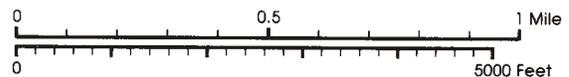


Porcupine Hill Quarry

Town: Topsham, Sagadahoc County
Base map: Brunswick 7.5' quadrangle
Contour interval: 10 feet



Porcupine Hill Quarry

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: Quarry is open for collecting, but written permission must be obtained from the owner: Robert Williams, P.O. Box 267, Topsham, Maine 04086. The request for permission should be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope, and a letter specifying the date of your trip and releasing the owner from any responsibility for personal injury or damage resulting from your visit. Collecting is limited to the quarry dumps. Because of parking limitations and the small size of the quarry, this site is not recommended for group trips.

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), beryl, biotite, chrysoberyl, columbite, elbaite (tourmaline)(green),

fluorapatite, microcline, muscovite, quartz (frosted crystals), schorl (tourmaline).

Comments: This quarry has produced some of the finest schorl (black tourmaline) crystals in Maine. They are very lustrous and well formed, but the crystals are brittle and difficult to collect without damage. Good crystals of almandine garnet and chrysoberyl have also been found here. Schorl and chrysoberyl from Porcupine Hill are illustrated in Francis (1985) and Jacobson (1982), respectively.

Directions: *Driving:* From the overpass where Rte. 196 crosses Interstate Route 95 in Topsham, drive west 0.80 mile on Rte. 196, and turn right onto Andrea St. Drive 0.15 mile, continuing past end of Andrea St., and park in small dirt lot under power line. *Note: parking is not allowed on Andrea St. or elsewhere on property of the Topsham Mobile Home Park!*

Walking: Follow faint trail southeast along power line. Trail shortly enters woods on left, becoming a broad distinct path. At about 350 paces from parking lot, there is a trail intersection.

Continue straight ahead (parallel to power line) for about 300 paces to another intersection. Take trail straight ahead (east) for 100 ft. to quarry.