

# Meteoritic in Brazil

## 10 years after the campaign "Is there an ET in your backyard?"

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**Abstract.** "Extraterrestrial — Is there an ET in your Backyard?" is a scientific dissemination proposal launched in 2009, which was funded by CNPq and FAPERJ, in addition to the collaboration of OBA (Brazilian Astronomy Olympiad), with the objective of discovering new meteorites in Brazil.

**Resumo.** "Tem um ET no teu quintal?" é um proposta de divulgação científica iniciada em 2009, financiada pelo CNPq e pela FAPERJ, em colaboração com a Olimpíada Brasileira de Astronomia (OBA) com o objetivo de descobrir novos meteoritos no Brasil.

**Keywords.** Meteorites, meteors, meteoroids

### 1. Introduction

The project encourages the collaboration of multipliers from various fields, including: amateur astronomers (Citizen Science), researchers from national and international institutions, elementary and high school teachers linked to Astronomy education, and students. The first contacts are made in lectures, courses, traveling exhibitions and portals on the Internet, seeking greater coverage and communication with the public.

In collaboration with OBA, posters and explanatory brochures were distributed in 25,000 schools throughout Brazil, teaching how to identify meteorites through a concept map; and a meteorite gift (resin little star with embedded meteorite dust or filings) as promotional material.

Below are some lines of action developed by the project over these 10 years:

**1. Is there an ET in your Backyard?** Schools participation; field trips carried out; community work, with lectures and mini-exhibitions in schools; participation in traveling exhibitions; collaborations with other research centers.

**2. Brazilian Meteorites** Highlighting the scientific and research areas in the field by collecting information about fallen meteorites across the country and which, in the future, should become the subject of a book to be released by the first author of this summary.

**3. Meteoritics & Rockets** Most of the group, who perform laboratory and field work, venturing for meteorites across the interior of the country, is made up of women and rockets for the few research men (Extraterrestrial Rocks).

**4. Meteorites & Volcanoes** Organization of a scientific and amateur event with lectures, presentation of papers and field trips. Six editions were held, with a rich and important exchange of information and experiences among the participants.

It is worth noting that in less than a year after the campaign was launched, it was possible to confirm the fall of the Varre Sai meteorite (after 19 years of the last registered fall in Brazil). Since then, there have been a total of six new falls registered, two in a single year, with a meteorite recovered in the Amazon region from the asteroid Vesta.

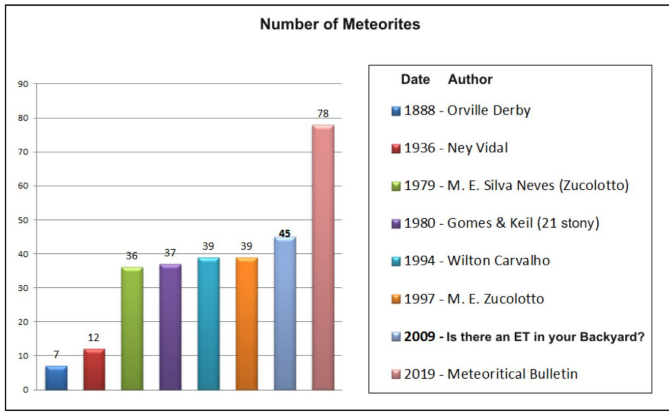


**FIGURE 1.** Top left: Scientific Initiation, Master and PhD students at the 20th ENAST; Bottom left: Mini exposition in an amateur astronomy event; Top right: Interactive activity — Walk on the Moon; Bottom right: IV Meteorites Volcanoes Meeting (2013) with field trip to Angra dos Reis.

### 2. Conclusions

The numbers in the chart below clearly reveal the popularization of Meteoritic in Brazil in the last decade, because when the project was launched in 2009, we had 45 Brazilian meteorites. Currently, the collection features 78 specimens, plus four new specimens pending authenticity approval by the Meteoritical Bulletin.

In recent years, the meteorite disclosure group has grown considerably and added others, including, amateur astronomers, who have collaborated in the search for new meteorites in Brazil. Thus, the result of this work has been very positive, as the number of identified meteorites in our territory almost has doubled, enabling new studies, in addition to value the meteorite collection of the National Museum, where the sample-types are deposited.



**FIGURE 2.** Number of Brazilian meteorites identified according to the years. It is possible to notice a significant increase since the launch of the campaign "Is there an ET in your Backyard?" until now.