Tertschite $Ca_4B_{10}O_{19}\cdot 20H_2O$

Crystal Data: Monoclinic (?). *Point Group:* n.d. As finely fibrous crystalline aggregates.

Physical Properties: Hardness = n.d. D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = n.d. Slightly soluble in hot H_2O; fluoresces pale to dark blue-violet under UV.

Optical Properties: Semitransparent. *Color:* Snow-white. *Luster:* Silky.
Optical Class: [Biaxial.] *Orientation:* Inclined extinction; $Z' \wedge$ long axis = 30°–33°.
α = ∼1.502 (α') β = n.d. γ = ∼1.517 (γ') 2V(meas.) = n.d.

Cell Data: *Space Group:* n.d. Z = n.d.

X-ray Powder Pattern: Kurtpınarımine, near Faras, Turkey; only strongest lines given.
2.83, 2.35, 2.02, 3.12, 2.16, 1.93

Chemistry:

	(1)	(2)
B_2O_3	37.26	37.32
MgO	trace	
CaO	22.40	24.05
H_2O	37.72	38.63
Gangue	2.68	
Total	100.06	100.00

(1) Kurtpınarımine, near Faras, Turkey. (2) $Ca_4B_{10}O_{19}\cdot 20H_2O$.

Occurrence: In a borate deposit.

Association: Colemanite, meyerhofferite, ulexite.

Distribution: From the Kurtpınarımine, near Faras, Bigadiç borate district, Balıkesir Province, Turkey.

Name: Honors Professor Hermann Tertsch (1880–1962), Austrian mineralogist, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

Type Material: National School of Mines, Paris, France; The Natural History Museum, London, England, 1978,489; Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada, M35725; National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA, 112733.

References: (1) Meixner, H. (1953) Einige Boratminerale (Colemanit und Tertschit, ein neues Mineral) aus der Türkei. Fortschr. Mineral., 31, 39–42 (in German). (2) (1954) Amer. Mineral., 39, 849 (abs. ref. 1).