

Two Different Amethyst occurrences from Paraiba State, Brazil

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Recently two different and very unusual amethyst occurrences were discovered: the first of them near Tenório Baixo, Juazeirinho, is related to a small granite pegmatite.

A large cavity of quartz crystals within the pegmatite and now low beneath the actual surface has been mineralized afterwards by surface solution and created an amethyst cover upon the anterior quartz crystals. The cover is superficial, but of intensive color, effecting principally the margins of the quartz prisms and the pyramids. In some cases amethyst forms scepters and castle-like individuals.

The other amethyst occurrence near Santana de Mangeira in the southwest-most part of Paraiba is related to a quartz vein. The general country rock is a phyllite, the quartz vein is developed within a gneissic layer and composed of two different quartz generations: a first one of small, tiny quartz crystals in vugs, the second generation is amethyst, sitting on many of the small quartz crystals, forming perfect scepters. Some of these scepters are up to five cm in size, gem-quality, show color zoning and many of them include gas-bubbles. In some cases one single amethyst scepter is developed upon several small quartz crystals.