

**IODINE AND XENON SYSTEMATICS OF GRA 06129.**

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**Introduction:** GRA 06129 (GRA 9) is an ancient ungrouped achondrite that has experienced a series of processes on its parent asteroid [1]. Our previous analyses of unirradiated GRA 9 [1] showed excess <sup>129</sup>Xe from decay of <sup>129</sup>I, either *in situ* or inherited, and <sup>131-136</sup>Xe from fission of <sup>244</sup>Pu. Excess <sup>129</sup>Xe was thought to be hosted in a minor phase. An I-Xe age of ~75 Ma after Shallowater and an evolved trapped component have been reported [2].

**Experimental:** Whole rock fragments (~1 mg) of GRA 9 were neutron irradiated (~10<sup>19</sup> n cm<sup>-2</sup>) converting the stable isotope <sup>127</sup>I to <sup>128</sup>Xe. Following irradiation the samples were laser step-heated at high resolution and Xe isotopes analysed using RELAX [3, 4]. <sup>131</sup>Xe is produced in the irradiation from Ba or Te and <sup>131-136</sup>Xe are produced by neutron-induced fission of <sup>235</sup>U, allowing some mineralogical information about phases releasing gas at any temperature to be determined. A correlation between <sup>129</sup>Xe and <sup>127</sup>I during step-heating of a sample would indicate that some of the <sup>129</sup>Xe had been derived from *in situ* decay of <sup>129</sup>I. When this is the case, the ratio of excess <sup>129</sup>Xe and <sup>127</sup>I corresponds to the closure age of the material [5, 6].

**Results:** Three samples of GRA 9 have been analysed producing 116, 64 and 60 individual releases respectively. High concentrations of excess <sup>128</sup>Xe (corresponding to 10-30 ppm of I) released at low temperatures are attributed to Antarctic contamination [7]. Excess <sup>131</sup>Xe released at higher temperatures corresponds to Ba concentrations of 10-50 ppm, consistent with an origin in plagioclase [1].

A series of distinct high temperature releases were observed; each with contributions from Ba- and I-derived Xe alongside fission xenon and a trapped component. The systematics suggest an "original" phase with a consistent I/Ba ratio overprinted by contributions from a later phase containing iodine alongside U/Pu. Given the mineralogy of GRA 9, this may be attributed to the addition of (U/Pu-bearing) apatite to (Ba rich) plagioclase.

Small <sup>129</sup>Xe excesses were observed alongside these releases, but no overall correlation with I-derived <sup>128</sup>Xe was observed. This discordant behaviour suggests endmember models involving either inheritance of excess <sup>129</sup>Xe during secondary phase formation after complete decay of <sup>129</sup>I, or production of distinct secondary phases in a series of separate events distributed through time. In neither case can a closure age be reliably determined.

**References:** [1] Shearer C. K. et al. (2010) *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 74, 1172-1199. [2] Bajo K. et al. (2010) *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*, 45, A5089. [3] Gilmour J. D. et al. (1994) *Review of Scientific Instruments* 65, 617-625. [4] Crowther S. A. et al. (2008) *Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*, 23, 921-1044. [5] Brazzle R. H. et al. (1999) *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 63, 739-760. [6] Gilmour J. D. et al. (2006) *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*, 41, 19-31. [7] Heumann K. G. et al. (1987) *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 51, 2541-2547.