

1 **Revision 2**

2 **A spectroscopic and carbon-isotope study of mixed-habit diamonds:**
3 **Impurity characteristics and growth environment**

4
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17

18 **ABSTRACT**

19

20 Mixed-habit diamonds have experienced periods of growth where they were
21 bounded by two surface forms at the same time. Such diamonds are relatively rare and
22 therefore under-investigated. Under certain physical and chemical conditions, smooth
23 octahedral faces grow concurrently with rough, hummocky cuboid faces. However,
24 the specific conditions that cause this type of growth are unknown. Here we present a
25 large array of spectroscopic data in an attempt to investigate the impurity and carbon-
26 isotope characteristics, as well as growth conditions, of thirteen large (>6 mm
27 diameter) plates cut from mixed-habit diamonds. The diamonds all generally have

28 high nitrogen concentrations (>1400 ppm), with the octahedral sectors enriched by
29 127 – 143 % compared to their contemporary cuboid sectors. Levels of nitrogen
30 aggregation are generally low (2 – 23% IaB) with no significant difference between
31 sectors. IR-active hydrogen features are predominantly found in the cuboid sectors
32 with only very small bands in the octahedral sectors. Platelet characteristics are
33 variable; only one sample shows a large B' band intensity in the octahedral sector,
34 with no platelets occurring in the cuboid sector. Other samples either show a small B'
35 band in both sectors, or just in the cuboid sector, or none at all. These data support a
36 model that shows the concentration-adjusted aggregation rate of nitrogen to be the
37 same in both sectors, whereas the subsequent platelet development is reduced in the
38 cuboid sectors. This is because the interstitial carbon atoms have interacted with *disc-*
39 *crack-like* defects only found in cuboid sectors, which in turn reduces their chances of
40 aggregating to form platelets. These *disc-crack-like* defects are also thought to be the
41 most likely site for the IR-active hydrogen features and they maybe intrinsic to cuboid
42 growth in mixed-habit diamonds. When they are graphitized, as they are in all of the
43 diamonds in this study, this may reflect a heating event prior to volcanic exhumation.
44 Spectroscopic analysis of the green cathodoluminescence exhibited by all of the
45 diamonds shows nickel centers to be present in only the cuboid sectors. Carbon
46 isotope data, obtained by secondary ion mass spectrometry, show very little variation
47 in seven of the diamonds. The total range of 217 analyses is -7.94 to -9.61 (± 0.15) ‰,
48 and the largest variation in a single stone is 0.98 ‰. No fractionation in carbon
49 isotopes is seen between octahedral and cuboid sectors at the same growth horizon.
50 These data suggest that the source fluid chemistry, as well as pressure, temperature
51 and oxygen fugacity were very stable over time, allowing such large volumes of
52 mixed-habit growth to occur. The high concentration of impurities, namely nitrogen

53 and hydrogen, is probably the critical factor required to cause mixed-habit growth.
54 The impurity and isotopic data fall in line with previous modeling based on diamond
55 growth from reduced carbonates with the loss of a ^{13}C -enriched CO_2 component.
56
57 **Keywords:** Mixed-habit diamonds, FTIR mapping, nitrogen concentration and
58 aggregation states, carbon isotopes, nickel defects.

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61 INTRODUCTION

62

63 Diamonds are direct samples from the deep lithosphere, the transition zone
64 and the lower mantle (Stachel, 2001). The lattice-bound impurities within them, the
65 mineral and fluid inclusions they encapsulate, and their growth history all provide
66 information on the fluid-related processes occurring at these depths (see review by
67 Stachel & Harris (2008) and references therein). The type of crystal growth that
68 occurs, and the resultant diamond morphology, are dependent on five key factors
69 (Sunagawa, 1990; 2005); (1) the supercritical fluid, (2) the solute-solvent interaction
70 energies (i.e. redox reactions), (3) the degree of carbon saturation, (4) the impurities
71 present, and (5) the pressure (P) and temperature (T) conditions. As a result, detailed
72 knowledge of the characteristics of the different growth types allows us to use
73 diamonds as recorders of mantle conditions and their evolution.

74 Diamonds commonly only exhibit one growth mechanism at a time. For
75 example, coated diamonds represent two distinct growth periods, with a young
76 opaque fibrous coat forming on an older transparent octahedral core (e.g. Boyd et al.,
77 1992; Tomlinson et al., 2006; Araujo et al., 2009; Weiss et al., 2009). Other diamonds

78 show transitions between different growth mechanisms (e.g. fibrous to octahedral
79 (Rondeau et al., 2004; Skuzovatov et al., 2011) or octahedral to cuboid to fibrous
80 (Howell et al., 2012a)), suggesting more gradational changes in the environmental
81 conditions. In contrast, mixed-habit diamonds are rare examples of crystals that
82 exhibit periods of growth where they were bound by two surface forms; (1) smooth,
83 flat {111} facets termed octahedral growth and (2) hummocky, non-faceted surfaces,
84 whose mean orientation is {100}. This mixed-habit growth was first recognized by
85 Frank (1967), following a series of etching experiments that revealed curved growth
86 forms (Harrison & Tolansky, 1964; Seal, 1965). Lang and co-workers (Moore &
87 Lang, 1972; Lang 1974; Suzuki & Lang, 1976a, b) termed these curved surfaces
88 “cuboid”; however, they can be inclined by up to 30° off true {100} orientations and
89 where two cuboid faces meet they can create a V-shaped valley. This type of growth
90 can result in a center-cross or star-shaped pattern forming within the diamond (e.g.
91 Welbourn et al., 1989; **Fig. 1**). This cross feature is the result of light-scattering
92 defects being present in the cuboid growth sectors but absent in the octahedral sectors
93 (Lang, 1974). These have been shown to be circular *disc-crack-like* defects on the
94 {111} planes (Walmsley et al., 1987), and they can be either transparent or opaque. It
95 remains unknown whether these defects are intrinsic to cuboid diamond growth.

96 Most of the early studies on mixed-habit diamonds by Lang and co-workers
97 (for references see above) used X-ray topographs to reveal internal structure. This
98 type of analysis led to conclusions regarding impurity distributions based upon the
99 “spike” X-ray reflection, which related to the formation of platelets - interstitial
100 carbon aggregates that are by-products of the nitrogen aggregation process (see
101 Discussion). This platelet X-ray feature was significantly stronger in the octahedral
102 sectors than in the cuboid sectors and thus Lang and colleagues concluded that

103 octahedral sectors were enriched in nitrogen compared to contemporary cuboid
104 sectors. An infrared (IR) and photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy study by
105 Welbourn et al. (1989) of numerous cube-shaped diamonds from the Jwaneng mine
106 (Botswana) confirmed the enrichment of nitrogen in octahedral sectors. However,
107 they showed that there was no clear difference in the amount of nitrogen aggregation
108 and subsequent platelet formation between the sectors. They also noted a correlation
109 between strong hydrogen-related absorption bands and the “cloud-like” defects
110 present in the cuboid sectors. The study also attributed the characteristic yellow-green
111 cathodoluminescence (CL) to the S1 and S3 (nickel-related) defect centers.

112 Later studies of mixed-habit diamonds have only provided limited carbon-
113 isotope (Bulanova et al., 2002; Cartigny et al., 2003; Zedgenizov & Harte, 2004;
114 Howell et al., 2012b) and spectroscopic data (luminescence, ultraviolet (UV) and IR
115 absorption, and Raman; Rondeau et al., 2004; Lang et al., 2004; 2007). The results of
116 these studies are briefly summarized here. In contrast to what has been observed in
117 synthetic diamonds (Boyd et al., 1988; Reutsky et al., 2008), there is no fractionation
118 of carbon or nitrogen isotopes between contemporary octahedral and cuboid sectors.
119 Hydrogen-related absorption features are significantly stronger in the cuboid sectors.
120 Nitrogen concentrations are always high (900 – 2500 ppm), with the octahedral
121 sectors always more enriched (107 – 157 % with respect to the cuboid sectors). While
122 nitrogen aggregation levels vary from 0 – 100 % IaB, there remains no unanimity in
123 the literature as to whether there is any significant difference between sectors. This
124 uncertainty propagates into the available data regarding platelet distribution; the B'
125 feature is commonly reported as being much weaker or completely absent in the
126 cuboid sectors, when compared to platelet-bearing octahedral sectors.

127 Rondeau et al. (2004) presented the first hypothesis regarding the conditions
128 that may produce mixed-habit diamonds. Their principle conclusion was that the large
129 hydrogen features observed in the infrared spectra of only the cuboid sectors meant
130 that high hydrogen concentrations in the source fluid were required for cuboid growth
131 to occur. More recently, Howell et al. (2012b) added to this proposal by incorporating
132 the crystal growth theory of Sunagawa (1990; 2005). When a diamond crystal is
133 bounded by both rough {100} and smooth {111} growth (as is the case for mixed-
134 habit diamonds), the redox reactions and/or impurities present (see Introduction) slow
135 down the growth rate of the rough face, stopping it from being grown out of the
136 crystal, and allowing it to develop as a large habit-controlling face.

137 In this study, we combine data from several spectroscopic and geochemical
138 techniques with crystal orientation data on a suite of thirteen mixed-habit diamonds,
139 to identify the specific growth environment that may create this special type of
140 diamond crystal. We used IR absorption mapping to study the distribution of nitrogen,
141 hydrogen and platelet related defects, as well as to investigate the presence of any
142 mineral or fluid phases. Raman spectroscopy was used to investigate the dark defects
143 within the cuboid sectors, while photoluminescence was applied to investigate the
144 cause of the green cathodoluminescence observed in the cuboid sectors. Finally,
145 secondary-ion mass spectrometry provided carbon-isotope data to gain chemical
146 insights into the source of the diamond-forming fluids.

147

148 **SAMPLES**

149

150 The thirteen diamond samples (MC01 - MC13; **Fig. 2**) exhibited varying
151 proportions of mixed-habit growth. The samples were obtained from the gem trade in

152 the form of parallel-polished plates; their geographical source is unknown. They range
153 in size from 6 to 13 mm (longest axis), all being less than 1 mm thick.

154

155 **ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES**

156

157 To distinguish between different growth sectors and stages, detailed black and
158 white cathodoluminescence (CL) images were collected for all the diamonds on a
159 Zeiss EVO 15 scanning electron microscope (SEM; GAU, Macquarie University).
160 Accelerating voltages were varied between 15 and 25 kV to obtain the best quality of
161 images. The sample was cleaned and carbon-coated prior to imaging. To confirm the
162 color of the CL, the samples were also examined using a CCL 8200 mk4 luminoscope
163 (10 – 15 kv and 400 – 500 nA) coupled to a Nikon Eclipse ME600 microscope. In
164 addition, optical-light micrographs were obtained on a Leica MZ FLIII microscope
165 using a Leica DFC 500 camera.

166 Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) was carried out on all 13 samples to
167 confirm their crystallographic orientation. The analysis was carried out on a Zeiss
168 Ultra Plus (University of Sydney). Working conditions during acquisition of EBSD
169 patterns were 20 – 25 kV accelerating voltage, ~ 0.8 nA beam current, working
170 distance of about 20 mm, 70° sample tilt, and high vacuum mode (samples carbon
171 coated). Patterns were acquired on rectangular grids by moving the electron beam at a
172 regular step size of 0.1, 1 and 2 μm . EBSD patterns were indexed using CHANNEL 5
173 software from HKL Technology - Oxford Instruments. The EBSD patterns from the
174 diamond were automatically indexed by comparing obtained reflector intensities with
175 those of theoretical reflectors. For this procedure, we compared to 50 theoretically-
176 calculated reflectors.

177 To obtain data on the most common impurities found in diamond, Fourier-
178 transform IR spectroscopy was performed using a Nicolet iN10 microscope (GAU,
179 Macquarie University), operated via Omnic Picta software. Using a $100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}$
180 aperture and a liquid nitrogen-cooled detector, each spectrum was collected over the
181 range of $4000 - 675 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with a resolution of 1 cm^{-1} , by 16 scans in 6 seconds. IR
182 maps were compiled for each sample by recording spectra at $100 \mu\text{m}$ intervals so that
183 full coverage was obtained. Each map contains between 2933 – 8413 spectra. The
184 spectra were automatically deconvoluted using the DiaMap freeware (see Howell et
185 al., 2012a for a full description of the different components used to calculate nitrogen
186 concentrations and aggregation states). However, where the high nitrogen
187 concentrations cause saturation in the one-phonon region of the spectra, the automated
188 processing technique results in unacceptable errors in the nitrogen measurements.
189 Therefore, only the hydrogen-related data (3107 cm^{-1} band intensity) are presented as
190 maps in this study. Where possible, individual analyses were also recorded at the
191 positions of the SIMS analysis (see below) using a $60 \times 60 \mu\text{m}$ aperture and 64 scans
192 **(Supplementary data)**.

193 To obtain quantitative nitrogen impurity data, individual spectra were
194 extracted from the IR maps and deconvoluted using the same methodology as DiaMap
195 but with one important modification. To prevent the effect of the saturated spectra on
196 the least-squares fitting approach, a saturation level is set prior to the deconvolution.
197 This is a value (in absorption coefficient, cm^{-1}) above which the data from the fit to
198 the spectrum are omitted from the ‘sum of the squares’ (**Fig. 3**), but the contributions
199 from the different nitrogen components to the overall concentration are retained.
200 When the saturation is mostly in the region of the main A center feature (i.e. $\sim 1260 -$
201 1310 cm^{-1} ; Boyd et al., 1994) the uncertainty is thought to be only slightly worse than

202 the 10% that has been estimated for the normal deconvolution technique. However,
203 when there is additional saturation in the region of the main B center feature (i.e.
204 $\sim 1180 - 1220 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; Boyd et al., 1995) it is thought that this process will
205 underestimate the B center component; therefore the uncertainty is thought to be
206 closer to 20%.

207 High-resolution Raman spectra were obtained to identify the dark light-
208 scattering bodies only observed in the cuboid sectors, using a dispersive Horiba
209 LabRAM-HR800 spectrometer (Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography,
210 University of Vienna). The system was equipped with an Olympus BX41 optical
211 microscope, a diffraction grating with 1800 grooves/mm in the optical beam path, and
212 a Si-based, Peltier-cooled charge-coupled device (CCD) detector. Spectra were
213 obtained from the dark bodies inside the cuboid sectors using the 532 nm emission
214 line of a He-Ne laser ($\approx 8 \text{ mW}$ at the sample surface). The system was operated in the
215 confocal mode, with the confocal aperture set to $100 \mu\text{m}$, and a high-magnification
216 objective (Olympus 100 \times ; numerical aperture 0.90) was used. The resulting spatial
217 resolution varied appreciably with the surface quality of the diamond and the focal
218 depth below the surface; the lateral resolution is estimated at $2 - 3 \mu\text{m}$. The system
219 was calibrated using Ne lamp emissions and the Rayleigh line; the wavenumber
220 accuracy was better than 0.5 cm^{-1} . The spectral resolution was determined to be 0.8
221 cm^{-1} .

222 The photoluminescence (PL) spectra were collected in order to identify the
223 defects responsible for the strong luminescence, using a room-temperature home-built
224 sample-scanning confocal microscope as previously described by Bradac et al. (2009).
225 The sample was excited with $300 \mu\text{W}$ of power (before the objective) by a 532 nm
226 continuous-wave diode pumped solid-state laser (Coherent). The laser was focused

227 onto the sample by an oil immersion objective lens (Olympus 100x; numerical
228 aperture 1.3). The light emitted from the sample was recollected using the same
229 objective and the green light from the excitation laser was filtered out of the detection
230 channel using a 550 nm long pass filter (Thorlabs). The light was collected by a
231 commercial spectrum analyzer (Princeton Instruments Acton 2500i, Camera Pixis
232 100). Spectra were collected for 30 seconds using a grating with 300 grooves/mm
233 blazed at 750 nm. Alternatively, a 685 nm continuous-wave diode laser (Newport), in
234 the same setup but with the addition of a 700 nm long pass filter (Thorlabs) was used.

235

236 Carbon-isotope data were collected on a Cameca IMS 1280 ion probe
237 (Canadian Center for Isotopic Microanalysis (CCIM), University of Alberta). In total,
238 217 data points were recorded on 7 of the 13 samples; MC02, MC03, MC04, MC06,
239 MC07, MC08 and MC09. The samples were mounted next to a piece of the CCIM
240 synthetic diamond reference material (S0011B and C combustion reference value
241 $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{VPDB}} = -22.58 \text{ ‰}$), in an indium matrix contained within a 25 mm diameter brass
242 mount. The reported propagated uncertainties include within-spot and between-spot
243 statistical measurements and those associated with IMF correction, and are typically
244 $\pm 0.15 \text{ ‰}$ (95% confidence level). The carbon-isotope data are reported as $1000 \times \delta^{13}\text{C}$
245 relative to VPDB ($^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C} = 0.001118$).

246

247 **RESULTS**

248

249 Note that in this study, the term cuboid is used to refer to the type of diamond
250 growth as defined by Moore & Lang (1972) and does not refer in any way to the
251 morphology or habit of the diamond crystal. While it is conceded that natural

252 diamonds, in general, do not form perfect cube habits, the term cube will be used in
253 this study to refer to roughly cube-like morphologies.

254

255 **General optical, crystallographic and CL characteristics**

256

257 EBSD analysis reveals that eleven of the thirteen diamond plates are cut to
258 within 10° of perpendicular to a [100] axis; samples MC03 and MC05 are cut
259 perpendicular to a [110] axis. The arrows marked on **Fig. 2** show the crystallographic
260 orientations of the [100] axes for all the samples. In general, the optically dark regions
261 are in the [100] direction (i.e. octahedral sectors), and the transparent diamond is in
262 the [111] direction (i.e. cuboid sectors). Within an individual diamond sample,
263 variations in the orientation of the crystal lattice are below the detection limit of the
264 EBSD technique. No lattice misorientations could be detected between the octahedral
265 and cuboid sectors. For a few of the samples with a more complex growth history
266 (MC04, 05, 06, 12), the light-scattering defects in the dark regions define concentric
267 patterns, which results from cuboid growth becoming dominant over the octahedral
268 growth (see **Fig.1 and 2**).

269 All the diamonds emit green CL from the cuboid sectors when examined using
270 the luminoscope system. However, this system is not sensitive enough to observe any
271 emissions from the octahedral sectors. The black and white CL images obtained from
272 the SEM have much greater contrast so more detail can be obtained from the more
273 weakly-luminescent octahedral sectors (**Fig. 4a – b**, MC03). Some of the samples
274 (MC01, 10 and 13; **Fig. 4c – d**) show no growth stratigraphy perpendicular to the
275 growth direction, and the CL only reveals boundaries between the octahedral and
276 cuboid sectors (parallel to the growth direction). All the other samples show varying

277 amounts of stratigraphy, with the growth bands forming perfectly straight lines in the
278 octahedral sectors, and curved hummocky forms in the cuboid sectors (**Fig. 4e** MC02,
279 **4f** MC03, **4g** MC04, **4h** MC08, **4i** MC09, **4j** MC07, **4k** MC06, **4l** MC05). Note also
280 the almost fully spherical forms in the cuboid sectors and the resorption event that
281 occurred towards the outer edge of MC02 (**Fig. 4e**), the triangular forms that develop
282 in the cuboid sectors of MC03 as it transitions to octahedral growth (**Fig. 4a, b, f**), and
283 the small cuboid forms contained within octahedral sectors in MC01, 07 and 09 (**Fig.**
284 **4c, i, j**). Curved features, similar to those seen in MC02, have been described by Seal
285 (1965) as being “*oblique sections through bent but roughly cylindrical domes sloping*
286 *upwards and outwards from a central dimple.*” Ultimately, many of the variations in
287 the center-cross patterns seen in **Fig. 2** relate to the sectioning of the diamond with
288 respect to the growth nucleus. For a full discussion of this subject see Lang (1979).

289

290 **Inferred Growth Morphology**

291

292 As the diamonds were obtained as doubly polished plates, information about
293 their original morphology has to be inferred from their current form. The following
294 inferred growth histories are based on the CL pattern of the stones and the assumption
295 that the outer edges of the plates are still representative of the stones’ original
296 morphology. Of the seven plates with approximately square outlines, four are inferred
297 to have had an octahedral morphology (MC02, 05, 07 and 10) because the <100>
298 crystallographic directions and light-scattering defects are directed to the corners (**Fig.**
299 **1c**). The growth of MC02 (**Fig.2 and 4e**) is fairly uniform, with the cuboid sectors
300 maintaining a consistent width except towards the outer edge, where there is an
301 indication of a resorption event. Of the other three specimens, MC05’s growth

302 appears to be quite complex (**Fig. 4l**), but this may be a result of the specimen not
303 being cut parallel to a growth direction. MC07 is dominated by cuboid growth in the
304 early stages but less so later in its growth (**Fig. 4j**), and MC10 is very similar to that
305 of MC02, with fairly constant ratios of octahedral to cuboid growth (**Fig. 2**). MC03,
306 also of octahedral morphology but with a more lozenge-shaped appearance, (**Fig.2**
307 **and 4a, b, f**) shows a very complex growth history. At the core of the stone it was
308 cuboid-dominated, and then the stone became more equally mixed-habit. Towards the
309 end, octahedral growth totally dominated and this is best revealed by the pyramid
310 features in the CL pattern (**Fig. 4b**). These represent octahedral facets starting to form
311 within the cuboid sectors.

312 The remaining three diamonds with roughly square outlines (MC04, 06 and
313 11) are inferred to have had a cubic morphology as the $\langle 111 \rangle$ crystallographic
314 directions are towards the corners (**Fig. 1b and 2**). MC04 has octahedral facets almost
315 totally grown out, while CL imaging of MC06 (**Fig. 4k**) shows that cuboid growth
316 totally dominates the outer part of the stone despite it being partially resorbed. This
317 stone also shows how the CL patterns of the sectors vary dramatically when cut well
318 off a $\langle 100 \rangle$ direction (Lang, 1979). In sample MC11 (**Fig. 2**) cuboid growth
319 dominates, but two octahedral sectors reach the edge of the stone without diminishing
320 in volume. One rounded sample, MC09 (**Fig 2 and 4i**) is also dominated by cuboid
321 growth.

322 Of the remaining four samples (MC01, 08, 12 and 13), two have rounded
323 morphology (**Fig. 4h**) and two are octahedral with re-entrants in the $\langle 100 \rangle$ directions
324 (**Fig. 2**), but they all contain fairly equal volumes of mixed-habit growth.

325

326 **IR Spectroscopy**

327

328 Averaged nitrogen, hydrogen and platelet data for each sector of the thirteen
329 diamonds are shown in **Table 1**. It is clear that nitrogen concentrations are very high
330 (>1400 ppm) in all thirteen diamonds, and that the octahedral sectors are more
331 enriched than the cuboid ones. Overall, nitrogen aggregation is relatively low for all
332 sectors (3 – 23 % IaB, median 12% IaB). The nitrogen-aggregation data appear to
333 suggest that in all but one case, cuboid sectors are more aggregated than the
334 octahedral ones. The hydrogen concentrations are only high in the cuboid sectors; the
335 main band at 3107 cm⁻¹ and the secondary band at 1405 cm⁻¹ are accompanied by
336 bands at 3051, 3143, 3188, 3236 and 3309 cm⁻¹. Hydrogen measurements were
337 compiled into IR maps as it is unaffected by the nitrogen-related saturation and the
338 maps of four samples are shown in **Fig. 5**.

339 Of the five diamonds with octahedral morphology, MC07 and MC10 contain
340 no platelets in any sector, MC03 and MC05 have low platelet intensities (8 – 13 cm⁻²)
341 in only the cuboid sectors, and MC02 has a high platelet intensity (~200 cm⁻²) but
342 only in the octahedral sectors (see **Table 1**). Samples MC03 and MC05 also show
343 interesting variations in the nitrogen concentration because their growth mechanisms
344 vary. In both cases, as the cuboid sectors transition to octahedral growth, nitrogen
345 concentrations drop from ~1950 ppm to as low as 1200 ppm in MC03 (**Fig. 6**), while
346 in MC05 they drop from ~2050 ppm in the core to ~1480 ppm towards the rim.

347 In the four diamonds whose growth is cuboid-dominated, small platelet
348 intensities (~5 – 10 cm⁻²) are recorded only in the cuboid sectors of MC06 and MC09,
349 and MC11 contains no platelets in any sector. MC04 has small platelet intensities in
350 both cuboid (7 cm⁻²) and octahedral (2 cm⁻²) sectors. There is also a decrease in the

351 nitrogen concentrations of both sectors as cuboid growth becomes dominant (see
352 MC04 in **Fig. 6**).

353 The final four diamonds all exhibit fairly equal proportions of mixed-habit
354 growth; MC13 contains no platelets in any sector, while MC01, MC08 and MC12
355 have small platelet intensities ($\sim 5 - 14 \text{ cm}^{-2}$) only in the cuboid sectors.

356 In summary, all of the diamonds except two either have platelets in only the
357 cuboid sectors, or have no platelets in any sector. MC04 contains a small platelet
358 feature in both sectors, while MC02 is the only sample to have a large platelet band
359 and that only occurs in the octahedral sectors. When one growth mechanism becomes
360 dominant over the other, the change is accompanied by a drop in nitrogen
361 concentrations in both octahedral and cuboid sectors, regardless of which type of
362 growth is becoming dominant.

363 The final feature of interest is the small broad band around 1580 cm^{-1} . This
364 feature, seen only in cuboid sectors, was observed in eight of the samples and is,
365 according to Nemanich et al. (1977), related to graphite. The absence of other spectral
366 features confirms that the *disc-crack-like* defects of the cuboid sectors do not contain
367 fluid or silicate mineral inclusions.

368

369 **Raman and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy**

370

371 Raman and PL analyses, especially those placed in the cuboid sectors, were
372 complicated by strong laser-induced, broad-band luminescence of unknown origin.
373 Raman analyses of the *disc-crack-like* defects in the cuboid sectors revealed that they
374 are in fact graphite, as previously shown by Rondeau et al. (2004) and suggested by
375 Lang et al. (2007). The graphite G band near 1580 cm^{-1} (for the band assignment see

376 Tuinstra and Koenig, 1970) was found to be relatively narrow (full width half
377 maximum [FWHM] values in the range 13.4–25.4 cm^{-1}). This observation suggests
378 that the graphite is well crystallized to, at the most, moderately disordered (compare
379 Beyssac et al., 2002; Nasdala et al., 2003). Raman analyses of the diamond regions
380 immediately surrounding these graphite bodies yielded spectra with a mildly
381 broadened, always somewhat asymmetric main first-order diamond band at 1332.0–
382 1333.8 cm^{-1} . The slight up-shift with respect to the diamond host ($\sim 1332.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$)
383 indicates that the graphite transmits a small amount of compressive stress (Sharma et
384 al., 1985; Nasdala et al., 2005) to the diamond host. This is consistent with the TEM
385 study of these types of defects by Walmsley et al. (1987).

386 Two excitation wavelengths were used in the PL work in order to avoid, at
387 least partially, the broad luminescence background. A band at $\sim 794 \text{ nm}$ was observed
388 only in the cuboid sectors of the diamonds (**Fig.7**). This feature may be assigned to
389 the Zero Phonon Line (ZPL) of the S2 and S3 nickel centers (Kupriyanov et al.,
390 1999), also known as the NE2 and NE1 electron paramagnetic resonance centers
391 (Lang et al., 2004). Spectra obtained in the cuboid sectors with 532 nm excitation
392 showed two additional bands at ~ 706 and $\sim 658 \text{ nm}$. These are most probably also
393 related to nickel impurities as their positions are very close to the nickel-induced CL
394 emission at 703.6 nm (Nadolinny et al., 1999) and PL emission at 658.3 nm
395 (Yelisseyev et al., 1996) respectively.

396

397 **Carbon Isotopes**

398

399 Of the 217 analyses performed on seven samples, the total range of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ is
400 -7.94 to -9.61 ‰ (**Supplementary Data**). The largest range seen in a single sample,

401 MC03, is 0.98 ‰ (-8.63 to -9.61 ‰). The most thoroughly studied sample, MC07,
402 with 69 analyses transecting both octahedral and cuboid sectors (**Fig. 4j**), shows a
403 slight trend to less negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values moving from the core to the rim. This change
404 occurs in both sectors, with no significant difference in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between the
405 two. A similar slight increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values is also seen in the cuboid sector of MC03
406 (**Fig. 8a**). In the remaining samples, MC02, 04, 06, 08 and 09, no $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variation
407 between core and rim was noted. To confirm that no fractionation occurs between
408 sectors, nine pairs of analyses of contemporary growth horizons were performed on
409 MC06 (**Fig. 4k**), with spots in each sector of the same growth layer. None of the
410 analyses show any statistical difference between sectors (**Fig. 8b**) and therefore there
411 is no evidence of carbon-isotope fractionation between the sectors.

412

413 **DISCUSSION**

414

415 **Impurity Characteristics**

416

417 The most commonly reported characteristic of mixed-habit diamonds relates
418 to their high nitrogen concentrations (e.g. Welbourn et al., 1989; Bulanova et al.,
419 2002; Rondeau et al., 2004). That result is supported in this study, with overall
420 nitrogen concentrations ranging from 1400 – 2700 ppm, and nitrogen enriched in the
421 octahedral sectors compared to contemporary cuboid sectors by 127 – 143 % (**Table**
422 **1**). Differences between the moderately low levels of nitrogen aggregation in both
423 sectors are more difficult to assess due to the saturation of the spectra in the nitrogen-
424 dominated region (1000 – 1350 cm^{-1}). In most cases, the data initially suggest that
425 aggregation levels are higher in the cuboid sectors. Considering their lower

426 concentrations, this implies a faster rate of nitrogen aggregation in cuboid diamond
427 than octahedral diamond. However, the deconvolution method applied to saturated
428 spectra significantly under-represents the B center component (see Analytical
429 Techniques section) and this has a greater affect on the data from the octahedral
430 sectors. Taking this uncertainty in to account, we believe that there is no significant
431 difference in nitrogen aggregation levels between the two sectors. It is not possible to
432 determine whether this means that aggregation does occur at significantly faster rates
433 in cuboid diamond growth, but it is assumed it does not.

434 If nitrogen aggregation occurs at the same rate in both octahedral and cuboid
435 diamond growth, then interstitial carbon atoms are also being generated at the same
436 rate (Woods, 1986). These interstitial carbon atoms aggregate together very quickly to
437 form platelets. This relationship between B centers and interstitial carbon atoms
438 results in a linear trend between the integrated area of the platelet (B') peak and the
439 amount of IR absorption caused by B centers (Woods, 1986). When the
440 proportionality between the integrated intensity and the IR absorption is less than the
441 expected coefficient from the general linear trend, it usually is interpreted as being
442 due to the degradation of the platelets caused by heating and/or deformation events
443 (Woods, 1986).

444 This linear relationship established by Woods (1986) means that the constant
445 rate of nitrogen aggregation, combined with nitrogen enrichment in the octahedral
446 sectors should result in proportionally larger platelet intensities in the octahedral
447 sectors of mixed-habit diamonds. In other words, more nitrogen creates more B
448 centers, which in turn create more interstitial carbon atoms and therefore more / larger
449 platelets. However, the I(B') data from mixed-habit diamonds in both the literature
450 (e.g. Welbourn et al., 1989; Bulanova et al., 2002; Rondeau et al., 2004; Howell et al.,

451 2012b) and this study, show no consistency with regard to sector variations. For
452 example, platelets may occur in just one sector, or have higher intensities in one
453 sector compared to the other.

454 To explain this phenomenon, we consider both how platelets form, and how
455 they degrade. There have been two proposals regarding nitrogen aggregation and
456 platelet formation in mixed-habit diamonds. Rondeau et al. (2004) suggested that
457 nitrogen aggregation is impeded in cuboid sectors due to hydrogen being bonded to
458 the A center defects. Reduced aggregation to B centers means fewer interstitial carbon
459 atoms are generated and fewer platelets created. Conversely, Howell et al. (2012b)
460 proposed that nitrogen aggregation rates were the same in both sectors, but the
461 interstitial carbon atoms interacted with the *disc-crack-like* defects in the cuboid
462 sectors (Walmsley et al., 1987). This would reduce their likelihood of aggregating to
463 form platelets, but would not totally prevent it, as not all the interstitial carbon atoms
464 would interact with the defects. This means that the linear relationship of Woods
465 (1986) would not be applicable to cuboid diamond growth, as the concentration of the
466 *disc-crack-like* defects needs to be taken into account. As we see no difference in the
467 nitrogen aggregation rates between the sectors (if anything nitrogen aggregation may
468 occur faster in cuboid diamond), data from the present work support the conclusions
469 of Howell et al. (2012b).

470 To explain the diversity of platelet features seen in mixed-habit diamonds, we
471 also need to understand how platelets are degraded. The main mechanism for platelet
472 degradation is dislocation-related (Hirsch et al., 1986) and it has a stronger effect on
473 larger platelets than on smaller ones (Lang et al., 2007). The IR data available for
474 platelets in mixed-habit diamonds (Lang et al., 2007; Howell et al., 2012b) show that
475 platelets in octahedral sectors have a greater area per unit volume (Sumida & Lang,

476 1988) and larger mean radius (Clackson et al., 1990) compared to those in cuboid
477 sectors. Therefore, not only do platelets form more rapidly in octahedral sectors, they
478 will also degrade more easily.

479 Deformation and/or heating events are intrinsic to the degradation of platelets
480 (Woods, 1986). This is because the mechanism requires either the generation of
481 dislocations, or mobilization of existing ones, to create the loops that produce the
482 vacancies necessary for platelet decomposition (Hirsch et al., 1986). None of the
483 thirteen diamonds in this study shows any visual evidence of being plastically
484 deformed; this is supported by their crystallographic homogeneity as recorded by the
485 EBSD analysis. However, the graphitization of the *disc-crack-like* defects (see earlier)
486 is evidence that the diamonds have experienced a heating event at some point in their
487 history (Howes, 1962; Evans, 1979). This heating would allow the platelet data from
488 the diamonds in this study to be explained simply by varying the timing and intensity
489 of the heating event. For example, a brief heating event just prior to volcanic
490 exhumation would reduce the larger platelet features of the octahedral sector, while
491 the smaller platelet features in the cuboid sector would be less affected. This would
492 result in small platelet features in both sectors. Increasing the duration and/or
493 temperature of the heating event would initially cause further degradation of the
494 octahedral platelets, so that platelets only survived in the cuboid sectors. If the heating
495 event persisted, total degradation of the platelets in the cuboid sectors would also
496 occur, leaving no platelets in either sector despite aggregation levels of up to 15 %
497 IaB. Alternatively, a significant heating event that occurred well before exhumation
498 would initially result in total platelet degradation in both sectors, but there would be
499 time for subsequent platelet development to occur. Depending on the concentration of
500 the *disc-crack-like* defects in the cuboid sectors, this could result in only a large

501 platelet feature being observed in the octahedral sector, as platelet development in the
502 cuboid sector remains impeded by the defects.

503 Another common characteristic of mixed-habit diamonds noted in the
504 literature is the presence of significant levels of IR-active hydrogen, principally in the
505 cuboid sectors only. The diamonds in this study show strong IR-active hydrogen
506 features in the cuboid sectors ($25 - 77 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; **Table 1**), although commonly there is a
507 much weaker feature in the octahedral sectors ($< 11 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) as well. Other than the
508 *disc-crack-like* defects, there are no defects that only occur in the cuboid sectors to
509 offer suitable sites for IR-active hydrogen bonding. Therefore the data from this study
510 suggest that hydrogen is bound to the diamond at the surfaces of these defects in the
511 cuboid sectors, as proposed by Howell et al. (2012b) and in accordance with the
512 suggestion of Woods & Collins (1983). It is possible that a small contribution to the
513 3107 cm^{-1} band comes from hydrogen residing at nitrogen-related defects (Rondeau
514 et al., 2004). As this would occur in both sectors, it would explain the smaller
515 hydrogen-related bands seen in the octahedral sectors.

516 As the intensity of the hydrogen-related IR feature does not correlate with the
517 actual hydrogen concentration within the diamond as a whole (Sweeney et al., 1999),
518 the exact role of hydrogen in diamond is not fully understood. An investigation of
519 whether differences in total hydrogen concentrations exist or not, and whether
520 hydrogen partitions between both sectors or is concentrated mainly in one type of
521 sector could provide new insights into mixed-habit diamond formation.

522 The final impurity to discuss is nickel, which is present in the cuboid sectors.
523 This element is responsible for the green cathodoluminescence that is commonly
524 observed in mixed-habit diamonds (Welbourn et al., 1989), including all of those
525 studied here. No nickel concentrations have yet been measured in mixed-habit

526 diamonds, but Lang et al. (2004) suggest that concentrations would be < 0.1 ppm.
527 More recent laser-ablation studies have reported nickel concentrations up to 0.3 ppm
528 in monocrystalline diamonds (Rege et al., 2010).

529 It has been observed that nickel enhances nitrogen aggregation in synthetic
530 diamonds (Kiflawi et al., 1998; Fisher and Lawson, 1998) and these authors propose
531 two reasons: (1) the release of vacancies from the nickel-vacancy complexes, which
532 subsequently assist nitrogen migration; (2) the release of carbon interstitials that in
533 turn release highly mobile nitrogen interstitials. While these mechanisms have only
534 been shown to be of importance for aggregation from C centers to A centers, it is
535 important to recognize that they may also effect aggregation from A to B centers as
536 well, therefore undermining the general relationship to mantle residence time and/or
537 temperature that nitrogen aggregation data are thought to provide.

538

539 **Growth Conditions of Mixed-Habit Diamonds**

540

541 The large body of carbon-isotope data collected in this study shows that the
542 seven samples are very limited in their range, only -7.94 to -9.61 ‰; the largest range
543 in a single sample is only 0.98 ‰ (**Fig. 8a**), and none of the diamonds shows strong
544 trends in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from core to rim. Even the detailed analysis of MC06, designed to
545 identify any fractionation between growth sectors, showed that none existed (**Fig. 8b**).
546 Previous carbon-isotope data from mixed-habit diamonds have almost all been close
547 to the mantle range ($\delta^{13}\text{C} = -5$ to -8 ‰) with three diamonds falling in the range -3 to
548 -7 ‰ (Bulanova et al., 2002; Zedgenizov & Harte, 2004; Howell et al., 2012b). One
549 diamond from SE Australia had a $\delta^{13}\text{C} = +1.94$ ‰, consistent with data for other
550 diamonds from the same location (Cartigny et al., 2003).

551 As there are no paragenesis-defining inclusions within any of the samples
552 studied, it is not possible to deduce with certainty whether they formed in eclogitic or
553 peridotitic hosts. Considering our data in terms of carbon-isotope and nitrogen-
554 concentration co-variations however, the present data fall very close to a calculated
555 melt evolution trend based on eclogitic diamond growth during reduction of
556 carbonates, with previous loss of a ^{13}C - enriched, nitrogen-bearing CO_2 fluid
557 (Cartigny et al., 2001; Maruoka et al. 2004). The high nitrogen contents of our
558 samples, combined with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ distinctly below the mantle value of $\sim -5\text{‰}$ (see Deines,
559 2002), means that these data fall far off predicted Rayleigh fractionation trends for the
560 precipitation of peridotitic diamonds from reducing (CH_4 -bearing) or oxidizing (CO_3^{2-} -
561 -bearing) fluids (see Figure 7 of Stachel & Harris, 2009). However, there is a subset
562 of peridotitic coated diamonds with initial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values as low as -9‰ , consistent with
563 carbonate precipitation (Stachel et al., 2009). So while the evidence points to an
564 eclogitic paragenesis there is the lesser possibility of an origin from a ^{13}C -depleted
565 carbonate-bearing fluid in a peridotitic environment (Stachel et al., 2009). The
566 presence of nickel in the diamonds implies the absence of sulphides during diamond
567 formation (as sulfides would scavenge all the nickel) and this evidence could favor
568 diamond formation in a Ni-rich depleted cratonic peridotite.

569 Two of the diamonds exhibit a significant change in nitrogen concentration
570 from the core to the rim (MC03 & MC04, **Fig. 6**). This variation correlates with a
571 change in growth type, with octahedral growth becoming dominant in MC03 and
572 cuboid growth dominating in MC04. Neither of these samples shows an
573 accompanying trend in carbon isotopes, ruling out growth from a closed system.
574 Redox reactions and/or the absorption of impurities are the key factors in allowing
575 mixed-habit growth to occur and be sustained (see Introduction). If growth occurs in

576 an open system, then in general, for large volumes of mixed-habit growth to occur the
577 physiochemical conditions must be very stable, as only a slight change will result in
578 one growth type becoming dominant. In the present case, such an argument is
579 supported by the lack of variation in carbon isotopes and the sustained impurity
580 concentrations in the majority of the diamonds studied. With MC03 and MC04, a
581 change in the impurity concentration of the source fluid seems most likely, resulting
582 in growth moving away from mixed-habit and becoming dominated by just one type.
583 If the model of Howell et al. (2012b) is correct, then a drop in hydrogen
584 concentrations may have caused octahedral growth to become dominant in MC03 (the
585 accompanying drop in nitrogen being irrelevant), while a drop in nitrogen
586 concentration with continued high hydrogen concentrations may have caused cuboid
587 growth to dominate in MC04 (**Fig. 9**).

588 To summarize, the data collected from this set of mixed-habit diamonds
589 suggests that growth occurred under the following conditions; (1) relatively constant
590 pressure (P) and temperature (T), (2) sustained levels of carbon super-saturation, (3) a
591 relatively high nitrogen concentration in the source fluid, and (4) a reduced oxygen
592 fugacity (fO_2) providing diamond-forming carbon through the reduction of
593 carbonates. The role and importance of hydrogen to mixed-habit and particularly
594 cuboid growth remain uncertain but would be clarified if actual concentrations and
595 sectoral variations were confirmed. The role that nickel plays in cuboid diamond
596 growth is also uncertain, but it is not deemed integral to mixed-habit growth.

597 The data from this study support the following preliminary model for mixed-
598 habit diamond crystal growth. High concentrations of nitrogen and hydrogen in the
599 source fluid are the key factors required for mixed-habit growth to occur (Rondeau et
600 al., 2004; Howell et al., 2012b). Nitrogen is preferentially taken up in the octahedral

601 sectors, while hydrogen is better accommodated in the cuboid sectors. Other
602 important factors like P, T, fO_2 , and carbon saturation must remain fairly constant to
603 avoid driving the growth conditions away from mixed-habit growth.

604 Mixed-habit diamonds may be under-represented in population studies
605 because the cross feature is only visible if the *disc-crack-like* defects have been
606 graphitized. Their rarity may also be linked to the very stable conditions required for
607 their growth. If that is the case, then appropriate growth conditions may only be
608 encountered for brief periods. The consequence of this would be that only small
609 volumes of mixed-habit growth will occur during transitions (in either direction) from
610 octahedral to cuboid growth (e.g. Kaminsky & Khachatryan, 2004; Skuzovatov et al.,
611 2011; Howell et al., 2012a, b)

612

613 **CONCLUSIONS**

614

615 This study has presented a large body of spectroscopic and carbon-isotope
616 data on mixed-habit diamonds, significantly increasing the current dataset. These data
617 help to reinforce new ideas regarding the behaviour of various impurities in diamond,
618 namely the rates of nitrogen aggregation and subsequent platelet development in
619 octahedral and cuboid sectors, and the presence of significant IR-active hydrogen
620 principally in cuboid sectors. The highly crystalline state of the graphite coating the
621 *disc-crack-like* defects, and the residual strain surrounding them, support the
622 interpretation that graphitization occurred during heating events subsequent to
623 diamond formation in the mantle. The presence of nickel in the cuboid sectors,
624 creating green CL, probably indicates the absence of any sulphide phase during
625 diamond growth. An origin for mixed-habit diamonds during carbonate reduction is

626 proposed, supporting an earlier hypothesis (Howell et al., 2012b) that the reducing
627 oxygen-fugacity conditions could also produce the high levels of hydrogen required to
628 sustain cuboid growth. However, both quantitative analysis of hydrogen
629 concentrations in mixed-habit diamonds and HPHT experiments are required to
630 confirm this.

631

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654

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824

825 **Figure Captions:**

826

827 **Figure 1.** Illustration showing the formation of the center-cross in mixed-habit
828 diamonds (after Sunagawa, 2005). Octahedral growth is in white, while cuboid
829 growth is in grey. The arrows show the crystallographic $\langle 100 \rangle$ and $\langle 111 \rangle$
830 directions of the face-centered cubic cell, which correspond to the preferred
831 growth direction of cuboid and octahedral faces, respectively. (a) Constant
832 growth in both the octahedral and cuboid sectors. This results in the final
833 morphology being of mixed-habit. (b) After three growth layers of constant
834 mixed-habit growth, the growth rate of the octahedral sectors (R_o) increases,
835 resulting in them being grown out of the crystal. The final morphology ends up
836 being roughly cube-shaped. (c) The growth rate of the cuboid sectors (R_c)
837 increases after the first three layers of mixed-habit growth, meaning they are
838 grown out of the crystal. The result is an octahedral morphology.

839

840 **Figure 2.** Images of the thirteen mixed-habit diamonds analysed in this study. All are
841 doubly polished plates. All but two are cut within 10° of a $\{100\}$ face, MC03

842 and MC05 are cut parallel to a {110} face. The black arrows point in a <100>
843 direction. The black bars represent 1mm scales.

844

845 **Figure 3.** Illustration showing how deconvolution of IR spectra is performed when
846 there is saturation in the nitrogen-dominated region. The dashed grey line
847 represents the cut-off level; all data above this are omitted from the sum of the
848 squares fit.

849

850 **Figure 4.** CL images of a selection of the diamonds studied. (a) Color image showing
851 the green luminescence of MC03 while (b) shows the equivalent image
852 observed with the SEM, note the greater detail using the SEM. The two images
853 are from the bottom left hand corner as seen in (f). (c) MC01. (d) MC13. (e)
854 MC02. (f) MC03. (g) MC04. (h) MC08. (i) MC09. (j) MC07. (k) MC06. (l)
855 MC05. The yellow dots in (e) – (k) represent the locations of the SIMS
856 analyses. The white lines in (f) and (g) represent the IR transects presented in
857 Fig. 6. The white scale bars correspond to 0.5 mm in (a) and (b) and to 1 mm in
858 (c) – (l).

859

860 **Figure 5.** FTIR impurity maps showing the intensity of the primary hydrogen-related
861 band at 3107 cm^{-1} in four of the samples. Larger hydrogen bands clearly
862 correlate to the cuboid sectors. In MC06, the hydrogen appears to become
863 concentric; this is where cuboid growth becomes more dominant and the
864 amounts of *disc-crack-like* defects vary in the different growth layers. The black
865 bars represent 1mm scales.

866

867 **Figure 6.** Graphs showing data from the IR maps of MC03 and MC04. The data are
868 from transects that start at the core of the stone and move out to the rim (white
869 lines in Fig. 3).

870

871 **Figure 7.** Photoluminescence spectra obtained from octahedral (thin lines) and cuboid
872 (thick lines) sectors, using a green (532 nm; green lines) and red (685 nm; red
873 lines) laser. The Raman band of diamond is indicated for both the green and red
874 excitation; it is, as expected, present in each sector. The zero phonon lines
875 (ZPL) of several defects are labeled. Specifically, the ZPL at 794 nm, which
876 was observed with both the lasers excitations, has been attributed to the S2 and
877 S3 nickel-related defects (Kupriyanov et al., 1999).

878

879 **Figure 8.** Carbon isotope data from (a) a transect from core to rim of MC03, and (b)
880 two parallel transects in MC06. The black data marks are from the octahedral
881 sector and the grey data marks are from the same growth horizon in the adjacent
882 cuboid sector. The uncertainties on the data are 2σ . In (b) the distance
883 represented on the x -axis refers to the distance between each point in the
884 octahedral sector and does not refer to the distance between the analyses of each
885 pair (Fig. 4k).

886

887 **Figure 9.** Schematic illustration showing the role of impurities in mixed-habit growth.
888 The grey dashed lines represent thresholds that need to be crossed to cause a
889 change in growth mechanism (assuming constant pressure, temperature, oxygen
890 fugacity, carbon supersaturation etc.). A high hydrogen concentration is
891 proposed to be necessary for cuboid growth to occur (Rondeau et al., 2004),

892 with high nitrogen concentrations necessary for mixed-habit growth to occur.

893 The two arrows show how N and H concentrations probably changed during the

894 growth of MC03 and MC04, resulting in one growth mechanism becoming

895 dominant.

896

897 **Table 1.** Averaged impurity data (nitrogen concentration and aggregation state,

898 primary and secondary hydrogen band intensity, integrated area of the platelet

899 band) of the octahedral and cuboid sectors of each of the thirteen diamonds

900 analysed in this study. For samples MC03, MC04 and MC05, additional data

901 are provided to show how these impurities change from the core compared to

902 the rim of the stone. This is only shown for these three samples as only they

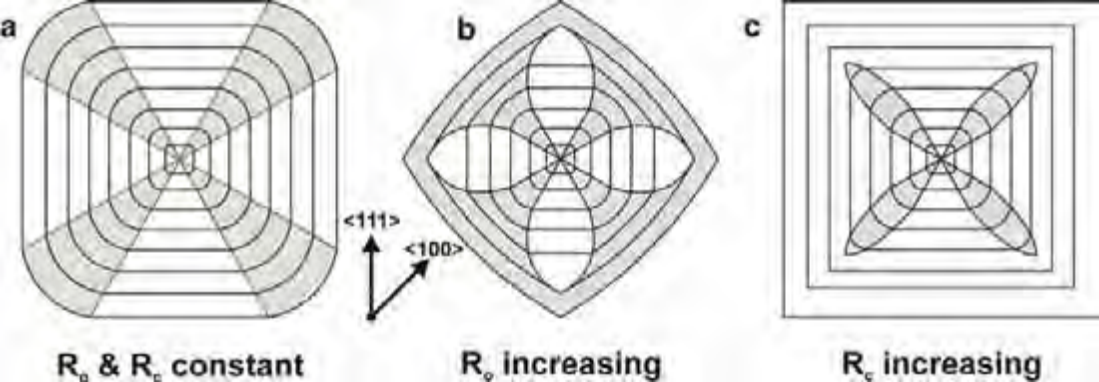
903 show significant variations in growth mechanisms between the core and rim.

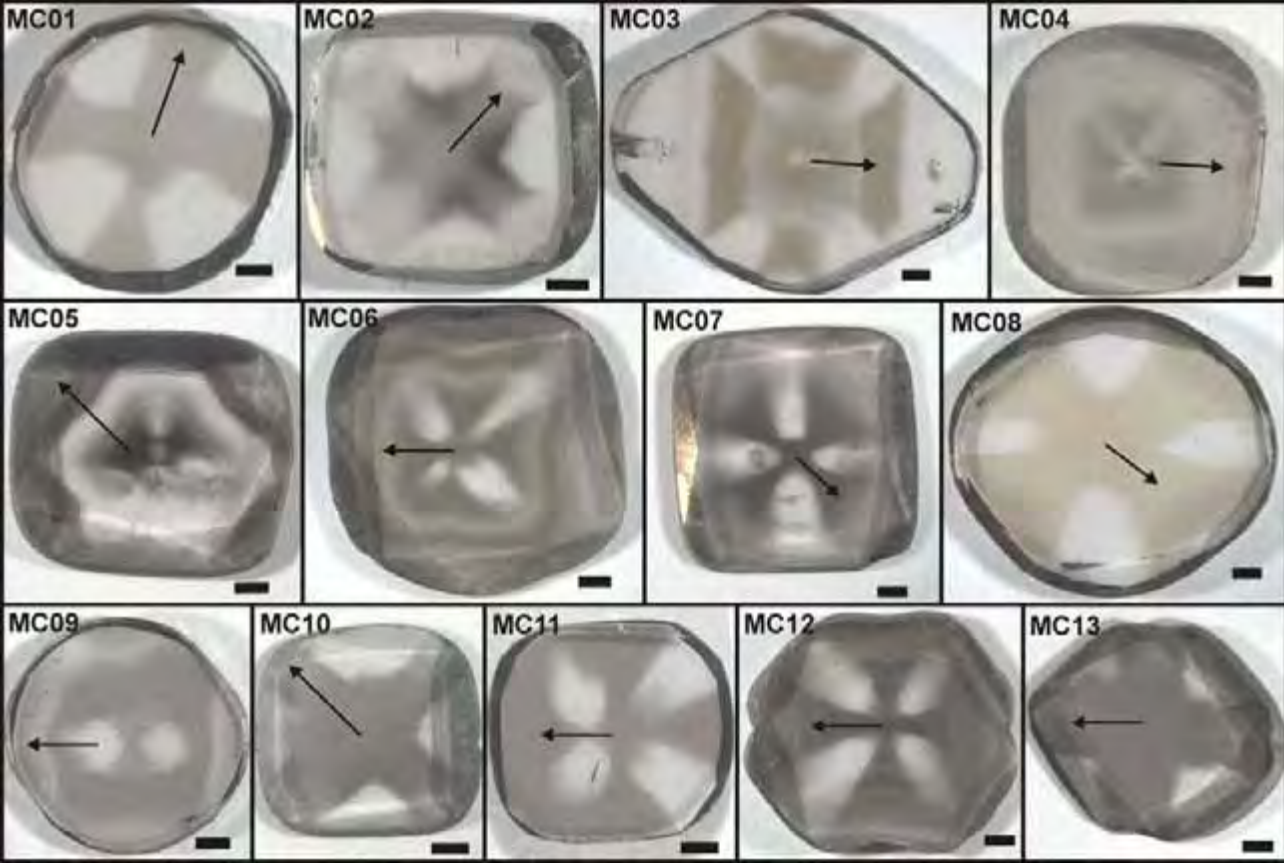
904

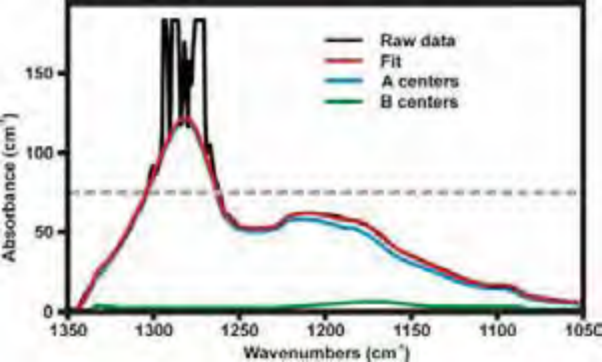
905 **Supplementary data.** Carbon-isotope data from the 217 SIMS analyses performed on

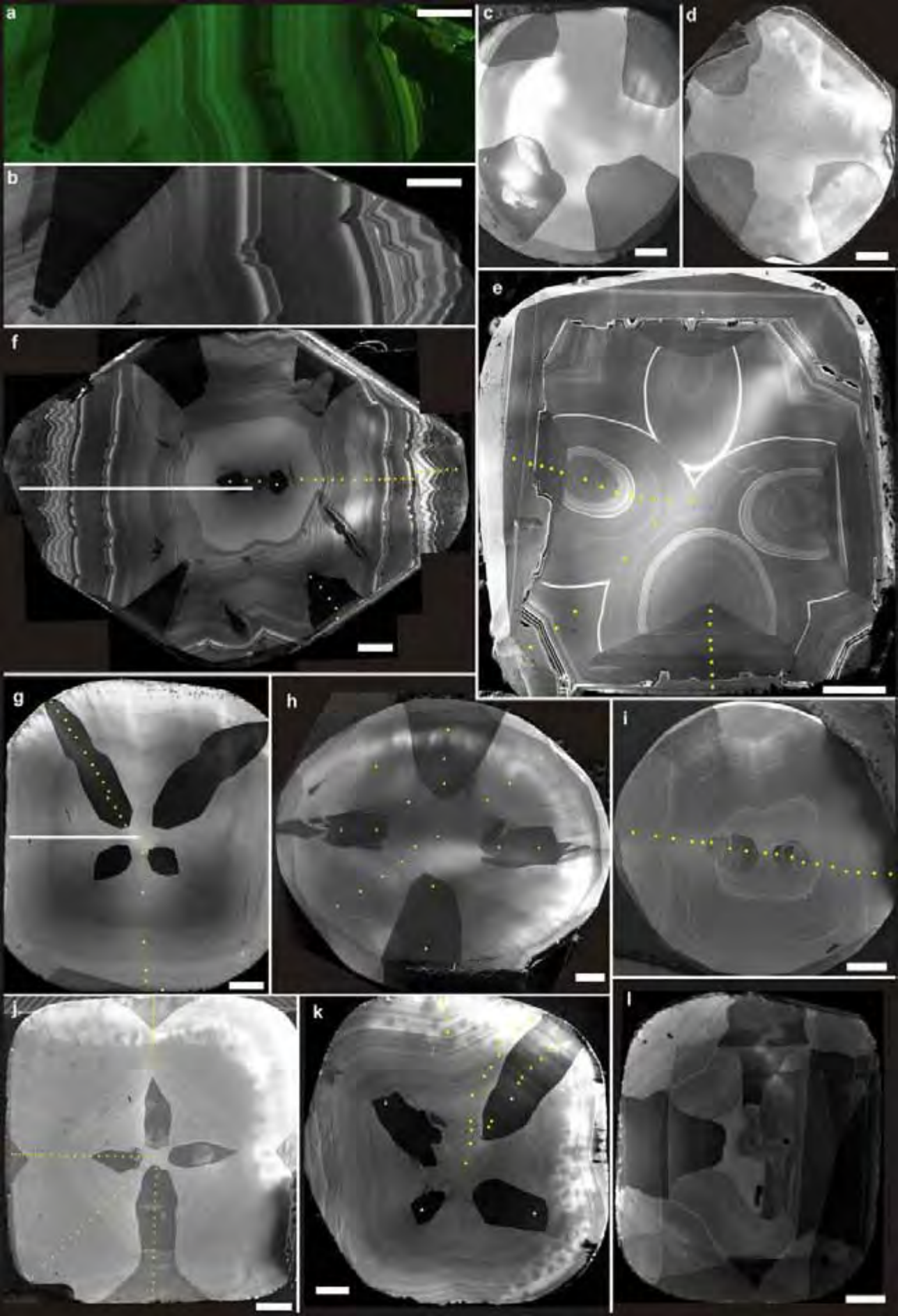
906 seven of the diamond samples. Where possible FTIR analysis has also been

907 performed on the site of the SIMS spots to show additional impurity data.

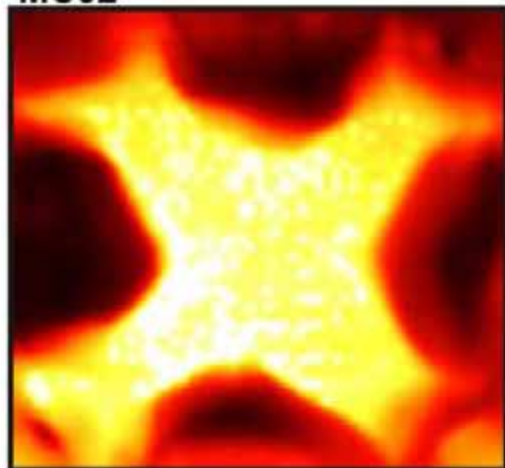




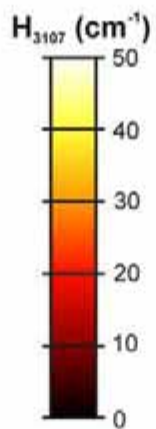
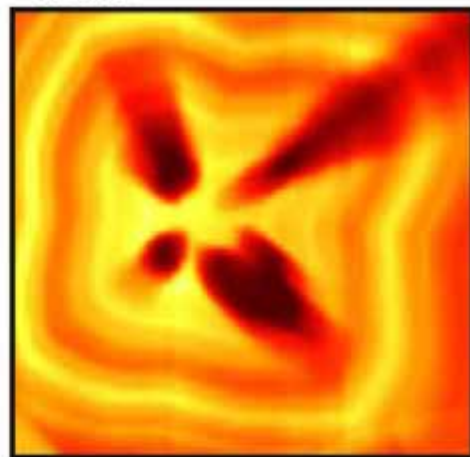




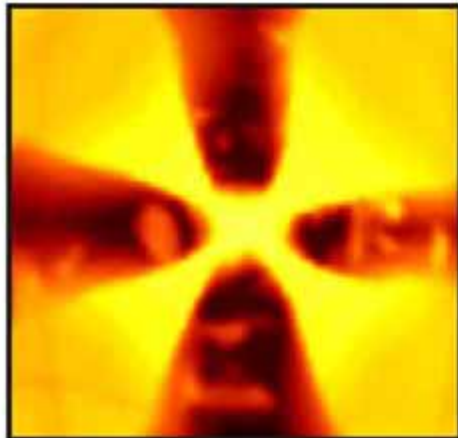
MC02



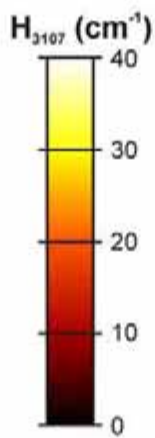
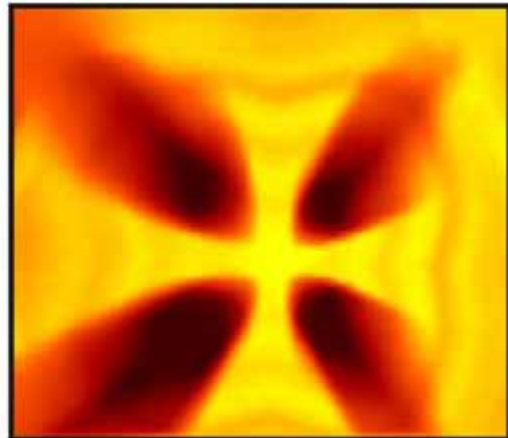
MC06



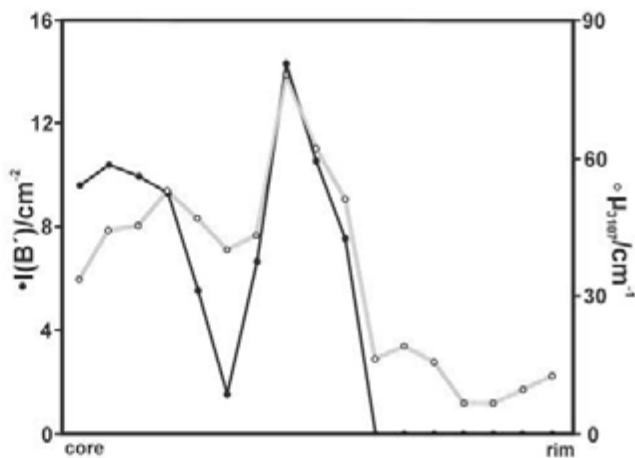
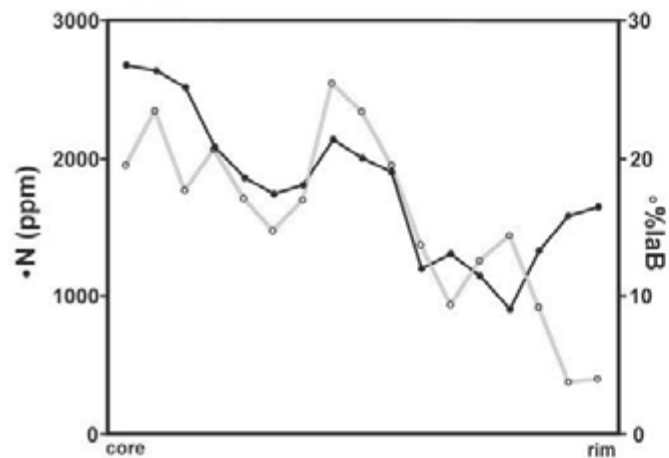
MC07



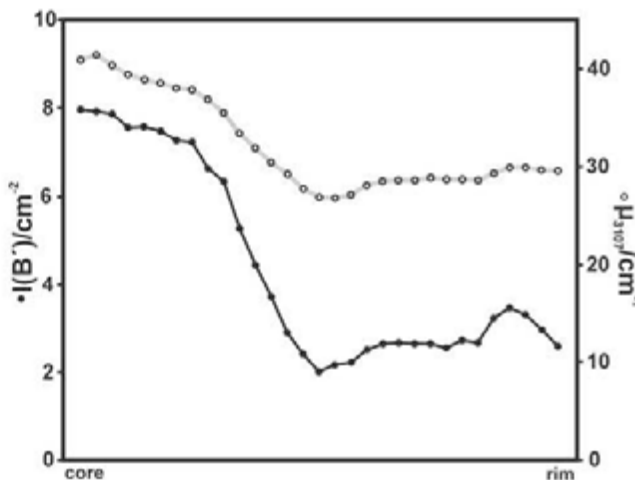
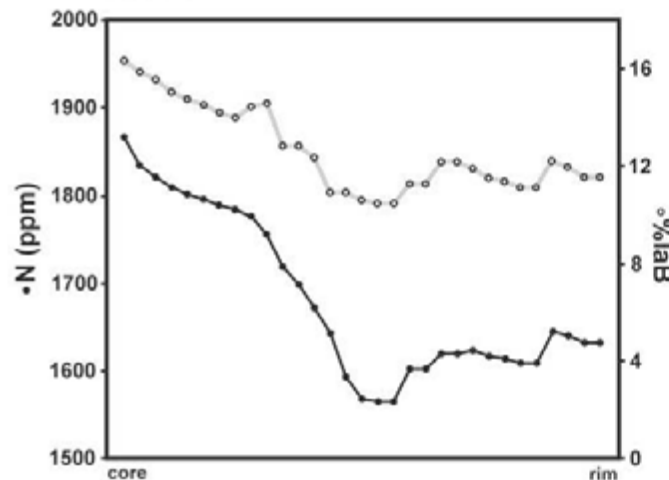
MC12

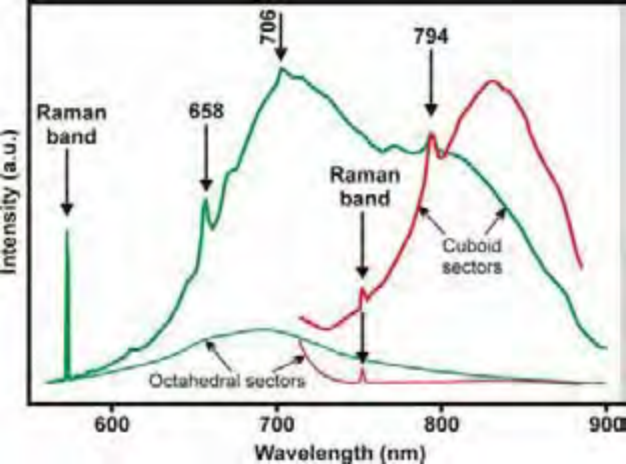


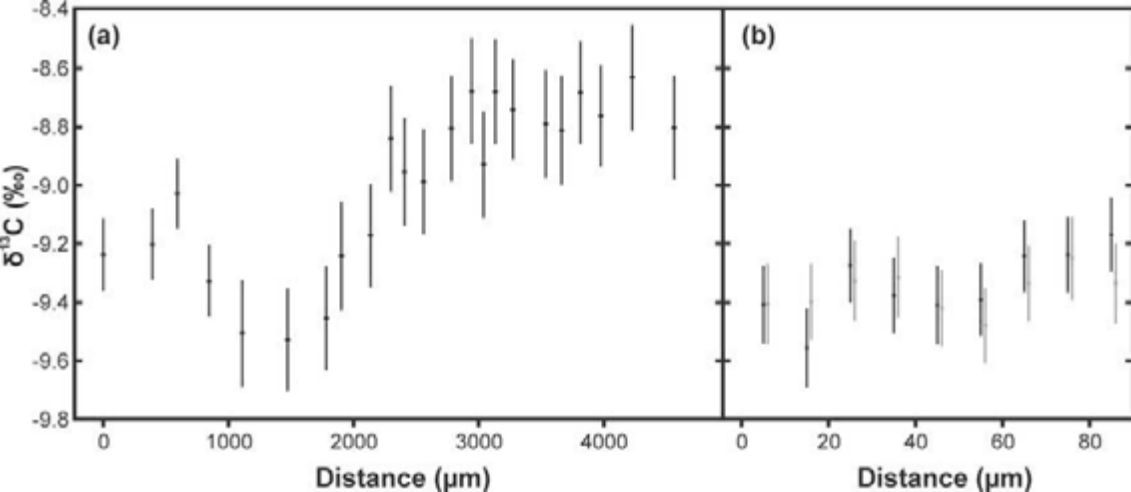
MC03

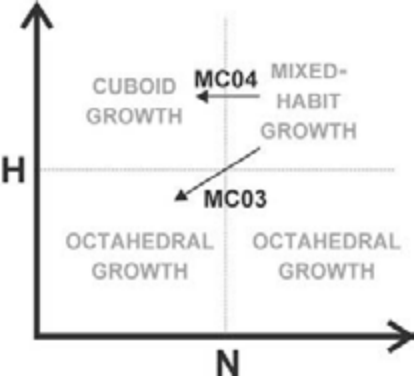


MC04









| Sample | Sector | N (ppm) | %IaB (%) | H @ 3107 (cm ⁻¹) | H @ 1405 (cm ⁻¹) | B' area (cm ⁻²) |
|-------------|--------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MC01 | C | 1549 | 10.2 | 26.3 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| | O | 2226 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MC02 | C | 1500 | 21.2 | 67.3 | 12.8 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2113 | 23.3 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 196.7 |
| MC03 | C | 1950 | 23.4 | 67.3 | 15.5 | 13.1 |
| | C to O | 1383 | 3.2 | 7.5 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2715 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 3.2 | 0.0 |
| MC04 | C core | 1658 | 14.6 | 36.5 | 9.1 | 7.3 |
| | C rim | 1511 | 10.1 | 27.0 | 6.6 | 3.0 |
| | O core | 2100 | 8.0 | 17.5 | 5.1 | 1.9 |
| | O rim | 1715 | 8.5 | 21.0 | 5.0 | 2.0 |
| MC05 | C core | 2050 | 20.0 | 77.0 | 15.6 | 8.0 |
| | C rim | 1480 | 12.0 | 39.0 | 8.6 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2300 | 13.0 | 7.0 | 2.0 | |
| MC06 | C | 1784 | 18.9 | 49.2 | 12.0 | 9.5 |
| | O | 2335 | 9.7 | 8.4 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| MC07 | C | 1679 | 15.5 | 37.8 | 9.6 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2302 | 11.7 | 4.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MC08 | C | 1866 | 22.0 | 52.7 | 12.8 | 14.0 |
| | O | 2642 | 5.6 | 8.8 | 2.4 | 0.0 |
| MC09 | C | 1600 | 12.2 | 30.6 | 7.4 | 5.2 |
| | O | 2250 | 4.3 | 7.5 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| MC10 | C | 1483 | 10.9 | 28.4 | 6.8 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2120 | 7.0 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MC11 | C | 1575 | 12.7 | 31.5 | 7.5 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2235 | 7.5 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MC12 | C | 1780 | 15.7 | 35.4 | 9.0 | 5.3 |
| | O | 2335 | 12.3 | 4.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MC13 | C | 1600 | 12.8 | 29.9 | 7.4 | 0.0 |
| | O | 2200 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 2.1 | 0.0 |