

Observations.

This species bears a considerable resemblance to several other minerals, particularly to magnetic ironstone, tinstone, wolfram, yttrotantalite, and gadolinite. It is distinguished from *magnetic ironstone*, by its not affecting the magnetic needle, and its greater specific gravity; from compact *black tinstone*, by its metallic lustre, brownish-black powder, and also by the action of the blowpipe, for tinstone, when exposed, on charcoal, to the reducing flame of the blowpipe, is reduced; and from *wolfram*, by the absence of the foliated fracture, and the action of the blowpipe, as wolfram, along with glass of borax, when exposed to the exterior flame of the blowpipe, becomes of a reddish colour. The characters that distinguish it from *yttrotantalite* will be given in the account of the other species. It is distinguished from *gadolinite* by its higher specific gravity, uneven fracture, and infusibility.

2. Yttrotantalite.

Ytter-Tantal, *Karsten*.

Yttertantalit, *Eckeberg*, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 1802, Q. 1.—Yttertantal, *Reuss*, Min. ii. 4. s. 637. *Id.* *Leonhard*, Tabel. s. 83. *Id.* *Karsten*, Tabel. s. 74.—Tantal oxydé yttrifère, *Hany*, Tabl. p. 120.—Yttertantalit, *Haus.* Handb. b. i. s. 312.—Yttrotantalit, *Aikin*, p. 72.

External Characters.

Its colour is dark iron black.

It occurs imbedded in angular pieces, sometimes as large as a hazel-nut; and also crystallised:

N n 2

1. Oblique