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Crystal growth, crystal structure and thermal expansion of a new layered borate Ba₂Bi₃B₂₅O₄₄. <u>Stanislav Filatov</u>, Sergey Krivovichev, Rimma Bubnova^b, Maria Krzhizhanovskaya, Anna Egorysheva^c, Sergey Volkov^{a,b}. ^aDepartment of Crystallography, St. Petersburg State University, Russia. ^bGrebenshchikov Institute of Silicate Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg, Russia. ^cKurnakov Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. E-mail: filatov.stanislav@gmail.com

Triangulation of the BaO-Bi₂O₃-B₂O₃ system at 600° [1] presents four stable compounds: BaBiBO₄, BaBi₂B₄O₁₀, Ba₃BiB₃O₉, and BaBiB₁₁O₁₉. For the last five years three ternary borates were structurally characterized in BaO-Bi₂O₃- B_2O_3 system: $BaBiBO_4$ [2] and $BaBi_2B_4O_{10}$ [3] and Ba₃BiB₉O₁₈ [4]. Here we report synthesis, crystal structure and thermal expansion of another ternary compound Ba₂Bi₃B₂₅O₄₄ discovered in the BaO-Bi₂O₃-B₂O₃ Single crystals of Ba₂Bi₃B₂₅O₄₄ were grown from a melt of nonstoichiometric composition close to BaBiB₁₁O₁₉. The crystal structure of Ba₂Bi₃B₂₅O₄₄ was solved by direct methods and refined to R1 = 0.030. The compound is trigonal, space group R-3m, a = 7.8514(16), c = 46.203(14) Å, V = 2466.6(10) Å³ The structure is based on the complicate B-O layers bonded by Bi-O octahedra. The B-O layer is parallel to (001) and is composed of two symmetrically equivalent sublayers from triborate rings composed of two tetrahedra and triangle. Two sublayers are connected through partly disordered triborate rings composed of triangles only. Ba atoms are located in the voids within the borate layer. Thermal expansion of Ba₂Bi₃B₂₅O₄₄ prepared by solid state reactions has been investigated by X-ray powder diffraction in air in temperature range from 20 to 700 °C. It is anisotropic with the maximal expansion along a axis and near the zero in the perpendicular direction. Low expansion between the layers is explained by the strong bonding of layers through the BiO₆ octahedra. The studies are supported by the Russian Found the Basic Research (project # 08-03-00232).

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Transition metal compounds with the CrVO₄-type structure under pressure. <u>E. Stavrou^{*a}</u>, I. Efthimiopoulos^a, S. M. Souliou^a, J. Law^a, R. K. Kremer^a,G. V. Vajenine, K. Syassen^a, M. Hanfland^b. ^aMPI-FKF, Stuttgart, Germany. ^bESRF, Grenoble, France. E-mail: e.stavrou@tkf.mpg.de

Ternary CrVO₄-type materials crystallize in the orthorhombic space group Cmcm. Characteristic structural features are the mixed coordination [Cr (Ti) and V (P) cations are octahedrally and tetrahedrally coordinated, respectively, by O anions] and

the fact that octahedra form edge-sharing chains. Compounds that crystallize in this structure at ambient or at high pressure have been the subject of extensive studies, for two main reasons. First, different magnetic properties [1] arise from isolated chains of edge-sharing octahedra. Second, the Cmcm structure is intermediate between quartz-like ABO₄ structures with only four-fold coordinated cations and structures with both cations in six-fold coordination [2-4]. Because of the close connection to quartz alikes under pressure, a HP study of CrVO₄-structure compounds is attractive from the structural systematics point of view. In this study we investigate the effect of pressure on the structural and vibrational properties of CrVO₄-type materials, specifically the prototype CrVO₄ itself and TiPO₄, using both high-resolution angle-dispersive x-ray powder diffraction and Raman spectroscopy. In the case of CrVO₄, from x-ray powder diffraction data, we see reversible first-order phase transitions to new crystalline phases at ~4 and ~40 GPa. Raman mode frequencies indicate an increase of coordination of V already at the very first transition, presumably to six-fold. From the above results the Cmcm \rightarrow P2/m \rightarrow P2/c (wolframite) phase route is concluded. The equations of state and internal structural parameters for all phases are also determined. For TiPO₄ we have also identified, only by Raman, two 'precursor' transitions, presumably hidden superstructures of Cmcm, before we see clear indications for sixfold coordinated phosphorous appearing near 45 GPa. A related structural model is presented.

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