


# U-Pb LA-ICP-MS GEOCHRONOLOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY OF JURASSIC VOLCANIC AND PLUTONIC ROCKS FROM THE PUTUMAYO REGION (SOUTHERN COLOMBIA): TECTONIC SETTING AND REGIONAL CORRELATIONS

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## ABSTRACT

New field data, geochemical analyses and zircon U-Pb LA-ICP MS data were obtained on plutonic and volcanic rocks of the Mocoa Batholith and Saldaña Formation in southern Colombia Putumayo region. Results suggest that the plutonic and volcanic activities are closely related to a common magmatic history. This volcano-plutonic association presents a well-defined LILE and LREE enrichment and negative Nb and Ti negative anomalies characteristic of continental magmatic arcs. Volcanic and plutonic rocks crystallized between 180-186 Ma as revealed by U-Pb zircon geochronology. The magmatic activity is temporally and chemically correlatable with other magmatic arc exposures in Colombia and Ecuador. These units may represent the remnants of a single belt which includes several units from 4°N in Colombia and 5°S in Ecuador. This arc is related to the widespread Jurassic continental magmatic arc setting that characterized the continental margins of the Americas after Pangea break-up.

**Keywords:** Jurassic, continental arc, geochronology, geochemistry.

## GEOQUIMICA Y GEOCRONOLOGIA U-Pb LA-ICP-MS DE UNIDADES VOLCÁNICAS Y PLUTÓNICAS DEL JURÁSICO EN LA REGIÓN DEL PUTUMAYO (SUR DE COLOMBIA): IMPLICACIONES TECTONICAS Y CORRELACIONES REGIONALES

## RESUMEN

Nuevos datos de campo, análisis geoquímicos y U-Pb LA-ICP MS en circón fueron obtenidos en rocas plutónicas y volcánicas en el Batolito de Mocoa y la Formación Saldaña, en el departamento de Putumayo en el sur de Colombia. Los resultados sugieren que el volcanismo y plutonismo que compartieron la misma historia de evolución magmática. Esta asociación vulcano-plutónica muestra enriquecimientos de LILE y LREE acompañado de anomalías negativas de Nb y Ti característico de arcos continentales. Rocas volcánicas y plutónicas de este arco continental cristalizaron entre 180 y 186 Ma como lo indica la geocronología U-Pb en circón. La actividad magmática esta temporal y geoquímicamente correlacionada con otro arco magmático expuesto en Colombia y Ecuador. Estas unidades pueden representar los remanentes de un solo cinturón que incluye varias unidades entre los 4°N en Colombia y 5°S en Ecuador. Este arco está relacionado a un cinturón magmático Jurásico fragmentado, que caracterizo las márgenes continentales de las Américas luego de la ruptura del súper continente Pangea.

**Palabras clave:** Jurásico, arco continental, geocronología, geoquímica.

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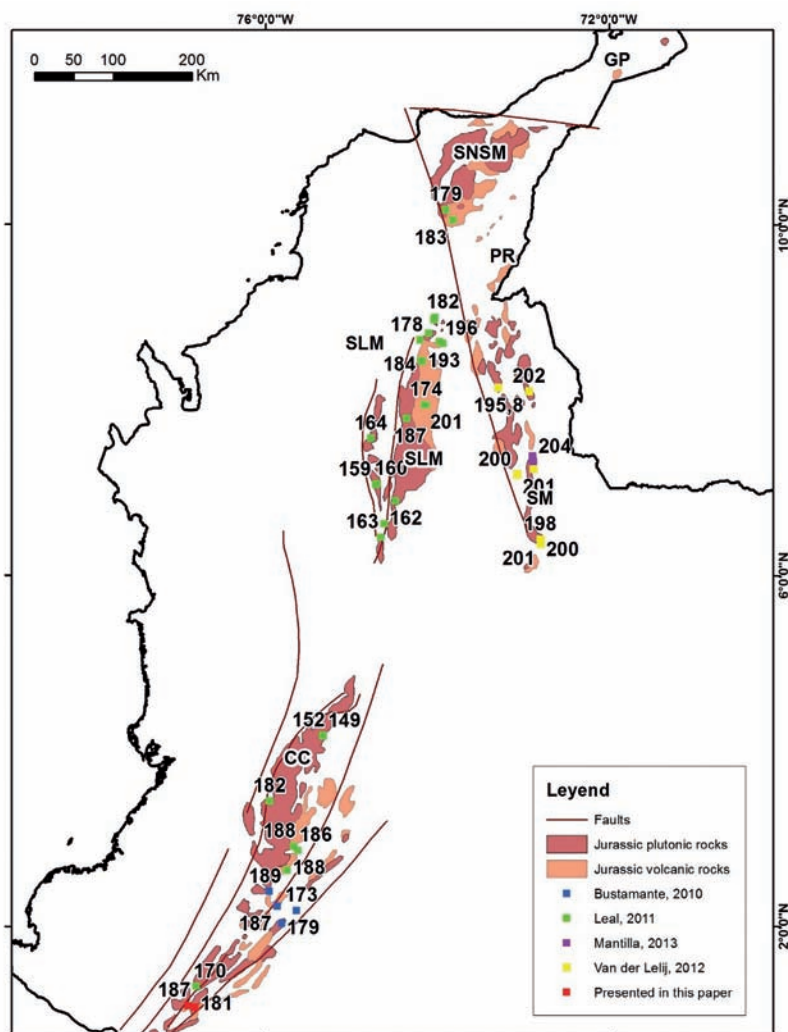
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## INTRODUCTION

Jurassic magmatism is one of the most extensively exposed igneous record in the Colombian Andes (FIGURE 1). It includes different volcanic sequences and batholith bodies limited as fault bounded blocks along most of the Eastern Andes (Aspden *et al.*, 1987). Different tectonic environments have been proposed to explain this major Jurassic province in the Northern Andes: (1) continental arc magmatism associated to back-arc basin formation (Aspden *et al.*, 1987; Bustamante *et al.*, 2010; Pindell and Tabbutt, 1995; Sarmiento *et al.*, 2006; Spikings *et al.*, 2014; Van der Lelij *et al.*, 2015); (2) rift related setting associated with the Pangea breaking and the development of Proto-Caribbean sea between North and South America (Cediel *et al.*, 2000; Cediel *et al.*, 2003; Jaillard *et al.*,

1990). A major difficulty for the understanding of this tectonic scenario is the existence of late Mesozoic and early Cenozoic terrain translation along the Jurassic continental margin, which modified the latitudinal position of the Jurassic magmatic domains (Bayona, *et al.*, 2006).

In this contribution we present new U-Pb LA-ICP-MS zircon geochronology data and geochemistry reconnaissance from the Mocoa Batholith and Saldaña Formation in southern Colombia. The new results confirm the existence of a Middle Jurassic basaltic to rhyolitic arc magmatism, where volcanic and plutonic activity was genetically related. The results can be correlated with the evolution of other Jurassic segments of the Colombian Andes.



**FIGURE 1.** Jurassic magmatic rocks from the Colombian Andes and study area location. SNSM: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta; GP: Guajira Peninsula; PR: Perijá Range; SLM: Serranía de San Lucas Massif; SM: Santander Massif and CC.: Central Cordillera. The dots represent other correlationable U-Pb Jurassic ages.

## GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The northwestern margin of South America is composed of different structural blocks bounded by major regional faults. This structural complexity reflects several episodes of Mezo-Cenozoic oceanic terrane accretion, continental arc growth and strike translation of para-autochthonous continental terranes (Bayona *et al.*, 2006; Bayona *et al.*, 2010; Escalona and Mann, 2010; Montes *et al.*, 2010; Pindell *et al.*, 1998; Pindell *et al.*, 2005; Spikings *et al.*, 2014; Spikings *et al.*, 2005; Toussaint and Restrepo, 1996; Villagómez *et al.*, 2011; Villagómez and Spikings, 2013).

In Colombia, the northern Andes include three main ranges composed by different litho-stratigraphic units (FIGURE 1). The Western Cordillera comprises allochthonous sequences of mafic volcanic rocks formed in island arc and plateau tectonic setting, with associated Upper Cretaceous marine sediments (Álvarez, 1979; Kerr *et al.*, 1996; Toussaint and Restrepo, 1996; Villagómez *et al.*, 2011). The Central Cordillera comprises a poly-metamorphic basement of probably Devonian and Permo-Triassic ages (Ordóñez-Carmona and Pimentel, 2002; Spikings *et al.*, 2014; Toussaint and Restrepo, 1996; Villagómez and Spikings, 2013; Villagómez *et al.*, 2011; Vinasco *et al.*, 2006).

The Eastern Cordillera comprises an early Paleozoic basement covered by Paleozoic sediments and meta-sedimentary strata, as well as Mesozoic marine sediments deposited in extensional basins, which were inverted in the late Miocene (Mora *et al.*, 2009; Taboada *et al.*, 2000). Precambrian rocks are common both at the eastern flank of the Central Cordillera or as part of isolated massifs in the Eastern Andes.

All these tectono-stratigraphic domains are intruded and covered by Paleozoic to Cenozoic plutonic and volcanic rocks. The spatial and temporal distribution of this magmatic activity has been related to major changes on plate convergence configuration and/or the episodes of terrane accretion (Aspden *et al.*, 1987; Restrepo and Toussaint, 1991).

Jurassic magmatism is more extensively distributed in the Eastern and Central Cordillera of the Colombian Andes as well as in the Upper Magdalena Valley. Based on its spatial distribution it can be separated in three geographic provinces (FIGURE 1):

(1) Isolated and fault bounded massifs that include the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Perijá Range and Guajira Peninsula (Cardona *et al.*, 2006; MacDonald, 1964; Tschanz *et al.*, 1974).

(2) An Eastern Andes province that includes Early Jurassic magmatism in the Santander and San Lucas Massif and the northern termination of the Central Cordillera (Goldsmith *et al.*, 1971; Mantilla *et al.*, 2013; Van der Lelij *et al.*, 2015).

(3) A continuous southern Jurassic belt exposed in the Central Cordillera, Upper Magdalena basin and Garzón Massif that extends to the south to the Putumayo region (Bayona, 1994; Bustamante *et al.*, 2010; Chiaradia *et al.*, 2009; Sillitoe *et al.*, 1982; Villagómez *et al.*, 2011).

Regional paleogeographic models, stratigraphic considerations or scarce geochemical data have been commonly used to propose two different tectonic environments: (1) a continental volcanic arc related with the Pacific subduction (Boschman, *et al.*, 2014; Bustamante *et al.*, 2010; McCourt *et al.*, 1984; Meschede and Frisch, 1998; Pindell and Tabbutt, 1995; Pindell and Erikson, 1993; Spikings *et al.*, 2014; Toussaint, 1995), (2) an intracontinental extensional rifting that can be associated to the breakup of Pangea in the Triassic and Early Jurassic (Cediel *et al.*, 2003; Cochrane *et al.*, 2014; Pindell and Dewey, 1982; Ross and Scotese, 1988).

As already mentioned, the limited precise chronological and compositional database of the Jurassic magmatic rocks has precluded a precise analysis of this magmatism in southern Colombia.

## REGIONAL GEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN COLOMBIA AND STRATIGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JURASSIC MAGMATIC UNITS

The Andean Cordillera in southern Colombia merges as a single chain to form the Colombian Massif before splitting in the Central and the Eastern Cordillera. The older rocks in this massif include the gneissic basement of the Cocha - Río Tellez Complex and associated meta-sedimentary rocks considered Precambrian and Paleozoic in age (Murcia and Cepeda, 1983; Ponce, 1979). This basement is covered and intruded by Jurassic volcano-sedimentary and plutonic rocks of the Saldaña Formation and the Mocoa batholiths. The basement is unconformably overlain by Early and Late Cretaceous marine strata represented by the Caballos, Villeta and Rumiyo Formations (Amaya y Centenaro, 1997), followed by the continental Pepinos Formation and a widespread Neogene volcanic cover (Mora *et al.*, 1998; Murcia and Pichler, 1987).

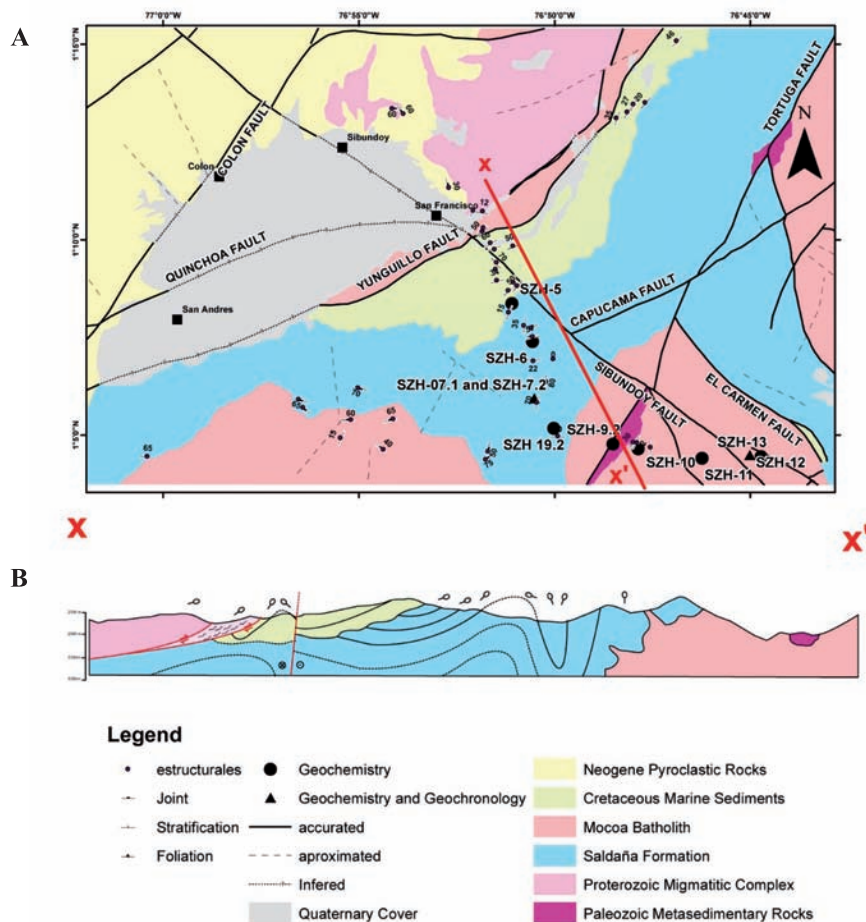
## Saldaña Formation

Regional studies have correlated volcanic and pyroclastic rocks exposed in southern Colombia along the Putumayo, Caquetá and Mocoa rivers, with the Saldaña Formation of the Upper Magdalena Valley and the Huila area (Ayala *et al.*, 2012; Bayona, 1994; Marquínez and Velandía, 2001).

In southern Colombia this volcano-sedimentary formation is exposed in the high topographic altitudes of the Caqueta, Putumayo and Mocoa rivers. It is exposed along three SW-NE belts (FIGURE 2). It includes volcanic and porphyritic rocks ranging from basaltic to rhyolitic composition, crystalline and vitreous andesitic to rhyolitic tuffs, agglomerates and ignimbrites. Several

tuffaceous sandstones composed by quartz and feldspar crystals and volcanic rock fragments are intercalated with the volcanic rocks.

The Saldaña Formation presents faulted and depositional contacts with Cretaceous marine sediments and intrusive relations with the Mocoa Batholith (FIGURE 2B). Published age constraints from the Saldaña Formation came from paleontological results in the Upper Magdalena Valley, which is located to the north of the study area. They include Late Triassic to Early Jurassic depositional ages (Widemann and Mojica, 1980). No previous absolute geochronological data have been reported for the volcanic rocks of the Saldaña Formation in the Putumayo region.



**FIGURE 2.** A. Geologic map of the studied area including samples location. Modified from Núñez (2003). B. Geological cross section from the studied area.

## Mocoa Batholith

The Mocoa Batholith extends from the Ecuadorian border towards northern Putumayo in Colombia. This unit is exposed as a series of segmented SW-NW elongated

bodies. It is composed of monzogranites with minor syenogranites, granodiorites and quartzmonzonites. Porphyritic facies with similar compositions are exposed at the borders of the body.



Whole rock and biotite K-Ar ages in the Mocoa Batholith yielded ages between 170 Ma and 210 Ma, whereas feldspar and sericite ages between 136 Ma and 166 Ma (Jaramillo *et al.*, 1980; Sillitoe *et al.*, 1982). Although calculated ages may reflect cooling, mineralization events or argon loss, the K-Ar method not assess accurately the age of this unit (McDougall and Harrison, 1999).

## METHODS

### Whole rock geochemistry

Bulk whole rock chemical composition of 10 samples was determined by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) at Acme Analytical Laboratories Ltd. in Vancouver, Canada. A 0.2 g aliquot is weighed into a graphite crucible and mixed with 1.5 g of LiBO<sub>2</sub> flux. The crucibles are placed in and heated to 1050° C for 15 minutes. The molten sample is dissolved in 5% HNO<sub>3</sub>. Calibration standards and reagent blanks are added to the sample sequence. Sample solutions are aspirated into an ICP emission spectrograph (Jarrel Ash Atom Comb 975) for determining major oxides and certain trace elements (Ba, Nb, Ni, Sr, Sc, Y and Zr), while the sample solutions are aspirated into an ICP-MS (Perkin-Elmer Elan 6000) for determination of the trace elements, including rare earth elements.

### U-Pb LA-ICPMS

Heavy mineral concentrates of the <350µ fraction were crushed, sieved and hydraulically separated. Subsequent magnetic and heavy liquid separation with methylene iodide was used to concentrate zircons. Inclusion-free zircons from the non-magnetic fraction were then hand-picked under a binocular microscope. Thirty four and twenty one zircons of the samples SZH 12.1 and SZH 7.2, respectively, were mounted in epoxy and polished to half thickness for laser ablation analysis using laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry. All LA-ICP-MS U-Pb analyses were conducted at Washington State University using a New Wave Nd:YAG UV 213-nm laser coupled to a Thermo Finnigan Element 2 single collector, double-focusing, magnetic sector ICP-MS. He and Ar carrier gases delivered the sample aerosol to the plasma. Operating procedures and parameters are discussed in greater depth by (Chang *et al.*, 2006) and are only briefly outlined here. Each analysis takes approximately 35 seconds, it consisted of a short blank analysis followed by 300 sweeps through masses 204, 206, 207, 208, 232, 235, and 238, with a repetition rate of 10 Hz, and a spot size of 30 µm.

LA-ICP-MS isotopic analyses are affected by two forms of inter-element fractionation that must be corrected (Kosler and Sylvester, 2003). Time-dependent fractionation results from the more efficient volatilization of Pb over U as the laser excavates successively deeper levels in the ablation pit during an analysis, which in turn leads to an increase in 206Pb/238U and 207Pb/235U ratios with time (Eggins *et al.*, 1998). It has been demonstrated that U/Pb fractionation is approximately linear over the short time of the analysis (Kosler and Sylvester, 2003). By definition, time-dependent fractionation is zero at the beginning of the analysis. Regression of time series data to the intercept at  $t = 0$ , therefore, yields the point at which time-dependent fractionation equals zero. We used two zircon standards: Peixe, with an age of 564 Ma (Dickinson and Gehrels, 2003), and FC-1, with an age of 1099 Ma (Paces and Miller, 1993). Peixe was used to correct the 238U/206Pb and 235U/207Pb ratios and FC-1 was used to correct the 207Pb/206Pb ratios.

Time-independent (or static) fractionation is the largest source of uncertainty in LA-ICP-MS U-Pb geochronology and results from mass and elemental static fractionation in the plasma and also poorly understood laser-matrix effects (Kosler and Sylvester, 2003). It is corrected by normalizing U/Pb and Pb/Pb ratios of the unknowns to the zircon standards (Chang *et al.*, 2006; Shuster and Farley, 2009).

Common Pb can represent a proportionally large contribution to the total Pb in Mesozoic and younger U-poor zircons. However, common Pb is typically not significant in LA-ICP-MS analyses, most likely because it is concentrated in cracks and inclusions, which can be avoided. When this is not possible, the influence of common Pb is easy to recognize on Tera-Wasserburg diagrams because analyses tend to line up on a steep linear trajectory that can be anchored at a reasonable 207Pb/206Pb common lead composition ( $y$ -intercept) (DeGraaff-Surplus *et al.*, 2002). Common Pb corrections were made on these analyses using the 207Pb methods (Williams, 1998). Uranium-lead data were reduced using Isoplot (Ludwig, 2007). The ages that we report are followed by two uncertainties: the first is derived from the concordant or intercept age calculation alone, and the second represents our systematic uncertainty during that session, with the error from the standards quadratically added to the analytical error.

## RESULTS

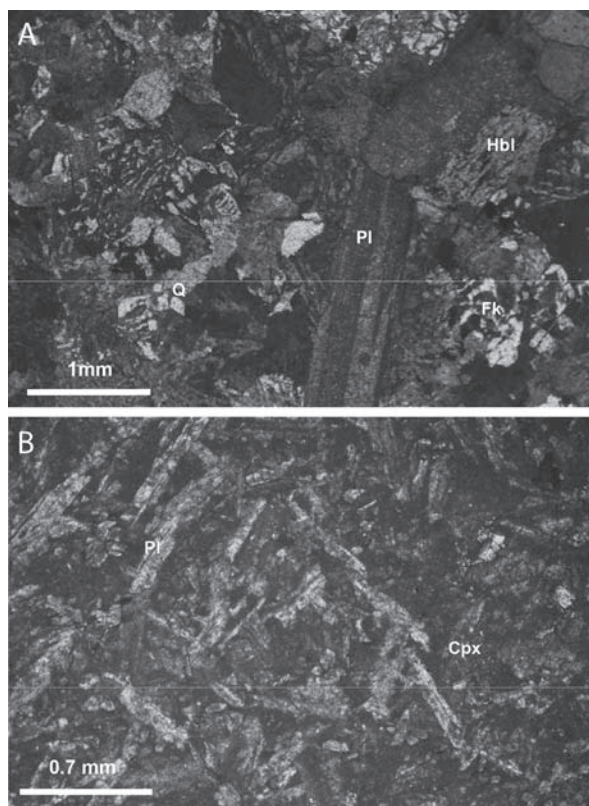
### Petrography

The SW-NE cross section (FIGURE 2) includes an intercalation of gneisses and biotite schist from the Paleozoic La Cocha - Río Tellez complex. These gneisses are overthrust by Jurassic mylonitized hornblende-biotite quartzfeldspathic rocks oriented N-S and dipping 50° to the east. These mylonitized granitoids may have Jurassic plutonic protoliths. Thin sections present an irregular foliation defined by chlorite formation after amphibole separated by undulatory quartz and mantle and core structures of the plagioclase. These observations indicate at least greenschist facies deformation.

This mylonitized plutonic remnant is also overthrusting Cretaceous sedimentary rocks of the Caballos Formation. The Cretaceous rocks include an intercalation of folded lutites and well sorted quartz sandstones that unconformably overlies the Saldaña Formation to the east (FIGURE 2). The Saldaña Formation is made of an intercalation of volcanic lavas and tuffs dipping between 40-90° to the northwest and the southeast.

Within the easternmost segment of the profile, the Mocoa Batholith and associated dikes that intrude the Saldaña Formation are exposed (FIGURE 2B). The Mocoa Batholith includes diorites, granodiorites, granites and porphyritic dikes. Samples contain hornblende (20-50%), plagioclase (30-60%), K-feldspar (15-30%) with variable quartz (5-40%) and minor zircon, apatite, biotite and muscovite. The porphyritic facies include a micro-crystalline matrix (>60%) composed by quartz and plagioclase with amphibole, plagioclase and feldspar crystals. Both quartz and K-feldspar are present as a late crystallization phase, as suggested by the more anhedral and intercrystal distribution. An overimposed alteration is indicated by the presence of sericite, opaques and carbonates replacing the preexisting minerals (FIGURE 3A).

Petrographic analysis from the Saldaña Formation indicates the presence of fine-grain basalts composed of clinopyroxene, plagioclase and opaque minerals with minor olivine, orthopyroxene and epidote (FIGURE 3B). Intermediate andesitic volcanic rocks include amphibole, quartz and plagioclase as well as a lack of olivine. Clinopyroxene crystals are more euhedral and seems to be early crystallization phase, a feature that may be a consequence of the presence of water that commonly suppressed the early crystallization of plagioclase in wet arc magmas (Sisson and Grove, 1993).



**FIGURE 3.** A. Polarized light images from a Mocoa Batholith granite, exsolution textures in K-feldspars; B. Polarized light image from Saldaña Formation. Cpx = Clinopyroxene, Pl= Plagioclase, Q= Quartz and Fk = K-feldspar.

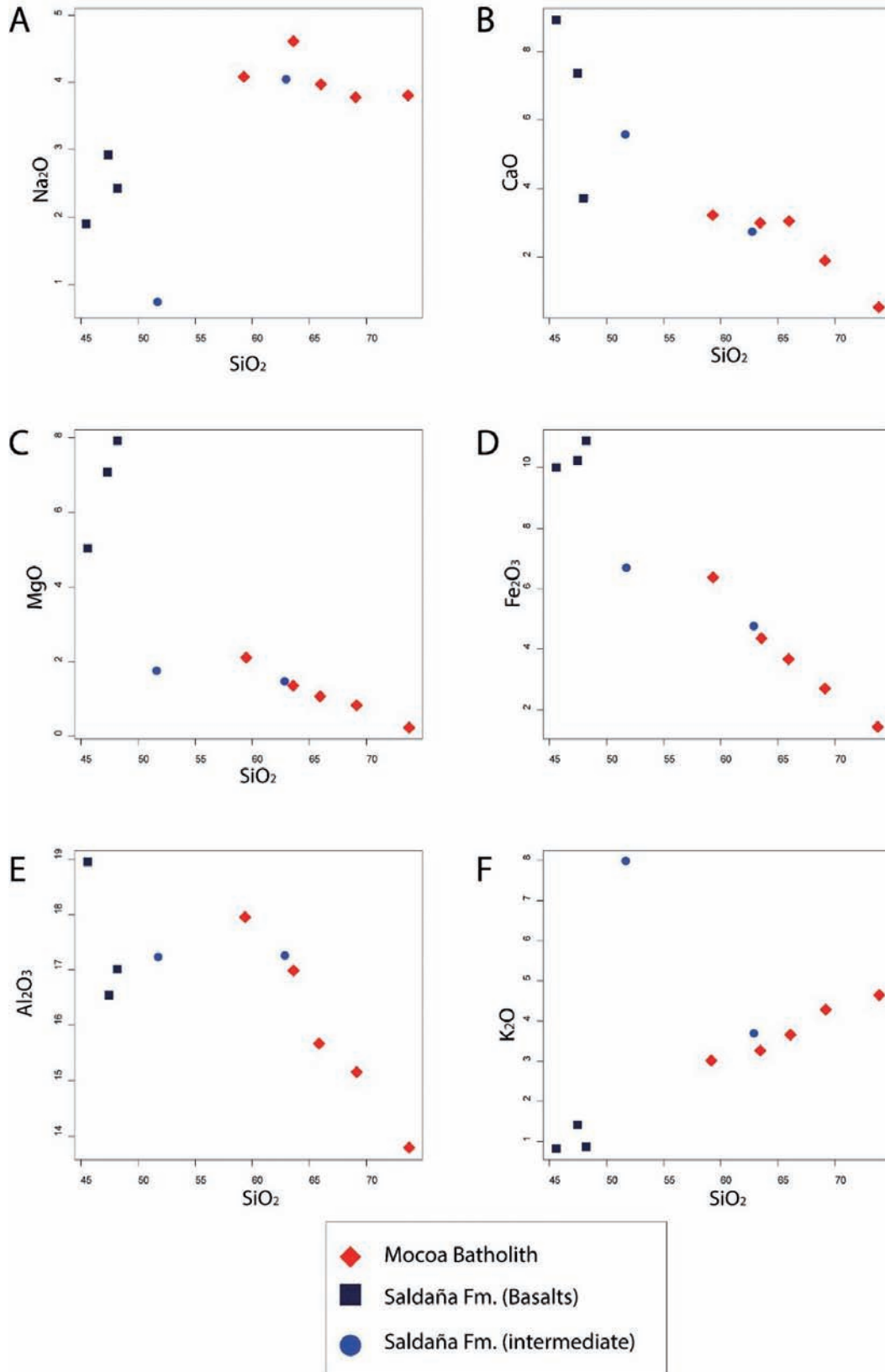
### Whole rock geochemistry

Ten samples were selected for major and trace element geochemistry, five from the Saldaña Formation and five from the Mocoa Batholith. Results are presented in supplementary TABLE 1. When compared in bi-variate diagrams, including SiO<sub>2</sub> vs CaO, K<sub>2</sub>O and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> follow a correlation trend, suggesting that the samples can be related to a similar magmatic evolution. The apparent lack of correlation in an intermediate samples and some dispersion in the basaltic samples may be related to hydrothermal alteration that have remobilized some of the major elements, as is also seen in high lost on ignition values (TABLE 1).

Within multi-elemental plots all samples show similar patterns of enrichment including high Pb values (FIGURE 4). All samples are grouped within the high-K series using the classification scheme of (Peccerillo and Taylor, 1976) (FIGURE 5A). Mg# values range between 34 and 58 that can be related to different degrees of crystal fractionation (FIGURE 5B).

TABLE 1. Geochemical data.

	SZH-6	SZH-19.2	SZH-5	SZH-7.1	SZH-7.2	SZH-10	SZH-9.2	SZH-11.1	SZH-12.1	SZH-13
<b>Wgt (%)</b>	<b>andesite</b>	<b>basalt</b>	<b>basalt</b>	<b>basalt</b>	<b>andesite</b>	<b>diorite</b>	<b>granite</b>	<b>granite</b>	<b>granite</b>	<b>granite</b>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	51.79	48.19	45.62	47.52	62.89	59.31	65.98	73.72	69.07	63.53
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	17.23	17.03	18.95	16.55	17.24	17.96	15.68	13.78	15.15	16.98
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	6.66	10.88	10	10.23	4.7	6.39	3.68	1.42	2.7	4.45
MgO	1.77	7.91	5.04	7.1	1.45	2.06	1.08	0.24	0.8	1.36
CaO	5.53	3.74	8.92	7.36	2.69	3.23	3.04	0.55	1.89	2.98
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.7	2.43	1.9	2.93	4.05	4.09	3.98	3.8	3.78	4.59
K <sub>2</sub> O	7.96	0.88	0.84	1.43	3.67	3.01	3.63	4.64	4.29	3.27
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.57	1.28	1.07	1.23	0.48	0.63	0.38	0.18	0.32	0.49
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.2	0.63	0.38	0.61	0.15	0.31	0.14	0.03	0.12	0.23
MnO	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.12	0.27	0.2	0.05	0.19	0.12
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.006	0.032	0.007	0.039	0.018	0.008	0.015	0.012	0.013	0.009
<b>ppm</b>										
Ni	206	218	98	186	539	317	539	406	510	355
Sc	12	24	25	23	9	9	6	2	4	8
LOI	7.2	6.5	6.8	4.4	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.7
<b>Sum</b>	<b>99.76</b>	<b>99.67</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.63</b>	<b>99.66</b>	<b>99.75</b>	<b>99.78</b>	<b>99.89</b>	<b>99.76</b>	<b>99.76</b>
Ba	1337	575	637	833	1692	1028	1168	819	1167	1007
Be	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	1	2	1	2
Co	11.3	39.6	28.8	33.8	9.9	9.5	5.2	1.3	5.2	5.8
Cs	4.6	0.1	3.2	0.8	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Ga	15.8	16.6	20.3	17.6	17.1	19.6	16.1	13.1	14.8	18.2
Hf	3.6	3.8	2.8	3.8	5.1	3.4	4.3	4.4	4	6.2
Nb	4.8	10.7	5	12	6.4	7.3	6.2	12.8	9.9	8.7
Rb	256.1	13	15.8	26.4	69.8	74.6	82.9	109.8	102.6	73
Sn	<1	1	<1	1	2	1	2	<1	1	1
Sr	139.5	460.1	637.9	754.6	732.7	584.9	425.4	129.7	425	581.2
Ta	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.5
Th	4.8	1.5	1.7	1.6	6.7	4.4	7.8	10.2	11.5	6.6
U	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.8	1.5	2.2	2.8	2.5	1.7
V	113	184	251	190	73	99	45	<8	36	60
W	3.6	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	<0.5
Zr	112.4	150.1	104.7	162.2	167.2	115.1	146.1	132.9	133.3	231.9
Y	17.9	25.8	22.1	26.7	18.2	25.6	15.8	13.2	17.4	24.5
La	22.8	26.7	21.2	31.6	25.2	29.2	26	30.5	36.9	35.8
Ce	43.3	60.7	47	69.1	48.3	57.1	48.6	53.4	68.3	73.4
Pr	5.1	7.71	6.12	8.91	5.6	7.12	5.33	5.75	7.01	8.72
Nd	20.9	33.8	25.9	37.3	22.2	28.5	19.6	18.6	24.3	34.3
Sm	3.89	6.13	5.08	6.78	3.74	5.34	3.12	2.78	3.83	5.53
Eu	1.12	1.83	1.57	2.02	1.06	1.4	0.83	0.55	0.9	1.2
Gd	3.55	5.7	4.83	6.17	3.4	4.86	2.85	2.06	3.24	4.53
Tb	0.55	0.84	0.73	0.89	0.53	0.76	0.44	0.34	0.51	0.74
Dy	3.17	4.58	4.11	4.94	3.19	4.16	2.62	1.99	2.83	4.02
Ho	0.64	0.93	0.77	0.93	0.64	0.85	0.55	0.43	0.61	0.83
Er	1.78	2.6	2.33	2.63	1.89	2.48	1.63	1.45	1.86	2.54
Tm	0.28	0.38	0.33	0.39	0.31	0.39	0.27	0.24	0.3	0.39
Yb	1.84	2.42	2	2.38	1.93	2.49	1.8	1.75	1.97	2.66
Lu	0.3	0.37	0.33	0.37	0.31	0.39	0.31	0.29	0.32	0.4
<b>Ctot</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Stot</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>	<b>&lt;0,02</b>
Mo	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.9	0.4	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.3
Cu	7.9	53.4	70	54	29	7.8	47.4	16.2	20.7	6.5
Pb	7	12.7	2.1	6.1	22.6	3.9	23.7	5	52.7	3.8
Zn	47	115	40	65	69	94	81	23	207	51
Ni	191.2	202.6	77.5	182.7	533.1	272.1	508	412.5	525.2	324.9
As	18.5	2	7.6	8.7	109.9	7.7	21.7	38.7	6.9	4.6
Cd	<0,1	0.2	0.1	<0,1	0.6	<0,1	0.3	<0,1	1.2	<0,1
Sb	1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	0.2	<0,1	0.1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1
Bi	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	0.2	<0,1
Ag	<0,1	0.1	<0,1	<0,1	0.2	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1
Au	0.6	1.5	6.4	0.8	139.8	<0,5	1.5	3.1	6.4	2.9
Hg	0.01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	0.02	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01	<0,01
Tl	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1	<0,1
Se	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5	<0,5



**FIGURE 4.** Harker diagrams. **A.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs Na<sub>2</sub>O; **B.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs CaO; **C.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs MgO; **D.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; **E.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; **F.** SiO<sub>2</sub> vs K<sub>2</sub>O.



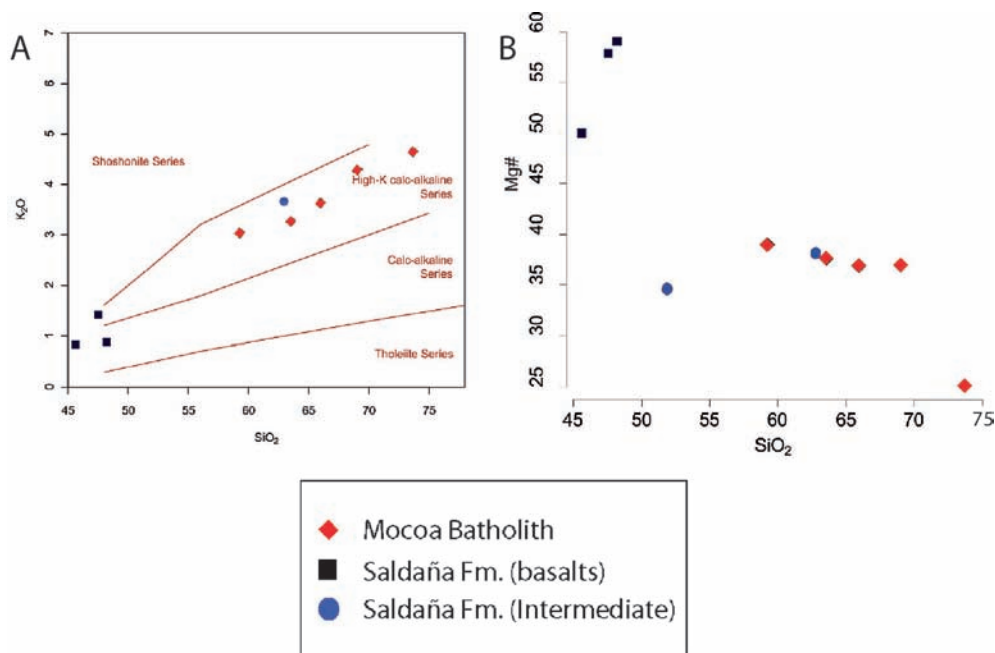


FIGURE 5. A. SiO<sub>2</sub> vs K<sub>2</sub>O of Peccerillo and Taylor (1976); B. SiO<sub>2</sub> vs Mg#

### Saldaña Formation

Samples from the Saldaña Formation are characterized by SiO<sub>2</sub> values between 45.6%-62.8%, with Na<sub>2</sub>O varying between 0.7% and 4.05% and K<sub>2</sub>O values between 0.84%-7.96%. MgO values lay between 1.95%-7.41%, whereas Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> also shows a considerable variation between 4.7-10.88. Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is less variable with values between 16.55%-18.95%. When compared against MgO, Ni and TiO<sub>2</sub> (not shown, TABLE 2) also follow a differentiation trend which is characteristic of crystal fractionation due to the accumulation of pyroxene and titanite.

Within the TAS diagram after (Bas *et al.*, 1986) the volcanic rocks vary from basalts to trachy-dacites (FIGURE 6A). Harker bivariate plots from the Saldaña Formation are characterized by a positive correlation of SiO<sub>2</sub> against Na<sub>2</sub>O and K<sub>2</sub>O and negative correlation with CaO, MgO and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (FIGURE 4) that may be related to crystal fractionation of olivine, clinopyroxene and Ca-rich plagioclase.

Rare earth elements patterns (REE) normalized to chondrite (Nakamura, 1974) (FIGURE 7B) are characterized by enrichment in light rare earth elements (LREE) when compared with heavy rare earth elements (HREE). The samples show a negative Eu/Eu\* anomaly between 0.95 and 0.97 and La/YbN between 7.07 and 8.97. Multi-elemental patterns normalized to the primitive mantle of (Sun and McDonough, 1989) (FIGURE 7A) yielded a relative enrichment of large

ion lithophile elements (LILE) such as Ba, Rb, Sr and Th and well-defined negative Nb, P, and Ti anomalies, the high normalized HREE reveals no residual garnet in the melt and therefore is more akin to shallower melting conditions.

Tectonic discrimination diagrams after (Schandl and Gorton, 2002) for intermediate rocks and (Wood, 1980) for basaltic rocks that considered Th enrichment due to the non-conservative behavior of Th in subduction zones, and the relation of Ta with the presence of Ti minerals in the source, both show a continental arc affinity (FIGURE 6C and 6B).

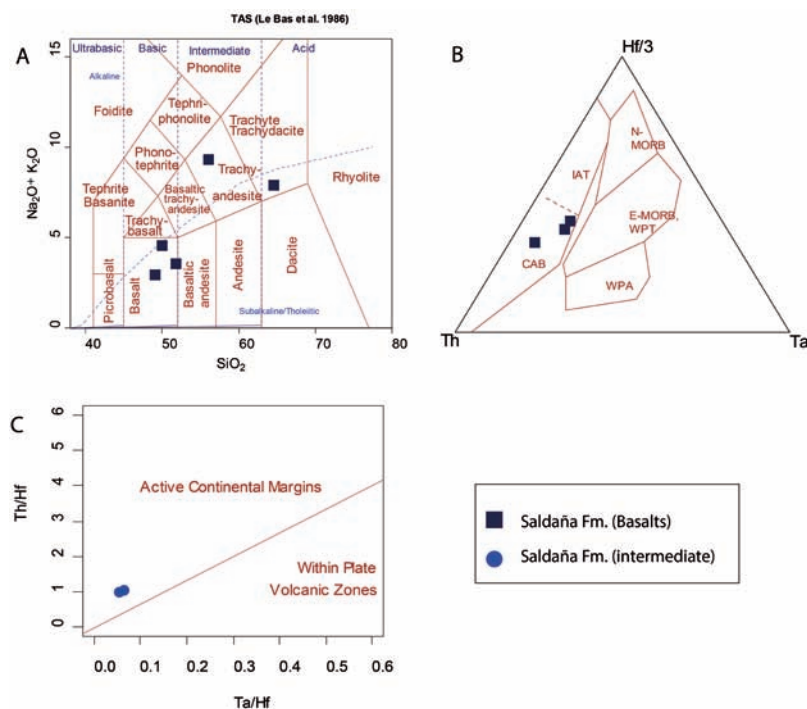
### Mocoa Batholith

SiO<sub>2</sub> values range between 59.31% and 73.72%; Na<sub>2</sub>O values are between 3.78 and 4.59; K<sub>2</sub>O varies between 3.01% and 4.64%. Following Cox *et al.* (1979), samples can be classified as granodiorite to granite (FIGURE 8A).

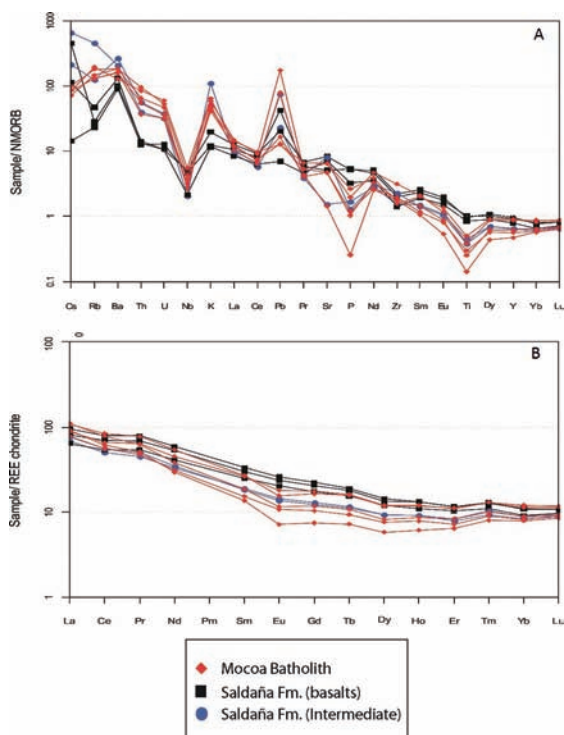
Trace elements patterns of the Mocoa Batholith show remarkable similarities with the analyzed samples from the Saldaña Formation. REE patterns normalized to chondrite (after Nakamura, 1974) are characterized by relative enrichment of LREE compared to HREE (FIGURE 7A), with (La/Yb)<sub>N</sub> varying between 7.82 and 12.49. A well-defined negative Europium anomaly is marked by Eu/Eu\* values between 0.71 and 0.84. Multi-element patterns normalized to the primitive mantle after Sun and McDonough (1989) (FIGURE 7B) show

a relative enrichment of large ion lithophile elements (LILE) such as Ba, Rb, Sr and Th and well defined after Pearce *et al.* (1984) negative Nb, P, and Ti anomalies.

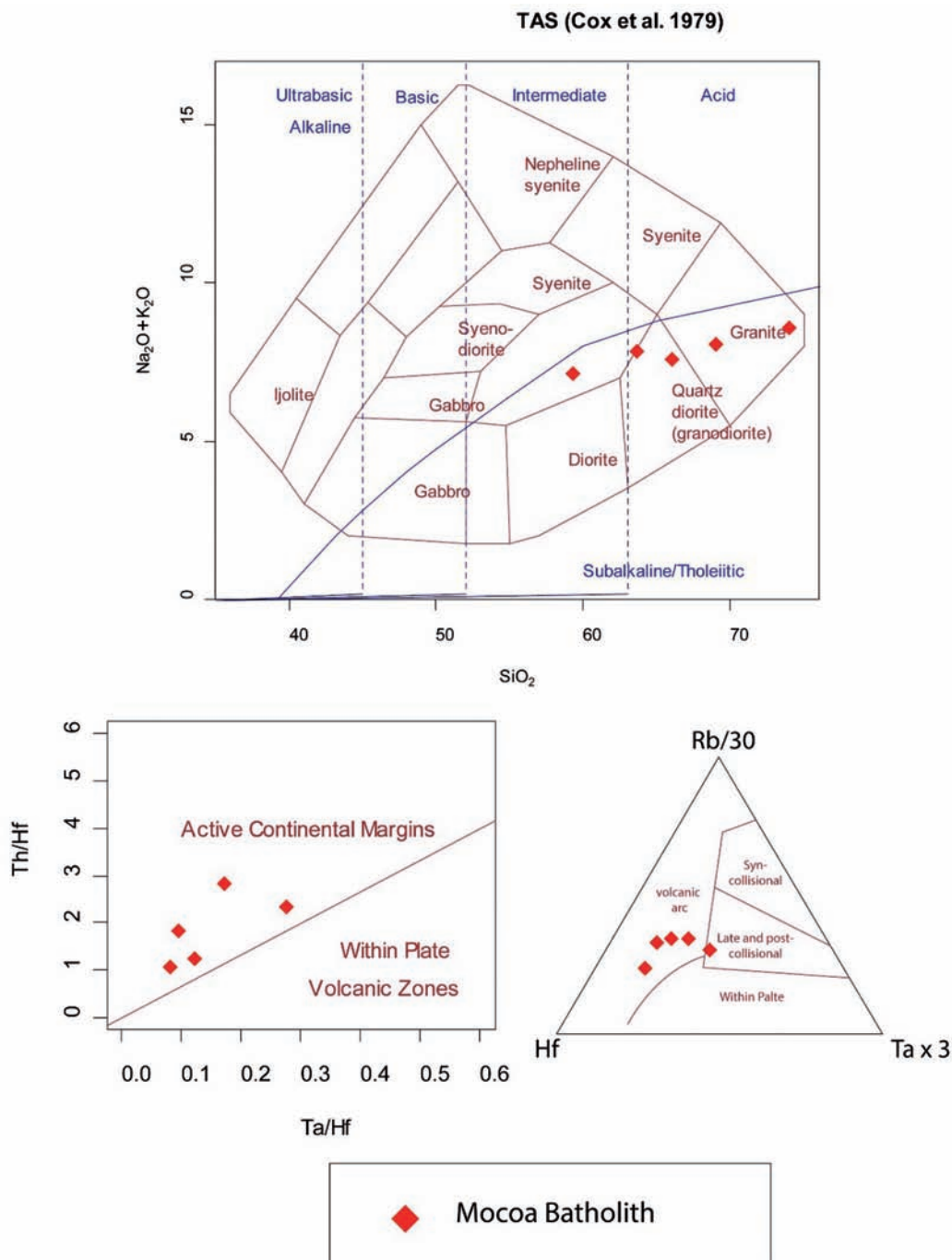
On the tectonic discrimination diagrams (Harris *et al.*, 1986; Pearce *et al.*, 1984) all the samples show a magmatic arc affinity (FIGURE 8B and 8C).



**FIGURE 6.** Geochemistry of the samples of the Saldaña Formation. **A.**  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O}$  TAS diagram (after Bas *et al.*, 1986); **B.**  $(\text{Hf}/3) - \text{Th} - \text{Ta}$  (after Wood, 1980); **C.**  $\text{Ta}/\text{Hf}$  (after Schandl and Gorton, 2002).



**FIGURE 7.** **A.** Multi-element patterns normalized to primitive mantle according with Sun and McDonough (1989). **B.** REE patterns normalized to chondrite (after Nakamura, 1974).



**FIGURE 8.** Geochemistry of the Mocoa samples. **A.**  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$  (after Cox *et al.*, 1979); **B.** Geotectonic discrimination of Pearce *et al.* (1984); **C.** the Hf - Rb/30 - Ta\*3 discrimination diagram for granites (after Harris *et al.* 1986).

### U-Pb geochronology

Two samples from the Saldaña Formation and Mocoa Batholith were selected for U-Pb geochronological analysis. Calculated ages and the Tera-Wasserburg diagrams are presented in Figure 9, geochronological data is reported in Table 2.

34 Zircons from granite of the Mocoa Batholith yielded an age of 180.4 +/- 1.6 Ma (FIGURE 9A) considered as the crystallization age of the plutonic body. Older zircons with ages of 270 Ma 1000 Ma and 1500 Ma may be either related to the source area or partially assimilated crystals. 21 zircons from a porphyritic andesite of the Saldaña Formation have yield an age of 185.9 +/- 1.4 Ma (FIGURE 9C) that we interpret as a magmatic crystallization age.

*U-Pb LA-ICP-MS geochronology and geochemistry of Jurassic volcanic and plutonic rocks from the Putumayo region  
(southern Colombia): tectonic setting and regional correlations*

**TABLE 2.** Geochronological data, Bold data were rejected from the age calculations because lead loss, mixing or inherited.

Zircon Grains	<sup>238</sup> U/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	1 sigma (% error)	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb	1 sigma (% error)	206/238 Age	1 sigma (abs error)	207/206 age	1 sigma (abs err)	Best age	1 sigma (abs err)
SZH121_21	<b>400.721</b>	<b>2.89%</b>	<b>0.0525</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>308.2</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
SZH121_9	366.588	2.24%	0.049	2.16%	173.6	3.8	149.5	49.8	173.6	3.8
SZH121_34	364.836	2.52%	0.0514	1.64%	173.9	4.3	260.5	37.2	173.9	4.3
SZH121_32	358.614	2.45%	0.0498	1.34%	177.3	4.3	183.5	31	177.3	4.3
SZH121_31	355.862	2.35%	0.049	0.76%	178.8	4.1	150	17.7	178.8	4.1
SZH121_16	355.261	2.45%	0.0507	1.35%	178.7	4.3	226.8	30.8	178.7	4.3
SZH121_12	353.162	2.06%	0.0518	1.93%	179.5	3.7	276.6	43.5	179.5	3.7
SZH121_29	352.174	2.45%	0.0516	1.29%	180.1	4.4	268.4	29.4	180.1	4.4
SZH121_2	352.124	1.99%	0.0579	1.6%	178.6	3.5	526.7	34.7	178.6	3.5
SZH121_28	351.729	2.47%	0.0501	1.37%	180.6	4.4	199.1	31.5	180.6	4.4
SZH121_26	351.408	2.45%	0.0514	1.32%	180.5	4.4	259.6	30	180.5	4.4
SZH121_1	35.095	1.91%	0.0511	1.57%	180.8	3.4	247.5	35.8	180.8	3.4
SZH121_10	350.467	1.89%	0.056	1.54%	179.9	3.4	452	33.9	179.9	3.4
SZH121_8	35.031	1.91%	0.053	1.48%	180.7	3.4	327.4	33.2	180.7	3.4
SZH121_30	349.997	2.44%	0.0496	1.43%	181.6	4.4	176.8	32.9	181.6	4.4
SZH121_14	349.874	1.91%	0.0505	1.54%	181.5	3.4	216.9	35.2	181.5	3.4
SZH121_25	34.918	2.49%	0.052	1.31%	181.5	4.5	285.4	29.8	181.5	4.5
SZH121_6	348.332	2.04%	0.0545	1.76%	181.4	3.7	392.1	39.1	181.4	3.7
SZH121_20	348.012	2.45%	0.0534	1.38%	181.8	4.4	347.3	30.9	181.8	4.4
SZH121_5	346.843	2.48%	0.072	3.54%	178.1	4.5	984.9	70.5	178.1	4.5
SZH121_7	343.893	1.91%	0.0512	1.52%	184.4	3.5	249.8	34.6	184.4	3.5
SZH121_23	34.153	2.4%	0.05	0.91%	186	4.4	193.2	21	186	4.4
SZH121_3	340.609	1.99%	0.0531	1.59%	185.8	3.7	332	35.7	185.8	3.7
SZH121_33	329.671	2.44%	0.0944	1.65%	181.8	4.6	1515.4	30.8	181.8	4.6
SZH121_22	<b>306.908</b>	<b>2.58%</b>	<b>0.077</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>199.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1120.6</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>199.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>
SZH121_18	<b>269.557</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>0.0609</b>	<b>2.09%</b>	<b>231.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>231.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>
SZH121_35	<b>238.519</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>0.0544</b>	<b>1.67%</b>	<b>263.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>386.8</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>263.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>
SZH121_15	<b>23.456</b>	<b>1.89%</b>	<b>0.0524</b>	<b>1.35%</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>304.7</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>268.9</b>	<b>5</b>
SZH121_24	<b>228.932</b>	<b>2.61%</b>	<b>0.0523</b>	<b>1.69%</b>	<b>275.4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>299.4</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>275.4</b>	<b>7</b>
SZH121_27	<b>66.925</b>	<b>2.51%</b>	<b>0.0691</b>	<b>0.93%</b>	<b>897.5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>903.1</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>903.1</b>	<b>19.1</b>
SZH121_15A	<b>56.571</b>	<b>2.35%</b>	<b>0.0727</b>	<b>0.78%</b>	<b>1051.4</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>1006.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>1006.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>
SZH121_13	<b>35.259</b>	<b>1.78%</b>	<b>0.0966</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>1615.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>1559.1</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>1559.1</b>	<b>17.6</b>
SZH121_11	<b>36.292</b>	<b>1.77%</b>	<b>0.097</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>1569.1</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>1567.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>1567.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>
SZH121_19	<b>247.161</b>	<b>3.15%</b>	<b>0.1083</b>	<b>2.75%</b>	<b>237.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>1771.4</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>1771.4</b>	<b>49.3</b>
SZH72_25	338.572	1.88%	0.0471	1.89%	188.3	3.5	56	44.6	188.3	3.5
SZH72_24	345.488	1.73%	0.0496	1.44%	184	3.1	175	33.3	184	3.1
SZH72_22	345.895	1.58%	0.0509	1.22%	183.5	2.9	236.9	27.9	183.5	2.9
SZH72_21	340.813	1.83%	0.0494	1.62%	186.5	3.4	167.9	37.5	186.5	3.4
SZH72_20	339.901	1.7%	0.0523	1.33%	186.3	3.1	298	30	186.3	3.1
SZH72_19	333.108	1.8%	0.0517	1.75%	190.2	3.4	273.4	39.6	190.2	3.4
SZH72_17	352.476	1.69%	0.0521	1.53%	179.8	3	288.9	34.7	179.8	3
SZH72_16	329.257	1.76%	0.0642	1.99%	189.4	3.3	747.6	41.5	189.4	3.3
SZH72_15	334.619	1.95%	0.0816	1.63%	182.2	3.6	1235.3	31.6	182.2	3.6
SZH72_14	343.783	1.86%	0.0531	1.84%	184.1	3.4	331.4	41.2	184.1	3.4
SZH72_13	345.701	1.75%	0.0499	1.26%	183.8	3.2	190.4	29.2	183.8	3.2
SZH72_11	337.238	1.79%	0.0541	1.57%	187.4	3.3	376.4	35	187.4	3.3
SZH72_10	327.592	1.93%	0.0642	2.11%	190.4	3.7	747.1	44	190.4	3.7
SZH72_9	33.964	1.88%	0.0504	1.55%	186.9	3.5	215.7	35.6	186.9	3.5
SZH72_8	342.151	1.86%	0.0501	1.48%	185.6	3.4	198.5	34	185.6	3.4
SZH72_6	333.333	1.95%	0.0581	1.86%	188.6	3.7	534.8	40.1	188.6	3.7
SZH72_5	339.443	2.01%	0.0537	1.8%	186.3	3.7	357.8	40.1	186.3	3.7
SZH72_4	336.761	1.84%	0.05	1.62%	188.6	3.4	193.2	37.2	188.6	3.4
SZH72_3	329.673	1.8%	0.0742	1.42%	186.7	3.4	1048	28.4	186.7	3.4
SZH72_2	346.859	1.92%	0.0556	1.56%	181.9	3.5	436.1	34.3	181.9	3.5
SZH72_1	339.575	1.74%	0.0503	1.28%	187	3.2	210.1	29.3	187	3.2



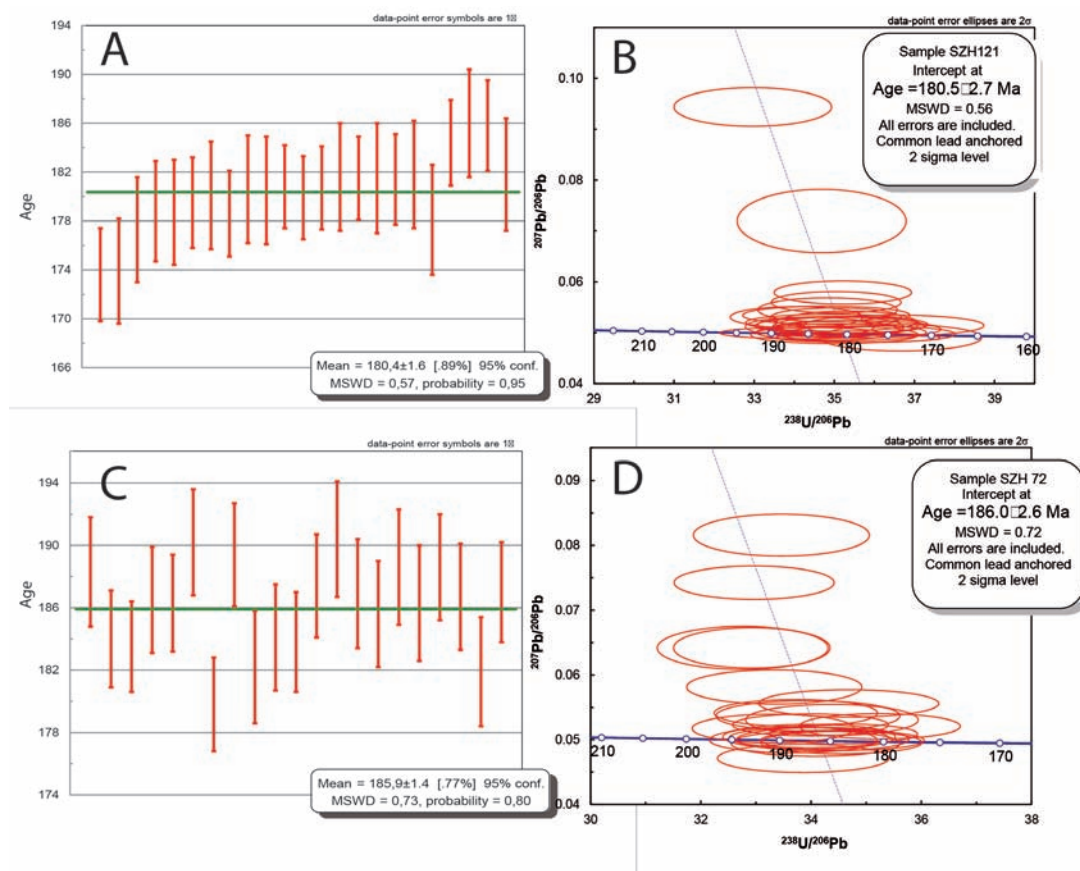


FIGURE 9. U-Pb zircon ages. A. Moco Batholith zircon age; B. Moco Batholith Tera-Wasserburg diagram; C. Saldaña Formation tuff zircon age; D. Saldaña Formation Tera-Wasserburg diagram.

## DISCUSSION

Field relations, geochronological and geochemical data show that the Saldaña Formation and Moco Batholith in southern Colombia are spatially, temporally and genetically related to a common Middle Jurassic magmatism between 186–180 Ma.

The compositional diversity of the Saldaña Formation varying from basalt to rhyolite and the well-defined correlation in major element bivariate trends are consistent with a typical pattern of differentiation processes of cogenetic igneous systems. The younger crystallization age of the Moco Batholith and its intrusive relation in the Saldaña Formation is also a common pattern of related volcano-plutonic systems where the intrusive record the later phases of the magmatic evolution (Lipman, 2007).

Trace element concentrations show relative enrichment of LILE and LREE compared with HREE, negative anomalies of Nb and Ti as well as Ta/Hf ratios, is characteristic of a continental magmatic arc tectonic

setting (Harris *et al.*, 1986; Pearce *et al.*, 1984; Schandl and Gorton, 2002; Wood, 1980). High Pb is associated to the involvement of the continental crust during magma genesis, either as assimilated or as source component (Miller and Christensen, 1994).

Similar U-Pb magmatic crystallization ages and arc related magmatic affinity have been reported in plutonic rocks in the adjacent Garzón Massif and Upper Magdalena Valley (Bustamante *et al.*, 2010) or in the eastern flank of the Central Cordillera (Altenberger and Concha, 2005). Together with other Jurassic exposures in the Ecuadorian Andes (Chiaradia *et al.*, 2009), this suggests the existence of a regional scale contemporaneous arc magmatic history.

Early-Middle Jurassic (180–200 Ma) magmatic rocks also have been found in other segments of the Colombian Andes (FIGURE 1), including the Santander and Santa Marta massifs (Altenberger and Concha, 2005; Cardona *et al.*, 2011), and are also common along most of the Andean Chain (Mpodozis and Ramos, 2008; Vásquez *et al.*, 2011)

Although some of the Jurassic remnants in the Colombian Andes may have been displaced from southern latitudes (Bayona *et al.*, 2006), the existence of a major Jurassic continental scale magmatic province and its apparent link with extensional basins (Mpodosis and Ramos, 2008; Sarmiento *et al.*, 2006; Vásquez *et al.*, 2011) reflect the plate convergence following Pangea break-up, and the subduction of an old Pacific plate that controlled the growth of a continental magmatic arc and the contemporaneous regional scale magmatic activity (Busby, 2012; Cawood and Buchan, 2007; Cawood *et al.*, 2009).

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