

# Age and petrogenesis of the Tinn granite, Telemark, South Norway, and its geochemical relationship to metarhyolite of the Rjukan Group

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The Tinn granite is a Mid Proterozoic, foliated pluton, situated in the central part of the Telemark Sector, South Norway. It is spatially associated with metarhyolite belonging to the Tuddal Formation of the Rjukan Group of the Telemark supracrustal sequence. SIMS U-Pb dating indicates an age of  $1476 \pm 13$  Ma, which is slightly younger than the 1500-1514 Ma eruption interval for the Tuddal Formation rhyolite. Rare xenocrystic zircon cores give an age of  $1506 \pm 10$  Ma, which is indistinguishable from the age of the Tuddal Formation. The absence of older inherited zircons and evidence from whole-rock Nd isotopes suggest that no source component older than the Rjukan Group is needed in the source region of the Tinn granite magma. The preferred petrogenetic model for the Tinn granite is a partial melting-mixing process at moderate depth in the crust, within the Rjukan Group volcanic pile. A mafic magma acted as a source of heat and contributed to the bulk chemistry of the granitic magma. Resetting of the lead isotope system of the granite at mineral scale took place in Sveconorwegian time, at  $1031 \pm 32$  Ma.

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## Introduction

Granitic intrusions make up a substantial component of the continental crust in the southwestern part of the Baltic Shield. Among the Precambrian granitic rocks of South Norway, a group of granitic orthogneisses in the Telemark sector stands out as especially poorly understood. These rocks are spatially associated with the Mid to Late Proterozoic Telemark Supracrustal sequence (Sigmond et al. 1997), and include the voluminous south Telemark Gneisses situated south of the main outcrop area of the supracrustal sequence (Ploquin 1972, Dons & Jorde 1978, Kleppe 1980) and the Tinn granite in the north (Sigmond 1998).

This study presents new SIMS U-Pb data for the emplacement age of the Tinn granite, and clarifies its relationship to the Telemark metarhyolite and to other possible source rocks.

## Geologic setting

The *Telemark Supracrustal sequence* is a well-preserved sequence of Mid Proterozoic metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks, situated in the central part of the Telemark Sector (Dons & Jorde 1978, Sigmond 1998), surrounded by strongly deformed, higher-grade ortho- and paragneisses (Fig. 1). The supracrustal sequence consists of three lithostratigraphic groups separated by angular unconformities: the *Rjukan*, *Seljord* and *Bandak* Groups, and a fourth group, the *Heddal* Group, conformably overlying the *Seljord* Group in the eastern part of the outcrop area (Dons 1960, Sigmond 1998). The *Rjukan Group* is entirely metavolcanic, with a thick

sequence of metarhyolite (the *Tuddal Formation*) overlain by a thinner metabasaltic formation (the *Vemork Formation*). The rhyolitic rocks were deposited in extensional basins, possibly as part of a continental rift system (Sigmond et al. 1997), on a migmatitic basement of unknown age. From the north end of lake Tinnsjø to the Caledonian nappe front, the Rjukan Group is cut by younger mafic to granitic intrusions of the *Uvdal plutonic belt* (Sigmond et al. 1997, Sigmond 1998). The *Seljord* Group consists of quartzite and conglomerate and the *Heddal* Group of quartz arenite with subordinate metavolcanic rocks, whereas the *Bandak* Group is a mixed, volcanic-sedimentary sequence comprising several formations.

Sigmond (1998) reported conventional U-Pb zircon ages for the Tuddal Formation rhyolite of  $1512 +9/-8$  Ma and  $1499 \pm 39$  Ma, and  $1509 +19/-3$  for an intrusion of the Uvdal plutonic belt: the best estimate of the duration of the Rjukan Group volcanism was given as 1500-1514 Ma. A volcanic formation of the *Bandak* Group has been dated at c. 1150 Ma (Dahlgren et al. 1990). From detrital zircon systematics, Haas et al. (1999) inferred a maximum depositional age of the *Seljord* Group at 1450 Ma, but new U-Pb age data from rhyolite underlying the type profile of the *Seljord* Group suggest that some of the sedimentary rocks previously assigned to the *Seljord* Group may be younger than 1155 Ma (Laajoki et al. 2000).

The Tinn granite makes up the southernmost part of the Uvdal plutonic belt (Fig. 1). It is a fine-grained, pale pink, leucocratic two-feldspar granite, with minor dark brown biotite



Fig. 1. Simplified geologic map of the Tinn granite and surrounding rocks, compiled from Dons & Jorde (1978) and Sigmond (1998). Overview map: Simplified map of South Norway showing regional subdivision used in this study: A: Østfold-Akershus sector; K: Kongsberg sector; T: Telemark sector; B: Bamble sector; R: Rogaland-Vest Agder sector. Major shear zones: MMS: Mjøsa-Magnor shear zone, ØMZ: Ørje mylonite zone; PKS: Porsgrunn-Kristiansand shear zone; KTB: Kongsberg-Telemark boundary; MANUS: Mandal-Ustaøset line; CTF (broken line): Caledonian thrust front.

and magnetite, and accessory zircon, titanite and apatite. Field observations do not define unambiguous age relationships between the granite and metarhyolite of the Tuddal Formation: The contact between granite and metarhyolite is gradational, and enclaves or dikes of one in the other are nowhere observed. The grain size of the metarhyolite increases toward the contact with the granite, however, which suggests a local thermal imprint related to the emplacement of the granite (Sigmond 1998). Both units are foliated parallel to the contact. This may be a result of deformation during granite emplacement, as has been suggested for other granites in southern Norway (e.g. Elders 1963, Sylvester 1998), or a result of later tectonic deformation locally controlled by the more competent granite.

The Tinn granite is a moderately silica-rich granite ( $\text{SiO}_2 = 68.3\text{--}72.4$  wt%, Table 1). Its atomic  $(\text{Na}+\text{K})/\text{Al}$  ratio is well below 1.0. The normative mineralogy is highly leucocratic, with a differentiation index (normative  $qz+ab+qz+ne$ ) well above 80. The samples plot well within the 'granite *sensu stricto*' fields in  $pq$  and  $Ab\text{-}Or\text{-}An$  classification diagrams (e.g. Rollinson 1993). Compared to the average of the Tuddal Formation metarhyolite, the Tinn granite is low in  $\text{SiO}_2$  and high in  $\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  (Table 1). Furthermore, the Tinn granite is metaluminous ( $(\text{Ca}+\text{Na}+\text{K})/\text{Al}$  of 1.05–1.08, normative  $co=0$ ), in contrast to the peraluminous composition of the average metarhyolite (normative  $co=1.9$ ).

## Analytical methods

The present study is based on two 5–8 kg samples of the Tinn granite (083196-2 and 071996-2), for which whole-rock

Sr, Nd, and Pb isotope data were published by Andersen et al. (2001). The samples were crushed to a grain size of less than  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  using a jaw crusher and a percussion mill. Zircons were separated from the  $<250\ \mu\text{m}$  fraction by a combination of Wilfley-table washing, heavy liquid separation (1,1,2,2-tetrabromoethane and diiodomethane) and magnetic separation. The final, non-magnetic zircon fraction was then purified by hand picking under a binocular microscope, and selected grains were mounted on doubly adhesive tape, cast in epoxy and polished for the ion microprobe study. Electron backscatter imaging (BSE) in a scanning electron microscope (Department of Geology, Oslo) and an electron microprobe (Macquarie University, Sydney) was used both as a preliminary survey before analysis, and to document individual grains after analysis. The U-Pb zircon dating was performed in the NORDSIM laboratory located at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, using a CAMECA IMS1270 ion microprobe; analytical conditions and data reduction procedures are described by Whitehouse et al. (1997, 1999). U-Pb data are listed with  $1\ \sigma$  errors in Table 1, whereas the derived ages are given with 95% confidence errors. Additional separates of rock-forming minerals for the Pb-Pb isochron study were made by a combination of heavy liquid and magnetic separation, followed by hand picking. Lead was separated and analysed by methods described by Andersen (1997). Whole-rock and K-feldspar lead isotope data are taken from Andersen et al. (2001).

All geochronologic calculations have been made using Isoplot/Ex version 2.32 (Ludwig 2000).

Table 1. Geochemical data on the Tinn granite.

Sample	083196-2	071996-2	Tuddal Fm average	083196-2	071996-2	Tuddal Fm average
<i>UTM-reference</i>						
UTM E	4862	4908				
UTM N	66509	66523				
<i>Wt% Oxides</i>						
SiO <sub>2</sub>	68.30	72.41	75.07	qz	23.67	29.01
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.66	0.21	0.27	co	0	0
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.06	13.10	12.52	or	30.73	30.73
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.16	0.66	0.73	ab	27.76	29.47
FeO	2.10	1.19	1.47	an	8.27	4.75
MnO	0.05	0.04	0.03	di	1.27	1.31
MgO	0.54	0.13	0.40	hs	2.92	1.15
CaO	2.27	1.31	0.25	ilm	1.25	0.40
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.28	3.48	2.86	mt	1.57	0.89
K <sub>2</sub> O	5.20	5.20	5.19	ap	0.55	0.10
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.23	0.04	0.03			
LOI	1.58	0.83		an%	0.23	0.14
Sum	99.43	98.61				
<i>Trace elements, parts per million</i>						
Rb	288	310	184			
Ba	364	319	491			
Pb	17	17	9			
Sr	32	41	33			
Eu	0.46	0.65				
<i>Radiogenic isotopes</i>						
<sup>147</sup> Sm/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	0.1229	0.1049				
<sup>143</sup> Nd/ <sup>144</sup> Nd	0.512083	0.511829				
±2σ	16	10				
t <sub>DM</sub>	1.60	1.69				
<sup>87</sup> Rb/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	28.0653	22.9046				
<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr	1.282289	1.172639				
±2σ	14	11				

Major element analysis by XRF (Department of Geology, University of Oslo), trace elements by ICPMS (Actlabs, Canada). Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/FeO estimated according to Rollinson (1993). Whole-rock radiogenic isotope data from Andersen et al. (2001), and data on Tuddal Fm. metarhyolites from Brewer & Menuge (1998). Nd model ages are calculated using the depleted mantle reservoir of De Paolo (1981).

## Morphology and internal structure of zircons

Zircons in the Tinn granite are moderately elongated prisms. BSE images reveal a well-developed oscillatory magmatic zoning, in most grains overgrown by a thin and discontinuous, BSE-bright outer zone (Fig. 2a). These overgrowths were too thin to be analysed, but were most likely formed during metamorphic recrystallization of the granite. *Xenocrystic cores* predating the main zircon-forming event, with boundaries clearly discordant to the magmatic zoning, are rare. Among more than 200 grains mounted for analysis, only four single crystals contained cores which were visible in BSE images, two of which are shown in Fig. 2b and c.

## Geochronology

### SIMS U-Pb data and the age of emplacement

Twenty-nine spots on 25 selected zircon grains were analysed by secondary ion mass spectrometry (Table 2). Individual spot analyses are identified by NORDSIM laboratory log numbers. Core-rim pairs (denoted by *a* and *b* in Table 2) were analysed in grains where inherited cores were

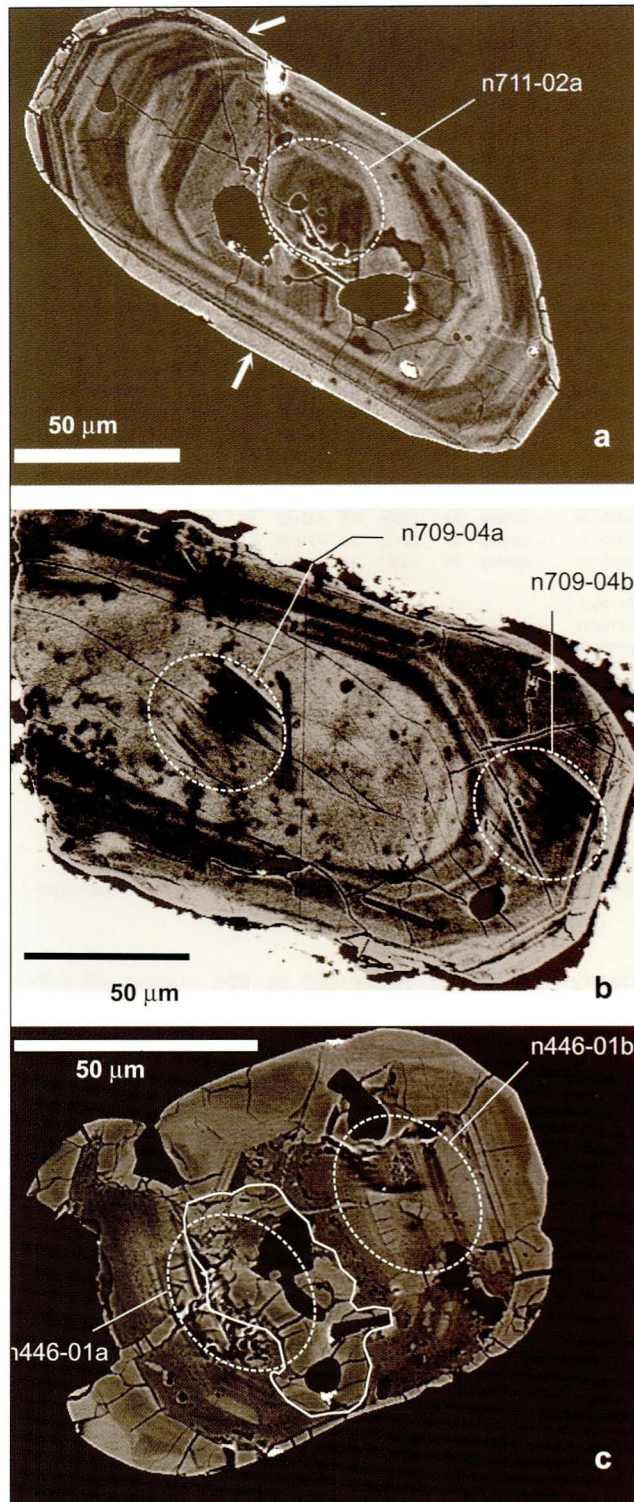


Fig. 2. Backscatter electron images of zircons from the Tinn granite. Location of SIMS analytical spots indicated (stippled ellipses) with numbers referring to Table 1. Images made after analysis, using a Cameca SX-50 electron microprobe at GEMOC National Key Centre, Macquarie University, Australia. a: Most common zircon in Tinn granite consists of central domain with oscillatory, magmatic zoning and a thin, discontinuous, BSE-bright overgrowth (arrows). Sample 071996-2. b: Zircon crystal with well-rounded, xenocrystic core in oscillatory zoned host. Note weak, oscillatory zoning in core (right part) cut by interface between core and host. Sample 083196-2. c: Zircon with a corroded xenocrystic core (strengthened by outline). BSE-bright overgrowth is more strongly developed in this crystal than in that in b, but it has been partly broken off (left part) during crushing. Sample 083196-2.



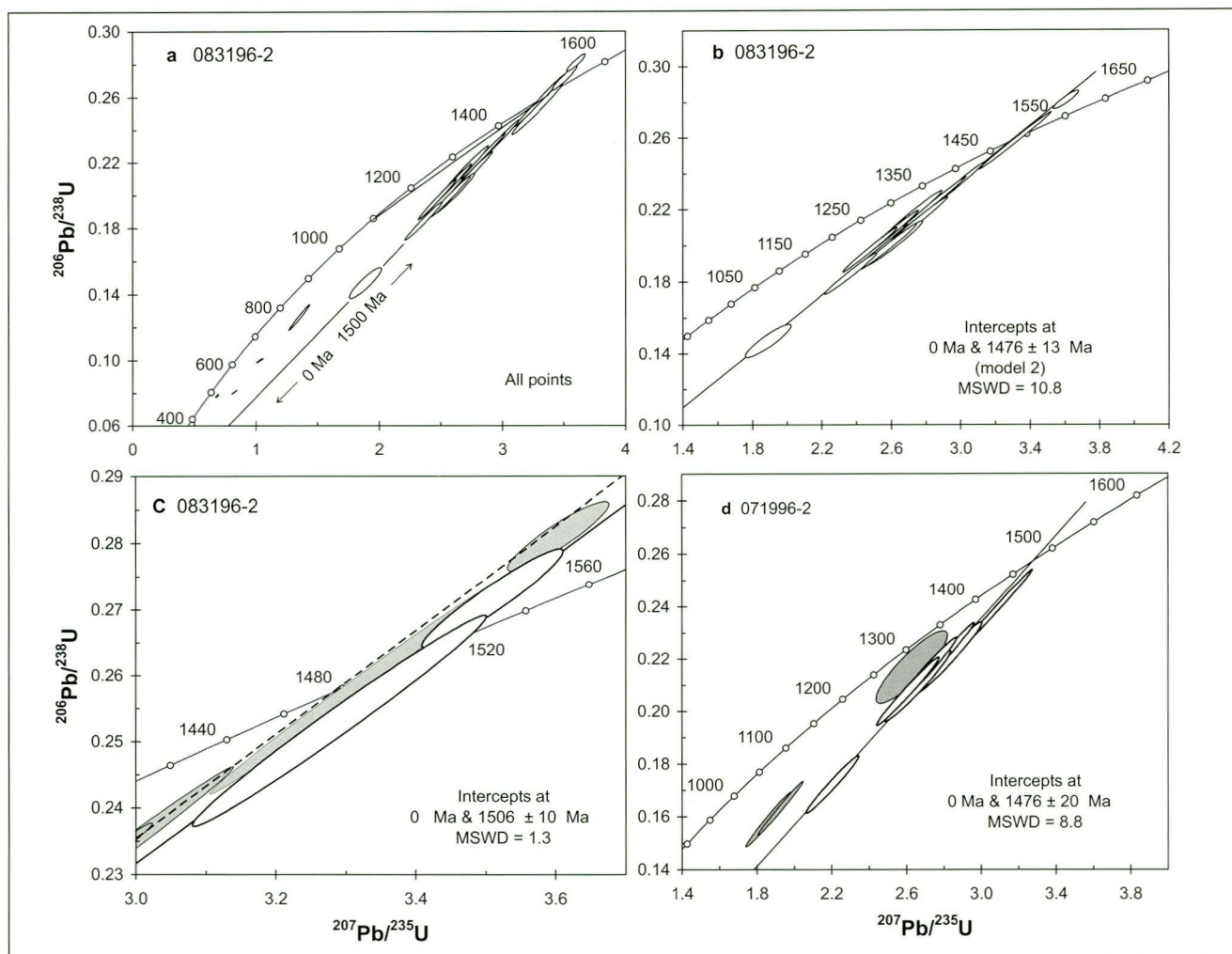


Fig. 3. Concordia diagrams of SIMS U-Pb data for the Tinn granite (Table 1). Data-points are shown with 1σ error ellipses. a: All points, with a reference recent lead-loss line drawn to 1500 Ma. Note widely discordant grains, plotting between the reference line and concordia. These grains lost radiogenic lead both in Sveconorwegian and in recent times and are omitted from further consideration. b: Data from sample 083196-2, showing grains without visible cores. Regression line through a forced lower intercept at zero is shown. c: Cores in sample 083196-2 (white) compared to grains of main population in same sample (gray). Regression lines for the main population (dotted, see b) and for cores (forced through zero) are shown. d: Data from sample 071996-2, showing best-fit recent lead-loss line. Points indicated in gray suffered partial lead-loss in the Sveconorwegian orogeny and have been omitted from the regression.

time, and suggests that the partial lead-loss observed in some zircons was indeed due to a Sveconorwegian metamorphic overprint. This age corresponds within overlapping uncertainties with a regional lead isotope resetting event detected in metasedimentary rocks and in other felsic intru-

sions in South Norway (Heaman & Smalley, 1994; Andersen & Munz 1995, Simonsen 1997).

## Discussion

The age of eruption of the Tuddal formation rhyolite is still not well determined, but the assumption of a c. 14 Ma period of volcanic activity by Sigmond (1998) is reasonable from what is known from modern and recent geologic analogs. In the southwestern United States, numerous rhyolitic volcanic centers formed in response to Cenozoic crustal extension (e.g., Lipman 1992). One of the largest and best studied silicic volcanic centers in the world in the Timber Mountain – Oasis Valley caldera complex in southwestern Nevada. It is about 100 km long and 50 km wide and has existed for 16 Ma. Silicic volcanism predominated between 16 and 6 Ma, the most activity and voluminous magma production was between 12 and 10 Ma, single calderas lasted 1–2 Ma, some

Table 3. Lead isotope data on whole-rocks and rock-forming minerals of the Tinn granite.

	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$
071996-2 Whole-rock	22.843	0.018	15.962	0.019	42.043	0.066	
K-feldspar	18.476	0.017	15.640	0.021	37.645	0.067	
Magnetite	66.569	0.060	19.110	0.026	71.859	0.127	
Biotite	59.604	0.054	18.692	0.026	74.026	0.131	
Titanite	96.349	0.087	21.389	0.029	72.433	0.128	
Apatite	20.681	0.018	15.788	0.021	39.253	0.068	
083196-2 Whole-rock	22.274	0.017	15.915	0.019	40.713	0.064	

Whole-rock and K-feldspar data from Andersen et al. (2001)

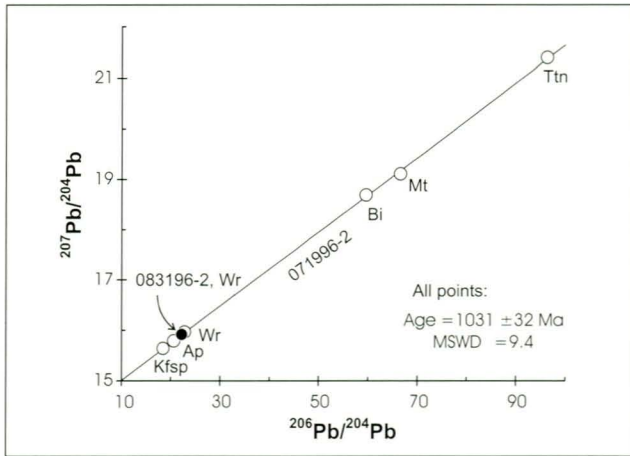


Fig. 4. Lead isotope data for whole rocks and minerals from the Tinn granite; data from Table 2. The age represents an event of Sveconorwegian lead isotope homogenization, whose timing is comparable to other events in South Norway (e.g. Andersen & Munz 1995). Abbreviations: Ttn: titanite; Mt: magnetite; Bi: biotite; Wr: whole rock; Ap: apatite; Kfsp: potassium feldspar (microcline).

were as short as 100,000 years, and the time lapse between individual eruptive events may have been only several tens of years (Byers et al. 1989). The volcanic center is typified by at least 35 separable important eruptive events. Basaltic volcanism began there at about 9 Ma and continues to present (Perry et al. 1998).

The most precise U-Pb age reported by Sigmond (1998) for a Tuddal Formation rhyolite (1512 +9/-8 Ma) and the 1509 +19/-3 age for a crosscutting intrusion combine to suggest that the rhyolitic magmatism had terminated before 1500 Ma. The two zircon cores dated here (1506 ± 10 Ma) are coeval with the rhyolite and may have been inherited from such a source. An emplacement age of 1476 ± 13

Ma thus makes the Tinn granite slightly younger than the Tuddal Formation rhyolite. Metamorphism of the granite post-dated its emplacement by c. 450 Ma, causing only minor lead-loss from zircons. The present geochronologic data thus agree with the interpretation that the Tinn granite intruded the Tuddal Formation, and that the foliation-concordant nature of the contact between the two units is due to deformation during emplacement or to later Sveconorwegian(?) deformation.

At 1476 Ma, the Nd isotopic composition of both of the samples dated in this study falls within the wide range of variation of the Tuddal Formation metarhyolite (Menuge & Brewer 1996, Brewer & Menuge 1998; data for the Tinn granite from Andersen et al. 2001, see Table 1); sample 083196-2 also overlaps with the much more restricted range of variation of the Vemork Group metabasalt (Fig. 5a). Depleted mantle model ages (De Paolo 1981 model) of 1.60 and 1.69 Ga are within the range of the Rjukan Group (Brewer & Menuge 1998).

The Tinn granite has a very radiogenic present-day Sr isotope composition, with <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr well above 1.0. The reason for this is a very high Rb/Sr ratio, which is in turn due to anomalously low Sr contents combined with a normal upper-crustal Rb concentration (Fig 1, see also Andersen et al. 2001). In these features, the Tinn granite resembles a group of post-tectonic Sveconorwegian granites from the Telemark sector ('low-Sr concentration granites' of Andersen et al. 2001), and a range of metasedimentary rocks and gneisses of uncertain origin from the area west of the Oslo Rift (Andersen & Knudsen 2000). The present-day Sr isotope composition of the Tinn granite falls within the upper part of the range of the Tuddal Formation (Fig. 5b). When recalculated to 1476 Ma, the Tinn granite still overlaps with the range of the rhyolite, but at unrealistically low, time-cor-

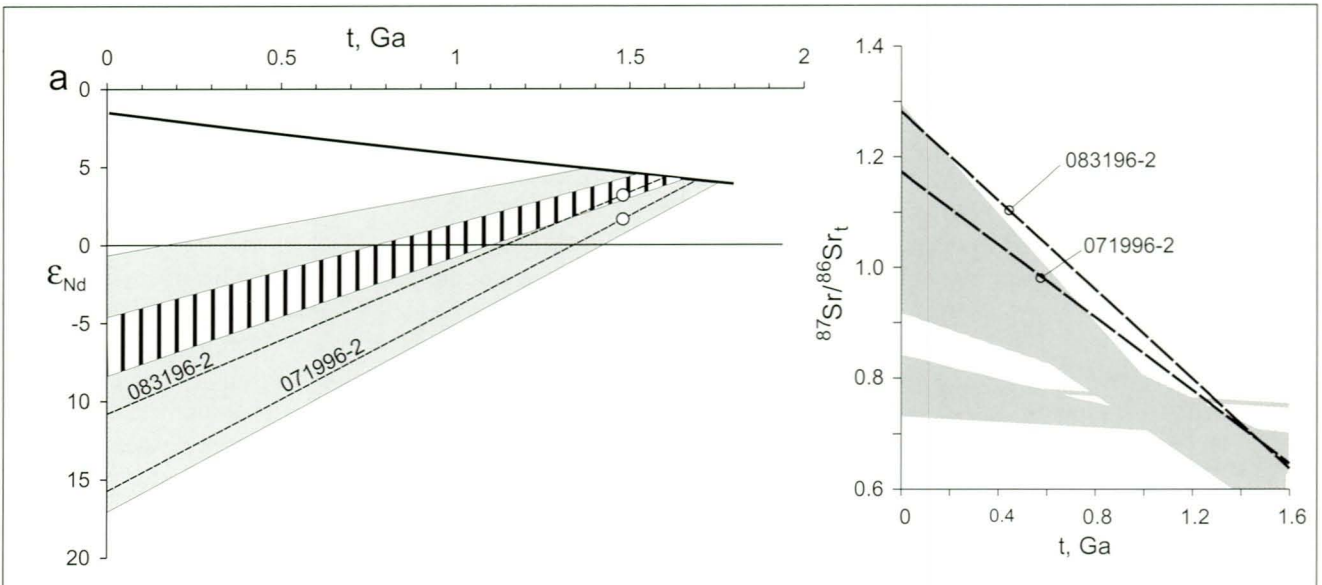


Fig. 5. Sr and Nd isotope evolution diagrams for the Tinn granite compared to the Rjukan Group. a: Nd isotopes. Gray shading represents total range of Tuddal Formation; striped field is corresponding range of Vemork Formation (data from Brewer & Menuge 1998). b: Sr isotopes. Gray shading represents total range of Tuddal Formation. Data from Kleppe (1980) and Verschure et al. (1990). See discussion in text.

rected  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ( $< 0.70$ ), indicating that the Sr isotope system of the granite was partly reset in Sveconorwegian time. The high Rb/Sr ratios in some of the Tuddal Formation rhyolite have been attributed to Sveconorwegian Rb-metasomatism (Verschure et al. 1990), but Andersen et al. (2001) argued that the similar Rb/Sr ratios observed in Sveconorwegian low-Sr granites were inherited from the source, because none of these rocks is anomalously enriched in Rb, yet they have consistently low Sr concentrations. The same argument can be used for the Tinn granite.

The presence of  $1506 \pm 10$  Ma inherited zircon cores in the Tinn granite, and its pronounced similarity to the Tuddal Formation in Nd isotope systematics, suggest that material related to the rhyolite of the Tuddal Formation has, indeed, been involved in the petrogenesis of the Tinn granite, as a source for anatectic melt, as a significant contaminant, or as a parent magma. Older, regionally distributed, possible protoliths in South Norway include pre-1.65 Ga TIB equivalents and other, still unidentified rocks with a crustal prehistory back to 1.7-1.9 Ga, which have acted as source terranes for the Seljord Group and other Mid Proterozoic clastic sedimentary rocks (Knudsen et al. 1997, de Haas et al. 1999, Bingen et al. 2001). The Nd isotope systematics of the Tinn granite, and the lack of pre-1.51 Ga inherited zircons indicate that such rocks were not significant as source rocks for the Tinn granite, nor were they important as contaminants.

### Petrogenesis of the Tinn granite

The normative mineralogy of the Tuddal Formation rhyolite is strongly dominated by *qz*, *ab*, and *or*; and normative *an* is consistently very low, with an average of 0.97 % (Table 1, data from Brewer & Menuge 1998). The mean differentiation index is as high as  $92 \pm 7$  ( $2\sigma$ ), which allows differentiation and partial melting of a rhyolitic precursor to be adequately reproduced by the *ab-or-qz* system, for which abundant experimental data are available (e.g. Johannes & Holtz 1996 and references therein). Both fractional crystallization of a rhyolitic magma and partial melting of Tuddal Formation rhyolite would produce melts at the thermal minimum of the quartz-feldspar cotectic boundary in the Ab-Or-Qz system at low to moderate pressures, and at the albite-K-feldspar-quartz eutectic at higher pressures. At low to moderate pressures, minimum melts would be higher in normative *qz* and lower in *an* and *or* than the Tinn granite; at higher pressures ( $> 5$  kbar), minimum melts would be less silicic, but would have significantly higher *ab/or* ratios than observed (Johannes & Holtz 1996). The observed range of normative *an* in the Tinn granite could be caused by accumulation of alkali feldspar and plagioclase in a Tuddal-like magma, but it is highly improbable that a liquid with less than 1 % normative *an* could accumulate enough calcic plagioclase to increase the *an* content by a factor of 4 to 8. The Tinn granite also has low concentrations of feldspar-compatible trace elements (Ba, Sr, Pb, Eu; Table 1), which does not agree with the presence of accumulated feldspar.

The compositional data thus suggest that the Tinn granite is neither a differentiate of a Tuddal parent magma, a cumulate formed from such a magma, nor a simple anatectic melt of a Tuddal Formation protolith. The granite could represent a retarded batch of an undifferentiated parent magma related to the Tuddal rhyolite, but the time interval between the end of rhyolitic volcanism and emplacement of the granite may be too long for a single silicic magmatic system to have remained active.

The observed compositions of the Tinn granite can be adequately explained by mixing between a minimum melt and a low *qz*-high *an* melt, i.e. between an anatectic melt from a rhyolite-like protolith and a mafic magma. The thickness of the Tuddal Formation has been estimated to be minimum 7 km (Sigmond 1998). Rocks cogenetic with the rhyolite, with anomalously low Sr concentration, must also be present at greater depth in the Telemark area (Andersen et al. 2001, Andersen & Knudsen 2000). 10-20 Ma after eruption of the Tuddal Formation rhyolite, the volcanic pile and related intrusions at deeper levels in the crust would probably be hot enough to partially melt when heated up by injection of mafic magma. There is abundant evidence of mafic to intermediate magmatic activity in Telemark after eruption of the Tuddal Formation rhyolite (mafic members of the Uvdal plutonic belt, Vemork Formation basalts, e.g. Sigmond 1998), providing a source for the necessary extra thermal energy and a mafic component. An open-system process, involving mafic magma and material derived from a crustal protolith related to the Tuddal Formation, is therefore the preferred petrogenetic model for the Tinn granite. The Tinn granite must have formed during a period of crustal extension that permitted mafic magma to ascend to a high crustal level and, thereby, cause partial melting of the upper crust as well as to mix and mingle with the derived silicic melts.

### Conclusions

Zircons from the Tinn granite were dated at  $1476 \pm 13$  Ma, which suggests that emplacement of the granite post-dates the felsic volcanism that gave rise to the Tuddal Formation by at least 11 Ma, accepting the 1500-1514 Ma age estimate of the Tuddal Formation by Sigmond (1998). Radiogenic isotope data and rare inherited zircon cores indicate that no material significantly older than the Rjukan Group was involved in its petrogenesis. Whole-rock major element data from the Tinn granite suggest that the granitic magma formed by an open system process in which partial melts from a protolith with age and Nd isotope systematics indistinguishable from the Tuddal Formation were mixed with mafic material. Partial melting may have been induced by emplacement of mafic magma into the middle to upper crust of the Telemark sector after termination of the rhyolitic volcanism, but while the crust still remained hot.

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