

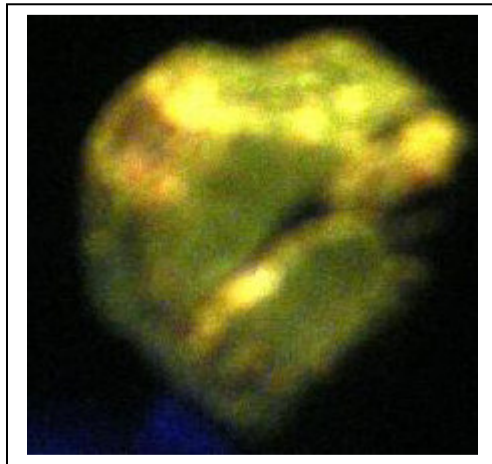
**From:** Richard Sittinger [mailto:richard@mineralofthemonthclub.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 10:44 AM

**To:** Richard Sittinger

**Subject:** June 2008 Mineral of the Month: Zircon

Richard here from Mineral of the Month Club with the details on our June 2008 featured mineral, Zircon from Mud Tank Carbonatite, Harts Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia. Our specimens are single crystals the color of root beer, as seen in the photos below, and are smaller than what we typically send. The write-up examines the elements zirconium and hafnium (which all zircon crystals contain), describes zircon's marvelous gem properties and uses, explains the unique geologic environment the zircon crystals formed in, and has a special section on the relationship between the mineral zircon, the element zirconium and the diamond simulant cubic zirconium.



Also, the zircon fluoresces yellow under shortwave UV light, and many fluoresce orange under longwave. The write-up discusses this property, too, and the ghostly 3rd photo below shows a Group 2 specimen under shortwave UV light.

Group 1 zircons are thumbnail specimens (less than 1" by 1") that show some sharp crystal faces and would display well in our PB plastic box or on our AS1 acrylic stand, for \$15, \$18, and \$22.50, by size.

zircons, again with some sharp edges so you can get an idea of the ideal structure, as described in the zircon write-up. They are 1" by .75" to 1.5" by 1.5" for \$30 size/quality. The top photo below shows Group 2 about 1" high and .75" across.



Group 2 are larger and faces crystal write-up. and \$40, by a \$30



Group 3 are even better former, and slightly larger, from 2" by 1" to 2.5" by 1.25", for \$50, \$60, \$70, and \$80, by quality. The 2nd photo below shows a \$60 Group 2 specimen about 2" high by almost 1.5" across.

Group 4 are the biggest and best, for \$100, \$120, \$130, \$140, \$200, \$250, and we even have one about 3.25" by 3" for \$500 and one about 4" by 3.5" for \$950. We could send photos of the largest ones if you'd like to see them.

We have also put together a list of some wonderful specimens for those who might want an alternative selection or another mineral or two this month. The list includes Celestite from Madagascar, Fluorite from Namibia, Native Platinum from Russia, Marcasite on Calcite from Missouri, Cactus Amethyst from South Africa, Molybdenite and also Native Bismuth from Australia, and

three from Russia: Native Iron, Sulfur, and Staurolite with a new twinning habit. Please let me know if you want me to send you this list as a PDF via Email.

And please let me know if you have any questions or would like to order a zircon. As always, a second choice is appreciated in case we run short, and if you wish to pass please let me know so I know this Email isn't floating in cyberspace somewhere!

Richard

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