



BRUKER NANO ANALYTICS

# Analytical Cryo-SEM EDS Mapping for Biological and Life Science Applications

[info.bna@bruker.com](mailto:info.bna@bruker.com)

Bruker Nano GmbH  
Am Studio 2D  
12489 Berlin, Germany

XFlash®  
Technology

# Today's Speakers

---



**Dr. Purvesh Soni**

Sr. Application Scientist EDS  
Bruker Nano Analytics, Berlin



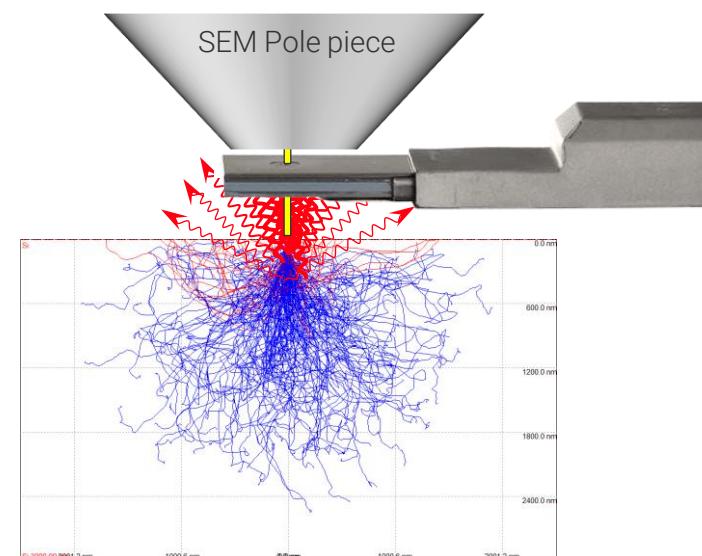
**Dr. Ifat Kaplan-Ashiri**

Associate Staff Scientist  
Electron Microscopy Unit,  
Department of Chemical Research Support,  
Weizmann Institute of Science

# XFlash® FlatQUAD

## Highest solid angle for SEM EDS

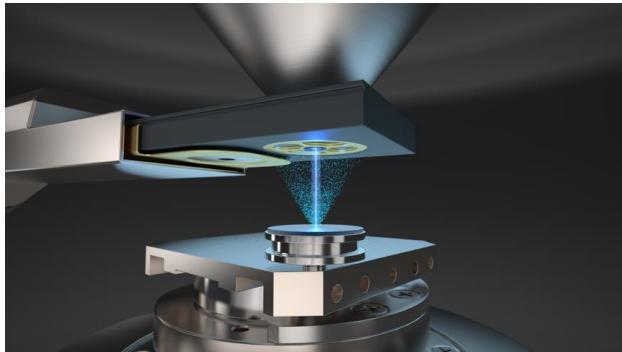
- Side entry EDS – Similar to retractable BSE
- Annular 4-segment design
- Optimum geometry for signal collection



# XFlash® FlatQUAD

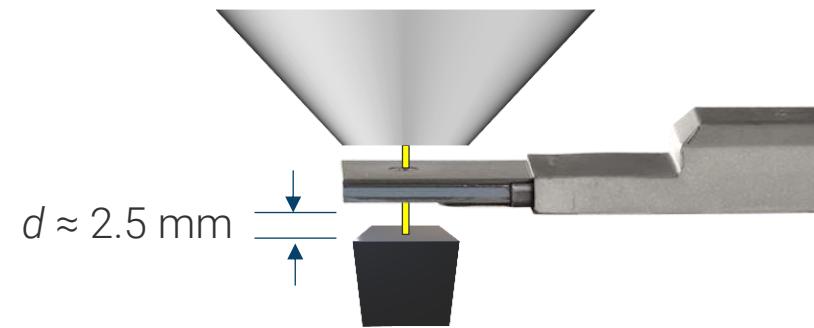
# XFlash® FlatQUAD

## Highest sensitivity SEM EDS detector



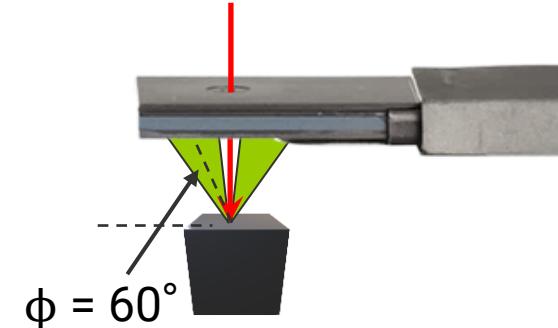
4 segment annular SDD design

-> Minimal shadowing for topographic samples



Highest solid angle (up to 1.1 sr)

-> Highest sensitivity



Highest take off angle

-> Highest signal intensity

Ultra low  
probe currents  
(low/high kV)

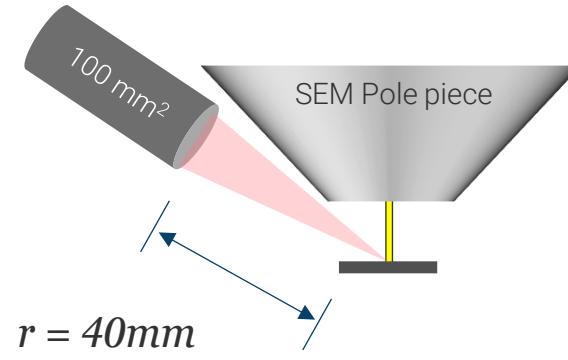


Highest  
sensitivity

3,200,000 cps Output count rate

# Solid angle and detector geometry

## Collection efficiency FlatQUAD vs Conventional inclined EDS



For spheres, solid angle is:

$$\Omega \sim \frac{A}{r^2}$$

100 mm<sup>2</sup> SDD chip at 40 mm

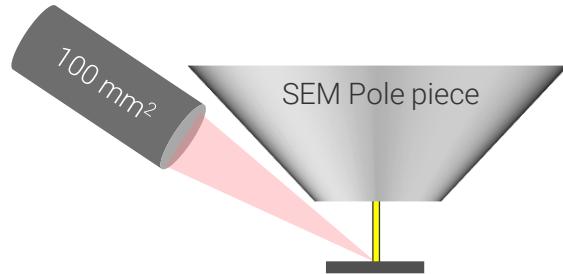
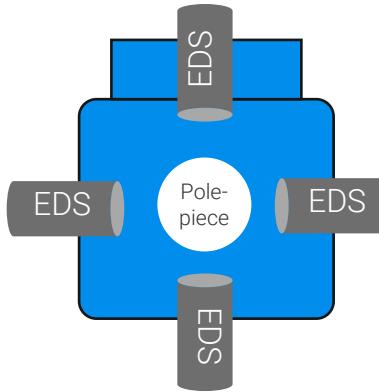
Solid angle = 0.0625 sr

# Multiple EDS detectors vs FlatQUAD

## Solid angle, detector geometry and X-Ray photon collection

100 mm<sup>2</sup> SDD chip at 40 mm  
Solid angle = 0.0625 sr

4 x 100 mm<sup>2</sup>  
**= 0.25 sr**



For spheres, solid angle is:

$$\Omega \sim \frac{A}{r^2}$$

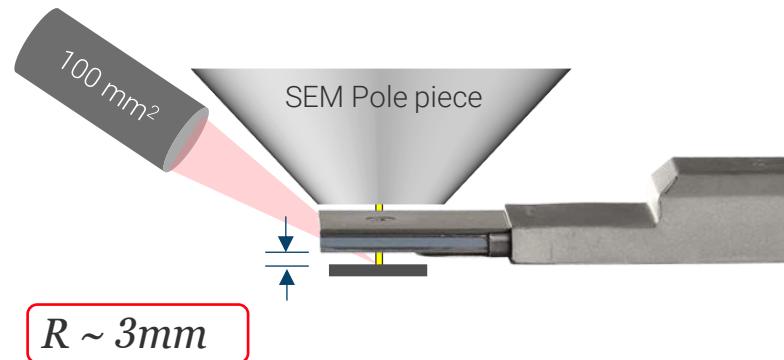
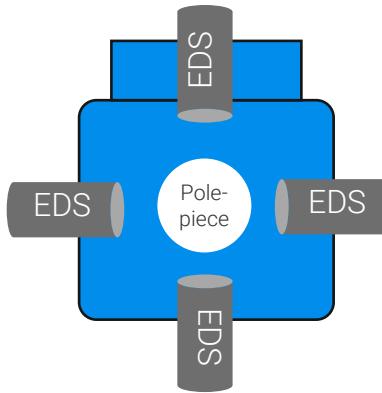
100 mm<sup>2</sup> SDD chip at 40 mm  
Solid angle = 0.0625 sr

# Multiple EDS detectors vs FlatQUAD

## Solid angle, detector geometry and X-Ray photon collection

100 mm<sup>2</sup> SDD chip at 40 mm  
Solid angle = 0.0625 sr

$$4 \times 100 \text{ mm}^2 \\ = 0.25 \text{ sr}$$



### FlatQUAD

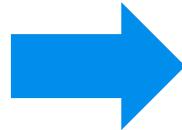
Solid angle  
~ 1.0 sr

10x – 20x higher solid angle

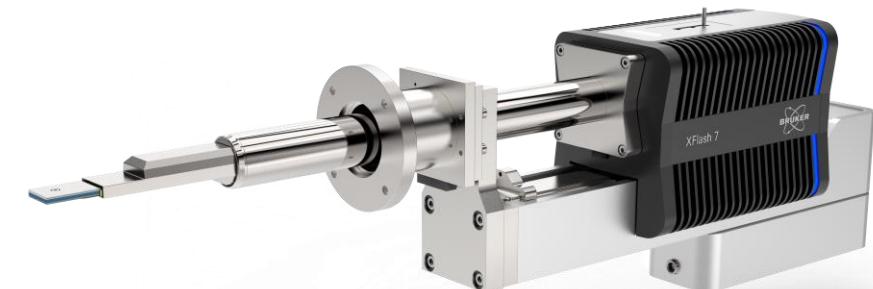
# Benchmark tests

## Cu sample at 5 kV measured at different probe currents

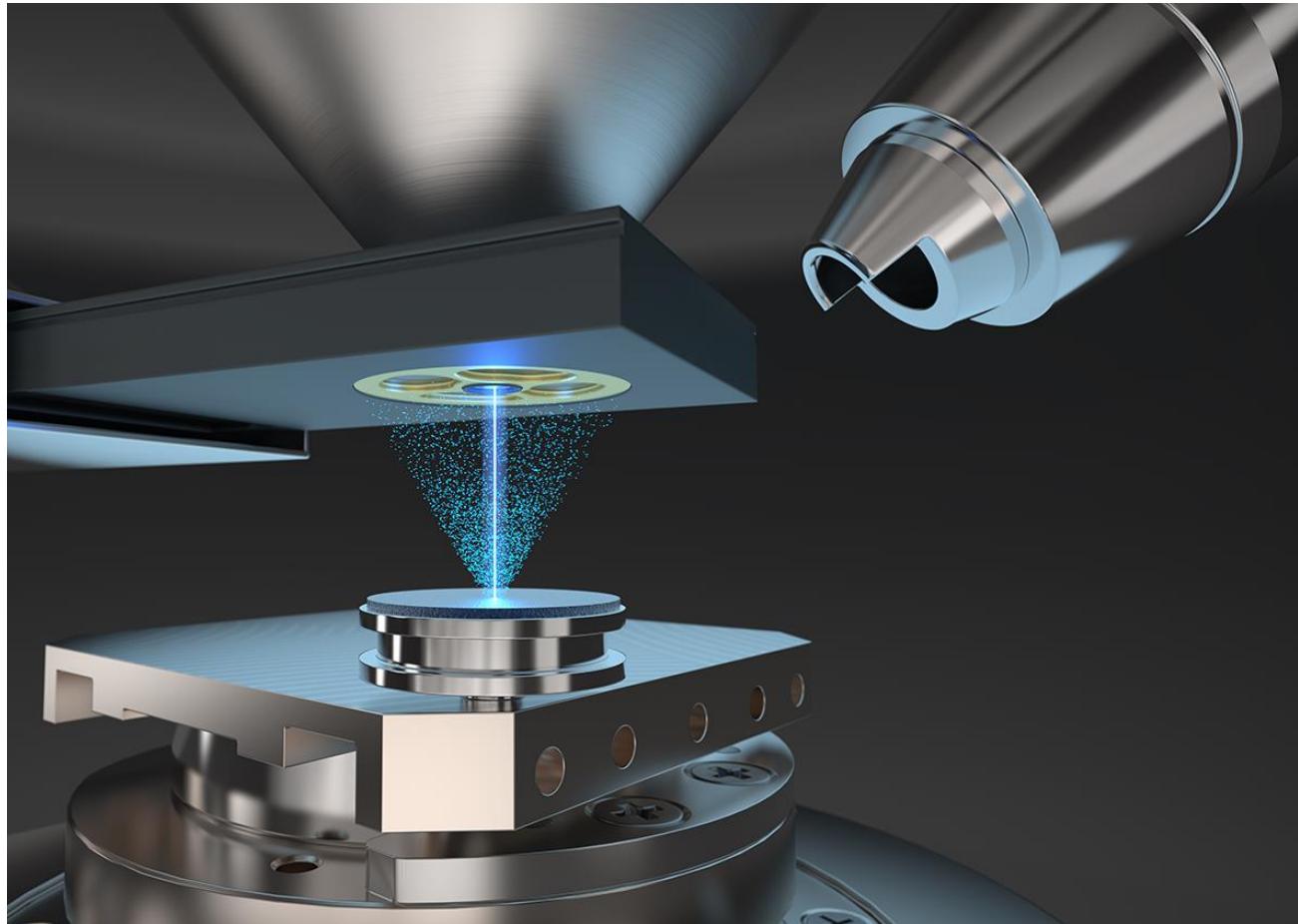
Probe current	Input count rate (ICR)	Output count rate (OCR)
18 pA	8,288 cps	8,199 cps
237 pA	106,300 cps	89,700 cps
1.32 nA	597,200 cps	481,600 cps
5.27 nA	2,154,000 cps	1,023,300 cps



~ 4600 cps at **10 pA** (Cu at 5 kV)



## QUANTAX FlatQUAD vs conventional inclined EDS detector



- > 25 x higher collection solid angle
- 2 x higher take-off angle
- Up to 3,200,000 output count rates
- Light element detection from B (Z=5) and quantification
- Highest sensitivity at low kV and ultra low probe currents

For more information, please visit

---

[www.bruker.com/XFlash7](http://www.bruker.com/XFlash7)

or contact your local sales representative or

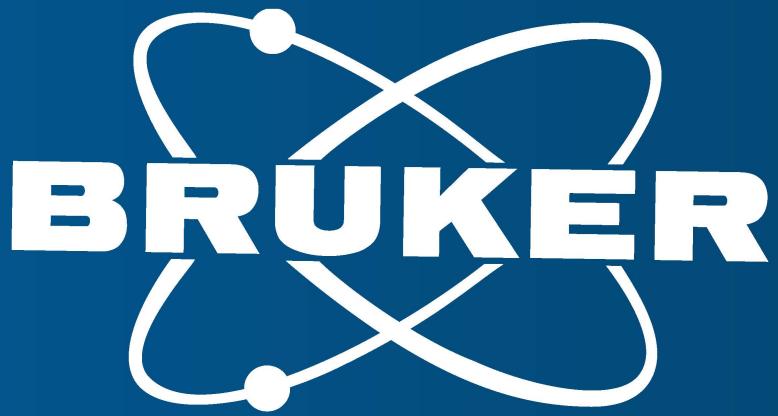
[info.bna@bruker.com](mailto:info.bna@bruker.com)



# Thank you!

---

info.bna@bruker.com



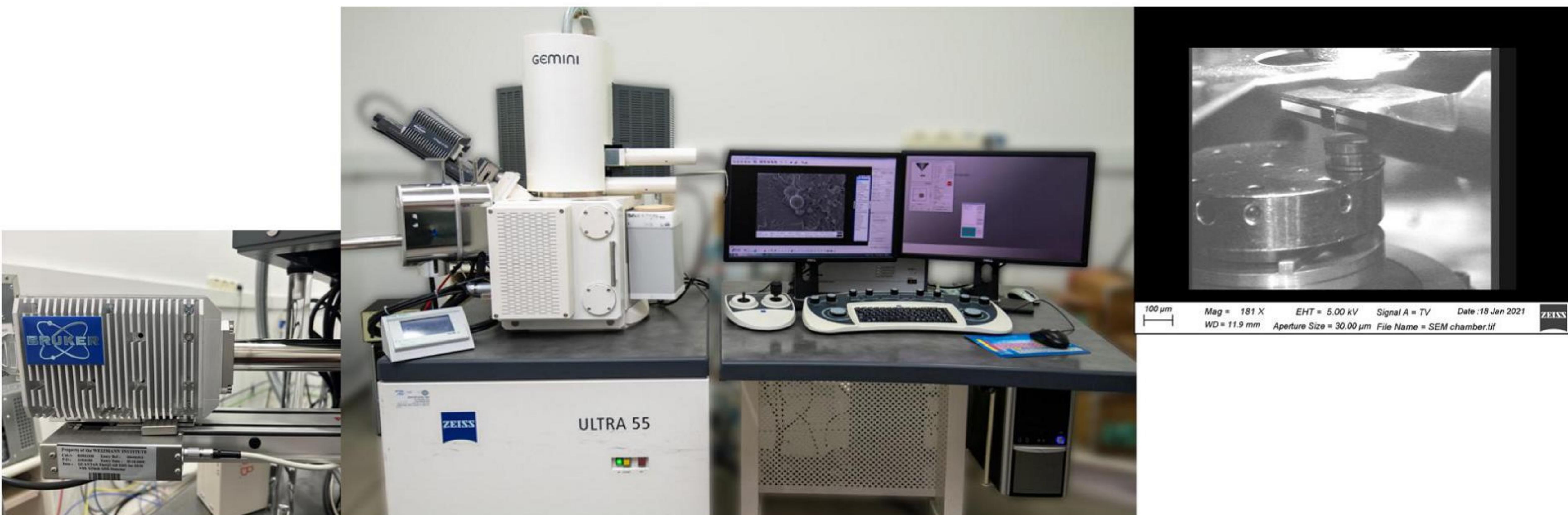
Innovation with Integrity

# Cryo-SEM EDS in Life Science

Ifat Kaplan-Ashiri, Electron Microscopy Unit, Weizmann Institute of Science

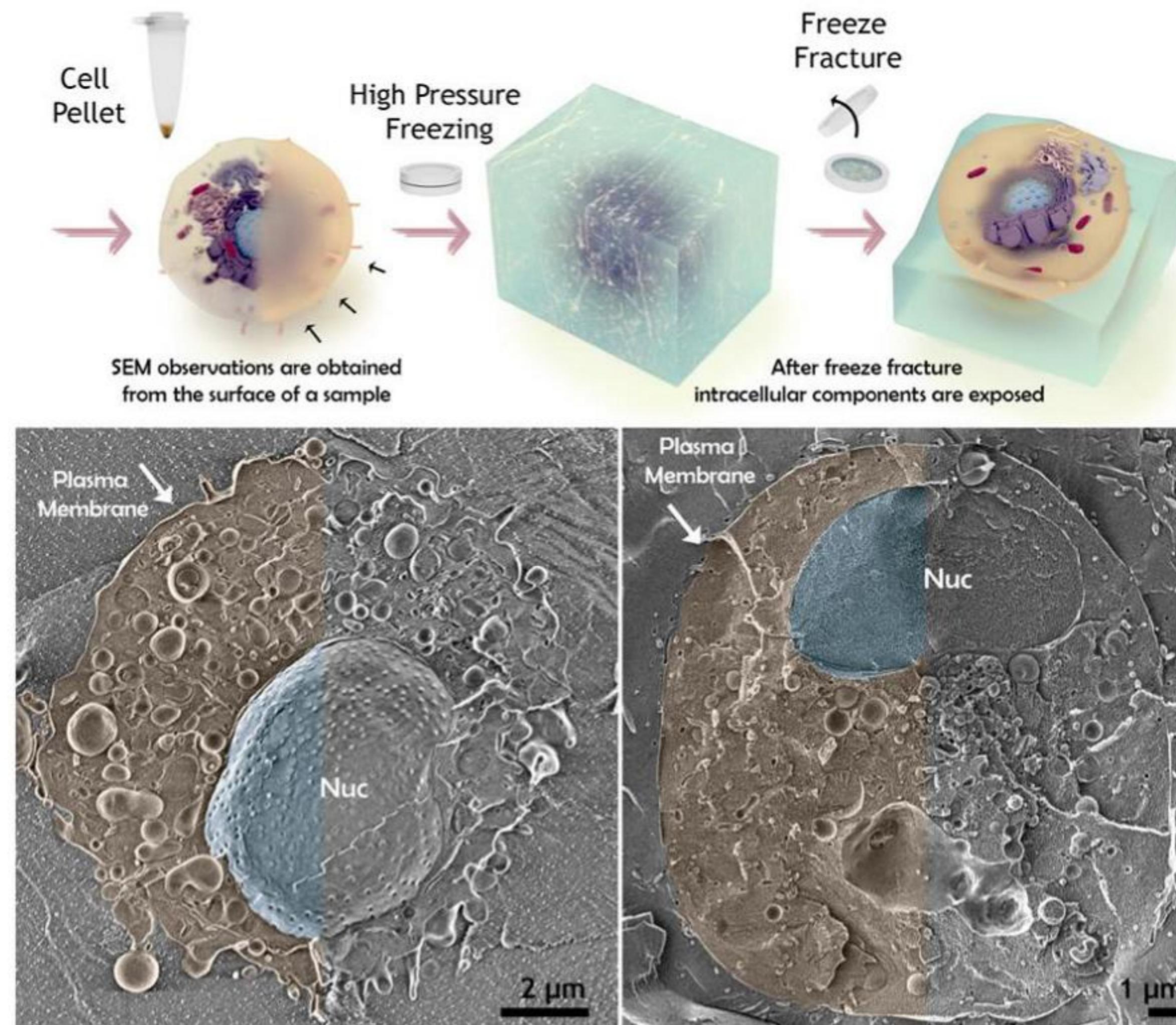


# Instrumentation

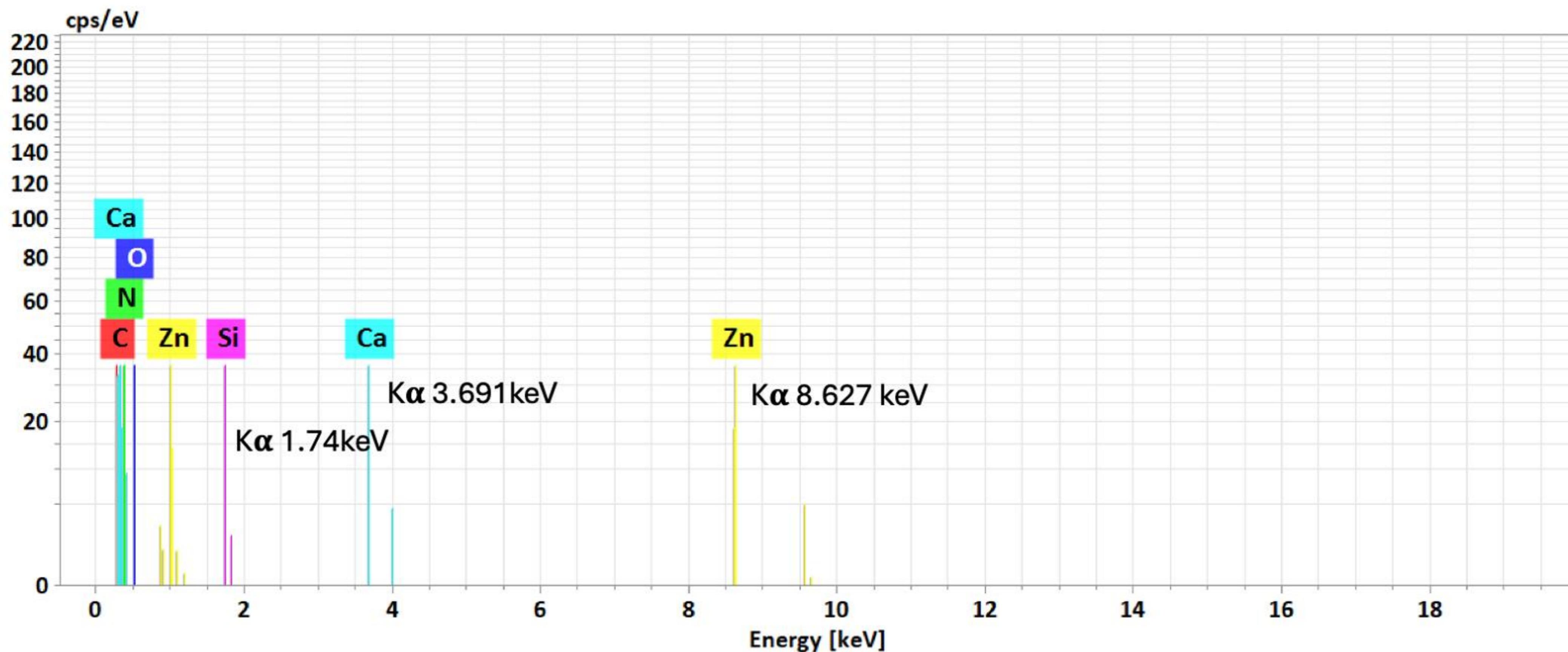


**Zeiss Ultra55 equipped with Leica cryo stage and 2 EDS systems – XFlash60 and FlatQUAD**

# Cryo-SEM sample preparation



# Cryo-SEM EDS



# Cryo-SEM EDS

## The challenges:

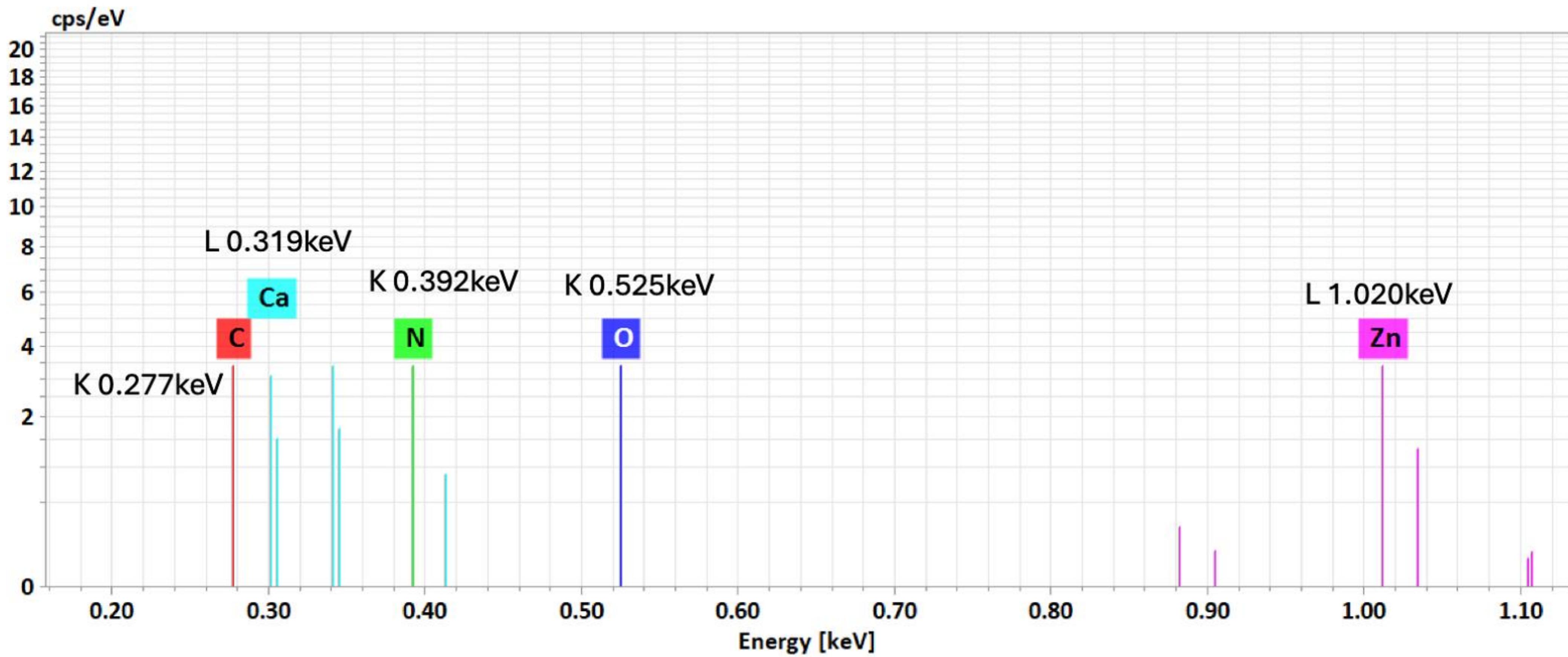
The samples are **Beam sensitive** and **Non-conductive**

The amount of mineral compared to carbon and oxygen **is small**

EDS requires different **acceleration voltage, current** and **working distances** than SEM imaging

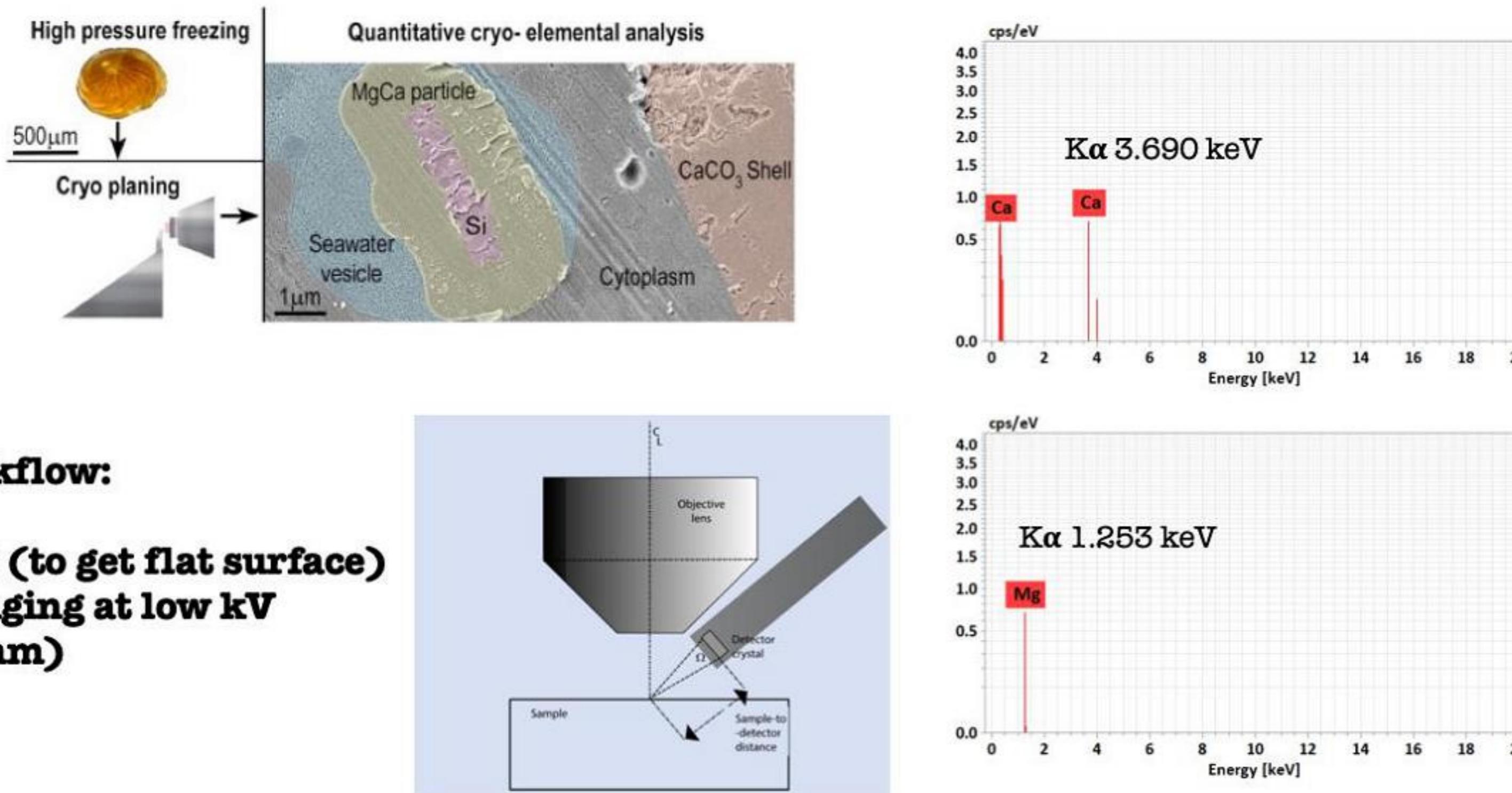
**Topography**

# Cryo-SEM EDS

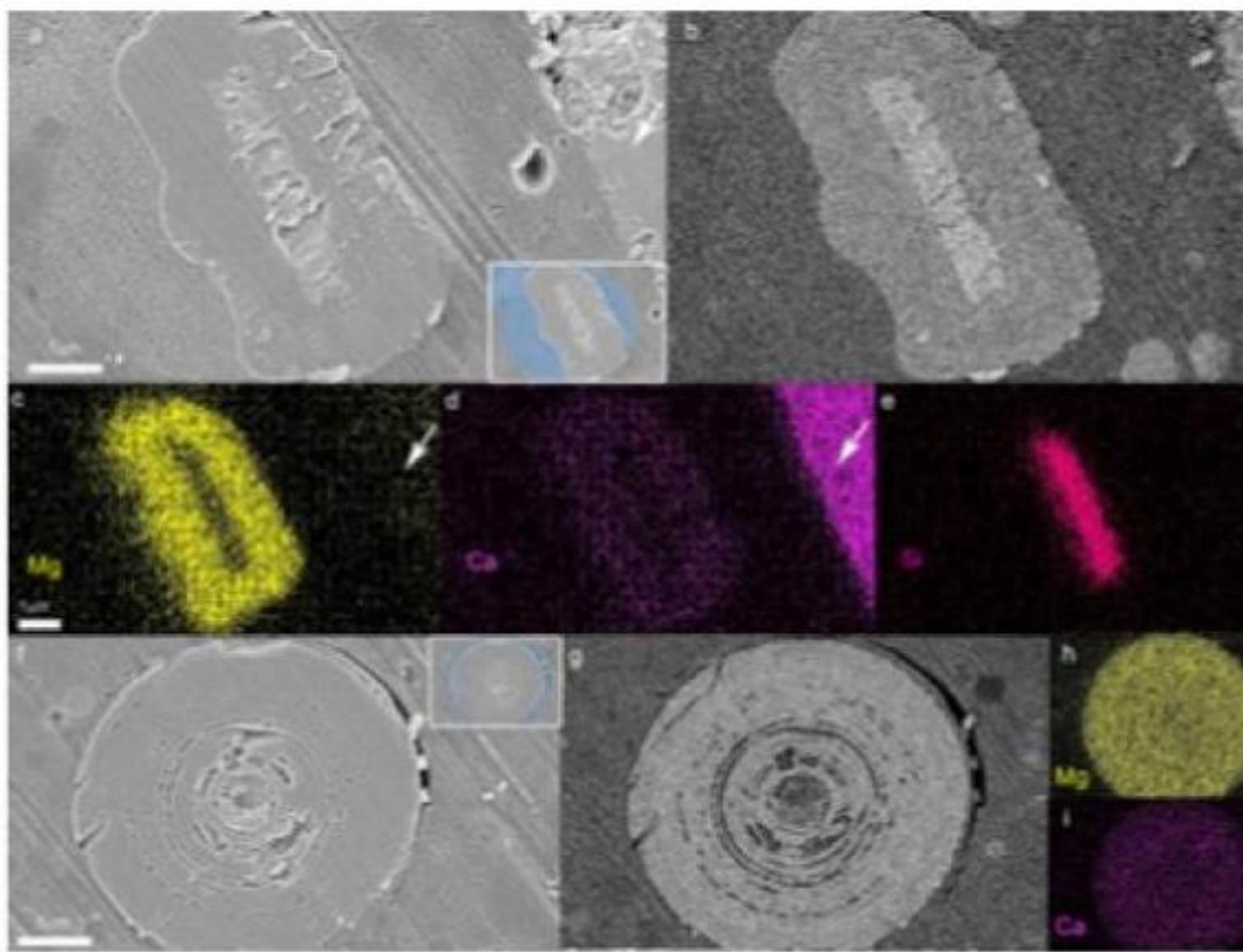


# Characterization of unusual MgCa particles involved in the formation of foraminifera shells using a novel quantitative cryo SEM/EDS protocol

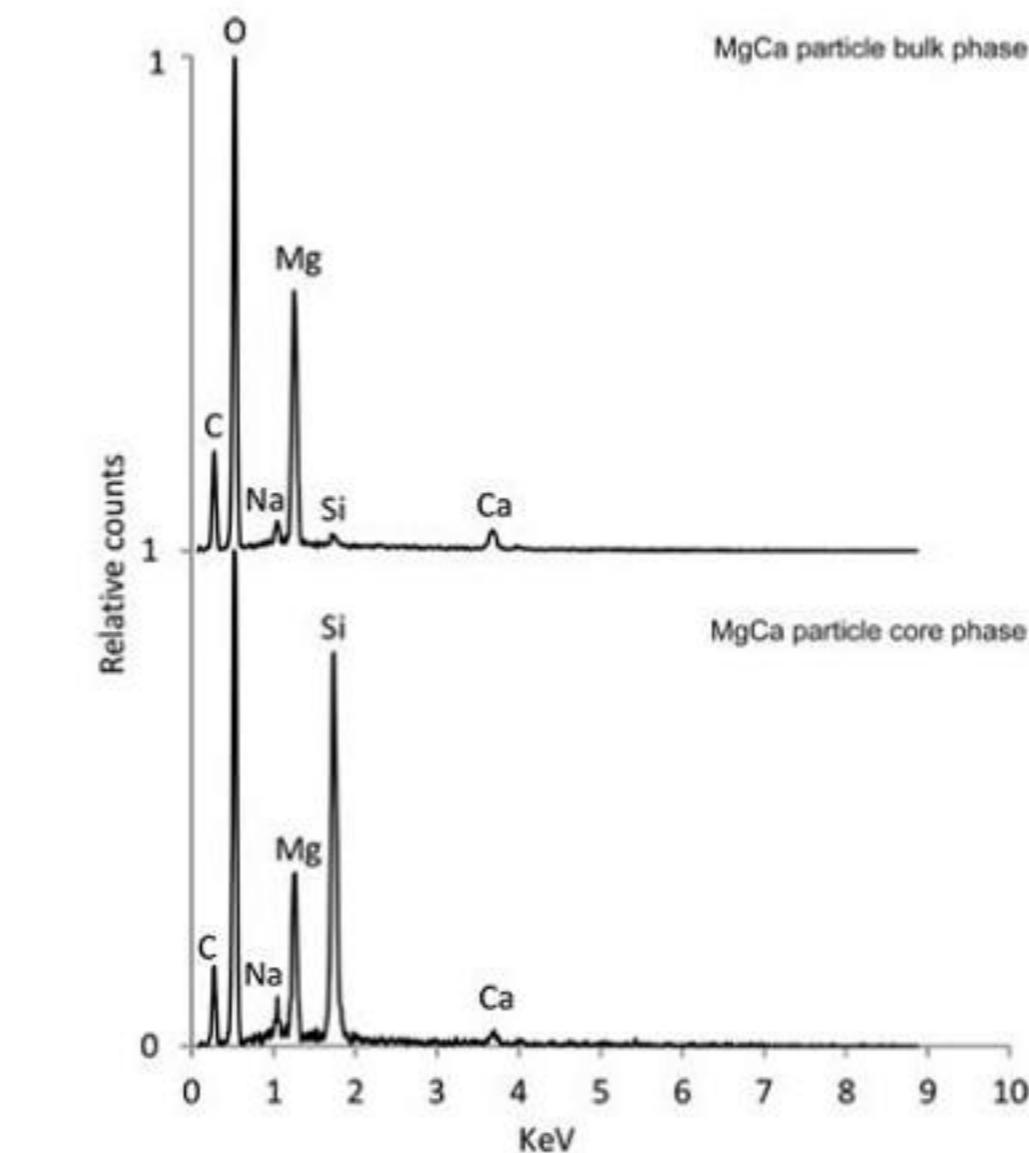
Gal Mor Khalifa et al. Acta Biomaterialia 77 (2018) 342–351



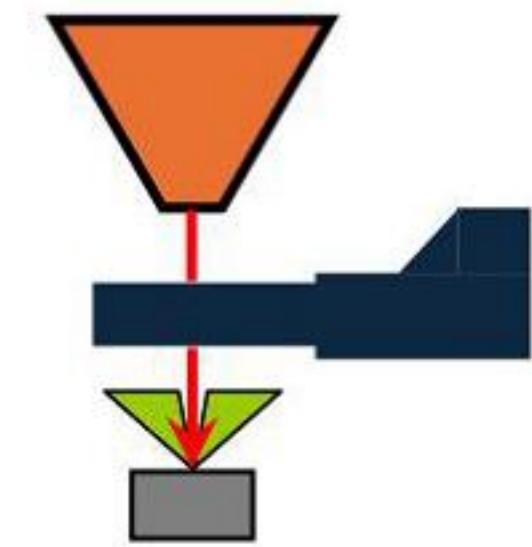
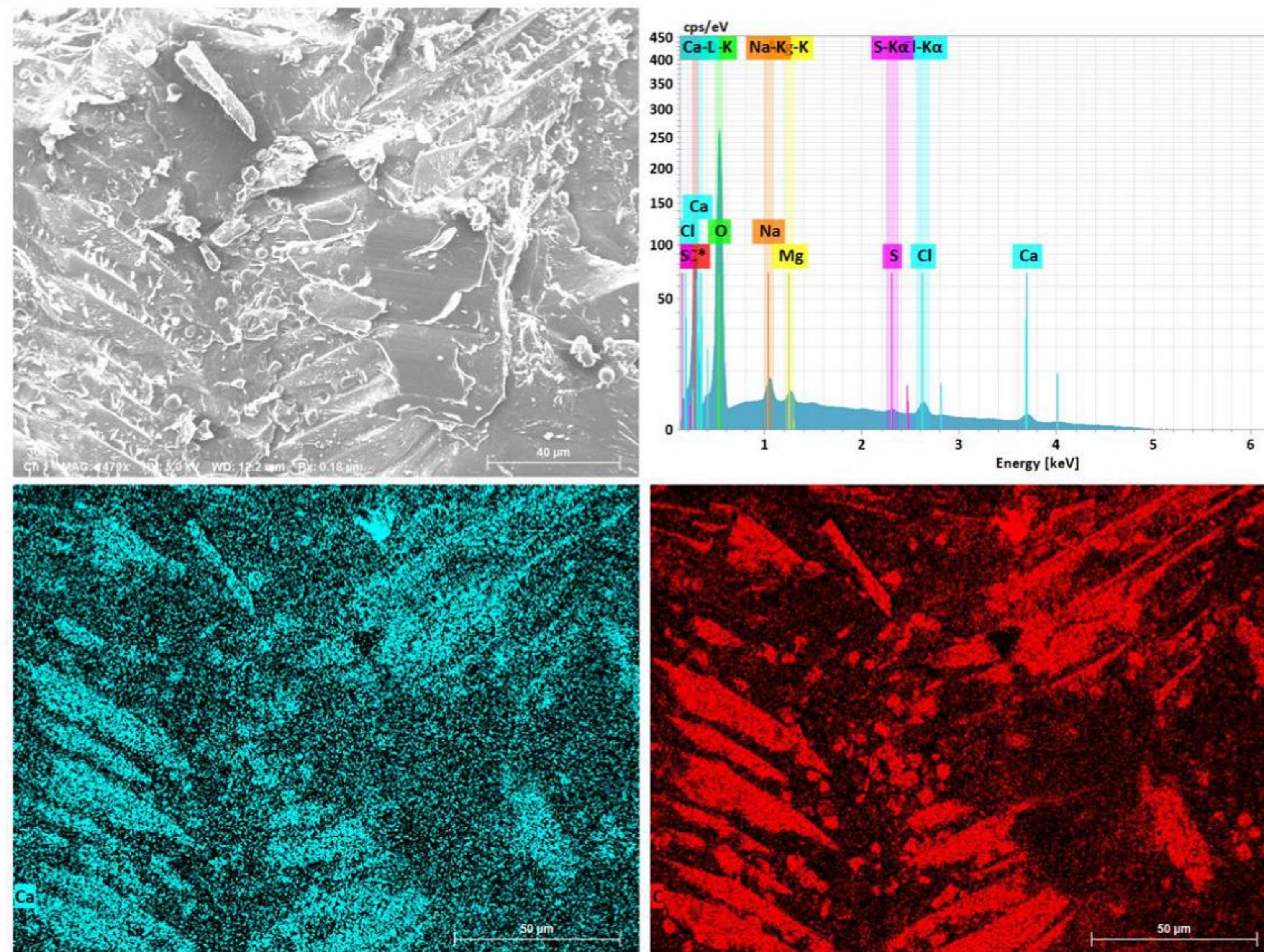
# Characterization of unusual MgCa particles involved in the formation of foraminifera shells using a novel quantitative cryo SEM/EDS protocol



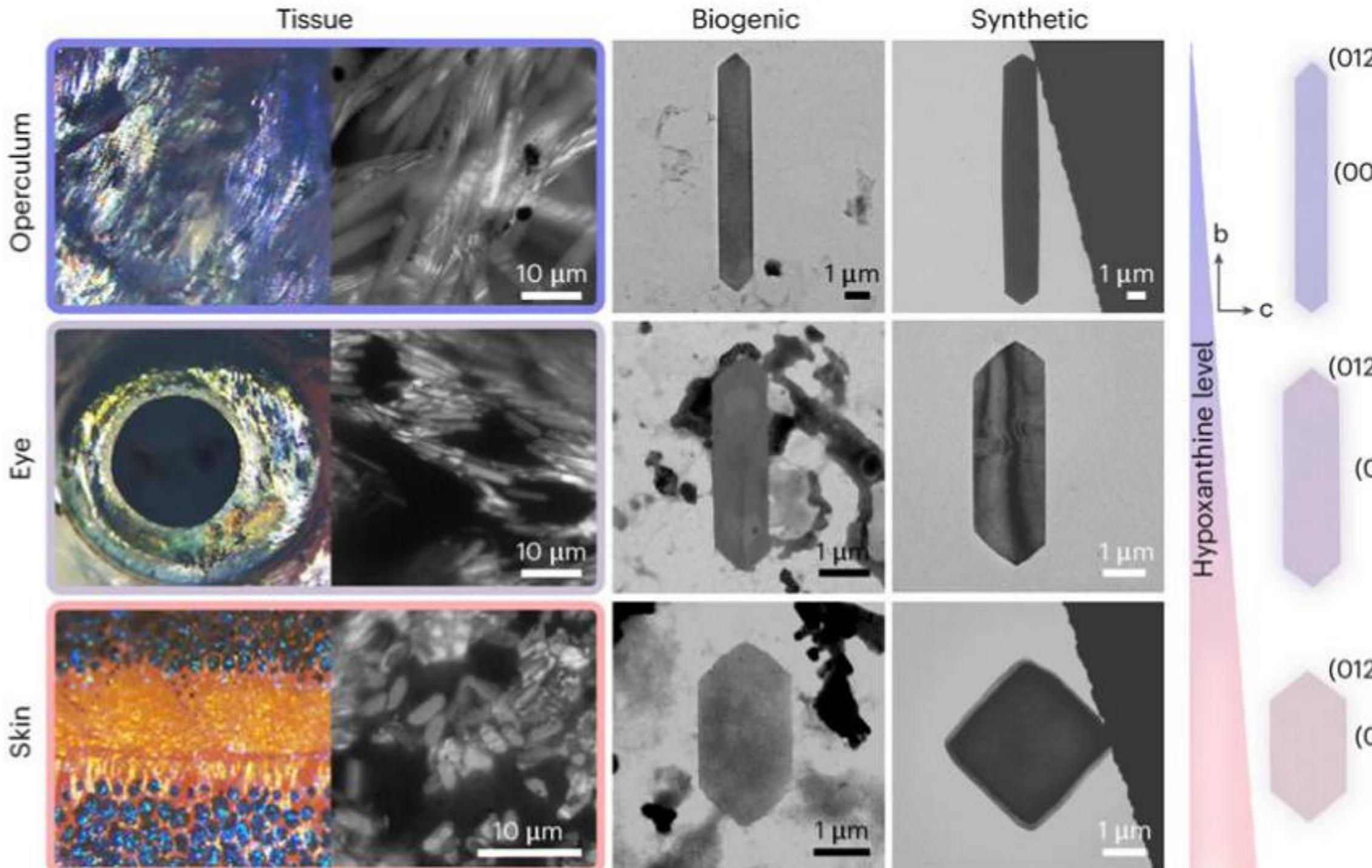
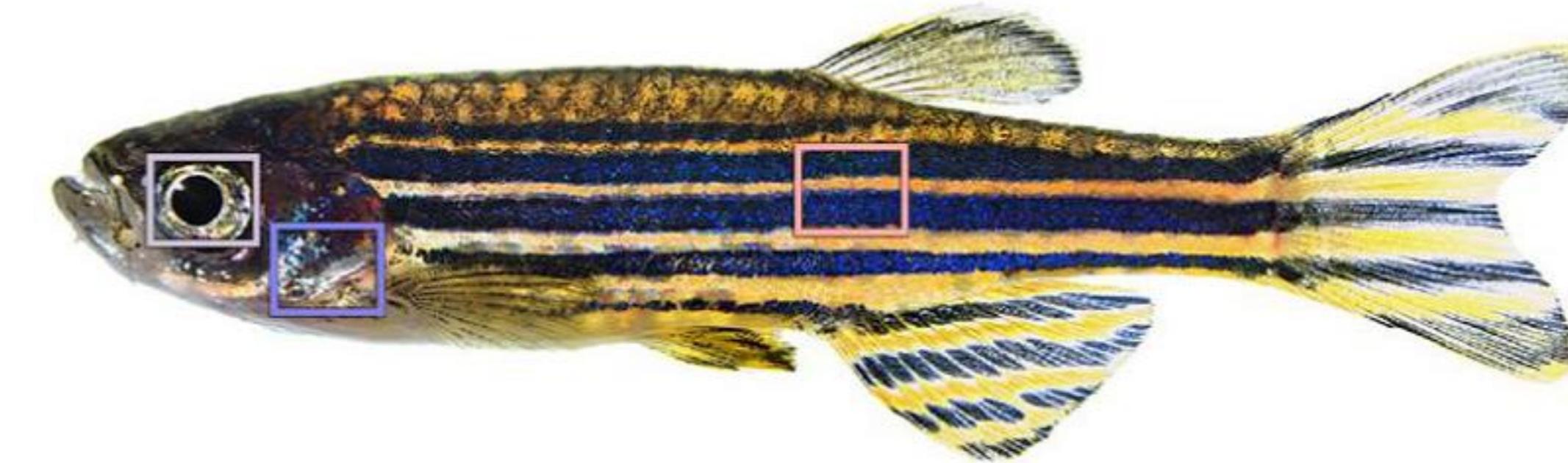
Correlative cryo- SEM/EDS analysis of two intracellular MgCa particles



# Cryo EDS of sea urchin tooth



# Guanine crystals



nature chemical biology

8

Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41589-024-01722-1>

## Genetic control over biogenic crystal morphogenesis in zebrafish

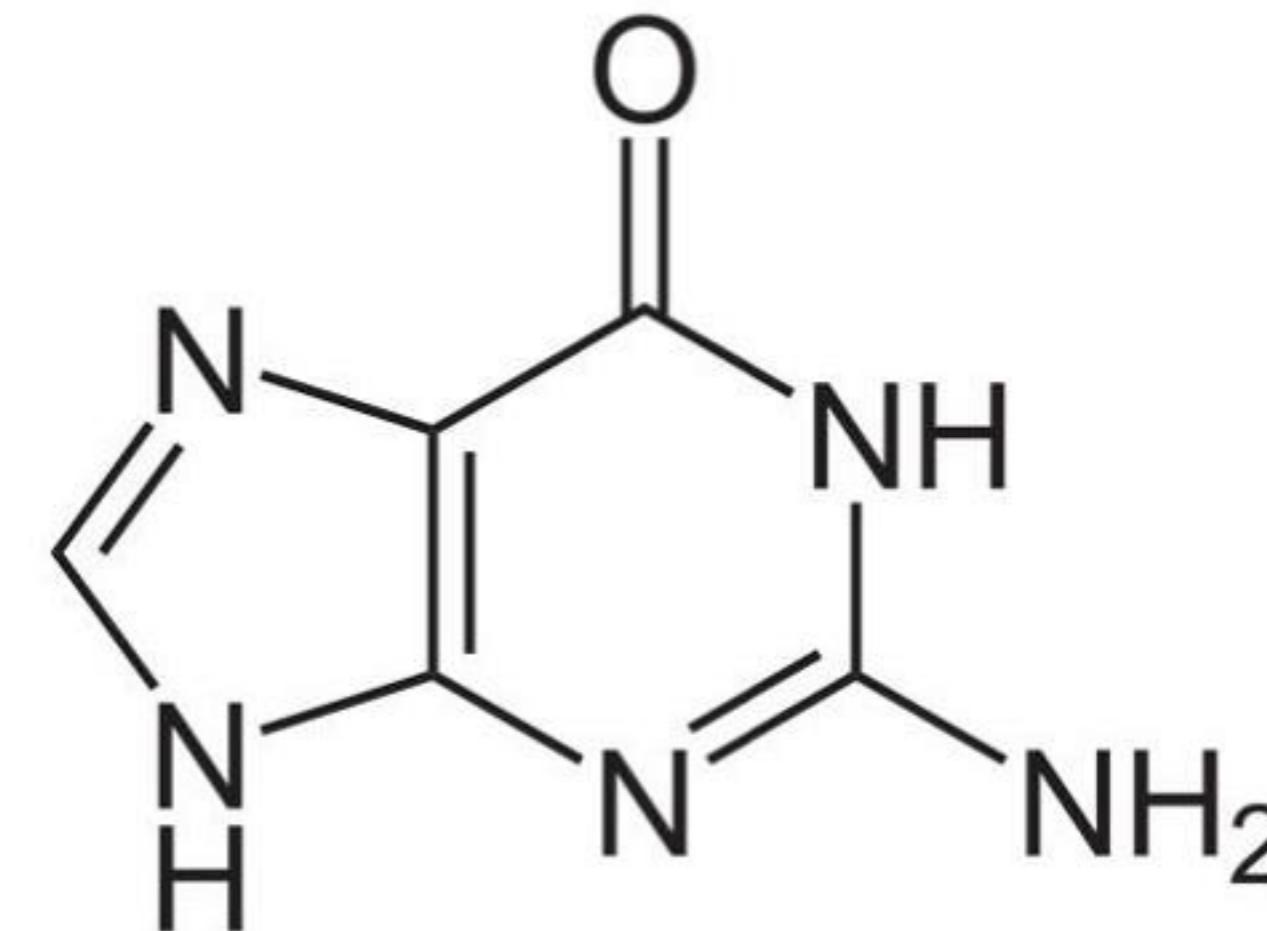
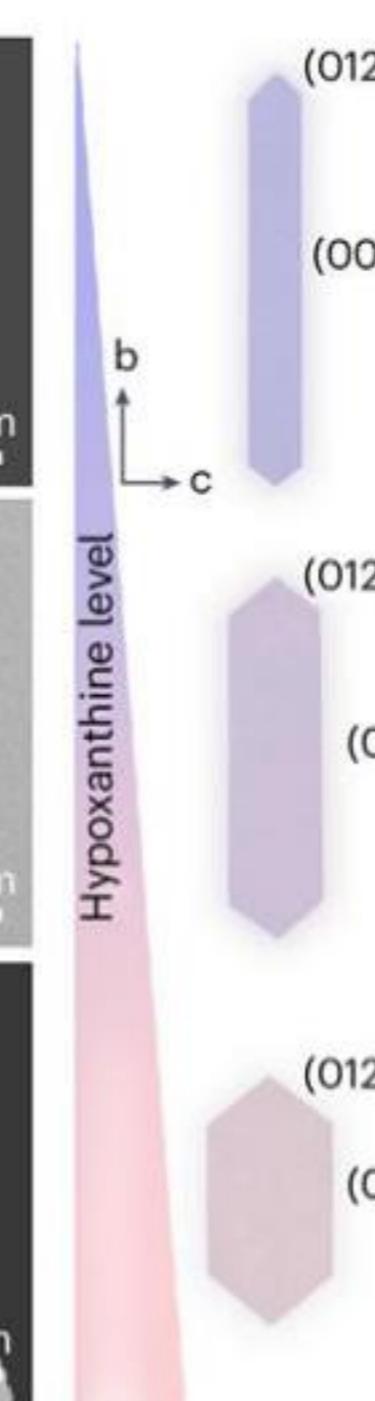
Received: 26 January 2024

Accepted: 8 August 2024

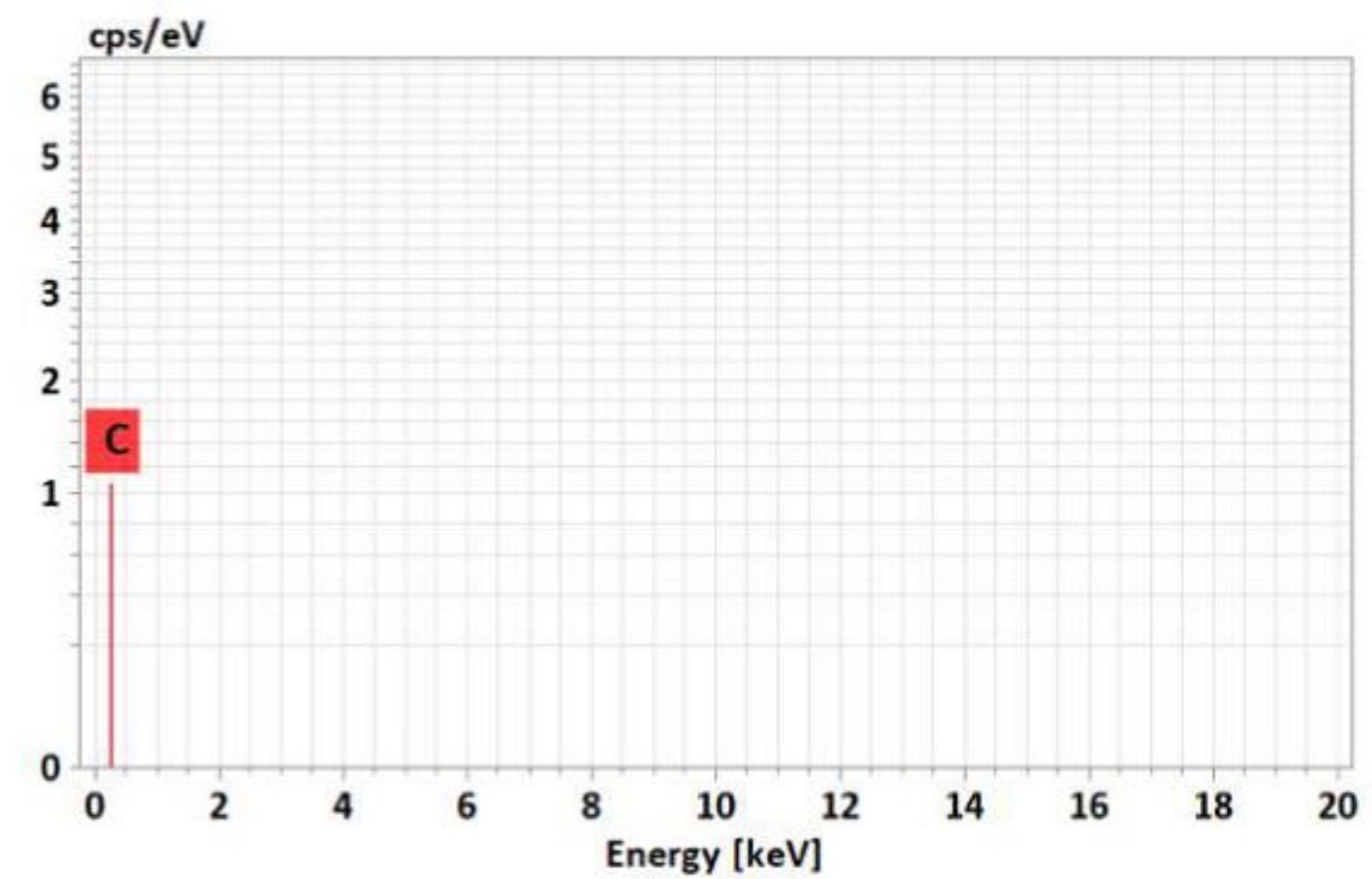
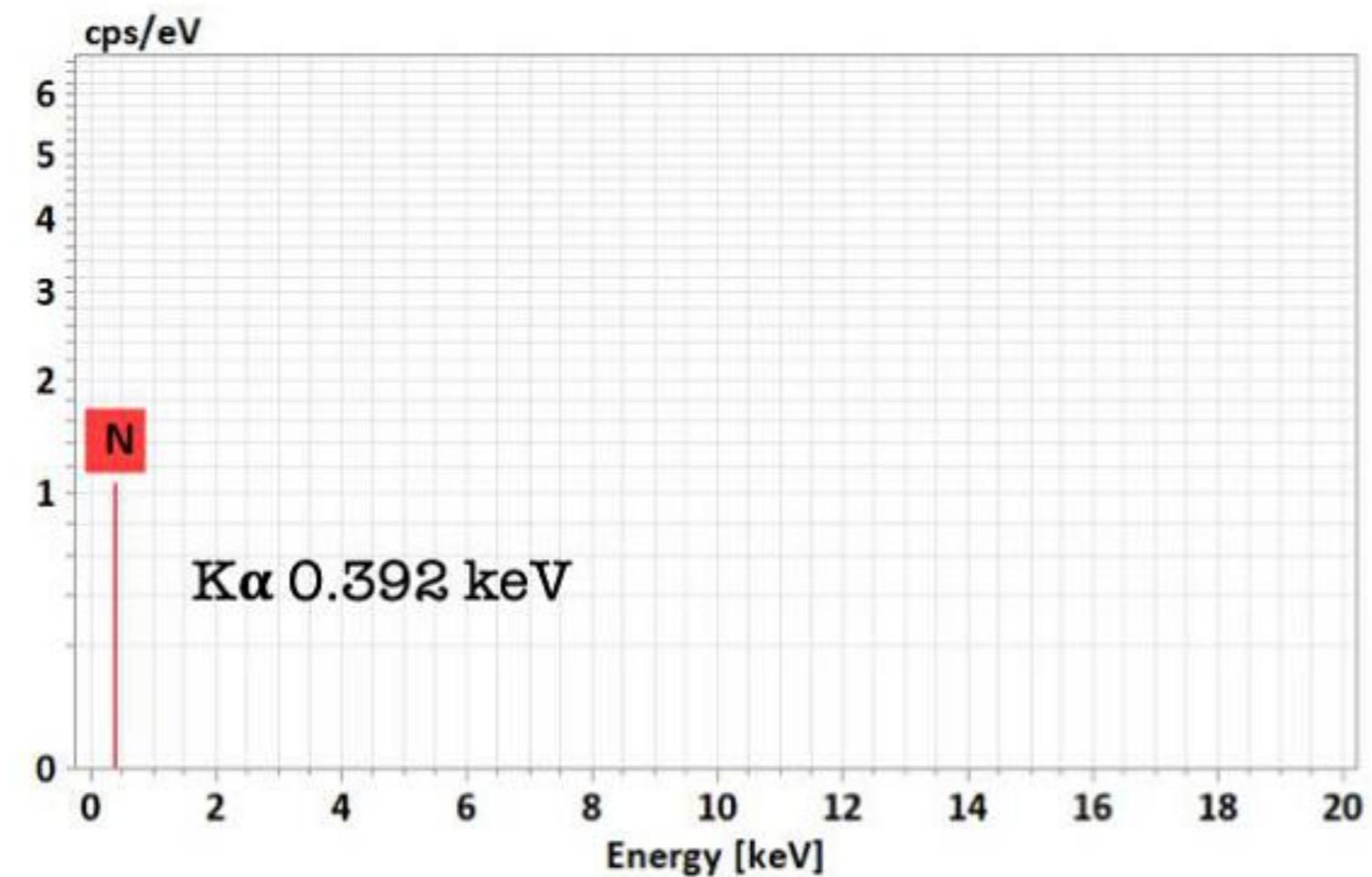
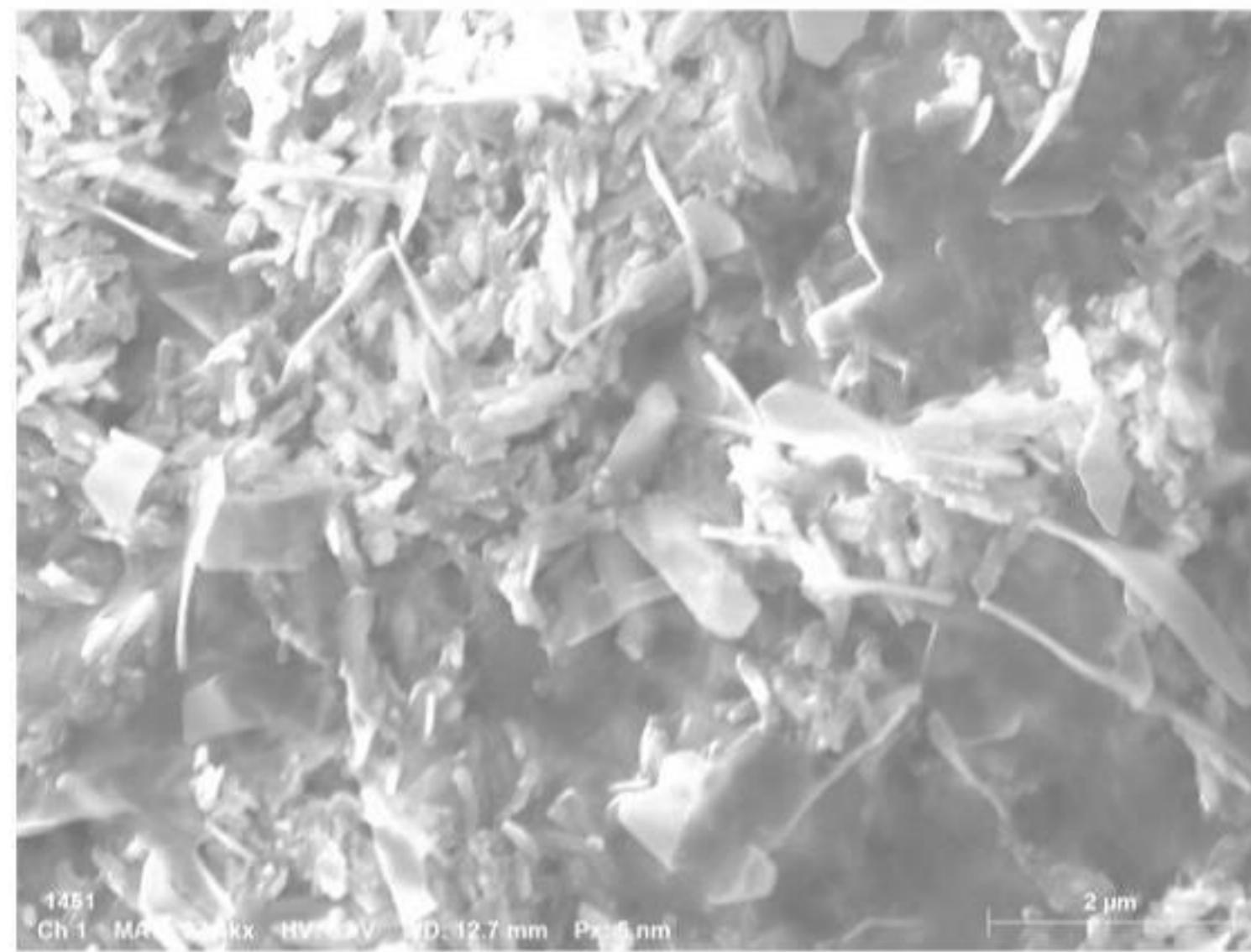
Published online: 30 August 2024

Check for updates

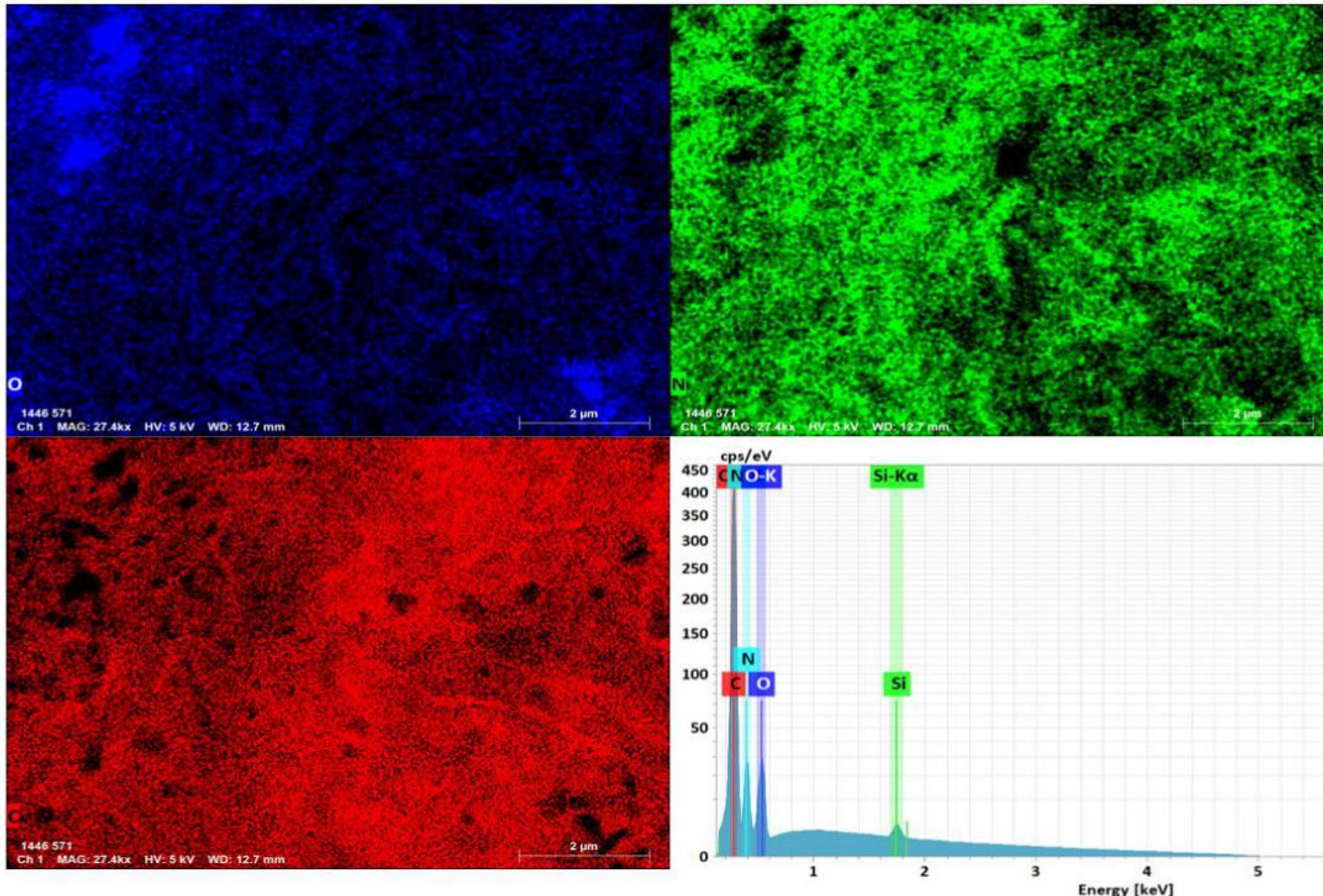
Rachael Deis<sup>1</sup>, Tali Lerer-Goldshtein<sup>1</sup>, Olha Baiko<sup>1</sup>, Zohar Eyal<sup>1</sup>, Dolev Brenman-Begin<sup>1</sup>, Moshe Goldsmith<sup>2</sup>, Sylvia Kaufmann<sup>3,4</sup>, Uwe Heinig<sup>5</sup>, Yonghui Dong<sup>6</sup>, Sofya Lushchekina<sup>6</sup>, Neta Varsano<sup>7</sup>, Tsviya Olander<sup>1</sup>, Meital Kupervasser<sup>8</sup>, Ziv Porat<sup>5</sup>, Smadar Levin-Zaidman<sup>7</sup>, Iddo Pinkas<sup>7</sup>, Rita Mateus<sup>3,4</sup> & Dvir Gur<sup>1</sup>



# Guanine crystals

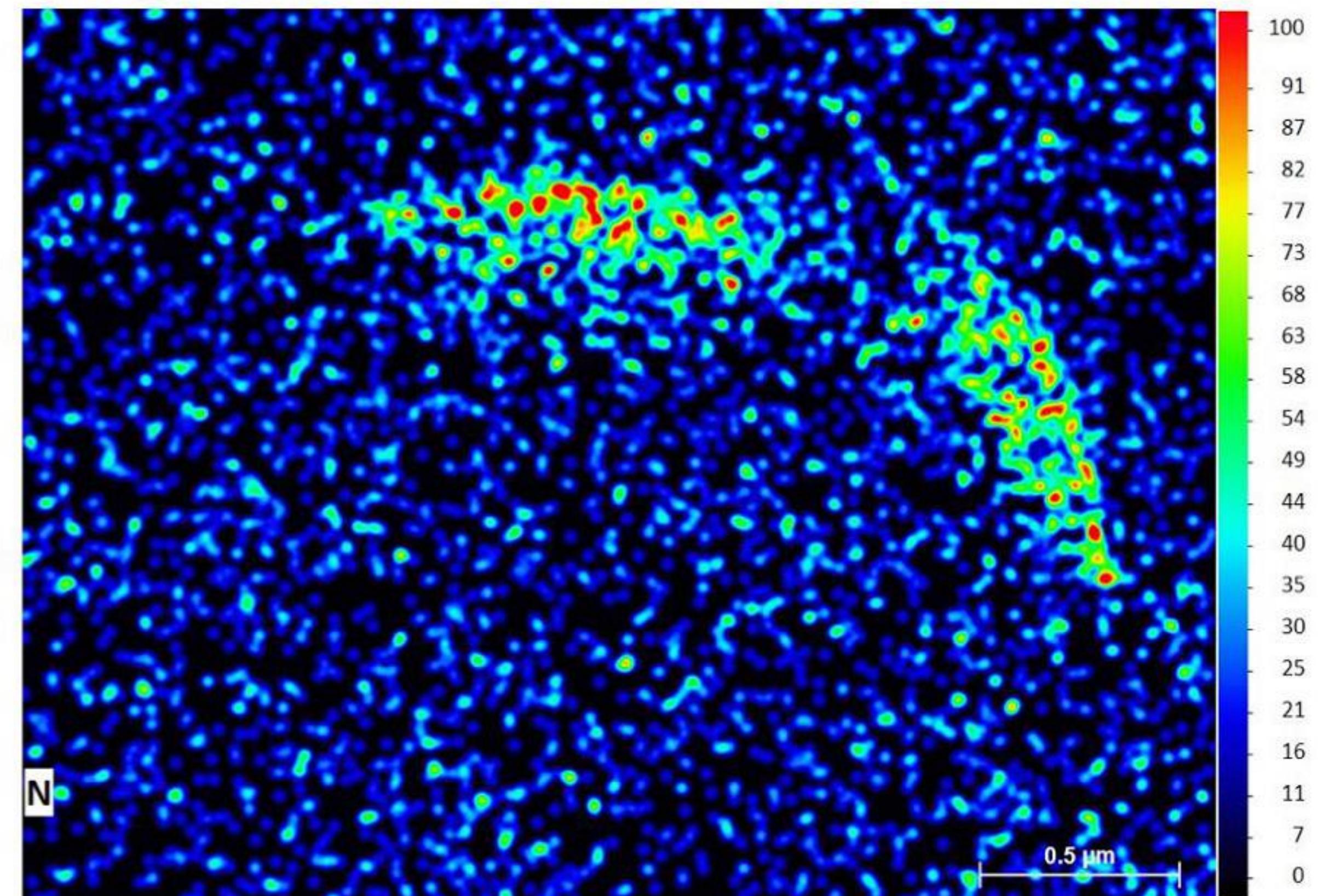
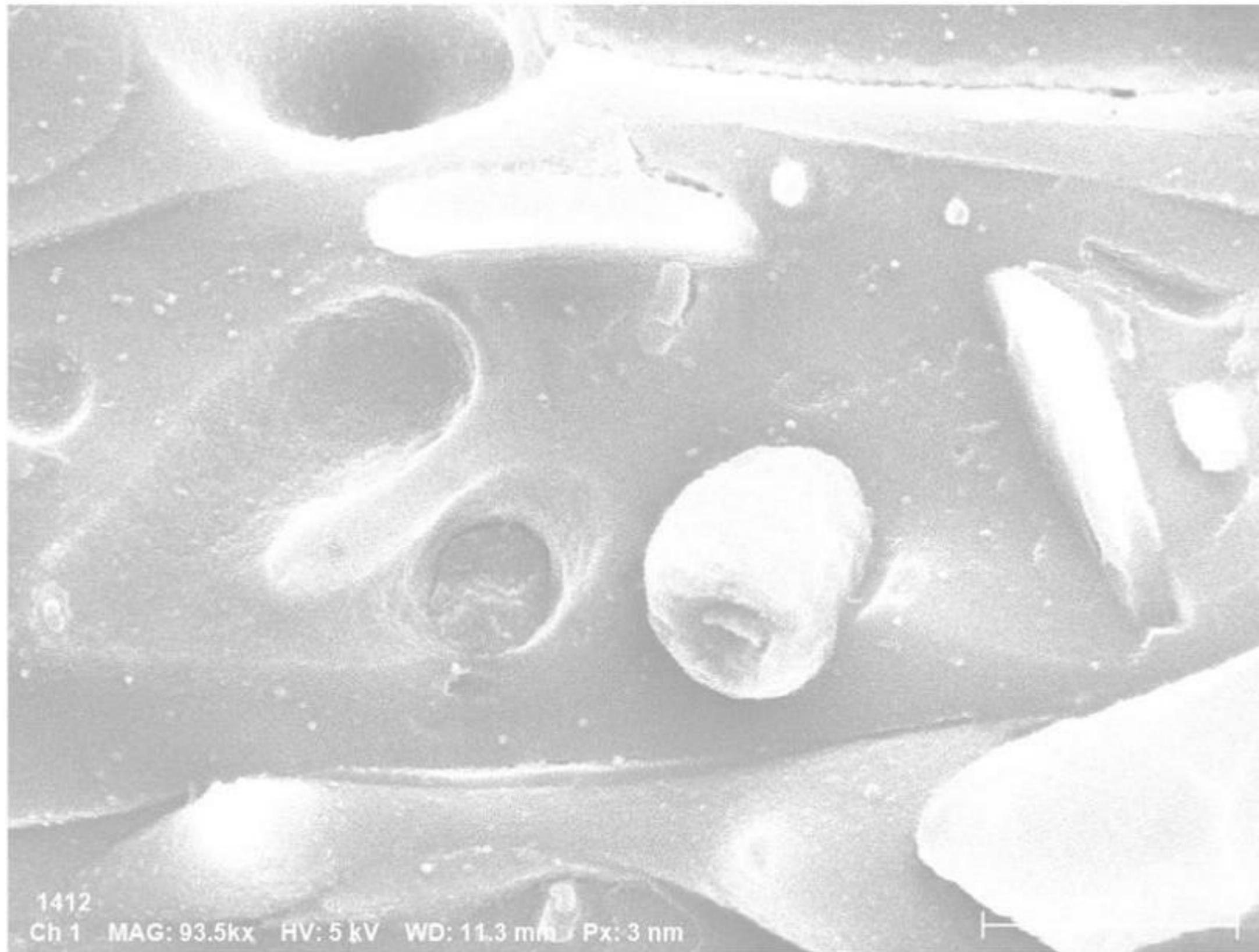


# Guanine crystals



Dr. Zohar Eyal, Dr. Dvir Gur, Molecular Genetics Dept.

# Cryo EDS of Guanine crystals



# Cryo EDS of silk fibers

nature communications



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-50879-9>

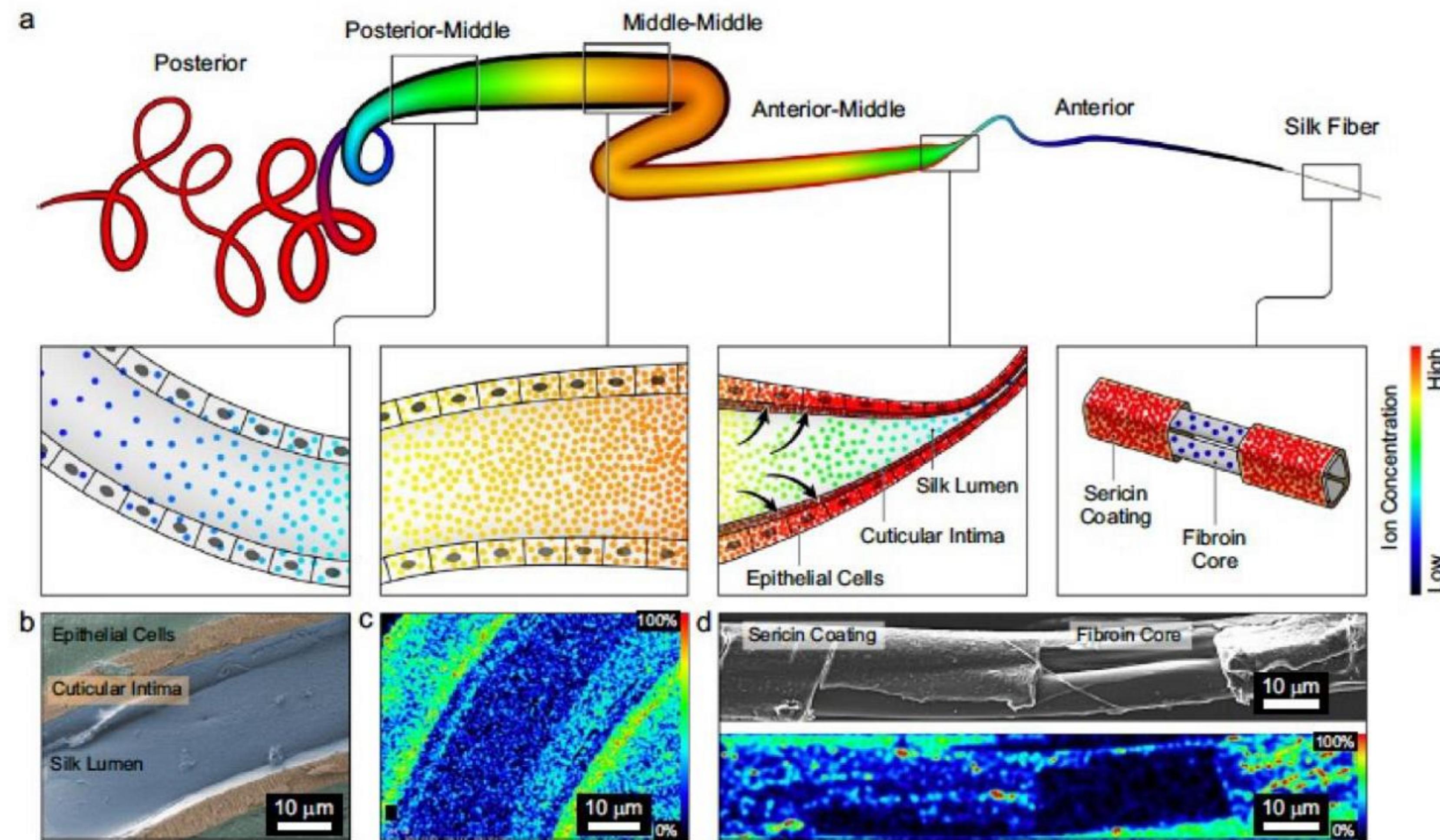
## Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers

Received: 24 July 2023

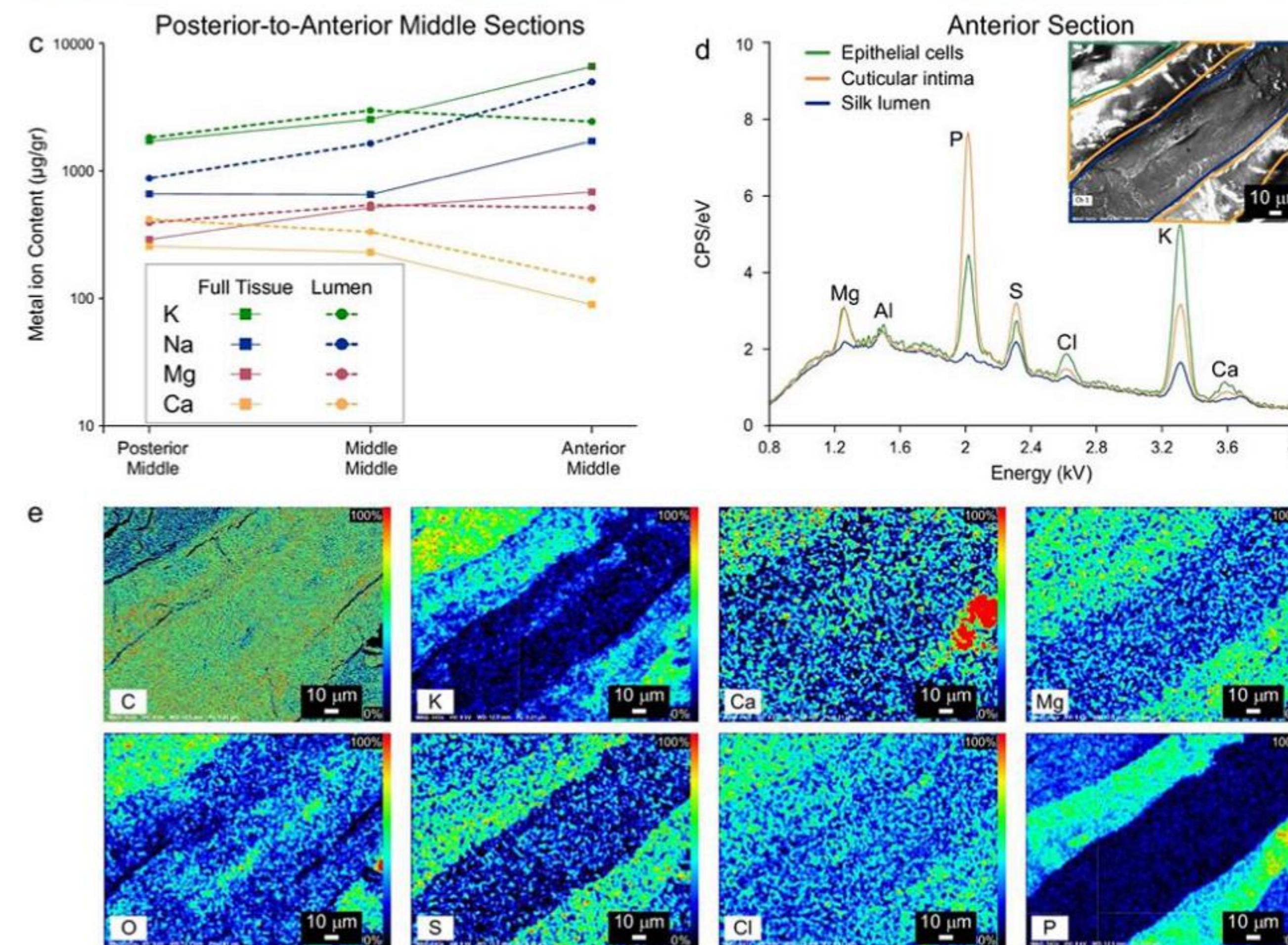
Accepted: 23 July 2024

Ori Brookstein<sup>1</sup>, Eyal Shimon<sup>2,4</sup>, Dror Eliaz<sup>1</sup>, Ifat Kaplan-Ashiri<sup>②</sup>,  
Itay Carmel<sup>③</sup> & Ulyana Shimanovich<sup>①✉</sup>

# Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers

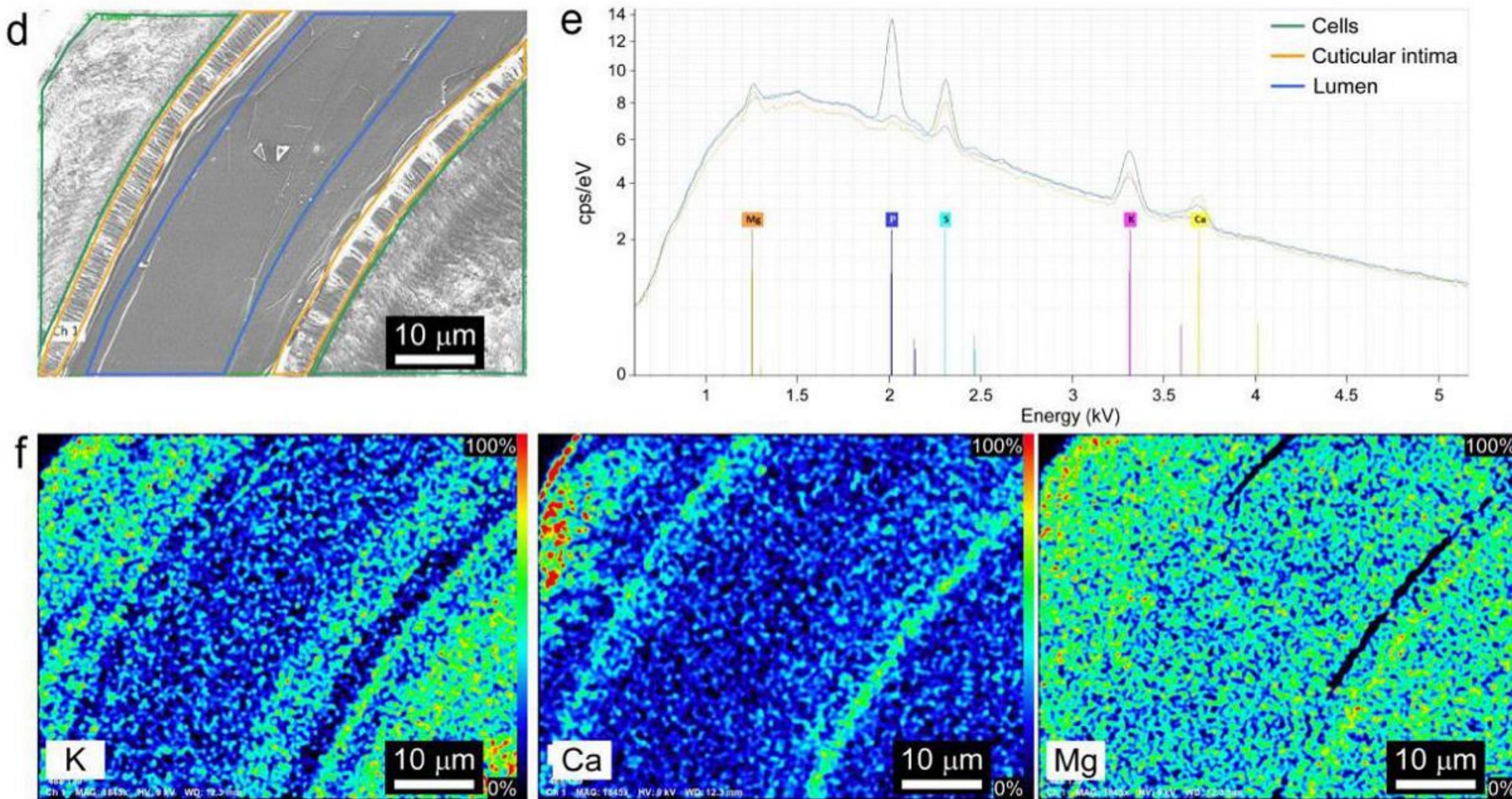


# Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers



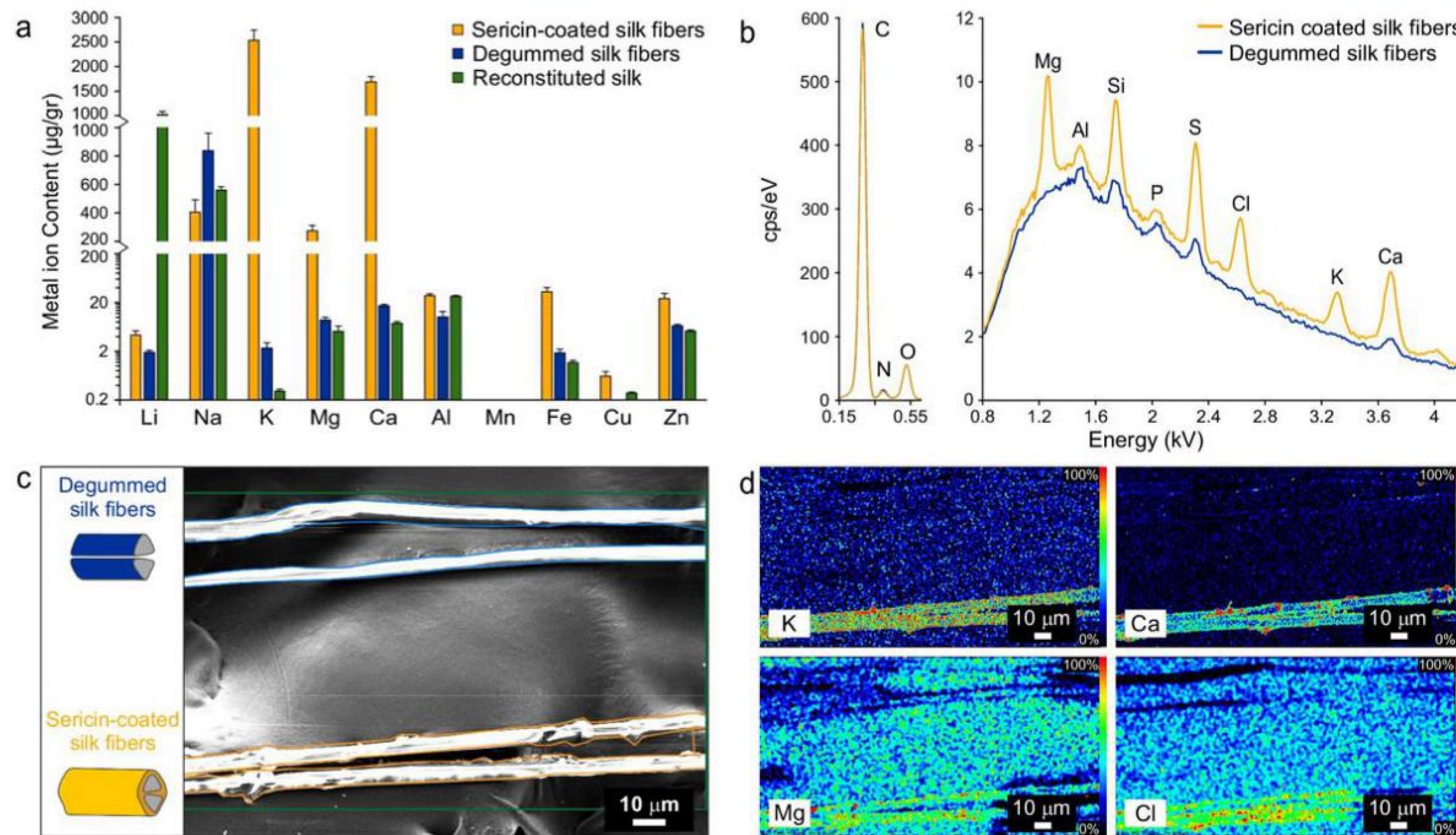
Concentration and distribution of elements along the silk spinning process

# Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers



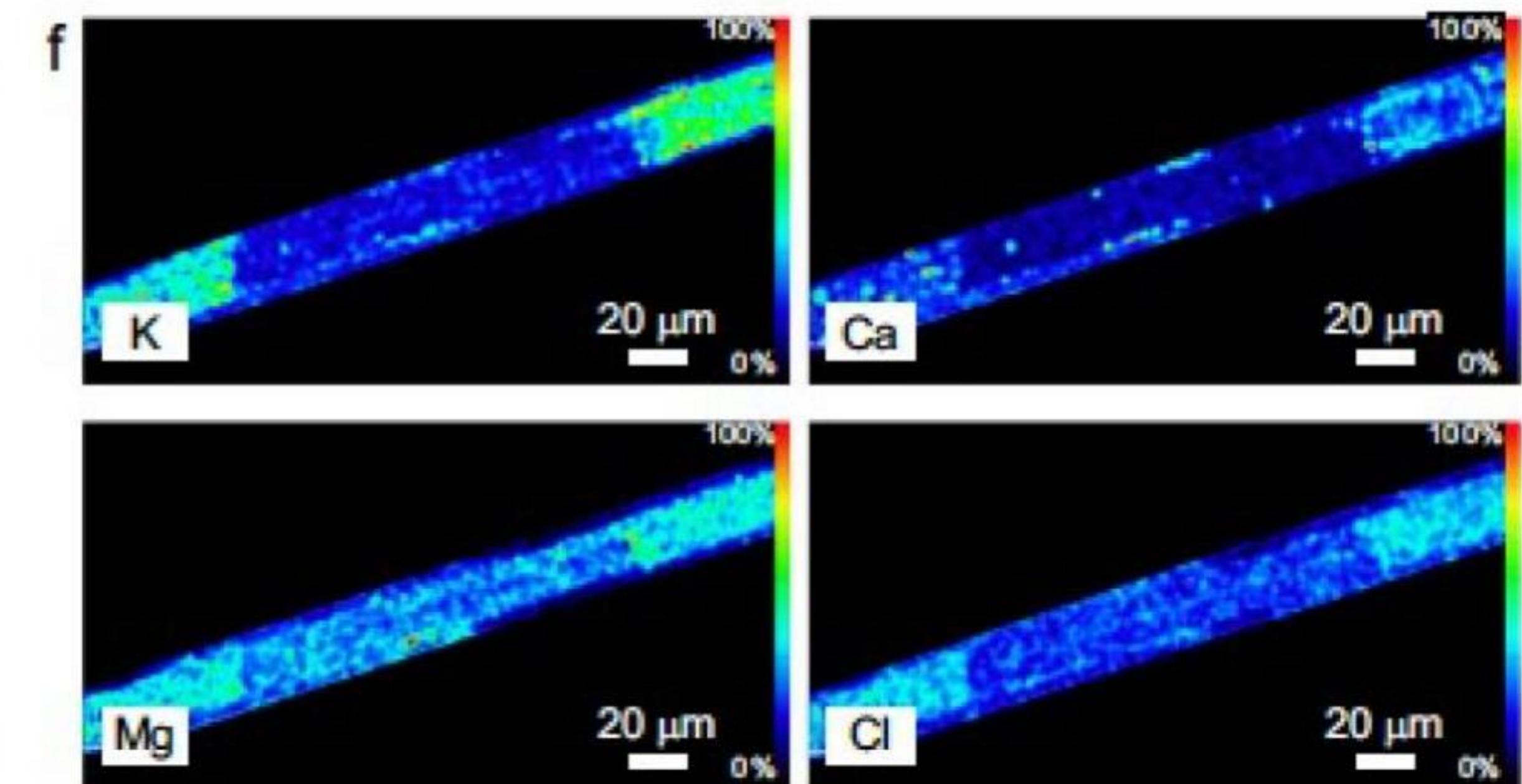
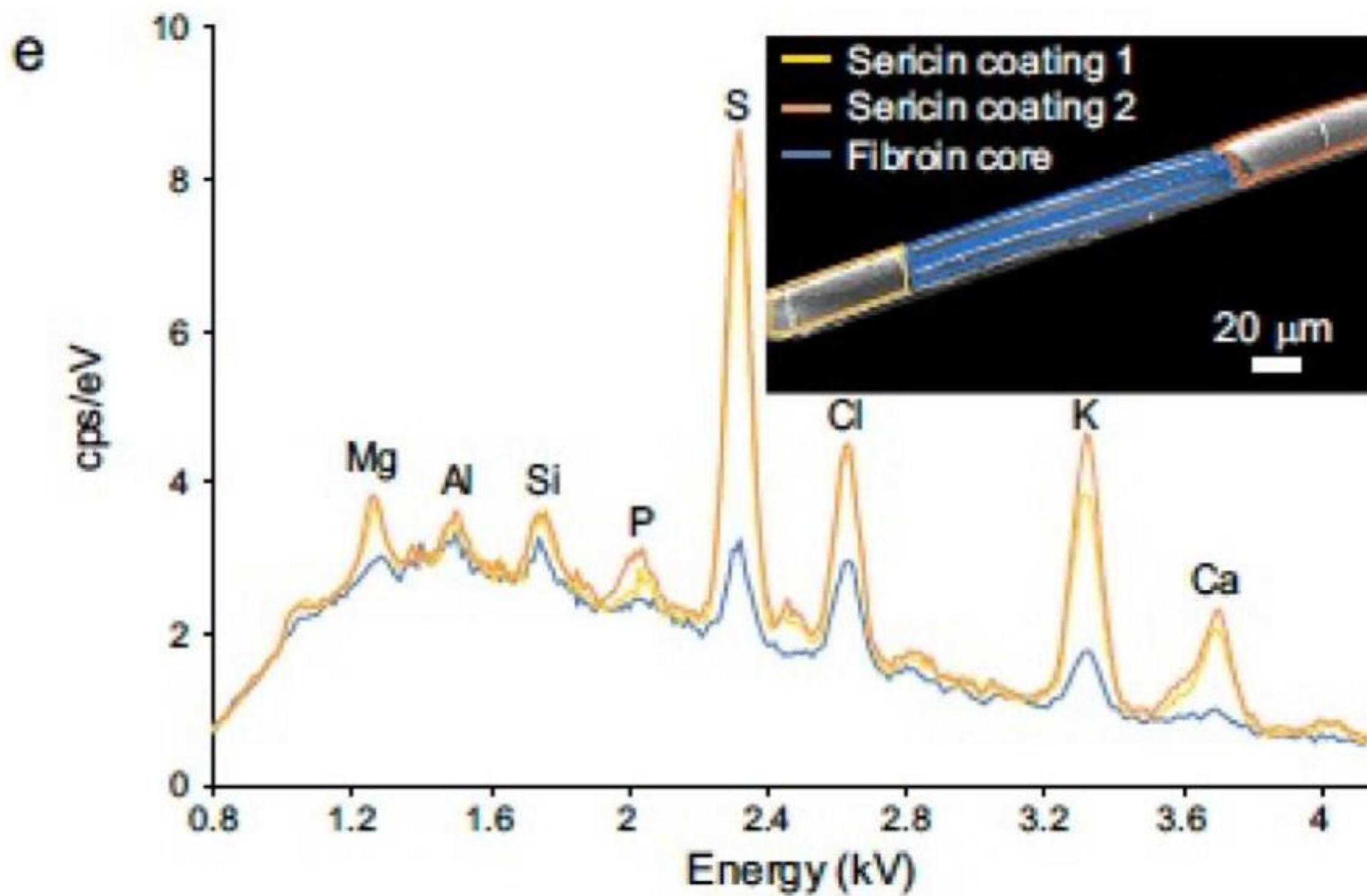
**Metal ions distribution in the anterior section of the silk gland**

# Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers



Metal ions in native and processed silk fibers

# Metal ions guide the production of silkworm silk fibers



Silk fiber with exposed fibroin core

# Summary

**Cryo SEM EDS is a usefull technique to study local composition in various biological systems.**

**Every system requires the devlopment of the optimal workflow for SEM imaging and EDS acquisition.**

# Acknowledgments

## **EM Unit SEM team:**

**Dr. Neta Varsano**

**Dr. XiaoMeng Sui**

**Katya Rechav**

## **Department of Chemical and Structural Biology:**

**Prof. Lia Addadi**

**Prof. Steve Weiner**

## **Department of Molecular Chemistry and Materials Science**

**Dr. Ulyana Shimanovich**

**Ori Brookstein**

## **Department of Molecular Genetics:**

**Dr. Dvir Gur**

**Dr. Zohar Eyal**