Cation distribution in the octahedral sites of hornblendes

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ABSTRACT

The structure refinements of five calcic amphiboles with I4Al > 0.5 have been carried out in order to characterize the cation distributions in the octahedral sites in amphiboles formed at different temperatures. The location and atomic fractions of Al and Fe\(^{3+}\) in the octahedral M(1), M(2), and M(3) sites were determined together with other constituent cations on the basis of the site refinement and the relations between mean bond length and mean ionic radius.

The studied specimens are two metamorphic pargasites, a volcanic pargasite, a volcanic magnesio-hornblende, and a hastingsite from a skarn. In the metamorphic pargasites and the hastingsite, Al, Fe\(^{3+}\), and Ti occupy only the M(2) site, and Mg prefers the M(2) site to the M(1) and M(3) sites (Mg-Fe\(^{3+}\) partitioning; \(K_{M(1)=M(3)} = 0.30\) between the M(1) and M(2) sites). On the other hand, the volcanic pargasite and hornblende indicate a more disordered cation distribution among the octahedral sites than that from metamorphic rocks and skarn.

INTRODUCTION

Calcic amphibole is an important rock-forming mineral and occurs in extremely wide varieties of metamorphic, plutonic, and volcanic rocks. A chemical discontinuity in the calcic amphiboles exists between Al-rich and Al-poor phases (e.g., Shido and Miyashiro, 1959; Yamaguchi et al., 1983). The Al-rich phase with I4Al > 0.5 is termed hornblende, subsuming the appropriate names for amphibole defined by Leake (1978), such as pargasite, tschermakite, and actinolitic hornblende.

The basic structural unit in calcic amphibole is a double chain of TO\(_4\) tetrahedra extending parallel to the c axis (Warren, 1929, 1930). The octahedral cation strips are sandwiched between the double chains. There are two distinct tetrahedral sites, T(1) and T(2), which contain Si and Al. The octahedral sites are subdivided into three crystallographically nonequivalent sites, M(1), M(2), and M(3), which accommodate various cations such as Mg, Fe\(^{2+}\), Mn, Fe\(^{3+}\), Al, and Ti. The M(4) site accommodates Ca, Na, Mg, and Fe\(^{3+}\). A large A site may be vacant or may contain Na and K cations.

Using data obtained from modern techniques, the geometry and chemistry of the cation sites in hornblendes have been discussed in detail (Papike et al., 1969; Kitamura et al., 1975; Robinson et al., 1973; Hawthorne and Grundy, 1973; Hawthorne et al., 1980; Ungaretti et al., 1981). The stereochemistry of the tetrahedral double chains and the octahedral strips in the C2/m amphibole was summarized by Hawthorne (1981, 1983).

Papike et al. (1969) observed the preference of Al for the T(1) site relative to the T(2) site in hornblendes based on the \(\langle T(1)-O\rangle\) and \(\langle T(2)-O\rangle\) lengths. The correlation between the Al content and the mean bond length of the tetrahedral sites in calcic amphiboles was demonstrated by Robinson et al. (1973) and Hawthorne and Grundy (1977).

Finding the ordering of trivalent cations at the smaller M(2) site in Bolivian crocidolite (magnesio-riebeckite) (Whittaker, 1949) and in glaucophane (Papike and Clark, 1968) helped in understanding the crystal chemistry of the octahedral sites in hornblende; the smaller Al, Fe\(^{3+}\), and Ti cations are confined to the M(2) site in hornblende, because it is usually much smaller than the M(1) and M(3) sites. Robinson et al. (1973) demonstrated that the mean bond lengths of the octahedral sites were a linear function of the mean ionic radius of the constituent cations. This relationship was extended to the grand octahedral site, which combines the M(1) site with the M(2) and M(3) sites, and to individual M(1), M(2), and M(3) sites of the C2/m amphibole by Hawthorne (1978, 1981, 1983).

In the metamorphic cummingtonites, the Ca-poor amphiboles with space group C2/m or P2\(_1\)/m, the Mg-Fe\(^{2+}\) distribution between the M(4) site, and the M(1, 2, 3) site was discussed by Hafner and Ghose (1971). The temperature dependency of the Mg-Fe\(^{2+}\) distribution between the M(4) site and the M(1, 2, 3) site was discussed by Mueller (1962) and Ghose and Weidner (1972). The kinetics of the Mg-Fe\(^{2+}\) exchange reaction between the M(4) site and the M(1, 2, 3) site in an anthophyllite were discussed by Seifert and Virgo (1975).

On the contrary, the chemical complexity of hornblende has obscured the temperature dependency of its cation distribution. In particular, the site preference of Al (or other trivalent cations) in the octahedra at high temperature has not been studied. This study was undertaken to characterize the distribution of cations among the oc-
Taera 1, Chemical comoosition of the hornblendes
(after Hawthorne et al., 1980).

The total occupancy of Na and K in the A site determined by refinement analyzed by wet-chemical methods (Matsumoto and Miyashita, 1960). P-P, standingen pargasite; combination by electron microprobe and wet-chemical analyses (Matsubara and Motoyoshi, 1985). O-H, Obira hastingsite. Kawanabe hornblende analyzed by electron microprobe. The amount of Fe³⁺ over formula unit in amphibole was derived from

TABLE 1. Chemical composition of the hornblendes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I-P</th>
<th>E-P</th>
<th>O-H</th>
<th>P-P</th>
<th>K-H</th>
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<td>—Cl=O</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>96.35</td>
<td>98.94</td>
<td>100.30</td>
<td>100.30</td>
<td>97.89</td>
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</table>


* The amount of Fe⁺⁺ per formula unit in amphibole was derived from the total occupancy of Na and K in the A site determined by refinement (after Hawthorne et al., 1980).

tahedral sites in hornblendes formed at different temperatures.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

The following five specimens were examined. Chemical compositions are given in Table 1, along with the methods of analyses for each specimen.

Iratsu pargasite (I-P)

Iratsu pargasite is one of the constituent minerals of the basic granulite from the Iratsu epidote-amphibolite mass, emplaced in Sanbagawa schists, in Ehime Prefecture, Japan. The associated minerals are hornblende, augite, and plagioclase. The pargasite crystallized in the granulite facies [750 °C and 5-10 kbar, as estimated by Yokoyama (1980)] and suffered Sanbagawa metamorphism [epidote amphibolite facies; about 600 °C and 8-13 kbar, as estimated by Yokoyama (1980) and Takasu (1984)]. The pargasite is slightly poorer in Mg and Al than the Einstöndingen sample described below.

Einstöndingen pargasite (E-P)

The pargasite occurs in a skarn intercalated with garnet biotite garnes in an islet of Einstöndingen, Lützow Holm Bay, East Antarctica (Matsubara and Motoyoshi, 1985). The studied specimen was supplied by Dr. Matsubara. The skarn consists of aluminous diopside, potassic pargasite, and phlogopite. The pargasite is the product of granulite-facies metamorphism. The metamorphic temperature and pressure were estimated to be about 800-850 °C and 8-10 kbar on the basis of the clinopyroxene-orthopyroxene geothermometer (Wood and Banno, 1973; Wells, 1977) and the garnet-orthopyroxene geobarometer (Harley and Green, 1982) by Matsubara and Motoyoshi (1985). The pargasite shows a high K content and Mg/(Mg + Fe³⁺). It contains high [⁴⁰]Al (0.97 pfu).

Obira hastingsite (O-H)

The hastingsite was from a skarn in the Obira mine, Oita Prefecture, Japan. Chemistry and occurrence of the hastingsite were described in detail by Matsumoto and Miyashita (1960). The hastingsite is fibrous. Associated minerals are datolite and stilpnomelane, which crystallized later than other skarn minerals (garnet, wollastonite, hedenbergite, actinolite). Judging from the assemblage of skarn and ore-forming minerals, the hastingsite crystallized during the hydrothermal stage (Matsumoto and Miyashita, 1960). The hastingsite has a high Fe³⁺/(Mg + Fe³⁺) and contains little Al in the octahedral sites.

Parau pargasite (P-P)

This pargasite was found in andesitic agglomerate belonging to the Babeldaob agglomerate in Gapson, Parau Island (Tayama, 1939). The Babeldaob agglomerate intercalates limestone, shale, sandstone, and tuff, suggesting submarine deposition. The andesitic agglomerate contains pargasite, clinopyroxene, and plagioclase. The crystallization temperature of the pargasite was estimated to

TABLE 2. Crystal data for the hornblendes, space group C2/m
be about 900 °C, on the basis of the phase relations in tonalite (Wyllie, 1977). The pargasite shows a high Mg/(Mg + Fe2+) and is enriched in 61Al (0.96 pfu) (Tomita, 1965). Chemically, this pargasite and the Einstödingen pargasite are very similar to each other (Table 1).

**Kawanabe hornblende (K-H)**

The magnesio-hornblende was from phenocrysts of andesitic agglomerate collected in the Kawanabe area of Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan. The agglomerate contains hornblende, clinopyroxene, and plagioclase. This mineral assemblage gives about 900 °C as the crystallization temperature of the hornblende (Wyllie, 1977). The hornblende has a similar Mg/(Mg + Fe2+) to Einstödingen and Parau pargasites (Table 1). However the 61Al content is very low.

**Comparison of the five specimens**

Neither exsolution texture nor chemical zoning was observed in the five hornblendes by optical microscopy, X-ray photographs, and electron-microprobe analyses. The hornblendes show various Mg/(Fe3+ + Mg) ratios and contain more than 0.70 Al, Fe3+, and Ti pfu in the octahedral sites. They can be divided into two groups based on their occurrences: One group consists of Obira hastingsite, Iratsu pargasite, and Einstödingen pargasite; the other group, Parau pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende. The three hornblendes in the former group, which crystallized under metamorphic or hydrothermal conditions, are considered to have cooled slowly. Thus, inter-site cation migration may have continued somewhat below the crystallization temperature. On the other hand, the two hornblendes in the latter group, which crystallized at much higher temperature and may have been cooled rapidly after volcanic eruption, are expected to preserve intracrystalline equilibrium frozen at a higher temperature than the former three hornblendes. Therefore, the former are considered to be “low-temperature” hornblendes, and the latter “high-temperature” hornblendes.

**Experimental details**

The crystals, usually (110) cleavage flakes elongated along the c axis, were hand-picked. The crystal sizes are shown in Table 2. The single-crystal X-ray photographs showed diffraction symmetry of space group Cm, C2 or C2/m. Since there was no indication of a noncentric nature from the intensity distribution, the space group C2/m was used in the structure refinements.

The intensity data were collected on a RIGAKU AFC-SUD automatic 4-circle diffractometer. The unit-cell parameters were determined by the least-squares method from 20 reflections collected on a 4-circle single-crystal diffractometer. Intensity data were measured with the 2θ-ω scan equi-inclination technique using monochromatized MoKa radiation and were gathered to 2θ = 80° for Obira hastingsite and to 2θ = 100° for the others. Absorption effects were corrected by the semiempirical method of North et al. (1968). Intensities less than three times the standard deviation of the observed intensity were rejected in this refinement.

The cell parameters, crystal sizes, number of intensity measurements, and the final $R = \sum |F_{\text{obs}}| - |F_{\text{calc}}|/\sum |F_{\text{obs}}|$ are presented in Table 2.

**Refinement procedure**

The full matrix least-squares refinements were carried out by using the computer program RFINE IV (Finger and Price, 1975) revised by Horiuchi (personal communication, 1981). The initial positional parameters and isotropic temperature factors for the present refinements were taken from ferro-tschermakite (Hawthorne and Grundy, 1973).

Since the X-ray scattering power of Mg and Al atoms is indistinguishable, Mg and Al were regarded as one group with one scattering factor. Mg and Al atoms were summed to form Mg* in atomic fraction. For the same reason, Fe2+, Fe3+, and Ti were assumed to form a species, Fe*. The small amount of Mn in the five hornblendes was neglected in this refinement. Because of the chemical complexity of hornblende, the following simplifying assumptions were employed. Ca was constrained to the M(4) site, excess cations (Fe* and Mg*) for the octahedral sites in Iratsu pargasite, Parau pargasite, and Kawanabe hornblende were assigned to the M(4) site, and the rest of the site was filled with Na. The M(4) sites of Einstödingen pargasite and Obira hastingsite were filled with Ca and Na. Residual Na and K were assigned to the A site.

Assuming random distribution of Al and Si in the tetrahedral sites and of Mg* and Fe* in the octahedral sites and/or the M(4) site, initial site occupancies were determined from the chemical analyses.

During all cycles of refinements, the tetrahedral and octahedral site chemistry were constrained to agree with the chemical analyses. Positional disorder of the A site on the mirror plane and/or along the twofold axis was read from the Fourier and difference-Fourier sections. Split-atom models (Papike et al., 1969; Hawthorne and Grundy, 1973) were used, which reduced the R factor more than 1.0%. The total amount of Na and K in the A site of Iratsu pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende was determined, assuming random distribution of Na and K cations in the A site. The anisotropic temperature factors were refined for Iratsu, Einstödingen, and Parau pargasites, for which the final weighted R factors are 3.1, 4.1, and 4.7%, respectively. In Iratsu pargasite, Parau pargasite, and Kawanabe hornblende, Mg* and Fe* at the M(4) site are Mg and Fe2+, respectively.

From the chemical analyses and X-ray refinements, Si and Al occupancies in the tetrahedral sites and Mg* and Fe* occupancies in the octahedral sites and/or the M(4) site were determined. The final positional parameters, isotropic temperature factors, and site occupancies are listed in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.
Results

T(1) and T(2) tetrahedral sites

In the five hornblendes of this study, Al tends to occupy the T(1) site in preference to the T(2) site, as judged from the (T(1)-O) and (T(2)-O) bond lengths (Table 5). Iratsu, Einstödingen, and Parau pargasites and Obira hastingsite, rich in Al (about 1.8-2.0 atoms pfu), have similar (T(1)-O) and also (T(2)-O) lengths. The (T(1)-O)
length of Kawanabe hornblende containing 1.1 pfu of $^{24}$Al is shorter than those of the pargasites and hastingsite of this study.

The M(1), M(2), and M(3) octahedral sites

The site refinements (Table 4) of the Iratsu pargasite and Obira hastingsite indicate that the M(2) site is enriched in Mg* over the M(1) and M(3) sites. The M(1), M(2), and M(3) sites in Einstödinger and Parau pargasites as well as in Kawanabe hornblende contain almost randomly distributed Mg* and Fe*.

Similar to other hornblendes reported by previous authors, the $\langle M(2)-O \rangle$ length of these five hornblendes is less than the $\langle M(1)-O \rangle$ and $\langle M(3)-O \rangle$ lengths (Table 5). In particular, the differences between the $\langle M(2)-O \rangle$ length and the $\langle M(1)-O \rangle$ and $\langle M(3)-O \rangle$ lengths are large (more than 0.06 Å) in Iratsu pargasite, Einstödinger pargasite, and Obira hastingsite but not so large (less than 0.03 Å) in Parau pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende. Einstödinger and Parau pargasites with comparable Al and Fe$^{3+}$ in the octahedral sites are considerably different in the mean bond length of the M(2) site (2.020 and 2.051 Å, respectively).

The thermal ellipsoids of the octahedral sites in Iratsu, Einstödinger, and Parau pargasites are similar in the orientation and the magnitudes (0.6–1.1) of their principal axes.

The M(4) polyhedral site

The M(4) sites of Einstödinger pargasite and Obira hastingsite are filled with Ca and Na cations. In Iratsu and Parau pargasites, the M(4) sites prefer Fe$^{2+}$ over Mg. The M(4) site in Kawanabe hornblende contains equal proportions of Mg and Fe$^{2+}$.

The A site

The positional disorder of the A site occurs on the mirror plane in the five hornblendes and also along the twofold axis, except for Einstödinger pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende. The A(m) sites on the mirror plane shift less than about 0.3 Å from the center position (2/m position) in the five hornblendes. The displacement of the A(2) site along the twofold axis is also less than about 0.3 Å from the center position (2/m).

CATION OCCUPANCY IN THE OCTAHEDRAL SITES

Robinson et al. (1973) and Hawthorne (1978, 1981, 1983) developed a relationship between the mean bond length and mean ionic radius [which is the mean of the effective radius of the constituent cations (Shannon and Prewitt, 1969, 1970)] for the octahedral sites in clinamo- philes. This relationship can be used to characterize unknown site occupancies or to test the obtained site occupancies.

Relation between the mean ionic radius and mean bond length for the grand octahedral site

The grand $\langle M-O \rangle$ length, which is the mean of the $\langle M(1)-O \rangle$, $\langle M(2)-O \rangle$, and $\langle M(3)-O \rangle$ lengths, increases...
linearly with the mean ionic radius of the constituent cations in these octahedral sites in C2/m amphiboles (Hawthorne, 1981, 1983). As is obvious in Figure 1, the data of the five hornblendes in the present investigation are consistent with the correlation line.

Relation between the mean ionic radius and mean bond length for the individual octahedral sites

Whittaker (1949) suggested on account of the significantly short (M(2)-O) length compared to the (M(1)-O) and (M(3)-O) lengths that trivalent cations in magnesio richterite are concentrated in the M(2) site. Using the same reasoning, other workers (Papke and Clark, 1968; Robinson et al., 1973; Hawthorne, 1978) showed that Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti may be concentrated in the M(2) site in clinotrichites. Furthermore, Robinson et al. (1973) demonstrated a linear relationship between the mean bond length and the mean ionic radius in the octahedral sites of hornblendes. Such a correlation line was developed separately for individual octahedral sites by Hawthorne (1978, 1981, 1983), using a larger data set of the C2/m

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Calculated*</th>
<th>Calculated**</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parau pargasite</td>
<td>2.078</td>
<td>2.097</td>
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<td>M(2)</td>
<td>2.051</td>
<td>1.998</td>
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<td>Kawanabe hornblende</td>
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<td>2.098</td>
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<tr>
<td>M(2)</td>
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<td>2.052</td>
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</table>

Note: The calculated values were obtained by Hawthorne's equations (Hawthorne, 1983). The M(1,3) values are the average of the M(1) and M(3) sites.

* Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti are assigned to the M(2) site.

** After re-arrangement (see Table 7).
TABLE 7. Octahedral site occupancies of the hornblendes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I-P</th>
<th>E-P</th>
<th>O-H</th>
<th>P-P</th>
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<tr>
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<td>0.05</td>
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</table>

Note: Re-arrangements maintained refined occupancies (see Table 4).

M(3) sites (Table 6). It follows that the foregoing assignment of Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti to the M(2) site is not adequate in Parau pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende. The disagreement in the calculated and observed mean bond lengths of the two hornblendes arises from overestimation of the amounts of smaller Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti cations in the M(2) site and from underestimation of the amounts of smaller cations in the M(1) and M(3) sites.

Re-arrangement of cation occupancies in the octahedral sites

From the above discussion, Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti appear to be located only at the M(2) site in Obira hastingsite and Iratsu and Einstödingen pargasites. Their site occupancies are listed in Table 7.

The optimum arrangements of Al, Fe³⁺, and Ti cations within the octahedral sites for Parau pargasite and Kawanabe hornblende were estimated so that the mean ionic radius of each octahedral site was close to the calculated one from the observed mean bond length by Hawthorne’s equations (Hawthorne, 1983) under the following constraints. The refined Mg* and Fe* fractions of every site were retained. Total contents of Al and Fe³⁺ over the octahedral sites were constrained to agree with the chemical analyses. Every octahedral site was assumed to contain the same Al/Fe³⁺ as the ratio obtained by chemical analyses. The M(1) and M(3) sites were treated as one set. Ti, which is small in amount in the octahedral site, was assigned to the M(2) site. The cation occupancies of the octahedral sites determined in this way are presented in Table 7.

Thermal ellipsoids of Iratsu, Einstödingen, and Parau pargasites show no evidence of positional disorder in the octahedral sites. Therefore, there is no problem in using the relations between the mean bond length and ionic radius for the examined hornblendes.

**CATION ORDER-DISORDER AMONG THE OCTAHEDRAL SITES IN HORNBLENDE**

On the basis of their occurrences, the five hornblendes can be divided into two groups: “high-temperature” hornblendes from volcanic rocks and “low-temperature” ones from metamorphic rocks and skarn. The nonconvergent cation order-disorder among the octahedral sites will be discussed here for the five hornblendes as well as for a ferro-tschermakite (Hawthorne and Grundy, 1973) and a pargasitic hornblende (Hawthorne et al., 1980). The ferro-tschermakite occurred in the Frood mine, Sudbury, Canada, and the pargasitic hornblende occurred in an amphibolite sequence at the margin of Tallan Lake sill, Peterborough County, Ontario. The two hornblendes are considered to belong to the “low-temperature” hornblendes because they are of metamorphic origin.

**Mg-Fe²⁺ order-disorder among the octahedral sites**

Figure 3 is a plot of the Mg/(Mg ⋅ Fe²⁺) of the M(1) site against that of the M(3) site. The Mg-Fe²⁺ distribution between the M(2) and the M(1) sites is shown in Figure 4. The distribution constant between the M(2) and M(1) sites is given by

\[
K_{M(2)-M(1)}^{M(1)} = \left( \frac{X_{Mg}}{X_{Fe²⁺}} \right)_{M(1)} \left( \frac{X_{Mg}}{X_{Fe²⁺}} \right)_{M(2)}^{-1},
\]

where \( X \) is the atomic fraction in the sites.

\( K_{M(2)-M(1)}^{M(1)} \) is about 0.6 for “low-temperature” hornblendes except for Obira hastingsite and is nearly unity for “high-temperature” hornblendes.

The Mg-Fe²⁺ distribution between the M(2) and the M(1) sites is shown in Figure 4. The distribution constant between the M(2) and M(1) sites is given by

\[
K_{M(2)-M(1)}^{M(1)} = \left( \frac{X_{Mg}}{X_{Fe²⁺}} \right)_{M(1)} \left( \frac{X_{Mg}}{X_{Fe²⁺}} \right)_{M(2)}^{-1},
\]

where \( X \) is the atomic fraction in the sites.

“Low-temperature” hornblendes plot near the curve...
Symbols as in Figs. 1 and 3. The cummingtonite studied by Buckley and Wilkins (1971) was from lavas, but the “high-temperature” hornblendes of this study are from agglomerate deposited on the sea floor. The rapid quenching in sea water may be responsible for the preservation of the random distribution of cations in “high-temperature” hornblendes.

Similar disordering of divalent and trivalent cations in the octahedral sites of experimentally oxidized tsherma-kitic hornblende and riebeckite was reported by Phillips et al. (1988). Al and Fe$^{3+}$ migrate from the M(2) site to the M(1) and M(3) sites of the riebeckite [O(3) = 0.10(OH) + 0.90(O)] heated in air. Parau pargasite [O(3) = 0.71(OH) + 0.29(O)], in which Al and Fe$^{3+}$ are distributed over the octahedral sites, is different from the riebeckite in the degree of oxidation. Thus, cation disordering in the octahedral site of amphibole is considered to depend on the crystallization temperature as well as on the oxidation degree of hornblende. Which is the most important factor in the cation disordering is not known. Further examinations will be needed to make it clear.

**CONCLUSION**

The structure refinements of the “high- and low-temperature” hornblendes have been carried out. The mean bond lengths and the calculated mean ionic radius of the octahedral sites in the “low-temperature” hornblendes are consistent with the equation proposed by Hawthorne (1983). However the “high-temperature” hornblendes are inconsistent with that relation. The inconsistency arises mainly from the assignment of Al and Fe$^{3+}$ only to the M(2) site, thereby suggesting that the conventional method of assignment is unsuitable for the “high-temperature” hornblendes. Therefore, cation distributions among the octahedral sites were estimated so as to be consistent with the refined mean bond lengths, on the basis of the relation between mean ionic radius and mean bond length.

At low temperature, such as metamorphic and hydrothermal conditions, Al, Fe$^{3+}$, and Ti are ordered on the M(2) site, and Mg exhibits a preference, M(2) $\gg$ M(1) $>$ M(3). The octahedral sites of experimentally oxidized hornblende are more disordered than hornblendes from metamorphic rocks.

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