

**Crystal Data:** Monoclinic. *Point Group:* 2/m. As anhedral grains to 1.2 mm.

**Physical Properties:** *Cleavage:* None. *Tenacity:* Brittle. *Fracture:* Uneven. Hardness = ~5 VHN = 636-800, 712 average (150 g load). D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 4.682

**Optical Properties:** Translucent. *Color:* Brown to dark brown. *Streak:* White. *Luster:* Vitreous. *Optical Class:* Biaxial (-).  $\alpha = 1.770(5)$   $\beta = 1.790(5)$   $\gamma = 1.800(5)$   $2V(\text{meas.}) = 70(10)^\circ$   $2V(\text{calc.}) = 70^\circ$  *Dispersion:* Weak,  $r > v$ .

**Cell Data:** *Space Group:*  $P2_1/c$ .  $a = 6.5660(10)$   $b = 6.7666(11)$   $c = 18.698(3)$   $\beta = 108.952(16)^\circ$   $Z = 4$

**X-Ray Diffraction Pattern:** Mochalin Log REE deposit, Chelyabinsk Oblast, South Urals, Russia. 3.055 (100), 2.962 (66), 4.594 (49), 3.723 (47), 2.690 (38), 2.787 (35), 1.843 (33)

Chemistry:	(1)	(2)
CaO	1.24	
La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	27.81	58.01
Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	25.88	
Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.29	
Nd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.56	
ThO <sub>2</sub>	0.45	
MgO	0.48	
MnO	4.82	
FeO	5.67	12.78
SiO <sub>2</sub>	21.67	21.38
CO <sub>2</sub>	[7.98]	7.83
H <sub>2</sub> O	[0.19]	
Total	100.04	100.00

(1) Mochalin Log valley REE deposit, Chelyabinsk Oblast, South Urals, Russia; average electron microprobe analysis supplemented by Raman spectroscopy, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O calculated from stoichiometry; corresponds to  $(\text{La}_{0.95}\text{Ce}_{0.87}\text{Nd}_{0.08}\text{Pr}_{0.04})_{\Sigma=1.94}\text{Th}_{0.01}\text{Ca}_{0.12}\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.44}\text{Mn}^{2+}_{0.38}\text{Mg}_{0.07}(\text{CO}_3)_{0.88}(\text{HCO}_3)_{0.12}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)$ . (2) La<sub>2</sub>Fe<sup>2+</sup>(CO<sub>3</sub>)(Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>).

**Mineral Group:** Biraite group.

**Occurrence:** Formed in polymineralic nodules by metasomatism of primary bastnäsite-(La)/-(Ce) of probable alkaline pegmatitic origin.

**Association:** Allanite-(Ce)/-(La), bastnäsite-(Ce)/-(La), fluorbritholite-(Ce), perbœite-(Ce)/-(La), percleveite-(Ce)/-(La), törnebohmite-(Ce)/-(La).

**Distribution:** From the Mochalin Log valley REE deposit, 14 km north of the Kyshtym, Chelyabinsk Oblast, South Urals, Russia.

**Name:** Suffix indicates the lanthanum analog of *biraite*-(Ce).

**Type Material:** A.E. Fersman Mineralogical Museum, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia (97023).

**References:** (1) Kasatkin, A.V., N.V. Zubkova, I.V. Pekov, N.V. Chukanov, R. Škoda, A.A. Agakhanov, D.I. Belakovskiy, S.N. Britvin, and D.Y. Pushcharovsky (2021) The mineralogy of the historical Mochalin Log REE deposit, South Urals, Russia. Part IV. Alexkuznetsovite-(La), La<sub>2</sub>Mn(CO<sub>3</sub>)(Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>), alexkuznetsovite-(Ce), Ce<sub>2</sub>Mn(CO<sub>3</sub>)(Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>) and biraite-(La), La<sub>2</sub>Fe<sup>2+</sup>(CO<sub>3</sub>)(Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>), three new isostructural minerals and a definition of the biraite group. Mineral. Mag., 85, 772-783.