Eckerite Ag<sub>2</sub>CuAsS<sub>3</sub>

**Crystal Data**: Monoclinic. *Point Group*: 2/m. As grains to 300  $\mu$ m.

**Physical Properties**: *Cleavage*: None. *Fracture*: Irregular. *Tenacity*: Brittle. Hardness = 2.5-3 VHN = 70 (25 g load). D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 5.313

**Optical Properties**: Transparent to opaque. *Color*: Red. *Streak*: Orange-red.

Luster: Adamantine to metallic.

Optical Class: n.d. Pleochroism: Weak, light gray to slightly bluish gray.

Anisotropism: Weak, grayish to light blue.

R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>2</sub>: (471.1) 27.6-31.7, (548.3) 22.8-26.1, (586.6) 21.5-24.5, (652.3) 19.4-22.3

**Cell Data**: *Space Group*: C2/c. a = 11.8643(3) b = 6.2338(1) c = 16.6785(4)  $\beta = 110.842(3)^{\circ}$  Z = 8

**X-ray Powder Pattern**: Lengenbach quarry, Binn Valley, Valais, Switzerland. 2.941 (100), 2.776 (80), 3.336 (70), 2.134 (50), 2.677 (40), 2.084 (40), 2.076 (40)

Chemistry:	(1)	(2)
Ag	52.08	47.90
Cu	11.18	14.11
Pb	0.04	
Sb	0.29	
As	15.28	16.63
S	20.73	21.36
Total	99.60	100.00

(1) Lengenbach quarry, Binn Valley, Valais, Switzerland; average of 5 electron microprobe analyses; corresponding to  $Ag_{2,24}Cu_{0.82}As_{0.94}Sb_{0.01}S_{2.99}$ . (2)  $Ag_2CuAsS_3$ .

**Occurrence**: In massive to interstitial sulfosalt accumulations in dolostones metamorphosed to upper greenschist to lower amphibolite facies.

Association: Realgar, sinnerite, hatchite, trechmannite, smithite, dolomite.

**Distribution**: From the Lengenbach quarry, Binn Valley, Valais, Switzerland.

Name: Honors Markus Ecker (b. 1966), an expert on the minerals of Lengenbach quarry.

**Type Material**: Natural History Museum, University of Florence, Italy (3144/I) and the Natural History Museum, University of Basil, Switzerland (S169).

**References**: (1) Bindi, L., F. Nestola, S. Graeser, P. Tropper, and T. Raber (2015) Eckerite, Ag<sub>2</sub>CuAsS<sub>3</sub>, a new Cu-bearing sulfosalt from Lengenbach quarry, Binn Valley, Switzerland: description and crystal structure. Mineral. Mag., 79(3), 687-694. (2) (2016) Amer. Mineral., 101, 1491 (abs. ref. 1).