

Crystal Data: Hexagonal. *Point Group:* $\bar{3} 2/m$. Commonly as liquid spheres or globules; crystallizes in rhombohedra.

Physical Properties: Hardness = n.d. VHN = n.d. D(meas.) = 13.596 (liquid). D(calc.) = 14.26 (solid) Liquid above -38.9°C ; volatile; vapor highly toxic.

Optical Properties: Opaque. *Color:* Tin-white. *Luster:* Metallic, brilliant.
 R_1 – R_2 : n.d.

Cell Data: *Space Group:* $R\bar{3}m$. $a = 3.463$ $c = 6.706$ $Z = 3$

X-ray Powder Pattern: n.d.

Chemistry: Composition essentially mercury, rarely with a little silver or gold.

Occurrence: In hydrothermal deposits formed at low temperature and associated with hot springs.

Association: Cinnabar, metacinnabar, calomel, terlinguaite, eglestonite, mercurian silver, mercurian gold, pyrite, dolomite, barite, quartz.

Distribution: From a number of localities, but rarely in significant amounts. In the USA, in California, especially at New Almaden, Santa Clara Co., and Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa Co.; in Texas, at Terlingua, Brewster Co. A noted locality at Almadén, Ciudad Real Province, Spain. In Serbia, on Mount Avala, near Belgrade. From Idrija (Idria), Slovenia. In Germany, at Landsberg, near Obermoschel, Rhineland-Palatinate. From Brezina, Czech Republic. In Ukraine, at Nagolnii Krjasch, Donets Basin. From Sala, Västmanland, Sweden.

Name: From the Latin *Mercurius*, the mythological messenger of the gods, in allusion to its mobility in liquid form; the chemical symbol from the Latin *hydrargyrum*, *liquid silver*.

References: (1) Palache, C., H. Berman, and C. Frondel (1944) Dana's system of mineralogy, (7th edition), v. I, 103. (2) Barrett, C.S. (1957) The structure of mercury at low temperatures. *Acta Cryst.*, 58–60. (23) Black, P.J. and J.A. Cundall (1965) The structures of liquid mercury and liquid aluminum. *Acta Cryst.*, 19, 807–814.