

## **Geology of Chromite Deposits in Cuba**

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The ultrabasic rocks of Cuba suggest a septentrional ribbon that discontinuously outcrops throughout the island. Many deposits and showings of chromite occur there. Peridotites are widely represented by harzburgites and subordinately appear lherzolites and websterites. Dunites are tightly related to chromite ore bodies in many places. Gabbros have a variety of composition and are well developed bodies, big and little dykes. The dykes intrude ultrabasic rocks and upon occasion the ore bodies. In the island ophiolites exhibit their own complexes. Chromite deposits and showings are located in peridotite and cumulate complexes.

Primary relationships between complexes and ore bodies and host rocks were affected by the tectonic activity. Many deposits were mined totally or partially before 1959, and the ores were used in metallurgy and in refractory industry. The biggest deposits are Merceditas, that is located in Moa Baracoa massif, and Camaguey-II in the province of the same name.

In this statement the average contents of some deposits are shown. Some kind of chromian spinels had been studied in segregated and accessory chromites in Cuba. The paragenesis was studied in a few deposits. Main metallic accessory minerals are magnetite, millerite, pirrotine, pentlandite, chalcopyrite, pyrite. Chromite ore bodies have moderate and small dimensions. They form layers, lenses, veins, drop-shaped and purse-shaped concentrations broken and displaced by the tectonic. The author shows some patterns of chromite deposits. The perspectives are wide for the prospection of new chromite deposits in the western part of Cuba.