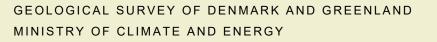
Gold, PGE and sulfide phases of the precious metal mineralization of the Skaergaard intrusion

Part 7: Sample 90-18 958

Nikolay S. Rudashevsky, Yuri L. Kretser, Vladimir N. Rudashevsky & Troels F. D. Nielsen





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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF DENMARK AND GREENLAND MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY

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ABSTRACT

The report presents the results of mineralogical investigations of sample # "90-18 958" from the gold-rich upper Pd1 level in the precious metal mineralization in the Skaergaard intrusion. The bulk sample was collected between 958 and 959 meters in core "90-18" (Watts, Griffis and McOuat, 1991). Assays give 351 ppb Pd, 283 ppb Au, and 37 ppb Pt for this interval.

The gabbro in sample 90-18 958 has a characteristic structure showing reaction relationships between cumulus and inter-cumulus phases. Rinds of olivine occur at the boundaries between interstitial matrix Fe-Ti-oxides and rock-forming clinopyroxene with low-Ca pyroxene exsolution lamellae. In general, this is a "dry" rock. H₂O-bearing minerals are only locally represented in very insignificant amounts in intergrowths with Cu-Fe-sulfides.

The sample preparation included careful grinding in shatter box, sieving into fractions, wet magnetic separation of all fractions, followed by hydroseparation of non-magnetic fractions. With few exceptions, magnetic fractions do not contain precious metal phases. The concentrates were prepared as monolayer polished sections and investigated under the scanning electron microscope and the electron microprobe.

The HS concentrates contain numerous sulfide grains identified as sulfide droplets. They are formed by one or more Cu-sulfides – bornite - (83 %), more rarely by bornite and chalcopyrite (8 %), bornite and chalcosine (6 %) or chalcopyrite and chalcosine only. Several of these droplets and sulfide grains contain inclusions of a variety of PGMs in addition to liberated (free) precious metal grains.

Thirty-three particles (and 37 grains) of precious metal minerals and phases were found in the monolayer mounts. The main precious metal minerals are skaergaardite PdCu (72.3 area %) and a variety of (Au,Cu) alloys (23.4 area %). The (Au,Cu) alloys include: tetraauricupride (Au,Pd,Pt)Cu (6.2 area %), unnamed (Au,Pd)₃Cu (7.3 area %), non stoikiometric (Au,Cu) alloy (Au>Cu in atomic quantity; 9.1 area %), (Cu,Au) alloy (Cu>Au, atomic proportions, 0.8 area %). These minerals are followed by 3 less common minerals (~4 % of all precious metal minerals of the sample): nielsenite (Pd,Au)Cu₃ (3.3 area %), keithconnite Pd_{3-x}(Te,Pb) (0.8 area %) and zvyagintsevite Pd₃Pb (0.1 area %).

The grain size of precious metal minerals (ECD) varies from 7 to 48μ m, with an average of 22.5 μ m.

The average composition of skaergaardite (13 analyses) is (wt. %): Pd 60.3, Pt 0.2, Au 2.2, Cu 30.1, Fe 3.9, Zn 1.8, Sn 0.3, Te 0.5, Pb 0.2 Total 99.5; giving the formula :

$$(Pd_{0.98}Au_{0.02})_{1,00}(Cu_{0.82}Fe_{0.12}Zn_{0.05}Te_{0.01})_{1.00}$$

The estimated bulk composition of the sample (assays of whole rock in brackets) is (ppb): Pd 410 (351), Au 258 (283), Pt 3 (37). Pd is concentrated in (Cu,Pd) alloys (93%) and

(Au,Cu) alloys (6 %). Pt-minerals were not found. Pt is contained in skaergaardite and tetra-auricupride. The majority of the determined precious metal minerals (PGMs and tetra-auricupride) appear to form a single paragenesis together with Cu-Fe sulfides. The paragenesis probably crystallized from late interstitial melt/fluid.

Introduction

The report describes the mineralogy of sample "90-18 958" from the Pd1 horizon in the "Platinova Reef" of the Skaergaard intrusion. The Platinova Reef is located in the lower half of the Triple Group that forms the upper 100 meters of the Middle Zone (MZ) of the Layered Series (LS) of the intrusion (see Nielsen et al., 2006 for further details). The sample was collected as a bulk sample from 958 to 959 meters in core "90-18).

This report on the PGE and Au mineralogy is based on studies of the concentrates of Au and PGM grains recovered by means of Hydroseparator CNT HS-11 (<u>www.cnt-mc.com</u>). The concentrates, and a polished section of the host gabbro have been studied in detail using electron microscopy and electron microprobe (Camscan-4DV, Link AN-10 000). The report gives descriptions of the analytical techniques, grain characteristics, parageneses and compositional variation within the identified groups of precious metal minerals, alloys, sulfide grains and host gabbro.

Sample 90-18 958

Sample 90-18 958 was collected from BQ drill core # "90-18" between 958 and 959 m (Watts, Griffis and McOuat, 1991) and represents the melanocratic gabbro of the Pd1 level of the Platinova Reef mineralization. Assays give 351 ppb Pd, 283 ppb Au, and 37 ppb Pt for this interval. The core has previously been sampled for other purposes and the sample does not collect all of the interval The sample includes app. 1/3 of the diameter of the preserved core.

Mineralogical investigation

Sample preparation

Small portions of the sample (971g) were crushed for short periods (0.3-0.5 min) using a shatter box with small cavities (200ml) and systematically sieved to remove the fine fraction (sieving -100 μ m) after each crushing session. The residual coarse fraction >100 μ m was recrushed until the entire sample attained the desired maximum grain size. After complete grinding, the sample was passed through standard sieves with water (wet sieving): <40 μ m (424.8g), 40-50 μ m (64.1g), 50-70 μ m (161.4g), 70-100 μ m (230.4g), loss 90.3 g (~9%). All fractions were subsequently passed through wet magnetic separation.

The non-magnetic parts of every fraction were then passed through hydroseparation using the computer controlled hydroseparator CNT HS-11 and a newly patented glass separation tube (GST). (Rudashevsky & Rudashevsky, 2006 and 2007) – see <u>www.cnt-mc.com</u>. Monolayer polished sections were produced from all the resulting non-magnetitc heavy mineral fractions. The polished sections (and one polished section of the bulk rock) were investigated under the scanning electron microprobe. No precious metal grains were found in the magnetic fractions.

The analytical techniques are described in Nielsen et al. (2003)

Results

Rock forming minerals and sulfide mineralogy

Silicates and oxides

The silicates and oxides phases related to the sulfide paragenesis include: 1) *monoclinic ferrous pyroxene*, Mg# = 0.46-0.59 (Table 1, analyses 4-6); 2) *orthorhombic ferrous pyroxene*, Mg# = 0.17-0.18 (Table 1, analyses 7 and 8); 3), *fayalite-rich olivine*, Mg# 0.43-0.45 (Table 1, analyses 9 and 10); 4) *plagioclase*, An₄₅₋₅₃ (Table 1, analyses 1-3); Fe-Ti oxides including 5) *ilmenite* (Table 1, analyses 11-13) and 6) *titaniferous magnetite* (Table 1, analyses 14-16). Monoclinic and orthorhombic pyroxenes form exsolution textures (Plate 1, #5, 7, 8).

The Fe-Ti-oxides occur as aggregates of 1-3 mm, anhedral grains. They are interstitial and fill space between grains of plagioclase and pyroxenes (see Plate 1, #1-6, 8, 10). Gabbro of sample 90-18 958 shows a distinct reaction relationship between cumulus and intercumulus phases. Rinds of olivine separate interstitial Fe-Ti-oxides and pyroxene-rich domains (Plate 1, #1-3, 5).

Two characteristic accessory phases, apatite (Plate 1, #6) and baddelleyite (Plate 1, #10), were identified in the polished section of sample 90-18 958. Several grains of baddeleyite were also identified in the heavy mineral concentrates (\sim 40µm in size - Plate 3). They could be used for radiometric dating of the Pd1 level in the mineralization.

Sulfides

The rock forming minerals of the gabbro are relatively poor in sulfides. Grains composed of bornite-and chalcopyrite were identified only in a pyroxene aggregate characterized by exsolution (Plate 1, #1, 5-9).

The non-magnetic heavy mineral HS concentrates are ilmenite-rich products (> 97 %) enriched in grains of sulfides and PGMs (see Plate 2). The sulfide grains are represented by droplet-like microglobules of: (1) bornite (Plate 4, #1-14 etc), (2) bornite-chalcopyrite (Plate 4, #29, 30 etc), and (3) bornite-chalcosine (Plate 4, #37- 39 etc.), or irregular grains: (1) bornite (Plate 4, #15-28 etc), (2) bornite-chalcopyrite (Plate 4, #31-35 etc), (3) bornite-chalcosine (Plate 4, #40, 41), and (4) chalcopyrite only (Plate 4, #36). They are up to 0.1 mm in size.

The majority (~83 %) of thesulfide grains are composed of bornite, only, and in few cases of bornite and chalcopyrite (8 %, sometimes separated by chalcosine), or bornit and chalcosine (6 %, sometimes separated by chalcopyrite). Bornite and chalcopyrite, or bornite and chalcosine form exsolution textures inside sulphide micro globules and grains (see Plate 4, *#29, 30, 32-34, 39, 40* etc.).

Chemical compositions oshow bornite (Table 2, analyses 1-13, average: analysis 14), chalcosine (Table 2, analysis 15) and chalcopyrite (Table 2, analysis 16) to be near stoikiometric.

Precious metal minerals: recovery, grain size and relations to host rock

Recovery

No PGM grains were found during SEM studies of the polished bulk rock section of the gabbo. The heavy mineral HS concentrates, on the other hand, yielded many precious metal grains and 33 representative grains and particles in the <50 μ m fractions of the heavy mineral HS concentrates were studied in detail. In total, 8 different PGE and Au minerals are recorded from sample 90-18 958. They include (see Table 3):

- 1. *skaergaardite* (Pd,Au)(Cu,Fe,Zn,Te) 15 grains,
- 2. *nielsenite* (Pd,Au)(Cu,Fe)₃ –3 grains,
- 3. (Au,Cu,Pd) alloy- 5 grains,
- 4. unnamed $(Au,Pd)_3$ (Cu,Fe) 5 grains,
- 5. tetra-auricupride (Au,Pd,Pt)(Cu,Fe) 5 grains,
- 6. (Cu,Au) alloy one grain,
- 7. *keithconnite* $Pd_{3-x}(Te,Pb) 3$ grains,
- 8. *zvyagintsevite* Pd_3Pb one grain.

The volumetric proportions of these phase are calculated from the area of grains as observed in the polished mounts of the HS concentrates (Table 3 and Fig. 1).

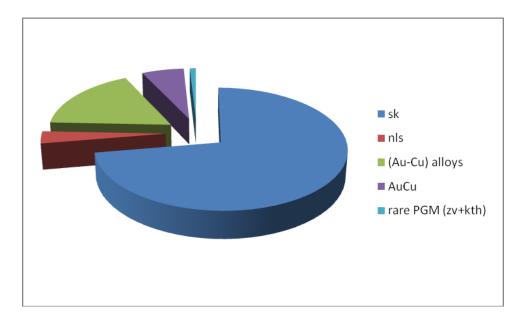


Fig.1. Precious metal minerals (area %) from the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18, 958; sk-skaergaardite, nls - nielsenite, AuCu - tetra-auricupride, kth – keith-connite, and zv - zvyagintsevite.

Grain size

Grain sizes were measured by their effective diameters (ECD) using imageJ software. The ECD varies from 7 to 48μ m with the average of 22.5μ m (Table 4; Fig. 2).

Sizes of precious metal mineral grains are distributed as follows:

Grain size, µm	Number of grains
0-10	1
10-20	18
20-30	7
30-40	6
40-50	1
Total	33

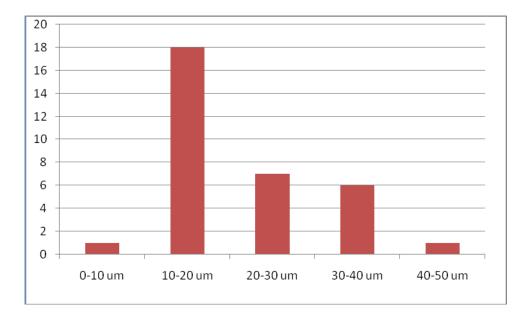


Figure 2. Grain size of precious metal mineral grains from the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18 958 (n=33, $ECD_{avg} = 22.5 \mu m$).

The histogram of grain sizes (Fig. 2) shows lognormal distribution for the statistical selection (n=33).

The SEIs (scanning electron images) show that majority of precious metal mineral grains are well preserved and have kept their primary shape and size (Plates 5-7). Grains have not been broken during production of the concentrates. The largest proportion of PGM grains occur as inclusions in Cu-Fe sulfide globules and as librated grains.

Liberation

A perfect separation of accessory minerals have been achieved by the gentle crushing/disintegration of the studied sample. The method of disintegration allows preservation of primary grain size, and thus information fundamental for the development of genetic models. The concentrates provide all the necessary information for the reconstruction of the primary shapes and sizes of accessory minerals and phases, together with the parageneses and the relationships between minerals and the matrix of the rock.

In the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18 958 the precious metal mineral grains occur in the mineral associations shown in figure 3 (see also Table 5).

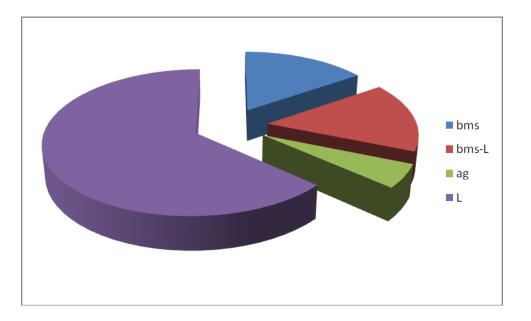


Figure. 3. Distribution of liberation for PGE- and gold minerals in the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18 958; bms - precious metal minerals attached to base metal sulfides; bms-L - exposed >90% precious metal minerals, attached to bms; ag - precious metal minerals attached to gangue; L – liberated (free) precious metal minerals.

Description and composition of the precious metal minerals

Skaergaardite (Pd,Au)(Cu,Fe,Zn,Te)

Description

Skaergaardite (Rudashevsky e.a., 2004) is one of the main precious metal mineral found in the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18 958 (72.3 area % of all precious metal minerals). It occurs in intergrowths with base metal sulfides (bornite and chalcopyrite - Plate 5, #1, 3, 5; Plate 7, #5), or in the form of liberated (free) grains (Plate 5, #2, 4, 6-12). Sometimes skaergaardite has inclusions of other PGM (for example keithconnite - see Plate 7, #5).

Skaergaardite grains occur both as as irregular shaped grains and aggregates, and as euhedral crystals or partially euhedral grains (see Plate 5). The size of skaergaardite grains (#15) is from 6 to 48μ m with an average of 29μ m (Table 3).

Mineral chemistry

The chemical composition of skaergaardite is established in 13 analyses of 13 different grains (Table 5, analyses 1-13, and 14 average composition). The average composition is (wt. %): Pd 60.3, Pt 0.2, Au 2.2, Cu 30.1, Fe 3.9, Zn 1.8, Sn 0.3, Te 0.5, Pb 0.2 Total 99.5; the composition corresponds to the formula:

 $(Pd_{0.98}Au_{0.02})_{1.00}(Cu_{0.82}Fe_{0.12}Zn_{0.05}Te_{0.01})_{1.00}.$

Typical substitutions in skaergaardite include: Pt up to 1.6 %, Au up to 9.9 %, Fe 2.0-5.4 %, Zn up to 3.4 %, Sn up to 2.1 %, Te up to 1.8 %, and Pb up to 1.7 %.

Nielsenite (Pd,Au)(Cu,Fe)₃

Two grains of nielsenite (McDonald e. a., 2008) with irregular shapes, and 7 and 25μ m in size (3.3 area % of all PGE and gold minerals – see Table 3), were found in the heavy mineral HS concentrates (Plate 7, #1-3; Table 5, analyses 15, 16 and 17 (average). Nielsenite is found together with (Cu,Pd,Au) alloy as inclusions in bornite (Plate 7, #1, 2), or attached to clinopyroxene grain (Plate 7, #3).

Au-Cu minerals

(Au,Cu) alloys form the second most important group of precious metal minerals in sample 90-18 958 (23.4 area % of all precious metal minerals). The (Au,Cu) alloys include: tetraauricupride (Au,Pd,Pt)Cu (6.2 area %), unnamed (Au,Pd)₃Cu (7.3 area %), non stoikiometric (Au,Cu) alloy (Au>Cu in atomic proportion; 9.1 area %), (Cu,Au) alloy (Cu>Au in atomic proportion; 0.8 area %).

Tetra-auricupride (Au,Pd,Pt)Cu and (Cu,Au,Pd) alloys

Tetra-auricupride and non stokiometric (Cu,Au,Pd) alloys (Cu>Au in atomic proportion) occur as inclusions in bornite (Plate 6, #1-4; Plate 7, #2), or as liberated grains (Plate 6, #5, 16). Tetra-auricupride is found in intergrowths with keithconnite (Plate 6, #4). These alloys occur in the form of irregular shape grains (Plate 6, #3-5; Plate 7, #2), and sometimes as euhedral or partially euhedral crystals (see Plate 6, #1, 2).

The grain size of (Au,Cu) alloys varies between 13 and 18µm (#6) with an average of 15µm (see Table 3).

Chemical compositions of tetra-auricupride (5 analyses in 5 grains) are given in Table 6 (analyses 12-16). The average composition of tetra-auricupride (Table 6, analysis 17) is (wt. %): Pd 11.0, Pt 2.3, Au 58.7, Cu 27.2, Fe 0.7, Total 99.9. The composition corresponds to the formula

 $(Au_{0.71}Pd_{0.24}Pt_{0.03})_{0.98}(Cu_{0.98}Fe_{0.03})_{1.01}.$

Chemical compositions of the (Cu,Au) alloys are given in the Table 6 (analyses 18, 19).

Unnamed (Au,Pd,Pt)₃(Cu,Fe)

Unnamed alloy with the simplified composition $(Au,Pd)_3Cu$ (7.3 area % of all precious metal minerals) is found being attached to gangue (clinopyroxene and ilmenite - Plate 6, #6, 7), or as liberated grains (Plate 6, #8-10) in the heavy mineral HS concentrates. Au₃Cu alloy occurs as irregular grains having a size from 13 to 22µm, with an average of 17µm (see Table 3).

Five analyses of this unnamed (Au,Cu) alloy have been obtained from five different grains (Table 6, analyses 6-10). The average composition of (Au,Pd)₃Cu (Table 6, analysis 11) is (wt. %): Pd 6.5, Au 83.5, Cu 10.5, Fe 0.4, Total 99.8. The composition corresponds to the following formula:

 $(Au_{2.63}Pd_{0.32})_{2.95}(Cu_{1.02}Fe_{0.04})_{1.06}.$

(Au,Cu,Pd) alloy

Non-stokiometric (Au,Cu,Pd) alloy (9.1 area % of all precious metal minerals) is found in the form of liberated grains (Plate 6, #11-15) in the heavy mineral HS concentrates. These alloys occur as irregular shaped grains between 13 and $24\mu m$ in size with an average of $19\mu m$ (see Table 3).

The chemical composition is established in 4 analyses from 4 different grains (Table 6, analyses 1-4). The average composition of (Au,Cu,Pd) alloy (Table 6, analysis 5) is (wt. %): Pd 7.7, Au 83.4, Cu 8.2, Fe 0.5, Total 99.8. The composition corresponds to the following formula:

 $(Au_{0.68}Cu_{0.20}Pd_{0.11}Fe_{0.02})_{1.01}$.

The composition is close to the average of unnamed (Au,Pd)₃Cu (see above).

Keithconnite (Pd,Cu)_{3-x}(Te,Pb)

Keithconnite (0.8 area % of all PGE and gold minerals and phases – see Table 3) is found as inclusions in matrix base metal sulfides (bornite and chalcopyrite, Plate 6, #4; Plate 7,

#5, 6) in the heavy mineral HS concentrates. This PGM occurs as intergrowth with tetraauricupride (Plate 6, #4) as well as with skaergaardite (Plate 7, #5).

Keithconnite grains are irregular and from 6 to 9μ m in size. The chemical composition of keithconnite is given in Table 5, analyses 18-20, and 21 (average).

Zvyagintsevite Pd₃Pb

Only one 5μ m large and irregular grain of zvyagintsevite has been found (0.1 area % of all PGE and gold minerals – see Table 3). The grain was forms an inclusion in skaergaardite and bornite matrix (see Plate 7, #4; Table 5, analysis 22).

Bulk composition of PGMs of the sample 90-18 958

The relative concentrations of Pd, Au and Pt in sample 90-18 958 can be calculated from the total concentrations of precious metals (assay), the determined recovery, the modal proportions, the chemical compositions (Tables 3, 5 and 6), and the ideal densities of precious metal minerals. The estimated bulk composition of the sample (assays of whole rock in brackets) is (ppb): Pd 410 (351), Au 258 (283), Pt 3 (37). Pd is concentrated in (Cu,Pd) alloys (93%) and (Au,Cu) alloys (6 %). Pt-minerals were not found. Pt is found in skaer-gaardite and tetra-auricupride.

Discussion

PGM-paragenesis

The data shows that the main PGMs in the studied sample are (Cu,Pd) alloys (skaer-gaardite and nielsenite, 75.6 area %) and (Au,Cu) alloys (23.5 area %).

All the observations and the inter-grain relations (Plates 5-7) suggest that all PGEs and (Cu,Au) alloys (mainly tetra-auricupride) and the Cu-Fe sulfides form a single paragenesis. The Cu-Fe sulfides and the precious metal minerals are synchronous and crystallized later than rock-forming minerals: plagioclase, clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene, ilmenite and titaniferous magnetite. The Au-rich (Au,Cu) alloys (Au>>Cu in atomic proportion) are generally localized between rock-forming minerals and they probably crystallized from fluids or melt/fluid mixtures.

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Tables

Table 1	Sample 90-18-958 Rock-forming silicates and FeTi-oxides

Analysis	Plag	Plag	Plag	Срх	Срх	Орх	Орх	Орх	Olivine	Olivine	llm	llm	llm	Ti-Mt	Ti-Mt	Ti-Mt
SiO ₂	56.53	55.03	54.6	49.25	48.88	49.04	47.11	47.11	33.91	33.82	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
TiO ₂	nd	nd	nd	0.33	0.51	0.67	nd	nd	nd	nd	50.75	51.09	51.92	14.52	19.53	27.05
AI_2O_3	26.84	27.79	27.98	2.65	1.14	3.02	2.27	2.27	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	11.34	3.02	4.35
V_2O_3	nd	nd	0.44	0.59	nd	1.32	1.47	0.88								
Fe ₂ O ₃	nd	nd	4.6	3.04	1.98	28.69	27.18	12.66								
FeO	0.39	0.39	0.39	15.44	18.97	15.05	41.7	43.11	44.41	45.06	41.53	42.42	43.5	40.57	49.64	53.58
MnO	nd	nd	nd	0.41	0.39	0.39	0.78	0.78	0.9	0.78	0.52	0.52	0.78	0.26	0.52	0.65
MgO	nd	nd	nd	11.94	9.05	11.94	5.14	4.81	20.23	19.4	1.99	1.66	1.33	3.81	nd	1.99
CaO	9.37	10.35	11.05	20	20.77	19.3	2.66	1.54	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Na ₂ O	6.33	5.53	5.53	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
K ₂ O	0.24	0.36	0.36	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Total	99.71	99.44	99.9	100	99.71	99.41	99.66	99.64	99.45	100.1	99.83	99.31	99.5	100.5	101.4	101.2
Cations																
Si	2.54	2.49	2.46	1.89	1.92	1.89	1.97	1.97	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.97	0.98	3.02	4.30	5.81
AI	1.42	1.48	1.49	0.12	0.05	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70	1.05	1.46
V	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.29	0.35	0.20
Fe ³⁺	nd	nd	0.09	0.06	0.04	5.97	6.00	2.72								
Fe ²⁺	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.50	0.62	0.48	1.45	1.51	1.09	1.14	0.87	0.89	0.91	9.39	12.18	12.80
Mn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.13	0.16
Mg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.53	0.69	0.32	0.30	0.89	0.85	0.07	0.06	0.05	1.57	0.00	0.85
Ca	0.45	0.50	0.53	0.82	0.88	0.80	0.12	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na	0.55	0.49	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
К	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O basis	-	-	-	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cations	5	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	24	24	24

Analysis#	Grain#	Association	Mineral	Cu	Fe	S	Total	Cu	Fe	S	Total
Bornite				Analysis				Atomic	proportio	ons	
1	40-5g	bn*	bn	63.7	11.6	25.8	101.1	4.98	1.03	3.99	10
2	50-c	bn	bn	63.2	11.6	25.7	100.5	4.96	1.04	4.00	10
3	50-e	bn	bn	62.7	11.4	25.5	99.6	4.97	1.03	4.00	10
4	50-1	sk-bn	bn	64.1	11.1	25.5	100.7	5.04	0.99	3.97	10
5	50-3a	bn	bn	62.4	11.3	25.7	99.4	4.95	1.02	4.03	10
6	40-b	bn	bn	63.0	11.0	25.5	99.5	4.99	1.00	4.01	10
7	70-c	bn	bn	62.8	11.1	25.4	99.3	4.99	1.00	4.00	10
8	40-e	bn	bn	63.5	11.2	26.1	100.8	4.96	1.00	4.04	10
9	40-f	bn	bn	63.4	11.2	25.7	100.3	4.99	1.00	4.01	10
10	40-g	bn	bn	63.5	11.3	25.1	99.9	5.04	1.02	3.95	10
11	40-h	bn	bn	62.8	11.4	25.5	99.7	4.97	1.03	4.00	10
12	40-k	bn-cp	bn	63.2	11.1	25.4	99.7	5.00	1.00	3.99	10
13	40-m	bn	bn	63.1	10.9	25.5	99.5	5.01	0.98	4.01	10
14	aerage			63.2	11.2	25.6	100.0	4.99	1.01	4.00	
Chalcosir	ne										
15	40-o	bn-chc	chc	78.1	1.1	20.1	99.3	1.97	0.03	1.00	3
Chalcopy	rite										
16	40-q	cp-hb	ср	34.3	30.3	34.5	99.1	1.00	1.01	1.99	4

Table 2.Chemical compositions (wt%) and formulas of sulphides from the heavy mineral HS concentrates
(sample 90-18, 958)

Abbreviations: bn: bornite; sk: skaergaardite; cp: chalcopyrite; chc: chalcosine; hb: hornblende

#	Mineral	General formula	Ν	Area	Area #%		ECDmin	ECDavg	ECDmax
1	Skaergaardite	(Pd,Au)(Cu,Fe,Zn)	15	11308	40.5	72.3	5.6	28.9	47.7
2	Nielsenite	PdCu ₃	2	522	5.4	3.3	7.1	16	24.8
3	(Au,Cu)	(Au,Cu)	5	1429	13.5	9.1	13.2	19.1	24.3
4	Au3Cu	Au ₃ Cu	5	1145	13.5	7.3	13.3	16.8	21.7
5	AuCu	AuCu	5	968	13.5	6.2	12.9	15.6	18.2
6	(Cu,Au)	(Cu,Au)	1	125	2.7	0.8		12.6	
7	Keithconnite	Pd₃Te	3	122	8.1	0.8	5.6	7.1	8.4
8	Zvyagintsevite	Pd ₃ Pb	1	17	2.7	0.1		4.7	
Total			37	15636	100	100			

 Table 3. Platinum group minerals and gold minerals of the heavy mineral HS concentrates (sample 90-18 958)

Area: total area calculated from ECD (effective circle diameter) around the grain.

Table 4. Grain sizes of precious metal mineral from the heavy mineral HSConcentrates (sample 90-18 958)

N	Grain	Association	Туре	Mineral	Area, µm²	ECD, μm
1	40-10	Au₃Cu	L	Au₃Cu	150	13.8
2	40-11	Au₃Cu-ilm	ag	Au₃Cu	138	13.3
3	40-12	(Au,Cu)	Ľ	(Au,Cu)	288	19.2
4	40-13	sk	L	sk	1131	38.0
5	40-14	(Au,Cu)	L	(Au,Cu)	305	19.7
6	40-15	(Cu,Au)	L	(Cu,Au)	125	12.6
7	40-16	AuCu-kth-bn	bms	Total	278	18.8
8	40-16	AuCu-kth-bn	bms	kth	56	8.4
9	40-16	AuCu-kth-bn	bms	AuCu	222	16.8
10	40-17	AuCu-bn	bms	AuCu	260	18.2
11	40-18	sk	L	sk	123	12.5
12	40-19	Au₃Cu	L	Au₃Cu	371	21.7
13	40-1	sk	L	sk	643	28.6
14	40-20	AuCu-bn	bms	AuCu	131	12.9
15	40-21	(Au,Cu)	L	(Au,Cu)	137	13.2
16	40-22	nls-cpx	ag	nls	482	24.8
17	40-23	sk-bn sk-bn	bms-L	sk	1788	47.7 20.5
18 19	40-24 40-25	sk-bh	bms-L L	sk sk	682 1111	29.5 37.6
20	40-23	sk	L	sk	1231	37.0 39.6
20	40-27	sk	L	sk	360	21.4
22	40-2	sk-kth-bn-cp	bms	Total	238	17.4
23	40-2	sk-kth-bn-cp	bms	sk	213	16.5
24	40-2	sk-kth-bn-cp	bms	kth	25	5.6
25	40-3	sk-zv-bn	bms	Total	298	19.5
26	40-3	sk-zv-bn	bms	ZV	17	4.7
27	40-3	sk-zv-bn	bms	sk	281	18.9
28	40-4	Au₃Cu-cpx	ag	Au₃Cu	211	16.4
29	40-5/2	ĂuCu	Ľ	AuCu	219	16.7
30	40-5	kth-bn	bms	kth	41	7.2
31	40-6	Au	L	Au	235	17.3
32	40-7	Au₃Cu	L	Au₃Cu	275	18.7
33	40-8	(Au,Cu)	L	(Au,Cu)	464	24.3
34	40-9	AuCu-bn	bms	AuCu	136	13.2
35	50-1	sk-bn	bms	sk	962	35.0
36	50-2	sk	L	sk	645	28.7
37	50-3	nls-sk-bn	bms	Total	65	12.7
38	50-3	nls-sk-bn	bms	nls	40	7.1
39	50-3	nls-sk-bn	bms	sk	25	5.6
40	50-4	sk	L	sk	1227	39.5
41	50-5	sk	L	sk	886	33.6

Abbreviations: : Ilm: ilmenite; sk: skaergaardite; kth: keithconnite; bn: bornite; nls: nielsenite; cp: chalcopyrite; zv: zviagintsevite.

Association Type: L: liberated; ag: attached to gangue ; BMS: attached to base metal sulfide ; BMS-L: with less than 10% base metal sulfide.

Mineral An#	sk 1	sk 2	sk 3	sk 4	sk 5	sk 6	sk 7	sk 8	sk 9	sk 10	sk 11	sk 12	sk 13	sk 14	
Grain#	40-1	40-2	40-3	- 40-13	40-18	40-23	, 40-24	40-25	40-26	50-1	50-2	50-4	50-5	sk	
Association	sk	sk-kth-	sk-zv-	sk	sk	sk-bn	sk-bn	sk	sk	sk-bn	sk	sk	sk	average	
//00001011011	51	bn-cp	bn	51	51			SK	SIX		SI	51	31	average	
Analysis		ыгор	ы												
Pd	61.5	53.5	62.8	60.5	60.4	60.4	60.8	59.7	57.5	60.1	62.0	62.0	63.2	60.3	
Pt	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	
Au	2.5	9.9	0.0	1.8	2.9	0.0	2.1	3.2	3.4	1.5	1.7	0.0	0.0	2.2	
Cu	28.0	33.0	29.2	29.9	29.2	32.1	31.4	30.5	31.0	29.1	29.2	28.7	29.7	30.1	
Fe	4.0	2.0	3.3	3.7	4.6	5.4	3.0	4.6	4.3	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.4	3.9	
Zn	2.5	0.0	3.4	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.8	0.0	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.8	
Sn	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.3	
Те	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	
Pb	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.2	
Total	99.3	100.4	99.3	99.6	99.3	99.5	99.1	99.2	100.1	99.6	99.2	99.6	99.4	99.5	
Atomic proportion	ons														
Pd	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Pt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Au	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cu	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Fe	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Zn	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Sn	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Те	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Pb	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	

Table 5.Chemical compositions (wt.%) and formulas of platinum group minerals from the heavy mineral HS
concentrates (sample 90-18, 958)

Abbreviations: sk: skaergaardite, kth: keithconnite, bn: bornite, cp: chalcopyrite, zv: zviagintsevite, nls: nielsenite, (Cu,Pd,Au): (Cu,Pd,Au) alloy

Table 5 continued

Mineral	nls	nls	nls	kth	kth	kth	kth	ZV
An#	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Grain#	40-22	50-3	average	40-2	40-5	40-16	average	40-3
Association	nls-cpx	nls-bn-	•	sk-kth-	kth-bn	AuCu-	•	sk-zv-
	•	(Cu,Pd,A	u)	bn-cp		kth-bn		bn
Analyses		,	,	•				
Pd	25.0	23.0	24.0	66.7	60.6	64.6	64.0	65.4
Pt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Au	0.0	19.5	9.8	-	-	-	-	-
Cu	73.3	54.0	63.7	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Fe	0.7	1.7	1.2	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.7
Zn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Те	0.0	1.4	0.7	27.6	29.2	31.0	29.3	-
Pb	-	-	-	3.6	6.4	2.2	4.1	31.2
Total	99.0	99.7	99.4	99.6	98.4	99.6	99.2	99.4
Atomic proporti	ions							
Pd	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	3.0
Pt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Au	0.0	0.3	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Cu	3.3	2.8	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Fe	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Zn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Те	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	-
Pb	-	-	-	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Total	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	4.0	-	4.0

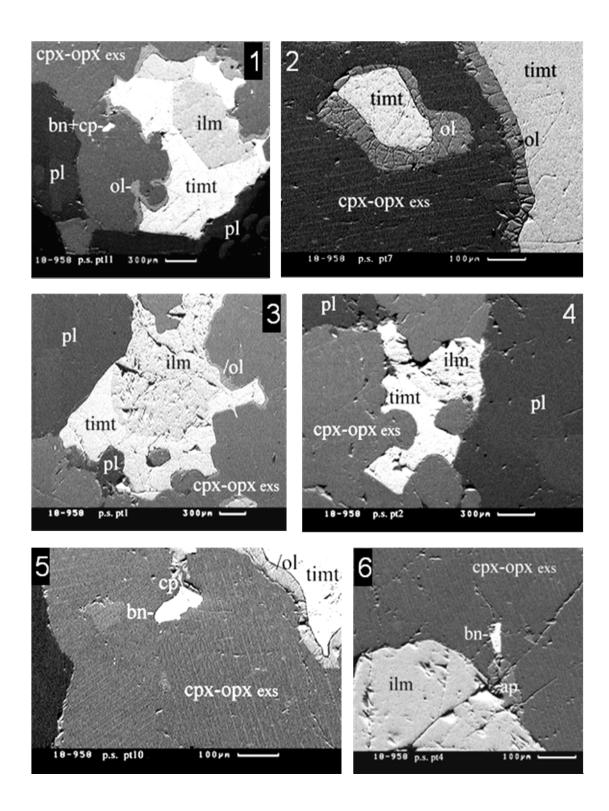
Abbreviations: sk: skaergaardite, kth: keithconnite, bn: bornite, cp: chalcopyrite, zv: zviagintsevite, nls: nielsenite, (Cu,Pd,Au): (Cu,Pd,Au) alloy

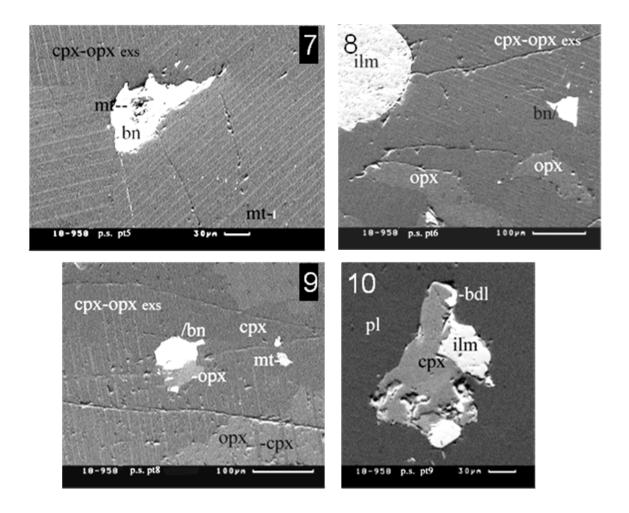
An #	Grain #	Association	Mineral	Pd	Pt	Au	Cu	Fe	Те	Total	Pd	Pt	Au	Cu	Fe	Те	Total
(Au,Cu) al	lloy																
1	40-8	(Au,Cu)	(Au,Cu)	8.4	nd	74.4	16.2	0.6	nd	99.6	0.1	nd	0.5	0.4	0.0	nd	1.0
2	40-12	(Au,Cu)	(Au,Cu)	4.6	nd	90.9	4.0	0.5	nd	100.0	0.1	nd	0.8	0.1	0.0	nd	1.0
3	40-14	(Au,Cu)	(Au,Cu)	9.1	nd	82.9	7.5	0.0	nd	99.5	0.1	nd	0.7	0.2	0.0	nd	1.0
4	40-21	(Au,Cu)	(Au,Cu)	8.6	nd	85.4	5.0	1.0	nd	100.0	0.1	nd	0.7	0.1	0.0	nd	1.0
5	average			7.7	nd	83.4	8.2	0.5	nd	99.8	0.1	nd	0.7	0.2	0.0	nd	
Au3Cu																	
6	40-4	Au₃Cu-cpx	Au ₃ Cu	2.5	nd	88.1	8.8	0.6	nd	100.0	0.2	nd	2.9	0.9	0.1	nd	4.0
7	40-7	Au ₃ Cu	Au ₃ Cu	5.8	nd	82.0	12.3	0.0	nd	100.1	0.3	nd	2.5	1.2	0.0	nd	4.0
8	40-10	Au₃Cu	Au ₃ Cu	9.8	nd	83.1	11.7	0.4	nd	100.0	0.3	nd	2.6	1.1	0.0	nd	4.0
9	40-11	Au₃Cu-ilm	Au ₃ Cu	6.5	nd	82.0	10.0	0.8	nd	99.3	0.4	nd	2.6	1.0	0.1	nd	4.0
10	40-19	Au ₃ Cu	Au₃Cu	7.9	nd	82.3	9.6	0.0	nd	99.8	0.5	nd	2.6	0.9	0.0	nd	4.0
11	average			6.5	nd	83.5	10.5	0.4	nd	99.8	0.3	nd	2.6	1.0	0.0	nd	
Tetra-auri	cupride																
12	40-5/2	AuCu	AuCu	3.1	1.4	70.0	25.4	0.8	nd	100.7	0.1	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.0	nd	2.0
13	40-9	AuCu-bn	AuCu	10.2	4.6	57.8	26.6	0.7	nd	99.9	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.0	nd	2.0
14	40-16	AuCu-kth-bn	AuCu	21.5	1.4	46.0	30.1	1.1	nd	100.0	0.4	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.0	nd	2.0
15	40-17	AuCu-bn	AuCu	9.1	0.0	63.9	26.1	0.0	nd	99.1	0.2	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.0	nd	2.0
16	40-20	AuCu-bn	AuCu	11.3	4.1	55.6	28.0	0.8	nd	99.8	0.3	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.0	nd	2.0
17	average			11.0	2.3	58.7	27.2	0.7	nd	99.9	0.2	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.0	nd	
(Cu,Au,Po	d) alloy																
18	40-15	(Cu,Au)	(Cu,Au)	nd	nd	63.1	35.3	0.9	nd	99.3	nd	nd	0.4	0.6	0.0	nd	1.0
19	50-3	nls-(Cu,Pd,Au)-bn	(Cu,Pd,Au)	28.1	nd	30.3	37.1	1.8	2.2	99.7	0.3	nd	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.0

Table 6.Chemical compositions (wt.%) and formulas of Au-Cu minerals from the heavy mineral HS
concentrates (sample 90-18 958)

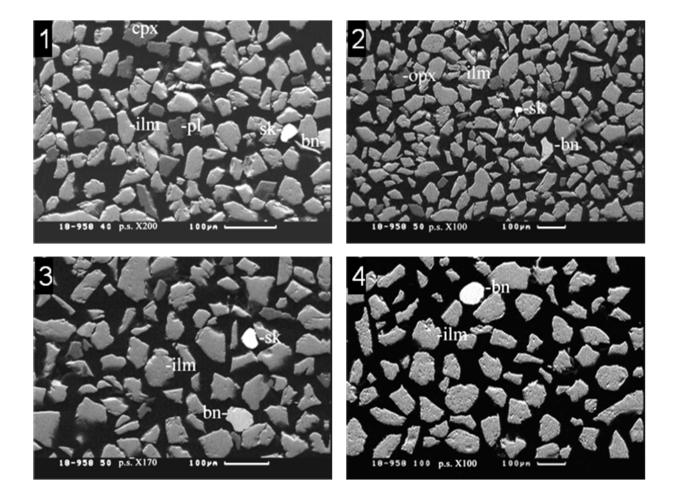
Abbreviations: cpx: clinopyroxene, ilm: ilmenite, bn: bornite, kth: kiethconnite, nls: nielsenite

The relationship of rock-forming minerals, Fe-Ti oxides and sulphides in the tholeitic gabbros of the sample 90-18, 958 (1-10), polished section, SEM images (BIE); abbreviations used: pl – plagioclase, cpx – clinopyroxene, opx – orthopyroxene, cpx-opx exs – clinopyroxene-orthopyroxene exsolution texture, ilm - ilmenite, timt – titaniferous magnetite, mt – magnetite, ap – apatite, bdl – baddeleiyte, bn – bornite, cp - chalcopyrite.

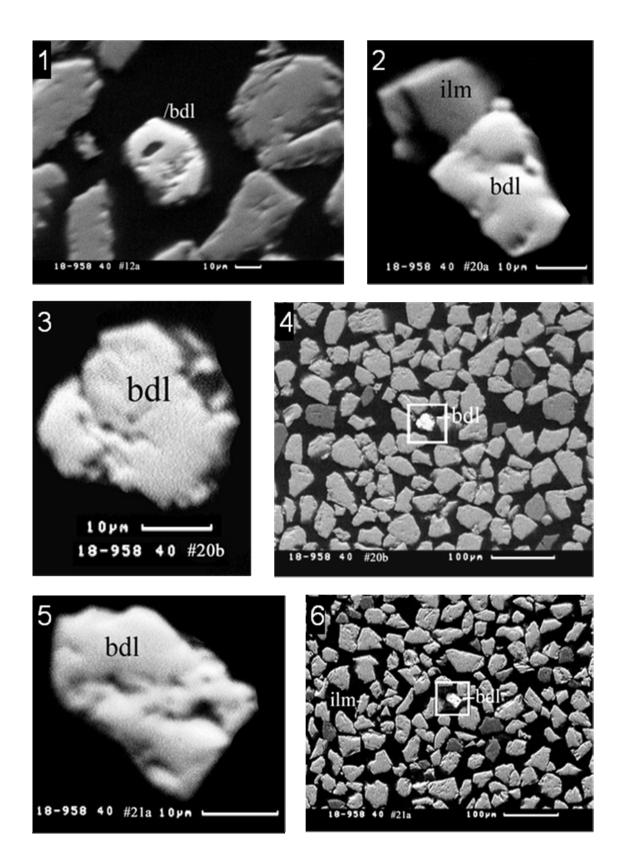


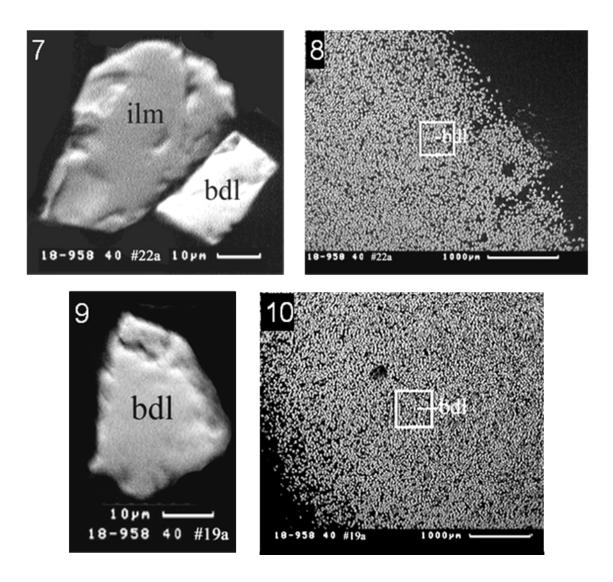


Polished sections of the heavy mineral HS concentrate (1- fraction <40 μ m; 2 , 3 – 40-50 μ m, 3 – 70-100 μ m, sample 90-18, 958), SEM-images (BIE); abbreviations used: ilm – ilmenite, sk – skaergaardite, bn – bornite, opx - orthopyroxene, cpx – clinopyroxene.

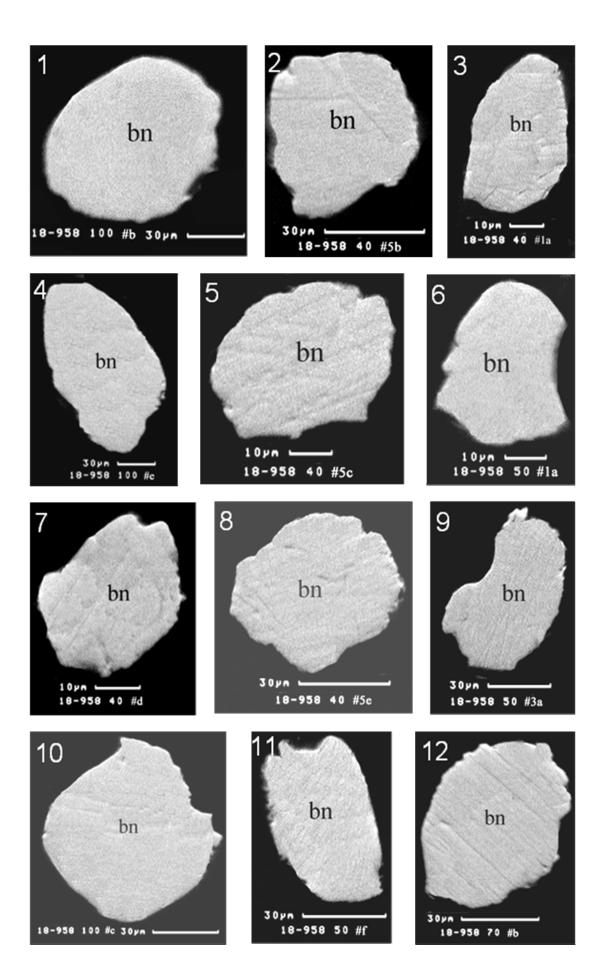


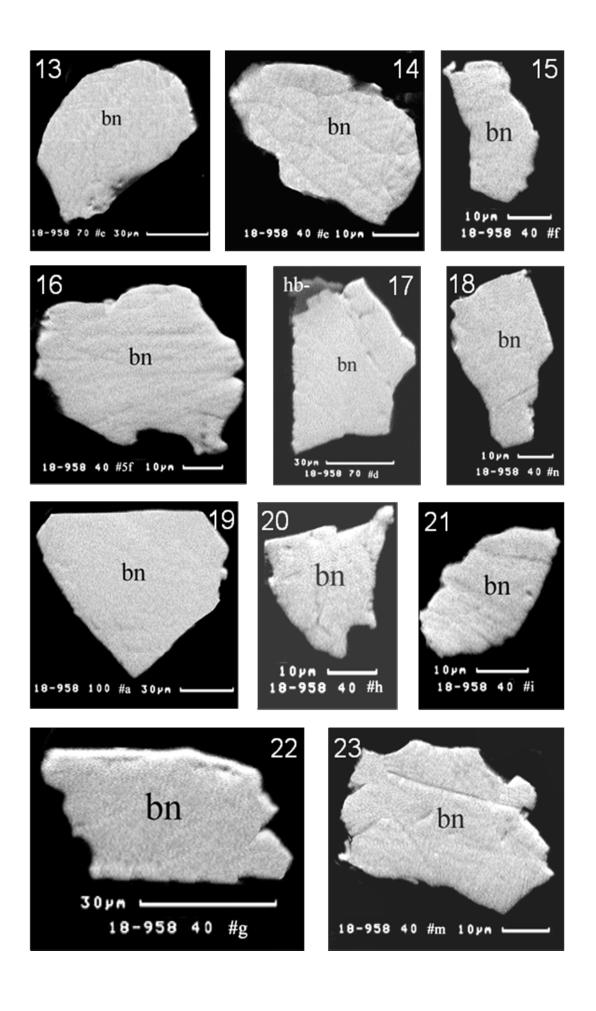
Baddeleyite grains (for age dating), extracted into the heavy mineral HS concentrate of the sample 90-18, 958 (1-10); polished section, SEM-image (BIE); bdl – baddellyite, ilm – ilmenite.

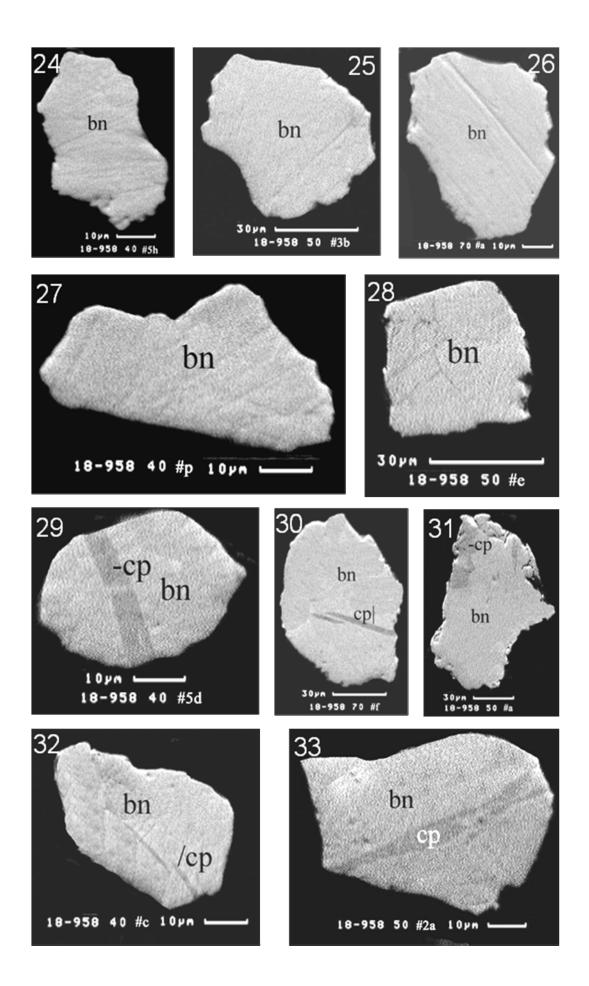


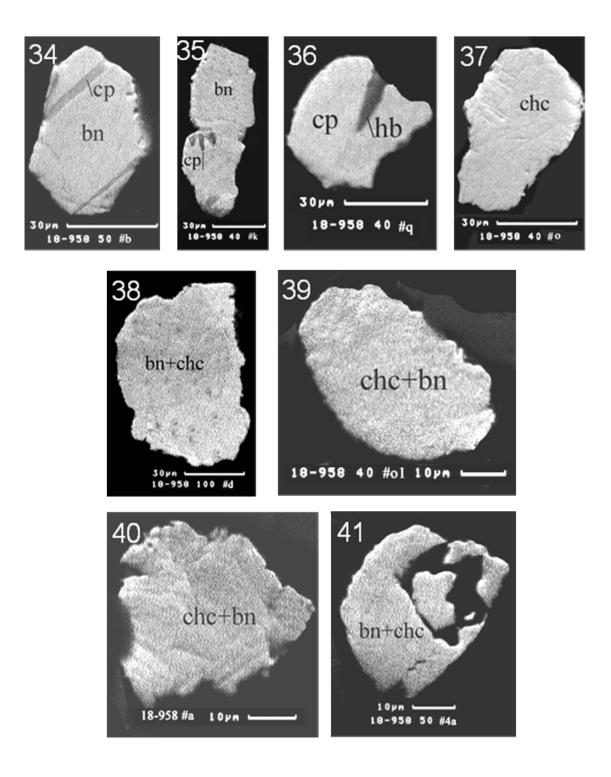


Sulphide mineralisation globules and grains of oxide rich tholeitic gabbros, sample 90-18, 958 (1-41); polished sections; SEM-images (BIE); abbreviations used: bn - bornite, cp - chalcopyrite, chc - chalcosine, hb - hornblende.

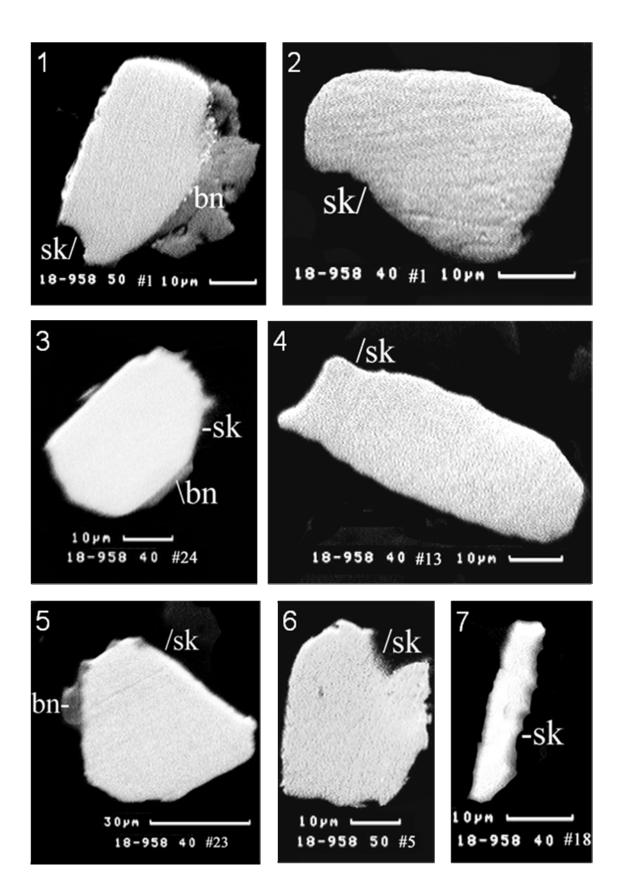


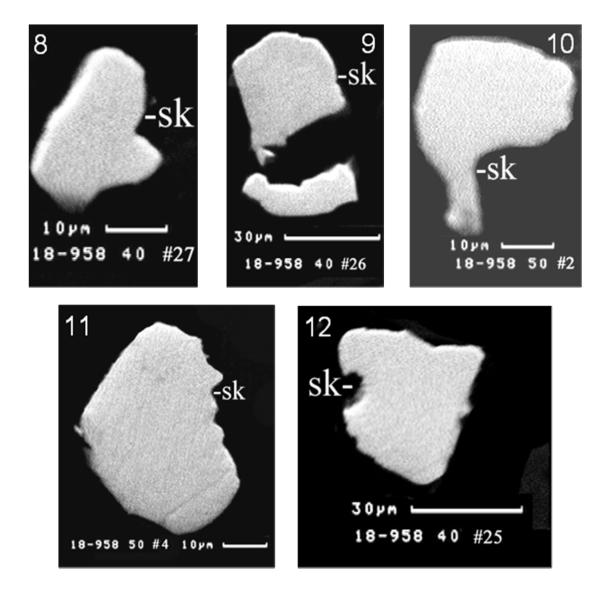




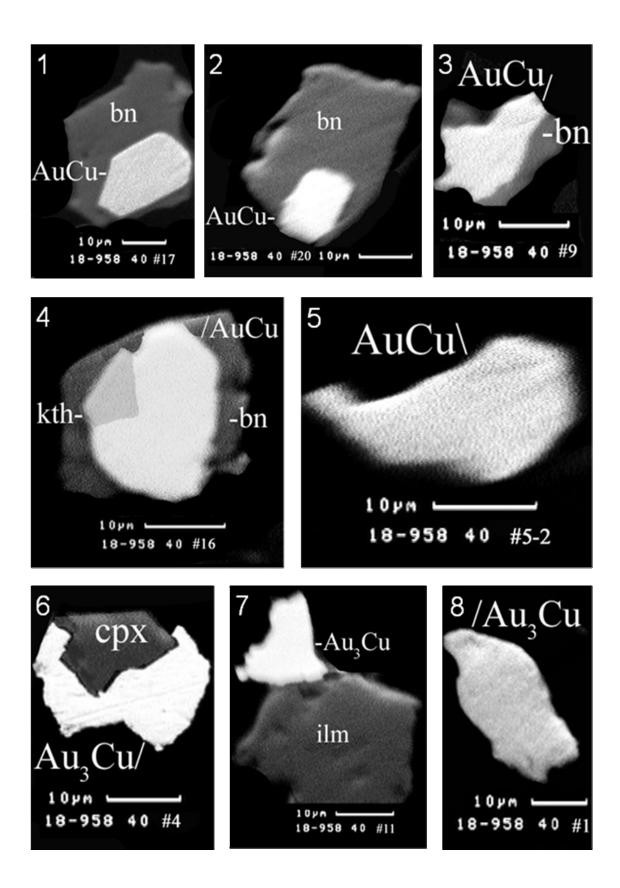


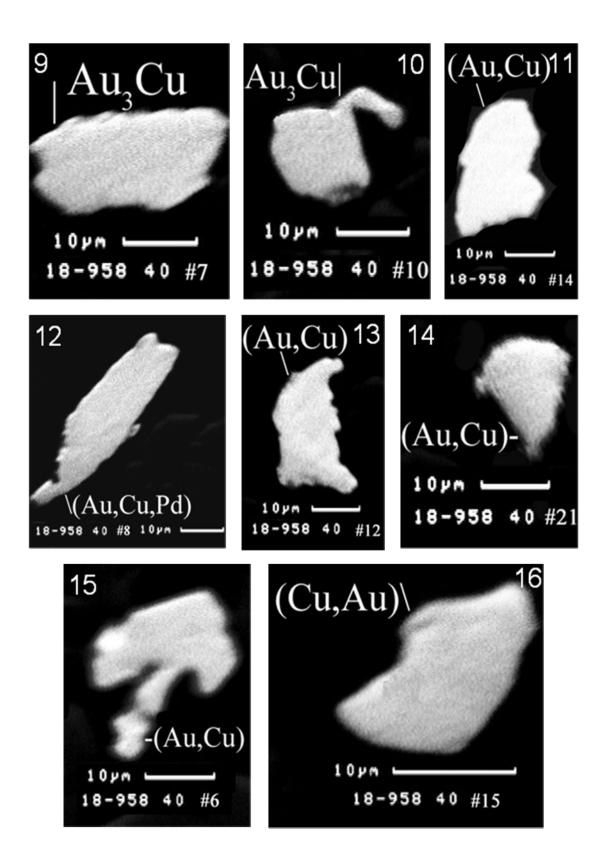
SEM-images (BIE) of skaergaardite (1-12) from the polished sections of the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18, 958; abbreviations used sk – skaergaardite, bn – bornite.





SEM-images (BIE) of Au-Cu minerals (1-16) from the polished sections of the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18, 958; abbreviations used AuCu – tetra-auricupride, Au_3Cu – unnamed, kth – keithconnite, bn – bornite, .ilm – ilmenite, cpx – clinopyroxene.





SEM-images (BIE) of nielsenite (1-3), zvyagintsevite (4) and keithconnite (5, 6) from the polished sections of the heavy mineral HS concentrates of the sample 90-18, 958; 2 is detail of 1; abbreviations used: nld – nielsenite, zv - zvyagintsevite, kth – keithconnite, sk – skaergaardite, bn – bornite, cp – chalcopyrite, cpx – clinopyroxene.

