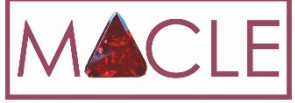


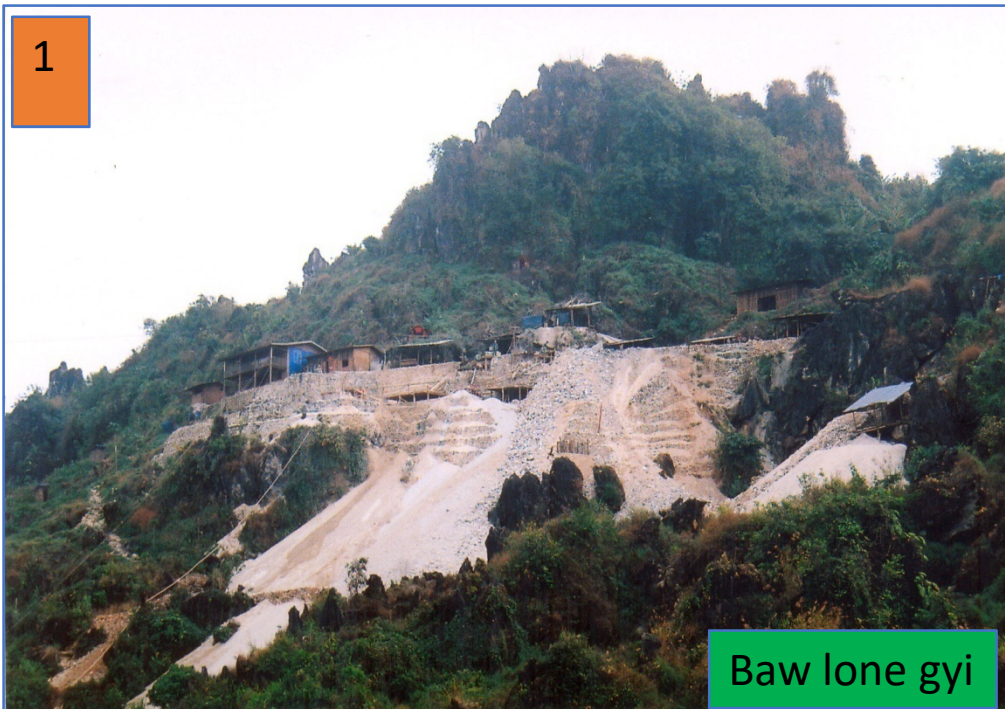
# GEMS DEPOSITS OF MOGOK

DR KYAW THU  
MACLE GEM TRADE LABORATORY



Nay Pyi Taw, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

# Gems deposits in Mogok can be classified into: (1) Primary and (2) Secondary



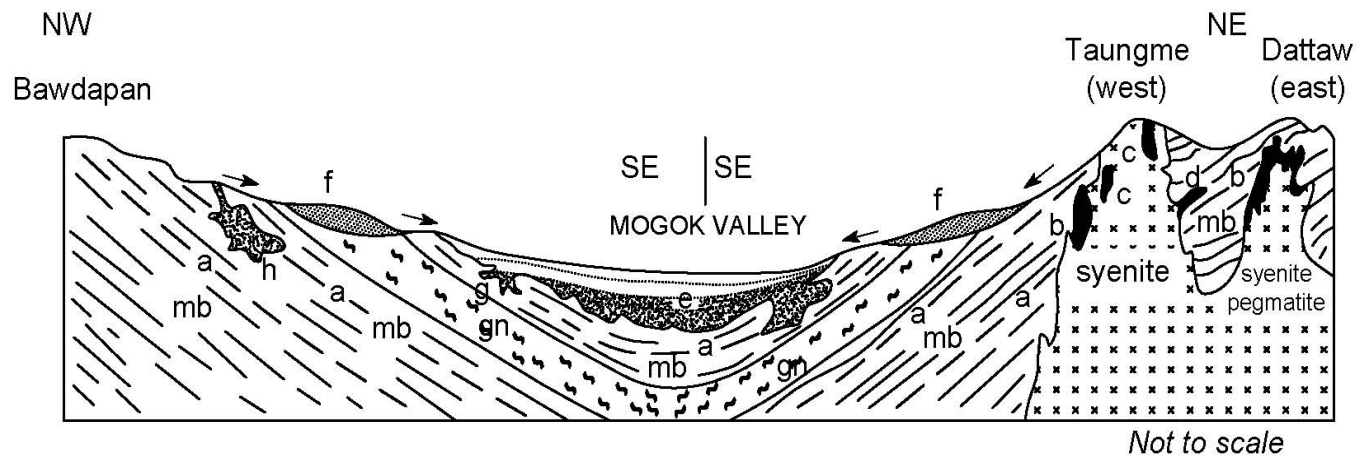


Figure Schematic cross-sectional diagram showing the various modes of occurrence of precious gemstones in the Mogok-Kyatpyin area. a - primary band (*ge gyaw*); b - skarn; c - mgamatic segregation; d - hydrothermal vein; e - alluvial placers; g - fissure-filled deposits (*let-kyar byon*); h - cavern-filled deposits (*lu*).

From Dr U Thein, 2007

- 1) Ruby-bearing bands parallel to foliation, in the marble locally named “Ge Gyaw”.
- 2) Skarn; with a range of gem minerals in the contact zones between the marbles and the syenite, nepheline syenite, urtite or leucogranite, locally named “Kyauk Oh”.
- 3) Sapphire segregation within syenite, nepheline syenite, and syenite pegmatite
- 4) Veins (hydrothermally altered and bearing sapphire) extending from some syenite pegmatite.
- 5) Peridot segregation within dunite and peridotite.
- 6) Pegmatite dykes or veins (bearing topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline, etc. and some rare gemstones) intruding metasedimentary rocks and granitoids.



## A member of Hematite Group of minerals

- ❖ Corundum  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$
- ❖ Eskolaite  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$
- ❖ Hematite  $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$
- ❖ Karelianite  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$

## Other “rhombohedral oxides”

- Ecdrewsite  $(\text{Zn}, \text{Fe}^{2+}, \text{Mn}^{2+})\text{TiO}_3$
- Geikielite  $\text{MgTiO}_3$
- Ilmenite  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{TiO}_3$
- Pyrophanite  $\text{Mn}^{2+}\text{TiO}_3$

All of the listed elements participate in solid solution

Al	Ti	Cr	Ga	V	$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	$\text{Mn}^{3+}$	Mg	Zn	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	$\text{Mn}^{2+}$
0.53Å	0.605	0.615	0.62	0.64	0.645	0.65	0.725	0.74	0.77	0.82

# Important Properties

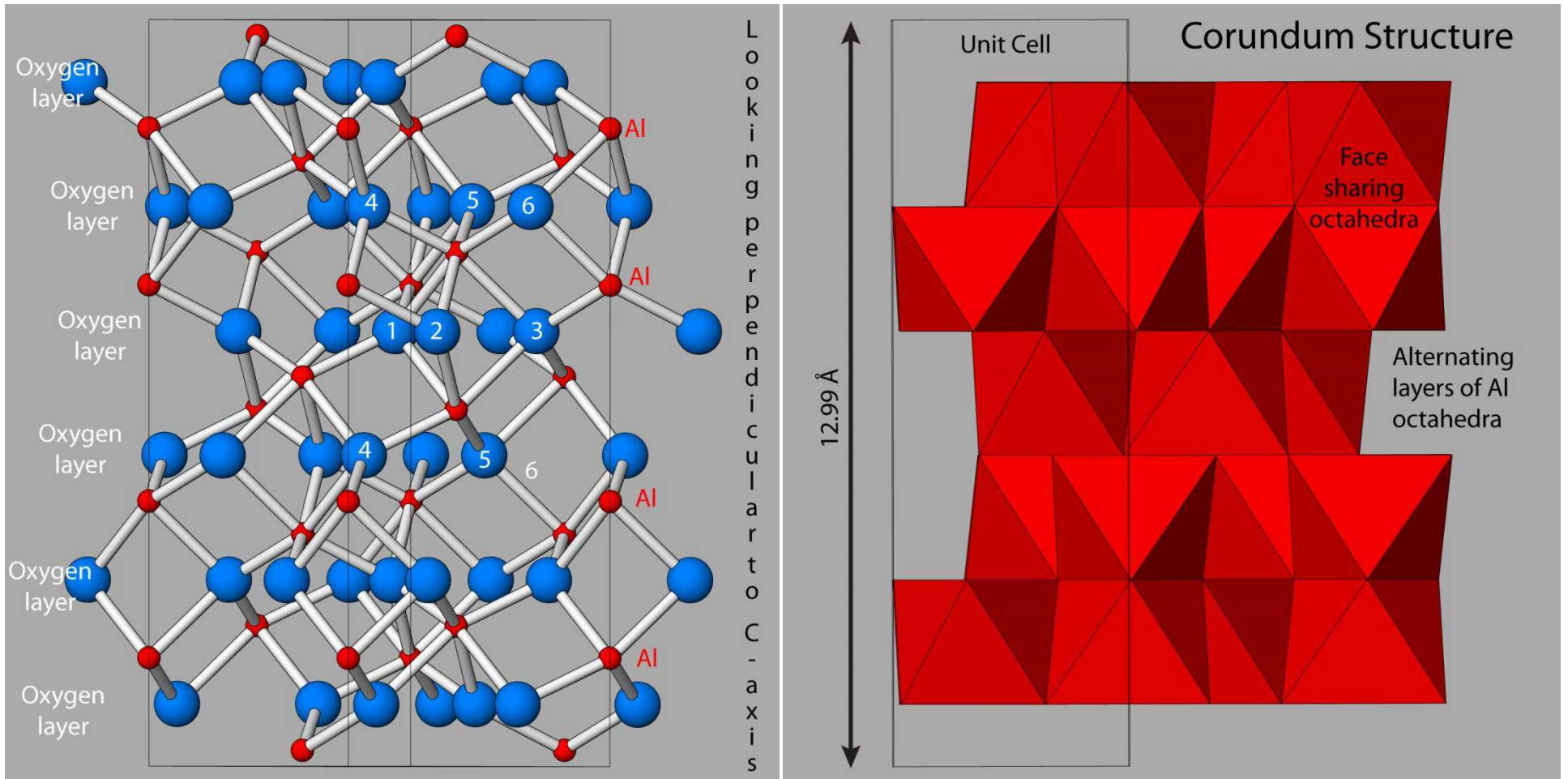
Mineral	H	d	R.I.
❖ Corundum $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	9	3.97	1.76-1.77
❖ Eskolaite $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ 8-8.5		5.18	opaque
❖ Hematite $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	5-6	5.26	2.94-3.22
❖ Karelite $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ 8-9		4.87	

# Important Properties

- ❖ Fluorescence: Strong Cr emission when Fe content is LOW



# Crystal Structure



Crystallography: Hexagonal/rhombohedral

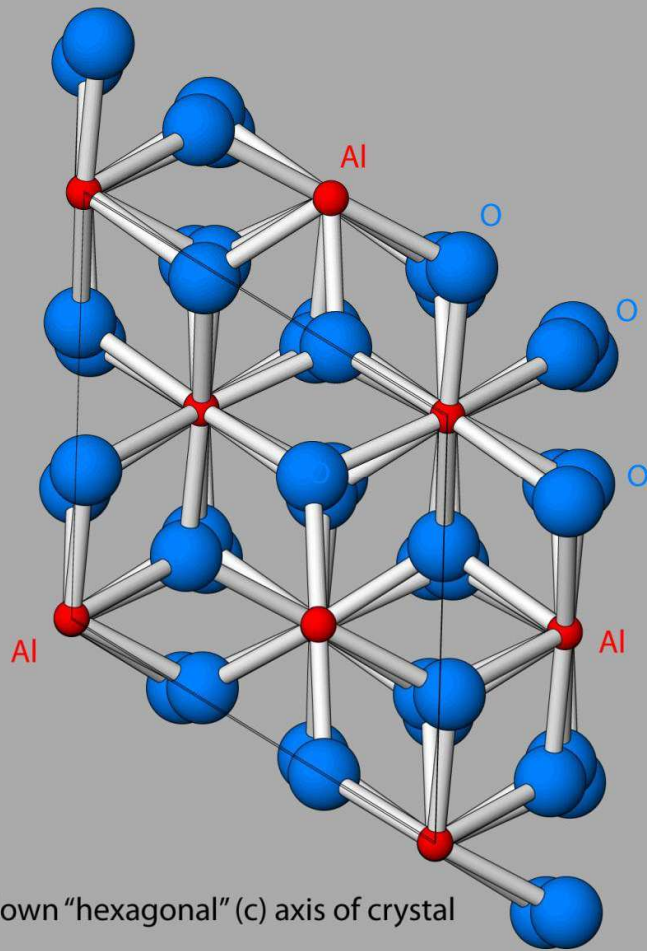
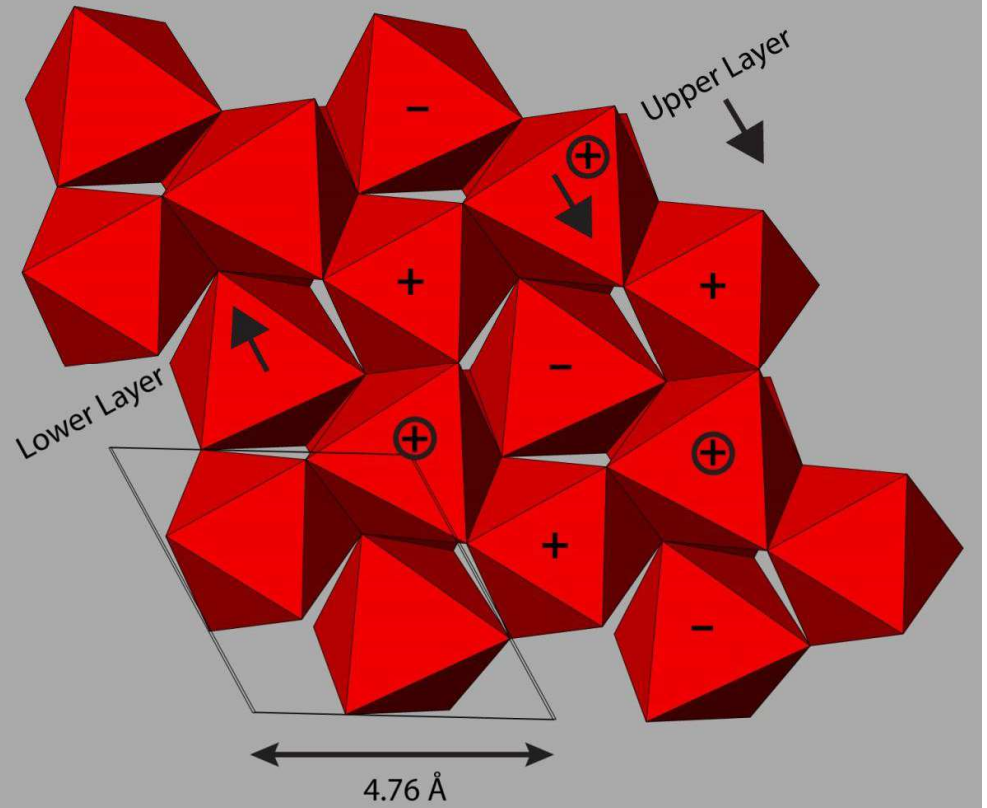
Space group: R-3c



# Crystal Structure

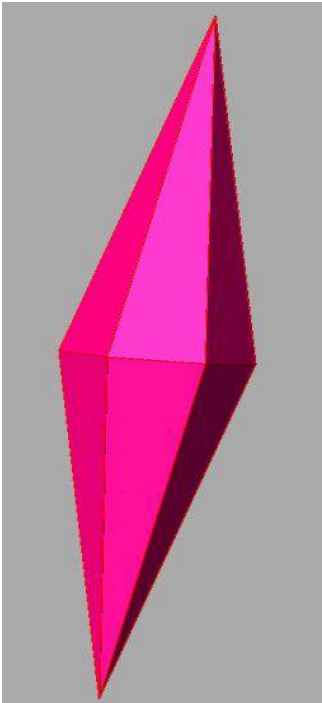
Corundum Structure

○ Bottom face bonded to face of octahedron beneath

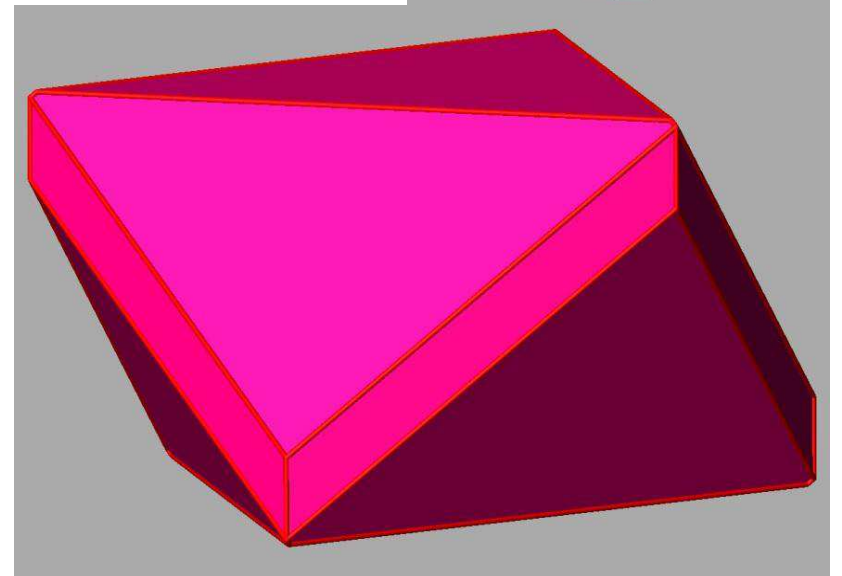
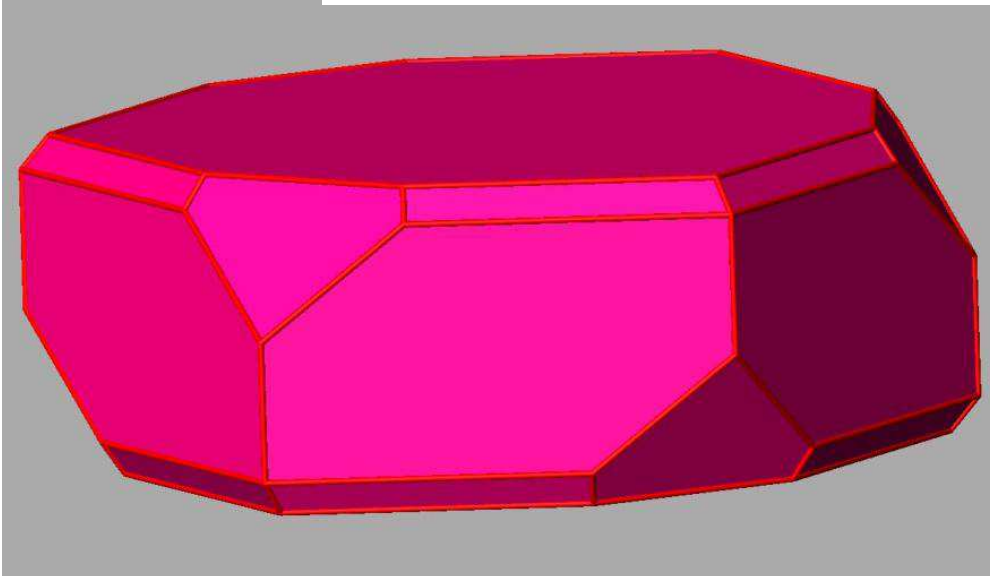
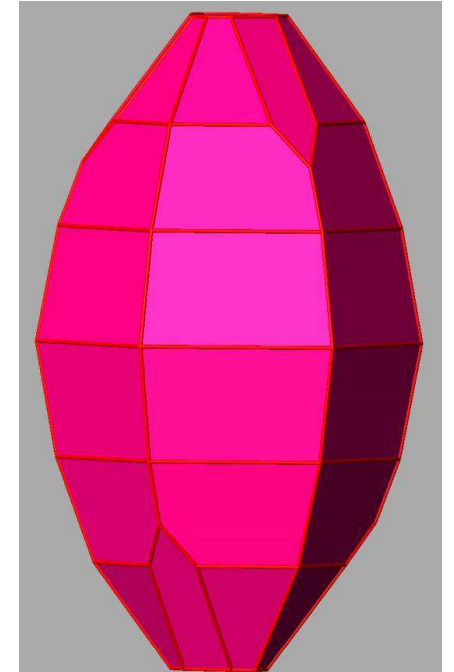


Looking down "hexagonal" (c) axis of crystal

# Common Crystal Habits



- ❖ Long tapered hexagonal prisms
- ❖ Hexagonal plates
- ❖ Modified rhombohedra





# Occurrences

- ❖ Silica deficient rocks (Al typically combines with Si to form silicates):
  - Igneous: syenites
  - Metamorphic: metasediments, particularly metabauxite (emery)
  - Marbles
  - Contact metasomatites and skarns

# Geology

- ❖ Mogok Belt: marbles and schists
  - ❖ Proterozoic-Cambrian sediments (>750 – 500 MYa) with younger carbonates (Permian-Triassic, ~250 – 200 MYa)
  - ❖ Metamorphism in Cretaceous time (~150 MYa) by collision of Burma Block with Shan plateau
  - ❖ Further metamorphism and granite intrusions from Indian Block collision in Eocene time (~50 MYa to <20 MYa )

# Mogok Belt – ruby host

Radiometric dating of magmatic and metamorphic rocks along the Mogok belt<sup>11</sup> includes an Ar–Ar biotite age of 15.8 Ma for the Kabaing granitoid and Ar–Ar biotite ages of three nearby metamorphic rocks ranging from 16.5 to 19.5 Ma<sup>18</sup>.

These dates, along with Ar–Ar phlogopite ages for a ruby-bearing marble of 18.7 Ma and for two ruby-free marbles of 17.1 and 17.9 Ma<sup>19</sup>, all appear to be resetting ages as U–Pb dating of zircon inclusions in a Mogok ruby gave 31 to 32 Ma age<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>11</sup>Kyaw Thu (2007), <sup>18</sup>Bertrand et al. (2001), <sup>19</sup>Garnier et al. (2006), <sup>16</sup>Khin Zaw et al. (2010)

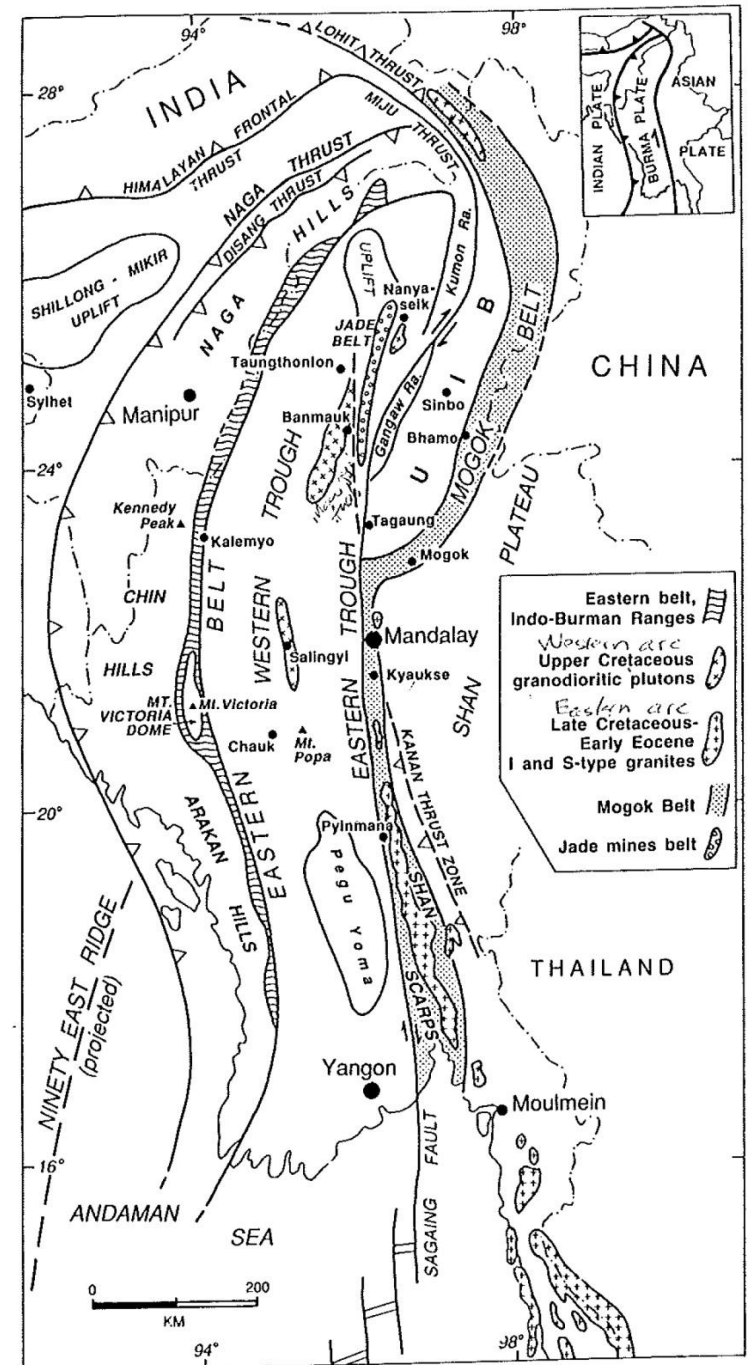
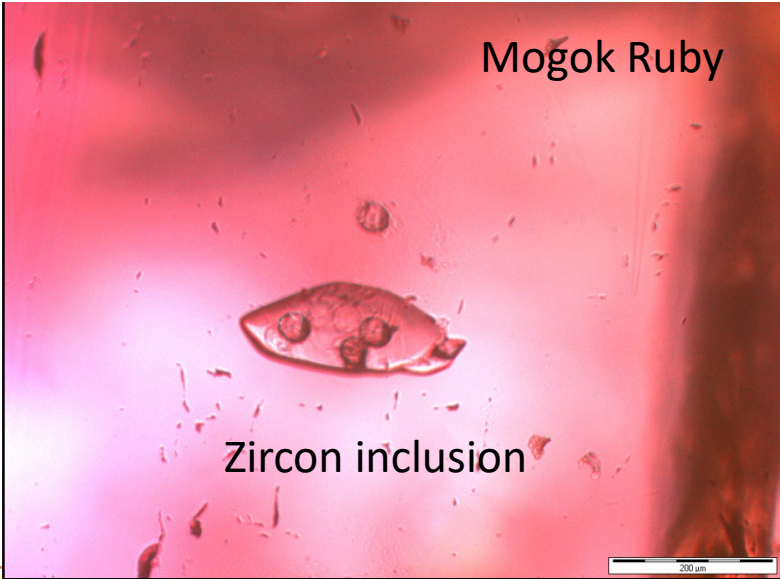
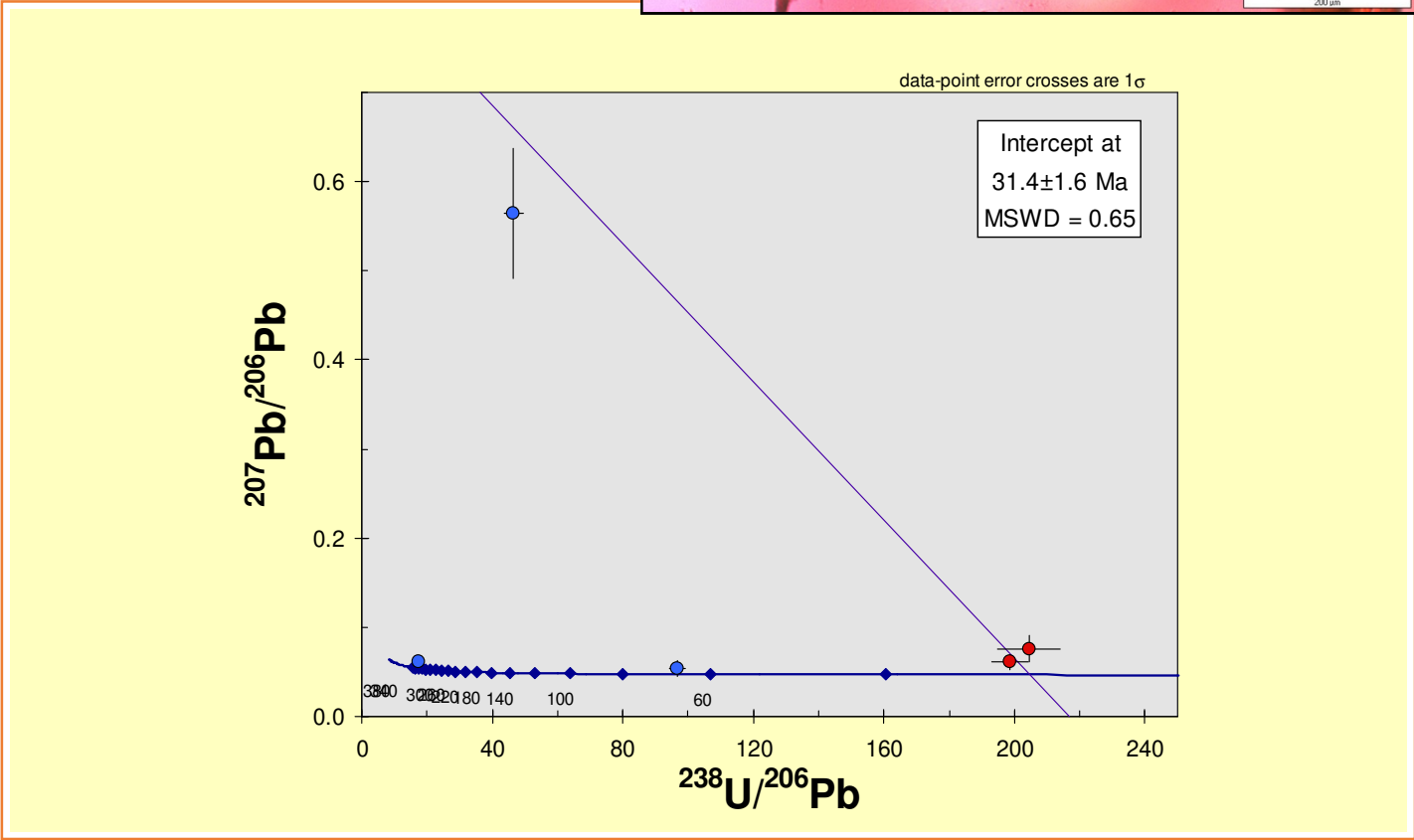


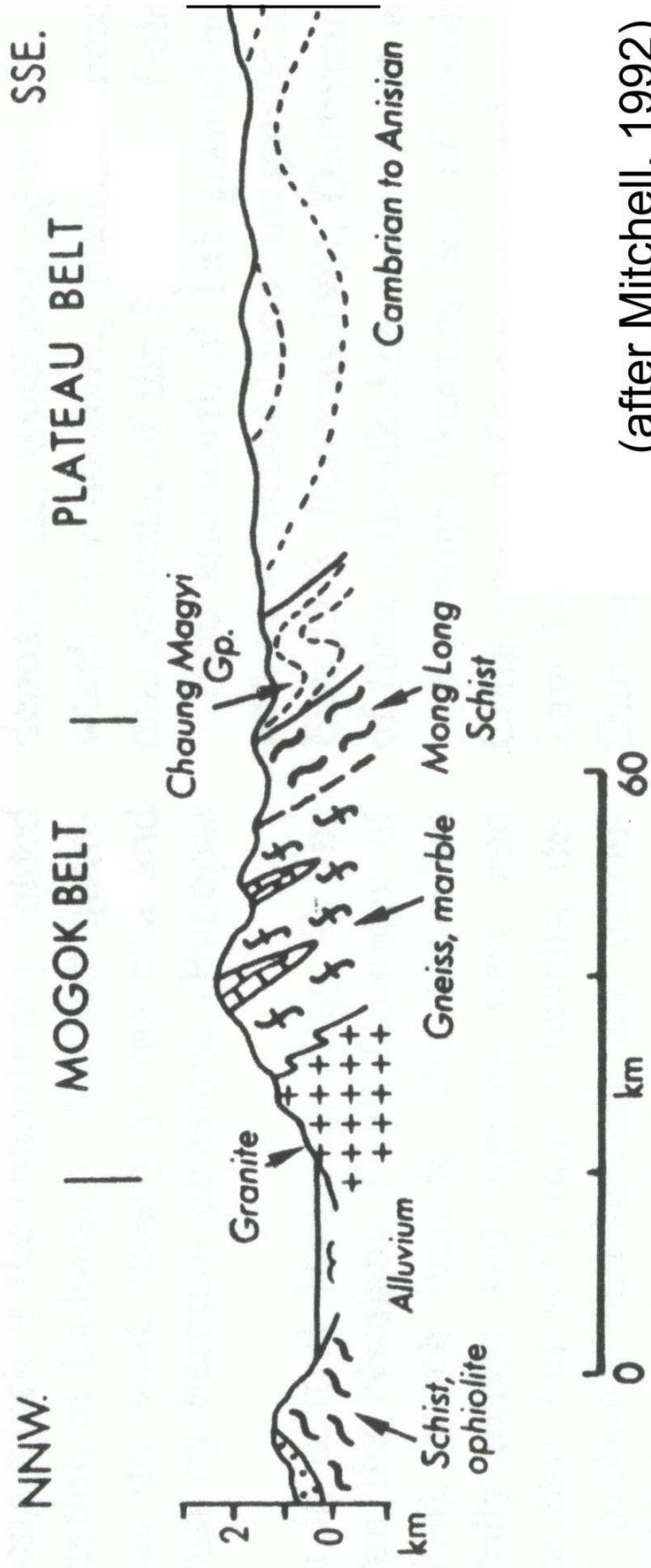
Fig. 1, Mitchell 1993

Photomicrograph showing zircon  
Inclusion in Mogok ruby



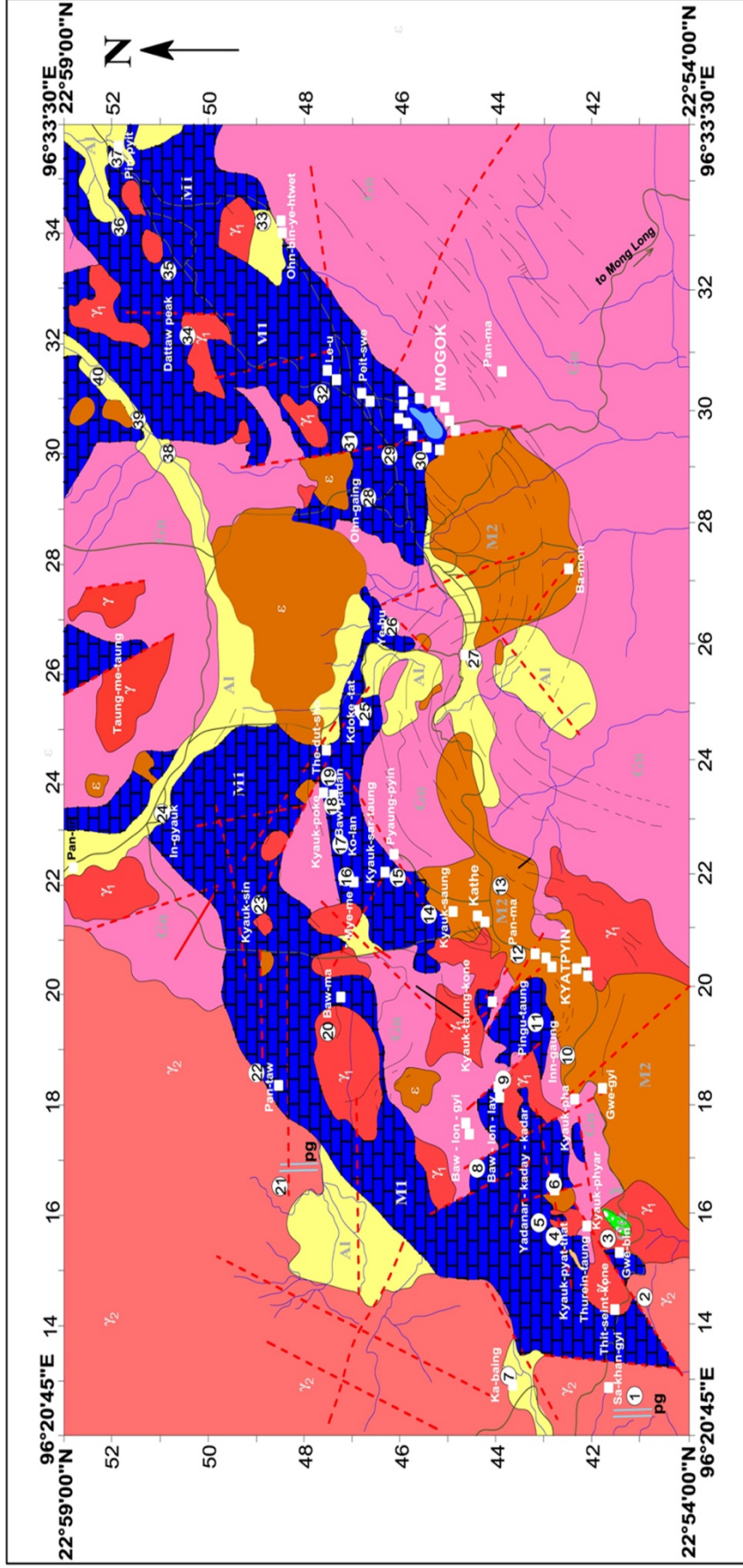
Concordia plot of  
LA-ICP-MS U-Pb  
Zircon age  
(31-32 Ma)  
of the zircon  
inclusion in  
the ruby





(after Mitchell, 1992)





**Explanation**

Quaternary	Alluvium	AI
Middle Miocene	Igneous Rocks	pg
Middle Miocene	Pegmatites and aprites	pg
Middle Miocene	Kabaing Granite (Biotite Microgranite)	$\gamma_2$
Late Oligocene	Syenitic rocks	$\epsilon$
Early Oligocene	Leucogranite	$\gamma_1$
Early Cretaceous	Augite-biotite granite	$\gamma$

<b>Metamorphic Rocks (metamorphosed Lower Paleozoic rock units)</b>	
Gwe-bin Quartzite	M2
Aye-nye-in-chan-thar Calc-silicate rocks and Graphitic Marble	M1
Wabyu Taung (Ruby bearing) Marble	Ca
Kabe Gneiss	Ca

Fault	— — —
Fold	
Lithologic boundary	—
Stream	
Road	
Village	
Mine site	①

**SCALE**

0 1 km 1 mile

# Geology (continued)

Intrusions include:

- ❖ Nepheline syenites transformed to Ijolite (>75% nepheline + cpx + zircon + other) bearing sapphire (e.g., Thuyin-taung ).
- ❖ Complex granite pegmatite bearing tourmaline, topaz, aquamarine, gem sanidine, etc. at various places in the Tract (e.g., Sakangyi, Dattaw, Ohn-gaing, etc.).

# Ruby Assemblages:

Large rubies in calcite/marble often intersected by veins bearing:

- ❖ Blue dichroic balliranoite



- ❖ Colorless sodalite  $[\text{Na}_8\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}\text{Cl}_2]$

- ❖ Nubbly scapolite (mizzonite)  $[\text{Na}_4\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_9\text{O}_{24}\text{Cl} - \text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}(\text{CO}_3)]$

- ❖ Sometimes nepheline, pargasite, pyrite, phlogopite, and sanidine.



Ruby on scapolite, Dattaw



108414

Balliranoite

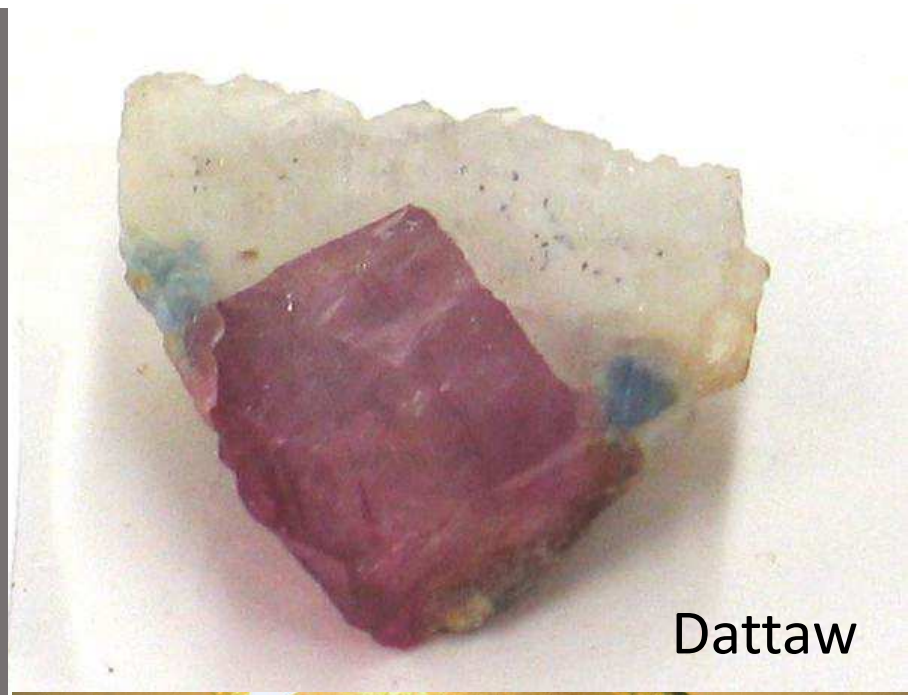
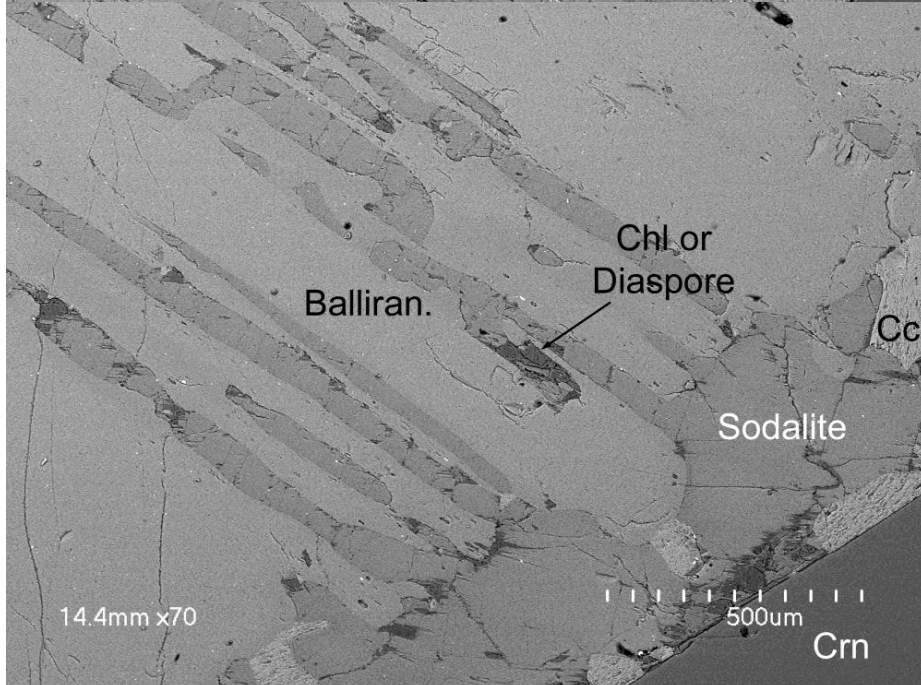
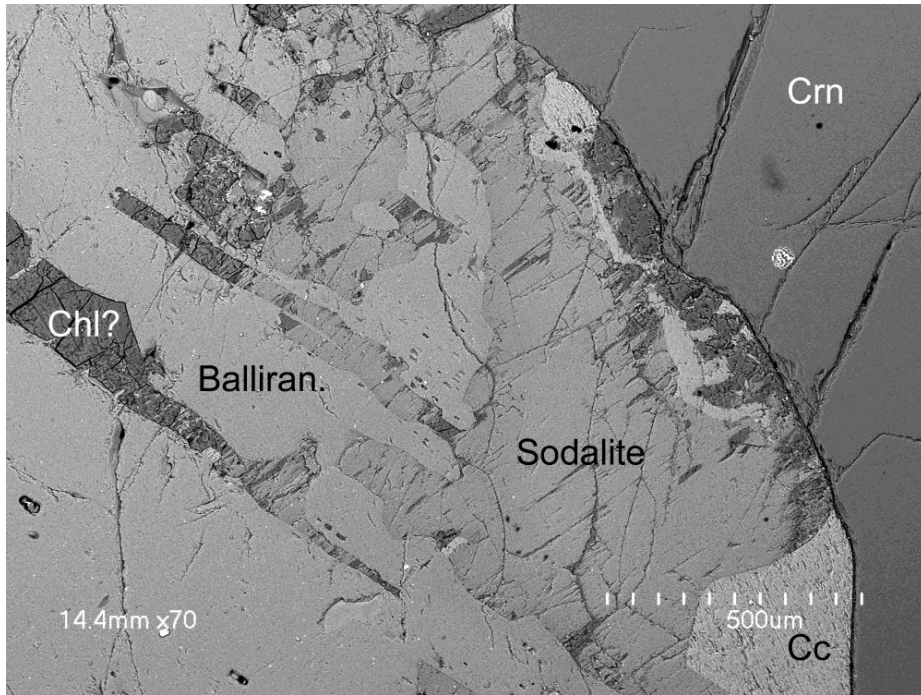


Ruby

Sadanagaite  
(amphibole)

Marble

107971



# Ruby on Painite

$\text{CaZrAl}_9\text{O}_{15}[\text{BO}_3]$



Painite ( $\text{CaZrAl}_9\text{O}_{15}[\text{BO}_3]$ ), from Wet Loo area in skarn formed between leucogranite and marble – assemblage includes margarite, tourmaline (mostly foitite), zircon, baddeleyite and rutile. Ruby appears as overgrowths but also as inclusions in painite.



# Primary Ruby Mine ; Baw Padan



## Primary Ruby Mine; Kyauk Saung





# Primary Ruby Mine; Kyauk Poke

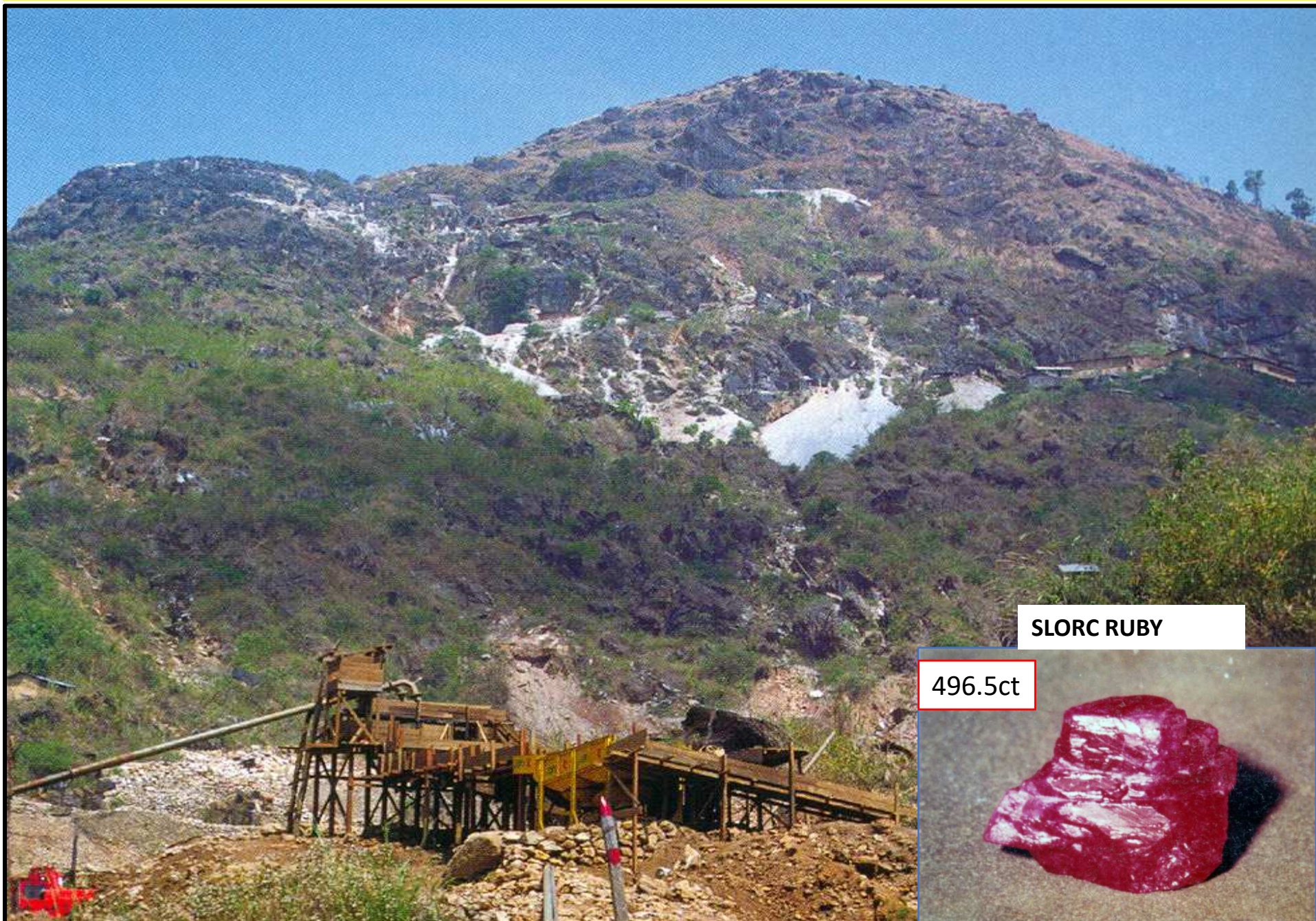


Big Mama



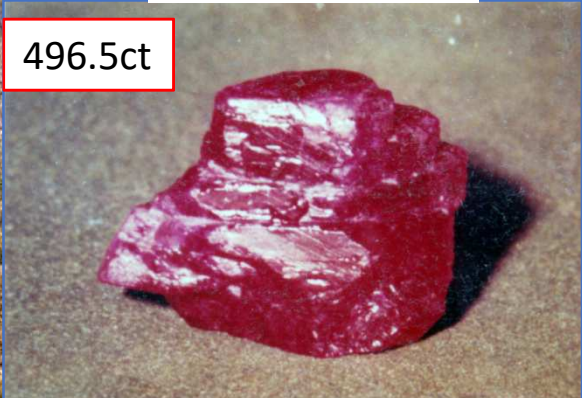
Pala Int.

# Primary Ruby Mine; Dattaw



**SLORC RUBY**

496.5ct



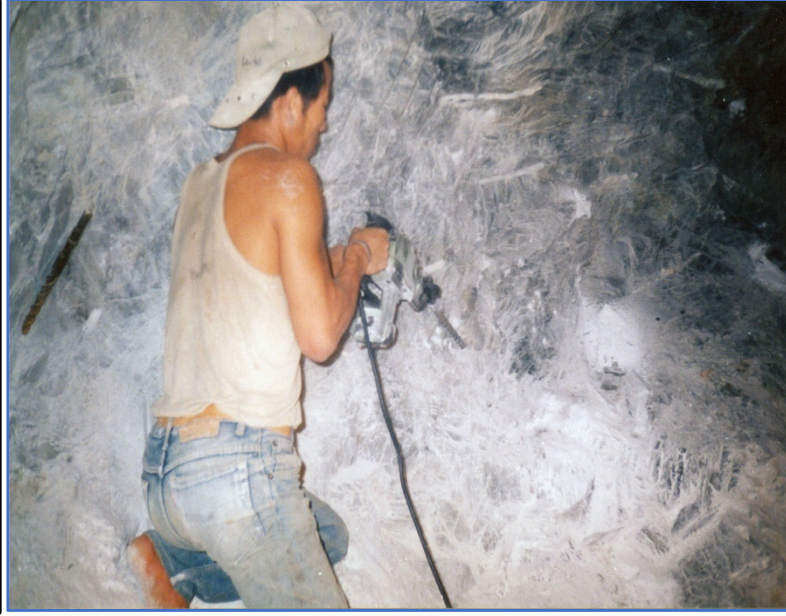
## Mining in Primary Ruby Deposits



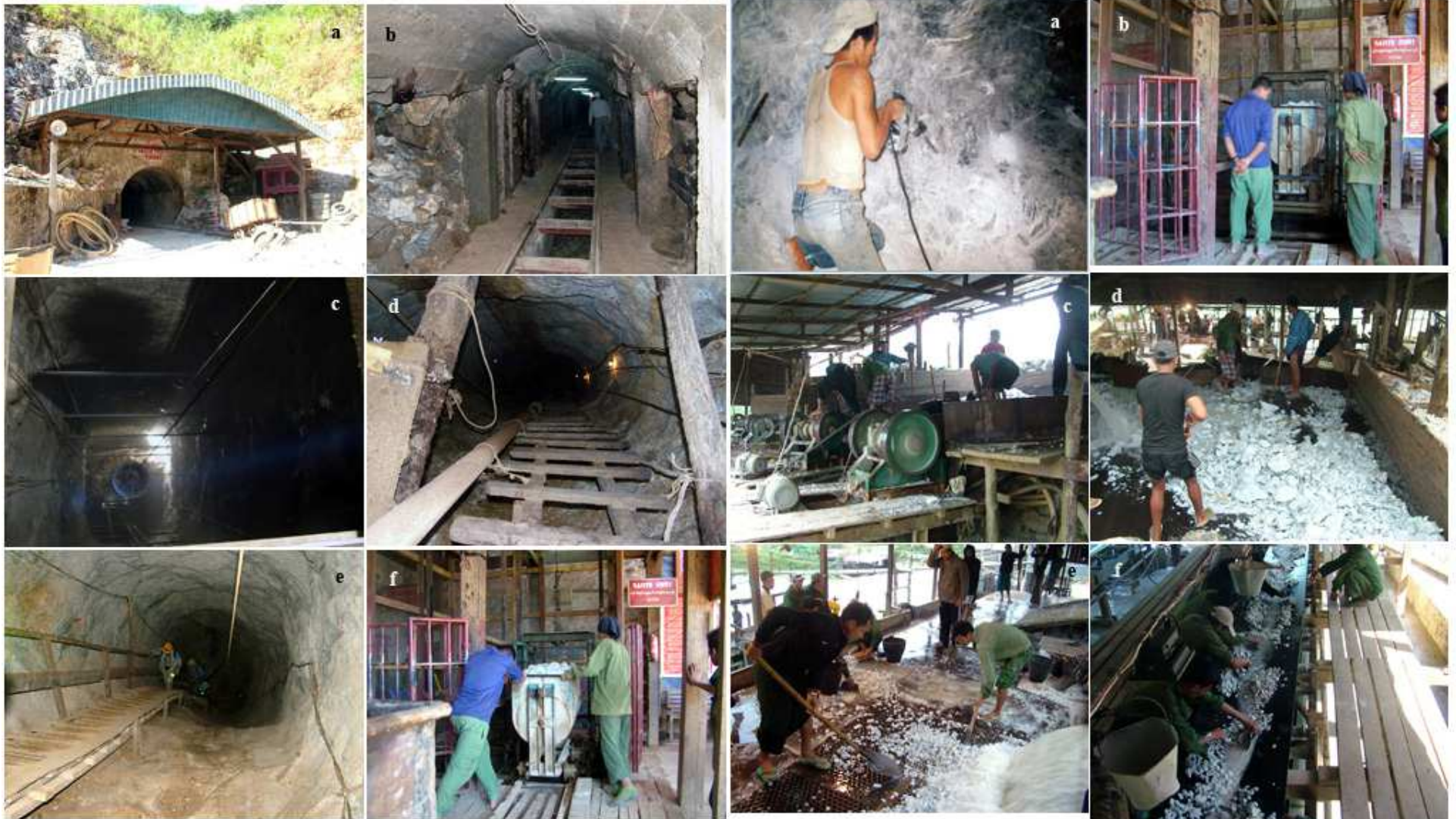
## DRILLING – MAKING THE DYNAMITE STICK- BLASTING



# Aditting, Blasting & Trimming



# Systematic Mining in Primary Ruby Deposit

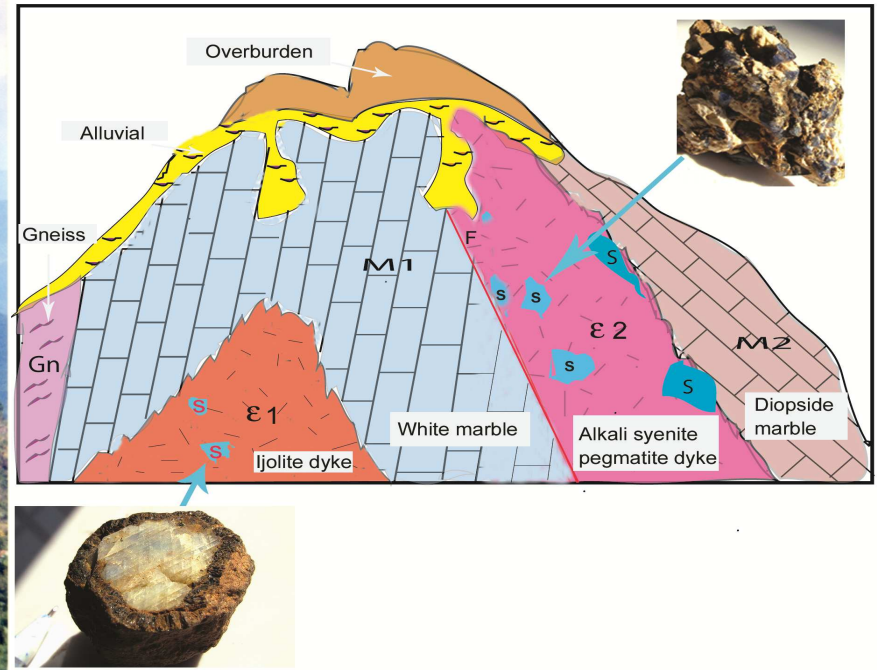


## Sapphires in Syenite Pegmatite

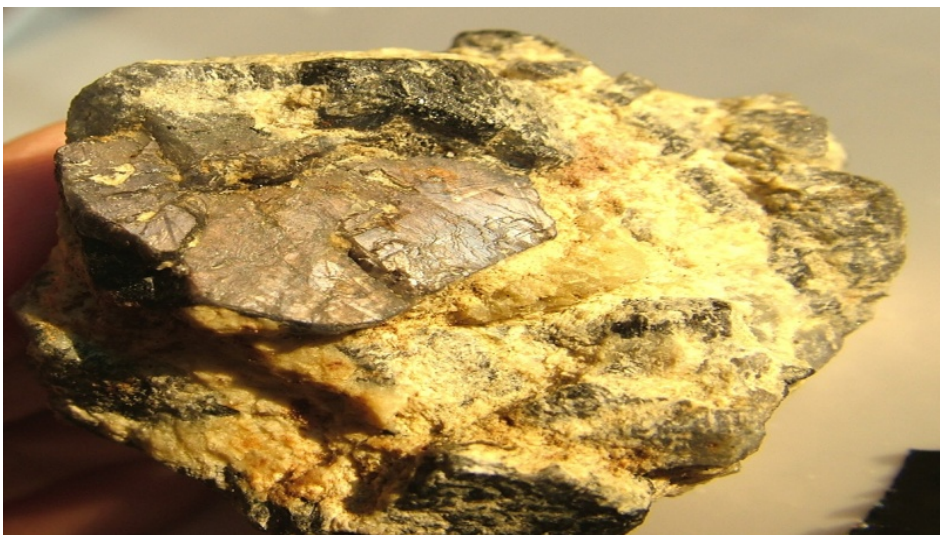


The miners digging the sapphire from syenite pegmatite dyke in Buga mine, On-dan,  $22^{\circ} 59' 7''$  N,  $96^{\circ} 12' 51''$  E

# Sapphires in Syenite Pegmatite and Ijolite



Geological sketch model of Thurein Taung



Sapphire crystal with “black silk” in feldspar ground mass of nepheline syenite, On-dan

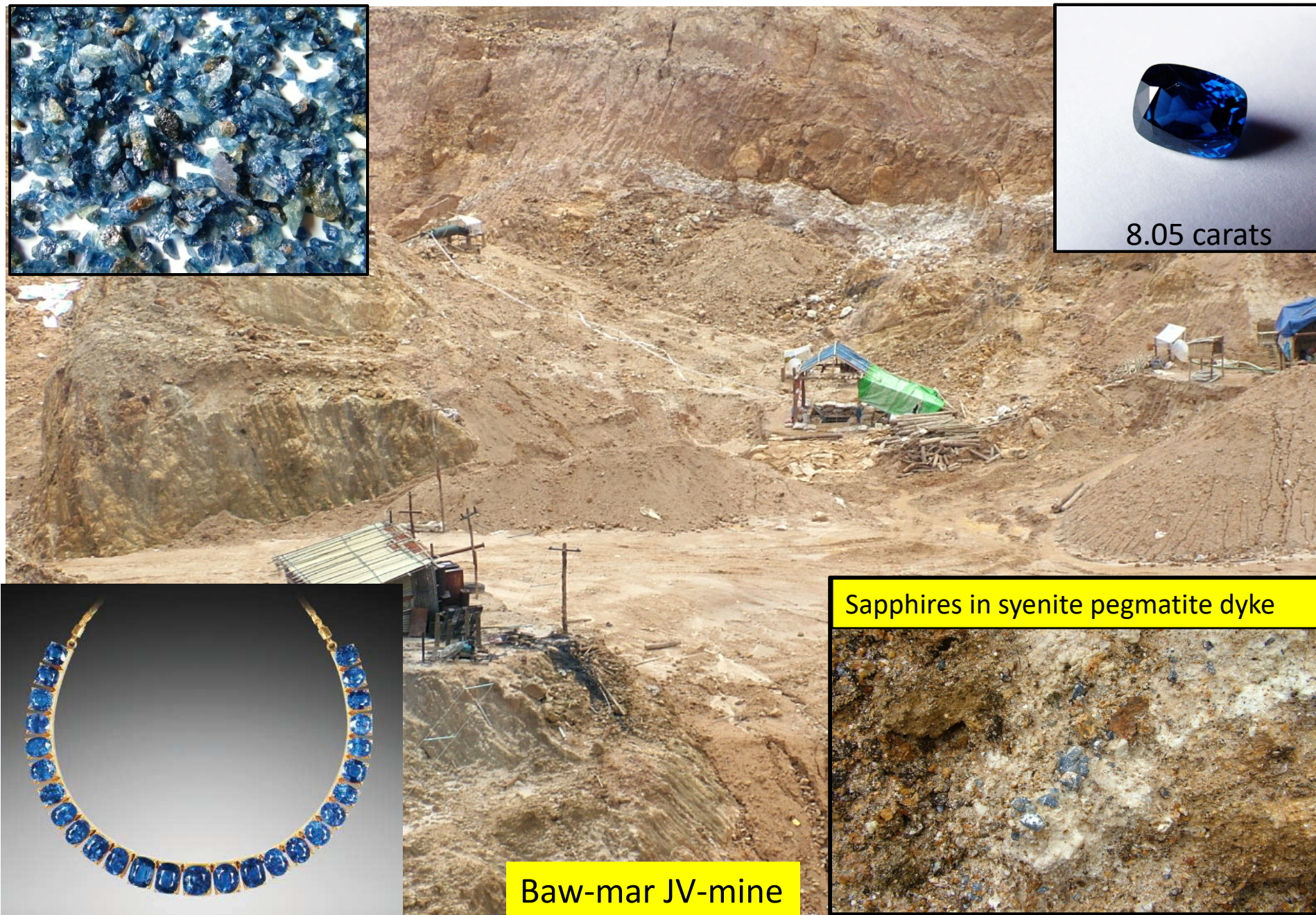
## Sapphires in Syenite Pegmatite



Alkali syenite pegmatite dykes intruded in calc-silicate rocks and local miners digging sapphires from highly weathered syenite pegmatite, JV mine of Lay-thar,  $23^{\circ} 00' 26.3''$  N,  $96^{\circ} 30' 19.5''$  E



# Sapphire in Syenite Pegmatite and Skarn



Sapphires in syenite pegmatite dyke



Baw-mar JV-mine



# Primary Sapphires Deposit from Contact Metasomatism; Htayan Sho



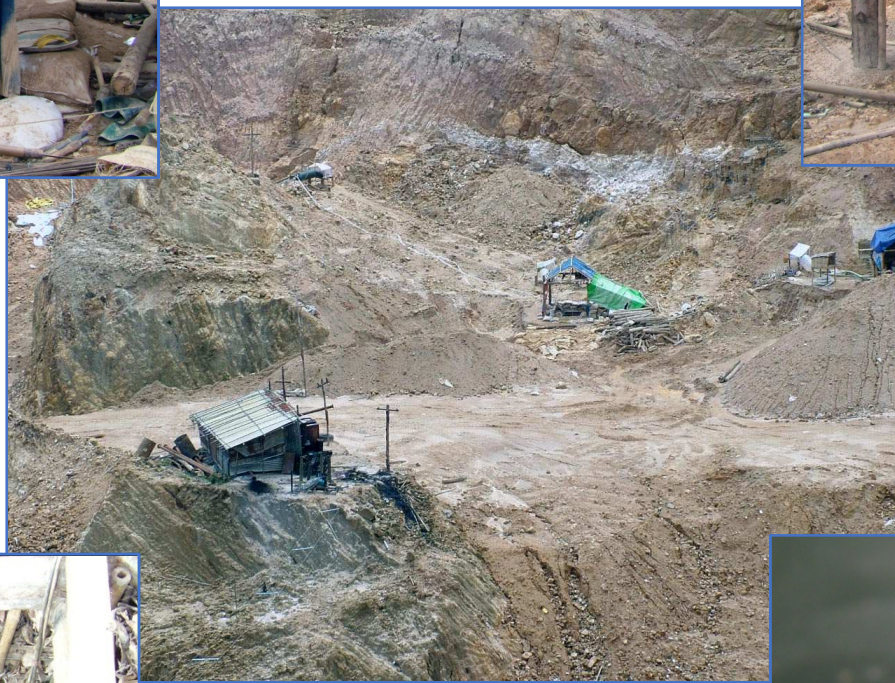
# Mining in Primary Sapphire Deposits



Air pump



Adit



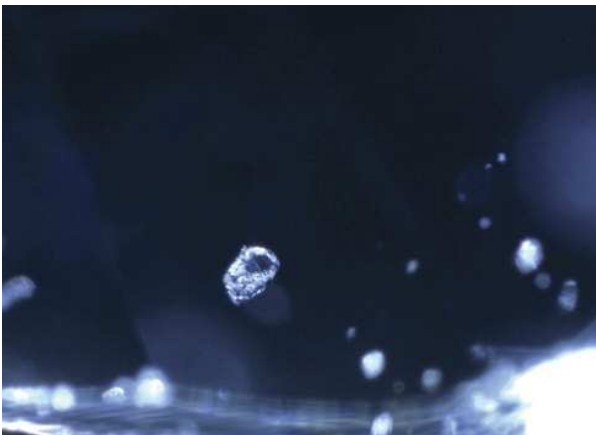
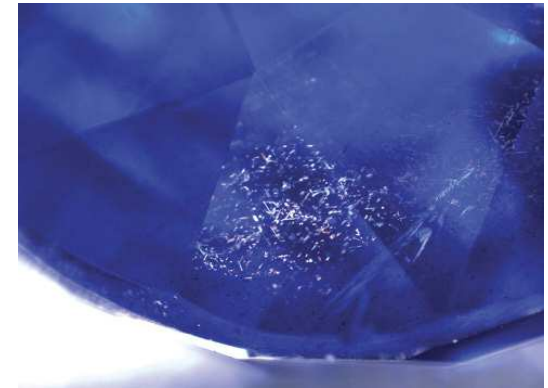
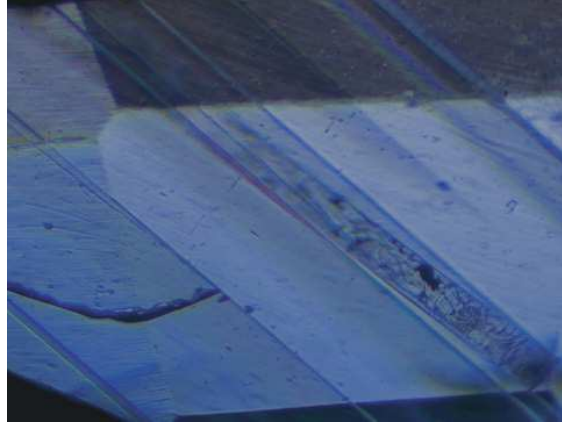
Sapphires in syenite pegmatite



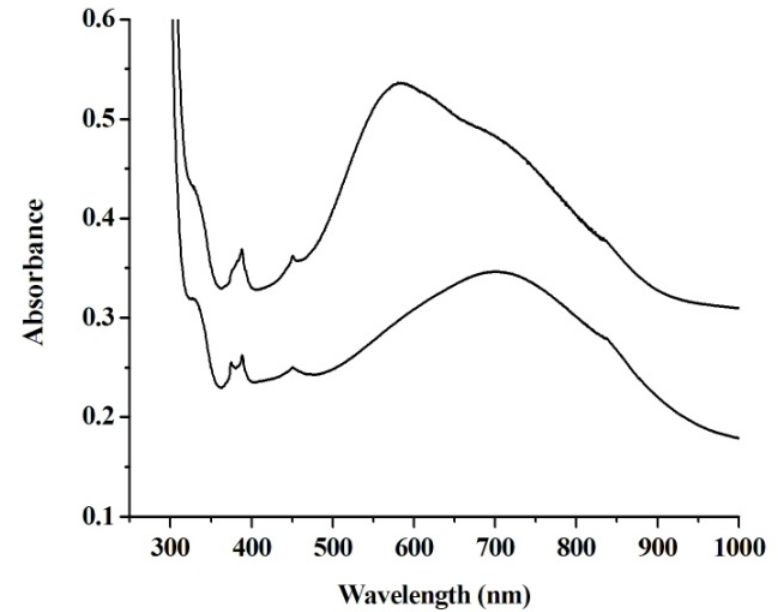
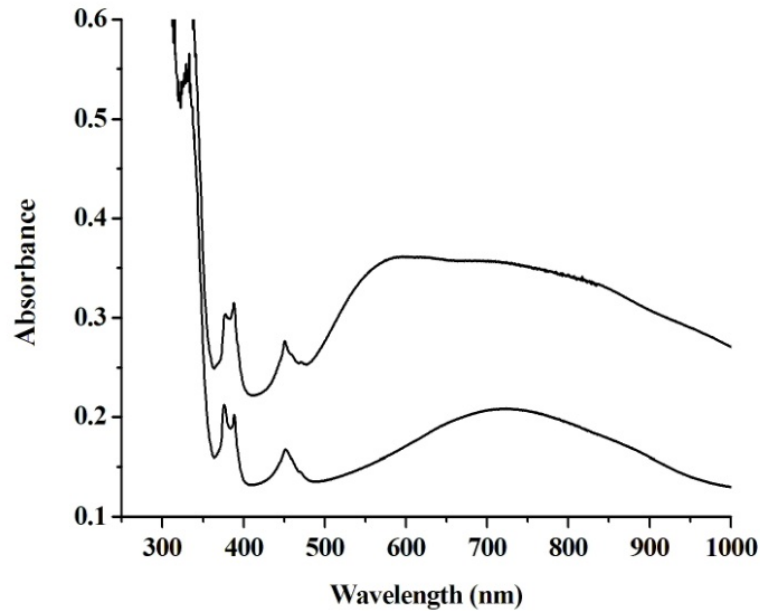
Baw-mar JV-mine



# Inclusion in Baw Mar Sapphires



# UV-VIS-NIR Spectra of Baw Mar Sapphire & Classic Mogok Sapphire



*The polarized UV-Vis-NIR spectra from 250 to 1000 nm of sample SABUM282 show pronounced bands related to iron.*

The polarized UV-Vis-NIR spectra from 250 to 1000 nm of a “classic” Burmese blue sapphire are different from those of Baw Mar blue sapphire.

# Spinel in Marble



Anyant Taung (Spinel Hill), Pein-pyit mine

## PROMINENT RUBIES & SAPPHIRES OF MOGOK



Natural Rubies (Mogok)  
and Diamonds Jewels



Bismark Sapphire 98.6 ct  
NMNH, Smithsonian



Carmen Lucia Ruby 23.10ct  
NMNH, Smithsonian



Star of Asia 329.7 ct  
NMNH, Smithsonian

# Analysis

- ❖ X-ray Diffraction for phase verification

- ❖ BSE imaging and EDS/EPMA for inclusions

- ❖ Laser-Ablation Inductively-Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy for trace-elements:

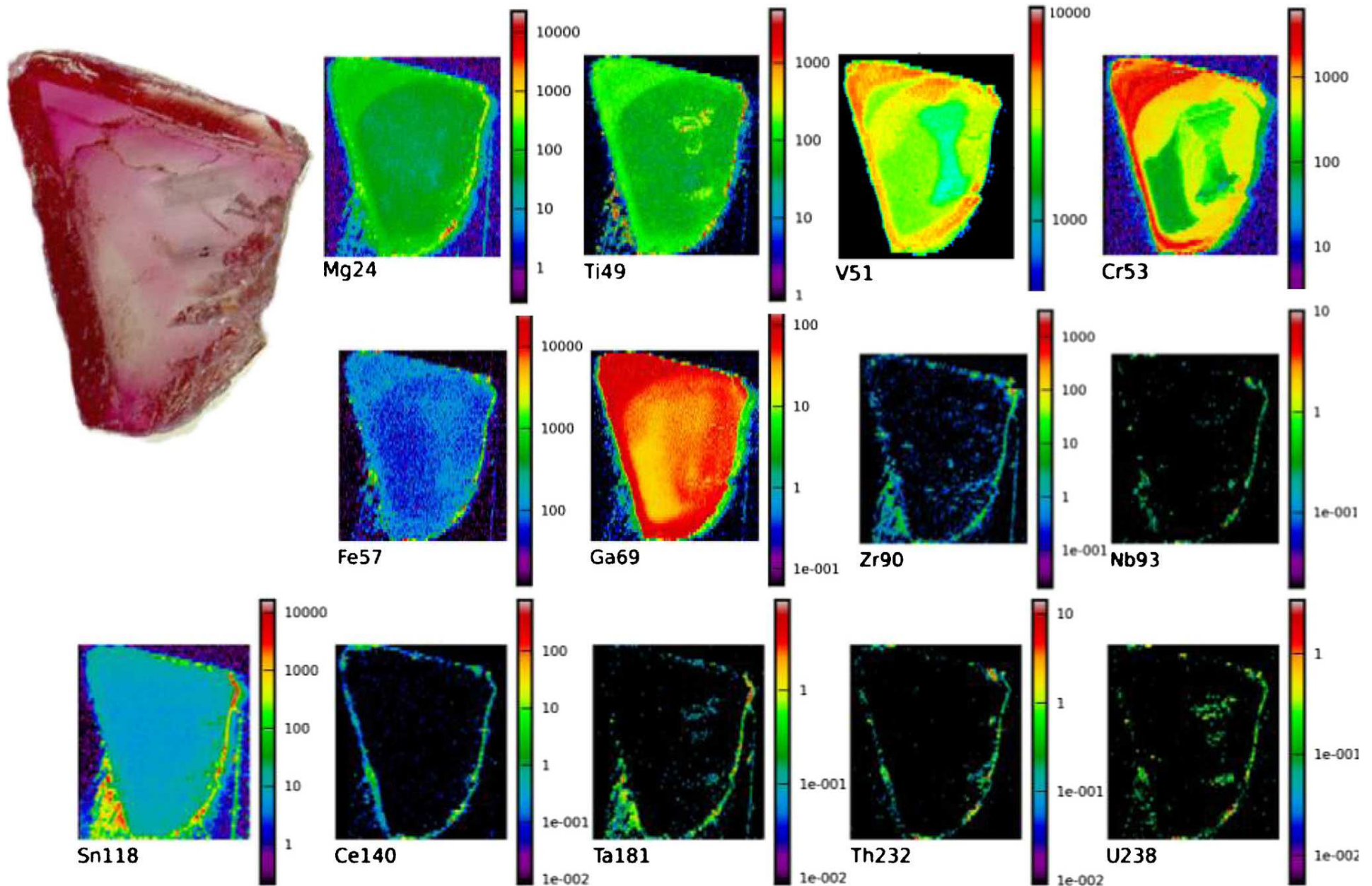
7Li, 9Be, 11B, 24Mg, 27Al (internal standard), 29Si, 43Ca, 44Ca, 47Ti, 51V, 52Cr, 55Mn, 57Fe, 65Cu, 66Zn, 69Ga, 90Zr, 93Nb, 118Sn, 120Sn(Te), 138Ba, and 181Ta

- ❖ Electron Probe Micro-Analysis (EPMA) for minor elements:  
Si, Ti, V, Cr, Ga, Mg, Mn, Fe, Zn, Ca, Na

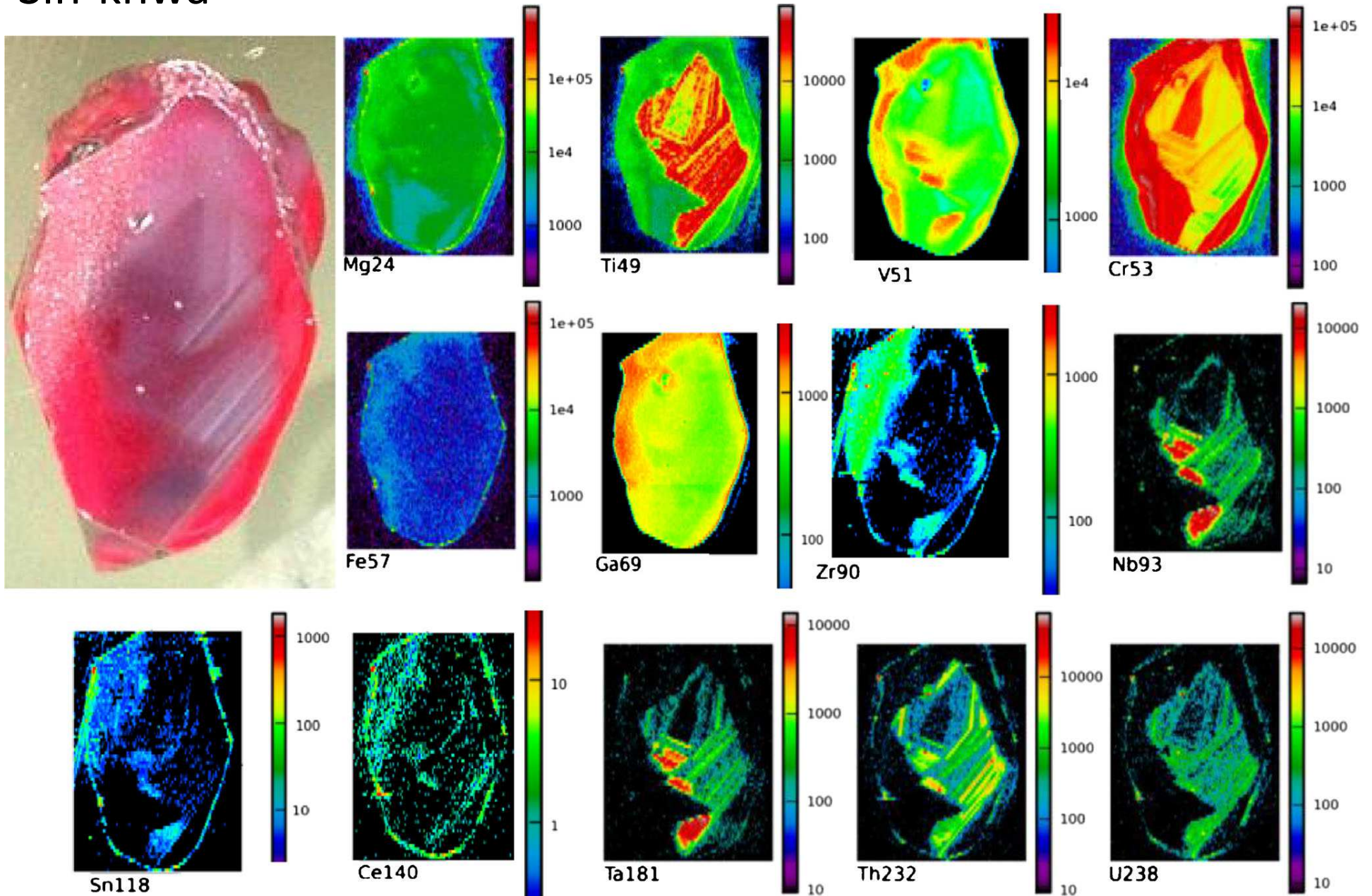
- ❖ Oxygen isotope composition



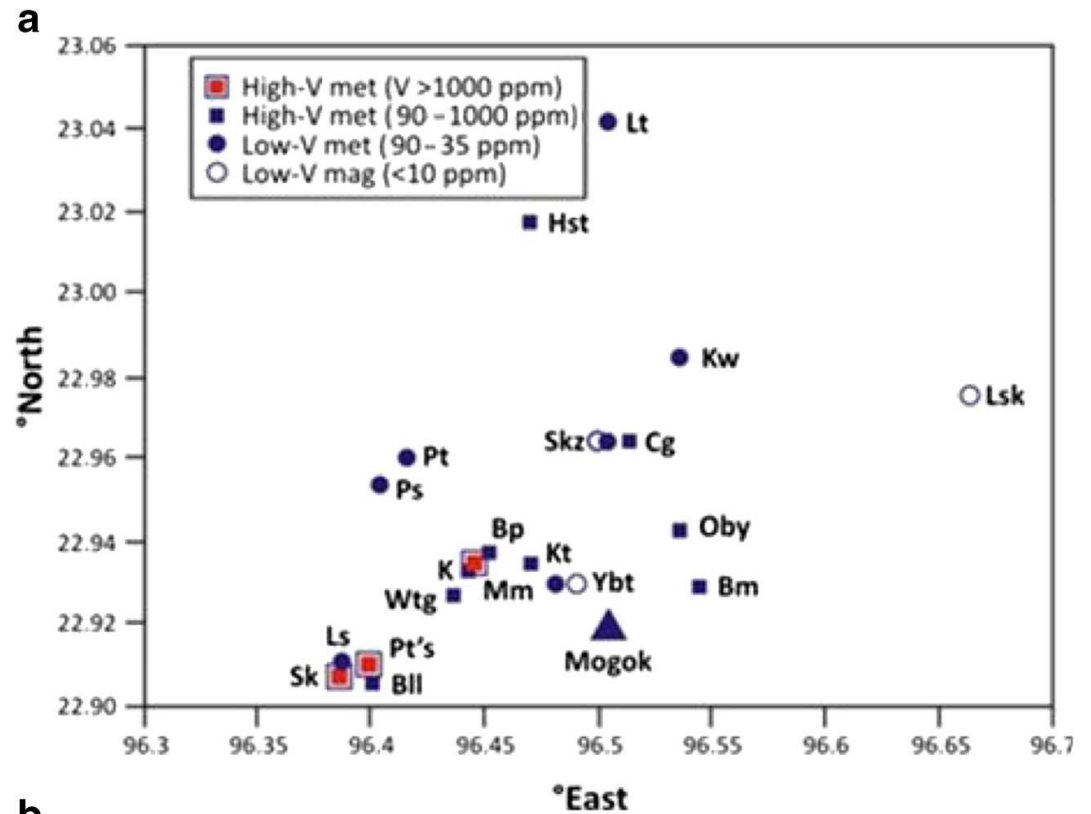
# LA-ICP-MS trace element images of a ruby Pingu-taung



# LA-ICP-MS trace element images of a ruby Sin-khwa

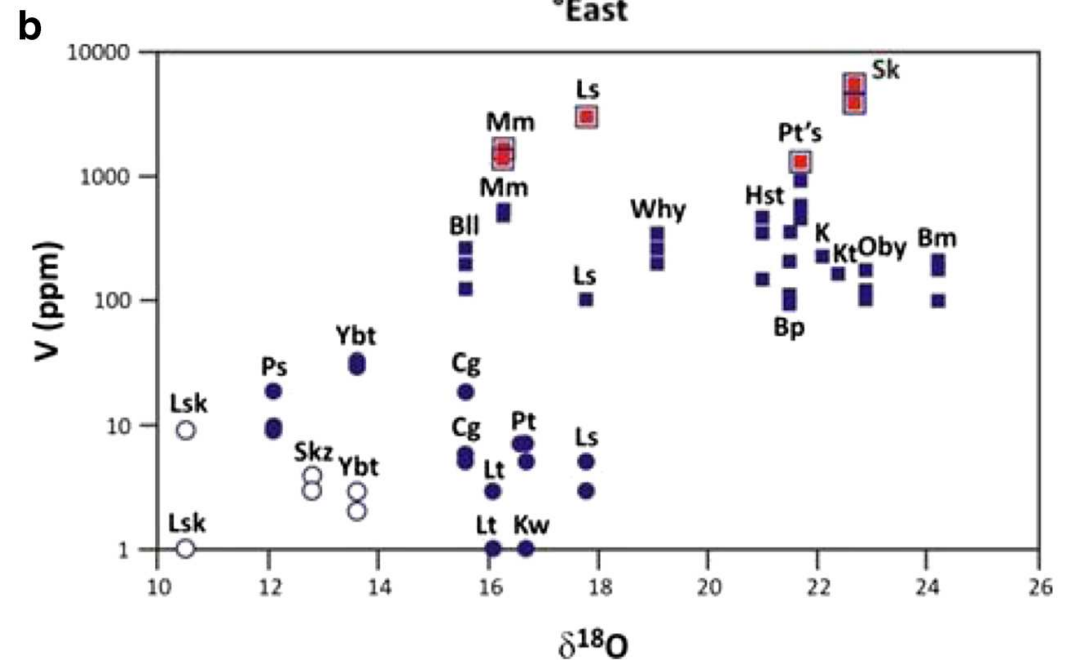


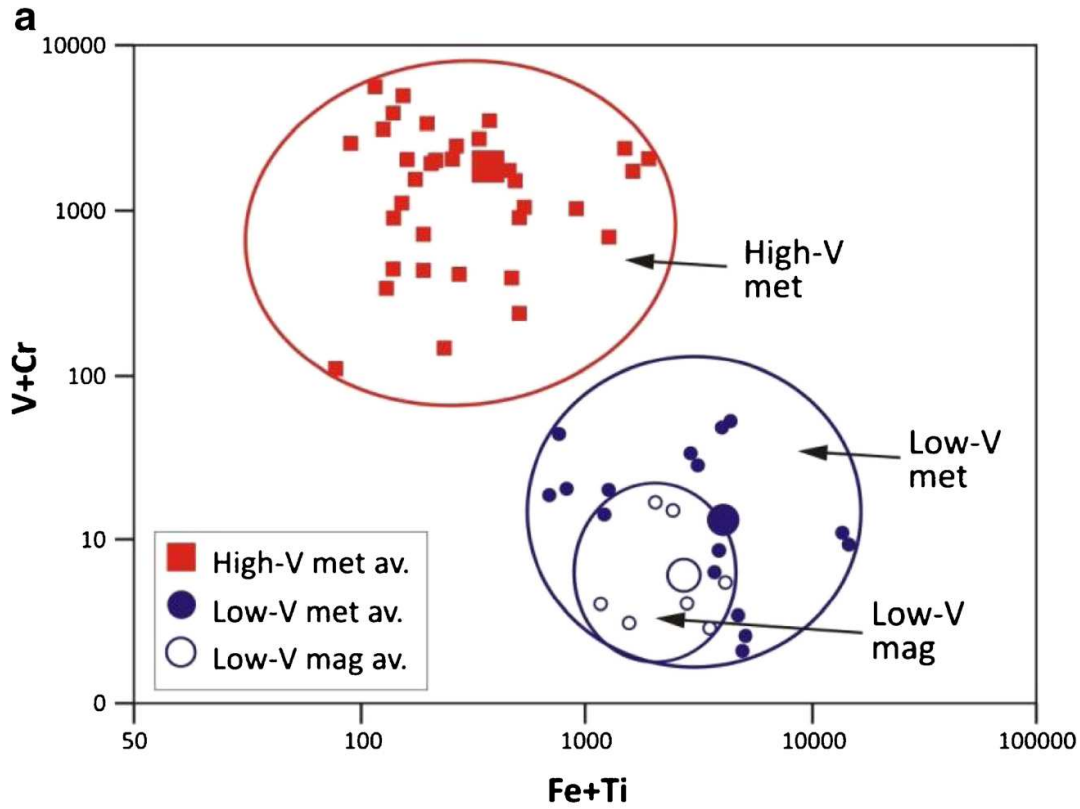
(a) Lat/Long plot of V-levels of ruby and sapphire



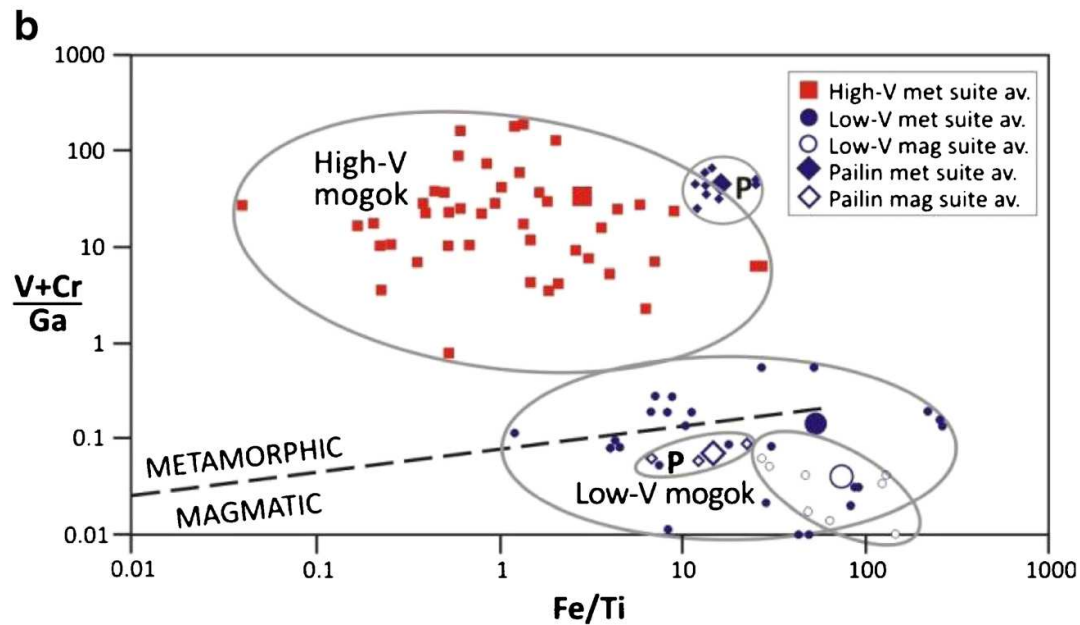
$^{18}\text{O}$  composition  
 Ruby -15.6 to 24.2%  
 Sapphire - 10.6 to 22.7%

(b) V ppm Vs  $^{18}\text{O}$  of ruby and sapphire



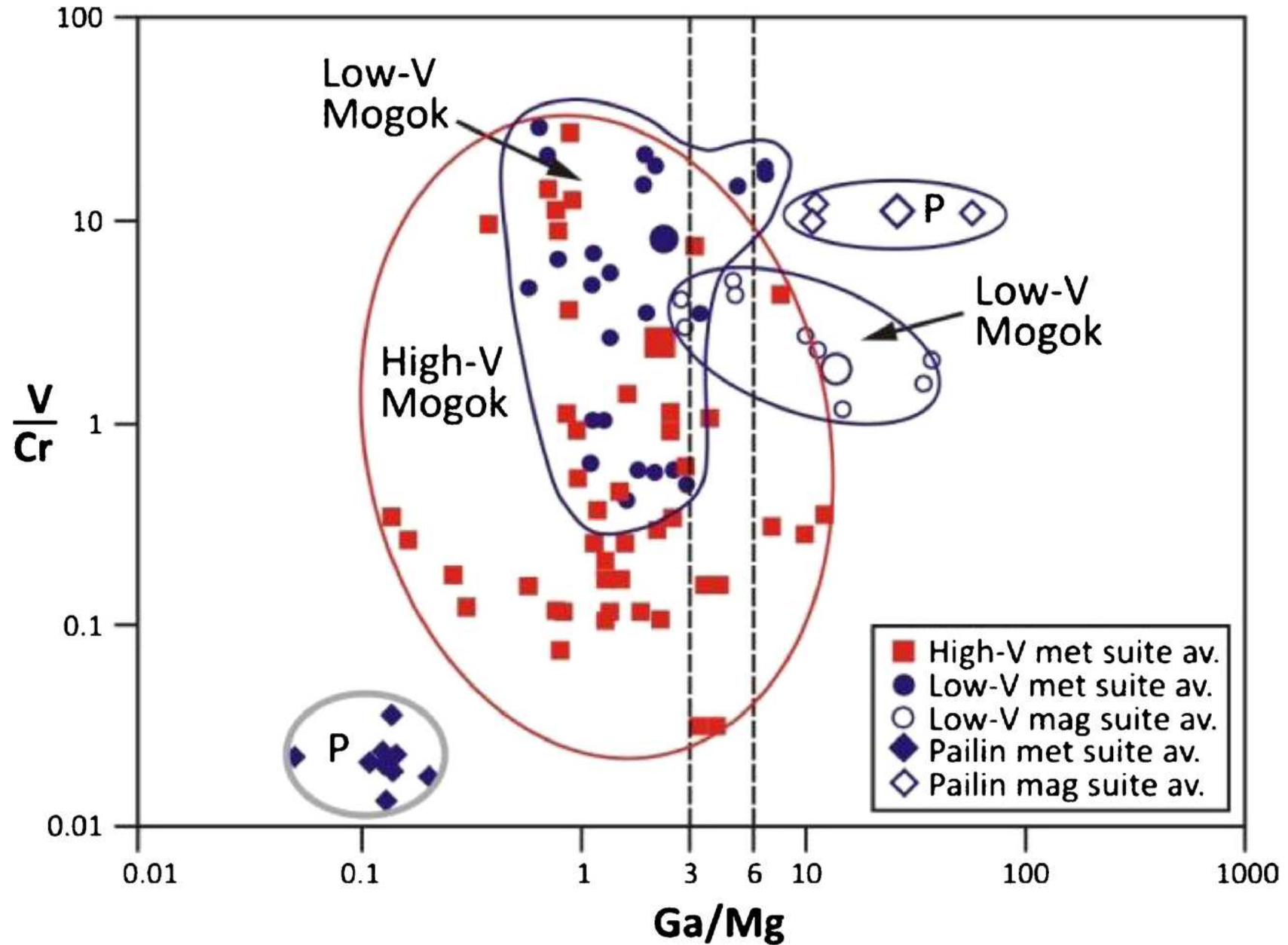


(a) V+Cr Vs Fe+Ti plot



(b) V+Cr/Ga Vs Fe/Ti plot

# V/Cr Vs Ga/Mg plot of ruby and sapphire



# Mogok Ruby Interpretations

- ❖ Iyer (1953) did the most detailed field study and found ruby was associated with pneumatolytic veins from igneous intrusions.
- ❖ Gubelin (1960s?) suggested melt hybridization in reaction of granites with marble to crystallize ruby, diopside, and olivine.
- ❖ Garnier et al. (2008): a closed-system metamorphic origin for many of the marble-hosted ruby sources from platform carbonate containing evaporite/organic-rich shale units.
- ❖ Harlow (2013): Test hypothesis that skarn origin should affect corundum trace-element composition, particularly B and Zr (in painite) or other pegmatite/granite abundant elements (Li, Be, etc.)

# Peridot from Pyaung-Gaung



## Introduction: *Peridot*

- ❖ Gem variety of forsteritic olivine.
- ❖ Small stones (~<5 carats) mostly from dunites.
- ❖ Large stones and well-formed crystals are from only 3 deposits: Zabargad Island, Egypt; Pyaung-Gaung, Myanmar; and Sapat, Kohistan, Pakistan.
- ❖ Sapat and Zabargad peridots form in pockets in tectonized dunite with evidence for (re)crystallization from a hydrous fluid.





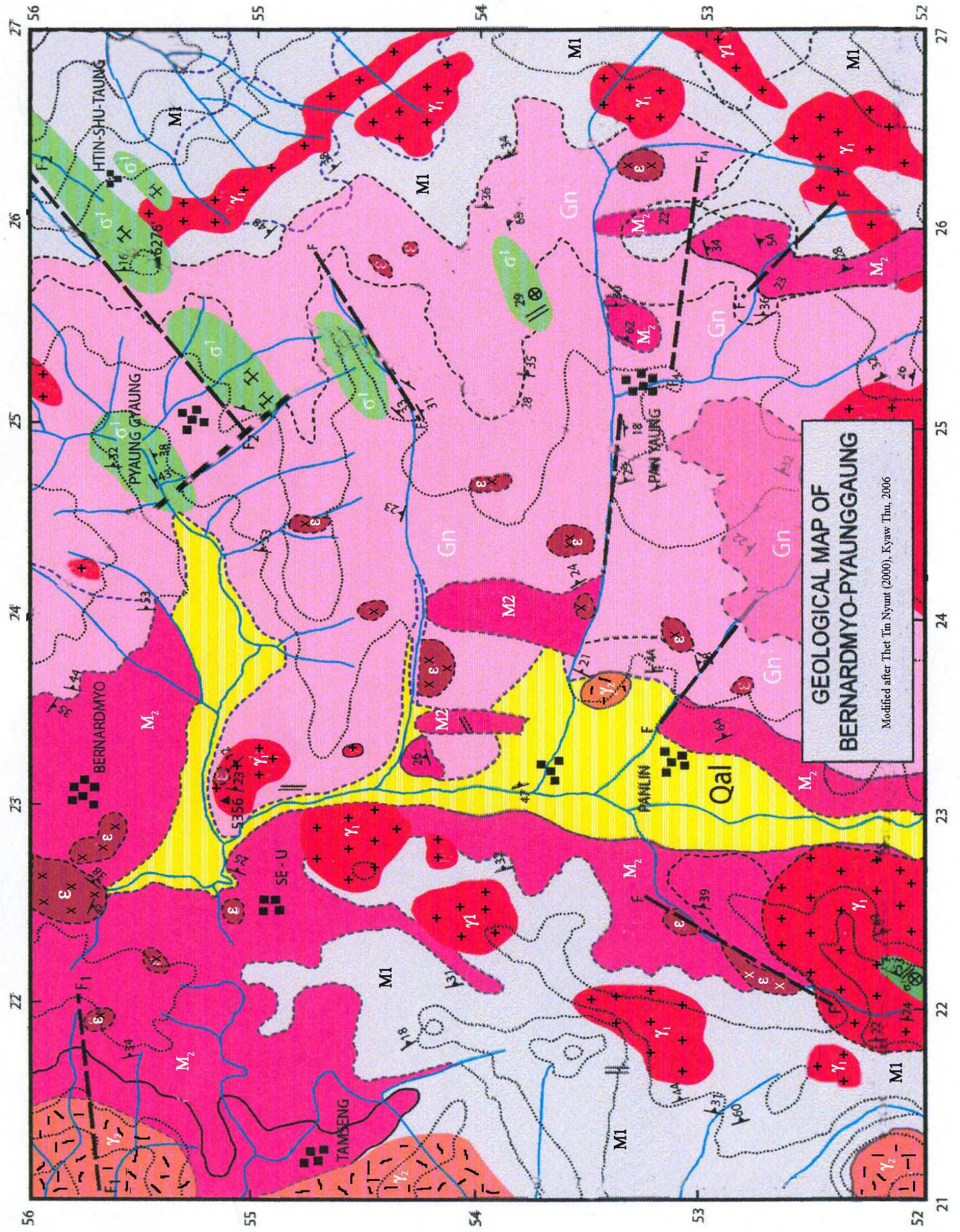


4.8 cm Pyaung-Gaung Peridot



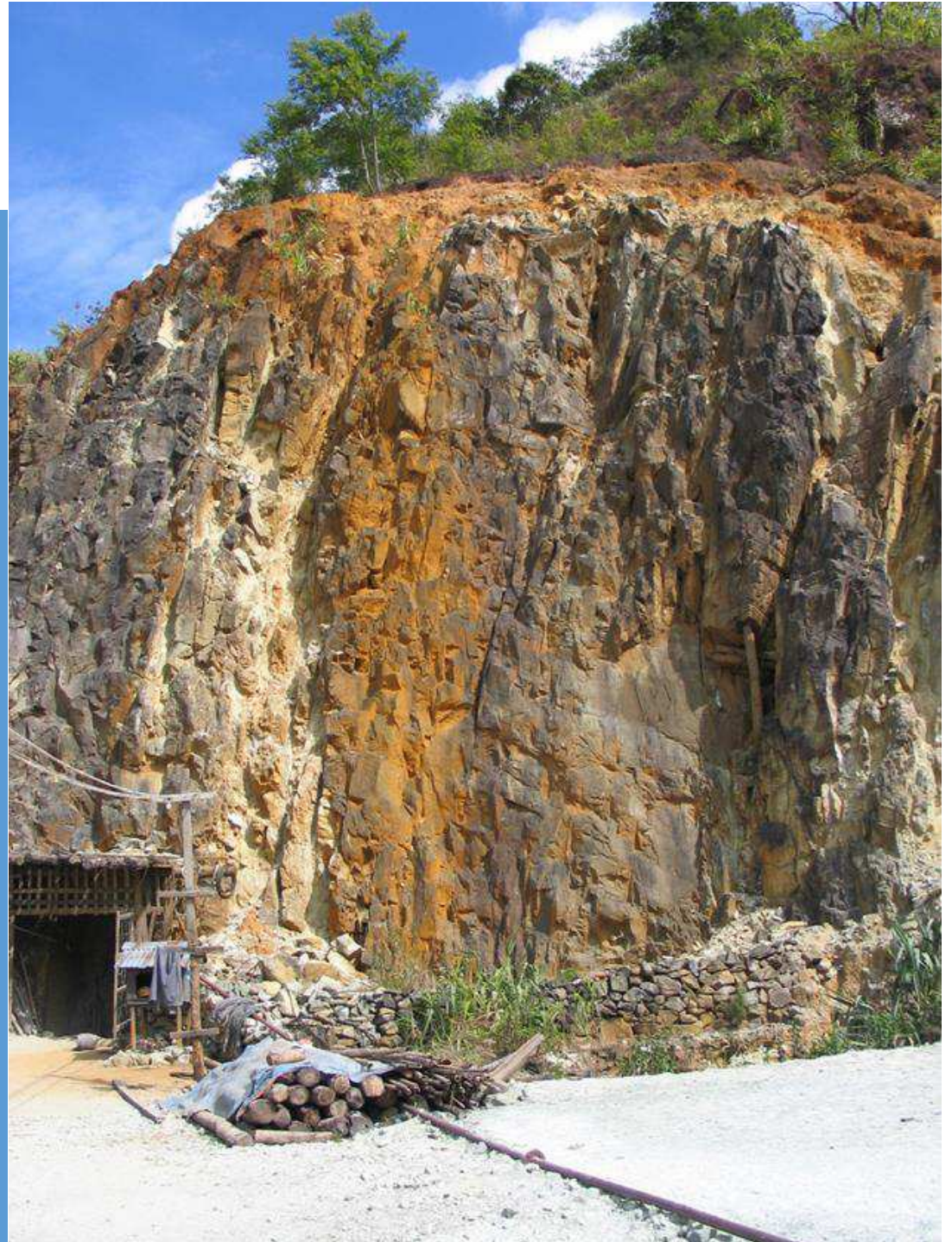
# Geology

- ❖ Mogok Belt: marbles and schists.
  - ❖ Sediments as old as Proterozoic (>750 Ma) but mostly Paleozoic (650 – 300 Ma).
  - ❖ Multiple early metamorphic events—Jurassic (185 Ma) & Cretaceous (~150 Ma), last by collision of Burma Block with Shan plateau. Boundary along which ultramafics and **peridot is associated, however no dating.**
  - ❖ More extensive metamorphism and granite intrusions from Indian Block collision as recently as Miocene (26 – 15 Ma). Probable latest event affecting **peridot.**
  - ❖ Ruby and spinel are marble-hosted; sapphire in syenitic dikes; and tourmaline, topaz, etc. in granitic pegmatites; peridot in uplifted ultramafic.
  - ❖ **Lots of evidence for involvement of fluids.**



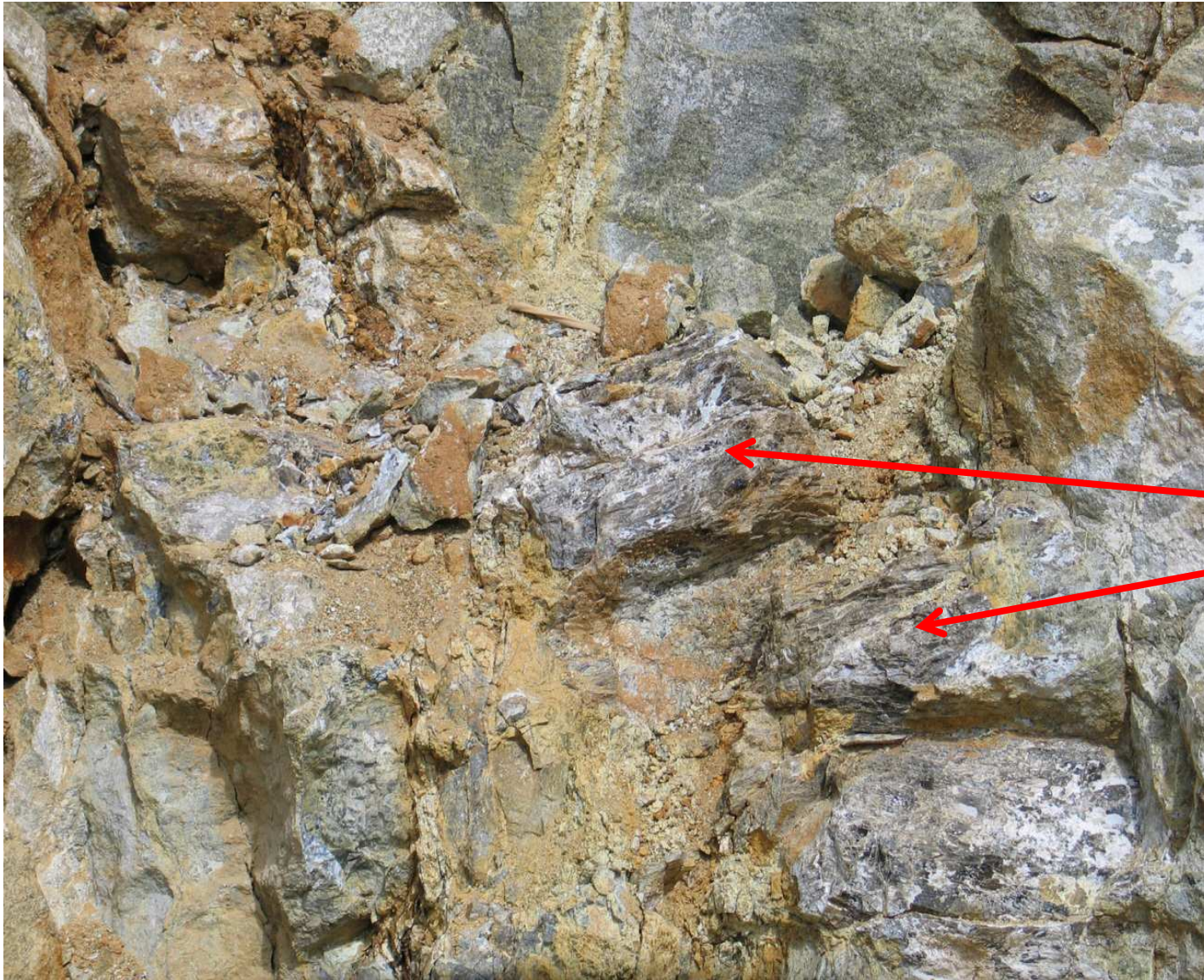
**GEOLOGICAL MAP OF  
BERNARDMYO-PYAUNGGAUNG**  
Modified after Thet Tin Nyaunt (2000), Kyaw Tin, 2006

Entrance to underground Mya-sein-taung mine at Pyaung-gaung with adjacent weathered outcrop of partially serpentinized peridotite. Rustiness indicates that there is still olivine in the peridotite that has not been reacted to become serpentinite.





Partially serpentinized, tectonized peridotite (yellow-green) outcrop showing the subhorizontal planar shear feature (decorated with Mg) cut by fractures exposing surfaces partially coated with a mixture of talc and serpentine (white & brown).



Enstatite

Close up of outcrop exposing a large vein of brown enstatite (coated by talc and carbonate), running upper left to lower right through the chaotic exposure. The image is about a meter across.



Close up of a small area of pocket peridot, surrounded by talc + carbonate (white) and interspersed enstatite exposed in a fragmented rusty peridotite.





Two samples of a portion of pockets showing peridot crystals (green), white pocket filling (microcrystalline calcite, pyroaurite(?),  $\text{Mg}_6(\text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_{16.4}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , talc, and lizardite serpentine) and grayish serpentized pocket host rock

### ❖ Harzburgite (rare):

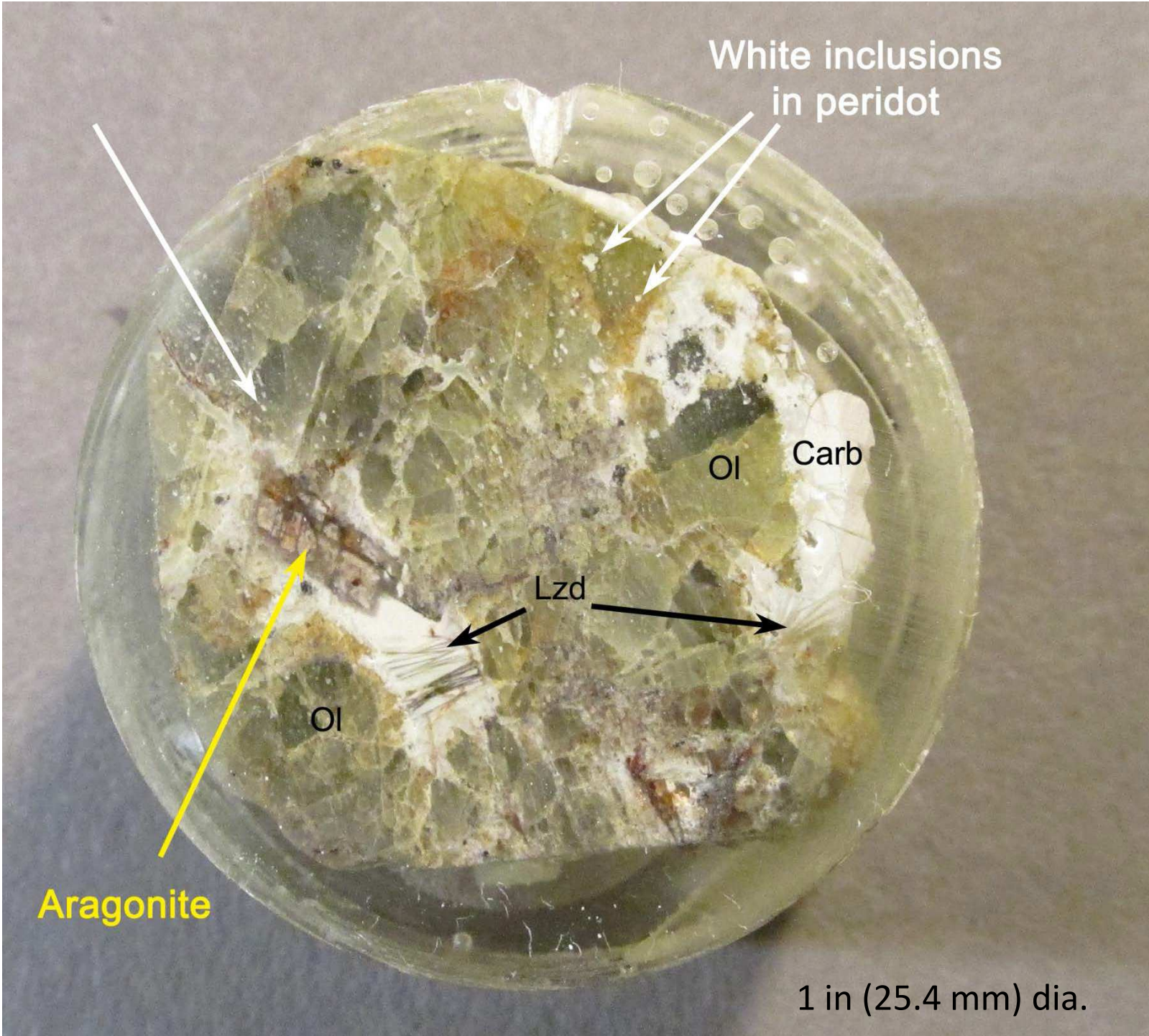
- olivine (Fo92-93), NiO = 0.4-0.5 wt%
- brown orthopyroxene (En92-93CaTs2)
- chromian magnetite (Mgt61Pcm18Cm10Sp9)

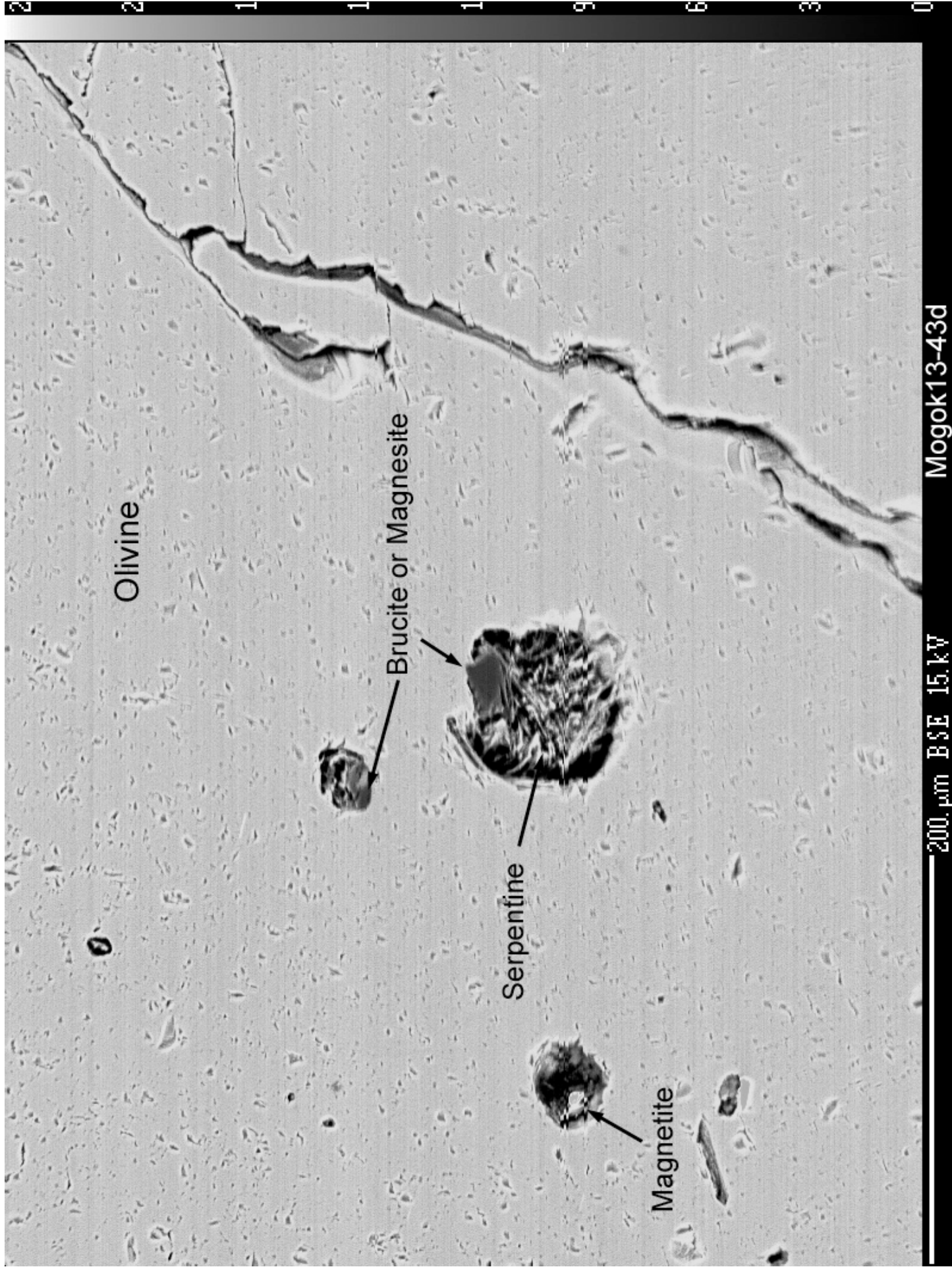
### ❖ Dunite

- olivine (Fo92-93), NiO = 0.4-0.5 wt%
- magnetite (Mgt65-70Cm20-22Pcm8Sp4)

### ❖ Peridot composition:

- Fo92-93, NiO = 0.4-0.5 wt%
- Very homogeneous





Olivine

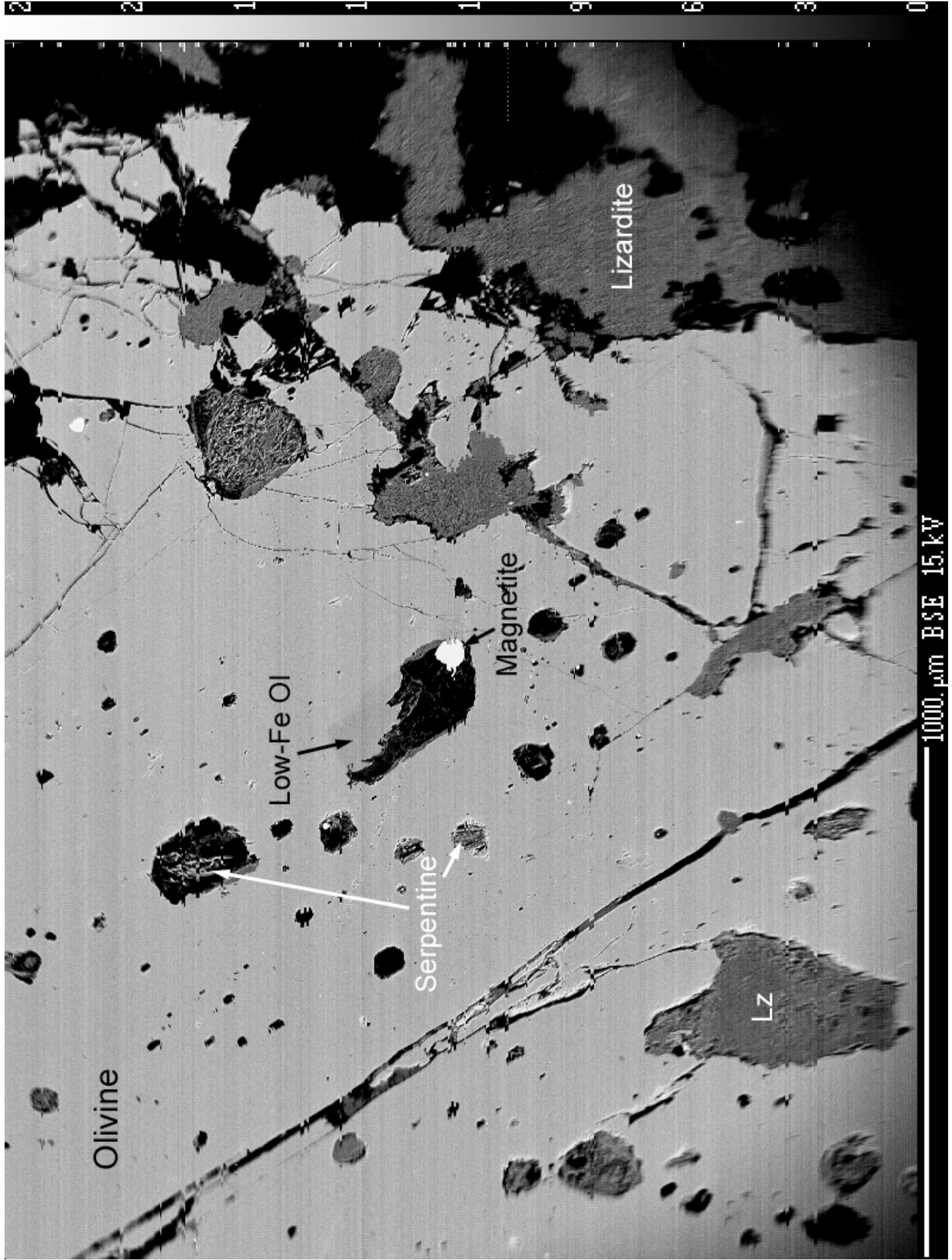
Brucite or Magnesite

Serpentine

Magnetite

200.µm BSE 15.kV

Mogok13-43d



Olivine

Low-Fe Ol

Serpentine

Magnetite

Lizardite

LZ

1000.0 μm BSE 15.0 kV

2

2

1

1

1

9

6

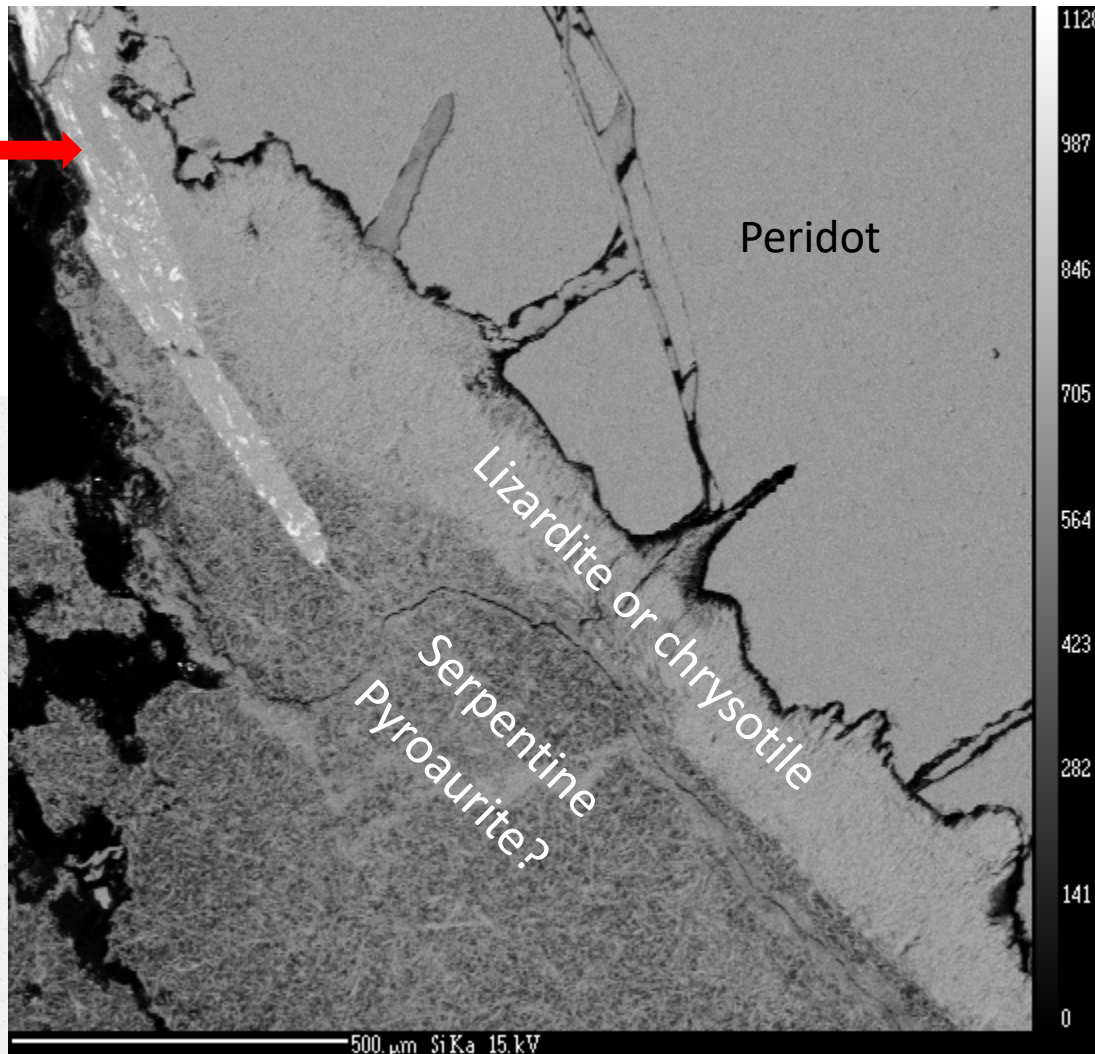
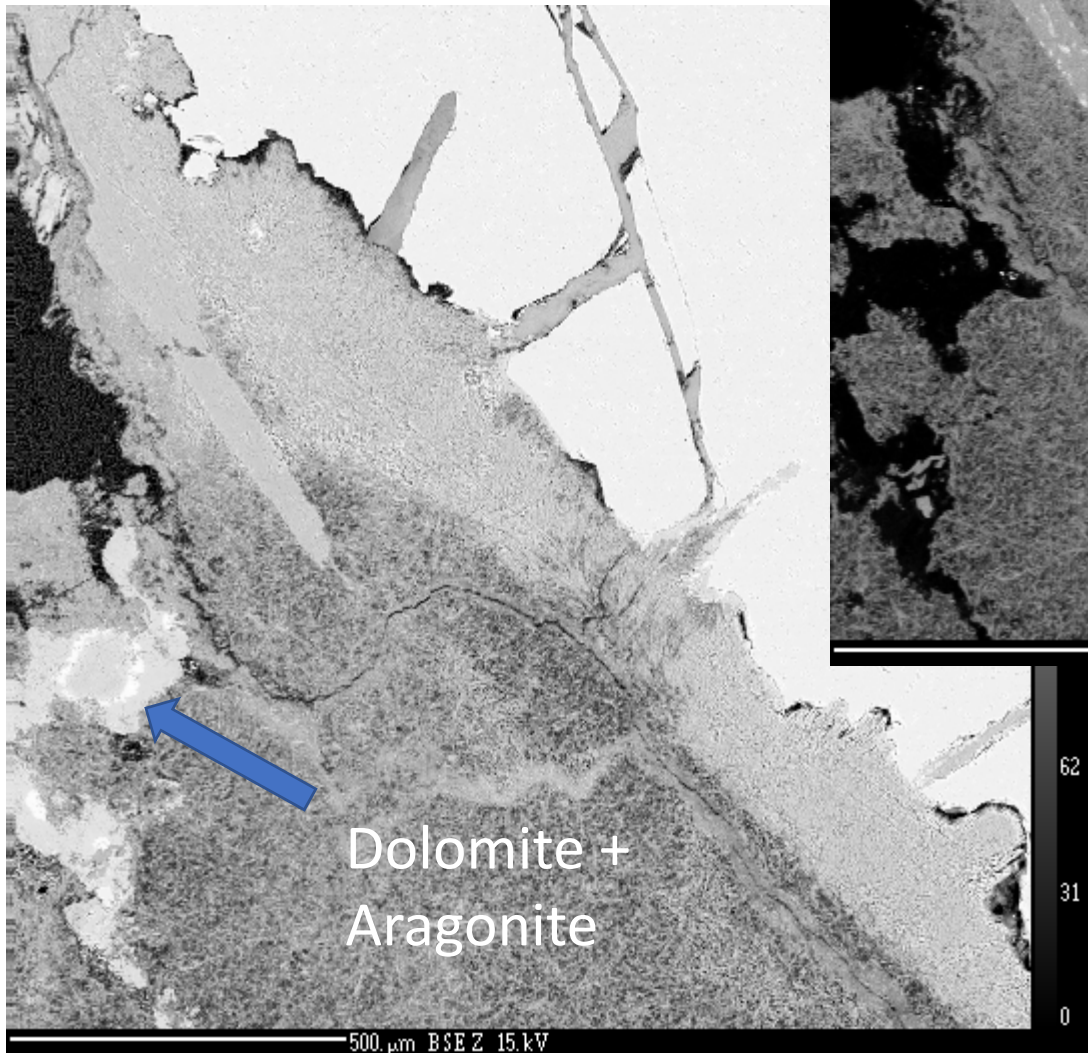
3

0

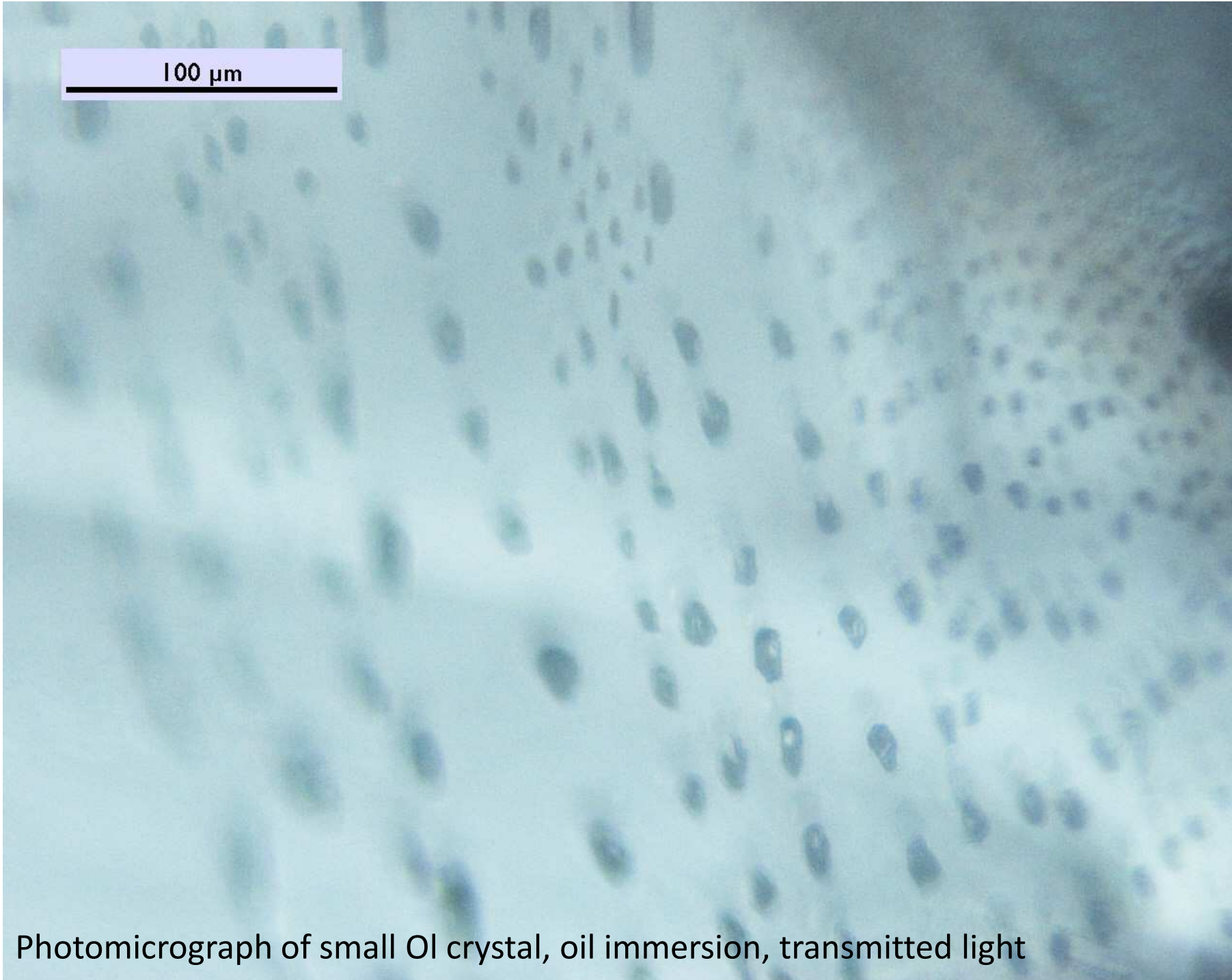
Lizardite+Talc



BSE



Si Map



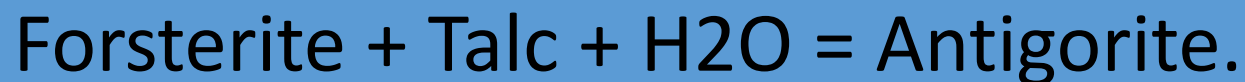
100  $\mu\text{m}$

Photomicrograph of small OI crystal, oil immersion, transmitted light

The white inclusions in peridot can be interpreted as the result of the reaction:



or if silica activity were greater, constrained by:





# Thermobarometry – sort of

- Ol-Opx-Spinel thermometry:

- ❖  $730\text{ °C} \pm 100$

- Original fluid inclusions

- ❖  $T > 400\text{ °C @ } 5\text{ kbar for Fo + H}_2\text{O}$

- ❖  $T > 540\text{ °C @ } 5\text{ kbar for Fo + Tc + H}_2\text{O}$

- Aragonite (hmmm??)

- ❖  $11\text{ kbar @ } 400\text{ °C}$

## Other occurrences:

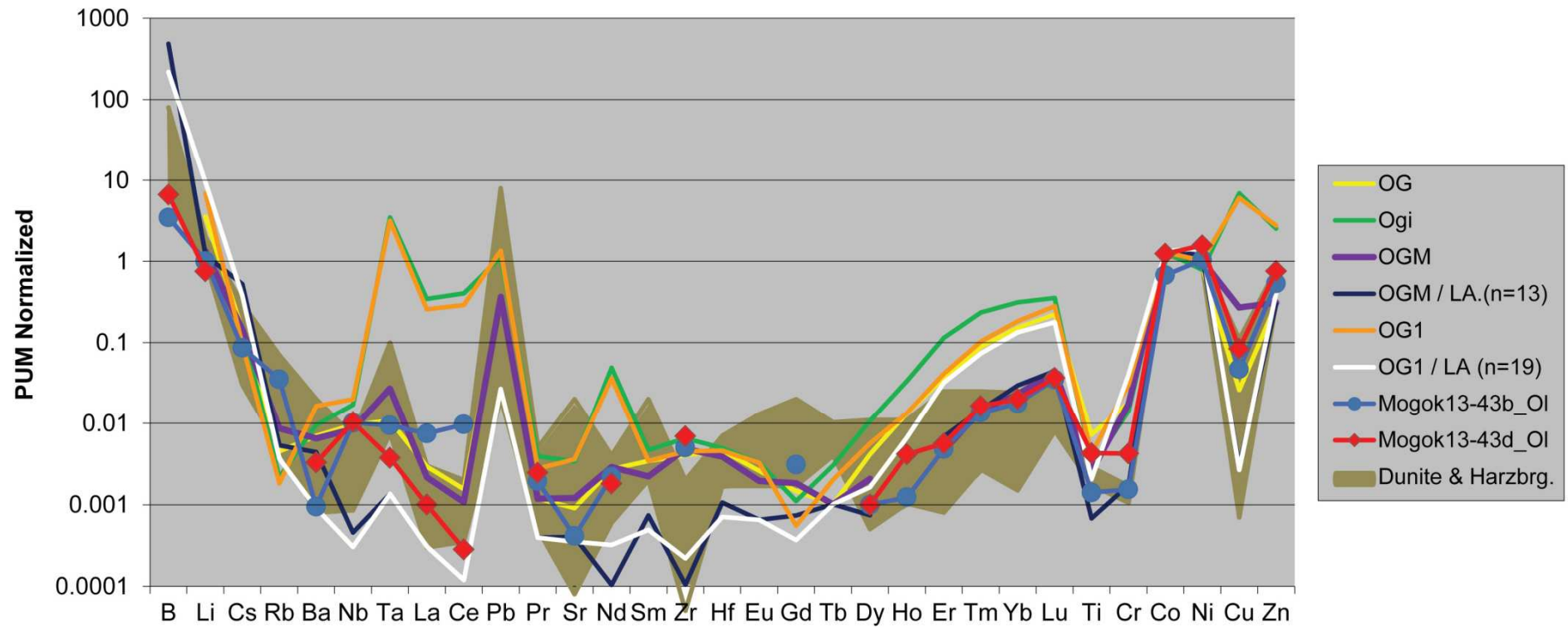
- Sapat: Bouilhol et al. (2012) found carbonate, Fe-Mg borate (ludwigite-vonsenite), and fluid inclusions in gem olivine, interpreted as subduction dewatering that recrystallized olivine in tension gashes in tectonized dunite.
- Zabargad: Kurat et al. (1993) found halite, carbonates, and CO<sub>2</sub> in gem olivine from “olivinite” veins, interpreted as relics of hypersaline fluids of the latest metasomatism.

## Boron in Peridot

- Bouilhol et al. (2012) reported from 54 to 121  $\mu\text{g/g}$  B in gem olivine from Sapat.
- This study has measured  $2 (\pm 0.4)$   $\mu\text{g/g}$  B by LA-ICPMS and  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  of -14 to -9‰ ( $2\sigma < 3\text{‰}$ ) by SIMS in peridot from Pyaung-Gaung.
- Although B data on dunite olivine is minimal, Sapat is clearly B-rich, but P-G may not be. However, P-G  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  values are lower than primitive mantle ( $\sim -7$ : Marschall personal commun.) and more like negative values associated with either an evolved igneous source or subduction-zone-related metasomatism (Martin et al. 2014).

# Peridot/olivine trace elements

Pyaug Gaung vs.Sapat (Bouilhol et al.) Olivine



OG- OG1 = gem olivine from Sapat (Bouilhol et al. 2012, Can Min;  
Mogok 13-43 = Pyaug-Gaung pocket olivine; Dunite and Harzburgite  
from crust-mantle transition zone at Sapat (ibid)

## Pyauung-Gaung Interpretation

- Tectonic emplacement with recrystallization of dunite and harzburgite ( $T = 700 \pm 100^\circ\text{C}$ ) in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{CO}_2$  fluid; peridot crystallized from fluid in tension gashes followed by carbonate, talc and serpentine infilling.
- Too what degree are dunitites, in general, modified by hydrothermal fluids?

# Gemstones Deposits in Granite Pegmatite

Prominent pegmatitic gemstones deposits in Mogok;

➤ Sakhangyi pegmatite & Pan Taw pegmatite

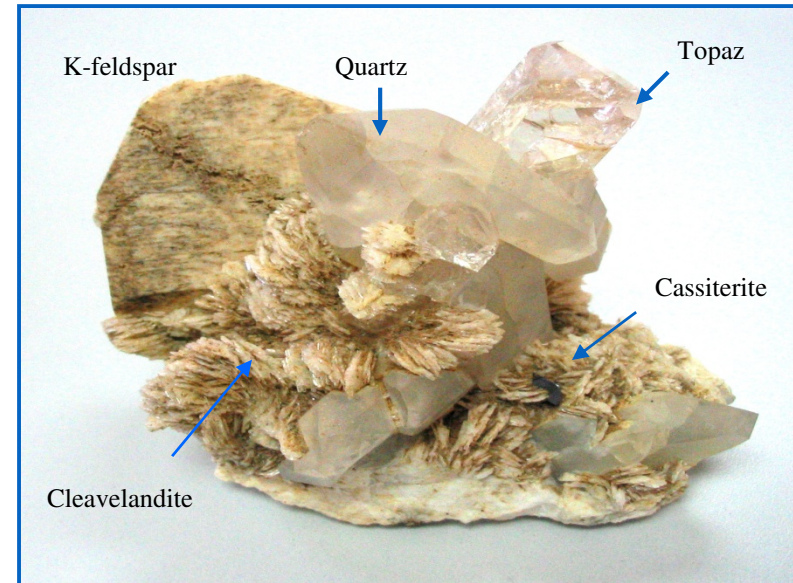
- ❖ 16 km west of Mogok and 14.4 km NW of Mogok
- ❖ More than 100 years (Sakhangyi)
- ❖ Feldspar, quartz, muscovite, topaz, aquamarine, herderite, cassiterite, csheelite, columbite-tantalite, lepidolite, rhodochrosite, etc.
- ❖ Pegmatite dated (16 Ma) intruded into Kabaing granite
- ❖ Complex, rare element class, beryl type (LCT & NYF)

## GEMS IN PEGMATITE



Highly weathered pegmatite dyke exposure in Sakhan-gyi,  $22^{\circ} 54' 1.2''$  N,  $96^{\circ} 20' 56.1''$  E

## GEMS IN PEGMATITE



Lay-bin-dwin (adit) in pegmatite deposit, Sakhan-gyi, Mogok.  
22° 54' 02.1" N, 96° 20' 51" E





# GEMS IN PEGMATITE



60 ct

Pegmatite dyke at Pan-taw area, entrance of adit in pegmatite body and drilling in Kabaing Granite for blasting processes (in-sets),  $22^{\circ} 57' 47.3''$  N,  $96^{\circ} 24' 15.6''$  E

## GEMS IN PEGMATITE



Pegmatite pocket with quartz, topaz, feldspar and mica at Sakhan-gyi JV-mine

# GEMS IN PEGMATITE



Topaz in matrix

Goshenite



Large aquamarine crystal  
(21 cm in length) Sakhan-gyi

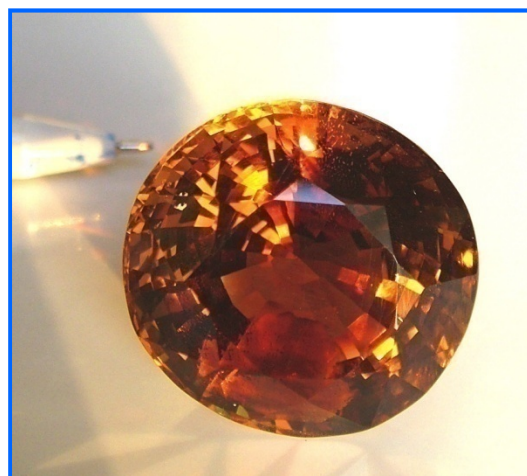


Topaz crystals

Topaz and quartz crystals



## GEMS IN PEGMATITE

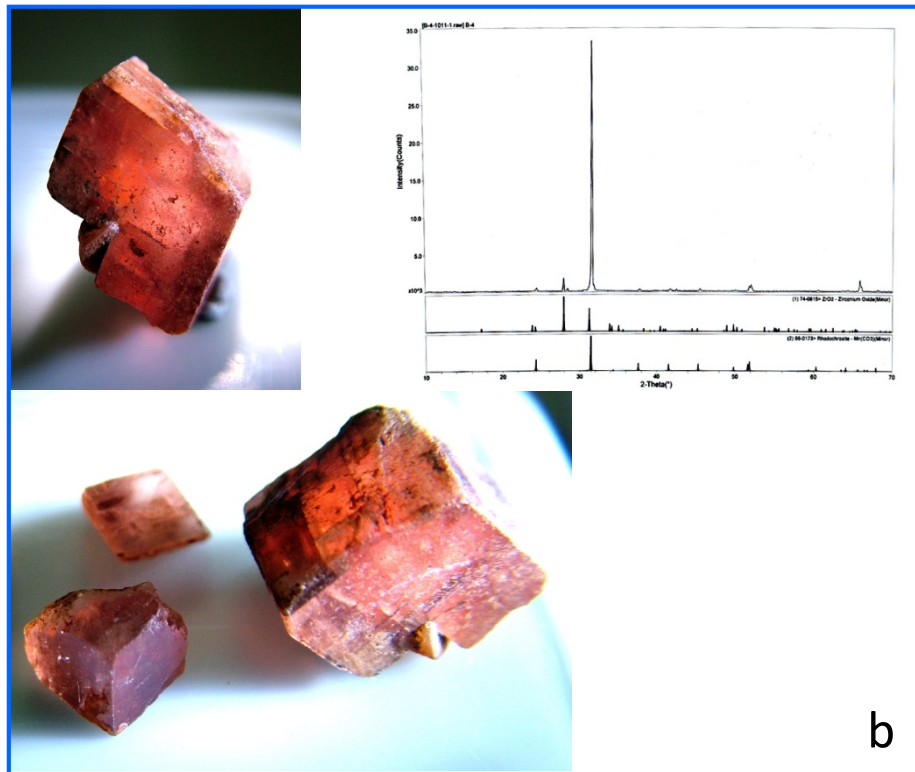
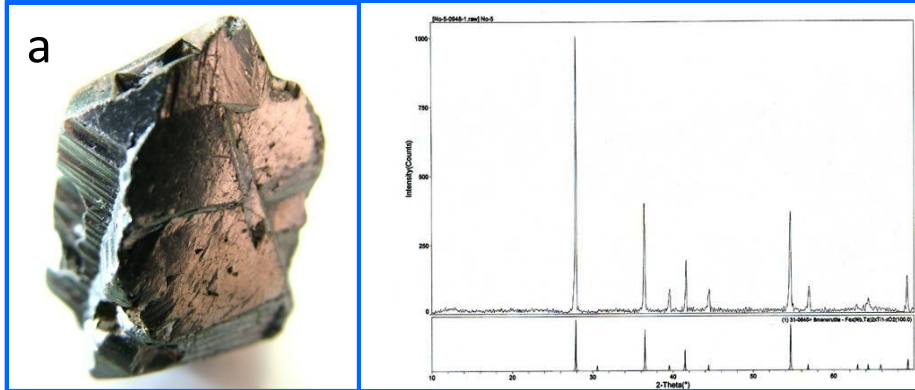


Gem quality rough and faceted scheelite, sherry topaz, aquamarine cat's eye



Cassiterite, k-feldspar, muscovite and amazonite in pegmatite

# GEMS IN PEGMATITE



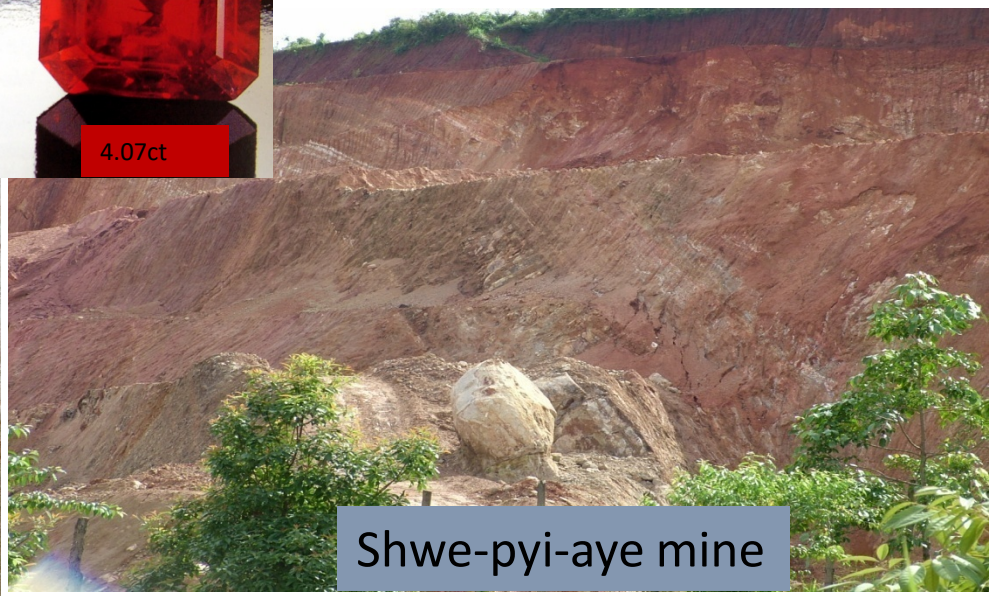
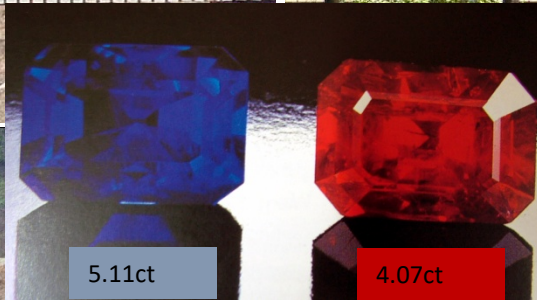
(a) Ilmeno-rutile crystal and its X-RD spectrum, (b) rhodochrosite crystals and its X-RD Spectrum, (c) colour changed fluorite, (d) rough and faceted monazite from pegmatite deposit

## Secondary Deposits

- The gemstones eroded from the primary deposits and transported by rivers, streams and transported in sedimentary placer basins at variable extensions.
- Secondary deposits gems and minerals are ruby, sapphire, spinel, peridot, zircon, etc. and some rare gemstones.



# Alluvial Deposits



## Eluvial Deposits (on slope)



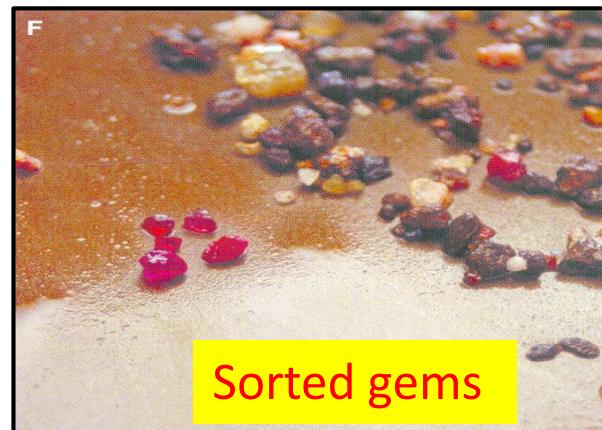
View of the mid-Dattaw Taung JV-mines



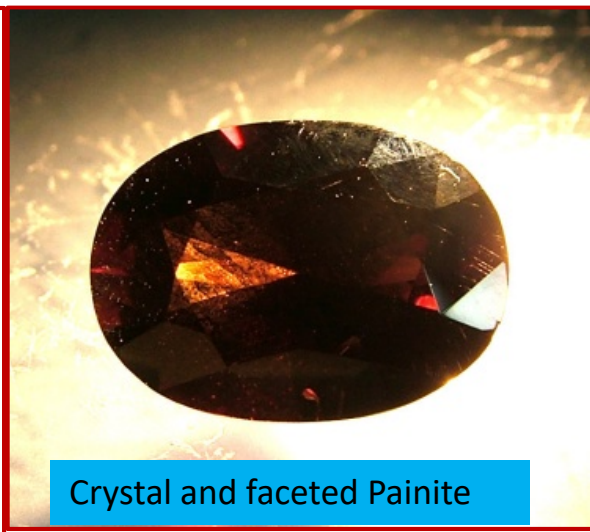
# Sinkhole and Fissure Filled Deposits (Lu & Let Kya)



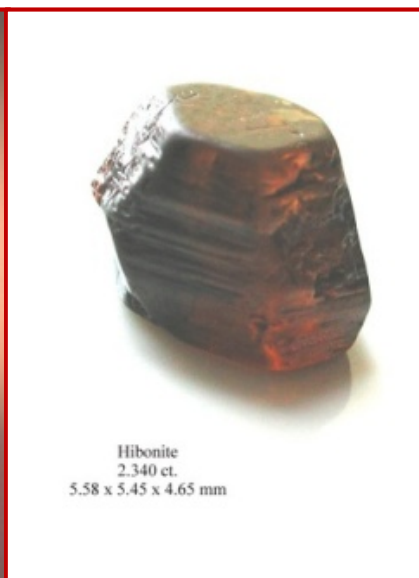
# ALLUVIAL MINING PROCESS (SHWE PYI AYE MINE)



# RARE GEMSTONES OF MOGOK



Crystal and faceted Painite



Hibonite  
2.340 ct.  
5.58 x 5.45 x 4.65 mm

Hibonite crystals



Crystal and faceted Johachidolite



Faceted Dumortierite and Dumortierite cat's eye

# RARE GEMSTONES OF MYANMAR (MOGOK)



Crystal and faceted Taaffeite



Musgravite Crystals



Hackmanite Cabochon



Crystal and faceted Poudretteite



Faceted Sinhalite



Crystal and faceted Jeremejevite



Anatase



Crystal and faceted Serendebite



Rough Scheelite



Baddeleyite crystal

## RARE GEMSTONES OF MYANMAR (MOGOK)

Kyawthuite,  $\text{Bi}^{3+}\text{Sb}^{5+}\text{O}_4$ , a new gem mineral from Mogok



Faceted kyawthuite gem; 1.61 carats;  
5.80 mm × 4.58 mm × 3.00 mm.

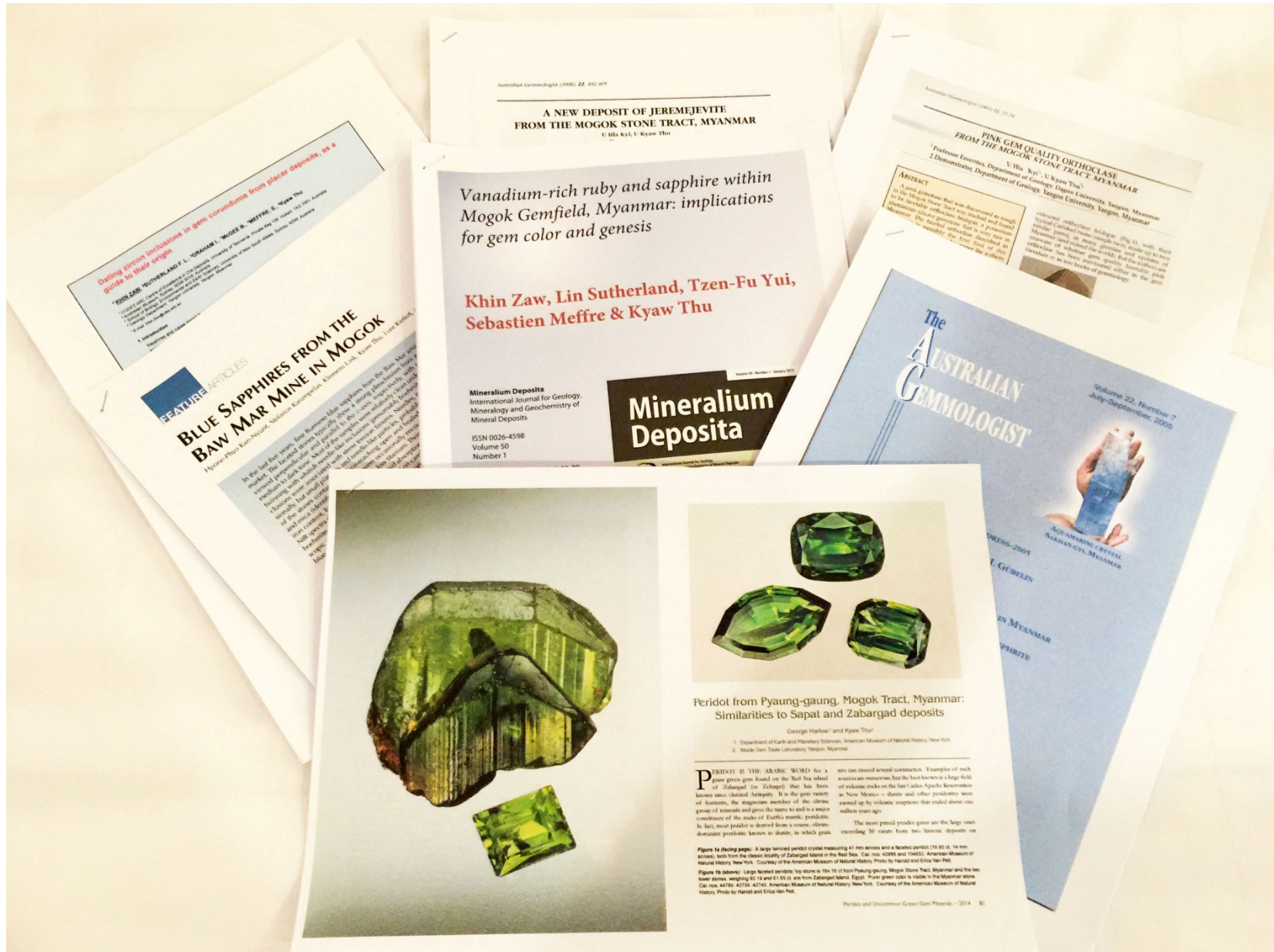


A series of echelon hollow tube inclusions near the girdle of the kyawthuite gem. The field of view is 2 mm across.

# CONCLUSION

- Myanmar has unique gem and gem deposits in the world
- The Myanmar **pigeon's blood** coloured Mogok rubies are the finest in the world and the best blue sapphires
- A variety of other gem minerals such as spinel, peridot, topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline and rare gemstones, etc. are also encountered in Mogok.
- Most of secondary placer gems deposits are depleted. But, primary ruby and sapphire deposits are still producing in Mogok.
- Mogok belt have a Tertiary ages but more work in progress with Prof Khin Zaw.

# References





THANKS YOU