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- 27 Sbacchiite, Ca₂AlF₇, a new fumarolic mineral from theVesuvius volcano, Napoli, Italy
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Abstract

The new mineral sbacchiite (IMA 2017-097), Ca₂AlF₇, was found in a fossil fumarole (1944 41 eruption, T \approx 80 °C) at the rim of the crater of the Vesuvius volcano, Napoli, Italy, associated with 42 gearsksutite, usovite, creedite and opal. It forms elongated crystals up to about 60 µm in length. On 43 the basis of PXRD measurements and chemical analysis, the mineral was recognized to be identical to 44 the corresponding synthetic phase. Crystals are transparent or translucent and colorless, with vitreous 45 lustre and white streak. The tenacity is brittle. The measured density is 3.08(2) g/cm³, the calculated 46 density is 3.116 g/cm³. The empirical formula, (based on 10 apfu) is $Ca_{2.02}Mg_{0.03}Al_{0.99}F_{6.97}$. Sbacchiite 47 is orthorhombic, space group *Pnma*, with a = 7.665(2), b = 6.993(1), c = 9.566(2) Å, V = 512.2(2) Å³ 48 and Z = 4. The eight strongest X-ray powder diffraction lines are $[d_{obs} Å(I)(hkl)]$: 3.840(45)(200), 49 3.563(85)(201), 3.499(100)(020), 2.899(55)(013), 2.750(30)(212), 2.281(20)(104), 2.255(52)(302) 50 and 2.173(36)(131). The structure, was refined to R = 0.0479 for 457 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$. The 51 asymmetric unit contains an Al³⁺ and two independent Ca²⁺ cations and five fluorine anions. Al is 52 octahedrally coordinated by six fluorine atoms; the arrangement of F around the 7-coordinated Ca(1) 53 conforms to a distorted pentagonal bipyramid and that around Ca(2) to a very distorted polyhedron 54 (C.N. 7+1). All the fluorine atoms have C.N. 3. The structure framework shows "isolated" $[AlF_6]$ 55 octahedra, whereas the coordination polyhedra around Ca are linked by common edges [sequence: 56 Ca(1)-Ca(2)-Ca(1)...] along [010] and the same holds for the connection along [001]. Along [100] 57 however only the pentagonal bipyramids around Ca(1) are connected by bridging corners. 58

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Introduction

The Somma-Vesuvius volcanic complex is one of the most studied volcanoes in the World. 63 This area is potentially very dangerous for the more than 800.000 inhabitants living on the slopes of 64 the Vesuvius and for this reason detailed studies in various fields of geology and geophysics have 65 been carried out in this region, which is subject to continuous monitoring. However little is known 66 about the mineralogical phases that have formed or are forming in the fumaroles after the last eruption 67 that occurred in 1944. The whole fumarolic area was studied by Parascandola (1951) between 1948 68 and 1960, when temperatures reached a maximum of about 800 °C in 1950, up to the 60s of the last 69 century, when temperatures settled around the 460 °C (Parascandola, 1960, 1961). No quantitative 70 information about the composition of the fumarolic fluxes at that time is reported, though the presence 71 of HCl, Cl₂ and H₂S was indicated by Parascandola. On the basis of the mineralogical phases formed 72 the presence of SO₂ and HF was nevertheless conceivable. Currently, temperatures of the fumaroles at 73 74 eastern rim of the crater are between 70° and 80 °C, and their chemistry reflects the composition of the air so that, in such conditions, there is no deposition of minerals. On the contrary, the chemical 75 composition of the fumaroles of the crater bottom is of hydrothermal type with the typical presence of 76 H₂S (Chiodini *et al.*, 2001). We report here the description of the new mineral sbacchiite, Ca₂AlF₇ 77 recently discovered in a fumarole at the rim of the crater, that was recognized, on the basis of XRPD 78 measurements and chemical analysis, to be identical to the corresponding Ca₂AlF₇ synthetic phase 79 (Domsele & Hoppe, 1980). The mineral and its name were approved by the IMA Commission on 80 New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (IMA. 2017-097). Sbacchiite is pronounced "sbaki-81 ite" and named after Dr. Massimo Sbacchi (b. 1958, -), biologist and mineral collector, for his long-82 time field collaboration on fumarolic minerals and for his continuous supply of interesting material 83 for study. A specimen of the holotype material is deposited in the Reference Collection of the 84 Dipartimento di Chimica, Università degli Studi di Milano, catalogue number 2017-01 and a co-type 85 specimen in the collection of the Museum of Osservatorio Vesuviano (Ercolano, Napoli), catalogue 86 number 2018-01. 87

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Occurrence

The new mineral sbacchiite was found in a fossil fumarole at the eastern rim of the crater in 91 92 the so-called "cotunnite pit" (latitude 40° 49' 21.98" N, longitude 14° 25' 43.66" E), where other rare minerals were also discovered such as artroeite Pb[AlF₃(OH)₂] (Campostrini & Gramaccioli 2005), 93 ammineite [CuCl₂(NH₃)₂] (Russo & Campostrini, 2011), fluornatrocoulsellite CaNa₃AlMg₃F₁₄ (Russo 94 et al. 2014), and parascandolaite KMgF₃ (Demartin et al. 2014). The formation of sbacchiite certainly 95 took place between 1948-1960 or shortly thereafter (see below). It is not a real sublimate, but rather a 96 high temperature encrustation, as HF attacked the rock extracting aluminum and calcium. The mineral 97 is extremely rare and was found in one specimen only of approximate diameter 7 cm, that was 98 trimmed into five smaller samples. It forms small aggregates of crystals up to about 60 µm in length, 99 with a very steep bipyramidal habit, elongated along [100] and truncated by the (100) pinacoid 100 (Figures 1-2). Associated minerals are gearsksutite, usovite, creedite and opal. 101

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Physical and optical properties

Crystals of sbacchiite are transparent or translucent and colorless, with vitreous lustre and 104 white streak. The tenacity is brittle. No distinct cleavage is observed. The mineral does not fluoresce 105 in long- or short-wave ultraviolet light. No twinning is apparent. The density, measured by flotation in 106 a diiodomethane/benzene solution is 3.08(2) g/cm³, that calculated using the empirical formula and 107 unit-cell data is 3.116 g/cm³. Due to the minute size of the crystals the Mohs hardness could not be 108 determined. Optically, sbacchite is biaxial (+), with $\alpha = 1.379(4)$, $\beta = 1.384(4)$, $\gamma = 1.390(4)$ 109 (measured in white light). The 2V measured on a spindle stage is $83(2)^\circ$; the calculated 2V is 85.1. The 110 mean refractive index is 1.384, that predicted using the empirical electronic polarizabilities of ions 111 (Shannon & Fisher, 2016), is 1.382. 112

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Chemical Analysis

Ouantitative chemical analyses (10) were carried out in EDS mode using a JEOL JSM 5500 LV 116 scanning electron microscope equipped with an IXRF EDS 2000 microprobe (20 kV excitation 117 voltage, 10 pA beam current, 2 µm beam diameter). This analytical method was chosen because 118 crystal intergrowths did not take a good polish and was impossible to prepare a flat polished sample; 119 moreover the crystals are severely damaged by using the WDS technique, even with a low voltage and 120 current and a large diameter of the electron beam. In this case, as reported by Ruste (1979) and 121 Acquafredda & Paglionico (2004), the EDS detector gives more accurate analyses of small volumes 122 of investigated sample also with a probe current lower than 1 nA. This method gives good results also 123 when collecting X-rays emitted from a non perfectly flat surface of the specimen. X-ray intensities 124 were converted to wt% by ZAF quantitative analysis software. The standards employed were: fluorite 125 for Ca and F and spinel for Al and Mg. Element concentrations were measured using the $K\alpha$ lines. 126 The mean analytical results are reported in Table 1. No amounts of other elements above 0.1 wt% 127 were detected. The empirical formula (based on 10 *apfu*) is: $(Ca_{2.02}Mg_{0.03})_{\Sigma 2.05} Al_{0.99}F_{6.97}$ 128

129 The simplified formula is Ca₂AlF₇, which requires 55.38 F, 11.24 Al and 33.38 Ca (wt%).

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X-ray crystallography and crystal structure determination

The X-ray powder-diffraction pattern (Table 2), obtained using a conventional Bruker D8 diffractometer, with graphite monochromatized Cu*K* α radiation, is in good agreement with that of the synthetic phase. The unit cell parameters refined from powder data using the UNITCELL software (Holland & Redfern, 1997) are a = 7.674(1) Å, b = 6.996(1) Å, c = 9.553(1) Å, V = 512.9(1) Å³.

From a needle-shaped crystal fragment (approximately $0.05 \times 0.01 \times 0.01 \text{ mm}$) 3655 diffracted intensities, corresponding to a complete scan of the reciprocal lattice up to $2\theta = 53.88^{\circ}$, were collected at room temperature using a Bruker Apex II diffractometer, equipped with a 2K CCD detector and MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). A 90 seconds frame-time and a 0.5 ° frame width were used. The intensity data were reduced using the program *SAINT* (Bruker, 2001), and corrected for Lorentz,

polarization and background. An absorption correction ($\mu = 2.47 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, $T_{\min} = 0.735$) was applied using the *SADABS* program (Sheldrick, 2000). Starting from the atomic positions reported by Domsele & Hoppe (1980), the structure was refined anisotropically with the *SHELXL-2017* program (Sheldrick, 2015), implemented in the WinGX program (Farrugia, 1999). The refinement converged to a final R = 0.0479 for 457 observed reflections [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]. Details about the data collection and refinement are summarized in Table 3. Final atom coordinates and anisotropic displacement parameters are reported in Table 4. Selected interatomic distances are reported in Table 5.

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Description of the crystal structure and discussion

Perspective views of the crystal structure of sbacchiite are reported in Figures 3 - 4. The asymmetric 151 unit contains one Al^{3+} and two independent Ca^{2+} cations and five fluorine anions. All is octahedrally 152 coordinated by six fluorine atoms with Al-F distances in the range 1.768(4)-1.812(2) Å. The 153 154 arrangement of F around Ca(1) (Figure 5) conforms to a distorted pentagonal bipyramid (C.N. 7; Ca-F distances in the range 2.224(4)-2.392(2)Å), similar to that observed in jakobssonite CaAlF₅ (Balić-155 Žunić et al. 2012) and that around Ca(2) to a very distorted polyhedron (C.N. 7+1 Ca-F distances in 156 the range 2.262(4)-3.004(4) Å). All the fluorine atoms have C.N. 3, F(1), F(2) and F(3) are 157 surrounded by three cations in a plane whereas, in case of F(4) and more pronounced for F(5), the 158 anions are slightly out of plane. The bond-valence analysis (Table 6) confirms the crystal-chemical 159 soundness of the crystal structure and the expected values for the valence of the Ca^{2+} , Al^{3+} and F⁻ ions. 160 The whole structure framework is made up of linkages of "isolated" [AlF₆] octahedra, [CaF₇] and 161 [CaF₈] polyhedra. "Isolated" [AlF₆] octahedra have also been observed in carlhintzeite Ca₂AlF₇·H₂O 162 (Kampf et al., 2010), where two independent Al³⁺ cations are present but with a different 163 environment. In carlhintzeite, one Al octahedron is face-sharing of two opposite faces with two Ca 164 polyhedra and the other one is edge-sharing two opposite F-F edges: In sbacchiite, only one face is 165 shared with the adjacent Ca(2) polyhedron and on the opposite side an edge and a corner of the same 166 face are shared with two adjacent Ca(1) polyhedra (Figure 6). The structure of jakobssonite, CaAlF₅ 167

contains instead vertex-sharing chains of $[AlF_6]$ octahedra, interconnected by chains of $[CaF_7]$ pentagonal bipyramids. In the other minerals with similar chemical constituents, whose structure is known *i.e.* gearksutite CaAlF₄(OH)·H₂O (Marchetti & Perchiazzi, 2000) and prosopite CaAl₂F₄(OH)₄ (Giacovazzo & Menchetti, 1969; Pudovnika *et al.* 1973), the Al octahedra are not isolated but arranged as edge-sharing dimers for the former or as edge-sharing chains for the latter.

In sbacchiite, the coordination polyhedra around Ca are linked by common edges in the sequence Ca(1)-Ca(2)-Ca(1)... along [010] and the same holds for the connection along [001]. Along [100] only the pentagonal bipyramids around Ca(1) are connected by bridging corners. In carlhintzeite all the Ca cations are instead 8-coordinated, and their linkage can be envisioned as a framework in which edge-sharing chains along [010] are cross-linked by edge sharing.

As already observed in carlhintzeite and gearksutite the distortion from the idealized geometry in the 178 Ca polyhedra is clearly related to the way in which these polyhedra are linked. The lengths of their 179 180 $F^{...}F$ edges can be correlated with their linkages to the [AlF₆] octahedra and to the other Ca polyhedra, the shortest $F^{...}F$ edges corresponding to those shared with the [AlF₆] octahedra. It is interesting to 181 182 point out that in sbacchiite, prosopite gearksutite and carlhintzeite the direction of the chains made by the Ca polyhedral determines a comparable unit-cell parameter. The chains in prosopite and 183 gearsksutite are parallel to the c cell parameter and correspond to cell parameters of 7.32 and 6.978(1)184 Å, respectively. In carlhintzeite the chain direction is parallel to the b unit cell parameter of 6.9670(5)185 Å, and for sbacchiite the corresponding value is 6.993(1) Å. 186

The discovery of sbacchiite in the fumaroles related to the 1944 eruption adds a new piece to the knowledge of the products formed when temperatures were higher than today, and confirms that fluorides deriving from reaction of HF with the surrounding rocks were the most common phases deposited. Formation of opal, which normally encrusts most of the occurring minerals and derives from leaching of the rock-forming silica and silicates, seems to be the last stage of a solid phase deposition. At present only water vapor is the main constituent of the fumarolic gases and formation of other mineral species is not observed.

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- 198 199

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262	Figure 2. SEM-BSE image of sbacchiite crystals
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264 265	Figure 4. View of the crystal structure of sbacchiite along. [010]
266	Figure 5. The coordination polyhedron of the Ca^{2+} cations
267	Figure 6. The environment of the Al site
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Constituent	Mean	Range	Stand. Dev.	Probe Standard
F	54.67	54.06-55.22	0.51	Fluorite
Al	10.97	10.78-11.14	0.10	Spinel
Ca	33.41	32.98-34.57	0.32	Fluorite
Mg	0.26	0.17-0.30	0.05	Spinel
Total	99.31			

Table 1. Analytical data (in wt%) for sbacchite (average of 10 analyses)

274 The empirical formula (based on 10 *apfu*) is: $(Ca_{2.02}Mg_{0.03})_{\Sigma 2.05} Al_{0.99}F_{6.97}$

275 The simplified formula is Ca₂AlF₇, which requires 55.38 F, 11.24 Al and 33.38 Ca (wt%)

Table 2. X-ray powder-diffraction data for sbacchiite and comparison with the synthetic analogue

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Sbacchiite*		Sbace	hiite**	Synthetic Ca ₂ AlF ₇ (Domsele & Hoppe, 1980)			
$d(\text{\AA})$	I/Io	$d(\text{\AA})$	I/Io	$d(\text{\AA})(\text{obs}) = d(\text{\AA}) = I/I_0$			h k l
(calc.)	(calc.)	(obs)	(obs)	<i>u</i> (11) (005.)	(calc)	(obs)	
(curci)	(curci)	(005.)	(005.)		(eurer)	(005.)	
5.982	5	5.986	6	5.9910	5.9871	7	101
4.546	3	4.550	2	4.5483	4.5493	3	111
3.833	38	3.840	45	3.8412	3.8426	40	200
3.558	72	3.563	85	3.5651	3.5648	90	201
3.497	100	3.499	100	3.4983	3.4989	100	020
3.361	3	3.366	5	3.3675	3.3682	3	210
3.171	10	3.174	15	3.1762	3.1764	13	211
3.018	1	3.020	2	3.0193	3.0209	3	121
2.991	8	2.990	10	2.9950	2.9935	13	202
2.944	4	2.941	3	2.9413	2.9408	3	103
2.901	46	2.899	55	2.8973	2.8974	53	013
2.823	1			2.8220	2.8223	3	022
2.750	22	2.750	30	2.7521	2.7523	33	212
2.713	8	2.710	10	2.7121	2.7111	13	113
2.649	2	2.647	5	2.6493	2.6493	7	122
2.494	2	2.495	4	2.4976	2.4971	7	221
2.468	2	2.470	5	2.4747	2.4742	7	301
2.451	6	2.449	8	2.4518	2.4513	10	203
2.391	1			2.3880	2.3873	3	004
2.328	1			2.3341	2.3327	3	311
2.313	4	2.314	5	2.3135	2.3135	7	213
2.283	17	2.281	20	2.2808	2.2798	30	104
2.263	5			2.2662	2.2660	3	031
2.253	61	2.255	52	2.2578	2.2573	50	302
2.172	23	2.173	36	2.1736	2.1735	43	131
2.029	8	2.028	10	2.0282	2.0278	13	204

* Pattern calculated on the basis of the single crystal data and structure refinement

** Experimental pattern obtained using a Bruker D8 diffractometer (Cu Kα radiation)

Table 3 Single-crystal diffraction data and refinement parameters for sbacchitte

.86	Table 3. Single-crystal	diffraction data and	l refinement parame	eters for sbacchild

Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space Group	<i>Pnma</i> (no. 62)
<i>a</i> (Å)	7.665(2)
<i>b</i> (Å)	6.993(1)
c (Å)	9.566(2)
$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	512.2(2)
Ζ	4
Radiation	ΜοΚα
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	2.47
D_{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	3.111
Reflections measured	3655
Independent reflections	590
Observed reflections [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	457
Parameters refined	55
Final <i>R</i> [$I > 2\sigma(I)$] and <i>wR</i> 2 (all data)	0.0479, 0.0863
Goof	1.157

Goof ={ $\Sigma[w(Fo^2-Fc^2)]/(n-p)$ }^{1/2} where n is the number of reflections and p is the number

of refined parameters.

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Table 4. Atomic coordinates and displacement parameters $[Ueq/U^{ij}, Å^2]$ for sbacchiite

Atom	Wyckoff letter	x/a	y/b	z/c	Ueq
Al	4 <i>c</i>	0.3088(2)	1/4	0.05621(17)	0.0075(4)
Ca1	4 <i>c</i>	0.11312(17)	1/4	0.74096(12)	0.0120(3)
Ca2	4 <i>c</i>	0.80132(16)	1/4	0.10650(12)	0.0107(3)
F1	4 <i>c</i>	0.3717(5)	1/4	0.6299(3)	0.0176(8)
F2	4 <i>c</i>	0.0297(4)	1/4	0.5084(4)	0.0142(8)
F3	4 <i>c</i>	0.0954(5)	1/4	0.1263(4)	0.0258(10)
F4	8 <i>d</i>	0.2486(3)	0.07395(3)	0.92591(2)	0.0158(6)
F5	8 <i>d</i>	0.3683(4)	0.0716(3)	0.1842(2)	0.0153(6)

					10	298
Atom	U^{11}	U^{22}	U^{33}	U^{23}	U^{13}	U^{12} 299
Al	0.0092(9)	0.0059(8)	0.0074(9)	0	0.0004(7)	0 300
Ca1	0.0128(7)	0.0109(6)	0.0122(6)	0	0.0014(5)	0 301 302
Ca2	0.0132(7)	0.0073(6)	0.0116(6)	0	-0.0033(5)	0 303
F1	0.017(2)	0.019(2)	0.016(2)	0	-0.004(2)	0 304
F2	0.008(2)	0.018(2)	0.018(2)	0	-0.005(2)	305 0 306
F3	0.011(2)	0.030(2)	0.036(2)	0	0.011(2)	0 307
F4	0.022(2)	0.008(1)	0.017(1)	-0.001(1)	-0.010(1)	$-0.001(\overset{308}{1})^{308}$
F5	0.026(2)	0.008(1)	0.012(1)	0.002(1)	-0.002(1)	309 0.001(1) 310

The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:

 $-2\pi^2 (U^{11}h^2(a^*)^2 + ... + 2U^{12}hka^*b^* + ...); U_{eq}$ according to Fischer and Tillmanns (1988).

Al-F2	1.802(4)	Al-F4 (×2)	1.812(2)
Al-F3	1.768(4)	Al-F5 (×2)	1.806(2)
<al-f></al-f>	1.801		
Ca1-F1	2.224(4)	Ca2-F1	2.325(3)
Ca1-F1	2.249(4)	Ca2-F2	2.354(4)
Ca1-F2	2.315(4)	Ca2-F3	2.262(4)
Ca1-F4 (×2)	2.392(2)	Ca2-F3	3.004(4)
Ca1-F5 (×2)	2.318(2)	Ca2-F4 (×2)	2.318(2)
<ca1-f></ca1-f>	2.315	Ca2-F5 (×2)	2.414(2)
		<ca2-f></ca2-f>	2.426

Table 5. Selected interatomic distances (Å) and angles (deg.) in sbacchiite

	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	Σc
Al		0.499	0.547	$0.485 \times 2 \rightarrow$	$0.491 \times 2 \rightarrow$	2.998
				0.485↓	0.491↓	
Ca1	0.355→	0.279		0.226×2→	0.276×2→	1.971
	0.333↓			0.226↓	0.276↓	
Ca2	0.272	0.247	0.323→	0.278×2→	0.215×2→	1.871
			0.043↓	0.278↓	0.215↓	
Σα	0.960	1.025	0.913	0.989	0.982	

Bond-valence parameters from Brown & Altermatt (1985), Brese & O'Keeffe (1991). Values are

323 expressed in valence units (vu).

Figure 1. Sbacchiite with gearksutite on volcanic breccia (base width 3 mm) 326



Figure 2. SEM-BSE image of sbacchiite crystals



³⁴³ Figure 3. View of the crystal structure of sbacchiite along [100]











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³⁶² Figure 6. The environment of the Al site

