

2012

Testing and Failure Analysis

November 11–15, 2012

Phoenix, AZ

www.asminternational.org/content/Events/istfa

2012 MRS Fall Meeting

November 26–30, 2012

Boston, MA

www.mrs.org/fall2012

ASCB Annual Meeting

December 15–19, 2012

San Francisco, CA

www.ascb.org

2013

Pittcon 2013

March 17–21, 2013

Philadelphia, PA

www.pittcon.org

Focus on Microscopy 2013

March 24–27, 2013

Maastricht, The Netherlands

www.focusonmicroscopy.org

2013 MRS Spring Meeting

April 1–5, 2013

San Francisco, CA

www.mrs.org/Spring2013

EMAS 2013

May 12–16, 2013

Porto, Portugal

www.emas-web.net

Microscopy & Microanalysis 2013

August 4–8, 2013

Indianapolis, IN

www.microscopy.org

Denver X-ray Conference

August 5–9, 2013

Westminster, CO

www.dxcicdd.com

2014

Microscopy & Microanalysis 2014

August 3–7, 2014

Hartford, CT

www.microscopy.org

2015

Microscopy & Microanalysis 2015

August 2–6, 2015

Portland, OR

www.microscopy.org

2016

Microscopy & Microanalysis 2016

July 24–28, 2016

Columbus, OH

www.microscopy.org

More Meetings and Courses

Check the complete calendar near the back of this magazine and in the MSA journal *Microscopy and Microanalysis*.

Carmichael's Concise Review

This New Mineral is Out of This World!

Stephen W. Carmichael

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 55905

carmichael.stephen@mayo.edu

In 1969 a meteorite exploded over Pueblito de Allende in northern Mexico. Many of the fragments were recovered and have provided a wealth of information about the chemical composition of our early universe. Most recently, Chi Ma, Oliver Tschauer, John Beckett, George Rossman, and Wenjun Liu have reported a new mineral in one of these meteorite fragments [1]. Ma et al. named this new form of titanium oxide “panguite” for Pan Gu, the giant in Chinese mythology who, in the beginning, created the world by separating the heaven and earth from chaos. This is an allusion to this ultra-refractory mineral, stable at high temperatures and in extreme environments, being among the first solid materials in our solar system.

Panguite is a titanium oxide with the chemical formula $(\text{Ti}^{4+}, \text{Sc}, \text{Al}, \text{Mg}, \text{Zr}, \text{Ca})_{1.8}\text{O}_3$. The mineral and its name have been approved by the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification of the International Mineralogical Association [2]. Ma et al. used a scanning electron microscope (Figure 1) with an electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) system. The observed EBSD pattern was distinct from those of other forms of titanium oxide and related minerals. Synchrotron micro-Laue diffraction was used to determine crystal structure at a sub-micrometer scale in the x - y plane. Panguite was found to be an orthorhombic mineral (that is, having three unequal axes, all at right angles to each other) of space group $Pbca$. Relevant dimensions and geometric features were also determined.

Although panguite was first detected in the Allende meteorite, Ma and colleagues have found it in several other meteorites of various types, although in very small amounts. They concluded that panguite is a constituent of many carbonaceous chondrites (a group of meteorites that are considered to have formed in the early solar system).

More than thirty oxides, silicates, and minerals are refractory and probably formed in the solar nebula. Panguite is particularly interesting as a potential sensor of the environment in which it was formed. This is because it is a titanium-containing mineral that contains significant concentrations of Al, Sc, and Y, so it should also be able to readily accept large concentrations of Ti^{3+} and heavy earth metals. Certain chemical properties of this Allende panguite strongly suggest that these crystals equilibrated in an oxidizing environment. The minerals identified in the Allende meteorite offer important clues as to the chemical state of our early solar system. Panguite is one of nine new minerals that Chi Ma and colleagues have discovered in the Allende meteorite!

Panguite is not only a new titanium-containing mineral formed in the solar nebula, but also a new material representing unusual chemical and physical features. These characteristics make panguite an interesting candidate for high ion conductivity at elevated temperatures.

References

- [1] C Ma, O Tschauer, JR Beckett, GR Rossman, and W Liu, *Am Mineral* 97 (2012) 1219–25.
- [2] It is designated IMA 2010-057.
- [3] The author gratefully acknowledges Dr. Chi Ma for reviewing this article.

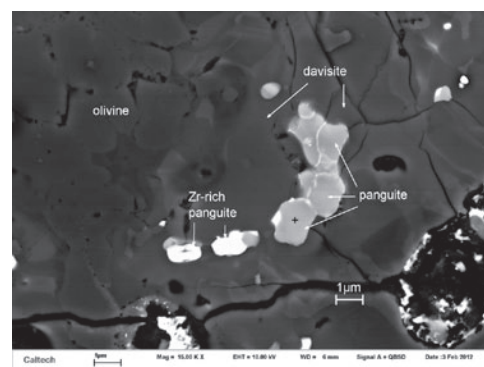


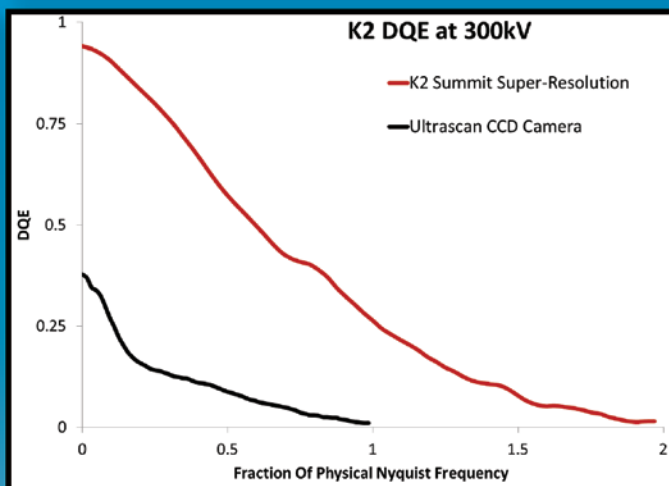
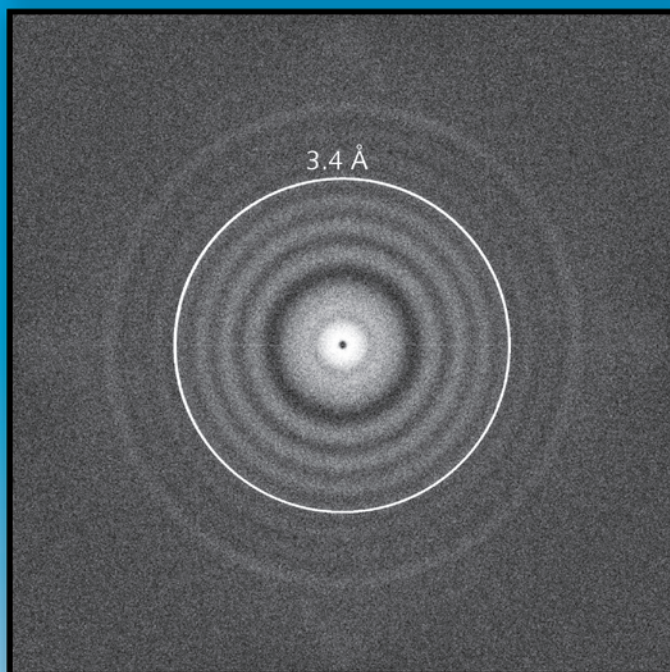
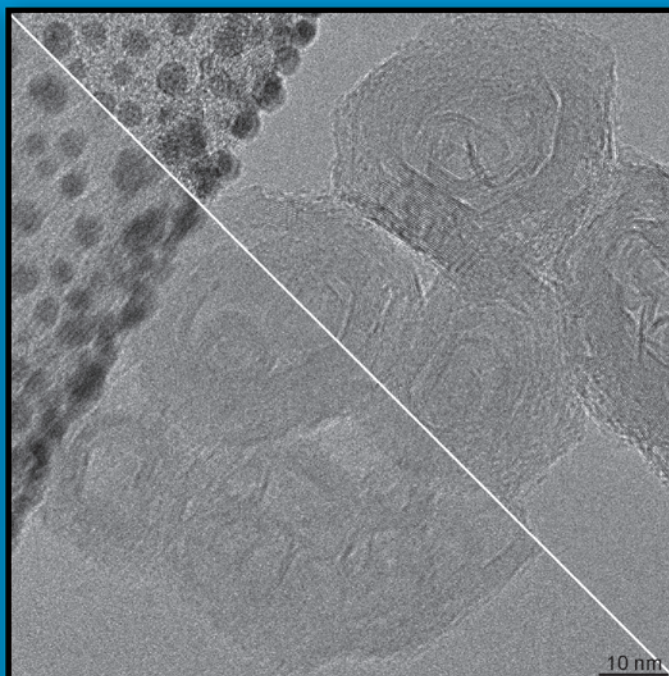
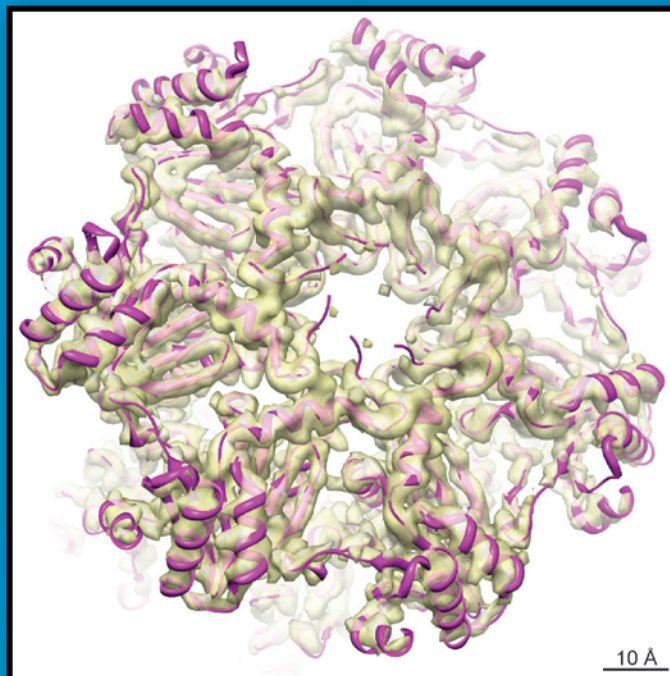
Figure 1: Backscattered electron SEM image showing the panguite phase with smaller Zr-rich panguite regions in davisite.

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Image, clockwise from top left: Cryo-EM reconstruction of 20S proteasome at 4.4 Å resolution. Images were collected at 300 kV, 39kx nominal magnification (~1 Å per pixel) with total dose of 25 e⁻/Å². All data were collected using the Gatan K2Summit™ Counting mode. Images and reconstructions provided courtesy of Dr. Yifan Cheng and Dr. Xueming Li of the University of California, San Francisco.

Images of graphitized carbon collected using the Gatan K2Summit™ Counting mode using the dose fractionation acquisition method built into Gatan DigitalMicrograph™. Images were collected at 200 kV, 39kx nominal magnification (~1 Å per pixel). 14 frames were acquired over a total exposure time of 7 seconds with a dose rate of 12 electrons/pixel/second. Shown are the drift corrected image (top right) and the non-drift corrected image (lower left).

Detective quantum efficiency (DQE) of the Gatan K2Summit™ camera in Super-Resolution mode was estimated from knife edge images collected at 300 kV. The DQE of the Gatan UltraScan™ 4k x 4k CCD camera was measured using the same method.

Images of a Platinum Iridium sample were collected using the Gatan K2Summit™ camera in Super-Resolution mode. The images were collected at 23kx nominal magnification (1.7 Å per physical pixel and 0.85 Å per effective pixel) and 20 e⁻/Å². The total exposure time to collect this image was 3 seconds. The white circle indicates 3.4 Å resolution and indicates the information limit (Nyquist frequency) of the camera without Super-Resolution mode. The information in this K2Summit™ Super-Resolution image extends to at least 2.3 Å resolution, well beyond the physical pixel information limit.



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