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WULFENITE AND CERUSSITE AT BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

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Wulfenite and cerussite have recently been discovered in a complex pegmatite associated with the mineral bismutite at Bethel, Connecticut.

More than a score of orange, euhedral crystals of wulfenite of microscopic size were found in tiny vugs in albite associated with quartz, muscovite, and bismutite. These have a prismatic, dipyramidal habit.

Yellowish white crystals of cerussite were found with the wulfenite. In addition to free-growing crystals, the cerussite is also found as megascopic and microscopic crystalline masses and grains embedded in albite. It is more abundant than the wulfenite and many of the crystals can easily be seen without the aid of a hand lens. The predominating crystal habit is equant, dipyramidal, pseudo-hexagonal.

Bismutite occurs as a gray, compact, pulverulent material that is pseudomorphous after an unknown mineral. The original mineral was orthorhombic and lath-like in bent forms with deep vertical striations, suggesting a common habit of stibnite.

A similar occurrence of wulfenite associated with bismutite occurs at the Branchville Pegmatite in Connecticut. No reference to wulfenite or cerussite is made by Schairer (1931) or Sohon (1951).

References

Schairer, John F. (1931) Minerals of Connecticut, State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin 51.

SOHON, JULIAN A. (1951) Connecticut Minerals, State Geological and Natural History Bulletin 77.

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DETERMINATION OF MIXED LAYERING IN GLAUCONITES BY INDEX OF REFRACTION

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Clay minerals with mixed-layered structures are quite common (Weaver, 1956). X-ray diffraction techniques for quantitatively determining structural types present and their relative percentages have been

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