

Oulankaite, a new platinum-group mineral from the Lukkulaivaara layered intrusion, northern Karelia, Russia

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Abstract: Oulankaite, ideally $(\text{Pd,Pt})_5(\text{Cu,Fe})_4\text{SnTe}_2\text{S}_2$, is a new mineral species, occurring in pegmatoidal, plagioclase-bearing pyroxenite hosted by a microgabbro-norite in the Early Proterozoic Lukkulaivaara mafic-ultramafic layered intrusion, Oulanka complex, northern Karelia, Russia. The mineral name is for the Oulanka river. The associated minerals include base-metal sulphides (chalcopyrite, bornite, millerite, pentlandite *etc.*), various platinum-group minerals, and an unnamed rhenium-rich sulphide. Typically, oulankaite forms platy inclusions (up to 0.2 x 0.1 mm) in chalcopyrite. Oulankaite is an opaque mineral. In reflected light *in air* it is distinctly strongly bireflectant and pleochroic from yellowish-rose to violet-rose. The anisotropy is typically strong from yellowish-white to bluish-grey. Reflectance data measured *in air* are [R_1 and R_2 % (λ nm)]: 41.6 and 36.2 (470); 48.7 and 41.0 (546); 51.7 and 43.1 (589); 54.0 and 44.6 (650). Reflectance data measured *in oil* are 29.1 and 23.5 (470); 35.2 and 29.5 (546); 37.1 and 30.8 (589); 39.4 and 33.8 (650). Vickers micro-indentation hardness is 156-334, the average is 221 kg/mm² (VHN_{20;40}). The mean of three microprobe analyses gave Pd 41.60, Pt 2.85, Cu 17.53, Fe 2.51, Sn 9.73, Te 21.32, S 4.84, a total of 100.38 wt.%, corresponding to: $(\text{Pd}_{4.86}\text{Pt}_{0.18})_{\Sigma 5.04}(\text{Cu}_{3.43}\text{Fe}_{0.56})_{\Sigma 3.99}\text{Sn}_{1.02}\text{Te}_{2.08}\text{S}_{1.88}$ (on the basis of Σ atoms = 14). The X-ray powder diffraction pattern was indexed for a tetragonal cell with $a = 9.044(3)$ Å, $c = 4.937(3)$ Å, $c:a = 0.5459$, $V = 403.8(5)$ Å³. For $Z = 2$, the calculated density is 10.27(1) g/cm³. The strongest five lines in the X-ray powder pattern are [d in Å (I) (hkl)]: 2.472(10) (311,002); 2.260 (9) (400); 2.022 (6) (420); 1.361 (4) (541); 1.129 (5) (800,533,651).

Key-words: oulankaite, new mineral, platinum-group mineral, Lukkulaivaara, Karelia, Russia.

Introduction

Oulankaite, ideally $(\text{Pd,Pt})_5(\text{Cu,Fe})_4\text{SnTe}_2\text{S}_2$, is a new platinum-group mineral found in the Early Proterozoic (*ca.* 2440 Ma; Barkov, 1992) Lukkulaivaara mafic-ultramafic layered intrusion in the Oulanka complex. The intrusion is

situated in the Russian Karelia, relatively adjacent (*ca.* 50 km) to the border between Russia and Finland. The Oulanka complex is a part of an extensive intrusion belt known in Finland as the Tornio-Näränkäväära belt (*e.g.*, Alapieti *et al.*, 1990). Some geological and mineralogical features of the Lukkulaivaara intrusion were

described by Lavrov (1979), Barkov (1992), Barkov *et al.* (1995a), Barkov *et al.* (1995b), and Barkov *et al.* (1995c).

The new mineral and its name have been approved by the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (90-055), International Mineralogical Association.

Previously, oulankaite was reported as an incompletely characterized phase from the same ore deposit in Lukkulaisvaara (Begizov & Batashev, 1981; Grokhovskaya & Laputina, 1989; Barkov *et al.*, 1994).

The mineral name is for the *Oulanka* (*Olanga* in the Russian spelling of the name) river, which is near the ore deposit.

Type material is deposited at the Fersman Museum, Moscow.

Occurrence and associated minerals

Oulankaite occurs exclusively within sulphide-rich podiform and stringer-like segregations (< 0.5 m in thickness) of pegmatoidal plagioclase-bearing pyroxenite hosted by a sill of microgabbro. The primary mineral chemistry of the

segregations is indistinguishable from that of the host microgabbro (e.g., Barkov *et al.*, 1995a). The pegmatoidal rocks show different extents of alteration, but their primary texture and relics of igneous minerals are typically well preserved. It is of particular interest to note that a quite unusual, highly aluminous mineralization (e.g., staurolite, tschermakite, corundum *etc.*) was identified in the oulankaite-bearing meta-pyroxenite, which normally contains from 4 to 5 wt.% of Al₂O₃ only (Barkov *et al.*, in prep.). It should be noted that the meta-pyroxenite is spatially associated with slightly altered pyroxenite and the fresh microgabbro.

Sulphide minerals account for up to 25 vol. % of the pegmatitic pyroxenite. There are significant variations in the proportions of the sulphide minerals, typically occurring interstitially to orthopyroxene. However, sulphides may also be included within enstatite. Sulphide veinlets observed are considered to be of secondary origin. Chalcopyrite, bornite and millerite are three principal sulphides, but pentlandite may also be present in significant amounts. Members of the linnaeite mineral group, various platinum-group minerals, sphalerite, galena, pyrite and molybdenite are among the accessory minerals. The platinum-group minerals are telargalite,

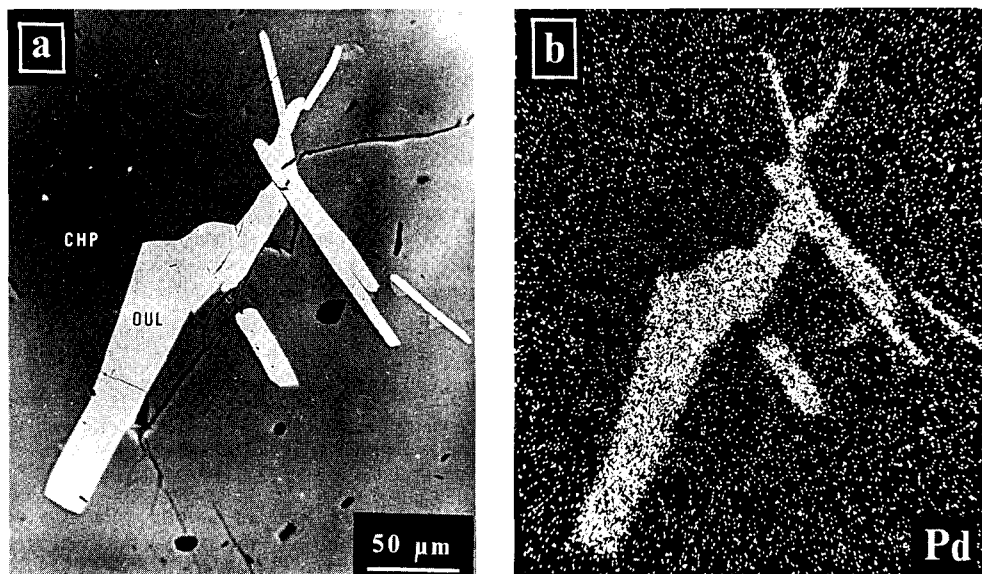


Fig. 1. (a) Secondary electron micrograph of the oulankaite platy crystals (OUL) enclosed within chalcopyrite (CHP); (b) Palladium X-ray scanning micrograph of the same crystals as in Fig. 1a.

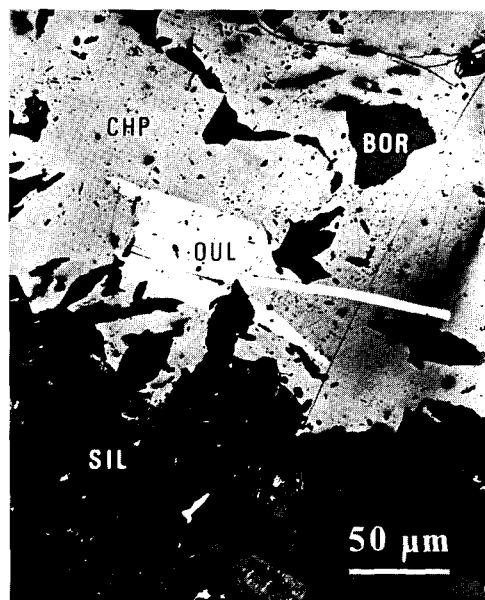


Fig. 2. Photomicrograph of a euhedral oulankaite grain (OUL) located at the boundary between chalcopyrite (CHP) and hydrosilicate (SIL). Note that the hydrosilicate grains cut the oulankaite crystal. BOR = bornite. Partly crossed nicols.

moncheite, kotulskite, tulameenite, sperrylite, taimyrite, atokite-rustenburgite series members, zvyagintsevite, irarsite, telluropalladinite (?) and tarkianite. It is also of interest to note an unnamed rhenium-rich sulphide, $(\text{Cu,Fe})(\text{Re,Mo})_4\text{S}_8$, from the segregations (Barkov & Lednev, 1993).

Appearance, physical and optical properties

Oulankaite is typically present as platy subhedral to euhedral inclusions in chalcopyrite (*e.g.*, Fig. 1). It commonly forms intergrowths with other platinum-group minerals (telargpalite, moncheite, sperrylite, tulameenite and kotulskite), but individual grains of oulankaite are not rare in this occurrence. In addition, several minute irarsite grains (up to 10 μm across) were observed as inclusions within oulankaite. It is notable that some oulankaite grains contain abundant hydrosilicate inclusions and may be cut by the hydrosilicate (*e.g.*, Fig. 2). The

size of the oulankaite grains is highly variable, with the largest grains reaching approximately 0.2 x 0.1 mm.

Vickers microhardness VHN (31 indentations, either 20 or 40 g load) is 221 kg/mm² (range 156-334). Deformed indentations observed in the course of the microhardness measurements reveal microhardness anisotropy.

Oulankaite is distinctly to strongly bireflectant and pleochroic from yellowish-rose to violet-rose. The anisotropy is mainly strong from yellowish-white to bluish-grey. However, some grains exhibit moderate anisotropy. This differ-

Table 1. Reflectance data for oulankaite.

λ nm	R ₁	R ₂	R ₁ *	R ₂ *
	in air		in oil	
400	33.0	31.5	24.3	22.0
420	35.6	33.2	26.1	22.5
440	38.4	34.5	27.0	23.2
460	40.4	35.6	27.7	23.1
470	41.6	36.2	29.1	23.5
480	42.8	36.8	30.7	23.8
500	44.9	38.2	31.8	25.3
520	46.6	39.4	35.0	28.5
540	48.2	40.7	35.0	28.8
546	48.7	41.0	35.2	29.5
560	49.9	41.8	35.9	30.1
580	51.2	42.8	36.7	30.3
589	51.7	43.1	37.1	30.8
600	52.3	43.5	39.0	32.7
620	53.1	44.0	40.7	34.3
640	53.8	44.4	40.1	34.0
650	54.0	44.6	39.4	33.8
660	54.2	44.7	39.2	33.8
680	54.2	44.8	39.1	33.6
700	54.3	45.0	38.5	33.0
Colour values: C illuminant (in oil) *				
	x	y	Y%	Pe% λ_d
R ₁	0.338	0.345	35.9	15.3 577
R ₂	0.341	0.343	29.7	15.3 580

* Courtesy Prof. M. Tarkian, University of Hamburg

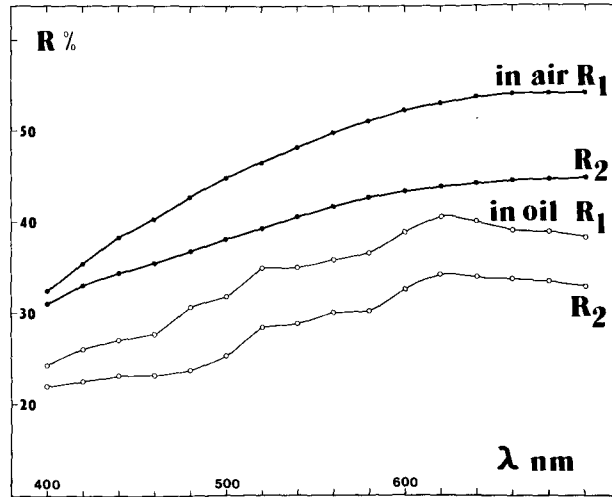


Fig. 3. Spectral reflectance curves of oulankaite measured *in air* (solid circles) and *in oil* (open circles).

ence is ascribed to different optical orientations of the grains in polished sections. In addition, platy oulankaite twins have been observed in some cases.

A MSFP-2 microphotometer and a Si standard (R_{589} *in air* = 35.7 %) were used for reflectance measurements *in air*, and a Zeiss MPM micro-

photometer with a continuous band interference filter and a WTiC standard (R_{589} *in oil* = 35.5 %) were used for measurements *in oil* (M. Tarkian, written comm.). The measurements *in air* and *in oil* were performed on two different grains of oulankaite. The reflectance data are listed in Table 1 and are plotted in Fig. 3.

Table 2. Representative electron microprobe analyses of oulankaite.

	Weight %			Atomic proportions (Σ atoms = 14)			
	1*	2**	3***	1	2	3	
Pd	41.3	42.04	41.45	Pd	4.85	4.93	4.80
Pt	2.6	2.37	3.59	Pt	0.17	0.15	0.23
Cu	17.4	17.45	17.75	Σ	5.02	5.08	5.03
Fe	2.7	2.31	2.52	Cu	3.42	3.42	3.44
Sn	9.6	9.65	9.93	Fe	0.60	0.52	0.56
Te	21.6	21.21	21.16	Σ	4.02	3.94	4.00
S	4.7	4.88	4.93	Sn	1.01	1.01	1.03
Total	99.9	99.91	101.33	Te	2.12	2.07	2.04
				S	1.83	1.90	1.90

* MAR-2 electron microprobe; V.D. Begizov, analyst

** Cameca MS-46 electron microprobe; A.I. Lednev, analyst

*** JEOL JSM-6400 scanning electron microscope equipped with a LINK eXL energy dispersive spectrometer; R.J. Kaukonen, analyst

For analytical conditions and standards used see text

Chemical composition and formula

Several oulankaite grains were analysed using (1) a MAR-2 electron microprobe; analytical conditions were previously given by Begizov & Batashev (1981); (2) a Cameca MS-46 electron microprobe operated at 25 kV with a beam current of 20 nA. The X-ray lines (and standards used) were PdL α (synthetic Pd₃Pb₂), CuK α , FeK α , SK α (CuFeS₂), PtL α , SnL α and TeL α (pure elements); (3) a JEOL JSM-6400 scanning electron microscope equipped with a LINK EXL energy dispersive spectrometer. The results were processed by the ZAF-4 program.

Representative analyses are presented in Table 2. They demonstrate that oulankaite is characterized by a complex composition, with as many as five elements (Pd, Cu, Sn, Te and S) as major constituents of the mineral. Additionally, minor contents of Fe and Pt are constantly present in all the grains analysed.

Empirical formulae of oulankaite can be calculated on the basis of totals of either 7 or 14 atoms per formula unit. If calculated assuming Σ atoms = 7, two probable formulae can be proposed: (Pd,Cu,Sn,Fe,Pt)₅(Te,S)₂ or (Pd,Cu,Sn,Fe,Pt)₅TeS. However, from the point of view of crystal chemistry, it is difficult to expect that Sn substitutes either for Pd or Cu. It is also highly unlikely that Sn replaces both Te and S; it seems reasonable however that there is a minor replacement of S by Te in oulankaite. In this respect, constancy of the Sn contents of oulankaite should be particularly taken into consideration.

Following these arguments, we suggest that the above formula variants should be discarded. On the basis of the new compositional data obtained (e.g., analysis No. 3, Table 2) no reliable evidence in favour of significant substitution of Cu by Pd was found, although such substitution was previously proposed to occur in oulankaite (e.g., Barkov *et al.*, 1994). In addition, rather restricted substitutions of Pt for Pd and Fe for Cu are the most probable in the mineral.

Consequently, we suggest calculating the formula of oulankaite on the basis of either a total of 14 atoms or Sn = 1. Electron microprobe data correspond well to the (Pd,Pt)₅(Cu,Fe)₄SnTe₂S₂ formula (Table 2).

X-ray study

A single-crystal X-ray study of oulankaite could not be carried out on the material available.

Therefore, after the microprobe analyses, oulankaite powder was extracted from a polished section and studied by X-ray powder diffraction, using a 57.3 mm Debye-Scherrer camera, FeK α radiation. The X-ray pattern obtained is presented in Table 3. The pattern was indexed for a tetragonal cell, with the following unit-cell parameters refined by least-squares from the powder data: $a = 9.044(3)$ Å, $c = 4.937(3)$ Å, $c : a = 0.5459$, $V = 403.8(5)$ Å³. Assuming $Z = 2$, the density calculated for a composition given in Table 2 (analysis No. 1) is 10.27(1) g/cm³.

Although the unit cell proposed for oulankaite provides satisfactory indexing of the X-ray powder diffraction pattern and gives a reasonable

Table 3. X-ray powder data for oulankaite

I *	d _{meas.} (Å)	d _{calc.} (Å)	hkl
1	4.940	4.937	001
3	3.330	3.335	201
< 1	3.220	3.197	220
1	3.140	3.129	211
10	2.472	2.475	311
		2.469	002
9	2.260	2.261	400
2	2.101	2.107	212
3	2.056	2.056	401
6	2.022	2.022	420
3	1.870	1.871	421
		1.869	312
2	1.458	1.459	432,502
3	1.430	1.430	620
		1.427	313
4	1.361	1.358	541
3	1.239	1.238	711,551
		1.237	622
5	1.213	1.215	641
		1.212	114
5	1.205	1.206	513
		1.205	721
1	1.182	1.183	632
		1.181	214
1	1.174	1.175	523
5	1.129	1.130	800
		1.129	533
		1.127	651
< 1	1.051	1.054	424
		1.051	750

* Intensities estimated visually

calculated density, a single-crystal study is required to confirm the crystallographic parameters.

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