

# IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC)

## NEWSLETTER I

---

### The early publication of new mineral names: new procedures for the release of new mineral names and publication

S.J. MILLS

Secretary to the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification, the International Mineralogical Association (IMA–CNMNC)  
Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences, University of British Columbia, 6339 Stores Rd, Vancouver BC, Canada, V6T 1Z4

#### ABSTRACT

New procedures are put in place in order to facilitate the dissemination of new mineral names into the public arena. Authors will get the opportunity to select whether the Commission will release the new mineral name upon successful approval in the Commission's monthly newsletter, which will be published in *Mineralogical Magazine*. Authors are also entitled to have the name not released until final publication, i.e. to retain the *status quo*. This will enable citations to be made using the new mineral name until the full description is published. Modifications to the existing rules, on the two-year time frame for new mineral publication, are also outlined.

**KEYWORDS:** new minerals, publication, procedures, IMA–CNMNC.

#### Introduction

THE issue of the early publication of new mineral names has been before the CNMNC (CNMNC) several times over the past decade. Recently, it has become more common for mineral names to be released on the internet – before publication. In 2004, this issue was discussed and voted on (Special Voting Notice 2004–01), but was suspended by the then Chairman Ernst Burke because of strong negative comments he received

from some members at that time. Further discussions on this issue took place at the CNMNC meeting organized for the Mineralogy and Museums 6 Conference in Golden, Colorado, in September 2008. Following the conference, a discussion paper was put to the Commission followed by this proposal which was approved by the CNMNC prior to publication (Voting Proposal 09–D).

#### Current status

Currently, the publication of new minerals is governed by the following rule, as set out by Nickel and Grice (1998):

\* E-mail: [smills@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:smills@eos.ubc.ca)  
DOI: 10.1180/minmag.2010.074.1.179

IMA No. **2009-037**

Black Pine mine, Philipsburg, Granite County, Montana, USA

Stuart J. Mills

 $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{As,Sb})\text{O}_4\text{O}$  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -analogue of zincoliveniteOrthorhombic: *Pnmm*; structure determined $a = 8.6235(7)$ ,  $b = 8.2757(7)$ ,  $c = 5.9501(5)$  Å

5.996(44), 4.884(100), 4.218(69), 2.991(92), 2.669(74), 2.476(85), 2.416(83), 1.582(54)

FIG. 1. Data provided by the CNMNC for approved new minerals.

*“Authors of approved proposals should publish descriptions of the minerals covered by these proposals **within two years** of being notified of the approval by the chairman or vice-chairman. If new-mineral descriptions, discreditations, redefinitions or revalidations are not published within that time, the proposals are no longer considered as approved. Any extensions of this deadline must be approved by the chairman or vice-chairman, as appropriate.”*

As something of a compromise following Special Voting Notice 2004–01, a minimum set of data has been published on the Commission’s website after each mineral has been accepted. This includes IMA number, type locality, name of first author, chemical formula and structural relationship, as well as unit-cell dimensions and strongest lines in the PXRD pattern (Fig. 1).

**New Procedures**

The Commission acknowledges that data on a new mineral are the property of the proposers. The Commission also acknowledges that there is a problem in the dissemination of new mineral names (and data) into the public sphere. To address both of these points, a two-pronged approach is required:

(1) Production of a citable CNMNC document to be referred to as the ‘Commission Newsletter’. This would become a citable version of the current ‘New minerals recently approved by the IMA–CNMNC’. The Newsletter will be published by *Mineralogical Magazine* and will be available also on the CNMNC website.

(2) At the time of submission of a new mineral, the authors of that mineral have the right to:

(a) agree to the release of the new mineral name after approval in the Commission Newsletter;

IMA No. **2009-037****Auriacusite**

Black Pine mine, Philipsburg, Granite County, Montana, USA

Stuart J. Mills, Anthony R. Kampf, Glenn Poirier, Mati Raudsepp and Ian M. Steele

 $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{As,Sb})\text{O}_4\text{O}$  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -analogue of zincoliveniteOrthorhombic: *Pnmm*; structure determined $a = 8.6235(7)$ ,  $b = 8.2757(7)$ ,  $c = 5.9501(5)$  Å

5.996(44), 4.884(100), 4.218(69), 2.991(92), 2.669(74), 2.476(85), 2.416(83), 1.582(54)

Preservation: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (62374), Canadian Museum of Nature (86090)

Corresponding email: smills@eos.ubc.ca

How to cite: Mills, S.J., Kampf, A.R., Poirier, G., Raudsepp, M. and Steele, I.M. (2009)

Auriacusite, IMA2009–037. CNMNC Newsletter 1, *Mineralogical Magazine*, **74**, 179–182.

FIG. 2. The new set of data provided by the CNMNC for approved new minerals (with name released) in the Commission Newsletter.

(b) agree to have the new mineral name omitted from the Commission Newsletter, with only the IMA number present (i.e. to retain the *status quo*).

### Changes to current status

#### Mineral names

As described above, a minimum set of data is disseminated on each new mineral through the Commission website. Five changes are necessary to these data in order to incorporate the addition of the new mineral name (in the event the authors choose this option) (Fig. 2).

- (1) Below the IMA number the new mineral name is given in bold.
- (2) The names of all authors are given, instead of only that of the first author.
- (3) The e-mail address of the corresponding author is also included.
- (4) Place of preservation (and catalogue number) is also included.
- (5) How to cite the new mineral is included as the last line of the abstract.

Should the authors choose not to have the name published, this will be omitted from the Newsletter and the entry would appear as in Fig. 3.

#### Publication within two years

Although the rule on publication of new minerals as stated by Nickel and Grice (1998) is unambiguous, it has not been followed strictly. The following modifications of this rule are as follows:

New mineral descriptions must be **submitted** to an appropriate scientific journal within 2 years of publication.

If two years have passed since approval, the Chairman will contact the corresponding author for information regarding its publication.

An extension (~6–12 months) may be given for the authors to complete this task.

If there are no compelling reasons for publication delay after this time, the mineral will be withdrawn (and noted in the Commission Newsletter) and/or other workers will have the opportunity to submit a proposal and data. The mineral name will also be unable to be used for any subsequent new mineral descriptions (for at least 50 years) if it has been published in the Commission Newsletter. If the name was not released, then it may be used for another new phase.

### Concluding remarks

While we acknowledge that the majority of authors adhere to the Commission's rules, in the past few years, several minerals have been 'outed' before even being acknowledged by the Chairman, several names have been published without the consent of the lead author and many more have been published for the first time on personal websites or in mineral dealers' catalogues. This proposal enables those who wish to do so to have the name of their mineral published officially at the time of announcement. In doing so, secondary sources (some of which produce incorrect information regarding the species) will no longer be the first to publish mineral names.

#### IMA No. **2009-037**

Black Pine mine, Philipsburg, Granite County, Montana, USA

Stuart J. Mills, Anthony R. Kampf, Glenn Poirier, Mati Raudsepp and Ian M. Steele

$\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{As,Sb})\text{O}_4\text{O}$

$\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -analogue of zincolivenite

Orthorhombic: *Pnm*; structure determined

$a = 8.6235(7)$ ,  $b = 8.2757(7)$ ,  $c = 5.9501(5)$  Å

5.996(44), 4.884(100), 4.218(69), 2.991(92), 2.669(74), 2.476(85), 2.416(83), 1.582(54)

Preservation: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (62374), Canadian Museum of Nature (86090)

Corresponding email: smills@eos.ubc.ca

How to cite: Mills, S.J., Kampf, A.R., Poirier, G., Raudsepp, M. and Steele, I.M. (2009) IMA2009-037. CNMNC Newsletter 1, *Mineralogical Magazine*, **74**, 179–182.

FIG. 3. The new set of data provided by the CNMNC for approved new minerals (with IMA number) in the Commission Newsletter.

It is important to note that whether or not a new mineral name is published by the CNMNC, it is still up to the authors to publish a full description of the new mineral.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank all the past and present Commission members who provided me with their

views on this matter, both in person and *via* email.

### **References**

- Nickel, E.H. and Grice, J.D. (1998) The IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names: procedures and guidelines on mineral nomenclature, 1998. *The Canadian Mineralogist*, **36**, 913–926.