

Crystal Data: Hexagonal. *Point Group:* 32. As platy rhomboidal crystals, to 1 μm , aggregated into compact chalklike masses.

Physical Properties: *Fracture:* Subconchoidal. *Tenacity:* Brittle. Hardness = < 3
D(meas.) = 2.696 D(calc.) = 2.875

Optical Properties: Translucent. *Color:* White; colorless in transmitted light. *Streak:* White. *Luster:* Dull.

Optical Class: Uniaxial (-). $\omega = 1.622$ $\epsilon = 1.615$

Cell Data: *Space Group:* R32. $a = 9.5027(6)$ $c = 7.812(6)$ $Z = 3$

X-ray Powder Pattern: Currant Creek, Nevada, USA.

2.833 (100), 1.972 (30), 2.888 (20), 1.765 (20), 1.757 (20), 2.604 (12), 2.432 (10)

Chemistry:

	(1)	(2)	(3)
CO ₂	48.85	48.18	49.87
SiO ₂	0.06		
FeO	0.00	0.03	
MnO	trace	0.03	
MgO	34.09	33.27	34.25
CaO	15.42	13.24	15.88
SrO		1.86	
H ₂ O ⁺	0.86	n.d.	
H ₂ O ⁻	0.47	0.67	
insol.		1.90	
Total	99.75	[99.18]	100.00

(1) Ala-Mar deposit, Nye Co., Nevada, USA. (2) Geelong, Australia; original total given as 99.26%. (3) CaMg₃(CO₃)₄.

Occurrence: Filling vugs and coating fractures in rock; as flowstone and incrustations in caves; typically precipitated by evaporative concentration of meteoric solutions weathering magnesite- or dolomite-bearing rocks, or serpentinites and ophiolites.

Association: Magnesite, dolomite, aragonite, calcite, hydromagnesite.

Distribution: In the USA, in Nevada, from the Ala-Mar deposit, Currant Creek district, and the Gabbs mine, Gabbs district, Nye Co., and the Nevada Magnesite and Snowball deposits, White Pine Co.; in the Chief Consolidated mine, Eureka, Eureka Co., Utah; at the Kalkar quarry, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., California; in the Line Pit, Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania. In Australia, from Tea Tree Gully, South Australia; at Katherine, Northern Territory; and from Deer Park and Geelong, Victoria. In the Kurgashinkan Pb-Zn deposit, Uzbekistan. Studied from cave deposits at: Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico, USA. From Castleguard Cave, Columbia Icefields, Alberta, Canada. In the Dorog and Beremend Crystal Cave, Hungary. From the Pestera Fagului Cave, Romania. In the Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia. A number of other minor localities are known.

Name: Honors Professor Walter Frederick Hunt (1882–1975), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, and chemist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Type Material: Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 106372; National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA, 112519.

References: (1) Faust, G.T. (1953) Huntite, Mg₃Ca(CO₃)₄, a new mineral. *Amer. Mineral.*, 38, 4–24. (2) Shayan, A. (1984) Strontium in huntites from Geelong and Deer Park, Victoria, Australia. *Amer. Mineral.*, 69, 528–530. (3) Dollase, W.A. and R.J. Reeder (1986) Crystal structure refinement of huntite, CaMg₃(CO₃)₄, with X-ray powder data. *Amer. Mineral.*, 71, 163–166. (4) Hill, C. and P. Forti (1997) *Cave minerals of the world* (2nd edition), National Speleological Soc., Huntsville, Alabama, esp. p. 150–151. (5) Graf, D.L. and W.F. Bradley (1962) The crystal structure of huntite. *Acta Cryst.*, 15, 238–242.

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