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HIGHLIGHTS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

Alunite on Mars

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Abstract: Identification of minerals on the surface of Mars is critical to understanding the geological history of our neighbor planet. In this issue of *American Mineralogist*, Ehlmann et al. report their discovery of alunite [KAl₃(SO₄)₂(OH)₆] in Cross Crater on Mars. Because terrestrial alunite forms from Al-rich acid sulfate waters, these results strongly suggest the past presence of Al-rich acid saline martian waters. **Keywords:** Alunite, Mars, acid, brines, CRISM