Crystal Data: Hexagonal. *Point Group:* $\bar{3}\ 2/m$. In minute crystals, platy or finely parallel fibrous, in botryoidal crusts, to 0.5 cm; may be interstratified with other layer-structure minerals.

Physical Properties: *Cleavage:* {0001}, perfect. *Fracture:* Conchoidal. Hardness = 3.5
D(meas.) = 4.00 D(calc.) = 3.95

Optical Properties: Translucent. *Color:* Emerald-green to blue-green; pale green in thin section. *Streak:* Pale green. *Luster:* Vitreous.
Optical Class: Uniaxial (+); birefringence very weak. *Pleochroism:* Weak. ω = 1.759–1.760
ϵ = 1.759–1.760

Cell Data: *Space Group:* $P\bar{3}m1$ (synthetic). $a = 3.131$ $c = 4.608$ Z = 1

X-ray Powder Pattern: Vermion district, Greece.
2.335 (100), 4.61 (95), 1.755 (50), 2.708 (30), 1.563 (25), 1.480 (18), 1.336 (10)

Chemistry:

	(1)	(2)
NiO	80.21	80.57
H_2O	19.30	19.43
Total	99.51	100.00

(1) Vermion district, Greece; by electron microprobe, H_2O by the Penfield method. (2) $Ni(OH)_2$.

Occurrence: As coatings in chromitite in lenses in serpentinites (Vermion district, Greece); on chromitite (Hagdale quarry, Scotland).

Association: Magnetite, chromite, millerite, vesuvianite, chlorite, andradite–grossular, nickeliferous serpentine minerals, calcite (Vermion district, Greece); zaratite, reevesite, honessite, hydrohonessite (Hagdale quarry, Scotland).

Distribution: From the Vermion district, 50 km west of Thessalonike, Macedonia, Greece. In the Hagdale quarry, Unst, Shetland Islands, Scotland. At the Lord Brassey mine, Heazlewood, Tasmania, Australia.

Name: For Theophrastus, (ca. 371 BC–ca. 287 BC), the first Greek mineralogist.

Type Material: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA, 148460.

References: (1) Marcopoulos, T. and M. Economou (1981) Theophrastite, $Ni(OH)_2$, a new mineral from northern Greece. Amer. Mineral., 66, 1020–1021. (2) Livingstone, A. and D. Bish (1982) On the new mineral theophrastite, a nickel hydroxide, from Unst, Shetland, Scotland. Mineral. Mag., 46, 1–5.