

The Intrusive Granites of the Farsund Area, South Norway

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Field and chemical data reveal three separate intrusive granites in the Farsund area: a dark charnockite, a light hornblende granite, and a light biotite granite. The previous view that these rocks belong to a single, composite granitic body called farsundite, seems untenable.

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The present study of the areal variations of the intrusive granites around Farsund started in 1971. Previous studies have referred to these rocks as 'farsundite'. Middlemost (1968a) reviewed the historical use of this term, and concluded that it should be used 'as a local specific name for the granitic rocks of the Farsund area' (p. 388). Kolderup (1897) suggested that all these granitic rocks belong to a comagmatic series, a view supported by Barth (1935), Middlemost (1968b), and Smithson & Heier (1971). Our preliminary results throw new light on this problem.

Field studies in the northeastern part of the area show that a thin zone of country rock separates an inhomogeneous biotite granite from the light hornblende granite.

Northeast of Farsund the boundary between the dark charnockite and the light hornblende granite in places consists of a zone of rock, 100 to 200 metres wide, similar to the pink gneisses occurring in the country rock sequence to the north (Falkum 1966). Around Farsund the charnockite and hornblende granite are in direct contact. The hornblende granite contains two sets of s-planes of parallel oriented feldspars and/or mafics. The prevalent set is oblique to the contact, while the second set is parallel to both the contact and an internal s-plane in the charnockite. This suggests that the charnockite post-dates the hornblende granite.

Samples have been collected from the charnockite and the hornblende granite according to an orthogonal grid system with 1 km spacings. The major element chemical analyses (carried out by X-ray fluorescence) so far completed are summarized in Table 1. The charnockite has significantly lower MgO, CaO, P₂O₅ and Fe₂O₃/FeO ratio than the hornblende granite, and both rocks are reasonably homogeneous on the outcrop scale. Fig. 1 illustrates the chemical trends of, and distinction between, the charnockite and hornblende granite with respect to MgO/SiO₂ and excludes that they

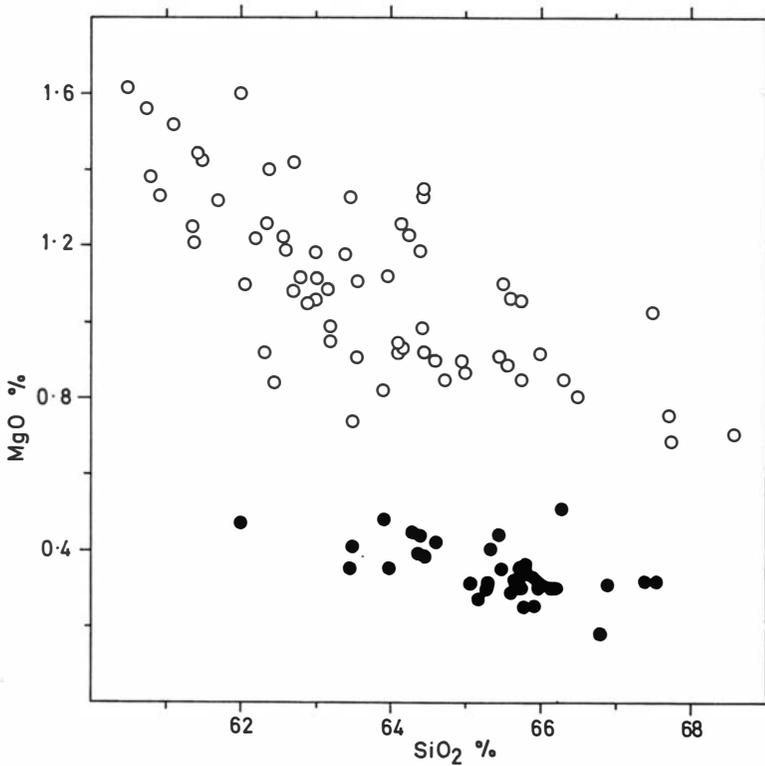


Fig. 1. Open circles – hornblende granite. Closed circles – charnockite.

Table 1. Mean chemical analyses with standard deviations.

n =	A 37	(S)	B 9	(S)	C 63	(S)	D 9	(S)	E 2
SiO ₂	65.38	1.13	64.62	0.68	64.67	1.87	62.72	0.55	76.47
TiO ₂	0.97	0.12	1.01	0.06	1.14	0.19	1.03	0.06	0.29
Al ₂ O ₃	13.60	0.33	14.03	0.26	14.22	0.61	14.65	0.38	12.82
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.47	0.42	1.09	0.21	2.16	0.38	1.68	0.18	2.49
FeO	5.09	0.76	5.70	0.30	3.84	0.62	4.06	0.27	0.49
MnO	0.106	0.011	0.111	0.006	0.099	0.016	0.096	0.006	0.019
MgO	0.340	0.070	0.39	0.026	1.103	0.230	0.90	0.065	1.025
CaO	2.78	0.30	3.22	0.12	3.75	0.53	4.41	0.13	0.45
Na ₂ O	3.42	0.13	3.50	0.06	3.33	0.24	3.47	0.13	3.62
K ₂ O	5.49	0.52	4.93	0.24	4.61	0.43	4.36	0.14	3.79
P ₂ O ₅	0.335	0.044	0.388	0.024	0.562	0.109	0.596	0.044	0.069
Total	98.981		98.989		99.484		97.972		101.33

A (S) Mean and standard deviation of charnockite.

B (S) Mean and standard deviation of 9 charnockite samples collected at one metre intervals.

C (S) Mean and standard deviation of hornblende granite.

D (S) Mean and standard deviation of 9 hornblende granite samples collected at one metre intervals.

E Mean of two biotite granite samples.

belong to a single differentiation series. The biotite granite seems to differ considerably from both the charnockite and the hornblende granite (Table 1).

Thus both field and geochemical evidence indicate that the 'farsundite' consists of three different intrusions and their contrasting chemistry makes it unlikely that they belong to the same magmatic differentiation series.

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