

CERRO SAN CARLOS GABBRO: A ROCK RELATED TO A GOLD-BEARING QUARTZ VEIN, CRATÓN DEL RÍO DE LA PLATA, URUGUAY.

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Several basic intrusive bodies as gabbro-norite and hornblendic-gabbro have been identified during the last years, associated to the San José Belt (2290 Ma.) of the Río de la Plata Shield. Recently, in the southern extremity of this belt, a new gabbro has been discovered. As a particular feature, it shows relatively low deformation previous to the Paso Antolín granite intrusion. This basic body has a superficial extension no bigger than 1 km², representing a relict of a bigger body. The deformation is expressed by a common proto-mylonitic foliation with NE subvertical general trend. A thrusting of SE-NW sense, previous to the Antolín granite, dissects the basic intrusion into two portions of which, the southeastern sector has a smaller superficial area. Inequigranular texture, cataclasis and weak proto-mylonite foliation are characteristics. Mineralogy consisting of labradorite (An₅₄₋₆₂), orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene, and relicts of olivine surrounded by pyroxene allow us to define the rock as a gabbro. Uralitization and less frequent epidotization are commonly present. A gold mineralization with chalcopyrite, pyrite, galena, malachite and azurite accessories occurs in a small hydrothermal vein of quartz extremely deformed by shear and hosted in the thrust plane. The Minera San José Company (1994-1996) mined out the auriferous mineralization. The summarized description represents a particularly relevant discovery for prospecting another areas into the San José Belt or close to it. However, it is still necessary to improve the knowledge in order to define the exact temporal and space relation that controls the auriferous mineralization.