





Table 3.  $Z_s$  Atomic coordinates perpendicular to the layers and lattice constants of clay minerals

	Mica <sup>(a)(b)</sup>		Montmorillonite <sup>(c)</sup>		Kaolinite <sup>(d)</sup>		Trioctahedral		Chlorite <sup>(e)</sup>	
	(Å)	(°)	(Å)	(°)	(Å)	(°)	(Å)	(°)	(Å)	(°)
Octahedral	0.00		0.00		3.27				0.00	
O, OH	1.12		1.09		4.37				1.05	
Tetrahedral	2.70		2.70		0.60				2.71	
O	3.28		3.24		0.00				3.26	
Interlayer	5.00		7.70							
OH									6.00	
Mg									7.05	
<i>a</i>	5.189		5.21		5.14		5.55		5.33	
<i>b</i>	8.995		9.02		8.93		9.61		9.24	
<i>c</i> sin $\beta$	20.014		14.40		7.13		7.20		14.10	
$\alpha$		90		90		91.6		90		90
$\beta$		95.18		97		104.8		90		97
$\gamma$		90		90		89.9		90		90

(a) Atomic parameters from Jackson &amp; West (1933).

(b) Lattice parameters from Radoslovich (1960).

(c) From MacEwan, Ruiz Amil &amp; Brown (1961).

(d) From Brindley (1961a).

(e) From Brindley (1961b).

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**Th<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> crystal structure and comparison with that of Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O.\*** By ROBERT BENZ, *Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, U.S.A.* and W. H. ZACHARIASEN, *University of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.*

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The existence of Th<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> has been reported (Matignon & Delépine, 1907) and later substantiated (Neumann, Kroeger & Haebler, 1932) by a different method of chemical analysis. The results reported in what follows were obtained with Th<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> prepared by equilibrating ThN powder contained in an induction-heated tungsten crucible with 0.13 atm. nitrogen at 1320°. The composition of the product was determined both by weight gain as well as by ignition to ThO<sub>2</sub>. The N:Th ratio was thus found to be 1.33 ± 0.03. Thorium sesquioxynitride, Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O, was prepared by equilibration of the compacted mixture 3ThN + ThO<sub>2</sub> with 2 atm. nitrogen at 1700°C. The Th content of this product was determined by ignition to ThO<sub>2</sub>; the O:Th ratio was taken to be the same as that of the initial mixture, and nitrogen was computed by difference. The final composition thus obtained was Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2.04±0.06</sub>O. An X-ray diffraction powder pattern of a sample was found to be indistinguish-

able from that reported earlier (Zachariasen, 1949) for Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub> with the hexagonal lattice parameters  $a_0 = 3.8833 \pm 0.0002$ ,  $c_0 = 6.1870 \pm 0.0003$  Å. We did not succeed in obtaining N:Th ratios in excess of 1.33 ± 0.03 by reacting thorium or ThN with nitrogen at pressures up to 2 atm.; therefore, the Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub> phase was not obtained. Although we did not investigate sufficiently high nitrogen pressures to confirm or exclude the existence of the Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub> phase, all the experimental results suggest the material previously described as Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub> was the same as the Th<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O phase described above.

The X-ray diffraction data obtained from a powder pattern of Th<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> are shown in Table 1. The observed intensities are given for two samples I and II. In sample I, the intensities are modified by an appreciable preferential orientation.

The observed values of  $\sin^2\theta$  correspond to a rhombohedral lattice with  $a_0 = 9.398 \pm 0.002$  Å,  $\alpha = 23.78 \pm 0.01^\circ$ . The dimensions of the corresponding hexagonal cell are  $a_0 = 3.871 \pm 0.001$ ,  $c_0 = 27.385 \pm 0.005$  Å.

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