

1 Revision 1

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3 **Volatile abundances of coexisting merrillite and apatite in the martian**  
4 **meteorite Shergotty: Implications for merrillite in hydrous magmas**

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15  
16 **Abstract**

17  
18 Whitlockite and merrillite are two Ca-phosphate minerals found in terrestrial and  
19 planetary igneous rocks, sometimes coexisting with apatite. Whitlockite has essential structural  
20 hydrogen, and merrillite is devoid of hydrogen. Whitlockite components have yet to be  
21 discovered in samples of extraterrestrial merrillite, despite evidence for whitlockite-merrillite  
22 solid solution in terrestrial systems. The observation of merrillite in meteoritic and lunar samples  
23 has led many to conclude that the magmas from which the merrillite formed were “very dry”.  
24 However, the Shergotty martian meteorite has been reported to contain both apatite and  
25 merrillite, and recently the apatite has been shown to contain substantial OH abundances, up to  
26 the equivalent of 8600 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O. In the present study, we determined the abundances of F, Cl,  
27 H<sub>2</sub>O, and S in merrillite from Shergotty using secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS). We  
28 determined that the merrillite in Shergotty was properly identified (i.e., no discernible  
29 whitlockite component), and it coexists with OH-rich apatite. The absence of a whitlockite  
30 component in Shergotty merrillite and other planetary merrillites may be a consequence of the  
31 limited thermal stability of H in whitlockite (stable only at T <1050 °C), which would prohibit  
32 merrillite-whitlockite solid-solution at high temperatures. Consequently, the presence of  
33 merrillite should not be used as evidence of dry magmatism without a corresponding estimate of  
34 the T of crystallization. In fact, if a whitlockite component in extra-terrestrial merrillite is  
35 discovered, it may indicate formation by or equilibration with hydrothermal or aqueous fluids.

36  
37 **Keywords:** Water on Mars, martian meteorite, SIMS, whitlockite, phosphates

38  
39 **Introduction**

40 Apatite Ca<sub>5</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(F,Cl,OH), merrillite Ca<sub>18</sub>Na<sub>2</sub>Mg<sub>2</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>14</sub>, and whitlockite  
41 Ca<sub>9</sub>(Mg,Fe<sup>2+</sup>)(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>[PO<sub>3</sub>(OH)] are the primary phosphate minerals found in most planetary  
42 materials including rocks from Earth, Moon, Mars, and asteroids (Rubin, 1997; Piccoli and  
43 Candela, 2002; Jolliff et al., 2006; Hughes et al., 2008). For many years, the terms merrillite and

44 whitlockite have been used interchangeably in the meteorite literature. Much of the confusion  
45 regarding the relationship between terrestrial and extraterrestrial “whitlockite” is based on the  
46 presence or absence of hydrogen in the mineral structure. Whitlockite has approximately 8500  
47 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O, and the term “merrillite” has been adopted to identify the hydrogen-free form of  
48 whitlockite (Jolliff et al., 2006). The atomic structures of merrillite and whitlockite were  
49 examined in detail by Hughes et al. (2006, 2008). On Earth, whitlockite has been found in rocks  
50 from evolved pegmatitic systems (Fron del, 1941; Calvo and Gopal, 1975; Jolliff et al., 2006;  
51 Hughes et al., 2008) and in some mantle rocks (i.e., Ionov et al., 2006). Furthermore, terrestrial  
52 whitlockite has been shown to have some merrillite component (Hughes et al., 2008). For the  
53 meteoritic and lunar materials that have been investigated, merrillite appears to be far more  
54 common than whitlockite, and it has been proposed that the whitlockite component is unique to  
55 terrestrial samples (Hughes et al., 2008). There are some reports of “whitlockite” in the meteorite  
56 literature; however, these likely represent misidentifications of merrillite because there have been  
57 no reports of extraterrestrial whitlockite that have been verified through structural studies or  
58 analyzed for their H<sub>2</sub>O or F contents (F-endmember form of whitlockite is bobdownsite with 1.8  
59 wt.% F; Tait et al., 2011). Hughes et al. (2006) reported the atomic arrangement of lunar  
60 merrillite (from Jolliff et al., 1993) and demonstrated that the phase is similar to meteoritic  
61 merrillite and, predictably, devoid of hydrogen. In a follow-up study, Hughes et al. (2008)  
62 reported the atomic arrangements of two natural samples of whitlockite, one synthetic  
63 whitlockite, and samples of synthetic whitlockite that were heated at 500 °C and 1050 °C for 24  
64 hours. The crystal chemistry and crystal structures of the phases were compared, and it was  
65 discovered that the latter treatment resulted in the dehydrogenation of whitlockite to form  
66 merrillite. It was pointed out in that study that the existence of merrillite in meteoritic and lunar

67 rocks is not surprising because these materials are known to crystallize in environments in which  
68 hydrogen is rare or absent. In fact, the presence of merrillite vs. whitlockite is widely thought to  
69 serve as an indication that magmas are anhydrous (i.e., Smith and Hervig, 1979; Sha, 2000;  
70 Ionov et al., 2006; Patiño Douce and Roden, 2006; Hughes et al., 2008; Patiño Douce et al.,  
71 2011).

72         Recent evidence has challenged the notion that planetary magmas are anhydrous.  
73 Substantial evidence has been presented to show that lunar magmas have higher H contents than  
74 previously suggested (Saal et al., 2008, 2013; McCubbin et al., 2010b, 2010c; Boyce et al., 2010;  
75 Greenwood et al., 2011; Hauri et al., 2011; Barnes et al., 2013, 2014; Hui et al., 2013; Sharp et  
76 al., 2013; Tartese et al., 2013). Furthermore, recent studies have confirmed the presence of  
77 hydrous amphibole and apatite in many martian meteorites (i.e., Watson et al., 1994; Leshin,  
78 2000; Boctor et al., 2003; Greenwood et al., 2008; McCubbin et al., 2009, 2010a, 2012; Hallis et  
79 al., 2012; Gross et al., 2013). In fact, recent estimates of H<sub>2</sub>O abundances in the martian interior  
80 are similar to estimates of the terrestrial mantle (McCubbin et al., 2010a, 2012; Gross et al.,  
81 2013). Consequently, the question of whether there is a whitlockite component in planetary  
82 merrillite needs to be revisited in light of these findings. In the present study, we set out to find  
83 coexisting igneous apatite and merrillite in a martian meteorite to compare their volatile  
84 abundances and determine if a whitlockite component exists in martian merrillite.

85         Phosphate minerals have been reported in all martian meteorites (McSween and Treiman,  
86 1998; Filiberto and Treiman, 2009b; Agee et al., 2013; Gross et al., 2013; McCubbin et al.,  
87 2013a), and they have also been identified on the martian surface by the Mars Exploration  
88 Rovers Spirit and Opportunity (see summaries of Gellert et al., 2006; Usui et al., 2008). We  
89 focus our efforts on the basaltic shergottite Shergotty because the apatite in it is known to have

90 elevated OH abundances, ranging from 4600-8600 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O equivalent (all H concentrations in  
91 this manuscript are reported in the oxide component H<sub>2</sub>O), the apatite coexists with merrillite,  
92 and the apatite and merrillite grains are large and appear to be igneous in origin (McCubbin et  
93 al., 2012).

#### 94 Analytical methods

##### 95 Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA)

96 EPMA was employed to conduct backscatter electron imaging on apatite and merrillite,  
97 and to quantitatively analyze merrillite in the Shergotty meteorite. Merrillite grains were  
98 analyzed using the JEOL JXA 8200 electron microprobe in the Institute of Meteoritics at the  
99 University of New Mexico (UNM), primarily following the phosphate EPMA procedure outlined  
100 by McCubbin et al. (2011; 2010c). An accelerating voltage of 15 kV and a nominal probe current  
101 of 25 nA was used during each analysis. In order to reduce or eliminate electron beam damage,  
102 we used a 20 μm spot for standardization and 2 to 20 μm diameter beams for analysis of  
103 merrillite grains in all the samples. We analyzed for P, Si, Ti, Ce, Y, Fe, Mn, Mg, Ca, Sr, and Na.  
104 All elements were standardized using Taylor standards as well as internal standards from the  
105 University of New Mexico. Specifically, F and Sr were standardized using Taylor strontium  
106 fluoride. Cl and Na were standardized using a scapolite crystal from the Smithsonian (Jarosewich  
107 et al., 1980). Ca and P were standardized using Durango apatite from (McCubbin et al. 2012),  
108 which also served as a secondary check on F and Cl. Ce and Y were standardized using their  
109 respective endmember orthophosphates (Donovan et al., 2003; Jarosewich and Boatner, 1991).  
110 Si and Mg were standardized using Taylor Olivine (from San Carlos, AZ). Mn was standardized  
111 using Taylor spessartine garnet. Ti was standardized on an ilmenite crystal from the Smithsonian

112 (USNM 133868). Na was standardized on Taylor albite, and Taylor chromite was used as a Fe  
113 standard.

114 To accurately measure the light element fluorine, a synthetic multilayer crystal with a  
115 large D-spacing (e.g., LDE-1) was used instead of the more classically used and widely available  
116 thallium acid phosphate (TAP) crystal because the intensity of the F  $K\alpha$  peak using the  
117 multilayer crystal is approximately 14 times more intense than with TAP (Potts and Tindle,  
118 1989; Raudsepp, 1995; Reed, 2005). Stormer et al. (1993) documented that fluorine and chlorine  
119 X-ray count rates change with time during electron microprobe analysis of apatite as a function  
120 of crystallographic orientation. McCubbin et al. (2011; 2010c) revisited this problem with lunar  
121 samples and reported that fluorine count rates were not always constant during the course of an  
122 analysis; although, the changes in count rate did not appear to correlate with crystallographic  
123 orientation (determined on the basis of grain morphology). In the present study, we used the  
124 chart recorder function in the JEOL software to monitor for changes in F X-ray intensity in real  
125 time during each analysis ( $< 25$  counts/second<sup>2</sup> (c/s<sup>2</sup>), which is a similar approach outlined by  
126 Elardo et al. (2012) for apatite in lunar troctolite 76535.

127 The quality of merrillite analyses were assessed based on stoichiometric constraints and  
128 electron microprobe totals. If analytical totals were outside of the range 97.5-101.5 wt.%, the  
129 analysis was discarded. The leniency on analytical total deficiency is due to the possibility of up  
130 to 8500 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O in whitlockite, which cannot be detected by the EPMA technique. In addition,  
131 the REE abundances of these martian merrillites are much less than lunar merrillites (Shearer et  
132 al., 2011; Jolliff et al., 2006), so we do not expect highly deficient totals from missing REE. If  
133 the stoichiometry of the tetrahedral site was over by more than 1% or deficient by more than 2%  
134 (i.e., +0.14 structural formula units (sfu) / -0.28 sfu on a 56 oxygen basis), the analysis was

135 discarded. The leniency on tetrahedral-site deficiency is due to the possibility of vacancy  
136 substitution for REE<sup>3+</sup> in the merrillite Ca site (Hughes et al., 2006; Jolliff et al., 2006). The Ca,  
137 Na, and Mg sites can all have substantial vacancy and REE<sup>3+</sup> substitution; therefore, analyses are  
138 only discarded on the basis of these cations if they overpopulate the total Ca, Na, Mg cation sites  
139 by 1% (i.e., 0.2 sfu on the basis of 56 oxygen atoms).

140 Secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS)

141       The measurements of F, OH, Cl, C, and S contents in Shergotty apatite and merrillite  
142 were performed on a Cameca 6f ion microprobe at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, at  
143 the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Washington, DC (Hauri et al., 2002) using a phosphate  
144 analysis routine from McCubbin et al. (2010b). Both the apatite and merrillite data were  
145 collected during the same session, but the apatite data were published separately in McCubbin et  
146 al. (2012). The focused (5-10 nA) 10kV Cs<sup>+</sup> primary ion beam was rastered on the sample to a  
147 25 by 25 micron area. The secondary ion beam was extracted at -5 kV from an 8-micron  
148 diameter portion of the rastered area with a field aperture. An electron flood gun (-5 kV) was  
149 used to compensate for charge build up in the analysis area. A mass resolution of approximately  
150 6000 was used to resolve <sup>17.003</sup>[OH] from <sup>16.999</sup>O. Standardization on five terrestrial apatites was  
151 performed at the beginning of the session. Information concerning the compositions of the  
152 standards used is presented in McCubbin et al. (2012), and the calibration curves for F, OH  
153 (reported as H<sub>2</sub>O equivalent), Cl, and S are shown in Figure 1. The H<sub>2</sub>O calibration curve  
154 resulted in 2σ relative uncertainties of about 3.3%. The 2σ relative uncertainties for Cl, F, and S  
155 were 2.3%, 1.7%, and 2.9%, respectively (Fig. 1). Each phosphate analysis lasted about 10  
156 minutes. The detection limits for F, H<sub>2</sub>O, Cl, and S were determined by analyzing a dry synthetic  
157 forsterite crystal (blank) that was mounted with our terrestrial apatite standards. The detection

158 limits for H<sub>2</sub>O, Cl, and S were approximately 2 ppm, 0.1 ppm, and 0.5 ppm, respectively. The  
159 number of F counts during the apatite analyses was too large to measure with the electron  
160 multipliers, so F was analyzed using a faraday cup. The faraday cup has a significantly larger  
161 background than the electron multipliers, which caused a high detection limit for F of  
162 approximately 440 ppm. Because our standards were mounted in indium and we measured  
163 minerals in an epoxy-mounted thin section, we also conducted analyses on pyroxene and  
164 maskelynite in Shergotty to test whether our detection limits were reliable. These analyses are  
165 also presented in Table 1 and generally agree with the detection limits determined by analysis of  
166 dry synthetic forsterite.

167 Care was taken in the phosphate analyses to observe the direct ion image for <sup>12.000</sup>C for  
168 every analysis location because grain boundaries and cracks within the sample are clearly  
169 illuminated by carbon contamination on such surfaces. All of the phosphate grains contained  
170 cracks; however, it was possible to obtain analyses on reasonably large areas of crack-free  
171 phosphate within individual grains, and all of the data reported in Table 1 were obtained from  
172 such crack-free areas.

173 Caution should be taken when SIMS analysis is carried out on epoxy mounted thin  
174 sections because the possibility exists for OH contamination from the epoxy, which can invade  
175 cracks in the sample that may not be visible in the ion probe optics. Therefore as a precaution,  
176 epoxy from the Shergotty thin section was analyzed in the same way as our standards and  
177 unknowns in order to determine C/OH ratios for the epoxy and estimate possible maximum H<sub>2</sub>O  
178 and Cl contributions from epoxy contamination on the surfaces of the thin section. Based on  
179 these epoxy analyses and the measured C/OH ratios of our phosphates, if we assume that all of  
180 the C in our phosphate analyses comes from epoxy, the maximum contribution is 2.5% of the

181 total H<sub>2</sub>O for apatite and 0.5% of the total H<sub>2</sub>O for merrillite. However, the lack of correlation  
182 between H<sub>2</sub>O abundances and measured C/OH counts leads us to conclude that epoxy is not a  
183 major contributor to our measured C counts in the phosphates, which is an observation made  
184 previously on analyses of apatite from epoxy-mounted thin sections of lunar samples (McCubbin  
185 et al., 2010b). Therefore, the C in our analyses is most likely some combination of residual C  
186 from prior generations of C-coat, C contained in the phosphate mineral structure, and/or C-  
187 bearing mineral inclusions in the phosphate.

## 188 Results

### 189 Textural context of merrillite and apatite in Shergotty

190 We carried out petrographic observations of three thin sections of the Shergotty meteorite,  
191 and all of them are from the collection at the Institute of Meteoritics, UNM (Slides 408, 409 and  
192 1142). Slide 1142 is a new slide that was made specifically for the present study. The phase  
193 assemblage of the Shergotty meteorite has been previously reported by Smith and Hervig (1979)  
194 and Stolper and McSween (1979). The description of the phase assemblage from those studies  
195 agrees with the observations of the present study and consists of pyroxene, maskelynite,  
196 magnetite, ilmenite, pyrrhotite, apatite, merrillite, fayalitic olivine, and silica. We focus here  
197 mainly on the textures relevant directly to the phosphates because detailed petrography about  
198 Shergotty already exists in previous studies. Apatites in Shergotty vary in crystal habit from  
199 euhedral to anhedral, with the euhedral grains being smaller (10-30 $\mu$ m) and occurring as mineral  
200 inclusions in pyroxene (Fig. 2a). The subhedral to anhedral apatite grains (Fig. 2b) are  
201 associated with late stage phases like silica, sulfides, and fayalitic olivine and seem to be  
202 constrained to the mesostasis (space interstitial to the earlier crystallized assemblage), which  
203 makes up approximately 3 to 5% of the mode (Stolper and McSween, 1979). Merrillite typically



204 occurs as subhedral to anhedral grains and is also commonly associated with late stage phases  
205 like silica, sulfides, and oxides (Fig. 2c, d). It is unclear whether merrillite or apatite crystallized  
206 first; however, only apatite is found as inclusions in pyroxenes, suggesting that at least some  
207 apatite crystallized early, possibly due to boundary layer effects around the growing pyroxene  
208 crystals (Harrison and Watson, 1984). There is more merrillite than apatite in the meteorite, with  
209 our estimate at a 1:2 apatite:merrillite modal ratio, which is similar to a previous estimate of 1:3  
210 based on REE abundances in the bulk rock and the REE distributions between apatite and  
211 merrillite (Laul, 1987).

212 EPMA analysis of merrillite and apatite

213         Seventeen electron microprobe analyses of merrillite from Shergotty were collected in  
214 the present study, and the data were combined with seventy-three EPMA analyses of Shergotty  
215 apatite from McCubbin et al. (2012). Average apatite and merrillite compositions from Shergotty  
216 are reported in Table 2 along with calculated structural formulae. The 17 EPMA analyses of  
217 merrillite are available in an online supplementary Table (TableS1). A plot of the apatite X-site  
218 ternary components is presented in Figure 3, which shows good agreement between OH  
219 calculated by stoichiometry and that directly measured by SIMS. Furthermore, the apatites are  
220 Cl- and OH-rich similar to other apatites in basaltic shergottites (Filiberto and Treiman, 2009b;  
221 Greenwood et al., 2008; Leshin, 2000; McCubbin et al., 2012).

222         The major element chemistry of merrillite analyzed in this study is broadly consistent  
223 with previously published analyses of martian merrillite (Jolliff et al., 2006; Shearer et al., 2011).  
224 Structural formulae were calculated on the basis of 56 oxygens for merrillite and 13 total anions  
225 for apatite (see McCubbin et al., 2011 for discussion on cation versus anion normalization  
226 schemes). The merrillite structural formulae derived from our EPMA and SIMS analyses result

227 in good merrillite stoichiometry, with minimal whitlockite/bobdownsite components. Based on  
228 the SIMS data alone, there is a maximum of 4.5% whitlockite/bobdownsite components in  
229 Shergotty merrillite if the highest value is used for H<sub>2</sub>O (196 ppm) and the detection limit is used  
230 for F (440 ppm).

231 SIMS Analysis of merrillite, pyroxene, and maskelynite

232 Three merrillite grains, one pyroxene grain, and one maskelynite were analyzed for OH,  
233 F, Cl, and S by secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) in a single thin section of the Shergotty  
234 meteorite (UNM 1142). The H<sub>2</sub>O content of the merrillite ranged from 53 to 196 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O  
235 (Table 1). The fluorine abundances were all below detection, and Cl abundances ranged from  
236 below detection to 69 ppm Cl. Sulfur abundances ranged from 4 to 1285 ppm S, and seemed to  
237 correlate with irregular S hotspots that were observed in the ion image during some of the  
238 analyses, consistent with the presence of small S-rich mineral inclusions. Analytical uncertainties  
239 for H<sub>2</sub>O, F, Cl, and S are reported in Table 1. The highest S abundances in Shergotty merrillite  
240 also correlated with elevated H<sub>2</sub>O abundances (Table 1), so the H<sub>2</sub>O analyses in merrillite with  
241 the least amount of S are most likely due to the H<sub>2</sub>O in the merrillite structure.

242 Discussion

243 Does apatite in Shergotty coexist with merrillite or whitlockite?

244 Based on the SIMS data alone, there is a maximum of 4.5% non-merrillite (i.e.,  
245 whitlockite or bobdownsite) component in Shergotty merrillite for a grain with the highest  
246 observed H<sub>2</sub>O and F content at the detection limit. Based only on the EPMA results and the  
247 stoichiometric calculations, the elevated Na abundances and nearly full Ca(IIA)-site are more  
248 consistent with the crystal chemistry of merrillite versus whitlockite (Hughes et al., 2006; Jolliff  
249 et al., 2006). Therefore, both methods are in agreement that the Shergotty merrillite grains

250 measured during this study are consistent with the low H and F abundances characteristic of  
251 merrillite (i.e., no significant whitlockite or bobdownsite components). Importantly, the  
252 merrillite and apatite both appear to be igneous phases based on their textural occurrence and are  
253 not the result of post-magmatic alteration on the martian surface.

254 One post-magmatic process that has been postulated to affect volatile abundances of  
255 minerals is shock, and the Shergotty meteorite experienced high shock pressures (Stöffler et al.,  
256 1986; Aoudjehane et al., 2005). The effect of shock on devolatilization of minerals is largely  
257 unknown and experimental efforts to understand such effects have been difficult to interpret  
258 (Minitti et al., 2008a; Minitti et al., 2008b). However, we can use the stoichiometry of both  
259 phosphate phases to determine whether volatile-loss by shock is likely to have occurred for  
260 phosphates in Shergotty. In the case of apatite, the F, Cl, OH sums based on the SIMS indicate  
261 that the X-sites are fully occupied, which would not be the case if devolatilization due to shock  
262 had occurred. Stoichiometric volatile abundances of apatite and amphibole hosted by  
263 maskelynite in the Chassigny martian meteorite (Boctor et al., 2003; McCubbin and Nekvasil,  
264 2008; McCubbin et al., 2010a) have also been used as evidence that devolatilization of volatile-  
265 rich minerals may not be common in martian meteorites. As discussed above, the presence of  
266 both substantial Na and Ca in the Shergotty merrillite Ca(IIA)-site are highly consistent with the  
267 crystal chemistry of merrillite versus whitlockite (Hughes et al., 2006; Jolliff et al., 2006) and  
268 strongly argues against the volatile abundances of merrillite having been affected by the high  
269 shock pressure experienced by Shergotty as loss of H, F, and Cl would have left structural  
270 vacancies in equal proportion to the amount of lost atoms in both mineral phases. Consequently,  
271 the hydrated nature of apatite and dry nature of merrillite in Shergotty is likely a primary  
272 magmatic feature.

273 Does the presence of merrillite imply low H abundances in magmas?

274         The presence of merrillite has often been used as evidence for low H abundances in  
275 magmatic systems (i.e., Smith and Hervig, 1979; Sha, 2000; Ionov et al., 2006; Patiño-Douce  
276 and Roden, 2006; Hughes et al., 2008; Patiño-Douce et al., 2011;), but this assertion clearly  
277 needs to be reassessed in light of the results from the present study where merrillite coexists with  
278 OH-rich apatite. Based on recent apatite-melt partitioning experiments on shergottitic liquids, the  
279 halogens play a much larger role in stabilizing magmatic apatite than H. In fact, apatite prefers F  
280 over OH by a factor of approximately 100, and it prefers Cl over OH by a factor of about 20  
281 (McCubbin et al., 2013c, 2014; Vander Kaaden et al., 2012). Furthermore, estimates for  
282 apatite/melt partition coefficients for H<sub>2</sub>O typically range from 0.03-0.3 (Mathez and Webster,  
283 2005; McCubbin et al., 2010b, 2014; Vander Kaaden et al., 2012), indicating that H<sub>2</sub>O is  
284 somewhat incompatible in apatite. Consequently, relatively high abundances of H<sub>2</sub>O may be  
285 required in the melt to stabilize OH-rich apatite over merrillite. The presence of merrillite in  
286 magmatic systems likely has more to do with the ratio of phosphorus to halogens in silicate  
287 liquids, with H playing a subordinate role to the halogens in the apatite-melt system, an idea first  
288 proposed by Patiño-Douce and Roden, (2006) and supported by recent work on apatite-melt  
289 partitioning relationships. If the ratio of P to F+Cl controls the stability of apatite relative to  
290 merrillite, the presence of merrillite would either indicate that the system is depleted in halogens  
291 or enriched in phosphorus (Patiño-Douce and Roden, 2006). Mars is inferred to have high P  
292 abundances in its bulk silicate (crust and mantle) compared to other planetary bodies (Dreibus  
293 and Wanke, 1985; Wanke and Dreibus, 1994) and also appears to be somewhat depleted in  
294 fluorine (McCubbin et al., 2013b), which could explain why merrillite is a ubiquitous phosphate  
295 phase in martian basalts despite substantial evidence supporting elevated H and Cl abundances in

296 martian magmas (Filiberto and Treiman, 2009a; b; Gross et al., 2013; McCubbin et al., 2013a;  
297 McCubbin et al., 2012; McCubbin et al., 2009; McSween et al., 2001). Additional experimental  
298 work is required to determine the controls of apatite versus merrillite stability in silicate melts,  
299 but based on the work presented here, H<sub>2</sub>O is not likely a primary limiting factor.

300 Whitlockite components in magmatic merrillite

301 It has been postulated that whitlockite and whitlockite components in merrillite are  
302 unique to Earth and may not be found in other planetary materials (Hughes et al., 2008). The  
303 results of the present study seem to support this claim, although a reason for the observation has  
304 not yet been described. Based on the OH abundances in apatite, the residual Shergotty melt  
305 would have had 1.5-3.0 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O at the time of phosphate crystallization (McCubbin et al.,  
306 2012). If merrillite and whitlockite form a solid solution (as demonstrated by Hughes et al.,  
307 2008), it seems reasonable that the merrillite forming from this H-rich liquid should have a larger  
308 whitlockite component than 0.5-2.5%. However, the geologic environments in which whitlockite  
309 and bobdownsite are commonly found on Earth tend to be low temperature systems (<500 °C)  
310 such as pegmatites and hydrothermal environments (Calvo and Gopal, 1975; Frondel, 1941;  
311 Jolliff et al., 2006; Tait et al., 2011), where the stability of whitlockite has already been proven  
312 experimentally (Hughes et al., 2008). In fact, Hughes et al. (2008) demonstrated that at 1050 °C,  
313 whitlockite completely dehydrogenates to merrillite, but whitlockite is stable at 500 °C.  
314 Consequently, the high-temperature igneous systems in many extraterrestrial planetary bodies  
315 will preclude the magmatic mixing of merrillite and whitlockite components if the solidus is  
316 above the upper thermal stability limit of whitlockite components in merrillite (<1050°C).  
317 Additional experiments on whitlockite thermal stability are needed to better establish where in  
318 the range of 500-1050 °C whitlockite is no longer stable. In fact, the presence of a whitlockite

319 component in planetary merrillite may be an important indicator of secondary alteration  
320 processes by aqueous or hydrothermal fluids on other planetary bodies. At this point in time, the  
321 observation of a measurable whitlockite component in merrillite is still unique to the Earth, but  
322 given what we understand about whitlockite stability, the occurrence of a whitlockite component  
323 in extraterrestrial material should not be unexpected, particularly in low-T hydrothermal-type  
324 environments.

### 325 Implications

326 Merrillite remains one of the minerals with great potential for deciphering magmatic  
327 crystallization conditions in planetary science, and there are still far more questions about  
328 merrillite than answers. For example, it is not clear why merrillite is ubiquitous in extraterrestrial  
329 samples and rare in terrestrial rocks. Is this difference telling us something fundamental about  
330 the geochemistry of Earth compared to the rest of the inner Solar System? What factors control  
331 the stability of merrillite over apatite? The present study predicts that the halogen/phosphorus  
332 ratio plays the largest role in determining saturation in apatite versus whitlockite, which was also  
333 predicted by thermodynamic calculations by Patiño-Douce and Roden, (2006); however,  
334 experimental work is required to determine the compositional boundaries in the apatite-  
335 merrillite-melt system. Although many questions about merrillite remain, the present study  
336 argues strongly against the interpretation that merrillite can be used as an indicator of a dry  
337 magmatic system. Despite its apathy to magmatic H contents at elevated temperatures, merrillite  
338 still holds promise as an important accessory mineral given its affinity for REE, and it could  
339 become a powerful tool for understanding late stage magmatic processes once its crystal  
340 chemical behavior is better characterized.

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### Figure captions

Figure 1. Calibration curves determined for quantifying water, fluorine, chlorine, and sulfur contents of phosphates by SIMS (adopted from McCubbin et al., 2012). The data points used to construct the curve were from five terrestrial apatite standards and a volatile-free synthetic forsterite. The regression line is forced to the origin because the detection limit of our analysis routine is approximately 3 ppm or less (with the exception of fluorine which was analyzed with the faraday cup, resulting in a detection limit for fluorine of approximately 440 ppm as determined by analysis of the dry synthetic forsterite. The  $2\sigma$  error for the slope of each calibration curve is presented parenthetically.

Figure 2. High-resolution back-scattered electron images of apatite and merrillite from Shergotty a) Apatite b) Apatite c) Merrillite d) Merrillite. All phases present are identified, and the phase abbreviations are indicated as follows: Ap = Apatite, Me = Merrillite, Ti-Mt = Titanomagnetite, Ilm = ilmenite, Fa = fayalitic olivine, Msk = maskelynite, Cpx = Clinopyroxene, Si = Silica, and Po = pyrrhotite.

Figure 3. Ternary plot of apatite X-site occupancy (mol%) from the Shergotty meteorite using EPMA (black points) and SIMS (gray points) data collected by McCubbin et al. (2012). OH component calculated by stoichiometry from EPMA data assuming  $1 - Cl - F = OH$  (structural formula units).

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Table 1: Secondary ion mass spectrometry analyses of mineral phases from Shergotty

| Analysis <sup>a</sup> | F (ppm) <sup>b</sup>  | Cl (ppm) <sup>b</sup>  | H <sub>2</sub> O (ppm) <sup>b</sup>  | S (ppm) <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Merrillite1_1         | <440                  | <0.1                   | 54 ± 2                               | 4 ± 0.12             |
| Merrillite2_1         | <440                  | 69 ± 1.6               | 196 ± 7                              | 1285 ± 38            |
| Merrillite3_1         | <440                  | 3 ± 0.07               | 53 ± 2                               | 55 ± 1.6             |
| Merrillite3_2         | <440                  | 28 ± 0.64              | 134 ± 4                              | 705 ± 21             |
| Merrillite3_3         | <440                  | 14 ± 0.32              | 65 ± 2                               | 661 ± 19             |
| Pyroxene1_1           | <440                  | 0.72 ± 0.02            | 6.2 ± 0.2                            | 7.5 ± 0.22           |
| Pyroxene1_2           | <440                  | 0.72 ± 0.02            | 6.2 ± 0.2                            | 7.5 ± 0.22           |
| Maskelynite1_1        | <440                  | 0.13 ± 0.00            | 14.1 ± 0.5                           | 1.5 ± 0.04           |
| Maskelynite1_2        | <440                  | <0.1                   | 2.4 ± 0.1                            | <0.1                 |
| Analysis <sup>a</sup> | F (wt.%) <sup>b</sup> | Cl (wt.%) <sup>b</sup> | H <sub>2</sub> O (wt.%) <sup>b</sup> | S (ppm) <sup>b</sup> |
| Apatite_1             | 1.46 ± 0.02           | 1.92 ± 0.04            | 0.65 ± 0.02                          | 732 ± 22             |
| Apatite_2             | 1.48 ± 0.03           | 1.74 ± 0.04            | 0.53 ± 0.02                          | 614 ± 18             |
| Apatite_3             | 1.38 ± 0.02           | 2.11 ± 0.05            | 0.55 ± 0.02                          | 790 ± 23             |
| Apatite_4             | 1.39 ± 0.02           | 1.77 ± 0.04            | 0.59 ± 0.02                          | 588 ± 17             |
| Apatite_5             | 1.18 ± 0.02           | 1.96 ± 0.04            | 0.78 ± 0.03                          | 637 ± 19             |
| Apatite_6             | 1.37 ± 0.02           | 2.33 ± 0.05            | 0.71 ± 0.02                          | 626 ± 18             |
| Apatite_7             | 1.53 ± 0.03           | 2.12 ± 0.05            | 0.52 ± 0.02                          | 659 ± 19             |
| Apatite_8             | 1.48 ± 0.03           | 2.09 ± 0.05            | 0.46 ± 0.02                          | 583 ± 17             |
| Apatite_9             | 0.42 ± 0.01           | 3.12 ± 0.07            | 0.86 ± 0.03                          | 446 ± 13             |

Apatite analyses published in McCubbin et al. (2012)

“-“ used to indicate that something was not measured

b.d. – indicates below detection limit

<sup>a</sup>Analysis number and analyzed mineral are indicated for each analysis.

<sup>b</sup>All reported uncertainties are 2σ

<sup>c</sup>Fluorine was analyzed using an electron multiplier, resulting in an elevated detection limit of about 440 ppm F. Detection limits for H<sub>2</sub>O were near 2 ppm, and Cl and S detection limits were approximately 0.1 ppm and 0.45 ppm respectively.

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Table 2: Average electron microprobe analyses of apatite and merrillite from Shergotty

| Oxide   | Apatite (N=73) | Merrillite (N=17) |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>   | 41.17 (53)     | 44.99 (57)        |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>  | 0.65 (33)      | <0.10             |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>  | -              | <0.05             |
| Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  | 0.03 (2)       | 0.09 (1)          |
| Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>   | 0.02 (1)       | 0.12 (3)          |
| FeO   | 1.21 (50)      | 4.12 (18)         |
| MnO   | -              | 0.13 (2)          |
| MgO   | 0.03 (2)       | 1.83 (2)          |
| CaO   | 54.21 (70)     | 47.33 (8)         |
| SrO   | -              | <0.06             |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O   | 0.09 (5)       | 1.24 (8)          |
| SO <sub>3</sub>   | 0.21 (18)      | -                 |
| F <sup>b</sup>  | 0.98 (58)      | -                 |
| Cl <sup>b</sup>   | 2.5 (1.3)      | -                 |
| -O ≡ F  | 0.41           | -                 |
| -O ≡ Cl   | 0.56           | -                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>100.13</b>  | <b>99.85</b>      |
| <i>Structural formulae based on 13 total anions for apatite and 56 total oxygens for merrillite</i> |                |                   |
| P   | 2.95           | 13.89             |
| Si  | 0.05           |                   |
| Ti  | -              |                   |
| Ce  | 0.00           | 0.01              |
| Y   | 0.00           | 0.02              |
| Fe  | 0.09           | 1.26              |
| Mn  | -              | 0.04              |
| Mg  | 0.00           | 0.99              |
| Ca  | 4.92           | 18.52             |
| Sr  | -              |                   |
| Na  | 0.01           | 0.88              |
| S   | 0.01           | -                 |
| <b>Σ Cations</b>  | <b>8.03</b>    | <b>35.61</b>      |
| F   | 0.26           | -                 |
| Cl  | 0.36           | -                 |
| <b>Σ Anions</b>   | <b>0.62</b>    | -                 |
| H <sup>a</sup>  | 0.38           | -                 |

1σ Standard deviation of the mean presented parenthetically next to each value.

Apatite analyses are from McCubbin et al., (2012)

“-“ used to indicate that something was not measured

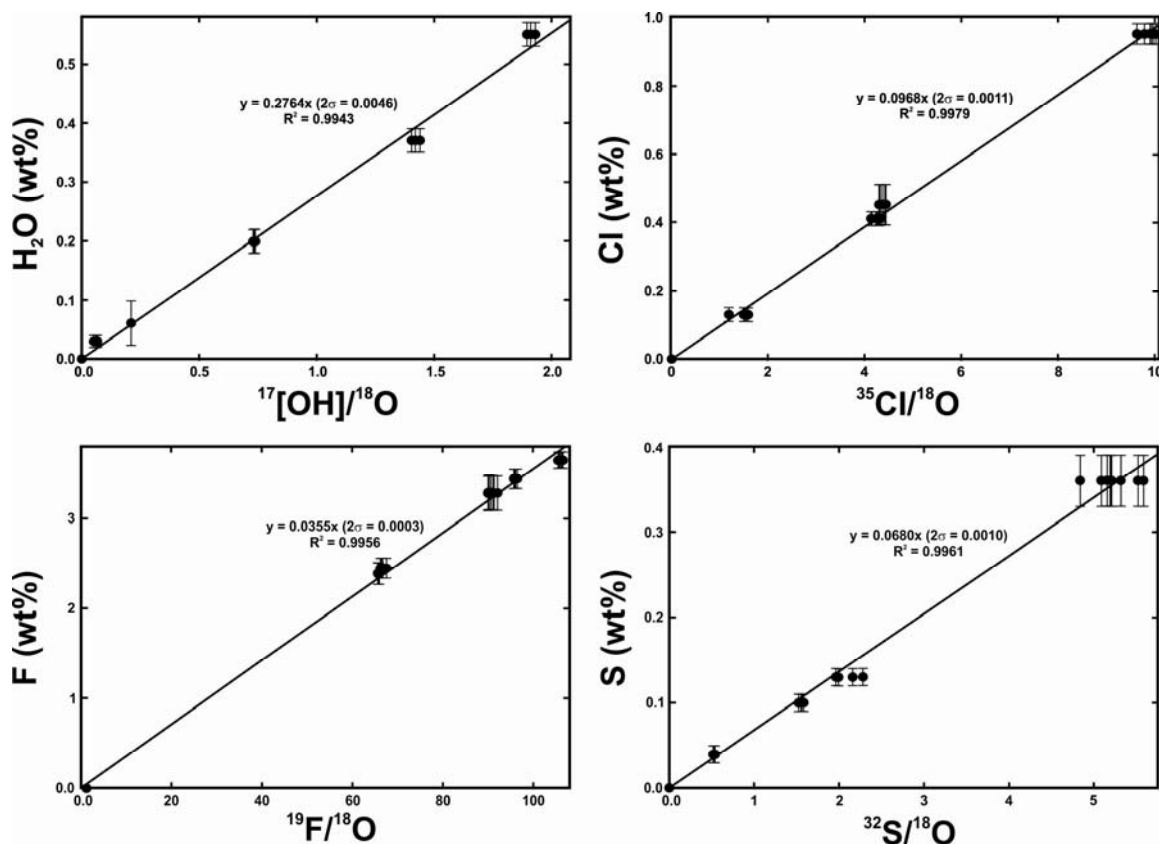
<sup>a</sup> Calculated assuming that F + Cl + H = 1 apfu

<sup>b</sup> Large standard deviation was related to grain-grain variability in the sample (see Figure 3).

Detection limits for all elements reported in Table S1.

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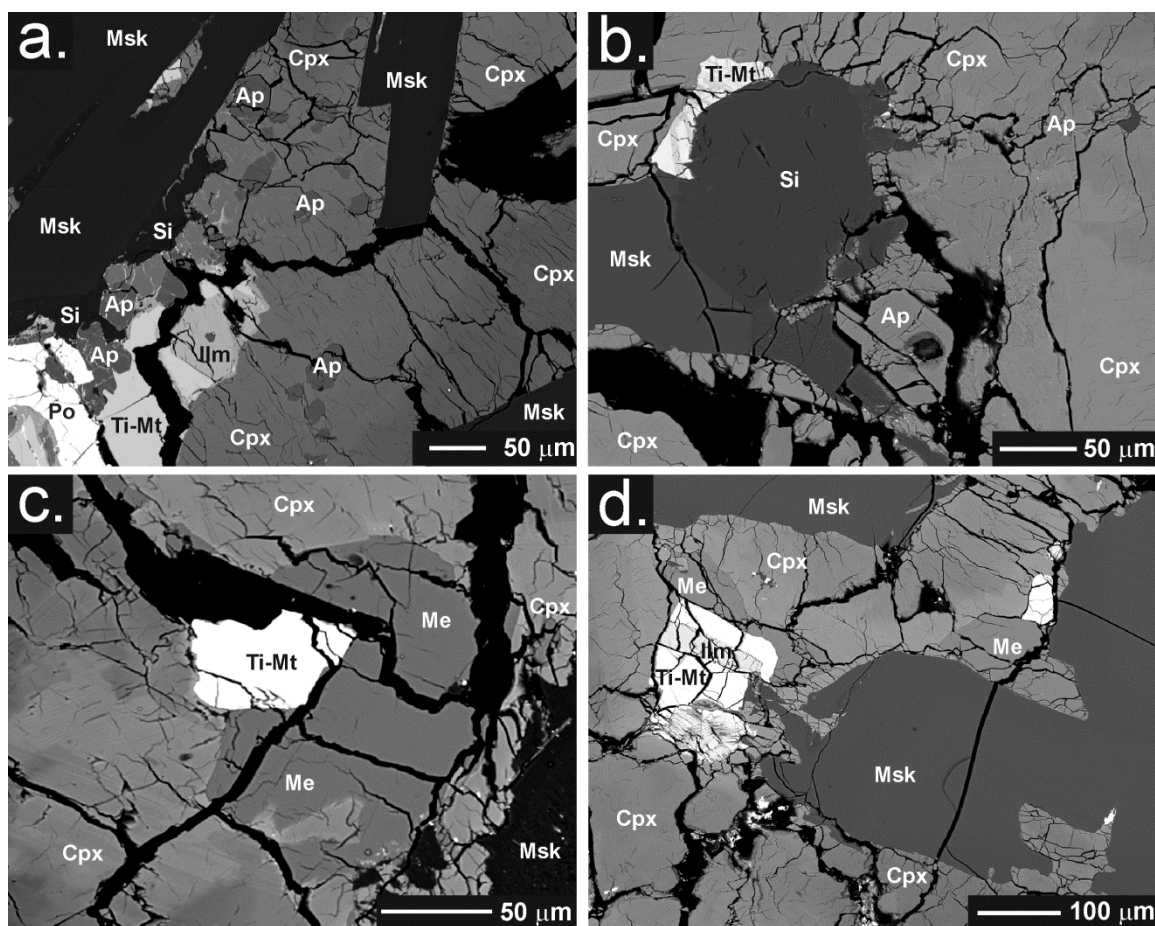
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**Figure 1.** Calibration curves determined for quantifying water, fluorine, chlorine, and sulfur contents of phosphates by SIMS (adopted from McCubbin et al., 2012). The data points used to construct the curve were from five terrestrial apatite standards and a volatile-free synthetic forsterite. The regression line is forced to the origin because the detection limit of our analysis routine is approximately 3 ppm or less (with the exception of fluorine which was analyzed with the faraday cup, resulting in a detection limit for fluorine of approximately 450 ppm as determined by analysis of the dry synthetic forsterite). The  $2\sigma$  error for the slope of each calibration curve is presented parenthetically.

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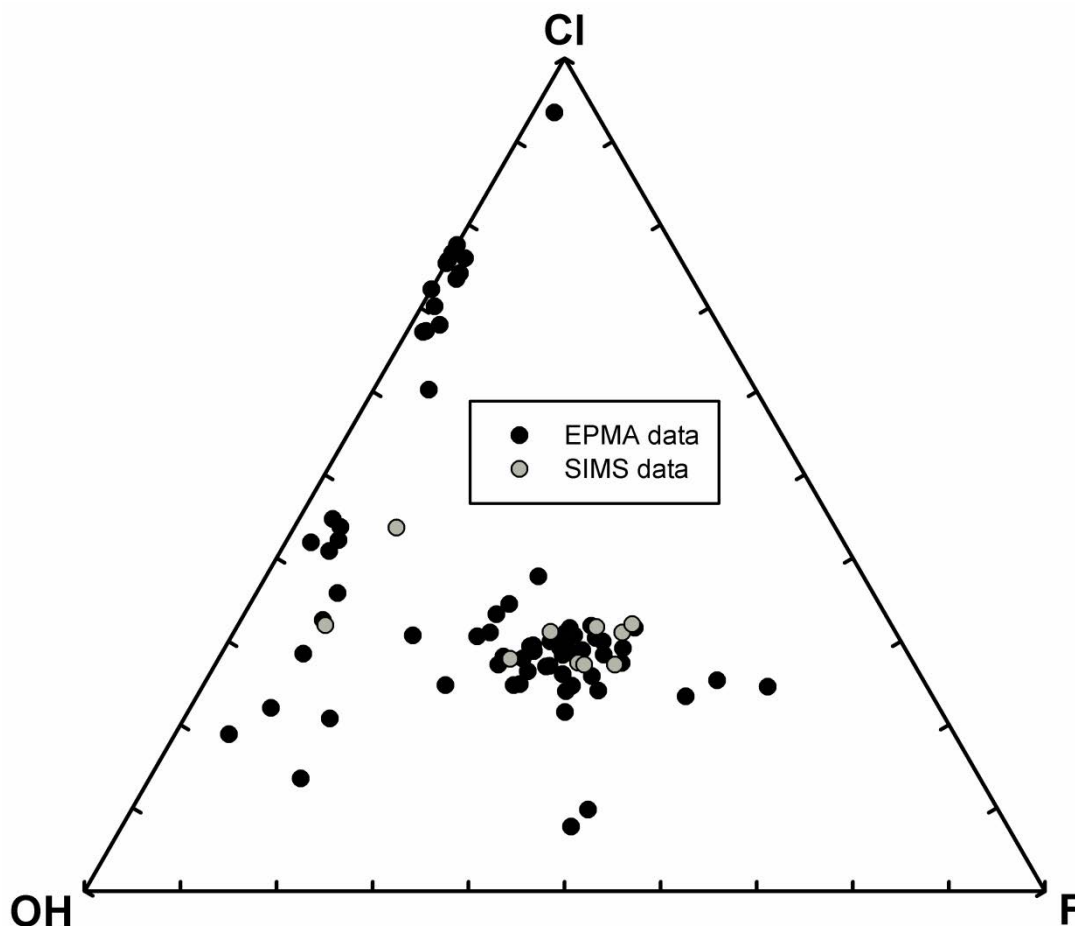


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**Figure 2.** High-resolution back-scattered electron images of apatite and merrillite from Shergotty a) Apatite b) Apatite c) Merrillite d) Merrillite All phases present are identified, and the phase abbreviations are indicated as follows: Ap = Apatite, Me = Merrillite, Ti-Mt = Titanomagnetite, Ilm = ilmenite, Fa = fayalitic olivine, Msk = maskelynite, Cpx = Clinopyroxene, Si = Silica, and Po = pyrrhotite.



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**Figure 3.** Ternary plot of apatite X-site occupancy (mol%) from the Shergotty meteorite using EPMA (black points) and SIMS (gray points) data collected by McCubbin et al. (2012). OH component calculated by stoichiometry from EPMA data assuming  $1 - \text{Cl} - \text{F} = \text{OH}$  (structural formula units).