NEW MINERAL NAMES

Franquenite


"Yellow efflorescences (previously thought to be sulfur) on Cambrian shales consist mainly of a new species named franquenite. Minute hexagonal scales (8–15 μ across, 2 μ thick) have n O = 1.531, n E = 1.494, G. = 1.87–1.94. Analysis gave SO₃ 32.77, Al₂O₃ 5.51, Fe₂O₃ 14.84, FeO 1.00, MgO 4.23, alkalies not detd., H₂O 40.69; sum 99.04 per cent. From this the formula (Mg, Fe)₇(Al, Fe)₆(SO₄)₈(OH)₆·4H₂O is derived. It is slowly soluble in cold water. A dehydration curve is given; 28.2 per cent H₂O is lost at 110°. This new mineral is compared with slavikite."

Discussion: The analysis does not lead to the formula as given above, but gives approximately (Mg, Fe)O : (Al, Fe)₆O₃ : SO₄ : H₂O = 2 : 1.5 : 8 : 40–45. The most recent analysis of slavikite (Gordon, 1941) gave MgO : Fe₂O₃ : SO₃ : H₂O = 2 : 1 : 8 : 39. Gordon reported n O = 1.533, n E = 1.497, G. = 1.99, for rhombohedral slavikite.

In view of these correspondences, there seems to be no justification for this new name.

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Tschermakite


Ferrotschermakite


Groutite


Cattierite


Vaesite


Brazilianite


Discussion: The nomenclature proposed by Kerr for the system FeS₂-NiS₂-CoS₂ seems more complex than is warranted in view of the rarity of NiS₂ and CoS₂. It would have been simpler to redefine bravoite as in the Seventh Edition of Dana's System, thus avoiding the introduction of the new name vaesite.

M.F.