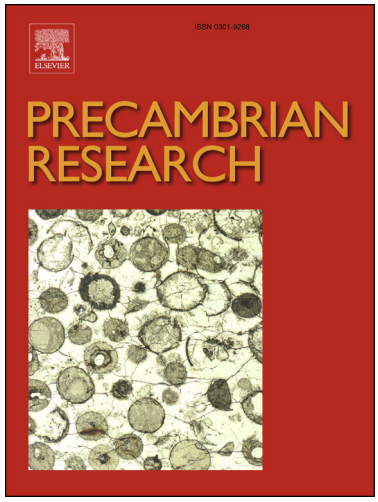

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Kai Wang [a, b, c], Zheng-Xiang Li [c], Shuwen Dong [d, e, *], Jianjun Cui [f], Baofu Han [b], Tao Zheng [g], Yilong Xu [g]

[a] Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China

[b] School of Earth and Space Sciences, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

[c] Earth Dynamics Research Group, The Institute for Geoscience Research (TIGeR), School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, WA 6845, Australia

[d] School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, China

[e] SinProbe Center, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China

[f] Institute of Geomechanics, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100081, China

[g] College of Geosciences and Info-Physics, Central South University, Changsha 410083, China

ABSTRACT

We report here new zircon U-Pb age and Hf-isotope as well as geochemical analyses of the recently discovered Archean-Paleoproterozoic Zhongxiang Complex in the northern-central Yangtze Craton, South China, and interpret the early crustal evolution of the Yangtze Craton. Zircon LA-ICP-MS dating yielded magmatic crystallization ages of ca. 2.90–2.87 Ga for two monzogranites, ca. 2.77 Ga for a trondhjemitic gneiss, and ca. 2.67–2.62 Ga for three potassic granites. The trondhjemitic gneiss also contains zircon rims that record a metamorphic event at ca. 2.08 Ga. These results demonstrate that the Zhongxiang Complex is significantly older

*Corresponding author at: Department of Earth Sciences, Nanjing University, 163 Xianlin Road, School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Nanjing 210093, PR China.
E-mail address: swdong@nju.edu.cn (S. Dong).