

GEMS IN THE BAIA MARE AREA (ROMANIA)

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The North-Western part of Romania, is noted for various minerals of gemmological interest. They are related mostly with Neogene volcanics, as andesites and associated pyroclastites. The main areas with gem-minerals are: 1. Tarna Mare area, with hydrothermal quartz and microquartz in andesites. The quartz have transparent and colorless to purple (amethyst) colors. The shape of the crystals are: prisms with rhombohedra end, sceptre-like crystals, intergrowth and epitaxial intergrowth. Solid and gas+liquid inclusions frequently occur. The grey or bluish microquartz veinlets are constituted mainly from length fast fibrous disordered quartz (chalcedony) and subordinately from grainy microquartz and fibrous cristobalite/tridymite (lussatite). 2. Huta-Certeze area, with wax-yellow, yellow, greenish-grey, orange-reddish and black opal penetrated by fine veinlets with microquartz. The silicolites represent geyserites and are constituted from cristobalite/tridymite quartz (opal-CT), fibrous disordered quartz (chalcedony) and tridymite. 3. Trestia area, with hydrothermal quartz found mainly as fragments in the Quaternary deposits which cover the area. The color is in general blue, light blue, but red, white, yellow or even black colors are also seen. The silica fragments are constituted by cristobalite, quartz, length fast fibrous disordered quartz (chalcedony) and melanophlogite. 4. Ilba area, with fissures in andesites filled with banded quartz: colorless and white bands alternating with purple bands. 5. Căvnic area, with massive pink, pink-reddish aggregates of rhodochrosite associated with rhodonite, quartz and marsturite.