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THE ROLE OF METAMORPHISM AND FAULTING IN GOLD MINERALIZATION IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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The present review shows that primary gold deposits in Peninsular Malaysia are mostly hosted by metamorphic rocks of greenschist facies and tend to be concentrated along major fault zones. This distribution pattern conforms closely to that required by the metamorphic secretion theory which postulated that during metamorphism gold is mobilised from higher temperatures along fractures, redistributed and concentrated in suitable temperature zones mostly within metamorphic rocks of the greenschist facies.

During an igneous intrusion the gold is remobilised and further concentrated according to the new isotherms. This can explain why the more important gold deposits occur in the proximity of igneous intrusions but not directly traceable into them.

Damar West in West Pahang has been interpreted as a possible extinct volcanic cone thus raising the possibility that primary gold occurrences around it could be epithermal. Therefore, a different genetic model may apply. However, further work will be required to verify this.