Maldonite

Crystal Data: Cubic. Point Group: $4/m \bar{3} 2/m$. Massive granular, also in thin coatings; typically seen in polished section as “decomposed” into a predominantly coarse myrmekitic intergrowth of gold and bismuth in which are wedges of maldonite, or rimming gold grains.

Physical Properties: Cleavage: Distinct on {001} and {110}. Fracture: Conchoidal. Tenacity: Malleable and sectile. Hardness = 1.5–2 VHN = 147–264 (100 g load).

D(meas.) = 15.46 D(calc.) = 15.70


R: (400) 48.3, (420) 49.0, (440) 50.2, (460) 51.5, (480) 53.2, (500) 54.9, (520) 56.6, (540) 58.0, (560) 59.0, (580) 59.6, (600) 59.9, (620) 60.0, (640) 60.0, (660) 60.0, (680) 60.0, (700) 60.1

Cell Data: Space Group: $Fd\bar{3}m$. $a = 7.971$ Z = 8

X-ray Powder Pattern: Nuggety Reef, Australia. 2.41 (100), 1.537 (60), 2.30 (50), 1.412 (50), 2.82 (40), 1.038 (40), 1.629 (30)

Chemistry: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au</td>
<td>65.12</td>
<td>63.80</td>
<td>65.92</td>
<td>65.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi</td>
<td>34.88</td>
<td>36.80</td>
<td>34.07</td>
<td>34.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.60</td>
<td>99.99</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Nuggety Reef, Australia; corresponds to $Au_{1.99}Bi_{0.99}$. (2) Salsigne mine, France; by electron microprobe, corresponds to $Au_{1.94}Bi_{1.06}$. (3) Tyryauz deposit, Russia; by electron microprobe, corresponds to $Au_{2.02}Bi_{0.98}$. (4) $Au_2Bi$.

Occurrence: Formed below 373 °C, under hydrothermal conditions in gold-quartz veins and stockworks, and calc-silicate skarns.

Association: Gold, bismuth, bismuthinite, joséite, arsenopyrite, löllingite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, chalcopryrite, cubanite, scheelite, apatite, siderite, calcite, quartz.

Distribution: In Australia, in Victoria, near Maldon, from Nuggety Reef [TL], and in the Eagle Hawk mine, Union Reef; at Kingsgate and from the Lucky Draw mine, New South Wales. In the Salsigne gold deposit, 15 km north of Carcassone, Aude, and from Scoufour, Cantal, France. At the Ortosa Au–Bi–Te deposit, Asturias, Spain. From Baita ??, Romania. In the Radzimowice deposit, Kaczawa Mountains, Poland. At the Orlik deposit, near Humpolec, Czech Republic. From the Tyryauz W–Mo deposit, left bank of the Baksan River Valley, northern Caucasus Mountains, Russia. At Syrymbet, Kazakhstan. From Ingram, Ontario, Canada. In the USA, in Alaska, in the Shotgun deposit, about 150 km north of Dillingham, and on the Pogo claims, 145 km southeast of Fairbanks. A number of other minor occurrences are known.

Name: For the locality at Maldon, Australia.