Crystal Data: Orthorhombic. *Point Group*: 2/m 2/m 2/m. Commonly as exsolution intergrowths with tapiolite-(Fe).

Physical Properties: *Cleavage*: $\{100\}$, distinct; $\{010\}$, less distinct. *Fracture*: Subconchoidal to uneven. *Tenacity*: Brittle. Hardness = 6-6.5 D(meas.) = 6.65-7.95 D(calc.) = n.d. Paramagnetic.

Optical Properties: Opaque, translucent in thin edges. *Color*: Iron-black; reddish brown in transmitted light; gray in reflected light with red to reddish brown internal reflections. *Streak*: Black. *Luster*: Submetallic to vitreous. *Optical Class*: Biaxial (–). α , β , γ and 2V(meas.) = n.d. *Orientation*: X = b; Y = a; Z = c. *Dispersion*: r < v. *Absorption*: Strong; Z > X.

Cell Data: *Space Group*: [*Pbcn*](by analogy to columbite-(Fe)). *a*, *b*, and c = n.d. Z = [4]

X-ray Powder Pattern: n.d.

Chemistry:		(1)	(2)
-	Nb ₂ O ₅	26.8	
	Ta_2O_5	56.5	86.02
	TiO ₂	0.6	
	FeO	12.9	13.98
	MnO	3.3	<u> </u>
	Total	100.1	100.00

(1) Spittal a.d. Drau, Austria; by electron microprobe, total Fe as FeO; corresponds to $(Fe_{0.78}Mn_{0.20})_{\Sigma=0.98}Ti_{0.03}(Ta_{1.11}Nb_{0.87})_{\Sigma=1.98}O_6$. (2) FeTa₂O₆.

Polymorphism & Series: Dimorphous with tapiolite-(Fe); forms series with tantalite-(Mg) and tantalite-(Mn), and with columbite-(Fe).

Mineral Group: Columbite group.

Occurrence: As an accessory and primary constituent of granite pegmatites.

Association: Tapiolite-(Fe).

Distribution: Material analyzed by microprobe from: Moss, Norway. At Spittal an der Drau, Austria. From Nyanga, Uganda. At Muhembe, Rwanda. At Upper Bear Gulch, Lawrence Co., South Dakota, USA. In the Yellowknife district, Northwest Territories, Canada.

Name: Suffix for dominant Fe in the composition and relation to *tantalite-(Mg)* and *tantalite-(Mn)*, named for the Greek mythical Tantalus, for the difficulty in bringing the mineral into solution.

Type Material: n.d.

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