

Gold occurrences in Kudurekonda area in Shimoga schist belt, Dharwar Craton, South India.

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Kudurekonda area forms a part of the Shimoga schist belt - one of the important Archaean greenstone belts in Dharwar craton. The hill ranges near Kudurekonda extend for about 10 km with a maximum width of 2 km at the centre. Panning for gold in streams in this area, during rainy periods is known since historic times. There are also evidences of old workings and shaft sinking in the vicinity of Kudurekonda, indicating gold mining activity, probably during British time.

Lithologically, the terrain is a volcano-sedimentary ensemble. The sequence is dominantly composed of chlorite schist, quartzite, phyllite and BHQ. Criss-crossing white and bluish grey quartz veins of more than one episode are noticed. They are mainly confined to the chlorite schist-quartzite boundaries and are important from gold mineralisation point of view.

About 50 samples of quartz veins and 30 stream sediment samples moulded with araldite have been prepared and polished for ore microscopic study. From this study, sulphides and gold have been identified. Sulphide minerals are noticed as fine to medium grained, rounded to subhedral specks disseminated in the quartz veins and as fracture filling thin stringers. Minute specks of gold have been noticed in two polished sections of blue quartz veins. The important sulphides identified in order of abundance are chalcopyrite, pyrite and sphalerite.