



Minerals

Staurolite



Crystallography:

Monoclinic (pseudo-orthorhombic); $2/m$. Crystals prismatic with common forms $\{110\}$, $\{001\}$, and $\{101\}$. Cruciform twins very common (at nearly 90° and 60°). Rarely massive.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: $\{010\}$ distinct. Subconchoidal fracture; brittle.

Hardness: 7.0-7.5.

Specific Gravity: 3.65-3.75.

Luster: Vitreous to resinous when fresh; dull when altered.

Color: Brown; translucent.

Streak: White to gray.

Composition/Features:

A nesosilicate with a structure closely resembling kyanite. Recognized by its crystals and twins, and distinguished from andalusite by its obtuse prism. Infusible. Insoluble.

Occurrence/Use:

Staurolite is characteristic of regionally metamorphosed aluminum-rich rocks and is found in schists and gneisses. Commonly used as an index mineral in medium grade metamorphic rocks. Noted for its crossed twins that are often sold as charms.