

Mineral Spotlight: Atacamite

The Russian mineralogist Dmitri de Gallitzin named atacamite after the Atacama Desert in Chile, where the arid climate and oxidizing copper minerals enable its formation. Atacamite contains significant copper; however, it is too rare to mine anywhere except Chile.

Key Facts:

- Bloodworms contain grow atacamite in their jaws, making them exceptionally strong.
- Atacamite grows in clusters of radiating crystals.
- The Statue of Liberty's green patina contains trace quantities of atacamite.



This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Chafer Jolman on 8/28/2023