

A new mineral from the oldest solar system solids in meteorites

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Calcium-aluminum-rich inclusions (CAIs) are the first solar <u>system</u> solids that formed at high temperatures in a region close to the protosun about 4.568 billion years ago. They occur as submillimeter- to centimeter-sized rocks in <u>carbonaceous chondrites</u> - meteorites derived from primitive asteroids. Because CAIs retain the properties of physicochemical conditions of the early solar system, they are very valuable to the study of planetary science.

CAIs from two different carbonaceous chondrites were studied independently by Takashi Yoshizaki from Tohoku University and Chi Ma of the California Institute of Technology. They found tiny (mineral rubinite (chemical formula: Ca3Ti3+2Si3O12). In both cases, the new minerals show high Ti3+ contents, indicating that they formed under highly reducing conditions. Further cosmochemical studies of rubinite will uncover new insights into nebular processes and evolution of the early solar system.

More information: *Mineralogical Magazine*, 81, <u>DOI:</u> <u>10.1180/minmag.2017.081.022</u>

Provided by Tohoku University

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