Calcite [$CaCO_3$]

Calcite is a very common calcium carbonate mineral that has many different crystal habits. Crystals come in a variety of shapes and sizes: rhombohedrons, stalactites, massive aggregates, dogtooth spars and euhedral crystals. Most calcite samples are fluorescent under ultraviolet light, and calcite easily displays an optical property called birefringence. The strong birefringence of calcite causes objects viewed through a "rhomb" of calcite to appear doubled. Calcite, like most carbonates, will dissolve in most forms of acid. This, combined with the low pH of rainwater, causes calcite to weather quickly in areas of much precipitation. B44

Calcite *P9*

Calcite *OR45*

Calcite *OR8*

Calcite *OR40*

Calcite with Pyrite *OR43*

Calcite *B15*

Calcite var. Manganoan [$(Ca,Mn)CO_3$]

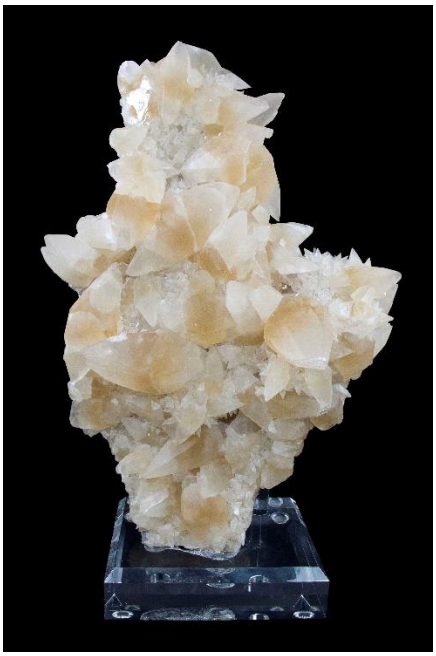
Manganoan is a variety of calcite rich in manganese, which gives the mineral its pinkish hue. Variations in the amount of manganese within the chemical composition can help identify the location where certain specimens originate. Many misidentify manganoan calcite with rhodochrosite, a manganese carbonate. This confusion is justifiable because manganoan calcite forms a solid solution series between calcite and rhodochrosite, with the color becoming redder with increasing amounts of manganese. B20

Calcite *B20*

Calcite *PK1*

Calcite *PK15*

Calcite *OR12*



Calcite B44