

## **NON-METALLIC MINERALS, DIMENSIONAL STONES AND GEMSTONES OF URUGUAY, RED XXX-C (RIMIN)-CYTED.**

1 OYHANTCABAL, P., 1,2 SPOTURNO, J., 1 HEIMANN, A., 1 Fac. Ciencias, 2 DINAMIGE, Montevideo, Uruguay.

An update of the geological situation, production and exportation of Industrial Minerals in Uruguay was made as part of the book *Minerales Industriales de Iberoamerica*. Uruguay has a broad variability of geological units, making possible the occurrence of a great variety of rocks and minerals. Construction materials: associated to Cenozoic sediments and to basement rocks. The inferred reserves are high. The market is intern and as exportation to neighbor countries. Average production (1990-1998): sand, 1800000 ton, US\$ 5439000; ballast: 2026000 ton, US\$ 5130000; crushed rock: 361400 ton, US\$ 2701000. Dimensional stone: black, grey and colored Proterozoic granites and subordinated marbles and slates. The intern market is restricted, being mainly exported as blocks or manufactured. Average production (1990-1998): 18203 ton, US\$ 800000. Gemstones: agate and amethyst derived from Cretacic basalts. The production is partial and/or completely manufactured, mainly for exportation to Europe, U.S.A. and Asia. Average exportation (1990-1998): 272 ton, US\$ 681800. Industrial Minerals: found either in sedimentary areas or associated to igneous and metamorphic rocks of the basement. - Clay and silt: used for white, red or refractory ceramic industry. Average production (1990-1998): 167460 ton, US\$ 737 500- Calcareous: they occur in well enough volume and quality to support the cement industry. The main destination is the intern market and the exportation to neighbor countries. Average production (1990-1998): 888460 ton, US\$ 5494800.- Talc: mainly for the pharmaceutical industries. Intern market is the main destination, being secondarily exported to Argentina. Average production (1990-1998): 998 ton, US\$ 39390.