



Duration of the Petermann Orogeny from coupled diffusion and phase equilibria modelling

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Table of Contents

Abstract.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Geological setting.....	7
Petrographic descriptions.....	11
<i>Group 1- Eastern Mann Ranges</i>	12
<i>Group 2- Western Mann Ranges</i>	14
<i>Group 3- Cockburn Shear Zone</i>	16
Methods.....	17
Mineral Chemistry and Elemental mapping.....	18
In-situ LA-ICPMS U-Pb geochronology.....	18
Sample preparation.....	18
<i>LA-ICPMS operating procedures and data reduction</i>	19
SHRIMP and LA-ICPMS U-Pb-Th geochronology.....	19
<i>Sample preparation</i>	20
<i>SHRIMP operating procedures and data reduction</i>	20
<i>LA-ICPMS operating procedures and data reduction</i>	22
Quantified metamorphic analysis.....	22
Phase equilibria calculations.....	23
LA-ICPMS trace element analysis.....	24
<i>Operating procedures and data reduction</i>	24
<i>Trace element thermometry</i>	24
Garnet diffusion-cooling modelling.....	25
Results.....	26
Mineral chemistry.....	26
<i>Group 1</i>	26
Calculated metamorphic phase equilibria.....	28
U-Pb-Th SHRIMP geochronology.....	30
<i>Titanite age data</i>	30
<i>Rutile age data</i>	30
<i>Zircon age data</i>	32
LA-ICPMS in-situ monazite age data.....	32
Trace element thermometry.....	33

<i>Titanite temperature estimates</i>	33
<i>Zircon temperature estimates</i>	34
Garnet diffusion-cooling modelling	34
Discussion and Conclusions	35
Age constraints on the metamorphic evolution	36
Thermobarometric evolution and exhumation history.....	40
Thermal state of the crust.....	43
Acknowledgements	45
References.....	46
Figure captions.....	51
Tables	55
Figures	69

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Abstract

The Ediacaran to Cambrian (600-500 Ma) intraplate Petermann Orogeny significantly affected the crustal architecture of Central Australia, resulting in the exhumation of the Musgrave Province from beneath the Centralian Superbasin. In the western Musgrave Province response to intensive deformation is variable, with pervasive mylonitic reworking and localised migmatitisation in the western Mann Ranges, and discrete mylonitisation in the eastern Mann Ranges. The duration of this period of intraplate orogenesis is a currently debated topic. Ti-in-zircon thermometry coupled with SHRIMP U-Pb zircon geochronology indicate that peak temperatures of $733\pm 23^\circ\text{C}$ in the western Mann Ranges occurred at *circa* 540 Ma. Combined diffusion-cooling modelling, U-Pb rutile and titanite isotopic data and calculated phase equilibria of recrystallised metagranites from the Cockburn Shear Zone and kyanite-bearing mylonites from the Mt. Charles Thrust indicate exhumation driven cooling from peak *P-T* conditions of 12-14 kbars and $700\text{-}750^\circ\text{C}$ to 6-7 kbars and $550\text{-}600^\circ\text{C}$ at *c.* 500 Ma occurred at a rate of $3.75\text{-}5.6^\circ\text{C}/\text{My}$. These results indicate a slow-cooling and long-lived thermal regime and additionally suggests that final exhumation of the Musgrave

Province had not occurred by *c.* 500 Ma, much younger than previously estimated. These findings suggest that granulite-facies metamorphism in the Musgrave Province was regional and that other factors such as fluid, control the variations in style of structural reworking. This study lends support to the notion that the intraplate Petermann Orogeny was long-lived and does not advocate short-lived orogenesis or the theory that shear heating is the driving force for metamorphism.