

METEORITES FROM NORTHWEST OF CHINA.

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Meteorites from hot and cold deserts make a large contribution to the world meteorite collection. Although the number of meteorites recovered in the Antarctic region is far more than that in hot deserts, the majority of lunar and Martian meteorites were actually found in the Northwest Africa and other hot deserts. Hunting meteorites in hot deserts have several advantages over in the Antarctic region, mainly the low cost and accessibility.

Xinjiang province, northwest of China, has a vast area of gobi deserts. Several important meteorites were found in the region, such as Armanty (a 28 ton IIIIE iron) and Fukang (a 1000 kg pallasite). Recently, professional and amateur hunters explored this region periodically and found numerous meteorites. Ten dense meteorite collection areas have been recognized in Xinjiang. They are Alaer, Alatage Mountain, Argan, Hami, Kumtag, Lop Nur, Loulan Yizhi, Tuanjie, Tuya, and Xingdi.

In the meteoritical bulletin database, 39 meteorites from Xinjiang are recorded and most (36) were collected after the year 2000. Kumtag and Loulan Yizhi are two DCAs with most collections (13 and 7 respectively). The majority of meteorites found in Xinjiang are ordinary chondrites [1,2]. There are 11 H, 19 L, 2 LL chondrites, 6 irons and 1 pallasite. Ulasitai (430 kg) and two other irons found in the vicinity (25 and 5 ton respectively) are most likely paired with Armanty. Xinjiang has emerged as a major meteorite collection site.

References: [1] Li S. and Hsu W. 2014. *Chinese Science Bulletin* 59(18):1–6. [2] Li S. and Hsu W. 2014. Submitted to *Chinese Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

Acknowledgement: This work was supported by NSFC Grants (41173076, 41273079) and the Minor Planet Foundation of China.