Grootfonteinite Pb₃O(CO₃)₂

Crystal Data: Hexagonal. Point group: 6/m 2/m 2/m. As platy grains to 2 mm and in aggregates.

Physical Properties: Cleavage: Perfect on $\{001\}$. Tenacity: Brittle. Fracture: Uneven. Hardness = ~ 2 VHN = 48.7-66.1, 55.3 average (20 g load). D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 6.856

Macroscopically, grootfonteinite, plumbonacrite, hydrocerussite, and abellaite look very similar, typically forming aggregates of platy, lustrous and colorless crystals. Reliable differentiation requires X-ray diffraction, possibly combined with electron microprobe analysis.

Optical Properties: Translucent. *Color*: Colorless, gray in reflected light with white internal reflections. *Streak*: White. *Luster*: Adamantine. *Optical Class*: n.d. *Bireflectance*: Very weak.

B. B. (400) 11.7.13.0 (420) 11.4.13.6 (440) 11.1.13.3 (460) 10.0.13.1 (470) 10.8.13.0

 R_1 - R_2 : (400) 11.7-13.9, (420) 11.4-13.6, (440) 11.1-13.3, (460) 10.9-13.1, (470) 10.8-13.0, (480) 10.7-12.9, (500) 10.6-12.8, (520) 10.5-12.7, (540) 10.5-12.6, (546) 10.5-12.6, (580) 10.4-12.5, (589) 10.3-12.5, (600) 10.3-12.4, (620) 10.3-12.4, (640) 10.2-12.3, (650) 10.2-12.3, (660) 10.2-12.2, (680) 10.2-12.2, (700) 10.2-12.1

Cell Data: *Space Group*: $P6_3/mmc$. a = 5.303(1) c = 13.770(3) Z = 2

X-ray Powder Pattern: Kombat mine, Grootfontein district, Otjozondjupa region, Namibia. 3.244 (100), 2.053 (39), 2.652 (30), 4.586 (25), 2.294 (21), 2.627 (12), 4.353 (9)

	(1)	(2)
Na	0.92	
Ca	0.26	
Pb	79.66	82.05
O	16.28	14.78
C	[3.49]	3.17
H	[0.05]	<u> </u>
Total	100.66	100.00

(1) Kombat mine, Grootfontein district, Otjozondjupa region, northern Namibia; average of 10 electron microprobe analyses, supplemented by IR spectroscopy, C calculated from stoichiometry, H for charge balance; corresponds to $H_{0.345}Na_{0.275}Ca_{0.045}Pb_{2.645}C_2O_7$. (2) $Pb_3O(CO_3)_2$.

Occurrence: A product of the regional metamorphism of a Pb-Mn-(As-Ba)-rich, chemically heterogeneous, volcanic-hydrothermal assemblage.

Association: Jacobsite, cerussite, dolomite, clinochlore, hausmannite, melanotekite, sahlinite, rhodochrosite, barite.

Distribution: From the Kombat mine, Grootfontein district, Otjozondjupa region, northern Namibia.

Name: For the *Grootfontein* district, in which the mine that provided the first specimens is located.

Type Material: Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden (20080176).

References: (1) Siidra, O.I., E. Jonsson, N.V. Chukanov, D.O. Nekrasova, I.V. Pekov W. Depmeier, Y.S. Polekhovsky, and V.O. Yapaskurt (2018) Grootfonteinite, Pb₃O(CO₃)₂, a new mineral species from the Kombat Mine, Namibia, merotypically related to hydrocerussite. Eur. J. Mineral., 30(2), 383-391. (2) (2018) Amer. Mineral., 103, 2041-2042 (abs. ref. 1).