THE KERMADEC ARC

OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE PRESENT AND PAST



Geographical Overview – Tonga Kermadec arc



- Intra-oceanic, mostly submarine
 arc
- Extends ~ 2,500km N of New Zealand
- Subduction of Cretaceous Pacific Plate beneath the Australian Plate
- Segmented by the subducting Louisville seamount chain into
 - Tonga arc system (N) and
 - Kermadec arc system (S)

Colville-Kermadec Ridges – Evolution of the Kermadec Arc



Modified after Ruellan et al. (2003)

The Kermadec Arc - Overview



The Kermadec Arc - Features



The Kermadec Arc – Features



Main features

- Continental-oceanic transition between WI and Whakatane
- Change in morphology at ~31-32°S
- Subducting Hikurangi Plateau and Louisville seamounts and
 - Increase in sediment coverage and change in sediment composition from north to south
 - Increased fluid flux and tectonic erosion due to subducting Hikurangi Plateau?

Havre Trough – Rifting vs. spreading



Map from Wysoczanski et al. (2010)



 Slab dip ~30° until 100km and the steepens to ~45°

 Slab dip ~30° until 100km and the steepens to up to 60°

The Kermadec Arc – Crust



Kermadec Arc Volcanoes



Olina Scielice

Active Volcanoe



Volcanically active - Monowai



After Watts et al. (2012)

Kermadec Arc Lavas – Major elements



Data sources: Turner et al. (1997), Haase et al. (2002, 2006), Ewart et al. (1998), Graham et al. (2008), Smith et al. (2009), and Todd et al. (2011).





Kermadec arc lavas – isotopes



Colville-Kermadec Ridge Lavas – Pb isotopes



Colville-Kermadec Ridge Lavas – Trace element ratios



Kermadec Arc – Summary



- Old arc: Colville and Kermadec Ridges (17-5 Ma)
- Havre Trough: Spreading vs. Rifting
- Change in bathymetry at ~31-32°S
- Increasing slab dip from N to S
- Varying mantle and crustal composition
- Role of subducting features (HP, LSC, Sediments etc.) on, for example, melt genesis, eruption style and hydrothermal systems



RV Yokosuka



RV Thomas G Thompson



RV Ka'imimoana





Bon voyage ...

