

Table 3. Chemical analysis of ixiolite from Metapal, Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh

| Sample no. | Analysis | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | Nb ₂ O ₅ | Ta ₂ O ₅ | SnO ₂ |
| MTP/92-93/28 | 6.63 | 59.26 | 9.39 |
| MTP/92-93/34 | 5.92 | 60.79 | 10.45 |
| MTP/92-93/35 | 5.81 | 61.72 | 10.25 |
| MTP/92-93/49 | 5.8 | 63.9 | 7.9 |
| MTP/92-93/Nb-Ta/68 | 14.3 | 52.7 | 8.1 |
| MTP/92-92/Nb-Ta/72 | 16.00 | 52.4 | 8.8 |
| MTP/92-93/Nb-Ta/73 | 11.3 | 58.4 | 8.0 |
| MTP/92-93/Nb-Ta/75 | 10.60 | 60.3 | 7.9 |
| OPS/MTP/93-94/7 | 58.8 | 14.00 | 0.3 |

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to show different Nb₂O₅ and Ta₂O₅ contents (Table 2).

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Malachite-bearing shear zone mineralization in the supracrustals of Sadure hills, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra

We report here the presence of an oxidized zone containing malachite (copper ore) in a Precambrian conglomerate of Saundal sequence exposed in the Sadure hills in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

The Saundal sequence consists of polymict conglomerate, grit, quartz mica schist, calcareous phyllite and green schist, and is intruded by a metabasic rock.

The conglomerate consists of granules and pebbles of quartzite, vein quartz, basic rocks and granite set in a fine-grained matrix. Under the microscope, the matrix reveals the presence of quartz, calcite, biotite, sericite, chlorite and

appreciable amounts of pyrite and other opaques. The conglomerate is conformably overlain by grit of similar composition.

An oxidized zone was noticed in the matrix of the conglomerate for a distance of nearly 50 metres on the Vaibhavwadi-Shirale section along southern face of the steep gorge of the Sukh river valley at an elevation of about 280 metres above MSL. Malachite is seen along the schistosity planes in the matrix of the conglomerate and grit. The malachite is dull green in colour and earthy in appearance. Occasionally tiny cavities with euhedral bright green malachite crystals were

noticed. In view of the extent of oxidized zone with malachite encrustation, this occurrence needs further detailed examination for its economic significance.

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