



Sulfur and carbon isotopes in volcanic gases of the Kuril Island arc, NW Pacific

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Sulfur and carbon isotopic composition of the total sulfur and CO₂ were analyzed in more than 30 samples of fumarolic gases from 7 volcanoes of the Kuril arc sampled in 2015-2017. Fumarolic temperatures varied from 98 to 722°C. Isotopic composition of CO₂ was analyzed from samples of “dry gas”, whereas the sulfur isotopic composition was measured from the total sulfur precipitated as BaSO₄ after oxidation of the alkaline condensates. Sulfur isotopic composition of the total sulfur varies in a wide range of 0 ‰ to +10 ‰ (V-CDT) without a visible along-arc trend. There is a broad negative correlation between δ³⁴S and the fumarolic vent temperature. For fumaroles with $t > 400^{\circ}\text{C}$ (higher than the boiling point of native S), the values of δ³⁴S vary in a narrow range of $+3 \pm 0.3$ ‰. The variability of δ³⁴S in low-temperature fumarolic gases may be attributed to two main processes: precipitation of native S (enrichment in ³⁴S) and dissolution of SO₄ in the acidic boiling brine beneath fumarolic fields (depletion in ³⁴S). Both processes can be modelled using an appropriate thermochemical computer code. Values of δ¹³C-CO₂ varied in a range of -5.2 to -1.3 ‰ (V-PDB) and showed an irregular along-arc distribution. The MORB-like values of ~ -5 ‰ are characteristic for high-temperature fumaroles of the northern Ebeko volcano, Pallas volcano, Ketoy Island, in the middle of the arc, and Kudryavy volcano at the southern Iturup Island. Fumaroles of both volcanoes (Sinarka and Kuntomintar) at Shiashkotan Island with temperatures from 130 to 441°C emit CO₂ enriched in ¹³C, with δ¹³C from -1.3 ‰ to -2.6 ‰. The southernmost Mendeleev and Golovnin volcanoes at Kunashir Island with a distance of 20 km between their summits emit CO₂ with δ¹³C of ~ -4.5 ‰ (5 samples) at Mendeleev volcano and ~ -2.4 ‰ (6 samples) at Golovnin volcano. This work was supported by a grant from the Russian Science Foundation # 15-17-20011.