Balestraite $KLi_2VSi_4O_{10}O_2$

Crystal Data: Monoclinic. *Point Group*: 2/*m*. As tabular crystals to 400 μm.

Physical Properties: *Cleavage*: Perfect on {001}. *Fracture*: Uneven. *Tenacity*: Brittle. Hardness = 2.5-3 D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 2.946

Optical Properties: Transparent. *Color*: Pale yellow, pale gray in transmitted light. *Streak*: n.d. *Luster*: Silky.
Optical Class: Biaxial (-). α = 1.642(2) β = 1.664(2) γ = 1.676(2) 2V(meas.) = 84.4(2)° 2V(calc.) = 72° *Dispersion*: Distinct, ($r < v$).

Cell Data: Space Group: *C*2. a = 5.2024(5) b = 8.9782(7) c = 9.997(2) β = 100.40(2)° Z = 2

X-ray Powder Pattern: Cerchiara mine, Eastern Liguria, Italy.
4.51 (100), 2.592 (70), 2.574 (70), 2.385 (70), 9.9 (50), 1.503 (50), 4.34 (40)

Chemistry:

	(1)
K_2O	11.24
Li_2O	7.20
V_2O_5	21.15
SiO_2	58.46
Total	98.05

(1) Cerchiara mine, Eastern Liguria, Italy; average electron microprobe analysis supplemented by laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry and Raman spectroscopy; corresponds to $K_{0.99}Li_{2.00}V^{5+}_{0.97}Si_{4.04}O_{12}$.

Mineral Group: Mica group.

Polymorphism & Series: 1*M* polytype.

Occurrence: In manganesiferous beds within the metacherts (prehnite-pumpellyite facies) of an ophiolitic sequence.

Association: Hematite, quartz, calcite.

Distribution: From the Cerchiara mine, Eastern Liguria, Italy.

Name: Honors Corrado Balestra (b. 1962), an Italian amateur mineralogist and expert on Ligurian minerals.

Type Material: Natural History Museum, Florence, Italy (3133/I).

References: (1) Lepore, G.O., L. Bindi, A. Zanetti, M.E. Ciriotti, O. Medenbach, and P. Bonazzi (2015) Balestraite, $KLi_2VSi_4O_{10}O_2$, the first member of the mica group with octahedral V^{5+}. Amer. Mineral., 100, 608-614.