

Crystal structure of a pink muscovite from Archer's Post, Kenya: implications for reverse pleochroism in dioctahedral micas

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Abstract

The crystal structure of a reverse pleochroic muscovite containing both Fe^{3+} and Mn^{3+} has been determined by standard single-crystal X-ray methods. The mica has a $2M_1$ polytype, space group $C2/c$. Cell constants are $a = 5.1988\text{\AA}$ *esd* 0.0021, $b = 9.0266\text{\AA}$ *esd* 0.0019, $c = 20.1058\text{\AA}$ *esd* 0.0044, $\beta = 95.782^\circ$ *esd* 0.039, $V = 938.72\text{\AA}^3$ *esd* 0.48. Average Si-bond lengths in tetrahedral sites are 1.646 \AA and 1.639 \AA , comparable to bond lengths in Al tetrahedra of other analyzed muscovites, but also compatible with minor site occupancy by Fe^{3+} . Mean bond strengths and electron densities for the sites are also compatible with tetrahedral Fe^{3+} . A pleochroic mechanism related to tetrahedral Fe^{3+} , therefore, cannot be ruled out. Thermal vibration ellipsoids of atoms in the octahedral layer, however, are oriented with long axes perpendicular to the layer, which suggests the possibility that reverse pleochroism is due instead to an unusual configuration of d-orbitals for octahedrally-coordinated Fe^{3+} or Mn^{3+} .

Introduction

The pink muscovite from Archer's Post, Kenya, was first chemically analyzed and described by Richardson (1975), hereafter referred to as "paper I." The chemical analysis from that study is reproduced in Table 1. Mössbauer and optical absorption spectroscopy were used to relate optical properties of the mica to its crystal chemistry. The Archer's Post muscovite is reversely pleochroic; that is, it absorbs polarized light more efficiently when that light is vibrating in a plane perpendicular to the basal cleavage [$E \perp (001)$] than when it is parallel to it [$E \parallel (001)$]. Trioctahedral micas are occasionally reversely pleochroic, but the Archer's Post muscovite is still the only reported example of reverse pleochroism in a dioctahedral mica.¹

Spectra recorded in paper I were ambiguous but generally supported the conclusion that reverse pleochroism is the result of charge transfer between

a tetrahedrally-coordinated Fe^{3+} ion and an O^{2-} ligand that bridges to the layer of octahedrally-coordinated cations. Absorption is enhanced when the electric vector of the polarized light beam is coupled with the vibronic mode of the $\text{Fe}^{3+}-\text{O}^{2-}$ bond, which is roughly parallel to [001]. This mechanism was first suggested for trioctahedral micas (Faye and Hogarth, 1969; Hogarth *et al.*, 1970), and it was reasonable to expect it to apply to dioctahedral micas as well.

Shortly after paper I appeared, however, Annersten and Hälenius (1976) published a critique which questions the likelihood of Fe^{3+} in tetrahedral coordination. They compared spectra in paper I with their own and with one recorded for a ferrian muscovite by Goodman (1976) and concluded that Fe^{3+} is almost certainly in octahedral coordination in the Archer's Post muscovite. This conclusion poses a dilemma, expressed by Richardson (1976): either "(1) Annersten and Hälenius are correct, and Faye and Hogarth's explanation does not apply to reverse pleochroic dioctahedral micas or (2) Faye and Hogarth's mechanism applies to reverse pleochroic muscovite, and Annersten and Hälenius are wrong." The work that is the subject of this paper

¹Paper I reports that a rose muscovite from Pilar, N. M. (Schaller and Henderson, 1926) is also reversely pleochroic. Gresens and Stensrud (1977), however, have pointed out that this statement was the result of a misreading of Schaller and Henderson's paper.

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LOAD MAP
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LINK - BKY 6802/7000 8.4

10 FEB 81 10.24.05

PAGE 2

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7	GOTGER	40006	14	FTNALIB
8	INCOR	40022	262	FTNALIB
9	IPRE	40304	175	FTNALIB
10	INPC	40521	234	FTNALIB
11	KODER	40735	536	FTNALIB
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13	OUTB	42130	117	FTNALIB
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17	RDL	42717	37	FTNALIB
18	RDU	42756	23	FTNALIB
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21	STTCOS	43161	60	FTNALIB
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	DERDIS	31106	244	L60																																																		
	DERPAR	31352	104	L60																																																		
	DET3X3	31456	23	L60																																																		
	DISLIS	31571	532	L60																																																		
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	DPHI	32276	20	L60																																																		
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	MATRAN	32374	32	L60																																																		
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