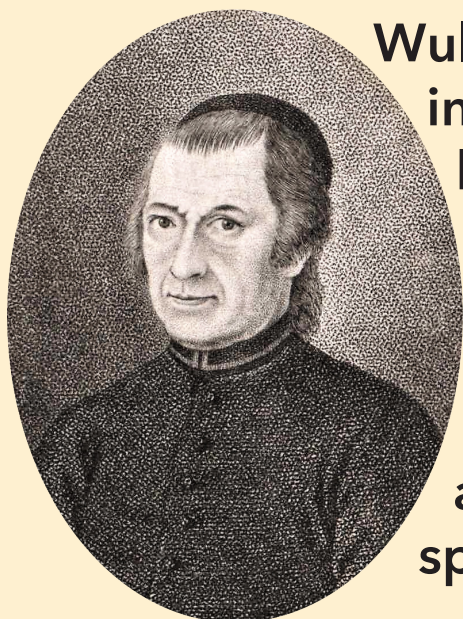
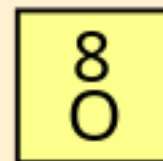
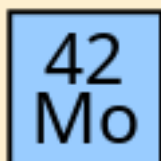
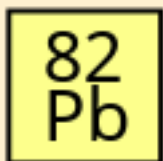


Wulfenite

Wulfenite is a mineral species, historically processed for molybdenum. Wulfenite has about 250 localities in 13 of Arizona's 15 counties. Wulfenite contains three essential elements: lead, molybdenum, and oxygen.



Franz Xavier von Wulfen
(1728 - 1805)

Wulfenite was known as "yellow lead spar" in the 18th and early 19th centuries. In his 1845 *Handbuch Der Bestimmenden Mineralogie*, Wilhelm Haidinger renamed the mineral to wulfenite. The name honors Franz Xavier von Wulfen, who in 1785 first described and published colored drawings of specimens from Austria.

Wulfenite is so popular among the mineral collecting community that the Mineralogical Society of Arizona led an effort to make wulfenite the Arizona state mineral.

On March 22, 2017, Governor Doug Ducey signed Arizona HB 2092 which declared,
"Wulfenite is the Official State Mineral."



Wulfenite has tetragonal symmetry, causing its crystals to show multiples of four sides – 4, 8, 12...

Specimen from the Tiger Mine in Pinal County, AZ.
Courtesy of the AMM/NRE Museum