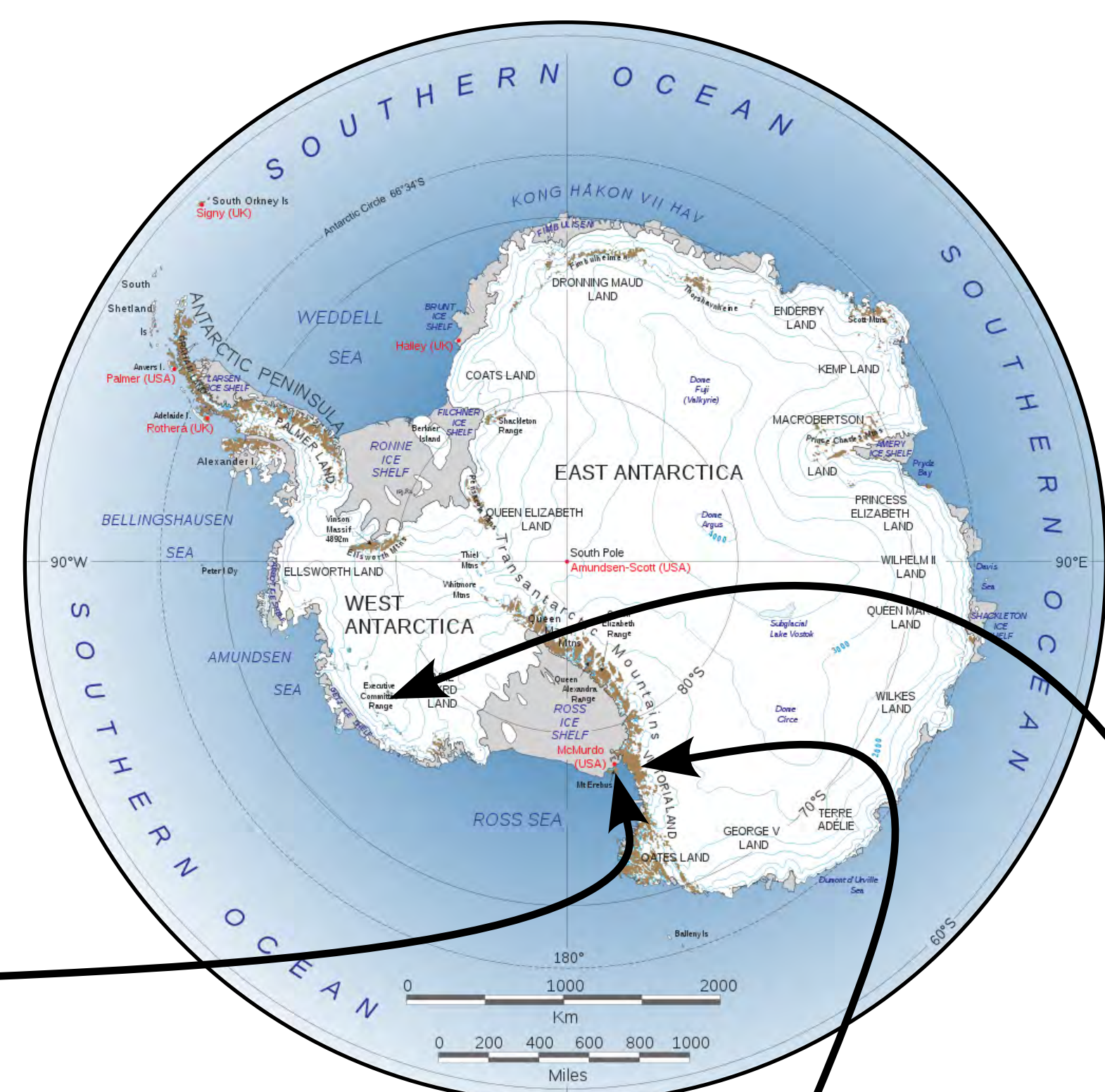


Rocks from the McMurdo Station Area, Ross Island, Antarctica



McMurdo Station, largest research facility on Antarctica. It is operated year-round, with more than 1000 in the summer and about 250 in the winter. The station is located at the southern tip of Ross Island, which is also world's most southern sea port (but requires ice breakers).



Antarctic ice cave, showing the person who contributed the seven landscape and people photos shown here.



One of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, showing the end of a glacier, helicopter, and base camp buildings.



Map of the McMurdo Dry Valleys area.

Granitic gneiss boulder on the floor of one of the McMurdo Dry Valleys, eroded by wind to form an unusually-shaped ventifact.



Hagglund tracked vehicle, two skiers, with Castle Rock and Mt. Erebus in the background. Mt. Erebus has a permanent lava lake in its summit crater, and so is always emitting steam and aerosols.

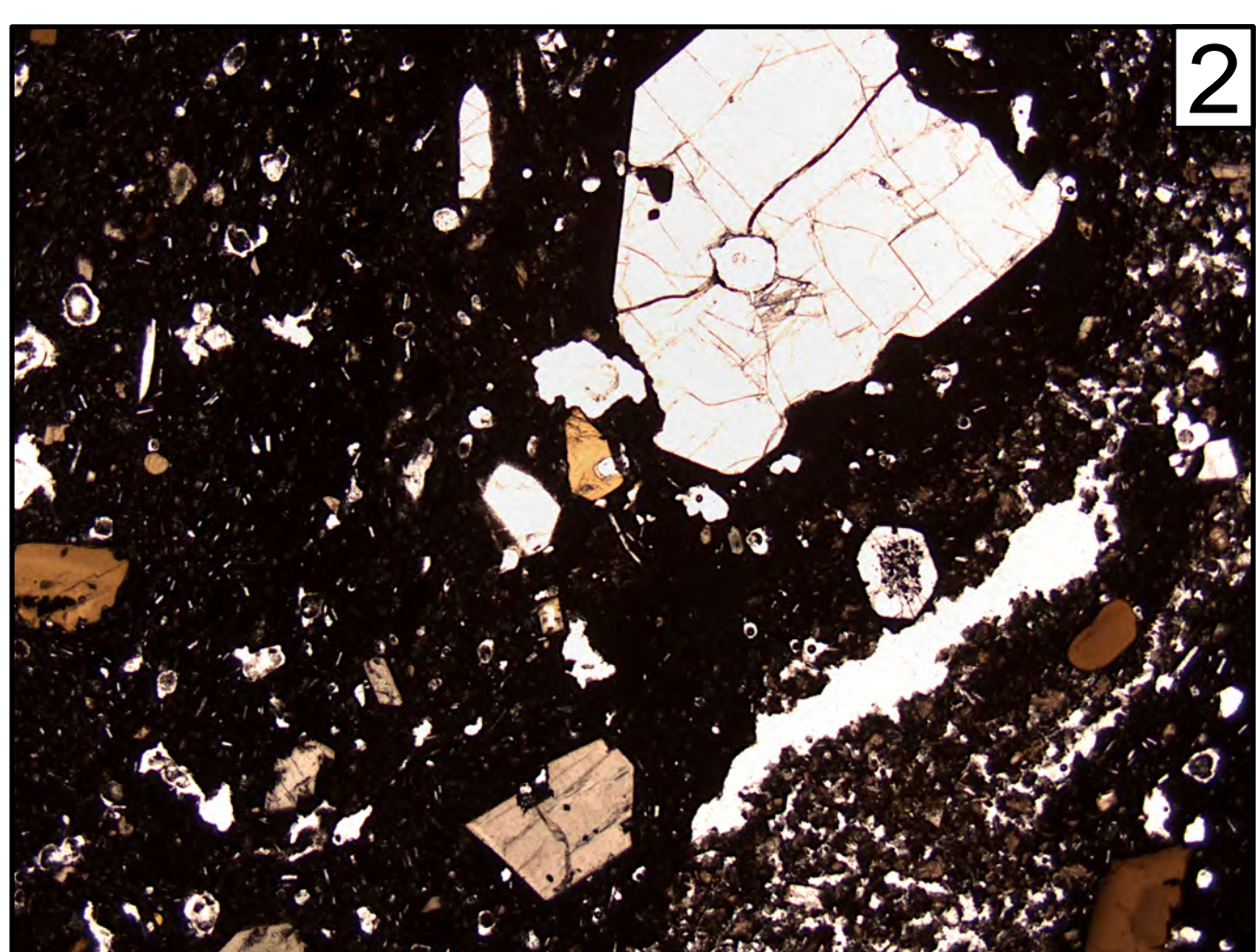


Logging ice core samples at a Central West Antarctica field camp.



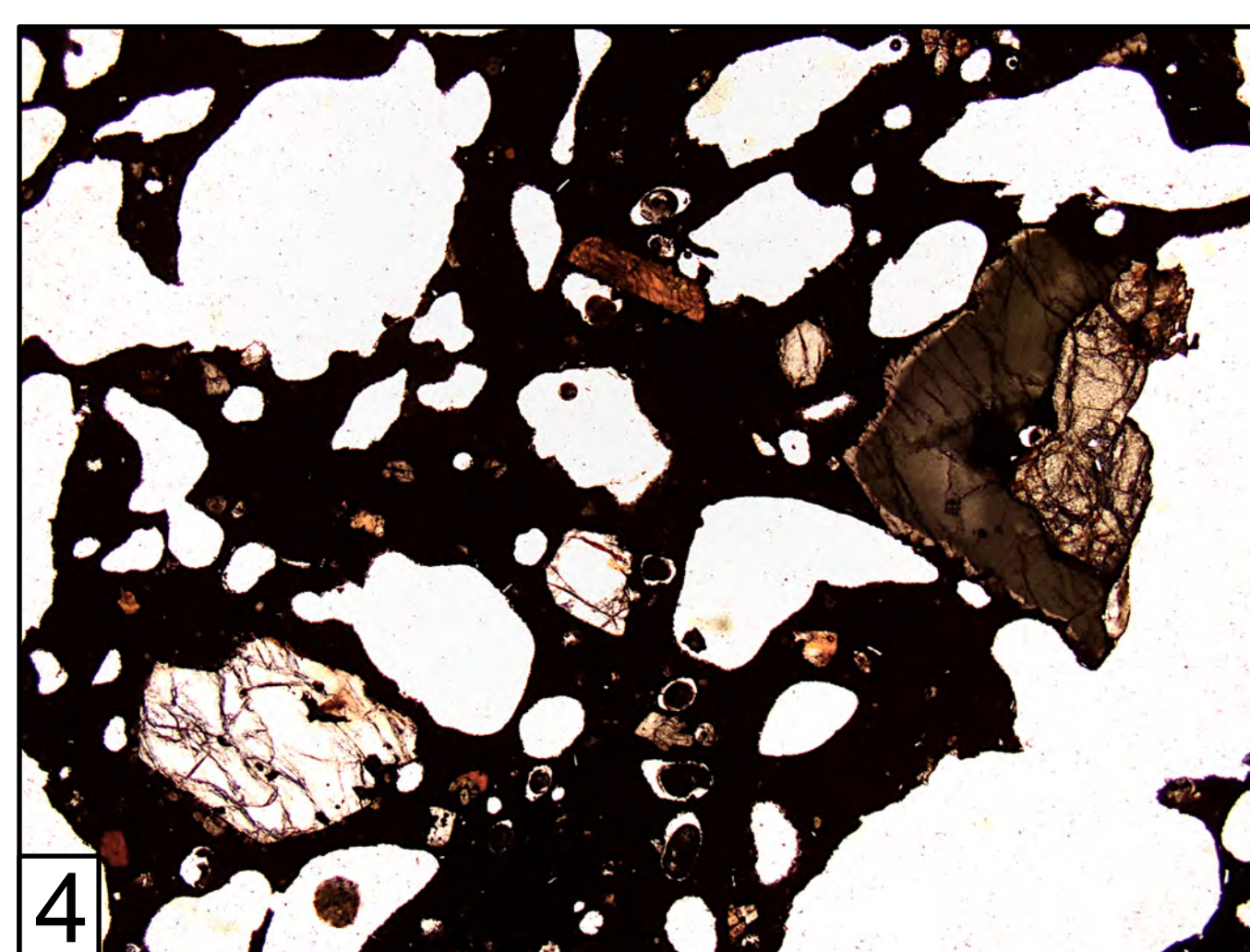
Desiccated seal, stranded well above sea level in one of the Dry Valleys. Such seals are relatively common, and are found up to 70 km inland and up to 1500 m in elevation.

Thin section photomicrographs of rocks collected in and nearby McMurdo Station on Ross Island, contributed by an anonymous donor

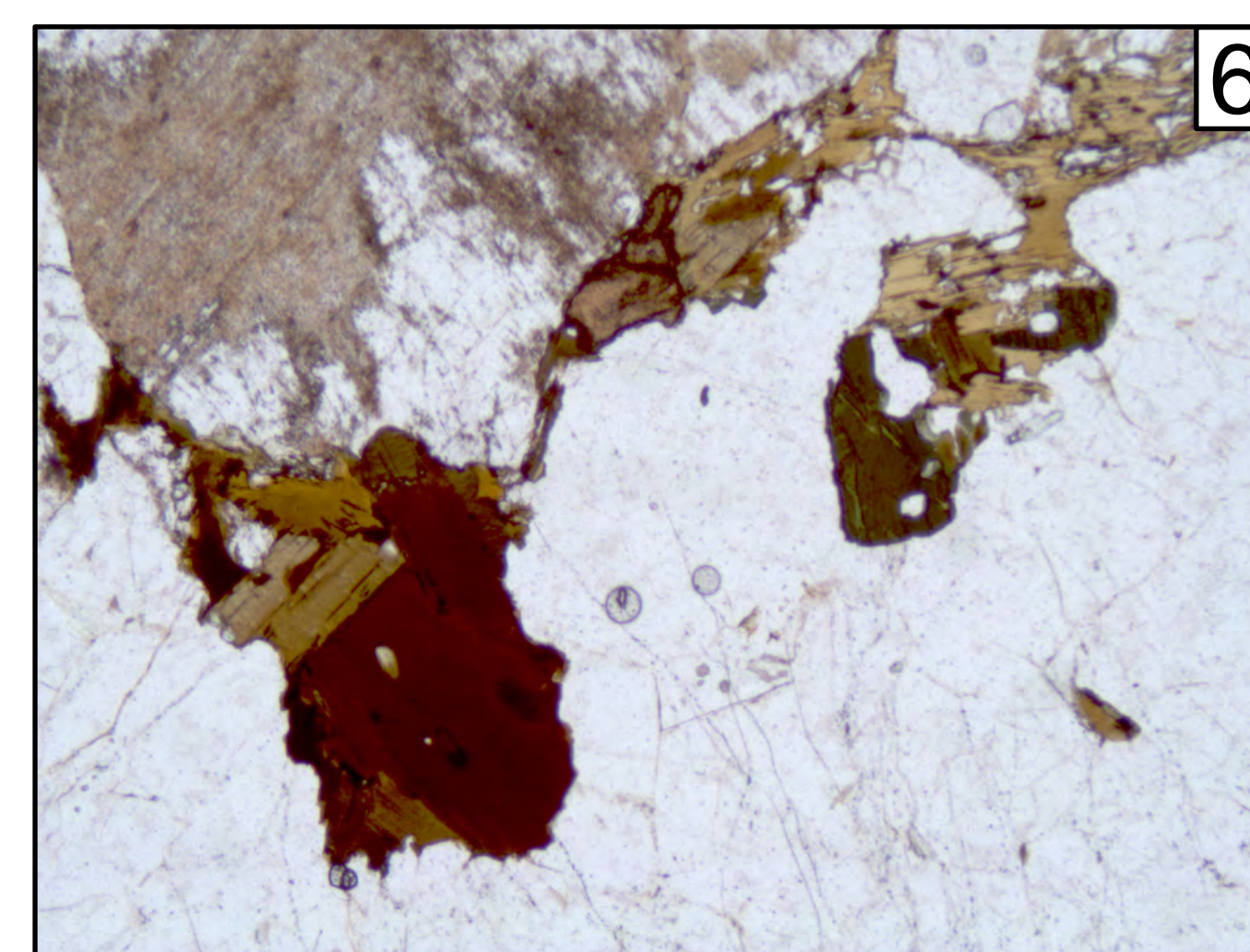


2 Alkali basalt lava, probably from a local flow on Ross Island. Minerals visible are hornblende, augite, olivine, and plagioclase.

Alkali basalt lava bomb from a relatively recent eruption on Ross Island. Visible mineral include olivine, hornblende, augite, and olivine (inside large, dark pyroxene).

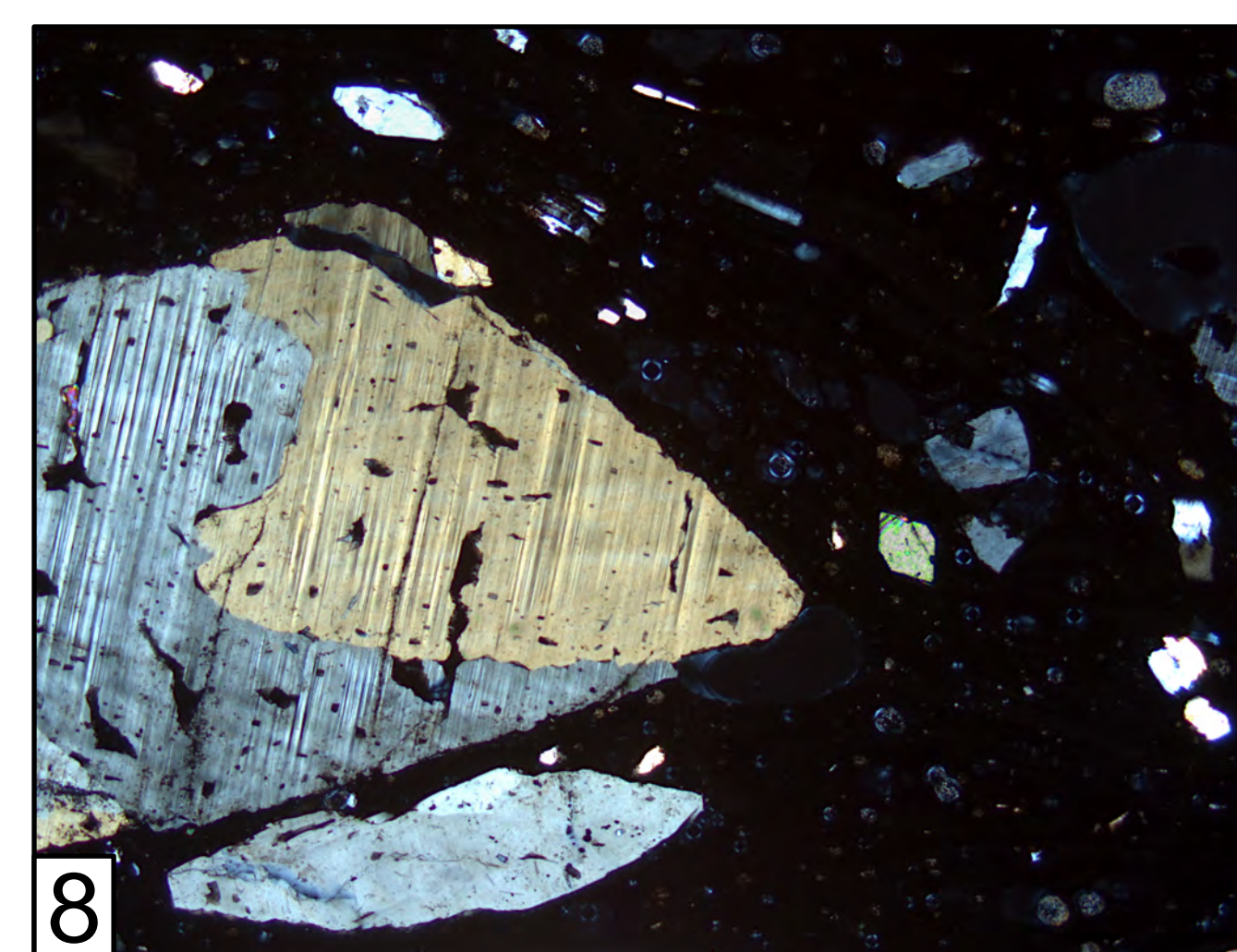


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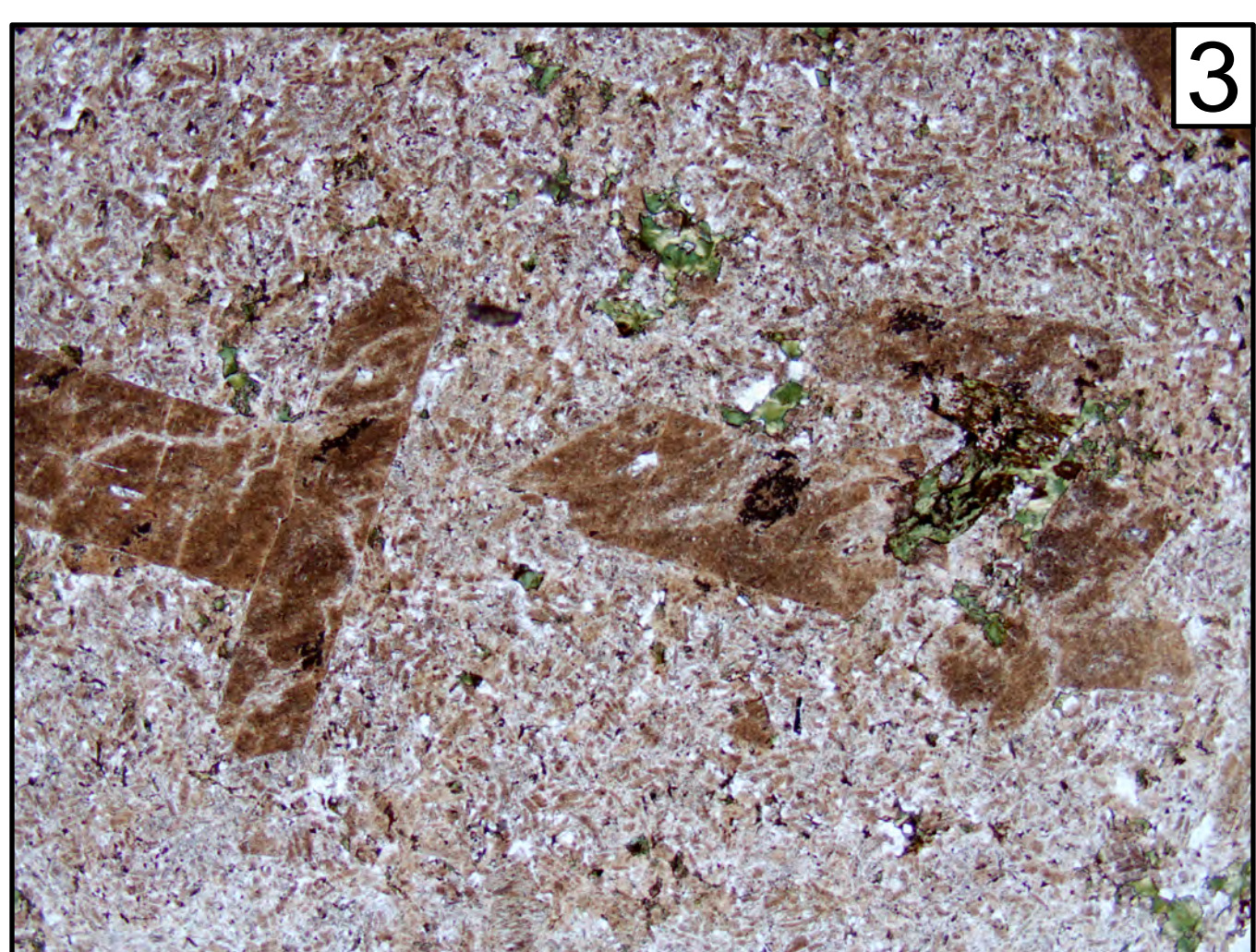


6 Granite, transported from the Transantarctic Mountains by glaciers or scientists. Visible minerals include quartz, microcline, biotite, hornblende, and apatite.

Lava from Mt. Erebus. This highly alkaline lava contains large crystals of anorthoclase feldspar: $(K,Na)AlSi_3O_8$. Other visible minerals include olivine and augite. Photographed in cross-polarized light.

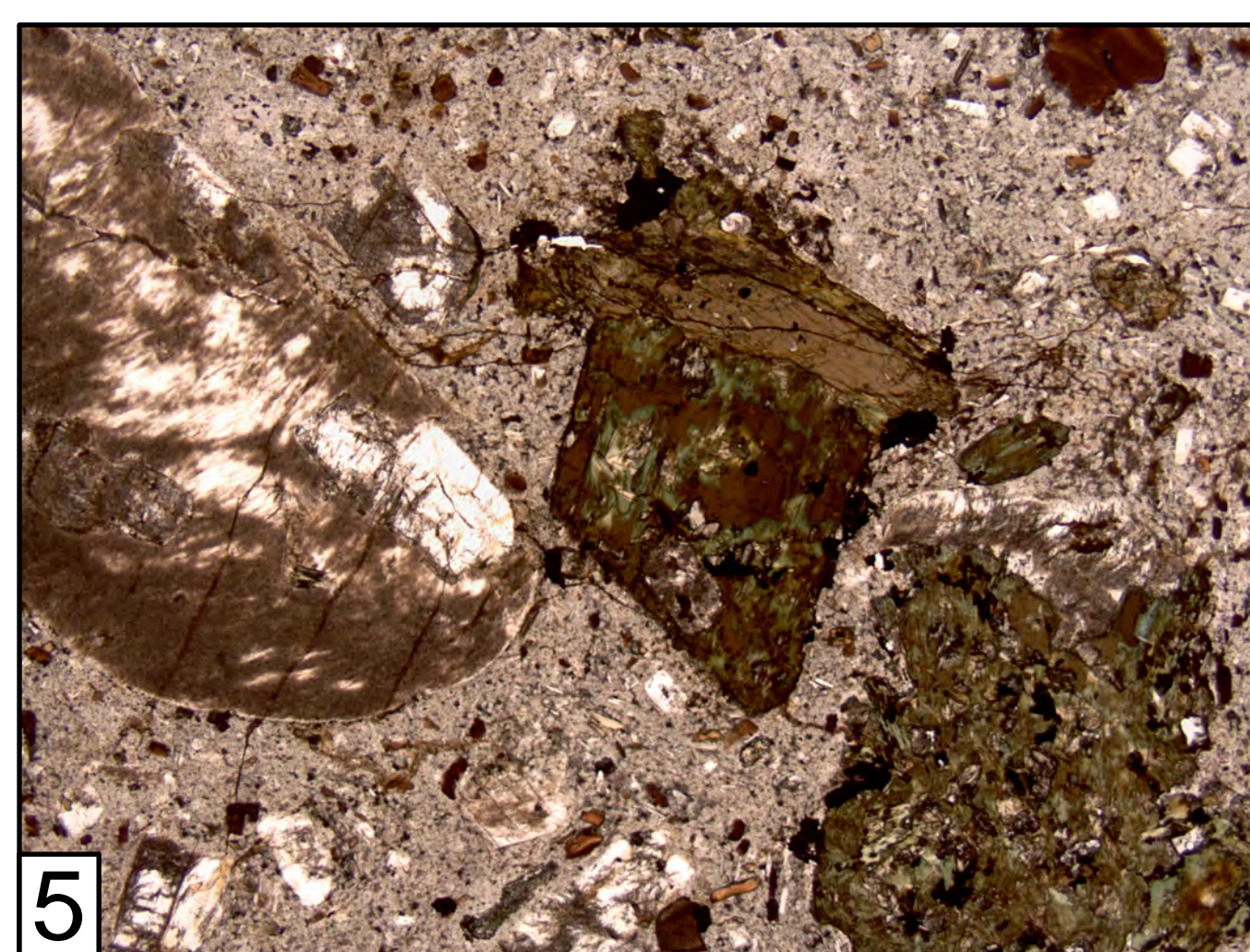


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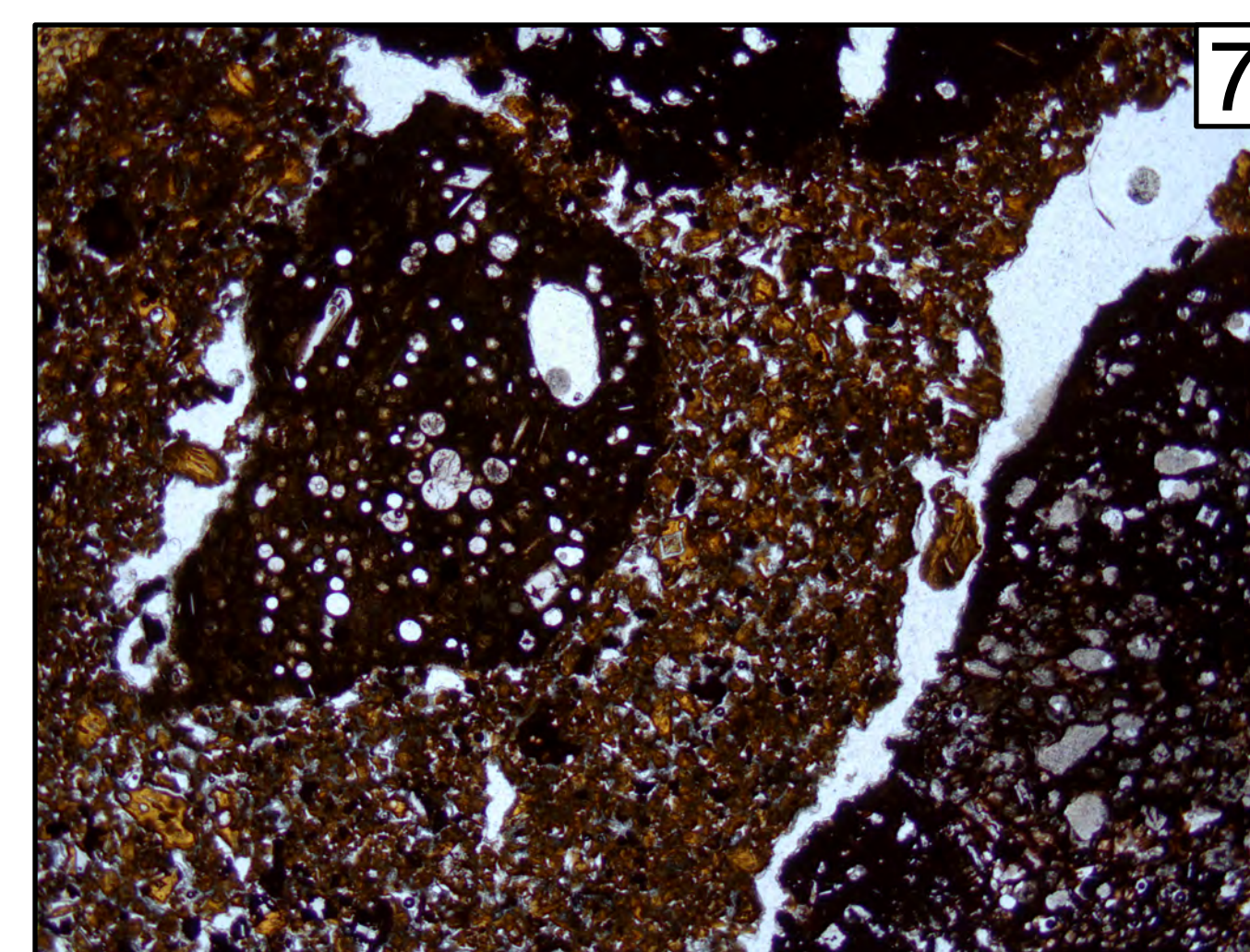


3 Somewhat hydrothermally altered alkaline lava of intermediate silica content. Visible minerals include anorthoclase and chlorite, in a fine-grained matrix.

Somewhat hydrothermally altered lava of intermediate silica content, probably from an old Ross Island volcano. Visible minerals are anorthoclase, hornblende, biotite, and plagioclase, in a fine-grained matrix.

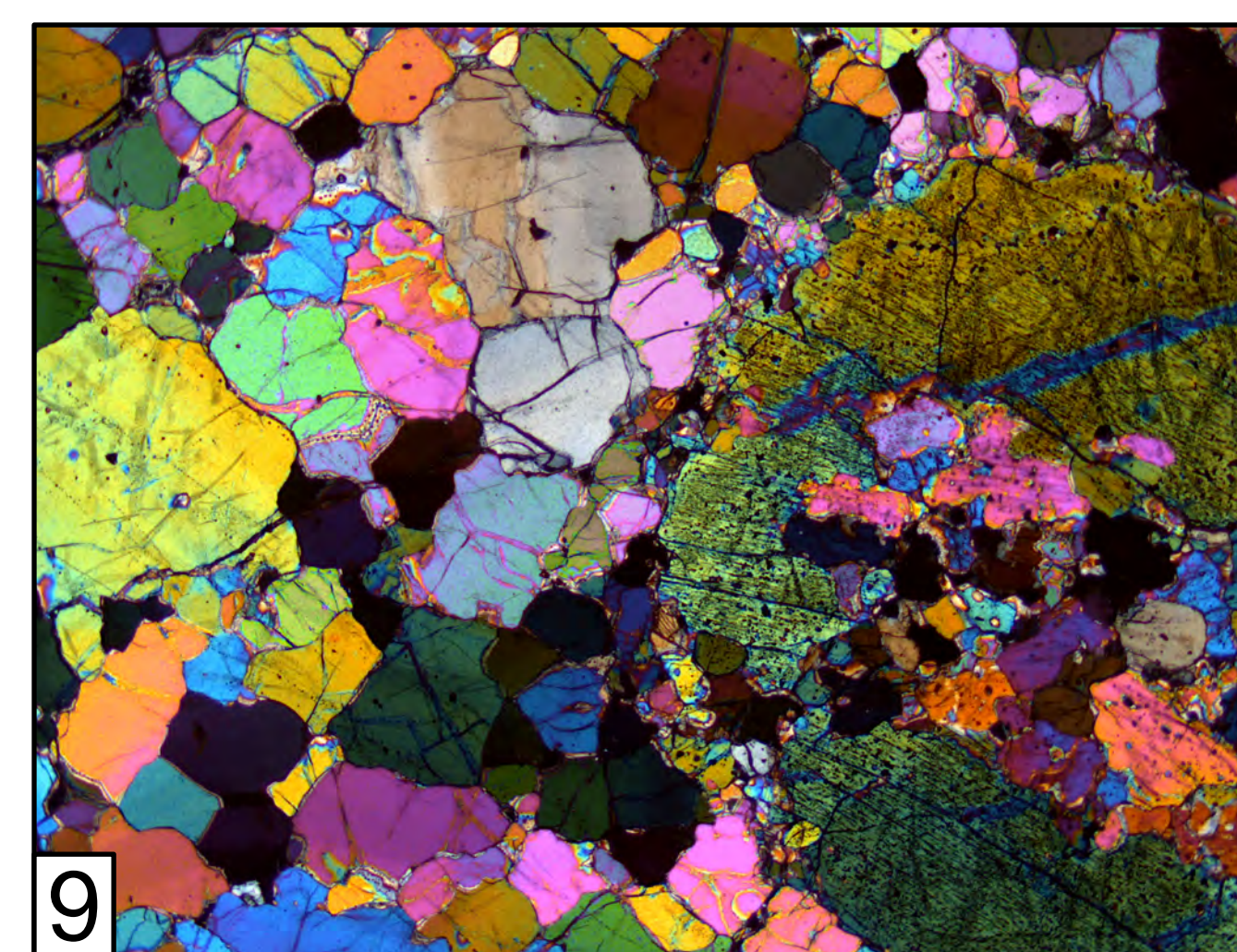


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7 Volcanic breccia, from Castle Rock, an old, eroded volcanic neck on Ross Island. Visible minerals include olivine, augite, and plagioclase. Different background textures distinguish breccia fragments.

Mantle xenolith, broken off dike wall rock by rising Ross Island magma. Photographed in cross-polarized light. Minerals visible are olivine and augite.



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