ANTHOPHYLLITE

Orthorhombic. Axial ratio a : b = 0·5137 : 1. Crystals rare, habit prismatic (mm''' 110 ∧ 1$\bar{1}$0 = 54° 23′). Commonly lamellar, or fibrous massive; fibers often very slender; in aggregations of prisms.

Comp. - $(Mg,Fe)SiO_3$, corresponding to enstatite-hypersthene in the pyroxene group. Aluminum is sometimes present in considerable amount. There is the same relation in optical character between anthophyllite (+) and gedrite (-) as between enstatite and hypersthene (cf. Figs. 839, 840, p. 553).

Var. - Anthophyllite. Mg : Fe = 4 : 1, 3 : 1, etc. For 3 : 1 the percentage composition is: Silica 55·6, iron protoxide 16·6, magnesia 27·8 = 100. Anthophyllite sometimes occurs in forms resembling asbestos.

Copied from - Dana, E. S. and W. E. Ford, A textbook of mineralogy. John Wiley, N. Y. 4th ed. 1932, p. 570