

Paraíba tourmaline

Members of the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC) have standardised the nomenclature that they use to describe a paraíba tourmaline.

Definition

A paraíba tourmaline is a blue (electric blue, neon blue, violet blue), bluish green to greenish blue or green elbaite tourmaline, of medium to high saturation and tone, mainly due to the presence of copper (Cu) and manganese (Mn) of whatever geographical origin. The name of the tourmaline variety "paraíba" is derived from the Brazilian locality where this gemstone was first mined.

Report wording

Any paraíba tourmaline shall be described as,

- (Group:) **(Tourmaline)¹**
- Species: **Elbaite (tourmaline)²**
- Variety: **(colour)³ (paraíba)⁴ (tourmaline)⁵**
- (Origin:) **(Not determined), (Undetermined), (Brazil), (Nigeria), (Mozambique), (other)^{6, 7}**
- Comments: **Paraíba is a gem variety of elbaite tourmaline containing copper and manganese. (The variety name "paraíba" is derived from the Brazilian locality where this gemstone was first mined, however today it may come from a number of localities.)**
Or, if paraíba is not used in the variety description -
This copper and manganese bearing elbaite tourmaline may also be called "paraíba tourmaline" in the trade. (The name "paraíba" is derived from the Brazilian locality where this gemstone was first mined, however today it may come from a number of localities.)

Note: A note shall be appended to or on the reverse of the report stating that some treatments (e.g., 'the heat treatment' of certain gemstones, the 'irradiation' of certain gemstones) are currently not determinable.

¹ Text in parentheses is optional.

² The name 'tourmaline' shall be used in either the species or variety section (or both) of the report if the group is not mentioned.

³ Optionally insert the colour of the stone being examined particularly if not described elsewhere on the report.

⁴ Text in parentheses is optional.

⁵ If 'paraíba' is not used in the 'Variety' section, the word 'Tourmaline' shall be used.

⁶ Text in parentheses is optional.

⁷ If an origin determination is not included on a report the following wording shall be added in the comments section:
"Geographic origin has not been determined".
