Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 18, EGU2016-8312, 2016 EGU General Assembly 2016 © Author(s) 2016. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



Monoclinic structure of hydroxylpyromorphite $Pb_{10}(PO_4)_6(OH)_2$ – hydroxylmimetite $Pb_{10}(AsO_4)_6(OH)_2$ solid solution series

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Seven samples of hydroxyl analogues of pyromorphite-mimetite solid solutions series were synthesized from aqueous solutions at 80° C in a computer-controlled chemistate: 200 mL aqueous solutions of 0.05M Pb(NO₃)₂ and 0.03M KH₂AsO₄ and/or KH₂PO₄ were dosed with a 0.25 mL/min rate to a glass beaker, which initially contained 100 mL of distilled water. Constant pH of 8 was maintained using 2M KOH. The syntheses yielded homogeneous fine-grained white precipitates composition of which was close to theoretical Pb₁₀[(PO₄)_{6-x}(AsO₄)_x](OH)₂, where x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. High-resolution powder X-ray diffraction data were obtained in transmission geometry at the beamline 11-BM at the Advanced Photon Source (Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, USA). The structure Rietveld refinements based on starting parameters of either hexagonal hydroxylpyromorphite or monoclinic mimetite-M were performed using GSAS+EXPGUI software.

Apatite usually crystallizes in the hexagonal crystal system with the space group P6₃/m. For the first time, however, the lowering of the hexagonal to monoclinic crystal symmetry was observed in the hydroxyl variety of pyromorphite-mimetite solid solution series. This is indicated by better fitting of the modeled monoclinic structure to the experimental data. The same is not the case for analogous calcium hydroxylapatite series $Ca_5(PO_4)_3OH - Ca_5(AsO_4)_3OH$ (Lee et al. 2009). Systematical linear increase of unit cell parameters is observed with As substitution from a=9.88, b=19.75, and c=7.43 for $Pb_{10}(PO_4)_6(OH)_2$ to a=10.23, b=20.32, and c=7.51 for $Pb_{10}(AsO_4)_6(OH)_2$. A strong pseudohexagonal character ($\gamma \approx 120^\circ$ and b $\approx 2a$) of the analyzed monoclinic phases was established.

This work is partially funded by AGH research grant no 11.11.140.319 and partially by Polish NCN grant No 2011/01/M/ST10/06999.

Lee Y.J., Stephens P.W., Tang Y., Li W., Philips B.L., Parise J.B., Reeder R.J., 2009. Arsenate substitution in hydroxylapatite: Structural characterization of the $Ca_5(P_xAs_{1-x}O_4)_3OH$ solid solution. American Mineralogist, 94, 666-675.