Cobaltite - CoAsS

Hardness: 5.5. Cleavage: Perfect. Dust is toxic. Insoluble in water. Slowly decomposed by warm HNO_3, releasing S and As_2O_3. Very slightly attacked by other acids. Tolerates dilute HCl for calcite removal but minimize exposure. However, some associated species (erythrite, etc.) attacked by acids. May evolve toxic H_2S gas (rotten eggs smell) with acids. Likely to tarnish under "high risk conditions" (King). Sinkankas (1970) and Duthaler note this mineral may tarnish in humid air; store in dry atmosphere (with desiccant) free of sulfur or acid fumes.

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