



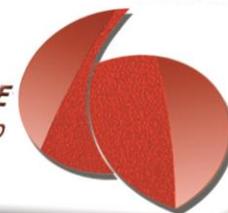
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# RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN BAUXITES OF MONTENEGRO

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Geological Survey of Montenegro*



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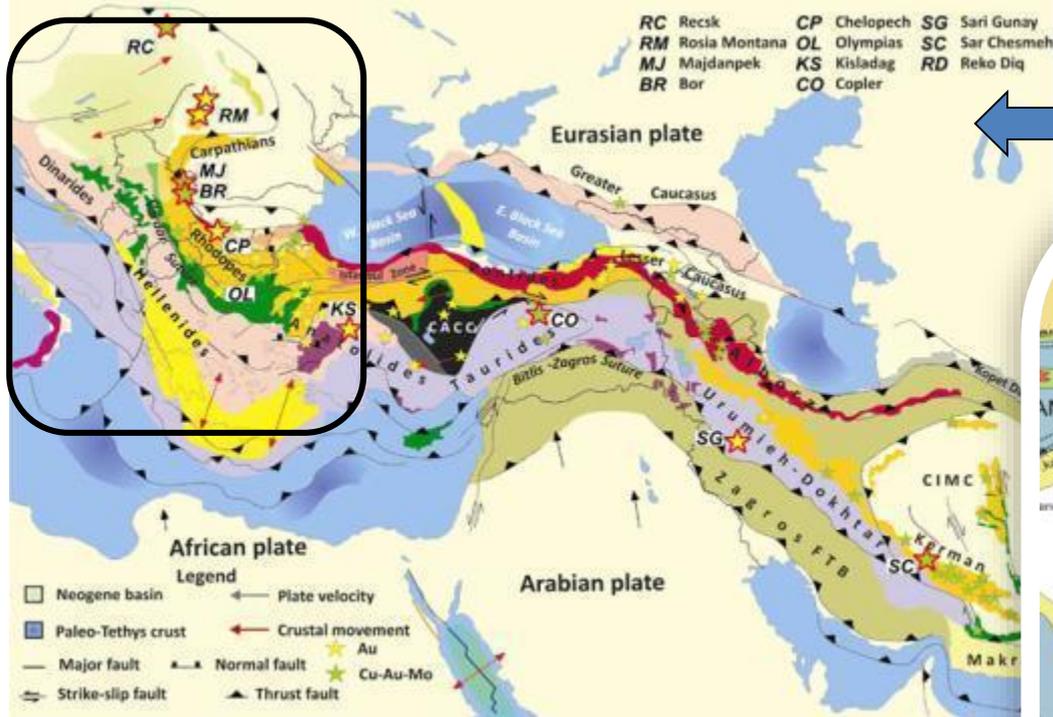


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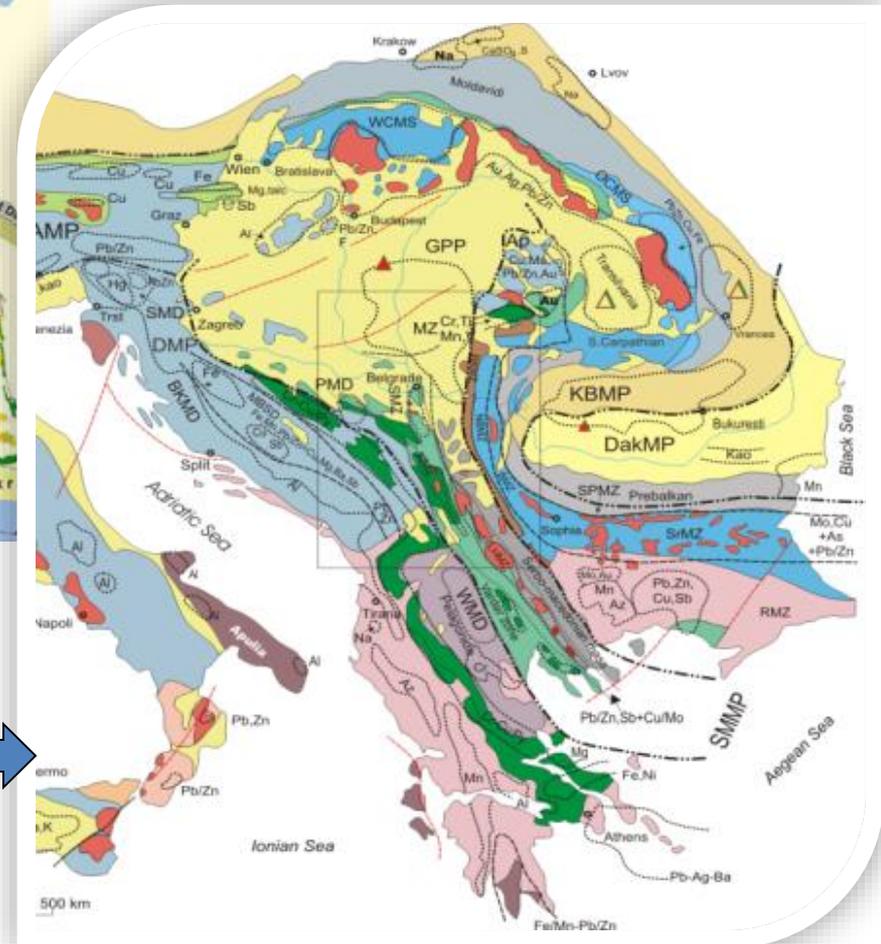


# Introduction



## Tethyan Eurasian Metallogenic Belt

ABCD: Alpine-Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric metallogenic and geodynamic provinces

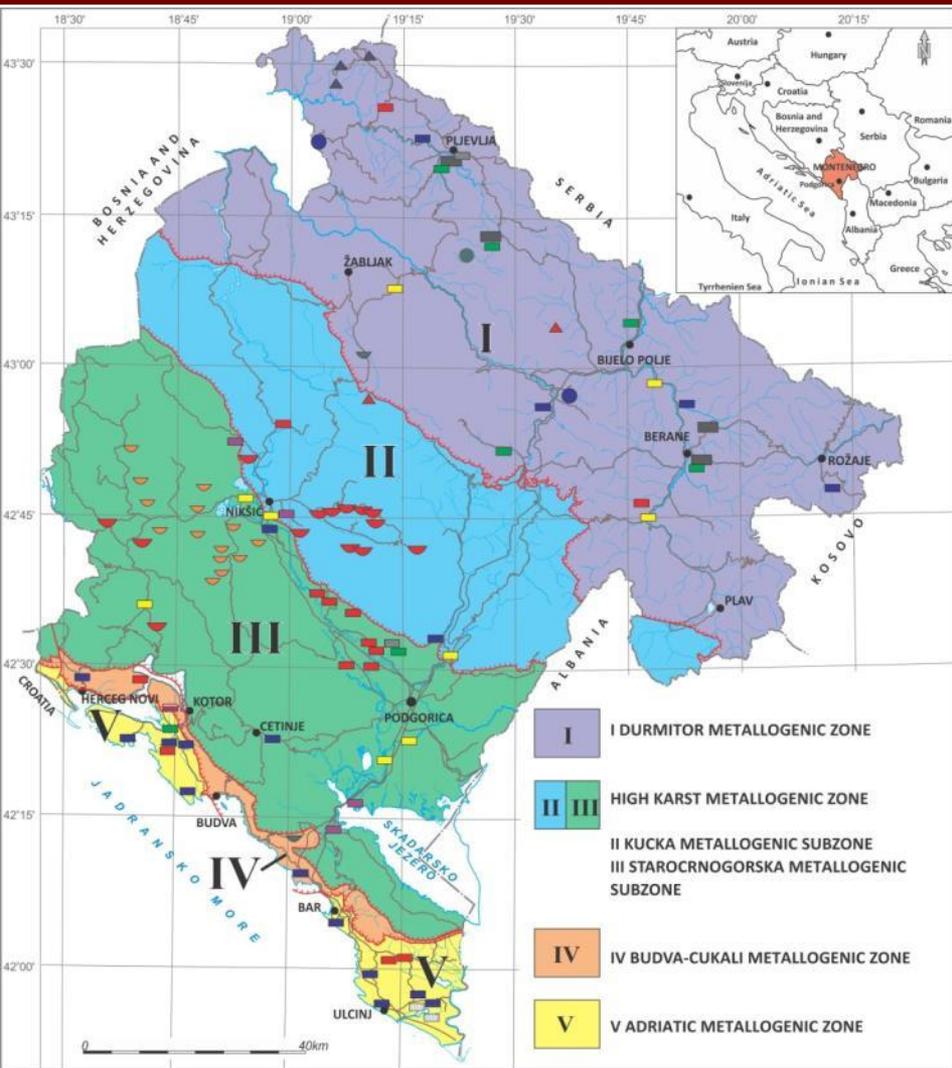


### Sector of NE Mediterranean

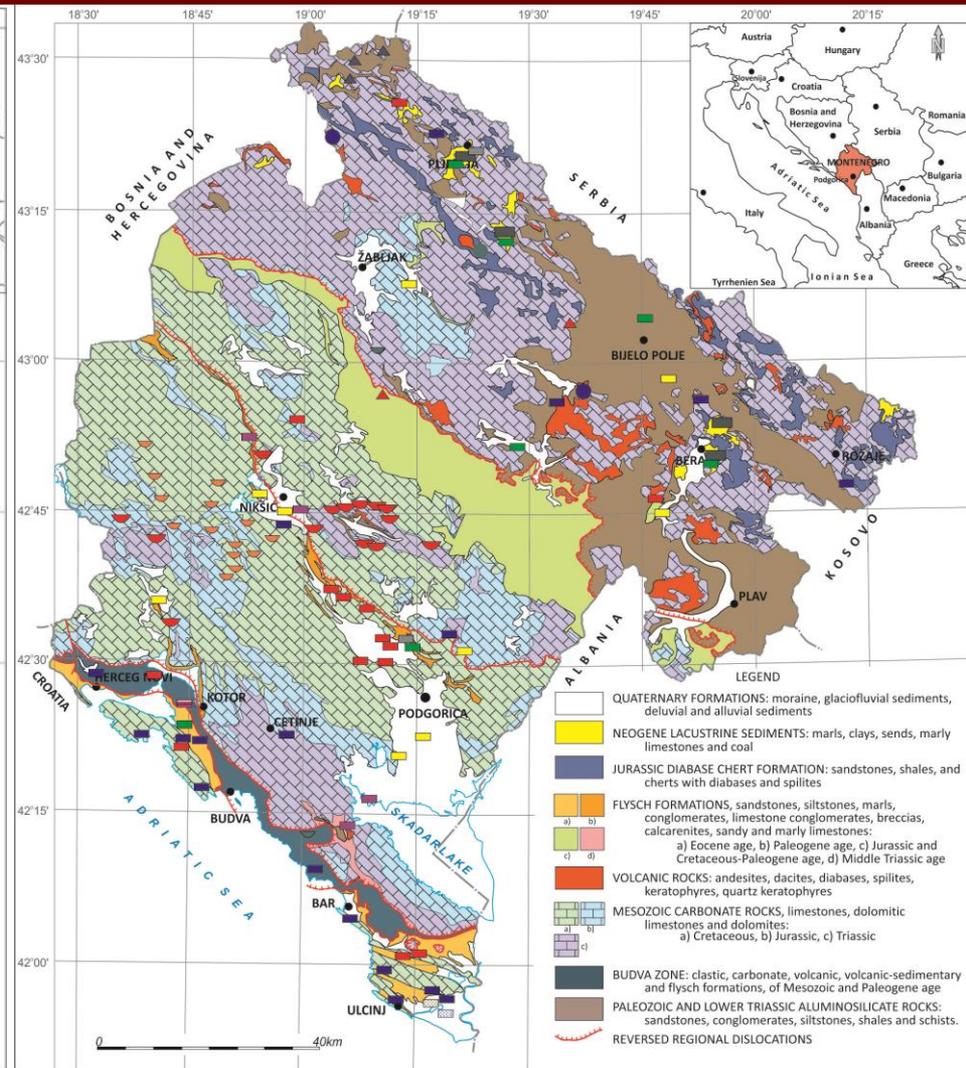
Metallogenic units of Montenegro are part of regional metallogenic units

# Introduction

*Pajović and Radusinović (2010): Mineral resources of Montenegro; Montenegro in XXI century in the era of competitiveness MASA, modified*



**Metallogenic reonization map of Montenegro**



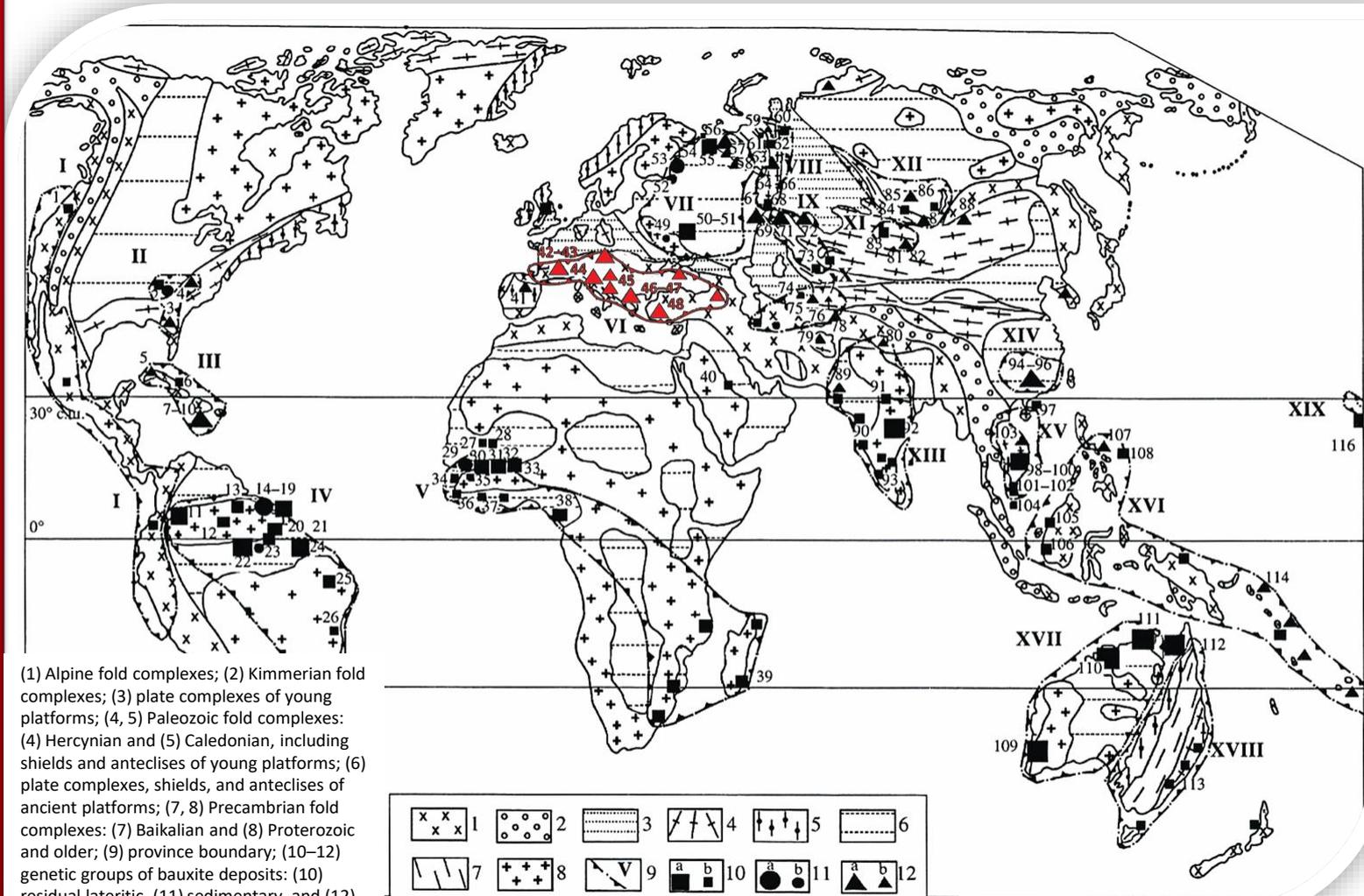
**Lithological map of Montenegro**



# Introduction

**Bauxite provinces**  
*Bogatyrev and Zhukov (2009)*

- I East Pacific**
- II North American**
- III Caribbean**
- IV South American**
- V African province**
- VI Mediterranean**
- 45, Niksicka Zupa**
- VII East European**
- VIII Ural province**
- IX Kazakh province**
- X Central Asian**
- XI Salair province**
- XII East Siberian**
- XIII Hindustan**
- XIV Chinese**
- XV Indochinese**
- XVI Indonesian–Philippine province**
- XVII West Australian province**
- XVIII East Australian province**
- XIX Hawaiian province**



(1) Alpine fold complexes; (2) Kimmerian fold complexes; (3) plate complexes of young platforms; (4, 5) Paleozoic fold complexes: (4) Hercynian and (5) Caledonian, including shields and anteclises of young platforms; (6) plate complexes, shields, and anteclises of ancient platforms; (7, 8) Precambrian fold complexes: (7) Baikalian and (8) Proterozoic and older; (9) province boundary; (10–12) genetic groups of bauxite deposits: (10) residual lateritic, (11) sedimentary, and (12) karst; (a) large and medium and (b) small deposits and occurrences.

# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF KARSTIC BAUXITES

Bauxites are formed under conditions of humid tropical and subtropical climate; Based on the lithological composition of the underlying rocks bauxite deposits are classified into two basic groups: lateritic and karstic bauxites.

In karstic bauxites, dominate minerals are **boehmite -  $AlO(OH)$**  and **diaspore -  $AlO(OH)$** , and in lateritic **gibbsite -  $Al(OH)_3$**  (Bárdossy, 1981, Bárdossy and Aleva, 1990; MacLean et al., 1997; Mongelli and Acquafredda, 1999; Pajović, 2000; Mameli et al., 2007; Calagari and Abedini, 2007; Bogatyrev and Zhukov, 2009; Deng et al., 2010)

Karstic bauxites account for 14% of world's bauxite resources (Mameli et al., 2007).

Jurassic bauxites account for 5% of world's karstic bauxite resources (Bárdossy, 1981).

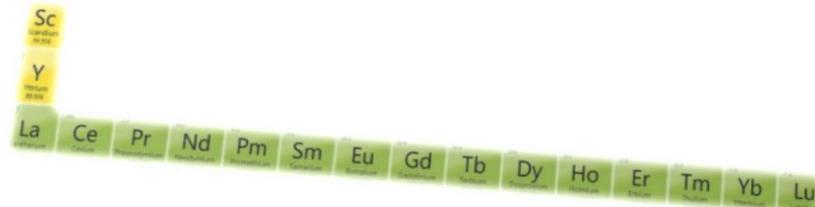
Macroelements: **Al, Fe, Si, Ti, K, Mg, Ca**

Microelements: **Li, Na, Rb, Be, Sr, Ba, Ce, Th, U, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, W, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb, Bi, P, As, Sb...**

Rare Earth Elements: Scandium, Yttrium + Lanthanides  
Sc, **Y + La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu**

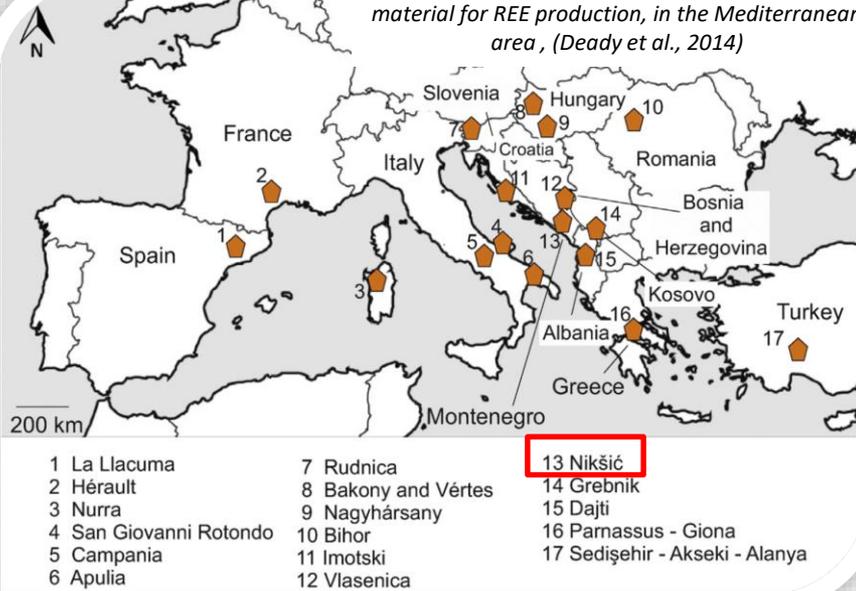
*Distribution of paragenesis of aluminum minerals by the bauxite age (Bárdossy, 1981)*

| Type of deposit                           | Paragenesis |                   |                            |                   |                 |                   |          |                   |          |  |
|---|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|--|
|   | Gibbsite    | Gibbsite-boehmite | Gibbsite-boehmite-diaspore | Gibbsite-corundum | <b>Boehmite</b> | Boehmite-diaspore | Diaspore | Diaspore-corundum | Corundum |  |
| Quaternary                                | 83          | 17                | -                          | -                 | -               | -                 | -        | -                 | -        |  |
| Pliocene- Miocene                         | 65          | 34                | -                          | -                 | 1               | -                 | -        | -                 | -        |  |
| Oligocene                                 | 6           | 17                | -                          | -                 | 6               | 29                | 42       | -                 | -        |  |
| Eocene-Paleocene                          | 29          | 34                | <1                         | 10                | 21              | 3                 | 3        | -                 | -        |  |
| Late Cretaceous                           | 11          | 9                 | <1                         | 4                 | 50              | 13                | 13       | -                 | -        |  |
| Early Cretaceous                          | 14          | 1                 | 2                          | 1                 | 61              | 9                 | 11       | <1                | -        |  |
| <b>Jura (201,6-145,5 millions f year)</b> | -           | -                 | -                          | -                 | <b>60</b>       | <b>37</b>         | <b>3</b> | -                 | -        |  |
| Triassic                                  | 4           | -                 | 1                          | -                 | 27              | 41                | 26       | 1                 | 10       |  |
| Perm                                      | -           | -                 | -                          | -                 | -               | 24                | 54       | 12                | 10       |  |
| Carbon                                    | 3           | 2                 | -                          | -                 | 2               | 27                | 64       | 1                 | <1       |  |
| Devon                                     | -           | -                 | -                          | -                 | 18              | 34                | 43       | 3                 | 2        |  |
| Ordovician                                | -           | -                 | -                          | -                 | -               | -                 | 60       | 40                | -        |  |
| Cambrian                                  | -           | -                 | -                          | -                 | -               | 50                | 50       | -                 | -        |  |



# MICROELEMENTS AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN RED BAUXITES

Map of karst bauxite deposits, as a potential raw material for REE production, in the Mediterranean area, (Deady et al., 2014)



## Scientific aspect

- Determination of metallogenic characteristics
- Determination of the possible origin of the parent material
- Study of concentrations, vertical distribution and fractionation of REE's and other microelements in the process of bauxitization of parent material
- Determination of the geochemical connection of individual elements and groups of elements
- Determination of the reached degree of the diagenesis of the parent material

## Economic aspect

- Bauxite - a potential mineral resource for obtaining the rare earth elements
- World demand for rare earth elements has been on the rise for years
- Problems in supplying the world's high-tech industry, where the rare earth elements have wide application

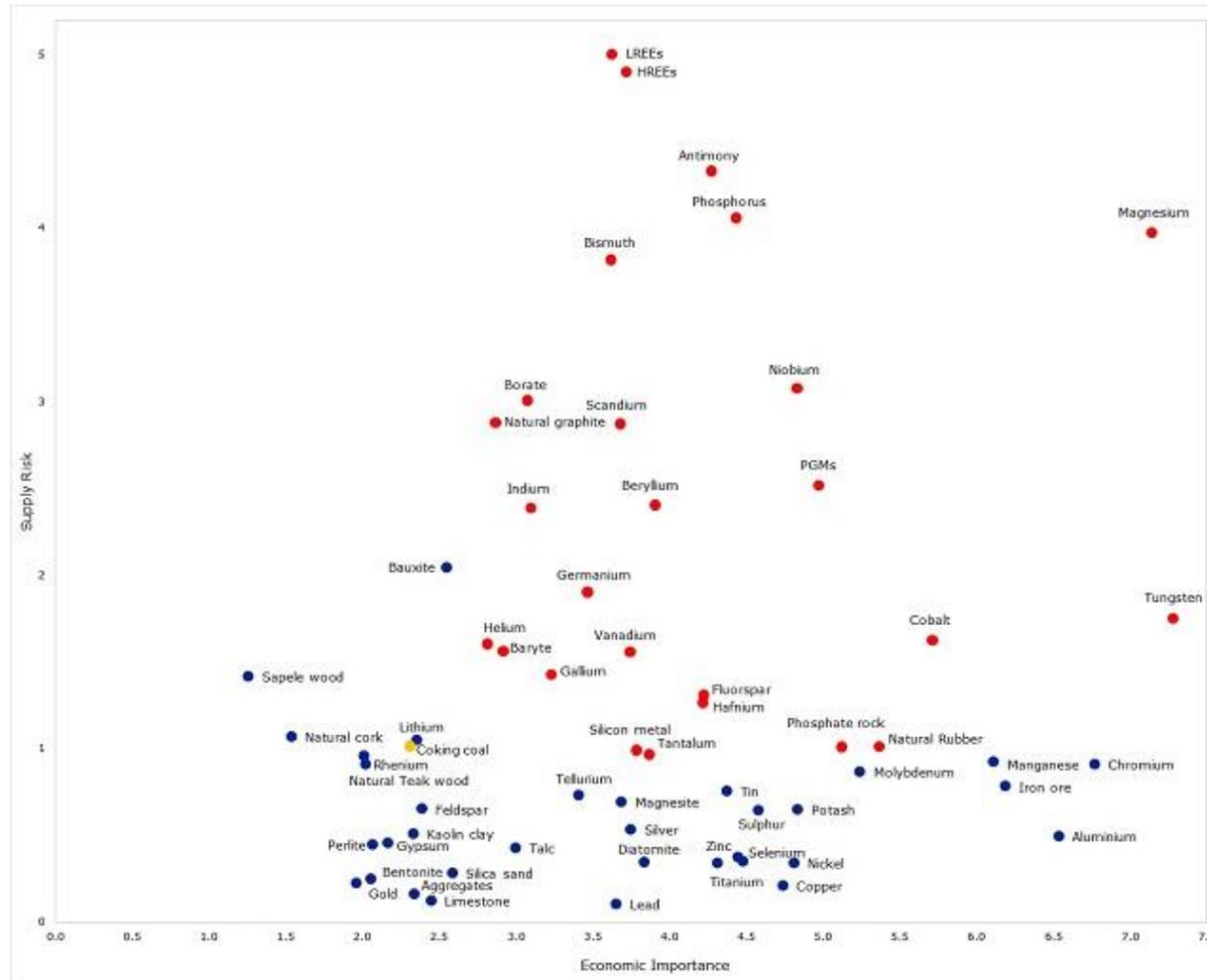
**More than half of the world's production of rare earth elements comes from Bajan Obo mine in China**

## Characteristics and application:

- Rare earth elements: Sc, Y i elements La-series
- These elements, that is, their ions are characterized by magnetic moment, which in combination with other elements allow the formation of permanent magnets, as well as by ferrimagnetism, which is why they are used to make magnetic semiconductors, etc.
- They affect the optical properties of different materials (especially glass, various minerals and synthetic gemstones), as well as their luminescent properties.
- They are used to produce thermoelectric materials (for sensors) and thermo-emissive materials (for emission electrodes and electron microscopes).
- Neodymium is used to make optically active laser components.
- REE metals and their alloys are also used in the manufacture of solar panels, fluorescent lamps, in the production of hybrid cars, laptops, LCD monitors (europium, terbium, cerium, yttrium), smartphones and televisions, and then for electric motors, generators and other components for electric cars...

(Source: EuroGeoSurveys Mineral Resources Expert Group, 2014)

# Critical minerals and mineral raw materials

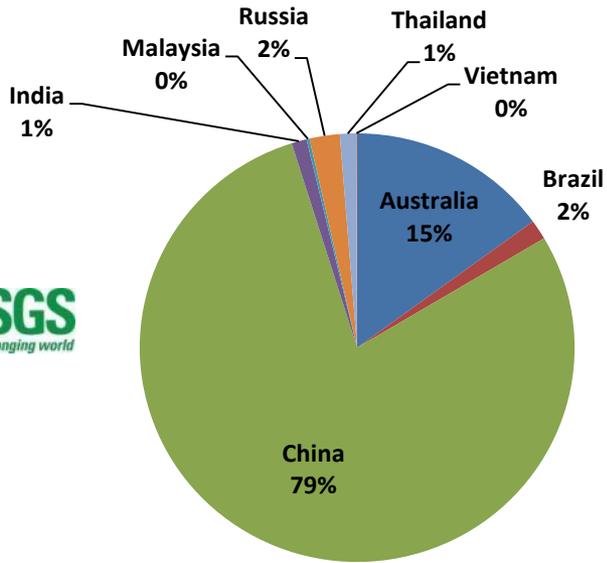


*\*Mineral resources judged as critical by the EU are marked with red*

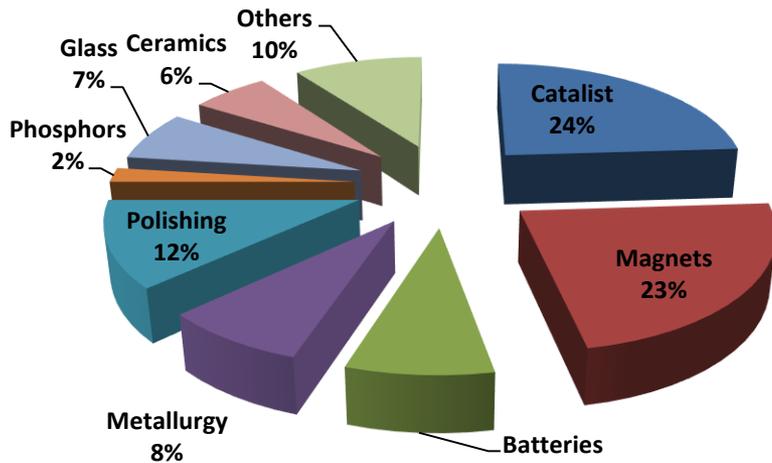
## Supply risk indicators compared to indicators of economic importance of mineral resources

(according to: Study on the review of the list of Critical Raw Materials - Criticality Assessments; Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Raw Materials; Publications Office of the European Union, 2017 ISBN 978-92-79-47937-3)

# Rare earth elements (REE) production and application

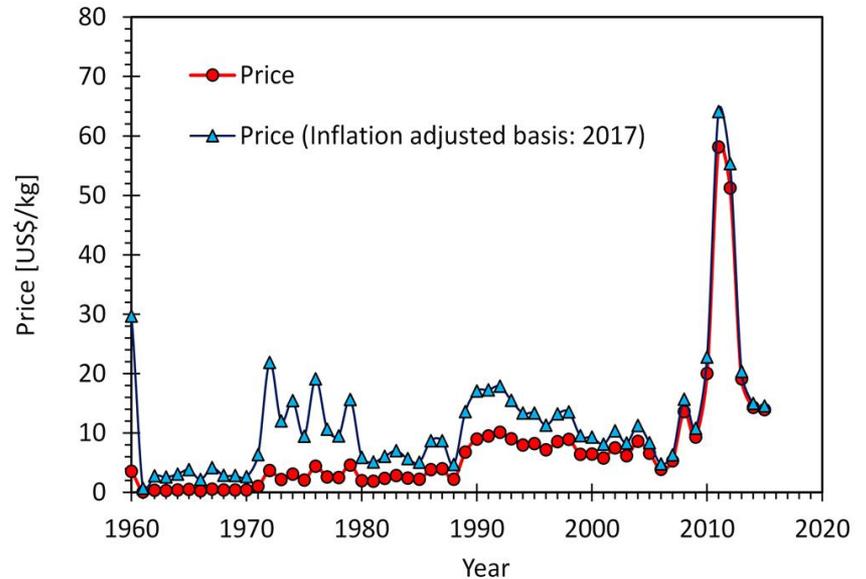


Total production of REE 2017. – 133.000 t



REE - application

## REE prices – historical overview



A. H. Tkaczyk et al. 2018. J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 51 203001



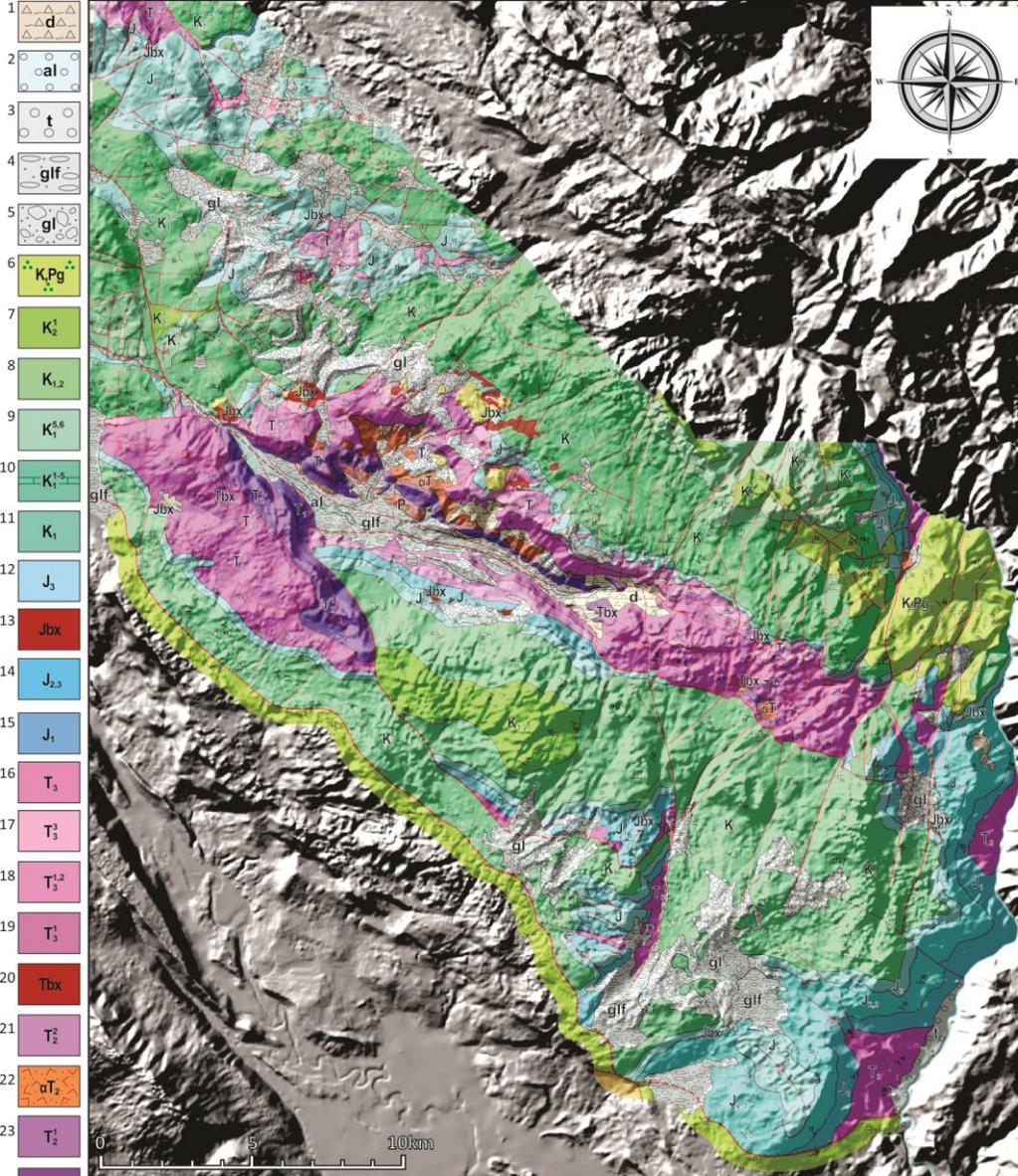
## HISTORY OF RESEARCH AND STUDYING OF KARSTIC BAUXITES IN MONTENEGRO

### ■ History of research

- *In the last decades of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century: Kovalevski, 1838 - 1878; Boue 1837-1840; Tietze, 1881-1884; Baldacci, 1886-1889; Hassert, 1893-1901; Cvijic, 1897-1913; De Regny, 1901-1905; Kormos and Jekelius, 1917; Koch, 1933; Simic, 1934; Besic, 1933-1937; Pavic, 1939 (according to: Kalezic and Gomilanovic, 2004).*
- Bešić (1953); Pavić (1956, 1963), Burić (1966); Grubić (1963,1975, 1999); Maksimović (1968, 1976, 1982, 1998 i dr.); Vukotić and Dragović (1981, 1982 et al.); Cicmil (1984); Dragović (1988, 2007); Pajović (2000, 2009); Pajović et al. (2004, 2005, 2017); Pajović and Radusinović (2010, 2012,2015); Radusinović (2017) et al.
- Basic geological map of SFRJ, 1:100.000, for the territory of Montenegro (16 sheets)
- Study of the bauxites in Montenegro – Fund documentation/projects, reports, elaborates (Pavić, Bešić, Kalezić, Rašović, Ivanović, Dragović, Đokić, Pljevaljčić, Pajović, Radusinović et al.)
- MPK of the bauxite-bearing region of Western Montenegro, 1:50.000 (Rašović, Pljevaljčić et al.)
- ***MPK of the bauxite-bearing region Vojnik-Maganik, 1:50.000 (Pajović et al.)***
- ***Research of REE´s in the bauxites of ore regions Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica (Radusinović et al.)***

### ■ Applied methods of explorations

- 1946 -1960. – prospective geological explorations
- 1960 -1990. - detailed explorations of the bauxites, Bauxites mines– Nikšić (4.800 exploratory drills, cca 400.000 m<sup>3</sup>)
- geophysical exploration
- chemical, mineralogical and geochemical studies of bauxite (numerous different test methods)



## Red jurassic bauxites of Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica mining areas

■ The largest and highest quality deposits of red bauxite in Montenegro are located in Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica regions.

### UNDERLYING (footwall) CARBONATE SEDIMENTS:

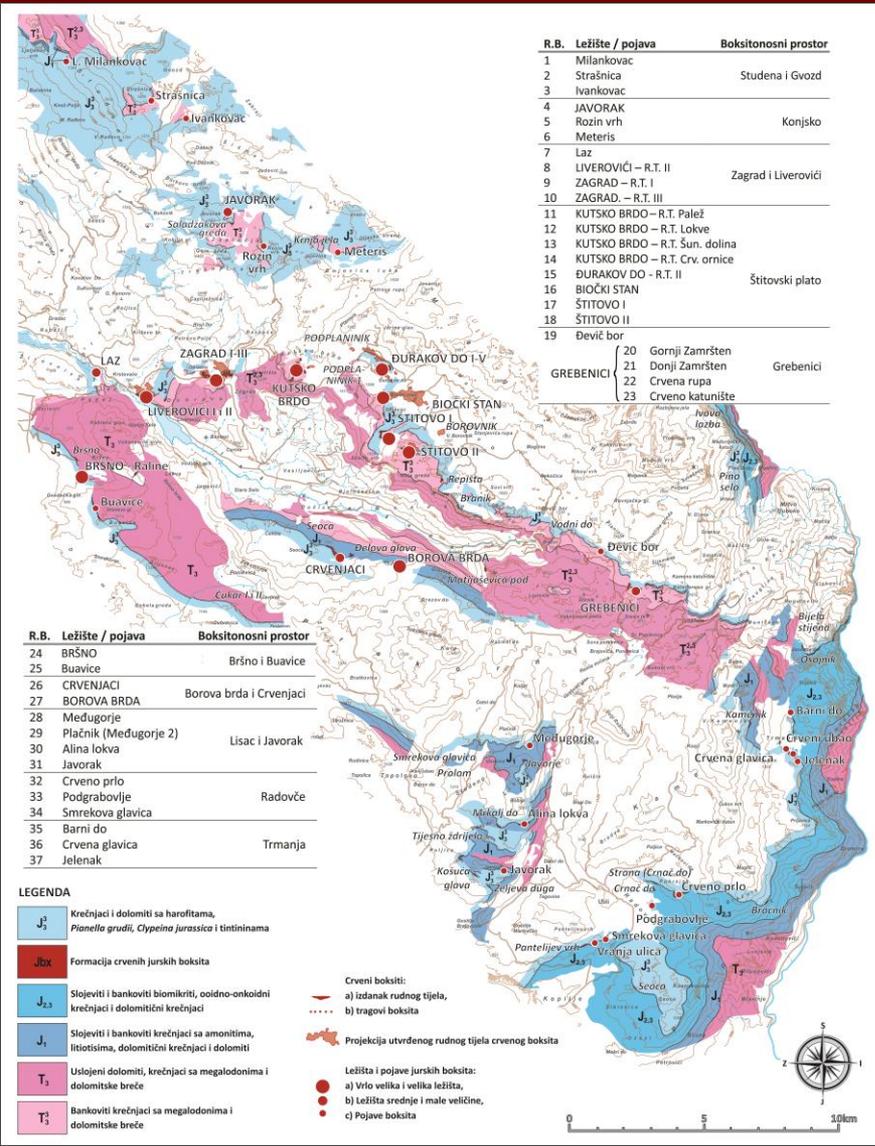
- *Limestones with Megalodons and dolomitic breccias of Late Triassic age ( $T_3^3$ )*
- *Carbonate sediments of Early Jurassic age ( $J_1$ )*
- *Carbonate sediments of Middle and Late Jurassic age ( $J_{2,3}$ )*
- *Jurassic red bauxites ( $J_{bx}$ )*

### OVERLYING (hanging wall) CARBONATE SEDIMENTS:

- *Carbonate sediments of Late Jurassic age ( $J_3$ )*

1. Deluvijum, 2. Aluvijum, 3. Terasni sedimenti, 4. Glaciofluvijalni sedimenti, 5. Morene, 6. Durmitorski fliš: laporci, alevroliti, pješčari, konglomerati; karbonatne breče i brečokonglomerati, 7. Slojeviti i bankoviti sprudni i subsprudni krečnjaci, 8. Slojeviti, bankoviti i masivni krečnjaci i dolomitični krečnjaci, 9. Slojeviti krečnjaci sa *Salpigoporella dinarica* i uslojeni krečnjaci sa foraminiferama, 10. Slojeviti, bankoviti i masivni krečnjaci sa algama i foraminiferama, bituminozni krečnjaci i sprudni i subsprudni krečnjaci sa korallima i hidrozoama, 11. Slojeviti i bankoviti krečnjaci, dolomitični krečnjaci i dolomiti, 12. Krečnjaci i dolomiti sa harofitama, *Pianella grudii*, *Clypeina jurassica* i tintinina, 13. Formacija crvenih jurskih boksita, 14. Slojeviti i bankoviti biomikriti, ooidno-onkoidni krečnjaci i dolomitični krečnjaci, 15. Slojeviti i bankoviti krečnjaci sa amonitima litiotisima, dolomitični krečnjaci i dolomiti, 16. Uslojeni dolomiti, krečnjaci sa megalodonima i dolomitske breče, 17. Bankoviti krečnjaci sa megalodonima i dolomitske breče, 18. Lofer formacija gornjeg trijasa, 19. Rabelj formacija: gline laporci, alevroliti, pješčari i krečnjaci, 20. Formacija crvenih trijaskih boksita, 21. Ladiniski sedimenti: Sprudni krečnjaci ladinika; Tufovi i tufiti sa rožnacija; 22. Andeziti i piroklastiti srednjeg trijasa; 23. Bankoviti i masivni krečnjaci i dolomiti; Anizijski fliš; Hanbuloški krečnjaci, 24. Sajska klastiti i kampijski slojevi: škriljci, laporci i krečnjaci; Škriljci, alevroliti, pješčari i bituminozni krečnjaci, 26. Crveni boksiti: a) izdanak rudnog tijela, b) tragovi boksita duž eroziono-diskordantne granice, 27. Projekcija utvrđenog rudnog tijela crvenog boksita, 28. Jalovište

# SAMPLES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS



## Applied methods:

- Recording of detailed geological profiles of bauxite bodies at the 37 locality, 47 profiles in total.
- Sampling by unique principle.
- Formation of individual samples for geochemical analyzes
- After the geochemical analyzes were performed, samples were selected for mineralogical testing.

- Geochemical testing (**ICP-AES/MS**) – 252 samples (11 oxides, 17 microelements i 16 rare earth elements)
- By using univariate statistical methods, for all oxides / trace elements, was calculated:

$x_{min}$ ,  $x_{max}$ ,  $\bar{x}$ ,  $\sigma$  i  $Cv$ :

- For the total population
- By stratigraphic affiliation of underlying rocks (three classes)
- By genetic affiliation (two classes)
- By position in the profile (three classes)
- By structural type (five classes)

- Mineralogical testing (**XRD**) - 64 selected samples of bauxites from 15 locations.
- Mineralogical testing (**SEM-EDS**) - 34 selected samples from 15 locations.

# SAMPLES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

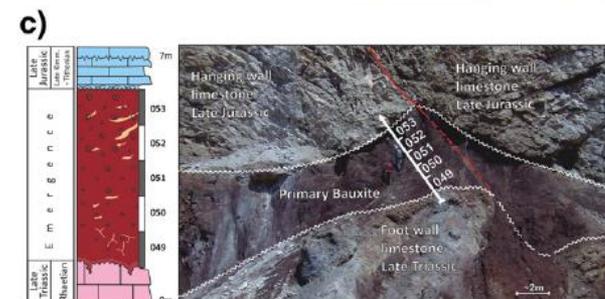
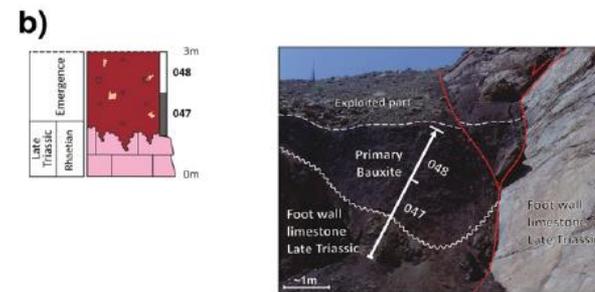
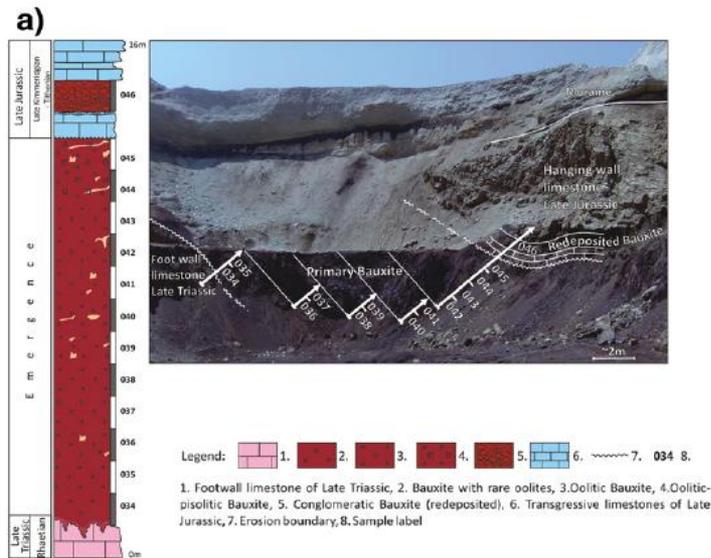
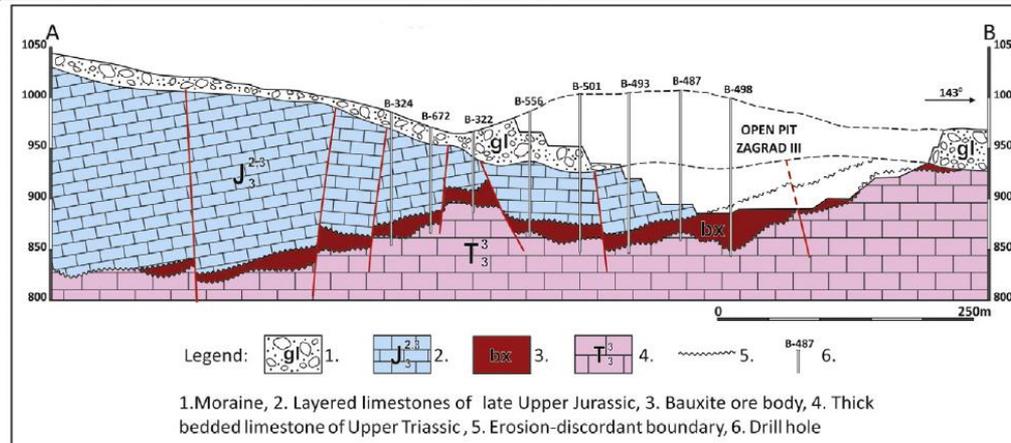


Fig. 3. Field photographs illustrating the palaeocast terrain, ore body features and overburden of the Zagrad bauxite deposit, ore body 3 in the geological section I (a); the geological section II (b); the geological section III (c).

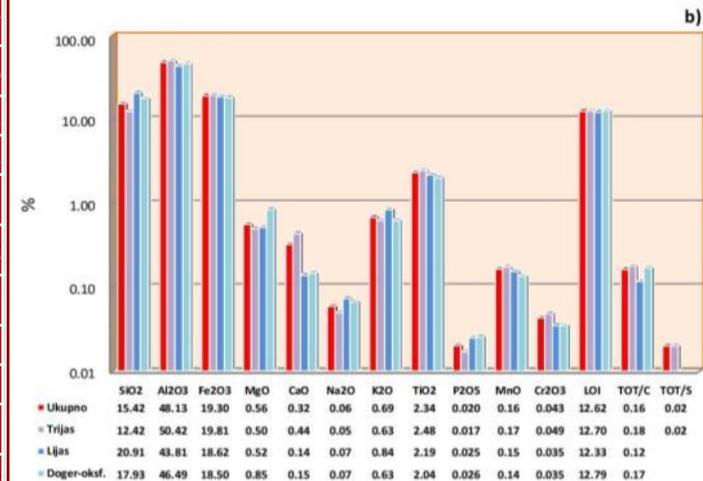
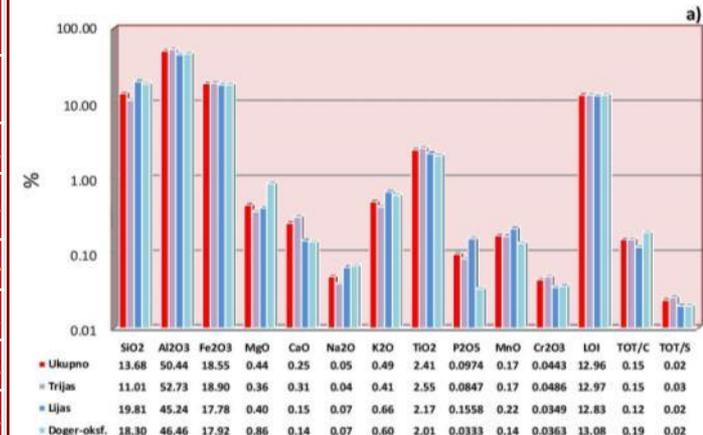


## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Many studies have shown that bauxites are enriched with trace elements (Ga, Ti, Cr, Zr, V, etc.) as well as rare earth elements (Rare Earth Elements - REE).
- In particular, karstic bauxites are richer with rare earth elements in comparison to lateritic bauxites (*Mameli et al., 2007; Hanilçi, 2013 et al*)
- Geochemical and mineralogical studies of microelements and REEs in karst bauxite deposits in Montenegro and the Mediterranean show that REEs are extremely mobile during the process of bauxitization of parent material (*Maksimović and Roaldset, 1976; Maksimović and Pantó, 1991, etc.*).
- REEs in bauxites are bound to different groups of minerals (*Maksimovic et al., 1998; Mameli et al., 2007, etc.*), primarily with the ***bastnasite group*** as the most represented autogenic REE minerals.
- ***REE phosphates*** such as monacite– (Nd), monacite– (La) and neodymium-rich goyazite are less represented.

# Results – oxides, C, S

| Age of the Underlying rocks                            | Stat. par. | SiO <sub>2</sub> | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | MgO  | CaO   | Na <sub>2</sub> O | K <sub>2</sub> O | TiO <sub>2</sub> | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | MnO  | Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | G.ž.  | Tot. /C | Tot. /S |
|--|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|
|  |            | %                | %                              | %                              | %    | %     | %                 | %                | %                | %                             | %    | %                              | %     | %       | %       |
| Bauxites Vojnik–Maganik and Prekornica (total) (n 252) | Min        | 1.00             | 33.50                          | 2.56                           | 0.07 | 0.03  | 0.01              | 0.01             | 1.53             | 0.010                         | 0.02 | 0.021                          | 11.3  | 0.05    | 0.02    |
|  | Max        | 30.17            | 69.73                          | 26.15                          | 2.05 | 11.14 | 0.10              | 2.02             | 3.50             | 0.710                         | 1.64 | 0.096                          | 20.2  | 2.37    | 0.03    |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 14.79            | 48.89                          | 19.04                          | 0.52 | 0.35  | 0.06              | 0.62             | 2.36             | 0.051                         | 0.17 | 0.044                          | 12.76 | 0.17    | 0.024   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 6.70             | 5.72                           | 2.83                           | 0.28 | 1.14  | 0.02              | 0.39             | 0.36             | 0.109                         | 0.17 | 0.014                          | 0.92  | 0.24    | 0.01    |
|  | Cv         | 0.45             | 0.12                           | 0.15                           | 0.53 | 3.26  | 0.38              | 0.64             | 0.15             | 2.131                         | 1.02 | 0.316                          | 0.07  | 1.39    | 0.22    |
| Bauxites at Late Triassic (n 160)                      | Min        | 1.00             | 33.50                          | 2.56                           | 0.07 | 0.03  | 0.01              | 0.01             | 1.68             | 0.010                         | 0.02 | 0.026                          | 11.3  | 0.06    | 0.02    |
|  | Max        | 27.44            | 69.73                          | 26.15                          | 2.05 | 11.14 | 0.08              | 2.02             | 3.50             | 0.530                         | 1.64 | 0.096                          | 20.2  | 2.37    | 0.03    |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 11.90            | 51.18                          | 19.44                          | 0.46 | 0.47  | 0.05              | 0.55             | 2.51             | 0.047                         | 0.17 | 0.049                          | 12.84 | 0.19    | 0.026   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 6.54             | 5.78                           | 3.14                           | 0.28 | 1.43  | 0.02              | 0.42             | 0.36             | 0.09                          | 0.19 | 0.02                           | 1.06  | 0.29    | 0.01    |
|  | Cv         | 0.55             | 0.11                           | 0.16                           | 0.61 | 3.02  | 0.43              | 0.77             | 0.14             | 1.92                          | 1.07 | 0.31                           | 0.08  | 1.56    | 0.21    |
| Bauxites at the Early Jurassic (n 51)                  | Min        | 11.61            | 36.90                          | 9.36                           | 0.15 | 0.07  | 0.04              | 0.24             | 1.53             | 0.010                         | 0.03 | 0.023                          | 11.8  | 0.05    |         |
|  | Max        | 30.17            | 52.44                          | 21.91                          | 0.81 | 0.43  | 0.09              | 1.88             | 2.66             | 0.710                         | 0.96 | 0.043                          | 14.5  | 0.42    | 0.02    |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 19.89            | 43.67                          | 18.20                          | 0.48 | 0.13  | 0.07              | 0.77             | 2.17             | 0.071                         | 0.13 | 0.035                          | 12.20 | 0.12    |         |
|  | $\sigma$   | 4.17             | 6.55                           | 3.26                           | 0.13 | 0.07  | 0.02              | 0.29             | 0.34             | 0.16                          | 0.05 | 0.01                           | 1.71  | 0.06    |         |
|  | Cv         | 0.21             | 0.15                           | 0.18                           | 0.27 | 0.56  | 0.22              | 0.38             | 0.16             | 2.29                          | 0.38 | 0.16                           | 0.14  | 0.54    |         |
| Bauxites at the Middle – Late Jurassic (n 41)          | Min        | 11.90            | 41.59                          | 10.84                          | 0.46 | 0.08  | 0.05              | 0.13             | 1.62             | 0.010                         | 0.07 | 0.030                          | 11.6  | 0.07    |         |
|  | Max        | 24.13            | 50.26                          | 24.11                          | 1.36 | 0.24  | 0.10              | 1.30             | 2.24             | 0.050                         | 0.19 | 0.048                          | 15.10 | 0.42    | 0.02    |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 18.04            | 46.48                          | 18.33                          | 0.86 | 0.15  | 0.07              | 0.62             | 2.03             | 0.028                         | 0.14 | 0.036                          | 12.88 | 0.18    |         |
|  | $\sigma$   | 2.33             | 1.85                           | 2.25                           | 0.23 | 0.05  | 0.01              | 0.33             | 0.13             | 0.01                          | 0.03 | 0.00                           | 0.62  | 0.09    |         |
|  | Cv         | 0.13             | 0.04                           | 0.12                           | 0.27 | 0.32  | 0.19              | 0.53             | 0.06             | 0.44                          | 0.20 | 0.11                           | 0.05  | 0.51    |         |



Histograms of the mean contents of the analyzed oxides, C and S, in the Vojnik – Maganik and Prekornica bauxites, formed on the upper Triassic, Liassic and Dogger-Oxfordian age: lower part of ore bodies (a); middle and upper part ore bodies (b). ICP-EAS and ICP-MS (VMP\_04)

## Results – microelements

| Age of the Underlying rocks   | Stat. Par. | Rb<br>ppm | Cs<br>ppm | Be<br>ppm | Sr<br>ppm | Ba<br>ppm | Th<br>ppm | U<br>ppm | Zr<br>ppm | Hf<br>ppm | V<br>ppm | Nb<br>ppm | Ta<br>ppm | W<br>ppm | Co<br>ppm | Ni<br>ppm | Ga<br>ppm | Sn<br>ppm |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bauxites of the ore region<br>Vojnik–Maganik and<br>Prekornica (total)<br>( <i>n</i> * = 252) | Min        | 0.4       | 0.1       | 2         | 27.7      | 17        | 29.1      | 2.6      | 328.7     | 9.2       | 177      | 31.2      | 2.3       | 4.3      | 11.9      | 51        | 29.2      | 7         |
|   | Max        | 142.7     | 20.8      | 15        | 1406.6    | 204       | 70.0      | 24.3     | 641.4     | 17.7      | 850      | 68.5      | 5.0       | 9.9      | 539.3     | 678       | 57.8      | 43        |
|   | $\bar{x}$  | 43.16     | 8.42      | 5.71      | 91.32     | 85.64     | 49.66     | 5.70     | 450.02    | 12.72     | 291.52   | 45.13     | 3.45      | 6.40     | 41.68     | 197.58    | 47.11     | 15.08     |
|   | $\sigma$   | 32.39     | 4.97      | 2.66      | 136.59    | 44.43     | 6.70      | 2.33     | 63.97     | 1.66      | 76.96    | 6.67      | 0.48      | 0.95     | 49.64     | 73.79     | 4.02      | 5.05      |
|   | Cv         | 0.75      | 0.59      | 0.47      | 1.50      | 0.52      | 0.14      | 0.41     | 0.14      | 0.13      | 0.26     | 0.15      | 0.14      | 0.15     | 1.19      | 0.37      | 0.09      | 0.33      |
| Bauxites at the Late<br>Triassic<br>( <i>n</i> = 160)   | Min        | 0.4       | 0.1       | 2         | 39.1      | 17        | 29.1      | 3.1      | 328.7     | 9.3       | 177      | 31.2      | 2.3       | 4.3      | 11.9      | 51        | 29.2      | 7         |
|   | Max        | 142.7     | 20.8      | 15        | 774       | 190       | 70.0      | 18.1     | 641.4     | 17.7      | 850      | 68.5      | 5.0       | 9.7      | 402.2     | 456       | 57.8      | 43        |
|   | $\bar{x}$  | 36.60     | 7.33      | 5.63      | 87.30     | 79.24     | 50.93     | 6.03     | 475.71    | 13.45     | 303.62   | 48.07     | 3.65      | 6.53     | 41.63     | 178.43    | 47.88     | 15.61     |
|   | $\sigma$   | 34.38     | 5.31      | 2.67      | 87.94     | 47.39     | 7.21      | 2.01     | 61.55     | 1.60      | 84.06    | 6.10      | 0.47      | 0.90     | 43.43     | 71.24     | 4.14      | 5.05      |
| Bauxites at the<br>Early Jurassic<br>( <i>n</i> = 51)   | Min        | 10.6      | 1.8       | 2         | 37.6      | 52        | 38.6      | 3.0      | 335.0     | 9.2       | 204      | 34.6      | 2.6       | 4.6      | 18.9      | 144       | 34.8      | 9         |
|   | Max        | 127.4     | 19.5      | 15        | 1406.6    | 204       | 65.9      | 24.3     | 497.6     | 13.6      | 466      | 51.9      | 4.0       | 9.8      | 539.3     | 678       | 54.4      | 37        |
|   | $\bar{x}$  | 58.94     | 10.43     | 5.50      | 131.8     | 106.1     | 46.35     | 5.80     | 420.62    | 11.65     | 286.60   | 41.96     | 3.13      | 5.76     | 46.94     | 219.91    | 45.34     | 15.20     |
|   | $\sigma$   | 24.21     | 3.31      | 2.92      | 246.90    | 33.04     | 8.17      | 3.38     | 71.92     | 1.90      | 70.16    | 6.89      | 0.51      | 1.14     | 74.46     | 86.17     | 7.52      | 5.65      |
| Bauxites at the<br>Middle-Late Jurassic<br>( <i>n</i> = 41)                                   | Min        | 8.5       | 2.4       | 2         | 27.7      | 27        | 38.6      | 3.3      | 331.3     | 10.2      | 179      | 32.7      | 2.6       | 5.0      | 15.0      | 152       | 40.1      | 8         |
|   | Max        | 87.7      | 16.3      | 13        | 85.8      | 145       | 59.8      | 7.9      | 417.8     | 11.8      | 346      | 39.5      | 3.8       | 9.9      | 78.5      | 307       | 51.4      | 24        |
|   | $\bar{x}$  | 42.57     | 9.21      | 6.24      | 48.31     | 74.35     | 48.17     | 4.22     | 379.56    | 11.09     | 246.68   | 36.65     | 3.06      | 6.65     | 28.34     | 237.32    | 45.45     | 12.57     |
|   | $\sigma$   | 24.01     | 4.38      | 2.35      | 16.39     | 32.58     | 5.04      | 0.89     | 16.05     | 0.43      | 48.07    | 1.94      | 0.28      | 1.02     | 11.26     | 37.23     | 2.39      | 3.78      |
|   | Cv         | 0.56      | 0.48      | 0.38      | 0.34      | 0.44      | 0.10      | 0.21     | 0.04      | 0.04      | 0.19     | 0.05      | 0.09      | 0.15     | 0.40      | 0.16      | 0.05      | 0.30      |

## Results – rare earth elements

| Age of the Underlying rocks  | Stat. par. | Sc ppm | Y ppm  | La ppm | Ce ppm | Pr ppm | Nd ppm | Sm ppm | Eu ppm | Gd ppm | Tb ppm | Dy ppm | Ho ppm | Er ppm | Tm ppm | Yb ppm | Lu ppm |
|--|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Bauxites of the ore region Vojnik–Maganik and Prekornica (total) ( <i>n</i> * = 252) | Min        | 38     | 62.6   | 87.7   | 159.5  | 13.02  | 44.3   | 8.36   | 1.85   | 8.69   | 1.65   | 10.59  | 2.26   | 6.58   | 1.00   | 6.40   | 0.98   |
|  | Max        | 159    | 1266.2 | 1799.1 | 908.3  | 421.42 | 1797.4 | 327.46 | 68.08  | 309.56 | 40.49  | 206.26 | 37.79  | 105.01 | 15.30  | 94.75  | 14.40  |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 57.45  | 136.0  | 225.11 | 360.31 | 37.80  | 138.22 | 24.84  | 5.29   | 24.24  | 3.86   | 23.07  | 4.81   | 13.98  | 2.12   | 13.66  | 2.09   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 10.93  | 136.88 | 253.89 | 107.41 | 45.80  | 177.21 | 31.15  | 6.56   | 30.59  | 4.31   | 23.45  | 4.54   | 12.04  | 1.69   | 10.27  | 1.56   |
|  | Cv         | 0.19   | 1.01   | 1.13   | 0.30   | 1.21   | 1.28   | 1.25   | 1.24   | 1.26   | 1.12   | 1.02   | 0.94   | 0.86   | 0.80   | 0.75   | 0.74   |
| Bauxites at the Late Triassic ( <i>n</i> = 160)                                      | Min        | 38     | 62.6   | 87.7   | 159.5  | 13.02  | 44.3   | 8.36   | 1.85   | 8.69   | 1.65   | 10.59  | 2.26   | 6.58   | 1.00   | 6.40   | 0.98   |
|  | Max        | 111    | 1266.2 | 1799.1 | 908.3  | 421.42 | 1797.4 | 327.46 | 68.08  | 309.56 | 40.49  | 206.26 | 37.79  | 105.01 | 15.30  | 94.75  | 14.40  |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 58.41  | 131.6  | 199.49 | 365.01 | 38.51  | 141.94 | 25.99  | 5.44   | 24.49  | 3.87   | 22.85  | 4.68   | 13.59  | 2.06   | 13.35  | 2.06   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 9.11   | 165.04 | 245.96 | 111.06 | 53.65  | 210.22 | 37.29  | 7.77   | 35.82  | 5.04   | 27.35  | 5.30   | 14.20  | 2.00   | 12.14  | 1.84   |
|  | Cv         | 0.16   | 1.25   | 1.23   | 0.30   | 1.39   | 1.48   | 1.43   | 1.43   | 1.46   | 1.30   | 1.20   | 1.13   | 1.05   | 0.97   | 0.91   | 0.90   |
| Bauxites at the Early Jurassic ( <i>n</i> = 51)                                      | Min        | 43     | 77.7   | 111.4  | 208.3  | 16.80  | 54.4   | 10.15  | 2.22   | 10.30  | 1.90   | 12.74  | 2.87   | 8.78   | 1.37   | 8.99   | 1.36   |
|  | Max        | 159    | 597.7  | 1648   | 663.9  | 184.52 | 616.2  | 101.59 | 23.92  | 125.40 | 22.18  | 137.93 | 27.67  | 70.45  | 10.03  | 62.15  | 9.31   |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 58.00  | 128.3  | 282.89 | 355.26 | 38.23  | 135.55 | 23.82  | 5.24   | 24.54  | 3.93   | 23.35  | 4.80   | 13.58  | 2.08   | 13.46  | 2.03   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 18.46  | 77.03  | 330.47 | 109.08 | 34.55  | 120.16 | 19.46  | 4.58   | 23.31  | 3.39   | 18.98  | 3.64   | 8.94   | 1.25   | 7.68   | 1.15   |
|  | Cv         | 0.32   | 0.60   | 1.17   | 0.31   | 0.90   | 0.89   | 0.82   | 0.87   | 0.95   | 0.86   | 0.81   | 0.76   | 0.66   | 0.60   | 0.57   | 0.56   |
| Bauxites at the Middle-Late Jurassic ( <i>n</i> = 41)                                | Min        | 45     | 84.3   | 136.9  | 168.4  | 15.67  | 52.9   | 9.23   | 2.19   | 10.52  | 2.08   | 14.83  | 3.61   | 11.16  | 1.64   | 10.62  | 1.64   |
|  | Max        | 57.00  | 323.9  | 570.9  | 598.7  | 82.84  | 329.3  | 53.20  | 11.25  | 53.07  | 7.29   | 41.03  | 8.70   | 25.38  | 3.51   | 21.76  | 3.18   |
|  | $\bar{x}$  | 51.84  | 161.1  | 244.63 | 342.69 | 33.39  | 122.88 | 20.85  | 4.55   | 22.02  | 3.62   | 22.97  | 5.28   | 15.83  | 2.36   | 14.95  | 2.28   |
|  | $\sigma$   | 3.18   | 52.60  | 120.03 | 111.69 | 17.57  | 71.31  | 11.62  | 2.47   | 11.43  | 1.38   | 7.04   | 1.36   | 3.71   | 0.49   | 2.79   | 0.40   |
|  | Cv         | 0.06   | 0.33   | 0.49   | 0.33   | 0.53   | 0.58   | 0.56   | 0.54   | 0.52   | 0.38   | 0.31   | 0.26   | 0.23   | 0.21   | 0.19   | 0.18   |

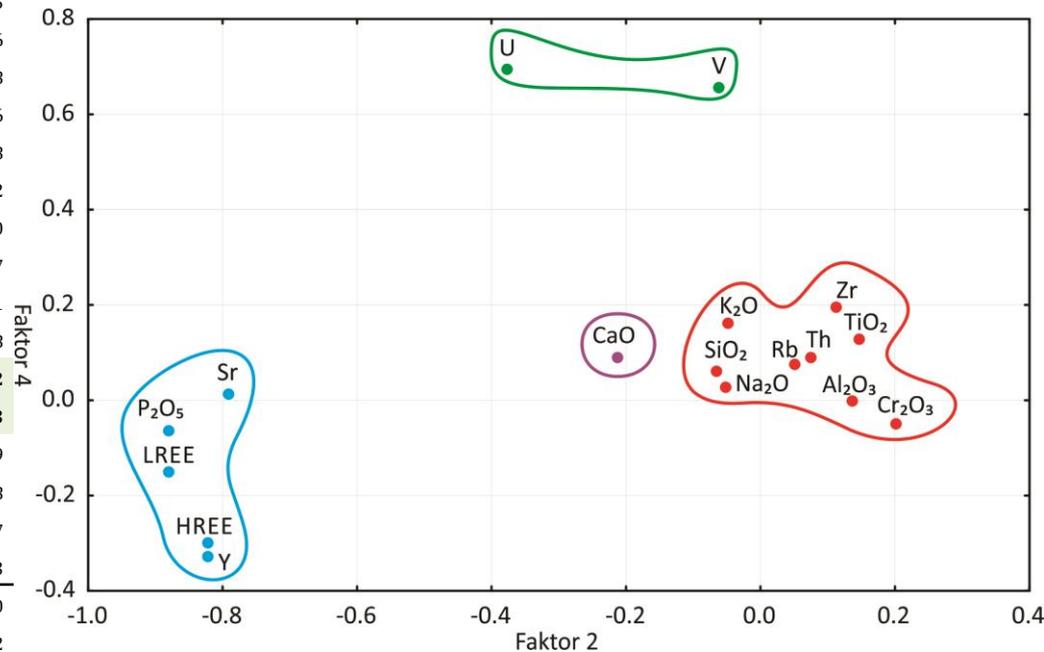
# Application of bivariate and multivariate statistical methods

**Factor analysis** - emphasizes poorly expressed but often significant anomalies of individual elements with the aim of pointing to associations of macro and microelements and rare earth elements.

Factor analysis of data from the VMP\_04 basic matrix distinguishes four important factors:

|                                | Factor 1  | Factor 2        | Factor 3        | Factor 4       |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| SiO <sub>2</sub>               | -0.85918  | -0.064490       | 0.247744        | 0.063657       |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 0.91626   | 0.135740        | 0.210895        | -0.003031      |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 0.407608  | 0.300725        | 0.325691        | -0.309956      |
| MgO                            | -0.570322 | 0.138146        | 0.089036        | -0.343542      |
| CaO                            | -0.247921 | -0.213475       | <b>-0.78488</b> | 0.089460       |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O              | -0.85670  | -0.053150       | 0.402944        | 0.025705       |
| K <sub>2</sub> O               | -0.79205  | -0.047118       | 0.448516        | 0.159908       |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 0.85145   | 0.147833        | 0.274260        | 0.130655       |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | 0.272053  | <b>-0.88045</b> | 0.208933        | -0.063706      |
| Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 0.75145   | 0.202891        | 0.008260        | -0.048498      |
| Ni                             | -0.503262 | -0.582436       | -0.330607       | 0.243366       |
| Sc                             | 0.631768  | -0.517665       | 0.297193        | -0.157918      |
| Ba                             | -0.74311  | -0.092551       | 0.521814        | 0.238082       |
| Co                             | -0.090586 | -0.557059       | -0.488346       | 0.328440       |
| Rb                             | -0.77184  | 0.050110        | 0.460206        | 0.077717       |
| Sr                             | 0.260625  | <b>-0.79091</b> | 0.223022        | 0.012271       |
| Th                             | 0.72270   | 0.075801        | 0.118461        | 0.089348       |
| U                              | 0.344096  | -0.376655       | -0.018386       | <b>0.69282</b> |
| V                              | 0.255298  | -0.060446       | 0.329790        | <b>0.65453</b> |
| Zr                             | 0.86428   | 0.114103        | 0.269662        | 0.195389       |
| Y                              | 0.134770  | <b>-0.82197</b> | 0.020032        | -0.329168      |
| LREE                           | 0.243852  | <b>-0.88164</b> | 0.174395        | -0.149397      |
| HREE                           | -0.095743 | <b>-0.82250</b> | 0.087299        | -0.301023      |
| Expl.Var                       | 8.271714  | 4.868822        | 2.522581        | 1.706650       |
| Prp.Totl                       | 0.359640  | 0.211688        | 0.109677        | 0.074202       |

- Factor 1: Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Zr, Th, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O, Ba, Rb, (+Ni, +Mg);
- Factor 2: P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Sr, Y, LREE, HREE, (+Sc, +Co);
- Factor 3: Ca(+Ba) i
- Factor 4: U, V .



# Application of bivariate and multivariate statistical methods

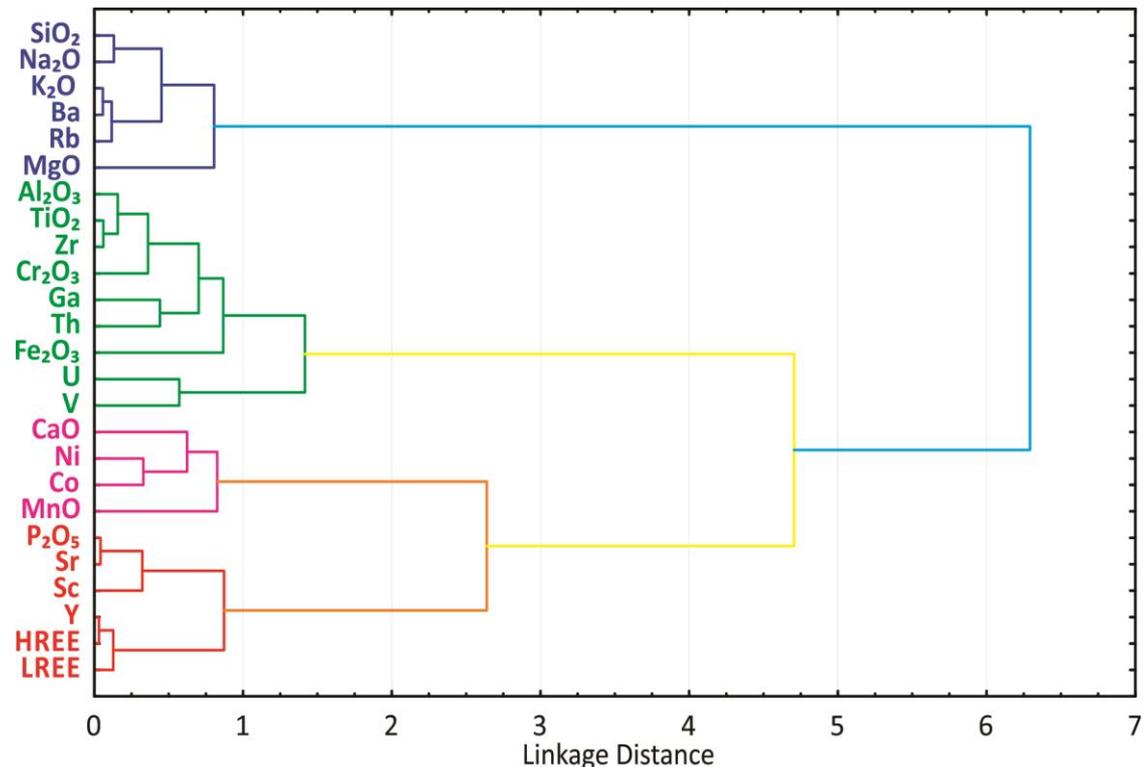
■ **Cluster analysis** - the interpretation of geochemical data with the aim of defining **subtle relationships** among variables or patterns. Relationships between variables or patterns are determined by grouping them into groups or clusters based on the similarity of the measured attributes.

- To the **first group** belongs:  $P_2O_5$ , Sr, Sc, Y and REE.
  - Highest correlation has Y and HREE which are further correlated with LREE.
  - High correlation has  $P_2O_5$  and Sr which are correlated with Sc.

■ **Second group** is composed of : Mn, Co, Ni, CaO.  
Ni and Co that are best correlated in this group.

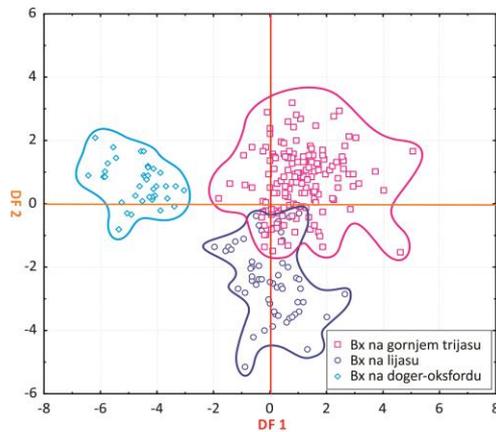
■ To the **third group** belongs:  
 $TiO_2$ , Zr,  $Al_2O_3$ , Cr, Ga, Th and Fe – elements concentrated in bauxites, as well as U and V.

■ The **fourth group** is represented by Si, Na, K, B, Rb and Mg elements which are leached in the process of bauxitization of the primary aluminosilicate material.



# Application of bivariate and multivariate statistical methods

**Discriminate Analysis** - allows the study of differences between two or more groups of objects based on a number of variables observed simultaneously. The matrices were processed on clr (central log-ratio) transformed geochemical test data, for two databases (VM-02 and VMP-04, STATISTICA 7) for the following geological criteria: age of the underlying carbonate rocks, genetic type, position and structural type. We show two models:



In the first model, based on the VMP\_04crl database, the age of the underlying rocks was separated as an independent geological criterion with respect to the measured variables, ie the contents of the tested oxides and trace elements.

DF1's first feature separates bauxite samples from carbonate rocks of Late Triassic and Early Jurassic age from those from Middle-Late Jurassic age: on the left side of the sample diagram are bauxites formed on carbonate rocks of Middle-Late Jurassic age, and also variables  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Rb}$  and  $\text{Ni}$ .

We can assume that the parent material from which these bauxites came from, contained magnesium silicate minerals and nickel.

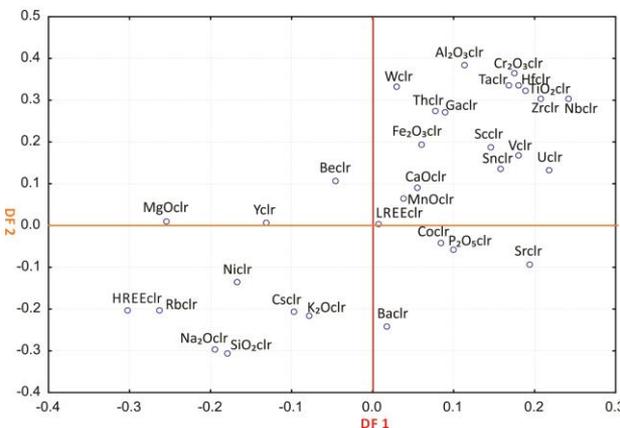
It is also possible that the conditions at later genesis were more reductive, and the material itself points to an origin from the ophiolitic zone.

On the other side of the diagram are bauxites formed on the carbonate rocks of Late Triassic and Early Jurassic age. They are characterized by:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{V}$  and a number of other elements indicating oxidation conditions.

Based on the first discriminant function, we can assume that similar conditions prevailed during the bauxitization process Late Triassic and Early Jurassic age.

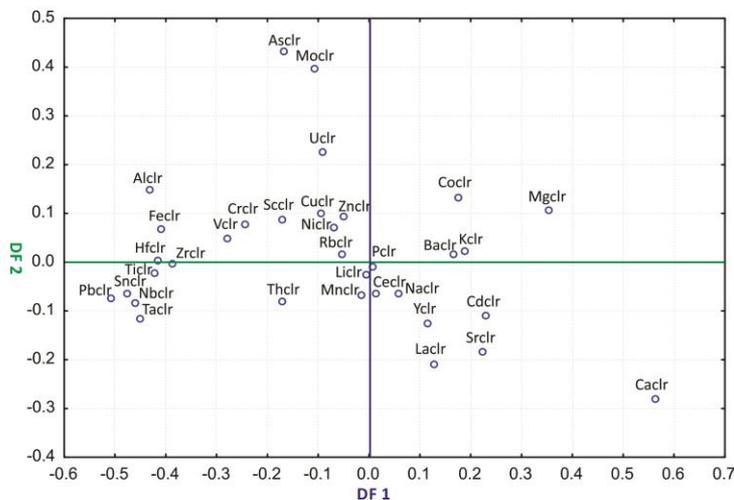
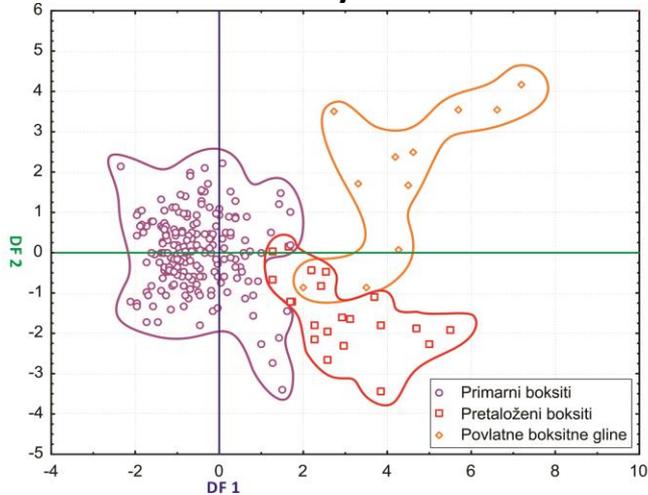
The second discriminant function (DF2) contains residual variability that separates bauxites formed on Late Triassic carbonate rocks from bauxite formed on carbonates of Early Jurassic age.

Bauxites formed on Late Triassic underlying rocks are, in a relative sense, more enriched with the characteristic oxides and elements -  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{V}$ ,  $\text{Ga}$ , etc., while they are "absent" in bauxites formed on carbonates of Early Jurassic age.



# Application of bivariate and multivariate statistical methods

## Discriminant analysis



The second model was made on the basis of the VM\_02 database, based on the genetic type as an independent geological criterion in relation to the measured variables, ie the contents of the macro and microelements examined.

The first discriminatory function of DF1 separates samples of primary bauxites from redeposited bauxites and underlying bauxite clays.

On the left side of the sample diagram are the primary bauxites and the variables Al, Fe, Ti, Cr, V, Zr, Hf, Cr, Pb, Nb, Ta, etc., indicating a higher degree of bauxitization of the parent material than the other two groups of samples .

On the right side of the diagram are: Ca, Mg, Na, K, Sr, Ba, etc., which are mostly extracted from primary bauxites.

The second discriminant function (DF2) contains residual variability, which separates redeposited bauxites and the domain of primary deposits from transgressive bauxite clays.

Redeposited bauxites are characterized by the relative "enrichment" of Ca, Na, Sr and Cd, relative to the bauxite clays having "higher" Mg, Co and especially U, Mo and As, indicating reduction conditions in the first stages of transgression.

## Mineralogical testing (X-ray diffraction XRD)



## Results - XRD

- Bauxites of the ore region Vojnik–Maganik and Prekornica are of complex mineralogical composition.
- The main carrier of aluminium in them is the mineral boehmite. Other major minerals are: Fe-oxides/hydroxides (hematite and goethite); clay minerals (kaolinite) and titanium minerals (mainly anatase).
- The following minerals were also detected: phosphates with REE (monazite and xenotime); REE carbonates–Ce and REE carbonates–Nd; ilmenite; magnetite; motramite, biotite; K-feldspar; certain sulphides and silicates. A regular mineral present in the silicate group is zircon.
- The chemical composition of bauxite from the Vojnik–Maganik and Prekornica ore regions is consistent with mineralogical characteristics.
- The studied deposits can be classified into the genetic class of karstic bauxites (*Bárdossy, 1981*), or the class of so-called primary deposits of karst bauxites (*Pajović, 2000, 2009*).

### Results of semi-quantitative analysis of 64 samples of bauxites (mass %)

004-154 bauxites from carbonate rocks of Late Triassic age (38)

168-215 bauxites from carbonate rocks of Early Jurassic age (14)

216-244 bauxites from carbonate rocks of Middle-Late Jurassic age (12)

| L.B.  | boehmite | hematite | anatase | calcite | kaolinite | goethite | gibbsite |
|-------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|
| (004) | 27       | 18       | 4       | –       | 41        | 10       | –        |
| (006) | 29       | 20       | 3       | –       | 44        | 3        | –        |
| (008) | 44       | 15       | 3       | 2       | 33        | 2        | –        |
| (029) | 52       | 19       | 4       | –       | 23        | 2        | –        |
| (030) | 61       | 1        | 5       | –       | 31        | 2        | –        |
| (032) | 67       | 20       | 2       | –       | 10        | 1        | –        |
| (034) | 68       | 19       | 3       | –       | 9         | 1        | –        |
| (035) | 70       | 20       | 2       | –       | 6         | 1        | –        |
| (040) | 77       | 20       | 2       | –       | 1         | –        | –        |
| (045) | 77       | 19       | 2       | –       | 1         | –        | –        |
| (046) | 77       | 14       | 2       | 2       | 5         | –        | –        |
| (047) | 83       | 11       | 2       | –       | 3         | –        | –        |
| (048) | 74       | 19       | 2       | –       | 4         | 1        | –        |
| (049) | 64       | 19       | 1       | 13      | 2         | –        | –        |
| (051) | 73       | 20       | 2       | –       | 5         | 1        | –        |
| (053) | 79       | 17       | 2       | –       | 1         | –        | –        |
| (070) | 87       | 2        | 2       | –       | 9         | –        | –        |
| (073) | 66       | 22       | 2       | –       | 8         | 1        | –        |
| (074) | 71       | 20       | 2       | –       | 6         | 1        | –        |
| (075) | 71       | 21       | 2       | –       | 6         | 1        | –        |
| (076) | 69       | 22       | 2       | –       | 7         | 1        | –        |
| (081) | 59       | 22       | 2       | –       | 15        | 2        | –        |
| (084) | 59       | 26       | 2       | –       | 10        | 2        | –        |
| (086) | 73       | 18       | 2       | –       | 6         | 1        | –        |
| (088) | 68       | 24       | 2       | –       | 6         | 1        | –        |
| (095) | 70       | 23       | 2       | –       | 5         | 1        | –        |
| (099) | 69       | 22       | 2       | –       | 7         | 1        | –        |
| (103) | 54       | 22       | 3       | –       | 19        | 2        | –        |
| (107) | 51       | 21       | 2       | –       | 23        | 2        | –        |
| (130) | 51       | 21       | 2       | –       | 23        | 2        | –        |
| (132) | 59       | 23       | 3       | –       | 14        | 2        | –        |
| (134) | 60       | 23       | 2       | –       | 13        | 2        | –        |
| (135) | 46       | 20       | 4       | –       | 27        | 3        | –        |
| (143) | 54       | 24       | 3       | –       | 17        | 2        | –        |
| (150) | 49       | 23       | 3       | –       | 22        | 2        | –        |

| L.B.  | boehmite | hematite | anatase | calcite | kaolinite | goethite | gibbsite |
|-------|----------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|
| (151) | 55       | 22       | 3       | –       | 18        | 2        | –        |
| (153) | 54       | 21       | 3       | –       | 20        | 2        | –        |
| (154) | 54       | 21       | 3       | –       | 20        | 2        | –        |
| (168) | 50       | 21       | 3       | –       | 23        | 2        | –        |
| (174) | 48       | 21       | 3       | –       | 26        | 3        | –        |
| (177) | 47       | 22       | 3       | –       | 25        | 3        | –        |
| (179) | 60       | 6        | 4       | –       | 29        | 2        | –        |
| (180) | 57       | 26       | 2       | –       | 14        | 1        | –        |
| (184) | 52       | 21       | 3       | –       | 21        | 2        | –        |
| (187) | 52       | 20       | 3       | –       | 22        | 3        | –        |
| (188) | 36       | 18       | 4       | –       | 31        | 1        | 10       |
| (191) | 41       | 20       | 3       | –       | 33        | 3        | –        |
| (193) | 40       | 21       | 3       | –       | 33        | 2        | –        |
| (195) | 38       | 19       | 3       | –       | 37        | 3        | –        |
| (211) | 45       | 23       | 3       | –       | 26        | 2        | –        |
| (213) | 41       | 24       | 4       | –       | 29        | 2        | –        |
| (215) | 32       | 18       | 4       | –       | 44        | 2        | –        |
| (216) | 56       | 11       | 4       | –       | 26        | 3        | –        |
| (217) | 55       | 18       | 3       | –       | 22        | 2        | –        |
| (218) | 60       | 18       | 3       | –       | 17        | 2        | –        |
| (219) | 60       | 19       | 3       | –       | 17        | 2        | –        |
| (230) | 51       | 24       | 2       | –       | 22        | 2        | –        |
| (231) | 51       | 23       | 2       | –       | 22        | 2        | –        |
| (232) | 54       | 22       | 2       | –       | 21        | 2        | –        |
| (233) | 50       | 21       | 3       | –       | 24        | 2        | –        |
| (241) | 55       | 10       | 4       | –       | 28        | 2        | –        |
| (242) | 48       | 20       | 3       | –       | 27        | 2        | –        |
| (243) | 44       | 24       | 3       | –       | 27        | 3        | –        |
| (244) | 50       | 17       | 4       | –       | 28        | 2        | –        |



**Mineralogical testing (Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy-Dispersive Spectrometer SEM-EDS)**

# Results – SEM-EDS

*Mineral composition of tested bauxite samples  
determinate by SEM-EDS analysis , 30 samples (17, 7, 6)*

| Mark. | A | B | C | D | REE minerals |     |       |    | Silicates |    |     | Ilm | Mgt | Mtr | S | X |
|-------|---|---|---|---|--------------|-----|-------|----|-----------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
|       |   |   |   |   | Mnz          | Kst | REE-C |    | Zrn       | Bt | Kfs |     |     |     |   |   |
|       |   |   |   |   |              |     | Ce    | Nd |           |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 006   | • | • | • | • | •            |     |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 030   | • |   | • | • | •            |     |       |    | •         | •  |     |     | •   |     |   |   |
| 040   | • | • | • | • | •            |     |       | •  | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 045   | • | • | • | • |              |     |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   | • |
| 046   | • | • |   | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     | • |   |
| 073   | • | • |   |   | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 074   | • | • |   | • | •            | •   | •     |    | •         |    |     | •   | •   |     |   |   |
| 075   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 076   | • | • | • | • | •            |     |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     | • |   |
| 088   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 095   | • | • |   | • | •            |     | •     |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     | • |   |
| 099   | • | • |   | • |              | •   |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 103   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 107   | • | • |   | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    | •   |     |     |     |   |   |
| 130   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 135   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 153   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 168   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     | • |   |
| 179   | • | • | • |   | •            |     |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 180   | • | • | • |   | •            | •   |       | •  | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 184   | • | • | • | • |              | •   |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 187   | • | • | • | • |              | •   |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 188   | • | • | • |   | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 215   | • | • | • | • |              |     |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 216   | • | • | • | • | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 217   | • | • | • |   | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |
| 218   | • | • | • |   | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 219   | • | • | • |   | •            |     | •     |    | •         |    |     |     |     |     |   |   |
| 230   | • | • | • |   | •            |     |       |    | •         |    |     |     | •   |     |   |   |
| 243   | • | • | • |   | •            | •   |       |    | •         |    |     | •   |     |     |   |   |

- Minerals of rare earth elements in bauxites:
- Fluor– carbonate group of REE minerals
- Phosphate group of REE minerals

A – Al-hydroxides, B – Fe-oxi/hydroxides, C – clay minerals, D – TiO<sub>2</sub> minerals,  
**Mnz – monazite, Kst – xenotime, REE-C – REE carbonate minerals, Zrn – zircon, Bt – biotite, Kfs – K-feldspar, Ilm – ilmenite, Mgt – magnetite, Mtr – mottramite, S – sulfides, X – unidentified minerals.**



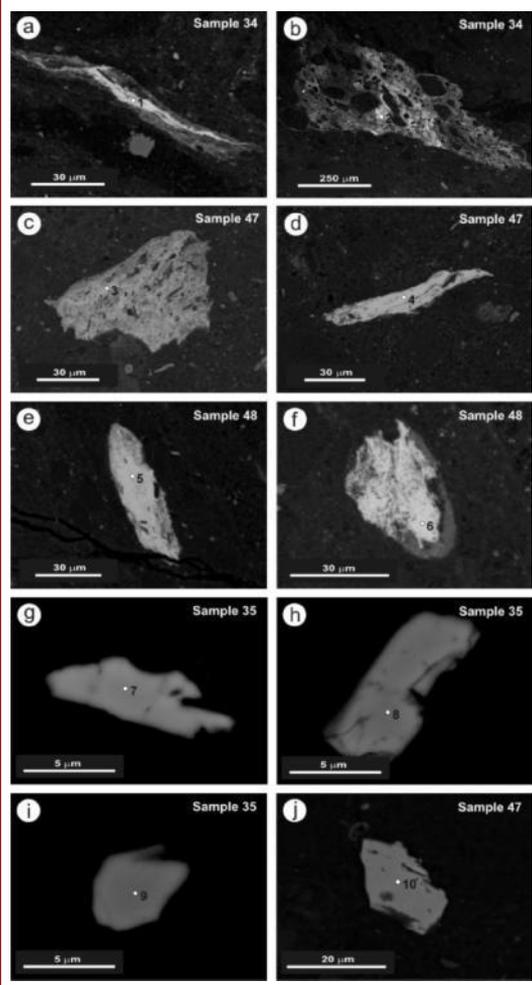
# Mineralogical testing (Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy-Dispersive Spectrometer SEM-EDS)

## Results – SEM-EDS

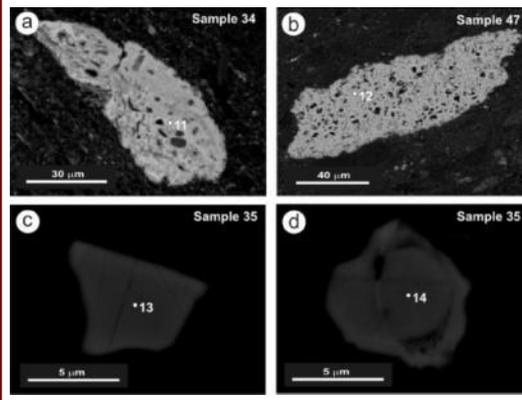
Representative analysis of electronic microprobe of REE minerals from Zagrad deposits (in mass %, normalized at 100%; empty field – not discovered)

| Uzorak br.                     | Monacite–Nd<br>Authigenic mineral<br>Total number of analysis – 1 |      |      |      |      |      | Monacite–Ce<br>Residual phase<br>analysis – 4 |      |      |      | Xenotime<br>Authigenic mineral<br>Total<br>number of<br>analysis –<br>3 |      | Xenotime<br>Residual<br>phase<br>Total<br>number of<br>analysis –<br>3 |      |
|--------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|---|------|------|------|---|------|--|------|
|                                | 034   | 047  | 048  | 035  | 047  | 034  | 047   | 034  | 047  | 035  | 13  | 14   |  |      |
|                                | 1   | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7   | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11  | 12   | 13   | 14   |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 4.4   | 4.0  | 6.2  | 1.1  | 1.0  | 1.2  | 1.8   | 0.4  | 0.4  | 0.4  | 2.1   | 1.7  |  |      |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>               | 2.9   | 0.9  | 3.6  |      |      |      |   | 0.4  |      |      | 2.7   | 4.9  | 1.1  | 1.7  |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | 28.0  | 24.7 | 26.3 | 29.1 | 28.5 | 27.6 | 29.6  | 32.3 | 29.8 | 30.6 | 31.9  | 30.8 | 37.1   | 37.8 |
| SO <sub>3</sub>                | 1.7   | 1.1  | 1.7  | 1.4  | 1.3  | 1.4  |   |      |      |      |   |      |  |      |
| K <sub>2</sub> O               |   |      | 0.5  |      |      |      |   |      |      |      |   |      |  |      |
| CaO                            | 3.4   | 3.1  | 3.0  | 3.4  | 3.6  | 3.2  |   | 1.1  |      |      | 2.4   | 1.7  |  |      |
| Sc <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> |   |      |      |      |      |      |   |      |      |      | 0.6   | 0.4  |  |      |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 0.6   | 0.4  |      |      |      |      | 0.4   |      | 0.4  |      |   |      | 0.4  | 0.3  |
| V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  |   | 0.9  |      |      |      |      |   |      |      |      | 1.5   | 0.6  |  |      |
| FeO                            | 2.3   | 10.4 | 1.6  | 1.4  |      |      | 2.5   | 1.9  | 1.3  | 0.8  | 4.3   | 3.5  | 2.0  | 1.9  |
| Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  |   |      |      |      |      |      |   |      |      |      | 34.9  | 49.9 | 41.0   | 41.6 |
| La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 8.2   | 9.0  | 11.2 | 14.6 | 12.7 | 15.1 | 16.6  | 12.3 | 12.2 | 16.4 |   |      |  |      |
| Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 10.3  | 7.8  | 4.8  | 3.8  | 4.4  | 4.0  | 32.0  | 26.5 | 33.4 | 34.0 |   |      |  |      |
| Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 4.5   | 4.8  | 5.2  | 5.8  | 5.8  | 6.0  | 3.4   | 3.3  | 3.9  | 3.7  |   |      |  |      |
| Nd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 20.7  | 23.1 | 25.9 | 28.3 | 28.9 | 29.1 | 11.0  | 12.0 | 14.3 | 10.8 | 1.6   |      |  | 0.4  |
| Sm <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 5.6   | 6.4  | 5.3  | 6.1  | 6.4  | 6.5  | 1.3   | 2.5  | 1.9  | 2.1  | 1.2   | 0.7  |  | 0.6  |
| Eu <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> |   |      |      | 1.5  |      |      |   |      |      |      |   |      |  |      |
| Gd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 4.4   | 2.8  | 3.0  | 3.8  | 4.2  | 4.1  | 0.8   | 1.6  | 1.8  | 1.2  | 5.5   | 1.6  | 2.8  | 3.1  |
| Dy <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 2.3   | 0.6  | 1.7  | 1.2  | 1.7  | 1.8  |   | 1.0  | 0.6  |      | 6.1   | 1.7  | 5.7  | 5.1  |
| Er <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> |   |      |      |      |      |      |   |      |      |      | 2.8   | 1.4  | 4.6  | 3.5  |
| Yb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> |   |      |      |      |      |      |   |      |      |      | 2.4   | 1.1  | 4.6  | 4.0  |
| ThO <sub>2</sub>               | 0.7   |      |      |      |      |      | 0.6   | 3.6  |      |      |   |      |  |      |
| UO <sub>2</sub>                |   |      |      |      |      |      |   | 1.1  |      |      |   |      |  | 0.7  |

Four types of REE phosphate were detected:  
 1) autigenic monazite – Nd, 2) residual monacite – Ce,  
 3) autigenic xenotime, and 4) residual xenotime.



Authigenic monazite-Nd (a–f) and residual monazite-Ce (g–j) in the Zagrad deposit (BSE images). Dots and numbers represent location of electron microprobe analyses

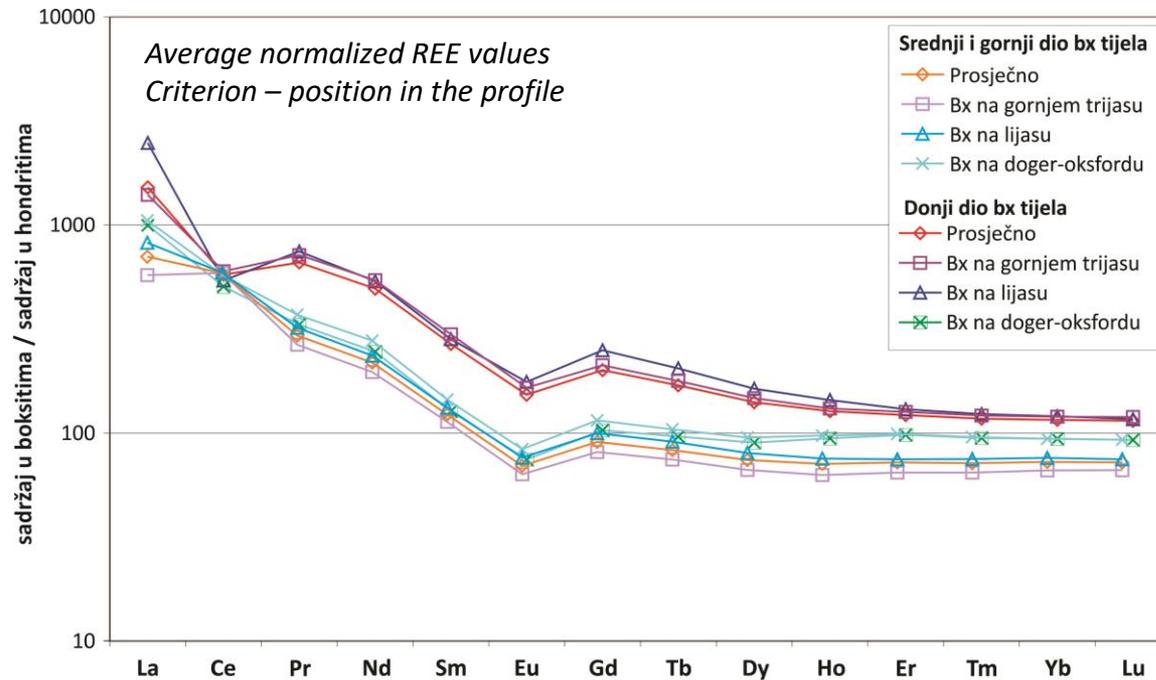


Authigenic (a–b) and residual (c–d) xenotime in the Zagrad deposit (BSE images). Dots and numbers represent locations of electron microprobe analyses



## Eu and Ce anomalies

- All samples show a negative **Eu anomaly**, with a relatively small range ( $\text{Eu} / \text{Eu}^* = 0.60\text{--}0.71$ , average 0.66), as is the case with the karstic bauxites of Turkey (Hanilçi, 2013).
- Values are lower when compared to the Nurra deposit in western Sardinia, (Mameli et al., 2007), or the Apulian karst bauxite (Mongelli et al., 2014).



- **Anomalies of Ce** in the bauxite deposits of the Vojnik – Maganik and Prekornica ore regions show a dual behaviour. In the middle and upper part of deposits, Jurassic bauxites show positive Ce anomalies (range 0.63 to 3.1, average  $\text{Ce} / \text{Ce}^* = 1.55$ ).



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- A total of 62 deposits and occurrences of Jurassic bauxite have been discovered in the Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica ore regions.
- Mineralogical examination of Jurassic karst red bauxite samples revealed the presence of the following minerals and groups of minerals in the tested bauxites:
  - Al-hydroxides - represented by boehmite and highly subordinate to gibbsite;
  - Fe-oxy/hydroxides - hematite and goethite;
  - Clay minerals - kaolinite;
  - TiO<sub>2</sub> minerals - anatase;
  - Phosphates with REE: monazite and xenotime; REE carbonates – Ce and REE carbonates – Nd;
  - Ilmenite; magnetite; mottramite, biotite; K-feldspar;
  - Certain sulphides and silicates; zircon is a regularly present silicate
- Based on geological conditions, textural, mineralogical and geochemical characteristics of bauxite, studied deposits belongs to the group of primary karstic bauxite deposits.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- By geochemical study of bauxite and statistical data processing, it was found that, in the process of bauxitization of the parent material: Si, Na, K, Ba, Rb i Mg are leached. In the bauxite : Al, Ti, Fe, Zr, Cr, Ga i Th, as well as U and V are accumulated.
- P, Sr, Sc are concentrated in the lower part of bauxite bodies and, with these elements, Y and other rare earth elements.
- The presence of residual and authigenic monacite and xenotime indicates that the first REE minerals originates from primary sources, while the other are formed in the first stages of diagenesis, under oxidizing conditions.
- Analyzed based on the relationships of the characteristic elements used in the literature to determine the origin of the parent material do not give clear results.
- By studying the paleogeographic and paleotectonic processes in the Mediterranean area, and the Dinarides as a segment of Adria, during the Jurassic period, it was concluded that the source material most likely originates from the Ophiolites of the eastern belt of the Western Vardar Ophiolites.





## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Paleogeographical and paleotectonic processes in the Mediterranean area during the Jurassic period indicate that the original material most likely originate from the Ophiolitic complex of the Western Vardar Ophiolites, which represent the supra-subduction Ophiolite oceanic type of the island arches, with the intense appearance of effusive volcanism.
- Therefore, it is very likely that volcanic ash and/or material from the decomposition crust of this complex are the parental material from which the Jurassic karstic bauxites in the Dinarides were formed.
- Palogeographical facts support the idea of eolic transport of primary material on the karstic island areas. In conditions of tropical and subtropical climate, occasional and torrential flows, the alumosilicate material was washed and accumulated in formed palokarstic depressions, where its bauxitization was carried out.
- Based on a detailed analysis of the environment of the formation of Jurassic bauxite deposits in Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica ore regions, as well as on analysis of the geological composition and structure of the brim erosion region, morphological characteristics of the ore bodies, control factors of their position in space and time, as well as texture, mineralogical and geochemical characteristics of bauxites, the previously mentioned deposits can be classified into the genetic class of karstic bauxites, that is to say, the class of the so-called karstic bauxites primary deposits (*Pajović, 2009*).



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Issues regarding the origin of the parent material and how it is transported should be further addressed in order to verify the results achieved.
- Further researches should be directed towards paleogeographic and paleomagnetic studies (new research was launched in 2018 with colleagues from Hungary, Serbia and Austria), mineralogical studies (continued cooperation with colleagues from Serbia), as well as studies of microelements and rare earth elements in magmatic rocks and bauxites in order to contribute to the study of the genesis and complex valorization of karstic bauxites of Montenegro and Dinarides.
- One of the methods is to date zircons as done on samples of Italian karstic bauxites from Caserta province (in early 2019, cooperation with colleagues from Serbia and Germany was initiated).

# RARE EARTH ELEMENTS IN SOME MEDITERRANIAN KARSTIC BAUXITES

| Mark  | Ore regions Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica      | Y      | La     | Ce     | Pr    | Nd     | Sm    | Eu    | Gd    | Tb   | Dy    | Ho    | Er    | Tm   | Yb    | Lu   | ΣREE    | ΣREE+Y  |
|---|--|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|---------|---------|
| <b>CGVMP1</b>   | Jurski bx na G. Trijasu                        | 131.62 | 199.49 | 365.01 | 38.51 | 141.94 | 25.99 | 5.44  | 24.49 | 3.87 | 22.85 | 4.68  | 13.59 | 2.06 | 13.35 | 2.06 | 863.30  | 994.92  |
| <b>CGVMP2</b>   | Jurski bx na Lijasu                            | 128.34 | 282.89 | 355.26 | 38.23 | 135.55 | 23.82 | 5.24  | 24.54 | 3.93 | 23.35 | 4.80  | 13.58 | 2.08 | 13.46 | 2.03 | 928.78  | 1057.11 |
| <b>CGVMP3</b>   | Jurski bx na Doger-oksfordu                    | 161.14 | 244.63 | 342.69 | 33.39 | 122.88 | 20.85 | 4.55  | 22.02 | 3.62 | 22.97 | 5.28  | 15.83 | 2.36 | 14.95 | 2.28 | 858.29  | 1019.43 |
| <b>Parnassos-Ghiona geotectonic zone, Grčka, Jurski B1 i B2 i Kredni B3 bx: Deady et al. 2014</b> |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>GRPGB1</b>   | Jurski bx na Donjoj Juri                       | 44.40  | 54.50  | 178.00 | 11.50 | 62.33  | 8.40  | 1.95  | 7.20  | 1.10 | 6.90  | 1.40  | 4.10  | 0.50 | 4.30  | 0.70 | 342.88  | 387.28  |
| <b>GRPGB2</b>   | Jurski bx na Gornjoj Juri                      | 159.10 | 258.35 | 427.53 | 42.95 | 149.23 | 57.20 | 12.99 | 61.00 | 8.66 | 46.88 | 9.16  | 23.46 | 3.27 | 19.01 | 2.73 | 1122.42 | 1281.52 |
| <b>GRPGB3</b>   | Kredni Bx na Donjoj kredi                      | 48.30  | 64.80  | 195.00 | 7.85  | 60.39  | 7.36  | 1.87  | 7.10  | 1.82 | 8.20  | 1.90  | 5.44  | 0.99 | 6.14  | 0.94 | 369.80  | 418.10  |
| <b>Parnassos-Ghiona , Grčka, Jurski B2 i Kredni B3 bx: Laskou and Economou-Eliopoulos, 2012</b>   |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>GRPRB2</b>   | Prossorema, Jurski bx na Gornjoj Juri          | 263.33 | 295.42 | 648.86 | 42.95 | 220.92 | 57.20 | 12.99 | 61.00 | 8.66 | 47.59 | 9.16  | 23.46 | 3.27 | 19.01 | 2.73 | 1453.21 | 1716.54 |
| <b>GRFRB3</b>   | Frussia, Kredni Bx na Donjoj kredi             | 48.25  | 46.00  | 258.75 | 11.25 | 41.65  | 9.75  | 2.08  | 10.05 | 1.55 | 17.18 | 1.98  | 6.18  | 0.98 | 8.05  | 1.06 | 416.48  | 464.73  |
| <b>Bolkardagi deposits, Karaman,Turska, Trijaski i Jurski bx: Hanilci 2013</b>                    |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>TUBU</b>   | Bolkardagi unit, Trijasko-Jurski bx            | 87.30  | 176.40 | 253.78 | 34.55 | 124.00 | 21.88 | 4.58  | 20.05 | 3.15 | 18.73 | 3.88  | 11.78 | 1.95 | 12.85 | 1.98 | 689.53  | 776.83  |
| <b>TUNTU</b>  | Namtun tectonic unit, Trijasko-Jurski bx       | 115.45 | 166.63 | 343.83 | 41.68 | 162.55 | 30.60 | 6.23  | 28.15 | 4.00 | 22.18 | 4.28  | 12.08 | 1.90 | 12.00 | 1.85 | 837.93  | 953.38  |
| <b>Istra, Rovinj, Hrvatska, Crnički, 1987</b>   |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>HRIR</b>   | Istra, Rovinj, , Jurski boksiti                | 62.62  | 124.38 | 193.43 | 26.86 | 105.29 | 24.21 | 3.26  | 19.64 | 3.26 | 12.24 | 3.83  | 6.35  | 1.10 | 5.69  | 1.32 | 580.13  | 593.49  |
| <b>Spinazzola, Apulia, Southern Italy, Kredni bx: Mongelli et al., 2014</b>                       |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>ITSA</b>   | Spinazzola, Apulia, Kredni boksiti             | 42.82  | 91.12  | 232.35 | 21.31 | 71.97  | 15.15 | 3.64  | 11.84 | 1.92 | 11.12 | 2.14  | 6.05  | 0.99 | 6.49  | 0.94 | 477.03  | 519.85  |
| <b>ITMMD</b>  | Prosječno Matese Mts. District, Kredni boksiti | 55.55  | 119.08 | 309.70 | 24.71 | 85.79  | 14.19 | 2.91  | 12.93 | 2.11 | 11.81 | 2.36  | 7.07  | 1.19 | 7.87  | 1.21 | 602.92  | 658.47  |
| <b>ITCD</b>   | Prosječno Caserta district, Kredni boksiti     | 74.38  | 124.48 | 286.91 | 30.55 | 112.95 | 20.76 | 4.35  | 17.72 | 2.68 | 14.92 | 2.88  | 8.43  | 1.28 | 8.44  | 1.27 | 637.62  | 712.00  |
| <b>Kordun, Frketić, Hrvatska. Kredni boksiti Crnički, 1987</b>                                    |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>HRKF</b>   | Kordun, Frketić, Hrvatska.,Kredni boksiti      | 55.00  | 139.50 | 190.00 | 28.00 | 101.00 | 14.50 | 2.05  | 22.00 | 2.40 | 8.40  | 3.55  | 3.70  | 0.74 | 4.92  | 0.87 | 521.63  | 576.63  |
| <b>Vrace, Lika, Hrvatska. Trijaski boksiti Crnički, 1987</b>                                      |  |        |        |        |       |        |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |      |       |      |         |         |
| <b>HRVL</b>   | Vrace, Lika, Hrvatska. Trijaski boksiti        | 118.92 | 117.28 | 216.77 | 41.23 | 105.54 | 28.00 | 2.56  | 50.23 | 7.55 | 19.92 | 10.08 | 14.08 | 1.55 | 7.54  | 1.97 | 624.31  | 743.23  |



## ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- The total resources of the red Jurassic karst bauxites in the area of the Vojnik-Maganik and Prekornica ore regions, obtained on the basis of the forecast estimate, are 78 million tons.
- The question is, would it be more useful to use bauxite to produce REE and some other microelements?
- Complex utilization of bauxite deposits in terms of the use of part of deposits for production in the aluminum industry, and parts for the production of rare earth elements, may be a good solution for high quality deposits in the future.
- The fact that Montenegro has limited reserves of high quality bauxite used in the aluminum industry is in favor of justifying further study of the possibility of producing REE from bauxite.
- Most of the reserves proven so far cannot be used for the production of alumina and aluminum.
- If economically interesting concentrations of lanthanides and other trace elements are proven in these low-quality bauxites, the possibility of using them independently of the aluminum industry is created.
- The question of the possibility of extraction of rare earth elements and other microelements from red mud from the Aluminum Plant Podgorica, has also been raised.
- The total quantities of red mud in the A and B basins are cca 7.5 million tonnes and, as such, represent a significant resource.

## ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- Red mud (bauxite residue) consists of the undissolved part of bauxite ore.
- Globally, 100 to 120 million t of red mud are produced annually.
- The concentrations of REEs in bauxite residue are approximately twice as high as in bauxites.

| Element           | Karst Bauxite Greece | Lateritic Bauxite Ghana | Bauxite Residue Greece, AoG |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                   | ICP-MS               | INAA                    | ICP-MS                      |
|                   | (mg/kg)              | (mg/kg)                 | (mg/kg)                     |
| La                | 57 ± 7               | 19.1 ± 1.3              | 130 ± 1                     |
| Ce                | 206 ± 8              | 34 ± 1                  | 480 ± 26                    |
| Pr                | 15 ± 1               | n/a                     | 29 ± 2                      |
| Nd                | 53 ± 6               | 13 ± 1                  | 107 ± 0                     |
| Sm                | 9.8 ± 1.0            | 2.0 ± 0.2               | 19.4 ± 0.2                  |
| Eu                | 2.4 ± 0.9            | 0.8 ± 0.2               | 4.6 ± 1.1                   |
| Gd                | 10.6 ± 0.6           | n/a                     | 22.0 ± 0.3                  |
| Tb                | 2.3 ± 0.5            | <0.5                    | 3.3 ± 0.0                   |
| Dy                | 9.8 ± 0.3            | n/a                     | 20.1 ± 0.1                  |
| Ho                | 2.1 ± 0.1            | n/a                     | 4.1 ± 0.1                   |
| Er                | 7.2 ± 0.8            | n/a                     | 13.3 ± 0.3                  |
| Tm                | <2                   | n/a                     | <2                          |
| Yb                | 7.0 ± 0.4            | 2.5 ± 0.3               | 13.8 ± 0.3                  |
| Lu                | <2                   | 0.4 ± 0.0               | 2.2 ± 0.0                   |
| Y                 | 48 ± 2               | n/a                     | 108 ± 2                     |
| Nb                | 55 ± 9               | n/a                     | 100 ± 1                     |
| Th                | 51 ± 2               | 22.7 ± 2.3              | 105 ± 2                     |
| ΣLn <sup>1</sup>  | 382.3                |                         | 854.4                       |
| ΣREE <sup>2</sup> | 430.6                |                         | 962.5                       |

(Vind. J, et al. 2018:  
Rare Earth Element  
Phases in Bauxite  
Residue)

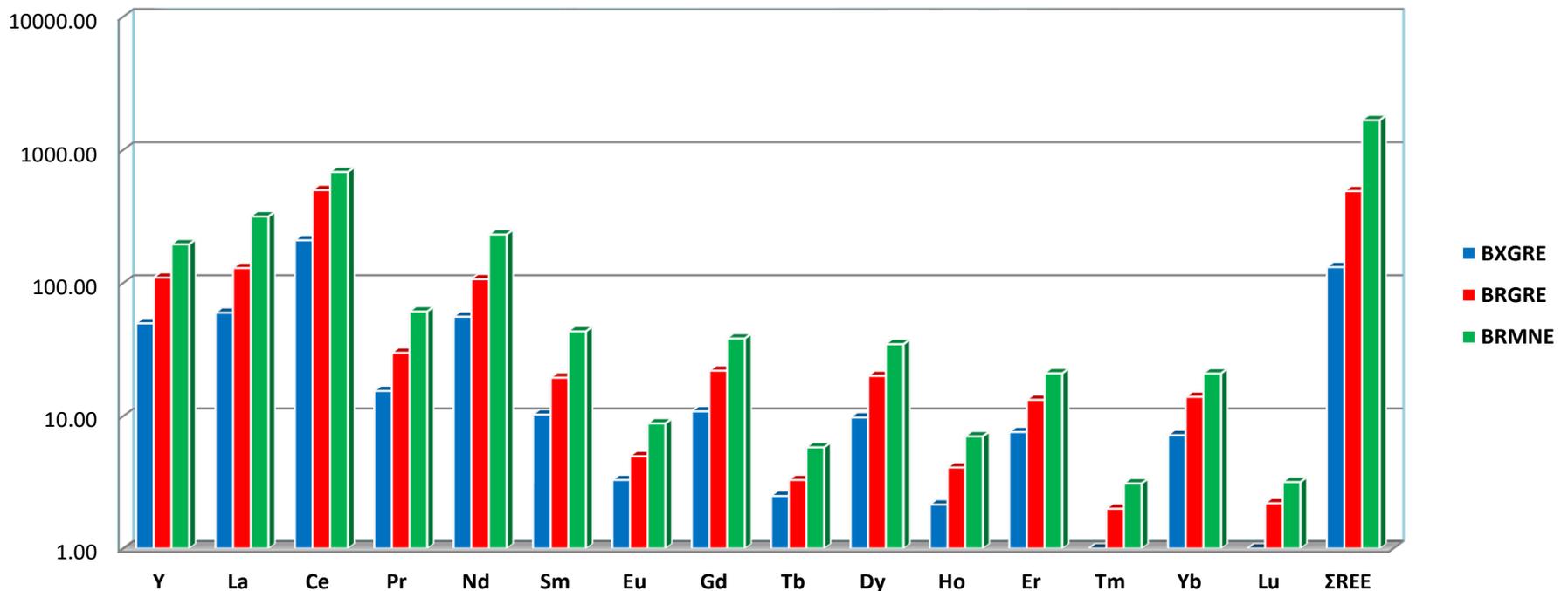
<sup>1</sup> Sum of lanthanides; <sup>2</sup> Sum of lanthanides and yttrium.

# ECONOMIC ASPECTS

## REE concentrations in red mud in pools A and B - Aluminum Plant Podgorica

*(Results of pilot sample analyzes, 2019)*

| Bazen | Sc<br>ppm | Y<br>ppm | La<br>ppm | Ce<br>ppm | Pr<br>ppm | Nd<br>ppm | Sm<br>ppm | Eu<br>ppm | Gd<br>ppm | Tb<br>ppm | Dy<br>ppm | Ho<br>ppm | Er<br>ppm | Tm<br>ppm | Yb<br>ppm | Lu<br>ppm | ΣREE+Y+Sc<br>ppm |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| A     | 121       | 207.7    | 327.1     | 664.2     | 58.46     | 216.4     | 40.01     | 8.24      | 36.43     | 5.74      | 34.93     | 7.28      | 22.28     | 3.29      | 22.26     | 3.32      | 1778.64          |
| B     | 111       | 184.2    | 306.9     | 704.4     | 64.05     | 247.4     | 46.95     | 9.44      | 40.39     | 5.92      | 34.71     | 6.84      | 19.78     | 2.93      | 19.7      | 3.05      | 1807.66          |





## ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- Existing and new quantities of red mud can be considered as an important resource for the extraction of critical metals such as REE, metals of greater economic importance for Europe such as Ti and V, but also base metals such as Al and Fe.
- The goal of several projects that have been completed or are in the process of being implemented is the development of innovative and sustainable technology for the production of important metals from red mud: ENEXAL, EURARE, REECover, REE4EU, REMAGHIC.
- A project is in implementation phase in Greece to extract scandium from red mud, at the AoG plant in Agios Nikolaos. The project is in the pilot phase. New so-called ionic liquids are being used. This is a research within the Scandium Aluminum Europe - SCALE project. (<http://scale-project.eu/objectives/>)
- Project **Recovery of Critical Metals from the Bauxite Residues (red mud) of the primary alumina refining industry - Mud2Metal**, deals with all REEs and also envisions the use of ionic liquids or common acids for extraction.



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Geological Survey of Montenegro

