

## Mineral Spotlight: Datolite

Datolite is a relatively rare calcium-boron silicate that takes a special form in Michigan. It can have many different crystal forms, like platy or short prismatic crystals, and is most typically a white, gray, or yellow. In Michigan, it most commonly occurs in a massive form inside void spaces in rock, and can be a light pink to a very rare deep pink, like our Museum piece. This deep pink color is caused by impurities of copper in its crystal structure – in the Upper Peninsula, it occurs in the same volcanic rocks that are host to massive copper deposits.

Datolite has few industrial uses, but is a popular gem or ornamental stone. When massive forms are cut, they can sometimes reveal agate-like color banding.

This feature was posted on Dice Museum social media by Museum curator Jillian Herlinger on 10/11/2022.

