

Petrogenesis and geodynamic setting of the Wutang granites in the Tong'an-Baishuidong lithium mining district, South China: Evidence from monazite U–Pb chronology, geochemistry, and Nd–Pb isotope

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Abstract The Tong'an-Baishuidong mining district (TBMD), located in the eastern section of the Jiangnan Orogen, is a newly discovered granite-type lithium mining district. This study presents new monazite U–Pb chronological, whole-rock geochemical, and Nd–Pb isotopic data to reveal the petrogenesis and geodynamic setting of the Wutang granites in the TBMD. The monazite U–Pb age of 145.8 ± 1.0 Ma indicates that the granites were emplaced at the end of the Late Jurassic. Whole-rock geochemical results demonstrate that the Wutang granites are enriched in SiO₂ (72.80–73.40 wt%) but depleted in CaO (0.44–0.90 wt%) and MgO+TiO₂+TFeO (1.79–2.05 wt%). These granites exhibit negative Eu anomalies ($\delta\text{Eu}=0.3\text{--}0.4$) and high aluminum saturation indexes ($A/\text{CNK}=1.2\text{--}1.6$), differentiation indexes ($\text{DI}=90\text{--}92$), and Rb/Sr ratios (4.7–8.1). They also have moderate Ba contents (239–278 ppm) and low Sr contents (52.7–82.0 ppm) as well as low Nb/Ta (2.2–5.3) and Zr/Hf (21.3–31.5) ratios. All these indicate

that they are highly fractionated granites. Additionally, these granites contain 5–10 wt% muscovite but no hornblende, with calculated corundum contents of 2.3–5.5 wt%. They have low high-field strength element (HFSE) contents ($\text{Zr} + \text{Nb} + \text{Ce} + \text{Y} = 182\text{--}202$ ppm) and zircon saturation temperatures (700–770 °C), with Th and Y negatively linked with Rb. These petrographic and geochemical features further reveal that the Wutang granites belong to highly fractionated S-type granites. The $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values of these granites range from -9.03 to -8.23 , corresponding to two-stage model ages ($T_{\text{DM}2}$) of 1488–1553 Ma. The initial Pb isotope ratios are: $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 18.38\text{--}18.55$, $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 15.67\text{--}15.68$, and $(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 38.62\text{--}38.67$. These Nd–Pb isotopic results demonstrate that the parental magma originated from the partial melting of ancient crustal materials. In the meantime, the TBMD in the eastern section of the Jiangnan Orogen was in a

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compression-extension transitional setting associated with the episodic subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate.

Keywords Wutang granites · Highly fractionated granites · Petrogenesis · Monazite U–Pb chronology · Tong'an–Baishuidong

1 Introduction

In the Mesozoic, the South China Plate was influenced by the Tethyan and Pacific tectonic domains, resulting in a world-renowned granitoid province, as well as enormous granite-related rare metal resources, such as tungsten, tin, lithium, beryllium, niobium, and tantalum (Mao et al. 2004, 2019; Hua et al. 2010; Chen et al. 2013; Xu et al. 2015; Zhao and Jiang 2022; Wu et al. 2023a, b). Multiple studies have demonstrated a close connection between highly fractionated granite and rare metal deposits in South China (e.g., Li et al. 2021; Hou et al. 2023; Ni et al. 2023). The enrichment of rare metals in highly fractionated granite is primarily controlled by the parent magma composition, partial melting

degree, separation crystallization process, and fluid metasomatism (Linnen et al. 2012; Gou et al. 2023). Therefore, the properties of highly fractionated granite are of great significance for revealing the mineralization process of rare metal deposits.

The Ganfang intrusive suite, situated in the TBMD of the eastern Jiangnan Orogen (Fig. 1a), represents a significant component of the lithium mineralization-related granites in South China and comprises the Ganfang, Guyangzhai, Wutang, and Baishuidong plutons (Lou et al. 2023). Existing studies on these plutons focused on geology, geochronology, and whole-rock and isotopic geochemistry to examine their petrogenesis and links to lithium enrichment (Wang et al. 2017; Xie et al. 2019; Li et al. 2020; Nie et al. 2022; Xu et al. 2023). The highly fractionated Ganfang and Guyangzhai plutons were emplaced at ca. 147–144 Ma and 147–146 Ma, respectively (Wang et al. 2017). They possibly originated from the same magma chamber but underwent distinct assimilation processes (Wang et al. 2017). The ore-related Baishuidong pluton was emplaced at ca. 144 Ma (Xie et al. 2019). It consists of highly fractionated S-type granites, which were formed through the partial melting of

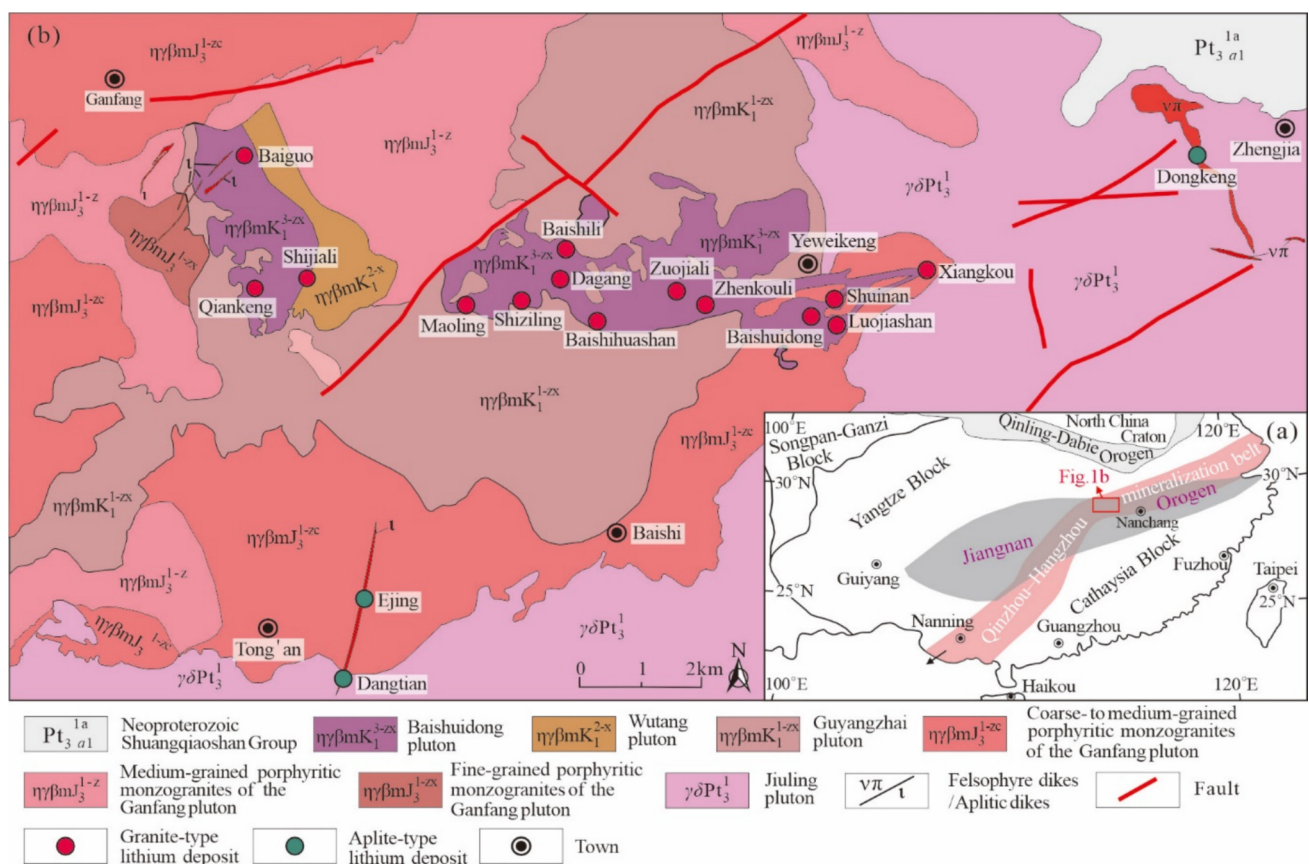


Fig. 1 (a) Tectonic map of South China, showing the location of the Tong'an–Baishuidong lithium mining district (modified from Wang et al., 2017). (b) Regional geological map of the Tong'an–Baishuidong lithium mining district, showing the distribution of the major lithium deposits (modified from Zhang et al., 2021a; Lou et al., 2023)

metamorphosed pelites in an extensional setting (Li et al. 2020). By contrast, the nature and origin of the Wutang pluton remain unclear, limiting a comprehensive understanding of the entire Ganfang intrusive suite. In addition, the geodynamic setting of the granites in the district needs to be further revealed.

In this study, we present new monazite U–Pb dating, whole-rock geochemical, and Nd–Pb isotopic data for the Wutang granites to reveal their petrogenesis, magma source, and geodynamic setting. The new insights provide a scientific basis for an in-depth understanding of the Late Jurassic magmatism and its geodynamic setting in this district.

2 Regional geology

The Jiangnan Orogen strikes northeast and divides the South China Plate into the Yangtze Block and the Cathaysia Block (Fig. 1a; Wang et al. 2017). The TBMD lies in the eastern section of the Jiangnan Orogen (Fig. 1a). Currently, it comprises a dozen granite-related lithium deposits, such as the Qiankeng, Maoling, Dagang, and Baishihuashan deposits (Fig. 1b). The total Li_2O reserves in the ores of these deposits exceed 1.659 million tons (Chen et al. 2023; Lou et al. 2023).

The exposed strata are primarily composed of the metamorphosed clastic sediments of the Anlelin Formation, which is part of the Neoproterozoic Shuangqiaoshan Group (Xu et al. 2014; Liu et al. 2023). Granitic magmatism occurred during the Neoproterozoic and again during the Jurassic–Cretaceous. A prominent example of the Neoproterozoic magmatism is the Jiuling pluton of the eastern TBMD (Fig. 1b). This pluton includes granodiorite, tonalite, and monzogranite, which were emplaced between 830 and 810 Ma (Duan et al. 2017; Rong 2017; Zhang et al. 2020). The regional-scale faults that strike E–W and N–E control the distribution of numerous Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous granitic intrusions (Lou et al. 2023), mostly developed in the western part of the TBMD. The Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous magmatism can be divided into four stages, which are represented by the Ganfang, Guyangzhai, Wutang, and Baishuidong plutons, respectively (Fig. 1b; Zhang et al. 2021a; Lou et al. 2023). These four plutons are collectively referred to as the Ganfang intrusive suite.

The ca. 153 km² Ganfang pluton is composed of coarse- to fine-grained porphyritic two-mica monzogranites, which have zircon U–Pb ages of 146.7 ± 2.9 Ma to 144.0 ± 2.0 Ma and were emplaced into the Jiuling pluton (Wang et al. 2017). The Guyangzhai pluton, with an exposed area exceeding 180 km², is composed of medium- to fine-grained porphyritic two-mica monzogranites. These rocks yield zircon U–Pb ages of 147.0 ± 2.0 Ma to 146.0 ± 1.2 Ma and were emplaced into the Jiuling and Ganfang plutons (Wang

et al. 2017). Field and drill core observations indicate that the Wutang pluton is exposed in an area of ca. 24 km² and is composed of medium- to fine-grained two-mica monzogranites, intruding into the Ganfang and Guyangzhai plutons. The Baishuidong pluton crops out over an area of ca. 30 km² and consists of medium- to fine-grained muscovite granites, with a columbite U–Pb age of 144.0 ± 5.0 Ma (Xie et al. 2019; Lou et al. 2023). This pluton primarily intruded into the Wutang and Guyangzhai plutons, with a clear boundary of intrusion contact (Fig. 1b, 2a–c). In addition, these granitic plutons are cut by late-stage pegmatite, aplite, and porphyritic felsite dikes (Fig. 1b, 2a). The lithium ores usually occur in the upper part of the Baishuidong pluton, with lithium mainly enriched in muscovite, trilithionite, lepidolite, and small amounts of cookeite and amblygonite (Xie et al. 2019; Lou et al. 2023).

3 Samples and analytical methods

All Wutang granite samples analyzed in this study were collected from drill cores to avoid weathering and alteration. These granite samples range in color from gray-white to light red (Fig. 2d), containing 30%–35% alkali-feldspar, 25%–30% quartz, 20%–25% plagioclase, 5%–10% muscovite, and 5%–10% biotite (Fig. 2e–f). The alkali-feldspar and plagioclase are typically subhedral and range in diameter from 0.3 to 2.5 mm. The anhedral quartz grains have diameters of 0.2–2.0 mm, and they usually fill the gaps among the feldspars. The mica minerals are euhedral, with lengths ranging from 0.5 to 3.0 mm. The accessory minerals (< 1%) include apatite, zircon, monazite, cassiterite, and columbite.

The granite sample ZK2089-23 for monazite U–Pb dating was collected at a depth of 202.1 m of drill core ZK2809 in the Qiankeng mining area. Monazites were extracted via the heavy mineral separation technique, handpicked using a binocular microscope, pasted on a resin disk, and polished to exhibit their interior structures. These monazites occur as accessory minerals and feature euhedral-subhedral columnar and equiaxed shapes, with lengths and length/width ratios ranging from 40 to 130 μm and 1:1 to 2:1, respectively. Subsequently, back-scattered electron (BSE) images were taken to determine the placements for analysis. The above preparations were completed at Gaonianlinghang Technology Co., Ltd, Beijing. In situ monazite U–Pb isotopic analyses were performed at the State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Resources and Environment, East China University of Technology, using an Agilent 7900 ICP–MS equipped with a Coherent GeoLasHD 193-nm laser ablation system. The analyses were conducted using a beam diameter of 16 μm , an energy density of 3.5 J/cm², and an ablation frequency of 3 Hz. Helium served as the carrier gas of ablated material. As the make-up gas, argon was mixed with helium before entering

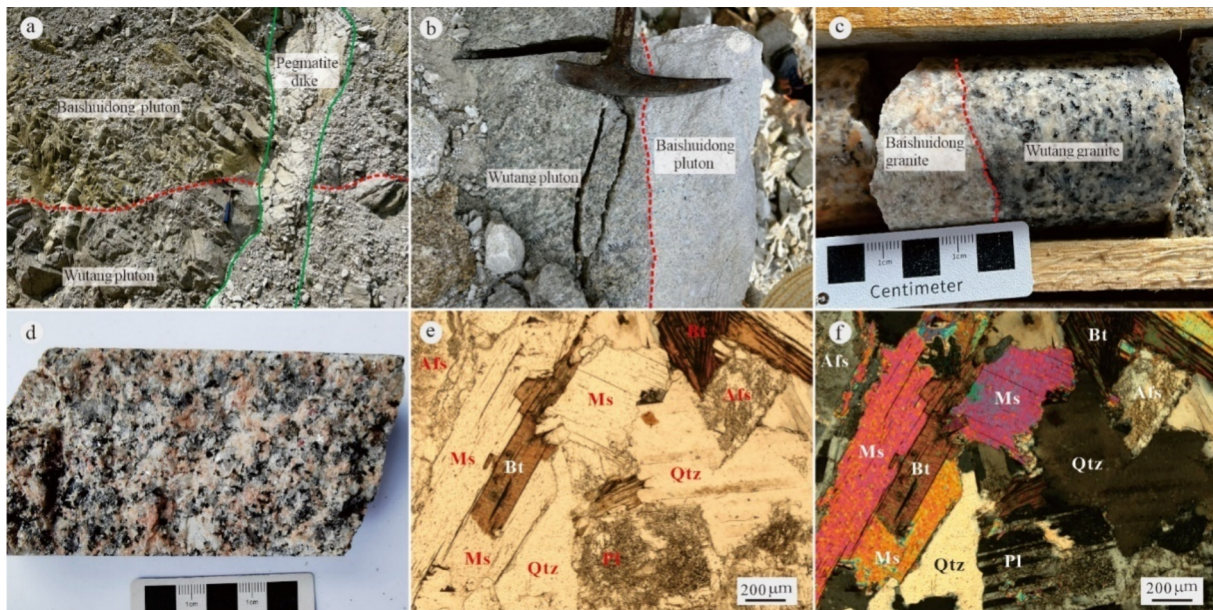


Fig. 2 Field outcrops, hand specimen, and microscope images of the Wutang granites. (a) The Wutang pluton coexists closely with the Baishuidong pluton and is cut by the late-stage pegmatite dike. (b–c) The boundary between the Wutang and Baishuidong plutons. (d) Hand specimen of medium- to fine-grained two-mica monzogranites from the Wutang pluton. (e–f) Microscope images of medium- to fine-grained two-mica monzogranites from the Wutang pluton. Abbreviations: Afs = alkali-feldspar; Bt = biotite; Ms = muscovite; Pl = plagioclase; Qtz = quartz

the ICP to ensure steady and optimal excitation conditions. The monazite standards Bananeira and Diamantina were utilized to calibrate U–Pb isotopic fractionation and monitor data quality, respectively. The glass standard NIST-610 was utilized for trace element calibration. One Diamantina, one NIST-610, and two Bananeira standards were measured at the beginning and end of each set of eight unknown sample analyses. The weighted average $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages of the Bananeira and Diamantina standards measured in this study were 513.7 ± 11.0 Ma and 497.9 ± 3.9 Ma, respectively, consistent with the reference $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages of 513.6 ± 1.2 Ma for Bananeira and 495.3 ± 0.5 Ma for Diamantina (Goncalves et al. 2016, 2018). Each analysis comprised 20 s of background signal acquisition and 40 s of ablation signal acquisition. The masses measured in each ablation include ^{202}Hg , ^{204}Pb , ^{206}Pb , ^{207}Pb , ^{208}Pb , ^{232}Th , and ^{238}U . The ICPMSDataCal software was used to process the raw isotopic data (Liu et al. 2010), and the ISOPLOT program was used to calculate the weighted mean age and draw the Concordia diagram (Ludwig 2003).

After detailed petrography observations, 14 Wutang granite samples from the Qiankeng and Dagang mining areas were selected for whole-rock geochemical analyses at the Nanchang Mineral Resources Supervision and Testing Center, Ministry of Land and Resources of China. The compositions of major and trace elements were measured using an x-ray fluorescence spectrometer (Axios-Max) and

an ICP-MS (Agilent 7700x), respectively. The experimental precisions for major and trace elements are $> 2\%$ and 5% , respectively.

At the Wuhan Center of China Geological Survey, four whole-rock samples of the Wutang granite from the Qiankeng and Dagang mining areas were selected for Nd and Pb isotopic analyses. These granite samples were ground into powders of ca. 200 mesh and then digested with a mixture of HClO_4 , HNO_3 , and HF . The Sm and Nd concentrations and isotopic compositions were analyzed using a TRITON thermal ionization mass spectrometer. The measured Nd isotopic ratios are normalized to $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$. Standards GBW04419, GSW, and BCR-2 were used to monitor the stability and precision of instrumental analysis. Analyses of the BCR-2 standard demonstrate that the precision is $> 1\%$ for Sm and Nd concentrations and 0.5% for isotopic ratios. The measured average $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios of the GBW04419, GSW, and BCR-2 standards are 0.512712 ± 0.000002 (2σ), 0.512430 ± 0.000005 (2σ), and 0.512630 ± 0.000008 (2σ), respectively, consistent with the reference ratios of 0.512725 ± 0.000007 (2σ) for GBW04419, 0.512438 ± 0.000006 (2σ) for GSW, and 0.512618 – 0.512650 for BCR-2. Pb isotopic analyses were performed on a Neptune-Plus MC-ICP-MS, and the standard NBS981 was used for status monitoring of the instrument. Five analyses of NBS981 yield mean ratios of $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.9417 \pm 0.0004$ (2σ), $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.4984 \pm 0.0007$ (2σ), and

$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 36.7195 \pm 0.0007$ (2σ), highly consistent with the recommended ratios of $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.9405$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.4963$, and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 36.7220$ (Galer and Abouchami 1998). The mass fractionation of Pb isotopic ratios was corrected by $^{203}\text{Tl}/^{205}\text{Tl} = 0.418652$, with an analysis precision $> \pm 0.05\%$.

4 Results

4.1 Monazite U–Pb dating

The U–Pb isotopic compositions of 23 monazite grains from sample ZK2089-23 are listed in Table 1. These monazite grains exhibit no apparent internal structure, indicating a homogeneous composition (Fig. 3a). The monazites have Th and U contents of 82,517–196,835 ppm and 895 to 22,236 ppm, respectively, with a wide Th/U ratio range of 40.2–168.0, indicating that they have a magmatic origin (Liang et al. 2022). In total, 23 spots were analyzed. The apparent $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages vary from 140 ± 4 to 153 ± 6 Ma, yielding a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 145.8 ± 1.0 Ma (MSWD = 1.12; Fig. 3b), which is extremely consistent with the lower intercept age of 145.6 ± 1.2 Ma (MSWD = 1.15; Fig. 3a) and can be regarded as the intrusive age of the Wutang granites.

4.2 Major and trace elements

Table 2 shows the contents of major and trace elements of the Wutang granites. The SiO_2 and total alkali ($\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O}$) contents of the 14 Wutang granite samples are 72.80–73.40 wt% and 7.18–8.35 wt%, respectively, demonstrating silicon- and alkali-rich characteristics. In the $\text{SiO}_2 - (\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O})$ diagram (Fig. 4a), the data for all samples are plotted within the field of granite. The granite samples have K_2O contents and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios ranging from 4.71 wt% to 5.10 wt% and 1.5 to 2.5, respectively. In the $\text{SiO}_2 - \text{K}_2\text{O}$ diagram (Fig. 4b), all the data are plotted within the field of the high-K calc-alkaline series. The granite samples have A/CNK [molar $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{CaO} + \text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O})$] and A/NK ratios of 1.2–1.6 and 1.3–1.6, respectively, indicating that they are strongly peraluminous rocks (Fig. 4c). The corundum contents calculated by the CIPW standard mineral method range from 2.3 wt% to 5.5 wt%. In addition, the granite samples have a high differentiation index ($\text{DI} = 90\text{--}92$) and low MgO (0.27–0.43 wt%), CaO (0.44–0.90 wt%), TiO_2 (0.02–0.22 wt%), P_2O_5 (0.17–0.40 wt%), and TFeO (1.21–1.41 wt%) contents, implying that the granitic magma was highly fractionated.

In the primitive mantle-normalized trace element diagram (Fig. 5a), large-ion lithophile elements (LILEs) Rb and K, as well as HFSEs Th and U, are enriched, while LILEs Ba

and Sr, as well as HFSEs Nb and Ti, are depleted. The total rare earth element (ΣREE) contents of the granite samples vary from 128 to 148 ppm. The contents of light rare earth elements (LREEs) and heavy rare earth elements (HREEs) are 119–138 ppm and 8.55–10.17 ppm, respectively, and the LREE/HREE ratios range from 13.3 to 15.2. The $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_{\text{N}}$ values range from 3.6–12.8, with an average of 7.5, showing a greater enrichment of LREEs. In the chondrite-normalized REE diagram (Fig. 5b), all the REE curves are inclined to the right, with apparent negative Eu anomalies ($\delta\text{Eu} = 0.3\text{--}0.4$).

4.3 Nd–Pb isotopic compositions

The whole-rock Nd–Pb isotopic data of the four Wutang granite samples are listed in Table 3. These samples contain 4.46–5.04 ppm of Sm and 22.21–24.83 ppm of Nd, and their $^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ values range from 0.1172 to 0.1239 and 0.512175 to 0.512216, respectively. The $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values calculated based on the monazite U–Pb age (145.8 Ma; Fig. 3b) are between -9.0 and -8.2 , corresponding to $T_{\text{DM}2}$ of 1488–1553 Ma. These granite samples have measured Pb isotopic ratios of $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 18.56\text{--}18.86$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.68\text{--}15.70$, and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 38.90\text{--}38.97$. Age corrections were conducted based on the age (145.8 Ma; Fig. 3b) and U, Th, and Pb concentrations of the granite samples (Table 2). The calculated initial Pb isotopic ratios are as follows: 18.38–18.55 for $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$, 15.67–15.68 for $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$, and 38.62–38.67 for $(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$ (Table 3).

5 Discussion

5.1 The timing of the Wutang pluton

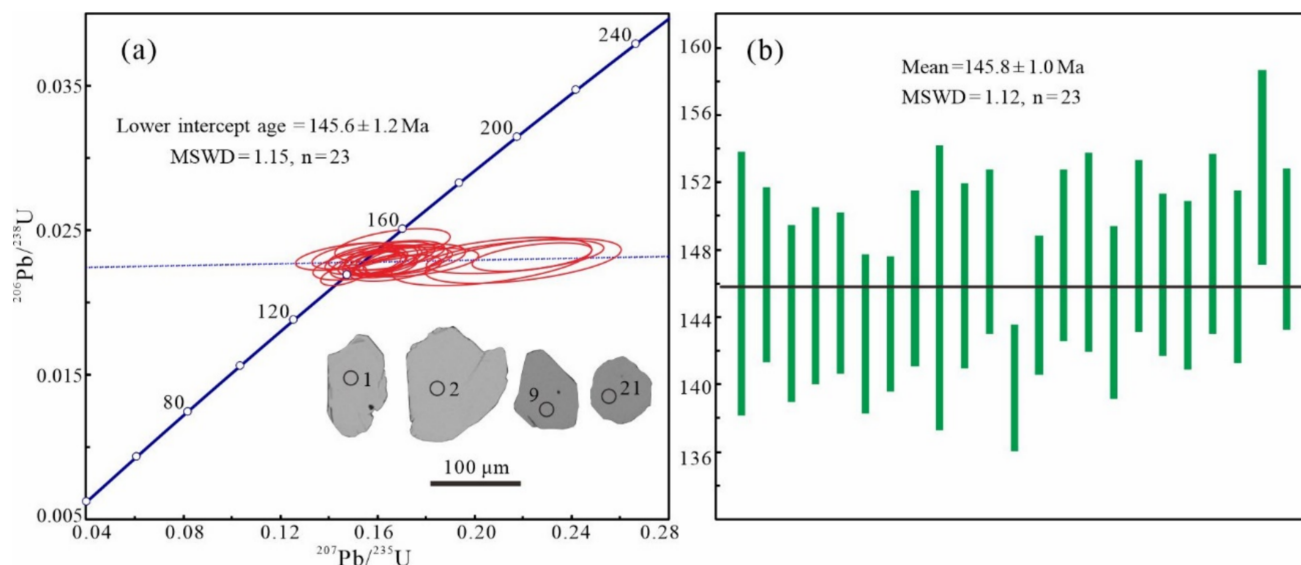
Wang et al. (2017) reported zircon U–Pb ages for the Guyangzhai pluton ranging from 147.0 ± 2.0 to 146.0 ± 1.2 Ma. Xie et al. (2019) reported a columbite U–Pb age of 144.0 ± 5.0 Ma for the Baishuidong pluton. In this study, we obtained a monazite U–Pb age of 145.8 ± 1.0 Ma for the Wutang pluton (Fig. 3b). Considering the error ranges, these intrusive ages are indistinguishable from one another. Nevertheless, field geological observations show that the Wutang pluton intruded the Guyangzhai pluton and was itself intruded by the Baishuidong pluton (Fig. 1b, 2a–c; Wang et al. 2017; Xu et al. 2024). Based on the aforementioned geological phenomena and chronological data, it can be inferred that the Wutang pluton was emplaced at the end of the Late Jurassic, with an intrusive age intermediate between those of the Guyangzhai and Baishuidong plutons.

Table 1 LA-ICP-MS monazite U–Pb dating data of the Wutang granite (ZK2089-23)

Sample spot	Th (ppm)	U (ppm)	Th/U	Isotopic ratios					
				$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	2σ	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$	2σ	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	2σ
01	186082	1108	168.0	0.0662	0.0126	0.2202	0.0332	0.0229	0.0012
02	167724	4572	36.7	0.0525	0.0048	0.1637	0.0140	0.0230	0.0008
03	177853	3351	53.1	0.0496	0.0053	0.1524	0.0156	0.0226	0.0008
04	174922	2371	73.8	0.0573	0.0071	0.1771	0.0202	0.0228	0.0008
05	82,517	12444	6.6	0.0507	0.0036	0.1590	0.0110	0.0228	0.0008
06	170347	4843	35.2	0.0537	0.0047	0.1676	0.0156	0.0224	0.0007
07	150489	18982	7.9	0.0524	0.0034	0.1636	0.0107	0.0225	0.0006
08	175230	4383	40.0	0.0550	0.0050	0.1718	0.0143	0.0230	0.0008
09	178082	895	199.1	0.0570	0.0110	0.2071	0.0339	0.0229	0.0013
10	180880	2059	87.8	0.0544	0.0069	0.1723	0.0196	0.0230	0.0009
11	181315	2544	71.3	0.0465	0.0057	0.1475	0.0175	0.0232	0.0008
12	163960	22236	7.4	0.0481	0.0025	0.1459	0.0076	0.0219	0.0006
13	125251	8792	14.3	0.0500	0.0034	0.1569	0.0105	0.0227	0.0007
14	156592	4092	38.3	0.0697	0.0061	0.2239	0.0202	0.0232	0.0008
15	189332	1152	164.4	0.0656	0.0096	0.2169	0.0301	0.0232	0.0009
16	185125	5383	34.4	0.0503	0.0042	0.1564	0.0128	0.0226	0.0008
17	139597	5872	23.8	0.0514	0.0045	0.1652	0.0152	0.0233	0.0008
18	196835	6849	28.7	0.0519	0.0035	0.1639	0.0105	0.0230	0.0008
19	173422	3256	53.3	0.0545	0.0061	0.1696	0.0175	0.0229	0.0008
20	176427	2399	73.6	0.0507	0.0071	0.1637	0.0196	0.0233	0.0008
21	177947	2189	81.3	0.0508	0.0058	0.1583	0.0164	0.0230	0.0008
22	179897	2171	82.9	0.0500	0.0056	0.1663	0.0194	0.0240	0.0009
23	170954	4252	40.2	0.0473	0.0047	0.1506	0.0143	0.0232	0.0008
Sample spot	Apparent age (Ma)								
	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	2σ	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$	2σ	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	2σ			
01	813	407	202	28	146	8			
02	306	209	154	12	147	5			
03	176	230	144	14	144	5			
04	502	271	166	17	145	5			
05	228	165	150	10	146	5			
06	361	198	157	14	143	5			
07	306	146	154	9	144	4			
08	413	208	161	12	146	5			
09	494	378	191	29	146	8			
10	387	285	161	17	147	6			
11	33	261	140	15	148	5			
12	106	115	138	7	140	4			
13	195	159	148	9	145	4			
14	920	186	205	17	148	5			
15	794	310	199	25	148	6			
16	209	-5	148	11	144	5			
17	261	204	155	13	148	5			
18	283	156	154	9	147	5			
19	391	256	159	15	146	5			
20	233	287	154	17	148	5			
21	232	241	149	14	146	5			
22	195	237	156	17	153	6			

Table 1 (continued)

Sample spot	Apparent age (Ma)					
	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	2σ	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$	2σ	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	2σ
23	65	222	142	13	148	5

**Fig. 3** (a) Concordia diagrams of monazite U–Pb age for the Wutang granites, with BSE images of representative analyzed monazites. (b) The weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of monazite U–Pb dating for the Wutang granites

5.2 Petrogenesis

Previous studies have proposed that typical highly fractionated granites are geochemically distinguished by high contents of SiO_2 (> 72 wt%), low contents of CaO (< 1 wt%) and $\text{MgO} + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{TFeO}$ (< 6 wt%), high aluminum saturation indexes (peraluminous, $A/\text{CNK} > 1.1$) and differentiation indexes ($\text{DI} > 88$), low ratios of Nb/Ta (< 17) and Zr/Hf (< 38), and negative Eu anomalies (Bau 1996; Ballouard et al. 2016; Wu et al. 2017; Yang 2019). By contrast, the Wutang granites have high contents of SiO_2 (72.80–73.40 wt%), low contents of CaO (0.44–0.90 wt%) and $\text{MgO} + \text{TiO}_2 + \text{TFeO}$ (1.79–2.05 wt%), and high aluminum saturation indexes ($A/\text{CNK} = 1.2$ –1.6) and differentiation indexes ($\text{DI} = 90$ –92) (Table 1), indicating highly fractionated characteristics. The negative Eu anomalies ($\delta\text{Eu} = 0.3$ –0.4) and relative depletion of Sr, Ti, and Nb may be attributed to the fractional crystallization of minerals such as plagioclase, apatite, ilmenite, rutile, and titanite during magma evolution (Zhang et al. 2021b; Xu et al. 2022; Yang et al. 2023). Furthermore, these granites exhibit negative Eu anomalies ($\delta\text{Eu} = 0.3$ –0.4), high Rb contents (373–467 ppm) and Rb/Sr ratios (4.7–8.1), moderate Ba contents (239–278 ppm), as well as low Sr contents (52.7–82.0 ppm)

and Nb/Ta (2.2–5.3) and Zr/Hf (21.3–31.5) ratios, all of which indicate that they are highly fractionated (Zaraisky et al. 2009; Ballouard et al. 2016). In the $(\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O})/\text{CaO} - (\text{Zr} + \text{Nb} + \text{Ce} + \text{Y})$ diagram (Fig. 6a), the samples are plotted in the fractionated granite field. In the Rb–Ba–Sr diagram (Fig. 6b), the samples are projected into the field of highly fractionated granite. Collectively, the above geochemical features reveal that the Wutang granites are highly fractionated.

Granites are typically classified as I-, S-, M-, or A-type based on the discrepancies in chemical composition, magma origin, and geodynamic setting (e.g., Collins et al. 1982; Whalen 1985; Whalen et al. 1987; Chappell 1999; Chappell and White 2001; Wu et al. 2007; Rong 2017). However, highly fractionated granites, regardless of type, have mineral and chemical compositions that are analogous to eutectic granites. As a result, the type of highly fractionated granites needs to be comprehensively determined based on their petrographic and geochemical features (Wu et al. 2015; Lan et al. 2020). In addition, the M-type granites are rare in the continental crust, often plagioclase granites that coexist with ophiolites (Rong 2017; Hu et al. 2023). This is notably different from the lithology and formation environment of the Wutang granites. Thus,

Table 2 Data of the major elements (wt%) and trace elements (ppm) in the Wutang granites

Sample no	ZK2802-10	ZK2802-20	ZK0001-1	ZK2809-1	ZK2809-4	ZK2809-5	ZK2809-6
SiO ₂	73.11	72.99	73.14	72.88	73.40	72.89	73.34
Al ₂ O ₃	14.60	14.70	14.50	14.79	14.24	14.72	14.40
TiO ₂	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.21
TFeO	1.39	1.36	1.30	1.37	1.32	1.37	1.37
CaO	0.44	0.81	0.66	0.80	0.88	0.90	0.60
MgO	0.39	0.40	0.38	0.39	0.27	0.37	0.37
K ₂ O	5.10	4.98	4.71	5.10	4.96	4.96	4.92
Na ₂ O	2.08	3.23	3.22	3.22	3.30	3.32	3.05
MnO	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04
P ₂ O ₅	0.22	0.19	0.40	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.20
LOI	2.19	0.86	1.25	0.78	0.88	0.82	1.29
Total	99.82	99.80	99.80	99.80	99.70	99.81	99.82
Na ₂ O+K ₂ O	7.18	8.21	7.93	8.32	8.26	8.28	7.97
K ₂ O/Na ₂ O	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
CaO/Na ₂ O	0.21	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.27	0.27	0.20
A/CNK	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
A/NK	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Mg [#]	33.6	34.6	34.5	33.9	26.9	32.7	32.7
DI	90	90	91	90	91	90	91
La	27.00	28.00	26.40	27.40	26.90	26.50	24.60
Ce	64.4	64.9	63.2	66.3	65	63.3	58.3
Pr	6.88	7.09	6.74	6.99	6.84	6.74	6.24
Nd	26.90	27.70	26.20	26.90	26.60	25.90	24.50
Sm	5.16	5.25	5.21	5.30	5.22	5.15	4.74
Eu	0.61	0.66	0.57	0.63	0.61	0.59	0.59
Gd	4.54	4.70	4.45	4.70	4.46	4.39	4.04
Tb	0.51	0.53	0.49	0.51	0.51	0.52	0.47
Dy	2.16	2.29	2.08	2.19	2.28	2.33	2.06
Ho	0.37	0.39	0.35	0.37	0.38	0.40	0.35
Er	0.87	0.92	0.83	0.87	0.91	0.98	0.86
Tm	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.11
Yb	0.65	0.71	0.62	0.67	0.70	0.74	0.69
Lu	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.10
Y	10.10	10.50	9.63	10.10	10.60	11.20	9.78
Cu	3.11	3.15	4.65	4.59	7.79	6.73	5.32
Pb	33.10	40.10	42.00	42.70	39.90	40.90	40.20
Zn	66.1	61.1	60.4	69.4	65.0	67.9	68.3
Cr	6.24	6.96	8.60	6.76	6.57	7.82	5.96
Ni	1.76	1.64	1.57	2.40	1.85	1.77	2.02
Co	2.63	2.57	3.09	2.86	2.38	2.50	2.52
Li	298	224	302	251	260	204	269
Rb	409	373	440	386	382	380	388
Cs	100.0	80.5	99.6	73.9	87.6	65.7	65.4
W	10.00	3.37	5.50	3.68	14.30	2.12	6.87
Mo	0.12	0.16	0.18	0.22	0.33	0.19	0.16
Sr	52.7	75.4	54.6	82.0	77.4	76.7	66.6
Ba	252	265	242	265	255	266	263
V	26.20	25.60	25.30	25.80	25.40	24.70	26.30
Sc	3.24	3.19	3.25	3.40	3.22	3.16	3.12
Nb	12.30	16.60	13.00	13.40	14.00	12.40	12.50

Table 2 (continued)

Sample no	ZK2802-10	ZK2802-20	ZK0001-1	ZK2809-1	ZK2809-4	ZK2809-5	ZK2809-6
Ta	2.50	3.56	3.33	3.44	3.30	2.77	2.54
Zr	112.90	109.40	101.70	106.20	106.80	104.50	106.40
Hf	3.58	5.13	4.76	4.55	4.24	4.20	4.12
Be	10.10	13.20	17.00	10.50	13.00	9.00	10.30
Ga	23.20	23.10	22.20	23.20	23.00	23.20	24.00
Sn	18.30	16.30	30.40	21.90	22.50	17.50	17.80
Tl	2.09	1.86	2.54	2.02	2.05	1.91	1.95
U	5.44	5.56	5.22	9.27	11.20	4.62	5.03
Th	23.00	23.40	22.30	22.60	23.20	22.20	20.70
LREE	131	134	128	134	131	128	119
HREE	9.31	9.76	9.02	9.54	9.46	9.58	8.68
ΣREE	140	143	137	143	141	138	128
LREE/HREE	14.1	13.7	14.2	14.0	13.9	13.4	13.7
δEu	0.38	0.4	0.35	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.4
(La/Yb) _N	29.9	28.4	30.5	29.3	27.6	25.7	25.6
(La/Sm) _N	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4
(Gd/Yb) _N	5.8	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.3	4.9	4.9
Zr+Nb+Ce+Y	200	201	188	196	196	191	187
Rb/Sr	7.8	5.0	8.1	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.8
Zr/Hf	31.5	21.3	21.4	23.3	25.2	24.9	25.8
Nb/Ta	4.9	2.2	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.9
Corundum	5.5	3.0	3.9	3.0	2.3	2.7	3.5
Sample no	ZK2809-20	ZK2809-22	ZK2809-23	ZKSHK1-6	ZKSHK2-1	ZK2001-1	ZK3209-2
SiO ₂	73.04	72.84	72.80	73.34	72.94	73.29	73.16
Al ₂ O ₃	14.66	14.66	14.70	14.32	14.65	14.39	14.70
TiO ₂	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.20
TFeO	1.40	1.34	1.38	1.27	1.41	1.33	1.21
CaO	0.50	0.84	0.90	0.65	0.78	0.71	0.66
MgO	0.43	0.41	0.43	0.33	0.42	0.28	0.39
K ₂ O	4.97	4.94	5.00	4.87	4.96	4.98	4.79
Na ₂ O	3.08	3.16	3.15	3.29	3.20	3.37	3.24
MnO	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.06
P ₂ O ₅	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.33	0.21	0.25	0.17
LOI	1.24	1.04	0.96	1.15	0.95	0.90	1.10
Total	99.79	99.68	99.78	99.89	99.81	99.80	99.70
Na ₂ O+K ₂ O	8.05	8.10	8.15	8.16	8.16	8.35	8.03
K ₂ O/Na ₂ O	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
CaO/Na ₂ O	0.16	0.27	0.29	0.20	0.24	0.21	0.20
A/CNK	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
A/NK	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Mg [#]	35.5	35.6	35.9	31.8	34.9	27.5	36.7
DI	91	90	90	92	90	92	91
La	27.30	27.70	28.70	25.50	28.00	26.80	26.60
Ce	66.2	68.3	67.9	61.1	65.1	63.4	64.5
Pr	6.95	7.10	7.23	6.60	6.97	6.97	6.78
Nd	27.20	28.00	28.20	25.50	27.00	27.10	26.30
Sm	5.32	5.32	5.52	5.03	4.97	5.13	5.09
Eu	0.56	0.60	0.59	0.59	0.62	0.56	0.50
Gd	4.52	4.45	4.74	4.31	4.43	4.21	4.28

Table 2 (continued)

Sample no	ZK2809-20	ZK2809-22	ZK2809-23	ZKSHK1-6	ZKSHK2-1	ZK2001-1	ZK3209-2
Tb	0.51	0.52	0.55	0.50	0.49	0.45	0.47
Dy	2.25	2.35	2.46	2.24	2.16	1.99	2.09
Ho	0.39	0.40	0.43	0.39	0.38	0.34	0.36
Er	0.89	0.94	1.02	0.94	0.87	0.76	0.85
Tm	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11
Yb	0.67	0.71	0.74	0.73	0.69	0.62	0.68
Lu	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.10
Y	10.70	11.20	11.80	10.80	10.20	9.04	9.96
Cu	0.26	4.42	18.70	6.03	11.40	2.58	5.32
Pb	38.20	42.20	39.40	40.00	37.40	38.30	42.00
Zn	65.3	67.7	66.0	62.6	61.4	76.4	66.9
Cr	5.58	7.30	6.94	4.73	8.67	4.88	7.44
Ni	1.73	1.49	1.69	1.44	1.93	1.22	1.96
Co	2.60	2.62	2.62	2.36	2.73	2.34	2.38
Li	303	264	254	207	268	295	448
Rb	384	377	380	377	422	459	467
Cs	63.9	72.0	68.3	54.9	107.0	87.7	113.4
W	6.18	3.91	8.35	5.04	11.70	5.33	4.12
Mo	0.16	1.57	0.24	0.13	0.20	0.12	0.14
Sr	66.0	68.5	74.4	65.6	70.9	67.2	62.9
Ba	259	261	257	239	278	244	245
V	24.50	25.00	26.60	23.60	24.70	24.70	25.90
Sc	3.26	3.40	3.36	3.15	3.51	2.68	2.99
Nb	12.20	12.40	12.10	12.60	12.80	13.80	13.50
Ta	2.32	2.46	2.32	2.85	3.03	3.85	3.52
Zr	106.20	109.20	107.40	97.80	113.70	109.80	100.90
Hf	4.04	4.56	4.21	4.49	5.28	4.69	3.82
Be	12.70	12.50	12.50	15.20	9.33	12.10	21.70
Ga	23.00	23.10	23.50	22.00	24.00	23.70	23.20
Sn	14.00	17.60	15.60	18.40	20.20	20.30	23.20
Tl	1.89	1.95	1.86	1.84	2.15	2.36	2.46
U	8.43	7.70	8.29	5.59	6.26	4.19	8.25
Th	23.60	23.80	24.10	21.40	23.70	23.50	23.20
LREE	134	137	138	124	133	130	130
HREE	9.45	9.59	10.17	9.34	9.24	8.55	8.95
ΣREE	143	147	148	134	142	139	139
LREE/HREE	14.1	14.3	13.6	13.3	14.4	15.2	14.5
δEu	0.34	0.37	0.35	0.38	0.4	0.35	0.32
(La/Yb) _N	29.1	28.0	28.0	25.1	29.2	31.3	28.2
(La/Sm) _N	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.4
(Gd/Yb) _N	5.6	5.2	5.3	4.9	5.3	5.7	5.2
Zr + Nb + Ce + Y	195	201	199	182	202	196	189
Rb/Sr	5.8	5.5	5.1	5.8	6.0	6.8	7.4
Zr/Hf	26.3	24.0	25.5	21.8	21.5	23.4	26.4
Nb/Ta	5.3	5.0	5.2	4.4	4.2	3.6	3.8
Corundum	3.8	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.8	3.4

TFeO = FeO + (Fe₂O₃ × 0.8998); LOI = loss on ignition; A/CNK = molar [Al₂O₃/(CaO + Na₂O + K₂O)]; A/NK = molar [Al₂O₃/(Na₂O + K₂O)]; Mg[#] = 100Mg²⁺/(Mg²⁺ + TFe²⁺)

δEu = 2w(Eu)_N/[w(Gd)_N + w(Sm)_N]

The letter 'N' in the footnote stands for chondrite normalization, and the values referred to Sun and McDonough (1989)

DI, differentiation indexes; LREE, light rare earth element; HREE, heavy rare earth element; ΣREE, total rare earth elements

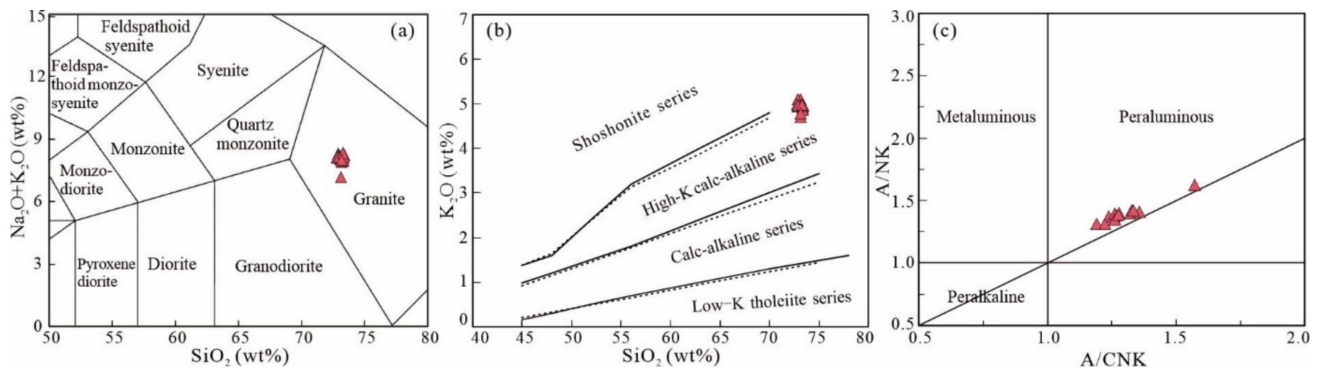


Fig. 4 Geochemical diagrams of the Wutang granites. (a) SiO_2 –($\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O}$) diagram (after Middlemost, 1994). (b) SiO_2 – K_2O diagram (after Peccerillo and Taylor, 1976). (c) A/CNK – A/NK diagram (after Maniar and Piccoli, 1989)

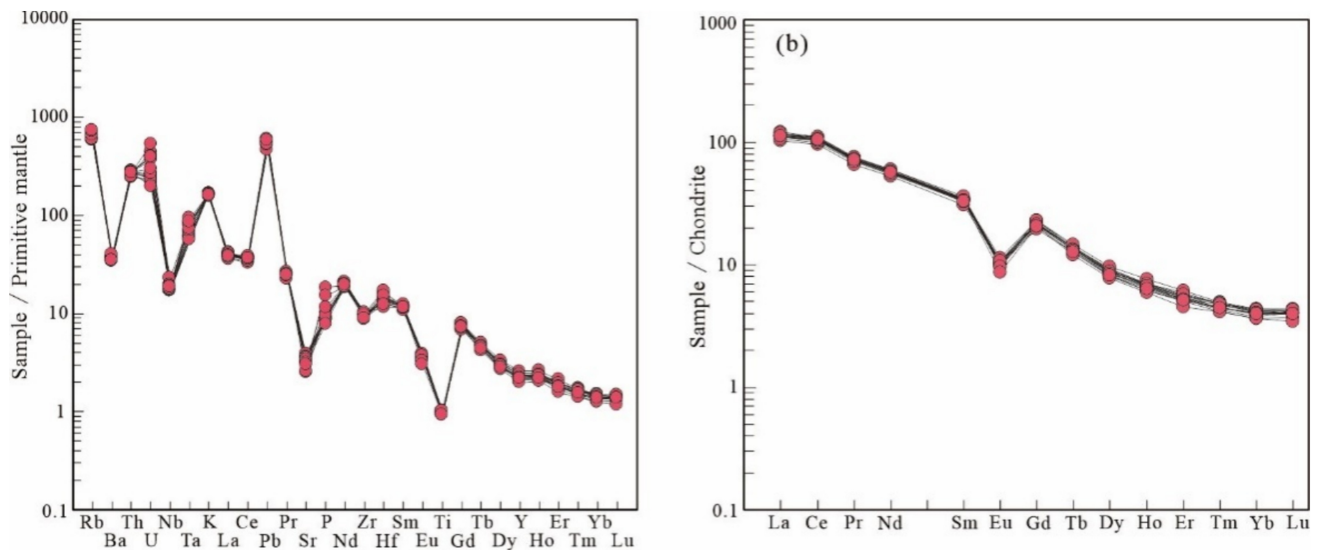


Fig. 5 (a) Primitive mantle-normalized trace element spider-grams and (b) chondrite-normalized REE distribution patterns of the Wutang granites. Primitive-mantle and chondrite values are from Sun and McDonough (1989)

the possibility of M-type granites was not discussed in this study.

The Wutang granites have $\text{Zr}+\text{Nb}+\text{Ce}+\text{Y}$ values ranging from 182 to 202 ppm, which are significantly lower than those of the A-type granites (350 ppm; Whalen et al. 1987). In the $(\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O})/\text{CaO}$ –($\text{Zr}+\text{Nb}+\text{Ce}+\text{Y}$) diagram (Fig. 6a), all data are plotted outside the field of A-type granites. The calculated zircon saturation temperatures of the Wutang granites vary from 700 to 770 °C, which are substantially lower than those of the A-type granites (839–900 °C; Watson and Harrison 1983; King et al. 1997). Furthermore, the SiO_2 – TFEO/MgO diagram (Fig. 6c) illustrates that the Wutang granites should be I- or S-type rather than A-type. Therefore, the possibility of A-type granites can be ruled out.

The petrographic observation indicates that the Wutang granites contain 5–10 wt% muscovite but no hornblende

(Fig. 2e and f). The corundum contents calculated by the CIPW standard mineral method are between 2.3 wt% and 5.5 wt% (Table 2; Lu and Li 2021). These petrographic features are similar to those of the S-type granites instead of the I-type granites. The granites have high aluminum saturation indexes ($\text{A/CNK}=1.2\text{--}1.6$). Hence, they are classified as strongly peraluminous rocks (Fig. 4c). In the discriminating diagrams of S- and I-type granites (Fig. 6d–f), all samples fall into the field of S-type granites. Additionally, the Th and Y contents of the Wutang granites are relatively low and have a slightly negative correlation with Rb, displaying an evolutionary trend of the S-type granites in the Rb–Th and Rb–Y diagrams (Fig. 6g and h; Chappell 1999). Based on the aforementioned petrographic and compositional features, the granites of the Wutang pluton are classified as highly fractionated S-type granites.

Table 3 Whole-rock Nd–Pb isotopic data for the Wutang granites

Sample No.	Nd isotopic composition			Pb isotopic composition					
	Sm/ppm	Nd/ppm	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$	T_{DM2}/Ma	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$
ZK0001-1	4.46	22.21	0.1215	0.512179	−9.0	1547	18.56	15.68	38.92
ZK2809-1	5.02	24.64	0.1232	0.512216	−8.2	1489	18.86	15.70	38.91
ZK2809-23	5.04	24.61	0.1239	0.512179	−9.0	1547	18.69	15.69	38.90
ZKSHK2-1	4.81	24.83	0.1172	0.512175	−9.0	1553	18.73	15.69	38.97

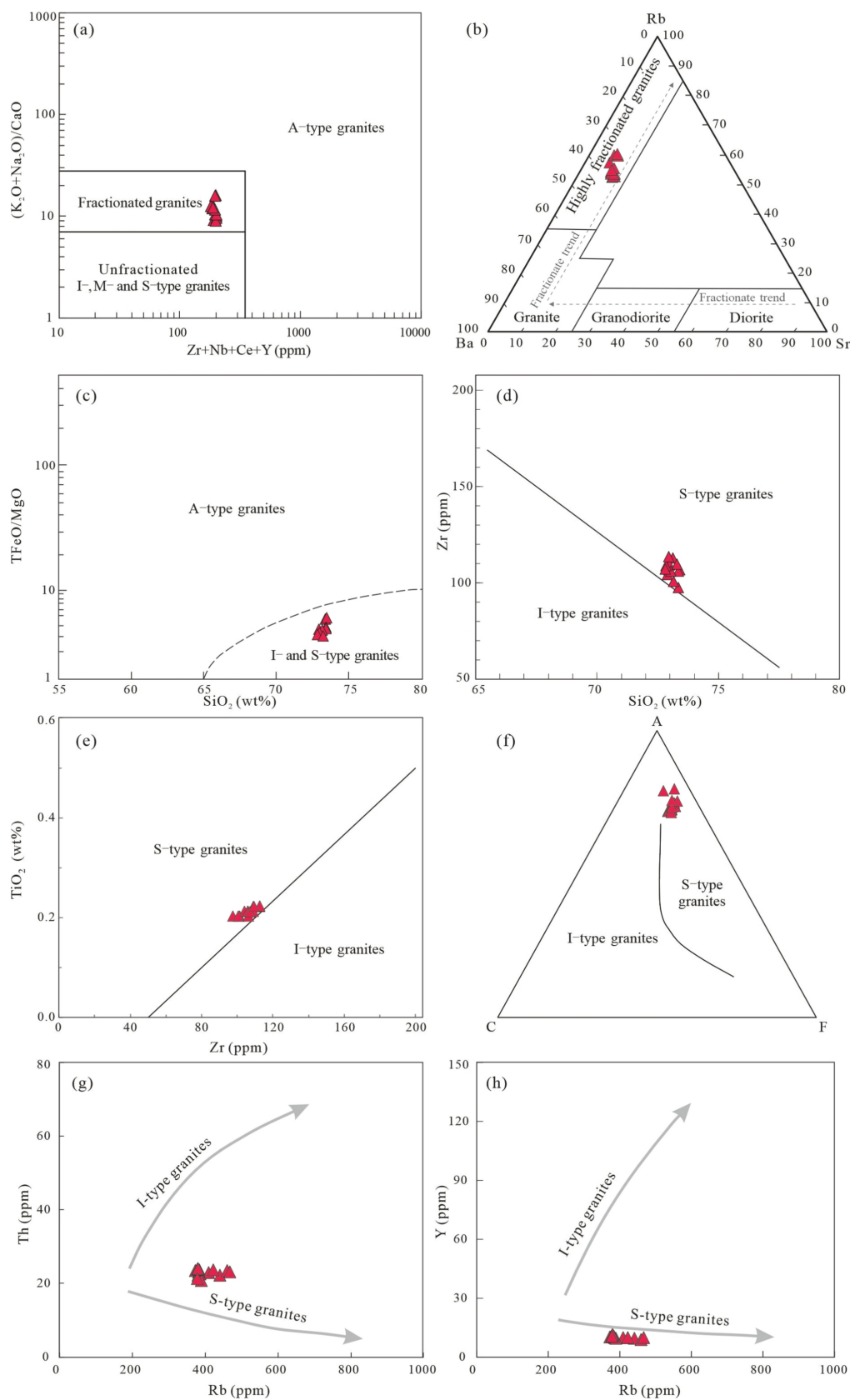
The letter ‘i’ in the footnote stands for initial Pb isotopic ratios

Fig. 6 Discrimination diagrams of genetic type for the Wutang granites. (a) $[(\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O})/\text{CaO}]-(\text{Zr}+\text{Nb}+\text{Ce}+\text{Y})$ diagram (after Whalen et al., 1987). (b) Rb–Ba–Sr diagram (after Bouseilly and Sokkary, 1975). (c) $\text{SiO}_2-(\text{TFeO}/\text{MgO})$ diagram (after Whalen et al., 1987). (d) SiO_2 –Zr diagram (after Watson and Harrison, 1983). (e) Zr–TiO₂ diagram (after Watson and Harrison, 1983). (f) A–C–F diagram (after Nakada and Takahashi, 1979). (g) Rb–Th diagram (after Chappell, 1999). (h) Rb–Y diagram (after Chappell, 1999). A = molar ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 - \text{Na}_2\text{O} - \text{K}_2\text{O}$), C = molar ($\text{CaO} - 3.33\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$), F = molar ($\text{FeO} + \text{MgO} + \text{MnO}$)

5.3 Magma source

The Wutang granites are strongly peraluminous granites ($A/\text{CNK} = 1.2 - 1.6$), which are typically considered a result of the partial melting of metasedimentary rocks (Koester et al. 2002; Lan et al. 2020). These granites have Rb/Sr ratios of 4.7–8.1 (average of 6.0) and Nb/Ta ratios of 2.2–5.3 (average of 4.3), which are closer to the standard ratios of crust-derived rocks than mantle-derived rocks [Rb/Sr ratios: 0.35 for crust and 0.034 for mantle (Rudnick and Fountain 1995; Taylor and McLennan 1995); Nb/Ta ratios: 11–12 for crust and 17.5 for mantle (Green 1995)]. In the diagrams of $\delta\text{Eu}-(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_{\text{N}}$ (Fig. 7a) and $\delta\text{Eu}-(\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O})$ (Fig. 7b), all samples are projected into the field of crust-derived granites. Their $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values and T_{DM2} range from −9.03 to −8.23 and 1488 Ma to 1553 Ma, respectively. In the $t-\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ diagram (Fig. 8a), all samples fall within the field of the Proterozoic crustal basement rocks in South China, consistent with the T_{DM2} . Though no ages of inherited or captured monazites were obtained from the Wutang granites, the Ganfang and Guyangzhai granites contain some Neoproterozoic zircon cores (ca. 870–820 Ma), which were identified as captured zircons associated with the wall-rock assimilation process (Wang et al. 2017). These geochemical and geochronological features indicate that the Wutang granites primarily originated from the partial melting of ancient crustal materials and might have undergone wall-rock assimilation during magma migration. Moreover, the granite samples are plotted above the upper crust field and along the upper crust evolution line in the diagrams of Nb/Y–Th/Y (Fig. 7c) and $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ – $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ (Fig. 8b), respectively, also demonstrating that the granitic magma was mainly derived from the remelting of crustal materials.

For strongly peraluminous granites with SiO_2 content ranging from 67 wt% to 77 wt%, the $\text{CaO}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratio can efficiently reflect the material composition of their magma source (Jian et al. 2018). More precisely, the peraluminous granites generated by the partial melting of psammites have $\text{CaO}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios > 0.3 , while those generated by the partial melting of pelites have $\text{CaO}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios < 0.3 (Sylvester 1998). The $\text{CaO}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios of the Wutang granites range from 0.16 to 0.29 (average of 0.23; Table 2), all of which are < 0.3 , suggesting a pelite-rich source. In the Rb/Sr–Rb/



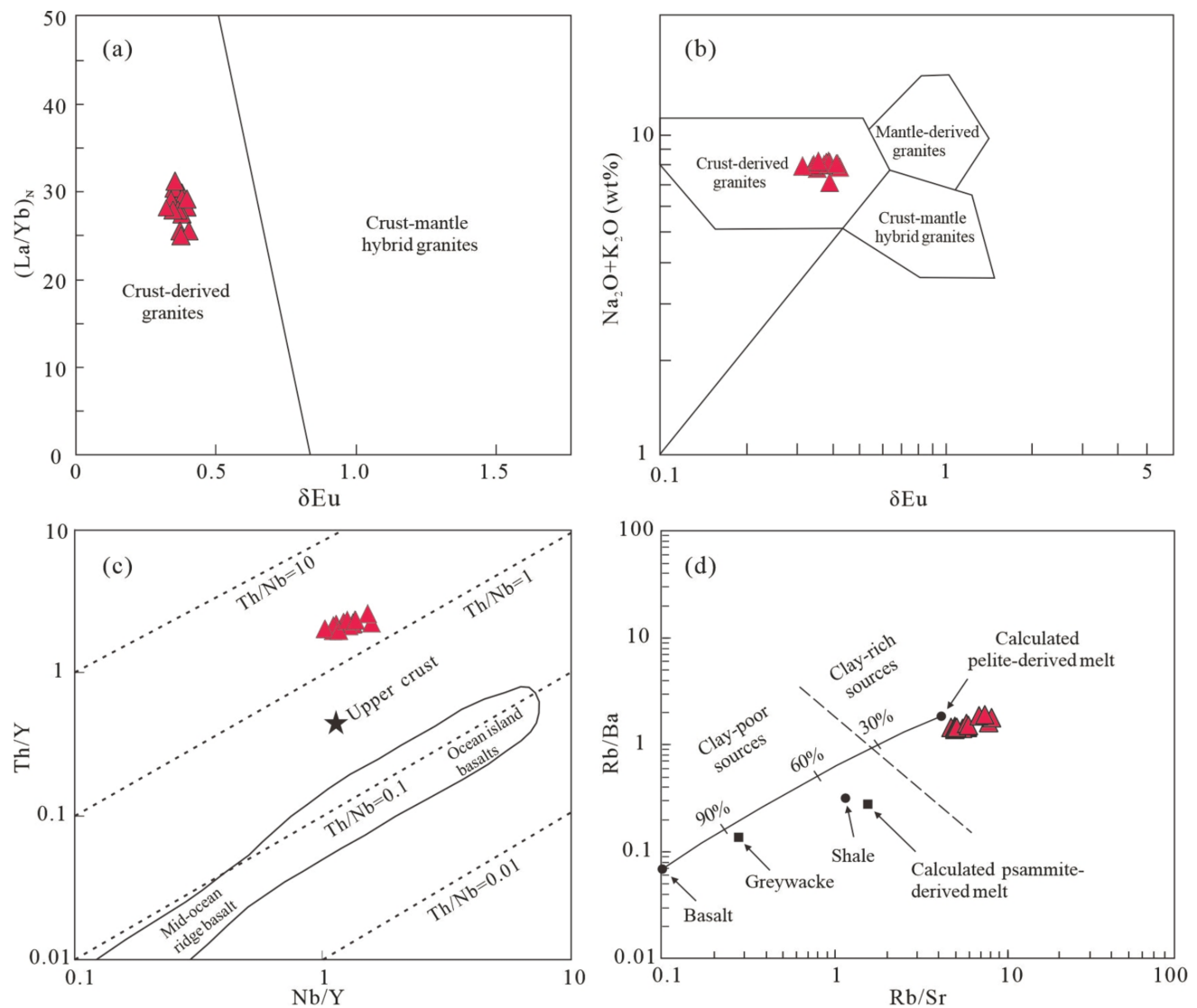


Fig. 7 Discrimination diagrams of magma source for the Wutang granites. (a) δEu – $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ diagram (after Zhang et al., 2014). (b) δEu – $(\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O})$ diagram (after Chappell, 1999). (c) Nb/Y – Th/Y diagram (after Boztuğ et al., 2007). (d) Rb/Sr – Rb/Ba diagram (after Sylvester, 1998)

Ba diagram (Fig. 7d), all samples are projected into the field of clay-rich sources and at the endmember of pelite-derived melt. This also indicates that the magma originated from the partial melting of pelites. In conclusion, the magma of the Wutang granites originated from the partial melting of ancient crustal materials dominated by metamorphosed pelites.

5.4 Geodynamic setting

As discussed earlier, the Wutang granites belong to peraluminous S-type granites. Such granites generally result from the partial melting of thickened crust and can form either in a compressional setting during collision orogeny or in an extensional

setting following peak collision (Kalsbeek 2001; Lin and Ma 2003; Zhang et al. 2012a; Li et al. 2020). In the diagrams of $\text{R1}-\text{R2}$ (Fig. 9a) and $(\text{Y}+\text{Nb})-\text{Rb}$ (Fig. 9b), the samples are plotted in the transitional field between the syn-collision and post-orogenic or post-collision granites. Correspondingly, the samples are plotted in the transitional field between the compressional- and extensional-type granites in the SiO_2 – $\text{lg}[\text{CaO}/(\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O})]$ diagram (Fig. 9c). These tectonic discrimination diagrams indicate that the Wutang granites were formed in a transitional setting from compression to extension.

The South China Plate was formed through the collision of the Yangtze and Cathaysia Blocks along the Jiangnan orogenic belt during the Neoproterozoic (Zhang and Zheng 2013; Shu et al. 2021). Numerous studies have revealed that the South

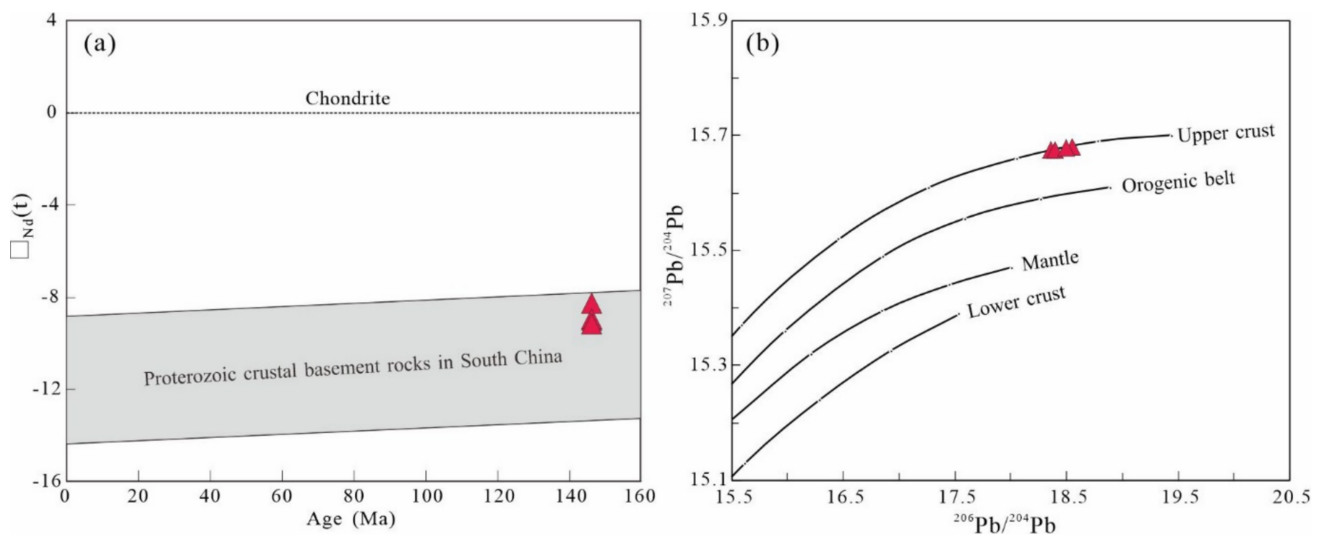


Fig. 8 (a) Relationship between age and $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t)$ values of the Wutang granites (after Zhang et al., 2022). (b) $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ – $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ diagram of the Wutang granites (after Zartman and Doe, 1981)

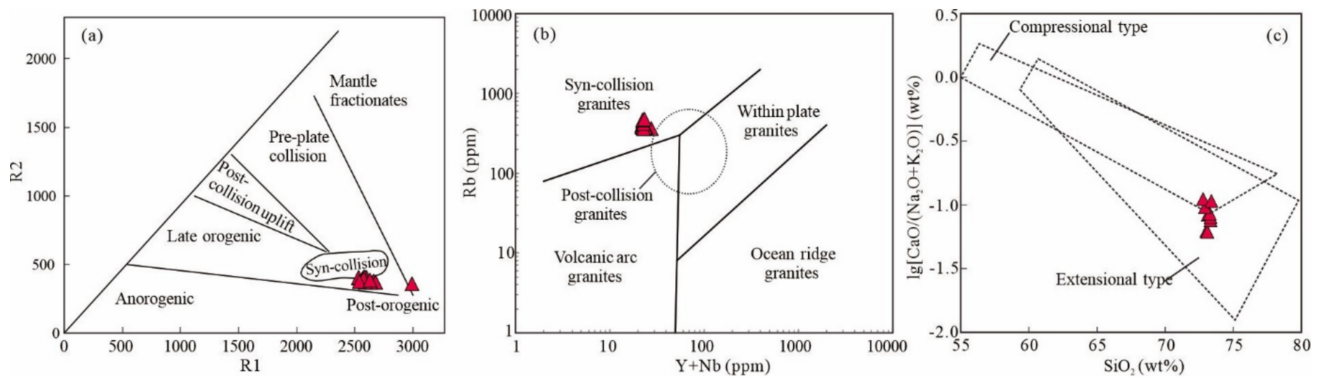


Fig. 9 Discrimination diagrams of the tectonic setting for the Wutang granites. (a) R1–R2 diagram (after Batchelor and Bowden, 1985). (b) (Y+Nb)–Rb diagram (after Pearce et al., 1984). (c) SiO_2 – $\lg[\text{CaO}/(\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O})]$ (Brown, 1982)

China Plate has been influenced by the episodic subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate since the Early Jurassic (Zhang et al. 2009; Yan et al. 2011; Yang and He 2013; Meng et al. 2015; Shu et al. 2020; Zhu et al. 2020; Lü et al. 2023), and it underwent multiple episodes of lithospheric extension during the Middle Jurassic to the Late Cretaceous (Li 1999; Xie 2003; Mao et al. 2004, 2007; Hu et al. 2007; Ni et al. 2023). The subduction triggered crustal uplift and subsequent denudation, resulting in the general absence of Middle-Late Jurassic strata in the South China Plate (Zhang et al. 2012b; Chu et al. 2019). Regionally, the Late Jurassic strata are absent. Fluvial and lacustrine sediments (e.g., the Lengshuiwu Formation), representing an extensional tectonic setting, did not occur until the late Early Cretaceous (Zhou et al. 2025). Furthermore, previous studies have demonstrated that the entire northern Jiangxi Province, including the study region, underwent intense compression during the Middle-Late Jurassic period

(ca. 172–157 Ma), as evidenced by the large-scale folds and thrust-nappe structures (e.g., the thrust fault system in the Jingdezhen area) during this period (Huo et al. 2018; Hu 2023). By the Early Cretaceous period (< 135 Ma), the formation of faulted depression basins (e.g., the Poyang Lake Basin) in northern Jiangxi Province, signifies that the regional tectonic evolution had progressed to the extensional phase (Shu et al. 2009; Yang et al. 2016). Meanwhile, some Early Cretaceous magmatic rocks in the region, including rhyolites from the Daguding and Ehuoling Formations and granites from the Lingshan, Hengshan, and Yunshan plutons, have been confirmed to have formed in an extensional setting (Wu et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2019; Tian et al. 2021; Yu et al. 2023). The aforementioned stratigraphic, tectonic, and magmatic evidence implies that the regional tectonic regime might have transformed from compression to extension during the late Jurassic to the early Cretaceous. The Wutang granites have a

monazite U–Pb age of 145.8 ± 1.0 Ma (Fig. 3b), suggesting that they were emplaced during this tectonic transition period. In summary, the Wutang granites in the TBMD were generated in a compression-extension transitional setting related to the episodic subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate.

6 Conclusions

- (1) The Wutang pluton consists of medium- to fine-grained two-mica monzogranites, with a monazite U–Pb age of 145.8 ± 1.0 Ma.
- (2) The petrographic, geochemical, and Nd–Pb isotopic features indicate that the Wutang granites belong to highly fractionated S-type granites, and their magma was derived from the partial melting of ancient crustal materials dominated by metamorphosed pelites.
- (3) The Wutang granites formed in a compression-extension transitional setting related to the episodic subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate.

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Author contributions Fushen Zhang and Xiaotian Zhang conceived and wrote the manuscript; Fangrong Zhang, Zhe Xu, Xinyu Xu, Yu Zhou, Ying Liu, and Longmin Nie provided samples and designed experiments; Guoqi Liu and Fujun Zhong performed experiments and data processing; Yong Zhang, Jiayong Pan, and Fei Xia contributed to the design, coordination, and finalization of the manuscript.

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Data availability The authors confirm that the data supporting the findings of this study are available in the manuscript. The data in this study are unpublished and have not been submitted to any other journal for review.

Code availability There is no software application or custom code in this manuscript.

Declarations

Conflict of interest On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

Human and animal rights This manuscript does not involve any human or animal experiments. Our study adhered to scientific ethical standards and complied with the current laws of the country in which it was conducted.

Consent for publication This manuscript contains no individual data in any form. All authors gave their consent for publication.

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