

Boris Z. Kantor,Russian Mineralogical Society,
boris_kantor@mail.ru**Specimens and photos:
Boris Z. Kantor**

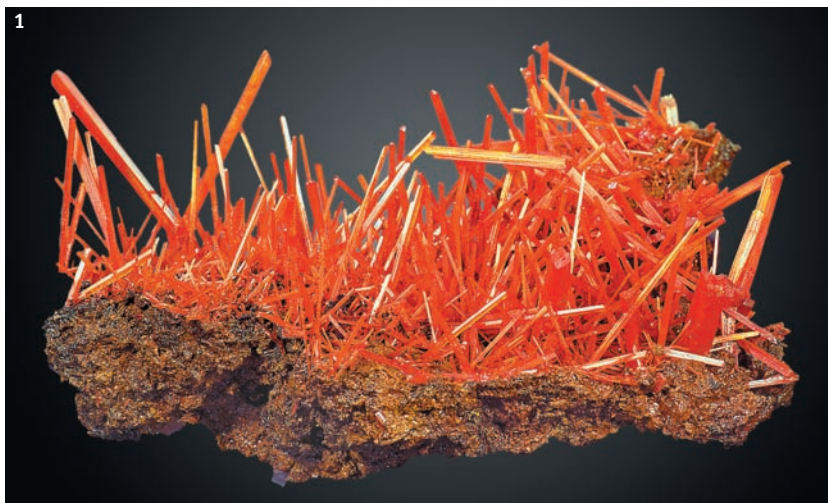
This article by Dr. Boris Z. Kantor, a well-known Russian writer and mineral collector, is focused on mineral aggregate, called *druza* in Russian literature.

It approximates the American Geological Institute's definition: "*druse*: (b) *A mineral surface covered with small projecting crystals* (Glossary of Geology, 5th edition. Klaus K.E. Neuendorf, James P. Mehl, Jr., and Julia A. Jackson, Eds., AGI Publication), "small" to be omitted. In short, the term druse is used below to mean "*crystal cluster on matrix*".

Editorial

Druses are mysterious and gorgeous, and nothing in the Mineral Kingdom is more challenging and attractive. The Mineralogical Almanac has already published on them (Kantor, 2011). The definition: druse is "*a mineral aggregate consisting of crystals that have grown on a common matrix (basement) in a free space from crystal nuclei in the absence of an orienting influence*" (Figs. 1, 2, 3).

Okay, let the mysterious and gorgeous one come into existence; what would come next? The crystals may be etched; during growth, their habit may change or they may be replaced with some other minerals. But regardless, even if the things remain the same and the crystals merely continue to grow, something interesting takes place. The space for the growth turns out to be not completely free as the crystals can only grow on one side of the matrix. As far as they grow in this space, they are impeding one another more and more; they come into a geometric selection and the druse evolves finally into a parallel aggregate (Grigor'ev, 1965; Kantor, 2011).



1. **Crocoite**, 6 cm wide.
Adelaide Mine, Tasmania, Australia.



2. Druse of **fluorite** crystals, 7 cm wide.
Bingham, New Mexico, USA.



3. **Orpiment**, 5 cm wide.
Shimen, Hunan Prov., China.



4. **Epidote**, parallel aggregate, 7×9 cm.
Baluchistan, Pakistan.

5. **Epidote**, druse of crystals up to 1.5 cm.
Yunxiao, Fujian Prov., China.

6. **Epidote**. Crystals to 2 cm.
Pamir, Tajikistan.

