Beryllium

Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry

Volume 50 of Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry treats Beryllium and its cosmogenic isotopes. This volume includes an overview of Be studies in the earth sciences and a systematic classification of Be minerals based on their crystal structure. It treats the analysis of these minerals by the secondary ion mass spectroscopy as well as experimental studies of systems involving Be. Moreover, this volume reviews the behavior of Be in the Solar System, with an emphasis on meteorites, the Moon and Mars, and the implications of this behavior for the evolution of the solar system. It gives an overview of the terrestrial geochemistry of Be and discusses the contamination of the environment by this anthropogenic toxin. It reports use of the longer lived Be-10 to assess erosion rates and other surficial processes and how this isotope can yield independent temporal records of geomagnetic field variations for comparison with records obtained by measuring natural remnant magnetization, be a chemical tracer for processes in convergent margins, and can date events in Cenozoic tectonics. It reviews applications of the shorter lived isotope Be-7 in environmental studies as well. Residual phases include acidic plutonic and volcanic rocks, whose geochemistry and evolution are covered, while granitic pegmatites, which are well-known for their remarkable, if localized, Be enrichments and a wide variety of Be mineral assemblages, are reviewed. Not all Be concentrations have obvious magmatic affinities; for example, one class of emerald deposits results from Be being introduced by heated brines. Pelitic rocks are an important reservoir of Be in the Earth's crust and their metamorphism plays a critical role in recycling of Be in subduction zones, eventually, anatectic processes complete the cycle, providing a source of Be for granitic rocks.



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Kundenservice Fachmedien Otto Schmidt Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | <u>kundenservice@fachmedien.de</u> | 0800 000-1637 (Inland)

