A Triassic to Jurassic arc in north Borneo: Geochronology, geochemistry, and genesis of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions and the Sabah ophiolite

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PII: S1342-937X(20)30120-9 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gr.2020.03.006> Reference: GR 2333 To appear in: *Gondwana Research* Received date: 8 November 2019 Revised date: 16 March 2020 Accepted date: 20 March 2020

Please cite this article as: A. Burton-Johnson, C.G. Macpherson, I.L. Millar, et al., A Triassic to Jurassic arc in north Borneo: Geochronology, geochemistry, and genesis of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions and the Sabah ophiolite, *Gondwana Research* (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gr.2020.03.006>

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A Triassic to Jurassic arc in north Borneo: Geochronology, geochemistry, and genesis of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions and the Sabah ophiolite

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Keywords

SE Asia, Borneo, Tectonics, ophiolite, Paleo-Pacific

Highlights

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ndaland Paleo-1) The Sundaland Paleo-Pacific arc continued into north Borneo from the Triassic
- 2) There is no evidence for continental basement in the Segama Valley
- 3) The oldest basalts of the Sabah ophiolite are least Triassic in age

Abstract

New field, geochemical, and geochronological data from the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (SVFI) of Sabah, north Borneo, shows them to be arc-derived tonalites; not windows or partial melts of a crystalline basement beneath Sabah. U-Pb zircon ages date emplacement in the Triassic and Jurassic: 241.1±2.0 Ma, 250.7 ± 1.9 Ma, 178.7 ± 2.4 Ma, and 178.6 ± 1.3 Ma; contemporaneous with peaks in magmatism and detrital zircons in Sarawak and west Kalimantan (west Borneo). Isotopic data for Sr, Nd, and Pb from whole rocks, and for Hf and O from zircon all show mantle and/or MORB affinities indicating a mantle-derived origin. Enrichment of fluid mobile trace elements and trace element ratios indicate that the most likely setting for this is in a continuation of the Sundaland continental arc. There is no evidence in the field, geochemical, or zircon U-Pb data for continental basement in the Segama Valley region.

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nature of the Segama Valley tonalites con The intrusive nature of the Segama Valley tonalites constrains the emplacement age of their supra-subduction zone host rocks to at least the Triassic. This new data expands the Triassic and Jurassic extent of Borneo and the Sundaland arc, and challenges models of Borneo's development predominantly through allochthonous terrane accretion in the Cretaceous. Instead, we propose a model of protracted autochthonous growth through supra-subduction zone crustal extension and associated magmatism.

1. Introduction

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and the Usun Apau plateau of The nature of the basement beneath the Malaysian state of Sabah, North Borneo, remains debated (e.g. Graves et al., 2000; Hutchison, 2005; Leong, 2017, 1998, 1974; Milsom et al., 2001). The exposed geology is predominantly of Cenozoic marine sediments underlain by an ophiolite sequence exposed near the Segama Valley, Darvel Bay, Telupid, Mt Kinabalu, and Kudat (Fig. 1). However , an extensive "crystalline basement" of unexposed granitic continental crust has been proposed on the basis o f three main lines of evidence (Hutchison, 2005; Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1974; Reinhard and Wenk, 1951): First, gravity data shows an extensive low gravity anomaly over much of Sabah that has been interpreted to result from low density continental crust beneath the region (Holt, 1998; Milsom et al., 2001). Second, Plio -Pleistocene volcanics of the Semporna peninsula in E Sabah (Fig. 1) and the Usun Apau plateau of Sarawak, NW Borneo (Fig. 2) have anomalously low Nd isotopic values that have been attributed to assimilation of Proterozoic continental crust by mantle melts (Cullen et al., 2013; Macpherson et al., 2010). Third, calc-alkaline granitic bodies have been mapped within the ophiolite of the Segama Valley (Fig, 1; Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1974), postulated to be partial melts or windows of an underlying continental basement (Hutchison, 2005).

The gravitational evidence and geochemistry of Plio -Pleistocene volcanic rocks rel y on interpretation of data relating to unexposed crust, and thus are not corroborated by direct observation. However, the granitic bodies of the Segama Valley can be mapped and sampled for geochemical analysis. If they are indeed windows of continental basement, then we would expect them to pre -date the ophiolite (i.e. not display intrusive contacts), and display evidence for a continental origin and/or crustal assimilation in their isotopic compositions and U-Pb zircon ages.

This work presents the first new geochronological and geochemical study of the Segama Valley intrusive bodies since Kirk (1968) and Leong (1974). In addition to re -evaluating their field relations, we have conducted major and trace element analysis; measured Sr, Nd, Pb and O isotope ratios; and performed U-Pb zircon

geochronology. We use the results to discuss the implications for genesis of the Sabah ophiolite and the nature of the north Borneo basement.

2. Regional Geological History

During the Mesozoic , a continental arc existed across Sundaland and East Asia. This extended from the Yanshanian province of SE China , across the continental crust of the South China Sea continental shelf, along Vietnam and Peninsular Malaysia , to the Schwaner Mountains of Kalimantan in SW Borneo (Metcalfe, 2011). Th e arc produced a belt of granites and lesser volcanics across SE Asia, hundreds of kilometres wide (Fig. 2).

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Althoug The Mesozoic also saw emplacement of the ophiolitic basement in north and east Borneo, which is preserved as a belt stretching from central Java, across the Meratus Mountains and Sabah in Borneo , and into Palawan and the Philippines (Fig. 1 and 2). Although some studies have proposed a mid -ocean ridge setting for formation of the Sabah ophiolite (Graves et al., 2000), LILE and HFSE data has been used to infer formation in a supra -subduction zone setting (Omang and Barber, 1996). The age of the Sabah ophiolite is unclear , with mafic amphibolites giving K -Ar radiometric ages ranging from 127 -87 Ma (Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1974; Omang, 1993; Swauger et al., 1995), gabbros giving 179 -33.4 Ma K -Ar ages (Graves et al., 2000; Omang, 1993; Rangin et al., 1990) , and the overlying cherts giving 127 -135 Ma biostratigraphic ages (Jasin, 1992).

Granitic bodies were mapped within the ophiolite and interpreted as windows of an underlying basement of continental crust (the "crystalline basement"). These felsic rocks yielded K -Ar ages of 210 -120 Ma (Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1998, 1974), although the Triassic and Early Jurassic ages have been questioned and excluded from later studies for being older than the Cretaceous ages obtained for the ophiolitic units, viewing them all as part of the same ophiolite suite (Hutchison, 2005, 1988; Omang and Barber, 1996).

Borneo became the location of extensive marine sedimentation through the Cenozoic, during which most of its extensive cover of marine mudstones and turbidites were deposited (Fig. 1; Collenette, 1965; van Hattum et al., 2006). These deposits are dominated by Eocene to Miocene deep marine turbidite s ,

forming the large , SW -NE trending Crocker Basin (Fig. 1). Folding and faulting of the basement and cover rocks occurred in the Eocene and Oligocene, driven by subduction of the proto -South China Sea or other collisional tectonic processes (Hall, 1996; Hall and Wilson, 2000; Hutchison, 2000; Rangin and Silver, 1990; Taylor and Hayes, 1983; Tongkul, 1994, 1991). Further turbidite sedimentation continued into the Miocene , when carbonates and shallow marine to fluvial deltaic deposits formed in a shallower marine setting (Balaguru, 2001). The Early Miocene collision of northern Borneo and the South China continental margin drove the Sabah orogeny (Hall and Wilson, 2000; Hutchison, 2000, 1996), producing significant topography in the region and the emergence of much of Sabah and the present central highlands of northern Borneo (Hutchison, 2000).

3. Field data and petrography

3.1. Ophiolite in the Segama Valley

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md Leong (19 Outcrops in the Segama Valley of Eastern Sabah form part of the Sabah ophiolite. Kirk (1968) and Leong (1974) differentiated the Mesozoic basement of Sabah into a sequence of (1) dolerites, gabbros , and variably serpentinised peridotites ; (2) metamorphic amphibolites, schists and gneisses ; (3) the Chert -Spilite Formation of marine sediments and basaltic submarine volcanism; and (4) felsic intrusions (termed the "crystalline basement" in those studies). However, subsequent understanding of ophiolite stratigraphy indicates that ophiolites represent oceanic crust emplaced in a submarine spreading centre or marginal basin, (Pearce, 2003). On this basis, all the Mesozoic basement units , except for the felsic intrusions, can be interpreted as constituent parts of an ophiolite , representing variably metamorphosed mafic intrusive crust (1 and 2) , associated extrusive magmatism (3, the spilites) , and overlying marine sedimentation (3, the cherts). As noted by Hutchison (2005), ribbon cherts represent the first sediments to be deposited on newly emplaced seafloor , explaining the abundance of this lithology in the Chert -Spilite Formation

3.2. The Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (SVFI)

Intrusive bodies of tonalite, granodiorite and granite up to 5km long were recorded by Leong (1974) as outcrops within the Segama Valley ophiolite, and are referred to here as the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (SVFI). These outcrops were mapped in Dismal Gorge and the Barrier Falls on Sungai (S.; "river" in Malay) Segama; S. Purut; Danum Gorge; S. Telewas; and the S. Litog Klikog Kiri and S. Babayas tributaries of S. Segama (Fig. 3). We visited the S. Purut, S. Danum, Barrier Falls and the S. Litog Klikog Kiri/S. Babayas intrusions, although the meander mapped as the Barrier Falls intrusion Leong (1974) was found to be composed of mudstone and chloritised mafic rocks. To determine compositions, mineral abundances were calculated from point counting thin sections stained for plagioclase and K -feldspar. QAP modal mineral classifications are shown in Fig. 4.

3.2.1. The S. Purut Intrusion

meander mapped as the Barrier Falls intrusion
omposed of mudstone and chloritised mafic ro
mineral abundances were calculated from po
ned for plagioclase and K-feldspar. QAP
are shown in Fig. 4.
Purut Intrusion
Tibutary S. Purut is a tributary of the Upper S. Segama. The felsic intrusion is a medium grained tonalite composed of 11% quartz, 22% plagioclase , and 16% hornblende (A245). Chlorite and sericite form 13% and 38% , respectively, which if derived solely from the hornblende and plagioclase puts their respective percentages at 29% and 60%. The body has an intrusive contact with basaltic country rocks, with xenoliths of the basaltic country rock within the granite (Fig. 5a) and abundant small wispy chloritised xenoliths of the country rock within the tonalite near the contact. The country rock is rich in amygdales, chlorite, zeolite and quartz (indicating shallow water crystallisation), which have altered to a highly chloritised hornfels along the contact. Kirk (1968) assigned this unit to the spilite of the "Chert -Spilite Formation".

3.2.2. S. Danum Intrusion

The S. Danum intrusion forms the walls of the narrow, 800m long Danum Gorge. This is another medium -grained tonalite composed of 25% quartz, 56% plagioclase, 5% alkali feldspar , and 14% variably chloritised hornblende (A249). The body intrudes microcrystalline quartzite country rock , and a thick band of chloritised country rock exists on its margin (Fig. 5b and 5c). Adjacent to this

band of alteration, the quartzite is preferentially hardened by recrystallisation (a baked margin). Wispy xenoliths of the chloritised country rock occur within the tonalite. Further downstream , fine -grained , 10 -40m wide, phaneritic dacite dykes and intrusions intrude the quartzite. However, these d ykes are not exposed in contact with the tonalite , and so the relationship of the two magmatic events is unknown.

3.2.3. The Litog Klikog Kiri (S. LKK.) Intrusion.

utaries of the Middle S. Segama. The intrusion is

% quartz, 61% plagioclase, 3% alkali feldspar, a

261). Upstream outcrops are richer in biotite l

44% plagioclase, 3% alkali feldspar, 17% hornh

te (A265). These distinc The S. Litog Klikog Kiri (S. LKK.) intrusion lies between S. LKK. and S. Babayas ; two small tributaries of the Middle S. Segama. The intrusion is a medium -grained tonalite of 28% quartz, 61% plagioclase, 3% alkali feldspa r , and 8% chloritised hornblende (A261). Upstream outcrops are richer in biotite being composed of 22% quartz, 44% plagioclase, 3% alkali feldspar, 17% hornblende, 7% biotite , and 7% chlorite (A265). These distinct mineralogies may represent construction of the intrusion from multiple pulses of magma. The S. LKK. stream follows the intrusive contact between the felsic intrusion and the intruded hornfelsed country rock, which is a highly chloritised basalt composed of plagioclase -rich groundmass , variably chloritised clinopyroxene phenocrysts , and calcite amygdales. In one outcrop, the protolith has been entirely altered to biotite.

The S. Babayas stream follows a biotite -rich mafic hornfels along the intrusion's eastern contact. However, although tonalitic dykes are observed , the main body is not exposed in S. Babayas. Calc -silicate rocks are exposed in the stream, and are in faulted contact with the mafic hornfels at both ends of their extent.

4. Analytical methodology

4.1. Major and trace elements

Samples of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (SVFI) and country rock were analysed for major element composition by XRF at Edinburgh University , and by ICP -MS and PIMMS (Plasma Ionisation Multi -collector Mass Spectrometry) at Durham University to obtain trace element and radiogenic isotope data.

Samples were crushed and milled to a fine powder using a fly press and agate ball mills. For XRF analysis the samples were dried at 1100°C to calculate Loss On Ignition (LOI) before being mixed with LiBO ² flux and fused into glass discs for analysis (Gill, 1997). Trace element analysis followed the procedure of Ottley et al. (2003). Samples were dissolved using HF and HNO ³, and analysed on a ThermoScientific X -Series 2 ICP -MS. Elements affected by incomplete zircon dissolution were analysed by the same procedure after the sample was first fused with a LiBO ² flux. These elements are: Ta, Cs, Zr, Hf, Th, U, Nd, Y, and the REE (excluding La, for which the LiBO ² flux affects analytical accuracy). Accuracy and reproducibility were determined by repeat analysis of the standards , AGV -1, BHVO - 1 , and W2 , as well as two samples from Mt Kinabalu (Burton -Johnson et al., 2019). Acid blanks and the LiBO $_2$ flux were also analysed. This QC data is presented in the supplementary material.

4.2. Whole rock radiogenic isotope analysis

bility were determined by repeat analysis of the
bility were determined by repeat analysis of the
W2, as well as two samples from Mt Kinabalu (
d blanks and the LiBO₂ flux were also analyse
he supplementary material.
c Sample preparation for Sr and Nd isotopic analysis followed the column chemistry procedures of Charlier et al. (2006). Whole rock powders were dissolved in HF and HNO ³ SpA acid and separated by column chemistry using Sr spec resin and Hf-Nd cation resin (AG50 X -8). A Pb fraction was collected in 100μl 8N HCl from the Sr columns following collection of the Nd and Sr fractions and waste elution using 200μl 2.5N HCl. The Pb fraction was then dried down, dissolved in 500 μ l 3% HNO₃, and spiked with ²⁰⁶Tl to correct for mass bias (Hirata, 1996). PIMMS analytical procedures following Nowell et al. (2003). For ⁸⁷Sr/86Sr and 143Nd/144Nd, measured values for the NBS987 and J&M standards (\pm 2SD error) during the same run as the samples were 0.710267 \pm 23 (n=35) and 0.511109 ±10 (n=44) respectively. Data are corrected to the respective NBS987 and J&M standard values of 0.71024 (Thirlwall, 1991) and 0.511110 (Royse et al., 1998). For Pb, measured values for the NBS981 standards ±2SD for ²⁰⁶Pb/204Pb, 207Pb/204Pb, ²⁰⁸Pb/204Pb, ²⁰⁷Pb/206Pb and ²⁰⁸Pb/206Pb (n=12) are 16.9405 ±9, 15.4983 ±9, 36.7181 ±21, 0.9149 ±1 and 2.1675 ±5 , respectively. Data are corrected to values of NBS981 of 16.9405, 15.4980, 36.7174, 0.91485 and 2.1674 , respectively (Galer, 1997).

4.3. Zircon U -Pb geochronology

For U -Pb analysis, zircon crystals were separated from <500 μm sieved fractions of powdered samples by panning, and then handpicking before mounting in epoxy and polishing. Their internal structure was imaged by cathodoluminescence (CL) at the University of Edinburgh, UK. U -Pb isotopic analysis was performed on a Cameca ims -1270 ion microprobe at the University of Edinburgh following the procedures of Kelly et al. (2008). Results were calibrated against zircon Geostandard 91500, which has a $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ ratio of 0.17918 ± 8 , a ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age of 1062.5 \pm 0.4 Ma, and U and Pb concentrations of 81.2 and 14.8 ppm, respectively (Wiedenbeck et al., 1995). ²⁰⁶Pb/238U concordia ages were calculated using Isoplot v3.7 (Ludwig, 2003). Uncertainty in the calculated pluton ages are presented as 95% confidence limits.

4.4. Zircon Hf isotopic analysis

²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age of 1062.5±0.4 Ma, and U and Pb
ppm, respectively (Wiedenbeck et al., 1995).²⁰⁶
ppm, respectively (Wiedenbeck et al., 1995).²⁰⁶
clculated using Isoplot v3.7 (Ludwig, 2003). U
ton ages are presented a Isotope analyses were carried out at NIGL using a Thermo Scientific Neptune Plus MC -ICP -MS coupled to a New Wave Research UP193UC Excimer laser ablation system. Helium was used as the carrier gas through the ablation cell with Ar make -up gas being connected via a T -piece and sourced from a Cetac Aridus II desolvating nebulizer. 0.006 l/min of nitrogen was introduced via the nebulizer in addition to Ar in order to minimise oxide formation. Lutetium
(¹⁷⁵Lu), Ytterbium (¹⁷²Yb, ¹⁷³Yb), and Hafnium (¹⁷⁶Hf, ¹⁷⁸Hf, ¹⁷⁹Hf and ¹⁸⁰Hf) isotopes were measured simultaneously during static 30 second ablation analyses.

Hf reference solution , JMC475 was analysed during the analytical session and 176Hf/177Hf ratios of unknown samples are reported relative to a value of 0.282160 for this standard. Correction for 176Yb on the 176Hf peak was made using reverse -mass -bias correction of the 176Yb/173Yb ratio. This 176Yb/173Yb ratio was empirically derived using Hf mass bias corrected Yb -doped JMC475 solutions (Nowell and Parrish, 2001). ¹⁷⁶Lu interference on the ¹⁷⁶Hf peak was corrected by using the measured ¹⁷⁵Lu and assuming 176 Lu/ 175 Lu = 0.02653. Hfisotope data was processed using the Iolite data reduction package (Paton et al., 2011).

Three zircon reference materials (91500, Mud Tank, Plesovice) were analysed throughout the analytical session. The 91500 zircon reference material was used as the primary standard in Iolite, and was used to normalise the 176Lu/177Hf ratio assuming a value of 0.000311 (Woodhead and Hergt, 2005).

Analytical uncertainties for unknowns were propagated by quadratic addition to include the standard error of the mean of the analysis , and the reproducibility of the 91500 reference material. εHf values were calculated using a 176Lu decay constant of $1.867 \times 10\text{-}11$ y⁻¹ (Söderlund et al., 2004), the present-day chondritic ¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf value of 0.0336, and a ¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷7Hf ratio of 0.282785 (Bouvier et al., 2008).

4.5. Zircon δ18O analysis

lue of 0.0336, and a ¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷7Hf ratio of 0.2827
 ⁸0 analysis
 Pe analyses were performed on the zircon ig a CAMECA IMS 1280 large geometry SIMS

tockholm, Sweden, using the methods of
 99). A critically focus Oxygen isotope analyses were performed on the zircon crystals analysed for U -Pb using a CAMECA IMS 1280 large geometry SIMS at the NordSIMS facility in Stockholm, Sweden , using the methods o f Whitehouse and Nemchin (2009) . A critically focused Cs ⁺ primary beam with 20 keV impact sputtered the sample, and a low -energy electron -flooding gun was used for charge compensation. The primary beam current was ca. 2 nA yielding a ca. 15 µm analytical spots, including a 10 µm raster to homogenize the beam. Each analysis consisted of an initial pre -sputter over a rastered 20 μ m² area to remove the gold coating, followed by secondary beam centering in the field aperture (field of view was 30 μ m with 90x magnification transmission ion optics). The 16 O (ca. 2 x 10^9 cps) and 18O ion beams were mass filtered at a mass resolution of ca. 2500 (M/ ΔM) and analysed simultaneously using two Faraday detectors with amplifiers housed in an evacuated, temperature stabilized chamber. The secondary magnet field was locked at high stability using an NMR field sensor operating in regulation mode. All pre -sputter, beam centering and data acquisition steps were automated in the run definition. Typical internal precision obtained for individual run 18O/16O ratios determined from 12 4-second integrations was ca. 0.1 ‰ (SE).

Fully automated sequences comprised two measurements of the reference zircon, Geostandard 91500 (Wiedenbeck et al., 2004) , bracketing six measurements of unknown targets. The regularly interspersed 91500 measurements were used to correct measured isotope ratios for any drift during the analytical session and for instrumental mass fractionation (IMF), assuming a $\delta^{18}O_{V-SMOW}$ for 91500 of 9.86 $\%$ ₀. External precision on δ^{18} O_V-SMOW was 0.16 $\%$ (SD) and is propagated onto the internal precision to yield the overall uncertainty. Three analyses of the Temora - 2 zircon standard yield a weighted $\delta^{18}O_{V\text{-}SMOW}$ of 8.24±0.11 ‰ (SD), which is within error of the 8.20±0.01 ‰ value reported by Black et al. (2004).

5. Results

5.1. Zircon U -Pb geochronology

The B.20±0.01 % value reported by Black
The B.20±0.01 % value reported by Black
The Beochronology
on U-Pb analyses are reported in Table 2. $238U/20$
representative analyses are shown in Fig. 6.
5, S. Purut, and A249, S. Results of zircon U-Pb analyses are reported in Table 2. ²³⁸U/²⁰⁶Pb concordia and CL images of representative analyse s are shown in Fig. 6. Two of the SVFI samples (A245, S. Purut, and A249, S. Danum) yield Middle and Early Triassic ages $(241.1\pm2.0$ Ma and 250.7 ± 1.9 Ma). These are the oldest high-fidelity magmatic ages so far acquired in Sabah but are comparable to Triassic ages from the West Kalimantan (Hennig et al., 2017; Setiawan et al., 2013; Williams et al., 1988) and support the previously questioned and excluded 210 Ma K -Ar age of Leong (1974). One analysis of A249 yielded a distinctly younger age (236.2±3.6 Ma) and was excluded from the concordia, with recent Pb loss the probable cause.

The two samples from the mineralogically distinct units of the S.LKK. (A261 and A265) both yielded Middle Jurassic ages (178.7±2.4 Ma and 178.6±1.3 Ma). This is slightly older than previous biotite K -Ar ages for the intrusion (150±6 Ma and 160±8 Ma; Kirk, 1968). One analysis from A261 y ielded an inherited age comparable to the Triassic plutons $(245.3\pm3.2 \text{ Ma})$ and was excluded from the concordia.

5 . 2. Major elements and geochemical classification

Data for all whole rock geochemical analyses are reported in Table 3. The new data for the SVFI demonstrate ranges of 55.59 to 71.39 wt. % for SiO ² and 1.30 to 2.11 wt. % for K_2O . In the K_2O classification scheme of Le Maitre et al. (1989) the SVFI lie in the fields of calc -alkaline to high -K calc -alkaline syeno -diorite, granodiorite and granite, whereas the S. Purut volcanic rock is a tholeiitic, medium -K calc -alkaline basalt (Fig. 7 and 8 a). The intrusions border the metaluminous -peraluminous boundary (Fig. 7 c; molar Al/(Ca+Na+K) ranges from 0.98 -1.32). These compositions are generally similar to the felsic intrusions reported by Leong (1974) and Kirk (1968) , which include a small number of tholeiitic and high -K calc -alkaline rocks , but are dominantly calc -alkaline diorite, syeno -diorite, granodiorite and granite (Fig. 7).

5 . 3. Trace elements

2). These compositions are generally similar to the eong (1974) and Kirk (1968), which include a
high-K calc-alkaline rocks, but are dominantly carry and divide and granite (Fig. 7).
ments
the (PM) multi-element plots a Primitive mantle (PM) multi-element plots and chondrite normalised REE plots for the intrusive bodies (Fig. 9) show the LILE and LREE enrichment and HFSE and HREE depletions characteristic of arc magmatism and continental crust. This results in the classification of the SVFI as volcanic arc granitoids in tectonic discrimination diagrams (Fig. 7d; Pearce et al., 1984).

There are apparent distinctions between the two Jurassic S. LKK. samples (A261 and A265) and the two Triassic samples (A245 and A249) in their Sr, Eu, and HREE compositions. In the normalised multi -element plots (Fig. 9), the older samples show weak negative Eu anomalies and weak or absent positive Sr anomalies. In contrast, the younger S. LKK. samples show absent or weakly positive Eu anomalies and positive Sr anomalies. All of the SVFI display concave downwards chondrite -normalised REE curves, with minima at Er , however, this is most pronounced in the most evolved S. LKK. sample, A261 (Fig. 9).

The multi -element plot for the S. Purut basalt (Fig. 9) shows a similar trace element composition to the SVFI, but a lower degree of LILE enrichment (reflecting its more mafic, less fractionated composition), and less pronounced depletion of elements compatible during fractionation of mafic to intermediate melt (Eu, Ti, and P). The LILE and LREE enrichment and HFSE and HREE

depletions again indicate an arc setting, supported by geochemical tectonic discrimination (Pearce and Cann, 1973). Published mafic samples of proposed Cretaceous age from the ophiolite in Darvel Bay (Fig. 1) range from similar arc compositions to compositions of ocean floor basalt affinity (Fig. 8; Omang and Barber, 1996).

5.4. Radiogenic isotopes

 $0.906Pb/204Pb$, $207Pb/204Pb$, and $208Pb/204Pb$ ratios c
t all have mantle-like values with lower Sr and
isotopes than bulk earth. For each of these isoto
basalt are indistinguishable from the range of
arison, the Plio-Fig. 10 shows the isotopic data acquired for the intrusive rocks and the S. Purut basalt. Correcting to the mean age of the four intrusions (212 Ma), the 87Sr/86Sr, ¹⁴³Nd/144Nd, 206Pb/204Pb, 207Pb/204Pb, and 208Pb/204Pb ratios of the SVFI and the S. Purut basalt all have mantle -like values with lower Sr and Pb isotope ratios and higher Nd isotopes than bulk earth. For each of these isotope ratios, the SVFI and S. Purut basalt are indistinguishable from the range of MORB values. For regional comparison, the Plio -Pleistocene basalts of the Semporna Peninsula (80 km SE of the SVFI; Fig. 1) record variable degrees of assimilation of much older (possibly Archean) continental crust (Macpherson et al., 2010). Corrected to 212 Ma, the SVFI do not follow the isotopic assimilation trend of the Semporna Peninsula magmatism, plotting at the uncontaminated end of this range (Fig. 10).

5. 5. Zircon Oxygen and Hf Isotopes

Zircon Hf and oxygen isotope ratios in the SVFI are within error of the range for mantle and MORB values (Fig. 11, Table 4). Zircon δ^{18} O is slightly lower than zircon in equilibrium with the mantle but not beyond analytical error of such values (5.3±0.3‰, Valley, 2003). Likewise, the zircon Hf isotope ratios show little variation and all fall within the range of MORB values (Fig. 11).

6. Discussion

Previous studies have proposed that the felsic intrusions of the Segama Valley region are windows of an extensive continental basement beneath the ophiolite (Hutchison, 2005; Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1974; Reinhard and Wenk, 1951). However, the contacts that we observed in the field and report here indicate that these are intrusive melts that post -date formation of the ophiolite rather than exposures of an underlying basement. As such, the SVFI offer an opportunity to

date when they were emplaced, to determine the geodynamic setting at that time, and to place minimum age constraints on the formation of ophiolitic basement in Sabah.

6.1. Origin of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions

if from mafic magma in an arc setting, or was
g of an unexposed continental basement. The l
concile with the isotopic signatures of the intr
ithin the range of MORB values rather than tow
and lower Nd and Hf isotope ratios Combining the trace element and isotopic data allow us to evaluate the tectonic setting in which the SVFI formed. The relative HFSE depletions and LILE enrichments of the SVFI are typical of volcanic arc granitoids (Fig. 7a and 9). Consequently, this geochemical signature was acquired either through magmatic differentiation from mafic magma in an arc setting, or was inherited through partial melting of an unexposed continental basement. The latter possibility is difficult to reconcile with the isotopic signatures of the intrusions, which plot consistently within the range of MORB value s rather than towards the higher Sr , Pb and δ^{18} O, and lower Nd and Hf isotope ratios expected for continental crust (DePaolo and Wasserburg, 1979; Faure, 1986). Consequently, we propose that the SVFI are the differentiated felsic magmatic products of a Jurassic and Triassic arc.

To test th e interpretation of SVFI as differentiated arc magmatism we undertook fractional crystallisation modelling. Most AFC models are inappropriate for this purpose as Rhyolite -MELTS and Magma Chamber Simulator thermodynamic models are not optimised for hydrous magmatic systems involving hornblende or biotite fractionation, and mass balance equations do not reflect the changing compositions of mineral phases in response to the geochemical evolution of the magma. To address these issues, Burton -Johnson et al. (2019) developed a new approach: Equilibrated Major Element Assimilation and Fractional Crystallisation modelling (EME-AFC). This model employs two-component major element partition coefficients $(K_D^{X,Y}=(X^{Min}.Y^{Liq})/(Y^{Min}.X^{Liq}))$, where X and Y are elements in a single mineral phase (Min) in equilibrium with a liquid (Min) . This approach allows simultaneous modelling of major elements by EME -AFC, and trace elements, radiogenic isotopes, and oxygen isotopes by recognised methods (DePaolo, 1981), with an empirical relationship to determine temperature for oxygen isotope modelling. The latest version of the EME -AFC model (v01.001; https://github.com/Alex-Burton-Johnson/EME-AFC-Modelling) was applied to

model the differentiation of the most silicic Triassic and Jurassic samples (A249 and A261) from a basaltic magma. With no proven contemporaneous basaltic samples, the composition of the S. Purut basalt was used as the primary melt, for which we assumed an initial δ^{18} O value of +5.5 $\%$ 0 (Eiler, 2001; Macpherson et al., 2000; Macpherson and Mattey, 1998; Mattey et al., 1994). Trace element partition coefficients and empirical relationships of the minor elements are from Burton -Johnson et al. (2019). Given the affinity of the SVFI isotope ratios to mantle -derived basalt, no assimilation was included during the fractional crystallisation modelling.

barameters, the fractionating assemblage was m
greement with the SVFI compositions (Fig. 1
lt from differences between the S. Purut basina, and inaccuracies in the partition coefficie
employed. However, both models show t Within these parameters, the fractionating assemblage was modified to provide the closest agreement with the SVFI compositions (Fig. 12). Disagreements probably result from differences between the S. Purut basalt and the actual primary magma, and inaccuracies in the partition coefficients and empirical relationships employed. However, both models show that the SVFI can be generated through fractional crystallisation of an arc basalt in the absence of crustal assimilation. A249 was generated through crystallisation of 76% of the original magma volume, with the bulk fractionation of 35% clinopyroxene, 11% hornblende, 53% plagioclase, and 0.4% apatite. Similarly, A261 was generated through crystallisation of 80% of the original magma volume, with the bulk fractionation of 33% clinopyroxene, 15% hornblende, 51% plagioclase, and 0.4% apatite, plus 0.8% garnet. This garnet fractionation only occurred in the final stage of the magma evolution (SiO2> 63 wt. %), as evidenced by the Sr/Y-SiO2 variation of the SVFI (Fig. 12a.7 and Fig. 12b.7), and is required to generate the pronounced HREE depletion of A261 (Fig. 12b.2). The fractionation of garnet, as well as the increase in hornblende fractionation of A261 relative to A249, indicates higher water contents (Richards, 2011). Despite the differences in negative Eu and Sr anomalies between the Triassic and Jurassic intrusions, both require 51 -53 % plagioclase fractionation. Consequently, the lack of negative Eu and Sr anomalies in the Jurassic samples (A261 and A265) reflects the fractionation of low -Sr and low -Eu plagioclase rather than an absence of plagioclase fractionation. This Sr and Eu compatibility is dominantly controlled by anorthite content (Blundy and Wood, 1991).

Further evidence for an arc setting of the SVFI comes from the U -Pb zircon ages. In contrast to many continental settings (Breitfeld et al., 2019, 2017; Hennig et al., 2017) , the SVFI lack inherited zircon ages that would suggest interaction with older basement. The only inherited age found during this study is 245.3±3.2 Ma from the 178.7±1.3 Ma S. LKK. tonalit e, A261. This inherited age resembles the older tonalite ages from S. Purut and S. Danum, and thus is likely to be a xenocryst from this older period of magmatism. Consequently, the data presented here provides no evidence for older, continental basement. This contrasts with the conclusion reached from whole rock isotopic compositions of Plio -Pleistocene basalts only 80 km to the SE on the Semporna Peninsula (Fig. 1), which provide evidence for assimilation of an unexposed, much older (possibly even Archaean) continental crust (Fig. 10; Macpherson et al., 2010). However, as the SVFI show no evidence for similar assimilation, any unexposed continental basement is not ubiquitous beneath Sabah.

6. 2. Origin of the Sabah ophiolite and mafic arc rocks

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revidence for assimilation of an unexposed, multiple evidence for assimilation of an unexposed, multiple (Fig. 10; Macpherson et al., 2

7 no evidence for similar assimila The intrusive nature of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions demonstrates that the units hosting them must pre -date the Triassic and Jurassic SVFI emplacement age. This extends the age of the Sabah crust back to at least the Triassic. The basaltic sample from S. Purut displays an isotopic affinity to the mantle (Fig. 10) and an arc signature in its trace elements (Fig. 7) comparable to other samples from the Darvel Bay ophiolite (Fig. 1, Omang and Barber, 1996). As noted by Omang and Barber (1996), the mafic ophiolite rock s have tholeiitic compositions (Fig. 7a) , ocean floor basalt to low -potassium tholeiite affinity (Fig. 7b and 7c), and relative enrichment of the high field strength elements with relative depletion of the light ion lithophile and LREE (Fig. 9, and Omang and Barber, 1996). These features indicate that the ophiolite was emplaced in a supra subduction zone extensional basin, potentially ranging from back arc (more MORB affinity) to fore arc (more arc -like affinity).

However, with no field relations to prove an association of the S. Purut basalt with other, deeper stratigraphic units of the ophiolite, and dominantly Cretaceous K -Ar ages for other ophiolite samples, it is hard to prove that the S. Purut basalt is t ruly "ophiolitic" as opposed to the product of non -ophiolitic arc

magmatism. A Triassic (217 Ma) K -Ar age was obtained for a metagabbro in the Darvel Bay ophiolite (Fig. 1; Omang, 1993), but was rejected on the basis of being much older than the other samples analysed, high in atmospheric Ar^{40} , and low in K. However, in light of the new data, this gabbroic age may need a revaluation; lending support to an ophiolitic origin for the S. Purut basalt. Either way, with regard to tectonic reconstructions, whether the S. Purut basalt represents arc magmatism or is a constituent unit of a supra -subduction zone ophiolite is immaterial, as in both settings the basalt was erupted in at least the Triassic above an active subduction zone. The difference is only whether crustal extension in the overriding plate was sufficient to generate int rabasinal ophiolitic magmatism.

The overriding plate was sufficient to gene
matism.
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gocene (198-75 Ma, plus 52 and 33 Ma ages; C
2000; Hutchison, 2005; Kirk, 1968; Leong, 19
urber, 1996; Rangin et al., 199 Radiometric and biostratigraphic ages for the ophiolites of Borneo range from Jurassic to Oligocene (198 -75 Ma, plus 52 and 33 Ma ages; Coggon et al., 2011; Graves et al., 2000; Hutchison, 2005; Kirk, 1968; Leong, 1974; Omang, 1993; Omang and Barber, 1996; Rangin et al., 1990; Swauger et al., 1995), although all but two gabbro ages (52 and 33 Ma; Graves et al., 2000; Rangin et al., 1990) are Mesozoic (198 -75 Ma). In light of our new data, we do not contest the Jurassic to Cretaceous ages, but instead propose that extensional, supra -subduction zone magmatism (including the ophiolite and the SVFI) occurred multiple times during the Mesozoic, focussed along extensional forearc and back -arc basins. This long -lived history of crustal extension and magmatism extended and rifted the continental margin of Sundaland, with disparate unexposed crustal blocks of rifted continental crust only evidenced when assimilated by later magmatism (Cullen et al., 2013; Macpherson et al., 2010). Thus , the Mesozoic history of crustal extension and magmatism was not dissimilar to much of the archipelagic region of SE Asia through the Cenozoic until the present day (Hall, 2012, 1996).

6.3. Nature and extent of the magmatic arc

Based on the field, geochemical, and geochronological evidence presented here, we propose that the SVFI and the Sabah Ophiolite are products of Triassic to Jurassic arc magmatism and supra -subduction zone extension. However, was this arc a continuation of the Paleo -Pacific arc of Sundaland, or an accreted terrane?

For the United Translational Setting and a flatter Numannian of west Kalimanta
tiawan et al., 2013) and the plutons of Singapore
Peninsula (Fig. 13b; Liew, 1983; Oliver et al., 2
in the detrital zircons of the Triassic Sad Various techniques can differentiate autochthonous and allochthonous terranes (Burton -Johnson and Riley, 2015). However, with no paleomagnetic data or geochemical evidence for crustal assimilation in the SVFI or host ophiolite, the only available methodology to trace the origin of the Sabah arc is to compare the timing of SVFI magmatism with regional magmatic events and detrital zircon geochronology. The Paleo -Pacific arc of Sundaland experienced a peak in magmatic activity in the Triassic, including SE China, Hainan Island, Vietnam, the Malaysian Peninsula, and West Borneo (Breitfeld et al., 2017; Fyhn et al., 2016). Comparing the SVFI U -Pb data with outcrops along the Paleo -Pacific arc shows a close agreement between the Triassic SVFI ages and a flare -up in igneous magmatism in the NW Schwaner Mountains of west Kalimantan (Fig. 13 c; Hennig et al., 2017; Setiawan et al., 2013) and the plutons of Singapore and the east coast of the Malay Peninsula (Fig. 13 b; Liew, 1983; Oliver et al., 2014). This peak is also recorded in the detrital zircons of the Triassic Sadong Formation and Cretaceous Pedawan Formation of Sarawak (Fig. 13d and 1 3 e; Breitfeld et al., 2017). Similarly, the Jurassic SVFI ages are contemporaneous with another peak in Schwaner Mountains intrusive magmatism (Fig. 13 c; Hennig et al., 2017) and the onset of another peak in detrital zircon ages in the Cretaceous Pedawan Formation (Fig. 13 d; Breitfeld et al., 2017). With this close agreement in the geochronology from both the magmatic and detrital record, we propose that the Triassic and Jurassic arc of Sabah is an autochthonous continuation of the Sundaland Paleo -Pacific arc rather than an accreted allochthonous terrane.

Previous tectonic reconstructions of Borneo (Fig. 14a; Breitfeld et al., 2017; Hall, 2017; Hennig et al., 2017) have assumed an absence of autochthonous pre - Cretaceous crust beneath Sabah, and have suggested that the region developed as a result of the accretion of allochthonous crust in the Cretaceous (the Inner Banda Block; Hennig et al., 2017, 2016). Our identification of the Paleo -Pacific arc continuing from Kalimantan to Sabah during the Triassic and Jurassic challenges this model, developing Sabah *in -situ* through autochthonous growth through supra -subduction zone magmatism, and extending the arc and the region of early -Mesozoic crust in Borneo to the south (Fig. 14b). However, the Borneo crust would have been less extensive than it is today, as an extensional setting is required for the genesis of the Mesozoic supra -subduction zone

ophiolites and Mesozoic -Cenozoic basins, representing a protracted history of supra -subduction zone extension throughout the Mesozoic and Cenozoic. The evidence for, and distance by which the granitoids and their host rocks may have been transported by extensional or strike -slip tectonics may be potentially constrainable by paleomagnetic analysis.

7. Conclusions

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a continuation of the Mesozoic Paleo-Pacific cough SW Borneo, Sundaland, Vietnam, and SE Ch
re provide a minimum estimate for the format
c The tonalitic outcrops of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions are Triassic and Jurassic in age and post-date the supra-subduction zone rocks into which they are intruded These rocks are not windows or partial melts of an unexposed continental basement beneath Borneo. They represent mantle -derived arc magmatism in a continuation of the Mesozoic Paleo -Pacific continental arc that extended through SW Borneo, Sundaland, Vietnam, and SE China. Their age and intrusive nature provide a minimum estimate for the formation of the Sabah ophiolite, which must be of at least Triassic age. We propose that emplacement of the Sabah ophiolite continued over a protracted period into the Cretaceous , in an extensional, supra -subduction zone setting.

9. Acknowledgements

NERC supported this study through a PhD studentship to AB -J. We thank Richard Hinton for his analytical support in acquiring the U -Pb data, and Robert Hall, Mike Cottam, Juliane Hennig and the SE Asia Research Group at Royal Holloway for their support throughout this project and comments on this manuscript. We thank A.J. Barber and anonymous reviewer for their helpful and positive reviews, and Sanghoon Kwon for their work as our editor.

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1. Regional map and simplified geological map of Sabah, showing the distribution of Mesozoic ophiolite outcrops, Cenozoic magmatism, and sedimentary basins (Kirk, 1968, Hutchison, 2005).

Fig. 2. Regional distribution of ophiolites and Mesozoic magmatism in SE Asia and the South China Sea (Hutchison, 1975, 2005; Kirk, 1968; Moss, 1998; Steinshouer et al., 1999; Wakita et al., 1998).

Fig. 3. Regional map of the Segama Valley area, Sabah, and sample locations of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions.

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Fig. 4. IUGS QAP (Streckeisen, 1976) classifications of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions. Sections stained for plagioclase and K-Feldspar. Point counting based on 300 points per sample.

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Fig. 5. a) Xenolith of basaltic country rock within the S. Purut tonalite near the intrusive contact. b) Downstream end of the Danum Gorge, showing the intrusive contact of the S. Danum tonalite intrusion with the sedimentary country rock. c) Contact margin between the S. Danum intrusion and sedimentary country rock. 71 cm long sledgehammer for scale.

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Fig. 6. Concordia diagrams of the zircon U-Pb dating of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions. Error ellipses denote 2 sigma. Uncertainties in calculated age are the 95% confidence limit. Inlays show representative cathodoluminescence images of the analysed zircons from each sample, with 100 µm scale bars. MSWD – mean square of weighted deviates.

Fig. 7. a), b), and c) Major element classification diagrams for the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions. Felsic plutons from the Segama Valley from Kirk (1968) and Leong (1974) plotted for comparison. Classification fields from Le Maitre et al. (1989), Rickwood (1989). d) Tectonic discrimination diagram of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (Pearce et al., 1984). ORG – Ocean ridge granitoids; Syn-COLG – Syn-collisional granitoids; VAG – Volcanic arc granitoids; WPG – Withinplate granitoids.

Fig. 8. Geochemical discrimination diagrams for the mafic rocks of the Segama Valley and Darvel Bay ophiolite (this study and Omang and Barber, 1996). a) Delineation of the tholeiitic and calc-alkaline series (Irvine and Baragar, 1971). b) and c) Tectonic discrimination diagrams (Pearce and Cann, 1973). CAB – Calcalkaline basalt; LKT – Low-potassium tholeiite; OFB – Ocean floor basalt; WPB – Within plate basalt.

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Fig. 9. Normalised multi-element plots for the felsic Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions. Normalising values and N-MORB composition from Sun and McDonough (1989).

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989).

Fig. 10. Comparison of isotopic signatures of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions with values for spreading ridge basalts (shaded area) of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans (data from PetDB) and the Plio-Pleistocene basalts and basaltic andesites of the Semporna Peninsula (Fig. 1; Macpherson et al., 2010). Isotopic values corrected to the mean U-Pb zircon age of the four SVFI samples (Fig. 6, 212 Ma).

Firal and δ^{18} O values of the segama valley relisted analysed for U-Pb, Fig. 6). Dark grey box indicate
ope compositions from PetDB for the Atlantic, ing centres (Lehnert et al., 2000), for which
s assumed. δ^{18} O **Fig. 11.** Zircon Hf and δ18O values of the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions (for the same samples analysed for U-Pb, Fig. 6). Dark grey box indicates the 2SD range of MORB Hf isotope compositions from PetDB for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean spreading centres (Lehnert et al., 2000), for which a mantle δ^{18} O composition is assumed. δ^{18} O range for zircon in equilibrium with the mantle (5.3±0.3‰) from Valley (2003). CHUR 176 Hf/ 177 Hf value from Bouvier et al. (2008).

Fig. 12 . Comparison of analysed compositions (isotopes, trace elements and selected major elements) and EME -AFC modelling of the derivation of the A249 and A261 tonalites from the A247 basalt. Comparison of modelling of A261 with and without garnet fractionation when melt $SiO_2 > 63$ wt. % shown in 'b.2'. Cumulate plots a.8. and b.8. are whole rock values. Normalising values from Sun and McDonough (1989).

Sisic Sadong Formation, Sarawak

N=287

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Age, Ma

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Felsic Intrusions; b) the Triassic and Jurassic ploast of Peninsula Malaysia (Liew, 1983; Oliver e

untains, West **Fig. 13.** Probability density plots of 0-400 Ma ²⁰⁶Pb/238U zircon ages from a) the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions; b) the Triassic and Jurassic plutons of Singapore and the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia (Liew, 1983; Oliver et al., 2014); c) the Schwaner Mountains, West Kalimantan (Hennig et al., 2017; Setiawan et al., 2013); and detrital zircon ages from the d) Pedawan and e) Sadong Formations of Sarawak, NW Borneo (Breitfeld et al., 2017).

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antic tectonic reconstructions of SE Asia in the Time

of Segama Valley intrusions. a) Reconstructic

active magnatism from Breitfeld **Fig. 14.** Schematic tectonic reconstructions of SE Asia in the Triassic to show the possible origin of Segama Valley intrusions. a) Reconstruction of Hennig et al. (2017) with active magmatism from Breitfeld et al. (2017). b) Modified reconstruction of Hennig et al. (2017) incorporating the data presented in this study. The Paleo-Pacific arc is extended into Sabah, with a consequent requirement for incorporation of much of Borneo. Other Triassic or earliest Jurassic outcrops in Borneo include the Schwaner Mountains of West Borneo (Hennig et al., 2017; Williams et al., 1988), the 197.8 to 110 Ma Meratus ophiolite of Kalimantan (Coggon et al., 2011; Wakita et al., 1998), and the Triassic Sadong and Kuching Formations of Sarawak (Breitfeld et al., 2017). For clarity, the present day coastline of Borneo is shown. However, (as noted in the text) the extensional basin setting of Sabah's ophiolite and sedimentary basins indicates protracted crustal extension through the Mesozoic and Cenozoic.

Triassic (c. 240-200 Ma)

Data Tables

Table 1. Point counting data for the Segama Valley Felsic Intrusions. Mineral abundances presented here were calculated from point counted sections stained for plagioclase and K-feldspar. Point counting based on 300 points per sample. QAP modal mineral classifications are shown in Fig. 4.

Table 2. Zircon U -Pb data, sorted by sample then age. *Analysis identification, where x (recent Pb loss) and i (inherited grain) analyses were excluded from age calculations. †Percentage of common 206Pb estimated from the measured 204Pb. Common Pb correction not applied.

Table 3. Whole rock major and trace element data. *Sample preparation method: F, sample fused prior to acid dissolution; HF, sample dissolved without prior flux fusion.

Table 4. Whole rock radiogenic isotope data.

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Table 5. Zircon oxygen and Hf isotopic data. Oxygen values are mean and 1 SD error (sum of internal and external precision) for all analysed samples (excluding the grains identified for Pb loss or inheritance in Table 2).

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Declaration of interests

 \boxtimes The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

 \boxtimes The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

 N/A

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Graphical abstract

