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Andranondambo Sapphire discovery (Madagascar)

By Alain Darbellay GGGems

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Tranomaro in 1991 >>

Geographical division

We will distinguish:

1 the volcanic solid mass of Androy, it is covered with thorny bush and meadows.

2 the gneissic zone of to Mandrarean Androy, fields plains and hills, rare zones of savanna on of red ground At the time calcareous carapace. of the great Altitude varies there from dryness in 600 meters on the hills the south. to 250 meters at the bottom.

3 the western slope of the high Anosyans chains which tops are staged between 1500 and 2000 meters. It is a field of meadows.

Geological divisions.

1 Crystalline schists.

Gneiss with diopside, syenitic eysies gneisses, arteritic injections, gneiss at cordierite, etc.

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2 Old eruptive rocks.

Pegmatites, Dissogénites, Esirians
granites , charnockites, kalambatreans
granites, late granites .

3 Recent eruptive rocks.

(Volcanic solid mass of Androy)

- a) At the base, a thick basaltic subhorizontale series .
- b) Basaltic dykes. On the road to Andranondambo
- c) A thick higher subhorizontale rhyolitic series.
- d) Rhyolitic dykes .

4 Recent formations.

If russet–red sands are excluded, the recent formations have only a very weak development.

It is necessary to quote the alluvial plains of Androtsy, Esira, Sangoria and Pisopiso.

A notable calcareous carapace covers most of the area.

Metamorphized dolomitic limestone.

Near Andranondambo

The anosyans granites are regarded as synorogenes, eocambrians formed in the androyans series to which an age higher than 2400 MY is allotted.

The esirians granites present very variable crushings of intensity which often give them a gneissic facies .

There is sometimes passage to orthogneisses. General foliation is sub meridian.

The occurrences of the Andranondambo area were industrially exploited since 1993 and have been almost abandoned few years later. Actually, it is very difficult to exploit sapphire direct in mother rock, because corundum is not concentrated enough. Furthermore, the hardness of the rock makes its exploitation very expensive.

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Madagascar gem safari

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MADAGASCAR GEM SAFARI 2

Sapphire from Maromby in a metamorphic limestone. (Andranondambo area.)

Looking for sapphire on the ground in 1992.

Sapphires from Andranondambo, discovered in 1991. (South–East of Madagascar)

In 1658, Flacourt, the governor of Fort–Dauphin mentions sapphires in the south of Madagascar.

In 1808, Barthélemy Hugon writes that in the valley of Ambolo there is a so beautiful stone and so rare that lapidaries have not been able to recognize it and it was above of all that is not diamond. ... In 1991, at the time of the great dryness in the south, sapphire samples are found, several centuries after their first discovery. The son of Mrs. Dauphine, innkeeper in Tranomaro, main village of the valley, was among the prospectors.

Actually, one of the most beautiful quality in the world is just leaving ground.

The area of Tranomaro is characterized by an extreme calcic and magnesian paragneiss abundance: gneiss with diopside, plagioclases, pyroxenites, wernerites, wollastonite limestones, with varied leptynites, generally with garnet, kinzigites, quartzites. One finds there rather frequently syenitic gneisses or lamboanites. Gneisses of injection are very frequent. The typtomorphic minerals are: basic diopside, scapolite, calcite, plagioclases, wollastonite, garnet, cordierite and corundum. East of Tranomaro, arteritic and eyesys injections assign gneisses at leptynites. Cordierite gneiss bands are deeply injected bed by bed, the injection has introduced magnetite in abundance. Wollastonites form ptymatic lenses with

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Marohotro, 18 km. south from Andanondambo. folds very tortured at the middle of the limestone. Note:

The sapphire on the left comes from Ambandanira, and aluminous anorthites or sakenites.
that on right-hand side from Maromby

(area of Andranondambo)

Sapphire from Behataza plateau (Andranondambo area)

Sapphires from Ilakaka. One of the various holes in sandstone forming
(South-West of Madagascar) the deposit of Ilakaka discovered in to 1998.

Blue sapphires , pink and violet, Ilakaka area.

SANDSTONES OF ISALO.

The white sandstones of Isalo present imposing stratifications intersected with gravel beds and small conglomerates.

These soft sandstones resisted to erosion and taken a ruiniform relief because the presence of braces siliceous veins.

The mineral-bearing deposits include : a deposit of generally classified gravels, the richest part and larger elements being at the base of the bed – rock.

MORE ABOUT ILAKAKA

The far-south of Madagascar, semi-desert, does not present Polychromatic sapphires from Iankaroka discovered in 1990.
any asphalt road yet, dust and trepidations are the daily lot of any traveller. Sunsets and the natural life of its inhabitants offer an appreciable compensation.

Rubies from Ianavoha. (South of Madagascar.)

Ruby from Andranomilitsy (Vohitany) Syenitic-nephelinic vein of rubies in Andranomilitsy.

In Soamiakatra, rubies were sold with sunglasses.
The Mayor of Soamiakatra in 1989, (East of Antsirabe.)

Rubies from Soamiakatra in the high plateaus.

Here, rubies are always found in alluvium.

MADAGASCAN CORUNDUMS

BLUE SAPPHIRE NATURAL COLOR

Sapphire from Analafady (Ambondromifehy) North.

The alluvial deposit of Ambondromifehy is exploited since

1996. It is located in a Jurassic limestone, but the origin of sapphires is in alkaline basalts from the close volcanic zone.

Mahatsara (Ambondromifehy)

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