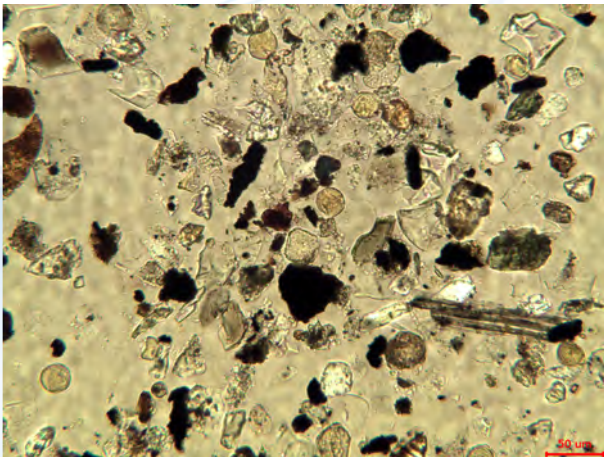


DUST CHARACTERIZATION ANALYSIS

Dust can settle in a variety of environments representing both environmentally deposited particulate, and debris that may be generated or carried into a sample site. By determining the source of the settled dust, dust volumes can be reduced, irritants can be identified and atypical events can be documented. The first instrument used is a Polarized Light Microscope which allows for the particles in the dust to be identified based on optical properties. When warranted, a Scanning Electron Microscope is very helpful in providing additional information about opaque particles, gain elemental concentration information for minerals or salts, and investigate complex aggregates. The combination of these techniques allows for very precise and complete analysis of dust.



Advantages:

- Optical examination shows a large population for a true sample impression
- Typical categories usually include biological, mineral, cellulose, and opaque materials
- Particle analysis is highly customizable
- Size ranges of particles from a population of interest can be estimated, and a full sizing analysis could be performed
- Particles and categories can be identified to determine source
- SEM analysis will often allow for additional particles to be identified, such as determination of metals or metal oxides.

Application Fields:

- Indoor Air Quality Analysis
- Environmental Sample Analysis
- Manufacturing/Industrial Hygiene Applications
- Insurance Adjustment/Claims Analysis
- Construction Monitoring
- Allergy Investigation
- Unknown Material Analysis



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