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Description of a rock sample from a borehole at Alberton

by G. B. Everard

The following is a description of a rock taken from the bottom of Bore No. 1, Alberton.

69-430

The hand specimen is a small piece of core about ¼ inch thick, consisting of a pale yellowish brown, very much altered fine-grained granular rock, very soft and friable. Under magnification it consists mainly of white crystalline laths of feldspar in a darker matrix. Lath-like crystals up to 1 or 2 mm occur but most are below 1 mm.

In thin section the rock has a trachytic texture made up of laths of completely sericitised feldspar showing relics of multiple twinning, minute needles of apatite and skeletal crystals of leucoxene after ilmenite. Fine grained carbonate of secondary origin is freely disseminated through the mass.

There are also occasional rather shattered phenocrysts of feldspar completely altered to sericite and carbonate.

The rock is an altered keratophyric lava.

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