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Magma emplacement during exhumation of the lower- to mid-crustal orogenic root: The Jihlava syenitoid pluton, Moldanubian Unit, Bohemian Massif

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Abstract

In this study, we present structural and AMS data from the ~ 335 Ma ultrapotassic Jihlava syenitoid pluton, which intruded the lower- to midcrustal orogenic root (Moldanubian Unit) in the Bohemian Massif, Central European Variscides. The emplacement of the pluton was accommodated by multiple processes, such as ductile host-rock shortening, formation of sheeted zones by magma wedging, magmatic stoping, and possibly host-rock displacement within a wide transtensional zone. Magmatic fabrics preserved in the pluton reflect both intrusive processes and regional strain. Margin-parallel and \sim ENE–WSW foliations, which probably formed by strain during emplacement of inner magma pulses, were overprinted by tectonic strain within a zone of distributed wrench-dominated dextral transtension. This zone probably accommodated exhumation of different segments in the eastern part of the Moldanubian Unit during pluton emplacement. In contrast to existing models, we emphasize that the Jihlava pluton, as well as other ultrapotassic plutons widespread in the Moldanubian Unit, are structurally highly variable bodies emplaced by multiple intrusive processes. Our case study illustrates how careful documentation of structural relations around these ultrapotassic plutons may constrain the kinematic framework and local exhumation histories in different segments of the orogenic root during and shortly after the ~ 340 Ma mechanical event in the Central European Variscides.

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1. Introduction

One of the most intriguing aspects in evolution of orogenic belts and magmatic arcs is the exhumation of deeply buried high-grade rocks to the upper crustal levels. Recently, numerous studies focused on the mechanisms and driving forces of exhumation of lower- to mid-crustal segments and attributed the exhumation to various tectonic settings (e.g., Dewey, 1988; Allemand and Lardeaux, 1997; Thompson et al., 1997; Schulmann et al., 2002; Willner et al., 2002). The structural record of exhumation and the P-T-t paths of exhumed rocks are traditionally established using metamorphic petrology, geochronology, and structural analysis of metamorphic complexes. Interestingly, other studies (e.g., Paterson et al., 1998; Schofield and D'Lemos, 1998; Benn et al., 2001; Miller and Paterson, 2001) have also shown that the internal fabrics of plutons may record regional paleostrain fields in their metamorphic host rocks. Given that plutonic rocks are widespread, easy to date and, unlike metamorphic rocks, usually do not exhibit complex arrays of superposed structures (magmatic fabrics are easily reset; Paterson et al., 1998) we were interested in discovering whether populations of plutons emplaced episodically

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into originally deep-seated crustal segments could provide evidence for the kinematic framework, local exhumation histories and timing of exhumation events within orogenic belts.

In the European Variscides, which formed during the Devonian to Carboniferous collision of peri-Gondwana crustal segments and the Baltica (northern European plate; Ziegler, 1986; Franke, 1989; Rey et al., 1997), major crustal thickening was followed by the exhumation of the orogenic root domain (Behr et al., 1984; Medaris et al., 1995; Willner et al., 2002). The exhumed lower- to mid-crustal orogenic root referred to as the Moldanubian Unit is now exposed in the Bohemian Massif and forms the innermost part of the Variscan orogenic belt. During the later stages of the Variscan orogeny, the orogenic root (Moldanubian Unit) was intruded by geochemically specific ultrapotassic syenitoid (melasyenitic, melagranitic or monzonitic) plutons. In the Bohemian Massif, these plutons comprise two rock groups differing in assemblages of mafic minerals; the most widespread amphibolebiotite rocks are dominated by the durbachite series (mostly K-feldspar-phyric melasyenites to melagranites; see Holub 1997), while the subordinate biotite-two-pyroxene rocks make up the Jihlava pluton in the eastern part of the Bohemian Massif and the Tábor pluton at the southeastern margin of the Central Bohemian Plutonic Complex (Fig. 1a,b). These ultrapotassic plutons are spread over the entire orogenic root but their radiometric ages indicate that they were emplaced over a relatively short time span (Klötzli and Parrish, 1996; Holub, 1997; Holub et al., 1997; Schaltegger, 1997; Janoušek and Gerdes, 2003; Kotková et al., 2003). Although the petrogenesis and geochemistry of these plutons has been previously studied and interpreted as being the result of mixing of mantle-derived ultrapotassic magmas with acid crustal melts (Holub, 1997; Janoušek and Holub, in press), their internal fabrics, emplacement processes and structural relations to the exhumed host metamorphic complexes are unknown or poorly constrained.

In this paper, we present structural and AMS data from the Jihlava pluton, which intruded the eastern part of the Moldanubian Unit (Figs. 1b, 2), as the first case example to show the importance of these ultrapotassic plutons for the interpretation of the kinematic framework and timing of exhumation in the orogenic root domain. Based on structural data, we interpret the formation of magmatic fabrics in the pluton, its relationship to the host-rock structures and regional tectonics, and we evaluate the material transfer processes during emplacement (i.e. MTPs of Paterson and Fowler, 1993a). Finally, we discuss the more general implications of our study for the exhumation and tectonic evolution of the orogenic root during the later stages of the Variscan orogeny.

2. Geological setting

The Jihlava pluton crops out in the eastern part of the Moldanubian Unit, which represents the exhumed lower- to midcrustal orogenic root in the Central European Variscides (Fig. 1a,b; e.g., Medaris et al., 1995; Vrána et al., 1995; Schulmann et al., 1997; Konopásek and Schulmann, 2005). The Moldanubian Unit (Fig. 1b) comprises two major units with contrasting tectonometamorphic evolution, exhumed from different depths: the mid-crustal Drosendorf and the lower-crustal Gföhl Units. The Drosendorf Unit consists of metasedimentary sequences of problematic protolith age, dominated by sillimanite-biotite (±cordierite) paragneisses (referred to as the Monotonous Group) with abundant lensshaped bodies of metaquartzites, marbles and amphibolites (summarily referred to as the Varied Group). Estimations of the PT conditions of regional metamorphism of the Drosendorf Unit range from 630 to 720 °C and 3-6 kbar (Petrakakis, 1997; Vrána et al., 1995), the age of HT-LP metamorphism was estimated as 337-333 Ma using the U-Pb method (Friedl et al., 1993). The high-grade Gföhl Unit, the protolith age of which was estimated at ~482 \pm 2 Ma (Friedl et al., 1993), is structurally the uppermost unit (Vrána, 1988; Matte et al., 1990) and comprises orthogneisses, migmatites, granulites, eclogites and peridotites. Estimations of the PT conditions of peak metamorphism in the Gföhl Unit correspond to ~950-1050 °C and ~14-20 kbar (in crustal peridotites) dated at $\sim 351 \pm 6$ (Carswell and O'Brien, 1993; Wendt et al., 1994) and $\sim 345 \pm 5$ (Van Breemen et al., 1982), followed by retrograde metamorphism ($T \sim 600-800$ °C and ~6–8 kbar; Owen and Dostal, 1996) at ~337–333 Ma (Friedl et al., 1993; Wendt et al., 1994; Gebauer and Friedl, 1994).

In the studied area (Fig. 2), pluton host rocks are dominated by sillimanite-biotite (\pm cordierite) paragneisses of the Monotonous Group, which are commonly migmatized at variable degrees of partial melting. Numerous lens-shaped bodies of amphibolites, quarzitic rocks and graphite-bearing gneisses are scattered over the area. The Moldanubian paragneisses were also intruded by leucogranite sheets prior to the emplacement of the Jihlava pluton. The map-scale pattern of these bodies is parallel to the pluton margin forming a sigmoidal deflection as does the outcrop shape of the pluton. In contrast to other studies (Urban and Synek, 1995 and references therein; see also Fig. 2 in Schulmann et al., 2005), which place the presumed \sim N-S trending boundary thrust of the Varied Group over the Monotonous Group as intersecting the central part of the Jihlava pluton (the pluton would thus discordantly cut across the thrust plane), our detailed mapping revealed that the paragneisses of the Monotonous Group are juxtaposed against the Gföhl-like migmatites and orthogneisses along a NE-SW trending boundary located to the SE of the pluton (Fig. 2). The migmatites and orthogneisses resemble the Gföhl gneisses; however, the nature of the boundary and interpretation of this unit remains problematic.

The Jihlava pluton has a \sim NW–SE elongated sigmoidal shape (Fig. 2). Its contacts with the Moldanubian host rocks of the Monotonous Group are intrusive, only locally affected by post-emplacement brittle faulting. In general, the intrusive contacts dip steeply (\sim 70°) to the east. The pluton is composed of mafic syenitoid to granitoid rocks ranging from the most widespread quartz monzonite to (mela)syenite and melagranite. Their color index varies from 25 to 35, although it



Fig. 1. (a) Geological sketch map of the Bohemian Massif and its position in the European Variscides (inset). The Moldanubian Unit forms the southern part of the Bohemian Massif; AM, Armorican Massif; BM, Bohemian Massif; MC, Massif Central. (b) Geological map of the Moldanubian Unit (according to Chlupáč et al., 2002) showing location of the study area (bold rectangle) and locations of other ultrapotassic plutons in the Moldanubian Unit. CBPC, Central Bohemian Plutonic Complex; KSP, Knížecí Stolec pluton; MEP, Mehelník pluton; MP, Milevsko pluton; SBB, South Bohemian Batholith; TP, Tábor pluton; TRP, Třebíč pluton.

locally exceeds >40. The primary mineral assemblage comprises orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene and biotite, but pyroxenes can be replaced by amphiboles of actinolitic composition in some parts of the pluton. The chemical composition is relatively rich in SiO₂ (58–62 wt%) but magnesian (MgO 3.5-6 wt%, commonly 4.5-5.5 wt%; 100Mg/(Mg + Fe_{tot})

61–66) and ultrapotassic (K₂O 4.5–6%, typical K₂O/Na₂O \sim 2.5).

Four varieties of these syenitoid rocks differing in their grain-size (medium- to coarse-grained to porphyric) and mineral composition (proportions of amphibole and pyroxenes) can be distinguished within the pluton (Fig. 2). The most



Fig. 2. Schematic geological map of the Jihlava pluton and its country rocks showing main lithological units and types of contacts (geology based on mapping by K. Verner and Czech Geological Survey 1:25,000 maps). The pluton is made up of four textural varieties of syenitoid rocks, the surrounding Moldanubian metamorphic complex is dominated by biotite paragnesis of the Monotonous Group. Both the pluton and nearby smaller elongated bodies of amphibolites and quarzitic and graphite-bearing gneisses show an asymmetric sigmoidal pattern. The Gföhl-like unit crops out in the SE part of the area.

widespread rock is medium-grained biotite-two-pyroxene quartz monzonite (\pm syenite and melagranite), making up much of the pluton, whereas medium-grained biotite-amphibole quartz monzonite/syenite and melagranite form the southern tip of the pluton and crop out as a narrow strip along its eastern margin. Coarse-grained and porphyritic varieties form irregular bodies in the northern part of the pluton.

The emplacement age of the Jihlava pluton has been constrained at 335.2 ± 0.54 Ma using the U-Pb method on zircons (Kotková et al., 2003).

3. Structural pattern of the Jihlava pluton and its country rocks

3.1. Country rocks

The structural pattern of the paragneisses of the Drosendorf Unit (Fig. 3) is defined by a regional metamorphic foliation (pervasive metamorphic schistosity, compositional banding or migmatitic layering; Fig. 4b) which, in general, dips steeply to moderately to the SE or NE (note the two maxima of the foliation poles in the stereogram in Fig. 3). This foliation is



Fig. 3. Structural map of the Jihlava pluton and its host rocks. Stereograms (lower hemisphere, equal area projection) show orientation of main structural elements (lineations and poles to foliations). The inset map shows foliation trajectories and regional kinematic pattern both in the pluton and in the country rocks. GU, Gföhl-like unit; PMZ, Přibyslav mylonite zone.

associated with moderately plunging stretching lineations trending predominantly SE. On some outcrops, the foliation is folded into close to isoclinal folds with steep axial planes and fold axes parallel to the stretching lineation (Fig. 4c).

In the map view, the foliation pattern and lithological contacts show a prominent sigmoidal deflection, suggesting clockwise (right-lateral) rotation of both contacts and the metamorphic fabric in regions near both northern and southern tips of the pluton. These structures are superimposed on preexisting, regional flat-lying foliation, which is widespread elsewhere throughout the Moldanubian Unit (referred to as S₃ by Vrána, 1988 and Vrána and Bártek, 2005) and define a more than 10 km wide zone of distributed dextral NE-sideup transtension (Fig. 3). The dextral, NE-side-up transtensional kinematics is consistent throughout the wide transtensional zone and has been demonstrated on several scales: (i) most importantly, in the map view by the asymmetry of the sigmoidal pluton shape, the same sigmoidal array of lenses and smaller granitoid bodies scattered within the paragneisses of the Monotonous Group, and the sigmoidal foliation and lineation pattern (Fig. 3); (ii) on outcrops by asymmetric minor folds; and (iii) on a micro-scale by asymmetric porphyroblasts (Fig. 5). The structural pattern (e.g., orientation of foliations and lineations, asymmetric structures) and observed characteristics of fabric ellipsoid (plane-strain, LS fabrics) correspond to a wrench-dominated (= simple shear dominated) transtension (e.g., Dewey, 2002; Teyssier and Tikoff, 1999).

In the Gföhl-like migmatites and orthogneisses to the SE of the pluton, the metamorphic foliations are locally complexly folded, but generally dip at low angles to the SE (Fig. 3). On a map-scale, the entire Gföhl-like unit is folded into major tight to isoclinal folds with wavelengths of up to several kilometers. The fold axes of major folds dip gently to the SE.

Both regional flat-lying foliation and structures of the wide transtensional zone (described above) were subsequently affected by more localized ductile to brittle shearing along the \sim NNE–SSW mylonitic shear zone (referred to as the Přiby-slav mylonite zone, PMZ) located mainly at the NW tip of the pluton (Figs. 2, 3). Small-scale structures (localized shears and minor faults) related to the shear zone may be observed throughout the area where younger mylonites discordantly cross-cut or reactivate the older structures (Fig. 4e). The pervasive mylonitic foliations in the shear zone dip steeply to moderately to the SW or NE and are associated with stretching



Fig. 4. Field photographs of structures from the Jihlava pluton and nearby host rocks (locations shown on Fig. 2). (a) \sim ENE–WSW magnatic foliation in the quartz monzonite defined by shape preferred orientation of K-feldspars, biotite and pyroxene; (b) Pervasive metamorphic foliation in a stoped block formed by partially migmatized paragnesis, Bradlo quarry, NW part of the pluton; (c) Mineral lineation plunging to the SE (looking on a metamorphic foliation plane); (d) Lineation on an oblique-slip fault plane associated with NW-side-up dextral kinematics; (e) Magmatic fabric in the quartz monzonite overprinted by fine-grained



Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of kinematic indicators from the dextral transtensional zone, taken from lineation-parallel and foliation-perpendicular (*XZ*) section. (a) Shear bands in biotite paragneiss of the Monotonous Group; foliation strike is N35°E, dip 54°; lineation trend is S12°E, plunge 22°. (b) Rotated plagioclase σ -porphyroblast in biotite paragneiss of the Monotonous Group; foliation strike is N43°W, dip 62°; lineation trend is S59°E, plunge 12°. All microstructures indicate normal, right-lateral shear sense. See Fig. 2 for locations of samples.

lineation steeply to moderately plunging to the SE and dextral transtensional kinematics. These ductile mylonitic structures grade into brittle discrete faults (Fig. 4d) with consistent orientation and kinematics.

3.2. Pluton structures

At the present-day exposure level, the Jihlava pluton has a \sim NW-SE elongated sigmoidal shape (Figs. 2, 3) with both northern and southern tips deflected clockwise with respect to the central part of the pluton. In the map view, the longest dimension of the pluton is \sim 15 km and the widest is \sim 4 km. Our detailed structural mapping revealed complex structural and fabric patterns of the pluton, many local complications, and high variability of the geometry and character of the intrusive contacts and near-contact domains.

In the northern part of the pluton, the western pluton/hostrock contact dips moderately ($\sim 40^{\circ}$), whereas the eastern contact dips steeply ($\sim 70^{\circ}$) to the east. Both contacts are parallel to the metamorphic foliations (Fig. 3). No deformation gradient or changes in fabric intensity and shape of fabric ellipsoid were observed in the host rocks along both pluton margins. Abundant kilometer-scale stoped blocks and rafts of the Moldanubian metamorphic rocks are also preserved in this part of the pluton (Figs. 3; 4f).

In the central part, the western and eastern pluton margins have contrasting character (Figs. 3; 4g,h). The western contact is sheeted, i.e. consists of multiple monzonitic and more leucocratic sheets up to several meters thick alternating with host-rock rafts or stoped blocks (Fig. 4g). The outermost contact of the sheeted zone truncates sharply the host-rock metamorphic foliation. No evidence indicates syn-emplacement ductile shortening of the country rocks along the pluton margins. In contrast, the monzonitic sheets along the pluton margins (inside the pluton) commonly form magmatic pinch-and-swell structures (Fig. 4g) formed during the presence of a melt. A particularly intriguing example is shown in Fig. 4g, where the monzonitic sheets form pinch-and-swell structures around an internally deformed and partially molten stoped block. The outer margin of the sheeted zone has been overprinted by a very narrow (only 0.2 m wide) zone of subsolidus deformation. All these features indicate that, after construction of the sheeted zone and stoping of the host-rock blocks, the zone was shortened in the direction perpendicular to sheet margins against the outer edge of the pluton (Fig. 4g). However, this shortening was not recorded in the nearby Moldanubian metamorphic rocks.

In contrast, along the eastern margin, we see no evidence for either sheeting or sharp discordant contacts. Instead, here pluton host rocks show evidence for ductile shortening (tight to isoclinal ptygmatitic folds, Fig. 4h), as well as partial melting within a ~ 100 m wide ductile structural aureole. The ductile aureole is characterized by an oblate fabric ellipsoid (planar fabrics with no stretching lineation), whereas the country rocks outside the structural aureole exhibit plane-strain fabric ellipsoids (LS fabric).

The structural pattern of the southern tip of the pluton differs from its remainder described above (Fig. 3). The Moldanubian host rocks for this part of the pluton comprise highly migmatitized paragneisses and migmatites (nebulites), indicating extensive partial melting that could be broadly synchronous with the pluton emplacement. Importantly, the migmatitic foliations are parallel to the pluton margins and are bent around the southern tip of the pluton within an up to ~ 2 km wide structural aureole. The ductile aureole is characterized by an oblate fabric ellipsoid (migmatitic foliations with no stretching lineation), whereas the country rocks further to the SE exhibit planestrain fabric ellipsoids (LS fabric).

sub-solidus mylonite zone, Kosov quarry, NW part of the pluton; (f) Syenitoid sheets intruding a partially molten stoped block, the metamorphic foliation in the stoped block is truncated by the quartz monzonite, Bradlo quarry; (g) Magmatic sheets forming pinch-and-swell structures bent around a partially molten and internally deformed stoped block indicating sheet-normal contraction after emplacement; (h) Minor ptygmatic folds in partially migmatized paragneiss in the structural aureole.

3.3. Fabric pattern of the pluton

The magmatic fabrics in the Jihlava pluton are defined as magmatic foliations (Fig. 4a), i.e. the planar shape preferred orientation of feldspars, biotite and pyroxenes formed during the presence of a melt (criteria outlined in Paterson et al., 1989, 1998; Vernon, 2000). Due to both the fine-grained nature of the rock and the generally highly oblate fabric ellipsoid (as determined using the AMS method, see below), magmatic lineation or biotite zone axis is either not developed or is difficult to discern mesoscopically.

Multiple magmatic foliations are preserved in the Jihlava pluton: (i) Margin-parallel foliations are preserved in the southernmost part of the pluton (Fig. 3). These foliations dip moderately to steeply and, in the map view, form an "onionskin" pattern parallel to the intrusive contacts and to the foliations in the Moldanubian country rocks. We also mapped these margin-parallel foliations elsewhere in the pluton, but these are more localized and restricted to narrow zones adjacent to contacts with the host metamorphic rocks. In places, these magmatic fabrics grade into sub-solidus S-C mylonites also parallel to pluton margins. (ii) The dominant, $\sim E$ -NE-WSW foliations dip steeply to moderately to the SW or NE and are highly oblique (at high angle) to the outer pluton/host-rock contacts, to the general strike (~NW-SE) of the pluton, and to the metamorphic foliations in the Moldanubian host rocks (Fig. 3). (iii) Locally, some of the magmatic foliations are oblique to the above foliations and strike NE-SW, and are thus parallel to the metamorphic foliations in the Moldanubian host rocks.

4. Anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) of the pluton

We used the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) method to investigate the internal magnetic fabric of the Jihlava pluton in order to corroborate the structural data and to quantify the fabric parameters and fabric gradients in the pluton. One hundred and five oriented samples were collected using a portable drill at 28 sampling sites located along three E–W oriented transects across the pluton. The AMS was measured with the KLY-3S Kappabridge apparatus (Jelínek and Pokorný, 1997) and statistical analysis of AMS data was carried out using the ANISOFT package of programs (Jelínek, 1978; Hrouda et al., 1990).

The AMS data are represented by the k_m , P, and T parameters defined as follows:

$$k_{\rm m} = (k_1 + k_2 + k_3)/3$$

 $P = k_1 / k_3$

 $T = 2\ln(k_2/k_3) / \ln(k_1/k_3) - 1$

The $k_{\rm m}$ parameter represents the mean bulk magnetic susceptibility reflecting the qualitative and quantitative content of magnetic minerals in the rock. The *P* parameter (Nagata,

1961), called the degree of AMS, reflects the eccentricity of the AMS ellipsoid and thus indicates the intensity of the preferred orientation of the magnetic minerals in the rock. The higher the *P* parameter, the stronger is the preferred orientation. The *T* parameter (Jelínek, 1981) indicates the symmetry of the AMS ellipsoid. It varies from -1 (perfectly linear magnetic fabric) through 0 (transition between linear and planar magnetic fabric) to +1 (perfectly planar magnetic fabric). The orientations of magnetic foliation poles and magnetic lineations are presented either in contour diagrams in the geographic (*in situ*) coordinate system or as locality means in a map.

4.1. Magnetic mineralogy

The mean bulk magnetic susceptibility is relatively homogeneous and low, ranging from 209×10^{-6} to 1050×10^{-6} [SI] (Fig. 6a). The magnetic minerals were investigated through measurement of the temperature variation of the bulk susceptibility on crushed specimens in the temperature intervals from -196 °C to 0 °C using the CS-L non-magnetic Cryostat apparatus and the KLY-4S Kappabridge apparatus and from room temperature to 700 °C using the CS-3 nonmagnetic Furnace apparatus and the KLY-4S Kappabridge apparatus. The specimens for this investigation were selected in order to represent the main rock types.

In all the specimens, the susceptibility vs. low temperature curves show hyperbolic shapes characteristic for paramagnetic minerals (Fig. 6b). After plotting the inverted susceptibility values against the temperature, the respective curves are represented by straight lines (Fig. 6c) with almost zero intercept at a temperature of absolute zero. These curves therefore indicate that the dominant susceptibility carriers are paramagnetic minerals and the magnetic fabric of the investigated rocks is therefore controlled by the preferred orientation of the paramagnetic minerals.

The susceptibility vs. high temperature curves exhibit hyperbolic shapes either over the entire temperature interval or with very small superimposed peaks in the vicinity of 560-570 °C (Fig. 6d).

The method developed by Hrouda (1994), based on mathematical resolution (by the least squares method) of the heating curves into paramagnetic hyperbola and ferromagnetic complex curves, enables determination of the contributions of the paramagnetic and ferromagnetic components to the bulk rock susceptibility. Using the above method, we estimate that the main AMS carriers are paramagnetic silicates (biotite and pyroxenes), even though the presence of small amounts of magnetite cannot be excluded. However, because this magnetite has not been recorded by the low temperature measurement, it is highly likely that it was created during heating.

4.2. Magnetic fabric of the pluton

In terms of orientation, we found multiple magnetic fabrics in the Jihlava pluton: (i) Magnetic foliations, which are parallel to pluton/host-rock contact regardless of the contact



Fig. 6. Diagrams showing main parameters of AMS. (a) Bulk susceptibility histogram of all samples. (b)–(d) Thermomagnetic curves of selected samples of the Jihlava syenitoids (the inset map shows locations of sampling sites): (b) Total susceptibility vs. low temperature curve. (c) Inverted total susceptibility vs. low temperature curve. (d) Total susceptibility vs. high temperature curve showing hyperbola with superposed magnetic curve.

orientation (Fig. 7). These foliations are moderately to steeply dipping and are associated with shallowly plunging magnetic lineations and oblate AMS ellipsoids. (ii) Magnetic foliations oblique to both the strike of the pluton and its margins (Fig. 7). These foliations dip steeply to moderately to the NNE or SSW and are associated with magnetic lineations which plunge to the NW or SE at moderate angles (Fig. 7). (iii) In local domains, some magnetic foliations strike NE–SW and dip steeply to moderately to the SE, and thus have orientations consistent with the host-rock metamorphic foliations and lineations, respectively.

The degree of AMS (represented by the *P* parameter, Fig. 8a,b) ranges from 1.008 to 1.183. In general, the *P* parameter increases slightly from the internal parts of the pluton towards the contact with the host rocks (Fig. 8a). Lower *P* values (P = 1.024 - 1.035) were obtained from the internal parts of the pluton, whereas higher *P* values (P = 1.056 - 1.085) are characteristic for domains along the pluton margins.

Susceptibility ellipsoids exhibit prolate to oblate character, the *T* parameter ranges from -0.948 to 0.919 (Fig. 8a,b).

5. Crystallographic preferred orientation of K-feldspar

We employed the electron back-scatter diffraction (EBSD; Prior et al., 1999) method to analyze the crystallographic preferred orientation of small K-feldspar phenocrysts (2-5 mm in size) in the syenitoid rocks. This method yields the orientation of the [001] and [010] and [110] crystallographic axes of the K-feldspar crystals with respect to the foliation plane in a thin section taken from oriented samples. The [010] axis directly yields the Z direction (i.e. direction perpendicular to the foliation plane) of the K-feldspar fabric ellipsoid. For this analysis, we used two drillcores previously measured for the AMS from two sampling sites (Kr 9 and Kr 30) located in the northern and central parts of the pluton. The analysis was carried out in thin sections oriented perpendicular to the magnetic foliation and parallel to the



Fig. 7. Maps and stereograms (lower hemisphere, equal area projection) of magnetic lineations and foliations in the Jihlava pluton. Magnetic lineations plunge to the NW or SE at moderate angles (note two maxima in stereogram of lineations). Moderately to steeply dipping magnetic foliations are parallel to pluton/host-rock contact or are steeply to moderately dipping to the NE or SSW (oblique to both the strike of the pluton and its margins).

magnetic lineation (XZ sections) established using the AMS method.

We measured 133 K-feldspar crystals in sample Kr 9 and 90 crystals in sample Kr 30. The results of the EBSD analysis are depicted in Fig. 9, where the crystallographic axes are plotted in stereograms on a lower hemisphere, equal-area projection. In both samples, the [010] crystallographic axes form two strong maxima close to the minimal magnetic susceptibility (k_3), i.e. are perpendicular to the magnetic foliation of the measured sample. The [001] and [110] axes, which are at high angles to the mineral lineation, form girdles around the *Z* direction with several subordinate maxima. Apparently, the crystallographic preferred orientation of K-feldspar phenocrysts in the two analyzed samples is consistent with the orientations of the paramagnetic silicates determined using the AMS method.

6. Discussion

The ultrapotassic melasyenitoid to melagranitoid plutons represent an intriguing magmatic event in the Variscan orogeny. These plutons are made up of geochemically very specific rocks resulting from mixing of crustal melts with melts derived from anomalous mantle sources (Holub, 1997), are widespread throughout the lower- to mid-crustal orogenic root (Moldanubian Unit) and their emplacement took place over a relatively short time span (343–335 Ma; Holub et al., 1997; Janoušek and Gerdes, 2003; Kotková et al. 2003). Recent petrological and geochemical studies established that the ultrapotassic magmatism was associated with thinning of the lithosphere, upwelling of the upper mantle and the exhumation of the originally thickened crust (Schaltegger, 1997; Janoušek and Holub, in press). However, it is only generally assumed that the emplacement of these plutons "was controlled" by extensional tectonics.

As yet, no studies have focused in detail on the emplacement processes, internal fabrics, and tectonic setting of these ultrapotassic plutons. The importance of examining structures in and around these plutons arises when taking into account that the role of extensional tectonics during pluton emplacement may be generally problematic and that the material transfer processes may be highly spatially and temporally variable even within a single pluton (see Paterson and Fowler, 1993b; Paterson and Schmidt 1999 for discussion). In this section,



Fig. 8. (a) Map of the average values of P and T parameters at each sampling site in the Jihlava pluton. (b) Magnetic anisotropy P-T plot for all analyzed specimens from the Jihlava pluton.

we carefully evaluate the emplacement and formation of magmatic fabrics in the Jihlava pluton and discuss the more general implications for the exhumation of the orogenic root domain (represented here by the Moldanubian Unit).

6.1. Emplacement of the Jihlava pluton

At the present-day exposure level, the pluton crops out within a wide \sim NE-SW trending zone of distributed wrench-dominated transtension associated with the dextral shearing and NW-side-up kinematics. This wide zone may have controlled the pluton geometry, as is suggested by its prominent sigmoidal shape parallel to the sigmoidal foliation pattern of the host-rock foliations (Fig. 3). After the emplacement and cooling of the syenitoid rocks, the originally wide transtensional zone became more localized at the NW tip of the pluton and was also later reactivated at upper-crustal levels (Přibyslav mylonite zone; PMZ in Fig. 3). However, the extent of host-rock displacement along the transtensional zone and its role as a near-field material transfer process during pluton emplacement are difficult to evaluate, as our structural data indicate that multiple material transfer processes (i.e. MTPs of Paterson and Fowler, 1993a) accommodated the emplacement of the syenitoid rocks. Below we demonstrate that the evidence for various MTPs has been preserved in different parts of the pluton and its host rocks:

- (i) Ductile host-rock shortening (and possible minor lateral expansion of the pluton) within structural aureoles, marked by oblate strains, reorientation of older structures into parallelism with pluton margins and extensive partial melting, is recorded by the Moldanubian gneisses and migmatites along the eastern margin and the southern tip of the pluton (Fig. 2). The width of the deformed zones (structural aureoles) ranges from a hundred meters along the eastern margin up to one kilometer in migmatites at the southern tip of the pluton.
- (ii) Sub-vertical sheeted zones preserved in the eastern and northern parts of the pluton (Fig. 2) suggest that some domains along pluton margins were constructed through sheeting, i.e. the emplacement of multiple magmatic sheets presumably by a magma wedging mechanism (i.e. by cracking and downward or lateral displacement of the host rock to form sheet-like bodies; Weinberg, 1999).



KR 9 Equal area projection (K-feldspar)

Fig. 9. The results of the EBSD analysis are plotted in stereograms on lower hemisphere, equal-area projection. In both samples the [010] crystallographic axes form two strong maxima close to the minimal magnetic susceptibility (k_3), the [001] and [110] axes form girdles around the Z direction with several subordinate maxima.

- (iii) Two lines of evidence indicate that magmatic stoping, i.e. thermal cracking and downward transport of blocks of the host rocks into the magma, was an important emplacement process during the final stages of the pluton construction. First, abundant up to kilometer-sized stoped blocks are preserved in the pluton (Fig. 2). Second, sharp intrusive contacts, which cut off older host-rock structures and show no evidence for faulting, imply that some material must have been transferred vertically (i.e. downward into the pluton) out of the present-day exposure level.
- (iv) At the western margin of the pluton, the sheeted zone and the syenitoids adjacent to the contact were affected by a margin-perpendicular contraction that is not recorded in the pluton host rocks (Fig. 4g). We assume that the partially crystallized outer carapace, constructed by sheeting or by magmatic stoping, was subsequently affected by the contraction due to the emplacement of the inner magma pulses pushing against more rigid edges of the pluton.

The high variability of the emplacement processes within a relatively small ($\sim 60 \text{ km}^2$) Jihlava pluton, as well as our preliminary data from other similar ultrapotassic plutons in the Moldanubian Unit, all indicate that MTPs during emplacement of these plutons were highly spatially and temporally variable. Therefore, we emphasize that the emplacement of the ultrapotassic plutons during the later stages of the Variscan orogeny cannot be explained by simple models and that these plutons may have rather complex intrusive and emplacement histories.

6.2. Interpretation of the fabric pattern

Our combined structural and AMS study revealed a complex fabric pattern and fabric gradients in the Jihlava pluton. The complexity is represented by the presence of the two pluton-wide magmatic foliations (one margin-parallel and one cross-cutting, \sim ENE–WSW, i.e. at high angles to the margin) and by the AMS data which indicate several important trends (Figs. 7, 8): (i) margin-parallel magnetic foliations are associated with sub-horizontal magnetic lineations, a higher degree of anisotropy and oblate shapes of the AMS ellipsoid; (ii) discordant ~ENE-WSW magnetic foliations are associated with steeper magnetic lineations (40 -50° plunge) and a lower degree of anisotropy. In the stereogram in Fig. 7, magnetic lineations form two prominent maxima, i.e. plunge at moderate angles to the SSE and NNW. The NNW plunging magnetic lineations are particularly intriguing in that they are "antithetic" to the general orientation of the transtensional zone and are not consistent with lineations elsewhere in the pluton or in the country rocks.

Our interpretation of the complex fabric pattern in the Jihlava pluton is as follows: (i) The margin-parallel magmatic (and magnetic) foliations seem to be decoupled from the regional deformation as they are always parallel to the pluton/ host-rock contact regardless of the contact orientation (Figs. 3, 7). Similarly, the \sim ENE-WSW steep foliations (bearing magnetic lineations moderately plunging to the \sim NW) in the inner part of the pluton are oblique to both the outer contacts and the general strike of the pluton and are also decoupled from the metamorphic foliations in the Moldanubian host rocks. Such orientation is also not compatible with the regional dextral NW-side-up transtension. Hence, the formation of these foliations and lineations likely resulted from strain during internal magmatic (intrusive) processes (Paterson et al., 1998). In the case of the margin-parallel foliations, however, it is problematic to attribute the formation of these fabrics to some particular mechanism, as several processes may cause the margin-parallel mineral alignment (e.g., magma chamber expansion, convection, emplacement of an inner magma pulse, refraction of stress in a crystallizing chamber, and internal flow along the chamber walls; Paterson et al., 1998). Moreover, where the pluton margin is oriented parallel to the regional foliation, it is impossible to separate the fabric formed by internal processes (e.g., margin parallel flow during emplacement) from that formed by regional tectonic strain, or to separate the contribution of the two components to the final (composite) fabric.

The formation of the ~ENE-WSW foliations and ~NW trending lineations in the Jihlava pluton is also somewhat problematic. These foliations and lineations do not occur anywhere in the Moldanubian host rocks and thus they may have also resulted from some internal chamber processes. Interestingly, their intriguing ~ENE-WSW orientation corresponds to the orientation of local tensional domains within the ~NE-SW trending zone of dextral regional transtension. Therefore, we suspect that these foliations and lineations recorded strain resulting from the emplacement of multiple magma batches during the construction of the inner parts of the pluton. In such a case, if the individual magma batches were elongated ~ENE-WSW, their successive emplacement would produce shortening perpendicular to their margins (i.e. ~WNW-ESE) and thus the foliation pattern described above.

(ii) In contrast to the above, the SSE plunging magnetic lineations and also some of the magmatic (and magnetic) foliations, i.e. those with NE–SW orientation, are consistent with the stretching lineations and metamorphic foliations, respectively, that formed during the regional dextral transtension in the Moldanubian host rocks. Therefore, the formation of these magmatic and magnetic foliations and SSE plunging magnetic lineations can be interpreted as recording the increment of the regional tectonic strain within a zone of distributed transtension during a late stage of pluton cooling, superimposed on intrusive fabrics related to the pluton construction.

6.3. Implications for processes in orogenic root domain

It has been shown that a major mechanical event associated with a rapid exhumation of high-grade rocks (within a few million years) took place in the Central European Variscides at approximately ~ 340 Ma (Willner et al., 2002 and references therein). Given the short time span ($\sim 343-335$ Ma) of emplacement of the ultrapotassic plutons, which overlaps this exhumation event, and their widespread occurrence (Fig. 1b) we suggest that careful determination of the temporal and geometrical relationships of structures in and around these plutons could provide some constraints for the kinematic framework, timing and local exhumation histories within the orogenic root.

The present study complemented by our other data sets (Žák et al., 2005; K. Verner, unpublished data) could support this hypothesis and also shed some light on the as yet poorly understood tectonic setting and emplacement mechanisms of the ultrapotassic plutons in the Central European Variscides (cf. Schaltegger, 1994; Schaltegger, 1997; Wenzel et al., 1997; Janoušek and Holub, in press). We demonstrate that, in spite of the similar age and geochemical characteristics of these plutons, the kinematic setting, and material transfer processes during emplacement (MTPs of Paterson and Fowler, 1993a) vary not only from one pluton to another, but also within a single pluton.

For example, from the west to the east (see Fig. 1b for locations of plutons), our recent research indicates that the deepseated durbachitic ~340 Ma Knížecí Stolec pluton (KSP in Fig. 1b) was initially emplaced via multiple cone-sheets followed by nested intrusion of large magma pulse(s) into the center of the outer cone-sheet-bearing ring complex. Verner et al. (2004) also interpreted the magmatic fabrics in this pluton as a record of intrusive strain overprinted by increments of nearly sub-vertical regional contraction in the southwestern part of the Moldanubian Unit. Holub (1997) also reported cases where durbachitic magmas of the Mehelník pluton (MEP in Fig. 1b) intruded LP-HT migmatites and were mingled with anatectic melts which were probably formed at low pressures $\sim 3-4$ kbar (Petrakakis, 1997; Pitra et al., 1999). In the Central Bohemian Plutonic Complex (MP in Fig. 1b), we concluded that the \sim 340–343 Ma Milevsko pluton was presumably emplaced by floor downdrop at upper crustal levels during normal, SE-side-up exhumation of the northwestern flank of the Moldanubian Unit (Žák et al., 2005). In contrast, the nearby \sim 337 Ma Tábor pluton (TP in Fig. 1b), compositionally similar to the Jihlava pluton, intruded after the exhumation of this segment of the Moldanubian Unit. In this study, we have shown that the emplacement of the \sim 335 Ma sigmoidal-shaped Jihlava pluton (JP in Fig. 1b) by multiple processes in the middle crust of the eastern segment of the Moldanubian Unit was broadly synchronous with the dextral, NW-side-up wrench-dominated transtension that overprints the formation of the regional flat-lying foliation. This wide transtensional zone continues further to the SSW where it was intruded by the ultrapotassic \sim 338 Ma Rastenberg pluton (Klötzli and Parrish, 1996; RP in Fig. 1b). The Rastenberg pluton also has an asymmetric sigmoidal shape similar to that of the Jihlava pluton and, in addition, shows magmatic fabrics probably related to the transtensional zone (K. Verner, unpublished data).

The above examples illustrate how careful structural analysis of these ultrapotassic syenitoid plutons complemented with precise radiometric data may place important constraints on the kinematic framework and timing of tectonic processes in different segments within the orogenic root domain. These plutons thus may possibly track the differential exhumation paths during later stages of the Variscan orogeny. The synthesis of structural data from the remaining ultrapotassic plutons in the Moldanubian Unit as well as discussion of its broader tectonic implications for the Central European Variscides is the focus of our ongoing research.

7. Conclusions

We have drawn the following conclusions:

- 1. Multiple material transfer processes (MTPs) accommodated emplacement of the sigmoidal $\sim 60 \text{ km}^2$ Jihlava syenitoid pluton. The evidence for various MTPs, which has been recorded in different parts of the pluton and its host rocks, includes ductile host-rock shortening (and possible minor expansion), formation of sheeted zones by magma wedging, magmatic stoping, and possibly hostrock displacement within the wide wrench-dominated transtensional zone.
- 2. Our combined structural and AMS study revealed a complex fabric pattern and fabric gradients in the ~335 Ma Jihlava pluton. The margin-parallel foliations and ~E-NE-WSW steep foliations bearing NW trending magnetic lineations probably recorded intrusive strain during emplacement of inner magma pulses, but were overprinted by regional magmatic foliations and SSE plunging lineations. The latter magmatic fabric is interpreted as recording increments of regional tectonic strain within a zone of distributed transtension during a late stage of pluton cooling.
- 3. Our data show that the Jihlava pluton was emplaced in the middle crust of the eastern part of the Moldanubian Unit during dextral regional transtension. The emplacement took place within a wide transtensional zone that overprints formation of the flat-lying regional foliation and is associated with the dextral NW-side-up kinematics. We interpret that this transtensional zone accommodated exhumation of different segments in the eastern part of the Moldanubian Unit during pluton emplacement at ~335 Ma.
- 4. Based on our study of the Jihlava pluton and also of other ultrapotassic plutons in the Moldanubian Unit, we have demonstrated that these ultrapotassic plutons are structurally complex bodies emplaced by multiple intrusive processes. As exemplified by the present paper, careful determination of temporal and geometrical relationships of structures in and around these ultrapotassic plutons can provide important constraints for the kinematic framework, local exhumation histories and timing of tectonic processes in different segments of the orogenic root during and after the ~340 Ma major mechanical event in the Variscan orogenic belt.

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