Ferropyrosmalite and nomenclature in the pyrosmalite series

IN a recent contribution (Vaughan, 1986), the first reported occurrence of the Fe-rich end member of the pyrosmalite series was described. At the time of publication the question of nomenclature was still being considered by the IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names. This matter has now been resolved by the Commission, and the Fe-rich species described in Vaughan (1986) is designated ferropyrosmalite.

The name pyrosmalite is now reserved as a general name describing the entire series between $Fe_8Si_6O_{15}(OH,Cl)_{10}$ and $Mn_8Si_6O_{15}(OH,Cl)_{10}$. The existing name manganpyrosmalite is retained for the Mn end-member and the Mn-dominant half of series. The new name ferropyrosmalite applies to the Fe end-member and the Fe dominant half of the series. This is a departure from previous usage in which the original name pyrosmalite had come to be applied to the Fe-rich half of the series, and the later name manganpyrosmalite to the Mn-rich half.

The revised nomenclature described herein allows the composition of pyrosmalite to be indicated by name, when the exact composition is known, but also allows a general name when the exact composition is unknown. In this connection it should be noted that in general, optical properties do not allow precise determination of pyrosmalite composition in thin section.

Reference

Vaughan, J. P. (1986) *Mineral. Mag.* **50**, 527–31.

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Department of Mineral Exploration and Mining Geology, Western Australian School of Mines, Kalgoorlie, WA 6430, Australia

J. P. VAUGHAN