

Rocks from Space Picture of the Day

May 31, 2011

Northwest Africa 6704... ...a 'most intriguing' New Ungrouped Achondrite

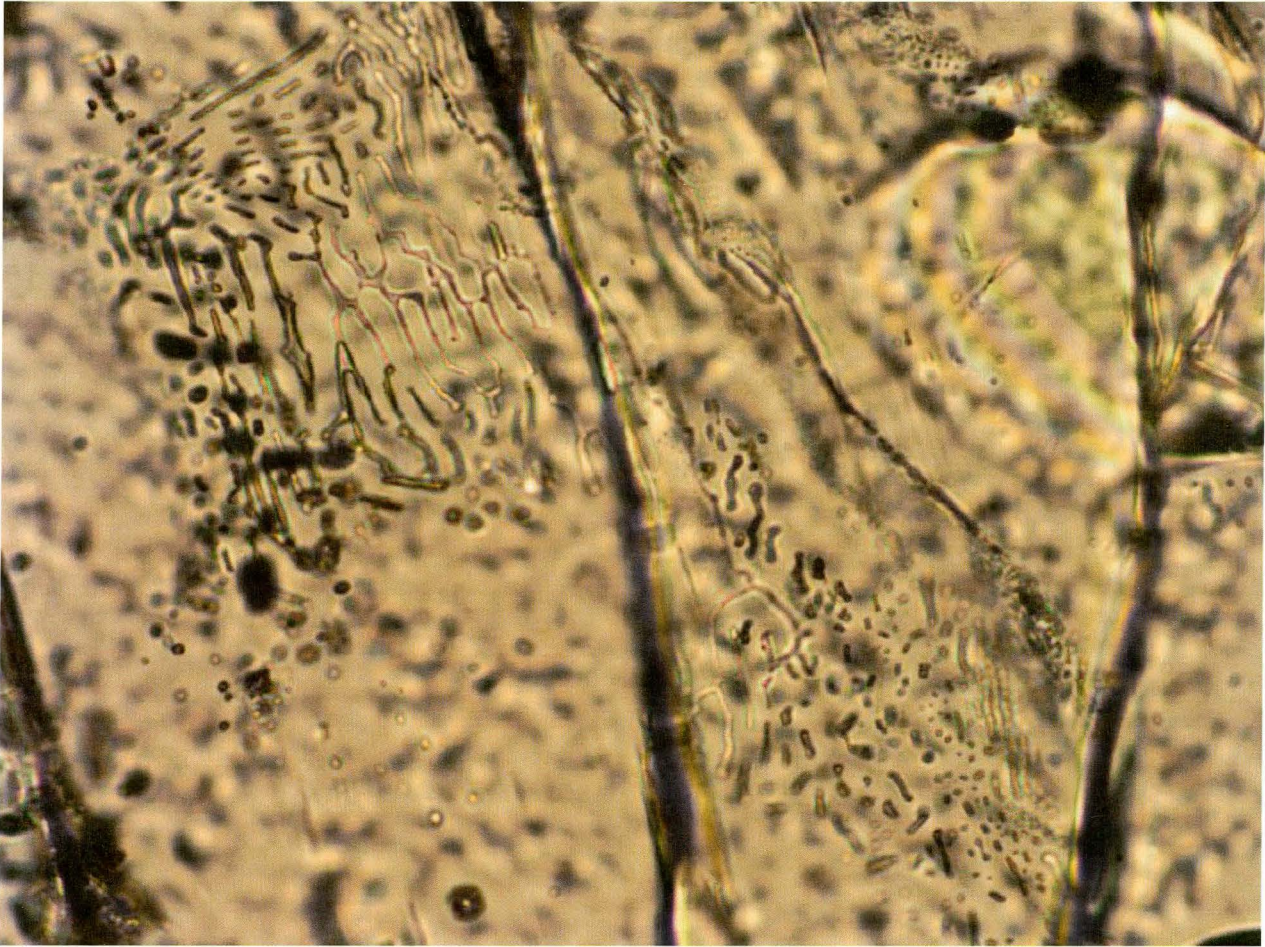
*NWA 6704 is a meteorite unlike any others known to man!
Not only does it have tremendous scientific value...
...it is one of the most visually appealing meteorites.*



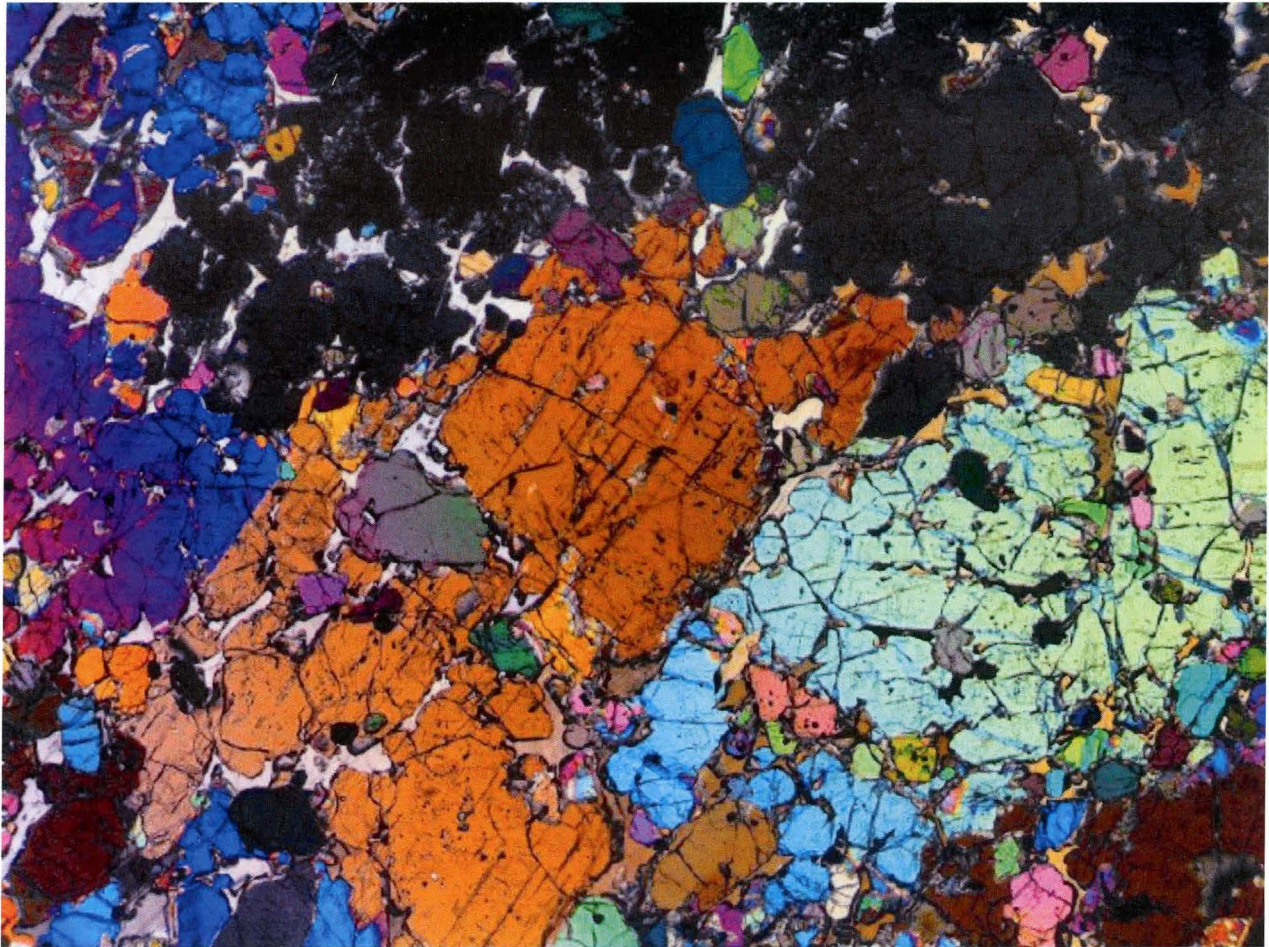
NWA 6704 assembled mass with carefully collected smaller fragments.
(©Gregory M. Hupé)



Close-up image of only fusion crust 'patch' on NWA 6704 (measures 1.2cm x 2cm).
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Close-up view in plane polarized light of arrays of bubbles within orthopyroxene in NWA 6704.
Width of field 0.237 mm. Kinda reminds me of a delaminated windshield!
(image courtesy Tony Irving and Nick Castle)



Optical thin section image of NWA 6704 taken in cross-polarized light. Large grains (brown, blue, and black along top) are orthopyroxene; smaller grains (mostly green and purple) are olivine; small opaque (black) grains are chromite and awaruite; and pale gray material between other grains is albite.
Width of field of view is 8.1 mm.
(photo courtesy John Kashuba)

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Michael Johnson, Curator of the Rocks from Space Collection
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