

Nature and evolution of the lithospheric mantle beneath the passive margin of East Oman: evidence from mantle xenoliths sampled by Cenozoic alkaline lavas

Michel Grégoire, Jessica Langlade, Guillaume Delpech, Céline Dantas,

Georges Ceuleneer

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Corresponding Author: Dr. Michel Gregoire, Ph.D.

Corresponding Author's Institution: CNRS-Observatoire Midi Pyrenees

First Author: Michel Gregoire, Ph.D.

Order of Authors: Michel Gregoire, Ph.D.; Michel Gregoire; Jessica Langlade; Guillaume Delpech; Celine Dantas; Georges Ceuleneer

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Abstract: Cenozoic alkaline lavas from the Al Ashkharah area, facing the Indian ocean along the North-East Oman coastline, contain numerous small (< 2cm) mantle xenoliths. They provide a unique opportunity to investigate the nature and evolution of the upper mantle beneath the Oman passive margin, bordering the Owen Basin. All studied xenoliths are porphyroclastic to equigranular spinel lherzolites and harzburgites They are all devoid of amphibole and phlogopite. The composition of their clinopyroxenes, orthopyroxenes, olivines and spinels indicate that these samples are witnesses of a typical subcontinental lithospheric upper mantle and are quite distinct from the peridotites cropping out in the nearby Oman ophiolite.

The clinopyroxene major element composition record an evolution from fertile lherzolites (Mg#: 89 and Al2O3: 7.5 wt%) to refractory harzburgites (Mg#: 93.5 and Al2O3: 2.5 wt%). The clinopyroxene of most samples are characterised by REE patterns evolving continuously from spoon-shaped to LREE-enriched with almost flat HREE spectra (LaN/YbN: 2.5-30; LaN/SmN: 3.2-24; SmN/YbN: 0.25-4.6; HoN/LuN : 0.88-1.15) and strong negative Ba, Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti anomalies. We propose that these geochemical fingerprints can be accounted for in the frame of a two stages; (1) a - likely ancient - decompression melting event characterised by a degree ranging from 1 to a maximum of 19 % and unrelated to the recent tectonic evolution of the Oman margin, followed by (2) metasomatic transformation possibly related to the circulation of carbonate-rich silicate melt during the Cenozoic rifting event that led to the opening of the Owen basin.

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7	Grégoire ^{1*} , M., Langlade ¹ , J.A., Delpech, G. ² , Dantas ¹ , C. and Ceuleneer ¹ , G.
8	
9	1. CNRS-UMR 5562 DTP : Dynamique Terrestre et Planétaire. Observatoire Midi Pyrénées, Université
10	Paul Sabatier,14 Avenue. E. Belin, 31400 Toulouse, France.
11	2. UMR CNRS 8148 IDES : Interactions et Dynamique des Environnements de Surface, Faculté des
12	Sciences, Université Orsay-Paris Sud, Bât.504, 91405 ORSAY Cedex, France
13	
14	 * : Corresponding author : <u>michel.gregoire@dtp.obs-mip.fr</u>
15	Tel: +33 5 61 33 29 77; Fax: +33 5 61 33 29 00
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24 Abstract

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26 Cenozoic alkaline lavas from the Al Ashkharah area, facing the Indian ocean along the North-East Oman coastline, contain numerous small (< 2cm) mantle xenoliths. 27 They provide a unique opportunity to investigate the nature and evolution of the 28 29 upper mantle beneath the Oman passive margin, bordering the Owen Basin. All studied xenoliths are porphyroclastic to equigranular spinel lherzolites and 30 31 harzburgites They are all devoid of amphibole and phlogopite. The composition of 32 their clinopyroxenes, orthopyroxenes, olivines and spinels indicate that these 33 samples are witnesses of a typical subcontinental lithospheric upper mantle and are 34 quite distinct from the peridotites cropping out in the nearby Oman ophiolite.

35 The clinopyroxene major element composition record an evolution from fertile Iherzolites (Mg#: 89 and Al₂O₃: 7.5 wt%) to refractory harzburgites (Mg#: 93.5 and 36 37 Al₂O₃: 2.5 wt%). The clinopyroxene of most samples are characterised by REE 38 patterns evolving continuously from spoon-shaped to LREE-enriched with almost flat HREE spectra (La_N/Yb_N: 2.5-30; La_N/Sm_N: 3.2-24; Sm_N/Yb_N: 0.25-4.6; Ho_N/Lu_N: 0.88-39 40 1.15) and strong negative Ba, Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti anomalies. We propose that these geochemical fingerprints can be accounted for in the frame of a two stages; (1) a -41 42 likely ancient - decompression melting event characterised by a degree ranging from 43 1 to a maximum of 19 % and unrelated to the recent tectonic evolution of the Oman 44 margin, followed by (2) metasomatic transformation possibly related to the circulation 45 of carbonate-rich silicate melt during the Cenozoic rifting event that led to the opening of the Owen basin. 46

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49 Key words

50 Oman; upper mantle; xenoliths; harzburgites; lherzolites; trace elements; 51 metasomatism; Owen basin.

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53 Introduction

Mantle xenoliths brought to the surface by alkaline magmas provide a direct 54 55 access to the petrological processes conditioning the nature and evolution of the upper mantle (e.g. Coltorti et al., 1999 ; Grégoire et al., 1997 and 2000 ; Delpech et 56 57 al., 2004). Mantle xenoliths from continental rift systems have been largely studied all around the world in the last decades (e.g. lonov et al., 2002; Witt-Eickschen et al., 58 2003 ; Lenoir et al., 2000). Small (< a few cm), mostly lherzolitic, xenoliths have 59 60 been recently discovered in alkaline dykes and flows emplaced during Cenozoic 61 times along the Oman passive margin facing the Owen basin (see Gnos and Peters, 62 2003) but they have not been extensively studied yet for their trace element 63 geochemistry. Nasir et al. (2006) report on bulk rock trace element analyses but, given the small size of the xenoliths, contamination with the host lava cannot be 64 excluded. Among other, the marked enrichment in incompatible elements they 65 observed might not be related to mantle processes. The present paper is a 66 67 complementary study to the one of these authors in terms of analytical procedure: we performed in situ (LA-ICP-MS) determinations of the trace element content of 68 69 clinopyroxene to avoid at best the risk of contamination with the host alkaline lavas. 70 Moreover, we sampled some localities not studied by Nasir et al. (2006) and the 71 lithological diversity of our collection appears to be more pronounced. The question 72 addressed in the present paper concerns the nature of the upper mantle beneath the

73 eastern Oman mountains, among other how does it compare to the peridotites 74 cropping out in the Semail ophiolite, relics of the sub-oceanic mantle from a nearby area. Our aim is also to decipher if the upper mantle beneath the Oman margin was 75 76 affected by the melting and/or melt migration processes related to the Cenozoic rifting of the Owen basin. We compare our results to those from the studies of the 77 mantle peridotite xenoliths from Spitsbergen (lonov et al., 2002; Gregoire et al., 78 79 submitted). Indeed the latter come from the same kind of setting (rift-zones) and 80 display close similarities with the xenoliths studied here.

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82 Geological setting and sampling

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84 The building and present structure of the Northern Oman mountains result essentially 85 from the obduction of the Semail ophiolite during Maestrichtian times and from a regional uplift that started during the Miocene (Glennie et al, 1974; Coleman, 1981). 86 87 Our study area is located at the eastern termination of this domain, along a major 88 structural lineament referred to as the Masirah fault (Moseley, 1969). The Masirah line acted as a major transform plate boundary that accommodated the northward 89 drift of the Indian continental block during Cretaceous and Paleocene times (e.g. 90 91 Royer et al, 2002; Fournier et al, 2008). As a result of the kinematic reorganization 92 that followed the India-Eurasia collision (about 52 Ma ago, Patriat and Achache, 93 1984), this transform boundary shifted into its present "off shore" position along the 94 Owen Fracture Zone.

95 Although this general picture is reasonably well understood, the precise evolution of 96 the Eastern Oman margin during the late Cretaceous and early Cenozoic times was 97 rather complex and is still poorly constrained. Regional geolological studies have

98 shown that long transtensive periods alternated with shorter transpressive ones (e.g. Platel and Roger, 1989). The best documented of these transpressive "events" 99 occurred during upper Maastrichtian lower Paleocene times; it is witnessed by the 100 101 oblique thrusting of sedimentary nappes and by the obduction of the Masirah 102 ophiolite, a piece of upper Jurassic oceanic lithosphere that likely evolved in a ridge-103 transform tectonic setting during the accretion of the proto-Indian ocean (Gnos and 104 Perrin, 1995; Gnos et al, 1997; Peters and Mercolli, 1998). Since Eocene times, the 105 coast of East Oman behaved like a passive margin bordering a rift zone that 106 eventually led to the opening of the Gulf of Aden (Platel and Roger, 1989). The 107 opening of the Owen basin is possibly one of the events that complicated the 108 evolution of this margin, although the age of the oceanic crust in the Owen basin is 109 still debated (Fournier et al. 2008). Current structural and kinematic studies, among 110 other around the Aden-Owen-Carlsberg triple junction will result in a better 111 understanding of the evolution of this area (J.-Y. Royer, pers. com.).

Alkaline magmatism that affected the East Oman margin seems to belong to two main eruptive events: a first one contemporaneous with the compressive stage that affected the area at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, and more recent dyke injections during the Eocene extension.

116 Mantle xenoliths studied in the present study were sampled in five occurrences of 117 these N-S to NNE-SSW trending tertiary dykes in the Al Ashkarah area (Figure 1). 118 Their precise age is poorly constrained: the dykes cross-cut Paleocene sediments 119 but not more recent Eocene ones. Ar/Ar ages ranging from about 36 to 40 Ma have 120 been published by Worthing and Wilde (2002) for the dykes including our samples of 121 mantle xenoliths showing that they belong to the second, Eocene, injection event.

123 Analytical methods

124

Major and trace elements of minerals were analysed at the UMR 5563 (LMTG,
Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées) of University Paul Sabatier (Toulouse III).

Major-element compositions of minerals were determined with the CAMECA SX50 electron microprobe and a standard program: beam current of 20nA and acceleration voltage of 15 kV, 10 to 30s/peak, 5-10s/background counting times, and natural and synthetic minerals as standards. Nominal concentrations were subsequently corrected using the PAP data reduction method (Pouchou and Pichoir, 1984). The theoretical lower detection limits are about 100 ppm (0,01%).

The concentrations of Rare Earth Elements and other trace elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, 133 134 Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Yb, Lu, Rb, Ba, Th, Sr, Zr, Ti, Y, Ni, V and Sc) in 135 clinopyroxenes were analysed in situ on >120 mm thick polished sections with a 136 Perkin-Elmer Elan 6000 ICP-MS instrument coupled to a CETAC laser ablation 137 module that uses a 266 nm frequency-quadrupled Nd-YAG laser. The NIST 610 and 138 612 glass standards were used to calibrate relative element sensitivities for the 139 analyses. The analysis were normalized using CaO values determined by electron 140 microprobe. The analyses were performed on inter-clivage area from the cores of the 141 freshiest cpx grains in order to get homogeneous results unaffected by alteration or 142 exsolution processes. A beam diameter of 50-100 µm and a scanning rate of 20 µm/s 143 were used. The typical relative precision and accuracy for a laser analysis range from 144 1 to 10%. Typical theoretical detection limits range from 10 to 20 ppb for REE, Ba, 145 Rb, Th, Sr, Zr and Y; 100ppb for Sc and V; and 2 ppm for Ti and Ni (see in Dantas et 146 al., 2007 for more details).

148 **Petrography**

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150 The layas hosting the ultramafic xenoliths are microlitic basalts. The xenoliths being 151 small, < 2cm in size (Figure 2), it has been difficult to define the rock-types 152 unambiguously. Nevertheless, wedistinguished two main rock types: (i) spinel Iherzolites (samples 04OM58a2, 04OM58a3, 04OM58c3, 04OM58f3, 04OM59b2, 153 154 04OM62b2, 04OM63c2, and 04OM66d2); and (ii) spinel harzburgites (samples 04OM58b1, 04OM62b1, 04OM63a1, 04OM63a2, 04OM63c1 and 04OM63c3). None 155 156 of the xenoliths display amphibole or phlogopite. All the peridotites correspond to 157 mantle peridotites equilibrated in the spinel stability field. Considering the small size 158 of the xenoliths, the following modal compositions are only indicative.

The peridotites are relatively fresh, the serpentinisation of the olivine and the orthopyroxene being always limited. Some clinopyroxenes and particularly those from sample 04OM62b2, show spongy textures commonly limited to the rim but sometimes affecting the entire crystal. The formation of this type of texture is probably related to local melting process affecting the clinopyroxenes during the transport of the xenoliths to the surface by the host-lavas (e.g. Grégoire et al., 2000, Carpenter et al., 2002).

Orthopyroxenes commonly contains thin lamellae of exsolved clinopyroxene. The inverse phenomenon occurs but is less common. Orthopyroxene also contains tiny inclusions of spinel. The cleavage in the pyroxenes from the sample 04OM63a1 and 04OM63a2 are clearly bent and sometimes the pyroxenes are fractured while olivines display undulose extinction (Figure 2). Within those fractures some neoblasts of clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene appear. This can be attributed to a deformation process undergone by the samples within the upper mantle (e.g. Mercier andNicolas, 1975).

The Iherzolites have porphyroclastic or equigranular textures. Their modal compositions roughly range from 10 to 20% of clinopyroxene, 60 to 85% of olivine, 10 to 30% of orthopyroxene, and <10% of spinel. The olivine and pyroxenes porphyroclasts can reach 4mm in size while the neoblasts are typically less than 0.5 mm in size. Spinel size ranges from a few microns to 1 mm. The spinels are generally interstitial or in inclusion in olivine and clinopyroxene (Figure 2).

The harzburgites commonly display porphyroclastic or equigranular textures and more rarely a protogranular one. Their modal composition ranges from 55 to 70% of olivine, 30 to 40% of orthopyroxene, and close to 5% of clinopyroxene and spinel. The olivine and orthopyroxene porphyroclasts can reach 8 mm in size while the neoblasts are always < 0.5 mm in size. Clinopyroxene is interstitial and commonly less than 1-2 mm in size. Spinels commonly occur as tiny inclusions (<1 mm) in the silicates or as vermicular interstitial slightly bigger crystals (1-2 mm).

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188 Mineral composition:

189 Olivine, Orthopyroxene and Spinel (Table 1)

Olivine is the dominant mineral phase in all samples. Olivines in harzburgites and lherzolites are very magnesian with their Mg-number ($100*Mg/Mg+Fe_{total}$) ranging from 89 to 91.2. Olivines of harzburgites are commonly more magnesian than those of lherzolites. Olivine has low CaO (<0.15 wt.%), MnO (< 0.25 wt.%) and Cr₂O₃ (< 0.07 wt.%) contents and NiO contents ranging from 0.25 to 0.54 wt. %.

Orthopyroxenes show the same compositional range as olivines with Mgnumber $(100^{*}Mg/Mg+Fe_{total})$ varying from 89.5 to 92. The Al₂O₃ content of orthopyroxene ranges from 2 to 5.5 wt. % and TiO_2 content is always very low (<0.15 wt. %). The Cr_2O_3 and CaO content ranges from 0.3 to 0.75 wt. % and 0.7 to 1.2 wt. %, respectively. It has to be noticed that the Iherzolite 04OM62b2 and the harzburgite 04OM64b1 display the more aluminous (5.5 wt %) and titaniferous (0.15 wt%) and the less aluminous (2 wt%), more chromiferous (0.75 wt%) and magnesian (Mgnumber: 92) orthopyroxene, respectively.

203 Most spinels are relatively unzoned magnesian and aluminous chromites with 204 Mg-number and Cr-number (100*Cr/Cr+Al) ranging from 70 to 80 and from 16 to 205 19.5, respectively. However, spinels of two samples are out of this Cr-number range. 206 The harzburgite 04OM62b1 and the Iherzolite 04OM62b2 respectively contain a 207 more and a less chromiferous spinel (Cr# = 60 and 11.2), the former being also a 208 little bit less magnesian (Mg# =64.4). In a Cr-number vs. Mg-number diagram (Figure 209 3), spinels plot in the field defined by spinels from the mantle peridotitic xenoliths 210 from Spitsbergen, which is also a continental rifting area (lonov et al., 2002). They 211 are also similar to the spinels of the Oman mantle xenoliths studied by Nasir et al. 212 (2006) but different from those of the mantle section of the Oman ophiolite (Figure 3).

- 213
- 214 Clinopyroxene :
- 215

Major elements (Table 1)

Clinopyroxenes are commonly diopsides but in samples 04OM62b1 and 04OM62b2 where they are Mg-augites. The clinopyroxene major element compositions highlight an evolution from fertile lherzolites (sample 04OM62b2: Mg#: 88.8 and Al₂O₃: 7.5 wt% to refractory harzburgites Mg#: 93.8 and Al₂O₃: 2.5 wt%). Cr₂O₃ and TiO₂ contents of most samples are relatively homogeneous, varying respectively from 0.3 to 1 wt% and from 0 to 0.2 wt%. However, the Cr₂O₃ content (up to 1.6 wt%) of the

clinopyroxenes from the harzburgite 04OM62b2 and the Ti₂O content of 222 clinopyroxenes of the Iherzolite 04OM62b2 (0.5 wt. %) are higher. Finally Na₂O 223 224 content of clinopyroxenes of both types of peridotite ranges from 0.4 to 1.4 wt%. In 225 Figure 4 the clinopyroxenes display a range of composition similar to that defined by 226 the clinopyroxenes from mantle peridotitic xenoliths from Spitsbergen. The 227 clinopyroxenes of harzburgites have the same Al₂O₃ contents than that of the 228 clinopyroxenes from the mantle peridotites of the Oman ophiolite (Monnier et al., 229 2006) but have higher Na₂O contents and commonly lower Cr₂O₃ contents (Figure 4). 230 Finally, the clinopyroxenes of the mantle xenoliths from Oman studied by Nasir et al. (2006) display intermediate compositions between those of the studied Iherzolites 231 232 and those of the studied harzburgites.

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Trace elements

235 Trace element abundances of clinopyroxenes are given in Table 2. The REE 236 contents of clinopyroxenes of most of the studied harzburgites and lherzolites are 237 characterised by similar patterns evolving almost regularly from spoon-shaped 238 patterns to LREE-enriched patterns characterised by an almost HREE-flat shape 239 (La_N/Yb_N: 2.5-30; La_N/Sm_N: 3.2-24; Sm_N/Yb_N: 0.25-4.6; Ho_N/Lu_N: 0.88-1.15; Figure 5). 240 These clinopyroxenes also display similar trace element patterns characterised by 241 strong negative Ba, Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti anomalies. They appear to be similar to those 242 of mantle peridotite xenoliths in alkaline lavas from Spitsbergen which have been 243 subdivided into two types: the type-1 is characterized by spoon-shaped REE patterns 244 and the type-2 displays LREE-enriched patterns (lonov and al., 2002, Figure 5). Only the Iherzolite 04OM62b2 and the harzburgite 04OM62b1 display different REE 245

246 patterns, being LREE-depleted (La_N/Yb_N: 0.29; La_N/Sm_N: 0.35; Sm_N/Yb_N: 0.82;

Ho_N/Lu_N: 1.16) and LREE-enriched with HREE fractionation (La_N/Yb_N: 9.32; La_N/Sm_N: 1.52; Sm_N/Yb_N: 6.14; Ho_N/Lu_N: 2.99), respectively (Figure 6). The clinopyroxene trace element pattern of the Iherzolite 04OM62b2 displays negative Nb and Ti anomalies and a slight positive Sr anomaly while that of the harzburgite 04OM62b1 shows negative Ba, Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti anomalies and a similar slight positive Sr anomaly (Figure 6).

253

254 **Discussion**

255

256 The studied suite of mantle xenoliths included in the alkaline lavas from the Al 257 Ashkharah region in Oman is composed lherzolites and harzburgites last equilibrated 258 within the mantle spinel peridotite stability field. We estimate their temperatures of 259 equilibration within the spinel stability field by using the geothermometers of Wells 260 (1977) and Brey and Kohler (1990), both based on the orthopyroxene/clinopyroxene 261 pair. Irrespective of the lithology (Iherzolite and harzburgite), the temperature 262 estimates all range between 900 and 1150 °C using the calibration by Wells and 263 between 850 °C and 1160 °C (at P: 1.5 GPa) with that of Brey and Kohler.

264 The fact that we found only spinel harzburgites and lherzolites in the present 265 study appears to be a main difference with the study of Nasir et al. (2006), who 266 describe spinel wehrlites and dunites in their suite of mantle xenoliths from the AI 267 Ashkharah area and spinel wehrlites. Iherzolites and dunites in their mantle xenolith 268 suite from Muscat area (Figure 1). In both cases the sample sizes are very small (≤ 269 2cm in size) and therefore the modal estimates need to be taken with caution. Our 270 suite of samples is very close in terms of petrographic diversity to the mantle 271 xenoliths (harzburgites and lherzolites) from Spitsbergen (lonov et al., 2002) as far as

peridotites are concerned. In the other hand they appear very different in term of
petrographic diversity and mineral compositions from the mantle peridotites from the
Oman ophiolite (mostly harzburgites and dunites in the ophiolite) (Figures 3, 4 and
8).

276 Most samples studied in the present study present several characteristics of 277 solid residues resulting from partial melting, including high Mg number of olivine and 278 pyroxenes, high Cr₂O₃ content of spinel. The HREE patterns of the clinopyroxenes 279 are also in agreement with such a process (Figure 5). In order to estimate the degree 280 of partial melting experienced by the Oman upper mantle we used two methods: (i) 281 Firstly, we estimated the degree of partial melting by using the Cr# of spinel following 282 the method of Hellebrand et al. (2001) calibrated for Cr# values in spinel ranging 283 between 0.10 and 0.60, a range similar to that of our samples. The results mostly 284 range from 2 to 8 % except for the harzburgites 04OM58b1 and 04OM62b1 that give estimates of 13 and 19 %, respectively. (ii) Secondly, we compared the REE 285 286 contents of the clinopyroxenes with those computed using a model of fractional 287 melting for a primitive spinel-peridotite mantle source, based on the method 288 described by Johnson et al. (1990) (Figure 7). The starting composition and melting 289 modes are those given by Hellebrand et al., (2002). In Figure 7 the REE from Dy to 290 Yb are in good agreement with the partial melting model. The estimated degrees of 291 melting using the HREE (Dy-Yb), which are the least subjected to metasomatism, 292 range from 1 to about 6 % (Figure 7). This is with the exception of the harzburgite 293 04OM62b1, for which the partial melting modelling indicates inconsistent partial 294 melting degrees between 10% (for Er) and 15% (for Yb). This is not plausible if we 295 consider melting in the stability field of spinel because Er and Yb have very similar 296 partition coefficients, such as in the present model. The MREE and HREE contents

of the clinopyroxene in harzburgite 04OM62b1 could also indicate that the 297 298 clinopyroxenes in this xenolith were in equilibrium with garnet because of the higher 299 partition coefficients for HREE in garnet. Moreover, the LREE and MREE from La to 300 Gd do not match the partial melting modelling. The clinopyroxenes have LREE and 301 MREE that are more enriched than predicted from the partial melting modelling. 302 These enrichments in LREE and MREE most probably reflect processes that 303 occurred after the partial melting event (see below). Finally in the harzburgite 304 04M62b1 the best estimate of the partial melting degree is given by the Cr# of spinel 305 using the method of Hellebrand et al. (2002), i.e. a degree close to 19%.

306 In the other hand, beside the evidence for partial melting processes (see 307 above) the majority of the studied Oman spinel peridotite xenoliths display evidence 308 for mantle metasomatism. This is supported by the concomitant increase of the Na 309 and Cr contents of clinopyroxenes (Figure 8). the REE patterns of most of the 310 clinopyroxenes (spoon-shaped and LREE-enriched) and the enrichment in the most 311 incompatible elements (Th, U, Sr), that point out to mantle metasomatism. The 312 selective enrichments in the most incompatible elements, LREE and MREE in mantle 313 clinopyroxenes are widely accepted to be the result of the infiltration of a fluid or of a 314 melt into the mantle rocks (e.g. O'Reilly and Griffin, 1988; Coltorti et al., 1999; Van 315 Achterberg et al., 2001; Grégoire et al., 2003 and 2005). The fact that only the most 316 incompatible trace elements (Th, U, Sr, LREE) are enriched in numerous samples is 317 in agreement with the percolation of a metasomatic agent at low melt/rock ratio. Thus 318 it appears that the studied mantle xenoliths from Oman record two types of 319 processes : partial melting and metasomatism.

320 Most of the clinopyroxenes from the mantle peridotites from the Al Ashkharah 321 area display REE patterns similar to those of the mantle spinel peridotite xenoliths 322 entrained by the alkaline lavas from Spitsbergen (lonov et al., 2002 a and b; Figure 323 6). Ionov et al. (2002) proposed a two-stage evolution model to explain the history of 324 xenoliths from Spitsbergen. First partial melting of a more or less fertile peridotitic 325 mantle (degree of partial melting up to 22% for the most refractory samples), which 326 formed residues characterized by LREE-depleted patterns. These melting residues 327 were subsequently metasomatised by OIB-like carbonate-rich mafic silicate melts (lonov et al., 2002 a and b). This metasomatic event led to the re-enrichment in the 328 329 most incompatible elements and LREE (±MREE) in the clinopyroxenes such as in 330 Figure 6. If we compare the Spitsbergen mantle clinopyroxenes with the studied 331 Oman mantle clinopyroxenes, the later display very similar REE and incompatible 332 trace element patterns (Figure 5) and therefore it is plausible that the metasomatic 333 agents are similar in composition in the two cases. Finally the same two-stage 334 evolution model can be invoked to explain the trace element compositions of most 335 samples from this study. The studied mantle xenoliths from AI Ashkarah have been 336 affected in a first stage by partial melting degrees between 1 to a maximum of 19 %. 337 Later, in a second stage, the melting residues have suffered a metasomatic event 338 leading to the re-enrichment in the most incompatible elements and LREE (±MREE) 339 of the clinopyroxenes in the lherzolites, but also of the MREE ± HREE in the 340 harzurgites, which are more sensitive to metasomatism. The metasomatic agent is 341 probably a carbonate-rich mafic silicate melt enriched in highly incompatible trace 342 elements and characterised by low abundances of Nb, Zr, Hf and Ti. Such 343 characteristics allow to propose the hypothesis of a link between this metasomatic 344 melt and the OIB-like tertiary alkaline melts of the same aera including the host lavas 345 of mantle xenoliths studied by Worthing and Wilde (2002) and Nasir et al. (2006). This link is strengthened by the similarity of trace element patterns of the calculated 346

liquids in equilibrium with the clinopyroxenes of samples 04OM62b1 and OM63c1 347 348 with that of the host lava (Figure 9). For that calculation we used the 349 clinopyroxene/basanite partition coefficients at 0.5 GPa from Adam and Green 350 (2003). In such a model, the clinopyroxenes of samples 04OM62b2 (Lherzolite) and 351 04OM62b1 (Harzburgite) characterized by respectively a LREE-depleted REE 352 pattern and a LREE-enriched one characterised by HREE fractionation may 353 represent: (i) a witness of the first stage of the model (sample 04OM62b2), i.e. the 354 process of partial melting or even the upper mantle before the partial melting as the 355 clinopyroxene of this sample displays a REE pattern similar to that of the estimated 356 primitive upper mantle (Figure 7) and (ii) a crystallization product of the metasomatic 357 carbonate-rich silicate melt. Indeed the latter displays some similarities with the 358 sample 4-90-1 from lonov et al. (2002) which is a composite xenolith consisting of an 359 amphibole-bearing wehrlite grading to an olivine-dominated zone with clusters of 360 amphiboles. That sample is a fragment of a magmatic vein within the peridotitic 361 mantle, a vein formed by a melt displaying similar REE content than that of the 362 metasomatic agent responsible of the incompatible trace element enrichment of the 363 Spitsbergen mantle xenoliths (lonov et al., 2002).

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365 Summary

The upper mantle equilibrated in the spinel stability field beneath the North West Al Ashkharah (East Oman) area mostly consists of Iherzolites and harzburgites. This region of the upper mantle has been affected by two main petrogenetic processes: (i) an early partial melting event mostly of low degree leading to the formation of a LREE-depleted clinopyroxene in the peridotitic mantle residue and (ii) a metasomatic event linked to the circulation within this previously slightly depleted upper mantle of 372 a OIB-like carbonate-rich mafic silicate melt. The upper mantle beneath the North 373 West AI Ashkharah therefore has a similar history than that of the upper mantle 374 beneath Spitsbergen, an other continental rifting area. We tentatively suggest that 375 the partial melting event is an old event while the metasomatic melt is related to the 376 tertiary alkaline magmatic activity of the studied area related to the rifting of the 377 Oman passive margin that lid to the opening of the Owen basin

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547	TABLE CAPTIONS
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Figure 2: Microphotographs. A: An angular-shaped protogranular harzburgite xenolith
(size of the xenolith: 13 mm x 6 mm); B: porphyroclastic lherzolite, field of view: ~ 6
mm.

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Figure 3: Diagram Cr# (100xCr/Cr+Al) versus Mg# (100xMg/Mg+Fe_{total}) of spinels of mantle xenoliths from the North West Al Ashkharah (East Oman) area. Double crosses: Harzburgites; Crosses: Lherzolites; Filled diamonds: Spitsbergen mantle lherzolite and harzburgite xenoliths from Ionov et al. (2002); Filled squares in a dark grey field: mantle peridotite xenoliths from Oman (Nasir et al., 2006); Empty squares in a ligth grey field: mantle peridotites from Oman ophiolite from Monnier et al. (2006).

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571 Figure 4: Diagrams Al_2O_3 , Cr_2O_3 and Na_2O versus Mg# (100xMg/Mg+Fe_{total}) of 572 clinopyroxenes of mantle xenoliths from the North West Al Ashkharah (East Oman) 573 area. Same legend as Figure 3.

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575 Figure 5: Primitive mantle-normalized REE and incompatible trace element patterns 576 of the clinopyroxenes characterised by spoon-shaped REE or LREE-enriched 577 patterns (this study) and from lonov et al. (2002). See text for explanation. 578 Normalization values are from McDonough and Sun (1995).

579

Figure 6: Primitive mantle-normalized trace element patterns of the clinopyroxenes from the harzburgite 04OM62B1 and the lherzolite 04OM62B2 (this study) and of the sample 4-90-1 from Spitsbergen (lonov et al., 2002). See text for explanation. Normalization values are from McDonough and Sun (1995). 584

Figure 7: Non-modal partial melting modelling for the REE in clinopyroxenes from the North West Al Ashkharah. The data are normalised to the CI-Chondrite of McDonough and Sun (1995). Most clinopyroxenes display HREE contents that are in agreement with a partial melting degree of ~1 to 5%, except for the harzburgite 04OM62b1, for which the HREE cannot be accounted for by a single stage history.

590

Figure 8: Diagram Cr₂O₃ versus Na₂O of clinopyroxenes of mantle xenoliths from the
North West Al Ashkharah (East Oman) area. Same legend as Figure 3.

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Figure 9: Hypothetical melts in equilibrium with clinopyroxene from metasomatised harzburgites 04OM62b1 and 04OM63c1 compared to the host basanite (Nasir et al., 2006). Normalising values from McDonough and Sun (1995) and Cpx/basanite partition coefficients at 0.5 GPa from Adam and Green (2003).

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Figure 2











Figure 5











04OM62b1 53.80 0.07 2.59 1.60 2.56 0.09 17.58 20.73 0.79 99.85 92.44 04OM58b1 53.93 0.07 3.61 0.93 2.35 0.04 16.49 21.54 1.08 100.03 92.59 04OM58b1 53.39 0.16 3.62 0.94 2.43 0.01 16.30 21.32 1.29 99.56 99.56 99.27 04OM63c3 53.15 0.10 4.45 0.66 2.39 0.03 15.83 21.91 0.92 99.45 92.19 Clinopyn SiO2 TiO2 A/2O3 Cr2O3 Fetot MnO MgO CaO Na2O Total Mg# burgites 0.40M63a2 2.58 2.58 1.98 0.55 1.98 0.55 1.98 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.54 1.98 2.310 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.55 1.98 2.310 0.55 5.23 1.04 3.40 0.55 5.23 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 2.02 1.04 3.40 0.55 5.23 0.98 2.230 0.06 5.23 0.08 2.230 0.06 1.04 3.40 0.05 5.213 0.08 2.230 0.06 1.04 0.05 0.04 0.06 0.06 0.05 04C0M83a2 53.86 0.05 2.84 0.53 2.01 0.62 16.83 2.3.13 0.47 99.82 93.72 COM8642 53.72 COM8642 53.72 COM8642 54.66 1.05 3.40 0.13 1.65 3.40 0.13 1.05 84 1.99 9.00 8.8.26 0400M8332 54.09 2.59 2.54 2.44 17.14 17.14 2.28 2.44 17.14 2.44 10.40 93.46 0.09 56.77 1.02 52.88 0.09 5.87 1.689 5.87 1.581 1. 040/M63a2 040/M63a2 2,85 0,45 0,22 2,85 0,45 2,22 0,45 2,25 0,45 2,25 0,45 2,25 0,45 2,31 0,44 0,44 0,44 0,44 0,44 0,44 0,45 2,317 0,45 8,257 0,55 0,15 0,02 0,00 0,00 0,15 0,00 0,00 0,00 0,15 0,00 0,00 0,00 0,00 0,15 0,00 04OM63a2 53.24 0.05 2.77 0.38 6.200 -16.70 22.87 9.49 9.849 9.849 9.849 9.837 0.12 5.134 0.12 5.134 0.12 5.134 0.13 0.90 0.283 0.13 1.585 2.096 1.05 9.897 9.899 640/M65321 53.16 0.07 2.79 0.50 2.04 0.612 16.83 22.82 0.518 53.86 0.53.82 040/M5813 51.95 0.14 0.82 2.85 0.09 16.08 21.29 1.09 99.70 90.94 04OM63a22 53.37 04OM63a12 53.67 04CMR3a1 63.38 6.3.38 2.295 0.51 2.27 0.13 2.29 2.049 99.48 92.92 0.4085813 52.69 0.11 4.99 9.48 92.92 0.4045813 0.11 4.99 0.11 1.02 2.4 99.48 92.92 0.4045813 0.215 0.076 0.005 0.0 04CMMSa1 63.67 0.08 0.09 0.39 2.13 0.10 0.10 0.10 9.259 9.333 04CMMSa2 62.12 0.13 4.68 0.69 0.69 0.69 0.13 0.47 99.62 0.13 4.68 0.69 0.67 0.07 040M8251 040M8251 0401 2557 1552 0475 0404 040/M82b1 54 211 0.07 2.52 1.59 2.46 0.10 17.53 20.87 0.83 100.18 92.70 040M63c2 5.20 0.40 0.68 3.26 0.09 4.72 0.78 0.83 3.26 0.99 4.72 0.75 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 2.147 0.68 3.26 0.77 0.68 0.77 0.78 04OM58b1 53.43 0.07 0.94 2.33 0.15 16.14 21.08 92.52 04OM62b2 0.48 7.30 0.87 3.52 0.07 15.66 18.70 1.58 99.54 99.54 04OM63c3 5323 0.12 4.43 0.73 2.42 0.07 16.04 21.75 1.06 99.85 92.19 04OM62b2 51.67 0.48 7.39 0.85 3.46 0.10 15.45 18.39 1.48 99.27 99.27 04OM63c3 53.04 0.07 4.42 0.70 2.26 0.09 16.09 21.90 1.08 99.71 92.68 99.71 92.68 04OM62b2 51.93 0.46 7.41 0.87 7.41 15.61 15.61 18.80 1.62 10.03 88.890 04OM63-3 53.34 0.08 4.28 0.73 2.32 0.12 15.98 1.01 99.74 92.47 04OM58a2 52.37 0.13 5.34 0.95 0.03 16.26 20.077 1.19 90.05 04OM63c3 53.48 0.12 2.29 0.13 16.99 21.93 1.01 100.07 92.56 04OM58a2 52.36 0.13 5.25 0.89 2.83 0.09 16.25 2.097 1.06 99.93 91.09 04OM63c3 53.26 0.12 4.23 0.74 2.32 . . 15.94 21.86 0.99 99.47 92.45 04OM58a2 52.22 0.16 5.27 0.77 2.92 0.12 16.22 0.016 16.22 0.03 99.73 99.83 . 2.966 0.46 2.33 0.13 16.86 23.16 0.45 99.83 92.72 04OM583 52.57 0.21 5.20 0.06 2.70 0.06 16.09 21.24 1.07 99.96 91.40 2.57 0.44 2.15 0.07 16.77 23.09 0.54 99.08 93.28 92.27 04OM62b2 51.75 0.55 7.48 0.89 3.21 0.15 15.60 18.85 1.63 100.17 89.66 342.19 340M58a2 52.14 0.12 5.33 0.84 3.09 0.01 15.90 21.00 1.11 99.67 90.15 04OM62b2 52.10 0.45 7.49 0.88 3.53 0.12 15.75 18.54 1.67 100.59 88.82 04CM62b2 51.74 0.48 7.42 0.80 3.30 0.10 15.73 18.81 1.53 99.96 89.45 04OM58/3 52.63 0.17 5.15 0.85 2.98 0.11 15.88 21.30 1.09 100.23 90.48 Clinop SiO2 TiO2 AI2O3 Cr2O3 Fetot MnO MgO CaO Na2O Total Mg# 89.26 04OM58c3 53.23 0.17 5.27 0.86 2.72 0.08 16.02 21.02 1.14 100.53 91.30 89.42 04OM58c3 52.91 0.15 5.19 0.92 2.93 0.07 15.87 20.92 1.07 100.02 90.61 91.09 04CM59b2 52.26 0.10 5.24 0.93 3.06 0.09 16.15 20.98 0.91 99.77 90.39 91.42 04CM59b2 52.91 0.09 4.99 0.86 3.07 0.13 16.38 21.00 0.92 100.18 90.47 91.40 04OM59b2 52.23 0.10 4.81 0.76 2.95 0.13 16.05 21.15 0.94 99.23 90.64 90.89 04OM59b2 52.38 0.15 4.83 0.75 3.03 0.05 16.07 21.04 0.90 99.22 90.44 040M5962 52.34 0.13 5.00 0.70 3.07 16.55 20.51 0.83 99.12 90.57 90.48 04OM59b2 52.77 0.10 5.00 0.73 2.91 0.08 18.39 21.35 0.93 100.35 90.93 Clinop SiO2 TiO2 Al2O3 Cr2O3 Fetot MnO MgO CaO Na2O Total Mott

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 Table 1

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Harzburgites				Lherzolites								
Clinopyroxene	04OM63c3	04OM63c1	04OM62b1	04OM58c3	04OM59b2	04OM58f3	04OM62b2	04OM58a2	04OM58a3	04OM58c1	04OM63c2	04OM66d2
	n=4	n=3	n=3	n=5	n=3	n=3	n=4	n=5	n=4	n=4	n=3	n=3
Sc	97	91	63	76	69	70	68	71	62	97	55	66
Ti	945	569	722	1008	851	1154	3482	950	755	701	718	846
v	244	243	181	232	246	222	258	241	244	287	186	258
Ni	403	310	381	270	291	300	324	364	317	318	262	311
Rb	0.80	0.80	bdl	bdl	bdl	1.55	bdl	1.00	0.62	0.26	0.66	1.86
Sr	61	273	254	76	75	65	79	456	183	83	296	313
Y	14	14	4	12	12	14	24	13	13	13	10	13
Zr	1.23	3.69	28	1.63	0.52	1.98	40	0.68	4.58	0.76	12	18
Nb	0.38	1.34	1.36	0.59	2.23	1.44	0.21	0.88	3.61	bdl	0.30	3.56
Ba	1.34	1.66	0.43	0.34	0.61	0.44	0.96	1.55	0.52	0.40	0.74	7.4
La	6.0	25	6.5	8.9	9.7	7.3	1.00	37	32	47	50	39
Ce	4.41	46	15	11	14	9.5	3.49	53	42	75	46	71
Pr	0.18	4.92	2.03	0.95	1.20	0.87	0.73	3.61	3.33	5.9	3.26	7.1
Nd	0.69	16	9.4	3.08	3.63	3.16	4.43	8.0	9.63	14	8.4	24
Sm	0.32	3.40	2.69	0.69	0.75	0.72	1.80	1.29	1.50	1.89	1.31	5.38
Eu	bdl	0.94	0.91	0.29	0.22	0.28	0.79	0.38	0.41	0.53	0.37	1.32
Gd	0.99	2.78	2.56	1.26	1.00	1.36	3.13	1.17	1.22	1.47	1.24	3.15
Dy	1.98	2.53	2.32	1.96	1.58	2.13	3.94	1.69	1.59	1.95	1.69	2.42
Но	0.52	0.50	0.34	0.49	0.39	0.50	0.88	0.41	0.40	0.46	0.38	0.47
Er	1.58	1.45	0.70	1.48	1.16	1.49	2.48	1.30	1.29	1.44	1.15	1.34
Yb	1.59	1.30	0.48	1.51	1.17	1.48	2.38	1.40	1.35	1.48	1.13	1.28
Lu	0.23	0.20	0.05	0.23	0.17	0.22	0.34	0.21	0.20	0.23	0.17	0.20
Hf	0.17	0.25	0.77	0.18	0.14	0.20	1.34	0.27	bdl	0.16	0.53	0.82
Th	1.82	3.45	0.36	3.12	1.44	1.29	0.02	4.28	6.31	5.32	13	2.17
U	0.44	0.57	0.07	0.77	0.24	0.25	0.01	0.72	0.64	0.81	3.12	0.44

bdl: below detection limit