

# Elements

An International Magazine of Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Petrology



Volume 3, Number 5 • October 2007

*Elements* is published jointly by the Mineralogical Society of America, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Geochemical Society, The Clay Minerals Society, the European Association for Geochemistry, the International Association of Geochemistry, the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie, the Association of Applied Geochemists, the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia, the International Association of Geoanalysts, and the Polskie Towarzystwo Mineralogiczne (Mineralogical Society of Poland). It is provided as a benefit to members of these societies.

*Elements* is published six times a year. Individuals are encouraged to join any one of the participating societies to receive *Elements*. Institutional subscribers to any of the following journals—*American Mineralogist*, *Clay Minerals*, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, *MINABS Online*, *Mineralogical Magazine*, and *The Canadian Mineralogist*—will also receive *Elements* as part of their 2007 subscription. Institutional subscriptions are available for US\$125 a year in 2007. Contact the managing editor (tremblpi@ete.inrs.ca) for information.

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Publications mail agreement no. 40037944

Return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to:  
PO Box 503  
RPO West Beaver Creek  
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6

Printed in Canada  
ISSN 1811-5209 (print)  
ISSN 1811-5217 (online)

[www.elementsmagazine.org](http://www.elementsmagazine.org)

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ABOUT THE COVER: Volcanic corestones weathering spheroidally on Culebra Island, Puerto Rico. The Critical Zone is a term coined to describe the zone where rock meets life. It extends from the outer limits of the vegetation canopy to the lower limits of groundwater. Chemical, physical, and biological processes occurring within this zone control the development of soils and ecosystems. PHOTO R. FLETCHER

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