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Acta Cryst. (2011) A67, C647**Veblenite: a new ti-silicate related to hoh structures**

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Veblenite, ideally $\text{KNa}(\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_4\text{Mn}_7)\text{Nb}_4(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)_2(\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22})_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_{10}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3$, triclinic, $P\bar{1}$, a 5.3761(3), b 27.5062(11), c 18.6972(9) Å, α 140.301(3), β 93.033(3), γ 95.664(3)°, V 1720.96(14) Å³, has no natural or synthetic analogues. It is a new mineral occurring at Ten Mile Lake, Seal Lake area, Labrador, Newfoundland, Canada, as red brown single laths and fibres included in feldspar. In the crystal structure of veblenite, M octahedra share common edges to form a wavy octahedral sheet parallel to (001). SiO_4 tetrahedra share corners to form Si_2O_7 groups and Si_8O_{22} ribbons. This is the first occurrence of an eight-membered Si-O ribbon in a mineral crystal structure. The Nb-dominant D octahedra, Si_2O_7 groups and Si_8O_{22} ribbons share common vertices to form a heteropolyhedral (H) sheet. Two H sheets and an O sheet constitute an HOH block. Along [001], HOH blocks connect via common vertices of D octahedra and cations at the $A(1,2)$ and B interstitial sites. In the intermediate space between two adjacent HOH blocks, two [100] channels of different size can be identified. A narrow channel of the width of an Si_2O_7 group contains the $A(1)$ site mainly occupied by K. A large channel has the width of four Si_2O_7 groups (Si_8O_{22} ribbon) and contains $A(2)$ sites partly occupied by K and H_2O groups.

The crystal structure of veblenite is related to several HOH structures where the O sheet is ideally composed of Fe^{2+} octahedra, such as jinshajiangite [1], niobophyllite [2] (astrophyllite group) and nafertisite [3]. Veblenite differs from those structures in the topology and chemistry of the H sheet. In jinshajiangite, the H sheet consists of (Si_2O_7) groups and Ti-dominant octahedra. In niobophyllite, the H sheet is composed of (Si_4O_{12}) astrophyllite ribbons [a double ribbon of (Si_2O_7) groups] and Nb-dominant octahedra. In nafertisite, the H sheet is composed of (Si_6O_{17}) ribbons [a triple ribbon of (Si_2O_7) groups] and Ti-dominant octahedra. In veblenite, the H sheet is composed of (Si_2O_7) groups (as in jinshajiangite), (Si_8O_{22}) ribbons [a new type of a quadruple ribbon of (Si_2O_7) groups which can be built of two astrophyllite ribbons] and Nb-dominant octahedra. The above reported setting is obtained from the reduced cell a 5.3761(3), b 17.7419(10), c 18.6972(11) Å, α 97.991(1), β 93.032(2), γ 102.050(1)° thorough the transformation (1,0,0|0,1| $\bar{0}$,0,1). The chosen setting with a large α is preferred in order to compare the structure topology of veblenite to those of jinshajiangite and niobophyllite.

[1] E. Sokolova, F. Cámara, F.C. Hawthorne, Y. Abdu, *European Journal of Mineralogy*, **2009**, *21*, 871-883. [2] F. Cámara, E. Sokolova, Y. Abdu, F.C. Hawthorne, *Canadian Mineralogist*, **2010**, *48*, 1-16. [3] G. Ferraris, G. Ivaldi, A.P. Khomyakov, S.V. Soboleva, E. Belluso, and A. Pavese, *European Journal of Mineralogy*, **1996**, *8*, 241-249.

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Acta Cryst. (2011) A67, C647**Hybrid inorganic-organic layered crystals constructed by oxide clusters and surfactant**

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Inorganic-organic hybrid layered crystals were successfully synthesized by using polyoxometalate anionic clusters and cationic surfactant. Such ionic crystals are a rare series of materials, and both inorganic and organic components can be flexibly selected to construct functional inorganic-organic hybrids.

Octamolybdate (Mo8) anions formed single crystals together with hexadecylpyridinium (C16py), and the crystal structures were revealed by X-ray diffraction analyses [1]. The crystals exhibited the alternate stacking composed of Mo8 layers and surfactant layers, and the Mo8 layers were sandwiched by the bilayer arrangements of the surfactant cations. The Mo8 anion has several isomers such as alpha-Mo8 or beta-Mo8, and the layered distance depended on the isomer structures of Mo8 at a variety from 1.86 to 3.75 nm.

The crystals of C16py-alpha-Mo8 and C16py-beta-Mo8 had different arrangement of Mo8 inorganic layers: each alpha-Mo8 was isolated by the inserted C16py cations, while beta-Mo8 formed one-dimensional infinite chain with sodium cations. In addition, there were two different types of crystals for C16py-beta-Mo8. One had a triclinic unit cell containing monolayers of the Mo8-chain. The other had a monoclinic unit cell with a long cell dimension ($b = 7.5011$ nm), which contained the bilayers of the Mo8 chain. The layered periodicity of 3.75 nm (half of the b axis length) was the largest value for polyoxometalate-surfactant hybrid crystals previously reported. Such structural variety could contribute to the construction of functional inorganic-organic hybrid materials.

[1] T. Ito, K. Mikurube, Y. Abe, T. Koroki, M. Saito, J. Iijima, H. Naruke, T. Ozeki, *Chem. Lett.* **2010**, *39*, 1323-1325.

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Acta Cryst. (2011) A67, C647-C648**Intercalated transition-metal dichalcogenides at different temperatures**

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Transition metal dichalcogenides (MX_2 , M=transition metal and X=chalcogen) are of considerable interest due to layer-type structural properties. The transition metal has trigonal prismatic or octahedral coordination by six chalcogen atoms which is further connected to neighbouring coordination spheres to form a layered structure. Interaction between atoms within a slab are mainly covalent. Slab to slab interaction are weak, and in general are of the type of van der Waals interaction. Due to this weak interlayer interaction several different slab stacking sequences (crystal polytype) are possible. Intercalation compounds of transition metal dichalcogenides can be formed with a wide range of guest atoms or molecules including alkali metals and transition metals. The intercalated guest atom may be incorporated on octahedral or tetrahedral sites surrounded by chalcogen atoms in the van der Waals gaps. Intercalation of Cu atom in $6R\text{-Cu}_x\text{M}_y\text{S}_2$ shows