

Bustamite - $\text{CaMn}^{2+}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6)$

Hardness = 5.5 - 6.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Luster damaged by prolonged immersion in HCl used for calcite removal. Use of dilute acetic acid, citric acid or other organic acids recommended as better alternate or use mechanical means (vibratory impact tool, etc.). Acid treated crystals may be photosensitive, becoming dark in sunlight.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-809.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/bustamite.pdf>

Hardinger, S. (2025) Mineral Specimen Cleaning and Development for the Amateur, 339 p.

Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.