PETERSITE-(Ce), Cu²⁺₆Ce(PO₄)₃(OH)₆·3H₂O, A NEW MIXITE GROUP MINERAL FROM YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, USA

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Abstract

A new mineral, petersite-(Ce), ideally Cu²⁺₆Ce(PO₄)₃(OH)₆·3H₂O (IMA2014-002), has been found in the Cherry Creek District of Yavapai County, Arizona, USA. It is a secondary alteration mineral associated with malachite, chlorite, a biotite phase, quartz, albite, orthoclase, hematite, chalcopyrite, and an uncharacterized hisingerite-like mineral. Petersite-(Ce) occurs as sprays of yellowish-green, acicular crystals approximately $20 \times 20 \times 50$ µm in size. It has a white streak with vitreous luster. The mineral is brittle and has a Mohs hardness of ~3.5; no cleavage or parting was observed. The calculated density is 3.424 g/ cm³. An electron microprobe analysis resulted in an empirical chemical formula of Cu_{6.05}(Ce_{0.18}Y_{0.16}La_{0.12}Nd_{0.09}Gd_{0.03}Pr_{0.02} Dy_{0.01}Sm_{0.01}Ca_{0.42})_{Σ 1.04}[(PO₄)_{2.54}(SiO₄)_{0.14}(PO₃OH)_{0.32}(OH)₆]·3.65H₂O.

Petersite-(Ce) is hexagonal, with space group $P6_3/m$ and unit-cell parameters a 13.2197(18) Å, c 5.8591(9) Å, and V 886.8(4) Å³, Z = 2. It is the Ce analogue of petersite-(Y) and exhibits the mixite structure type. The mixite group can be expressed by the general formula $Cu^{2+}_{6}A(TO_4)_3(OH)_{6}$ ·3H₂O, where nine-coordinated A is a rare earth element, Al, Ca, Pb, or Bi, and T is P or As. The structure of petersite-(Ce) is characterized by chains of edge-sharing CuO₅ square-pyramids along c. These chains are connected in the **a-b** plane by edge-sharing CeO₉ polyhedra and corner-sharing PO₄ tetrahedra. Hydroxyl groups occupy each corner of the CuO₅ polyhedra not shared by a neighboring P or Ce atom. Each CeO₉ polyhedron is surrounded by three zeolitic channels. The walls of the channels, parallel to c, are six-membered, hexagonal rings composed of CuO₅ and PO₄ polyhedra in a ratio of 2:1, respectively, and contain H₂O molecules. In our model of petersite-(Ce), we defined one distinct H₂O site positioned to form a ring inside the channel, although there are many statistically possible locations.

Keywords: petersite-(Ce), $Cu^{2+}{}_{6}Ce(PO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}\cdot 3H_{2}O$, petersite-(Y), mixite, crystal structure, X-ray diffraction, Raman spectra.

INTRODUCTION

The mixite structural group has the general formula $Cu^{2+}{}_{6}A(TO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}{}_{3}H_{2}O$, where nine-coordinated *A* is a rare earth element (REE), Al, Ca, Pb, or Bi, and *T* is P or As (Table 1). Due to the small crystal size and acicular habit, only mixite (Mereiter & Preisinger 1986), zálesíite (Aruga & Nakai 1985), agardite-(Ce) (Hess 1983), and agardite-(Y) (Morrison *et al.* 2013) have reported crystal structures. Interestingly, the mixite group has a structural feature in common with zeolites: a channel large enough to take in free water molecules. These channels are of interest due to their potential industrial and environmental applications.

A new mineral, petersite-(Ce), ideally Cu^{2+}_{6} Ce(PO₄)₃(OH)₆·3H₂O, was found on a micromount specimen from the Cherry Creek District of Yavapai County, Arizona, USA. The specimen was donated to the Mineral Museum of the University of Arizona by Dr. Arthur Roe, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Radioisotope laboratory at the University of North Carolina. Petersite-(Ce) is named for its chemistry as the Ce-dominant analogue of petersite-(Y) (Hatert & Burke 2008). "Petersite" [now recognized by the IMA as "petersite-(Y)"] was named after brothers Thomas and Joseph Peters, curators of the Paterson Museum in Paterson, New Jersey and the American Museum of Natural History in New York, respectively (Peacor & Dunn 1982). The Peters brothers were well known for their contribution to the mineralogy of New Jersey and provided the sample of petersite-(Y) described in Peacor & Dunn (1982).

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Mineral	Chemical Formula	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	<i>V</i> (Å ³)
plumboagardite [1] agardite-(La) [2] mixite [3] agardite-(Ce) [4]	$\begin{array}{c} Cu_{6}(Pb,La,Nd,Ce,Ca)(AsO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}\cdot 3H_{2}O\\ Cu^{2+}{}_{6}La(AsO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}\cdot 3H_{2}O\\ Cu^{2+}{}_{6}Bi(AsO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}\cdot 3H_{2}O\\ Cu^{2+}{}_{6}Ce(AsO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}\cdot 3H_{2}O\\ Cu^{2+}{}_{$	13.770 13.700 13.633 13.605 13.571	5.940 5.880 5.913 5.917 5.880	975.4 955.8 951.7 948.5 937.8
agardite-(Nd) [6] agardite-(Y) [7] goudeyite [8] calciopetersite [9] petersite-(Y) [10]	$\begin{array}{l} Cu_{6}^{2}Cu_{6}^{2}(ASO_{4})_{2}(ASO_{3}OH)_{(6)}(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ Cu_{6}^{2+}_{6}Nd(ASO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ Cu_{6}Al(ASO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ Cu_{6}Ca(PO_{4})_{2}(PO_{3}OH)(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ Cu_{6}Y(PO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ Cu_{6}Y(PO_{4})_{3}(OH)_{6}(SH_{2}O)\\ \end{array}$	13.548 13.506 13.472 13.284 13.288	5.880 5.894 5.890 5.902 5.902 5.877	937.8 937.0 930.5 927.7 902.0 898.6
petersite-(Ce) [11]	$Cu^{2+}{}_{6}Ce(PO_4)_3(OH)_6\cdot 3H_2O$	13.220	5.859	886.8

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF PETERSITE-(Ce) TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MIXITE STRUCTURAL GROUP

1: Walenta & Theye (2005); 2: Kunov *et al.* (2002); 3: Miletich *et al.* (1997); 4: Hess (1983); 5: Sejkora *et al.* (1999); 6: Pekov *et al.* (2011); 7: Morrison *et al.* (2013); 8: Wise (1978); 9: Sejkora *et al.* (2005); 10: Peacor & Dunn (1982); 11: This work.

The new mineral, petersite-(Ce), and its name have been approved by the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA2014-002). The holotype sample has been deposited at the Mineral Museum of the University of Arizona (Catalogue # 19801) and the RRUFF Project (deposition # R050541). This paper describes the structure and composition of petersite-(Ce) as determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, electron microprobe, and Raman spectroscopy.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION AND EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

Occurrence, physical and chemical properties, and Raman spectra

Petersite-(Ce) occurs as a rare secondary mineral in the highly weathered Bradshaw granite of an unnamed



FIG. 1. Photograph of acicular petersite-(Ce) crystals.

prospecting pit in the Cherry Creek District, Yavapai County, Arizona, USA (34° 34′ N 112° 5′ W). Mined for gold and silver in the early 1900's (Wilson *et al.* 1967), veins of milky quartz with a small amount of tourmaline run through this area of the shattered, oxidized Bradshaw granite (Lindgren 1926). Associated minerals include malachite, chlorite, a biotite phase, quartz, albite, orthoclase, hematite, chalcopyrite, and a hisingerite-like phase.

Petersite-(Ce) forms in radial clusters of acicular crystals (approximately $20 \times 20 \times 50 \ \mu\text{m}$) (Fig. 1). It is yellowish green, translucent, and has a white streak and vitreous luster. It is brittle and has a Mohs hardness of ~3.5. No cleavage or parting was observed and its fracture is uneven. The calculated density is 3.42(2) g/cm³ based on the empirical chemical formula. Optical properties were not measured due to the small size of the crystals.

Chemical analyses (seven points) of petersite-(Ce) were carried out with a CAMECA SX100 electron microprobe (WDS mode, 25 kV, 20 nA, and <1 µm beam diameter) (Table 2). The standards used were wollastonite for Si and Ca, chalcopyrite for Cu, YAG for Y, REE glasses (Drake & Weill 1972) for other REE, and synthetic fluorapatite for P. H₂O was calculated by difference. Previous studies have accurately accounted for the H₂O and OH in minerals of the mixite group (Miletich et al. 1997, Frost et al. 2005a). The electron microprobe analysis resulted in an average composition (wt.%) of SiO₂ 0.92(23), CaO 2.53(8), P₂O₅ 21.67(51), CuO 51.49(62), Y₂O₃ 1.99(13), La₂O₃ 2.18(13), Ce₂O₃ 3.10(9), Nd₂O₃ 1.58(8), Pr₂O₃ 0.36(6), Sm₂O₃ 0.27(5), Gd₂O₃ 0.62(2), Dy_2O_3 0.19(3), $H_2O+ 13.12$ (by difference), yielding a total of 100% and an empirical chemical

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average
wt.%								
SiO ₂	0.623	0.705	0.777	0.954	1.240	1.054	1.092	0.921
Ce ₂ O ₃	3.007	3.077	3.006	3.044	3.169	3.255	3.122	3.097
Y_2O_3	2.124	2.118	2.098	2.019	1.847	1.877	1.830	1.988
La ₂ O ₃	2.364	2.301	2.206	2.206	2.067	2.074	2.017	2.176
Pr ₂ O ₃	0.460	0.351	0.388	0.318	0.342	0.274	0.393	0.361
Nd_2O_3	1.730	1.604	1.580	1.479	1.531	1.567	1.533	1.575
Sm ₂ O ₃	0.283	0.235	0.189	0.317	0.241	0.332	0.279	0.268
Gd_2O_3	0.655	0.623	0.630	0.618	0.604	0.608	0.578	0.617
Dy ₂ O ₃	0.221	0.245	0.151	0.189	0.171	0.160	0.191	0.190
CuO	52.269	52.360	51.456	51.357	51.191	51.176	50.615	51.489
CaO	2.405	2.426	2.504	2.610	2.607	2.569	2.573	2.528
P_2O_5	21.760	21.728	21.050	22.480	21.767	20.992	21.917	21.671
Total	87.900	87.773	86.036	87.592	86.778	85.939	86.140	86.880
H ₂ O*	12.100	12.227	13.964	12.408	13.222	14.061	13.860	13.120

TABLE 2. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF PETERSITE-(Ce)

* The amount of H₂O was calculated by difference. Empirical chemical formula calculated on the basis of three *T*-site cations (P and Si) per formula unit.

formula, based on 3 *T*-site cations (P and Si), of $Cu_{6.05}$ ($Ce_{0.18}Y_{0.16}La_{0.12}Nd_{0.09}Gd_{0.03}Pr_{0.02}Dy_{0.01}Sm_{0.01}$ $Ca_{0.42})_{\Sigma 1.04}[(PO_4)_{2.54}(SiO_4)_{0.14}(PO_3OH)_{0.32}(OH)_6]$ · 3.65H₂O. The ideal formula is $Cu_6Ce(PO_4)_3(OH)_6$ · 3H₂O.

The Raman spectrum of petersite-(Ce) (Fig. 2) was collected from a randomly oriented crystal at 40% of 150 mW with a Thermo Almega microRaman system, using a 532 nm solid-state laser, confocal Olympus optics with a 10× objective, and a thermoelectrically cooled CCD detector. The laser was partially polarized with 4 cm⁻¹ resolution and a spot size of 1 μ m.

X-ray crystallography

Powder X-ray diffraction data were calculated from the determined petersite-(Ce) structure using the XPOW program (Downs *et al.* 1993) because the limited amount of available material precluded a measurement. In Table 3, the calculated powder Xray diffraction pattern of petersite-(Ce) is compared to the pattern of petersite-(Y) measured by Peacor & Dunn (1982). Single-crystal X-ray studies were carried out with a 4-circle Bruker X8 APEX2 CCD X-ray diffractometer equipped with graphite-monochromized



FIG. 2. The Raman spectrum of petersite-(Ce) with tentative Raman band assignments.

TABLE 3. POWDER X-RAY DIFFRACTION (Å) DATA FOR PETERSITE-(Ce) AND PETERSITE-(Y)

s (Å) [1] hkl 1.6 100 110 200 101 111
1.6 100 110 200 101 111
110 200 101 111
200 101 111
101 111
111
120
4.36 210
4.12 201
121
3.49 211
3.32 220
301
3.19 310
002
221
2.877 400
131
2.634 320
230
2.509 410
122
2.433 212
141
2.197 222
150
402
232
1.961 322
412
1.767 332
242
152
1.659 440
1.523 710
1.444 442
124

[1] Peacor & Dunn (1982)

MoK α radiation. All reflections were indexed on the basis of a hexagonal unit-cell (Table 4) using SAINT software (Bruker 2004). The crystal structure was solved and refined using SHELX97 (Sheldrick 2008). The positions of all atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters (Table 5). Due to similar X-ray scattering power, all REE were treated as Ce. Cerium and Ca were allowed to share the *A* site and their abundances were refined assuming full occupancy. Various models were used in refining the water position, including site-splitting models. However, one distinct H₂O (WAT) site forming a ring

TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF CRYSTAL DATA AND REFINEMENT RESULTS FOR PETERSITE-(Ce)

Ideal chemical formula	Cu ²⁺ ₆ Ce(PO ₄) ₃
Crystal symmetry	Hexagonal
Space group	$P6_3/m$
a (Å)	13.2197(18)
c (Å)	5.8591(9)
$V(\dot{A}^3)$	886.8(4)
Z	2
$P_{cal}(q/cm^3)$	3.424
λ (Å, Mo $K\alpha$)	0.71073
$\mu (mm^{-1})$	8.97
20 range for data collection	≤65.21°
No. of reflections collected	4508
No. of independent reflections	1167
No. of reflections with $l > 4\sigma(l)$	754
No. of parameters refined	56
R(int)	0.0745
Final R_1 , wR_2 factors $[l > 4\sigma(l)]$	0.0424
Final R_1 , wR_2 factors (all data)	0.0855
Goodness-of-fit	1.005

inside the channel was the only model that converged. The large isotropic displacement parameter for WAT is expected, as the site represents a free molecule in a large channel. Selected bond distances are given in Table 6.

DISCUSSION

Petersite-(Ce) is isostructural with mixite-group minerals (Table 1) and is characterized by chains of edge-sharing CuO₅ square-pyramids along c. These chains are connected in the **a-b** plane by edge-sharing CeO₉ polyhedra and corner-sharing PO₄ tetrahedra (Fig. 3). Hydroxyl groups occupy each corner of the CuO₅ polyhedra not shared by a neighboring P or Ce atom. Each CeO₉ polyhedron is surrounded by three zeolitic channels. The walls of the channels, parallel to c, are constructed of six-membered, hexagonal rings composed of CuO₅- and PO₄-polyhedra in a ratio of 2:1, respectively, and contain H₂O molecules. In our model of petersite-(Ce), we defined the free H₂O molecule as one distinct site that, by symmetry, forms a ring inside the channel, although there are many statistically possible locations (Fig. 3). Miletich et al. (1997) demonstrated that the water in the mixite structure does not contribute to the stability of the structure by observing a very low value of activation energy for dehydration, which indicates that the H₂O molecules are not bonded to any cation. Furthermore, Miletich et al. (1997) and Frost et al. (2005a) performed thermogravimetric analysis to determine

Atom	x/a	y/b	z/c	U _{iso}	U ₁₁
Ce**	2/3	1/3	1/4	0.0092(3)	0.0097(3)
Cu	0.4120(1)	0.3149(1)	0.5033(1)	0.0112(2)	0.019(3)
Р	0.4931(1)	0.1487(1)	3/4	0.0067(3)	0.0079(8)
O1	0.3904(4)	0.4042(4)	1/4	0.012(1)	0.015(2)
02	0.4179(4)	0.2105(4)	3/4	0.0106(9)	0.017(2)
O3	0.5667(3)	0.1784(3)	0.5355(5)	0.0127(7)	0.015(2)
OH1	0.3641(4)	0.3747(4)	3/4	0.0095(9)	0.014(2)
OH2	0.4447(5)	0.2480(4)	1/4	0.015(1)	0.030(3)
WAT***	0.132(2)	0.160(3)	0.124(5)	0.2723(17)	
Ce**	U_{22}	<i>U</i> ₃₃	<i>U</i> ₁₂	<i>U</i> ₁₃	U ₂₃
Cu	0.0097(3)	0.0082(5)	0.0048(2)	0	0
Р	0.0147(3)	0.0054(3)	0.0128(3)	0.0006(3)	0.0003(2)
01	0.0065(7)	0.0052(8)	0.0033(6)	0	0
02	0.016(2)	0.008(2)	0.010(2)	0	0
O3	0.011(2)	0.008(2)	0.010(2)	0	0
OH1	0.012(2)	0.012(2)	0.008(1)	0.004(1)	0.001(1)
OH2	0.017(2)	0.003(2)	0.012(2)	0	0
WAT***	0.019(3)	0.004(2)	0.017(2)	0	0

TABLE 5. ATOM COORDINATES AND DISPLACEMENT PARAMETERS (Å²) FOR PETERSITE-(Ce)

H positions were not located. OH groups were determined from bond valence calculations.

** The Ce site also contains Ca and other REE (Y, La, Nd, Gd, Pr, Dy); occupancy: 0.564(5)Ce and 0.436(5)Ca. *** O of a water molecule.

the nature of the channel H_2O molecules and the OH groups in mixite-group minerals. Both studies found that approximately three H_2O are driven off as the temperature reaches 373 K. Dehydroxylation occurs at 523 K, causing the mixite structure to decompose, thus indicating that the H of the OH groups, unlike H_2O , are critical to the stability of the structure. Minerals with channels large enough to accommodate water molecules are of industrial and environmental importance due to their potential for use as catalysts (Miletich *et al.* 1997, Frost *et al.* 2005a) or in the sorption of toxic chemicals (Leone *et al.* 2013).

Raman spectroscopy has been used to study the structural features of mixite-group minerals (Frost *et al.* 2005b, 2006, Morrison *et al.* 2013). Based on these

TABLE 6. SELECTED BOND DISTANCES (Å) IN PETERSITE-(Ce)

Ce–O3 ×6	2.459(3)	Cu–O1	2.004(3)
Ce05 ×3	2.563(5)	Cu–O2	2.025(3)
Avg.	2.492(1)	Cu–O3	2.307(3)
P-01	1.570(5)	Cu–O4	1.902(2)
P02	1.575(4)	Cu–O5	1.893(3)
P–O3 ×3	1.514(3)	Avg.	2.026(1)
Avg.	1.543(2)		
Avg.	1.543(2)		

previous studies, tentative assignment of major Raman bands for petersite-(Ce) are shown in Figure 2. The Raman bands at 3499, 3411, and 3292 cm⁻¹ are O–H stretching modes associated with H₂O. The 3072, 2934, 2873, and 2862 cm⁻¹ bands are O–H stretching modes of OH groups. PO₄ stretching modes are observed at 1095, 1084, 1043, and 945 cm⁻¹, while O–P–O bending modes of PO₄ are at 580, 528, and 472 cm⁻¹. The Raman band at 393 cm⁻¹ is associated with CuO₅ stretching. Bands <350 cm⁻¹ are attributed to PO₄ rotations, CuO₅ bending, CeO₉ interactions, and other lattice modes.

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FIG. 3. The structure of petersite-(Ce). Yellow square pyramids, green tetrahedra, and pink polyhedra represent CuO₅, PO₄, and CeO₉ units, respectively. Water site omitted for clarity. Image creating using *The American Mineralogist* Crystal Structure Database (Downs & Hall-Wallace 2003).

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