

Recent Mineral discoveries from Paraiba and Rio Grande do Norte States/Brazil

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Paraiba:

Occasional mining at Alto das Flechas granite pegmatite near Pedra Lavrada produced a small number of excellent herderite crystals, together with fine gold-beryl. The quality of the cognac-colored herderites is superb, some are double terminated and have transparent parts.

Mining at Alto Feio granite pegmatite near Pedra Lavrada met some cavities with excellent apatite crystals. The apatites frequently show horizontal color zoning: yellow in the center and green to blue in the outer parts.

Recently two new minerals were discovered: Serrabrancaite at Serra Branca granite pegmatite near Pedra Lavrada and Fluornatromicrolite at Ato Quixaba granite pegmatite near Quixaba, Frei Martinho township.

Rio Grande do Norte:

At Alto do Giz II granite pegmatite, near Equador were found black, perfectly crystallized manganotantalites, which show an unusual penetration twinning. At alto das Furnas pegmatites, closed to Alto do Giz, the same twinnend manganotantalites are smaller, but of brilliant red color.

At the same pegmatite (Alto das Furnas) occur strange brownish pseudomorphs of manganotantalite after simpsonite, intergrown with red manganotantalite of different shape.

Alto da Mata granite pegmatite is known as occurrence of native bismuth and bismutinite. Recently a more complex paragenesis was observed, including exellent crystallized bismoclite.

Black massive emplectite together with some green alteration products in microcline were found in a granite pegmatite near Parelhas.