

Charoite $[K(Ca,Na)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH,F)\cdot H_2O]$

Recently discovered in 1978, Charoite is found in only one locality, deep within the Muran Mountains in Yakutia, Russia. Charoite has a very distinctive appearance, forming as swirling patterns due to the complex interlocking patterns of its fibrous crystals. Charoite is formed through a process called contact metamorphism, although it is still not clear why its distribution is so limited. Surprisingly enough, mineralogists have yet to ascertain an exact chemical composition that causes its purple-violet color. PK14



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