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Precipitation of calcium compounds onto rock surfaces in water with cementitious
material

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Abstract

In this study, the precipitation of minerals onto rock surfaces was investigated to consider whether sealing of pores and cracks in rock can be accelerated. Cylindrical specimens were prepared and then kept in purified water with powders of high-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete (HSULPC), which will be used to confine transuranic (TRU) wastes in Japan. Then, the rock specimens were weighed and the surfaces of rock specimens were inspected under a microscope. It was recognized that precipitation occurred on the surface of the rock specimens. It was also shown that precipitation did not occur on rock specimens kept in water without HSULPC. The weight of all specimens stored in HSULPC increased, and the observed weight change was larger for rocks with higher porosities. It is concluded that precipitation of minerals occurs on the rock surface when the rock is kept in water with HSULPC powders. From the results obtained in this study, it is suggested that the sealing of pores and cracks in rock can be accelerated by the precipitation of calcium compounds using HSULPC. It is concluded that HSULPC is useful for underground radioactive waste disposal.

Keywords: Precipitation; Rock; Calcium compound; Scanning electron microscope;

Energy dispersion X-ray spectroscopy

1. Introduction

Engineered barriers, such as bentonite, and natural barriers, such as a rock mass, are utilized for the geological disposal of radioactive wastes, reducing the degree of exposure to radionuclides. If a repository of radioactive wastes is located in an area where both the hydraulic gradient and rock permeability are high, the retardation of migration of radionuclides by engineering and natural barriers may not be sufficient.

To retard the migration of radionuclides, several alternative concepts of radioactive waste packaging have been developed (Owada et al. 2005). It is planned that high-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete (HSULPC) will be used as radioactive waste packaging for the geological disposal of transuranic (TRU) wastes, including ^{14}C , in Japan (Kawasaki et al. 2005; Owada et al. 2005). It is intended that the radionuclides will be stored over the long term. Specifically, it is proposed that ^{14}C will be confined for 60 ky, corresponding to 10 times the half-life of ^{14}C . For this purpose, time-dependent crack propagation and crack sealing in HSULPC have been investigated. Nara et al. (2010a) investigated the relationship between the crack velocity and stress intensity factor for HSULPC by measuring subcritical crack growth. Atkinson (1984) clarified the effects of the surrounding environment on subcritical crack growth in HSULPC, under various environmental conditions. Fukuda et al. (2012, 2013, 2014) observed the self-sealing of cracks and pores in HSULPC in water using micro-focus

1 X-ray computed tomography (CT) and reported that self-sealing occurred by the
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5 precipitation of Ca compounds.
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8 A rock mass is expected to perform as a natural barrier, with high confining ability
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10 (i.e., a low permeability), for radioactive waste disposal. The permeability of rock is
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12 influenced by the distribution and connectivity of pores and cracks in the rock (Gueguen
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14 and Dienes 1989; Nara et al. 2011a). If the connectivity of pores and cracks in the rock
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16 is poor, then the permeability of the rock is low. The deposition of fine-grained particles
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18 is also effective for the sealing of pores and fractures, as reported by Wang et al. (2016).
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20 Therefore, a system that accounts for both fine-grained particle deposition and the
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22 source of mineral precipitation might ensure the safe disposal of radioactive waste.
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24 Usually, the sealing of pores and cracks in rock occurs over geological time scales. If
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26 the sealing of pores and cracks in rock can be accelerated by the precipitation of
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28 minerals and completed quickly, it will be effective for radioactive waste disposal. It is
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30 therefore important to achieve the sealing of pores and cracks in a fast process. The
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32 current understanding of mineral precipitation onto rock surfaces over the short term is
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34 insufficient for this purpose; therefore, it is necessary to identify whether minerals are
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36 able to precipitate on the surfaces of rocks within a short term by laboratory
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38 experimentation. Additionally, fine-grained HSULPC particles can enhance the sealing
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58 In this study, we investigated the precipitation of minerals and fine-grained particles
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1 onto rock samples stored in water. Since HSULPC may be used for the geological
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4 disposal of TRU wastes, we investigated whether Ca compounds precipitated on the
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7 surfaces of rocks kept in water with HSULPC. For comparison, we investigated whether
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10 precipitation occurred on the surface of rocks kept in water without HSULPC. The
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13 weight of rock specimens before and after the experiment was recorded. An increase in
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16 weight would indicate that precipitation had occurred, which can lead to the closure of
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19 fractures and pores.
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2. Samples

2.1 High-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete

HSULPC was steam cured at 90°C and 99% relative humidity for 2 days after placing into a mold. Table 1 summarizes the composition of HSULPC. It is recognized that the water cement ratio in HSULPC is lower than that of usual cementitious material. As shown in Table 1, HSULPC includes a large amount of Portland cement, which is more than 60% comprised of CaO (Bye et al. 2011). The porosity of HSULPC measured by mercury porosimetry was 5.0 % (Kawasaki et al. 2005). P-wave velocity was 5.0 km/s, the uniaxial compressive strength was 203 MPa, the Brazilian tensile strength was 10.9 MPa, the Young's modulus was 50.9 GPa and the Poisson's ratio was 0.20 (Nara et al. 2010a).

In Figure 1, a scanning electron microscope (SEM) photomicrograph of HSULPC is shown. In this study, pulverized samples (powders) of HSULPC were used when the rock specimens were submerged in water. In Figure 2, an SEM photomicrograph of HSULPC powders used in this study is shown. In this study, the HSULPC powders had a diameter less than 0.2 mm.

2.2 Rock samples

Two igneous rocks, two sandstones, and two carbonate rocks were tested. The igneous rock samples were Oshima granite (OG) and Zimbabwe gabbro (ZG). OG is often used for research and detailed information is available. For the petrological description of OG, please see Sano et al. (1981) and Nara et al. (2010b). ZG used in this study was quarried in the Great Dyke, which is about 50 km away from Harare in Zimbabwe, and was previously used by Nara et al. (2017a). In Figure 3, the results of X-ray diffraction (XRD) analyses are shown. From this figure, it is recognized that the XRD pattern of ZG shows the distinct peaks of augite, hypersthene, hornblende, plagioclase and quartz. The small peaks of magnetite and illite are also recognized.

Sandstone samples used were Berea sandstone (BS) and Shirahama sandstone (SS). These sandstones have been used in our previous studies (Nara et al. 2011b, 2012, 2014). The petrological descriptions of BS and SS were provided by Nara et al. (2011b).

The carbonate rock samples were Macedonian marble (MM) obtained in Skopje and an Italian calcarenite (IC). The MM used in this study was previously used by Nara et al. (2017b). The IC used in this study was previously used by Makhnenko and Labuz (2014). The results of XRD analyses for MM and IC are shown in Figures 4 and 5, respectively. For the XRD pattern of MM, the distinct peak of dolomite and small peaks of calcite, plagioclase and illite are recognized. It has been shown that MM consists

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2 mainly of dolomite, and a few percent of calcite, plagioclase and illite are also present.
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5 The XRD pattern of IC suggests that it consists of calcite mainly and a small amount of
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7 siderite is also present.
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10 The porosities of the rock samples in this study are summarized in Table 2, which
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13 also lists the porosity of HSULPC.
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3. Experimental method and procedure

Since this is the first study to investigate precipitation on the surface of rock in water with HSULPC, we used a novel experimental procedure, as follows.

Two cylindrical specimens from each rock sample were prepared. One was placed in purified water with HSULPC powder, and the other was placed in purified water without HSULPC powder. In this study, the surfaces of rock specimens were inspected before and after the experiment, and any change in the weight was noted to identify whether precipitation had occurred.

Once prepared, the cylindrical specimens were kept in an oven at 105°C for 24 h to dry them. The weight of the specimens, in a dry condition, was measured with an electronic analytical scale (AUW220D; SHIMADZU).

Then, the rock specimens were submerged in water-filled plastic containers. Two plastic containers were prepared for each rock sample. One was filled with 150 g of purified water and 20 g of HSULPC powder, and another was filled with only purified water. No loads were applied to the specimens during submersion of the rock specimens in water.

The specimens were placed in a chamber, the ESPEC PR-1K, for 2 months. The temperature in the chamber was maintained at 20°C. Then, the specimens were re-weighed, in the dry condition, to identify any change in their weight. Before weight

1 measurements were conducted, the specimens were dried under atmospheric conditions.

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4 If the weight of the rock specimen had increased, it is considered that some precipitation
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7 had occurred on the surface of the specimen, which can bring about the closure of
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10 fractures and pores existing in rocks.
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13 During the experiment, the water pH and concentration of Ca^{2+} cations were
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16 monitored using 6367-10D and 6583-10C electrodes (HORIBA), respectively. The
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19 accuracy of the Ca^{2+} concentration measurements was ± 10 mg/L.
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4. Results

Figure 6 shows photographs of the surfaces of rock specimens before and after submersion in water with powders of HSULPC. The grain boundaries of the specimen kept in water with HSULPC powders became unclear. Few differences were identified on the surfaces of samples submerged without HSULPC powders.

Figure 7 shows photomicrographs of the surfaces of specimens after submersion in water with and without HSULPC powders. Numerous precipitates were observed on all specimens following submergence in water with HSULPC powders, and the pores and cracks were unclear. Notably, needle-shaped precipitates were frequently observed, as well as block-like precipitates; these observations are consistent with those of Ca compound precipitates on HSULPC by Fukuda et al. (2014).

In all cases, HSULPC powders solidified on the bottom of the containers. Furthermore, BS and HSULPC specimens stuck to the solidified HSULPC powders. Photographs of the BS and HSULPC specimens stuck to HSULPC powders are shown in Figure 8a and b, respectively.

We observed the surfaces of rock specimens using a scanning electron microscope / energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM/EDX) to clarify the minerals that precipitated on the rock surfaces. SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping on the surfaces of the rock samples kept in water with HSULPC powders are

presented in Figures 9–15. These results suggest that significant CaCO_3 precipitation occurred on the surfaces of all samples, because Ca, C, and O were detected by the analysis with EDX. In addition, it is considered that $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ occurred on the surface of OG, ZG, SS, MM and GH, because Mg was also detected in addition to Ca, C, and O.

5. Discussion

As mentioned in Section 1, HSULPC will be used as radioactive waste packaging for the geological disposal of TRU wastes (Kawasaki et al. 2005; Owada et al. 2005). If cementitious materials are used underground, then the concentration of Ca^{2+} in ground water may increase. In such a case, fracture sealing in the rock can be accelerated by the precipitation of Ca compounds. Therefore, the use of cementitious materials can be advantageous for the geological disposal of radioactive waste. HSULPC powders can produce more Ca^{2+} in water due to their larger surface area. The preparation of HSULPC powders can facilitate the production of more precipitates of Ca compounds on rock surfaces. In addition, Ishibashi et al. (2016) reported that closure of fractures can result from powder deposition. Therefore, the preparation of powders can also offer advantages in radioactive waste disposal.

Our results demonstrate that CaCO_3 and $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ precipitation occurs on rock surfaces in water with high concentrations of Ca ions. Precipitation can lead to crack healing, which can decrease rock permeability. Therefore, the results obtained in this study provide fundamental evidence of time-dependent permeability changes in rock.

It is important to consider the source of the precipitate. Figure 16 shows the temporal changes in Ca^{2+} cation concentration in water. The concentration of Ca^{2+} increased immediately after the rock samples and HSULPC powders were placed in purified water,

1 and then decreased as time elapsed. We presume that the calcium ions were precipitated
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5 in solution.
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8 The Ca ion concentration of the purified water used in this study was less than 1
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10 mg/L. Due to the low concentration of Ca ions in water, little precipitation was detected
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12 on the surfaces of rock samples kept in purified water without HSULPC. To achieve
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14 precipitation of Ca compounds and sealing of fractures in rock, a high concentration of
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16 Ca^{2+} in water is essential. The results shown in Figure 16 suggest that a source of Ca^{2+}
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18 is essential to accelerate the precipitation of Ca compounds, and to ensure fracture
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20 sealing in rock. In addition, our results suggest that HSULPC is a suitable source to
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22 increase Ca^{2+} concentration in water. We therefore recommend the use of HSULPC to
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24 effectively ensure the safe geological disposal of radioactive wastes.
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34 Carbonate ions (CO_3^{2-}) or hydrogen carbonate ions (HCO_3^-) are also necessary for
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36 the precipitation of CaCO_3 or $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ (Gebrehiwet et al. 2014; Kemache et al.
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38 2016). Usually, CO_3^{2-} or HCO_3^- ions are present in water. As such, these ions likely
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40 contributed to the precipitation of Ca compounds. In the case of CaCO_3 precipitation,
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42 the reaction between Ca^{2+} from HSULPC and CO_3^{2-} in water may be a possible
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44 mechanism. However, the amount of CO_3^{2-} in water may not have been sufficient for
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46 the precipitation of calcium compounds, because purified water was used in this study.
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52 Therefore, the source of CO_3^{2-} can be CO_2 present in the atmosphere, because the
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58 specimens used in this study were dried under atmospheric conditions. When the
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specimens were dried, the temperature of the surrounding air was 293 K. The concentration of CO₂ in air was around 400 ppm, as measured by a CO₂ concentration meter. CO₂ in the surrounding air is presumed to have dissolved in water, thereby generating CO₃²⁻. The precipitation of CaMg(CO₃)₂ is thought to occur during the chemical reaction between Ca²⁺ from HSULPC, CO₃²⁻ from water, and Mg²⁺ provided by minerals in the rock samples and HSULPC. Since precipitation of carbonate minerals (CaCO₃ and CaMg(CO₃)₂) occurred on the surfaces of the specimens, it is likely that the concentration of CO₃²⁻ in the water at the surface of the specimens reached the solubility equilibrium when the specimens were dried (Compton and Dary 1987; Donnet et al. 2009). The dissolution of CO₂ from the surrounding air may also have contributed to solubility equilibrium.

The temporal changes in the water pH are shown in Figure 17. Figure 17a and b show the changes in water pH with and without HSULPC powders, respectively. The pH remained almost constant, except at the beginning of the experiment. All rock samples were kept in plastic containers filled with purified water, without opening the lids; for this reason, the change in pH was small.

A summary of the dry weight data for the rock specimens before and after being kept in water is provided in Table 3. As these data show, the weight of all specimens kept with HSULPC increased, and that of all specimens kept without HSULPC slightly decreased. Since the concentration of Ca²⁺ in the water was high when the rock was first

1 submerged, and then decreased gradually, it is likely that CaCO_3 precipitation occurred
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5 on the rock surface.
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8 In addition, it is necessary to consider the weight increase due to filling by the
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10 powders. It is important to enhance the sealing of fractures and pores in rock to decrease
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12 its permeability or prevent an increase of permeability. Therefore, precipitation should
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14 be promoted. Ishibashi et al. (2016) reported that fine-grained mineral particles filled
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16 the fractures in a rock mass, leading to a decrease in permeability. According to Wang et
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18 al. (2016), fillings in rock fractures significantly decrease the permeability of fractured
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20 rock. Pérez-Flores et al. (2017) showed that the permeability of fractured rock was
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22 decreased by filling even though the fracture was unmated. Nara et al. (2018) reported
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24 that the permeability of macro-fractured granite decreased significantly when the
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26 macro-fracture was filled naturally by fine-grained minerals. Therefore, it is desirable to
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28 produce filling powders to decrease the permeability of fractured rock.
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40 The relationships between the porosity of rocks and changes in the dry weight of
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42 specimens are presented in Figure 18. Especially, the changes in the weight of rock
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44 samples kept in water with and without HSULPC powders are shown in Figure 18a and
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46 b, respectively. Figure 18a shows that the change in weight of the rock samples was
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48 larger when the porosity was high. This result suggests that the weight increase becomes
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50 more significant as the amount of precipitation onto the rocks with high porosity
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52 increases. Conversely, all specimens kept in water without HSULPC lost mass, which
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1 indicates that some minerals contained in the rock specimen dissolved in water. The
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4 weight reductions observed in these specimens were larger in high-porosity rock
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7 samples. Thus, larger rock surface areas increased the amount of dissolution of some
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10 minerals.
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13 The main purpose of this study was to investigate whether the precipitation of
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15 minerals occurred or not on rock samples in water. Rock samples kept in water with
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17 HSULPC increased in weight and the sealing of pores and cracks occurred through the
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19 precipitation of Ca compound and filling by fine-grained mineral particles. If pores and
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21 precipitation of Ca compound and filling by fine-grained mineral particles. If pores and
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23 cracks in rock are sealed by the precipitation of Ca compound and filling by
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25 fine-grained particles, then the permeability can be decreased. It is therefore desirable to
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27 enhance the sealing of pores and cracks by both mineral precipitation from chemical
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29 reaction and filling by fine-grained mineral particles. Low permeability (high confining
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31 ability) of rock materials is desirable for the underground disposal of radioactive waste.
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33 In addition, closure of cracks in rock through precipitation can reduce the crack
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35 propagation rate of subcritical crack growth and bring about a subcritical crack growth
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37 limit (Atkinson 1984). It is concluded that the precipitation phenomena observed in this
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39 study provides important information about the long-term behavior of rocks, which
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41 could facilitate radioactive waste disposal projects.
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6. Conclusion

In this study, rock specimens were submerged in water, with and without HSULPC, for 2 months under a constant temperature (20°C) to explore the precipitation of materials onto the rock surfaces. It was recognized that precipitation of some minerals occurred on the surface of rock specimens kept in water with HSULPC powder. Precipitate covered the whole surface. We observed the chemical precipitation of Ca compounds and the deposition of HSULPC powders, which can promote effective sealing of cracks and pores in rock. Grain boundaries could not be clearly observed on samples kept in water with HSULPC. Conversely, precipitation did not occur on rock specimens kept in water without HSULPC powder. Furthermore, changes in the dry weight were larger for rock specimens with higher porosity. We conclude that the sealing of pores and cracks in rock occurs according to, and is accelerated by, environmental conditions, with high concentrations of calcium ions being provided by HSULPC. Additionally, HSULPC powders are effective for acceleration of the sealing of pores and cracks in rock, and to overcome the cracking and dissolution of rocks.

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Figure captions

Figure 1 Scanning electron microscope (SEM) photomicrograph of high-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete (HSULPC).

Figure 2 SEM photomicrograph of HSULPC powders.

Figure 3 X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern for Zimbabwean gabbro (ZG).

Figure 4 XRD pattern for Macedonian marble (MM) (Nara et al. 2017b).

Figure 5 XRD diffraction pattern for Italian calcarenite (IC).

Figure 6 Photographs of specimen surfaces. (a) Oshima granite (OG) in initial condition; (b) OG following submersion with HSULPC powders; (c) ZG in initial condition; (d) ZG following submersion with HSULPC powders; (e) Berea sandstone (BS) in initial condition; (f) BS following submersion with HSULPC powders; (g) Shirahama sandstone (SS) in initial condition; (h) SS following submersion with HSULPH powders; (i) MM in initial condition; (j) MM following submersion with HSULPH powders; (k) IC in initial condition; (l) IC following submersion with HSULPC powders; (m) HSULPC in initial condition; (n) HSULPC following submersion with HSULPC powders.

Figure 7 SEM photomicrographs of specimen surfaces. (a) OG following submersion in purified water; (b) OG following submersion in water with HSULPC powders; (c) ZG following submersion in purified water; (d) ZG following

1
2 submersion in water with HSULPC powders; (e) BS following submersion in
3
4
5 purified water; (f) BS following submersion in water with HSULPC powders;
6
7
8 (g) SS following submersion in purified water; (h) SS following submersion in
9
10 water with HSULPC powders; (i) MM following submersion in purified water;
11
12
13 (j) MM following submersion in water with HSULPC powders; (k) IC
14
15
16 following submersion in purified water; (l) IC following submersion in water
17
18
19 with HSULPC powders; (m) HSULPC following submersion in purified water;
20
21
22 (n) HSULPC following submersion in water with HSULPC powders.
23
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25
26 Figure 8 Photographs of specimens of (a) BS and (b) HSULPC stuck to HSULPC
27
28 powders.
29
30

31
32 Figure 9 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for OG kept in
33
34 water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping
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36 for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental
37
38 mapping for O.
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43 Figure 10 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for ZG kept in
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45 water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping
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47 for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental
48
49 mapping for O.
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54 Figure 11 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for BS kept in
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56 water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping
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for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for C; (d) elemental mapping for O.

Figure 12 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for SS kept in water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental mapping for O.

Figure 13 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for MM kept in water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental mapping for O.

Figure 14 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for IC kept in water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental mapping for O.

Figure 15 SEM photomicrographs and results of elemental mapping for HSULPC kept in water with HSULPC powders. (a) SEM photomicrograph; (b) elemental mapping for Ca; (c) elemental mapping for Mg; (d) elemental mapping for C; (e) elemental mapping for O.

Figure 16 Temporal changes in Ca^{2+} cation concentration in water where samples were kept with HSULPC powders.

Figure 17 Temporal changes in pH in water (a) with and (b) without HSULPC

powders.

Figure 18 Changes in the weights of samples kept in water (a) with and (b) without
HSULPC powders.

Table captions

Table 1 Composition of high-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete (HSULPC), after Nara et al. (2010a).

Table 2 Porosity of samples.

Table 3 Summary of dry weight of samples before and after the experiment.

Table 1 Composition of high-strength and ultra-low-permeability concrete (HSULPC), after Nara et al. (2010a).

	Amount (kg/m ³)
Low-heat Portland cement	744–1,014
Silica fume	158–496
Fillers (fly ash, blast furnace slag, etc.)	225–541
Aggregates	631–947
Water-reducing admixture	24
Water	180

Table 2 Porosity of samples.

Samples	Porosity (%)
Oshima granite	0.37
Zimbabwe gabbro	0.65
Berea sandstone	20.4
Shirahama sandstone	12.9
Macedonian marble	0.60
Italian calcarenite	35.4
HSULPC	5.0

Table 3 Summary of dry weight of samples before and after the experiment.

Sample	Dry weight before (g)	Dry weight after (g)	Weight change (g)
Oshima granite with HSULPC powders	20.361	20.366	0.005
Oshima granite without HSULPC powders	21.105	21.101	−0.004
Berea sandstone with HSULPC powders	15.759	N/A	N/A
Berea sandstone without HSULPC powders	15.622	15.607	−0.015
Shirahama sandstone with HSULPC powders	17.615	17.643	0.028
Shirahama sandstone without HSULPC powders	17.449	17.411	−0.038
Macedonian marble with HSULPC powders	21.287	21.290	0.003
Macedonian marble without HSULPC powders	21.762	21.750	−0.012
Zimbabwe gabbro with HSULPC powders	24.085	24.091	0.006
Zimbabwe gabbro without HSULPC powders	23.992	23.988	−0.004
Italian calcarenite with HSULPC powders	13.149	13.170	0.021
Italian calcarenite without HSULPC powders	13.301	13.281	−0.020
HSULPC with HSULPC powders	19.423	N/A	N/A
HSULPC without HSULPC powders	18.997	18.905	−0.092

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Figure 1

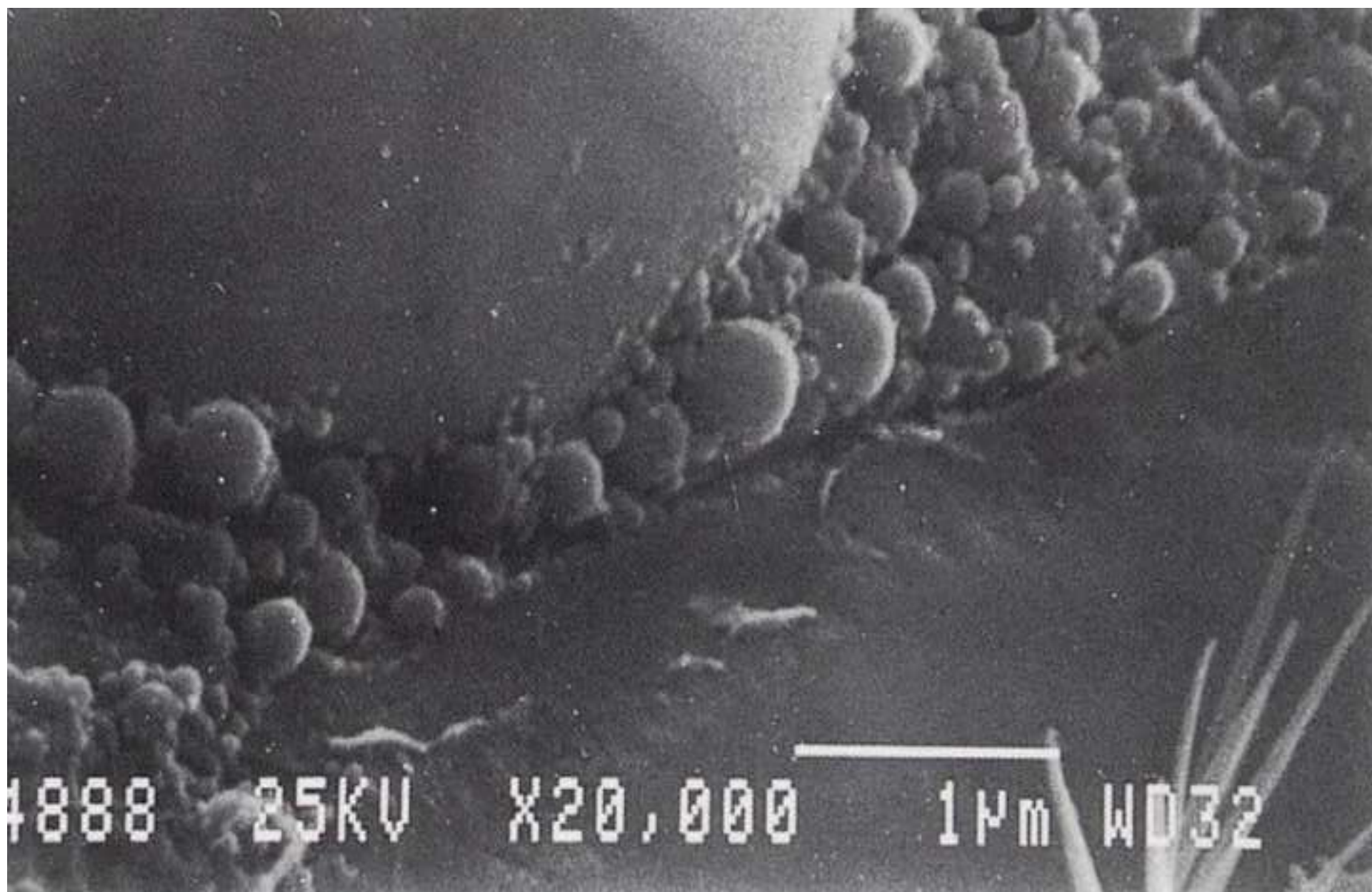
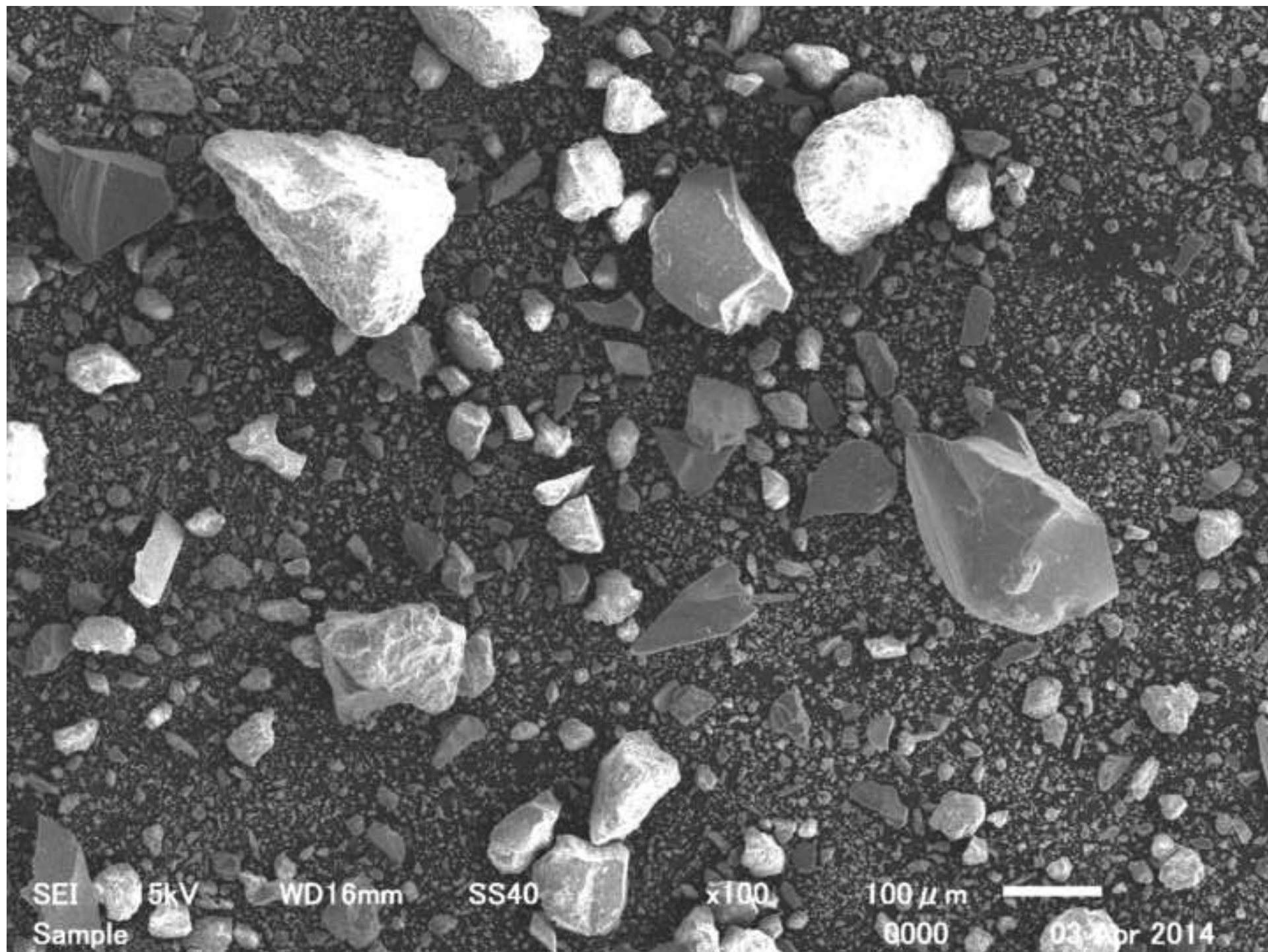
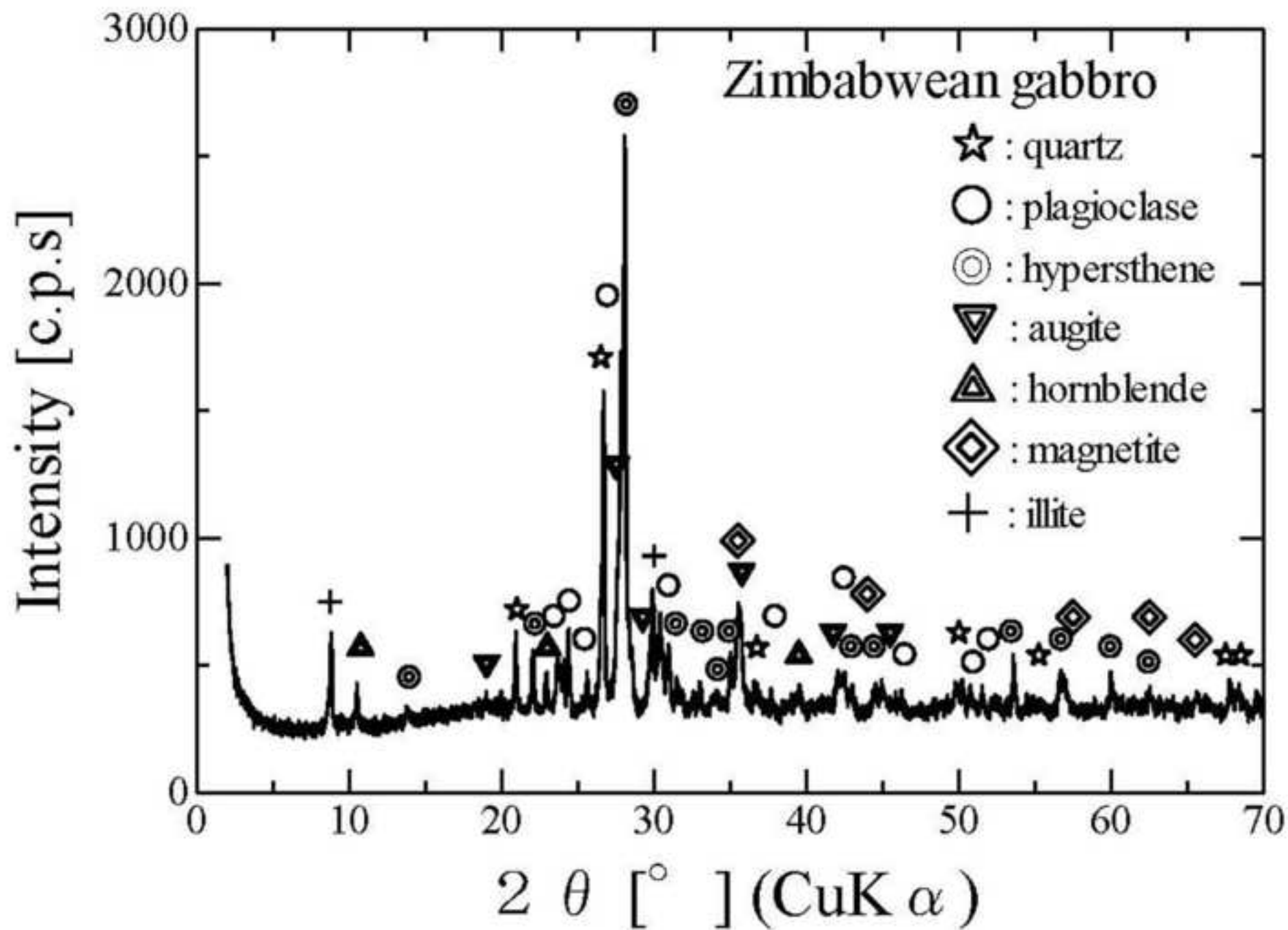
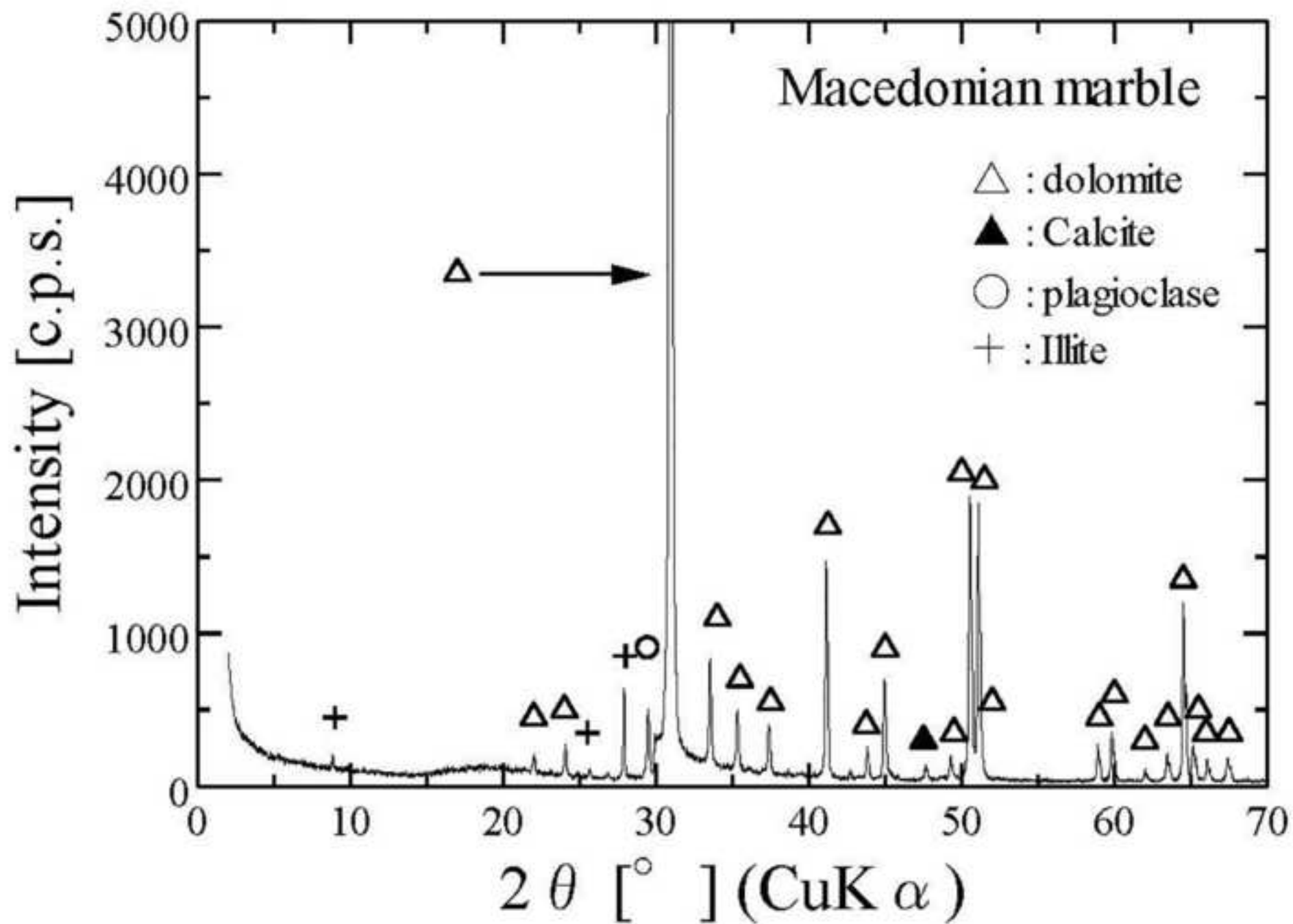


Figure 2







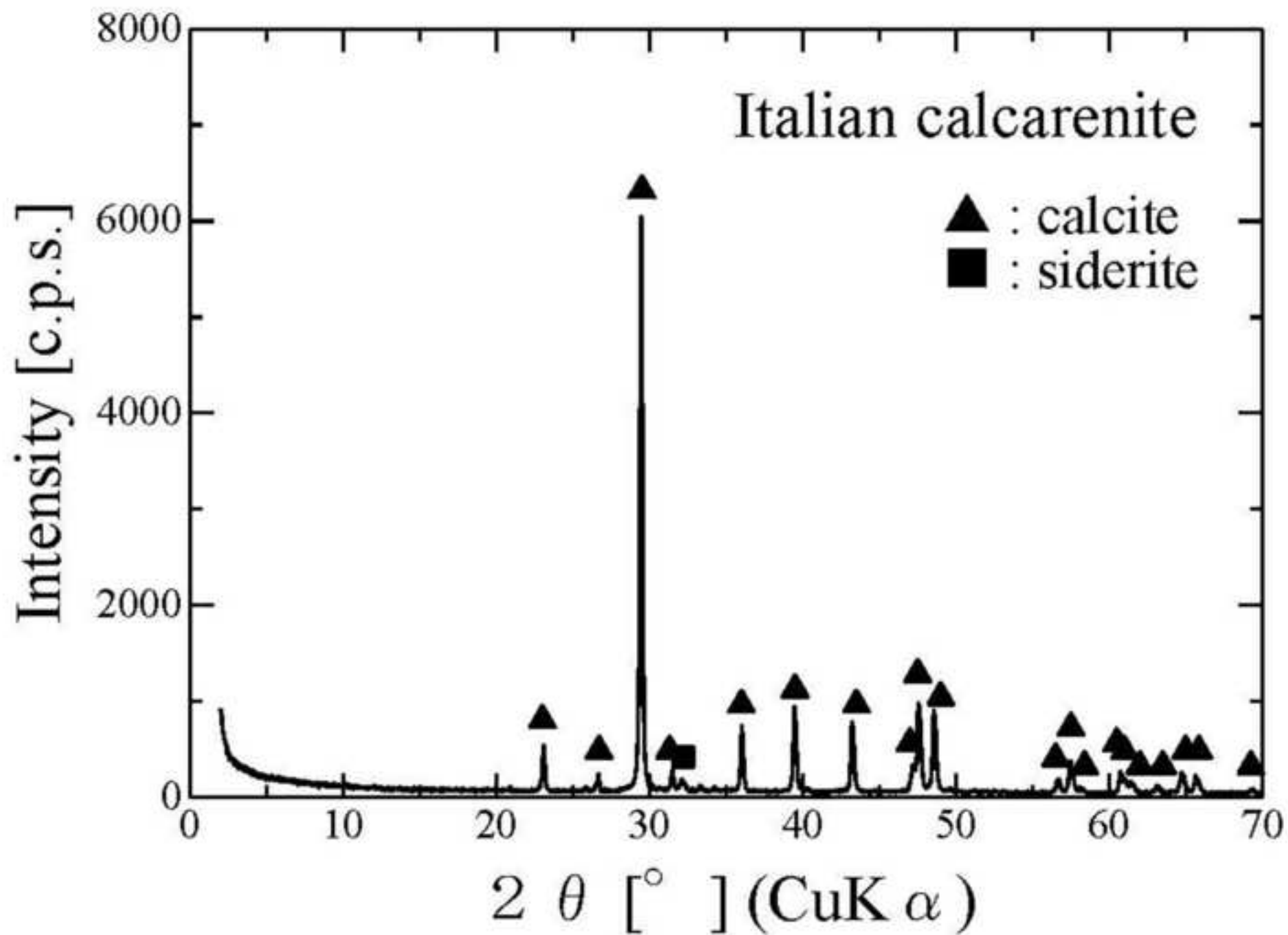


Figure 6a

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06a\(OG1_initial\).jpg](#)



Figure 6b

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06b\(OG1_precipitate\).jpg](#)



Figure 6c

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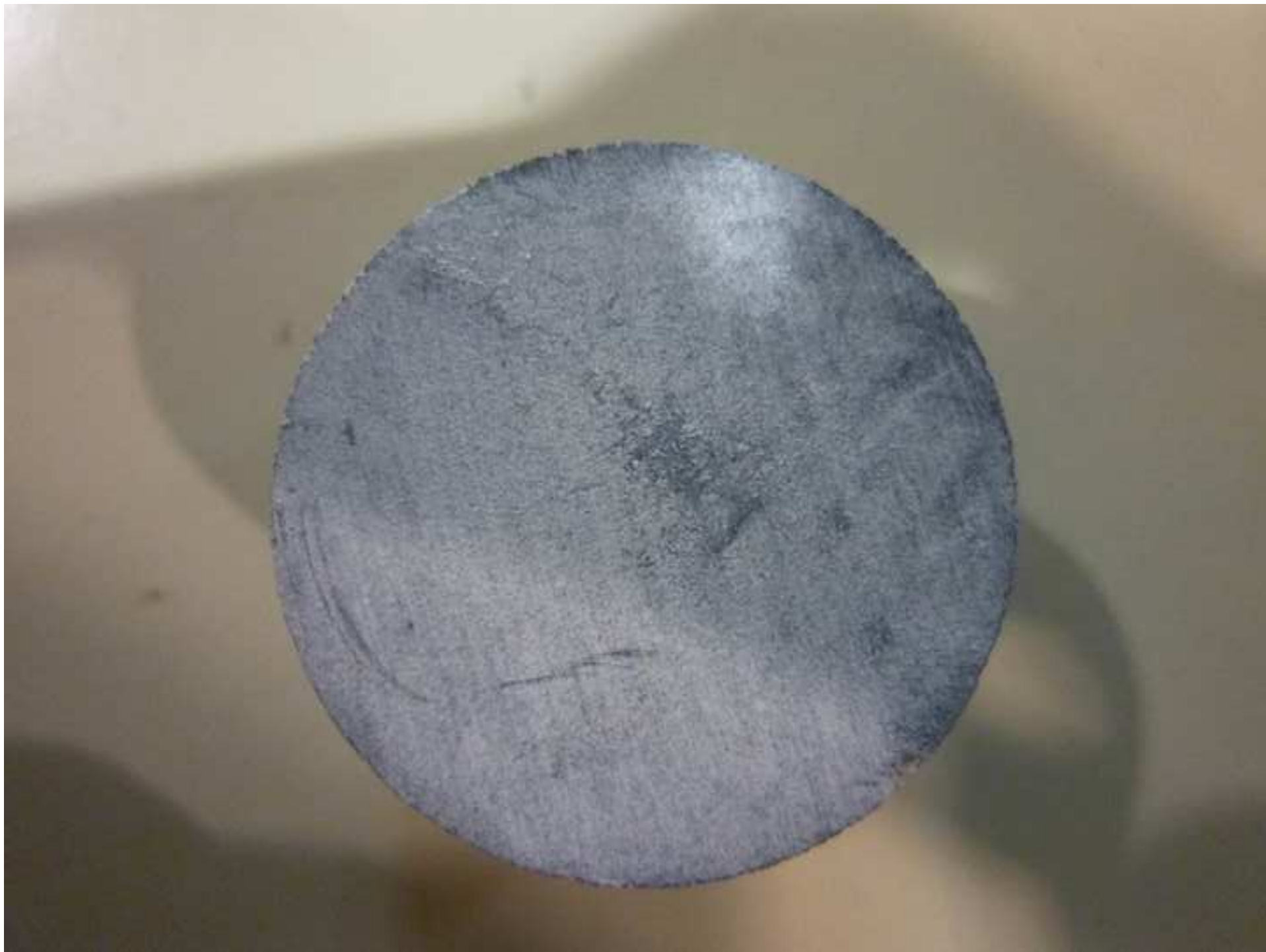


Figure 6e

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06e\(BS1_initial\).jpg](#)





Figure 6g

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06g\(SS1_initial\).jpg](#)





Figure 6i

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Figure 6j

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06j\(MM1_precipitate\).jpg](#)









Figure 6n

[Click here to download Figure Fig_06n\(GH1_precipitate\).jpg](#)



Figure 7a

[Click here to download Figure Fig_07a\(OG_kept_in_purified_water\).jpg](#)

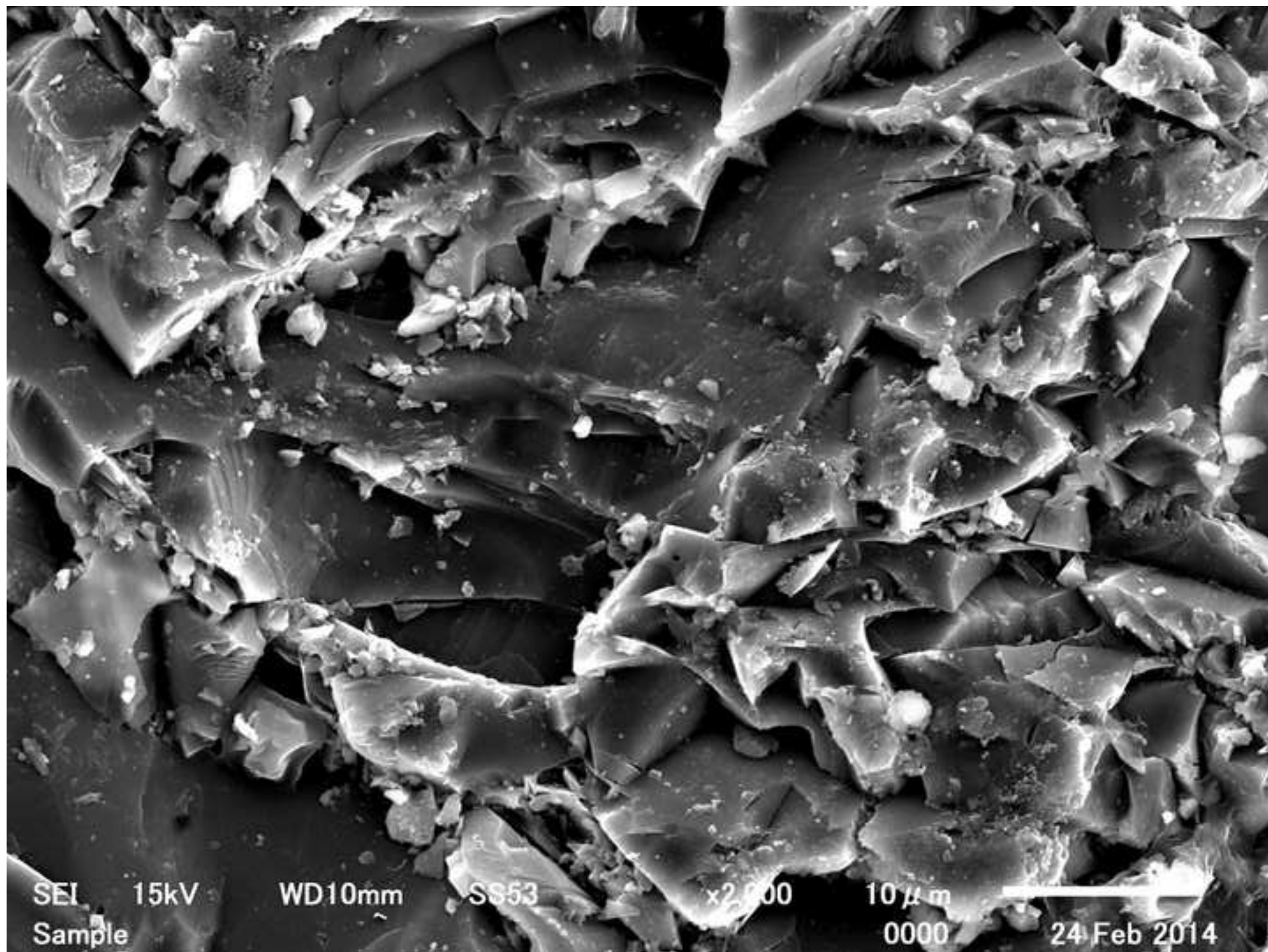


Figure 7b

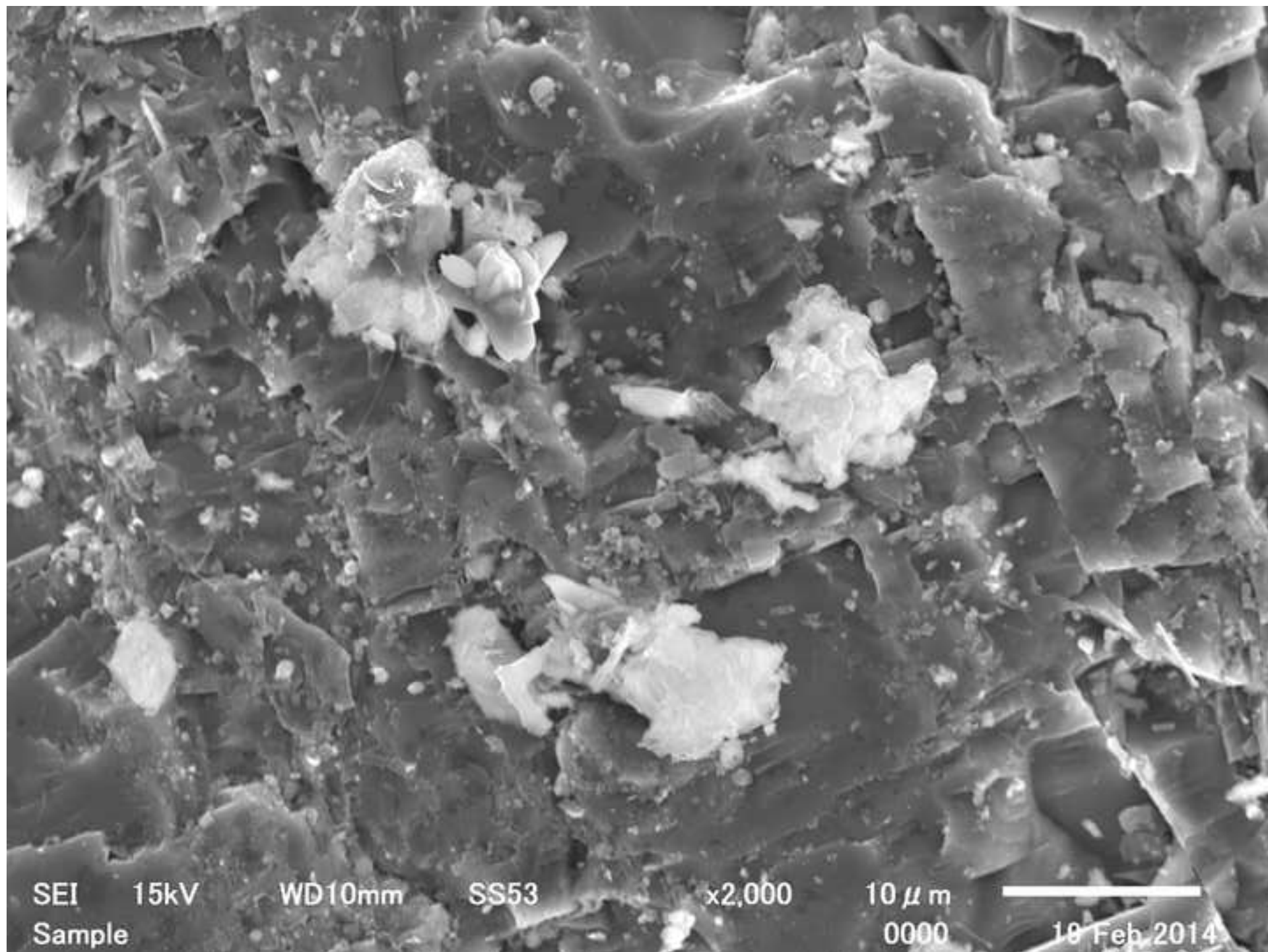
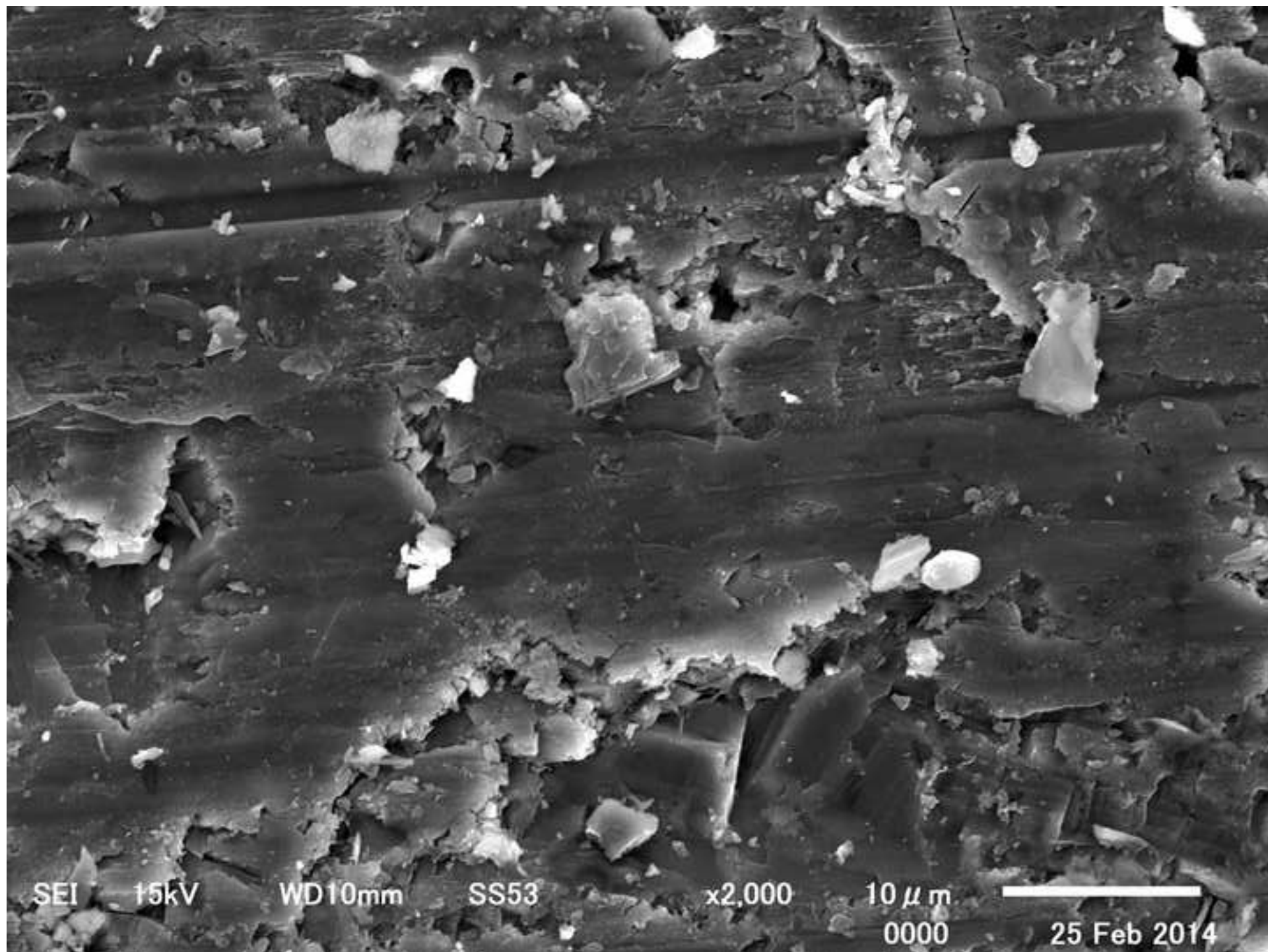


Figure 7c



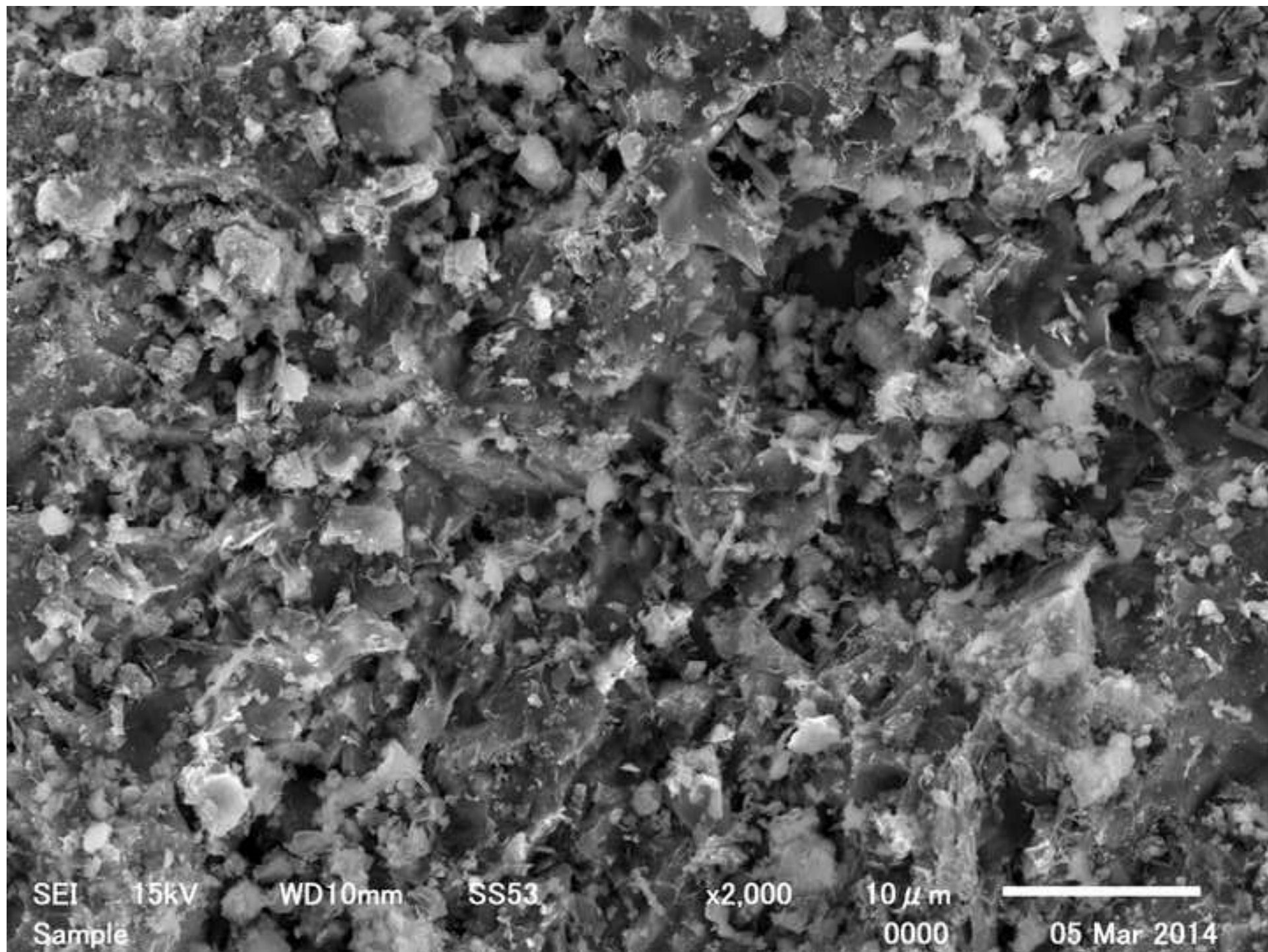


Figure 7e

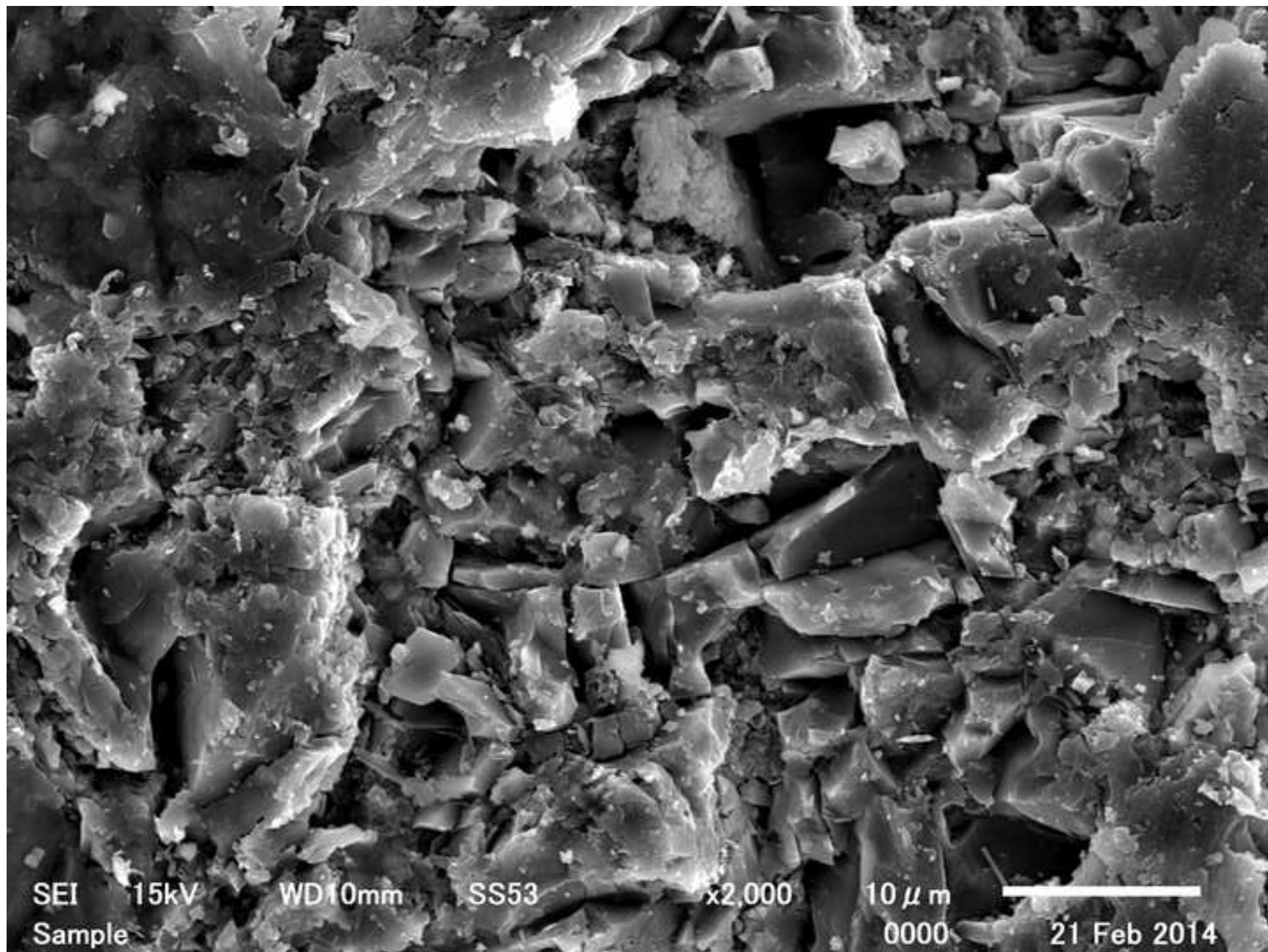


Figure 7f

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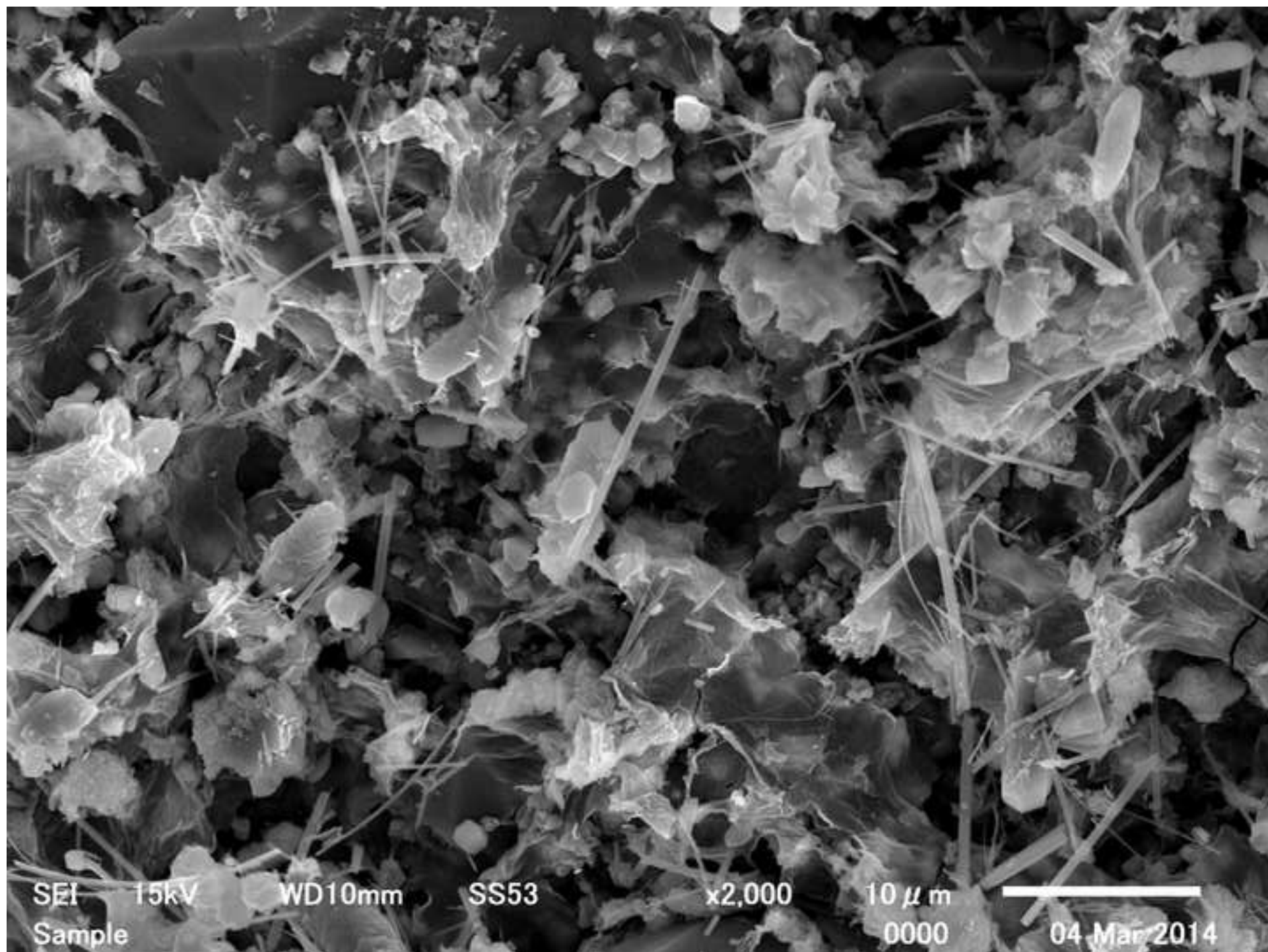
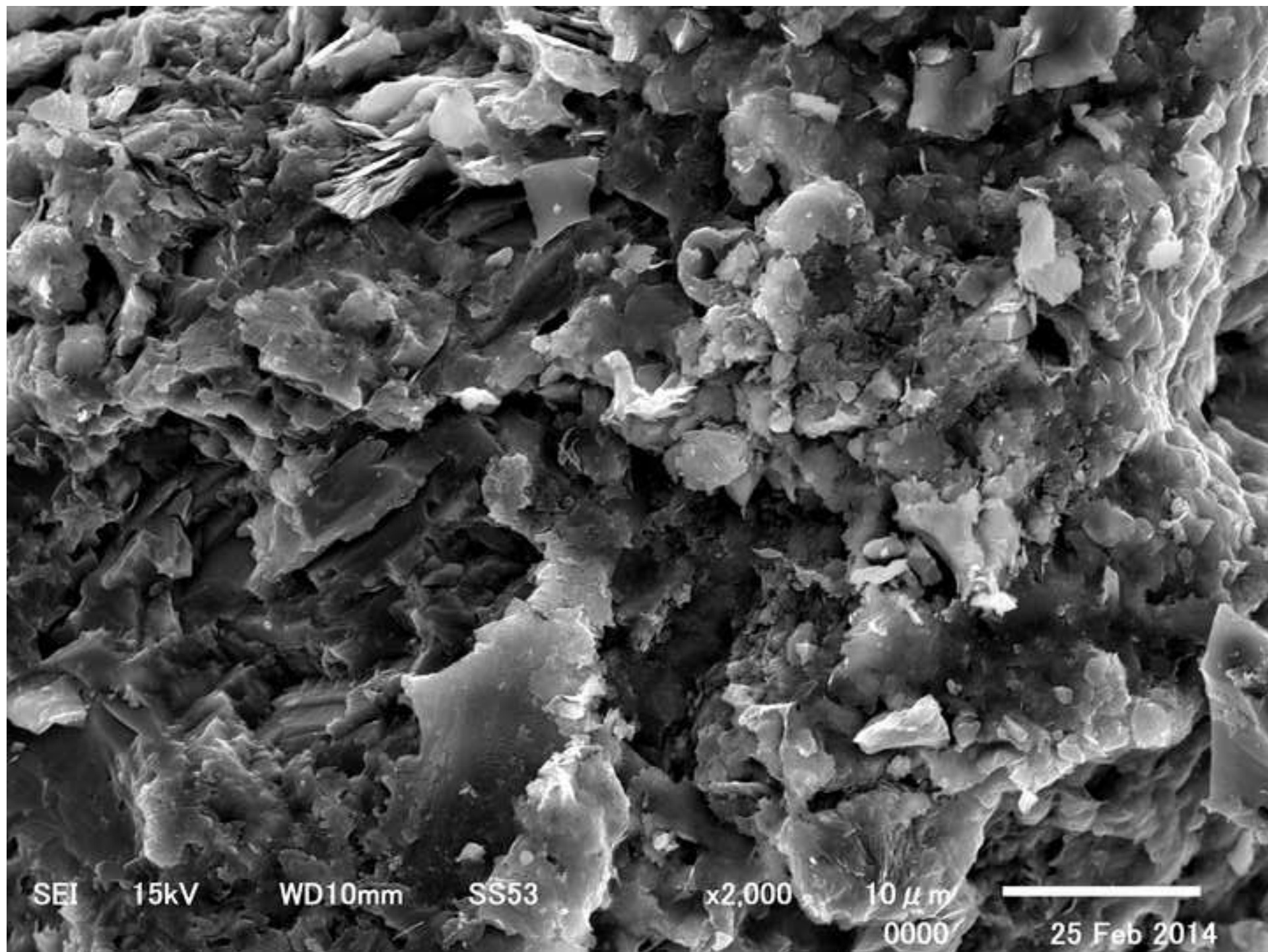


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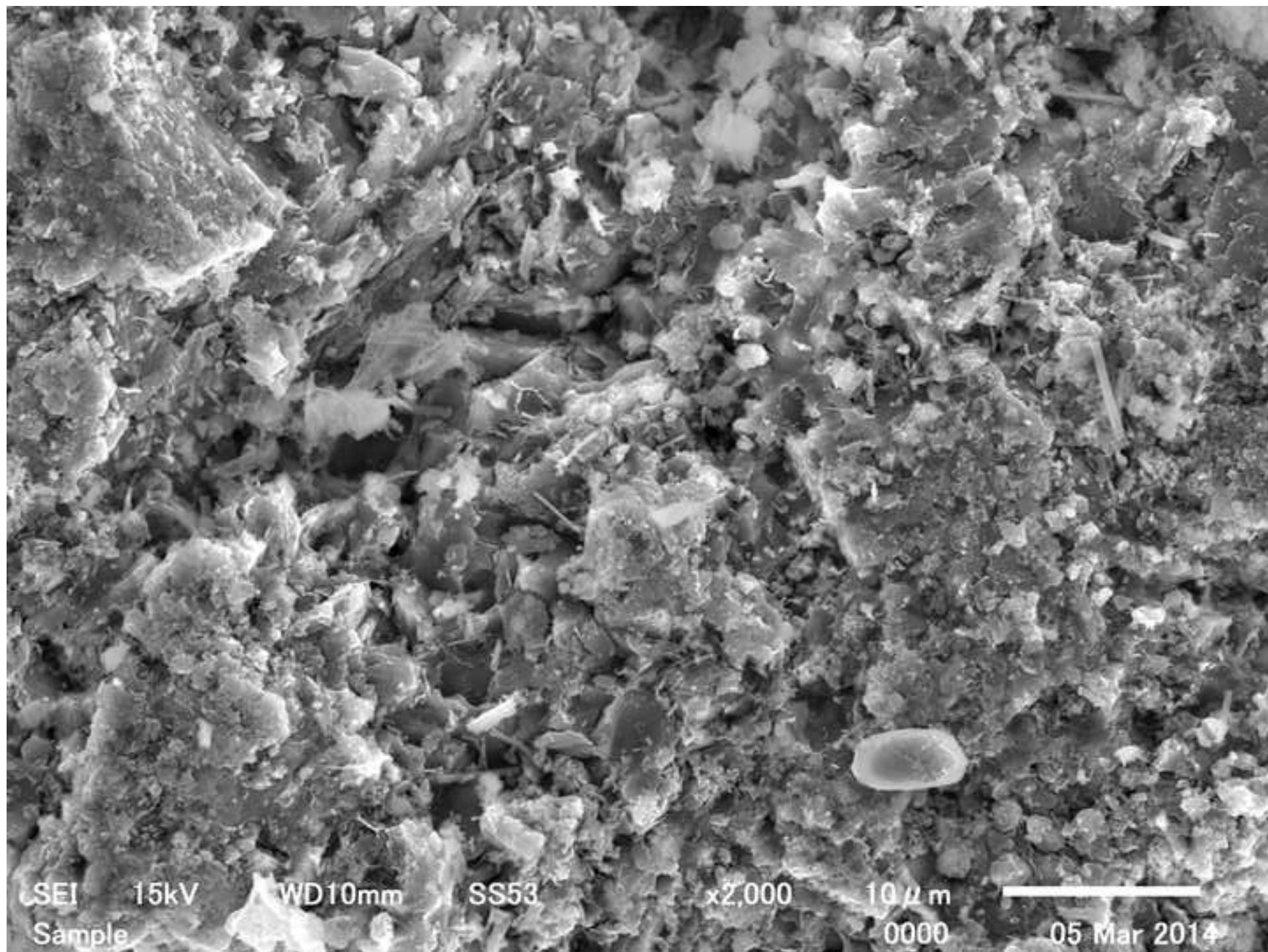
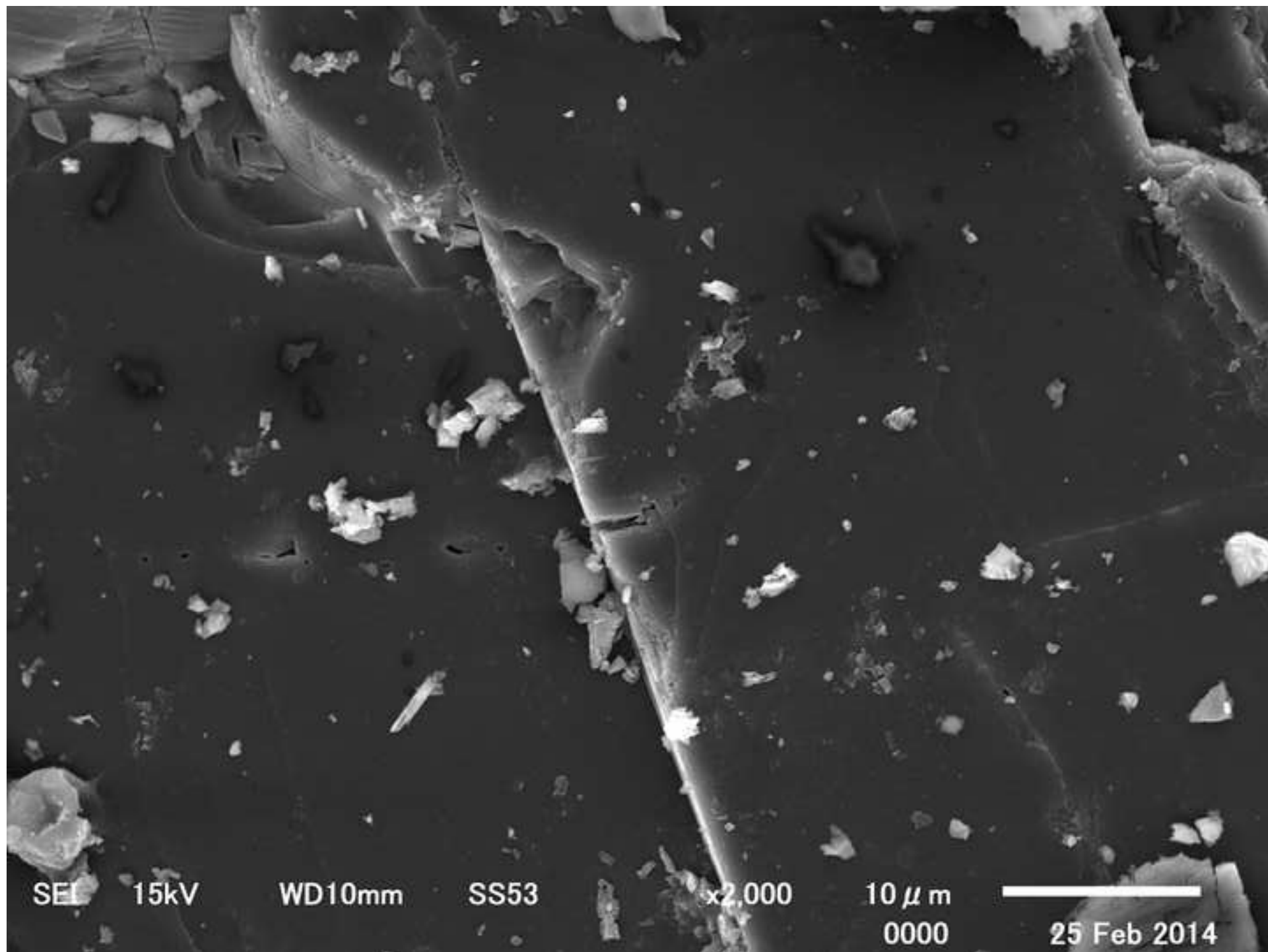


Figure 7i

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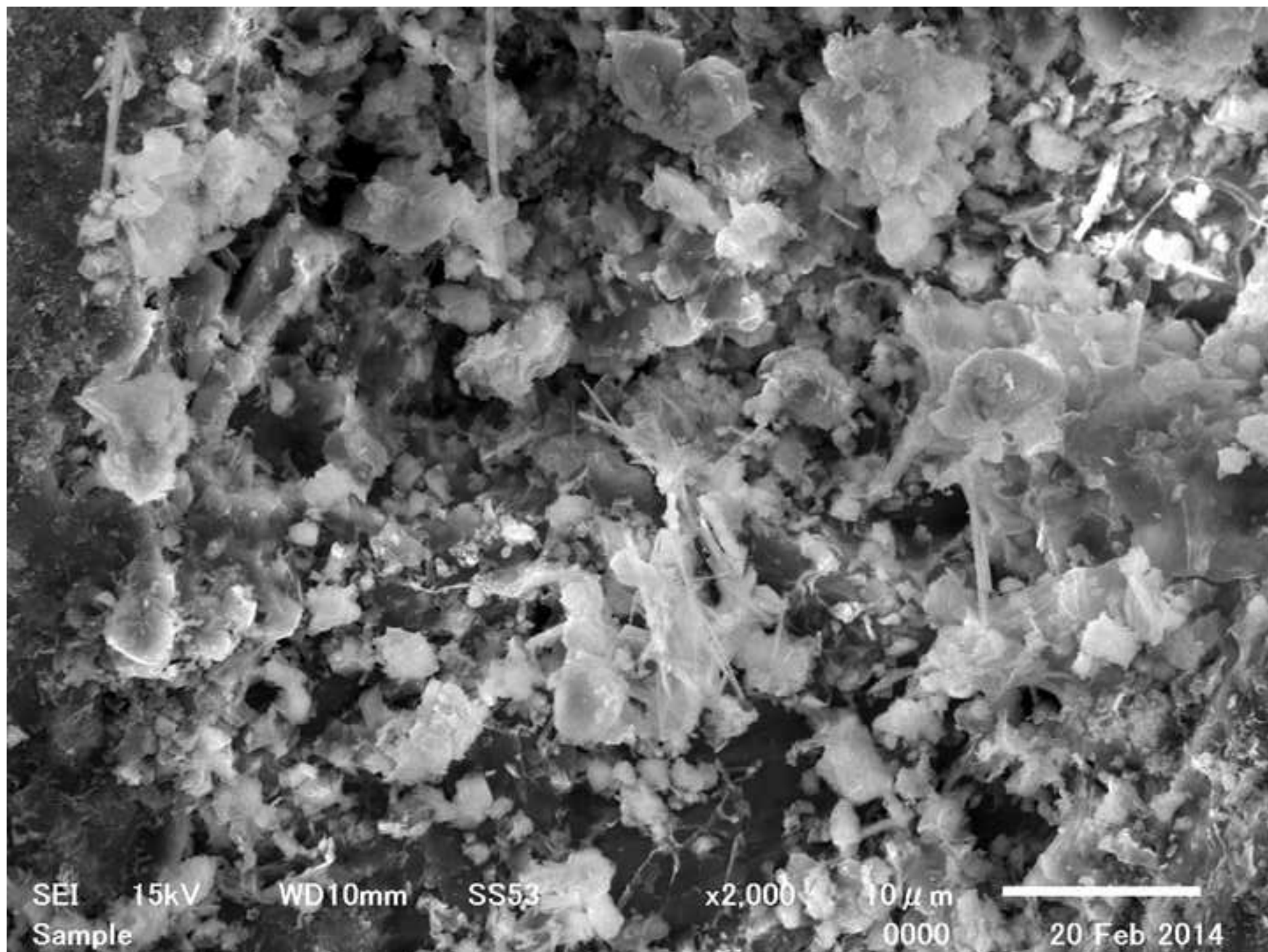


Figure 7k

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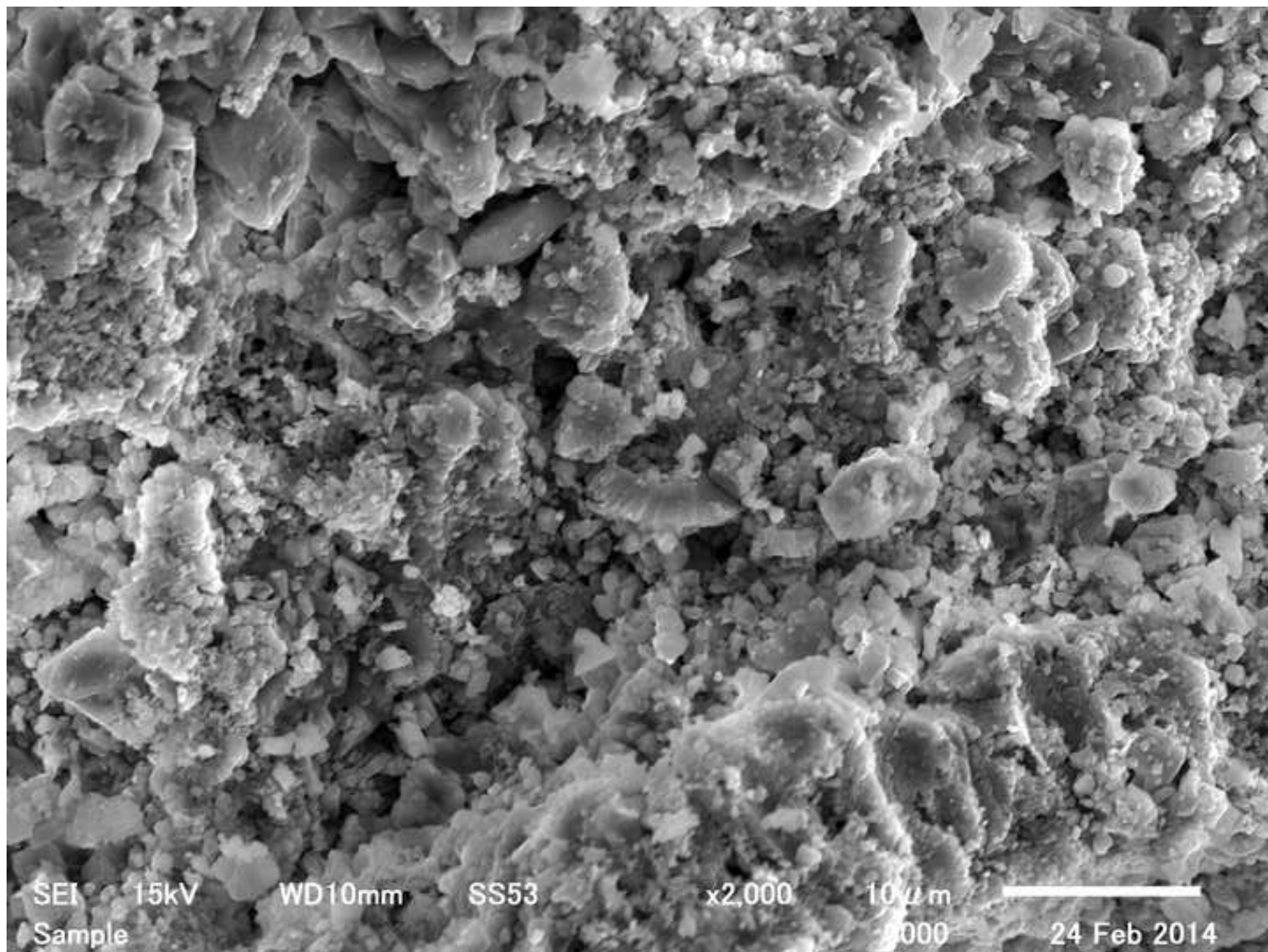
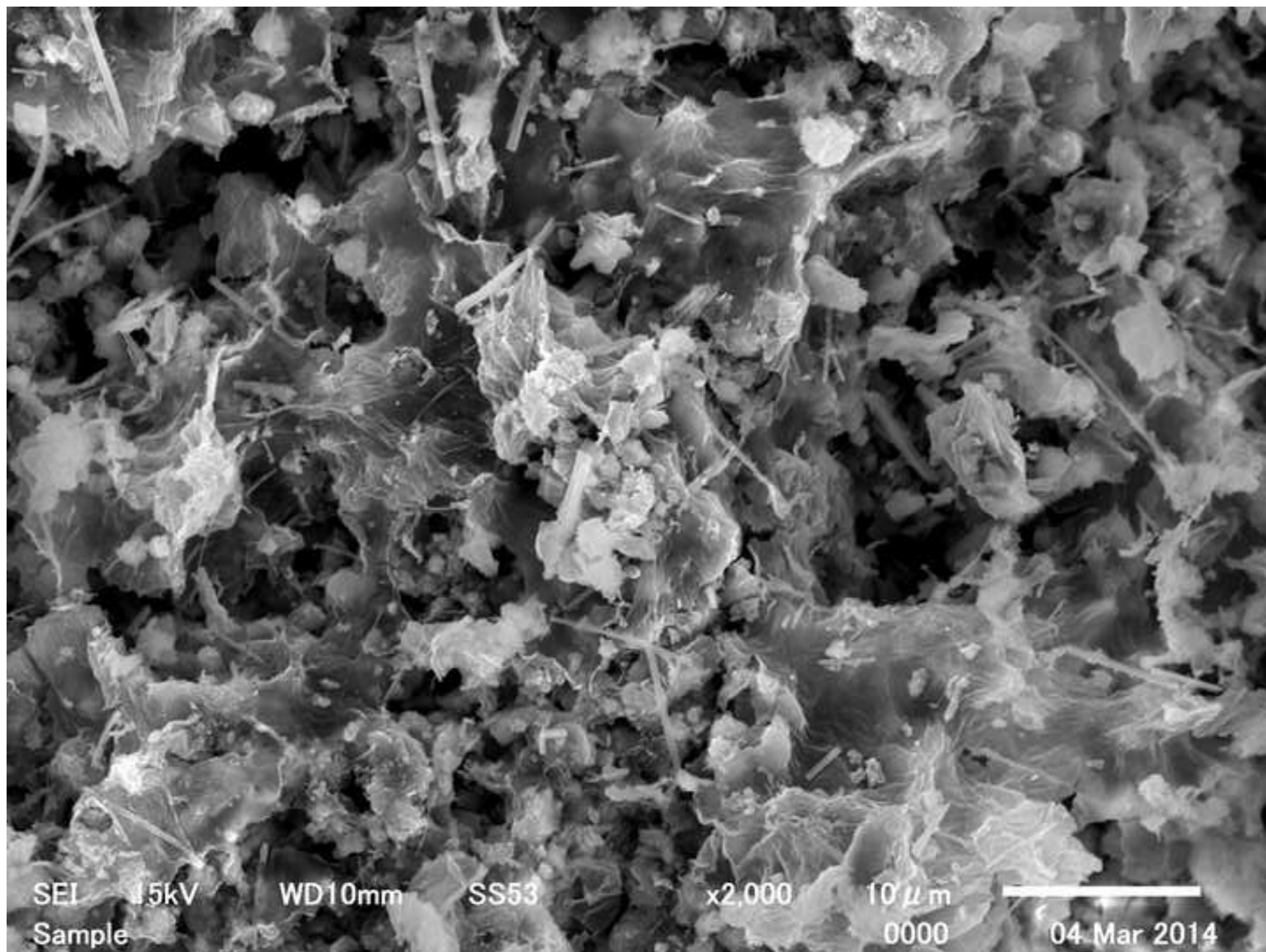


Figure 71

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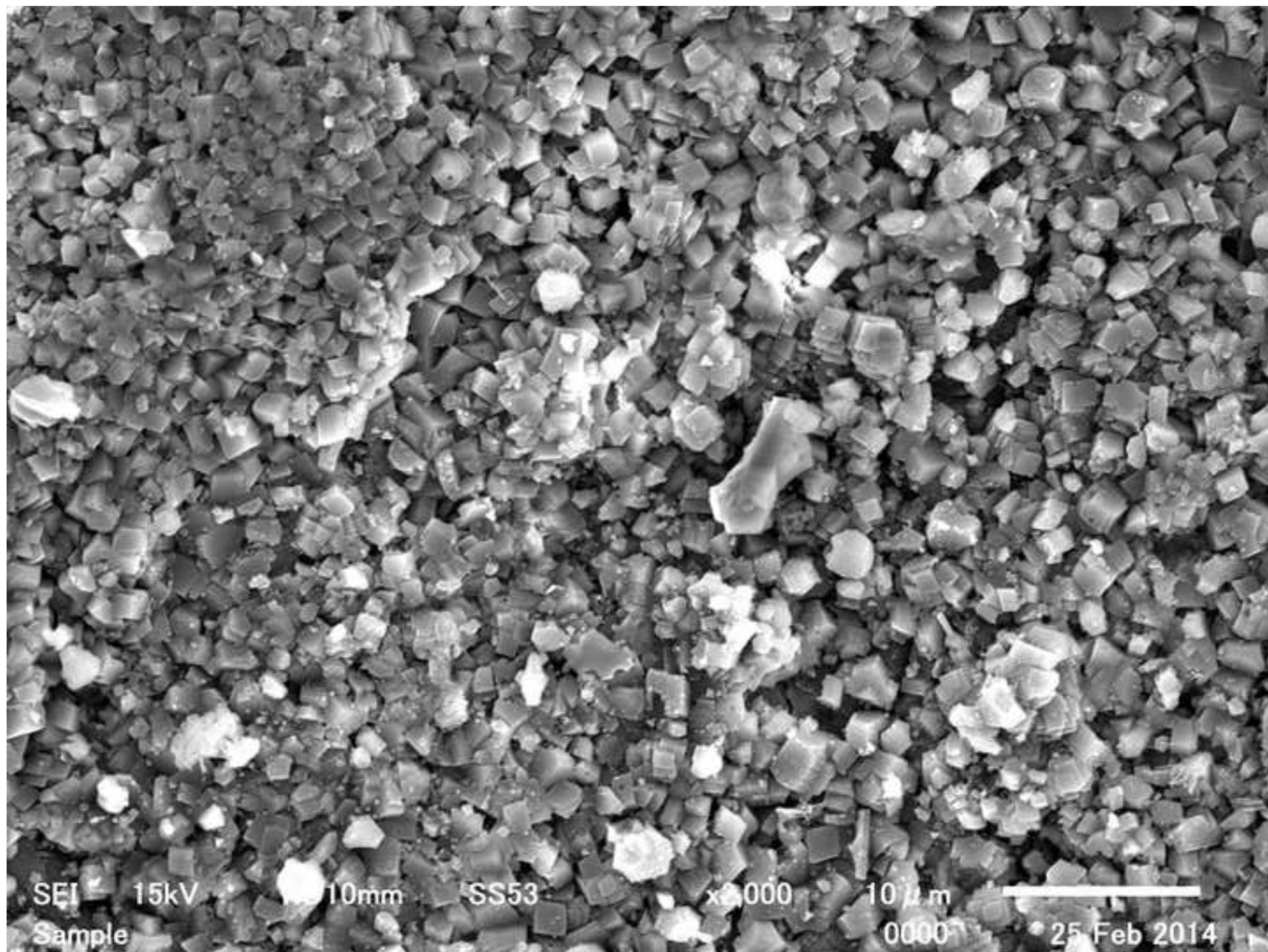


Figure 7n

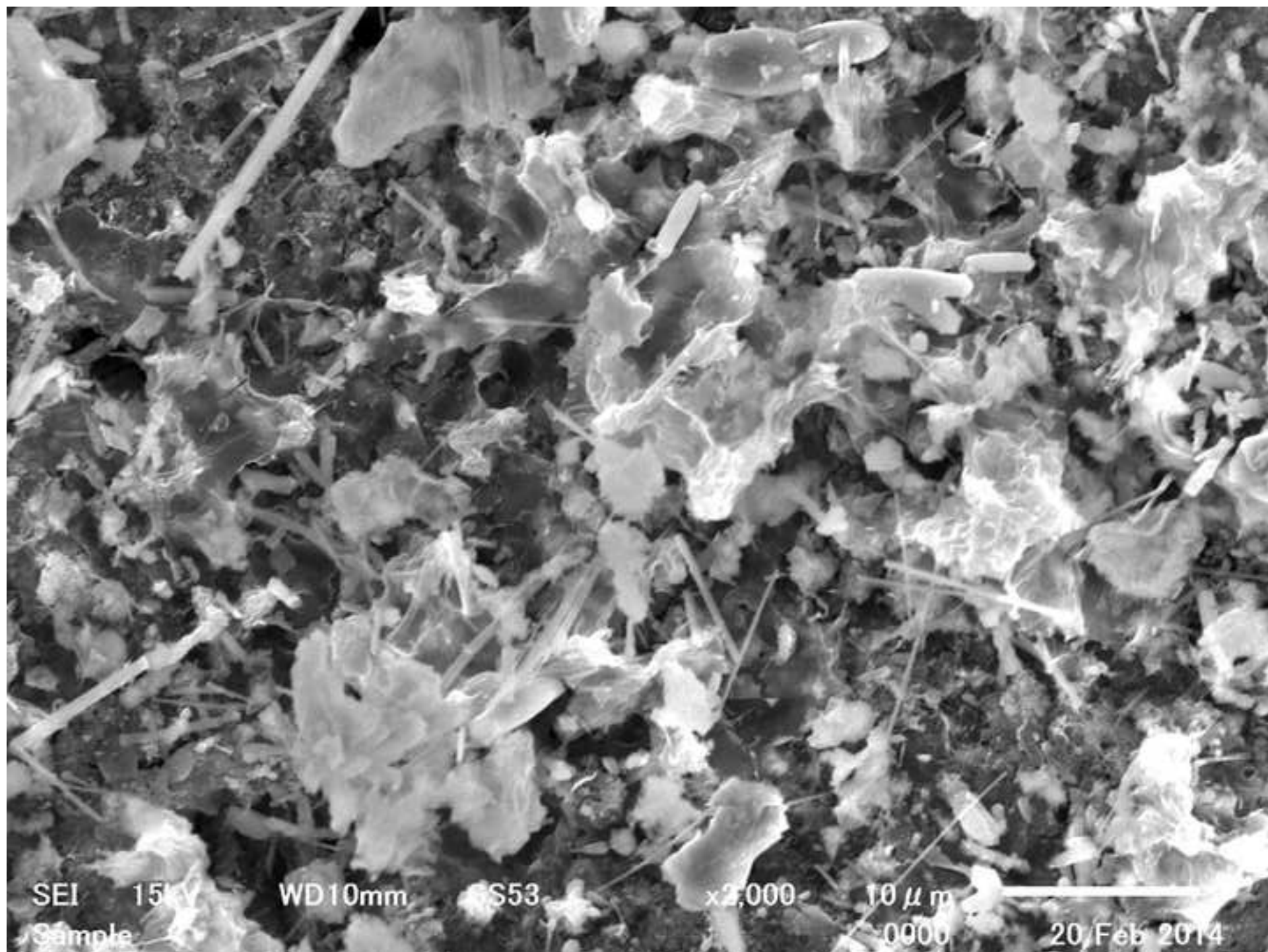


Figure 8a

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Figure 8b

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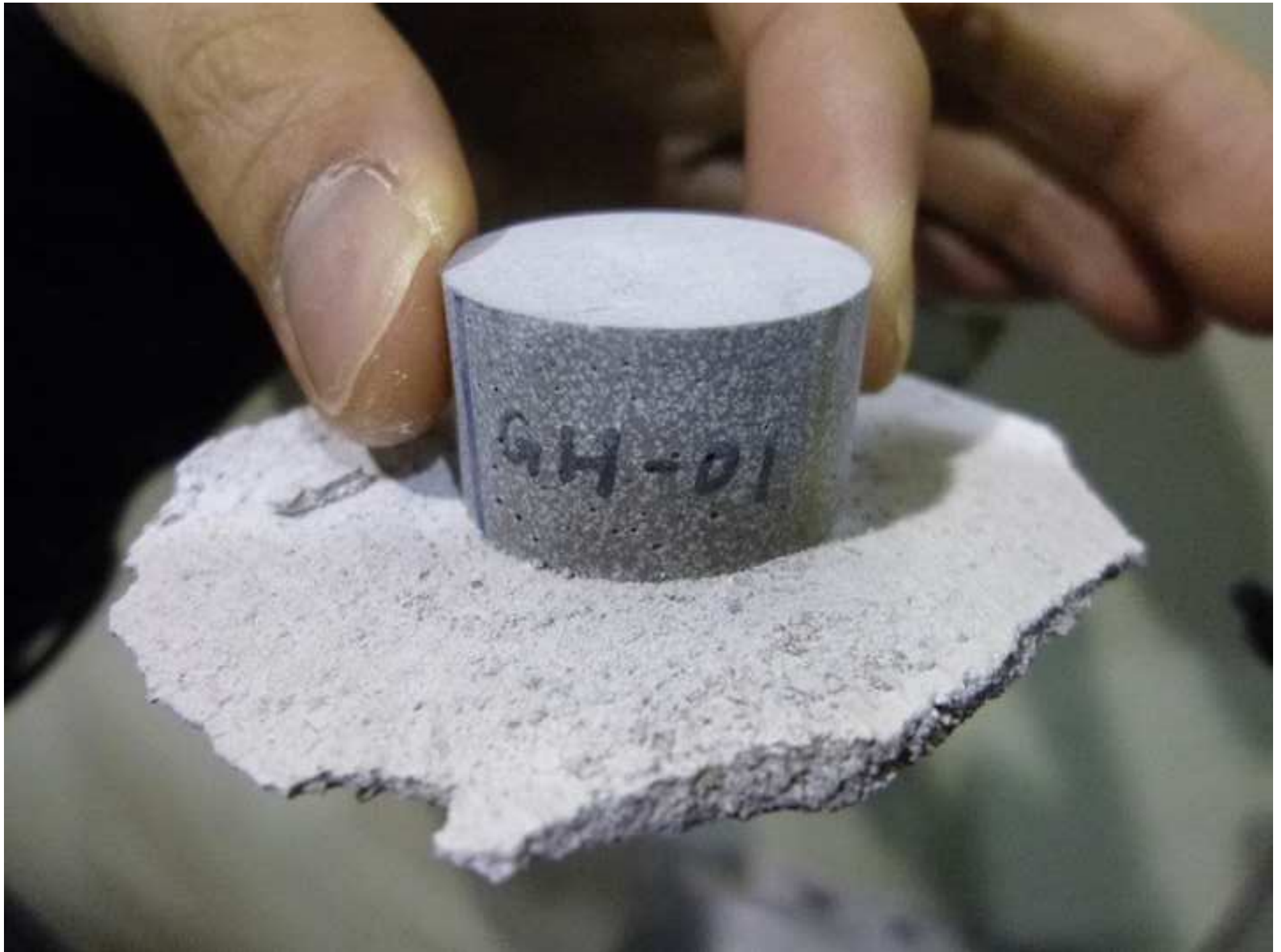


Figure 9a

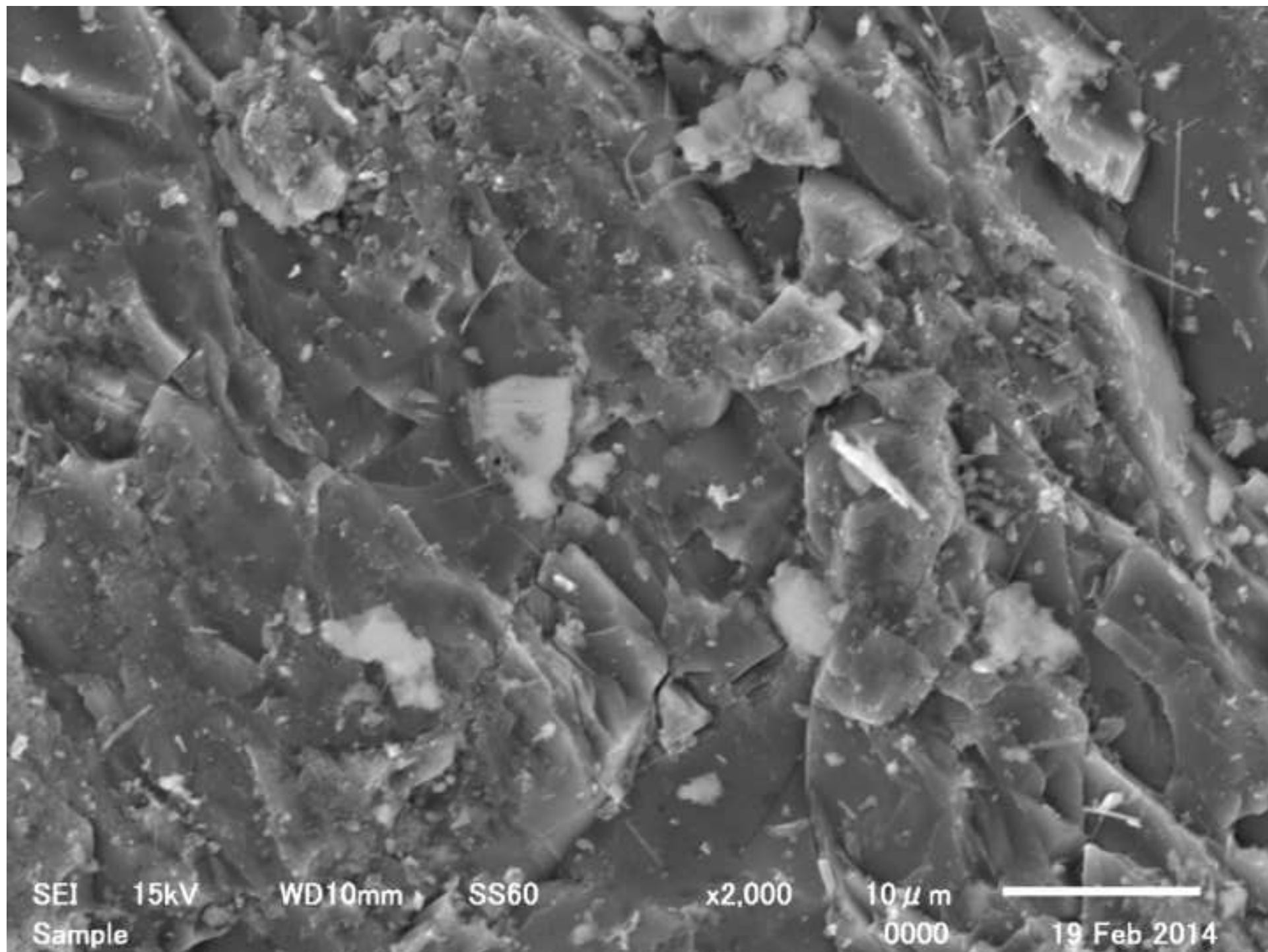


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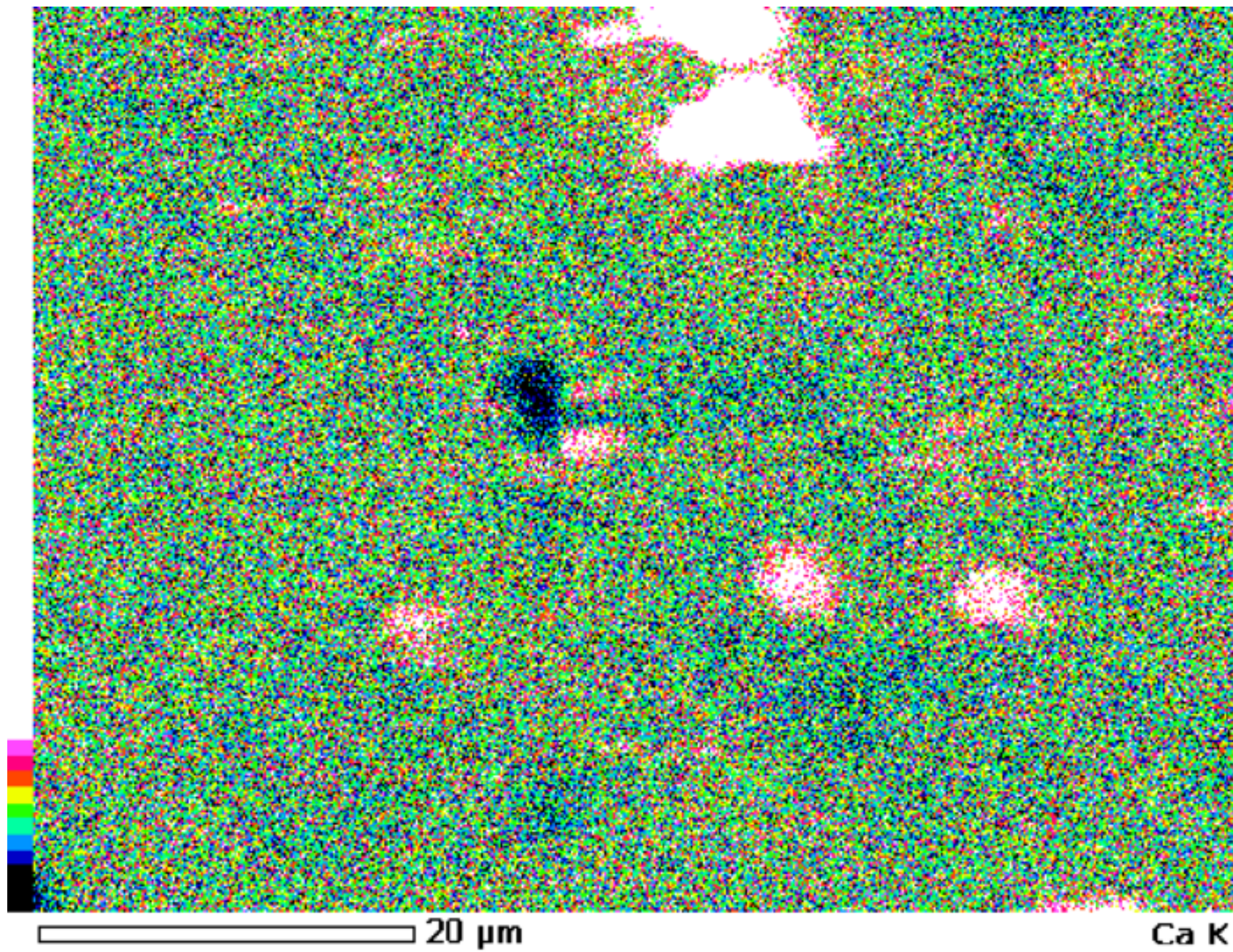


Figure 9c

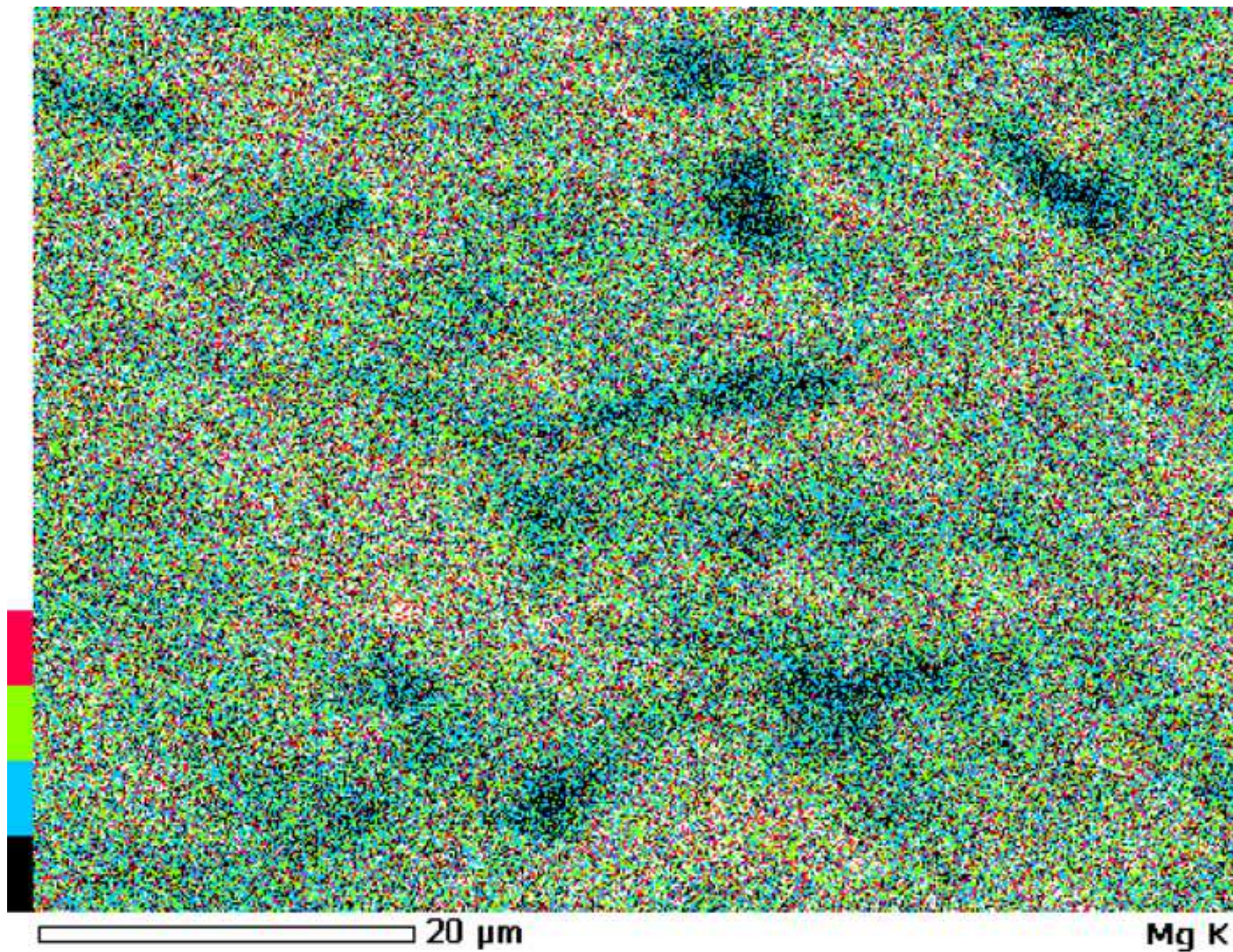


Figure 9d

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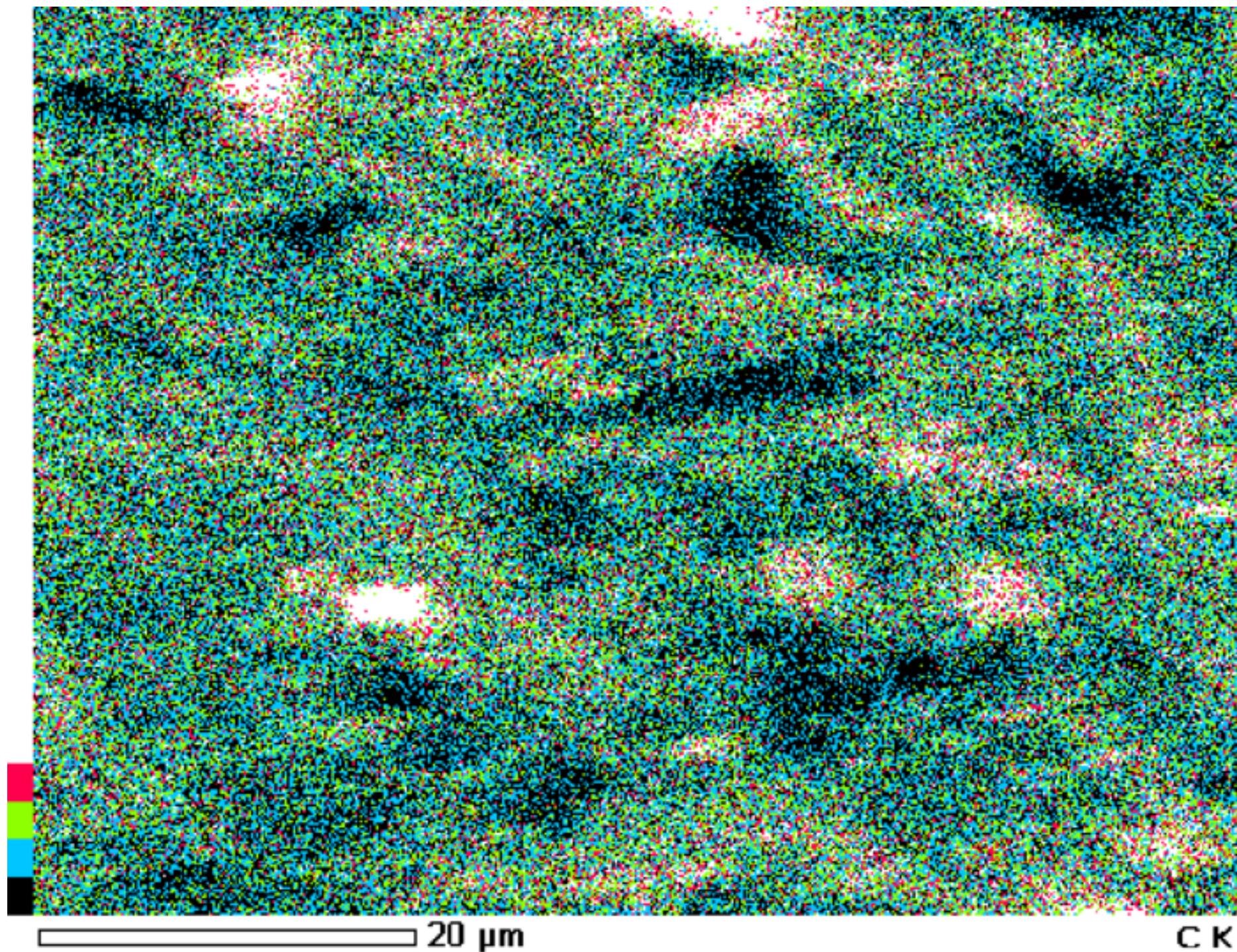


Figure 9e

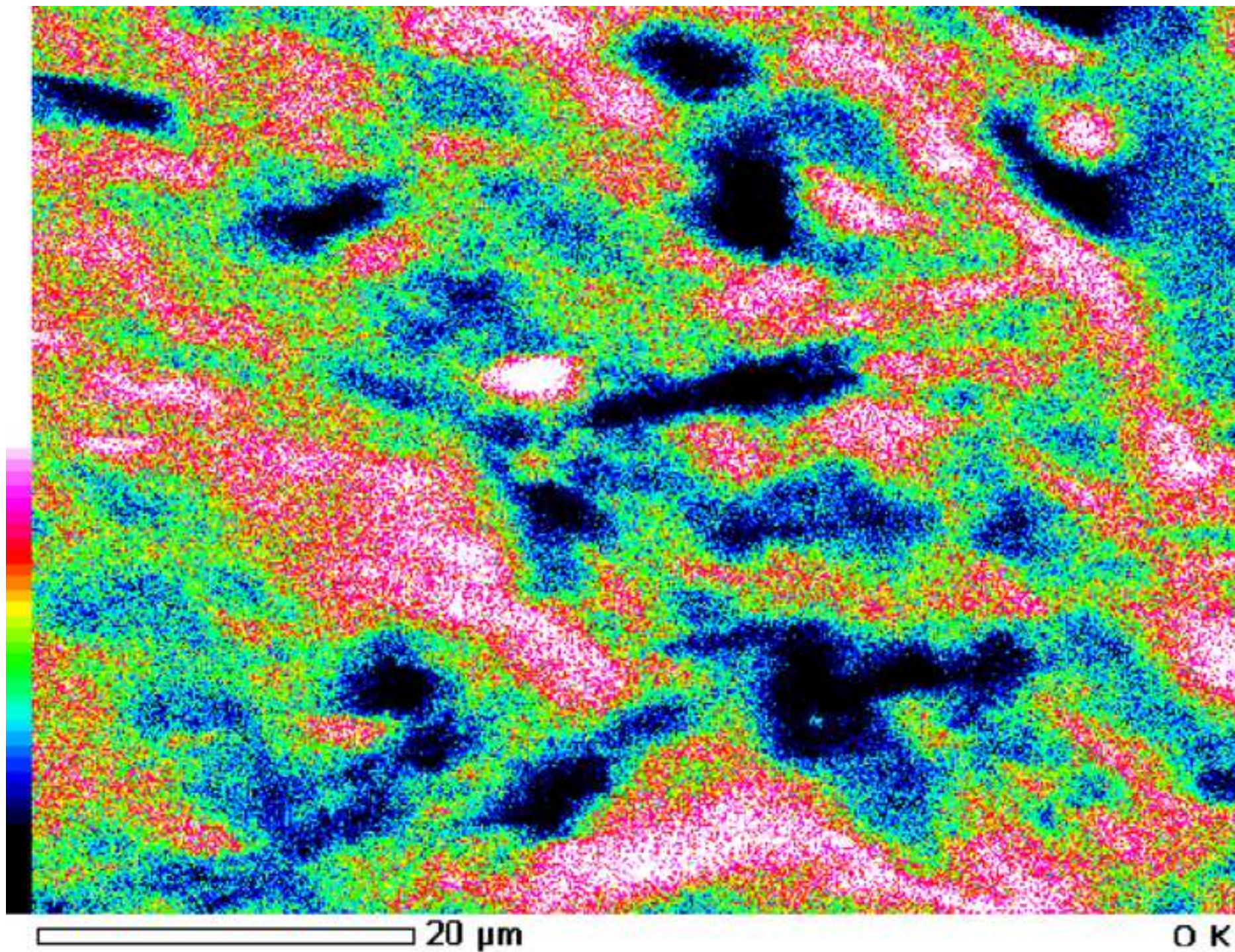


Figure 10a

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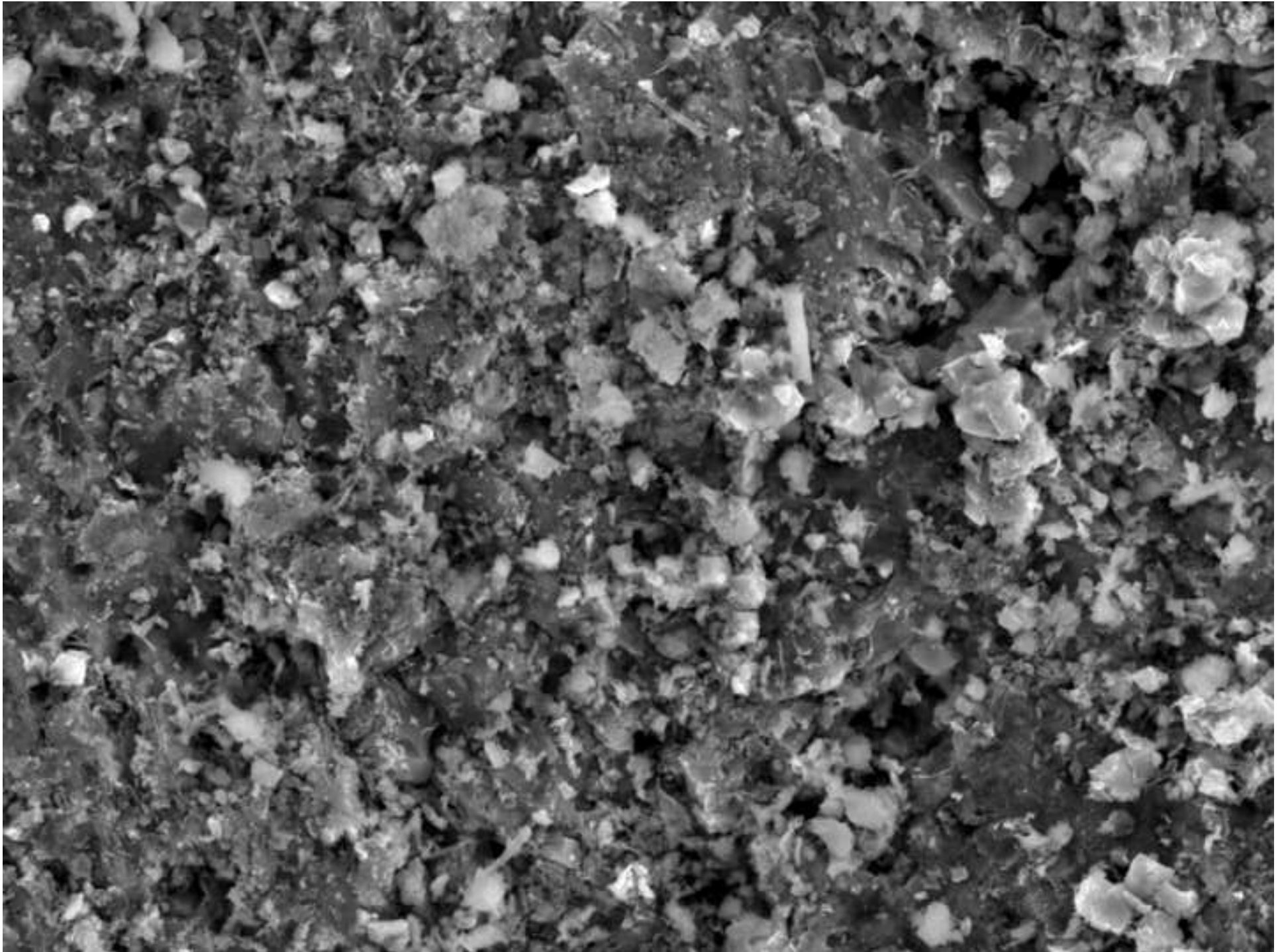


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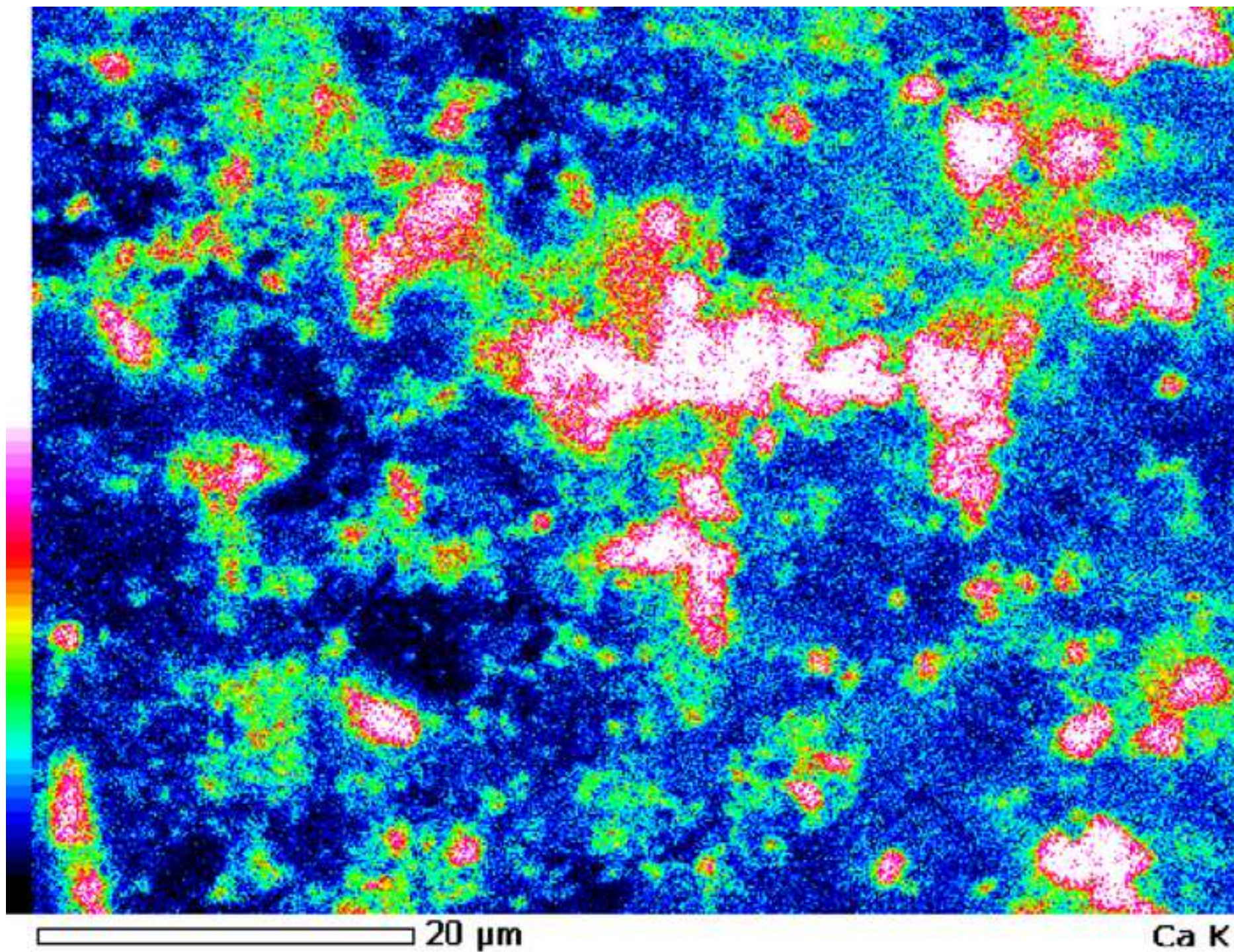


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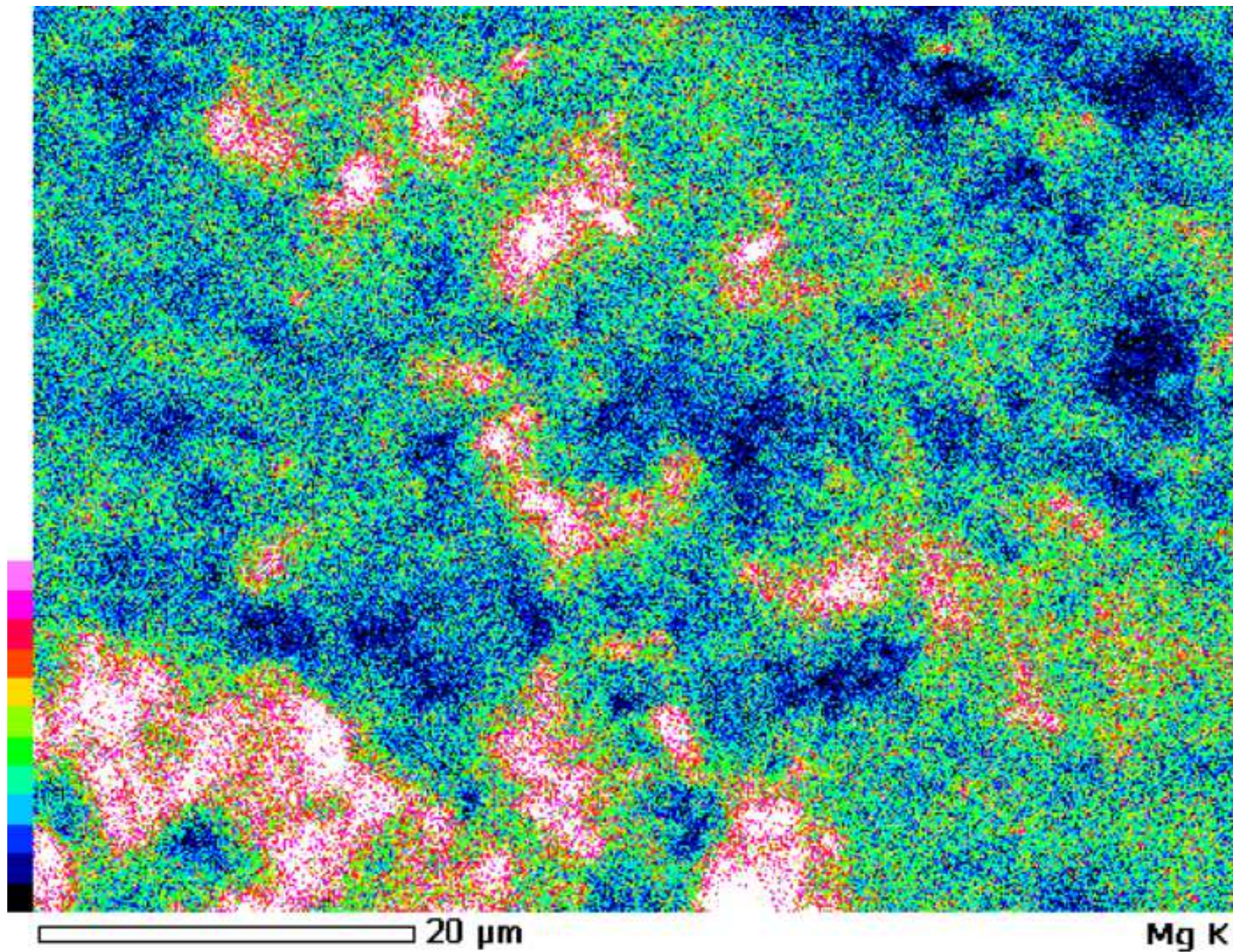


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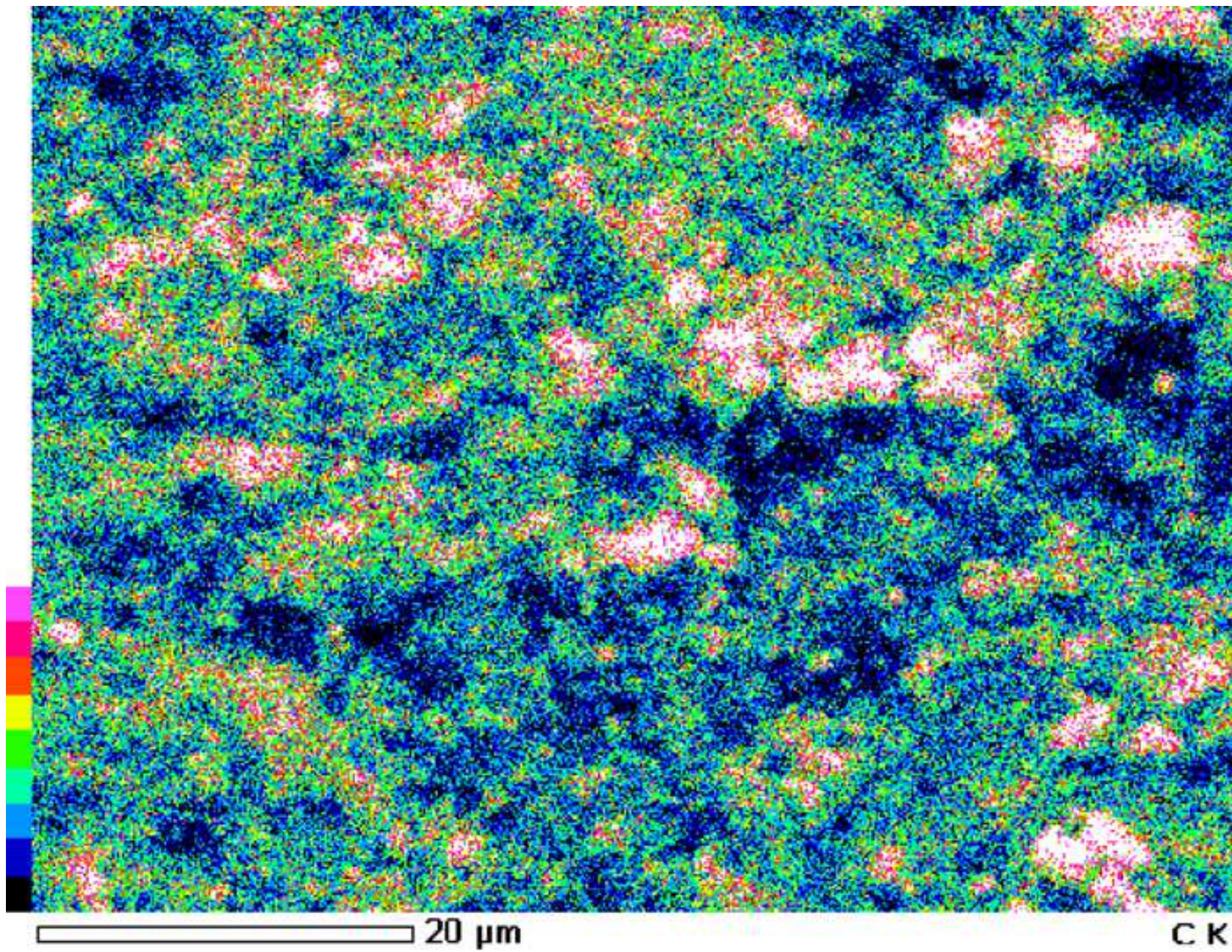


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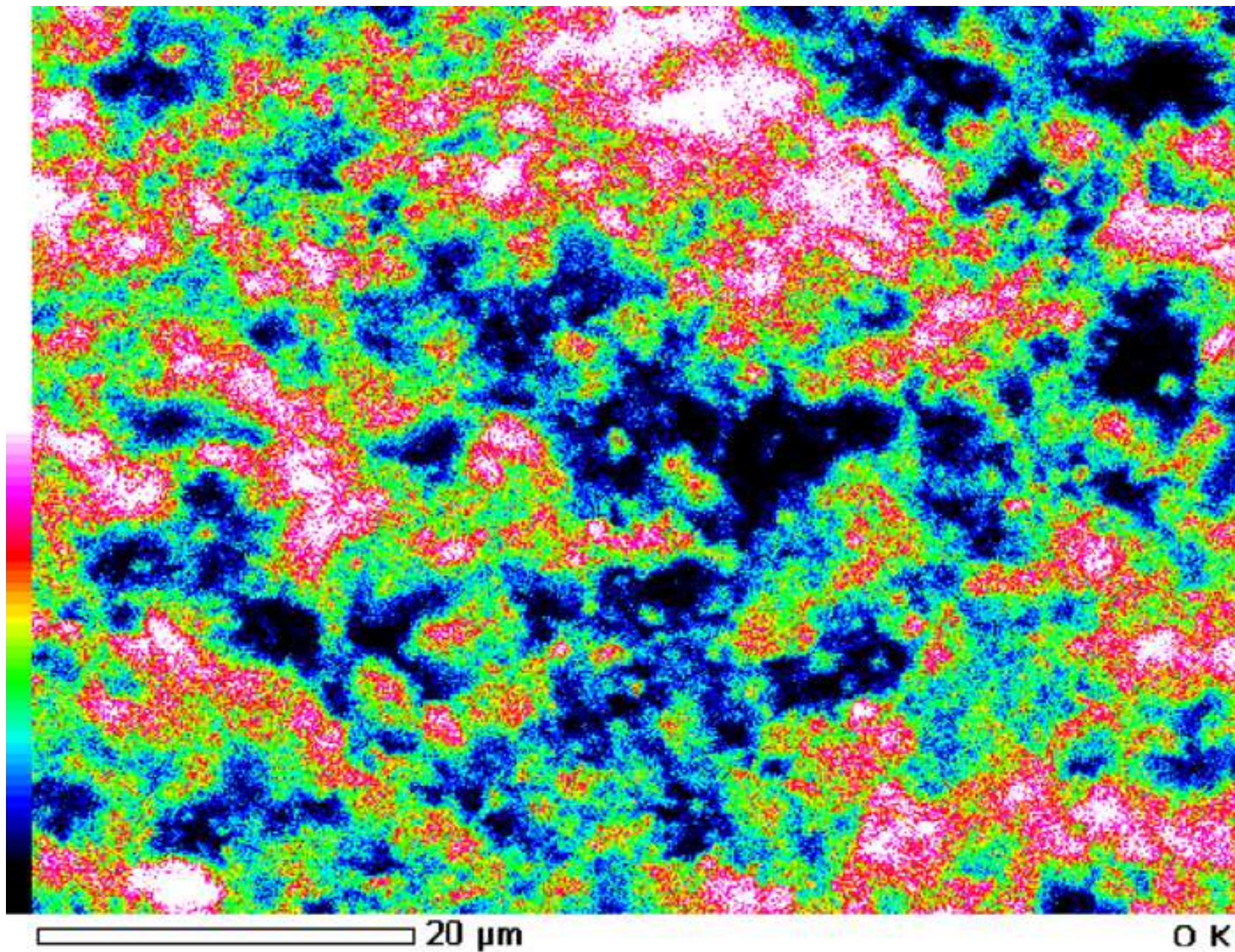


Figure 11a

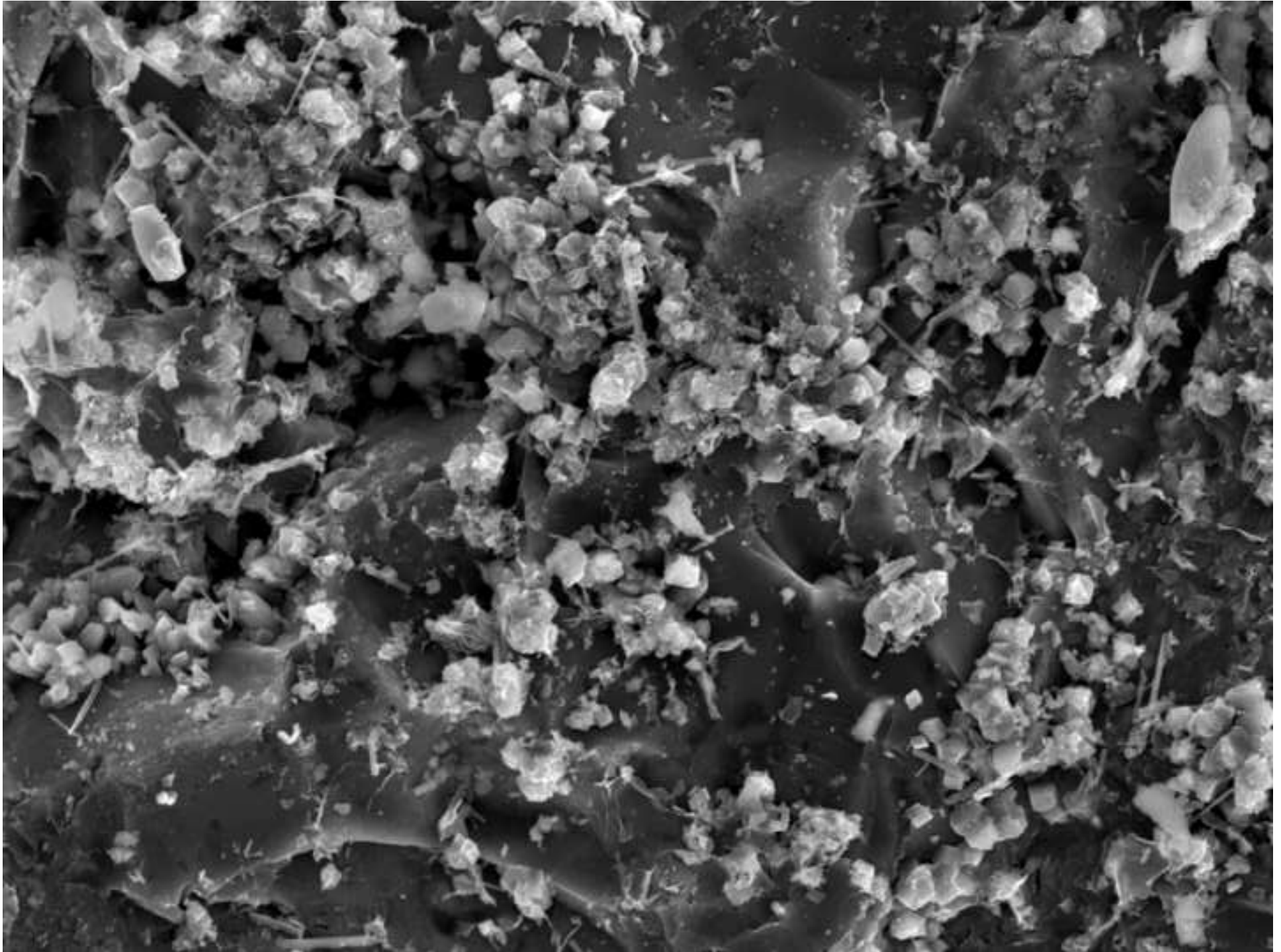


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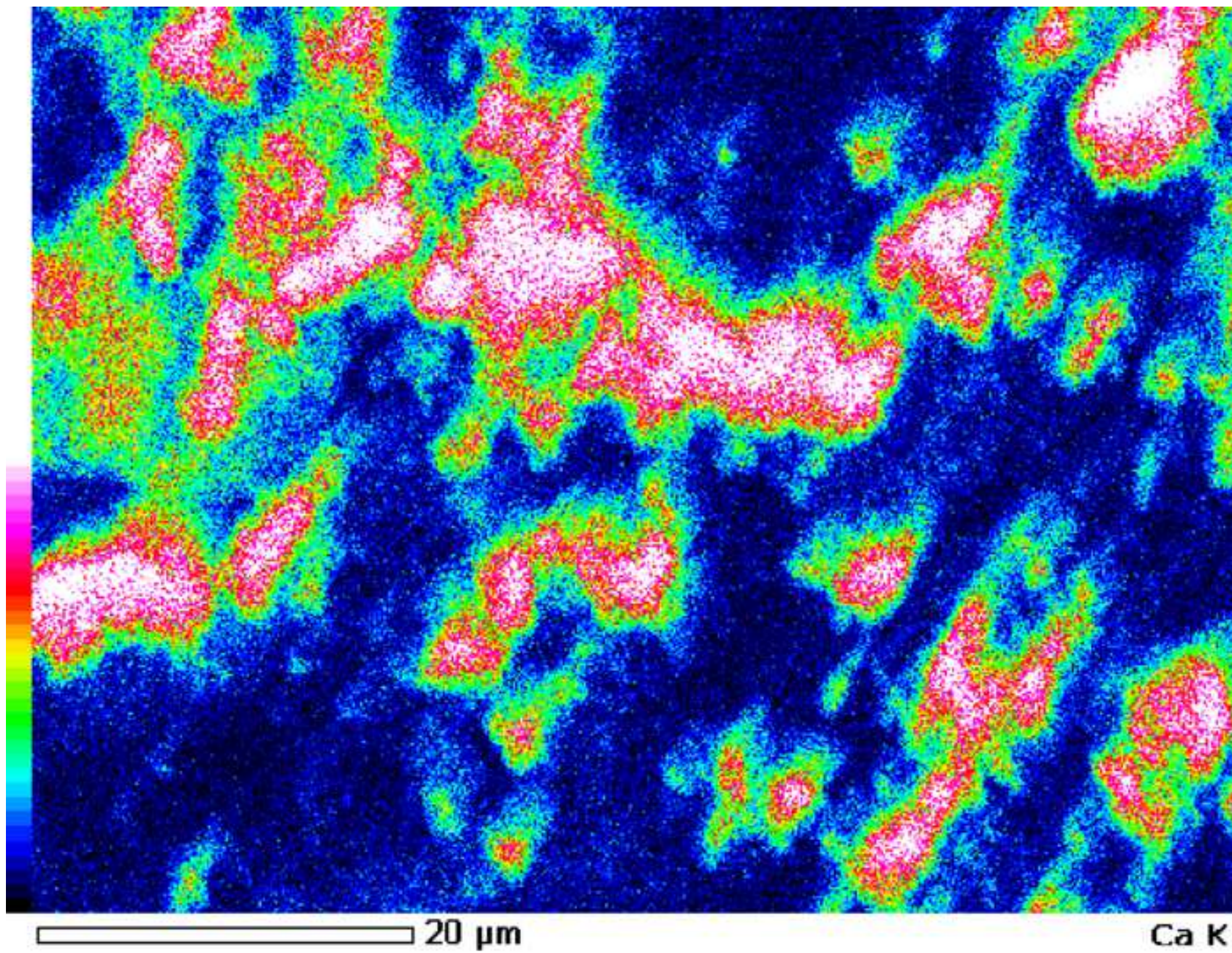
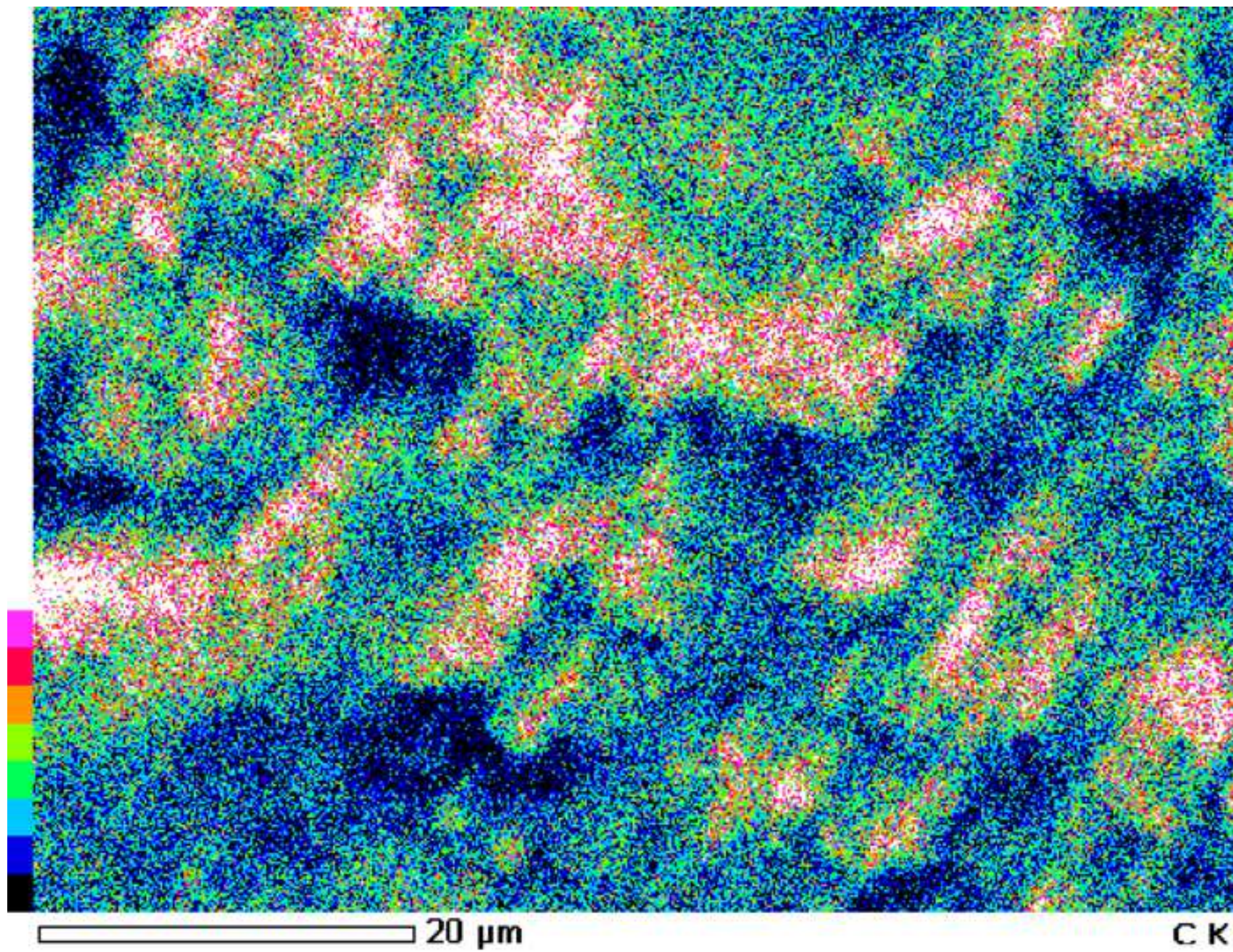


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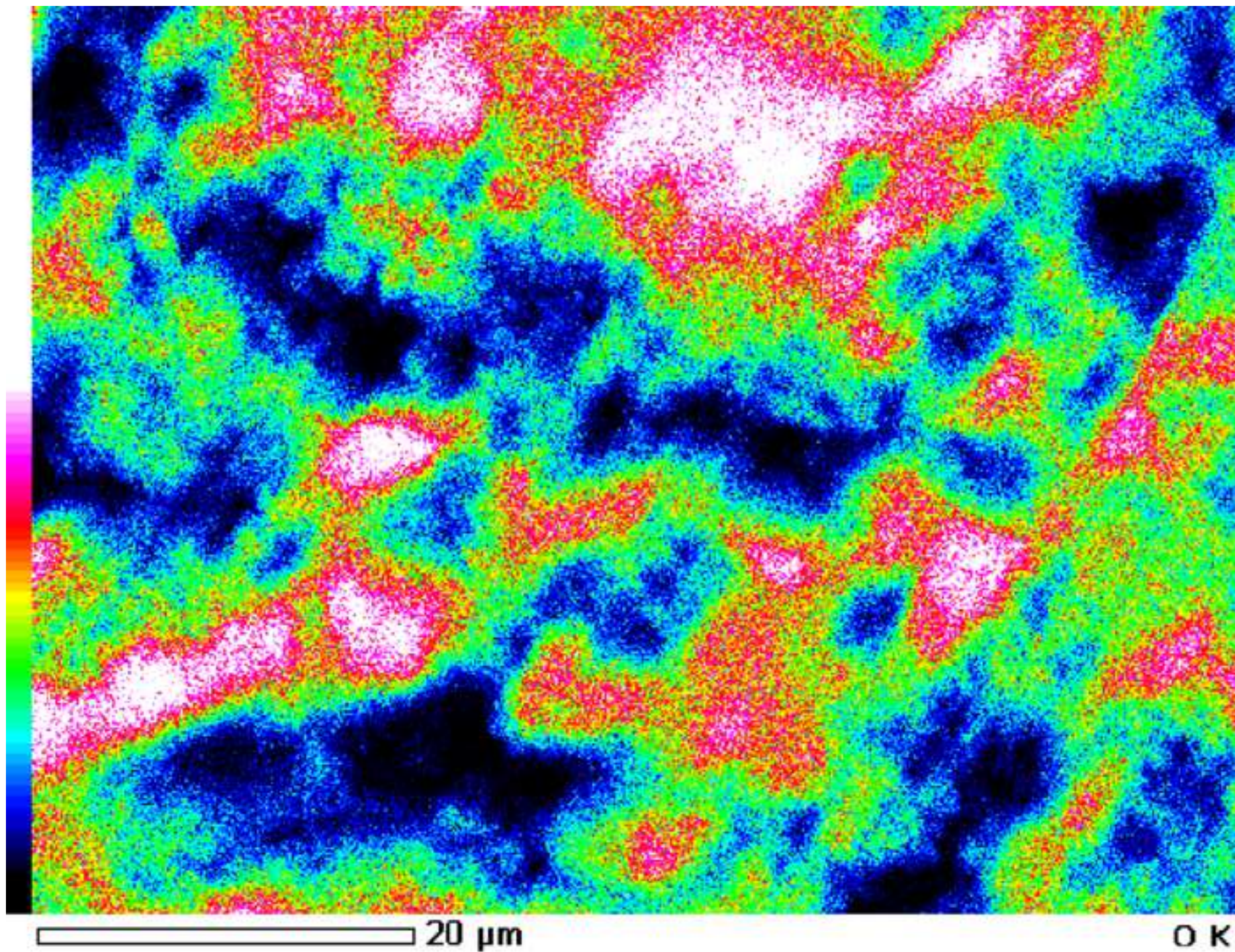


Figure 12a

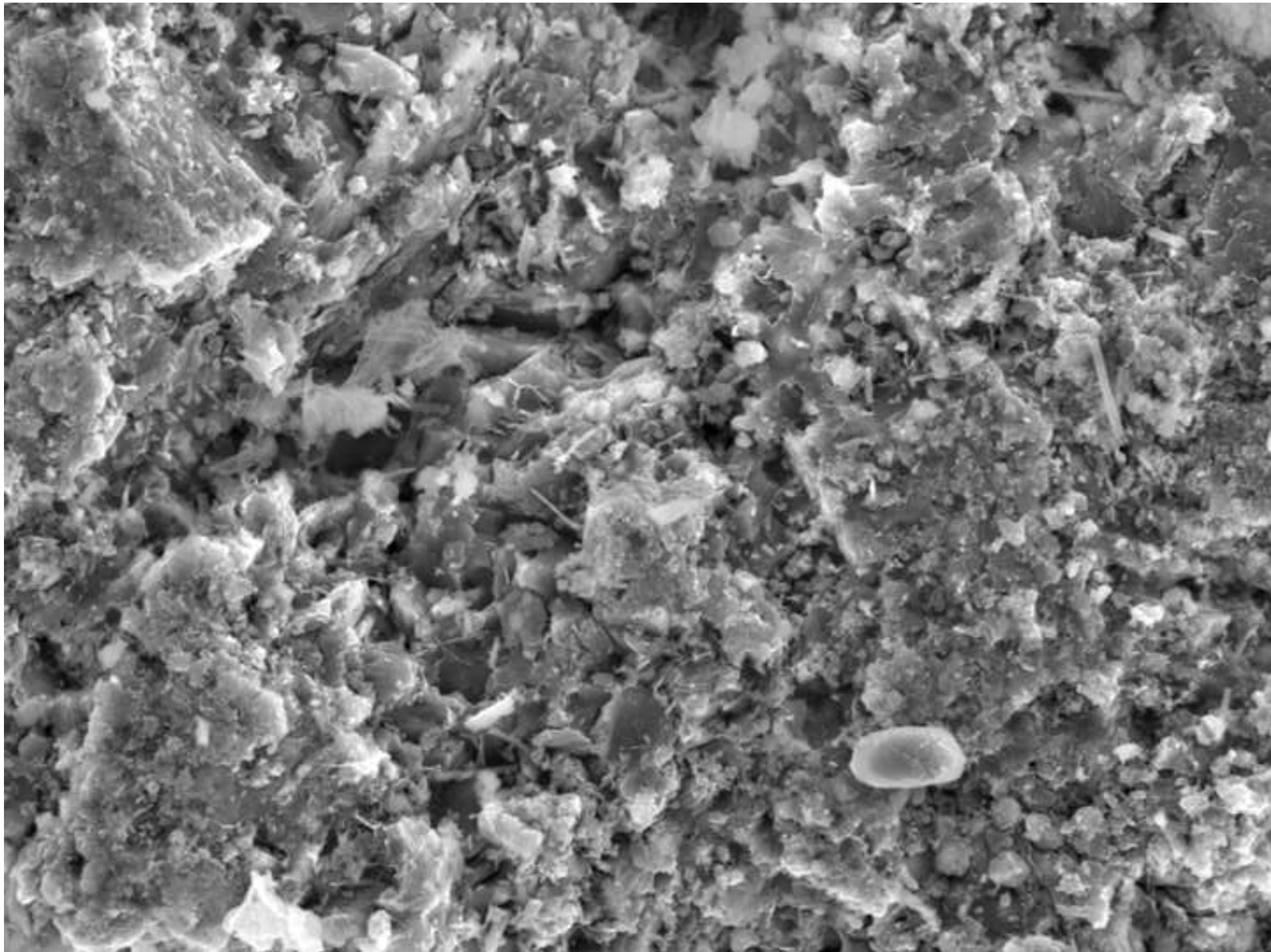


Figure 12b

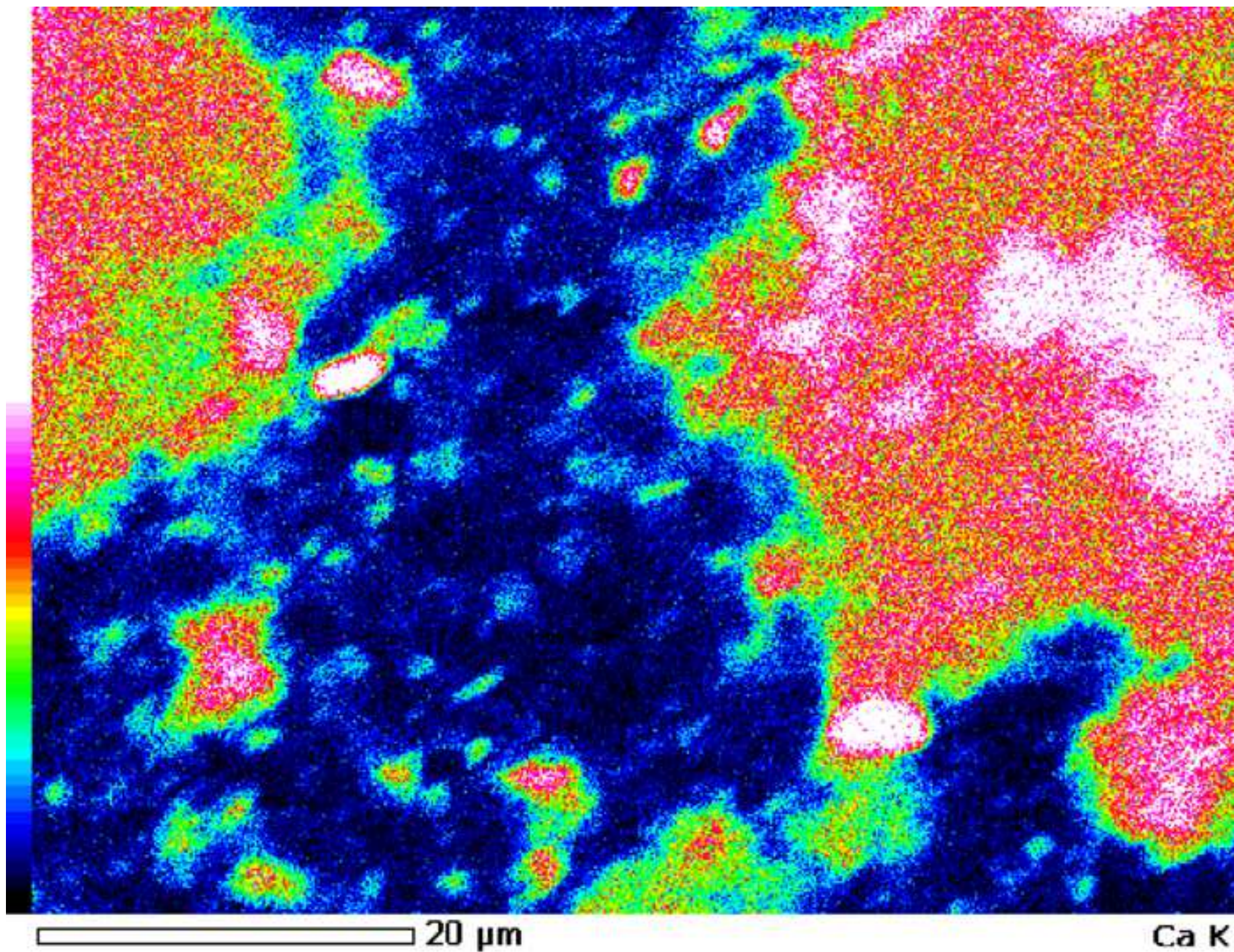


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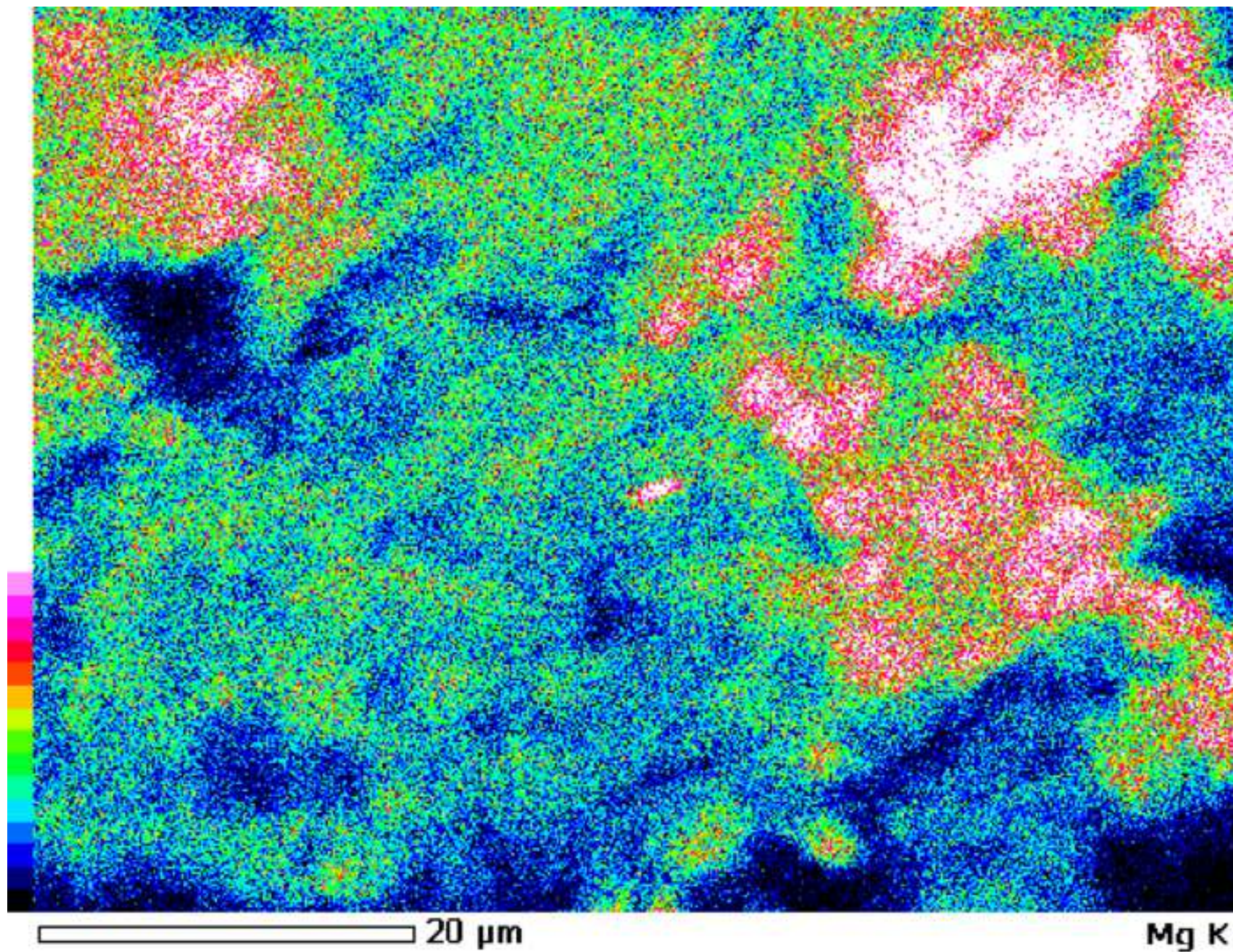


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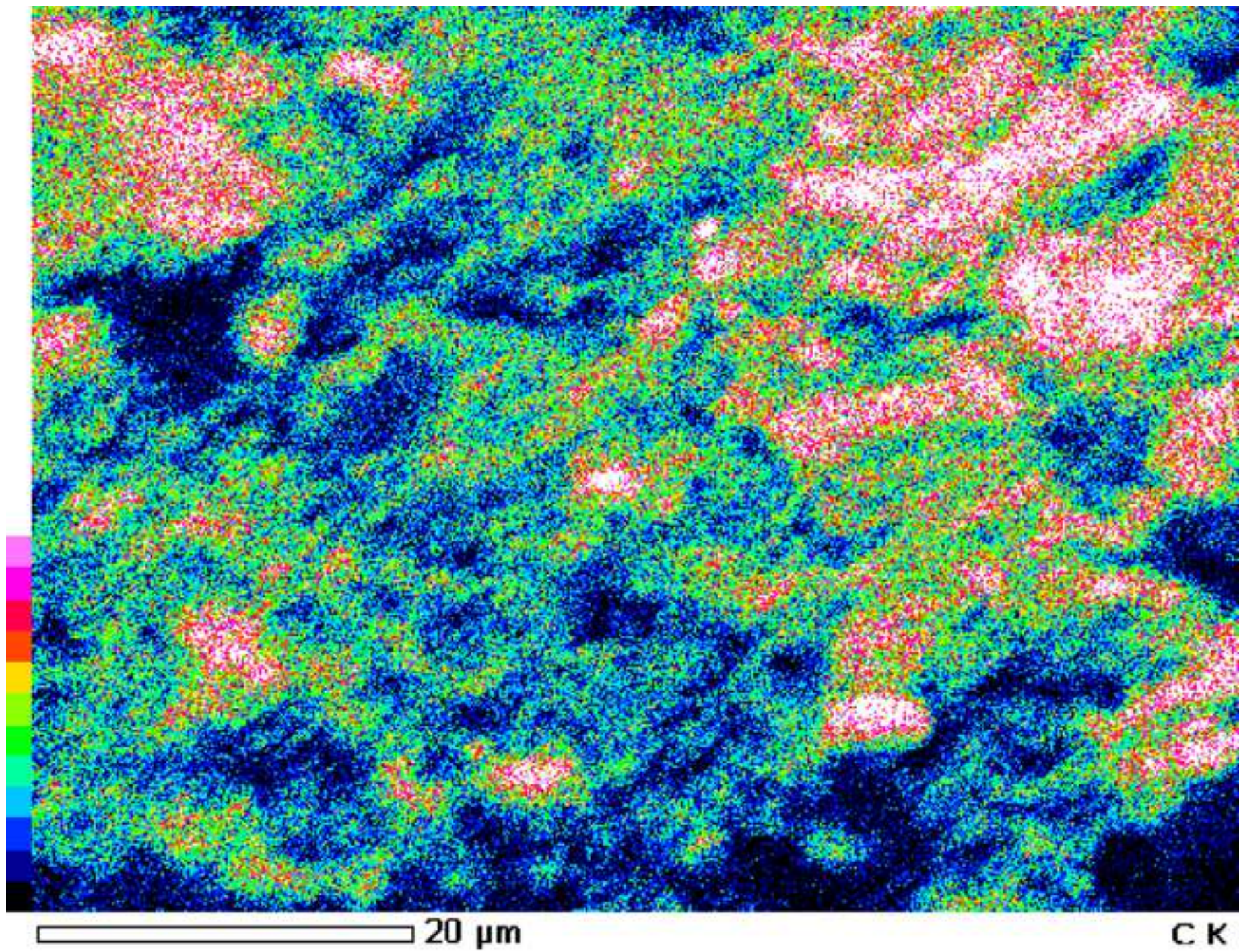


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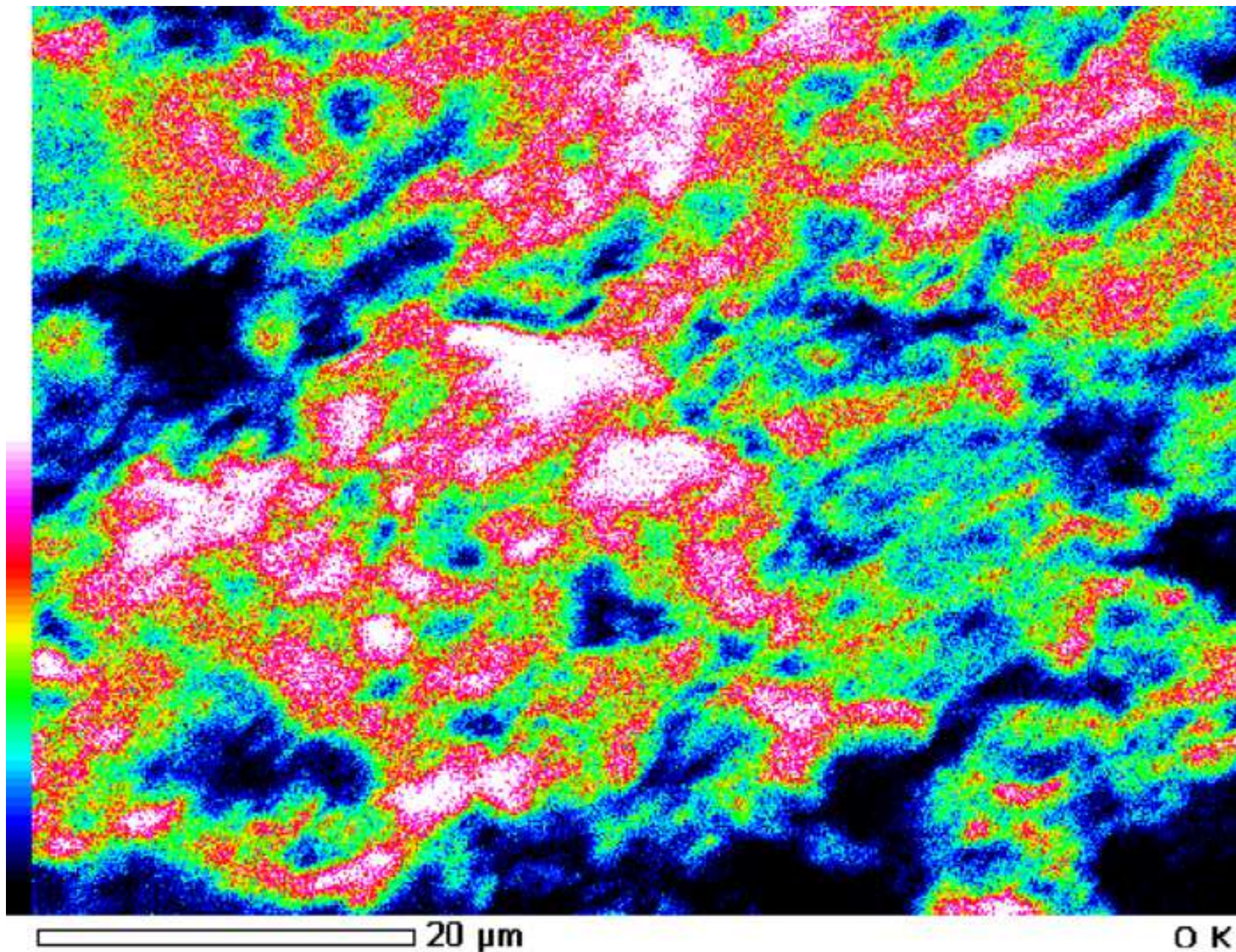


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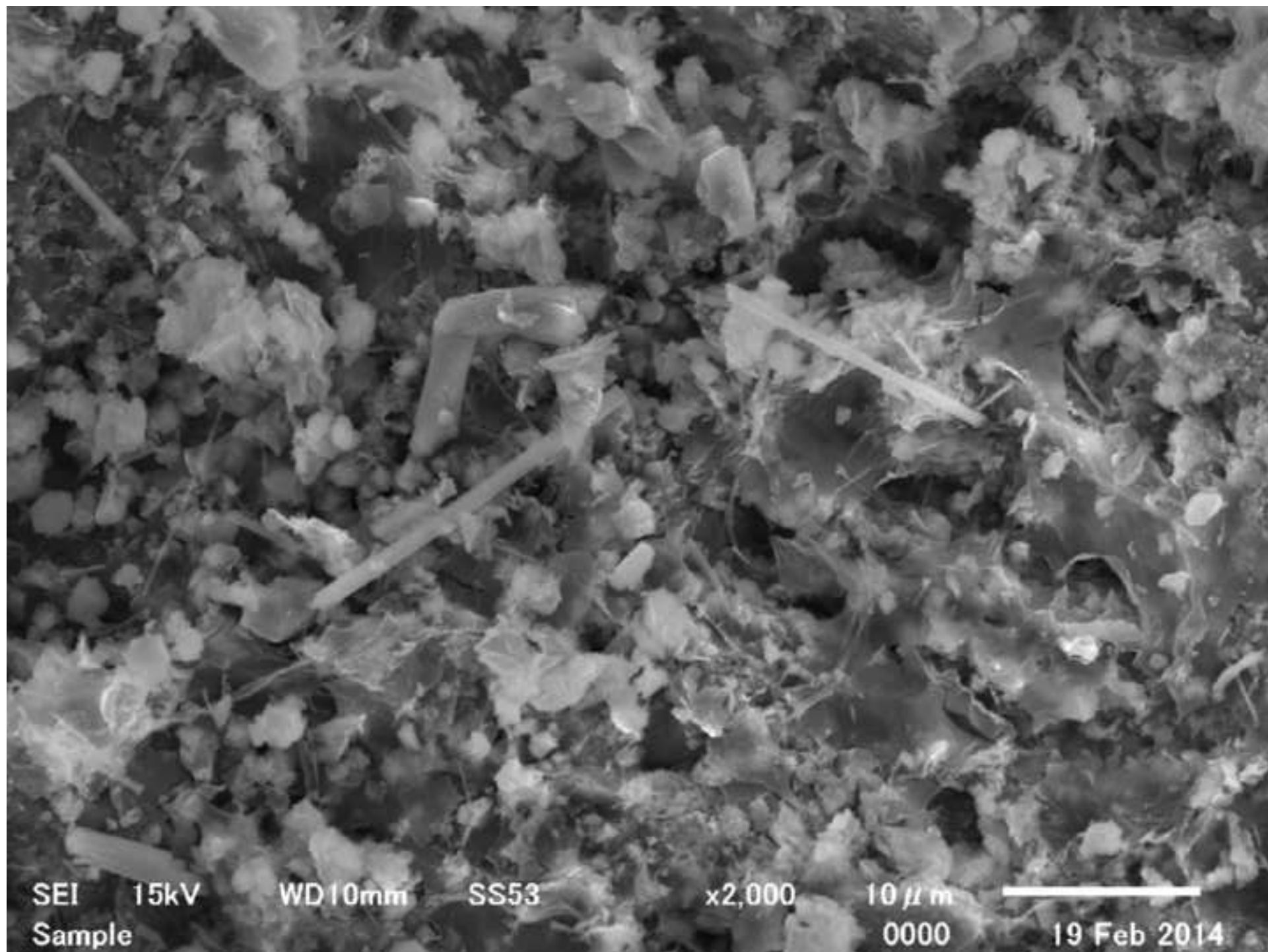


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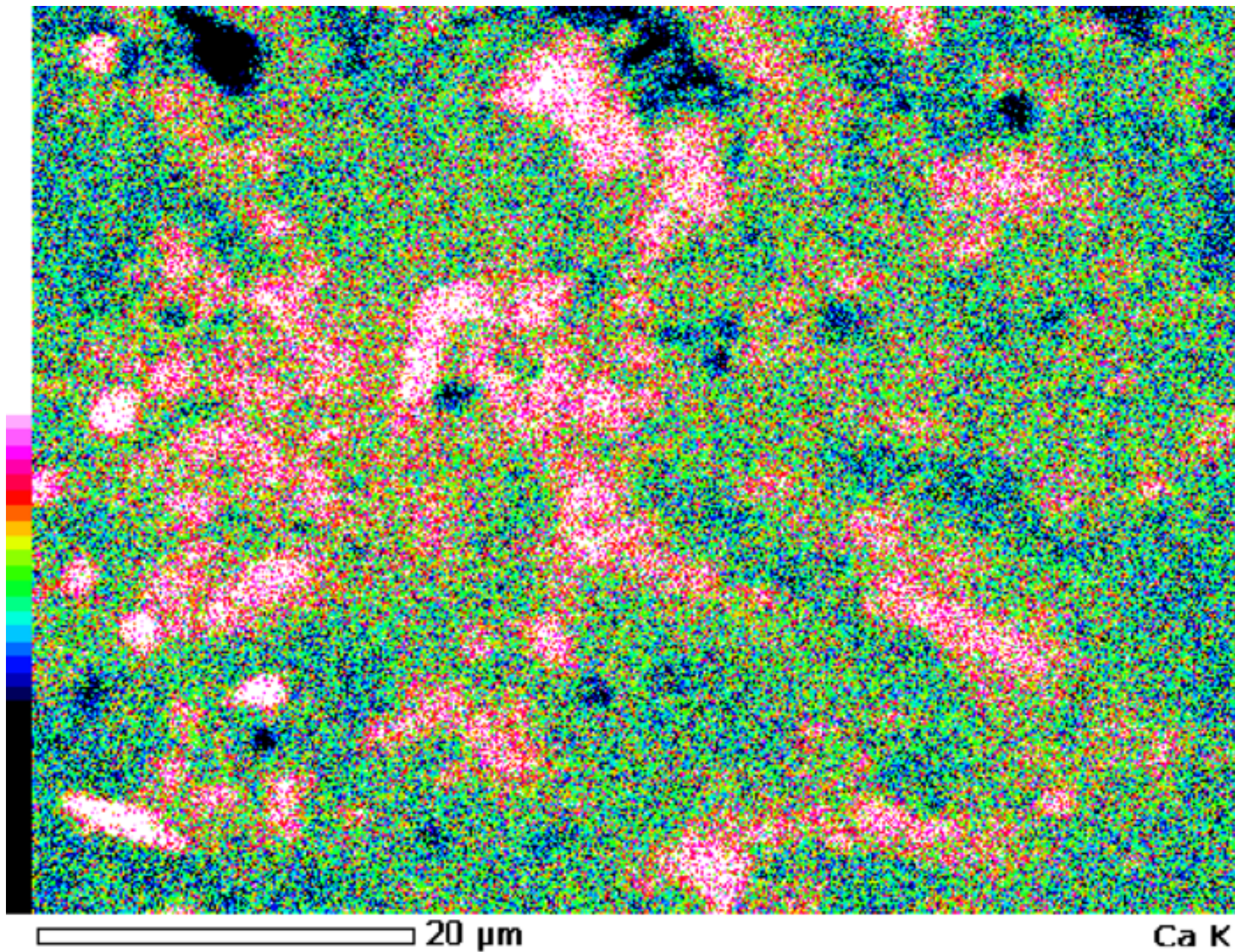


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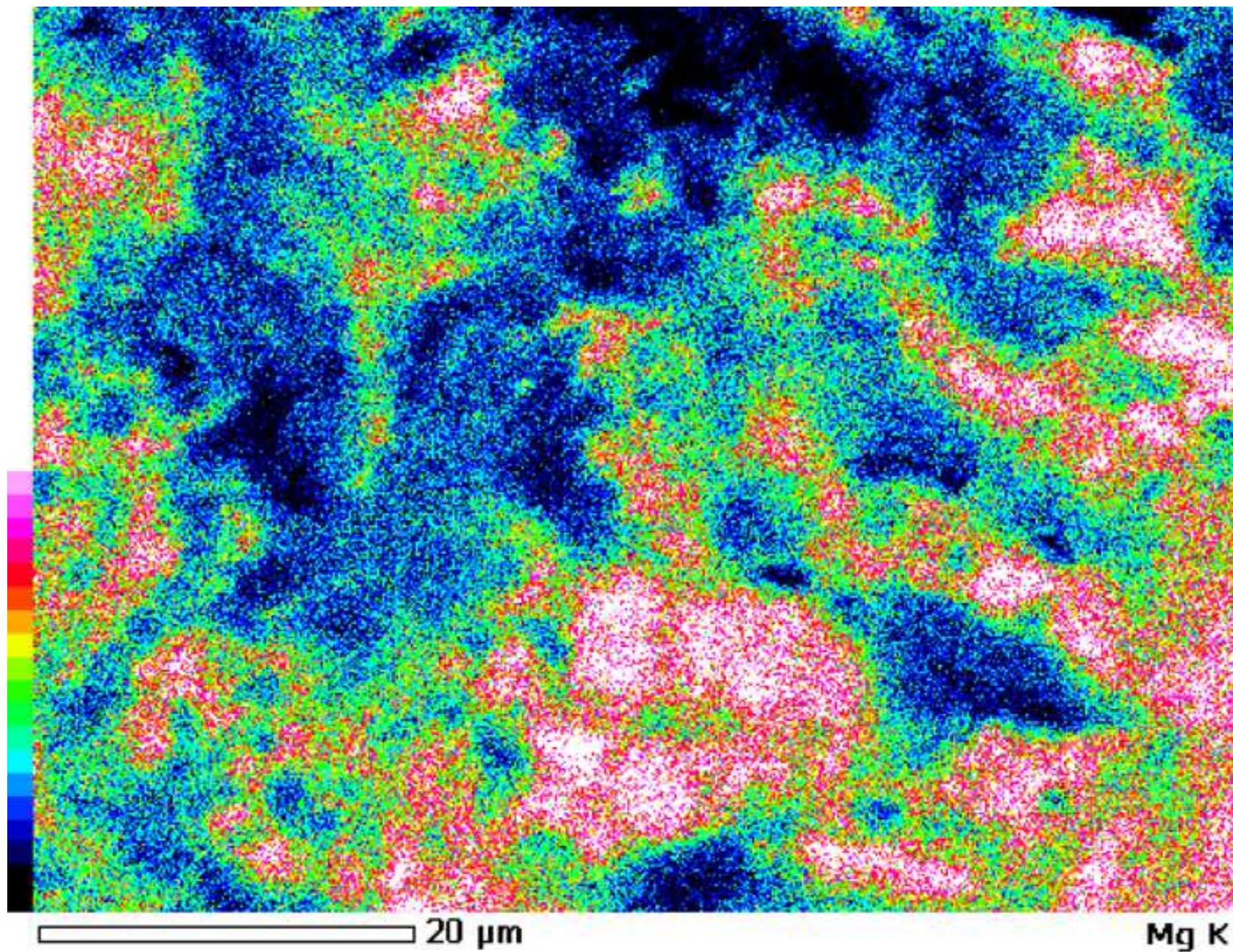


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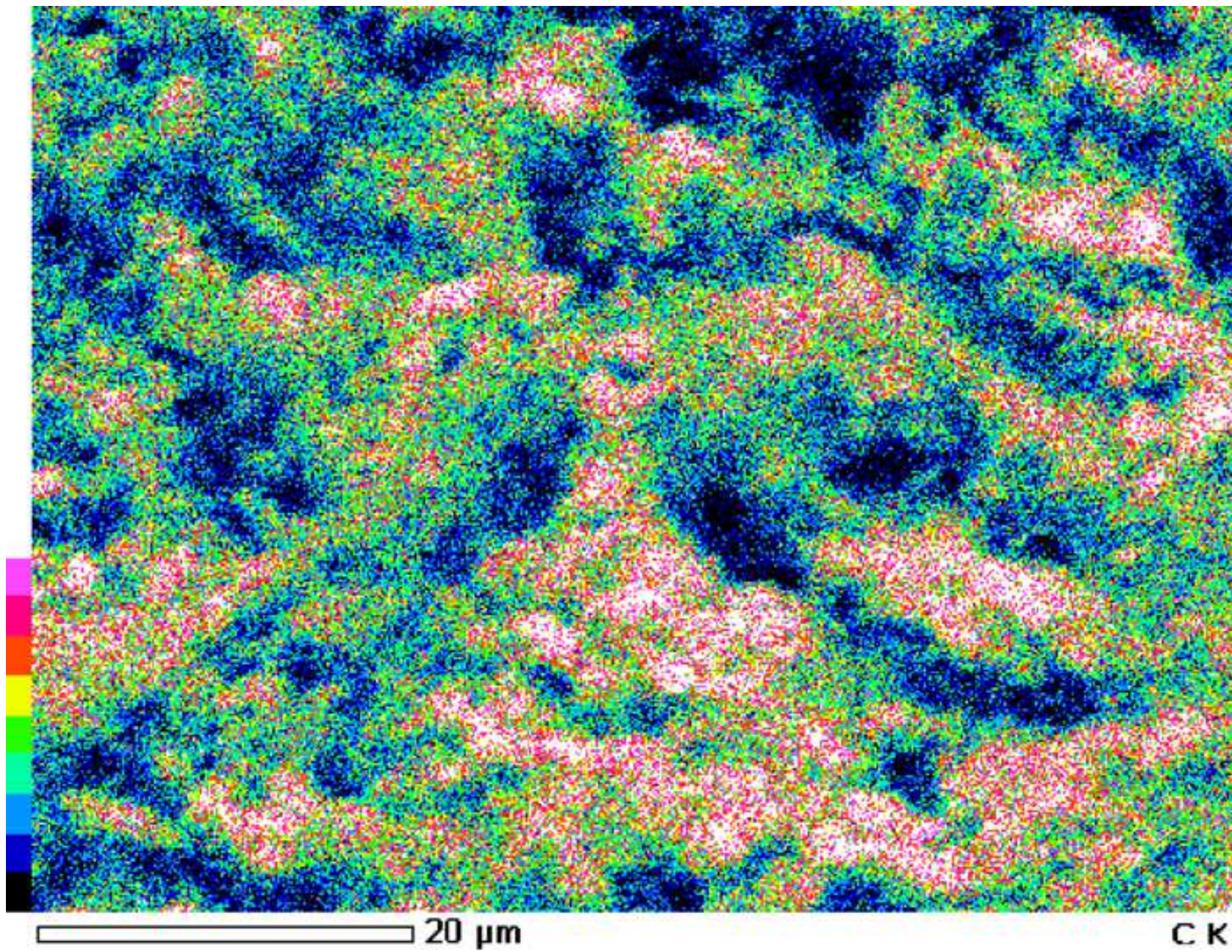


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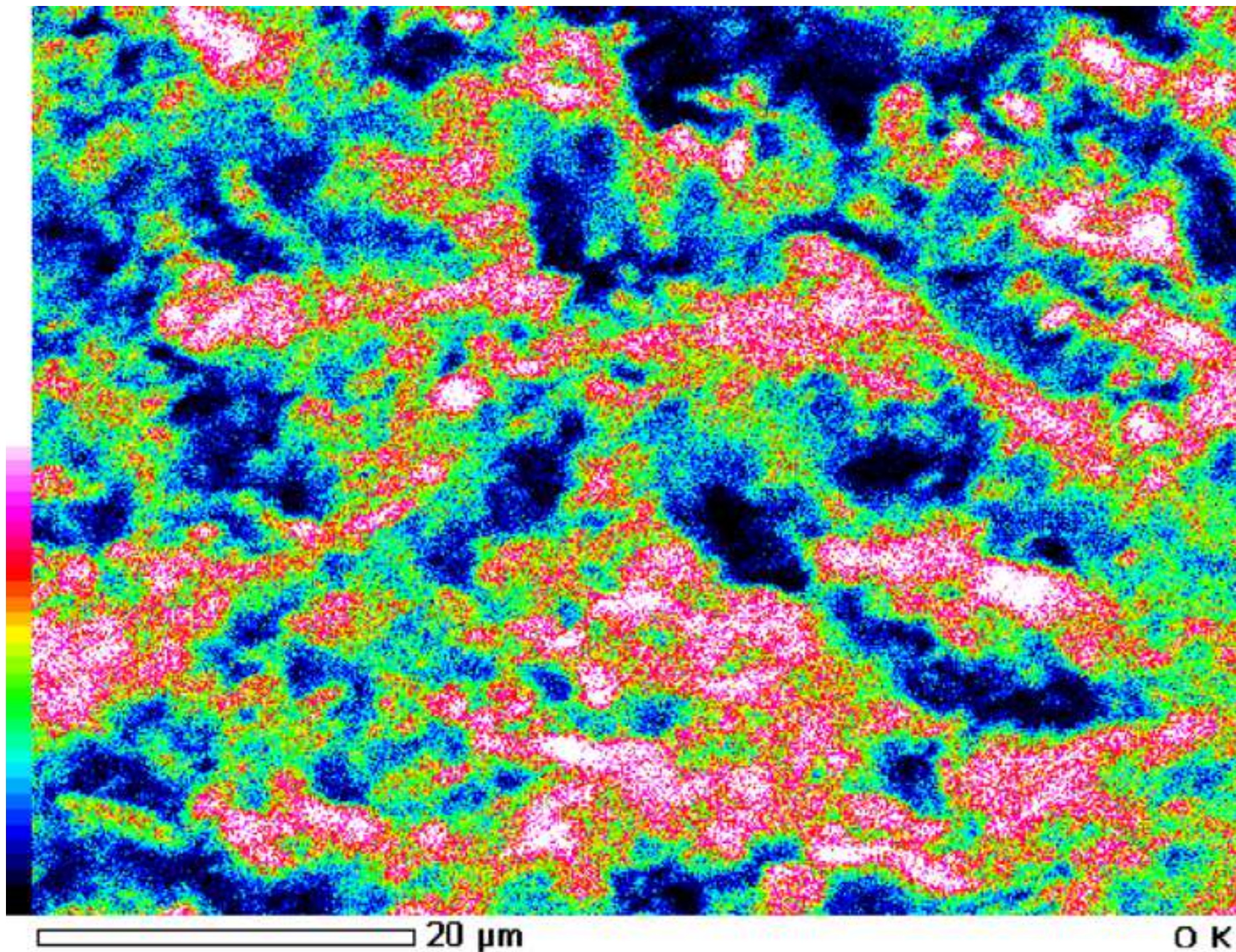


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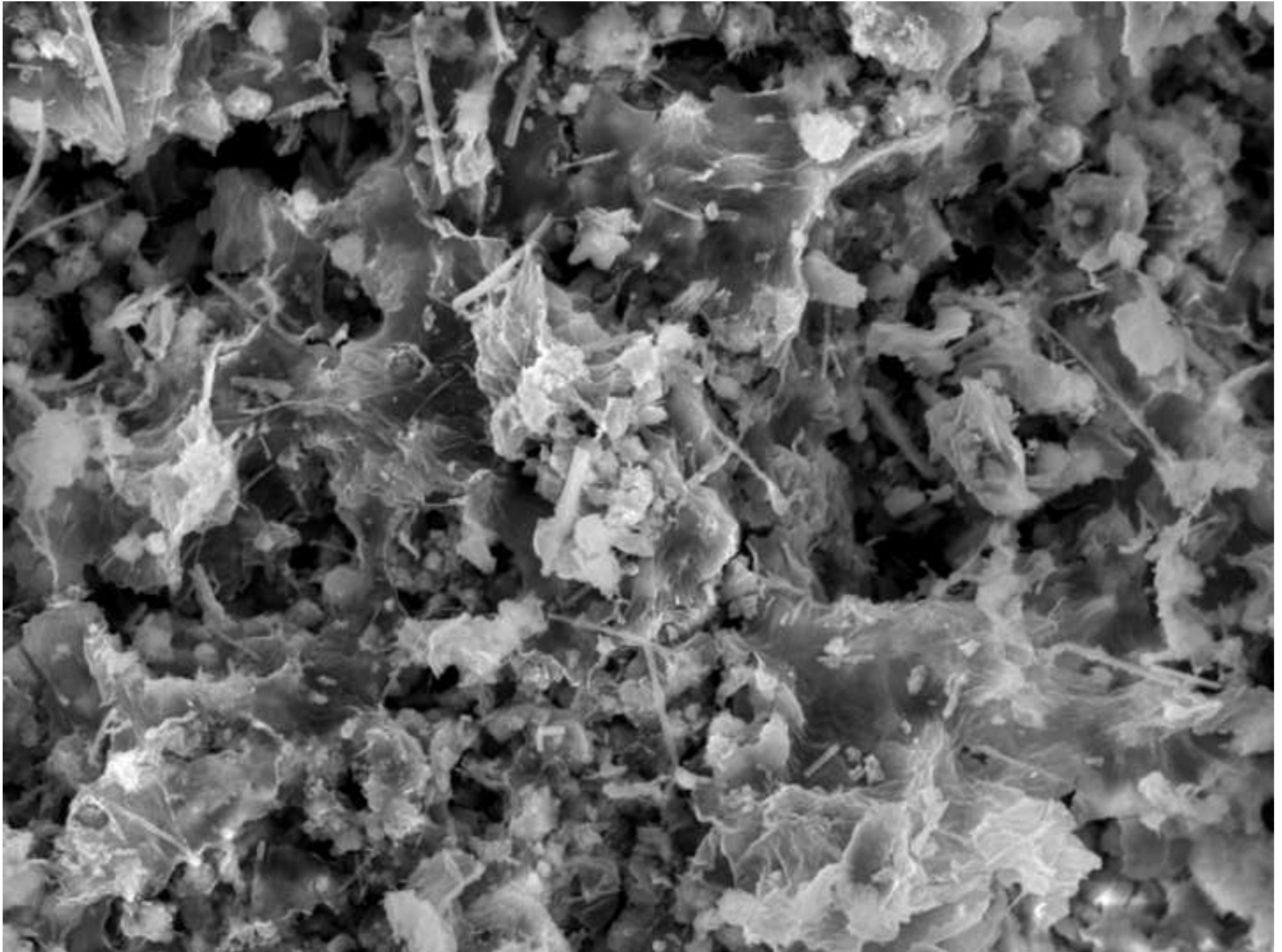


Figure 14b

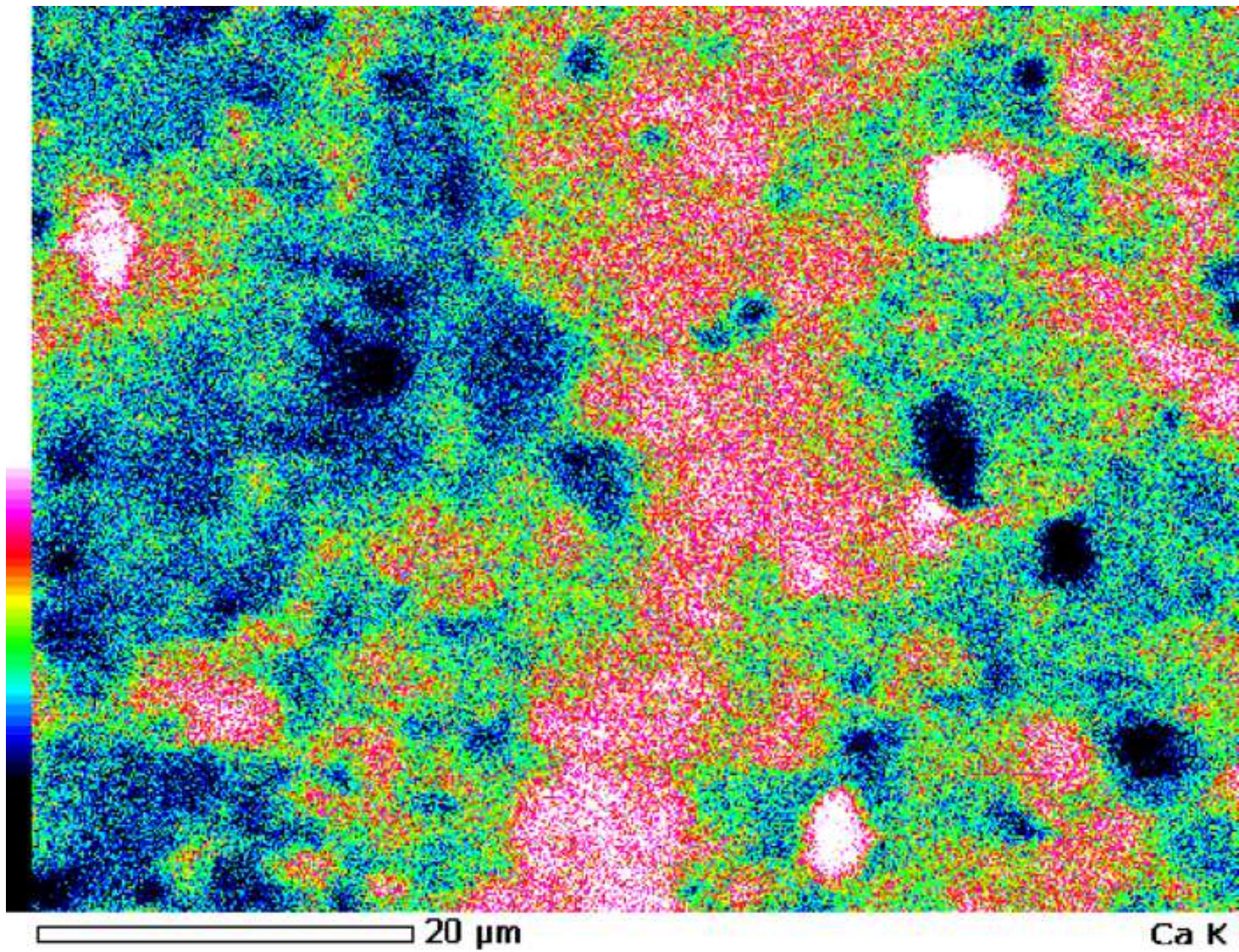


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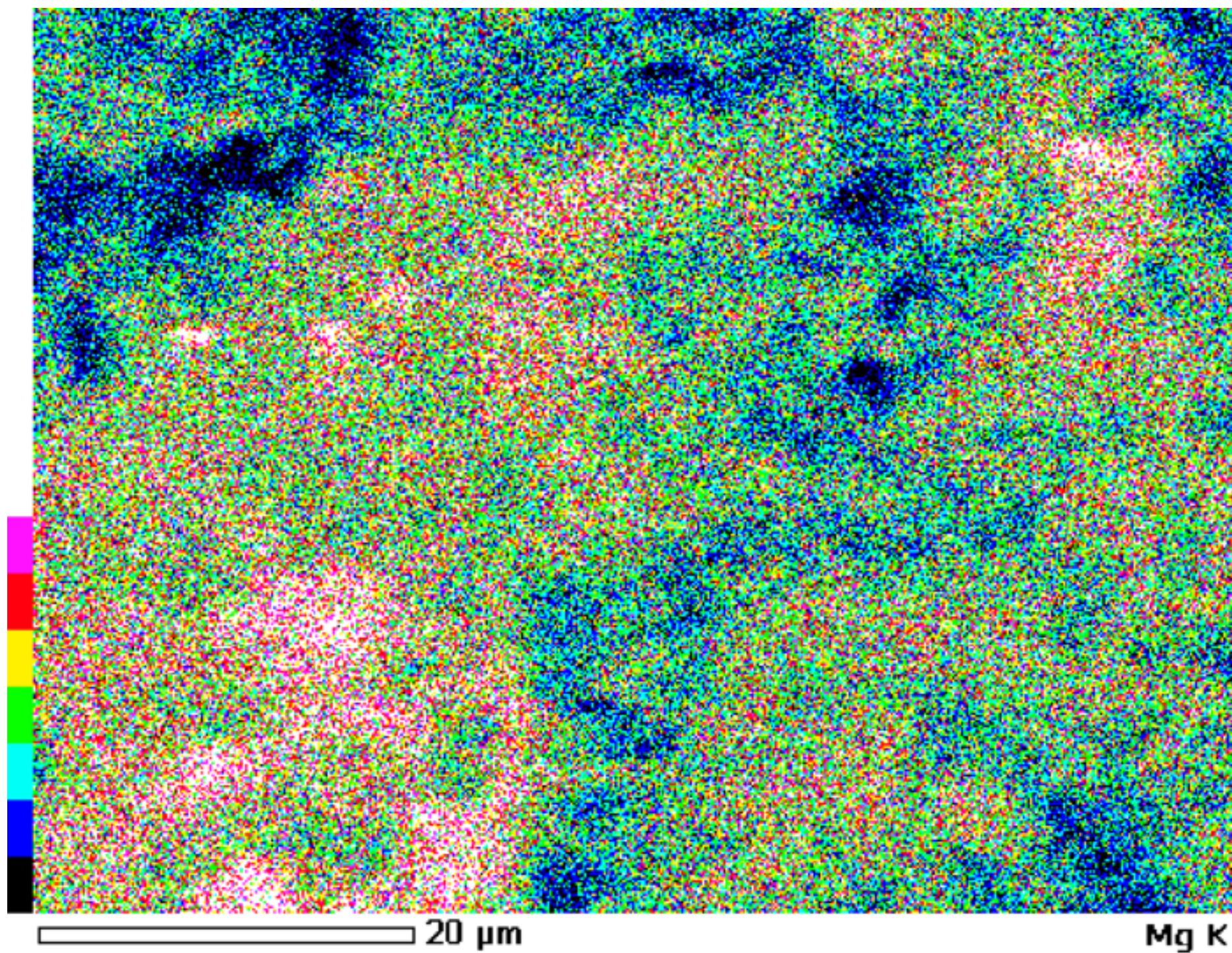


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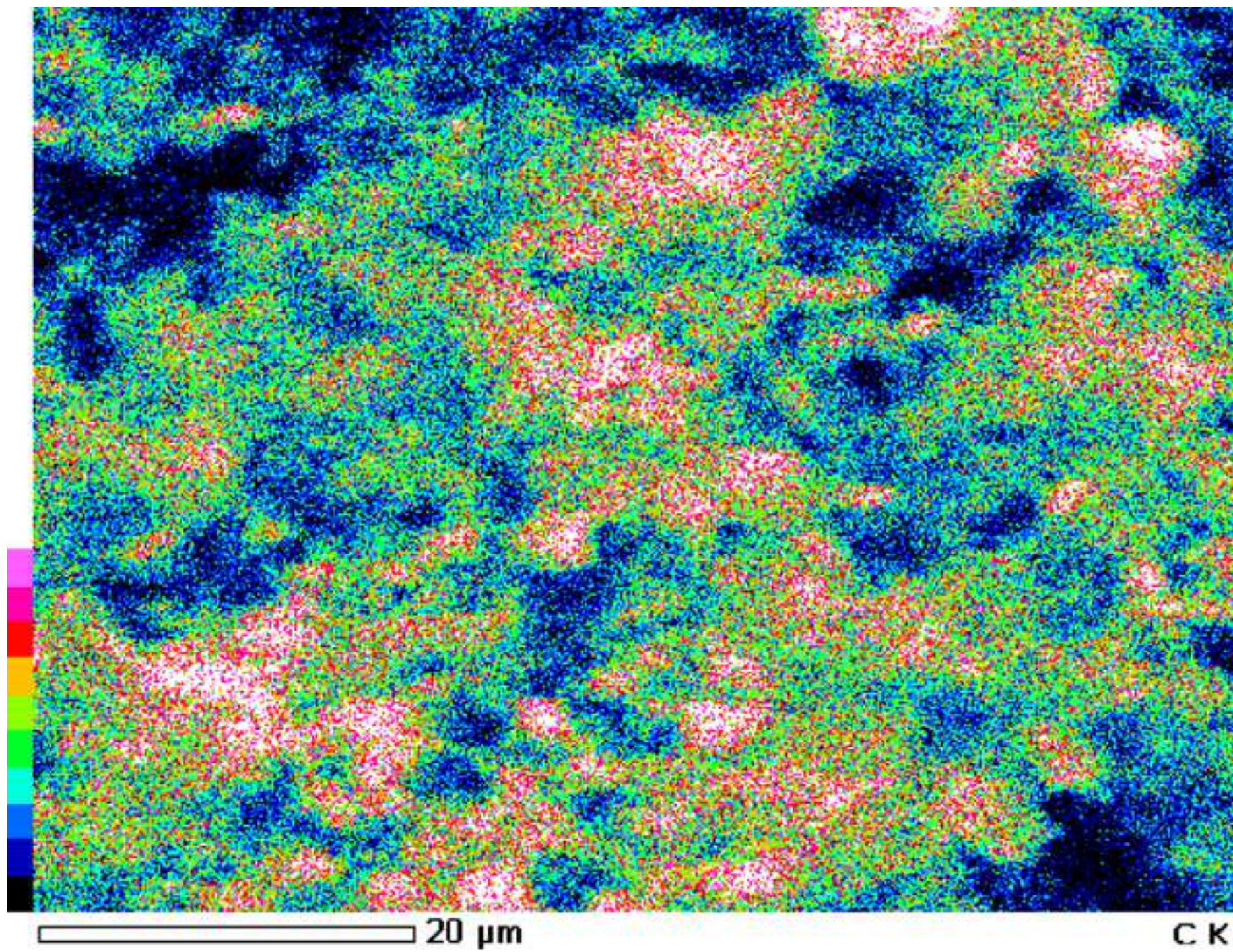


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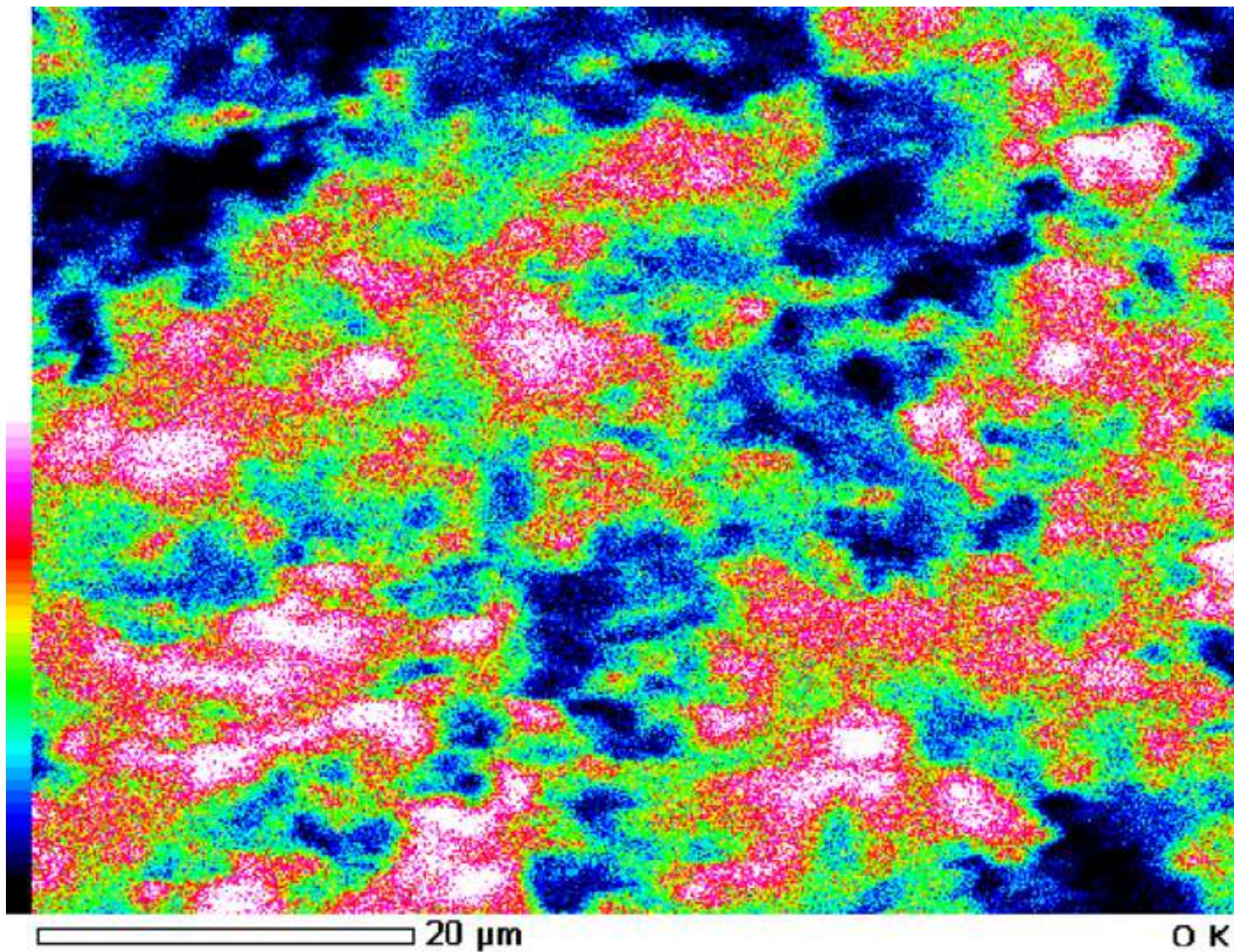


Figure 15a



Figure 15b

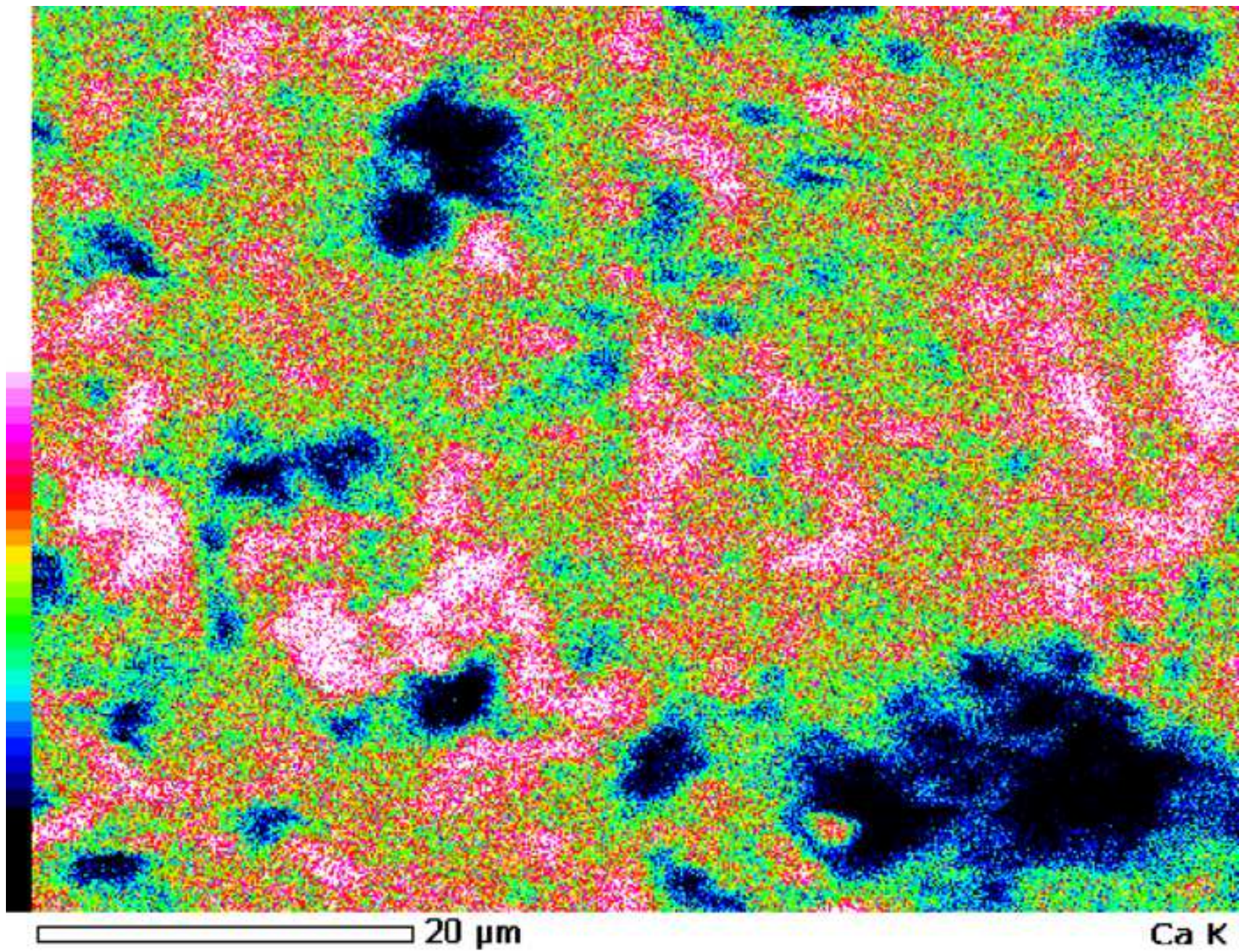


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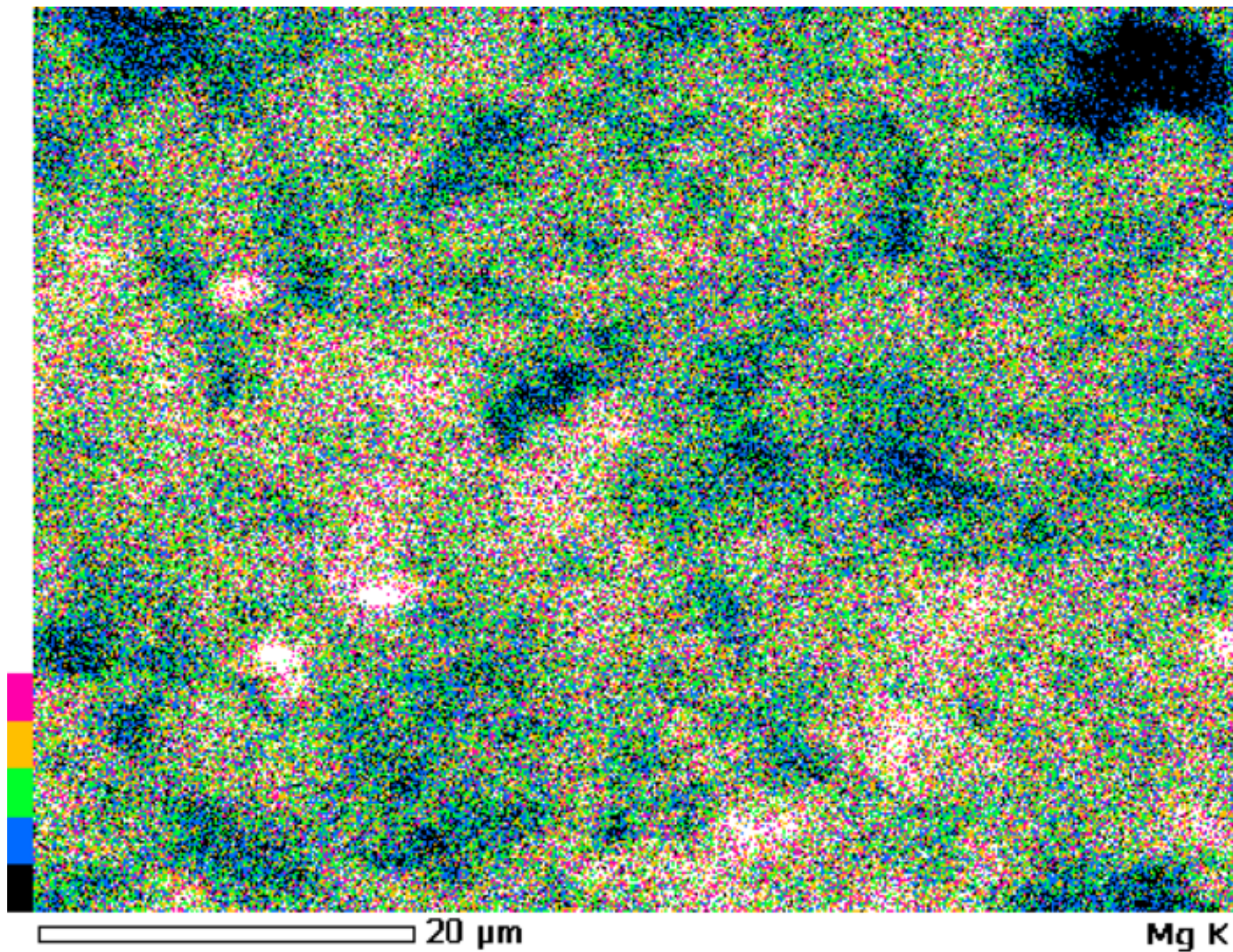


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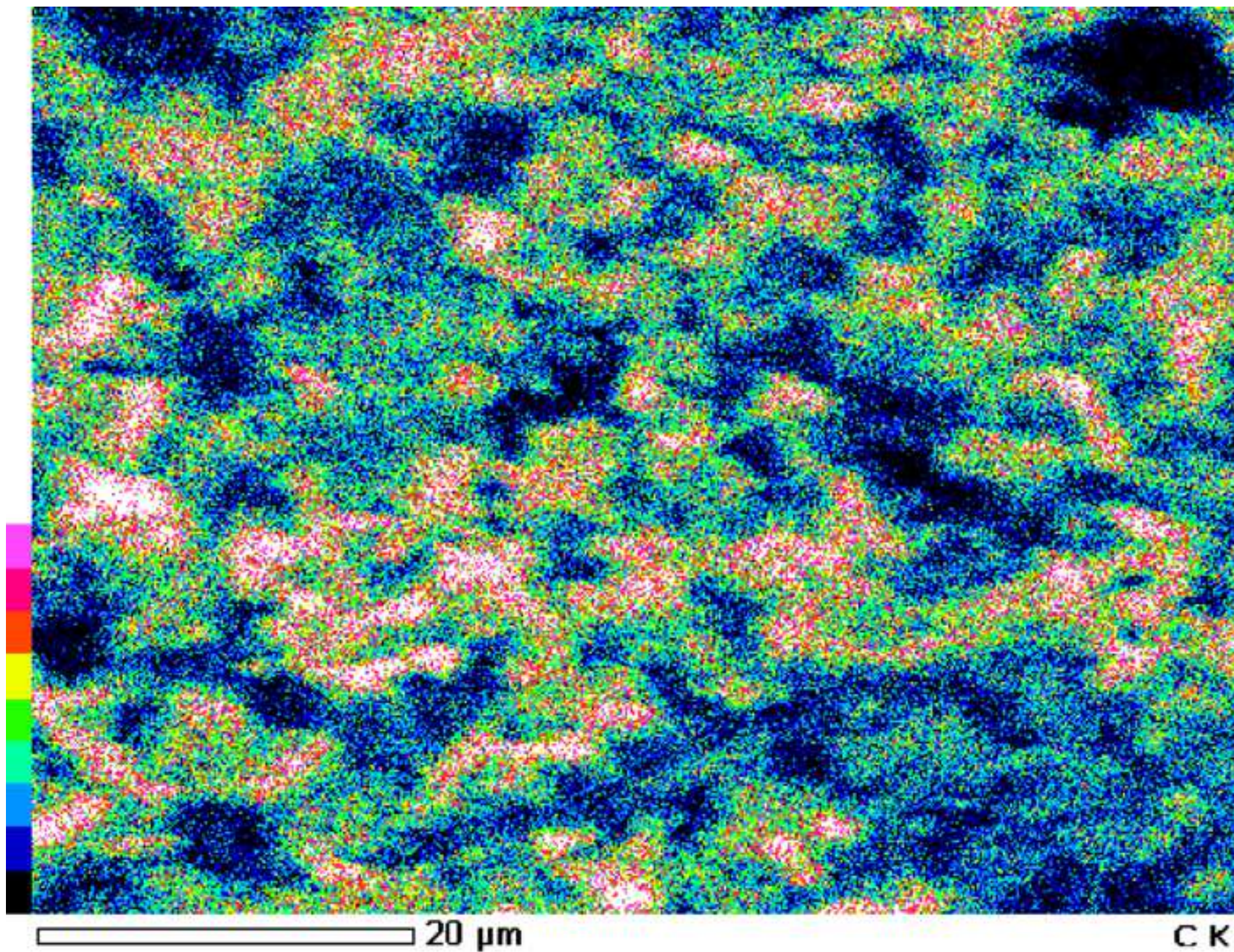


Figure 15e

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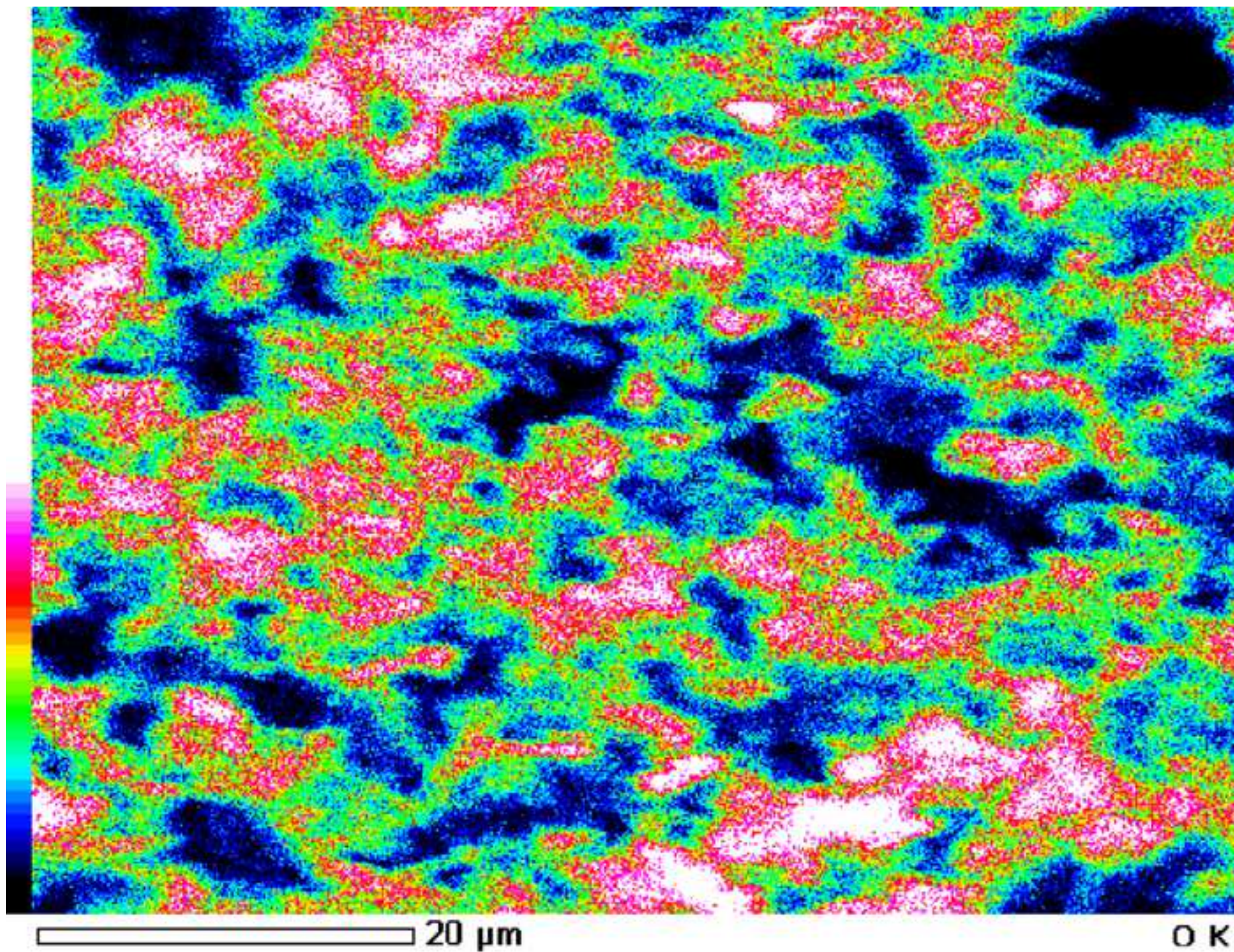


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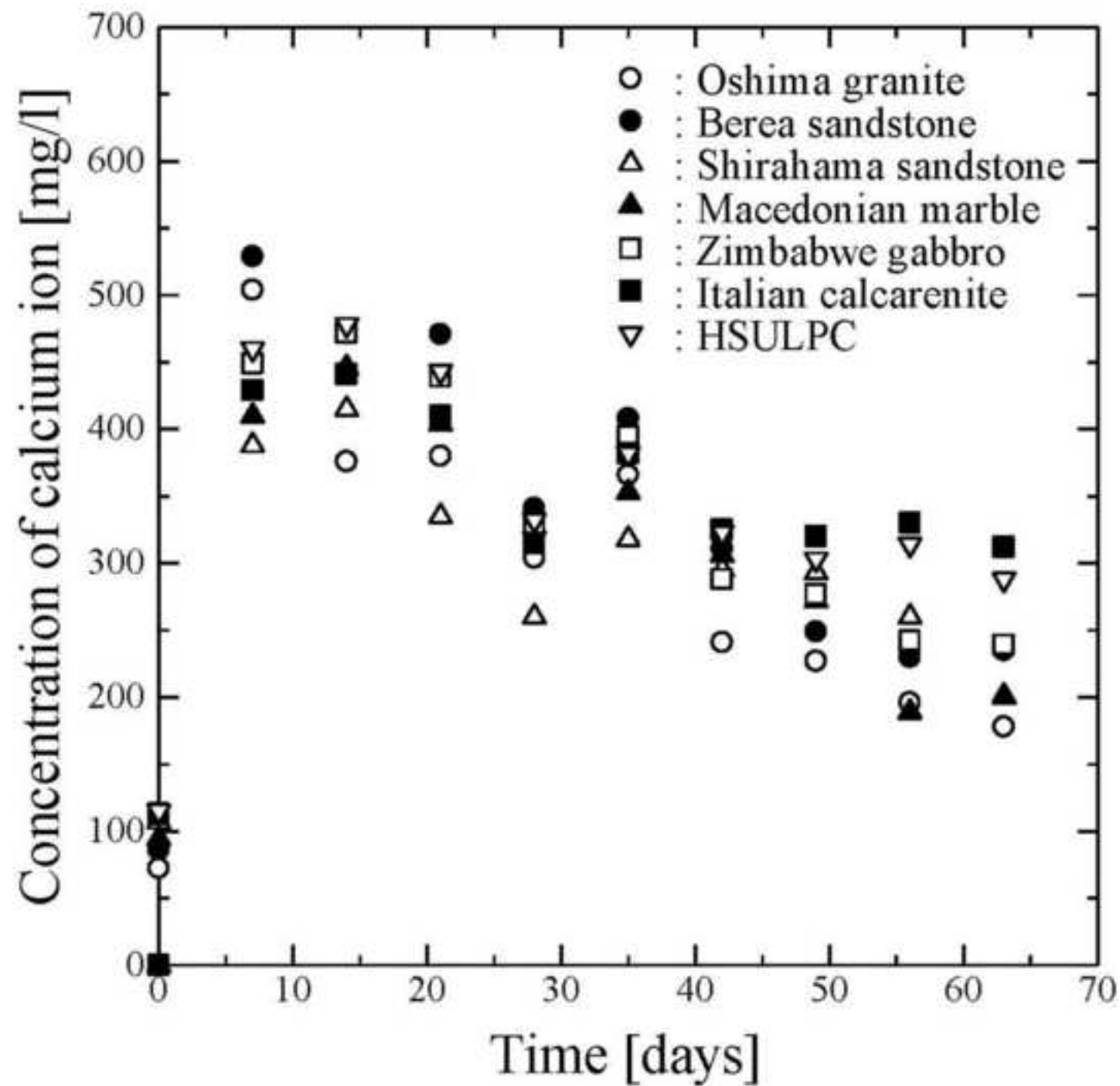


Figure 17a

