Hydrophilite

Crystal Data: Orthorhombic (synthetic), pseudocubic. Point Group: $2/m 2/m 2/m$. In pseudocubic crystals, modified by $\{111\}$ and $\{011\}$; as a crystalline to mealy crust.


Optical Properties: Transparent to translucent. Color: White, may be stained violet. Optical Class: Biaxial (+) (synthetic). $\alpha$ = 1.600(3) $\beta$ = 1.605(3) $\gamma$ = 1.613(3) $2V$(meas.) = Moderate.

Cell Data: Space Group: $Pnnm$ (synthetic). $a = 6.261(2)$ $b = 6.429(2)$ $c = 4.167(1)$ $Z = 2$

X-ray Powder Pattern: Synthetic. 3.050 (100), 4.48 (85), 2.331 (50), 2.858 (35), 2.244 (30), 2.356 (25), 1.906 (25)

Chemistry: An analysis of natural material is not available.

Occurrence: In a boracite deposit, as a coating on gypsum.

Association: Anhydrite, gypsum, halite.

Distribution: From Lüneburg, Lower Saxony, Germany. Reported from a few additional localities. All occurrences require modern confirmation.

Name: From the Greek for water and friend, in allusion to the mineral’s hygroscopic property.