

Arsenic minerals, their properties, distribution, and significance

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The report characterizes arsenic minerals. Of more than 120 known arsenic-bearing minerals, the most widespread arsenic ores are: arsenopyrite FeAsS (46.0% arsenic), löllingite FeAs_2 (72.8% arsenic), realgar AsS (70.1% arsenic), and orpiment As_2S_3 (61.0% arsenic). Arsenic compounds are commonly associated with ores of gold, silver, copper, zinc, and antimony. These minerals are of hydrothermal origin. In Georgia, significant arsenic deposits include the Lukhumi and Tsana deposits. Arsenic is used in agriculture, medicine, metallurgy, the arts, in the production of pesticides, and for other purposes.