

METEORITE SEARCH IN VICTORIA LAND, ANTARCTICA, BY THE 2010-2011 JOINT EXPEDITION BETWEEN KOREAMET AND PNRA.

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During the month of January 2010, the first joint expedition between Korea Expedition for Antarctic Meteorites (KOREAMET) and the Italian National Program for Research in Antarctica (PNRA) for meteorite search in Victoria Land, Antarctica was carried out with the logistic support of the Mario Zucchelli Station (Italy). The meteorite search team was composed of four persons including two scientists and two field guides. A remote camp was set up at the Frontier Mountains (72° 57'S, 160° 28'E) in northern Victoria Land, where the PNRA expeditions have recovered more than 700 meteorites since the early 1990s. During ten days of searching the area, 112 meteorite specimens were found. After returning to the Mario Zucchelli Station, a one-day search using a helicopter was also conducted in the area between 71° S and 77° S to secure long-term recovery sites for meteorites. 4 new possible recovery sites and 5 specimens were found. As a result, a total of 117 meteorites were collected during the expedition. The collected specimens are mostly ordinary chondrites, but two carbonaceous chondrites, two ureilites and one iron meteorite are also recognized.

The initial processing (drying, weighing, measuring and brief description) was performed at the Mario Zucchelli Station. The specimens (> 5 g) were transported to the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), Korea, and divided into two parts that are currently stored at KOPRI and at the Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide of Siena, Italy, according to allocation rules. Although the classification of whole meteorites is being carried out at both institutions, 36 meteorites were registered to the Meteoritical Society between January and February 2012.

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