Nioboholtite  \((\text{Nb}_{0.6\pm 0.4}\text{Al}_6\text{BSi}_3\text{O}_{18})\)

**Crystal Data:** Orthorhombic.  *Point Group: 2/m 2/m 2/m.*  As rims to 10 \(\mu\)m on holtite, in the outer portion of the cores of zoned As- and Sb-dumortierite crystals.

\(D(\text{meas.}) = \text{n.d.}\)  \(D(\text{calc.}) = 3.72\)

**Optical Properties:**  *Translucent.*  *Color: Creamy white to brownish yellow or gray-yellow.*  *Streak: White.*  *Luster: n.d.*  *Optical Class: Biaxial (–).*  \(\alpha = 1.740-1.747\)  \(\beta\) and \(\gamma = \sim 1.76\)

**Cell Data:**  *Space Group: Pnma.*  [By analogy to dumortierite.]  \(a = \sim 4.7001\)  \(b = \sim 11.828\)  \(c = \sim 20.243\)  \(Z = 4\)

**X-ray Powder Pattern:**  Calculated pattern.  
3.2305 (100), 10.21 (67), 5.8610 (66), 2.9305 (65), 2.8945 (64), 3.4582 (63), 3.0675 (53)

**Chemistry:**  
\[
\begin{array}{lcc}
\text{P}_{2}\text{O}_{5} & 0.26 \\
\text{Nb}_{2}\text{O}_{5} & 5.21 \\
\text{Ta}_{2}\text{O}_{5} & 0.66 \\
\text{SiO}_{2} & 18.68 \\
\text{TiO}_{2} & 0.11 \\
\text{B}_{2}\text{O}_{3} & 4.91 \\
\text{Al}_{2}\text{O}_{3} & 49.74 \\
\text{As}_{2}\text{O}_{3} & 5.92 \\
\text{Sb}_{2}\text{O}_{3} & 10.81 \\
\text{FeO} & 0.51 \\
\text{H}_{2}\text{O} & [0.05] \\
\hline
\text{Total} & 96.86 \\
\end{array}
\]

(1) Marta mine, Szklana Hill, Lower Silesia, Poland; average electron microprobe analysis, \(\text{H}_2\text{O}\) calculated for charge balance; corresponds to \(\{(\text{Nb}_{0.26}\text{Ta}_{0.02}\text{Fe}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{0.01})\text{Al}_{0.21}\}\Sigma=1.00\)  
\(\text{Al}_6\text{B}_{0.92}\{\text{Si}_{2.03}\text{P}_{0.02}(\text{Sb}_{0.48}\text{As}_{0.39}\text{Al}_{0.07})\}\Sigma=3.00\)  
\(\text{O}_{17.09}\text{OH}_{0.04}\)  \(\Sigma=18.00\).

**Mineral Group:** Holtite group, dumortierite supergroup.

**Occurrence:** In the internal portion of a complex zoned granitic pegmatite.

**Association:** Holtite, microcline, quartz, muscovite, spessartine, chrysoberyl, zircon, monazite-(Ce), cheralite, xenotime-(Y), Mn-rich fluor-, hydroxyl- and chlorapatite, beusite, columbite-(Fe), columbite-(Mn), tantalite-(Mn), stibiocolumbite, stibiotantalite, fersmite, pyrochlore-supergroup minerals, and other minerals.

**Distribution:** From the Marta mine, northern part of Szklana Hill, Szklary serpentinite massif, ~60 km south of Wroclaw, Lower Silesia, Poland.

**Name:** For the composition and the relationship to holtite.

**Type Material:** Mineralogical Museum, University of Wroclaw, Faculty of Earth Science and Environmental Management, Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland (MMWr IV7615). Also at the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C., USA (NMNH 175986-175988).

**References:** (1) Pieczka, A., R.J. Evans, E.S. Grew, L.A. Groat, C. Ma, and G.R. Rossman (2013) The dumortierite supergroup. II. Three new minerals from the Szklary pegmatite, SW Poland: Nioboholtite, \((\text{Nb}_{0.6\pm 0.4}\text{Al}_6\text{BSi}_3\text{O}_{18})\), titanoholtite, \((\text{Ti}_{0.75\pm 0.22}\text{Al}_6\text{BSi}_3\text{O}_{18})\), and szklaryte, \[\text{Al}_6\text{BaS}^{3+}\text{O}_{15}\]. Mineral. Mag., 77(6), 2841-2856.  (2) (2015) Amer. Mineral., 100, 2012-2013 (abs. ref. 1).