

Minerals

Azurite

Cu₃ (CO₃)₂ (OH)₂ Crystallography:

Monoclinic; 2/m. Habit varies; crystals commonly complex and malformed. Also massive.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {011} perfect, {100} fair. Fracture conchoidal, brittle.

Hardness: 3.5-4.0. Specific Gravity: 3.37.

Luster: Vitreous.

Color: Azure blue; transparent to translucent.

Streak: Light blue.

Composition/Features:

A hydrous copper carbonate characterized by its intense azure blue color and effervescence in HCI. Pseudomorphs of malachite after azurite are common.

Occurrence/Use:

A minor ore of copper, azurite is less common than malachite but is often found in similar deposits. Widely distributed with copper ores.

