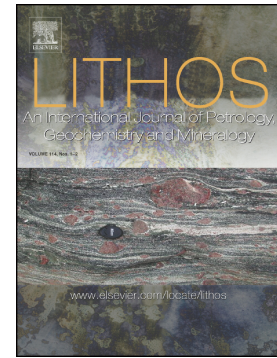


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**Plume-related Paranà-Etendeka igneous province: an evolution from plateau to continental rifting and breakup**

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## Abstract

A critical review of the available multidisciplinary data on the Paranà-Etendeka Province allows for the reconciliation of the controversial aspects of its origin in a coherent tectonomagmatic scenario, in which continental flood basalt (CFB) magmatism evolved from the Paranà plateau *s.s.* (Stage 1) to progressive continental rifting in Etendeka (Stage 2), and then opened to the South Atlantic at the same latitude; the CFB magmatism is triggered by the prolonged impingement of the proto Tristan plume on the western Gondwana lithosphere. The provinciality of the CFB is evidenced by the incompatible element distribution and Sr-Nd-Pb isotopic data, where the Paranà and Etendeka magmas are more akin to lithospheric and asthenospheric (plume-related) components, respectively. **Stage 1** consisted of the rapid outpouring of the Paranà Plateau *s.s.* CFB (135–134 Ma, ~ 800 000 km<sup>3</sup>, and eruption rate ~0.8 km<sup>3</sup>/a) that was zonally arranged with prevailing high-TiO<sub>2</sub> (HT) basalts in the central-northern part and low-TiO<sub>2</sub> (LT) suites at the southern periphery. The differentiated nature (MgO=8–4 %) of these plateau magmas suggests the variable extent of fractional crystallisation during rise through a relatively thick lithosphere. Petrological modelling, isotopic signatures (<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr 0.70483–0.70620, and εNd<sub>(t)</sub> from –1.27 to –5.78), and incompatible element distributions approaching the EM1 mantle component suggest that the HT and LT Paranà basalts may be derived from mantle sources located in the lower lithosphere at P 3–4 GPa and a potential temperature (T<sub>p</sub>) of 1500–1550 °C. The high T<sub>p</sub> recorded (and the relative T<sub>excess</sub> 250–300 °C thermal anomaly) can be attained after several million years of lithospheric heating, beginning from the first plume impact, which is represented by precursor alkaline events (145–138 Ma) at the westernmost border of the Paranà plateau. The subsequent rifting (**Stage 2**, mostly 134–128 Ma) developed SE of the Paranà plateau in relation to the NW drifting of the Gondwana plate over the rising plume and was accompanied by progressive lithospheric arching, thinning, and rifting, which culminated in continental breakup close to the Etendeka border. The concomitant and exclusive appearance, in both the HT and LT suites of this region, of the hottest and deepest (T<sub>p</sub> up to ~1590

°C and P up to ~5 GPa) high-MgO sub-lithospheric magmas ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  0.70319-0.70533 and  $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(t)}$  from 9.08 to 0.53) is consistent with their generation from the axial zone of the upwelling plume. The basic–acidic bimodal character of CFB magmatism, since the beginning of this stage, must be related to the intensive block faulting of the rifted margins that favoured magma trapping and crystal fractionation to trachydacite and dacite-rhyolite differentiates from the respective HT and LT basalts. Owing to the higher  $\text{SiO}_2$  and viscosity, the prevailing dacite-rhyolite magmas were more prone to pond in crustal magma chambers, where they experienced assimilation fractional crystallisation ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  0.71466-0.72558 and  $\epsilon\text{Nd}_{(t)}$  from -5.59 to -9.31) before erupting as extensive rhyolite ignimbrites. During the final rifting stage, CFB activity continued until 128 Ma (with sporadic episodes until 122 Ma), and the plume dynamic support gradually vanished beneath the two conjugate South American/South African continental margins, up to the opening of the South Atlantic and hot-spot volcanism of the Rio Grande and Walvis Ridges.

**Key words: Paraná-Etendeka, CFB, Plume-lithosphere interaction, magma differentiation**



## Introduction

Since the early work of Morgan (1971), a multidisciplinary debate has arisen regarding mantle plumes, mainly concerning their provenance, causative events, and relationships with hot spots, large igneous provinces (LIPs), and rift volcanism (Bercovici et al., 1989; White and McKenzie, 1989; Griffiths and Campbell, 1990; Ernst and Buchan, 2001; Tan et al., 2002; Courtillot et al., 2003; Davaille et al., 2005; Davies and Bunge, 2006; White, 2010; Beccaluva et al., 2011). The generation of continental flood basalts (CFB), characterised by large eruption rates, thermal anomalies, and focused regional uplift/rifting, was often attributed to the thermo-mechanical effects of rising hot mantle plumes (e.g., Richard et al., 1989; White and McKenzie, 1989; Arndt and Christensen, 1992; Ernst and Buchan, 2001; Campbell and Kerr, 2007; Natali et al., 2016; 2017), but alternative mechanisms include plate-driven melting related to the extensional lithosphere (e.g., Foulger et al., 2005; Foulger and Jurdy, 2007), and internal heating beneath continents (e.g., Coltice et al., 2009). Geochemical data (incompatible elements, and stable and radiogenic isotopes) have been used to establish the influence of the lithosphere (sub-continental lithospheric mantle) and/or plume related asthenospheric components in CFB magmas (Ellam and Cox, 1991; Ellam et al., 1992; Thomson et al., 2001; Herzberg and O'Hara, 2002; Campbell and Davis, 2006; Carlson et al., 2006; Hawkesworth and Schersten, 2007; Beccaluva et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2010). CFBs generally range from low-TiO<sub>2</sub> (LT) to high-TiO<sub>2</sub> (HT) suites, with the latter often including high-MgO rocks (e.g. picrites and meltechites) that also record eclogite/pyroxenite components, which were recycled via ancient subduction and entrained by the rising plume from the transition zone or the lower mantle (Gibson et al., 2000; Tuff et al., 2005; Beccaluva et al., 2009; Sobolev et al., 2007 and 2009; Jackson and Carlson, 2011; Kamenetskey et al., 2012; Heinonen et al., 2013 and 2014; Rosenthal et al., 2014; Natali et al., 2016). Recently, systematic investigations by Natali et al. (2016; 2017) have shown that many Gondwana CFB provinces (e.g. Ethiopia-Yemen, Deccan, and Karoo) are compositionally zoned and characterised by the hottest

and deepest HT picrite-basalts in the inner portion and LT in the periphery, with the former representing the most genuine proxies of plume-related magmas. Moreover, the Gondwana LIPs (including the Paranà-Etendeka) share the peculiar coexistence of alkaline/carbonatite complexes and picritic magmas at the intersection of regional extensional lineaments; this is a further indication that these areas represent the focus of the plume-related tectono-magmatic activities (Natali et al., 2018).

The Paranà-Etendeka LIP represents an unsolved puzzle, despite the large number of geological, geophysical, and geochemical studies published on it in the last 30 years. This is primarily due to the intrinsic complexity of this province, which is characterised by the strong tectono-magmatic asymmetry between its western and eastern parts on either margin of the South Atlantic: a) the Paranà plateau basalts of South America share similarities, e.g. LT and HT magma types and large erupted volumes with typical CFBs, except that their isotopic signatures demonstrate a prevalent contribution of lithospheric over asthenospheric source components; b) the Etendeka CFB magmatism of South West Africa is dominantly fissural, bimodal, and similar to that of rifted continental margins, except for the exclusive presence of high-MgO basalt-picrite suites that are more akin to sublithospheric plume-related melts. Moreover, although there is a consensus on the main magmatic activity during 135–130 Ma, the timing of the various events in the province and the duration of the main Paranà CFB are debated, thereby propagating uncertainties in any reconstruction of the tectonomagmatic evolution. Therefore, various hypotheses on the origin of the Paranà-Etendeka Province have been proposed, the most popular of which are related to either to 1) the activation of the proto-Tristan mantle plume (Cordani et al., 1980; White and McKenzie, 1989; 1995; Bizzi et al., 1995; Gibson et al., 1995; 2006; Thompson et al., 2001; Campbell, 2001; Ewart et al., 2004a; Tuff et al., 2005; Campbell and Davies, 2006), 2) the passive rifting events that mainly involved melting of the lithosphere under extension (Piccirillo and Melfi, 1988; Piccirillo et al., 1989, 1990; Comin Chiaramonti et al., 1997; Ernesto et al., 2002; Iacumin et al., 2003; Fairhead & Wilson, 2005; Rocha-Junior et al., 2013; Foulger., 2018), or 3) the lithospheric melting triggered

by warming from an underlying mantle plume, provided that enough time for conductive heat transfer was available (Turner et al., 1994, 1996; Peate et al., 1990 and 1999; Hawkesworth et al., 1988, 1992 and 2000).

In our opinion, it is timely to carefully reconsider and homogeneously compare all the available data on the Paranà-Etendeka Province to verify whether it is possible to reconcile the different interpretations of its origin. For this purpose, we reviewed over 500 major, trace element and Sr-Nd-Pb isotopic analyses from the literature and reprocessed them to obtain homogeneous geochemical, petrological, and physical-chemical models (see Methods in the Electronic Appendix) for a comprehensive reevaluation of:

- 1) the role of the “mantle plume” versus the “lithosphere” processes in the genesis of CFB from the Paranà to Etendeka regions;
- 2) the petrogenesis of the bimodal basalt-silicic rock associations, in both LT and HT suites, that represents a particularly debated event in the evolution of the province; and
- 3) a general model of a coherent tectono-magmatic scenario that fits the data, from the inception of plateau activity to rifting and continental breakup.

## **The Paranà-Etendeka CFB province**

### *Magma types, spatial distribution and age*

The Paranà-Etendeka CFB province represents an originally single LIP separated by the opening of the South Atlantic. It covers a total area of ~1.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, of which ~ 95% is exposed in the Paranà region of South America, and the remaining portion is exposed in the Etendeka (Namibia) and Angola region along the south-western African coast. The magmatic products predominately consist of HT and LT basaltic suites in the Paranà Plateau, but become bimodal (mafic-felsic) from the south-eastern Paranà into the Etendeka, with silicic volcanics commonly occurring late in the sequences. The geochemical data reviewed in this work were used to update the paleogeographic reconstruction of the province, as illustrated in **Fig. 1**. Samples from the two

suites were reclassified (Fig. 2), according to the total alkali-silica (TAS) and  $\text{TiO}_2$  vs MgO diagram proposed by Natali et al. (2017) for Gondwana LIPs: 1) the LT tholeiitic suite exhibits lower alkali/silica ratios and includes basaltic to andesitic rocks ( $\text{TiO}_2$  0.5–2.5 wt%) which are associated with dacite-rhyolite volcanics ( $\text{TiO}_2$  0.6–1.2 wt%); 2) the HT tholeiitic suite shows comparatively higher alkali/silica ratios and includes basaltic to andesitic rocks ( $\text{TiO}_2$  2.0–4.5 wt%) which are associated with trachydacite volcanics ( $\text{TiO}_2$  1.0–1.6 wt%). In the Etendeka region, unlike the Paraná region, both suites include high-MgO basalts and picrites ( $\text{MgO} \geq 13\%$ ), which are associated with olivine-rich gabbroic intrusives.

The largest part of the western province is represented by the Paraná plateau *s.s.* in Brazil ( $\sim 800\,000\text{ km}^3$ ) and mainly consists of rather differentiated basalts ( $\leq 8\%$  MgO) that are HT (Paranapanema, Pitanga, and Urubici type localities) in the north-central part, and LT (Esmeralda and Gramado type localities) in the south (Bellieni et al., 1986; Piccirillo and Melfi, 1988; Piccirillo et al., 1989; 1990; Raposo et al., 2018). Along the south-eastern margin of the plateau, extensive LT dacite-rhyolite volcanics (Palmas-type) and minor HT trachydacite lavas (Chapeco-type) are associated with the respective LT and HT basaltic suites, exhibiting a total volume of  $\sim 20\,000\text{ km}^3$ . Although Palmas-type lava domes and flows have been reported (e.g. Caxias do Sul dacites; Rossetti et al., 2018; Simões et al., 2019), the enormous LT silicic volcanic sheets of up to 400 m in thickness and extending for hundreds of kilometres have been interpreted as high temperature, low explosivity rheo-ingimbrites (Bellieni et al., 1986; Garland et al., 1995; Bryan et al., 2010; Luchetti et al., 2018a; 2018b).

The regional lithospheric thickness beneath the Paraná Basin is  $\geq 150\text{ km}$ , and the Moho depth is recorded at  $\sim 42\text{ km}$  (Snoke and James, 1997). The continental basement corresponds to a composite assemblage of Archean to early Proterozoic cratons (Sao Francisco and Rio de Plata) which are bordered by the Damara Pan-African Belt and fragmented along two main tectonic lineaments (NW-SE- and NE-SW-oriented), and whose reactivation in the Lower Cretaceous allowed for CFB fissural eruptions throughout the basin (Zalan et al., 1987; Piccirillo et al., 1990;

Gray et al., 2008; Licht, 2018 and references therein). These tectonic lineaments mainly crosscut in central Paranà, which corresponds to both the maximum thickness (~1700 m) of the HT basalts and the regional gravity high (Vidotti et al., 1998; Licht, 2018), thereby indicating that the focus of the plateau tectonomagmatic activity was in this area.

East of the Paranà Plateau *s.s.*, three main basaltic dyke swarms (DS) cut through the Brazilian coastal margin and radiate in various directions: the N-S Florianopolis DS, the NW-SE Ponta Grossa Arch DS, and the NE-SW Santos-Rio de Janeiro DS. Moreover, Buchan and Ernst (2019) emphasised the occurrence of giant circumferential dykes at right angles with the radiating dykes in the Ponta Grossa region, which are considered a characteristic of plume-related LIPs. In the paleogeographic reconstruction, the radiating extensional structures perfectly match the similarly oriented DS of the Etendeka-Angola margin and represent, overall, the site where the rifting processes developed and ultimately led to the continental breakup (Piccirillo et al., 1990; Raposo et al., 1998; Marzoli et al., 1999; Ferris'nal et al., 2018; Marsh and Swart, 2018).

In the African part of the province, CFB magmatism is clearly bimodal and consists of elongated volcanic and subvolcanic bodies and dike swarms that are set along the Etendeka/southern Angola coastal margins across a total area of  $\leq 100\,000$  km<sup>2</sup>. A N-S spatial zonation, similar to that of the Paranà plateau, is observed for the HT basalt/trachydacites predominant in Angola and northern Etendeka (Khumib- and Doros-type localities), whereas the LT basalts/dacite-rhyolite rheo-ignimbrites prevail in southern Etendeka at the Tafelberg- and Horingbai-type localities (Erlank et al., 1984; Duncan et al., 1990; Milner et al., 1992, 1995; Milner and Le Roex, 1996; Peate et al., 1999; Marsh et al., 2001, Ewart et al., 2004a; 2004b; Marsh and Swart, 2018). In addition, the Etendeka HT and LT suites include high-MgO picrite-basalt lavas and dykes, which are sometimes associated with olivine-rich gabbroic rocks (Gibson et al., 2000; Thompson et al., 2001; Jennings et al., 2017; Owen-Smith et al., 2017). There is a clear and precise correlation between the basalt/dacite-rhyolite suites from Serra Geral (south-eastern Paranà) and those from the Etendeka margin. Therefore, these sectors have to be considered the uplifted rift

shoulders of the South America/South Africa conjugate margins, and the area in between represents a triple point where the main DS converge (Milner et al., 1995; Marsh et al., 2001; Peat et al., 1999; Marsh and Swart, 2018; Florisbal et al., 2018; Buchan and Ernst, 2019).

The geochronology of the Paraná/Etendeka Province has been an object of debate, although there is a general agreement that most CFB erupted during 135–130 Ma (Stewart *et al.*, 1996; Renne *et al.*, 1996a; 1996b; Ernesto et al., 1999; Gibson *et al.*, 2006; Thiede and Vasconcelos, 2010; Janasi *et al.*, 2011; Pinto *et al.*, 2011). The duration of the Paraná Plateau activity has been controversial: it was considered to be *ca.* 10 Ma, (138–129/127 Ma), based on the laser spot total fusion for  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  performed on the borehole of the thickest lava section (Stewart et al., 1994; Turner et al., 1994, 1996; Mantovani et al., 1995), whereas the same samples re-analysed using laser incremental step heating (LISH) for  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  resulted in a much shorter time interval of 135–134 Ma (Thiede and Vasconcelos, 2010). The latter age range was confirmed by additional LISH  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  and U-Pb data on basalts and silicic volcanics at the south-eastern Paraná border (Licht et al., 2015; Pinto et al., 2011; Janasi et al., 2011). More recently, Baksi (2018) carried out new analyses and a severe selection of the available data, concluding that the most reliable LISH  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  and U-Pb datings indicate the beginning of the Paraná plateau CFB volcanism at *ca.* 135 Ma and a duration of *ca.* 1 Ma, which is also in agreement with the LISH  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  plateau ages of 135–134 Ma previously reported by Renne et al. (1992) for southern Paraná. This was also confirmed using U-Pb geochronology, Hf isotopes and trace element data indicating that zircon crystallisation in Paraná lavas occurred at *ca.* 134 Ma (Hartmann et al., 2019).

According to  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$ , U-Pb, and magneto-stratigraphic data, the subsequent rifting stage, involving CFB fissural events from eastern Paraná plateau margin to Etendeka and southern Angola, climaxed during 134–130 Ma, and continued until 128–127 Ma (Renne et al., 1992; 1996a; 1996b; Milner et al., 1995; Stewart et al., 1996; Marzoli et al., 1999; Ernesto et al., 1999; Florisbal et al., 2014; Dodd et al., 2015; Owen-Smith et al., 2017), i.e. until the continental breakup was completed and the oldest South Atlantic oceanic crust formed at the same latitudes (Chron M4

126.5 Ma; Gradstein et al., 1994; Franke et al., 2010; Nurnberg and Muller, 1991). Sporadic basaltic dyke activity continued in the new conjugate South American and South African margins until c.a. 122 Ma (Raposo et al., 1998; Renne et al., 1996b).

A careful evaluation of the most statistically robust dating allows the timing of the rifting processes to be more precisely constrained. The agreement between most LISH  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  (134–132 Ma; Renne et al., 1996b) and U-Pb ages (134–133 Ma; Almeida et al., 2018) for Ponta Grossa dykes and those of Florianopolis dykes (U-Pb ca 134 Ma; Florisbal et al., 2014) suggests that the early rifting stage along the Brazilian margin mainly took place between 134 and 132 Ma (cf, Baksi, 2018). The LISH  $\text{Ar}^{40}/\text{Ar}^{39}$  dates for the main Etendeka sections consistently indicate that most of the CFB picrite-basalt-silicic events occurred in the time interval 132–130 Ma (Renne et al., 1996b; Owen-Smith et al., 2017). Therefore, the spatial-temporal evolution delineated above is in agreement with the eastward migration of the Paranà-Etendeka CFB volcanism (Melfi, 1967; Bellieni et al., 1984b; Fodor et al., 1989; Piccirillo et al., 1988; Mantovani et al., 1995) or, more precisely, from the NW (Paraná Plateau) to SE (Etendeka) in relation to the opposite drifting of the Gondwana lithosphere over the active proto-Tristan plume (O'Connor and Duncan, 1990; Turner et al., 1994; Stewart et al., 1996; Giblin et al., 2006).

### **Petrogenesis of HT and LT suites**

The integration of multiple approaches, such as major element phase equilibria, trace element modelling, Sr-Nd-Pb isotopes, and thermobarometric estimates were utilised to constrain the P-T-X genetic conditions of CFB magmas and their differentiation processes. The identification of parental magmas and their liquid line of descent (LLD) is not straightforward because of the difficulties in evaluating the source composition, melting conditions, and the possible occurrence of mixing and cumulus processes of magmas that rise in a short time along the same feeding system. Therefore, these approaches were applied to test the inter-modelling best fit.

*Basaltic rocks*

One approach to identify the most primitive magmas is illustrated by the MgO-FeO diagram in **Fig. 3**, where the petrogenetic grid for the various CFB suites for the entire Paranà-Etendeka Province is reported together with the forsterite (Fo) theoretical composition of the coexisting olivine. Unlike Paranà rocks, Etendeka basalts include volcanic and subvolcanic picritic types having up to MgO 18 wt%, which denote cumulus olivine in some samples (labelled *c* in Fig. 3).

Starting from the least-differentiated HT and LT basalt-picrite compositions, the reconstruction of the primary melts and potential temperatures ( $T_p$ ) was performed by iterative calculations of the fractional melting algorithm PRIMELT3MEXA (Herzberg and Asimow, 2015), and by using anhydrous lherzolite KR4003 as the mantle source (Walter, 1998). The resulting primary melts from Etendeka are, on average, comparatively richer in MgO and FeO than those of Paranà. This results in a systematically higher  $T_p$  (~1590 °C for HT and 1520 °C for LT) in Etendeka than in Paranà (1550 °C for HT and 1500 °C for LT). An even higher  $T_p$  (1623 °C) was proposed by Jennings et al (2019), based on the Al-in-olivine thermometry of Etendeka picrites. The estimated generation pressure for primary melts was approximately around 3–4 GPa according to Natali et al. (2018), but for Etendeka HT, it reached ~5 GPa. Overall, these data are in agreement with those reported for other Gondwana provinces, such as Ethiopia-Yemen, Deccan and Karoo, where CFB generation was triggered by the impinging of thermo-compositionally zoned plume heads with thermal anomalies of 250–300 °C relative to the ambient mantle (Natali et al. 2016; 2017;2018).

The chondrite-normalised rare earth element (REE) patterns of the basaltic rocks of the entire province (**Fig. 4**) display a systematic light REE (LREE) enrichment of HT with respect to the LT suites, with  $La_N/Yb_N$  ratios varying from 7.0–8.5 to 4.0–4.7, respectively. In principle, this may reflect either a lower degree of melting and/or a higher incompatible element enrichment of the HT mantle sources. More reliable petrogenetic constraints were obtained through melting modelling of HT and LT from Etendeka and Paranà as reported in the primitive mantle (PM)-normalised



incompatible element diagrams (**Fig. 5**). Overall, magmas from the two regions are similar with respect to the heavy REE (HREE) + Y and high field strength elements (HFSE) such as Ti and Zr, but they are remarkably different for LREE and low FSE (LFSE) like K, Ba, and Th, which are significantly more enriched in Paranà. Accordingly, modelling the former group of elements is roughly compatible with that of PM sources for all magmas of the province, whereas the Paranà basalts require an appropriate LREE-LFSE enrichment in their sources. The incompatible element distribution of Paranà magmas compare favourably with that of the EM1 component (Weaver, 1991). This component is considered a common geochemical signature of the sub-continental lithosphere (Bianchini et al, 2014). Accordingly, the involvement of the sub-continental lithosphere in the CFB sources was invoked by several studies (Hawkesworth et al., 1983; Ellam and Cox, 1991; Menzies, 1992).

The distribution of the CFB Sr-Nd-Pb isotopes confirms a provinciality between Paranà and Etendeka (**Fig. 6**). In fact, most high-Mg CFB from Etendeka (HT and LT picrites and some basalts) cluster in the upper left of the  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}(t)}$ - $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}_{(i)}$  diagram with isotopic ranges of  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}(t)} = +9.08$ – $+0.53$  and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}_{(i)} = 0.70219$ – $0.70533$  (**Fig. 6a**). This was attributed (Thompson *et al.*, 2001; Ewart *et al.*, 2004a; Hoernle *et al.*, 2015; Owen-Smith *et al.*, 2017; Natali *et al.*, 2018) to uncontaminated sub-lithospheric sources and conforms to the isotopic signatures of plume-related mantle components observed in other Gondwana CFB provinces, such as Ethiopia-Yemen and Deccan (Natali *et al.* 2016, 2017). Coherently, Stroncik *et al.* (2017) reported high helium isotopes in Etendeka picrites where  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  values  $> 26$  R/RA, which is typical of deep seated undegassed mantle reservoirs. In contrast, a significant portion of both the HT and LT basalts from Paranà (where  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}_{(i)}$  is 0.70483–0.70620 and  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}(t)}$  is  $-1.27$  to  $+5.78$ ) clusters around the EM1 component, which likely reflects the significant involvement of the sub-continental lithosphere in their sources (Piccirillo *et al.*, 1989; Turner *et al.*, 1996; Peate *et al.*, 1999; Marques *et al.*, 1999; 2018; Natali *et al.*, 2018). Moreover, the higher  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}_{(i)}$  values (up to 0.7142) of many LT (MgO down to 4–5 wt%), from both Paranà and Etendeka, reflect the variable extent of continental crust

contamination during differentiation. Although the range of assimilated rocks possibly includes high grade-metamorphic rocks such as migmatitic and granulite terrains (de Abreu Barbosa Araujo et al., 2019; Miranda et al., 2020), mixing modellings indicate upper crust components to be the favoured contaminant (Hoernle et al., 2015) and, more specifically, granitoid lithologies of the Proterozoic age (Marques et al., 2018). **Figure 6b** reports the Pb isotopic composition of the entire Paranà-Etendeka population, which ranges between 15.4–15.8 for  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and 17.1–19.8 for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ . The high-MgO Etendeka CFB plot from 15.5–15.7 for  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and 17.6–18. for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and partly overlaps with the CFB from Paranà that show EM1 mantle affinity. In contrast, the high  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of up to 15.7 and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of up to 19.9 for several samples of both sub-provinces are attributable to the upper crust contamination trends delineated previously (Hoernle et al., 2015; Marques et al., 2018).

#### *Silicic rocks*

In contrast to basaltic rocks, the petrogenesis of silicic magmas, occurring from south-eastern Paranà to Etendeka, have been the object of a longstanding debate, leading to various interpretations: a) HT trachydacites and LT dacites-rhyolites have been considered to be partial melts of the crust or of the same underplated HT and LT basalts, with which they are associated in the field (Erlank *et al.*, 1984; Bellieni *et al.*, 1986; Milner, 1988; Whittingham, 1991); b) LT dacites-rhyolites have been considered the products of open-system assimilation fractional crystallisation (AFC) from LT basalts (Garland *et al.*, 1995; Ewart *et al.*, 2004b); and c) HT trachydacites have been considered to be derived through the partial melting of underplated HT basaltic rocks (Garland *et al.*, 1995).

The various petrogenetic hypotheses were tested in terms of the physical-chemical conditions of the magma evolution in the two suites. First, quantitative fractional crystallisation (FC) models were analysed using PELE and MELTS softwares (Ghiorso and Sack, 1995;

Boudreau, 1999), assuming several non-cumulative high-MgO (9–12 wt%) basalts, as the most representative parental magmas in each suite, to compare the theoretical liquids (and fractionated solids) with those observed in the volcanics (**Figs. 7 and 8**). The calculated and observed results agree in terms of chemical evolutionary trends, fractionating phases, crystallisation order, and temperatures (c.f., Bellieni et al.; 1986; Piccirillo et al., 1988; Garland et al., 1995, Thompson et al., 2001; Ewart et al., 2004a; 2004b; Keiding et al., 2013).

Therefore, the compositional constraints and thermodynamic equilibria indicate that the assumed parental magmas can produce the observed differentiates, namely the HT trachydacites and LT dacite-rhyolites, through the FC and removal of 22% and 22% olivine, 33% and 41% plagioclase, 16% and 17% clinopyroxene, followed by 5.0% and 3.5% Fe-Ti oxides, 0.4% and 0.2% apatite, 0.0% and 0.2% orthopyroxene, respectively, in a temperature range of 1300–900 °C. For both suites, the drastic precipitation of Fe-Ti oxides during advanced fractionation stages (MgO  $\leq$  4 wt%) resulted in a sudden increase in silica (SiO<sub>2</sub> from ~57 wt% to 63 wt%, the “Daly gap”) and a transition to silicic residual liquids whose mineral parageneses and temperatures of  $\leq$  1070 °C were in agreement with those of previous estimates (T= 1100–950 C°; Garland et al., 1995; Simoes et al., 2019). Therefore, the HT and LT suites do not markedly differ in terms of their fractionation processes, except for the higher degree of silica saturation in the LT magmas, which is also testified by the orthopyroxene appearance in their predicted and modal mineral assemblages. Thus, the extreme differentiates of the two suites, although corresponding to similar liquid fractions in the range of F 0.13–0.15, attain lower silica contents in the HT trachydacites (up to 68 wt%) than in the LT dacite-rhyolites (up to ~73 wt%).

PM-normalised FC modelling for incompatible elements was also performed by PELE software for both suites and is reported in **Fig. 9** together with the Chondrite-normalised REE distribution. The calculated differentiates from the assumed parental basalts are in agreement with those of the observed composition of trachydacites and dacite-rhyolites, and they reflect the distinct enrichment of the incompatible elements of the two suites. The observed Ti and Sr negative

anomalies are consistent with the fractionation of Fe-Ti oxides and plagioclase, respectively. **Figure 10** displays the distribution of the V and Cr compatible elements versus Zr for the HT and LT suites, with the theoretical trends of FC and batch melting (BM) models, beginning from the respective basaltic compositions. The results indicate that FC and removal of the mineral phases predicted by the major element modelling satisfactorily fit the composition of the trachydacites and dacite-rhyolites, whereas this is not the case for the partial melting, which invariably generates acidic melts with substantially higher V and Cr contents, as previously reported for analogous magmatic systems (Hanson, 1978; Peccerillo *et al.*, 2003 and 2007). It may be concluded that FC is the favoured mechanism for the generation of both HT and LT acidic magmas with respect to partial melting of underplated CFB or other crustal compositions. The latter sources are discounted by the experimental melting of granitoid/metasedimentary systems that invariably produce significantly more Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and less K<sub>2</sub>O and FeO than those observed in the Paranà-Etendeka silicic rocks (Beard and Lofgreen, 1989; Thy *et al.*, 1990; Patino Douce and Johnston, 1991; Skjerlie and Johnston, 1993; Wolf and Wyllie, 1994; Garland *et al.*, 1995; Rapp and Watson, 1995).

Some relevant geochemical differences between the HT and LT differentiates are shown in **Fig. 11**, where the Sr-Nd and Pb isotopes of the trachydacites and dacite-rhyolites are compared with those of their respective HT and LT basalts. The HT basalts and trachydacites are isotopically homogeneous, confirming their comagmatic relationships. The LT suite, however, shows a continuous variation from the basalts to dacite-rhyolites, which are systematically higher in their <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr, <sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>204</sup>Pb and <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>204</sup>Pb ratios. The latter compositions can be satisfactorily accounted for by the AFC processes, as suggested by Piccirillo *et al.* (1988), Garland *et al.* (1995), and Thompson *et al.*, (2007), who estimated up to a 20% assimilation of continental components in crustal magma chambers for LT differentiates. A plausible explanation of why dacite-rhyolites, unlike trachydacites, are systematically more prone to be crustally contaminated (**Fig 12a**), is because of their higher viscosity, which is expected in the more silica-rich LT differentiates. In fact, based on data by Polo *et al.*, (2018) on Paranà silicic volcanics under variably hydrated conditions

(H<sub>2</sub>O 0–2.5 wt%), the modelled viscosities may attain 10<sup>5</sup>–10<sup>6</sup> Pa s in rhyolites (SiO<sub>2</sub> of up to ~73 wt%) and 10<sup>4</sup>–10<sup>5</sup> Pa s in trachydacites (SiO<sub>2</sub> of up to ~68 wt%) that are at least 1 to 2 orders of magnitude higher in LT than in HT acidic rocks (**Fig 12b**). These rheological differences may result in an easier ascent without ponding in the crust for the less viscous (generally uncontaminated) HT magmas that underwent continuous FC, in accordance with their intensive porphyric character, flow banding and limited amounts of lavas and dykes. In contrast, the comparatively higher viscosity of LT magmas favoured their trapping and ponding in shallow crustal chambers where they accumulated and most likely experienced AFC processes. This scenario can also satisfactorily account for the diverse volcanological features of rhyolite-dacite magmas, where high-grade rheo-ignimbrites prevail over lavas as massive rewelded sheets related to high density pyroclastic currents that are characterised by magma fragmentation and vary in behaviour from hydrodynamic to brittle (Luchetti et al., 2018a; 2018b)

## Conclusions

The extensive review of multidisciplinary studies on the Paranà-Etendeka CFB Province in the last thirty years allowed for the construction of a coherent tectonomagmatic scenario that may reconcile the controversial views on the plume versus lithosphere roles and petrogenesis of the HT and LT CFB suites from the initial plateau activity to the rifting and continental breakup. This new perspective relies on the critical revision of geo-chronological data that allows the tectonomagmatic activity of the province to be sub-divided into two main stages with diverse characteristics: 1) the Paranà Plateau *s.s.* stage, 135–134 Ma, and 2) the subsequent rifting stage, 134–128 Ma, which developed eastward, contiguous to the plateau, and gradually formed new South American and African continental margins. These stages are further discussed below and are sketched in **Figs. 13 a, b, and c**.

The **Paraná plateau s.s.** is comparable to other Gondwana CFB provinces (Natali *et al.*, 2017) not only regarding the type, extension and zonal arrangement of HT and LT suites but also the eruption rate ( $\sim 0.8 \text{ km}^3/\text{a}$ ) and short duration, thus supporting the interpretation that a single event was triggered by a rising hot plume impinging on the central Paraná lithosphere (**Figs.13a and b**). The location of the plume impact beneath central Paraná is supported by the occurrence of the thickest sequence of HT basalts, the regional gravity high, and the low S-wave velocity anomaly recorded at  $\sim 300 \text{ km}$  in depth in the area (Van Der Lee *et al.*, 2001). Moreover, the occurrence of several alkaline complexes from 145 Ma to 138 Ma (Gibson *et al.*, 1995, 2005; Comin Chiamonti *et al.*, 1997; Gomes and Comin Chiamonti, 2017) and tholeiitic dikes at  $\sim 138 \text{ Ma}$  (Stewart *et al.*, 1996), at the westernmost margin of Paraná plateau conforms to the scenario of a focalised lithospheric perturbation related to the plume impact in the 10 Ma prior to the CFB main event (135–134 Ma). This time interval is sufficient for the lowermost lithosphere to equilibrate conductive and advective (plume-related) heat contributions (Turner *et al.*, 1996; McKenzie *et al.*, 2005; Gibson *et al.*, 2006), thus providing suitable conditions for the generation of Paraná CFB in the estimated ranges of  $P = 3\text{--}4 \text{ GPa}$  and  $T_p = 1500\text{--}1550 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The incompatible element modelling of the calculated primary magmas from Paraná provides constraints on the melting degree (from  $\sim 10\%$  for HT to  $\sim 24\%$  for LT), based on HREE and HFSE of a PM source, which however, must be significantly enriched in LKREE and LFSE. Sr-Nd-Pb isotopes of the Paraná least-differentiated basalts show affinities with the EM1 component, which is in accordance with their derivation from lower lithospheric sources. A large portion of the Paraná basalts (particularly the LT ones) are displaced with anomalously high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  isotopic ratios that conform to variable degrees of crustal contamination that is in parallel with differentiation (MgO down to 4–5 wt%) during their ascent to the surface. At the end of this stage (ca. 134 Ma), the magmatic activity of the south-eastern marginal part of the Paraná Plateau became bimodal with the eruption of the trachydacites and dacite-rhyolites associated with the HT and LT basalts, respectively. Petrological modelling and isotopic data suggest that these silicic rocks may represent FC products in both suites, with the

general tendency of the more viscous LT dacite-rhyolites to experience AFC processes in shallow crustal chambers, before erupting as extensive rheo-ignimbrites. As generally observed in the Gondwana LIPS, the eruption of large amounts of “rhyolitic” magmas appears to be related to the variation in the stress regime from the regional extension which characterise the CFB plateaus to localised continental rifting, accompanying magma trapping, and differentiation to acidic melts (Natali et al., 2011; 2017).

The **rifting stage** (134–128 Ma) developed in spatial/temporal continuity with the final phase (bimodal) of the Paraná Plateau and was characterised by the south-east migration of the tectonomagmatic activity from the Brazilian to Etendeka-Angolan coastal margins. This appears to be a consequence of the generalised north-west lithospheric drift over the pre-existing plume, whose spatial/temporal track can be recognised in the radiating/circumferential dyke swarms of the Ponta Grossa Arch (134–132 Ma). Thus, the Etendeka region is a triple point where extensional lineaments converge and radiate in the NW, WS, and NE directions; while the Ponta Grossa DS represents an aborted rift arm, the rifting of the two latter directions lasted until *ca.* 128 Ma, accompanying the formation of the new South American/African continental margins, up to the South Atlantic opening (*ca.* 127 Ma). This evolution satisfactorily fits the models of White and McKenzie (1989) and Stewart et al. (1996) where the lithosphere, impinged by a hot plume ( $T_p > 1500^\circ\text{C}$ ), undergoes thermal weakening and thinning by a stretching ( $\beta$ ) factor of 2 to 5, ultimately leading to the continental breakup and oceanisation. Coherently, recent tomographic models indicate that the Angolan lithosphere was eroded by plume-related thermochemical processes linked to the Paraná-Etendeka LIP emplacement (Celli et al., 2020). This is also consistent with the progressive lithosphere arching and uplifting (as observed for the Serra Geral escarpment in Brazil and the south-west African margin) in relation to the adiabatic upwelling and dynamic support exerted by the plume. In terms of lithological compositions, the Etendeka Province is similar (including the N-S zonal arrangement) to that of the Paraná Plateau because it is mainly represented by HT basalts evolving into trachydacites in northern Etendeka/southern Angola, and LT basalts

evolving into dacite-rhyolites in southern Etendeka. However, the style of magmatism is remarkably different, as it is characterised by much lower magma volumes than that of the Paraná Plateau, which are fed by fissural eruptions along the coastal margins over a total area of  $\sim 100\,000$  km<sup>2</sup> (eruption rate  $< 0.1$  km<sup>3</sup>/a). Furthermore, the exclusive occurrence in Etendeka of high-MgO basalts and picrites, which belong to both HT and LT suites, is a fundamental difference with respect to the Paraná Plateau. As stated by Natali et al. (2016, 2017, 2018) for the other Gondwana CFB provinces, these rocks represent the hottest and deepest ( $T_p$  of up to 1590 °C, and P of up to 5 GPa) asthenospheric magmas generated by melting within the axial zone of the plume, where the rapid rise of relatively undifferentiated magmas was permitted through a thinned and deeply rifted lithosphere. The high  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  ( $> 26$  R/RA) reported by Stroncik et al. (2017) is further complementary evidence for a deep-seated mantle plume that was involved in the high-MgO Etendeka magmatism. The Sr-Nd-Pb isotopic composition of Etendeka high-MgO rocks corresponds to an uncontaminated sub-lithospheric signature that is in agreement with the “Gough component”, which is considered a marker of the proto-Tristan plume activity since ca. 132 Ma (Hoernle et al., 2015). This reconstruction can also satisfactorily explain the coexistence of high-MgO CFB and alkaline-carbonatic complexes (e.g. Juquia, Jacupiranga and others, Beccaluva et al. 1992; 2017; Comin Chiaromonte and Gomes, 2017), whose generation in the lithosphere at  $P = 2\text{--}3$  GPa and  $T_p = 1300\text{--}1400$  °C was related to the same plume effects (Natali et al., 2018). In the final rifting stages, until 128 Ma, the plume effect gradually weakened, and the internal portion of the new conjugated continental margins subsided, leading to oceanisation (ca. 127 Ma) and the oldest hot spot volcanism of the Rio Grande Rise and Walvis Ridge (O’Connor and Duncan, 1990; Gallagher and Hawkesworth, 1994; Gassmüller et al., 2016). As an additional consideration, we suggest that the renewed magma production recorded in the Rio Grande Rise (up to 0.3 km<sup>3</sup>/a; Gallagher and Hawkesworth, 1994) may be a consequence of the interaction between the intervening oceanic spreading and the mantle plume. From this view, the overall geodynamic evolution of the Paraná-Etendeka may be analogous to that of the Northern Atlantic Province,



where the excess volcanism of Iceland represents one of the best examples of ocean ridge/plume interaction taking place after CFB magmatism and continental breakup (White and Mckenzie, 1989; White et al., 1995; Thordarson and Larsen, 2007 and references therein).

We can conclude that, although the mantle plume hypothesis represents the favoured explanation of many CFB provinces, the simplistic assignment of specific geochemical components to plume effects should be avoided; the Paraná-Etendeka case in particular demonstrates that the plume-related CFB magmatism appears to be influenced by the lithosphere in the beginning, whereas the role of the sublithospheric plume effects are predominant during the subsequent tectono-magmatic evolution of the province.

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### Figure captions

**Figure 1** – Paleogeographic reconstruction of Paraná-Etendeka CFB at 135–130 Ma (modified after Natali et al., 2018, and Buchan and Ernst 2019, for circumferential dykes). HT and LT spatial distribution was reviewed after data from Piccirillo and Melfi (1988), Piccirillo et al. (1989 and 1990), Hawkesworth et al. (1992); Garkov et al.(1995); Peate et al. (1999), Marzoli et al. (1999); Marsh et al. (2001); Thompson et al. (2001); Ewart et al. (2004 a and b) Lustrino et al. (2005), Cernuschi et al. (2015), Marsh and Swart (2016), Rämö et al. (2016); Licht (2018); HT and LT suites from Etendeka and Angola include the respective silicic differentiates. Locations of early alkaline complexes (145–138 Ma) after Gibson et al. (2006), Comin-Chiaramonti et al.(2007 and 2014); Gomes and Comin - Chiaramonti Eds.(2017).

**Figure 2** (a) Total Alkali-Silica (TAS) classification diagram (after Le Bas, 1986) for HT (picrite basalt to trachydacites) and LT (picrite basalt to dacite-rhyolites) suites from Paraná-Etendeka Province. (b)  $\text{TiO}_2$  vs MgO variation diagram for basaltic rocks. An empirical boundary between HT (Paranapanema, Pitanga, Urubici in Paraná; Khumib and Doros in Etendeka) and LT (Esmeralda, Gramado in Paraná; Horingbai and Tafelberg in Etendeka) is drawn in order to

minimize the misclassified samples (generally less than 5 %). Data from GEOROC database (<http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/>).

**Figure 3** MgO vs FeO diagram for Paranà-Etendeka CFB. HT and LT primary magmas were modelled according to Herzberg and Asimow (2015); liquid lines of descent by fractional crystallisation and removal of olivine (Ol) plagioclase (Pl) and clinopyroxene Cpx) according to Danyushevsky and Plechov (2011). Data are from GEOROC database.

**Figure 4** Chondrite (Ch)-normalized Rare Earth Element (REE) patterns for HT and LT Paranà - Etendeka basaltic rocks modified after Natali et al. (2018). Average  $La_N/Yb_N$  for each group is also reported. Normalising factors are from Sun and McDonough (1989). Data are from GEOROC database.

**Figure 5** Primitive mantle (PM)-normalized incompatible element distribution of calculated HT and LT primary melts for Etendeka (a) and Paranà (b). The batch melting modelled compositions, using source mode and melting proportions according to Walter (1998) and partition coefficients ( $K_d$ ) from GERM data base, give the following indications: 1) PM source slightly hybridized by 3% eclogite is appropriate for generating the Etendeka HT and LT primary magmas by ~ 9 to 22% partial melting (F), respectively (*cf.* Natali et al., 2018); 2) PM source, could produce Paranà HT and LT primary magmas by ~ 10% to 24% F, respectively; provided that an appropriate enrichment of LREE and LFSE (from 1.5 to 5 x PM) would be considered in the source; 3) the ubiquitous residual garnet predicted by the model is in accordance with thermobarometric estimates and conforms to deep melting events ( $P > 3$  GPa). Normalising factors are from Sun and McDonough (1989). See text for further explanation.

**Figure 6** (a) Sr-Nd and (b) Pb isotopic compositions of CFB for Paranà-Etendeka basaltic rocks, modified after Natali et al. (2018). To be noted the remarkable isotopic diversity between the least contaminated CFB from Paranà and Etendeka (data from GEOROC). Isotopic composition of Gough and Tristan hot spot tracks are from Hoernle et al. (2015). Compositional field of regional continental basement is after Garland et al. (1995), whereas crustal contamination trend is taken from Hoernle et al. (2015). Reference mantle end-members (DM, EMI, EMII, HIMU and FOZO) are also reported for comparison (Stracke, 2012).

**Figure 7** Computed liquid lines of descent (LLD) starting from inferred parental basalts are reported for HT (blue) and LT (red) of Paranà-Etendeka suites. Modelling has been performed by PELE (Boudreau, 1999) assuming redox QFM+1 /QFM,  $H_2O$  0.4–0.3wt% and P 0.05 GPa.

**Figure 8** Cumulative diagram of crystallising minerals (wt.%) predicted by PELE model (Boudreau, 1999) for HT and LT inferred parental basalts of Paranà-Etendeka. In both suites olivine crystallisation is followed by plagioclase and clinopyroxene at  $T \sim 1170$  and  $1140\text{--}1100$  C°, respectively. Precipitation of Fe-Ti oxides, soon followed by apatite, occurs at  $T$  1070–1040 C°. Late crystallization orthopyroxene appears only in LT suites. Abbreviations: Ol = olivine, Cpx = clinopyroxene, Pl = plagioclase, Opx = orthopyroxene, Hm-Ilm = hematite–ilmenite, Mt-Usp = magnetite–ulvospinel, Ap = apatite

**Figure 9** (a, b) Primordial Mantle (PM)-normalised incompatible elements and (c, d) Chondrite (Ch)-normalised Rare Earth Elements (REE) distribution for LT and HT parental basalts and silicic differentiates from Paranà-Etendeka. The fractionation modelling has been performed by PELE software (Boudreau, 1999), integrating the partition coefficient database with data from Mahood and Stimac (1990). Model results satisfactorily fit the composition of HT trachydacites and LT

dacite-rhyolites as 13–15% residual liquids from the assumed parental basalts. Normalisation factors are from Sun and McDonough (1989).

**Figure 10** V and Cr vs Zr variation diagrams for LT (**a, c**) and HT (**b, d**) basaltic to silicic rocks from Paranà-Etendeka. Fractional crystallisation (FC) by PELE software and batch melting (BM) models have been tested for generation of silicic differentiates in the two suites starting from the respective basalt compositions; figures indicate melting proportion for BM.

Note that only fractional crystallisation satisfactorily fits the differentiation trends to trachydacites and dacite-rhyolites in HT and LT suites, respectively. Partition coefficients ( $Kd$ ) from GERM database. Rock symbols as in Fig. 2

**Figure 11** (**a**) Sr-Nd and (**b**) Pb isotopic compositions of basaltic and silicic rocks for the Paranà-Etendeka province. Compositional field of regional continental basement is after Garland et al (1995), whereas crustal contamination trend is taken from Hoernle et al. (2015). Data from GEOROC. Rock symbols as in Fig. 2

**Figure 12** (**a**) Interpretative cross-section (not to scale) between of the Paranà plateau and Etendeka region demonstrating the extensive extension and block faulting during the rifting stage. Both the HT and LT magmas partly experienced differentiation during rising in the continental crust: 1) continuous intracrustal FC of HT magmas (in blue) that led to the trachy-dacite differentiates that erupted mostly as limited lavas and dykes; 2) due to their higher viscosity, the LT magmas (in red) tended to be trapped in shallow crustal chambers undergoing AFC processes to dacite-rhyolites before erupting as rheo-ignimbrites; (**b**) the calculated viscosity for HT and LT suites are calibrated for anhydrous (PELE model) and variably hydrated conditions at 950 °C and 900 °C, respectively (Giordano et al., 2008; Polo et al., 2018). For the Paranà acidic differentiates of both suites, the combined effect of temperatures ( $T$  1000–900 °C ) and water contents ( $H_2O$  1–2. wt %; Garland et,

al, 1995, Lucchetti et al., 2018; PELE model) resulted in viscosity values lower than those commonly recorded for explosive eruptions of silicic magmas. However, the higher viscosity and discharge rates characterising LT dacite-rhyolites allowed these magmas to attain the hydrodynamic/brittle fragmentation limit (shaded area: Namikia and Manga, 2008; Gonnermann and Manga, 2012), producing extensive high-grade (low explosivity) rhyolite ignimbrites.

**Figure 13** – (a) Approximated areal distribution of CFB magmatism related to Paraná plateau *s.s.* and rifting stages. The circles denote the inferred focus of the tectonomagmatic activity migrating south-eastward from the first impact of the proto-Tristan plume in (1) central Paraná to the (2) Etendeka margin. (b) The protracted impinging of the mantle plume head on the Gondwana plate resulted in a remarkable thermal anomaly ( $T_{ex}$  250–300 °C) that generated the Paraná Plateau CFBs (135–134 Ma) from the lower lithosphere at  $P=3-4$  GPa and  $T_p=1500-1550$  °C. (c) The continuous thermal-mechanical effects of the rising plume, concomitant with the northwest Gondwana drift, resulted in the progressive arching, thinning, and rifting of the lithosphere that culminated in the South American/African continental breakup close to the Etendeka border. This stage is characterised by the bimodal distribution of the basalts to silicic products in both the HT and LT suites and the exclusive appearance of high-MgO basalts/picrites which represent the deepest and hottest ( $P$  of up to 5 GPa and  $T_p$  of up to 1590 °C) sub-lithospheric melts from the plume axial zone. The thermal regime and composition of the sub-continental lithosphere is based on mantle xenoliths from the Gondwana realm: Sp- to Gt-lherzolite/harzburgite (Rivalenti et al., 2000; Fodor et al., 2002; Dessai et al., 2004; Griffin et al., 2003; Beccaluva et al., 2007; 2008; 2011; Karmalkar et al., 2009; Natali et al., 2013; Bianchini et al., 2014; Sgualdo et al., 2015; Stanley et al., 2016).



**Declaration of interests**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Sincerely,

Luigi Beccaluva and co-Authors

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**Highlights**

- Paraná-Etendeka LIP developed in two stages, triggered by a plume impingement
- In the first stage, Paraná plateau *s.s.* CFB derived from lithospheric sources
- In the second stage, Etendeka CFB formed from plume-related sources during rifting

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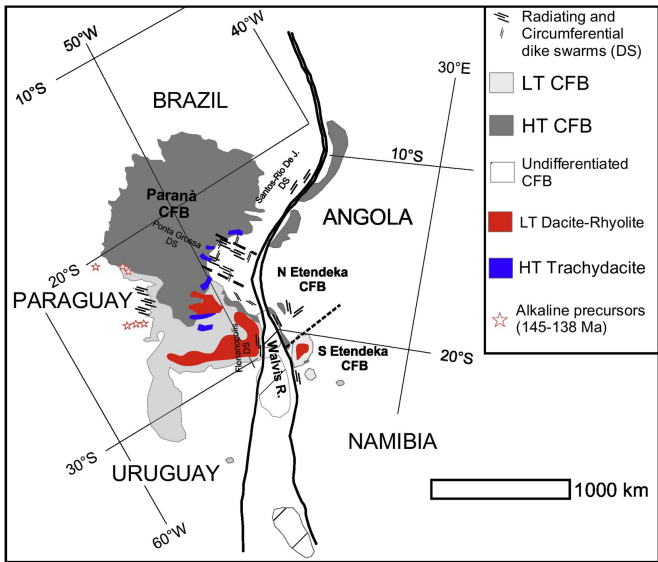


Figure 1



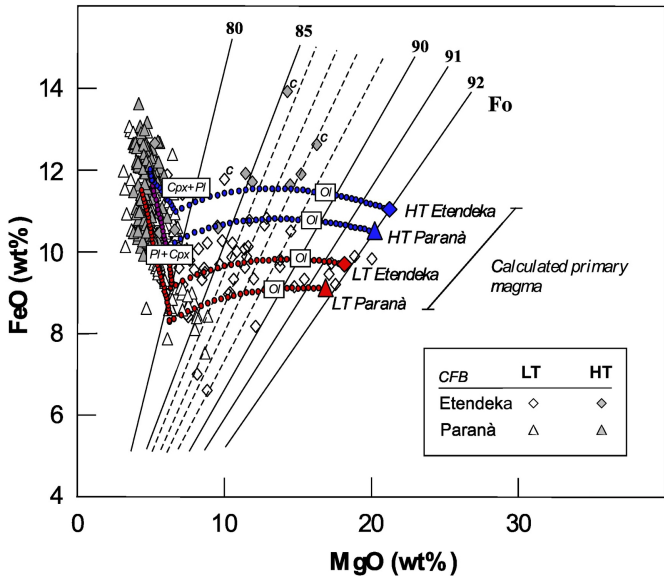


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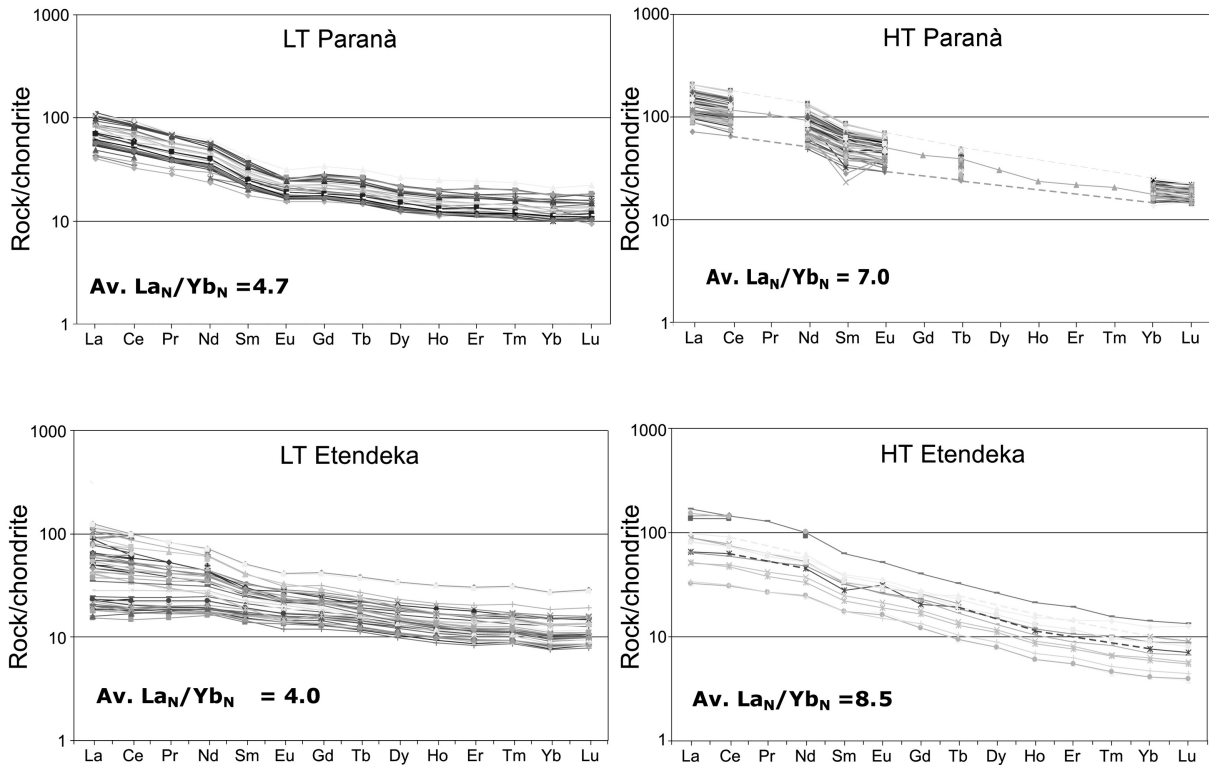


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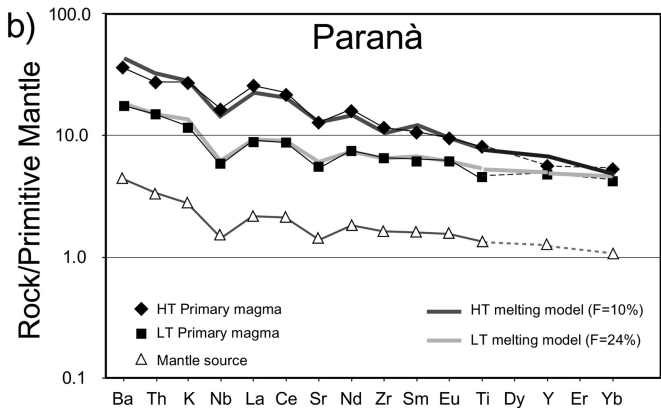
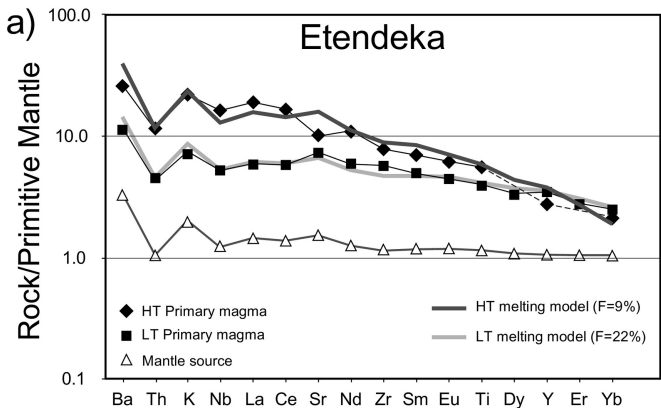


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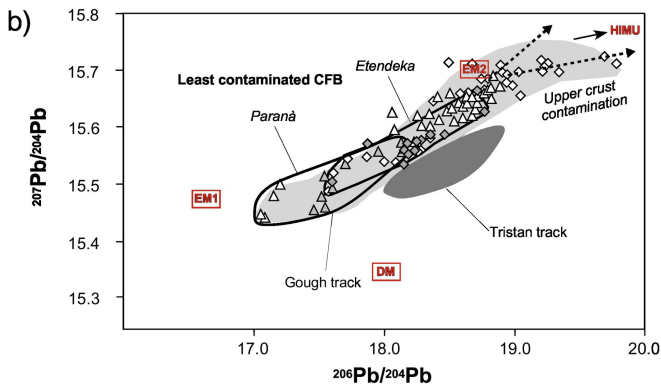
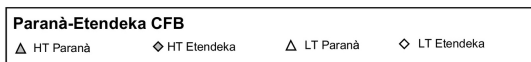
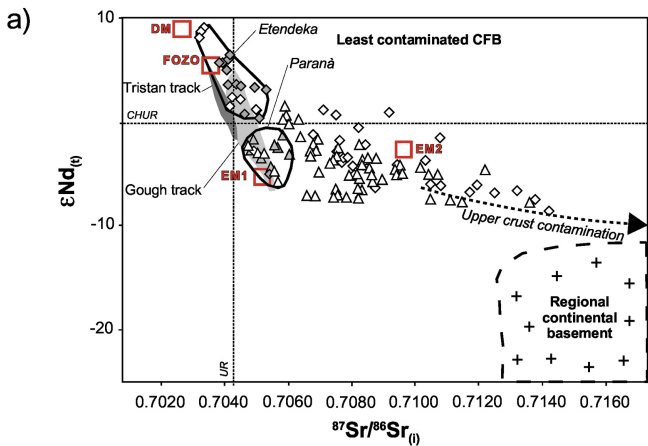
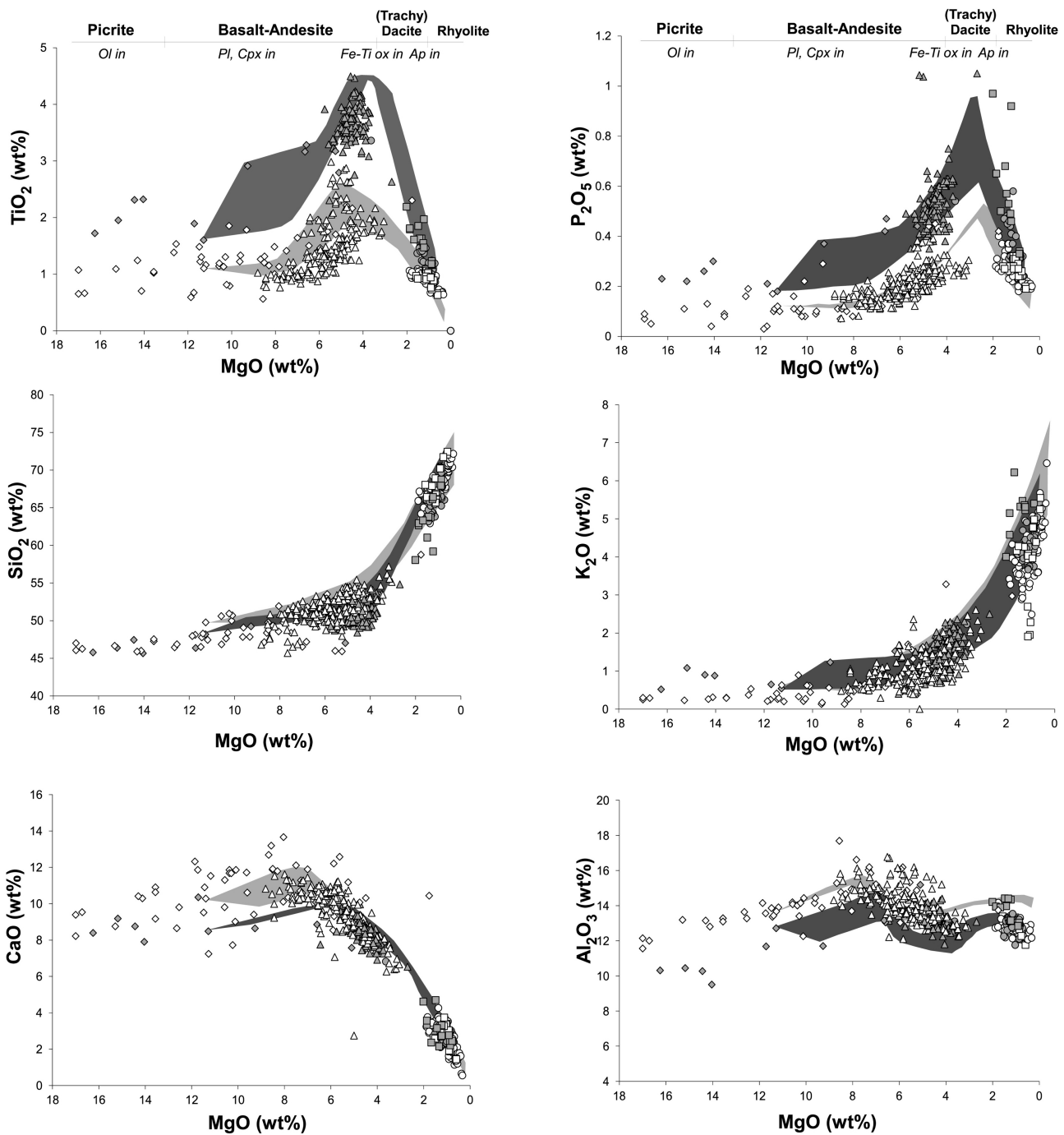


Figure 6





<i>CFB</i>	LT	HT
Etendeka	◇	◇
Paraná	△	△

<i>Silicic volcanics</i>	LT	HT
Etendeka	□	■
Paraná	○	●

Figure 7

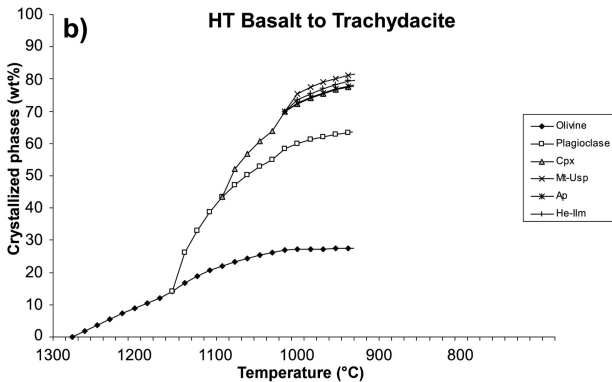
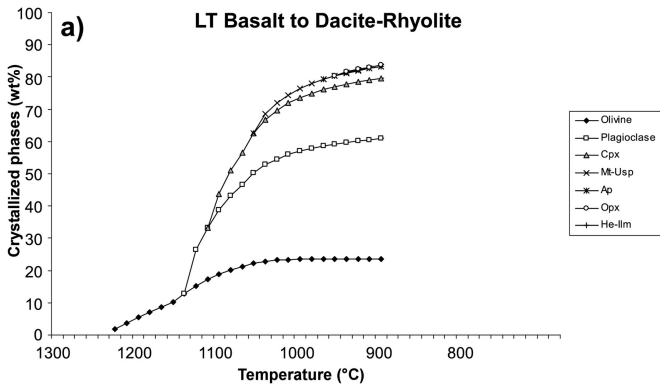


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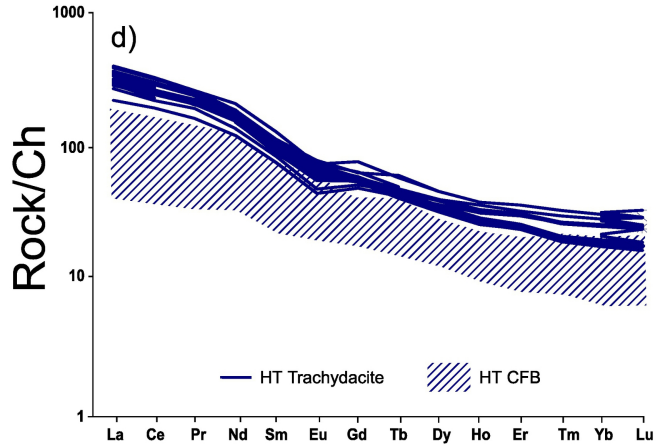
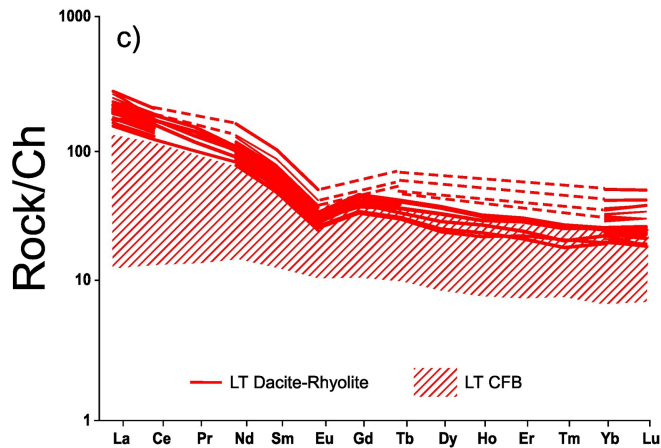
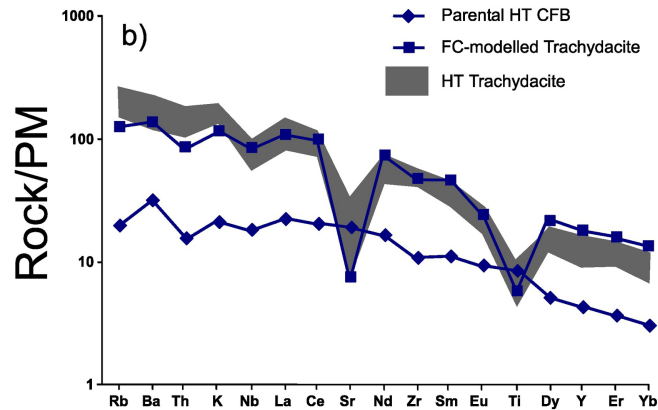
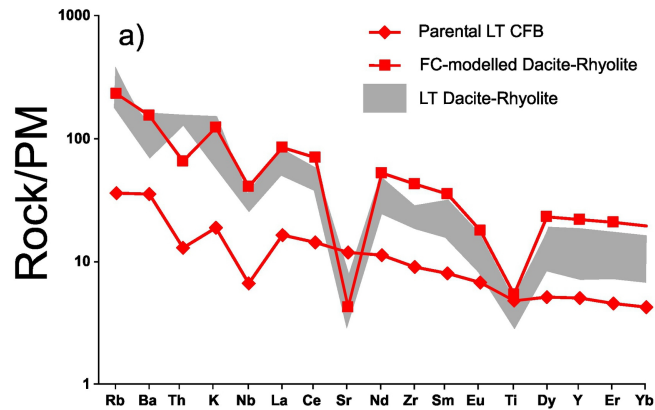


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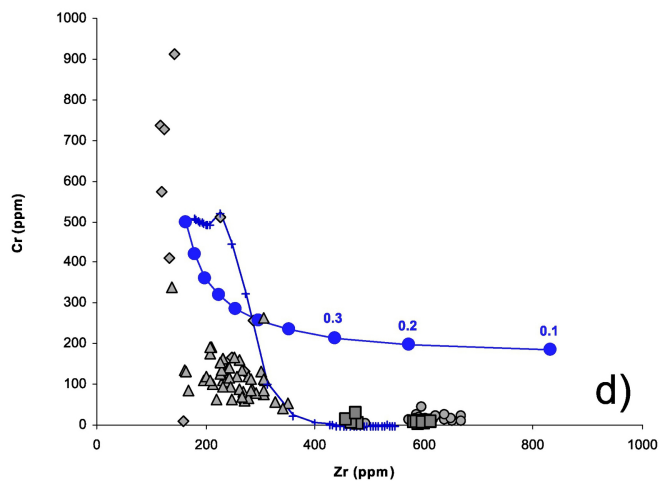
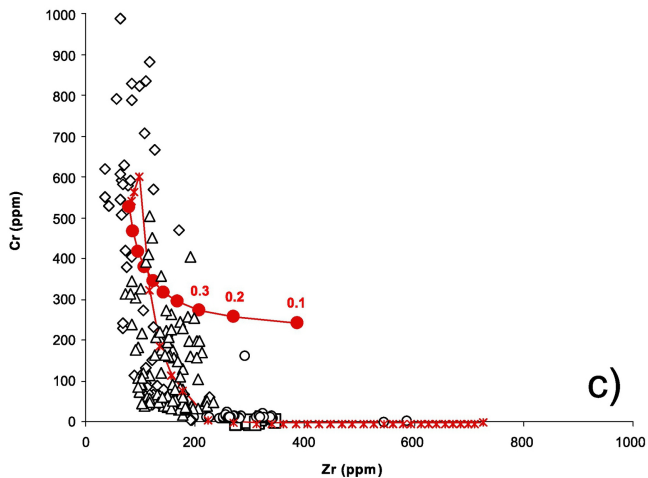
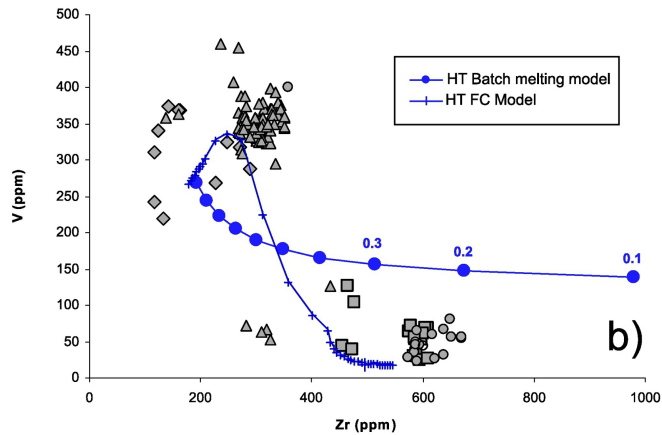
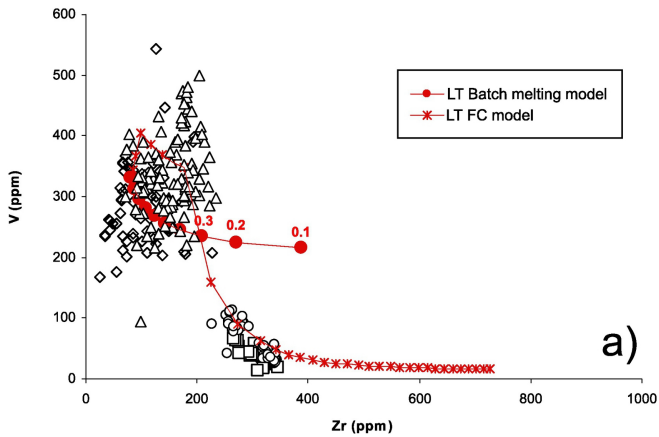


Figure 10

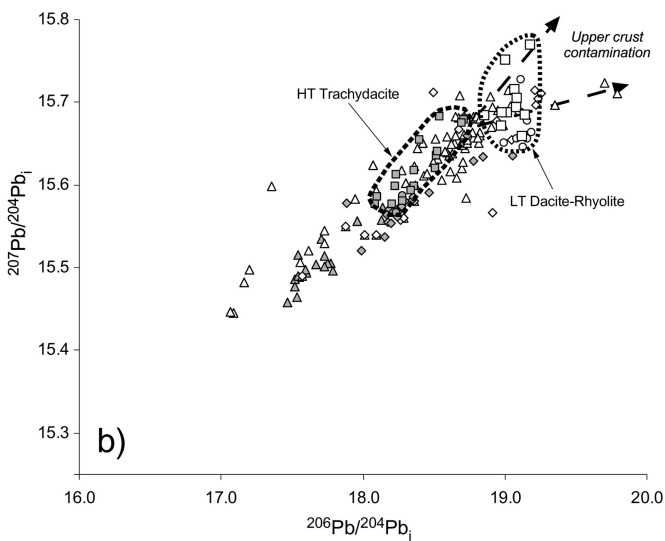
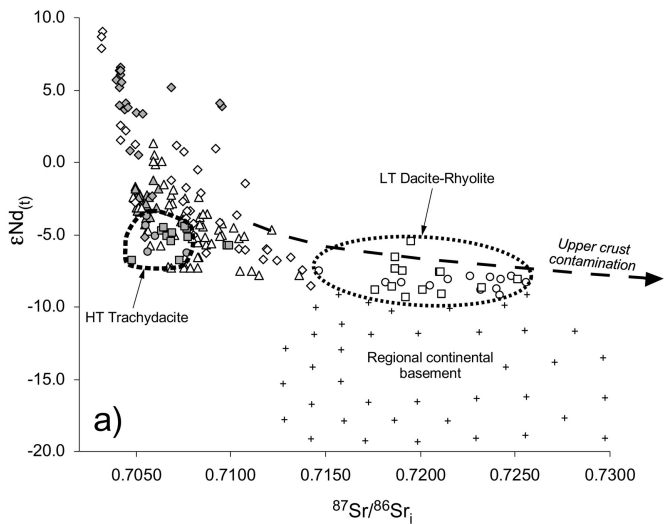


Figure 11

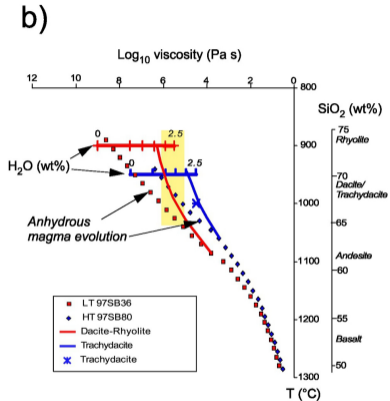
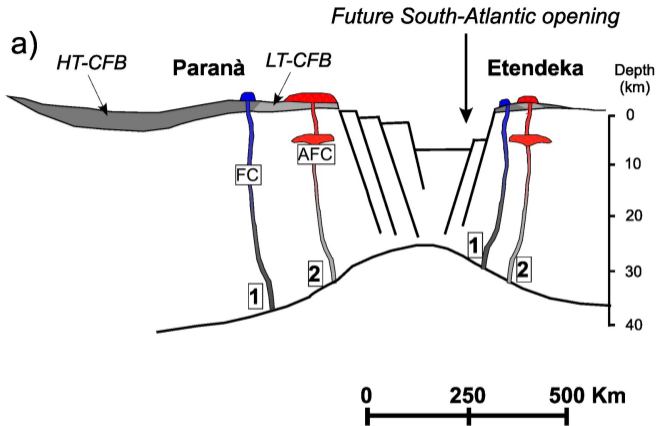


Figure 12

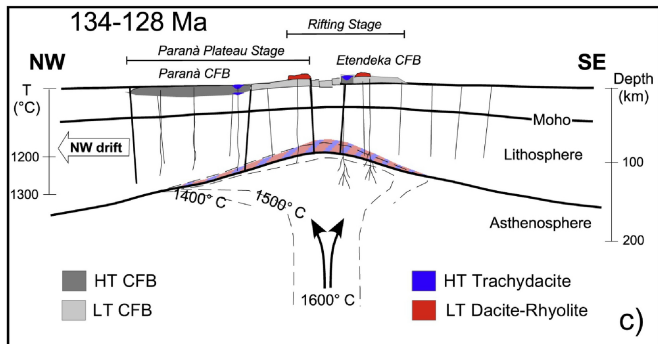
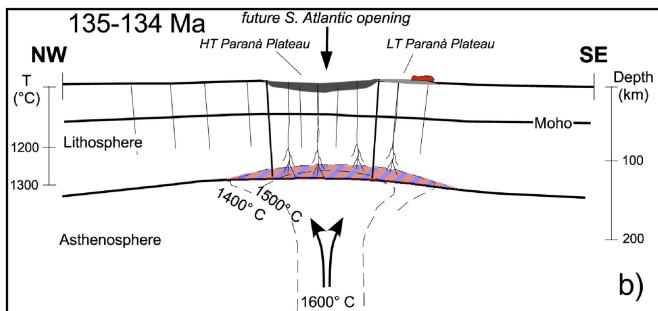
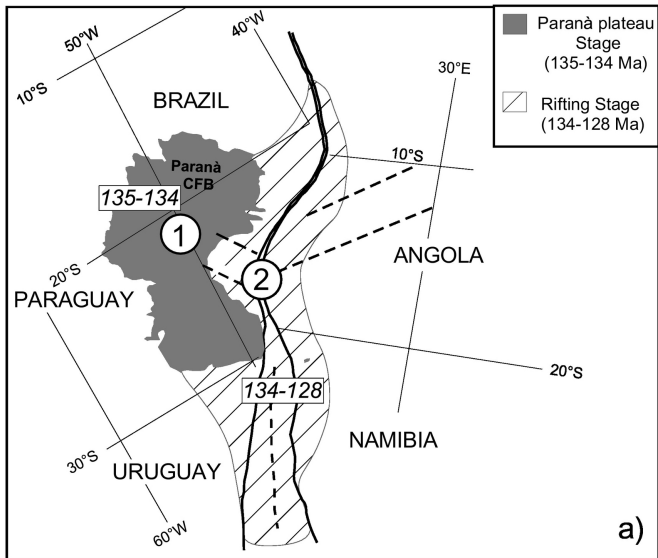


Figure 13