Mindat Tries to Define Sausserite

Donald Kasper 11/30/2025, updated 12/1/2025

Mindat takes two totally different sausserite definitions, slams them together and posts the combined gibberish as follows:

Mindat:
"A Mixture of:
Albite, Clinozoisite, Epidote, Sericite, Zoisite
A tough, compact, and white, greenish, or grayish mineral aggregate consisting of a mixture of albite (or oligoclase) and zoisite or epidote, together with variable amounts of calcite, sericite, prehnite, and calcium-aluminum silicates other than those of the epidote group. It is an alteration product of plagioclase; once thought to be a mineral species."

Sausserite is either (a) anything white or green and translucent that may be jadeite, hence the zoisite, clinozoisite, epidote minerals, and (b) feldspar and alteration products consisting of sericite, a slang term for fine muscovite often with illite.

The author's specimen from Michigan College of Mines is listed as zoisite, a variety of sausserite. The site locality is Naslawice, Sobotka, Silesia, Poland. Rough, it is grey, but buffed it is fine white. It scans in infrared as albite and quartz (Figure 1) with illite clay, trace calcite, and some muscovite water. A combined muscovite-illite can be considered a definition of sericite, so Mindat mixes a feldspar weathering assemblage with a jade simulant assemblage. The two should be kept distinct.

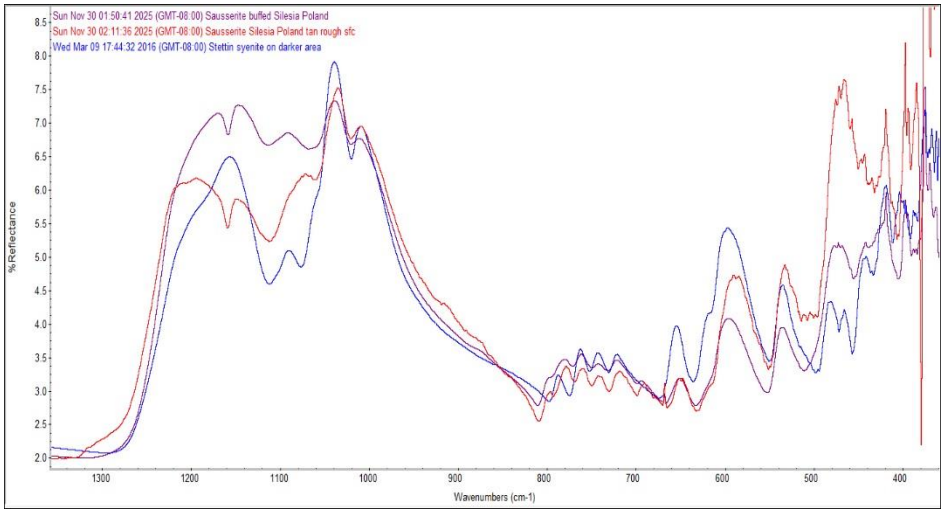

Figure 1. Sausserite buffed through weathering clay coating (violet spectrum), scan on grey coating (red spectrum), reference albite (blue spectrum). Many bands define albite in the 1200-1000 cm-1 spectrum, but the 800-650 cm-1 quartet most readily identify as albite. It takes the other bands with quartet changes to distinguish from oligoclase and anorthoclase. At 800 cm-1 the bands do not match sausserite with reference albite since the sausserite has quartz, which has a doublet itself below 800 cm-1. This spectrum capture is zoomed in at 1300cm-1 and below, but above that, calcite is seen. Here the weak ledge at 875 cm-1 is calcite. Water in the 4500 cm-1 region beyond view identifies illite clay water. Not shown, down at 7084 cm-1 water is a distinct band that is attributed to muscovite.