

ORDER XXI.—TANTALUM.

THIS Order contains three species, viz. Tantalite, Ytrotantalite, and Gadolinite.

1. Tantalite.

Tantalit, *Karsten*.

Columbite, *Hatchett*.

Tantalit, *Eckeberg*, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 1802, Q. 1. p. 68.—83.—Tantalite, *Reuss*, b. ii. 4. s. 685.—Columbeisen, *Reuss*, b. ii. 4. s. 632.—Tantalit, *Leonhard*, Tabel. s. 83.—Tantal oxydé ferro-manganesifere, *Hauy*, Tabl. p. 120.—Tantalit, *Haus.* Handb. b. i. s. 310. *Id. Aikin*, p. 72.

External Characters.

Its colour is iron-black, sometimes with a shade of blue.

It occurs in imbedded angular pieces, from the size of a pea to that of a hazel-nut: also crystallised, in the form of an acute octahedron, with a square base.

The surface of the angular pieces is uneven; that of the crystals sometimes smooth, sometimes streaked.

Externally it is glistening, internally shining, and the lustre is metallic, inclining to resinous.

The fracture is coarse-grained uneven, inclining to conchoidal or concealed foliated.