

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Used in Mineralogical Descriptions.

- Acicular.* Long, slender, and straight prisms, or crystals, are termed acicular, from the Latin, *acicula*, a little needle.
- Aggregated.* A mineral or rock is said to be aggregated when the several component parts only adhere together, and may be separated by mechanical means: the felspar, quartz, and mica, constituting granite, may be separated mechanically. Granite is an aggregated rock.
- Alliaceous.* The odour given out by arsenical minerals, when exposed to the blowpipe or struck by the hammer, resembles that of garlic, in Latin, *allium*; whence alliaceous.
- Alloy.* A natural combination of two or more metals in the metallic state.
- Amalgam.* A natural combination of two metals, of which mercury is one.
- Amorphous.* Without form; of undefinable shape; from the Greek, *αμορφος* having that signification. Amorphous minerals are sometimes described as being of indeterminate or indefinite forms.
- Anhydrous,* from the Greek *ανυδρος*, signifying without water.
- Arborescent.* From the Latin *arboresco*, to grow like a tree. See Dendritic.
- Arseniate.* A term applied to a mineral consisting of *arsenic acid* united with a base.
- Base.* A term denoting the substance to which an acid is united; in the arseniate of copper, the copper is the base.
- Borate.* A mineral in which boracic acid is combined with a base.
- Botryoidal.* From the Greek *βοτρυωδης*, signifying hung with clusters of grapes or berries. So a mineral presenting an aggregation of large sections of numerous small globes is termed botryoidal; but when the globes are larger, and the portions are less and separate, the appearance is expressed