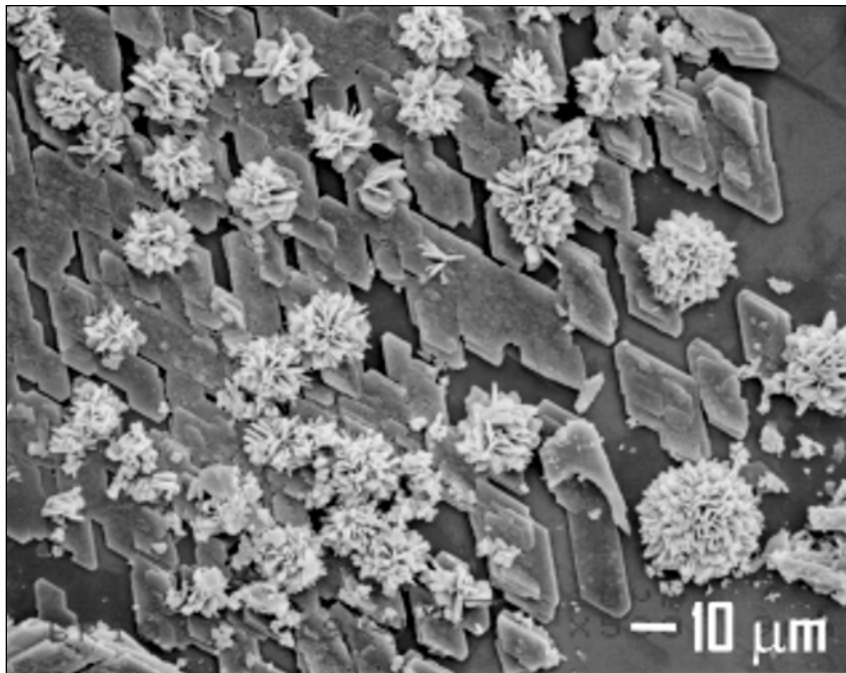


EDITOR'S CHOICE

Figures appearing in EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



We all know our flora need plenty of water and light to flourish. This applies not only to the well-groomed garden varieties, but also to the obstreperous (albeit often attractive) weeds that poke their way through the cracks in our roads and walkways. Y. Kawaguchi, M.L. Dawes, S.C. Langford, and J.T. Dickinson supplied the light in the form of 248-nm UV laser radiation to a hydrated (i.e., bring your own water) single-crystal form of calcium phosphate called brushite to force the efflorescence of the growths pictured in this month's EDITOR'S CHOICE [see *J. Appl. Phys.* **88** (2000) pp. 647–656]. You may think it ironic that phosphates, which are generally thought to be harmful to the environment, would flower so nicely. Beyond the aesthetics, it turns out that the locally rather violent dehydration eruption and recrystallization processes that produce the blossoms also leave behind highly defective surfaces that are extraordinarily prone to emission of calcium and other ions. It is true that such ion emissions might well be used for chemical analysis, particularly of environmental samples. Even more intriguing in these air-quality-conscious times is the discovery of another copious source of ions that we are sure will be put to great purification use if ever the efflorescence process can be moved from the ultrahigh vacuum chamber to the bedchamber.

MRS Web Site exclusive **www.mrs.org**

Materials Musings: "Curiouser and Curiouser,"
Prof. Robert W. Cahn (Cambridge University)

Access this series of essays and articles exploring various
facets of the world of materials research.

MRS Workshops

MRS Workshops deal with highly focused and compelling subjects, as do the MRS Fall and Spring Meeting symposia. However, Workshops differ significantly in that they:

- allow attendees to **focus** their full attention to a designated topic over a 2-3 day period
- offer much more **interaction & discussion** between speakers and the audience
- are aimed at **targeted audiences**
- are **limited in size** to about 125 participants
- offer attendees a **more in-depth** review of important topics than is typically allowed in a "snapshot" symposium

For information on future workshops, visit:
www.mrs.org/meetings/workshops

Recent comments from MRS workshop attendees:

"The combination of the focused topic and the good opportunities for interactions (lunches, poster sessions, dinner) made for a very useful meeting."

"I met several participants for the first time. This stimulated new ideas."

"A very good balance between talks and time for informal interaction."

"Really first rate."

Seeking Ideas & Organizers...

Our goal is to respond to our members' needs on a timely basis by providing quality forums for the exchange of ideas.

To assist in achieving this goal, we will continually solicit new ideas from members on Workshop topics. If you would like to suggest a topic or volunteer to organize a workshop, please contact:

2000-2001 Workshop Program Organizers:

Howard Katz

Lucent Technologies
Rm 1D-249
600 Mountain Ave
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
Tel: 908-582-6968 • hek@lucent.com

Amy Moll

Boise State University
Mechanical Engineering
1910 University Dr
Boise, ID 83725-2075
Tel: 208-426-5719 • amoll@boisestate.edu

Robert Nemanich

North Carolina State University
Dept of Physics, Cox Hall
Raleigh, NC 27695-8202
Tel: 919-515-3225 • robert_nemanich@ncsu.edu