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Mineral Names from Toponyms

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Abstract

Of the nearly 1,500 minerals which have names commonly used among English-speaking geologists, approximately one fifth bear names derived from placenames, usually those places at which or near where the mineral was first found or is found in significant amounts. A complete list of the names of these minerals shows that places in Europe have contributed nearly half of these names and the Americas another fourth.

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Common rocks and minerals have been recognized by man from Neolithic times if not earlier, and the Classical world was familiar with copper, gold, tin, iron, and other metals. From the Middle Ages onwards interest in the composition of the earth's crust quickened, and both geological exploration and the investigation of mineral differences advanced swiftly. Hundreds of new terms were needed to describe and identify the freshly discovered minerals. Many of these terms have survived though a number have been discarded either because of duplication or because advances in knowledge have rendered them obsolete.[1] According to Dana (221) approximately 1,500 *bona fide* species of minerals exist though only 200 or so are common or of economic importance. At least 20% of the total, at least of those among English-speaking geologists, bear names based on toponyms.

It would seem that mineral terminology was concocted in one of four ways: (1) by adding the suffix *-ite*[2] to the surname of the first person to identify or discover or describe the mineral in question; (2) by adding the ending *-ite* (or more rarely *-ine*) to the name (or a shortened form of the name) of the place where the mineral was first discovered; (3) by using Latin or Greek roots which define the chemical composition of the mineral or describe its characteristics; or (4) by some other way. Here are typical examples of each of these four categories.

(1) The mineral *Andrewsite* derived its name from Thomas Andrews (1813-85), the Irish chemist who first recognized it.

(2) *Salite* was first discovered at Sala, in Vastmahland County in central Sweden, a district which was once renowned as a silver-, lead-,

and zinc-mining center. Similarly *fichtelite* owes its name to Fichtelgebirge, a mountain knot on the Czechoslovakian-German border at the junction of the Bohemian Forest, the Thuringian Forest, and the Franconian Jura: this area was a mining center for silver, lead, copper, zinc, tin, and gold in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

(3) Thucolite, one example of the third way that minerals are labeled, received its name from the symbols for thorium (Th), uranium (U), Carbon (C), and oxygen (O), plus *-lite* (from Greek *lithos* 'a stone'). Its green color (Greek *chlóros* 'greenish yellow') lent its name to *chlorite. Mimetite* comes from Greek *mimétés* 'imitator,' because of its remarkable resemblance to pyromorphite. *Eosphorite* is a rose-pink mineral whose name is derived from Greek *heósphoros* 'bringer of dawn.'

(4) Some mineral names were composed by combining descriptive adjectives or phrases with existing mineral terms, e. g., *white pyrites, toad's eye tin, specular hematite, smoky quartz, silver glance*. Often these names have more technical equivalents (e.g. *smoky quartz* is also known as *morion*). Alternatively existing names might be qualified by a toponym – or by a phrase of association – so as to emphasize the chemical distinctiveness of a particular variety of the mineral. For example, *barytocalcite (of Brook)* is quite different from *barytocalcite (of Johnston)*, and *Brazilian emerald* is totally distinct from other varieties of that gem. *Amelia albite* (from Amelia County in Virginia) is distinct from other albites. In other cases existing mineral names were combined, by prefix or otherwise, to describe intermediate chemical compositions (e.g. *analcimitetinguaite, barytocalcite, calcio-ancylite, magnesiochromite, siderophyllite,* and the like).

These four methods seem to have been employed in roughly even proportions. The present paper is concerned with those which fit into category (2) above. A surprisingly large number of these exist, but their etymology is often quite elusive. Some of the more common instances are listed alphabetically, by continent on the following pages.

Mineral Name	Associated Toponym
EUROPE	
Alalite	Ala Valley, Trento, Italy
Alboranite	El Alborán, Spain
Algarvite	Algarve, Portugal
Allalinite	Allanin, Penine Alps, Switzerland
Allochetite	Allochet, South Tyrol, Austria
Anchorite	Anchor Inn, Warwickshire, England
Arsoite	Aro, Ischia, Italy

Aschaffite	Aschaffenburg, Bavaria, Germany
Astite	Cima d'Asta Peak, Dolomites, Italy
Atlantite	Atlantic Ocean, Europe
Avezakite	Avezac-Prat, Pyrenees, France
Aviolite	Monte Aviolo, Alps, Italy
Barshawite	Barshaw, Paisley, Scotland
Bavenite	Baveno, Piedmont, Italy
Bielenite	Biele Valley, Moravia, Czechoslovakia
Birkremite	Birkrem, Norway
Birnessite	Birness, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Braccianite	Lake Bracciano, Latium, Italy
Bromlite	Bromley Hill, Cumberland, England
Buchonite	Buchonia, Fulda, Germany
Cavalorite	Monte Cavaloro, Bologna, Italy
Cervantite	Cervantes, Italy
Chessylite	Chessy, France
Ciminite	Monti Cimini, Italy
Clausthalite	Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Hanover, Germany
Columbretite	Columbretes Islands, Spain
Comendite	Comende, San Pietro Islands, Sicily, Italy
Coppaelite	Coppaeli 'di Soto, Italy
Corkite	Cork County, Ireland
Cornubianite	Cornubia (Lat.) = Cornwall, England
Cornwallite	Cornwall, England
Cossyrite	Cossyra (Gk.) = Pantelleria Is., Sicily, Italy
Cumbraite	Great Cumbrae, Scotland
Cuselite	Cusel, Saar, Germany
Cuspidine	Cuspidine, Italy
Dannemorite	Dannemora, Sweden
Dellenite	Dellen, Sweden
Dorgalite	Dorgali, Sardinia, Italy
Drakonite	Drachenfels, Germany
Durbachite	Durbach, Germany
Edolite	Edolo, Italy
Epsomite	Epsom, England
Erinite	Erin (= Ireland)
Espichellite	Cape Espichel, Setubal, Portugal
Esterellite	Estérel, Var, France
Farrisite	Lough Farris, Oslo, Norway
Fiasconite	Montefiascone, Italy
Fichtelite	Fichtelgebirge, Czechoslovakia
Fontainbleau Sandstone	Fontainbleau, France
Fortunite	Fortuna, Murcia, Spain
Freibergite	Freiberg, Saxony, Spain
Gauteite	Gauté, Czechoslovakia
Germanite	Germania (Lat.) = Germany
Giumarrite	Giumarra, Sicily, Italy
Goslarite	Goslar, Brunswick, Germany
Grochauite	Grochów, Warsaw, Poland

Hamrongite	Hamrånge, Sweden
Hedrumite	Hedrum, Norway
Heumite	Heum, Norway
Hirnantite	Hirnant, Wales
Holmite	Holm, Orkney Islands, Scotland
Holmium	Holmia (Lat.) = Stockholm, Sweden
Husebyite	Huseby, Oslo, Norway
Ijolite	Ijo River, Finland
Ilvaite	Ilva (Lat.) = Elba, Italy
Jacobsite	Jacobsberg, Sweden
Jarosite	Barranco Jaroso, Spain
Jumillite	Jumilla, Murcia, Spain
Juvite	Juvet, Norway
Kakirite	Lake Kakir, Lapland, Sweden
Kamperite	Kamperhough Valley, Norway
Karinthine (also Carinthine)	Carinthia, Austria
Katzenbuckelite	Katzenbuckel, Odenwald, Germany
Kersantite	Kersanton, France
Kirunavaarite	Kirunavaara, Sweden
Kinzigite	Kinzig River, Black Forest, Germany
Kullaite	Kullagarden, Lund, Sweden
Kutnahorite	Kutna Hora, Prague, Czechoslovakia
Kvellite	Kvelle, Larvik, Norway
Laanilite	Laanila, Finland
Lakarpite	Lakarp, Sweden
Langbanite	Långban, Sweden
Larvikite	Larvik, Norway
Latiumite	Latium, Italy
Laugenite	Laugendal, Norway
Lavenite	Laven Island, Langesund Fjord, Norway
Leadhillite	Leadhills, Lanarkshire, Scotland
Ledmorite	Ledmore River, Sutherland, Scotland
Lherzite	Lherz, Spain
Linarite	Linares, Spain
Lindoite	Lindö, Norway
Lizardite	Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, England
Loelingite	Lölling, Austria
Lublinite	Lublin, Poland
Lujavrite	Lujavr Urt, Lapland, Sweden
Lusitanite	Lusitania (Lat.) = Portugal
Macedonite	Macedonia (Lat.) = Central Balkans
Madeirite	Madeira Islands, Portugal
Maenaite	Maena, Kristiana, Norway
Mafrite	Mafra, Cintra, Portugal
Manganandalusite	Andalusia, Spain
Mangerite	Manger Parish, Kalsaas, Norway
Mareugite	Mareuge, Auvergne, France
Melteigite	Melteig, Norway
Menaccanite	Manaccan, Cornwall, England
Menilite	Menilmontant Parish, Paris, France

Miemite	Miemo, Tuscany, Italy
Milarite	Val Milar, Switzerland
Moldavite	Moldau River (= Ultava R.) Czechoslovakia
Montebrasite	Montebras, France
Mossite	Moss, Norway
Mottramite	Mottram St. Andrew, Cheshire, England
Nagyágite	Nagyág (Hungarian) = Sacarambu, Rumania
Navite	Nava (Lat.) = Nahe River, Saar, Germany
Nonesite	Nonsburg, Austria
Norbergite	Norberg, Sweden
Odinite	Odenwald, Germany
Ollenite	Col d'Ollen, Piedmont, Italy
Ottajanite	Ottaiano (= Ottaviano), Italy
Ottrelite	Ottrez, Belgium
Pandermite	Panderma (= Bandirma), Turkey
Parsettensite	Parsettens Mt., Switzerland
Penninite	Pennine Alps, Italy/Switzerland
Piedmontite	Piedmont, Italy
Pinite	Pini Mine, Saxony, Germany
Plauenite	Plauen, Erzgebirge, Saxony, Germany
Predazzite	Predazzo, Italy
Quercyite	Quercy, France
Rapakivi Granite	Rapakivi, Finland
Ricolettaite	Ricoletta, Tyrol, Austria
Rosasite	Rosas Mine, Sardinia, Italy
Routivarite	Routivara, Lapland, Sweden
Salite	Sala, Sweden
Sassolite	Sasso, Tuscany, Italy
Scawtite	Scawt Hill, County Antrim, Ireland
Schonfelsite	Altschönsfels, Saxony, Germany
Schriesheimite	Schriesheim, Heidelberg, Germany
Skomerite	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
Skutterudite	Skutterud, Norway
Soggendalite	Soggendal, Norway
Solfatára	Solfatára, Campania, Italy
Solvsbergite	Sölvsborg, Norway
Sylvanite	Transylvania, Rumania
Tavolatite	Osteria de Tavolato, Italy
Thuringite	Thuringia, Germany
Timazite	Timok Valley, Yugoslavia
Tinzenite	Tinzen, Switzerland
Tollite	Töll, Tyrol, Austria
Tonsbergite	Tönsberg, Norway
Toscanite	Tuscany, Italy
Trowlesworthite	Trowlesworthy, Devon, England
Tyrolite	Tyrol, Austria
Valbellite	Val Bello, Piedmont, Italy
Valencianite	Valencia, Spain

Variscite	Variscia (Mid. Lat.) = Vogtland, Saxony, Germany
Vaugnerite	Vaugneray, France
Verite	Vera, Cabo de Gata, Spain
Vintlite	Vintl, Tyrol, Austria
Viséite	Visé, Belgium
Vulpinite	Vulpino, Lombardy, Italy
Vulsinite	Vulsinia, Bolsena, Italy
Weiselbergite	Weiselberg, Saar, Germany
Wennebergite	Wenneberg, Germany
Wichtisite	Wichtis Parish, Finland

AMERICAS

Alleghanyite	Allegheny Mountains, Virginia, USA
Amazonite (Amazon Jade)	Amazon River, Brazil
Arizonite	Arizona, USA
Arkansite	Arkansas, USA
Arquerite	Arqueros, Chile
Bahiaite	Bahia Province, Brazil
Beaverite	Beaver County, Utah, USA
Bebedourite	Bebedouro, Salitre Mountains, Brazil
Belugite	Beluga River, Alaska, USA
Bermudite	Bermudas
Blairmorite	Blairmore, Calgary, Canada
Boleite	Boleo, Santa Rosalia, Mexico
Brazilianite	Brazil
Bytownite	Bytown (Ottawa) Canada
Canadite	Canada
Carmeloite	Carmelo Bay, California, USA
Carrollite	Carroll County, Maryland, USA
Cascadite	Cascade Creek, Montana, USA
Catawberite	Catawba River, South Carolina, USA
Cebollite	Cebolla Creek, Arizona, USA
Cecilite	Cecil County, Maryland, USA
Cocinerite	Cocinera Mine, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Colusite	Colusa Butte, Montana, USA
Congressite	Congress Bluff, Ontario, Canada
Coronadite	Coronado, Arizona, USA
Cosalite	Cosalá, Sinaloa, Mexico
Covite	Magnet Cove, Ozark Mountains, Arizona, USA
Craigmontite	Craigmont Mountain, Ontario, Canada
Cubanite	Cuba
Cumberlandite	Cumberland, Rhode Island, USA
Cummingtonite	Cummington, Hampshire County, Mass., USA
Cuyamite	Cuyamas Valley, California, USA
Danburite	Danbury, Connecticut, USA
Deldoradite	Deldorado Creek, California, USA
Devonite	Mount Devon, Madison County, Missouri, USA
Diaboleite	Boleo, Santa Rosalia, California, USA
Durangite	Durango State, Mexico

Eastonite	Easton, Pennsylvania, USA
Edenite	Edenville, New York, USA
Elkhornite	Elkhorn, Montana, USA
Esmeraldite	Esmeralda County, Nevada, USA
Famatinite	Sierra de Famatina, Argentina
Galaxite	Galax, Virginia, USA
Gooderite	Gooderham, Ontario, Canada
Goshenite	Goshen, Massachusetts, USA
Guanajuatite	Guanajuato, Sierro Madre, Mexico
Hardystonite	Hardyston, New Jersey, USA
Hebronite	Hebron, Maine, USA
Hectorite	Hector, California, USA
Heronite	Heron Bay, Lake Superior, USA
Highwoodite	Highwood Peak, Montana, USA
Hilairite	Mount St. Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
Holyokeite	Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA
Impsonite	Impson Valley, Oklahoma, USA
Itabirite	Itabira, Brazil
Joseite	Sao José do Paraiso, Minas Gerais, Brazil
Josephinite	Josephine County, Oregon, USA
Kernite	Kern County, California, USA
Labradorite	Labrador, Canada
Lansfordite	Lansford, Pennsylvania, USA
Malignite	Maligna River, Ontario, Canada
Mariposite	Mariposa County, California, USA
Marmatite	Marmato, Central Colombia
Matildite	Matilda Mine, Morococha, Peru
Montrealite	Montreal, Canada
Montroseite	Montrose County, California, USA
Mordenite	Morden, Nova Scotia, Canada
Nelsonite	Nelson County, Virginia, USA
Nesquehonite	Nesquehoning, Lansford, Pennsylvania, USA
Northfieldite	Northfield, Massachusetts, USA
Ouachitite	Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas, USA
Ozarkite	Ozark Mountains, Arkansas, USA
Perthite	Perth, Ontario, Canada
Rougemontite	Rougemont, Quebec, Canada
Rouvillite	Rouville County, Quebec, Canada
Sauconite	Upper Saucon, Pennsylvania, USA
Shackanite	Shackan, British Columbia, Canada
Stewartite	Stewart Mine, Pala, California, USA
Sudburite	Sudbury, Ontario, Canada
Sussexite	Sussex County, New Jersey, USA

Tordrillite	Tordrillo Mountain, Alaska, USA
Uintahite	Uintah Valley, Utah, USA
Uncompahgrite	Uncompahgre Valley, Colorado, USA
Utahlite	Utah, USA
Vredenburgite	Vredenburgh, Alabama, USA
Windsorite	Windsor, Vermont, USA
Yamaskite	Mt. Yamaska, Quebec, Canada
Zunyite	Zuni Mine, San Juan County, Colorada, USA

ASIA

Altaite	Altai Mountains, USSR
Alushtite	Alushta, Crimea, USSR
Ambonite	Ambon, Moluccas, Indonesia
Batukite	Batuku, Celebes, Indonesia
Beresite	Beresovsk, Ural Mountains, USSR
Beresofite	Beresovsk, Ural Mountains, USSR
Beringite	Bering Island, Komandorskiye Archipelago, USSR
Bjerezite	Bjerez River, Siberia, USSR
Boninite	Bonin Islands, Japan
Ceylonite	Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
Chinglusite	Chinglusuai River, Kola Peninsula, USSR
Chkalovite	Chkalov, Kola Peninsula, USSR
Cocite	Coc Pia, Vietnam
Dahamite	Dahamis, Indian Ocean
Dashkesanite	Dashkesan, Azerbaijan, USSR
Dumalite	Dumala, Caucasus, USSR
Garéwaite	Garewaia River, Ural Mountains, USSR
Gladkaite	Gladkaia Spoka, Ural Mountains, USSR
Hanleite	Hanle, Kashmir, India
Ilmenite	Ilmen Mountains, Ural Mountains, USSR
Indialite	India
Indochinite	Indochina
Ishikawaite	Ishikawa, Honshu, Japan
Ishkyldite	Ishkyldino, Volga Basin, USSR
Issite	Issa River, USSR
Javaite	Java, Indonesia
Kajanite	Kajan River, Borneo
Kazanskite	Kazanskiy, USSR
Kedabekite	Kedabek, USSR
Kodurite	Kodur Mine, Vishakhapatnam, India
Koswite	Koswinsky Kamen, Ural Mountains, USSR

Lovozerite	Lovozero, Kola Peninsula, USSR
Luzonite	Luzon Island, Philippine Islands
Mariupolite	Mariupol (= Zhdanov), Crimea, USSR
Marosite	Pic de Maros, Celebes, Indonesia
Masanite	Ma-san-po, South Korea
Miaskite	Miask, Ural Mountains, USSR
Muraskite	Murasko, Japan
Muscovite	Moscovy = Moscow, USSR
Nagatelite	Nagatejima, Honshu, Japan
Ningyoite	Ningyo-Toge Mine, Honshu, Japan
Sanukite	Sanuki, Shikoku Islands, Japan
Serendibite	Serendib (Arabic) = Sri Lanka
Siberite	Siberia, USSR
Sinhalite	Sinhalia = Sri Lanka
Taimyrite	Taimyr River, Siberia, USSR
Taramite	Wali-Tarama, Ukraine, USSR
Tawite	Tawajok Valley, Kola Peninsula, USSR
Tilaite	Tilai-Kamen, Ural Mountains, USSR
Todorokite	Todoroki Mine, Hokkaido, Japan
Tsingtavite	Tsingtao, China
Tyuyamunite	Tyuya Muyun, Turkestan, USSR
Uralite	Ural Mountains, USSR
Yugawaralite	Yugawara Hot Spring, Kanagawa, Japan
Yuksporite	Yukspor, Kola Peninsula, USSR

AFRICA

Berondrite	Berondra Valley, Madagascar
Betafite	Betafo, Madagascar
Brandbergite	Brandberg, S.W. Africa
Cattierite	Cattier, Leopoldville, Zaire
Dancalite	Dancalia, Ethiopa
Etindite	Etinde, Cameroun
Itsindrite	Itsindra Valley, Madagascar
Kasolite	Kasolo, Zaire
Kassaite	Kassa, Los Islands, Guinea
Katungite	Katunga Volcano, Uganda
Kivite	Lake Kivu, Zaire/Ruanda
Leeuwfonteinite	Leeuwfontein, South Africa
Nigerite	Nigeria
Tamarite	Tamara Island, Los Islands, Guinea

AUSTRALASIA

Australite	Australia
Bowralite	Bowral, New South Wales, Australia
Muniongite	Muniong Range, New South Wales, Australia
Tasmanite	Tasmania, Australia
Woodendite	Woodend, Victoria, Australia
Yatalite	Yatala, Queensland, Australia

POLAR LANDS

Enderbite	Enderby Land, Antarctica
Gaussbergite	Gaussberg Volcano, Antarctica
Kakortokite	Kakortok (Esquimo) = Julianehåb, Greenland
Naujaite	Naujakasik, Greenland
Thulite	Thule (Lat.) = Norway, Iceland, or possibly Shetland, the northernmost habitable world.

OCEANIA

Noumeite	Nouméa, New Caledonia
Ouenite	Ouen Island, New Caledonia

The geographical distribution of the sources of these 334 names is interesting. As might be expected in view of the fact that geology as a science first developed there, almost half of the names (164 or 49.1 %) are derived from Europe. Italy, with 32, was the primary source, followed by Germany (21), Norway (20), Sweden (14), Spain (11), and France (10). Curiously, only nine were based on English placenames. Less significant sources included Austria (8), Scotland (6), Portugal (5), Czechoslovakia (5), Switzerland (4), Finland (4), and Ireland (3). A tiny handful of terms originated in Welsh, Rumanian, Polish, Turkish, Yugoslav, and Greek placenames.

The bulk of non-European terms, forming just over one-quarter of the total, originated in the Americas (88 or 26.35%): many of these too,

e. g. *cumberlandite, durangite,* and *sussexite* are based on names originally derived from Europe. Surprisingly few of these terms were taken from Central or South America: the English resistance to borrowing from Spanish or Portuguese was remarkably strong. Most of these American terms were nineteenth or twentieth century concoctions, whereas many of the European terms date back to the eighteenth century or even earlier. The bulk of the American terminology was derived from the USA (54 terms or 16.17% of the total) or from Canada (17 terms, or 5.09%). Nearly always it had an Anglo-Saxon or a native Indian base, e.g. *highwoodite, elkhornite, ouachitite, uncompahgrite.*

For the purposes of this analysis all Russia was included in Asia and no attempt was made to distinguish the European part of that state from the remainder. Only about one-sixth (55, or 16.47%) of the mineral terms have an Asiatic origin. Just over half of these were derived from the mining districts in the Urals or in Siberia. Once again, by comparison with the European-based terminology, most of this material dates back at most to the nineteenth century. Outside Russia the other major name-sources in Asia included Japan (8), the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, Borneo, and China.

Astonishingly few terms were drawn from Africa (14 terms or 4.2%) if the colonial history of that continent is taken into account and the fact that much mining was undertaken there. Part of the reason may lie in the briefness of the colonial link and in the difficulties Europeans experienced in pronouncing native African languages. Madagascar (3), Guinea (2), South Africa (2), and Zaire (2) were the major sources: the minor contributors were Ethiopa, Cameroun, Ruanda, Uganda, and Nigeria (1 term each).

More surprising still is the sparse yield from Australia—only 6 terms or 1.79% of the total. The balance of the terms came from the northern Polar lands including Greenland (3) and Antarctica (2), and from Oceania (2).

The dominance of Europe and North America in this particular category of geological nomenclature is very striking. So too is the very large proportion of such terms concocted since the beginning of the eighteenth century, and particularly from 1850 onwards. Clearly there was a very close link between this terminological growth and the great strides being taken in the whole field of earth sciences during recent times. In the absence of any comprehensive multilingual geological dictionary, it is impossible to say to what extent mineral terminology developed along independent lines in other languages. What is clear is that the dominance of English as the prime world medium in the earth

sciences will enforce a large degree of acceptance of English-based terminology in other languages, particularly in the minority ones. Evidence of this trend is to be found in the great dictionary of geological terminology currently being prepared in the Irish language: many of the standardized versions contained in that *magnum opus* are mere transliterations of the English "originals." *Lansfairdít* (for Landsfordite) and *Montrósít* (for Montroseite) may well be harbingers of a future cultural uniformity.

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Notes

1. It would be tiresome, as well as virtually impossible, to attribute each of the hundreds of statements in this paper to its respective source. However, three works proved invaluable in the preparation of the material: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary, The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World*, and A. F. L. Deeson, ed., *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Rocks and Minerals.* It would be unjust not to attest to their outstanding merit for this purpose. These three together shed light on the bulk of the terms explored here: diverse sources, both lexicographical and geological, contributed to the elucidation of the remainder.

2. The suffix *-ite* is derived from Greek *-ites* signifying "connected with" or "belonging to." Among other uses it is employed as the systematic ending of the names of mineral species (see Onions 1053) According to Dr. J. Gravesteyn, Secretary of COGEODOC, Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minières, Orleans (Personal Communication to the Terminology Committee, Dept. of Education, Government of Ireland), this suffix *-ite* is the same in French and Italian and is matched in German by *-it* and in Spanish by *-ita.* The suffix *-lith*, derived from Greek *lithos* 'stone' is used chiefly in Biology and Pathology. In Mineralogy *-lite* is the usual form (Onions 1152). The form *-lite*, instead of *-lith*, is due to the example of French geologists (1151).

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