

## Carbon isotopic variation in ureilites: Evidence for an early, volatile-rich Inner Solar System

Barrat Jean-Alix <sup>1, 2,\*</sup>, Sansjofre Pierre <sup>1, 2</sup>, Yamaguchi Akira <sup>3, 4</sup>, Greenwood Richard C. <sup>5</sup>,  
 Gillet Philippe <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Univ Bretagne Occidentale, UMR CNRS 6538, Lab Geosci Ocean, PI Nicolas Copernic, F-29280 Plouzane, France.

<sup>2</sup> Inst Univ European Mer, PI Nicolas Copernic, F-29280 Plouzane, France.

<sup>3</sup> Natl Inst Polar Res, Tachikawa, Tokyo 1908518, Japan.

<sup>4</sup> Grad Univ Adv Sci, Sch Multidisciplinary Sci, Dept Polar Sci, Tachikawa, Tokyo 1908518, Japan.

<sup>5</sup> Open Univ, Sch Phys Sci, Planetary & Space Sci, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, Bucks, England.

<sup>6</sup> Ecole Polytech Federate Lausanne, Inst Condensed Matter Phys, EPSL, Stn 3, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

\* Corresponding author : Jean-Alix Barrat, email address : [barrat@univ-brest.fr](mailto:barrat@univ-brest.fr)

### Abstract :

We analyzed the C isotopic compositions of 32 unbreciated ureilites, which represent mantle debris from a now disrupted, C-rich, differentiated body. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values of their C fractions range from  $-8.48$  to  $+0.11\text{\textperthousand}$ . The correlations obtained between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  values and the compositions of the olivine cores, indicate that the ureilite parent body (UPB) accreted from two reservoirs displaying distinct O and C isotopic compositions. The range of Fe/Mg ratios shown by its mantle was not the result of melting processes involving reduction with C ("smelting"), but was chiefly inherited from the mixing of these two components. Because smelting reactions are pressure-dependent, this result has strong implications for the size of the UPB, and points to a large parent body, at least 690 km in diameter. It demonstrates that C-rich primitive matter distinct from that represented by carbonaceous chondrites was present in some areas of the early inner Solar System, and could have contributed to the growth of the terrestrial planets. We speculate that differentiated, C-rich bodies, or debris produced by their disruption, were an additional source of volatiles during the later accretion stages of the rocky planets, including Earth.

---

## Highlights

►  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in ureilites correlate with the Fe/Mg ratios of the cores of their olivines. ► The ureilitic mantle has recorded the involvement of two C-rich reservoirs. ► The UPB's diameter was larger than 690 km.► C-rich matter, unlike carbonaceous chondrites, was present in the inner Solar System.

**Keywords :** carbon isotopes, ureilite, planetary differentiation, volatiles

## 36 1. Introduction

37 The origin of volatiles in the inner Solar System, including Earth, remains  
38 controversial. It is widely held that water and other volatiles were delivered late in the  
39 development of the terrestrial planets (Marty, 2012; Alexander et al., 2012; Rubie et al.,  
40 2015). An alternative view suggests that the inner planets accreted volatile-rich, so that phases  
41 such as water and other light elements, vital to the origin of life, were mainly indigenous  
42 (Halliday, 2013). Here we look at the origin of the ureilites, C-rich meteorites from a single  
43 differentiated body (Downes et al., 2005) that formed in the inner Solar System (Yamakawa  
44 et al., 2010; Warren, 2011; Barrat et al., 2016a; Budde et al., 2017), and hence are potentially  
45 representative of some of the materials from which the terrestrial planets accreted.

46 The ureilites are peridotites that constitute the largest sampling of the mantle of a body  
47 other than the Earth and so provide a unique opportunity to constrain the differentiation  
48 processes that took place within a protoplanet. Geochemical studies have shown that the UPB  
49 accreted no more than 1.6 My after initial Solar System formation (Budde et al., 2015). It was  
50 heated by decay of short-lived isotopes, principally  $^{26}\text{Al}$ , resulting in the segregation of a S-  
51 rich core (e.g., Warren et al., 2006; Rankenburg et al., 2008; Barrat et al., 2015) and the  
52 formation of a trachyandesitic crust (Bischoff et al., 2014; Barrat et al., 2016b). This  
53 differentiation event occurred between 3 and 7 My, and was terminated by the catastrophic  
54 breakup of the body as the result of a large impact event (Goodrich et al., 2015).

55 Ureilites are restites formed after extraction of magmas and S-rich metallic melts (e.g.,  
56 Scott et al., 1993; Warren et al., 2006; Barrat et al., 2016b). They consist chiefly of olivine  
57 and pyroxene, and are remarkably rich in C [1-6 wt% (Goodrich et al., 2015), graphite (Fig. 1)  
58 and diamond]. Olivines in ureilites have distinctive Mg-rich rims and veins that formed as a  
59 result of localized reduction reactions with adjacent C phases. These reactions probably took  
60 place during the disruption of the UPB (Miyamoto et al., 1985; Warren and Huber, 2006).  
61 Apart from these rims and veins, olivine cores and pyroxene grains are quite uniform in Mg#  
62 number [= 100 Mg/(Mg+Fe), atomic] within any individual ureilite sample. However,  
63 collectively their overall compositional variation is very large, as shown by the olivine-core  
64 Mg#, which ranges from 74 to 97 (Downes et al., 2008). The Fe/Mn ratios and  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  values  
65 are correlated with this parameter. These variations cannot be explained by igneous

fractionation. Instead, it has been argued that the Mg# range is the result of reduction reactions involving C (“smelting”, e.g., Singletary and Grove (2003), Goodrich et al. (2007, 2013)) that took place during the differentiation of the UPB, pre-igneous oxidation of metal by H<sub>2</sub>O from ice (Sanders et al., 2017) or, alternatively, was inherited from the accreted materials, and preserved despite significant partial melting (Warren and Huber, 2006; Warren, 2012).

In this paper, we report new high-quality C isotopic data obtained on a large number of unbrecciated ureilites, with the aim of constraining the role of C during the differentiation of the UPB, the size of this body, and finally **of discussing** the diversity of volatile sources in the inner Solar System.

76

## 77       **2. Samples and analytical procedure**

We analyzed 32 unpaired meteorites collected in Antarctica and in the Sahara. The details of the samples used in this study, all unbrecciated ureilites, are given in Table 1. Their olivine cores cover nearly the full range of compositions known for these meteorites (Fo = 74–97 %). Polymict ureilites have deliberately **been** excluded from this study, as have samples of the rare “Hughes” group ureilites. However, one sample (MET 01085) is not a peridotite, but a pyroxenite devoid of olivine.

Samples (0.25 - 1 g) were powdered using a boron-carbide mortar and pestle. About 250 mg of powder for each sample was digested on a hot plate heated to 125°C, using sequential mixtures of 10 N HF/14 N HNO<sub>3</sub>, 14 N HNO<sub>3</sub> and 6 N HCl. This procedure ensures a perfect dissolution of all the phases, except graphite and diamond, which are not oxidized by these acids at this temperature. The resulting clear solution was carefully pipetted off, and the C residues rinsed twice using ultrapure water and then dried. Our procedure has the advantage of directly removing all terrestrial carbonates and all terrestrial C **in** the samples. Carbon isotopic compositions were determined at the Pôle Spectrométrie Océan (PSO), Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer (IUEM, Plouzané, France). 0.1 to 0.2 mg of the C powder was introduced in tin capsules and δ<sup>13</sup>C was determined following flash combustion using an EA-IRMS Flash-EA 2000 analyzer coupled to a Thermo Fisher Delta-V Plus mass spectrometer. The oxygen flux was optimized at 240 ml/min for a flash combustion of 15 s, to ensure a complete oxidation of the sample. Isotopic data are reported as parts per thousand deviation (‰) from the PeeDee belemnite reference material (PDB): δ<sup>13</sup>C = 1000 [(<sup>13</sup>C/<sup>12</sup>C)<sub>sample</sub>/(<sup>13</sup>C/<sup>12</sup>C)<sub>PDB</sub> – 1]. Most measurements were determined in duplicate with an

99 external reproducibility better than 0.2 ‰ (2 σ). An in-house graphite standard (LCgraphite),  
100 kindly provided by Pierre Cartigny (IPG, Paris) has been repeatedly analysed during the  
101 course of this study in order to check the reproducibility and our calibration. These analyses  
102 are in excellent agreement with previous results obtained by the Institut de Physique du  
103 Globe, Paris (Table 1).

104

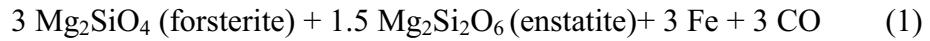
### 105 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 106 **3.1. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ systematics and the size of the UPB**

107 Ureilitic C yielded  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  ranging from -8.48 to +0.11 ‰ (Table 1), in agreement with  
108 earlier results ranging from -11.1 to ≈+0.5 ‰, (Grady et al., 1985; Grady and Pillinger, 1986;  
109 Russell et al., 1993; Smith et al., 2001; Hudon et al., 2004; Downes et al., 2015; Miyahara et  
110 al., 2015). Many of our samples (e.g., the Antarctic ureilites found before 2000) were  
111 analysed previously, but a comparison with our results is unfortunately not straightforward.  
112 Most of the literature results are only available in conference abstracts, with few, if any,  
113 details of the analytical procedures used and data sometimes appearing only in figures (e.g.,  
114 Hudon et al., 2004). In a  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  vs. olivine core composition plot, the previous results are  
115 scattered and no clear systematic behaviour is apparent (Fig. 2). However, results obtained by  
116 Hudon et al. (2004) show that C in ureilites with ferroan olivines have a tendency to be  
117 heavier than in those with the most forsteritic olivines. In contrast, our analyses, with the  
118 exception of one sample (Elephant Moraine (EET) 83225), fit hyperbolae in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  versus  
119 olivine core composition plots (Figs. 2-4). The reasons for the spread in the literature data are  
120 unclear. Earlier results were mostly obtained by the stepped combustion technique on small  
121 whole-rock samples (e.g., Grady et al., 1985). Analytical biases are possible and could mask  
122 possible relationships. Alternatively, the spread could be indicative of strong intra-sample  
123 heterogeneities in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . However, the sole detailed in-situ study of a ureilitic clast failed to  
124 detect large C-isotopic variations (Miyahara et al., 2015), and weakens this possibility.

125 The hyperbolae in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  versus olivine core composition plots obtained in this study  
126 (Figs. 3-4) provide strong constraints on the differentiation processes of the UPB. These  
127 results are pertinent to the three competing processes for the evolution of the UPB: i) was the  
128 range in Mg#-values measured in ureilitic olivine cores the result of smelting; (ii) the pre-  
129 igneous oxidation of metal by H<sub>2</sub>O from ice; or (iii) simply inherited from the accreted  
130 materials?

131 In the case of smelting, C reacts with silicates containing iron and eventually partially  
132 melts, as illustrated by the two following reactions (Singletary and Grove, 2003; Warren and  
133 Huber, 2006):



138 If redox reactions were involved, they produced not only Mg-rich silicate assemblages  
139 but also converted the indigenous solid C to CO gas, which was then lost to space. Such  
140 reactions are controlled by the composition of the silicate assemblages (i.e., Mg#), pressure  
141 and temperature, and are blocked if the pressures are too high (Warren and Huber, 2006;  
142 Warren, 2012). In other words, redox reactions can affect about half the mantle of a 200 km  
143 diameter C-rich body, but much lower fractions for larger bodies. Furthermore, to yield  
144 internal pressures prohibitive of smelting for the most ferroan ureilitic compositions, the body  
145 would have to have been at least 690 km in diameter (Warren and Huber, 2006; Warren,  
146 2012). Thus, if it can be demonstrated that C phases remained stable during partial melting, a  
147 strong constraint on the size of the UPB would be provided.

148 Carbon isotopic compositions are fractionated by redox reactions with CO formation  
149 preferentially consuming <sup>12</sup>C, the lighter isotope (see Fig. 20 in Chacko et al., 2001). Such  
150 reactions are likely to produce residues enriched in <sup>13</sup>C. Therefore, C after smelting should  
151 display  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  equal to or higher than the initial value.

152 A number of important conclusions emerge from the strong link between the variation  
153 in C isotopes and the composition of olivine cores.

154 Firstly, the importance of the reduction reactions during the breakup of the UPB is  
155 highly variable (e.g., Singletary and Grove, 2003), with a full gradation in textures from  
156 ureilites displaying olivines with thin forsteritic rims (e.g., Asuka 881931) to ureilites  
157 containing Mg-rich olivines displaying rare domains of preserved (i.e., more Fe-rich) cores  
158 (e.g., Northwest Africa 2234). The conservation of a well-defined relationship between  
159 olivine core and C isotopic compositions indicates that primary C isotope values were  
160 unaffected, or not severely modified, during the disruption of the body.

161 Secondly, it was originally proposed by both Boynton et al. (1976) and Wasson et al.  
162 (1976) that C was introduced into ureilites after the main phase of UPB differentiation, or  
163 during the disruption of the body. Late addition of C has also been invoked by Day et al.

164 (2017) based on a study of the Antarctic ureilite Miller Range (MIL) 091004. They observed  
165 a small area enriched in graphite (34 vol%) in a single polished section (1.35 cm<sup>2</sup>), and  
166 proposed that it was injected or smeared into the rock after silicate and Fe-Ni-S depletion, by  
167 late-stage C-rich fluid/melt infiltration. The composition of this fluid is unspecified.  
168 Alternatively, the heterogeneous distribution of graphite at a centimeter scale is possible in  
169 ureilites, and can account for the observations made by Day et al. (2017), without invoking C-  
170 rich fluids or melts. Also significant is the lack of chemical differences between the silicate  
171 phases in the “C-rich lithology” compared to the rest of the sample. MIL 091004 has a  
172 regular bulk composition, which is similar to group-B ureilites as defined by Barrat et al.  
173 (2016), ruling out hypothetical low degree partial melts as possible metasomatic agents as  
174 suggested by Day et al. (2017). A true C-rich veinlet (~4.7 mm x ~0.3 mm in size) containing  
175 a complex network of S-rich, Fe-S-rich, Al-rich and Si-rich areas, was described in the  
176 Yamato 74130 ureilite (Tomeoka and Takeda, 1990). It demonstrates that, locally, a small  
177 amount of C was mobilized. The importance of the mobilization of C into ureilites via melts  
178 or fluid, should not be overemphasized: among the hundreds of ureilites examined so far, only  
179 this single C-rich veinlet has been described. Furthermore, C-addition by fluids/melts, either  
180 before or during the disruption of the body, would have totally erased the hyperbolic  
181 relationship between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and olivine core composition documented in this study and this is  
182 clearly not the case. Significantly, among the 32 ureilites we have analyzed, only one sample  
183 (EET 83225) does not lie on this trend. A detailed study of this ureilite is clearly warranted in  
184 order to understand its potentially anomalous composition.

185 More significantly, C isotopes directly rule out redox reactions during the  
186 differentiation of the UPB as the cause of the wide range of silicate compositions. If this had  
187 been the case, C in Mg-rich ureilites would have been heavier than in more ferroan rocks. The  
188 trends seen in Figures 3 and 4 show just the opposite: the ureilites with the most Mg-rich  
189 olivines always display the lowest  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values (< -7 ‰) and consequently the isotopically  
190 lightest C.

191 Sanders et al. (2017) have proposed that the UPB accreted as a mixture of nebular ice  
192 with high  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ , Mg-rich silicates with low  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  and metallic iron, and also assumed that the  
193 UPB was large enough that smelting was inhibited. Water from the thawing ice then oxidized  
194 the metal and formed secondary FeO-bearing minerals with high  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  values. These  
195 secondary phases became incorporated into ureilite silicates during the metamorphism of the  
196 body before the onset of the igneous processes. This model can potentially explain the

197 correlations observed between Fe/Mg, Fe/Mn and O isotopic compositions (Fig. 3). However,  
198 the effects of this pre-igneous oxidation processes on the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values is not obvious.  
199 Assuming that this model is correct, the most ferroan ureilites incorporated the highest  
200 fractions of the pre-igneous secondary phases, and display the heaviest C isotopic  
201 compositions. Thus, an increase of the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values could be a fingerprint of the oxidation  
202 process and of the aqueous alteration of chondrites. However, available data on chondrites do  
203 not show such an effect (e.g., see analyses given by Alexander et al., 2012), and weaken the  
204 model proposed by Sanders et al. (2017).

205 The isotopic diversity recorded by ureilites was more likely inherited from the  
206 materials that accreted to form the UPB. The chemical, O and C isotopic variations displayed  
207 by ureilites are compatible with the involvement of two components which can be constrained  
208 using the two arms of the hyperbolic trends. The first (A) displays the heaviest C ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx 0$   
209 ‰),  $\delta^{18}\text{O} \approx 8$  ‰,  $\Delta^{17}\text{O} \approx -0.5$  ‰, and corresponds to the ureilites with the most ferroan  
210 olivines ( $\text{Mg}\# \approx 75$ ,  $\text{Fe}/\text{Mn} \approx 50$ ). The isotopic compositions of the second one (B) are  $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx$   
211 -8 ‰,  $\delta^{18}\text{O} \approx 5$  ‰,  $\Delta^{17}\text{O} \approx -2.5$  ‰, and are defined by the ureilites with the more Mg-rich  
212 olivines ( $\text{Mg}\# > 95$ ,  $\text{Fe}/\text{Mn} < 10$ ). Because ureilites are restites, abundances of most elements  
213 before extraction of the core and silicate partial melting cannot be directly deduced. However,  
214 the curvatures of the hyperbolas indicate that the second component (B) was by far the richer  
215 in C than the first (A). The exact nature of these two components is unclear, but they were  
216 most likely to have been primitive chondritic materials, both relatively rich in C. However,  
217 they were certainly unlike any known carbonaceous chondrites, as demonstrated by their  
218 stable Cr, Ti and Mo isotope systematics (Yamakawa et al., 2010; Qin et al., 2010; Warren,  
219 2011; Budde et al., 2017), C and N isotope systematics (Downes et al., 2015) and by their  
220 slightly negative Tm anomalies, similar to non-carbonaceous chondrites and inner Solar  
221 System bodies (Barrat et al., 2016a).

222 Because redox reactions involving C were inhibited during the differentiation of UPB,  
223 this body was certainly much larger than generally thought (e.g., Goodrich et al., 2015 and  
224 references therein), and was at least 690 km in diameter, as calculated by Warren (2012).  
225 Moreover, the discovery of unusually “large” diamonds, displaying sector zoning, in the  
226 Almahata Sitta ureilite was interpreted as evidence for static growth inside the UPB  
227 (Miyahara et al., 2015). If correct, the UPB was at least  $\sim 1000$  km in diameter, and could  
228 have been much larger. Additional constraints on the equilibrium conditions of these

229 diamonds, and on the size of the UPB, could be provided by the nature and compositions of  
230 their inclusions.

231

232

### 233 **3.2. Implications for the compositions of the planetary building blocks 234 and the origins of the volatile elements in the Inner Solar System.**

235 Whatever the exact size of the UPB, our results have two important implications.  
236 Firstly, they show that volatile-rich materials distinct from known carbonaceous chondrites  
237 were present in some areas of the early inner Solar System, and were the main ingredients of  
238 at least one large rocky protoplanet. Similar materials could have contributed to the growth of  
239 other early embryos **that** were involved in the building of terrestrial planets. While a  
240 contribution of such materials at the percent level would not be detected with O, Cr, Ti  
241 isotope compositions usually used in discussions on the nature of planetary building blocks  
242 (e.g., Fitoussi et al., 2016), even at such low levels, they would still have been important  
243 carriers of volatile elements, especially C. Secondly, it is well accepted that less than 1 % of  
244 the mass of the Earth was added after segregation of **its core** on the basis of platinum-group  
245 element abundances (e.g., Chou, 1978). This late veneer is often thought to have essentially  
246 been composed of CI and CM carbonaceous chondrite-like material, which in turn can  
247 account for a large proportion of the terrestrial volatiles (e.g., Marty, 2012; Alexander et al.,  
248 2012; Rubie et al., 2015). However, the volatile abundances of the bulk Earth remain poorly  
249 constrained, notably because some of the phases involved are siderophile at high pressures,  
250 and could have been partly sequestered by the core, as exemplified by C (Hirschmann, 2016).  
251 Consequently, we don't know at present the proportion of terrestrial C in the mantle and core.  
252 The average  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value of the Earth's upper mantle ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} \approx -5\text{\textperthousand}$ , Marty et al., 2013) is very  
253 similar to average CM carbonaceous chondrites ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -3.5\text{\textperthousand}$ ), and if not modified by  
254 mantle processes, is at first glance consistent with the view that the carbonaceous chondrites  
255 were the main source of Earth's volatiles. However, it does not preclude the involvement of  
256 other components (Wang et al., 2016; Li et al., 2016). Indeed, the destruction of the UPB  
257 produced a multitude of debris, which on average display the same  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value ( $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -4.3\text{\textperthousand}$ ,  
258 n=32) as the Earth's mantle, and so potentially could have been an ingredient **of** the late  
259 veneer. Interestingly, the distribution of volatiles in the bulk Earth displays a large negative  
260 nitrogen anomaly (Fig. 5, e.g., Marty, 2012). Because nitrogen is siderophile at high  
261 pressures, this element could have been partly sequestered by the core (Roskosz et al., 2013).

262 If correct, this would suggest a decoupling with C, which is not well understood at present.  
263 Alternatively, the high C/N ratio of the bulk Earth could be partly inherited from some non-  
264 chondritic components of the late veneer (Hirschmann, 2016). Significantly, ureilites are poor  
265 in nitrogen and display very high C/N ratios (Fig. 5). The recent discovery in a chondrite of  
266 graphite-bearing igneous clasts from a possible Moon-sized body (Hiyagon et al., 2016),  
267 indicates that the UPB was not the sole C-rich differentiated body. Volatile-rich materials,  
268 similar in composition to ureilites, may have been more important than has so far been  
269 considered. Thus, the involvement of C-rich differentiated objects during the accretion of the  
270 terrestrial planets should now be seriously re-evaluated.

271

#### 272       **4. Conclusions**

273       The data presented here demonstrates that the C isotopic composition of ureilites  
274 correlates with the Fe/Mg ratios of the cores of their olivines. This observation has important  
275 implications for the differentiation processes on their parent body, for its size, and for the  
276 origin of the volatile elements in the inner Solar System.

277       Various models have been put forward to explain the origin of the wide range of  
278 compositions of the ureilitic silicates. Carbon isotopic systematics are not consistent with the  
279 recent model of low-temperature oxidation of metal by water derived from ice (Sanders et al.,  
280 2017), nor with the more widely proposed smelting model, which assumes reduction of  
281 silicates by C during melting (e.g., Singletary and Grove, 2003; Goodrich et al., 2007). The C  
282 and O isotopic compositions indicate that the chemistry of the ureilitic mantle has recorded  
283 the involvement of two C-rich reservoirs characterized by distinctive  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$  and  
284 Fe/Mg ratios. The imperfect mixing of these two reservoirs during the accretion of the UPB  
285 [merging of two planetesimals as suggested by Sanders et al. (2017)] can explain the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$   
286 range and the mass independent variation in their O isotopic ratios that correlates with their  
287 Fe/Mg ratios. The inhibition of the reactions of reduction of the silicates by C indicates that  
288 the UPB was much larger than 690 km in diameter, in agreement with thermodynamic  
289 modelling by Warren (2012), and the discovery of diamonds too large to be formed upon  
290 impact (Miyahara et al., 2015), indicative of a body much larger than Ceres.

291       Although ureilites are in some ways unusual (same O isotopic compositions as  
292 carbonaceous chondrites, but distinct Cr and Ti isotope systematics), the accretion of at least  
293 one such large C-rich body was certainly not fortuitous. It indicates that C-rich primitive  
294 matter, distinct from carbonaceous chondrites, was present in the early Solar System. The

295 direct involvement of ureilite-derived material, or material from other UPB-like bodies, may  
296 have played a significant role in the accretion histories of the terrestrial planets and  
297 contributed to their volatile element inventories.

298

299

300 **Acknowledgement**

301 Some of the ureilites from the Sahara were kindly provided by Bruno and Carine  
302 Fectay, and Peter Marmet. Samples from Antarctica were kindly provided by the Meteorite  
303 Working Group (NASA) and the National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo. US Antarctic  
304 meteorite samples are recovered by the Antarctic search for Meteorites (ANSMET) program  
305 which has been funded by NSF and NASA, and characterized and curated in the Department  
306 of Mineral Sciences of the Smithsonian Institution and Astromaterials Curation Office at  
307 NASA Johnson Space Center. We are grateful to Pierre Cartigny for sharing the IPGP in-  
308 house graphite standard, Albert Jambon and Cyrena Goodrich for their comments made on a  
309 previous version of this paper, Sasha Verschovsky for discussions on step-heating procedures  
310 and Pascale Barrat for her help. We thank Derek Vance for the editorial handling, Paul  
311 Warren, James Day and Ed Scott for their helpful and constructive reviews. This work was  
312 funded by a grant from the Programme National de Planétologie (CNRS-INSU) to the first  
313 author.

314

315 **References**

- 316 Alexander, C. M. O'D., Bowden, R., Fogel, M. L., Howard, K. T., Herd, C. D. K., Nittler, L. R.  
317 (2012) The provenances of asteroids and their contributions to the volatile inventories of the terrestrial  
318 planets. *Science* **337**, 721-723.
- 319
- 320 Barrat, J. A., Rouxel, O., Wang, K., Moynier, F., Yamaguchi, A., Bischoff, A., Langlade, J. (2015)  
321 Early stages of core segregation recorded by Fe isotopes: insights from the ureilite meteorites. *Earth*  
322 *Planet. Sci. Lett.* **419**, 93–100.
- 323
- 324 Barrat, J. A., Dauphas N., Gillet, P., Bollinger, C., Etoubleau, J., Bischoff, A., Yamaguchi, A. (2016a)  
325 Evidence from Tm anomalies for non-CI refractory lithophile element proportions in terrestrial planets  
326 and achondrites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **176**, 1-17.
- 327
- 328 Barrat, J.A., Jambon, A., Yamaguchi, A., Bischoff, A., Rouget, M.L., Liorzou, C. (2016b) Partial  
329 melting of a C-rich asteroid: Lithophile trace elements in ureilites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **194**,  
330 163-178.
- 331

- 332 Bischoff, A., Horstmann, M., Barrat, J. A., Chaussidon, M., Pack, A., Herwartz, D., Ward, D.,  
333 Vollmer, C., Decker S. (2014) Trachyandesitic volcanism in the early Solar System. *Proc. Natl. Acad.*  
334 *Sci. U.S.A.* **111**(35), 12689–12692.
- 335
- 336 Boynton, W. V., Starzyk, P. M., Schmidt R. A. (1976) Chemical evidence for the genesis of the  
337 ureilites, the achondrite Chassigny and the nakhlites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **40**, 1439-1447.
- 338
- 339 Budde, G., Kruijer, T. S., Fischer-Gödde, M., Irving, A. J., Kleine, T. (2015) Planetesimal  
340 differentiation revealed by the Hf-W systematics of ureilites. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* **430**, 316-325.
- 341
- 342 Budde, G., Burckhardt, C., and Kleine, T. (2017) The distinct genetics of carbonaceous and non-  
343 carbonaceous meteorites inferred from molybdenum isotopes. 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Meteoritical  
344 Society, # 6271 (abstract).
- 345
- 346 Chacko, T., Cole, D.R., Horita, J. (2001) Equilibrium oxygen, hydrogen and carbon isotope  
347 fractionation factors applicable to geologic systems. *Rev. Mineralogy and Geochemistry* **43**, 1-81.
- 348
- 349 Chou, C. L. (1978) Fractionation of siderophile elements in the Earth's upper mantle. *Proc. Lunar*  
350 *Planet. Sci. Conf.* **9<sup>th</sup>**, 219-230.
- 351
- 352 Clayton, R. N. and Mayeda, T. K. (1996) Oxygen isotope studies of achondrites. *Geochim.*  
353 *Cosmochim. Acta* **69**, 1999–2017.
- 354
- 355 Day, J.M.D., Corder, C.A., Cartigny, P., Steele, A.M., Assayag, N., Rumble III, D., Taylor, L.A.  
356 (2017) A carbon-rich region in Miller Range 091004 and implications for ureilite petrogenesis.  
357 *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **198**, 379-395.
- 358
- 359 Downes, H., Mittlefehldt, D. W., Kita, N. T. and Valley, J. W. (2008) Evidence from polymict ureilite  
360 meteorites for a disrupted and re-accreted single ureilite parent asteroid gardened by several distinct  
361 impactors. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **72**, 4825–4844.
- 362
- 363 Downes, H., Abernathy, F.A.J., Smith, C.L., Ross, A.J., Verchovsky, A.B., Grady, M.M., Jenniskens,  
364 P., Shaddad, M.H. (2015) Isotopic composition of carbon and nitrogen in ureilitic fragments of the  
365 Almahata Sitta meteorite. *Meteoritics Planet. Sci.* **50**, 255-272.
- 366
- 367 Fitoussi, C., Bourdon, B., Wang, X. (2016) The building blocks of Earth and Mars: A close genetic  
368 link. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* **434**, 151-160.
- 369
- 370 Goodrich, C.A., Van Orman, J.A., Wilson, L. (2007) Fractional melting and smelting on the ureilite  
371 parent body. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **71**, 2876-2895.
- 372
- 373 Goodrich, C. A., Wilson, L., van Orman, J. A., Michel P. (2013) Comment on “parent body depth-  
374 pressure-temperature relationships and the style of the ureilite anatexis” by P. H. Warren (MAPS  
375 47:209–227). *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.* **48**, 1096–1106.
- 376
- 377 Goodrich, C. A., Hartmann, W. K., O'Brien, D., Weidenschilling, S.J., Wilson, L., Michel, P., Jutzi,  
378 M. (2015) Origin and history of ureilitic material in the solar system: the view from asteroid 2008 TC3  
379 and the Almahata Sitta meteorite. *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.* **50**, 782–809.
- 380
- 381 Grady, M.M., Pillinger, C.T. (1986) The ALHA 82130 ureilite: its light element stable isotope  
382 composition and relationship to other ureilites. *Meteoritics* **21**, 375-376.
- 383

- 384 Grady, M.M., Wright, I.P., Swart, P.K., Pillinger, C.T. The carbon and nitrogen isotopic composition  
385 of ureilites: implications for their genesis. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **49**, 903-915 (1985).
- 386 Halliday, A. N. (2013) The origins of volatiles in the terrestrial planets. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta*  
387 **105**, 146-171.
- 388
- 389 Hirschmann, M.M. (2016) Constraints on the early delivery and fractionation of Earth's major  
390 volatiles from C/H, C/N, and C/S ratios. *American Miner.* **101**, 540-553.
- 391
- 392 Hiyagon, H., Sugiura, N., Kita, N.T., Kimura, M., Morishita, Y., Takehana, Y. (2016) Origin of the  
393 eclogitic clasts with graphite-bearing and graphite-free lithologies in the Northwest Africa 801 (CR2)  
394 chondrite: Possible origin from a Moon-sized planetary body inferred from chemistry, oxygen isotopes  
395 and REE abundances. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **186**, 32-48.
- 396
- 397 Hudon P., Romanek C., Paddock L., and Mittlefehldt D. W. (2004) Evolution of the ureilite parent  
398 body (abstract #2075). 35th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. CD-ROM.
- 399
- 400
- 401 Li, Y., Dasgupta, R., Tsuno, K., Monteleone, B., Shimizu, N. (2016) Carbon and sulfur budget of the  
402 silicate Earth explained by accretion of differentiated planetary embryos. *Nature Geoscience* **9**, 781-  
403 785.
- 404
- 405 Marty, B. (2012) The origins and concentrations of water, carbon, nitrogen and noble gases on Earth,  
406 *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* **313-314**, 56-66.
- 407
- 408 Marty, B., Alexander, C.M.O'D., Raymond, S. N. (2013) Primordial origins of Earth's carbon. *Rev.  
409 Mineral. Geochem.* **75**, 149-181.
- 410
- 411 Miyahara, M. *et al.* (2015) Unique large diamonds in a ureilite from Almahata Sitta 2008 TC3  
412 asteroid. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **163**, 14-26.
- 413
- 414 Miyamoto, M., Takeda, H., Toyoda H. (1985) Cooling history of some Antarctic ureilites. *J. Geophys.  
415 Res.* **90** (supplement), D116-D122.
- 416
- 417 Qin, L., Rumble, D., Alexander, C. M.O'D., Carlson, R. W., Jenniskens, P., Shaddad, M. H. (2010)  
418 The chromium isotopic composition of Almahata Sitta. *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.* **45**, 1771-1777.
- 419
- 420 Rai, V. K., Murty, S. V. S., Ott, U. (2003a) Nitrogen components in ureilites. *Geochim. Cosmochim.  
421 Acta* **60**, 2213-2237.
- 422
- 423 Rai, V. K., Murty, S. V. S., Ott, U. (2003b) Noble gases in ureilites: Cosmogenic, radiogenic, and  
424 trapped components. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **67**, 4435-4456.
- 425
- 426 Rankenburg K., Humayun M., Brandon A. D., Herrin J.S. (2008) Highly siderophile elements in  
427 ureilites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **72**, 4642-4659.
- 428
- 429 Roskosz, M., Bouhifd M. A., Jephcoat, A.P., Marty, B., Mysen B.O. (2013) Nitrogen solubility in  
430 molten metal and silicate at high pressure and temperature. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **121**, 15-28.
- 431

- 432 Rubie, D. C., Jacobson, S. A., Morbidelli, A., O'Brien, D. P., Young, E. D., de Vries, J., Nimmo, F.,  
433 Palme, H., Frost, D. J. (2015) Accretion and differentiation of the terrestrial planets with implications  
434 for the compositions of early-formed Solar System bodies and accretion of water. *Icarus* **248**, 89-108.
- 435
- 436 Russell S. S., Arden J. W. E., Franchi I. A., and Pillinger C.T. (1993) A carbon and nitrogen isotope  
437 study of carbonaceous vein material in ureilite meteorites (abstract). 24th Lunar and Planetary Science  
438 Conference. p. 1221.
- 439
- 440 Sanders, I.S., Scott, E.R.D., Delaney J.S. (2017) Origin of mass-independent oxygen isotope variation  
441 among ureilites: Clues from chondrites and primitive achondrites. *Meteoritics Planetary Sci.* **52**, 690-  
442 708.
- 443
- 444 Scott, E. R. D., Taylor, G. J., Keil, K. (1993) Origin of ureilite meteorites and implications for  
445 planetary accretion. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* **20**, 415-418.
- 446
- 447 Singletary, S.J., Grove, T.L. (2003) Early petrologic processes on the ureilite parent body. *Meteoritics*  
448 *Planet. Sci.* **39**, 95-108.
- 449
- 450 Smith, C. L., Franchi, I., Wright, I., Grady M., and Pillinger, C.T. (2001) New data on carbon isotopic  
451 compositions of some ureilites (abstract #1878). 32nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. CD-  
452 ROM.
- 453
- 454 Tomeoka K. and Takeda H. (1990) Fe–S–Ca–Al-bearing carbonaceous vein in the Yamato-74130  
455 ureilite: evidence for a genetic link to carbonaceous chondrites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **54**, 1475–  
456 1481.
- 457
- 458 Wang, Z., Laurenz, V., Petitgirard, S., Becker, H. (2016) Earth's moderately volatile element  
459 composition may not be chondritic: Evidence from In, Cd and Zn. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* **435**, 136-  
460 146.
- 461
- 462 Warren, P. H. (2011) Stable isotopes and the noncarbonaceous derivation of ureilites, in common with  
463 nearly all differentiated planetary materials. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **75**, 6912-6926.
- 464
- 465 Warren, P.H. (2012) Parent body depth–pressure–temperature relationships and the style of the ureilite  
466 anatexis. *Meteoritics Planet. Sci.* **47**, 209-227.
- 467
- 468 Warren, P.H., Huber, H. (2006) Ureilite petrogenesis: A limited role for smelting during anatexis and  
469 catastrophic disruption. *Meteoritics Planet. Sci.* **41**, 835-849.
- 470
- 471 Warren, P.H., Ulff-Møller, F., Huber, H., Kallemeyn, G.W. (2006) Siderophile geochemistry of  
472 ureilites: A record of early stages of planetesimal core formation. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **70**,  
473 2104-2126.
- 474
- 475 Wasson, J. T., Chou, C., Bild, R. W., Baedecker, P. A. (1976) Classification of and elemental  
476 fractionation among ureilites. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta* **40**, 1449-1458.
- 477
- 478 Yamakawa, A., Yamashita, K., Makashima, A., Nakamura, E. (2010) Chromium isotope systematics  
479 of achondrites: chronology and isotopic heterogeneity of the inner solar system. *Astrophys. J.* **720**,  
480 150–154.

481 Table 1. Details of ureilite samples studied, olivine core compositions (Singlatory and Grove, 2003;  
 482 Downes et al., 2008; Warren, 2012; Barrat et al., 2015 and references therein) and C isotopic  
 483 compositions (this work). Errors given here are calculated from the difference between the duplicates.

484

	source	split	Olivine Mg#	cores Fe/Mn (atomic)	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	Remarks
A 881931	NIPR	,71	78.7	48.1	-4.89 ± 0.02	n=2
ALH 77257	NIPR	,105	86.1	29.1	-7.30 ± 0.01	n=2
ALH 81101	MWG	,63	78.9	41.8	-0.84 ± 0.01	n=2
ALH 82130	MWG	,43	95.2	9.1	-7.73 ± 0.04	n=2
EET 83225	MWG	,37	88.3	22.1	-4.42 ± 0.06	n=2
EET 96042	MWG	,48	81.3	38.2	-6.43 ± 0.03	n=2
GRA 95205	MWG	,64	79.2	45.2	-1.74 ± 0.07	n=2
GRO 95575	MWG	,46	78.6	44.9	-1.87 ± 0.03	n=2
LAP 03587	MWG	,10	74.7	56.6	-0.28 ± 0.02	n=2
LAR 04315	MWG	,46	81.9	39.8	-7.80 ± 0.03	n=2
MET 78008	NIPR	,69	75.9	49.5	-1.46 ± 0.11	n=2
MET 01085	MWG	,23	88.8 (px)		-6.89 ± 0.01	n=2, no olivine
PCA 82506	MWG	,125	79.2	44.3	-6.40 ± 0.15	n=2
Y 74130	NIPR	,55	77.0	48.0	-1.71 ± 0.14	n=2
Y 790981	NIPR	,85	77.5	46.5	-1.77 ± 0.23	n=2
Y 791538	NIPR	,109	91.3	18.0	-7.49 ± 0.04	n=2
Y 981810	NIPR	,76	78.3	50.2	+0.11 ± 0.03	n=2
NWA 2234	NIPR		81.5	37.3	-7.76 ± 0.01	n=2
NWA 2236	NIPR		96.8	7.0	-7.54 ± 0.07	n=2
NWA 4471	J.A. Barrat		78.1	50.1	-3.32	n=1
NWA 4852	J.A. Barrat		87.5	25.2	-7.14 ± 0.23	n=2
NWA 5555	P. Marmet		90.8	19.5	-8.20 ± 0.02	n=2
NWA 5602	J.A. Barrat		79.0	46.3	-2.39 ± 0.03	n=2
NWA 5884	J.A. Barrat		78.6	47.4	-0.90 ± 0.02	n=2
NWA 6056	J.A. Barrat		84.8	31.8	-7.01 ± 0.05	n=2
NWA 7349	J.A. Barrat		76.5	51.3	-1.09	n=1
NWA 7630	J.A. Barrat		79.1	46.6	-2.91 ± 0.01	n=2
NWA 7686	J.A. Barrat		91.0	19.1	-8.41 ± 0.01	n=2
NWA 7880	J.A. Barrat		78.6	49.2	-1.17 ± 0.01	n=2
NWA 8049	J.A. Barrat		84.3	34.5	-8.48	n=1
NWA 8172	J.A. Barrat		76.9	53.6	-1.15 ± 0.03	n=2
NWA 10900	J.A. Barrat		77.3	52.4	-0.31 ± 0.10	n=2
Average					-4.27	32 samples
<b>Standard</b>						
LCgraphite	IPGP			this work	-18.41	$2\sigma = 0.19, n=6$
				IPGP	-18.42	reference value

485 Source abbreviations are : IPGP= institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, MWG= NASA meteorite  
 486 working group, NIPR= National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, UBO= Université de Bretagne  
 487 Occidentale, Brest.

488

489

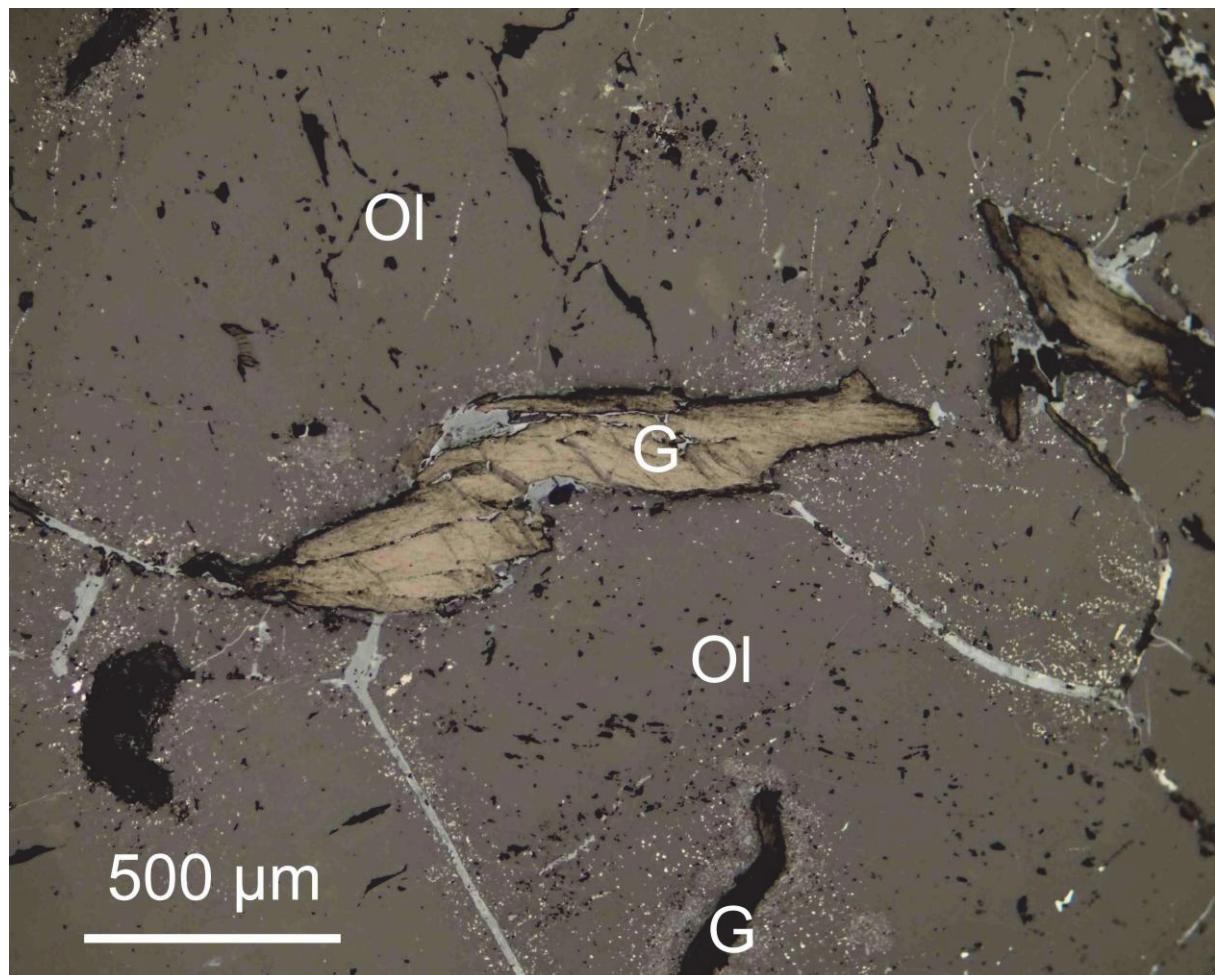
490

491

492

493  
494  
495

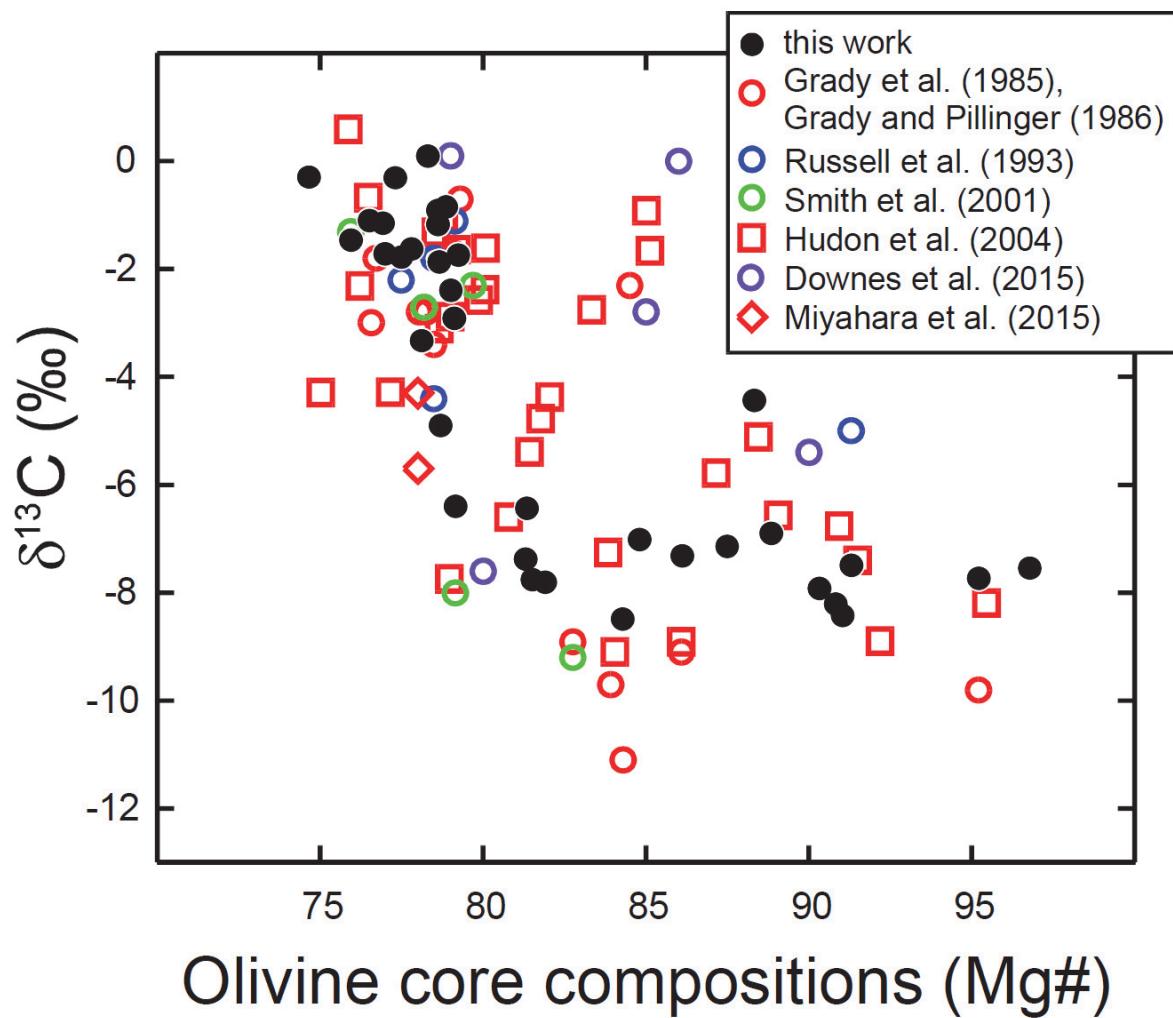
496



497

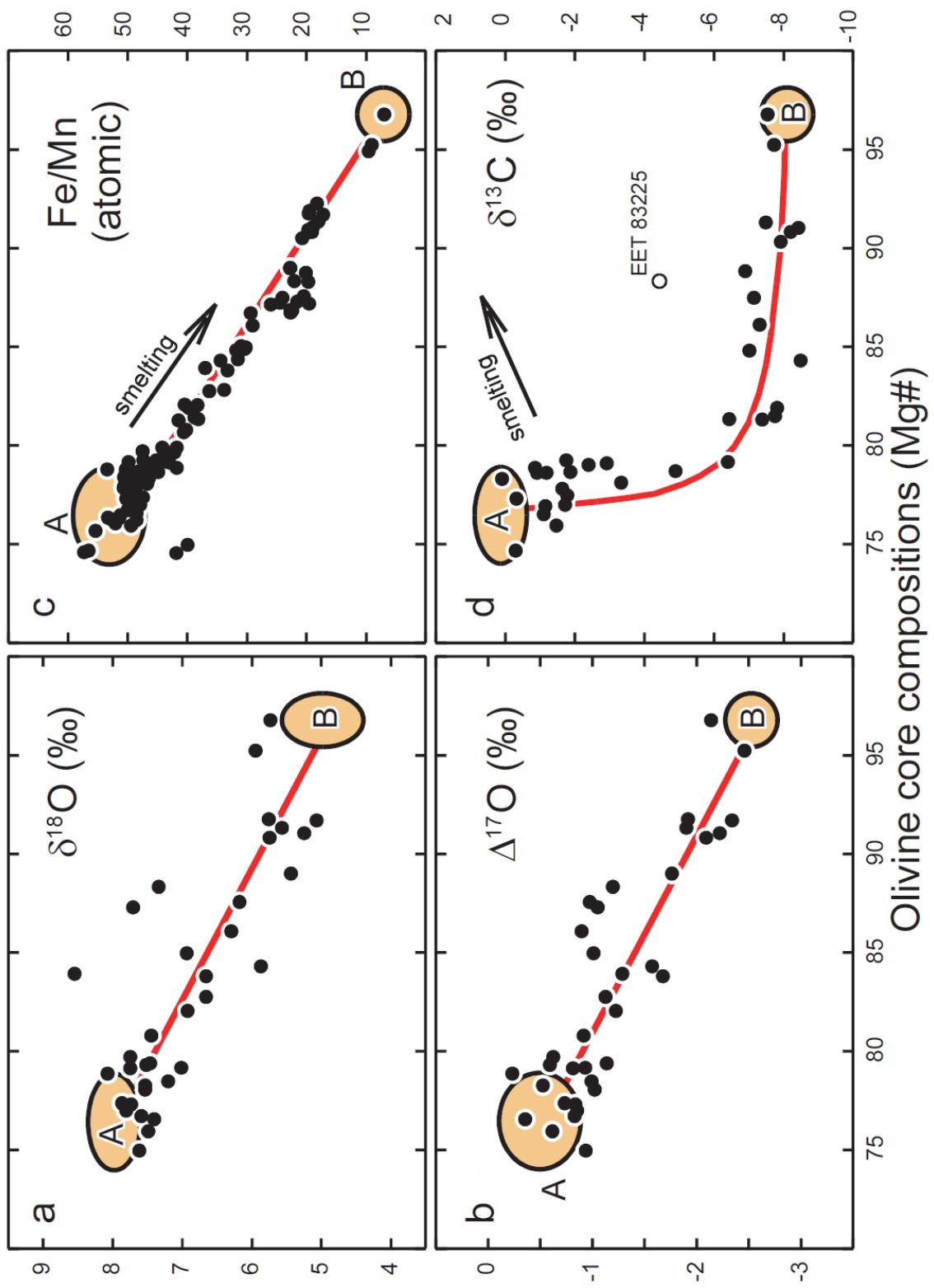
498

499 Fig. 1. Reflected light view of C grains (here graphite) in NWA 8049, a typical unbrecciated  
500 ureilite (G: graphite; Ol: olivine).

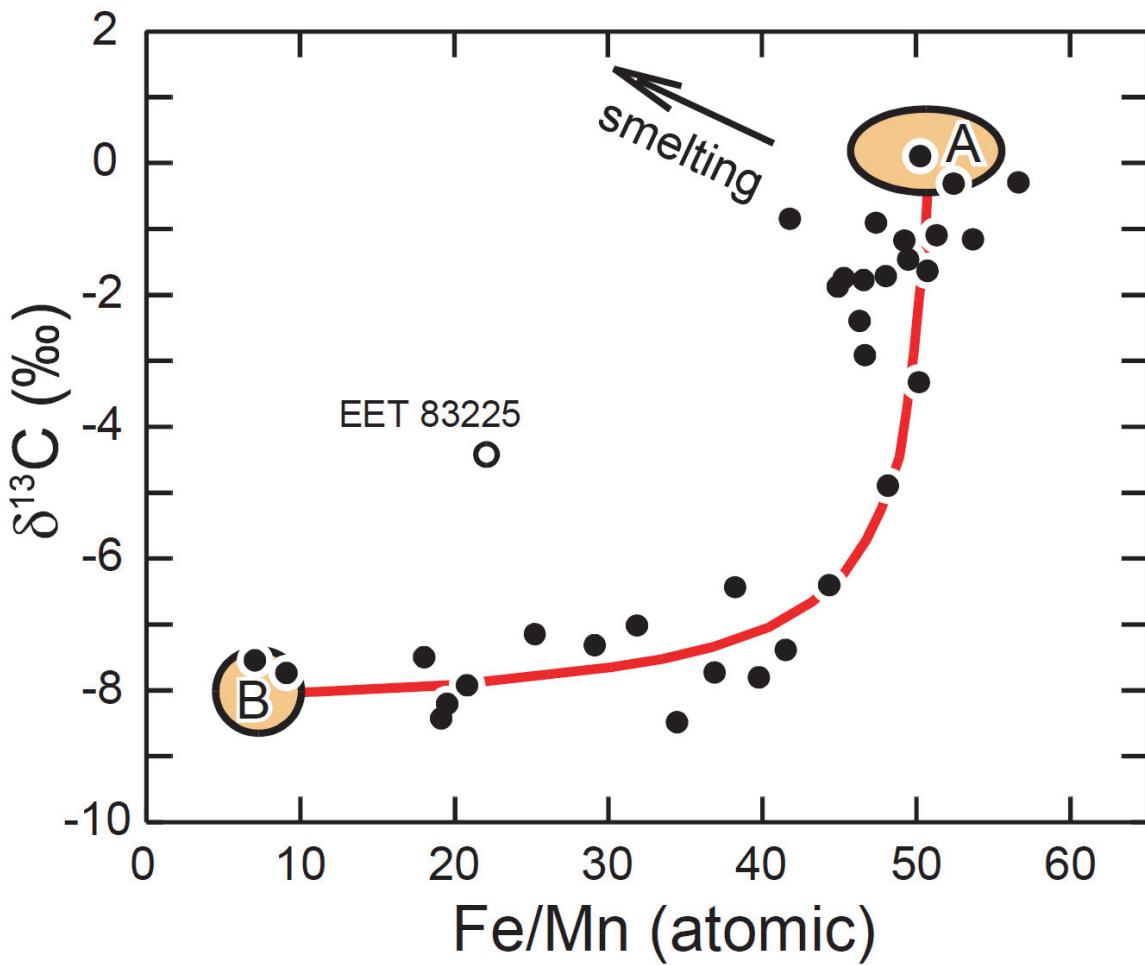


501

502 Figure 2.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  vs. olivine core compositions (Mg#) from ureilites. Data from this study and  
503 the literature.

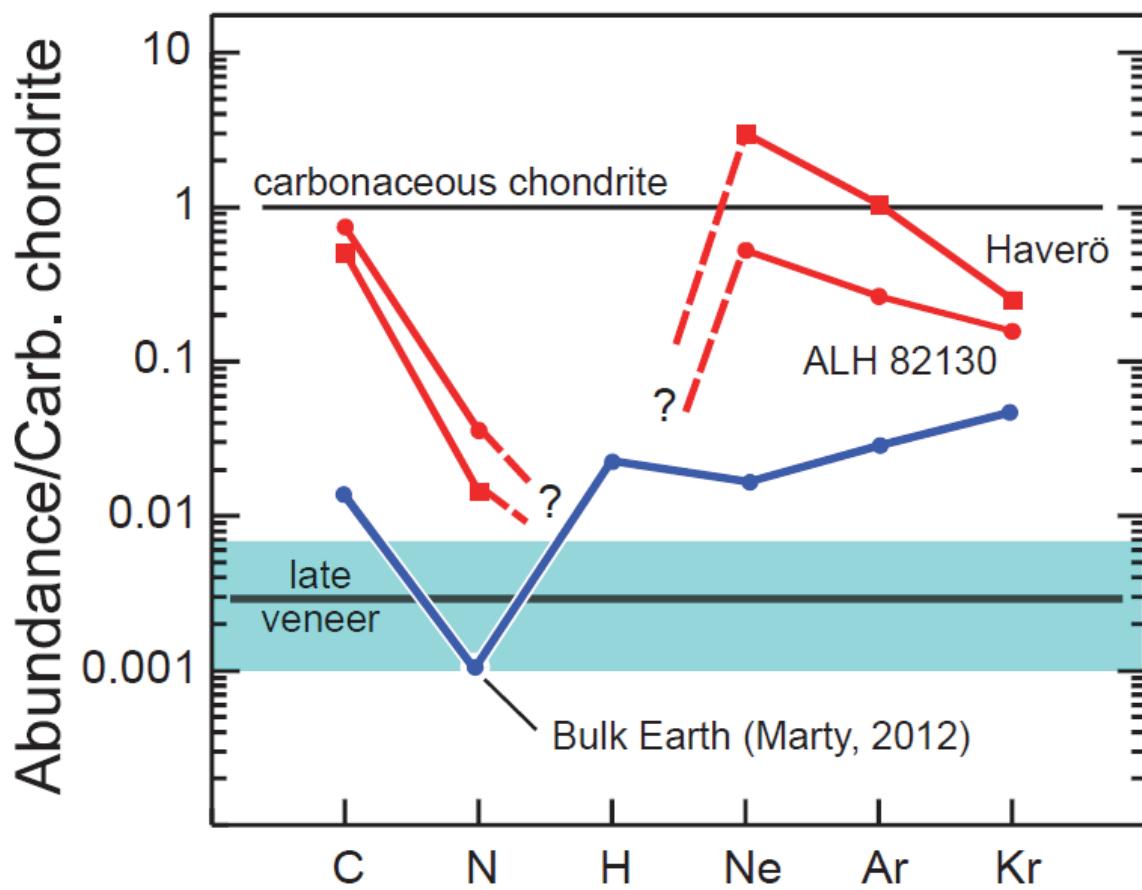


504  
505  
506 Figure 3.  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\Delta^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , Fe/Mn ratios in olivine cores vs. olivine core compositions (Mg#)  
507 from unbrecciated ureilites. **Oxygen** isotopic compositions from Clayton and Mayeda (1996).  
508 See Table 1 for the sources of other data. Mixing lines and curves between A and B, the two  
509 endmembers, are drawn in red. The errors are equivalent to the size of the data points.  
510



511  
512  
513  
514  
515

Figure 4. Plot of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  vs. Fe/Mn ratios in olivine cores from unbreciated ureilites (see Table 1 for the source of the data). The errors are equivalent to the size of the data points.



517  
518  
519  
520  
521

Figure 5. Volatile abundances of Haverö and ALH 82130 (Grady et al., 1985; Grady and Pillinger, 1986; Rai et al., 2003a and b), two representative ureilites, compared to the bulk Earth composition, normalized to carbonaceous chondrite (Marty, 2012).