

The Diamonds of Capim-Açu Mining, Alluvium of the High/Medium Jequitinhonha River, Maria Nunes District, Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

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The Diamantina region has one of the largest accumulations of alluvial diamond of the world, and it is historically the most important Brazilian diamond producer in terms of quality and quantity.

About 60 carats of diamonds from the Capim-Açu mining were analyzed macroscopically with the aid of gemological magnifying glass triplet of 14 increases and fluorescent lantern, in order to characterize the gemological profile of these crystals.

The studied diamonds reveal average weight of 0.41 carats, occurring crystals of up to 2 carats. The rhombic dodecahedron habit is dominant in the studied crystals, mainly those ones with less than 0.50 carats. Crystals of octahedron and octadodecahedron habits occur subordinately, and are related mainly to the heaviest fractions. Most crystals vary from colorless to a light-yellow color. A few of them are white or brown. The fluoresce is weak or absentee. Inclusions, points or internal stains, which are formed by other minerals, were observed through clear faces and are absent in the majority of the crystals. Some small inclusions may occur and the large ones are very rare. Some surface features such as trigons, which are surface illustrations generated by dissolution phenomena, and straight and curve grooves, with variable penetration, were observed. Green-coated diamonds are more frequent than the brown-coated diamonds in the study area.