

1 Revision 1

2 **The chlorine-isotopic composition of lunar KREEP from magnesian-suite troctolite 76535**

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9
10 **Abstract** – We conducted *in-situ* Cl isotopic measurements of apatite within intercumulus regions
11 and within a holocrystalline olivine-hosted melt inclusion in magnesian-suite troctolite 76535 from
12 Apollo 17. These data were collected to place constraints on the Cl-isotopic composition of the
13 last liquid to crystallize from the lunar magma ocean (i.e., *ur*KREEP, named after its enrichments
14 in incompatible lithophile trace elements like potassium, rare earth elements, and phosphorus).
15 The apatite in the olivine-hosted melt inclusion and within the intercumulus regions of the sample
16 yielded Cl-isotopic compositions of 28.3 ± 0.9 ‰ (2σ) and 30.3 ± 1.1 ‰ (2σ), respectively. The
17 concordance of these values from both textural regimes we analyzed indicates that the Cl-isotopic
18 composition of apatites in 76535 likely represents the Cl-isotopic composition of the KREEP-rich
19 magnesian-suite magmas. Based on the age of 76535, these results imply that the KREEP reservoir
20 attained a Cl-isotopic composition of 28–30 ‰ by at least 4.31 Ga, consistent with the onset of
21 Cl-isotopic fractionation at the time of lunar magma ocean crystallization or shortly thereafter.
22 Moreover, lunar samples that yield Cl-isotopic compositions higher than the value for KREEP are
23 likely affected by secondary processes such as impacts and/or magmatic degassing. The presence
24 of KREEP-rich olivine-hosted melt inclusions within one of the most pristine and ancient KREEP-
25 rich rocks from the Moon provides a new opportunity to characterize the geochemistry of KREEP.
26 In particular, a broader analysis of stable isotopic compositions of highly and moderately volatile
27 elements could provide an unprecedented advancement in our characterization of the geochemical
28 composition of the KREEP reservoir and of volatile-depletion processes during magma ocean
29 crystallization, more broadly.

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33 **Keywords** – Apatite, Mg-suite, Apollo, Volatiles, Moon, magma ocean, melt inclusion, phosphates

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Introduction

The Moon formed in the aftermath of a giant impact between the proto-Earth and Theia (Canup and Asphaug, 2001; Hartmann and Davis, 1975; Lock et al., 2018) between 60 and 120 million years (Touboul et al., 2007) after the birth of the Solar System at 4.567 Ga (as defined by the ages of calcium-aluminum rich inclusions within CV meteorites; Connelly et al., 2012). After the Moon coalesced into a distinct body, it underwent differentiation to form a small metallic core and molten silicate mantle, the latter of which is referred to as the lunar magma ocean (LMO). As cooling proceeded, the LMO crystallized to form a cumulate mantle comprised of mostly ferromagnesian silicates with progressively higher Mg/Fe ratios with depth (Charlier et al., 2018; Elardo et al., 2011; Elkins-Tanton and Grove, 2011; Lin et al., 2017; Rapp and Draper, 2018; Snyder et al., 1992). The LMO liquid became progressively enriched in Fe and incompatible trace elements as crystallization continued, and a primary flotation crust of ferroan anorthosite formed after about 70–80% crystallization (Charlier et al., 2018; Elkins-Tanton and Grove, 2011; Lin et al., 2017; Rapp and Draper, 2018; Snyder et al., 1992). After 88–98% crystallization, the upper part of the cumulate mantle became rich in Fe-Ti oxide cumulates (Charlier et al., 2018; Elkins-Tanton and Grove, 2011; Lin et al., 2017; Rapp and Draper, 2018; Snyder et al., 1992), and the final residual liquid that remained uncrystallized after about 99% crystallization was enriched in incompatible elements and termed *ur*KREEP (Warren, 1988; Warren and Wasson, 1979) after the incompatible elements potassium (K), rare earth elements (REE), and phosphorus (P). The abundance of cool, dense, Fe-rich cumulates at the top of the mantle and hot Fe-poor cumulates at the base of the lunar mantle resulted in a density instability that instigated cumulate mantle overturn (Hess and Parmentier, 1995; Ringwood and Kesson, 1976), resulting in a redistribution

56 of cumulates in the lunar mantle that set the stage for secondary crust production on the Moon
57 (Shearer et al., 2006; Wiczorek et al., 2006).

58 The fate of *ur*KREEP during cumulate mantle overturn is poorly constrained, but a
59 KREEP-like component in products of secondary volcanism is evident in many lunar sample types
60 including plutonic rocks from the lunar highlands, some mare basalts, and some impact melt rocks
61 (Shearer et al., 2006). A pure sample of *ur*KREEP is not preserved in any lunar samples, so the
62 composition of *ur*KREEP must be inferred from samples with a KREEP component (Taylor et al.,
63 2006; Warren, 1988; Warren and Wasson, 1979). Given that *ur*KREEP represents a primordial
64 geochemical reservoir on the Moon, establishing its isotopic and chemical composition is
65 important for constraining geochemical mixing models and for determining the bulk composition
66 of the Moon, particularly for the origin and onset of moderately and highly volatile element
67 depletion in the Moon (Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2018; Day and Moynier, 2014; Day et al.,
68 2020; Dhaliwal et al., 2018; Hauri et al., 2015; Kato et al., 2015; Lock et al., 2018; McCubbin et
69 al., 2015; Wang and Jacobsen, 2016). In particular, chlorine is one of the most incompatible
70 moderately volatile elements, so the Cl-isotopic composition of KREEP represents the isotopic
71 composition of the largest Cl reservoir on the Moon at the end of LMO crystallization (Boyce et
72 al., 2018; McCubbin et al., 2015). Defining the Cl-isotopic composition of KREEP among the
73 range of Cl-isotopic compositions in lunar samples will establish primary from secondary Cl-
74 isotopic signatures and could be used to establish mixing models between KREEP and non-
75 KREEP geochemical reservoirs (e.g., Boyce et al., 2018).

76 The Cl-isotopic compositions of lunar samples range from -4‰ to +81‰ (Barnes et al.,
77 2019; Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2015; Potts et al., 2018; Sharp et al., 2010; Stephant et al.,
78 2019; Tartèse et al., 2014a; Treiman et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2019), but estimates of the Cl isotopic

79 composition of KREEP range from 25‰ to 33‰ (Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2018; Treiman
80 et al., 2014). The oldest KREEP-rich rocks crystallized in the lunar highlands at 4.31–4.39 Ga
81 (Borg et al., 2015; Shearer et al., 2015) and are members of the magnesian suite. The magnesian
82 suite is a series of plutonic mafic-ultramafic cumulates whose parental liquids are thought to have
83 formed through low-degree partial melting of a hybridized cumulate source at the base of the lunar
84 crust containing ferroan anorthosites, early-formed Mg-rich LMO cumulates, and KREEP (Hess,
85 1994; Shearer et al., 2015; Shearer and Papike, 2005). Given their ancient ages and minimal
86 contribution from late-stage Fe-rich LMO cumulates to their parental magmas, the magnesian-
87 suite are thought to represent our best samples to characterize volatiles, including the isotopic
88 composition of Cl, in the KREEP geochemical reservoir (Barnes et al., 2016; McCubbin et al.,
89 2015); however, these samples have experienced a range of secondary processes, including impact
90 processes and secondary metasomatic events that could have overprinted their primordial Cl
91 isotopic signatures (Elardo et al., 2012; Neal and Taylor, 1991; Shearer et al., 2015; Warren, 1988;
92 Warren, 1993). In the present study, we determine the Cl-isotopic composition of the most pristine
93 magnesian-suite sample, troctolite 76535, to place constraints on the Cl-isotopic composition of
94 KREEP.

95 Magnesian suite troctolite 76535 was collected as a rake sample at station 6 during the
96 Apollo 17 mission and was determined to have a confidence class of 9, indicating it is pristine with
97 minimal evidence of post-crystallization impact processing (Warren, 1993). However, 76535 does
98 exhibit evidence of post-cumulate metasomatism and/or metamorphism as it slowly cooled in the
99 lunar crust (Elardo et al., 2012; McCallum and Schwartz, 2001; Shearer et al., 2015). Barnes et al.
100 (2016) reported a Cl-isotopic composition of $31.6 \pm 1.3\%$ in apatite within the intercumulus
101 regions of 76535. In addition to intercumulus apatite in 76535, apatite is present within a rare

102 holocrystalline olivine-hosted melt inclusion (Elardo et al., 2012; Dymek et al., 1975). Apatites
103 within olivine-hosted melt inclusions in plutonic rocks from Mars have been shown to preserve
104 the Cl-isotopic composition of their parental magmas even after the Cl-isotopic compositions of
105 intercumulus apatite has been overprinted by metasomatism (Shearer et al., 2018). Therefore, we
106 aim to determine the Cl-isotopic composition of both intercumulus apatite and apatite within an
107 olivine-hosted melt inclusion in 76535 to constrain the Cl-isotopic composition of the 76535
108 magma and hence, the KREEP geochemical reservoir on the Moon.

109 **Methods**

110 Apollo thin section 76535,56 was chosen for this study because it was shown previously
111 to have both intercumulus apatite and apatite within an olivine-hosted melt inclusion (e.g., Dymek
112 et al., 1975; Elardo et al., 2012; McCallum and Schwartz, 2001). Given our access to sample maps,
113 back-scattered electron images, and electron microprobe data on this sample from our previous
114 work (e.g., Elardo et al., 2012; McCubbin et al., 2011), we did not seek to duplicate prior efforts.
115 Consequently, we focused our analytical efforts on attaining new Cl-isotopic data for this sample.
116 Melt inclusions within 76535 are rare, and to date we know of only a single olivine-hosted melt
117 inclusion in our examination of two thin sections of 76535 (splits ,56 and ,159).

118 **Nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry (NanoSIMS)**

119 Apollo thin section 76535,56 was analyzed by nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry
120 (NanoSIMS) in May of 2019. Both intercumulus apatite and apatite in the melt inclusion were
121 analyzed. The Cl abundances of the target apatites were accurately determined by electron probe
122 microanalysis prior to NanoSIMS (e.g., Elardo et al., 2012; McCubbin et al., 2011), therefore we
123 did not determine Cl abundances of the apatites by NanoSIMS. The sample and reference materials
124 were coated with ~8 nm of carbon to aid charge compensation during analysis.

125 The Cameca NanoSIMS 50L at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) was used to measure
126 the Cl-isotopic composition of apatite in 76535. We use delta notation to report our Cl isotope data
127 where $\delta^{37}\text{Cl} = ((^{37}\text{Cl}/^{35}\text{Cl})_{\text{sample}} / ^{37}\text{Cl}/^{35}\text{Cl}_{\text{standard}}) - 1) \times 1000$ and SMOC = standard mean ocean
128 chloride value (Kaufmann et al., 1984). A primary Cs^+ ion beam of ~5 pA current was used. The
129 NanoSIMS 50L ion probe was operated in multi-collection mode and the negative secondary ions
130 of ^{13}C , $^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H}$, ^{18}O , ^{30}Si , ^{35}Cl , and ^{37}Cl were collected simultaneously in electron multipliers. The
131 mass spectrometer was tuned to a mass resolving power of ~9000 (Cameca definition), which
132 allowed isobaric interferences between $^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H}$ and ^{17}O to be resolved.

133 The incident ion beam of ~500pA was rastered over ~400 μm^2 areas during ~10 minutes
134 of pre-sputtering to clean the sample surface. The raster size was reduced to ~100 μm^2 area during
135 analysis. Isotope images were collected at 256×256 pixels with a dwell time of ~200 seconds per
136 image plane. Between 20 and 40 image planes were collected depending on the heterogeneity of
137 each location as determined during pre-sputtering and initial tuning using real time isotope
138 imaging. Cracks were easily identified based on correlated highs of C, OH, and Cl ions in real time
139 isotope imaging.

140 Two well-characterized terrestrial apatites, Durango apatite from Mexico and apatite from
141 Crystal Lode Pegmatite Mine in Colorado, U.S.A (fully described in McCubbin et al., 2012;
142 McCubbin et al., 2010) were used in this work. The known Cl-isotopic values for Durango and
143 Colorado apatites are 0.3 ‰ and 0.5 ‰, respectively (Zachary Sharp, Pers. Comm). Instrument
144 mass fractionation of $^{37}\text{Cl}/^{35}\text{Cl}$ ratio was between 1 and 5 ‰ during the analytical session as
145 determined on repeat measurements of Colorado apatite. When treated as an unknown, Durango
146 apatite returned $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ compositions within 1 ‰ of its known value.

147 Image processing was performed using software designed by S. Messenger at JSC. This
148 software allowed regions of interest to be selected within each compiled image and the isotopic
149 composition to be determined using the above IMF values.

150 Results

151 We attained Cl-isotopic data on both intercumulus apatite and apatite within a single
152 holocrystalline olivine-hosted melt inclusion in sample 76535,56. Backscattered electron (BSE)
153 images of the apatites analyzed in this study, along with labels for NanoSIMS analysis spots, are
154 provided in Figure 1. Previously published electron microprobe data on the intercumulus apatite
155 and the apatite within an olivine-hosted melt inclusion indicate that the Cl abundances of apatite
156 from the melt-inclusion apatite range from 1.26 to 1.29 wt.% Cl (Elardo et al., 2012), whereas the
157 intercumulus apatite within 76535,56 ranges from 1.14 to 1.78 wt.% Cl (Elardo et al., 2012;
158 McCubbin et al., 2011; Table S1). The electron microprobe data indicate the remainder of the
159 volatile site in these apatites is occupied by fluorine (Elardo et al., 2012; McCubbin et al., 2011;
160 Table S1), which is consistent with reported H₂O abundances in apatite from 76535 that are
161 typically below 44 ppm H₂O (Barnes et al., 2014). A compilation of F-Cl-OH apatite compositions
162 from intercumulus regions and an olivine-hosted melt inclusion in sample 76535,56 are shown in
163 Figure 2. The Cl-isotopic compositions of the intercumulus apatite has an average value of 30.3
164 \pm 1.1 ‰ (2 σ), and the apatite within the olivine-hosted melt inclusion has an average Cl-isotopic
165 composition of 28.3 \pm 0.9 ‰ (2 σ) (Table 1).

166 Discussion

167 The apatites within 76535,56 exhibit a limited range in their F-Cl-OH compositions, with
168 most of the variation occurring along the F-Cl join (Figure 2). The F/Cl ratio of the apatite within
169 the holocrystalline olivine-hosted melt inclusion overlaps with the highest F/Cl ratio of apatite

170 within the intercumulus region, although the intercumulus apatites exhibit a broader range of F/Cl
171 ratios (Figure 2). The range in apatite compositions and extension to lower F/Cl ratio among the
172 intercumulus apatite population is consistent with fractional crystallization of the intercumulus
173 melt in an OH-poor system (Boyce et al., 2014; McCubbin and Ustunisik, 2018). The presence of
174 more F-rich apatite within the melt inclusion could indicate that the melt inclusion underwent
175 closer to equilibrium crystallization conditions where the apatites would have a limited
176 compositional range with more fluorine-rich compositions compared to apatite that formed as a
177 result of fractional crystallization (Piccoli and Candela, 2002; Boyce et al., 2014; McCubbin et al.,
178 2016; Meurer and Boudreau, 1996). Overall, the apatites within 76535 do not exhibit any obvious
179 evidence of degassing or assimilation of crustal fluids on the basis of their ranges in F-Cl-OH
180 composition.

181 The Cl-isotopic compositions of apatite within the intercumulus regions of 76535 overlaps
182 with the Cl-isotopic composition of apatite within the olivine-hosted melt inclusion in 76535
183 (Table 1). This observation indicates that the Cl-isotopic composition of the intercumulus apatite
184 was not altered during the secondary metasomatic processes that produced the symplectite features
185 in the intercumulus portions of 76535 (Ealrdo et al., 2012; McCallum and Schwartz, 2001).
186 Furthermore, late-stage degassing of the troctolitic magma that formed 76535 is unlikely to have
187 affected the Cl-isotopic composition of apatites within 76535 because it is a plutonic rock that
188 formed within the lunar crust, and any degassing would have occurred at 200–250 MPa
189 (McCallum and Schwartz, 2001). These crustal pressures are far from the conditions thought to
190 facilitate Cl-isotopic fractionation by degassing (Sharp et al., 2010; Ustunisik et al., 2015).
191 Furthermore, the concordance between the Cl isotopic composition of the intercumulus apatite and
192 apatite in the olivine-hosted melt inclusion argues further against Cl-isotopic modification by late-

193 stage degassing given that the former crystallized in an open system and the latter crystallized in
194 a closed system.

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196 **Cl-isotopic composition of KREEP**

197 Apatite in the olivine-hosted melt inclusion crystallized from melt that was trapped by a
198 growing cumulus olivine grain, hence the Cl-isotopic composition of that apatite may represent an
199 intrinsic feature of the KREEP-rich liquids that formed troctolite 76535. Of the three components
200 that are thought to have contributed to the parental liquids of troctolite 76535 (i.e., early Mg-rich
201 LMO cumulates, ferroan anorthosites, and KREEP), KREEP is the most Cl-rich as it represents
202 the primary Cl reservoir on the Moon (McCubbin et al., 2015; Boyce et al., 2018). Therefore, we
203 infer that the Cl isotopic composition of the apatite within the olivine-hosted melt inclusion
204 represents the Cl-isotopic composition of the KREEP reservoir. Moreover, we conclude that the
205 isotopic composition of KREEP was already fractionated to values between 28 ‰ and 30 ‰ by
206 4.31 Ga (Borg et al., 2015), consistent with hypotheses for the origin of ³⁷Cl-enrichment of
207 KREEP-rich lunar samples that call upon either degassing of chlorides from the LMO (Boyce et
208 al., 2015) or degassing of melt exposed to the lunar surface during an early crust-breaching impact
209 within the Procellerum KREEP Terrane (Barnes et al., 2016).

210 One caveat to this interpretation is that we only know of a single apatite-bearing olivine-
211 hosted melt inclusion in 76535. Although olivine is one of the best hosts for preserving melt
212 inclusions (Roedder, 1979; Shearer et al., 2018; Veksler, 2006), and the apatite-bearing melt
213 inclusion does not appear to have been obviously breached, we cannot rule out that possibility
214 entirely and efforts to find additional melt inclusions in 76535 would aid in constraining the
215 geochemistry of KREEP.

216 **Origin of Cl-isotopic variation in lunar samples**

217 The Cl-isotopic value for KREEP reported in this study falls within the broad range of
218 values that have been reported for lunar samples, which range from -4‰ to +81‰ (Barnes et al.,
219 2019; Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2015; Potts et al., 2018; Sharp et al., 2010; Shearer et al.,
220 2014; Stephant et al., 2019; Tartèse et al., 2014a; Treiman et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2019). The
221 lower values of this range are associated with the most KREEP-poor lunar samples (Barnes et al.,
222 2019; Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2018; Boyce et al., 2015; Sharp et al., 2010; Wang et al.,
223 2019), hence the low values may represent the Cl-isotopic composition of the primordial lunar
224 mantle (Barnes et al., 2019; Barnes et al., 2016; Boyce et al., 2018; Sharp et al., 2010). The lunar
225 mantle values overlap with the Cl-isotopic compositions of Earth, Mars, 4 Vesta, and chondrites
226 (Barrett et al., 2019; Sarafian et al., 2017; Sharp et al., 2007; Sharp and Draper, 2013; Williams et
227 al., 2016). For lunar samples with Cl-isotopic compositions exceeding the value for KREEP,
228 secondary impact processes have affected many of them (e.g., Barnes et al., 2019; Treiman et al.,
229 2014; Wang et al., 2019). Degassing of metal chlorides in a vacuum may promote the preferential
230 loss of ^{35}Cl to the vapor phase, which would leave the residual impact melt with high $\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ values
231 (Sharp et al., 2010; Ustunisik et al., 2015); however, the efficacy of this mechanism has yet to be
232 evaluated in detail through experiments. Magmatic degassing has also been proposed as a possible
233 explanation of Cl-isotopic variation in lunar basalts (Sharp et al., 2010). This process cannot be
234 ruled out and may complicate interpretations of Cl isotopes for lunar samples that have Cl-isotopic
235 compositions that are intermediate between the lunar mantle and KREEP. For these samples, a
236 coordinated approach combining textural context and chemical analyses will be required, akin to
237 efforts that aimed to understand complex H-isotopic systematics in lunar samples (e.g., Tartèse et
238 al., 2014b).

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Implications

The presence of olivine-hosted melt inclusions within one of the most pristine KREEP-rich rocks from the highlands magnesian suite provides a new opportunity to characterize the geochemistry of KREEP, the most enigmatic geochemical reservoir on the Moon. In particular, a broader analysis of stable isotopic compositions of highly and moderately volatile elements could provide an unprecedented advancement in our characterization of the KREEP reservoir and of volatile depletion processes during planetary formation, more broadly. These studies should focus on systems that can be reasonably preserved within olivine-hosted melt inclusions. For example, it would be inadvisable to evaluate the H-isotopic composition of KREEP from olivine-hosted melt inclusions in 76535 given its protracted cooling history, and the infidelity of melt inclusions when it comes to preservation of H₂O and H in slowly cooled samples (e.g., Bucholz et al., 2013; Gaetani et al., 2012; Ni et al., 2019; Ni et al., 2017). However, Zn, K, Rb, and S isotopic data may be preserved within the inclusions and could provide valuable insights into the geochemistry of the KREEP reservoir and volatile-depletion processes during magma ocean crystallization.

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434 **Table 1.** Cl-isotopic data for apatites within 76535,56

Apatite ID	ROI#	$\delta^{37}\text{Cl}$ (‰)	2s (‰)	Comment
1a	1	30.2	1.4	Cl-rich area
1a	2	30.9	1.1	Entire apatite grain for comparison to ROI 1
1b	1	29.6	1.1	Cl even across area imaged
MIAp1	1	28.4	0.8	Most even area within this ROI and furthest from cracks and edges
MIAp2	1	28.2	0.9	3D ROI as image shifted during analysis

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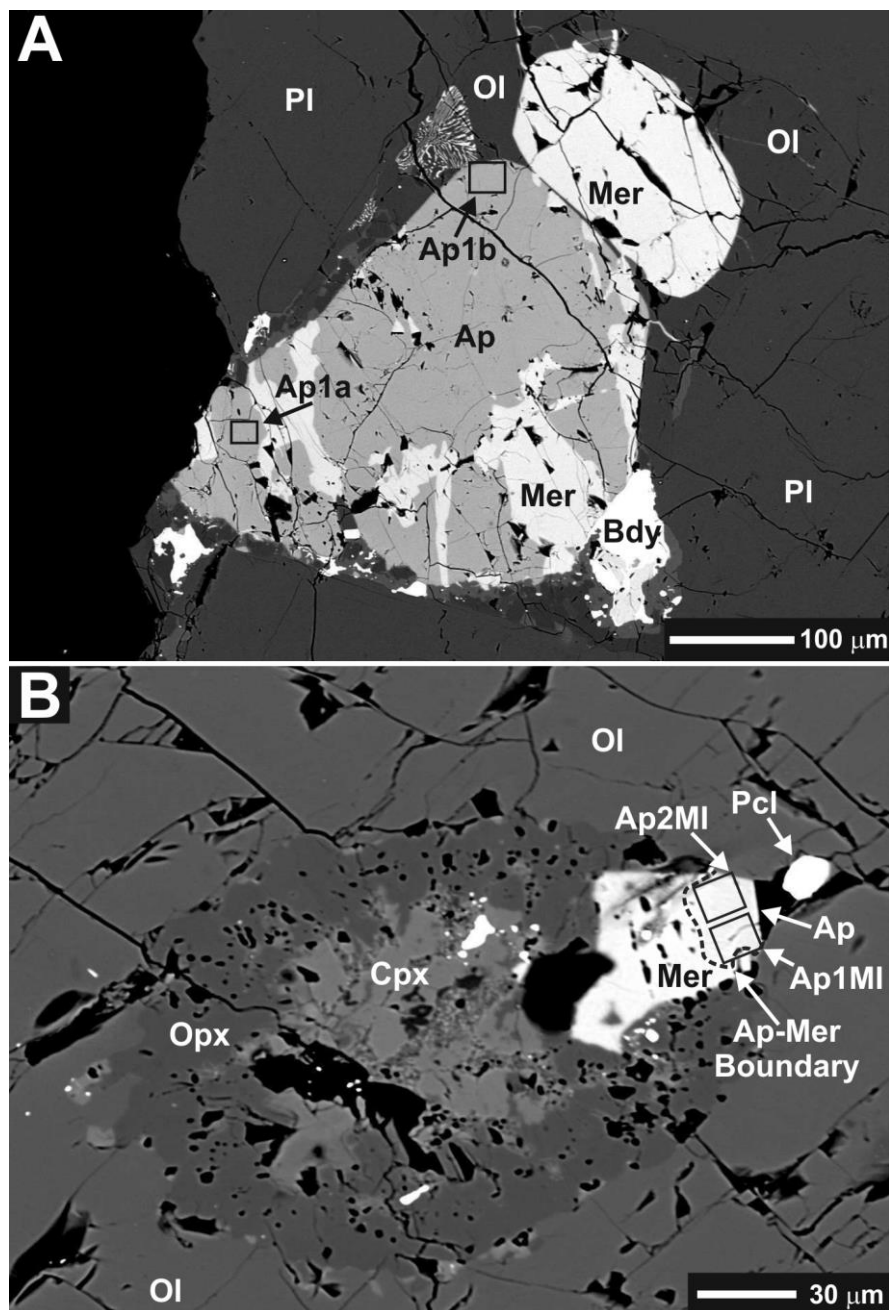
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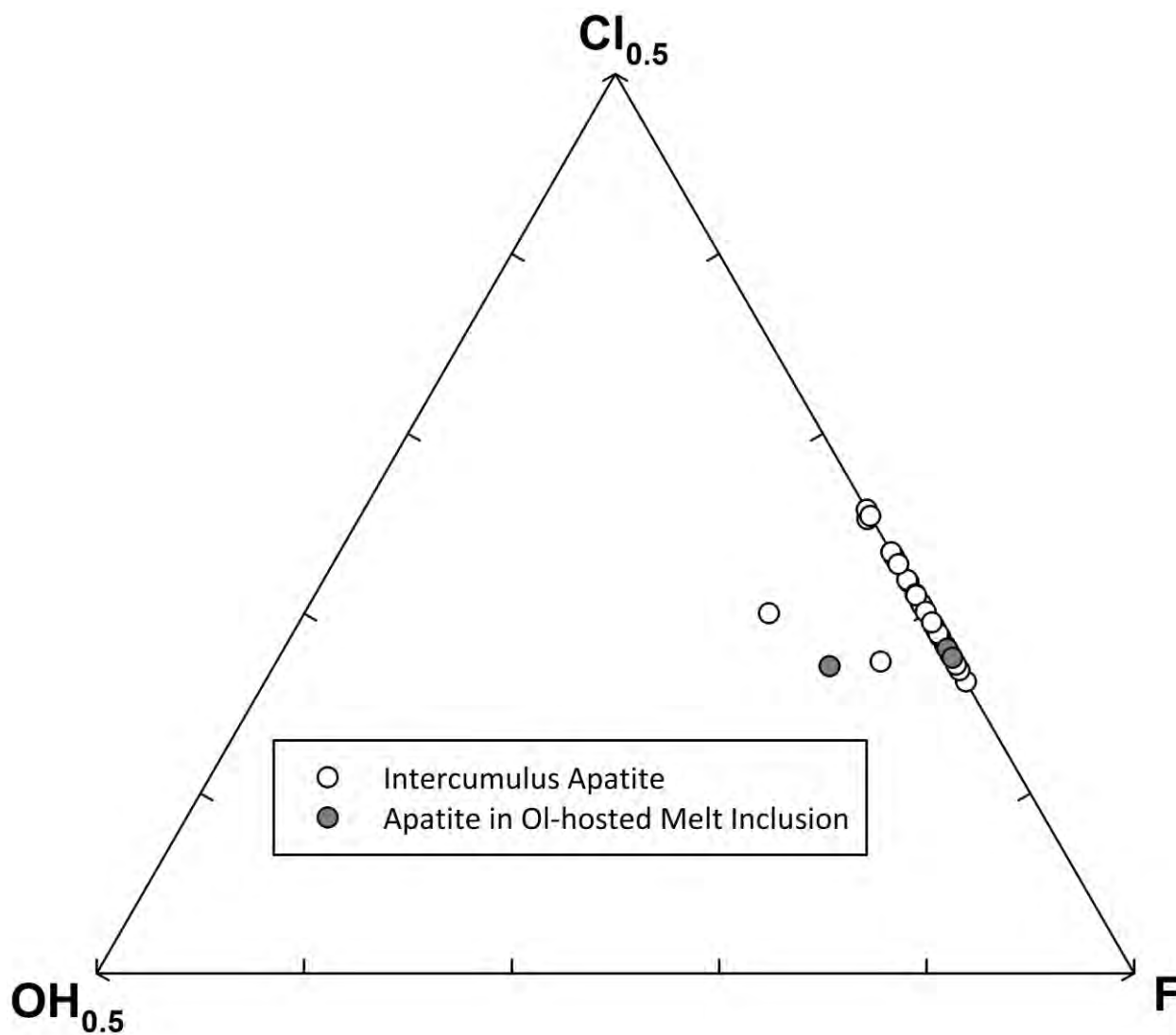
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445 **Figure 1.** Back-scattered electron images of A) Intercumulus apatite and B) apatite within
446 holocrystalline olivine-hosted melt inclusion from Apollo sample 76535,56. Black-bordered
447 rectangles outline NanoSIMS analysis spots in both images, and a dotted line outlines the
448 boundary between apatite and merrillite in Figure 1B. Phases present are identified, and the
449 phase abbreviations are indicated as follows: Ap = apatite, Cpx = clinopyroxene, Mer =
450 merrillite, Ol = olivine, Opx = orthopyroxene, Pcl = pyrochlore, Pl = plagioclase. BSE images
451 adapted from Elardo et al. (2012).



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453 **Figure 2.** Truncated ternary plot of apatite X-site occupancy (mol%) from 76535, 56 from
454 McCubbin et al., (2011) and Elardo et al. (2012). OH was not directly measured, so it was
455 calculated assuming $1 - \text{F} - \text{Cl} = \text{OH}$. EPMA data yielding $(\text{F} + \text{Cl}) > 1$ atom are plotted along
456 the OH-free join assuming $1 - \text{Cl} = \text{F}$.

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