



MUSÉUM NATIONAL
D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

Mineralogy

Discover the treasures of the Muséum



Calcite

Calcite

MNHN N°194.11

FROM : Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

SIZE : 23 x 19 cm

Calcite

Calcite

MNHN N°194.11

This specimen is made of a chalcedony base in which lays 3 prismatic crystals entwined. The bigger crystal measures 18 cm and 5 cm in diameter.

These crystals show 3 steps of their history: in the middle, there is a well-formed crystal, colorless and gemmeous. A milky white translucent calcite embraces this crystal. The third step is an empty space between the crystal and the calcite coming from a dissolution.

This sample was formed in the basalt of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Acquired thanks to support from Total, it is currently exposed in the Treasure Room, within the Gallery of Mineralogy of the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle

Photography 3D view: Louis-Dominique Bayle, © MNHN.

Identity card

SPECIE : Calcite

HISTORY : Name inspired from the Latin word "calx" meaning burned chalk

Species first described in 1836 by Johann Karl Freiesleben (1774-1846), officer of the mines of Saxony

Type-locality: undefined because species already known from the Ancients

ANCIENT NAME : Spath d'Islande, chaux carbonatée

CHEMICAL FORMULA : Ca CO₃

CRYSTAL SYSTEM : Rhomboedric

COLOR : Colorless, white, color depending on inclusions

DIAPHANIETY : Transparent to opaque

LUSTER : Vitreous, pearly

STREAK : White

MORPHOLOGY : Well-formed crystals common, forming concretions

HARDNESS : 3,0

DENSITY : 2,71

CHEMICAL CLASS : V - Carbonates, nitrates

GROUP : Calcite

STRUNZ CLASS BEFORE 2001 : 5/B.02-20

STRUNZ CLASS AFTER 2001 : 5.AB.05