

NEW MINERALS: DOUBTFUL SPECIES

CLASS: SILICATES

Parsettensite

Johan Jakob: Vier Mangansilikate aus dem Val d'Err (Kt. Graubünden). (Four manganese Silicates from Val d'Err, Canton Graubünden). *Schweiz. Min. Pet. Mitt.*, **3**, 227 (1924).

NAME: From the locality, *Parsettens* Alps, Val d'Err, Switzerland.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous silicate of manganese, $3\text{MnO} \cdot 4\text{SiO}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Analysis: SiO_2 42.90, Al_2O_3 4.35, Fe_2O_3 0.35, MnO 34.45, MgO 2.70, CaO tr., Na_2O 0.20, K_2O 0.94, $\text{H}_2\text{O}+$ 9.66, $\text{H}_2\text{O}-$ 3.15, HCl 0.02, CO_2 0.25, V_2O_5 0.32. Sum 99.27. Sample analyzed carried a micaceous substance and some manganese oxides. Soluble in HCl with separation of silica. Fuses with intumescence to a dark brown bead.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Massive, somewhat micaceous. Color copper red. Luster somewhat metallic. Uniaxial, negative. $\omega = 1.576$, $\epsilon = 1.546$. Pleochroism $c =$ greenish yellow, $a =$ light yellow to colorless. Sp. Gr. 2.59.

OCCURRENCE: Found in the manganese deposits of Val d'Err, Canton Graubünden, Switzerland.

DISCUSSION: Probably related to the indefinite mineral ekmanite and considered by Jakob to be a member of the pyrosmalite group. The analysis, however, was made upon material admittedly impure without determining the amount and character of the contaminating minerals. Further analyses on pure material are necessary to definitely establish this mineral.

W. F. FOSHAG

CLASS: SILICATES

Errite

Johann Jakob: *Op. Cit.*, p. 230.

NAME: From the locality *Parsettens* Alps, Val d'Err, Switzerland.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous silicate of manganese. Analysis: SiO_2 41.20, Al_2O_3 4.44, Fe_2O_3 0.12, MnO 35.83, MgO 2.05, CaO 1.20, Na_2O 0.14, K_2O 1.23, $\text{H}_2\text{O}+$ 8.25, $\text{H}_2\text{O}-$ 4.65, P_2O_5 0.56. Sum 99.67.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Like *parsettensite* except the color is darker brown. Uniaxial negative. $\omega = 1.575$, $\epsilon = 1.547$. Pleochroism $c =$ greenish yellow, $a =$ light yellow to colorless.

OCCURRENCE: In the manganese deposits of Val d'Err, Switzerland.

DISCUSSION: This mineral differs in no essential particular from the *parsettensite* and undoubtedly represents the same species. The separation from *parsettensite* is based upon a slight difference in the water content. The sample analyzed was obviously impure.

W. F. F.

CLASS: SILICATES

Tinzenite

JOHANN JAKOB: *Op. Cit.*

NAME: From the locality, *Tinzen*, Val d'Err, Switzerland.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A silicate of lime, alumina and manganese, $2\text{CaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 4\text{SiO}_2$. Analysis: SiO_2 42.55, Al_2O_3 18.83, Fe_2O_3 2.25, Mn_2O_3 20.65, MgO 0.07, CaO 13.82, Na_2O 0.71, K_2O 0.43, H_2O 1.25. Sum 100.56. Another analysis is also given.

PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Color yellow, structure columnar. Cleavage pinacoidal, good. Biaxial, negative. $2V = 62^\circ$, $2E = 124^\circ 30'$. $\alpha = 1.693$, $\beta = 1.701$, $\gamma = 1.704$. Sp. Gr. 3.29.

OCCURRENCE: Found as a vein filling with quartz in the manganese mines of Val d'Err, Switzerland.

DISCUSSION: Jakob does not include in his formula the water content which may be essential to the mineral. A recalculation of his analysis shows a somewhat closer agreement with the formula $2\text{CaO} \cdot 3(\text{Al}, \text{Mn})_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 6\text{SiO}_2$ than the one given. The purity of the sample was not stated. The exact character of this mineral must be considered doubtful.

W. F. F.

CLASS: SILICATES

Traversoite

A. D'Ambrosio: Sulla Traversoite, nuova varietà di Crisicolla di Arenas in Sardegna. (Traversoite, a new variety of chrysocolla from Arenas, Sardinia). *Annal. Museo Civico Storia Naturale di Genova.*, **51**, 5, (1924).

NAME: In honor of G. B. *Traverso*, mining engineer of Genoa, Italy.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: A hydrous silicate of copper and alumina, $2(\text{Cu}, \text{Ca})\text{O} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Analysis H_2O 32.84, SiO_2 21.04, Al_2O_3 21.84, CuO 21.72, CaO 2.28. Sum 99.72.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Amorphous. Color light blue. Compact, porcelain like.

OCCURRENCE: Found at Arenas, Sardinia, upon a gangue of quartz, fluorite and barite, associated with azurite, malachite, chrysocolla, spangolite, connellite, anglesite, leadhillite, cerussite, massicotite, linarite and caledonite.

DISCUSSION: A specimen that has come to the U.S. National Museum is isotropic with an index of refraction of $1.565 \pm .005$. A small amount of crystalline material is intermixed with the mineral. In composition it is similar to pilarite, which, however, is lower in water and alumina. Considering the apparent colloidal origin of the material considerable variation can be expected in a mineral of this character.

W. F. F.