

PARAGUAY'S MINERAL RESOURCES

GOMEZ D., D.R., Departamento de Geología, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Asunción, San Lorenzo, Paraguay

Paraguay is located in the middle of the MERCOSUR, limits with Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia, in the extreme west-south of the Southamerican Platform and the Central Part of Brazil. Have two precambrian areas; the Apa River Craton and the Tebicuary River Craton, both pertaining to the Oriental Region of the Country. Two big deep fanerozoic valleys are manifested in the cratons' side; in the East (Parana) and another in the West (Chaco).

The actualization of the geological concepts show that the mining potential in Paraguay is concentrated in the Precambrian and the alkalines.

The of The Apa River Craton is found in Mineralizations of massive sulphides and porfids. Geochemical the news informations indicate areas with anomalies in various metal combinations such as Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag, Au, Co, Ni, Cr, Fe, Mo, W, Ba and Sn. Glacialgenetic sediments of the proterozoic and the carboniferous indicated as diamond-bearings in the Matto Grosso, Brazil, have a continuity in the paraguayan territory. The pegamtitas of this region can give a variety of quartz, mica, feldspatic of excellent industrial quality, likewise precious specimens of turmalina and berilo are collected.

The Tebicuary River Craton, indicate a strong potential in precious metallic mineralizations and in common sulphides and in the BIF. In these zones you can find abandoned mines of the centuries XVI and XVII, related to the Jesuits of the big Paraguayan Province, and the metallic exploitations done in centuries XIX. Mines, deposits and iron, talcum, pirofilita and gold manifestation of these periods mentioned have been re-covered in the past last years. The first geochemical works indicated anomalies in Pb, Zn, Au, Co, Ni, Cr, V, Li, Sn, W, Fe, Mn y U.

Three Alkaline Provinces, some with carbonaceous, related to acid tectomagmatism in the Cretaceous Jurassic, similar to those found in Brazil, present a strong potential of mineralization of rare areas and metallic base, like the Gold Carlin Type, and various authors have predicted the existence of diamonds in the areas of influence of the complexes mentioned. The prospecting works indicate anomalies in Nb, Ta, P, Ti, Ba and Au.

Prospecting Programs of non-metallic minerals have located areas of a varieties of ornamental rocks, turba and lignito, caolinic clay, amatists and agates, quartz sand for the glass industry, and deposits of gypsum.