

EXTERNAL CHARACTERS

OF MINERALS.

EXTERNAL characters are those which we discover by means of our senses, in the aggregation of minerals.

They are divided into *generic* and *specific*: the generic are certain properties of minerals used as characters, without any reference to their differences, as colour, lustre, weight, &c. The differences among these properties form the *specific* characters, as adamantine lustre, glassy or vitreous lustre, &c. The generic characters are divided into *general* and *particular*: under the first is comprehended those that occur in all minerals; under the second, those which occur only in particular classes of minerals. The particular generic external characters are arranged according as they strike the senses, and those are placed first which are observable by the eye, not only because they first engage our attention on examining a mineral, but because they are the most numerous and important. To colour follows those observed by touch, smell, and taste,

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