



Minerals

Limonite



Crystallography:

Not crystallized, a mineral colloid. Usually stalactitic, botryoidal, or mammillary; also fibrous, massive, earthy.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: None apparent.

Hardness: 5.0-5.5.

Specific Gravity: 3.6-4.0.

Luster: Silky, often submetallic; dull, earthy.

Color: Shades of brown, brownish-yellow, ochre-yellow. Opaque.

Streak: Yellowish-brown.

Composition/Features:

Limonite, while not a true mineral species, is used mainly as a field term to refer to natural hydrous iron oxides of uncertain identity. Not crystallized like goethite and yields more water.

Occurrence/Use:

Widespread in occurrence and always of secondary origin, resulting from the alteration of other ores, or minerals, containing iron. Often associated with manganese ores. A commercial ore of iron, and used for yellow pigment.