Liddicoatite Tourmaline
From Anjanabonoina, Madagascar

By Dona M. Dirlam, Brendan M. Laurs, Federico Pezzotta, and William B. (Skip) Simmons

Liddicoatite, a calcium-rich lithium tourmaline, was recognized as a separate mineral species in 1977, and named in honor of Richard T. Liddicoat. Most of the remarkable polychrome tourmalines with varied geometric patterns that are characteristic of this species were produced during the 20th century from the Anjanabonoina pegmatite deposit in central Madagascar. To best display its complex color zoning and patterns, the tourmaline is commonly sold as polished slices or carvings. Liddicoatite exhibits physical and optical properties that overlap those of elbaite, so quantitative chemical analysis is required to distinguish these species; both may occur in a single crystal. The most common internal features are color zoning, strain patterns, partially healed fractures, feathers, needle-like tubes, negative crystals, and albite inclusions.

For decades, liddicoatite from Madagascar has been prized for its dramatic color zoning. Among the myriad geometric patterns displayed in polychrome slices cut perpendicular to the c-axis (Figure 1), triangular zones and three-rayed “stars” resembling a Mercedes Benz symbol are the most recognizable features of this remarkable tourmaline. The diversity of colors and patterns shown by Madagascar liddicoatite has not been seen in tourmaline from other localities. The Anjanabonoina pegmatite deposit in central Madagascar is one of the world’s most important historic sources of liddicoatite.

The tourmaline group is extremely complex. Liddicoatite, Ca[Li$_2$Al$_3$]Al$_6$Si$_6$O$_{18}$[BO$_3$]$_3$[OH]$_3$F, is a calcic lithium-tourmaline end member that was identified as a separate species 25 years ago [Dunn et al., 1977]. These authors named the mineral after Richard T. Liddicoat, then president of GIA, in honor of his enormous contributions to gemological knowledge and education. At the time it was only the sixth tourmaline species to be recognized; currently 13 end-member species are known [see Hawthorne and Henry, 1999]. Liddicoatite is one of three lithium tourmalines with the general formula [Ca,Na,K,□]$_2$[Li,Al]$_6$Si$_6$O$_{18}$[BO$_3$]$_3$[OH]$_3$[OH,F], which are defined on the basis of their X-site occupancy: Ca = liddicoatite, Na = elbaite, and a vacant □ X site = rossmanite. Elbaite is the most abundant gem tourmaline, whereas rossmanite has so far been identified from few localities [Johnson and Koivula, 1998b; Selway et al., 1998], and typically is not of gem quality. However, neither can be separated from liddicoatite without quantitative chemical analysis. Therefore, in this article we use the group name tourmaline to refer to material that has not been chemically analyzed.

Although liddicoatite is well characterized mineralogically, little has been published about the history, sources, and gemology of this tourmaline species in particular. This article focuses on liddicoatite from Madagascar—which is the principal historic source—and in particular on the Anjanabonoina pegmatite.
which has been the most important producer of liddicoatite-elbaite tourmaline from that country. Chemical data for liddicoatite from other world localities (i.e., Brazil, Canada, “Congo,” Czech Republic, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Tanzania, and Vietnam) are included in Appendix A.

HISTORY AND MINING

Gem Tourmaline in Madagascar. In the 1500s and 1600s, French explorers reported topaz, amethyst, aquamarine, and other gem minerals from Madagascar [Lacroix, 1913a, Wilson, 1989]. However, initial investigations found little gem-quality material, apparently because they focused on river mouths and areas close to the coast. In 1890, a colleague of French scientist A. Grandidier brought a large rubellite crystal from the Mount Bity area [also spelled Bity; figure 2] south of Antsirabe to the National Museum of Natural History in Paris [Lavila, 1923]. By 1893, Grandidier had found colored tourmaline in situ at pegmatites in the Betofo region (west of Antsirabe). The first significant pegmatite mining occurred in the early 1900s [Besairie, 1966].

Alfred Lacroix, a professor at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, provided some of the first descriptions of Madagascar tourmaline and other gem minerals. His comprehensive work on the mineralogy of France and its colonies included descriptions of the crystallography, morphology, and color zoning of tourmalines brought back to France by early colonists [see Lacroix, 1893, 1910]. Dabren [1906], a French mining engineer in Madagascar, described several localities for gem tourmalines, including the important pegmatite areas around Antsirabe and Fianarantsosa. A detailed early description of polychrome tourmaline from the “Ankaratra” area was given by Termier [1908]. [Note that the Ankaratra massif, which is located about 50 km north of Antsirabe, is a volcanic area that is not a known source of tourmaline; the locality was probably reported in error.] That same year, Lacroix (1908) described gem-tourmaline-bearing pegmatites in the Sahatany Valley area (south of Antsirabe).

In 1910, Lacroix illustrated a slice of polychrome tourmaline from Anjanabonoina as part of his description of the geology, localities, and properties of tourmaline from the Vakinankaratra (Antsirabe), Ambositra, and Fianarantsosa districts. In describing the color zoning, he noted the distinctive star shape made by three red bands intersecting at 120° in

![Figure 1. These slices of tourmaline from Anjanabonoina were cut from a single crystal, and show the dramatic progression of color zoning seen perpendicular to the c-axis (from top to bottom). The top two slices display a trigonal star pattern and “aggregate type” zoning (see Benesch, 1990). All have an outer region consisting of fine-scale color zoning that is roughly parallel to the prism faces. The slices measure 10 cm in longest dimension and are courtesy of Pala International; composite of photos © Harold and Erica Van Pelt.](image-url)
some Madagascar tourmaline sections cut perpendicular to the c-axis (see, e.g., figure 3). Physical and chemical data also were included, and two chemical analyses—for a pink crystal from “Maroando” and a red sample from “Antaboka”—correspond to those of tourmalines that later came to be identified as liddicoatite. [Maroandro and Antaboka, as they are typically spelled today, are located near Tsilaisina and southern Antsirabe, respectively, on opposite ends of the Sahatany Valley.] The data were reprinted from work done by L. Duparc at the University of Geneva [see, e.g., Duparc et al., 1910]. Lacroix (1913b) illustrated the diverse morphology shown by Madagascar tourmaline. While all of this early work is published in French, some of the information has been summarized in articles in English [see Lacroix, 1913a; Gratacap, 1916].

Lacroix undertook the first detailed mineralogical expedition to Madagascar in 1911 [see Lacroix, 1913a], and a decade later he published the classic

Figure 2. The Anjanabonoina mine is located in the central highlands of Madagascar, approximately 55 km west of Antsirabe. This region hosts numerous gem-bearing pegmatites that are famous for producing beautiful tourmaline, morganite, kunzite, and other minerals for over a century.

Figure 3. A trigonal star pattern formed by red color bands is evident in the pink portion of this tourmaline slice (5.5 x 4.5 cm) from Anjanabonoina. Courtesy of Allerton Cushman & Co.; photo © Robert Weldon. The inset shows this same slice set in an 18K gold pendant; courtesy of Rodney Blankley, Blankley Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Figure 4. Some of the typical crystallographic forms of tourmaline from Anjanabonoina are shown here (after Lacroix, 1922a). The crystals are bounded mainly by the prisms a{1 1 20} and m{1 0 1 0}, the rhombohedrons t{1 0 1 1}, o{0 2 2 1}, and k{0 5 5 1}, and minor scalenohedrons t{2 1 3 1}, e{1 5 6 2}, and w{2 4 6 1}. 

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three-volume reference work on the minerals of Madagascar [Lacroix, 1922a,b, 1923]. In the first volume, he reported that the original tourmaline deposits were depleted, and that Anjanabonoina was the only deposit being mined for tourmaline. He illustrated the common crystallographic forms of this tourmaline (figure 4; see also Goldschmidt, 1923), and noted that particularly large and beautiful crystals were found in the eluvial workings there. Detailed descriptions of the color zoning and corresponding physical properties in Madagascar tourmaline (including crystals from Anjanabonoina) also were provided. Chemical analyses in this report revealed the relatively calcium-rich composition of Anjanabonoina tourmalines.

Several decades passed before the next important mineralogical work on Madagascar tourmaline was published, by Besairie (1966). Not only did this work mention the colored tourmalines and associated minerals found at Anjanabonoina and other pegmatites in central Madagascar, but it also included detailed locality maps. Later, from his 1976 visit, Strunz (1979) described the situation at the Anjanabonoina mine, and in 1989 W. E. Wilson provided a detailed account of the mineralogy. More recently, the color zoning of Madagascar tourmaline has been beautifully depicted (see, e.g., Benesch, 1990; Wöhrmann, 1994; Zang, 1996).

The Anjanabonoina Deposit. The Anjanabonoina mining area (figure 5) reportedly was discovered in 1894 by Emile Gautier [Bariand and Poirot, 1992]. Léon Krafft began intensive mining in the early 1900s. The greatest activity occurred between 1920 and 1925, with 80 workers on site [Guigues, 1954]. Large quantities of multicolored tourmaline and exceptional morganite were recovered [Wilson, 1989]. By the time operations ceased in 1930, miners had explored only the eluvial portion of the deposit along the eastern slope of the hill (figure 5). [For mining methods used at the time to recover gems in Madagascar, see Lacroix [1922a] and Besairie [1966].] Very limited surface digging by local miners continued until the 1960s.

In 1965, Eckehard Petsch of the Julius Petsch Jr. Company [Idar-Oberstein, Germany] traveled to Madagascar and learned about the unusual color-zoned tourmalines from Anjanabonoina. With the assistance of Madame Liandrat of Antananarivo [Krafft’s daughter], Mr. Petsch visited the mining area in 1967, after an arduous trip that involved nearly two days of walking. He found tourmaline crystals in the dumps of the abandoned mine and determined that a significant portion of the deposit still had not been mined [Bancroft, 1984].

Mr. Petsch’s Madagascar company, Société Germadeo, acquired the Anjanabonoina deposit in 1970. This venture established roads, built housing and a school for the miners and their families, and began mining tourmaline in 1972 from the dumps and eluvial deposits downslope of the pegmatites. By 1974 there were more than 100 workers on site [Bariand and Poirot, 1992], and the mine was mapped in detail. Further mining of the pegmatites themselves took place in the upper-middle portion of the hill (figure 6). Some of the tunnels driven at this time reached up to 100–200 m long. He operated the mine until 1979, when the government of
Madagascar imposed a new law that required the transfer of ownership of all foreign mining companies to Malagasy nationals. Société Germadco was placed under the control of a Malagasy engineer, Randrianarisoa Benjamin (a previous employee of E. Petsch), together with a Bulgarian partner.

The new owners focused on mining the large pegmatite dikes still in place, as well as tunneling to explore the potential of the deposit at depth. In addition, they dug an open pit 1.6 km southwest of the historic mine to investigate some large pegmatite veins that probably form a continuation of the Anjanabonoina pegmatites. Although this pit was unproductive, in 1984 a large tourmaline pocket was discovered on the western slope of the hill, near the original mining village. Crystals from this pocket were exported by the Bulgarian partner, but he was forced to leave Madagascar shortly thereafter due to problems with Société Germadco and the local people. Société Germadco remained the legal owner of the claims, but lost control of the mine when hundreds of people, excited by the discovery, began digging there illegally.

Locals continued to work the area manually for many years, resulting in hundreds of dangerous pits up to 40 m deep. The roads and structures built during past mining activities were destroyed by erosion during the rainy seasons, making it necessary for the miners to transport their gems on foot to be sold in the villages of Ambohimambola and Betafo. In 1991, the discovery of another large pocket led to a new period of unrest in which several miners were killed. When no significant new discoveries were made during the next few years, many of the miners abandoned the locality.

In 1995, one of the authors (FP) led Fretosoa Company, an Italian-Malagasy joint venture, in evaluating the gem potential of the central highlands. After visiting Anjanabonoina, he contacted Germadco’s Benjamin and a partnership between Germadco and Fretosoa was formed. In the next two years, they developed a series of surface and underground workings (figures 7 and 8), which included four shafts that were 45–55 m deep and a 185-m-long subhorizontal tunnel that reached the pegmatite core zone. From these workings, FP collected enough geologic and structural data to create a three-dimensional model of the deposit and recognize that a significant portion of the gem-bearing core zone was still unmined. However, activity halted following the 1997 deaths of Mr. Benjamin
Liddicoatite from Madagascar [again, see figure 2]. The deposit is situated on a hill (1,400 m elevation) at 19°55’ S and 46°32’ E, 2.5 km east of Ikaka Mountain (1,781 m). From Antsirabe, a national highway leads 56 km to the intersection with the paved road that proceeds 10 km southwest to the village of Ambohimanambola. From there, a track originally graded by Société Germadco in the early 1970s continues south-southwest for about 32 km, crossing the Ipomy River to the mine. Today, this track is impassable by vehicle, so access to the mine is possible only by foot. The journey from Antsirabe takes about two days, with the trip feasible only during the dry season, from late April until the beginning of November.

The authors do not recommend traveling to the Anjanabonoina area. Because of potential security problems, any foreigner who wishes to visit the

Figure 8. An exploration tunnel was dug by hand from the northeastern side of the Anjanabonoina deposit by Fretosa Co. during October 1995 to December 1996. Shown here at 160 m from the surface, small kaolinitized pegmatite veins can be seen crosscutting the weathered quartzite. Note the candles on the left that were used for illumination. Photo by Federico Pezzotta.

Figure 9. In recent years, the surface deposits at Anjanabonoina have been worked by local people, who use pools of rainwater to wash the material. Photo by Federico Pezzotta.
The rocks in this belt underwent extensive metamorphism, plutonism, folding, and faulting during the latter part of the Pan-African orogeny, which occurred over an extended period from at least 950 to about 450 million years [My] ago [see, e.g., Petters, 1991]. The last magmatic cycle of the Pan-African event occurred from about 570 to 455 My [Paquette and Nédélec, 1998; Fernandez et al., 2001], and generated granitic plutons and associated pegmatite fields [Zhdanov, 1996; Pezzotta, 2001]. The gem-bearing pegmatites are undeformed by large-scale tectonic processes, and are thought to have formed in the later part of this cycle (i.e., younger than 490 My—Giraud, 1957; Fernandez et al., 2000).

Many of the gem-bearing pegmatites in central Madagascar, including Anjanabonoina and the famous localities in the Sahatany Valley, are hosted by rocks of the Itremo Group, in a tectonic unit known as the Itremo thrust sheet [see, e.g., Collins, 2000]. The Itremo Group is characterized by a lower unit of gneiss and an upper unit of quartzites, schists, and marbles [see Fernandez et al., 2001]. Both units are locally intruded by the pegmatites, which probably formed via fractional crystallization.

**GEOLOGY**

**Regional Geology.** The western part of Madagascar consists mostly of Mesozoic sedimentary rocks, whereas the central and eastern portions consist mainly of Proterozoic metamorphic and igneous basement rocks [see, e.g., Ashwal and Tucker, 1999]. The crystalline basement is part of the Mozambique orogenic belt [or East African Orogen], which originally extended through eastern Africa and Madagascar, Sri Lanka, India, and East Antarctica when they were still part of the Gondwana supercontinent [see, e.g., Petters, 1991]. A large vari-
of granitic plutons emplaced at relatively shallow depths (Pezzotta and Franchi, 1997).

**Geology of the Anjanabonoina Area.** Laplaine (1951) described the general geology of the Anjanabonoina region. The pegmatites composing the historic part of the mining area are exposed over an area measuring 800 × 300 m (figure 10). These dikes form part of a larger aplite-pegmatite system that extends south-southwest of the Anjanabonoina area for about 2 km. (Aplite is a light-colored igneous rock characterized by a fine-grained texture composed primarily of quartz, potassium feldspar, and sodic plagioclase; Jackson, 1997.) For simplicity, the dikes will be referred to simply as pegmatites here. The major pegmatites dip gently north-northwest and range from 2 to 12 m thick.

The pegmatites were emplaced in a complex geologic environment, probably at the contact between the lower and upper units of the Itremo Group. The host rocks consist of quartzites, schists, and marbles that are locally tourmalinized near the pegmatites (figure 11). Large areas of the pegmatites are deeply kaolinized by the activity of late-stage hydrothermal fluids (De Vito, 2002). The rocks are also deeply weathered—to depths exceeding 20 m—particularly in the southern portion of the mining area where extensive cluvial deposits were worked.

Lacroix (1922b) classified the Anjanabonoina pegmatites as “sodalitic” (i.e., sodium- and lithium-rich). According to the modern classification of pegmatites proposed by Černý (1991), the Anjanabonoina pegmatites have mineralogical characteristics intermediate between the LCT (lithium, cesium, and tantalum) and NYF (niobium, yttrium, and fluorine) families of the Rare-Element and Miarolitic classes (Pezzotta, 2001).

Gem-bearing “pockets” or cavities are rather rare in these pegmatites, but they may be very large (i.e., several meters in maximum dimension). The pockets are surrounded by kaolin clay and contain assemblages of quartz, microcline feldspar (amazonite), albite feldspar (cleavelandite), dravite-elbaite-liddicoatite tourmaline, spodumene (kunzite), native bismuth, spessartine, beryl (morganite), hambergite, danburite, phenakite, and scapolite (Pezzotta, 1996; De Vito, 2002). The tourmaline crystals are large (typically weighing up to 20 kg each; see, e.g., figure 12), and most have a black outer “skin” (E. J. Petsch, pers. comm., 2002). The largest tourmaline crystal recovered by Mr. Petsch measured 80 cm tall and 32 cm in diameter.

![Figure 12. Tourmaline crystals from Anjanabonoina are typically large. This doubly terminated liddicoatite crystal weighs 17.8 kg, and measures 33 cm tall and 22 cm wide. Although the crystal appears dark, if sliced it would probably yield spectacular slabs. Courtesy of Eckehard Petsch; photo by R. Appiani.](image)

Benesch (1990—figure 36) depicted the base of a 40-cm-diameter crystal from Anjanabonoina.

**PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION**

By 1912, the total production of colored tourmaline from Anjanabonoina was 1,675 kg (Guigues, 1954). According to Bariard and Poirot (1992), production decreased in the next 10 years, yielding a total of about 15 kg of rubellite and multicolored tourmaline. But between 1920 and 1925 the tourmaline output increased dramatically, with almost 1,700 kg mined. Production was negligible from 1950 to 1970. E. J. Petsch (pers. comm., 2002) recalled that Société Germadco recovered several thousand kilograms of red and polychrome tourmaline in the 1970s. During the 1980s and early 1990s, some tonnes of gem tourmaline were recovered, but no specific data are available. More recently, there has been small, sporadic production from local miners working with hand tools (E. J. Petsch, pers. comm., 2002).

According to statements to one of the authors [FP] from older miners and Malagasy gem and mineral dealers in Betafo and Antsirabe, major pockets were discovered at Anjanabonoina in 1972, 1978, 1984, and 1991. The 1978 pocket was probably the largest, with 2.6 tonnes of polychrome and red tourmaline crystals weighing up to 20 kg each (see

**PROCESSING: SLICING AND CARVING**

Lacroix (1908) and Termier (1908) first illustrated the triangular polychromatic zoning in Madagascar tourmaline (see also Wöhrmann, 1994). To reveal the beautiful zoning, most multicolored liddicoatite is fashioned as polished slices [see figure 1 and Benesch, 1990]. Liddicoatite provides gem artists with a wide variety of colors and patterns, and so has been used to great advantage in carvings (figure 13) and intaglios (figure 14). More recently, particolored faceted stones have gained popularity [Johnson and Koivula, 1998a; Weldon, 2000].

Gerhard Becker, who purchased much of the tourmaline from the Julius Petsch Jr. Company, reportedly first commercialized the cutting of liddicoatite into slices to display the color zoning patterns more dramatically [E. J. Petsch, pers. comm., 2001]. The 1984 pocket produced about 2 tonnes of similar tourmaline, as well as several other gem materials (see Wilson, 1984). The quantity of tourmaline from the 1991 pocket is not known, although FP was told of a single sale of 600 kg of red tourmaline from this find.

Lacroix (1922a,b) reported that, besides the well-known polychrome variety, gem tourmaline from Anjanabonoina occurred in many homogeneous colors: red to violetish red (with faceted stones approaching 40 ct) grading into pink, “yellowish pink,” or colorless; “amethyst” violet to colorless; various greens, browns, and yellows; and pale blue. Facetable morganite, kunzite, spessartine, and danburite also were produced.

In the early part of the 20th century, the gem material from Anjanabonoina went first to France and later also to Germany and Switzerland [Pezzotta, 2001]. Lacroix (1922b) noted that after cutting, the best-quality gems (which presumably included tourmaline) were commonly sold as Brazilian goods. During the early 1970s, the majority of the tourmalines produced by Société Germadco were exported
2002]. He described the slicing of one such tourmaline in a 1971 article tantalizingly titled “70 pound tourmaline crystal produces multicolored slabs.” GIA’s Richard T. Liddicoat happened to visit Becker’s shop shortly after he sliced the crystal, and photographed the progression of patterns that were revealed from its base toward the termination [see Becker, 1971]. Because of their large size, Madagascar tourmaline slices also have industrial applications: Since World War II, they have been used for radio oscillator plates and pressure gauges [Frodel, 1946; Althaus and Glas, 1994].

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

We studied a total of 27 samples of Madagascar tourmaline (figures 15–17). These included eight polished multicolored slices (figure 15), six of which have a probable provenance of Anjanabonoina (W. Larson, pers. comm., 2001) with the other two from unspecified localities in Madagascar. All of the slices were cut perpendicular to the c-axis; they ranged from 1.5 x 1.9 cm to 5.0 x 7.0 cm. We also examined nine faceted [1.17–12.88 ct] and two freeform [1.24–1.29 ct] parti-colored samples that were purchased in Antsirabe, again with a probable Anjanabonoina provenance [T. Cushman, pers. comm., 2002; see figure 16]. As a third group, we looked at five faceted purplish red tourmalines [1.05–6.20 ct] from Anjanabonoina that were originally obtained by A. Lacroix in the early 20th century and three faceted purplish red tourmalines [2.98–5.48 ct] from Anjanabonoina purchased by GIA from E. Petch in 1981 (figure 17). These last three stones were analyzed by electron microprobe [two spots per sample] in 1982 at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, and confirmed as liddicoatite.

**Figure 15.** These study samples illustrate the color diversity found in Madagascar tourmaline. The six slices on the left (1.9 to 7.0 cm) were represented as being from Anjanabonoina; microprobe analysis of one (pink and light green, to the lower right) revealed that it was liddicoatite. The two slices on the right (3.0 and 4.4 cm) also were liddicoatite, except for two elbaite analyses in the green rim of the larger slice. Left—courtesy of William Larson, right—courtesy of Richard T. Liddicoat (top) and GIA (bottom); photos by Maha Tannous.

**Figure 16.** Parti-colored tourmaline from Madagascar is fashioned into dramatic step cuts and freeform polished stones, as shown in these study samples (1.17–3.56 ct on the left, and 4.00–12.88 ct on the right), which are probably from Anjanabonoina. Despite the similarities in their appearance, electron-microprobe data from the samples in the left photo revealed that two were elbaite, three were liddicoatite, and three contained zones of both species (e.g., the kite-shaped stone on the bottom right). Courtesy of Allerton Cushman & Co.; photos by Maha Tannous.
Standard gemological properties were obtained on all samples, to the extent possible. A GIA GEM Instruments Duplex II refractometer with a near-sodium-equivalent light source was used for refractive index readings. Specific gravity was determined by the hydrostatic method, although four of the slices could not be measured because they were too large for our immersion container. Reaction to ultraviolet radiation was viewed in a darkened room with four-watt long- and short-wave UV lamps. Because the absorption spectra for tourmalines typically do not provide much meaningful information (see, e.g., Webster, 1994), we did not perform spectroscopy on these samples. Internal features were observed with a standard gemological microscope, and a polariscope was used to view strain. Laser Raman microspectrometry, performed with a Renishaw 2000 Ramascope at GIA in Carlsbad, was used to identify mineral inclusions in several samples.

Quantitative chemical analyses were obtained by electron microprobe at the University of New Orleans, Louisiana (ARL-SEMQ instrument), and at the University of Manitoba, Canada ( Cameca SX 50 instrument). Most of the Madagascar study samples were analyzed: three slices, two freeforms (each of which had a large flat area), and 14 faceted stones. In addition, a small fragment from the tourmaline crystal that is illustrated in Appendix A was analyzed by electron microprobe. As part of an ongoing project by one of the authors (WS) to characterize the composition of gem tourmaline, chemical data were also obtained for several samples from other localities that are known or suspected to produce liddicoatite: two faceted ovals (3.95 and 20.47 ct; the latter stone was described by Koivula and Kammerling [1990]), reportedly from Minas Gerais, Brazil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color</td>
<td>Diverse color range, commonly in complex zones and patterns, arranged predominately parallel to pyramidal faces. Homogeneous colors include red to violetish red (most common), grading into pink, pinkish yellow, and colorless; “amethyst” violet to colorless; various greens and browns; pale blue; and yellow of various hues.(^\text{a})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleochroism</td>
<td>Weak to strong, depending on color</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td>Transparent to translucent; an opaque black skin is present on most crystals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morphology</td>
<td>Stout prismatic crystals with trigonal symmetry, bounded by faces of the prism, rhombohedron, and scalenohedron; striated parallel to the c-axis(^\text{b})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optic character</td>
<td>Uniaxial negative (may contain biaxial zones); strain commonly observed with polariscope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refractive indices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\text{na})</td>
<td>1.635–1.651 (1.637±0.003(^\text{a}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\text{nb})</td>
<td>1.619–1.634 (1.621±0.003(^\text{a}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birefringence</td>
<td>0.014–0.027 (0.019(^\text{a}))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific gravity</td>
<td>3.05–3.07 for parti-colored stones and slices; 3.06–3.11 for purplish red samples (3.052–3.092(^\text{c}), 3.00–3.07(^\text{c}))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersion</td>
<td>0.017 (B to G)(^\text{c})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardness</td>
<td>7–7(^\text{c})/2(^\text{b})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luster</td>
<td>Vitreous on fracture surfaces(^\text{c})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleavage</td>
<td>Poor on [0001] or absent(^\text{c})</td>
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<tr>
<td>UV fluorescence</td>
<td>Inert to moderate greenish yellow to golden yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-wave</td>
<td>Inert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color zoning, accompanied by growth zoning in some samples; strain patterns; interconnected network of wavy, partially healed fractures that are composed of stringers, minute lint-like particles, and irregular forms (both one- and two-phase liquid-gas), commonly with a wispy appearance; feathers; needle-like tubes; pinpoint; albite, tourmaline, xenotime, and quartz inclusions; negative crystals and cavities</td>
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Properties were obtained in this study unless otherwise noted:
\(^\text{a}\) Lacroix (1922a)  
\(^\text{b}\) Dunn et al. (1978)  
\(^\text{c}\) Webster (1994)  
\(^\text{d}\) Dunn et al. (1977)
Brazil, one polished slice from Vietnam; one polished crystal [from Abuja] and six polished slabs from unspecified localities in Nigeria; five polished slabs from “Congo”; and a small crystal fragment from Chita, eastern Transbaikalia, Russia. From four to 14 spots per stone were analyzed.

Since some elements in tourmaline (i.e., boron, lithium, and hydrogen) cannot be measured by electron microprobe, a series of assumptions must be made when calculating the cations in the formulas. For consistency, we calculated the cations for all of the analyses—whether obtained by us or from the literature—according to standard conventions [see Deer et al., 1992]. Contents of Li, O, B, O, and H also were calculated, except for those analyses for which Li, B, and H were determined by analytical means.

RESULTS

Our results confirmed earlier statements in the literature [see, e.g., Webster, 1994] to the effect that liddicoatite and elbaite cannot be separated conclusively without chemical analysis. Both tourmaline species were found in the Madagascar study samples. Although all of the parti-colored tourmalines were represented as liddicoatite, two of the nine samples analyzed by microprobe were elbaite, three were liddicoatite, and three contained both species depending on the particular spot analyzed. All three of the slices analyzed were liddicoatite, but one contained elbaite near the rim. All eight of the purplish red gemstones were liddicoatite. Regardless of the species, the samples showed overlapping properties and therefore the results obtained for liddicoatite and elbaite are not differentiated below or in table 1.

Visual Appearance and Gemological Properties. The parti-colored samples displayed multiple closely spaced color zones with sharp to diffuse boundaries, as described by Mitchell (1984). The color zones were commonly arranged in straight, subparallel layers, although some samples had bent or swirled patterns [figures 18 and 19]. The colors ranged from pink to purplish red, orange pink to pinkish orange, yellowish green to bluish green, brownish green to brown to brownish yellow, greenish blue, black, and colorless. Most of these hues were present in a wide range of tones [i.e., light to dark] and saturations [i.e., pale to intense], resulting in considerable variations [see figures 16, 18–19].

The polished slices also showed distinct patterns of color zoning, the two most common of which were triangular zones around the core and concentric layers near the rim. The triangular zones are defined by straight, planar boundaries that are parallel to a pyramidal direction [i.e., a rhombohedron]. In some slices, however, the boundary with the central triangle is parallel to the prism faces [i.e., the c-axis]. The concentric outer zones are oriented parallel to the prism faces and are typically very narrow.

All samples [other than the slices, which were viewed parallel to the c-axis] showed moderate to strong dichroism in the darker, more saturated colors, and weak pleochroism in the lighter, less saturated areas.

The samples ranged from transparent to translucent, except for zones or layers that were black [opaque]. The diaphaneity of the lighter colors was commonly reduced by the presence of abundant inclusions.

When viewed with the polariscope, most of the multicolored samples exhibited birefringence...
[strain] patterns. These mottled, lamellar, cross-hatched, and irregular patterns varied in intensity from subtle to distinct. Lamellar birefringence was seen in the outer areas of the slices that showed multiple concentric color zones, but in some samples a patchy appearance was seen in the core, starting at the boundary with the triangular color zones. No strain features were visible in the three homogenous purplish red samples, except when oriented parallel to the c-axis.

The measurement of refractive indices was problematic for most of the multicolored samples due to significant R.I. variations across the color zones. These zones were generally too narrow to permit accurate R.I. readings of individual color bands, so the shadow cutoff moved according to the viewer’s eye position. In such cases the best “average” readings for the upper and lower R.I. values were recorded. Unzoned portions that were large enough to measure independently (found in a few slices and polished stones) yielded sharp R.I. readings. Although there appeared to be no systematic differences in R.I. or birefringence according to color in these stones, in general they did show significant R.I. variations from one color zone to another (typically ±0.004–0.007). The maximum variation seen in a single sample was \( n_a = 1.639–1.650 \) and \( n_c = 1.620–1.629 \). The range of R.I. values measured in all of the samples was \( n_a = 1.635–1.651 \) and \( n_c = 1.619–1.634 \). All of the slabs yielded two R.I. values (parallel to the c-axis) that differed by as much as 0.027. Overall, birefringence varied widely (0.014–0.027), but most values ranged from 0.015 to 0.021.

Specific gravity showed less variation than R.I. The 15 multicolored samples that could be measured with our apparatus had a fairly even distribution of values, ranging from 3.05 to 3.07. The eight purplish red samples had S.G. values of 3.06–3.11.

All of the samples were inert to long-wave UV radiation, and approximately two-thirds were inert to short-wave UV. The 10 (multicolored) samples that fluoresced to short-wave UV showed greenish...
yellow to “golden” yellow luminescence, of weak to moderate intensity, in specific areas corresponding to certain color zones. Most commonly, these zones were pale pink to colorless, although green, brown, and brownish green or yellow zones also fluoresced in some samples. No phosphorescence was seen.

**Internal Features.** When examined with the microscope, the most obvious internal feature in the multicolored samples was the pronounced color zoning, as described above. In some samples, repeating sequences of color zones had sharp boundaries between one another, and showed gradations in color within each sequence (figure 18). Growth structures were evident in a few samples, mainly along color boundaries and parallel to them; less commonly, crosscutting growth patterns were seen (figure 19).

The strain patterns observed with the polariscope in the multicolored samples were also visible with the microscope in cross-polarized light (see, e.g., figure 20); the same patterns described above were noted. The homogeneous purplish red samples showed no signs of strain except when viewed down the optic axis, revealing subtle wavy or mottled patterns.

Present in all samples were partially healed fractures containing fluid- and/or two-phase [liquid-gas] inclusions (figure 21). These commonly formed wavy, intersecting networks composed of elongate stringers, minute capillaries with a thread- or lint-like appearance [i.e., trichites], or a variety of irregularly shaped forms. Angular cavities were present along partially healed fractures in some samples. Small fractures (“feathers”) also were common. Within the slices, some of the surface-reaching feathers were filled with an opaque white substance that was tentatively identified by Raman analysis as wax or oil.

Other common inclusions were needle-like tubes that were isolated or arranged in parallel arrays. Seen in five samples, these were most commonly located within green color zones (figure 22), and in two samples they appeared to start at minute colorless mineral inclusions showing high relief. Many other mineral inclusions were noted. In eight samples, rounded, colorless crystals formed isolated inclusions and [less commonly] groups; in five of the samples, these were identified by Raman analysis as albite (see, e.g., figure 23). Colorless to pale green crystals with low relief, seen in two parti-colored liddicoatite samples, were identified by Raman analysis as tourmaline; they varied from stubby to prismatic (figure 24).

Near one of these tourmaline inclusions, a crystal of orangy brown xenotime was identified by Raman analysis (again, see figure 24). In the elbaite portion of another parti-colored sample, xenotime with a quite different appearance was also identified by Raman analysis: minute, colorless, blocky crystals aligned parallel to color zoning (again, see figure 23). Quartz was present in one liddicoatite sample as a relatively large, rounded, colorless inclusion. Black pinpoints [not identifiable] were seen in one parti-colored elbaite sample. Negative crystals and cavities were present in a few samples.

**Figure 23.** A light brown zone in this parti-colored elbaite-liddicoatite contains some relatively large, rounded, colorless inclusions with high relief (white arrows); these were identified as albite by Raman analysis. Several minute, colorless, blocky crystals of xenotime (identified by Raman analysis) were also present in this sample; a few of them are shown here (green arrows). Photomicrograph by John I. Koivula; magnified 15x.

**Figure 24.** Several prismatic, birefringent inclusions are evident in this parti-colored liddicoatite; the largest one was identified as tourmaline by Raman analysis. The Raman spectrum of the adjacent dark orangy brown inclusion showed that it was xenotime. Photomicrograph by John I. Koivula; partially cross-polarized light, magnified 2.5x.
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<th>Anjanabonoinal3-4</th>
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<td>99.15</td>
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Ions on the basis of 31 (O,OH,F)

- Si: 5.826
- Al: 0.174
- Ti: 1.318
- Fe: 0.130
- Mn: 0.046
- Mg: 1.497
- Ca: 0.471
- Na: 0.414
- K: 0.116
- F: 0.665
- OH: 3.335
- Ca/(Ca+Na): 0.53

*All iron reported as FeO. Except where noted, all analyses were by electron microprobe, with Li2O, B2O3, and H2O calculated by stoichiometry: B = 3
*apfu (atoms per formula unit), Li = 3-SumV, and OH + F = 4 apfu. Note that some cation sums may not add up exactly as shown, due to rounding of the calculated numbers. Abbreviations: dk. = dark, lt. = light, nd = not detected, nr = not reported, RBC = round brilliant cut, and RSC = rectangular step cut.
*Neter and Schmetzer (1981) reported the composition of a green Madagascar liddicoatite as (Ca0.72Na0.28)(Li0.32Al0.07Fe0.23Al0.30)(Fe0.33Al0.67)(Si0.58O2.52).
*Reference/analyst—b: 1- F. C. Hawthorne (this study); b: 2- Caltech sample 12961; b: 3- W. B. Simmons and A. U. Falster (this study) b: 4- Lacroix (1922a); b: 5- Dunn et al. (1977); b: 6- Duparc et al. (1910); b: 7- Akizuki et al. (2001); b: 8- Auriac et al. (1999); and b: 9- Bloomfield (1997), see also table 5.12, analysis 57 of Shnakin and Makag (1999). Analyses by F. C. Hawthorne used a Cameca SX50 instrument, with minerals or synthetic compounds as standards, an accelerating voltage of 15 kV, sample current of 15 nA, 2 μm beam diameter, 20–30 second count time, and the data correction procedure of Pouchou and Pichoir (1985); the following elements were analyzed for but not detected: P, Sc, V, Cr, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Sb, and Bi. Analyses by W. B. Simmons and A. U. Falster used an ARL SEMQ instrument, with minerals or synthetic compounds as standards, an accelerating voltage of 15 kV, sample current of 15 nA, 2 μm beam diameter, 60 second count time, and the OZTAF eq(20)/PRSLPR data acquisition and data reduction program; the following elements were analyzed for but not detected: P, Sc, V, Cr, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Sb, and Bi, except in the 1.06 ct hexagon which contained up to 0.10 wt.% V2O3, 0.15 wt.% ZnO, and 0.09 wt.% Bi2O3.
### Table

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</table>

- Determined by wet chemistry.
- Spectrographic analysis also revealed traces of Ga and Pb.
- This sample had R.I. values of n<sub>D</sub> = 1.6441 and n<sub>g</sub> = 1.6256, birefringence = 0.0155, and S.G. = 3.047.
- This sample had R.I. values of n<sub>D</sub> = 1.6408 and n<sub>g</sub> = 1.6246, birefringence = 0.0162, and S.G. = 2.978.
- Analysis of the o sector of a sector-zoned crystal.
- Average of three analyses; Lacsimiren is the name used by gem dealers, but the actual Malagasy name is Alakamisy Itenina. B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was determined by SIMS, Li<sub>2</sub>O by atomic absorption, and H<sub>2</sub>O by GC and TGA.
- Unpublished data of W. B. Simons and A. U. Falster.
- Calculation included traces of Pb; this element is not shown above due to possible contamination problems.

---

the analyses from this study correspond to elbaite compositions. As expected, there was no correlation between color and Ca/Na content.

Among the liddicoaitite analyses, Ca contents ranged from relatively constant to variable (e.g., 2.74–4.56 wt.% CaO in one slice) within single samples. An X-ray map of a small portion of one sample revealed gradational Ca contents that corre-
has not been included in analyses of liddicoatite published in the literature.
For chemical data on liddicoatite from other world localities, see Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Color Zoning. Benesch [1990] provided a detailed description of color zoning in Madagascar tourmaline, with excellent illustrations of cross-sections cut in orientations perpendicular and parallel to the c-axis [see, e.g., figure 27]. A visual journey through a succession of liddicoatite slices cut perpendicular to the c-axis is accessible on the Internet at minerals.gps.caltech.edu/mineralogy/animation.htm.

The slices we studied displayed color zoning that is consistent with the features described for liddicoatite by Dunn et al. [1977, 1978]. These authors [as well as earlier researchers] indicated that, while the color zoning in elbaite is parallel to the basal pinacoid and/or prism faces, the predominant triangular color boundaries in liddicoatite are “parallel to...
a pyramid.” Therefore, in slices cut perpendicular to
the c-axis, these boundaries will not appear sharp. In
contrast, the outer concentric color zones are parallel
to prism faces (and thus the c-axis), so they do
appear sharp in the slices (see, e.g., figure 1). Regardless of which color zones are observed, both
abrupt and gradual transitions from one color to
another are seen; these reflect dynamic geochemical
changes in the crystallization environment [Lacroix,
1922a; Benesch, 1990; Zang, 2000].

Although not seen in our study samples, a trigonal star pattern is a notable feature of many
Madagascar tourmaline slices cut perpendicular to
the c-axis [e.g., Lacroix, 1922a; Wentling, 1980;
Zang, 1994c]. This star is typically pink or red, and
crosscuts the adjacent triangular zones before being
truncated against the outer concentric color layers
(see figure 3). In slices cut parallel to the c-axis [figure 27], this same feature may be visible as a spike-
shaped color zone of variable width that follows the
apex of the pyramidal faces. Trigonal stars of various
colors have been seen in tourmaline from Brazil,
Mozambique, and elsewhere, although these
crystals are typically smaller [less than 4 cm in
diameter] than those from Madagascar [Benesch,
1990]; we did not chemically analyze any such sam-
ple for this study. The origin of these stars has been
debated for years [Benesch, 1990]. From his observa-
tions of Madagascar tourmaline, Zang [1994c] sug-
gested that during crystallization under decreasing
temperature, the red stars form as a result of the
preferential incorporation of the large Mn²⁺ ion into
the fast-growing pyramid {1011} faces.

Another color-zoning phenomenon [not seen in
our study samples but found in some tourmalines
from Madagascar, Brazil, and Namibia] is the
“aggregate type” zoning described by Benesch
(1990). This is present in crystal portions [generally
near the termination] that consist of an accumula-
tion of tourmaline subcrystals in parallel orienta-
tion. Slices cut from such crystals often display
spectacular mottled patterns [see, e.g., figure 14].

Gemological Properties. As in elbaite, the R.I. values
of liddicoatite should vary with transition metal
contents [e.g., Fe, Mn, and Ti]: Higher contents of
these elements lead to greater R.I. and birefringence
values [Deer et al., 1997]. Although in most cases
we could not obtain R.I. measurements on the nar-
row individual color zones, for those few samples
with wide enough color zones, the lack of systemat-
ic R.I. trends was probably due to the relatively

Figure 27. This watercolor painting of an
Anjanabonoina tourmaline sliced parallel to the c-axis shows how the color zoning is oriented parallel
to the prism and pyramid faces. Note also the
central spike-shaped pink area that follows the
apex of the pyramidal faces. Looking perpendicular
to the c-axis, this pink zone would form the central
part of a trigonal star. This cross-section was
reconstructed from a series of slices from the same
crystal oriented perpendicular to the c-axis.
Reprinted with permission from Benesch (1990, p.
298), © Verlag Freies Geistesleben \ Urachhaus
GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany.
small variations in overall transition metal contents. From a study of several tourmalines of different colors and from different deposits in Madagascar, Lacroix (1922a) noted a general correlation between increasing R.I. and S.G. values, but no systematic relationship of either measurement to color. The R.I. values we measured (1.619–1.651) were similar to the range Lacroix reported (1.620–1.6480) but somewhat higher than those reported by Dunn et al. (1978) for liddicoatite (1.621 and 1.637, ±0.003). The birefringence values we obtained (0.014–0.027) are fairly similar to those of Lacroix (0.0162–0.0236).

The slabs [cut perpendicular to the c-axis] apparently contained biaxial domains, as they yielded two R.I. values with significant birefringence (i.e., up to 0.027). Lacroix (1922a) noted that Madagascar tourmaline crystals are locally biaxial, however, he observed no correlation between birefringence and color zoning. In liddicoatite from Jochy, Madagascar, Akizuki et al. (2001) determined that biaxial domains—which have triclinic and orthorhombic symmetry—correspond to certain crystallographic sectors [and compositional zoning] that formed during crystal growth. Biaxial domains also have been found in elbaite [see Ford and Mills, 1978]. The common occurrence of strain patterns in elbaite and liddicoatite may therefore be related to biaxial domains that formed during growth.

Notwithstanding the effects of inclusions, the specific gravity of tourmaline increases with greater contents of transition metals [Deer et al., 1997]. Our multicolored samples showed rather small variations in specific gravity (3.05–3.07). The higher S.G. values (3.06–3.11) obtained for the eight purplish red liddicoatites may be due to the fact that they contained fewer fluid inclusions than the multicolored samples. There was no systematic relationship between transition-metal content and S.G. in our samples. The S.G. values of the multicolored samples fell within the ranges reported for tourmaline of liddicoatite composition: 3.052–3.092 [Lacroix, 1922a] and 3.00–3.07 [Dunn et al., 1978]. The higher S.G. values measured for the purplish red samples are consistent with the 3.107 value reported by Lacroix (1922a) for “amethyst”-violet tourmaline from Anjanabonoina.

The partially healed fractures, feathers, tubes, and pinpoints seen in our study samples are typical of inclusions in tourmaline [see, e.g., Webster, 1994]. Among the mineral inclusions, albite and tourmaline are commonly found in elbaite [see Koivula, 1994; Webster, 1994]. To our knowledge, however, xenotime and quartz had not been documented previously in elbaite or liddicoatite.

Chemical Properties. To distinguish liddicoatite from elbaite, cations in the formula are calculated from the weight-percent oxides obtained from the quantitative chemical analyses so that the X-site constituents can be compared on an “atoms per formula unit” basis. In an analysis of lithium tourmaline, if Ca is the dominant element in the X site, it is liddicoatite. Conversely, elbaite is the Na-dominant species. Besides Ca and Na, this site may contain potassium and/or vacancies. Although potassium is not important in tourmaline, vacancies may constitute a significant proportion of the X site, if they are dominant, then the lithium tourmaline species is rossmanite. [For more on distinguishing among lithium-aluminum tourmalines, see Hawthorne and Henry [1999] and Zolotarev and Bulakh [1999].]

Dunn et al. (1978) indicated that Madagascar tourmaline crystals usually are composed entirely of one species. This was not the case for several of the samples we analyzed from Madagascar and elsewhere [see depository data]. Akizuki et al. (2001) studied two sector-zoned liddicoatite crystals from Jochy, Madagascar, one of which contained elbaite in the a[1120] sector. Nevertheless, some liddicoatite from Madagascar is chemically homogeneous enough to be used as a reliable reference material for elemental and isotopic work [Aurisicchio et al., 1999]. The experience of one of the authors [FP] has shown that the polychrome crystals from Anjanabonoina usually are derived from large cavities, and these tourmalines are typically liddicoatite throughout. By contrast, crystals showing simpler zonation from small cavities at this mine are predominantly elbaite or dravite, with liddicoatite being scarce or absent.

The Ca and Na contents of liddicoatite show no systematic relationship to color [Dunn et al., 1978; see also figure 25]. Conversely, Fe, Mn, and Ti affect the coloration of liddicoatite in the same way that they affect elbaite [Dietrich, 1985]. Analyses of colorless samples revealed very small amounts of these elements. Pink samples contained small but significant amounts of Mn and very low amounts of Fe, whereas green portions contained higher Fe; analogous trends were reported by Webber et al. (2002) in liddicoatite from Anjanabonoina and Fianarantsoa. Yellow bands generally have moderately low to low
Fe with higher Mn and Ti. The blue, greenish blue, and gray portions contained the highest Fe. The coloration of elbaite [and liddicoaitite, by inference] is well documented in the literature; for useful reviews, see Althaus [1979], Dietrich [1985], Zang [1994a], Deer et al. [1997], and the Web site minerals.caltech.edu/files/visible/tourmaline/index.htm.

**Geologic Origin.** Selway et al. [1999] noted that liddicoaitite may be found in elbaite-subtype pegmatites, but not in those of the lepidolite subtype. Selway [1999] indicated that within elbaite-subtype pegmatites, liddicoaitite-elbaite is the last tourmaline to form [i.e., after the crystallization of Ca-bearing schorl and Mn-rich elbaite]. Therefore, geochemically it is the most “evolved” tourmaline in these pegmatites.

Granitic pegmatites typically are not rich in Ca, and many amounts present may be consumed by the early crystallization of plagioclase and Ca-bearing tourmaline. The presence of liddicoaitite in gem-bearing cavities indicates that Ca was abundant during late-stage pegmatite crystallization. Teertstra et al. [1999] postulated that the Ca needed to form liddicoaitite could be mobilized from the pegmatite host rocks or the alteration of previously crystallized Ca-bearing minerals [e.g., plagioclase], or the Ca could be geochemically conserved [e.g., as fluoride complexes] during pegmatite crystallization until late stages. While all three of these mechanisms may play a role, it is important to note that in elbaite-subtype pegmatites, liddicoaitite is typically found in deposits that are located in or near Ca-rich host rocks [Selway, 1999]. (One exception is liddicoaitite from the Malkhan district in Russian, which is not associated with Ca-rich host rocks.) Although Ca-rich minerals are common in many Madagascar pegmatites, liddicoaitite is not always present and therefore its formation may be related more to paragenetic effects [i.e., pertaining to the order of mineral crystallization] than to the total amount of Ca available in the pegmatite system.

A petrogenetic model for the formation of the Anjanabonoina pegmatites is currently being developed [Dini et al., 2002; De Vito, 2002; and unpublished work of one of the authors [FP]]. This model invokes significant contamination of the pegmatitic melts with components derived from the metasedimentary [including dolomitic carbonate] host rocks. Isotopic data suggest that the boron in the pegmatites is derived from metasedimentary evaporitic rocks. In this model, the pegmatitic magmas formed by the fractional crystallization of late to post-tectonic granites—and were contaminated by fluids derived from the metasediments of the Itremo Group—during pegmatite emplacement in extensional faults. The complex color zoning of the polychrome tourmaline reflects a dynamic multistage crystallization process.

**IDENTIFICATION**

Dunn et al. [1977] reported that liddicoaitite cannot be differentiated from elbaite by its optical and physical characteristics, or even with X-ray diffraction techniques and unit cell dimension data. In the gem trade, liddicoaitite traditionally has been informally separated from elbaite by the presence of features such as triangular color zoning, a trigonal star, or parti-colored zonation. However, quantitative chemical analyses are required to confirm the tourmaline species. Since they cannot be separated by practical gemological methods, gemologists typically do not distinguish between liddicoaitite and elbaite. Therefore, some tourmalines sold as elbaite may actually be liddicoaitite, and more localities for this species are being recognized as chemical analyses are obtained [see, e.g., Hlava, 2001; Laurs, 2001; Appendix A].

Little is known about the treatments done to liddicoaitite. We could not find any reference to the heating or irradiation of this tourmaline, although some “elbaite” treated by these methods may actually be liddicoaitite, as discussed above. Reddish violet tourmaline [probably liddicoaitite] from the Coronel Murta area in Minas Gerais, Brazil, has been heat-treated to a green color [H. Elawar, pers. comm., 2002]. A polychrome tourmaline slice [locality not specified] was recently reported to be fracture-filled with resin [Bank et al., 1999b]. Madagascar tourmaline slices containing natural fractures are commonly stabilized with resin [W. Larson, pers. comm., 2002]. Fractured slices also have been stabilized by constructing doublets with glass or plastic [Koivula et al., 1992; Henn and Bank, 1993; Bank et al., 1999a].

Wax or oil was tentatively identified in some slices obtained for this study. According to W. Larson [pers. comm., 2002], prior to polishing the slices, surface irregularities are filled with paraffin wax to prevent the unsightly concentration of polishing residues in those areas. The wax is then melted away by boiling the slices in water, although it is not always completely removed from the fractures.

LIDICOAITITE FROM MADAGASCAR
CONCLUSION
Most of the liddicoatite in the gem trade has come from the Anjanabonoina pegmatites in central Madagascar. Although fine color-zoned tourmalines have been recovered elsewhere in the world, and some of these have been identified as liddicoatite by quantitative chemical analysis, the complex color zones and patterns seen in Madagascar tourmaline are unrivaled by tourmaline from other localities [Benesch, 1990]. The difficult access, mining conditions, and security problems continue to limit further production at Anjanabonoina, although previously mined material does enter the market occasionally. Dramatic and unusual, liddicoatite is revered by gem collectors and researchers, and is well-suited for one-of-a-kind jewelry designs (figure 28).

ABOUT THE AUTHORS
Ms. Drilam (ddrilam@gia.edu) is director of the Richard T. Liddicoat Library and Information Center, and Mr. Laurs is senior editor of Gems & Gemology at GIA in Carlsbad. Dr. Pezzotta is curator of mineralogy at the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan, Italy. Dr. Simmons is professor of mineralogy in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of New Orleans, Louisiana.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The authors thank Eckehard Julius Petsch of Julius Petsch Jr., Idar-Oberstein, Germany, for providing information on the history and mining of the Anjanabonoina pegmatite. Electron microprobe analyses were performed by Dr. Frank Hawthorne and Ron Chapman at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, and by one of the authors (WS) and Alexander U. Falster at the University of New Orleans, Louisiana. John I. Kolvula of the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory in Carlsbad performed photomicrography, and Shane Elen and Sam Muhimeister of GIA provided helpful assistance with Raman analyses. Samples of tourmaline were provided for this study by William Larson (Pala International, Fallbrook, California), Tom Cushman (Allerton Cushman & Co., Sun Valley, Idaho), Benjamin Rondeau (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), Richard T. Liddicoat (GIA, Carlsbad), John Patrick (El Sobrante, California), and the GIA collection. We thank the following for assistance with translating selected publications: Inna Saphorova (Novosibirsk, Russia), Valerie Crabert (formerly of the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory in New York), Sheryl Elen (GIA Library, Carlsbad), and Claus Hedegaard (Rønne, Denmark). Neil Barron (GIA Library, Carlsbad) is thanked for obtaining numerous publications via interlibrary loan. Dr. Julie Seaway (Ontario Geological Survey, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada) provided helpful discussions on tourmaline composition. Hassain Elawar (K. Elawar Ltd., Teddilo Otoni, Brazil) and Dr. Anthony Kampf (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California) provided information on liddicoatite from Brazil. Dr. Milan Novák (Moravské Zemské Muzeum, Brno, Czech Republic) supplied information on liddicoatite from this country. Dr. Kampf, Dr. Joachim Zang (Gustav Zang, Idar-Oberstein, Germany), Dr. Emmanuel Fritsch (Institut des Materiaux de France in Nantes), and Dr. Alfred Levinson (University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada) are thanked for their constructive reviews of this manuscript.

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APPENDIX A: WORLD SOURCES OF LIDDICOATITE

In addition to Anjanabonomina, liddicoatite has been identified from several locations in central and south-central Madagascar, including Antaboaka, Jochy, Lacamisinten [also called Alakamisy Itenina], Malakialina, Maroandro, and the Sahatany Valley [see table 2], as well as Vohitrakanga [preliminary data of FP]. Table A-1 contains chemical analyses of liddicoatite from elsewhere in the world. All of these localities have produced gem-quality tourmaline except for those in Canada and the Czech Republic, which are included for completeness. In Canada, liddicoatite was found in the High Grade Dike of the Cat Lake–Winnipeg River pegmatite field [Teertstra et al., 1999]. The tourmaline occurs at two localities in the Czech Republic. Liddicoatite-elveite from Blížná in southern Bohemia was documented by Novák et al. [1999]. At Recice, liddicoatite is very rare, forming narrow zones in crystals of Ca,Mn-rich elbaite (M. Novák, pers. comm., 1999).

Brazil has been rumored as a possible source of liddicoatite for years [see, e.g., Koivula and Kammerling, 1990; figure A-1]. The large faceted stone described in that Gem News item, as well as a 3.95 ct sample from the same source, were confirmed as liddicoatite for this study. Several additional brownish purple Brazilian samples, from the same source [Mauro de Souza, Marcelo Gemas Inc., Los Angeles] were qualitatively analyzed by GIA Research in 1990, and indicated as liddicoatite and elbaite. These samples probably came from the Coronel Murta area, where significant amounts of similar-colored tourmaline have been mined and sold as liddicoatite [H. Elawar, pers. comm., 2002].

Multicolored slices of tourmaline that are reportedly from the “Congo” were analyzed for this study and found to contain liddicoatite in certain zones [without any particular trend in color or position]. To our knowledge, this is the first time liddicoatite has been identified there.

An analysis of liddicoatite from Mozambique was presented by Sahama et al. [1979]. Chemical data on tourmaline from this country are uncommon in the literature, and more analyses will probably reveal additional liddicoatite from the extensive pegmatite fields there.

Recently, Nigeria has emerged as a source of liddicoatite. Electron microprobe analyses of an orangy pink liddicoatite from the Ogboxosho area revealed relatively high bismuth contents [Hlava, 2001], and a purplish red crystal from the Abuja area was also confirmed as liddicoatite [Lauris, 2001, and this study]. Further analyses of multicolored slices from Nigeria done for this study revealed liddicoatite in several samples and representing many colors (see depository data).

Liddicoatite has been documented from the Malkan district in Russia [see Zagorsky et al., 1989; Zagorsky and Peretyazhko, 1992]. A sample analyzed from the Transbaikalia area for this study contained zones of liddicoatite, elbaite, and schorl-elveite.

Zang [1994b] analyzed a tourmaline from Sanga-Sanga, Tanzania, that contained attractive triangular color zones; both liddicoatite and elbaite (as well as schorl) were present in the sample.

Ngu [2001] presented an X-ray diffraction pattern and Raman spectrum for what was reportedly black liddicoatite from Luc Yen, Vietnam, but did not provide a chemical analysis of the material to confirm the identification. A multicolored slice from Vietnam analyzed for this study contained liddicoatite in a red zone. This slab displayed the trigonal star that is so commonly seen in Madagascar liddicoatite, yet it was dominantly elbaite.

Figure A-1. The purplish red color of this rough and cut tourmaline is similar, yet the crystal (elbaite-liddicoatite) is from Anjanabonomina and the oval brilliant (liddicoatite) was reportedly mined in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The crystal (6.4 x 3.7 cm) is courtesy of William Larson, and the faceted stone (20.47 ct) is from the GIA collection. Photo © Harold e/ Erica Van Pelt.
### TABLE A-1. Chemical composition of liddicoatite from localities other than Madagascar. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical Composition</th>
<th>Minas Gerais, Brazil&lt;sup&gt;1,2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Manitoba, Canada&lt;sup&gt;2,3&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>“Congo”&lt;sup&gt;4-6&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Blžná, Czech Republic (Unit A)&lt;sup&gt;4,5&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Mulanje, Mozambique&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Abuja, Nigeria&lt;sup&gt;5,6&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>1.39 ct crystal</th>
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<td>20.37 ct cushion</td>
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<td>nr</td>
<td>Slice</td>
<td>Slice</td>
<td>nr</td>
<td>nr</td>
<td>1.39 ct crystal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.95 ct cushion</td>
<td>Purplish red</td>
<td>nr</td>
<td>Slice</td>
<td>Slice</td>
<td>nr</td>
<td>nr</td>
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<td>CaO</td>
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<td>2.58</td>
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<td>99.52</td>
<td>99.68</td>
<td>99.14</td>
<td>100.16</td>
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**Ions on the basis of 31 (O, OH, F)**

| Si | 5.965 | 5.926 | 5.868 | 5.951 | 6.078 | 5.765 | 5.842 | 5.951 |
| Al | 0.039 | 0.074 | 0.132 | 0.049 | 0.000 | 0.235 | 0.158 | 0.049 |
| Tet. sum | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.078 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| B | 3.000 | 3.000 | 2.952 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.039 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Al (Z) | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| Al | 1.306 | 1.181 | 1.434 | 1.260 | 1.054 | 1.057 | 1.085 | 1.275 |
| Ti | nr | nr | nr | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.042 | 0.008 | 0.000 |
| Fe²⁺ | 0.000 | 0.015 | 0.040 | 0.061 | 0.089 | 0.019 | 0.303 | 0.011 |
| Mn | 0.038 | 0.322 | 0.200 | 0.080 | 0.076 | 0.636 | 0.104 | 0.029 |
| Mg | nr | nr | nr | nd | nd | 0.012 | 0.038 | 0.011 |
| Li | 1.649 | 1.457 | 1.288 | 1.592 | 1.771 | 1.084 | 1.371 | 1.674 |
| Y sum | 3.000 | 3.000 | 2.962 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 2.890 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Ca | 0.545 | 0.475 | 0.423 | 0.597 | 0.529 | 0.449 | 0.493 | 0.500 |
| Na | 0.294 | 0.401 | 0.367 | 0.174 | 0.333 | 0.438 | 0.440 | 0.445 |
| K | nr | nr | nr | nd | nd | nr | nd | 0.004 |
| Vacancy | 0.160 | 0.124 | 0.210 | 0.229 | 0.138 | 0.113 | 0.065 | 0.151 |
| X sum | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| F | 0.733 | 0.729 | 0.449 | 0.270 | 0.222 | 0.580 | 0.728 | 0.603 |
| Ca/(Ca+Na) | 0.65 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.77 | 0.61 | 0.51 | 0.53 | 0.53 |

*All iron reported as FeO. Except where noted, all analyses by electron microprobe, and Li₂O, B₂O₃, and H₂O calculated by stoichiometry: B = 3 apfu (atoms per formula unit), Li = 3-Sum Y, and OH + F = 4 apfu. Abbreviations: It. = light, nd = not detected, nr = not reported, xL = crystal.*

*Reference/analyst—b: 1—F. C. Hawthorne (this study); b: 2—Teerstra et al. (1998); b: 3—W. B. Simmons and A. U. Falster (this study); b: 4—Novak et al. (1999); b: 5—Sahama et al. (1979); b: 6—Zagorski et al. (1989); and b: 7—Zang (1994b). For instrumental operating conditions used by F. C. Hawthorne, as well as W. B. Simmons and A. U. Falster, see table 2, footnote b.*

*Average of an unspecified number of analyses; boron, lithium, and hydrogen were determined by ion microprobe (SIMS).*

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**LIDICOATITE FROM MADAGASCAR**

**GEMS & GEMOLOGY**

**SPRING 2002**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nigeria&lt;sup&gt;a,b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Malkhan, Russia&lt;sup&gt;c,d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Transbaikalia, Russia&lt;sup&gt;e,f&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Sanga Sanga, Tanzania&lt;sup&gt;g,h&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<td>99.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lt. pink</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98.49</td>
<td>98.65</td>
<td>98.16</td>
<td>99.77</td>
<td>100.57</td>
<td>99.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Also contained up to 0.10 V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>b</sup> Also contained up to 0.05 wt.% ZnO and 0.04 wt.% Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; Cl, Cr, V, and Ba were not detected.

<sup>c</sup> Also contained up to 0.04 V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>d</sup> Boron and lithium were determined by wet chemistry.

<sup>e</sup> Analyzed by SEM-EDS.

<sup>f</sup> Also contained up to 0.19 wt.% ZnO.


Laplane L. (1951) Etude géologique des feuilles Tsiranoanomidy


