

Reedmergnerite

NaBSi₃O₈

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Crystal Data: Triclinic. *Point Group:* $\bar{1}$. As stubby prismatic to platy crystals, commonly wedge-shaped, may have jagged terminations; in aggregates, to 10 cm.

Physical Properties: Cleavage: Perfect on {001}. Hardness = 6–7 D(meas.) = 2.70–2.78 D(calc.) = 2.779

Optical Properties: Transparent. Color: Colorless to tan or yellowish pink.

Luster: Vitreous.

Optical Class: Biaxial (−). $\alpha = 1.554\text{--}1.558$ $\beta = 1.565$ $\gamma = 1.572\text{--}1.573$
2V(meas.) = $74^\circ\text{--}81^\circ$

Cell Data: Space Group: $C\bar{1}$. $a = 7.8388(9)$ $b = 12.3730(10)$ $c = 6.8082(7)$
 $\alpha = 93.324(8)^\circ$ $\beta = 116.381(9)^\circ$ $\gamma = 92.014(8)^\circ$ Z = 4

X-ray Powder Pattern: Duchesne Co., Utah, USA.

3.037 (100), 3.561 (90), 3.076 (90), 3.225 (85), 3.876 (65), 2.841 (55), 6.076 (50)

Chemistry:	(1)	(2)	(3)		(1)	(2)	(3)
SiO ₂	73.13	68.63	73.26	BaO	0.09		
TiO ₂	0.03			Na ₂ O	12.15	10.11	12.59
B ₂ O ₃	14.27	16.80	14.15	K ₂ O	0.03		
Al ₂ O ₃	0.15	0.90		F		0.09	
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.08			H ₂ O	0.08	0.98	
MgO	0.09	2.20		P ₂ O ₅		0.08	
CaO		0.70		Total	100.10	100.49	100.00

(1) Duchesne Co., Utah, USA. (2) Dara-i-Pioz massif, Tajikistan. (3) NaBSi₃O₈.

Mineral Group: Feldspar group.

Occurrence: As authigenic crystals along bedding laminations, in brown dolomitic rock and black oil shale from well cuttings (Duchesne Co., Utah, USA); in a pegmatite in an alkalic massif (Dara-i-Pioz massif, Tajikistan).

Association: Eitelite, shortite, nahcolite, searlesite, leucosphenite, aegirine, analcime, magnesio-riebeckite (Duchesne Co., Utah, USA); leucosphenite, eudialyte, stillwellite, pyrochlore, microcline, aegirine, polylithionite, albite, quartz (Dara-i-Pioz massif, Tajikistan).

Distribution: In the vicinity of the Joseph Smith #1 well, near Duchesne, Duchesne Co., Utah; and at Wind Mountain, Otero Co., New Mexico, USA. In the Dara-i-Pioz massif, Alai Range, Tien Shan, Tajikistan. From the Lovozero massif, Kola Peninsula, Russia.

Name: Honors Frank S. Reed (1894–?) and John L. Mergner (1894–?), petrographic technicians with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Type Material: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA, 106865.

References: (1) Milton, C., E.C.T. Chao, J.M. Axelrod, and F.S. Grimaldi (1960) Reedmergnerite, NaBSi₃O₈, the boron analog of albite, from the Green River Formation, Utah. Amer. Mineral., 45, 188–199. (2) Dusmatov, V.D., N.A. Popova, and L.K. Kabanova (1967) First find of reedmergnerite in the USSR. Dokl. Acad. Nauk Tadzh. SSR, 10, 51–53 (in Russian). (3) (1968) Chem. Abs., 71149 (abs. ref. 2). (4) Fleet, M.E. (1992) Tetrahedral-site occupancies in reedmergnerite and synthetic boron albite (NaBSi₃O₈). Amer. Mineral., 77, 76–84. (5) Grew, E.S., M.G. Yates, D.I. Belakovskiy [Belakovskii], R.C. Rouse, S.-C. Su, and N. Marquez (1994) Hyalotekite from reedmergnerite-bearing peralkaline pegmatite, Dara-i-Pioz, Tajikistan, and from Mn skarn, Långban, Sweden: a new look at an old mineral. Mineral. Mag., 58, 285–297.

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