

PETROGRAPHY OF LUNAR METEORITE PCA02007, A NEW FELDSPATHIC REGOLITH BRECCIA. *R. A. Zeigler, R. L. Korotev, and B. L. Jolliff, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science, Washington University, 1 Brookings Dr., Campus Box 1169, St. Louis MO, 63130; *zeigler@levee.wustl.edu.

Overview: PCA 02007 is a 22.4 g lunar meteorite collected in 2003 near the Pecora Escarpment in Antarctica [1]. PCA is a feldspathic regolith breccia composed of mature regolith. It is compositionally and texturally similar to other feldspathic lunar meteorites (FLMs) [2] and may be launch paired with Yamato 791197 [3]. Here we present a petrographic description and compositions of mineral clasts, glass clasts, lithic clasts, and the bulk meteorite.

Methods: Our petrographic work is based on two thin sections and one polished thick section. We determined mineral and glass compositions by electron microprobe analysis (EMPA; Table 1a). Bulk lithic clast compositions were determined by broad-beam EMPA and/or modal recombination (Table 1b). Major-element compositions were determined by a combination of instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA; [3]) and EMPA on fused beads (Table 1c).

Petrography: PCA 02007 is a breccia composed of mineral, glass, and lithic clasts (up to ~2 mm). The mineral clasts analyzed (all >30 μm) are plagioclase ($N=153$), pyroxene (98), and olivine (59) (the relative proportions of analyzed mineral clasts do not represent a mode as the mafic clasts were targeted preferentially). Minor and trace mineral clasts include silica, ilmenite, spinel, troilite, and Fe,Ni metal. Plagioclase clasts show little compositional variation, $\text{An}_{98-92}\text{Or}_{<0.3}$, with only one analysis falling outside that range ($\text{An}_{88}\text{Or}_{0.5}$). In contrast, the olivine (Fo_{82-41}) and particularly the pyroxene ($\text{Wo}_{46-2}\text{En}_{81-5}$) show a wide range of compositions (Fig. 1). Some pyroxene clasts have exsolution lamellae up to 2 μm wide. Glass clasts ($N=109$) typically occur as shards, but a few spherules are also observed. Glasses are predominantly feldspathic (<7 wt% FeO) in composition with a more mafic group at 14–15 wt % FeO (Fig. 2). Four glasses that appear to have undergone silica volatilization were also found (they are not volatilized to the level of HASP glasses though [4]). Most of the analyzed lithic clasts (Fig. 3) fall into four

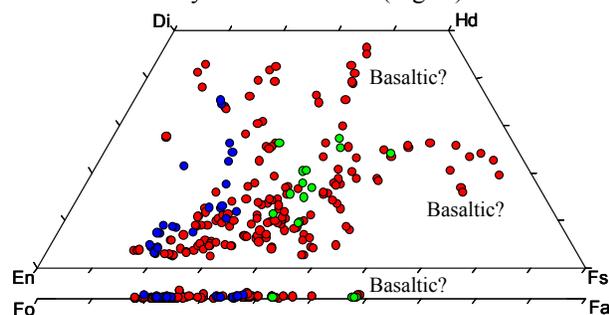


Figure 1: Pyroxene and olivine compositions in PCA 02007. Minerals clasts in red, intergranular lithic clasts in blue, lithic clasts with a quenched textures in green. "Basaltic?" labels indicate compositions that are possibly of mare basalt origin.

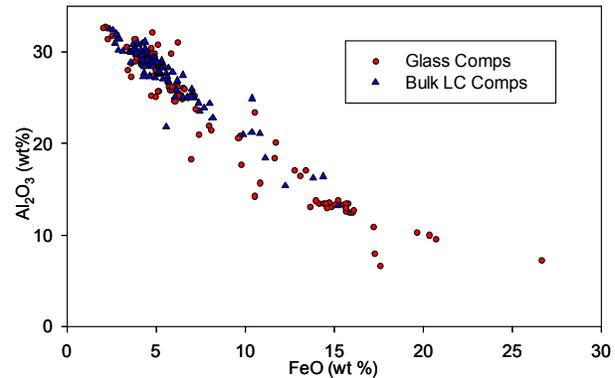


Figure 2: Distribution of compositions of glass clasts (red circles) and bulk lithic clasts (blue triangles) in PCA 02007.

categories: plagioclase/glass intergrowths (84), intergranular texture (8), quenched texture (3), and regolith breccia clasts (5). Agglutinate clasts are found (but we do not have an exact count at this time). The most abundant lithic clasts have a plagioclase (An_{96}) and glass (average 12 wt % FeO) matrix with textures ranging from very-fine grained to intersertal, frequently with clasts of plagioclase, and sometimes tiny Fo_{-80} olivine grains. The intergranular lithic clasts are dominated by plagioclase (>80% modally; An_{96}), with variable amounts of olivine (Fo_{80-62}) and pyroxene ($\text{En}_{77-49}\text{Wo}_{35-3}$). The quenched clasts have about equal proportions of plagioclase (~1 wt % FeO; An_{95}) and pyroxene ($\text{En}_{27-10}\text{Wo}_{51-24}$) \pm olivine (Fo_{42-57}). The few clasts of what appear to be an older generation of regolith breccia have a mixture of glass and mineral clasts and a somewhat vesicular texture. The average bulk composition of the intergranular and plagioclase/glass lithic clasts (Table 1) is very similar, and these two clast types have a similar compositional range (Fig. 2), although a slightly more Al-rich distribution (not shown) than the glass clasts. The quenched lithic clasts have a more mafic composition, ranging from 12–19 wt % FeO. One of the thin sections has a highly vesicular fusion crust up to 1 cm thick, that has a composition which is uniform and similar to that of the bulk meteorite determined by EMPA on fused beads (Table 1). A few veins/areas of glass probably formed by shock melting are also observed.

Discussion: The presence of glass spherules and agglutinate clasts qualify PCA 02007 as a regolith breccia [5], as are most other feldspathic lunar meteorites.

PCA 02007 is compositionally more mafic than most FLMs, and there is some chemical evidence for it being launch paired with Yamato 791197 [3]. On the whole, PCA and Y79 are petrographically similar in that both contain pyroxene clasts of similar compositional range and a variety of magnesian feldspathic lithic clasts. There is also evidence of mare material in

