

## MINERALOGIE DE BELGIQUE

### MINERALOGIE VAN BELGIE

Courtes notes rassemblées par UMIBEL.  
Korte mededelingen bijeengebracht door UMIBEL.

BARITE.  $BaSO_4$

Location :

The mineral is found in the limestone of the lowest exploitation level in the large quarry, parallel to the Meuse in Beez (Namur province) and situated immediately east of the E40 highway. It occurs in a narrow zone (about 30 m) running through the whole quarry near its western flank.

Occurrence :

Barite forms tabular crystals elongated along  $\langle 100 \rangle$ .  $\{001\}$  is the dominant form but a lot of other smaller crystal faces may be present. The size of the crystals ranges from 5 to 15 mm, with a thickness up to 2 mm. The colour varies from transparent white to yellow.

Identification is based on X-ray diffraction and electron microprobe analysis. Besides Ba and S no other elements were traced within the detection limit of the apparatus.

Associations :

Barite is always accompanied by scalenohedral calcite, often twinned on  $(10\bar{1}2)$ , giving rise to the so called "Butterfly" twins. Both barite and calcite always contain sulfide inclusions. No specimens were found of barite associated with the other minerals often occurring in the limestone. These are : violet fluorite in veinlets or as rare crystals up to 5 mm, white lenticular rhombohedra of dolomite and vitreous quartz crystals (1-2 mm).

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