

12 – MINERAIS POLIMETÁLICOS

POLYMETALLIC MINERAL

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Resumo

A distribuição dos nódulos e das crostas polimetálicas ocorre sobre a maior parte do assoalho oceânico, em profundidades acima dos 4.000 m. Estes apresentam estratificações laminares, com espessuras que variam de milímetros a decímetros. Estima-se que estes depósitos de nódulos e crostas polimetálicas, cubram uma área de aproximadamente $6,4 \times 10^6$ km². Estes nódulos polimetálicos, são concreções rochosas formadas por camadas concêntricas de hidróxidos de ferro e manganês os quais se desenvolvem a partir de um núcleo o qual pode ser um fragmento de rocha, restos de origem biogênica como dentes de tubarão ou carapaças de organismos como os radiolários e até mesmo fragmentos de antigos nódulos. Em sua composição química, os nódulos polimetálicos possuem metais estratégicos como níquel, cobalto e cobre, bem como a presença de terras raras, metais amplamente utilizados hoje em dia para o desenvolvimento tecnológico e econômico dos países industrializados. No presente estudo demonstra-se do desenvolvimento desde nódulos e o valor estratégico e econômico de sua exploração. Estes depósitos apresentam um valor econômico de importância mundial devido aos inúmeros elementos químicos que formam sua composição.

Palavras-chave: nódulos polimetálicos, ocorrência de nódulos, formação de nódulos.

Abstract

The distribution of polymetallic nodules and crusts occurs over most of the ocean floor, at depths above 4,000 m. These have laminar stratifications, with thicknesses ranging from millimeters to decimeters. These deposits of polymetallic nodules and crusts are estimated to cover an area of approximately 6.4×10^6 km². These polymetallic nodules are rocky concretions formed by concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides which develop from a core which can be a fragment of rock, remains of biogenic origin such as shark teeth or shells of organisms such as radiolaria and even fragments of old nodules. In their chemical composition, polymetallic nodules have strategic metals such as nickel, cobalt and copper, as well as the presence of rare earths, metals widely used today for technological and economic development in industrialized countries. This study demonstrates the development of nodes and the strategic and economic value of their exploration. These deposits have an economic value of world importance due to the numerous chemical elements that make up their composition.

Keywords: polymetallic nodules, nodule occurrence, nodule formation.

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