Hydrothermal Activity in the Indian Ocean





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InterRidge Vents Database, v. 3.3 (2015) Image U.S. Geological Survey Image Landsat // Copernicus US Dept of State Geographer Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth



InterRidge Vents Database, v. 3.3 (2015)

Imagery Date: 12/13/2015 28°30'49.19" S 59°53'53.71" E elev -16737 ft eye.alt 3019.73 mi

Inactive Hydrothermal Deposits on the Ultraslow-Spreading Southwest Indian Ridge

Dragon (Flag) Jade Emperor Mountain

Mt. Jourdanne

	Depth (m)	Location	Size	Characteristics
Mt. Jourdanne (27.85°S 63.93°E) wt.%)		Graben on top ial volcanic rid		Small chimneys & mounds; galena & Pb-As sulfosalts. Low Cu, high Zn, Pb, very high Au (11 ppm) and Ag (0.1
SWIR Unnamed, Segment 27 (37.66°S 50.47°E) (Break Bridge)	1739	Center of segment	200 x 125 m	Sulfide-silica chimneys, metalliferous sediments
Jade Emperor Mountain (37.94°S 49.26°E)	1400	?	? cha	Sphalerite, wurtzite, pyrite, alcopyrite

Dragon Flag (Longqi) Hydrothermal Field (37.78°S 49.65°E)

- At the termination of a detachment fault in Segment 28 at a depth of 2780 m
- Numerous active and inactive chimneys (up to 20 m), mounds and Fe-Si precipitates; also diffuse flow zones over large areas
- Chimneys of pyrite, marcasite, and sphalerite with conduits lined with chalcopyrite



End-Member Fluid Compositions from Longqi Hydrothermal Field, SWIR

	Vent DFF6	Vent DFF20	Seawater
Depth (m)	2765	2768	_
Т _{мах} (°С)	379	365	—
рH	3.68	3.58	7.8
<u>Cl (mM</u>)	615	616	542
K (<u>mM</u>)	11.1	11.4	10.1
<u>Ca (mM)</u>	40.6	42.9	10.2
Si (<u>mM</u>)	2.9	8.7	0.1
Fe (mM)	11.6	12.0	0.001
<u>Mn</u> (µM)	1345	1431	<0.001
Cu (μM)	14.2	53.7	0.004
Zn (μM)	47.0	90.5	0.006
H₂ (<u>mM</u>)	0.21	0.17	<0.001





(Ji et al., 2017)

Inactive Hydrothermal Field on the Intermediate-Spreading Central Indian Ridge



	Depth (m)	Location	Size	Characteristics
MESO Zone (23.39°S 69.24°E)	2850 volcanic r	C	oxidized	Three different sites (one is Sonne field) in a state of gration. Mound that is topped with chimney stumps (1.5 m high) that have been to secondary Cu-minerals.

Active Hydrothermal Fields on the Intermediate-Spreading Central Indian Ridge



Geotectonic Settings of Dodo & Solitaire Hydrothermal Fields



(Okino et al., 2015)









Nakamura et al.. 2012; Humphris, unpublished)

Geotectonic Settings of Edmond & Kairei Hydrothermal Fields



(Okino et al., 2015)

End-Member Fluid Compositions from CIR Hydrothermal Fields

	Dodo	Solitaire	Edmond	<u>Kairei</u>	<u>Seawate</u> r
Host rock	Basalt	Basalt	Basalt	Basalt/	
			Į	Peridotite (?)	
Depth (m)	2745	2606	3300	2422	
Т _{мах} (°С)	356	307	382	359	
рH	3.27	4.40	3.13	3.36	7.8
<u>Cl (mM</u>)	684	489	950	637	542
Na (<u>mM</u>)	566	409	717	534	475
K (<u>mM</u>)	38	32	43	15	10.1
Ca (mM)	22	21	64	31	10.2
Si (<u>mM</u>)	17.3	15.2	20	17	0.1
Fe (µM)	5408	60	13,900	5400	0.001
<u>Mn</u> (μM)	917	78	1430	840	<0.001
CO₂ (mM)	4.6	16.2	5.0	3.94	2.3
CH₄ (<u>mM</u>)	0.025	0.043		0.104	0
H ₂ (mM)	2.70	0.43	0.12	3.8-8.5	0
H₂S (<u>mM</u>)	2.80	4.75	4.81	4.0	0

(Kawagucci et al., 2016)



Summary



- Hydrothermal activity is widespread in the Indian Ocean
 - 90-100 sites of inferred hydrothermal activity reported to date
- There is considerable diversity in the tectonic settings among the five known active sites
 - on-axis, on rift valley wall, associated with a detachment fault
- There is variation in the substrate host rock
 N-MORB, hotspot influenced MORB, ultramafic
- Vent fluid chemistries are similar to those seen at other MOR systems with the fundamental regulating processes being fluidmineral equilibria and phase separation

Outstanding Questions for Consideration by IIOE-2



- What is the abundance and geological, chemical, and biological diversity of seafloor hydrothermal systems on the mid-ocean ridges of the Indian Ocean?
- What is the contribution of elemental exchange during water-rock reactions in Indian Ocean hydrothermal systems to local and global biogeochemical cycles?
- How do fluids link subseafloor and water column biogeochemical processes?
- What is the resource potential of both active and inactive mineral deposits at Indian Ocean spreading centers?