Ammineite CuCl<sub>2</sub>(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

**Crystal Data:** Orthorhombic. *Point Group:* 2/m 2/m 2/m. As crystals, elongated along [100] with {001} dominant, to 3 mm; also as powdery masses.

**Physical Properties:** Cleavage: Perfect on  $\{001\}$ , good on  $\{110\}$ . Fracture: n.d. Tenacity: Weak. Hardness =  $\sim 1$  D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 2.31 Unstable in water.

**Optical Properties:** Transparent to translucent. *Color*: Deep to sky-blue. *Streak*: Light blue. *Luster*: Vitreous.

Optical Class: Biaxial (+).  $\alpha = 1.676(2)$   $\beta = 1.715(2)$   $\gamma = 1.785(2)$  2V(calc.) =  $76^{\circ}$  Pleochroism: Y = Z = dark blue, X = light blue. Orientation: X = c, Y = b, Z = a.

**Cell Data:** *Space Group: Cmcm.* a = 7.688(1) b = 10.645(2) c = 5.736(1) Z = 4

**X-ray Powder Pattern:** Calleta Pabellon de Pica, Tarapaca region, Chile. 2.920 (100), 2.660 (90), 6.285 (69), 3.898 (56), 4.278 (55), 2.763 (36), 2.356 (35)

<b>Chemistry:</b>	(1)	(2)
Cu	37.60	37.71
Cl	41.67	42.08
N	16.54	16.62
<u>H</u>	3.32	3.59
Total	99.13	100.00

(1) Calleta Pabellon de Pica, Tarapaca region, Chile; average of 3 electron microprobe analyses, supplemented by FTIR spectroscopy; corresponds to  $Cu_{1.00}Cl_{1.99}N_{1.99}H_{5.57}$ . (2)  $CuCl_2(NH_3)_2$ .

**Occurrence:** Likely the product of the interaction between NH<sub>3</sub> from guano and Cu from chalcopyrite in underlying igneous rocks.

Association: Halite, atacamite, salammoniac, darapskite.

**Distribution:** At Calleta Pabellon de Pica, Tarapaca region, Chile.

Name: Recognizes the first mineral described with ammine complex in its crystal structure.

Type Material: Mineralogical collection, Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria (84.935).

**References:** (1) Bojar, H-P., F. Walter, J. Baumgartner, and G. Färber (2010) Ammineite, CuCl<sub>2</sub>(NH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, a new species containing an ammine complex: mineral data and crystal structure. Can. Mineral., 48, 1359-1371. (2) (2012) Amer. Mineral., 97, 2064-2065 (abs. ref. 1).