Stability of anhydrous phase B, Mg$_{14}$Si$_5$O$_{24}$, at the mantle transition zone conditions

*Liang Yuan$^{1,2}$, Eiji Ohtani$^1$, Akio Suzuki$^1$, Zhenmin Jin$^2$

1. Department of Earth and Planetary Materials Science, Tohoku University, 2. School of Earth Sciences, China University of Geosciences (Wuhan)

Stability of anhydrous phase B, Mg$_{14}$Si$_5$O$_{24}$, has been determined in the pressure range of 14-21 GPa and in the temperature range of 1100-1700°C with both normal and reverse experiments at high pressures and high temperatures. Our results imply that anhydrous phase B is stable at the $P$-$T$ conditions corresponding to the shallow depth of the mantle transition zone and it decomposes into periclase and wadsleyite at greater depth. The decomposition boundary of anhydrous phase B into wadsleyite and periclase has a positive phase transition slope and can be expressed by the following equation, $P$(GPa) = 7.5 + 6.6 x 10$^{-3}$T(°C). Configuration disorder might account for an increase of entropy for anhydrous phase B at high-temperature conditions. It is suggested that MgO-rich conditions can be available in the deep mantle during hydrous melting of peridotite and the reduction of subduction carbonates by the metal-saturated mantle at depth > 250 km. Anhydrous phase B might become an important phase in the area where SiO$_2$ activity is low. We propose that the paragenesis of directly touched ferropericlase-olivine inclusions in natural diamonds might be the retrogression products of anhydrous phase B via the decomposition reaction Anh-B = Olivine + Periclase during the transportation of host diamonds from the deep to the surface. Our experimental results put a constraint on the origin of such diamonds at a depth less than 500 km. On the cooling of the magma ocean during the early history of the Earth, a distinctive layer that was concentrated with hydrogen and other elements such as Fe, Ca, Mn substituting Mg might exist with the crystallization and accumulation of anhydrous phase B at depth equivalent to the upper part of the mantle transition zone.

Keywords: Anhydrous phase B, phase relations, Clapeyron slope, diamond inclusions, Raman spectra