SEARCH FOR PAST AND FUTURE "FROZEN" LEONID SHOWERS IN ANTARCTICA AND GREENLAND.

J. Duprat[1], C. Hammer[2], M. Maurette[1], C. Engrand[1], G. Matrajt[1], G. Immel[1], M. Gounelle[3], G. Kurat[4]. [1]CSNSM, Bat.104, 91405 Orsay Campus, France (duprat@cpno.in2p3), [2]Department of Geophysics, Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen, DK-2100 Denmark, [3]Department of Mineralogy, The Natural History Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK, [4]Naturhistorisches Museum, Postfach 417, A-1014 Wien, Austr

Introduction: In 1997 we launched a long-term program to collect micrometeorites from historical Leonid showers in both Greenland and the Antarctic ice caps. The major importance of these particles is their well-certified cometary origin (from comet Temple-Tuttle). The basic idea is to melt a large quantity of snow collected from the annual layers where the Leonid grains are trapped and kept in deep frozen conditions, in both central Antarctica and Greenland. Our first choice was the 1966 Leonid shower ranked at about 100,000 visible shooting stars per hour, corresponding to particles with sizes in excess of a few mm.

In 1998 we also assessed the possibility to look for "stones" from the same shower, which should be extremely rare, relying on a radar sounder with aperture and pulse synthesis which could explore a large snow surface up to a depth of 20 m. Unfortunately, based on a preliminary feasibility study it seems extremely difficult to detect with a reasonable efficiency punctual stones of diameter < 5 cm because of the high background noise due to discontinuities between snow layers.

Work at the Concordia station in central Antarctica: Since 1994 France (IFRTP) and Italy (PNRA) are jointly constructing the Concordia Station located at Dome C (S 75¡, E 123¡), 1100 km from the margin of the continent. The great advantage of this central location in Antarctica for our project is the well-characterized and very small rate of annual precipitation (≈ 3.5 cm of equivalent water per year). Thanks to the logistic and financial support of IFRTP, two of us (JD and GI) made an expedition at Dome C in January 2000 to assess the difficulties to recover several m^3 of snow from the annual layer corresponding to the 1966 Leonid shower. For this purpose, we worked in a 5 m deep trench located in the vicinity of the station. A total of 9 m^3 of snow was extracted from 4 different layers between depths of 2.5 m and 4 m. The snow was melted and filtered in the station and the analysis of the dust collected is in progress. The average depth of the 1966 layer can be deduced with the help of glaciologists, using the average snow accumulation rate and thanks to the fact that this layer is located just above the 1965 level that did trap volcanic ashes from the Agung eruption.

A second goal of this expedition was to measure the sporadic flux of micrometeorites into the very recent time (i.e., over the last few years). Thus, we collected 4 m^3 of surface snow up to a depth of 80 preliminary analysis revealed 26 extrate particles with diameters ranging from 50 to From this result, an extrapolation would giv terrestrial flux of micrometeorites of about per year. This preliminary value must be c with caution as it corresponds to a rath surface time exposition parameter (17 cm^2 year). It can be undervalued because the collection efficien device still has to be determined with accur estimation gave a value of ~ 30%, which is t adopted for this calculation).

Finally, the last goal of the expeditio search for very friable micrometeorites that been destroyed in our previous collections fields near the margin of the Antarctica ic could survive in the snow layers of central Particles collected in blue ice fields were i) high pressures during their transport in ii) cycles of melting and freezing when they top surface of the blue ice; iii) a disaggregation during their recovery from water pockets with a mechanical pump.

In a preliminary study of our first "Co 2000" collection we indeed discovered a new friable particles, and we were hoping that be related to the porous class of stratosp because they looked similar during SEM obser However, J.P. Bradley investigated ultrami sections of such a friable micrometeorite analytical STEM. He showed that they are no to IDPs [1]. In particular the typical GEMS which is abundant in chondritic porous IDPs observed in the Concordia particle. In fact exception of their friability, these microme similar to the unmelted fine-grained microm recovered in our previous collections fr industrial ices with ages of 50,000 years.

The mystery of the marked differences b IDPs collected by NASA since 1981 and Anta micrometeorites is just deepening, becau terrestrial ages of the micrometeorites co Concordia are within the last decade and co to that of the latest collections of IDPs, b of micrometeorites are still very different and Walker [3] suggested that these differen reflect a recent change in the composition of interplanetary dust particles, which would the arrival of the very dusty comet Schw Wachmann 3 in the inner solar system.

preliminary results from our "Concordia-2000" collection does not show any sign of such a change in the flux composition. This result would rather indicate that the collection of stratospheric IDPs greatly favors the least dense and most porous particles, rather than the more compact ones found in all Antarctic collections. Such particles would have the lowest sedimentation rates in the stratosphere and consequently the highest concentrations there, even so they might represent a rare component of the micrometeorite complex, which is dominated by a "hydrous-carbonaceous" material essentially related to C2 meteorites [4].

In the coming years, we are planning to go back to the Concordia Station. From this first successful attempt to recover micrometeorites at Dome C, several improvements can already be considered. A new and more efficient stainless steel snow smelter is currently under construction. Most of the snow extraction must be carried out in rather rough conditions in the shadow at the bottom of the trench where the temperature is around -50¡˚C, and improvements on both the gear and the tools to extract the snow layers are currently made. Taking advantage from this first experience, we are planning to search for the famous 1833 Leonid shower in a new 15 m deep trench. Thanks to the logistic of IFRTP such a trench can be realized in the vicinity of the Concordia Station.

Central Greenland for ice cores studies and the capture of the future Leonid showers of 2001 and 2002˚:Another approach is aimed at Greenland. Two of us (CH and MM) have been collaborating since 1984 to exploit the Greenland ice sheet. This collaboration still continues thanks to the supports of the Danish Natural Science Research Council. Three members of our team at CSNSM already spent two weeks in June 2000 in Copenhagen with a new device to melt the remaining ice core from a deep drilling (Dye 3) made in Greenland in 1979-81. This operation gives us the unique possibility of monitoring the variation of the micrometeorite flux both in composition and in mass flux over a time scale of about 40,000 years, with time windows of about 1000 years.

Concerning the search of the Leonid showers, and despite a higher snow accumulation rate than in Antarctica, Greenland has the great advantage to be in the northern hemisphere where the radiant of the Leonid shower is located. This makes the Greenland ice cap a much better ˚Leonid collector˚ than Antarctica where their shallow incidence could reduce their incoming flux. We got the requested financial and logistic support to get ready to collect in 2002 and/or 2003 a few tons of surface snow in central Greenland (Summit) that will have at this time collected the future Leonid showers of November 2001 and 2002. In these two years, high hourly rates (more th are predicted by D. J. Asher [5].

We thus make a multi-approach to collect micrometeorites with a well-certified cometa before the "STARDUST" mission. This mission return to Earth in 2006 small cometary dust captured with aerogel in the tail of comet S But their sizes (a few m) will certainly smaller than those of Antarctic micrometeori the comparison of the Leonid particles wi comparable to those of Antarctic micrometeo necessary to carry on our EMMA scenario, postulates that Antarctic micrometeorites cometary origin, and which has astoni applications in planetology [6]. Indeed, it whether very small stratospheric IDPs an Antarctic micrometeorites have a similar ori whether they will be forwarded to the Earth same efficiency.

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