

MISCELLANEOUS PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES: Color red (Ridgway XII 71 i to XXVI 71 b); streak pink; luster vitreous; translucent. The color is suggested to be due to manganic manganese, supplementing ferric iron. Brittle, with well developed basal cleavage; H. = 4; sp. gr. = 3.33.

OCCURRENCE: Represented by a small rock specimen found in a moraine near the head of Dry Delta, Alaska range, Alaska. Admixed with diopside and bariumfeldspar, and probably of contact-metamorphic origin.

DISCUSSION: The abstractor does not consider it probable that any manganese could occur in the manganic state in the presence of excess ferric iron, and would prefer to class this among minerals the cause of whose color is as yet undetermined.

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REDEFINITION OF SPECIES

FAMILY: SILICATES. MINERALOID DIVISION: R''': R''''': H₂O = 1:1:X.

Neotocite

N. NORDENSKIOELD, 1852 (Including "stratopeite" and perhaps other "minerals"). Redefined by PARDEE, LARSEN, AND STEIGER, *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, **11**, (2), 31, 1921.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES: *Formula*: Variable because of colloidal nature but roughly MnO: SiO₂: XH₂O or MnSiO₃+XH₂O. Percentage of MnO (with some replacement) approximately 7/6 that of SiO₂; water (adsorbed) usually 14-17%, escaping more or less continuously as temperature is increased from 50°.

A new analysis by Steiger on material associated with the Washington bementite agrees essentially with the five earlier ones on material from various localities in Sweden, Finland and Germany. Difficultly fusible. Decomposed readily by HCl with separation of sandy silica.

CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES: Amorphous, tending to become cryptocrystalline (metacoloidal). Under the microscope brown, isotropic, with *n* ranging from 1.45 to 1.56; the metacolloid approaches bementite in optical properties.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES: Color black. Streak brown. Resembling a black glass in aspect and in conchoidal fracture. H. 3-4; sp. gr. averaging 2.8.

OCCURRENCE: An alteration product of various manganese silicates.

DISCUSSION: It is recommended that the name neotocite should be definitely limited to amorphous (colloidal) manganese silicates with ratio approximating 1:1.

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