



Petrography, mineral chemistry and crystallization conditions of Eocene aged Hasan Dağ Pluton (Kürtün Gümüşhane, NE Turkey)

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Abstract

The Eastern Pontides are home to a wide variety of plutonic rocks that vary greatly in composition and age. The Eocene Hasan Dağ Pluton, exposed around Kürtün in northeastern Turkey, stands out among them due to its distinctive petrographic and mineralogical characteristics. This study aims to determine the physicochemical conditions (temperature, pressure, and oxygen fugacity) under which the Hasan Dağ magma crystallized based on petrographic and mineralogical data. The Hasan Dağ pluton extends approximate in a NE–SW direction and covers an area of about 15 km². The studied rocks are fine- to medium-grained and primarily consist of granodiorite, tonalite, and diorite compositions. The plutonic rocks display granular, poikilitic, monzonitic, graphic, and, rarely, porphyritic textures. The main mineral assemblage includes plagioclase (An_{14–56}), hornblende (Mg# = 0.78–0.85), biotite, orthoclase, quartz, and Fe-Ti oxides. Thermobarometric calculations indicate crystallization temperatures of 636–1075 °C, pressures of 0.2–5.1 kbar, and oxygen fugacities (*f*O₂) ranging from –13 to –10. Water contents estimated from hornblende compositions range from 3.3 to 5.0 wt.%. These results suggest that the Hasan Dağ pluton crystallized and was emplaced at mid- to shallow crustal depths corresponding to approximately 3–12 km.

Keywords: *Geothermobarometry; Petrography; Mineral chemistry; Eastern Pontides; Hasan Dağ Pluton*

1. Introduction

The Eastern Pontide Orogenic Belt (EPOB), situated in the eastern part of the Sakarya Zone (NE Türkiye, Figure 1), represents one of the most complex and geodynamically significant segments of the Alpine–Himalayan system due to successive subduction and collision events. The belt is generally regarded as a well-preserved continental magmatic arc developed by northward subduction of the Neo-Tethyan oceanic crust beneath the Eurasian Plate (Figure 1). Numerous studies have addressed the geodynamic evolution of this region [1–10]. Detailed investigations have revealed four main intrusive periods within the EPOB: Paleozoic (Carboniferous), Jurassic, Late Cretaceous, and Eocene (Fig. 1).

The Paleozoic plutons intruded into metamorphic basement rocks [11–17]. Jurassic plutons intruded into pre-Jurassic basement units [18–21], whereas Late Cretaceous plutons cut volcanic and/or volcanoclastic rocks associated with subduction-related magmatism [22–31]. Finally, Eocene plutons intruded all the preceding units [32–41].

This study aims to investigate the crystallization conditions and magmatic evolution of the Hasan Dağ Pluton located in the Kürtün area (Gümüşhane), through detailed petrographic and mineral chemical analyses. The results are integrated with regional geological data to better understand the magmatic processes and crustal evolution responsible for the emplacement of this Eocene pluton.

2. Regional Geology

The Eastern Pontide Orogenic Belt, which is part of the Sakarya Zone, contains the oldest basement rock formations, including Early to Middle Carboniferous gneisses, schists, amphibolites, marbles, and minor meta-peridotites [14,44–46] (Fig. 1). These metamorphic rocks are intruded by small- to medium-sized Carboniferous-to-Early Permian plutons [13–16,47–50]. The Jurassic succession of the Eastern Pontides consists mainly of pyroclastic rocks interlayered with clastic sediments and limestone blocks [51–54]. During the Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous period, the region experienced limited

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tectonic and magmatic activity, with widespread carbonate deposition.

The Eastern Pontides, including the study area, are predominantly composed of plutonic and volcanic rocks of Late Cretaceous age [2,22,24,30,55,56]. High-K calc-alkaline magmatism is widespread throughout the region [40,57–62]. During the Late Paleocene–Early Eocene, the collision between the Anatolide–Tauride blocks and the Pontides occurred

[2]). Early Eocene (54–48 Ma) magmatism, characterized by both adakitic and non-adakitic signatures, is generally associated with the final stages of arc–continent collision [58,63,64] [65–67]. In the Eocene, post-collisional magmatism is represented by high-K calc-alkaline to shoshonitic plutonic rocks and their volcanic equivalents [5–7,9,34,36,39,68–74]. After the Eocene, clastic sedimentary rocks and Neogene alkaline volcanics became dominant in the region [2,75].

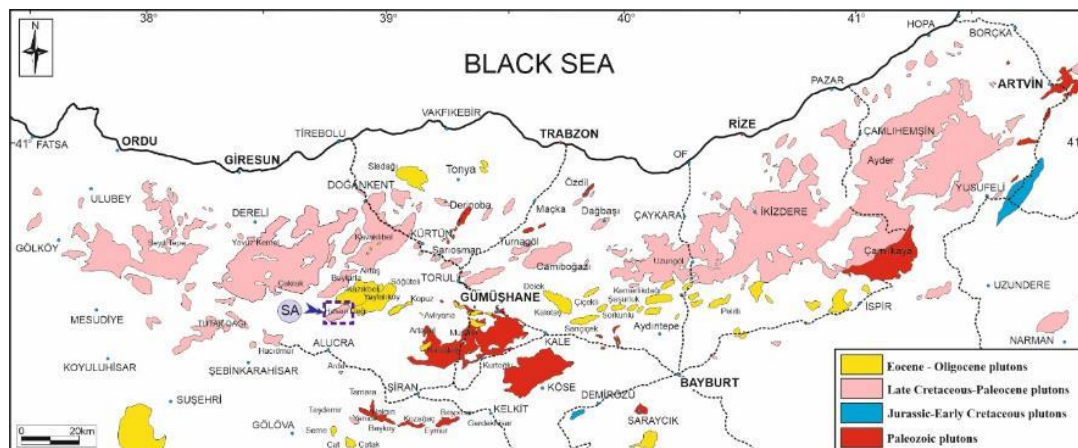


Figure 1. Distribution of plutonic rocks in the Eastern Pontides Orogenic Belt (modified from [42,43] and the proposed study area (SA))

3. Materials and Methods

During the fieldwork, a systematic rock sampling was conducted from the Hasan Dağ Pluton and its surrounding country rocks. The location of each sample was recorded using a GPS, and important outcrops were photographed and documented. Based on the field data, a detailed, 1:25,000-scale geological map of the area was created (Fig. 2). For petrographic analysis, thin sections were prepared from representative rock samples. Slabs measuring approximately $0.5 \times 2 \times 4$ cm were cut, ground, and mounted on 2.5×5 cm glass slides using Canada balsam. The samples were then polished and thinned to approximately 0.025 mm for optical examination under a polarizing microscope. Thin-section preparation was carried out in the Thin Section Laboratory of the Department of Geological Engineering at Gümüşhane University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Quantitative in situ analyses of major elements in mineral phases were performed using a JEOL JXA-8230 electron probe microanalyzer (EPMA) at Wuhan SampleSolution Analytical Technology Co., Ltd. in Wuhan, China. The analytical conditions included an accelerating voltage of 15 kV, a beam current of 20 nA, and a beam diameter of 1 μ m. Calibration was performed using 53 mineral standards, 44 pure

elemental standards, and 15 rare earth element standards supplied by the SPI Company. Data were corrected using JEOL's ZAF method.

4. Results

4.1. Stratigraphy and Petrology of the Study Area

The study area is located around Hasan Dağ and its vicinity, where both plutonic and volcanic rocks are exposed (Fig. 2). The exposed lithological units range in age from Late Cretaceous to Quaternary. From the youngest to the oldest, the stratigraphic sequence consists of: alluvium (Quaternary), Eocene plutonic rocks forming the Hasan Dağ Pluton, Kabaköy Formation (Eocene), Çatak Formation (Late Cretaceous). Previous studies [76] referred to the plutonic bodies in the region as Kaçkar Granitoid-I and Kaçkar Granitoid-II. The largest of these bodies extensively crops out in the study area and has been redefined in this study as the Hasan Dağ pluton, named after its most exposed location.

The Hasan Dağ Pluton extends throughout most of the study area (Sheet Gümüşhane H41-b2) and generally exhibits a NE–SW elongation. It is cut by 10–20 cm thick aplite dikes and shows localized jointing and fracturing (Fig. 3a–b). Although the pluton is largely fresh and massive, minor weathering is observed in some zones, where the rocks are friable and soil-like

in texture (Fig. 4a). Mafic microgranular enclaves (MMEs) are widespread throughout the pluton (Fig. 4b); they are darker and finer-grained than the host rocks, indicating magma mingling and mixing processes. Plutonic rocks can be easily distinguished from their surrounding country rocks due to their contrasting lithology and color. Along the fractures, evidence of surface alteration and clay formation is apparent. Fresh rock surfaces are light pink to reddish-brown, while weathered surfaces are paler due to kaolinization.

Modal analyses were conducted on nine representative samples collected from the Hasan Dağ Pluton, and the results are presented in Table 1. According to modal data, the pluton is mainly composed of granodiorite, tonalite, and diorite.

- **Granodiorites** contain 45–55% plagioclase, 22–31% quartz, and 7–16% K-feldspar.
- **Tonalites** contain 60–62% plagioclase, 21–24% quartz, and 3–5% K-feldspar.
- **Diorites** contain 66–77% plagioclase, 2–3% quartz, and 3–5% K-feldspar.

When plotted on the Q–A–P [77] diagram, the samples cluster within the diorite, tonalite, and granodiorite fields (Fig. 4).

Granodiorite is the dominant lithology, typically occurring in the outer zones of the pluton and surrounding the tonalitic cores. It is gray to light gray in color and exhibits holocrystalline, hypidiomorphic granular textures (Fig. 5a–c). The grain size varies from fine to medium, and some samples show poikilitic, myrmekitic, and rarely micrographic textures. The rocks are composed mainly of plagioclase, quartz, K-feldspar, hornblende, and biotite, with accessory apatite, zircon, and opaque minerals. Secondary minerals include chlorite, calcite, clay minerals, and sericite (Table 1).

Plagioclase occurs as subhedral to anhedral tabular crystals and displays oscillatory zoning and albite twinning (Fig. 5). K-feldspar (mainly orthoclase) appears as subhedral to anhedral perthitic grains commonly containing inclusions of plagioclase and biotite. Quartz occurs as irregular, anhedral grains with undulatory extinction. Hornblende is subhedral to euhedral, sometimes enclosing plagioclase and opaque minerals as poikilitic inclusions (Fig. 5). Biotite forms reddish-brown lamellar crystals, showing pleochroism from light to dark brown. Accessory minerals include needle-shaped apatite inclusions within plagioclase and short prismatic zircon crystals.

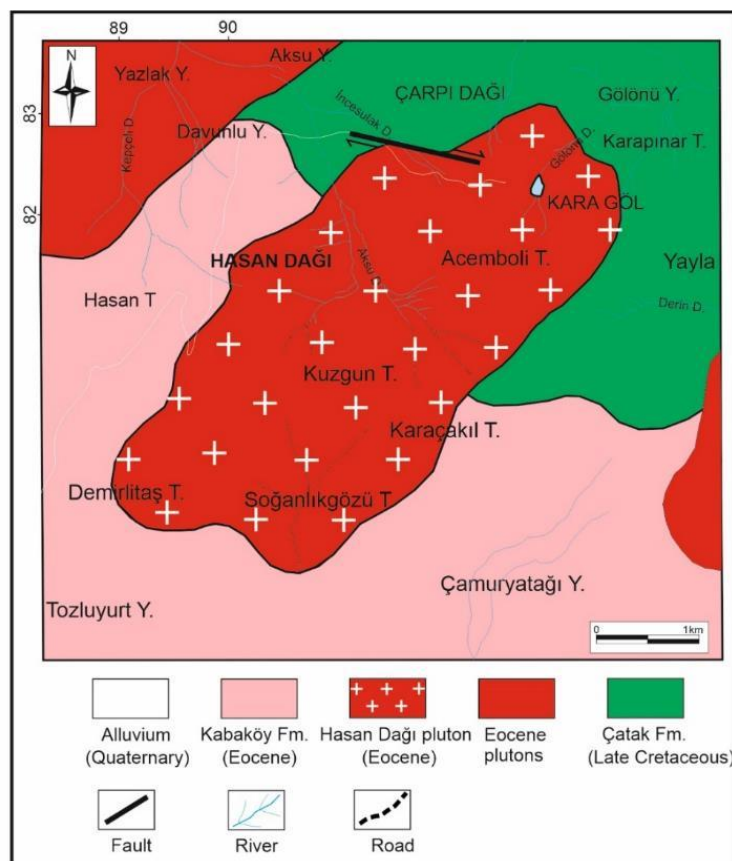


Figure 2. Geological map of the study area (modified from [78])

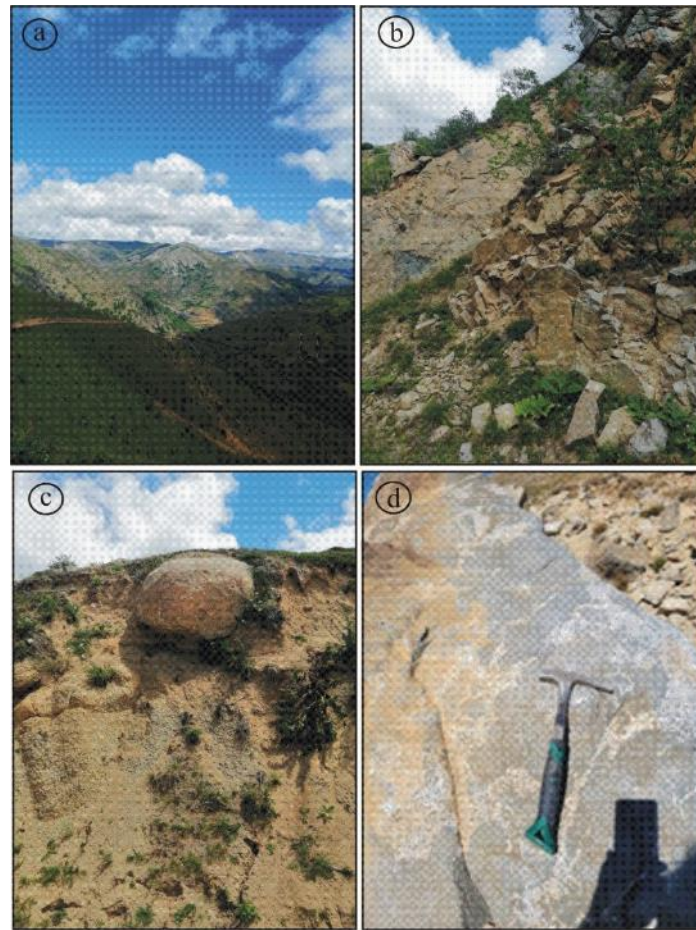


Figure 3. (a) General field view of the study area, (b) fracture systems within Eocene plutonic rocks, (c) weathered surfaces showing arenization, (d) mafic enclaves within the plutonic rocks.

Tablo 1. Results of modal analysis of samples from the Hasan Dağ Pluton.

Rock	Plagioclase	Quartz	Orthoclase	Amphibole	Biotite	Opaque mineral
<u>Granodiorite</u>						
S118	52.10	22.30	7.20	6.80	8.90	2.70
T8	55.40	29.50	8.70	3.70	1.60	1.10
T14	50.50	30.40	12.30	3.80	1.70	1.30
T16	45.20	30.80	16.10	2.10	3.20	2.60
<u>Tonalite</u>						
T4	60.20	20.50	3.40	11.90	1.30	2.70
T11	61.70	22.70	4.30	7.50	1.50	2.30
T15	60.10	24.30	5.30	6.20	2.20	1.90
<u>Diorite</u>						
S119	66.40	1.70	2.90	20.10	3.40	5.50
S120	76.80	2.80	4.60	11.40	1.10	3.30

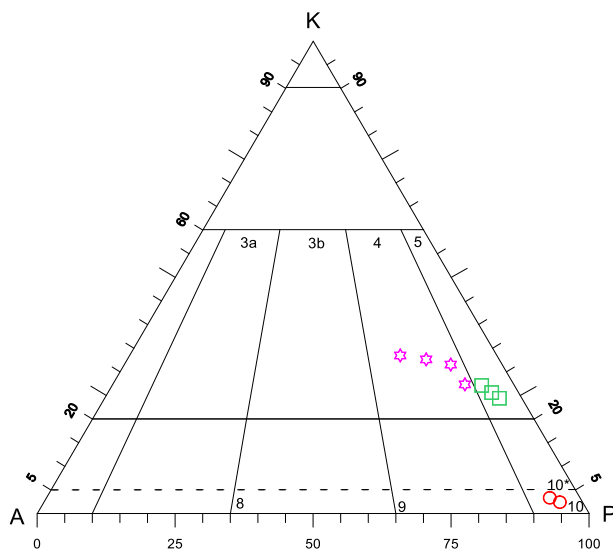


Figure 4. Modal composition of Hasan Dağ Pluton samples plotted on the Q–A–P diagram (after [77]).

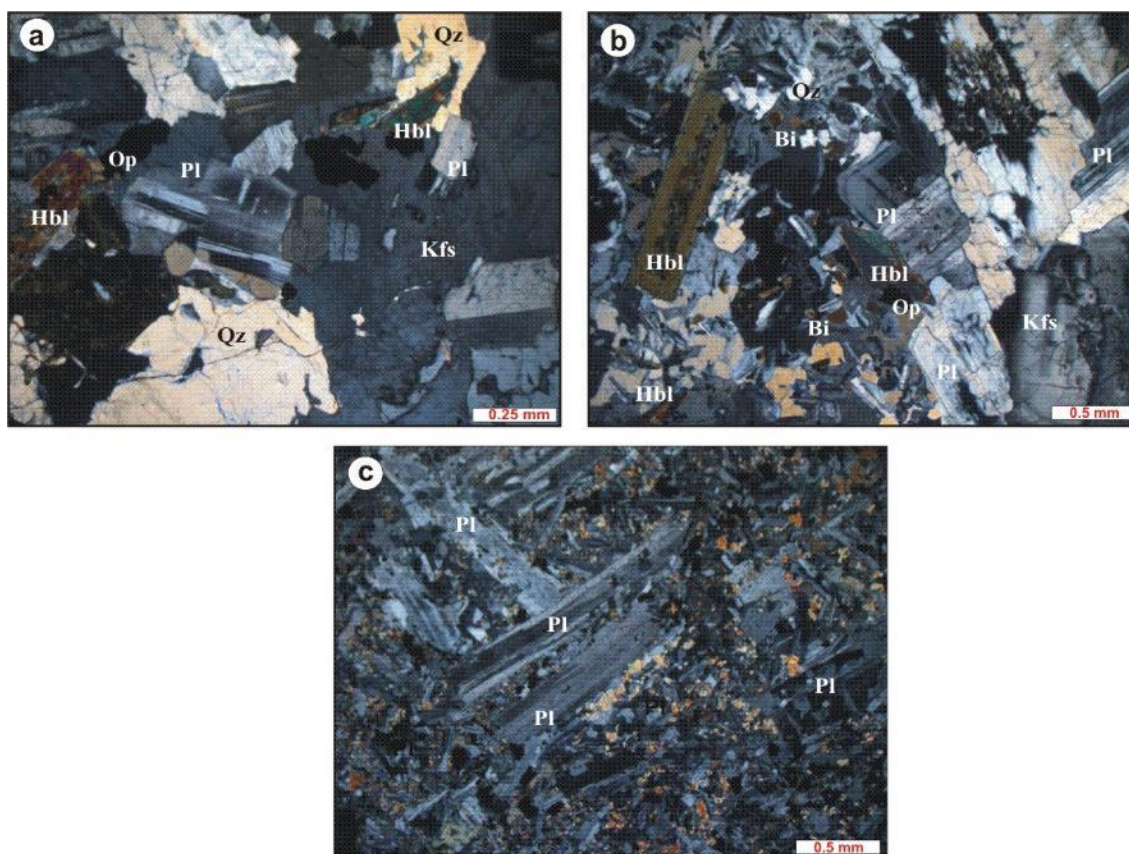


Figure 5. Photomicrographs showing textural features: (a) medium-grained granodiorite containing hornblende, plagioclase, and opaque minerals; (b) oscillatory zoning in plagioclase; (c) diorite with coarse plagioclase phenocrysts and microcrystalline plagioclase–amphibole–biotite groundmass. (Abbreviations: Pl = plagioclase, Hbl = hornblende, Bi = biotite, Kfs = K-feldspar, Qz = quartz, Op = opaque mineral).

4.2. Mineral Chemistry

4.2.1. Plagioclase

Plagioclase occurs as the principal felsic phase in almost all rock types of the Hasan Dağ Pluton, commonly associated with hornblende. The crystals are generally euhedral to subhedral, elongated, and

prismatic, and many exhibit distinct oscillatory zoning (Fig. 6). Detailed microprobe analyses indicate that most plagioclase grains display normal compositional zoning patterns (Fig. 6c–d).

Representative microprobe analyses and calculated mineral formulae are presented in Table 2. The anorthite (An) contents of plagioclase vary between $An_{0.1}$ and $An_{52.3}$ ($n = 14$) in granodioritic samples. Based on the Ab–An–Or classification diagram [79]; Fig. 7), the plagioclase compositions fall predominantly within the oligoclase–andesine fields, with minor occurrences of labradorite. Both rock types also contain K-feldspar of orthoclase composition.

A compositional profile taken from a representative plagioclase crystal in the granodiorite sample (S118) shows that the core composition is $An_{44}Ab_{53}Or_3$, while the rim composition shifts to $An_{14}Ab_{83}Or_3$, indicating progressive normal zoning toward more sodic compositions during crystallization.

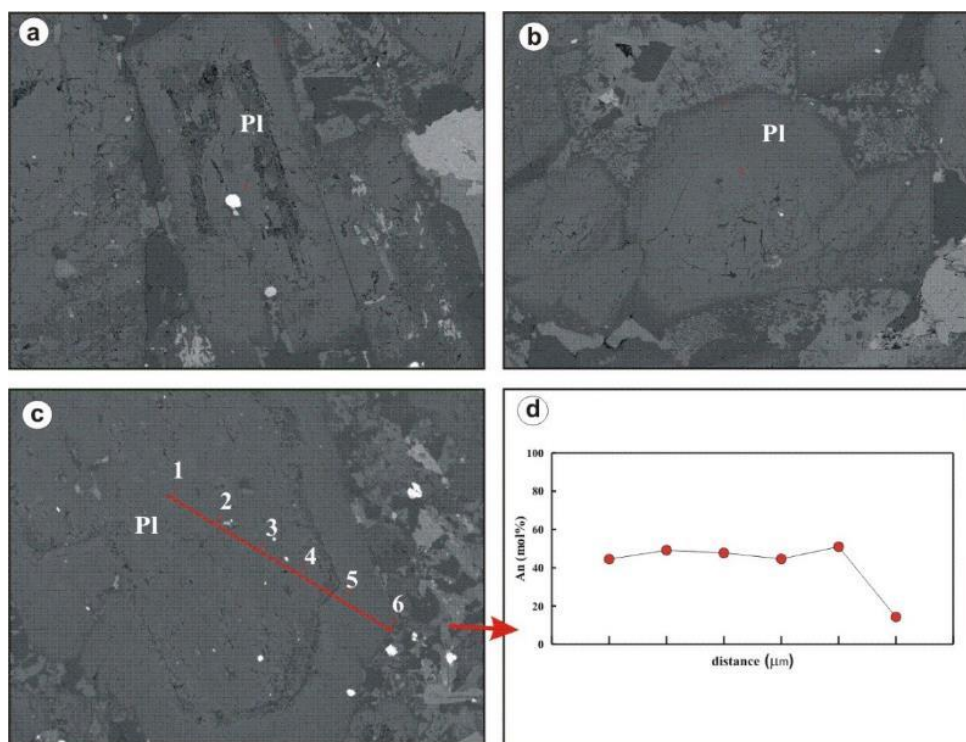


Figure 6. (a) Elongated prismatic plagioclase crystals; (b) cross section perpendicular to the c-axis; (c) zoned plagioclase in sample S118; (d) compositional profile showing variations in An (mol%) content from core to rim

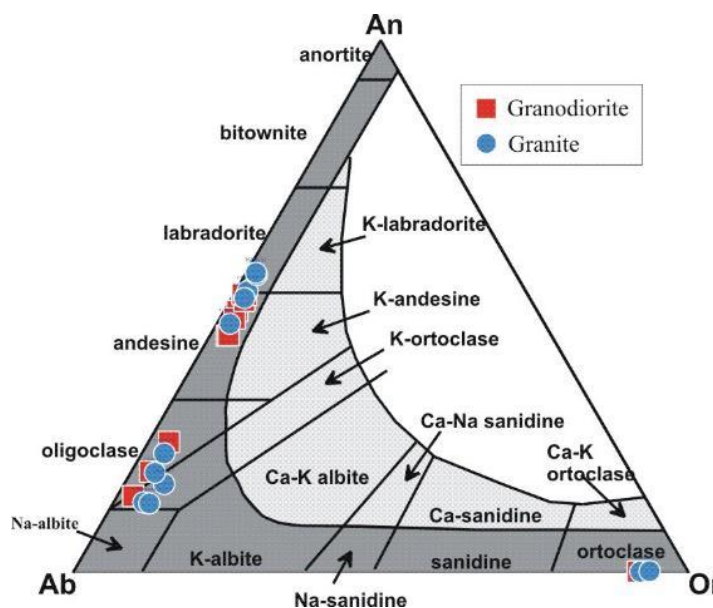


Figure 7. Ab–An–Or ternary diagram showing plagioclase compositions of the Hasan Dağ Pluton (after [79]).

Table 2. Representative microprobe analyses of plagioclase and hornblende from the Hasan Dağ Pluton

Rock types	Plagioclase		Hornblende		
	Granodiorite (n=14)		Rock types	Granodiorite (n=8)	
	min	max		min	max
SiO2	54.78	65.69	SiO2	44.12	48.03
Al2O3	18.49	28.43	TiO2	1.62	2.79
FeO	0.01	0.45	Al2O3	6.52	9.65
CaO	0.02	10.57	FeO	10.87	12.01
Na2O	0.73	9.49	MnO	0.27	0.49
K2O	0.24	15.76	MgO	14.39	15.61
Total	99.20	100.93	CaO	11.00	11.26
Si	2.48	3.00	Na2O	1.48	2.07
Al	1.00	1.51	K2O	0.68	0.83
Fe+2	0.00	0.02	Total	96.51	97.58
Ca	0.00	0.51	Si	6.43	7.17
Na	0.07	0.81	Ti	0.18	0.31
K	0.01	0.93	Aliv	1.05	1.57
An	0.08	52.26	Alv1	0.01	0.12
Ab	6.55	83.07	Fe+2	0.61	0.88
Or	1.43	93.45	Fe+3	0.53	0.78
* structural formula on the basis of 8 oxygen atoms			Mn	0.03	0.06
			Mg	3.14	3.37
			Ca	1.70	1.77
			Na	0.41	0.59
			K	0.13	0.16
			Mg#	0.78	0.85
			* structural formula on the basis of 23 oxygen atoms		

* n= sample number, min: minimum values, max: maximum values

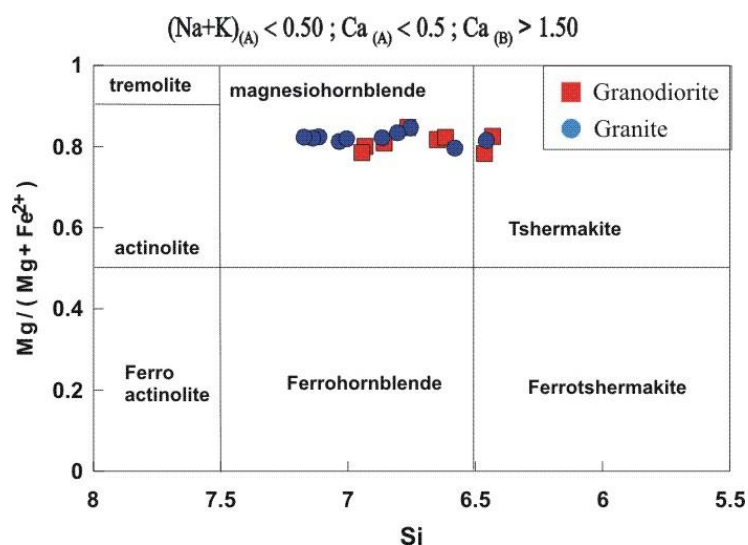


Figure 8. Classification diagram of calcic amphiboles ($Ca_B \geq 1.5$; $(Na + K)_A < 0.50$; $Ca_A < 0.50$) after [80]. ($Ca_B = Ca$ content in the B-site; $(Na + K)_A =$ total alkali content in the A-site; $Ca_A = Ca$ content in the A-site).

4.2.2. Amphibole

Hornblende represents the dominant mafic mineral phase in the Hasan Dağ Pluton, particularly within granodioritic rocks. Representative EPMA data and calculated structural formulae are given in Table 2.

According to the classification scheme of [80], the amphiboles belong to the calcic group ($CaB \geq 1.5$ and $NaB < 0.5$) (Fig. 8). The amphiboles have $Mg/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$ ratios greater than 0.5, and their Si contents are generally below 6.5 apfu, suggesting a magnesiohornblende composition.

5. Discussion

5.1. Crystallization Conditions of the Hasan Dağ Pluton

The coexistence of amphibole and plagioclase in calc-alkaline plutonic rocks makes this mineral pair particularly suitable for thermobarometric calculations [81–86]. The mineral assemblage of the Hasan Dağ Pluton, which contains both amphibole and plagioclase, allows for reliable application of these approaches. However, post-magmatic processes such as actinolitization, chloritization, or the development of opaque minerals can modify the original hornblende composition [81]. Therefore, altered grains were excluded from the thermobarometric dataset.

5.1.1. Feldspar Thermometry

The Ab–An–Or ternary system of feldspars is a valuable geothermometric tool for magmatic rocks

[87]. Applying this method to the plagioclase in the Hasan Dağ plutonic rocks indicates crystallization temperatures between 750°C and 900°C and estimated pressures ranging from 0.5 to 1 kbar (Fig. 9).

5.1.2. Amphibole–Plagioclase Thermobarometry

The amphibole–plagioclase mineral pair is widely used in geothermobarometric studies of calc-alkaline volcanic and plutonic systems. The presence of both minerals in the Hasan Dağ granodiorites provides a suitable basis for such calculations. However, variations in temperature and chemical composition between these minerals must be carefully considered [81,88].

Experimental calibrations based on total Al content in hornblende (Al^T) have been used to estimate crystallization pressures [89]. Hornblende crystals with $Al^T < 0.79$ generally yield unreliable or negative pressure values [90]. In the Hasan Dağ samples, Al^T values range from 0.90 to 1.70 ($n = 17$), indicating that all are suitable for pressure estimation. Applying the experimental calibrations of [81–83,85] to the Hasan Dağ hornblendes yields pressure values between 1.3 and 4.8 kbar, with mean values of approximately 3.25 ± 1.3 kbar (Table 3).

Similarly, crystallization temperatures calculated using the formulations of [84,86] range from 810°C to 884°C, with an average of ~848°C (Table 3). These results correspond to magma crystallization at mid- to shallow-crustal depths.

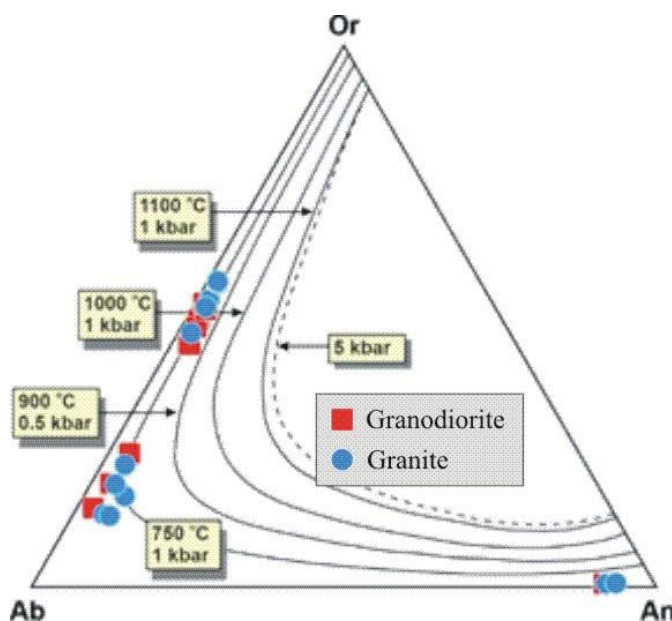


Figure 9. Determination of crystallization temperatures for plagioclase in the Hasan Dağ Pluton based on the Ab–An–Or ternary diagram (isotherms from [91]).

Table 3. Comparison of estimated pressures (Al-in-hornblende barometer) and temperatures (hornblende–plagioclase thermometer) for rocks of the Hasan Dağ Pluton.

Method	Al in Hornblende (Al-Hbl) Barometer		
Pressure P (kbar)	P_{min}	P_{max}	P_{avg} (n= 8)
[81]; P_1	1.7	4.4	2.9±1.3
[82]; P_2	1.5	4.5	2.9±1.5
[83]; P_3	1.3	3.5	2.3±1.1
[85]; P_4	2.3	4.84	3.5±1.3
Hbl-Pl Thermometer*			
Temperature T (°C)	T_{min}	T_{max}	T_{avg} (n= 18)
[84]	810	884	848±31
[86]	815	884	800±32
$P_1 = -3.92 + 5.03Al^T$; $P_2 = -4.67 + 5.64Al^T$; $P_3 = -3.46 + 4.23Al^T$; $P_4 = -3.01 + 4.76Al^T$; $P_5 = 4.76Al^T - 3.01 - [(T-675)/85] \times [0.53Al^T + 0.005294 \times (T-675)]$.			

Table 4. Amphibole Thermobarometer, Oxygen Fugacity (fO_2), Water Content in Melt (H_2O_{melt}), and Formation Depths of Plutonic Rocks of the Hasan Dağ Pluton [93]

Amphibole Thermometer		
T_{min} (°C)	T_{max} (°C)	T_{avg} (n= 8)
802	904	850±22
Oxygen Fugacity (fO_2)		
fO_{2min}	fO_{2max}	fO_{2avg} (n= 8)
-12.3	-10.7	-11.5±0.4
Water content in melt (H_2O_{melt})		
H_2O_{melt} (wt. %) $_{min}$	H_2O_{melt} (wt. %) $_{max}$	H_2O_{melt} (wt. %) $_{avg}$
3.4	4.3	3.9±0.4
Emplacement Depth		
Depth $_{min}$ (km)	Depth $_{max}$ (km)	Depth $_{avg}$ (km)
2.5	8.0	4.8±1.9

5.1.3. Amphibole Thermobarometry, Oxygen Fugacity, and Water Content

Oxygen fugacity (fO_2) represents a measure of the partial pressure of oxygen during magmatic crystallization and provides key constraints on the redox conditions of magma evolution. It is closely related to temperature and pressure variations, influencing the stability fields of mineral assemblages [92,93].

The amphibole-based thermobarometric formulations of [93] were applied to the Hasan Dağ samples to estimate temperature (T), pressure (P), oxygen fugacity (fO_2 , ΔNNO), water content (H_2O_{melt} , wt.%), and emplacement depth. The results are summarized in Table 4. Calculated amphibole

temperatures range from 802°C to 904°C (average 850 ± 22°C, n = 8), and pressures from 0.67 to 2.23 kbar (average 1.26 ± 0.14 kbar). Oxygen fugacities vary between -12.3 and -10.7 log units, with an average of -11.5 ± 0.4. The calculated water contents of the melt are 3.4–4.3 wt.% (average 3.9 ± 0.4 wt.%).

Assuming a lithostatic gradient of 1 kbar ≈ 3.78 km (Tulloch and Challis, 2000), the calculated pressures correspond to emplacement depths of 2.5–8.0 km, with an average of ~4.8 ± 1.9 km, consistent with a mid- to shallow-crustal magma chamber.

5.2. Magma Evolution

The Eastern Pontides (EP) have experienced a compressional tectonic regime since the Paleozoic–

Mesozoic transition. This regime has produced fracture systems trending NE–SW and NW–SE, influencing the placement and orientation of plutonic bodies. The axes of plutons within the EP are generally parallel to these fracture patterns, indicating tectonic control on magma ascent and intrusion. The presence of Early Eocene (ca. 55 Ma) adakitic rocks in the EP marks the terminal stage of arc–continent collision and is related to syn- or post-collisional magmatism [32,33,35,94]. During the Middle Eocene (46–40 Ma), I-type rocks were found, and the region's crust thickened. This was followed by tectonic activity after collision.

Previous geochemical studies [5,7,32,34,95–97] indicate that these plutons' parental magmas came from a metasomatized lithospheric mantle source and/or lower continental crustal melts, with possible magma mixing between mantle- and crust-derived magmas. The Eocene magmatism of the Eastern Pontides is interpreted as being associated with a post-collisional extensional regime, crustal thickening, and lithospheric delamination following slab break-off [5,7,68–70,97]. Following the break-off of the subducted Neo-Tethyan slab, lithospheric delamination likely triggered asthenospheric upwelling and localized thermal anomalies. The resultant heating induced partial melting of the metasomatized lithospheric mantle, producing the parental magmas responsible for the formation of the Hasan Dağ Pluton and other contemporaneous Eocene intrusions. Lithospheric delamination following slab breakup is proposed as a mechanism for the formation of the Hasan Dağ plutonic rocks. The developing delamination facilitated the upward movement of the asthenosphere (local or regional); it led to a hot asthenosphere thermal anomaly, causing partial melting of the chemically enriched lithospheric mantle and generating the magmas that formed the Middle Eocene rocks. Subsequently, tectonic extension caused thinning and fracture systems in the crust, allowing these melts to move upward within the crust. During the upward movement of the magma, a chamber formed at a depth of approximately 8–16 km,

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where fractional crystallization and magma mixing events occurred. Barometric estimates based on mineral compositions and petrographic characteristics (Table 3) suggest that these magma chambers existed at depths between 8 and 16 km. Magma mixing is also supported by textural features such as sieve texture and zoning. Finally, oxygen fugacity estimates indicate that oxidation conditions prevailed during crystallization at this depth.

6. Conclusions

- 1- The Eocene Hasan Dağ Pluton, located in the southern zone of the Eastern Pontides near Gümüşhane (NE Türkiye), intrudes the Late Cretaceous Çatak Formation and the Eocene Kabaköy Formation. The pluton is elliptical in shape, extends in a NE–SW direction, and covers an area of approximately 14 km².
- 2- The investigated rocks are mainly diorite, tonalite, and granodiorite in composition. Their primary mineral assemblage consists of plagioclase (An_{14–56}), orthoclase, quartz, hornblende, biotite, and minor Fe–Ti oxides, with accessory apatite and zircon.
- 3- According to geothermobarometer calculations from the rocks that form the Hasan Dağ pluton, the temperature ranges from 802 to 904 °C, and the pressure ranges from 2 to 4 kbar. Based on all the obtained data, the examined rocks are found to be within the medium-shallow continental crust (~8–16 km).

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