

Crystal Data: Triclinic. *Point Group:* $\bar{1}$. As intergrown equant grains, to 6 μm .

Physical Properties: *Cleavage:* n.d. *Fracture:* n.d. *Tenacity:* n.d. *Hardness:* = n.d.
D(meas.) = 1.826(3) (synthetic α -CaCl₂·4H₂O) D(calc.) = 1.838 Strongly deliquescent.

Optical Properties: Translucent. *Color:* Milky white to light gray. *Streak:* n.d. *Luster:* n.d.
Optical Class: Biaxial (-). $\alpha = 1.530$ $\beta = 1.557$ $\gamma = 1.567$ (synthetic α -CaCl₂·4H₂O)
2V(meas.) = n.d. 2V(calc.) = n.d.

Cell Data: *Space Group:* $P\bar{1}$. $a = 6.3660(5)$ $b = 6.5914(5)$ $c = 8.5568(6)$
 $\alpha = 93.504(6)^\circ$ $\beta = 97.778(7)^\circ$ $\gamma = 110.557(6)^\circ$ $Z = 2$ (synthetic α -CaCl₂·4H₂O)

X-ray Powder Pattern: Massa di Somma, Vesuvius, Italy.
2.628 (100), 2.717 (88), 4.600 (88), 2.939 (77), 2.204 (75), 5.874 (73), 6.124 (47)

Chemistry:

(1) Qualitative SEM-EDS analysis identified dominant chlorine and calcium. Water content not determined analytically.

Occurrence: In volcanic ejecta on the surface of a lava flow.

Association: Chlorocalcite (KCaCl₃), hematite, sylvite, halite.

Distribution: From Massa di Somma, Vesuvius, Italy.

Name: Honors Maria Rosaria Ghiara (b. 1948), Head of Real Museo Mineralogico of Napoli and Centro Musei delle Scienze Naturali e Fisiche dell'Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II for promoting scientific research on the mineralogy of Vesuvius volcano.

Type Material: Mineral collection "Vesuviana", Real Museo Mineralogico di Napoli, Italy (16986-E5525).

References: (1) Rossi, M., F. Nestola, F. Zorzi, A. Lanza, L. Peruzzo, A. Guastoni, and A. Kasatkin (2014) Ghiaraite: A new mineral from Vesuvius volcano, Naples (Italy). *Amer. Mineral.*, 99, 519-524.