NEW MINERAL NAMES

GREGORIO GAGARIN AND JORGE R. CUOMO, Algunas proposiciones sobre nomenclatura mineralogica: *Comun. Inst. Nacal. Invest. Cienc. Naturales, Museo Argentino Cienc. Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia," Cienc. Geol.*, **1**, No. 5, 21 pp. (1949).

The authors have set out to give names to all minerals which now lack them, but which are sufficiently well characterized, *in their opinion*, to merit naming. They also suggest new names for some minerals whose present names are not of the type they consider preferable. Some remarks are perhaps justified.

It seems to me that when a mineralogist describes a mineral, but considers that the description is insufficent to warrant giving the mineral a name, later workers should abide by his decision, except when additional data have been obtained on the mineral or on its analogues. Indiscriminate application of new names results only in burdening the literature.

New names have also been given by Gagarin and Cuomo to many materials previously named by others, simply because the old names did not agree with the authors' concepts of how minerals should be named. This is an indefensible practice.

It seems to me that mineralogists should not feel bound by any names proposed in this paper.

Specific remarks on the new names are given below.

A. Changes in Present Names

Colombianite

Name, for the locality, given to gold-amalgam, see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 105.

Aurosirite

Suggested change in name aurosmiridium (Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 111), apparently in order to have the -ite ending. There seems to be no good reason for the change.

Iraurite

Name suggested for material from Choroh River, Transcaucasia, analyzed by Chernik: Ir 30.4, Au 62.1, Pt 3.8, Ag 2.1%. An unnecessary name for iridian gold, even if the material were homogeneous.

Osirite, Irosite

Names suggested for iridosmine and siserskite, respectively (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 111). See remarks above under aurosirite.

Rutosirite

Name suggested for the ruthenosmiridium of Aoyama, see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, pp. 111–113. An unnecessary name.

Iridioplatinite, Platinoiridite

Names given to platiniridium (Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 110), the names referring to compositional varieties.

Wretbladite

Name given to AsSb=allemontite of Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 130=stibarsen of Wretblad (see *Am. Mineral.*, **26**, 456 (1941)). Named for P. E. Wretblad.

Garibaldite

Name given to beta-sulfur (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, pp. 144–145), found in fumaroles at Vesuvius and Vulcano. Named for G. Garibaldi, 1807–1882, Italian patriot.

Hondurasite

Name given to selen-tellurium, described from Honduras in 1890 (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 137).

Pozzuolite

Name, for the locality, given to the dubious material called Arsenschwefel (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 269).

Genaruttite

Name given to material from Genarutta, Monteponi district, Sardinia, originally described as cadmiumoxyd by Wittich and Neumann in 1901 (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 502) since renamed monteponite by Fairbanks in 1946 (see *Am. Mineral.*, **32**, 484 (1947)). Renamed to indicate the locality exactly. Why?

Pellouxite

Name given to lime, CaO (see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 503). Named for A. Pelloux, Italian mineralogist.

Suomite

Name given to tantalic ocher, described by Nordenskiöld in 1855, see Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 603. Named for Suomi, the Finnish name for Finland.

Tinkalite

A name proposed for the mineral borax. There is no reason for the change, besides which it would cause confusion with tincalconite.

Clinovariscite

Name proposed for metavariscite, presumably in an attempt at uniformity of names.

Clinostrengite

Name proposed for phosphosiderite, presumably for the same reason.

Efremovite

Name proposed for the mineral called calcium ferri-phosphate by Efremov in 1936 (see *Am. Mineral.*, **22**, 811 (1937)). Named for N. E. Efremov, Russian mineralogist.

B. New Names for Previously Unnamed Minerals

Byströmite

Name given to the monoclinic dimorph of pyrrhotite described by Anders Byström (see *Am. Mineral.*, **30**, 724 (1946)).

Hurlbutite (=**wurtzite 4H**)
Fleischerite (=**wurtzite 6H**)
Buergerite (=**wurtzite 15R**)

These names are given to the polymorphs of wurtzite recently described by Frondel and Palache, *Science*, **107**, 602 (1948); *Am. Mineral.*, **35**, 29–42 (1950). The names are for C.

S. Hurlbut, Jr., Harvard University; Michael Fleischer, U. S. Geological Survey; and M. J. Buerger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DISCUSSION: Frondel and Palache deliberately refrained from naming these. They stated that they were instead following the system for designating polymorphs suggested by Ramsdell, *Am. Mineral.*, **32**, 64 (1947). They further state, "This system is both nomenclature and classification, and is used for the substances at hand although this represents a departure from the traditional practice of applying given names to minerals." It is a pity that this system of nomenclature has been interfered with by this arbitrary naming of these polymorphs.

Miltonite

Name proposed for $CaSO_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}H_2O$, described by Milton (*Am. Mineral.*, **27**, 517 (1942)) as being formed in a thin section when gypsum was overheated. Named for Charles Milton, U. S. Geological Survey.

DISCUSSION: There was no warrant for naming a material for which the namers had no evidence at all that it occurred naturally. It has recently been described as occurring in the deserts of Central Asia; see Popov and Vorobiev, *Mem. soc. russe mineral.*, **76**, 268–270 (1947); *Chem. Abstracts*, **43**, 2897 (1949). Bassanite, described in 1910 as a new form of $CaSO_4$, is the same material (C. Frondel, personal communication) and the name bassanite, used in Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **II**, has priority.

Tangenite

Name given to material described by H. Bjorlykke in 1931 and which may be a titanian variety of betafite. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., p. 804, analyses 6–8. Named for the locality, Tangen, Norway.

Blakeite

Name given to the material described as zirkelite in 1913 by G. S. Blake and G. F. H. Smith, but which differs from zirkelite. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, pp. 741–742.

DISCUSSION: The name blakeite was used by Frondel and Pough, *Am. Mineral.*, **29**, 211 (1944) for an iron tellurate, hence cannot be used as here suggested.

Chernikite

Name given to an ill-defined mineral containing chiefly CaO, WO_3, TiO_2, and Ta_2O_5, described by Chernik in 1927. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 741. Named for G. Chernik (or Tchernik), Russian mineralogist.

Guimarãesite

Name given to material from Divino de Ubá, Brazil, described by Guimarães in 1926. May be related to ampangabeite. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I**, p. 807. Named for Djalma Guimarães, Brazilian mineralogist.

Villiersite

Name proposed for the hydrated nickel silicate described by Partridge in 1943 (see *Am. Mineral.*, **31**, 85 (1946)). Named for J. E. de Villiers, mineralogist, Geological Survey of South Africa, Pretoria.

Tschirwinskite

Name proposed for mineral, perhaps $FePO_4 \cdot 1\frac{1}{4}H_2O$, incompletely described by P. Tschirwinsky in 1904. Named for P. Tschirwinsky (also spelled Chirvinsky), Russian mineralogist.

Boldyrevite

Name given to mineral, related to ralstonite, described by Naboko in 1941 (see *Am. Mineral.*, **28,** 283 (1943)). Named for A. K. Boldyrev, Russian mineralogist.

Sollyite

Name given to $Pb_3As_4S_9$, described by R. H. Solly from the Binnental, Switzerland. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I,** p. 456.

Tellite

Name given to a mineral (sulfosalt?) from the Binnental, Switzerland. See Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **I,** p. 488. Named for William Tell, Swiss patriot.

Hoppingite

Name given to scarlet cubes of mercuric iodide, described from Broken Hill, New South Wales, by A. J. Moses, *Am. J. Sci.*, **12,** 98–99 (1906). Named for Roy Hopping, who collected the material.

Allenite, Kellerite, Comstockite

Names given as follows: allenite, for E. T. Allen, chemist of the Geophysical Laboratory Washington, D. C., for $MgSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$. Kellerite, for H. F. Keller who described the material from Copaquire, Chile, in 1908, for $(Mg,Cu)SO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$. Comstockite, for the locality, for $(Mg,Cu,Zn)SO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$, described by Milton and Johnston, *Econ. Geol.*, **33,** 749–771 (1938), from the Comstock Lode, Nevada.

Discussion: $MgSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$ is probably a valid species (see Milton and Johnston for summary of data). The name allenite is inadmissible, since it would result in hopeless confusion among allanite, allenite, and alunite. The name pentahydrite is used for this mineral in Dana's *System*, 7th Ed., Vol. **II** (C. Frondel, private communication), and is much to be preferred. Kellerite and comstockite are unnecessary names for cuproan and cuproan and zincian varieties.

Reitingerite

Name given to the fibrous, radiating form of ZrO_2, principal form of ZrO_2 in the Brazilian deposits, described by Hussak in 1889, and by Hussak and Reitinger in 1903, as being distinct from baddeleyite. Named for J. Reitinger of Munich.

Kenngottite

Name given to amorphous As_2O_3, doubtfully reported by several authors. Named for G. A. Kenngott, German mineralogist of the 19th century. The name had previously been used as a synonym of miargyrite.

Michael Fleischer

Yttrotungstite

E. H. Beard, Thorotungstite—a misnomer: *Colonial Geology and Mineral Resources*, **1,** No. 1, 50–51 (1950). Re-analysis of type thorotungstite showed no radioactivity. The supposed thorium is actually rare earths with Y group: Ce group about 3:1. The new name yttrotungstite is suggested.

Michael Fleischer

Oxychildrenite

A. I. GINZBURG AND N. V. VORONKOVA, Oxychildrenite, a new mineral of the iron-manganese-aluminum phosphate group: *Doklady Akad. Nauk. S.S.S.R.*, **71,** 145–148 (1950), through *Chem. Abstracts*, **44,** 9306 (1950). Prismatic reddish-brown crystals, occurring with triphylite in pegmatite of the Kalbina Mts., E. Kazakhstan, gave the formula (Mn, Ca, Mg) 0.2 (Fe, Mn)$_2$O$_3$ · 2Al$_2$O$_3$ · 2P$_2$O$_5$ · 7H$_2$O. This is equivalent to a partly oxidized childrenite. The *x*-ray diagrams are very similar, but differ in details. The mineral is orthorhombic, perfect cleavage {001}, less perfect {010}. G.=3.205–3.235, hardness 3½–4. Optically positive; alpha 1.703, beta 1.708, gamma 1.729; 2V 30–33°; pleochroic, pale- to brownish-yellow.

DISCUSSION: This presents a difficult problem in nomenclature, but it would seem reasonable not to use a new name as long as the structure remains essentially unaltered despite the oxidation.

M. F.

Wurtzite-4H, Wurtzite-6H, Wurtzite-15R

CLIFFORD FRONDEL AND CHARLES PALACHE: *Am. Mineral.*, **35,** 29–42 (1950).

Hühnerkobelite

M. L. LINDBERG: *Am. Mineral.*, **35,** 59–76 (1950).

Wherryite

J. J. FAHEY, E. B. DAGGETT AND S. G. GORDON: *Am. Mineral.*, **35,** 93–98 (1950).

Shandite

M. A. PEACOCK AND JOHN MCANDREW: *Am. Mineral.*, **35,** 425–434 (1950).

Miserite

W. T. SCHALLER: *Am. Mineral.*, **35,** 911–921 (1950).

M. F.

DISCREDITED MINERALS

Tallingite

F. A. BANNISTER, MAX H. HEY, AND G. F. CLARINGBULL

Connellite, buttgenbachite, and tallingite. *X*-ray powder photographs show tallingite from Cornwall to be identical with connellite. Chemical tests showed the presence of sulfate.

M. F.

Thorotungstite

This name should be dropped, see Yttrotungstite.

M. F.