

1 **Geochemistry and S, Pb isotope of the Yangla copper deposit, western Yunnan, China:**  
2 **Implication for ore genesis**

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9 **ABSTRACT:** The Yangla copper deposit, situated in the middle section of Jinshajiang tectonic belt between  
10 Zhongza-Zhongdian block and Changdu-Simao block, is a representative and giant copper deposit that has been discovered  
11 in Jinshajiang-Lancangjiang-Nujiang region in recent years. There are coupled relationship between Yangla granodiorite and  
12 copper mineralization in the Yangla copper deposit. Five molybdenite samples yielded a well-constrained <sup>187</sup>Re-<sup>187</sup>Os  
13 isochron age of 233.3±3 Ma, the metallogensis is therefore slightly younger than the crystallization age of the granodiorite.  
14 S, Pb isotopic compositions of the Yangla copper deposit indicate that the ore-forming materials were derived from the  
15 mixture of upper crust and mantle, also with the magmatic contributions. In the late Early Permian, the Jinshajiang Oceanic  
16 plate was subducted to the west, resulting in the formation of a series of gently dipping thrust faults in the Jinshajiang  
17 tectonic belt, meanwhile, accompanied magmatic activities. In the early Late Triassic, which was a time of transition from  
18 collision-related compression to extension in the Jinshajiang tectonic belt, the thrust faults were tensional; it would have been  
19 a favorable environment for forming ore fluids. The ascending magma provided a channel for the ore-forming fluid from the  
20 mantle wedge. After the magma arrived at the base of the early-stage Yangla granodiorite, the platy granodiorite at the base  
21 of the body would have shielded the late-stage magma from the fluid. The magma would have cooled slowly, and some of  
22 the ore-forming fluid in the magma would have entered the gently dipping thrust faults near the Yangla granodiorite,  
23 resulting in mineralization.

24 **Key words:** Western Yunnan; Yangla copper deposit; Geochemistry; S, Pb isotope

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## 47 **1. Introduction**

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49         The Yangla copper deposit is located in the Yangla area of the Hengduan Mountains in Deqin County,  
50 Yunnan Province, southern Tibet. A team from the Yunnan Geology and Exploration Bureau discovered  
51 the deposit in 1965 in the course of mapping and exploring the area, mining of the Yangla copper deposit  
52 started in November 2007. The deposit was investigated by the third Regional Geological Survey Team of  
53 Sichuan Province, the third Team of Yunnan Geology and Exploration Bureau, the China University of  
54 Geosciences, the Yichang Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, and the Chengdu Institute of  
55 Geology and Mineral Resources, among others (Qu et al., 2004). The deposit has copper reserves of 1.2 Mt  
56 (Yang, 2009), and given its location in the Jinshajiang tectonic zone (Pan et al., 2001), this region has great  
57 potential for further exploration. Previous studies have reported the structural characteristics (Lin and  
58 Wang, 2004), geochemical characteristics of the ores and the rocks in the Yangla copper deposit (Wei et al.,  
59 1997; Pan et al., 2000), however, the ore genesis of the deposit is still debated. Wei et al. (1999) suggested  
60 that the deposit is a VMS type, a conclusion later supported by Pan et al. (2003). Based on geochemical  
61 evidence of ore-bearing skarns, Lu et al. (1999) and Wei et al. (2000) concluded that the deposit is a  
62 skarn-type deposit related to the Yangla granodiorite. Lin et al. (2004), Hu et al. (2008), Li et al. (2008) and  
63 Liu et al. (2009) suggested that the deposit is structurally controlled.

64         Recent mining exposures at the Yangla copper deposit provided an ideal opportunity for detail  
65 underground investigation and systematic sampling. In this paper, we present a comparison of the REE and  
66 trace element compositions of the ores with those of the Yangla granodiorite, S, Pb isotopic composition,  
67 and molybdenite Re–Os isotopic dating of the Yangla copper deposit. We discuss the origin of ore-forming  
68 materials and the ore genesis of the Yangla copper deposit. The results contribute to our understanding of  
69 the genesis of the Yangla copper deposit and will guide further exploration in the region.

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## 71 **2. Economic geology of the Yangla copper deposit**

72

73 The Jinshajiang–Lancangjiang–Nujiang region in southwestern China is located in the eastern part of  
74 the Tethyan–Himalayan tectonic belt, and also in the tectonic junction between Gondwanaland and Eurasia  
75 (Hou et al., 2003). Several of the Paleozoic sutures in the region provide a record of the history of the  
76 Paleo-Tethys Ocean, which consists of four paleoceanic basins: the Ganzi–Litang, Jinshajiang,  
77 Lancangjiang and Changning–Menglian oceans from east to west (Jian et al., 2009). The birth and final  
78 closure of the Paleo-Tethys Ocean are associated with the breakup and assembly of Gondwanaland (Xiao et  
79 al., 2008). It has been commonly accepted that the Changning–Menglian Suture Zone is the main boundary  
80 that separates the Yangtze Block from Gondwanaland (Jian et al., 2009), and that the Changdu–Simao and  
81 Zhongza micro-continental Blocks were marginal terranes of the Yangtze Block (Wang et al., 2000;  
82 Metcalfe, 2002; Zhu et al., 2011).

83 The Yangla copper deposit is located in the middle part of the Jinshajiang tectonic belt (Fig. 1). The  
84 Jinshajiang tectonic belt, regionally situated between Zhongza block to the east and Changdu–Simao block  
85 to the west, which developed in the late Paleozoic due to subduction of the Jinshajiang Oceanic block, and  
86 has experienced multiple tectonic processes (e.g., rifting, extension, subduction, and continent–continent  
87 collision) during the latest Permian to latest Middle Triassic.

88

### 89 *2.1. Stratigraphy*

90

91 The Jinshajiang tectonic belt has been subjected to intense compression during the geological  
92 evolution of the Jinshajiang–Lancangjiang–Nujiang region; consequently, the rocks are fragmented and

93 faults are widely developed. No stratigraphy is preserved: the various rock types occur as fragments (Feng  
94 et al., 1999) that show no common stratigraphy, occurring instead as *mélange* (Qu et al., 2004). Previous  
95 studies proposed various stratigraphic schemes for the Yangla area (He et al., 1998; Qu et al., 2004; Zhu et  
96 al., 2009). Surface rocks are dominated by the Gajinxueshan Group, which is a suite of sediments,  
97 including quartz schist, biotite plagioclase gneiss, metasandstone, quartzite, marble, slate, volcanoclastics,  
98 and andesite, with ages ranging from the Neoproterozoic to the Carboniferous. The ore deposit at Yangla is  
99 hosted in the Devonian Jiangbian suite (marble interlayered with sericite quartz schist and  
100 amphibole-bearing andesite), Devonian Linong suite (sericite slate, metasandstone, and marble), and Early  
101 Carboniferous Beiwu suite (compact massive basalt, tuff, and interlayered sericite-bearing slate and marble)  
102 (Fig. 1).

103

## 104 2.2. *Structure*

105

106 The Yangla copper deposit is located between the N–S- trending Jinshajiang and Yangla faults. These  
107 faults were active beginning in Early Paleozoic, were subducted and subjected to compression during the  
108 Indosinian (Triassic Period), and were reactivated as sinistral strike-slip faults during the Himalayan  
109 Tectonic Period. Second-order faults (dipping to the NW) formed during the Himalayan, with lengths of  
110 several kilometers and widths of tens of meters. The second-order faults intersect each other, with most  
111 being thrust faults or strike-slip faults. (Gan et al., 1998; Zhan et al., 1998).

112

## 113 2.3. *Intrusive Magmatism*

114

115 In the Yangla region, a granitic intrusion is exposed in the northern Jiaren granite belt, which trends

116 N–S in the western part of the Jinshajiang tectonic zone. Most of the granite occurs as stocks. The main  
117 granitic intrusion is the Linong granodiorite (Fig. 2), which is located in the middle of the Yangla ore  
118 district and is offset by the F4 fault, with 2 km long (N–S) and 1.5 km wide (E–W) at the surface, covering  
119 an area of 2.64 km<sup>2</sup>. Most of the intrusion is overlain by Quaternary sediment, meaning it has an irregular  
120 distribution at the surface. The wall rock is the Devonian Linong suite and the Jiangbian suite, which both  
121 occur as xenoliths in the Linong granodiorite. The granodiorite can be divided into a marginal facies (40%  
122 of the total surface area) and a center facies (60%), separated by a transition zone. The grainsize of the  
123 granodiorite varies from medium-fine to medium-coarse, and it varies in composition from intermediate at  
124 the center to acid at the margin. The granitic belt intruded the Gajinxueshan Group. Alteration of the wall  
125 rock has produced hornfels and skarn, as well as fine veins of copper mineralization and disseminated  
126 copper deposits.

127 The granodiorite is off-white in color, hypautomorphic and medium-coarse grained, with both  
128 compact massive and banded structure. The mineral assemblage is plagioclase (40%), K-feldspar (15%),  
129 quartz (25%), hornblende (15%), and biotite (5%), with minor zircon and apatite. The plagioclase is mainly  
130 zoned andesine, and alteration is dominated by sericitization, amphibolization, biotitization, and locally  
131 chloritization and prehnitization.

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#### 133 *2.4. Geological characteristics of the deposit*

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135 The Yangla copper deposit is divided into five ore blocks: Jiangbian, Linong, Lunong, Jiaren, and  
136 Beiwu. The Linong ore block is the largest, and the KT2 and KT5 orebodies of the Linong ore block are the  
137 only parts of the Yangla copper deposit mined today. KT2 and KT5 is bordered by a series of gently  
138 dipping imbricate thrust faults. The orebodies dip 20°–40° to the west, although the dip increases to 50° at

139 deeper levels (Fig. 3), and the average grade of copper in the ore is 1.03%. The hanging wall and the  
140 footwall of the orebodies consist of sandstone, marble, sericitic slate, and granodiorite. The alteration  
141 minerals include pyrite, chalcopyrite, galena, sphalerite, magnetite, limonite, and malachite. The most  
142 abundant ore minerals are chalcopyrite, pyrite, bornite, chalcocite, pyrrhotite, galena, sphalerite, and  
143 magnetite. The chalcopyrite, bornite, chalcocite are associated with Pb, Zn, Ag, Au, Bi, Sn, As, and Sb.  
144 Oxidized ore consists of malachite, azurite, tenorite, and limonite, and gangue minerals are diopside,  
145 actinolite, garnet, quartz, calcite, mica, and feldspar. The ore show hypidiomorphic, mist-like texture,  
146 filled-sponge, striped, cracked and porphyroid textures. The ore body includes compact massive structure,  
147 disseminated structure, and fine veiny structure.

148

### 149 **3. Samples and analytical methods**

150 We analyzed samples of ores and the Yangla granodiorite of the Yangla copper deposit. Samples of  
151 copper ore and the granodiorite were collected from the Lunong and Linong ore block in the Yangla copper  
152 deposit. The samples were analyzed for major elements, trace elements, and rare earth elements (REEs) at  
153 the Institute of Geophysics and Geochemistry Exploration, Chinese Academy of Geoscience, Langfang,  
154 China. The major elements, trace elements and REEs were analyzed by ICP-MS, for details of the  
155 analytical procedure, see [Zhu et al. \(2009\)](#).

156 The sulfur isotopic compositions of 9 sulfide samples were analyzed on a MAT 251E gas mass  
157 spectrometer by using  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  to oxidize the sulfides at the Geological Analysis Laboratory under the  
158 Ministry of Nuclear Industry, Beijing, China. The analytical procedure usually yielded an in-run precision  
159 of 0.2%. The calibrations were performed with regular analyses of internal  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  standard samples.

160 The lead isotopic compositions of 9 sulfide samples were analyzed on a MAT 261 mass spectrometer  
161 using the thermal ionization crosssection analytical technique at the Stable Isotope Laboratory of the

162 Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing, China. The precision of the  
163  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  measurements (1  $\mu\text{g}$  of Pb) is  $\leq 0.005\%$ , and the measured ratios ( $2\sigma$ ) of international standard  
164 sample NBS981 are  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 2.16736 \pm 0.00066$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 0.91488 \pm 0.00028$ , and  
165  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 16.9386 \pm 0.0131$ .

166 Five molybdenite samples were collected from quartz and sulfide veins in the orebody of the Yangla  
167 copper deposit. The molybdenite was separated by heavy liquid separation and handpicked under a  
168 binocular microscope.  $^{187}\text{Re}$  and  $^{187}\text{Os}$  contents were measured using a TJA PQ ExCell ICP-MS housed in  
169 the Re-Os Laboratory, China Testing Center of Geology Experimentation, Beijing, China. For details of  
170 the analytical procedure, see [Smoliar et al. \(1996\)](#).

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## 172 **4. Analytical results**

173

### 174 *4.1. Geochemical characteristics of copper ores*

175

176 [Table 1](#) lists the trace element and REE contents of copper ores from the Lunong and Linong ore  
177 blocks. The ores contain low concentrations of trace elements ( $\sum\text{REE} = 11.5 \mu\text{g/g} - 59.2 \mu\text{g/g}$ ), and the  
178 chondrite-normalized REE patterns show that LREEs slope gently to the right and HREEs are relatively flat  
179 with low concentrations ([Fig. 4a](#)). LREEs and HREEs are not obviously fractionated, with  $\text{LREE}/\text{HREE} =$   
180  $2.1 - 6.3$  (average, 3.4) and  $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_{\text{N}} = 0.9 - 7.5$ . Most of the samples show a negative Ce anomaly  
181 ( $\delta\text{Ce} = 0.6 - 0.8$ ) and possess a positive or negative Eu anomaly ( $\delta\text{Eu} = 0.6 - 1.4$ ). Primitive-mantle-normalized  
182 trace element patterns for the copper ores ([Fig. 4b](#)) show an enrichment in large ion lithophile elements (Rb  
183 and Pb) and a strong depletion in Ba and Sr.

184

185 4.2. Geochemistry of the Yangla granodiorite

186

187 Table 2 lists the major element, trace element, and REE composition of the Linong granodiorite. The  
188 granodiorite shows little chemical variation, being characterized by high contents of Si ( $\text{SiO}_2 = 58.3$   
189 wt.%–69.8 wt.%, with the average at 63.8 wt.%) and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (13.4 wt.%–19.8 wt.%; average, 15.9 wt.%),  
190 low contents of Ti ( $\text{TiO}_2 = 0.4$  wt.%–0.5 wt.%; average, 0.4 wt.%) and MgO (1.5 wt.%–1.7 wt.%; average,  
191 1.6 wt.%), and high  $\text{Mg}^\#$  ( $\text{Mg}^\# = \text{Mg}^{2+}/(\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{TFe}^{3+}) \times 100$ ) ( $\text{Mg}^\# = 38$ –64; average, 49). The granitoids  
192 has a high alkali content ( $\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} = 6.0$ wt.%–8.3wt.%; average, 6.8wt.%) with a  $\delta$  ratio ( $\delta =$   
193  $[(\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O})^2]/[(\text{SiO}_2 - 43)](\text{wt.}\% \text{ ratio})$ ) of 1.7–2.6 (average, 2.3).

194 The granodiorite is enriched in light REEs (LREEs), has a slightly negative Eu anomaly, and low  
195 contents of Y and Yb. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns show that LREEs slope to the right and that  
196 heavy REEs (HREEs) are relatively flat, with low HREE contents (Fig. 5a). The granodiorite contains  
197 medium to low REE contents ( $\sum \text{REE} = 85.0$   $\mu\text{g/g}$ –119.2  $\mu\text{g/g}$ ; average,  $104.5 \times 10^{-6}$   $\mu\text{g/g}$ ), of which LREEs  
198 and HREEs are highly fractionated ( $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N = 8.9$ –12.4; average, 10.7;  $(\text{La}/\text{Sm})_N = 4.7$ –5.8; average, 5.3).

199 Primitive-mantle-normalized trace element patterns for the granodiorite (Fig. 5b) show enrichment in  
200 large ion lithophile elements (Rb, K, Pb), strong depletion in Ba, Nb, P, and Ti, and flat Dy–Lu.

201

202 4.3. S and Pb isotopic composition

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204 The data listed in Table 3 show that the  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of sulfides from the Yangla copper deposit vary  
205 from -9.8‰ to -0.9‰, but are mainly within the range of -4.2‰ – -0.9‰.

206 The data listed in Table 4 show that the sulfides are very homogeneous in their Pb isotopic  
207 composition,  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 38.655$ –38.732,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.703$ –15.735,  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 18.326$ –19.038.

208

209 *4.4. Molybdenite Re–Os isotopic dating*

210

211 Analyses of 5 molybdenite samples from the Yangla copper deposit are reported in [Table 5](#). Five  
212 molybdenite samples yield model ages ranging from 229.7±3.3 to 233.0±3.4 Ma. The data, processed using  
213 the ISOPLOT/Ex program ISOPLOT 3.00 program ([Ludwig, 2003](#)), yielded a well-constrained  $^{187}\text{Re}$ - $^{187}\text{Os}$   
214 isochron age of 233.3±3 Ma, with MSWD=0.31 and an initial  $^{187}\text{Os}$  of  $-0.77 \pm 0.93 \times 10^{-9}$  ([Fig. 6](#)). The  
215 nearly identical model age and isochron age suggest that the analytical results are reliable.

216

217 **5. Discussion**

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219 *5.1. Origin of ore-forming materials*

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221 Yangla copper deposit is hosted mainly by the gently dipping thrust faults near the Yangla  
222 granodiorite. Five molybdenite samples yielded a well-constrained  $^{187}\text{Re}$ - $^{187}\text{Os}$  isochron age of 233.3±3 Ma,  
223 and the Yangla granodiorite formed at 234.1±1.2 to 235.6±1.2 Ma (Indosinian) ([Yang et al., 2011](#)), the  
224 metallogenesis is therefore slightly younger than the crystallization age of the granodiorite, indicating a  
225 temporal and spatial link between the deposit and the granodiorite.

226 Besides the  $\Sigma\text{REE}$  contents, the patterns of REEs also differ between the copper ores and the  
227 granodiorite. The chondrite-normalized REE patterns of the granodiorite shows that LREEs slope to the  
228 right, with a weak negative Eu anomaly. The ores contain low REE contents, as well as LREEs and HREEs  
229 are not obviously fractionated; most of the samples possess a negative Ce anomaly and a positive or  
230 negative Eu anomaly. Comparing figure 5a with 4a reveals that the hydrothermal overprinted ore body is

231 lower in REE, probably because the hydrothermal fluid was rich in complex REE ligands that were leached  
232 them from the rock fragments to the ore body. Europium occurred as  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  dominantly at more oxidizing  
233 condition and lower temperature, resulting in the form of negative Eu anomaly. Whereas  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$  can be  
234 reduced to  $\text{Eu}^{2+}$  under reducing conditions and increased temperature, resulting in positive Eu anomaly. Eu  
235 anomaly of the copper ores in the Yangla copper deposit have a following regularity: obvious positive Eu  
236 anomaly→slightly positive Eu anomaly→obvious negative Eu anomaly from the deep ore bodies to the  
237 shallow bodies, indicating the ore-forming fluids experienced a process from reducing conditions to  
238 oxidizing conditions. Under oxidizing conditions, unlike other trivalent REE ions,  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$  can be readily  
239 oxidized to  $\text{Ce}^{4+}$ , and then precipitated in the form of  $\text{CeO}_2$  or adsorbed onto the surface of secondary  
240 minerals, thus the ore-forming fluids were depleted in Ce, resulting in negative Ce anomalies in the ores  
241 (Kerrich and Said, 2011).

242 The  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of sulfides from the Yangla copper deposit vary from -9.8‰ to -0.9‰ (Fig. 7), a  
243 difference of 10.7‰. This range of isotopic values from the Yangla copper deposit indicate simultaneous  
244 incorporation of heavy and light sulfur in the hydrothermal fluids from which the ores were deposited. The  
245 most abundant ore minerals in the Yangla copper deposit are pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, the variation  
246 range and average of S isotopic composition from the sulfides represent S isotopic composition of the  
247 ore-forming fluids. Of the 9 sulfides analysed from the deposit, 8 have  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values between -4.2‰ to  
248 -0.9‰ with the average at -2.2‰, indicating a much greater contribution from the mantle to the  
249 ore-forming fluids (Harris et al., 2005; Li et al., 2006).

250 The data of sulfide minerals from the deposit straddle above the supracrustal lead evolution curve  
251 (Fig. 8a), and cross the orogenic evolution curve to the supracrustal lead evolution curve (Fig. 8b). The data  
252 reflects Pb mobilization from an only granulite and contributions of typical upper crustal Pb. Note that the  
253 granulites may be in an upper crustal position at the time of Pb mobilization. The Pb isotopic values of all

254 samples from the Yangla copper deposit were calculated according to the equations  $\Delta\gamma = (\gamma - \gamma_M) \times 1000 / \gamma_M$   
255 and  $\Delta\beta = (\beta - \beta_M) \times 1000 / \beta_M$  ( $\gamma$ :  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of sample,  $\gamma_M$ :  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of mantle = 37.47,  $\beta$ :  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of  
256 sample,  $\beta_M$ :  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of mantle = 15.33, [Zhu, 1998](#)), which can help in establishing the source of Pb  
257 through values of  $\Delta\gamma$  and  $\Delta\beta$  ([Fig. 9](#)). Sulfides from the Yangla copper deposit plot in the field of the upper  
258 crust and mantle, caused by subduction-related magmatism. These results suggest that the ore-forming  
259 materials in the sulfide stage of the deposit may be derived from the Yangla granodiorite ([Zhou et al.,](#)  
260 [2011](#)).

261

## 262 *5.2. Ore genesis*

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264 The Jinshajiang Oceanic plate was subducted to the west, beneath the Changdu-Simao block, in the late  
265 Early Permian, resulting in the formation of a series of imbricate thrust faults, dipping gently to the NW,  
266 which formed in a setting of E–W compression in the Jinshajiang tectonic belt ([Macpherson and Hall, 2002;](#)  
267 [Love et al., 2004](#)).

268 Shallow subduction of the Jinshajiang Ocean beneath the continent interior ([Burchfiel et al., 1992](#))  
269 resulted in a temperature gradient near the subducting plate, with the maximum temperature near the site  
270 where the subducting plate was close to the overriding plate. The subducting plate was subjected to  
271 metamorphism and partial melting, and the overriding crust was thickened by the addition of subducting  
272 plate and stacking of the upper plate ([Mo et al., 2007](#)). The resulting rise in isotherms led to partial melting  
273 of the lower crust over the subducting plate ([Li et al., 2011](#)), producing magma that ascended to the upper  
274 crust to form granite ([Hezarkhani, 2006;](#) [Karsli et al., 2010](#)). The zircon U–Pb age of the Yangla  
275 granodiorite ([Yang et al., 2011](#)), combined with its geochemical characteristics, indicates this rock is  
276 collisional, resulting from the partial melting of thickened lower crust ([Wei et al., 1997](#)). [Gao et al. \(2010\)](#)

277 recognized the geochemistry of the granodiorite is in keeping with that of C-type adakites, which was  
278 triggered by westward subduction of the Jinshajiang Oceanic plate under a tectonic setting of compression.

279 Subduction of the Jinshajiang oceanic plate resulted in channel flow within the mantle wedge over the  
280 subducting plate (McInnes and Cameron, 1994; Pearce, 1995), whereby low-density material ascended and  
281 high-density material descended (Cooke et al., 2005). This circulation resulted in the accumulation of large  
282 amounts of gas–liquid fluid in the mantle wedge (Du, 2009; Wei et al., 2010), derived from the mantle and  
283 containing ore-forming material (Drummond et al., 2006; Walshe et al., 2011).

284 In the early Late Triassic, which was a time of transition from collision-related compression to  
285 extension in the Jinshajiang tectonic belt (Mo et al., 1993; Wang et al., 1999, 2002; Li et al., 2003), the  
286 thrust faults were E-W tensional, it would have been a favorable environment for ore-forming fluids (Kühn  
287 and Gessne, 2006). The Jinshajiang Oceanic block was subducted westward at a low angle, resulting in  
288 partial melting of the lower crust (Sajona et al., 2000), and the ascent of the magma provided a channel for  
289 the ore-forming fluid in the mantle wedge (Mungall, 2002; Luo et al., 2008). After the magma arrived at  
290 the base of the early-stage Yangla granodiorite, the platy nature of the granodiorite body would have  
291 shielded late-stage magma from the fluid. The magma would have cooled slowly, and some of the  
292 ore-forming fluid in the magma would have entered the low-angle thrust faults near the Yangla granodiorite,  
293 resulting in mineralization (Fig. 10).

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## 295 **6. Conclusions**

296

297 (1) S, Pb isotopic compositions of the Yangla copper deposit indicate that the ore-forming materials  
298 were derived from the mixture of lower crust and upper mantle, also with the magmatic contributions.

299 (2) Five molybdenite samples yielded a well-constrained  $^{187}\text{Re}$ - $^{187}\text{Os}$  isochron age of  $233.3 \pm 3$  Ma,

300 therefore, the age of metallogenesis is slightly younger than the crystallization age of the Yangla  
301 granodiorite.

302 (3) The Jinshajiang Oceanic block was subducted to the west, resulting in the formation of a series of  
303 gently dipping thrust faults in the Jinshajiang tectonic belt, meanwhile, accompanied magmatic activities.  
304 During a transition in geodynamic setting from collision-related compression to extension, the thrust faults  
305 were E-W tensional, it would have been a favorable environment for ore-forming fluids. The ascending  
306 magma provided a channel for the ore-forming fluid from the mantle wedge. After the magma arrived at  
307 the base of the early-stage Yangla granodiorite, the platy granodiorite at the base of the body would have  
308 shielded the late-stage magma from the fluid. The magma would have cooled slowly, and some of the  
309 ore-forming fluid in the magma would have entered the gently dipping thrust faults near the Yangla  
310 granodiorite, resulting in mineralization.

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313

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## 321 **References**

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465 Fig. 1. Geological map of the Yangla copper deposit (after Qu et al., 2004).  
466 1. Paleogene; 2. Upper Triassic; 3. Lower Triassic; 4. Upper Permian; 5. Lower Permian; 6. Gajinxueshan group; 7.  
467 Ultrabasic rock; 8. Carboniferous; 9. Devonian; 10. Silurian; 11. Ordovician; 12. Proterozoic; 13. Quartzdiorite; 14.  
468 Granitoids; 15. Copper deposit; 16. Fault; 17. Geological boundary; 18. Yangla mineral district; 19. Region of interest; I .  
469 Yangtze block; □. Ganzi-Litang melange belt; □. Yidun arc belt; □. Zhongza-Zhongdian block; □. Jinshajiang melange belt;  
470 □. Jiangda-Weixi arc belt; □. Changdu-Simao block; □. Lancangjiang melange belt; □. Chayu block; □. Tuoba-Yanjing arc  
471 belt; XI. Nujiang melange belt.

472  
473 Fig. 2. Geological sketch map of the Yangla copper deposit (after Yang, 2009).  
474 1. Quaternary slope material; 2. Beiwu suite: massive basalt interlayered with sericite slate and marble; 3. Linong suite:  
475 sericite slate, metasandstone, and marble; 4. Jiangbian suite: marble, sericite slate, and metasandstone; 5. Plagiogranite; 6.  
476 Granodiorite; 7. Ore body and corresponding number; 8. Boundary between alteration zones; 9. Sericite-chlorite alteration  
477 zone; 10. Hornfels alteration zone; 11. Skarnization alteration zone; 12. Quartz-sericite alteration zone; 13. Chlorite-epidote  
478 alteration zone; 14. K-feldspar-quartz alteration zone; 15. Sericite-calcite alteration zone.

479  
480 Fig. 3. No.13 prospecting line profile map in the Linong ore block of the Yangla copper deposit (after Yang, 2009).  
481 1. Explosive breccia; 2. Metasandstone; 3. Marble; 4. Granodiorite; 5. Drilling and numbers; 6. Tunnel and numbers

482  
483 Fig. 4. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns (a) and primitive-mantle-normalized trace element patterns (b) for copper ores  
484 of the Yangla copper deposit.

485  
486 Fig. 5. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns (a) and primitive-mantle-normalized trace element patterns (b) for the Linong  
487 granodiorite (chondrite and primitive mantle data are from Sun and McDonough, 1989).

488  
489 Fig. 6. Re-Os isochron diagrams for the molybdenite samples from the Yangla copper deposit

490  
491 Fig. 7. Composite sulfur isotopic composition histogram of the Yangla copper deposit.

492  
493 Fig. 8. Lead isotope compositions ( $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  versus  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  versus  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ) of samples from the  
494 Yangla copper deposit plotted in the model lead evolution diagrams of Zartman and Doe(1981).

495 M. mantle-source lead; O. orogenic belt-source lead; U. supracrust-source lead; L. lower crust-source lead.  
496

497 Fig. 9.  $\Delta\gamma$ - $\Delta\beta$  diagram of ore lead from the Yangla copper deposit (after Zhu, 1998).

498  
499 Fig. 10. Schematic cross-section through the Yangla copper deposit (modified from Pearce, 1995).  
500 1. Crust; 2. Mantle lithosphere; 3. Mantle asthenosphere; 4. Plate motion; 5. Mantle fluid advection.

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