

THE CLASSIFICATION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES REVISITED

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ABSTRACT

The classification of granitic pegmatites was frequently attempted during the past century, with variable degrees of success and applicability. Internal structure, paragenetic relationships, bulk chemical composition, petrogenetic aspects, nature of parent medium, and geochemical features were applied. However, all schemes were marked by contemporary degrees of understanding of these parameters, and most attempts were hindered by ignoring differences in geological environment. Substantial progress was achieved only since the late 1970s. The classification is approached here from two directions, based on but broadened and refined from earlier works by Ginsburg and Černý. The first concept deals with geological location, leading to division of granitic pegmatites into five classes (abyssal, muscovite, muscovite – rare-element, rare-element, and miarolitic), most of which are subdivided into subclasses with fundamentally different geochemical (and in part geological) characteristics. Further subdivision of most subclasses into types and subtypes follows more subtle differences in geochemical signatures or P–T conditions of solidification, expressed in variable assemblages of accessory minerals. The second approach is petrogenetic, developed for pegmatites derived by igneous differentiation from plutonic parents. Three families are distinguished: an NYF family with progressive accumulation of Nb, Y and F (besides Be, REE, Sc, Ti, Zr, Th and U), fractionated from subaluminous to metaluminous A- and I-type granites that can be generated by a variety of processes involving depleted crust or mantle contributions; a peraluminous LCT family marked by prominent accumulation of Li, Cs and Ta (besides Rb, Be, Sn, B, P and F), derived mainly from S-type granites, less commonly from I-type granites, and a mixed NYF + LCT family of diverse origins, such as contamination of NYF plutons by digestion of undepleted supracrustal rocks.

Keywords: classification, granitic pegmatites, geochemistry, mineral assemblage, petrogenesis.

SOMMAIRE

Il y a eu plusieurs tentatives de classification de pegmatites granitiques au cours du siècle dernier, avec un taux de réussite et une applicabilité variables. La structure interne, les relations paragénétiques, la composition chimique globale, les aspects pétrogénétiques, la nature du milieu de croissance, et les caractéristiques géochimiques ont tous été utilisés comme bases de classification. Toutefois, ces schémas ont été limités par le niveau de compréhension de ces paramètres lors de leur application, et par négligence des différences du milieu géologique. Des progrès substantiels ont seulement été atteints depuis la fin des années 1970. La classification est abordée ici de deux directions, fondées sur les travaux antérieurs de Ginsburg et Černý, mais affinés et considérés dans un contexte élargi. Le premier concept porte sur la situation géologique, et mène à cinq classes de pegmatites granitiques: abyssale, à muscovite, à muscovite – éléments rares, à éléments rares et miarolitique), la plupart des classes étant ensuite subdivisées en sous-classes ayant des caractéristiques géochimiques (et, en partie, géologiques) fondamentalement différentes. Une subdivision plus poussée des sous-classes en types et sous-types repose sur des différences plus subtiles des traits géochimiques ou des conditions de solidification distinctes en termes de P et de T, exprimées par des assemblages variables de minéraux accessoires. Le second concept est pétrogénétique, développé pour les pegmatites dérivées par différenciation d'un parent plutonique. Nous distinguons trois familles. La famille NYF, caractérisée par l'accumulation progressive de Nb, Y et F (en plus de Be, REE, Sc, Ti, Zr, Th et U), est fractionnée à partir de granites subalumineux à métalumineux de types A et I, qui peuvent être générés par une variété de processus impliquant une croûte stérile ou une contribution du manteau. La famille hyperalumineuse LCT, reconnue par son enrichissement marqué en Li, Cs et Ta (en plus de Rb, Be, Sn, B, P et F), serait dérivée surtout de granites de type S, et à un degré moindre, de granites de type I. Enfin, il y a la famille mixte NYF + LCT d'origines diverses, par exemple une contamination des plutons NYF par digestion de roches supracrustales fertiles.

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Mots-clés: classification, pegmatites granitiques, géochimie, assemblages de minéraux, pétrogenèse.

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INTRODUCTION

The broad spectrum of mineralogical, geochemical, textural and economic types of granitic pegmatites has been the subject of numerous attempts at classification since about a century ago. Most of the early attempts did not go beyond simple field-based subdivisions, but some of them developed into more sophisticated schemes, the general principles of which still apply today (*e.g.*, Fersman 1940). A variety of criteria were applied to the classification: internal structure, paragenetic relationships, bulk chemical composition, petrogenetic aspects, nature of parent medium, and geochemical signatures, among others. The successes and failures of individual efforts were, to a high degree, controlled by the regional *versus* global experience of the authors, by the state of understanding of the petrological aspects of granitic pegmatites, and by the strong tendency to classify all granitic pegmatites by a single criterion. The early attempts were reviewed and commented on by Jahns (1955), Schneiderhöhn (1961), Solodov (1971) and Černý (1982a).

The modern era was ushered in by Ginsburg & Rodionov (1960), and particularly Ginsburg *et al.* (1979), who distinguished four geological classes (abyssal, muscovite, rare-element and miarolitic) on the basis of their crustal environment, more specifically on the depth of their intrusion, and on their relationship to metamorphism and granitic plutons. Černý (1990, 1991a) revised this classification using improved petrological, paragenetic and geochemical criteria, and introduced a new, separate concept of three petrogenetic families (NYF, LCT and mixed). This petrogenetic classification was fairly widely accepted, and some parts of it were expanded to cover granites (*e.g.*, London 1995). However, it was presented in a rather telegraphic style, which caused uncertainties and misconceptions about some of its aspects. With progress of time, a need emerged to revise some of the pegmatite classes and families (*e.g.*, Černý & Kjellman 1999, Černý 2000), and to take into account several new (or previously omitted) classifications (Zou & Xu 1975, Zou *et al.* 1985, Wise 1999, Hanson *et al.* 1999, Gordiyenko 1996, Zagorskiy *et al.* 2003).

The impetus for revamping the two classifications was provided by Ercit (2005), who reviewed REE-bearing granitic pegmatites, and collected general information on the abyssal- and muscovite-class pegmatites in the process. These two classes were poorly represented in the original versions (Černý 1990, 1991a), in which the main focus was on the rare-element category. We present here the current status of our ideas on these three classes, we incorporate the muscovite – rare-element class, and we modify the subdivision of the miarolitic pegmatites and their links to the rare-element class. Also, the system of petrogenetic families is clarified in greater detail. Otherwise, the scope of the classification remains the same as in the previous versions: pegmatites

and granites of peraluminous, subaluminous and metaluminous (to subalkaline) compositions are considered, to the exclusion of the peralkaline kindred [dealt with, in part, by Wise (1999), and by Zou & Xu (1975) and Zou *et al.* (1985) in their mantle-related category]. Also, the classification deals exclusively with what Fersman (*e.g.*, 1940) called pegmatites of “pure-bred lineage”. Those that are demonstrably contaminated to hybridized (“cross-bred lineage”; Fersman 1940) by reaction with country rocks are not considered, such as the desilicated pegmatites in ultrabasic rocks and amphibolites (*e.g.*, Martin-Izard *et al.* 1995, Laurs *et al.* 1996), or the danburite-rich pegmatites in marble-dominant host rocks (Pezzotta 2001).

GEOLOGICAL CLASSES OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES AND THEIR GEOCHEMICAL–PARAGENETIC SUBDIVISIONS

Derived from the depth-related “formations” of Ginsburg *et al.* (1979) (a term with an unfortunate sedimentological connotation), five *classes* of granitic pegmatites are distinguished here. They are based on the pressure (and, in part, temperature) conditions that characterize their host-rock suites; these, however, do not necessarily reflect the conditions of consolidation of the synkinematic to post-kinematic (granite +) pegmatite populations themselves (Table 1, 2, Fig.1).

TABLE 1. THE CLASS SYSTEM OF GEOLOGICAL, PARAGENETIC AND GEOCHEMICAL CLASSIFICATION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES

Class	Subclass	Type	Subtype
Abyssal (AB)	AB-HREE		
	AB-LREE AB-U AB-BBe		
Muscovite (MS)	MSREL-REE		
	MSREL-Li		
Rare-element (REL)	REL-REE	allanite-monazite euxenite gadolinite	
	REL-Li	beryl complex	beryl-columbite beryl-columbite-phosphate spodumene petalite lepidolite elbaite amblygonite
Miarolitic (MI)	MI-REE	topaz-beryl gadolinite-fergusonite	
	MI-Li	beryl-topaz MI-spodumene MI-petalite MI-lepidolite	

As such, these P–T conditions should be considered as *maximal* estimates for the environment during pegmatite emplacement, as they characterize peak metamorphism, which usually substantially predates intrusions of the pegmatite-forming melt. This P–T gap is locally the largest in the abyssal class, and minimal (if any) in the muscovite class. The difference increases again in the rare-element and miarolitic classes.

In some classes, the next step leads down to subclasses distinguished by fundamental differences in geochemical signature. If permitted by the current insight into individual classes and subclasses, further

subdivision leads to pegmatite types and subtypes, marked by significant differences in mineral assemblages, geochemical signature, conditions of consolidation, or a combination of these aspects. The classes are based on geological criteria, but within individual classes, the subdivision follows geochemical features, mineral assemblages and textural attributes that reflect the P–T conditions of pegmatite consolidation. Thus the above hierarchy serves to place a given pegmatite into a gross geological context, and into a descriptive geochemical–paragenetic category.

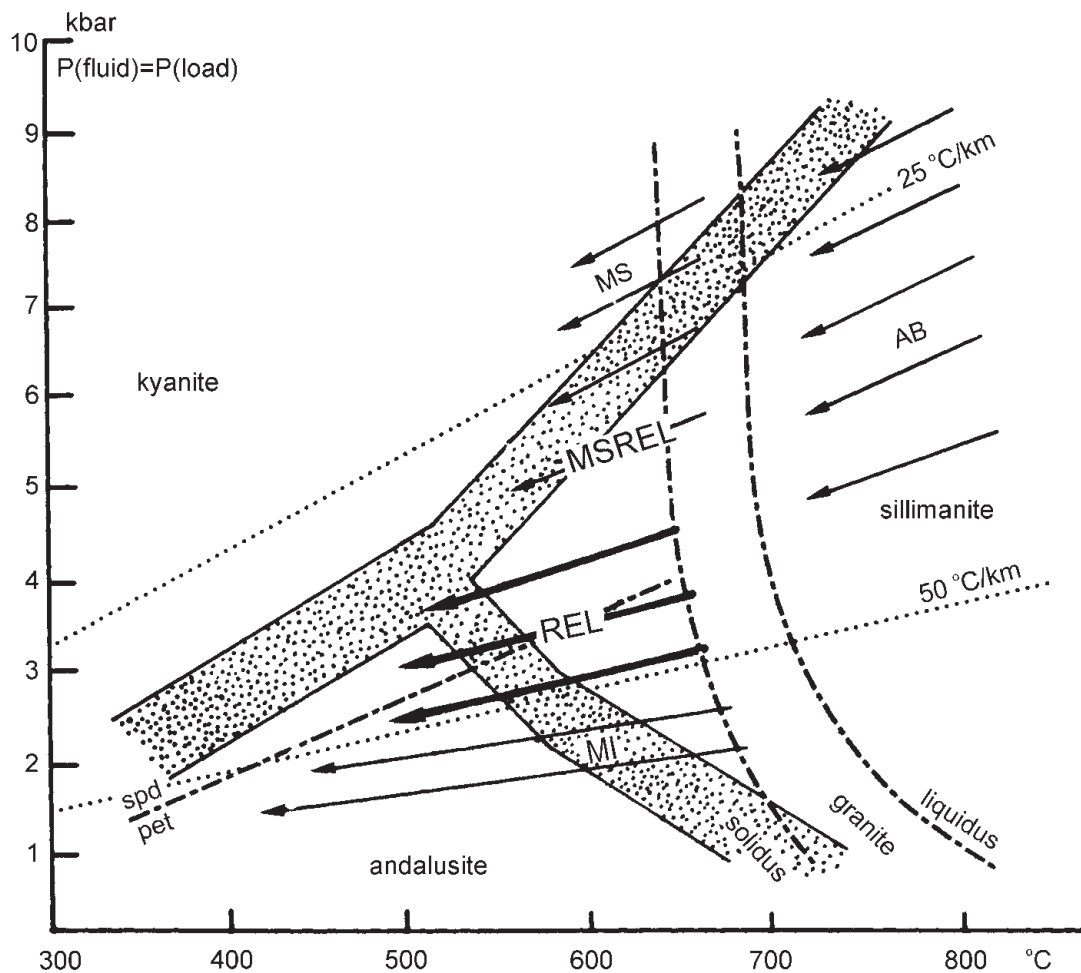


FIG. 1. Schematic P–T fields of regional host-rocks that harbor granitic pegmatites of the abyssal (AB), muscovite (MS), muscovite – rare-element (MSREL), rare-element (REL) and miarolitic (MI) classes. Arrows indicate regional trends of fractionation in the pegmatites relative to metamorphic grades of the host rocks. The MS and MSREL populations, as well as those of the REL and MI pegmatites, tend to be in some cases transitional one to the other. See text for comments on the diversified environment of the AB-class pegmatites. Aluminosilicate fields from Robie & Hemingway (1984), spodumene–petalite boundary from London (1984), granite liquidus – solidus from Jahns (1982). The 25°C/km and 50°C/km gradients correspond to average Barrovian and Abukuma metamorphic facies-series, respectively.

The degree of subdivision in individual classes is highly variable, depending on the current state of understanding of the classes and on the degree of variability encountered in them. In all cases, the hierarchy is open-ended downward (Table 1), providing elbow room for further subdivision as it may become desirable with progress of research. We resisted the temptation to expand the number of types and subtypes where differences would be hazy or minor. Excessive “pigeonholing” would defeat the purpose of the classification, which is aimed at clearly definable types that constitute substantial segments of the global population of granitic pegmatites. Consequently, we feel confident that a vast majority of granitic pegmatites can be correlated with one or another of the proposed categories. Pegmatites with transitional characteristics do occur and may be locally abundant, but they can be described, with appropriate qualifications, by their relationship to the closest “end-members”, even if they are not totally identical with any of them. A negligible minority of pegmatites with unorthodox mineral assemblages and geochemical signatures, usually restricted to isolated local populations, must necessarily remain outside the generalized scheme, unless proven to be more widespread and significant in the future. This applies, for example, to the enormously Cs- and B-enriched pegmatites of Madagascar (Simmons *et al.* 2001).

Abyssal class

Despite its shortcomings, the original term is retained for this category, which is hosted within most of the P–T range of the granulite facies (extending to upper-amphibolite conditions) as defined by Yardley (1989) or Bucher & Frey (1994), but excluding the high extremes of pressure. Thus the abyssal class also encompasses pegmatites of intermediate depth but in largely dehydrated high-temperature host terranes. Pegmatites of the abyssal class most commonly correspond to products of partial melting or metamorphic re-equilibration, generally conformable to the metamorphic fabric of the host environment where synkinematic, or discordant where late-kinematic. Migmatitic leucosome and its segregations are common, whereas more voluminous edifices merging into autochthonous anatectic granites with interior pegmatite bodies and exterior pegmatite fringes are much less abundant (*e.g.*, Baie Johan Beetz, Rimšaitė 1981). Even rarer are abyssal pegmatites magmatically derived from granites (Bushev & Koplus, 1980). Processes of magmatic differentiation and fractionation within populations of pegmatites are virtually absent. Mineralization, largely restricted to a narrow range of HFSE (U, Th, Y, REE, Nb, Zr; Table 2), is commonly sparse, rarely economic (*e.g.*, Hewitt 1967b, Cuney 1980, Shmakin 1992).

All of the above characteristics indicate that the generation of pegmatites does not necessarily take place at the peak conditions of the granulite-facies regional

metamorphism. Quite to the contrary, the host terranes are commonly polymetamorphic (Grew 1998, Grew *et al.* 2000), and pegmatites are related to relatively late processes connected with adiabatic melting during uplift.

Four subclasses of abyssal pegmatites (Table 3) can be distinguished, three of them characterized by extremes in the geochemical relationships of U and Th to Y, LREE, HREE and Nb. In the presence of relatively abundant Nb, most of the U and Th is concentrated as substituent elements in Y–REE–Nb-oxide minerals (*e.g.*, euxenite, samarskite, fergusonite and pyrochlore groups), hence the AB–HREE subclass.

TABLE 2. PRINCIPAL SUBDIVISION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIVE CLASSES OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES

Class Subclass	Typical minor elements	Metamorphic environment	Relation to granites
Abyssal (AB)			
AB–HREE	HREE, Y, Nb, Zr, U, Ti	(upper amphibolite to low- to high-P granulite facies; ~4 to 9 kbar, ~700 to 800 °C)	none (?) (segregations of anatectic leucosome ?)
AB–LREE	LREE, U, Th, Ti		
AB–U	U, Th, Zr, LREE		
AB–BBe	B, Be		
Muscovite (MS)			
	no rare-element mineralization (micas and ceramic minerals)	high-P, Barrovian amphibolite facies (kyanite–sillimanite) 5 to 8 kbar, ~650 to 580 °C	none (anatectic bodies) to marginal and exterior
Muscovite – Rare-element (MSREL)			
MSREL–REE	Be, Y, REE, Ti, U, Th, Nb–Ta	moderate to high P, (T) amphibolite facies; 3 to 7 kbar, ~650 to 520 °C	interior to exterior; locally poorly defined
MSREL–Li	Li, Be, Nb		
Rare-element (REL)			
REL–REE	Be, Y, REE, U, Th, Nb>Ta, F	variable, largely shallow and postdating regional events affecting the host rocks	interior to marginal (rarely exterior)
REL–Li	Li, Rb, Cs, Be, Ga, Sn, Hf, Nb–Ta, B, P, F	low-P, Abukuma amphibolite (andalusite–sillimanite) to upper greenschist facies; ~2 to 4 kbar, ~650 to 450 °C	(interior to marginal to) exterior
Miarolitic (MI)			
MI–REE	Y, REE, Ti, U, Th, Zr, Nb, F	very low P, postdating regional events that affect the host rocks	interior to marginal
MI–Li	Li, Be, B, F, Ta>Nb	low-P amphibolite to greenschist facies. 3 to 1.5 kbar, 500 to 400 °C	(interior to) marginal to exterior

With significantly diminished Nb and HREE, yet relatively abundant LREE, most U and Th are dispersed, again as substituent elements, between silicate and phosphate phases (*e.g.*, allanite and monazite), hence the AB–LREE subclass. However, with negligible Nb, Y and REE, most U and Th necessarily reside as structurally important elements in species of their own: uraninite UO_2 and thorite $(U,Th)SiO_4$, hence the AB–U subclass.

The fourth subclass is provisional, pooling pegmatites enriched in B and Be, although most of their prominent concentrations are separate. The minerals hosting these elements are quite characteristic (Table 3), consisting largely of high-pressure species and developed mainly in complex environments during multi-stage events (*e.g.*, Grew *et al.* 2000). The pegmatites of this subclass commonly are strongly peraluminous (as are most of the typical minerals). In the absence of data on bulk composition of these pegmatites, the degree of their departure from truly granitic compositions is not clear and deserves attention.

Muscovite class

Pegmatites of this class are largely conformable to, and in part deformed with, host rocks of high-pressure amphibolite facies characterized by the kyanite – sillimanite progression of the classic Barrovian metamorphic facies-series (Table 1). The pegmatites are generated directly by partial melting (Shmakin & Makagon 1972, Gorlov 1975, Sokolov *et al.* 1975) or by very restricted extent of differentiation of anchi-autochthonous paligenetic granites (Bushev 1975, Gordiyenko & Leonova 1976, Ginsburg *et al.* 1979, Shmakin 1976). However, modern petrogenetic studies based on isotopic evidence are so far not available for this pegmatite class! Nevertheless, the field evidence, enclosed relics of unaltered metamorphic assemblages and lack of fractionation all indicate that the conditions of magma generation, intrusion (if any) and pegmatite consolidation were very close to those of the metamorphic grade of the kyanite–sillimanite-bearing host rocks (Gordiyenko & Leonova 1976, Ginsburg *et al.* 1979, Gordiyenko 1996).

TABLE 3. SUBDIVISION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF THE ABYSSAL CLASS

Subclass	Geochemical signature	Typical minerals	Examples	References
<i>AB–HREE</i>	HREE, Y	Y-Nb-oxide minerals uraninite, zircon, (allanite)	Parry Sound, Hybla and Madawaska districts, ON Evans-Lou and Lapointe quarries, Gatineau, QC Aldan, Anabar shields, Siberia, Russia Antsirabe-Kitsamby district, Madagascar	Hewitt (1955, 1967a), Goad (1990) Hogarth (1972), Spence (1932) Bushev & Koplus (1980) Joo' (1970), Bourret (1988)
<i>AB–LREE</i>	LREE	allanite, monazite, (uraninite, thorite)	Wolverine field, Mt. Bisson, BC Five Mile mine, Madawaska, ON Lac à Baude, QC Part of Chupa-Yena district, Karelia, Russia	Halleran & Russell (1993) Storey & Voss (1981) Ellsworth (1932) Leonova & Polczhacva (1975)
<i>AB–U</i>	U, Th	uraninite, thorite, zircon, (allanite)	Mont-Laurier, QC Sharbot Lake, ON Hearne and Rae subprovinces, SK Rössing, Namibia Baie Johan Beetz, QC	Henderson (1982) Ford (1982) Tremblay (1978) Cuney (1980) Rimšaitė (1981)
<i>AB BBe</i>	B, Be	dumortierite grandidierite, kornepurine, werdingite, chrysoberyl, sapphirine series, surinamite	Rogaland, southwestern Norway Andrahomana, SE MAD Kutná Hora, CZ Enderby Land, eastern Antarctica South Kerala, India Kalanga Hill, NE Zambia	Huijsmans <i>et al.</i> (1982), Grew <i>et al.</i> (1998) Grew <i>et al.</i> (1998) Cempírek & Novák (2004) Grew (1998), Grew <i>et al.</i> (2000) Soman <i>et al.</i> (1986) Žáček & Vrána (2002)

Geographic symbols: BC: British Columbia, CZ: Czech Republic, MAD: Madagascar, ON: Ontario, QC: Quebec, SK: Saskatchewan.

The pegmatites are typically barren, carrying feldspar of ceramic grade, quartz and industrial mica, which gave them the original name. The name is retained here because of lack of any other suitable term, although the economic importance of muscovite has vastly diminished with time. The simple mineralogy of accessory silicates and lack of even minor mineralization in most occurrences preclude any meaningful subdivision of this class. Exceptional traces of rare-element minerals generally match the phases found in pegmatites of the muscovite – rare-element class (Table 4).

Muscovite – rare-element class

Pegmatites of this class were historically treated either as members of a specific class, or as intermediate links between muscovite and rare-element classes without a pigeon-hole of their own. However, analysis of the subject by Shmakin (1976) and Ercit (2005) persuasively supports this split. Thus we assign a class status to these pegmatites, with two broadly based but mutually distinct subclasses (Table 4). The metamorphic environment that typically hosts pegmatites of this class is intermediate to the parameters typical of the muscovite and rare-element classes (Table 1, Fig. 1). Pegmatites of the muscovite – rare-element class, unlike those of the muscovite class, are mostly discordant with respect to the metamorphic foliation of their host rocks, and occasionally show regional zonation with respect to parental granites (Shmakin 1976, Ercit 1992, 2005, Wood 1996). Unlike pegmatites of the muscovite

and rare-element classes, pegmatites of the muscovite – rare-element class contain *both* high-quality muscovite of economic potential (*e.g.*, ruby grade), and concentrations of rare-element minerals that in rare cases verge on economic (*e.g.*, beryl, cassiterite, columbite-group minerals, REE–Nb–U oxides, Li silicates). The links of the muscovite – rare-element pegmatites to granites or regional metamorphism are largely ill-defined, although in some cases the granitic parentage is spatially obvious or at least mandated geochemically (Gordiyenko & Leonova 1976, Ginsburg *et al.* 1979, Ercit 1992, 2005, Wood 1996). This statement applies particularly to members of the *MSREL–Li subclass*, whose geochemical signature implies a plutonic source (saturation in beryl, Li-bearing minerals). Nonetheless, a granitic parentage is doubtful for a significant number of examples of this category, notably those of the *MSREL–REE subclass* (Mineyev & Salye 1971, Gordiyenko & Leonova 1976). As in the case of the muscovite class, genetic considerations are commonly based, mainly to solely, on field relationships and estimates of the bulk composition of the igneous rocks involved. An up-to-date petrogenetic analysis of typical cases of muscovite – rare-element class populations is currently not available, and sorely needed.

Rare-element class

This class, most thoroughly investigated in the past and best known today, encompasses pegmatites generated by differentiation from granitic plutons, emplaced

TABLE 4. SUBDIVISION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF THE MUSCOVITE AND MUSCOVITE – RARE-ELEMENT CLASSES

Class Subclass	Geochemical signature	Typical minerals	Examples	References
Muscovite class (MS)				
(<i>unsubdivided</i>)	Ca, Ba, Sr, Fe>Mn	muscovite, biotite, almandine-spessartine, (kyanite, sillimanite)	White Sea region, Russia Mama-Vitima, Siberia most of the Appalachian pegmatite province	Gorlov (1975) Shmakin (1976) Jahns <i>et al.</i> (1952)
Muscovite – Rare-element class (MSREL)				
<i>MSREL–REE</i>	Be, Y, REE, Ti, U, Th, Nb–Ta	muscovite, fergusonite, samarskite, monazite, beryl, almandine-spessartine	Mattawa, ON parts of Chupa–Yena district, NW Russia Spruce Pine, NC some migmatite terranes, Ural Mtns., Russia	Ercit (1992, 2005) Leonova & Polezhaeva (1975) Olson (1944), Lesure (1968) Ayzderdzis (1976)
<i>MSREL–Li</i>	Li, Be, Nb	beryl, cassiterite, columbite, lepidolite, (spodumene)	Shelby–Hickory, NC (most) parts of Bihar belt, India Poběžovice-Domažlice, SW Bohemia, CZ	Griffitts & Olson (1953) Shmakin (1976) Vejnar (1968)

Geographic symbols: CZ: Czech Republic, NC: North Carolina, ON: Ontario.

largely at intermediate to relatively shallow depth, and marked by a tendency to accumulate economic concentration of lithophile rare elements in the more fractionated pegmatite bodies. This class is split here into two subclasses: REL-REE and REL-Li (Tables 1, 2, 5). Members of the REL-REE subclass are derived chiefly from post- to anorogenic metaluminous to peraluminous granites at somewhat variable crustal depth, largely (but not exclusively) in extensional crustal settings (Černý 1991a, b). In contrast, the REL-Li subclass corresponds to Ginsburg's classic concept of this class, emplaced in the low-pressure, (upper-greenschist to) amphibolite-facies host-rocks of the Abukuma-type metamorphic series, and differentiated dominantly from (syn- to) late-orogenic peraluminous granites, largely (but not exclusively) in compressional orogenic regimes (Černý 1991a, b).

The gap between the peak metamorphic conditions of the country rocks and the P-T regime of pegmatite crystallization is in many cases emphasized by the brittle behavior of the consolidated host-rocks along pegmatite contacts, and is enhanced by recent experimental work. Significant undercooling of pegmatite-forming magmas and their solidification at subsolidus temperatures increase the difference between the dominant conditions of the host rock and those of consolidation of the REL magma.

The REL-REE subclass has a characteristic assemblage of HFSE, and is subdivided into three types (Table 5): *allanite-monzonite type*, characterized by predominance of LREE, *euxenite type* with prominent Y, variable HREE/LREE ratio and negligible amounts to virtual absence of Be (Wise 1999), and *gadolinite type*, marked by dominance of HREE, Y and Be. Some local populations of this subclass are restricted to a single type, whereas others are more diversified (Trout Creek Pass versus South Platte district or Iveland, respectively; Table 5). The REL-REE pegmatites are impoverished in phosphorus (despite the characteristic presence of accessory REE phosphates), boron and sulfur (the last one is negligible in rare-element pegmatites of any kind) and the contents of lithium, rubidium and cesium also are typically low (Černý 1991a, Brown 1999, Nizamoff *et al.* 1999).

The REL-Li pegmatites constitute the most diversified subclass in the whole classification spectrum, reflecting a broad array of rare elements and conditions of solidification. Rare alkalis, Be, Sn, Nb < Ta, B, P and F are typically accumulated with progress of fractionation in the REL-Li pegmatite suites. This is reflected in the types and subtypes defined for this subclass (Table 5).

The beryl type is represented in its simplest form by the widespread beryl-columbite subtype. Although present in virtually all pegmatite bodies of this subtype, and commonly in substantial proportions, abundances of the minerals of Be and Nb-Ta are widely variable and their ratio may become very steep. Beryl very

strongly dominates over Nb-Ta-bearing minerals in the CAT group in southeastern Manitoba (Černý *et al.* 1981) and in the Lamoureux Lake pegmatites at Yellowknife (Meintzer 1987, Wise 1987), whereas the Plex pegmatite, Baffin Island (Tomascak *et al.* 1994) and the YITT-B group, southeastern Manitoba (Anderson *et al.* 1998) are rich in Nb and Ta phases, but contain mere traces of beryl (*cf.* Černý 1992).

The beryl-columbite-phosphate subtype is less common than members of the beryl-columbite category, but by no means rare. Phosphates of Fe, Mn and Ca (graptolite - beusite) grade locally to the Li-bearing triphylite, representing the first lithium-bearing phase in fractionation sequences of cogenetic pegmatite suites (*e.g.*, Smeds *et al.* 1998). As above, deviations from substantial proportions of beryl and columbite-group minerals also occur: *e.g.*, in the beryl-dominant Nancy pegmatite, Argentina (Tait *et al.* 2004) and the beryl-free Dolní Bory dikes (Staněk 1991). The percentage and diversity of phosphates also are variable. Anionic and transition-metal composition of the pegmatite-forming melt may skew the mineralogy in favor of microlite (F) and "exotic" phosphate species such as members of the wylleite group (with Mn >> Fe) (Cross Lake, Manitoba, Ercit *et al.* 1986; the Nancy pegmatite, in Argentina, Tait *et al.* 2004).

The complex type is characterized by substantial proportions of lithium aluminosilicates. Complex pegmatites also display the most evolved internal structure and attain the most extreme levels of fractionation encountered in terrestrial rocks (Černý *et al.* 2005a). The bulk composition of the parent melts and P-T conditions of consolidation, both reflected in mineral assemblages, participate in defining the subtypes.

The spodumene subtype is the most common category of complex pegmatites, crystallizing largely at relatively high pressures (~3 to 4 kbar, Fig. 1; London 1984). In contrast, the less widespread petalite subtype consolidates at somewhat higher temperatures but lower pressures (~1.5 to 3 kbar). However, the defining aluminosilicate of Li may locally reflect the stage at which it attains saturation, rather than the overall pressure regime: Mongolian Altai #3 has the same P-T path of solidification as Tanco, but crystallizes primary spodumene at a later, lower-temperature stage than the early precipitation of petalite at Tanco (Lu & Wang 1997, Černý *et al.* 2005a). Also, the distinctive differences in pressure regimes are today somewhat blurred by the influence of undercooling and subsolidus crystallization, which may shift low-pressure crystallization of Li-rich magma into the stability field of spodumene (London 2005). Other than the difference in the dominant or sole Li-aluminosilicate, the overall paragenetic and geochemical characteristics of these two subtypes are about identical (Table 5). Both subtypes usually show Li contents lower than the experimentally established maximum (Heinrich 1975, Stewart 1978).

TABLE 5. SUBDIVISION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF THE RARE-ELEMENT CLASS

Subclass Type	Subtype	Geochemical signature	Typical minerals	Examples	References
<i>REL-REE</i> allanite- monazite		LREE, U, Th, (Be, Nb>Ta, F, [P])	allanite, monazite, zircon, rutile, fluorite, ilmenite	Pacoima, Los Angeles, CA S group, South Platte, CO Helle, Kokjen and Sonnevig, Hitterö, NO Oku-Tango belt (most), JP	Möller (1995) Simmons <i>et al.</i> (1987) Adamson (1942) Tatekawa (1955)
	euxenite	L-H-REE, Y, Ti, Zr, Nb>Ta, (F, P)	euxenite, monazite, xenotime, zircon, rutile, ilmenite, (fergusonite, aeschynite, zinnwaldite)	Georgeville, NS Trout Creek Pass, CO Topsham, ME S Iveland (most), NO Alto Molocue, MOZ Otozan and Morigami, JP Mukinbuin field (most), WA, Australia	Murphy <i>et al.</i> (1998) Hanson <i>et al.</i> (1992) Hanson <i>et al.</i> (1998) Bjørlykke (1935) Cilek (1989) Minakawa <i>et al.</i> (1978) Jacobson <i>et al.</i> (2005)
	gadolinite	Be, Y, HREE, Zr, Ti, Nb>Ta, F, (P)	gadolinite, fergusonite, samarskite, zircon, rutile, ilmenite, fluorite, (zinnwaldite)	N Iveland (most), NO White Cloud, CO Central Mineral dist., TX Shatford Lake group, MB Ytterby and Osterby, SWE West Keivy, Kola, Russia Mategawa and Hama, JP Cooglegong, WA, AU Pyörönmaa, Finland	Bjørlykke (1935) Simmons <i>et al.</i> (1987) Ehlmann <i>et al.</i> (1964) Buck <i>et al.</i> (1999) Smeds (1990) Lunts (1972) Minakawa <i>et al.</i> (1978) Simpson (1951) Vorma <i>et al.</i> (1966)
<i>REL-Li</i> beryl	beryl- columbite	Be, Nb-Ta, (±Sn, B)	beryl, columbite, tantalite, (rutile)	Meyers Ranch, CO Greer Lake group, MB Donkerhoek, Namibia East Selden, CT Scheibengraben, CZ Big Alstead, NH	Hanley <i>et al.</i> (1950) Černý <i>et al.</i> (1981) Schneiderhöhn (1961) Cameron & Shainin (1947) Novák <i>et al.</i> (2003) Cameron <i>et al.</i> (1949)
	beryl- columbite phosphate	Be, Nb-Ta, P, (Li, F, ±Sn, B)	beryl, columbite, tantalite, triplite, triphylite	Hagendorf-Süd, Germany Dan Patch, SD Crystal Mtn. field, CO Palermo No. 1, NH Cross Lake #22, MB Tsaobismund, Namibia Nevados de Palermo, AR	Strunz <i>et al.</i> (1975) Norton <i>et al.</i> (1964) Thurston (1955) Francis <i>et al.</i> (1993) Ercit <i>et al.</i> (1986) Fransolet <i>et al.</i> (1986) Galliski <i>et al.</i> (1999)
complex	spodu- menc	Li, Rb, Cs, Be, Ta-Nb, (Sn, P, F, ±B)	spodumene, beryl, colum- bite, tantalite, (amblygonite, lepidolite, pollucite)	Harding, NM Hugo, SD Mongolian Altai #3 Etta, SD White Picacho, AZ Manono, DRC	Jahns & Ewing (1976) Norton <i>et al.</i> (1962) Wang <i>et al.</i> (1981) Norton <i>et al.</i> (1964) London & Burt (1982) Thoreau (1950)
	petalite	as above	petalite, beryl, columbite- tantalite, (amblygonite, lepidolite, pollucite)	Tanco, MB Bikita, Zimbabwe Varuträsk, Sweden Luolamäki, Finland Londonderry, Australia Hirvikallio, Finland	Černý (2005) Cooper (1964) Černý <i>et al.</i> (2004) Neuvonen & Vesasalo (1960) McMath <i>et al.</i> (1953) Vesasalo (1959)
	lepidolite	Li, F, Rb, Cs, Be, Ta-Nb, (Sn, P, B)	lepidolite, beryl, topaz, microlite, columbite- tantalite, (pollucite)	Brown Derby, CO Pidlite, NM Himalaya district, CA Khukh-del-Ula, Mongolia Red Cross Lake, MB Wodgina, Australia Phangnga field, Thailand Rožná, Czech Republic	Heinrich (1967) Jahns (1953) Foord (1976) Vladykin <i>et al.</i> (1974) Černý <i>et al.</i> (1994) Sweetapple & Collins (2002) Garson <i>et al.</i> (1969) Černý <i>et al.</i> (1995)

TABLE 5. SUBDIVISION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF THE RARE-ELEMENT CLASS (cont'd)

Subclass Type	Subtype	Geochemical signature	Typical minerals	Examples	References
	elbaite	Li, B, Rb, Sn, F (Ta, Be, Cs)	tourmaline, hambergite, danburite, datolite, microlite, (polyolithionite)	western Moravia, CZ Malkhan field, Siberia, Russia Sahatany, Madagascar Belo Horizonte #1, CA	Novák & Povondra (1995) Zagorskyi & Peretyazhko (1992) Ranoroosa (1986) Taylor <i>et al.</i> (1993)
	amblygonite	Li, Rb, Cs, Ta–Nb, Be, (Sn)	amblygonite, beryl, columbite–tantalite, (lepidolite, pollucite)	Viitaniemi, Finland Malakialina, Madagascar Peerless, SD Finnis River, Australia Marowijne R., Surinam Lithium Lode, Lutope, Zimbabwe	Lahti (1981) Varlamoff (1972) Sheridan <i>et al.</i> (1957) Jutz (1986) Montagne (1964) Lockett (1979)
	albite–spodumene	Li (Sn, Be, Ta–Nb ± B)	spodumene, (cassiterite, beryl, columbite–tantalite)	Kings Mountain, NC Preissac Lacorne, QC San Luis I, Argentina Weinebene, Austria Violet–Thompson, MB Gods River, MB Little Nahanni field, NWT*	Kesler (1976) Mulligan (1965) Oyárbabal & Galliski (1993) Göd (1989) Černý <i>et al.</i> (1981) Chackowsky (1987) Groat <i>et al.</i> (2003)
	albite	Ta–Nb, Be, (Li; ± Sn, B)	columbite–tantalite, beryl, (cassiterite)	Hengshan, China Tin Dike, MB Totoral field, Argentina Cap de Creus field, Spain* Wodgina district, AU*	Einfalt <i>et al.</i> (1996) Chackowsky (1987) Galliski & Černý (2006) Abella <i>et al.</i> (1995) Sweetapple & Collins (2002)

* Part of the pegmatite population. Geographic symbols: AR: Argentina, AU: Australia, AZ: Arizona, CA: California, CO: Colorado, CT: Connecticut, CZ: Czech Republic, DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo, JP: Japan, MB: Manitoba, ME: Maine, MOZ: Mozambique, NC: North Carolina, NH: New Hampshire, NM: New Mexico, NO: Norway, NS: Nova Scotia, NWT: Northwest Territories, QC: Quebec, SD: South Dakota, SWE: Sweden, TX: Texas, WA: Western Australia.

The *lepidolite subtype* is much less common than the two subtypes above. Lepidolite as the dominant (to only) Li-aluminosilicate is stabilized by high μKF and μLiF and relatively low acidity; increasing μHF stabilizes lepidolite + topaz in some members of this subtype (*cf.* London 1982). Dominance of Mn over Fe, moderate Nb–Ta fractionation but substantial presence of microlite-subgroup minerals, and commonly also an abundance of tourmalines characterize the lepidolite subtype (*e.g.*, Novák & Povondra 1995, Selway *et al.* 1999, Černý *et al.* 2004).

The *elbaite subtype* is not truly scarce but definitely less abundant than the lepidolite subtype above, from which it appears to be locally transitional. Elbaite is the dominant Li-bearing phase here, with the anhydrous Li-aluminosilicates and lepidolite (mainly polyolithionite) scarce to absent (Novák & Povondra 1995). Boron plays a significant role, as borosilicates and borates are stabilized (Table 5). Pegmatites of the elbaite subtype locally tend to contain an appreciable proportion of miarolitic cavities (*e.g.*, Novák & Povondra 1995).

The *amblygonite subtype* is generated from pegmatite-forming melts with high μPFO_2 which suppresses Li-aluminosilicates and stabilizes minerals of the amblygonite–montebrasite series instead (London 1982). This subtype is less common than the lepidolite-dominant pegmatites, but it is known from quite a few well-documented examples on global scale (Table 5). Pegmatites of the amblygonite subtype may actually be more widespread: in the near-absence of Li-aluminosilicates and lithian micas, amblygonite may easily escape attention in the field.

The *albite–spodumene type* of complex pegmatites is compositionally related to the spodumene subtype quoted above, and undoubtedly consolidates at the same somewhat elevated pressures. However, it differs in its bulk composition by substantial dominance of albite and quartz over K-feldspar, and by lithium commonly within the uppermost range established by experimental magmatic enrichment (~2.0 wt.% oxide; Stewart 1978). The most conspicuous difference is in the simple zoning, approaching textural near-homoge-

neity, of individual bodies, and strong preferred orientation of lath- and club-shaped crystals of spodumene and K-feldspar, subnormal to oblique to the attitude of the pegmatite dikes. In some cases the present-day preferred orientation fabric could have resulted from, or been enhanced by, deformation or recrystallization owing to a tectonic (or metamorphic) overprint [Kings Mountain belt in North Carolina: Kesler (1976) and Kunász (1982); Weinebene in Austria: Göd (1989)]. However, at many localities this fabric is demonstrably a primary growth-induced feature [Mateen in South Dakota: Norton *et al.* (1964); Violet–Thompson in Manitoba: Černý *et al.* (1981); Weinebene in Austria: Göd (1989); San Luis I, Argentina: Oyarzábal & Galliski (1993); Little Nahanni, NWT, Canada: Groat *et al.* (2003)]. The factors responsible for the primary oriented fabric of phenocrystic phases, imbedded in an apparently randomly aggregated matrix, are obscure and sorely in need of detailed investigation.

Pegmatites of the *albite type* are the least widespread and least understood in the whole array of the REL–Li subclass. These pegmatites feature aplitic to saccharoidal albite dominant over quartz, and generally minor to accessory K-feldspar, spodumene or lepidolite. Individual dikes range from almost homogeneous to strongly layered. The localities quoted in Table 5, and some undisclosed occurrences in the former Soviet Union (Solodov 1962) are the only pegmatites of albite type that were described in reasonable detail. So far, albite pegmatites pose a considerable genetic problem (Černý 1992). Despite the tendency of differentiating fertile leucogranites and derived rare-element pegmatites to become progressively enriched in Na (Breaks & Moore 1992, Černý *et al.* 2005a), and despite the segregation of late aplitic albite in Macusani-glass-based experiments (*e.g.*, London 1992), huge volumes of melt crystallizing as virtually pure Ab + Qtz can hardly be expected at the tail-end of these processes. Yet such melts are required, commonly on a considerable regional scale, to form the populations of albite pegmatites. As in the case of the albite–spodumene type, thorough multifaceted studies are required here.

Miarolitic class

Primary cavities result from trapping bubbles of an exsolved gas phase inside the parent pegmatite body. They are generally known in all categories of granitic pegmatites, but largely in insignificant numbers and sizes. However, two prominent categories of shallow-seated pegmatites with elevated contents of primary cavities deserve specific designation (*cf.* Černý 2000, Ercit 2005) and are treated here as separate subclasses of a redefined miarolitic class.

The designation of MI–REE is used for pegmatites in which the gas-phase separation was triggered by a pressure quench, and MI–Li is applied to pegmatites

in which the exsolution of a vapor phase follows a combined chemical and pressure quench.

Given suitable tectonic conditions, the exsolved gas phase may escape out of the cooling pegmatite body, and the number and volume of cavities may be reduced or eliminated. Thus the abundance of cavities in populations of cogenetic shallow-seated pegmatites may be quite variable.

An apparent schism evolved during the 1990s, based on equilibrium relationships in the lithium-rich pegmatite system (London 1984, 1986). These experiments suggested ~3 kbar P(H₂O) for spodumene-bearing miarolitic pegmatites, and led to doubts about the shallow level of emplacement of these dikes (*e.g.*, Černý 2000). However, more recent work not only confirmed the generally disequilibrium course of crystallization of lithium-rich pegmatites, but also consolidation from a supercooled melt some 200°C below the liquidus surface: this is sufficient to shift the conditions into the stability field of spodumene (London 1984, 1986, 2005; pers. commun. 2005). Thus the regimes of consolidation of pegmatites of the MI–REE (*e.g.*, subvolcanic in the Pikes Peak area) and MI–Li subclasses (*e.g.*, ~1.5 kbar in Elba and southern California; Ruggeri & Lattanzi 1992, Webber *et al.* 1999) are near-identical, if one disregards the different Li-phases in the latter category (lepidolite, petalite, or spodumene).

The *MI–REE subclass* is related mainly to anorogenic granites that rise to shallow intrusive levels in the crust. Exsolution of the vug-forming vapor phase follows reduction of the confining pressure in the residual pegmatite-forming melts, which are generally contained within the parent granitic plutons. A broad paragenetic and geochemical variety of pegmatites falls within this subclass, roughly subdivided into two types but with numerous examples of transitional assemblages (Table 6).

The *topaz–beryl type* is known from a number of localities in its “end-member” composition, topaz–beryl virtually *sensu stricto* (*e.g.*, Luumäki: Lahti & Kinnunen 1993). Rapakivi granites seem to carry minor occurrences of this type of pegmatite in the Baltic Shield and elsewhere (Lyckberg 1997). However, most occurrences show an array of associated accessory minerals, including lithium micas (dominantly zinnwaldite), fluorite, Nb-, Ta- Ti-bearing phases, REE phosphates or phenakite [*e.g.*, Mount Antero: Switzer (1939), Korosten: Lazarenko *et al.* (1973), Pikes Peak: Foord (1982)].

The designation of the *gadolinite–fergusonite type* refers to an extreme counterpart of the topaz–beryl type, characterized by a conspicuous concentration of REE- and Nb–Ta-bearing minerals (with Nb>Ta) *e.g.*, Baveno: Pezzotta *et al.* (1999). However, as in the previous case, most pegmatites of this category also carry other accessory phases, including oxide

TABLE 6. SUBDIVISION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF THE MIAROLITIC CLASS

Subclass	Geochemical signature	Typical minerals	Type	Examples	References
<i>MI-REE</i>	Y, REE, Be, Nb, F, Ti, U, Zr	topaz, "amazonite" zinnwaldite, fluorite, beryl, (zircon, euxenite, xenotime, monazite, cheralite)	topaz-beryl	Luumäki, Finland Kl. Spitzkopje, Namibia Korosten, Ukraine Pikes Peak, CO Mt. Antero, CO Sawtooth batholith, ID	Lahti & Kinnunen (1993) Schneiderhöhn (1961) Lazarenko <i>et al.</i> (1973) Foord (1982) Switzer (1939) Menzies & Boggs (1993)
			gadolinite-fergusonite	Baveno pluton, Italy Cuasso al Monte, Italy Wausau complex, WS	Pezzotta <i>et al.</i> (1999) Pezzotta <i>et al.</i> (1999) Falster <i>et al.</i> (2000)
<i>MI-Li</i>	Li, Be, B, F	tourmaline, beryl, topaz, lepidolite, (spodumene, petalite, pollucite, spessartine, microlite)	beryl-topaz	Murzinka, Urals, Russia Nagar, Dache and Dassu, Pakistan	Fersman (1940) Laurs <i>et al.</i> (1998)
			MI-spodumene	Sahatany, Madagascar part of Hindu Kush, Afghanistan Drot, Pakistan Safira district, Brazil	Ranorosoa (1986) Rossovskiy & Chmyrev (1977) Laurs <i>et al.</i> (1998) Bilal <i>et al.</i> (1997)
			MI-petalite	part of Elba, Italy Malkhan field, central Transbaikal, Russia	Pezzotta (2000) Zagorskiy & Peretyazhko (1992)
			MI-lepidolite	part of Elba, Italy Mount Mica, Maine Himalaya and other districts, California part of the Safira district, Brazil	Pezzotta (2000) Francis <i>et al.</i> (1993) Foord (1976) Bilal <i>et al.</i> (1997)

Geographic symbols: CO: Colorado, ID: Idaho, WS: Wisconsin.

minerals of Ti, silicates of Sc, zircon, aeschynite and ferrocolumbite.

The *MI-Li* subclass is related to the same type of fertile granites that generate REL-Li-class pegmatites, and locally develops by gradual transition from the latter. Pressure reduction leads to exsolution of a vapor phase as in the MI-REE subclass, but is aided here by stabilization of B- and Li-bearing silicates, which also sharply reduces solubility of H₂O in the parent melt, and promotes the formation of miarolitic cavities (London 1986, 1987, Černý 2000). Tourmalines of variable composition are a typical, and abundant, component of the MI-Li pegmatites, as boron is the main and rather omnipresent factor in the chemical quench involved. Some explicitly miarolitic pegmatites carry tourmaline throughout their zonal sequences, but hardly any other significant minerals of rare elements [*e.g.*, Stak Nala in Pakistan: Laurs *et al.* (1998)].

The subdivision of this subclass (Table 6) bears some similarity to the subdivision of the REL-Li subclass, mainly in the application of the Li-alumino-silicate discriminant, but must be considered preliminary and subject to future modification. Dominance

of phases controlling the nomenclature is commonly difficult to establish, and two or more of these minerals may be present in about equal quantities. For example, the distinction of spodumene and petalite types is somewhat blurred by the fact that minor quantities of "the other" phase are relatively commonly found with the name-giving major one; fluctuating fluid pressure and undercooling also must be involved in shaping the mineral assemblages in MI-Li pegmatites (Jahns 1982, London 1986, 1992, Černý 2000). The situation is further complicated by the fact that assemblages between individual pockets within the same body are typically not in equilibrium. Furthermore, highly diversified populations of pegmatites are common, even in relatively small districts, and in many cases described in the literature, specific dikes of pegmatite corresponding to a given type cannot be identified. Consequently, we list only a few examples of each type in Table 6 that are reasonably "pure" representatives across their narrow spectrum.

The *beryl-topaz* type is typical of some of the classic gem-producing pegmatite populations such as Murzinka (Lyckberg & Roskov 1997) and other districts in the

Ural Mountains. Individual dikes of pegmatite of this category are relatively widespread, but only as rather minor components of populations dominated by more diversified pegmatites.

The *MI-spodumene type* ranges from spodumene-poor occurrences (such as Drot in Pakistan, Laurs *et al.* 1998) to spodumene-enriched pegmatites (*e.g.*, Hindu Kush, Rossovskiy & Chmyrev 1977). The *MI-petalite type* seems to be poor in petalite; nevertheless, this phase is the main (and in some cases, the only) aluminosilicate of lithium present. In contrast, the *MI-lepidolite type* is commonly rich in this mica, and the spodumene and petalite pegmatites are transitional into it, as in the Safira district, Brazil (Bilal *et al.* 1997) and Elba, Italy (Pezzotta 2000), respectively.

PETROGENETIC FAMILIES OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES

In contrast to the mainly geological-environmental and descriptive purpose of the class – subclass – type – subtype hierarchy, the concept of pegmatite families deals with provenance of granitic pegmatites that are derived by igneous differentiation from diverse plutonic sources (Černý 1990, 1991a, b, c). Thus the concept extends beyond pegmatites *per se* to their parental granites, and to granites in general (*e.g.*, London 1995).

In view of the fundamental requirement of plutonic parentage, the concept is currently applicable only to pegmatites of the rare-element and miarolitic classes. Some authors strongly suggest that some of the MS and particularly MSREL populations are derived from granitic parents (*e.g.*, Ginsburg *et al.* 1979, Shmakin 1976). However, petrological, petrochemical and isotopic studies that would identify the metamorphic protolith(s) and processes leading to formation of potentially parental granitic melts, and the processes involved in the derivation of the pegmatite-forming melts, are not available. Consequently, the petrogenetic classification of the MS and MSREL pegmatites of potential plutonic parentage is at present beyond our reach.

The concept concerns large-scale pegmatite populations from individual granites + derived pegmatite groups to field-sized assemblies of mutually related suites, linked by common provenance and processes. The acronyms NYF and LCT stand for the rare elements most conspicuously enriched in fractionation sequences of these two families (niobium, yttrium and REE, fluorine *versus* lithium, cesium, tantalum), and they symbolize overall enrichment trends in these families. The enrichment cannot be expected to be commensurate, and does not occur evenly, for all three typical elements in all pegmatite populations or individual pegmatites that belong to one or another of these families. Thus, the occasional attempts to establish more specific families on the basis of mineralogy of local populations of pegmatites alone are not realistic at present (*e.g.*, the NYF

category of Hanson *et al.* 1999) and tend to obscure the principle of the general concept.

This does not mean that the need for subdivisions of the current families, or additional families, does not exist. Quite to the contrary, the ultimate goal of the family classification is a scheme of specific categories, each with a well-defined sequence of crustal environment – protolith – process – granite – pegmatite generation. The need to follow this line of inquiry was repeatedly indicated (Černý & Kjellman 1999, Buck *et al.* 1999, Hanson *et al.* 1999), but it is currently hindered by lack of thoroughly documented individual case-histories.

It should be emphasized that the assignment of pegmatite populations to the NYF or LCT signature does not necessarily mean that the elements characteristic of the other family are absent. Early, less-fractionated members of LCT pegmatite populations commonly contain some minerals typical of the NYF family (*e.g.*, REE phosphates, allanite, euxenite; Smeds 1990), and highly evolved NYF pegmatites may carry some minerals typical of the LCT family (*e.g.*, lepidolite, elbaite; Ercit 2005, Novák *et al.* 1999). Some quantities of the atypical rare elements can be found in any granitic magma, and their concentrations may attain saturation levels of the above minerals at appropriate stages of evolution of the pegmatite-forming melts (early for NYF phases, late for LCT minerals). However, these atypical phases are usually quantitatively insignificant if compared to the signature minerals, which are the ones that are the dominant products of fractionation in each family. Note: emphasis on F in the NYF family relates to the abundance of fluorite or topaz, or both, in the “prototype” NYF pegmatites; neither the relative abundance of F in lithium-dominant micas nor the somewhat elevated contents of Y and REE (Černý & Ercit 1985) mark the lepidolite-subtype pegmatites as NYF members.

Nevertheless, pegmatite populations with a combined signature do exist (based on significant quantities of both suites of typical minerals), and they are assigned to the mixed NYF + LCT family. The genetic possibilities are particularly broad in this case, as there are virtually no thoroughly examined examples available, and ideas about the derivation of the mixed populations are currently based only on field evidence and gross petrochemical considerations (*e.g.*, Černý 1991a).

The final introductory note concerns the fundamental change in the family concept which took place in the early nineties, was not explicitly pointed out, and occasionally escaped attention. Originally, the NYF and LCT families and their precursors were correlated with anorogenic and orogenic settings, respectively (Černý 1982b, 1989), following the model of Martin & Piwinski (1972, 1974). However, significant and widespread exceptions were identified from this correlation that prevented it from being used as the principal

classification yardstick, and the emphasis was shifted to the NYF and LCT geochemical signatures grounded in the source lithologies (see Černý 1991a for details). This shift does not mean that the tectonic affiliation of the NYF and LCT families with the respective anorogenic- and orogenic-related granites was discarded. These relationships are well documented and valid in a great number of cases, but not as universal as implied in the past and in the more recent arguments by Martin (1989, 1999) and Martin & De Vito (2004).

The NYF family

The NYF family is marked by a Nb>Ta, Ti, Y, Sc, REE, Zr, U, Th, F array of typical elements. The parent granites are fairly homogeneous to texturally and geochemically somewhat differentiated, in part also pegmatitic (Garrison *et al.* 1979, Simmons & Heinrich 1980, Wilson *et al.* 1986, Simmons *et al.* 1987, Buck *et al.* 1999, Ercit 2005). They are mainly subaluminous to metaluminous A- to I-types, but with some representations of peraluminous compositions and peralkaline relationships. The degree of fractionation within the fertile granites is usually moderate. Abundances of the REE range from most commonly LREE-enriched at 100 to 800 times chondritic, but relatively flat to LREE-depleted trends are not uncommon (Ercit 2005). In contrast, HREE-depleted abundances are much less widespread. The patterns are usually undisturbed, compatible with crystal–melt fractionation (*cf.* references quoted above). Radiogenic and stable isotope systematics also tend to be undisturbed; $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data are centered on a single maximum of about +8.0‰ (Černý 1991a).

Geological, isotopic and geochemical evidence (scattered and incomplete as it is) and petrological–geochemical considerations suggest several possible modes of origin of the NYF magmas: (i) direct differentiation from mantle-derived basaltic magmas (Fowler & Doig 1983, Wilson *et al.* 1986, Martin 1989); (ii) melting of middle- or lower-crust protoliths, modified by a previous melting causing LCT elements to be mobilized but NYF elements to be conserved (White 1979, Collins *et al.* 1982, Whalen *et al.* 1987, Wilson *et al.* 1986, Christiansen *et al.* 1988, Martin 1989, Černý 1990, 1991a); (iii) melting of undepleted juvenile igneous lithologies in an orogenic setting (Wilson 1980, Anderson 1983, Vocke & Welin 1987, Buck *et al.* 1999); (iv) a combination of processes (ii) and (iii) above (Andersson & Wikström 1989); (v) melting of sialic crust pre-enriched in NYF elements by mantle-derived fluids (including bimodal gabbro–granite suites; Harris & Marriner 1980, Jackson *et al.* 1984, Öhlander & Zuber 1988, Martin 1989, 1999, Martin & De Vito 2004). A more detailed discussion of the above proposals and their intricacies is given in Černý (1991a).

The NYF pegmatites comprise those that fall within the REL–REE and MI–REE subclasses, with possible future incorporation of some of the MSREL–REE populations, if proven to be of plutonic derivation (see Tables 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, and the relevant text in the description of pegmatite classes). Table 7 shows two potential subdivisions in the NYF family that may be developed into “subfamilies” as progress is made in petrogenetic studies of additional cases.

The LCT family

The LCT pegmatite family typically carries, and gets progressively enriched in, Li, Rb, Cs, Be, Sn, Ta, Nb (with Ta>Nb), and largely also in B, P and F, with progressive fractionation of the melt. The parent granites are mildly to substantially peraluminous, of the S, I or mixed S + I type. The granites are usually strongly fractionated and texturally diversified within individual intrusive bodies, attaining maximum enrichment in rare elements in the pegmatitic facies (Černý & Meintzer 1988, Breaks & Moore 1992, Breaks *et al.* 2005, Shearer *et al.* 1992, Černý *et al.* 2005b). Patterns of REE distribution are variable, commonly displaying the tetrad effect and other deviations from simple crystal–melt fractionation, and the REE abundances are generally low, with LREE at 100 to 10 times chondritic. Radiogenic and stable isotope systems are commonly disturbed, but $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data show a distinct, albeit somewhat overlapping, bimodal distribution, with peaks at +8.5 and +11.5‰ (Meintzer 1987, Černý 1991a). This bimodal pattern reflects the two principal sources of the LCT fertile granites. Their parent melts form by (i) anatexis of undepleted upper- to middle-crust metasedimentary and metavolcanic protoliths (*e.g.*, Osis Lake leucogranite in Manitoba, Černý & Brisbin 1982; other examples in Černý *et al.* 2005a), or (ii) low-percentage anatexis of (meta-) igneous rocks of the basement (Köhler & Müller-Sohnius 1981, Wright & Haxel 1982, Walker *et al.* 1986). Both types of protolith generated fertile leucogranitic LCT melts during their first melting event (Černý 1991a), commonly marked by different arrays of minor anions (Table 7). However, many fertile granites are proven to have been derived by melting of a mix of basement and supracrustal protoliths, and they show intermediate geochemical parameters (Meintzer 1987, Walker *et al.* 1986, Propach 1978, 1989). It is not uncommon to find different single-source and mixed-source granites in a single field of pegmatites (Meintzer 1987, Černý 1991a, Černý *et al.* 2005b).

The LCT pegmatite populations consist of members of the REL–Li and MI–Li subclasses, with possible future incorporation of some of the MSREL–Li populations, if proven to be of plutonic derivation (see Tables 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, and the relevant text in the description of pegmatite classes). Table 7 shows examples of possible subdivisions in the LCT family that have a

TABLE 7. THE FAMILY SYSTEM OF PETROGENETIC CLASSIFICATION OF GRANITIC PEGMATITES OF PLUTONIC DERIVATION

Family	Dominant subclass of pegmatites [§]	Geochemical signature	Bulk composition of pegmatites [*]	Associated granites	Bulk composition of granites [*]	Source lithologies ^{**}
LCT	REL-Li MI-Li	Li, Rb, Cs, Bc, Sn, Ga, Ta>Nb, (B, P, F)	peraluminous to subaluminous	(synorogenic to) late-orogenic (to anorogenic); largely heterogeneous	peraluminous, S, I or mixed S + I types	undepleted upper- to middle- crust supracrustal rocks and basement gneisses
NYF	REL-REE MI-REE	Nb>Ta, Ti, Y, Sc, REE, Zr, U, Th, F	subaluminous to metaluminous (to subalkaline)	(syn-, late, post-) to mainly anorogenic; quasi- homogeneous	(peraluminous to) subalum- inous and metaluminous; A and I types	depleted middle- to lower-crust granulites, juvenile granites, mantle- metasomatized crust
Mixed	Cross- bred LCT and NYF	mixed	(metaluminous to) moderately peraluminous	(postorogenic to) anorogenic; heterogeneous	subaluminous to slightly peraluminous	mixed protoliths or assimilation of supracrustal rocks by NYF granites

Potential subdivisions in the LCT family

LCT-I fertile granites generated by low-percentage anatexis of igneous protoliths and subsequent extensive differentiation; subaluminous fertile granites and derived pegmatites poor in Cs, B, P, S, with relatively low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$; e.g., the Greer Lake leucogranite + pegmatite suite, Manitoba (Černý *et al.* 2005b); part of the Yellowknife field, Northwest Territories (Meintzer 1987)

LCT-S fertile granites generated by anatexis of supracrustal protoliths and subsequent differentiation; peraluminous fertile granites and derived pegmatites enriched in Cs, B, P, S, with high $\delta^{18}\text{O}$; e.g., the Osis Lake leucogranite + pegmatite suite, Manitoba (Černý & Brisbin 1982), and the Preissac–Lacorne suite, Quebec (Mulja *et al.* 1995, Ducharme *et al.* 1997)

Potential subdivisions in the NYF family

NYF-A anorogenic granites, as members of bimodal gabbro–granite suites, generated by partial melting of depleted lower crust; topaz- and fluorite-bearing, largely metaluminous (to subalkaline) pegmatites with the “prototype” NYF signature; e.g., the South Platte granite + pegmatite system, Colorado (Simmons *et al.* 1987), and the Gröttingen granite + Abborselset and other associated pegmatites, Sweden (Kjellman *et al.* 1999)

NYF-I syn- to late-orogenic granites generated by (multiple) high-percentage anatexis of I-type tonalitic protoliths and subsequent moderate differentiation; topaz-bearing pegmatites; e.g., the Lac du Bonnet biotite granite + Shatford Lake pegmatite group, Manitoba (Buck *et al.* 1999), and the Stockholm granite + the Ytterby pegmatite group, Sweden (Kjellman *et al.* 1999)

* peraluminous, $A/\text{CNK} > 1$; subaluminous, $A/\text{CNK} \approx 1$; metaluminous, $A/\text{CNK} < 1$ at $A/\text{NK} > 1$; subalkaline, $A/\text{NK} = 1$; peralkaline, $A/\text{NK} < 1$, where $A = \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$, $\text{CNK} = \text{CaO} + \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{NK} = \text{Na}_2\text{O} + \text{K}_2\text{O}$ (all molar quantities). ** See text for further details and possibilities. § See Table 4.

good potential to become “subfamilies” if documented by additional thoroughly examined examples.

The mixed NYF + LCT family

The mixed NYF + LCT family consists of granites and pegmatites that display mixed geochemical and mineralogical characteristics. Only a few cases of NYF + LCT systems have been examined to date [Kimito in Finland: Pehrman (1945), Tørdal district of Norway: Bergstøl & Juve (1988), Černý (1991a), O’Grady batholith in the NWT: Ercit *et al.* (2003)], but additional ones were observed in the field (Ercit 2005). The usually

minor LCT component is manifested as either LCT trace-element content of rock-forming minerals and accessory LCT phases in highly differentiated members of NYF populations, or as more-or-less pristine LCT pegmatites formed in late stages of evolution of the principally NYF pegmatite groups. With exception of the huge O’Grady batholith, NWT (Ercit *et al.* 2003), which requires a petrogenetic study, all other cases may be explained by LCT contamination of originally “pure” NYF granites. However, in the absence of rigorous geochemical data, three possibilities must be considered for the genesis of the mixed systems, based on the model of anatexis of depleted crust for the

dominant NYF component, and on the local geological situation: (i) a pristine NYF magma from depleted crust may become contaminated by digestion of undepleted supracrustal lithologies (Černý 1991a), (ii) the crustal protolith may have been only partially depleted (Whalen *et al.* 1987), or (iii) the anatexis may have affected a mixed range of depleted and undepleted protoliths (Whalen *et al.* 1987).

Further notes on the mixed-signature granites and pegmatites are to be found in Černý (1991a), dealing primarily with the model (i) above. The spectrum of genetic possibilities may considerably expand once the other above-mentioned models of NYF-granite derivation (and diverse potential modes of LCT enrichment) are considered. In this respect, the mixed NYF + LCT granite and pegmatite populations are currently the least fathomable of the three families. Thus it is not surprising that they are occasionally subject to unrealistic speculations, such as a specialized contamination of NYF pegmatites by Sn and Sc from host rocks (Bergstøl & Juve 1988), or a selective hydrothermal lateral secretion of LCT components into a magmatic NYF pegmatite precursor (Martin & De Vito 2004).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The principles of the dual classification of granitic pegmatites presented here are rather demanding with respect to petrological and petrogenetic aspects. This is the main reason why even the descriptive hierarchies of pegmatites are in some cases incomplete. However, the system applied to the descriptive, paragenetic and geochemical classification within geological classes welcomes expansion upon further study, and so does the petrogenetic classification. The dominant current problem is a *lack of well-documented case-histories* that would permit (i) sound subdivision of the abyssal and muscovite – rare-element subclasses, (ii) rigorous genetic discrimination in the muscovite and muscovite – rare-element classes, and (iii) subdivision of the NYF and LCT families. Modern geochemical and petrogenetic documentation of the above cases should take precedence to attempts to create further descriptive subdivisions.

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