

Accepted Manuscript

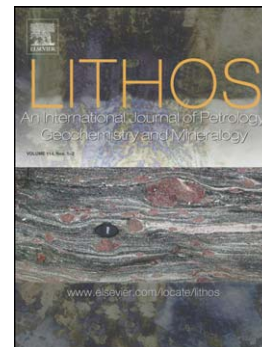
Orogenic gold: Common or evolving fluid and metal sources through time

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PII: S0024-4937(15)00261-3
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.lithos.2015.07.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lithos.2015.07.011)
Reference: LITHOS 3651

To appear in: *LITHOS*

Received date: 5 January 2015
Accepted date: 11 July 2015



Please cite this article as: Goldfarb, Richard J., Groves, David I., Orogenic gold: Common or evolving fluid and metal sources through time, *LITHOS* (2015), doi: [10.1016/j.lithos.2015.07.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lithos.2015.07.011)

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**OROGENIC GOLD: COMMON OR EVOLVING FLUID AND METAL SOURCES
THROUGH TIME****Richard J. Goldfarb^{a,b,c*} and David I. Groves^{c,d}**^aU.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046, MS 964, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225-0046, USA^bState Key Laboratory of Geological Processes and Mineral Resources, School of Earth Sciences and Resources, China University of Geosciences, Beijing 100083, China^cCentre for Exploration Targeting, School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia, Australia 60094^dOrebusters Py Ltd, 4 Handley Close, Leeming, WA 6149, Australia

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Abstract

Orogenic gold deposits of all ages, from Paleoproterozoic to Tertiary, show consistency in chemical composition. They are the products of aqueous-carbonic fluids, with typically 5-20 mole percent CO₂, although unmixing during extreme pressure fluctuation can lead to entrapment of much more CO₂-rich fluid inclusions in some cases. Ore fluids are typically characterized by significant concentrations of CH₄ and/or N₂, common estimates of 0.01-0.36 mole percent H₂S, a near-neutral pH of 5.5, and salinities of 3-7 wt. percent NaCl equiv., with Na>K>>Ca,Mg. This fluid composition consistency favors an ore fluid produced from a single source area and rules out mixing of fluids from multiple sources as significant in orogenic gold formation.

Nevertheless, there are broad ranges in more robust fluid-inclusion trapping temperatures and pressures between deposits that support a model where this specific fluid may deposit ore over a broad window of upper to middle crustal depths.

Much of the reported isotopic and noble gas data are inconsistent between deposits, leading to the common equivocal interpretations from studies that have attempted to define fluid and metal source areas for various orogenic gold provinces. Fluid stable isotope values are commonly

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