

# Enigmas and Controversy in Science: Examples from Madagascar and Russian Lakes.

# Madagascar-Are the Chevrons from a Megatsunami 10,000 years ago?

Collaborators:

Dee Breger

Slava Gusiakov

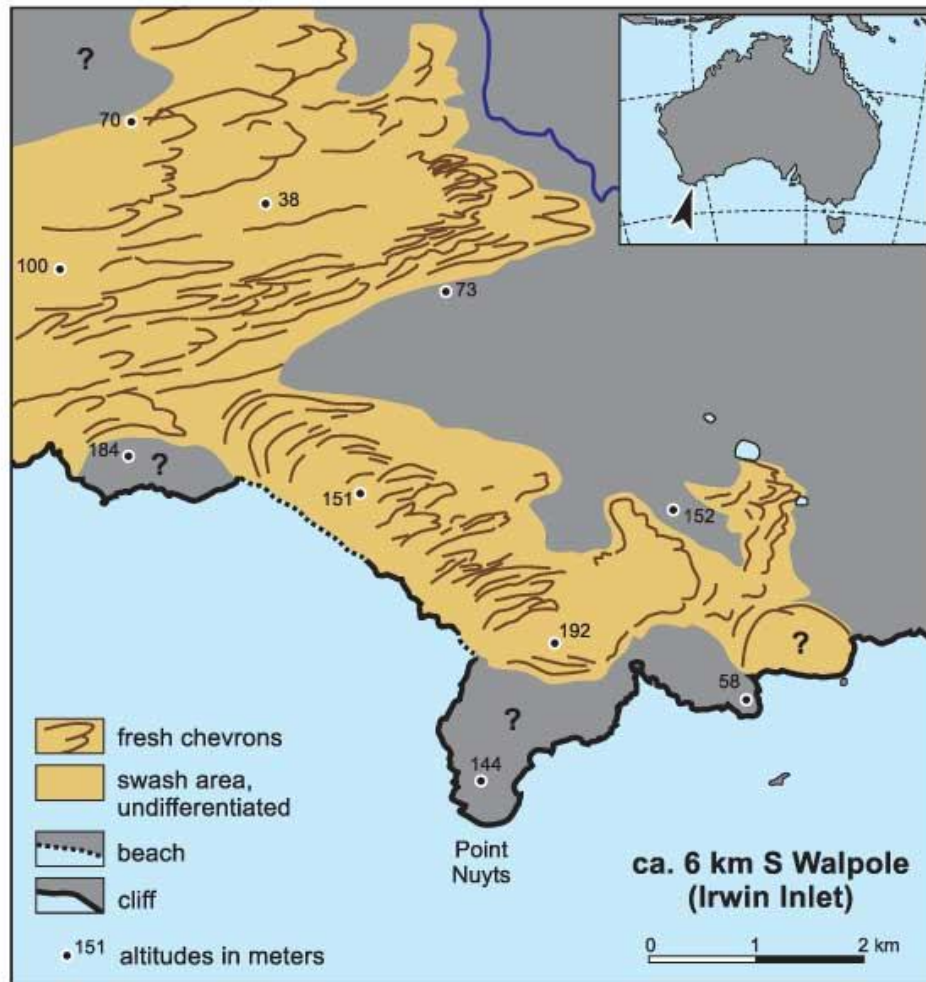
Bruce Masse

Ted Bryant

Gerard Rambolamanana

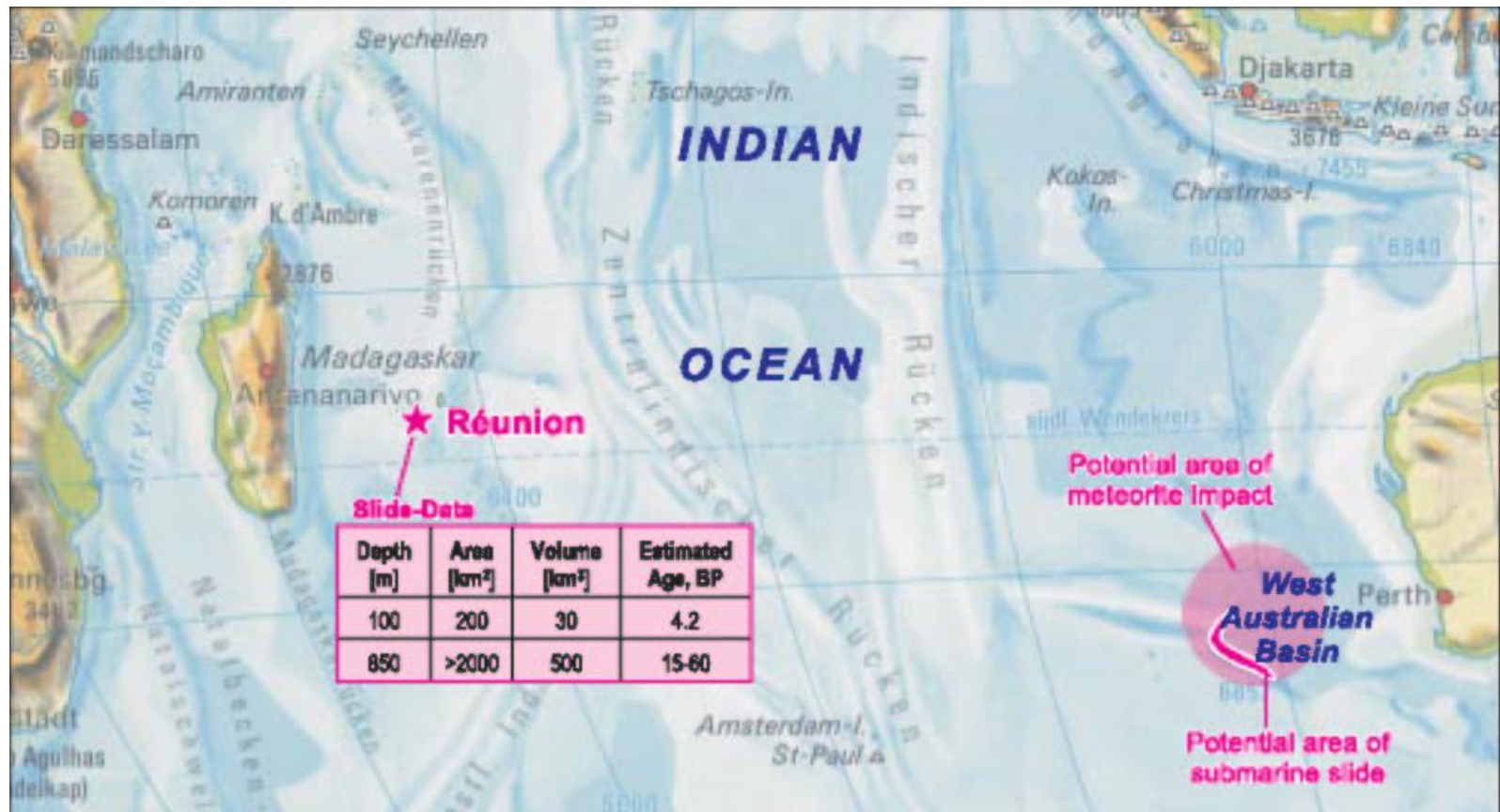
Karina Galinskaya

# Chevron Dunes: Maximum runup 150 m/5 km inland in SW Australia-age early Holocene



Kelletat and  
Scheffers-no  
Obvious seismic  
Source-  
landslide  
or impact?

# Kelletat and Scheffers: Inferred latitude of impact crater



# International Madagascar Expedition





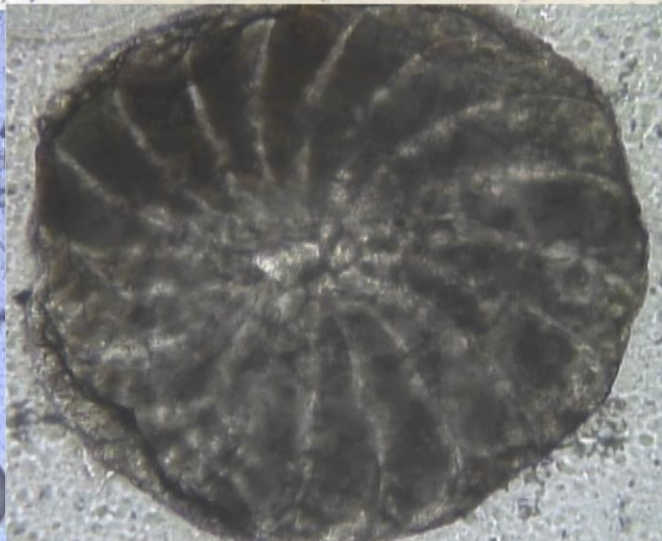
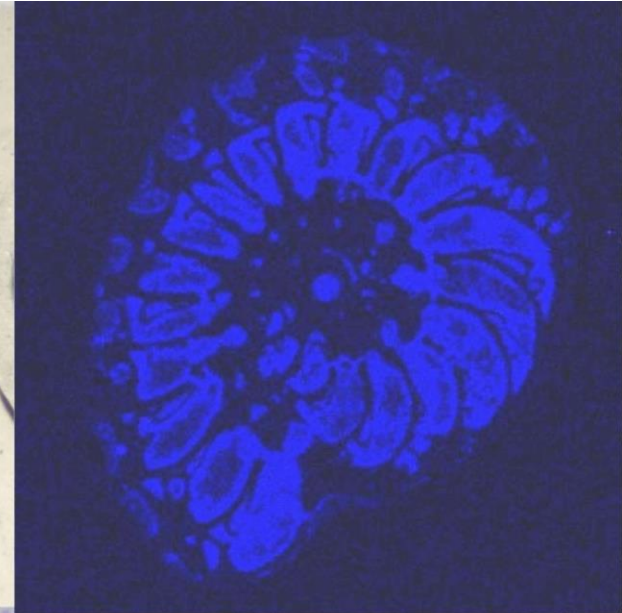
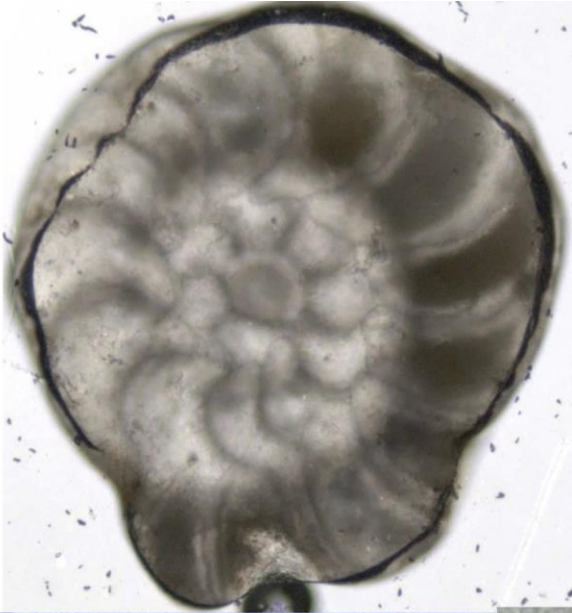


A



B

# Microfossils in Sand-Windblown or Tsunami Deposits?





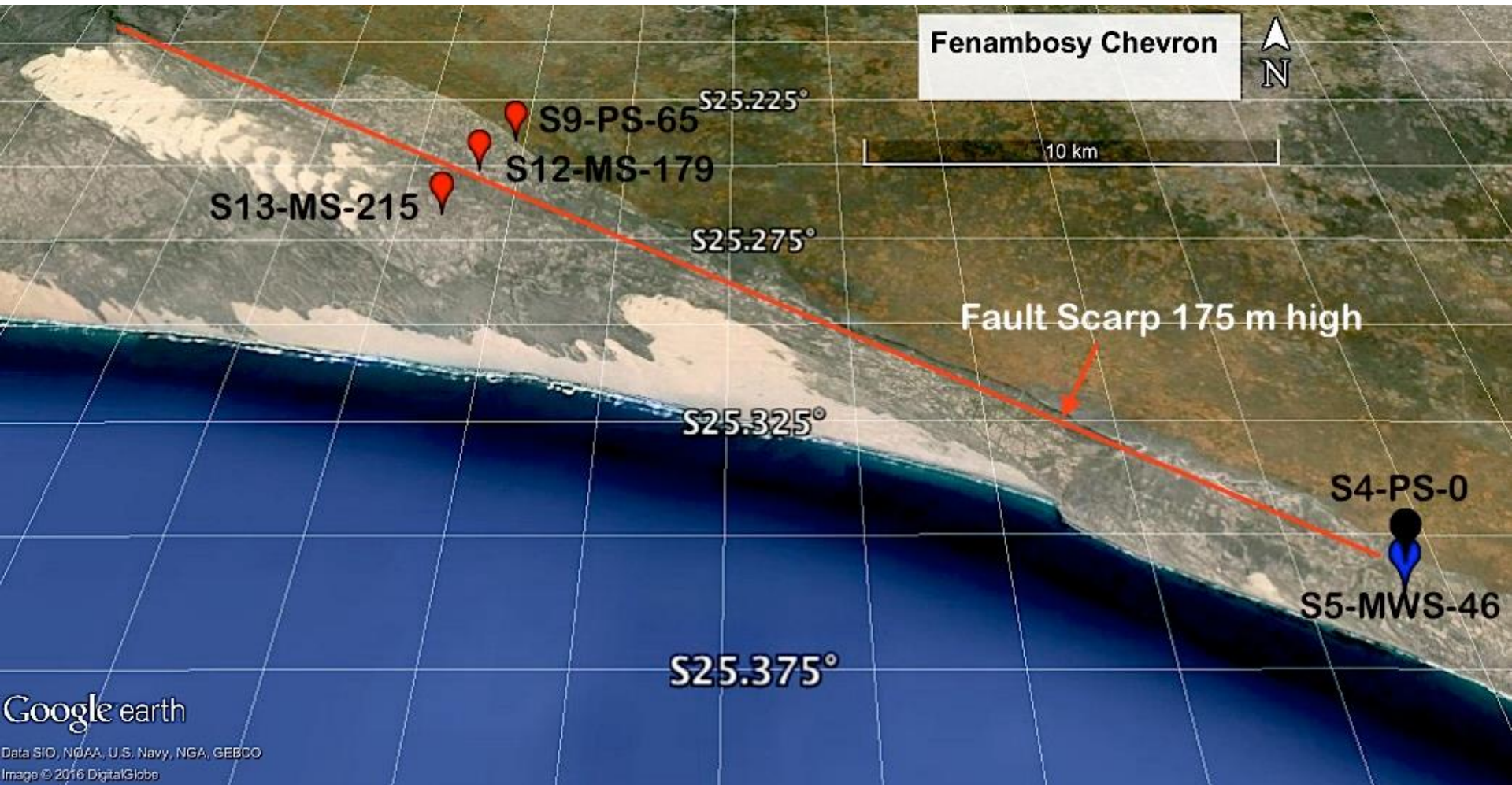
# Fenambosy Escarpment

**Tsunami went up this cliff ->**

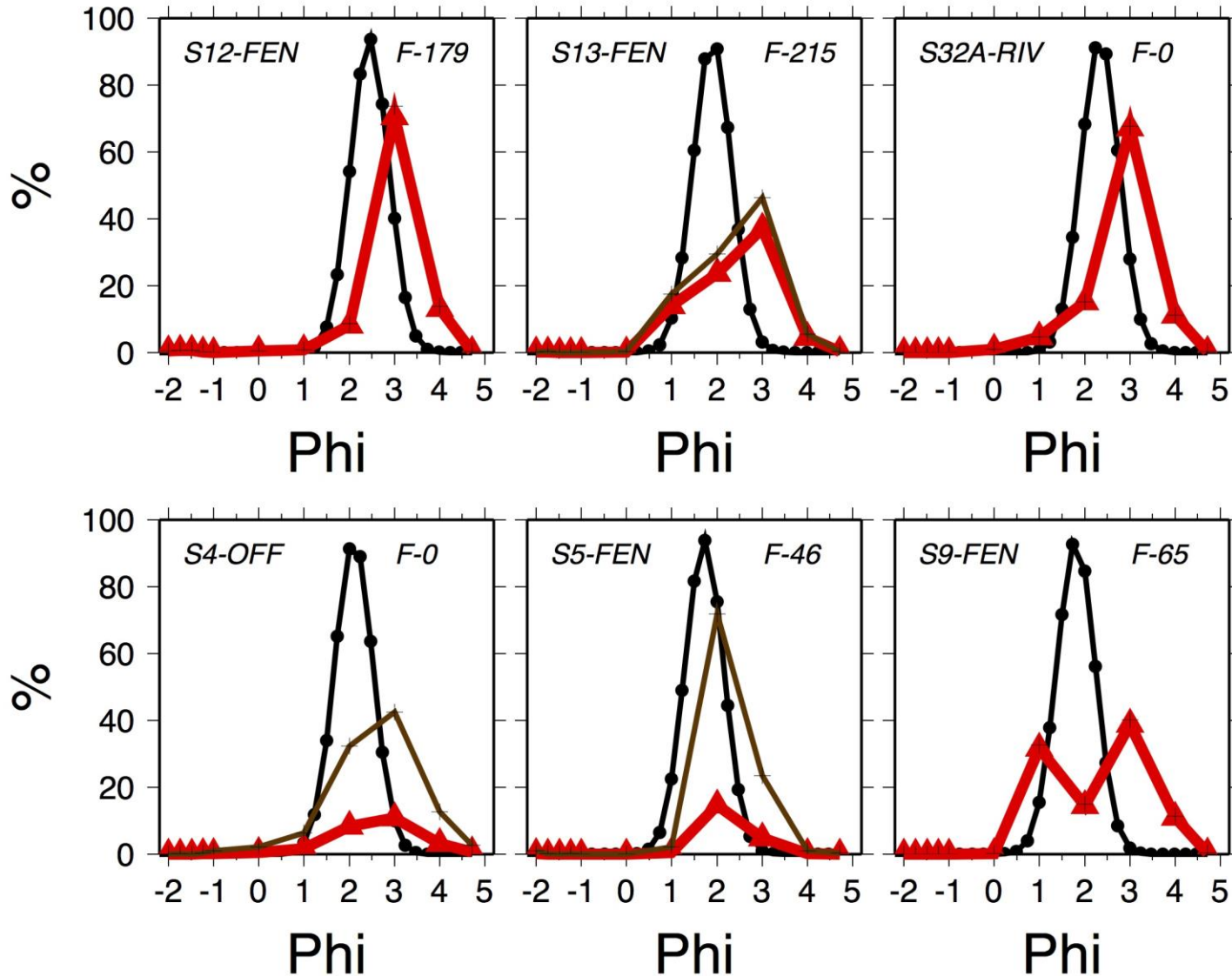




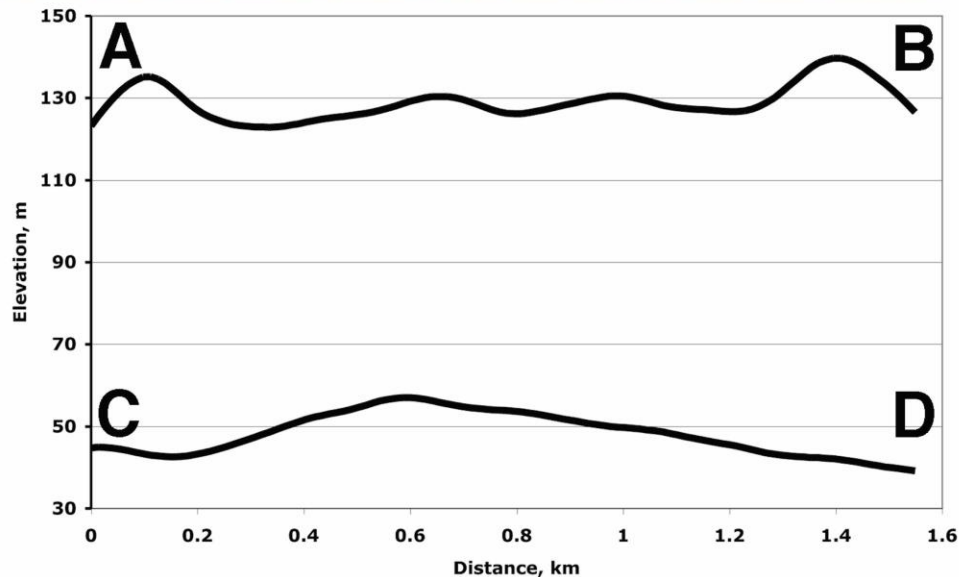
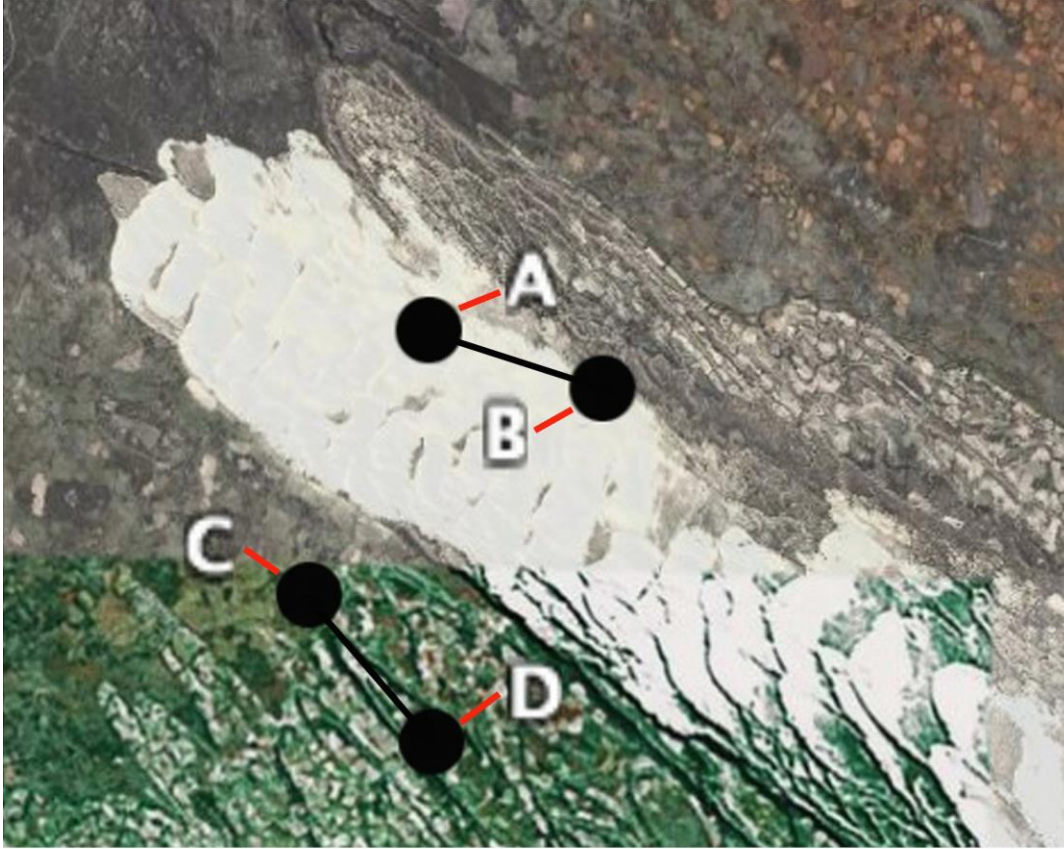
# Fenambosy Chevron



# Grain Size Distributions- Fenambosy



# Cross Sections Fenambosy



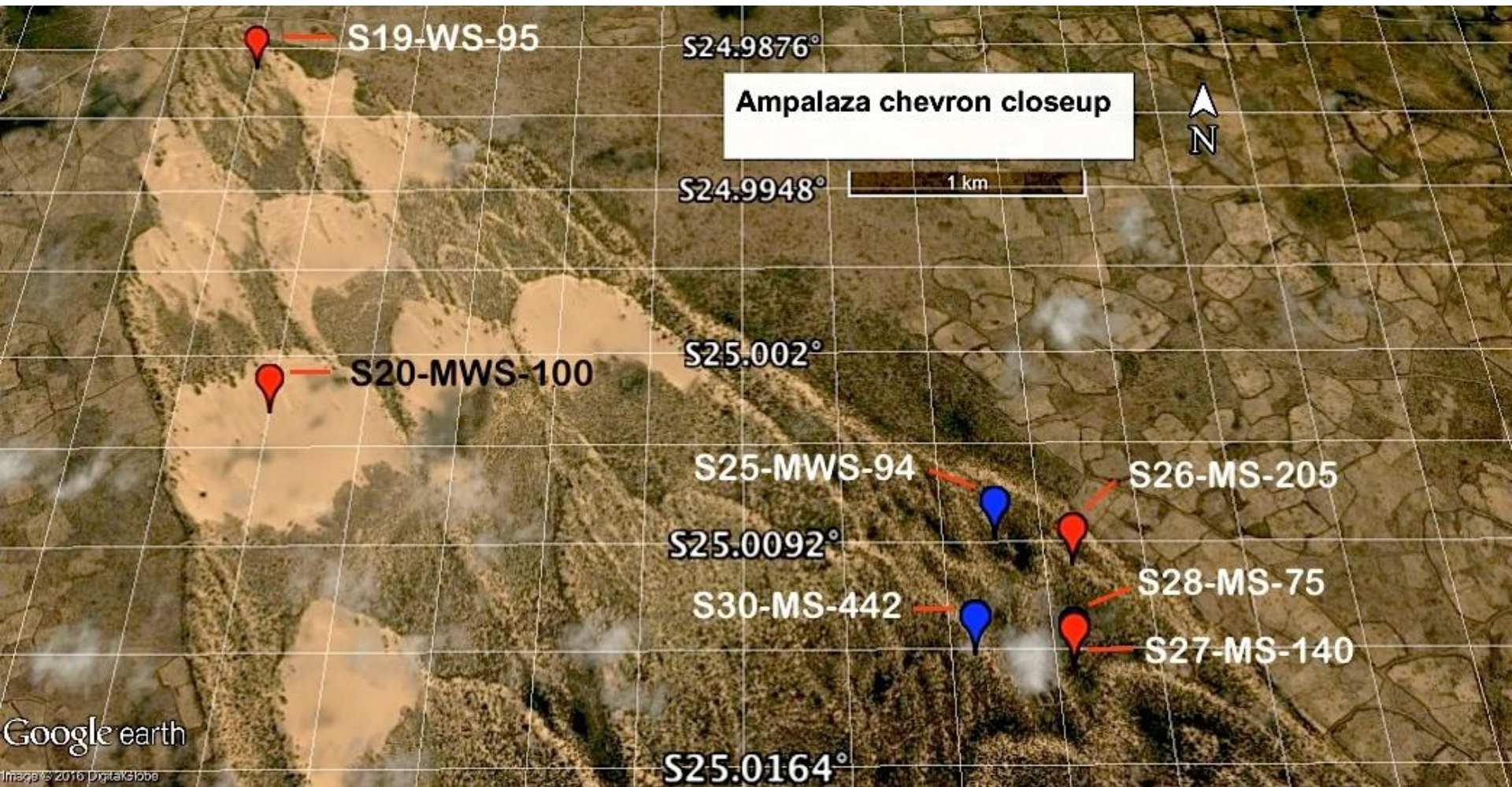


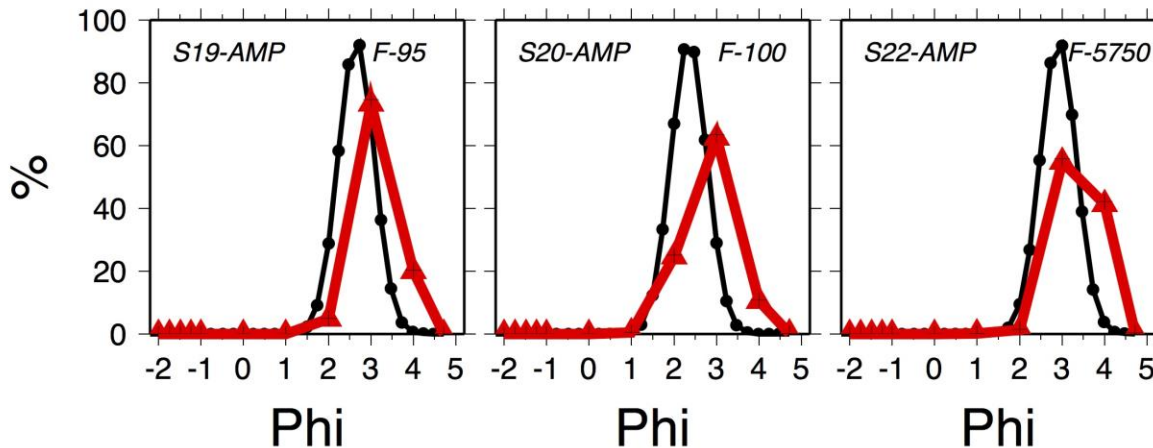
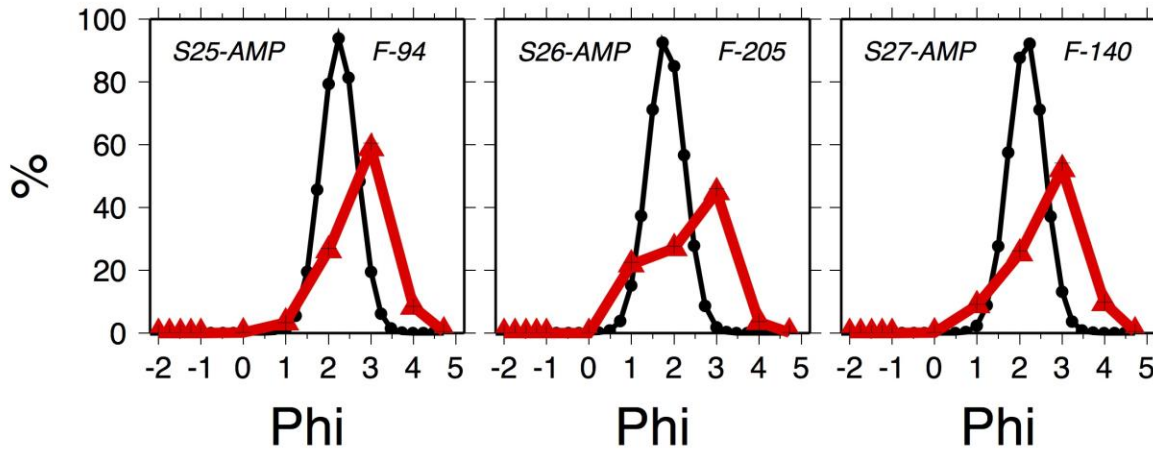
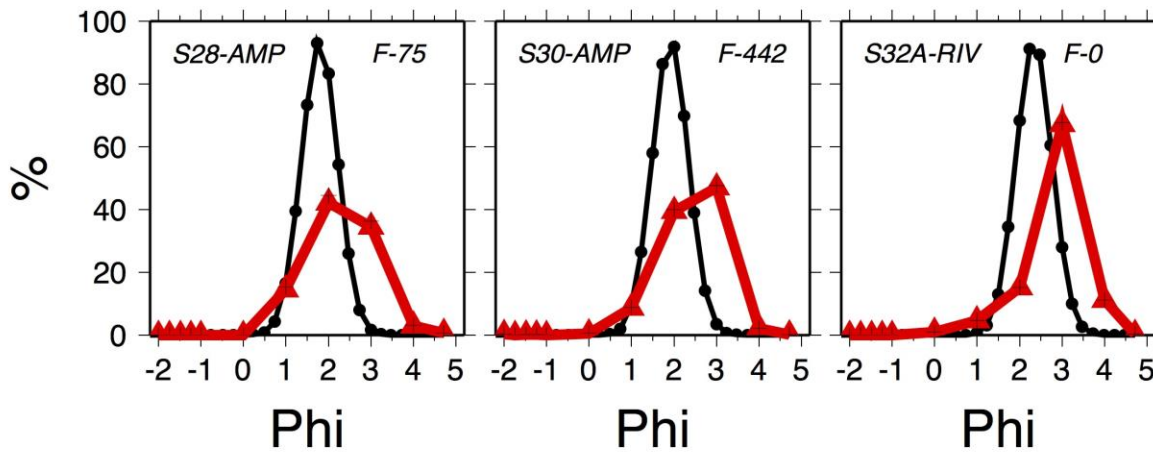
# Ampalaza chevron





# Ampalaza closeup

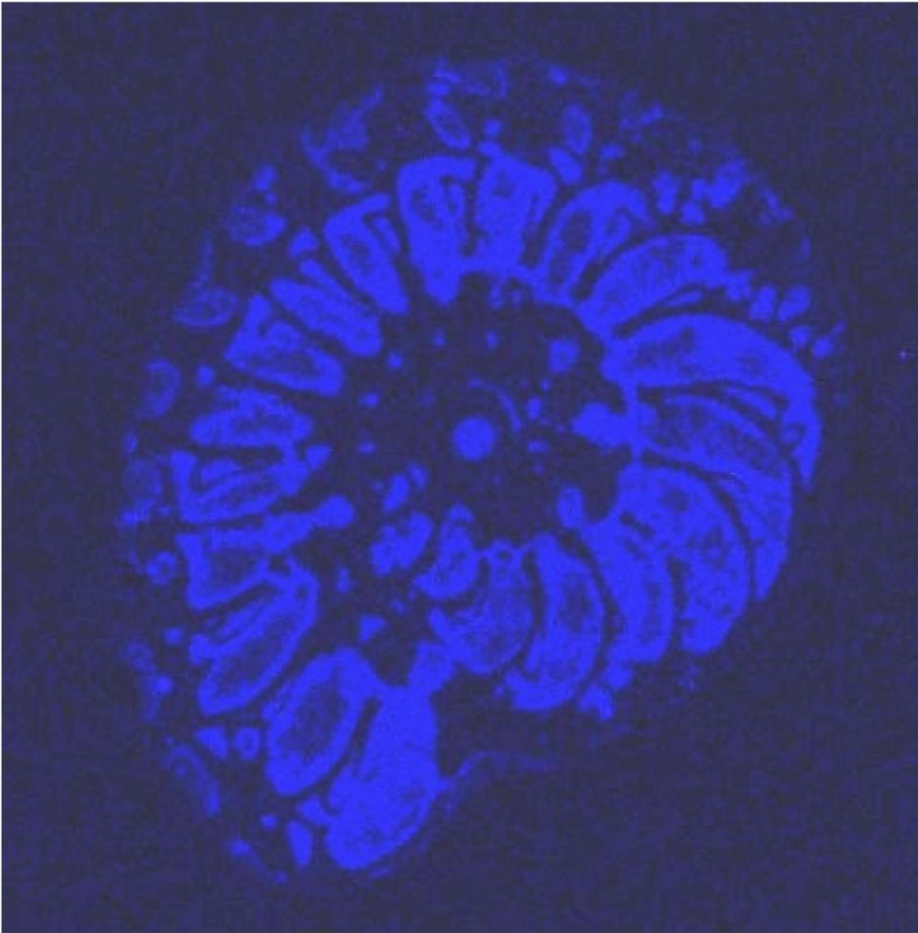




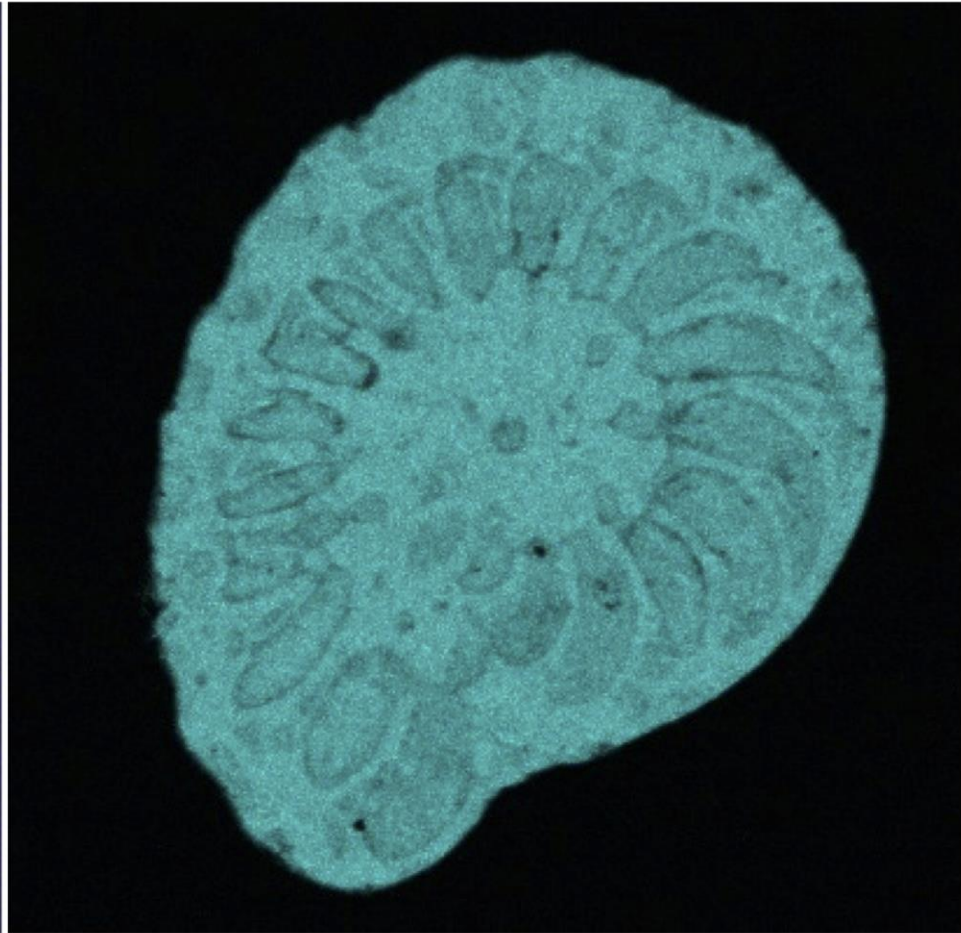
Ampalaza  
grain  
sizes



# Marine Microfossils-partial dolomite?

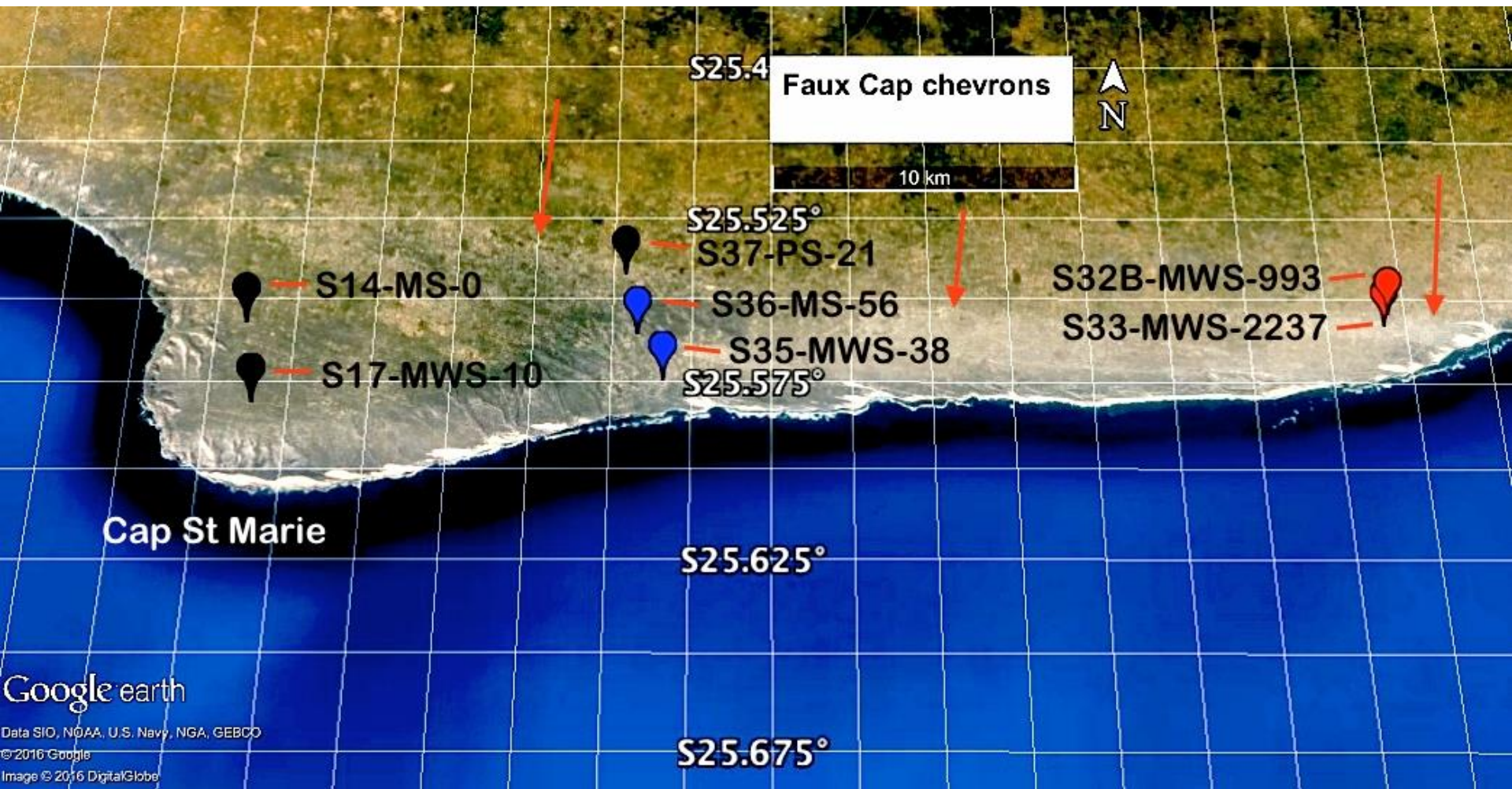


Mg element map

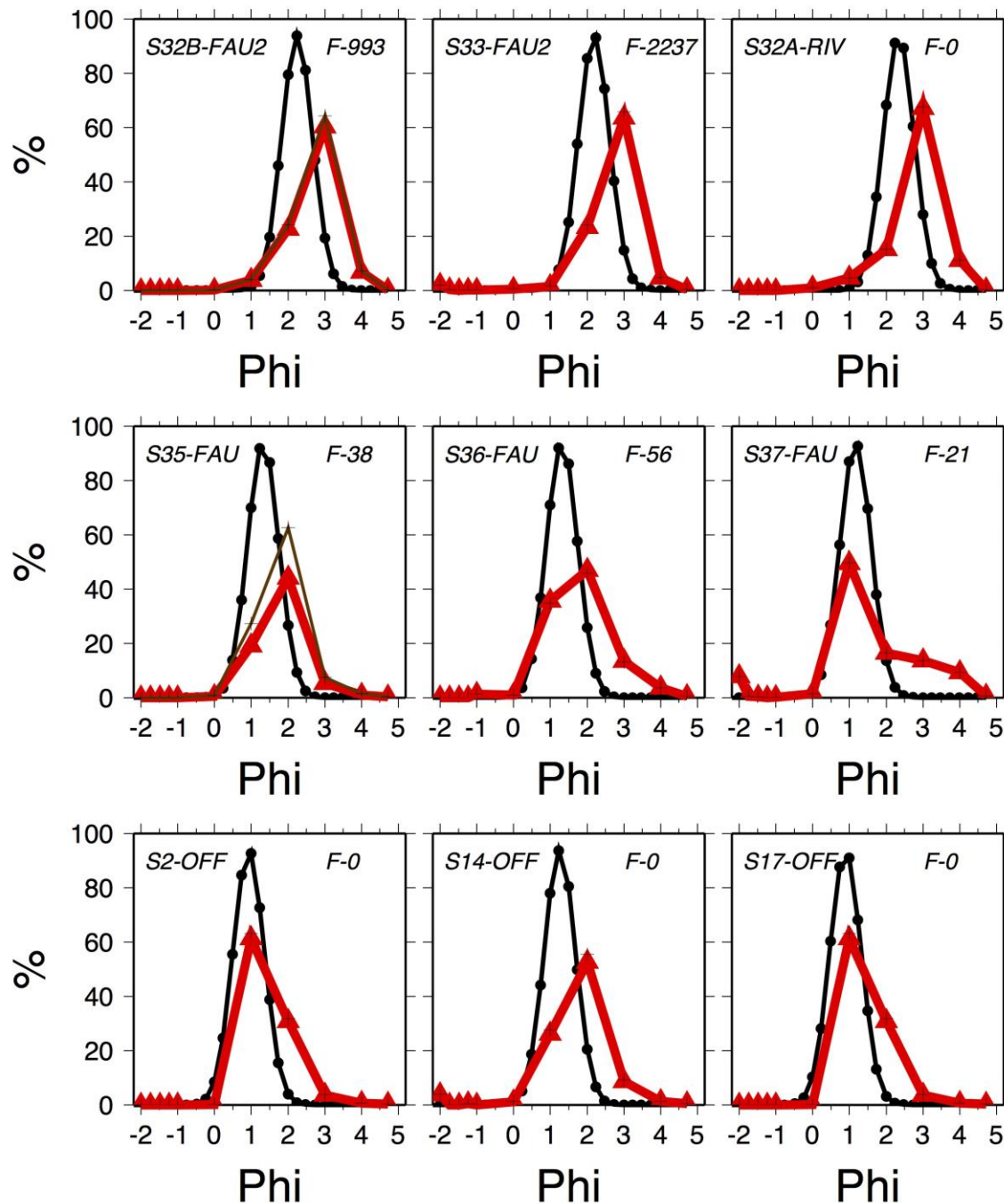


Ca element map

# Faux Cap, Cap St Marie







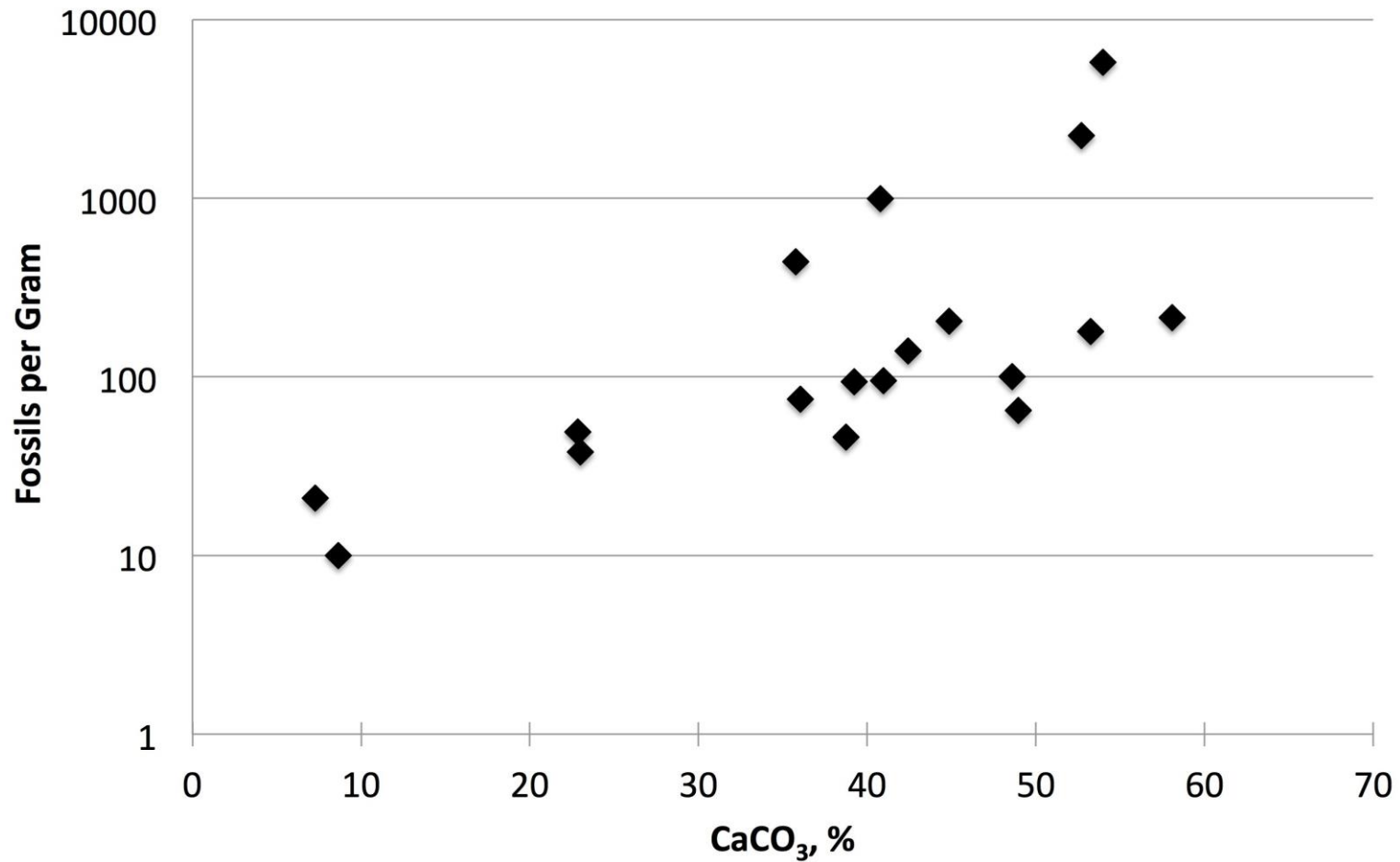
Faux Cap,  
Cap St.  
Marie grain  
sizes



# Regional Satellite Image CaCO<sub>3</sub>



# CaCO<sub>3</sub> vs Fossils/Gm





# Age Dating Results





# Boulder-cliff top Fenambosy





# Boulders near field





# Conclusions-Madagascar

- 1) Carbonate in chevrons is not from modern windblown beach sand. Event  $\sim 10,000$  yrs ago. (Oddity in  $^{14}\text{C}$  timescale)
- 2) Grain size distributions of chevrons do not match windblown sand.
- 3) Dolomite and marine microfossils suggest an offshore source for the carbonate.
- 4) Elevations of the chevrons (up to 185-200 m above sealevel) suggest a megatsunami.
- 5) Source of tsunami-landslide on Reunion volcano OR formation of Burckle crater.

# Three Proposed Russian Impact Lakes

Dallas Abbott and Karina Galinskaya-  
Lamont-Doherty

Dee Breger-Micrographic Arts

Viacheslav Gusiakov and Ivan Amelin-Siberian  
Branch RAS, Novosibirsk

Alexei Kiselev and Lena Shaleava-  
Univ. Mininskogo

Vadim Bronguleev, Sasha Makkaveav, Vadim  
Karaveav-Inst. of Geography, Moscow



# **Importance of Ni- Abundant in Material from Outer Space(Example: Iron Meteorite-5-13% Ni)**



# Lake Smerdyachee, Lemeshinskoye, Svetloyar





# Smerdyachee-proposed impact lake- ~300 meters diameter

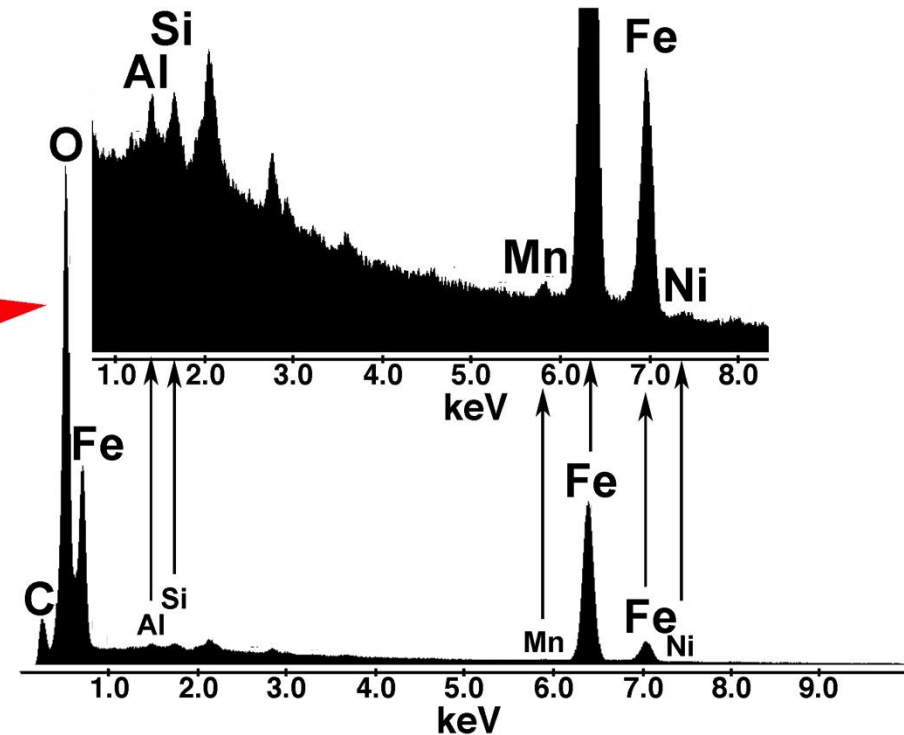
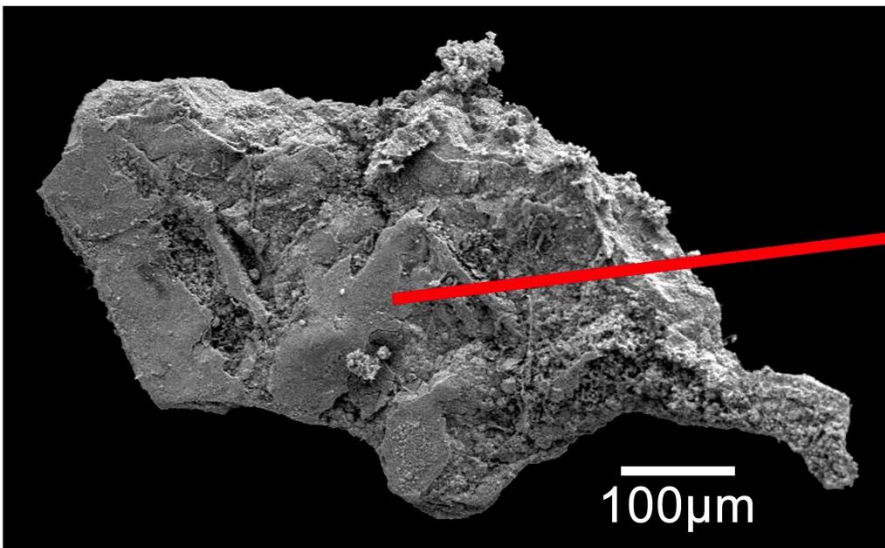


# Why Impact? Deep, Round Lake with a Raised Rim



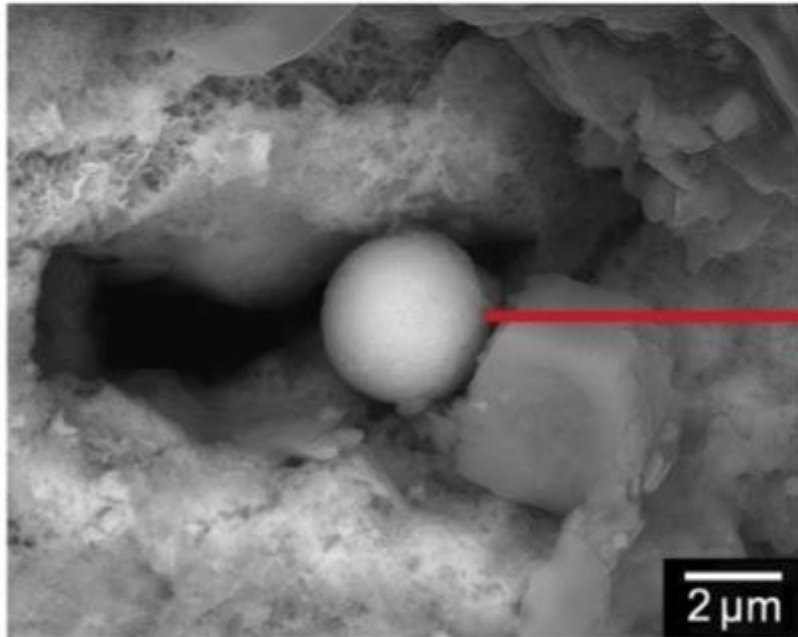


# 2013 season-first Ni rich material Smerdyachee

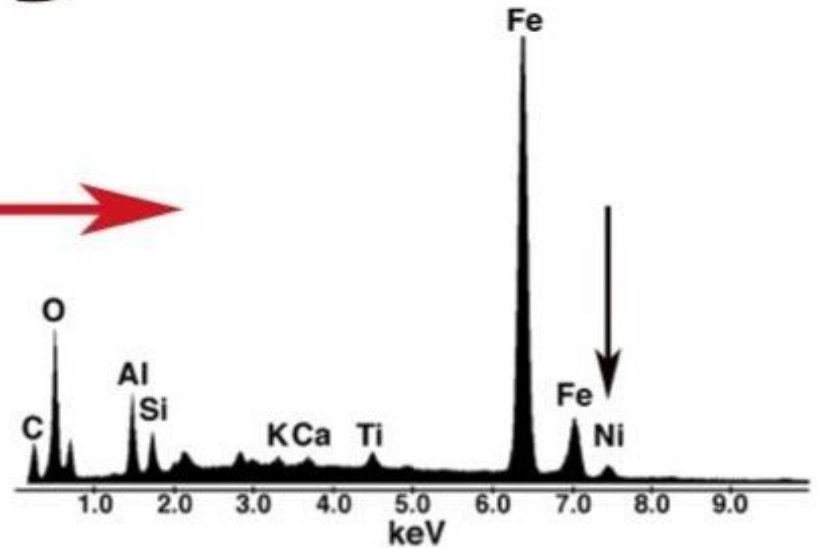


# Ni rich material 2013-Smerdyachee

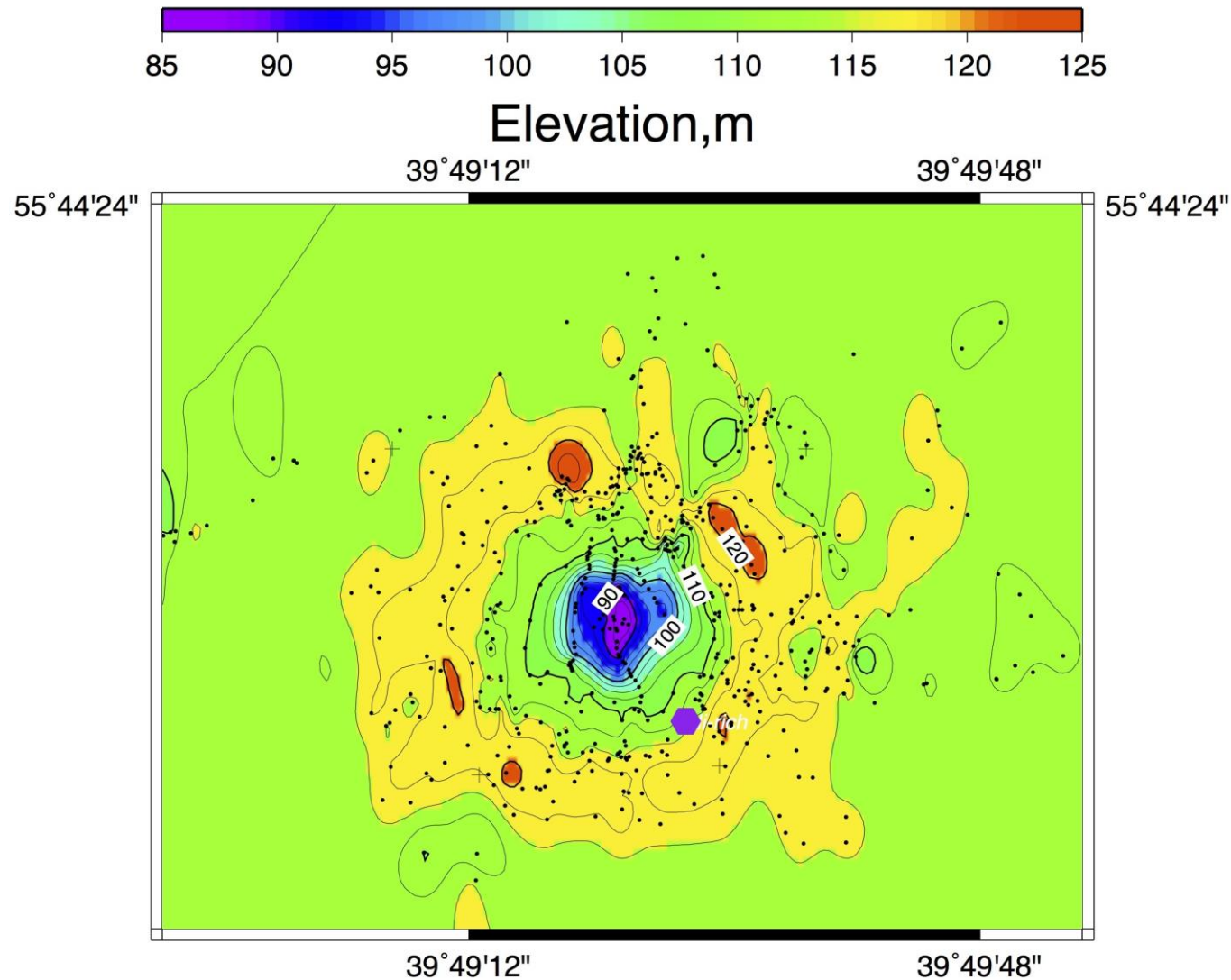
A



B

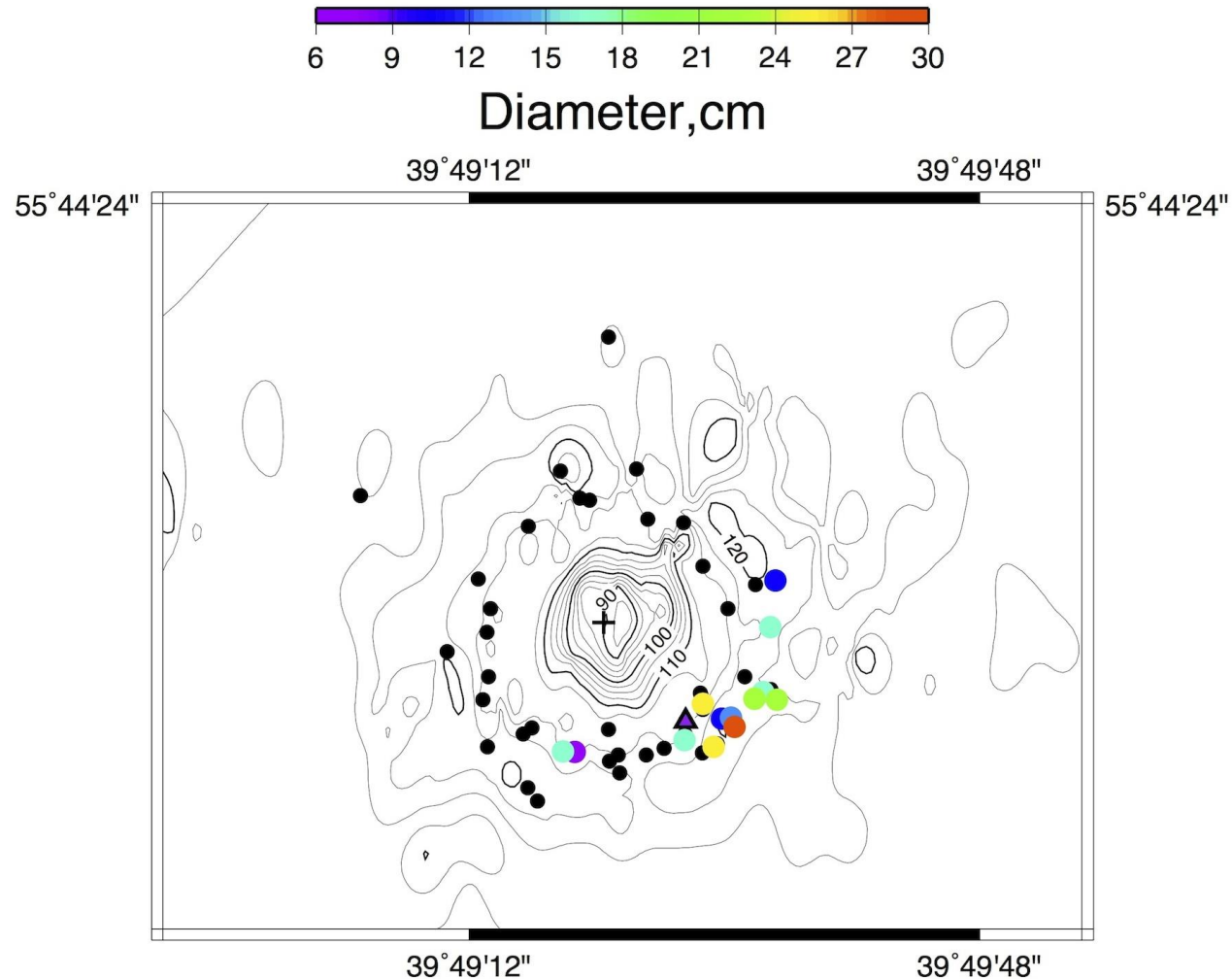


# Topography 2014 (water at 114 m)





# Large rock fragments containing Paleozoic fossils



# Paleozoic fossils- from rocks at > 40 m depth-above is sand



Crinoid stem



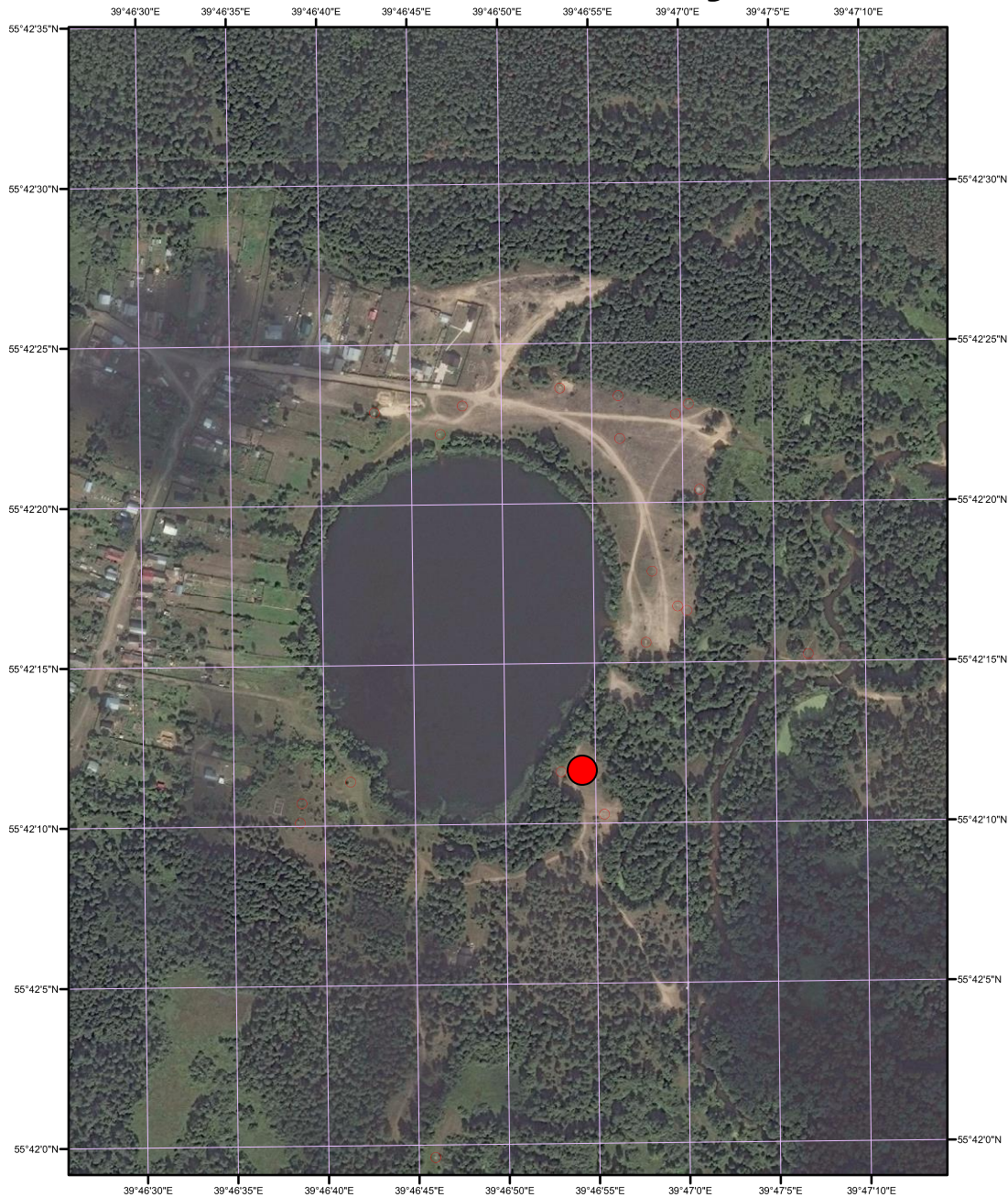
Brachiopod



# Moon at Smerdyachee



# Lemeshinskoye



Proposed impact  
Lake-Elliptical-sampled at  
red circle

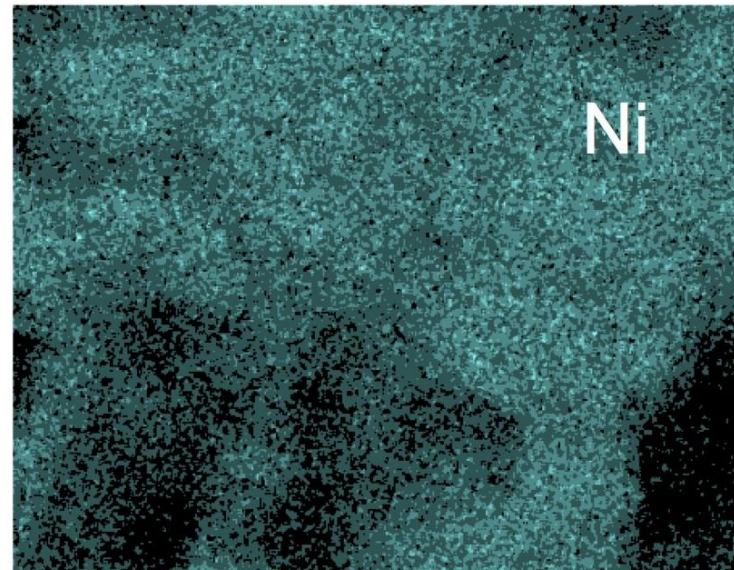
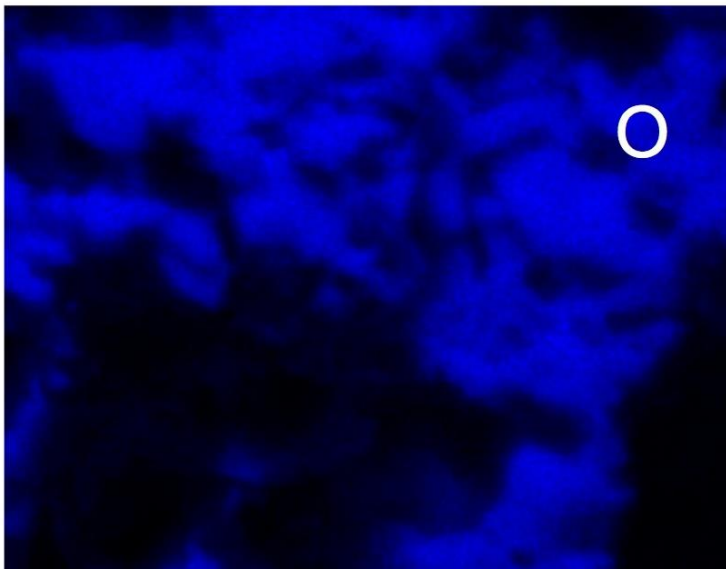
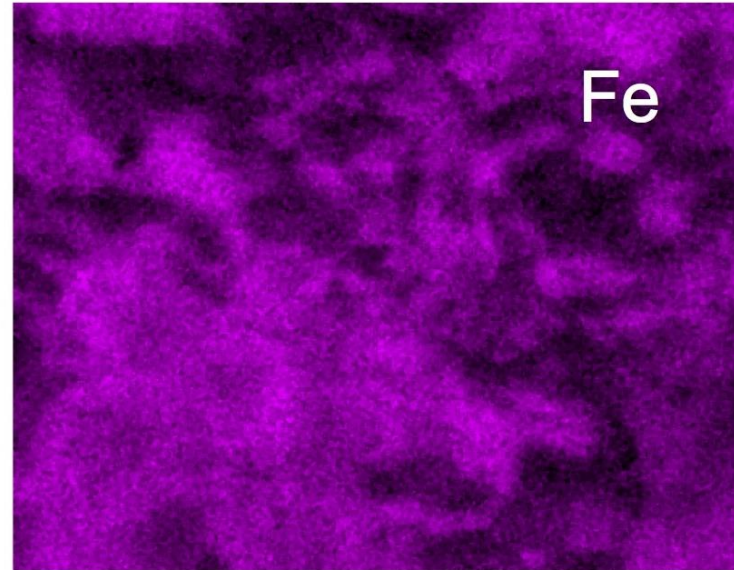
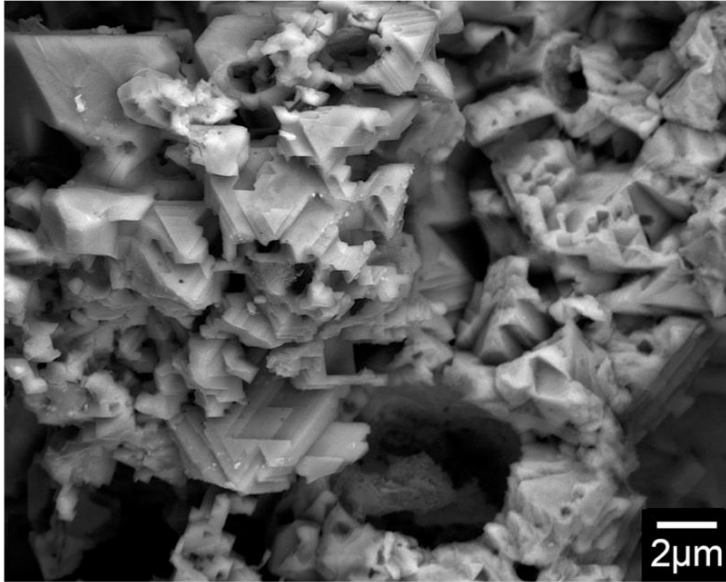


# Magnetic Grain-Visible Light

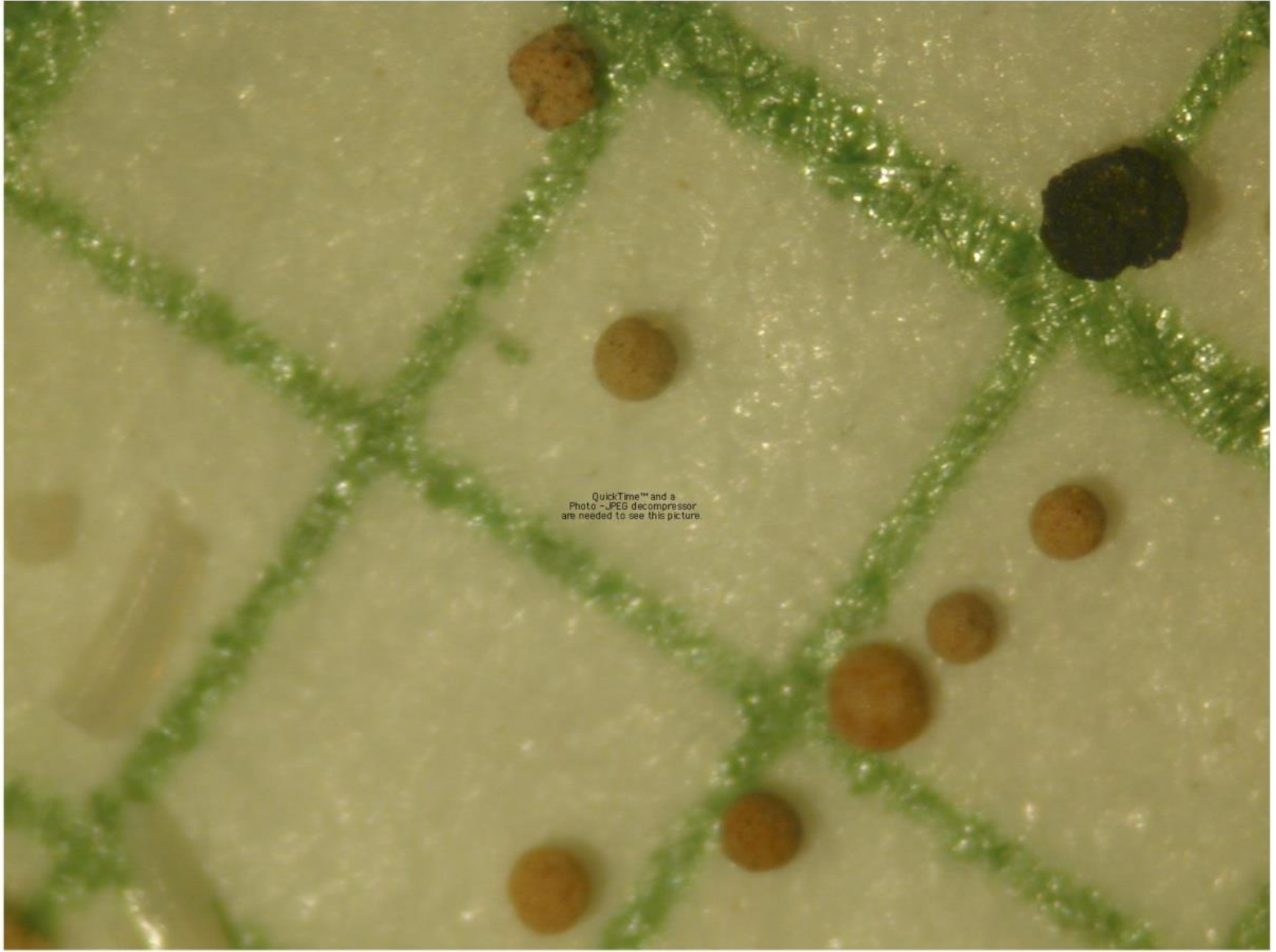




# Element Map-area on grain

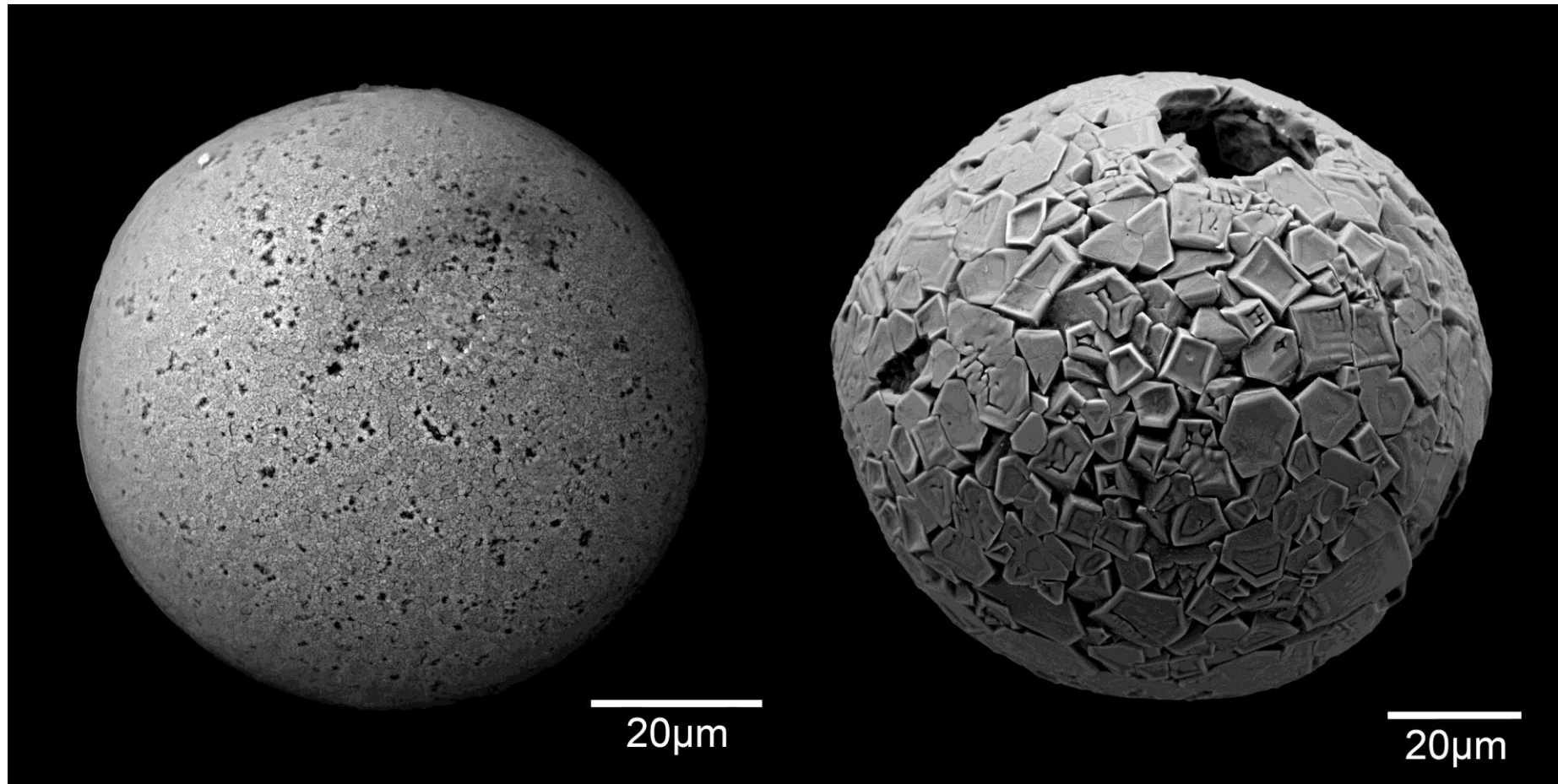


# Spherules on 1 mm squares





# Impact spherules found with Ni bearing grain-Lemeshinskoye



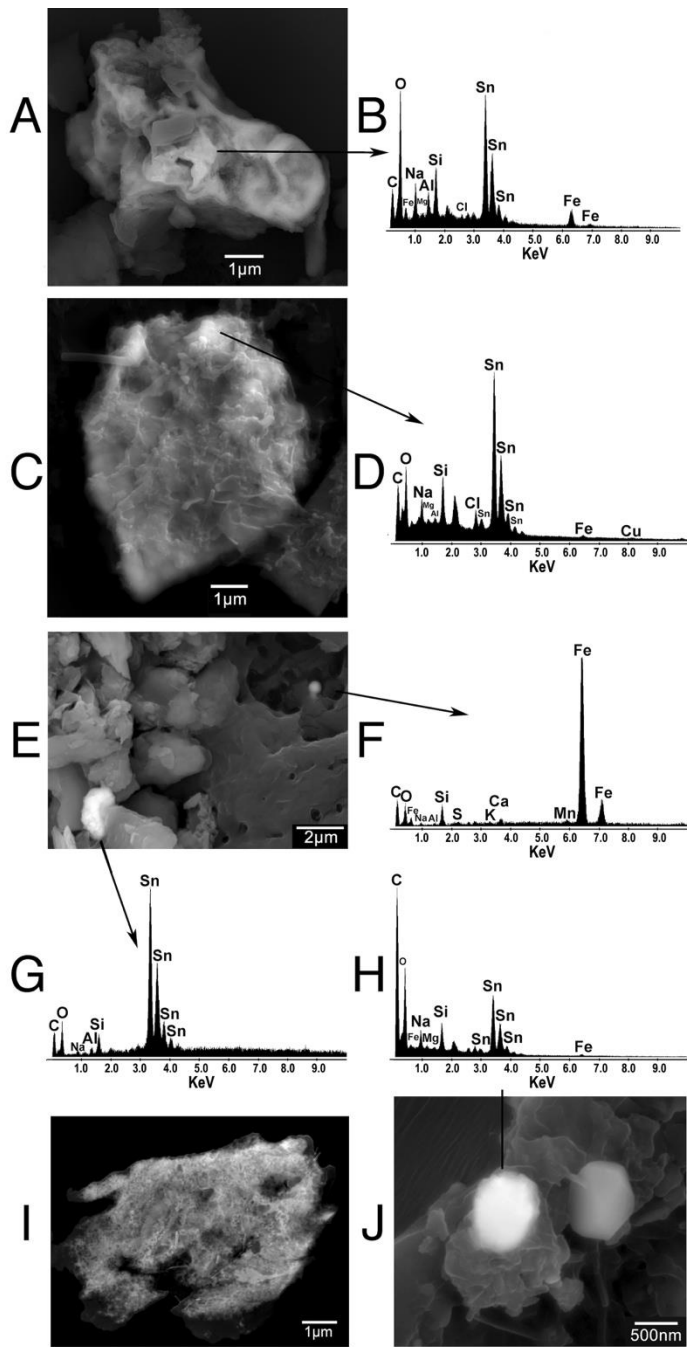
# Lake Svetloyar





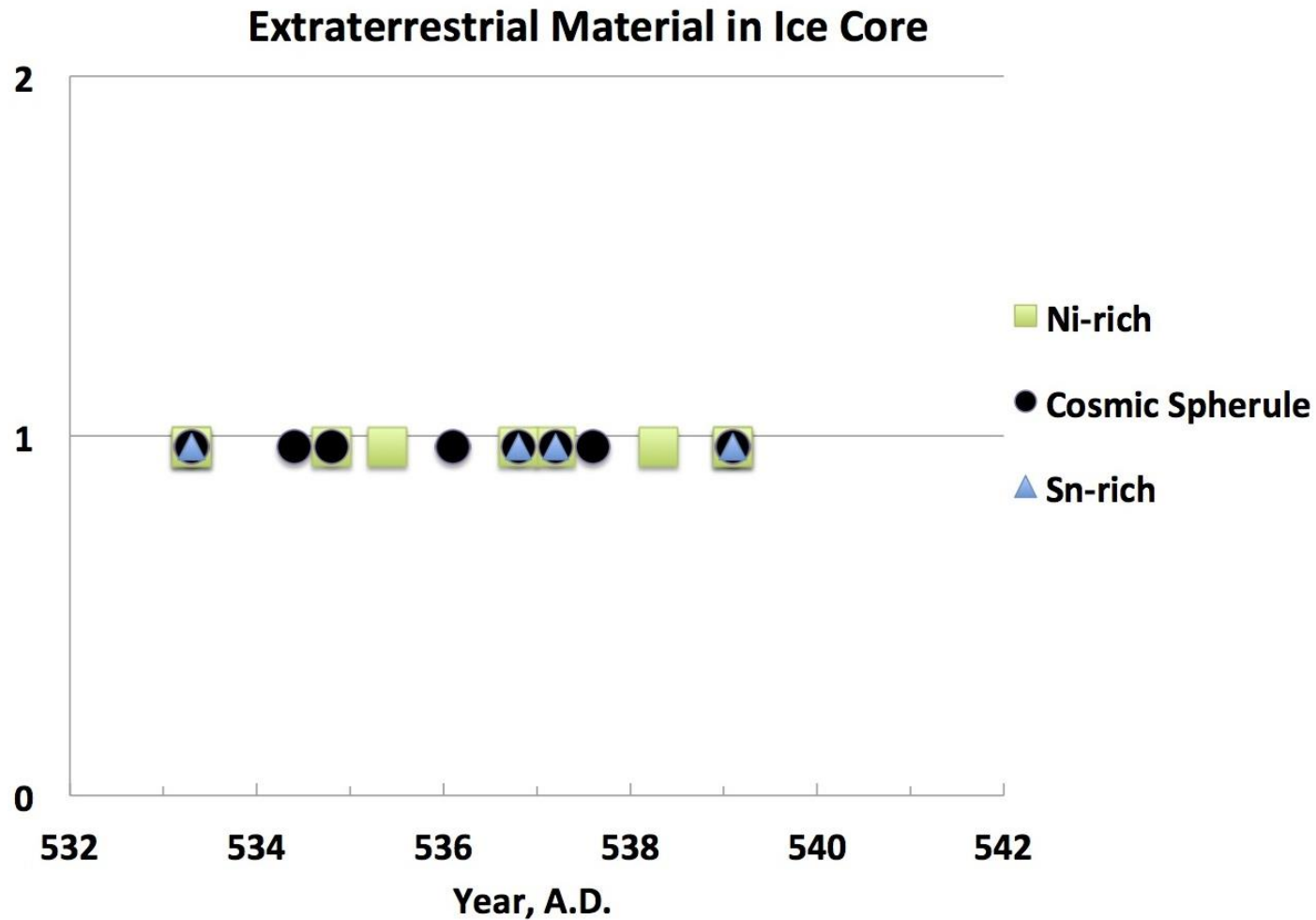
# Lake Svetloyar bathymetry





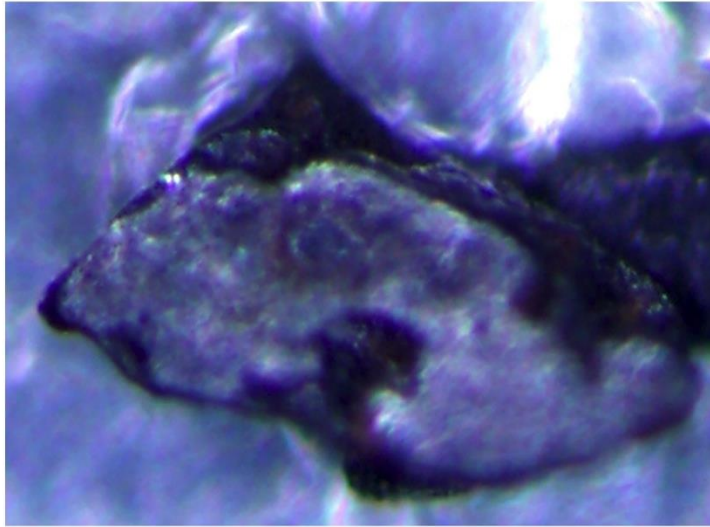
Tiny bits of Sn in  
ice core-  
6<sup>th</sup> century  
white

# Ni and Sn rich material in ice core-all Sn with Ni

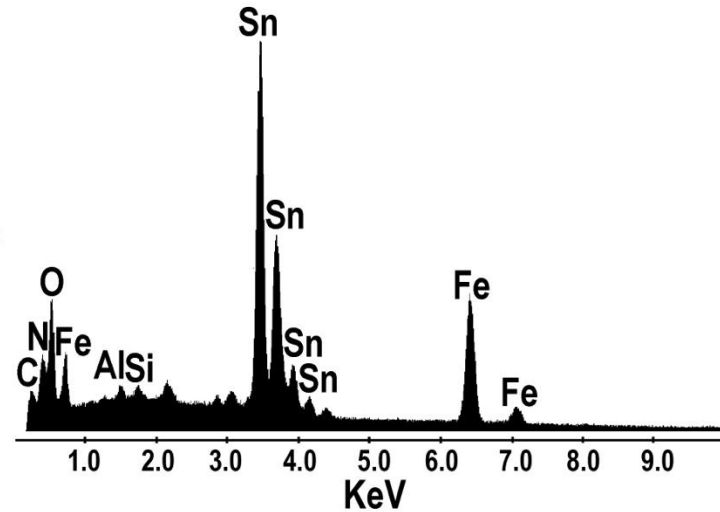


# Sn coated grain: Svetloyar

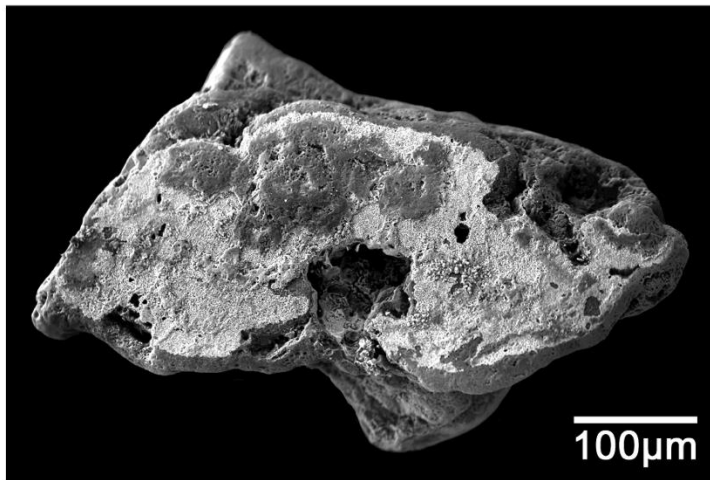
**A**



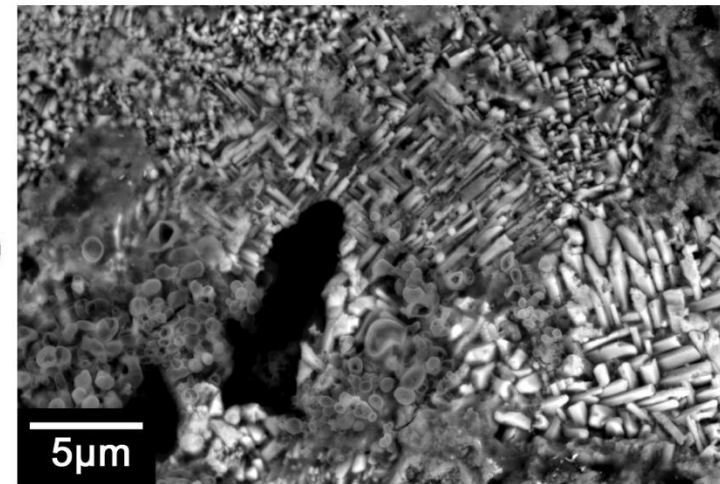
**B**



**C**

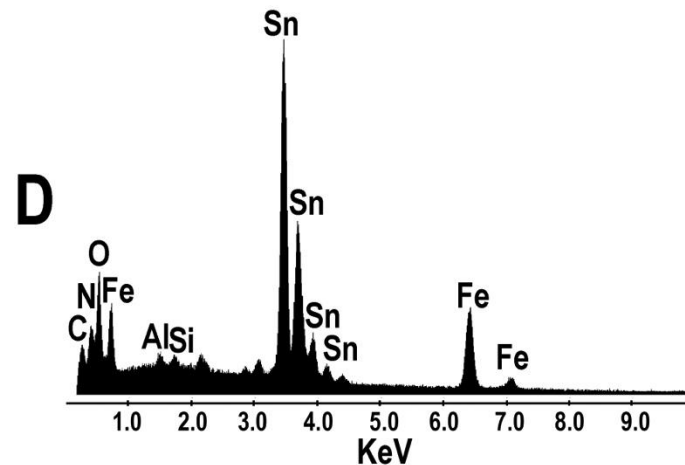
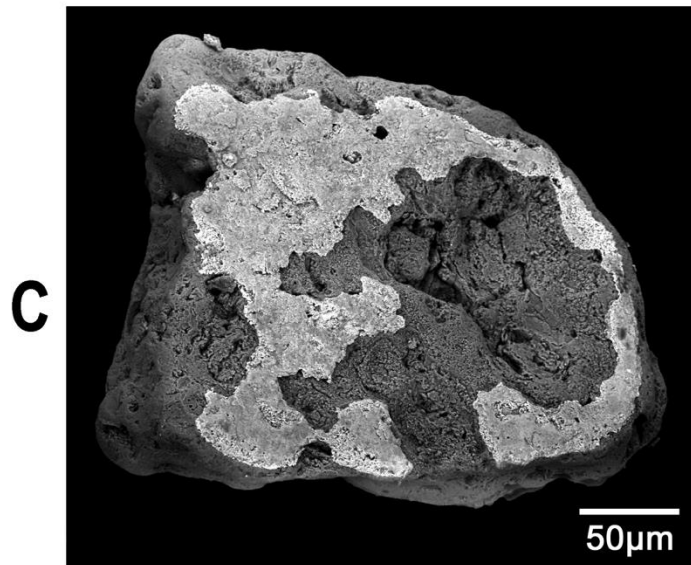
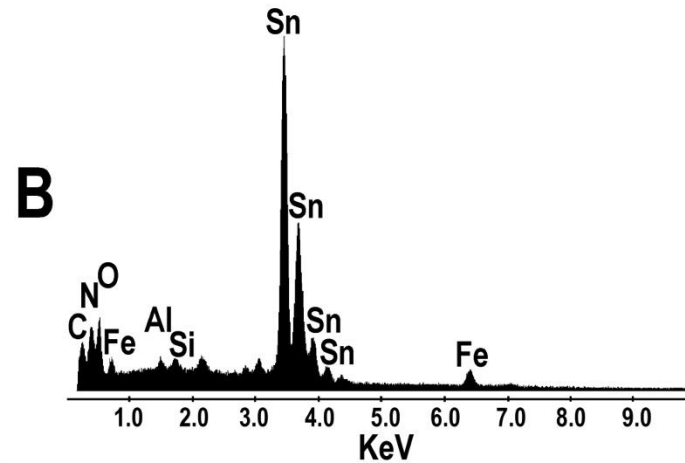
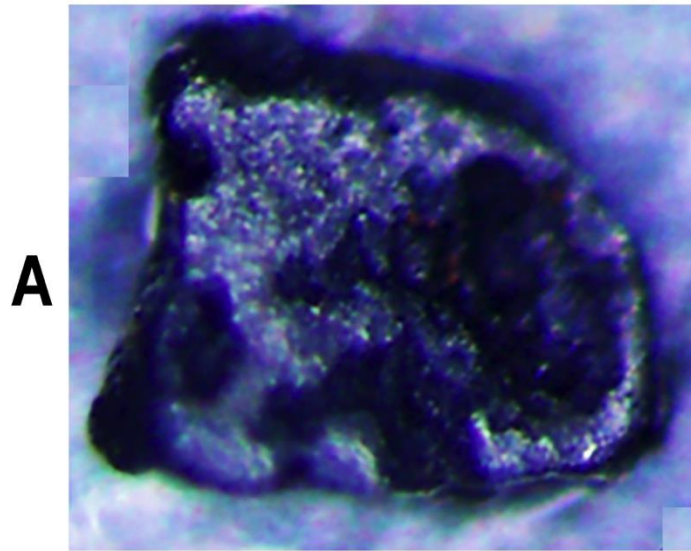


**D**





# Sn coated Grain 2-Svetloyar



# Conclusions-Russian impact lakes

- 1) Ni bearing material at Smerdyachee,  
Lemeshinskoye-more Ni than terrestrial rocks
- 2) Rock from at least 40 m depth-Smerdyachee
- 3) Sn and Fe rich material present at Svetloyar-  
possibly from cosmic dust
- 4) All lakes unproven as yet-can't get the preceeding  
material published.