

Mineralogy, chemistry, and composition of organic compounds in the fresh carbonaceous chondrite Mukundpura: CM1 or CM2?

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Abstract—We present here several laboratory analyses performed on the freshly fallen Mukundpura CM chondrite. Results of infrared transmission spectroscopy, thermogravimetry analysis, and reflectance spectroscopy show that Mukundpura is mainly composed of phyllosilicates. The rare earth trace elements composition and ultrahigh-resolution mass spectrometry of the soluble organic matter give results consistent with CM chondrites. Finally, Raman spectroscopy shows no signs of thermal alteration of the meteorite. All the results agree that Mukundpura has been strongly altered by water on its parent body. Comparison of the results obtained on the meteorite with those of other chondrites of known petrologic types leads to the conclusion that Mukundpura is similar to CM1 chondrites, which differ from its original classification as a CM2.

INTRODUCTION

Meteorites provide a natural sampling of solar system small bodies, and as a corollary, our understanding of the small bodies population strongly relies on what type of samples are available for laboratory studies. Spectroscopic observations have revealed that roughly half of the asteroids main belt is composed of dark objects belonging to the C-complex (DeMeo and Carry 2013). However, when looking at the available suite of extra-terrestrial materials, carbonaceous chondrites are rare among falls (4% of chondrites, Krot et al. 2006) and even rarer among finds (3% of chondrites, Krot et al. 2006). Meteorites belonging to the CM families are of particular interest

to the community, because these samples preserve extensive evidence for fluid–rock interactions in the form of secondary minerals including phyllosilicates, carbonates, and sulfides. They record an early hydrothermal process, they preserve some of the “water” that was accreted on their parent body in the form of OH/H₂O in minerals, and they are particularly rich in organic compounds when compared to other chondrites classes. The putative parent bodies of CM chondrites are Ch- and Cgh-type asteroids, and there are two ongoing sample-return missions at the time of the writing targeting possible parent bodies of CM chondrites (Hamilton et al. 2019; Kitazato et al. 2019). There are at present 17 CM chondrite falls in the Meteoritical Bulletin Database with 13 of them from

the 19th and 20th centuries. Because terrestrial residence may impact mineralogy and organo-chemistry of extra-terrestrial samples, the rare possibility of investigating fresh CM chondrites has motivated this study.

The Mukundpura meteorite fell in India on June 6, 2017 (Tripathi et al. 2018) and was immediately collected by the authorities, reducing the post-fall terrestrial alteration. Initial petrographic observations of the newly fallen meteorite were performed: the meteorite is mostly composed of Fe_2O_3 (32.4 wt%), SiO_2 (29.5 wt%), and MgO (17.4 wt%), and contains in volume 70% of matrix, 15% of chondrules, and 2% of refractory inclusions (Ray and Shukla 2018). The matrix/inclusion ratio and the petrographic analysis were found to be consistent with a CM chondrite (Van Schmus and Wood 1967; Kallemeyn and Wasson 1981). Mukundpura was first classified as a CM2 chondrite (Ray and Shukla 2018), then as a CM1 chondrite (Rudraswami et al. 2019). The attribution of petrologic types 1 and 2 was both established based on the bulk chemical composition and petrographic analyses.

The freshness of the Mukundpura fall allows investigations of its post-accretion aqueous and thermal history with minimal interfering tertiary products from terrestrial weathering. The mineralogy, trace elements, optical properties, and organic composition of the meteorite were analyzed in the present work and compared to results obtained on other chondrites of different classifications and alteration histories. Our results will be used to discuss similarities and differences between Mukundpura and other CM chondrites in terms of alteration mineralogy and bulk composition. We will also try to decipher the thermal history of the sample using Raman spectroscopy on macromolecular organics. Last, we will assess whether organic compounds in a fresh meteorite fall are different from those present in other samples of CM chondrites.

SAMPLES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

Petrology Based on Studies of Mukundpura

There are three previous publications that looked at the petrography of Mukundpura (Ray and Shukla 2018; Tripathi et al. 2018; Rudraswami et al. 2019). All these studies concluded that the sample is a CM chondrite, but the reported extents of aqueous alteration differ. Ray and Shukla (2018) concluded that the sample was only modestly altered (CM2), while Rudraswami et al. (2019) concluded that Mukundpura is at the boundary between CM2 and CM1. All studies confirm that the fine-grained matrix of the samples consists of abundant phyllosilicates, poorly crystallized phases, and carbonates (calcite mostly). Chondrules are present, but

the areal fraction of chondrules varies between 15% (Ray and Shukla 2018) and 7% (Rudraswami et al. 2019). In the case of Rudraswami et al. (2019), while the fraction of chondrules identified was low (lower than typical CM chondrites), a number of relict chondrules were identified. This difference in the petrography of the samples can be related to the brecciated nature of CM chondrites and could explain the difference classification reached by different authors.

Samples

Two samples of Mukundpura were considered here: the first sample (Fig. 1a, called sample A) was mainly used for the characterization of the alteration history and bidirectional reflectance spectroscopy, and the second (Fig. 1b, called sample B) was used for the mass spectrometry. The two samples were raw broken pieces of the meteorite. The samples A and B weighed approximately 200 and 500 mg, respectively.

The sample A was manually dry crushed in an agate mortar. The resulting powder was used for the thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA); Raman, mid-infrared (mid-IR) transmission; and visible-near infrared (NIR) reflectance spectroscopy.

Thermogravimetric Analysis

Thermogravimetric analysis and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC; TGA-DSC3 + Mettler-Toledo) were performed at the Institut des Sciences de la Terre (ISTerre, Grenoble—France) following the protocol described in Garenne et al. (2014). Data were acquired from room temperature to 1100 °C, with a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹ and a mass resolution of 1 µg over the whole range, under a continuous flux of gaseous inert nitrogen to avoid the reaction of the sample with oxygen during heating. An initial mass of 15.263 mg was taken from the powdered sample A to perform the analysis.

Mid-IR Transmission Spectroscopy

About 20 mg was taken from the crushed sample (sample A). Out of this mass, 1.0 mg was weighed and mixed with 300 mg of commercial ultrapure potassium bromide powder (KBr). This mixture was then compressed to 400 bars in order to obtain a 13 mm diameter pellet. Mid-IR spectra were measured with a Bruker V70v spectrometer at the Institut de Planétologie et d'Astrophysique de Grenoble (IPAG, Grenoble—France), following the method described in previous studies (Beck et al. 2014). Spectra were acquired with a spectral resolution of 2 cm⁻¹ in the

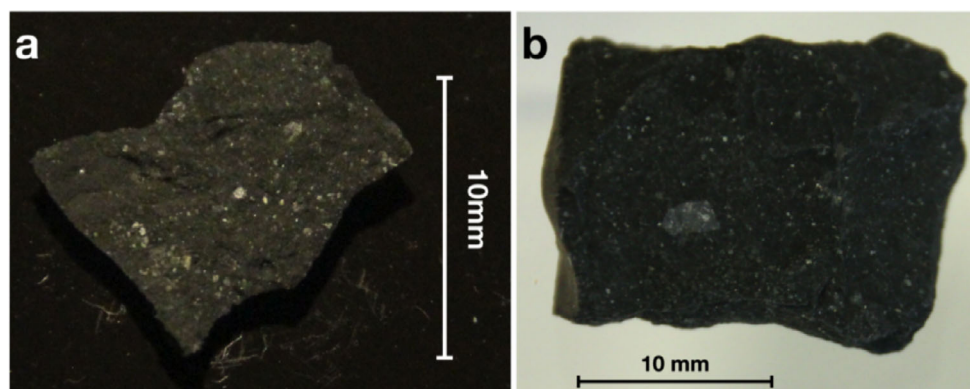


Fig. 1. Pictures of the two samples of Mukundpura. a) Bulk sample characterized through each of the analytical methods. b) Sample characterized through high-resolution mass spectrometry. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

Table 1. Spectral resolution of the reflectance spectra.

Spectral range (nm)	Spectral resolution (nm)
400–679	4.85–4.75
680–1400	9.71–9.38
1500–2999	19.4–18.73
3000–4000	38.84–38.44

2000–400 cm^{-1} range (5–25 μm). The shape of the 3.0 μm water band of the obtained spectra is not only controlled by the hydration state of the sample but also by the water contained in the hydrophilic KBr. Thus, it will not be interpreted here.

Visible-Near IR Reflectance Spectroscopy

Reflectance spectroscopy of sample A was conducted at IPAG with the spectro-gonio radiometer SHADOWS (Potin et al. 2018). As the sample was ground and not sieved, the powder contained a large distribution of grain sizes but no larger than a few hundreds of microns. Then, the spectrum was acquired from 400 to 4000 nm under a nadir illumination (incidence 0° normal to the surface of the sample) and an observation angle of 30° from the normal of the surface. The spectral resolution of the instrument during the reflectance measurement varies with the spectral range and is given in Table 1.

The bright xenolith present in sample B was large enough to be studied using the goniometer's reduced illumination spot (Potin et al. 2018). The spectral resolution of the instrument is the same as displayed in Table 1.

Raman Spectroscopy

Raman spectra were performed on matrix grains from the sample A of Mukundpura. Grains were

collected from the matrix under an optical binocular based on texture and color with polarized light, and pressed between two glass slides, similar to the method described in Bonal et al. (2016). The measured Raman spectra showed spectral bands related to the presence of polyaromatic carbonaceous matter, which confirms a posteriori the successful selection of matrix grains. Spectra were acquired using a Labram spectrometer (Horiba-Jobin-Yvon) at the Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon (ENS Lyon—France). This instrument is equipped with a Spectra Physics Argon ion laser excited at 514.5 nm. The laser beam passes through a 100 \times objective, leading to a spot of approximately 2 μm in diameter. The experimental conditions and analytical methods were similar to the ones used by Quirico et al. (2018) to characterize type 1 and 2 chondrites. The laser power on the surface sample was $300 \pm 20 \mu\text{W}$, as measured out of a 10 \times objective. A total of 35 spectra on 13 individual matrix grains were acquired in the spectral range between 500 and 2230 cm^{-1} .

Trace Element Analysis

One hundred mg of sample was crushed in an agate mortar, formerly cleaned in 4N HNO_3 . Subsequently, two aliquots of powder about 20 mg each (fractions 1 and 2) were dissolved in 2 mL of 24N distilled $\text{HF} + 0.5 \text{ mL } 12\text{N}$ suprapur HClO_4 within polytetrafluoroethylene vials, placed inside a spring-loaded screw-top steel vessel (Parr bombs, see Navarro et al. [2008] for details) at 150 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 7 days. After evaporation, each sample was redissolved in 1 mL of 14N distilled HNO_3 and split into three distinct fractions, each containing $\sim 6.7 \mu\text{g}$ of sample (Mukundpura 1-1 to Mukundpura 1-3 and Mukundpura 2-1 to Mukundpura 2-3). After a second evaporation, the six fractions and three basaltic certified georeference standards (BIR-1, BCR2, and BHVO₂)

digested in a similar manner were redissolved in 1 g of a 0.5N HNO₃ mixture containing 1 ppb of In (Li and Lee 2006).

Measurements were obtained using the high resolution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (HR-ICP-MS) element XR (ThermoFisher Scientific) at Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer (Brest University) connected to a nitrogen-supplied desolvating nebulizer (apex Q Elemental Scientific) introduction system.

All samples were externally calibrated using calibration standard solutions (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, and 0.7 ppb) and the accuracy and external reproducibility of the data were monitored by repeated measurements of the georeference standards BCR2, BHVO2, and BIR-1.

Ultrahigh-Resolution Mass Spectrometry of the Soluble Organic Matter

The soluble organic compounds extracted from sample B were characterized by electrospray ionization ultrahigh-resolution mass spectrometry (12 Tesla ion cyclotron resonance Fourier transform mass spectrometry, FTICR-MS) at the Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen (German Research Center for Environmental Health). The sample conditioning and the procedure of electrospray ionization analysis are similar to the ones described for the CM2 Murchison in Schmitt-Kopplin et al. (2010).

RESULTS ON THE AQUEOUS ALTERATION EXPERIENCED BY MUKUNDPURA

Thermo-Gravimetric Analysis

TGA is used to quantify the amount of water and –OH groups. The sample is gradually heated to 1100 °C, and variation of its mass is monitored through the experiment. Each mass variation is typical from a specific type of water or –OH group; thus, the experiment can be separated into different temperature ranges (Garenne et al. 2014) (1) from room temperature to 200 °C, the mass loss corresponds to the release of adsorbed molecular water and mesopore water; (2) from 200 to 400 °C, the mass loss is mostly controlled by the release of water contained in oxy-hydroxide minerals such as ferrihydrite Fe₂O₃•0.5H₂O; (3) from 400 to 770 °C, the mass loss corresponds to the release of –OH groups from phyllosilicates. Note that some overlap exists between decomposition Fe-rich hydroxide and some phyllosilicates (King et al. 2015). Still, this segmentation in temperature ranges provides a convenient way to compare various meteorite samples.

Figure 2 presents the TGA results, showing the evolution of the mass of the Mukundpura sample with

the increasing temperature. The derivative of the curve is also plotted as it allows a precise determination of the temperature at which the mass loss occurs and so the identification of the host hydrated mineral.

Between room temperature and 200 °C, the mass loss is 2.21 wt%. This thermal range corresponds to the release of both the absorbed molecular water, around 80 °C, and the mesopore water above 100 °C. The derivative line shows only one peak at 80 °C, corresponding to absorbed molecular water. No trace of mesopore water is seen in Fig. 2. Roughly 3 wt% of the water is contained in the 200–400 °C range. This range is mainly associated with dehydration oxyhydroxide minerals. However, we think this value can be overestimated as fully associated with hydroxides and small contribution of the main minerals (e.g., phyllosilicates) is also expected.

Note that Tripathi et al. (2018) observed very similar mass loss, 2.0 wt% from 200 to 400 °C, and 9.8 wt% from 400 to 770 °C.

Transmission IR Spectroscopy

The degree of aqueous alteration can be assessed by analyzing the shape of the SiO₄ stretching band around 10 μm, and the detection/absence of olivine signatures at 11.2 and 19.5 μm (Beck et al. 2014). Aqueously altered CM chondrites present the phyllosilicate band at 10 μm with faint or undetectable olivine signatures, and inversely unaltered chondrites present the olivine signatures without the phyllosilicate bands. The transmission IR spectrum of bulk Mukundpura is presented in Fig. 3.

The strong SiO₄ stretching band at 10 μm indicates the presence of phyllosilicates, and faint olivine signatures are still detected at 11.2 and 19.5 μm. This is in favor of an intensive water alteration on the parent body, where the majority of the initial mafic silicates have been transformed into phyllosilicates (Beck et al. 2014). Note that the Mukundpura spectrum does not show strong evidence of the presence of carbonates at 7 μm as can be observed for instance in CM chondrites (Knacke and Krätschmer 1980).

RESULTS ON THE THERMAL ALTERATION HISTORY OF MUKUNDPURA

Figure 4 presents the raw Raman spectra obtained on matrix grains of Mukundpura.

All spectra show the so-called D- and G-bands around 1350 and 1600 cm⁻¹ related to the presence of polyaromatic carbonaceous matter in the matrix of Mukundpura. A significative slope due to the

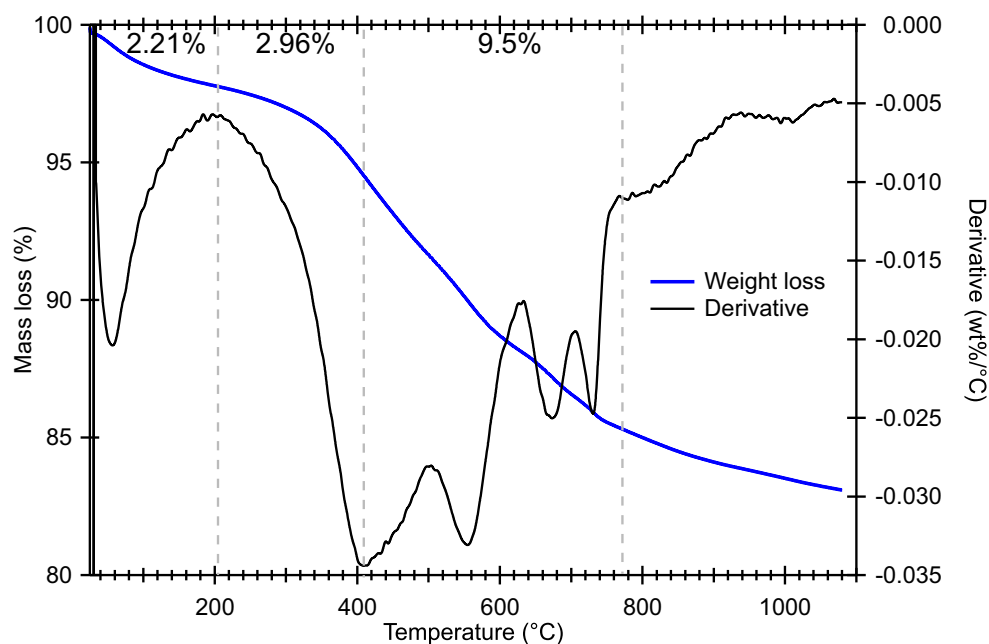


Fig. 2. Thermogravimetric analysis of Mukundpura, showing the mass loss (broad blue curve) and the derivative (thin black curve). The gray dotted lines separate the temperature ranges described above. Mass losses for the first three ranges are also noted. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

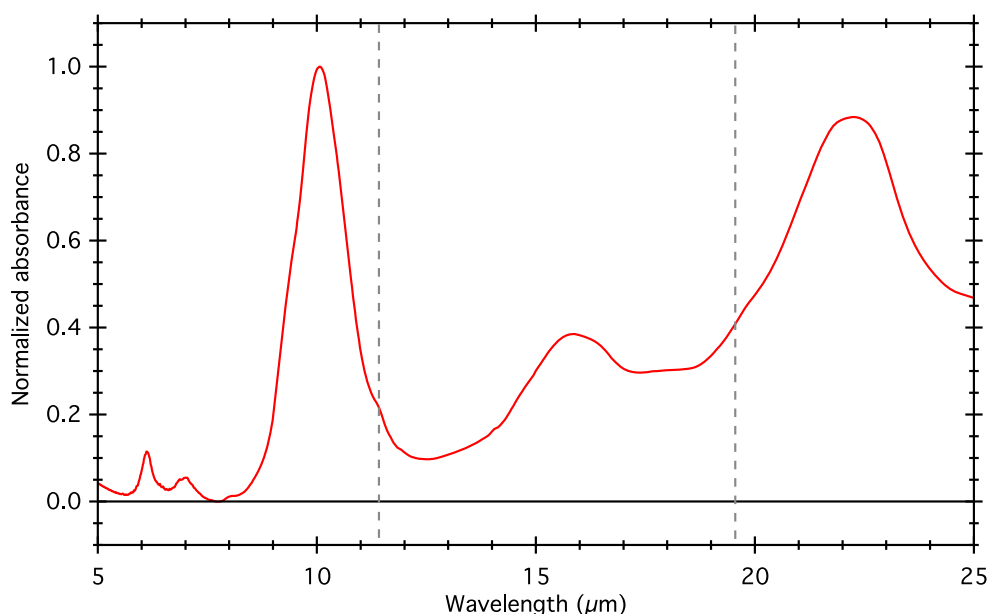


Fig. 3. Mid-infrared transmission spectrum of the bulk of Mukundpura. The dotted gray lines indicate the position of the olivine signatures at 11.2 and 19.5 μm . The spectrum was normalized to the intensity of the 10 μm band. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

background fluorescence is superimposed upon the Raman signatures. This effect is characteristic of unheated or weakly thermally altered chondrites (Quirico et al. 2014). To extract Raman peak parameters, the fluorescence background has been removed from the data using a first-order linear fit

between 800 and 2000 cm^{-1} . Then, the D- and G-bands are fitted by a Lorentzian profile and a Breit–Wigner–Fano profile, respectively (e.g., Bonal et al. 2016). The peak position, intensity, and full width half maximum (FWHM) are calculated for each of the bands on all spectra normalized to the G-band. The

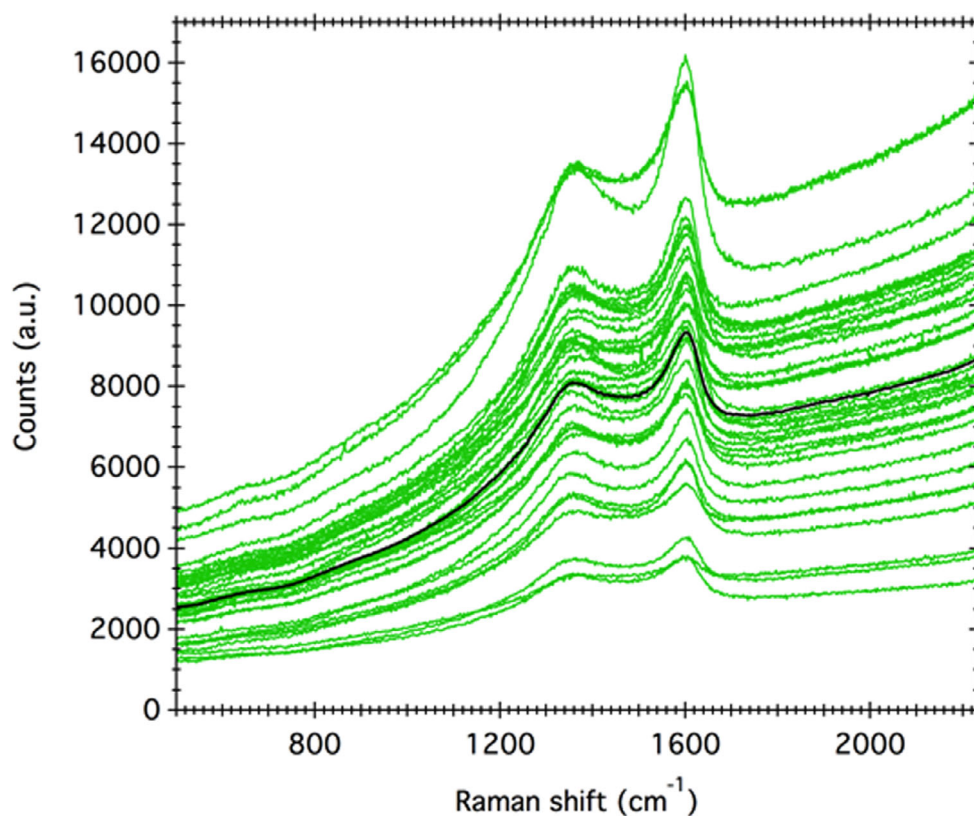


Fig. 4. Raman spectra of the matrix of the Mukundpura meteorite (green) and average spectrum (black). (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

Table 2. Raman spectral parameters of the Mukundpura meteorite and parameters range for unheated CM chondrites (data from Quirico et al. 2014).

	$\text{FWHM}_G \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$w_G \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	I_D/I_G	$\text{FWHM}_D \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$w_D \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$
Mukundpura	102.6 ± 7.3	1594.3 ± 1.1	1.041 ± 0.087	245.1 ± 16.0	1360.6 ± 2.5
Unheated CM (range)	90–115	1586–1596	0.85–1.0	210–260	1357–1366
Heated CM (range)	70–110	1587–1605	0.7–1.3	160–205	1357–1372

average value and the standard deviation (1σ) are displayed in Table 2.

Raman spectral parameters of the G-band show that the band is centered around 1594 cm^{-1} and is rather broad with an FWHM reaching 102.6 cm^{-1} . Compared to the ranges described in Quirico et al. (2014) for unheated CM chondrites, the Raman parameters of Mukundpura indicate that the meteorite is a primitive chondrite having escaped major heating or shock-related metamorphism.

TRACE ELEMENT COMPOSITION

The results of the trace element analysis are presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Fig. 5.

Mukundpura is slightly enriched in rare earth elements (REE; 1.2) when compared to CI, with a flat

REE pattern. The Zn/Mn versus Sc/Mn array has been proved useful to distinguish samples belonging to different carbonaceous chondrite groups (Boynton 1984). This array shows that Mukundpura has a Zn/Mn ratio in agreement with CM chondrites and an Sc/Mn ratio slightly lower but still in agreement with values obtained for CM chondrites. The standards demonstrated external reproducibilities better than 5–10% depending on the element and concentration.

COMPOSITION OF THE SOLVENT SOLUBLE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

The analysis of the methanol soluble organic fraction revealed a high chemical diversity of the C, H, O, N, S-bearing compounds in a similar polarity range compared to the Murchison CM2; the obtained Van

Table 3. Trace element composition of the Mukundpura meteorite.

							Geostandards		
Mukundpura fraction 1			Mukundpura fraction 2				BHVO2 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)	BIR1 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)	BCR-2 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)
HR-ICP-MS low resolution (ppm)									
Li	1.36	1.36	1.37	1.47	1.51	1.48	4.64	2.82	9.55
Be							1.13	0.121	2.21
Sc	20.3	25.7	28	19.1	26.7	27.6	68.7	50.7	11.5
Ti	451	455	455	435	434	431	15,640	5370	12,680
V	56.9	58.2	57.5	56	56.1	54.8	302	301	384
Cr	2209	2227	2202	2104	2142	2100	147	229	
Co	410	413	419	410	413	408	39.3	45.9	26.1
Ni	11,470	10,970	11,400	10,770	10,800	10,870	119	170	13.3
Cu	87.5	87	87.4	84.8	85.4	84.8	128	117	24
Zn	224	219	222	222	228	228	139	37.4	98.8
Ga	6.2	6.29	6.32	6.24	6.29	6.25	22.9	15.2	22.9
Ge	4.76	5.07	5.44	5.83	6.19	6.52	3.45	2.46	3.76
Rb	1.44	1.46	1.46	1.45	1.48	1.49	9.48	0.371	47.5
Sr	8.46	8.44	8.49	8.23	8.4	8.26	410	112	348
Y	1.53	1.55	1.54	1.37	1.37	1.35	27.5	16.6	37.4
Zr	4.74	4.37	4.51	4.28	4.31	4.27	169	14.6	182
Nb	0.405	0.378	0.385	0.353	0.366	0.357	18.6	0.569	12.3
Cs	0.103	0.1	0.103	0.0988	0.1	0.101	0.0979	0.0018	1.13
Ba	2.54	2.54	2.53	2.98	3.04	2.98	135	6.76	694
La	0.254	0.249	0.245	0.234	0.238	0.235	13.6	0.543	22.3
Ce	0.651	0.652	0.641	0.625	0.651	0.621	35	1.77	49.2
Pr	0.0956	0.0984	0.0971	0.097	0.0995	0.0973	5.38	0.376	6.85
Nd	0.484	0.49	0.493	0.485	0.5	0.484	25.5	2.46	30
Sm	0.157	0.156	0.162	0.153	0.163	0.154	6.39	1.14	6.92
Eu	0.0587	0.0594	0.0587	0.0575	0.0593	0.0589	2.17	0.537	2.12
Eu	0.0596	0.0587	0.0599	0.0575	0.0602	0.0587	2.15	0.528	2.18
Tb	0.0368	0.0369	0.0375	0.0365	0.037	0.0364	1.01	0.371	1.14
Gd	0.21	0.213	0.214	0.202	0.207	0.206	6.63	1.98	7.26
Dy	0.247	0.243	0.244	0.24	0.242	0.248	5.68	2.64	6.8
Ho	0.0542	0.0541	0.0537	0.0509	0.0524	0.0539	1.04	0.598	1.35
Er	0.163	0.161	0.154	0.157	0.152	0.154	2.66	1.76	3.82
Tm	0.0247	0.0251	0.0261	0.0236	0.0246	0.0243	0.351	0.265	0.555
Yb	0.177	0.168	0.172	0.162	0.163	0.162	2.16	1.78	3.58
Lu	0.0242	0.0235	0.0237	0.0226	0.023	0.0238	0.293	0.258	0.517
Hf	0.111	0.105	0.108	0.106	0.105	0.108	4.42	0.582	4.87
Ta	0.0911	0.0697	0.0689	0.0499	0.061	0.0556	1.27	0.0514	0.855
Tl	0.0685	0.0664	0.0676	0.0632	0.066	0.0643	0.0226		0.3
Pb	1.3	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.34	1.33	1.55	3.58	11.8
Th	0.0337	0.032	0.0311	0.0278	0.0287	0.0281	1.04	0.0223	5.06
U	0.0116	0.01	0.0104	0.0095	0.0109	0.0106	0.422	0.0131	1.73
Cd	0.227	0.225	0.227	0.237	0.238	0.238	0.132	0.0859	0.515
Ag	0.0131	0.0128	0.0129	0.0118	0.0125	0.012	0.113	0.0031	0.113
Pt	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.127	0.129	0.127	0.0109	0.002	0.0128
Au	0.0042	0.0038	0.0037	0.0136	0.0136	0.0136	0.0014		
Sn	0.0055	0.0055	0.0057	0.0063	0.0064	0.0064	0.0151	0.0054	0.0169
Sb	0.085	0.0778	0.0749	0.0716	0.0745	0.0704	0.0721	0.425	0.259
HR-ICP-MS medium resolution (ppm)									
Na	3545	3629	3637	3606	3577	3589	16,460	13,530	22,990
Mg	92,610	93,620	94,020	90,360	89,730	89,410	47,800	62,620	23,140
Al	7177	7435	7471	5563	5508	5460	71,760	82,260	61,700
P	380	355	324	291	283	281	432	26.7	578
K	394	411	417	330	328	327	4253	189	15160

Table 3. *Continued.* Trace element composition of the Mukundpura meteorite.

							Geostandards		
							BHVO2 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)	BIR1 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)	BCR-2 (average, <i>n</i> = 3)
Mukundpura fraction 1			Mukundpura fraction 2						
Ca	9099	9222	9256	8982	8837	8812	80,590	93,720	48,640
Sc	5.68	5.73	5.71	4.36	4.29	4.22	31.2	42.6	32
Ti	449	452	448	431	426	425	15,690	5444	12,560
V	51.4	52	51.6	48.9	48.6	48.1	302	302	389
Cr	2175	2211	2209	2121	2102	2110	275	379	13.3
Mn	1257	1274	1272	1243	1235	1240	1325	1336	1517
Fe	152,600	154,500	154,900	153,300	152,800	153,800	86,880	78,950	95,000
Co	408	414	417	411	407	408	45.5	52.9	37.6
Ni	8031	8116	8124	7975	7922	7981	116	165	11
Cu	101	101	101	99.1	98.8	98	139	133	18.1
Zn	125	126	128	128	128	129	106	75.2	143
Zr	3.99	3.88	3.98	3.81	3.71	3.73	157	13.3	168
Nb	0.328	0.32	0.322	0.295	0.305	0.3	16.2	0.501	11.1
U	0.0109	0.0106	0.0087	0.0103	0.0102	0.0102	0.433	0.0143	1.73
Cd	0.207	0.233	0.216	0.229	0.214	0.232			
Ag	0.0139	0.0137	0.0136	0.0132	0.0123	0.0121	0.117	0.0079	0.121

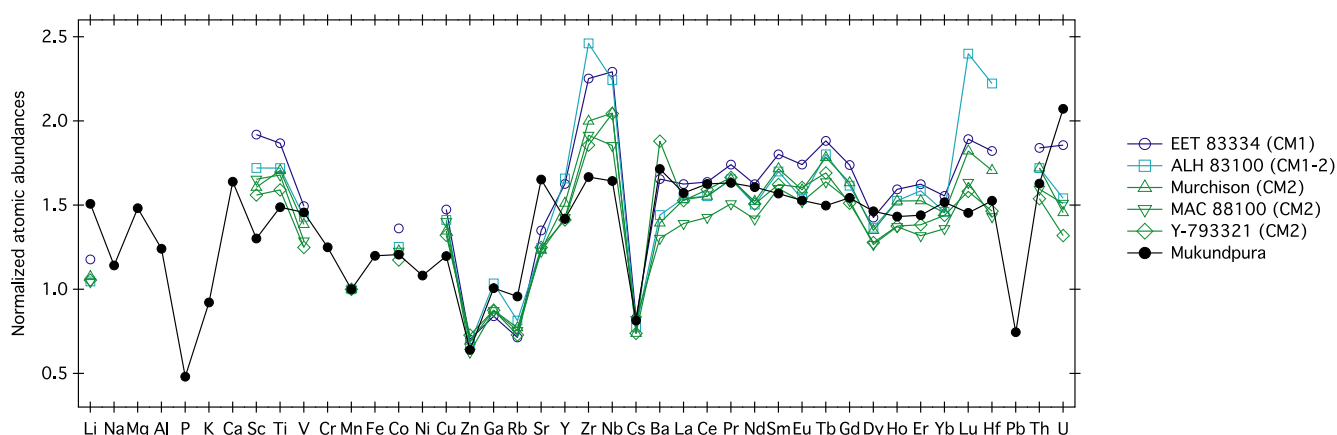


Fig. 5. Atomic abundances of Mukundpura compared to other aqueously altered CM chondrites (data from Friedrich et al. 2002). The values have been normalized to Orgueil (data from Barrat et al. 2012), then Mn-normalized. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

Krevelen diagrams visualize Mukundpura compared to Murchison in the H/C versus O/C and the H/C versus m/z spaces, with similar compositional profiles and almost identical proportions in the abundance in CHO, CHNO, CHOS, and CHNOS molecules (Fig. 6). The only difference is seen in the lower mass range covered by Mukundpura resulting in a lower absolute number in mass signals and counted formula (7.500 versus 13.000 for Murchison). These two CM were compared in Fig. 6 to WIS 91600, as a classical thermally altered meteorite presented already with TGA in Table 4. High thermal alteration fully destroyed the profiles of the soluble and only few hundred compounds (1.700)

remaining are within the CHO and CHOS compounds. This was shown earlier with the fresh fall Sutter's Mill (Jenniskens et al. 2012) and confirms that Mukundpura was not affected by high temperatures.

OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY

Reflectance Spectroscopy of the Bulk Sample

The reflectance spectrum of the Mukundpura meteorite is compared to spectra from other aqueously altered chondrites in Fig. 7. The spectrogoniometer SHADOWS was used as well to acquire the

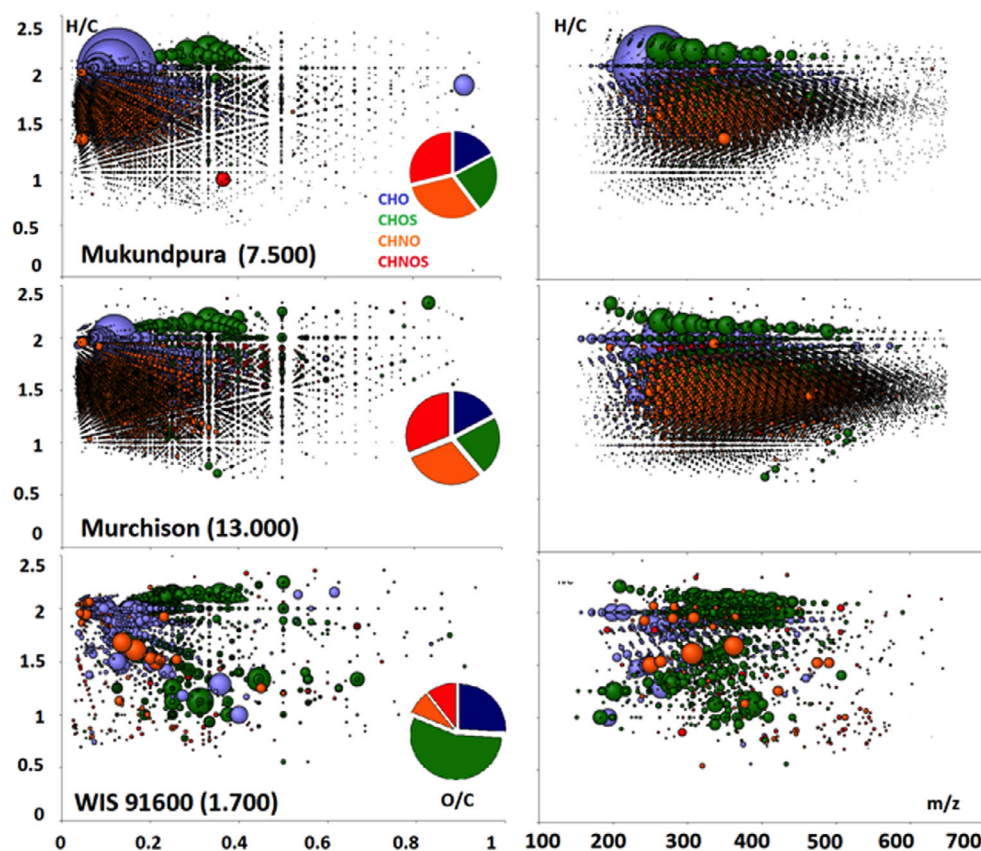


Fig. 6. Van Krevelen diagrams (H/C versus OC) and (H/C versus m/z) calculated from the FTICR-mass spectrometric ultrahigh-resolution mass profiles of Mukundpura compared to Murchison CM2 and WIS 96100 thermally altered CM2. Each individual bubble corresponds to a formula calculated from exact masses with a size proportional to its abundance and a color relative to the presence of elements. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

reflectance spectra of the other chondrites, using the same geometrical configuration and spectral resolution (Potin et al. 2020).

The reflectance spectrum of Mukundpura shows typical spectral characteristics of aqueously altered CM chondrites (Cloutis et al. 2011) (1) a rather low general reflectance around 0.028, (2) an absorption feature around 700 nm corresponding to the Fe^{2+} - Fe^{3+} charge transfer in Fe-bearing phyllosilicates, (3) features at 900 and 1100 nm due to Fe^{2+} crystal field transitions, (4) a faint but detectable organic feature around 3400 nm, and (5) a strong absorption band around 2750 nm due to stretching $-\text{OH}$ hydroxyls in Mg-bearing phyllosilicates. The $-\text{OH}$ band usually occurs around 3000 nm and its position depends on the degree of aqueous alteration of the meteorite (Takir et al. 2013). The detection of iron features in the visible range and the Mg-rich phyllosilicates band around 2750 nm points toward a heavily altered CM chondrite (Beck et al. 2010) due to a strong aqueous alteration of the meteorite on the parent body and confirms the classification of the meteorite as a CM1 or CM2 chondrite.

DISCUSSION: MUKUNDPURA COMPARED TO OTHER CM CHONDRITES

Mukundpura as a Heavily Altered CM Chondrite

The classification of CM chondrites into subgroups was first proposed by McSween (1979) where the meteorites were characterized qualitatively as partially altered, altered, and highly altered based on petrographical observations. Later, Browning et al. (1996) used a mineralogical alteration index describing the progressive Si and Fe^{3+} substitutions forming serpentine from cronstedtite in order to quantitatively assess the level of aqueous alteration. Another scale based on several criteria was designed by Rubin et al. (2007), where petrologic subtypes from 2.0 to 2.6 were attributed to a series of CM chondrites, with the 2.0 petrologic type corresponding to the most heavily altered CM chondrites. The Rubin scale was based on the alteration extent of chondrules (i.e., chondrule pseudomorphs), as well as the composition of tochilinite and carbonates. More recently, a classification scheme

Table 4. TGA results of the Mukundpura meteorite compared to other CM2 chondrites (data from Garenne et al. 2014).

	Rubin et al. (2007) scale	Alexander et al. (2013) scale	Fall/ find	Loss 0–200 °C (wt%)	Loss 200–400 °C (wt%)	Loss 400–760 °C (wt%)	Loss 760–900 °C (wt%)	Total loss (wt %)
ALH 83100	CM1/2.0	1.1	Find	2.5	2.4	11.0	0.9	16.2
MET01070	CM1/2.0	1.2	Find	2	1.4	9.7	1.2	14.3
EET 96029	Heated CM2	–	Find	5.2	3.6	4.4	0.7	15.1
QUE97990	CM2/2.6	1.7	Find	4	2.6	6.1	2.3	15
WIS 91600	Heated CM2	–	Find	4.9	0.5	7.2	2.1	14.3
ALH 84033	Heated CM2	–	Find	4.7	2.9	3.8	0.9	13.3
MAC 88100	Heated CM2	–	Find	3.8	1.6	9.2	1.1	15.3
MIL 07700	Heated CM2	–	Find	5.4	1.6	4.3	0.4	11.4
Mukundpura	CM2	–	Fall	2.2	3.0	9.5	1.2	15.9

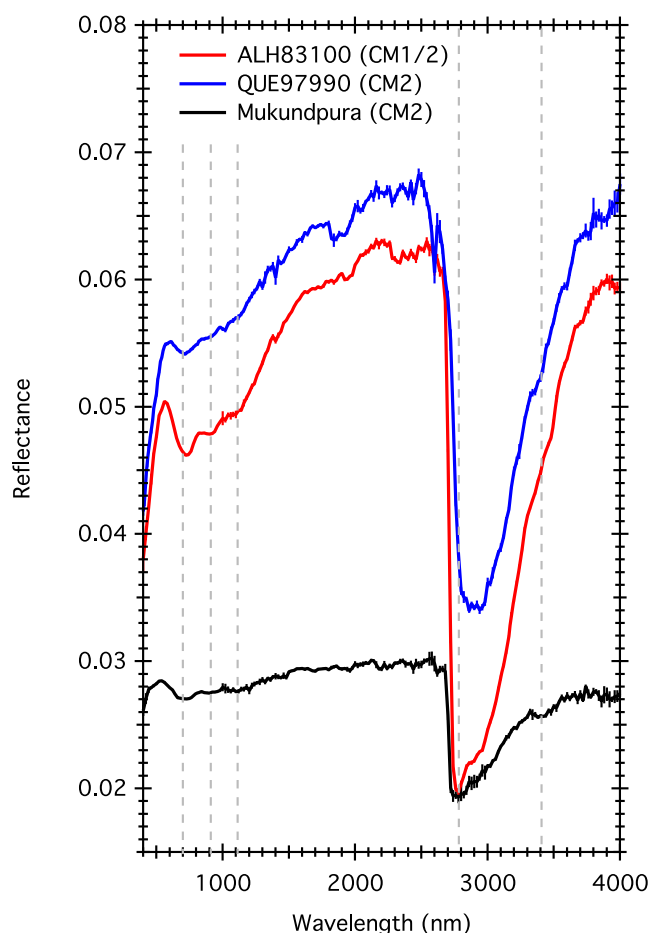


Fig. 7. Reflectance spectroscopy of the Mukundpura meteorite compared to other aqueously altered chondrites. The error bars are displayed on each spectrum. The gray lines mark the position of the typical CM2 absorption bands at 700, 900, 1100, 2780, and 3400 nm. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

was built based on the amount of water/OH in the meteorites based on modal analysis by X-ray diffraction (Howard et al. 2015) as well bulk hydrogen

measurements (Alexander et al. 2013). These scales are providing an estimate of the amount of hydrogen in the form of water of hydroxylated minerals present in the meteorite. This is somehow the extent to which the primary minerals were replaced by secondary phases, but not a measurement of water–rock ratio (which can be inferred from oxygen isotopes measurements; Marrocchi et al. 2018). Major advantages of the Howard et al. (2015) and Alexander et al. (2013) scales are that they are quantitative, as well as that they are applicable to CR chondrites. In that scale, petrologic types from 1.1 to 2.6 are attributed (note that Rubin et al. [2007] and Alexander et al. [2013] are not linear).

In order to assess the level of aqueous alteration of Mukundpura, we can compare results obtained with the same techniques as the ones used in this work, on samples for which petrologic types have been described in previous works.

Table 4 compares the TGA results of Mukundpura to other CM2 chondrites.

The TGA results obtained on Mukundpura reveal an important mass loss (9.5 wt%) in the range associated with dehydroxylation of phyllosilicates. It seems to show the sample is dominated by phyllosilicates, which is consistent with its classification as a CM chondrite (Rubin et al. 2007; Cloutis et al. 2011). However, it is not excluded to have other contributions to this mass loss. Fe-sulfides and organics can also be decomposed in this range and contribute to the total mass loss budget. It is assumed for CM chondrites these other contributions are low compared to the phyllosilicate abundance (Garenne et al. 2014). The mass loss is similar to the CM1/2.0 meteorite MET 01070, and so is consistent with Mukundpura being classified as a CM2.0 in the Rubin et al. (2007) scale or 1.2 CM chondrite in the Alexander et al. (2013) scale.

Figure 8 compares the mid-infrared transmission spectrum of Mukundpura to other carbonaceous chondrites of known petrologic types.

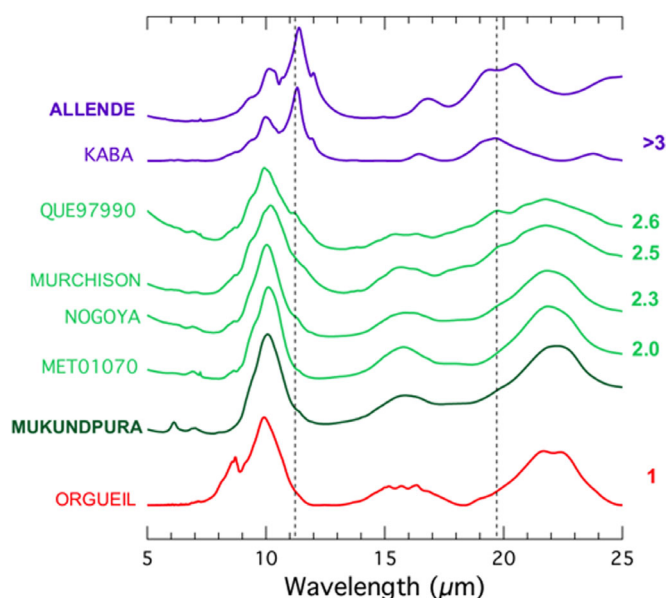


Fig. 8. Infrared transmission spectroscopy of Mukundpura and other meteorites of different types, according to their group (red: CI, green: CM, and purple: CV) and petrologic types (right; data from Beck et al. 2014). The two dotted lines mark the position of the absorption bands of olivine at 11.2 and 19.5 μm . (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

The transmission spectrum of Mukundpura is consistent with those obtained on other CM chondrites. The infrared transmission spectra of QUE 97990 (2.6), Murchison (2.5), Nogoya (2.3), and Mukundpura show faint but detectable increases of absorbance at 11.2 and 19.5 μm , due to the small amount of olivine still present in the sample after the aqueous alteration. Such features are absent in the transmission spectrum of MET 01070 (CM1)/2.0. This is indicative of a very low amount of anhydrous silicates in the sample, which is consistent with the TGA results. Figure 9 presents a comparison of the transmission spectral parameters of Mukundpura with other already classified CM chondrites. The transmission spectrum of Mukundpura showing the 2.7 μm feature is displayed in the Appendix. The parameters of Mukundpura have been calculated using the same method as Beck et al. (2014).

It shows that the meteorite is among the most aqueously altered known chondrite. Altogether TGA and transmission results reveal that Mukundpura has characteristics consistent with the more highly altered CM chondrites.

The reflectance spectroscopy of Mukundpura (Fig. 7) shows all features related to CM chondrites, present in both CM1 and CM2 chondrites. The detection of spectral features alone cannot thus be used to assess the petrographic grade of a meteorite. However, as suggested in Beck et al. (2010), the shape of the 3 μm band can be

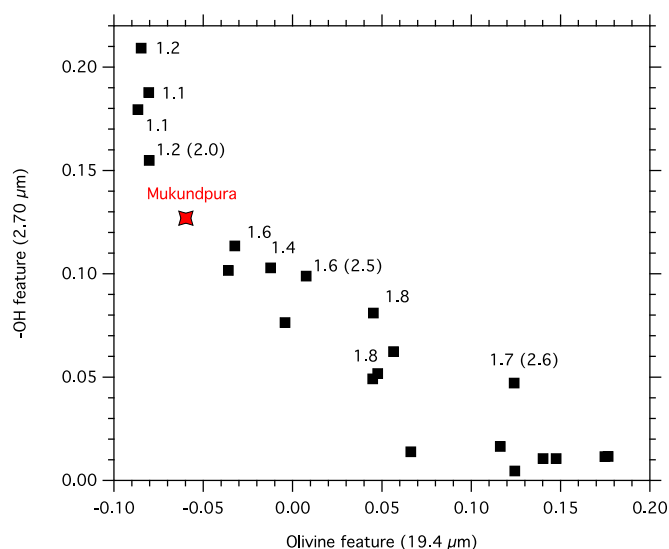


Fig. 9. Correlation between the phyllosilicates -OH and the olivine features in the transmission spectrum of Mukundpura, compared to other aqueously altered chondrites (data from Beck et al. 2014). Petrologic scales displayed from Alexander et al. (2013) and Rubin et al. (2007) in parentheses. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

used as a petrographic criterion, after removing the contribution of the terrestrial absorbed water that modifies the shape of the band. We selected nine CM chondrites of different petrographic grades to be compared to Mukundpura: ALH 83100 (CM1/1.1), ALH 84033 (CM2), EET 96029 (CM2), MAC 88100 (CM2/1.7), MET 01070 (CM1/1), MIL 07700 (CM2), Murchison (CM2/1.6), QUE 97990 (CM2/1.7), and WIS 91600 (CM2). The reflectance spectra were acquired under secondary vacuum to evacuate the adsorbed water, as described by Potin et al. (2020), and are presented on Fig. 10.

Figure 11 compares the shape of the phyllosilicate band of Mukundpura with the other CM chondrites. The barycenter of the band was calculated between 2600 and 3000 nm as:

$$B_{\lambda=2600}^{\lambda=3000} = \frac{\sum_{\lambda=2600}^{\lambda=3000} (R_{\lambda} - C_{\lambda}) \lambda}{\sum_{\lambda=2600}^{\lambda=3000} (R_{\lambda} - C_{\lambda})} \quad (1)$$

with R_{λ} and C_{λ} , respectively, the measured reflectance and the calculated continuum at the wavelength λ (Pommerol et al. 2009; Beck et al. 2010). The FWHM of the band is considered as the horizontal width of the band, measured at the midpoint between the continuum and the minimum of reflectance (Cloutis et al. 2015).

The increasing degree of alteration affects the reflectance spectra by thinning and shifting the phyllosilicate band toward shorter wavelengths. The

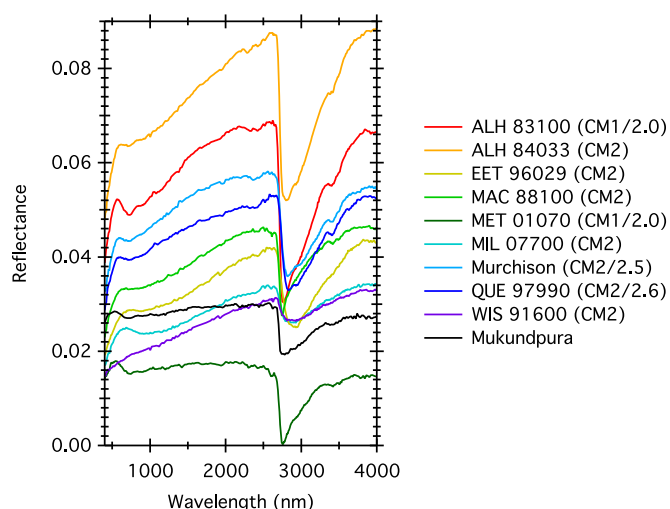


Fig. 10. Reflectance spectra of the comparative CM chondrites considered for comparison with Mukundpura (data from Potin et al. 2020). For clarity, a vertical offset of -0.02 and $+0.02$ has been applied, respectively, to MET 01070 and ALH 84033. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

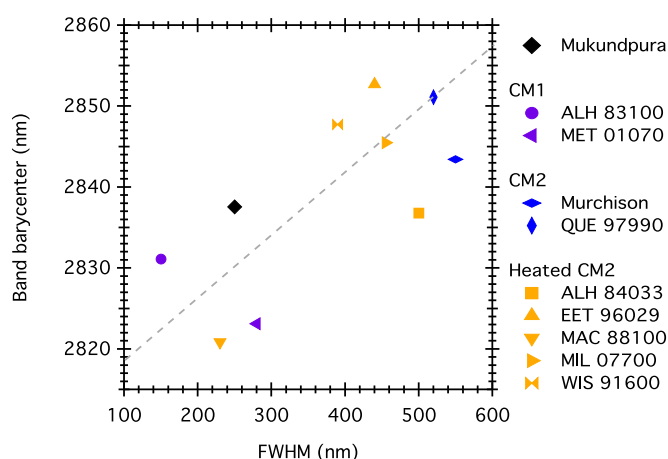


Fig. 11. Barycenter and full width half maximum (FWHM) of the $3\ \mu\text{m}$ band of Mukundpura and other aqueously altered chondrites. Error bars are smaller than the size of the markers. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

$3\ \mu\text{m}$ band of the reflectance spectrum of Mukundpura presents an FWHM of 250 nm and a barycenter at 2837 nm, meaning that the shape of the band is similar to the one observed in other spectra from CM1/2.0 chondrites ALH 83100 (FWHM of 150 nm, barycenter at 2831 nm) and MET 01070 (FWHM of 280 nm and barycenter at 2823 nm). Using the shape of the phyllosilicates band as a criterion, it is justified to classify Mukundpura as a CM1/2.0 chondrite.

Something Special with the Reflectance Spectroscopy of a Fresh CM Chondrite?

Mukundpura was rather well protected from post-fall terrestrial alteration, so by using this meteorite, the reflectance spectroscopy of a fresh chondrite can therefore be compared to other known samples. We used as comparison parameters the value of reflectance (measured at 1500 nm outside of an absorption band), the spectral slope described as the ratio between the reflectance measured at 2200 nm and at 1100 nm, and the depth of the visible, $3\ \mu\text{m}$ and organic absorption features. The depth of an absorption band is calculated assuming a linear continuum between the two inflection points around the feature, and using the following equation

$$\text{BD} = 1 - \frac{R_{\lambda}^{\text{Band}}}{R_{\lambda}^{\text{Continuum}}} \quad (2)$$

with and being, respectively, the measured reflectance at the center of the band (at the wavelength λ) and the calculated reflectance of the continuum. The comparisons are presented in Fig. 12.

Mukundpura shows a reflectance value similar to other CM chondrites. The meteorite presents a faint spectral slope of $1.02 \pm 0.04\ \mu\text{m}^{-1}$, lower than the other samples that thus appear redder. Only MET 01070, one of the most altered chondrites in this analysis, shows a weaker spectral slope. The band depths of Mukundpura match the other CM1 and unheated CM2 chondrites, at least for the visible 700 nm and the $3\ \mu\text{m}$ bands.

Figure 12 shows positive correlation between the reflectance value and the depth of the organic band. This is consistent with the decrease of the absorption band depth along with the increasing amount of opaque minerals and dark material, whose presence in the sample tends to lower the reflectance of the surface (Pommerol and Schmitt 2008). Mukundpura seems to be excluded from the general trend with a deeper organic feature compared to the other meteorites with similar measured reflectance. As some of the organic matter in carbonaceous chondrites is the most likely material to be destroyed by weathering conditions (Bland et al. 2006), the reflectance spectra of falls should present deeper organic features than finds, as is the case for the freshly fallen Mukundpura. Note, however, that the trend in Fig. 12 relies upon CM and heated CM, and more measurements on non-heated CM are required to confirm the trend. While Mukundpura shares mineralogical affinities with CM1, previous studies of CM1 organics have revealed that they are depleted in organics compared to CM2

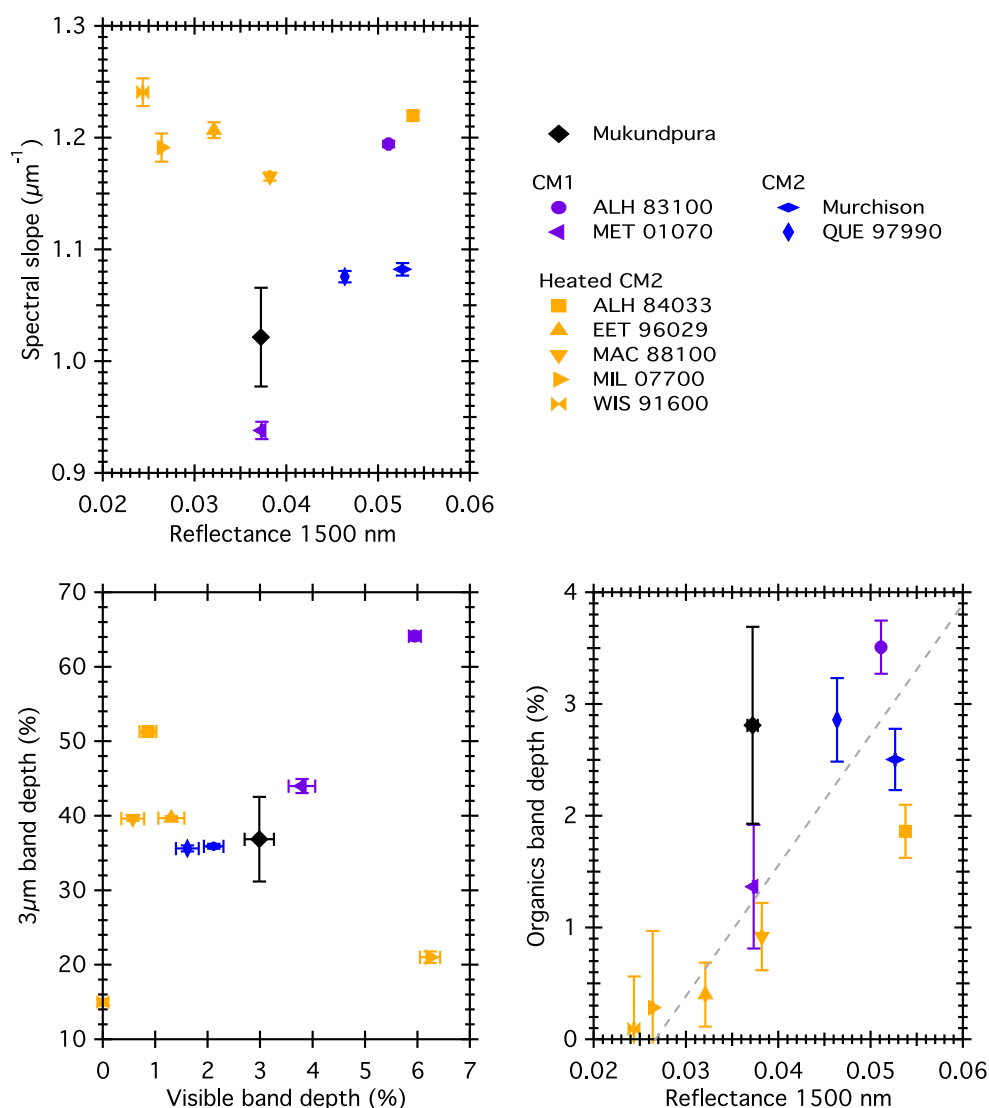


Fig. 12. Comparison of the spectral parameters of Mukundpura with other CM chondrites. (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)

(Aponte et al. 2011; Glavin et al. 2012) as well as depleted in C content (Alexander et al. 2013). However, the C content measured for Mukundpura (2.3 wt%) is typical (if not high) for CM2 chondrites (Rudraswami et al. 2019).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

We conducted several analyses to investigate the alteration history of the Mukundpura meteorite. The results are summarized below.

- Infrared transmission spectroscopy shows a faint olivine signature and indicates, along with the thermogravimetry analysis, that Mukundpura is dominantly composed of phyllosilicates. This

indicates a strong alteration of the minerals on the parent body.

- Raman spectroscopy shows a low degree of graphitization of the polyaromatic carbonaceous matter in the matrix, which reflects the absence of significant thermal or shock metamorphism.
- Reflectance spectroscopy of Mukundpura shows all spectral features of an aqueously altered CM chondrite, such as the Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} absorption bands at 700, 900, and 1100 nm, the $-\text{OH}$ stretching band of phyllosilicates around 2750 nm, and a faint organic feature at 3400 nm.
- Mukundpura is a fresh fall and thus differs from the other studied chondrites. The reflectance spectrum of Mukundpura presents one of the lowest

spectral slopes. While the reflectance is lower than other CM chondrites studied here, the organic band depth is similar, which may suggest that the sample is unusually rich in organics.

The classification of Mukundpura as an aqueously altered chondrite is well established. In this work, we have investigated a single piece of the Mukundpura meteorite fall, and since CM meteorite is breccia, the conclusion reached here may not apply to the meteorite as a whole. Our TGA, infrared spectroscopy, and reflectance spectroscopy are consistent with Mukundpura being a CM1/2.0, rather than a CM2 chondrite.

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APPENDIX A

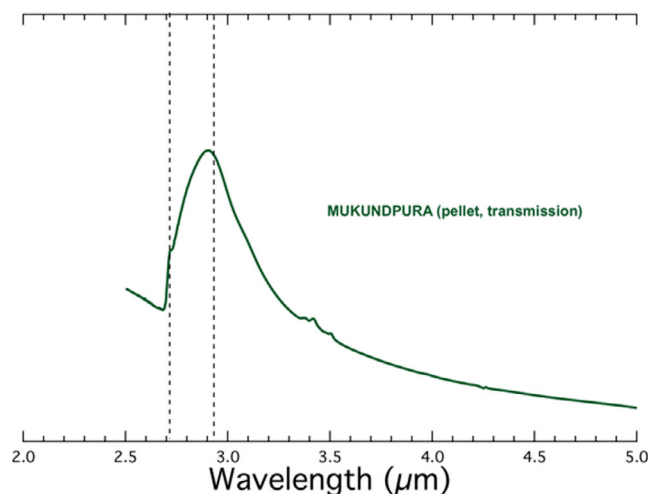


Fig. A1. KBr pellet measurement of a small fraction of the Mukundpura meteorite in the 3 μm region. The presence of OH is indicated by the presence of a narrow feature around 2.7 μm . This narrow feature is on top of a broader feature with a maximum at 2.9 μm . (Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com.)