

Oftedalite



Crystal Data: Hexagonal. *Point Group:* 6/m 2/m 2/m. As prismatic hexagonal composite crystals displaying prominent {101̄ 0} and {0001}; intergrown with Sc-rich milarite.

Physical Properties: *Cleavage:* Poor on {0001}. *Fracture:* Conchoidal. *Tenacity:* Brittle. *Hardness* = 6 D(meas.) = n.d. D(calc.) = 2.61

Optical Properties: Translucent. *Color:* Grayish white. *Streak:* Colorless. *Luster:* Vitreous. *Optical Class:* Uniaxial (-). $\omega = 1.556(2)$ $\epsilon = 1.553(2)$ *Pleochroism:* None.

Cell Data: *Space Group:* P6/mcc. $a = 10.097(1)$ $c = 13.991(2)$ Z = 2

X-ray Powder Pattern: Heftetjern pegmatite, Telemark county, southern Norway. 3.229 (100), 2.880 (80), 4.097 (70), 5.044 (50), 3.504 (50), 7.012 (40), 1.836 (40)

Chemistry:

| | (1) |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| SiO ₂ | 73.32 |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 0.47 |
| Sc ₂ O ₃ | 6.77 |
| Y ₂ O ₃ | 0.36 |
| FeO | 0.26 |
| MnO | 1.32 |
| CaO | 4.49 |
| K ₂ O | 4.71 |
| BeO | [7.41] |
| Total | 99.11 |

(1) Heftetjern pegmatite, Telemark county, southern Norway; average of 10 electron microprobe analyses, corresponds to $(\text{Sc}_{0.96}\text{Ca}_{0.79}\text{Mn}_{0.18}\text{Fe}_{0.04}\text{Y}_{0.03})_{\Sigma=2.00}\text{K}_{0.98}(\text{Be}_{2.91}\text{Al}_{0.09})_{\Sigma=3.00}\text{Si}_{11.98}\text{O}_{30}$.

Polymorphism & Series: Forms a series with milarite.

Mineral Group: Milarite group.

Occurrence: In a complex granitic pegmatite.

Association: Sc-rich milarite, tourmaline, yttrian milarite, bazzite, thortveitite, kristiansenite, bertrandite.

Distribution: From the Heftetjern pegmatite, ~ 4.3 km NW of Tørdal, Telemark county, southern Norway.

Name: Honors Ivar Oftedal (1894-1976), former Professor of Mineralogy, Institute of Geology, University of Oslo, for his work on the geochemistry of scandium and on the mineralogy of the Tørdal pegmatites.

Type Material: The Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (H04/98) and at the Steiermärkisches Landesmuseum, Graz, Austria.

References: (1) Cooper, M.A., F.C. Hawthorne, N.A. Ball, P. Černý, and R. Kristiansen (2006) Oftedalite, $(\text{Sc},\text{Ca},\text{Mn}^{2+})_2\text{K}(\text{Be},\text{Al})_3\text{Si}_{12}\text{O}_{30}$, a new member of the milarite group from the Heftetjern pegmatite, Tørdal, Norway: description and crystal structure. *Can. Mineral.*, 44, 943-949.
(2) (2006) *Amer. Mineral.*, 91, 1948 (abs. ref. 1).