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SOME GEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE ELAHARA GEM FIELD

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Gem deposits at Elahara (Kaluganga-Ambanganga valley) gem field show their occurrence as alluvial and as residual formations. Only four varieties of gems minerals are found in this gem field, (more than ten gem varieties are found in the Ratnapura gem field) namely; corundum (blue, green, yellow and white sapphirs and star sapphirs and rarely rubies), tourmalene (brown, green, pink and black tourmalene and cat's eye), spinel (blue, pink, red, green and black) and garnet (pyrope, grossularite and andradite). Studies on the residual type gem deposits show their derivation from the tourmalene-sillimanite - garnet gneisses and from the contacts of the marbles and graphitic granite intrusions.