Alarsite $AlAsO_4$

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Crystal Data: Hexagonal. Point Group: 32. Subhedral grains, to 0.3 mm, in aggregates.

Physical Properties: Tenacity: Brittle. Hardness = n.d. VHN = 336–480, average 440 (20 g load). D(meas.) = 3.32(1) D(calc.) = 3.34

Optical Properties: Semitransparent. Color: Colorless, with pale tints of yellow, green, blue due to inclusions; colorless in transmitted light. Streak: White. Luster: Vitreous. Optical Class: Uniaxial (+). $\omega = 1.596(1)$ $\epsilon = 1.608(1)$

Cell Data: Space Group: $[P3_121 \text{ or } P3_221]$ (by analogy to synthetic AlAsO₄). a=5.031(1) c=11.226(6) Z = 3

X-ray Powder Pattern: Tolbachik volcano, Russia. 3.442 (100), 4.06 (31), 4.36 (20), 1.873 (16), 2.359 (15), 1.4202 (11), 2.514 (8)

Chemistry:

| | (1) | (2) |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| $\mathrm{As_2O_5}$ | 66.71 | 69.27 |
| Al_2O_3 | 31.98 | 30.73 |
| Fe_2O_3 | 0.60 | |
| CuO | 0.54 | |
| Total | 99.83 | 100.00 |

(1) Tolbachik volcano, Russia; by electron microprobe, average of 20 analyses, total Fe as Fe_2O_3 ; corresponds to $(Al_{1.04}Fe_{0.01}Cu_{0.01})_{\Sigma=1.06}As_{0.96}O_4$. (2) $AlAsO_4$.

Occurrence: A fumarolic mineral.

Association: Fedotovite, klyuchevskite, lammerite, nabokoite, atlasovite, langbeinite, hematite, tenorite.

Distribution: Occurs at the Tolbachik fissure volcano, Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia.

Name: For ALuminum and ARSenic in the composition.

Type Material: Mining Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia.

References: (1) Semenova, T.F., L.P. Vergasova, S.K. Filatov, and V.V. Ananev (1994) Alarsite AlAsO₄: a new mineral from volcanic exhalations. Doklady Acad. Nauk SSSR, 338, 501–505 (in Russian). (2) (1995) Amer. Mineral., 80, 1328 (abs. ref. 1).