

1 **Revision 2**

2 Evidence for multiple diamondite-forming events in the mantle

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 A collection of 35 diamondite samples (polycrystalline diamond aggregates,
14 sometimes referred to as framesites), assumed to be from southern Africa, have
15 been studied to investigate their infrared (IR) spectroscopic characteristics. Due to
16 the abundance of sub-micron, interlocking diamonds (polycrystalline) with mineral
17 and fluid inclusions within the diamond material affecting their transparency, only
18 fragments from 10 of the samples provided high quality data. The IR spectra showed
19 a wide range of generally high nitrogen concentrations (386 – 2677 ppm), with a full
20 range of nitrogen aggregation states, from pure IaA to pure IaB. Platelet
21 characteristics were interpreted as being regular (i.e. not having been affected by

22 deformation and/or heating events), meaning the nitrogen aggregation data could
23 be interpreted with confidence. Surprisingly, the platelet data showed a positive
24 correlation between their intensity (integrated area) and peak position. The
25 primary hydrogen band (at 3107 cm^{-1}) and secondary band (at 1405 cm^{-1}) are both
26 often present in the samples' spectra, but show no correlation with any other
27 characteristic. There is also no correlation between the samples' paragenesis (as
28 defined by their garnet chemistry) and any of the IR characteristics. Whilst we have
29 no independent determination of the samples mantle residence age, nor the
30 temperature they resided at, we infer that diamondite formation has occurred
31 episodically over a large time frame in single and distinct growth events (as opposed
32 to over a short time frame but over a large depth / temperature range). This idea is
33 more in keeping with the theory that C-O-H diamond- (and diamondite-) forming
34 fluids are the result of localized small volume processes. Interestingly, one sample
35 contained fluid inclusions that exhibited a water:carbonate molar ratio (~ 0.8),
36 similar to the saline and silicic end members of the monocrystalline diamond-
37 forming fluid chemical spectrum.

38 **Keywords:** polycrystalline diamond, framesite, infrared spectroscopy, nitrogen
39 aggregation, C-O-H mantle fluids.

40 **1. Introduction**

41 Diamondites are polycrystalline mantle xenoliths that are associated with
42 kimberlites. Their occurrence has been reported from a number of kimberlite pipes
43 in southern Africa (Venetia, Premier, Jwaneng, Orapa; see Dobosi and Kurat 2002)

44 and Siberia (Mir, Aikhal; Sobolev 1977). They consist predominantly of randomly
45 oriented diamond crystals of varying sizes (Kurat and Dobosi 2000), along with
46 varying amounts of silicates (garnet, clinopyroxene), oxides (magnetite, rutile,
47 ilmenite), sulphides (pyrrhotite), native metals (iron) and Fe-carbides as
48 intergrowths and inclusions (Dobosi and Kurat 2002; Gurney and Boyd 1982; Jacob
49 et al. 2000, 2004, 2011; Kirkley et al. 1991). These minerals can help define a
50 formation paragenesis (source rock affinity). In monocrystalline diamonds,
51 peridotitic and eclogitic parageneses are most prevalent, with a small number
52 classified as websteritic (Stachel & Harris 2008). While polycrystalline diamonds are
53 relatively understudied compared to monocrystalline samples, websteritic and
54 eclogitic and parageneses dominate (see Mikhail et al. 2013 and references therein).

55 Some workers argue the crystallization histories of diamondites are distinctly
56 different from monocrystalline diamonds (see Heaney et al. 2005 for a review) and
57 several different theories have been proposed to account for their formation at
58 specific localities. Some invoke a subduction component (Burgess et al. 1998; Honda
59 et al. 2004; Mikhail et al. 2013), while others are less convinced by the contribution
60 of crustal material and rely more upon upper mantle melts/fluids that contain a
61 carbonatitic component (Kurat & Dobosi 2000; Jacob et al. 2000; Maruoka et al.
62 2004; Gautheron et al. 2005). At present, no formation age data has been obtained
63 from diamondites. Some of the aforementioned studies loosely connect their
64 diamondite samples' formation to ancient episodes of monocrystalline diamond
65 growth (e.g. Honda et al. 2004), while other propose a much younger age, with

66 formation occurring only shortly before kimberlite emplacement (e.g. Jacob et al.
67 2000).

68 Nitrogen aggregation data provides a qualitative method to investigate the mantle
69 residence time and temperature of diamonds (Evans and Harris 1989; Mendelsohn
70 and Milledge 1995). Nitrogen is the most common substitutional impurity found in
71 natural diamonds and forms the basis of their classification. Type I diamonds
72 contain nitrogen, while Type II diamonds are nominally nitrogen free (<10 ppm as
73 determined by Fourier Transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy). Nitrogen is
74 relatively mobile in the diamond lattice at mantle pressure and temperature
75 conditions. As a result the defects evolve over time from single nitrogen (C centres,
76 Type Ib; Dyer et al. 1965), to pairs of nitrogen atoms (A centres, Type IaA; Davies
77 1976), to 4 nitrogen atoms tetrahedrally arranged about a vacancy (B centres, Type
78 IaB; Evans and Qi 1982), in a process referred to as nitrogen aggregation. The first
79 step in this progress (C to A centre aggregation) occurs quite rapidly (<1 Ma), while
80 the second step (A to B centre) occurs much more slowly (over Ga). This A to B
81 centre aggregation follows a second-order kinetics law (Chrenko et al. 1977), which
82 means it can be used to estimate either the duration the diamond has resided in the
83 mantle for, or the average temperature at which it resided (assuming the other is
84 known). Platelets, planar interstitial carbon aggregates found on the {100} crystal
85 planes (Humble, 1982), are the byproduct of B centre formation and show a linear
86 relationship with B centre absorption (Woods, 1986). However, these features are
87 prone to degradation during deformation and/or heating events (Woods, 1986).

88 In this study we provide the first documentation of the FTIR impurity characteristics
89 of some of the diamond material that make up diamondites. We use this data, and
90 the time and temperature relationship of nitrogen aggregation, to assess the
91 temporal and depth constraints of diamondite formation, as well as investigate any
92 indications of their deformation history.

93 **2. Samples**

94 A collection of 35 diamondites, held at the Department of Mineralogy and
95 Petrography, Naturhistorisches Museum Vienna, Austria, were used in this
96 investigation. Detailed descriptions of samples from this collection are provided by
97 Kurat and Dobosi (2000) and Dobosi and Kurat (2002). Fragments of individual
98 crystals were obtained from these samples by mechanically breaking small pieces
99 off each sample. However, the transparency of the diamond crystals that form the
100 diamondite can be highly variable, depending upon the concentration of included
101 material (minerals and/or fluids; Figure 1). As a result, despite analyzing fragments
102 from all 35 diamondite samples, only 10 of them yielded high quality FTIR spectra.
103 The data presented below comes from 35 fragments of 10 of the diamondite
104 samples (Table 1).

105 To determine the paragenesis of the diamondite samples, the garnet discrimination
106 diagram of Aulbach et al. (2002) was used. Of the samples analysed, 5 are of
107 websteritic and 2 of peridotitic paragenesis (Dobosi and Kurat 2010); 3 samples had
108 an absence of silicates and are therefore classified as unknown (Table 1). As these
109 samples were purchased from a gem dealer, the exact geographical origin of these

110 diamondite samples is unknown. However, previous workers (Kurat and Dobosi
111 2000) inferred them to be from southern Africa, as similar samples have been
112 described from the Orapa, Jwaneng (Botswana) and Venetia (South Africa)
113 kimberlites (Gurney and Boyd 1982; McCandless et al. 1989; Kirkley et al. 1991;
114 Jacob et al. 2000).

115 **3. Analytical technique**

116 Infrared spectroscopic measurements were conducted at room temperature in
117 transmittance mode on a Nicolet Nexus 650 Fourier Transform infrared
118 spectrometer with Continuum microscope configured for the mid- to near-IR
119 (Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico) using the procedures employed
120 by Mason et al. (2009). Both the IR objective and interior of the IR bench unit was in
121 an atmosphere purged of H₂O and CO₂, which eliminated atmospheric absorption
122 features. Data were collected over the mid-IR (400-4000 cm⁻¹) region using a Globar
123 source, KBr beam splitter, and deuterated triglycine sulfate (DTGS) detector.
124 Approximately 256 scans were performed for each IR spectrum acquired at a
125 resolution of 4 cm⁻¹. Background spectra were collected under the same analytical
126 conditions before each analysis and used to calculate absorbance by dividing each
127 sample spectrum and then taking the base-10 logarithm.

128 The IR spectra were deconvoluted using the excel version of the DiaMap software
129 (Howell et al. 2012a, b). Uncertainties on each component are as such; nitrogen
130 content and aggregation state – ± 10%, platelet intensity [I(B')] – ± 20%, platelet
131 band position and height – ± 1cm⁻¹, hydrogen-related band heights at 3107 and

132 1405 cm^{-1} – $\pm 1\text{cm}^{-1}$. While all of these uncertainties are very conservative, the
133 reason for the large uncertainty on I(B') is due to the exceptionally large platelet
134 features that occur in some of the spectra and how variations in the baseline can
135 significantly affect the result. Reproducibility of this dataset is however maintained
136 by the standardizing effect that the DiaMap software has on spectral deconvolution
137 (Howell et al. 2012a, b).

138 **4. Results**

139 The data obtained from the FTIR spectra for all the samples are presented in Table
140 1. The range of nitrogen concentrations within the sample set is large and
141 consistently above the average nitrogen abundance seen for monocrystalline
142 diamonds (ca. 200-300 ppm; Cartigny, 2005). For example, Dia020 has the lowest
143 nitrogen abundances of 386 ppm, and sample Dia073B has the highest nitrogen
144 abundances of 2677 ppm (Table 1). In general, multiple analyses of the nitrogen
145 content from different fragments of the same sample provide data that are within
146 uncertainty of each other. Overall nitrogen aggregation states (expresses as the % B-
147 centers) vary from 0 to 100% (Table 1). Two of the samples show nitrogen
148 aggregation states between 0 and 8.6% (Dia070 and Dia068), the remaining
149 samples show aggregation states with >40% B-centers present, and samples Dia057
150 and Dia075 show fully aggregated nitrogen (100% IaB; Figure 2). We observe no
151 relationship between garnet paragenesis and the nitrogen aggregation state of the
152 diamond from these diamondites.

153 When the primary hydrogen-related band was observed at 3107 cm⁻¹, the secondary
154 band at 1405 cm⁻¹ was also observed. Some additional bands were observed at 2924
155 and 2855 cm⁻¹ in samples Dia019 and Dia066, which may also be related to
156 hydrogen (Woods and Collins 1983). The intensity of the primary hydrogen band
157 shows no correlation with any of the other impurity data, but it is important to note
158 that this feature does not provide quantitative data regarding hydrogen
159 concentration due to the possibility of non-IR-active hydrogen also being contained
160 within the diamond (Connell et al. 1998).

161 Finally, despite sample selection being based on optical transparency, one spectrum
162 (Dia066_2) revealed clear evidence of fluid inclusions (Figure 3). The strong
163 hydrous band (between 2750 – 3700 cm⁻¹) and weaker carbonate band (1420 –
164 1500 cm⁻¹) can provide semi-quantitative concentration data (see method of Navon
165 et al. 1988; their Table 1, which was followed here). In Dia066_2 there is
166 approximately 104 ppm H₂O and 33 ppm CO₂ within the fluid inclusions, which
167 provides a molar ratio [H₂O / (H₂O + CO₂)] of ~0.76.

168 **5. Discussion**

169 As highlighted in the introduction, no dating of diamondite formation has yet been
170 accomplished. The primary objective of this study is to measure the nitrogen
171 concentration and aggregation states of fragments of diamondite samples to
172 investigate their mantle residence age - average temperature relationship. To do
173 that, we first must assume that the diamond samples analysed have grown via
174 octahedral growth (spiral / dislocation growth; Sunagawa 2005). The

175 age/temperature relationship utilized below is based upon factors (i.e. activation
176 energies, platelet formation rates) that have only been quantified specifically for
177 octahedral diamond growth. Importantly, the available data for these samples show
178 open cavities to contain octahedral or stepped-octahedral diamond crystal faces
179 (Kurat and Dobosi 2000; Dobosi and Kurat 2010).

180 Another key assessment that must be made before interpreting the nitrogen data is
181 whether the nitrogen aggregation data have been affected by crystal plastic
182 deformation, which Rubanova et al. (2012) have shown is present within samples
183 from the same collection. The exact affects of plastic deformation on the nitrogen
184 aggregation process are unknown. Some have postulated that it enhances the rate at
185 which aggregation occurs (Evans 1992), while others suggest it would break up the
186 B centers into other defects (Byrne et al. 2012) thereby reducing the quantified
187 aggregation state. Either way, to have confidence in our interpretations of the
188 nitrogen aggregation data in terms of their age – temperature relationship, we must
189 rule out interference of this process by plastic deformation. To do this, we use the
190 platelet data.

191 With the exception of Dia068 and Dia070 (both predominantly IaA), all of the
192 samples exhibit significant platelet development (Figure 3). Due to the high nitrogen
193 concentrations and aggregation states, very large platelet features are often present.
194 Figure 4 shows a “regularity” plot (after Woods 1986) of absorption due to B centers
195 (μB) against intensity (integrated area) of the platelet band $[I(\text{B}')]]$. The general
196 trend of the data is in keeping with *regular* samples as defined by Woods (1986).

197 This implies that the platelets, formed during the A to B center aggregation process,
198 have suffered no subsequent degradation (by either heating and/or deformation
199 processes). This means that we can interpret the nitrogen aggregation data with
200 confidence that the nitrogen aggregation states have not been altered by
201 deformation during residence in the mantle. While this might initially appear
202 contradictory to the work of Rubanova et al. (2012), who reported samples from
203 this same collection exhibited significant crystal plastic deformation, they also
204 showed that highly deformed diamond grains could be in contact with others
205 exhibiting little or no sign of deformation. While this would appear to confirm that
206 differential stresses are not homogeneously distributed throughout polycrystalline
207 materials (Callister 1985; Kalidindi et al. 2003), it cannot be ruled out that there was
208 an additional growth event that occurred after deformation. It is also important to
209 note that crystals containing inclusions and other defects are more susceptible to
210 the effects of deformation. The grains analysed in this study were chosen for their
211 optical transparency and therefore less likely to contain inclusions. In summary, we
212 do not rule out that the diamondites that our fragments have been taken from could
213 have been subject to plastic deformation. However, the *regular* characteristics of the
214 platelet data (after Woods, 1986) suggest that nitrogen impurity characteristics of
215 these grains have not been obviously affected by plastic deformation, and therefore
216 allow for some qualitative interpretation to be performed on them with reasonable
217 confidence.

218 More detailed interrogation of the platelet data provides an interesting result.
219 Sumida and Lang (1988) showed that larger $I(B')$ values are indicative of the

220 platelets having a greater total area per unit volume, while Clackson et al. (1990)
221 showed that the B' band occurring at lower wavenumbers was indicative of the
222 platelets having a larger mean radius. The platelet data in this study (Figure 5) show
223 that the intensity and position of the band's maximum exhibit a positive correlation,
224 i.e. the larger intensities occur at high wavenumbers. This means that the larger
225 population densities contain platelets of smaller sizes. This result appears to
226 contrast with samples studied by Woods (1986) that showed no dependence of the
227 I(B') values on the peak position.

228 5.1 Nitrogen Aggregation Characteristics

229 The nitrogen concentrations of the studied diamondites range from 386 to 2677
230 ppm, while their levels of nitrogen aggregation show the full range from 100% IaA
231 to 100% IaB. These nitrogen concentrations are relatively high compared to the
232 average values for P and E-type monocrystalline diamonds (200 and 300 ppm
233 respectively; Cartigny 2005), but are comparable to fibrous diamonds and
234 diamondites globally (average = 600-800 ppm; Mikhail et al. 2013 and references
235 therein). The largest variation in nitrogen concentration between fragments from
236 the same diamondite sample is 916 ppm for sample Dia073B and Dia073W (where
237 B and W refers to the black and white appearance of these fragments). Such a large
238 range for the nitrogen concentration within a single sample is not atypical for
239 diamond because there is no statistically significant average, i.e. the internal range
240 of nitrogen contents within single diamonds can be anywhere between <10 and
241 >5000 ppm; Boyd et al. 1987; Bulanova et al. 2002; Fitzsimons et al.,1999; Harte et

242 al. 1999; Hauri et al., 2002; Howell et al. 2012b; 2013; Mikhail et al. accepted; Smart
243 et al. 2012; Wiggers de Vries et al. 2012). Interestingly, the nitrogen aggregation
244 states for these samples are fairly consistent despite the large range of nitrogen
245 concentrations within some samples (Table 1). It is clear when these nitrogen data
246 are plotted against each other (Figure 2), the samples fall in to two discernable
247 groups; one with low aggregation levels (Dia068 and Dia070) and the other with
248 more developed aggregation states (40 – 100% IaB). While two samples (Dia057
249 and Dia075) exhibit 100% IaB aggregation and could be classified as a third group,
250 the analytical uncertainties on the data mean they overlap with the upper end of the
251 second group.

252 A diamond's nitrogen concentration and aggregation state are related to each other
253 by the duration and average temperature at which they have resided in the mantle
254 (Chrenko et al. 1977; Evans and Harris 1989; Mendelsohn and Milledge 1995).
255 Isotherms are lines that correlate these two nitrogen characteristics for a fixed age
256 and temperature. The dark grey area shown in Figure 2, which includes the data
257 from the six samples with varied aggregation levels (42 – 94% IaB), is bound by two
258 isotherms; the possible variations of age and temperature used to calculate these
259 upper and lower bounds are shown in Table 2. It is clear from the values calculated
260 in Table 2 that nitrogen aggregation is far more sensitive to temperature than age
261 (220 - 245°C variation over 3 Ga). If we assume a relatively hot geotherm (42
262 mW/m² surface heat flow; Stachel and Harris 2008), these temperatures equate to
263 approximately 170 – 180 km at 3 Ga, and 240 – 270 km at 1 Ma. A cooler geotherm
264 would require much greater depths to achieve these temperatures.

265 It is not really possible to constrain the time – temperature conditions of the two
266 diamonds with 100% IaB aggregation states. As there is no aggregation beyond the
267 B center stage, it cannot be determined how long they have been fully aggregated
268 for; the calculation assumes that diamond is removed from the mantle as soon as it
269 reaches a 100% IaB aggregation state, therefore both age and temperature
270 determinations (when the other factor is fixed) represent minimum values. A
271 relative comparison between these two samples and the six intermediate samples
272 suggests that the fully aggregated samples either resided at slightly higher
273 temperatures than the other samples (and therefore greater depths), or they have
274 resided in the mantle for a longer period of time. Nevertheless, as these values are
275 minimums, the differences could be much more pronounced.

276 As three fragments from the two samples with low aggregation levels have a value
277 more than 0% IaB it is possible to calculate isotherms that bound the data (light
278 grey area in Figure 2). The time and temperature values for these isotherms are
279 shown in Table 2. Using the same geotherm as previously, these temperatures
280 correspond to approximate depths of 135 – 160 km at 3 Ga (generally within the
281 graphite stability field), and 180 – 215 km at 1 Ma.

282 In summary, the nitrogen FTIR characteristics recorded in these 10 diamondite
283 samples cover the full range of aggregation, from pure IaA to pure IaB. These data
284 can be interpreted in two ways. If it were assumed that all the diamondites formed
285 at a similar time, then they would have had to grow and reside at different depths
286 within the mantle with a relative depth range of 45 to 90 km between these samples.

287 Alternatively, if the diamondites all resided at similar depths in the mantle, then
288 they would have to have formed during multiple events over a large period of time
289 (possibly up to 3 Ga). These two outcomes imply different things about diamondite
290 forming fluids; the exact conditions that result in diamondite formation (pressure,
291 temperature, oxygen fugacity, carbon supersaturation, impurities) can either occur
292 fairly simultaneously over a large vertical profile, or alternatively, occur multiple
293 times over a large time frame. We acknowledge the two possibilities are discrete
294 variables; more likely, a combination of both of these factors can produce
295 diamondites at different times and depths.

296 5.2 Chemistry of diamondite forming fluids

297 While the focus of this study was on the nitrogen FTIR characteristics of the
298 diamond material that make up diamondites, one analysis showed clear evidence of
299 containing fluid inclusions. The molar ratio of H₂O:CO₂ of ~0.76 is in keeping with
300 values measured in fluid inclusion rich fibrous diamonds (occurring either as
301 fibrous cubes or fibrous coats on octahedral cores) studied by Navon et al. (1988;
302 from Jwaneng, DRC and unknown), Schrauder and Navon (1994; Jwaneng),
303 Tomlinson et al. (2005; DRC) and Klein-BenDavid et al. (2006; 2007; Diavik). These
304 values, which indicate a higher water proportion, have the same basic
305 characteristics as the silicic and saline end-member monocrystalline diamond-
306 forming fluids (which have a H₂O:CO₂ mole ratio of 0.9 - 0.5, while the carbonatitic
307 end-member has values <0.5; Klein-BenDavid et al. 2007)

308). Interestingly, trace element patterns in diamondites (from the same sample batch
309 as our samples) show evidence for similar parental fluid compositions to those
310 observed in fibrous diamonds (based on major and trace element abundances; see
311 Rege et al. 2008). These data suggest similar fluid-compositions are responsible for
312 the formation of both diamondite and fibrous diamonds. In support of this, highly
313 porous fibrous cubes have been observed in diamondites (Kurat and Dobosi 2000).
314 Conversely, the average carbon isotope values of diamondite and fibrous diamonds
315 are completely distinct, where these diamondites and all fibrous diamonds show a
316 mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of -18 and -5 ‰ respectively (see Mikhail et al., 2013 and
317 references therein). Therefore, a better understanding of how polycrystalline
318 diamonds fit in to diamond growth mechanism model of Sunagawa (1990, 2005)
319 would help to tie all these discrete aspects of their formation into the bigger picture
320 of not just monocrystalline diamond formation, but of C-O-H rich melts / fluids in
321 the mantle (age, temperature, oxygen fugacity, source of the diamond-forming
322 carbon etc.).

323 **6. Implications**

324 The mantle residence time for the 10 diamondites shown here can be interpreted as
325 being highly variable. An alternative interpretation is that they resided over a large
326 depth range. Considering their formation is from small-scale melt processes, this
327 would probably require multiple growth events occurring over a large depth range
328 at the same time. As the first interpretation requires multiple growth events over a
329 large time frame, it is clear that the data indicates that diamondite formation has

330 occurred in multiple events. This would mean the formation histories of
331 diamondites might be more akin to the formation of monocrystalline diamonds,
332 both in terms of time (from the nitrogen aggregation data) but also in terms source
333 fluid chemistry (from the fluid inclusions). Constraining the relationship, or lack
334 thereof, between monocrystalline diamonds (specifically gem quality) and
335 diamondites could be useful to the mining industry by being able to predict the
336 potential grade of a kimberlite. For example, is there any significance in the fact that
337 Orapa (Botswana), one of the world's most productive diamond mines, produces a
338 high proportion of non-profitable diamondites (Gurney and Boyd 1982)?

339 Constraining this relationship will most likely be best achieved by performing
340 detailed, *in situ* geochemical analyses coupled with temporal constraints on
341 diamondites from known geographical localities, where multiple data are available
342 for other diamond-types.

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489

490 Figure Captions:

491 Figure 1: Representative images of diamondite from this study showing some
492 important features. (a) Sample Dia063 shows translucent and opaque regions in the
493 same sample where the translucent regions contain a lower abundance of
494 intergrowths and inclusions. (b) Sample Dia074 is almost totally translucent
495 whereas (c) sample Dia073 mostly resembles a rock in appearance (i.e. totally
496 opaque), however upon breaking the sample some fragments were more opaque
497 than other, this lead us to use the extensions B (black) and W (white) to denote the
498 overall transparency.

499 Figure 2: A plot of nitrogen concentrations vs. aggregation state for all the analyses
500 recorded in this study. The light and dark grey areas are each defined by two
501 isotherms that are calculated for the mantle residence ages and corresponding
502 temperatures stated in Table 2. The isotherms are calculated using the equation

503
$$T(^{\circ}C) = \frac{-E}{R} \frac{1}{\ln \left[\frac{\left(\frac{C_0}{C} - 1 \right)}{C_0 t A} \right]} - 273.15$$
 where T is the average mantle residence

504 temperature, t is the mantle residence time in seconds, C_0 is the total nitrogen
505 concentration of the diamond, C is the nitrogen concentration in the form of A
506 centres, E is the activation energy and R is the gas constant (where $-E/R = -81160$),
507 and A is the Arrhenius constant ($2.94 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ ppm}^{-1}$).

508 Figure 3: IR spectra from samples Dia066_2, Dia068_3 and Dia073W_1, showing a
509 range of nitrogen concentrations, aggregation states (labeled A and B), platelet
510 intensities (labeled B'), hydrogen bands (labeled C-H) and evidence of fluid

511 inclusions (labeled OH and CO₃). Each full spectrum is presented on the same
512 absorbance scale, just offset from one another. The two insets of samples Dia066_2
513 and Dia073W_1, are presented at different scales, to highlight the fluid components
514 and nitrogen characteristics respectively.

515 Figure 4: Regularity plot (after Woods 1986) showing absorption due to B centers
516 (μ_B) vs. the integrated area of the platelet band ($I(B')$). The black line shows the
517 regular trend as defined by Woods (1986). Some representative analytical
518 uncertainties are shown.

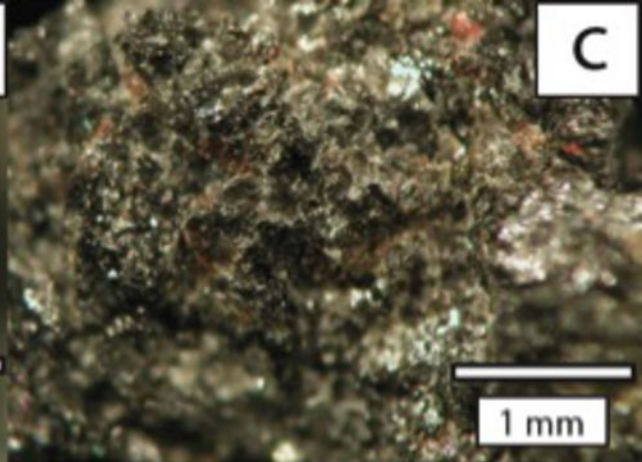
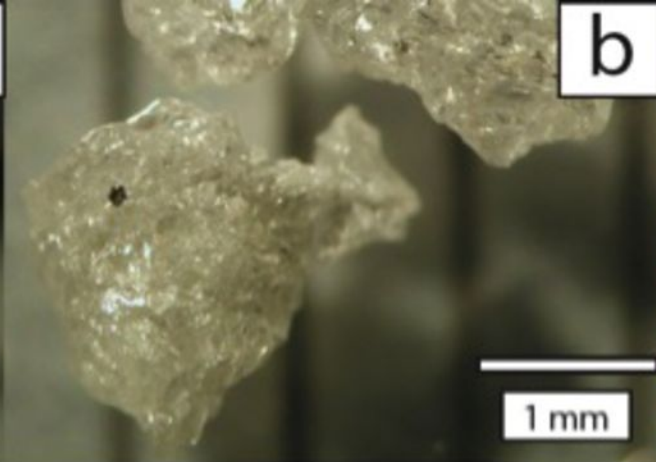
519 Figure 5: Graph showing the intensity vs. the peak position of the platelet band. The
520 data show a positive relationship indicating that the larger population densities
521 contain platelets of smaller sizes.

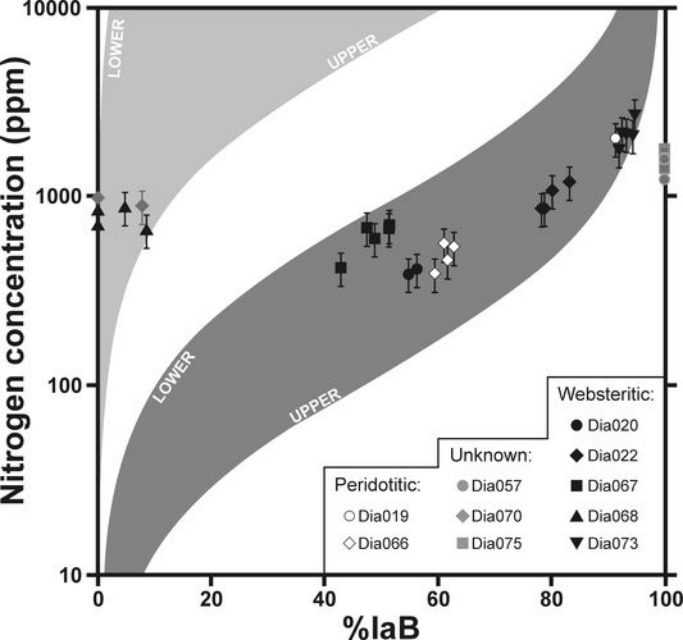
522 Table Captions:

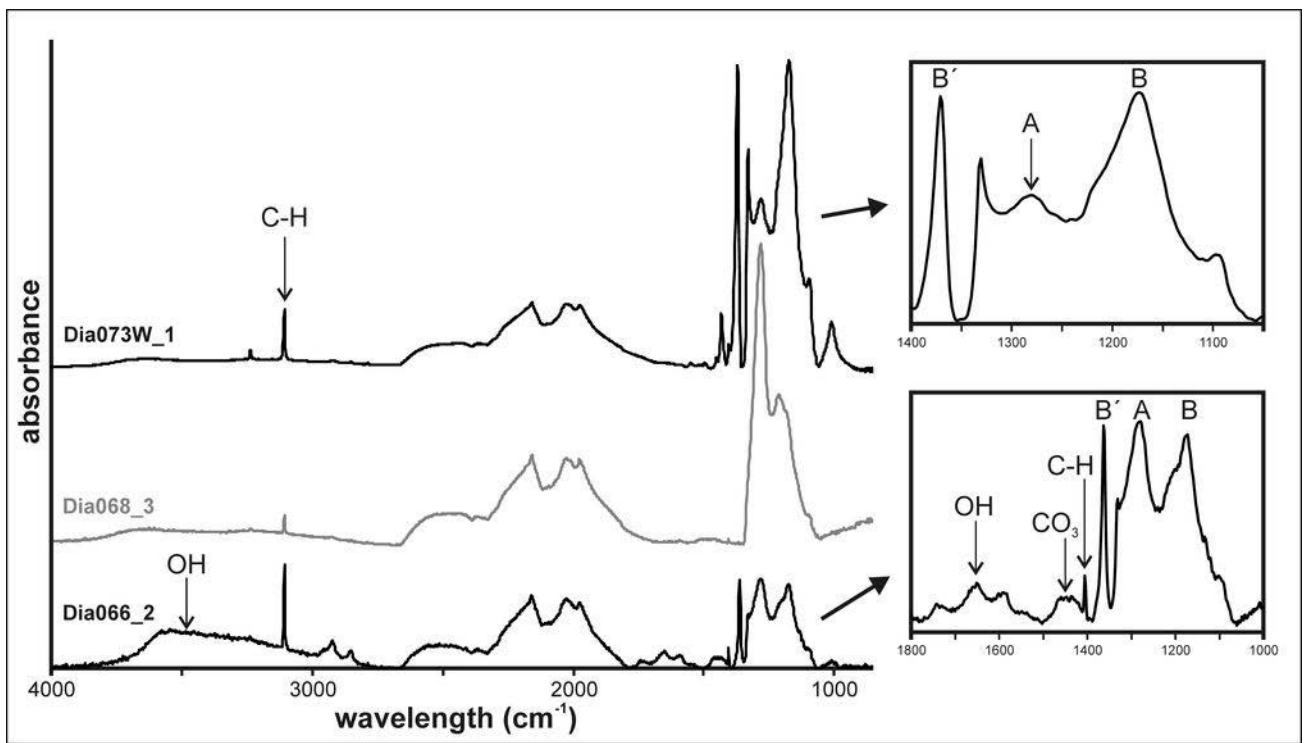
523 Table 1: FTIR data for the samples in this study; nitrogen concentration (ppm),
524 aggregation state (% IaB, i.e. proportion of the total nitrogen in the diamond in the
525 form of B centers), height of the H band at 3107 cm⁻¹, integrated area of the B'
526 platelet band (cm⁻²), and the wavenumber position of the B' band maximum. Each
527 analysis for a given sample was performed on a different diamond fragment of the
528 given sample. The data used to assign paragenesis can be found in Dobosi and Kurat
529 (2010). The IR spectra were deconvoluted using the excel version of the DiaMap
530 software (Howell et al. 2012a, b). Uncertainties on each component are as such;
531 nitrogen content and aggregation state – ± 10%, platelet intensity [$I(B')$] – ± 20%,

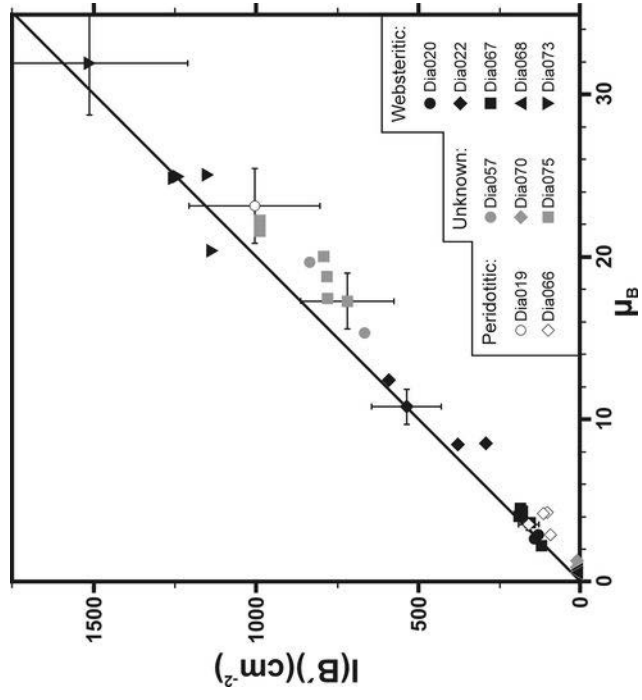
532 platelet band position and height – $\pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, hydrogen-related band heights at 3107
533 and $1405 \text{ cm}^{-1} - \pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

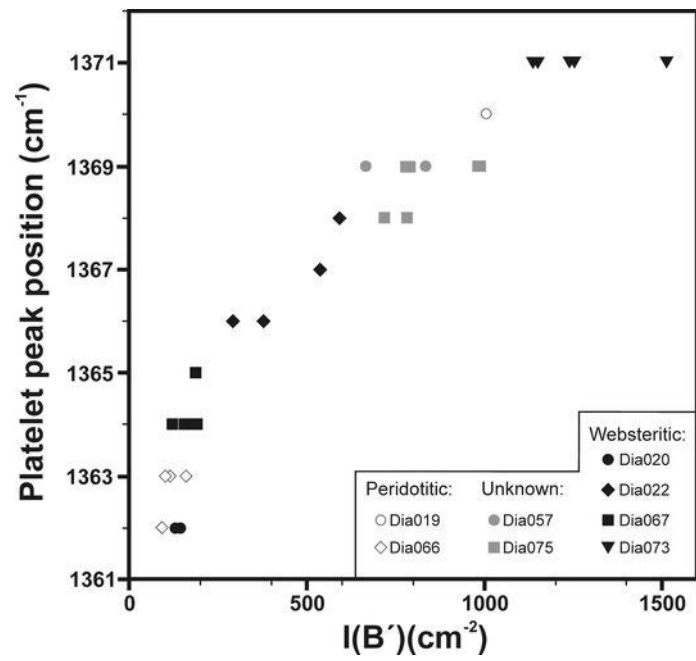
534 Table 2: Calculated mantle residence temperatures for defined ages that produce the
535 isotherms that bracket the light and dark grey areas in Figure 2.











Sample	Paragenesis	N total (ppm)	% IaB	H@3107 (cm⁻¹)	I(B') (cm⁻²)	PLATELET position (cm⁻¹)
Dia019_7	Peridotitic	2011	91.4	3.8	1006	1370
Dia020_6	Websteritic	386	54.8	0.0	143	1362
Dia020_8		411	56.3	2.0	133	1362
Dia022_1	Websteritic	861	78.8	8.2	293	1366
Dia022_3		1069	80.2	5.1	538	1367
Dia022_4		857	78.3	7.2	379	1366
Dia022_5		1186	83.2	4.3	592	1368
Dia057_3	Unknown	1216	100.0	3.4	666	1369
Dia057_4		1562	100.0	3.7	836	1369
Dia066_1	Peridotitic	388	59.5	6.8	94	1362
Dia066_2		454	61.7	12.5	161	1363
Dia066_5		556	61.2	1.2	104	1363
Dia066_7		533	62.9	1.4	117	1363
Dia067_1	Websteritic	678	47.4	7.9	191	1364
Dia067_2		701	51.4	2.2	188	1365
Dia067_4		672	51.3	6.7	181	1364
Dia067_6		416	42.9	1.2	126	1364
Dia067_7		595	48.8	9.5	156	1364
Dia068_2	Websteritic	663	8.6	2.5	Absent	Absent
Dia068_3		829	0.0	2.8	Absent	Absent
Dia068_5		867	4.8	3.6	Absent	Absent
Dia068_6		701	0.0	2.6	Absent	Absent
Dia70_4	Unknown	977	0.0	4.3	Absent	Absent
Dia70_5		887	7.8	2.9	Absent	Absent
Dia073B_1	Websteritic	2125	93.3	25.2	1240	1371
Dia073B_2		2677	94.7	37.3	1514	1371
Dia073W_1		2151	92.5	9.6	1150	1371

Dia073W_2	1761	91.9	10.7	1136	1371
Dia073W_3	2089	94.4	37.7	1254	1371
Dia075_1	1591	100.0	3.5	793	1369
Dia075_2	1372	100.0	2.7	720	1368
Dia075_3	1493	100.0	2.3	783	1368
Dia075_4	1385	100.0	3.3	781	1369
Dia075_5	1767	100.0	2.5	988	1369
Dia075_6	1714	100.0	1.8	990	1369

Residence time	Average Temperature (°C)		Depth		Pressure (Gpa)	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
Dark grey						
1 Ma	1335	1410				
10 Ma	1265	1330				
100 Ma	1200	1260	174	195	4.9	5.8
500 Ma	1160	1210	150	171	4.5	5.0
1 Ga	1145	1195	145	164	4.3	4.8
2 Ga	1125	1175	138	156	4.1	4.6
3 Ga	1115	1165	135	152	4.0	4.55

Light grey						
Residence time	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
1 Ma	1150	1275				
10 Ma	1100	1210				
100 Ma	1000	1150				
500 Ma	980	1110				
1 Ga	970	1095				
2 Ga	960	1080				
3 Ga	950	1070				