

## Mineral Spotlight: Mica var. Fuchsite

When you see “var.” in a mineral name like mica var. fuchsite, you should read it, “mica, variety fuchsite.” Mineral varieties like fuchsite occur when chemical impurities replace other parts of the mineral. In the case of fuchsite, chromium replaces aluminum ions to alter the mineral’s physical properties, such as giving it a distinct emerald-green hue.

### Key Facts:

- Fuchsite is 1 of 37 muscovite mica varieties
- Fuchsite is soft enough to be scratched by a fingernail.
- Fuchsite and many other mica varieties pull apart in layers that look and feel like a phone screen protector.



This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Chafer Jolman on 9/1/2023