

**Crystal Data:** Monoclinic. *Point Group:* 2/*m*. Elongated crystals, to 1 cm, intergrown with halite.

**Physical Properties:** Hardness = n.d. D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = [1.65] Melts under its own vapor pressure at -0.1 °C, converting to halite.

**Optical Properties:** Transparent. *Color:* Colorless to white.

*Optical Class:* Biaxial. *Orientation:* Extinction 35° from a prism face; length-slow.  $\alpha$  = n.d.  $\beta$  = n.d.  $\gamma$  = n.d. 2V(meas.) = n.d. *Anisotropism:* Moderately strong.

**Cell Data:** *Space Group:*  $P2_1/c$  probable (synthetic at 105 K).  $a = 6.3313(5)$   
 $b = 10.1178(9)$   $c = 6.5029(6)$   $\beta = 114.407(7)^\circ$   $Z = 4$

**X-ray Powder Pattern:** Synthetic; taken at -5 °C.  
2.98 (10), 2.67 (10), 2.52 (10), 3.82 (9), 2.24 (9), 3.87 (8), 2.88 (6)

**Chemistry:** Natural material has not been analyzed.

**Occurrence:** Formed from sea water or in bottom sediments of hypersaline lakes at near-freezing temperatures.

**Association:** Halite, gypsum.

**Distribution:** From Hallein, Salzburg, Austria. In Lake Bonney, Taylor Valley, Victoria Land, Antarctica.

**Name:** As a hydrate of *halite*.

**References:** (1) Palache, C., H. Berman, and C. Frondel (1951) Dana's system of mineralogy, (7th edition), v. II, 15. (2) Klewe, B. and B. Pedersen (1974) The crystal structure of sodium chloride dihydrate. *Acta Cryst.*, 30, 2363–2371. (3) Craig, J.R., R.D. Fortner, and B.L. Weand (1974) Halite and hydrohalite from Lake Bonney, Taylor Valley, Antarctica. *Geology*, 1, 389–390. (4) Craig, J.R., J.F. Light, B.C. Parker, and M.G. Mudrey, Jr. (1975) Identification of hydrohalite. *Antarctic J. U.S.*, 10, 178–179.