

Phase Equilibrium System of RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 Mass %)-H₂O at 298.15 K and Standard Molar Enthalpy of Formation of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O

Zhan-Ping Qiao,* Ru-Zhong Sun, Xin Chen, Shuai Zhang, and Mei-Li Wang

College of Chemistry and Pharmacy Engineering, Nanyang Normal University, Nanyang 473061, People's Republic of China

Solubilities of the quaternary system RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl–H₂O were determined at 298.15 K, and the corresponding equilibrium diagram was constructed in this paper. There are three equilibrium solid phases, RbCl, RbLaCl₄·4H₂O (1:1 type), and LaCl₃·7H₂O in the quaternary system. The new compound RbLaCl₄·4H₂O was found to be congruently soluble in the system. The compound RbLaCl₄·4H₂O was characterized by the methods of X-ray diffraction, thermogravimetry, and differential thermogravimetry. The compound loses its crystal water by one step at (358 to 449) K. The standard molar enthalpy of solution of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O in deionized water was measured to be (-19.61 ± 0.24) kJ·mol⁻¹ by heat conduction microcalorimetry. Its standard molar enthalpy of formation was calculated to be (-2750.4 ± 1.1) kJ·mol⁻¹.

Introduction

Phase equilibria of quaternary systems of CsCl–RECl₃–HCl (13 %)-H₂O (RE = La, Pr, Nd, Sm, Y, Ce, Eu, Gd, Tm, Lu) at 298.15 K have been reported.^{1–9} It is highly valuable and important for us to understand the phase relations and interactions of CsCl and RECl₃ in aqueous media. Nineteen new compounds were obtained from the systems, and they are CsRECl₄·nH₂O (RE = La, Ce, Pr, Nd), Cs₂RECl₅·nH₂O (RE = Sm, Nd, Eu, Gd, Lu), Cs₃RECl₆·nH₂O (RE = La, Ce, Pr), Cs₃RE₂Cl₉·nH₂O (RE = Tm, Y), Cs₄RECl₇·nH₂O (RE = Gd, Y, Lu), Cs₅EuCl₈·14H₂O, and Cs₉Lu₅Cl₂₄·29H₂O. Moreover, the research results on these systems showed that the rare earth trichlorides have both comparabilities and dissimilarities, thus confirming that lanthanide rare earth elements are showing “the effect of two groups” before and after Gd in the aqueous phase equilibrium of the quaternary system.^{5,6}

As a part of the systematic investigation on the quaternary systems of rare earth chlorides, phase equilibria of the MCl–GdCl₃–HCl(13.26 %, 21.65 %)-H₂O (M = K, Rb) at 293.15 K and RbCl–CeCl₃–HCl(13.05 %)-H₂O at 298.15 K have been reported.^{10,11} Two new compounds were obtained from the systems, and they are RbRECl₄·4H₂O (RE = Ce, Gd). Comparison of the quaternary systems finds that the quaternary system KCl–RECl₃–HCl–H₂O is simple. However, the quaternary system RbCl–GdCl₃–HCl–H₂O is simple when the concentration of HCl is below 21.65 % and complicated when HCl is over 21.65 %. The compound RbGdCl₄·4H₂O is uncongruently soluble, and its phase region (crystallization field) is very small in the system. The quaternary system RbCl–CeCl₃–HCl–H₂O is complicated when the concentration of HCl is 13.03 %. The compound RbCeCl₄·4H₂O is congruently soluble, and its phase region is big in the system. This indicates differences in behavior of Ce and Gd trichlorides in aqueous salt systems with RbCl. To further contrast the difference of the phase chemical relationship of rare alkali metal and rare-earth chloride in aqueous salt systems and find more phase equilibrium information on the RbCl–RECl₃–HCl–H₂O qua-

ternary systems, it is necessary for us to further study the phase equilibria systematically. The present paper is concerned with the solubility and phase equilibrium relation of the RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 %)-H₂O system at 298.15 K. In this system, a new solid-phase compound was found, and related measurement of its properties was also performed.

Experimental Section

Preparing Samples. All chemicals (RbCl) and solvents [H₂O and HCl (37 mass %)] were analytically pure and commercially available and used without further purification. LaCl₃·7H₂O was prepared by the reaction of La₂O₃ (99.99 mass %) with hydrochloric acid (37 mass % HCl). The composition of LaCl₃·7H₂O was confirmed by analyzing the Cl⁻ content by titration with a normal solution of silver nitrate and the La³⁺ content by titration with EDTA. The purity reached in this way was found to be 99.9 mass %.

Investigations on the System at 298.15 K and Analysis Methods. The method of the investigation of the solubility of the RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 %)-H₂O quaternary system has been previously reported.⁹ All sealed samples were put in a big water tank with a thermostat fixed at 298.15 K and an electrical stirrer. The precision of the temperature was 0.1 K. The solid–liquid phase equilibrium was established for these samples after (8 to 9) days.

The methods used for analyzing the saturated solutions and the corresponding wet solid phases (wet residues) of the samples and determining the composition of the solid phase are given in the literature.^{9–12}

Equipment and Conditions. Thermal characterization of the new compound was undertaken with an SDT Q600 V8.0 thermal analysis apparatus (TG-DTG) that worked with a heating rate of 10 K·min⁻¹ under an N₂ atmosphere with a flow rate of 100 cm³·min⁻¹. X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurement was performed by a D/Max-3C diffractometer using Cu K α radiation, 50 kV and 80 mA, at room temperature, in air.

The enthalpies of solution were measured using an RD496-III-2000 heat conduction microcalorimeter (Southwest Institute of Electron Engineering, China), which is a totally automatic

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-0377-63513735. Fax: +86-0377-63513540. E-mail: nyqiaozp@yahoo.com.cn.

Table 1. Solubility Data of the Saturated Solution of the Quaternary System RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 mass %)-H₂O at (298.15 ± 0.1) K and Central Projection Data on the Trigonal Basal Face of RbCl–LaCl₃–H₂O

no.	composition of solution (% mass weight)					composition of residue (% mass weight)					solid phase ^b
	composition in the tetrahedral			composition in the trigonal basal face ^a		composition in the tetrahedral			composition in the trigonal basal face		
	HCl	LaCl ₃	RbCl	LaCl ₃	RbCl	HCl	LaCl ₃	RbCl	LaCl ₃	RbCl	
	$w(\text{HCl}) = 12.60\%$										
1	12.10	0.00	24.29	0.00	27.63	—	—	—	—	—	A
2	13.02	3.47	22.15	3.99	25.47	2.65	0.78	84.90	0.80	87.21	A
3	12.44	7.50	20.77	8.57	23.72	2.43	1.49	84.75	1.53	86.86	A
4	12.72	10.67	19.02	12.23	21.79	1.72	1.40	89.00	1.42	90.56	A
5	12.29	13.58	18.62	15.48	21.23	2.04	2.26	89.48	2.31	91.34	A
6	12.55	14.91	17.43	17.05	19.93	3.25	12.87	67.68	13.30	69.95	A + B
7	12.79	14.52	18.46	16.65	21.17	2.78	26.12	51.70	26.87	53.18	A + B
8	12.56	14.86	18.24	16.99	20.80	3.39	35.63	36.18	36.88	37.45	A + B
9	12.67	14.80	18.00	16.94	20.60	5.28	38.87	23.45	41.04	24.76	B
10	12.40	17.79	13.17	20.31	15.03	5.21	39.91	21.53	42.14	22.71	B
11	13.05	18.71	10.08	21.52	11.60	4.05	44.20	22.11	46.07	23.04	B
12	12.85	21.54	7.00	24.72	8.03	4.01	44.36	20.14	46.21	20.98	B
13	12.30	27.01	2.58	30.80	2.94	4.32	46.12	17.54	48.20	18.33	B + C
14	12.61	26.31	2.79	30.11	3.19	2.96	53.00	10.03	54.62	10.34	B + C
15	13.26	25.37	2.26	29.25	2.61	0.98	58.01	6.63	58.58	6.70	B + C
16	11.97	28.08	0.00	31.90	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	C

^a Double saturation point (average). E₁: LaCl₃ 16.90 %, RbCl 20.63 %. E₂: LaCl₃ 30.05 %, RbCl 2.91 %. ^b Compounds: A, RbCl; B, RbLaCl₄·4H₂O; C, LaCl₃·7H₂O.

instrument utilizing computer control. The microcalorimeter is described in the literature.^{9,13}

To check the performance of the RD496-III-2000 heat conduction microcalorimeter, the calorimetric constant was determined at 298.15 K by the Joule effect before the experiments. The Joule cell was supplied with 100 mW electric power for 100 s. The calorimetric constant obtained in this way was (59.31 ± 0.04) μV·mW⁻¹. The reliability of the calorimeter was verified by measuring the enthalpy of solution of KCl(s) in deionized water. The average experimental value of Δ_{sol}H_m-(KCl) was determined to be (17.31 ± 0.06) kJ·mol⁻¹ (n = 6), which is in excellent agreement with that of 17.234 kJ·mol⁻¹ reported in the literature.¹⁴ The relative error between the literature and the measured value was 0.45 %. This shows that the device used for measuring the enthalpy of solution in this work is reliable.

Each calorimetric experiment was performed five times. The temperature of the calorimetric experiment was (298.15 ± 0.01) K. Water was put in the 15 cm³ stainless steel sample cell and reference cell of the calorimeter. After thermal equilibration for at least 2 h, the solid sample was dissolved in deionized water. The thermal effect was then recorded automatically on a computer. The total time required for the complete dissolution was about 0.3 h.

Results and Discussion

RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 mass %)-H₂O Quaternary System at 298.15 K. The solubility data of the RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 mass %)-H₂O quaternary system and the central projection data on the trigonal basal face of the RbCl–LaCl₃–H₂O at 298.15 K are listed in Table 1 and plotted in Figure 1. It can be seen that the phase diagram of the RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl–H₂O quaternary system consists of three solubility curves which correspond to the equilibrium solid phases RbCl (A), RbLaCl₄·4H₂O (B) (1:1 type), and LaCl₃·7H₂O (C), respectively. The solid compound RbLaCl₄·4H₂O is congruently soluble in the medium of ~12.60 mass % HCl. The new compound RbLaCl₄·4H₂O obtained from this system was analyzed by a titration method. Its composition is 27.48 % RbCl and 56.04 % LaCl₃ in RbLaCl₄·4H₂O. The value is in

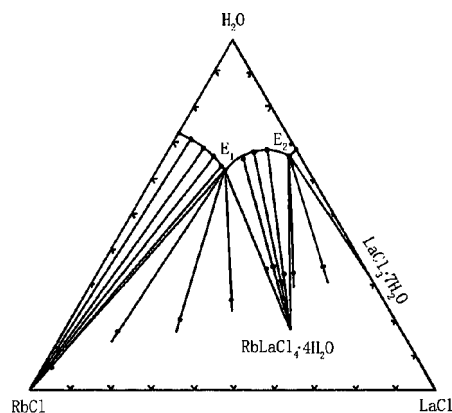


Figure 1. Solubility diagram of the quaternary system RbCl–LaCl₃–HCl(12.60 mass %)-H₂O projected on RbCl–LaCl₃–H₂O at (298.15 ± 0.1) K.

agreement with theoretical data (27.59 % RbCl and 55.97 % LaCl₃). This indicates that the formation of the solid compound determined by Schreinemaker's method is reliable. It should be noted that the compound has not been reported up to now in the literature.

Comparing the reported quaternary systems^{10,11} with the present quaternary system, for the two quaternary systems RbCl–RECl₃–HCl(~13 %)-H₂O (RE = La, Ce), their phase chemical reactions are very similar because they both have a 1:1 type compound. The new solid compounds are also congruently soluble, and the phase region is big. But the phase behavior for La and Ce chloride differs from Gd (see Table 2 and Figure 2, quotations from ref 10). This indicates differences in behavior of the light and middle rare earth element trichlorides in aqueous salt systems with RbCl.

Characterization of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O. The X-ray powder diffraction pattern of the RbLaCl₄·4H₂O compound obtained is shown in Figure 3. The important X-ray data of the compound are *d* (nm) = 0.5647 (99), 0.4454 (38), 0.2980 (50), and 0.2875 (21). They are obviously different from the literature XRD data of the two starting salts: RbCl, *d* (nm) = 0.3800 (30), 0.3291 (100), 0.2327 (65), 0.1900 (20), 0.1472 (20) and LaCl₃·7H₂O, *d* (nm) = 0.6600 (70), 0.2630 (100), 0.2474 (100), 0.2360 (80),

Table 2. Solubility Data of the Saturated Solution of the Quaternary System RbCl–GdCl₃–HCl(13.26, 21.65 mass %)-H₂O at 293.15 K and Central Projection Data on the Trigonal Basal Face RbCl–GdCl₃–H₂O

no.	composition of solution (% mass weight)					composition of residue (% mass weight)					solid phase ^b
	composition in the tetrahedral			composition in the trigonal basal face ^a		composition in the tetrahedral			composition in the trigonal basal face		
	HCl	RbCl	GdCl ₃	RbCl	GdCl ₃	HCl	RbCl	GdCl ₃	RbCl	GdCl ₃	
w(HCl) = 13.26 mass %											
1	12.09	24.31	0.00	27.65	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	A
2	12.66	20.05	6.13	22.96	7.02	4.36	69.78	2.37	72.96	2.48	A
3	12.52	16.10	12.65	18.40	14.46	4.72	68.36	4.75	71.75	4.98	A
4	12.49	15.31	14.51	17.49	16.58	4.24	71.38	5.02	74.54	5.24	A
5	12.23	14.61	18.37	16.64	20.89	4.73	67.12	7.07	70.45	7.42	A
6	13.61	13.67	18.60	15.82	21.53	5.47	51.42	17.66	54.39	18.68	A + C
7	13.74	13.90	18.41	16.11	21.34	5.08	18.84	41.36	19.85	43.57	A + C
8	14.30	10.50	19.24	12.25	22.45	4.76	3.19	53.34	3.35	56.00	C
9	14.40	4.22	21.09	4.93	24.64	5.36	1.19	51.93	1.26	54.87	C
10	14.58	0.00	22.44	0.00	26.27	—	—	—	—	—	C
w(HCl) = 21.65 mass %											
1	19.32	15.47	0.00	19.17	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	A
2	21.54	13.36	3.82	17.03	4.87	8.63	64.71	1.67	70.82	1.83	A
3	21.05	13.01	6.43	16.48	8.14	6.89	70.61	2.29	75.83	2.46	A
4	21.24	13.32	7.51	16.91	9.53	9.09	43.57	16.88	47.93	18.57	A + B
5	21.61	13.23	7.38	16.88	9.41	7.97	24.61	33.10	26.74	35.97	A + B
6	21.53	13.18	7.33	16.80	9.34	9.54	19.98	31.71	22.09	35.05	B
7	21.86	13.02	7.14	16.66	9.14	15.36	16.37	20.67	19.34	24.42	B
8	21.34	12.99	7.62	16.51	9.69	8.09	12.14	42.25	13.21	45.97	B + C
9	21.76	12.86	7.08	16.44	9.05	8.41	9.65	42.77	10.54	46.71	B + C
10	22.19	12.39	7.08	15.92	9.10	7.50	4.86	48.36	5.25	52.28	C
11	22.92	8.32	6.97	10.79	8.96	5.52	1.81	55.42	1.91	58.66	C
12	22.63	4.65	7.81	6.01	10.09	8.07	1.53	49.00	1.66	53.30	C
13	22.50	0.00	10.40	0.00	13.42	—	—	—	—	—	C

^a Double saturation point (average): HCl = 13.26 mass %. E: RbCl 15.96 %, GdCl₃ 21.43 %. HCl = 21.65 mass %. E₁: RbCl 16.89 %, GdCl₃ 9.47 %. E₂: RbCl 16.47 %, GdCl₃ 9.37 %. ^b Compounds: A, RbCl; B, RbGdCl₄·4H₂O; C, GdCl₃·6H₂O.

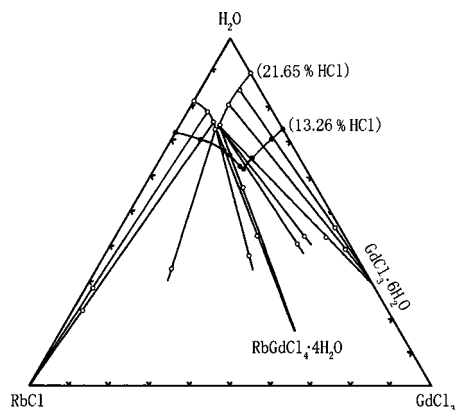


Figure 2. Solubility diagram of the quaternary system RbCl–GdCl₃–HCl(13.26, 21.65 mass %)-H₂O projected on RbCl–GdCl₃–H₂O at 293.15 K.

0.2210 (100) (d is crystal plane distance, and numbers in parentheses are relative intensities of the diffraction peak). This demonstrates that the compound is new.

TG-DTG data for the compound are presented in Figure 4. The curve for the compound RbLaCl₄·4H₂O shows that there is one obvious mass-loss step in the temperature range (358 to 449) K (395.8 K denotes temperature at which weight loss is most), and the mass-loss value (16.33 mass %) is in agreement with theoretical dehydration data (16.44 mass %). This indicates that the compound loses its crystal water by one step at (358 to 449) K. It should be noted that the total mass-loss value is in accordance with data of water determined by Schreinemakers method and analyzed by a titration method.

Enthalpies of Solution. The molar enthalpy of solution of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O in water is (-19.61 ± 0.24) kJ·mol⁻¹ at 298.15

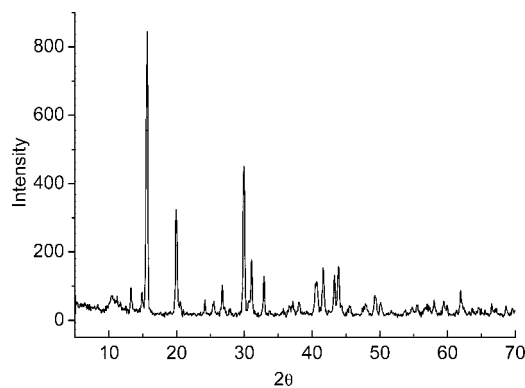


Figure 3. X-ray powder diffraction spectrum of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O.

K. The values are listed in Table 3, in which m is the mass of the sample and $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_m$ is the molar enthalpy of solution of the sample. The uncertainty is estimated as twice the standard deviation of the mean,¹⁵ namely

$$\delta = 2\sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n(n-1)}}$$

in which n is the number of experimental measurements ($n = 5$); x_i is the experimental value of each repeated measurement; and \bar{x} is the mean value.

Standard Molar Enthalpy of Formation. The molar enthalpy of formation of RbLaCl₄·4H₂O can be calculated as shown in the following equation

$$\Delta_f H_m^\ominus(\text{s}) = \Delta_f H_m^\ominus(\text{Rb}^+(\text{aq})) + \Delta_f H_m^\ominus(\text{La}^{3+}(\text{aq})) + 4\Delta_f H_m^\ominus(\text{Cl}^-(\text{aq})) + 4\Delta_f H_m^\ominus(\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l})) - \Delta_{\text{sol}} H_m^\ominus(\text{RbLaCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{s})) \quad (1)$$

The standard molar enthalpies of formation of Rb⁺, La³⁺, Cl⁻, and H₂O were taken from the NBS table,¹⁶ namely, $(-251.17$

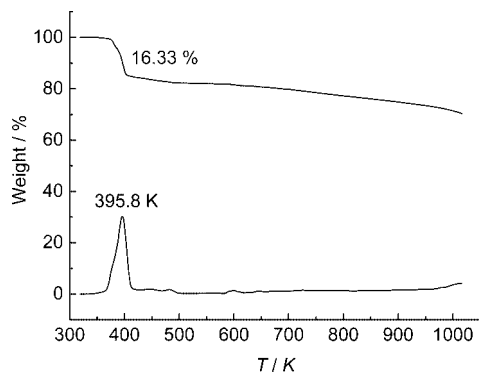


Figure 4. Thermogravimetric curve of $\text{RbLaCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Table 3. Molar Enthalpies of Solution of $\text{RbLaCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in Deionized Water at 298.15 K^a

no.	<i>m</i> g	<i>Q_s</i> mJ	$\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_m^\ominus$ kJ·mol ⁻¹
1	0.04852	-2196.6	-19.840
2	0.04919	-2214.5	-19.729
3	0.04912	-2198.0	-19.611
4	0.04919	-2213.8	-19.723
5	0.04854	-2119.9	-19.139
mean ^b	$\Delta_{\text{sol}}H_m^\ominus = (-19.61 \pm 0.24) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$		

^a In each experiment, 8.0 cm³ water was used. ^b Uncertainty is twice the standard deviation of the mean.

$\pm 0.56) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, $(-707.1 \pm 0.80) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, $(-167.159 \pm 0.1) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, and $(-285.83 \pm 0.042) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ for Rb^+ , La^{3+} , Cl^- , and H_2O , respectively. Using these schemes and data, the standard molar enthalpy of formation of $\text{RbLaCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was calculated to be $(-2750.4 \pm 1.1) \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$.

Conclusion

The solubilities of the quaternary system $\text{RbCl}-\text{LaCl}_3-\text{HCl}(12.60\%) - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ at 298.15 K were measured, and the corresponding phase diagram was prepared to search for new compounds and obtain the equilibrium data for rubidium chloride/lanthanum chloride in aqueous solution. The composition of a new solid phase was determined by Schrienemaker's method and confirmed by chemical analysis. The compound $\text{RbLaCl}_4 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is congruently soluble in the quaternary system. Through measuring the standard molar enthalpy of solution, the standard molar enthalpy of formation of the new compound was calculated.

Comparing the reported quaternary systems $\text{RbCl}-\text{RECl}_3-\text{HCl}(\sim 13\%) - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ($\text{RE} = \text{Ce}, \text{Gd}$) with the present

quaternary system, the phase behavior for La chloride differs from Gd chloride, but the phase behaviors for La and Ce are similar.

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