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Water induced variety of arsenic(III) oxide intercalates with alkali chlorides

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Arsenic(III) oxide has been known to form stoichiometric compounds with potassium and ammonium halides since the 19^{th} century but they have not been structurally charaterized until the middle of the 20^{th} century[1-4]. It was found that the compounds are intercalation compounds in which like-charged ions form alternating layers which are separated by electroneutral As_2O_3 layers (see Figure 1). This type of compounds have been found in nature as minerals, for instance, lucabindiite [5]. In case of intercalates with ammonium and potassium cations the layers are hexagonal and non-corrugated, whereas for smaller sodium cations the arsenic(III) oxide layers are corrugated and exhibit lower symmetry. Herein, we present the synthesis methods and structural charaterization of the first As_2O_3 intercalates with potassium, rubidium and cesium chlorides containing water molecules in their crystal structure: $MCl \cdot As_2O_3 \cdot \frac{1}{2}H_2O$ (for M = K, Rb, Rb,

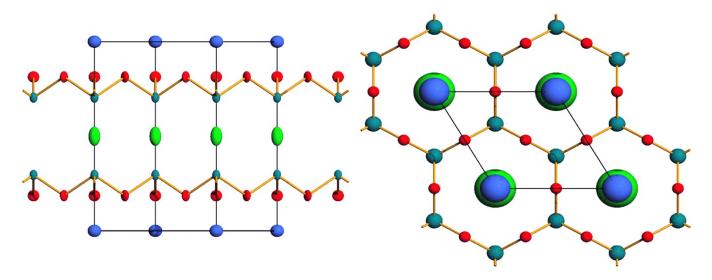


Figure 1. Crystal structure of KCl·2As₂O₃. View along [120] (left) and [001] (right). Anisotropic displacement parameters at 50% probability level are shown in the left and ball-and-stick model is used in the right. As, K, Cl and O atoms are colored dark green, blue, light green and red, respectively.

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