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Summary

REE focus on carbonatites is almost twice as the primary deposit (Table 1 and 2) because their production can provide a potential 10.4 by product minerals (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, and Tb, etc.).

Carbonatites are rare igneous rocks with high silica content and occur throughout the Earth's upper crust (1). They are spatially concentrated primarily because of their association with such features as continental rifts, continental rhyolite flows, and alkaline igneous rocks (2). Many aspects of their origin, evolution and relationships with other rock types, as well as their economic potential, remain controversial and are the subject of continuing scientific discussion (3,4, 1979).



Figure 1. Locations of major REE deposits in the world, modified after Smith et al. (2003, 11)