

**Crystal Data:** Hexagonal. *Point Group:*  $\bar{3} 2/m$ . Commonly as liquid spheres or globules; crystallizes in rhombohedra.

**Physical Properties:** Hardness = n.d. VHN = n.d. D(meas.) = 13.596 (liquid). D(calc.) = 14.26 (solid) Liquid above  $-38.9$  °C; volatile; vapor highly toxic.

**Optical Properties:** Opaque. *Color:* Tin-white. *Luster:* Metallic, brilliant.  
R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>2</sub>: n.d.

**Cell Data:** *Space Group:*  $R\bar{3}m$ .  $a = 3.463$   $c = 6.706$   $Z = 3$

**X-ray Powder Pattern:** n.d.

**Chemistry:** Composition essentially mercury, rarely with a little silver or gold.

**Occurrence:** In hydrothermal deposits formed at low temperature and associated with hot springs.

**Association:** Cinnabar, metacinnabar, calomel, terlinguaite, eglestonite, mercurian silver, mercurian gold, pyrite, dolomite, barite, quartz.

**Distribution:** From a number of localities, but rarely in significant amounts. In the USA, in California, especially at New Almaden, Santa Clara Co., and Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa Co.; in Texas, at Terlingua, Brewster Co. A noted locality at Almadén, Ciudad Real Province, Spain. In Serbia, on Mount Avala, near Belgrade. From Idrija (Idria), Slovenia. In Germany, at Landsberg, near Obermoschel, Rhineland-Palatinate. From Brezina, Czech Republic. In Ukraine, at Nagolnii Krjasch, Donets Basin. From Sala, Västmanland, Sweden.

**Name:** From the Latin *Mercurius*, the mythological messenger of the gods, in allusion to its mobility in liquid form; the chemical symbol from the Latin *hydrargyrum*, *liquid silver*.

**References:** (1) Palache, C., H. Berman, and C. Frondel (1944) Dana's system of mineralogy, (7th edition), v. I, 103. (2) Barrett, C.S. (1957) The structure of mercury at low temperatures. *Acta Cryst.*, 58–60. (23) Black, P.J. and J.A. Cundall (1965) The structures of liquid mercury and liquid aluminum. *Acta Cryst.*, 19, 807–814.