

Conditions of origin and distribution of amethyst geodes

Artur marukiani

artur.marukiani521@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Department of Geology, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences,

Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University,

13 University St., Tbilisi, Georgia, 0186

Amethyst geodes attract the attention of both scientists and collectors equally for their beauty and their conditions of formation. A geode (from the Greek “geodes,” meaning earth-like) is a largesized secretion, one of the forms of mineral occurrence, which is formed by the filling of cavities (voids) within a rock with mineral matter from the periphery toward the center. The filling of cavities in the rock may occur partially or completely. Geodes can be of various sizes and shapes: isometric, spherical, ellipsoidal, or irregular.

The formation of geodes takes place over a long period of time as a result of various geological processes. Geodes are especially characteristic of volcanic rocks, but they are also not uncommon in sedimentary rocks. In volcanic rocks, the origin of geodes is associated with post-volcanic processes, whereas in sedimentary rocks their formation is the result of groundwater circulation.

The mineral composition of geodes depends on the mineralization of the solutions and, especially in the case of sedimentary rocks, on the host rocks. In nature, geodes composed of quartz, amethyst, calcite, aragonite, celestine, agate, limonite, zeolites, and others are widespread. The report discusses the conditions of formation of amethyst geodes, their mineral associations, distribution, methods of study, and significance.