

BMC Field Trip to the Pike Quarry, Hooksett, NH

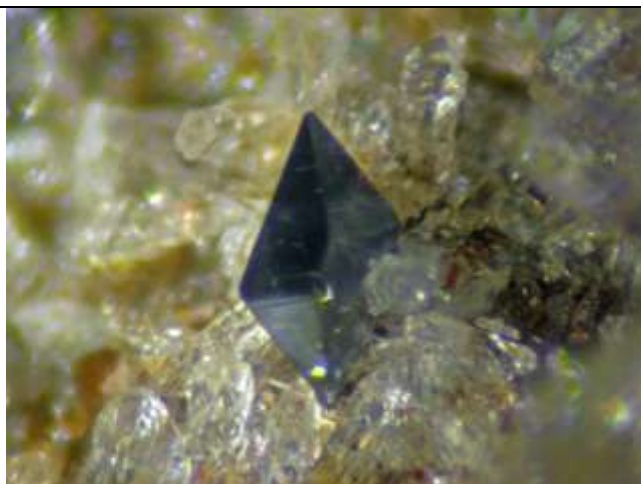
Tom Mortimer

The Boston Mineral Club sponsored a field trip to the Pike Industries Quarry, Hooksett, NH on May 19, 2014. Being an ardent New Hampshire mineral collector, this is a locality that I have wanted to visit for some time. It is an active working quarry, so a hard hat, steel toe shoes, and orange vest are the expected safety gear. Field trip chairman Peter Cristofono had little problem quickly reaching his attendee limit of twenty collectors. Mostly sunny skies and pleasant temperatures greeted guests at the quarry gate at 9 am. The field trip announcement indicated finds of galena, sphalerite, and fluorite were made on previous visits. This is a massive quarry, covering tens of acres. We were allowed to collect for five hours, until 2 pm. In a setting such as this, my approach as a micro-mineral collector is to sample as many different areas as possible.

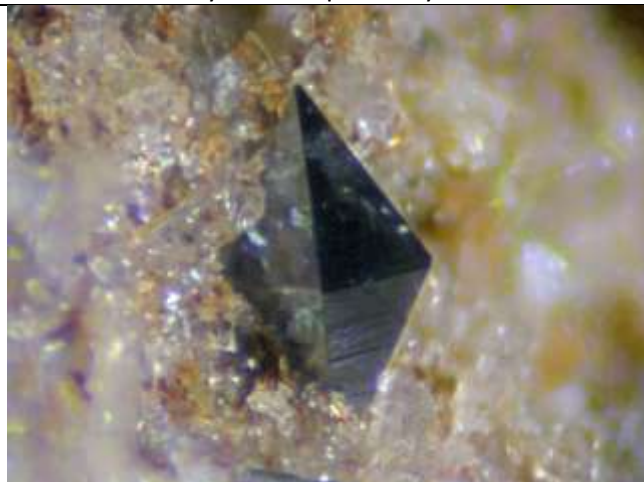
The photos below are examples from my collecting efforts. Particularly satisfying are the anatase and brookite species. For this article I have included only the micro-mineral examples. A more complete photo set may be viewed at <http://mindatnh.org/Pike%20Hooksett%20Gallery.html>



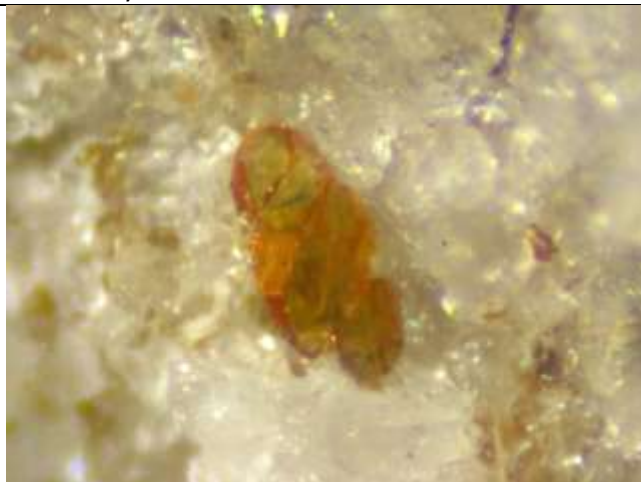
Anatase
Pair of 0.6 mm crystals on quartz crystals



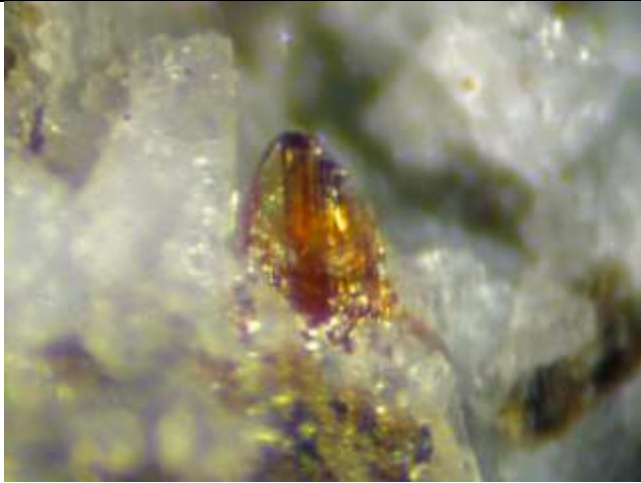
Anatase
0.9 mm crystal



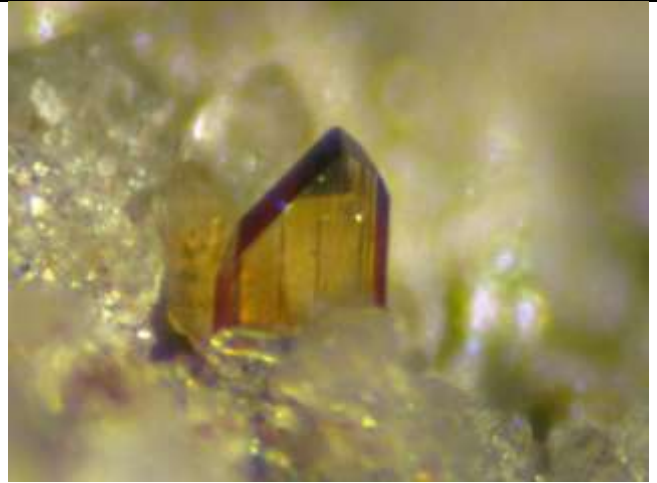
Anatase
0.9 mm crystal



Brookite
0.4 mm brookite crystal on quartz crystals



Brookite
0.3 mm brookite crystal on quartz crystals



Brookite
0.3 mm brookite crystal on quartz crystals



Calcite
4 mm flat tabular calcite crystal impaled on quartz crystal



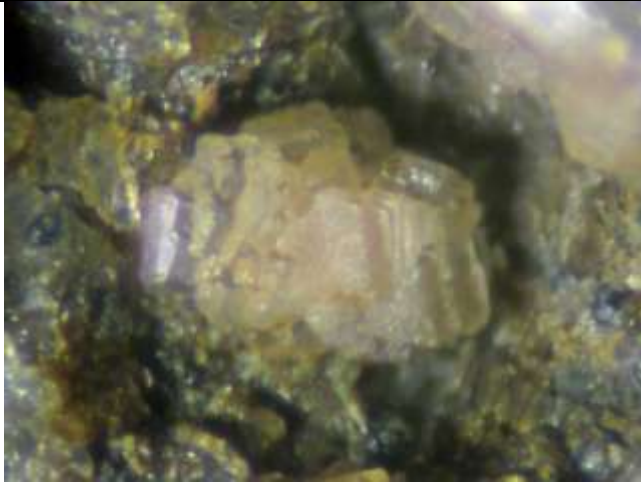
Unknown carbonate (dolomite/ankerite?)
6 mm field of view. Individual crystals are about 0.5 mm.



ORTHOCLASE var. Adularia
6 mm field of view



Prehnite ? (in basalt vug – not calcite, chabazite)
2 mm string of milky rhombic crystals.
This gave NO fizz or decomposition in muriatic acid.



Prehnite ?
0.5 mm cluster of milky rhombic crystals.



Quartz & Pyrite
2 cm field of view