



**Occurrence Of Rare Metals At
Gabal Abu Khruq Area, South
Eastern Desert, Egypt.**

By

Soliman Abu Elatta Abdallah

THESIS SUBMITTED
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

In
(GEOLOGY)
To Geology Department
Faculty of Science Ain Shams University

2007

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَعَلَّمَنَا مِنْ لَدُنَّا عِلْمًا

صدق الله العظيم

Acknowledgements

Thanks for God who helped me until finished this thesis. I particularly thanks and gratitude Prof. Dr. A. M. Osman, Geology Department, Faculty of Sciences, Ain Shams University for the supervision and critical comments during the progress of this work.

The author would like to express his grateful thanks to Prof. M.E. Ibrahim, Nuclear Material Authority (NMA) for proposing the present point of research, his kind and continuous supervision during all stages of the present study.

Most greetings for associate E. M. Mohamed Moussa; (NMA), associate Prof. Dr. I. H. Ibrahim (NMA).

Thanks are also due to the staff members and my colleagues of the Geology Department Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University. I thank the members NMA for transportation and carrying out the chemical analyses for this thesis.

Full thanks are also extended to all these helped me through discussions or during the fieldwork.

Soliman Abu Elatta

جامعة عين شمس
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صفحة العنوان

اسم الطالب : سليمان أبو العطا عبد الله محمود
الدرجة العلمية : دكتوراه
القسم التابع له : قسم الجيولوجيا
اسم الكلية : كلية العلوم
الجامعة : جامعة عين شمس
سنة التخرج : ١٩٩٥
ماجستير : ٢٠٠٣
سنة المنح : ٢٠٠٧



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كلية العلوم

رسالة دكتوراه

اسم الطالب : سليمان أبو العطا عبد الله محمود

عنوان الرسالة : تواجد الفلزات النادرة بمنطقة جبل أبو خروق، جنوب الصحراء
الشرقية، مصر.

اسم الدرجة : دكتوراه

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مشرفاً

أ.د. / عبد المنعم محمد عثمان

الدراسات العليا

أجيزت الرسالة بتاريخ / / ٢٠٠٧

ختم الإجازة :

موافقة مجلس الجامعة / / ٢٠٠٧

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شكر

أشكر السادة الأستاذة الذين قاموا بالإشراف وهم:

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أستاذ الجيولوجيا الاقتصادية بعلوم عين
شمس

د/ عويس موسى محمد موسى
د/ إبراهيم حسن إبراهيم
أستاذ مساعد الجيولوجيا بهيئة المواد النووية

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أ.د/ حمدي عبد الله محمود
رئيس قسم الرواسب المشعة المتخالفة بهيئة
المواد النووية

السيد/ وليد سعد أحمد
جيولوجي بهيئة المواد النووية



تواجد الفلزات النادرة بمنطقة جبل أبو خروق، جنوب الصحراء الشرقية، مصر

رسالة مقدمة من

سليمان أبو العطا عبد الله محمود

هيئة المواد النووية

بكالوريوس وماجستير فى الجيولوجيا

للحصول على

درجة دكتوراه الفلسفة فى العلوم (جيولوجيا)

قسم الجيولوجيا

كلية العلوم - جامعة عين شمس

٢٠٠٧

APPROVAL SHEET

Thesis Title

**Occurrence Of Rare Metals At Gabal Abu
Khruq Area, South Eastern Desert, Egypt.**

Author's Name

Soliman Abu Elatta Abdallah

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Abdel Monem Mohamed Osman
Prof. of Geology, Faculty of Science,
Ain Shams University.

Dr. Ewais Moussa Mohamed
Assist. Of Geochemistry, Nuclear Material Authority.

Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Ibrahim
Assist. Of Geology, Nuclear Materials Authority.

Mohamed A. El boukhary

Head of Geology Department
Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University

اهداء

إلى الذين أذهب الله عنهم
الرجس وطهرهم تطهيراً

أهدى هذا العمل

سليمان أبو العطا عبد الله

Abbreviations

W.	=	Wadi
ARC	=	Abu Khruq ring complex
G.	=	Gabal
F.N.S.	=	Ferruginated nepheline syenites
ESEM	=	Environmental scanning electron microscope
Z[^]c	=	extinction angle

Abstract

The present thesis deals with the geological, structural, petrographical, geochemical, mineralizations and radiometrical studies of the rock units especially ring complex of Abu Khruq area.

The study area is located in the southeastern Desert of Egypt between Long. $34^{\circ}10'$ and $34^{\circ}23'E$, Lat. $24^{\circ}30'$ and $34^{\circ}45'N$ and wholly covered by the basement rock units.

The basement rock units in Abu Khruq area can be arranged toctonostratigraphy beginning with the oldest as follows: Ophiolite assemblage (serpentinites and related rocks and mélangé), arc assemblage {meta-andesites and their pyroclastics metasedimentary rocks, gneisses (hornblende gneisses and hornblende biotite gneisses) and gneissose granodiorite}, late to post Pan-African granitoids (alkali feldspar granites, perthitic syenogranites and muscovite syenogranites) and Phanerozoic alkaline phase {alkaline volcanics (trachytes and rhyolites and their pyroclastics), alkaline gabbros, syenitic rocks as well as associated dykes}.

The geochemical studies indicated that, Abu Khruq rock units originated from alkaline magma and emplaced a within-plate environment. The fresh rocks have the same values of trace elements of the similar rocks but the ferruginated nepheline syenites have abnormal concentration of Zr (up to 7154 ppm), Nb (up to 1959 ppm), Zn (up to **300 ppm**) eU (up to **620 ppm**) and eTh (up to **1800 ppm**).

The structural studies of G. Abu Khruq area, indicated the following points:

- ١- The first phase of shorting (D_1) is emphasized by symmetrical and asymmetrical anticlines with fold axis running in the NW-SE direction and maybe associated with syn-tectonic subduction of the in earlier times.
- ٢- The second phase of shorting (D_2) is emphasized by folding (F_2) with fold axis running in NNW-SSE direction and plunge toward NNW. The folding in this stage may be related to accretionary-transpressional stage of the Pan-African orogeny and associated with several strike-slip faults in several trends in this stage. This phase was followed by master joints running in NE-SW direction. These joints may be related to late Precambrian extension where granitic intrusions were probably formed by crustal remelting of the newly formed and thickened crust, possibly in extensional environments.

- ۳- The third phase of deformation (D_3) is proved by crenulation foliations (F_3) with fold axes running in WNW-ESE direction and plunge in ESE direction. These folds may be formed because of motion of African plate against Laurasian plate (late Jurassic-early Cretaceous), which effected in the southern of Egypt. Large number of dyke swarms proves the second phase of extension, which running in the ENE-WSW direction. This phase of extension is followed by another one which is proved by joints running in NNW- SSE (the third phase of extension) and may related to the opening of Red Sea. After this phase of extensions G. Abu Khruq area affected by a structural episode of strike-slip faults in several trends, which are the traced of old faults that rejuvenated during the opening of the Red Sea.

The mineralogical studies indicated that, Abu Khruq ring complex especially ferruginated zone which contains variety of minerals such as malachite, rosasite, franklinite, kasolite, thorite, ferrithorite, uraorthorite, columbite, tantalite, pyrochlore, samarskite, ilmenorutile, mossaite, primary and secondary origin zircon, granet, rutile, ilmenite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, monazite, orthite and fluorite (violet and colorless). LREEs occur within monazite, orthite, thorite, ferrithorite, uranorthorite, columbite, tantalite, pyrochlore, samarskite, mossaite and aegirine.

The radioactive studies proved the following:

- ۱) The abnormal concentrations of radioactive elements are restricted to NE of ARC of nepheline syenites that are deformed, ferruginated and feldspathized.
- ۲) Pegmatoidal pockets in unaltered or altered nepheline syenites are usually higher concentration of radioactive elements than other varieties of nepheline syenites.
- ۳) Radioactivity and mineralization not related to ferruginated nepheline syenites, where the rhyolites, pyroclastics, spherulitic felsites and granophyre dykes show abnormal concentration of eU and eTh.
- ۴) Most of ferruginated parts of Abu Khruq ring are not-radioactive and contain background values of the eU and eTh.
- ۵) Uranium and thorium contents in unaltered plutonic and volcanic rocks of the ring complex are magmatic origin as well as basaltic andesite and syenite dykes, whereas the granophyre, alkaline diabase and tinguaitite dykes as well as spherulitic felsites pyroclastic are magmatic and post magmatic origin.

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