

SMP055-P23

Room: Convention Hall

Time: May 23 17:15-18:45

Kyanite newly found in pelitic granulite from Kerala Khondalite Belt, southern India

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Southern India and Sri Lanka were once located close to the area around Syowa Station, East Antarctica, constituting the peripheral part of the Latest Proterozoic to Early Paleozoic suture zone between East and West Gondwana. Retrograde andalusite and relict prograde kyanite included within garnet and other minerals occur in sillimanite-rich pelitic granulites from East Antarctica (Lutzow-Holm Complex) and Sri Lanka (Highland Complex), characterizing the complexes, but these minerals have not been reported from the pelitic granulites in southern India. We have succeeded in discovery of retrograde andalusite (Kato et al., 2009), and subsequently kyanite in the pelitic granulites from southern India for the first time. The newly found kyanite is a tiny grain enclosed within altered cordierite, and is apparently different in the mode of occurrence from those of East Antarctica and Sri Lanka. The origin and significance of such kyanite will be discussed.

Keywords: kyanite, andalusite, sillimanite, pelitic granulite, southern India, Gondwana