

TIME FOR SUBSTITUTING INDIGENOUS TERMS IN GEOLOGY

The thoughtful correspondence of Professor P.G. Cooray (*JGSI*, 1998, v.51, p.710) on the usage of terms like Khondalite and Leptynite in Indian Geology is long overdue.

In 1950 I did my M.Sc. thesis on Pallavaram and Tambaram areas, where the khondalite-charnockite association was recorded and an abstract was published in Indian Science Congress, 1951 with Professor C. Mahadevan. I had used, in my lectures here in 1960-80's, the terms Gondite and Kodurite to describe the Mn-protore to account for the genesis of the famous Serra do Navio Mn deposit in Amapa State, Brazil. I read Professor P.R.J.Naidu's Presidential Address to the Indian Science Congress asking the Indian geologists to drop the term 'charnockite' and use the petrological equivalent hypersthene granulite in its place. Recently, with Indian colleagues, I had presented a Project to Andhra Pradesh Government, and a paper in IMA 98 at Toronto, where I had to use khondalite and charnockite but gave adequate petrographical description of their nature.

It is evident that we are still accustomed to these terms, which are widely used and generically understood, though they have only local applicability. They could confuse international readers. Thus an immediate transition may remedy the situation. If priority is given to the petrographic nature of the lithologies and include within brackets the equivalent terms like khondalite etc., then this could lead to a transition for an eventual substitution. Leptite and leptynite are known in petrological literature since a long time, though they do confuse.

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Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper 'Journal of the Geological Society of India' to be published in the first issue every year after last day of February.

Form V Rule (8)

1. Place of Publication: Bangalore. 2. Periodicity of Publication: Monthly. 3. Printer's Name, Nationality, Address: M. Nagaraju, Indian, Pragati Graphics, 22/1, 3rd Main Road, Vinayaknagar, Bangalore - 560 050. 4. Publisher's Name, Nationality, Address: Geological Society of India, Indian, 63 Basappa Layout, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore - 560 019. 5. Editor's Name, Nationality, Address: M. Ramakrishnan, Indian, Geological Society of India, 63 Basappa Layout, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore - 560 019. 6. Names and address of individuals who own the newspapers and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital: Geological Society of India, Bangalore.

I, M. Ramakrishnan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: 1 March, 1999

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Editor, Journal of the Geological Society of India