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# Occurrence of an Alaskan-type complex in the Middle Tianshan Massif, Central Asian Orogenic Belt: inferences from petrological and mineralogical studies

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# Occurrence of an Alaskan-type complex in the Middle Tianshan Massif, Central Asian Orogenic Belt: inferences from petrological and mineralogical studies

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The Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex lies in the central part of the Middle Tianshan Massif (MTM), along the southern margin of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt (CAOB). This complex is composed of dunite, hornblende (Hbl) clinopyroxenite, hornblendite, and Hbl gabbro. These rocks are characterized by adcumulated textures and variable alteration. Orthopyroxene is an extremely rare mineral in all rock units and plagioclase is absent in dunite and Hbl clinopyroxenite. Hbl, Fe-chromite, and Cr-magnetite are common phases. Olivines have forsterite (Fo) contents ranging from 92.3 to 96.6. Clinopyroxenes are Ca-rich, Ti-poor diopsides, and mostly altered to tremolites or actinolites. Chromites display low TiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents and high Cr# and Fe<sup>2+</sup>/(Fe<sup>2+</sup> + Mg) values. Primary and secondary Hbls show wide compositional variations. These petrological and mineralogical features as well as mineral chemistry are comparable to typical Alaskan-type complexes worldwide, which are widely considered to have formed above subduction zones. The chemistry of clinopyroxene and chromite supports an arc plate-tectonic origin for the Xiadong complex. Its confirmation as an Alaskan-type complex implies that the MTM, with Precambrian basement, was probably a continental arc during oceanic plate underflow and further supports the hypothesis of southward subduction of the Palaeozoic Junggar Ocean.

Keywords: Alaskan-type mafic-ultramafic complex; Central Asian Orogenic Belt; mafic-ultramafic complex; Middle Tianshan Massif; continental arc

# Introduction

The Central Asian Orogenic Belt (CAOB), reflecting juvenile crustal growth, is the largest Phanerozoic orogen in the world, extending 7000 km E–W, from the Siberian Craton in the north to the Tarim Craton in the south (Figure 1A; Sengör *et al.* 1993, 2004; Hu *et al.* 2000; Jahn *et al.* 2000a, 2000b, 2004; Windley *et al.* 2007; Sun *et al.* 2008; Xiao *et al.* 2009). Its tectonic evolution has been attributed to subduction, accretion, and collision of an ocean-arc–microcontinent system in the Palaeo-Asian Ocean (Wu *et al.* 1996; Gao *et al.* 1998, 2006, 2009; Chen *et al.* 1999; Xia *et al.* 2004; Xiao *et al.* 2004, 2009; Lin *et al.* 2009).

The Chinese Tianshan Mountains occupy the southern part of the CAOB and are characterized by widely distributed mafic–ultramafic complexes, most of which have been identified as ophiolites or post-orogenic intrusions (Xiao *et al.* 1992; Qin *et al.* 2002; Zhou *et al.* 2004; Mao *et al.* 2008; Pirajno *et al.* 2008; Zhang *et al.* 2008; Sun 2009). A great number of Early Permian mafic–ultramafic complexes are exposed in the Eastern Tianshan and Beishan belts and in most host magmatic Ni–Cu sulphide deposits (Figure 1B; Qin *et al.* 2002, 2003, 2007; Han *et al.* 2004; Zhou *et al.* 2004; Chai *et al.* 2006, 2008; Han *et al.* 2006; Jiang *et al.* 2006; Mao *et al.* 2006; Sun *et al.* 2006, 2007; Mao *et al.* 2008; Pirajno *et al.* 2008; Su *et al.* 2009, 2010a, 2010b; Tang *et al.* 2009; Wang *et al.* 2009; Liu *et al.* 2010; Xiao *et al.* 2010).

Although multiple subduction events in the CAOB have produced abundant arc-related volcanic rocks and coeval intrusions, so far no study has reported evidence for Alaskan-type complexes, which are thought to have formed in subduction zone environments (e.g. Williams 1991; Saleeby 1992; Foley *et al.* 1997; Ayarza *et al.* 2000; Valli *et al.* 2004). We discovered a mafic–ultramafic complex in the Middle Tianshan Massif (MTM) and recognized it to be of Alaskan-type. To our knowledge, this is the first finding of such a complex in the southern margin of the CAOB.

Here we present a detailed description of the petrological and mineralogical features of the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex and compare it with typical

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Figure 1. (A) Location map of the study area in the Central Asian Orogenic Belt and partly in the Tarim Craton (modified after Jahn *et al.* 2000b). (B) Regional geological map of the Eastern Tianshan and Beishan Rift showing the distribution of Palaeozoic mafic–ultramafic complexes (modified after Su *et al.* 2010a).

Alaskan-type complexes. These data are then used to shed light on the origin and emplacement of the complex.

### Geological setting

The MTM, in eastern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is situated between the Jueluotage tectonic belt in the north and the Beishan Rift in the south, and bounded by the Aqikuduke–Shaquanzi fault in the north and the Hongliuhe fault in the south (Figure 1B). Abundant granites and granitic gneisses crop out as a Precambrian crystalline basement of the MTM (BGMRXUAR 1993; Qin *et al.* 2002; Xu *et al.* 2009). Several Early Permian mafic–ultramafic complexes, including Tianyu (280 Ma; Su *et al.* 2010a) and Baishiquan (284.8 Ma; Su *et al.* 2010a), are distributed along the northern margin of the MTM. The Xiadong complex is located in the central part of the MTM (Figure 1B).

The Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex is strip shaped and generally strikes E–W. It is 7 km long and up to 500 m wide with an exposed area of extent  $\sim 2.5 \text{ km}^2$  (Figure 2). The country rocks of the complex are dominated by late Proterozoic schist, gneiss, and marbles. Undated granite and diorite are widely present in the surrounding region and appear to be younger than the mafic–ultramafic complex, as some granitic and dioritic veins intrude the maficultramafic complex in the horizontal profile (Figure 2).

The rock types that compose the Xiadong complex are dunite, hornblende (Hbl) clinopyroxenite, Hbl gabbro, and minor hornblendite, hereafter called dunite, Hbl clinopyroxenite, Hbl gabbro, and hornblendite. The dunite body dominates the northern and western parts of the complex, whereas the Hbl clinopyroxenite and Hbl gabbro are mainly found in the southern and eastern parts. The hornblendite is only observed in the horizontal profile (Figure 2). The mafic rock units (Hbl clinopyroxenite, hornblendite, and Hbl gabbro) are mostly gradational over a short distance (approximately several metres), whereas the contacts within the dunite unit are well defined and display chilled margins (Figure 3A–3C). The profile demonstrates that many veins, including Hbl clinopyroxenite, Hbl gabbro, hornblendite, granite, and diorite, cut through the dunite bodies, suggesting late-stage intrusions within the dunite bodies.

# Petrography

#### Dunite

The dunite occurs as bands of masses aligned in an E– W direction parallel to the elongated direction of the

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Figure 2. Geological map of the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex, accompanied by a horizontal profile along A to B showing its rock units and sampling positions.



Figure 3. Field and outcrop photographs of the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex: (A) field survey showing the position of the horizontal profile and the relationship of dunite and Hbl gabbro; (B) light yellow dunite intruded by dark green dunite, with chilled margin present in the latter; (C) detailed contact between dark green dunite and light yellow dunite; (D) compact and the strongly serpentinized dark green dunite; (E) occurrence of chromite layer in dark green dunite; (F) coarse-grained, light yellow olivine aggregate within dark green dunite; (G) chromite layer well defined in light yellow dunite; (H) the contact between Hbl clinopyroxenite and hornblendite; (I) fresh Hbl gabbro sample.

Xiadong complex. It can be subdivided into two types: dark green dunite and light yellow dunite. The dark green dunite appears to be compact (Figure 3B and 3C) but essentially has been strongly serpentinized (Figure 3D). Most olivines in the dark green dunites are altered to serpentines, whereas clinopyroxenes (modal abundance <5%) are replaced by actinolites or tremolites. Chromites with modal abundance of 5–10% display layered structure (Figure 3E) and preserve intact crystal shapes. Minor magnetites are observed as interstitial grains. At their contacts

with light yellow dunite bodies, the dark green dunite bodies frequently exhibit chilled margins ranging from 5 to 15 cm in width (Figure 3B and 3C). Some light yellow olivine aggregates can occasionally be observed in the dark green dunites (Figure 3F), probably demonstrating that the emplacement of the dark green dunite is later than that of the light yellow dunite.

The light yellow dunite consists of olivine and chromite with accessory Hbl and altered clinopyroxene. Olivines occur as cumulate crystals of variable sizes (Figure 4A). Many olivine grains are considerably large (2–4 mm) and irregularly shaped. Other olivine grains are small and round (<0.5 mm). Chromites occur as both interstitial and rhythmic layers (Figures 3G and 4A), where most chromite grains display elongated crystal shapes, whereas others have round shapes. Some chromites are present as inclusions or rims of spinels (Figure 5A). Most clinopyroxenes are long prismatic in shape with well-developed fractures (Figure 5A). Some clinopyroxene grains are altered to actinolite, tremolite, or chlorite (Figure 4A). Yellowish brown Hbls commonly form irregular patches rimming olivine and clinopyroxene.

# Hbl clinopyroxenite

Hbl clinopyroxenite is mainly present within Hbl gabbro and can also be observed within dunite and hornblendite bodies in the horizontal profile (Figures 2 and 3H). It has a mineral assemblage of clinopyroxene, Hbl, and accessory magnetite and chromite. Cumulus clinopyroxenes are mostly altered to actinolite or tremolite, preserving a clinopyroxene core with Hbl rims (Figure 5B). Primary Hbls are interstitial and commonly altered to actinolite along their rims. Magnetite and chromite grains are usually less than 40  $\mu$ m, whereas dolomite is usually present as veins in the Hbl clinopyroxenites.

# Hornblendite

Hornblendite occupies a minor lithology of the complex and is usually associated with Hbl clinopyroxenite and/or Hbl gabbro (Figures 2 and 3H). It consists of Hbl and plagioclase with accessory minerals such as magnetite, ilmenite, titanite, and chromite. Hbl crystals occur as cumulate and are mostly <0.5 mm in size. However, some Hbl grains are 2–4 mm in diameter and display recrystallized texture with fine-grained Hbls in their margins (Figure 5B). Plagioclase crystals in hornblendite are fine grained (<1 mm in size) and their modal abundance ranges from <5 to 15% (Figure 4B). The small amount of interstitial plagioclase is universally zoisitized. Accessory minerals occur as interstitial grains and are generally less than 0.4 mm in size. Titanite commonly occurs as rims around ilmenite.

# Hbl gabbro

Hbl gabbro is the dominant rock type in the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex (Figure 2). It consists of a mineral assemblage of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, Hbl, magnetite, ilmenite, titanite, and apatite. Most Hbl gabbro samples show equigranular texture with mineral grains <1.5 mm in size (Figures 3I and 4C). Plagioclase is commonly zoisitized, whereas clinopyroxene and Hbl are



Figure 4. Microphotographs of the dunite, hornblendite, and Hbl gabbro samples from the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex: (A) the dunite sample (09XD-1) showing cumulate olivine and chromite with minor serpentine and chlorite; (B) the hornblendite sample (09XD-10) showing cumulate hornblende (Hbl) and recrystallized textured coarse Hbls, and heterogeneous distribution of plagioclase; (C) the Hbl gabbro sample (09XDTC1-22) exhibiting fine-grained texture with mineral assemblage of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, Hbl, magnetite, and ilmenite.



Figure 5. Back-scattered images of rocks from the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex. (A) Dunite 09XDTC1-28 showing fine-grained olivine, long prismatic clinopyroxene, spinel rimmed by chromite; (B) Hbl clinopyroxenite 09XDTC1-39 displaying altered clinopyroxene, primary hornblende (Hbl), granular magnetite, and dolomite vein; (C) Hbl gabbro 09XDTC1-12 showing the relationship between magnetite and ilmenite; (D) Hbl gabbro 09XDTC1-12 displaying detailed intergrowth of magnetite and ilmenite.

altered to actinolite or tremolite and contain ilmenite lamellae. The modal abundance of magnetite and ilmenite in the Hbl gabbros can reach up to 15%, which is relatively higher than that in other rock types (Figure 4C). The magnetites, in most cases, display parallel intergrowth with ilmenites and occasionally occur as interstitial grains (Figure 5C and 5D).

# Analytical method

Quantitative mineral compositions were determined by wavelength-dispersive spectrometry using a JEOL JXA8100 electron probe (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan), operating at an accelerating voltage of 15 kV with 12 nA beam current, 5  $\mu$ m beam spot, and 10–30 s counting time. The precisions of all analysed elements are better than 2.0%. Natural minerals and synthetic oxides were used as standards, and a program based on the ZAF procedure was used for data correction. The analyses were done at the State Key Laboratory of Lithospheric Evolution, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Fe<sup>2+</sup>– Fe<sup>3+</sup> redistribution from electron microprobe analyses was carried out using the general equation of Droop (1987) for estimating Fe<sup>3+</sup>. Representative analyses of each of the analysed phases are given in Tables 1–6.

#### **Mineral chemistry**

# Olivine

Olivine grains are only observed in the dunites of the Xiadong complex. They have Forsterite (Fo) ranging from 92.3 to 96.6, MnO from 0.03 to 0.23 wt.% with a range of 0.08–0.18 wt.%, NiO from 0.05 to 0.76 wt.%, and extremely low CaO of <0.04 wt.% (Table 1). The residual olivines in the strongly serpentinized dark green dunites show very similar compositions to those in the fresh light yellow dunites. The olivines in an individual sample are chemically homogeneous. MnO in olivine does not exhibit correlation with Fo number (Figure 6A). However, NiO and Fo show negative correlation (Figure 6B), which is different from their positive correlations in other olivines worldwide (Su *et al.* 2010c).

#### Chromite

Chromites normally occur as Fe-chromite and Crmagnetite and two Al-spinel grains. The chromites have low Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, and MgO contents in the range of 0.00–12.2 wt.%, 0.00–0.67 wt.%, and 0.24– 6.68 wt.%, respectively. On the contrary, there are large Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> variations of 0.30–43.9 wt.% and high FeO contents of 65–96 wt.% (Table 2). The two spinel grains

 Table 1.
 Olivine compositions of the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex.

Sample	Rock type	No.	$\operatorname{SiO}_2$	TiO <sub>2</sub>	$Al_2O_3$	$Cr_2O_3$	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	NiO	Total	Fo
09XD-1	Dunite	6	41.8	0.03	0.00	0.00	4.85	0.16	53.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.27	100.5	95.2
09XDTC1-5	Dunite	4	41.2	0.00	0.00	0.05	5.67	0.11	51.8	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.51	99.4	94.3
09XDTC1-11	Dunite	5	41.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.28	0.09	50.9	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.47	100.4	92.6
09XDTC1-14	Dunite	5	41.9	0.03	0.00	0.01	6.36	0.10	51.3	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.76	100.4	93.6
09XDTC1-15	Dunite	5	39.9	0.02	0.00	0.06	5.60	0.07	53.0	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.35	99.0	94.5
09XDTC1-16	Dunite	5	41.0	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.98	0.14	53.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	99.7	95.1
09XDTC1-19	Dunite	5	41.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.92	0.16	51.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	100.3	93.0
09XDTC1-23	Dunite	5	42.0	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.45	0.14	51.6	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.41	100.7	93.5
09XDTC1-24	Dunite	5	42.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	3.64	0.08	53.6	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.29	99.8	96.4
09XDTC1-25	Dunite	4	42.4	0.05	0.00	0.00	3.59	0.14	54.1	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.32	100.7	96.4
09XDTC1-28	Dunite	5	42.4	0.01	0.00	0.00	4.36	0.12	53.5	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.48	100.9	95.7
09XDTC1-29	Dunite	5	42.2	0.00	0.00	0.04	4.04	0.14	53.2	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.44	100.1	96.0
09XDTC1-30	Dunite	5	42.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.62	0.11	54.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	100.7	96.4
09XDTC1-31	Dunite	5	42.1	0.02	0.00	0.02	5.75	0.17	52.2	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.11	100.4	94.2
09XDTC1-32	Dunite	5	42.0	0.00	0.01	0.00	3.55	0.11	53.9	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.23	99.9	96.5
09XDTC1-35	Dunite	4	42.1	0.00	0.00	0.09	5.00	0.19	53.1	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.36	100.8	95.0
09XDTC1-36	Dunite	5	42.3	0.06	0.00	0.00	4.15	0.19	53.9	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.32	100.9	95.9
09XDTC1-47	Dunite	5	41.8	0.03	0.00	0.01	6.99	0.12	51.6	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.42	100.9	93.0

Note: Fo =  $100 \times Mg/(Mg + Fe)$ .

have identical compositions in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (~55.0 wt.%), Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (~10.5 wt.%), FeO (~11.5 wt.%), and MgO (~12 wt.%). Most chromites have very low Mg# [100 × Mg/(Mg + Fe)] values of <10 and very high Cr# [100 × Cr/(Cr + Al)] values between 95 and 100. Several zoned chromites show relative enrichment of Al and Cr and depletion of Fe. The compositions of chromites are independent of their host rock types. In the ternary diagram of Fe<sup>3+</sup>–Cr–Al, these chromites display an apparent Fe-enrichment trend (Figure 7A). Due to the extremely low Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents, the chromites plot near the islandarc field and far away from the mid-ocean ridge basalt and Ocean island basalt fields in the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> versus TiO<sub>2</sub> diagram (Figure 7B).

#### Pyroxene

A very limited number of primary clinopyroxenes are present in the studied samples. Only one orthopyroxene grain is observed in the light yellow dunite sample (09XDTC1-14). The compositions of clinopyroxenes are all CaO-rich (24.6-25.7 wt.% except one grain of 20.1 wt.% in the sample 09XDTC1-40) and are subordinate to diopside (Table 3). Clinopyroxenes in the Hbl gabbros have variable amounts of SiO<sub>2</sub> (51.3–55.7 wt.%); low contents in TiO<sub>2</sub> (0.00–0.16 wt.%), Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0.49–2.98 wt.%), FeO (0.51-1.29 wt.%), and Na<sub>2</sub>O (0.03-0.33 wt.%); and extremely high Mg# (95.8-98.4). Clinopyroxenes in two Hbl clinopyroxenite samples show relatively low SiO<sub>2</sub> (50.6 wt.%, 50.5 wt.%) and Mg# (88.9, 84.5) and high TiO<sub>2</sub> (0.28 wt.%, 1.22 wt.%), Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (2.97 wt.%, 6.42 wt.%), and FeO (3.45 wt.%, 4.71 wt.%) (Table 3). These chemical characteristics of Ca enrichment and low Al, Ti, and Na are typical for clinopyroxenes from Alaskan-type complexes

(Snoke *et al.* 1981; Helmy and El Mahallawi 2003). Consequently, the Xiadong clinopyroxenes plot in the Alaskan-type Quetico complex fields in the diagrams of  $Al_2O_3$  versus SiO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> versus Alz ( $Al^{IV} \times 100/2$ ) (Figure 8A and 8B).

The orthopyroxene in the dunite is enstatite with Mg# of 94.2 and has high contents of SiO<sub>2</sub> (58.6 wt.%) and MgO (36.8 wt.%) and low Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0.30 wt.%), FeO (4.05 wt.%), and CaO (0.05 wt.%) (Table 3).

# Hornblende

Hbls in the dunites inherit precursory compositions of clinopyroxenes and occur as pargasite, magnesio-Hbl, and tremolite (Figure 9A), displaying wide compositional variations in SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, FeO, and Na<sub>2</sub>O (Table 4). The primary Hbls in the hornblendites are mainly pargasites and the secondary ones are magnesio-Hbls and tremolites (Figure 9A). The Hbls have slightly high contents of TiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, FeO, and Na<sub>2</sub>O and low contents of SiO<sub>2</sub> and MgO (Table 4). Hbls in the Hbl clinopyroxenites are generally rich in MgO and poor in alkaline components (Na + K < 0.3; Figure 9B) and are classified as magnesio-Hbl and tremolite. The primary Hbls in the Hbl gabbros are mainly magnesio-Hbls with relatively homogeneous compositions, whereas the secondary ones formed after clinopyroxenes are rich in MgO and poor in Na<sub>2</sub>O. The Hbls in one gabbroic diorite (09XDTC1-7) are mainly actinolites with homogeneous compositions (Table 4; Figure 9A). All the Hbls in the Xiadong complex exhibit negative correlations between Si and Na + K, consistent with the variations observed in typical Alaskan-type complexes (Figure 9B).

Sample	Rock type	Mineral	No.	$SiO_2$	$TiO_2$	$Al_2O_3$	$Cr_2O_3$	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	$K_2O$	NiO	Total	Cr#	Mg#
09XD-1	Dunite	Chr	40	0.01	0.22	0.04	14.1	80.7	0.57	2.25	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.81	98.7	9.66 	4.73
09XDTC1-3	Dunite	Chr core Chr rim	- 17	0.11	0.08	7.74 0.20	43.9 36.7	42.9 58.7	0.76	2.78 1 41	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.14	98.5 98.7	79.2 08.8	10.4
09XDTC1-5	Dunite	Chr Chr	- m	0.02	0.24	0.09	22.9	70.9 70.9	0.89	2.75	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.72	98.5 98.5	9.0.0 99.4	6.46
09XDTC1-6	Hbl Cpxt	Chr	1	0.02	0.00	0.14	6.70	89.3	0.42	0.98	0.02	0.00	0.01	1.11	98.7	97.1	1.92
09XDTC1-11	Dunite	Chr core	7	0.01	0.67	0.15	20.9	75.3	0.76	1.07	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.62	99.5	98.9	2.46
		Chr rim	7	0.05	0.26	0.00	9.48	86.9	0.30	0.61	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.67	98.3	100.0	1.23
09XDTC1-14	Dunite	Chr	4	0.03	0.15	0.64	15.4	80.8	0.35	1.11	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.73	99.3	94.1	2.39
09XDTC1-15	Dunite	Chr	4	0.03	0.14	0.33	12.6	84.3	0.41	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	100.4	96.3	4.23
09XDTC1-16	Dunite	Chr	5	0.01	0.09	0.00	9.97	87.1	0.25	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.68	99.1	100.0	2.01
09XDTC1-19	Dunite	Chr	б	0.01	0.46	1.74	22.5	69.6	1.18	2.47	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.45	98.5	89.7	5.96
09XDTC1-20	Dunite	Chr	n	0.02	0.11	0.30	24.9	71.9	0.79	0.72	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.35	99.1	98.3	1.76
09XDTC1-23	Dunite	Chr	m	0.04	0.29	0.89	16.3	79.1	0.54	0.82	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.71	98.7	92.5	1.82
09XDTC1-24	Dunite	Chr	б	0.01	0.00	0.38	10.8	83.9	0.39	2.48	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.66	95.0	5.00
09XDTC1-25	Dunite	Chr	m	0.02	0.05	0.08	4.92	90.5	0.22	2.27	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.96	99.1	97.6	4.27
09XDTC1-28	Dunite	$_{\rm Sp}$	0	0.03	0.00	54.9	10.6	11.4	0.14	19.8	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.49	97.4	11.4	75.6
		Chr	m	0.01	0.27	0.14	12.5	83.0	0.48	1.56	0.01	0.00	0.01	1.02	99.0	98.4	3.24
09XDTC1-29	Dunite	Chr	4	0.00	0.12	0.04	7.54	88.1	0.26	1.31	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.86	98.3	99.1	2.58
09XDTC1-30	Dunite	Chr	б	0.00	0.16	1.62	28.2	64.9	1.01	2.78	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.57	99.3	92.1	7.09
09XDTC1-32	Dunite	Chr	б	0.01	0.16	1.08	20.1	74.0	0.65	3.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	100.1	92.6	7.73
09XDTC1-35	Dunite	Chr	б	0.06	0.14	0.05	1.38	96.2	0.05	0.49	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.37	98.8	95.1	0.89
09XDTC1-36	Dunite	Chr	б	0.02	0.18	0.03	14.6	80.6	0.52	2.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	98.7	7.66	4.25
09XDTC1-37	Hblt	Chr	7	0.01	0.40	0.08	13.9	81.5	0.46	0.82	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.57	97.8	99.2	1.76
09XDTC1-40	Hbl Cpxt	Chr	-	0.00	0.07	0.26	10.8	85.4	0.31	0.2	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.10	97.2	96.5	0.50
09XDTC1-47	Dunite	Chr	9	0.02	0.19	7.67	37.0	48.4	0.96	4.81	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.23	99.3	76.4	15.0
XDE-4	Hbl Gbr	Chr	0	2.43	0.00	11.2	51.9	23.9	2.54	4.43	0.35	0.05	0.35	0.00	97.2	75.7	24.8
Notes: Chr, chron	nite; Cpxt, clinc	pyroxenite; Gb	rr, gabbr	o; Hbl, hoi	mblende; F	Hblt, hornblu	endite; Sp. :	spinel. Cr‡	$# = 100 \times 0$	Cr/(Cr + 1)	AI).						

Table 2. Chromite compositions of the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex.

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Sample	Rock type	Mineral	$SiO_2$	TiO <sub>2</sub>	$Al_2O_3$	$Cr_2O_3$	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	$Na_2O$	$\mathrm{K}_{2}\mathrm{O}$	NiO	Total	Mg#	$\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{S}}$	Wo	En
09XD-12 09XDTC1-27	Hbl Cpxt Hbl Gbr	Cpx Cpx	50.6 55.7	$0.28 \\ 0.05$	2.97 0.49	$0.05 \\ 0.00$	3.45 0.68	$0.10 \\ 0.23$	15.4 17.8	24.7 25.2	$0.05 \\ 0.16$	0.00 0.00	$0.03 \\ 0.05$	97.6 100.3	88.9 97.9	5.49 1.04	50.4 49.8	44.1 49.1
		Cpx	55.2	0.13	1.23	0.01	0.68	0.16	17.8	25.4	0.06	0.00	0.04	100.7	97.9	1.04	50.0	48.9
		Cpx	55.8	0.05	0.67	0.08	0.51	0.15	18.0	25.5	0.06	0.02	0.06	100.9	98.4	0.78	50.0	49.3
		Cpx	54.8	0.16	1.13	0.00	0.70	0.10	17.6	25.7	0.07	0.00	0.09	100.4	97.9	1.06	50.4	48.5
09XDTC1-40	Hbl Cpxt	Cpx	50.5	1.22	6.42	0.47	4.71	0.16	14.3	20.1	1.22	0.01	0.00	99.1	84.5	8.38	46.0	45.7
XDE-2	Hbl Gbr	Cpx	52.9	0.00	1.16	0.29	1.19	0.08	17.4	25.0	0.07	0.02	0.00	98.1	96.3	1.84	49.7	48.4
		Cpx	51.7	0.00	2.39	0.71	1.29	0.04	16.6	25.0	0.12	0.00	0.00	97.8	95.8	2.04	50.8	47.1
		Cpx	52.4	0.06	0.89	0.42	1.08	0.07	17.5	25.0	0.20	0.00	0.00	97.6	96.7	1.67	49.6	48.7
		Cpx	52.3	0.00	0.55	0.51	1.10	0.08	17.2	25.1	0.33	0.00	0.01	97.2	9.96	1.71	50.2	48.1
XDE-3	Hbl Gbr	Cpx	51.9	0.00	1.61	0.48	0.99	0.05	17.5	25.4	0.06	0.01	0.00	98.0	96.9	1.52	50.2	48.3
		Cpx	52.4	0.03	0.90	0.07	0.89	0.03	17.6	25.3	0.06	0.01	0.01	97.3	97.3	1.37	50.0	48.6
		Cpx	53.9	0.07	0.77	0.08	0.92	0.02	18.0	25.6	0.03	0.02	0.03	99.4	97.3	1.38	49.6	49.0
		Cpx	52.9	0.00	0.80	0.06	0.93	0.02	17.8	25.5	0.03	0.01	0.07	98.2	97.2	1.41	49.8	48.8
XDE-4	Hbl Gbr	Cpx	51.3	0.00	2.98	0.95	1.14	0.06	16.6	25.3	0.11	0.00	0.02	98.5	96.3	1.80	51.1	47.1
		Cpx	52.4	0.00	2.75	0.84	1.10	0.06	16.8	24.6	0.17	0.01	0.13	98.9	96.5	1.74	50.3	48.0
		Cpx	53.0	0.03	0.76	0.00	0.93	0.03	17.8	25.3	0.05	0.00	0.04	97.8	97.2	1.42	49.7	48.9
		Cpx	53.2	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.97	0.02	17.4	25.2	0.10	0.00	0.07	7.76	97.0	1.50	50.0	48.5
XDE-5	Hbl Gbr	Cpx	53.5	0.03	1.38	0.06	1.03	0.07	17.3	25.2	0.03	0.01	0.00	98.6	96.8	1.60	50.2	48.2
		Cpx	53.1	0.01	1.21	0.11	1.00	0.11	17.3	25.4	0.06	0.04	0.05	98.4	96.9	1.55	50.3	48.1
		Cpx	52.1	0.05	2.27	0.21	1.11	0.05	16.8	25.2	0.04	0.00	0.00	97.9	96.5	1.74	50.8	47.4
09XDTC1-14	Dunite	Opx	58.6	0.01	0.30	0.10	4.05	0.07	36.8	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.22	100.2	94.2	5.76	0.1	94.1
Notes: Cpx, clino	pyroxene; Cpxt,	clinopyroxer	nite; Gbr,	gabbro; Hl	ol, hornblen	de; Opx, oi	thopyrox	ene. Mg#	= 100×N	[g/(Mg +	Fe); Fs = 1	$100 \times \text{Fe}/$	(Mg + F	a + Ca); V	Vo = 100	× Ca/(M	g + Fe +	Ca);

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Table 3.

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Sample	X60	D-1	09XD-7	09XD-10	09XD-12	09XD-13 0	9XDTC2-1	XDZK1601-20	LOX60	C1-4		09XDTC1-6	09XD7	rc1-7	09XDTC1-8	09XDTC1-9
Rock type Mineral No.	Dunite Amph 2	- 1	Hblt Amph 2	Hblt Amph 2	Hbl Gbr Act 2	Hblt Amph 5	Hblt Amph 2	Hbl Gbr Amph 2	Hbl Gbr Amph 1	Act 2	- 4	Hbl Cpxt Act 5	Gbr Dio Act 4	Amph 2	Hbl Gbr Amph 5	Hblt Amph 4
$SiO_2$	47.4	57.4	42.1	44.5	52.3	48.3	47.2	42.4	48.9	52.4	58.9	51.4	54.6	47.6	47.5	41.6
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.11	0.00	0.82	0.53	0.09	0.01	0.23	1.30	0.07	0.11	0.04	0.00	0.19	0.30	0.59	0.85
$Al_2\tilde{O}_3$	9.62	0.60	14.5	11.6	3.59	9.64	11.0	10.7	8.49	5.85	0.03	7.68	2.59	8.97	8.51	13.1
$Cr_2O_3$	0.64	0.09	0.23	0.04	0.11	0.02	0.22	0.00	0.86	0.29	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.00
FeO	3.56	0.76	10.9	16.1	6.31	3.69	4.84	18.0	3.94	3.38	0.96	3.50	9.95	12.2	13.4	15.8
MnO	0.09	0.09	0.26	0.25	0.14	0.07	0.09	0.44	0.08	0.07	0.14	0.05	0.24	0.16	0.28	0.25
MgO	19.4	24.7	13.3	11.5	19.0	18.7	17.7	10.3	20.0	21.0	23.9	19.8	17.2	14.1	13.4	10.3
CaO	12.2	12.3	12.2	10.5	12.5	12.3	13.0	11.5	12.0	12.0	13.2	13.1	11.9	11.8	11.6	11.7
$Na_2O$	2.37	0.04	2.38	2.00	0.36	1.51	1.48	1.32	2.04	1.34	0.01	1.31	0.60	1.73	1.14	1.84
$K_2 \bar{O}$	0.08	0.00	0.93	0.24	0.04	0.13	0.15	1.23	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.24	0.25	1.19
NiO	0.11	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.13	0.15	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	95.6	96.0	97.6	97.3	94.5	94.4	96.0	97.1	96.6	96.7	97.3	97.0	97.4	97.2	96.6	96.6
Oxygen	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Si	6.748	7.796	6.142	6.471	7.522	6.918	6.745	6.361	6.848	7.259	8.016	7.182	7.719	6.888	6.906	6.258
Ti	0.011	0.000	0.090	0.058	0.010	0.001	0.024	0.147	0.008	0.011	0.004	0.000	0.020	0.032	0.064	0.096
Al	1.613	0.096	2.490	1.989	0.609	1.628	1.854	1.884	1.402	0.955	0.005	1.266	0.431	1.530	1.458	2.321
Cr	0.072	0.010	0.027	0.004	0.013	0.003	0.025	0.000	0.096	0.031	0.000	0.008	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.000
$Fe^{3+}$	0.385	0.686	0.355	1.073	0.352	0.292	0.170	0.800	0.592	0.496	0.099	0.056	0.286	0.430	0.628	0.432
$Fe^{2+}$	0.039	0.599	0.976	0.883	0.406	0.150	0.408	1.451	0.130	0.104	0.010	0.353	0.891	1.044	1.000	1.552
Mn	0.011	0.011	0.032	0.031	0.017	0.008	0.010	0.056	0.009	0.008	0.016	0.006	0.028	0.019	0.034	0.031
Mg	4.120	5.002	2.888	2.490	4.071	4.000	3.763	2.301	4.176	4.343	4.850	4.129	3.622	3.052	2.907	2.310
Ca	1.859	1.792	1.909	1.633	1.920	1.891	1.986	1.839	1.799	1.786	1.926	1.967	1.810	1.833	1.802	1.888
Na	0.653	0.011	0.674	0.562	0.101	0.418	0.408	0.383	0.553	0.360	0.003	0.354	0.165	0.486	0.322	0.535
K	0.015	0.000	0.173	0.044	0.007	0.024	0.027	0.236	0.018	0.010	0.002	0.011	0.015	0.044	0.046	0.228
Ni	0.013	0.011	0.000	0.001	0.008	0.007	0.002	0.002	0.015	0.017	0.000	0.004	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	15.54	14.81	15.76	15.24	15.04	15.34	15.42	15.46	15.38	15.17	14.93	15.34	14.99	15.36	15.17	15.65
Mg#	99.1	89.3	74.7	73.8	90.9	96.4	90.2	61.3	97.0	97.7	8.66	92.1	80.3	74.5	74.4	59.8
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Table 4. Hbl compositions of the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex.

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Table 4. (continued).

Sample	LOX60	fC1-10	09XDTC1-12	09XDTC1-13	09XDTC1-19	09XDTC1-21	LOX60	C1-22	09XDTC1-24	09XDTC1-25	09XDTC1-28	09XDTC1-31	09XDTC1-32
Rock type	Hbl Cpxt		Hbl Gbr	Hblt	Dunite	Hblt	Hbl Gbr		Dunite	Dunite	Dunite	Dunite	Dunite
Mineral	Act	Tr	Amph	Amph	Amph	Amph	Amph	Act	$\mathrm{Tr}$	Tr	Amph	Act	Act
No.	4	2	4	4	3	5	4	4	9	4	3	5	1
SiO <sub>2</sub>	53.5	58.6	46.0	45.0	45.5	41.3	47.0	55.3	57.7	56.6	48.2	54.7	54.2
$TiO_2$	0.19	0.00	1.20	0.82	0.32	1.19	0.98	0.14	0.00	0.04	0.17	0.02	0.12
$Al_2O_3$	4.68	0.34	9.04	11.3	11.5	14.1	8.51	1.42	2.18	2.78	10.1	4.16	4.47
$Cr_2O_3$	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.42	0.04	0.05	0.00	0.11	0.06	0.61	0.00	0.09
FeO	3.43	1.63	14.8	11.9	4.80	13.3	13.2	9.20	1.64	1.91	4.01	2.55	2.48
MnO	0.11	0.17	0.44	0.33	0.08	0.32	0.31	0.29	0.09	0.06	0.03	0.08	0.05
MgO	21.5	23.5	12.0	13.9	18.9	12.0	13.4	17.7	23.1	22.9	19.5	22.2	22.0
CaO	12.0	12.7	11.3	11.1	11.7	11.9	11.4	12.5	12.8	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4
$Na_2O$	1.21	0.10	1.83	2.26	2.67	2.42	1.51	0.21	0.35	0.38	1.74	0.87	0.76
$K_2O$	0.05	0.00	0.35	0.20	0.14	0.66	0.24	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.07
NiO	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.12	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.16	0.05	0.02
Total	96.8	97.0	96.9	96.8	96.1	97.3	96.7	96.8	98.0	97.4	97.2	97.1	96.7
Oxygen	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Si	7.383	7.981	6.783	6.509	6.436	6.095	6.856	7.865	7.799	7.685	6.727	7.489	7.446
Ti	0.020	0.000	0.133	0.089	0.034	0.132	0.108	0.015	0.000	0.004	0.018	0.002	0.013
AI	0.761	0.055	1.570	1.922	1.914	2.446	1.463	0.238	0.348	0.446	1.666	0.671	0.725
Cr	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.003	0.047	0.004	0.005	0.000	0.012	0.006	0.067	0.000	0.010
$Fe^{3+}$	0.540	0.258	0.448	0.773	0.766	0.514	0.558	0.130	0.215	0.377	0.508	0.476	0.471
$Fe^{2+}$	0.145	0.072	1.375	0.672	0.197	1.127	1.056	0.965	0.030	0.159	0.040	0.184	0.186
Mn	0.013	0.020	0.055	0.040	0.010	0.040	0.038	0.035	0.011	0.007	0.003	0.009	0.006
Mg	4.427	4.759	2.631	2.993	3.991	2.641	2.916	3.753	4.646	4.634	4.051	4.536	4.516
Ca	1.778	1.846	1.778	1.715	1.774	1.876	1.788	1.905	1.858	1.837	1.868	1.811	1.830
Na	0.324	0.027	0.523	0.634	0.733	0.691	0.426	0.058	0.091	0.101	0.471	0.232	0.203
K	0.008	0.000	0.065	0.036	0.024	0.125	0.044	0.005	0.008	0.000	0.025	0.006	0.011
Ni	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.004	0.014	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.009	0.018	0.005	0.002
Total	15.11	14.88	15.37	15.39	15.55	15.70	15.26	14.97	14.96	14.95	15.38	15.05	15.05
Mg#	96.8	98.5	65.7	81.7	95.3	70.1	73.4	79.5	99.4	96.7	0.66	96.1	96.1

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Sample	09XDTC1-37	09XDT(	C1-39	09XDTC1-40	09XDTC1-42	XDE-1	XDE-2		XDE-3	XDE-4	XDE-5	XDE-5
Rock type Mineral No.	Hblt Act 5	Hbl Cpxt Amph 6	Tr 2	Hbl Cpxt Tr 2	Hblt Amph 1	Hbl Gbr Amph 3	Hbl Gbr Amph 1	Act 3	Hbl Gbr Amph 5	Hbl Gbr Amph 5	Hbl Gbr Amph 3	Hbl Gbr Act 1
SiOs	53.3	48.4	56.8	57.5	46.5	47.9	44 4	53.9	46.7	50.7	47.7	52.5
TiO,	0.05	0.23	0.06	0.03	0.45	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.04
$Al_2\tilde{O}_3$	2.46	8.36	0.03	0.11	9.33	8.09	13.9	2.42	11.5	7.18	10.5	3.91
$Cr_2O_3$	0.01	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.37	1.95	0.70	0.56	1.04	1.08	0.03
FeO	9.21	3.91	0.82	1.22	12.8	3.78	2.87	1.46	2.09	1.89	2.19	1.67
MnO	0.18	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.24	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.08
MgO	17.6	19.8	24.1	23.4	13.7	19.5	17.3	22.3	19.1	20.6	19.5	22.1
CaO	12.4	13.3	13.2	13.1	12.3	12.6	13.1	13.5	13.0	13.2	12.8	13.1
$Na_2O$	0.62	0.62	0.05	0.07	1.01	1.24	2.08	0.19	1.69	1.09	1.56	0.46
$K_2O$	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.10	0.21	0.03	0.32	0.12	0.23	0.13
NiO	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.14	0.07	0.00	0.08	0.06	0.06
Total	95.9	94.9	95.2	95.5	96.8	93.7	96.0	94.6	95.1	96.0	95.8	94.0
Oxygen	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
Si	7.667	6.881	7.899	7.987	6.776	6.915	6.378	7.632	6.680	7.135	6.741	7.456
Ti	0.006	0.024	0.006	0.004	0.049	0.003	0.000	0.003	0.002	0.007	0.002	0.004
Al	0.416	1.403	0.005	0.018	1.602	1.376	2.351	0.404	1.929	1.191	1.751	0.654
Cr	0.001	0.015	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.221	0.078	0.063	0.116	0.121	0.004
$Fe^{3+}$	0.234	0.531	0.220	0.090	0.559	0.484	0.000	0.083	0.125	0.101	0.270	0.270
$Fe^{2+}$	0.873	0.066	0.124	0.051	1.006	0.027	0.344	0.090	0.125	0.122	0.011	0.072
Mn	0.022	0.005	0.010	0.010	0.030	0.011	0.008	0.006	0.007	0.009	0.008	0.009
Mg	3.780	4.208	4.982	4.841	2.980	4.196	3.698	4.704	4.070	4.319	4.118	4.675
Ca	1.911	2.024	1.967	1.946	1.925	1.943	2.011	2.046	1.996	1.985	1.945	1.996
Na	0.174	0.172	0.013	0.018	0.284	0.347	0.579	0.051	0.467	0.298	0.426	0.125
K	0.005	0.011	0.001	0.001	0.056	0.018	0.039	0.005	0.059	0.022	0.041	0.023
Ni	0.000	0.005	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.016	0.008	0.000	0.009	0.007	0.006
Total	15.09	15.21	14.99	14.96	15.27	15.31	15.65	15.11	15.52	15.31	15.42	15.15
Mg#	81.2	98.5	97.6	0.66	74.8	99.4	91.5	98.1	97.0	97.3	99.7	98.5
Note: Act, actir	iolite; Amph, amphi	bole; Cpxt, clir	nopyroxenite	s; Dio, diorite; Gbr, g	gabbro; Hbl, hornble	nde; Hblt, horr	nblendite; Gbr	, gabbro; Tr, t	remolite.			

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Sample	Rock type	Mineral	SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	NiO	Total
09XDTC1-7	Gbr Dio	Tita	30.8	38.2	0.85	0.03	0.76	0.01	0.04	27.8	0.00	0.02	0.00	98.5
09XDTC1-8	Hbl Gbr	Ilme	0.00	52.0	0.00	0.02	42.9	3.86	0.10	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.00	98.9
		Tita	31.0	39.2	0.57	0.04	0.39	0.04	0.02	28.1	0.01	0.00	0.00	99.4
09XDTC1-12	Hbl Gbr	Ilme	0.03	51.3	0.00	0.02	43.1	4.36	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	99.0
		Ilme	0.02	49.0	0.02	0.05	45.9	2.67	0.41	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.02	98.1
09XDTC1-13	Hblt	Ilme	0.02	50.8	0.00	0.04	41.9	6.20	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.00	99.1
		Tita	30.8	39.2	0.64	0.01	0.35	0.06	0.00	28.3	0.00	0.00	0.04	99.3
09XDTC1-21	Hblt	Ilme	0.03	49.7	0.01	0.02	41.3	7.47	0.15	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.03	98.8
		Tita	30.8	37.3	1.59	0.00	0.83	0.06	0.00	28.4	0.02	0.00	0.00	99.0
09XDTC1-22	Hbl Gbr	Ilme	0.03	49.4	0.01	0.00	45.9	2.88	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.00	98.4
		Ilme	0.00	49.7	0.00	0.05	47.3	1.68	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	98.8

Table 6. Ilmenite and titanite compositions of the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex.

Note: Dio, diorite; Gbr, gabbro; Hbl, hornblende; Hblt, hornblendite; Ilme, ilmenite; Tita, titanite.



Figure 6. Plots of (A) Fo versus MnO and (B) Fo versus NiO contents of olivines in the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex.



Figure 7. Plots of chromite compositions in the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex. (A)  $Fe^{3+}$ –Cr–Al diagram demonstrating Feenrichment trend; (B) Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> versus TiO<sub>2</sub> diagram showing the close relationship between the Xiadong chromites and the island-arc field. Alaskan-type field after Alaska complex (Himmelberg *et al.* 1986; Himmelberg and Loney 1995); Ocean island basalt (OIB), mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB), and island-arc fields after Kamenetsky *et al.* (2001).

# Plagioclase

Plagioclases are completely absent in the dunites and Hbl clinopyroxenites, and those present in some hornblendites and Hbl gabbros are strongly affected by alteration, changing to mostly zoisites. These zoisites have apparent Ca enrichment and Si–Al–Na depletion. Some relics of

primary plagioclases have anorthite (An) numbers between 9.72 and 30.9 (Table 5).

#### Ilmenite and titanite

Ilmenites are commonly present in hornblendites and Hbl gabbros and have  $TiO_2$  in the range of 49.0–52.0 wt.%,



Figure 8. Plots of clinopyroxene compositions in the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex. (A)  $Al_2O_3$  versus  $SiO_2$  and (B)  $TiO_2$  versus Alz in clinopyroxene. The fields of the Alaskan-type complexes are from Quetico, Pettigrew and Hattori (2006); Tulameen, Rublee (1994); and Gabbro Akarem, Helmy and El Mahallawi (2003). Non-alkaline and alkaline boundary is after Le Bas (1962) and Alz refers to the percentage of Al in the tetrahedral sites  $(100 \times Al^{IV})/2$ . The arc cumulate, ophiolite, and Mid-Atlantic Ridge trends are after Loucks (1990).



Figure 9. Plots of hornblende (Hbl) compositions in the Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex. (A) Hbl classification after Leake *et al.* (1997); (B) Si versus Na + K contents in Hbl. The fields of the Alaskan-type complexes are from Quetico, Pettigrew and Hattori (2006); Tulameen, Rublee (1994); and Gabbro Akarem, Helmy and El Mahallawi (2003). Arc cumulates field is defined by Beard and Barker (1989).

FeO of 41.3–47.3 wt.%, and MnO of 1.68–7.47 wt.%. All the analysed titanites show homogeneous compositions (Table 6).

# Discussion

# Comparisons to regional mafic-ultramafic complexes

Abundant mafic–ultramafic complexes are distributed in the Jueluotage Belt, MTM, and Beishan Rift (Figure 1B). These complexes from the three belts have apparently different features. The Jueluotage and MTM complexes are generally composed of clinopyroxene/Hbl peridotite, olivine clinopyroxenite, clinopyroxenite, gabbro, norite, and diorite. These rocks often exhibit poikilitic and gabbroic textures. Orthopyroxene, plagioclase, and mica are common minerals, but magnetite is minor or absent in these complexes. Fo contents of olivines range from 78 to 86. Clinopyroxenes are classified as diopside and augite. Spinels are mainly Al-rich types and no chromite is observed. Most of the complexes host magmatic Ni–Cu sulphide deposits (Qin *et al.* 2003, 2007; Zhou *et al.* 2004; Chai *et al.* 2006, 2008; Mao *et al.* 2008; Pirajno *et al.* 2008; Liu *et al.* 2010; Xiao *et al.* 2010).

The rock types of the Beishan complexes are mainly dunite, clinopyroxene peridotite, troctolite, gabbro, and diorite. Plagioclase is present in all rock units, but orthopyroxene and hydrous minerals such as Hbl and mica are completely absent. Very rare magnetite is observed. Poikilitic (orthocumulated) and gabbroic textures are also well developed in the ultramafic and mafic rocks, respectively. Olivines have Fo contents in the range of 76–90. Clinopyroxenes are diopsidic and augitic and spinels range from Al-spinel to Cr-spinel. Significant amounts of disseminated Ni–Cu sulphides have also been observed in these complexes (Jiang *et al.* 2006; Su *et al.* 2009, 2010a, 2010b; Ao *et al.* 2010).

These regional mafic–ultramafic complexes have widely been interpreted as evolving from high-Mg tholeiitic magmas from the lithospheric mantle in the postorogenic extension tectonic setting and/or mantle plume (Zhou *et al.* 2004; Han *et al.* 2006; Jiang *et al.* 2006; Wang *et al.* 2006; Chai *et al.* 2008; Mao *et al.* 2008; Pirajno *et al.* 2008; Zhang *et al.* 2008; Su *et al.* 2009, 2010a, 2010b; Sun 2009). The Xiadong complex, on the contrary, is distinctly different in petrology, mineralogy, and mineral chemistry from other regional complexes, suggesting that the petrogenesis and tectonic environment for the evolution of the Xiadong complex is different from the other two.

# Comparisons to classic Alaskan-type complexes

Typical features of Alaskan-type complexes have been well documented in previous studies (e.g. Taylor 1967; Irvine 1974; Rublee 1994; Himmelberg and Loney 1995; Johan 2002; Helmy and El Mahallawi 2003; Pettigrew and Hattori 2006; Thakurta et al. 2008; Ripley 2009). Morphologically, Alaskan-type complexes have crude concentric zoning in lithologies and, in most cases, are roughly circular or elliptical in shape, pipe-like in cross section, with sizes ranging from 12 to 14 km<sup>2</sup> (Johan 2002). Petrologically, the Alaskan-type complexes are generally composed of dunite, wehrlite, olivine clinopyroxenite, Hbl clinopyroxenite, hornblendite, and Hbl gabbro, but the complete sequence of lithologies is rarely observed (Irvine 1974; Himmelberg and Loney 1995). The ultramafic cumulates tend to show adcumulated textures and lack interstitial minerals crystallized from 'trapped liquid' (Thakurta et al. 2008; Ripley 2009). Mineralogically, abundant clinopyroxenes and primary Hbls occur in Hbl clinopyroxenites and hornblendites. Chromite is commonly concentrated in dunite and often forms stratiform segregations and irregular veins (Irvine 1974; Himmelberg and Loney 1995; Johan 2002; Ripley 2009). Orthopyroxene and plagioclase are rare in the ultramafic rocks, and plagioclase occurs

only in marginal gabbroic rocks (Helmy and El Mahallawi 2003; Pettigrew and Hattori 2006). Magnetite is a common mineral in clinopyroxenite and hornblendite and its modal abundance can range between  $\sim$ 15 and 20% (Taylor 1967; Himmelberg and Loney 1995).

The mineral chemistry of Alaskan-type complexes is characterized by Mg-rich olivine, Ca-rich diopsidic clinopyroxene, high Fe–Cr, and low Al chromite, and calcic Hbls with a wide range in composition (Irvine 1974; Rublee 1994; Helmy and El Mahallawi 2003). Geochemically, all rock types show low abundances of incompatible elements such as Y and rare earth elements, low high-field strength elements, and relatively high largeion lithophile elements (Helmy and El Mahallawi 2003; Pettigrew and Hattori 2006; Ripley 2009).

The Xiadong mafic–ultramafic complex has rock units of dunite, Hbl clinopyroxenite, hornblendite, and Hbl gabbro, together with a mineral assemblage of high-Mg olivine, diopsidic clinopyroxene, chromite, calcic Hbl, magnetite, and other accessory minerals, which are identical to typical Alaskan-type complexes. On the contrary, the regional mafic–ultramafic complexes in the Eastern Tianshan and Beishan Rift can be excluded from the Alaskan-type complexes.

Chromite compositions are important indicators to distinguish an Alaskan-type complex, stratiform complex, Alpine-type complex, and ophiolite. Relative to Alaskan-type complexes, chromites from both stratiform and Alpine-type complexes have higher Mg#, lower  $Fe^{3+}/(Fe^{3+} + Cr + Al)$  ratios, and slightly lower Cr# (Figure 10A and 10B; Irvine 1967); whereas the chromites from ophiolites show apparently lower  $Fe^{2+}/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$ ratios (Figure 10C; Barnes and Roeder 2001). All chromites from the Xiadong complex overlap with the field defined by the typical Alaskan-type complexes and display similar compositional trends to Alaskan-type complexes (Figure 10A-10C). Furthermore, it is apparent that chromite compositions of the Xiadong complex follow a differentiation (Fe enrichment) trend from an intermediate Cr-Al-rich spinel to Cr-magnetite (Figure 7A). Such trend of increasing Fe<sup>3+</sup> has been reported for spinels from Alaskan-type complexes (Snoke et al. 1981; Nixon et al. 1990) and is not identified with other igneous complexes such as ophiolites or layered intrusions (Barnes and Roeder 2001). Clinopyroxenes and Hbls from the Xiadong complex also have compositional variations similar to some Alaskan-type complexes such as Quetico, Tulameen, and Gabbro Akarem (Figures 8A, 8B, and 9B). Olivines from Alaskan-type complexes worldwide show a Fo range from 66 to 95 (Figure 11). The Xiadong olivines show anomalously high Fo contents in the range of 92-97, partly overlapping the range of those from typical Alaskan-type complexes (Figure 11). All the comparisons are summarized in Table 7.



Figure 10. Chromite compositional comparisons between Xiadong and typical Alaskan-type complexes. (A) Plot of Mg# versus  $Fe^{3+}/(Fe^{3+} + Al + Cr)$  of chromites. The fields in the diagram are from Alaskan-type complexes worldwide, Barnes and Roeder (2001); SE Alaskan-type complexes, stratiform complexes, and Alpine-type complexes, Irvine (1967). (B) Plot of Mg# versus Cr# of chromites. All field sources are the same as in (A). (C) Plot of  $Fe^{2+}/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$  versus Cr# of chromites. The fields of Alaskan-type complexes and ophiolite and alteration trend are after Barnes and Roeder (2001).



Figure 11. Fo content of olivines from the Xiadong mafic– ultramafic complex and typical Alaskan-type complexes (modified after Pettigrew and Hattori 2006). Sources: Turnagain, Clark (1980); Gabbro Akarem, Helmy and Moggesie (2001); Blashke Island, Himmelberg *et al.* (1986); Union Bay, Polaris, and Duke Island, Irvine (1974, 1976), Tulameen, Rublee (1994); Quetico and Samuel Lake, Pettigrew and Hattori (2006).

These similarities suggest that the Xiadong complex is equivalent to an Alaskan-type complex in terms of petrology and mineral chemistry, indicating that they are probably cogenetic, but without any similarity to stratiform, Alpine-type, and ophiolitic complexes.

# Petrogenesis and tectonic significance

A number of hypotheses have been proposed to account for the Alaskan-type complexes. Taylor (1967) suggested that fractional melting in the mantle accounted for Alaskantype complexes. Sha (1995) proposed that the parental magmas of Alaskan-type complexes fractionally crystallized from the mixture between a mantle-derived mafic magma and a crustal felsic magma. Efimov (1998), on the contrary, attributed Alaskan-type complexes to tectonic emplacement of fragments of a pre-existing body. Farahat and Helmy (2006) suggested the formation of Alaskan-type complexes by fractional crystallization from a common hydrous parental magma without significant crustal contamination. Parental magmas of the Xiadong complex most likely contain high Mg contents, evidenced by anomalously high-Fo olivine (Table 1; Figure 6), high-Mg# clinopyroxene (Table 3), and high-Mg Hbl (Table 4; Figure 9A). On the contrary, olivines only occur in the dunite unit, and their compositions do not show fractional correlations but homogeneous MnO contents against varying Fo and negative correlation between NiO and Fo (Table 6). The discontinuity of mineral modal abundances and intrusive contacts with chilled margins (Figures 2, 3B, and 3C) suggests that

	Alaskan-type complexes	Xiadong complexes
Age	Mostly Phanerozoic	Late Carboniferous*
Geological setting	Close to the end of subduction, prior to accretion–collision	Close to the end of subduction, prior to accretion-collision*
Size	Most are small in size ranging from 12 to 40 km <sup>2</sup>	In size of $\sim 2.5 \text{ km}^2$
Morphology and zoning	Crude concentric zoning of lithologies grading from olivine-rich ultramafic cores to mafic rims	Strip shape
Sequence of intrusion	Gabbroic and dioritic rocks intrude late	Gabbroic and dioritic rocks intrude late
Lithology	Dunite, hornblendite, clinopyroxenite, gabbro; minor dioritic and syenitic rocks	Dunite, hornblendite, Hbl clinopyroxenite, Hbl gabbro; minor diorite and no syenite
Textures	Accumulated texture with minor/no trapped liquid	Accumulated texture with minor/no trapped liquid
Mineralogy	Abundant clinopyroxene, primary hornblende, magnetite; lack of orthopyroxene and plagioclase in ultramafic rocks	Abundant clinopyroxene, primary hornblende, magnetite; lack of orthopyroxene and plagioclase in ultramafic rocks
Chromite	Common occurrence of chromite in dunite	Common occurrence of chromite in dunite
Mineral chemistry	High-Mg olivine; diopsidic clinopyroxene; phlogopitic mica; hornblende is calcic with a wide range in composition	High-Mg olivine, diopsidic clinopyroxene; hornblende is calcic with a wide range in composition
Bulk rock geochemistry	Low incompatible elements; relatively high LILE and low HFSE; no Eu anomalies	Relatively high LILE, and low HFSE and REE; no Eu anomalies*
Mineralization	PGE mineralization in olivine-rich cores (dunite) associated with chromite; rare Cu–Ni mineralization	Showing potential PGE mineralization in dunite; no Cu–Ni sulphide mineralization*

Table 7. Comparisons between typical Alaskan-type and Xiadong complexes.

Notes: Hbl, hornblende; HFSE, high field strength element; LILE, large-ion lithophile element; PGE, platinum group element; REE, rare earth element. The features of Alaskan-type complexes are after Taylor (1967), Irvine (1974), Rublee (1994), Johan (2002), Helmy and El Mahallawi (2003), Pettigrew and Hattori (2006), Thakurta *et al.* (2008), and Ripley (2009). Those marked '\*' will be shown elsewhere.

the Xiadong complex was formed by multi-stage emplacement of magma, in the sequence of light yellow dunite, dark green dunite, Hbl clinopyroxenite, hornblendite, and finally Hbl gabbro. In the genesis stage of dunites, Mn, Ni, and Fe are probably preferentially partitioned into chromites as evidenced by the negative correlation of MnO and the positive correlation of NiO in chromites with the Fo contents of olivines (Figure 12). Fe<sup>3+</sup>-enrichment trend in chromites (Figure 7A) and associated ilmenite (Figure 5C and 5D) possibly imply that they were crystallized in a relatively high oxidizing environment. A considerable number of dolomite veins observed in the Xiadong rocks (Figure 5B) indicates that the complex most likely has reacted with its country rocks such as marble during its emplacement.

Alaskan-type complexes are always related to the subduction environment and arc accretion (Taylor 1967; Irvine 1974). For example, the complexes in Alaska intruded the western margin of the North American continent during the closure of the intra-arc basin (Saleeby 1992; Foley *et al.* 1997; Thakurta *et al.* 2008; Ripley 2009); the Ural mafic– ultramafic complexes intruded during the accretion of arc terrane to the continent (Ayarza *et al.* 2000); the Quetico complex formed through the accretion of micro-continents and arcs to the north, through the subduction of intervening oceanic crust (Williams 1991; Valli *et al.* 2004; Farahat and Helmy 2006). In this study, however, the MTM and Jueluotage Belt subduction events took place in Palaeozoic (Han *et al.* 2006; Wang *et al.* 2006; Zhang *et al.* 2008) and the Dananhu–Tousuquan, Xiaorequanzi–Wutongwozi, and Yamansu are recognized to be island-arc basin, intraarc basin, and back-arc basin, respectively (Figure 1B; Qin *et al.* 2002). Thus, the identification of the Xiadong complex as an Alaskan-type intrusion implies that the MTM with Precambrian basement was probably a continental arc during the subduction process. This tectonic framework may indicate that the Palaeozoic Junggar Ocean located to the north of the MTM (Ma *et al.* 1993; Qin *et al.* 2002; Li 2004; Zhang *et al.* 2004, 2008; Han *et al.* 2006; Li *et al.* 2006a, 2006b; Wang *et al.* 2006).

# Conclusion

We have conducted a comprehensive study of the petrology, mineralogy, and mineral chemistry of the Xiadong mafic– ultramafic complex. The complex has identical mineral chemistry, as well as similar petrological and mineralogical characteristics as typical Alaskan-type complexes worldwide. The relationships between the rock units, modal compositions of minerals, and chemical compositional variations indicate that the Xiadong complex was formed by multi-stage emplacement mechanisms, accompanied by reaction with the surrounding country rocks. The discovery and the confirmation of the Xiadong complex as an Alaskan-type complex imply that the MTM with Precambrian basement was most likely a continental arc



Figure 12. Plots of (A) Fo versus MnO and (B) Fo versus NiO of chromites and olivines from the Xiadong mafic-ultramafic complex.

during the subduction of oceanic lithosphere, which further supports the hypothesis of southward underflow of the Palaeozoic Junggar Ocean.

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