

Mineral Spotlight: Astrophyllite

What do these mineral shapes remind you of – stars or snowflakes? Astrophyllite is a titanium silicate mineral whose name comes from the Greek words *astron* meaning "star" and *phylon* meaning "leaf", a reference to its often stellate crystal habit. In our sample, the dark brown mineral you can see forming starburst shapes is the astrophyllite; contrasting with its light pink felsic matrix.

Astrophyllite is very rare. It can be sourced from only a few, remote localities. It was discovered in Norway in 1854, but since then has been found in Quebec, Canada, Greenland, the Kola Peninsula of Russia, and Pike's Peak, Colorado.

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Jillian Herlinger on 11/29/2022.

