

Observations.

It is an opinion entertained by many, that this salt is the same with the sal ammoniac (ἅλις ἀμμωνιακός) of the ancients; but the accounts of Pliny, Dioscorides, Columella, Synesius, Herodotus, Strabo, and Arrian, prove that they understood by sal ammoniac rock-salt; and even the ancient Arabian physicians Avicenna and Serapion, who flourished during the eleventh century, describe rock-salt under the name sal ammoniac. The first account we have of sal ammoniac is in a treatise of Geber's, the date of which is uncertain.—Vid. Beckman, Beiträge zur Geschichte der Erfindungen, b. v. s. 254,—285.

2. Mascagnine*, or Sulphate of Ammonia.

Mascagnin, *Karsten*.

Mascagnin, *Reuss*, b. ii. 3. s. 45. *Id. Karsten*, Tabel s. 56.—
Ammoniaque sulphatée, *Hauy*, Tabl. p. 21.—Mascagnin,
Lenz, b. ii. s. 985.

External Characters.

Its colours are yellowish-grey and lemon-yellow.

It occurs in mealy crusts, or stalactitic.

Internally it is dull or glistening.

The fracture is uneven or earthy.

It is semi-transparent or opaque.

Its taste is sharp and bitter.

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Chemical

* It is named after the discoverer M. Mascagni.