

Characteristics and Origins of Hot Springs in the Tatun Volcano Group in Northern Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

This paper systematically surveyed distribution and field occurrences of 13 hot springs as well as geochemical investigation on the geothermal area of the Tatun Volcano Group (TVG). According to Piper diagrams, pH values, field occurrences and water-rock interactions, these hot springs can be classified into three types: (1) Type I, SO_4^{2-} acidic water where the reservoir is located in the Wuchishan Formation; (2) Type II, HCO_3^- a near neutral spring where waters originate from the volcanic terrane (andesite); and (3) Type III, Cl^- rich acidic water where waters emanate from shallower Wuchishan Formation. In terms of isotopic ratio, δD and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values, two groups of hot spring can be recognized. One is far away from the meteoric water line of the Tatun area with values ranging between -26.2‰ and -3.5‰ , and from -3.2‰ to 1.6‰ , respectively. However, another close to the meteoric water line of the Tatun area is between -28.4‰ and -13.6‰ , and from -5.5‰ to -4.2‰ , respectively. In addition, the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ value of thermal waters can also be distinguished into two groups, one ranging from 26.1‰ to 28.5‰ , and the other between 0.8‰ and 7.8‰ . Based on field occurrences and geochemical characteristics, a model has been proposed to illustrate the origin of these hot springs.

Key words: Taiwan, Tatun Volcano Group, Hot springs, Sulfur isotope, Stable isotope

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1. INTRODUCTION

The variation of geochemical components of hot springs associated with volcanic activity is considered to be an important index (Giggenbach and Glover 1975; Williams et al. 1986; Martin-Del Pozzo et al. 2002; Cinzia et al. 2004; López et al. 2006). The characteristics of volcano-related hot springs can help to understand the processes of the volcanic degassing and the reservoir (McNutt and Beavan 1981; Rydelek et al. 1988; Neuberg 2000; Williams-Jones et al. 2001).

The Tatun Volcano Group (TVG) is located on the northern border of the Taipei Basin in northern Taiwan which includes a metropolitan area of more than seven million inhabitants. Two nuclear power plants are located only a few kilometers north and northeast of the TVG. The volcanoes of the TVG have usually been considered dormant or

extinct because no historical eruptions have been recorded. However, a large number of shallow micro-earthquakes, harmonic codas and seismic tremors have been identified showing that a magma chamber may still exist beneath the TVG (Lin et al. 2005; Konstantinou et al. 2007). High heat flows with geothermal gradients higher than $100^\circ\text{C km}^{-1}$ were detected through geothermal exploration between 1960s and 1970s (MRSO 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973). Meanwhile, recent measurements of volcanic gases and $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratios also show that an active magma chamber might still exist underneath the TVG (Yang et al. 1999; Lee et al. 2005, 2008; Lan et al. 2007). The TVG, thus, is recognized as “an active volcano” in Taiwan based on numerous micro-earthquakes, high heat flow and abnormally high helium ratios (Song et al. 2000a). Meanwhile, the youngest eruption was suggested to be ca. 6000 year ago based on recent study of the stratigraphy, volcanoclastic deposits, radiocarbon age, as well as the morphology of lava flows and domes in the TVG (Belousov et al. 2010).

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Since the 1960s, the hydrothermal systems of the TVG area, i.e., fumaroles, solfataras and hot springs with temperatures higher than 100°C, have been found to be widely distributed in a belt 18 km long and 3 km wide from the Beitou to Chinshan areas (Fig. 1) and located predominantly along the surface trace of the Chinshan Fault (MRSO 1969). Those features show that the TVG exhibits strong post-volcanic activity. Hot springs for bathing and partial hydrotherapy have been well known since the 19th century in the TVG, especially in the Beitou area. Several geochemical characteristics have been reported previously in the TVG, such as SO_4^{2-} -rich acidity, near neutral HCO_3^- , Cl-rich acidity (MRSO 1969), and highly radioactive springs which occurred the Hokutolite (Okamoto 1918). Although some papers have described these hot springs based on the results of geothermal explorations conducted in the 1960s and 1970s (MRSO 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973), there has been no systematic research on the geochemical characteristics and origins of these hot springs. The temperature and pH value of hot springs of previous studies were from 30°C to 97°C, between 1.25 and 7.6, respectively.

In this study, we systematically surveyed the distribution and field occurrences of hot springs and sampled water from them for geochemical investigations in the geothermal areas of the TVG. The aim is to study the origins and processes in volcanic degassing and reservoir in different types of hot springs. Therefore, it will provide basic data to evaluate these hot springs as candidate sites for future monitoring of volcanic activity in the TVG.

2. GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

During the late Cenozoic, the island of Taiwan was created when the Philippine Sea plate obliquely collided with the Eurasian plate (Fig. 1). The island is located between two subduction zones (Ho 1986). In northern Taiwan, the Philippine Sea plate subducts northward under the Eurasian plate, producing the Ryukyu Island Arc system (Tsai 1978; Wu 1978; Suppe 1984; Teng 1996); in southern Taiwan, the South China Sea plate subducts eastward under the Philippine Sea plate, forming the Manila trench and the Luzon Arc system, where the Philippine Sea plate over-thrusts westward on the Eurasian continental margin (Seno 1977; Taylor and Hayes 1980). Presently, the Philippine Sea plate moves WNW with the rate ca. 80 mm yr⁻¹, and mountain-building processes are considered still ongoing (Yu et al. 1997).

Quaternary volcanoes in northern Taiwan consist of the Tatun and Chilung Volcano Groups, the Kuanyinshan Volcano and offshore volcanic islets, i.e., Chilungtao, Huapangshu, Meinhuahsu, and Penghiahsu. These compositions of volcanic rocks are predominantly composed of andesite with a little basalt or dacite (Juang and Chen 1989; Song et al. 2000b; Lai et al. 2010; Tsai et al. 2010). Tectonically, they are spatially associated with the Ryukyu Island Arc (Chen 1975; Yen 1978), where the Philippine Sea plate subducts northward under the Eurasian plate (Tsai et al. 1981; Suppe 1984). Although related orogenic movement has occurred since 10 Ma, volcanism in northern Taiwan may be due to the MNW movement and westerly encroachment of

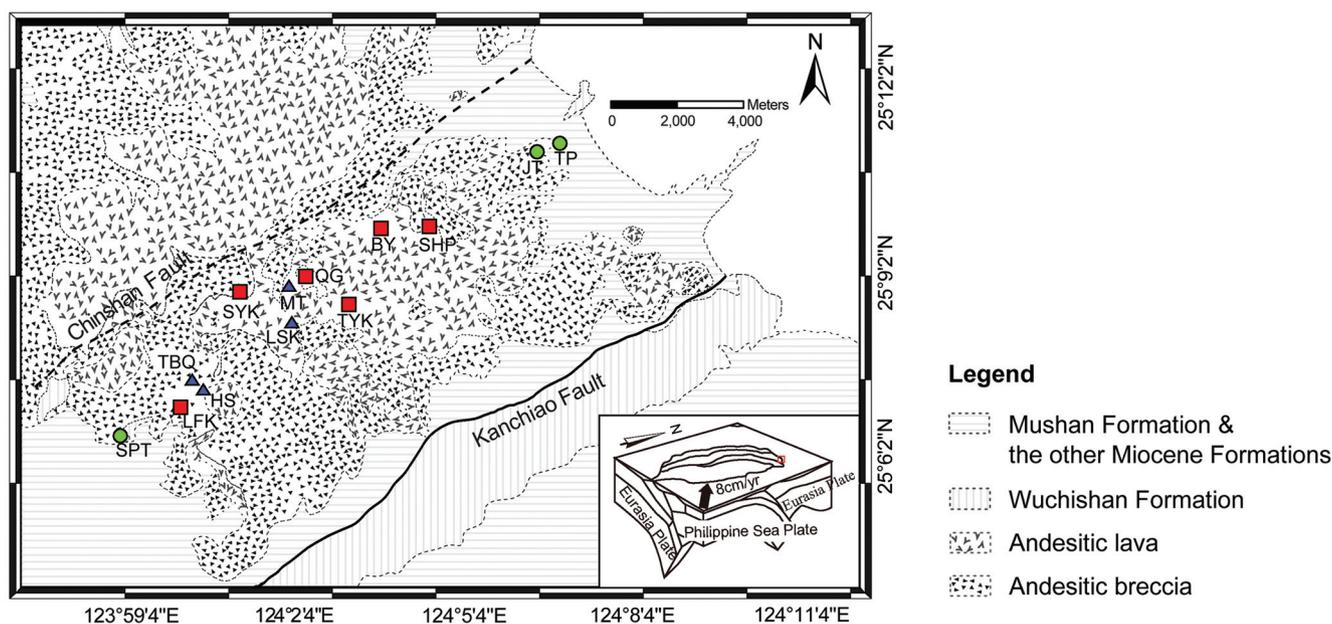


Fig. 1. Schematic geological map showing the 13-sample-site locations in the Tatun geothermal area (modified from Huang 1998). There are three different types thermal water which are Type I thermal water (a red solid square), Type II hot spring (blue solid delta) and Type III thermal water (green solid circle). In the bottom right corner, it shows the Philippine Sea plate moves toward WNW with the rate of 80 mm yr⁻¹ and the red open square indicates this study area.

the subducting Philippine Sea plate in the collision (Teng et al. 1992; Teng 1996). However, the magmatism in northern Taiwan might be related to post-collision collapse of a mountain belt rather than arc volcanism in terms of geochemical data (Wang et al. 1999, 2002, 2004).

The TVG, a typical multivert volcano, containing at least twenty volcanic composites, cones and domes in an area of $20 \times 20 \text{ km}^2$ (400 km^2), occupies most volcanic areas in northern Taiwan (Chen and Wu 1971; Song et al. 2000b; Lai et al. 2010; Tsai et al. 2010). Volcanic bodies of the TVG, except for the Nantzesan, Tinghouhsiushan, and Patotzesan volcanoes, are mainly distributed along the Chinsan Fault with an east-northeast to northeast trend. They intersect at the Tatanshan volcano, forming a half amphitheater with a mouth opening to the north-northeast. The distributions and landforms of the volcanoes may have been formed by eruptions after lava domes and lava flows (Belousov et al. 2010).

Late Tertiary sedimentary sequences, i.e., the Wuchishan and Mushan Formations, occur as basement rocks below the volcanic body of the TVG. In addition, the volcanic rocks are predominantly composed of lava flows with subsidiary pyroclastic breccias, tuffs, lahars and reworked volcanoclastics. The TVG shows explosive activity from primary pyroclastic deposits that indicate eruptions of the TVG were less explosive than eruptions of subduction-related volcanoes in general (Belousov et al. 2010). The post volcanic activities of the TVG, i.e., hot springs and gas fumaroles, are well developed now and are mainly distributed in the periphery of main volcanic composites and cones along the Chihshan Fault with an area $18 \times 3 \text{ km}^2$ from the south to the north of the TVG area (MRSO 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973; Chen and Wu 1971) (Fig. 1).

Based on dating results, the volcanic activities of the TVG can be divided into two major periods. The first period began ca. 2.8 - 2.5 Ma, and the second period was from 0.8 to 0.2 Ma (Juang and Chen 1989; Wang and Chen 1990; Juang 1993; Tsao 1994). Consequently, the TVG was identified as an extinct volcano group due to a lack of historically documented eruptions. However, recent study shows that the youngest volcano has significant magmatic eruptions at about 13000 BP (and possibly 6000BP) in Mt. Chising (Belousov et al. 2010). Meantime, post volcanic activity, such as wide distribution fumaroles, solfatara and hot springs, helium isotopic data, and core records indicate that a magma chamber may exist underneath the TVG. The TVG, therefore, might still be an active volcano as defined by Szakács (Szakács 1994; Yang et al. 1999; Song et al. 2000a; Lin et al. 2005).

3. FIELD OBSERVATION

The host rocks of 13 hot-spring outcrops in the TVG area are divided into two groups. One group is located in

volcanic terrane and the other is in sedimentary formations. The former includes ten hot springs, which are the Longfengku (LFK), Tingbiqiao (TBQ), Hoshan (HS), Lengshueiken (LSK), Hsiaoyukeng (SYK), Matsao (MT), Qigu (QG), Tayukeng (TYK), Bayan (BY), and Szehuangtzeiping (SHP). The later contains three hot springs, which are Hsinpeitou (SPT), Jiatou (JT), and Tapu (TP).

The LFK, SYK, QG, TYK, BY, and SHP thermal water are located in andesitic breccias or lava flows, and they are associated with strong degassing of fumaroles. The country rocks of these samples have been altered by hydrothermal fluids with temperature and pH values varying between 42.8°C and 93.0°C , between 1.5 and 3.2, respectively. The total dissolved solids (TDS) of these samples are in the interval 245 to 12900 mg L^{-1} , and associate with high temperature and low pH values. Meanwhile, yellowish needles or dendritic sulfur crystals are directly precipitated from the fumaroles gases, and deposited around the rims of hot springs. On the other hand, four hot springs, the Tingbiqiao (TBQ), Hoshan (HS), Lengshueiken (LSK) and Matsao (MT) have near neutral pH values, and are also situated on volcanic bodies. The host rocks of these four samples are fresh andesitic rock, and their temperature and pH values are between 40.6°C and 61.7°C and between 5.8 and 6.5, respectively. The TDS of them are in the interval 957 to 1149 mg L^{-1} , except for at MT, which is about 295 mg L^{-1} .

In addition, three hot springs, Hsinpeitou (SPT), Jiatou (JT) and Tapu (TP), are located on the Oligocene-Miocene sedimentary rocks of the Wuchishan Formation. These springs are acidic with pH values ranging from 1.2 to 1.9. Their temperature and TDS are between 71.8°C to 90.8°C , and 17400 to 19800 mg L^{-1} , respectively.

4. SAMPLING AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

In this study, all collected samples were filtered through $0.45\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ cellulose filters in the field and stored in high-density polyethylene (HDPE). However, for cation analysis, we not only filtered the sample but also added ultra pure HNO_3 to prevent precipitation in the field. In the laboratory, Yttrium is added in these samples as the internal standard.

The anions and cations were measured using an ion chromatograph (IC, Type Met-Rohm) and an inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometer (ICP-AES, Type Jobin-Yvon ULTIMA2), respectively. The uncertainties were less than 3% for the former and less than 2% for the latter. We used Zn reduction (Friedman 1953; Coleman et al. 1982; Kendall and Coplen 1985) and the CO_2 equilibrium method (Cohn and Urey 1938; Epstein and Mayeda 1953) to collect the hydrogen and carbon dioxide gases from these samples and analyzed them using the Finnigan Delta Plus-Mass Spectrometer of this department with precisions of about 0.1‰ for the oxygen isotopes and 1‰ for the hydrogen isotopes, respectively. In addition, the sample

is acidified and then the dissolved sulfate is precipitated by adding BaCl_2 , as barium sulfate (BaSO_4) (Yanagisawa and Sakai 1983). The sulfur isotopic values of these samples were analyzed by the Nuclidesmass Spectrometer of the laboratory of Illinois State Geological Survey, and their analytical uncertainties were 0.3‰.

5. CHEMICAL AND ISOTOPIC COMPOSITIONS OF HOT SPRINGS

5.1 Water Chemistry

Seven major elements, i.e., the Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , HCO_3^- , Cl^- , and SO_4^{2-} ions of these samples in the TVG, were analyzed and shown in Table 1 and Fig. 2 (Piper 1944).

With regard to the major anions of all samples in the TVG, the concentrations of SO_4^{2-} , HCO_3^- and Cl^- range from 113 to 9980 mg L^{-1} , from 56.3 to 777 mg L^{-1} , and from 9.2 to 3990 mg L^{-1} , respectively. Among them, nine samples are rich in SO_4^{2-} compositions with concentrations between 340 to 9980 mg L^{-1} and lower pH values varying from 1.2 to 3.2. They are from the LFK, SYK, QG, TYK, BY, SHP, JT, TP, and SPT thermal water (Table 1). Furthermore, four samples from the TBQ, HS, LSK, and MT thermal water being rich in HCO_3^- , a bicarbonate, have near neutral pH values ranging from 5.8 to 6.5 (Fig. 3). In addition, three samples from the SPT, JP, and TP thermal water are rich in chloride, with concentrations ranging from 830 to 3990 mg L^{-1} .

Moreover, the major cations of all thermal water in the TVG are Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} and they range from 5.5 to 1496 mg L^{-1} , from 1.5 to 253 mg L^{-1} , from 2.0 to 209 mg L^{-1} , and from 5.3 to 382 mg L^{-1} , respectively. Three samples, the SPT, JT and TP thermal waters, are rich in Na^+ compositions with concentrations ranging from 410 to 1496 mg L^{-1} and the other samples, i.e., the LFK, TBQ, HS, LSK, SYK, MT, QG, TYK, BY, and SHP thermal waters, are lower in Na^+ compositions with concentrations between 5.5 and 97.0 mg L^{-1} (Table 1). Moreover, potassium concentrations of ten samples are less than 70.8 mg L^{-1} . Furthermore, six samples are poor in Mg^{2+} concentrations ranging from 2.0 to 35.7 mg L^{-1} . Finally, the calcium concentrations of seven samples, named the SPT, TBQ, HS, LSK, SYK, JT, and TP thermal waters, are enriched between 118 to 382 mg L^{-1} .

5.2 Isotopic Results

5.2.1 Hydrogen and Oxygen Isotopes

In the TVG area, previous studies on the oxygen and hydrogen isotopic ratios of rain water and showed variations ranging from -6.31‰ to -5.13‰ and from -40.5‰ to -16.3‰, respectively (Liu 1984). Furthermore, the meteoric water line was constructed, and the corresponding least square regression equation was given to be $\delta\text{D} = (9.3 \pm 1.2) \delta^{18}\text{O} + (27 \pm 8)$ with a correlation coefficient of about

Table 1. Chemical and isotopic compositions (mg L^{-1} ; $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and δD in ‰V-SMOW; $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in ‰CDT) of 13 hot-spring samples from the TVG (NA: not analyzed; -: below detection limit).

Sample name	Date	Type	Temp. (°C)	pH	TDS	Na^+	K^+	Ca^{2+}	Mg^{2+}	HCO_3^-	SO_4^{2-}	Cl^-	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	δD	$\delta^{34}\text{S}$
SPT	07/03/27	III	71.8	1.3	17600	1017	216	151	81.2	-	2644	3152	-3.2	-26.2	26.1
LFK	07/03/27	I	80.3	3.2	600	16.7	5.9	51.6	14.4	-	448	24.7	-3.1	-24.8	NA
TBQ	07/03/27	II	47.5	6.5	957	73.1	20.0	154	65.6	317	281	81.1	-5.1	-28.4	NA
HS	07/03/27	II	41.4	6.5	1100	69.9	22.1	161	88.7	777	113	94.3	-5.5	-27.5	NA
LSK	07/03/27	II	40.6	6.1	1149	57.6	19.0	163	60.7	209	299	195	-5.3	-25.9	7.8
SYK	07/03/27	I	93.0	2.3	7900	97.0	18.2	382	85.7	-	1001	461	1.6	-3.5	3.4
MT	07/03/27	II	61.7	5.8	295	15.5	4.8	48.3	13.5	56.3	201	9.2	-4.3	-21.0	0.8
QG	07/03/27	I	42.8	2.3	660	37.1	14.3	97.5	35.7	-	1009	358	-4.6	-21.2	NA
TYK	07/03/27	I	85.3	1.5	12900	19.1	70.8	28.8	12.6	-	9980	50.6	-0.6	-10.1	NA
BY	07/03/27	I	81.2	2.7	772	17.5	3.5	28.2	9.9	-	340	38.1	-2.1	-12.1	NA
SHP	07/03/27	I	77.6	3.2	245	5.5	1.5	5.3	2.0	-	346	20.3	-4.2	-13.6	3.3
JT	07/03/27	III	78.0	1.2	19800	410	133	118	102	-	574	830	-2.4	-12.1	NA
TP	07/03/27	III	90.8	1.9	17400	1496	253	185	209	-	998	3990	-1.8	-6.5	28.5
Brine water of the Wuchishan Formation*			NA	NA.	NA	5560	910	630	680	NA	115	14900	NA	NA	NA

* The brine water is a reservoir of the Wuchishan Formation that is collected from the exploration well of the SPT (Chen 1989).

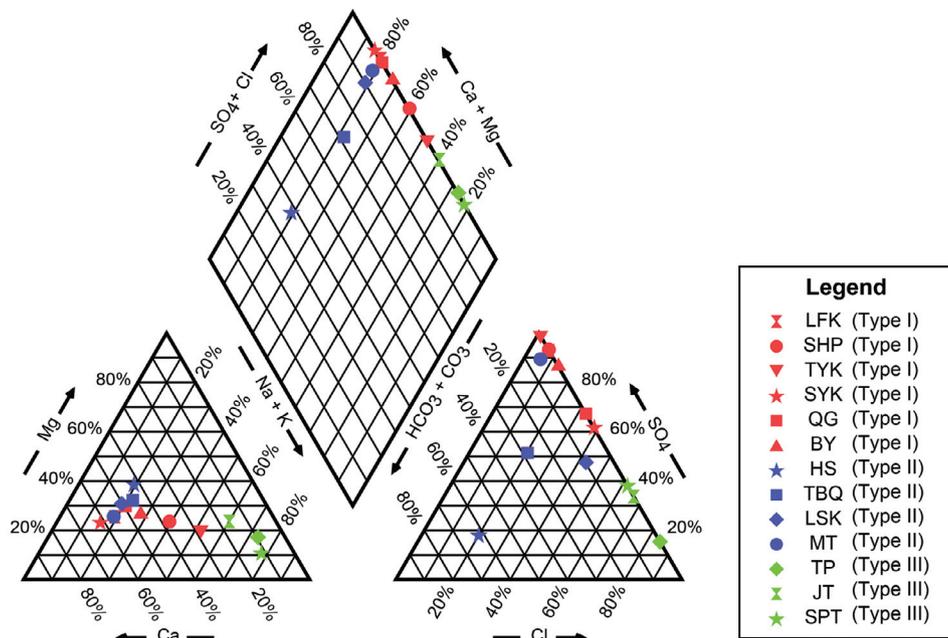


Fig. 2. Piper diagram showing major element compositions of the 13 hot springs. Type I thermal water (red symbols), Type II hot spring (blue symbols) and Type III thermal water (green symbols).

0.9. The samples were collected between June 1982 and June 1983 (Liu 1984) (Fig. 4).

The hydrogen and oxygen isotopic data of the TVG thermal water are listed in Table 1 and plotted in Fig. 4. The isotopic ratios of all samples fall to the right of the meteoric water line of the Tatun area and can be divided into two groups. One group is far away from the local meteoric water line, that is, the SYK, TYK, TP, BY, JT, LFK, and SPT thermal water, the isotopic values of which range from -26.2‰ to -3.5‰ and -3.2‰ to 1.6‰, respectively. The other is close to meteoric water line of the TVG, i.e., the SHP, MT, QG, TBQ, LSK, and HS thermal water, the δD value of which range from -28.4‰ to -13.6‰, and δ¹⁸O from -5.5‰ to -4.2‰, respectively.

5.2.2 Sulfur Isotopes

The sulfur isotopic compositions of some samples collected from hot springs were analyzed, and the results are listed in Table 1. The results are divided into two groups. One group ranges from 26.1‰ to 28.5‰, and these samples are from the TP and SPT thermal water. The other group ranges from 0.8‰ to 7.8‰, and they are from the LSK, MT, SHP and SYK thermal water.

5.3 Classifications and Distributions of Hot Springs

According to host rocks, pH values, and the major elements, the hot springs from the TVG can be classified into three types. They are the SO₄²⁻ and Cl⁻ acidic thermal wa-

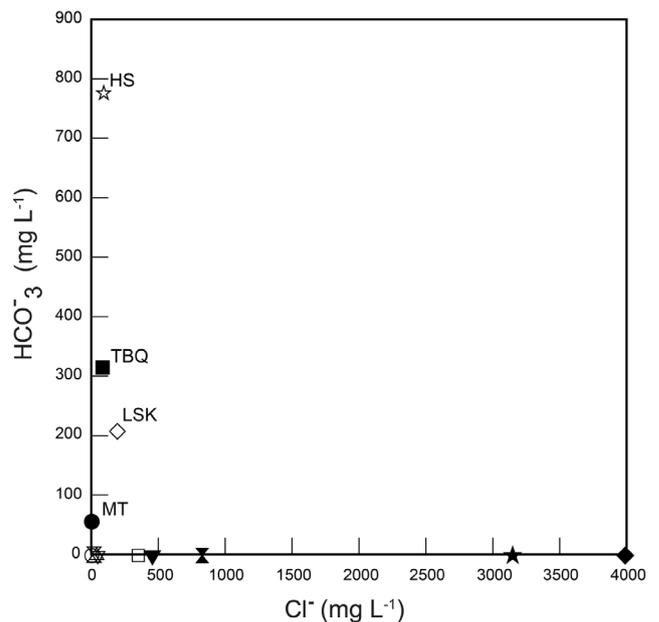


Fig. 3. Plots of Cl⁻ versus HCO₃⁻ showing the HS, TBQ, LSK and MT thermal water rich in concentrations of HCO₃⁻ in the volcanic host body.

ter, and HCO₃⁻ near neutral hot spring, as shown in Fig. 1. The geochemical characteristics of these three types are described in detail in following sections.

- (1) The SO₄²⁻ acidic thermal water, named Type I, is characterized by the occurrence of yellowish dendritic sulfur crystals precipitated around the rims of fumaroles and

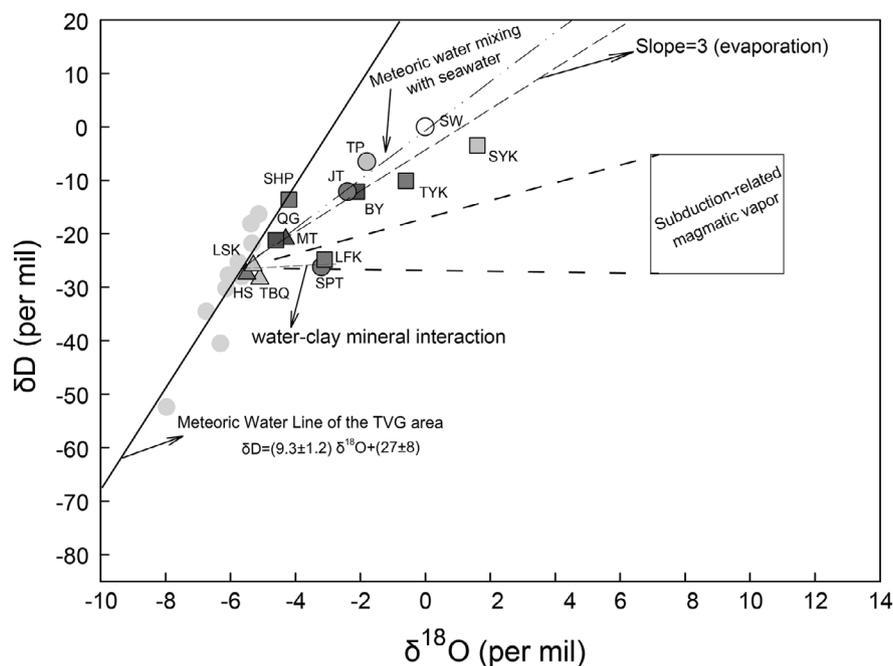


Fig. 4. Plots of δD versus $\delta^{18}O$ diagram for thermal water in the TVG area. The stable isotopic ratio of the meteoric water of the Tatun (the gray circles) is from a previous study (Liu et al. 1984). All of the samples fall to the right of the meteoric water line in the Tatun area.

by strong degassing of volcanic gases. This thermal water is predominantly distributed around volcanic centers with host rocks consisting of andesitic breccias and/or lava flows. Hot springs of this type are the LFK, SYK, QG, TYK, BY, and SHP thermal water. In situ measurements of temperature, TDS, and pH are conducted and the values range from 42.8°C to 93.0°C, 245 to 12900 mg L⁻¹, and 1.5 to 3.2, respectively (Table 1). Geochemically, Type I is dominated by significantly higher SO₄²⁻, and lower HCO₃⁻ and Cl⁻ in anions, and lower Na⁺, K⁺, Mg²⁺ and Ca²⁺ concentrations in cations. Meanwhile, the ratio of hydrogen and oxygen range from -24.8‰ to -3.5‰ and -4.6‰ to 1.6‰, respectively (Fig. 4). Among all of the isotopic values of the samples in this group, the most are far away from the meteoric water line of the TVG, in particular, the SYK thermal water with hydrogen and oxygen isotopic ratio of -3.5‰ and 1.6‰, respectively (Fig. 4). The sulfur isotopic value of this type varies from 3.3‰ to 3.4‰.

(2) The HCO₃⁻ near neutral hot spring (Type II) that thermal water is predominantly distributed in host rocks of fresh or less altered andesitic breccias and/or lava flows with weak degassing of volcanic gasses. Hot springs belonging to this type includes the TBQ, HS, LSK and MT thermal water. In situ measurements of pH, temperature and TDS range from 5.8 to 6.5, from 40.6°C to 61.7°C, and from 295 to 1149 mg L⁻¹, respectively (Table 1). The ratios of hydrogen and oxygen vary from -28.4‰ to -21.0‰ and from -5.5‰ to -4.3‰, respectively, and are close to the meteoric water line of the Tatun area (Fig. 4).

For the hot springs of this type, the sulfur isotopic value, $\delta^{34}S$ ranges from 0.8‰ to 7.8‰.

(3) The Cl⁻-rich acidic thermal water (Type III) includes the SPT, JT and TP thermal water. It is characterized by chloride rich and low pH values. It is located at the Wuchishan Formation of sedimentary terrane, which is predominantly composed of massive and large-grained quartz-rich sandstones. Field measurements show that the pH values are between 1.2 and 1.9. Moreover, temperature and TDS of this type range from 71.8°C to 90.8°C, and from 17400 to 19800 mg L⁻¹, respectively. In addition, the geochemical characteristics of this type show significantly higher concentration of Na⁺ and Cl⁻, which is very similar to the seawater or formation water. Stable isotopic values of hydrogen and oxygen in the Type III thermal water are relatively far away from the meteoric water line of the Tatun area, being between -26.2‰ and -6.5‰ and between -3.2‰ and -1.8‰, respectively. Meanwhile, the hydrogen and oxygen stable isotopic ratio of the TP thermal water is close to seawater and higher than other samples of Type III thermal water. The sulfur isotopic value, $\delta^{34}S$, of this type ranges from 26.1‰ to 28.5‰.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Source Components of Hot Springs

In general, the source of thermal water or hot spring can be summarized as follows: meteoric water circulates to depth, is heated by magma or the normal geothermal gra-

dient, then reacts with minerals or host rocks, magmatic fluids, formation water or seawater that may have changed composition in the reservoir, and is finally driven to the surface by thermal convection (Todd 1980; Henley and Ellis 1983; Giggenbach 1988; Nicholson 1993; Kühn 2004). Accordingly, several studies suggest that the possible source components involved in producing thermal water or hot spring include meteoric water, seawater/formation water, magmatic fluids, host rocks and clay minerals (Craig 1963; Ellis and Mahon 1964; Seyfried and Bischoff 1981).

In the TVG, a magmatic source provides the heat and fluid components for thermal water distinctly by the results of the abundant seismic tremors, harmonic codas and volcanic earthquakes, gas compositions, helium isotopic ratio, low $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ of volcanic gas, and high heat flows (Song et al. 2000a; Yang et al. 2003; Lin et al. 2007; Ohba et al. 2010). Moreover, the sulfur isotopic ratio ($\delta^{34}\text{S}$) with values ranging from 0.8‰ to 7.8‰, which is indicative of a magmatic source (Criss 1999; Hoefs 2004; Ohba et al. 2010). These lines of evidence strongly infer that magmatic fluids play a major role for the origin of thermal water or hot spring in the TVG.

Generally, meteoric water always plays major role in providing fluids for thermal water or hot spring. Based on the plots of hydrogen and oxygen isotopic ratio (Fig. 4), samples of this study falling near the meteoric water line suggest that the water is predominantly from precipitation. In that case, meteoric water plays an important role in the provision of thermal water or hot spring in the TVG.

In addition, some thermal waters (SPT, JT and TP) have higher sulfur isotopic ratio ($\delta^{34}\text{S}$) with values ranging from 26.1‰ to 28.5‰ and high concentrations of chloride (Cl^-) and sodium (Na^+), which display characteristics of seawater or formation water (Table 1). They are distributed in the sedimentary terrane or near the coast. It infers that the seawater or formation water is also involved in the origin of thermal water or hot springs.

The host rocks, all of the thermal water of the TVG, are either volcanic body or sedimentary terrane, so hot springs may react with rocks or minerals to change the compositions of the fluid. The host rocks, therefore, also play a major role for the origin of thermal water or hot springs.

As we indicated in the aforementioned evidence, the possible source components of the TVG area involved in generating thermal water or hot spring include meteoric water, magmatic fluids, seawater/formation water which reacts with or is neutralized by either volcanic or sedimentary rocks.

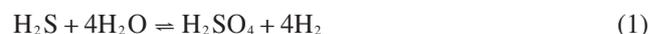
6.2 Origins of Hot Springs in the TVG

6.2.1 Origin of Type I Thermal Water

Type I is SO_4^{2-} acidic thermal water and occurs in hydrothermal volcanic host rocks. Two source components

can be recognized, including meteoric water and magmatic fluids (Criss 1999; Hoefs 2004) for this type. The evidence of source of Type I is supported by an artificial hot spring, which is a famous bathing and partial hydrotherapy area in the Beitou. In the resort area of Beitou, it is a block square pool built on the outlet of fumaroles that allows the inflow of surface water into the pool after absorbing the volcanic gases to produce the hot spring. Its temperature, pH value, and geochemical compositions are similar with Type I thermal water, except for the lower values of Cl^- and HCO_3^- . These lines of evidence strongly supported that Type I water is predominantly produced by the mixing of magmatic fluids and meteoric water with little or no contribution from the host rocks.

The formation of high SO_4^{2-} acidic thermal water likely occurs in the same process of artificial hot spring. The TVG is an active volcano group with significantly strong volcanic-gas activity and yellowish sulfur dendritic crystals precipitating around the rims of fumaroles or solfataras widely. The magmatic heat and fluids or gases migrating upward from depth to the groundwater system generate thermal waters and/or hot springs. In the TVG area, volcanic gases are predominantly composed of H_2S , SO_2 , CO_2 and HCl (Lee et al. 2005), and the CO_2 of fumarolic gases of the TVG mainly originate from the upper mantle (Ohba et al. 2010). As a result, this type samples may originate from magmatic fluids mixing with meteoric water and circulating in the groundwater, and then exhibit higher SO_4^{2-} concentration and show the characteristic of acidic thermal water (pH 1.5 to 3.2). The reaction equations of water-gas interaction in the TVG are:



Furthermore, the volcanic rocks of the TVG have been organized to overlay on the Wuchishan Formation based on the field surveys and exploration wells (MRSO 1969). This sedimentary formation is composed predominantly of quartz grains with subsidiary feldspar, chert, lithic fragment, rhyolitic pebble and clay minerals (Chen 1963; Wu 1967) that do not have enough alkali contents to neutralize acidic thermal water. In addition, some economically viable clay mineral deposits, and brine/formation water with composition similar to seawater have been found in the Wuchishan Formation (Chen 1989).

The Type I thermal water maintains its acidic characteristics (low pH) and high SO_4^{2-} , and also displays the magmatic source by the sulfur isotopic ratio ($\delta^{34}\text{S}$). The sulfur isotopic value of volcanic gas, which is predominantly H_2S , is between -5.3‰ and 10.4‰ in the TVG area (Ohba et al. 2010). It implies that the water-rock interaction does not or

very little occur to neutralize the thermal water in the reservoir of Type I. Meanwhile, the major elements of Type I are different from the brine/formation water of the Wuchishan Formation. It means that the reservoir may be close to the heat source and no or very little brine/formation water is involved in the generation of the thermal water. Those observations, therefore, suggest that the reservoir of Type I may be located in the deep of Wuchishan Formation.

Furthermore, plots on the hydrogen and oxygen stable isotopic diagram for Type I indicate that almost all the thermal waters do not fall in the meteoric water and magmatic fluids mixing area. They are close to the evaporation line, except for the Longfengku (LFK) (Fig. 4). Based on this characteristic, we infer that Type I is likely also affected by evaporation during its rise to the surface. It is supported by the positive correlation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs. elevation, temperature, and chlorine (Craig 1963; Gat and Dansgaard 1972; Shieh et al. 1983; Gonfiantini 1986; Ohba et al. 2010) (Fig. 5). However, high chlorine concentration of the QG is associated with lower temperature than ones of the other springs of Type I. In addition, the Longfengku (LFK) is close to the Gueizikeng area, where clay minerals were mined previously. Therefore, the shift of stable isotopic ratio in LFK might be caused by water-clay mineral interaction, and the isotopic fractionation for water-clay mineral system caused the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ shift greater than the δD shift (Savin and Epstein 1970; Lawrence and Taylor 1972; James and Baker 1976; Criss 1999; Hoefs 2004) (Fig. 5).

In summary, this study infers that the origin of Type I thermal water involves three components, the meteoric water, magmatic fluids, and sedimentary rocks from the Wuchishan Formation with evaporation and/or water-clay minerals interaction. Accordingly, three stages can be identified for the origin of Type I thermal water. First, the meteoric water circulates into deep groundwater system, and then it is heated and reacts with uprising magmatic fluids or volcanic gases to produce acidic thermal water with low pH, higher temperature and SO_4^{2-} content, as well as positive stable isotopic values for hydrogen and oxygen. Subsequently, it is evident that the reservoir is located in the deep of Wuchishan Formation, a region that lacks suitable minerals to neutralize the thermal water, allowing its acidic nature to prevail during water-rock interaction. Finally, when the high temperature acidic thermal water rises from its deep reservoir to the surface by thermal convection, it is subject to evaporation by depressurization. However, the LFK thermal water with oxygen isotopic shift may be caused by water-clay mineral interaction.

6.2.2 Origin of Type II Hot Spring

Type II hot spring belongs to a HCO_3^- neutral hot spring and occurs in volcanic host rocks. The fluid source components for generating this type are meteoric water and

subduction-related magmatic fluids suggested by their geochemical characteristics (Criss 1999; Hoefs 2004).

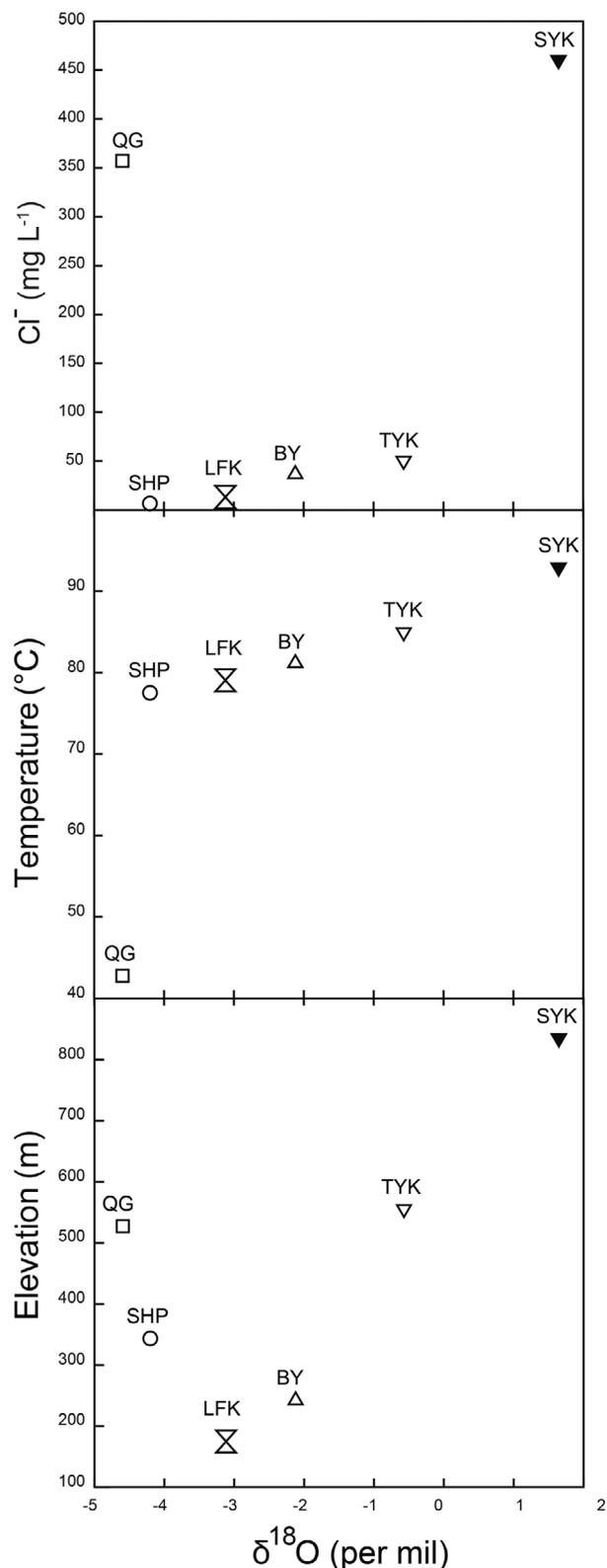
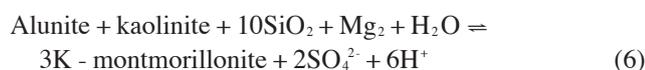
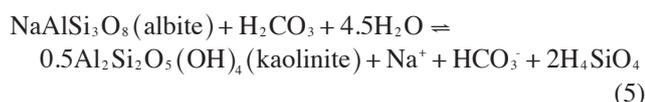
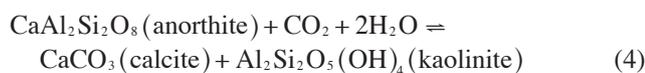


Fig. 5. Evaporation process is a major factor that caused concentrations of chloride at the LFK, SYK, QG, TYK, BY, and SHP thermal water (Type I).

It is important to note that the Type I and Type II hot springs exhibit similar fluid components with different host rocks. However, the Type II hot spring shows the characteristics of neutral pH and higher HCO_3^- values (Fig. 3) which is different from Type I. As mentioned in a previous section, the Wuchishan Formation is the basement rock of the TVG, and the mineral assemblages of the volcanic rock and the Wuchishan Formation are significantly different. In general, the volcanic rock is composed predominantly of two-pyroxene and two-pyroxene hornblende andesites, possessing plagioclases as major phenocrysts, and the Wuchishan Formation is composed of coarse sandstone with abundant quartz grains (Chen 1963; Wu 1967). Previous studies have shown that the acidic thermal water could react with plagioclase to neutralize the water, reduce SO_4^{2-} ion concentrations and generate anhydrite, montmorillonite, kaolinite, calcite and alunite as hydrothermally precipitated minerals (Chen and Yang 1984; Liu et al. 1984; Wang 1991; Muir and Nesbitt 1992; Nogami and Yoshida 1995; Kempter and Rowe 2000; Varekamp et al. 2000; Fang et al. 2003; Marini et al. 2003).

The reaction equations can be written as:



Based on the results of the exploration wells in the volcanic rock of the TVG (MRSO 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973), the hydrothermal minerals in host volcanic rocks are rich in montmorillonite, chlorite, calcite, albite, adularia, illite, anhydrite, pyrite and chalcedony, which are very similar to the reaction products of acidic thermal water with andesites.

Meanwhile, laboratory experiments on andesitic chips from the TVG reacting with sulfuric acid of varying concentrations have been conducted (Fang et al. 2003). The result showed that plagioclase will be decomposed, but not pyroxene and hornblende. The mineral assemblages are the same as observed in the field at the TVG. According to the mineral assemblages of host rocks of the Type II hot springs, the reservoir of this type is suggested to be located in volcanic host rocks. Furthermore, the temperature of this type hot spring

water is relatively low, which is about between 40°C and 50°C, and the hydrogen and oxygen isotopic ratios are close to the local meteoric water line. For these lines of evidence, we can conclude that the Type II hot springs are located in a shallower reservoir.

In summary, this study suggests three source components involved in the origin of Type II hot springs. They are the meteoric water, magmatic fluids and volcanic host rocks, especially the plagioclase phenocrysts of andesite. A three-stage model is proposed to explain the geochemical characteristics of type II hot springs. First, meteoric water circulated to a shallow subsurface reservoir, and then heated by magmatic heat and reacted with magmatic fluids/gases to generate acidic thermal water. Subsequently, this acidic thermal water resided in a reservoir of volcanic rock bodies, and then, neutralized by the plagioclase, precipitated the hydrothermal minerals, including montmorillonite, alunite, gypsum and kaolinite etc., and enriched in Na^+ and HCO_3^- concentrations. Finally, this neutral hot spring was driven from shallower reservoir to the surface by thermal convection.

6.2.3 Origin of Type III Thermal Water

A Type III hot spring is Cl^- -rich acidic thermal water and occurs in the Wuchishan Formation. Based on the stable isotopic ratios and their chemical characteristics of $\text{Na}^+ > (\text{Ca}^{2+} + \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{K}^+)$ and $\text{Cl}^- > (\text{HCO}_3^- + \text{SO}_4^{2-})$, two fluid components, the meteoric water and either seawater or formation water, are recognized to involve the origin of it.

Tapu (TP) and Jiatou (JT) thermal water are distributed near the coast in the northeast of the TVG. Their temperature and pH values change with the intrusion of a tidal current (Liu et al. 1984; Chen 2002). Thus, the seawater component is considered to play an important role in its origin. Nevertheless, Hsinpeitou (SPT) is located in the southwest of the belt adjacent to the Taipei Basin and is far away from the coast. The higher Na^+ and Cl^- concentrations of the SPT thermal water cannot result from direct seawater involvement. However, it is most likely brine water (formation water), in which pore fluid may be from the Wuchishan Formation. Geothermal drilling data also supports the formation water from that Wuchishan Formation is involved in the origin of Hsinpeitou (SPT) thermal water (MRSO 1969).

As shown in Fig. 6b, the plot of Cl^- vs. Na^+ shows that Type III thermal water occurred by the mixing of meteoric water and seawater or formation water. In addition, the hydrogen and oxygen isotopic ratios of JT and TP water samples fall in the mixing line of the meteoric water and seawater (Fig. 4). However, the SPT water sample is far from the meteoric water and seawater mixing line, and shows heavier oxygen isotopic ratio. It is close to the Gueizikeng area, where clay minerals in the Wuchishan Formation were mined several decades ago. According to this observation,

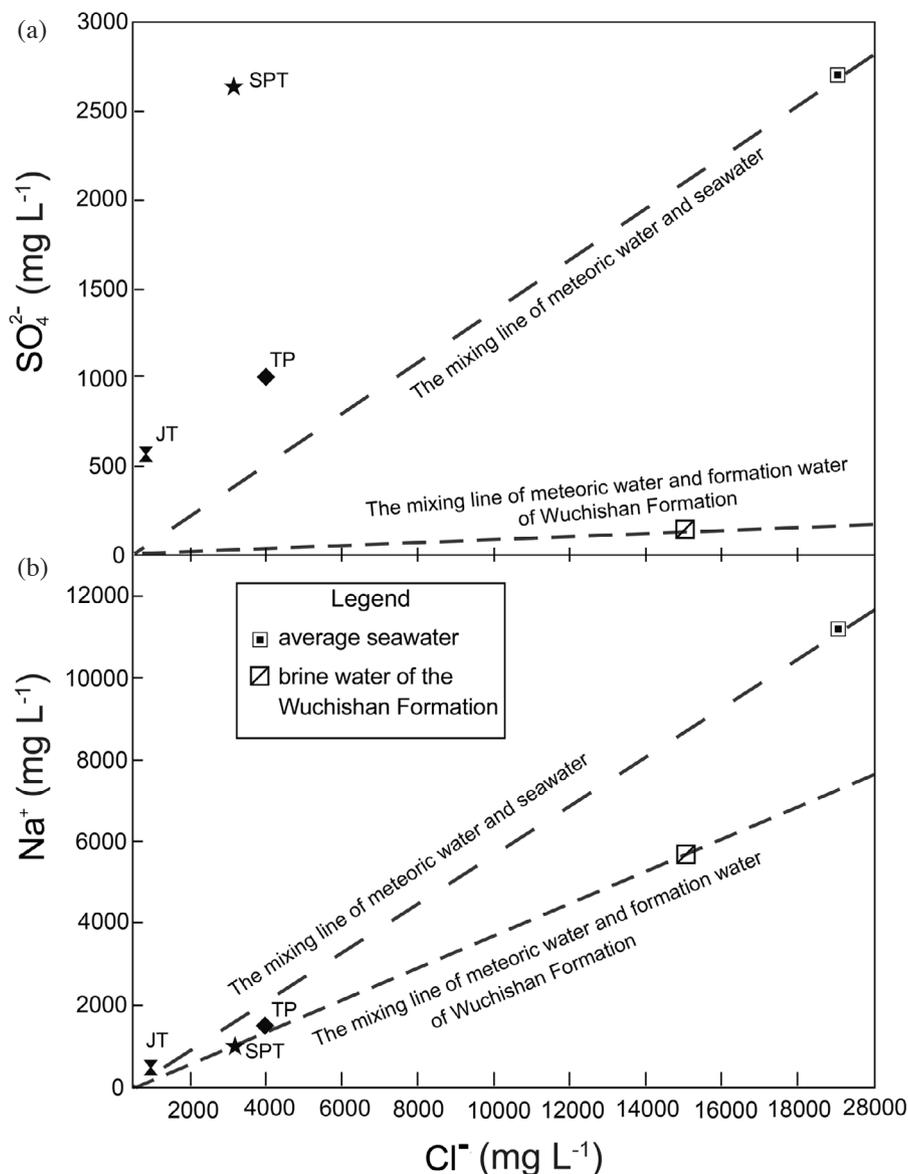


Fig. 6. (a) The Cl^- vs. SO_4^{2-} diagram shows that the origin of the TP, JT and SPT thermal water (Type III) is the mixing of meteoric water, volcanic fluids and average seawater (Goldberg et al. 1971) or formation water. (b) A Cl^- vs. Na^+ plot shows that the TP, JP and SPT thermal water are rich in Na^+ and Cl^- concentrations.

the SPT thermal water may have been sourced from hot water reacting with clay minerals.

In Fig. 6a, the plot of Cl^- vs. SO_4^{2-} indicates that the Type III thermal water is not simply along the mixing lines of meteoric water and seawater or formation water of the Wuchishan Formation. Furthermore, the plot of stable isotopic ratio of hydrogen and oxygen, high temperature steam, sulfur dendritic crystals precipitated around the rim of fumaroles and helium isotopes (Yang et al. 2003) infer that the magmatic fluids have also involved in the origin of Type III thermal water (Fig. 4). However, higher sulfur isotopic ratio suggests that the influence of magmatic fluids does not really change the volcanic affinity of these samples. According to the sulfur and helium isotopic values of volcanic gas of

the TVG (Ho 2001; Yang et al. 2003; Lee et al. 2008; Ohba, et al. 2010) as well as the regional geology, we can conclude that the reservoir is located in the sedimentary terrane.

In summary, we propose that three components including the meteoric water, and formation water or seawater with relatively less magmatic fluids are involved in the origin of Type III thermal water. First, local meteoric water circulated into the subsurface reservoir, and was heated and reacted with magmatic fluids generating acidic thermal water. Since the reservoir is located in the shallower Wuchishan Formation, which is quartz-rich sedimentary rock, the thermal water was not able to be neutralized by host rocks. It maintained its acidic characteristics when it was driven to the surface by thermal convection. Here, this acidic thermal water mixed

with different water bodies to change its composition. In the Tapu (TP) and Joatou (JT) areas, the thermal waters are generated by mixing with abundant seawater during uprising to the surface. Their geochemical characteristics, thus, display acidity, higher chlorine and sodium concentrations with sedimentary-origin sulfur isotopic ratios. For Hsin-peitou (SPT) thermal water, it is generated by mixing with formation water of the Wuchishan Formation to generate the acidity, higher chlorine and sodium concentrations with sedimentary-origin sulfur isotopic value. Furthermore, the SPT water may react with clay minerals of the Wuchishan Formation lately to shift oxygen isotopic value as shown in Fig. 4 (Savin and Epstein 1970; Lawrence and Taylor 1972; Jame and Baker 1976; Criss 1999; Hoefs 2004).

7. CONCLUSION

According to geochemical characteristics and field occurrences, three types of thermal water are distinguished for the TVG as shown in Fig. 7. The hydrothermal model to generate the thermal water is proposed as below.

- (1) Type I is SO₄²⁻ acidic thermal water as a result of the meteoric water being heated and reacted with magmatic fluids in the deep of Wuchishan Formation. Finally, the acidic thermal water is driven from reservoir to the surface by thermal convection, and also affected by evaporation during rising.
- (2) Type II is a nearly neutral HCO₃⁻ hot spring, which is generated by meteoric water absorbing volcanic gases

to generate acidic thermal water in shallow andesitic host rocks. Then, this acidic thermal water is neutralized with the plagioclase of two-pyroxene and two-pyroxene hornblende andesites to precipitate hydrothermal minerals including montmorillonite, alunite, gypsum, calcite and kaolinite etc.

- (3) Type III is Cl⁻ rich acidic thermal water that is caused by the mixing of meteoric water and seawater or formation water with magmatic fluids, and heated by conducted heat from underneath magma in the reservoir of the shallower Wuchishan Formation. The sedimentary rock is a major factor that causes the high sulfur isotope in this type.

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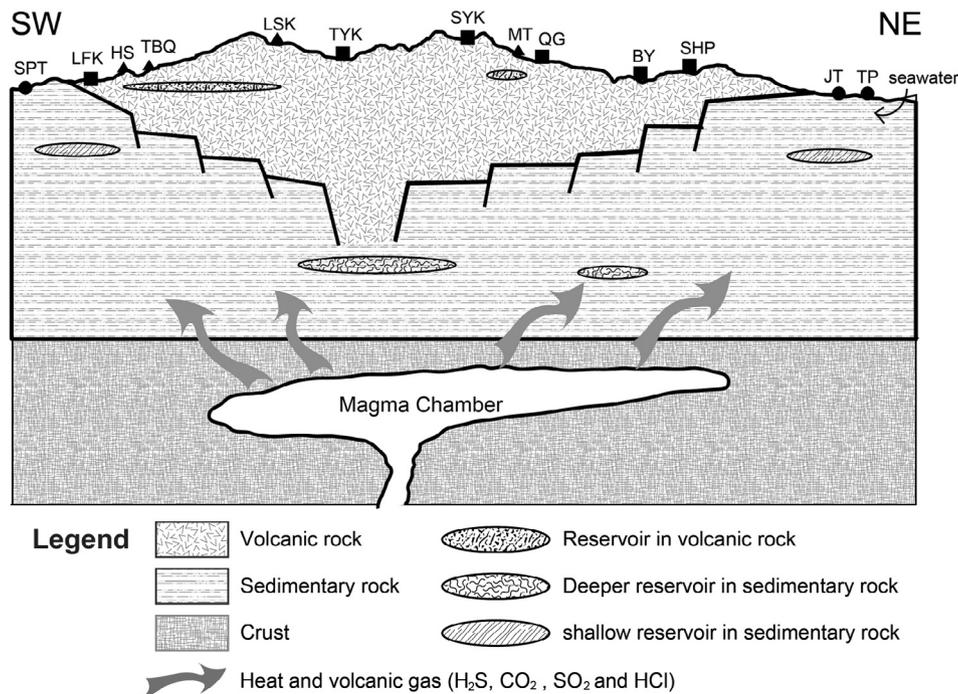


Fig. 7. A schematic model illustrates the characteristics and origins of hot springs from the TVG area. See text for further detailed discussion.

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