Synthesis and Characterization of New Double Tungstates $Li_2M^{II}(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu)

M. Álvarez-Vega,[†] J. Rodríguez-Carvajal,[‡] J. G. Reyes-Cárdenas,[§] A. F. Fuentes,^{II} and U. Amador^{*,†}

Departamento de Química Inorgánica y Materiales, Facultad de Ciencias Experimentales y Tecnicas, Universidad San Pablo-CEU, Urbanización Montepríncipe, 28668-Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, Spain, Lab. Léon Brillouin, CEA-CNRS, Centre d'Etudes de Saclay, 91191-Gif sur Yvette Cedex, France, Facultad de Ciencias Químicas, U.A.N.L., San Nicolás de los Garza, Nuevo León, México, and CINVESTAV-IPN Unidad Saltillo, Carr. Saltillo-Monterrey Km. 13, Apdo. Postal No. 663, 25000-Saltillo, Coahuila, México

Received February 13, 2001. Revised Manuscript Received June 25, 2001

Two new double tungstates, $Li_2Co(WO_4)_2$ and $Li_2Ni(WO_4)_2$, have been prepared by solidstate reaction and characterized. The structures of these isostructural compounds (triclinic, space group P1) have been determined from X-ray and neutron diffraction data and found to be built up of alternating layers of zigzag rows of edge-sharing WO_6 octahedra and MO_6 octahedra ($M = Co^{2+}$ or Ni²⁺) as in wolframite-like phases. However, the MO₆ octahedra are arranged in columns but not connected to each other; perpendicular to these columns there are rows of edge-sharing LiO_6 octahedra which also connect the different MO_6 octahedra. The structure of a previously reported lithium-copper(II) double tungstate with the same stoichiometry, Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂, has also been determined and found to be similar to that proposed for these new double tungstates. The three compounds melt incongruently at temperatures between 750 and 770 °C. Conductivity measurements revealed that these compounds are not good ionic conductors probably because of the full occupancy of lithium positions which hinders the motion of the ions along the $(\text{LiO}_6)_{\infty}$ columns.

Introduction

A large number of double tungstates and molybdates have been studied in recent years, basically because of their interesting luminescence properties and possible application in the field of solid-state lasers.^{1–3} Many of these double tungstates have the general formula AIMIII- $(WO_4)_2$, where A is an alkali metal and M is a trivalent cation such as Bi^{3+} , In^{3+} , or Cr^{3+} or a rare earth element such as Sm^{3+} , Eu^{3+} , Gd^{3+} , and so forth. As in the MWO₄ family of compounds, two different coordinations have also been found for tungsten in these phases, either tetrahedral for the scheelite-like double tungstates as in NaLa(WO₄) $_2^4$ or octahedral for those adopting the wolframite type of structure as in LiFe(WO₄)₂.⁵ However, only a few double tungstates of divalent elements have been structurally investigated and not much has been said about their chemical and/or physical properties. In fact, to our knowledge, only four elements (cop-

per, iron, magnesium, and zinc) have been found to form this type of compound. Thus, Russian authors described lithium double tungstates of Cu(II) and Fe(II), with the general formula Li₂M^{II}(WO₄)₂ (Li₂O/MO/2WO₃, 1:1:2).^{6,7} Although the structures were not fully investigated at the time, a wolframite-like structure was proposed for both compounds. The wolframite ((Fe,Mn)WO₄)-type structure is very common among MWO₄ compounds (where M²⁺ is a 3d transition metal ion with a radius smaller than 1 Å), and it can be described as made up of hexagonal close-packed oxygens with certain octahedral sites filled by M^{2+} and W^{6+} cations in an ordered way.⁸ Magnesium has been reported to form two double tungstates though with different stoichiometry than that proposed for Fe(II) and Cu(II): Li₂Mg₂(WO₄)₃ $(1:2:3)^9$ and Na₄Mg(WO₄)₃ (2:1:3).¹⁰ While no structural data have been given for the sodium-magnesium double tungstate, the crystal structure of Li₂Mg₂(WO₄)₃ was considered to be similar to that of $Li_2Fe_2(MoO_4)_3$ and $Li_3Fe(MoO_4)_3$,¹¹ with W^{6+} tetrahedrally coordinated to four oxygen atoms. Finally, three double tungstates of divalent zinc have been reported, though none with lithium: Na_{2.4}Zn_{0.8}(WO₄)₂,⁷ Na₄Zn(WO₄)₃,¹⁰ and K₄Zn- $(WO_4)_3$.¹² From these, structural data have been given

^{*} Corresponding author. Telephone: 34 91 372 47 37. Fax: 34 91 351 04 75. E-mail: UAMADOR@CEU.ES.

Universidad San Pablo-CEU.

[‡] Centre d'Etudes de Saclay.

[§] U.A.N.L., San Nicolás de los Garza. " CINVESTAV-IPN Unidad Saltillo.

⁽¹⁾ Musset, O.; Boquillon, J. P. Appl. Phys. B: Lasers Opt. 1997, 65 (1). 13.

⁽²⁾ Pujol, M. C.; Rico, M.; Zaldo, C.; Sole, R.; Nikolov, V.; Solans, X.; Aguilo, M.; Diaz, F. *Appl. Phys. B* **1999**, *68*, 187.
(3) Faure, N.; Borel, C.; Couchand, M.; Basset, G.; Templier, R.;

⁽c) Faule, N., Borel, C.; Coucnand, M.; Basset, G.; Templier, R.;
Wyon, C.; *Appl. Phys. B* **1996**, *63*, 593.
(4) Byrappa, K.; Jain, A. *J. Mater. Res.* **1996**, *11*, 2869.
(5) Salmon, R.; Casalot, A.; Le Flem, G.; Hegenmuller, P. *Mater. Res Bull.* **1970**, *5*, 341.

⁽⁶⁾ Klevtsova, R. F.; Borisov, S. V. Kristallografiya 1969, 14, 610.
(7) Efremov, V. A.; Trunov, V. K. Russ. J. Inorg. Chem., 1974, 19, 272.

⁽⁸⁾ Keeling, R. O. Acta Crystallogr. 1957, 10, 209.

 ⁽⁹⁾ Fu, V.; Li, W. X. Powder Diffraction 1994, 9, 158.
 (10) Smirnova, N.; Kislyakov, V. Inorg. Mater. (Engl. Transl.) 1971, 7 1683.

⁽¹¹⁾ Klevtsova, R. F.; Magarill, S. A. Kristallografiya 1970, 15, 710.

Table 1. Conditions of Synthesis of $Li_2M(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu)

sample	synthesis	color
Li ₂ Co(WO ₄) ₂	650 °C/146 h	purple
Li ₂ Ni(WO ₄) ₂	650 °C/60 h, 700 °C/160 h	yellow
Li ₂ Cu(WO ₄) ₂	680 °C/60 h, 700 °C/160 h	green-yellow

only for $K_4Zn(WO_4)_3$ which also presents the W^{6+} ions tetrahedrally coordinated to four oxygen atoms.

On the other hand, a larger number of double molybdates with divalent elements have been described in the literature. Thus, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu form lithium double molybdates with the (1:2:3) stoichiometry, Li_2M_2 -(MoO₄)₃,^{11,13–15} similar to that proposed for the magnesium double tungstate but different from that of the iron and copper double tungstates. The coordination around the Mo(VI) ions in these compounds is also tetrahedral as for tungsten in $\text{Li}_2\text{Mg}_2(\text{WO}_4)_3$ and $\text{K}_4\text{Zn}(\text{WO}_4)_3$.

Since the available information about this type of double tungstates remains scarce and somehow confusing, we decided to explore the existence of new lithiummetal(II) double tungstates and to reinvestigate the structure of the lithium-copper compound for which the previously published information was incomplete.

Experimental Section

The synthesis of these compounds was carried out by solidstate reaction of Li_2CO_3 (Aldrich Chem. Co., 99+%), WO_3 (Aldrich Chem. Co., 99+%), and MO (CuO, Aldrich Chem. Co., 99+%; NiO, J. T. Baker Chemical, 99+%). Instead of the metal oxide, hydrated cobalt nitrate (Co(NO_3)_2·6H_2O, J. T. Baker Chemical, 99+%) was used for the preparation of the lithium– cobalt double tungstate. Stoichiometric amounts of the starting reagents were mixed and intimately ground in an agate mortar under acetone and then fired (in air) in high alumina crucibles (Adolph Coors, Co). Initially the samples were fired at 600 °C for a few hours, to allow decarbonation, and then between 650 and 700 °C, as summarized in Table 1. After firing, samples were reground and reheated to ensure homogeneity.

X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), performed on a Siemens D-5000 diffractometer (Ni-filtered Cu K α radiation, $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å), was used to follow the evolution of the chemical reaction; the final samples were confirmed to be single phase by this technique. For the structure determination and refinement, data were collected using a step width of 0.02° over the range $15^{\circ} < 2\theta < 75^{\circ}$ with a total collection time of about 12 h.

The structures of the $Li_2M^{II}(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu) tungstates were solved in different steps from the X-ray diffraction patterns:

(1) The unit cell parameters were determined using the TREOR program. 16

(2) A pattern matching—without structural model—allowed us to extract the integrate intensities of the Bragg peaks. This was done using the FULLPROF program.¹⁷

(3) The starting structural model was obtained by direct methods and from the Patterson function calculated from the integrate intensities using the SHELXS-86 program.¹⁸ Thus, the heavy atoms (W and transition metal) were located.

(4) The light atoms (oxygen and lithium) were located by Fourier synthesis, using SHELXL-92. 19 Thus, the structural model was completed.

(5) The structural model developed in this way was refined by the Rietveld method by fitting the powder X-ray diffraction patterns using the FULLPROF program. 17

Since X-ray diffraction is not the best technique to study structural features due to light atoms, such as oxygen and lithium, neutron diffraction experiments were performed at room temperature on the diffractometer G4.2 of the Orphée Reactor at Laboratoire Léon Brillouin. A monochromatic beam of wavelength 2.3433 Å was selected with a Ge(004) monochromator; for this radiation the instrumental resolution is within the range $2.7 \times 10^{-3} \le (\Delta Q/Q) \le 0.022$.

Thus, the initial structural models developed from the X-ray diffraction patterns were refined against the neutron diffraction data.

Thermal analyses were carried out to assess the chemical stability of the single-phase samples up to 900 °C on a Thermal Analyst 2100 (TA Instruments). Experiments were run using a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹ (Pt/Pt–Rh thermocouple) and an air stream flowing at 100 mL min⁻¹ (typical specimen weight 10-12 mg).

Lithium ionic conductivity was measured on pellets of the samples by ac impedance spectroscopy using a Solartron 160 impedance analyzer over a frequency range from 20 Hz to 20 MHz and a temperature range from room temperature to 700 K. Both opposite faces of the pellets were pasted with platinum as the electrodes.

Results and Discussion

Structure. X-ray diffraction patterns, depicted in Figure 1a–c, corresponding to $Li_2M^{II}(WO_4)_2$ for cobalt, nickel, and copper, respectively, show that the samples are single phase, since all the peaks can be indexed with a unique triclinic unit cell. The patterns of $Li_2Co(WO_4)_2$ and $Li_2Ni(WO_4)_2$ are very similar, suggesting that both compounds are isostructural.

Parts a–c of Figure 2 show the neutron diffraction patterns-experimental, calculated, and their differencecorresponding to $Li_2M^{II}(WO_4)_2$ (M = cobalt, nickel, and copper, respectively). The calculated patterns were obtained using the final structural model refined from the starting one developed from the integrate intensities of the X-ray patterns, as described in the Experimental Section. The final structural parameters, obtained by fitting the neutron diffraction data, are collected in Table 2. Table 3 shows the main interatomic distances together with the bond valence sum (BVS) calculations²⁰ of every atom and the global instability index (GII).²¹ The former parameters reproduce quite well the values expected of the oxidation states of the different ions, whereas the latter suggest that the bonds in these tungstates are mainly of ionic nature.²² At this point it must be recalled that the bond valence sum method works properly for structures in which the ions can relax without constraints²³ such as high symmetry requirements, a high degree of covalence of the bonds, metastable character of the phases, and so forth.

- (22) Jansen, L.; Block, R. Physica C 1991, 181, 149.
- (23) Brown, I. D. J. Solid State Chem. 1991, 90, 155.

⁽¹²⁾ Klevtsova, R. F.; Ivannikova, I. V.; Kletsov, P. V. Kristallografiya 1979, 24, 257.

⁽¹³⁾ Wiesmann, M.; Svoboda, H.; Weitzel, H.; Fuess, H. Z. Kristallogr. **1995**, *210*, 525.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Ozima, M.; Sato, S.; Zoltai, T. Acta Crystallogr. B 1977, 33, 2175.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Wiesmann, M.; Geselle, M.; Weitzel, H.; Fuess, H. Z. Kristallogr. **1994**, 209, 615.

 ⁽¹⁶⁾ Werner, P. E. TREOR: trial and error program for indexing of unknown powder patterns; University of Stockholm, Sweden, 1984.
 (17) Rodríguez-Carvajal, J. FULLPROF program. In Abstracts of

⁽¹⁷⁾ Rodriguez-Carvajal, J. FULLPROF program. In Abstracts of the Satellite Meeting on Powder Diffraction of the XVth Cogress of the IUCr, Toulouse, (France), 1990; p 17.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXS-86 program for crystal structure determination; University of Gottingen, Germany, 1986; Acta Crystallogr. A 1990, 35, 467.

 ⁽¹⁹⁾ Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXL-93 program for crystal structure determination; University of Gottingen, Germany, 1993.
 (20) Altermat, D.; Brown, I. D. Acta Crystallogr. B 1985, 41, 240.

⁽²¹⁾ Salinas, A. Ph.D. Thesis, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain, 1992.



Figure 1. Graphic results of the profile fitting—without a structural model—of the X-ray powder diffraction data corresponding to (a) $Li_2Co(WO_4)_2$, (b) $Li_2Ni(WO_4)_2$, and (c) $Li_2Cu-(WO_4)_2$.

In Figures 3 and 4 schematic representations of the structures of $Li_2M(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co and Ni, isostructural) and Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂, respectively, are depicted. Both structures are very similar; they are built up by alternating layers of WO_6 and MO_6 octahedra lying on the *ac* plane. The WO₆ octahedra are linked by edge-sharing, giving rise to nonconnected zigzag rows running along the a-axis. On the other hand, the MO₆ octahedra are not connected. The connection between them is reached by corner sharing with WO₆ octahedra in such a way that every MO₆ octahedron shares three corners with three different WO₆ octahedra in the same tungsten layer: two with WO₆ octahedra of the same row and one corner with an octahedron of a neighboring row (Figure 5a). The three remaining corners of the MO₆ polyhedron are shared in a similar manner with two rows of a second $(WO_4)_{\infty}$ layer (see Figure 5b).

Unlike some other double tungstates of divalent elements previously described in the literature such as



Figure 2. Experimental (points), calculated (solid line), and difference (bottom) neutron powder diffraction patterns for (a) Li₂Co(WO₄)₂, (b) Li₂Ni(WO₄)₂, and (c) Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂.

Li₂Mg₂(WO₄)₃ and K₄Zn(WO₄)₃, which feature tungsten ions tetrahedrally coordinated to four oxygen atoms, in the title compounds tungsten ions are located in octahedral positions. The same octahedral coordination has been proposed for tungsten in the lithium–iron(II) double tungstate,⁷ Li₂Fe(WO₄)₂, although neither the symmetry nor the unit cell reported in this case seems to be correct, and also in some double tungstates LiMWO₄ of trivalent elements (M = Fe(III), Cr(III), In(III), and so forth).⁵

Interestingly enough, the structure of the title compounds can be seen as derived from the wolframite one. In Figure 6a–c views of wolframite, LiFe(WO₄)₂, and Li₂Ni(WO₄)₂, respectively, are depicted; the three structures have in common the presence of zigzag rows of edge-sharing WO₆ octahedra running parallel and giving rise to layers of composition (WO₄)_∞. Between two consecutive layers of this type the metals (Fe + Mn, Li + Fe, or Li + Ni) are located in octahedral positions. Thus, the MO₆ polyhedra define infinite layers, which differ from one structure to another both in the composition [(MO₄)_∞ in wolframite and LiFe(WO₄)₂ (with M = Fe + Mn and Li + Fe, respectively) and ((Li₂ +

Table 2. Structure Parameters of Li₂M(WO₄)₂ As Refined from Neutron Diffraction Data

		$M = Co^a$			$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{N}\mathbf{i}^b$			$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{C}\mathbf{u}^{c}$						
atom	\mathbf{site}^d	x/a	y/b	z/c	$B_{\rm iso}$ (A ²)	x/a	y/b	z/c	$B_{\rm iso}$ (A ²)	site ^d	x/a	y/b	z/c	$B_{\rm iso}$ (A ²)
W	2i	0.2709(9)	0.5335(9)	0.6644(9)	0.04(1)	0.2643(7)	0.5337(6)	0.6649(5)	0.05(1)	2i	0.2732(6)	0.9619(6)	0.3385(5)	1.06(7)
Μ	1d	1/2	0	0	0.13(1)	1/2	0	0	0.12(1)	1e	1/2	1/2	0	0.80(6)
O(1)	2i	-0.1725(8)	0.2783(7)	0.6668(6)	0.16(1)	-0.0322(6)	0.2421(5)	0.9231(4)	0.15(1)	2i	-0.1521(5)	0.2218(4)	0.3494(4)	1.08(4)
O(2)	2i	0.2374(8)	0.7506(8)	0.8065(7)	0.16(1)	0.5136(5)	0.7499(5)	0.8100(5)	0.15(1)	2i	0.2377(5)	0.7505(5)	0.1810(5)	1.08(4)
O(3)	2i	0.6814(8)	0.7260(9)	0.5409(7)	0.16(1)	0.5482(6)	0.7218(5)	0.3299(4)	0.15(1)	2i	0.6640(5)	0.7878(5)	0.4381(4)	1.08(4)
O(4)	2i	0.2743(8)	0.2413(8)	0.9237(6)	0.16(1)	0.0437(4)	0.7276(5)	0.5430(4)	0.15(1)	2i	0.2779(5)	0.2686(5)	0.0890(4)	1.08(4)
Li	2i	0.051(2)	0.074(2)	0.257(2)	1.63(1)	0.027(2)	0.072(2)	0.254(1)	1.40(1)	2i	-0.057(2)	0.573(2)	0.236(2)	1.9(2)

^{*a*} For M = Co, *a* = 4.9218(1) Å, *b* = 5.6675(1) Å, *c* = 5.8826(1) Å, α = 69.49(1)°, β = 91.46(1)°, γ = 116.14(1)°, *V* = 136.3(1) Å³, *R*_B = 0.051, *R*_W = 0.046, *R*_{exp} = 0.14, χ^2 = 0.10. ^{*b*} For M = Ni, *a* = 4.9070(1) Å, *b* = 5.6020(1) Å, *c* = 5.4803(1) Å, α = 70.92(1)°, β = 88.52(1)°, γ = 115.45(1)°, *V* = 134.4(1) Å³, *R*_B = 0.045, *R*_W = 0.044, *R*_{exp} = 0.13, χ^2 = 0.12. ^{*c*} For M = Cu, *a* = 4.9669(1) Å, *b* = 5.4969(1) Å, *c* = 5.8883(1) Å, α = 70.72(1)°, β = 85.99(1)°, γ = 66.04(1)°, *V* = 138.3(1) Å³, *R*_B = 0.052, *R*_W = 0.047, *R*_{exp} = 0.14, χ^2 = 0.11. ^{*d*} Space group = $P\overline{1}$ (2).



Figure 3. Schematic representation of the structure of $Li_2M-(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co, Ni).

Table 3. Selected Structural Information for	$Li_2M(WO_4)_2$
(Distances in Angstroms)	

M = Co		М	= Ni	M = Cu				
Co-O(1)	2.164(4) ×2	Ni-O(1)	2.045(3) ×2	$\overline{Cu-O(1)}$	2.415(2) ×2			
Co-O(2)	2.099(4) ×2	Ni-O(2)	2.072(3) ×2	Cu-O(2)	2.012(3) ×2			
Co-O(4)	2.047(4) ×2	Ni-O(3)	2.139(2) ×2	Cu-O(4)	1.931(3) ×2			
W-O(1)	2.015(6)	W-O(1)	1.815(4)	W-O(1)	2.024(4)			
W-O(1)'	2.030(5)	W-O(2)	1.770(4)	W-O(1)'	1.968(4)			
W-O(2)	1.774(6)	W-O(3)	2.000(5)	W-O(2)	1.773(4)			
W-O(3)	1.838(7)	W-O(3)'	2.032(4)	W-O(3)	1.819(4)			
W-O(3)'	2.289(6)	W-O(4)	1.845(4)	W-O(3)'	2.307(4)			
W-O(4)	1.82(1)	W-O(4)'	2.293(1)	W-O(4)	1.842(1)			
Li-O(1)	2.23(1)	Li-O(1)	1.949(8)	Li - O(1)	2.060(9)			
Li-O(2)	2.02(1)	Li-O(1)'	2.327(9)	Li-O(2)	2.020(9)			
Li-O(3)	2.16(1)	Li-O(2)	1.998(9)	Li-O(3)	2.026(9)			
Li-O(3)'	2.00(1)	Li-O(3)	2.234(9)	Li-O(3)'	2.509(9)			
Li-O(4)	1.96(1)	Li-O(4)	2.143(8)	Li-O(4)	2.192(9)			
Li-O(4)'	2.37(1)	Li-O(4)'	1.988(9)	Li-O(4)'	2.009(9)			
	Ir	ntermetalli	ic Distances (Å)				
Co-Co	4.9218(1)	Ni-Ni	4.9070(1)	Cu-Cu	4.9669(1)			
W-W	3.218(6)	W-W	3.194(5)	W-W	3.168(4)			
Li–Li	2.67(2)	Li–Li	2.68(2)	Li–Li	2.98(2)			
Co-W	3.08(5)	Ni–W	3.585(3)	Cu–W	3.520(3)			
Co-Li	2.96(1)	Ni-Li	2.96(1)	Cu-Li	2.906(9)			
W-Li	2.95(1)	W-Li	2.92(1)	W-Li	2.943(9)			
Bond Valence Sums								
Со	1.97(1)	Ni	1.88(5)	Cu	2.10(2)			
W	5.94(4)	W	5.99(3)	W	6.03(4)			
O(1)	1.93(2)	O(1)	2.04(2)	O(1)	1.98(2)			
O(2)	2.07(2)	O(2)	2.08(2)	O(2)	2.12(2)			
O(3)	1.98(2)	O(3)	1.95(1)	O(3)	1.95(2)			
O(4)	2.04(2)	O(4)	2.00(2)	O(4)	2.12(2)			
Li	1.10(1)	Li	1.13(1)	Li	1.08(2)			
GII	0.061		0.078		0.083			

 $MO_4)_{\infty}$ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu) in the title compounds] and in the structure, as well. In wolframite the (Mn + Fe)O₆ octahedra are arranged in zigzag rows similar to that formed by WO₆ while in LiFe(WO₄)₂ similar zigzag



Figure 4. Schematic view of the structure of Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂.



Figure 5. Schematic representation of the stacking sequence of WO_6 and MO_6 layers in $Li_2M(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu) (see text).

rows are formed by alternating LiO_6 and FeO_6 polyhedra. A different arrangement of lithium and iron polyhedra has been suggested⁵ in $\text{LiFe}(WO_4)_2$ as a function of temperature: when the material is quenched from high temperature, mixed rows are formed (as shown in Figure 6b); however, if the compound is treated for some time at moderate temperature, homogeneous rows of composition (FeO₆)_∞ and (LiO₆)_∞ are obtained. The transition from the latter to the former phase is produced on heating around 300 °C; however, it is not observed by TDA, since this is a second-order transition.

On the other hand, in the title compounds the layers defined by metals show a different structure: as depicted in Figure 6c one of these layers is built up by MO_6 octahedra, which are not connected to each other, arranged in columns; perpendicular to these columns there are rows of edge-sharing LiO_6 octahedra.



Figure 6. Representation of the layers present in (a) wolframite (Fe,Mn)WO₄, (b) LiFe(WO₄)₂, and (c) Li₂M(WO₄)₂ (M = Co, Ni, and Cu).

Finally, it is worth pointing out that the main difference between the structures of $Li_2M(WO_4)_2$ (M = Co and Ni) and $Li_2Cu(WO_4)_2$ is the relative positions of the atoms and the symmetry elements (in these cases the inversion centers). This seems to be due, most likely, to the strong Jahn–Teller effect found in the CuO₆ octahedra in which an important elongation (about 20%) is produced (see Table 3). The same effect has been observed in CuWO₄ (triclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$) where Cu(II) also has octahedral coordination with four oxygens in an approximately square planar configuration (Cu–O distance: 1.98 Å) and the remaining two at a longer distance (Cu–O: 2.40 Å) completing an elongated CuO₆ octahedra.²⁴ These distances are similar to the Cu–O distances found in Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂.

Thermal Analysis. Thermal analysis carried out on the title compounds up to 900 °C showed no evidence of phase transitions with a single endothermic event observed between 750 and 800 °C. X-ray powder diffraction experiments showed these peaks to be related with the peritectic decomposition of the three double tungstates into a liquid (Li₂WO₄ melts around 730 °C) and the corresponding wolframite structure, MWO₄ (M = Co, Cu, Ni). The event takes place at the following temperatures: 758 °C for Li₂Ni(WO₄)₂; 751 °C for Li₂Co(WO₄)₂; and 770 °C for Li₂Cu(WO₄)₂.





Figure 7. Thermal analysis traces for a $\rm Li_2Ni(WO_4)_2$ sample heated in air at a rate of 10 °C/min.

Figure 7 shows the DTA and TG curves obtained for $Li_2Ni(WO_4)_2$.

Conductivity Measurements. Regarding the physical properties, the title materials were expected to be good ionic conductors, since they present rows of LiO₆ octahedra which share edges, suggesting that lithium ions might diffuse along these rows. However, the measured conductivity of these materials is very low; at room temperature the values of conductivity are $\sigma^{\text{RT}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-7} \, (\Omega^{-1} \, \text{cm}^{-1})$ and $\sigma^{\text{RT}} = 9.9 \times 10^{-8} \, (\Omega^{-1} \, \text{cm}^{-1})$ for Li₂Ni(WO₄)₂ and Li₂Co(WO₄)₂, respectively. These low values of conductivity are most likely due to the full occupancy of the lithium positions, which hinders the motion of the ions along the (LiO₆)_∞ columns.

Acknowledgment. This study was financially supported by CONACYT (Project 31198-U), CICYT (Project MAT 98-1053-C04-04), CAM (Project CAM-07N/0012/1998), and USP (Project USP USP-7/99). The access to the neutron facilities at the Laboratoire Léon Brillouin was supported by the ARI action of the HPRI Program of the European Community.

CM010129N