

The Missing Link: Synthesis, Crystal Structure, and Thermogravimetric Studies of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

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Received May 15, 1998

A new binary indium phosphate monohydrate, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, was synthesized under hydrothermal conditions. Its crystal structure was determined using single-crystal X-ray diffraction methods. $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ crystallizes in the triclinic system, space group $P\bar{1}$, with $a = 5.4342(6)$ Å, $b = 5.5508(4)$ Å, $c = 6.5446(5)$ Å, $\alpha = 97.593(6)^\circ$, $\beta = 94.558(6)^\circ$, $\gamma = 107.565(6)^\circ$, and $Z = 2$. The 3-D framework is built from $(\text{In}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH}_2)_2)$ dimers connected through (PO_4) tetrahedra. Water molecules directly bond to indium. Thermogravimetric studies indicate that $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ loses one water molecule in the temperature range between 370 and 480 °C to yield the previously reported anhydrous InPO_4 . The loss of water corresponds to condensation of the $(\text{In}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH}_2)_2)$ dimers into linear chains of edge-sharing (InO_6) octahedra. $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ represents the missing link between InPO_4 and $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The structural relationships between $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, InPO_4 , and other $\text{M}^{\text{III}}(\text{PO}_4) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ are discussed.

Introduction

Much interest has been directed toward the search for new open-framework materials due to their potential applications as absorbents, as catalysts in heterogeneous catalysis, as solid-state electrolytes, and as ion exchangers.^{1–4} In recent years, research activity in this area has focused on lighter group 13 elements, aluminum and gallium phosphates. Numerous binary aluminophosphates (AlPO) are known for their porous frameworks.^{1,5} In addition, many AlPOs and GaPOs with unique chainlike, layered, or three-dimensional open frameworks have been synthesized and structurally characterized.^{5–12}

In contrast to the extensive studies of aluminophosphates, only a few indium phosphates have been reported.^{13–19}

Most of them are ternary indium phosphates that show interesting structural properties. Their structural types include linear, layered, and three-dimensional open frameworks. To date, only two structurally characterized binary indium phosphates, InPO_4 and $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, have been reported.^{20,21} The framework of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is isostructural with $\text{AlPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (variscite).²² It can be described as a three-dimensional framework built up of $(\text{InO}_4(\text{OH}_2)_2)$ octahedra linked to each other through (PO_4) tetrahedra. The two water molecules coordinate to indium and are cis with respect to each other. The three-dimensional framework generates six-membered-ring tunnels along the [001] direction and eight-membered-ring tunnels along the [110] direction (Figure 1A). The anhydrous indium phosphate, InPO_4 , can be directly prepared by slightly changing the synthesis conditions.²⁰ Its structure is based on infinite linear chains of edge-sharing (InO_6) octahedra. The chains are linked to each other through (PO_4) tetrahedra forming a three-dimensional network (Figure 1B). The sharp structural contrast between the dihydrate, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and the anhydrous InPO_4 raises the following questions: Is there an intermediate phase between these two binary indium phosphates? If so, is it a simple indium phosphate monohydrate ($\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$)? Would its structure be less or more open than that of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$?

Within the framework of our studies of binary and ternary indium phosphates, we attempted to (1) find the right synthesis conditions to stabilize the monohydrate, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; (2) determine its crystal structure and describe the relationships between the three indium phosphate binaries containing 2, 1, and 0 water molecules; and (3) study their thermal behavior using TGA and DTA.

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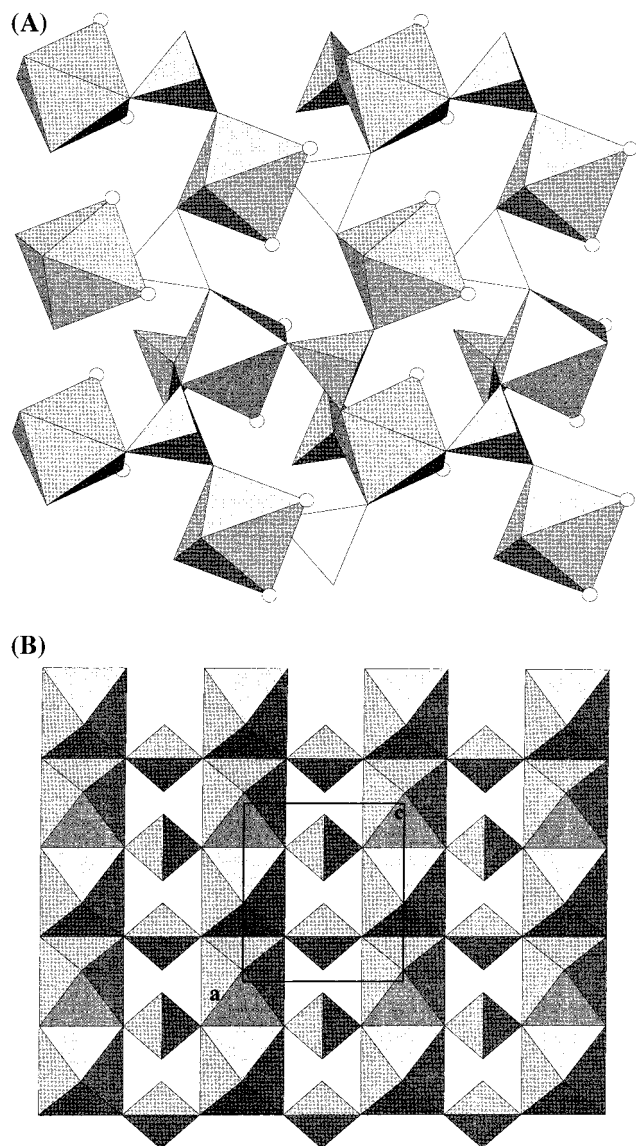


Figure 1. (A) View of the structure of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ along the [001] direction. (B) View of the structure of InPO_4 showing linear chains of edge-sharing (InO_6) octahedra connected by (PO_4) tetrahedra.

Experimental Section

Synthesis. KNO_3 (0.5 mmol) (99+%, Fisher), 0.5 mmol of InCl_3 (0.5 M aqueous solution prepared from InCl_3 , Aldrich, 98%), 3 mmol of H_3PO_4 (2 M prepared from concentrated H_3PO_4 , Fisher, 85% aqueous solution), and 6.25×10^{-2} mmol of $\text{CuCO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$ (Fisher, assay (as Cu) 55.7%) were sealed under vacuum in a thick-walled Pyrex tube (length = 112 mm, thickness = 1.5 mm, i.d. = 9 mm, with 40% filling capacity). The reaction was carried out at 200 °C for 60 h, and then the furnace was cooled to room temperature. The product was isolated as colorless needlelike crystals and was later determined to be $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. The crystals were vacuum filtered, washed using copious amounts of cold water and acetone, and dried in air at room temperature. The yield of the reaction was found to be 17% based on indium. No solid side products were observed. The use of KNO_3 and $\text{CuCO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$ was found to be advantageous in improving the yield of the reaction. $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ can also be obtained under similar conditions without the presence of KNO_3 and $\text{CuCO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$. The yield, however, is found to be less than 3%.

Elemental Analysis. Energy-dispersive X-ray analysis (EDAX) was done using a Phillips 515 scanning electron microscope (SEM). The analysis indicated that the crystals contained In and P in approximately a 1:1 ratio. No K or Cu was found to be present.

Table 1. Crystal Data for $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

formula $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	fw (g/mol) 227.81
$a = 5.4342(6)$ Å	space group $P\bar{1}$
$b = 5.5508(4)$ Å	$T = 298(1)$ K
$c = 6.5446(5)$ Å	$\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 4.088$ g cm^{-3}
$\alpha = 97.593(6)^\circ$, $\beta = 94.558(6)^\circ$,	$\mu = 67.0$ cm^{-1} (Mo $\text{K}\alpha$)
$\gamma = 107.565(6)^\circ$	$R1^a = 0.0308$
$V = 185.07(4)$ Å ³	$wR2^{b,c} = 0.0628$
$Z = 2$	

$$^a R1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o| \quad ^b wR2 = [\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [(wF_o^2)^2]]^{1/2}$$

$$^c w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0091P)^2 \quad \text{where } P = (\text{Max}(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2)/3.$$

Thermal Analysis. The thermal stability of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was investigated using TGA and DTA. The studies were carried out using a Netzsch STA 409 TGA/DTA apparatus. Samples were heated under a nitrogen flow (22 mL/min) up to 850 °C at 5 °C/min and then cooled to room temperature at 20 °C/min.

$\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. TGA data for $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ show a one-step weight loss of 7.7% between 380 and 480 °C. DTA analysis shows the process to be endothermic.

$\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Thermal studies of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ were carried out to determine if the compound $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is an intermediate in the dehydration process. Two distinct dehydration steps were found. The first step occurs between 250 and 350 °C and corresponds to a weight loss of 6.4%, and the second step occurs between 380 and 480 °C and corresponds to a weight loss of 6.8%. DTA studies indicate that both dehydration processes are endothermic.

Infrared Absorption Spectroscopy. The IR spectrum of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ was recorded using a Perkin-Elmer 1330 infrared spectrophotometer (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 3200 (s), 1620 (m), 1160 (s), 1020 (s), 915 (s), 785 (m), 625 (m), 570 (s), 485 (m), 370 (w), 325 (m).

Crystallographic Studies. Single-Crystal X-ray Diffraction Analysis. The crystal structure of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ was determined using single-crystal X-ray diffraction data collected at room temperature using a Siemens P4 single-crystal diffractometer (Mo $\text{K}\alpha$, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). A needlelike crystal with approximate dimensions $0.14 \times 0.03 \times 0.03$ mm^3 was mounted in a glass capillary for data collection, and 61 reflections ($7^\circ < 2\theta < 41^\circ$) were measured for indexing and cell parameter refinements. The crystal system of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ was determined to be triclinic with the cell parameters $a = 5.4342(6)$ Å, $b = 5.5508(4)$ Å, $c = 6.5446(5)$ Å, $\alpha = 97.593(6)^\circ$, $\beta = 94.558(6)^\circ$, $\gamma = 107.565(6)^\circ$, and $V = 185.07(4)$ Å³. A total of 2672 reflection ($6.4^\circ < 2\theta < 65^\circ$) were collected using the θ - 2θ scan mode. No intensity decay was observed throughout the data collection. The data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. An empirical absorption correction was applied using Ψ -scan data for 11 reflections ($T_{\text{min}} = 0.378$, $T_{\text{max}} = 0.433$).

The structure was successfully determined in the space group $P\bar{1}$ using direct methods to obtain initial atomic positions. Isotropic least-squares refinements were then carried out ($R1 = 0.0355$ for 1116 reflections with $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$). The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinements were run against $|F|^2$ with 73 parameters to give a structure model with $R1 = 0.0308$ for 1116 reflections with $F_o > 4\sigma(F_o)$, $wR2 = 0.0628$, $\text{GOF} = 1.021$. Hydrogen atoms were located from a difference Fourier map. Their coordinates were refined with the constraint $0.77 \leq \text{O}-\text{H} \leq 0.93$ Å. The maximum and minimum residual electron densities were 1.13 and -1.15 e Å⁻³. The Shelxtl version 5 software package was used in the structure determination and refinement. Pertinent crystallographic data are listed in Table 1.

X-ray Powder Diffraction Studies. Diffraction studies were carried out using an Enraf-Nonius FR522 Guinier camera and a Phillips X-ray generator with a Cu X-ray tube ($\lambda = 1.54059$ Å). The X-ray powder diffraction pattern of the crystals matched the calculated powder pattern of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$; 39 lines ($13^\circ < 2\theta < 56^\circ$) were indexed and used for cell parameter refinement to give the following unit cell parameters: $a = 5.4278(9)$ Å, $b = 5.542(1)$ Å, $c = 6.535(2)$ Å, $\alpha = 97.73(2)^\circ$, $\beta = 94.63(2)^\circ$, $\gamma = 107.57(2)^\circ$, $V = 184.16(5)$ Å³. X-ray powder diffraction of the decomposition product matched that of InPO_4 .²⁰

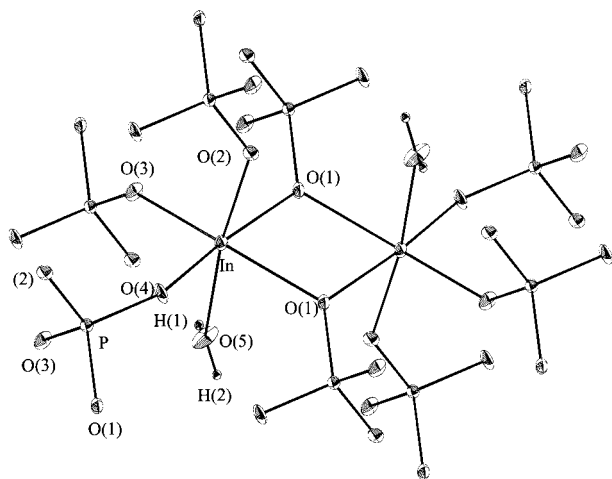


Figure 2. Basic building unit of the framework of InPO₄·H₂O showing a (In₂O₈(OH₂)₂) dimer sharing its eight oxo ligands with eight (PO₄) tetrahedra; 50% thermal ellipsoids.

Results and Discussion

Crystal Structure Description. The compound InPO₄·H₂O has a neutral three-dimensional framework built up from (In₂O₈(OH₂)₂) dimers linked to each other through (PO₄) tetrahedra. Each indium atom coordinates to five oxo ligands and one aquo ligand to form a distorted (InO₅(OH₂)) octahedron. The shortest and longest In–O bond distances are In–O(4) = 2.069(4) Å and In–O(1) = 2.230(3) Å. Each (InO₅(OH₂)) octahedron at (x, y, z) is linked to its equivalent octahedron at (1 – x, 1 – y, –z) through two oxygen O(1) ligands (x, y, z; 1 – x, 1 – y, –z) to form edge-sharing (In₂O₈(OH₂)₂) dimers (Figure 2). The shared edge constitutes the shortest oxygen–oxygen distance within the dimer (O(1)–O(1) = 2.716(7) Å), whereas the longest edge within the dimer is found to be O(2)–O(3) = 3.299(6) Å. The distance between the two In atoms of the dimer is 3.500(1) Å, similar to that found in (In₂O₁₀) dimers in CaIn₂(PO₄)₂·(HPO₄) (3.483(6) Å).¹⁴ Each (In₂O₈(OH₂)₂) dimer shares eight oxo ligands (two O(1), two O(2), two O(3), and two O(4)) with eight (PO₄) tetrahedra. Two water molecules (O(5)) constitute the two unshared corners of the dimer (Figure 2). The dimers are aligned along the [011] direction and form layers parallel to the bc plane (Figure 3). The (PO₄) tetrahedra connect three neighboring dimers within the same plane through their O(1), O(2), and O(4) oxo ligands, and adjacent dimer layers are linked to each other through the remaining oxo ligand (O(3)). The shortest and longest P–O distances are P–O(4) = 1.513(4) Å and P–O(1) = 1.574(4) Å. The three-dimensional framework thus formed generates six-membered-ring opening tunnels (three (InO₅(OH₂)) and three PO₄) running along the [001] direction. Investigation of the environment around O(5), H(1), and H(2) indicates that hydrogen bonds are formed within the tunnels (Figure 4). Atomic coordinates and selected bond distances and angles are listed in Tables 2 and 3.

Bond valence sum calculations²⁵ confirm the +3 and +5 oxidation states for In and P, respectively ($\sum s = 3.13$ for In, and $\sum s = 4.96$ for P). The ligands O(1), O(2), O(3), and O(4) bond to indium and phosphorus atoms, and their bond valence summations range from 1.79 to 2.00 (O(1), 2.00; O(2), 1.79;

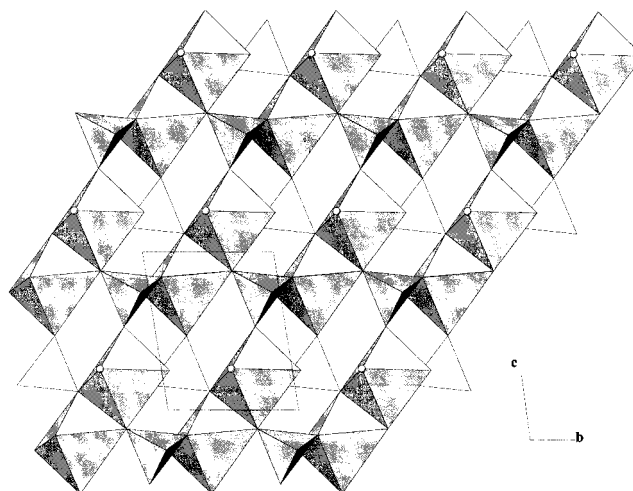


Figure 3. View of InPO₄·H₂O along the [100] direction showing chains of dimers connected to each other through (PO₄) tetrahedra to form layers parallel to the bc plane. The small spheres represent water molecules (O(5)) coordinating to indium.

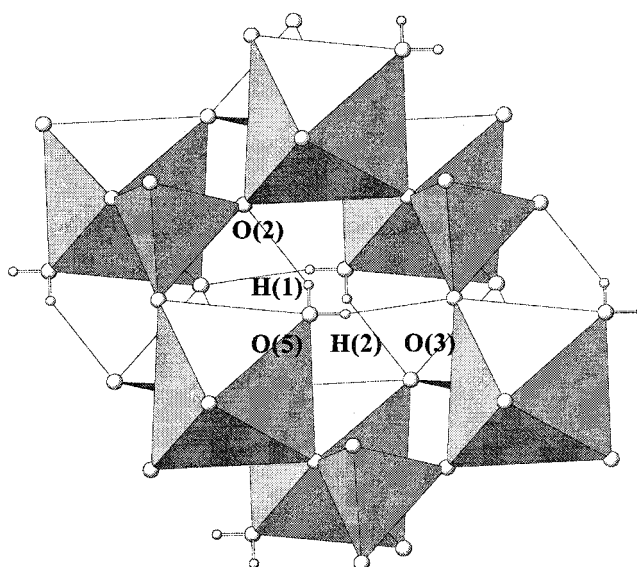


Figure 4. View of a portion of the framework of InPO₄·H₂O showing hydrogen bonding within the tunnels.

Table 2. Fractional Atomic Coordinates, $U(\text{eq})$,^a for InPO₄·H₂O

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$U(\text{eq})$ (Å ²)
In	0.14013(7)	0.73305(7)	0.21978(6)	0.0067(1)
P	0.7694(2)	1.1243(2)	0.2559(2)	0.0058(2)
O(1)	0.1405(7)	0.6600(6)	–0.1188(5)	0.0082(6)
O(2)	–0.1670(7)	0.8863(7)	0.1585(5)	0.0082(6)
O(3)	0.4731(7)	1.0626(7)	0.2520(6)	0.0097(6)
O(4)	0.0817(7)	0.7688(7)	0.5295(5)	0.0109(7)
O(5)	0.4155(8)	0.5336(8)	0.2613(8)	0.0189(9)
H(1) ^b	0.53(1)	0.57(1)	0.20(1)	0.02(1)
H(2) ^b	0.42(1)	0.41(1)	0.28(1)	0.01(1)

^a $U(\text{eq})$ is defined as one-third of the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor. ^b Hydrogen atoms are refined with the restriction $0.77 \text{ \AA} \leq \text{O–H} \leq 0.93 \text{ \AA}$.

O(3), 1.82; O(4), 1.98). In contrast, the bond valence sum for O(5) is found to be 0.51 when hydrogen atoms are not taken into consideration.

Infrared Studies. The IR spectroscopic studies of InPO₄·H₂O reveal a strong and relatively broad absorption band at 3200 cm^{–1} characteristic of an O–H stretch vibration. The absorption band at 1620 cm^{–1} had been observed in MPO₄·

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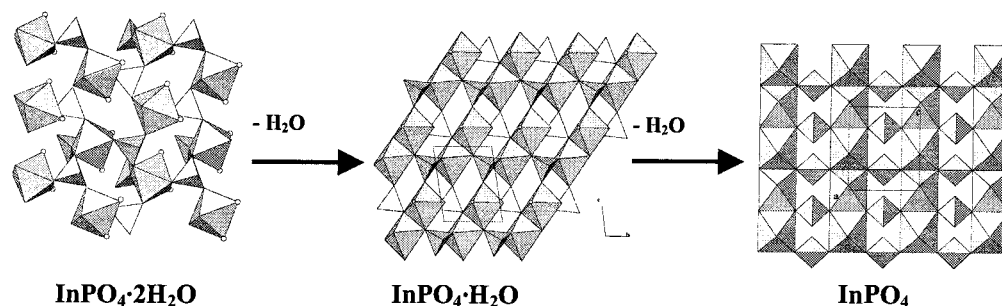


Figure 5. Structural transformation taking place during the dehydration process of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to form the anhydrous InPO_4 .

Table 3. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) for $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}^a$

		InO ₆ Octahedron				
In	O(4)	O(3)	O(2)	O(5)	O(1)	O(1) ^a
O(4)	2.069(4)	96.5(2)	88.6(2)	93.7(2)	171.4(2)	97.2(2)
O(3)		2.122(3)	102.0(2)	84.7(2)	91.5(2)	162.6(2)
O(2)			2.124(3)	172.7(2)	86.7(2)	89.2(2)
O(5)				2.134(3)	90.2(2)	83.7(2)
O(1)					2.200(3)	75.6(2)
O(1) ^a						2.230(3)
		PO ₄ Tetrahedron				
P	O(4) ^b	O(2) ^c	O(3)	O(1) ^d		
O(4) ^b	1.513(4)	111.2(2)	113.3(2)	106.7(2)		
O(2) ^c		1.536(3)	110.0(2)	108.8(2)		
O(3)			1.539(4)	106.7(2)		
O(1) ^d				1.574(4)		
		H Bonds				
O(5)–H(1)	0.74(8)	O(3) ^e –H(2)	2.05(8)			
O(5)–H(2)	0.69(8)	O(5)–O(2) ^c	2.710(4)			
O(2) ^c –H(1)	2.08(8)	O(5)–O(3) ^e	2.719(4)			
∠O(5)H(1)O(2) ^c	143(7)	∠O(5)H(2)O(3) ^e	163(7)			

^a Symmetry code: (a) $-x, -y + 1, -z$; (b) $-x + 1, -y + 2, -z + 1$; (c) $x + 1, y, z$; (d) $-x + 1, -y + 2, -z$; (e) $x, y - 1, z$.

$2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{MAsO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($M = \text{Fe}, \text{Al}, \text{In}, \text{Tl}$), and $\text{InAsO}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ^{23,24} and is assigned to the libration vibration of water. The presence of these two absorption bands confirms that the title compound contains water of crystallization. The absorption bands between 1200 and 900 cm^{-1} and $650\text{--}480 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ are attributed to the P–O bond stretch and deformations.

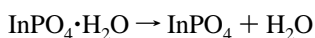
Thermal Stability Studies. The dehydration of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is found to occur at a relatively high temperature, $\sim 380 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, to give InPO_4 (weight loss of 7.7%). In contrast, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is found to dehydrate in two steps. The first step occurs between 250 and $350 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and corresponds to a weight loss of 6.4%, consistent with a loss of one water molecule to give the monohydrate $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. Subsequently the compound loses a second water molecule between 380 and $480 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to give the anhydrous InPO_4 , which is found to be stable up to $1000 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (the maximum temperature reached during TGA studies). Both dehydration processes are found to be endothermic. The products of the thermal decomposition were characterized by X-ray powder diffraction.

step 1:



$\sim 250 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$: % loss calcd, 7.3; exptl, 6.4

step 2:



$\sim 380 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$: % loss calcd, 7.9; exptl, 7.7

The structures of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, and InPO_4 are closely related (Figure 5). The structural transformation occurring during the dehydration process of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ can be interpreted as successive condensations of octahedra resulting from loss of aquo ligands followed by rearrangement of the environment around indium to satisfy its octahedral coordination requirements. In the first step of the dehydration process, the $(\text{InO}_4(\text{OH})_2)_2$ octahedra in the $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ framework lose one aquo ligand and condense through edge-sharing to form the dimers $(\text{In}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2)_2$ found in the framework of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$. Subsequently, these dimeric units lose their aquo ligands and condense to form linear chains of edge-sharing octahedra found in the structure of the anhydrous InPO_4 .

Conclusion

The structure of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is novel and has no equivalent among aluminophosphates. This is rather unusual, since phosphates of group 13 elements tend to form isotopic series. For example, the crystal structures of $\text{TiPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and TiPO_4 are the same as their indium phosphate equivalents.^{20,21} The structure of $\text{AlPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is isotopic with that of $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.²² The structural chemistry of In(III) phosphates has a closer relationship to that of transition metal phosphates. Anhydrous transition metal phosphates with the general formula MPO_4 ($M = \text{Ti}^{3+}, \text{V}^{3+}, \text{Cr}^{3+}$) are isostructural with InPO_4 .^{26,27} The dihydrate transition metal phosphates, such as $\text{VPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{FePO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, have the same structural properties as $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.^{28–31} However, $\text{InPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is the only known binary metal phosphate that contains $(\text{M}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2)$ dimers. In contrast, the framework of $\text{VPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ is built by chains of corner-sharing VO_6 octahedra (oxygen atom of the water molecule connects vanadium octahedra into V–O–V chains) and PO_4 tetrahedra.³² The vanadium phosphate $(\text{VO})_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_7) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ contains dimers of face-sharing octahedra, while the anhydrous $(\text{VO})_2(\text{P}_2\text{O}_7)$ contains $(\text{M}_2\text{O}_{10})$ dimers linked to each other via corner sharing to form double chains.^{36,37} The

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Table 4. Structure Types of Binary M(III) Phosphates and Arsenates

structure type	space group	compounds	refs
InPO ₄	<i>Cmcm</i>	InPO ₄ , TiPO ₄ , TiPO ₃ , VPO ₃ , β-CrPO ₄	20, 26, 27
InPO ₄ ·H ₂ O	<i>P1̄</i>	InPO ₄ ·H ₂ O	this work
VPO ₄ ·H ₂ O	<i>C2/c</i>	VPO ₄ ·H ₂ O, MnPO ₄ ·H ₂ O, MnAsO ₄ ·H ₂ O	32, 33
variscite	<i>Pbca</i>	InPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, AlPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, TiPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, InAsO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, FeAsO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, TlAsO ₄ ·2H ₂ O	21, 22, 34, 30
metavariscite	<i>P2₁/n</i>	InPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, AlPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, VPO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, FePO ₄ ·2H ₂ O	28, 29, 31, 35

formation of (In₂O₁₀) dimers has been observed in ternary indium phosphates CaIn₂(PO₄)₂(HPO₄)¹⁴ and SrIn₂(PO₄)₂(HPO₄)³⁸. Table 4 summarizes the crystallographic data of known binary M(III) phosphates and arsenates.

Water molecules coordinated to In atoms are found in InPO₄·2H₂O,²¹ Cs[In₂(PO₄)(HPO₄)₂(H₂O)],¹⁹ and [In₈(HPO₄)₁₄(H₂O)₆]-

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(H₂O)₅(H₃O)(C₃N₂H₅)₃.¹⁶ In these three compounds, aquo ligands constitute the unshared corners of (InO₆) octahedra. In each compound, the longest In–O bond is that between In and the water molecule (2.20–2.28 Å).

Hydrothermal synthesis can be advantageously used to stabilize intermediates in mono- or microcrystalline forms in order to study their crystal structures using single-crystal or powder X-ray diffraction techniques. In our laboratory, systematic synthetic investigations of ternary indium and mixed indium–iron phosphates using hydrothermal synthesis methods led to the characterization of a number of new phases with novel structural properties. Studies of their thermal stability, ion exchange properties, and ionic conductivity are underway.

Acknowledgment. We thank Mr. Heinz-Jürgen Kolb from the Department of Chemistry, University of Tübingen, FRG, for TGA and DTA data collection. The financial support of Wake Forest University through the Research and Creativity grant is greatly appreciated.

Supporting Information Available: Tables listing crystal data, atomic coordinates, isotropic and anisotropic displacement parameters, and bond lengths and angles (4 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

IC980548V