

Fluorine hydrochemistry in a topaz-rich area in Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

Halogens have often found use in geochemical exploration for mineral deposits. Several researchers have commented on the possibility of using Cl and F as pathfinders for hydrothermal mineralization. Fluorine, the most reactive of the halogens, is useful in the exploration of F-bearing gem minerals such as topaz, fluorite, and tourmaline. A study of the Elahera gem field of Sri Lanka shows that the geochemistry of F in groundwater could be used to delineate areas of F-bearing gem minerals.