Origin of Platinum-Bearing Placers in the Aluchin Horst, Russian Far East

STANISLAV S. GORNOSTAYEV,†
Department of Geosciences, University of Oulu, P.O.Box 3000, FIN-90401, Oulu, Finland

ALEXANDER D. DODATKO,
National Mining University of Ukraine, 19 Karl Marx Avenue, Dnepropetrovsk 320027, Ukraine

KAUKO V. O. LAAJOKI,
Department of Geosciences, University of Oulu, P.O.Box 3000, FIN-90401, Oulu, Finland

AND ALEXANDER G. MOCHALOV
Institute for Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry of Russian Academy of Sciences, 35 Staromonetny Street, Moscow 109017, Russia

Abstract

The Quaternary gold–platinum-group mineral (PGM) placers of the Aluchin horst, western Chukotka, Russian Far East, contain PGM (mostly Pt-Fe alloys) typical of those associated with Alaskan-Ural-type complexes. Such complexes intruded Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. They form the primary source of PGM. The PGM placer nuggets vary considerably in size (0.1–9 mm), shape, and degree of abrasion, indicating a long history of placer-forming processes. Some of the nuggets are covered by shells of detrital minerals (mostly Al-Si phases) indicating derivation from previous host sediments of the Volga (Late Jurassic) stage. The quartz inclusions observed in Pt-Fe alloys are detrital and have been pressed into the nuggets during lithification of the Volga sediments. Concentration of the PGM took place in two stages: during erosion of the Alaskan-Ural-type intrusions and deposition of PGM-bearing detritus in the lowermost Volga Series; and recycling of the Volga sediments and deposition of the PGM in placers during the Quaternary.