

It hasn't been too long since my last online What's New report; my *print* report on recent online offerings appears in the March-April 2021 issue of our magazine, and my brief account of the April Tucson Mini-Show will appear in the July-August issue. In short, I'm keeping up with my what's-new duties, and am now fully vaccinated, as are all of my colleagues here at the *Mineralogical Record*. and as is, indeed, a pretty good chunk of the U.S. population. So it seems (though maybe I'm just feeling cozy and sanguine right now) that there is a sense of a quickening pace in the land, including in the realm of *our* special concern. The report below introduces some brand-new mineral discoveries, with specimens just now reaching the market, not yet noted in print reports: so are we ready for some early summer shopping? Let's see...

As we know by now, Dan Weinrich (weinrichmineralsinc.com) updates his website with new material a couple of times a week, and he runs special sales at close intervals too. Of late he's been offering very fine thumbnails from the Martin Jensen collection—such are the reasons why Dan is featured so often in these reports (hey dealers, the way to make the news regularly is to keep coming up with generous lots of *new things*). On his weekend update of May 15-16, Dan offers about a dozen small but brightly lustrous, well terminated, thoroughly gemmy loose **elbaite** crystals recently unearthed at a locality which Dan gives as Rubaya, Bahunde, Masisi Territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. This is not too bad a match for the locality designation that I took down at the April Tucson Show from Kevin Downey, who had about 20 larger specimens of what's clearly the same material in his *Well-Arranged Molecules* room at Mineral City. What I wrote about *those* crystals for the July-August show report may be repeated here: “Most of the transparent crystals are pink near the base and green near the tip, with pink and green areas in between quite variable in their ratios”; I'll add only that in both lots there are exceptions, i.e. all-pink examples, and one crystal of Kevin's which has a yellow (instead of green) terminal zone. While the *Well-Arranged Molecules* elbaite

crystals get up to 11.2 cm long, the ones on Dan's website do not exceed 5.5 cm; most are around 4 cm and a few are of thumbnail dimensions. Dan's asking prices for the gem tourmalines are all in low four figures, but remember that this is choice gem material, and we are probably lucky that even these few crystals have survived uncut. Shown below are three of the elbaite crystals now with *Weinrich Minerals Inc.*, showing three different color schemes but all (as you can see) being flashily gorgeous.



Elbaite, 4.3 cm, from Rubaya, Bahunde, Masisi Territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.



Elbaite, 5 cm, from Rubaya, Bahunde, Masisi Territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.



Elbaite, 4.2 cm, from Rubaya, Bahunde, Masisi Territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.

In his three-page, mid-May "Special Sale" posting, Dan Weinrich has about a dozen excellent miniatures and thumbnails of **cerussite** attributed to the Daoping mine, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. These are loose, flowerlike, cyclic clusters of twinned cerussite crystals, lustrous and cream-white with yellowish-brownish tints and hints, quite distinctively "Daoping"—or should that be "Yangshuo?" If you consult Mindat or, for that matter, any good printed account of the locality, you will find that the Daoping and Yangshuo lead mines are accessed from opposite sides of the same mountain and are connected underground: the world-class pyromorphite which began in the late 1990s to emerge in quantity from this place might well have emerged from either "Daoping" or "Yangshuo." The same goes for the cerussite: at the April Tucson Show I purchased from Saafa Yu a thumbnail cerussite of exactly the same type as Dan's, and her label asserts (in English and in Chinese) that it came from the Yangshuo mine. In any case, these are very distinctive and very spiffy cerussite specimens, and Dan has plenty of them, mostly of thumbnail size and mostly priced under \$100.



Cerussite, 2.5 cm, from the Daoping mine, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Weinrich Minerals specimen and photo.

Jordi Fabre's *Fabre Minerals* dealership (fabreminerals.com) is another regular presence in this space, most recently on account of his creative "Virtual" re-creations of major shows whose 2020 editions were killed off by the pandemic. Likewise Jordi promises that there will be a "Ste.-Marie Virtual" posting from June 21 to June 27, since the Ste.-Marie-aux-Mines Show has already been cancelled for 2021. Meanwhile, though, in an early May posting, Jordi offers a plethora of good things: some miscellaneous out-of-the-way specimens, old and new, from Spain; good thumbnails from the Robert Noble collection; antique "gray uglies" from an old classic locality; and, topping the charts, several quite alluring items from new finds in Turkey, Peru and Morocco.

Take those antique gray uglies first. From an old collection Jordi has acquired five small-cabinet-size specimens of the rare Pb-Sb-Au sulfide-telluride **nagyagite**, all collected around 1850 at Sacarîmb (once called Nagyág), Deva, Hunedoara, Romania. Small metallic gray bladed crystals of nagyagite are dispersed uniformly through vein fillings of pale pink rhodochrosite over matrix of greenish gray rock. The specimens lack big crystals to make focal points and they can't be called pretty (indeed they can be called "gray uglies"), but they are hefty examples of a gold-bearing telluride from the long-gone type locality for the species, and as such they warrant serious respect.



Nagyagite, 7.5 cm, from Sacarîmb, Deva, Hunedoara, Romania. Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.

Next, Jordi offers just two (so far) cabinet-size specimens from a 2020 find of attractive blue-green **smithsonite** over dark brown rock matrix from the Aladağ mine, Zamanti River area, Denizovasi, Yahyali district, Kayseri Province, central Anatolia region, Turkey (got that?). According to Mindat, the Aladağ is “a Zn-Pb mine located near the village of Yahyali...not to be confused with the Aladağ chromium mine in Adana Province” (according to Wikipedia, *Aladağ* means “variegated mountain”—wouldn’t you like to live near one of *those*?). The new Turkish smithsonite is brightly colored, wet-looking, and just as nice to look at, I’d say, as most blue-green smithsonite from the famous occurrence at Choix, Sinaloa, Mexico.



Smithsonite, 10.6 cm, from the Aladağ mine, Zamanti River area, Denizovasi, Yahyali district, Kayseri Province, central Anatolia region, Turkey. Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.

In the “Post-Easter update” on his website, Jordi has a second new item from Turkey: two thumbnails and three cabinet-size specimens of the rare borate species **hydroboracite**, collected in 2020 in the Hisarcik mine, Emet borate deposit, Emet, Kütahya Province, Aegean region. The thumbnails are simple, loose clusters of white acicular hydroboracite crystals (looking rather like the ones from California) but the cabinet-size pieces are more interesting: matrix lumps with open vugs lined by orange spheroidal calcite from which protrude delicate white hydroboracite tufts and sprays, with small side helpings of colorless celestine crystals. The 11.7-cm example shown here is priced at \$579 (and was marked “reserved” when last checked).



Hydroboracite, 11.7 cm, from the Hisarcik mine, Emet borate deposit, Emet, Kütahya Province, Aegean region, Turkey. Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.

On page 2 of that same “Post-Easter update” of *Fabre Minerals* you’ll find ten thumbnails and miniatures and one cabinet-size example from a 2020 discovery of very good **rose quartz crystals** from an unnamed mine in the Huancayo district, Huancayo Province, Junin Department, Peru. Largely opaque but lustrous, medium-pink crystals to several millimeters form spherical and fan-shaped aggregates over matrix. The general effect is at least as pleasing as for most specimens from the Pitora, Ilha and Berilo Branco mines in Brazil, and from the old classic rose quartz occurrence on Plumbago Mountain in Maine.



**Rose Quartz, 5.8 cm, from the Huancayo district, Huancayo Province, Junin Department, Peru.
Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.**

I will wrap up the Jordi Fabre unit of this report by saying that Jordi still has a good supply of the superb new **gold** specimens from Morocco. See my description of these small but spectacular things in the March-April 2021 issue, wherein it's mentioned that Jordi was one of three European dealers who tapped into this find at first (the other two were Anton Watzl of *Watzl Minerals* and Tomasz Praszkiel of *Spirifer Minerals*—and Tomasz soon sold all of his Moroccan golds to Scott Werschky of *Miner's Lunchbox*). The gold specimens are loose stalks, some curved in wide arcs, of sharp spinel-law-twinned crystals; the stalks and curls are free of associations, geometrically interesting, brilliantly lustrous, and altogether opulent-looking. As of mid-May, Jordi had 11, mostly thumbnail-size pieces, priced from about \$500 to \$3,000. The one shown below is priced at \$2,312. The locality given now is somewhat more detailed than the one given earlier in the year: according to Jordi it is Aouint Ighoman, Assa-Zag Province, Guelmin-Oued Noun Region, Morocco.



Gold, 2.3 cm, from Aouint Ighoman, Assa-Zag Province, Guelmin-Oued Region, Morocco. Fabre Minerals specimen and photo.

Speaking of new, well crystallized native metals out of Morocco, Mike Keim's *Marin Mineral Company* (marinmineral.com) has an April 30 update featuring two miniatures and a thumbnail from Bou Azzer whereon extremely sharp, well-individualized, simple cubic crystals of **silver** to 2.5 mm rest on gray safflorite matrix, with waxy white remnant patches of the calcite which was acid-etched away. *Wire* silver specimens have been known earlier from the Bou Azzer mining district (see the *Mineralogical Record*'s special "Bou Azzer" issue, September-October 2007)...and then, from the district's Bouismas mine, there have been the somewhat controversial silver or allargentum or dyscrasite dendrites enclosed in white calcite. More recently, large specimens of arborescent silver in calcite have come from the Tamdrost mine. So "Bou Azzer silver" is a multiform category, the more so when we ask about separate mines or sub-districts within the larger Bou Azzer district: Mike's new specimens with the sharp cubic silver crystals are attributed to the Bouismas mine whereas Jordi Fabre's single new specimen of the same type is assigned to the Aït Ahmane mine (see the map of the district in the Bou Azzer issue). Anyway, these are intriguing new specimens of native silver, a species but rarely seen as single, sharp, eye-visible crystals.



Silver crystals on safflorite, 3.5 cm, from the Bouismas mine, Bou Azzer mining district, Zagora Province, Draa-Tafilalet Region, Morocco. Marin Mineral Company specimen and photo.

On the 3-page May 4 update of *Marin Minerals* there are many beautiful miniature and cabinet-size specimens of cobalt-rich **calcite**, some with kolwezite, heterogenite and malachite, from the Kolwezi mining district, Lualaba, Democratic Republic of Congo. The specimens with dull green, mossy kolwezite over brilliant pink cobalt-rich calcite are much the more expensive (kolwezite being a rare, essentially one-locality species), but the all-calcite miniature shown here costs only \$90. In the same update there are good specimens of **carrollite** from the famous Kamoya II occurrence; lustrous, deep green, loose crystal groups of **metatorbernite** from the Musonoi mine (see the cover photo of March-April 2018); and **malachite** from various places in the Kolwezi district.



Co-rich Calcite, 3.3 cm, from the Kolwezi mining district, Lualaba, Shaba (Katanga), Democratic Republic of Congo. Marin Mineral Company specimen and photo.

And in the May 8 “Mixed Minerals” update on the *Marin Minerals* website you’ll find something much more exotic: two little specimens of loose, silky metallic gray, cubic penetration twins of **native platinum** from the Konder intrusion near Nelkan, Khabarovskiy Kraj, Siberia, Russia. Actually these crystals have been shown to be an alloy, “ferroan platinum,” Pt_3Fe (see the article by Cabri and Laflamme in March-April 1997), but among collectors they have been known simply as “platinum” since they first amazed the mineral world by appearing at the 1993 Tucson Show. Word is that the Russians are no longer gathering the platinum crystals, perhaps because the occurrence is now exhausted, and so the specimens are very rarely seen on the market these days. When they do appear they are much pricier than before (Mike Keim asks \$1,500 for the one of his two 7-mm specimens which is still unsold). But this is the world’s only known locality for euhedral macrocrystals of platinum, compared to which even fine macrocrystals of gold are common.



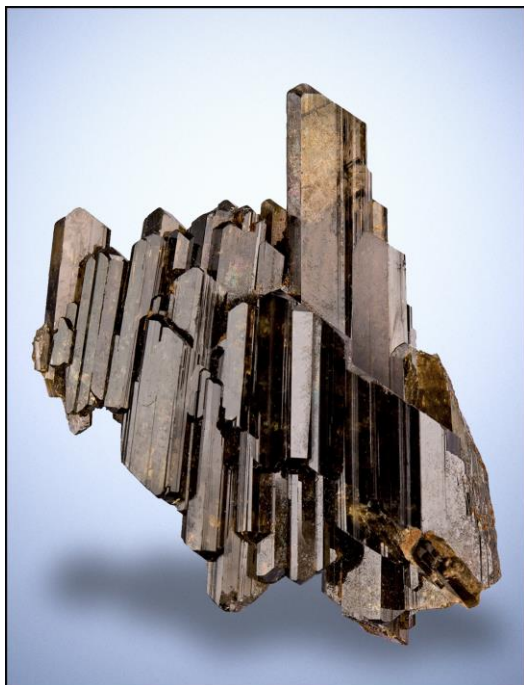
Platinum, 7 mm, from Konder intrusion near Nelkan, Khabarovskiy Kraj, Siberia, Russia. Marin Mineral Company specimen and photo.

The big Wendell Wilson article on the Musonoi mine in March-April 2018 illustrates some spectacular specimens showing bright green acicular crystals of **cuprosklodowskite** in vugs in radioactive uranium ore. Such specimens are no longer being found, but leave it to the website of *Radioactive Minerals* (radioactiveminerals.com) to come up with one anyway: a 7.2-cm piece, priced at \$1,650, which looks just like those pictured in the article. This interesting website—never mentioned before in this column—also offers good thumbnail-size **euxenite** specimens from Madagascar, **metatorbernites** from the Margabal mine in France, sharp brown **betafites** from Ontario, and other items which to different degrees are “hot”; check it out.



Cuprosklodowskite, 7.2 cm, from the Musonoi mine, Kolwezi mining district, Lualaba, Shaba (Katanga), Democratic Republic of Congo. Marin Mineral Company specimen and photo.

Rudolf Watzl’s darkly luxuriant *Saphira Minerals* website has a May 12 update offering Alpine-type minerals which are *not* from the European Alps, as is more customary for Rudolf, but rather from Pakistan. Here we have, first, seven fine specimens of **epidote** (or could it be the closely related species **clinozoisite**, which can look just like epidote?) from the Tormiq Valley, Haramosh Mountains, Skardu district, Gilgit-Baltistan. Some of these specimens are loose, single, prismatic, well-terminated crystals of gemmy medium-brown epidote/clinozoisite to more than 7 cm long, while others are parallel, picket-fence-like arrangements of crystals (similar to the Untersulzbachtal habit), also gemmy and lustrous and medium-brown. The “picket fence” specimen shown here is already sold (but there are others); the single crystal shown here is available (as of this writing on May 21) for 450 Euros (≈ \$540).

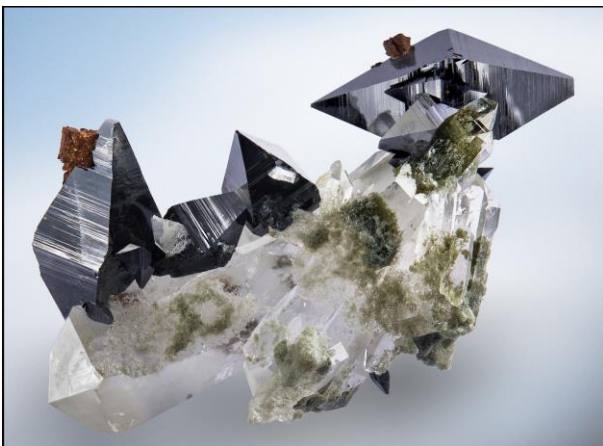


Epidote, 4.1 cm, from the Tormiq Valley, Haramosh Mountains, Skardu district, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Saphira Minerals specimen and photo.



Epidote, 7 cm, from the Tormiq Valley, Haramosh Mountains, Skardu district, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. Saphira Minerals specimen and photo.

On that same May 12 *Saphira Minerals* update, Rudolf Watzl wows us (wowed me, at least) with a few extraordinary small specimens showing razor-sharp, well-isolated, blue-black **anatase** crystals on colorless quartz crystals from Alpine-type pockets somewhere in the Zard Mountains near Kharan, Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan. Now, this contemporary locality has lately been bestowing plenty of specimens of anatase (and of gemmy brown, bladed brookite) onto the market, but I have not yet seen better examples of Kharan anatase than these of Rudolf's. For the best and biggest piece on the update, the 3.9-cm dazzler shown here, with perfect bipyramidal anatase crystals perched lightly on chlorite-splotched quartz, Rudolf asks 4,750 Euros ($\approx$ \$5,700). Imagine how much this would cost if it came from some cleft opened long ago in Switzerland!



Anatase on quartz, 3.9 cm, from the Zard Mountains, Kharan, Balochistan, Pakistan. Saphira Minerals specimen and photo.

Canadian master field collector Rod Tyson (who received the American Mineral Heritage Award for achievements in field collecting at the 2018 Tucson Show) has a dealership, *Tyson's Fine Minerals*. His website (tysonsfineminerals.com) had been languishing for a while, but I was delighted to discover that it has recently been redesigned and made easier to use. And, more importantly, it is now chock-full of fine specimens from localities all over Canada. The site has a section for species arranged alphabetically (in three segments, A-H, I-P and Q-Z) and another section for specimen arranged according to price (\$25-\$100, \$100-\$500 and over \$500). Cross-reference your browsing and you'll find plenty of good, tempting things over which to browse.

One notable group of attractive specimens (from a locality I'd never heard of before) consists of flaring cabinet-size clusters of **quartz crystals with inclusions of "byssolite"** from near Zeballos, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The lower two-thirds or so of each sharp, prismatic quartz crystal are rendered almost black by fine-grained inclusions of a dark green amphibole-group mineral ("byssolite" is the acicular variety). The rest of the crystals are colorless and frosty-looking—one of these would be excellent for your Unusual Quartz From Odd Places suite.



Quartz with "byssolite" inclusions, 8.3 cm, from near Zeballos, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Tyson's Fine Minerals specimen and photo.

Shown on the A-H, \$100-\$500 segment of the *Tyson's Fine Minerals* website are some very fine cabinet-size specimens of "apatite" (almost surely **fluorapatite**) crystals on massive white to pale salmon-colored calcite from the Liscombe mine near Wilberforce, Ontario. Rod introduced this material at the 1998 Denver Show (see the report in January-February 1999), admitting then that the brittle fluorapatite crystals had been stabilized with Vinac, then re-attached to the calcite (the labels good-humoredly added "with glue and Vinac" after the word "apatite"). But they were—and still are—lovely things, with slightly rounded, doubly terminated, gemmy yellow-green fluorapatite crystals to 6 cm color-contrasting nicely with their off-white calcite settings. Rod doesn't say so on the site, but it's a good guess that the specimens he is now offering date back to his original collecting trip(s) in the late 1990s. Anyway, I haven't seen more recent examples, with Rod or with anyone else, since that time.



Fluorapatite on calcite, 8.2 cm, from the Liscombe deposit, Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada. Tyson's Fine Minerals specimen and photo.

But the superstars of the Tyson website are the many splendid specimens of rare phosphates from the famous Rapid Creek-Big Fish occurrence in the far north of the Yukon Territory (see *that* special issue of the *Mineralogical Record*, July-August 1992). The pale green and pale yellow-orange wardites and deep blue lazulites are, as we'd expect, striking, but much rarer than these are the beautiful specimens of Yukon **kulanite** and **gormanite**. Shown below are an outstanding thumbnail of kulanite, assigned to "Rapid Creek," and a miniature of gormanite, with dark blue brushworks of acicular gormanite crystals entirely taking over a deep vug in matrix—this one is assigned to a collecting site called "Crosscut Creek, Rapid Creek Area A." In addition to this 5.6-cm

gormanite specimen, priced at 500 Canadian dollars, there are four similar-looking but larger ones to be seen, not surprisingly, in the “over \$500” section. Short of leafing again through the photos in the 1992 special issue, you won’t find a better refresher in the beauties of Yukon phosphates than a surf through this smashing new website of Rod’s.



Kulanite, 2.6 cm, from Rapid Creek, Yukon Territory, Canada. Tyson’s Fine Minerals specimen and photo.



Gormanite, 5.6 cm, from Crosscut Creek, Rapid Creek area A, Yukon Territory, Canada. Tyson’s Fine Minerals specimen and photo.

The dealership called *Hummingbird Minerals* is run by Jim Brown, who retired in 2009 from his professional job in the medical-device industry and now works full-time selling minerals on his website (hummingbirdminerals.com). Jim favors *big, pretty* specimens, and he photographs them expertly and sells them at prices I'm happy to call very reasonable. Mostly these are excellent one-of-a-kind examples of familiar things, so by way of concluding the present report in a casual, let's-look-at-big-pretty-things kind of way, I show you here three pieces from his most recent "Mixed Minerals" gallery that especially caught my eye. The first is a 9.5-cm **prehnite** from the hallowed old Prospect Park quarry, Passaic County, New Jersey, wherein the pale lime-green prehnite botryoids seem to glisten happily in their cavity in a piece of dark gray basalt from the long sill of First Watchung Mountain (price: \$275).



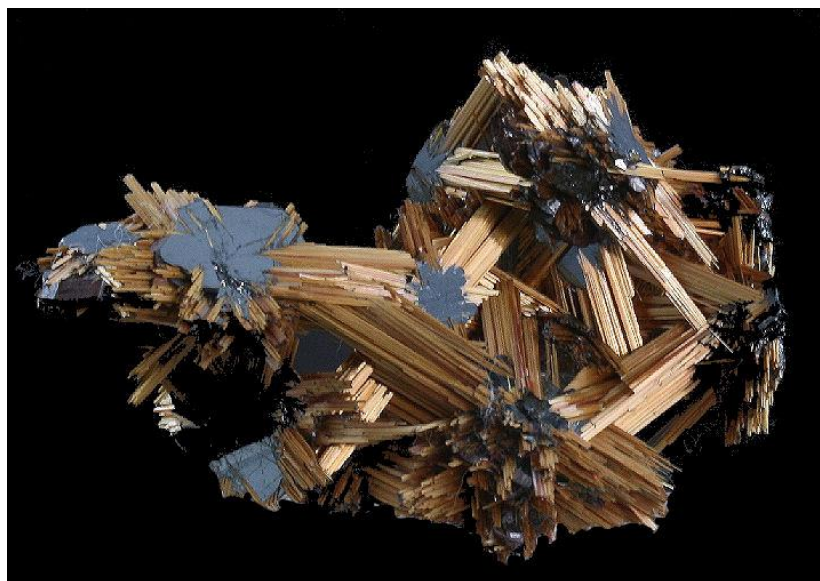
Prehnite, 9.5 cm, from the Prospect Park quarry, Passaic County, New Jersey. Hummingbird Minerals specimen; Jim Brown photo.

Next, have you ever seen quite so *large* a fine specimen of **erythrite** from Bou Azzer on the market? This one of Jim Brown's measures 8 cm across, with the top surface of its metallic gray (skutterudite?) matrix covered entirely by dark maroon-colored fans of erythrite crystals (\$1500).

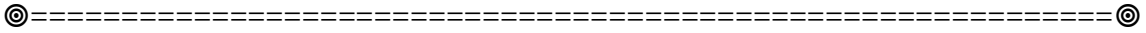


Erythrite, 8 cm, from the Bou Azzer mining district, Zagora Province, Draa-Tafilalet Region, Morocco. Hummingbird Minerals specimen; Jim Brown photo.

Finally, we've all seen many specimens, mostly thumbnails and small miniatures, of golden acicular **rutile** crystals in girderworks linking black platy crystals of hematite in three dimensions, from Ibitiara (also "Novo Horizonte"), Bahia, Brazil. These are delicate, crumbly items, however, and even the smallest routinely shed little golden shards, and somehow their distinctive beauty never quite "works" in the smaller sizes. Well, Jim Brown's 6.5-cm specimen on his Hummingbird site *does* look stable and firm, and it is pristine and quite gigantic for what it is. Jim writes that the specimen was collected by the late Luis Menezes, back when the locality was brand-new and giving up its best, original prizes. And with Jim's stunning photo of this stunning specimen (\$3,700), I bring the report to its end.



Rutile and Hematite, 6.5 cm, from Ibitiara, Bahia, Brazil. Hummingbird Minerals specimen; Jim Brown photo.



Wishing all a good, carefree and Covid-free summer!

Thomas P. Moore

