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Nunavut**

*W.J. Davis, R.H. Rainbird, L.B. Aspler,
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Detrital zircon geochronology of the Paleoproterozoic Hurwitz and Kiyuk groups, western Churchill Province, Nunavut

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Abstract: U-Pb ages of detrital zircons from the Paleoproterozoic Hurwitz Group establish depositional age limits for the upper part of the group (Watterson and Tavani formations) and document significant changes in sediment provenance through time. The lower Hurwitz Group (sequences 1 and 2) was deposited after 2.45 Ga, but before 2.11 Ga. Detrital zircons from Sequence 1 range in age from 2.73 to 2.66 Ga, characteristic of local basement rocks of the Hearne Domain. In contrast, the upper Hurwitz Group (sequences 3 and 4) has a broad-spectrum provenance dominated by 2.4 to 1.9 Ga zircons and a significant population at ca. 2.6 Ga. A weighted mean age of the youngest detrital zircon from the Tavani Formation provides a revised maximum depositional age of 1.911 ± 0.007 Ga. The most likely source for the 2.4 to 1.9 Ga zircons is the Taltson-Thelon Orogen, approximately 500 km to the west of the Hurwitz Basin. Zircon grains of similar age in the unconformably overlying Kiyuk Group suggest reworking and redeposition of Hurwitz Group during Trans-Hudson-related deformation.

Résumé : Des âges U-Pb obtenus sur des zircons détritiques du Groupe de Hurwitz (Paléoprotérozoïque) fournissent des limites temporelles pour le dépôt de la partie supérieure du groupe (formations de Watterson et de Tavani) et permettent de documenter d'importants changements de la provenance des sédiments en fonction du temps. La partie inférieure du Groupe de Hurwitz (séquences 1 et 2) a été déposée après 2,45 Ga mais avant 2,11 Ga. L'âge des zircons détritiques de la séquence 1 varie de 2,73 à 2,66 Ga, soit une fourchette d'âges caractéristique des roches du domaine de Hearne qui constituent le socle à cet endroit. Par contraste, la partie supérieure du Groupe de Hurwitz (séquences 3 et 4) contient des zircons de provenance très variée, qui ont livré pour la plupart des âges s'échelonnant de 2,4 à 1,9 Ga, mais dont une population significative date d'environ 2,6 Ga. Un âge moyen pondéré pour le plus jeune zircon détritique extrait de la Formation de Tavani a fourni un nouvel âge maximal de dépôt de $1,911 \pm 0,007$ Ga. La source la plus vraisemblable des zircons âgés de 2,4 à 1,9 Ga est l'orogène de Taltson-Thelon, à environ 500 km à l'ouest du bassin de Hurwitz. La présence de zircons d'un âge similaire dans le Groupe de Kiyuk, qui repose en discordance sur le Groupe de Hurwitz, suggère qu'il y a eu remaniement et resédimentation de ce dernier pendant la déformation associée à l'orogène trans-hudsonien.

INTRODUCTION

Establishing the time of deposition, as well as the source regions contributing to sedimentary sequences, is key to evaluating tectonic controls on basin formation and evolution. This is a particular challenge for Precambrian basins that typically preserve limited, or no, biostratigraphic control. The depositional ages of many of the extensive Paleoproterozoic intracratonic sedimentary basins of the Canadian Shield remain very poorly established, and the relationships of their sequence stratigraphy to specific tectonic events are correspondingly poorly known. In this paper the authors present U-Pb SHRIMP (Sensitive High Resolution Ion Micro Probe) ages for detrital zircons from the Hurwitz Group and Kiyuk Group, Paleoproterozoic intracratonic successions in the northwestern Canadian Shield. These data establish estimates for the maximum depositional age of the succession that help place their development within the broader tectonic setting of the assembly of Laurentia.

The Hurwitz Group was originally interpreted to represent a passive margin to foredeep developed on the Archean Hearne Domain within the broad tectonic context of the Trans-Hudson Orogen (Bell, 1970; Lewry et al., 1985; Young, 1988). In this model, lower units were interpreted as the deposits of an intracratonic basin associated with a rift-passive margin sequence that developed during opening of the Manikewan Ocean (Stauffer, 1984), and the upper units were related to foredeep-forebulge migration associated with Superior-Hearne collision (Trans-Hudson Orogeny). The lower units, in particular glaciogenic deposits of the Padlei Formation, were correlated with the Huronian and the Snowy Pass supergroups (Young, 1988). This model was subsequently invalidated based on a baddeleyite age of 2.111 ± 0.001 Ga (Patterson and Heaman, 1991) for gabbro sills within the lower Hurwitz Group (but not the upper Hurwitz Group). The basin was reinterpreted to have developed in response to a protracted break-up of a proposed Archean supercontinent between 2.45 Ga and 2.1 Ga (Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 1996, 1997; Aspler et al., 2001).

The protracted break-up model assumed that the Hurwitz Group was a broadly conformable sequence that entirely predated 2.11 Ga, the minimum age constraint imposed by the gabbro sills. However, U-Pb SHRIMP ages of detrital zircons indicate that there was a protracted hiatus in deposition of the Hurwitz Group that was accompanied by a profound change in its provenance (Davis et al. 2000; Aspler et al. 2001).

One of the difficulties in interpreting the data set of detrital ages reported by Davis et al. (2000) was that the precision on the youngest detrital grain in the upper Hurwitz Group, and by inference the maximum depositional age estimate of the succession, was insufficient to constrain different tectonic scenarios. To address this, additional work has been completed that improves the

precision on the maximum age estimate of the upper Hurwitz Group previously reported in Davis et al. (2000) and Aspler et al. (2001).

REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Hurwitz Group is a succession of continental siliciclastic and marine carbonate rocks up to 8.5 km thick, preserved as erosional remnants of basement-cover infolds across the Hearne Domain of the western Churchill Province, west of Hudson Bay (Figure 1; Lord, 1953; Wright, 1967; Bell, 1970; Eade, 1974; Aspler et al. 2001). The western Churchill Province is predominantly composed of Neoproterozoic rocks that were variably reworked during assembly of Laurentia at 1.9–1.75 Ga (Hoffman, 1988). The region is divided into the Rae and Hearne domains by the Snowbird tectonic zone, a major intracrustal geophysical lineament that records Neoproterozoic and Paleoproterozoic histories (e.g. Hanmer et al., 1995).

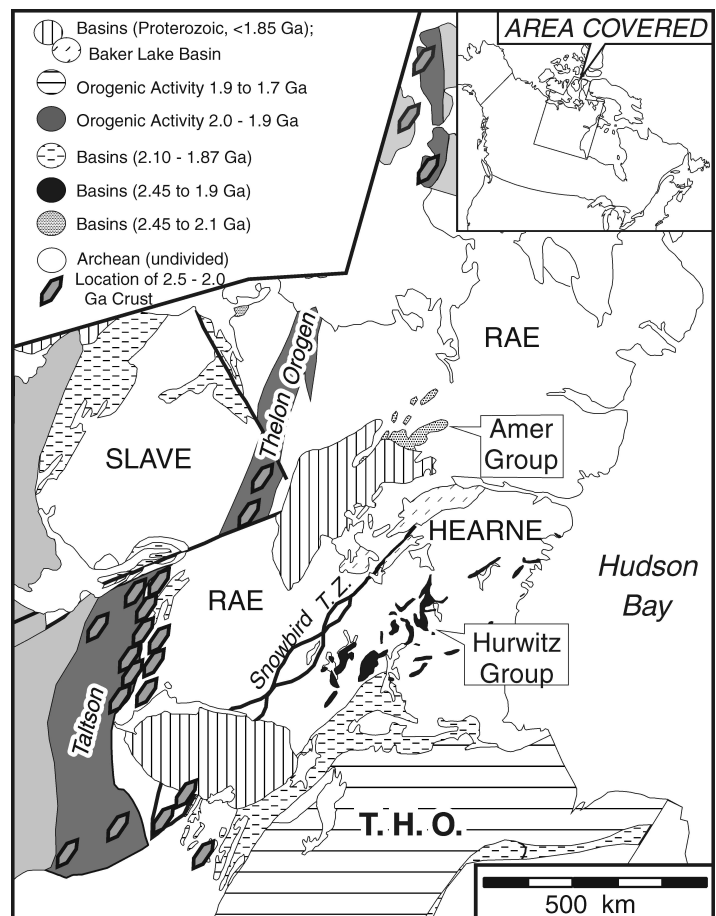


Figure 1. Map of principal tectonic elements of northwestern Laurentia (after Hoffman, 1988). Rocks of the Hurwitz Group are indicated by black fill pattern. Locations of potential source rocks for upper Hurwitz sequences with ages between 2.5 Ga and 2.0 Ga are indicated by symbols (after Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 1998). T.H.O. — Trans-Hudson Orogen.

The western boundary of the western Churchill Province is the Taltson-Thelon zone, a major plutono-metamorphic belt that developed during collision of the Slave and Buffalo Head terrane with the Rae at 2.0–1.9 Ga (e.g. Hoffman, 1989; Henderson and Loveridge, 1990; McDonough et al., 2000; McNicoll et al., 2000). To the east and southeast lies the Trans-Hudson Orogen that represents the orogenic suture between the western Churchill and Superior cratons at 1.86–1.76 Ga. The Hurwitz group occurs in the Hearne Province.

STRATIGRAPHY OF THE HURWITZ AND KİYUK GROUPS

Aspler et al (2001) divided the Hurwitz Group into four large-scale sequences of unspecified order. A schematic stratigraphic section is presented in Figure 2 and detailed lithological descriptions are provided in Aspler and Chiarenzelli (1996, 1997, 2002) and Aspler et al. (1994, 2001). Sequences 1 and 2 are informally referred to as the lower Hurwitz Group and sequences 3 and 4 are referred to as the upper Hurwitz Group, with the boundary being at the contact between the Ameto and the Watterson formations. The Hurwitz Group unconformably overlies Archean rocks (ca. 2.8–2.5 Ga) and local wedges of litharenite and conglomerate of the Montgomery Lake Group (Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 1997). A maximum depositional age is provided by the 2.45 Ga Kaminak dyke swarm that cuts basement but not the Hurwitz Group (Heaman, 1997).

Sequence 1 consists of predominantly siliciclastic rocks (Noomut, Padlei, and Kinga formations) deposited in shallow-water marine to fluvial environments. The Padlei Formation comprises conglomerate and sandstone, including horizons of probable glaciogenic origin (Young and McLennan, 1981; Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 1997). The Kinga Formation includes sandstone and conglomerate interpreted to be fluvial deposits, with locally preserved dolostone intercalations indicating short-lived marine incursions (Maguse member). Extensive ripple-marked quartz arenite in the upper (Whiterock) member is interpreted to have been deposited in broad, shallow lakes (Aspler et al., 1994). The Kinga Formation is capped by a discontinuous unit, less than 25 m thick, of bedded chert and chert breccia, originally interpreted as silcrete by Bell (1970), but reinterpreted as hot-spring sinter deposits by Aspler and Chiarenzelli (1997).

Sequence 2 is represented by the Ameto Formation, a succession of fine-grained siliciclastic rocks that mark a period of basin-deepening, with local areas of magmatism. Sequences 1 and 2 are cut by the ca. 2.11 Ga Griffin (formerly Hurwitz) gabbro units, which are interpreted to have been intruded after lithification of the sedimentary rocks (Aspler et al., 2002b).

Sequence 3 is a mixed siliciclastic-carbonate succession interpreted to have been deposited on an emergent, shallow marine ramp (Watterson Formation) that was buried by deltaic, fluvial, and lacustrine deposits (Ducker and lower Tavani formations). Sequence 4 (upper Tavani Formation) is characterized by stromatolitic dolostone and sandstone that mark a

marine transgression and return to mixed siliciclastic-carbonate shelf deposition. Sequence 3 unconformably overlies Archean rocks in western and northern Hurwitz Basin; elsewhere it disconformably overlies the lower Hurwitz Group with no indication of significant erosion, tilting, or weathering (Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 2002).

The Kiyuk Group is a continental deposit made up of a fining-upward succession of conglomerate, arkose, and intraformational breccia (Aspler et al. 2002a). These rocks unconformably overlie the entire Hurwitz Group. The Kiyuk Group has most recently been interpreted as continental rift deposits, attending late-stage opening of the Manikewan Ocean (Aspler et al. 2002a).

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Detrital zircons were separated and analyzed from three samples of the lower Hurwitz Group: one from the Padlei Formation, one from the Maguse member of the Kinga Formation, and one from the Whiterock member of the Kinga Formation. Sample locations are found in Table 1. The Padlei Formation sample is from an arkosic conglomerate collected from the southeast side of Mackenzie Lake, part of a sequence of interbedded conglomerates and sandstones of probable fluvial origin referred to previously as the ‘Mackenzie Lake metasediments’ (Aspler et al., 2000). Clasts in the conglomerate are well rounded and predominantly quartzose sandstone. Crossbedding at the sample locality indicates unimodal transport to the southwest. Detrital zircon grains generally are large and well to very well rounded, with only a few euhedral grains. Magnetite is the other ubiquitous heavy mineral phase in this sample. The sample from the Whiterock member is a kyanite-bearing quartz arenite from the southern end of Mackenzie Lake. Heavy-mineral banding, well developed at the sample locality, outlines tectonically folded bedding and crossbedding. This sample yielded detrital zircons with a wide variety of grain morphologies, including some large tabular euhedral grains in the more magnetic fractions, and smaller, generally well-rounded grains in the less magnetic fractions. The sample from the Maguse member is a medium-grained quartz arenite with jasper granules from the northeast end of Kaminak Lake. The sample was collected several metres above an erosional unconformity above mafic volcanic rocks of the Kaminak greenstone belt. Trough crossbedding at the sample site indicates paleoflow toward the southeast. Detrital zircons are widely varied in size, colour, and morphology.

Two samples of the upper Hurwitz Group were investigated; one each from the Watterson and Tavani formations. Additionally, one sample from the K2 subunit of the Kiyuk Group was investigated. The sample of the Watterson Formation is from an outcrop of very fine grained, carbonate-cemented quartz wacke, from near the middle of formation. Zircons are small (typically less than 100 microns), and euhedral to moderately rounded. A medium- to coarse-grained, sublithic wacke, collected near the base of the Tavani

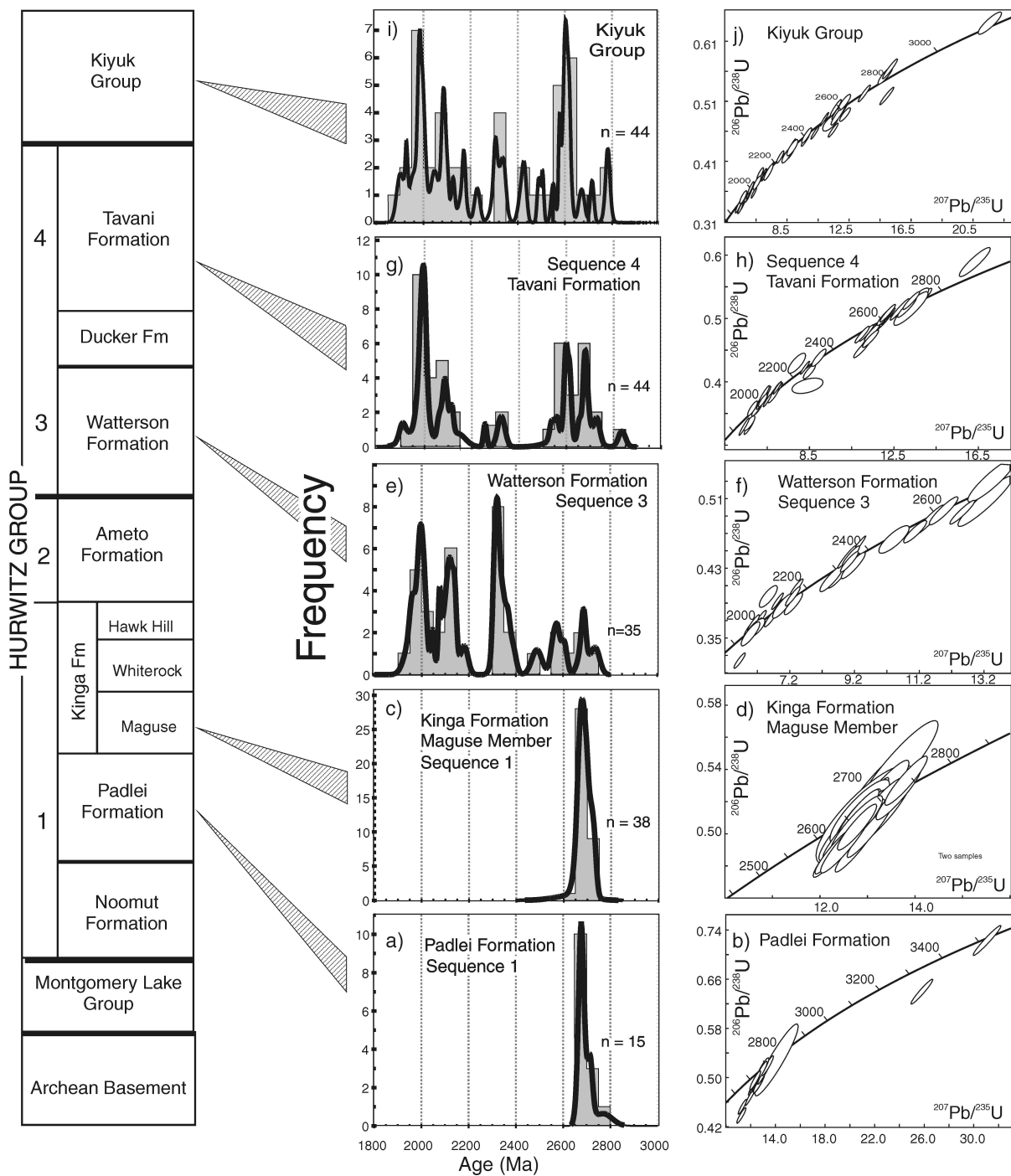


Figure 2. Schematic stratigraphic column showing relationships between Kiyuk, Hurwitz, and Montgomery Lake groups. U-Pb zircon age data are shown in cumulative probability plots, histograms (bin width — 50 Ma), and on concordia diagrams. Arrows indicate approximate stratigraphic position of analyzed samples. Data used in cumulative probability diagrams and histograms were screened at <5% discordance.

formation, contains heavy-mineral bands with large, well rounded detrital zircons. The sample of the Kiyuk Formation is a fine-grained arkose.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

U-Pb isotopic data were acquired using the Geological Survey of Canada Sensitive High Resolution Ion Micro Probe (SHRIMP II). Analytical methods are provided in greater detail in Stern (1997) and Stern (1998). Zircons were separated from 1 to 2 kg samples using standard crushing, heavy liquid, and magnetic separation techniques, then mounted and polished along with grains of Kipawa zircon standard in a 2.5 cm epoxy disc. Back-scatter electron and cathodoluminescence images were made using a scanning electron microscope to fully characterize the internal structures of the grains and aid in beam positioning. Bias in the measured Pb/U values was corrected relative to the Kipawa zircon standard ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age = 993Ma) using a linear calibration curve determined between $^{206}\text{Pb}+^{238}\text{U}^+$ and $^{254}\text{U}+^{238}\text{U}^+$. Final U-Pb ages are reported with 1 sigma errors in Table 1 and shown at two-sigma in concordia diagrams.

AGE AND PROVENANCE OF DETRITAL ZIRCONS

Hurwitz Group: Sequence 1

U-Pb ages of zircons from three samples of the lower Hurwitz Group define a narrow range, with 94% of the analyses between 2.73 and 2.66 Ga (Figure 2 a, b, c, d). These ages are characteristic of local basement rocks, such as those in the Kaminak greenstone belt (Davis et al., 2004). A subordinate component of pre-3.0 Ga zircon in the Padlei sample (two grains: 3.432 ± 0.007 Ga and 3.529 ± 0.007 Ga (Table 1), taken from near the northwestern limit of Hurwitz Basin, represent the only grains with a provenance exotic to the local basement. The well-rounded morphology of many of the zircons, particularly in the Padlei Formation conglomerate, suggests that they may have been reworked from an older, texturally mature source, as also indicated by the rounded quartzite clasts in the conglomerate. The detrital zircon age-profile is similar to that obtained for the Happy Lake quartzite, a putative outlier of Kinga Formation, located about 40 km northeast of the Maguse member sample site from this study (Rainbird et al., 2002).

Upper Hurwitz Group: Sequence 3

In marked contrast to sequence 1, two samples from sequence 3 of the upper Hurwitz Group are characterized by detrital zircons ranging in age from ca. 2.83 Ga to 1.91 Ga (Figure 2e, f, g, h). In the quartz wacke sample from the Watterson Formation, 84% of the 36 grains (35 on plot) analyzed are Paleoproterozoic, with significant peaks on a probability distribution plot at 2.35 to 2.31Ga, 2.15 to 2.10 Ga, and 2.00 to 1.95 Ga (Figure 2e). Rocks of similar ages are common in the southwestern Rae Province, Thelon-Taltson magmatic

zone and Buffalo Head Terrane (*see* compilations in van Breemen et al., 1992; Aspler and Chiarenzelli, 1998; McNicoll, et al., 2000). In particular, the most common detrital ages of 2.35 to 2.31 Ga are similar to the age of basement gneisses from the southern part of the Taltson magmatic zone (McNicoll et al., 2000) and the adjacent southwestern Rae Province (Figure 1; van Breemen and Bostock, 1994; Bostock et al., 1987; van Schmus et al., 1986; R. Hartlaub, pers. comm., 2002). The remaining grains define peaks at both 2.58 and 2.70 Ga, common ages of magmatic rocks in the western Churchill Province. The youngest $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age at 1.960 ± 0.022 Ga (- 2.9 % discordant) provides an estimate of the maximum depositional age.

The majority of the 50 zircons analyzed from the lower Tavani sandstone are Paleoproterozoic (Fig. 2g, Table 1). The most prominent peak on the cumulative probability plot, representing 25% of the analyses, is at 2.00 to 1.99 Ga. Rocks within this age range include the Deskenatlata igneous suite from the northern end of Taltson magmatic zone (van Breemen et al., 1992), and mylonitic gneisses from the Thelon Orogen (van Breemen et al., 1987a, b). There are several grains showing ages between 2.05 and 2.09 Ga, which are ages that have been recorded in the Buffalo Head Terrane (Villeneuve et al., 1993). Significant populations at ~2.59 and ~2.68 Ga are common ages for rocks from the Slave and western Churchill provinces.

The youngest $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age for zircon in the Tavani Formation was previously reported as 1.907 ± 0.024 Ga in Davis et al. (2000). The imprecision in the resulting maximum depositional age estimate of the sequence meant that the relationship of the basin to complex tectonic events that occurred in the area between 1.92 and 1.83 Ga could not be constrained. For this reason additional analyses have been carried out, comprising a total of 12 analyses of three locations on the youngest grain (Grain 49, Table 1; Figure 3). In order to perform as many analyses as possible on a single grain, replicate analyses within one spot were performed.

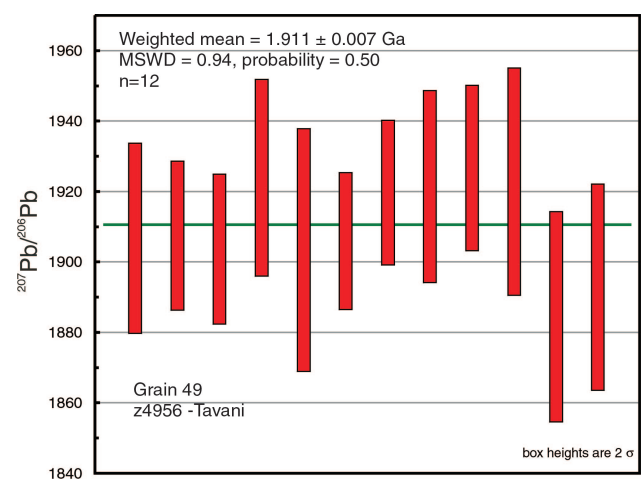


Figure 3. Weighted average age of youngest grain recovered from sample of Tavani Formation (IsoplotEx 2.49; Ludwig, 2001).

Table 1. U-Pb analytical data.

Analyses	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th U	Pb* (ppm)	²⁰⁴ Pb (ppb)	²⁰⁴ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁴ Pb ± ²⁰⁶ Pb	f(206) ²⁰⁴	²⁰⁸ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	± ²⁰⁸ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁶ Pb / ²³⁸ U	± ²⁰⁶ Pb / ²³⁸ U	²⁰⁷ Pb / ²³⁵ U	± ²⁰⁷ Pb / ²³⁵ U	²⁰⁷ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	± ²⁰⁷ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	Apparent Age	
																	²⁰⁷ Pb / ²⁰⁶ Pb	Disc. (%)
Padlei Formation - Z5200 Location UTM 15: 361523E 6947486N (NAD 27)																		
1.1	78	54	0.692	41	1	0.000026	0.000034	0.00046	0.1960	0.0033	0.4383	0.0064	11.2491	0.1866	0.0012	2708	11	13.5
2.1	48	36	0.750	28	1	0.000036	0.000059	0.00062	0.2014	0.0036	0.4897	0.0092	12.5730	0.2826	0.0019	2709	17	5.2
3.1	86	111	1.286	54	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.3503	0.0027	0.4722	0.0090	12.0550	0.2471	0.0010	2699	9	7.6
4.1	67	52	0.779	41	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2159	0.0021	0.5144	0.0083	12.8882	0.1832	0.0010	2682	9	0.9
5.1	73	69	0.951	46	0	0.000008	0.000036	0.00014	0.2644	0.0030	0.5134	0.0084	12.9476	0.2467	0.0014	2679	13	0.3
6.1	80	146	1.831	57	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.4990	0.0035	0.4899	0.0069	12.4282	0.1985	0.0011	2689	10	4.4
7.1	110	85	0.776	64	3	0.000064	0.000027	0.00111	0.2092	0.0025	0.4851	0.0069	12.1961	0.1932	0.0010	2674	9	4.7
8.1	99	59	0.594	56	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1684	0.0015	0.4880	0.0064	12.6006	0.1948	0.0012	2718	11	5.8
9.1	125	101	0.809	73	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2192	0.0016	0.4879	0.0064	12.2994	0.1849	0.0011	2679	10	4.4
10.1	86	70	0.817	81	3	0.000048	0.000027	0.00084	0.2072	0.0022	0.7231	0.0122	31.0757	0.5611	0.0014	3529	7	0.6
11.1	56	51	0.924	35	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2583	0.0033	0.5107	0.0110	13.1574	0.3018	0.0011	2715	10	2.0
12.1	94	58	0.620	55	3	0.000076	0.000026	0.00132	0.1786	0.0019	0.4938	0.0075	12.3957	0.2062	0.0009	2672	8	3.2
13.1	97	131	1.343	67	1	0.000024	0.000019	0.00042	0.3772	0.0026	0.5149	0.0069	12.9524	0.1947	0.0010	2675	9	-0.1
14.1	78	64	0.828	49	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2302	0.0033	0.5193	0.0082	13.3700	0.2366	0.0012	2714	11	0.6
15.1	104	115	1.108	61	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.3128	0.0029	0.4524	0.0061	11.3341	0.1727	0.0010	2668	9	9.8
16.1	50	59	1.182	33	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.3205	0.0030	0.5160	0.0080	12.9957	0.2379	0.0015	2677	13	-0.2
17.1	68	89	1.313	46	1	0.000026	0.000040	0.00046	0.3613	0.0035	0.5098	0.0083	12.8524	0.2424	0.0014	2679	13	0.9
18.1	87	54	0.613	70	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1717	0.0016	0.6397	0.0101	25.8112	0.4404	0.0014	3432	7	7.1
20.1	4	224	61.610	31	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	17.1791	0.3188	0.5287	0.0292	14.0847	0.8770	0.0044	2770	37	1.2
21.1	114	142	1.243	74	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.3399	0.0031	0.4956	0.0078	12.3695	0.2206	0.0012	2662	11	2.5
Kinga Formation - Maguse Member Z5201 Location UTM 14: 535647E 6801233N (NAD 27)																		
1.1	45	17	0.366	26	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1023	0.0023	0.5082	0.0099	12.9115	0.3117	0.0022	2692	20	1.6
2.1	55	44	0.793	33	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2257	0.0033	0.5007	0.0097	12.6604	0.2838	0.0017	2684	15	2.5
3.1	134	102	0.756	81	1	0.000012	0.000023	0.00021	0.2148	0.0018	0.4991	0.0070	12.4419	0.1896	0.0008	2660	8	1.9
4.1	66	58	0.873	42	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2428	0.0024	0.5184	0.0075	13.4131	0.2203	0.0011	2722	10	1.1
6.1	94	82	0.880	59	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2507	0.0026	0.5126	0.0074	12.8154	0.2151	0.0012	2665	11	-0.1
7.1	124	103	0.831	78	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2309	0.0020	0.5170	0.0068	13.3261	0.1908	0.0008	2716	7	1.1
9.1	38	32	0.838	24	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2344	0.0034	0.5151	0.0098	13.1992	0.2869	0.0016	2706	14	1.0
10.1	73	38	0.518	42	3	0.000099	0.000051	0.00172	0.1414	0.0025	0.5071	0.0072	12.9393	0.2143	0.0013	2699	11	2.0
11.1	64	23	0.358	36	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.0987	0.0028	0.5053	0.0092	12.7677	0.2771	0.0018	2682	16	1.7
12.1	82	42	0.515	47	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1425	0.0018	0.5016	0.0082	13.0380	0.2336	0.0011	2729	9	4.0
13.1	39	19	0.475	23	2	0.000104	0.000083	0.00181	0.1289	0.0046	0.5070	0.0105	12.7667	0.3268	0.0023	2677	21	1.2
14.1	60	40	0.660	34	1	0.000028	0.000032	0.00049	0.1863	0.0029	0.4884	0.0077	12.2919	0.2181	0.0012	2676	10	4.2
15.1	86	50	0.581	48	0	0.000002	0.000029	0.00004	0.1594	0.0019	0.4888	0.0069	12.2801	0.1929	0.0010	2673	9	4.0
16.1	51	31	0.603	31	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1708	0.0021	0.5250	0.0081	13.6558	0.2383	0.0012	2730	10	0.4
17.1	57	50	0.877	35	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1698	0.0031	0.4938	0.0071	12.5296	0.2595	0.0014	2689	12	3.8
18.1	69	42	0.604	41	0	0.000016	0.000029	0.00028	0.1698	0.0021	0.5041	0.0071	12.7810	0.2070	0.0012	2688	10	2.1
19.1	8	5	0.622	5	2	0.000682	0.000352	0.01182	0.1453	0.0154	0.5036	0.0187	12.3143	0.7199	0.0072	2628	69	0.0
20.1	66	26	0.400	39	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1098	0.0016	0.5330	0.0076	13.8135	0.2245	0.0011	2724	10	-1.1
Kinga Formation - Maguse Member Z5204 Location UTM 14: 365695E 6906440N (NAD 27)																		
2.1	38	29	0.748	23	1	0.000047	0.000072	0.00082	0.2058	0.0037	0.5019	0.0094	12.5235	0.2743	0.0017	2662	16	1.5
3.1	14	4	0.272	8	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.0812	0.0030	0.5140	0.0159	12.9916	0.4419	0.0020	2683	18	0.4
4.1	20	7	0.330	12	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.0920	0.0024	0.5407	0.0148	13.6207	0.4335	0.0024	2678	22	-4.1

Table 1. (cont.)

Analyses	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th U	Pb* (ppm)	²⁰⁴ Pb (ppb)	²⁰⁴ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	\pm ²⁰⁴ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	f(206) ²⁰⁴	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	\pm ²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	\pm ²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	\pm ²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²³⁵ U	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	\pm ²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	Apparent Age		
																	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	Disc. (%)	
18.1	444	176	0.3971	184	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1132	0.0008	0.1103	0.0017	0.3870	0.0050	7.0475	0.0986	2126	7	0.8
19.1	273	84.5	0.309	144	1	0.000008	0.000007	0.00013	0.0854	0.0006	0.1346	0.0020	0.4868	0.0058	11.7107	0.1523	2601	6	1.7
20.1	189	52.7	0.2791	69	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.0807	0.0015	0.1016	0.0020	0.3514	0.0047	9.9680	0.0940	2003	12	3.1
21.1	213	86.3	0.4058	96	0	0.000003	0.000019	0.00005	0.1219	0.0015	0.1253	0.0023	0.4171	0.0052	8.0566	0.1188	2228	11	-0.8
22.1	196	158	0.8079	115	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2250	0.0018	0.1354	0.0020	0.4862	0.0060	11.6576	0.1523	2596	6	1.6
24.1	724	698	0.9637	306	8	0.000037	0.000006	0.00065	0.2862	0.0012	0.1034	0.0034	0.3483	0.0160	5.8453	0.1606	1981	5	2.8
25.1	72.3	57.6	0.7978	46	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2266	0.0018	0.1486	0.0026	0.5230	0.0071	13.4819	0.1991	2716	8	0.1
26.1	583	14.6	0.025	289	1	0.000004	0.000004	0.00007	0.0070	0.0002	0.1372	0.0043	0.4885	0.0056	11.5815	0.1373	2577	3	0.5
27.1	81.7	52.6	0.6436	33	0	0.000015	0.000029	0.00025	0.1842	0.0029	0.1016	0.0027	0.3551	0.0067	5.9964	0.1318	1993	17	1.7
28.1	115	66.3	0.578	50	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1621	0.0015	0.1091	0.0018	0.3892	0.0050	6.7641	0.1080	2043	14	-3.7
29.1	295	230	0.7791	138	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2244	0.0013	0.115	0.0017	0.3993	0.0050	7.4666	0.1012	2172	6	0.3
30.1	142	77.4	0.544	81	1	0.000014	0.000010	0.00024	0.1541	0.0012	0.1415	0.0022	0.4996	0.0063	12.0774	0.1633	2609	6	-0.1
31.1	82.8	189	2.2887	44	0	0.000010	0.000044	0.00017	0.6469	0.0070	0.099	0.0020	0.3501	0.0054	5.6696	0.1144	1918	20	-0.9
32.1	149	80.1	0.5381	84	0	0.000006	0.000017	0.00010	0.1522	0.0014	0.1402	0.0023	0.4958	0.0062	12.0624	0.1724	2620	10	0.9
33.1	189	110	0.5815	93	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1644	0.0012	0.1234	0.0020	0.4362	0.0056	8.8084	0.1227	2305	7	-1.2
34.1	452	147	0.3245	245	1	0.000007	0.000005	0.00011	0.0902	0.0007	0.138	0.0024	0.4965	0.0067	12.0708	0.1708	2619	5	0.8
36.1	132	97	0.7334	77	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.2020	0.0014	0.1356	0.0021	0.4924	0.0063	11.7060	0.1606	2581	6	0.0
37.1	182	69.6	0.3822	69	1	0.000015	0.000012	0.00025	0.1099	0.0015	0.1025	0.0021	0.3564	0.0048	6.0360	0.0892	1998	8	1.6
38.1	232	59.6	0.2566	105	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.0711	0.0021	0.1198	0.0041	0.4326	0.0067	8.8417	0.1797	2326	19	0.3
39.1	944	632	0.6698	741	5	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1802	0.0030	0.1722	0.0039	0.6401	0.0092	21.5844	0.3785	3150	13	-1.3
40.1	175	214	1.2248	73	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.3517	0.0027	0.0953	0.0016	0.3318	0.0045	5.4825	0.0877	1954	12	5.4
41.1	132	41	0.3105	77	1	0.000016	0.000020	0.00029	0.0911	0.0013	0.1522	0.0033	0.5188	0.0073	14.9359	0.2278	2896	7	7.0
42.1	230	201	0.8717	137	0	0.000002	0.000020	0.00004	0.2458	0.0030	0.1372	0.0030	0.4865	0.0082	11.7790	0.2254	2612	12	2.1
43.1	111	147	1.325	66	0	0.000009	0.000025	0.00015	0.3730	0.0026	0.1275	0.0025	0.4531	0.0064	9.7661	0.1651	2416	13	0.3
44.1	715	50	0.0699	279	8	0.000034	0.000017	0.00059	0.0231	0.0009	0.1295	0.0061	0.3918	0.0068	7.2990	0.1530	2166	17	1.6
45.1	217	115	0.5326	123	1	0.000008	0.000010	0.00013	0.1476	0.0015	0.1382	0.0026	0.4988	0.0071	11.6432	0.1837	2551	9	-2.3
46.1	332	145	0.4355	170	11	0.000087	0.000016	0.00151	0.1341	0.0012	0.1409	0.0022	0.4576	0.0054	10.2987	0.1331	2489	7	2.4
47.1	107	121	1.1328	69	7	0.000155	0.000034	0.00269	0.3066	0.0027	0.1375	0.0024	0.5081	0.0067	12.2015	0.2001	2598	14	-1.9
48.1	99.5	63.6	0.6388	66	0	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1780	0.0016	0.1572	0.0031	0.5640	0.0083	15.1423	0.2432	2782	8	-3.6
49.1	384	257	0.6685	163	1	0.000010	0.000010	0.00017	0.1925	0.0030	0.1077	0.0025	0.3741	0.0057	6.5571	0.1308	2059	20	0.5
50.1	179	70.2	0.3921	92	2	0.000022	0.000013	0.00038	0.1164	0.0013	0.1372	0.0025	0.4619	0.0059	11.4759	0.1627	2655	8	7.8

Notes (see Stern, 1997 for analytical details):

Analyses identification: grain number.location.analysis number

Uncertainties reported at 1σ (absolute) and are calculated by numerical propagation of all known sources of error

Pb* - radiogenic Pb

Calibration standard : Kipawa - Age = 993.4 Ma, ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U = 0.16655; error 1.1%; except for z5495- grain 49 replicates: z6266 - Age = 559 Ma, ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U = 0.09059;# error 1.7%.

f206²⁰⁴ refers to mole fraction of total ²⁰⁶Pb that is due to common Pb, calculated using the ²⁰⁴Pb-method; common Pb composition used is the surface blank: 4/6: 0.05770; 7/6: 0.89500; 8/6: 2.13840

Discordance relative to origin = 100 * (1 - (²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age)²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb ages

Because Pb/U calibration is sensitive to local charging and analytical pit depth, the accuracy of the Pb/U calibration for some of these analyses is uncertain. However, the analytical conditions have no effect on the $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios on which the age determination is based. The best estimate of the youngest grain in the upper Hurwitz Group is revised to 1.911 ± 0.007 Ga; slightly younger than the youngest grains in the Watterson Formation.

The Tavani and Watterson samples are both characterized by ca. 2.5 to 2.0 Ga zircons. However, the proportions of individual age populations as reflected in the principal peaks on the probability diagram are different for the two samples (Figure 2e, g). The Tavani sample is dominated by 2.00 to 1.99 Ga zircons, whereas the underlying Watterson sample has more significant populations at 2.35 to 2.31 Ga and 2.15 to 2.10 Ga. This is interpreted as a change in the dominant crustal age of the source region during the deposition of Sequence 3. The change may reflect unroofing and erosion of rocks with different crustal ages in the source region over time, or a shift in the geographical source area with time. Available data on possible source regions within the Taltson-Thelon and western Rae provinces are insufficient to discriminate between these possibilities.

Kiyuk Group

Forty-five detrital zircons analyzed from the Kiyuk Group (K-2 member) yielded U-Pb ages ranging between 2.8 Ga and 1.9 Ga (Figure 2i, j). The range of ages is broadly similar to those documented in the upper Hurwitz group, with significant populations at ca. 1.99 to 2.0 Ga and 2.6 Ga. However, unlike the samples from the upper Hurwitz Group, the Kiyuk Group sample has a more evenly distributed range of ages, possibly indicative of better mixing of source components. This well mixed signature may reflect polycyclic deposition, for example, due to recycling of underlying Hurwitz Group sedimentary units. If this is the case, the primary source area of Kiyuk detrital zircon grains cannot be inferred. The youngest grain analyzed in the Kiyuk Group yielded an age of 1.898 ± 0.028 Ga, within error of the youngest grain from the upper Hurwitz Group.

DISCUSSION

The detrital zircon age data revise the age for the upper Hurwitz Group to be $<1.960 \pm 0.022$ Ga for the Watterson Formation, and $<1.911 \pm 0.007$ Ga for the Tavani Formation. These maximum depositional ages are significantly younger than the 2.11 Ga minimum age for underlying sequences 1 and 2, and indicate a hiatus of at least 150 Ma between the upper and lower Hurwitz Group (Davis et al. 2000; Aspler et al. 2001). The subtlety of such a significant time break within the succession was interpreted to reflect apparent tectonic stability within the basin during an interval of nondeposition from 2.11 to 1.96 Ga (Aspler et al., 2001).

A fundamental difference in the provenance of the Hurwitz Group is documented over the depositional hiatus, from Archean sources with a narrow range of crystallization ages, to mainly Proterozoic sources with a broader range of crystallization ages. The detrital zircons in the lower Hurwitz Group are similar in age to those of the immediately underlying rocks of the central Hearne supracrustal belt and their associated intrusions (e.g. Davis et al., 2004). The lack of age variation upsection among the samples of the lower Hurwitz Group analyzed here, suggests derivation from local sources developed during basin initiation followed by relative tectonic stability as portrayed by eventual widespread deposition of shallow-water quartz arenites of the Whiterock member (Aspler et al., 2001).

The change in provenance after ~1.96 Ga corresponds with development of the Thelon-Taltson Orogen on the western margin of the Rae Province, and opening of the Manikewan Ocean on the south-eastern margin of the Hearne Province. Sources for the Paleoproterozoic zircon grains within the upper Hurwitz Group strata are not known in the local basement; however, the ages are consistent with provenance from the southwestern Rae Province, Taltson-Thelon magmatic-orogenic belt and Buffalo Head Terrane, 500 to 800 km to the west (Aspler et al., 2001; Figure 1; references above). Crustal age domains between 2.5 and 2.0 Ga are uncommon elsewhere within Laurentia, and therefore constitute a relatively diagnostic provenance tracer. Correlation with a Taltson-Thelon source is further supported by the significant population mode at 2.00 to 1.93 Ga, the age of metamorphosed plutonic rocks within the orogen. Eastward transport of detritus across the Rae hinterland during uplift and denudation of the Taltson-Thelon Orogen fed material into Hurwitz Basin (Davis et al., 2000; Aspler et al., 2001), and possibly to a broader passive-margin sequence on the southeast margin of the Hearne Domain (e.g. Wollaston Supergroup; Yeo et al., 2002, Tran et al., 2003).

Although the maximum depositional age of 1.911 ± 0.007 Ga for the Tavani Formation would allow linking the upper Hurwitz Basin to the Trans-Hudson Orogen (Young, 1988; Bell, 1970; Lewry et al., 1985), this hypothesis is not favoured because the detrital zircon age population is uncharacteristic of the dominant crustal age spectra of the accreted La Ronge arc (Lucas et al., 1996). Zircons younger than 1.9 Ga are not represented in the Hurwitz Group as would be expected if sourced within the Trans-Hudson Orogen.

As discussed in Aspler et al. (2001), one of the outstanding issues in understanding the evolution of Hurwitz Basin between 2.11 and 1.9 Ga is reconciling the sedimentary facies and evidence for a cryptic time gap in the upper Hurwitz Group with evidence for high-pressure metamorphism and tectonic exhumation at ca. 1.9 Ga in the basement rocks of the northwestern Hearne Domain (Sanborne-Barrie et al., 2001; Berman et al., 2000; Berman et al., 2002). Although the extent and tectonic significance of these metamorphic events remain poorly known, initial deep-crustal metamorphism is documented as early as 1.917 Ga with subsequent rapid exhumation by 1.900 Ga in the Kramanituak complex within 100 km of the preserved Hurwitz Basin (Sanborne-Barrie et al., 2001).

Basement rocks underlying the upper Hurwitz Group apparently do not record this metamorphic event, so there is no direct relationship known between the two events.

It is now clear from the more precise maximum depositional age for the upper Hurwitz reported here that the Tavani Formation was deposited at the same time, or after the regional high-pressure metamorphism documented in the northwestern Hearne Domain. Ambiguity of this point in the earlier data set (Davis et al., 2000) could not exclude the possibility that the upper Hurwitz Group was deposited prior to the ~1.91 Ga metamorphism. The revised maximum age estimate for the Tavani Formation supports the Aspler et al. (2001) hypothesis that the upper Hurwitz Group was deposited *after* the 1.9 Ga high-pressure metamorphism along the northern margin of the Hearne Domain.

CONCLUSIONS

Detrital zircon geochronology of the Hurwitz Group indicates a profound break in the succession of more than 150 Ma. This interval defines a change from mainly Archean intrabasinal sources, to mainly Paleoproterozoic extrabasinal sources. The change can be explained as a response to uplift and erosion accompanying the Taltson-Thelon Orogen, which formed on the western margin of the Rae Domain ca. 2.0 to 1.9 Ga, several hundred kilometres to the west of Hurwitz Basin. In this scenario, sediment was transported eastward to be deposited in the shallow intracratonic depressions of Hurwitz Basin where it was reworked by a variety of shallow-water processes.

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