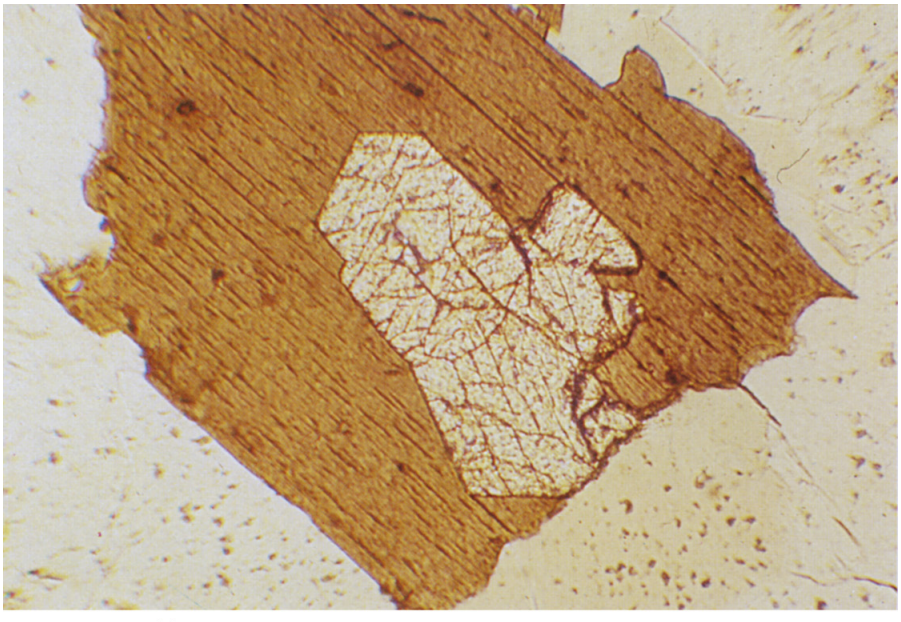
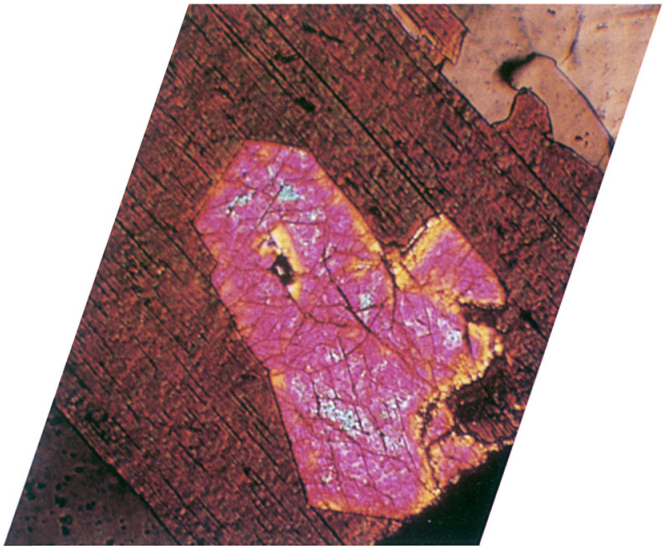


(a)



(b)

Plate 12. Thin section of a specimen from the Mount Airy granodiorite from North Carolina. As noted in the caption of Figure 4.1, thin sections are slices of rock precisely cut and ground to have a thickness of 0.03 mm. When these slices are studied with petrographic microscopes, the minerals can be identified and the interrelationships among them may be seen. Relations such as these provide the kinds of evidence that permit petrologists to interpret the origins of rocks and their constituent minerals. ***(a)*** *Thin section as viewed in ordinary light.* ***(b)*** *The same thin section as viewed between crossed polarizers. The mineral near the center is epidote; the brown mineral around it is biotite, a brown mica; and the surrounding light-colored minerals are feldspars. (Photographs by R. V. Dietrich)*