

**GENESIS AND CONSTITUTION OF SRI LANKA
CHINA CLAYS AND BALL CLAYS**

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The occurrence of China Clay formation at Boralesgamuwa and Meetiyyagoda, and Ball Clay deposit at Dediya-wela in the Kalutara district, have been known for a very long time and previous work on these deposits was mainly done by the Geological Survey Department. The Boralesgamuwa kaolin field is over two square miles in extent and this field extends roughly in a NNW - SSE direction from Nugegoda through the village of Boralesgamuwa to the swampy ground, to the east of Werasinga. The clay material is confined to layers and lenses, pockets and beds of kaolin in the present marshes and swamps.

The bed rock is mainly a quartzo - feldspathic rock at Boralesgamuwa and in the Meetiyyagoda area, a Quartz - Feldspar - Pegmatite is commonly observed. At Boralesgamuwa 40 - 45% Kaolin is obtained from the raw materials and products have whiteness ranging from 75 - 78%. 45 - 48% of kaolin containing 65% of a less than 2 micron fraction is obtained from raw material processed at Meetiyyagoda. The super grade is manufactured for high class ceramics with 0.2% Fe_2O_3 and 0.1% TiO_2 and 85 - 88% whiteness.

Ball clay is a term applied to a large group of sedimentary plastic clays which are secondary kaolins. Ball clay is extensively used in the Ceramic Industry mainly for the purpose of imparting plasticity to body mixtures.

Recent investigations have revealed the presence of 3 types of Ball clay (ie. Yellow, Blue and Black) at the Dediya-wela deposit.

The Genesis and Constitution are discussed and suggestions are made for further improvements of various quality grades.