MS20-P3 Mg$_2$Fe$_4$O$_9$ a novel breakdown product of Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_4$ at high pressure
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Since the recent discovery of the novel oxide Fe$_2$O$_5$ resulting as a breakdown product of siderite or magnetite [1,2], investigations on the possible substitutions of Mg and Cr for Fe$^{2+}$ and Fe$^{3+}$ and their implication for the Earth’s mantle have been undertaken [3]. Fe$_2$O$_5$ crystallises in the $Cmcm$ space group and has a structure similar to that of Sr$_2$Ti$_2$O$_7$ and CaFe$_2$O$_4$, consisting of layers of edge-sharing Fe$_2$O$_7$ octahedra and layers of trigonal prisms alternating along the c-axis. In the present study, the structure of a novel Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_4$ oxide, synthetized at 15 GPa and 1550 °C from a mixture of Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_4$ and MgO, has been determined by means of single-crystal X-ray diffraction. This compound is isostructural with Fe$_2$O$_5$ and it can be considered as the other end-member of a binary system between these two oxides involving the complete substitution of Fe$^{2+}$ for Mg. The Mg and Fe$^{3+}$ cations are disordered among the three crystallographic sites of the Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_4$ structure, although preference of Mg for the trigonal prism coordination is observed. Substitution of Mg into the Fe$_2$O$_4$ structure reduces the octahedral distortion of both octahedral sites. It also has been reported that FeCr$_2$O$_4$ dissociates into Fe$_2$Cr$_2$O$_7$ and Cr$_2$O$_3$ at high pressure [4]. However, such compound appears to be isostructural with Mg$_2$Al$_2$O$_4$, having space group $Pnma$ and a different stacking of the octahedral units that, in this case, form long chains surrounding the trigonal prisms. This is quite puzzling given that samples belonging to the Fe-Cr solid solution with up to 50% of the Fe$_2$Cr$_2$O$_7$ component [3] appear instead to crystallise in the $Cmcm$ space group. A possible explanation of such difference may reside in the different Jahn-Teller distortions of the two compounds, since in Fe$_2$Cr$_2$O$_7$ only Cr$^{3+}$ is present while in Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_5$ the transition cation is exclusively Fe$^{3+}$. Mg$_2$O$_5$ phases can now be considered a new addition to the phase relations of a number of simple oxide systems at pressures and temperatures at which the spinel-structured phase becomes unstable. These phases may form complex solid solutions; moreover, our results indicate that cation order-disorder phenomena may help to stabilize the Mg$_2$O$_5$ phase, particularly at higher temperatures.

References:

Keywords: Mg$_2$Fe$_2$O$_5$, Fe$_2$O$_5$, high-pressure, crystal structure

MS20-P4 High pressure synthesis and characterization of hydrogenated nitrogen-rich carbonaceous polymer
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High pressure synthesis and recovery of new materials based on the C-N-H system have gained remarkable interest fueled by their potential use as high energy density materials, layered graphic structures for nanoelectronics, metal-free photocatalysts or intermediates for the production of superhard carbon nitrides. Due to its highly symmetric molecule with C and N atoms alternating in an aromatic ring and equal contents of all three elements, 1,3,5-triazine (s-triazine, C$_3$N$_2$H$_2$) is a promising candidate for the synthesis of novel extended compounds.

We have thoroughly studied pressure and temperature induced reaction in solid s-triazine and characterized its phase diagram and $P-T$ stability boundaries of the crystalline molecular phases by the means of IR spectroscopy. The reaction kinetics was analyzed as well. Powder diffraction patterns measured as a function of pressure allowed us to obtain atomic coordinates for the high pressure phase II of s-triazine and to confirm the previously described low temperature crystal form of C$_2$/c space group symmetry, existing at atmospheric pressure below 198.07 K. Following the pressure evolution of short C...N contacts we determined the critical minimum distance, which marks the threshold of the chemical reaction. In addition, the stable amorphous product of the reaction was recovered to ambient conditions and analyzed by IR spectroscopy and pair distribution function analysis. Depending on the reaction conditions different products are formed.

Kamil F. Dzubiak gratefully acknowledges the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education for financial support through the "Mobilność Plus" program.

Keywords: high pressure chemistry, synthesis, functional materials