

NEW FIND OF COPPER CRYSTALS FROM OUMJRANE

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1. **Copper.** 3.4 cm high. Bou N'has, Morocco.
Specimen: Spirifer Minerals.
Photo: J. Scovil.

2. The geographic location of Bou N'has Deposit, Oumjrane, Morocco.
3. Bou N'has Deposit vicinities.
Photo: T. Praszkiel.



Morocco is one of the richest and most diverse areas, in terms of collector specimens, on the Earth. Among the many deposits occurring in the country polymetallic hydrothermal veins are one of the rarest, and until recently have not produced any good quality mineral specimens. The Oumjrane – Bou N'has deposit, which re-opened at the end of 2011, is the first hydrothermal vein deposit to produce high quality mineral specimens. In addition to hypogene mineralization the deposit has well developed supergene and carbonate mineralization zones. At the beginning of 2015 a small zone with very well crystallized native copper specimens was discovered and produced the first high quality specimens of this species known from Morocco.

Location

Oumjrane village is a typical small Saharan desert settlement located in the Anti-Atlas mountains. The village is located in the western part of the mountains, 50 km south from the town of Alnif, 25 km west from Zagora, and 60 km North from Algerian border. Because of bad road conditions reaching Oumjrane was previously difficult. Quite recently, a long stretch of the road from Alnif to Oumjrane was improved and now there are only 20 km without an asphalt surface.

Before re-opening of the mines the area was essentially abandoned and was rarely visited by outsiders. The landscape surrounding the village is typical hamada – stony desert with minor sand dunes. Bou N'has is the name of the desert region located a few kilometers north from the village, where the biggest polymetallic veins occur, and

