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Hydrothermal activity on the CV parent body: new perspectives from the unique CV-like MM5.29 micrometeorite

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The micrometeorite MM5.29 ($\sim 200~\mu m$ x 600 μm) was recovered from Frontier Mountain (72°59′S–160°20′E) by the Programma Nazionale delle Ricerche in Antartide (PNRA) [1]. This sample shows clear features related to the CV chondrites and displays sings of extensive thermal metamorphism in presence of fluids. Raman, FE-SEM-EDS, EBSD, μ XRD and EMPA analysis reveal that the sample has platy orientated Fe-rich olivine matrix with ubiquitous andradite crystals surrounded by diopside and jarosite. Only two other samples have been recognized as CV-like micrometeorite ([2], [3]) among many others with a carbonaceous-like composition (e.g [4]). Furthermore we acquired NIR and MIR spectra (from 2 μ m to 15 μ m) of the MM5.29 with μ IR Hyperion 2000 Vertex Bruker with a spot of 150x150 μ m. In particular the sample shows NIR spectra with bands at 2.7 μ m, 3.1 μ m and \sim 3.4 μ m, which is comparable to the average NIR spectra of Ceres [5]. With this study we are expanding the knowledge in the micrometeorites compositional range with the first unambiguous CV-like micrometeorite and in the thermal metamorphism and hydrothermal events that took place on the CV parent body(-ies). In addition, considered that micrometeorites come from the asteroid belt [6] and cometary sources [7-8-9], the study of this sample gives important knowledge in support of space mission with C type asteroids and comets as a target (e.g. NASA-Dawn, Hayabusa 2, Osiris-Rex, Rosetta) giving possible insights into their composition and geological evolution.

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