



MUSÉUM NATIONAL
D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

Mineralogy

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Behierite

Behierite is a very rare niobium and tantalum borate which is formed in granitic pegmatites. These crystals are of small size (up to 7 mm).

In the deposit of Antsongombato (Madagascar), they were formed in intergrowth with schiavinatoite ((Nb, Ta) BO₄) which is the niobium (Nb)-rich analogue of behierite. The crystals are pseudo-octahedral, of colour pink-grayish.

The famous deposits are Manjaka and Antsongombato in Madagascar and pegmatite Animikie Red Ace (ARA), Pine River in Wisconsin, USA. This last deposit was opened in 2001.

The type of this species is kept at the National Museum of Natural History of Washington, USA (coming from Manjaka in Madagascar).

Identity card

HISTORY : Species dedicated to Jean Béhier (1903-1965), French mineralogist who discovered the species and was the first to describe it.

Species first described in 1960 by Jean Béhier

Type-locality: Manjaka, Antsirabe, Madagascar

CHEMICAL FORMULA : (Ta,Nb) BO₄

CRYSTAL SYSTEM : Tetragonal

COLOR : Pink to pink grayish

DIAPHANIETY : Translucide

LUSTER : Adamantine

STREAK : White

MORPHOLOGIE : Pseudo-octahedric crystals

HARDNESS : 7,0-7,5

DENSITY : 7,91

CHEMICAL CLASS: VI - Sulfates, chromates, tungstates and molybdates

GROUP : Béhierite

STRUNZ CLASS BEFORE 2001 : 5/G.07-20

STRUNZ CLASS AFTER 2001 : 6.AC.10