

## **Unusual gem discoveries from Paraiba and Rio Grande do Norte States, Brazil**

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Excluding traditional gem discoveries, like aquamarines and tourmalines, some recent unusual to rare gem discoveries are discussed.

### **Paraiba:**

Mining the microcline of Alto Feio granite pegmatite, Pedra Lavrada, several cavities with excellent apatite crystals were met. Many of the apatites show distinct color zoning: yellow in the center and green to blue in the outer parts, thus giving nice gems when cut.

Occasional mining at the small Alto das Flechas granite pegmatite produced fine gold-beryl and cognac-colored hercynite of gem-quality. Some other gold-beryls came from a pegmatite near Quixaba village, Frei Martinho township.

At Alto Serra Branca granite pegmatite with its large and diverse phosphatization were discovered two different phosphate gems: triphylite, when cut as cabochon, gives a good cat's eye effect, thus representing a new gem. Triphylite from the same pegmatite body occurs in large blocks with some small transparent parts, which can be cut.

### **Rio Grande do Norte:**

Reactivation of Mina da Pedra Bonita near Carnaúba do Dantas results in production of fine spessartite garnet.

Mining at Alto das Furnas granite pegmatite near Equador – even rare – gave some gem-quality manganotantalite.

A Skarn near Santana de Seridó furnished a good quantity of dark brown, transparent epidotes with strong pleochroism to green.