

Aragonite [CaCO₃]

Aragonite is a naturally forming precipitate of calcium carbonate found in marine and freshwater environments. Unlike other calcium-rich carbonates which are typically hexagonal, crystals of aragonite are orthorhombic. Aragonite may be columnar or fibrous and, in rare circumstances, form as branching stalactitical forms called *flos-ferri* or “flowers of iron.” The aragonite in this photograph is one of these rare specimens. This delicate pyramidal spiked cluster grew outward from a center “seed. “If mineral constituents are available to be precipitated out from the surrounding water, the aragonite cluster will continue to increase in size. PK30



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