Rosenbergite $AlF_3 \cdot 3H_2O$

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Crystal Data: Tetragonal. Point Group: 4/m. As slender tetragonal prismatic crystals, elongate along [001], to 0.25 mm, in radiating tufts.

Physical Properties: Cleavage: $\{001\}$, good. Hardness = n.d. VHN = 92–113, 103 average (15 g load). D(meas.) = 2.10(1) D(calc.) = 2.111

Optical Properties: Transparent. Color: Colorless. Luster: Vitreous. Optical Class: Uniaxial (-). $\omega = 1.427$ $\epsilon = 1.403$

Cell Data: Space Group: P4/n. a = 7.715(1) c = 3.648(1) Z = 2

X-ray Powder Pattern: Cetine mine, Italy.

5.47 (100), 1.725 (85), 1.775 (78), 2.439 (72), 2.027 (70), 1.306 (70), 1.388 (65)

Chemistry:

$$\begin{array}{cc} & (1) \\ \text{Al} & 19.94 \\ \text{F} & 41.05 \\ \text{H}_2\text{O} & [39.01] \\ \hline \text{Total} & [100.00] \end{array}$$

(1) Cetine mine, Italy; by electron microprobe, H_2O by difference; corresponds to $Al_{1.02}F_{2.98} \cdot 2.99H_2O$.

Occurrence: Very rare in cavities in a silicified limestone from an antimony deposit in highly silicified evaporites (Cetine mine, Italy); in volcanic sublimates (Mt. Erebus, Antarctica).

Association: Gypsum, fluorite, elpasolite, ralstonite, onoratoite (Cetine mine, Italy).

Distribution: In the Cetine mine, 20 km southwest of Siena, Tuscany, Italy. On Mt. Erebus, Antarctica.

Name: Honors Professor Philip E. Rosenberg, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, USA, who first noted the mineral in Antarctica.

Type Material: University of Florence, Florence, Italy, 1934/RI.

References: (1) Olmi, F., C. Sabelli, and R. Trosti-Ferroni (1993) Rosenbergite, AlF[F_{0.5}(H₂O)_{0.5}]₄•H₂O, a new mineral from the Cetine mine (Tuscany, Italy): description and crystal structure. Eur. J. Mineral., 5, 1167–1174. (2) (1994) Amer. Mineral., 79, 765 (abs. ref. 1).