

PLATINUM

Pt

Platinum is most often found as an accessory mineral in mafic or ultramafic igneous rocks, or in placer deposits, where it has been concentrated from such rocks by weathering and erosion. Native platinum often contains iron as an impurity, and may form natural stoichiometric alloys with that element (tetraferroplatinum and isoferroplatinum). Northern Peninsula.

Alger County: Approximately 7 kilometers east of Grand Marais: Black sands along the Lake Superior shore in this area contain micro nuggets of native gold (“gold dust”) and other heavy minerals (M. J. Elder, personal communication, 2006). One such grain of steel gray color was examined by scanning electron microscopy and found to be either an iron-bearing platinum or isoferroplatinum, based on its energy dispersion X-ray spectrum.

UPDATE FROM: Robinson, G.W., and Carlson, S.M., 2013, Mineralogy of Michigan Update: published online by A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, Houghton, MI, 46p.