

BRAZILIAN METEORITES

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The research project "Brazilian Meteorites" carrying out in Museu Nacional/UF RJ, Rio de Janeiro, involve: geologists, astronomers and students, as well as amateur astronomers interested in such a matter in Brazil. Even without any financial support, it had some progress in view of twelve new meteorites became to the knowledge of Science and two new other masses to be analyzed. Some errors concerning the meteorite's classification, pointed out by Buchwald [1], has been solved and others not yet.

None of Brazilian meteorites has their strewnfield determined, not even those that fell more recently as Campos Sales (1991). Otherwise, most of Brazilian meteorites have only a mass recovered. As it well known that single falls are a very rare event, many places of falls were visited trying to find more samples, but the only award brought is the correct historical data. These histories will be published soon in a book concerning to Brazilian Meteorites by the present authors.

On visits to the localities former divulgated [2] is very common heard about of previous foreign dealers activities. For instance, with one Paranaíba mass, a dealer mislead the elderly meteorite owner substituting the authentic meteorite for a "hot rock". Even in Universities and small collections some meteorites have completely disappeared (e.g. 20 kg of Conquista from UFMG and quite the whole Djalma Guimarães Collection). Some Universities had the meteorites in private possession of the retired curator for protection. This lead to many retired curators to put the University's collection under their own responsibility.

In spite of many talks have been performed focusing to amateurs astronomers groups and Universities, the lack of the knowledge by the great population induces to its barely contribution with few new meteorites recovering. This is the result where a country with such continental dimension as Brazil has, solely were registered 54 meteorites. Minas Gerais State (MG) has about a third of them, possibly due to the most interest of the native population in ore discovery.

Even so, Brazil is awarded with very rare and singular meteorites, as **Angra dos Reis, RJ**. (Angrite), **Ibitira, MG**. (Vesicular Eucrite), **Governador Valadares, MG**. (Nakhlite), **Santa Catarina** (Ni richest ataxite), **São João Nepomuceno** (IVA stony-iron) and **Bocaiuva, MG** (silicate rich iron) which performs more than 10% of the Brazilian meteorites.

MG	Barbacena, Bocaiuva, Conquista, Governador Valadares, Ibitira, Indianópolis, Itutinga, Maria da Fé, Minas Gerais, Pará de Minas, Paracutu, Patos de Minas I, Patos de Minas II, Patrimônio, Piedade do Bagre, Pirapora, S. João Nepomuceno, Sete Lagoas, Uberaba.		
GO	Itapuranga, Sanclerlândia, Santa Luzia, Uruaçu, Veríssimo.		
RS	Nova Petrópolis, Putinga, Santa Bárbara, Soledade.		
SC	Blumenau, Mafra, Morro do Roccio, Santa Catarina.		
RJ	Angra dos Reis, Angra dos Reis II, Casimiro de Abreu.		
SP	Avanhandava, Marília, S. José do Rio Preto.		
BA	Bendegó, Quijingue, Rio do Pires.		
CE	Campos Sales, Cratheus, Parambú.		
PR	Iguaçu, Ipiranga, Rio Negro.	RN	Macau
MA	Balsas, Itapicuru-Mirim.	PE	Serra de Magé
MT	Cacilândia, Paranaíba.	PA	Ipitinga

References:

- [1] Buchwald, F.V. (1975). Handbook of Iron Meteorites. [2] Gomes, C.B. & Keil, K. (1980). Brazilian Stone Meteorites. Univ. of New Mexico Press.