

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Contributions intended for publication under this heading should be expressly so marked; they should not exceed about 1000 words; they should be forwarded in the usual way to the appropriate Co-editor; they will be published as speedily as possible.

Acta Cryst. (1981). B37, 780

The structure of 4a β ,5,8,8a β -tetrahydro-1-naphthoquin-4 α -ol: erratum. BY TREVOR J. GREENHOUGH and JAMES TROTTER, *Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1W5*

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Abstract

A printer's error is corrected. In the paper by Greenhough & Trotter [*Acta Cryst.* (1981). B37, 126–132] the space group is given incorrectly in the *Abstract*. The correct space group is *P1*.

All the relevant information is given in the *Abstract*.

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Book Review

Works intended for notice in this column should be sent direct to the Book-Review Editor (J. H. Robertson, School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England). As far as practicable books will be reviewed in a country different from that of publication.

Acta Cryst. (1981). B37, 780

Applied mineralogy. Vol. 5. Apatite. Its crystal chemistry, mineralogy, utilization and geological and biological occurrences. By D. MCCONNELL. Pp. vii + 111. Vienna and New York: Springer Verlag, 1973. Price US\$14.90, DM 47.00.

Apatite occurs as a product both of inorganic nature and of biological activity – hence its importance as both a common rock-forming mineral and an inorganic constituent of many living organisms. The voluminous literature on apatites is widely scattered and this slim volume performs a useful service by bringing together much of this information. Its eight principal chapters describe the physical properties, structure, crystal chemistry and synthesis of apatites, with special chapters reserved for the carbonate apatites, the constitution of rock phosphorites and the geology and biology of apatites.

The author is eminently qualified to review these data and the broad treatment of the subject is admirably suited to an introductory text. However, specialists looking for a critical compilation and treatment of the data on apatites will be

disappointed. Thus, for example, an appendix containing tabulated data on various apatites is provided. But most of the key references from which these data are taken are not given. Unit-cell sizes are given in unstated units – presumably Å – except for strontium apatite, where kX units are used: the use of such an obsolete unit in a modern review is questionable. The precise compositions of the apatites are not supported by analytical data; powder X-ray patterns list only the 'prominent' reflections, and intensities are given on a scale said to be 'to the base 10'. By modern standards, the property–structure–composition data are thus very inadequate. Despite these deficiencies the book fills a gap in the literature and can be recommended to the general reader wishing a gentle, undemanding introduction to the subject.

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