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Hydrothermal Crystallization and Characterization of R⁺³: AlPO₄ Zeolites, where R=Ce, Pr and Nd

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Zeolites are the most important technological materials made up framework of aluminosilicates, aluminophosphates, vanadophosphates, silicoaluminophosphates and so on. In the recent years the interest is being extended greatly from the molecular sieves to selective catalysis, gas adsorption, nanoparticle hosts, atmospheric ecosystems, etc. These aluminophosphate molecular sieve zeolites have uni-, two-, and three-dimensional channels which are obtained hydrothermally in the presence of organic amines as structure directing agents. VPI-5 is an important aluminophosphate molecular sieve with 18 tetrahedral rings and free diameter of 12.1 Å. In this paper, the authors discuss the synthesis of R⁺³: aluminophosphate, where R=Ce, Pr and Nd. The addition of R⁺³ into the aluminophosphate framework not only enhances the stability of the framework, but also enlarges the pore diameter, which helps in the sieving of large molecules. Further, the efficiency of the catalytic activity can be elevated. The materials obtained have been subjected to a systematic characterization using Powder XRD, IR, SEM, BET and Positron Annihilation Life time measurements. The preliminary investigation shows that the following results: FTIR spectra show that the R+3 is inserted into the AlPO₄ pores. Cell volume has increased considerably with the insertion of R+3 elements into zeolites framework. Consequently the surface area decreased. Positron annihilation lifetime spectroscopy data show that micro void content increases as the surface area decreases.

Keywords: AlPO $_4$ zeolites, hydrothermal crystallization, rare earth elements

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Gallium Substitution in Alumosilicate Halide Sodalites

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In the $Na_8[AlSiO_4]_6X_2$ sodalite system (X = Cl, Br, I) the aluminium atoms were partially substituted with gallium progressively. The synthesised products represented the new composition $Na_8[Al_{1-y}Ga_ySiO_4]_6X_2$ (0 \leq y \leq 1). Gallium concentrations for different compositions were calculated using X-ray powder data Rietveld refinements and ²⁹Si MAS NMR spectroscopy. The lattice parameters increased [1, 2] linearly from [AlSiO₄]₆ to [GaSiO₄]₆ framework matrix. The Al/Ga-O distance was found as an average magnitude [2], which increases with increasing gallium concentration while the Si-O distance remained almost constant at 162.8 pm ($\sigma \sim 2$), 163.4 pm ($\sigma \sim 3$) and 162.6 ($\sigma \sim 2$) for the chloride, bromide and iodide sodalite, respectively. The increasing average tilt of the framework Al/GaO₄ and SiO₄ tetrahedra led to Na-O and Na-X distances shortening as a consequence of increasing gallium content in the trivalent site of the framework. The degree of framework oxygen s-hybridisation was observed linearly correlated to average T-O distances. In the XRD patterns no clear hints for domain formation of aluminium and gallium enriched parts in the crystals were observed. However, the ²⁹Si MAS NMR spectra showed clearly a non statistical distribution of the different Si-(OT14) surroundings for bromide and iodide sodalites (y $\sim 0.30 - 0.70$). In the chloride sodalite series, aluminium and gallium were observed statistically distributed throughout the crystals.

[1] Perlmutter M. S., Todd L. T., Farrell E. F., Mat. Res. Bull., 1974, 9(1), 65.

[2] Murshed M. M., Gesing Th. M., Z. Kristallogr., 2005, Suppl. 22, 27. Keywords: sodalite, gallium, substitution

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Na/K and Na/Li Substituted Aluminosilicate Nitrate Cancrinites Claus H. Rüscher, J.-Christian Buhl, Peter Stünkel, Thorsten M. Gesing, *Institut für Mineralogie, Universität Hannover*. E-mail: tm.gesing@mineralogie.uni-hannover.de

Cancrinites are the original class of microporous materials with so called $\epsilon\text{-}\mathrm{cages}$ of sixring and fourring formed by $TO_4\text{-}\mathrm{units}$ (here $T=Al,\ Si)$ and thereby including larger channels through the structures. We report here on synthesis and characterisation of the new forms of Na/K, Na/Li substituted cancrinites. The sodium form Na_{6+x}[Al_6Si_6O_{24}](NO_3)_x(H_2O)_y (TG => x \approx 1, y \approx 3) was directly prepared by soft chemical methods [1]. This form has been used as mother compound together with LiNO_3 and KNO_3 solutions under synthesis conditions obtaining the appropriate Li and K form. The lattice parameter (Tab. 1) show increased values with increasing cation size. This is explained by a decrease of the tilt angle of rigid TO_4-unit as defined here and supported by results of Rietveld refinements of X-ray powder data and infrared investigations.

Table 1: Lattice parameter of the different cancrinite forms

Cancrinite form	a /pm	c /pm	V /10 ⁶ pm ³
Na/Li	1246.76(5)	501.92(3)	675.66(7)
Na	1265.89(2)	518.15(1)	719.08(3)
Na/K	1303.56(5)	535.65(2)	788.27(7)

[1] Buhl J.-Ch., Stief F., Fechtelkord M., Gesing Th.M., Taphorn U., Taake C., J. Alloys Compd., 2000, 305, 93.

Keywords: cancrinite, substitution, synthesis

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The Crystal Structure of Sacrofanite, the 74 Å Phase of the Cancrinite Group

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Sacrofanite, a = 12.903(2), c = 74.284(8) Å, space group P = 62c, is the largest member known to date of the cancrinite group, displaying a 28 layer stacking sequence along the c axis. The members of this group share some structural features with zeolites, their structural cages hosting extra-framework ions as well as H2O molecules. The crystal structure of sacrofanite has been modeled on the basis of HRTEM images collected by means of a JEOL 4000EX microscope and processed with the program CRISP. The obtained model has been successfully refined vs. synchrotron radiation data (collected at the Xray Diffraction Beamline at the Elettra facility, Trieste, Italy) up to R = 0.083 for 2426 reflections, with a resolution of 0.96 Å. The layer stacking sequence has Zhdanov symbol |12(8)21|12(8)21|, and corresponds to ABCABACACABACBACBACABABACABC..., where A, B and C stand for the positions of the six-member rings in each layer. The topological symmetry is P63/mmc; however the ordering of Si and Al in the tetrahedral sites reduces the symmetry to $P = \overline{62c}$. The resulting framework is formed by two sequences of four cancrinite cages and two sodalite cages along 0, 0, z, whereas sequences of one losod, one cancrinite, one losod, two sodalite, one liottite, and two sodalite cages develop along both $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, z and $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, z. These cages host extra-framework cations and anions, as well as water molecules. The crystal chemical formula of sacrofanite, as obtained from the refinement, is $(Na,K)_{98}Ca_{20}(Si_{84}Al_{84}O_{336})(SO_4)_{26}Cl_2 \cdot 8H_2O$.

Keywords: crystal structure, HRTEM, synchrotron radiation

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