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Sandstone diagenesis in sediment-lava sequences: Exceptional examples of volcanically driven diagenetic compartmentalization in Dune Valley, Huab Outliers, NW Namibia.

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ABSTRACT

At the base of many flood basalt sequences and along volcanic rifted margins, volcanism can compete with the existing sedimentary environments, resulting in interbedded sequences of volcanic rocks and sediments. Here we report on sediment interlayers that are found in the lowermost volcanic units of the Etendeka flood basalts in NW Namibia (Twyfelfontein/Awahab Formations), part of the much larger Paraná-Etendeka Igneous Province. The sandstone bodies, predominantly eolian dunes, are isolated in a sequence of Lower Cretaceous (~ 134 Ma) lava flows. The upper most part or where sediment deposition and lava emplacement is observed to interact is characterized by barchanoid dunes, which were actively migrating during the emplacement of the lava flows. The fossil (isolated by lava) barchan dunes studied in “Dune Valley” show three characteristically different diagenetic styles. In Dune Valley, each dune body is completely encapsulated by lava, with additional igneous intrusions cutting through some bodies. We recognize three distinct styles of diagenesis: Type 1: Fossilised dunes that are red in color and lack major authigenic mineralization, with grain compaction and subsequent porosity loss being the dominant diagenetic process. Type 2: Dunes that have been bleached white, which have undergone a more complex diagenetic pathway. Type 2 dunes have abundant calcite, kaolinite, and böhmite as authigenic phases and lack hematite grain coatings. Detrital plagioclase is absent in white dunes (XRD analysis), with pseudomorphs of kaolinite common. This diagenetic assemblage results in the white dunes having lower porosity and permeability compared to the red dunes. The observations are probably due to a flux of carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and/or hydrogen (H₂) -rich hydrothermal groundwater derived from igneous intrusions below. Type 3: “Hot contact” effects at lava-flow contacts, where the unconsolidated dunes were rapidly indurated during lava emplacement (volcano-eogenesis). Type 3 diagenesis is restricted to << 1 m
depth below lava contacts and common in dunes displaying both Type 1 and Type 2 diagenesis. The distribution of diagenetic Types 1 and 2 is dune specific, and throughout Dune Valley approximately half of the dunes have been bleached (e.g., Type 2 diagenesis), whereas diagenetic Type 3 is a hot contact phenomenon and is therefore found along all basal lava and dike contacts. This work has relevance to understanding the development of sediment-lava systems, to hydrocarbon exploration and development in preserved sediment-lava sequences, and the hydrothermal process described provide an example of natural CO₂ sequestration.
INTRODUCTION

Sediment-lava interbeds are important as they have the potential to preserve features from paleoenvironments not usually recorded in the rock record, are targets for hydrocarbon exploration in volcanic margins, and provide detailed constraints on paleo-environment and burial effects in volcanism influenced basins. The most common examples of significant sediment-lava interbeds can be found in large-volume lava-flow fields, in volcanic margins, and in continental flood basalts. Sedimentary deposits that are partially or totally buried by volcanic rocks represent a transition or switching between sedimentary and volcanic environments. The eruption of lava flows and/or explosive units has the potential to quickly bury and interact with the sedimentary systems that are present at the time of their emplacement due to the overwhelming volumes of volcanic material erupted in relatively short time intervals (e.g., Peate et al. 2003; Ross et al. 2005; Jerram and Widdowson 2005; Bryan et al. 2010). The sedimentary systems present can be engulfed rapidly and preserved almost entirely by the lavas (e.g., Mountney et al. 1999a; Jerram et al. 2000a; Jerram and Stollhofen 2002; Petry et al. 2007). Where active sedimentation is contemporaneous with lava-flow emplacement, interbedded sediments and lava flows can develop. This can result in a complex spatial organization as sediments and lava dynamically interact and compete for accommodation (e.g., Jerram et al. 1999a; Jerram and Stollhofen 2002; Scherer 2002; Waichel et al. 2008; Waichel et al. 2011; Schofield and Jolley, 2013). Such mixed volcanic-sedimentary systems favor diagenesis not commonly found elsewhere, such as at hot lava-sediment contacts and authigenesis due to hot hydrothermal groundwater. Additionally, these sequences can be dissected by intrusions associated with the emplacement of the volcanic system, which can act as conduits to flow, modify the permeability system, compartmentalize the basin, and enhance hydrothermal activity (e.g., Schofield et al., 2015; Senger et al., 2017; Angkasa et al., 2017).

Offshore petroleum exploration has also highlighted the occurrence of similar isolated sandstone bodies within prospective hydrocarbon exploration areas in volcanic rifted margins worldwide (e.g., Jungslager 1999; Davison 1999; Schutter 2003; Smallwood et al. 2004). This raises additional questions about the petroleum reservoir potential of such sandstone bodies, the rock properties and diagenesis of the sandstones, and our understanding of the potential consequences of the volcanic processes on oil/gas-field development (e.g., Kudu (offshore Namibia), McLachlan 1990; Jerram et al. 1999a; Rosebank (UKCS), Helland-Hansen 2009; Schofield and Jolley 2013; Anne-Marie (Faroes), Beswetherick et al. 2009; Benbecula (UKCS), Hitchen et al. 2013). Currently knowledge is limited on the degree of igneous-related compartmentalization, to which igneous bodies
(intrusions or lava flows) contribute, and the role of volcanically induced diagenesis. It is also often unclear whether lava flows are in hydraulic connection with interbedded siliciclastic units, which may increase the overall reservoir volume of such units if they are, or make them less prospective if not. Clearly, an understanding of the development of sediment-lava stratigraphy and how its diagenetic history is recorded is of importance to understanding how these competing systems have interacted, with direct implications for reservoir characterization.

In order to investigate sediment/lava stratigraphy further, we describe the diagenetic fingerprint of hydrothermal activity on isolated sand bodies within a flood basalt pile, where contrasting diagenetic styles occur between discrete sand bodies that are separated by tens to hundreds of meters by lavas and igneous dikes. We test the hypothesis that the fluids responsible for differential diagenesis were spatially restricted by the igneous rocks, thereby compartmentalizing the groundwater flow regime.

Our results show that vertical and subvertical igneous intrusions are responsible for compartmentalizing the basalts and inter-basalt sediments (see also Rateau et al. 2013; Schofield et al. 2015; Senger et al., 2017) and the lava flows allow fluid movement between isolated sand bodies. Lava flows contain potential fluid pathways in vesicular, fractured, and brecciated regions, whereas the core regions of lava flows are more massive and potentially form barriers to flow where not fractured (e.g, Watton et al. 2014). In addition to reporting on fluid-flow compartmentalization using diagenetic fluids as a tracer, this contribution also describes how the diagenetic effects of these fluids have acted as a reservoir-degrading mechanism within the affected sand bodies (both porosity and permeability reduction). Further, the proposed mineral reaction is a natural example of the carbon dioxide sequestration mechanism of Hangx and Spiers (2009), such that a natural analogue to proposed CO₂ sequestration mechanisms has been identified in a mixed basalt-siliciclastic system (e.g, Jones et al., 2016). This has implications for the successful exploitation of similar systems for the long-term disposal of anthropogenic CO₂ (e.g, Matter et al. 2016). The discussion is directed to the early stages of diagenesis in sediment/lava interbedded sequences and contacts in the Paraná-Etendeka flood-basalt sequence, and its implications for understanding fluid flow and petroleum prospectivity in similar settings (e.g, inter-basalt and sub-basalt sediments in the Faroe-Shetland Basin, Rockall Trough, and inter-basalt sediments offshore Southern Atlantic, e.g, Brazil, Angola, and Namibia, as well as early volcanic sequences in flood basalts and volcanic margins globally).

CASE-STUDY OUTLINE AND GEOLOGICAL SETTING
The case study presented uses the Lower Cretaceous stratigraphy in NW Namibia (The Twyfelfontein and Awahab Formations, about 134 Ma) (Mountney et al. 1998; Mountney et al. 1999a, 199b; Jerram et al. 1999a, 1999b; Jerram et al. 2000a, 2000b; Jerram and Stolhofen 2002; Dodd et al., 2015). These units represent an exceptionally preserved example of where sediments have been buried and completely preserved within lava sequences (e.g., Mountney et al. 1999a; Jerram et al. 2000a), with the lower parts of the Awahab formation containing sandstone bodies which are isolated within the lava field (Jerram et al. 2000a). The rocks (sandstones, volcaniclastics, basaltic lava flows) are cut by later dolerite dikes. The case study presented is in an area named “Dune Valley” and is located in the foothills SW of Awahab (Mikberg) mountain, Huab Outliers, Kunene Region, NW Namibia (Fig. 1). Desert exposure (70 % to nearly 100% outcrop) and nearly complete preservation of lava-drowned barchanoid eolian dunes (Jerram et al. 2000a), now exhumed by preferential erosion of basaltic lava, allow detailed sampling and mapping. Early diagenetic effects have been preserved due to prolonged aridity (desert conditions have prevailed since the Cretaceous; e.g, Goudie and Eckardt 1999). The arid Namibian setting contrasts with the South American correlative equivalent, the Botucatu and Serra Geral Formations, where secondary diagenetic effects (large meteoric-water flux) in some cases have overprinted such early features (e.g, França et al. 2003). Lack of exposure in South America makes detailed studies limited often to quarries and coastal exposures (e.g, Petry et al. 2007, Waichel et al. 2008).

Regional Geological Setting

The term Huab Basin describes the basinal feature centered on the Huab River, containing sedimentary rocks of the Palaeozoic–Mesozoic Karoo Supergroup and Mesozoic Etendeka Group (e.g, Horsthemke et al. 1990; Jerram et al. 1999a; Mountney et al. 1999b), which rest on deformed Damaran basement rocks (500– 600 Ma) (Fig. 2). The basin records the extensional tectonic regime and associated continental sediment deposition relating to the breakup of Gondwana (Clemson et al. 1997; Jerram etal. 1999a), initially with deposition during the Permian–Jurassic Karoo, followed by an erosional hiatus and subsequent Late Mesozoic rifting in the latest Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous. The Huab Basin sedimentary rocks thin toward the south and lap onto the Damaran basement, and clearly fill in a structurally bounded depression that roughly follows the present Huab River (Mountney et al. 1999b). The study area (Figs. 1, 3) is situated within the Huab Outliers (Jerram et al. 1999a) south of the Huab River. The Huab Outliers preserve a complete section through the Huab Basin sedimentary and volcanic sequence (Twyfelfontein and Awahab Formations).
The stratigraphic section of interest in this study is the transition from continental sedimentary rocks to continental flood-basalt lava and crosscutting igneous intrusions (Fig. 2). This is marked by two formations: the Twyfelfontain Formation and the Awahab Formation. The Twyfelfontain Formation was formerly known as the Etjo/Cretaceous Etjo Formation (e.g., Horstemke et al. 1990; Milner et al. 1995; Mountney et al. 1998; Mountney et al. 1999a, 1999b; Jerram et al. 1999a, 1999b; Jerram et al. 2000a, 2000b). The current Twyfelfontein Formation name was introduced by Stanistreet and Stollhofen (1999) and Schreiber (2006). In this study, we use the term Twyfelfontain Formation as this clearly separates these Cretaceous rocks from the Jurassic Etjo Formation rocks farther south in Namibia, and it is the current formation name used by the Geological Survey of Namibia (cf. Schreiber 2006).

The Twyfelfontain Formation consists of predominantly eolian sedimentary rocks, occasional fluvial beds, and a notable fluvial sandstone and conglomerate sequence at the base (known locally as “The Krone Member”, Mountney et al. 1998). The Awahab Formation is composed of interbedded sedimentary rocks (again predominantly eolian) and lavas at the base, and thick lava sequences higher up (Milner et al. 1995; Jerram et al. 1999a) (Fig. 2). The lava stratigraphy has been subdivided based on geochemistry of the constituent lavas (e.g., Milner et al. 1995; Jerram et al. 1999a). The lava stratigraphy is made up of olivine-rich lavas (low viscosity) at the base, termed the Tafelkop lavas based on their geochemical type (Milner et al. 1995; Jerram et al. 1999a). These then transition into basalts and basaltic andesites, termed the Tafelberg on geochemical type (Milner et al. 1995; Jerram et al. 1999a), and finally into silica-rich units (quartz latite) towards the top. In “Dune Valley” the Tafelkop basalts are fed locally from dikes and the volcanic center called “Doros Crater”, to the south. At the time of eruption they built up a sizable shield volcano centered on Doros (Jerram et al, 1999a; Jerram and Robbe 2001; Marsh et al. 2001). The more voluminous Tafelberg type lavas onlapped and buried this shield volcano, and mark the end of the preserved sediments in “Dune Valley” (Jerram et al. 1999a; Jerram and Robbe 2001).

These more voluminous lavas, covered the existing topography and peneplained the area prior to the almost complete blanketing of the region with large-volume silicic eruptions (known locally as quartz latites; Milner et al. 1995). The silicic units mark the upper parts of the stratigraphy in this area and extend into the Paraná Basin (Bryan et al. 2010). Within Dune Valley, the Twyfelfontein Sandstone is predominantly buried by Tafelkop-type lava, which, in this location, is morphologically a compound-type lava (cf. Walker 1971; Jerram 2002), with minor sediment in contact with Tafelberg-type basalts (massive inflated sheet and tabular flows) towards the top of the sequence. Throughout the sequence, sills, dikes, and shallow intrusions are found associated with the emplacement of the Paraná-Etendeka province in the Lower Cretaceous.
At the onset of effusive volcanic activity, marking the start of the Parana-Etendeka igneous province, the Twyfelfontein erg system (in Dune Valley) was sequentially buried with pahoehoe lava of Tafelkop type. The lava flows passively drowned the dunes as they inflated and filled in the topography (Jerram et al. 2000a). This resulted in the preservation of eolian features with very little disturbance (e.g., dune forms and topset beds) (Jerram et al. 1999b, Jerram et al. 2000a), the process is summarized in Figure 4 (modified from Jerram et al. 1999b). Initially the desert contained large draa dune forms over 100 m high in places (Mountney et al. 1999a), as part of the large desert sand sea (erg) system prevailing across the Paraná-Etendeka basins at the time (Jerram et al. 2000a; Scherer and Goldberg 2007). Sand mobility, and volumes of available sand, were restricted by successive burial by lava flows, such that second- and- third generation dunes resting on lava surfaces were sediment starved, were reduced in overall thickness, and became barchanoid in shape in the upper parts of the system (e.g., Mountney et al. 1998; Jerram et al. 2000a). Adjacent dunes were separated by distances of c. 100 m during lava inundation (Figs. 3, 5, 6). When drowned by volcanic activity the barchans were hence completely encapsulated by lava.

METHODS

The distribution of sand bodies within the lava sequences in Dune Valley was mapped out along with the main types of diagenetic coloration, as seen in the field (Figs. 3 and 5). Once the outcrops were characterized, samples were taken for further detailed analysis. A total of 23, 30-μm-thick, blue-resin-impregnated thin sections, which were stained for potassium feldspar (HF etched and sodium cobaltinitrite treated) and carbonate (alizarin red and potassium ferricyanide) were prepared and modal abundances of minerals measured using standard point-counting techniques (500 points, see Grove and Jerram 2011 for uncertainty analysis), and studied under both plane-polarized and cross polarized light. Chips from the 23 samples were also inspected using a Hitachi TM1000 scanning electron microscope (SEM). Five samples were lightly crushed and analyzed as an oriented powder on glass slides using a Bruker D7 X-Ray diffractometer using Cu K-alpha 1 radiation (1.5406 Å). Calcite cements were identified in thin section using cathode luminescence and staining techniques (e.g., alizarin red and potassium ferricyanide). Measurements of δ¹³C and δ¹⁸O values were made at Durham University on four samples of calcite and corrected to international reference standards (including NBS 19 and NBS 18 calcite). Stable-isotope data for calcite are presented relative to VPDB. Five samples were analyzed for major elements using a Panalytical PW2404 wavelength-dispersive sequential X-ray spectrometer at the
University of Edinburgh. Permeability measurements were taken on 20 samples using a probe permeameter at the University of Aberdeen (e.g., Hurst and Goggin 1995), held in a clamp. Multiple measurements were carried out on each sample (up to 19) unless permeability recorded 0 md after several attempts. Permeability was also measured on four 26 mm core plugs (also measured with the probe permeameter) using a Frank Jones Hasler sleeve-type porosimeter with a confining pressure of 400 psi (2.8 MPa) at the University of Aberdeen. Porosity was calculated as total optical porosity from thin-section analysis (by point counting). As a control, sample NG52 was collected from the major erg (equivalent normal red sand, Type 1) tens of meters away from any igneous contacts and does not display any diagenesis related to igneous activity.

DIAGENESIS

Petrology and Mineralogy

Three types of diagenesis are identified in the sandstones, and are petrographically and mineralogically described in detail below. They can be found in the isolated sand bodies in “Dune Valley” and also in the major and minor erg units (e.g., Jerram et al. 1999a), which are found stratigraphically below the lava-interbedded isolated dunes. “Type 1” diagenesis is found in red isolated dunes, and red areas of the main and minor erg system. “Type 2” diagenesis is found in white isolated dunes, and in patches within the main and minor erg system. Both red and white isolated dunes display “Type 3” diagenesis near to hot lava contacts, with no appreciable difference between red or white isolated dune contact zones, as well as on the hot-lava/sediment contacts in the major and minor erg units (e.g., Jerram and Stollhofen 2002). The three types of diagenesis and how they are manifest in the sandstones are described in detail in the following sections, concentrating first on the key observations for each, then a short discussion about the diagenesis types, before a broader discussion on the implications for understanding the main controls on diagenesis and fluid flow.

Type 1 Diagenesis Observations- Burial Diagenesis

Type 1 diagenesis represents the normal burial-related diagenesis, without the influence of the igneous system. This burial diagenesis is exhibited in the isolated red dunes, where the original mineralogy has not been overprinted by igneous-related affects. Isolated red dunes are compacted subarkosic litharenites. They are composed of rounded eolian grains in well sorted grain-flow lamellae (fine to coarse sand) and less well sorted, rounded to subrounded grain fall (very fine to fine sand) lamellae (e.g., Howell and Mountney 2001). The detrital grains comprise quartz, potassium feldspar, plagioclase, lithic grains, and opaque minerals (ilmenite).
Ilmenite is not widely disseminated and appears to form small placer deposits controlled by grain density. Detrital grains are coated with hematite, which gives the red coloration (Figs. 7C, 8A). Here sutured quartz grains suggest compaction through quartz dissolution; this appears to have been one of the main diagenetic processes (e.g. Fig. 7C sutured grains). Cements are rare, although occasional quartz overgrowths are present on some grains (~ 1.5%). Crushed potassium feldspar grains exhibiting shear and dilation along cleavage planes were also observed consistent with the work of Dickinson and Milliken (1995), who initially described the formation diagenesis. Porosity averages 15.2% in Type 1 sandstone and permeability averages 1095 md.

In the present study “Dune B” (Figs. 3, 5, 6) has been chosen as the type example of Type 1 diagenesis because of its superior vertical exposure (2.5 m) allowing excellent access. It should be noted that “Dune B” can be found only 120 m south of “Dune A” (a white dune) (Fig. 5), and in close proximity to many other isolated dunes which are white. In the field, Type 1 dunes are clearly identified compared to Type 2 dunes based on this red or white color (e.g. Fig. 5). Red sand is also dominant in the minor and major erg units, stratigraphically below (Fig. 2), separated by lava (e.g. Jerram et al. 1999b).

Type 2 Diagenesis Observations- Isolated White Dunes

White (yellow or white in weathered outcrop) sandstones are distributed throughout the Twyfelfontein Formation, and where they occur as isolated dunes due to flooding by lavas (Fig. 4), there appears to be no intrinsic pattern to their distribution, occurring with red isolated dunes in close proximity (Fig. 5A, C). At outcrop scale, the only difference appears to be color, with sedimentary structure showing no difference in morphology (e.g. Fig. 5B, C). It can be shown that the white dunes were deposited in the same way as the red dunes as isolated migrating barchanoid dunes which were preserved by burial under lava flows (e.g. Mountney et al. 1998; Jerram et al. 2000b). The question then arises regarding the diagenetic history of these white sandstones, and how it differs from the red eolian units.

Thin sections of the white sandstone indicate that it is also a subarkosic litharenite. Rounded to subrounded quartz grains occur in grain-fall and grain-flow lamellae, which are usually well sorted. Detrital grains are similar to those in the red dunes. However, feldspar grains are visibly corroded or are completely replaced by clay. Plagioclase feldspar grains show the most intense alteration, with no petrographically identifiable grains being encountered under optical microscopy that could be identified based on albite twinning. Any plagioclase encountered was identified based on lack of yellow staining from sodium cobaltinitrite and by ruling out
identification as quartz (crossed-polars examination); therefore plagioclase has probably been petrographically overestimated (Table 1; Appendix 1); most counted plagioclase grains are probably in fact completely kaolinitized pseudomorphs (SEM analysis confirms this). Potassium feldspars in white sandstone samples are also frequently corroded or partially transformed into clay minerals (Fig. 8B). Hematite grain coatings are absent in the white sandstone, but opaque detrital minerals are still present, as are occasional aggregates of hematite in pore spaces (this may be a later oxidation product of pyrite). The assemblage of authigenic minerals is different from that of the red dunes and can be classified using petrographic techniques. Under the petrographic microscope the assemblage is composed of kaolinite, calcite, and occasional quartz overgrowths. Calcite and kaolinite are usually associated, and both replace feldspars and fill pore space. Porosity in Type 2 sandstone is lower than the Type 1 sandstone, averaging 4.8%. Permeability values in the white sandstone increase from negligible values in the Type 3 (see below) contact zone, but do not exceed 44 md (Figs. 9, 10), with an average of 26 md.

SEM examination of the samples confirmed the identified assemblage from light microscopy and enabled the additional identification of pore-lining böhmite (as pisolitic aggregates (Fig. 11), cf. Wu et al. 2012; Cai et al. 2009). Böhmite proved to be a common lining of pores in the white sandstone under the SEM, with all white samples having the mineral in abundance. It is not clear if there are any specific trends of böhmite throughout the dunes due to its difficulty to detect and quantify with optical microscopy. Kaolinite can be seen in SEM to form books that fill pore space and aggregates that replace feldspars (e.g, Fig. 11D). Calcite in SEM is always found to be associated with kaolinite and frequently fills pores (Fig. 11A).

X-ray diffraction analysis was performed on sample NG29, which comes from 3 m below the hot contact in isolated white Dune A (Fig. 12). This distance is significantly outside the ~ 30 cm contact zone where Type 3 diagenesis occurs. The spectrum for NG 29 was compared with NG32 isolated red Dune B, 2 m below the contact (limited by outcrop exposure). The white sandstone did not display any plagioclase peaks (e.g, anorthite 100 peak, 3.19 Å (27.96° 2θ)) and orthoclase peaks were weakened. Kaolinite (7.17 Å (12.35 ° 2θ) and 3.58 Å (24.83 ° 2θ) peaks are present in the white sand (not found in the red sand). Böhmite was not detected in XRD, despite it being an obvious phase in SEM. This is probably due to its low volume abundance. Calcite did not show a clear spike, despite being seen in optical microscopy and SEM.

Given that all of the isolated dunes were deposited at the same stratigraphic level and subsequently either bleached white or not, it is instructive to determine how the two main types of diagenesis in the dunes evolved
and whether there has been any net flux of elements in or out of each system. X-ray fluorescence analyses were performed on five samples with the aim of testing enrichment or depletion in elements as a result of dune bleaching—specifically, to test the hypothesis that there was depletion in relative iron abundance in white dune sandstones. For analysis, the data were normalized to NG52, which is considered to be background red sandstone. The geochemical differences between red and white dunes (Fig. 13A) support the petrographic observations. Iron and sodium are depleted in white dunes compared with NG52 and NG32. Calcium is enriched in the white sample, and LOI is ~7 times that of NG52. Aluminum is approximately equal in Type 1 and Type 2 sandstones.

*Type 3 Diagenesis Observations- Hot Lava Contacts*

The upper surfaces of fossil dunes in the study area often display features such as topset beds and eolian ripples, as well as preserved lava-emplacement features such as striations and lava imprints (see Jerram et al. 1999a; Jerram et al. 2000a; Jerram and Stollhofen 2002 for description). These features indicate that the upper dune surface was contemporaneous with and covered by flowing lava. Type 3 diagenesis is found only in these upper dune surfaces. Basal surfaces (i.e., cold contacts: sands that were deposited on top of the solid cooled upper surface of lava) usually display Type 1 or Type 2 depending on overall dune diagenetic type. Generally, there is no evidence of significant early weathering of the cooled-lava top surfaces, indicating that little time passed between the emplacement of the lava and migration of sand dunes (Jerram and Stollhofen 2002).

For both Dune A (NG26) and Dune B (NG31) contacts, porosity is always found to decrease towards the formerly hot contact (Fig. 9A). Reductions in porosity in the sandstones start to become apparent at depths of < 2 m from the contact with the base of lavas. At these depths porosity values are 15–20%, and they decrease to < 1% at the contacts with the lava. Permeability in red dunes increases rapidly away from the contact, reaching background permeability of between 100 md and 1000 md at depths of ~30 cm below the once-hot lava contact. At hot-lava contact zones, permeability approaches negligible values (Fig. 10A). Permeability in white dunes does not return to these normal background values outside of the contact zone, due to Type 2 diagenesis.

The modal proportion of authigenic calcite and authigenic clay (chlorite identified, other clays undifferentiated) increase toward hot contacts (Figs. 7, and 14). In red sandstones, clay increase is apparent only at the contact. Porosity loss in the sediments occurred through both compaction and mineral authigenesis, as is shown by the porosity loss measurements (COPL % and CEPL %) (see Appendix. 1). In both dune types the proportions of opaque minerals (mainly hematite and goethite rims on detrital grains) increase slightly toward hot contacts;
importantly, both red and white dunes have high abundance of opaque mineral near the hot lava contact. Calcite
increases towards lava contacts in red dunes but does not in white dunes. Compactional porosity loss, calculated
using the method from Lundegard (1992), increases towards contacts (between ~ 30 cm and the contact (Fig.
9B)). Cementational porosity loss (Lundegard 1992) shows more variation but is highest near contacts. Detrital
mineralogy shows little variation with proximity to hot contacts (red dunes).

The results of the X-ray diffraction are summarized in Table. 2; the data generally confirm the petrographic
observations (Fig. 7). Both red and white dune contacts produce strong calcite peaks at 3.035 Å (~ 29.46° 2θ).
NG 31 produced a peak at 3.15 Å (28.3° 2θ) that corresponds to fluorite; this supports a tentative petrographic
identification of this mineral. Fluorite pore fills are also occasionally found in the Twyfelfontein Formation
elsewhere under other hot contacts. NG26 produced clay peaks at 7.17 Å (12.35° 2θ) and 3.58 Å (24.83° 2θ);
the strength of the 3.58 Å peak supports the interpretation of clinochlore as the clay phase, but kaolinite is also
possible. Hematite was not detected with XRD, possibly due to its presence in very low abundances
(petrographic observations overestimating its abundance).

In samples from hot contacts (Type 3) (Fig. 13 B) both samples (red and white dunes) are geochemically similar
with the exception of manganese, which may relate to the presence of Ilmenite. Both contacts are enriched in
magnesium and calcium, and show minor enrichment in iron. LOI is also higher than NG52, which is an
indication of the presence of the release of trapped volatiles (H2O and CO2) during ignition, probably from
within the clay minerals and carbonate. Note that the enrichment in calcium is ~ 27 times that of NG52. Basaltic
rocks can contain up to 25% by weight of calcium, magnesium, and iron (Matter et al. 2016).

Stable-Isotope Analysis of Calcite Cements (Type 2 and Type 3 Diagenesis)

Only samples containing calcite could be analysed; therefore there are stable-isotope data only for Type 2 and
Type 3 sandstone, Type 1 not having any calcite. Three samples from Type 2 (white) and one sample from Type
3 returned an adequate CO2 yield for stable-isotope analysis. When δ13C is plotted against δ18O, the Type 2
(white) sandstone calcite forms a field separate from Type 3 diagenesis calcite (Fig. 15A). δ18O and δ13C are
heavier for Type 2 calcite (δ18O mean = -2.9‰ V-PDB, δ13C mean = -0.6‰ V-PDB) than for Type 3 calcite
(δ18O mean = -13.6‰ V-PDB, δ13C mean = -9.3‰ V-PDB).

In order to understand the origin of the Type 2 and Type 3 calcite, modelling was performed to test what water
temperature and water compositions could produce the observed calcite compositions. The models were set up
using a range of water compositions: Cretaceous meteoric water in Namibia ($\delta^{18}O \approx -4.7$ to -5.1‰ SMOW) (see below for estimation method) and magmatic water ($\delta^{18}O$ 7‰ SMOW to 13‰ SMOW, Brownlow, 1996). Fractionation constants $A = -3.39$ and $B = 2.78$ (O’Neil et al. 1969) were used. The composition of meteoric water in Lower Cretaceous during the Etendeka volcanism was estimated by taking the Lower Cretaceous Namibia palaeolatitude of 29º to 32º south from Scotese (2001) and the variation of $\delta^{18}O$ with latitude from Bowen and Wilkinson (2002).

The model for Type 2 calcite (Fig. 15B) shows the Lower Cretaceous meteoric water would precipitate calcite with the observed values at temperatures between 20 °C and < 0º C. When magmatic values for water are modelled, temperatures required are between 50 °C and 150 °C.

The model for Type 3 calcite (NG31) (Fig. 15B) shows that precipitation from Lower Cretaceous meteoric water would have been at temperatures between 50 °C and 60 °C. Magmatic waters would have precipitated calcite at temperatures between 180°C and 330°C.

The modelled temperatures for Type 3 calcite are consistently hotter than Type 2 calcite, consistent with the hypothesis that the Type 3 calcites were eogenetic, formed during lava cooling at the hot lava-substrate contact. The Type 2 calcites show low temperatures that are not consistent with precipitation from a meteoric aquifer given the observed mineral assemblage association and the likely aquifer temperature in a hot, arid setting. For instance, the present-day aquifer temperature around the study area in Namibia is > 25 °C at even shallow depths (20-50 m) (Marx, 2009). More realistic temperatures are possible when the water is enriched with $^{18}O$ over that of the predicted meteoric water. A possible-magmatic water component of the aquifer is therefore supported, and the aquifer could have comprised meteoric water, enriched by a magmatic-water component sourced from degassing igneous intrusions. The Type 3 calcite precipitated before the Type 2 calcite (both red and white dunes have Type 3), and therefore if precipitated in the subsurface should show cooler temperatures reflecting shallower burial (assuming normal burial). However, the temperatures modelled are hotter. This suggests that meteoric water is unlikely because if both were precipitated in the subsurface within a meteoric water derived aquifer during normal burial, the earlier cement would show lower temperatures, which is opposite to the observation. The temperatures modelled from magmatic waters are achievable at the contact with a basalt lava flow (c. 1200°C). Therefore, a magmatic origin of the Type 3 calcite is suggested.

The $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{13}C$ values for the calcites for Type 2 and Type 3 calcites are compared with other calcites in Figure 15A. Neither calcite in this study directly overlies any of the fields chosen from the literature. The Type
3 calcite plots closer to the high-temperature geothermal calcites than Type 2, reflecting its higher-temperature origin from possible magmatic volatiles. The Type 3 calcite is isotopically light, similar to what would be expected for either a magmatic carbon or a biologically derived carbon. Figure 15A (fields 10 and 11) shows that calcretes formed under biological influence plot distinctly from the Type 3 calcite, supporting a magmatic rather than a biological origin. Further, no evidence of vegetation (e.g., fossil roots) has been found in the Twyfelfontein Formation. The Type 2 calcite plots closest to the geodes in the Paranã Basalts from Brazil (Gilg et al. 2003) and calcites found in sedimentary beds associated with Jurassic basalts in Namibia (Gierlowski-Kordesch et al., 2015), supporting the igneous association. Both the red and the bleached sandstones of the Navajo and Entrada Sandstone Formations (Chan et al., 2000; Garden et al., 2001; Beitler et al., 2005) are plotted in Figure 15A, none of which overlie the Type 2 white sandstone calcite in the Twyfelfontein Formation, supporting the hypothesis that the origin of the bleaching is different from the hydrocarbon-migration-related process observed in the Navajo and Entrada Formations.

In summary, the stable-isotope data suggest that the Type 3 calcite formed under hot conditions, with oxygen and carbon of a likely magmatic origin and that the Type 3 calcite formed in an aquifer with meteoric and magmatic components under cooler conditions, likely between ~ 25º C and 150º C.

*Type 1 Diagenesis- Discussion of Burial Diagenesis*

Dickinson and Milliken (1995), who first described the sandstone diagenesis in the Huab area, concentrated on the sandstones beneath the lava flows and made no distinction between the different red or white diagenesis types or indurated sediments found at the hot lava contacts. They readily observed features associated with burial diagenesis and deformation of grains, but they concluded that the conditions under which brittle deformation occurred in the sandstone were poorly constrained because the burial history is uncertain. Dickinson and Milliken (1995) principally investigated the role of brittle deformation and pressure solution away from the igneous affected sandstones and therefore did not describe the white sandstone or the lava-sediment contacts; their study can be taken as a good description of the Type 1 diagenesis.

It is clear that there has been significant erosion of the original lava sequence to expose the stratigraphy in the Huab Basin, although the exact extent and thickness of the original volcanic stratigraphy in flood basalts is notoriously difficult to estimate (e.g., Jerram and Widdowson, 2005). The overall thickness of the Paranã -Etendeka lavas, and thus the potential depth of subsequent burial, has been estimated to be as thick as 3-4 km based on the overall Paranã -Etendeka stratigraphy (e.g., Peate 1997) and from apatite fission-track analysis (e.g,
Raab et al. 2005). Although such estimates contain a significant error, it is likely that the sandstones considered in the present study have suffered some burial diagenesis under a significant overburden of volcanic stratigraphy. We propose that Type 1 diagenesis seen in the red sandstones is a function solely of this burial diagenesis and represents sandstone that has not been subjected to any hot-contact diagenesis (Type 3) or to a flux of fluid that was responsible for Type 2 diagenesis.

Type 2 Diagenesis - Discussion of Isolated White Dunes

Porosity reduction due to compaction processes visually appears more intense in thin sections of the white sandstone than in the red sandstone (e.g., thin-section photomicrographs in Fig. 8A. vs. in Fig. 8B; porosity values in Fig. 9). Increased visual compaction may have resulted from the weakening of feldspar grains during dissolution. These grains were then deformed to fill adjacent pores, or dissolved, thus reducing matrix strength. When quantified however, COPL is not significantly different in red or white dunes (Fig. 9). Figure 9 shows that it is cementation (CEPL) that contributes most to the additional porosity loss. Figure 10B shows a clear separation between the Type 1 and Type 2 diagenesis in the permeability-porosity cross plot, with little overlap, despite relative position in the isolated dunes being approximately equal.

Modal analysis of thin sections indicates that the white dunes have up to four times the amount of clay and five times the amount of calcite as the red dunes (Fig. 14D). Authigenic calcite shows no correlation with distance below lava in the white dunes. The white dunes contain both calcite generated during the emplacement at hot contacts and calcite formed during bleaching. Conversely, there is a negative correlation in red dunes between calcite and distance below the lava, as calcite here is controlled solely by Type 3 diagenesis in the absence of Type 2 diagenesis.

Authigenic quartz occurs in slightly lower abundance in white dunes and shows significant variability and no correlation with distance below the lava. The lower abundance of authigenic quartz may be due to pore-lining clay minerals inhibiting quartz precipitation during further burial, compared to the clay-absent red sandstone. Opaque minerals are less abundant in the white sandstone (the hematite grain coating being absent) and show a weak negative correlation with distance below lava, due to the Type 3 diagenesis at the contact (locked-in hematite); in the red sandstone, opaque minerals show no correlation with distance (Fig. 14C). The difference between the abundances of authigenic minerals has been tested using the statistical “Students T-Test” (e.g., Hazewinkel 2001). The results from this show that porosity, permeability, and abundances of authigenic quartz, authigenic calcite, and authigenic clay are statistically (at the 95% level or greater) different between red and
white dunes (Table 3). Abundance of opaque minerals was not found to be statistically different. This is because the hematite was probably being redistributed from grain coatings to the identified pore-filling aggregates, noted also as iron oxide nodules in outcrop. The likely process is reduction of hematite grain coatings and reprecipitation as pyrite nodules, which are oxidized during exhumation into hematite.

The interpretation of the geochemistry suggests that a flux of fluid must have been necessary to allow enrichment and depletions in elements. If feldspars were simply transformed into the authigenic minerals, with no loss or gain from the system, the bulk rock would be similar to NG52. Importantly, the loss of sodium in the white dune shows that only the calcium from dissolving plagioclase was being completely sequestered into authigenic minerals (otherwise sodium would mirror calcium). No sodium-containing authigenic minerals were found in quantity, sodium being mobile in groundwater (White 1957). The sodium was probably transported out of the system in solution; it should be noted that sodium is commonly found at elevated concentrations in thermal springs of volcanic origin (White 1957). Aluminum is conserved, presumably being rapidly incorporated into böhmite and kaolinite. The calcium enrichment suggests that calcium was being transported from elsewhere in the system and being precipitated in white Dune A. A possible source for this calcium is other sand bodies being depleted or volcanic glass and/or plagioclase in lavas part of the volcanic pile. Interaction with the lavas in the pile is also consistent with the possibility of basalt-water interaction enriching the hydrothermal water in heavy oxygen and is supported by the observation that the Tafelkop basalts are vesicular, hence probably permeable. High LOI confirms that NG29 is rich in hydrated minerals (clays) compared to NG52. Note that the depletion of iron in the white sandstone is minor, possibly as a function of the low original iron concentration, but more likely supporting the hypothesis that iron was being locally redistributed into nodules, with only a minor amount leaving the system.

These observations together depict a system in the isolated white dunes where hematite was being dissolved from grain rims, and böhmite, kaolinite, and calcite were being formed at the expense of feldspar. These mineral transformations resulted in bleached and compacted sandstone, with reduced primary porosity.

Type 3 Diagenesis- Discussion of Hot Lava Contacts

The observations of Type 3 diagenesis support the interpretation that contact diagenesis was an early-stage phenomenon, during emplacement and cooling of the lava. This is also supported by Type 1 and Type 2 diagenesis not affecting upper-contact-zone sediments in dunes that have been affected by Type 3 diagenesis. This variation in diagenesis was initially described as “hot contact” diagenesis (Jerram and Stollhofen 2002).
is proposed that when the lava was emplaced onto the eolian sand substrate, volatiles would have been
degassing (likely components include water, carbon dioxide, chlorine, fluorine, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide
and carbon monoxide as major components (e.g, Delmelle and Stix 2000; Lowenstern 2001; Simmons and
Christenson 1994; Shevenell and Goff 1993; White 1957), flowing following a pressure gradient towards
atmospheric pressure. H$_2$O is the most common volcanic gas, followed by CO$_2$, although in gases liberated from
basaltic magmas CO$_2$ sometimes exceeds water (Lowenstern 2001). During ascent of the magma to eruption,
CO$_2$ begins to exsolve before H$_2$O because of lower solubility in magma and remains as a low-density vapor
phase (Lowenstern 2001) as vapor filled vesicles in the molten magma. As the magma ascends to shallow
depths (1–4 km) H$_2$O and CO$_2$ degassing is forced (Lowenstern 2001). Erupting magma should then contain
vesicles comprising vapor-phase volcanic gas, dominated by CO$_2$ and H$_2$O, with proportions dependent on rate
of ascent. Most of these volatiles are released into the atmosphere during eruption (e.g, a fire fountain). The
stable-isotope evidence from Type 3 diagenetic carbonates, however, suggests that lava flows must still contain
enough magmatic CO$_2$ (vapor phase vesicles) at the time of emplacement to form the observed cements. We
propose the following mechanism for the presence of magmatic CO$_2$ in the immediately sub-basalt sand: The
pore space in the unconsolidated sand would have been at atmospheric pressure, so when the newly emplaced
lava cooled, a proportion of the gases would have invaded the pore space (driven by pressure gradient) and
reacted with the sand. This occurred with feldspar first (supported petrographically by the apparent increase in
feldspar breakdown to clays). Feldspar decomposition would have reduced feldspar strength, facilitating
mechanical compaction by rearrangement of grains. Note that the increased compaction is not apparent farther
than ~ 30 cm below the contact. Remaining porosity was filled by calcite, with carbon being sourced from
degassed magmatic CO$_2$ and calcium being sourced from reacting volcanic glass and plagioclase (igneous and
detrital). Mild hydrothermal activity is therefore inferred to have existed around the contact (in modern settings
this would be manifested on the lava surface as steaming fumarole vents). These observations are consistent
with the “hot” contacts seen between the lowermost lavas and both the major and minor erg sediments (Jerram
et al. 1999b; Jerram and Stolhofen 2002). This suggests that, if indeed the contact effects described are eogenic
(early diagenesis) as proposed, a low-porosity and low-permeability cap to individual isolated dunes would have
been formed, before any significant burial (and therefore Type 1 or more importantly Type 2 diagenesis). There
is also evidence for former hydrothermal activity during lava emplacement in the form of a fossil fumarolic
pipe, which was found where lava bulldozed into the sand as an invasive flow, and subsequently degassed
through the loose sand above. The XRF analysis suggests elemental flux into the system (magnesium and
calcium). We infer that enriched magnesium and calcium are hosted in the calcite cement and iron and magnesium are in the chlorite. If the elements were simply redistributed from feldspars during the Type 3 diagenesis, there should be no enrichment in these elements. It is therefore proposed that calcium, magnesium, and iron are at least partially sourced from the overlying lava, probably during cooling and hydrothermal decomposition of volcanic glass.

UNDERSTANDING THE MAIN DIAGENTIC CONTROLS

Most of the volume of the intra-lava sediments in this study are affected by either Type 1 (burial diagenesis, red sandstone) or Type 2 (white sandstone) diagenesis, with Type 3 diagenesis volumetrically minor, restricted to relatively thin contact zones. What is driving this variation? The petrographical, mineralogical, and geochemical differences between isolated red dunes (Type 1 diagenesis) and isolated white dunes (Type 2 diagenesis) have been established. Chemical bleaching of sandstones is not rare; it has been documented elsewhere, commonly as a result of hydrocarbon migration through sandstone (Moulton 1926; Surdam et al. 1993; Kirkland et al. 1995; Parry et al. 2004; Schöner and Gaupp 2005; Ma et al. 2007). Bleached zones have been used to indicate migration pathways of hydrocarbons and to infer the existence of emptied reservoirs (Kirkland et al. 1995; Beitler et al. 2003; Beitler et al. 2005).

Where hydrocarbons have migrated through red sandstones, the bleaching has been attributed to acidic, reducing conditions (e.g., Ma et al. 2007; Surdam et al. 1993). These conditions can be achieved by biologically mediated oxidation of CH₄ to produce CO₂ and simultaneous reduction of SO₄²⁻ to H₂S (Kirkland et al. 1995). In such a reaction, the CO₂ and H₂S are achieved in conditions where dissolved H₂S (present as HS⁻) reacts with ferric iron oxide (hematite) to form soluble ferrous iron. The HCO₃⁻ reacts with Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ to form carbonate minerals (Surdam et al. 1993; Kirkland et al. 1995). Dissolved ferrous iron and H₂S would not necessarily react immediately to precipitate as iron minerals (e.g., pyrite) and can migrate in pore waters (Kirkland et al. 1995). These conditions could also be achieved without contemporary biological mediation, as many hydrocarbons are associated with H₂S and CO₂. A petrographic study of bleached sandstones has documented alteration of feldspars to clay (kaolinite) in these settings (Ma et al. 2007).

The migration of hydrocarbons is an unlikely mechanism for the bleaching (Type 2 diagenesis) of the sandstones in the study area because (A) there is no significant source rock in the thin underlying Karoo sequence this far south in the Huab Basin, and (B) hydrocarbon residues have not been observed in the field or during subsequent petrographic studies (including with UV light). However, the same chemical species required
(H$_2$S and CO$_2$) can be generated by magmatic degassing (e.g., Henley and Ellis 1983; Rye 2005; Delmelle and Stix 2000), probably during magma solidification (Arnórsson 1986) and are common in hydrothermal systems (e.g., White 1957; Henley and Ellis 1983). We infer that the fluids that passed through the isolated dunes of the Twyfelfontein Formation were hydrothermal in origin and were enriched in magmatic gases originating from degassing mafic intrusions at depth. It should be noted that many dolerite sills and dikes can be found in the area (e.g., Marsh et al. 1991; Duncan et al. 1989; maps presented in this study).

Our observations test this hypothesis. Firstly, both red and white isolated dunes were deposited at similar or the same stratigraphic levels, and have identical detrital compositions; this is illustrated by the fact that the Type 3 diagenesis affects both the red and white dunes. The eogenic Type 3 diagenesis effectively “locked in” the reduced-porosity contact zone at an early stage, isolating the detrital red sediments from later large fluid fluxes. The oxidation and coating of the sand grains with hematite before deposition is supported by our observations of present-day migrating red dunes in the Namib desert and by numerous other examples cited (e.g., Folk 1976 and references therein).

Secondly, considering that both the red and white isolated dunes were deposited as red-hematite-coated eolian sands, the white isolated dunes must result from chemical bleaching. It is proposed that this bleaching may have resulted from reaction of grain-coating hematite with H$_2$S in hydrothermal groundwater, which has circulated through white dunes only. Hematite is reduced to form soluble ferrous iron that is transported away in solution (Fe$_2$O$_3$ depletion, Fig. 13B):

\[
4 \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(s) + \text{H}_2\text{S(aq)} + 14 \text{H}^+(aq) \leftrightarrow 8 \text{Fe}^{2+}(aq) + \text{SO}_4^{2-}(aq) + 8 \text{H}_2\text{O} \tag{1}
\]

hematite + hydrogen sulfide + hydrogen (acid) ↔ iron + sulfate + water

This reaction should produce pyrite as noted by Kirkland et al. (1995), which has not been directly identified in the isolated white dunes. Pyrite is however present in the basalt and occasional hematite nodules are present in the white sandstone. These hematite nodules may be the later oxidation product of diagenetic pyrite. If no pyrite was present in the white sandstone it could suggest either (A) that the Fe$^{2+}$ and SO$_4^{2-}$ were able to migrate into the basalt before to precipitating or (B) that any H$_2$S in the aquifer rapidly reacted with the iron-rich basalt before to reducing iron in the red dunes. If the latter is true, the above reaction (1) was doubtfully in operation in the white dunes. An alternative explanation that requires less acid and no sulfur is that of a hydrothermal system with abundant dissolved hydrogen. Hydrogen could have been sourced from hot hydrothermal water interacting
with basalt (Stevens and McKinley 2000) or from magma degassing at depth (Arnórsson 1986). Hydrogen and carbon dioxide could then bleach the sandstone:

$$\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 (s) + \text{H}_2 (aq) + 2 \text{CO}_2 (aq) \leftrightarrow 2 \text{FeCO}_3 (aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O} (l) \quad (2)$$

hematite + hydrogen + carbon dioxide ↔ iron carbonate + water

The ferrous-iron carbonate would have then been transported away in solution (e.g., King, 1998).

Thirdly, the feldspar dissolution and mineral authigenesis observed in the sandstones in the study area is inferred to result from CO$_2$-rich hydrothermal fluids. White dunes are almost completely devoid of plagioclase feldspar (XRD analysis) and show reduced-strength orthoclase XRD peaks compared to red sandstone. Authigenic kaolinite, böhmite, and calcite, found in the white sandstone (Type 2), are not found in the red sandstone (Type 1) and are suggested to have formed at the expense of the feldspars during reaction with CO$_2$. Hangx and Spiers (2009) proposed and tested reactions between plagioclase feldspars and CO$_2$-H$_2$O under laboratory conditions simulating hydrothermal conditions. Both albite and anorthite were reacted under a variety of pressure and temperature conditions (200–300 °C and 6–18 MPa) with the aim to test the ideal reactions:

$$\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8 (s) + \text{CO}_2 (aq) + 2 \text{H}_2\text{O} (l) \leftrightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 (s) + \text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 (s) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{anorthite} + \text{carbon dioxide} + \text{water} \leftrightarrow \text{calcite} + \text{kaolinite}$$

and

$$\text{(K, Na)} \text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8 (s) + \text{CO}_2 (aq) + \text{H}_2\text{O} (l) \leftrightarrow \text{NaAlCO}_3(\text{OH})_2 (s) + 3 \text{SiO}_2 (s) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{albite} + \text{carbon dioxide} + \text{water} \leftrightarrow \text{dawsonite} + \text{silica}$$

Hangx and Spiers’ (2009) results failed to fully replicate the above reactions and instead produced clays (kaolinite and smectite or illite), böhmite and a nickel, iron-hydrotalcite phase derived from their reaction vessel. Dawsonite and calcite were not produced in Hanx and Spiers’ (2009) experiments, possibly due to subcritical solution state for crystal nucleation and conditions not being alkaline enough for dawsonite precipitation. Given sufficient time for further dissolution of plagioclase, carbonate phases would be anticipated (Hangx and Spiers 2009). It is proposed that in the white sandstone the Type 2 diagenesis is a natural analogue for the reactions observed by Hangx and Spiers (2009) based on the identical mineral reaction being observed. Calcite in the natural Type 2 white dunes is inferred to be the result of trace amounts of pre-existing carbonate
dust (common in eolian environments – Maurice Tucker, personal communication), and easily sourced locally by the erosion of carbonate-rich Precambrian basement rocks in the region. This dust provides the nuclei for calcite precipitation noted to be absent in Hanx and Spiers’ (2009) experiments, as well as additional calcium and carbonate. The basalt-plagioclase-CO$_2$ reaction between the lava flows and sediments in our natural geological system produced enough Ca$^{2+}$ ions for the additional calcite cementation to take place. This supports the proposed origin of the diagenetic fluids and suggests timing coincident with emplacement and cooling of the igneous intrusions in the area. Reaction of feldspar to form böhmite and kaolinite was also performed by Fu et al. (2009) on perthitic alkali feldspars under acidic hydrothermal conditions. Fu et al. (2009) noted the albite (Na-feldspar) component reacted preferentially, which conforms to the observation in Figure 12 and supports the Na depletion observed in sample NG29 (Fig. 13). The reactions between CO$_2$ and plagioclase provide an important natural analogue to processes under investigation relevant to industrial CO$_2$ sequestration (e.g, Matter et al. 2007; Matter and Kelemen 2009; Matter et al. 2016) and demonstrate how natural releases of CO$_2$ from igneous activity in sedimentary basins can be naturally moderated (e.g, Jones et al. 2016).

CONTROLS ON FLUID FLOW

Inasmuch as Type 2 diagenesis is a result of fluid flux and Type 1 diagenesis is a result of absence of this flux, it is logical to conclude that the enveloping lithology (lava) is responsible for compartmentalizing either individual dunes or volumes of rock encompassing dunes. If we consider that the lava is completely impermeable (which is unrealistic), it would also be logical to infer that fracture connectivity (i.e, faults and joints) controls fluid flow and some dunes are simply part of this fracture network and others have not been intersected. However, lava piles are not impermeable (e.g, Saar and Manga 1999); indeed, they can be major conductors of subsurface fluids, such as in the Columbia River Basalts, where the major aquifers are basalt (Newcomb 1961; see also Saar and Manga 1999), as well as in thick basaltic sequences offshore where high permeability can be preserved within flow tops (e.g, Millett et al. 2016). Permeability in pahoehoe lava flows is generally highest within the highly vesicular upper and lower crusts; the massive central lava cores show typically low permeability to nearly impermeable layers (Newcomb 1961; Smith 2004), where any permeability is restricted to cooling fractures (e.g, Petford 2003) or on the grain scale through alteration. A lava sequence can therefore be considered as having the potential to show markedly different porosity/permeability, with higher permeability layers running along lava flow tops (e.g, Millett et al., 2016).
The lowermost Tafelkop-type lava flows exhibit a compound-braided facies nature and do not form thick tabular sheets (Jerram 2002). Such lava flows have markedly higher crust-to-core-ratios (e.g., Nelson et al. 2009) and contain abundant vesicles and fractures. The compound nature of these Tafelkop-type lavas in Dune Valley, combined with the visible occurrence of highly vesicular zones, suggests that the lava was, at least partially permeable in the horizontal direction. The stacking of many compound pahoehoe lava flows with relatively permeable crusts and relatively impermeable cores would have resulted in a complex permeable network, incapable of isolating dunes from fluid flow alone. Another element must be responsible for the compartmentalization; we propose this to be the igneous dikes in the area. This hypothesis is supported by field relationships in Dune C (Figs. 3, 16) where the dune is crosscut by an ~4 m-thick dolerite dike. An impermeable contact zone is developed where the dike intersects the sandstone (similar to the hot type 3 diagenesis). The dike separates red Type 1 sand from white Type 2 sand. The dike follows the same ~N-S trend as most dikes in the Huab Outliers. Some dikes pass into and feed the lower Tafelkop lava (e.g., Jerram et al. 1999a) while others fed lavas that were younger than the youngest exposed lavas in the region, and can be seen cutting up through the whole preserved sequence. Although it is possible that dike pathways are weaknesses that can be reused by later phases of dike intrusion, the information from the dikes in the Huab Outliers suggests that the timing and depth of compartment formation (igneous intrusion) could be from as little as 300 m of burial (e.g., the feeder dikes) up to the complete thickness of the volcanic pile.

Fractures are irregular and poorly expressed in the Tafelkop basalt lavas due to the intense desert weathering, but fractures would have formed during cooling and possibly subsequent tectonic activity. The presence of open fractures and fissures is indirectly preserved due to sand infill (e.g., Jerram et al., 2000a; Jerram and Stollhofen 2002), creating molds of the fracture cavities. N-S-trending low-displacement faults (centimeters) frequently cross cut sandstone beds in Dune Valley (Fig. 16), but they have not been found separating Type 1 sand from Type 2 sand. Faults are frequently mineralized with calcite (also isotopically Type 2 affinity), and, depending on timing, may have been pathways for the flow of diagenetic fluids. The relative timings of the diagenetic types is presented in Figure 17, which highlights that Type 3 is restricted to lava flow (and in some cases dike emplacement) during the volcanism, as these are “hot” contacts of the sand with the lava. The Type 1 and 2 diagenesis occurring largely during the later stages of synvolcanic burial and further burial of the sequence (Fig. 17).
A conceptual model of fluid flow in the basalt pile is given in Figure 18, to help explain the distribution and compartmentalization of the Type 2 diagenesis. It is proposed that in the Tafelkop lavas, vertical to subvertical igneous intrusions are largely responsible for isolating red dunes from diagenetic fluids (Fig. 18). The use of the Type 2 sandstone as a tracer of fluid flow compartmentalized in a mixed basalt-siliciclastic system has identified igneous dikes as the compartment-forming component, not the lava flows. This in part confirms the notion that the dike system is acting as both a barrier laterally and modifying the permeability pathways of fluid flow (e.g., Schofield et al., 2015; Senger et al., 2017). The exploitation of similar mixed-lithology hydrocarbon plays in volcanic margins should consider the possible hydraulic connectivity of compound lava flows and sandstones (e.g., the Faroe-Shetland basin and offshore Namibia), and be prepared to encounter dike-compartmentalized reservoirs affecting charge and migration as well as the field development design required.

**IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

1. Hot contacts at the bases of newly emplaced lava flows show a marked reduction in porosity and permeability (Table 1, Fig. 9), as a result of rapid mechanical compaction of unconsolidated sand, dissolution associated with hydrothermal activity generated by the degassing hot lava above, and associated cementation. This “indurated” zone occurs a few tens of centimeters below these contacts, resulting in the Type 3 diagenesis (Fig. 17).

2. Later fluid flow traced through inter-basalt sediments has been found to be heterogeneous and controlled by igneous dike intrusions (e.g., Figs. 16, 18), some isolated sediment bodies being connected to the flow regime, and some apparently isolated. The implication is that any fluid could be controlled in this manner, including hydrocarbons. In the case in question, the Type 2 diagenesis affected approximately half of the dunes exposed in Dune Valley, though the precise volume of sandstone affected is not known.

3. These findings suggest that volume estimates of sediment-lava interbeded reservoirs (for petroleum exploration), where encountered in the subsurface, should take into account that not all sediment bodies predicted in similar situations will be charged with hydrocarbons, despite sharing stratigraphical location, depositional environment and geological structure.

4. The Dune Valley outcrops of white sandstone have been identified as a natural analogue to the proposed carbon sequestration method of Hangx and Spiers (2009); in our case magmatic CO₂ is being sequestered. Our findings have implications for the total amount of CO₂ thought to have been emitted.
from large igneous provinces (e.g., The Paraná-Etendeka or the Deccan Traps). Such estimates should account for CO₂ that is sequestered within sediments in hydraulic connection with the igneous province (e.g., Caldeira and Ramoino 1990; Wignall 2001; McHone 2003; Jones et al. 2016) as well as within the igneous rock themselves (Matter et al. 2016).

5. Apart from the tracing of heterogeneous hydrothermal fluid flow through the basalt pile, the results of Type 2 diagenesis left reduced porosity and permeability compartments (the white sandstone), which do not relate to depositional environment or geological structure. These poorer potential reservoir rocks are connected to the fluid migration pathways, whereas the better-reservoir-quality red sandstones are not (at least at the time of hydrothermal activity). This dichotomy should be appreciated if similar rocks are encountered during exploration in volcanic provinces. For instance, development of mixed basalt-siliciclastic reservoirs (such as Rosebank) should not expect all stratigraphically trapped sandstone units in the play to show identical diagenesis, and hence reservoir properties. Conversely, if exploration drilling encounters poor-quality sandstone, with evidence of Type 2 diagenesis, it should be considered that good-quality sandstone may exist in close proximity.

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We would like to thank the VMRC partners (Chevron, ENI, DONG, Statoil, OMV and HESS) and OneNortheast (sponsored by Rick Smith, FWS Consultants) for funding this project. This work was also partly supported by the Research Council of Norway through its Centers of Excellence funding scheme, project number 223272 (CEED). We would like to thank Joanna Garland of Cambridge Carbonates Ltd. who provided valuable feedback during the final preparation of the manuscript. We thank Andrew Hurst and Colin Taylor (Aberdeen) and Nicholas Odling (Edinburgh) for facilitating laboratory work. Breno Waichel (and Brazilian colleagues), Tim Watton, Sam Clark, Alex Baker, Kevin Purvis and Victoria Gee are thanked for help and guidance. Gabi Schneider and the staff at the Geological Survey of Namibia are thanked for their continued support in Namibia. We thank Sally Sutton, Nick Schofield, and an anonymous reviewer for thoughtful comments. Leslie Melim is thanked for editorial guidance and John Southard is thanked for detailed technical edits; they have significantly improved the manuscript, especially regarding organization.

REFERENCES


inclusion, REE, oxygen, carbon, and Sr study on basalt, quartz and calcite: Mineralium Deposita, v. 38, p. 1009-1025.


Fig. 1. A) Location of Namibia in southern Africa. B) Distribution of Lower Cretaceous subaerial outcrop in Namibia (sediments and lava flows). Sediments are predominantly the Twyfelfontein Formation sandstones and lavas Paraná-Etendeka basalts, basaltic andesites, and silicic rheoignimbrites. Huab outliers in red box. C) Cretaceous subaerial outcrop (sediments and lava flows) in the Huab Outliers. Dune valley in yellow box. Maps
compiled from own field mapping, Landsat 7 ETM+ imagery and maps published by the Geological Survey of Namibia.

Fig. 2. Stratigraphic succession of the Huab Basin (adapted from Jerram et al. 1999a). The units of interest form the upper parts of the Twyfelfontain Fm. and lower parts of the Awahab Fm. The relative distribution of Etendeka-related intrusions is also given (Kdo, green column). Note that the Awahab and Twyfelfontain Fms. are indicated as overlapping due to the interbedded nature of the sedimentary and igneous rocks.

Fig. 3. Geological map of Dune Valley. Barchnoid dunes detailed in this contribution are labelled (A, B, C). Point P and Q = origin of photographs in Fig. 5. The isolated nature of barchanoid dunes in the basaltic lava flows is evident from the map.

Fig. 4. Schematic diagram of passive drowning of Twyfelfontein erg system in the Huab Basin by Lower Cretaceous Basalts (mainly Tafelkop type basalts in Huab Outliers south of Huab River and a mix of Tafelkop and Tafelberg-type basalts along the main river sections). The transverse-draa-dominated major erg is first drowned (A), which restricts sediment mobility. Remaining unburied sediment is reworked to form minor erg (B) and bypass surfaces where sand infiltrates basalt cooling cracks but does not form dunes. The minor erg is then drowned by lava. Further lava drowning isolates more sediment from the active eolian system creating a sediment-poor eolian system of isolated barchanoid dunes (C), which are themselves drowned by lava. Successive drowning locks up more sediment until no more dunes are formed on lava surfaces (D). This is followed by differential diagenesis to form red and white sandstone. Drowning sequence is modified from Jerram et al. (1999a, 2000).

Fig. 5. A) Photograph of Dune Valley taken from the top of Awahab/Mikberg mountain (facing ~ SSW), numerous isolated dunes/sand bodies visible, completely preserved barchans dunes, Dune A (Type 3 white) and Dune B (Type 2 red) are labelled. B) Close-up of completely preserved barchan dune, with inset showing detailed measurements around the dune (adapted from Jerram et al. 2000a). C) Photograph of Dune B (facing
south from point Q Fig. 3), the contrasting sand color apparent together with equivalent stratigraphic level and proximity to each other. See Fig. 2 for stratigraphic labels.

Fig. 6. Geological map of Dune Valley showing a higher resolution of Dune A white and Dune B red sampled in this study. Contour spacing is 10 m, rock unit abbreviations are as in Fig. 2.

Table 1. Average point-counting data for each “type” of diagenesis identified in this study. 500 points were counted for each sample (See also Grove and Jerram 2011).

Table 2. Petrological and mineralogical comparison of contact sediments at Dune A white and Dune B red.

Table 3. T-Test results of the point counting and permeability analysis of Type 1 red dunes and Type 2 white dunes (see table 2). All parameters other than opaque minerals have a T-Test result showing that the phase counted is either statistically significantly different (95%) or highly statistically significantly different (99%). The opaque-mineral result supports the hypothesis that iron oxides are reprecipitated locally as nodules. Highly statistically significant results are appended with an asterisk.

Fig. 7. Photomicrographs of sandstone at basalt contact for both white (sample NG26) and red (NG31) dunes to illustrate Type 3 diagenesis. A) NG26, white, shows increased compaction over the control, calcite cement, hematite grain coatings, and relatively unaltered feldspars (cf. Fig. 8). B) NG31, red, shows increased compaction over the control, calcite cement and hematite grain coatings. C) NG52, which is a control sample from major erg not in close proximity to igneous rocks; cementation and compaction are less than both samples at the contact with lava. No appreciable difference exists between Dune A (white) and Dune B (red) examples at the hot contacts, with the original porosity being occluded predominantly by calcite. K = potassium feldspar, Il = ilmenite, Calc = calcite, Haem = hematite.

Fig. 8. Photomicrographs of the white sandstone illustrating Type 2 diagenesis and comparing with red Type 1 diagenesis. A) NG33 Dune B red 2 m below hot contact, connected pores, both K-spar and plagioclase detrital grains present. B, C) Dune A white 2 m below hot lava contact, kaolinite and calcite fills pores replacing plagioclase and some k-spar, which has enabled increased compaction. D, E) Dune A white, 3 m below hot lava contact, diagenetic assemblage is same as NG28, part E shows a plagioclase being transformed to kaolinite.
Thin sections stained for K-spar and carbonates. K = K-spar, calc = calcite, kao = kaolinite, q-og = quartz
overgrowth, Haem = hematite, PPL = plane polarized Light, XPL = cross polarized light.

Fig. 9. A) Graph of porosity against distance from contact for Dune A (white), Dune B (red), and other isolated
dunes in Dune Valley (white or red, see table 3). All porosities decrease toward hot contact, red dunes regain
porosity more rapidly due to absence of secondary hydrothermal alteration (Type 2 diagenesis). Linear trend
lines shown for Dune A white (blue) and Dune B red (red) both show good correlations with distance. B)
Compaction-porosity loss (COPL) and cementation-porosity loss (CEPL) against distance below lava for Dune
A (white), Dune B (red), and other isolated dunes in Dune Valley (white or red). COPL increases rapidly within
30 cm of contact due to loading of lava on unconsolidated sediment combined with effects of corrosive volcanic
gases on feldspar grains.

Fig. 10. A) Relationship between probe permeability (logarithmic scale) and distance below hot contact for red
and white dunes. Both types of permeability decrease in proximity to the contact zone, but white dunes do not
increase to equal levels of red dunes. Linear regression trends are shown for white Dune A (blue) and red Dune
B (red). B) Relationship between porosity and permeability for red and white dunes. Note separation of red and
white dunes.

Fig. 11. SEM images of rock chips from Type 2 white sandstone. A) Authigenic assemblage of böhmite (bö),
kaolinite (kao), and calcite (calc). B) Kaolinite is totally replacing feldspar grains, and böhmite is coating quartz
and a relic feldspar in bottom right. C) Plagioclase being replaced by kaolinite and böhmite; this was the only
identifiable plagioclase grain encountered in the study. D) Close-up of kaolinite and böhmite authigenic
minerals. Q = quartz, plag = plagioclase, p = pore.

Fig. 12. X-ray diffraction spectra for samples NG32 (red line, red sand, Type 1) and NG29 (blue line, white
sand, Type 2); important peaks are labelled. Plagioclase (albite and anorthite) peaks present in red sand are
absent in white sand, consistent with petrographical observations. White sand has peaks for kaolinite or chlorite
but red sand does not. Orthoclase peaks are also weakened in white sand. Interestingly no peak for böhmite was
produced despite its identification under SEM. kao= kaolinite, ch= chlorite, alb= albite, an= anorthite, or=
orthooclase.

Fig. 13. Graph of major-element data in Appendix 2 normalized to NG52 values. A) NG32 red dune (red line)
and NG29 white dune (blue line). NG29 white has enriched CaO, and increased LOI. NG29 is leached of Na₂O
and Fe$_2$O$_3$. B) NG26 white contact (blue line) and NG31 red contact (red line). CaO is enriched in both contact samples, other elements except MnO show little variation, suggesting that both contacts (red and white dunes) are the same.

Fig. 14. Graphs for Dune A white, Dune B red, other white dunes, and other red dunes against distance below hot contact. A) Authigenic quartz shows little correlation with distance because it is formed during burial, it decreases where early compaction removed porosity during lava emplacement. B) Authigenic clay is generally higher in the white sandstone but eogenetic clays in the red sandstone increase toward hot contact. C) Opaque mineral abundance (grain rims and detrital) variability is high in red sandstone, the white sandstone opaque mineral abundance increases toward hot contact, where eogenetic porosity loss prevented bleaching fluid circulation. D) Authigenic calcite is generally higher in white dunes formed during circulation of bleaching fluid, in red dunes calcite increases toward the contact due to volcano-eogenesis. Dune B red clearly shows a decreasing calcite trend away from hot contact, whereas Dune A white calcite remains high and scattered with increasing distance. See Table 3 for T-Test analysis of these data.

Fig. 15. A) $\delta^{13}$C (PDB) plotted against $\delta^{18}$O (PDB) for the four samples analyzed, plus two Type 3 contacts from other formerly hot lava-sediment contacts. The calcite fields plotted for comparison are: (1) hydrothermally affected graywacke, Horton et al., (2012); (2) carbonatite, Rollinson (1993); (3) hydrothermal calcite, Dias et al., (2011); (4a, 4b) Entrada Fm hydrocarbon-related, Garden et al., (2001); (5) Navajo and Entrada Fms, Chan et al., (2000); (6) Navajo Fm red cements, Beitler et al., (2005); (7) Permian playa lake, Platt et al., (1994); (8) Namibia Karoo lava-related, Gierlowski-Kordesch et al., (2015); (9) Navajo Fm bleached cements, Beitler et al., (2005); (10) calcretes, Purvis and Wright (1991); (11) modern soil and groundwater carbonates, Europe, Candy et al., (2012); (12) calcrete, Naylor et al., (1989); (13) South Africa calcretes, Solomons et al., (1978); (14) Paraná. calcite geodes, Gilg et al, (2003). Type 2 and Type 3 diagenetic carbonates plot in two distinct populations, with Type 3 red dune carbonate cements having more mantle-like $\delta^{13}$C values. (B) Modelled calcite $\delta^{18}$O values in equilibrium with waters of different origins. Calculated meteoric and magmatic fields are shown (using fractionation constants A = -3.39 and B = 2.78, O’Neil et al. 1969) as well as the expected meteoric water, value for Namibia in the Cretaceous (132 Ma). $\delta^{18}$O values of calcite from our analyses are plotted. NG 28, NG30, and NG34 are from white dunes (Type 2), NG31 is from Type 3 (lava-sediment contact) calcite.

Fig. 16. Map of Dune C. Type 1 and Type 2 diagenesis is separated by a crosscutting N-S-trending dolerite dike.
Fig. 17. Diagram showing the diagenetic evolution of the three sandstone types discussed. Type 3 diagenesis is labelled (3) and includes both red and white sandstones. The red (Type 1) sandstone is depicted by the red lines, and the white (Type 2) sandstone by the blue lines. After initial burial by lava the diagenetic pathways diverge and are labelled (1) for Type 1 diagenesis and (2) for Type 2 diagenesis.

Fig. 18. Conceptual model of fluid flow through Dune Valley as controlled by igneous rocks. A) Dolerite dikes acting as barriers to horizontal fluid flow. B) Lateral fluid flow permitted through sandstone and basalt. C) Multidirectional flow permitted through sandstone. Diagram is not to scale.

Appendix 1. Point-count data (500 points), and permeability data (nitrogen probe) presented for all red and white dunes sampled. *Repeat section.

Appendix 2. XRF Major element data for isolated-dune samples

Appendix 3. Stable-isotope data for calcite in sandstone samples analyzed.
Sedimentary

Twefelfontein Fm (KTy)
- Isolated dune red sand (KTyR)
- Isolated dune white sand (KTyW)
- Minor erg red sand (KTyR)
- Main erg red sand/white sand (KTyR/KTyW)

Karoo sediments (PzKA)

Neoproterozoic Damara Basement (N)

Igneous

Springbok quartz latite (KAwSp)
- KETbTB
- Goboboseb quartz latite ii (KAwGbi)
- Goboboseb quartz latite i (KAwGbi)
- Tafelberg type lava (KETbTB)
- Tafelkop type lava (KETbTK)

Awahab Fm (KAw)

Etendeka Dolerite intrusions. Various affinities. (Kdo)
Graph A: Plot of permeability (md) against distance below hot contact (m). The data is fitted with linear regressions:

- White A: \( y = 10.8x - 4.0 \) (R² = 0.8)
- Red B: \( y = 111.5x + 1.1 \) (R² = 0.9)

Graph B: Plot of permeability (md) against porosity (%). The legend includes:

- Red B
- White A
- Other red
- Other white
Table 1. Average point-counting data for each “type” of diagenesis identified in this study. 500 points were counted for each sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>NG52 Red Control</th>
<th>Red (average)</th>
<th>White (average)</th>
<th>Contact (average)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diagenesis Type</td>
<td>Type 1</td>
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<td>Type 2</td>
<td>Type 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance below lava (m)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quartz %</td>
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<td>K-Spar %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plag %</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithic %</td>
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<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authi-Calcite %</td>
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<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authi-Clay %</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
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<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authi-Q %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authi-feldspar %</td>
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<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Porosity %</td>
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<td>15.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opaque %</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Detrital Amphibole %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeolite %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pmc</td>
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<td>Probe Permeability md</td>
<td>1747.4</td>
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<td>25.9</td>
<td>31.1</td>
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Table. 2. Petrological and mineralogical comparison of contact sediments at Dune A white and Dune B red.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data type</th>
<th>Dune A white contact (NG 26)</th>
<th>Dune B red contact (NG31)</th>
<th>Control (NG52)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Petrographical</td>
<td>Highly compacted, feldspars altering to clays, pokilitic calcite cement</td>
<td>Highly compacted, feldspars altering to clays, pokilitic calcite cement</td>
<td>Compacted, low amount of alteration of detrital grains, pores and throats open. Cements absent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>XRD (authigenic in brackets)</td>
<td>Quartz, orthoclase, anorthite, albite, (calcite), (clinochlore or kaolinite)</td>
<td>Quartz, orthoclase, anorthite, albite, ilmenite, (calcite), (fluorite, weak), (clinochlore or kaolinite, weak)</td>
<td>Quartz, orthoclase, anorthite, albite, (iron minerals, weak peaks)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. T-Test results of the point counting and permeability analysis of Type 1 red dunes and Type 2 white dunes. All parameters other than opaque minerals have a T-Test result showing that the phase counted is either statistically significantly different (95%) or highly statistically significantly different (99%). The opaque-mineral result supports the hypothesis that iron oxides are reprecipitated locally as nodules. Highly statistically significant results are appended with an asterisk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
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<th>Statistically significant</th>
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<td>Clay</td>
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