

DEPARTMENT OF MINESSOUTH AUSTRALIAA NEW FIND OF RADIOACTIVITY MINERALS NEARWIPERAMINGA HILL, KALABITY M.S.

The following notes will serve to record the discovery by the writer of traces of a radioactive mineral in a new area, during the course of some reconnaissance prospecting in a region of copper mineralisation near Wiperaminga Hill about 8 miles S.E. of Kalabity H.S. and about 2 miles due south of the road linking Kalabity to New Boolcoomata H.S.

The mineral is in the form of black lustrous to dull yellow brown detrital fragments of low to moderate radioactivity and has the appearance of daviditic ilmenite. Samples have been forwarded to the petrological laboratory for identification.

The precise location of the find is indicated in the attached sketch plan. The mineral was first located on a flat saddle between two slightly higher ridges at about 20 chains on a bearing $N40^{\circ}E$ from the Main Wiperaminga copper workings. It was later traced northerly downhill along the regional strike of the country for about 50 yards. Detrital material only was found. The rocks exposed in the immediate vicinity of the find are micaceous phyllitic slates intruded by a regular network of pegmatite dykes and micaceous quartz veins. Minerals seen in the pegmatites included quartz, felspar, micas, magnetite ? ilmenite and occasional beryls. It is almost certain that the radioactive mineral has been shed from one of these pegmatitic dykes though no specimens of the mineral were found in situ and no abnormal radioactivity was noted around the acid rocks.

Although this occurrence probably has little or no interest as a uranium prospect its particular significance lies in the fact that the find is situated fairly close to (within 5 chains of) the plotted position of an airborne scintillometer "high". There seems little reason to doubt that systematic prospecting in favourable localities indicated by the regional mapping in conjunction with the

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results of the airborne scintillometer surveys will reveal the presence of many more deposits of radioactive minerals in the Kalabity area.

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(K.R. MILES)

Senior Geologist

ENGINEERING GEOLOGY & MINERAL RESOURCES
SECTION

KRM:AK
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