New Mexico originals: Type locality of minerals from the Land of Enchantment

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The annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium provides a forum for both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy. The meeting allows all to share their cumulative knowledge of mineral occurrences and provides stimulus for mineralogical studies and new mineral discoveries. In addition, the informal atmosphere encourages intimate discussions among all interested in mineralogy and associated fields.

The symposium is organized each year by the Mineral Museum at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources.



Abstracts from all prior symposiums are also available: https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/abstracts

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NEW MEXICO ORIGINALS: TYPE LOCALITY MINERALS FROM THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

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In 1958, the International Mineralogical Association was founded. The following year, the Association established the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names to bring consistent guidelines to the naming of new minerals. Under the commission's guidelines, to name a new mineral, it is necessary to: (1) prove it's a new mineral, (2) prove it's not an existing species, (3) analyze the material, (4) prepare a formal proposal and name, (5) if accepted, publish a scientific paper describing the new mineral species, and (6) provide the original specimen (Type Specimen)

to a museum or university. Today, there are over 5820 recognized mineral species with an average of 100-200 added yearly.

There are around 2270 mineral species recognized in the United States. Of those, 883 are type locality species, meaning the source of an original type specimen is located in the United States. New Mexico, the fifth largest state in the United States is home to 724 confirmed mineral species, including 19 type locality species (Table 1).

Table 1. Type locality minerals from New Mexico

MINERAL	TYPELOCALITY	YEAR NAMED	NAMED FOR
Ferro-ferri-fluoro-leakeite Na(Na ₂)(Fe ²⁺ ₂ Fe ³⁺ ₂ Li)(Si8O ₂₂) (F) ₂	Cañada Pinabete pluton, Questa, Taos County	1992, leakite group redefined 2012	Bernard Elgey Leake Scottish geologist who was chairman of the IMA subcommittee to revise amphibole nomenclature
Galileiite $Na_3Fe^{2+}Fe^{2+}_{11}(PO_4)_9$	Grant meteorite, Cibola County (discovered 1929, fall date unknown)	1996, published 1997	Galileo Galilei, In honor of his astronomical work
Georgechaoite NaKZr[Si ₃ O ₉]·2H ₂ O	Wind Mountain, Cornudas Mountains, Otero County	1985	George Yanji Chao; Professor of Mineralogy at Carleton Uni- versity, Ottawa, for his work on zirconium silicates
Goldmanite $Ca_3V_2^{3+}(SiO_4)_3$	Sandy Mine, Laguna subdis- trict, Cibola County	1964	Marcus Isaac Goldman, USGS geologist who studied the Entrada Sandstone, host rock at the type locality
Grantsite (Na,Ca) _{2+x} (V ⁵⁺ ,V ⁴⁺) ₆ O ₁₆ ·4H ₂ O	F-33 Mine, East Grants Ridge Mining District, Cibola County; Parco No. 23 Mine, Grand County, Utah	1964	Grants, New Mexico; Location where mineral was found
Hendersonite $(Ca,Sr)_{1.3}V_6O_{16} \cdot 6H_2O$	Nelson Point mine, Shiprock District, San Juan County; J J Mine, Uravan Mining District, Montrose County, Colorado	1962	Edward Porter Henderson; Curator of Meteorites at the Smithsonian Institution, who also contributed to the knowl- edge of the mineralogy of U–V deposits
Lannonite $Mg_2Ca_4Al_4(SO_4)_8F_8\cdot 24H_2O$	Lone Pine Mine, Wilcox Mining District, Catron County	1983	Dan Lannon; Discovered tel- lurium in the Wilcox district in 1889 and staked the Tellurium Mine claim in 1893
Maxwellite NaFe ³⁺ (AsO ₄)F	Squaw Creek Mine, Taylor Creek Mining District, Catron County	1987, published 1991	Charles Henry Maxwell; USGS geologist and mineralogist who studied the Taylor Creek district

Metatyuyamunite Ca $(UO_2)_2(VO_4)_2$ ·3H ₂ O	Laguna Mining District, New Mexico;Haystack Mine, Ambrosia Lake subdistrict, McKinley County; Shiprock District, San Juan County; Mesa No. 1 Mine, White Ash Peak, Lukachukai Mining Dis- trict, Apache County, Arizona	1953 (IMA grandfathered)	Tyuyamunite was named in 1912 prefix meta- added indi- cating a dehydration relation- ship to tyuyamunite; Tyuy- amunite named for the Tyuya- Muyun Massif, Kyrgyzstan
Meurigite-K KF $e^{3+}_{8}(PO_{4})_{6}(OH)_{7} \cdot 6.5H_{2}O$	Chino Mine, Santa Rita Mining District, Grant County	1996, the K added in 2009	Sir John Meurig Thomas crystal chemist specializing in solid- state chemistry and catalysts
Plumbojarosite $Pb_{0.5}Fe^{3+}_{3}(SO_{4})_{2}(OH)_{6}$	Cookes Peak Mining District, Luna County	1902 (IMA grandfathered)	composition with dominant lead and relationship to jarosite
Rajite Cu(Te ⁴⁺ ₂ O5)	Lone Pine Mine, Wilcox Mining District, Catron County	1978, published 1979	Dr. Robert Allen Jenkins, geol- ogist with Phelps Dodge, who found the first samples
Ramsdellite Mn ⁴⁺ O ₂	Lake Valley Mining District, Sierra County	1943 (IMA grandfathered)	Lewis Stephen Ramsdell; Min- eralogy professor at the Uni- versity of Michigan, who first described the mineral
Raydemarkite $MoO_3 \cdot H_2O$	Summit group, Cookes Peak Mining District, Luna County	2022, not yet published	Ramon DeMark; New Mexico mineral collector extraordi- naire, presenter at every New Mexico Mineral Symposium ever held, and all-round gentle- man
Santafeite $(Na,Ca,Sr)_{12}(Mn^{2+},Fe^{3+},Al,Mg)_{8}$ $Mn^{4+}_{8}(VO_{4})_{16}(OH,O)_{20} \cdot 8H_{2}O$	Unnamed Uranium Mine, McKinley County	1958 (IMA grandfathered)	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad; Conducted explora- tion and development of New Mexico uranium deposits, owned property where mineral was discovered
Scrutinyite α-PbO ₂	Sunshine No. 1 adit, Blanchard Mine, Hansonburg District, Socorro County,	1988	Scrutiny Refers to the care required to make the initial identification of the mineral
Tellurobismuthite Bi ₂ Te3	Little Mildred mine (Green mine), Sylvanite Mining District, Hidalgo County; Mosnap Mine, Moisesberg Mines, Fyresdal, Vestfold og Telemark, Norway;Boly Field Mine, Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia	1815 (IMA grandfathered)	Tellurium and bismuth; Name reflects composition
Wilcoxite MgAl $(SO_4)_2$ F · 17H ₂ O	Lone Pine Mine, Wilcox Mining District, Catron County	1979, published 1983	William Wilcox; Discoverer of the Wilcox Mining District
Windmountainite $\Box Fe_{2}^{3+}Mg_{2}Si_{8}O_{20}(OH)_{2} \cdot 8H_{2}O$	Wind Mountain, Cornudas Mountains, Otero County	2019, published 2020	Wind Mountain; Type locality
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Figure 1: General map of New Mexico showing the localities of the type minerals. Galileiite, shown in red, was found in a meteorite sample and not related to minerals in the region.



Photo 1: Maxwellite. Squaw Creek Mine, Taylor Creek Mining District, Catron County, New Mexico. Specimen from the collection of Ray Demark. Photograph by Michael C. Michayluk. FOV 2.0 mm.



Photo 2: Scrutinyite. Snake Pit Mine, Mex-Tex Mine, Bingham, Hansonburg District, Socorro County, New Mexico. Specimen in and photograph by Gianfranco Ciccolini collection. FOV 1.7 mm.