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8 **Fluids in the Shallow Mantle of Southeastern Australia:**

9 **Insights from Phase Equilibria**

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## Abstract

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Small amounts of water (10s to 100s of ppm) can have a profound effect on the properties of mantle peridotites, including viscosities, conductivities, and melting temperatures. Measuring the water content of nominally anhydrous minerals (NAMs) has provided insight into the amounts of water contained within mantle rocks. However, converting from NAM water contents to the activity of H<sub>2</sub>O is non-trivial. Equilibria involving amphibole can be used to determine values of the activity of H<sub>2</sub>O ( $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ) at the time of mineral equilibration. This approach yields low values of the activity of H<sub>2</sub>O (< 0.3) for four peridotite xenoliths from Southeastern Australia. These four xenoliths also record values of oxygen fugacity ( $f_{\text{O}_2}$ ) that range from -0.2 to -1.2 (Log units relative to FMQ). All these values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  are inconsistent with the presence of a CH<sub>4</sub>-rich fluid (too oxidizing), and the lowest value of oxygen fugacity, as recorded by one sample, is inconsistent with the presence of a CO<sub>2</sub>-rich fluid.

Keywords: mantle fluids, amphibole, peridotite, nominally anhydrous minerals, H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>

## Introduction

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58  
59 The earth's mantle is a significant reservoir of carbon and hydrogen and, therefore, it likely  
60 plays an important role in whole-earth cycling of fluid species such as CO<sub>2</sub> (Black and Gibson,  
61 2019; Dasgupta and Hirschmann, 2010; Hazen and Schiffries, 2013; Howell et al., 2020; Kelemen  
62 and Manning, 2015) and H<sub>2</sub>O (Karlsen et al., 2019; Korenaga et al., 2017; Peslier et al., 2017). A  
63 fluid, as defined herein, is a volatile-rich phase likely dominated by C-, O-, and/or H-bearing  
64 components. At the pressures (P), temperatures (T) and oxygen fugacities typical of the earth's  
65 uppermost mantle the dominant hydrogen-bearing component of a lithostatically pressured C-O-  
66 H fluid phase, if a separate fluid phase is present, would be H<sub>2</sub>O or, for relatively reducing  
67 conditions, CH<sub>4</sub> (Kang et al., 2017; Wood et al., 1990). However, H<sub>2</sub>O reduces the melting  
68 temperature of peridotite and, therefore, rather than an H<sub>2</sub>O-dominated fluid, mantle rocks with  
69 significant hydrogen may melt, depending, of course, on the P-T conditions (Asimow and  
70 Langmuir, 2003; Gaetani and Grove, 1998; Green, 2015; Green et al., 2014; Hirschmann, 2006).  
71 A melt phase may, therefore, be a H<sub>2</sub>O-bearing phase in equilibrium with mantle peridotites.  
72 Hydrogen, residing in the earth's mantle may be bound in the structure of hydrous phases such as  
73 amphibole (Kovacs et al., 2021; Niida and Green, 1999; Popp and Bryndzia, 1992; Selway et al.,  
74 2015), and in nominally anhydrous minerals (NAMs), including olivine, pyroxene, and garnet.  
75 NAMs may constitute the largest reservoir of H in the earth's mantle (Chin and Palin, 2022;  
76 Demouchy and Bolfan-Casanova, 2016; Gibson et al., 2020; Ingrin and Skogby, 2000; Peslier et  
77 al., 2017; Peslier et al., 2010). The H in mineral phases, both hydrous and nominally anhydrous,  
78 or in mantle magmas, may be bound to oxygen and is typically quantified in terms of the amount  
79 of H<sub>2</sub>O. The presence of H, or H<sub>2</sub>O, in these phases does not require the presence of a  
80 lithostatically-pressured fluid phase. However, some authors have adopted the generic term

81 “water” to describe the H, OH, or H<sub>2</sub>O contents of mantle rocks, even if these hydrogen-bearing  
82 species are entirely contained within hydrous or nominally anhydrous mineral phases. We adopt  
83 that terminology here, although we may use other terms (e.g., the OH content of amphibole, or  
84 H<sub>2</sub>O content of nominally anhydrous phases) if a more accurate term is deemed useful.

85 Water, even in trace amounts, has a significant effect on the physical properties of mantle  
86 rocks including electrical conductivity (Karato, 2019; Selway, 2019; Tarits et al., 2004; Wang et  
87 al., 2008), rheology (Masuti et al., 2019; Mei and Kohlstedt, 2000a; Mei and Kohlstedt, 2000b)  
88 and the pressure-temperature conditions of mantle melting and the compositions of the melts  
89 generated (Gaetani and Grove, 1998; Green, 2015; Green et al., 2014). This is often the case even  
90 if H<sub>2</sub>O is not present as a component in a lithostatically pressured fluid phase. Experiments on  
91 olivine, for example, have shown that only small amounts of water are needed to produce "water  
92 weakening" (Demouchy et al., 2012; Faul et al., 2016; Girard et al., 2013; Jung et al., 2006; Karato  
93 and Jung, 1998; Mei and Kohlstedt, 2000a; Mei and Kohlstedt, 2000b; Tielke et al., 2017; Wallis  
94 et al., 2019). Consequently, a complete understanding of mantle rheology depends on our ability  
95 to estimate values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  for different regions of the mantle.

96 Direct measurement of the H<sub>2</sub>O contents of the nominally anhydrous minerals (NAMs)  
97 contained in mantle samples indicate that mantle pyroxenes contain approximately 30 to 1100 ppm  
98 H<sub>2</sub>O by weight, mantle olivines contain approximately 4 to 400 wt.-ppm H<sub>2</sub>O, and mantle garnets  
99 contain approximately 0 to 600 wt.-ppm H<sub>2</sub>O (Bell and Rossman, 1992; Beran and Libowitzky,  
100 2006; Demouchy and Bolfan-Casanova, 2016; Peslier, 2010; Peslier et al., 2017; Skogby, 2006).  
101 Relating these water contents to mantle properties such as viscosity and melting temperatures  
102 requires conversion of H<sub>2</sub>O contents to values the fugacities ( $f$ ) or activities of H<sub>2</sub>O ( $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ).  
103 Unfortunately, the link between H content of any particular NAM and the value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  is not

104 perfectly understood. The H contents of pyroxenes, for example, do vary with  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (Mierdel and  
105 Keppler, 2004; Stalder et al., 2008), but the H contents also vary significantly with the amounts of  
106 certain cations, such as Al in orthopyroxene (Mierdel et al., 2007; Stalder et al., 2005). Additional  
107 experimental studies are necessary before pyroxene H contents can be used to determine values of  
108  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . In contrast to mantle pyroxenes, the relation between the H contents of mantle olivine and  
109  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is relatively well understood and is not only a function of the  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , but also oxygen fugacity  
110 ( $f\text{O}_2$ ), pressure (P), temperature (T) and crystal chemistry (for example Al, Ti, and Fe contents,  
111 although some of these chemical terms are negligible; Gaetani et al., 2014; Mosenfelder et al.,  
112 2006; Tollan et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2004). Thus, a value of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can be estimated from the H  
113 content of a mantle olivine if P, T,  $f\text{O}_2$  and the olivine chemical composition have been  
114 determined.

115       Throughout this publication we typically report values of the activity for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and fugacity  
116 for  $\text{O}_2$ . This usage is consistent with previous literature as values related to chemical potential of  
117 oxygen are often reported in terms of fugacity (e.g., Miller et al., 2016; Wood et al., 1990;  
118 Woodland et al., 1992), and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is often reported in terms of activity (e.g., Bonadiman et al.,  
119 2014; Gentili et al., 2015; Lamb and Popp, 2009; Lamb and Valley, 1988; Phillips, 1980).  
120 However, given that the activity of any given species ( $a_i$ ) is proportional to the fugacity of that  
121 species, such that  $a_i = f_i/f_i^\circ$  (where  $f_i^\circ$  is the fugacity of the pure fluid species  $i$  at the P and T of  
122 interest), these terms are directly related.

123       Fluid-buffering equilibria have been applied to estimate the activities (fugacities) of various  
124 fluid species. For example, oxygen fugacities have been estimated for mantle xenoliths and  
125 orogenic peridotite massifs (alpine peridotites) interpreted to be of mantle origin (Miller et al.,  
126 2016; Stagno et al., 2013; Wood et al., 1990; Woodland and Koch, 2003; Woodland et al., 1992).

127 In the upper mantle, these values typically range from 2 to 3 log units above (more oxidizing) to  
128 approximately 2 log units below (more reducing) than the fayalite-magnetite-quartz (FMQ)  
129 oxygen buffer (Bryndzia and Wood, 1990; Frost and McCammon, 2008; Ionov and Wood, 1992;  
130 Miller et al., 2016; Wood et al., 1990; Woodland et al., 1992). In the presence of graphite (or  
131 diamond) it is possible to calculate the activities (fugacities) of fluid species in the C-O-H system  
132 ( $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ , etc.) for a value of the oxygen fugacity if a lithostatically pressured fluid (volatile)  
133 phase is present. These calculations have been performed for both crustal (Chu and Ague, 2013;  
134 Connolly and Cesare, 1993; Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb and Valley, 1985) and mantle (Blundy  
135 et al., 1991; Bryndzia and Wood, 1990; Goncharov et al., 2012; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et  
136 al., 2017; Wood et al., 1990) rocks. Importantly, as first demonstrated by Lamb and Valley (1984;  
137 1985), these calculations of fluids speciation in the C-O-H system can be performed on samples  
138 without a pure carbon species (e.g., graphite or diamond), in which case values of  $f\text{O}_2$  put limits  
139 on the activities of various species. For example, minimum values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and maximum values  
140 of  $a\text{CO}_2$  have been estimated in this manner in both mantle and crustal rocks (Hunt and Lamb,  
141 2019; Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb and Valley, 1985).

142 The activity of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in the mantle has been estimated for amphibole-bearing peridotites  
143 (Gentili et al., 2015; Ghent et al., 2019; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Popp,  
144 2009; Popp et al., 2006). These studies typically yield values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  that are less than  
145 approximately 0.3, although one sample from Antarctica yields a value of approximately 0.8  
146 (Gentili et al., 2015). This paper applies mineral equilibria to amphibole bearing mantle xenoliths  
147 from Eastern Australia to further explore the use of phase equilibria to constrain values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
148 and  $f\text{O}_2$ . Determining values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  will, for example, provide some constraints on certain  
149 mantle properties, such as rheology and conductivity, as these depend, in part, on  $f\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Existing

150 experimentally derived relations permit estimates of olivine H<sub>2</sub>O-contents from values of  $f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$   
151 (Gaetani et al., 2014; Mosenfelder et al., 2006; Padron-Navarta and Hermann, 2017; Zhao et al.,  
152 2004) and, therefore, provide a manner to compare the water content from Eastern Australia with  
153 measured water contents from mantle samples collected from a variety of other locations (Beran  
154 and Libowitzky, 2006; Bolfan-Casanova, 2005; Chin and Palin, 2022; Peslier, 2010; Peslier et al.,  
155 2017). This paper also applies mineral equilibria to estimate values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  which can permit  
156 further insight into mantle conditions and fluid regimes at the time of mineral equilibration in these  
157 samples (Frost and McCammon, 2008; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Popp,  
158 2009; Wood et al., 1990).

### 159 **Sample Description and Mineralogy**

160  
161 Four xenoliths from Eastern Australia have been analyzed as part of this study (samples  
162 provided by Dr. Suzanne O'Reilly). These four samples (GN9912, GN9913, BM9912, BM9915)  
163 are from the Bullenmerri and Gnotuk Maars (Figure 1), which is an area that has been described  
164 in detail by Griffin et al. (1984) and O'Reilly and Griffin (1987; 1985; 1988). These samples are  
165 olivine-rich (> 60%) and contain varying amounts of pyroxene, amphibole, and spinel. The  
166 amphibole grains in these samples typically occur in multi-grain aggregates that often surround  
167 grains of spinel or clinopyroxene (Figure 2).

168 Samples from this same location, with similar textures and amphibole compositions, have  
169 been described by O'Reilly and Griffin (1988) who argue that amphiboles formation is likely  
170 related to metasomatism. In this case, fluids related to the intrusion of mafic magmas interacted  
171 with mantle minerals, particularly spinel, and the resulting reactions produced amphibole and, in  
172 some cases, other minerals (Griffin et al., 1988; O'Reilly and Griffin, 1988). This interpretation

173 is consistent with the observation that amphiboles often rim spinel grains with embayed margins,  
174 as shown in Figure 2 (see also, Griffin et al., 1988; O'Reilly and Griffin, 1988).

175 Although previous studies indicate that the amphiboles in question likely formed via  
176 metasomatism (O'Reilly and Griffin, 1988), it is not the goal of this paper to infer the composition  
177 of these fluid. The timing of the metasomatic event relative to xenolith emplacement is, for the  
178 samples examined in this study, unclear. Consequently, these rocks may have resided in the mantle  
179 for sufficient time to re-equilibrate under P-T conditions that were significantly different from the  
180 conditions of metasomatism. Our results provide insight into the fugacities of fluid components  
181 at the time the minerals last equilibrated, perhaps just prior to their emplacement at the earth's  
182 surface.

## 183 Analytical Methods

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185 The chemical compositions of co-existing olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, spinel,  
186 and amphibole were characterized using a Cameca SX-50 electron microprobe (EMP) located at  
187 Texas A&M University. Operating conditions for the EMP typically included an accelerating  
188 voltage of 15 kV, and, in the case of anhydrous phases (e.g., olivine, spinel and pyroxenes), a 20  
189 nA beam current and a 1  $\mu\text{m}$  beam diameter. Amphibole grains were analyzed using a lower beam  
190 current of 10 nA and a larger beam diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to minimize electron-beam induced diffusion  
191 of light elements, particularly H and F. The counting times for all phases ranged from 30-60 s for  
192 major elements and up to 120 s for minor elements. Core-to-rim traverses were performed to  
193 quantify any potential chemical variability within mineral grains. In addition to the traverses,  
194 several individual grains of each mineral were also analyzed in each sample to confirm  
195 homogeneity among mineral grains. Natural and synthetic mineral standards were used for



196 calibration. Mineral analyses, as well as normalized mineral formulae, for all samples can be  
197 found in the Electronic Supplement.

198 Minerals were normalized as follows, with the appropriate number of cations denoted in  
199 parentheses: olivine (3), pyroxenes (4), and spinel (3). The determination of values of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$   
200 (where  $\Sigma Fe = Fe^{3+} + Fe^{2+}$ ) for these minerals was accomplished using a variety of methods given  
201 that conventional EMP analyses cannot differentiate between the two valence states of Fe. The  
202 amount of  $Fe^{3+}$  in olivine is often considered to be negligible (Canil and O'Neill, 1996; Woodland  
203 et al., 2006), and one study that did detect  $Fe^{3+}$  in olivine from a spinel lherzolite xenolith reports  
204 a  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  value of only 0.03 (Ejima et al., 2018). Thus, all Fe in the olivines analyzed for this  
205 study is assumed to be  $Fe^{2+}$ . Accurate values of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  can be determined for spinels from  
206 charge balance by using secondary standards with known values of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  (Wood and Virgo,  
207 1989). For our samples, the value of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  in spinel, as estimated from charge balance, was  
208 corrected based on analyses of secondary spinel standards, obtained from B. Wood (Ionov and  
209 Wood, 1992; Wood and Virgo, 1989), which have values of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  that have been previously  
210 determined using Mossbauer spectroscopy (Wood and Virgo, 1989).

211 Determining values of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  for pyroxenes via charge balance is challenging given  
212 statistical uncertainty (Canil and O'Neill, 1996; Dyar et al., 1989), although careful analyses  
213 indicate this approach may provide useful values for orthopyroxene (Hunt and Lamb, 2019). Thus,  
214 we have estimated the value of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  for pyroxenes using two methods: (1) charge balance,  
215 where  $Fe^{3+} = Al^{IV} - Al^{VI} - 2Ti - Cr + Na$  and, (2) assuming that all Fe is  $Fe^{2+}$ . This approach permits  
216 an examination of the sensitivity of various estimates, for example temperature estimates  
217 (described below), to changes in the value of  $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$  in pyroxenes.

218 Complete characterization of amphibole chemistry requires determination of: (1) the H<sub>2</sub>O  
219 content, (2) the value of Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe, and (3) the fraction of the A-site that is vacant. Conventional  
220 microprobe analyses do not provide this information, however, it has been demonstrated that the  
221 value of Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe, the concentrations of other cations (e.g., Ti), and the oxy-content of mantle  
222 amphiboles are correlated (King et al., 1999; Lamb and Popp, 2009; Popp et al., 1995a). Given  
223 this relation, and a value for Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe, it is possible to determine the amphibole oxy-content and  
224 the A-site occupancy by requiring the resulting formula to charge balance (Lamb and Popp, 2009).  
225 This method begins with normalizing the EMP analysis of an amphibole to 16 cations (i.e., no  
226 vacancies). Given a value of Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe it is possible to calculate the total positive charge for this  
227 amphibole normalization (this is the maximum possible positive charge for a given value of  
228 Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe as this amphibole formula is vacancy free). We then apply the relation that describes  
229 the correlation between the amount of oxygen in the O3 (hydroxyl) site and the amounts of other  
230 cations. For this study, we chose the relation Fe<sup>3+</sup> + Ti = O (Popp et al., 1995a), in which Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Ti,  
231 and O are concentrations of these elements reported as atoms per formula unit, and the O represents  
232 the amount of oxygen in the hydroxyl site that is not bound to hydrogen (the oxy-component).  
233 Given the amounts of O, OH, F, and Cl in the hydroxyl site, as well as an additional 22 oxygens,  
234 it is possible to calculate the total negative charge of the resulting mineral formula. The result of  
235 this normalization typically does not charge balance, with the total positive charge greater than the  
236 total negative charge. In this case, the number of cations is reduced by a very small amount, which  
237 results in a small A-site vacancy, and the entire calculation is repeated. This iterative approach  
238 continues until charge balance is achieved.

239 Given the relatively small Fe-content contained in the amphiboles analyzed for this study,  
240 it was not possible to determine accurate values of Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe using the EMP-based method

241 described by Lamb et al. (2012). Thus, we chose to normalize the amphiboles using the method  
242 described in the previous paragraph, assuming both the maximum ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ ) and minimum  
243 ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ ) values possible. A value of zero (0) for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  will yield a maximum value for  
244 the amphibole OH content which, in turn, will yield a maximum value of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  when estimated  
245 using amphibole dehydration equilibria. Similarly, a value of one (1) for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  will yield  
246 minimum value for the amphibole OH content (maximum oxy-content) which, in turn, will yield  
247 a minimum value of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The maximum OH contents, reported as XOH (the fraction of the  
248 hydroxyl site occupied by OH) range from 0.92 to 0.97, while the minimum values ranged from  
249 0.71 to 0.77. The amphibole compositions listed in the Electronic Supplement include: (1) a  
250 preliminary estimate of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  content based on a simplified normalization for each analysis, and  
251 (2) an estimate of XOH for average amphibole compositions that is based on the normalization  
252 scheme described here and by Lamb and Popp (2009). It is this second value, based on mineral  
253 averages, that was used to estimate values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

254 Electron microprobe analyses reveal that the chemical compositions of olivine and  
255 amphibole from all four Australian samples are relatively homogeneous. Clinopyroxene and  
256 orthopyroxene are also largely homogeneous, but sometimes exhibit minor core to rim chemical  
257 variation, with a broad homogenous core and an Al-depleted, Si-rich rim (Figure 3). The average  
258 Cr # for the spinel grains is 0.31 ( $\text{Cr}\# = \text{Cr}/(\text{Cr}+\text{Al})$ ) and spinels typically exhibit chemical zonation  
259 with rims relatively enriched in Cr and depleted in Al (Figure 3). The olivine Mg# for the four  
260 samples from Eastern Australia range from 0.88 to 0.91 (where  $\text{Mg}\# = \text{Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe})$ ).

261  
262

### **Estimation of Pressure and Temperature**

263 Estimating values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $f\text{O}_2$  using mineral equilibria requires an estimate of the  
264 pressure (P) and temperature (T) of mineral equilibration to be determined for each sample. Two-

265 pyroxene geothermometry has been widely applied in mantle rocks (e.g., Nimis and Grutter, 2010),  
266 and was applied here to estimate temperature for all samples. Numerous versions of the two-  
267 pyroxene geothermometer have been calibrated for a variety of pyroxene compositions (Brey and  
268 Köhler, 1990; Taylor, 1998; Wells, 1977), however, geothermometers are often limited to a range  
269 of T, P and/or pyroxene compositions (e.g., Nimis and Grutter, 2010). Thus, the accuracy of  
270 temperature estimates depends, in part, on choosing the most appropriate geothermometer.

271 For this study, the two-pyroxene geothermometer of Taylor (1998) (T98) was used to  
272 estimate T. The choice of this thermometer was guided by Nimis & Grütter (2010), who favor the  
273 T98 formulation because it more accurately reproduces temperatures of experiments designed to  
274 yield equilibrium compositions of co-existing pyroxenes. Furthermore, Nimis & Grütter (2010)  
275 suggest that T estimates using T98 should be consistent with two other formulations of the  
276 pyroxene geothermometer, including the enstatite-in-Cpx thermometer of Nimis & Taylor (2000)  
277 (NT) and Ca-in-opx thermometer of Brey and Kohler (1990) (BK) as modified by Nimis & Grütter  
278 (2010) (BKNG). Thus, we have compared the results of four geothermometers (T(98), BK, NT,  
279 BKNG; Table 1) as a further test of mineral equilibration and to determine if the temperatures are  
280 accurate to  $\pm 50$  °C, as indicated by Taylor (1998).

281 In some cases, accurate temperature estimates from conventional thermobarometry may  
282 require determining values of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  in Fe-bearing minerals, including pyroxenes. The  
283 sensitivity of our temperature estimates to differences in  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  was evaluated by determining  
284 two-pyroxene temperatures using two methods, described previously (charge balance and total Fe  
285 is  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ), to determine values of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  in pyroxenes. Ultimately, the choice of whether to use  
286 charge balance or to consider all Fe as  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  has no impact on our T estimates using either the T98,  
287 or the BKNG formulations. However, the maximum difference in temperature calculated using

288 these two methods with the NT formulation is 20 °C. This small T difference indicates that the  
289 two-pyroxene thermometer, as applied to mantle rocks, is relatively insensitive to uncertainties in  
290  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$ , a conclusion supported by previous work (Brey and Köhler, 1990; Canil and O'Neill,  
291 1996; Schumacher, 1991a; Schumacher, 1991b; Taylor, 1998). Thus, the temperature estimations  
292 used in this paper are determined assuming that all Fe in pyroxene is  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ .

293 Taylor's (1998) two-pyroxene thermometer yields temperatures from 820 °C to 920 °C for  
294 our samples. These temperature estimates, based on T98, agree to within  $\pm 10$  °C with temperatures  
295 estimated using NT and to within  $\pm 20$  °C with temperatures estimated using BK (Table 1). These  
296 differences are relatively small, and the agreement between various formulations of the two-  
297 pyroxene thermometer argues that the temperatures given on Table 1 are reliable estimates of the  
298 temperature of mineral equilibration ( $\pm 50$  °C).

299 As discussed previously, amphibole grains often occur as rims on spinel or clinopyroxene  
300 grains, and some of the mineral grains do exhibit small core to rim chemical variations (Figures 2  
301 and 3). Given these textural relations we have chosen to use rim compositions for all estimates of  
302 T,  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , and  $f_{\text{O}_2}$ . However, given the relatively small chemical differences between core and  
303 rim, substitution of core compositions for rim compositions makes minor differences in estimated  
304 temperature and fluid fugacities. For example, the compositions of pyroxene cores from sample  
305 GN9912 yields a Taylor (1998) two-pyroxene temperature of 819 °C whereas the rim compositions  
306 yield a T of 818 °C. We report these temperatures to three significant digits for the purposes of  
307 comparison only and, given the uncertainties involved, both these temperatures are approximately  
308 820 °C.

309 O'Reilly and Griffin (1985) used the garnet-orthopyroxene barometer of Wood (1974) and  
310 the garnet-clinopyroxene thermometer of Ellis and Green (1979) to determine P-T conditions for

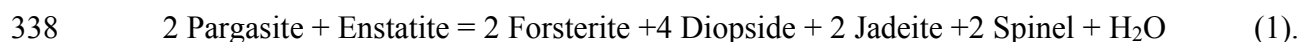
311 xenoliths collected from Eastern Australia. These P-T estimates define a geothermal gradient for  
312 Eastern Australia, and we have modified this geothermal gradient to be consistent with our choice  
313 of the T98 two-pyroxene thermometer (Taylor, 1998). This modified geotherm yields pressures  
314 for the four samples from Eastern Australia that range from 1.1-1.4 GPa (Table 1). The depth of  
315 the Moho in Eastern Australia is approximately 32 km (Kennett et al., 2011; Salmon et al., 2013).  
316 Therefore, the minimum pressure for these samples is approximately 1.0 GPa, while the maximum  
317 pressure, based on the P-T location of the spinel-to-garnet transition (O'Neill, 1981) is  
318 approximately 1.9 GPa. Thus, pressure constraints estimated using the geotherm are consistent  
319 with both the minimum and maximum pressure estimates based on the depth of the Moho and the  
320 spinel-garnet transition, respectively.

## 321 **Activities of H<sub>2</sub>O**

322 Application of H<sub>2</sub>O-buffering equilibria to estimate values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  in samples that contain  
323 co-existing olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, amphibole, and spinel has been the subject of  
324 previous publications (Bonadiman et al., 2014; Gentili et al., 2015; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang  
325 et al., 2017; Lamb and Popp, 2009). This study uses an approach similar to that outlined by Lamb  
326 and Popp (2009) who chose to use THERMOCALC (Powell et al., 1998; Powell and Holland,  
327 1988) largely because of the availability of relatively sophisticated models describing the activity-  
328 composition ( $a$ -X) relations in amphiboles (Dale et al., 2005; Diener et al., 2007). Additional  $a$ -  
329 X models have been published (Palin et al., 2016), including models specifically designed for  
330 mantle P-T-X conditions (Holland et al., 2013; Holland et al., 2018; Holland and Powell, 2011;  
331 Jennings and Holland, 2015). AX software was applied in this study to determine the activities of  
332 end-members in mineral species, although the choice of activity model, has little effect on the

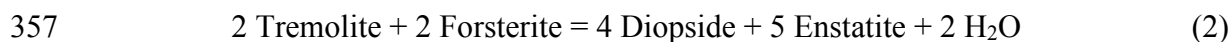
333 value of end-member activities for certain phases, including  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$  in olivine (Lamb and Popp,  
334 2009).

335 Given co-existing olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, amphibole, and spinel, several  
336 different  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -buffering equilibria can be written that involve end-member components in the  
337 natural phases. Lamb and Popp (2009), applied the equilibria:



341 which was chosen in large part due to the Mg-rich nature of olivine, orthopyroxenes, and spinel,  
342 and the pargasite-rich amphiboles found in these samples (Lamb and Popp, 2009). However, given  
343 that pargasite is a reactant, the products must contain the Na-bearing phase, and, therefore, jadeite  
344 is included as one of the products. The Na content in the clinopyroxenes, while significant, is not  
345 large relative to the concentrations of most of the other end-members included in equilibria 1 (e.g.,  
346 the diopside end-member in clinopyroxene or the forsterite end-member in olivine). Thus, the  
347 uncertainty in activity of the jadeite end-member may be large relative to that of most other end-  
348 members included in equilibrium (1). For example, activities of the diopside end-members in  
349 clinopyroxenes analyzed for this study ranging from 0.65 to 0.72 (Table 2), as estimated using the  
350 AX software which also yields an uncertainty of 5% in each case (the 2018 version of the AX  
351 software, written by T.J.B. Holland, was applied in this study; Diener et al., 2007; Holland et al.,  
352 2013; Powell et al., 2014; White et al., 2014). The activities of jadeite end-members in the same  
353 clinopyroxenes range from 0.08 to 0.11, with uncertainties ranging from 13% to 16% of the amount  
354 present.

355 We report values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  based on equilibrium (1) in Table 1. We have also estimated  
356 values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  using the equilibria:



359

360 which eliminates the need to include the jadeite end-member. However, uncertainties for the  
361 tremolite end-members range from 16 to 17% of the amount present for three of our samples  
362 (GN9912, GN99113, and BM9912) and 26% for sample BM9915. Whereas the activities of the  
363 pargasite end-member, used in equilibrium (1), have uncertainties that range from 12 to 13% of  
364 the amount present for all samples.

365 The activities of amphibole end-member species, as determined using AX software, does  
366 not consider substitution on the hydroxyl site. Thus, the values determined with AX were modified  
367 to account for constituents other than OH on this site (e.g., O and Cl) using an approach similar to  
368 that of Popp et al. (2006). Given that maximum and minimum values of the oxy-component were  
369 generated for the average compositions of the amphibole in each of the samples analyzed we have  
370 determined maximum and minimum values of the activities of the pargasite and tremolite end-  
371 members that correspond to the maximum and minimum values of the hydroxyl content,  
372 respectively.

373 The activities of mineral end-members (Table 2) were applied when using  
374 THERMOCALC to estimate values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  at the P-T conditions given in Table 2. These  
375 calculations were performed using THERMOCALC version 3.50 $\beta$  and dataset 6.33 (e.g., Green  
376 et al., 2016; Holland et al., 2018). The approach is shown on Figure 4 for sample BM9915 which  
377 illustrates the stability of equilibria (1) and (2) at 13 GPa. Although both equilibria ((1) and (2))  
378 are shown on the same diagram, we consider them independently (i.e., the diagram does not  
379 necessarily obey Schreinemaker's rules). The curves labeled "2a" and "2b" on Figure 4 illustrate  
380 the stability of equilibria 2 as a function of T and  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ . Curve 2a (solid) is based on an amphibole



381 normalization that assumed  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ , while the dashed line (2b) assumes  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  in this  
382 amphibole = 1. Values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  based on equilibria 2 for sample BM9915 fall between 0.08 and  
383 0.13 as shown by the open and closed circles, respectively (Table 2). The curve labeled “1a”  
384 (solid) on Figure 4 illustrates the stability of equilibrium (1) for a value of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  in the  
385 amphibole = 0, while “1b” (dashed) illustrates the same equilibrium for an amphibole with  
386  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ . This equilibrium yields values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  of 0.1 (1a) and 0.06 (1b). Thus, both  
387 equilibria 1 and 2 yield similar values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  with differences between the two estimates less  
388 than 0.03 (Figure 4).

389         Uncertainties in values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  were estimated for the samples in this study by combining  
390 the uncertainty THERMOCALC provides for any given equilibrium (reported in °C), with the  
391 temperature uncertainty estimated previously ( $\pm 50$  °C). In the case of sample BM9915, the  
392 uncertainty for equilibrium (2) yields a maximum value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.27$  (solid hexagon on curve  
393 2a, Figure 4) and a minimum value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.03$  (open hexagon on curve 2b, Figure 4). The  
394 temperature uncertainty for equilibrium (1) is approximately  $\pm 350$  °C. However, given the slope  
395 of equilibrium (1), this large temperature range does not translate to a large range in possible values  
396 of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , with a maximum of approximately 0.13 ( $T \approx 1260$  °C), and minimum of approximately  
397 0.03 ( $T \approx 560$  °C). Thus, the maximum value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from equilibrium (2), with  
398 uncertainty included (i.e., 0.27), is not consistent with maximum value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from  
399 equilibrium (1). Taking into consideration the results from both equilibria, including the  
400 uncertainties, the best estimate for sample BM9915 is, therefore,  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.09 \pm 0.06$ .

401         Application of this approach, as described in the previous paragraph, was applied to all the  
402 samples in this study and the results are summarized on Figure 5. Three of the samples yields  
403 similar results, this includes BM9915 (discussed above), GN9912, and GM9913. These three

404 samples yield  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.13$  to  $0.17$  for equilibrium (2) and  $0.10$  to  $0.11$  for equilibrium (1), for an  
405 amphibole with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ . If  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ , then these values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  become  $0.08$  to  $0.1$   
406 (equilibrium (2)) and  $0.06$  to  $0.07$  (equilibrium (1)). The differences in estimates of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , between  
407 equilibria (1) and (2), range from  $0.04$  to  $0.06$  for these three samples (BM9915, GN9912, and  
408 GM9913). Although the uncertainty associated with equilibrium (2) indicates values may be as  
409 large as  $0.26$  to  $0.33$  for amphiboles with  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ ., the uncertainties associated with  
410 equilibrium (1) indicates values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} < 0.15$ . Minimum values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  for samples BM9915,  
411 GN9912, and GM9913, with amphiboles normalized assuming  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ , range from  $0.06$  to  
412  $0.07$  for equilibrium (2) and from  $0.04$  to  $0.07$  for equilibrium (1). If the amphiboles in these three  
413 samples were normalized assuming  $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ , these minimum values become  $0.03$  to  $0.04$  for  
414 equilibria 1 and 2, respectively. In summary, dehydration equilibria applied to the three of the  
415 four xenoliths in this study (BM9915, GN9912, GN9913) indicate values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  ranging from  
416  $0.08$  to  $0.13$ , with minimum and maximum values, given the estimates of uncertainty, of  
417 approximately  $0.03$  and  $0.15$ , respectively.

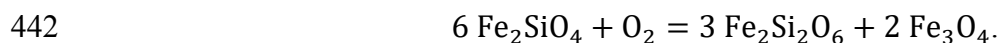
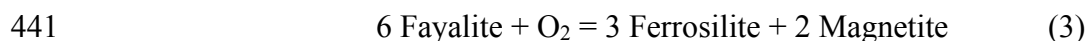
418         The value of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , estimated for sample BM9912 using equilibrium (2), ranges from  $0.23$   
419 to  $0.38$ , depending on the oxy-amphibole content (Figure 5), and is somewhat greater than the  
420 value estimated for the other three samples ( $0.08$  to  $0.17$ ). However, application of equilibrium  
421 (1) to this samples yields lower values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  that are consistent with those estimated for the  
422 other three samples. This relatively large difference in values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , estimated for BM9912  
423 using two different equilibria, may indicate some resetting has occurred, perhaps with pyroxenes  
424 retaining high temperature compositions while the amphibole suffered some minor change in  
425 composition during cooling. However, the uncertainties associated with estimates of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  for  
426 sample BM9912 are larger than those estimated for the other samples consistent with the larger

427 uncertainties associated with the estimates of the activities of amphibole end-members discussed  
428 previously. Given these uncertainties (Figure 5), an  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  value of 0.17 could be inferred from  
429 equilibrium (2) for sample BM9912. This lower limit approaches the upper limit estimated using  
430 equilibrium (1) for this sample ( $\approx 0.14$ ), suggesting that sample BM9912 may have equilibrated at  
431 higher values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  as compared to the other three samples.

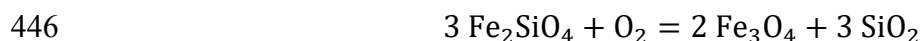
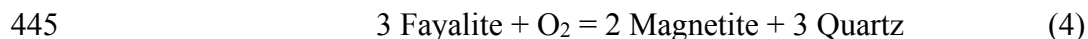
432 Values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from equilibria (1) and (2) are between 0.03 and 0.15 for all  
433 samples except BM9912 which may record  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  as high as approximately 0.2. Thus, if a  
434 lithostatically pressured fluid phase co-existed with these samples during mineral equilibration,  
435  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was not the dominant fluid component.

### 436 Oxygen Fugacity

437 Mineral equilibria have often been applied to estimate values of oxygen fugacity ( $f_{\text{O}_2}$ ) in  
438 samples containing co-existing olivine, spinel, and orthopyroxene (Ballhaus et al., 1991; Miller  
439 et al., 2016; Wood, 1990a; Woodland et al., 1992). In these samples, values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  are based on  
440 the following equilibria:



443 Values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  are also typically reported relative to an oxygen-buffering equilibria, such as the  
444 Fayalite-Magnetite-Quartz (FMQ) buffer, which is based on the equilibria:

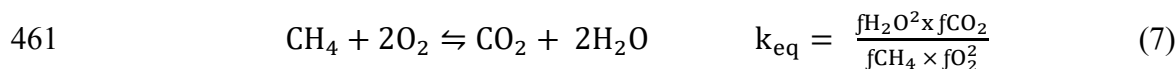


447 Values of  $\log f_{\text{O}_2}$  for the uppermost mantle, as estimated from mineral equilibria, typically range  
448 from  $\Delta \text{Log} f_{\text{O}_2}(\text{FMQ})$  of -3 to +2 (Wood, 1990b; Woodland and Koch, 2003; Woodland et al.,  
449 1992).

450 Using the recent calibration of Miller et al. (2016), the values of  $fO_2$  for all four samples  
451 range from  $\Delta\text{Log}fO_2(\text{FMQ})$  of -1.2 to -0.2 (Table 3). These values of  $fO_2$  are similar to values  
452 estimated using the calibration of Bryndzia and Wood (1990), as the largest difference between  
453 these two calibrations is  $< 0.2$  (Table 3).

### 454 C-O-H Equilibria

455 In the C-O-H system it is possible to write four independent equilibria that relate the  
456 fugacities of six fluid species,  $H_2O$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $CH_4$ ,  $H_2$ ,  $CO$ , and  $O_2$ , and the activity of carbon (French,  
457 1966).



462 Furthermore, if the fluid pressure is equivalent to the sum of the partial pressures of the six fluid  
463 species, a fifth equation can be written:

$$464 \quad P_{Lith} = P_{Fluid} = P_{H_2O} + P_{CO_2} + P_{CH_4} + P_{H_2} + P_{CO} + P_{O_2} \quad (8)$$

465 (Lith = Lithostatic). Thus, for a given value of  $P$  and  $T$ , there are five equations and seven  
466 unknowns. The unknowns are the fugacities of the six fluid species and the activity of carbon ( $aC$ ).

467 In a number of cases, values of  $fO_2$ , or any other of the six fluid species listed in equation  
468 (8), have been combined with the presence of graphite (which fixes  $aC = 1$ ) to fix two of these  
469 variables and solve for the remaining five (French, 1966; Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb and  
470 Valley, 1985; Wood et al., 1990). Solving simultaneous equations to calculate fluid speciation in  
471 the C-O-H system may suggest that a C-O-H fluid is present. The assumption, often implicit, is

472 that fluid pressure is equivalent to lithostatic pressure (French, 1966; Frost and McCammon, 2008;  
473 Ohmoto and Kerrick, 1977; Wood et al., 1990). However, previous studies indicate that minerals  
474 in high-grade rocks may equilibrate in the absence of a separate, lithostatically-pressured, C-O-H  
475 fluid phase (Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb and Valley, 1985). In this case, it  
476 would be more accurate to argue that we calculate the fugacities of fluid components rather than  
477 fluid species (we continue to use the phrase fluid speciation for the sake of continuity). Even in  
478 cases where fluid pressure may not be equivalent to lithostatic pressure, calculation of fluid  
479 speciation in the C-O-H systems can provide useful constraints on the nature of fluids in these  
480 systems (Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb and Valley, 1985).

481 A revised version of the software “CalCOH” (Lamb, 1987), which now employs the  
482 equation of state for C-O-H fluids published by Zhang and Duan (2009; see also, Ivanov and  
483 Alexandrovich, 2021), was used to solve equations (4) through (8) (Lamb and Valley, 1984; Lamb  
484 and Valley, 1985). Of our four samples, only the most reducing value of  $f_{O_2}$ , which is recorded  
485 by sample GN9912, falls within the stability field of graphite. Given the estimated value of  $f_{O_2}$   
486 ( $\Delta \log f_{O_2}(\text{FMQ}) = -1.19$ ) and  $a_{H_2O} (\approx 0.1)$  for sample GN9912, then if  $P_{\text{Fluid}} = 1.1$  GPa, and  $a_C = 1$ ,  
487 the maximum possible value of  $a_C$ , then simultaneous solution of equations 4 through 8 yields a  
488 minimum value of  $a_{H_2O} = 0.63$  (Table 3 and Figure 6). In other words, if graphite were present  
489 (i.e.,  $a_C = 1$ ) at these P-T conditions, along with a lithostatically pressured fluid phase, then this  
490 sample would likely have equilibrated under water-rich conditions. However, no graphite was  
491 detected in this sample, consistent with an activity of C was less than 1. Reducing the activity of  
492 carbon expands the range of oxygen fugacity values over which  $H_2O$  is the dominant fluid at the  
493 expense of carbon-bearing phases, such as  $CO_2$  and  $CH_4$  (Lamb and Valley, 1984, 1985) as shown  
494 on Figure 6. The significant difference between the values of  $X_{H_2O}$  estimated from mineral

495 equilibria ( $< 0.2$ ) and from C-O-H calculations ( $> 0.6$ ) can only be reconciled if the pressure of a  
496 C-O-H fluid is significantly less than the lithostatic pressure. Rather than fixing  $P_{\text{Lith}} = P_{\text{Fluid}}$ , it  
497 is possible to determine the maximum value of the fluid pressure by assuming  $a_{\text{C}} = 1$  given values  
498 of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  and  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ . For sample GN9912 ( $\Delta \log f_{\text{O}_2} (\text{FMQ}) = -1.19$  and  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \approx 0.1$ ) the maximum  
499 fluid pressure is approximately 0.55 GPa, which is significantly less than 1.1 GPa, the estimated  
500 value of  $P_{\text{Lith}}$ . This result indicates the absence of a lithostatically-pressured C-O-H fluid phase,  
501 although it does not rule out a fluid with additional components.

502         It may seem counter-intuitive to estimate values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  and  $f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , apply equilibria in the  
503 C-O-H fluid system, and then suggest that the mineral equilibrated in the absence of a free fluid  
504 phase. However, values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  and  $f_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , as estimated in this study, are measures of chemical  
505 potential and do not require the presence of a free fluid phase. In the case of sample GN9912  
506 attempts to apply C-O-H equilibria yield inconsistencies that can be explained if a C-O-H fluid  
507 was not present during mineral equilibration (see also, Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Valley, 1984;  
508 Lamb and Valley, 1985). This result suggests that any component typically associated with fluids,  
509 such as  $\text{H}_2$ , is contained within mineral phases (Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et al., 2017; Lamb  
510 and Valley, 1984; Lamb and Valley, 1985).

511         The samples BM9912, BM9915, and GN9913 record values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  that are more oxidizing  
512 than sample GN9912 and fall outside of the stability of graphite. The C-O-H system calculations  
513 described above may be used to demonstrate that the values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  estimated for these three  
514 samples rule out the presence of a  $\text{CH}_4$ -rich fluid in these samples, while  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -rich, or  
515 fluid-absent conditions are all consistent with these values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$ . Thus, relatively oxidizing  
516 conditions are consistent with, but do not require, the presence of a fluid, including a  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich  
517 fluid.

518

## Discussion

519 Amphibole-bearing peridotite xenoliths from southeastern Australia record estimated  
520 values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  of 0.2 or less. These low values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  are generally consistent with previous  
521 estimates that were also based on amphibole equilibria (Bonadiman et al., 2014; Gentili et al.,  
522 2015; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et al., 2017; Lamb and Popp, 2009; Popp et al., 2006), however,  
523 application of equilibria involving amphiboles to infer values of intensive parameters in the mantle  
524 requires that amphibole compositions do not change during their trip from the mantle to the surface  
525 of the Earth. Certain early studies of mantle amphiboles suggest that these minerals may not be  
526 reliable indicators of mantle conditions because retrograde H loss may be common (Dyar et al.,  
527 1992; Popp et al., 1990). However, more recent studies have supported the conclusion that the  
528 compositions of many mantle-derived amphiboles do reflect the original conditions of formation,  
529 or if they do not, it may be possible to identify those that have undergone alteration. Information  
530 in these studies comes from examination of: (1) diffusion rates of H in amphibole (Dyar et al.,  
531 1993), (2) estimates of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  in the mantle (Popp et al., 1995b), (3) the compositions of mantle  
532 amphiboles (King et al., 1999), and (4) the  $\delta\text{D}$  values of mantle amphiboles (Boettcher and O'Neil,  
533 1980; Deloule et al., 1991; Wagner et al., 1996). Furthermore, Hunt and Lamb (2019)  
534 demonstrated that values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from dehydration equilibria are not sensitive to the  
535 maximum H loss that could be inferred from analyses of certain amphiboles contained in mantle  
536 xenoliths. These authors also demonstrated that values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from dehydration  
537 equilibria are in good agreement with values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated from a combination of hydrogen  
538 fugacities, as estimated from amphibole dehydrogenation equilibria, and oxygen fugacities, as  
539 determined using oxybarometry (Hunt and Lamb, 2019). This agreement is strong evidence that  
540 application of amphibole equilibria can provide reliable estimates of mantle  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ .

541 The presence of a hydrous phase is consistent with elevated whole-rock water contents, yet  
542 these amphibole-bearing samples record values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} < 0.3$ . Of course, consideration of mixed  
543 volatile equilibria demonstrates that hydrous phases do not require  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -rich fluids and, therefore,  
544 amphibole can be stable at low values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  (Kerrick, 1974). Furthermore, phase equilibria  
545 involving hydrous phases, particularly amphiboles and micas, is one line of evidence indicating  
546 that granulite facies metamorphism is characterized by low values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  (Bader et al., 2014;  
547 Edwards and Essene, 1988; Lamb and Valley, 1988; Phillips, 1980; Valley et al., 1990). Previous  
548 studies indicate that there is no positive correlation between NAM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  contents and the presence  
549 of amphiboles in mantle samples (Demouchy and Bolfan-Casanova, 2016; Marshall et al., 2018),  
550 a further indication that this phase does not require elevated values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ . The absence of a  
551 positive correlation between the presence of amphibole and the water content of NAMs, and the  
552 possibility of a negative correlation (although data are limited), indicates that a portion of the OH  
553 in mantle amphiboles could, in some cases, be sourced from co-existing NAMS (Chin et al., 2016;  
554 Demouchy and Bolfan-Casanova, 2016; Kang et al., 2017).

555 It has been argued that the upper 100 km of the earth's mantle is characterized by the  
556 presence of a lithostatically pressured  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich grain boundary fluids (Frezzotti and Touret, 2014).  
557 Low values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  may be consistent with the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich fluids. However, one of our  
558 samples (GN9912) equilibrated at a value of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  that is not consistent with the presence of a fluid  
559 rich in  $\text{CO}_2$ . No carbon-bearing phase has yet been detected in the other three samples and,  
560 therefore, there is no evidence that a  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich fluid was present, although this possibility cannot  
561 be ruled out for samples BM9912, BM9915, and GN9913.

562 In addition to the sample that records a  $\Delta \log f_{\text{O}_2}(\text{FMQ})$  value of -1.2 (GN9912), the other  
563 three samples equilibrated at values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  that are within 0.4 log units of the FMQ oxygen buffer.



564 This result, values of  $fO_2 \approx \text{FMQ}$  or less, may seem unexpected because mantle amphiboles  
565 typically contain significant  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , and it might be argued that elevated values of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  are indicative  
566 of relatively oxidizing conditions (Dyar et al., 1993). Bryndzia and Wood (1990), for example,  
567 report that amphibole-bearing samples are relatively oxidizing with values of  $\Delta\log fO_2(\text{FMQ})$  for  
568 that range from  $\sim 0$  to  $+1.5$ . Although these values of oxygen fugacity are more oxidizing than  
569 FMQ, they do fall within the range of samples that do not contain amphibole ( $\Delta\log fO_2(\text{FMQ})$  from  
570  $-1.5$  to  $2.0$ ). Furthermore, recent studies have reported values of  $fO_2$  for amphibole-bearing  
571 mantle rocks that are significantly below the FMQ oxygen buffer (Bonadiman et al., 2021;  
572 Bonadiman et al., 2014; Gentili et al., 2015; Hunt and Lamb, 2019).

### 573 **Implications**

574  
575 In many instances, a strong case can be made that amphiboles in mantle peridotites form  
576 as the result of metasomatism (O'Reilly and Griffin, 2013), including the amphiboles contained in  
577 lherzolite xenoliths from the Bullenmerri and Gnotuk Maars (Griffin et al., 1988; O'Reilly and  
578 Griffin, 1988). Mantle amphiboles are typically kaersutitic or pargasitic, and are often  
579 characterized by relatively elevated  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  contents and low H contents (Popp and Bryndzia, 1992).  
580 This combination, a hydrous phase with elevated values of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , might suggest relatively oxidizing  
581 conditions along with elevated values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (see the previous discussion). Thus, elevated values  
582 of both  $f\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $fO_2$  could be consistent the presence of oxy-amphiboles. However, if  
583 amphibole-bearing mantle peridotites equilibrated over a range of  $fO_2$  values, then a range in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
584 activities might be expected. Furthermore, if the value of  $fO_2$  is approximately FMQ or less, then  
585 mantle amphibole will generally record values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  that are less than  $0.5$  (Popp et al., 1995b).

586 Amphibole formation via metasomatism could indicate that infiltrating melts are the source  
587 of the water now contained in the amphiboles. Although this may be likely, crystallization of

588 mantle amphiboles may also require the addition of other components, including, but not limited  
589 to, alkali elements, Ti, Al, and Fe. These components, if added in sufficient amounts, could be  
590 sufficient to stabilize an oxy-amphibole even if no water is added. In this end-member case,  
591 however unlikely, the amphibole might act to consume any available water, and the minerals in  
592 these rocks may well equilibrate at reduced values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ . Even if the metasomatic fluid does  
593 contain some water, as seems likely, an H-deficient amphibole (i.e., an oxy-amphibole) may  
594 crystallize and can be stable at values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  that are significantly less than one (Popp et al.,  
595 1995b). In this case, the amphibole may scavenge additional water from the NAMs (Chin et al.,  
596 2016; Hunt and Lamb, 2019; Kang et al., 2017), record values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} < 1$ , and co-exist with  
597 NAMs that are not water saturated.

598         It is possible to use values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  to estimate the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -content of co-existing olivine using  
599 existing calibrations (Gaetani et al., 2014; Mosenfelder et al., 2006; Padron-Navarta and Hermann,  
600 2017; Zhao et al., 2004). For example, the calibration of Mosenfelder et al. (2006) yields on olivine  
601  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  content of 10 to 21 ppm by weight for sample BM9915 (with  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \approx 0.06$  to 0.13). Although  
602 such calibrations will likely be modified as more information becomes available (Tollan et al.,  
603 2017), these results indicate that the olivine in the samples analyzed for this study should have low  
604 water contents relative to other many other mantle olivines (Chin and Palin, 2022; Demouchy and  
605 Bolfan-Casanova, 2016; Peslier et al., 2017).

606         Portions of the earth's mantle that have been metasomatized, including regions that have  
607 experienced the passage of melts, may be amphibole-bearing (e.g., O'Reilly and Griffin, 2013).  
608 These amphibole-bearing regions of the mantle, which could persist after the igneous episode, may  
609 be characterized by relatively low values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ , and, therefore, high viscosities. However, many  
610 mantle xenoliths, including some that exhibit evidence of metasomatism, do not contain amphibole

611 (O'Reilly and Griffin, 2013). Thus, amphibole may be produced locally and contribute to the  
612 mantle heterogeneity with respect to water content of NAMs and the physical properties that  
613 depend, to some extent, on this water content (e.g., viscosity).

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619

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981 **Figure Captions:**

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984 Figure 1: Map of Southeastern Australia illustrating the xenolith location. These samples were  
985 collected from volcanics erupted from the Bullenmerri and Gnotuk Maars.

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987 Figure 2: Images illustrating the mineralogy and textures of samples examined in this study.

988 Abbreviations: A – amphibole; C – clinopyroxene; O – orthopyroxene; Ol – olivine; S – spinel.

989 2A. Sample GN9912 with multigrain aggregates of amphibole that often surround spinel. The

990 rectangle labeled B is equivalent to the photomicrograph in the lower righthand corner of this

991 image. 2B) A photomicrograph of sample GN9912 from the box labeled “B” on image 2A. This

992 illustrates that amphibole may rim clinopyroxene (cpx) in addition to spinel. 2C: Sample BM9915

993 also has amphibole surrounding spinel, but the amount of amphibole is small relative to spinel as

994 compared to samples GN9912 and GN9913. 2D). In this sample amphibole is largely present as

995 individual grains that are not clearly associated with spine or cpx.

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997 Figure 3: Mineral compositions plotted as a function of distance within individual mineral grains;

998 vertical axes represent locations of grain boundaries. (a) Relative depletion in Al and enrichment

999 in Si and Mg is sometimes apparent at grain boundaries as illustrated by this opx grain from

1000 GN9913. (b) Compositions of a spinel grain from sample BM9912 with rims enriched in Cr and

1001 depleted in Al.

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1003 Figure 4. T– $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  stability of equilibrium 1 (pargasite), and 2 (tremolite) illustrating estimation of

1004 values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  using sample BM9915 as an example ( $P = 1.3 \text{ GPa}$ ). Solid lines and closed

1005 symbols illustrate the stability of these equilibria for minimum oxy-amphibole contents ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$

1006 = 0) while dashed lines and open symbols indicate stability based on maximum oxy-amphibole

1007 contents ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ ). Thus, the value of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  recorded by sample BM9915 ( $910 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) falls

1008 between 0.06 and 0.13. Consideration of the uncertainty involved in  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  estimates based on

1009 equilibrium (2) indicate values of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$  may fall between 0.03 to 0.27 (hexagonal symbols). Even

1010 though uncertainties related to the stability of equilibrium (1) is  $\approx \pm 350 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , the estimate of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O}$

1011 with this equilibrium indicates a value of  $a\text{H}_2\text{O} < 0.15$ .

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1014 Figure 5. Values of  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  estimated using equilibrium (1) and equilibrium (2), determined using  
1015 both minimum oxy-amphibole contents ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0$ , closed symbols) and maximum oxy-  
1016 amphibole contents ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 1$ , open symbols).

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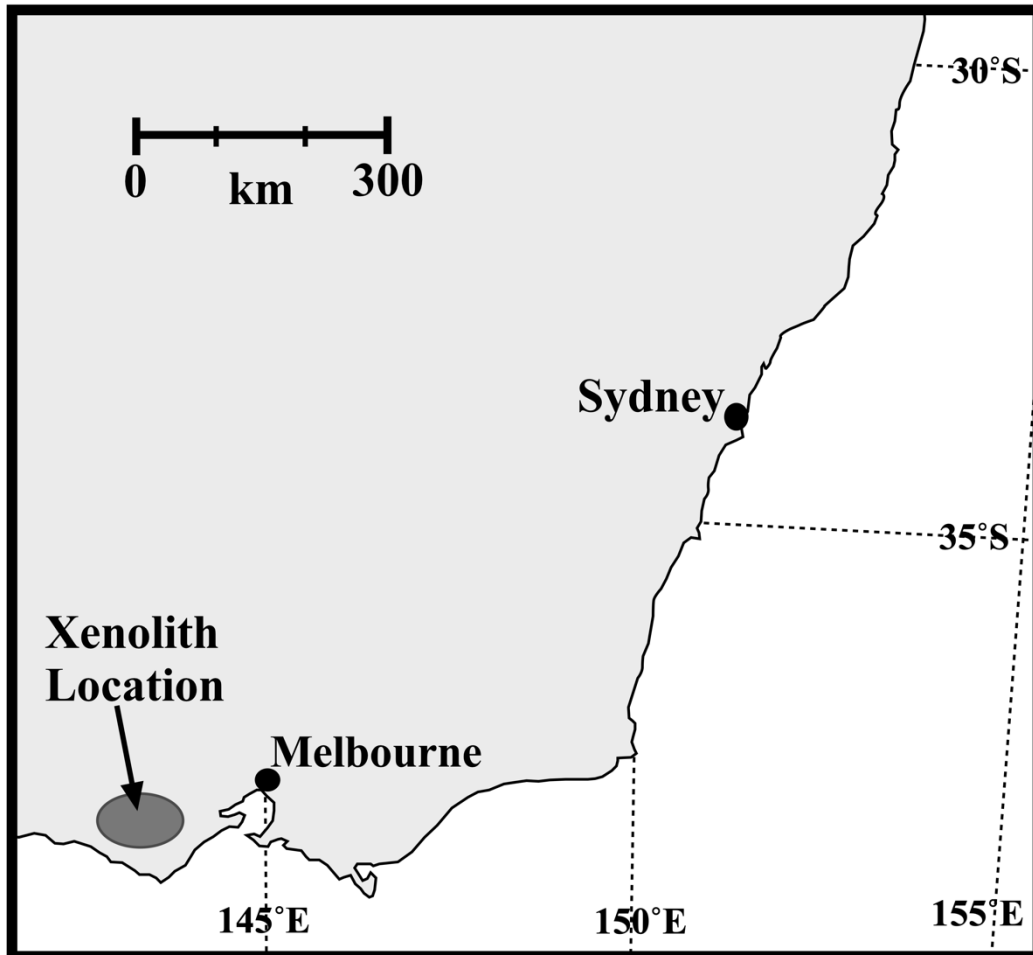
1020 Figure 6. Mole fractions of  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (dashed), and  $\text{CH}_4$  plotted as a function of oxygen fugacity  
1021 at 820 °C and 11 kbar (1.1GPa) in both the graphite bearing system ( $a_{\text{C}} = 1$ , top), and a system in  
1022 which  $a_{\text{C}}$  is reduced ( $a_{\text{C}} = 0.1$  bottom). The vertical black line represents the maximum stability  
1023 of graphite (top -  $a_{\text{C}} < 1$  at  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  more oxidizing than this line), and the analogous line on the bottom  
1024 figure is placed at  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  above which  $a_{\text{C}}$  must be less than 0.1. The vertical dashed line represents  
1025 the value of oxygen fugacity recorded by sample GN9912, indicating that a lithostatically  
1026 pressured C-O-H fluid at this oxygen fugacity should be  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  rich.  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CO}$  are not plotted as  
1027 the mole fraction of either of these species is always  $< 0.02$  for the P-T and values of  $f_{\text{O}_2}$  shown  
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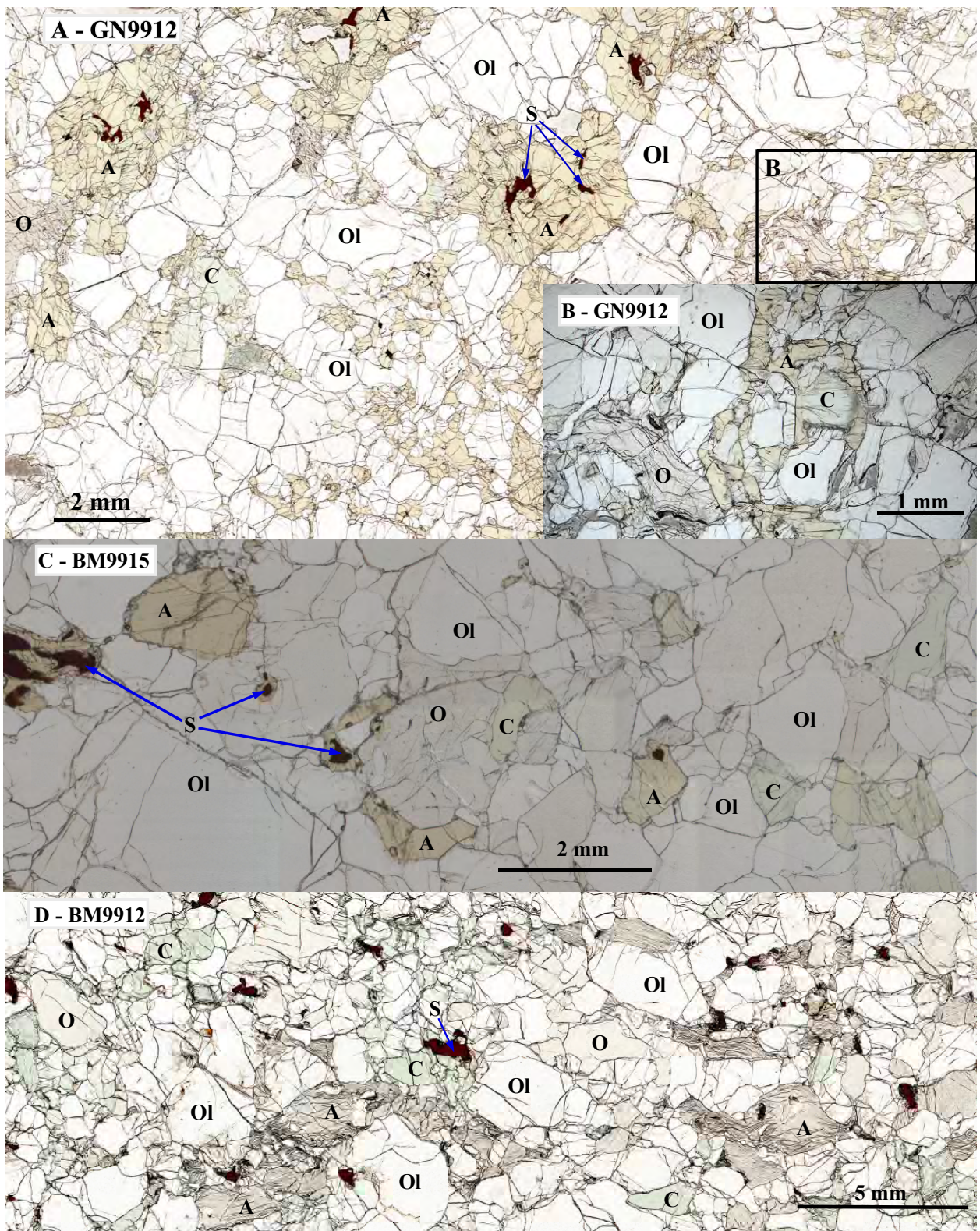
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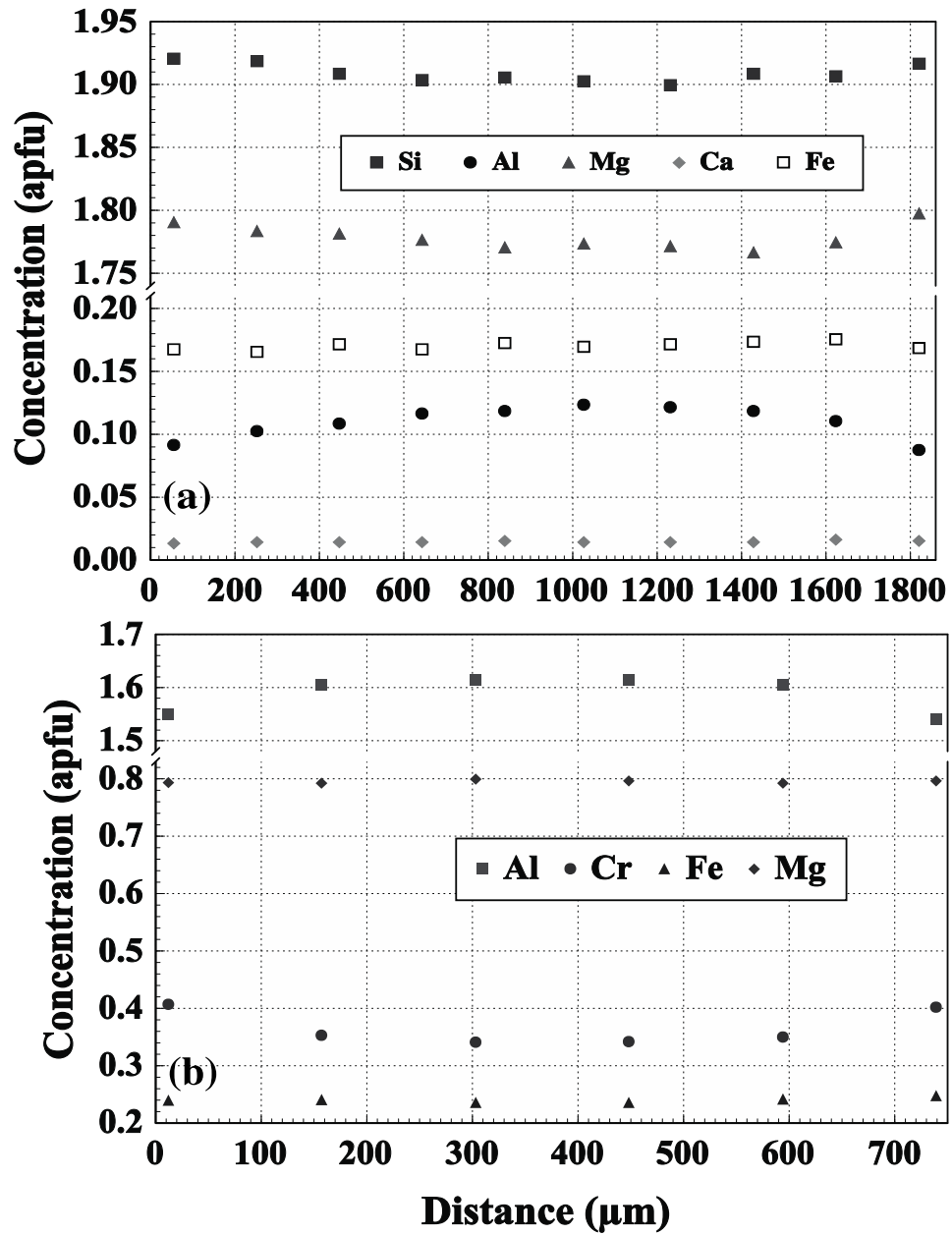
Figure 1.



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Figure 2.

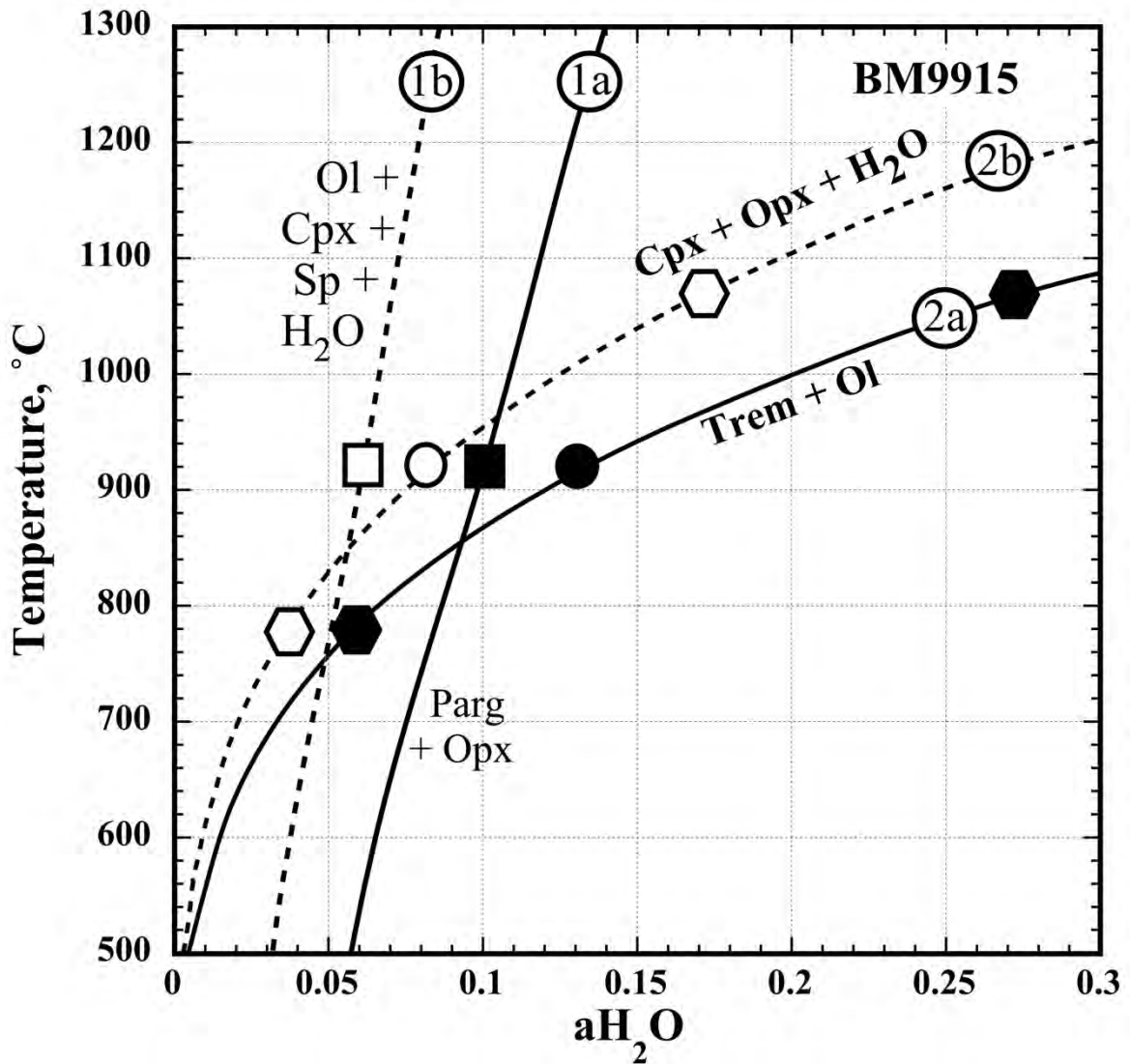
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Figure 3:

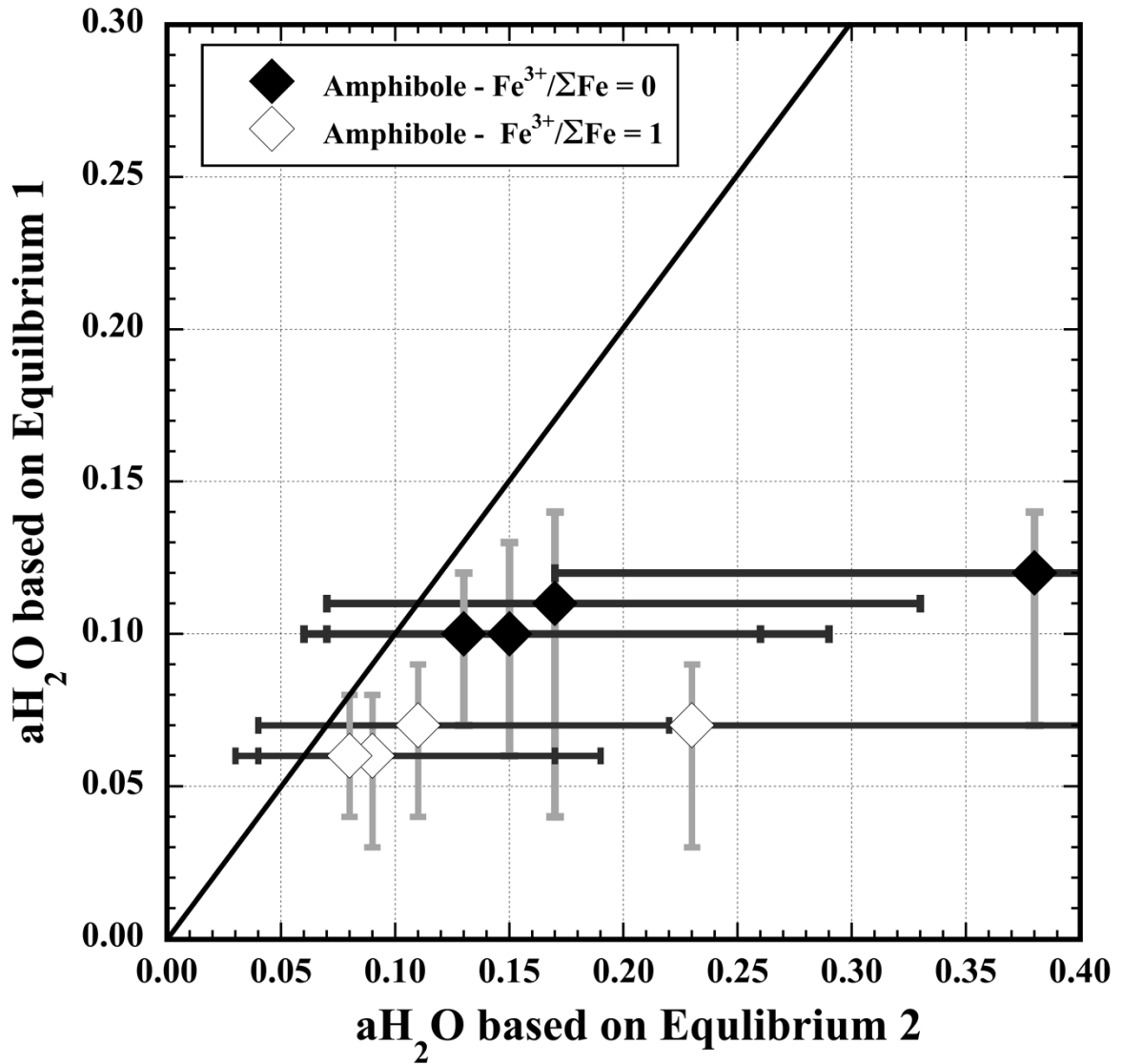
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Figure 4.

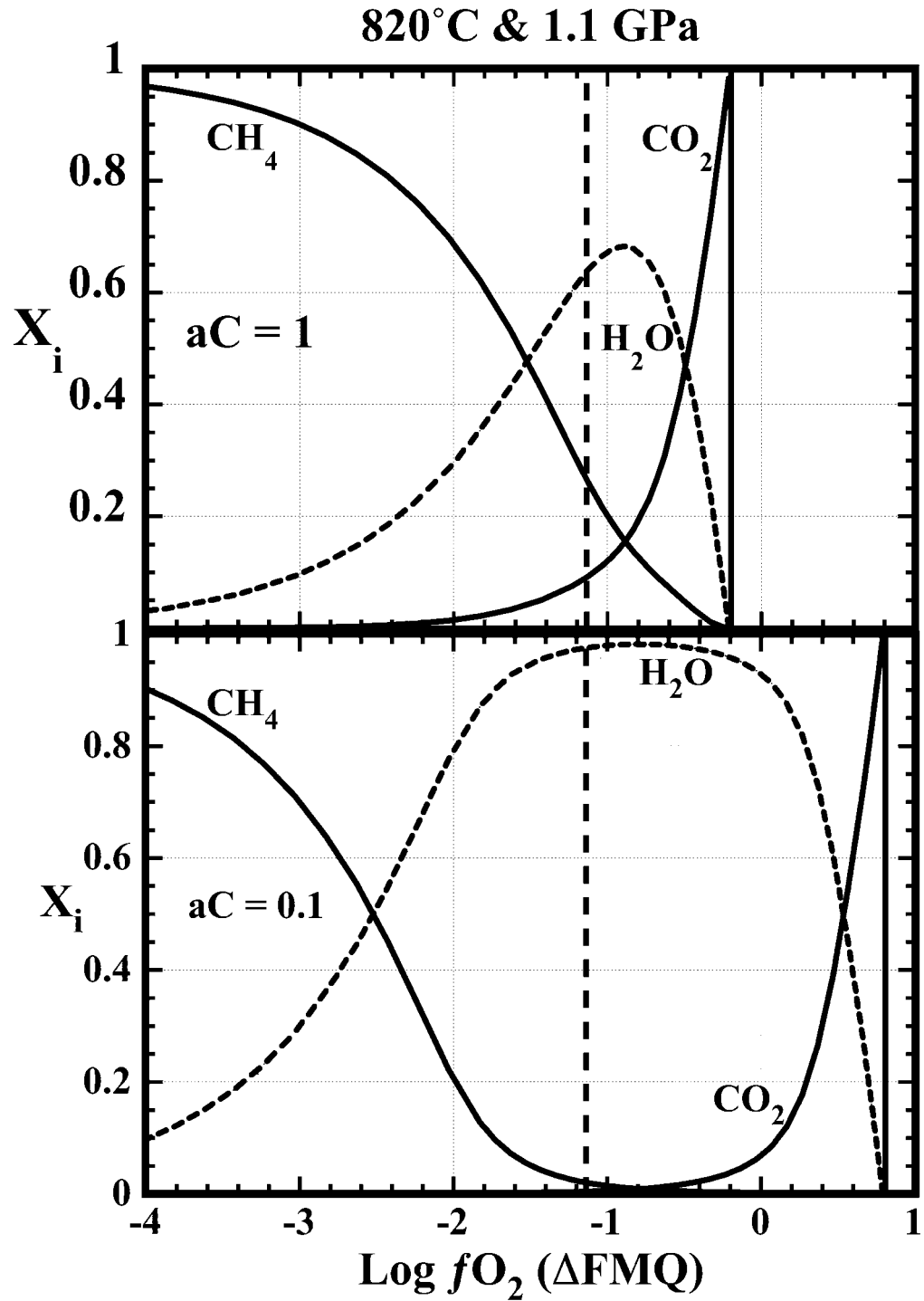
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Figure 5.

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Figure 6

**Table 1. Temperature (°C) and Pressure (GPa) estimates**

Sample:	T(98) <sup>a</sup>	BK <sup>b</sup>	NT <sup>c</sup>	BKNG <sup>d</sup>	Wells <sup>e</sup>	P
BM9912	920	920	930	900	960	1.4
BM9915	910	890	920	860	960	1.3
GN9912	820	800	830	740	880	1.1
GN9913	850	840	860	790	910	1.1

Two-pyroxene temperatures: (a) Taylor (1998), (b) Brey & Kohler (1990), Ca-in-opx, (c) Nimis and Taylor (2000) En-in-cpx, (d) Nimis and Grutter (2010) modified B&K Ca-in-opx, (e) Wells (1977)

**Table 2. Activities of mineral end members and H<sub>2</sub>O.**

	Equilibrium 2 - Tremolite					Uncertainty		Uncertainty
	aFo	aDi	aEn	aTr	aH <sub>2</sub> O <sup>1</sup>	aH <sub>2</sub> O ±	aH <sub>2</sub> O <sup>2</sup>	aH <sub>2</sub> O ±
BM9912	0.82	0.65	0.76	0.04	0.38	-0.21, +0.31	0.23	-0.12, +0.22
BM9915	0.84	0.71	0.77	0.02	0.13	-0.07, +0.13	0.08	-0.05, +0.09
GN9912	0.79	0.71	0.77	0.04	0.15	-0.08, +0.14	0.09	-0.05, +0.10
GN9913	0.82	0.72	0.81	0.05	0.17	-0.1, +0.16	0.11	-0.07, +0.11

**Equilibrium 1 - Pargasite**

	Fo/Di/En	aJd	aSp	aParg	aH <sub>2</sub> O <sup>1</sup>	aH <sub>2</sub> O ±	aH <sub>2</sub> O <sup>2</sup>	aH <sub>2</sub> O ±
BM9912	SA*	0.11	0.63	0.26	0.12	-0.05, +0.02	0.07	-0.04, +0.02
BM9915	SA*	0.08	0.58	0.19	0.10	-0.03, +0.02	0.06	-0.02, +0.02
GN9912	SA*	0.10	0.59	0.28	0.10	-0.04, +0.03	0.06	-0.03, +0.02
GN9913	SA*	0.09	0.61	0.29	0.11	-0.07, +0.03	0.07	-0.03, +0.02

\* SA - Activities of Fo, Di, and En are the same as above (SA); i.e., see equilibria 2.

1 - aH<sub>2</sub>O based on amphibole normalization with Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe=0

2 - aH<sub>2</sub>O based on amphibole normalization with Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe=1

**Table 3: Values of fO<sub>2</sub> with maximum XH<sub>2</sub>O and minimum values of XCO<sub>2</sub> and XCH<sub>4</sub>**

Sample	Miller et al. (2016)		Bryndzia & Wood (1990)		Max.	Min.	Max.
	ΔLogfO <sub>2</sub> *	Log fO <sub>2</sub>	ΔLogfO <sub>2</sub> *	Log fO <sub>2</sub>	XCO <sub>2</sub>	XH <sub>2</sub> O	XCH <sub>4</sub>
BM9912	-0.33	-11.64	-0.27	-11.57	NA	NA	NA
BM9915	-0.20	-11.75	-0.18	-11.72	NA	NA	NA
GN9912	-1.16	-14.53	-1.24	-14.61	0.08	0.63	0.28
GN9913	-0.21	-13.01	-0.36	-13.15	NA	NA	NA

\* Relative to FMQ