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### Photograph of the Month

## Mica porphyroblast from the Koralpe, Austria



Photograph Kurt Stuewe ©Kurt Stuewe

Mica porphyroblast in a deformed pegmatite from the Koralpe (road cutting near Lieboch), well known for hosting the eclogite type locality. Although it is experimentally known that mica is rheologically strong in response to normal stresses, this is rarely seen in practice, because of its extreme soft behaviour in response to shear stresses, in particular those normal to its crystallographic c-axis. In this example, the orientation of the c-axis is perfectly normal to the stretching lineation limiting its ability to dismember along cleavage planes and causing the mica to act as a rigid clast wrapping feldspars and quartz around it. The pegmatite is of Permian age, the deformation is at about 700 C and 15 kbar.

Please send comments to [jsg@uni-mainz.de](mailto:jsg@uni-mainz.de)

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