Bernalite  $Fe(OH)_3$ 

**Crystal Data**: Orthorhombic, pseudocubic. *Point Group*: 2/m 2/m 2/m. As flattened pyramidal crystals and pseudo-octahedra, to 3 mm, with slightly concave faces; striations  $\bot$  to elongation. *Twinning*: Polysynthetic, crosshatched, observed in thin section, probably pinacoidal.

**Physical Properties**: *Cleavage*: None. *Fracture*: Uneven to conchoidal. *Tenacity*: Brittle. Hardness = 4 D(meas.) = 3.32(2) D(calc.) = 3.24

**Optical Properties**: Transparent to opaque due to goethite inclusions. *Color*: Dark bottle-green to yellow-green; in thin section, yellowish bottle-green. *Streak*: Apple-green. *Luster*: Vitreous to adamantine when fresh; resinous on crystal surfaces.

Optical Class: Biaxial. n = 1.92-1.94 2V(meas.) = n.d.

**Cell Data**: Space Group: Pmmn. a = 7.6191(2) b = 7.6191(2) c = 7.5534(4) Z = 8

X-ray Powder Pattern: Broken Hill, Australia.

3.784 (100), 1.692 (17), 2.393 (16), 2.676 (15), 1.892 (10), 1.545 (9), 2.023 (6)

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	(1)	(2)
$SiO_2$	2.99	
$Fe_2O_3$	65.53	74.73
ZnO	1.13	
PbO	2.70	
$H_2O$	25.2	25.27
$CO_2$	1.0	<u>.</u>
Total	98.55	100.00

(1) Broken Hill, Australia; by electron microprobe, average of eight analyses,  $Fe^{3+}$  confirmed by Mössbauer spectroscopy,  $H_2O$  and  $CO_2$  by CHN analyzer; corresponds to  $(Fe^{3+}_{0.92}Si_{0.06}Zn_{0.01})_{\Sigma=0.99}$   $(OH)_{2.96}[(H_2O)_{0.08}(CO_2)_{0.03}Pb_{0.01}]_{\Sigma=0.12}$ . (2)  $Fe(OH)_3$ .

**Occurrence**: On a museum specimen from a metamorphosed Pb-Zn deposit, probably from the surface oxidation zone.

**Association**: Goethite, coronadite.

**Distribution**: From the Proprietary mine, Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. From the Clara mine, central Black Forest, Germany.

Name: Honors John Desmond Bernal (1901-1971), British crystallographer and historian of science.

**Type Material**: Museum Victoria, Melbourne; South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia, G17627.

**References**: (1) Birch, W.D., A. Pring, A. Reller, and H.W. Schmalle (1993) Bernalite, Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>, a new mineral from Broken Hill, New South Wales: description and structure. Amer. Mineral., 78, 827-834. (2) McCammon, C.A., A. Pring, H. Keppler, and T. Sharp (1995) A study of bernalite, Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub>, using Mössbauer spectroscopy, optical spectroscopy and transmission electron microscopy. Phys. Chem. Minerals, 22, 11-20. (3) Welch, M.D., W.A. Crichton, and N.L. Ross (2005) Compression of the perovskite-related mineral bernalite Fe(OH)<sub>3</sub> to 9 GPa and a reappraisal of its structure. Min. Mag., 69, 309-315. (4) (2006) Amer. Mineral., 91(1), 220 (abs. ref. 3). (5) Kolitsch, U. (1998) Bernalite from the Clara Mine, Germany, and the incorporation of tungsten in minerals containing ferric iron. Can. Mineral., 36, 1211-1216.