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矿产勘查的纳米地球化学理论与方法

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摘要: 纳米地球化学为人类从微观探索和认识地壳发生的地质地球化学过程提供新的理论与方法, 开展该领域研究将对资源、环境等领域的研究和应用产生重大影响。纳米地球化学在矿产勘查领域已取得了重要进展。通过总结、归纳前人研究并结合团队最新成果, 从自然界纳米金属微粒形成过程、迁移方式、在表生介质中的赋存状态及纳米金属微粒的捕获等几个方面开展了梳理总结, 并进一步阐述了纳米金属微粒对隐伏矿勘查的理论与实际应用意义。纳米微粒的迁移机制可总结为: 成矿过程中成矿元素可形成纳米金属颗粒, 在矿石风化过程中部分纳米金属微粒发生解离而具备活动性, 活动性纳米金属颗粒因其巨大的表面能, 可吸附于气体分子表面, 并通过地气流的垂向运动, 穿透矿体上方覆盖层而到达地表; 另外, 纳米物质所具备的易分散性质可以使纳米金属微粒自身发生垂向迁移而到达地表。到达地表后部分纳米金属微粒仍然滞留在壤中气, 部分被土壤中粘土矿物或氧化物膜吸附, 此外也可被地表生物所捕获。该迁移机制已通过表生气固介质中大量纳米金属微粒原位观测结果获得证实。在矿产勘查中, 通过分离土壤中的纳米金属微粒可实现指示土壤覆盖层和深部矿体的目的, 目前已取得一些成功案例。

关键词: 纳米地球化学; 纳米金属微粒; 隐伏矿; 矿产勘查; 迁移机理; 矿床学。

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Theory and Technology of Nanogeochemistry for Mineral Exploration

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Abstract: Nanogeochemistry can help humans to understand and explore the geological and geochemical processes on the earth from microcosmic point of view, which have a significant impact on the research and application in the resources and environmental issues. Nanogeochemistry has made important progress in the field of mineral exploration. Based on the summarization of previous academic achievements and combined with this study. In this paper, it presents metallic nanoparticles from the formation process, migration patterns, occurrences in supergenic medium, and capture approaches and further states the theory of nanogeochemistry for mineral exploration and its application significance. The migration mechanism of nanoparticles can be summarized as follows: nanoparticles of ore-forming elements or minerals formed in the metallogenic process, released from the orebody of deposits by weathering, formed active metallic nanoparticles, can be adsorbed onto surface of gas molecular because of their tremendous surface energies and then be migrated to the earth surface through covers by their ascending geogas carrier

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or their gas-like phases, with part of them remained in geogases and other parts trapped into soil geochemical barriers and creature. The migration mechanism has been proven by lots of in-situ observation cases of metallic nanoparticles occurred in super-genic medium. Some successful cases show that separation of nanoparticles of mobile metals could be effectively applied to prospect concealed ore deposits under covers.

Key words: nanogeochemistry; nanoparticle of metal; concealed deposit; mineral exploration; migration mechanism; mineral deposit.

0 引言

随着纳米科技的发展,纳米地球科学应运而生。“纳米”和“地球”,看似 2 个对立词汇,但组合到一起对于地球科学家而言却具有重要意义,因为在地球科学领域开展纳米尺度研究,将使人类更好地认知局部的,区域的,甚至是全球的一些科学现象(Hochella, 2002, 2006, 2008; 王学求等, 2013, 2014)。纳米地球化学作为纳米地球科学的一个分支,也受到了越来越多地球化学家的关注,并已发展成一个具有潜在生命力的研究领域(据宜文等, 2016; 王学求等, 2016)。

纳米地球化学目前大体存在以下几个研究方向:(1)研究地球中金属纳米微粒的分布、分配、组合特征、迁移规律等(汤倩等, 2010),并利用物理化学方法富集提取纳米微粒并分析元素含量来反映并探测深部金属矿床(任天祥等, 1995; Wang *et al.*, 1995, 1997, 2017; 童纯菡等, 1997; Cao *et al.*, 2009; 曹建劲, 2009, 2012; 王学求和叶荣, 2011; Ye *et al.*, 2015);(2)研究地质系统中纳米结构的形成,纳米尺度下的元素反应和反应过程中的控制因素,以及由此造成的巨量物质迁移(Wang *et al.*, 2003; Alcoutlabi and McKenna, 2005; Madden *et al.*, 2006; Surani and Qiao, 2006; Gale *et al.*, 2007; Abbas *et al.*, 2008; Zeng *et al.*, 2009; Curtis *et al.*, 2012; Wang, 2014; Remi *et al.*, 2016);(3)研究地球上纳米物质对人类环境的影响,包括纳米微粒在自然界特别是表生介质中的迁移运输和所造成的影响,天然或人造纳米物质与生物体之间的相互影响,纳米污染机制以及如何利用纳米物质改善治理环境等(Colvin, 2003; Nel *et al.*, 2006; Barnard and Xu, 2008; Ju-Nam and Lead, 2008; Klaine *et al.*, 2008; Theng and Yuan, 2008; Bhatt and Tripathi, 2011; Glover *et al.*, 2011; Westerhoff *et al.*, 2011; Sadik, 2013; 万泉等, 2016)。

纳米地球化学在矿产勘查方面的研究及应用可追溯至 20 世纪 90 年代,并且中国一直引领着该方向的发展。在研究金区域地球化学异常形成机理和

如何解决粒金效应难题时,王学求等通过实验测试最早提出了超微细金(*ultrafine gold*)的存在,随后将该发现进一步应用于中国区域化探工作(Xie and Wang, 1991; Wang *et al.*, 1995; 王学求和谢学锦, 2000),极大推动了全球批量金矿的发现。另外,在利用地球化学方法开展隐伏矿找矿过程中,产生了一系列穿透性地球化学方法,包括以气体为采样介质的地气类方法(任天祥等, 1995; 王学求等, 1995; Wang *et al.*, 1997; Tong and Li, 1999; 曹建劲, 2001; 谢学锦和王学求, 2003; 刘应汉等, 2006; 汪明启等, 2006; 王学求等, 2012a)和以土壤为采样介质的选择性提取方法(Wang, 1998; Cameron *et al.*, 2004; Xie *et al.*, 2011; 姚文生等, 2012; Noble *et al.*, 2016; Sylvester *et al.*, 2016)。这些方法取得了广泛的试验效果,在此过程中,关于地表异常的形成机理,也从纳米地球化学的角度开展了观测研究。童纯菡等(1997)利用原子力显微镜首次在地气样品中观测到含铜、锌、铬等元素微粒,据此初步推测地气异常是由纳米金属微粒迁移引起。曹建劲等在大量观测的基础上,提出可利用地气测量和观测地气微粒粒度、结构、成分等特征相结合的方法探测隐伏矿体(曹建劲, 2009, 2012; Cao *et al.*, 2009, 2010a, 2010b, 2015; Cao, 2011)。王学求等又进一步对土壤、地气和矿石 3 种不同状态介质中所赋存的纳米金属微粒进行了观测比较,发现这些介质中纳米金属微粒的各项特征基本相似,并观测到具有有序晶体结构的纳米金属微粒(王学求和叶荣, 2011; 王学求等, 2012a, 2012b, 2014; Ye *et al.*, 2015; Wang *et al.*, 2017)。此外, Lintern *et al.* (2013)在澳大利亚某金矿上方桉树叶中观测到纳米—微米尺度金颗粒。

从纳米地球化学角度来说,纳米级金属微粒显然是找矿工作者关注的重点,大量研究已表明,地表介质中捕获到的纳米金属微粒与深部金属矿产密切相关。为进一步理清两者之间的关系,本文主要从纳米金属微粒的形成、迁移方式、在表生介质中的赋存及通过物理化学等手段分离富集这些纳米金属微粒等方面探索纳米金属微粒对矿产勘查的意义和实际应用价值。

1 纳米地球化学勘查的理论基础

1.1 矿床中纳米金属微粒的形成

纳米物质是指在一个维度上具有“纳米尺寸”(泛指1~100 nm)的物质,其大小介于最小的宏观物体和最大的微观分子之间(Hochella, 2002; Whitesides, 2005). 纳米物质研究把人类认识探索自然、创造知识的能力延伸到介于宏观和微观之间的中间领域(刘建明, 2011). 自然界中, 纳米物质广泛存在于大气、海洋、淡水、岩石、土壤甚至生物和天体之中, 揭示纳米物质的成因是深入认识该类物质的前提, 在地球科学领域, 纳米物质成因研究有助于揭示自然界纳米物质与宏观物质的相互作用和影响, 有助于揭示天体的起源演化和地球深部的地质过程, 有助于解决火山、灾害、环境等一系列重大科学问题(姜泽春, 1995; 王焰新和田熙科, 2016). 对于勘查地球化学, 了解纳米物质特别是纳米金属微粒的成因将有助于建立元素从深部矿床向地表迁移直至被人为捕获用于找矿的整套理论体系.

地质作用与环境的复杂性造成了天然纳米物质成因的多样性, 如天体演化和地质过程都表现为物质的运动和演化, 在此期间形成的所有矿物都会经历纳米阶段, 甚至某些矿物一直停留在纳米阶段(姜泽春, 1993). 火山喷发时, 高温岩浆会因快速冷却而形成纳米级尘埃和火山玻璃. 风化作用产生纳米物质, 如粘土矿物、三水铝石、 SiO_2 胶体等. 生物、微生物、菌类、病毒新陈代谢活动形成矿物岩石, 岩石间的滑动、断裂等构造运动, 因产生巨大的应力, 而在滑动形成的断层带上形成纳米微粒(王焰新和田熙科, 2016). 此外, 一些研究者已经注意到微生物介入非金属矿床形成过程的可能性(刘长龄, 1999), 实验发现, 从污泥中分离出的微生物对高岭土悬浮液具有絮凝作用(叶晶菁和谭天伟, 2001). 以上这些途径, 很多形成了一些非金属纳米微粒, 部分地质作用还使这些非金属纳米物质富集成矿, 如苏皖交界地带的坡缕石矿床(陈天虎, 2001), 川黔滇地区的埃洛石矿床(叶瑛等, 2002), 广东、广西两省区南部中新界盆地中广泛分布的沉积高岭土矿床.

在金属纳米微粒的成因方面, 复杂的地质过程如岩浆作用、热液作用, 由于元素化学反应的存在以及浓度、温度、压力变化等原因, 矿物结晶或物态转变过程中, 都要经过纳米粒径阶段, 部分金属元素就会形成纳米微粒而存在地质体中, 如在内生矿床矿石中发现的纳米自然铜和铜合金颗粒(郑大中和郑

若锋, 2002; 王学求等, 2012b), 火山喷发也会产生纳米金属微粒. 1992年美国地质学家在南极埃里伯斯火山喷出气体中发现有0.1~20 μm 大小的自然金, 并认为火山喷发速度越快, 金的粒度将会更细, 达到纳米粒级(周道其, 1992). 墨西哥 Colima 火山喷出的高温火山气的沉积物中存在微米级自然金(Taran *et al.*, 2000). 而有些金属元素如稀有分散元素、贵金属元素, 其在地球中的丰度本身就很低, 成岩时浓度太小, 一时无法形成大颗粒, 而一直处于纳米粒级, 有的经不断富集团聚粒径才能慢慢变大, 有的即使成矿也处于纳米粒级. 以卡林型金矿为例, 金的有机络合物在一定条件下进入盆地流体, 因其具有类胶体性能, 容易被粘土、有机物等细小颗粒吸附而沉淀卸载, 造成微细浸染不可见次显微金的出现(刘建明和刘家军, 1997; 刘建明等, 2001), 已有大量报道显示卡林型金矿中存在纳米金(图1)(Palenik *et al.*, 2004; 张弘毅等, 2008; Hough *et al.*, 2011; 华曙光等, 2012). 另外, 地表及地下水体、热液及岩浆中物质的析出也会形成纳米金属物质, 如海底锰结核就是洋中脊喷发的地幔物质经海水快速冷却形成的纳米微粒凝聚成的胶结物质(施倪承等, 1995).

以上这些矿床或其余地质体中纳米物质的形成过程与人工纳米微粒的制备过程十分类似, 如物理的离子溅射法、蒸发冷凝法、机械研磨法、爆炸法、等离子体法, 以及化学的气相反应法、液相反应法等(薛群基和徐康, 2000; 张立德和牟季美, 2001).

1.2 纳米金属微粒迁移

一般认为, 温度对元素化学活性起到决定性影响, 温度越高, 元素的化学活性越大, 其迁移能力越

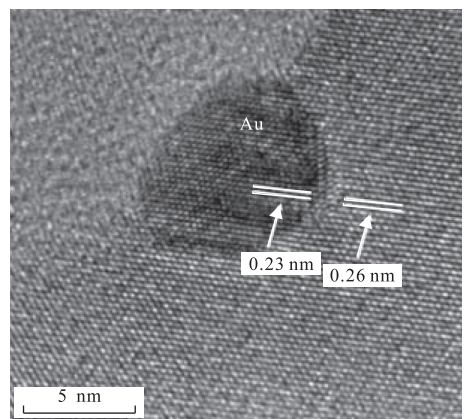


图1 美国内华达卡林型金矿矿石扫描电镜图像
Fig.1 HRTEM image of gold particles in arsenien pyrite from Carlin-type deposits in Nevada, USA
据 Palenik *et al.* (2004)

强,反之元素活性越小,迁移也越困难.根据此观点,化学性质极不活泼的金,在低温环境中,理化学活性很小,溶解度极低,难于迁移而富集成矿.而事实上,该观点却与纳米金的地球化学行为不一致,甚至相矛盾.这就需要我们从小纳米科技理论的角度来分析该情况.当物质粒径处于纳米尺度时,将产生许多对应宏观物体不具备的物化性质,如小尺寸效应、量子尺寸效应、宏观量子隧道效应、表面与界面效应等,并表现出许多特殊的电学、热学、磁学、力学特性(王焰新和田熙科,2016).当物质的粒度达到纳米级时,由于颗粒极其细小,导致纳米物质有非常大的比表面积,如 SiO_2 粒径从 36 nm 减到 7 nm 时,其比表面积由 $75 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ 增加到 $360 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ (姜泽春,1995).纳米物质巨大的比表面积使大量的原子处在表面,致使元素的化学反应速度和扩散速度增加很多,吸附能力增强,熔点变低,如纳米级铜自然扩散系数比普通铜粒大 10^{19} 倍(史金燕和申永良,1999;陈天虎和岳书仓,2001),2 nm 大小的纳米金和块金的熔点分别为 $327 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 和 $1065 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$,二者相差 3 倍多(姜泽春,1995).

正由于纳米物质具有宏观物质所不具有的一系列特性,导致其在迁移能力、迁移方式等方面有别于宏观物质.首先,纳米固态物质具备长距离迁移能力,由于纳米微粒在水中做布朗运动,同时微粒的带电性引起的排斥力使其不凝聚沉降,使其能长期悬浮于水中而发生长距离迁移.正是由于这种能力,可以使金这种难溶于水、比重又大的惰性金属发生长距离迁移,使其在远离矿体的水系沉积物中也能形成地球化学异常.其次,以往认为固体物质迁移的主要形式是溶解迁移,但在解释溶解度非常小、化学惰性大的成矿元素所形成的大型矿床时,难以应用溶解迁移模式解释.以胶东半岛的金矿为例,根据金在水中的溶解度计算,整个渤海湾的海水都不足以满足这些金矿的形成.若采用纳米固态迁移成矿观点,就容易理解,因为纳米固态物质本身就能大量存在于液体介质中,如纳米固态 ZnS 在水中含量是溶解于水的 ZnS 含量的 5 亿倍(姜泽春,1995).此外,纳米物质特性不仅能大量纳米物质在液体中发生长距离迁移,而且能使其具有类气体性质或被气体携带发生迁移.如前面提到纳米金的熔点仅为 $327 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$,一旦地球内部出现深断裂,或发生火山、地震、岩浆侵入活动时,气化纳米金或金的气溶胶就能沿裂隙通道从地球内部向地壳表层迁移. Joron *et al.* (1982) 在 Etna 火山区利用石英管在 $860 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 下人工收集的固态升华物含 Ag 为 $0.2 \text{ } \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$, Kavalieris

(1986)发现印度尼西亚 Merapi 火山的升华壳含很高的 Au、Ag、Mo、Pb 品位,其中银含量达 $100 \text{ } \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$.据此,出现了气相成矿的观点(陈天虎和岳书仓,2001).同时,地壳中存在的地气流(与大气交换的气体、矿床风化产生的气体、地幔排气等)也能携带纳米物质发生迁移(王学求等,1995; Wang *et al.*, 1997).气泡表面强大的比表面能可以使其通过范德华力吸附纳米金属微粒,使两者一起垂直向上迁移.

从地球科学的角度,对于成矿元素的活化迁移,既包括成矿作用发生前或发生时(一阶段),也包括成矿作用发生后(二阶段).一阶段主要与元素的富集成矿有关,这里不做讨论.二阶段由于与矿产勘查密切相关,所以有必要做进一步探讨.矿床形成后,对于出露的矿床,成矿元素主要以水平运移为主,对于隐伏的矿床,成矿元素的迁移一方面可能继续受到岩浆期后热液的影响,成矿元素或成矿物质会进入热液系统中,随着热液沿构造裂隙向上迁移直至地表,另一方面成矿元素仍能以别的一些途径发生迁移,如离子扩散迁移、地下水溶解迁移、电化学迁移、地气流迁移(王学求,2005).目前认为,对于勘查地球化学家比较关注的垂向迁移方式,地气流迁移可能是其中迁移速率最快、迁移距离最长的一种迁移方式.而要实现地气流迁移,成矿元素就需要以纳米金属微粒的形式存在.与矿床相关的金属物质存在于矿石或围岩中,部分金属物质可能本身也是以纳米微粒的形式存在,但这部分微粒也往往与周边矿物或胶结物粘合在一起,无法实现自由迁移.目前已知的地下岩石风化、侵蚀和生物地球化学作用等可能是岩石及金属矿物解离形成活动性纳米金属微粒的一个途径(Fairbrother *et al.*, 2012; Reith *et al.*, 2012).在此过程中,某些金属矿物也会由大颗粒解离成次生纳米级金属颗粒.此外,地质构造运动,会在滑动形成的断层带上形成纳米颗粒(据宜文等,2005;晁洪太等,2009;沈宝云等,2016;孙岩等,2016)(图 2),在此过程中矿石同样会产生易于活化迁移的纳米粒级金属微粒.

在纳米金属微粒迁移过程中要穿透上部覆盖层,还有重要的一点就是迁移通道问题.除了构造裂隙、微裂隙、土壤孔隙外,还包括岩石中存在的纳米孔.目前针对纳米孔的研究主要集中在油气研究领域,其目的是为了更好研究致密储层中连续油气分布的滞留、扩散、运移、聚集等机理(裘亦楠和薛叔浩,1997;贺承祖和华明琪,2005;邹才能等,2011;王朋飞等,2017).邹才能等(2010,2011)首次在我国页

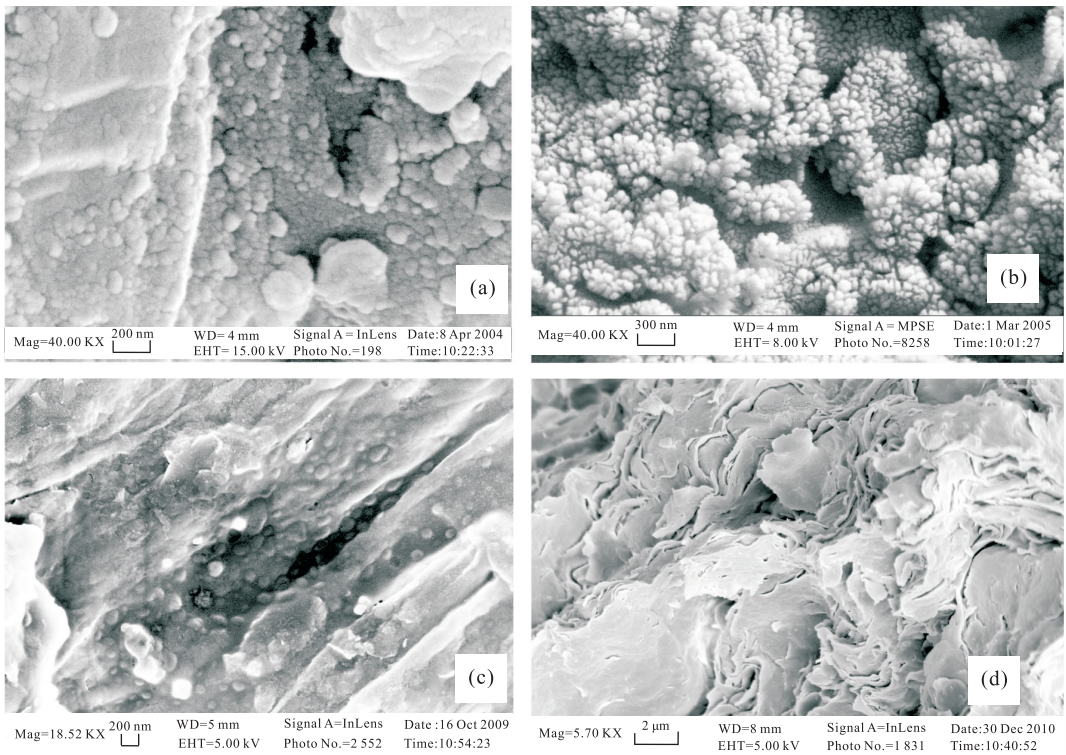


图 2 不同构造带(构造单元)中有序纳米粒、纳米线和纳米层分级以及分层结构的 SEM 观察图示(a~d)

Fig.2 SEM images showing hierarchy and delamination textures of ordered nano particles, nano lines and nano layers in various structure zones (tectonic units) (a~d)

据孙岩等(2016)

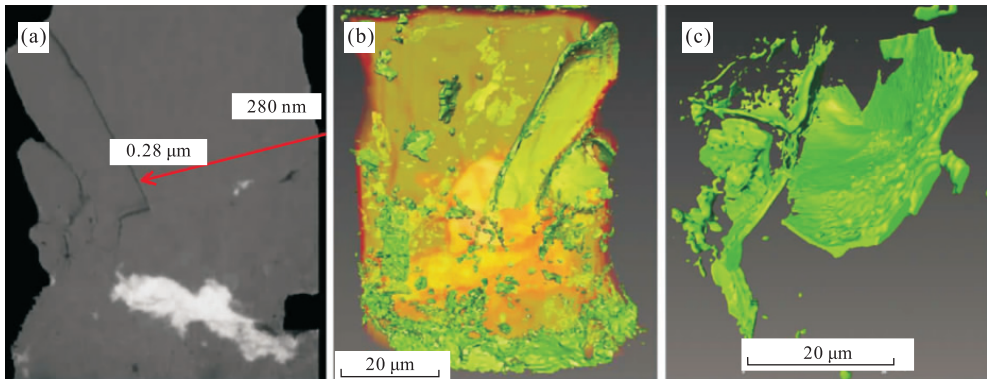


图 3 四川盆地上三叠统须家河组致密砂岩复杂孔隙三维重构图像

Fig.3 3D pore reconstruction images in tight sandstone of the Upper Triassic Xujiahe Formation, Sichuan basin

据邹才能等(2011).a.微裂缝,缝宽 280 nm,缝长 30 μm 左右;b.致密砂岩复杂孔隙三维几何图,亮绿色为孔隙,黄色阴影为样品基质部分;c.图 b 中右上方孔隙放大图,为微裂缝三维几何图

岩气储集层中发现丰富的纳米级孔隙(图 3).对于纳米地球化学来说,致密岩石中大量纳米孔的发现以及其所具有的良好孔喉连通性特征(邹才能等, 2011)为纳米金属微粒迁移机理研究提供了一条全新的途径.

1.3 表生介质中纳米金属微粒的赋存形式

矿产地球化学勘查就是采集并分析岩石、土壤、

水系沉积物、气体和地下水等介质用于找矿.当来自深部矿体的纳米金属微粒迁移至地表后,这些纳米金属微粒就会以多种状态(气溶胶、悬浮液、固态沉积等)和组分(单质或合金、氧化物、硫化物等)广泛存在于这些介质中(Hochella, 2008; Wang, 2014).由于土壤在地球陆地区域分布最为广泛,对于矿产勘查也是一种较为常用的采样介质,因此主要讨论

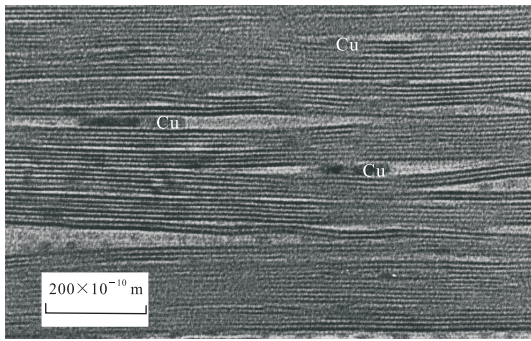


图 4 自然界风化伊利石中包含的纳米铜

Fig. 4 Weathered illite containing nanometer-scale copper inclusions

据 Ahn *et al.* (1997)

一下纳米金属微粒在土壤介质中赋存形式。

土壤是各种陆地地形条件下的岩石风化物经过生物、气候等自然要素的综合作用以及人类生产活动的影响而形成的疏松层。土壤由矿物质、有机质(土壤固相)、水分(液相)和空气(气相)三相物质组成。一般而言,土壤本身就包含了许多在至少一个维度上处于纳米级或者胶体范围($<100\text{ nm}$)内的无机和有机颗粒以及众所周知的粘土矿物、腐殖质。粘土矿物是土壤中最主要的次生矿物,它以次生的结晶层状硅酸盐为主,还含一定数量晶态和非晶态的氧化物和水氧化物,以及组分不定的凝胶类硅酸盐。土壤中粘土矿物主要为高岭土、蒙脱石、伊利石、蛭石等层状硅酸盐矿物,土壤粘土矿物胶体表面带负电荷,比表面积大,可有效吸附带正电荷的纳米金属物质,图 4 为自然界伊利石层状结构中夹带的纳米铜。曹建劲等(2004)实验研究了土壤矿物对纳米颗粒金的吸附行为,研究表明向上迁移的隐伏矿床纳米金微粒带有大量可变电荷和永久电荷,当纳米金微粒流经弱酸性的红层风化壳时,风化壳中的高岭石和其他一些粘土矿物都会吸附纳米金微粒。范宏瑞和李兆麟(1991)开展了各种粘土矿物对金的吸附研究,得出粘土矿物对金具有强烈的吸附特性,其中高岭土、膨润土等对金的吸附率都可达 90% 以上。同时,在地表土壤颗粒表面往往具有一层铁、锰的非晶质氧化物膜(Chao, 1984; Hall, 1998; Basta *et al.*, 2005),超微细金属带有正电荷,可以被土壤颗粒表面带负电荷的非晶质铁锰氧化物胶体吸附。此外,由于纳米金属颗粒可轻易悬浮于气体中,因此壤中气也是纳米金属微粒普遍存在的场所。近十来年,随着地气纳米微粒捕集技术的提高,大量实验案例在地气中观测到了纳米金属颗粒和纳米矿物(Tong *et*

al., 1998; Cao *et al.*, 2009, 2010a, 2010b; 王学求和叶荣, 2011; 曹建劲, 2012; 叶荣等, 2012; Wei *et al.*, 2013; 王学求等, 2014; Zhang *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Wang *et al.*, 2017)。通过以上分析,可推断来自于深部、地表岩石风化作用或别的途径形成的纳米金属物质进入土壤介质后,主要以 2 种形式赋存:(1)被覆盖层土壤中次生介质(粘土、氧化物膜等)吸附而存在于其表面;(2)呈游离状存在于覆盖层土壤气体中。

2 表生介质中纳米金属微粒的微观观测特征及其迁移机制

近 10 年,通过在已知金、铜、铜镍等矿床上方开展的大量纳米金属微粒观测实验(曹建劲, 2009, 2012; Cao *et al.*, 2009; Cao, 2011; 王学求和叶荣, 2011; 王学求等, 2012a, 2012b, 2014; Ye *et al.*, 2015; Wang *et al.*, 2017),发现在矿区土壤、地气以及矿石中存在大量的纳米金属微粒(图 5),这些微粒在大小、形貌特点和成分特征上基本相似,微粒的直径处于 5~100 nm,很多呈团聚体状聚集,在成分上呈金属单质或合金的形式,并且部分微粒呈现了

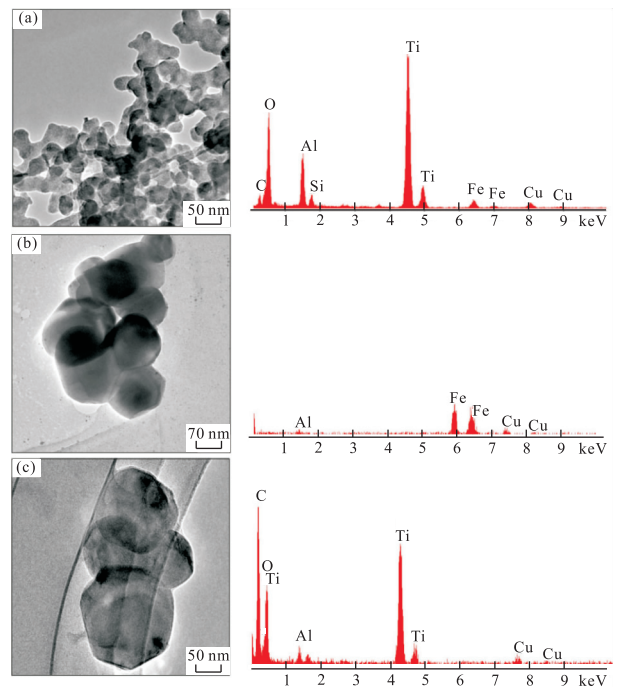


图 5 河南南阳周庵铜镍矿床地气、土壤和矿石中纳米微粒
Fig. 5 Nanoscale particles of metals in gases, soils and ores at Zhou'an Cu-Ni deposit in Nanyang, Henan
据王学求等(2012a)。a.地气中的 Cu-Ti 纳米微粒;b.覆盖层土壤中的 Cu-Ti 纳米微粒;c.矿石中的 Cu-Ti 纳米微粒

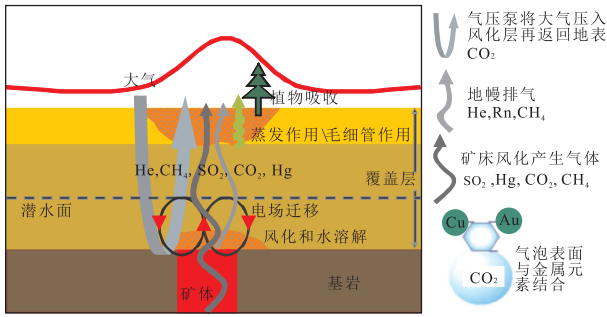


图 6 地气流携带纳米金属颗粒迁移模型

Fig.6 Migration modal of nanoscale metal particles carried by earth gas

据王学求等(2012a)

很好的六边形晶形,具有有序的晶体结构,表明他们是内生条件下的产物.当然,各个矿区的纳米微粒也存在一定区别,最明显的是反映在化学成分上,如 Au 仅在金矿床捕获的颗粒中有所发现,而 Ni 和 Cr 主要存在于 Cu-Ni 矿床中.也就是说,矿区地表介质中采集观测到的纳米微粒与矿床类型密切相关 (Wang *et al.*, 2017).此外,背景区观测发现,样品中纳米金属微粒本身较少,且主要含 K、Si、Al、O 等元

素,基本无 Cu、Pb、Zn、Au 等指示性成矿元素.以上结果可充分表明,表生介质中采集观测到的含成矿元素的纳米金属微粒与深部矿体具有很好的继承关系,这些纳米微粒来自于深部矿体.成矿过程中成矿元素可形成纳米金属颗粒,在矿石风化过程中部分纳米金属微粒发生解离而具备活动性,活动性纳米金属颗粒因其巨大的表面能,可吸附于气体分子表面,并通过地气流的垂向运动,穿透矿体上方覆盖层而到达地表;另外,纳米物质所具备的易分散性质可以使纳米金属微粒自身发生垂向迁移而到达地表.到达地表后部分纳米金属微粒仍然滞留于壤中气,部分被土壤中粘土矿物或氧化物膜吸附,此外也可被地表生物所捕获.由此形成的地气流携带纳米金属颗粒迁移模型见图 6 所示.

3 纳米地球化学找矿方法

由于矿体上方覆盖层土壤中和地气中采集和观测到的纳米金属微粒可来自深部矿体,能高度继承其形成时的源区性质,因此可作为地球化学示踪颗

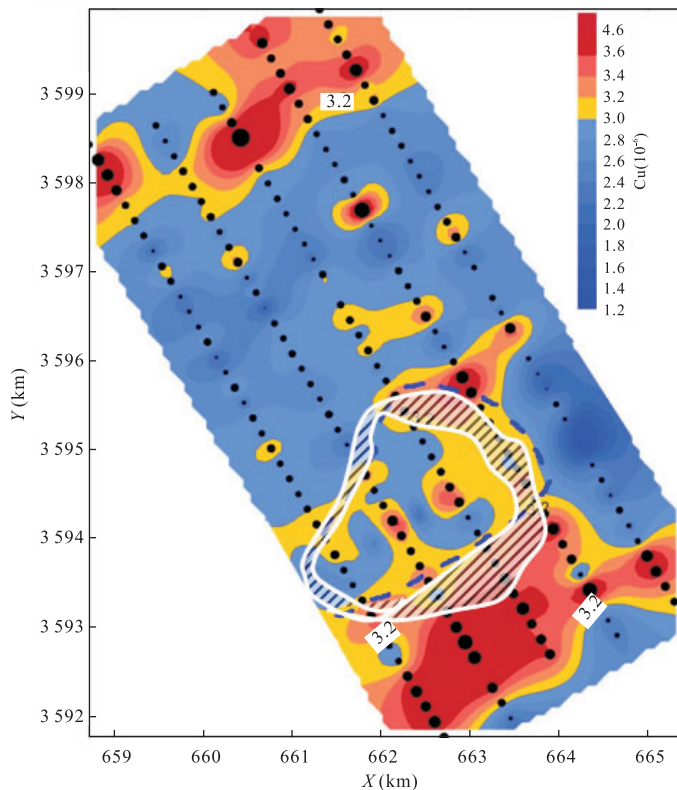


图 7 河南南阳周庵隐伏铜镍矿环状异常

Fig.7 Circular-shaped anomaly over concealed Zhou'an Cu-Ni deposit in Nanyang, Henan

据王学求等(2012a)

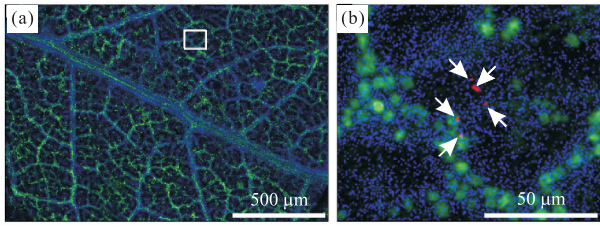


图 8 澳大利亚某金矿上方桉树叶子中的纳米—微米尺度金颗粒

Fig.8 Nano- and micron-sized Au particles in leaf from specimens of Eucalyptus over a gold mine, Australia
据 Lintern *et al.* (2013)

粒.根据微粒种类、粒度、形状、结构、化学成分、含量、比值和聚合关系等特征,并结合地气样品元素含量,可用于探测覆盖层下部的隐伏矿体.前面提到,与深部矿化有关的纳米微粒可以赋存在矿体上方土壤、气体和生物体中,因此可以通过分离这些介质中的纳米微粒发展相应的纳米地球化学找矿方法.

3.1 地气纳米测量技术

地气测量技术主要利用王水或泡塑介质捕集以游离状存在于覆盖层土壤气体中的纳米金属微粒,再利用化学分析手段,测定捕集到的这些微粒的含

量,从而得到圈定异常,以指示深部矿体.目前,利用先进的电镜观测技术,可进一步获知地气中纳米金属微粒的形态和化学成分特征,这些特征与其形成环境有密切关系,甚至能反映深部矿化信息.因此可充分利用这 2 种方法相结合的形式开展地球化学找矿勘查.目前来看,地气纳米测量技术未来有较大的研究和发展空间.

3.2 土壤纳米微粒分离提取技术

来自深部的纳米金属微粒到达地表后其中一部分被粘土、氧化物等土壤地球化学障所捕获.由于细粒级土壤富含粘土矿物,可有效吸附这部分纳米微粒,因此在开展隐伏矿勘查中可采集并分析细粒级土壤样品以达到指示深部矿体的目的.此外,可采用专用提取试剂提取吸附于粘土或氧化膜表面的纳米金属微粒,达到指示深部矿体的目的.以上方法目前已对紫金山悦洋隐伏银金矿、周庵隐伏铜镍矿(图 7)、新疆金窝子 210 金矿等开展试验并取得较好应用效果(Wang *et al.*, 2007; 王学求等, 2012a, 2012b; Zhang *et al.*, 2015).

3.3 生物纳米地球化学方法

利用生物特别是植物开展矿产勘查目前主要在

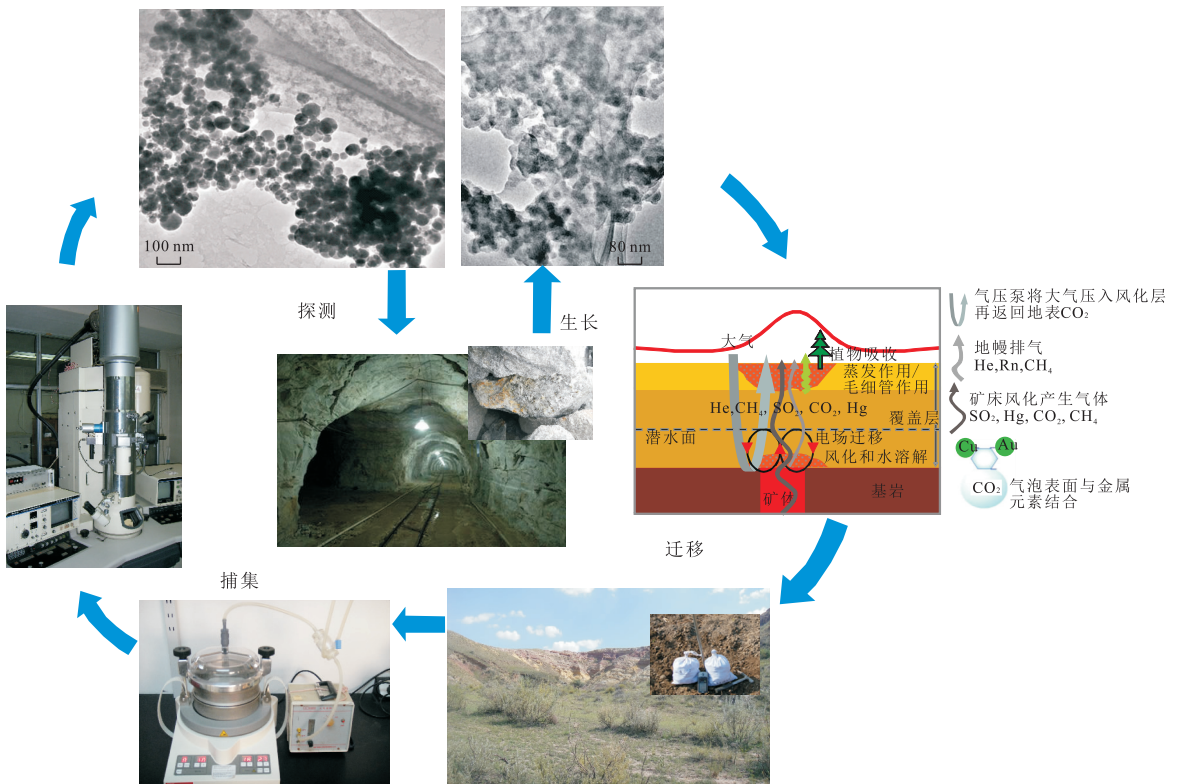


图 9 纳米地球化学应用于矿产勘查图示

Fig.9 Sketch map showing nanogeochemistry for mineral exploration

澳大利亚发展最快。Anand *et al.* (2007) 在 Yilgarn 克拉通北部半干旱地区研究发现, 围篱树的树叶对深部矿体有元素异常显示, 植物根系吸收地下水将锌输送到叶片细胞而富集于细胞内部, 结果表明干旱一半干旱地区植物在元素向地表迁移过程中起到了重要作用。随后, Lintern *et al.* (2013) 利用扫描电镜 (SEM) 在金矿矿体上方植物叶脉组织中观测到了纳米—微米尺度金微粒 (图 8)。植物组织中纳米金微粒的发现为矿产勘查中利用生物介质开展纳米地球化学找矿研究提供了新思路。

4 结论

纳米地球化学在隐伏矿矿产勘查领域具有巨大的应用潜力。本文从矿床纳米金属微粒的形成、迁移方式、在表生介质中的赋存及纳米金属微粒的发现对隐伏矿勘查的理论与实际应用意义等几个方面进行了梳理和总结 (图 9)。

(1) 地质环境的复杂性造成了天然纳米物质成因多样, 岩浆作用、热液作用、生物作用、火山喷发等均能形成纳米物质。与矿床有关的纳米金属物质既可形成于成矿过程中, 又可以形成于成矿作用后。

(2) 由于纳米物质具有宏观物质所不具有的一系列特性, 导致其在迁移能力、迁移方式等方面有别于宏观物质。纳米微粒巨大的比表面能使其能与气体分子结合, 从而随气体一起迁移到地表。纳米物质的类气体特性也可以使其自身像气体一样向上迁移至地表。

(3) 纳米金属微粒到达地表后部分仍然滞留于壤中气中, 部分被土壤中粘土矿物或氧化物膜吸附, 此外也可被地表生物所捕获。根据获取地表介质中纳米金属微粒的方式, 归纳出 3 种纳米地球化学探测技术, 包括地气纳米测量技术、土壤纳米分离与提取技术、纳米生物地球化学探测技术。

纳米地球化学仍处于发展初期, 存在巨大的挑战和机遇。随着研究的深入, 纳米地球化学将使人类从微观角度进一步加深对地球乃至天体的认识。对于矿产勘查, 纳米地球化学的出现一方面为覆盖区地球化学找矿提供了一种技术手段, 更重要的是其为深穿透地球化学理论与技术研究提供了微观依据。纳米地球化学的发展, 必将对地球化学勘查理论和技术的进步起到重要推动作用。

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