

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	Schweizerische mineralogische und petrographische Mitteilungen = Bulletin suisse de minéralogie et pétrographie
<b>Band:</b>	67 (1987)
<b>Heft:</b>	1/2
<b>Artikel:</b>	Gasparite-(Ce) and monazite-(Nd) : two new minerals to the monazite group from the Alps
<b>Autor:</b>	Graeser, Stefan / Schwander, Hans
<b>DOI:</b>	<a href="https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-51591">https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-51591</a>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 18.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## Gasparite-(Ce) and monazite-(Nd): two new minerals to the monazite group from the Alps\*

by Stefan Graeser<sup>1,2</sup> and Hans Schwander<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

Gasparite-(Ce) and monazite-(Nd), two new minerals from the Penninic region of the Alps are described.

Gasparite-(Ce),  $(Ce, REE)AsO_4$ , represents the arsenate analogue of monazite,  $CePO_4$ . Space group symmetry, consequently, is  $P2_1/n$ , cell parameters [ $a = 6.937(3)$ ,  $b = 7.137(4)$ ,  $c = 6.738(6)$  Å;  $\beta = 104.69(5)^\circ$ ] are significantly larger than in monazite. Refractive indices [ $n_x = 1.810(8)$ ,  $n_y = 1.825(8)$ ,  $n_z = 1.92(1)$ ;  $2V(+) = 40-45^\circ$ ], too, are clearly higher than in monazite. Gasparite-(Ce) is associated with various other arsenic oxide minerals like cafarsite, chernovite, and REE-minerals like synchisite.

Monazite-(Nd) is another new monazite mineral in which Nd is clearly predominant over Ce. The simplified mineral formula is  $(Nd_{.44}Ce_{.27}La_{.04}Pr_{.08}Sm_{.14}Gd_{.03})_1(P_{.99}Si_{.01})_1O_4$ . Cell parameters are very close to those of ordinary monazite-(Ce):  $a = 6.745(4)$ ,  $b = 6.964(4)$ ,  $c = 6.435(4)$  Å;  $\beta = 103.65(4)^\circ$  whereas optical constants are slightly higher [ $n_x = 1.793(2)$ ,  $n_y = 1.795(2)$ ,  $n_z = 1.860(5)$  for 589 nm]. The mineral occurs together with numerous REE-minerals such as: xenotime, gadolinite, bastnaesite, allanite, and common monazite-(Ce).

Both minerals and mineral names were approved by the "Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, I. M. A." prior to publication. Type material of both minerals is preserved at the Natural History Museum, and at the Mineralogical Institute, Basel.

**Keywords:** New minerals, gasparite-(Ce), monazite-(Nd), arsenates, monazite group, REE distribution, Alpine fissure minerals.

### Riassunto

Gasparite-(Ce) e monazite-(Nd), due nuove specie di minerali provenienti dalla regione Penninica delle Alpi Centrali, sono descritti.

Gasparite-(Ce),  $(Ce, REE)AsO_4$  rappresenta un equivalente arseniato alla monazite,  $CePO_4$ . Simmetria del gruppo spaziale è  $P2_1/n$ , i parametri della cellula, però, sono più grandi che nella monazite [ $a = 6.397(3)$ ,  $b = 7.137(4)$ ,  $c = 6.738(6)$  Å;  $\beta = 104.69(5)^\circ$ ]. L'indice di rifrazione è anche chiaramente più alto che quello della monazite:  $n_x = 1.810(8)$ ,  $n_y = 1.825(8)$ ,  $n_z = 1.92(1)$ ;  $2V(+) = 40-45^\circ$ . Gasparite-(Ce) è associata con altri minerali d'ossido-arsenico come la cafarsite, chernovite e minerali di terre rare, come la sinchisite.

Monazite-(Nd) è un nuovo tipo di monazite in cui l'elemento Nd è chiaramente dominante su Ce. La formula semplificata del minerale è  $(Nd_{.44}Ce_{.27}La_{.04}Pr_{.08}Sm_{.14}Gd_{.03})_1(P_{.99}Si_{.01})_1O_4$ . I parametri della cellula sono quasi identici con quelli della monazite-(Ce):  $a = 6.745(4)$ ,  $b = 6.964(4)$ ,  $c = 6.435(4)$  Å;  $\beta = 103.65(4)^\circ$ , le costanti ottiche però sono leggermente più alte:  $n_x = 1.793(2)$ ,  $n_y = 1.795(2)$ ,  $n_z = 1.860(5)$  (589 nm). Il minerale è associato con il rutile e vari minerali di terre rare (REE) come xenotime, gadolinite, bastnaesite, allanite e monazite-(Ce).

Tutti due minerali e i loro nomi erano stati approvati, prima di essere stati pubblicati, dalla commissione I. M. A. I tipi dei due nuovi minerali sono conservati al Museo di Scienze Naturali e all'Istituto di Mineralogia di Basilea.

\* Dedicated to Professor Ernst Niggli on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

<sup>1</sup> Natural History Museum, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland.

<sup>2</sup> Mineralogical Institute of the University, CH-4056 Basel.

### Gasparite-(Ce)

#### INTRODUCTION

The mineral was found by the expert mineral collector GIOVANNI GASPARI (Crodo, Italy) on the south-eastern slope of Pizzo Cervandone/Italy during summer 1984. On the occasion of a visit in Crodo, the mineral attracted our attention because of its uncommon colour and shape and was taken back to Basel for closer examination. From X-ray diffraction and optical studies it became obvious that the mineral must be very close in chemical composition to the synthetic compound  $\text{CeAsO}_4$ , a fact which could be proved later by chemical analyses. In recognition of his extremely valuable collecting activity that has provided mineralogical research with numerous interesting mineral samples, we have named the mineral gasparite according to its finder's name and added the suffix -(Ce) for the Ce-dominant composition.

#### OCCURRENCE

Pizzo Cervandone (in Italian) or Cherbadung (in local Swiss dialect) is a remarkable mountain peak between V. Devero in Italy and Binntal in Switzerland. The whole region belongs to the Penninic Mte.-Leone nappe, consisting partly of meta-sediments together with predominant gneisses which were influenced by lower amphibolite zone metamorphism: the mesocoic meta-sediments are partly kyanite-bearing. As the nappe has an almost horizontal position, the geological situation is more or less identical on both sides of the border. The formation of fissure minerals in the whole region has been strongly influenced by the remobilisation process of hercynic Cu-As-ores (tennantite, chalcopyrite) during Alpine metamorphism. These migrating arsenic bearing solutions resulted in the generation of a large number of highly special minerals, mainly arsenate and arsenite minerals (GRAESER, 1966; GRAESER and ROGGIANI,



Fig. 1 Pseudomorph of gasparite after barrel-shaped synchisite (length 5–6 mm) (Foto E. Offermann).

1970). The formation of this new arsenate monazite, too, is a product of this process.

The first find of gasparite consisted of a strange crystal aggregate of about 5 mm in length made up by pseudo-rhombohedral crystals (up to 0.5 mm). The whole aggregate clearly represents a pseudomorph after some (pseudo-)hexagonal mineral (Figs. 1-3). From the study of further samples, on which gasparite could be found as a reaction rim around partly unaltered primary material it became obvious that it was the Ca-Ce-carbonate mineral synchisite which was replaced by gasparite. Synchisite is quite common in the Cervandone-region and occurs in its characteristic barrel-shaped pseudohexagonal habit. The procedure that led to the formation of gasparite

consists of a reaction of the carbonate mineral synchisite with As-bearing solutions with consequent replacement of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  by  $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}$ , a process that in a similar way caused the crystallisation of the various other arsenic-oxide-minerals. Associated minerals are: rutile, anatase, magnetite, hematite, synchisite, chernovite, cafarsite, etc.

#### PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES (TAB. 1)

The fact that gasparite is present exclusively as a reaction product of and mostly as pseudomorph after synchisite makes a visual determination of the mineral quite easy. The crystals themselves, seen under the binocular microscope, display the characteristic habit of flat pseudo-rhombohedrals composed of the following forms:  $\{110\}$ ,  $\{101\}$ ,  $\{10\bar{1}\}$ ,  $\{100\}$ ,  $\{001\}$ , always in a somewhat rounded appearance. The colour of the mineral is light brown-red, with a typical flesh-like tint. Like other rare earth minerals gasparite-(Ce) shows the characteristic change to bright green colour under the radiation of a common quartz lamp ("quick tanning lamp"). In building up the pseudomorphous aggregates, all crystals appear in the same squamous grouping yet it is difficult to decide whether they have orientated intergrowth or not. The density could not be measured because of the small grain size of single crystals and the porosity and intergrowth with synchisite of the aggregates. The calculated density of  $5.63 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , however, indicates that gasparite has a much higher density than ordinary monazite.

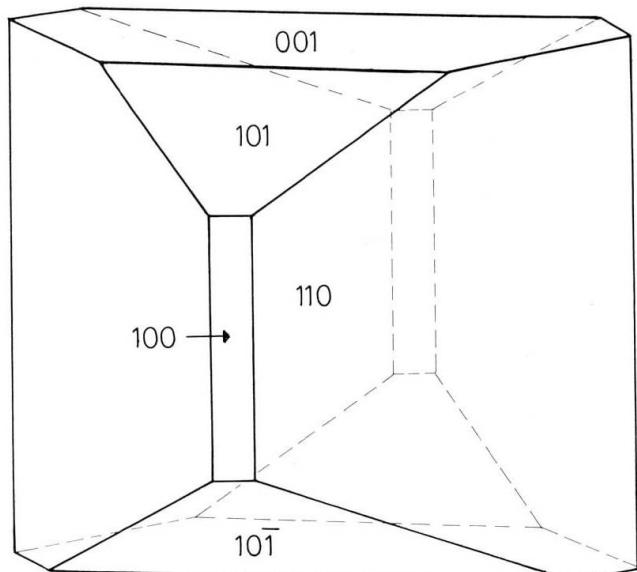


Fig. 2 Pseudo-rhombohedral habit of gasparite. Constructed after goniometrical measurement.



Fig. 3 SEM-picture of ideally shaped gasparite crystals (Foto: SEM laboratory University Basel).

#### CHEMICAL ANALYSES

The preliminary study of the mineral by the energy-dispersive-system of the scanning electron microscope proves it to be a pure rare earth arsenate; phosphorous seemed to be completely absent, a diagnosis that was confirmed by subsequent microprobe analyses.

9 chemical analyses were carried out by means of an ARL electron microprobe (Tab. 2). The following standard materials were used: synthetic  $\text{CeO}_2$ (Ce),  $\text{LaAlO}_3$ (La),  $\text{NdAlO}_3$ (Nd),  $\text{GdAlO}_3$ (Gd), Pr metal(Pr),  $\text{ThO}_2$ (Th),  $\text{Ca}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$ (P),  $\text{AlAsO}_4$ (As,Al) and

Tab. 1 Physical and optical data [gasparite-(Ce)].

$n_x = 1.810(8)$	Hardness: 327(5) kg/mm <sup>2</sup> (VHN <sub>50</sub> ) =
$n_y = 1.825(8)$	4 1/2 - 5 (MOHS)
$n_z = 1.92(1)$	Density: 5.63 g/cm <sup>3</sup> (calculated)
$\Delta = 0.11$	Fracture: conchoidal to uneven
$2V_z = 40-45^\circ (+)$	Cleavage: not observed
Orientation: $X = b$	Twining: not observed
$Z: c = 4^\circ$	Colour: brown-red, streak white
(all for $Na_D$ -light)	non-pleochroic

wollastonite (Ca, Si), quartz (Si), anhydrite (S). Standard deviations for the main components were small [ $Ce_2O_3 = 28.33 (\pm 0.22)$ ,  $As_2O_5 = 39.21 (\pm 0.7)$  wt. %] but significantly higher for the rest of the rare earth elements and  $ThO_2$ .

The I.R. spectrogram (Fig. 4) shows the typical  $AsO_4$ -vibrations (at 850 and  $804\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), a very distinct band in the region of  $451\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be due to the small silicate content. In comparison to ordinary monazite-(Ce), it is interesting to state that the two minerals, structurally such closely related, yield completely different I.R. spectra.

The GLADSTONE-DALE relationship which can be used to check the compatibility between the mean refractive index, density and chemical data of a new mineral (according to MANDARINO, 1979) yielded a calculated compatibility index with the value "superior" in MANDARINO's arbitrary scale.

#### X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

Powder diagrams of the previously unknown mineral indicated clearly the relationship to the monazite series with d-spacings perceptibly shifted to larger values (Tab. 4).

The very small crystals were well appropriate for single crystal work which was carried out by Weissenberg and Precession techniques (Tab. 3). The observed extinctions ( $0k0$ : only for  $k = 2n$  and  $h0l$ : only for  $h + 1 = 2n$  are present) are in agreement with the space group

symmetry  $P2_1/n$  as is consistent for monazite minerals. The unit cell parameters in table 3 were computed by least squares refinement from the powder data. The cell volume is considerably larger for gasparite than for other monazite minerals.

#### Monazite-(Nd)

#### INTRODUCTION

In 1983 we received several mineral samples collected by DR. V. MATTIOLI (Milan) for identification. Among these there was one very strangely rose-red coloured mineral which, af-

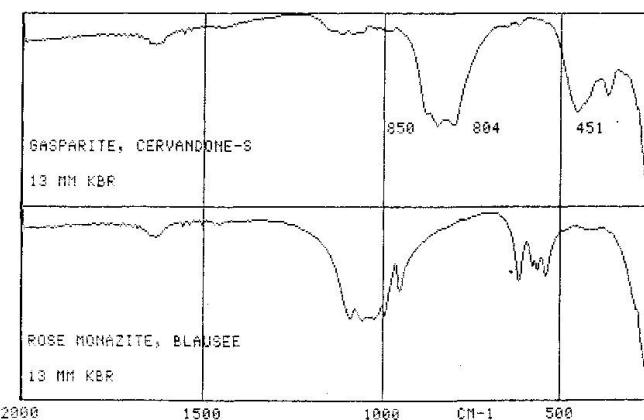


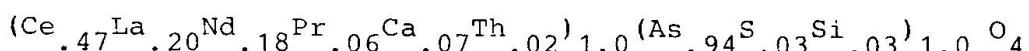
Fig. 4 I.R. spectrogram of gasparite-(Ce) with  $AsO_4$ -vibrations (At  $850$  and  $804\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) compared with ordinary monazite-(Ce) [Rose monazite-(Ce) from Blausee, Binntal - PE 883, MPI, Basel].

Tab. 2 Chemical data of gasparite-(Ce).

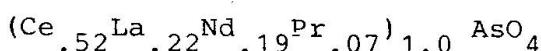
mean of 9 analyses	calculated for simplified formula
$\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$	28.33 wt.%
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$	12.07
$\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$	11.02
$\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3$	3.89
$\text{ThO}_2$	1.95
$\text{CaO}$	1.36
$\text{SiO}_2$	0.64
$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$	0.06
$\text{SO}_3$	0.99
$\text{As}_2\text{O}_5$	39.21
Total	99.52
	100.00

based on O = 4:

empirical formula:



simplified formula:

Tab. 3 Unit-cell parameters (gasparite, synth.  $\text{CeAsO}_4$ ).

Gasparite- (Ce)	synth. $\text{CeAsO}_4$ <sup>1)</sup>
a	6.937 (3) Å
b	7.137 (4)
c	6.738 (6)
β	104.69 (5) °
V	322.7 (2) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	4x[(Ce, La, Nd, Pr)AsO <sub>4</sub> ]

<sup>1)</sup> SWANSON et al. (1966)

Tab. 4 X-ray powder diffraction data.

$I/I_o$	$d_{\text{meas}}$	$d_{\text{calc}}$	hkl	ICPDS: 15-772 <sup>1)</sup>	
		5.41	101	5.42	6
		4.81	011	4.82	12
		4.31	111	4.32	12
30	3.59	3.60	111	3.61	10
		3.57	020		
77	3.355	3.355	200	3.368	60
100	3.156	3.151	120	3.161	100
34	3.035	3.036	210	3.046	25
70	2.966	2.964	012	2.978	35
44	2.709	2.706	202	2.710	25
31	2.519	2.530	212	2.533	20
		2.506	112		
20	2.233	2.235	031	2.240	20
45	2.003	2.004	212	2.008	30
30	1.9245	1.9285	103	1.930	30
		1.9214	032		
30	1.8905	1.8952	320	1.902	16
32	1.8113	1.8167	322	1.822	20
		1.8021	222		
34	1.7787	1.7782	132	1.7817	25
18	1.7225	1.7232	321	1.7293	12
20	1.6725	1.6775	400	1.6791	12
		1.6742	402		
16	1.6333	1.6330	410	1.6385	16
16	1.3592			1.3634	10
14	1.3050			1.3109	8
14	1.2730			1.2784	8

<sup>1)</sup> Natl. B. Stds (1966): synthetic  $\text{CeAsO}_4$

ter chemical and X-ray diffraction studies was identified as monazite with strong predominance of Nd over Ce. According to the Levinson rule for rare earth minerals it had to be named monazite-(Nd) and this represented a new member of the monazite series. Shortly afterwards a notice appeared in "The American Mineralogist" (68, 1983) which mentioned the

"description" of monazite-(Nd) from the Marmma bauxite in Greece (MAKSIMOVIC and PANTO, 1980) which consisted only of a chemical analysis without any optical, physical or structural data, published without the approval of the "Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, I.M.A.". In the meantime, the members of this Commission had agreed that

descriptions of new mineral published without approval should not be recognized. On the suggestion of DR. J. A. MANDARINO, chairman of the Commission, the mineral was resubmitted to the Commission as proposal (86-52) for a new mineral and subsequently was approved as monazite-(Nd).

### OCCURRENCE

The first material containing this mineral was collected by members of the "Gruppo Mineralogico Lombardo" (Milan) in gneiss blocks on the moraine of the north-slope of Pta. Glogstafel in Val Formazza, Italy. The minerals occur in small fissures or druses of aplitic to pegmatitic veins in a schistose gneiss with abundant white mica. According to the petrological work of Joos (1969), this rock belongs to the so-called Lebendun-series which is built up mainly by metamorphic psephite gneisses.

The small fissures in the aplitic parts of the rock are especially rich in rutile and various other minerals. An X-ray diffraction study of these revealed that all of them are rare earth minerals: *Xenotime* is quite frequently present

in translucent greenish crystals; *gadolinite* occurs in needle shaped colourless crystals of limpid aspect; *bastnaesit* as long-prismatic beige crystals which are always somewhat corroded, *allanit* seems to have grown as a rockforming mineral (anhedral reddish-black elongated specimens); *monazite-(Ce)* is present in almost colourless clear crystals of pseudo-rhombohedral habit. Among all these, one mineral was particularly conspicuous because of its bright rose-red colouring, which by closer examination turned out to be a Nd-dominant monazite—the monazite-(Nd). As a preliminary publication, these REE-minerals were described in a well illustrated article by V. MATTIOLI (1985).

### PHYSICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES (TAB. 5)

Though it is a proper member of the monazite group, monazite-(Nd) is quite different from ordinary monazite-(Ce) in habit as well as in colour. It forms longprismatic crystals which are mostly translucent or sometimes milky but always bright rose in colour. After detection of this new monazite mineral we be-

Tab. 5 Physical and optical data of rose monazites.

Monazite- (Nd)	Rose monazite- (Ce)	
Pta. Glogstafel, Italy		Blausee, Binntal, Switzerland
$n_x$	1.793 (2)	1.783 (2)
$n_y$	1.795 (2)	(Na <sub>D</sub> ) 1.784 (2)
$n_z$	1.860 (5)	1.830 (5)
$\Delta$	0.067	0.047
$2V_z$ (+)	18-20°	15-17°
Density (calc)	5.43 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	5.34 g/cm <sup>3</sup>

came interested in other monazites of the region which are slightly rose coloured, quite different from the orange-yellow colour of common monazite-(Ce). Yet, a subsequent study of such monazites revealed that, though the Nd contents are slightly elevated relative to Ce, they all represent common monazites-(Ce) (see Tab 6).

### CHEMICAL ANALYSES

Chemical analyses were carried out on monazite-(Nd) from Glogstafel and rose monazite-(Ce) from Binntal by means of an ARL electron microprobe. Standards were the same as used in the case of gasparite with same additions: metallic Sm, U, synthetic  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  and

Tab. 6 Chemical analyses: monazite-(Nd) and rose monazite-(Ce).

	Monazite-(Nd) (Pta. Glogstafel) 3 analyses	rose Monazite-(Ce) (Binntal) 6 analyses
$\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$	19.85 wt.%	30.43 wt.%
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$	2.48	14.17
$\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3$	6.47	4.67
$\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$	30.32	14.58
$\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3$	8.81	3.11
$\text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3$	2.26	1.96
$\text{ZrO}_2$	0.77	-
$\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$	28.65	29.93
$\text{SiO}_2$	0.22	0.30
$\text{MnO}$	-	0.40
Total	99.83	99.74
based on O = 4:		
<u>Monazite-(Nd):</u>		
$(\text{Nd}_{.44}\text{Ce}_{.29}\text{Sm}_{.12}\text{Pr}_{.09}\text{La}_{.04}\text{Gd}_{.03}\text{Zr}_{.02})_{1.03}(\text{P}_{.97}\text{Si}_{.01})_{.98}\text{O}_4$		
<u>Monazite-(Ce):</u>		
$(\text{Ce}_{.44}\text{La}_{.21}\text{Nd}_{.20}\text{Pr}_{.07}\text{Sm}_{.04}\text{Gd}_{.03}\text{Ca}_{.01})_{1.0}(\text{P}_{.99}\text{Si}_{.02})_{1.01}\text{O}_4$		

apatite (P). The results of the analyses are compiled in table 6.

### X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

Monazite-(Nd) was studied by Weissenberg and Precession techniques. It seems that the cell parameters (and cell volume) are slightly smaller than in ordinary monazites which might be a consequence of the fact that the ion radius of Nd is slightly shorter than the Ce and

La radii. The rose coloured monazite-(Ce) yields the powder pattern of common monazites.

### DISCUSSION

In comparison to standard lanthanide patterns of monazites, the three investigated monazite group minerals reveal characteristical differences (see Table 8):

Our rose coloured monazite-(Ce) shows

Tab. 7 X-ray diffraction data (of rose monazites).

Monazite- (Nd) (Pta. Glogstafel/I)		Rose Monazite- (Ce) (Binntal/CH)		
I	d in Å	hkl	d in Å	I
30	4.15	111	4.16	20
10	3.51	111	3.49	20
60	3.280	200	3.273	70
100	3.080	120	3.081	100
50	2.846	112	2.861	80
30	2.590	202	2.596	30
40	2.425	212	2.431	30
30	2.177	031	2.184	40
30	1.9541	212	1.9594	50
20	1.8835	321	1.8917	20
30	1.8634	103	1.8606	40
20	1.7514	222	1.7550	30
30	1.7301	132	1.7330	30
20	1.6845	321	1.6838	20

1) lattice parameters refined from d-spacings.

Tab. 8 Rare earth patterns of monazite minerals.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$	23.84	20.56	3.53	21.82
$\text{Ce}_2\text{O}_3$	46.56	44.15	28.28	51.22
$\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_3$	5.30	6.78	9.22	7.03
$\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$	18.64	21.15	43.20	19.92
$\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3$	3.68	4.51	12.55	-
$\text{Gd}_2\text{O}_3$	1.98	2.84	3.22	-

(1) Average REE contents in monazites (MERTIE, 1960)  
 (2) rose monazite-(Ce), Binntal (mean of 6 analyses, this work)  
 (3) monazite-(Nd), Pta. Glogstafel (mean of 3 analyses, this work)  
 (4) gasparite-(Ce), Pizzo Cervandone (mean of 9 analyses, this work)

\*) REE-oxide values recalculated to a total of 100%

only a small difference: the abundance of the rare earth elements is slightly shifted towards the heavier elements, yet, the influence of the traces of Mn on the colouring is not known. An extreme difference becomes obvious in the case of monazite-(Nd): La and Ce are strongly depleted whereas Nd and Sm are enriched by a factor of two to three. The chemical composition of the accompanying monazite-(Ce) from Pta. Glogstafel was checked semiquantitatively by EDAX system on a scanning electron microscope; it yielded the pattern of common monazite-(Ce). Finally, the arsenate mineral gasparite-(Ce) fits quite well into the average lanthanide pattern of monazites though the heavier rare earth elements seem to be more or less absent.

MANNUCCI et al. (1986) have reported a comprehensive study on pegmatitic and fissure monazites of the Alps and found a very uniform

REE pattern, for fissure minerals and pegmatitic ones as well. The Nd-content in particular shows an extremely narrow variance with values between 7-10 wt%  $\text{Nd}_2\text{O}_3$ . The occurrence of the red monazite-(Nd) seems to represent a very local and unique phenomenon.

#### Acknowledgments

The material which led to the determination of the two new minerals was kindly provided by Messrs. G. Gaspari and V. Mattioli. The Italian abstract was translated by S. Scandella, the English text was checked by J. B. Saunders. We are indebted to R. Guggenheim for the SEM-pictures, E. Offermann for the micro-photograph and T. Imhof for the rose monazite from Binntal. Gratefully acknowledged is the help and encouragement by the chairman of the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names I. M. A., J. A. Mandarino.

## References

GRAESER, S. (1966): Asbecasit and Cafarsit, zwei neue Mineralien aus dem Binntal (Kt. Wallis). Schweiz. mineral. petrogr. Mitt. 46/2, 367.

GRAESER, S. and ROGGIANI, A.G. (1976): Occurrence and genesis of rare arsenate and phosphate minerals around Pizzo Cervandone, Italy/Switzerland. Soc. It. Min. Petr. Rendiconti 32(1), 279.

GRAMACCIOLI, C.M. and SEGALSTAD, T.V. (1978): A uranium- and thorium-rich monazite from a south-alpine pegmatite at Piona, Italy. Amer. Mineralog. Vol. 63, 757.

JOOS, M.G. (1969): Zur Geologie und Petrographie der Monte-Giove-Gebirgsgruppe im östlichen Simplon-Gebiet. Schweiz. mineral. petrogr. Mitt. 49, 277.

MANDARINO, J.A. (1979): The Gladstone-Dale relationship. Part III: Some general applications. Canad. Mineralog. Vol. 17, 71.

MANNUCCI, G., DIELLA, V., GRAMACCIOLI, C.M., PILLATI, T. (1986): A comparative study of some pegmatitic and fissure monazite from the Alps. Canad. Mineralog. Vol. 24, 469-474.

MATTIOLI, V. (1985): Un nuovo minerale alpino nell'Ossola (NO). Rivista Mineralogica Italiana Nr. 4, 129-134.

MERTIE, J.B., JR. (1960): Monazite and related minerals. In: J.L. Gillson, Ed., "Industrial Minerals and Rocks. Nonmetallics other than Fuels". 3rd ed. AIME, New York.

SWANSON et al. (1966): (X-ray data for synthetic  $\text{CeAsO}_4$ ). Natl. Bur. Std. Mono. 25, 4, 8.

Manuscript received April 3, 1987; revised manuscript accepted June 18, 1987.