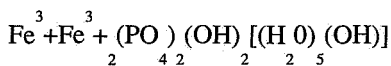


FERRISTRUNZITE



Korte mededelingen bijeengebracht door UMIBEL.

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LOCATION

The road section at Haut-le-Wastia near Anhée, Namur province, exposes Viséan-Namurian sediments. A number of secondary phosphates have already been recorded (Van Tassel, 1985).³

Ferristrunzite was found in a very restricted part of the locality only, but at this point it was so abundant that it fills nearly every fissure in the rock.

OCCURRENCE

Ferristrunzite occurs as very brittle, elongated crystals, mostly less than 1 mm long, forming dense aggregates, either with radiating arrangement or with random orientations. The colour is light yellow to nearly white, depending on the aggregate assemblage, with a silky to pearly lustre. The crystals were examined by a scanning electron microscope equipped with both an energy-dispersive and a wavelength-dispersive X-ray spectrometer. Qualitative analyses show the presence of Fe, P and O as the only major elements and the absence of Mn.

X-ray powder diffraction measurements (Van Tassel, private communication) confirm the identity with ferristrunzite (the Mn-free "strunzite" of Van Tassel, 1966) from Blaton, Hainaut province (Peacor *et al.*, 1987) and allow species distinction from ferrostrunzite.

SEM-observations permit to recognize the same morphological feature of more or less oriented minute cavities on the crystal faces, as seen on the ferristrunzite from Blaton (Van Tassel, 1984).

PARAGENESIS

Ferristrunzite is accompanied by cacoxenite, responsible for the frequent darker yellow colour of the aggregates. On the larger ferristrunzite needles cacoxenite occurs as encrustations of small individual crystals (up to 10 µm long).

LITERATURE

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³ Recently ferristrunzite was also found in fissures of a silica-rich, well stratified, porous rock.