

EXPLORATION AT THE EL TRANSITO PROPERTY
Near Nacaome, Dept. of Valle

R. W. Lewis
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Exploration at this gold prospect has been carried out by Placer Development Limited (through its subsidiary Placer Minera Honduras) as manager for a Placer Development Limited - Rosario Resources Company Joint Venture. The property is held under option from Mrs. L. F. Pekarik of Tegucigalpa.

1. HISTORY OF TRANSITO

Sporadic exploration and gold production have been carried out at Transito since early this century. The main period of gold production was prior to 1920. Underground development was carried out about this time and during the 1940's by the New York and Rosario Honduras Mining Company. Local villagers have carried out shallow surface pitting by hand mining discontinuously over the last 50 years. This work has outlined a number of small lodes, separate from the main productive zone (the El Turbio Zone).

Ken Hughs, an American Geologist attempted unsuccessfully during the 1960's to mine on small scale at Transito. Placer Development commenced work at El Transito in April 1973.

2. EXPLORATION BY PLACER DEVELOPMENT JUNE - NOVEMBER 1973

Placer Development Geologists first visited Transito in April 1973 and carried out a preliminary inspection and sampling program. On the basis of this inspection a decision was made to carry out further exploration. Since July 1973 a program of geological mapping, surface sampling and diamond drilling has been carried out. 1 geologist, 2 assistant geologists, 2 diamond drillers and approximately 15 Honduran workers are on the property at present.

Geological mapping (Plate 1) has been carried out in the vicinity of the El Turbio Zone, the Veta Sta. Anita and other lodes southeast of the Turbio Zone, at Transito. This mapping has been used to guide the concurrent diamond drilling program. Mapping has been commenced in the Titiritero area west of Transito.

3. ZONES OF SILICIFICATION EXAMINED

Three main zones of silicification have been examined at Transito (Plate 1). These are the Turbio Zone, the Sta. Anita Zone, and a zone of silicified rhyolite breccia lying east of the Sta. Anita. Several other minor zones have been briefly examined.

A. EL TURBIO ZONE

(c) Surface Expression

The El Turbio Zone consists of a very elongate lens of silicification about 600 metres long and up to 300 metres wide. It dips from 40° to 15° to the north, the dip is apparently less in the western section. On the surface the Turbio Zone consists of volcanics completely impregnated by chalcedony and heavily veined and replaced by white quartz. Fresh pyrite occurs in the quartz on the surface. The immediate hanging wall and foot wall volcanics are deeply weathered and are

not exposed on the surface. Spoil from the underground workings indicates that in some sections the lode contains many drusy (quartz lined vughs). These are occasionally seen on the surface. At its southeast extremity the El Turbio Zone is apparently truncated by faulting. This is not clearly postmineralization in origin.

B.

SURFACE SAMPLING

Chip samples across the El Turbio Zone near Drill Hole PRT I (plate 1) averaged 4 gm/tonne gold and 40 gm/tonne silver. Frequent small pits and open cuts to the west of here confirm the existence of moderate surface contents of gold. The El Turbio Zone was found to carry little gold where it crosses the creek, about 400 meters west of drill hole PRT I.

C.

UNDERGROUND SAMPLING

No systematic sampling of the underground workings has been carried out because the results of the very extensive New York and Honduras Rosario Mining Company's sampling done in the 1940's are available. Plotting of these assay results confirms a long held premise, first expressed more than 20 years ago, that the main gold shoot within the Turbio Zone plunges to the northwest. This shoot appears to have the form of an elongated lens, dipping at a very low angle, perhaps about 12° to the northwest. The existence of this low dip indicates why the underground development on the zero level, carried out immediately down dip from the prospective 30m level gave very unencouraging results.

D.

DIAMOND DRILLING

7 holes have been drilled to test the Turbio Zone beyond the limits of the underground workings. Two of these were put down in the 1930's by Boyles Brothers, but little is known about what they intersected. Of the 5 drilled this year by Place Development Limited (PRT 1, 2, 11, 12, 13) only one (hole PRT 2) failed to intersect an encouraging width of silicification. This hole delineates the

southeast limit of the Turbio Zone. The intersections obtained are tabulated below.

| <u>DRILL HOLE</u> | <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| PRT I | 0 | to 34 | Strong silicification abundant qtz veins |
| PRT 2 | No zone intersected | | |
| PRT II | 38.4 | 46m | Strong silicification. Thick white quartz veins. Pyrite |
| PRT I2 | 60 | 74m | Strong silicification. Thick quartz veins common than in other zones |
| PRT 13 | 72.8 | 84.8 | Strongly silicified, very vughy buck quartz. This hole was abandoned while still in silicified zone. |

Initial atomic absorpsion assays have been received from Hole PRT 1 & 2, but these have been found unresiable and five assays are being done.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Final conclusions must necessarily await complete assay results, however the El Turbio Zone has been shown to continue well beyond the limits of the underground workings, and to have interesting widths. Its relatively shallow dip makes it amenable to open cutting.

B. VETA STA. ANITA

(a) SURFACE EXPRESSION

The Veta Sta. Anita is an arcuate zone of silicification which commences near the southeast limit of the El Turbio Zone, and extends for about 550 metres to the south. This zone is relatively narrow in the north and dips at about 70°E. In the south it widens out and has a dip of about 32°. In one drill hole (PRT 9) it consisted of two zones with an aggregate thickness of 38m separated by a 10m

C. SILICIFIED BRECCIATED RHYOLITES

A northerly trending zone of silicified brecciated rhyolite occurs at the eastern end of the Transito ridge. This zone, previously described as a "lode" contains higher than background gold values, together with a few narrow zones containing a little more than 1gm/tonne. It was intersected by Drill Holes PRT 6, 7, 8 and 10, and to a lesser extent by holes PRT 9 and 15. Complete assays are awaited before the significance of this zone is understood.

D. OTHER MINOR LODES

Several thin quartz-chalcedony lodes occur on the eastern and southern part of the Transito ridge. Those intersected by drill holes PRT 4 and 5 have low gold contents. Others, near holes 8 and 10 appear too thin to be of significance.

Mapping is in progress on several other lying west of Transito. These include the Titirotero and Chiflon lodes.