

Geochronological-geochemical characterization of Proterozoic age, western part of the Napier Complex, East Antarctic

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The Napier Complex in East Antarctica has attracted considerable interest from a viewpoint of long Archaean crustal history from 3800 Ma to 2500 Ma (e.g., Harley & Black 1997) and >1000 °C ultrahigh-temperature (UHT) metamorphism in a regional scale (e.g., Sheraton et al., 1987; Harley & Hensen 1990). The timing of ultrahigh-temperature metamorphism is in argument either >2550 Ma or <2480 Ma (Kelly and Harley, 2005). However, some previous works reported relatively younger ages, such as 2380 Ma, ~2200 Ma, and ~1820 Ma (e.g., Grew et al., 2001; Owada et al., 2001; Suzuki et al., 2001, 2006; Carson et al., 2002; Hokada and Motoyoshi, 2006). In addition, Horie et al. (2012) reported similar ages in felsic orthogneiss from Fyfe Hills and quartzite from Mt. Cronus via zircon U-Pb dating. In this study, we try to characterize the "younger ages" in order to interpret thermal history after the UHT metamorphism in the Napier Complex.

A quartzo-feldspathic gneiss, YH05021606A, collected from Fyfe Hills by Y.H. during the field work at the 2004-2005 Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition was analyzed by using a high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP II) at the National Institute of Polar Research, Japan. The zircon U-Pb ages of the YH05021606A sample are already reported in Horie et al. (2012). The sample shows multiple age peaks centered at ca. 3025, 2943, 2883, 2818, 2759, 2674, 2518, and 2437 Ma, and evidence of the "younger ages" has never been reported. In this study, primary ion beam was focused up to 10 μm in order to observe detailed zircon structure. The U-Pb analysis of zircon yielded similar age population to the previous work and revealed the "younger ages" of ca. 2273, 2195, 2106, and 1980 Ma. Distribution of the "younger ages" is consistent with those of a felsic orthogneiss, YH05021603A, in Fyfe Hills and those of a quartzo-feldspathic gneiss, YH05021701A, and a quartzite, YH05021701H, in Mt. Cronus (Horie et al., 2012). The "younger ages" in this sample could be found in overgrowth rim and single grain, which indicates that both of Fyfe Hills and Mt. Cronus had been affected by any geological events after the UHT metamorphism. Previous workers suggested that the ca. 2200 Ma age that they obtained for beryllium syn-metamorphic pegmatites reflects post-emplacement deformation and metamorphism (Grew et al., 2001), and a ca. 1930-1800 Ma U-Pb upper intercept age for zircons were affected by aqueous fluid from Paleozoic pegmatite (Carson et al., 2002). Horie et al. (2012) only suggests that these 2380-820Ma ages represent local fluid infiltration or a local deformation events. We will discuss about character of the "younger ages" zircon with trace element signature.

Keywords: East Antarctica, Napier Complex, zircon, U-Pb dating, rare earth element, metamorphism