

## Geochemistry of the Paleoproterozoic Nsuta Mn deposit of Ghana: Implication to the atmosphere and ocean redox state

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The oxygenation of atmosphere and oceans has influenced the evolution of ocean chemistry and diversification of early life. A number of large manganese (Mn) deposits are recognized in the Paleoproterozoic sedimentary successions which were deposited during and after the Great Oxidation Event (Roy, 1997). As Mn has a high redox potential ( $\sim +0.5$  V at pH 6-7; Brookins, 1988), the occurrence of large Mn deposits has been proposed as evidence for highly oxidized environment during the Paleoproterozoic (Kirschvink et al., 2000), although the genesis and its origin of each Mn deposit remain controversial.

In this study, we focus on the Nsuta deposit in the Birimian Supergroup, Ghana, which is one of the largest Mn deposit during the Paleoproterozoic. The Nsuta deposit is mainly composed of Mn-rich carbonates intercalated in metasedimentary rocks. Based on the mineralogical and geochemical investigations, Mucke et al. (1999) argued that the Mn carbonates were the primary minerals and precipitated under reducing condition, whereas Melcher et al. (1995) proposed the presence of Mn-oxide minerals during the deposition. More geochemical data would help to improve our understanding of the genesis of the Nsuta Mn deposit and its relations to the atmosphere and ocean redox history.

Here we investigate geochemical compositions, such as Re-Os isotope and whole rock REE compositions, of Mn ore and host sedimentary rock samples collected from the Nsuta deposit. The composite Re-Os isochron of the Mn ore and the sedimentary rock samples yields a Re-Os age of 2149  $\pm$  130 Ma with an initial  $^{187}\text{Os}/^{188}\text{Os}$  ratio 0.23  $\pm$  0.09. The obtained Re-Os age is consistent with a possible depositional age of the sedimentary rocks ( $\sim 2.2$  Ga) constrained from the U-Pb zircon age of volcanic rocks (Hirdes and Davis, 1998). This result, therefore, indicates that the Re-Os system of our analyzed samples suffered very little disturbance or overprinting by later metamorphic and alteration events, and the timing of Mn deposition was almost equivalent to that of the host sedimentary rock. The PAAS-normalized REE pattern of the Mn ore samples displays positive Ce anomaly, suggesting that Ce(III) was oxidized by Mn(IV) during ore formation (Takahashi et al., 2005). Based on these results, together with previous geochemical data, we concluded that Mn was precipitated as Mn(IV), possibly as Mn oxide, and Mn(IV) was diagenetically transformed into Mn carbonates. Our findings, therefore, suggest that the prevalence of highly oxidized marine condition during the deposition of the Nsuta Mn deposit, supporting the irreversible oxidation of Earth's surface after the Great Oxidation Event ( $\sim 2.3$  Ga; Bekker et al., 2004).

Keywords: Paleoproterozoic, atmosphere and oceans redox state, Birimian Supergroup, Mn deposit, Re-Os isotope, Geochemistry