



# Ferro-sialate geopolymer

*Joseph Davidovits*

# Definition

***Ferro-sialate geopolymer*** designates a binder or cement of the type poly (ferro-silico-aluminate), which has part of the Al atoms substituted by Fe atoms.

The Fe atoms are in structural tetrahedral Fe[IV] or pentahedral Fe[V] position in the ferro-sialate geopolymer sequence



# Geological raw-materials

Ferro-sialate [Fe-O-Si-O-Al-O] geopolymer binder,  
results from a geopolymerisation of geological elements  
rich in iron oxides and ferro-kaolinite,

- formed in weathered acidic rocks :  
    sandstone, granite or gneiss,
- or in basic rocks (mafic) :  
    basalt and gabbro.

# Geological raw-materials

P.J. Malden and R.E. Meads, Substitution by iron in kaolinite, *Nature* 215 (1967) 844-846.

letters to nature

*Nature* 215, 844 - 846 (19 August 1967); doi:10.1038/215844b0

## Substitution by Iron in Kaolinite

P. J. MALDEN & R. E. MEADS

Research Laboratories, English Clays, Lovering, Pochin and Co., Ltd., St Austell, Cornwall.  
Department of Physics, University of Exeter

**KAOLINITE** often occurs in admixture with other minerals (for example, micas and iron oxides) in which iron is a legitimate constituent. Because of the difficulties of detection and separation, it has always been doubtful whether iron actually substitutes in the kaolinite lattice. We provide here evidence for substitution of iron(III) in the octahedral (Al) sites.

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### References

1. Weaver, C., *Wa*
2. Kündig, W., *Bö*

# Geological raw-materials

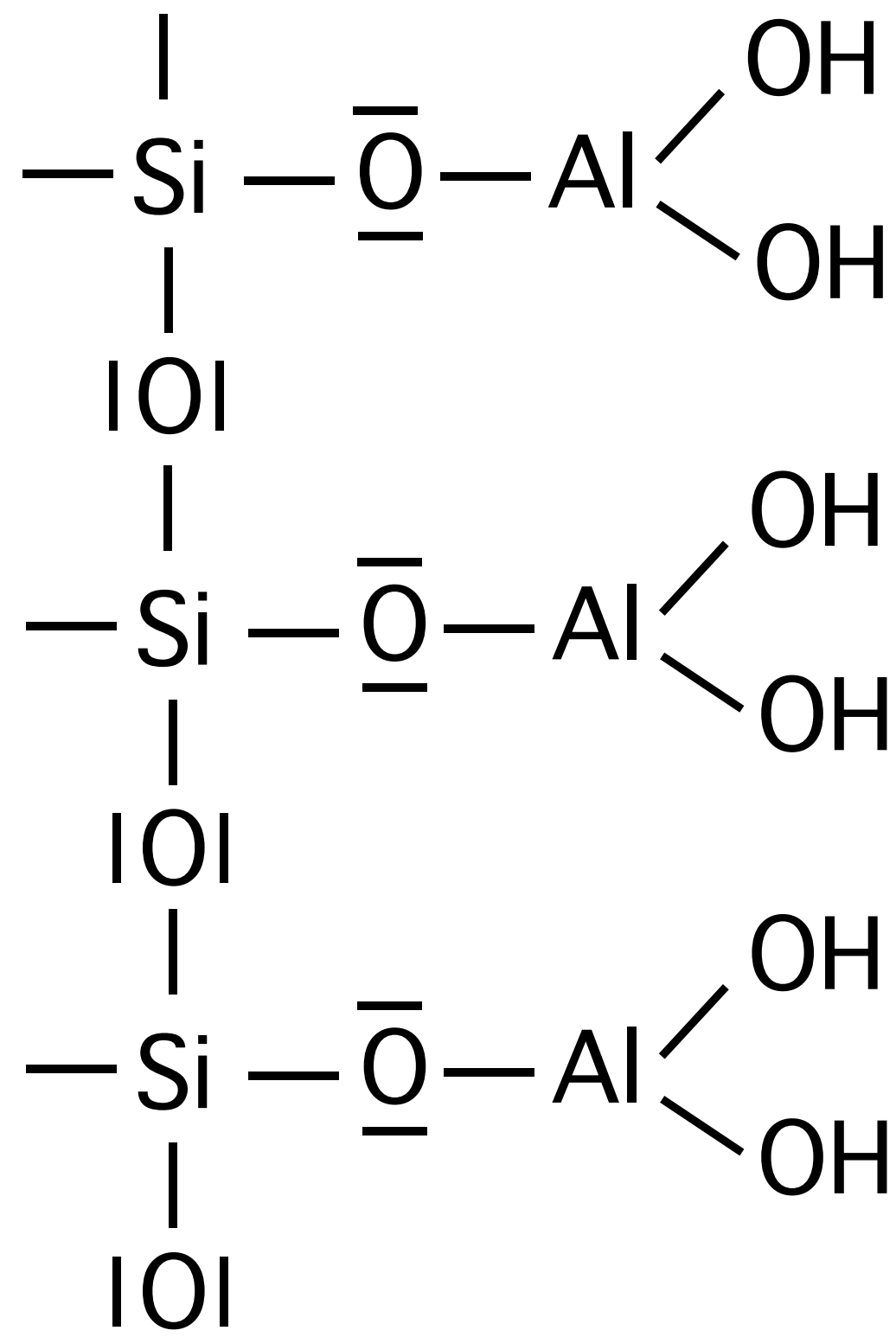
This substitution occurs only when Fe is the **trivalent  $Fe^{3+}$** .

This substitution can reach 25% of the Al atoms, transforming the sequence  $\equiv Si-O-Al(OH)_2$  of kaolinite into  $\equiv Si-O-Fe(OH)_2$ .

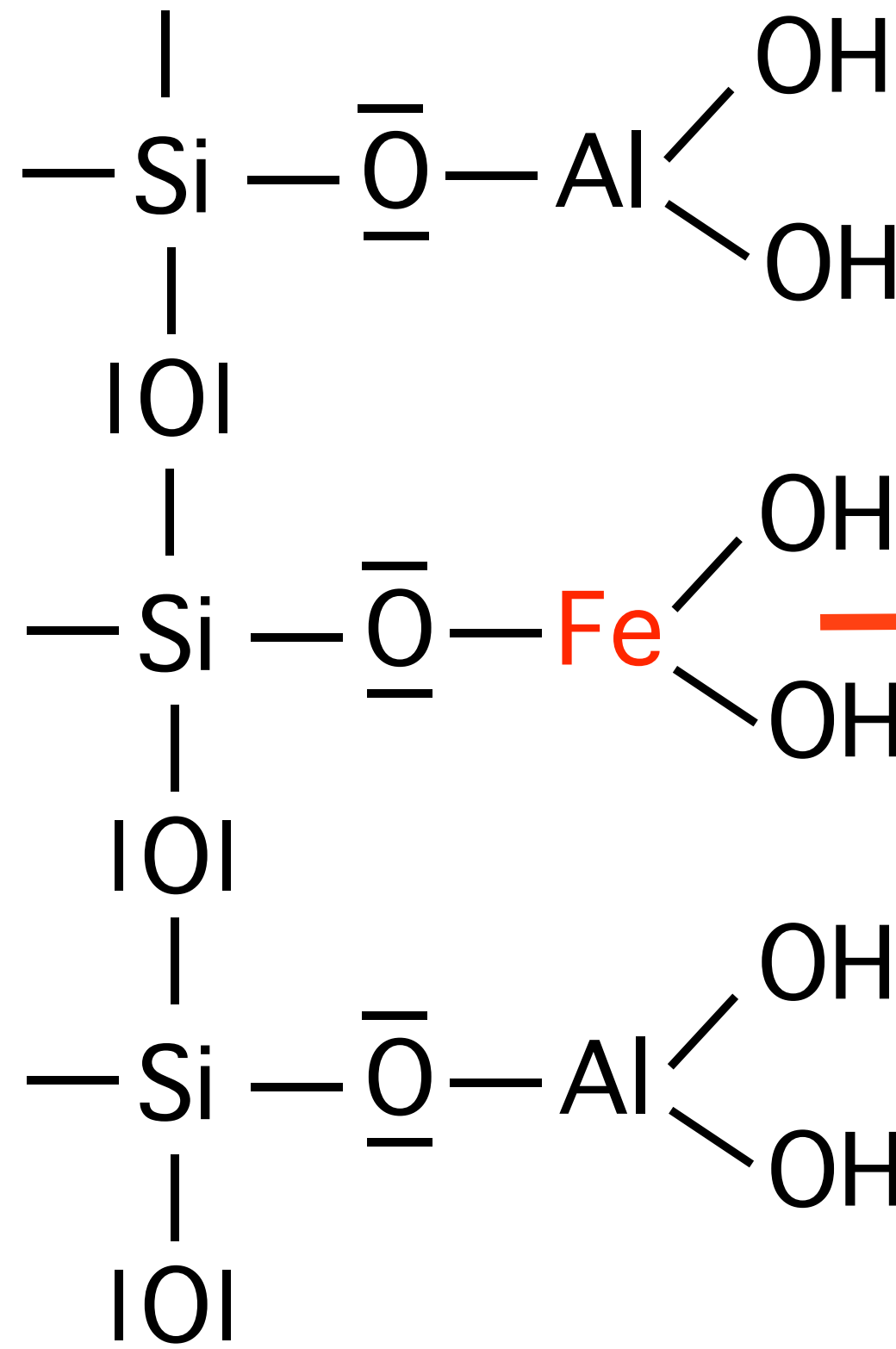
It is however impossible to separate the substituted kaolinite from that not-substituted.

This explains why, we designate the mixture of substituted kaolinite + not-substituted kaolinite by the generic term

***“ferro-kaolinite”***.

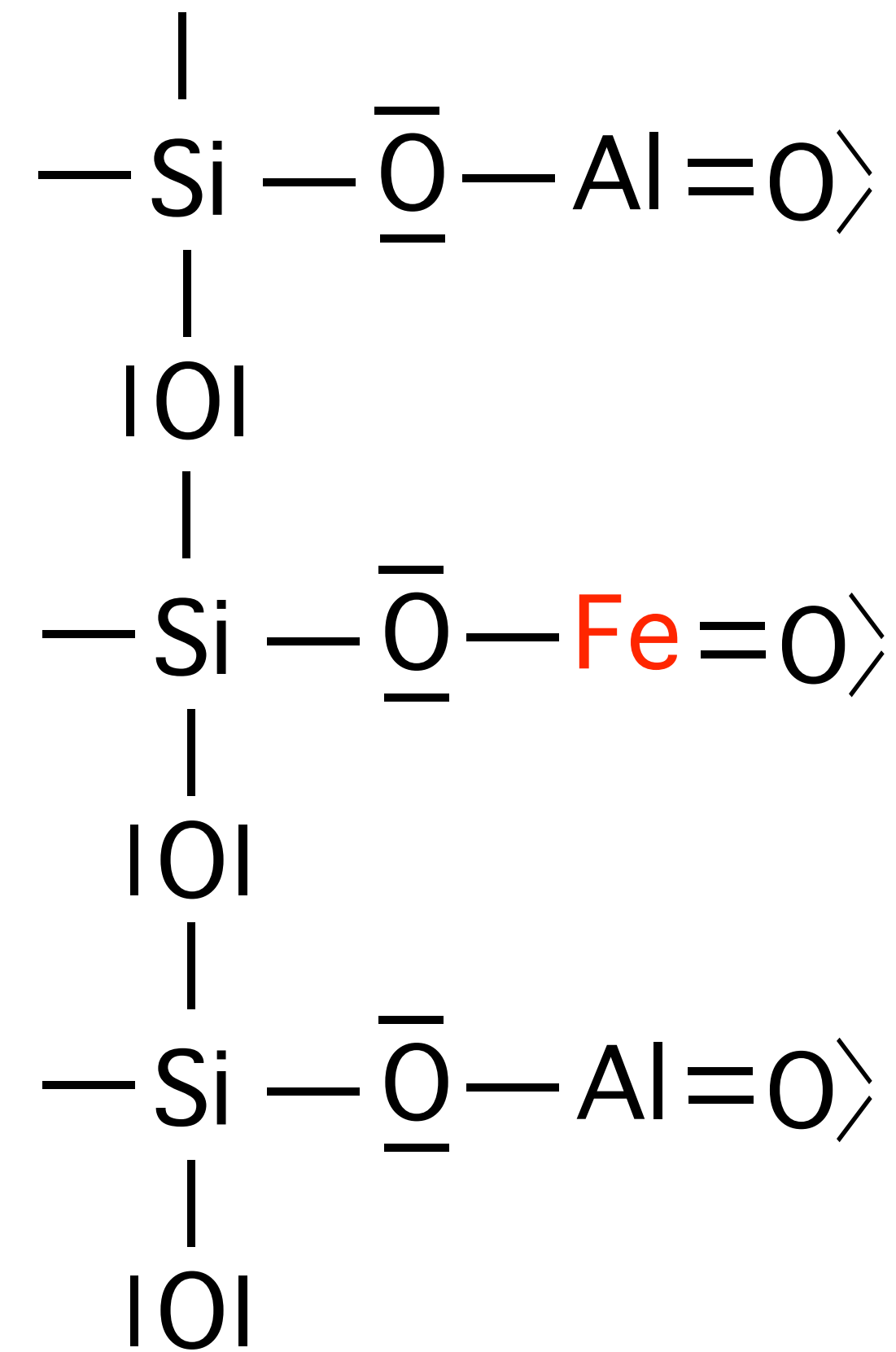


*kaolinite*



*ferro-kaolinite  
25% Fe/Al  
substitution*

750°C  
→



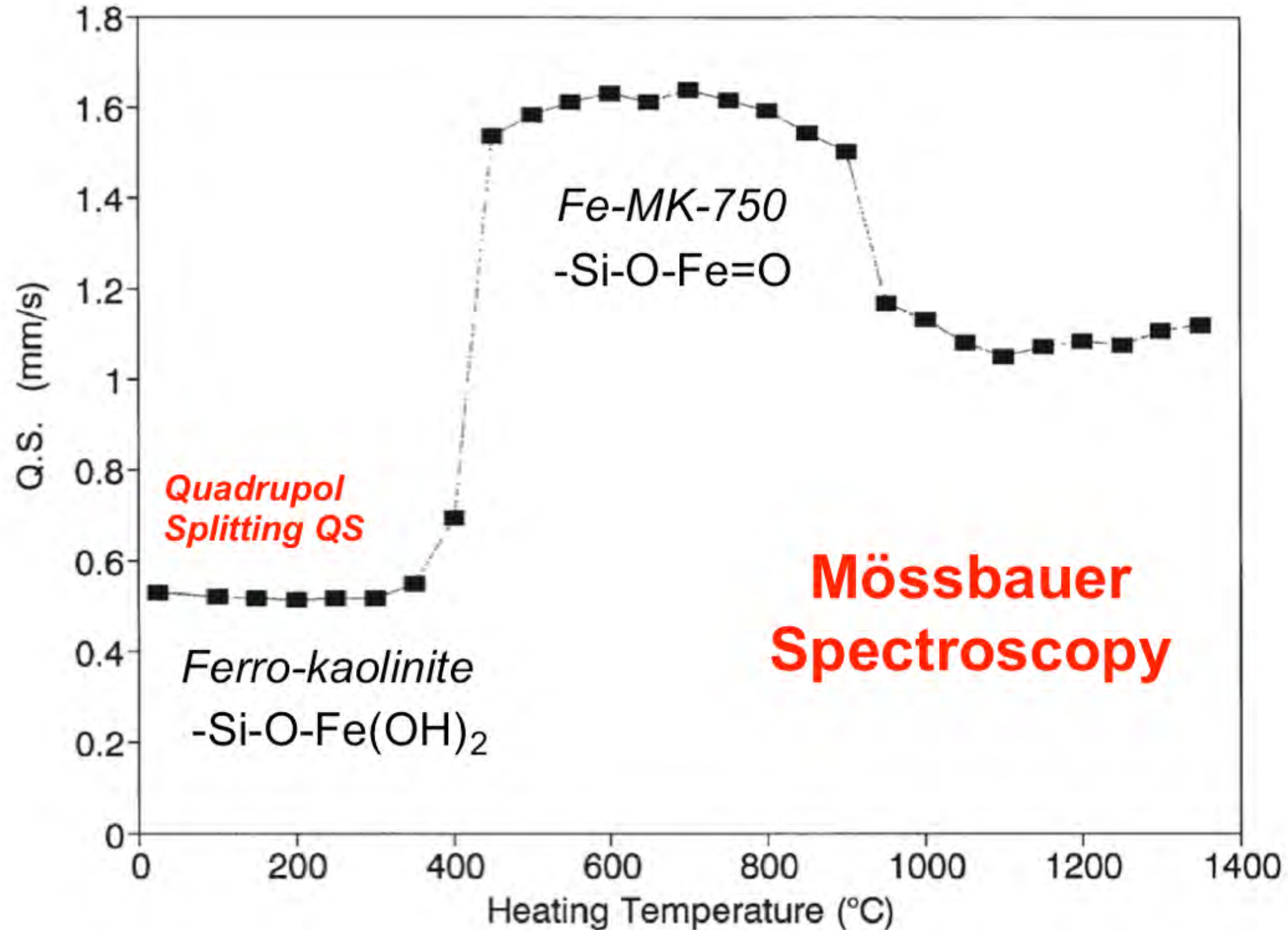
*ferro-metakaolinite ?  
Fe-MK-750*

~~NMR spectroscopy~~

Mössbauer spectroscopy

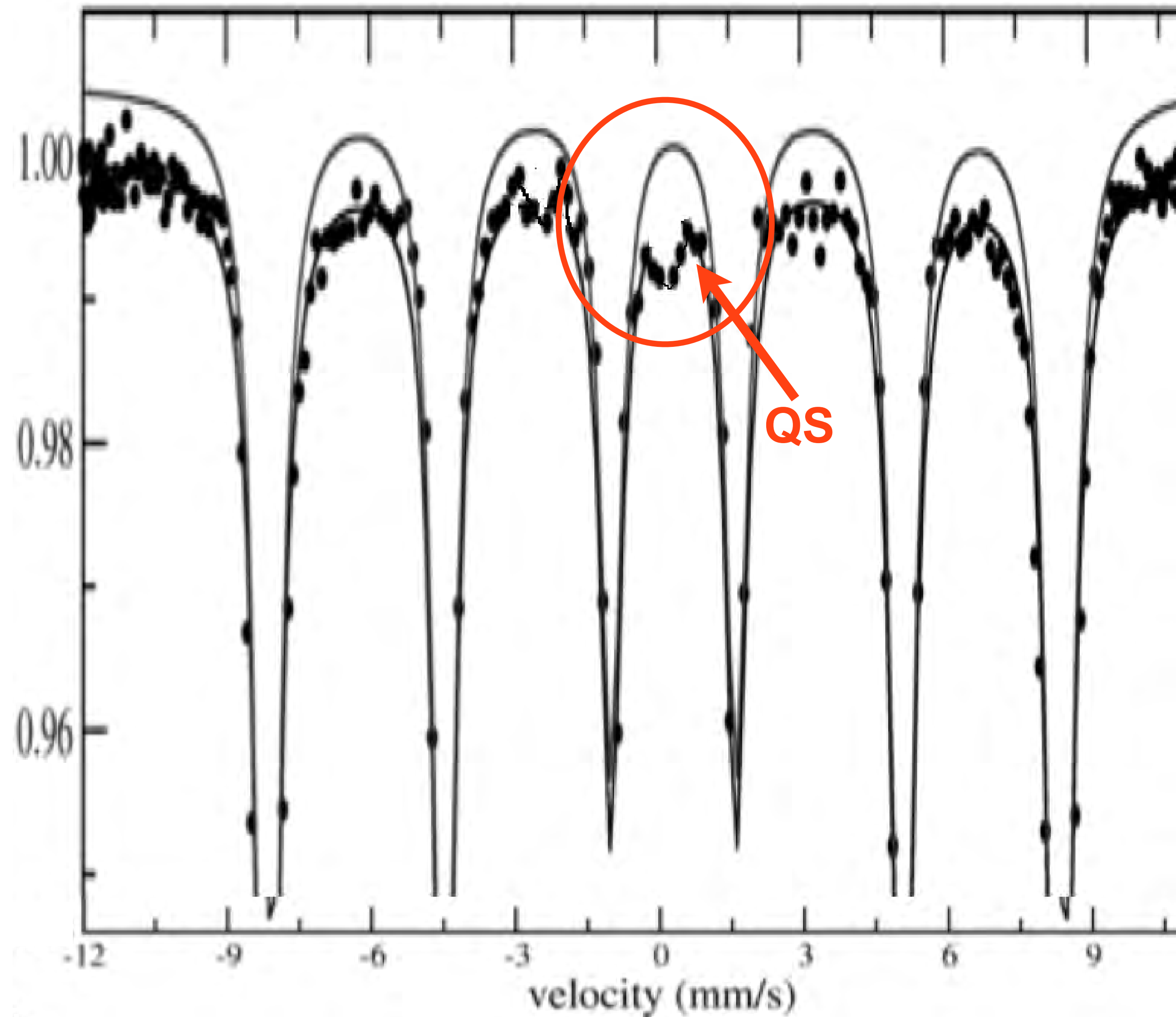
# Transformation of ferro-kaolinite into Fe-MK-750

adapted from E. Murad and U. Wagner, *Hyperfine Interactions* 117 (1998)



# Mössbauer Spectroscopy (ferro-sialate)-geopolymer

adapted from K. C. Gomes et al., *Materials Science Forum* (2010)





## Lateritic rock resulting from the weathering of basalt:

12% quartz,

45% kaolinite,

30% hematite, 3% goethite,

10% other elements (anatase + ilménite+ olivine).

- calcined at 750°C during 3 hours,

- ground to 10-25 microns.

## Geopolymer formulation

90 parts calcined lateritic rock,

30 parts slag 10-25 microns

30 parts K-silicate sol.  $\text{SiO}_2:\text{K}_2\text{O}=1,56$ ;  $\text{H}_2\text{O}: 55\%$

20 parts water

hardened at RT 20°C, covered;

## Compressive strength

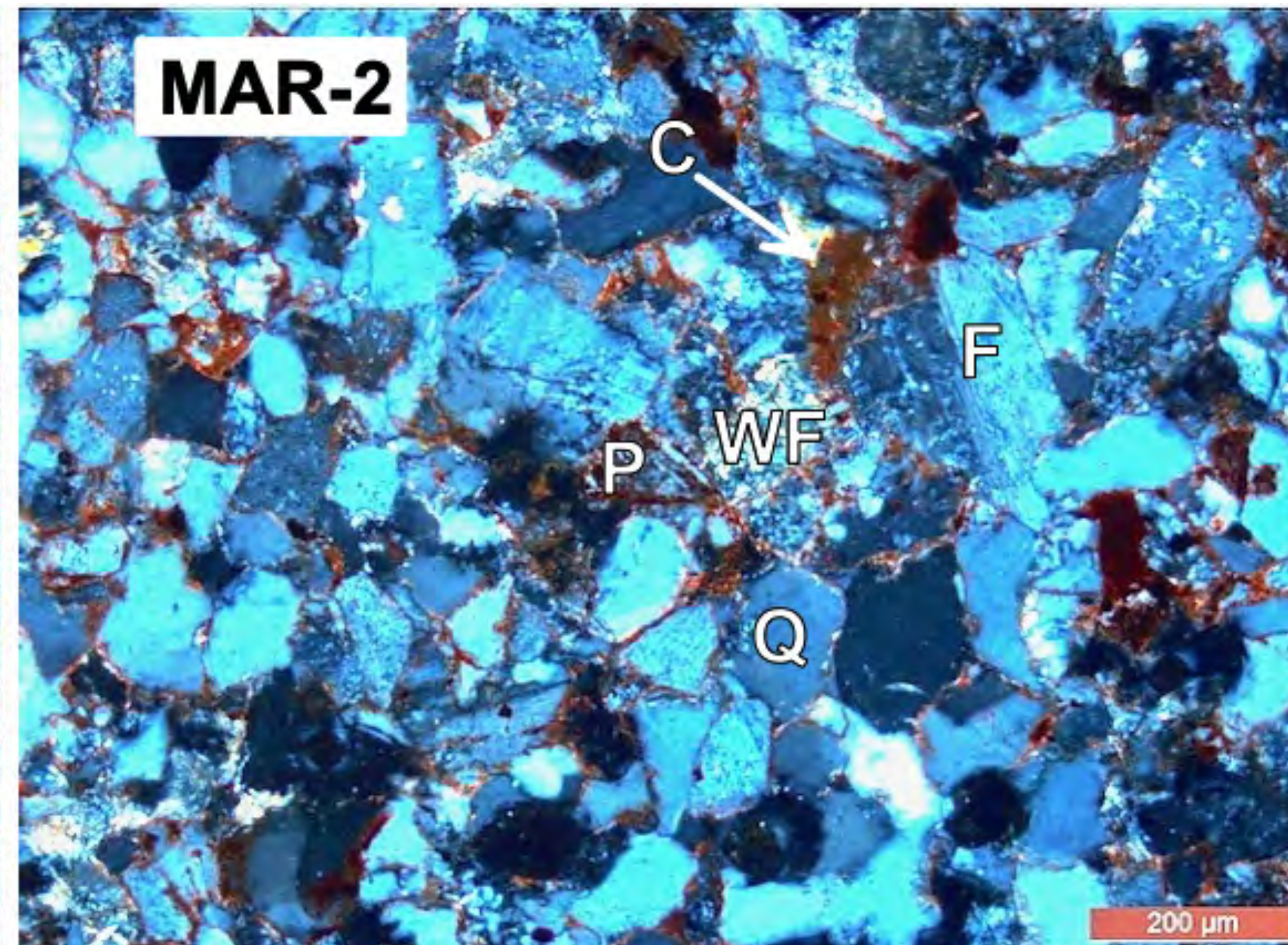
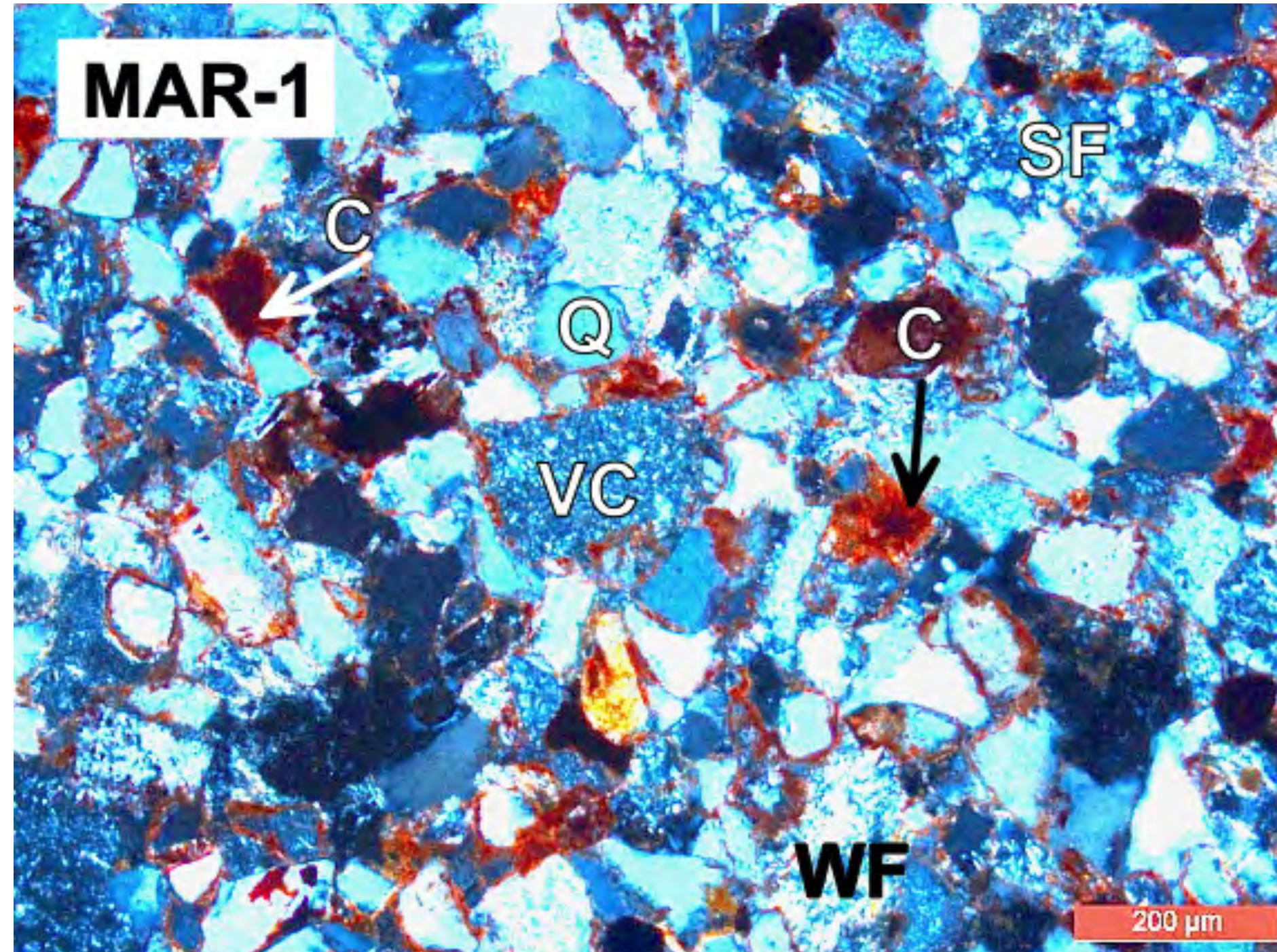
7 days: 30 MPa.

28 days: 75 MPa.

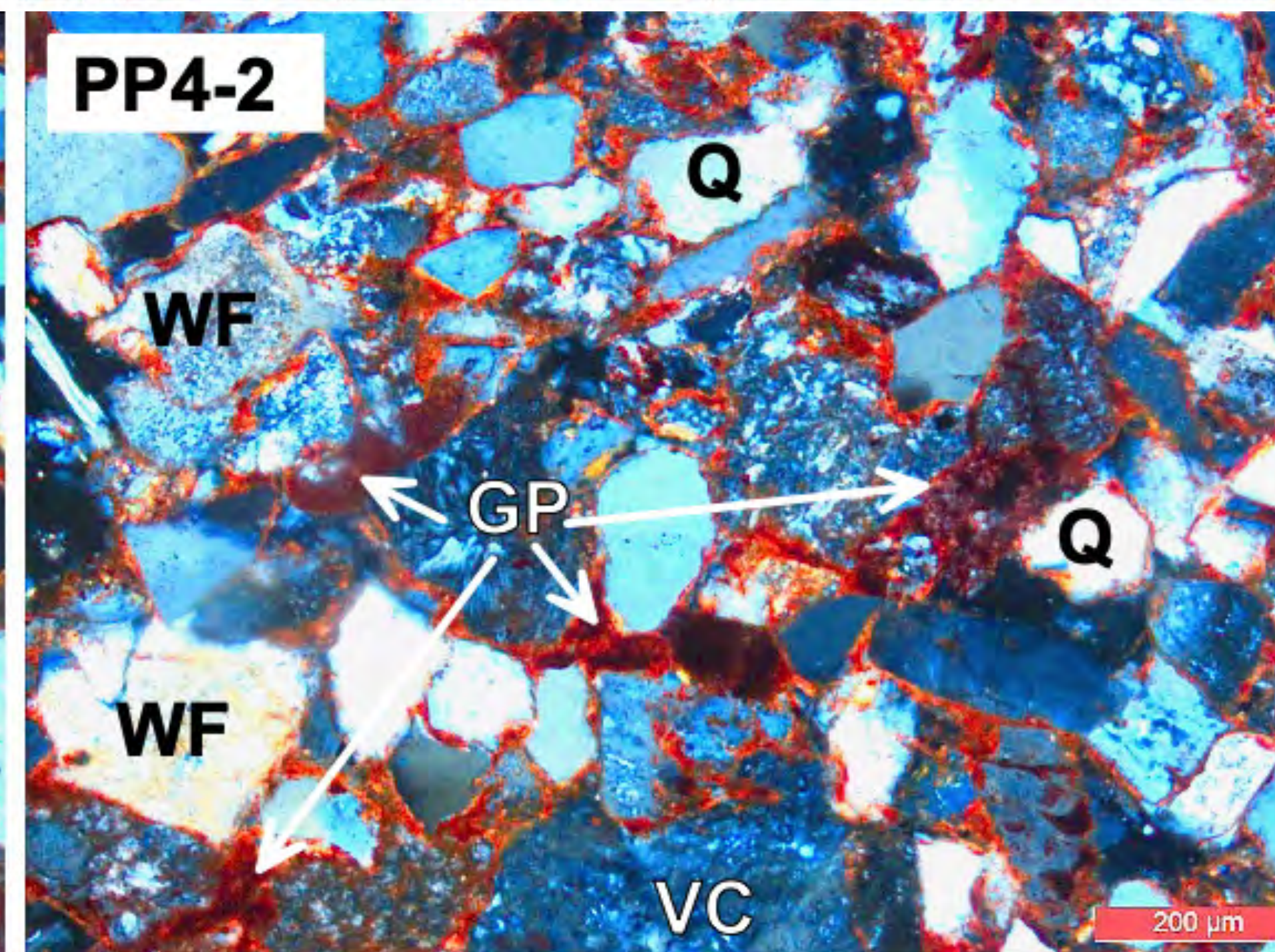
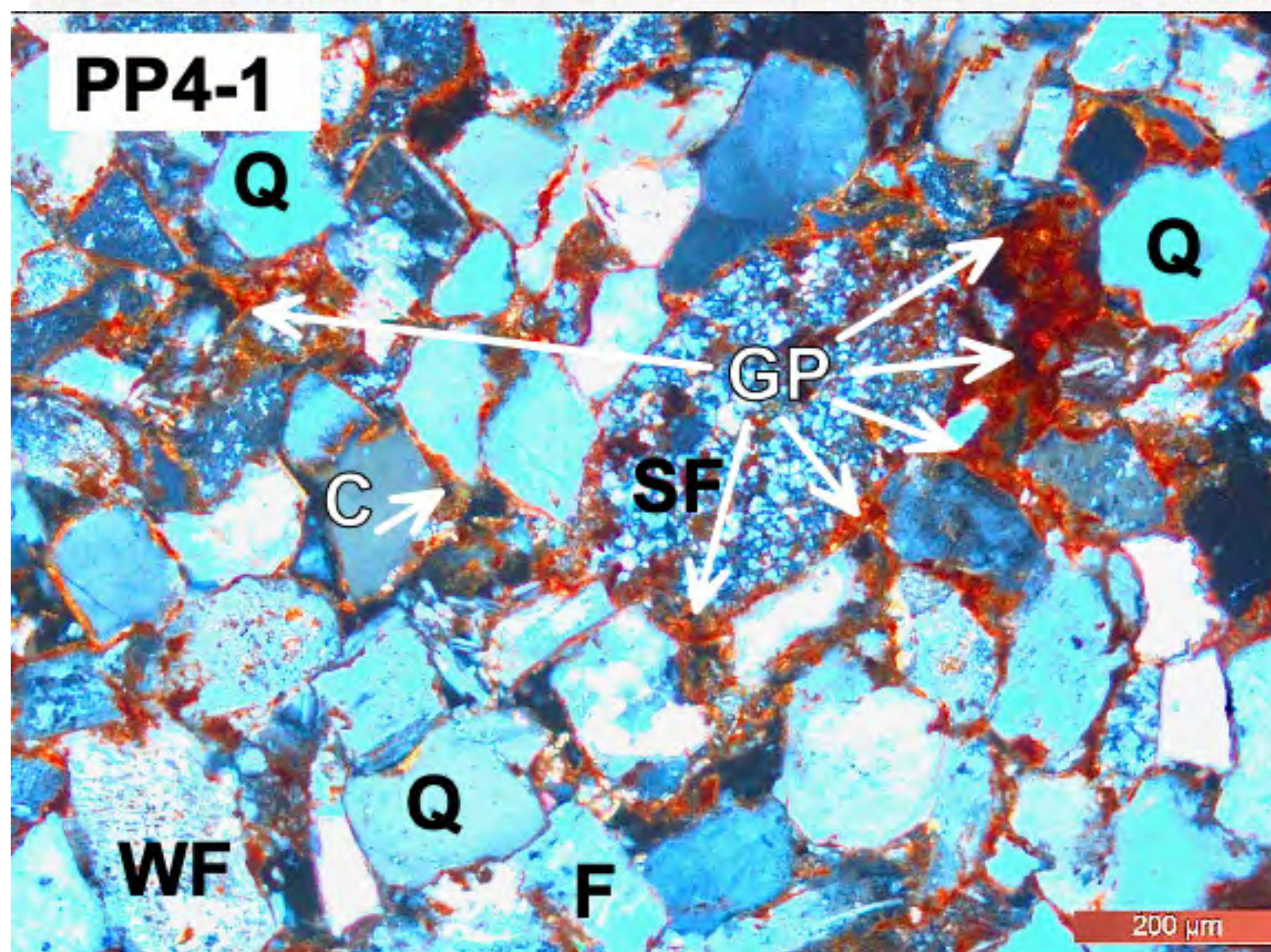
# **(Na,K,Ca)-(ferro-sialate)-based geopolymer cement**



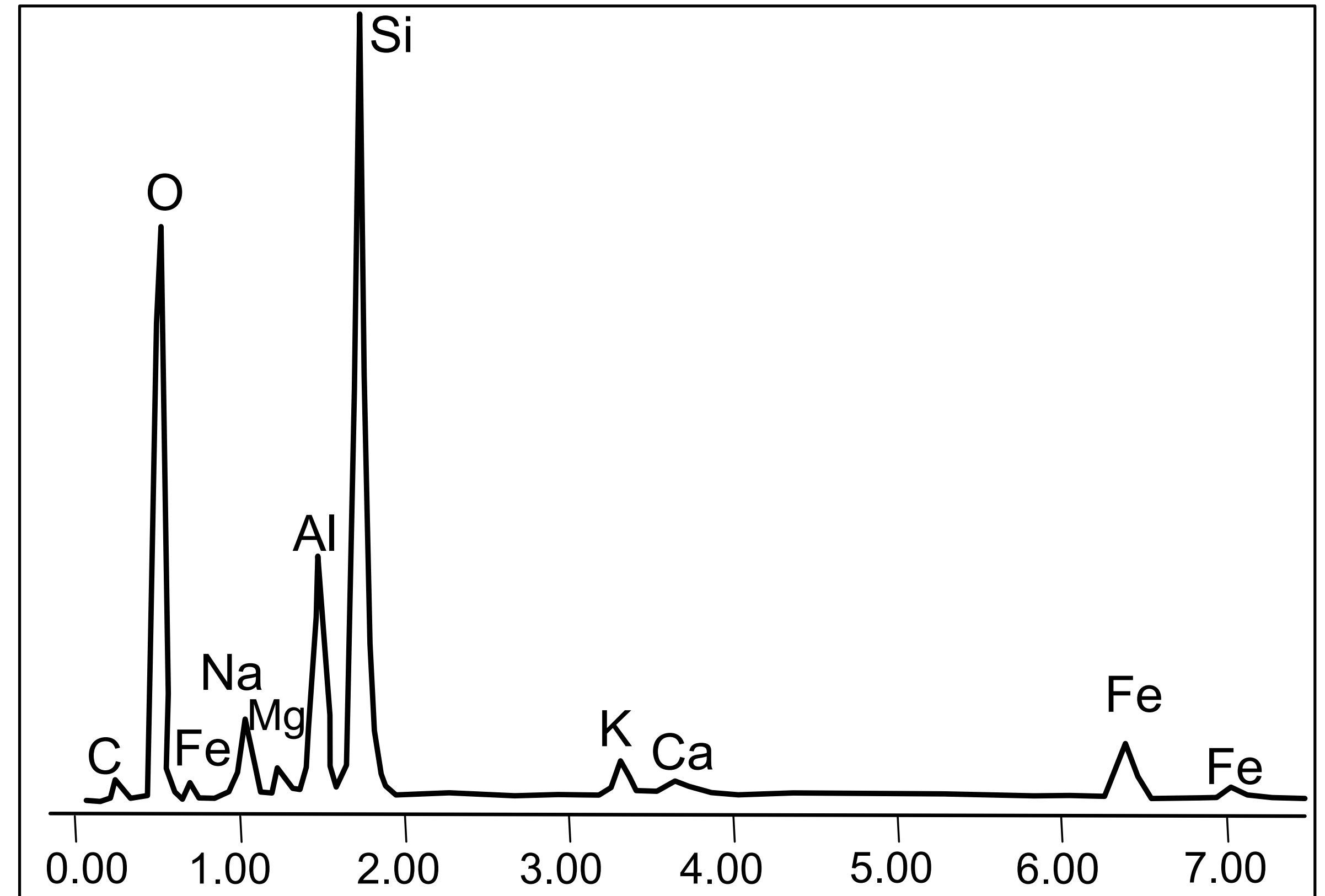
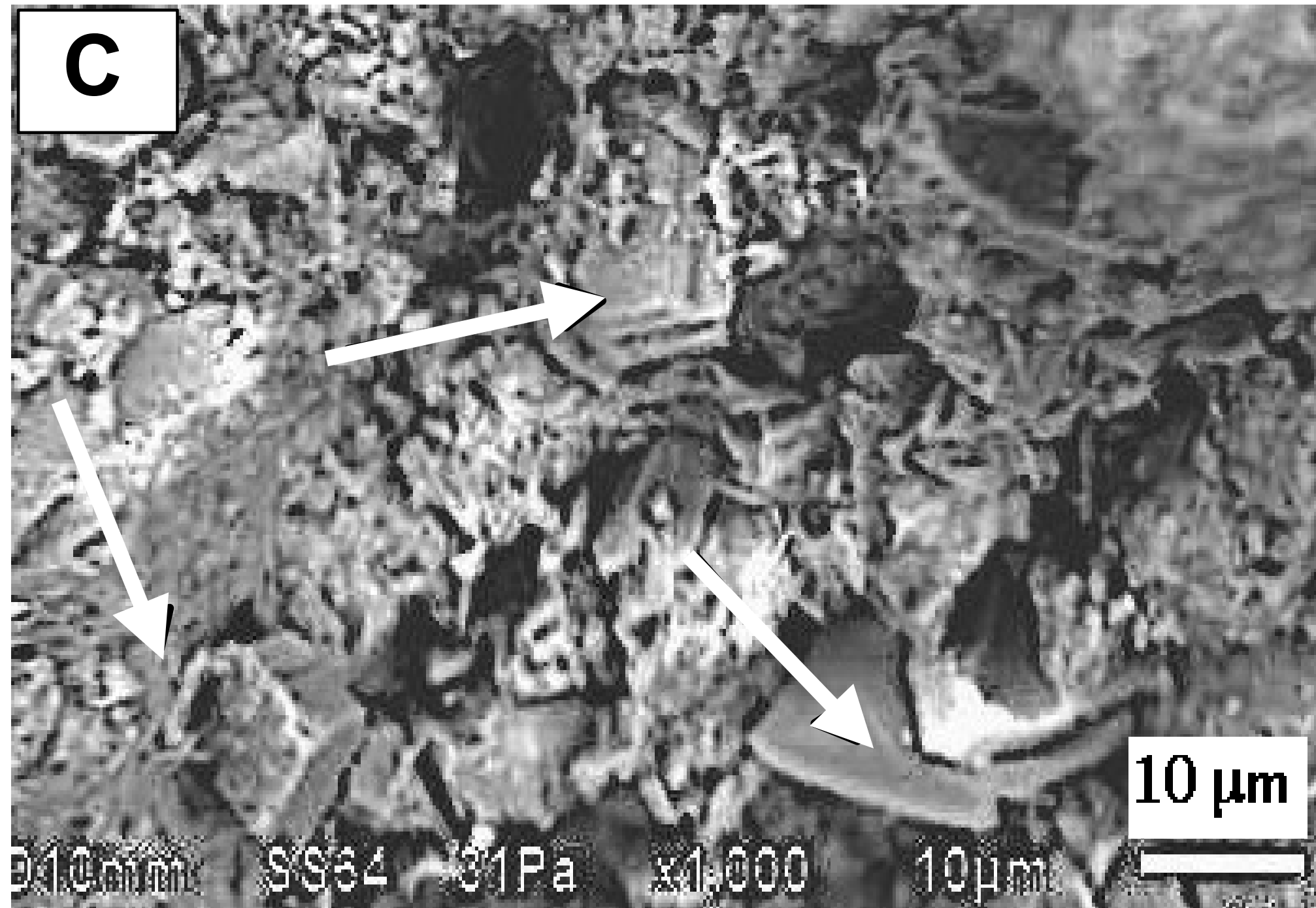
Geological site  
Marka



Pumapunku  
monument



# Pumapunku PP4 matrix



# Pumapunku PP4 matrix

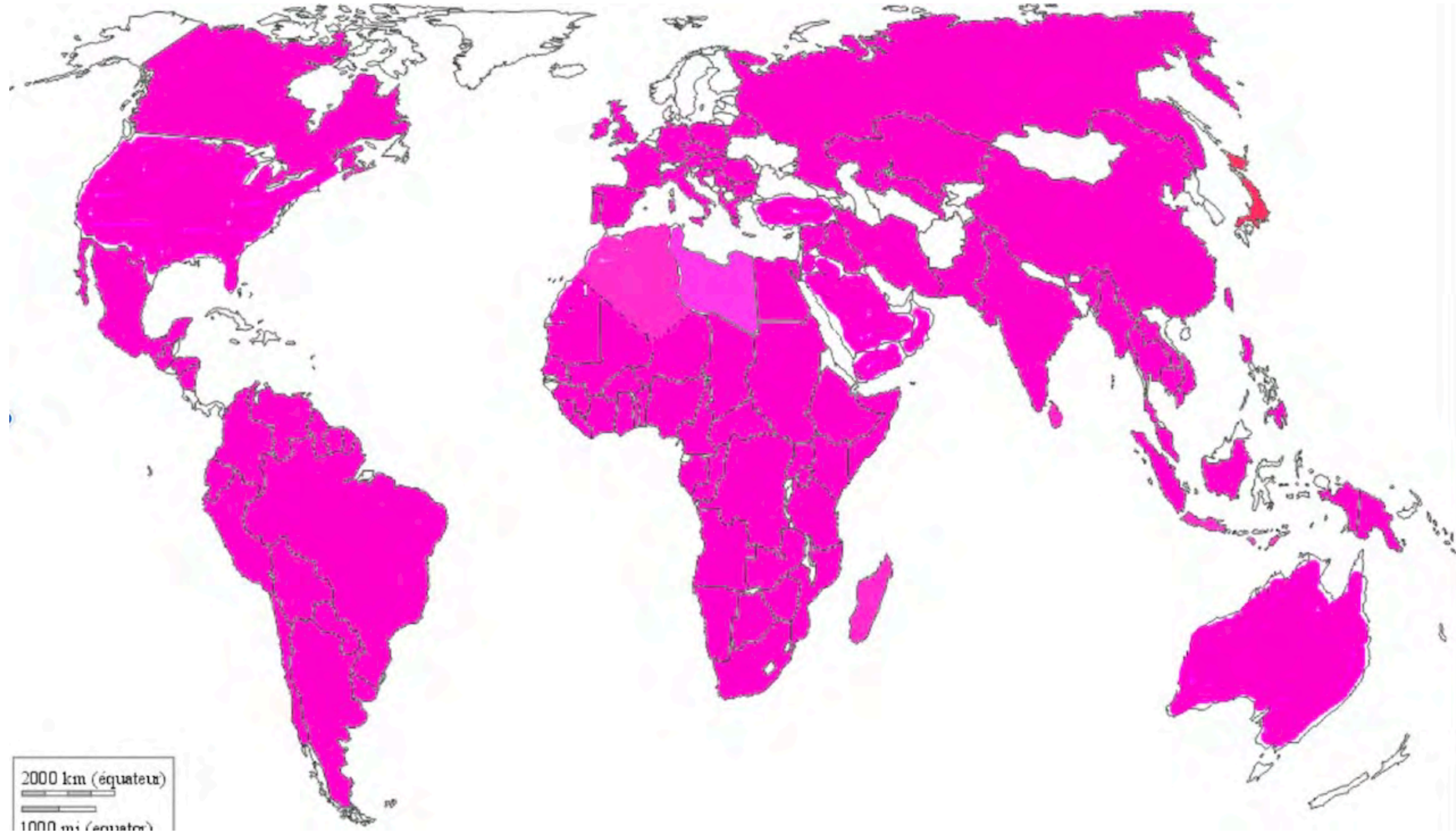
SEM/EDS	atom %	Oxide	Oxide %
Na	7.63	Na <sub>2</sub> O	8.17
Mg	1.87	MgO	1.24
Al	15.43	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	23.16
Si	59.12	SiO <sub>2</sub>	50.33
K	3.7	K <sub>2</sub> O	3.54
Ca	0.6	CaO	0.33
Fe	11.65	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	13.22
	100		100

substituted Fe at. % : 2.90 (max. 25% of Al)

in ferro-sialate geopolymer (-O-Fe-O-Si-O-Al-)

with Si/(Al,Fe) = 3.2 and rest Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> hematite as filler.

# World-wide availability of raw material for ferro-sialate geopolymer cement





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