Marcasite - FeS_2

Hardness: 6 - 6.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Tolerates sonication but may cause bath to become acidic. Insoluble in water. Powder soluble in HNO_3. Tolerates cold concentrated HCl for at least 15 minutes. Inert to cold concentrated citric acid (use this reagent to remove calcite), tartaric acid, acetic acid and dilute mineral acids. Tolerates pure water, NH_3, alcohol, acetone, Iron OUT/EDTA and NH_4HF_2. Prone to oxidative decomposition (pyrite disease or pyrite rot). Store in sealed container over desiccant. Rohner reports photosensitivity but this is doubtful.

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