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Black Diamonds Come From Outer Space, Scientists Say

Tuesday, January 09, 2007

By Jeanna Bryner



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Florida International University
Black diamonds came from outer space.

If you're looking for a space-age way to propose marriage, a black-diamond ring might be the way to go.

Long baffled by their origin, **scientists** now have evidence that these charcoal-colored gems formed in outer space.

Stephen Haggerty and Jozsef Garai, both of **Florida International University**, analyzed the hydrogen in black diamond samples using infrared-detection instruments at the **Brookhaven National Laboratory** and found that the quantity indicated that the mineral formed in a supernova explosion.

Also called carbonado diamonds, meaning "burned" or "carbonized" in

Portuguese, black diamonds defy mineral-making rules and are neverfound in the world's mining fields where the clear and classic variety typically resides.

Conventional diamonds form hundreds of miles beneath the Earth's surface, where high pressure and heat turn carbon into diamonds

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