

**Agardite-(Y)****(Y, Ca)Cu<sub>6</sub>(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>•3H<sub>2</sub>O**

©2001-2005 Mineral Data Publishing, version 1

**Crystal Data:** Hexagonal. *Point Group:* 6/*m*. Crystals are acicular hexagonal prisms, elongated along [0001], a few mm long, may be stepped or hollow tubes; in radiating fibrous aggregates.

**Physical Properties:** Hardness = n.d. D(meas.) = 3.61–3.72 D(calc.) = 3.66(4)

**Optical Properties:** Semitransparent. *Color:* Blue-green to yellow-green.

*Optical Class:* Uniaxial (+).  $\omega = 1.701\text{--}1.723$   $\epsilon = 1.777\text{--}1.815$

**Cell Data:** *Space Group:* *P*6<sub>3</sub>/*m*. *a* = 13.583(2) *c* = 5.895(2) *Z* = 2

**X-ray Powder Pattern:** Bou Skour mine, Morocco.

11.73 (10), 2.938 (8), 2.451 (8), 4.43 (7), 3.54 (7), 2.692 (6), 2.558 (6)

<b>Chemistry:</b>		(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
As <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	31.50	32.28	RE <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.2	Gd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		0.62
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		0.03	La <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		CuO	45.35	44.50
SiO <sub>2</sub>		0.15	Ce <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		PbO		4.60
Bi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		0.04	Pr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		CaO	2.60	0.65
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		0.20	Nd <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		H <sub>2</sub> O	11.35	[10.47]
Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	7.5	4.08	Sm <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		Total	99.50	[102.18]

(1) Bou Skour mine, Morocco; contains very little malachite and quartz; spectrographic analysis of RE = La 0.01%, Pr, Nd 0.3%, Sm 0.15%, Gd, Tb 0.04%, Dy, Ho, Er 0.01%, Tm, Yb, Lu 0.025%; corresponds to [(Y, RE)<sub>0.38</sub>Ca<sub>0.12</sub>]<sub>Σ=0.50</sub>(Cu<sub>5.86</sub>Ca<sub>0.23</sub>)<sub>Σ=6.09</sub>[(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2.83</sub>(OH)<sub>0.68</sub>]<sub>Σ=3.51</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>•3H<sub>2</sub>O. (2) Santa Lucia mine, Sardinia, Italy; by electron microprobe, H<sub>2</sub>O calculated from stoichiometry; corresponds to (Y<sub>0.38</sub>Pb<sub>0.22</sub>La<sub>0.17</sub>Nd<sub>0.07</sub>Gd<sub>0.04</sub>Al<sub>0.04</sub>Ce<sub>0.03</sub>Pr<sub>0.01</sub>Ca<sub>0.03</sub>)<sub>Σ=0.99</sub>(Cu<sub>5.91</sub>Ca<sub>0.09</sub>)<sub>Σ=6.00</sub>[(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2.97</sub>(SiO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>0.03</sub>]<sub>Σ=3.00</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>•3H<sub>2</sub>O.

**Mineral Group:** Mixite group.

**Occurrence:** In the oxidation zone of some copper deposits.

**Association:** Azurite, malachite, chrysocolla, cuprite, copper, mimetite, quartz.

**Distribution:** In the Bou Skour mine, Djebel Sarhro, Morocco. At Mutoshi, Katanga Province, Congo (Shaba Province, Zaire). From the Luisito mine, Anora, Córdoba Province, Spain. At Schneeberg, Saxony; in the Clara mine, near Oberwolfach, Black Forest, Germany. In France, from the Cap Garonne mine, near le Pradet, Var, and Chessy, near Lyon, Rhône. In Wheal Alfred, Cornwall, England. At the Gwaithyrafon mine, Cwmsymlog, Wales. On Sardinia, Italy, from the Santa Lucia and Sa Duchessa mines, near Iglesias. At Hayasi, Setoda, Ikuchi Island, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan. From Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia. In the USA, from the Tintic district, Juab Co., Utah; in the Mohawk mine, Clark Mountains, San Bernardino Co., California; and at Granite Gap, San Simon district, Hidalgo Co., New Mexico. A few other localities are known but may require confirmation as dominantly yttrian.

**Name:** To honor Jules Agard, geologist, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières, Orléans, France, and dominant *yttrium*.

**Type Material:** Serv. Geol. Maroc, Rabat, Morocco; National School of Mines, Paris, France; The Natural History Museum, London, England, 1978,24.

**References:** (1) Dietrich, J.E., M. Orliac, and F. Permingeat (1969) L'agardite, une nouvelle espèce minérale, et la probléme du chlorotile. Bull. Soc. fr. Minéral., 92, 420–434 (in French with English abs.). (2) (1970) Amer. Mineral., 55, 1447–1448 (abs. ref. 1). (3) Aruga, A. and A. Nakai (1985) Structure of Ca-rich agardite, (Ca<sub>0.40</sub>Y<sub>0.31</sub>Fe<sub>0.09</sub>Ce<sub>0.06</sub>La<sub>0.04</sub>Nd<sub>0.01</sub>)Cu<sub>6.19</sub>[(AsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2.42</sub>(HAsO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>0.49</sub>](OH)<sub>6.38</sub>•3H<sub>2</sub>O. Acta Cryst., C41, 161–163. (4) Olmi, F., C. Sabelli, and G. Brizzi (1988) Agardite-(Y), gysinite-(Nd) and other rare minerals from Sardinia. Mineral. Record, 19, 305–310. (5) Olmi, F., C. Sabelli, and R. Trosti Ferroni (1991) A contribution to the crystal chemistry of mixite group minerals from Sardinia (Italy). Neues Jahrb. Mineral., Monatsh., 487–499.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of Mineral Data Publishing.