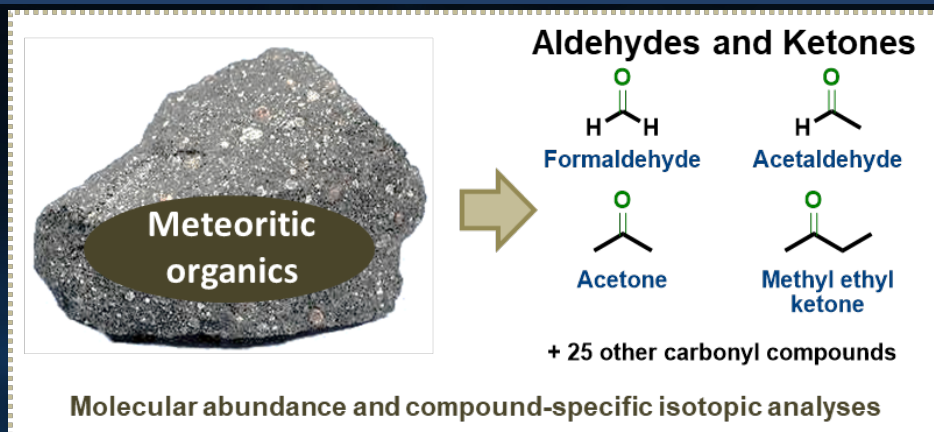


Origins of the Molecules of Life

New studies seek to understand organic molecules inside meteorites as an origin for prebiotic chemicals such as amino acids.

- A novel analytical method has been used for chemical evaluation of aldehydes and ketones (potential synthetic precursors of amino acids), in 11 carbonaceous chondrite meteorites.
- Similarities between the molecular distribution of these extraterrestrial molecules and amino acids, suggest that at least a portion of the aldehydes and ketones may have been converted into amino acids in these meteorites.



- Investigating aldehydes and ketones in meteorites will help us understand how amino acids, important building blocks for life, were created in the early Solar System.