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X-RAY DIFFRACTION DATA OF ALUMINOCOPIAPITE<sup>1</sup>JAMES H. JOLLY, *U. S. Bureau of Mines, College Park, Maryland*

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Aluminocopiapite, essentially  $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}^{2+})\text{Fe}^{3+}, \text{Al})_4(\text{SO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 20 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , has been identified on the basis of chemical and optical analysis from material collected in Alaska. Although the lattice constants of several copiapites were determined by Berry (1938) and Palache, Peacock and Berry (1946), they did not publish X-ray diffraction patterns of these minerals. An X-ray diffraction pattern identified by Smith *et al.*, (1958) as being of copiapite is now believed to represent natrojarosite (pers. comm. Erd, 1966). Kubisz (1964) published unindexed X-ray diffraction and other data for several copiapites. Because of compositional variations, however, his X-ray data are not directly comparable to that obtained in the present study. Therefore, the authors feel that the X-ray diffraction data on the aluminocopiapite from Alaska will be useful in identifying this varietal type of copiapite.

The aluminocopiapite from Alaska was found along the north bank of Mosquito Fork of the Forty Mile River about 500 feet north of Gold Creek in the Eagle A-3 quadrangle. It occurs as a thin local efflorescence in sheared and crushed bedrock of the river bank near an old prospect pit. The bedrock in the area is probably the Precambrian or Paleozoic Birch Creek Schist (Mertie, 1937), but is so badly crushed that it could not be identified with certainty; however, the material appears to include fragments of quartzite and metashale. The crushed rock immediately associated with the aluminocopiapite is composed largely of quartz, albite, chlorite, kaolinite and lesser amounts of muscovite and pyrite.

The aluminocopiapite occurs as minute, fragile lemon-yellow scales and as earthy blooms covering surfaces in the sheared rocks and appears to form locally by the oxidation of pyrite. The mineral has the following optical properties.

Moderate axial angle (Optically positive)

 $\alpha$  = undetermined

Y = colorless

 $\beta$  =  $1.535 \pm .002$ 

Z = greenish yellow

 $\gamma$  =  $1.585 \pm .002$ 

Chemical and semiquantitative optical spectrographic analyses (Table 1) of material optically estimated to be at least 97 percent

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copiapite, indicate that the mineral is aluminocopiapite (Berry, 1946). Based on six sulfur atoms in the cell (Berry, 1946), the empirical formula of the mineral is  $(\text{Mg}_{0.59}\text{Al}_{0.30}\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.03}\text{Co}_{0.03}\text{Cu}_{0.02}) (\text{Fe}^{3+}_{3.56}\text{Al}_{0.44}) (\text{SO}_4)_6 (\text{OH})_2 \cdot 19.7 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The density of the mineral, unfortunately, was not physically determined, but the calculated density ( $2.163 \text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$ ) compares favorably with the other densities reported for copiapite.

The X-ray diffraction data (Table 2) were obtained with a 114.6 mm diameter Debye-Scherrer camera using Mn-filtered iron radiation ( $\text{FeK}_\alpha$

TABLE 1. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF ALUMINOCOPIAPITE<sup>1</sup>

	1	2		3	4
MgO	1.94	1.97		Mg	.59
CoO	0.16	0.16		Co	.03
FeO	0.17	0.17	X	Fe <sup>2+</sup>	.03
CuO	0.05	0.15		Cu	.02
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	23.16	23.58		Al	.30
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.12	3.17		Fe <sup>3+</sup>	3.56
SO <sub>3</sub>	39.18	39.90	R <sup>3+</sup>	Al	.44
H <sub>2</sub> O	30.40	30.90	S		6.00
Rem	1.40 <sup>1</sup>	—	H <sub>2</sub> O	6.00	18.00
					(20.7)
Total	99.68	100.0			25.12

1. Analyst, H. Ice, U. S. Bureau of Mines.
2. Corrected to 100%, less Rem.
3. Total cation moles/6 S atoms.
4. Oxygen moles.

<sup>1</sup> Semiquantitative optical spectrographic analysis of aluminocopiapite indicated: >10%—Fe; 0.3–3.0%—Al, Mg; 0.1–1.0%—Ca, Si; 0.03–0.3%—Co, Cu, Mn; 0.01–0.1%—K, Na; <0.03%—Cr, Li, Ti.

= 1.9373 Å). The mineral was gently crushed, put in 0.02-mm-diameter glass capillaries and exposed for 8 hours. Care must be taken not to excessively grind the mineral because aluminocopiapite will smear and become gummy and will yield a poor X-ray diffraction pattern with considerable line broadening.

The calculated values were derived from the following unit-cell data:

## Triclinic P1

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &= 7.251 \text{ \AA} & \alpha &= 93^\circ 59' 35'' \\
 b &= 18.161 \text{ \AA} & \beta &= 102^\circ 17' 16'' \\
 c &= 7.267 \text{ \AA} & \gamma &= 97^\circ 57' 46''
 \end{aligned}$$

These unit-cell data were obtained by computer using the U. S. Geo-

TABLE 2. X-RAY DIFFRACTION DATA OF ALUMINOCOPIAPITE

<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> (calc.)	<i>d</i> (obs.)	<i>I</i>	<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> (calc.)	<i>d</i> (obs.)	<i>I</i>
010	17.891	18.1	8	220	3.447	3.45*	1
020	8.945	9.2	10	112	3.435		
001	7.063	7.13 <sup>1</sup>	<1	141	3.432		
100	6.997			150	3.411		
110	6.895			022	3.406		
011	6.812	6.82*	1	112	3.405		
		6.51 <sup>2</sup>	<1	012	3.399		
011	6.351			221	3.348	3.36	<1
110	6.194	6.17	7	210	3.336		
120	5.987			051	3.333		
030	5.964			211	3.332		
021	5.842			131	3.331		
101	5.647	5.58	8	122	3.272	3.29	<1
111	5.456			230	3.249		
111	5.317	5.32*	3	122	3.222	3.22*	1
021	5.286			032	3.185		
120	5.133			022	3.176		
130	4.939			231	3.140	3.14*	<1
121	4.876			221	3.118		
031	4.806			220	3.097		
121	4.681	4.68*	3	151	3.086		
111	4.537			051	3.068		
101	4.510			151	3.057		
040	4.473	4.48	2	132	3.039	3.04*	1
031	4.343			150	3.000		
121	4.311	4.31*	2	240	2.994		
130	4.223			060	2.982		
131	4.196	4.20*	3	132	2.979		
111	4.194			151	2.963		
140	4.070			141	2.935		
131	4.011	4.01*	3	112	2.934		
041	3.967			211	2.930		
131	3.913	3.88	1	042	2.921	2.92*	1
121	3.770			160	2.913		
041	3.615			032	2.911		
141	3.586			102	2.901		
050	3.578	3.58*	5	221	2.897		
210	3.540			122	1.889		
012	3.534			241	2.888		
002	3.532			201	2.887		
140	3.525			231	2.865		
200	3.499	3.50*	5	061	2.854		
102	3.484			230	2.830	2.83*	<1
141	3.470			202	2.823		
211	3.466			212	2.809		
201	3.460			112	2.798		

TABLE 2—(continued)

<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> (calc.)	<i>d</i> (obs.)	<i>I</i>	<i>hkl</i>	<i>d</i> (calc.)	<i>d</i> (obs.)	<i>I</i>
231	2.794			160	2.599		
142	2.780			232	2.598		
032	2.777			151	2.596		
211	2.776			161	2.589		
212	2.770	2.77*	<1	240	2.567		
222	2.728	2.73*	<1	070	2.556		
250	2.724			170	2.533		
142	2.719			152	2.525		
161	2.699			232	2.508	2.508*	<1
161	2.687			071	2.486	2.485*	<1
222	2.659	2.67	1			2.360*	1
052	1.653					2.289*	<1
061	2.651					2.165*	<1
122	2.646					2.101*	<1
042	2.643					2.063*	2
241	2.641					2.009	<1
251	2.630					1.984*	<1
221	2.619	2.62*	<1			1.825	<1
142	2.619					1.727	<1
241	2.607					1.668	<1

\* Lines used in final cell-parameter calculation.

<sup>1</sup> May be kaolinite impurity.

<sup>2</sup> Line cannot be accounted for.

logical Survey least-square unit-cell refinement program (pers. commun. Appleman, Evans, Handwerker, 1966).

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