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Fake Erongo Quartz Composites

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There are some Erongo quartz clusters that have turned out to be composite fakes.

The quartzes are from a new find in the Erongo and are cleverly grouped together to form larger “specimens”.

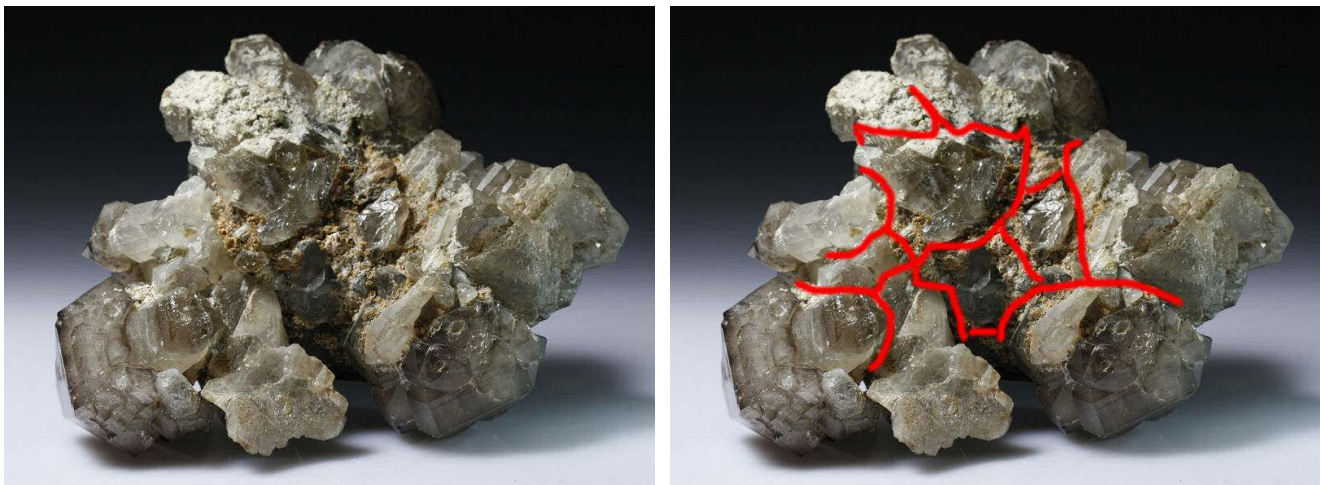


Fake Specimen Overview: 11.5 x 9.4 x 6.3 cm



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The fake that we have been able to study is composed of 15(!) individual quartz specimens that have been glued together – see lines indicated in red on the backside of the specimen where individual pieces have been glued together. The glue is mixed with powdered rock which was also found in the pocket making the identification of the fakes much more difficult – as can be seen a genuine specimen from the same pocket is not very different and collectors are urged to inspect all contact zones on the specimens very thoroughly.



Above is the backside of fake specimen – the red lines indicate the areas where the glue composition is attaching all the loose crystals. The below images are close-ups of the glue composition.





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The below specimen is a genuine quartz from the same pocket, as you can see it is quite similar to the fake so identifying the forgeries is becoming increasingly difficult.

