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R. Myhill, D.J. Frost, D. Novella

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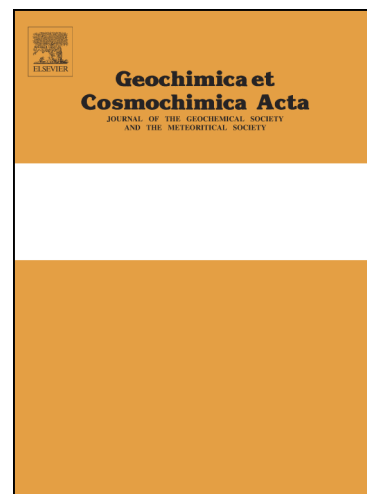
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Hydrous melting and partitioning in and above the
mantle transition zone: insights from water-rich
MgO-SiO₂-H₂O experiments

R. Myhill

*Bayerisches Geoinstitut, Universität Bayreuth, Universitätsstrasse 30, 95447 Bayreuth,
Germany*
*Now at School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queens
Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ, United Kingdom*

D. J. Frost

*Bayerisches Geoinstitut, Universität Bayreuth, Universitätsstrasse 30, 95447 Bayreuth,
Germany*

D. Novella

*Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans, Université Blaise Pascal, 5 Rue Kessler, 63038
Clermond-Ferrand, France*

Abstract

Hydrous melting at high pressures affects the physical properties, dynamics and chemical differentiation of the Earth. However, probing the compositions of hydrous melts at the conditions of the deeper mantle such as the transition zone has traditionally been challenging. In this study, we conducted high pressure multianvil experiments at 13 GPa between 1200 and 1900 °C to investigate the liquidus in the system MgO-SiO₂-H₂O. Water-rich starting compositions were created using platinumic acid (H₂Pt(OH)₆) as a novel water source. As MgO:SiO₂ ratios decrease, the T-X_{H₂O} liquidus curve develops an increasingly pronounced concave-up topology. The melting point reduction of enstatite and stishovite at low water contents exceeds that predicted by simple ideal models of hydrogen speciation. We discuss the implications of these results with respect to the behaviour of melts in the deep upper mantle and transition zone, and present

*Corresponding author: R. Myhill
Email address: bob.myhill@bristol.ac.uk (R. Myhill)

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