

GOLD PLACERS IN THE WESTERN CARPATHIANS, SLOVAKIA

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Detailed mineralogical-geochemical exploration works for gold showed several large ancient gold placers in the Western Carpathian area. Some of them have been repeatedly exploited since Celtic times. The whole historic production of gold from old placers deposits may be estimated over 10 t. The gold placers were exploited in the Middle Ages. The typical placer relics are in the Tatric unit (Malé Karpaty Mts., Považský Inovec Mts., Malá Magura Mts., Tribeč Mts., Nízke Tatry Mts.), in the Veporic and the Gemeric units (Slovenské Rudohorie Mts.) (POLÁK, 1969, HVOŽĎARA, 1999, BAKOŠ & CHOVAN, 1999).

The spatial connection of gold occurrences with mafic and ultramafic rocks shows similarities between the greenstone belts and the superimposed granitisation ore hydrothermal processes, as are known from many gold bearing areas in the older geological formations. Gold is usually concentrated in the shear zones conducting the hydrothermal or metamorphogenous solutions.

Alluvial and deluvial-eluvial placers with typical morphology and fineness of gold are present in the crystalline areas. The size of gold particles in the alluvial placers is 0.1–2 mm. Gold finenesses are above 900.

Gold in the deluvial-eluvial placers (so-called „cementation” gold) has dendritic morphology and more variable finenesses and size of 0.1–5 mm. Recognised placer deposits are possible to use for prognosis of primary gold mineralization.

References

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