High-temperature metasomatic alteration of CV chondrites

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Most ordinary, (H, L, LL), carbonaceous (CI, CM, CR, CO, CV, CK) and R chondrite parent bodies accreted water ices together with anhydrous minerals, were internally heated by decay of a short-lived radionuclide 26 Al ($t_{1/2} \sim 0.7$ Myr), and experienced various degrees of metasomatic alteration and thermal metamorphism in the presence of aqueous solutions [1,2]. Alteration of CVs occurred at relatively high, but poorly constrained temperature (>300-600K) and low water/rock mass ratio (<0.2) [3]. It affected all primary components (CAIs, chondrules, matrix), and resulted in localized mobilization of Ca, Si, Na, Cl, S, Fe, Mg, Al, Ti, W, Be, and formation of a diverse suite of secondary minerals, both hydrous (phyllosilicates) and anhydrous (magnetite, Fe,Ni-sulfides, fayalite, kirschsteinite, andradite, salite-hedenbergite pyroxenes, anorthite, dmisteinbergite, Al-diopside, monticellite, forsterite, grossular, wollastonite, nepheline, sodalite, wadalite, Na-melilite). ⁵³Mn-⁵³Cr dating of secondary fayalite [4] and kirschsteinite [5] suggests that alteration occurred ~3-4 Myr after CV CAIs, the oldest Solar System solids dated [6]. The inferred initial ²⁶Al/²⁷Al ratios in Kaba (CV3.1) chondrules, $(3-6)\times10^{-6}$ [7] show that they formed ~2–3 Myr after CAIs with the canonical $({}^{26}Al/{}^{27}Al)_0$ of $\sim 5.2 \times 10^{-5}$ [8]. These observations and thermal modeling of a CV-like asteroid [4] imply that alteration occurred shortly after accretion of the CV asteroid and that ²⁶Al was its main heating source. On a three-isotope oxygen diagram (δ^{17} O vs. δ^{18} O), compositions of the secondary minerals, that either precipiated from a fluid or formed by replacement of O-free minerals, plot along mass-dependent fractionation line with $\Delta^{17}O$ (= $\delta^{17}O$ –0.52× $\delta^{18}O$) value of ~-1.5‰, which reflects the composition of the fluid. Interaction with this fluid resulted in O-isotope exchange in some primary minerals of CAIs and chondrules. By using apropriate standards [9], the range in δ^{18} O values of secondary minerals can be used to constrain alteration temperature.

[1] Brearley and Krot (2012) In Metasomatism and the Chemical Transformation of Rock – Lecture Notes in Earth System Sciences, 659. [2] Krot et al. (2015) In Asteroids IV:635. [3] Zolotov et al. (2006) MAPS 41:1775. [4] Doyle et al. (2016) Nat. Comm. 6:7444. [5] MacPherson et al. (2016) LPSC 46:2760.
[6] Connelly et al. (2012) Science 338:651. [7] Nagashima et al. (2015) MAPS 50:5167. [8] Jacobsen et al. (2008) EPSL 272:353. [9] Thomen et al. (2016) this issue.