### Article



# CNMNC guidelines for the nomenclature of polymorphs and polysomes

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### Abstract

New guidelines for the nomenclature of polymorphs and polysomes have been approved by the the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA-CNMNC). Several cases can be distinguished. (i) Polymorphs with different crystal systems are distinguished by the prefixes cubo- (cubic), hexa- (hexagonal), tetra- (tetragonal), trigo- (trigonal), ortho- (orthorhombic), clino- (monoclinic) and anortho- (triclinic). (ii) Polymorphs with different crystal systems but showing a pseudosymmetry should show the prefix 'pseudo-'. (iii) Polymorphs with the same crystal system but different space groups are distinguished by the prefix 'para-'. If three or more polymorphs show the same crystal system but different space groups, the space group notation may be added as a suffix, though such a nomenclature should be avoided if possible. (iv) Polymorphs with the same space group are distinguished by the prefix 'para-'. (v) Minerals with polymorph suffixes but with different chemical compositions cannot be considered as true polymorphs, so we recommend using the prefix 'meta-', which indicates a close but significantly different chemical composition. (vi) Polysomatic symbols should be placed as a suffix, which indicates the number and types of modules that alternate in the structure, such as in the högbomite supergroup, or as prefixes as in the sartorite homologous series. These recommendations have to be applied for future new mineral proposals, when the authors decide to use structural prefixes or suffixes, however modifications of historical and well-established names have to pass through the CNMNC for approval. In order to be consistent with the new guidelines, 25 mineral names are now modified: domeykite-β becomes trigodomeykite; fergusonite-(Y)-β becomes clinofergusonite-(Y); fergusonite-(Ce)- $\beta$  becomes clinofergusonite-(Ce); fergusonite-(Nd)- $\beta$  becomes clinofergusonite-(Nd); ice-VII becomes cubo-ice; roselite-ß becomes anorthoroselite; sulphur-ß becomes clinosulphur; mertieite-II becomes mertieite; mertieite-I becomes pseudomertieite; uranophane- $\alpha$  becomes uranophane; uranophane- $\beta$  becomes parauranophane; gersdorffite-P2,3 becomes gersdorffite; gersdorffite-Pa3 becomes paragersdorffite; gersdorffite-Pca21 becomes orthogersdorffite; betalomonosovite becomes paralomonosovite; lammerite-β becomes paralammerite; nováčekite-I becomes hydronováčekite; nováčekite-II becomes nováčekite; halloysite-7Å becomes halloysite; halloysite-10Å becomes hydrohalloysite; metauranocircite-I becomes metauranocircite; taimyrite-I becomes taimyrite; uranocircite-II becomes uranocircite; andorite IV becomes quatrandorite; and andorite VI becomes senandorite.

Keywords: IMA-CNMNC guidelines, polymorphs, polysomes, structural suffixes, mineral name modifications

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### Introduction

The Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA–CNMNC) is an international non-profit organisation that evaluates new mineral proposals, defines mineral nomenclature guidelines, and establishes mineral classification schemes. The results of the votes on new mineral and nomenclature proposals are published bimonthly as Newsletters in the *European Journal of Mineralogy* and in *Mineralogical Magazine*, and an official IMA–CNMNC list of minerals is freely available on the CNMNC website (Pasero, 2023).

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A careful examination of the CNMNC mineral name list shows that there are still some inconsistencies in the mineralogical nomenclature, mainly concerning the use of polymorph suffixes. The guidelines for the use of suffixes and prefixes in mineral names are reported in Hatert *et al.* (2013); however, these guidelines mainly concern chemical prefixes and suffixes. The present paper is a follow-up of our previous guidelines and presents recommendations for the nomenclature of polymorphs and polysomes approved by the CNMNC including suggesting some minor changes to a few mineral names, especially concerning the use of structural suffixes.

These recommendations have to be applied for future new mineral proposals, when the authors decide to use structural prefixes or suffixes, however modifications of historical and wellestablished names in the scientific literature have to pass through the CNMNC for approval. The goal of this paper is to provide consistent guidelines for future proposals and to fix a few

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minor inconsistencies in mineral names, but it is not to initiate a massive modification of mineral names.

### Definitions

General guidelines for mineral nomenclature, currently in use by the CNMNC, were established by Nickel and Grice (1998) and define a mineral species on the basis of its chemical composition and crystallographic properties: "*If a mineral is found whose composition or crystallographic properties (or both) are substantially different from those of any existing mineral species, there is a possibility that it may be a new species.*" Quasicrystals and amorphous substances can also be accepted as valid mineral species, if an enough appropriate characterisation of their chemical and physical properties demonstrates that they are distinct minerals (e.g. Bindi et al., 2011, 2015; Pratesi et al., 2003; Grey et al., 2022).

Each mineral species is consequently characterised by an ideal chemical formula (often corresponding to an end-member formula), however mineral samples generally show significant chemical variations, compared to the ideal composition. The possible ranges of these variations, and the boundaries between mineral species involved in solid solutions, are defined by the Dominant-Constituent Rule and the Dominant-Valency Rule (Hatert and Burke, 2008; Bosi et al., 2019).

Two substances with the same composition may also be defined as separate mineral species if their crystal structures are *substantially* different. This means that their bonding schemes must show significant differences. Many mineral species are known that show the same ideal formula but distinct crystal structures, such as pyrite/marcasite, calcite/aragonite, or andalusite/kyanite/sillimanite. These phases are known as polymorphs (Nickel and Grice, 1998; Fig. 1).

Most polymorphs show very different crystal structures, thus leading to distinct unit-cell parameters and space groups. However, space group and/or unit-cell parameters variations may also be induced by some order/disorder variations in crystal structures or structural distortion; in these cases, the two polymorphs show essentially the same bonding scheme. Such substances are named topologically similar polymorphs (we suggest here using the term 'structurally similar polymorphs'), and are not considered as distinct mineral species (Nickel and Grice, 1998). A well-known example is given by analcime, which forms several structurally similar polymorphs characterised by different symmetries, induced by variations in the Al–Si ordering scheme (e.g. Mazzi and Galli, 1978; Pechar, 1988).



**Fig. 1.** Examples of crystal structures illustrating the difference between polymorphs, structurally similar polymorphs, and polytypes. The structure models were drawn with the program *Vesta* (Momma and Izumi, 2011) starting from the structural data of Graf (1961), de Villiers (1971), Schönfeld *et al.* (1983) and Mazzi and Galli (1978).

Polytypes show crystal structures built by the stacking of layers of nearly identical compositions, but due to differences in the stacking sequences of the layers, variations of unit-cell parameters and/or space groups are induced. Such polytypes are not considered as separate mineral species as all layers constituting their structures have essentially the same basic topologies. Many examples of polytypes exist in the mineral kingdom and are distinguished by the addition of a polytype suffix that is not part of the mineral species name [see Guinier et al. (1984) for the nomenclature of polytype suffixes], e.g.: molybdenite-3R and molybdenite-2H (Traill, 1963; Wickman and Smith, 1970; Frondel and Wickman, 1970; Fig. 1); muscovite-1M, muscovite-2M and muscovite-3T (Velde, 1965; Güven and Burnham, 1967; Takeda et al., 1971); and sapphirine-1A, sapphirine-2M, sapphirine-3A, sapphirine-4M and sapphirine-5A (Grew et al., 2008). Those polytype suffixes can also be used to distinguish structurally similar polymorphs.

Polytypoids are also characterised by layered structures in which different stacking sequences occur; however, they do not follow the strict definition of the polytype as their chemical compositions show significant variations. Such a situation occurs in pyrrhotite, for example, which exists in many structural forms having distinct stacking sequences of nickeline-type layers; the presence of vacancies in the layers induces variations of the Fe/S ratio (Pósfai and Dódony, 1990a and 1990b; Fig. 2). Polytypoids are not considered as separate mineral species (Nickel and Grice, 1998).

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Polysomes are characterised by different arrangements of a few basic structural units (blocks or layers), leading to minerals with structural analogies, but with significant chemical variations. Such polysomatic and homologous series are well-known in sulfosalts (e.g. Makovicky, 1997; Moëlo *et al.*, 2008), as well as in högbomite-supergroup minerals (Armbruster, 2002; Fig. 2). They may be considered as separate valid mineral species (Nickel and Grice, 1998).

### Suffixes in mineral nomenclature

There are many mineral names that have included a suffix. Various systems are described below, note however some of these suffixes have now changed due to the CNMNC proposal described in the new guidelines below.

Levinson suffixes. The most common suffixes are the so-called Levinson suffixes, to be used in all cases in which rare earth elements, excluding scandium [= yttrium (Y) + lanthanides (La–Lu), hereafter abbreviated as REE], are an essential chemical



**Fig. 2.** Examples of crystal structures illustrating the difference between polytypoids and polysomes. The structure models were drawn with the program *Vesta* (Momma and Izumi, 2011) starting from the structural data of de Villiers *et al.* (2009), Powell *et al.* (2004), Arakcheeva *et al.* (1995) and Armbruster and Feenstra (2004).

component (Levinson, 1966). In such cases the most abundant REE (in atoms per formula unit) is mentioned in parentheses after the root-name [e.g. bastnäsite-(Nd); Miyawaki *et al.*, 2013]. Species differing only in the dominant REE are considered as separate species such as those in the epidote supergroup [e.g. allanite-(Ce) and allanite-(Y) or ferriallanite-(La) and ferriallanite-(Ce); Armbruster *et al.*, 2006; Mills *et al.*, 2009; Kolitsch *et al.*, 2012].

<u>Modified Levinson suffix</u>. This derives from the nomenclature adopted for REE-bearing minerals, and refers to specific cations, or anions, other than REE. Those suffixes are used in cases of two or more minerals having the same structural arrangement, and differing only in one chemical component at a given site [e.g. pumpellyite-(Al) and pumpellyite-(Mn<sup>2+</sup>); pertsevite-(F) and pertsevite-(OH); tetrahedrite-(Fe), tetrahedrite-(Hg), and tetrahedrite-(Zn); ardennite-(V) and ardennite-(As); Hatert *et al.*, 2007; Schreyer *et al.*, 2003; Biagioni *et al.* 2020; Barresi *et al.*, 2007]. The use of modified Levinson suffixes aims at avoiding the proliferation of trivial names. Rarely, suffixes are multiples [e.g. fluorarrojadite-(BaFe), arrojadite-(BaNa) and dickinsonite-(KMnNa); jahnsite-(MnMnMg) and jahnsite-(MnMnFe); Chopin *et al.*, 2006; Vignola *et al.* 2016, 2019a, 2019b].

<u>Dominant extra-framework cations.</u> These are occasionally used as suffixes, such as in minerals of the zeolite family. Such a notation is similar to the modified Levinson suffix, the only difference being that brackets are not used [e.g. dachiardite-Ca and lévyne-Na; labuntsovite-Fe, labuntsovite-Mg and labuntsovite-Mn; meurigite-K and meurigite-Na; obradovicite-KCu, obradovicite-NaCu and obradovicite-NaNa; Coombs *et al.*, 1997; Khomyakov *et al.*, 2001; Kampf *et al.*, 2009, 2012].

<u>Minerals of the högbomite supergroup.</u> Suffixes such as -2N1S, -2N2S,  $-2N^2S$ , -2N3S, -2N4S, -2N6S,  $-6N^3S$  or -6N6S are used for the högbomite-supergroup members, which refer to polysomatic sequences of nolanite and spinel modules (Armbruster, 2002).

<u>Joséite</u>. The suffixes -A and -B are used to denote two sulfidetellurides with different Te:S ratios,  $Bi_4TeS_2$  and  $Bi_4Te_2S$  (Cook *et al.*, 2007, 2021). These species are regarded as 'questionable' by the IMA.

<u>Greek symbols  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .</u> These symbols, which denote polymorphs, are usually placed as prefixes in the chemical literature. In the CNMNC list of mineral names, these polymorph symbols are placed as suffixes, as recommended by Hatert *et al.* (2013): domeykite- $\beta$ , fergusonite-(Ce)- $\beta$  fergusonite-(Nd)- $\beta$ , fergusonite-(Y)- $\beta$ , lammerite- $\beta$ , roselite- $\beta$ , sulphur- $\beta$ , uranophane- $\alpha$  and uranophane- $\beta$ . The only exception is betalomonosovite, for which a prefix-type nomenclature has been preferred (Sokolova *et al.*, 2015).

Roman numerals. The following cases exist with Roman numerals: andorite IV, andorite VI, baumhauerite II (question-able), mertieite-I, mertieite-II, metauranocircite-I, nováčekite-I, nováčekite-II, rathite-IV (questionable), taimyrite-I and uranocircite-II, ice-VII.

<u>Gersdorffite.</u> The suffixes -Pa3,  $-P2_13$ , and  $Pca2_1$  are used to denote three distinct polymorphs with different space groups of gersdorffite, the compound NiAsS (Bayliss, 1986).

<u>Halloysite-10Å and halloysite-7Å.</u> These are both monoclinic, but due to different hydration degrees, the interlayer distances,  $d_{001} = c.\sin\beta$ , are different (Bailey, 1980).

The use of chemical prefixes and suffixes in mineral nomenclature was recently revised by Hatert *et al.* (2013); however, no clear guidelines were established for the use of structural prefixes and suffixes, as demonstrated by the inconsistencies listed above. The aim of this paper is to provide CNMNC recommendations for structural prefixes and suffixes that have to be followed when naming minerals. In addition, as some mineral names appear to present unnecessary or ambiguous suffixes, they have been modified (Table 1).

#### Guidelines for nomenclature of polymorphs

A variety of different symbol types have been used historically to designate polymorphs, for example Greek symbols, Roman numerals, or space-group notations. The use of a new coherent nomenclature scheme for these polymorphs is recommended for the following three different situations:

### Polymorphs showing different crystal systems

When polymorphs show different crystal systems, we recommend adding a prefix to distinguish them. The root-name, which was the first to be historically defined, remains unchanged, and the prefix is added to the new polymorphs to designate their distinct crystal systems.

Accepted prefixes are: cubo- (cubic); hexa- (hexagonal); tetra-(tetragonal); trigo- (trigonal); ortho- (orthorhombic); clino- (monoclinic); and anortho- (triclinic). Some valid mineral names already use these prefixes to designate the crystal systems of polymorphs:

Cubic: cuboargyrite.

- Hexagonal: hexacelsian, hexaferrum, hexahydroborite, hexamolybdenum.
- Tetragonal: tetra-auricupride, tetraferroplatinum, tetrarooseveltite, tetrataenite, tetrawickmanite.
- Orthorhombic: bario-orthojoaquinite, orthobrannerite, orthocuproplatinum, orthojoaquinite-(Ce), orthojoaquinite-(La), orthominasragrite, orthopinakiolite, orthoserpierite, orthowalpurgite.
- Monoclinic: clinoatacamite, clinobehoite, clinobisvanite, clinocervantite, clinoenstatite, clino-ferri-holmquistite, clino-ferro-ferriholmquistite, clinoferrosilite, clinohumite, clinojimthompsonite, clinokurchatovite, clinometaborite, clino-oscarkempffite, clinophosinaite, clinosafflorite, clino-suenoite, clinotobermorite, clinoungemachite, clinozoisite.

Triclinic: anorthominasragrite.

Other mineral species have used these prefixes to designate chemical, morphological or physical features of minerals e.g.: hexahydrite and hexahydroborite (six H<sub>2</sub>O molecules in the formula); tetradymite (fourling twins); tetraferriannite and tetraferriphlogopite (Fe<sup>3+</sup> tetrahedrally coordinated); trigonite (triangular crystal shape); orthoclase (cleavage planes at 90°); clinochlore (inclined optic axis and green colour); clinoclase (oblique cleavage planes); clinohedrite (inclined faces of the crystals); and clinoptilolite *s.l.* (morphology of oblique feathers). We do not recommend changing the names of these valid historical species, however in the future, such prefixes should only be used to designate crystal systems.

It is worth mentioning that the prefix 'iso-' was also used to designate cubic polymorphs, in isocubanite (cubic polymorph of cubanite), isoferroplatinum (cubic polymorph of tetraferroplatinum), and isolueshite (cubic polymorph of lueshite). However, the prefix 'cubo-' is preferred.

This nomenclature scheme can be applied to simplify the nomenclature of several species names containing Greek symbols or Roman numerals:

| Previous name                  | New name              | Formula   | Space group                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Domeykite-β                    | Trigodomeykite        | Cu <sub>3</sub> As  | P3c                         |
| Fergusonite-(Y)-β              | Clinofergusonite-(Y)  | YNbO <sub>4</sub>   | I2/a                        |
| Fergusonite-(Ce)-β             | Clinofergusonite-(Ce) | CeNbO <sub>4</sub>  | 12/a                        |
| Fergusonite-(Nd)-β             | Clinofergusonite-(Nd) | NdNbO <sub>4</sub>  | 12/a                        |
| Ice-VII                        | Cubo-ice              | H <sub>2</sub> O  | Pn3m                        |
| Roselite-β                     | Anorthoroselite       | $Ca_2Co(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$   | P1 or P1                    |
| Sulphur-β                      | Clinosulphur          | S   | P21                         |
| Mertieite-II                   | Mertieite             | Pd <sub>8</sub> (Sb,As) <sub>3</sub> *  | R3c                         |
| Mertieite-I                    | Pseudomertieite       | $Pd_{5+x}(Sb,As)_{2-x}$ (x = 0.1–0.2)*  | Monoclinic pseudo-hexagonal |
| Uranophane-α                   | Uranophane            | $Ca(UO_2)_2(SiO_3OH)_2 \cdot 5H_2O$   | P21                         |
| Uranophane-β                   | Parauranophane        | $Ca(UO_2)_2(SiO_3OH)_2 \cdot 5H_2O$   | P21/a                       |
| Gersdorffite-P213              | Gersdorffite          | NiAsS   | P213                        |
| Gersdorffite-Pa3               | Paragersdorffite      | NiAsS   | Pa3                         |
| Gersdorffite-Pca2 <sub>1</sub> | Orthogersdorffite     | NiAsS   | Pca2 <sub>1</sub>           |
| Betalomonosovite               | Paralomonosovite      | Na <sub>5+x</sub> Ti <sub>4</sub> (Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> [PO <sub>3</sub> (OH)] <sub>2-y</sub><br>[PO <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>y</sub> O <sub>2</sub> [(OH,F) <sub>2-x</sub> O <sub>z</sub> ],<br>with $0 < x < 2, 0 < y < 1, 0 < z < 1$ | ΡĪ                          |
| Lammerite-β                    | Paralammerite         | $Cu_3(AsO_4)_2$   | P21/c                       |
| Nováčekite-I                   | Hydronováčekite       | $Mg(UO_2)_2(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O$  | PĪ                          |
| Nováčekite-II                  | Nováčekite            | $Mg(UO_2)_2(AsO_4)_2 \cdot 10H_2O$  | $P2_1/n$                    |
| Halloysite-7Å                  | Halloysite            | Al <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>  | Cm                          |
| Halloysite-10Å                 | Hydrohalloysite       | Al <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O   | Ст                          |
| Metauranocircite-I             | Metauranocircite      | $Ba(UO_2)_2(PO_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  | P21                         |
| Taimyrite-I                    | Taimyrite             | (Pd,Pt) <sub>9</sub> Cu <sub>3</sub> Sn <sub>4</sub>  | Orthorhombic                |
| Uranocircite-II                | Uranocircite          | $Ba(UO_2)_2(PO_4)_2 \cdot 10H_2O$   | P2 <sub>1</sub>             |
| Andorite IV                    | Quatrandorite         | AgPbSb₃S <sub>6</sub>   | P21/c                       |
| Andorite VI                    | Senandorite           | AgPbSb <sub>3</sub> S <sub>6</sub>  | Pn2 <sub>1</sub> a          |

\*Due to their close chemical compositions, these minerals are considered as true polymorphs.

- Domeykite is the cubic root-name, and domeykite-β is a trigonal polymorph. Domeykite-β consequently becomes trigodomeykite.
- Fergusonite-(Y) is the oldest tetragonal species, and fergusonite-(Y)- $\beta$  is a monoclinic polymorph. Consequently, fergusonite-(Y)- $\beta$  is re-named clinofergusonite-(Y). In the same way, fergusonite-(Ce) is unchanged, fergusonite-(Ce)- $\beta$  becomes clinofergusonite-(Ce), and fergusonite-(Nd)- $\beta$  becomes clinofergusonite-(Nd).
- Ice-VII is the cubic polymorph of hexagonal ice. Consequently, ice-VII is renamed cubo-ice (the name is hyphenated to improve readability).
- Roselite was the earlier defined monoclinic species, and the later defined roselite-β is triclinic. Roselite-β is re-named anorthoroselite.
- Sulphur is the older species and is orthorhombic, whereas later defined sulphur-β is monoclinic. Sulphur-β becomes clinosulphur. Another monoclinic polymorph of sulphur is also known, which has been named rosickýite (nomenclature without suffix).

## Polymorphs showing different crystal systems, but one polymorph shows a pseudosymmetry

When polymorphs with a different crystal system show a pseudosymmetry, we recommend adding the prefix 'pseudo-' to the secondly described polymorph. This situation occurs between pseudo-hexagonal mertieite-I, and hexagonal mertieite-II.

• Mertieite-II is renamed mertieite, and mertieite-I renamed pseudomertieite.

Other examples of minerals, in which the pseudo- prefix is used to designate a pseudosymmetry, are pseudoboleite, pseudosinhalite and pseudowollastonite. Some mineral names have also used the prefix pseudo- to designate strong similarities with existing species (pseudobrookite, pseudocotunnite, pseudograndreefite, pseudojohannite, pseudolyonsite, pseudomalachite, pseudomarkeyite, pseudomeisserite- $(NH_4)$  and pseudorutile) or to designate polymorphic relationships (pseudolaueite).

### Polymorphs showing the same crystal system, but different space groups

If two polymorphs show the same crystal system but different space groups, we recommend using the prefix 'para-' to distinguish them.

The prefix 'para-' is used widely in the mineralogical nomenclature to designate polymorphs (paraberzeliite, parabrandtite, parabutlerite, paracelsian, paracoquimbite, paracostibite, paradamite, parafransoletite, parageorgbokiite, paraguanajuatite, parahopeite, parakuzmenkoite-Fe, paralabuntsovite-Mg, paralaurionite, paralstonite, paranatisite, pararaisaite, pararammelsbergite, pararealgar, pararobertsite, pararsenolamprite, parascholzite, parascorodite, parasibirskite, parasymplesite, paratellurite, paratsepinite-Ba and paratsepinite-Na).

It has also been used for species with similar chemical compositions and/or structural features (para-alumohydrocalcite, paraershovite, parakeldyshite, paramelaconite, paramendozavilite, paramontroseite, paranatrolite, paraotwayite, parapierrotite, paraschachnerite, paraschoepite, parasterryite, paratacamite, paratacamite-(Mg), paratacamite-(Ni), paraumbite, paravauxite, paravinogradovite and parawulffite), and also for species occurring in close association (paradocrasite), or for resembling other species (paratimroseite).

The nomenclature of the following mineral species can hence be simplified:

- Uranophane-α and uranophane-β are monoclinic, however their space groups are different. As uranophane-α is the first defined species, it becomes uranophane, whereas uranophane-β becomes parauranophane.
- As the gersdorffite group contains two cubic polymorphs and an orthorhombic polymorph, it was very difficult to distinguish these species by prefixes. Consequently, the space group notations were placed as suffixes: gersdorffite-*Pa*3, gersdorffite-*P2*<sub>1</sub>3, and gersdorffite-*Pca*2<sub>1</sub> are the valid mineral names. As gersdorffite-*P2*<sub>1</sub>3 has historical priority, it has been renamed as gersdorffite. Gersdorffite-*Pa*3 becomes paragersdorffite, and the orthorhombic polymorph gersdorffite-*Pca*2<sub>1</sub> becomes orthogersdorffite.

If three or more polymorphs show the same crystal system but different space groups, the space group may be added as a suffix. Such examples are not yet known in mineralogy, and such a nomenclature should be avoided, if possible, as it is very cumbersome.

### Polymorphs showing the same space group

If two polymorphs show the same space group, then the prefix 'para-' should ideally be used to distinguish them, though in some cases below further investigation is required.

- Baumhauerite was defined before baumhauerite II, which is a questionable species with similar chemistry. Both minerals are triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$ , therefore baumhauerite II should ideally be renamed parabaumhauerite, however we decided to keep the name of this questionable mineral unchanged as its restudy is required. 'Baumhauerite-2a', which appeared in the first versions of the CNMNC list of minerals, has recently been redefined and renamed argentobaumhauerite (Topa and Makovicky, 2016).
- Betalomonosovite and lomonosovite have close structural relations, however Sokolova *et al.* (2015) showed that their structural formulae are slightly different. These minerals are both triclinic, space group  $P\overline{I}$ . In order to show the structural relations between these species, and to avoid the use of the prefix 'beta-' which is not used elsewhere in the mineralogical nomenclature, betalomonosovite is renamed as paralomonosovite.
- Lammerite is monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/c$ , and lammerite- $\beta$  is a polymorph having the same space group. Consequently, lammerite- $\beta$  becomes paralammerite.

### Unnecessary polymorph suffixes

Several examples occur where polymorph suffixes are unnecessary. Two situations can be distinguished as follows:

### Minerals with polymorph suffixes but with different chemical compositions

Some mineral names have a polymorph suffix, but cannot be considered as true polymorphs due to distinct chemical compositions. In those cases, we recommend using the prefix 'meta-', which indicates a close but significantly different chemical composition. This prefix can still be used for a mineral with different (generally lower) hydration degrees, as well as the prefix 'hydro-' which indicates a higher hydration degree, compared to the root species.

The prefix meta- is already widely used in mineral nomenclature, where it generally designates two species with different water contents: meta-aluminite, meta-alunogen, meta-autunite, metacalciouranoite, metahaiweeite, metaheinrichite, metahewetmetahohmannite. metakahlerite. metamunirite, tite. metanováčekite, metarauchite, metarossite, metasaléeite, metaschoepite, metasideronatrite, metastudtite, metaswitzerite, metatamboite, metatorbernite, metatyuyamunite, metauramphite, metauranocircite-I, metauranopilite, metauranospinite, metauroxite, metavandendriesscheite, metavanmeersscheite, metavanuralite, metavauxite, metavivianite, metazellerite and metazeunerite.

A few examples exist where the prefix designates minerals with chemical compositions significantly different from those of the root species: metadelrioite, metaköttigite and metaschoderite. The prefix meta- is also used for minerals with the same chemical composition as that of the root species, but with a different crystal structure: metacinnabar, metastibnite, metathénardite and metavariscite. Some of these names were given to denote the thermodynamic metastability of these species.

In addition, this prefix still exists in some species where the root-name has been discredited: meta-ankoleite, metaborite, metakirchheimerite, metalodèvite, metanatroautunite and metavoltine.

The following species are now covered by this guideline and are recommended for renaming though some require further study:

- Nováčekite-I contains 12 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules per formula unit (pfu), nováčekite-II contains 10 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules pfu, and metanováčekite contains 8 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules pfu. Consequently, nováčekite-I is renamed hydronováčekite, and nováčekite-II is renamed nováčekite. The name of metanováčekite remains unchanged, as this species is the weakly-hydrated end-member.
- Joséite-A corresponds to  $Bi_4TeS_2$ , and joséite-B to  $Bi_4Te_2S$ . As joséite-B was the first historically-defined species (Atencio, 2020), it should become joséite, whereas joséite-A should be renamed metajoséite. These minerals were investigated recently by Cook *et al.* (2021), who demonstrated that they are valid species, however their official CNMNC status is still 'question-able'. For that reason, and while waiting for further structural investigations, we decided to keep these names unchanged.
- Rathite-IV is a questionable species, with a chemical composition significantly different from that of rathite. It should ideally become metarathite, but we decided to keep this name unchanged as a structural investigation of this questionable species is necessary.
- Halloysite-10Å and halloysite-7Å are both monoclinic, but due to different hydration degrees, the interlayer distances,  $d_{001} =$  $c.\sin\beta$ , are different. Bailey (1980) recommended adding the approximate value of  $c.\sin\beta$  as a suffix, but this procedure is ill-advised as such suffixes are similar to polytype suffixes. Halloysite-10Å is the most hydrated species, Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>. 2H<sub>2</sub>O, whereas halloysite-7Å is less hydrated, Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>. As halloysite-7Å corresponds to the first historically-defined species (Berthier, 1826), halloysite-7Å is renamed halloysite, and halloysite-10Å is renamed hydrohalloysite.

### Minerals with polymorph suffixes that are no longer necessary

For some minerals, a polymorph suffix exists, though the original un-suffixed root-name does not exist anymore. In those case, we recommend deleting the unnecessary suffix.

The species affected by this guideline are:

- metauranocircite-I that becomes metauranocircite;
- taimyrite-I that becomes taimyrite; and
- uranocircite-II that becomes uranocircite.

#### Polysomatic sequences and related phases

Polysomes are mineral species with distinct chemistries, which are produced by the stacking of different structure modules. Polysomatic symbols have to be placed as a suffix, which indicates the number and types of modules which alternate in the structure. In the högbomite supergroup, such suffixes are used in ferrohögbomite-2N2S, ferronigerite-2N1S, ferronigerite-6N6S, ferrotaaffeite-2N2S, magnesiohögbomite-2N4S, magnesiohögbomite-2N

In the sartorite group, the polysomes are produced by the stacking of the same basic unit with an *a* parameter of 4.2 Å (Topa *et al.*, 2017). The polysomes show the same  $P2_1/c$  symmetry, and suffixes have been added to indicate the number of basic sartorite motifs involved in the stacking sequences. The crystal structures of heptasartorite, enneasartorite and hendeka-sartorite are characterised by the stacking of 7, 9 and 11 basic sartorite motifs, respectively.

In order to prevent any confusion, we recommend using different prefixes for crystal systems and for homologous series. For example, tetra- and hexa- prefixes are used to designate tetragonal and hexagonal crystal systems, however the prefixes quadra- and sena- can be used to distinguish minerals in homologous series.

This nomenclature scheme has been applied in the andorite series.

• Andorite VI and andorite IV are sulfosalts showing modular structures, characterised by the stacking of slabs along the *c* axis producing *c* unit-cell parameter values =  $n \times 4.3$  Å. These names were given by Donnay and Donnay (1954), to indicate the *n* value of four in andorite IV, and of six in andorite VI. Strictly speaking, these minerals cannot be classified as polytypes, but rather as chemical twins; their observed chemical compositions are slightly different (Nespolo *et al.*, 2012). In the literature the prefixed names quatrandorite and senandorite also appear (Moëlo *et al.*, 1984; Nespolo *et al.*, 2012), and recently, arsenquatrandorite was described as an As-rich analogue of andorite IV (Topa *et al.* 2013). We consequently suggest uniformising the nomenclature of the andorite homologous series, by renaming andorite IV as quatrandorite, and andorite VI as senandorite.

### Conclusions

These new guidelines for the nomenclature of polymorphs and polysomes must be followed for new mineral species proposals, when the authors decide to use structural prefixes or suffixes instead of a trivial name, as well as for nomenclature proposals. The guidelines will not be applied systematically to all existing mineral species, as the CNMNC recommends avoiding changing names, especially for grandfathered and well-established species (Hatert *et al.*, 2013). However, a few names have been modified for consistency; the species renamed in this paper are summarised in Table 1. Questionable species joséite-A, joséite-B, rathite-IV and baumhauerite II have not been renamed at this stage as future studies are necessary to clarify their status.

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