NEW MINERAL NAMES

Alvarolite

WILLER FLORENCIO, Alvarolita (Um novo mineral da familia dos tantalatos). *Anais Acad. Brasileira Cienc.*, **24**, 261–266 (1952).

The mineral occurs in twinned crystals up to 2×1.7 cm. in a pegmatite vein, municipio Salinas, northern Minas Gerais. Analysis (average of 3) gave: Ta_2O_5 85.15, Nb_2O_5 0.23, MnO 14.85, FeO 0.01, Al_2O_3 trace, TiO_2 none. This gives $MnO:Ta_2O_5 = 1.07:1$. The color is reddish gray, streak pale yellow, luster vitreous to adamantine, G. = 7.27, hardness $6\frac{1}{2}$, fracture conchoidal, cleavage prismatic. Optically biaxial, positive, extinction 45°, *n*s α 2.250, β 2.255, γ 2.3, 2V = 38–40°, pleochroism X and Y pale yellow, Z strong pale yellow.

The name is for Admiral Alvaro Alberto da Motta e Silva, President of the Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas.

DISCUSSION: There is no discussion whatever in the paper as to what the differences are between alvarolite and mangantantalite. Possibly the distinction is based on the optics and the figure given for extinction. A possibly monoclinic manganese tantalate from Southern Rhodesia has been described by Macgregor, *Mineralog. Mag.*, **27**, 162–164 (1946). Alvarolite can not be accepted as a mineral species until proof is given that it is not mangantantalite.

MICHAEL FLEISCHER

Ribeirite

WILLER FLORENCIO, Uma nova variedade da zirconita. *Anais Acad. Brasileira Cienc.* **24**, 249–259 (1952).

The mineral occurs in a pegmatite at Macarani, Bahia, Brazil. Analyses by Willer Florencio and Fernando Peixoto gave, respectively, SiO_2 27.43, 27.074; Fe_2O_3 4.35, 4.300; Al_2O_3 0.71, 0.666; CaO 0.219, 0.254; MgO 0.007, 0.008; MnO 0.151, 0.154; TiO_2 0.079, 0.086; BeO 0.196, 0.192; ThO_2 none; Y_2O_3 earths 7.45, 7.300; $(Ta, Nb)_2O_5$ 0.10, 0.099; Bi_2O_3 trace; U_3O_8 0.51, 0.535; ZrO_2+HfO_2 51.08, 51.074; P_2O_5 none; H_2O 8.43, 8.306; sum 100.722, 100.048%. G. = 3.50 to 3.54, hardness $4\frac{1}{2}$, partly birefringent and partly isotropic, *n* 1.683. The analyses are compared to those of other varieties of zircon. The name is for Professor Joaquim Costa Ribeiro.

DISCUSSION: An unnecessary name. Detailed study of this peculiar variety of zircon—if it is that—is highly desirable, especially *x*-ray study. Similar material containing rare earths has been described as cyrtolite (1867), anderbergite (1886), alvite (1855), yamagutilite (1936) (contains P_2O_5), oyamalite (1925), and hagatalite (1925), among others.

M. F.

Manganese-hoernesite

O. GABRIELSON, Manganiferous hoernesite and manganese-hoernesite from Långban, Sweden. *Arkiv Mineral. och Geol.*, **1**, 333–337 (1951).

Crusts in fissures were analyzed by R. Blix who found As_2O_5 40.78, MnO 22.87, MgO 9.47, CO_2 1.35, H_2O 25.64; sum 100.11%. This gives $(Mn,Mg)_3(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$ with Mn:Mg = 292:235, after deduction of rhodochrosite. *X*-ray powder and oscillation photographs gave: $a = 10.38$, $b = 28.09$, $c = 4.774$ Å, $\beta = 105°40'$; the unit cell contains four molecules. G. (calcd.) = 2.76. Monoclinic, space group probably $C^5_{2h}-P2_1/c$. Optically positive with $\alpha = 1.579$, $\beta = 1.589$, $\gamma = 1.609$; $X = b$, $Z \wedge c$ 31°, 2V = 65–70°. Another sample contained MnO 14.8, MgO 15.0 (Mn:Mg = 21.37) and had $\alpha = 1.576$, $\beta = 1.587$, $\gamma = 1.606$. This is referred to as manganiferous hoernesite (manganoan would be better M.F.).

M. F.

Farallonite

N. N. KOHANOWSKI, Secondary enrichment in Bolivian tungsten deposits. *Mines Mag.* (Colo.) **43**, No. 2, 17–24, 51, 59 (1953).

The name farallonite is given to an alteration product of wolframite. Found as sky-blue to whitish material formed on outcrops during the rainy season, this is stated to be an intimate mixture of anthoinite and farallonite. Cryptocrystalline with weak birefringence. Outlines of monoclinic crystals were observed. A partial biaxial figure and positive sign were obtained on one such crystal. Luster waxy to pearly. Cleavage good on (100), fracture flat conchoidal. Indices of refraction on sky blue material were 1.81 to 1.82. An *x*-ray study by R. L. Wild gave a pattern similar to that of diopside. The formula $2MgO \cdot W_2O_5 \cdot SiO_2.nH_2O$? is given, with no indication as to how it was obtained. Found at the Farallon mine, Tasna, Bolivia, also from the Zongo district, Bolivia.

Siliceous Scheelite

N. N. KOHANOWSKI, *op. cit.*

The name siliceous scheelite is given to a "mineral," formula given as $2CaO \cdot SiO_2 \cdot 12WO_3 \cdot 24H_2O$? All the data given are as follows: "Siliceous scheelite is of a protogenetic significance. Occurring in suspension in mine waters, it has been found in all tungsten deposits examined by the writer. During the re-opening of the Rocher de Boule mine in British Columbia, coatings of siliceous scheelite in various stages of transition to scheelite were found even on old track rails. It may easily be confused with lardite, which is a colloidal hydrated silica, but fluoresces a somewhat different hue."

DISCUSSION: There is no excuse for cluttering the literature with names for material so poorly described.

M. F.

NEW MINERAL NAMES

Bystromite

BRIAN MASON AND C. J. VITALIANO, *Am. Mineral.*, **37**, 53–57 (1952).

Robinsonite

L. G. BERRY, J. J. FAHEY AND E. H. BAILEY, *Am. Mineral.*, **37**, 438–446 (1952).

Aurostibite

A. R. GRAHAM AND S. KAIMAN, *Am. Mineral.*, **37**, 461–469 (1952)

Unnamed (Cobalt-nickel-copper selenide)

S. C. ROBINSON AND E. J. BROOKER, *Am. Mineral.*, **37**, 542–544 (1952).

Hurlbutite

M. E. MROSE, *Am. Mineral.*, **37**, 931–940 (1952).

M. F.