

Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry

8th Edition

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W Tungsten

Supplement Volume B 5

Tungstates of Group IIIA and IIIB Metals

With 100 illustrations

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Preface

The supplement volume "Tungsten"-B 5 continues the description of the anhydrous tungstates which was started in "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 3. Volume B 5 covers the tungstates with main and subgroup 3 metals, i.e. with Al to Tl, Sc, Y, and La to Lu (system Nos. 35 to 39). Most of the compounds are tungstates(VI), but in addition some bronzes of the M_xWO_3 type are known. The tungstates with Al to Tl have not been investigated very much and occupy only a small part of the volume. In contrast the rare earth tungstates have been investigated very intensively and thus occupy the main part of the volume. Comparative data for the various types of rare earth tungstates are given in separate sections to facilitate an overview before covering the individual compounds. M_6WO_{12} and $M_2(WO_4)_3$ type tungstates are known for all rare earth metals Sc to Lu and M_2WO_6 tungstates for Y to Lu. Tungstates with other metals in addition to the rare earth metals show a still larger variety of types. $AM(WO_4)_2$ tungstates are known for all alkali metals A and Tl and $M = Sc$ to Lu, except $CsCe(WO_4)_2$. These tungstates show an intricate manifold of polymorphic transitions. The optical properties in particular of the double tungstates, especially those doped with alkali or alkaline earth metals, have been investigated in substantial detail.

Frankfurt am Main, October 1983

Hartmut Katscher

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3 Tungsten and Oxygen (continued)

Chapter 3.1 "The W-O System" can be found in the volume "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 1, 1978, pp. 89/172 and Chapter 3.2 "The Tungsten Oxides" in "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 2, 1979.

3.3 Anhydrous Compounds of Tungsten with Oxygen and Other Metals (continued)

Sections 3.3.1 to 3.3.4 can be found in the volume "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 3, 1979. They cover the compounds of tungsten with oxygen and the main group 5 metals, the tungsten oxide bronzes, the tungstate ions, and the alkali tungstates. Sections 3.3.5 and 3.3.6 are contained in "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 4, 1980. They cover the tungstates of the alkaline earth and those of the subgroup 2 metals.

3.3.7 Tungstates with Main Group 3 Metals

3.3.7.1 Aluminium Tungstates

Older data are given in "Wolfram", 1933, p. 313.

3.3.7.1.1 The Al_2O_3 - WO_2 System

The phase compositions of the products of the reactions between Al_2O_3 and WO_2 formed in vacuum at 900°C and different roasting times, identified by X-ray phase analysis, are listed in the following table:

pressure in 10^{-6} Torr	time in h	phases observed
~3	25	$\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$, WO_2 , AlWO_4 (traces)
~3	65	$\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$, WO_2 (traces), AlWO_4 (traces)
~1	120	$\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$, WO_2 , W, AlWO_4
~50	500	$\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ (little), W, AlWO_4

During the reaction WO_2 possibly disproportionates with formation of metallic W and its higher oxides with compositions similar to WO_3 . The aluminium tungstate is formed by $2\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 5\text{WO}_2 \rightarrow 4\text{AlWO}_4 + \text{W}$. The composition has been established by direct synthesis according to $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{WO}_2 + \text{WO}_3 \rightarrow 2\text{AlWO}_4$.

V. A. Levitskii, V. N. Chentsov, A. F. Kozlova, V. V. Makagon, T. D. Nevzorova (Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR Neorgan. Materialy 12 [1976] 61/5; Inorg. Materials [USSR] 12 [1976] 48/51), V. A. Levitskii, V. N. Chentsov, A. N. Klimenko, V. P. Marin, Yu. V. Men'shenin, A. A. Gugin (Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR Neorgan. Materialy 13 [1977] 699/702; Inorg. Materials [USSR] 13 [1977] 569/72).

3.3.7.1.2 AlWO_4 ($=\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot \text{W}_2\text{O}_5$)

Preparation. Formation. The brown-black compound is prepared by heating stoichiometric mixtures of Al_2O_3 , WO_2 , and WO_3 at 850°C for 20 to 30 min under a 40 kbar pressure [1, 2]. The synthesis can also be carried out in an evacuated quartz ampule (about 10^{-6} Torr) at 900°C (340 h) [3; 4].

Heating Al_2O_3 and W in a moist hydrogen atmosphere (900 to 1500°C) gives AlWO_4 . The reaction obviously takes place via the intermediately formed WO_2 [3, 4]. For the reaction of WO_2 with Al_2O_3 see p. 1. AlWO_4 also forms from Al_2O_3 and WO_3 . An equimolar mixture of the finely powdered oxides is pelletized with addition of a 5% aqueous solution of dextrin as a binder. Annealing the pellets at successively increasing temperatures ($1000 \rightarrow 1100 \rightarrow 1200^\circ\text{C}$) in an Ar atmosphere (1.2 to 1.4 atm) yields AlWO_4 [5, 6].

Anthracite-colored single crystals are obtained by cathodic reduction of mixtures of WO_3 and Na_2WO_4 in an aluminium crucible [2] or from a molten mixture of Al_2O_3 , WO_3 , and Na_2WO_4 , both at 900°C [1].

In the concentration cell $\text{Pt}|\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, \text{W}, \text{AlWO}_4|\text{O}^{2-}|\text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{O}, \text{Fe}|\text{Pt}$ the current-forming reaction at 1000 to 1250 K is $0.5 \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{W} + 2.5 \text{Fe}_{0.95}\text{O} \rightarrow \text{AlWO}_4 + 2.375 \text{Fe}$. The Gibbs free energy ΔG° (in cal/mol) of this reaction in the temperature range investigated is represented by $\Delta G^\circ(\pm 60) = 800(\pm 440) - 1.04(\pm 0.40)T$. For the reaction (1) $0.5 \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{W} + 1.25 \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{AlWO}_4$ in the same temperature range, the Gibbs free energy of formation can be calculated by the relation $\Delta G^\circ(\pm 120) = -157000(\pm 780) + 38.35(\pm 0.62)T$. Some thermodynamic data (ΔH° and ΔG° in kcal/mol, ΔS° in $\text{cal} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$) are given by [4] for reaction (1) and reaction (2) $2 \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + 5 \text{WO}_2 \rightarrow 4 \text{AlWO}_4 + \text{W}$:

reaction	ΔH°_{1200}	ΔS°_{1200}	ΔG°_{1050}	ΔG°_{1150}	ΔG°_{1200}	ΔG°_{1250}
(1)	-157.4 ± 0.8	-38.35 ± 0.6	-117.1 ± 0.1	-113.3 ± 0.1	-111.4	-109.5 ± 0.1
(2)	+41.4	+37.35	+2.2	-1.5	-3.4	-5.3

Crystallographic Properties. AlWO_4 forms acicular crystals [5] or twinned polyhedra (slight angular deviation between (201) and (20 $\bar{1}$)) [2]. No transition occurs on heating it up to 1100°C [1].

Single crystal investigations showed AlWO_4 to be monoclinic [2]. Later orthorhombic symmetry was derived from powder patterns [3, 5]. However, the published d values [2, 3, 5] are practically the same. In all three cases the crystal structure has been derived from the rutile (TiO_2) type [2, 3, 5]. Single crystal investigations show CrWO_4 to be isomorphous with monoclinic AlWO_4 .

The lattice parameters of the monoclinic AlWO_4 are $a = 9.069 \pm 0.005$, $b = 5.705 \pm 0.006$, $c = 4.541 \pm 0.005 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 92.29^\circ \pm 0.01^\circ$; $Z = 4$. Space group $\text{C}2/\text{m}-\text{C}_2^2_2$ (No. 12). Atom parameters ($R = 0.055$ after final refinement with anisotropic temperature parameters):

atom	position	x	y	z
Al	4i	0.2590(4)	0	0.4858(9)
W	4g	0	0.7716(1)	0
O(1)	8j	0.1504(7)	0.2449(6)	0.3012(8)
O(2)	4i	0.1141(5)	0	0.7791(8)
O(3)	4i	0.4023(5)	0	0.1975(9)

The following table shows some atomic distances (in Å):

atoms	distance	atoms	distance	atoms	distance
Al-Al	2.868(2)	Al-O(1)(2 ×)	1.891(3)	W-O(1)(2 ×)	1.898(2)
W-W	2.613(2)	Al-O(1)(2 ×)	1.919(3)	W-O(2)(2 ×)	1.968(2)
W-W	3.108(1)	Al-O(2)	1.910(3)	W-O(3)(2 ×)	2.018(2)
		Al-O(3)	1.883(3)	$\overline{W-O}$	1.961
		$\overline{Al-O}$	1.901		

A table with the O-Al-O and O-W-O angles is given in the paper [2].

The Al and W atoms are nearly octahedrally coordinated by O atoms and form chains along [010] by edge sharing, see Fig. 1. The W atoms are not located in the centers of the WO₆ octahedra but have alternating distances along [010], the shorter of which (2.613 Å) is smaller than in metallic W (2.65 Å). It is assumed that the W^V is stabilized by these W-W pairs. The Al atoms, however, are equidistant along [010] in spite of slight antiparallel displacements along [100] and [001] [2]. One O-O distance is relatively short (2.56 Å), a phenomenon which is also observed in the crystal structure of CrWO₄. Such a structure is also realized in Cr_{0.024}V_{0.976}O₂ [7]. In addition, there are some relationships to the crystal structure of WO₂ (see "Wolfram" Erg.-Bd. B 2, 1979, pp. 26/8) [2]. A short preliminary description of the AlWO₄ structure is given in [1].

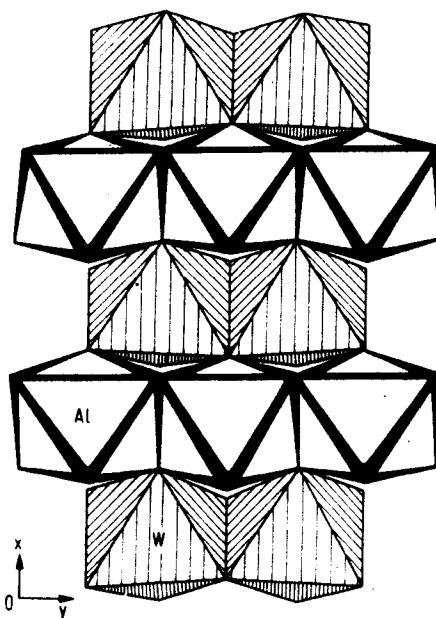


Fig. 1. Linkage of the AlO₆ and WO₆ octahedra along [010] in the crystal structure of AlWO₄ [2].

The orthorhombic interpretation gives the lattice parameters $a = 6.57$, $b = 6.32$, $c = 2.85$ Å [3] and $a = 6.578 \pm 0.003$, $b = 6.319 \pm 0.002$, $c = 2.874 \pm 0.001$ Å [5]; $Z = 2$. In the space group Cmmm-D_{2h}¹⁸ (No. 65) the atoms occupy the following positions: Al on 2c (0.5, 0, 0.5, etc.), W on 2a (0, 0, 0, etc.), O(1) on 4g (x , 0, 0, etc.) with $x \approx 0.3$, and O(2) on 4j (0, y , 0.5, etc.) with $y \approx 0.3$ [3].

The possible band structure has been discussed and compared with those of rutile-type dioxides and WO₂ [1, 2].

Other Physical Properties. The measured density, $D_m = 7.69 \pm 0.01$ g/cm³, agrees well with the calculated value, $D_x = 7.69$ g/cm³ [1, 2].

Measurements of the electrical conductivity of a single crystal between 300 and 1050 K show AlWO_4 to be a semiconductor. At about 300 K the electrical conductivity is around $10^{-3} \Omega^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$. The activation energy $E = 0.35$ eV is derived from the temperature dependence over the investigated temperature range [1, 2].

Measurements of the magnetic susceptibility between 300 and 1000 K show that AlWO_4 is diamagnetic; $\chi_{\text{mol}} = -40 \times 10^{-6}$ cm³/mol [1, 2].

The crystals show straight extinction, with pleochroism from pink (n_o) to reddish brown or dark brown (n_p) and high birefringence: $n_o = 2.09 \pm 0.05$, $n_p > 2.40$ [5].

Chemical Reactions. To check the volatility AlWO_4 was placed in one end of a double evacuated quartz tube and heated at 1100 to 1150°C while the other end of the tube was kept at room temperature. After 200 h the specimen had sublimed to the cold end of the tube without leaving a residue. X-ray phase analysis of the condensate revealed Al_2O_3 , oxides of tungsten, and AlWO_4 [4].

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3.3.7.1.3 Aluminium Tungsten Oxide Bronzes Al_xWO_3 , $x < 0.010$ to 0.36

The Al-W bronzes Al_xWO_3 with $x < 0.010$ to < 0.135 have been prepared from Al powder and WO_3 at 1000°C. For $x < 0.10$ the reaction was carried out at 800°C in Vycor ampules [2], in two stages [1]: $0.10\text{Al} + \text{WO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Al}_{0.10}\text{WO}_3$ and $10x\text{Al}_{0.10}\text{WO}_3 + (1 - 10x)\text{WO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Al}_x\text{WO}_3$. For $\text{Al}_{0.120}\text{WO}_3$ a mixture of WO_3 and Al powder was fired for 48 h at 1000°C in a sealed Vycor tube or in an Al_2O_3 boat in vacuum [3]. A deep blue bronze $\text{Al}_{0.36}\text{WO}_3$ was obtained when pressed samples of 1:3:1 mole ratio $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{WO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, and W plus some water were heated in a sealed Pt tube at 600°C and an external pressure of 2995 atm water vapor [4].

The following phases have been found after preparation at 1000°C, both on slow cooling and by quenching to room temperature [1]:

Monoclinic Phase ($0 < x < 0.010$). This phase is isomorphous with monoclinic WO_3 . It is considered to be a solid solution that arises by insertion of Al^{3+} ions into the WO_3 lattice, which leads to an average oxidation state for W of 6–3x. The distortion of the monoclinic lattice decreases with increasing x. At $x = 0.010$, $\beta = 90^\circ$ [1], see also [2].

Orthorhombic Phase ($0.010 \leq x < 0.020$). This phase is isomorphous with orthorhombic WO_3 . The lattice parameters of $\text{Al}_{0.015}\text{WO}_3$ are $a = 7.368 \pm 0.004$, $b = 7.476 \pm 0.004$, and $c = 3.850 \pm 0.002$ Å. With increasing x, a increases and b drops. The extrapolated identical values at $x \approx 0.24$ were, however, not achieved experimentally [2], see also [1].