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**Mercury (Hg) abundances in recent
carbonaceous chondrite falls**

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The half condensation temperature (T_c) of Hg (250 K) is about 70 K higher than that of water and much lower than for other moderately volatile elements. In meteorites, Hg abundances are often affected by terrestrial contamination. E.g., in museum samples, Hg often exceeds 400 ng/g, while Antarctic counterparts are always below. Further, evidence for Hg cross contamination between chondrite powders stored next to each other in weighing paper and zipper bags is observed here.

To constrain the cosmochemical behavior of Hg and its solar system abundance, Hg, water and elemental compositions were determined in five recent carbonaceous chondrite falls (Aguas Zarcas CM2, Flensburg C1-ungr., Kolang CM1/2, Tarda C2-ungr. and Winchcombe CM2).

It is inferred, that Hg and some Cd and Tl can be lost from fusion crusts (example from Aguas Zarcas) and that Hg scatters much more than other moderately volatile elements in type 1 and 2 chondrites. A precise and accurate solar system abundance for Hg

+ remains an outstanding problem.

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