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Calculated P-wave velocity for xenoliths from the lower crust beneath Shikoku

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Mafic and ultramafic xenoliths (olivine gabbro, melanocratic gabbro, melanocratic hornblende-pyroxene gabbro,leucocratic gabbronorite, leucocratic norite,clinopyroxenite, olivene clinopyroxenite) occur in alkali basalt at Kochi, southwest Japan. The constituent minerals of xenoliths were analysed chemically to obtain the equilibrium P-T conditions and the seismic velocities. Calculated temperatures using two-pyroxene thermometry give values of 960C and 1060C for melanocratic gabbro and clinopyroxenite, respectively. Modal compositions of xenolith samples were analyzed, and then compressional wave velocities (Vp) were calculated using elastic dataset of minerals. The calculated Vp of most of the melanocratic gabbroic rocks (7.1-7.4 km/s) is significantly higher than Vp of the lower crust beneath Shikoku. Combining the calculated velocities of the xenoliths with the P wave velocity structure beneath Shikoku of the southwest Japan arc, we infer that leucocratic plagioclase-rich gabbronorite is the main constituent rock type of the lower crust.