



# Minerals

## Bytownite

$(\text{Ca},\text{Na})\text{Al}(\text{Al},\text{Si})\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8 (\text{An}_{70-90})$  (Feldspar)

### Crystallography:

Triclinic; 1. Crystals usually tabular parallel to {010}; twinning frequent as in albite. Commonly as irregular grains and cleavable masses.

### Physical Properties:

**Cleavage:** {001} perfect, {010} good. Fracture uneven to conchoidal; brittle.

**Hardness:** 6.0.

**Specific Gravity:** 2.74.

**Luster:** Vitreous to pearly.

**Color:** Colorless, white, gray; sometimes greenish, bluish, yellowish, or reddish. Transparent to subtranslucent.

**Streak:** White. translucent.

### Composition/Features:

Bytownite is an aluminosilicate of the plagioclase feldspar group, and forms as an intermediate member of a solid solution series extending from albite (Na-rich) to anorthite (Ca-rich). Like other group members, it is characterized by twinning striations on basal cleavages and its relative hardness. Accurate identification can only be done by chemical, X-ray or optical tests.

### Occurrence/Use:

Bytownite is a more calcic plagioclase of uncommon occurrence. Rarely found except as grains in gabbros.