Portraits of Barbarians: linking anomalous polarimetry to physical properties





P. Tanga¹, A. Cellino², S. Bagnulo³

1: Laboratoire Lagrange, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, Nice, France,
2: INAF/Osservatorio Astrofisico di Torino, Italy

3. Armagh Observatory, UK





234 Barbara

Discovered on August 12, 1883 by C.H.F. Peters in Clinton, NY

| Magnitude H | 9.02 | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| Inclination Eccentricity Semimajor Axis | 15.35305 0.2437485 2.3864727 | | | |
| Tholen class SMASS II class | S Ld | | | |
| | WISE | AKARI | IRAS | |
| Size km | 53.8 | 47.8 | 43.7 | |
| Albedo | 0.15 | 0.19 | 0.22 | |





Shober et al. 1981





Bus and Binzel (2002):

L-class: similar to S, but strongly reddish <750 nm and featureless >750 nm Ld class: even redder

Cellino et al., 2006

"The strange polarization of 234 Barbara" Icarus 180, 2, 565



New findings: Gil-Hutton et al. 2008



Fig. 1. Polarimetric observations of asteroids with Barbara-like polarimetric properties. Data for (172) Baucis are indicated by circles, for (234) Barbara by squares, for (236) Honoria by triangles, for (679) Pax by diamonds, and for (980) Anacostia by inverted triangles. Filled symbols indicate data taken during our present campaign. For a comparison, data for the L-class asteroid (12) Victoria are displayed by crosses, together with the corresponding fit of its phase-polarization curve.

Tentative explanations of the polarimetric anomaly:

- "a very speculative possibility": very large impact craters/concavities on the surface (Cellino et al. 2006)
- CO3/CV3 spinel-bearing meteorites have high negative polarization and inversion angles (Zellner 1977).
 Spinel = MgAl₂O₄ often associated to metals (Fe, Cr) → reddening of the spectrum

CO3/CV3 \rightarrow relation to K- and L-class asteroids (Burbine et al 1992, 2001, Sunshine et al 2007)



The connection to CV meteorites



Fig. 2. 52-Color [5] and SpeX asteroid spectra, which are all dominated by spinel absorptions at $2 \mu m$

Northwest Africa group of CV3s



NWA 2086 (CV3)



NWA 2364 (CV3)

Refractory inclusions up to 13% in CV3.

Most ancient materials in the Solar System ever dated: 4.568 billion yrs



No meteorite samples of this kind?



Radiative transfer model by Sunshine et al 2008. **30%** of fluffy-type (unaltered) CAIs are required...

(Note: visual portion poorly modeled)

More on 234 Barbara

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 694:1228–1236, 2009 April 1 FIRST VLTI-MIDI DIRECT DETERMINATIONS OF ASTEROID SIZES* M. Delbo^{1,2}, S. Ligori³, A. Matter⁴, A. Cellino⁵, and J. Berthier⁶

MIDI@VLTI, 8-13 μm (in Nov. 2005)





Predicted stellar occultation events :

| 2009 October 5 | Canary Islands | star V = 7.2 |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2009 November 21 | Florida | star V = 6.5 |











Photometry campaign

- From 2008 to 2011
- 19 teams





Shape determination by B. Carry (IMCCE, Paris) Simultaneous inversion of light curves and occultation data (KOALA)







Curvature map







Fig. 6. Fraction of rubble piles in the asteroid belt as a function of size, according to different reaccumulation models (solid line: mass-velocity dependence with r = 1/6; dashed line: no mass-velocity relation, i.e., r = 0), and keeping $f_{KE} = 0.01$ (see text).

Davis et al. 2002 (Asteroids III)



Other barbarians, more mystery...



Where the Barbarians (could) hide?

Pax 🔘

L, Ld and K



(WISE)



729 Watsonia: chief of the 1st Barbarian family?

- Observations close to "ordinary" inv. angle < 20°
 - Negative polarization \rightarrow barbarian
- Approach:
 - FORS2 @ VLT in polarimetric mode
 - between April and September 2013





Polarimetry of Watsonia family members – results 1

| | Date (yyyy mm dd) | Time (UT) (hh:mm) | Exp (sec) | Object | Phase angle (DEG) | P_Q (%) |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---------------|---|--|
| 7 new Barbar over 9 observ | ians /ed targets! | 23:41 01:44 09:40 | 480 960 2000 | 5492 42365 | 18.79 18.31 23.30 | -1.14 ± 0.10 -1.01 ± 0.09 -0.83 ± 0.15 |
| | 2013 08 03 | 09:08 | 960 | | 18.55 | -1.73 ± 0.12 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 2013 07 12 \\ 2013 08 05 \end{array}$ | $23:50 \\ 01:03$ | $\begin{array}{c} 960 \\ 2200 \end{array}$ | 56233 | $\begin{array}{c} 17.83\\ 19.31 \end{array}$ | -1.07 ± 0.16 -1.09 ± 0.12 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 2013 \ 07 \ 30 \\ 2013 \ 08 \ 04 \\ 2013 \ 08 \ 28 \end{array}$ | $00:38 \\ 01:09 \\ 01:24$ | $2000 \\ 4000 \\ 4800$ | 106059 | $18.30 \\ 18.82 \\ 19.64$ | -1.06 ± 0.30 -0.94 ± 0.14 -0.84 ± 0.20 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 2013 07 06 \\ 2013 08 09 \end{array}$ | $01:33 \\ 02:46$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1400 \\ 4000 \end{array}$ | 106061 | $20.21 \\ 23.97$ | -0.94 ± 0.11 -0.57 ± 0.12 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 2013 07 06 \\ 2013 08 05 \end{array}$ | $02:05 \\ 02:06$ | $\begin{array}{c} 960\\ 4000 \end{array}$ | 144854 | $21.30 \\ 24.19$ | -0.81 ± 0.12 -0.15 ± 0.12 |
| | $2013 \ 07 \ 07$ | 02:40 | 3440 | 247356 | 19.97 | 0.10 ± 0.15 |
| | 2013 08 13 | 06:28 | 4000 | 236408 | 18.31 | -0.97 ± 0.15 |
| | $\begin{array}{c} 2013 04 17 \\ 2013 06 03 \end{array}$ | $08:58 \\ 07:08$ | $\begin{array}{c} 4800\\ 3440 \end{array}$ | 320971 | $\begin{array}{c} 23.78 \\ 20.53 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 0.11 \pm 0.31 \\ -0.03 \pm 0.22 \end{array}$ |



Polarimetry of Watsonia family members – results 2





Other anomalies?



Light curves - Rotation periods



Photometry by:

C2PU + M. Devogele, J. Surdej (OCA Nice + Liege)

- P. Hickson, Cerro Tololo, Chile
- A. Marciniak, T. Michalowski, Poznan
- F. Pilcher, NM, USA
- M. Todd, Australia

Rotation periods – all "lazy" rotators?





Despinning aggregates by collisions

Icarus 202 (2009) 514-524

Mass dispersal and angular momentum transfer during collisions between rubble-pile asteroids. II. Effects of initial rotation and spin-down through disruptive collisions

Takaaki Takeda^{a,*}, Keiji Ohtsuki^b

^a National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan

^b Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado, 392 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0392, USA



Fig. 4. Rotation rate of the largest remnant after head-on impacts, as a function of its mass fraction to the total mass. The trajectory of the impactor before collision lies in the z = 0 plane, and the impactor collides onto the target's equatorial plane. Panels (a) and (b) show results for $\mu = 1/63$ and 1/255, respectively. Filled and open symbols represent results with different initial rotation rates of the target (4.6 and 2.6 rev/day, respectively). Small and large symbols represent results with different total numbers of particles used in simulation (4096 and 16384, respectively). Squares and circles represents hard targets ($\tilde{C} = 3$ or 6, $\epsilon = 0.8$ and 0.2, respectively), while upward and

The puzzle: putting the pieces together

- Over 20 among L, Ld types observed by polarimetry today:
 - 14 are certainly Barbarians + 1 uncertain
 - 4 are not + 1 uncertain

(spectral type ambiguities possible with S and K types; 1 K-type Barbarian: Pax)

- 234 Barbara: a very irregular body
 - Large craters ~20 km in diameter? \rightarrow rubble pile structure?
- Possible role of collisions
 - Excavation of concavities in 234 Barbara
 - Angular momentum reduction
 - L-Ld types: lazy rotators? To be confirmed by more data
 - Creation of families
 - Shared polarimetric properties inside the family of Watsonia (Cellino et al. 2013, MNRAS)
- CAI-extreme composition in L, Ld types?
 - The highest concentration of the oldest Solar System material
 - 30% CAI composition...? Not found on Earth
 - Not entirely satisfactory spectral fit in the visual range

Tentative conclusions / open questions

- The Watsonia family, an important evidence:
 - Barbarian "state" is "genetically" transmitted
 - \rightarrow It is not just a surface property
- The oldest Solar System objects that accreted?
 - Oldest material known, in high concentration
 - Fragmented and de-spinned over time?
- Compositions AND concavities both needed to explain spectra + polarization?



The End

