

UPDATE

SCHEELITE



An important ore of tungsten, scheelite forms a solid solution series with powellite (q.v.). Both minerals commonly fluoresce in ultraviolet light. Powellite fluoresces a creamy yellow-orange color, while scheelite is bright blue-white. Scheelite is usually found in hydrothermal and greisen veins, or in certain pyrometamorphic deposits. Northern Peninsula.

Marquette County: 1. Michigan gold mine, section 35, T48N, R28W: Cream-white grains up to a centimeter across. Occurs in quartz veins and adjacent greenschist wall rock (Snelgrove et al., 1944; Broderick, 1945). 2. Ropes gold mine, NW ¼ section 29, T48N, R27W: Pale yellow-white grains to 1 mm across, disseminated in chlorite schist and along fracture planes with gold, silver, quartz, pyrite, chalcopyrite, and tetrahedrite (Snelgrove et al., 1944). 3. Grummet gold prospects, NW ¼ section 36, T48N, R28W. In quartz vein and altered wall rock with pyrite and gold (Snelgrove et al., 1944). 4. Magnetic mine, SE ¼ section 19, T47N, R30W: In iron formation with magnetite, amphibole, and almandine (Wadsworth, 1893; Snelgrove et al., 1944). Also noted here by Rominger (1895), who reports (page 27) scheelite in quartzose magnetite-actinolite layers that have seams of hornblende, garnet, quartz, calcite, and “nests of tungsten (wolframate of lime), a mineral which to my knowledge never was found before in any of the mining localities of Lake Superior” (SE ¼ NW ¼ section 20, T47N, R30W). 5. On M-95 near the NE corner section 29, T47N, R29W. In a thin stringer in a hybrid granite-greenstone rock (Snelgrove et al., 1944). 6. Near Humboldt: Scheelite occurs sparingly as colorless 1 to 2 mm blebs in biotite schist exposed by a road cut on state highway M-95, 4.2 km south of its intersection with U.S. highway 41 (M. P. Basal, personal communication, 2000).

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Dickinson County: Randville, abandoned pegmatite quarry near center of N ½ NW ¼ section 26, T42N, R30W: As small (~1 mm) anhedral grains recovered from heavy mineral concentrate.

Gogebic County: Uranium prospect a short distance from the “Paulding Lights” north of Watersmeet: As subhedral crystals to 1 cm in amphibole gneiss adjacent to the uranium prospect. Interestingly, scheelite has not been observed at the uranium prospect itself, where Mo-bearing members of the scheelite group (powellite and wulfenite; q.v.) are fairly common.

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