

Experimental Investigation of Lithium Partitioning among Plagioclase, Rhyolitic Melt, and H2O Vapor

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Maylis Dupont de Dinechin, Caroline Martel, Hélène Balcone-Boissard, Monika Rusiecka, Rémi Champallier, et al.. Experimental Investigation of Lithium Partitioning among Plagioclase, Rhyolitic Melt, and H2O Vapor. EGU General Assembly 2024, Apr 2024, Vienne (AUT), France. 2024, 10.5194/egusphere-egu24-14481. hal-04600373

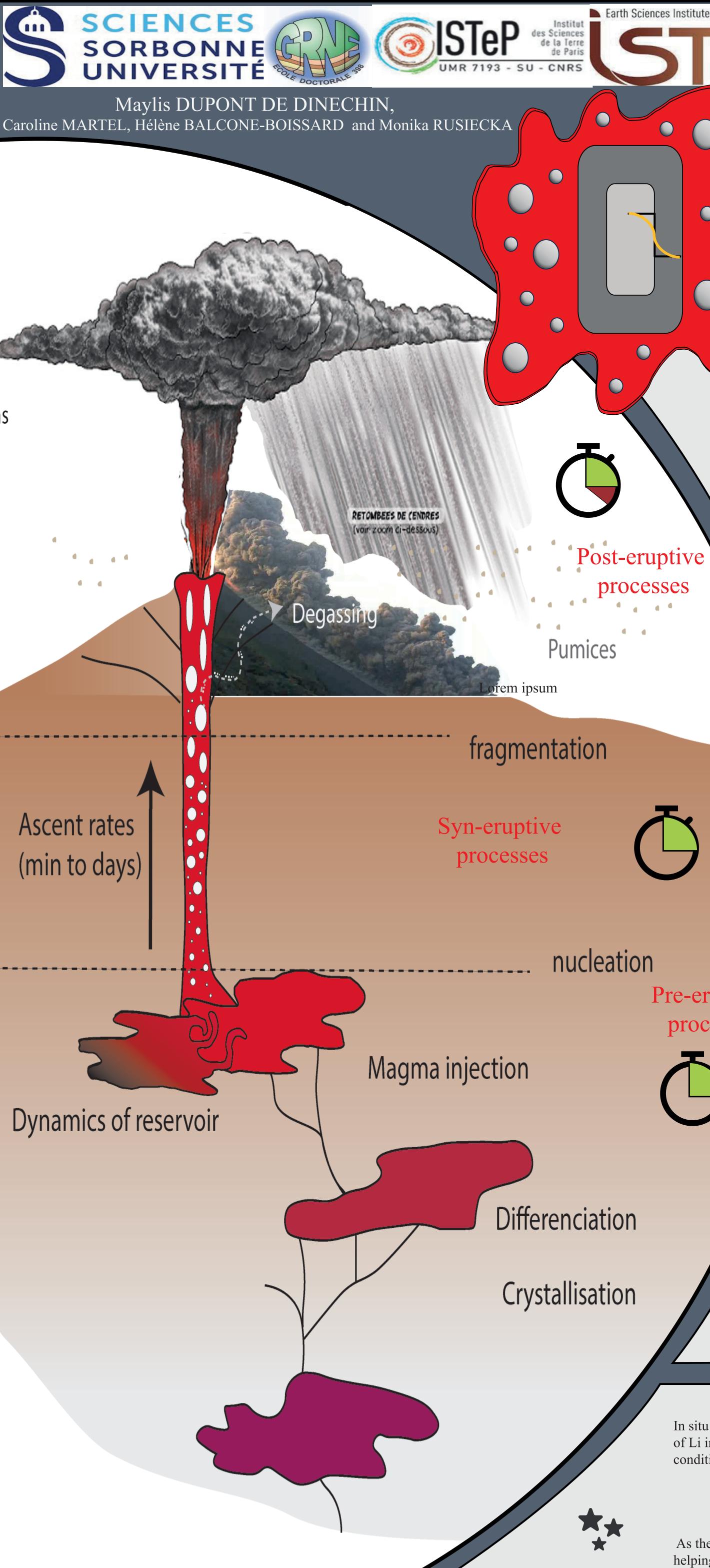
HAL Id: hal-04600373 https://hal.science/hal-04600373

Submitted on 6 Jun2024

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Pre-eruptive

processes

Experimental determination of lithium partition coefficients between plagioclase, rhyolitic melt, and H2O vapor

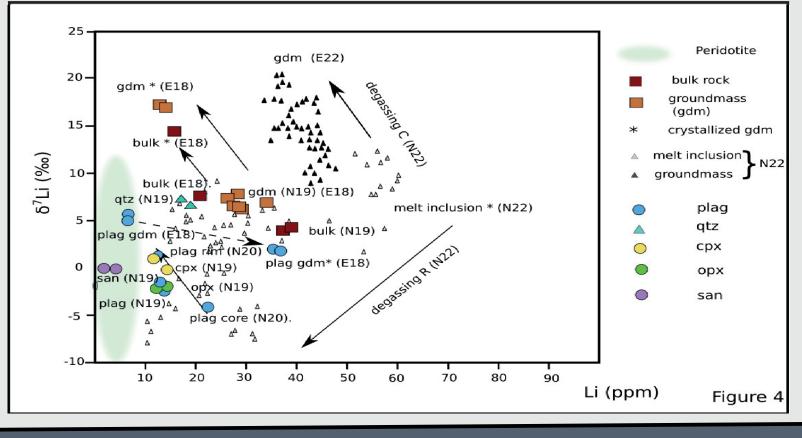
Volcanic products contain minerals and elements that open windows onto underground volcanic processes. Lithium is one of these trace elements. Lithium is a rare element on Earth, best known for its use in industry, healthcare, ceramics and battery applications. But what about its usefulness in volcanology?

In volcanology, the objective is to better understand volcanic hazards in space and time. So we're looking for tracers and chronometers that can better constrain volcanic processes.

Li abundance in volcanic rocks

Li is a rare element in the cosmos, but it is concentrated in certain rocks (pegmatites) and phases (brines). It is also hidden in magmatic rocks at low concentrations

From Dupont de Dinechin et al. 2023

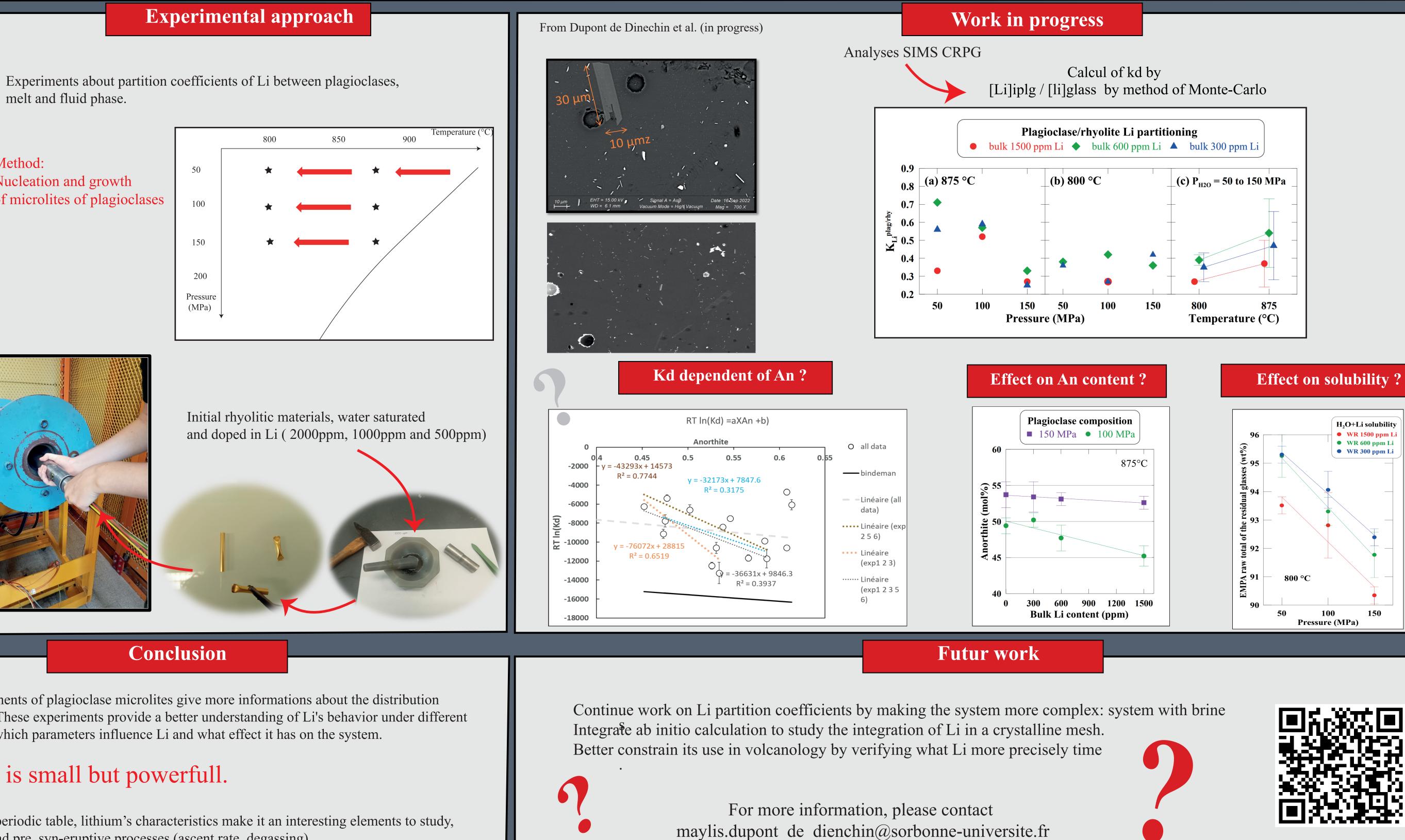


How does Li behave when magma rises? How can we study it?

Experimental approach

melt and fluid phase.

Method: Nucleation and growth of microlites of plagioclases



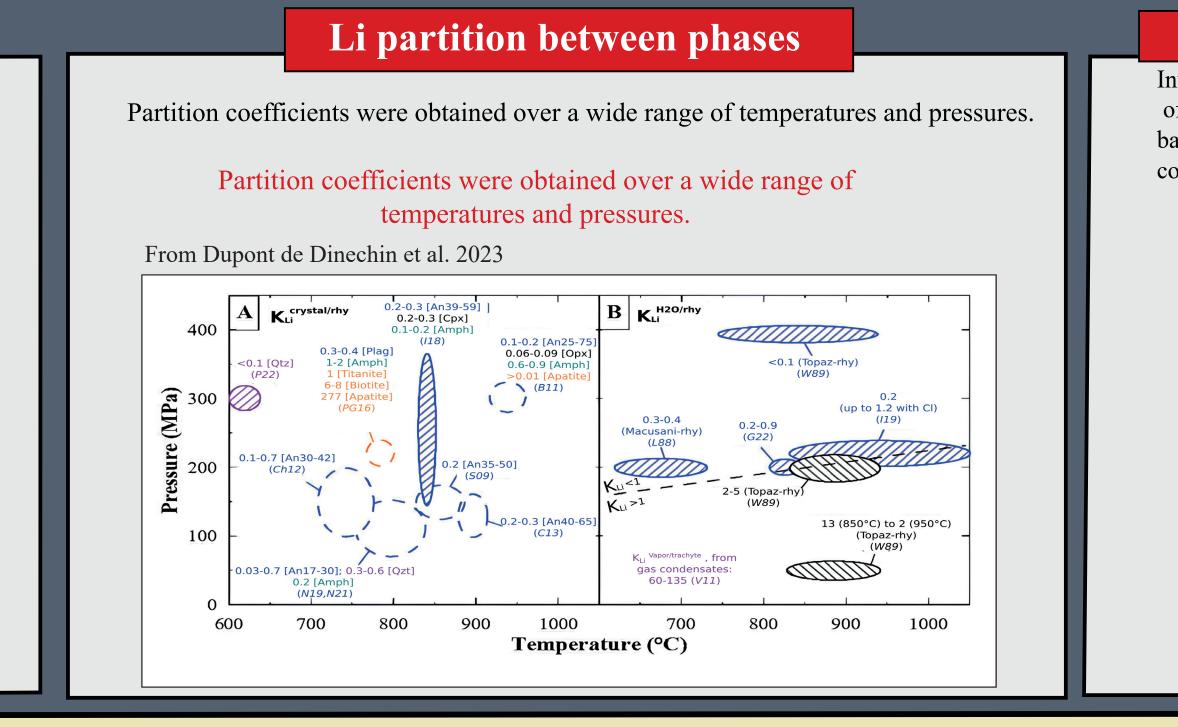


Conclusion

In situ crystallization experiments of plagioclase microlites give more informations about the distribution of Li in magmatic systems. These experiments provide a better understanding of Li's behavior under different conditions. We can observe which parameters influence Li and what effect it has on the system.

Li is small but powerfull.

As the third element on the periodic table, lithium's characteristics make it an interesting elements to study, helping us to better understand pre, syn-eruptive processes (ascent rate, degassing).



How is lithium distributed during magma ascent between the liquid, mineral and gaseous phases?

In situ crystallization experiments of plagioclase microlites

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6.94 g/mol

Li mobility

Intracrystalline diffusion is caused by a chemical gradient between zones of a crystal of different composition, witnessing variable growth conditions.]This gradient balances with time via the diffusion of certain elemnets that serve as tracers to constrain the time of the magmatic process at the origin of this compositional gradient

Lithiun is an element littlebut very mobile: a chronometer for rapid processes

Diffusion rates (D) vary according to the minerals or glasses.

