NWA 1950

Northwest Africa 1950 (NWA 1950)



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Northwest Africa 1950

Morocco
Found 2001 January and March
Martian meteorite (lherzolitic shergottite)

Two stones (414 and 383 g) were found in the Atlas mountains (Morocco) in 2001 January and March. The exact location of find is unknown. The meteorite is a cumulate peridotitic rock consisting of olivine (~ 55 vol%), low and high-Ca pyroxenes (~ 35 vol%) and plagioclase glass (~ 8 vol%). Accessory minerals include phosphates (merrillite), chromite and spinels (inclusions in olivines and pyroxenes), sulfides (pyrrhotite), and a glass rich in potassium. The igneous texture is very similar to that of the ALHA77005. Classification and mineralogy (Ph. Gillet, ENSL, J.A. Barrat, UAng, M. Bohn, Ifremer): pyroxenes are pigeonite, En78Fs19Wo2-En60Fs26Wo14, and augite, En53Fs16Wo31-En45Fs14Wo41; maskelynite ranges from An57Ab410r1 to An40Ab570r3. The key element weight-ratios Fe0*/Mn0 is close to 30 for pigeonite and close to 50 for olivines. Geochemistry: REE pattern similar to that of ALHA77005 but with higher values. Specimens: type specimen, 20 g, ENSL; main mass, Fectay.

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