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# Peralkaline Felsic Magmatism at the Nemrut Volcano, Turkey: Impact of Volcanism on the Evolution of Lake Van (Anatolia)

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ORIGINAL PAPER

# **Peralkaline felsic magmatism at the Nemrut volcano, Turkey: impact of volcanism on the evolution of Lake Van (Anatolia) IV**

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**Abstract** Nemrut volcano, adjacent to Lake Van (Turkey), is one of the most important peralkaline silicic centres in the world, where magmatism for  $\approx 570,000$  years has been dominated by peralkaline trachytes and rhyolites. Using onshore and Lake Van drill site tephra samples, we document the phenocryst and glass matrix compositions, confirming a complete spectrum from very rare mafic to dominantly silicic magmas. Magma mixing has been common and, along with the multi-lineage nature of the magmas, indicates that Nemrut has been a very open system where, nevertheless, compositionally zoned caps developed during periods of relative eruptive quiescence. Geothermometry suggests that the intermediate-silicic magmas evolved in an upper crustal magma reservoir at temperatures between 1100 and 750  $\degree$ C, at  $fO_2$  close to the FMQ buffer. The silicic magmas either were halogen poor or exsolved a halogen-rich phase prior to or during eruption. An unusual Pb-rich phase, with up to 98.78 wt% PbO, is

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interpreted as having exsolved from the intermediate-rhyolitic magmas.

**Keywords** Nemrut volcano · Peralkaline magmatism · Magma mixing · Open-system

# **Introduction**

The majority of igneous suites containing peralkaline silicic members are essentially basalt-driven systems, in the sense that basalt has been the parental magma from which more evolved rocks have been derived, or has provided the heat source for partial melting of various crustal rocks (Mahood and Baker [1986](#page-22-0); Bohrson and Reid [1997](#page-21-0); Macdonald [2012](#page-22-1)). Considerable research effort has been focussed, therefore, on the primary role of basalt and has tried to evaluate the various factors that lead to peralkaline silicic end points, particularly the polybaric fractionation histories. Approaches can be broadly divided into three types. In *one*-*stage models*, the peralkaline melts are formed dominantly by fractional crystallisation of basaltic parental magmas (Barberi et al. [1975;](#page-21-1) Civetta et al. [1998](#page-21-2); Peccerillo et al. [2003](#page-22-2); Macdonald et al. [2008a](#page-22-3), [b;](#page-22-4) White et al. [2009](#page-23-0); Neave et al. [2012](#page-22-5); Rooney et al. [2012\)](#page-22-6). *Two*-*stage models* for the origin of peralkaline silicic rocks usually involve partial melting of (underplated?) basalts to form peralkaline trachyte, followed by fractional crystallisation of the trachyte to form peralkaline rhyolites (Lowenstern and Mahood [1991](#page-22-7); Bohrson and Reid [1997](#page-21-0); Trua et al. [1999](#page-23-1); Avanzinelli et al. [2004](#page-21-3)). In the *third type* of model, the formation of the peralkaline melts is by partial melting of continental crust; basalt does not directly contribute to melt production but may be the heat source promoting the melting (Bailey and Macdonald [1970](#page-21-4); Macdonald et al.



<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Fig. 1 a** Overview map of Turkey, Anatolian, Eurasian and Arabian plates, with Lake Van just north of the collision zone. *NAF* North Anatolian Fault, *EAF* East Anatolian Fault. **b** Map of Lake Van and its surroundings, notably the Nemrut and Süphan volcanoes.

The Northern Basin (NB) and Ahlat Ridge (AR) coring stations are shown. Locality numbers correspond to the sampling localities of onshore samples. Map modified from Sumita and Schmincke ([2013c\)](#page-23-5)

[1987](#page-22-0); White et al. [2006\)](#page-23-2). Other processes, such as magma mixing and crustal contamination, may be involved in all three types of petrogenesis. In this paper, we explore various aspects of the origin and evolution of peralkaline eruptive rocks at the Nemrut caldera volcano, Turkey.

Nemrut is the most active centre in Turkey. It has been the source of intense Plinian eruptions for >570,000 years, as documented by Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a,](#page-23-3) [b](#page-23-4), [c\)](#page-23-5) and Schmincke et al. ([2014\)](#page-23-6) in stratigraphic traverses over an area of  $>6000$  km<sup>2</sup> mainly to the west of Lake Van and in drill cores of the 2010 ICDP Paleovan project (Fig. [1](#page-3-0)) (Litt et al. [2011](#page-22-8)). Magmatism has been dominated by metaluminous to peralkaline trachytes and rhyolites, and the possibility of placing compositional variability in the magmas

into a tightly controlled stratigraphic framework gives the centre a special significance in the study of peralkaline felsic systems. Furthermore, Nemrut tephras are important in paleoclimate and archaeological research in lake studies not only in Turkey but in adjacent countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran (Sumita and Schmincke [2013c](#page-23-5)).

Çubukçu et al. [\(2012](#page-21-5)) provided an extensive mineralchemical and whole-rock geochemical database, and some age determinations, for Nemrut lavas and domes, using samples often difficult to place in a stratigraphic framework. Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013a](#page-23-3), [b,](#page-23-4) [c](#page-23-5)) studied the stratigraphy, temporal evolution and whole-rock, matrix glass and phenocryst compositions of the volumetrically dominant onshore pyroclastic deposits of Nemrut over 400 ka.

Schmincke et al. [\(2014](#page-23-6)) studied in more detail the mineralogy, glass compositions and volcanology of the Alleroed and Holocene drilled tephras from both Nemrut and the adjacent subalkaline Süphan volcano. We have selected a suite of tephra samples covering the compositional spectrum from mugearite to peralkaline rhyolite, with which to study in greater depth mineral-chemical and melt (glass) compositional trends and to assess their significance for the evolution of the Nemrut magmatic system. Specifically, we (1) provide a complete series of melt compositions between mugearite and peralkaline rhyolite and comment on their significance for the existence of the Daly gap; (2) describe the P–T– $fO<sub>2</sub>$  conditions operative in the magma reservoir; (3) assess the significance of alkali feldspar–glass relationships for the evolution of peralkaline silicic magmas; and (4) provide preliminary information on an unusual Pb-rich phase which may have exsolved from the Nemrut magmas.

# **Geological setting**

Nemrut volcano is situated on the East Anatolian plateau, which is generally considered to have formed by the collision of the Arabian Peninsula with the Eurasian plate, leading to the uplift of an area exceeding  $20,000 \text{ km}^2$ (Fig. [1](#page-3-0)). The close relationships between tectonic and volcanic events in the region have been discussed by Pearce et al. [\(1990](#page-22-9)), Şenğor et al. [\(2003](#page-22-10)) and Keskin (2003, [2007](#page-22-11)). Voluminous magma generation is thought to have been promoted by slab steepening and break-off in the Middle Miocene, suggesting that the mantle lithosphere is either very thin or absent beneath a considerable part of the area.

As a result of collision, the North Anatolian Block, bordered to the north by the right-lateral strike-slip North Anatolian Fault and to the south by the left-lateral East Anatolian Fault (Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0), moved westwards, with the Mus¸ and adjacent Van basins being formed as pull-apart basins. Since before 0.5 Ma, Nemrut volcano has been growing in the hinge zone between the two basins and may have been responsible for damming the huge Lake Van in the Van tectonic basin (Sumita and Schmincke [2013a\)](#page-23-3). Çubukçu et al. [\(2012](#page-21-5)) speculated that the peralkaline magmatism at Nemrut was related to the ascent of asthenospheric partial melts into upper crustal levels under the Mus basin, where preexisting shear zones gained a strike-slip component leading to localised extension.

# **Volcanological framework**

Although explosive activity at Nemrut may have started prior to ~600 ka, the oldest onshore deposits so far found, south of Lake Van, have recently been dated as ~570 ka (Sumita and Schmincke [2013a](#page-23-3) and unpublished data). These authors have distinguished about forty widespread trachytic and rhyolitic fallout tephras and about twelve interbedded ignimbrites and have subdivided the succession into three age groups, bound by widespread, distinctive tephra units. *Group 1* (~405–200 ka) comprises some widespread fallout tephras and several ignimbrites. The deposits of *Group 2* were emplaced between ~190 and 30 ka. The older date (~190 ka) is for AP-1, a huge rhyolitic Plinian fallout deposit overlain by a cogenetic ignimbrite with a combined magma volume (DRE; dense rock equivalent) of  $\sim$ 30 km<sup>3</sup>. The tephra section drilled at Lake Van also shows a major increase in Nemrut tephras starting at ~200 ka, suggesting that the increase in explosive volcanism of Nemrut at ~200 ka is real. *Group 3* begins with the compositionally zoned Nemrut Formation (NF; 30 ka) which consists of several members in a complex sequence of fallout-surge-ignimbrite-surge-fallout deposits. A prominent agglutinate and underlying trachytic fallout north of Tatvan, formerly correlated with NF (Sumita and Schmincke  $2013c$ , is now correlated by us with the ~60 ka trachytic AP-6 (HP-10). The tephras of the Çekmece Formation, previously thought by Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c\)](#page-23-5) to overlie NF are now thought to be older than NF. Details of the correlation are, however, still under study (see Fig. [2\)](#page-5-0).

Three points made by Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3), [c\)](#page-23-5) are relevant to the evolution of the Nemrut system. First, starting with AP-1 at ~190 ka, major eruptions appear to have occurred at intervals spaced some 20–40,000 years apart, which were interpreted as being the incubation times for the silicic magmas to develop into eruptible volumes. Second, peralkalinity peaked at ~120 ka with the strongly peralkaline AP-4 but has decreased since. Third, the number and frequency of large volume, mostly rhyolitic fall deposits, seem to have increased since ~300 ka, particularly with the large-volume AP-1 at ~190 ka. The increase in tephra output has remained high until the present.

In the spectrum of silicic caldera systems (Smith [1979](#page-23-8)), Nemrut is small- to medium-sized, as is typical of peralkaline volcanoes (Mahood [1984](#page-22-12); Macdonald [2012](#page-22-1)). The rhyolitic eruption rates (at intervals of  $\sim$ 20–40 ky) are similar to other long-lived peralkaline volcanoes, such as Gran Canaria (Schmincke and Sumita [1998\)](#page-23-9), whilst erupted tephra volumes are smaller. Among peralkaline centres, Baitoushan Volcano, situated in a continental rift setting straddling the North Korea–China border, is a close compositional analogue to Nemrut (Horn and Schmincke [2000](#page-22-13)). Baitoushan is a composite cone built largely of trachytic and comenditic lava flows, fallout and ignimbrites.

# **Samples and analytical methods**

We have analysed in detail six tephra samples from onshore and six from the 219-m ICDP Lake Van drill core from Site



<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Stratigraphic position of the analysed samples is shown for onshore samples in (**a**); modified from Sumita and Schmincke ([2013c\)](#page-23-5). The stratigraphic column (Site 2) for core samples (**b**) is taken from Stockhecke et al. [\(2014](#page-23-10)). Sample V-16 is from an older

piston core site (see Schmincke et al. [2014](#page-23-6)). Ages for onshore samples were presented in Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3)). Ages for core samples are still approximate and will be presented in detail by Sumita and Schmincke (in prep.)

2, selected to cover the compositional range mugearite to peralkaline rhyolite (Figs. [1,](#page-3-0) [2](#page-5-0)). For further analyses of the main phenocryst phases from additional onshore and drilled tephra units, see Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c\)](#page-23-5) and Schmincke et al. ([2014\)](#page-23-6). Table [1](#page-6-0) lists the sample numbers, their origin and their approximate age. The samples range in age from 2.6 to  $\sim$  530 ka, covering much of the eruptive history of the volcano.

Mineral compositions were determined by electron microprobe at the Inter-Institute Analytical Complex at the Institute of Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology, University of Warsaw, using a Cameca SX-100 microprobe equipped with three wavelength dispersive spectrometers. As an example of the analytical conditions, those for chevkinite-(Ce) were accelerating voltage

15 kV and the probe current 40 nA, with counting times of 20 s on peak and 10 s on each of two background positions. The standards, crystals and X-ray lines used and generalised detection limits are given in the Appendix. The "PAP" $\varphi(\rho Z)$  program (Pouchou and Pichoir [1991\)](#page-22-14) was used for corrections. Analytical conditions for other minerals may be obtained from the authors. Apatite was analysed using the technique outlined in Macdonald et al. ([2008a\)](#page-22-3). Estimates of analytical precision (1*σ*; wt%) for all phases except glass are: Si 0.07, Ti 0.03, Al 0.02, Cr 0.02, Ni 0.03, Fe 0.09, Mn 0.03, Mg 0.04, Ca 0.08, Na 0.01, K 0.01. For glass analyses, the values are Si 0.40, Ti 0.03, Al 0.14, Fe 0.29, Mn 0.12, Mg 0.02, Ca 0.03, Na 0.17, K 0.11, P 0.03, Cl 0.03, F 0.08. Averages and/ or representative analyses are presented in Tables [2](#page-8-0), [3](#page-9-0), [4,](#page-10-0)



p, present a

Localities from Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3), [c\)](#page-23-5)

<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Table 1** Mineralogical summary of samples

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[5](#page-11-0), [6,](#page-11-1) [7](#page-12-0) and [8](#page-12-1); the full data set is given in Tables 1–4 in ESM.

# **Petrography**

The rock nomenclature used here is based on the matrix glass composition; we acknowledge that the glass composition in porphyritic samples will normally be more evolved than the whole-rock composition. The primary classification is from Le Bas et al. [\(1986](#page-22-15)) and the peralkaline trachytes and rhyolites are classified using the Macdonald [\(1974](#page-22-16)) scheme.

In detail, the Nemrut rocks are very complex. For example, whole rocks and matrix glasses described by Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3), [b,](#page-23-4) [c](#page-23-5)) as broadly trachytic comprise silica-saturated and silica-undersaturated, and metaluminous and peralkaline varieties. Certain trachytic units were distinguished on the basis of trace element characteristics, such as high Ba and Sr. In the peralkaline rhyolites, Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c](#page-23-5)) recognised three distinct assemblages including aenigmatite in addition to alkali feldspar and FeTi oxides; aenigmatite  $+$  quartz, aenigmatite  $+$  Fe-rich clinopyroxene  $+$  quartz and aenigmatite + hedenbergite + fayalitic olivine. A fourth assemblage, aenigmatite + hedenbergite + fayalitic olivine  $+$  quartz, is added below (sample 2009-07-19-06). These must represent different magmatic evolutionary paths. It would be valuable to relate phenocryst assemblages to published whole-rock or glass compositions, but few analyses have so far been tied to specific mineral assemblages, especially for cored tephra samples whose volume is generally too small to allow bulk rock analyses of pumice clasts. The following discussion relates mainly, therefore, to our study samples. Mineral assemblages are given in Table [1.](#page-6-0) Textural details of analysed samples are given in the Tables in ESM.

The primary phenocryst assemblage in the mugearites and benmoreites is olivine  $\text{(ol)} + \text{clinopyroxene}$  $(cpx)$  + plagioclase (plag) + ilmenite (ilm) + magnetite (mt)  $\pm$  apatite (ap). Judging from the compositions of xenocrysts in some mixed magma rocks (below), benmoreites mixed frequently with more felsic magmas. The metaluminous and peralkaline trachytes contain ol + cpx + ilm + mt + alkali feldspar  $(af)$  + ap. As noted above, the rhyolites show several phenocryst assemblages; a generalised assemblage is ol + cpx + af + ilm + mt +  $ap + quartz$ , joined, with increasing host-rock peralkalinity, by aenigmatite. Chevkinite-(Ce), zircon and pyrrhotite microphenocrysts are present in some rocks (Table [1](#page-6-0)). Mixed magma rocks can be recognised by containing matrix glasses of variable composition (e.g. 2009-07-19-06;

Table [1](#page-6-0)) and/or more than one phenocryst population, e.g. the clinopyroxenes and feldspars in sample 2009-07-14-06.

*Olivine* phenocrysts occur mainly as discrete, subhedral, slightly resorbed crystals up to  $600 \mu m$  across, some with inclusions of FeTi oxides, zircon, apatite and chevkinite (Fig. [3](#page-13-0)a). Two types of *clinopyroxene* are distinguishable optically: a pale brown to colourless type in the benmoreites and some trachytes, and a deep green variety in the more felsic rocks. In both, it occurs as euhedral to subhedral prisms, up to 1300 μm long, and as partly resorbed anhedral plates. The pyroxene may be included in olivine and plagioclase and itself commonly includes olivine, FeTi oxides, apatite and glass (melt) inclusions (Fig. [3](#page-13-0)b). *Plagioclase* phenocrysts in benmoreite sample 2009-07-16- 05 form anhedral plates up to  $450 \mu m$  across. In mixed magma rocks, they tend to be smaller, occurring, for example, as tiny (few tens of  $\mu$ m) laths in dark glass in sample V-279 (2G-28A-1, 26–32 cm). The dominant form of *alkali feldspar* phenocrysts occurs as euhedral to subhedral, partially resorbed plates up to 1250 μm across. Prismatic forms are less common. Rounded *quartz* phenocrysts occur in five samples, sometimes intergrown with alkali feldspar (Fig. [3c](#page-13-0)).

*Ilmenite* occurs mainly as euhedral to subhedral crystals, up to  $150 \mu m$  across, associated with, or included in, olivine and clinopyroxene phenocrysts (Fig. [3b](#page-13-0)). *Titanomagnetite*, up to 500 μm across, is included in olivine and clinopyroxene phenocrysts but also in feldspar phenocrysts and as discrete crystals. Ilmenite and titanomagnetite are occasionally found enclosed in the same crystal. *Aenigmatite* occurs as subhedral plates and prisms, up to 700 μm long.

*Apatite* microphenocrysts are mainly included in, or associated with, clinopyroxene phenocrysts (Fig. [3b](#page-13-0)), but also form inclusions in olivine (Fig. [3a](#page-13-0)), oxides and aenigmatite and, more rarely, discrete crystals in glass. They vary from euhedral prisms, exceptionally 250 μm long, to rounded forms up to 70  $\mu$ m across. Zoning is best developed in the peralkaline rocks and includes both oscillatory and patchy types (Fig. [3d](#page-13-0)). Most commonly, bright (higher Z on BSE images) cores are rimmed by darker margins. *Zircon* occurs as anhedral crystals, up to 50 μm across, included in olivine (Fig. [3](#page-13-0)a) and clinopyroxene (Fig. [3b](#page-13-0)) phenocrysts. *Chevkinite*-*(Ce)* has been positively identified in sample 2008-07-03-03, where it occurs as rounded crystals  $(<50 \mu m)$  associated with zircon in clinopyrox-ene (Fig. [3](#page-13-0)a) and as a prism (93  $\mu$ m long) attached to, and included in, olivine (Fig. [3a](#page-13-0)). We have also analysed chevkinite in an additional sample, V-16 (VAN04-2-4-S4, 83.5– 84 cm; see Table 3 in ESM; core sample from 2004 expedition—details are in Schmincke et al. [2014](#page-23-6)), where it forms small anhedral plates and subhedral prisms. Rounded FeS

<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Table 2** Representative compositions of clinopyroxene phenocrysts in Nemrut volcano



FeO\*, all Fe as Fe<sup>2+</sup> . Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>2+</sup> calculated from stoichiometry. Cr and V below detection in all samples. Textural details of all samples in Table 1b in ESM

inclusions are present in several rocks, most commonly as inclusions in clinopyroxene phenocrysts (Table [1\)](#page-6-0), where analysed (sample 2009-07-19-06) the phase is pyrrhotite.

At least five samples contain unusual Pb-rich phases (Table [1\)](#page-6-0), which, although superficially resembling amygdales, we interpret as having exsolved from magma. In comendite 2B-5H-5cc, the phase forms rounded to ellipsoidal "patches", which, from the way in which they coalesce, were clearly deformable during melt movement. They did not grow in vesicles but rather resemble globules formed by liquid immiscibility (Fig. [4](#page-14-0)a). Perhaps the clearest evidence of the magmatic nature of at least some of the patches is shown in a feldspar crystal. In peralkaline rhyolite sample 2009-07-14-06 (Fig. [4](#page-14-0)b), a plagioclase xenocryst is complexly zoned from labradorite in the core  $(An_{69-61})$  through andesine  $(An_{50-48})$  to oligoclase  $(An_{29})$ , with a return to labradorite  $(An_{60-52})$  at the rim. When the feldspar had reached andesine composition, there was precipitation of olivine (Fo<sub>60</sub>), clinopyroxene (Mg# ~56, where Mg# is magnesium number (Mg/(Mg +  $Fe^{2+}$ )), titanomagnetite and a Pb-bearing phase, now found as abundant, variably sized inclusions trapped in the feldspar. This was followed by mixing of the benmoreitic/trachytic magma with more mafic magma, as indicated by the labradoritic rim, with no further release of the Pb-rich phase, which is absent from the rim.

# **Phenocryst compositions**

# **Olivine**

Compositions range from  $Fo_{59,2-0.4}$  (Table 1a in ESM), the Fo content decreasing with increasing host-rock  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ content and peralkalinity, as follows: mugearite Fo 57.7– 41.7, trachyte 14.7–13.5, rhyolites 2.3–0.4. Two populations are present in 2007-07-19-06, Fo ~13.6 and ~5.0. Sample 2008-07-05-13 contains both trachytic and rhyolitic glasses; the analysed olivines are associated with the trachyte. MnO contents are up to  $3.72 \text{ wt\%}$  (Tp 5.3),

<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Table 3** Representative compositions of aenigmatite phenocrysts

Contrib Mineral Petrol (2015) 169:34



Zn and Zr below detection in all analyses. FeO\*, all Fe as  $Fe^{2+}$ . Sample descriptions: 1, 2, 3, subhedral phenocrysts up to 900 µm long, 4, 5, rim and core of slightly resorbed prism (700  $\times$  250 µm); 6, anhedral grain; 7, 8, rim and core of partly fragmented crystal (625  $\times$  350 µm)

Σ cations 14.07 14.00 14.08 14.07 14.04 14.07 14.01 14.07

increasing with increasing Fa content. Levels of CaO are up to 0.61 wt%, and there is no correlation with Fo content.

#### **Clinopyroxene**

The full compositional range is from  $Ca<sub>45.8</sub>Mg<sub>48.5</sub>Fe<sub>5.7</sub>$  to  $Ca_{42.7}Mg_{0.5}Fe_{56.8}$  (Table [2;](#page-8-0) Table 1b in ESM) (Fig. [5\)](#page-14-1). The most magnesian compositions are found in the benmoreites, often as crystal cores, and in mixed magma rocks. Pyroxenes in trachytes and rhyolites are hedenbergite, with low Na contents (<0.2 apfu). Zoning is most pronounced in the benmoreites and metaluminous trachytes; one crystal in 2009-07-16-05 is zoned from  $Mg_{28,4-38,9}$ , for example. In the salic rocks, zoning is usually  $\leq \text{En}_2$ . Aluminium and Ti contents are low  $(\leq 0.131$  and  $\leq 0.042$  apfu, respectively) and decrease with decreasing En content. In the benmoreites and some trachytes, the pyroxenes have Na < Al and pyroxene crystallisation would tend to increase the peralkalinity of residual melts. In other trachytes and the rhyolites, Na exceeds Al and pyroxene crystallisation alone would tend to decrease the peralkalinity of residual melts, the so-called clinopyroxene effect of Scaillet and Macdonald [\(2003](#page-22-17)).

#### **Orthopyroxene**

Orthopyroxene ( $\text{Wo}_{2.9}\text{En}_{54.5}\text{Fs}_{42.6}$ ) forms the core to a rounded grain (160  $\times$  120 μm) rimmed by clinopyroxene  $(Wo_{4.5}En_{37.2}Fs_{21.3})$  in sample 2009-07-19-06 (Table 1b in ESM). The orthopyroxene may be a xenocryst from wall rocks. However, there is some evidence that the phase may crystallize in alkaline suites. Freundt-Malecha et al. ([2001\)](#page-21-6) reported rare orthopyroxene  $(En_{75-70})$  in cognate syenogabbro fragments in the Miocene rhyolitic–basaltic composite ignimbrite P1 on Gran Canaria, and orthopyroxene is also a common, although minor, phase in the basal ignimbrites of the Miocene peralkaline ignimbrite succession on Gran Canaria (Schmincke and Sumita [1998](#page-23-9)). In a series of exper-iments on a hawaiite, Nekvasil et al. ([2004\)](#page-22-18) found orthopyroxene ( $En<sub>65–58</sub>$ ) crystallizing in equilibrium with kaersutite at 9.3 kbar,  $T = 1040 - 1000$  °C, at "high" water contents. Rooney et al. ([2012\)](#page-22-6) found, during MELTS modelling, that the transition trachyte to rhyolite in the 3.1 Ma peralkaline Chefe Donsa phreatomagmatic deposits on the shoulder of the Main Ethiopian Rift required minor amounts of orthopyroxene in the crystallizing assemblage, although the phase was not recorded modally. The possibility cannot be precluded that (some) Nemrut magmas passed through an

# <span id="page-10-0"></span>**Table 4** Representative analyses of apatite



FeO\*, all Fe as Fe<sup>2+</sup>; bd, below detection. Sample descriptions: 1–4, various zones in oscillatory zoned crystal (31 × 14 µm) in aenigmatite; 4–6, along prism in cpx; 7, cross section  $(32 \times 19 \text{ µm})$  in cpx; 8, core in  $67 \times 27 \text{ µm}$  crystal in cpx; 9, prism in titanomagnetite; 10, core, cross section in cpx

#### <span id="page-11-0"></span>**Table 5** Representative compositions of Pb-rich phase



FeO\*, all Fe as  $Fe^{2+}$ ; bd, below detection. Mg, Mn, Cl, S and F are below detection in all analyses. Details of the samples are provided in Table [1](#page-6-0)

<span id="page-11-1"></span>



FeO\*, all Fe as Fe<sup>2+</sup>; bd, below detection. F and P below detection in all samples. PI, peralkalinity index [mol. (Na<sub>2</sub>O + K<sub>2</sub>O/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)]. Sample descriptions: 1: rimming cpx; 2: shard; 3: rimming cpx; 4: angular shard; 5: pumice fragment; 6: rimming alkali feldspar; 7: inclusion in olivine; 8: inclusion in cpx; 9: inclusion in cpx; 10: inclusion in olivine

orthopyroxene stability field at high pressure, the mineral very rarely surviving resorption at lower pressures.

#### **Feldspar**

A further option is that the orthopyroxene is a relict of mixing between a Nemrut magma and magma from the neighbouring Süphan volcano. Süphan rocks are commonly orthopyroxene-phyric, and Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c\)](#page-23-5) have speculated that magmas from the volcano may have entered the Nemrut system at various stages, e.g. following the huge eruption of the Nemrut Formation fallout and pyroclastic flow. Analyses of orthopyroxene in Süphan tephras are given in Schmincke et al. ([2014\)](#page-23-6).

Feldspar compositions range from  $An_{69,0}Ab_{29,9}Or_{1,1}$  to  $An_{0.0}Ab_{57.6}Or_{42.4}$  $An_{0.0}Ab_{57.6}Or_{42.4}$  $An_{0.0}Ab_{57.6}Or_{42.4}$ , i.e. labradorite to sanidine (Fig. 6; Table 1c in ESM). It is likely that the most calcic phases  $(An > 50)$ , which are restricted to mixed magma rocks, crystallized from basaltic magmas.  $\frac{iv}{v}$ Al is low (<0.1 apfu) in the alkali feldspars but up to 0.692 apfu in plagioclase, with <sup>iv</sup>Al/<sup>vi</sup>Al ratios as high as 0.71. Iron contents ( $\leq$ 1.16 wt%  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ ) are within the range normally recorded in peralkaline salic rocks ( $\leq$ 1.5 wt%; Macdonald et al. [2011\)](#page-22-19). The alkali

<span id="page-12-0"></span>**Table 7**  $T-fO<sub>2</sub>$  estimates fr<br>FeTi oxides

<b>Table 7</b> $T - fO_2$ estimates from FeTi oxides	Sample	Glass comp.	Occurrence	Temp $(^{\circ}C)$	$f_{1/2}$
	2007-07-19-06	Trachyandesite	In same of phen	875	$-13.82$
	2008-07-04-04	Comendite	In same of phen	837	$-15.29$
			In same glass clast	832	$-15.45$
			In same glass clast	826	$-15.61$
		Trachyte	In same pyrox phen	898	$-13.63$
	$V-70$	Comendite	In same glass clast	791	$-16.34$

feldspar host rocks evolve to around  $Or_{41}$  in the most peralkaline rhyolites, in line with experimental evidence from peralkaline rhyolites from the Kenya Rift which showed that at melt proportions  $<60$  wt% the alkali feldspar composition remained constant at  $\sim Or_{40}$  (Scaillet and Macdonald [2003,](#page-22-17) [2006\)](#page-22-20). It is also consistent with data from the peralkaline rhyolites of Pantelleria, Italy, where the alkali feldspars evolve to a composition of  $Or_{39}$  (Neave et al. [2012](#page-22-5)).

# **FeTi oxides**

Ilmenite compositions fall in the range  $X_{\text{ilm}}$  92–99, values generally increasing with increasing melt peralkalinity and  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  content (Table 2c in ESM). Manganese contents are low (0.011–0.037 apfu; 0.52–1.89 wt% MnO). Contents of Mg range from 0. to 0.155 apfu (b.d.–4.24 wt% MgO) and decrease with increasing  $X_{\text{ilm}}$ . Niobium varies from 0 to 0.007 apfu (<0.08–0.52 wt%  $Nb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>$ ) and also decreases with increasing  $X_{\text{ilm}}$ . Spinel compositions are in the range  $X_{\text{usp}}$  61–73, the highest values tending to be in the peralkaline rhyolites. Levels of  $Al_2O_3$  are up to 1.3 wt%, with the exception of a partly resorbed, zoned crystal in 2009- 07-16-05, with core and rim values of 3.24 and 3.19 wt%, respectively. Unlike the other spinels, this crystal has detectable  $V_2O_3$  contents (0.95, 1.07 wt%) and the highest MgO values in the data set (3.77, 3.67 wt%), consistent with the intermediate composition of the host.

<span id="page-12-1"></span>**Table 8** *T*–*P* estimates from clinopyroxene–liquid equilibrium

# **Aenigmatite**

Macdonald et al. ([2011\)](#page-22-19) noted that, although Ti and Fe variations are limited in aenigmatite phenocrysts from peralkaline rhyolites, there are significant ranges in  $Al_2O_3$  and CaO contents, such that compositional variation can be expressed by the coupled substitution  $\frac{IV}{SI}$  +  $\frac{VIII}{VA}$   $\leftrightarrow$   $\frac{IV}{A}$  +  $\frac{VIII}{CA}$  (Kunzmann [1999](#page-22-21)) (Fig. [7](#page-15-1)). The Nemrut data extend the field of aenigmatite phenocryst compositions in peralkaline rhyolites to slightly lower Na and Si contents (Table [3;](#page-9-0) Table 2b in ESM). There is observational (Macdonald et al. [2011\)](#page-22-19) and experimental (Di Carlo et al. [2010](#page-21-7)) evidence that phenocrystic aenigmatite is restricted to rhyolites with peralkalinity index >1.2. This is consistent with its occurrence in the Nemrut samples, where the aenigmatite-phyric glasses are transitional from comendite to pantellerite (see below).

# **Apatite**

Both hydroxylapatite and fluorapatite are present (Table [4](#page-10-0); Table 2c in ESM), but there is no relationship between apatite and whole-rock compositions. The main compositional variation can be expressed as  $REE^{3+} + Si^{4+} = Ca^{2+} + P^{5+}$ (Fig. [8\)](#page-15-2). The britholite component, as inferred by the sum of REE  $+$  Si apfu, increases in the sequence mugearite– trachyte–rhyolite, to a maximum value of 0.8 (~10 %). An



Models: 1a and 1b, Putirka ([2008\)](#page-22-22); H<sub>2</sub>O content of glass calculated by difference.  $P = 1$  kbar (1a) and 2 kbar (1b). Models 2a and 2b, recali-brated Putirka [\(2008](#page-22-22)) model; H<sub>2</sub>O content of glass determined by difference. *P* = 1 kbar (2a) and 2 kbar (2b). Model 3: Masotta et al. [\(2013](#page-22-23)) model, which calculates *P* and T simultaneously by iteration

<span id="page-13-0"></span>**Fig. 3** BSE images of mineralogical assemblages in the trachytes and rhyolites. **a** Sample 2008-07-07-03. Olivine (Ol) phenocryst includes, or is associated with, microphenocrysts of chevkinite (Chv), apatite (Ap) and zircon (Zrn) and melt (glass) inclusions (MI). **b** Sample 2008-07-07-03. Glass-rimmed clinopyroxene phenocryst has inclusions of ilmenite, chevkinite-(Ce), apatite and zircon. The largest ilmenite crystal contains four small zircons (<10 m) not easily distinguishable on this image. **c** Sample 2007-07- 05-13. Intergrowth of quartz (Qtz) and alkali feldspar (Kfs), rimmed by glass (Gl). **d** Sample V-89 (2B-8H-4 cc). Oscillatory zoned apatite in clinopyroxene (Cpx) phenocryst. The brighter zones reflect higher REE contents



increasing britholite component is positively correlated with Na,  $[Ce/Y]_{CN}$  and broadly with Fe.

The low britholite component in the Nemrut apatites is consistent with data for other peralkaline silicic suites. Mahood and Stimac  $(1990)$  $(1990)$  found REE + Si values ≤0.5 apfu in Pantellerian trachytes and pantellerites, and Macdonald et al.  $(2011)$  $(2011)$  recorded up to ~7 mol% solid solution towards britholite-(Ce) in apatites from pantelleritic trachytes of the Menengai volcano, Kenya. In contrast, Macdonald et al. ([2008a](#page-22-3)) found up to 35 % britholite component in apatite in comendites of the Olkaria complex, Kenya. The reasons why apatites from more strongly peralkaline (pantelleritic) rocks are less REE-enriched than those from mildly peralkaline (comenditic) rocks are not known.

Compositional zoning in apatite, as in other accessory phases, can result from magma mixing, changes in crystal/melt partitioning and kinetic effects (Tepper and Kuehner [1999](#page-23-11); Boyce and Hervig [2009\)](#page-21-8). The observation that complex zoning at Nemrut occurs in apatites in unzoned host minerals (Fig. [3](#page-13-0)d), which judging from melt–crystal systematics are in, or close to, equilibrium, makes it likely that the zonation is a result of kinetic factors controlling element migration into the growing crystals. Furthermore, the strongest zonation occurs in those with the highest britholite (REE  $+$  Si) component. We can thus speculate that the diffusion rates of REE were lower than crystal growth rates (Watson et al. [1985](#page-23-12)), resulting in build-up of REE at crystal faces, followed by rapid crystallisation, leading cyclically to element depletion. The diffusion rate may have been slower than that of REE alone because of the movement of Si as the chargebalancing element, e.g.  $REE^{3+} + Si^{4+} = Ca^{2+} + P^{5+}$ (Cherniak [2000\)](#page-21-9).

# **Chevkinite‑(Ce)**

The REE–Fe–Ti silicate chevkinite has the general formula  $A_4BC_2D_2(Si_2O_7)$ , where the dominant cations in each site are: A = Ca, REE (and Y); B =  $Fe^{2+}$ ; C =  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$ , Ti; and D = Ti. Six EMP analyses of chevkinite crystals included in clinopyroxene, or attached to olivine, phenocrysts in comendite sample 2008-07-03-03, and six analyses of grains variably associated with clinopyroxene and feldspar phenocrysts in sample VAN04-2-4-S4, are presented in Table 3a in ESM. Cation sums are in the range 13.03–13.20 (average 13.10), fairly close to the ideal value of 13. The formula can be given as  $(Ce_{1.67}La_{0.95} Ca_{0.61})$  $Nd_{0.55}Pr_{0.17}Y_{0.08}A_{0.03}$   $Fe^{2+}(Fe^{2+}_{0.95}Ti_{0.81}Nb_{0.07}Zr_{0.04}Mn_{0.04}A_{1.91}$  $(Si_{1.99}O_7)_{1.98}O_8$ . The dominance of Ce in the A site makes the phase chevkinite-(Ce).  $Fe^{2+}$  is dominant in the C site, and Th, Nb and Zr contents are all rather low  $\langle$ <0.09 apfu). There are slight differences in the minerals in the two samples; chevkinite-(Ce) in 2008-07-03-03 has slightly higher Nb, Th, Sm, Y and Al contents, and lower Ti, La, Ce and Nd contents than that in V-16 (VAN04-2-4-S4, 83.5–84 cm).

The Nemrut chevkinite-(Ce) is compositionally similar to chevkinite reported from other peralkaline rhyolites,



<span id="page-14-0"></span>**Fig. 4** BSE images of Pb-rich globules. **a** Comendite 2009-07-14-6. Globules stretched during late magma flowage, parallel to the vesicles. The variations in brightness in the globules reflect Si abundances (higher  $Z =$  lower Si). Pb1 is essentially Si-free; globules of type Pb2 have  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  values up to 33 wt%, which are thought to represent contamination of the analysis by the host. Note the coalescing nature of the globules, similar to immiscible droplets in igneous rocks. Note also that they generally do not occur in the vesicles, although they may overlap with them. The host glass is pristine, i.e. not devitrified. **b** Plagioclase xenocryst in sample 2009-07-14-6 contains inclusions of olivine, clinopyroxene, titanomagnetite and a Pb-rich phase (Pb)

e.g. the Kane Wash Tuff, Nevada (Novak and Mahood [1986](#page-22-25)), the Olkaria complex, Kenya (Macdonald et al. [2002,](#page-22-26) [2008b](#page-22-4)) and Gran Canaria (Troll et al. [2003](#page-23-13)).

#### **Zircon**

Four analyses of zircon are given in Table 3b in ESM. They are close to stoichiometric  $(Zr_{1.00}Si_{0.99}O_4)$ , with Fe, Ti, P, Hf and Y in trace amounts (all  $\leq 0.01$  apfu).

# **Pyrrhotite**

Pyrrhotite in sample 2009-07-19-06 forms inclusions in olivine phenocrysts. The formula is  $Fe_{0.93}S_{1.00}$ , with trace amounts of Co, Cu, Pb and Zn  $\left($ <0.01 apfu).



<span id="page-14-1"></span>**Fig. 5** Composition of Nemrut clinopyroxene phenocrysts plotted in the Di–Hd–En–Fs quadrilateral. Onshore (**a**) and core (**b**) samples are shown separately. The two diopside-rich analyses are exceptional for Nemrut and may represent reworked material from Süphan (Schmincke et al. [2014](#page-23-6))

#### **Pb‑bearing phase(s)**

The globules proved difficult to analyse by microprobe. They are composed of aggregates of crystals whose size is below resolution of standard SEM and the surfaces are not flat. The phases were also very unstable during analysis. Point analyses are often, therefore, a composite of the Pbbearing phase and the host material, which appear as components with higher and lower Z on BSE images (Fig. [4](#page-14-0)a). Table [5](#page-11-0) presents electron microprobe analyses of eight globules. The components are presented as oxides, although we have no good evidence as to the real chemical species. There are two "end-member" compositions. In one, PbO is overwhelmingly the dominant component, up to 98.78 wt% (Table [5;](#page-11-0) Table 3c in ESM). In the other, PbO abundances are lower  $({\sim}80 \text{ wt\%})$  and the analytical totals are also lower (81–82 wt%). Despite careful search, neither S nor F was detected in any globule. Furthermore, EDS spectra indicated the presence of a significant C peak, several times higher than the peak from the carbon coating of the thin section. It appears that the second phase is a carbonate.

The presence of PbO and  $PbCO<sub>3</sub>$  components was confirmed by Raman spectroscopy, conducted in the Department of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, using a Labram HR800 (Horiba Jobin-Yvon) spectrometer. Peaks at 141.5 and 1050 cm−<sup>1</sup> indicated PbO and PbCO3, respectively. Details of the methodology used are given in the Appendix. We know of no published report of PbO or  $PbCO<sub>3</sub>$  phases occurring apparently as magmatic phases and currently have no explanation of the origin of the globules. Further work is in progress.



<span id="page-15-0"></span>**Fig. 6** Compositions of Nemrut feldspar phenocrysts and xenocrysts plotted in the An–Ab–Or ternary. Onshore (**a**) and core samples (**b**) are shown separately. The field of feldspar compositions from the



<span id="page-15-1"></span>**Fig. 7**  $(Ca^{2+} + Al^{3+})$  plotted against  $(Na^{+} + Si^{4+})$  to demonstrate substitution among the minor components in Nemrut aenigmatite phenocrysts. The field encloses data for peralkaline rhyolites from Pantelleria (Italy), Mayor Island (New Zealand), Gedemsa (Ethiopia), Eburru and Olkaria (Kenya) and Socorro (Mexico), from compilation by Macdonald et al. ([2011\)](#page-22-19). The Nemrut data extend the field to more  $(Ca + A)$ -rich compositions, consistent with their relatively low peralkalinity indices. Data from Table 2b in ESM

# **Matrix glass and melt inclusion compositions**

First, any compositional modifications due to secondary hydration, to which pyroclastic peralkaline rocks are particularly prone, must be assessed. Oxide totals range from 95.06 to 101.87 wt%, with an average of 98.86 wt%,

![](_page_15_Figure_9.jpeg)

Nemrut Formation, which is compositionally zoned from mugearite to rhyolite, is shown for comparison

![](_page_15_Figure_11.jpeg)

<span id="page-15-2"></span>**Fig. 8** Dominant substitution in Nemrut apatite (micro)phenocrysts is  $(REE^{3+} + Y^{3+} + Si^{4+}) \leftrightarrow (Ca^{2+} + P^{5+})$ . Data from Table 2c in **ESM** 

indicating generally low water contents, in agreement with many glass analyses of Nemrut tephra presented by Sumita and Schmincke ([2013c\)](#page-23-5) and Schmincke et al. [\(2014](#page-23-6)). Thus, although some samples may have been mildly hydrated, it appears that the majority represent pre-eruptive compositions, with the exception of volatiles probably degassed prior to, and during, eruption.

Matrix glass compositions range from mugearite and benmoreite through metaluminous trachyte to peralkaline trachyte and rhyolite (Table [6](#page-11-1); Table 4a in ESM). Melt inclusions from olivine and pyroxene phenocrysts cover a similar compositional range to the matrix glasses and in the following are discussed together with the matrix glasses. With increasing  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  contents, MgO, CaO, TiO<sub>2</sub>

and FeO\* contents decrease (Fig. [9\)](#page-17-0).  $\text{Al}_3\text{O}_3$  peaks at ~60 wt%  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ . A notable feature is the large range in FeO\* contents (1.5–4.5 wt%) at a given  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  content in the rhyolites. This is discussed below. The contents of both  $Na<sub>2</sub>O$ and  $K_2O$  increase to ~65 wt% SiO<sub>2</sub> and then decrease. This behaviour is rather unusual for peralkaline suites, where Na generally increases with increasing differentiation whilst K remains about constant. The trends are broadly similar to those found by Çubukçu et al.  $(2012)$  $(2012)$  in their study of Nemrut and to those for the compositionally zoned Nemrut Formation, which varies from lower comenditic fallout through middle trachytic ignimbrite to mugearitic fallout (Sumita and Schmincke [2013c](#page-23-5)). One group of analyses in the new data set, all from sample 2009-07-16-05, is unusual in having high Na<sub>2</sub>O (4.8–5.4 wt%) for its  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  contents (51–64 wt%). It is uncertain whether the analyses represent a slightly different, higher Na, magmatic lineage or are a result of local alkali mobilisation.

Matrix glasses of more than one composition characterise the mixed magma rocks (e.g. samples 2008-07-03- 03, 2009-07-19-06; Table [1\)](#page-6-0). The largest range is found in 2009-07-19-06 which contains glass of mugearitic, benmoreitic and trachytic composition (55.87–62.50 wt%  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ ). In others, the compositional range reflects the ongoing crystallisation of the melt. For example, in 2009-07-16- 05, the range is from mugearite to benmoreite and the glass rimming the phenocrysts becomes more silica-rich in the sequence ol–cpx–plag, evidence of the order of appearance of the phases.

Matrix glass and melt inclusions from the *peralkaline* trachytes and rhyolites are plotted in the classification diagram of Macdonald ([1974\)](#page-22-16) in Fig. [10](#page-18-0)a, along with data for glass shards in the compositionally zoned Nemrut Formation for comparison (Sumita and Schmincke [2013c\)](#page-23-5). The majority are comendites, with some points just entering into the pantellerite field. Magmas evolving along a single liquid line of descent form relatively simple trends on this plot, as shown for various peralkaline suites on Fig. [10](#page-18-0)b. The Nemrut data are more complex; a larger group of analyses forms a trend extending from the comendite field into the pantellerite field, the trend being very similar to that of the Olkaria comendites in the Kenya Rift. A second group, which plots at higher FeO\* contents for a given  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  value on Fig. [9](#page-17-0), is transitional towards the trend for Pantellerian peralkaline rocks, plotting along a trend from comenditic trachyte towards pantellerite. The Nemrut trends would seem to converge at the composition 6 wt% FeO\*, 9 wt%  $Al_2O_3$ .

Çubukçu et al. [\(2012](#page-21-5)) reported a compositional gap in between 53 and 59 wt%  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  in the Nemrut eruptives (mainly lavas and subvolcanic rocks). The new glass data partially fill the gap, with several point analyses between 57 and 60 wt%. Nevertheless, intermediate compositions

are scarce at the volcano, the typical situation in basalt– alkali–rhyolite sequences, as discussed below.

A puzzling feature of the Nemrut glass analyses, atypical of peralkaline silicic magmas, is the low abundance of halogens. Fluorine levels are lower than the detection limit of our microprobe technique (~700 ppm), and Cl levels are lower, and frequently much lower, than <0.3 wt%. There are four possible explanations: (1) the Nemrut magmas are genuinely halogen poor; (2) we have overlooked the presence of one or more halogen-rich phase in the glasses; Marshall et al. ([1998\)](#page-22-27), for example, recorded fluorite occurring as microphenocrysts in comendites of the Olkaria complex, Kenya; (3) the halogens have been largely removed by secondary hydration of the glass, which we suggested above was not a significant process in our study rocks; (4) the halogens were lost during pre- or syn-eruptive degassing. This last point is not consistent with experimental evidence that F, in particular, tends to partition into the melt phase during degassing (Carroll and Webster [1994](#page-21-10)) or with the compositional similarity between melt inclusions and matrix glasses in the Nemrut rocks (c.f. Neave et al. ([2012\)](#page-22-5) for several eruptions on Pantelleria).

#### **Geothermobarometry**

# **Coexisting FeTi oxides**

Coexisting FeTi oxides occur in five samples (Table [1](#page-6-0)). Attempts to use them to calculate temperatures of equilibration and  $fO<sub>2</sub>$  are hampered by the fact that in some cases the data do not pass the Bacon and Hirschmann ([1988\)](#page-21-11) test of equilibrium. This is partly due to the fact that some rocks are mixed magma products and the Mg/Mn ratios may have reequilibrated under the new temperature conditions. Also, the MgO levels in many oxides are very low,  $<$ 0.1 wt%, and thus subject to significant analytical uncertainty. Samples where the coexisting oxides pass the Bacon and Hirschmann [\(1988](#page-21-11)) test are given in Table [7](#page-12-0). The pairs either occur as inclusions in the same phenocryst or in the same glass clast, as noted in Table [7](#page-12-0). Temperatures and  $fO<sub>2</sub>$  calculated using QUILF85 within the ILMAT pro-gram of Lepage [\(2003](#page-22-28)), are in the range 875 °C,  $-13.82$ for the trachyandesitic component of sample 2009-07-19- 06, through 826–837 °C, −15.29 to −15.61 for the metaluminous rhyolite component of sample 2008-07-04-04, to 791 °C, −16.34 for comendite sample V-70 (2B-5H-5cc). One result of 898 °C, −13.63 for sample 2008-07-04-04 is taken to record the metaluminous trachyte component. The stated uncertainty of the temperature estimates is about  $\pm 25$  °C (Andersen et al. [1993\)](#page-21-12). The T–fO<sub>2</sub> data indicate that the magmas evolved at or close to the FMQ buffer, as has been recorded in many peralkaline silicic suites,

<span id="page-17-0"></span>**Fig. 9** Major elements (as oxides) plotted against  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ for Nemrut glasses. Data from Table 4a in ESM. The symbol scheme is explained in Fig. [6](#page-15-0). The *grey field* is for several units of the Cekmece Formation pumice and scoria fallout (Sumita and Schmincke, unpublished data). The *dashed lines* are for the melt compositional trends generated by MELTS modelling (Table [9\)](#page-17-0); for the majority, the fit to the natural rocks is poor. The *dashed line* in the  $AI<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ plot exemplifies the mixing of an intermediate magma with peralkaline rhyolite magma

 $80$ 

80

 $\frac{1}{80}$ 

![](_page_17_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

<span id="page-18-0"></span>**Fig. 10 a** Peralkaline trachyte and rhyolite glasses from Nemrut plotted in the classification scheme for peralkaline silicic rocks of Macdonald ([1974\)](#page-22-16). One trend, including samples 2008-07-03-03 and 2009-07-14-06, extends from comendite to pantellerite; a parallel trend displaced to slightly higher  $AI_2O_3$  concentrations includes the Nemrut Formation ignimbrite (NF) and some analyses from sample 2008-07-05-13; a third trend extends from comenditic trachyte to the comendite/pantellerite boundary. Data from Table 4a in ESM and Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c,](#page-23-5) NF). **b** Generalised trends for various peralkaline suites, modified from Macdonald et al. ([2011\)](#page-22-19). The Nemrut data are shown as a light brown field

such as Kane Springs Wash, Nevada (Novak and Mahood [\(1986](#page-22-25)), Pantelleria, Italy (White et al. [2005\)](#page-23-14), Eburru, Kenya (Ren et al. [2006\)](#page-22-29), Pine Canyon, Texas (White et al. [2006\)](#page-23-2) and Menengai, Kenya (Macdonald et al. [2011\)](#page-22-19).

#### **Clinopyroxene–liquid equilibria**

The temperature estimates in Table [8](#page-12-1) were based, where possible, on equilibrium pairs of pyroxene and rimming glass, or pyroxene–glass (melt) inclusions. Otherwise, average matrix glass and pyroxene compositions were used. The results are based on the models of Putirka ([2008](#page-22-22)) and Masotta et al. [\(2013\)](#page-22-23), some of which include recalibrations of the Putirka models for differentiated alkaline (including peralkaline) rocks. Recalculated clinopyroxene analyses for samples V-70 (2B-5H-5cc) and V-111 (2E-22A-1, 78–83 cm) lack a jadeite (Jd) component and therefore cannot be used to estimate T or P. For these models, it was assumed that the melt water content equalled the difference of the oxide total from 100 wt% and pressure was set at 1 kbar (column 1a) and 2 kbar (column 1b). Estimated errors are  $\pm 45$  °C for Putirka [\(2008\)](#page-22-22), ±31.4 °C for the recalibrated Putirka model (Masotta et al. [2013\)](#page-22-23) and  $\pm 18.2$  °C and  $\pm 1.15$  kbar for the new models (Talk2012 and Palk2012) of Masotta et al. [\(2013](#page-22-23)).

The temperature estimates from the Masotta et al. ([2013\)](#page-22-23) model fall within the range from the original and recalculated Putirka ([2008\)](#page-22-22) models for the trachyandesitic component of sample 2009-07-16-05. Overall, the ranges from all models are: trachyandesite 1005–1097 °C; metaluminous rhyolite to comendite 748–809 °C (excluding the value of 815 °C); comendite to pantellerite 808–826 °C. The estimates are broadly compatible with those from coexisting oxides: 875 °C for the trachyandesitic component of sample 2009-07-19-06, through 898 and 837–826 °C for the metaluminous trachytic and rhyolitic components of sample 2008-07-04-04, respectively, to 791 °C for the comendite. The range in the rhyolites is broadly similar to that established by White et al. [\(2005\)](#page-23-14) for peralkaline rhyolites of similar peralkalinity index (<1.3) from Pantelleria, Italy, but higher than those established for comenditic rhyolites of the Olkaria complex, Kenya (740–660 °C; Scaillet and Macdonald [2001\)](#page-22-30). In a compilation of  $T$ – $fO<sub>2</sub>$  data for peralkaline trachytes and rhyolites, Macdonald [\(2012\)](#page-22-1) showed that there is no simple relationship between temperature and either  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  content or peralkalinity and suggested that it reflected the role of water in depressing crystallisation temperatures. The *relatively* high temperatures recorded in the Nemrut peralkaline rhyolites might indicate that they were less volatile rich than the Olkaria rhyolites.

Pressure estimates derived from the Masotta et al. [\(2013](#page-22-23)) model are in the range 0.7–3.6 kbars, with an estimated error of  $\pm 1.15$  kbar (Table [8](#page-12-1)). This broadly points to an upper crustal (<10 km) magma reservoir or reservoirs, consistent with previous estimates of the depth to peralkaline felsic reservoirs (e.g. Mahood [1984;](#page-22-12) Freundt and Schmincke [1995;](#page-21-13) Bohrson and Reid [1997;](#page-21-0) White et al. [2009](#page-23-0); Neave et al. [2012](#page-22-5)).

# **Discussion**

# **Significance of the intermediate composition melts for the Daly Gap**

In some peralkaline oversaturated suites, there is an essentially complete series of *melt* compositions between basalt

and trachyte (Socorro Island, Mexico, Bryan [1976](#page-21-14); Bohrson and Reid [1995;](#page-21-15) Volcan Las Navajas, Mexico, Nelson and Hegre [1990](#page-22-31); Terceira, Azores, Mungall and Martin [1995](#page-22-32); Ascension, Weaver et al. [1996](#page-23-15); Easter Island, Haase et al. [1997\)](#page-22-33), although intermediate members, broadly corresponding to mugearites and benmoreites, are usually volumetrically minor, especially in continental volcanoes. However, on the oceanic island of Gran Canaria, one of the largest peralkaline centres, intermediate compositions remained effectively absent in the surface volcanics throughout the ca. four million years of its history (Schmincke [1969](#page-22-34); Schmincke and Sumita [1998](#page-23-9)). In other suites, rocks of intermediate composition have been shown to be a result of mixing between mafic and salic magmas (Kane Springs Wash Caldera, Nevada, Novak and Mahood [1986](#page-22-25); Pantelleria, Ferla and Meli [2006;](#page-21-16) Alid volcanic centre, Eritrea, Lowenstern et al. [2006](#page-22-35)).

Mixed magma intermediate products have also been recorded at the Gedemsa volcano, Ethiopia (Peccerillo et al. [2003\)](#page-22-2) and the Olkaria complex, Kenya (Macdonald et al. [2008a\)](#page-22-3); intermediate products were formed both by fractional crystallisation and by magma mixing. At Nemrut, Çubukçu et al. ([2012\)](#page-21-5) described benmoreites occurring as enclaves in intra-caldera comendites and ascribed their origin mainly to mingling between mafic and felsic magmas. However, it is clear from their bulk rock geochemical data (see, for example, the Al, Na, P, Ni plots in their Figs. [6,](#page-15-0) [7\)](#page-15-1) that intermediate compositions were formed by both fractional crystallisation and magma mixing.

The absence or scarcity of intermediate magmas is the basis of the "Daly gap". Several mechanisms, not mutually exclusive, for generating the gap have been proposed. (1) During the continuous crystallisation of basaltic magma towards trachyte, the intermediate melts occupy a narrow temperature interval where crystallisation is rapid and residual melt compositions change quickly, as a result of either the geometry of the phase relationships or undercooling in the reservoir (Bonnefoi et al. [1995;](#page-21-17) White et al. [2009](#page-23-0); Dufek and Bachmann [2010](#page-21-18)). Rapid crystallisation may also be a result of the sinking of dense minerals, such as olivine and FeTi oxides (Neave et al. [2012\)](#page-22-5). (2) In a study of high-level doleritic sills from the Silali volcano, Kenya, Macdonald et al. [\(1995](#page-22-36)) noted that significant proportions of intermediate magma are represented by the rims of zoned crystals in the dolerite. Similarly, Freundt-Malecha et al. ([2001\)](#page-21-6) found that intermediate compositions related to the P1 basalt–rhyolite–ignimbrite on Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, are represented by vast volumes of plutonic xenoliths in the ignimbrite. (3) Intermediate magmas tend to be denser and more viscous than hydrous silicic magmas in the system, tend to be discriminated against during eruption and are seen only as components of mixed magmas (Weaver [1977;](#page-23-16) Neave et al. [2012](#page-22-5)). (4) As a variant of mechanism 3, Rooney et al. ([2012\)](#page-22-6) suggested, on the basis of studies of the Chefe Donsa peralkaline pyroclastic deposits in Ethiopia, that intermediate magmas are formed by basaltic magma fractionating to form a crystal–liquid mush and may be extracted from the mush only when a rigid framework has formed.

The existence of minor melts of intermediate composition at Nemrut shows that the Daly gap was crossed, at least during some stages of evolution. The presence of compositionally zoned units, such as the Nemrut Formation, and of evidence for mixing between basalt, benmoreitic and trachytic magmas, as described above, might suggest that the trachytic–rhyolitic caps to the zoned reservoirs acted as a trap to intermediate magmas that were erupted only as components of mixed/mingled magmas.

# **Differentiation mechanisms**

Compositional variation in the Nemrut suite, as expressed in the whole rocks, is a result of a combination of fractional crystallisation, magma mixing and volatile loss, and possibly minor loss of alkalis during secondary hydration of glass. An added complication is that some eruptive units may show signs of interaction with magmas from the neighbouring Süphan volcano. Sumita and Schmincke [\(2013c\)](#page-23-5), for example, speculated that Süphan magmas might have occasionally entered the Nemrut system following the huge eruption of the Nemrut Formation fallout and subsequent pyroclastic flow.

The form of the compositional variation on the silica plots, particularly the inflections in almost all major oxides, points to fractional crystallisation being the dominant differentiation mechanism (Fig. [9](#page-17-0)). This is consistent with the continuous variation in phenocryst compositions (Figs. [5,](#page-14-1) [6](#page-15-0)). Using least squares mass balance estimations, Çubukçu et al. [\(2012](#page-21-5)) showed that it is possible to derive the sequence marginally trachyte and then comendite through fractional crystallisation of alkali basalt using the observed phenocryst assemblages.

The MELTS program (Ghiorso and Sack [1995\)](#page-21-19) has been used here to attempt to trace in detail the compositional evolution of melts and phenocrysts between mugearites and peralkaline rhyolites. The starting composition was a melt inclusion of mugearitic composition in olivine (ESM Table 4, anal. 39). The liquid lines of descent were calculated at pressures of 1 and 3 kbar, with the oxygen fugacity set at FMQ. Temperatures ranged from 1200 °C (i.e. ~50 °C above the liquidus) to 700–800 °C. None of the models was very successful. The model closest to the compositional variation in the suite was for 3 kbar and the modelled trends are shown in Fig. [9](#page-17-0). For Fe, Mg and Ca, the fit is reasonably good but for no other elements is the fit acceptable. The modelled feldspar compositions are, however, close to those in the natural rocks. The rhyolite-MELTS program (Gualda et al. [2012](#page-22-37)) was also used to model the liquid line of descent, using the same conditions and starting composition. It was less successful than MELTS; in particular, it did not replicate the complete range of feldspar compositions. Attempts to quantify the fractionation trends using MELTS and rhyolite-MELTS are hampered by the multi-lineage nature of the suite and by the difficulty in identifying equilibrium melt–phenocryst pairs.

Fractionation within the peralkaline rocks is now examined using the system  $Na<sub>2</sub>O-K<sub>2</sub>O-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–SiO<sub>2</sub>$ . In Fig. [11,](#page-20-0) the alkali ratio  $(K/(K + Na))$  is plotted against  $(Si/3Al)-1$ , which is an index of silica excess with respect to an alkali feldspar composition (Roux and Varet [1975](#page-22-38)). The plot can be used to trace melt compositions as they evolve towards more silicic compositions and also shows, via melt–feldspar tie-lines, how the feldspar composition changes with melt composition. The Nemrut suite becomes peralkaline  $((Si/3Al)-1 \approx 0.2)$  dominantly through plagioclase fractionation (tie-line 1) followed by alkali feldspar fractionation (tielines 2 and 3). In the metaluminous to mildly peralkaline trachytes and rhyolites, alkali feldspar phenocrysts are more sodic than the melts and fractionation produces increasingly potassic residual melts. The tie-lines (4–6) then become increasingly steep and the most peralkaline melts crystallize feldspar more potassic than themselves: feldspar fractionation then generates increasingly sodic residual melts, the socalled orthoclase effect of Bailey and Schairer [\(1964\)](#page-21-20). The rather flat distribution of points at a value of (Si/3Al)-1 equal to ~1.2 is probably a result of significant quartz crystallisation, which would tend to lower Si relative to Al. The dashed line broadly separates quartz-phyric rhyolites from rhyolites lacking quartz phenocrysts and is taken to represent the position of the natural analogue of the quartz–feldspar cotectic.

The existence of two phenocryst populations in some rocks (Table [1\)](#page-6-0) is strong evidence that they are a result of magma mixing, as already recognised by Çubukçu et al. [\(2012](#page-21-5)), Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3), [c\)](#page-23-5) and Schmincke et al. ([2014\)](#page-23-6). In an extreme case, it was suggested above that plagioclase crystals with An >50 in peralkaline rhyolite 2009-07-14-06 were derived from a basaltic magma. In none of the major element plots is there any unequivocal evidence of magma mixing (Fig. [9\)](#page-17-0). For example, in the strongly inflected  $SiO_2-Al_2O_3$  plot, no analyses plot on a tie-line between intermediate compositions (say, 60 wt%  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ ) and rhyolite. There is, however, more than one glass composition in individual samples, as is common in tephra samples.

# **The Nemrut plumbing system**

Without precise estimates of pressures of melt equilibration and melt volatile contents, we cannot address the

![](_page_20_Figure_7.jpeg)

<span id="page-20-0"></span>**Fig. 11**  $K/(K + Na)$  plotted against (Si/3Al)-1 for Nemrut glass (melt) compositions. Representative tie-lines show the relationships between melt and feldspar phenocryst compositions as the magmas became more evolved. The alkali feldspar attains the composition  $Or_{41-42}$ , when it is more potassic than the coexisting melt and generates a trend of increasing Na/K ratios in residual melts. The dashed line marks the approximate position of the alkali feldspar–quartz cotectic, located from the appearance of quartz phenocrysts. Data for tie-lines 1–5: feldspars—Table 1c in ESM, columns AT, CY, G, CU, I; corresponding glasses—Table 1c in ESM, columns BM, EA, B, DK, T. Others may be drawn using the data specified in the Tables

nature and location of the Nemrut storage reservoir(s) in any detail. However, there is some evidence as to the processes operative in the reservoir(s). First, the  $\sim$ 30 ka Nemrut Formation was a large-scale eruption from a chamber compositionally zoned from rhyolite to mugearite. The compositional variations are similar to those recorded in this report. Second, since ~190 ka, major eruptions appear to have occurred at intervals spaced some 20–40,000 years apart, which Sumita and Schmincke ([2013a](#page-23-3), [c](#page-23-5)) interpreted as being the incubation times for the silicic magmas to develop into large eruptible volumes via volatile buildup. This regularity might point to repeated processes in a single reservoir. Third, magma mingling—and less common magma mixing—were ubiquitous processes (e.g. Figure 8a in Sumita and Schmincke [2013c](#page-23-5)), suggesting that rapid recharge by less evolved magma into a higher-level body helped to trigger the rhyolitic eruptions (Sumita and Schmincke [2013c](#page-23-5); Schmincke et al. [2014](#page-23-6)). These features are consistent with the "Standard Model" of the evolution of silicic systems of Gualda and Ghiorso [\(2013](#page-22-39)), where a stably stratified magma chamber forms over thousands of years by crystal settling and upward migration of volatiles.

In contrast, the multi-lineage nature of the Nemrut magmas is perhaps more consistent with tapping multiple melt lenses contained within a much larger system, the "complex magma reservoirs" of Cashman and Giordano [\(2014](#page-21-21)). Further detailed petrological and geophysical work is in progress to provide better insights into the Nemrut magma system.

# **Conclusions**

- 1. The Nemrut volcano comprises multi-lineages, representing frequent reactivation of its plumbing system.
- Its open-system nature is also indicated by the abundant evidence of mingling and lesser true mixing between mafic, intermediate and silicic magmas.
- 3. Residual melts in the rhyolites showed decreasing K contents with increasing degrees of evolution, unusually for a peralkaline silicic suite. The decrease is a result of the K-rich nature of the alkali feldspar phenocrysts in the most evolved rocks, up to  $Or_{41}$ .
- 4. The rocks are poor in halogens, also unusual in peralkaline suites. In contrast, they show abundant evidence for the exsolution of an enigmatic, unidentified Pb-rich phase.
- 5. Two-oxide and clinopyroxene–melt geothermometry indicates that the intermediate-silicic magmas evolved in an upper crustal magma reservoir at temperatures between 1100 and 750 °C, at  $fO<sub>2</sub>$  close to FMQ.
- 6. Certain features of the Nemrut plumbing system point to magma evolution in a stably stratified chamber which forms over thousands of years by crystal settling and upward migration of volatiles. In contrast, the multi-lineage nature of the magmas is perhaps more consistent with tapping multiple melt lenses contained within a much larger system.

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