

MSc or PhD project

Archean placer gold deposits of the Pilbara Craton

Professor Martin Van Kranendonk of the School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, and the Australian Centre for Astrobiology, in collaboration with Novo Resources Corp., is pleased to announce a MSc or PhD level project on the study of Archean placer gold deposits of the Pilbara Craton. This project will focus on new resource discoveries of auriferous reefs in the Pilbara region of north-western Australia, in undeformed conglomerates at the unconformable base of the Neoproterozoic Fortescue Group (2.7 Ga). The deposits are characterised by rounded detrital pyrites and rounded detrital clasts of carbonaceous matter (see photo), the origins of which are uncertain. This project will undertake investigations of the mineralogy and isotopic composition of the metals and carbonaceous phases of the deposits and compare them to other placer deposits in Australia and South Africa, including the well-known Witwatersrand deposits. For more information, please contact Prof Van Kranendonk at m.vankranendonk@unsw.edu.au.

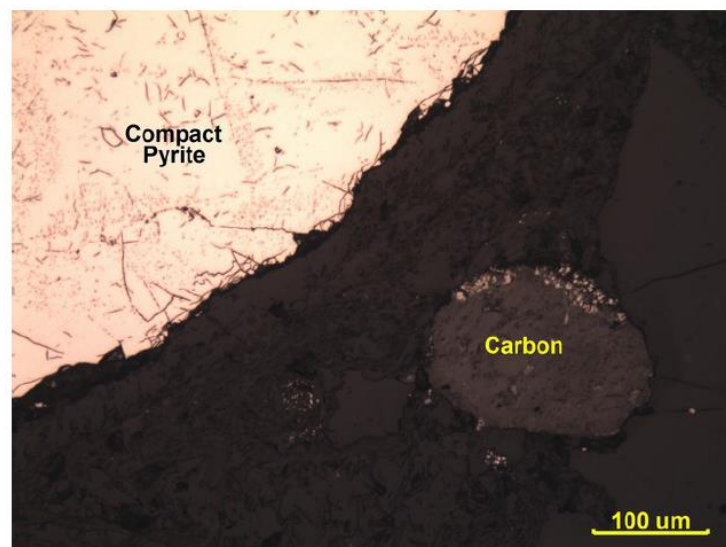


Fig. 9 Rounded detrital carbon grain occurring with a compact pyrite grain in BCDD13-007 30.2-30.52m. Note the low reflectivity of most of the carbon grain. The carbon in the upper part of the grain has higher reflectivity indicating it is more graphitic (reflected light).