

# Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: a new alkali alkaline-earth silicate based on [Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>]<sup>6-</sup> anions

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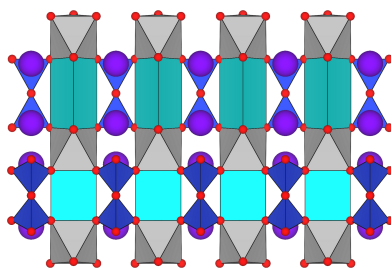
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Synthesis experiments were conducted in the ternary Rb<sub>2</sub>O–CaO–SiO<sub>2</sub> system, resulting in the formation of a hitherto unknown compound with the composition Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, *i.e.* dirubidium dicalcium pyrosilicate. Single crystals of sufficient size and quality were recovered from a starting mixture with an Rb<sub>2</sub>O:CaO:SiO<sub>2</sub> molar ratio of 2:1:3. The educts were confined in a lid-covered platinum crucible and gradually cooled from 1050 °C at a rate of 0.3 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 800 °C before being finally quenched in air to ambient conditions. The crystal structure was investigated at –80 and 15 °C from single-crystal X-ray diffraction data, with structure determination performed using direct methods. The compound was found to be of orthorhombic symmetry, belonging to the space group *Pmmn* (No. 59), with  $a = 5.7363$  (6),  $b = 13.8532$  (12),  $c = 9.9330$  (10) Å,  $V = 789.34$  (13) Å<sup>3</sup> and  $Z = 4$  (at 15 °C). The final refinement calculations at ambient temperature converged at  $R1 = 0.030$  and  $wR2 = 0.076$  for 773 observed reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ . The silicate anion is based on pyrosilicate units of composition [Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>]<sup>6-</sup> with point-group symmetry  $m$  ( $C_s$ ). Charge compensation is achieved by the incorporation of rubidium and calcium cations distributed among a total of five independent sites within the asymmetric unit. Two of the nontetrahedrally coordinated cation sites (*M4* and *M5*) are exclusively occupied by calcium cations, which are surrounded by six O atoms in the form of octahedra or trigonal prisms, respectively. The rubidium cations on the *M1*–*M3* sites show more complex coordination environments. The *M2* site, for example, is characterized by a tricapped trigonal prism polyhedron. Notably, the *M3* site exhibits a 50% population of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Rb<sup>+</sup>, respectively. The compound shows closer structural resemblances with K<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and can be derived from a hexagonal aristotype with space-group symmetry *P6<sub>3</sub>/mmc* by displacements of the atoms. The corresponding distortion modes can be classified by certain irreducible representations of the high-symmetry parent phase. Structural investigations were completed by determining the thermal expansion tensor for the temperature interval between –80 and 15 °C.

## 1. Introduction

The ternary A<sub>2</sub>O–CaO–SiO<sub>2</sub> systems, where *A* represents a chemical element in Group 1 of the Periodic Table have been the subject of many investigations in the past. However, the extent to which these systems were studied through synthesis experiments and/or thermodynamic modelling varies considerably depending on the specific alkali metal in question. This observation is directly correlated with the importance of a particular system for certain disciplines within the fields of inorganic chemistry and technical mineralogy. To date, the Na<sub>2</sub>O–CaO–SiO<sub>2</sub> system has undoubtedly attracted the greatest attention (Morey & Bowen, 1925; Segnit, 1953; Williamson & Glasser, 1965; Shahid & Glasser, 1971; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Santoso *et al.*, 2022). The corresponding melts have been of fundamental importance to the glass industry, facilitating the production of flat and hollow soda-lime silicate



glass products that are ubiquitous in everyday life (Varshneya, 1994; Shelby, 2009). The crystalline counterparts cannot only occur as glass defects due to devitrification problems (Holland & Preston, 1938; Kahlenberg *et al.*, 2010), but have also been studied as optical diffusers (Butt *et al.*, 2014), constituents of bioactive ceramics (Reddy *et al.*, 2014; Zandi Karimi *et al.*, 2018) or as host materials for rare-earth-element-based silicate phosphors (Liu *et al.*, 2014; Parauha *et al.*, 2022). It is noteworthy that some sodium calcium silicates, such as combeite ( $\text{Na}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_9$ ), are also present in nature as exotic species in rather unusual petrological environments (Mitchell & Dawson, 2012; Weidendorfer *et al.*, 2016; Kahlenberg, 2023).

Conversely, the  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$  system has only recently experienced a resurgence of interest, because several of the ternary phases can occur in ashes from biomass combustion and gasification (Olanders & Steenari, 1995; Chen & Zhao, 2016; Santoso *et al.*, 2020). During the last 15 years, eight potassium calcium silicates have been structurally characterized in detail, most of them for the first time. A recent summary of these phases, encompassing a vast array of connectivities of the  $[\text{SiO}_4]$  tetrahedra silicate anions and new structure types, can be found in the article by Liu *et al.* (2021).

According to West (1978), four thermodynamically stable ternary phases occur in the  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$  system. A major subject of interest for lithium calcium silicates is their applications in glass ceramics (Al-Harbi, 2007) or for the synthesis of phosphors after doping with rare earth elements (Kim *et al.*, 2012; Wu *et al.*, 2020).

Because the highly radioactive and extremely unstable alkali metal francium is not a suitable subject for phase analytical studies, only two other systems remain for consideration,  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$ , both of which have been relegated to the backwaters of silicate research. One potential explanation for this fact is that these ternary silicate phases are expected to be more sensitive to water and humidity in comparison to the corresponding compounds containing alkali elements with lower atomic numbers. Naturally, this aspect presents a clear disadvantage from an applicational perspective. For the rubidium-containing system, the existence of only one crystalline compound has been reported so far. Single crystals of  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_9$  were obtained using a polycrystalline precursor and an  $\text{RbCl}_2$  flux (Kahlenberg *et al.*, 2016). Its crystal structure is based on silicate anions forming *sechser* single chains.

In the course of a systematic investigation of the ternary  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$  system, the crystal structure of a previously unknown compound, which was crystallized from the melt without the application of a mineralizer, is reported.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Synthesis

The synthesis experiment for 1 g of a sample with an  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$ : $\text{CaO}$ : $\text{SiO}_2$  molar ratio of 2:1:3 (or  $\text{Rb}_4\text{CaSi}_3\text{O}_9$ ) was based on a stoichiometric mixture of the following educts:  $\text{Rb}_2\text{CO}_3$  (Aldrich, 99.8%),  $\text{CaCO}_3$  (calcite, Merck, >99.9%) and  $\text{SiO}_2$

(quartz, AlfaAesar, 99.995%). Prior to weighing on an analytical balance, the reagents were dried at 400 °C for a period of 24 h. In addition to removing physically adsorbed water, this step is important because rubidium carbonate is known to be very hygroscopic. Homogenization was performed with an agate mortar and a pestle for a duration of 15 min in a glove-bag under argon. The mixture was immediately transferred to a 50 ml platinum crucible, which was covered with a platinum lid. The container was heated in a box furnace in air from room temperature to 1050 °C at a rate of 6 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. The sample was annealed at the maximum temperature for 60 min and subsequently cooled to 800 °C at a rate of 0.3 °C min<sup>-1</sup> before final quenching to ambient conditions. Weight losses were determined from weight differences before and after heating. The observed difference was 0.6% higher than the predicted value (based on  $\text{CO}_2$  release from the disintegration of the carbonates), indicating that losses due to  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$  evaporation were small. A preliminary visual inspection of the product following the removal of the lid indicated that the sample had melted. The crucible was then stored in an evacuated desiccator for further analysis.

### 2.2. Single-crystal diffraction

The solidified melt cake was mechanically separated from the crucible and further crushed in an agate mortar. Portions of the sample were immediately transferred to a glass slide into a drop of Paratone-N oil (Hampton Research) and investigated under a polarizing binocular, which revealed the existence of transparent colourless birefringent single crystals (showing sharp extinction between crossed polarizers) up to 350 µm in size. The majority of the crystals were found to be at least partially embedded in an optically isotropic glassy matrix.

Notably, fresh transparent crystals when exposed to air at 38% relative humidity and 21 °C (laboratory conditions) on a glass slide began to become slightly opaque after 3 d. After 6 d, the samples were completely opaque with a milky white colour, indicating an ongoing hydration reaction. However, the hydration product was not analysed further.

Several crystals displaying prismatic to plate-like morphology were isolated from the oil and affixed to glass fibers using fingernail hardener. They were subsequently studied using single-crystal diffraction performed on an Oxford Diffraction Gemini R Ultra diffractometer, which was equipped with a four-circle kappa goniometer and a Ruby CCD detector. Preliminary diffraction experiments were conducted with the objective of determining the unit-cell parameters. The screening process was performed in a dried air gas stream of –80 (2) °C generated by an Oxford Cryosystems Desktop Cooler to protect the samples from potential hydration. All crystals were found to belong to the same phase and exhibited an orthorhombic primitive metric that did not correspond to any entries of the  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$ – $\text{CaO}$ – $\text{SiO}_2$  system or one of the relevant silicate subsystems currently available in the Inorganic Crystal Structure Database (Hellenbrandt, 2004). The sample with the best overall diffraction quality was selected

**Table 1**

Experimental details.

For both determinations:  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ ,  $M_r = 419.28$ , orthorhombic,  $Pm\bar{m}n$ ,  $Z = 4$ . Experiments were carried out with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation using a Rigaku Gemini R Ultra diffractometer equipped with a four-circle kappa goniometer and a Ruby CCD detector. The absorption correction was analytical [*CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku OD, 2020), based on expressions derived by Clark & Reid (1995)]. Refinement was on 78 parameters.

	Data at 15 °C (RT)	Data at –80 °C (LT)
Crystal data		
Temperature (K)	288	193
$a, b, c$ (Å)	5.7363 (6), 13.8532 (12), 9.933 (1)	5.7281 (6), 13.8361 (13), 9.9233 (11)
$V$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	789.34 (13)	786.47 (14)
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	14	14.05
Crystal size (mm)	0.32 × 0.1 × 0.04	0.32 × 0.1 × 0.04
$T_{\min}, T_{\max}$	0.121, 0.678	0.109, 0.675
No. of measured, independent and observed [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] reflections	10834, 931, 773	10870, 929, 777
$R_{\text{int}}$	0.058	0.059
$(\sin \theta/\lambda)_{\text{max}}$ (Å <sup>-1</sup> )	0.625	0.625
Refinement		
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)], wR(F^2), S$	0.030, 0.076, 1.06	0.029, 0.067, 1.07
No. of reflections	931	929
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}, \Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.86, –0.70	0.93, –0.75

Computer programs: *CrysAlis PRO* (Rigaku OD, 2020), *SIR2002* (Burla *et al.*, 2003) and *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 2008).

for further structural analysis. A full sphere of reciprocal space up to 29.50°  $\theta$  was obtained with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation (see Table 1). The data were processed using the *CrysAlis PRO* software package (Rigaku OD, 2020). Following indexing, the diffraction pattern was integrated. The data reduction process involved Lorentz and polarization corrections. Finally, the

**Table 2**

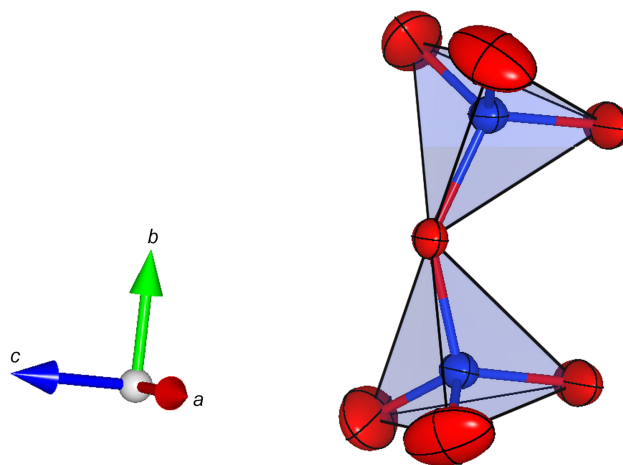
Atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ , origin choice 2 of space group  $Pm\bar{m}n$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>  $\times 10^3$ ) for  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ .

First line 15 °C and second line –80 °C.  $U_{\text{eq}}$  is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor.  $M1$  and  $M2$  are exclusively occupied by rubidium, while  $M4$  and  $M5$  represent pure Ca sites.  $M3$  is a mixed Rb–Ca position, with a population of 50% rubidium and 50% calcium.

Atom	Wyckoff site	Site symmetry	$x$	$y$	$z$	$U_{\text{eq}}$
M1	4e	$m..$	7500	1049 (1)	854 (1)	18 (1)
			7500	1048 (1)	853 (1)	14 (1)
M2	2a	$mm2$	2500	2500	2585 (1)	16 (1)
			2500	2500	2588 (1)	12 (1)
M3	4e	$m..$	2500	980 (1)	5869 (1)	21 (1)
			2500	980 (1)	5869 (1)	21 (1)
M4	2b	$mm2$	7500	2500	7494 (2)	10 (1)
			7500	2500	7492 (2)	8 (1)
M5	4e	$m..$	2500	5106 (1)	2489 (1)	10 (1)
			2500	5108 (1)	2489 (1)	9 (1)
Si1	4e	$m..$	7500	1362 (1)	4187 (2)	15 (1)
			7500	1362 (1)	4186 (2)	14 (1)
Si2	4e	$m..$	2500	1396 (1)	9193 (2)	9 (1)
			2500	1396 (1)	9192 (2)	8 (1)
O1	8g	1	181 (5)	1274 (2)	8280 (3)	23 (1)
			183 (5)	1274 (2)	8280 (3)	21 (1)
O2	4e	$m..$	2500	734 (3)	10515 (4)	19 (1)
			2500	732 (3)	10520 (4)	16 (1)
O3	2a	$mm2$	2500	2500	9820 (7)	26 (2)
			2500	2500	9825 (6)	22 (2)
O4	8g	1	5246 (7)	822 (3)	3605 (4)	44 (1)
			5242 (7)	821 (3)	3604 (4)	43 (1)
O5	2b	$mm2$	7500	2500	3599 (6)	14 (1)
			7500	2500	3598 (6)	12 (1)
O6	4e	$m..$	7500	1355 (3)	5789 (4)	35 (1)
			7500	1361 (3)	5793 (5)	32 (1)

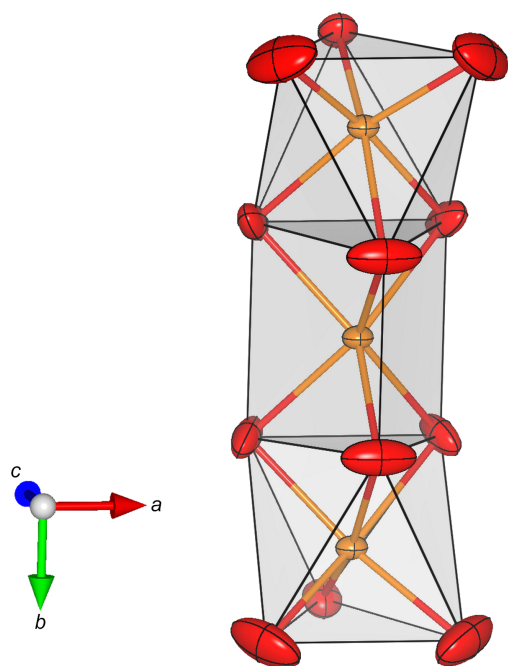
temperature was raised to 15 (2) °C and a second data collection was started using the identical run list employed for the low-temperature study, while keeping the crystal immersed in a dry environment (see Table 1). There was no evidence of a phase transition upon heating to ambient conditions. Once the correct chemical formula had been established on the basis of structure determination (see below), an analytical numeric absorption correction was applied to both data sets using a multifaceted crystal model.

The intensity statistics clearly indicated the presence of a centre of symmetry. Merging the two data sets in the orthorhombic Laue group  $2/m\ 2/m\ 2/m$  resulted in reasonable internal  $R$  values (see Table 1). Based on the observed reflection conditions ( $hk0$ ):  $h+k = 2n$ , only the space groups  $P2_1mn$ ,  $Pm2_1n$  and  $Pm\bar{m}n$  remained. The structure solution for the low-temperature set was successfully initiated in the



**Figure 1**

Side view of a single  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]^{6-}$  unit. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 80% probability level. Colour key: O atoms are red and Si atoms are blue.



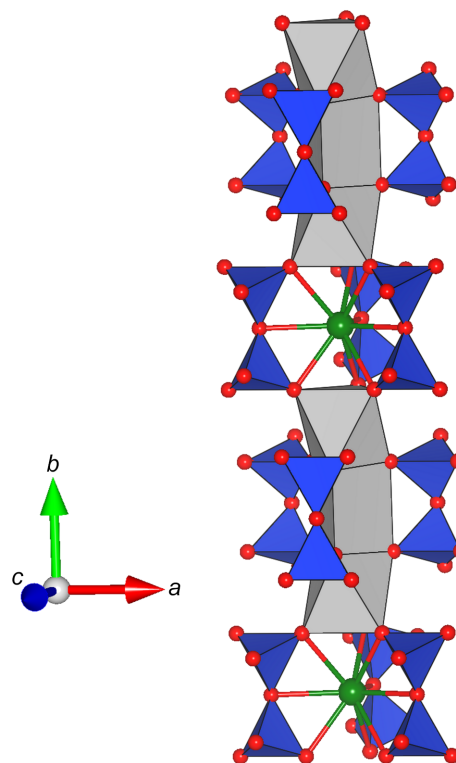
**Figure 2**  
Side view of a single trimer containing two octahedra and a central trigonal prism. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 80% probability level. Colour key: O atoms are red and Ca atoms are orange.

centrosymmetric space group using direct methods (*SIR2002*; Burla *et al.*, 2003), which provided a crystal-chemically sound starting model. One missing O atom was found from a difference Fourier map (*SHEXL97*; Sheldrick, 2008). The same software was also employed for subsequent full-matrix least-squares refinements. The scattering curves and anomalous dispersion coefficients were obtained from the *International Tables for Crystallography* (Vol. C; Prince, 2004). The final structure model obtained from the low-temperature data collection was then used as a starting point for the refinement of the structure under ambient conditions. The calculations with anisotropic displacement parameters for all atoms resulted in *R*1 residuals of 0.029 (at  $-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and 0.030 (at  $15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The largest shift/e.s.d. in the final cycles was  $< 0.001$ . Section 2.3 provides a detailed analysis of the site populations of the five nontetrahedrally coordinated cation sites in the asymmetric unit. The resulting chemical composition from the structure analysis was  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ . Table 2 lists the final coordinates, site occupancies and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters, while Table 3 provides the anisotropic displacement parameters. Table 4 summarizes the selected interatomic distances. Structural features were illustrated using the *VESTA3* program (Momma & Izumi, 2011). Bond valence sum (BVS) calculations have been performed with the program *VaList* (Wills, 2010) using the parameter sets of Brown & Altermatt (1985) for Ca–O and Rb–O interactions, as well as Brese & O’Keeffe (1991) for the Si–O bonds. For the illustration of the three-dimensional representation surface of the thermal expansion tensor, the program *WinTensor* was employed (Kaminsky, 2014).

### 2.3. Crystal structure

The crystal structure is based on  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]^{6-}$  anions and can be classified as a sorosilicate (Liebau, 1985). The unit cell contains a total of two symmetrically independent bitetrahedral units. Both silicate anions exhibit point-group symmetry *m* or  $C_s$  (see Fig. 1). Charge compensation within the structure is achieved by monovalent rubidium and divalent calcium cations, which are distributed among a total of five different positions (*M1–M5*). Bond distance considerations indicated that *M1* and *M2* are pure rubidium sites, while *M4* and *M5* are occupied by calcium ions. Indeed, the results of the site-population refinements pointed to full occupancy with the respective two cation species. Conversely, *M3* was identified as a mixed cation position, with a population of 51 (2)% Rb and 49 (2)% Ca. Therefore, we finally assumed a 1:1 ratio of rubidium and calcium on the *M3* site, leading to a charge-neutral chemical composition of  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ . Taking into account the initial composition of the starting material, it can be concluded that the glass phase is enriched in  $\text{Rb}_2\text{O}$  compared to the crystalline samples.

It is important to note that all geometrical parameters presented in this paragraph have been derived from the refinement of the data set collected at  $15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The Si–O bond distances within the two silicate dimers cover a considerable range, spanning from 1.591 (5) to 1.681 (2) Å. However, this variation aligns with the anticipated trends for  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]^{6-}$  groups comprising one bridging and three terminal O atoms.



**Figure 3**  
Side view of a single rod-like building element. Rb atoms occupying *M2* are shown in green and are coordinated by nine O atoms in the form of a tricapped trigonal prism. O atoms are presented in red.



**Table 3**

Anisotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ .

The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2[h^2a^{*2}U_{11} + \dots + 2hka^*b^*U_{12}]$ . First line  $15^\circ\text{C}$  and second line  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ .

	$U_{11}$	$U_{22}$	$U_{33}$	$U_{23}$	$U_{13}$	$U_{12}$
M1	14 (1)	26 (1)	13 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
	11 (1)	20 (1)	10 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
M2	18 (1)	14 (1)	16 (1)	0	0	0
	14 (1)	10 (1)	13 (1)	0	0	0
M3	18 (1)	41 (1)	13 (1)	-7 (1)	0	0
	16 (1)	35 (1)	11 (1)	-7 (1)	0	0
M4	13 (1)	7 (1)	11 (1)	0	0	0
	10 (1)	5 (1)	9 (1)	0	0	0
M5	13 (1)	7 (1)	10 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
	12 (1)	6 (1)	9 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
Si1	22 (1)	11 (1)	12 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
	21 (1)	10 (1)	11 (1)	0 (1)	0	0
Si2	9 (1)	7 (1)	12 (1)	2(1)	0	0
	7 (1)	6 (1)	11 (1)	2(1)	0	0
O1	17 (2)	21 (2)	32 (2)	7 (1)	-11 (1)	-7 (1)
	14 (2)	19 (2)	31 (2)	8(1)	-11 (1)	-7 (1)
O2	20 (2)	18 (2)	19 (2)	7(2)	0	0
	17 (2)	14 (2)	19 (2)	6(2)	0	0
O3	43 (4)	15 (3)	21 (3)	0	0	0
	40 (4)	10 (3)	15 (3)	0	0	0
O4	53 (3)	32 (2)	46 (2)	5 (2)	-25 (2)	-18 (2)
	50 (3)	28 (2)	50 (2)	5 (2)	-25 (2)	-16 (2)
O5	21 (3)	13 (3)	9 (3)	0	0	0
	20 (3)	10 (3)	6 (3)	0	0	0
O6	76 (4)	17 (2)	11 (2)	0(2)	0	0
	70 (4)	12 (2)	15 (2)	-1 (2)	0	0

The distances between the Si atoms and the terminal O atoms are notably shorter (average of both dimers = 1.599 Å) than the corresponding bond lengths to the bridging O atoms (average of the dimers = 1.680 Å). The observed shortening of the mean Si—O(terminal) bond distance by 0.081 Å can be attributed to the stronger attraction between the O and Si atoms than between the O atoms and the rubidium/calcium cations present in the structure. The distortion of the tetrahedra is also reflected in the O—Si—O angles, which range from 102.8 (3) to 113.52 (14)°, respectively. Nevertheless, the mean O—Si—O angles are in close proximity to the ideal values for an ideal tetrahedron (see Table 4). The degree of tetrahedral distortion can be quantified using the following two parameters: quadratic elongation (QE) and angle variance (AV) (Robinson *et al.*, 1971). The numerical values for these parameters are also provided in Table 4. In fact, the distortions of both the crystallographically independent  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]^{6-}$  units are relatively minor, with the tetrahedra around Si1 showing the least strain. Moreover, due to the point-group symmetry  $m$ , the silicate dimers display an eclipsed conformation. The Si—O—Si bond angles deviate from linearity, exhibiting significantly smaller values of 135.7 (4) and 139.4 (4)°. In particular, the second value is close to 140°, which is postulated to correspond to an unstrained Si—O—Si angle (Liebau, 1985).

The Ca positions (M4 and M5) are coordinated by six oxygen ligands that form distorted octahedra (around M5) and trigonal prisms (around M4). Each trigonal prism shares opposing faces with two adjacent octahedra (see Fig. 2). The resulting tripolyhedral cluster has point-group symmetry  $m$ . Neighbouring clusters are linked by rubidium cations located

**Table 4**

Selected bond lengths up to 3.2 Å and bond angles (°) for  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ .

For the tetrahedra and octahedra, the distortion parameters QE (quadratic elongation) and AV (angle variance) have been calculated.

15 °C		-80 °C	
M1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	2.819 (4)	M1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	2.815 (4)
M1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	2.9206 (9)	M1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	2.9160 (9)
M1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	2.9206 (9)	M1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	2.9160 (9)
M1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	2.999 (3)	M1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	2.997 (3)
M1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	2.999 (3)	M1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	2.997 (3)
M1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	3.039 (4)	M1—O4	3.037 (4)
M1—O4	3.039 (4)	M1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	3.037 (4)
<M1—O>	2.962	<M1—O>	2.959
M2—O3 <sup>ii</sup>	2.746 (7)	M2—O3 <sup>ii</sup>	2.742 (6)
M2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.985 (4)	M2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.980 (4)
M2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.985 (4)	M2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.980 (4)
M2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.985 (4)	M2—O4	2.980 (4)
M2—O4	2.985 (4)	M2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.980 (4)
M2—O5	3.0401 (19)	M2—O5	3.0343 (19)
M2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	3.0401 (19)	M2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	3.0343 (19)
M2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	3.196 (4)	M2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	3.193 (4)
M2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	3.196 (4)	M2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	3.193 (4)
<M2—O>	3.018	<M2—O>	3.013
M3—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.754 (5)	M3—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.752 (5)
M3—O4	2.754 (5)	M3—O4	2.752 (5)
M3—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.770 (4)	M3—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.765 (4)
M3—O1	2.770 (4)	M3—O1	2.765 (4)
M3—O4 <sup>xii</sup>	2.860 (4)	M3—O4 <sup>xii</sup>	2.855 (4)
M3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	2.860 (4)	M3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	2.855 (4)
M3—O6	2.9160 (9)	M3—O6	2.9131 (9)
M3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	2.9160 (9)	M3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	2.9131 (9)
<M3—O>	2.825	<M3—O>	2.821
M4—O6	2.320 (5)	M4—O6	2.308 (5)
M4—O6 <sup>xi</sup>	2.320 (5)	M4—O6 <sup>xi</sup>	2.308 (5)
M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	2.421 (3)	M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	2.419 (3)
M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.421 (3)	M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.419 (3)
M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.421 (3)	M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.419 (3)
M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.421 (3)	M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.419 (3)
<M4—O>	2.387	<M4—O>	2.382
M5—O2 <sup>x</sup>	2.279 (4)	M5—O2 <sup>x</sup>	2.274 (4)
M5—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.317 (4)	M5—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.312 (4)
M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.317 (4)	M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.312 (4)
M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.359 (3)	M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.355 (3)
M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	2.359 (3)	M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	2.355 (3)
M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.435 (5)	M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.431 (5)
<M5—O>	2.345	<M5—O>	2.340
QE = 1.020	AV = 69.94	QE = 1.020	AV = 70.19
Si1—O6	1.591 (5)	Si1—O6	1.595 (5)
Si1—O4	1.601 (4)	Si1—O4	1.602 (4)
Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	1.601 (4)	Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	1.602 (4)
Si1—O5	1.681 (2)	Si1—O5	1.679 (2)
<Si1—O>	1.618	<Si1—O>	1.620
QE = 1.001	AV = 2.51	QE = 1.001	AV = 2.48
Si2—O2	1.602 (4)	Si2—O2	1.606 (4)
Si2—O1	1.619 (3)	Si2—O1	1.615 (3)
Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	1.619 (3)	Si2—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	1.615 (3)
Si2—O3	1.651 (3)	Si2—O3	1.652 (3)
<Si2—O>	1.622	<Si2—O>	1.622
QE = 1.004	AV = 16.51	QE = 1.004	AV = 17.44
O—Ca—O angles			
O6—M4—O6 <sup>xi</sup>	86.2 (2)	O6—M4—O6 <sup>xi</sup>	86.2 (2)
O6—M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	135.66 (10)	O6—M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	75.89 (12)	O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	75.93 (12)
O6—M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	135.66 (10)	O6—M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	75.93 (12)
O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	75.89 (12)	O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	78.88 (14)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	142.31 (18)
O6—M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	75.89 (12)	O6—M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	75.93 (12)
O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	135.66 (10)	O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	135.64 (10)
O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	142.33 (18)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	89.08 (14)
O1 <sup>vii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	89.11 (14)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	78.90 (14)
O6—M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	75.89 (12)	O6—M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	135.66 (10)	O6 <sup>xi</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	75.93 (12)

Table 4 (continued)

15 °C		−80 °C	
O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	89.11 (14)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	78.90 (14)
O1 <sup>vii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	142.33 (18)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	89.08 (14)
O1 <sup>viii</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	78.88 (14)	O1 <sup>xiv</sup> —M4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	142.31 (18)
O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	97.40 (13)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	97.30 (13)
O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	97.40 (13)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	97.30 (13)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	85.7 (2)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —M5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	85.6 (2)
O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	94.14 (12)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	94.14 (12)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	168.20 (13)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	168.32 (13)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	95.30 (14)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xix</sup>	95.29 (14)
O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	94.14 (12)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	94.14 (12)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	95.30 (14)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	95.29 (14)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	168.20 (13)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	168.32 (13)
O1 <sup>xix</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	81.37 (16)	O1 <sup>xix</sup> —M5—O1 <sup>xx</sup>	81.50 (16)
O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	165.38 (16)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	165.29 (16)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	93.30 (13)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	93.48 (13)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	93.30 (13)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	93.48 (13)
O1 <sup>xix</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	74.91 (11)	O1 <sup>xix</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	74.85 (11)
O1 <sup>xx</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	74.91 (11)	O1 <sup>xx</sup> —M5—O6 <sup>xxi</sup>	74.85 (11)
O—Si—O angles			
O6—Si1—O4	110.99 (19)	O6—Si1—O4	111.10 (19)
O6—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	110.99 (19)	O6—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	111.10 (19)
O4—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	107.7 (3)	O4—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	107.6 (3)
O6—Si1—O5	110.6 (3)	O6—Si1—O5	110.4 (3)
O4—Si1—O5	108.21 (18)	O4—Si1—O5	108.26 (18)
O4 <sup>v</sup> —Si1—O5	108.21 (18)	O4 <sup>v</sup> —Si1—O5	108.26 (18)
<O—Si1—O>	109.45	<O—Si1—O>	109.45
O2—Si2—O1			
O2—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	113.52 (14)	O2—Si2—O1	113.58 (14)
O1—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	110.5 (3)	O2—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	113.58 (14)
O2—Si2—O3	102.8 (3)	O1—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	110.5 (3)
O1—Si2—O3	107.96 (17)	O2—Si2—O3	102.5 (3)
O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Si2—O3	107.96 (17)	O1—Si2—O3	108.05 (16)
<O—Si2—O>	109.38	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Si2—O3	108.05 (17)
<O—Si2—O>	109.38	<O—Si2—O>	109.38
Si—O—Si angles			
Si2 <sup>vii</sup> —O3—Si2	135.7 (4)	Si2—O3—Si2 <sup>viii</sup>	135.3 (4)
Si1 <sup>xi</sup> —O5—Si1	139.4 (4)	Si1 <sup>xi</sup> —O5—Si1	139.3 (4)

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 1, -y, -z + 1$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z - 1$ ; (iii)  $x + 1, y, z - 1$ ; (iv)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y, z - 1$ ; (v)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y, z$ ; (vi)  $x, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (vii)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (viii)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y, z$ ; (ix)  $x - 1, y, z$ ; (x)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z - 1$ ; (xi)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (xii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, -y, -z + 1$ ; (xiii)  $x + 1, -y + \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (xiv)  $x + 1, y, z$ ; (xix)  $x + \frac{1}{2}, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$ ; (xx)  $-x, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$ ; (xxi)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + 1$ .

at the *M2* position. They are coordinated by nine O atoms, forming a highly elongated tricapped trigonal prism. Again, linkage is provided by shared faces, but this time between *M5O<sub>6</sub>* and *M2O<sub>9</sub>* polyhedra. Consequently, linear rod-like building blocks are obtained, that run parallel to the *b* axis (see Fig. 3). The [Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>]<sup>6−</sup> groups serve to connect adjacent rods. Each dimer shares common oxygen anions with (i) a single trigonal prism around *M4* and (ii) several surrounding *M2O<sub>9</sub>* groups. Finally, the Rb and/or Ca atoms on the *M1* and *M3* positions complete the structure, occupying cavities above and below the silicate dimers. They are bonded to seven and eight O atoms, respectively, forming more irregular coordination polyhedra. A projection of the whole structure parallel to [100] is given in Fig. 4.

With the exception of the *M3* site, the BVS calculations for the various cation positions yielded values that were close to the formal charges of the ions, assuming full occupancy with a single cation species: *M1* 1.129, *M2* 1.243, *M4* 1.942, *M5* 2.182, Si1 4.078 and Si2 4.019 (all data in valence units, v.u.). In the case of *M3*, however, a pronounced overbonding (1.778 v.u.

for Rb) or underbonding (0.800 v.u. for Ca) was observed. This outcome provides further evidence for a mixed Rb/Ca occupancy. Notably, BVS calculations can permit an independent, though typically rather rough estimation, of the contents of two distinct atom types sharing the same position (Brown, 2016). The concentrations obtained using the corresponding bond-valence parameters in combination with the *M3—O* bond distances determined at 15 °C are as follows: 61% Rb and 39% Ca. This result is deemed to be in sufficiently good agreement with the percentages determined from the site-population refinements.

#### 2.4. Thermal expansion

The two sets of lattice parameters determined at −80 and 15 °C were employed to calculate the average thermal expansion tensor  $\alpha_{ij}$  for the specified temperature interval from the thermal strain tensor  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  and the relationship  $\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\varepsilon_{ij}}{\Delta T}$ . Due to the orthorhombic symmetry restrictions, the off-diagonal terms of the symmetric second-rank tensor  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  with  $i \neq j$  must be strictly zero. The remaining three components can be obtained from the following expressions:  $\varepsilon_{11} = \frac{a}{a_0} - 1$ ,  $\varepsilon_{22} = \frac{b}{b_0} - 1$  and  $\varepsilon_{33} = \frac{c}{c_0} - 1$ . Notably, the lattice parameters with the suffix ‘zero’ pertain to the low-temperature data. In consequence, the thermal expansion tensor has the following form:

$$\alpha_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 15 (1) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 13 (1) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 (1) \end{pmatrix} \times 10^{-6}$$

From the comparison of the numerical values it is obvious that the thermal expansion is not extremely anisotropic. The

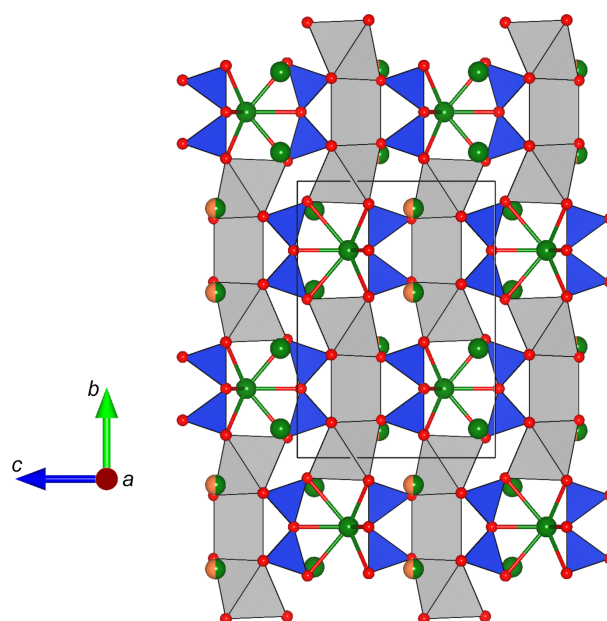


Figure 4 Projection of the whole crystal structure of Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> along [100]. Potassium and calcium cations are illustrated in green and orange, respectively. O atoms are shown in red. The sizes of the two-coloured segments of the *M3* site are the percentages determined from the site-occupancy refinements.

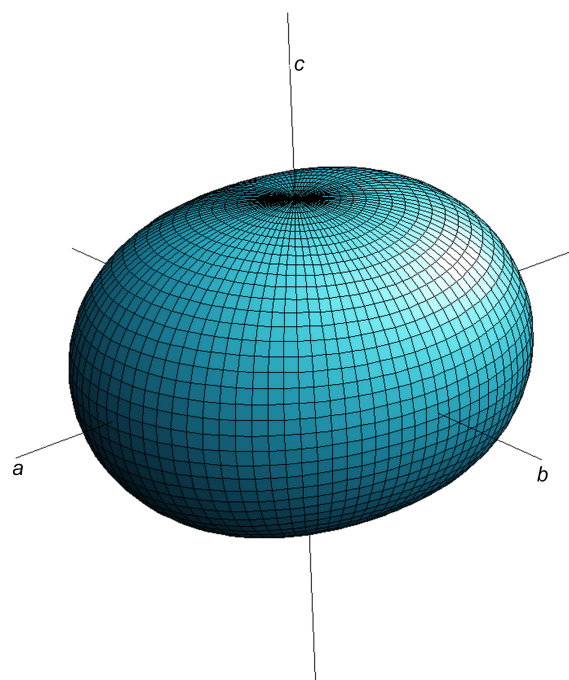
largest ( $\alpha_{11}$ ) and the smallest ( $\alpha_{33}$ ) value differ by only a factor of 1.5. The expansion along [010], that is, along the rod-like building blocks of the crystal structure, is observed to have an intermediate value which is equivalent to the average of  $\alpha_{11}$  and  $\alpha_{33}$  within one standard deviation. By plotting the values of the thermal expansion tensor as a function of all directions one obtains a convenient geometric representation of the anisotropic behaviour of the tensor in the form of a surface in three-dimensional space (Fig. 5). The corresponding two-dimensional sections (**a–b**, **b–c** and **a–c**) are presented in Fig. S1 of the supporting information.

### 3. Discussion

It is somewhat unexpected to find that the *M3* site is occupied by both rubidium and calcium. Indeed, the two cations differ considerably concerning their ionic radii:  $r(\text{Rb}^{+,[8]}) = 1.61 \text{ \AA}$  and  $r(\text{Ca}^{2+,[8]}) = 1.12 \text{ \AA}$  (Shannon, 1976). In the only other structurally characterized rubidium calcium silicate,  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_9$ , the two nontetrahedrally coordinated cation species are well ordered (Kahlenberg *et al.*, 2016). To exclude the possibility that the observation of a mixed population is an artifact due to an incorrect unit cell and/or symmetry, several additional tests were performed.

First, the frequency distributions of the experimentally determined Bragg peak positions when projected onto the *a*, *b* and *c* axes were computed and the corresponding maxima along these lines were visualized. Secondly, precession-type reconstructions of reciprocal space were calculated for the zero, first and second layers of reciprocal space for each of the three symmetry directions of the orthorhombic crystal system. Neither method yielded any indication of additional reflections requiring a larger cell. In other words, it can be excluded that our model corresponds to an average structure.

Finally, it was tested whether the unit cell was correct, but the structure was described in a symmetry that was too high. Indeed, a reduction in symmetry could allow for the possibility of cation ordering among the four symmetry-equivalent positions belonging to the Wyckoff position *4e* of the *M3* site. In the light of the aforementioned observed systematic absences, which clearly indicated the presence of an *n*-glide plane perpendicular to [001], the following *translationengleiche* subgroups of *Pmmn* were considered for a potential symmetry reduction: *P2<sub>1</sub>mn*, *P112/n*, *Pm2<sub>1</sub>n* and *P11n*. Notably, only a description in one of the latter two space groups involves a Wyckoff splitting of the *4e* position, which is a prerequisite for cation ordering. Therefore, the model in *Pmmn* was transformed for each of the two relevant acentric subgroups and the refinement calculations were repeated. In both instances, instabilities of the refinements were recognized, which can be attributed to the presence of significant correlations between the coordinates and displacement parameters of those atom pairs, which were previously coupled by the centres of inversion present in *Pmmn*. Consequently, the refinements were restarted using adapted models in the low-symmetry space groups, wherein the atomic coordinates of all atoms except those of the former *M3* site were constrained



**Figure 5**  
Three-dimensional representation surface of the average thermal expansion tensor of  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$  in the temperature interval between  $-80$  and  $15^\circ\text{C}$ .

manually to conform to centrosymmetric structures. Despite the expected successful resolution of the correlation issue, the Rb and Ca ions demonstrated no tendency to order among the new sets of sites obtained from the Wyckoff splitting of the former *M3* position. In conclusion, we found no evidence to suggest that the distribution of the rubidium and calcium on *M3* is not statistically random.

The *c/a* ratio of the orthorhombic lattice parameters had a value close to  $\sqrt{3}$ , which is characteristic of an orthohexagonal cell. Although there is no doubt that the actual symmetry of  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$  is only orthorhombic, this observation prompted us to check for potential pseudosymmetry using the program *PSEUDO*, implemented in the Bilbao Crystallographic Server (Capillas *et al.*, 2011). Relative coordinates of all atoms were used, without distinguishing between the various cation species present on the *M* sites. The search involving minimal supergroups was successful and indicated that the structure can be derived from an aristotype or the parent structure in  $G = P6_3/mmc$  with  $a' = 5.7352$  and  $c' = 13.8532 \text{ \AA}$ , provided that an intermediate step to  $Z = Cmc$  is introduced and atomic shifts up to  $1 \text{ \AA}$  are permitted. The  $4 \times 4$  transformation matrix leading directly from parent structure to the structure in  $H = Pmmn$  is as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & -0.5 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

In the hexagonal aristotype, the sites *M1* and *M3*, as well as *M2* and *M4*, are symmetrically equivalent (Wyckoff positions *4f* and *2b* of  $P6_3/mmc$ , respectively). *M5* (in *2a*) corresponds to

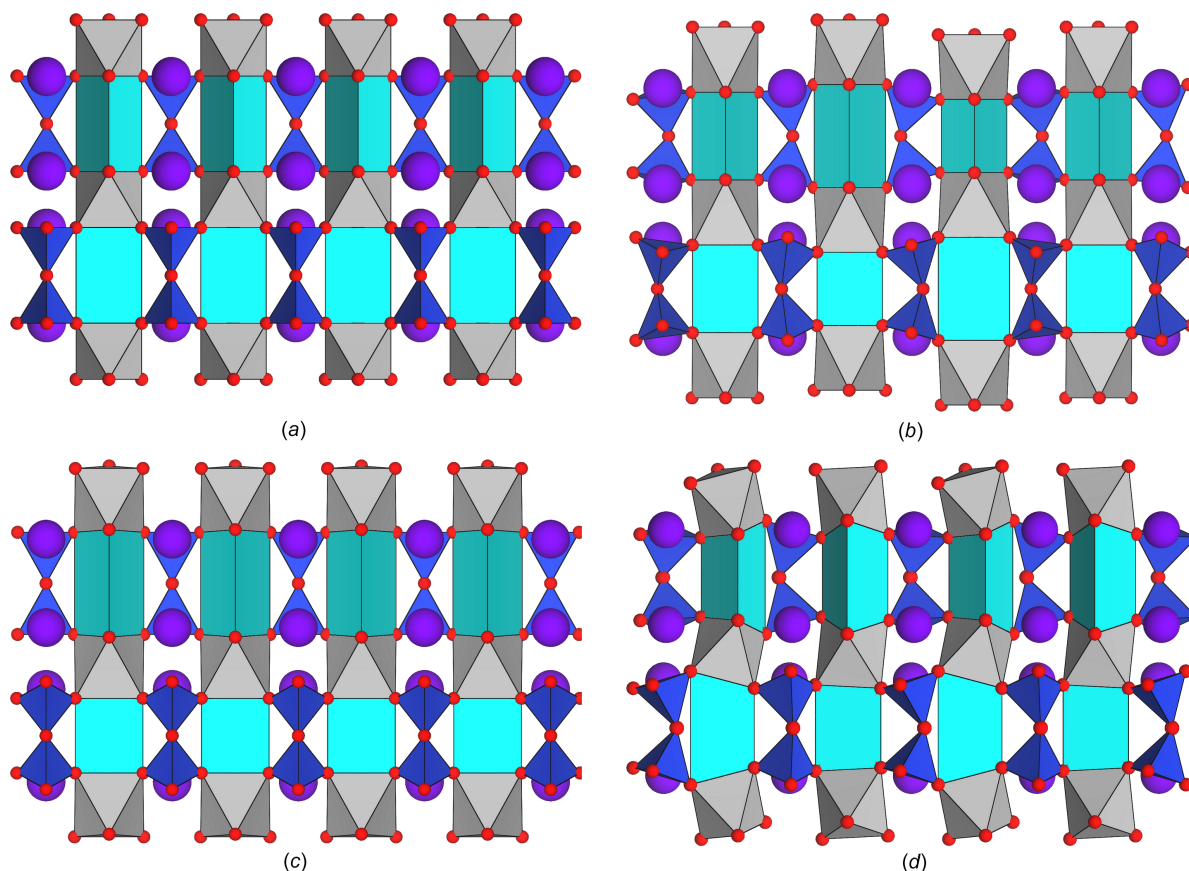
a third nontetrahedrally coordinated cation position. Moreover, the asymmetric unit of the  $P6_3/mmc$  structure contains a single Si atom (in  $4f$ ) and two O atoms (in  $12k$  and  $2d$ ), that is, all  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]$  dimers in the unit cell are coupled by symmetry. Notably, the aristotype is isostructural with  $\text{K}_3\text{ScSi}_2\text{O}_7$  (Napper *et al.*, 2004). In this pyrosilicate, the Sc atoms occupy the octahedrally coordinated positions, while the potassium ions are located in the centres of the trigonal prisms.

With respect to the atomic coordinates, the symmetry break from the parent structure can be explained with the onset of several distortion modes, whose symmetry properties are given by the irreducible representations (irreps) of the space group  $P6_3/mmc$  of the aristotype. The corresponding mode analysis was performed using the program *AMPLIMODES* (Orobengoa *et al.*, 2009). The observed symmetry reduction requires the irrep  $M_4^-$  associated with the point  $M$  ( $\frac{1}{2}$  0 0) of the first Brillouin zone, as well as the zone-center irrep  $\Gamma_5^+$ . Furthermore, the fully symmetrical  $\Gamma_1^+$  distortion is also allowed that retains the symmetry of the aristotype.

Using the crystallographic data, a reference structure was calculated in a first step representing the aristotype, but expressed in the low-symmetry space group  $Pmnm$ . From the comparison of the reference structure with the actual model in  $Pmnm$  the resulting displacement field can be obtained, which

is defined by the individual displacement vectors  $\mathbf{u}$  for the atoms in the asymmetric unit of the reference structure. It defines the displacive distortions relating both structures. A detailed analysis of the shifts revealed that the O atoms are distinctly more affected. Their absolute values for the shifts vary between 0.345 and 0.649 Å. The Si atoms and most of the  $M$  sites show considerably smaller displacements. An exception, however, is the  $M5$  position, which is displaced by about 0.147 Å. The average shift of all corresponding atom pairs in both structures has a value of 0.249 Å.

In the next step of mode analysis, the absolute amplitudes for the three individual components of the global distortions were calculated. Notably, the amplitudes were normalized with respect to the primitive unit cell of the high-symmetry structure. The relevant values are 1.61 (8) (for  $M_4^-$ ), 0.147 (6) (for  $\Gamma_5^+$ ) and 0.02 (8) Å (for  $\Gamma_1^+$ ), indicating that the onset of the  $M_4^-$  distortion triggers the symmetry break. Finally, for each involved irrep the corresponding polarization vector was obtained. The actual distortion of a specific mode can then be obtained by multiplying the components of the polarization vector with the amplitudes mentioned above. In order to obtain a concise graphical overview of the distortion fields, individual displacements of the most affected atoms O1 to O5 belonging to the  $[\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7]^{6-}$  groups calculated for the dominant



**Figure 6** Structural differences within a 6.5 Å wide slab containing a sequence of four rods between (a) the aristotype, view along  $[120]$  ( $P6_3/mmc$ ,  $a = 5.6065$  and  $c = 13.6420$  Å), (b)  $\text{K}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ , view along  $[110]$  ( $P6_3/m$ ,  $a = 9.8020$  and  $c = 13.8781$  Å), (c)  $\text{Rb}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ , view along  $[001]$  ( $Pmnm$ ,  $a = 5.7363$ ,  $b = 13.8532$  and  $c = 9.9330$  Å), and (d)  $\text{Na}_3\text{ScSi}_2\text{O}_7$ , view along  $[110]$  ( $Pbnm$ ,  $a = 5.3540$ ,  $b = 9.3470$  and  $c = 13.0890$  Å). Different colours simply highlight the various coordination polyhedra, but do not provide any information about their occupation with different cation species.



$M_4^-$  representation only have been visualized using the program *VESTA3* (see Fig. S2 in the supporting information).

To date, four alkali alkaline-earth silicates with the general formula  $A_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$  have been the subject of structural investigations. With the exception of  $Na_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$ , which is a mixed anion silicate containing insular  $[SiO_4]$  tetrahedra and  $[Si_3O_{10}]$  trimers in a 1:1 ratio (Kahlenberg & Hösch 2002), the corresponding lithium, potassium and rubidium compounds are characterized by  $[Si_2O_7]^{6-}$  units.  $Li_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$  represents a unique structure type (Kahlenberg *et al.*, 2015) and can be rationalized as a three-dimensional framework structure based on corner-sharing  $[LiO_4]$  and  $[SiO_4]$  tetrahedra, including an  $O^{[3]}$ -type bridging oxygen node linking three adjacent tetrahedra. While the lithium calcium disilicate and the compound under investigation exhibit no closer structural relationship,  $K_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$  (space group  $P6_3/m$ ) and  $Rb_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$  can be derived from the condensation of the same type of rod-like elements that have been introduced in Section 2.3. In more detail, both compounds can be considered as derivative structures of the same aristotype. However, the distortion patterns resulting in the hexagonal potassium and the orthorhombic rubidium phase are different. Fig. 6 illustrates the differences between the parent structure, the two above-mentioned less-symmetric alkali alkaline-earth silicates, as well as related  $Na_3ScSi_2O_7$  (Skrzat *et al.*, 1969), by showing a 6.5 Å wide slab for each structure that contains a sequence of four consecutive rods linked by  $[Si_2O_7]^{6-}$  units. For the sake of clarity, the structures have been simplified slightly. In fact, some of the coordination polyhedra are shown as distorted trigonal prisms, although in some cases there are additional O atoms capping two or three of the prismatic faces that actually do belong to the coordination sphere.

#### 4. Conclusion

The current crystal structure is an interesting example of the substitution of two cation species with very different ionic radii. For several potassium–calcium silicates, including  $K_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$ , the replacement of calcium by the substantially larger potassium ion has been reported previously. However, the evidence in these cases was based solely on bond-valence calculations, as the two cation types are isoelectronic with 19 electrons each and thus cannot be discriminated from each other using direct site-population refinements by X-ray diffraction data. Conversely, in the case of  $Rb_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$ , the ion types differ significantly from each other in terms of the number of electrons, thereby rendering diffraction methods a viable additional evidence for a substitution of Rb with Ca. It is noteworthy that the discrepancy between the respective values of the radii for eight-coordinated potassium and rubidium is a mere 6% (Shannon, 1976).

As mentioned in the *Introduction*, the crystalline compounds of the rubidium–calcium and caesium–calcium silicate groups have been studied only rudimentarily, if at all. This opens up new possibilities for systematic crystal chemical investigations of the influence of the size of the alkali cations on the formation of certain structure types. As Liebau (1985)

demonstrated in his seminal book on oxosilicates, correlations between the radii of the nontetrahedrally coordinated cations and various structural aspects, including, among others, ring sizes or chain periodicities in phyllo- and inosilicates, could be deciphered. However, this requires that the data set under consideration contains a sufficiently large number of representatives. Of particular interest, of course, are compounds with equal proportions of the various monovalent, divalent and tetravalent cation types in the formula unit, such as the family of  $A_2Ca_2Si_2O_7$  compounds. In order to obtain a comprehensive crystallographic understanding of the compounds belonging to this general composition, it is necessary to ascertain the structure of the missing Cs phase. This objective is currently being pursued through synthesis experiments.

The present work is a first contribution to a project that will investigate structural relationships systematically and at the same time provide new information on phase equilibria in the  $Rb_2O$ – $CaO$ – $SiO_2$  and  $Cs_2O$ – $CaO$ – $SiO_2$  systems.

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## supporting information

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## Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>: a new alkali alkaline-earth silicate based on [Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>]<sup>6-</sup> anions

**Volker Kahlenberg**

### Computing details

#### Dirubidium dicalcium pyrosilicate (RT)

##### Crystal data

Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

$M_r = 419.28$

Orthorhombic, *Pmmn*

$a = 5.7363$  (6) Å

$b = 13.8532$  (12) Å

$c = 9.933$  (1) Å

$V = 789.34$  (13) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$F(000) = 792$

$D_x = 3.528$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å

Cell parameters from 2256 reflections

$\theta = 5.0$ – $29.5^\circ$

$\mu = 14$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 288$  K

Thin plate, colourless

$0.32 \times 0.1 \times 0.04$  mm

##### Data collection

Xcalibur, Ruby, Gemini ultra  
diffractometer

Radiation source: fine-focus sealed X-ray tube,  
Enhance (Mo) X-ray Source

Graphite monochromator

Detector resolution: 10.3575 pixels mm<sup>-1</sup>

$\omega$  scans

Absorption correction: analytical

[CrysAlis PRO (Rigaku OD, 2020), based on  
expressions derived by Clark & Reid (1995)]

$T_{\min} = 0.121$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.678$

10834 measured reflections

931 independent reflections

773 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.058$

$\theta_{\max} = 26.4^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{\min} = 3.6^\circ$

$h = -7 \rightarrow 7$

$k = -17 \rightarrow 17$

$l = -12 \rightarrow 12$

##### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$

Least-squares matrix: full

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.030$

$wR(F^2) = 0.076$

$S = 1.06$

931 reflections

78 parameters

0 restraints

Primary atom site location: structure-invariant  
direct methods

Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier  
map

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0295P)^2 + 3.6732P]$

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$

$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.86$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.70$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

Extinction correction: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick,  
2008),  $F_c^* = kFc[1 + 0.001x\lambda^3/\sin(2\theta)]^{-1/4}$

Extinction coefficient: 0.0100 (5)

*Special details*

**Geometry.** All s.u.'s (except the s.u. in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell s.u.'s are taken into account individually in the estimation of s.u.'s in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between s.u.'s in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell s.u.'s is used for estimating s.u.'s involving l.s. planes.

**Refinement.** Refinement of  $F^2$  against ALL reflections. The weighted R-factor wR and goodness of fit S are based on  $F^2$ , conventional R-factors R are based on F, with F set to zero for negative  $F^2$ . The threshold expression of  $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$  is used only for calculating R-factors(gt) etc. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. R-factors based on  $F^2$  are statistically about twice as large as those based on F, and R- factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )*

	x	y	z	$U_{\text{iso}}^*/U_{\text{eq}}$	Occ. (<1)
Rb1	0.75	0.10486 (5)	0.08538 (6)	0.0178 (2)	
Rb2	0.25	0.25	0.25846 (8)	0.0159 (2)	
Rb3	0.25	0.09802 (7)	0.58685 (8)	0.0243 (3)	0.5
Ca3	0.25	0.09802 (7)	0.58685 (8)	0.0243 (3)	0.5
Ca4	0.75	0.25	0.74935 (15)	0.0101 (4)	
Ca5	0.25	0.51058 (8)	0.24873 (11)	0.0102 (3)	
Si1	0.75	0.13621 (12)	0.41868 (17)	0.0149 (4)	
Si2	0.25	0.13963 (11)	0.91931 (16)	0.0093 (3)	
O1	0.0181 (5)	0.1274 (2)	0.8280 (3)	0.0233 (8)	
O2	0.25	0.0734 (3)	1.0515 (4)	0.0188 (10)	
O3	0.25	0.25	0.9820 (7)	0.0262 (15)	
O4	0.5246 (7)	0.0822 (3)	0.3605 (4)	0.0439 (11)	
O5	0.75	0.25	0.3599 (6)	0.0143 (12)	
O6	0.75	0.1355 (3)	0.5789 (4)	0.0347 (14)	

*Atomic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )*

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
Rb1	0.0143 (3)	0.0261 (4)	0.0128 (3)	0	0	0.0002 (2)
Rb2	0.0178 (5)	0.0137 (4)	0.0162 (4)	0	0	0
Rb3	0.0181 (4)	0.0413 (6)	0.0134 (4)	0	0	-0.0074 (4)
Ca3	0.0181 (4)	0.0413 (6)	0.0134 (4)	0	0	-0.0074 (4)
Ca4	0.0125 (8)	0.0069 (7)	0.0109 (8)	0	0	0
Ca5	0.0133 (6)	0.0073 (5)	0.0099 (6)	0	0	-0.0001 (4)
Si1	0.0224 (9)	0.0107 (8)	0.0116 (8)	0	0	-0.0001 (6)
Si2	0.0085 (7)	0.0075 (7)	0.0118 (8)	0	0	0.0024 (6)
O1	0.0171 (16)	0.0207 (16)	0.0320 (19)	-0.0073 (13)	-0.0110 (14)	0.0074 (13)
O2	0.020 (2)	0.018 (2)	0.019 (2)	0	0	0.0074 (18)
O3	0.043 (4)	0.015 (3)	0.021 (3)	0	0	0
O4	0.053 (3)	0.032 (2)	0.046 (2)	-0.0184 (19)	-0.025 (2)	0.0047 (17)
O5	0.021 (3)	0.013 (3)	0.009 (3)	0	0	0
O6	0.076 (4)	0.017 (2)	0.011 (2)	0	0	0.0002 (18)



Geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ )

Rb1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	2.819 (4)	Si1—O4	1.601 (4)
Rb1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	2.9206 (9)	Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	1.601 (4)
Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	2.9206 (9)	Si1—O5	1.681 (2)
Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	2.999 (3)	Si2—O2	1.602 (4)
Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	2.999 (3)	Si2—O1	1.619 (3)
Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	3.039 (4)	Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	1.619 (3)
Rb1—O4	3.039 (4)	Si2—O3	1.651 (3)
Rb1—O5	3.388 (4)	O1—Si2	1.619 (3)
Rb2—O3 <sup>ii</sup>	2.746 (7)	O1—Ca5 <sup>xviii</sup>	2.359 (3)
Rb2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.985 (4)	O1—Ca4 <sup>ix</sup>	2.421 (3)
Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.985 (4)	O1—Rb3	2.770 (4)
Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.985 (4)	O1—Rb1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.999 (3)
Rb2—O4	2.985 (4)	O2—Si2	1.602 (4)
Rb2—O5	3.0401 (19)	O2—Ca5 <sup>xx</sup>	2.279 (4)
Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	3.0401 (19)	O2—Rb1 <sup>i</sup>	2.819 (4)
Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	3.196 (4)	O2—Rb1 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.9206 (9)
Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	3.196 (4)	O2—Rb1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.9206 (9)
Rb3—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.754 (5)	O2—Rb2 <sup>xxi</sup>	3.196 (4)
Rb3—O4	2.754 (5)	O3—Si2 <sup>vii</sup>	1.651 (3)
Rb3—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.770 (4)	O3—Si2	1.651 (3)
Rb3—O1	2.770 (4)	O3—Rb2 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.746 (7)
Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	2.860 (4)	O4—Si1	1.601 (4)
Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	2.860 (4)	O4—Ca5 <sup>vii</sup>	2.317 (4)
Rb3—O6	2.9160 (9)	O4—Rb3	2.754 (5)
Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	2.9160 (9)	O4—Rb3 <sup>i</sup>	2.860 (4)
Ca4—O6	2.320 (5)	O4—Rb2	2.985 (4)
Ca4—O6 <sup>xii</sup>	2.320 (5)	O4—Rb1	3.039 (4)
Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	2.421 (3)	O5—Si1 <sup>xii</sup>	1.681 (2)
Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.421 (3)	O5—Si1	1.681 (2)
Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.421 (3)	O5—Rb2 <sup>xiv</sup>	3.0401 (19)
Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.421 (3)	O5—Rb2	3.0401 (19)
Ca5—O2 <sup>x</sup>	2.279 (4)	O5—Rb1 <sup>xii</sup>	3.388 (4)
Ca5—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.317 (4)	O5—Rb1	3.388 (4)
Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.317 (4)	O6—Si1	1.591 (4)
Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	2.359 (3)	O6—Ca4	2.320 (5)
Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	2.359 (3)	O6—Ca5 <sup>xxii</sup>	2.435 (5)
Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	2.435 (5)	O6—Rb3 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.9160 (9)
Si1—O6	1.591 (5)	O6—Rb3	2.9160 (9)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	79.25 (8)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	100.79 (11)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	79.25 (8)	O1—Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	75.71 (10)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	158.25 (17)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	109.79 (8)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	71.35 (9)	O4—Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	79.71 (12)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	54.11 (10)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	75.71 (10)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	114.88 (10)	O1—Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	100.79 (11)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	71.35 (9)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	53.74 (16)

O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	114.88 (10)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O6	123.68 (12)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	54.11 (10)	O4—Rb3—O6	55.20 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	61.69 (11)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O6	61.64 (11)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	110.08 (10)	O1—Rb3—O6	118.01 (11)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	120.40 (11)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O6	127.25 (12)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	70.77 (11)	O4 <sup>i</sup> —Rb3—O6	73.50 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	174.31 (9)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	55.20 (12)
O1 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	123.98 (9)	O4—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	123.68 (12)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O4	110.08 (10)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	118.01 (11)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O4	70.77 (11)	O1—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	61.64 (11)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4	120.40 (11)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	73.50 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O4	123.98 (9)	O4 <sup>i</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	127.25 (12)
O1 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4	174.31 (9)	O6—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	159.22 (18)
O4 <sup>v</sup> —Rb1—O4	50.35 (14)	O6—Ca4—O6 <sup>xii</sup>	86.2 (2)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	109.85 (8)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	135.66 (10)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	109.85 (8)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	75.89 (12)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	63.71 (15)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	135.66 (10)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	109.85 (8)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	75.89 (12)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	140.29 (17)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	78.88 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	102.26 (13)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	75.89 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4	109.85 (8)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	135.66 (10)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4	102.26 (13)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	142.33 (18)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O4	140.29 (17)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	89.11 (14)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O4	63.71 (15)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	75.89 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O5	109.36 (10)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	135.66 (10)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O5	52.37 (7)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	89.11 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O5	112.66 (10)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	142.33 (18)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O5	112.66 (10)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	78.88 (14)
O4—Rb2—O5	52.37 (7)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	97.40 (13)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	109.36 (10)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	97.40 (13)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	112.66 (10)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	85.7 (2)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	52.37 (7)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	94.14 (12)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	52.37 (7)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	168.20 (13)
O4—Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	112.66 (10)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	95.30 (14)
O5—Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	141.3 (2)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	94.14 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	49.96 (7)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	95.30 (14)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	144.54 (9)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	168.20 (13)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	144.54 (9)	O1 <sup>xv</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	81.37 (16)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	67.82 (10)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	165.38 (16)
O4—Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	67.82 (10)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	93.30 (13)
O5—Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	102.31 (6)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	93.30 (13)
O5 <sup>ix</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	102.31 (6)	O1 <sup>xv</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	74.91 (11)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	49.96 (7)	O1 <sup>xvi</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	74.91 (11)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	67.82 (10)	O6—Si1—O4	110.99 (19)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	67.82 (10)	O6—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	110.99 (19)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	144.54 (9)	O4—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	107.7 (3)
O4—Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	144.54 (9)	O6—Si1—O5	110.6 (3)
O5—Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	102.31 (6)	O4—Si1—O5	108.21 (18)

O5 <sup>ix</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	102.31 (6)	O4 <sup>v</sup> —Si1—O5	108.21 (18)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	99.92 (15)	O2—Si2—O1	113.52 (14)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O4	69.79 (16)	O2—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	113.52 (14)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	172.90 (10)	O1—Si2—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	110.5 (3)
O4—Rb3—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	116.29 (9)	O2—Si2—O3	102.8 (3)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O1	116.29 (9)	O1—Si2—O3	107.96 (17)
O4—Rb3—O1	172.90 (10)	O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Si2—O3	107.96 (17)
O1 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O1	57.39 (12)	Si2 <sup>vii</sup> —O3—Si2	135.7 (4)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	79.71 (12)	Si1 <sup>xii</sup> —O5—Si1	139.4 (4)
O4—Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	109.79 (8)		

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x+1, -y, -z+1$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z-1$ ; (iii)  $x+1, y, z-1$ ; (iv)  $-x+1/2, y, z-1$ ; (v)  $-x+3/2, y, z$ ; (vi)  $x, -y+1/2, z$ ; (vii)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (viii)  $-x+1/2, y, z$ ; (ix)  $x-1, y, z$ ; (x)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z-1$ ; (xi)  $x-1/2, -y, -z+1$ ; (xii)  $-x+3/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (xiii)  $x+1, -y+1/2, z$ ; (xiv)  $x+1, y, z$ ; (xv)  $x+1/2, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xvi)  $-x, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xvii)  $x-1/2, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xviii)  $x-1/2, y-1/2, -z+1$ ; (xix)  $x-1, y, z+1$ ; (xx)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z+1$ ; (xxi)  $x, y, z+1$ ; (xxii)  $x+1/2, y-1/2, -z+1$ .

### Dirubidium dicalcium pyrosilicate (LT)

#### Crystal data

Rb<sub>2</sub>Ca<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

$M_r = 419.28$

Orthorhombic, *Pmmn*

$a = 5.7281$  (6) Å

$b = 13.8361$  (13) Å

$c = 9.9233$  (11) Å

$V = 786.47$  (14) Å<sup>3</sup>

$Z = 4$

$F(000) = 792$

#### Data collection

Rigaku Xcalibur Ruby Gemini ultra diffractometer

Radiation source: fine-focus sealed X-ray tube, Enhance (Mo) X-ray Source

Graphite monochromator

Detector resolution: 10.3575 pixels mm<sup>-1</sup>

$\omega$  scans

Absorption correction: analytical

[CrysAlis PRO (Rigaku OD, 2020), based on expressions derived by Clark & Reid (1995)]

#### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$

Least-squares matrix: full

$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.029$

$wR(F^2) = 0.067$

$S = 1.07$

929 reflections

78 parameters

0 restraints

Primary atom site location: structure-invariant direct methods

$D_x = 3.541$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å

Cell parameters from 2430 reflections

$\theta = 5.0$ – $30.4^\circ$

$\mu = 14.05$  mm<sup>-1</sup>

$T = 193$  K

Thin plate, colourless

$0.32 \times 0.1 \times 0.04$  mm

$T_{\min} = 0.109$ ,  $T_{\max} = 0.675$

10870 measured reflections

929 independent reflections

777 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$

$R_{\text{int}} = 0.059$

$\theta_{\max} = 26.4^\circ$ ,  $\theta_{\min} = 3.6^\circ$

$h = -7 \rightarrow 7$

$k = -17 \rightarrow 17$

$l = -12 \rightarrow 12$

Secondary atom site location: difference Fourier map

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.018P)^2 + 4.8532P]$

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$

$\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.93$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

$\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.75$  e Å<sup>-3</sup>

Extinction correction: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 2008),  $F_c^* = kFc[1 + 0.001xFe^2\lambda^3/\sin(2\theta)]^{-1/4}$

Extinction coefficient: 0.0075 (4)

*Special details*

**Geometry.** All s.u.'s (except the s.u. in the dihedral angle between two l.s. planes) are estimated using the full covariance matrix. The cell s.u.'s are taken into account individually in the estimation of s.u.'s in distances, angles and torsion angles; correlations between s.u.'s in cell parameters are only used when they are defined by crystal symmetry. An approximate (isotropic) treatment of cell s.u.'s is used for estimating s.u.'s involving l.s. planes.

**Refinement.** Refinement of  $F^2$  against ALL reflections. The weighted R-factor wR and goodness of fit S are based on  $F^2$ , conventional R-factors R are based on F, with F set to zero for negative  $F^2$ . The threshold expression of  $F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)$  is used only for calculating R-factors(gt) etc. and is not relevant to the choice of reflections for refinement. R-factors based on  $F^2$  are statistically about twice as large as those based on F, and R- factors based on ALL data will be even larger.

*Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )*

	x	y	z	$U_{iso}^*/U_{eq}$	Occ. (<1)
Rb1	0.75	0.10480 (4)	0.08531 (6)	0.0138 (2)	
Rb2	0.25	0.25	0.25884 (8)	0.0124 (2)	
Rb3	0.25	0.09799 (7)	0.58693 (8)	0.0206 (2)	0.5
Ca3	0.25	0.09799 (7)	0.58693 (8)	0.0206 (2)	0.5
Ca4	0.75	0.25	0.74921 (15)	0.0080 (4)	
Ca5	0.25	0.51081 (8)	0.24885 (11)	0.0088 (3)	
Si1	0.75	0.13623 (12)	0.41858 (17)	0.0137 (4)	
Si2	0.25	0.13959 (11)	0.91918 (16)	0.0078 (3)	
O1	0.0183 (5)	0.1274 (2)	0.8280 (3)	0.0211 (7)	
O2	0.25	0.0732 (3)	1.0520 (4)	0.0165 (9)	
O3	0.25	0.25	0.9825 (6)	0.0220 (15)	
O4	0.5242 (7)	0.0821 (3)	0.3604 (4)	0.0425 (11)	
O5	0.75	0.25	0.3598 (6)	0.0119 (12)	
O6	0.75	0.1361 (3)	0.5793 (5)	0.0323 (13)	

*Atomic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )*

	$U^{11}$	$U^{22}$	$U^{33}$	$U^{12}$	$U^{13}$	$U^{23}$
Rb1	0.0107 (3)	0.0204 (3)	0.0104 (3)	0	0	0.0001 (2)
Rb2	0.0141 (4)	0.0100 (4)	0.0130 (4)	0	0	0
Rb3	0.0161 (4)	0.0345 (5)	0.0113 (4)	0	0	-0.0071 (4)
Ca3	0.0161 (4)	0.0345 (5)	0.0113 (4)	0	0	-0.0071 (4)
Ca4	0.0099 (8)	0.0046 (7)	0.0094 (8)	0	0	0
Ca5	0.0117 (6)	0.0059 (5)	0.0088 (6)	0	0	0.0001 (4)
Si1	0.0208 (9)	0.0096 (8)	0.0107 (8)	0	0	-0.0003 (6)
Si2	0.0070 (7)	0.0055 (7)	0.0110 (8)	0	0	0.0022 (6)
O1	0.0137 (15)	0.0189 (15)	0.0307 (19)	-0.0071 (13)	-0.0112 (14)	0.0077 (14)
O2	0.017 (2)	0.014 (2)	0.019 (2)	0	0	0.0059 (18)
O3	0.040 (4)	0.010 (3)	0.015 (3)	0	0	0
O4	0.050 (3)	0.0280 (19)	0.050 (2)	-0.0163 (19)	-0.025 (2)	0.0048 (18)
O5	0.020 (3)	0.010 (3)	0.006 (3)	0	0	0
O6	0.070 (4)	0.012 (2)	0.015 (2)	0	0	-0.0008 (18)



Geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ )

Rb1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	2.815 (4)	Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	1.602 (4)
Rb1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	2.9160 (9)	Si1—O5	1.679 (2)
Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	2.9160 (9)	Si2—O2	1.606 (4)
Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	2.997 (3)	Si2—O1	1.615 (3)
Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	2.997 (3)	Si2—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	1.615 (3)
Rb1—O4	3.037 (4)	Si2—O3	1.652 (3)
Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	3.037 (4)	O1—Si2	1.615 (3)
Rb1—O5	3.385 (4)	O1—Ca5 <sup>xviii</sup>	2.355 (3)
Rb2—O3 <sup>ii</sup>	2.742 (6)	O1—Ca4 <sup>ix</sup>	2.419 (3)
Rb2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.980 (4)	O1—Rb3	2.765 (4)
Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.980 (4)	O1—Rb1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.997 (3)
Rb2—O4	2.980 (4)	O2—Si2	1.606 (4)
Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.980 (4)	O2—Ca5 <sup>xx</sup>	2.274 (4)
Rb2—O5	3.0343 (19)	O2—Rb1 <sup>i</sup>	2.815 (4)
Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	3.0343 (19)	O2—Rb1 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.9160 (9)
Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	3.193 (4)	O2—Rb1 <sup>xix</sup>	2.9160 (9)
Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	3.193 (4)	O2—Rb2 <sup>xxi</sup>	3.193 (4)
Rb3—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	2.752 (5)	O3—Si2 <sup>viii</sup>	1.652 (3)
Rb3—O4	2.752 (5)	O3—Si2	1.652 (3)
Rb3—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.765 (4)	O3—Rb2 <sup>xxi</sup>	2.742 (6)
Rb3—O1	2.765 (4)	O4—Si1	1.603 (4)
Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	2.855 (4)	O4—Ca5 <sup>viii</sup>	2.312 (4)
Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	2.855 (4)	O4—Ca3 <sup>i</sup>	2.855 (4)
Rb3—O6	2.9131 (9)	O4—Rb3	2.752 (5)
Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	2.9131 (9)	O4—Rb3 <sup>i</sup>	2.855 (4)
Ca4—O6	2.308 (5)	O4—Rb2	2.980 (4)
Ca4—O6 <sup>xii</sup>	2.308 (5)	O4—Rb1	3.037 (5)
Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	2.419 (3)	O5—Si1 <sup>xii</sup>	1.679 (2)
Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	2.419 (3)	O5—Si1	1.679 (2)
Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.419 (3)	O5—Rb2 <sup>xiv</sup>	3.0343 (19)
Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	2.419 (3)	O5—Rb2	3.0343 (19)
Ca5—O2 <sup>x</sup>	2.274 (4)	O5—Rb1 <sup>xii</sup>	3.385 (4)
Ca5—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	2.312 (4)	O5—Rb1	3.385 (4)
Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	2.312 (4)	O6—Si1	1.595 (5)
Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	2.355 (3)	O6—Ca4	2.308 (4)
Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	2.355 (3)	O6—Ca5 <sup>xxii</sup>	2.431 (5)
Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	2.431 (5)	O6—Rb3 <sup>xiv</sup>	2.9131 (9)
Si1—O6	1.595 (5)	O6—Rb3	2.9131 (9)
Si1—O4	1.602 (4)		
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	79.29 (8)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	100.79 (11)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	79.29 (8)	O1—Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	75.67 (10)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O2 <sup>iii</sup>	158.35 (17)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	109.78 (8)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	71.27 (9)	O4—Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	79.70 (12)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	54.21 (10)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	75.67 (10)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iv</sup>	115.00 (10)	O1—Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	100.79 (11)

O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	71.27 (9)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>i</sup>	53.86 (16)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	115.00 (10)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O6	123.69 (12)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	54.21 (10)	O4—Rb3—O6	55.40 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	61.71 (11)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O6	61.57 (11)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O4	110.14 (10)	O1—Rb3—O6	117.88 (11)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O4	70.62 (11)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O6	127.43 (12)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4	120.31 (11)	O4 <sup>i</sup> —Rb3—O6	73.58 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O4	123.94 (9)	O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	55.39 (12)
O1 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4	174.34 (10)	O4—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	123.69 (12)
O2 <sup>i</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	110.14 (10)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	117.88 (11)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	120.31 (11)	O1—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	61.57 (11)
O2 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	70.62 (11)	O4 <sup>xi</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	73.58 (12)
O1 <sup>iv</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	174.34 (10)	O4 <sup>i</sup> —Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	127.43 (12)
O1 <sup>iii</sup> —Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	123.94 (9)	O6—Rb3—O6 <sup>ix</sup>	158.94 (18)
O4—Rb1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	50.41 (15)	O6—Ca4—O6 <sup>xii</sup>	86.2 (2)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	109.76 (9)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	109.76 (9)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiii</sup>	75.93 (12)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>vii</sup>	140.49 (17)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	75.93 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4	109.76 (9)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4	102.46 (14)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	142.31 (18)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O4	63.62 (15)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	75.93 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	109.76 (8)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	135.64 (10)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	63.62 (15)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	89.08 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	102.46 (14)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>xiv</sup>	78.90 (14)
O4—Rb2—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	140.49 (17)	O6—Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	135.64 (10)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O5	109.28 (10)	O6 <sup>xii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	75.93 (12)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O5	52.47 (7)	O1 <sup>xiii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	78.90 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O5	112.70 (10)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	89.08 (14)
O4—Rb2—O5	52.47 (7)	O1 <sup>xiv</sup> —Ca4—O1 <sup>viii</sup>	142.31 (18)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O5	112.70 (10)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>viii</sup>	97.30 (13)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	109.28 (10)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	97.30 (13)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	112.70 (10)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Ca5—O4 <sup>vi</sup>	85.6 (2)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	52.47 (7)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	94.14 (12)
O4—Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	112.70 (10)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	168.32 (13)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	52.47 (7)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xv</sup>	95.29 (14)
O5—Rb2—O5 <sup>ix</sup>	141.4 (2)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	94.14 (12)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	49.99 (7)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	95.29 (14)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	144.54 (9)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	168.32 (13)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	67.67 (10)	O1 <sup>xv</sup> —Ca5—O1 <sup>xvi</sup>	81.50 (16)
O4—Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	67.67 (10)	O2 <sup>x</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	165.29 (16)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	144.54 (9)	O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	93.48 (13)
O5—Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	102.26 (6)	O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	93.48 (13)
O5 <sup>ix</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	102.26 (6)	O1 <sup>xv</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	74.85 (11)
O3 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	49.99 (7)	O1 <sup>xvi</sup> —Ca5—O6 <sup>xvii</sup>	74.85 (11)
O4 <sup>vi</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	67.67 (10)	O6—Si1—O4	111.10 (19)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	144.54 (9)	O6—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	111.10 (19)
O4—Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	144.54 (9)	O4—Si1—O4 <sup>v</sup>	107.6 (3)
O4 <sup>viii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	67.67 (10)	O6—Si1—O5	110.4 (3)

O5—Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	102.26 (6)	O4—Si1—O5	108.26 (18)
O5 <sup>ix</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	102.26 (6)	O4 <sup>v</sup> —Si1—O5	108.26 (18)
O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Rb2—O2 <sup>x</sup>	99.98 (15)	O2—Si2—O1	113.58 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O4	69.62 (16)	O2—Si2—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	113.58 (14)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	172.97 (10)	O1—Si2—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	110.5 (3)
O4—Rb3—O1 <sup>vii</sup>	116.39 (10)	O2—Si2—O3	102.5 (3)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O1	116.39 (10)	O1—Si2—O3	108.05 (16)
O4—Rb3—O1	172.97 (10)	O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Si2—O3	108.05 (17)
O1 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O1	57.36 (12)	Si2—O3—Si2 <sup>viii</sup>	135.3 (4)
O4 <sup>vii</sup> —Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	79.70 (12)	Si1 <sup>xii</sup> —O5—Si1	139.3 (4)
O4—Rb3—O4 <sup>xi</sup>	109.78 (8)		

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x+1, -y, -z+1$ ; (ii)  $x, y, z-1$ ; (iii)  $x+1, y, z-1$ ; (iv)  $-x+1/2, y, z-1$ ; (v)  $-x+3/2, y, z$ ; (vi)  $x, -y+1/2, z$ ; (vii)  $-x+1/2, y, z$ ; (viii)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (ix)  $x-1, y, z$ ; (x)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z-1$ ; (xi)  $x-1/2, -y, -z+1$ ; (xii)  $-x+3/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (xiii)  $x+1, -y+1/2, z$ ; (xiv)  $x+1, y, z$ ; (xv)  $x+1/2, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xvi)  $-x, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xvii)  $x-1/2, y+1/2, -z+1$ ; (xviii)  $x-1/2, y-1/2, -z+1$ ; (xix)  $x-1, y, z+1$ ; (xx)  $-x+1/2, -y+1/2, z+1$ ; (xxi)  $x, y, z+1$ ; (xxii)  $x+1/2, y-1/2, -z+1$ .