

THE CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF YOSHIMURAITE,
A LAYERED Ba–Mn–Ti SILICOPHOSPHATE, WITH COMMENTS
ON FIVE-COORDINATED Ti⁴⁺

ANDREW M. McDONALD[§]

Department of Earth Sciences, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6, Canada

JOEL D. GRICE

Research Division, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, Canada

GEORGE Y. CHAO*

Department of Earth Sciences, Ottawa–Carleton Geoscience Centre, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada

ABSTRACT

The crystal structure of yoshimuraite, ideally Ba₂Mn₂TiO(Si₂O₇)(PO₄)(OH), has been determined and refined to residuals of $R = 3.0\%$ and $wR = 4.1\%$ using material from the Taguchi mine, Aichi Prefecture, Honshu, Japan. It is triclinic, $P\bar{1}$, with cell parameters a 5.386(1), b 6.999(1), c 14.748(3) Å, α 89.98(1), β 93.62(2), γ 95.50(2)°, V 552.3(1) Å³, with $Z = 2$. The mineral is strongly layered on (001), consisting of two quasi-tetrahedral layers composed of TiO₅ polyhedra cross-linked by corner-sharing (Si₂O₇) clusters. These layers bound on two sides a layer of closest-packed Mnφ₆ octahedra, thus forming a composite unit reminiscent of that found in 2:1 phyllosilicates. Such composite units are subsequently linked along [001] via an interlayer-like [Ba₂(PO₄)] sheet, the bonding between the two being relatively weak and resulting in the pronounced {001} cleavage observed in the mineral. Yoshimuraite is a member of the BM_n heterophyllosilicate polysomatic series [specifically, the BM_0 polysome series], which includes phases such as astrophyllite, bafertisitite and seidozerite.

Keywords: yoshimuraite, barium manganese titanium silicophosphate hydrate, heterophyllosilicate polysomatic series, Taguchi mine, Japan.

SOMMAIRE

Nous avons résolu la structure cristalline de la yoshimuraïte, dont la composition idéale est Ba₂Mn₂TiO(Si₂O₇)(PO₄)(OH), jusqu'à un résidu R de 3.0% ($wR = 4.1\%$) en utilisant un échantillon de la mine Taguchi, préfecture d'Aichi, île de Honshu, au Japon. Il s'agit d'un minéral triclinique, $P\bar{1}$, dont les paramètres réticulaires sont a 5.386(1), b 6.999(1), c 14.748(3) Å, α 89.98(1), β 93.62(2), γ 95.50(2)°, V 552.3(1) Å³, avec $Z = 2$. La yoshimuraïte possède des feuillets (100) prominents, et contient de couches quasi-tétraédriques contenant des polyèdres TiO₅ liés entre eux par des groupes (Si₂O₇) à coins partagés. Ces feuillets sont disposés de chaque côté d'une couche d'octaèdres Mnφ₆ à agencement compact, agencement composite ressemblant à celui des phyllosilicates 2:1. De tels feuillets sont liés entre eux le long de [001] par un inter-feuillet de [Ba₂(PO₄)]; les liaisons entre les deux composants sont relativement faibles, ce qui rend compte du clivage {001} prononcé. La yoshimuraïte fait partie de la série polysomatique BM_n dite *hétérophyllositée*, et en particulier de la série des polysomes BM_0 , qui inclut les espèces astrophyllite, bafertisitite et seidozerite.

(Traduit par la Rédaction)

Mots-clés: yoshimuraïte, silicophosphate de baryum, manganèse et titane hydraté, série polysomatique hétérophyllositée, mine Taguchi, Japon.

[§] E-mail address: amcdonal@nickel.laurentian.ca

* Present address: 2031 Delmar Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 5P6, Canada.

INTRODUCTION

Yoshimuraite, $\text{Ba}_2\text{Mn}_2\text{TiO}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})$, was originally described from the Noda-Tamagawa mine, Iwate Prefecture, Honshu, Japan, where it occurs in alkali syenite pegmatites located between a manganeseiferous hornfels unit and a layered Mn orebody (Watanabe *et al.* 1961). It was subsequently found in samples from the Taguchi mine, Aichi Prefecture, Honshu, Japan, where it occurs in orange-brown platy to tabular crystals, with Mn-bearing aegirine and rhodnite. Its structure has been solved and refined to evaluate the extent to which Si and P are ordered, and to investigate its crystal-chemical relationship with other layered Ti-bearing silicates.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

The material used in this study is from the Taguchi mine; it was obtained from the National Mineral Collection of Canada at the Geological Survey of Canada (NMC 63546). In order to confirm the chemical composition of the yoshimuraite used in this study, wavelength-dispersion data were collected on a Cambridge Microscan MK5 electron microprobe using an operating voltage of 15 kV and an estimated beam-current of 30 nA. The following standards were used: Ba-Si glass ($\text{BaL}\alpha$), celestine ($\text{SrL}\alpha$, $\text{SK}\alpha$), Kakanui hornblende ($\text{TiK}\alpha$, $\text{SiK}\alpha$, $\text{FeK}\alpha$, $\text{MgK}\alpha$), and fluorapatite ($\text{PK}\alpha$). Also sought but not detected were Na, K, Ca, Al, Nb, Cl and F. Analytical results are provided in Table 1. The average composition gives the empirical formula (based on 13 atoms of oxygen, as determined from results of the crystal structure analysis): $(\text{Ba}_{1.95}\text{Sr}_{0.28})_{\Sigma 2.23}(\text{Mn}_{1.64}\text{Fe}_{0.49}\text{Mg}_{0.03})_{\Sigma 2.16}(\text{Ti}_{0.78}\text{Fe}_{0.22})_{\Sigma 1}\text{O}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)[(\text{P}_{0.46}\text{S}_{0.34}\text{Si}_{0.17})_{\Sigma 0.97}\text{O}_4](\text{OH})$, which suggests the essentially ordered occurrence of Si^{4+} and confirms a

TABLE 1. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF YOSHIMURAITE

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BaO wt.%	39.75	39.29	38.95	38.34	39.08	33.51	42.09
SrO	2.64	3.05	3.19	3.16	3.01	4.62	-
MnO	15.27	15.11	15.01	15.22	15.15	17.64	19.47
TiO ₂	8.46	8.27	7.88	7.86	8.12	10.00	10.97
Fe ₂ O ₃	7.85	7.95	8.29	8.06	8.04	1.32	-
MgO	0.13	0.12	0.24	0.22	0.18	0.56	-
SiO ₂	16.96	16.83	16.97	17.22	17.00	18.25	16.49
P ₂ O ₅	4.37	4.19	4.01	4.28	4.21	3.98	9.74
SO ₃	3.56	3.84	4.02	4.28	3.92	5.40	-
H ₂ O	(1.24)	(1.23)	(1.23)	(1.23)	(1.23)	(2.34)	1.24
Total	100.23	99.88	99.79	99.00	99.94	100.10	100

Column 5: Average of compositions 1-4 determined on one grain.

Column 6: Data reported by Watanabe *et al.* (1961) for yoshimuraite from the Noda-Tamagawa mine. The total includes 1.47% FeO (by weight), 0.50% ZnO, 0.16% Na₂O, 0.03% K₂O, 0.41% Cl and O-Cl -0.09.

Column 7: Composition calculated for ideal formula, $\text{Ba}_2\text{Mn}_2\text{TiO}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})$.

preponderance of P^{5+} over S^{6+} in the isolated tetrahedral site.

X-RAY CRYSTALLOGRAPHY
AND CRYSTAL-STRUCTURE DETERMINATION

For X-ray-diffraction intensity data, a plate measuring $0.09 \times 0.06 \times 0.04$ mm was selected. Although Watanabe *et al.* (1961) indicated that the crystals of yoshimuraite examined by them all exhibit what they interpreted to be polysynthetic twinning on {001} (twin law unknown), the crystal used in this present study shows no evidence of such twinning after being studied by optical microscopy and X-ray-precession techniques. Single-crystal X-ray-precession photographs confirm that the mineral is triclinic, with possible space-groups $P1$ and $P\bar{1}$. Intensity data were collected on a fully automated Nicolet R3m four-circle diffractometer. A set of 25 reflections was used to orient the crystal and to refine the cell dimensions. Intensity data were collected out to $2\theta = 60^\circ$ using the $\theta:2\theta$ scan mode and a scan range of 2° . A variable scan-rate inversely proportional to the peak intensity was used, with maximum and minimum scan-rates of $29.3^\circ 2\theta/\text{min}$ and $4.0^\circ 2\theta/\text{min}$, respectively. Data pertinent to the collection of the intensity data are given in Table 2.

The data were subsequently corrected for Lorentz, polarization, background effects and absorption and reduced to structure factors using the SHELXTL PC (Sheldrick 1990) package of computer programs. For the ellipsoidal absorption correction, eleven intense diffraction-maxima in the range of 10 to $53^\circ 2\theta$ were selected for Ψ diffraction-vector scans (North *et al.* 1968).

TABLE 2. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR YOSHIMURAITE

Space Group	$P\bar{1}$ (#2)	Diffractometer	Nicolet R3m
a (Å)	5.386(1)*	Radiation	MoK α (50 kV, 40 mA)
b	6.999(1)*	Monochromator	Graphite
c	14.748(3)*	Crystal shape	Plate, flattened on {001}
α (°)	89.98(1)*	Crystal size	$0.09 \times 0.06 \times 0.04$ mm
β	93.62(2)*	$\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha)$	10.94 mm^{-1}
γ	95.50(2)*	Z	2
V (Å ³)	552.3(1)		
Chemical formula		$\text{Ba}_2\text{Mn}_2\text{TiO}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})$	
Intensity-data collection		θ - 2θ scan mode	
2θ limit		55°	
Intensity standards		Two every 58 reflections	
Orientation standards		Two every 58 reflections	
Number of unique reflections		2353	
Number of observed reflections		1842	
Criterion for observed reflection		$F > 6\sigma(F)$	
Weighting scheme		$wR = [\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2 / \sum w F_o^2]^{1/2}$, $w = 1/\sigma^2$	
Final R for all observed reflections		3.0%	
Final wR for all observed reflections		4.1%	

* values refined from four-circle diffractometer data.

This approach reduced the R (azimuthal) from 4.59 to 2.09% and resulted in minimum and maximum values of transmission of 0.624 and 0.815, respectively. There was no appreciable deterioration of the crystal due to radiation damage during the experiment.

The structure was solved using Patterson methods, and the refinement was done with the SHELXTL PC (Sheldrick 1990) package of computer programs. Phasing of a set of normalized structure-factors gave a mean $|E^2 - 1|$ value of 0.968, suggesting the centrosymmetric space-group $P\bar{1}$ as the most probable choice. A sharpened Patterson map was calculated, from which the positions of all the major cations and eleven O^{2-} atoms were identified. This model refined to $R = 9.9\%$ and $wR = 10.7\%$. Subsequent difference-Fourier maps revealed the positions of the two additional O^{2-} atoms. Refinement of this model included conversion to anisotropic displacement-factors, introduction of a weighting scheme based on $[1/\sigma^2(F_o)]$, and modification of the scattering factor for the site assigned to P^{5+} to $(P_{0.5}S_{0.3}Si_{0.2})_{\Sigma 1.0}$ to be consistent with the electron-microprobe data. Furthermore, least-squares refinement of the site occupancy for the Ti site converged to 0.69(3) Ti and 0.31(3) Fe; in good agreement with the electron-microprobe results (Table 1). This model converged to $R = 3.0\%$ and $wR = 4.1\%$ for 1842 observed reflections [$F > 6\sigma(F_o)$]. No improvement in the final residual was noted when an extinction condition was included, and the final difference-map showed no maxima greater than $1 e^-/\text{\AA}^3$.

Final positional and thermal parameters are presented in Table 3, selected bond-lengths and angles, in Table 4, and calculated bond-valence sums, in Table 5. Observed and calculated structure-factors are available from the Depository of Unpublished Data, CISTI, Na-

tional Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S2, Canada.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The structure of yoshimuraite is layered on (001). It contains a *heterophyllosilicate layer* (Ferraris *et al.* 1996) of composition $[\text{TiSi}_2\text{O}_8]^{4-}$ formed from TiO_5 polyhedra cross-linked with corner-sharing (Si_2O_7) clusters (Fig. 1). A layer of closest-packed octahedra (O), composed of three crystallographically distinct edge-sharing $\text{Mn}\phi_6$ octahedra [$\phi: O^{2-}, (\text{OH})^-$; (Fig. 2)], is surrounded on two sides by heterophyllosilicate layers, producing a 2:1 composite unit reminiscent of that found in 2:1 phyllosilicates (Fig. 3). Linkages between the heterophyllosilicate layers and the O layers occur through apical O^{2-} of the TiO_5 and SiO_4 polyhedra, and misfit results in the slightly divergent apical arrangement evident in the two crystallographically distinct SiO_4 tetrahedra (Fig. 3). Along the c axis and interleaving between adjacent 2:1 composite sheets is a $[\text{Ba}_2(\text{PO}_4)]$ polyhedral layer (Fig. 3). This interlayer unit is composed of non-polymerized PO_4 tetrahedra joined to BaO_{11} polyhedra through both shared edges and faces. Some relatively distant O^{2-} atoms (*i.e.*, $>3 \text{\AA}$) have been included in the BaO_{11} polyhedra, which may explain the high bond-valence summations for Ba(1) and Ba(2) (Table 5). The interlayer-like $[\text{Ba}_2(\text{PO}_4)]$ polyhedral layer is very similar to that found in the barite structure, where layers of SO_4 tetrahedra alternate with layers of BaO_{12} polyhedra (Hill 1977). In yoshimuraite, weak bonding between the 2:1 composite unit and the $[\text{Ba}_2(\text{PO}_4)]$ polyhedral layer probably results in the distinct $\{001\}$ cleavage observed in the mineral. The mineral is most closely related to a structural

TABLE 3. POSITIONAL AND THERMAL PARAMETERS FOR YOSHIMURAITE

	x	y	z	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{13}	U_{12}	U_{23}	U_{eq}
Ba(1)	0.22065(9)	0.33664(7)	0.32839(4)	160(2)	166(2)	256(3)	13(2)	8(2)	97(2)	189(2)
Ba(2)	0.73074(8)	0.82198(6)	0.39244(3)	157(2)	112(2)	120(2)	4(2)	0(2)	5(2)	130(1)
Mn(1)	0	0	0	90(7)	95(7)	192(8)	46(6)	-18(5)	-11(6)	126(4)
Mn(2)	0.4993(2)	0.2482(2)	0.99516(8)	91(6)	76(5)	125(6)	4(4)	-6(4)	0(4)	98(3)
Mn(3)	0	1/2	0	132(8)	163(8)	265(1)	84(7)	42(6)	83(7)	179(5)
Ti	0.1990(2)	0.7948(2)	0.2028(1)	30(6)	74(6)	101(6)	-2(4)	-3(4)	0(4)	69(3)
Si(1)	0.6949(3)	0.0644(2)	0.1881(1)	32(8)	24(8)	74(8)	-7(6)	-9(6)	-8(6)	44(5)
Si(2)	0.6955(3)	0.5130(2)	0.1852(1)	50(8)	26(8)	65(8)	6(6)	-6(6)	0(6)	47(5)
P	0.2537(4)	0.7181(3)	0.5229(2)	129(12)	138(12)	197(14)	2(9)	3(8)	4(9)	156(8)
O(1)	0.2364(12)	0.6897(10)	0.4190(5)	233(32)	438(39)	210(34)	63(27)	-2(29)	-62(29)	297(21)
O(2)	0.9527(9)	0.6080(8)	0.2322(4)	107(24)	267(29)	63(24)	34(19)	94(21)	26(22)	144(15)
O(3)	0.9527(9)	0.9905(8)	0.2353(4)	88(24)	284(3)	108(26)	-73(20)	136(21)	-54(23)	168(16)
O(4)	0.4561(9)	0.9918(8)	0.2365(4)	158(27)	283(30)	6(25)	61(21)	-121(22)	-17(22)	169(16)
O(5)	0.9510(10)	0.6079(8)	0.2309(4)	98(24)	262(30)	125(27)	-26(20)	-10(21)	40(23)	162(17)
O(6)	0.0376(10)	0.8286(8)	0.5536(4)	137(26)	263(30)	160(29)	8(22)	-24(22)	25(24)	186(17)
O(7)	0.5180(10)	0.1718(8)	0.4476(4)	151(26)	238(30)	142(28)	13(22)	38(22)	-9(23)	179(17)
O(8)	0.3254(9)	0.4886(7)	0.9247(3)	113(23)	91(22)	57(22)	-41(18)	21(18)	8(18)	89(13)
O(9)	0.1834(9)	0.7720(7)	0.0818(4)	59(22)	106(23)	133(25)	7(19)	16(18)	5(19)	100(14)
O(10)	0.6974(13)	0.2960(7)	0.2149(4)	505(39)	36(23)	114(27)	29(26)	-42(23)	-4(20)	218(18)
O(11)	0.1731(10)	0.2622(7)	0.0666(4)	121(24)	116(24)	169(27)	21(21)	-25(19)	8(20)	135(15)
O(12)	0.6736(8)	0.0174(7)	0.0782(3)	39(21)	109(22)	69(23)	6(18)	-14(17)	-3(18)	73(13)
O(13)	0.2624(14)	0.5397(10)	0.5703(6)	370(40)	204(33)	628(54)	72(37)	-8(28)	169(34)	390(25)

Note: Anisotropic temperature factors have the form $\exp[-2\pi^2(h^2a^2U_{11} + k^2b^2U_{22} + 2hka^2b^2U_{12})]$; all U values are in $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^4$; estimated standard deviations in parentheses.

TABLE 5. EMPIRICAL BOND-VALENCES (*v.u.*) IN YOSHIMURAITE

	Ba(1)	Ba(2)	Mn(1)	Mn(2)	Mn(3)	Ti*	Si(1)	Si(2)	P	ΣV
O(1)	0.330	0.197							1.248	1.977
		0.202								
O(2)	0.234	0.155				0.635		1.041		2.065
O(3)	0.150	0.142				0.658	1.008			1.958
O(4)	0.157	0.148				0.643	1.025			1.973
O(5)	0.229	0.147				0.647		1.044		2.067
O(6)	0.383	0.249							1.444	2.349
		0.273								
O(7)	0.378	0.269							1.433	2.345
		0.265								
O(8)				0.300	0.398 ^{X2}			1.022		1.998
				0.278						
O(9)			0.267 ^{X2}	0.429	0.227 ^{X2}	1.073				1.996
O(10)	0.098						0.981	1.008		2.176
	0.089									
OH(11)			0.351 ^{X2}	0.428	0.338 ^{X2}					1.117
O(12)			0.368 ^{X2}	0.262			1.011			1.944
				0.303						
O(13)	0.096	0.387							1.368	1.946
	0.095									
ΣV	2.239	2.434	1.972	2.000	1.926	3.656	4.025	4.115	5.493	

Note: Calculated using the constants of Brese & O'Keeffe (1991); * calculated for $(\text{Ti}_{0.7}\text{Fe}_{0.3})$ as determined by crystal-structure analysis

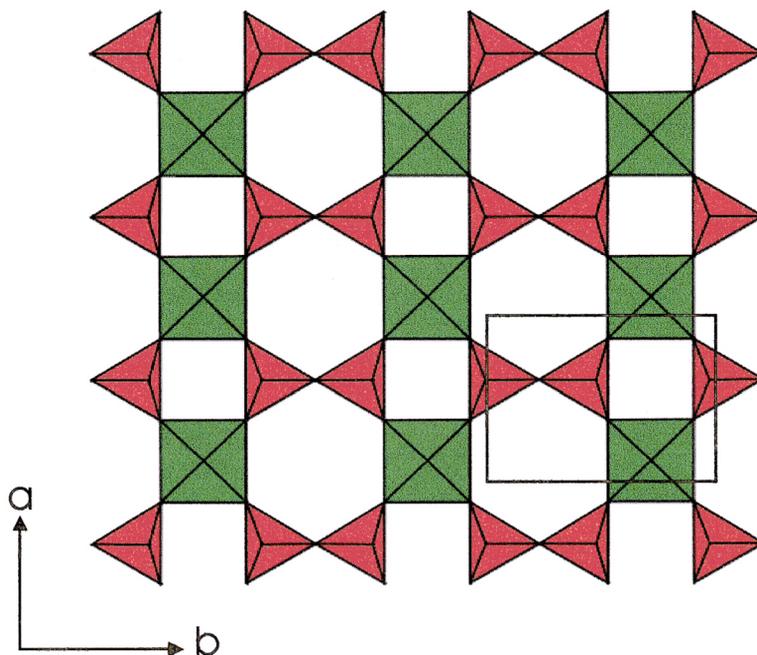


FIG. 1. Yoshimuraite, (001) heterophyllosilicate layer showing the TiO_5 polyhedra (green) and the diorthosilicate groups (red). The unit cell is outlined.

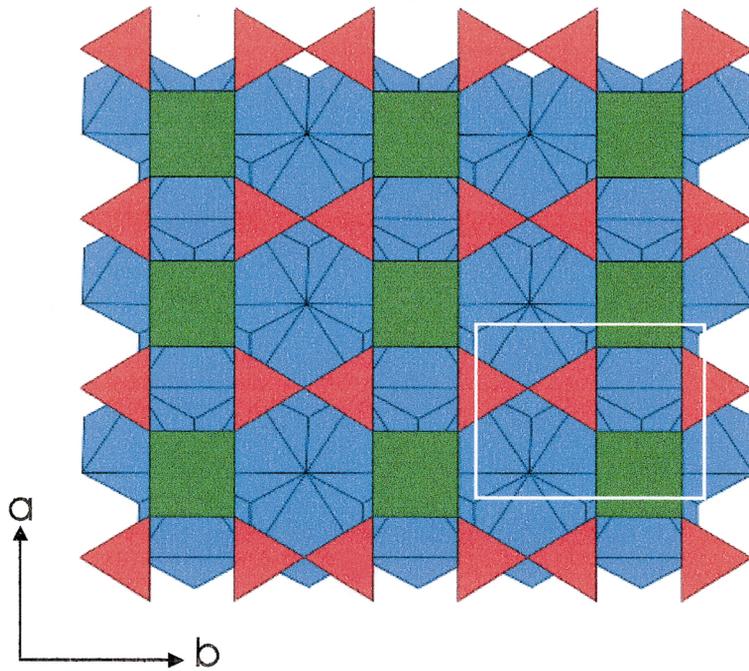


FIG. 2. Yoshimuraite, (001) heterophyllosilicate layer overlying the closest-packed $Mn\phi_6$ layer of octahedra (blue). The unit cell is outlined.

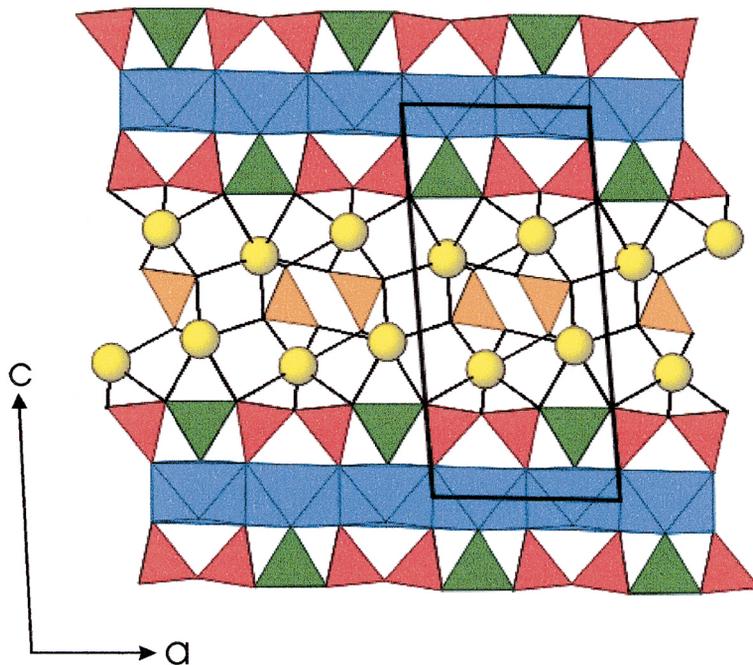


FIG. 3. Yoshimuraite, (010) plane showing the development of the 2:1 composite layers and the interlayer-like $[Ba_2(PO_4)]$ component. The PO_4 tetrahedra are orange, and the Ba atoms are represented as yellow spheres. The unit cell is outlined.

(OH,O)₃ has $n = 1$, and the mineral nafertisite [(Na,K)₃(Fe²⁺,Fe³⁺,□)₁₀{Ti₂Si₁₂O₃₇}(OH,O)₆; Ferraris *et al.* 1996] has $n = 2$. The BM_0 polysome of this series (*i.e.*, bafertisite) can be further divided on the basis of the presence or absence of an interlayer component, and where present, its composition. Members of this subseries include minerals in which the interlayer space is vacant, as in seidozerite [Na₄MnTiZr(Si₂O₇)₂O₂(F,OH)₂], where alkalis or alkaline earths are present with or without H₂O, as in murmanite [Na₃Ti₄O₄(Si₂O₇)₂•4H₂O], with (SO₄)²⁻, as in innelite, or with (PO₄)³⁻, as in yoshimuraite.

The occurrence of ⁵¹Ti in minerals such as yoshimuraite is unusual and worthy of comment. Titanium is the first member of the d -block transition elements and has four valence electrons. Although it can adopt several oxidation states, Ti⁴⁺ is by far the most common in minerals. As significant energy is required to remove the four electrons, Ti⁴⁺ compounds are generally highly covalent in character. The electronic configuration d^0 for Ti⁴⁺ gives rise to either [5]- or [6]- coordination in minerals. For [6]-coordination, the octahedral geometry has Ti–O bond lengths typically in the range of 1.91 to 1.95 Å. The occurrence of ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺, as in yoshimuraite, is uncommon but has been recognized in a number of related phases, including lamprophyllite, [Sr₂Na₃Ti(TiO)₂(Si₂O₇)(O,OH,F)₂], fresnoite, [Ba₂TiO(Si₂O₇)] and innelite, [Na₂Ba₄CaTi(TiO₂)₂[Si₂O₇]₂(SO₄)₂]. The TiO₅ polyhedron may be best described as a square or tetragonal pyramid, with the apical Ti–O distance being relatively short (*ca.* 1.68 Å) and the four basal bond distances being relatively long (*ca.* 1.98 Å). These bond distances and coordination geometry are in excellent agreement with those observed for ⁵¹Ti in synthetic alkali titanosilicate glasses (1.67–1.70 Å and 1.94–1.96 Å; Cormier *et al.* 1997). The short apical bond-length is indicative of π -bonding, whereas the other four bonds are consistent with σ -bond lengths.

Whereas it may seem contradictory to discuss Ti coordination polyhedra in terms of Lewis strengths (owing to the uncertainty of the degree of covalent character), certain generalities can be deduced to help elucidate the occurrence of ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ in nature. It is noteworthy that ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ occurs in crystal structures with a high concentration of large, low-valence cations that are weak Lewis acids; *i.e.* Na, Ca, Sr and Ba. In keeping with the valence-matching principle, these structures are moderately to highly polymerized (sheet) silicates, which lowers the Lewis basicity. Casual thought may lead to the perception that lowering the coordination of Ti from [6] to [5] would increase the Lewis acidity, but the sp^3d hybridization effectively shifts the Ti atom off the square equatorial plane of O atoms toward the apex of the pyramid. This shift lowers the bond valence (*i.e.*, lowers the Lewis acidity) of the equatorial oxygen atoms, making them suitable for bonding to the alkali or alkaline-earth elements that form the interlayers in these heterophyllosilicates. Similar arguments can

explain the same coordination observed for ⁵¹W⁶⁺ in pinalite [Pb₃WO₅Cl₂] (Grice & Dunn 1999), since W has the same electronic configuration, d^0 , as ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺. Furthering this concept, Grice *et al.* (1999) discussed other phases structurally related to pinalite and showed how the unique electronic character of Pb²⁺ and Bi³⁺, which have stereoactive lone-pair behavior, lowers the Lewis acidity to stabilize the formation of oxy-carbonates and oxy-chlorides.

Whereas the above provides a rationale for the development of ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺, it does not explain why Ti⁴⁺ can be [4]-, [5]- or [6]-coordinated in minerals. An answer to this may lie in the character of the melt structure from which Ti-bearing minerals crystallize. For example, ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ is probably the dominant species in systems where TiO₂ levels are below rutile saturation, followed by ⁴⁴Ti⁴⁺ (Farges *et al.* 1996, Farges 1997). However, the actual coordination of Ti⁴⁺ is also influenced by a number of factors besides TiO₂ content, including total alkalinity, Al content of the melt, *etc.* (Romano *et al.* 2000). In the system Na₂O–SiO₂–TiO₂, Henderson & Fleet (1995) noted that ⁴⁴Ti⁴⁺ dominates at low TiO₂ concentrations, but above 7.1 wt.% TiO₂, ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ is found to dominate instead. In alkali-depleted systems, ⁴⁴Ti⁴⁺ dominates at low TiO₂ concentrations, with ⁶¹Ti⁴⁺ dominating at high (>7 wt.% TiO₂) contents. However, in systems enriched in alkalis, notably those of large radii (*e.g.* K⁺, Ba²⁺, *etc.*), ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ dominates (Dingwell *et al.* 1994). Since Al tends to destabilize the local environment around ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ (resulting in formation of ⁴⁴Ti⁴⁺), low concentrations of Al also favor this coordination. As melts are polymerized to a certain extent, albeit on a short-range level, “crystal-like” fragments do exist, upon which minerals might nucleate in a template manner. It is plausible, therefore, that the coordination of Ti in minerals may be strongly influenced by the coordination of Ti dominant in the melt itself. Most hyper- to peralkaline igneous systems, such as those found at Mont Saint-Hilaire (Quebec, Canada), Ilímaussaq (Greenland) and the Khibina and Lovozero massifs (Russia), are characterized by high Ti and low Al contents, along with high alkalinities. Such factors tend to favor development and stabilization of ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺ in the melt structures. Therefore, alkali titanosilicates found in these environments would be predicted to preferentially contain ⁵¹Ti⁴⁺, with the presence of ⁶¹Ti⁴⁺ possibly being favored by a selective Ti content or by the nature of the alkalis (*i.e.* the alkali field-strength; Gan *et al.* 1990).

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