Esquireite BaSi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O

**Crystal Data**: Monoclinic. *Point Group*: 2. As rectangular blades, elongated and striated parallel to [010] and flattened on {001}. Crystals display prominent {001} bounded by {100} and {011}. *Twinning*: Common on {001}.

**Physical Properties**: Cleavage: Perfect on  $\{001\}$ , fair on  $\{100\}$ . Fracture: Irregular. Tenacity: Brittle, somewhat flexible. Hardness =  $\sim 2$  D(meas.) = 2.18(2) D(calc.) = 2.237

**Optical Properties**: Transparent. *Color*: Colorless. *Streak*: White. *Luster*: Vitreous to pearly. *Optical Class*: Biaxial (+).  $\alpha = 1.477$   $\beta = 1.481$   $\gamma(\text{calc.}) = 1.492$   $2V(\text{meas.}) = 63.8(6)^{\circ}$  *Orientation*: Y = b;  $Z \land c \approx 22^{\circ}$  (obtuse  $\beta$ ). *Pleochroism*: None.

**Cell Data**: *Space Group*: *C*2. a = 13.601(4) b = 4.9222(10) c = 16.092(5)  $\beta = 111.578(19)^{\circ}$  Z = 2

**X-ray Powder Pattern**: Esquire #1 claim, near Rush Creek, Fresno County, California, USA. 4.191 (100), 4.649 (66), 3.339 (65), 7.02 (38), 2.261(35), 5.11 (33), 2.343 (33)

| Chemistry:       | (1)     | (2)    |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| BaO              | 25.65   | 23.96  |
| $\mathrm{SiO}_2$ | 63.60   | 56.33  |
| $H_2O$           | [22.41] | 19.71  |
| Total            | 111.66  | 100.00 |

(1) Esquire #1 claim, near Rush Creek, Fresno County, California, USA.; average of 6 electron microprobe analyses, H<sub>2</sub>O calculated from structure; corresponds to Ba<sub>0.95</sub>Si<sub>6.00</sub>O<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14.10</sub>.
(2) BaSi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O.

**Occurrence**: Formed by low-temperature hydrothermal alteration of sanbornite, during contact metamorphism of Ba-rich sediments.

**Association**: Cerchiaraite-(Al), kampfite, macdonaldite, pyrrhotite, quartz, titantaramellite, traskite, witherite, opal (Esquire #1 claim); fencooperite, gillespite, macdonaldite, quartz, titantaramellite, witherite, opal (Trumbull Peak).

**Distribution**: From the Esquire #1 claim, near Rush Creek and the Esquire #8 claim, on Big Creek, eastern Fresno County and on the NW slope of Trumbull Peak, Mariposa County, California, USA.

Name: Named for the Esquire #1 claim, where the first specimens were collected.

**Type Material**: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, USA (64540-64543 from the Esquire #1 claim and 64544 from Trumbull Peak).

**References**: (1) Kampf, A.R., R.M. Housley, G.E. Dunning, and R.E. Walstrom (2015) Esquireite, BaSi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O, a new layer silicate from the barium silicate deposits of California. Can. Mineral., 53(1), 3-12. (2) (2016) Amer. Mineral., 101, 2356-2357 (abs. ref. 1).