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Belgisch Geologische Dienst

104E-3280784.txt
kaartblad 104E (32/8)
BGD-n°104E 784



Date: 06/10/2010
place: Oude groeve Rommersom
x = 188606
y = 162890

In the Rommersom quarry in Hoegaarden some isolated blocks of quartzite occur and in this case above a dark, lignite rich clay-layer. Other removed blocks found in the quarry have on one side small, cylindrical holes (probably fossil root holes) and a superficial coloring by iron-oxides, while the opposite side is lobed. A few vertical cracks occur, also with a glossy, shiny surface, due to an enrichment of hydrated silica (opale) according to Ledoux (1911). More recent analysis by De Geyter & Nijs (1983) of this layer excludes opaline quartz on the basis of X-ray diffraction. What kind of quartz variety it is then, is still unknown.

The general macroscopic characteristics of the Tienen quartzite or siliceous quartz arenite is the light gray color, the sugary aspect of the fracture surface with breakage through the individual grains instead of fracturing along the grain boundaries and holding fossilized root traces. The beds themselves have an undulating surface and can contain vertical cracks.

For a microscopic description is referred to De Geyter & Nijs (1983), Excursion NFWO contactgroep (1983) and Dreesen et al.(2003).