

## ***K-Ar dates from the Castine-Blue Hill area, Maine***

Douglas G. Brookins

Isochron/West, Bulletin of Isotopic Geochronology, v. 8, pp. 21-24

Downloaded from: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/isochronwest/home.cfm?Issue=8>

---

Isochron/West was published at irregular intervals from 1971 to 1996. The journal was patterned after the journal *Radiocarbon* and covered isotopic age-dating (except carbon-14) on rocks and minerals from the Western Hemisphere. Initially, the geographic scope of papers was restricted to the western half of the United States, but was later expanded. The journal was sponsored and staffed by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines (now *Geology*) & Mineral Resources and the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology.



**ISOCHRON/WEST**

*A Bulletin of Isotopic Geochronology*

All back-issue papers are available for free: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/publications/periodicals/isochronwest>

*This page is intentionally left blank to maintain order of facing pages.*

## K-AR DATES FROM THE CASTINE – BLUE HILL AREA, MAINE

Douglas G. Brookins  
 Department of Geology  
 University of New Mexico  
 Albuquerque, NM 87131

The following K-Ar dates were run in 1964 and 1965 by Geochron Laboratories, Inc. and in part reported by Wingard and Brookins (1964). More detailed descriptions are published at this time so that interested geologists can make use of the data. Chapman and Wingard (1958) and Wingard (1961) recognize four distinct sets of dikes emplaced from the Siluro-Devonian to the Triassic (?). These are referred to as Set I (oldest) to Set IV (youngest).

Constants used in the age calculations are:  $\lambda_e = 0.585 \times 10^{-10}/\text{yr}$ ,  $\lambda_\mu = 4.72 \times 10^{-10}/\text{yr}$ ,  $K^{40}/K_{\text{total}} = 1.22 \times 10^{-4} \text{ gm/gm}$ .

## SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

1. C-122 K-Ar (whole rock) 348±20 m.y.  
 Dike, set I (44° 15.94'N, 68° 31.20'W; ME). Dark green, hypidiomorphic granular, hornblende schist (foliated diabase with segregation layers of quartz .15 mm thick and hornblende 0.4 mm thick; 51% quartz, 40% hornblende). Analytical data: K = 0.294%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0080 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 19.1%.
2. 133 K-Ar (whole rock) 164±6 m.y.  
 Dike, set IV (44° 14.23'N, 68° 33.45'W; ME). Dark brown, fine grained, automorphic-granular, biotite monchiquite containing 65% titanite, 15% biotite, 10% olivine, and 9% titanomagnetite. Analytical data: K = 2.32%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 74.7%.
3. C-95 K-Ar (whole rock) 470±50 m.y.  
 Dike, set I (44° 22.57'N, 68° 33.59'W; ME). Purplish-black, fine grained, lepidoblastic, foliated amphibolite containing 58% hornblende, 38% plagioclase, and 4% magnetite and others. Analytical data: K = 0.216%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0082 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 10.1%. Comment: This date is too old (Wingard, 1961) although the lower limit set by the analytical uncertainty (e.g. 420 m.y.) may be close. This high age may be due to excess \*Ar<sup>40</sup> or poor analytical control (note large air correction).
4. C-120 K-Ar (whole rock) 176±8 m.y.  
 Dike, set IV (44° 19.83'N, 68° 44.88'W; ME). Purplish, fine grained, holocrystalline, porphyritic camptonite containing 20% titanite, 40% andesine, 10% serpentinized olivine, 25% barkevikite, 5% biotite, and magnetite and accessories. Analytical data: K = 1.38%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0183 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 36%.
5. C-559 K-Ar (whole rock) 348±15 m.y.  
 Penobscot diorite (44° 26.26'N, 68° 44.40'W; ME). Gray, fine-grained, hypidiomorphic granular, quartz-bearing diorite containing 8% biotite, 20% hornblende, 58% plagioclase (oligoclase), 4% quartz, and 10% others. Analytical data: K = 1.185%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0324 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 15.2%. Comment: This rock intrudes the South Penobscot granite (see sample 11).
6. C-337 K-Ar (whole rock) 279±15 m.y.  
 Penobscot diorite (44° 27.79'N, 68° 44.82'W; ME). Gray, medium grained, hypidiomorphic granular, hornblende diorite containing 40% hornblende, 46% oligoclase-andesine, 6% biotite, 5% quartz, 2% apatite, magnetite, and others. Analytical data: K = 1.13%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0243 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 28.5%. Comment: Date probably too low (compare with sample 5) for reasons unknown.
7. C-125-b K-Ar (biotite) 343±12 m.y.  
 Oak Point granite (44° 15.90'N, 68° 31.20'W; ME). Pink, hypidiomorphic-granular, biotite granite displaying repakivi type phenocrysts. Analytical data: K = 6.55%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.176 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 88.3%. Comment: Granite studied by Stewart (1956, 1959); previous ages reported by Faul and others (1963) and Brookins and Spooner (1970).

8. C-125-f K-Ar (K-feldspar) 264±15 m.y.  
Oak Point granite (44°15.90'N, 68°31.20'W; ME). Analytical data: (K-feldspar concentrate consists of anhedral microcline and perthite; slight alteration to kaolin noted). K = 9.45%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.192 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/<sup>40</sup>Ar = 81%. Comment: Date probably too low due to diffusion of \*Ar<sup>40</sup>.
9. 711 K-Ar (biotite) 413±15 m.y.  
Sedgwick granite (44°19.77'N, 68°44.07'W; ME). Gray, hypidiomorphic granular, medium grained, biotite granite containing 3% biotite. Analytical data: (concentrate 97% biotite) K = 6.58%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.217 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 92.2%.
10. 287 K-Ar (biotite) 369±10 m.y.  
Ellsworth schist (44°25.48'N, 68°44.76'W; ME). Lavender, fine-grained, quartz-cordierite-biotite schist with quartz layers 1-2 mm thick interlayered with biotite layers 0.14 to 3-4 mm thick. Biotite constitutes 23% of rock. Analytical data: (concentrate 90% biotite) K = 5.57%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.162 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 91.8%. Comment: Sample collected from near, and presumably contact metamorphosed by, South Penobscot granite (see sample 11).
11. 552 K-Ar (biotite) 360±15 m.y.  
South Penobscot granite (44°26.90'N, 68°44.16'W; ME). Gray, medium grained, hypidiomorphic-granular, biotite granite containing 5% biotite. Minor alteration to chlorite. Analytical data: (concentrate 98% biotite) K = 6.10%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.172 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/Ar<sup>40</sup> = 46%. Comment: Both this sample and sample no. 10 (Ellsworth schist) may be effected by intrusion of diorite of South Penobscot (see Wingard, 1961).
12. 602 K-Ar (whole rock) 395±25 m.y.  
Castine volcanics (44°23.20'N, 68°49.27'W; ME). Gray, dense, quartz leucorhyolite porphyry. This rock has a micro-cryptocrystalline matrix with well developed bipyramidal quartz crystals. Microcrystalline sericite is evident throughout the rock and shows fluidal banding around quartz grains. Feldspar is cryptocrystalline. Some calcite and epidote (less than 0.5%) noted. Analytical data: K = 1.85%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0579 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 83.2%. Comment: This date is in surprisingly good agreement with the whole rock date of 390±5 m.y. reported by Brookins and others (1973).
13. C-254 K-Ar (whole rock) 207±6 m.y.  
Castine volcanic (44°18.44'N, 68°47.81'W; ME). Black, dense, porphyritic, quartz keratophyre. This rock has a porphyritic texture of albitized orthoclase set in a matrix of quartz and kaolinized feldspar with intersertal chlorite, quartz and feldspar. Small cavities are filled with calcite. Analytical data: K = 6.99%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.1088; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 272.2%. Comment: The sample has acted as an open system (e.g. presence of secondary calcite, etc.) and the date is too low.
14. 290 K-Ar (whole rock) 260±12 m.y.  
Felsite dike (44°24.63'N, 68°44.70'W; ME). Dike cuts Ellsworth schist. Gray, fine grained felsite containing microcline-perthite, quartz, plagioclase, and mafics; some secondary calcite. Analytical data: K = 3.80%; \*Ar<sup>40</sup> = 0.0756 ppm; \*Ar<sup>40</sup>/ΣAr<sup>40</sup> = 77%. Comment: This dike is similar to many of the Castine volcanics lithologies but has not been definitely categorized as Castine; the date is probably too low (e.g. secondary calcite).

## REFERENCES

- Brookins, D. G., and Spooner, C. M. (1970) The isotopic ages of the Oak Point and Stonington granites, eastern Penobscot Bay, Maine: *Jour. Geol.*, v. 78, p. 570-576.
- Brookins, D. G., Berdan, J. M., and Stewart, D. B. (1973) Isotopic and paleontologic evidence for correlating three volcanic sequences in the Maine coastal volcanic belt: *Geol. Soc. Amer. Bull.*, v. 84, p. 1619-1628.
- Chapman, C. A., and Wingard, P. S. (1958) Physical control and age of dike formation in the Maine coastal region: *Geol. Soc. Amer. Bull.*, v. 69, p. 1193-1195.
- Faul, Henry, Stern, T. W., Thomas, H. H., and Elmore, P. L. D. (1963) Ages of intrusion and metamorphism in the northern Appalachians: *Amer. Jour. Sci.*, v. 261, p. 1-19.
- Stewart, D. B. (1956) Rapakivi granite of the Deer Isle region, Maine: Ph.D. Thesis, Harvard Univ.
- Stewart, D. B. (1959) Rapakivi granite from eastern Penobscot Bay, Maine: 20th Internat. Geol. Cong., Mexico, Proc. 11 A, p. 293-320.
- Wingard, P. S. (1961) The geology of the Castine-Blue Hill area, Maine: Ph.D. Thesis, Univ. Illinois.
- Wingard, P. S., and Brookins, D. G. (1964) Age of basic dikes on the Castine-Blue Hill Peninsula, Maine: *Geol. Soc. Amer. Spec. Paper* 82, p. 226.