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Gnos, E.; Hofmann, B.A.; Al-Kathiri, A.; Lorenzetti, S.; Villa, I.; Eugster, O.; Jull, A.J.T.; Eikenberg, J.; Spettel, B.; Krähenbühl, U.; Franchi, I.A. and Greenwood, G.C. (2003). Lunar meteorite SaU 169; An extremely KREEP-rich rock. In: 66th Annual Meteoritical Society Meeting, 28 Jul - 1 Aug 2003, Munster, Germany.

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LUNAR METEORITE SaU 169; AN EXTREMELY KREEP-RICH ROCK.

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Introduction: Sayh al Uhaymir 169 is a new lunar meteorite [1] collected in Oman in January 2002 (Fe/Mn of 74-79; K/U of 535-1682; $\Delta^{17}\text{O}=0.001 \pm 0.032\text{‰}$). It consists of an extremely KREEP-rich (Th: 32.7 ppm; U: 8.6ppm; K₂O: 0.54wt%; REE_{tot}:~1330 ppm; P₂O₅: 1.14wt%; Zr: 2835ppm) anorthosite-free impact-melt breccia and adherent KREEP-rich regolith (Th: 8.4 ppm).

Impact melt breccia: The fine-grained crystalline matrix consists of 85.1% shortprismatic low-Ca pyroxene (En₆₁₋₆₄Wo₂₋₄), 26.4% interstitial plagioclase (An₇₅₋₈₁) intergrown with potassium feldspar. The remaining minerals are poikilitic ilmenite, whitlockite, olivine (Fo₅₈₋₅₉), zircon, and traces of troilite, kamacite, and tridymite. The impact melt breccia contains 25-40 vol% of strongly shocked magmatic rock and crystal clasts derived from norites, evolved magmatites, and granulites. Only one KREEP basalt clast was observed.

Regolith: The regolith contains two clearly separable parts. Both parts comprise crystalline and glassy volcanic rocks, magmatic lithic fragments, breccia fragments, fragments of mafic granulites, and crystal fragments. The younger regolith is bordered by a gas-bubble-rich yellowish flow-banded glass and contains yellow and orange glass fragments and beads, olivine-basalts, and pyroxferroite-bearing basalts.

Interpretation: Combined chemical and isotope information, regolith mineralogy, and remote sensing data [2-3] show that the rock most likely represents a fragment from the Imbrium impact melt breccia excavated by another impact. After this event the material remained >200 Ma as part of a regolith near the surface of the Moon. Finally it was launched into space at maximum 0.85 Ma ago before colliding with the Earth at the end of the last large glaciation 9700 ± 1300 years ago.

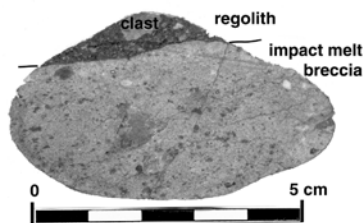


Fig. 1

References: [1] Russell, S. et al. (2003) *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.*, 38, in prep. [2] Jolliff B. L. et al. (2000) *J. Geophys. Res.*, 105, 4197-4216. [3] Lawrence D. J. et al. (1999) *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 26, 2681-2684.