REE compositions of the Kumano acidic rocks, outer zone of southwestern Japan

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The Kumano Acidic Rocks (KAR) which distributes in south-eastern part of the Kii peninsula, outer zone of southwestern Japan, are igneous rocks that were formed c.15 Ma (Iwano et al., 2007). Around the same time when KAR were formed, many tectonic events occurred in this area (Shinjoe et al., 2007). The formation of KAR may have an important relationship with these tectonic events.

KAR is composed of the Konogi rhyolite, rhyolitic tuff, the Kumano granite porphyry south unit and its north unit. An arc intrusion body that has a characteristic like the Kumano granite porphyry intrudes in the Koza area, southern part of the study area. KAR intrudes into Early Miocene sedimentary rocks of the Kumano Group (KG). In this study, we report the whole rock chemical composition of each rock types of KAR and KG. A total of 19 samples of KAR and KG were analyzed. The major-trace element compositions and REE compositions were measured by XRF and ICP-MS, respectively. The chemical compositions of KAR indicate that KAR is per-aluminous (Al2O3 / (Na2O+K2O+CaO) = 1.10-1.69). It suggests that the original magma melted the wall-rock of KG when it intruded, and/or the original magma was formed by the direct melting of other sediments. Because no whole-rock chemical relationship between KAR and KG was found on the Harker diagram, KAR may have formed by the direct melting of the sediments except KG. REE compositions normalized to CI-chondrite show the high-LREE and flat-HREE pattern. In addition, LREE patterns are divided into two patterns, such as higher and lower value, on the normalized diagram. KAR magma might be differentiated into two types in the magma chamber.

References

Keywords: Kumano acidic rocks, rare earth elements, granite porphyry