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International Mineralogical Association: Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names

ONE of the first tasks of the Commission was to attain uniformity in nomenclature so far as may be practicable. The Commission has made recommendations in respect of thirty-nine minerals for which two or more names were (or are) in common use; full agreement on the remaining twelve names discussed, or on a few not considered by the Commission, seems unlikely in the near future. Unfortunately, some editors, even of English-language journals, have not enforced the Commission's recommendations; in *Mineral. Mag.* only those names recommended by the Commission may be used:

†Analcime, not analcite
†Anatase, not octahedrite
†Arsenopyrite, not mispickel
Azurite, not chessylite
†Bornite, not erubescite
Bromargyrite, not bromyrite
Celestine, not celestite, coelestine, cölestin, or Zölestin
Chlorargyrite, not cerargyrite (which is reserved for use as a group name)
Devilline, not devillite or herrengrundite
Digenite, not neodigenite
†Feldspar or Feldspath, not felspar, etc.
Gibbsite, not hydrargillite
Grossular, not grossularite (the latter is particularly objectionable, as grossularite is a rock name)
†Hematite, not haematite, Hämatit, or oligiste
†Hemimorphite, not calamine
Iodargyrite, not iodyrite
Magnesite, not giobertite
Metavariscite, not clinovariscite
Natron, not soda
Nickeline, not niccolite or nickelite
Nitratine, not soda nitre or soda niter
Nontronite, not chloropal
Orthoclase, not orthose (but orthose will still be used in France)
Phosphosiderite, not metastrengite or clinostrengite
Piemontite, not piedmontite
Rhodochrosite, not dialogite
Rutherfordine, not rutherfordite (for the mineral of Marckwald, 1906; rutherfordite of Shepard, 1851, is an ill-defined rare-earth mineral)
Siderite, not chalybite (for the siderite of Haidinger, $FeCO_3$; siderite (of Daubrée) is a current name for a class of meteorites)
Spessartine, not spessartite (the latter is highly objectionable, since spessartite is a name for a rock containing no spessartine)
Sphalerite, not blende or zincblende
Spherocobaltite, not cobaltocalcite or sphaerocobaltite
†Spodumene, not triphane
Stilbite, not desmine
Tenorite, not melaconite
Tetrahedrite, not panabase or fahlerz (the last may be used as a group name)
†Torbernite, not chalcolite or cuprouranite
Uranite (group name; not uranmica or Uranglimmer)
Valentinite, not exitèle
Wernerite to be the species, scapolite the group name

The following sets of names include a few that have not been considered by the Commission and others on which the Commission has not reached a firm decision; *in each case the first name listed will be used in Mineral. Mag.* Four of these sets were included in the report of the Anglo-American Committee on nomenclature (*Am. Mineral.* 1936, **21**, 191) and are distinguished by an asterisk*; the first name was recommended and adopted in *Mineral. Mag.*:

Allanite (orthite)
Baryte (barite, barytine, barytite, Schwerspath)
Ceylonite (pleonaste, Zeylanit)
Chalcosine (chalcosite, chalcocite, Chalkosin)
Cosmochlore (ureyite, kosmochlor)
Hydrocyanite (chalcocyanite)
*Idocrase (vesuvianite, vesuvian, Idokras)
*Kyanite (cyanite, cianite, disthene)
Pyrrhotine (pyrrhotite)
Sahlite (salite)
*Sphene (titanite [of Klaproth; titanite of Kirwan was rutile])

*Stibnite (stibine, antimonite)
Szájbelyite (ascharite)
Talmessite (belovite [of Nefedov], arsenate-belovite)

Either eggonite or kolbeckite may be used for $ScPO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$ (the Commission's vote was not decisive); the name sterrettite should be abandoned.

Attention is also called to the correction (M.M. **43,** 824): schmiederite, *not* schmeiderite.

The Anglo-American report was accepted by a poll of Mineral. Soc. America members (*Am. Mineral.* 1939, **24,** 176), and hailed as a big step forward: 'A few of the approved names may seem unusual to some of our members, but the British Committee was most generous in yielding some of their preferred names. The compromise list is an example of the benefits to be derived from a mutual "give and take" policy. . . . uniformity in usage in great part seems assured, at least with the English-speaking people of the world.' It is a pity this hope has not been fulfilled, presumably because of frequent changes in the editorship of *Am. Mineral.* The Report made recommendations in respect of thirty-seven sets of names; the IMA Commission failed to agree on the four mentioned above, but endorsed nine, which are indicated by a dagger-mark † in the list of the Commission's recommendations. For the remaining twenty-four sets, the name recommended by the Report appears to have now become universally accepted, at least in English.

The reports of the subcommittees on Amphiboles and on the Pyrochlore family appear in *Mineral. Mag.* **42,** 533–63 (1978) and *Am. Mineral.* **62,** 403–10 (1977) respectively, and should be followed in naming minerals belonging to these groups. A guide to the correct use of prefixes, suffixes, and adjectival modifiers to mineral names has been approved by the Commission, and appears in *Am. Mineral.* **65,** 223–4 (1980) and in *Can. Mineral.* **18,** 261 (1980). The IMA-IU Cryst. Joint Committee's report on polytype notation (*Am. Mineral.* **62,** 411–15 (1977)) will also be found useful.

Authors seeking to discredit a species should endeavour to obtain holotype material if it still exists, or at the very least topotype material, and should submit their evidence to the Commission. The Commission has approved the discrediting of the following species, in addition to those listed in *Mineral. Mag.* **38,** 103 (1971):

Achrematite = mimetite + wulfenite (A.M. **62,** 170, 1977)
Alaskaite = a mixture including pavonite, gustavite, tetrahedrite, and sphalerite (A.M. **58,** 349, 1973)
Allcharite = goethite (Bull. **92,** 99, 1969)
Allopalladium = Stibiopalladinite (A.M. **63,** 796, 1978)
Anauxite = kaolinite (A.M. **54,** 206, 1969)
Arsenodialytite (Bull. 97, 520, 1974)
Ashtonite = strontian mordenite (M.M. **38,** 383, 1971)
Astrolite = muscovite (A.M. **57,** 993, 1971)
Basiliite = hausmannite + feitknechtite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Bisbeeite = chrysocolla
Blanchardite = brochantite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Brostenite = birnessite + todoorokite (M.A. 74-3408)
Calciotantalite = microlite + tantalite, in part stannian (M.M. **38,** 765, 1972)
Chile-löweite = humberstonite (M.A. 70-1634)
Chloroarsenian = allactite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Chrominium = phoenicochroite (Bull. **95,** 427, 1972)
Dehrnite = carbonatian fluorapatite (M.M. **42,** 282, 1978)
Droogmansite = kasolite (Bull. **101,** 561, 1978)
Eardleyite = takovite (A.M. **62,** 458, 1977)
Forbesite = cobaltian annabergite + arsenolite (*Can. Mineral.* **14,** 414)
Frigidite = tatrahedrite + Ni sulphides (M.M. **43,** 99, 1979)
Glockerite = cryptocrystalline lepidocrocite (A.M. **62,** 599, 1977)
Karpinskyite = leifite + a Zn-bearing clay (A.M. **57,** 1006, 1972)
Khlopinite = samarskite (A.M. **57,** 329, 1972)
Khuniite = iranite (A.M. **61,** 186, 1976)
Knipovichite = chromian alumohydrocalcite (A.M. **61,** 341, 1976)
Kolskite = lizardite + sepiolite (A.M. **59,** 212, 1974)
Kyanophyllite = paragonite + muscovite (A.M. **58,** 807, 1973)
Lewistonite = carbonatian fluorapatite (M.M. **42,** 282, 1978)
Lorettoite is an artificial product (A.M. **64,** 1303, 1979)
Magnetostibian = jacobsite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Mohsite = crichtonite (*Can. Mineral.* **17,** 635, 1979)
Nenadkevite = mixture of uraninite, etc (A.M. **62,** 1261, 1977; not submitted to the Commission)
Neotantalite = microlite (Bull. **95,** 451, 1972)
Oryzite = epistilbite (A.M. **57,** 592, 1972)
Pleonectite = hedyphane (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Pleurasite = a mixture, mainly sarkinite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Pyrrhoarsenite = berzeliite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Retinostibian (Bull. **97,** 520, 1974)
Rhodoarsenian = rhodonite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Salmonsite = hureaulite + jahnsite (M.M. **42,** 309, 1978)
Scheibeite (of Mücke) = phoenicochroite (Bull. **95,** 427, 1972)
Schuchardtite = mixture of vermiculite-like and chlorite-like nickelian minerals (A.M. **64,** 1334, 1979)
Sjögrufvite = caryinite (A.M. **58,** 562, 1973)
Slavyanskite = tunisite (in press)
Sungulite = mixture of lizardite and sepiolite (A.M. **59,** 212, 1974)
Svitalskite = celadonite (A.M. **63,** 796, 1978)
Trudellite = natroalunite + chloraluminite (A.M. **57,** 1006, 1972)
Zirconolite and Zirkelite (of Blake and Smith) = zirkelite (of Hussak and Prior (A.M. **60,** 341, 1975)

The Commission's success may be measured by the falling number of new names published without their approval: in 1970, 15 new names were so published, only 1 of which was subsequently accepted by the Commission; in 1977, of 6 new names published without prior approval, 1, an artificial product now found naturally, was accepted, 2 rejected, and an inconclusive vote was recorded on 3. The names rejected for the period 1969–77 are:

Alazanite
Aldzhanite
Altmarkite
Anarakite
Argentocuproaurite
Aurocuprite
Beta-brocenite
Brocenite
Carnevallite
Chengbolite
Chromephlogopite
Chrominium
Craigite
Cyclowollastonite
Dayingite
Dosulite
Fenghuanglite
Ferrohalotrichite
Feuermineral
Guanglinite
Hexastibiopalladite
Hydrocalcite*
Hydrorinkite
Isoplatinocopper
Isowolframite
Khuniite
Macrokaolinite
Maigruen
Mangantapiolite
Miomirite
Miropolskite
Mrazekite
Murgocite
Ortho-armalcolite
Osumilite- (K,Mg)
Para-armalcolite
Para-boleite
Parapectolite
Parastrengite
Paravariscite
Pharaonite
Plumangite
Plumboallophane
Scheibeite†
Silicomonazite
Taiyite
Tanzanite
Thorgadolinite
Tozalite
Udokanite
Velikite
Wolframixiolite
Yanzhongite
Yenshanite

* Of Marschner; not the hydrocalcite of Kosmann, 1892.
† Of Mücke; not the scheibeite of von Linstow, 1912.

ADDENDUM

A useful list of discredited and of redefined clay silicates appears in *Clay Science* [Japan], **5**, 209–20, 1979.