

1 **The timing of magmatism and subsequent alteration of basaltic rocks cored at the**
2 **base of IODP Site U1513, Naturaliste Plateau, southwestern Australia**

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22 **Abstract**

23 An 82.2 m thick sequence of basaltic rocks was recovered from a deep-sea core on the
24 eastern flank of the Naturaliste Plateau, offshore southwestern Australia during International
25 Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 369. The basaltic rocks were cored at the
26 base of IODP Site U1513 and represent the acoustic basement of the Mentelle Basin. The
27 recovered materials consist of subaerial to shallow-water basalt flows interbedded with
28 volcanoclastic beds and cross-cutting dolerite dykes, all of which have been altered to some
29 degree. Existing paleomagnetic data obtained from the overlying sedimentary sequences
30 indicate that the basaltic sequence cored at Site U1513 was deposited before 130.9 Ma.
31 Here we present the results of $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ step-heating experiments conducted on whole-rock
32 samples of two basalt flows and six dolerite dykes to provide greater certainty of the timing
33 of magmatism. Each sample was characterised using optical and scanning electron
34 microscopy together with x-ray fluorescence (XRF) and x-ray diffraction (XRD) analyses.
35 The dolerite dykes are the only rocks to record the primary cooling age of the magmatic
36 event (135.4 ± 4.0 Ma). This magmatism was contemporaneous with rifting that preceded
37 the break-up of Greater India from Australia/Antarctica and is potentially associated with the
38 Greater Kerguelen large igneous province. The basalt flows record younger ages (117.9–
39 110.4 Ma) that make no sense when considering the available stratigraphic data from the
40 overlying sequences. Instead, these younger ages most likely reflect a phase of
41 hydrothermal alteration and resetting of the argon systematics. This is because the vesicular
42 basalts are more porous than the dolerite dykes, meaning that hydrothermal fluids
43 preferentially flowed through the basalt, not the dolerite. This interpretation was validated by
44 examining structural features within the overlying sedimentary sequences, which showed
45 that hydrothermal veins are only found in the basaltic sequence as well as the overlying
46 Hauterivian– early Aptian volcanoclastic-rich sedimentary sequence. This indicates that
47 hydrothermal alteration occurred after the deposition of the volcanoclastic sequence, most
48 likely at 115.0 ± 1.7 Ma. A tectonic reconstruction that shows the distribution of magmatism
49 associated with the Greater Kerguelen large igneous province indicates that the earliest

50 phases of magmatism occurred within an ellipse with a NW–SE oriented long-axis. The
51 reconstruction also shows that the Naturaliste Plateau was some distance from known
52 sources of magmatism, which suggests that the hydrothermal activity on the Naturaliste
53 Plateau may have been driven by a local source of magmatism that remained active during
54 the Aptian.

55

56 **Keywords:** Kerguelen; Mentelle; argon; geochronology; petrology; Gondwana; large
57 igneous province

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59

60 **1. Introduction**

61 The initial phase of break-up between what are now recognised as the Indian, Australian
62 and Antarctic plates coincided with the extrusion of flood basalts near the margins of each
63 plate (e.g. Storey 1995; Coffin et al., 2002; Ingle et al., 2002). These basaltic flows are
64 exposed in south-eastern Tibet (Zhu et al., 2005; 2008; 2009; Liu et al., 2015), north-eastern
65 India (Baksi et al., 1987; Baksi 1995; Sarkar et al., 1996; Kent et al., 2002; Coffin et al.,
66 2002), and southwestern Australia (Frey et al., 1996; Coffin et al., 2002; Ingle et al., 2004;
67 Olierook et al., 2015; 2016; 2019) (Figure 1). Other similar Cretaceous volcanic rocks have
68 also been obtained from dredged material from the Naturaliste and Wallaby plateaux
69 offshore southwestern Australia (Coleman et al., 1982; Direen et al., 2017; Olierook et al.,
70 2015; 2017) as well as younger basaltic rocks (~120 to 110 Ma) that have been sampled
71 from the present-day Kerguelen Plateau (Coffin et al., 2002; Duncan 2002). All of these
72 mafic magmatic rocks are considered to be part of the Greater Kerguelen large igneous
73 province (LIP) which was primarily active between 147–124 Ma (Olierook et al., 2017; 2019).
74 The extent of basaltic magmatism associated with this LIP also likely encompasses the
75 Bruce Rise, submerged crust offshore Enderby Land based on interpretations of geophysical
76 data (Stagg et al., 2004; 2006; Golynsky et al., 2013).

77

78 Some consider that the Greater Kerguelen LIP magmatism was associated with hotspot
79 activity centred beneath the Kerguelen Plateau. The details regarding the source of this
80 plume differ between authors, with some proposing magmatism was driven by a single
81 mantle plume source (e.g. Storey et al., 1992; Ingle et al., 2004; Zhu et al., 2008; 2009),
82 others proposing a single-plume source that segregated into several 'diapirs' due to shear
83 flow in the mantle (e.g. Coffin et al., 2002), or from several plumes sourcing different parent
84 material (e.g. Coffin et al., 2002). Others have proposed that the >130 Ma phase of
85 magmatism, such as the Bunbury Basalt in southwestern Australia might instead be
86 explained by other mechanisms, such as decompression melting of a zone of subcontinental
87 lithospheric mantle (e.g., Olierook et al., 2016; 2019). Regardless of what geodynamic
88 mechanism is responsible for the Greater Kerguelen LIP, it is important that we develop a
89 better understanding of the spatio-temporal distribution of the magmatic products –
90 particularly considering the links between LIPs and their potential to impact the global
91 climate at different stages through Earth's history. This paper therefore aims to provide new
92 geochronological, petrological and geochemical data from variably altered basaltic rocks that
93 were cored from the Naturaliste Plateau, offshore southwestern Australia which we
94 hypothesise are part of the Greater Kerguelen LIP. These rocks were collected as part of
95 Expedition 369 of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) (Huber et al., 2019).
96 The basaltic rocks were cored at IODP Site U1513 (Lat. 33°47.6196'S, Long.
97 112°29.1339'E) in two separate holes (U1513D and U1513E) that are laterally spaced by
98 ~20m (Huber et al., 2019; Tejada et al., 2020) (Figure 1).

99

100 **2. Regional setting of the Naturaliste Plateau and Mentelle Basin**

101 The Naturaliste Plateau and Mentelle Basin are part of the Australian Plate and found
102 immediately offshore the southwestern corner of mainland Australia (Figure 1). The
103 Naturaliste Plateau is a regional topographic high, covering an area of ~90,000 km²
104 (Borissova, 2002; Direen et al., 2017). It is separated from the southwest Australian

105 mainland by a ~170 km-wide trough, which essentially demarcates the Mentelle Basin
106 (Figure 1) (Borissova et al., 2010; Maloney et al., 2011).

107

108 Our knowledge of the geology and tectonic history of the Naturaliste Plateau and
109 Mentelle Basin has been derived from several offshore dredging and coring campaigns (e.g.,
110 Hayes et al., 1975; Coleman et al., 1982; Halpin et al., 2008; Direen et al., 2017), as well as
111 from interpretations of gravity, magnetic and seismic imagery (e.g. Borissova 2002;
112 Borissova et al., 2010; Johnston et al., 2010; Maloney et al., 2011). Additional insights have
113 been gained over time through detailed petrographic, geochemical and isotopic studies of
114 recovered samples (e.g. Halpin et al., 2008; Direen et al., 2017; Huber et al., 2019; Lee et
115 al., 2020; Wainman et al., 2020). For instance, zircon U-Pb ages obtained from gneiss
116 samples dredged from the Naturaliste Plateau indicate that these rocks were
117 metamorphosed during the Cambrian Pinjarra Orogeny of southwestern Australia (Halpin et
118 al., 2008). These metamorphic rocks are interpreted to represent part of the rifted basement
119 of the Naturaliste Plateau.

120

121 The region underwent several deformation phases. The initial phase of stretching of the
122 Naturaliste Plateau and Mentelle Basin potentially occurred during the Late Carboniferous to
123 Early Permian, followed by a phase of Mid-Permian to Early Jurassic thermal subsidence
124 (Borissova et al., 2010). A second phase of extension occurred during the Middle Jurassic,
125 creating a series of half-grabens (Borissova et al., 2010). Stretching continued during the
126 Early Cretaceous, driven by the break-up of Greater India from the Australian/Antarctic plate
127 (Direen et al., 2007; Borissova et al., 2010; Harry et al., submitted). Many consider that this
128 break-up event is marked by a Valanginian to Hauterivian unconformity surface which is
129 laterally continuous across much of the southwestern Australian margin (Direen et al., 2007;
130 Borissova et al., 2010; Maloney et al., 2011). This interpretation has since been confirmed
131 by palynological data obtained from IODP site U1515 (Huber et al., 2019; Figure 1), which
132 sampled Jurassic to earliest Cretaceous fluvio-lacustrine sedimentary rocks beneath the

133 unconformity on the continental slope of the eastern Mentelle Basin (Wainman et al., 2020).
134 The unconformity surface developed prior to, or at the same time as a period of sub-aerial
135 volcanism. The volcanics are defined by highly reflective horizons as well as several
136 kilometre-scale mounded structures that are observed in seismic reflection imagery (e.g.
137 Figure 2) (Borissova et al., 2010; Maloney et al., 2011). While Maloney et al., (2011)
138 interpreted that these features might be volcanic or carbonate in origin, the cores obtained
139 during IODP Expedition 369 found no evidence of carbonates and hence concluded that
140 these were most likely volcanic rocks (Huber et al., 2019).

141

142 Interpretations of the available seismic reflection imagery from the region also showed
143 that a series of east to northeast striking extensional faults occur within the central and
144 southern Mentelle Basin (Borissova et al., 2010; Maloney et al., 2011). These faults offset
145 the Valanginian–Hauterivian unconformity, as well as the overlying basaltic, Hauterivian–
146 early Aptian volcanoclastic-rich and Albian sedimentary sequences (Figure 2). The seismic
147 imagery interpreted using the stratigraphic control provided by Site U1513 cores indicate
148 that the Mentelle Basin and Naturaliste Plateau underwent another phase of rifting during
149 the Late Cretaceous (Figure 2). This phase of stretching was driven by broadly north-south
150 to northwest-southeast directed crustal extension that has been attributed to the rifting that
151 eventually led to the generation of oceanic crust at ~84 Ma between what are now
152 recognised as the Australian and Antarctic plates (Sayers et al., 2001), followed by the
153 eastward propagation of the developing plate boundary and the final separation of Australia
154 and Antarctica at circa 45 Ma (e.g., White et al., 2013; van den Ende et al., 2017).

155

156 **3. Igneous rocks obtained from the Mentelle Basin and Naturaliste Plateau**

157 IODP Expedition 369 recovered the first in-situ basaltic material from the Mentelle
158 Basin/Naturaliste Plateau at Site U1513 (Huber et al., 2019; Tejada et al., 2020) (Figures 1
159 and 3). The core material shows a good correlation between the lithologies recovered from
160 Holes U1513D and U1513E (Figure 3). Combined, the two holes recovered an 82.2 m

161 sequence of black to greenish grey basaltic flows with varying degrees of green, brown and
162 red alteration overprint, interbedded with several volcanoclastic sedimentary horizons and
163 cross-cut by dolerite dykes. The physical properties, petrology and preliminary geochemistry
164 of the volcanic sequence were described in Huber et al., (2019) with detailed volcanic
165 stratigraphy and additional petrographic and core descriptions reported by Tejada et al.,
166 (2020). These earlier works classified the volcanic sequence within Site U1513 as
167 'Lithostratigraphic Unit VI'. This sequence was further subdivided into nine lithologic units
168 based on the stratigraphy and observable differences in lithology, texture and alteration
169 (Huber et al., 2019; Tejada et al., 2020). Their stratigraphic position is shown in Figure 3 and
170 a summary of the characteristics of these nine sub-units are provided in Table 3 of Tejada et
171 al., (2020).

172

173 Biostratigraphic and palaeomagnetic data obtained during Expedition 369 (Huber et al.,
174 2019) indicate that the basaltic rocks cored at Site U1513 must be older than the base of
175 magnetic chron M10Nn.1n (134.5 Ma) according to the geomagnetic time scale of Ogg
176 (2012) (Figure 3). However, more recent studies of Early Cretaceous magnetic chrons that
177 use isotopic age data intercalibrated with astrochronology indicate that the base of chron
178 M10Nn.1n (and the top of the basaltic sequence of interest to this study) may be as young
179 as ~130.9 Ma (see Lee et al., 2020 and Harry et al., submitted for calculations and further
180 discussion). The basaltic rocks must also be younger than the Jurassic to earliest
181 Cretaceous (Berriasian) fluvio-deltaic sediments dated beneath the regional unconformity
182 (Wainman et al., 2020). These data indicate that the basaltic rocks erupted between ~145.0
183 Ma and ~130.9 Ma.

184

185 Here we attempt to provide clarity about the age of the basaltic units recovered from
186 IODP Site U1513, particularly their age with respect to other basaltic sequences identified in
187 southwestern Australia and the Greater Kerguelen LIP. We also attempt to determine the

188 age of possible alteration of the basaltic rocks and to consider potential regional events that
189 may explain the timing of alteration.

190

191 **4. Samples and Methodology**

192 Three basaltic flows and five cross-cutting dolerite dykes were examined in this study.
193 Quartered sections of working half core sections from Holes U1513D and U1513E were
194 sampled during IODP Expedition 369 to further characterise their petrography, geochemistry
195 and age. Care was taken to examine the core visually and sample the least altered sections.
196 The sample details are summarised in Table 1, with further metadata including International
197 Geo Sample Numbers (IGSN) are provided in Supplementary Data 1. The stratigraphic
198 context of the eight samples that were dated in this study is shown in Figure 3. Core
199 photographs of each sample are provided in Figure 4.

200

201 The samples are 4 cm to 15 cm quarter core lengths divided into polished thin sections
202 and whole-rock powders for geochemical and mineralogical characterisation using
203 petrographic analysis, x-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The
204 sub-sample dated using $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ mass spectrometry was collected immediately above or
205 below whole-rock x-ray fluorescence (XRF) and XRD samples (Table 1; Supplementary
206 Data 1).

207

208 The eight sections of the core that were selected for XRF, XRD and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$
209 measurements were cut into smaller segments with a trim saw, before being washed, dried
210 in an oven for 24 h at 60°C and then pulverised in a tungsten-carbide ring mill for 60 s. An
211 aliquot of the powdered material was ground further by hand within an agate mortar and
212 pestle and was set aside for XRD analyses.

213

214

215 Please insert Table 1.

216

217

218 4.1 Petrography

219 Polished thin sections were examined using a standard petrographic microscope.

220 Additional observations were made at higher magnification using the PhenomXL benchtop

221 scanning electron microscope with an energy dispersive spectrometer housed at the

222 University of Wollongong.

223

224 4.2 X-ray Diffraction

225 The powdered sample material was further examined using a Malvern PanAnalytical

226 Empyrean Series 3 x-ray diffractometer at the Research School of Earth Sciences at the

227 Australian National University. This instrument is equipped with a Bragg-Brentano^{HD}

228 divergent beam optic and a PIXcel^{3D} detector (1D scanning mode, 3.347 degrees active

229 length) using CoK α radiation. The samples were spiked with 20 wt.% corundum (Baikalox, 1

230 μm), suspended on a low-background holder (Si or quartz) and analysed over a range of 4-

231 $85^\circ 2\theta$, with a step width of $0.0131303^\circ 2\theta$ and a total dwell time of 71 s per step. Phase

232 identification was carried out with the software Match! and the Crystallographic Open

233 Database (Inorganic, Revision 211633 25.10.2018). Phase quantification was performed

234 using the FullProf plugin within Match! and used the 20 wt.% corundum spike as a reference

235 value to quantify the wt.% of other mineral phases. The spectra and mineral phase

236 calculations are reported in Supplementary File 2.

237

238 4.3 Whole-rock geochemistry

239 The whole-rock major and trace element composition of each sample was

240 determined using a Spectro Ametek XEPOS III energy dispersive XRF spectrometer at the

241 University of Wollongong. Major element data were obtained from the analysis of glass-

242 fusion beads. Trace element data were measured using pressed powder pellets. Several

243 geological reference materials were run as unknowns alongside the basaltic samples to

244 ensure the results were accurate (Supplementary File 3). The major element data were
245 reduced using the volatile content obtained from a loss-on-ignition (LOI) measurement of
246 each sample. However, we report the results on a volatile-free basis. The iron concentration
247 for each sample is reported as total Fe₂O₃.

248

249 4.4 Argon–Argon Dating

250 The eight samples selected for argon dating were crushed and separated in the
251 Australian National University Mineral Separation Laboratory. The most pristine sections of
252 samples were selected before being crushed and sieved, with the 250–420 µm size fraction
253 being retained for argon dating. Aggregates were de-slimed, dried and later washed in
254 deionised water. The air-dried material was then hand-picked and wrapped in aluminium
255 packets. These were placed into a quartz irradiation canister together with aliquots of the
256 flux monitor GA1550. Packets containing K₂SO₄ and CaF₂ were placed in the middle of the
257 canister to monitor ⁴⁰Ar production from potassium. The samples were then sent for
258 irradiation at the UC Davis MNRC nuclear reactor in California, USA prior to analysis.
259 Irradiated samples were unwrapped on their return to ANU, weighed and rewrapped in tin-
260 foil ready for analysis in the mass spectrometer. Samples were dropped into the furnace
261 causing the tin-foil to melt and the gas was pumped away prior to analysis of sample.
262 Backgrounds were measured prior to each step analysis and subtracted from each step
263 analysis. The basaltic samples were analysed with 29 steps and with temperatures of the
264 overall schedule rising from 450°C to 1450°C (Lovera et al., 1989). The furnace was
265 degassed at 1450°C for 20 min. This was repeated 4 times and gas was pumped away prior
266 to each analysis. Temperature steps in the schedule were increased in small increments to
267 minimize mixing of different gas populations on each step (Supplementary File 4).

268

269 Flux monitors, GA 1550, were analysed using a CO₂ continuous wave laser and the
270 ARGUS VI Mass Spectrometer. Gas released from each step was exposed to three different
271 Zr-Al getters to remove active gases for 10 min, the purified gas then being isotopically

272 analysed in the mass spectrometer. The furnace was decontaminated between samples.
273 Corrections for argon produced by interaction of neutrons with K and Ca were made using
274 the following correction factors: $(^{36}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}}$: $2.297\text{E-}04$, $(^{39}\text{Ar}/^{37}\text{Ar})_{\text{Ca}}$: $7.614\text{E-}04$, $(^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}}$:
275 $5.992\text{E-}02$, $(^{38}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}}$: $1.158\text{E-}02$ and $(^{38}\text{Ar})_{\text{Cl}}/(^{39}\text{Ar})_{\text{K}}$: $8.170\text{E-}02$ (Tetley et al., 1980). ^{40}K
276 abundances and decay constants are taken from standard values recommended by the
277 IUGS subcommission on Geochronology (Steiger and Jager, 1977). Stated precisions for
278 $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ ages include all uncertainties in the measurement of isotope ratios and are quoted
279 at the one sigma level (Supplementary File 4).

280

281 The reported data were corrected for system backgrounds, mass discrimination,
282 fluence gradients and atmospheric contamination. Errors associated with the age
283 determinations are one sigma uncertainties and exclude errors in the age of the fluence
284 monitor GA1550 (Supplementary File 4). The $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ dating technique is described in detail
285 by MacDougall and Harrison (1999). Readers are directed to Supplementary File 5 for
286 additional information on the argon dating methodology.

287

288 4.5 Structural Analysis

289 High-resolution core photos obtained from IODP Site U1513 were examined to assist
290 our interpretation of the argon apparent age spectra and the geological evolution of the
291 region. In doing so, we documented which lithostratigraphic units above the basaltic
292 sequence had been cross-cut by faults and veins. We considered the age of these
293 sequences using the biostratigraphic data reported in Huber et al., (2019) to establish the
294 timing of alteration and/or thermal perturbations that might influence the apparent age
295 spectra obtained from argon measurements.

296

297 **5. Results**

298 5.1 Petrography and mineralogy

299 5.1.1 IODP Sample: U1513D-66R-3, 93-105 – Basaltic Flow

300 Sample U1513D-66R-3, 93-105 is from a basaltic flow that was cored at 694 m
301 below sea floor (mbsf); near the top of the Volcanic Unit 3 (Figures 2, 3 and 4a). This rock is
302 moderately altered and contains three populations of phenocrysts: (1) 10 modal% rounded
303 to sub-rounded plagioclase phenocrysts and glomerocrysts; (2) 3 modal% tabular feldspar
304 phenocrysts, and (3) pseudomorphic replacement of equant to slightly elongate hexagonal
305 prismatic crystals (likely pseudomorphed after clinopyroxene) that amount to ~1 modal%.
306 The rounded to sub-rounded plagioclase phenocrysts and glomerocrysts are typically 8 mm
307 in length, some contain growth zones rich in small melt inclusions. Plagioclase in some of
308 the rounded glomerocrysts is fractured along grain boundaries, with fracturing occurring
309 before or during emplacement. The tabular feldspar crystals are generally 1.5 mm in length,
310 with no evidence of abrasion or rounding. The hexagonal prismatic pseudomorphs are
311 typically 2 mm in length, replaced by fine-grained secondary minerals including chlorite,
312 calcite and Fe-oxide. No evidence of the primary hexagonal prismatic mineral is preserved,
313 although this texture was seen replacing clinopyroxene in other samples examined during
314 this study. The groundmass comprises 40 modal% felty plagioclase microlites, generally 100
315 μm in length within a pervasively altered matrix. Anastomosing chlorite and serpentine
316 veinlets infill fractures in the matrix as well as both feldspar populations.

317

318 The XRD analysis of this sample indicates that 73% of the material is either
319 amorphous and/or composed of minerals that are $<5 \mu\text{m}$ in size (i.e., below the grain-size
320 detection limit of the XRD). The remainder consists of labradorite (18%), augite (3%),
321 serpentine (3%) and other unidentified phases (3%) (Figure 5).

322

323 5.1.2 IODP Sample: U1513D-67R-2, 58-73 – Dolerite dyke

324 Sample U1513D-67R-2, 58-73 is a plagioclase-phyric dolerite that intrudes a basaltic
325 flow (equivalent to the sample discussed above) at 696 mbsf (Figure 3). Sample U1513D-
326 67R-2, 58-73 is altered, contains plagioclase phenocrysts, plagioclase-augite glomerocrysts,
327 large rounded augite and plagioclase crystals as well as fine-grained minerals (Figure 4b). In

328 thin section, we observed an ~2 cm xenolith with a high proportion of interstitial green glass.
329 In the remainder of the sample, three populations of phenocrysts were identified: (1) 3
330 modal% rounded, 6 mm long, fractured and partially replaced plagioclase crystals; (2) 1
331 modal% glomerocrysts of fractured and partially replaced feldspar laths with equant to
332 slightly elongate prismatic augite crystals (up to 4 mm in length) and; (3) 1 modal%
333 pervasively altered sub-rounded 6 mm long augite crystals. The groundmass comprises felty
334 plagioclase microlites around 75 μm in length, in a pervasively altered matrix. The remainder
335 of the groundmass exhibits a patchy texture, defined by fine-grained alteration minerals.

336

337 The XRD analysis of this sample indicates that 53% of the material is either
338 amorphous and/or material that is $<5 \mu\text{m}$ in size. The remainder of the sample consists of
339 labradorite (15%), augite (18%), serpentine (6%), vermiculite/clay (5%) and other
340 unidentified phases (3%) (Figure 5).

341

342 5.1.3 IODP Sample U1513D-69R-4, 76-95 – Basaltic Flow

343 Sample U1513D-69R-4, 76-95 is from an older basaltic flow (Unit 7) at 714.22 mbsf
344 (Figure 3). It is a plagioclase-phyric basalt that is highly altered with a vuggy, porphyritic
345 texture (Figure 4c). Plagioclase and augite phenocrysts are only partially preserved. Highly
346 altered sub-rounded plagioclase phenocrysts and pseudomorphs after plagioclase
347 phenocrysts are up to 3 mm in length. More than 50 area % of the remaining plagioclase
348 phenocrysts are replaced by anastomosing veinlets filled with fine-grained secondary
349 minerals, although some crystals are completely replaced by fine-grained secondary
350 minerals. The groundmass is almost completely altered by fine-grained minerals, although
351 250 μm plagioclase microlites are occasionally preserved. Both ~4 mm vugs and interstices
352 in the groundmass contain zoned, syntaxial, cavity-fill textures.

353

354 XRD analyses indicate that 81% of this sample consists of either amorphous material
355 and/or material that is $<5 \mu\text{m}$ in size. The remainder consists of labradorite (7%),

356 protoanthophyllite (3%), serpentine (2%), vermiculite/clay (1%) and other unidentified
357 phases (6%) (Figure 5).

358

359

360 5.1.4 IODP Sample U1513D-70R-4, 11-26 – Dolerite dyke

361 Sample U1513D-70R-4, 11-26 is a plagioclase-phyric dolerite that intrudes a basaltic
362 flow (equivalent to the sample discussed in Section 5.1.3) at 723 mbsf (Figure 3). The
363 sample is slightly altered, with plagioclase glomerocrysts in a plagioclase–clinopyroxene
364 groundmass (Figure 4d). The glomerocrysts are 1–7 mm in length, sub-angular and contain
365 fractured, oscillatory-zoned plagioclase crystals. The glomerocrysts constitute 2 modal% of
366 the thin section. The groundmass comprises 50 modal% felty plagioclase microlites ~200
367 μm in length, 30 modal% clinopyroxene ~100 μm in length, 5 modal% opaque minerals ~30
368 μm in length and some fine-grained secondary minerals.

369

370 XRD analyses indicate that 54% of the sample consists of either amorphous material
371 and/or material that is $<5\ \mu\text{m}$ in size. The remainder consists of labradorite (16.5%), diopside
372 (23.5%), ganophyllite (2%) and other unidentified phases (4%) (Figure 5).

373

374 5.1.5 IODP Sample U1513D-71R-2, 110-124 – Basalt Flow

375 Sample U1513D-71R-2, 110-124 is a plagioclase-phyric basaltic flow (Unit 7) cored
376 at 725 mbsf (Figure 2). The sample is moderately altered, with mineralised vesicles and
377 distinct plagioclase glomerocrysts containing sieve-textured cores (Figure 4e). The vesicles
378 are spherical, 0.5–2.5 mm in diameter and filled with fine-grained secondary minerals. The
379 glomerocrysts constitute 8 modal% of the sample. They are 0.8–7 mm in length and sub-
380 rounded; oscillatory zonation is present in most crystals. Glomerocryst rims are mostly intact
381 with minor fractures. However, nearly all glomerocryst cores are highly altered, preserving
382 relict sieve textures, replaced with fine-grained secondary alteration minerals. Rare, highly-
383 altered clinopyroxene phenocrysts constitute <1 modal% of the sample. The groundmass is

384 highly altered, with partial preservation of felty plagioclase microlites ~250 µm in length and
385 rare relict fragments of altered clinopyroxene. The remainder of the groundmass is
386 composed of fine-grained secondary alteration minerals.

387

388 XRD analyses indicate that 70% of the sample either consists of amorphous material
389 and/or material that is <5 µm in size. The remainder consists of labradorite (11%), diopside
390 (6%), ganophyllite (7.5%), and other unidentified phases (5.5%) (Figure 5).

391

392

393 5.1.6 IODP Sample U1513D-73R-4, 62-78 – Dolerite dyke

394 Sample U1513D-73R-4, 62-78 is a plagioclase-phyric dolerite that intrudes a basaltic
395 flow (Unit 7) at 742 mbsf (Figure 3). The sample is moderately altered, contains sparse
396 tabular plagioclase phenocrysts, pseudomorphs after a hexagonal prismatic mineral
397 (presumably clinopyroxene), a singular plagioclase glomerocryst, all in an altered
398 groundmass with vesicles filled with secondary minerals (Figure 4f). Tabular plagioclase
399 phenocrysts are ~1 mm in length and constitute <1 modal% of the thin section. The
400 plagioclase phenocrysts are relatively unaltered, with only minor fractures. Most display
401 oscillatory zonation. One ~5 mm glomerocryst was observed, containing fractured,
402 oscillatory-zoned, angular plagioclase laths up to 4 mm in length. The glomerocryst also
403 contains ~2 mm equant prismatic crystals replaced by fine-grained minerals, likely
404 pseudomorphed after clinopyroxene. These altered, equant prismatic crystals are also
405 present as phenocrysts within the groundmass. Spherical to sub-spherical vesicles are
406 0.25–1 mm in length, filled with fine-grained secondary minerals. The groundmass consists
407 of 40 modal% felty plagioclase microlites ~250 µm in length, ~15% interstitial clinopyroxene
408 and the remainder of the groundmass is replaced by fine-grained secondary minerals.

409

410 XRD analyses indicate that 56% of the sample consists of either amorphous material
411 and/or material that is <5 μm in size. The remainder consists of labradorite (19%), diopside
412 (20%) and other unidentified phases (5%) (Figure 5).

413

414 5.1.7 IODP Sample U1513D-74R-1, 120-132 – Dolerite dyke

415 Sample U1513D-74R-1, 120-132 is a plagioclase-phyric dolerite that intrudes a
416 basaltic flow (Unit 7) at 744 mbsf (Figure 3). The sample is slightly altered, with angular,
417 blocky plagioclase glomerocrysts within a plagioclase-clinopyroxene groundmass (Figure
418 4g). Glomerocrysts are 3–7 mm in length, and constitute 8 modal% of the thin section. Only
419 blocky, angular plagioclase crystals with oscillatory zonation and occasional sieve textures
420 were observed in glomerocrysts. The plagioclase is fractured, but relatively unaltered.
421 Plagioclase microlites (~250 μm) constitute 40% of the groundmass and define a weak
422 trachytic texture. The remainder of the groundmass comprises interstitial clinopyroxene,
423 opaque minerals and fine-grained secondary minerals.

424

425 XRD analyses indicate that 64% of the sample consists of either amorphous material
426 and/or material that is <5 μm in size. The remainder consists of labradorite (15%), diopside
427 (17%) and other unidentified phases (4%) (Figure 5).

428

429 5.1.8 IODP Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-119 – Dolerite dyke

430 Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-119 is a plagioclase-phyric dolerite that was sampled at
431 760 mbsf (Unit 9) (Figure 4h). It cross-cuts the deepest volcanic unit sampled at IODP Site
432 U1513 (Figure 3). This sample was selected because it represents the least altered material
433 near the base of drill-core U1513E.

434

435 The thin section of this sample contains pervasively altered plagioclase phenocrysts and one
436 intact clinopyroxene phenocryst in a highly altered groundmass. Elongate, sub-angular
437 plagioclase phenocrysts are ~750 μm in length and are almost completely altered. They

438 constitute <0.05 modal% of the sample. The sub-rounded clinopyroxene phenocryst is ~2
439 mm in length and fractured along cleavage planes. The groundmass is moderately altered.
440 Felty ~150 µm plagioclase microlites constitute ~30% of the groundmass. The remainder of
441 the groundmass exhibits a patchy texture, defined by fine-grained alteration minerals.

442

443 XRD analyses indicate that 72% of the sample consists of either amorphous material
444 and/or material that is <5 µm in size. The remainder consists of andesine (16%),
445 clinopyroxene (8%), vermiculite/clay (1%) and other unidentified phases (3%) (Figure 5).

446

447 5.2 Geochemistry

448 Loss-on-ignition measurements for the analysed samples shows that these rocks have
449 variable volatile contents, with values ranging between 4.2% to 17.3% (Table 2). The bulk-
450 rock major element data indicate that each of the samples are classified geochemically as
451 basalt (e.g., when using a total-alkali vs. silica plot). However, we expect that the major
452 element data will not necessarily reflect the primary composition of the basaltic rocks. This is
453 because all of the samples have relatively high-volatile contents and because our analysis of
454 thin sections shows that all of the samples record evidence of post-crystallisation alteration.
455 However, immobile element (Ti, Nb, Y and Zr) concentrations indicate that all of the
456 analysed samples plot within the 'basalt' field when using the classifications proposed by
457 Pearce (1996) (Table 2; Figure 6). It is worth noting that all Cu values for the samples
458 selected for dating are relatively low (30 – 100 ppm) despite other sections of the basaltic
459 sequence showing native copper and malachite growth within veins (Table 2). It is also
460 worth noting that the dolerite dyke intersected at 760 mbsf (Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-119)
461 yielded very high Cl concentrations (17,330 ppm – i.e., 1.7 wt%), which we took into
462 consideration when interpreting the argon mass spectrometry data for this sample (see
463 Section 5.3).

464

465 5.3 Argon Geochronology

466 The results of the step heating experiments conducted on the analysed samples are
467 shown in Figure 7a to 7h, Table 3 and Supplementary File 4. Two of the basaltic flows that
468 were dated yield similar results. Sample U1513D-66R-3, 93-105 yielded an apparent age of
469 115.8 +/- 2.1 Ma (Figure 7a), while Sample U1513D-69R-4, 76-95 yielded an apparent age
470 of 113.4 +/- 3.0 Ma (Figure 7c). The step heating experiment for the other basalt flow
471 (Sample U1513D-71R-2, 110-124) failed to produce a clear plateau (Figure 7e). We
472 interpreted this spectrum to indicate this sample had a maximum possible age of 129.5 +/-
473 1.0 and a minimum possible age of 104.8 +/- 1.3 Ma (Figure 7e).

474

475 The majority of the dolerite samples obtained apparent ages between 129.5 Ma and
476 148.4 Ma (Figure 7b, 7d, 7f, 7g; Table 3). These ages are all within analytical uncertainty of
477 one another (Table 3).

478

479 One other dolerite dyke (Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-119) yielded an age of 182.1 +/- 5.2
480 Ma. However, this age was calculated from a plateau defined by three steps (Figure 7h;
481 Table 3). An analysis of the percentage of gas released during the step heating experiment
482 for this sample indicates that this sample likely had considerable excess argon
483 contamination causing large errors in the apparent age, particularly at the beginning and the
484 end of the experiment (Figure 7f). These errors correlate with an increase in the
485 chlorine/potassium gas ratio as measured by the mass spectrometer (Supplementary File 4),
486 which is supported further by high Cl concentrations identified during the XRF analysis of
487 this sample (Table 2; Supplementary File 3). Considering that the apparent age determined
488 by this sample is influenced by chlorine and potentially excess argon, we expect that the
489 apparent age determined for this sample is not geologically significant.

490

491 5.4 Structural Analysis

492 Our analysis of the timing of when sedimentary sequences that overlie the basaltic rocks
493 were cross-cut by faults and/or veins is presented in Table 4 and summarised in Figure 8.

494 The cross-cutting relations, together with biostratigraphic and palaeomagnetic data indicate
495 that two (or more) phases of faulting occurred after the deposition of the basaltic flows. The
496 earliest episode is characterised by calcite veins that are only evident within the early Aptian
497 to Hauterivian volcanoclastic-rich sandstone sequence (Unit V) as well as calcite veins and
498 serpentinised fault planes in the underlying basaltic flows (Unit VI) (Figure 3 and 8). These
499 structures must have therefore developed between 125 Ma (the youngest age proposed for
500 Unit V: Lee et al., 2020) and before the initial deposition of unaltered Albian–Cenomanian
501 claystones (Unit IV) at ~110 Ma (Huber et al., 2019) (Table 4).

502

503 The younger episode of deformation consists of small-scale fault planes that offset the
504 Albian to Campanian sedimentary sequences that overlie the Hauterivian–early Aptian
505 volcanoclastic-rich sandstone unit (Figure 8a-c). These non-mineralised fault planes most
506 likely developed between 93.7 Ma and the present day. They may simply be a series of
507 small-scale faults that developed after deposition and partial lithification of the sedimentary
508 units that they cross-cut. The slip direction cannot be determined from direct observation of
509 the core, yet we assume that these younger faults are extensional based on the dominant
510 structures observed in the regional seismic imagery (e.g. Figure 2). These faults might
511 represent evidence of polygonal faulting in the basin that was discussed by Maloney et al.,
512 (2011).

513

514 **6. Discussion**

515 All of the samples that were dated in this study show evidence of secondary mineral
516 growth and volatile contents that are higher than would be expected from a pristine,
517 unaltered sample (Table 2). The mineralogy, geochemistry and available stratigraphic
518 control must therefore be considered when interpreting the apparent age determined for
519 each sample (Figure 7).

520

521 There is a clear correlation between the primary mineral content (feldspar and
522 clinopyroxene) and volatile content of each sample (Figure 9a). That is, samples that have a
523 higher proportion of primary minerals, have lower volatile contents and *vice versa*. This
524 relationship is also apparent when considering the volatile content and primary mineral
525 contents with the apparent age determined by argon dating (Figure 9b and 9c respectively).
526 For instance, the basaltic flows (Samples: U1513D-66R-3, 93-105; U1513D-69R-4, 76-95;
527 U1513D-71R-2, 110-124) have higher LOI values, lower primary mineral contents and
528 younger apparent ages relative to those samples that record ages of 149–130 Ma, all of
529 which are dolerite dykes with higher primary mineral contents and lower volatile contents
530 (Figure 9b-c). Considering these data, we interpret the 149–130 Ma apparent ages as being
531 representative of the crystallisation age of the dolerite dykes. This is because these ages do
532 not contradict the biostratigraphic and paleomagnetic age control (Figure 2) and because
533 these samples retain more primary minerals than the other samples examined as part of this
534 study. A weighted mean age of 135.4 ± 4.0 Ma (MSWD = 0.36) was calculated by combining
535 the apparent ages determined for Samples U1513D-67R-2, 58-73, U1513D-70R-4, 11-26,
536 U1513D-73R-4, 62-78 and U1513D-74R-1, 120-132. We take this weighted mean age as
537 being representative of the timing of the dolerite dyke emplacement at IODP Site U1513.
538 This age also serves as a minimum age for the extrusive basalts that were cored at Site
539 U1513.

540

541 The apparent ages (115–113 Ma) determined for two of the basaltic flows (Samples
542 U1513D-66R-3, 93-105 and U1513D-69R-4, 76-95) are younger than the overlying
543 sedimentary rocks (Figure 3). This means that the apparent ages determined for these
544 samples cannot represent when these basalts were emplaced, and instead likely reflect
545 resetting of the argon systematics due to hydrothermal alteration. This assertion seems
546 reasonable considering that the rocks have been altered, as demonstrated by our
547 petrographic, XRD and LOI measurements. This is further supported by our structural
548 analysis of the core, which demonstrated that calcite vein networks are present in the

549 Hauterivian to Albian sedimentary rocks that overlie the basaltic sequence, but not in
550 younger sequences. Considering the uncertainties associated with the calculated ages, we
551 propose that the Mentelle Basin experienced an episode of hydrothermal alteration between
552 117.9 Ma and 110.4 Ma. A weighted mean age of these two results yields a value of $115.0 \pm$
553 1.7 Ma (MSWD = 0.43, $p(x2) = 0.51$). The 130.5 Ma to 103.5 Ma apparent age range
554 determined for Sample U1513D-71R-2, 110-124 also potentially reflects partial resetting of
555 the argon systematics because of this period of hydrothermal activity.

556

557 We assume that the dolerite dykes and sills represent the intrusive equivalents of the
558 basaltic flows, where earlier basalt flows were cross-cut by younger dolerite that fed younger
559 extrusive flows, only to be cross-cut by younger dolerite intrusions and overlain by younger
560 basalt flows. This continued thermal activity might explain why Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-
561 119, the deepest sample to be dated in this study had considerable contamination and
562 yielded an implausible geological age (Figure 7h; Table 3). However, the apparent ages
563 determined for the basalts and dolerites is somewhat odd, in that these seemingly
564 contemporaneously emplaced rocks record different ages. We explain these different ages
565 as being a function of the porosity differences between the basalts and dolerites (Figure 9d).
566 Shipboard measurements of moisture and density that were conducted during Expedition
567 369 were used to calculate the porosity for discrete 1 cm^3 samples of rock extracted from the
568 core (Huber et al., 2019). These data show that the basalts have porosities of 24.8% to
569 47.7% (with a median value of 43.5%) (Figure 9d). On the other hand, the dolerites have
570 porosities between 10.3% and 17.9% (with a median value of 16.0%) (Figure 9d). This
571 difference is most likely due to the vesicular nature of the basalts (even though the porosity
572 values were determined from samples where most vesicles had been infilled with secondary
573 minerals). Since the basalts (as well as the interbedded volcanoclastic sequences that were
574 cored in Hole U1513D: Figure 9d) are more porous than the dolerites, we expect that
575 hydrothermal fluids would preferentially flow through the basalt and volcanoclastic rocks, with

576 the hot fluids resetting the argon systematics, as well as depositing secondary minerals and
577 altering primary minerals.

578

579 6.1 Generation of flood basalts during India-Australia-Antarctica break-up

580 The basaltic rocks that were cored at IODP Site U1513 were emplaced at 135.4 ± 4.0 Ma.

581 This indicates that these rocks are broadly coincident with the 135.7 Ma to 125.9 Ma ages

582 reported for samples of basalt, dolerite, rhyolite, granophyre and monzodiorite collected

583 during dredging campaigns around the edge of the Naturaliste Plateau (Direen et al., 2017),

584 as well as the recently refined ages proposed for the Bunbury Basalt of SW Australia

585 (136.96 ± 0.43 Ma; 132.71 ± 0.43 Ma; 130.45 ± 0.82 Ma: Olierook et al., 2016)¹. The basaltic

586 rocks that were cored at Site U1513 were therefore most-likely to have been generated due

587 to the same mechanism(s) that were responsible for the 147–124 Ma Greater Kerguelen LIP

588 (Olierook et al., 2017; 2019). During this time, the crust between the Indian, Australian and

589 Antarctic plates was being thinned to the point where new ocean crust was developed

590 between India and Australia/Antarctica (e.g. Gibbons et al., 2012; Williams et al., 2013; Ali

591 and Aitchison 2014).

592

593 The spatio-temporal relationship between the timing and location of magmatism

594 associated with the Greater Kerguelen LIP is best understood by reconstructing the position

595 of the various tectonic plates and microcontinental fragments together with the position of

596 dated rock samples. We used PaleoGIS together with the plate boundaries and Euler poles

597 that were presented in van den Ende et al., (2017) to create reconstructions at 5 million-year

598 intervals between 145 Ma and 110 Ma (Figures 10 and 11). These images show the spatio-

599 temporal context of the samples that were dated in this study together with the best

600 geochronological data available for the Greater Kerguelen LIP (Olierook et al., 2017; 2019)

¹ Readers should note that the ages we report for the Bunbury Basalt are those provided by Olierook et al. (2016), who reviewed the veracity of earlier reported ages (e.g., by Frey et al., 1996; Coffin et al., 2002) and provided updated age values for the Bunbury Basalt.

601 using a mantle reference frame. The reconstructions demonstrate that magmatism was
602 active as Greater India rifted and drifted away from Australia/Antarctica (Figures 10 and 11).
603 The reconstructions also show that during the earlier stage of break-up, magmatism was
604 located near the edges of the dissecting plates, essentially along continental transform faults
605 that developed to accommodate plate divergence (Figures 10b-d and 11a-b). This perhaps
606 explains why there is an apparent NW–SE trend to the 140–125 Ma magmatism (Figures
607 10b–d and 11a) – although we also recognise that this might be due to a sampling bias.

608

609 Magmatism associated with Greater Kerguelen LIP continued on the Kerguelen Plateau
610 as well as the Indian and Antarctic plates during the Aptian and Albian (Coffin et al., 2002;
611 Duncan 2002) (Figure 11). The Naturaliste Plateau was approximately 500 km from the
612 Kerguelen Plateau during these times and there is no other evidence for a primary source of
613 magmatism on the Naturaliste Plateau during the Aptian and Albian (Figure 11). We
614 anticipate that hydrothermal activity responsible for the 115.0 ± 1.7 Ma alteration of the Early
615 Cretaceous basaltic and volcanoclastic sequences cored at Site U1513 was associated with
616 the continuation of magmatism on the Naturaliste Plateau or surrounding region during the
617 Aptian–Albian – potentially at depth.

618

619 **7 Conclusions**

620 An 82.2 m-thick sequence of basaltic flows, interbedded with volcanoclastic sedimentary
621 sequences and cross-cut by dolerite dykes was recovered from the eastern flank of the
622 Naturaliste Plateau at IODP Site U1513. Eight samples of what were considered the least
623 altered examples of basalt and dolerite from this sequence were dated using argon mass
624 spectrometry to improve our understanding of the stratigraphy and tectonic history of the
625 Naturaliste Plateau and the Mentelle Basin. The dating campaign shows that basaltic
626 magmatism occurred at 135.4 ± 4.0 Ma – indicating that the magmatism was coincident with
627 the Greater Kerguelen LIP and the break-up of Greater India from Australia/Antarctica. The
628 argon results also record evidence of a subsequent phase of hydrothermal alteration at

629 115.0 ± 1.7 Ma. This period of alteration was most likely driven by hot fluids associated with
630 magmatism and hydrothermal activity beneath the Naturaliste Plateau that continued into the
631 Aptian–Albian.

632

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648

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812 **Table Captions**

813

814 **Table 1:** An overview of the details of each sample examined in this study, including the
815 sample number, depth and metadata about the core number and section. Details about the
816 Stratigraphic Unit have been summarised from information provided in Tejada et al., (2020).

817

818 **Table 2.** Major (wt %) and Trace ($\mu\text{g/g}$) element composition of samples from Holes U1513D
819 and U1513E as determined by XRF. Loss-on-ignition (LOI) data are also included.

820

821 **Table 3.** Summary of calculated ages determined from $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ argon geochronological
822 data.

823

824 **Table 4.** Biostratigraphic and palaeomagnetic age control from Huber et al., (2019) from
825 samples that were examined above and below sedimentary sequences that are cross-cut by
826 faults and veins within the material recovered from IODP Site U1513.

827

828

829 **Figure Captions**

830

831 **Figure 1.** Regional map of the Naturaliste Plateau and Mentelle Basin (yellow polygon),
832 showing the dated Bunbury Basalt localities, Deep Sea Drilling Program (DSDP) Site 264
833 and IODP Sites cored during Expedition 369 (U1513, U1514, U1515 and U1516). The rocks
834 that were recovered at the base of Site U1513 are the focus of this study. The location of the
835 seismic line SWM07 that is shown in Figure 2 is displayed here. Bathymetric data were
836 obtained from the Australian Bathymetry and Topography Grid (Whiteway, 2009).

837

838 **Figure 2.** Seismic line SWM07 shows the stratigraphy of the Mentelle Basin, supported by
839 observations of the cored material recovered at IODP Site U1513. The strong reflector at the
840 base of the sequence represents the top of the basaltic sequence (Unit VI) that is the focus
841 of this study. These volcanic rocks are overlain by a Hauterivian–early Aptian volcanoclastic-
842 rich sandstone (Unit V), Albian–Cenomanian claystone (Unit IV), Cenomanian claystone
843 (Unit III), Cenomanian–Campanian ooze, chalk and silicified limestone (Unit II) and Late
844 Miocene to Pleistocene ooze (Unit I). The seismic imagery shows that Units V and VI are
845 faulted, with minor faults or reactivation of earlier faults also cross-cutting younger
846 sequences. Please see Figure 1 for the location and orientation of the seismic line.

847

848 **Figure 3.** (a) Overview of the stratigraphy of IODP Site U1513 after Huber et al., (2019),
849 based on observations of Hole U1513D, (b) palaeomagnetic data from the superconducting
850 cryogenic rock magnetometer on the JOIDES Resolution (grey dots and lines) as well as
851 from discrete samples (blue squares) after Huber et al., (2019). These data have been
852 interpreted to suggest that the basaltic sequence (Unit VI) is older than M10Nn.1n, yet there
853 is uncertainty about the assigned age as the contact between Unit V and Unit VI is
854 unconformable, as well as because of uncertainties associated with which geomagnetic
855 timescale is used. The numerical ages shown here correspond with those proposed by Lee
856 et al., (2020) and Harry et al., (submitted). (c) Detailed interpretation of Unit VI, where 9 units

857 of basaltic flows, volcanoclastic beds and cross-cutting dolerite dykes were interpreted (after
858 Tejada et al., 2020). The stratigraphic position of the samples examined in this study are
859 also shown.

860

861 **Figure 4.** High-resolution core photographs that show the colour and texture of each of the
862 samples that were examined in this study (Huber et al., 2019). The photographs are of the
863 archive-half section of the U1513 core and are the equivalent of the material examined in
864 this study. The position and amount of examined material is marked with a red dashed line.

865

866 **Figure 5.** Results of quantitative XRD analyses showing the modal mineralogy of each
867 sample (arranged by depth). All of the samples show high amounts of amorphous material
868 and secondary minerals, but relatively low percentages of primary minerals (plagioclase and
869 clinopyroxene).

870

871 **Figure 6.** Geochemical data for each sample were determined by XRF and were plotted
872 following the Zr/Ti vs. Nb/Y discriminator plot of Pearce (1996). This indicates that the
873 basaltic flows and dolerite dykes are geochemically defined as 'basalt'.

874

875 **Figure 7.** Apparent age vs. the percentage of ^{39}Ar released were plotted following the argon
876 step-heating experiments. Each sample was measured with 28 to 29 steps so as to
877 eliminate mixing and allow potential plateau ages to consist of many steps (a to h). A
878 weighted mean age was determined for each sample using either a plateau, a limit or
879 asymptotes. In these samples the plateau ages are considered more robust age estimates
880 e.g. plot a, b, c, f, g. Most of the samples show some evidence of excess argon in the initial
881 steps and the final steps (e.g. plot h); (h) Sample U1513E-8R-4, 118-119 contained high
882 chlorine concentrations (as determined by XRF), this resulted in high uncertainty and a
883 geologically meaningless age.

884

885 **Figure 8.** Representative photographs of deformed sections of the U1513 core. (a-c) The
886 upper units (Unit II, III and IV; for unit designations, please see Figure 3) are cross-cut by
887 faults in places, leading to the juxtaposition of different sedimentary layers, potentially due to
888 gravity/loading and soft-sediment deformation. The available biostratigraphic control (Huber
889 et al., 2019) indicates that these structures are younger than 103.1 Ma. (d-j) More pervasive
890 veining and fault brecciation only occurs in Unit V and VI (although we only show evidence
891 from Unit V here). The available biostratigraphic control (Huber et al., 2019; Table 4)
892 indicates that these structures all developed between 110 Ma and 130.9 Ma, but most likely
893 between 110 Ma (the oldest available dates for Unit IV: Huber et al., 2019) and 125 Ma (the
894 youngest available dates for Unit V: Lee et al., 2020).

895

896 **Figure 9.** (a) There is a correlation between increasing volatile content (as determined by
897 loss-on-ignition) and decreasing primary mineral content of the basaltic samples that were
898 examined in this study. (b) Samples that yielded the highest volatile contents yielded lower
899 apparent ages compared to those samples with volatile contents of <6%. (c) Samples that
900 yielded lower percentages of primary minerals yielded younger apparent ages compared to
901 samples with higher primary mineral contents. (d) Shipboard moisture and density
902 measurements were conducted on discrete samples of basalt, dolerite and volcanoclastic
903 beds from Unit VI during Expedition 369 and were used to estimate the porosity of each
904 sample (Huber et al., 2019) – these results show that basalt and volcanoclastic rocks have
905 higher porosities compared to the dolerite dykes, which may mean that hydrothermal fluids
906 preferentially flowed through basaltic flows and not the dolerite dykes, leading to younger
907 apparent ages in the basaltic flows compared to the dolerite dykes which cross-cut them.

908

909 **Figure 10.** The position of the tectonic plates and microcontinental fragments were plotted at
910 5 Ma increments from (a) 145 Ma to (d) 130 Ma, following the Euler poles and plate
911 boundaries used by van den Ende et al., (2017). The age and position of magmatic events
912 were obtained from the revised compilation of reliable age data for the Greater Kerguelen

913 large igneous province provided by Olierook et al., (2019), together with the ages obtained in
914 this study. The 'appearance' of the magmatic events factors in the uncertainty associated
915 with each age.

916

917 **Figure 11.** The position of the tectonic plates and microcontinental fragments were plotted at
918 5 Ma increments from (a) 125 Ma to (d) 110 Ma, following the Euler poles and plate
919 boundaries used by van den Ende et al., (2017). The age and position of magmatic events
920 were obtained from the revised compilation of reliable age data for the Greater Kerguelen
921 large igneous province provided by Olierook et al., (2019), together with the ages obtained in
922 this study. The 'appearance' of the magmatic events factors in the uncertainty associated
923 with each age.

924

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925 **Supplementary File Captions**

926

927 **Supplementary File 1:** Metadata for each of the samples examined during this study.

928

929 **Supplementary File 2:** XRD results and calculations for the samples examined during this
930 study.

931

932 **Supplementary File 3:** XRF results for the samples that were examined within this study as
933 well as the results of reference materials that were run alongside the unknowns.

934

935 **Supplementary File 4:** Results of $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ measurements obtained for each sample
936 examined during this study

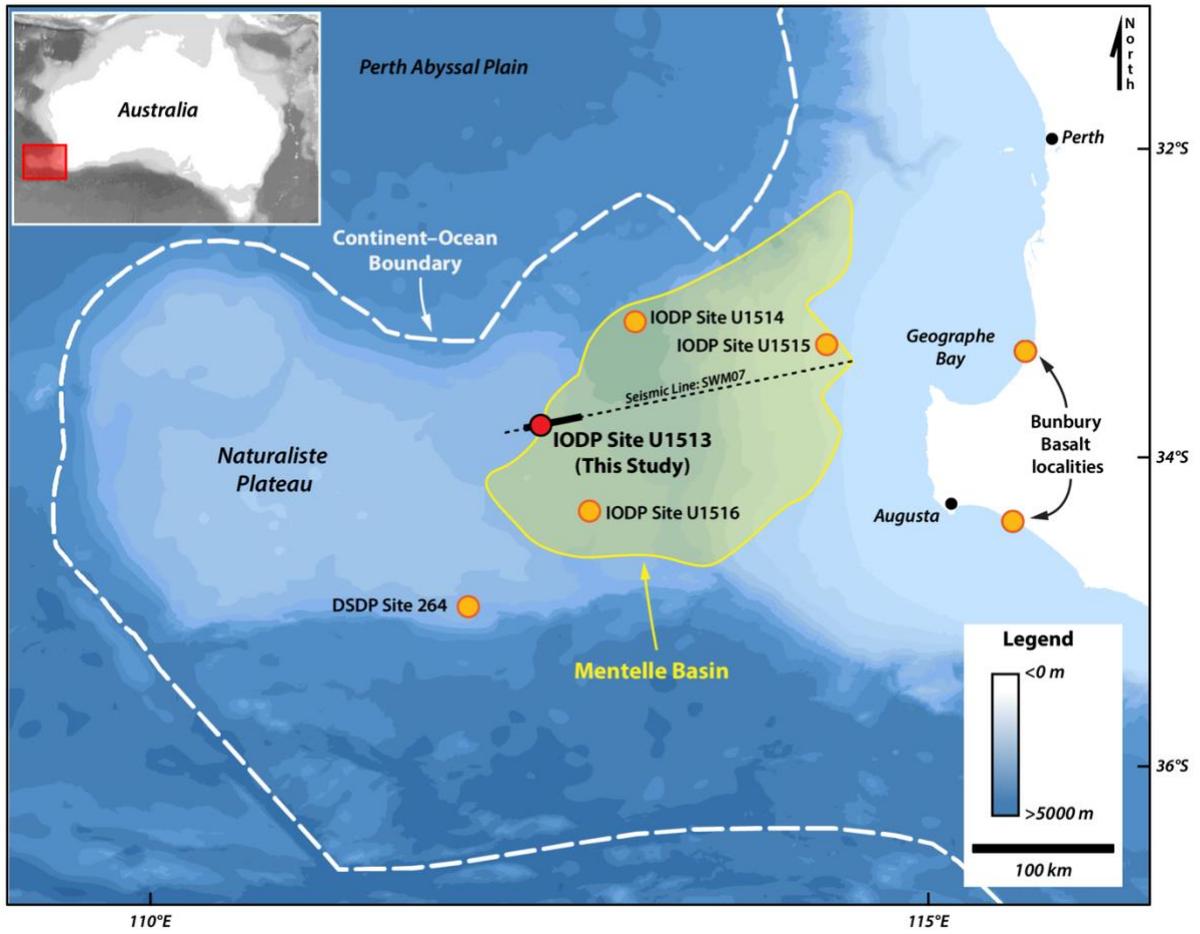
937

938 **Supplementary File 5:** Further details of the $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ methodology, correction factors and
939 sample preparation procedures.

940

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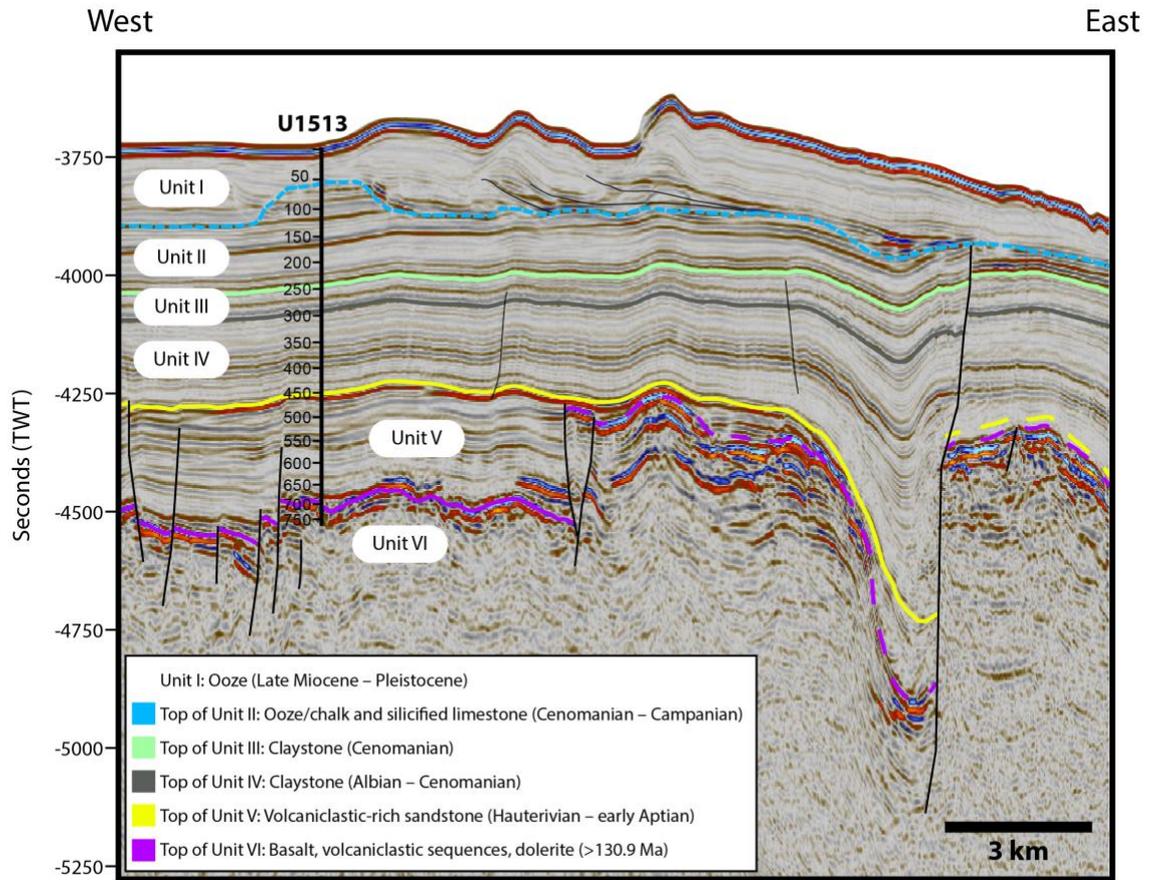
942 **Figure 1:**



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945 **Figure 2:**

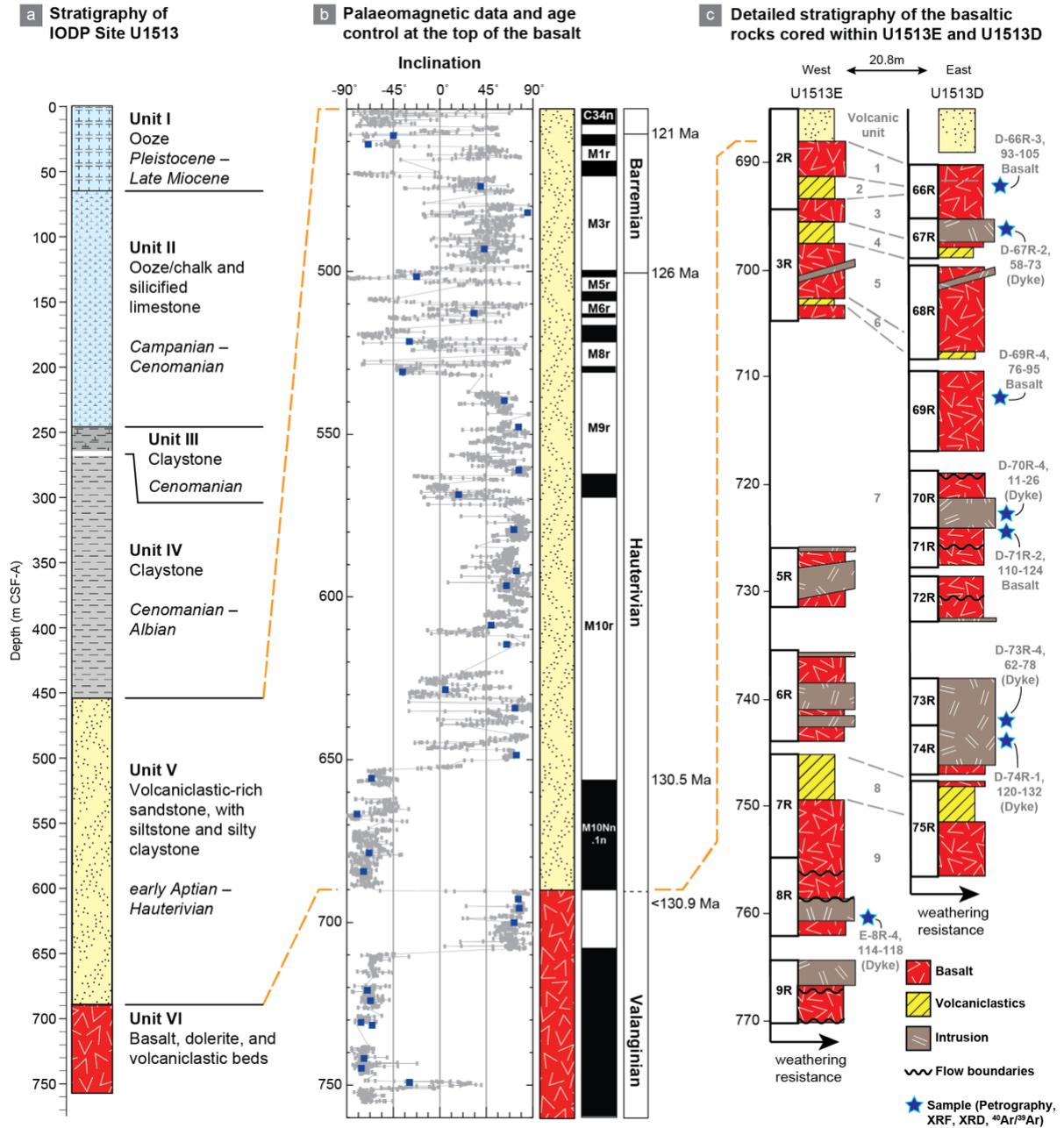


Seismic Line: SWM07

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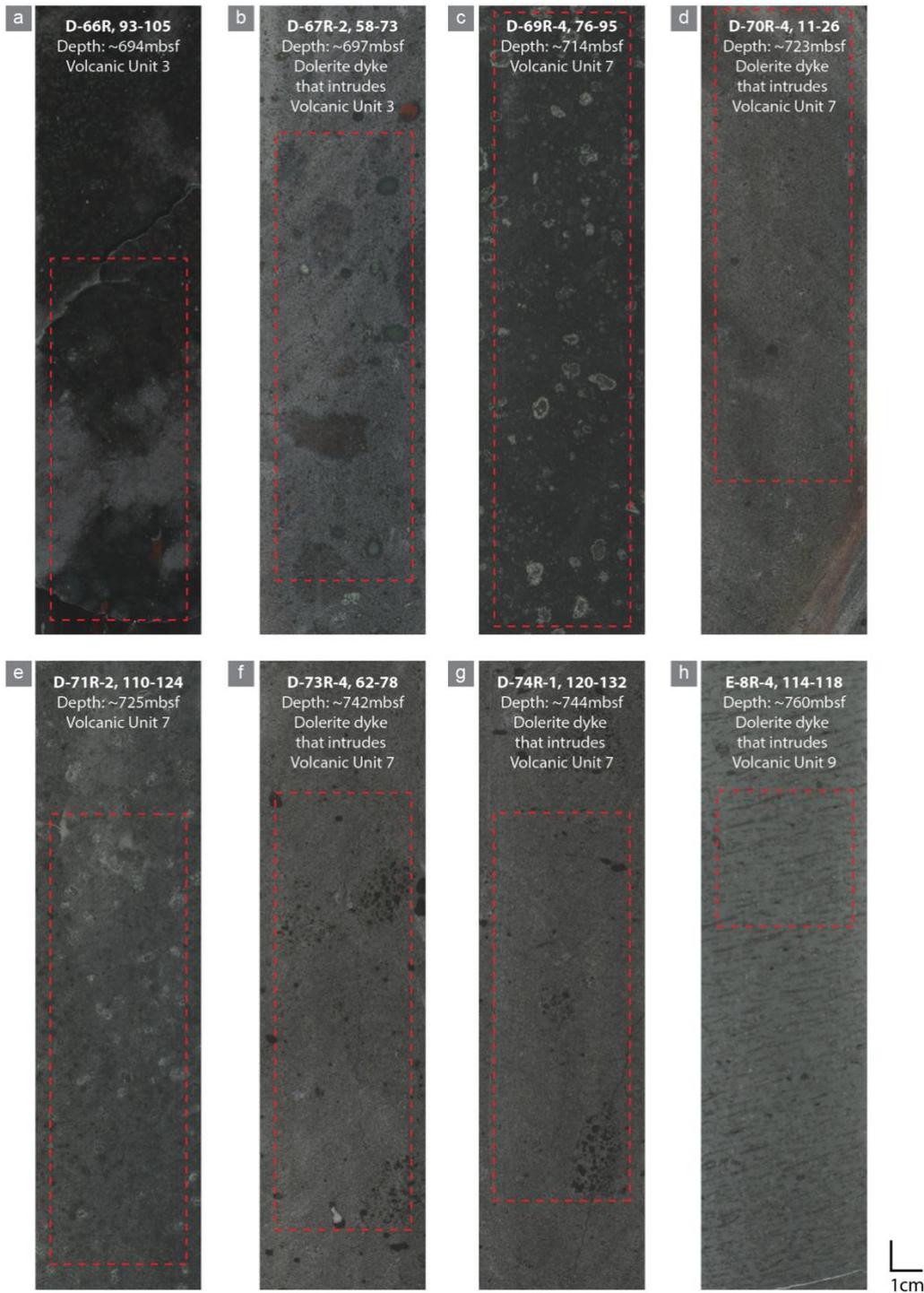
948 **Figure 3:**



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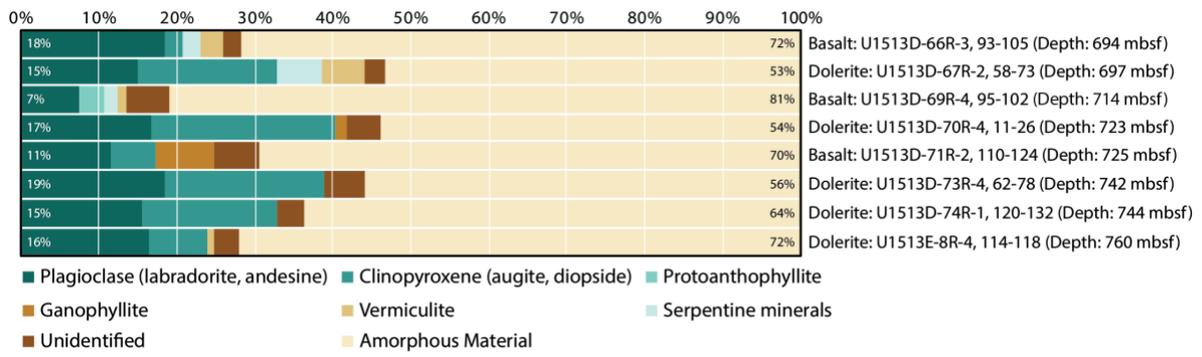
951 **Figure 4:**



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954 **Figure 5:**

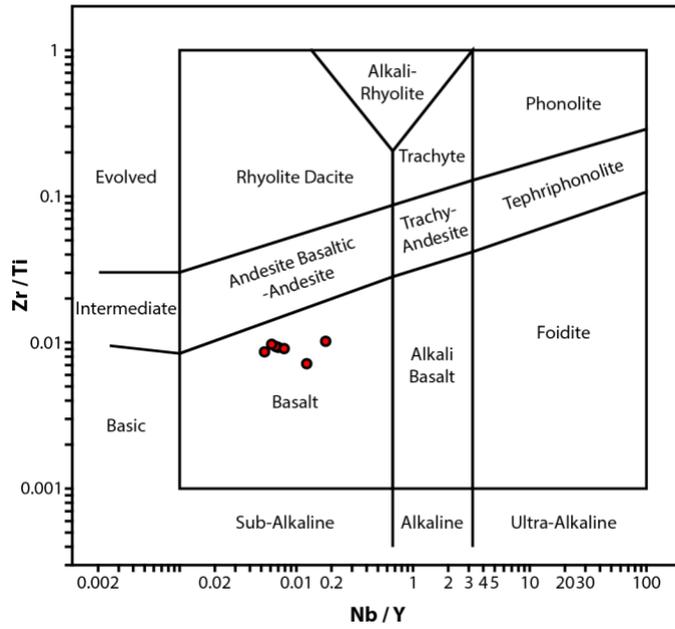


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957 **Figure 6:**

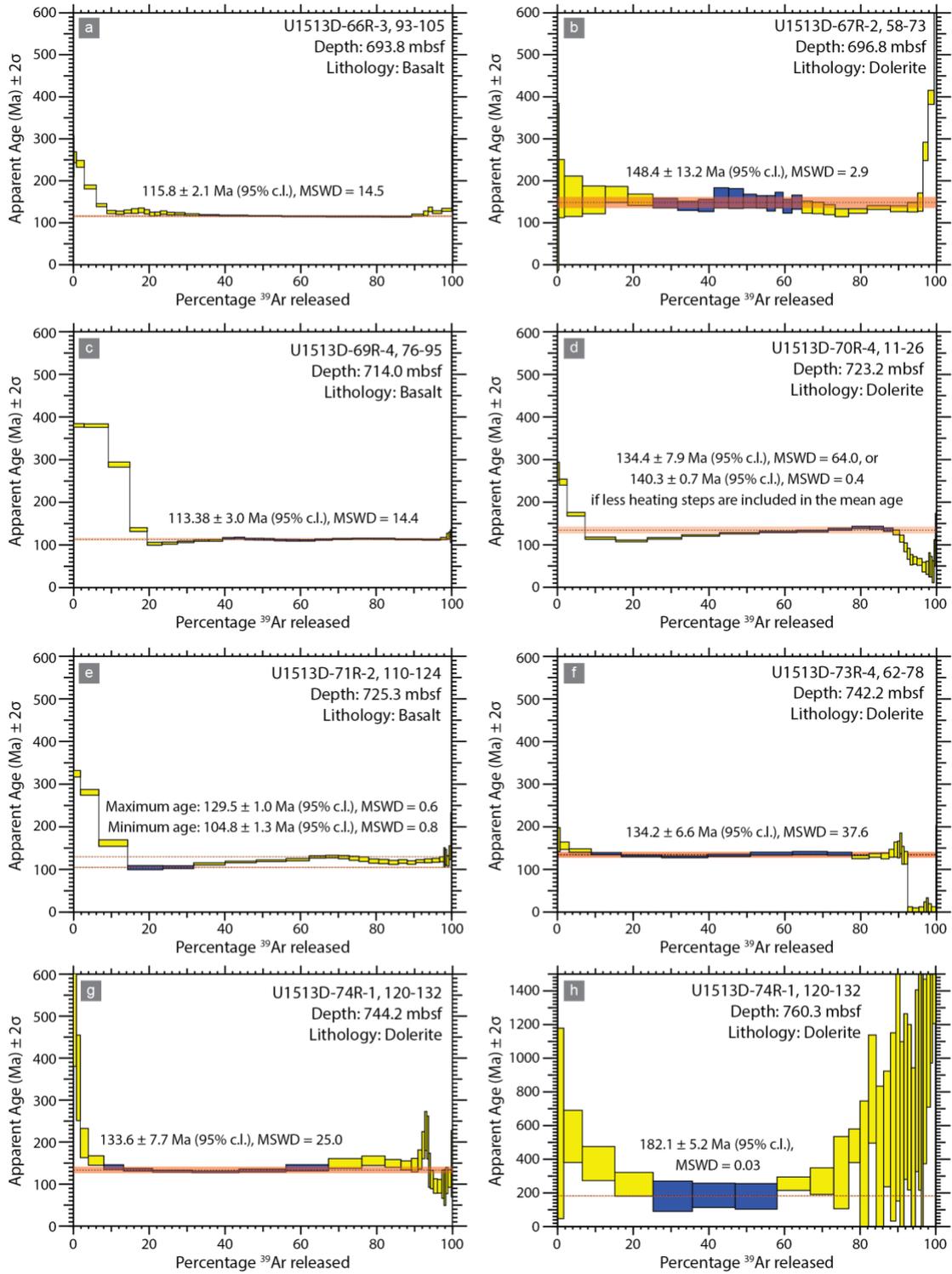


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960 **Figure 7:**



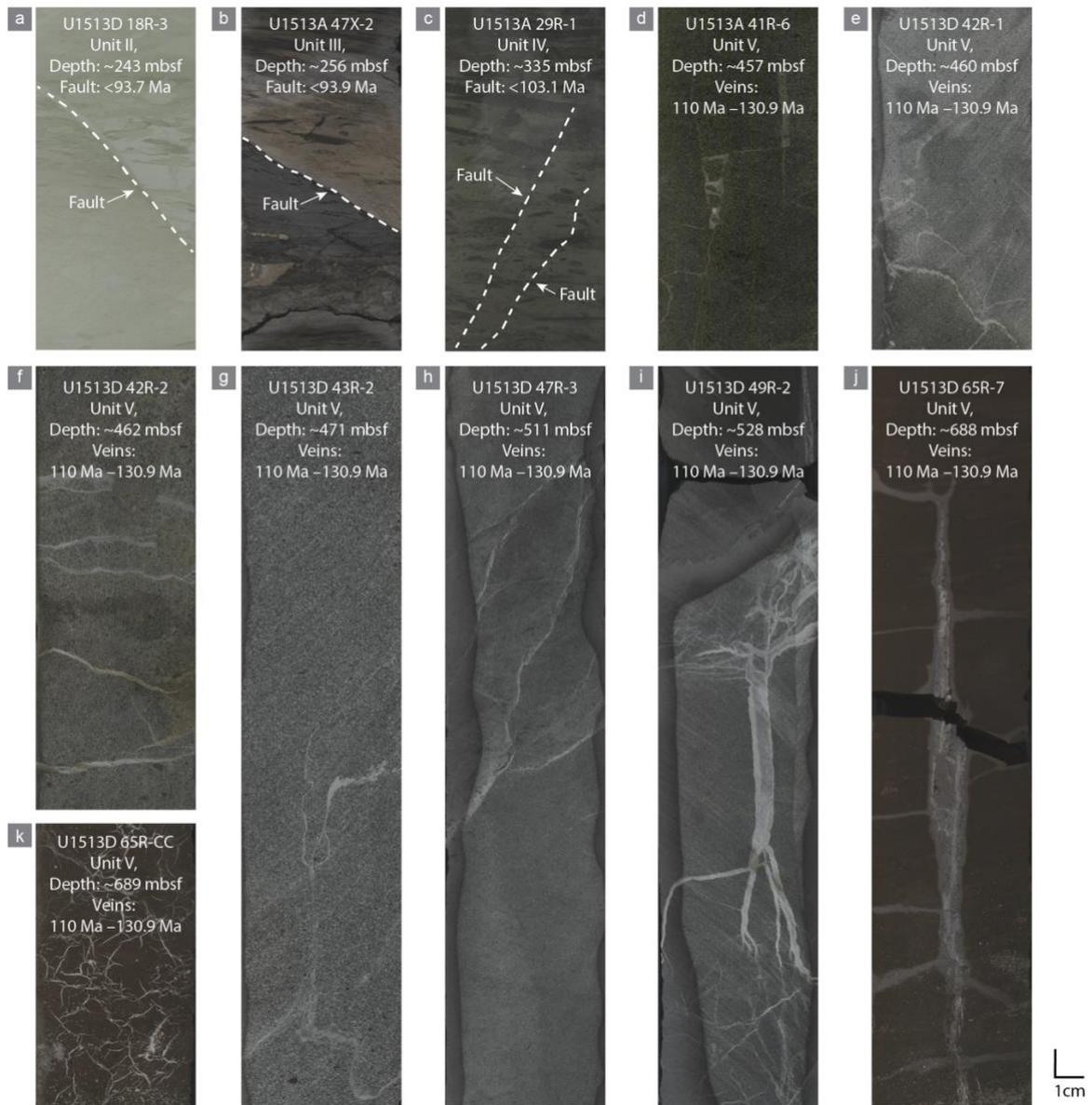
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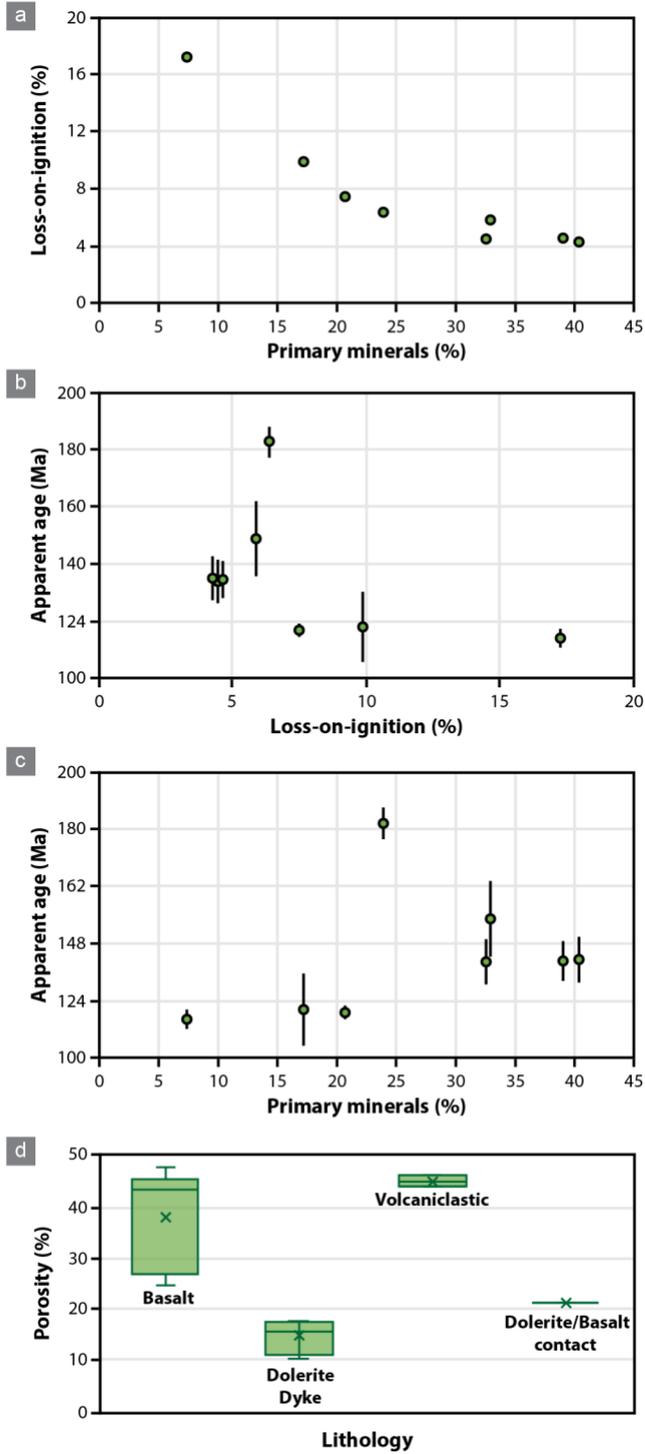
965 **Figure 8:**



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968 **Figure 9:**

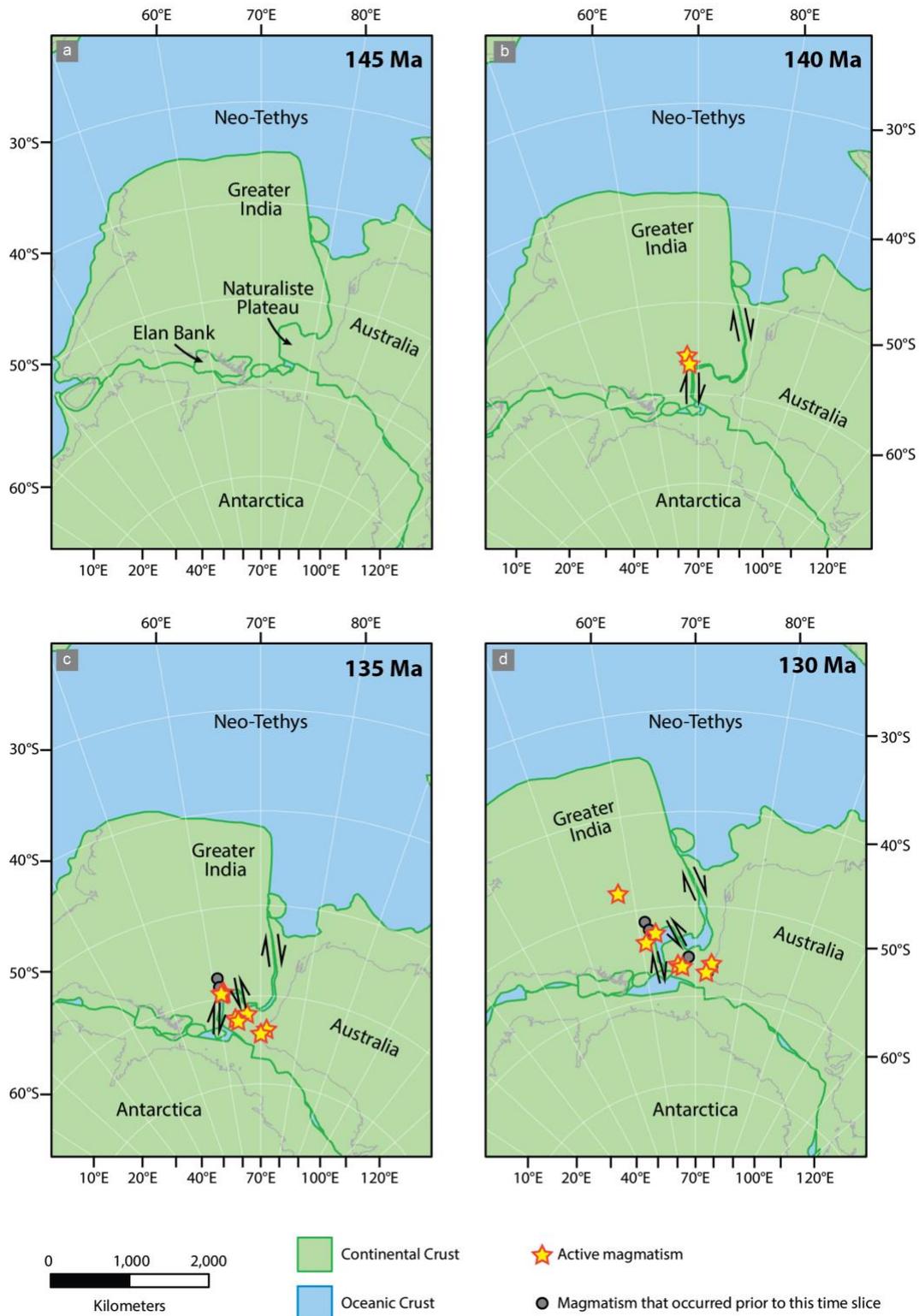


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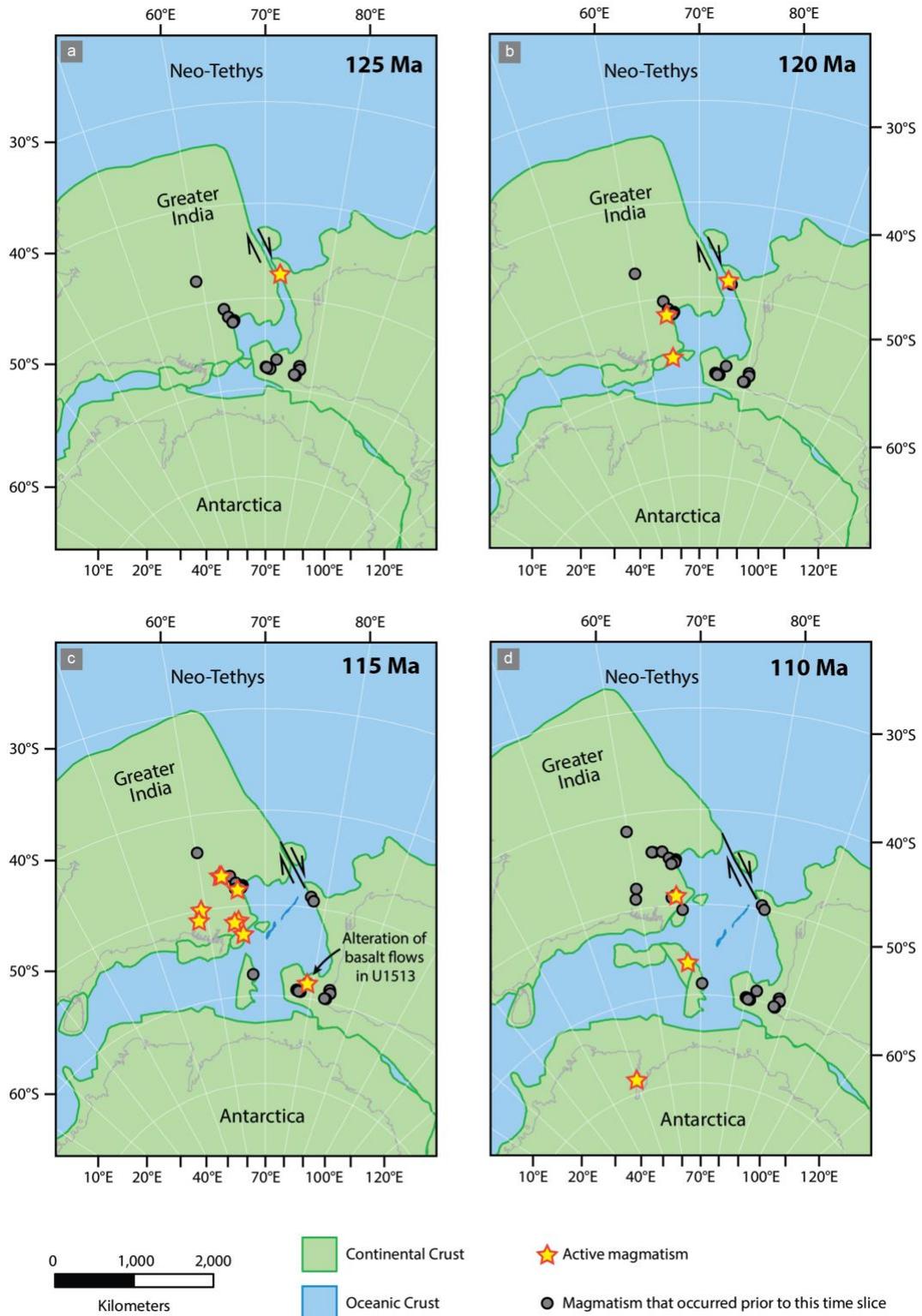
971 **Figure 10:**



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974 **Figure 11:**



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