Breyite Ca₃Si₃O₉

Crystal Data: Triclinic. *Point Group*: $\bar{1}$. As irregular inclusions in diamond, to 150 μ m.

Physical Properties: Cleavage: None observed. Tenacity: n.d. Fracture: n.d. Hardness = n.d. D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 3.072 Non-fluorescent.

Optical Properties: Transparent. *Color*: Colorless. *Streak*: n.d. *Luster*: Vitreous. *Optical Class*: n.d.

Cell Data: *Space Group*: $P\bar{1}$. a = 6.6970(4) b = 9.2986(7) c = 6.6501(4) $\alpha = 83.458(6)^{\circ}$ $\beta = 76.226(6)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 69.581(7)^{\circ}$ Z = n.d.

X-ray Powder Pattern: Calculated pattern.

2.90 (100), 3.03 (58), 3.15 (40), 5.01 (32), 2.63 (24), 1.79 (18), 3.87 (15)

Chemistry:

	(1)	(2)
CaO	48.04	48.28
SiO_2	51.96	51.72
Total	100.00	100.00

(1) Sao Luiz diamond placers, Juina area, Mato Grosso State, Brazil; average semiquantitative EDS analysis, normalized to 100%; corresponds to Ca_{3.01}Si_{2.98}O₉. (2) Ca₃Si₃O₉.

Polymorphism & Series: Polymorph of wollastonite.

Mineral Group: Margarosanite group.

Occurrence: The second most abundant mineral inclusion after ferropericlase in diamonds of superdeep origin; only found in super-deep diamonds. Breyite is presumed to be a strong indicator of lower mantle (>670 km depth) or at least lower transition zone (>520 km depth) origin of both the host diamond and the inclusion suite.

Association: Diamond, ferropericlase, $CaTiO_3$ perovskite, β - Ca_2SiO_4 larnite, titanite-structured $CaSi_2O_5$, ringwoodite.

Distribution: Studied material from Sao Luiz diamond placers, Juina area, Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Name: Previously known as CaSiO₃-walstromite. Honors the German mineralogist, petrologist, and geochemist Gerhard P. *Brey* (b. 1947), Professor of Mineralogy, Institute of Geosciences, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (1994- 2014). Brey was a pioneer in experimental petrology at high-pressures and developed a comprehensive set of thermobarometers for lherzolites and related rocks.

Type Material: Museum of Mineralogy, University of Padova, Italy (MMP 20371).

References: (1) Brenker, F.E., F. Nestola, L. Brenker, L. Peruzzo, and J.W. Harris (2021) Origin, properties, and structure of breyite: The second most abundant mineral inclusion in super-deep diamonds. Amer. Mineral., 106(1), 38-43.