BAKAMUNA – HATTOTA AMUNA SYNCLINORIUM AXIS – A CORUNDUM BELT IN THE HIGHLAND GROUP OF SRI LANKA

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The Bakamuna – Hattota Amuna double plunging synclinorium (N–S) is more than 27 km long with a varying width of about 7 km and is situated in the Elahera region, well known for its gemstone occurrences. The synform consists of metamorphic rocks of granulite facies such as garnet–biotite gneiss, garnet gneiss, marble, charnockitic gneiss, quartzo feldspathic granitic gneiss and hornblende–biotite gneiss.

The area around the synclinorium axis has been intruded by mobilised marble for about 1–2 km in width and at varying depths, giving rise to metasomatic deposits consisting mainly of gem quality corundums and tourmalines. The corundums and hence the instrusives which are considered to be responsible for the origin of corundums are basically confined to the megascale deep axial plane and the adjacent areas of the Bakamuna – Hattota Amuna synclinorium. This is perhaps due to the intrusions following the path of least resistance.