

SAMPLE: 562692

SUMMARY: This rock is a weakly autobrecciated formerly glassy and sparsely plagioclase-phyric dacite lava that has suffered quite strong silica alteration, and subsequent weak sericitization.

THIN SECTION DESCRIPTION:

This sample was probably a weakly autobrecciated dacitic lava composed of around 3-5 modal% of altered feldspar phenocrysts in a formerly glassy groundmass that has been strongly recrystallized and probably silicified. The former plagioclase phenocrysts are 0.5-2mm long and strongly sericite-altered blocky prisms with probably near-euhedral shapes originally; however, recrystallization of glassy groundmass has involved reactions with margins of phenocrysts, which are rather ragged in many cases. Former FeTi oxide microphenocrysts were present but not very common, and have altered to leucogenitic material. One or two very small chlorite-filled crystal sites may have been small augite phenocrysts.

The groundmass of this sample was originally glassy to extremely finely vitrophyric. However, in most areas of the slide, devitrification quartz-albite mosaic textures have been obliterated by recrystallization to granular quartz-dominated regions with minor interstitial pale green chlorite, and even less-abundant calcite spotting. In some areas the fine-grained sugary silica increases in grain size in irregular patches cored by larger concentrations of chlorite. Quartz also forms small veinlets that transect the rock. Intense sericite alteration occurs in zones that cut across the rock, and appear to post-date the silicification, although fine-grained sericite is abundant throughout the rock, except in those areas of strongest and most-coarse-grained silica alteration.