Guo et al. 2004, 2005, 2006; Huang et al. 2005; Yang et al. 2005a, b; Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009). Currently, lithosphere removal in eastern China has been well recognized and verified (Menzies et al. 1993; Menzies and Xu 1998; Griffin et al. 1998; Wu et al. 2003; Gao et al. 2002), as discussed above, lithospheric foundering can be explained as lithospheric removal, undoubtedly, this model (lithospheric removal) would result in lithospheric extension, thinning and coeval magmatism during Early Cretaceous (130–110 Ma) beneath the Sulu Orogenic Belt (Kay and Kay 1993; Liu et al. 2008a, b, 2009).

7 Conclusions

Several conclusions can be drawn from the petrological and geochemical studies of the studied alkaline rocks:

1. LA-ICP-MS U–Pb zircon dating results indicate that the Jiaonan, Liangcheng, Dadian, and Lanshantou alkaline intruded at 121.3, 123.0, 127.1, and 119.5 Ma, respectively. They are all relatively high in total alkalis ($K_2O + Na_2O = 8.32\text{--}10.11$ wt %); enriched in LREE, LILE (Rb, Th, and U), and Pb and depleted in Nb, Ta, and Ti; and moderate negative Eu anomalies ($Eu/Eu^* = 0.50\text{--}0.74$).
2. The alkaline rocks in this study are derived from the partial melting of an ancient and enriched mantle source. The parental magma originated by partial melting of hybridized mantle derived from foundered lower crustal eclogites. Subsequent fractionation of potassium feldspar, plagioclase, Fe–Ti oxides (i.e., rutile, ilmenite). The zircon saturation temperatures (T_{Zr}) of the A-type granites are 830–907 °C, which approximately represents the crystallization temperature of the magma in this study.
3. It is proposed that the occurrence of lithospheric extension and thinning beneath the Sulu Orogenic Belt is related to lithospheric removal due to foundering (removal) of the lower crust.

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