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Introduction

This report provides supplementary data (electron probe microanalysis and laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry) of uraninite grains for Potter et al. (*in press*). In Potter et al. (*in press*), uraninite from IOCG and affiliated mineral occurrences from the Great Bear magmatic zone in Canada (Fig. 1) was examined to gain insights on the metal sourcing and precipitation mechanisms in the deposits. This setting is an ideal natural laboratory to study uranium enrichment in these metamorphic systems, as excellent glaciated exposures of the weakly to non-deformed and unmetamorphosed occurrences illustrate the evolution from IOA (Hildebrand, 1986) to magnetite, magnetite-hematite and hematite group IOCG deposits (Corriveau et al., 2010, 2016; Mumin et al., 2010; Ootes et al., 2010; Potter et al., 2013; Richards and Mumin, 2013; Montreuil et al., 2016a, b). The regional-scale systems also host a wide spectrum of affiliated deposits such as albitite-hosted uranium (Montreuil et al., 2015, 2016b; Potter et al., 2019), skarn (Gandhi, 2003; Williams, 2010; Corriveau et al., *in press*) and epithermal-style veins (Mumin et al., 2010; Somarin and Mumin, 2012; Gandhi et al., 2018). As documented by several authors (e.g. Fryer and Taylor, 1987; Pagel et al., 1987; Maas and McCulloch, 1990; Hidaka et al., 1992; Fayek and Kyser, 1997; Hidaka and Gauthier-Lafaye, 2001; Cuney, 2010; Mercadier et al., 2011; Frimmel et al., 2014; Spano et al., 2017; Duffet et al., 2020), the trace element chemistry of uraninite is unique to the deposit type and provenance associated with its formation, and reflects the conditions under which the mineral crystallized (combination of fluid chemistry, temperature, source materials, etc.). As such, the chemistry of uraninite, coupled with field relationships and petrography, can provide insights on the sourcing and precipitation of uranium in these systems.

Methods

Thick (~200 µm) polished thin sections were prepared from polished sample slabs, using autoradiographs to target uraninite grains. The target grains were examined using a Zeiss EVO 50 series Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) equipped with a Backscattered Electron Detector at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) in Ottawa. The Oxford energy dispersive spectrometry (EDS) system includes the X-MAX 150 Silicon Drift Detector, the INCA Energy 450 software and the latest AZtec microanalysis software. The SEM was operating at 20 kV with a beam current of 400 pA to 1 nA. Uraninite grains were analyzed with a Cameca SX50 electron microprobe at the GSC and a JEOL 8230 electron microprobe at the University of Ottawa. Operating conditions were 20 kV accelerating voltage and 10 nA current, with 20 s on peak and 10 s off-peak counting times. A mixture of natural and synthetic pure metal, simple oxides and simple compounds were used as standards. Data reduction was accomplished with a ZAF matrix correction

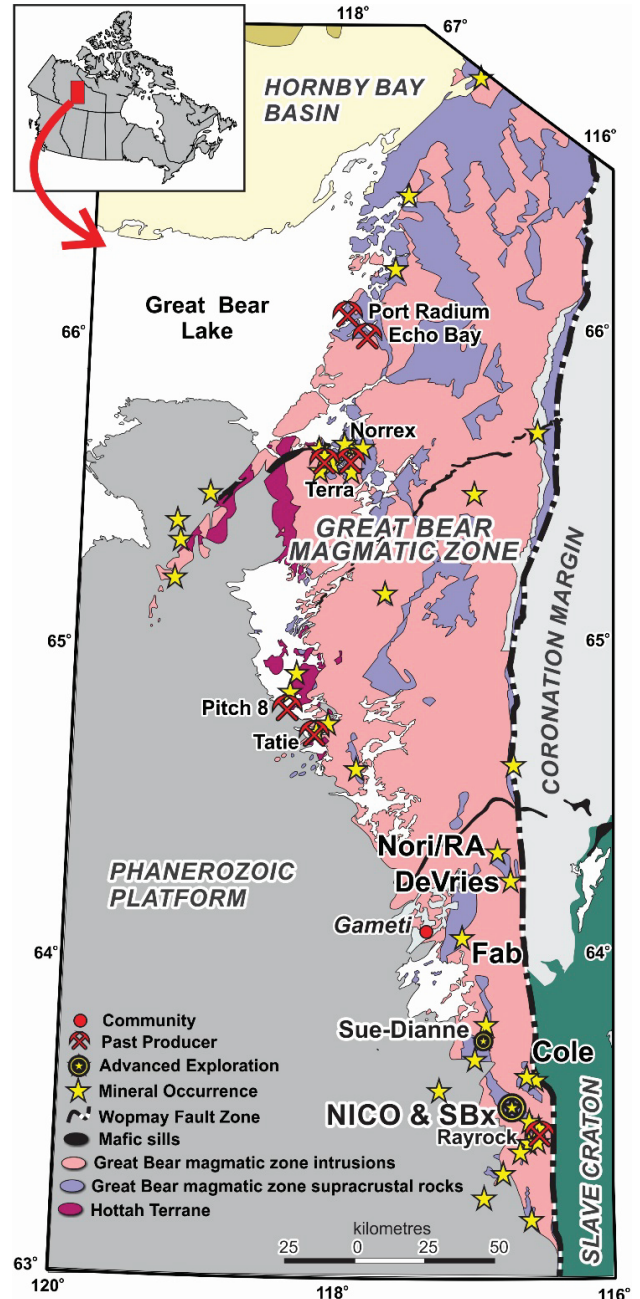


FIGURE 1. Location of the Great Bear magmatic zone and mineral occurrences examined in this study (bold font). Geology after Hoffman and Hall (1993) and mineral occurrences from the NORMIN database (www.nwtgeoscience.ca/normin).

using Probe For Windows software (Armstrong, 1988) and Pouchou and Pichoir (1984) using JEOL software. For elements with concentrations <1 wt.%, typical detection limits during electron microprobe analysis were: 0.17 wt% ThO₂, 0.08 wt% Y₂O₃, 0.25 wt% La₂O₃, 0.03 wt% CaO, and 0.04 wt% FeO.

Trace element concentrations were analyzed using *in situ* laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) on polished thick sections at the

GSC. The system consists of a Teledyne-Photon Machines Analyte GI excimer laser (193 nm) ablation system with a Helex dual-volume ablation cell and an Agilent 7700x quadrupole ICP-MS equipped with a second rotary vacuum pump that improves instrument sensitivity across the mass range by ~2 times (Jackson and Cabri, 2011). Analyses were done using a 26 μm spot size at repetition rate of 10 Hz, and a fluence of 4.53 J/cm² for the 200 μm thick polished sections. Helium gas was used to transport ablated sample material from the ablation cell. The sample and He mixture was mixed with argon (flow rate of 1.05 L/min) before entering the ICP-MS. Data acquisition time was 100 s in length, including 40 s of background signal prior to ablation and 60 s of sample signal. A USGS doped basaltic glass GSE-1G standard (Guillong et al., 2005) was used as calibration standard, while BCR-2G was used as a quality control standard, following methods outlined in Jackson (2008). The data reduction was performed using GLITTER (Griffin et al., 2008). The “GeoReM preferred values” (as of February 2010) from the on-line geological and environmental reference materials database (GeoReM; Jochum et al., 2005) were used for the concentrations of the elements in GSE-1G and BCR-2G. Most elements were within 5–10% of the accepted values for GSE-1G, except for Tb, Tm and Lu which within 15%. Average lower detection limits for REE during uraninite analyses were (in ppm): La=0.004, Ce=0.009, Pr=0.004, Nd=0.025, Sm=0.022, Eu=0.006, Gd=0.032, Tb=0.002, Dy=0.011, Ho=0.004, Er=0.021, Tm=0.002, Yb=0.012, Lu=0.003. The uranium content determined by electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) was used as an internal standard. The integrated region of sample signal was selected carefully to exclude regions associated with inclusions and/or ablation of surrounding minerals. In addition to the aforementioned standards, trace element concentrations were verified against a well-characterized uraninite from Mistamisk, Quebec (Bonhoure et al., 2007; Mercadier et al., 2011; Lach et al., 2013).

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Data Tables (see digital versions)

Appendix A. Electron probe microanalyses (EMPA) of uraninite.

Appendix B. Laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) of uraninite