

**RIDGECREST - NEW CLASSIFICATION, RECOVERY INFORMATION.** R. S. Verish<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Meteorite Recovery Lab, P.O. Box 237, Sunland, CA 91040.

**Introduction:** This paper reports on a recent characterization of the Ridgecrest meteorite by researchers at UCLA. This stone is now reclassified as "Ordinary chondrite (H5)". This paper proposes that the following revisions to the Catalogue of Meteorites should be posted in the Meteoritical Bulletin:

Ridgecrest, new classification                    35° 35'N, 117° 34'W  
 San Bernardino County, California, USA  
 Found 1958, May 24  
 Ordinary chondrite (H5)  
 (1 stone, 9.7 grams)

Dr. Ed Krupp graciously supplied the stone from the Griffith Observatory Collection, and the author (*Verish*) cut a 0.3g sample for analysis. Alan Rubin (*UCLA*) conducted the characterization of this stone. The following are his results:

Ridgecrest: class, H5; shock stage, S2; weathering grade, W2; olivine, Fa18.6±0.2%.

**Recovery Information:** It should be noted that the Cuddeback Dry Lake 005 (H5 S2 W4 Fa18.7±0.6%) and CuDL 009 (H5 S2 W5 Fa18.6±0.2%), both characterized by A. Rubin (*UCLA*), have find localities that are within 20 miles of the Ridgecrest (H5) find location.

Neither meteorite has been paired with certainty to any other find from this region.

Clearly, the reference to F.C. Leonard's paper in *Meteoritics* 1963 (pairing Ridgecrest to the Muroc and Muroc Dry Lake L-chondrites) should be deleted from the Catalogue of Meteorites [1].

Also, the documented find location has been confirmed through conversations with the finder (personal communications, with L.E. Humiston, 2002). The finder recovered this meteorite while hiking in open desert on the northwest sloping pediment of the Spangler Hills. The find, a small black, teardrop-shaped stone, was easily spotted because it contrasted against the lighter-colored surface of decomposed granodiorite. This location is just east of the county line in San Bernardino County. The finder still has in his possession the original correspondence (1958) in which F. C. Leonard conjectured that the find location might be, instead, "Kern County". This assumption became the documented find location in *Meteoritics*, 1963, vol2, p. 52 [2]. For the next 22 years, the literature would erroneously refer to the Ridgecrest find location as "Kern County". The actual find location coordinates were properly recorded in 1980 by J.T. Wasson. The coordinates in the Catalogue of Meteorites are correct, per the referenced document, "J.T. Wasson, letter of 15 April, 1980, in Min. Dept., NHM, London".

**Conclusion:** The new characterization of the Ridgecrest meteorite by Alan Rubin (*UCLA*) should be incorporated in the Catalogue of Meteorites, and these proposed revisions should be posted in the Meteoritical Bulletin as "Ridgecrest, new classification".

**References:** [1] Humiston L. E. (1963) *Meteoritics*, 2, 50–51.  
 [2] Leonard F. C. (1963) *Meteoritics*, 2, 52–53.