

MICROSCOPICAL EXPLORATION NINETEEN

Microscopes and Minerals

For longer than I should have, I neglected the rather non-descript wooden box, lying on the floor of my man-cave, which my kids used to call “Dad’s Rox Box”.

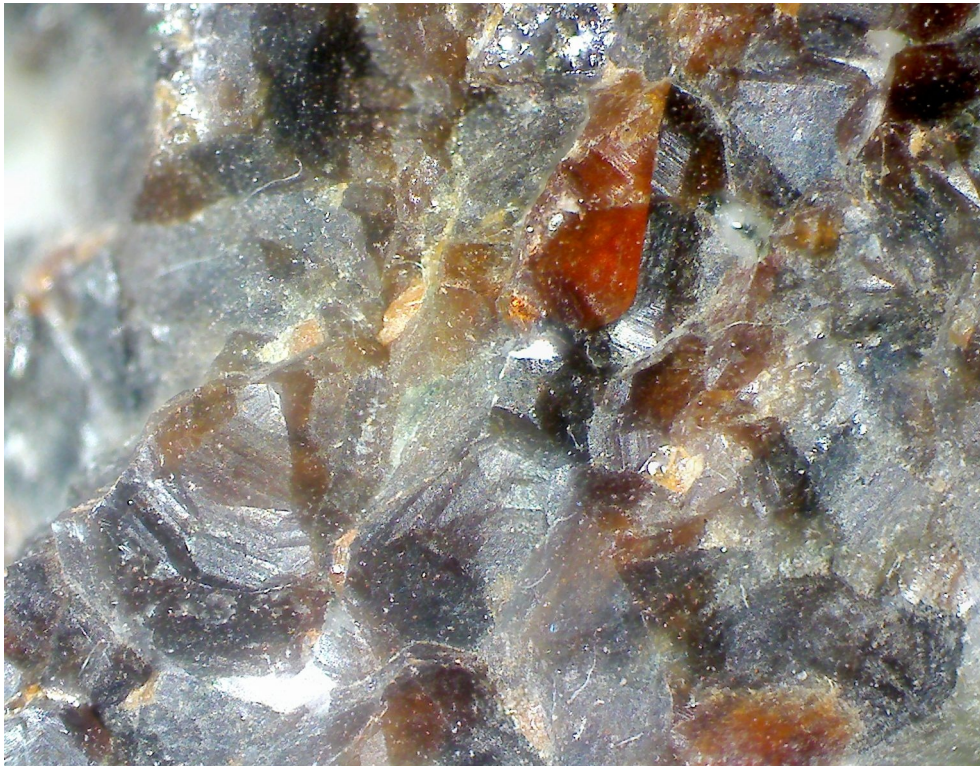
The box, pictured below, contains my specimens of rocks and minerals collected over many years from various locations in West Cumbria and the English Lake District.



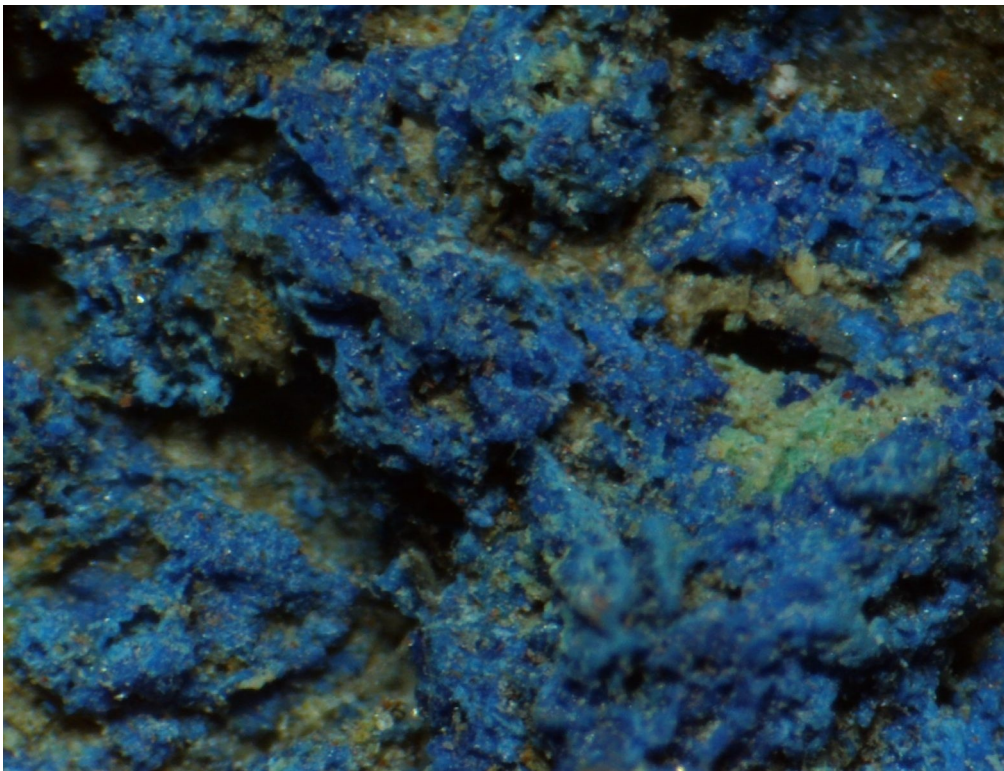
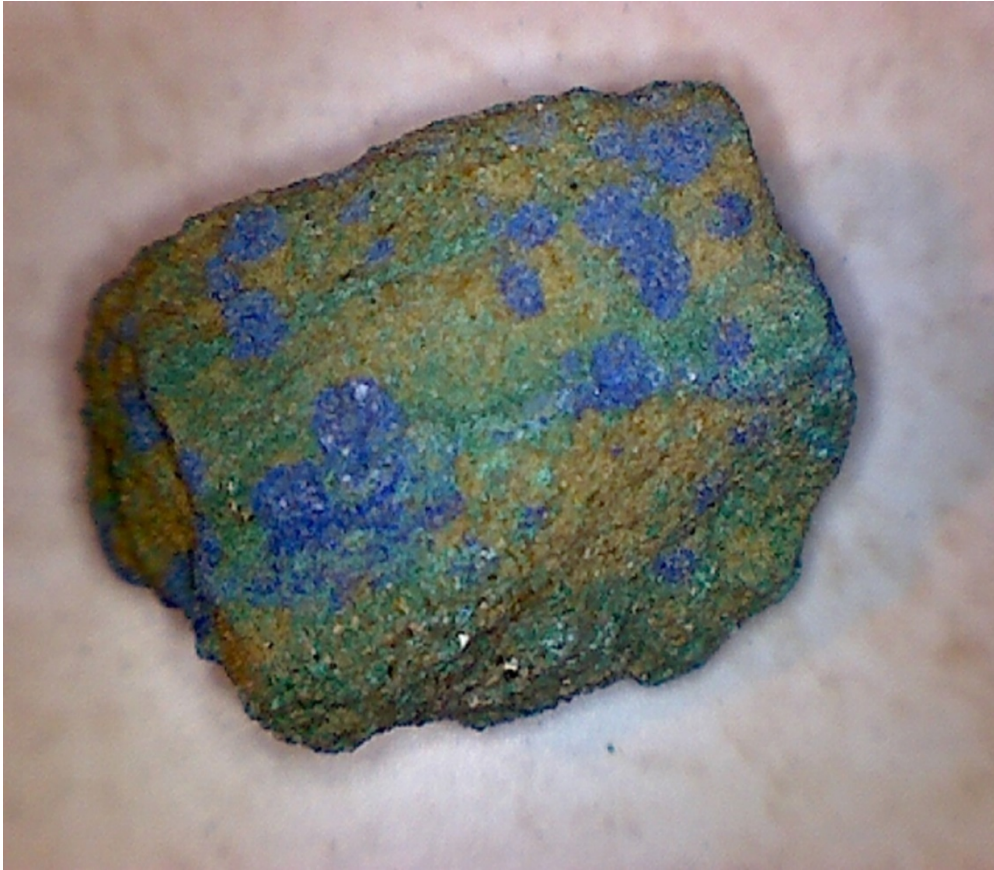
Very interesting when observed with the naked eye, the specimens become even more so when observed using a stereomicroscope, and for this exploration I used my Olympus VA-II stereo with its 1x objective pair for the general views, and my Brunel MX series stereo at 4x for closer in. All images were captured using a Brunel Eyecam Plus camera and Swift Imaging 3.0

Although the stereoscopic effect is largely lost when capturing images with an eyepiece camera attached to one side of a stereomicroscope, I have attempted to give the impression of the depth of field by using image stacking software to combine multiple images of each specimen.

Almandine Garnet



Azurite



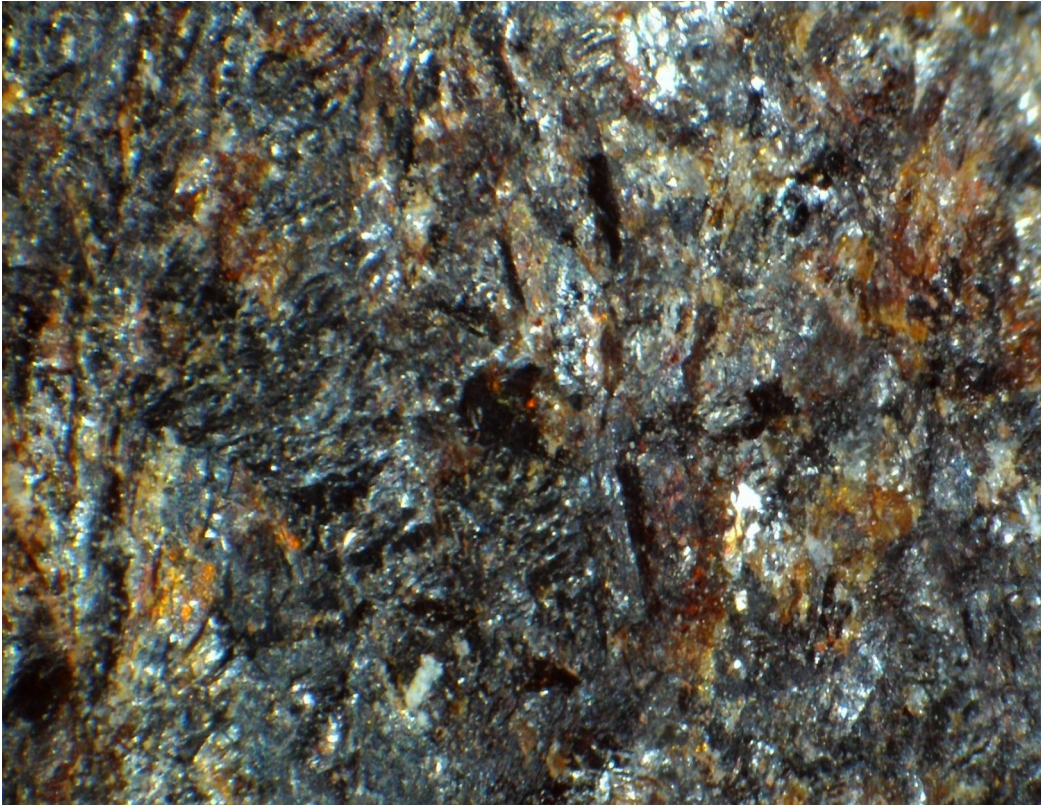
Barytes



Calcite



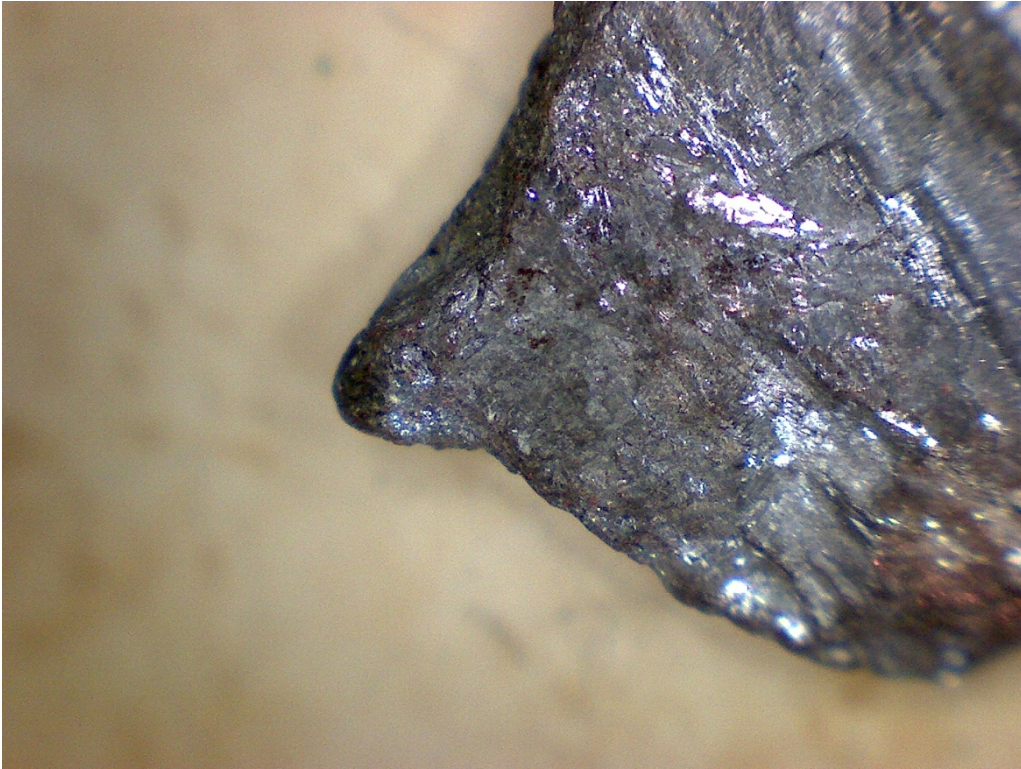
Cassiterite



Fluorite



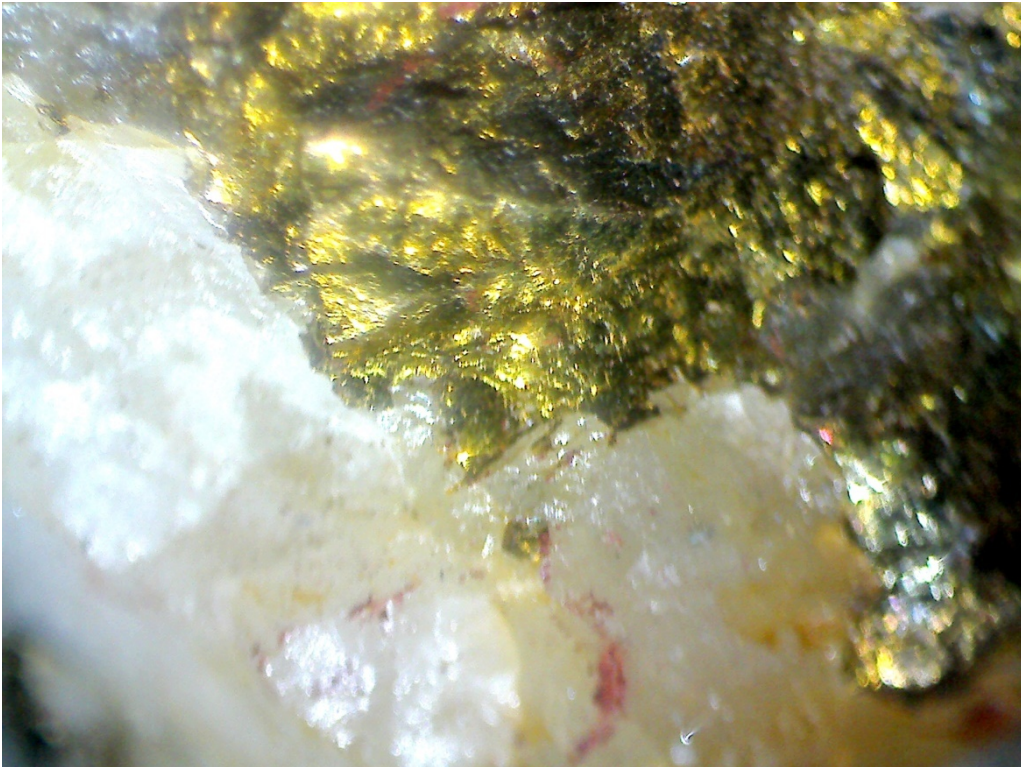
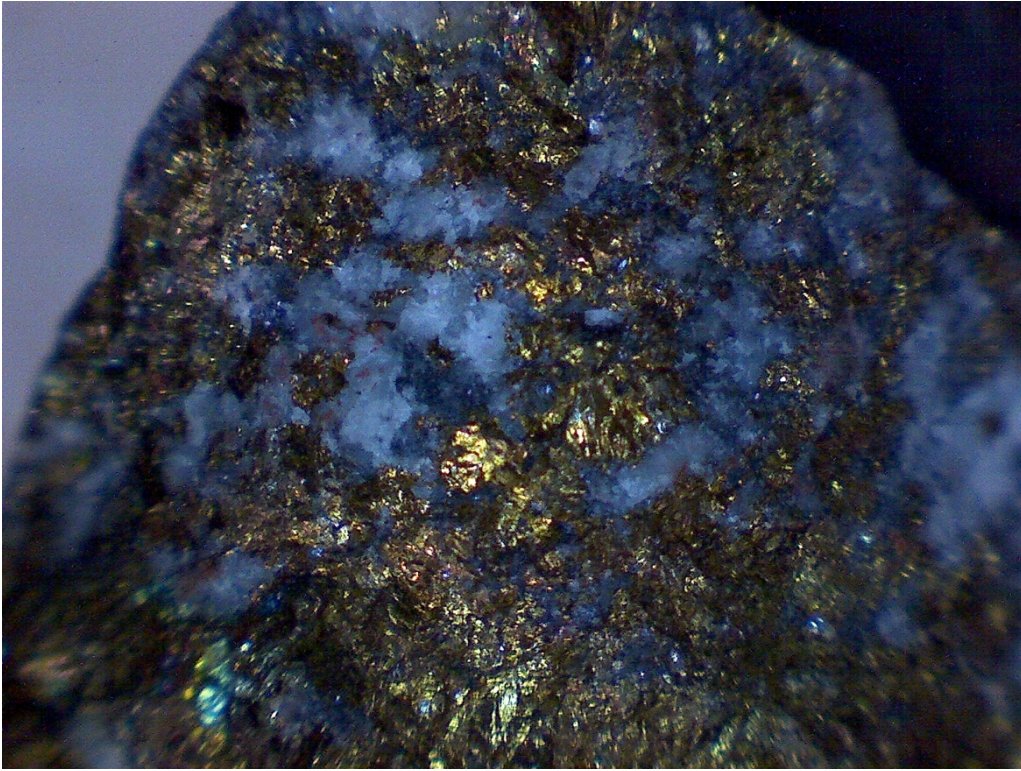
Galena



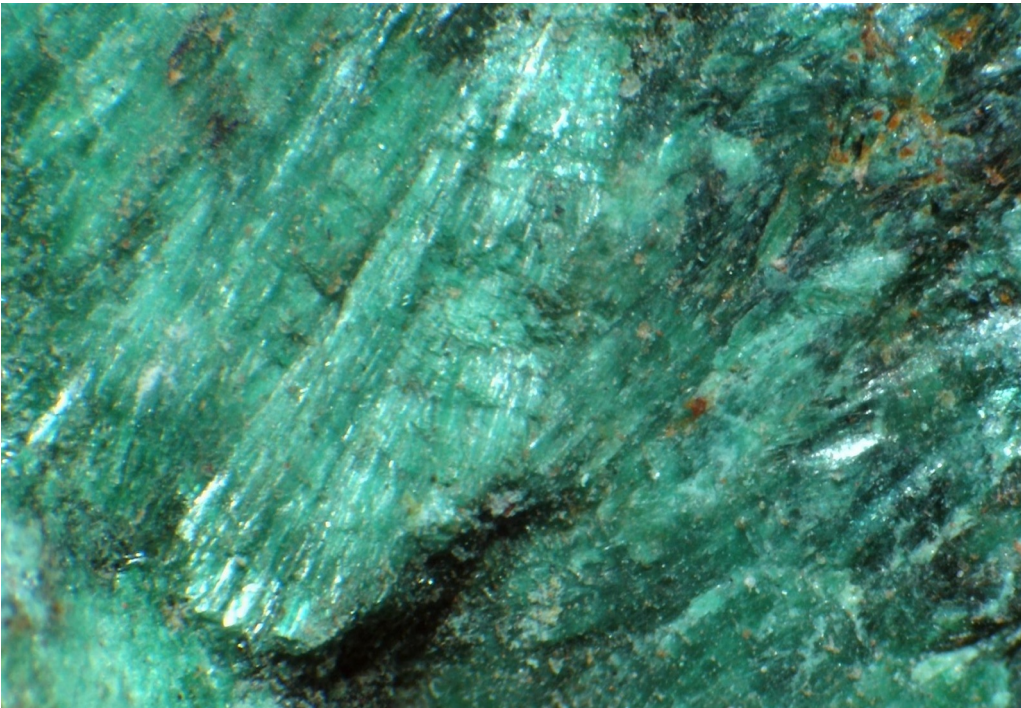
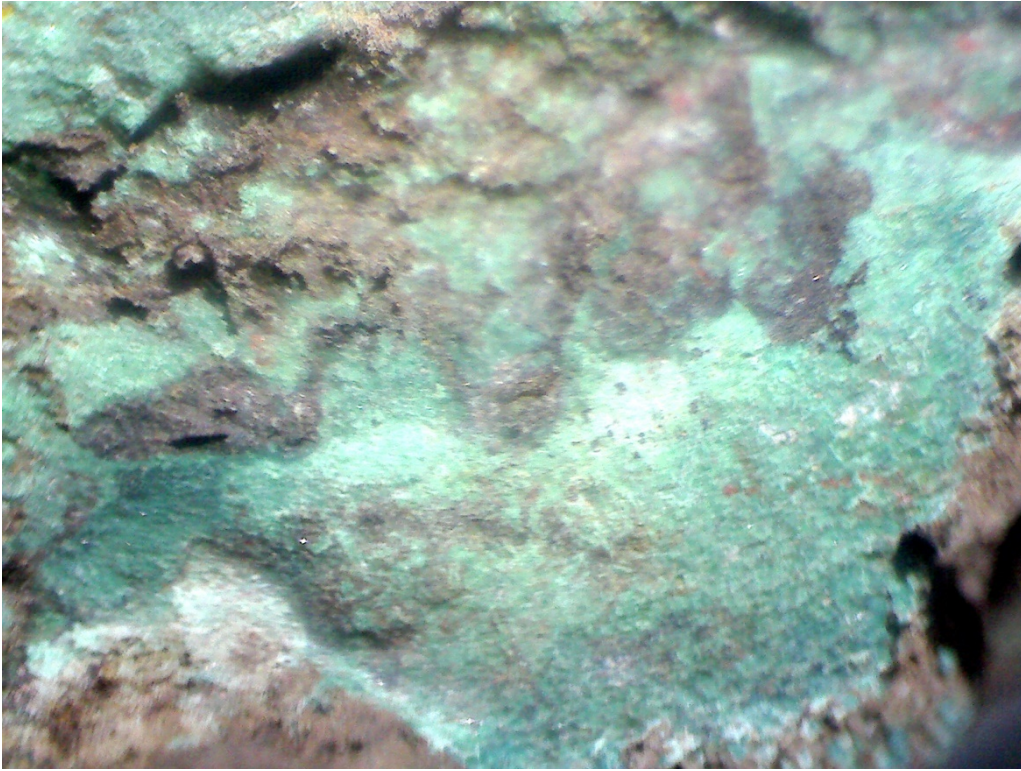
Haematite



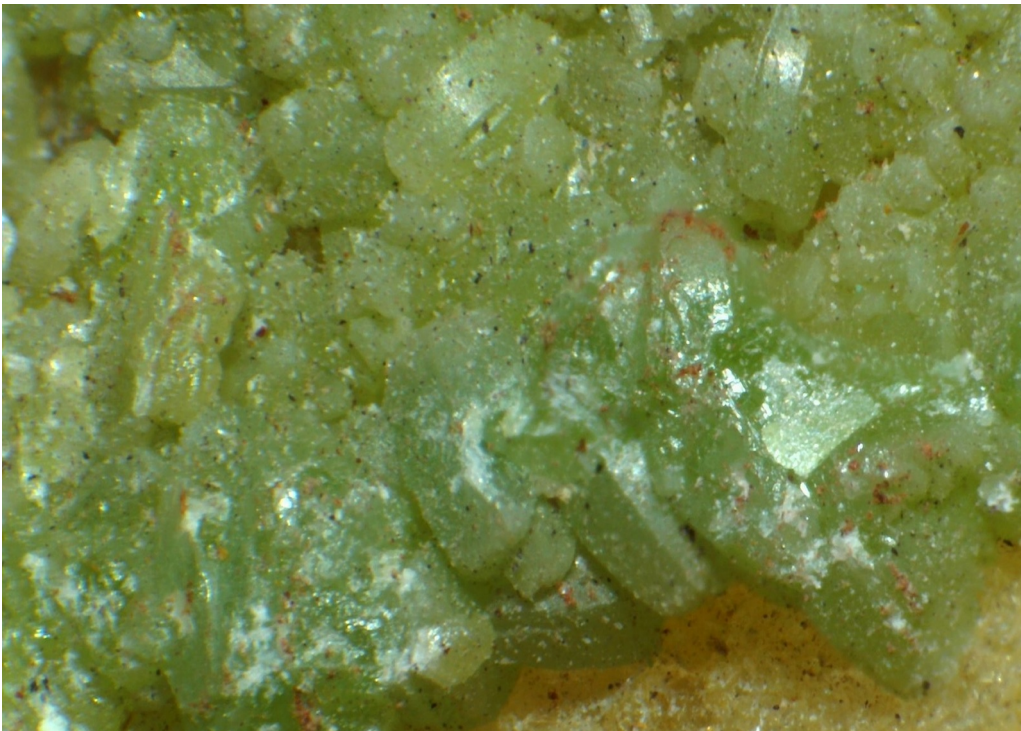
Iron Pyrites



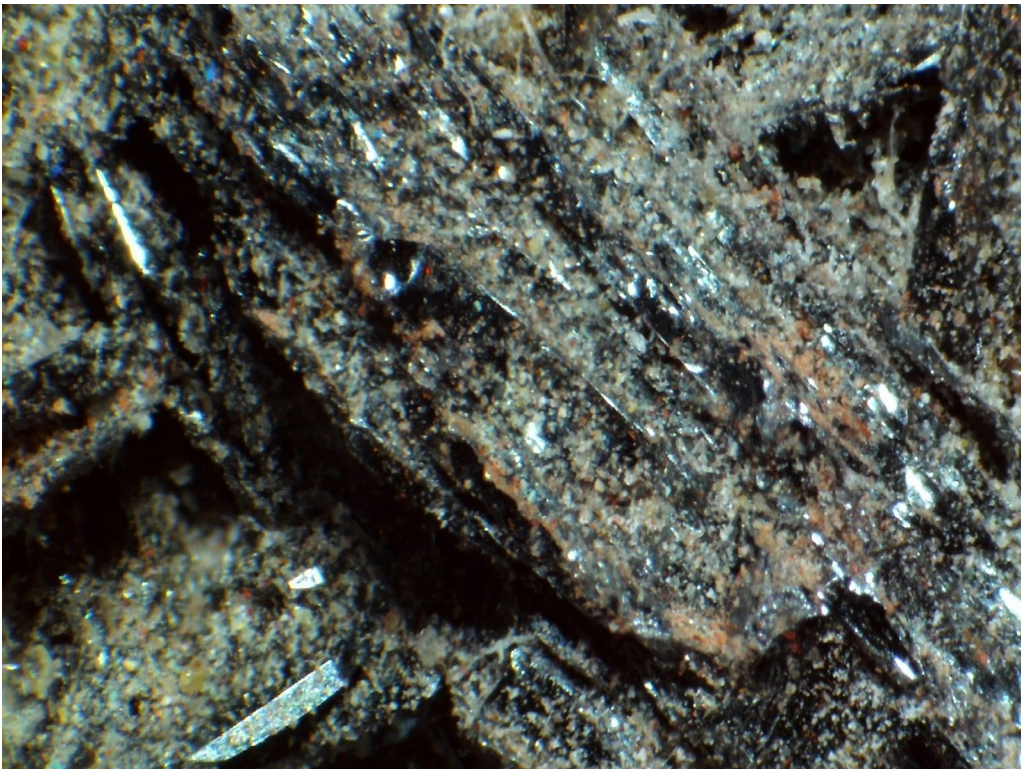
Malachite



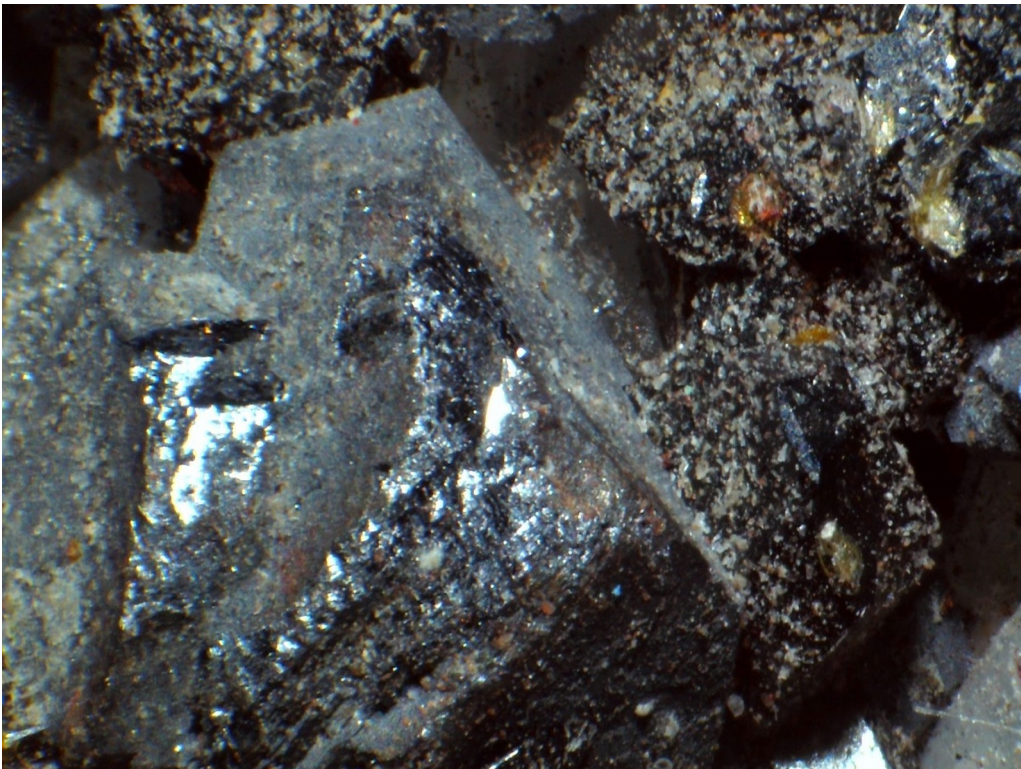
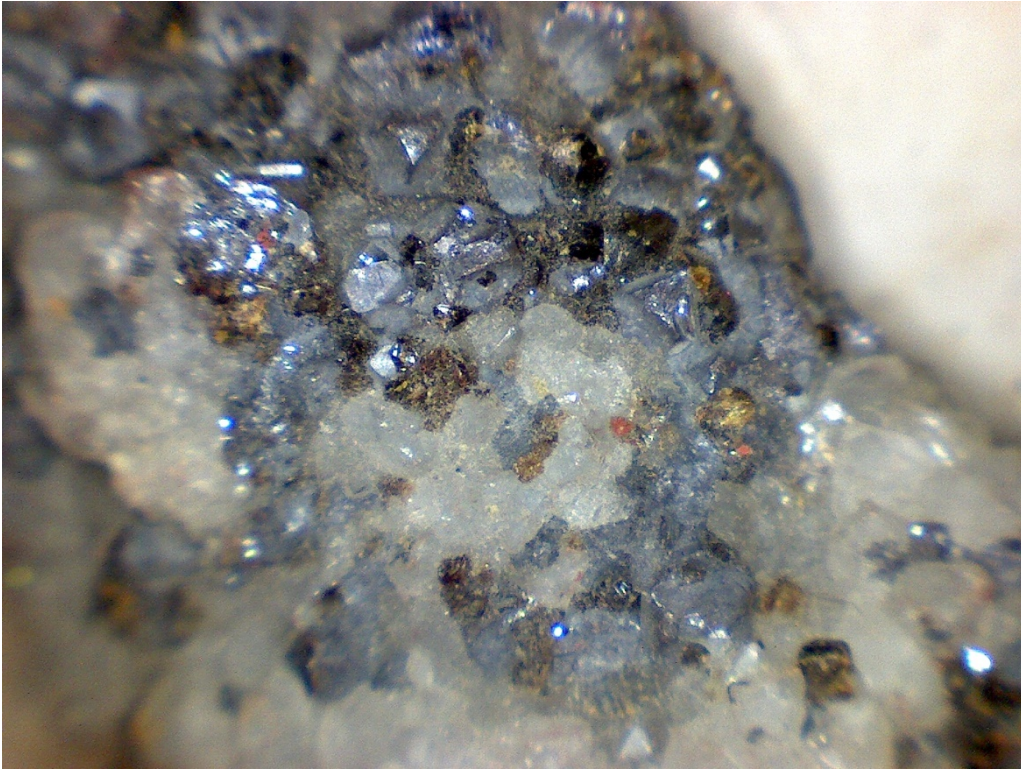
Pyromorphite



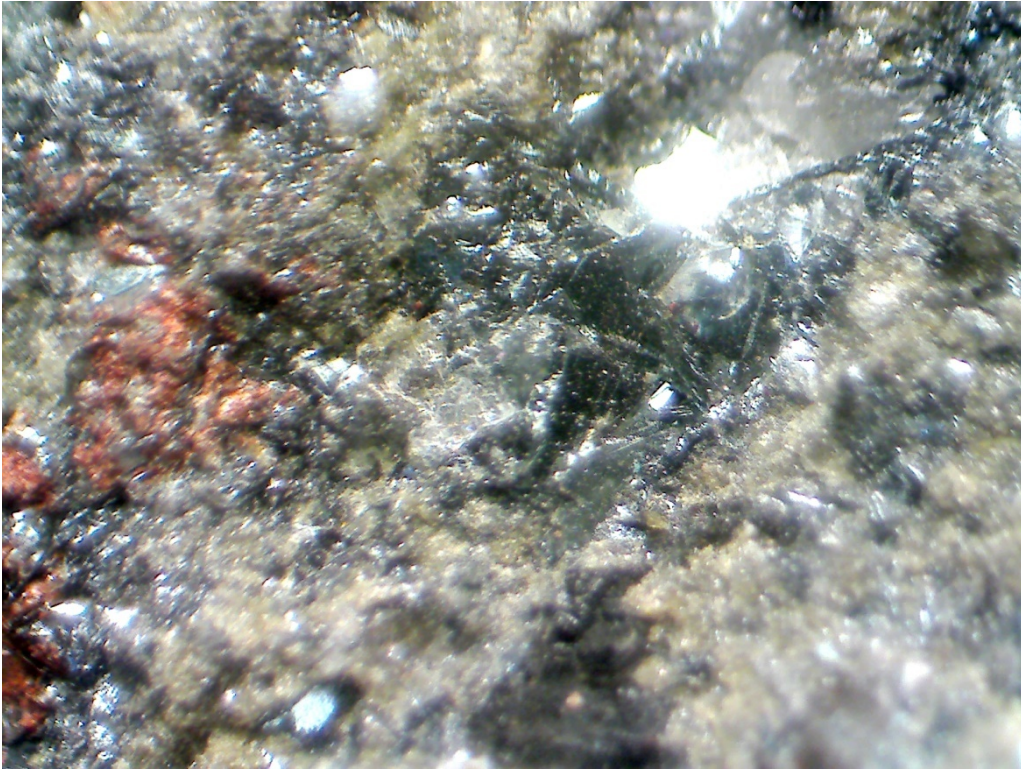
Specularite



Sphalerite on Quartz



Tinstone



As we say here in Cumbria:

'Ave a go yersel'!

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