



## **Geological and geochemical criteria for the continental nature of the Mendeleev Rise (the Arctic Ocean) from the data of drilling and dredging of seabed rock material**

Andrey Morozov (1), Oleg Petrov (2), Alexander Kremenetskiy (3), Sergey Kashubin (2), Pavel Rekant (4), Eugene Gusev (4), Sergey Shokalskiy (2), Sergey Shevchenko (2), Sergey Sergeev (2), and Eugene Artyushkov (5)

(1) Federal Agency of Mineral Resources (ROSNEFRA), Russia, (2) A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI), Russia, (3) Institute of Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Crystal Chemistry of Rare Elements, Russia, (4) VNIIOkeangeologiya, Russia, (5) Institut of Physics of the Earth, Russia

The results are presented of geological and geophysical studies on the Mendeleev Rise at 10 test sites at 79°N to 83°N (expedition "Arktika-2012" in August-September 2012). During the expedition, for the first time, three boreholes were drilled in the bedrocks of the Mendeleev Rise basement at a depth of 1700-2600 m, and more than 20 thousand fragments of seabed rock material were dredged. Among them carbonate-bearing rocks including dolomite with relicts of trilobites and ostracoderms (D3-C) constitute up to 65 %. Up to 20% are terrigenous rocks with a predominance of quartz sandstones. Magmatic rocks constitute 10-15% of the samples (including 8% of gabbro-dolerite and 2 % of granite) with 5% of metamorphic rocks.

The boreholes revealed magmatic mafic rocks of basalt to basaltic andesite to trachyandesite series ( $\text{SiO}_2$ -48-58%  $\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ -3,4-9,2%) including epigenically altered volcanic breccias. All fragments of magmatic mafic rocks have a similar mineral and chemical composition and are grouped with gabbro dolerite ( $\text{SiO}_2$ -49-51%,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ -2,5-3,0%).

Preliminary results of mineralogic, geochemical and of isotopic geochemical (ICP-OEC, ICP-MS, RFA, Sm-Nd, Rb-Sr, EPMA and others) analyses suggest the continental nature of the studied rocks and show a distinct difference from rocks of the Gakkel Ridge in the Eurasian part of the ocean, which are of the oceanic origin.

U-Pb dating of zircons from the core rocks and seabed rock material (SIMS SHRIMP II) indicate a wide range of their formation age: 2940-995, 639-385 and 303-203 Ma and thus suggest that they belong to volcanogenic terrigenous carbonate-bearing bed of the ancient platform composing the floor of Amerasian part of the Arctic Ocean.