

grade of 1 g/t gold, containing on average, 2.0 g/t gold, 0.45 g/t palladium, and 0.05 g/t platinum. At a cut-off grade of 1.4 g/t gold, reserves are estimated at 51 million tonnes grading 2.3 g/t gold, palladium and platinum unchanged. At a cut-off rate of 2.1 g/t gold, reserves are estimated at 28 million tonnes averaging 2.5 g/t gold, palladium and platinum unchanged. The above estimates for total reserves may be increased by up to 60% when additional areas are drilled. Preliminary calculations suggest that mining could be profitable at a gold price of US\$400–450 per ounce.

The Kap Edvard Holm discovery, made during the 1990 season, was based on one hole drilled. Assay results were reported as 2.6 g/t gold over 1.5 m, and overlapping and extending below this, a layer grading 3.4 g/t platinum with 1.6 g/t gold. The mineralized section seems to extend 1.5–2.0 m below the bottom of the hole drilled. The layer can be traced on the surface for 12 km and may extend

below cover for a further 3 km. The astronomical value mentioned may have been calculated using the total area of the Kap Holm Intrusion (300 km<sup>2</sup>) for calculating total mineralized volume. The 1991 field season concentrates on follow-up drilling, with Platinova Resources Ltd being joined by the Greenland home rule authority as a shareholder. If results confirm the estimated value of the discovery, feasibility of extraction remains to be considered. Gold mining in Greenland may become a reality within a few years. It may be premature, however, to conclude that the country's economic future is thereby assured.

Graham Poole is currently conducting research in Denmark and Greenland with financial support from the Leverhulme Trust and the Rentokil Fund.

#### Reference

Brooks, C. K. 1989. Major gold find in Greenland. *Terra Nova* 1(5): 591–93.

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## Correspondence

### A winter source of Vitamin C?

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*Received June 1990*

Many Arctic explorers and shipwrecked mariners have died of scurvy while Inuit have survived months without any apparent source of Vitamin C. A recent radio programme suggested that this was due to the Inuit's constitution. This may be partly true but there is another answer which I think should be more widely known for the sake of future generations of explorers who may be at risk.

In 1970 Paul Hennings, the Danish Administrator of Tinitiqilaq, East Greenland, who was married to an Inuit, told me that before fresh fruit and vegetables were available to be bought in local shops, the Inuit collected various herbs and leaves, such as *Sedum*, dwarf willow and birch in summer, and preserved them in seal skins by pouring hot fat over them. All through the autumn, winter and spring when snow covered the land, they ate small portions of these plants from time to time. Without this knowledge of preservation, which must have been common to all the Inuit of the Arctic area for thousands of years, they could not have survived. I have not heard whether the most northern Indians and natives of Siberia had a similar custom.

### 'Eastern and western Arctic'

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*Received January 1991*

I would like to comment about two inappropriate terms which have, in my experience, unfortunately come into common use. They are eastern Arctic and western Arctic (see for instance Renzoni and Norstrom, *Polar Record* 26:326–28). They are improper, geocentric terms which lack real reference. To a Soviet, the eastern and western Arctic regions denote exactly the opposite of what those terms mean to a Canadian. Though perhaps unwieldy, it is necessary to include appropriate modifiers such as eastern Canadian Arctic, or eastern, Soviet Arctic.