# UNITED STATES
# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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## NEW QUICKSILVER DISCOVERY IN WESTERN ALASKA

A new occurrence of cinnabar, ore mineral of quicksilver, has been found by the Geological Survey in west-central Alaska, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The discovery is about 2 miles northwest of Wolf Creek Mountain near the head of Little Lockwood Creek, about 200 miles southeast of Nome. It extends the known area of quicksilver mineralization about 100 miles northwest from the nearest previously known occurrences, which appear to form a belt extending from Flat, Alaska, to Bear Creek, headwater tributary of Tuluksak River.

The discovery was made by geologists J. M. Hoare and W. H. Condon while mapping the geology of the Holy Cross quadrangle. The area is not easily accessible except by helicopter, and probably has not been prospected in detail.

The cinnabar is in hydrothermally altered rhyolite that underlies the headwaters of Little Lockwood Creek and comprises most of an isolated group of high, rounded hills and ridges in the vicinity of Wolf Creek Mountain. A brief examination of the rhyolite body at seven places suggests that it is more highly altered and mineralized in its western parts. The rhyolite intrudes gently dipping basalt and andesite lava flows of Tertiary and (or) Cretaceous age which form the top of Wolf Creek Mountain and are widely exposed west of Little Lockwood Creek.

The rhyolite is light gray to buff colored and is locally heavily iron stained. It consists mostly of microcrystalline quartz and feldspar which is largely replaced by scaly, micaceous clay minerals. Pyrite is locally abundant. Frost-rived fragments of rhyolite, containing numerous thin films of small crystals of cinnabar and scattered blebs of stibnite, an ore mineral of antimony, were found at one place in the more highly altered rock.

The specimens obtained at this locality were picked up in the course of reconnaissance mapping, and neither the mineralized area nor the surrounding altered rocks were examined in any detail. Although these specimens do not contain commercial quantities of the metal, they show that quicksilver mineralization is present and suggest that careful prospecting might reveal minable deposits.

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