Specimens and photos: Boris Z. Kantor if other is not specified

1. **Calcite** of two generations. Specimen width 5 cm. Kannad, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India.



THE UNCOMMON CALCITE FROM INDIA

Boris Z. Kantor Russian Mineralogical Society boris kantor@mail.ru



2. Geographical setting of Maharashtra, India.

3. **Calcite**, 5 cm tall. Kannad, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India.

4. **Calcite**, 2.5 cm tall. Kannad, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India. Photo: M. Kolhatkar.

n 2016, exotic specimens of calcite (*Figs.* 1, 3, 4) were found in the traps of the Maharashtra state of India (*Fig.* 4). For a mineral collectors, they provide an opportunity to take a foray into an independent mineralogical study.

Calcite, as such, is quite ordinary in traps and even may be mined on an industrial scale; e.g. Siberian deposits of optical calcite, Iceland spar (*Fig.* 5), are located in the Russian traps. Calcite is also wide spread in the Deccan traps in the state of Maharashtra (*Figs.* 6, 7, 8). Recently, some calcite crystals of unusual shape were found here. These finds are flat crystals that are transparent in thin areas, looking like a quill with a central stalk and parallel sprouts, subindividuals. Crystal forms are scarcely discerned; only fragments of acute rhombohedrons (*Fig.* 9) and scalenohedrons can be observed.

The Maharashtra state is known for excellent zeolites and accompanying minerals. For many years specimens have been extracted in countless quarries and pits from



