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Sulfide chemistry and sulfur isotope characteristics of the Cenozoic volcanic-hosted Kuh-Pang copper

deposit, Saveh county, northwestern Central Iran

Shahrokh Rajabpour^{a,b}*, Mehrdad Behzadi^a, Shao-Yong Jiang^{b,c*}, Iraj Rasa^a, Bernd Lehmann^d, Ying Ma^b

^a Department of Geology, Faculty of Earth Science, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

^b State Key Laboratory of Geological Processes and Mineral Resources, Collaborative Innovation Center for Exploration of Strategic Mineral Resources, Faculty of Earth Resources, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan 430074, P.R. China

^c State Key Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research, Department of Earth Sciences, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, P.R. China

^d Mineral Resources, Technical University of Clausthal, 38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany

*Corresponding authors, e-mail: <u>sh.rajabpour@gmail.com</u> (S. Rajabpour) and <u>shyjiang@cug.edu.cn</u> (S-Y Jiang)

Abstract

The several-hundred-m-thick Eocene-Oligocene volcanic units in the Urmia-Dokhtar magmatic arc in northwestern Central Iran host stratabound and fault-controlled copper mineralization. The Kuh-Pang deposit (2.8 Mt at 1.65 wt.% Cu, 0.52 g/t Au, 34 g/t Ag) has vein-style copper mineralization, with primary Cu-sulfides of chalcopyrite, bornite, chalcocite and digenite, and supergene Cu-sulfides of chalcocite, covellite, malachite and azurite, in a tectonic–hydrothermal breccia zone within rhyodacite and andesite flows. The mineralization is accompanied by a variety of alterations including silicic, carbonate, argillic and advanced argillic within a broad-scale propylitic halo. The main ore formation is related to hydrothermal breccias, and has a close association with silicic and argillic alterations. Sulfides formed during hydrothermal alteration, as indicated by: 1) the occurrence of disseminated sulfides in the groundmass of hydrothermally altered rocks, 2) the co-precipitation of sulfides and alteration minerals (e.g., kaolinite, alunite) in the cement of hydrothermal breccias, and 3) the occurrence of sulfides

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