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- 2 type phases:  $Ca_6[Ga(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$  and
- 3 Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, M=Mn, Sn
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- 10
- 11
- 12 Abstract
- 13

15 Investigations into the formation of new ettringite-type phases with a range of 16 trivalent and tetravalent cations were carried out to further study the potential this 17 structure type has to incorporate cations covering a range of ionic radii (0.53-0.69 Å). 18 We report the synthesis and structural characterisation of a new ettringite-type phase, 19  $Ca_6[Ga(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ , which was indexed in space group P31c with the 20 unit cell parameters a = 11.202(2) Å, c = 21.797(3) Å and two new thaumasite-type 21 phases  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M = Mn, Sn which were indexed in space

22	group P6 <sub>3</sub> with the unit cell parameters $a = 11.071(5)$ Å, $c = 21.156(8)$ Å and $a =$
23	11.066(1) Å, $c = 22.420(1)$ Å respectively. These new phases show the versatility of
24	the ettringite family of structures to tolerate a large range of cation sizes on the
25	octahedral M site and highlights the preference of tetravalent cations to crystallise
26	with the thaumasite structure over the ettringite structure.
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28	
29	Keywords: Ettringite; Thaumasite; X-ray Diffraction, Synchrotron.
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31	1. Introduction
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34	Ettringite, $Ca_6[AI(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2(H_2O)$ and thaumasite,
35	$Ca_3[Si(OH)_6.12H_2O](SO_4)(CO_3)$ , are minerals that occur as secondary alteration
36	phases in mafic, igneous and metamorphic rocks [1,2]. They also form in cement
37	pastes, mortars and concretes, in field structures and when made in the laboratory.
38	Ettringite forms as a hydration product of tricalcium aluminate in the presence of
39	sulphate ions in Portland cements. Thaumasite forms in ordinary and sulphate-
40	resisting Portland cements, when stored at low temperatures, in damp conditions, in
41	the presence of carbonate ions and an external supply of sulphate ions [3]. However,
42	there is one report of thaumasite forming in Portland cements in warm climates [4].

44 The chemistry of ettringite can be altered to produce thaumasite through 45 replacement of aluminium with silicon as well as replacing one of the sulphate 46 groups and two molecules of water with two carbonate groups. This allows for the more positively charged Si<sup>4+</sup> replacing Al<sup>3+</sup> [3]. Thaumasite and ettringite are also 47 structurally related; both adopt hexagonal structures, but with different space groups. 48 Ettringite crystallises in space group P31c with a = 11.224 Å, c = 21.108 Å [5,6] and 49 thaumasite crystallises in space group P6<sub>3</sub> with a = 11.04 Å, c = 10.39 Å. [7,8] Solid 50 solutions exist between these two phases, however, there are reported 51 52 discontinuities in the unit cell parameters attributed to the different space groups each of the phases crystallise in [9]. 53

54

55 The structures of ettringite and thaumasite can be described as consisting of cation 56 and anion columns. Ettringite consists of cation columns with composition  $Ca_3[AI(OH)_6.12H_2O]^{3+}$ , that run parallel to the *c* axis, with the sulphate anions and 57 remaining water molecules in channels running parallel to these columns (Fig. 1). 58 Thaumasite has a cylindrical column of composition  $Ca_3[Si(OH)_6.12H_2O]^{3+}$  that runs 59 60 parallel to the c axis, with the sulphate and carbonate anions ordered in the channels 61 between the columns, which also contain water molecules [3,7]. Thaumasite is 62 especially unusual as the tetravalent silicon ion is octahedrally co-ordinated by (OH<sup>-</sup>) 63 [1]; only one other phase is known,  $Si_2P_2O_7$ , that can form at ambient pressures with Si<sup>4+</sup> octahedrally co-ordinated [10]. 64

65

Ettringite has been shown to accommodate a wide range of both cations and anions
[11-13]. Mineral samples of ettringite can contain trace amounts of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Si<sup>4+</sup>,

substituting for the Al<sup>3+</sup> on the octahedral site [14]. The existence of minerals which contain significant amounts of Fe<sup>3+</sup> or Si<sup>4+</sup> are distinct, but related, mineral species, known as sturmanite, Ca<sub>6</sub>[(Fe<sub>0.6</sub>Al<sub>0.2</sub>Mn<sub>0.2</sub>)(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2.7</sub>[B(OH)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>0.3</sub>[B(OH)<sub>4</sub>] and charlesite, Ca<sub>6</sub>[(Al,Si)(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>[B(OH)<sub>4</sub>]<sub>2</sub>.H<sub>2</sub>O [15,16]. They also exhibit substitution of some of the sulphate groups with borate polyanions.

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74 There are two reported thaumasite-type minerals, jouravskite

75 Ca<sub>3</sub>[Mn(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O](SO<sub>4</sub>)(CO<sub>3</sub>) [17] and carraraite Ca<sub>3</sub>[Ge(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O](SO<sub>4</sub>)(CO<sub>3</sub>)

[18], which have the octahedral site, occupied by  $Si^{4+}$  in thaumasite, replaced by the

77 tetravalent cations  $Mn^{4+}$  and  $Ge^{4+}$ .

78

Synthetic studies to date have focused mainly on sulphate anion replacement in 79 80 ettringite, with reports of ettringite-type phases forming with many anions, e.g.  $NO_3$ ,  $B(OH)_4^-$ ,  $OH^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2^-}$ ,  $CrO_4^{2^-}$ ,  $CO_3^{2^-}$ ,  $CI^-$  [11,12]. Investigations into the solid solution 81 82 formation between ettringite and its carbonate analogue have been carried out [19]. 83 The lattice parameter trends indicate the two end members form partial solid solutions and there is no continuous solid solution between the end members. 84 85 These results are similar to the discontinuities in the lattice parameters found between ettringite and thaumasite end members [3,9]. 86

87

Our investigations here have focused on substitution of the Al<sup>3+</sup> site by trivalent and
tetravalent cations. We have successfully synthesised one new ettringite-type phase,
Ca<sub>6</sub>[Ga(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O](SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2(H<sub>2</sub>O) and two new thaumasite-type phases,

Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O](SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, M=Mn and Sn. During this study, ettringite, and
the reported iron analogue, Ca<sub>6</sub>[Fe(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O](SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O [20,21] were also
synthesised under the same conditions. Here we report the characterisation of the
ettringite and thaumasite type phases using both in-house techniques (powder X-ray
Diffraction and infrared spectroscopy) as well as high resolution synchrotron powder
X-Ray Diffraction, on beamline I11 at The Diamond Light Source.

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### 98 2. Experimental

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100

101 The ettringite-type phases were prepared using a variation on the saccharate method, [21] whereby a solution of  $M_2(SO_4)_3$ , M= Al<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Ga<sup>3+</sup> or MSO<sub>4</sub>, M= Mn<sup>2+</sup>, 102 Sn<sup>2+</sup> (Sigma-Aldrich 99.9% pure), was added to a solution of CaO (Sigma-Aldrich 103 104 99.9% pure) in a 6:1 (Ca:M) ratio. The CaO was heated overnight at 1000 °C, to 105 ensure the removal of water and decarbonation of any calcium carbonate, then 106 dissolved in a 10 % sugar solution (10 g of sugar in 100 ml distilled water) and mixed 107 using a magnetic stirrer. In a second beaker, the appropriate metal sulphate was 108 dissolved in 100 ml of distilled water and then added to the CaO solution. The 109 beaker was covered with parafilm and left on a stirrer plate at room temperature 110 overnight. After 24 h the solution was vacuum filtered and left in a desiccator to dry. 111 The precipitates were analysed by powder X-ray Diffraction (PXRD) and infrared 112 spectroscopy (IR).

114 PXRD data were collected on a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer in reflection 115 geometry, Cu Ka<sub>1</sub> radiation and a Braun linear position sensitive detector. Data were 116 collected over the 20 range 5-90° with a step size of 0.007° 20 and a count time of 117 1.8 s per step. NIST SRM640c silicon was added as an internal standard. Lattice 118 parameters were determined using a least squares refinement procedure, part of the 119 Stoe WinXPow software suite. IR spectra were collected on neat powders using a 120 Shimadzu FTIR 8400S Spectrophotometer with a Specac Golden Gate attachment 121 between 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

122

123 Synchrotron Radiation PXRD data were collected at room temperature on the 124 ettringite and thaumasite type phases at The Diamond Light Source (Didcot, UK), 111 125 beamline, High Resolution Powder Diffractometer [23]. The samples were mounted 126 in 0.5 mm Lindemann capilliaries and measured in Debye-Scherrer (tramsmission) 127 geometry. The data were collected over the 2  $\theta$  range 5°-150° 2  $\theta$  for 30 minutes. 128 The X-ray wavelength (0.826262 Å) and 20 zero offset were calibrated by refinement 129 of the diffraction pattern of a silicon standard (NIST SRM640c). Data were refined 130 using the refinement package Topas Academic v4 [24]. Rietveld refinement was 131 carried out for each dataset to investigate whether the samples crystallised with 132 either the ettringite or thaumasitetype structure.

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136 **3. Results** 

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139 3.1 X-ray Diffraction

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141 Fig. 2 shows the laboratory PXRD patterns of the phases formed from the above 142 synthetic procedure. Comparison to the International Center for Diffraction Data 143 Powder Diffraction File (ICDD PDF) confirmed the phases to be ettringite type (ICDD 144 No 41-1451) [5]. Synthesis of ettringite under the same experimental conditions was 145 carried out and is included on Fig. 2 for comparison purposes. Many synthetic 146 studies of the formation of ettringite are carried out under CO<sub>2</sub>-free conditions due to 147 the reported formation of CaCO<sub>3</sub> [9,11,12]. Analysis of the PXRD data showed that 148 only the Fe ettringite-type phase had a trace amount of CaCO<sub>3</sub> present, whereas all 149 other samples were found to contain only ettringite-type crystalline phases (within 150 the detection limits of the PXRD technique). This suggests that the addition of CaO 151 to a sucrose solution, to improve the solubility of CaO had also reduced and in some 152 cases prevented, the formation of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. It should be noted that the broad 153 background feature around 10° 20 may be due to the presence of amorphous gel-154 like phases that often form as pre-cursors in synthetic cement-type systems [25]. 155 Results of the lattice parameter refinements carried out on the laboratory PXRD data, 156 are shown in Table 1.

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158

#### 159 **3.2 Infrared Spectroscopy**

161 IR data were also used to confirm the phases present were ettringite type and to 162 investigate the presence of functional groups in the structures. Comparison of the IR 163 spectra of the new phases to the IR spectrum of pure ettringite shows similarities 164 suggesting the phases formed are ettringite (Fig. 3). The broad band at 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup> is 165 indicative of the water vibrations in the channel of the structure (Fig.1), the stretch in the region 1100 cm<sup>-1</sup> is characteristic of the presence of sulphate groups and the 166 band in the region 1400 cm<sup>-1</sup> would indicate the presence of the  $CO_3^{2-}$  group [26,27]. 167 168 The IR spectrum of CaCO<sub>3</sub> is included for comparison. 169

## 170 **3.3 Rietveld refinement of synchrotron PXRD data**

171

Initial analysis of the high resolution PXRD data collected on beamline I11 showed
that the AI and Fe substituted ettringite samples and the thaumasite-type samples
contained impurity phases, not detected on analysis of the laboratory PXRD data.
Table 2 gives details of the phases identified to be present in each sample.

176

177 Refinement strategy

178

Full structural refinements were carried out using the Rietveld refinement method in
the refinement programme Topas Academic [24]. The initial strategy used for each
refinement was the same, whereby the background was modelled using a

182 Chebychev function and the peak shape modelled using the modified Thomson-Cox183 Hasting pseudo Voigt function with the asymmetry of low angle peaks modelled
184 using a simple axial model.

185

186 The ettringite-type phases Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O, M=AI, Fe, Ga were 187 refined using a published ettringite structural model as a starting point, with the 188 occupancy of the O19 site, the oxygen atom of the unbound water molecule in the 189 anion column (Fig. 1b), fixed at 2/3 as in the published model [6]. After refinement of 190 the background, lattice parameters and profile parameters had converged the 191 thermal parameters (beg) were then refined. Although it is more normal to refine the 192 atomic positions before the thermal parameters, after testing many different 193 strategies, this chosen one was found to produce the most stable refinements. The 194 thermal parameters of the O sites were then constrained in sets to give stable 195 refinements; O1-O4 (O sites co-ordinated to the M cation), O5-O12 (O sites co-196 ordinated to just the Ca sites) and O13-O18, (O sites co-ordinated to the S sites), 197 and the thermal parameters of the S sites were also constrained. The atomic 198 positions were then refined and finally all variable parameters were allowed to refine 199 until the least squares refinement converged. In the case of the Ga sample, all 200 constraints on the thermal parameters could be removed, but for the Al and Fe 201 samples this was not possible. The sulphate anions in both the Al and Fe 202 substituted samples were especially problematic to refine and give reasonable 203 calculated S-O bond lengths and beq. Therefore the positional parameters were 204 fixed to those of the structural model [6].

205

Refinement of the thaumasite phases,  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M = Mn, Sn, were carried out using a published structural model as a starting point [8]. The initial refinement strategy was the same as for the ettringite phases and constraints were placed on the O thermal parameters. In general, for both thaumasite phases, a stable refinement of the carbonate and sulphate anions was not acheived and in both cases, the C and S thermal parameters were fixed at 1. More reasonable C-O and S-O bond lengths were produced using this strategy.

213

214 Refinement of  $Ca_6[AI(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ 

215 The ettringite sample,  $Ca_6[AI(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$  was found to be multiphase,

216 (Table 2), therefore a multiphase Rietveld refinement was carried out. The final

217 observed-calculated and difference profiles (Fig. ESI 1) and the refined atomic

218 positions and thermal parameters (Table ESI 1) are provided as electronic

supplementary information and the calculated bond lengths are shown in Table 3.

220

221 Refinement of Ca<sub>6</sub>[Fe(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O

The Fe substituted ettringite phase  $Ca_6[Fe(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$  was also found to have impurity phases present (Table 2) and therefore a multiphase Rietveld refinement of these data was carried out. To allow a stable refinement, the constraints on the thermal parameters, as indicated in the refinement strategy, were introduced as well as fixing the atomic co-ordinates of the position O19. The final observed, calculated and difference profile (Fig. ESI 2) and the refined atomic

- positions and thermal parameters (Table ESI 2) are provided as electronic
- supplementary information and the calculated bond lengths are given in Table 3.

231

232 Refinement of  $Ca_6[Ga(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ 

The Ga substituted ettringite phase, Ca<sub>6</sub>[Ga(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O was found to be phase pure and refinement of this dataset produced a very stable refinement, whereby all parameters could be refined and no constraints were required. The final observed, calculated and difference plots (Figure ESI 3) and the refined atomic positions and thermal parameters (Table ESI 3) are provided as electronic supplementary information and the calculated bond lengths are presented in Table 3.

239

240 Refinement of Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, M=Mn, Sn

241 The Sn and Mn compounds had the targeted compositions

242  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O,M = Mn, Sn.$  However, both were determined to 243 contain carbonate units as shown by IR (Fig. 3, band at ~1400 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the PXRD 244 data could be refined on a smaller unit cell, related to that of thaumasite (Table 1). 245 The composition is therefore proposed to be similar to that of thaumasite 246  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M=Mn, Sn. The Sn and Mn thaumasite-type 247 phases were shown to contain an impurity phase, that has yet to be identified and 248 therefore single phase Rietveld refinements were carried out. In both refinements it 249 was difficult to achieve a stable refinement of the sulphate and carbonate anions and constraints on the O sites were introduced, which included fixing the thermal 250

parameter of the O5 site at 1 during refinement of the Sn phase. The thermal parameter of the C1 site was fixed at 1 during the refinement of both the thaumasite phases and the thermal parameter of the S1 site was fixed at 1 during refinement of the Sn phase. To produce a stable refinement of the Mn-thaumasite phase, the atomic positions of the S1 and C1 sites were fixed at the values given in the starting model [8].

257

258 The final observed, calculated and difference profiles for the Mn-substituted 259 thaumasite phase  $Ca_6[Mn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , (Fig. ESI 4) and the refined 260 atomic positions and thermal parameters (Table ESI 4) are provided as 261 supplementary electronic information and the calculated bond lengths are presented 262 in Table 4. The observed, calculated and difference profiles from refinement of the 263 data collected on the Sn-thaumasite phase  $Ca_6[Sn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , are 264 shown (Fig. ESI 5) and the refined atomic position and thermal parameters (Table 265 ESI 5) are presented as electronic supplementary information and the calculated 266 bond lengths are shown in Table 4.

267

268 Bond Valence Analysis

269 Using the calculated bond lengths for each of the ettringite and thaumasite phases,

bond valence analysis was carried out [28]. Table 5 presents the valences

271 determined for each of the cations in all of the investigated phases.

272

### 275 **4. Discussion**

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277 Laboratory PXRD data, IR data and refinement of the synchrotron PXRD data 278 confirmed the compositions Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O, M=AI, Fe, Ga 279 crystallised with an ettringite-type structure. Only the Ga substituted compound was 280 found to be single phase whereas the AI and Fe substituted phases had impurities 281 present (Table 2). The IR spectrum of the Fe substituted phase has a strong band at 1415 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicating the presence of a  $CO_3^{2-}$  ion (Fig. 3); this confirms the result from 282 283 analysis of the PXRD datasets (both laboratory and synchrotron) which show a trace 284 amount of CaCO<sub>3</sub> to be present. The other impurity phases identified on analysis of 285 the synchrotron PXRD data may be due to the degradation of the samples, given the 286 time period between synthesis of the samples and data collection on beamline I11 (2 287 months).

288

289 The Mn and Sn substituted compounds were synthesised under the same conditions 290 as the ettringite-type phases. The PXRD data when compared to the standard 291 ettringite pattern exhibited shifts in 2  $\theta$  positions, as expected due to the different 292 ionic radii of the cations occupying the octahedral site. However, there were notable 293 missing key reflections associated with an ettringite-type diffraction pattern. Fig. 4 294 highlights an expanded range of PXRD data with the hkl indices marked on the 295 reflections for ettringite; the 002, 101, 103 and 104 are absent. This, along with 296 other absent reflections for an ettringite-type structure at higher 20 values (not

297 shown here) suggested that the Mn and Sn phases were thaumasite-type structures. 298 The IR spectra for the Mn and Sn compounds clearly showed the presence of a carbonate group at ~1375 cm-<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 3). Analysis of the PXRD data (both lab and 299 300 synchrotron) found no evidence for the presence of CaCO<sub>3</sub> in quantities detectable 301 by PXRD. As the syntheses were carried out in air, we propose that CO<sub>2</sub> from the 302 atmosphere has dissolved into the solutions during synthesis and suggest this is the 303 source of the carbonate ions. We therefore conclude the carbonate is likely to be 304 structurally incorporated in the Sn and Mn compounds, rather than present as a 305 separate impurity phase. Structural refinement of the synchrotron PXRD data using 306 a thaumasite model confirmed both the Sn and Mn substituted compounds 307 crystallise with a thaumasite-type structure.

308

The Mn-substituted phase is a synthetic analogue of the mineral jouravskite and the oxidation state of the Mn in jouravskite is suggested to be 4+ [17]. We therefore suggest the Mn in the synthetic jouravskite phase is also tetravalent. This study suggests that when sources of Ca ions and sulphate anions are in the presence of tetravalent metal cations, thaumasite rather than ettringite-type phases are formed incorporating carbonate into the structure to balance the extra positive charge of the octahedral cation (tetravalent versus trivalent in ettringite).

316

The refined unit cell parameters for all the ettringite and thaumasite type phases are plotted against the ionic radii for the octahedral cations and presented in Fig. 5. Included for comparison are the published lattice parameters for ettringite and thaumasite [5,7]. The *c* parameters for all the thaumasite type-phases have been

321 doubled for comparison. This plot shows that as the ionic radii of the octahedral 322 cations increase, the *c* parameter also increases. The refined *a* unit cell parameter 323 shows two trends depending on whether the structure is ettringite or thaumasite-type. 324 The ettringite-type structures (M=AI, Ga, Fe) show a decrease in a as the ionic radii 325 increase. Whereas the refined a unit cell parameters for the thaumasite-type phases 326 are clustered and are shorter than those of the ettringite-type compounds. This is 327 further evidence that the Mn and Sn phases have a thaumasite-type structure and 328 fits well with previous work on thaumasite-ettringite solid solutions where the a 329 parameters of thaumasite members are in the range 11.054-11.11 Å [3,9].

330

331 Structural refinements of the synchrotron PXRD data were only possible through 332 introduction of constraints on the thermal parameters and, in some cases, the atomic 333 positions, as highlighted in the results section. Refinement of the ettringite sample 334 proved to be rather problematic, which was partly due to the data quality, asthe 335 sample was found to be multiphase containing three crystalline impurity phases 336 (Table 2) and a suspected amorphous phase, present as a hump in the dataset 337 around 11° 20. Gypsum (CaSO<sub>4</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O) is a common degradation product of natural 338 ettringite minerals and this phase was found to be present in the sample. It is likely 339 the sample has degraded between being synthesised and data collection on I11 as 340 the impurity phases were not observed on analysis of the laboratory PXRD data.

341

Analysis of the bond lengths shows the Al-O and Ca-O to be within acceptable
ranges for such polyhedra, which is confirmed by the bond valence analysis (Table
5). The fixed sulphate units have good bond lengths, but the thermal parameters

refine to rather high values. This suggests there are issues with the sulphate anions
in this structure and it is thought to be due to disorder within the anion column.
Further analysis of low temperature data is required to resolve this.

348

349 Refinement of data collected on the Fe substituted sample also produced high 350 thermal parameters of the O atoms which bond to the sulphur atoms, again indicating that there is possible disorder in the anion column. The other issue with 351 352 this refinement is the highly disordered nature of the Fe1 octahedra, with very short Fe1-O2 bond lengths. Initially it was assumed the Fe<sup>3+</sup> may be in the high spin state 353 354 introducing a Jahn-Teller distortion of the Fe1 octahedra; this was not replicated by 355 the Fe2 octahedra, which is much more regular. Again, further analysis of low 356 temperature synchrotron data is required to try and resolve these issues.

357

358 The Ga substituted sample was shown to be single phase and highly crystalline. 359 Refinement of the data collected on this sample was very stable and all constraints 360 could be lifted. The thermal parameters of certain O sites have large errors and this 361 is especially the case for the sulphate anions. Bond valence analysis shows that the 362 Ga and Ca valences are close to their ideal values, but the sulphur ions deviate a lot 363 from the expected 6+. The bond lengths between the S and O atoms of the sulphate 364 anions are somewhat longer than the reported bond lengths for ettringite, but the unit cell is larger and again it is likely that the anion columns are highly disordered. 365

366

367 Refinement of the datasets collected on the thaumasite-type phases,

368  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M=Mn, Sn, were carried out using the constraints 369 as detailed in the results section. The Mn-substituted phase has calculated Mn-O 370 and Ca-O bond lengths that are acceptable, which is reinforced by the bond valence 371 analysis (Table 5). Refined parameters from the thaumasite composition 372  $Ca_6[Sn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$  gave calculated C-O bond lengths shorter than 373 those for carbonate in the thaumasite structure and the S-O bond lengths in the 374 basal plane of the sulphate anion are longer than those calculated from the atomic 375 positions for thaumasite as given by Jacobsen et al [8]. Bond valence analysis 376 carried out from the calculated bond lengths show that the carbon atom is slightly 377 over bonded, due the short bond length but the sulphur atom is very underbonded 378 due to these long bond lengths. It is suggested that the anion columns in the 379 thaumasite-type phases are also very disordered and refinement of low temperature 380 data may allow a more stable refinement.

381

Table 6 shows details of the range of cation bond lengths and average values
determined for each of the phases investigated here. The average cation-oxygen
bond lengths are plotted as a function of M cation radius and presented in Fig. 6.
The Ca-O bond lengths show very little change as a function of M cation radius,
whereas the M-O bond lengths increase as the M cation radius increases, the S-O
and C-O bond lengths show no obvious trend as a function of M cation radius.

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393 **5. Conclusions** 

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396 Investigations into the formation of new substituted ettringite-type phases, replacing 397 the octahedral AI cation with other trivalent as well as tetravalent cations has been carried out. We have successfully synthesised ettringite, Fe-substituted ettringite 398 399 and a new Ga-substituted ettringite using a simple precipitation method, whereby a 400 sucrose solution was used to improve the solubility of CaO and attempt to inhibit the 401 formation of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. This method was only partially successful, reducing the amount 402 of calcite formed, in the case of ettringite and Fe-ettringite and inhibiting its formation 403 in the case of the Ga, Mn and Sn substituted phases. However, it is evident that 404 some CO<sub>2</sub> did dissolve into the solutions as, in the presence of tetravalent cations  $(Mn^{4+} and Sn^{4+})$ , the phases formed were thau masite-type, which have  $CO_3^{2-}$  anions 405 406 structurally incorporated. . This was confirmed through the presence of a carbonate 407 stretch in the IR spectra, not observed for the ettringite-type phases. The incorporation of carbonate into the structure allows for the more positively charged 408 tetravalent cations to replace Al<sup>3+</sup> in the ettringite structure, whereby two carbonate 409 410 anions replace one sulphate anion and two water molecules. The PXRD data were 411 also indexed with a thaumasite-type unit cell.

413 Structural refinements of all the phases were carried out through refinement of high 414 resolution synchrotron powder XRD data. This confirmed that the compositions 415  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ , M= AI, Fe and Ga crystallised with the ettringite 416 structure type and the compositions  $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M = Mn, Sn 417 crystallised with the thaumasite type structure.

418

Under laboratory conditions, the synthesis of thaumasite is a lengthy process and requires low temperatures (0-5°C) [29]. However, the formation of the Mn and Sn substituted thaumasite phases occurs at room temperature and within 24 hours. It is likely that the Mn and Sn thaumasite phases form more readily than pure thaumasite as these tetravalent cations have large ionic radii and adopt octahedral co-ordination more readily than Si<sup>4+</sup>, which is more commonly tetrahedrally co-ordinated under ambient pressures.

426

As there are still issues with the phase purity of some of the samples and to confirm the thaumasite-type phases will only form in the presence of  $CO_2$ , synthesis of all the targeted compositions under N<sub>2</sub> will be attempted. Also, to resolve the issues with some of the structural refinements, low temperature synchrotron powder XRD data has now been collected and refinement of these datasets will be used to test the hypothesis that the anion columns are highly disordered.

433

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1	Table Captions
2	
3	
4	Table 1 Refined unit cell parameters.
5	
6	Table 2 Identification of phases present from analysis of synchrotron powder XRD
7	data and weighted R value from Rietveld refinement of data.
8	
9	Table 3 Calculated Bond Lengths from Rietveld refinement of data collected on
10	ettringite-type phases; $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ , M = AI, Fe, Ga.
11	
12	Table 4 Calculated Bond Lengths from Rietveld refinement of data collected on
13	thaumasite-type phases; $Ca_6[M(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , M = Mn, Sn.
14	
15	Table 5 Cation valences determined using Bond Valence Analysis [28].
16	
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18	average value (bottom value) for each ettringite and thaumasite type phase.
19	

20	Table ESI1 Refined atomic positions and thermal parameters of
21	$Ca_{6}[AI(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$ , * parameters fixed at values from cif file.
22	
23	Table ESI2 Refined atomic positions and thermal parameters of
24	$Ca_{6}[Fe(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$ , * parameters fixed at values from cif file.
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27	$Ca_{6}[Ga(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$ , * parameters fixed at values from cif file.
28	
29	Table ESR4 Refined atomic positions and thermal parameters of
30	$Ca_6[Mn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , * parameters fixed at values from cif file.
31	
32	Table ESR5 Refined atomic positions and thermal parameters of
33	$Ca_6[Sn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ , * parameters fixed at values from cif file.
34	

36	Figure Captions
37	
38	
39	Fig.1 (a) ab projection of ettringite: Al(OH) <sub>6</sub> purple, $SO_4^{2-}$ yellow, Ca blue, O pink (b).
40	Projection of ettringite down [11-20].
41	
42	Fig.2 Powder XRD patterns of ettringite-type phases.
43	
44	Fig.3 IR spectra of ettringite-type phases, red AI, yellow Fe, purple Ga, green Mn,
45	blue Sn and grey CaCO <sub>3.</sub>
46	
47	Fig. 4 Comparison of ettringite PXRD data with PXRD data collected on thaumasite-
48	type phases.
49	
50	Fig. 5 Refined lattice parameters against octahedral cation radii. (a)refined a
51	parameter, ■, published ettringite <i>a</i> parameter,�, [5] published thaumasite <i>a</i>
52	parameter, $(7]$ (b) refined <i>c</i> parameter, $\land$ , published ettringite <i>c</i> parameter, , [5],
53	published thaumasite $c$ parameter, $\bullet$ , [7].
54	
55	Fig. 6 Average Cation – Oxygen Bond Lengths as a function of cation radius of
56	octahedral site ion.�Ca-O,▲M-O,●S-O, X C-O.

57	
58	
59	
60	Fig. ESI 1 Final observed (blue), calculated (red) and difference (green) profiles from
61	multiphase Rietveld refinement of $Ca_6[AI(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ .
62	
63	Fig. ESI 2 Final observed (blue), calculated (red) and difference (green) profiles from
64	multiphase Rietveld refinement of $Ca_6[Fe(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ .
65	
66	Fig. ESI 3 Final observed (blue), calculated (red) and difference (green) profiles from
67	multiphase Rietveld refinement of $Ca_6[Ga(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$ .
68	
69	Fig. ESI 4 Final observed (blue), calculated (red) and difference (green) profiles
70	from multiphase Rietveld refinement of $Ca_6[Mn(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_2(CO_3)_2$ .
71	
72	Fig. ESI 5 Final observed (blue), calculated (red) and difference (green) profiles from
73	multiphase Rietveld refinement of Ca <sub>6</sub> [Sn(OH) <sub>6</sub> .12H <sub>2</sub> O] <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> .
74	

Table 1.docx

Analogue	Cation radius (Å)	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)
AI	0.535	11.227(3)	21.466(4)
Mn <sup>a</sup>	0.53	11.071(5)	21.156(8)
Ga	0.62	11.202(2)	21.797(3)
Fe	0.645	11.162(3)	22.04(1)
Sn <sup>a</sup>	0.69	11.066(1)	22.420(1)

<sup>a</sup> Refined on thaumasite-type cell in space group . *c* parameter doubled for comparison to ettringite cell.

Composition	Phases present	Rwp
$Ca_{6}[AI(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$	Ca <sub>6</sub> [Al(OH) <sub>6</sub> .12H <sub>2</sub> O] <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> .2H <sub>2</sub> O +	8.060
	$CaSO_{4.}2H_{2}O + Al_{2}(SO_{4})_{3.}8H_{2}O +$	
	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Ca <sub>6</sub> [Fe(OH) <sub>6</sub> .12H <sub>2</sub> O] <sub>2</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> .2H <sub>2</sub> O	$Ca_{6}[Fe(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O +$	11.724
	$CaSO_{4.}2H_{2}O + CaSO_{4.}0.5H_{2}O +$	
	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
$Ca_{6}[Ga(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$	$Ca_{6}[Ga(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{3}.2H_{2}O$	10.197
$Ca_{6}[Mn(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{2}(CO_{3})_{2}$	$Ca_{6}[Mn(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{2}(CO_{3})_{2} +$	7.005
	unknown impurity phase	
$Ca_{6}[Sn(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{2}(CO_{3})_{2}$	$Ca_{6}[Sn(OH)_{6}.12H_{2}O]_{2}(SO_{4})_{2}(CO_{3})_{2}+$	10.195
	unknown impurity phase	

Cation	O site	AI	Fe	Ga
M1	O1	1.95(4) x3	2.10(6) x3	1.98(5) x3
	02	1.85(4) x3	1.67(7) x3	1.95(5) x3
M2	O3	2.02(3) x3	1.90(6) x3	1.97(5) x3
	O4	1.81(4) x3	2.43(6) x3	1.96(5) x3
Ca2	O1	2.40(4)	2.42(6)	2.41(5)
	O1	2.50(4)	2.59(6)	2.50(5)
	O3	2.34(4)	2.49(6)	2.42(5)
	O3	2.54(4)	2.54(6)	2.49(5)
	O6	2.51(5)	2.09(7)	2.43(5)
	O8	2.38(5)	2.6(7)	2.52(5)
	O10	2.58(3)	2.27(4)	2.46(4)
	O12	2.51(3)	2.85(3)	2.69(4)
Ca2	O2	2.46(4)	2.20(6)	2.36(5)
	O2	2.49(5)	2.45(5)	2.47(4)
	O4	2.45(4)	2.42(7)	2.47(6)
	O4	2.46(4)	2.66(6)	2.51(5)
	O5	2.60(5)	2.49(7)	2.28(5)
	07	2.45(6)	2.67(7)	2.63(5)
	O9	2.71(3)	2.72(3)	2.75(2)
	O11	2.76(3)	2.87(2)	2.71(3)
S1	O13	1.72(7)	1.55(1)	1.49(11)
	O16	1.58(2) x3	1.48(6) x3	1.54(5) x3
S2	O14	1.42(8)	1.18(1)	1.42(7)
	O17	1.86(4 )x3	1.51(5) x3	1.67(3) x3

S3	O15	1.59(7)	1.58(1)	1.58(9)
	O18	1.41(2) x3	1.80(6) x3	1.51(3) x3

Cation	O site	Mn	Sn
M1	07	1.94(3) x3	2.16(2) x3
	O8	1.91(3) x3	1.89(2) x3
Ca1	O1	2.49(3)	2.48(2)
	O2	2.53(3)	2.56(2)
	O3	2.32(3)	2.42(3)
	O4	2.48(3)	2.51(3)
	07	2.68(4)	2.57(3)
	07	2.73(4)	2.66(3)
	O8	2.22(4)	2.40(3)
	O8	2.23(4)	2.45(3)
S1	O6	1.70(2) x3	1.72(2) x3
	O9	1.47(3)	1.45(4)
C1	O5	1.29 x3 (fixed)	1.24(2) x3

Octahedral	M1	M2	Ca1	Ca2	S1	S2	<b>S</b> 3	C1
cation								
<b>AI</b> [5]	3.23	3.33	2.34	2.01	5.82	5.92	5.9	
AI	2.69	3.24	1.82	2.13	5.84	5.87	5.84	
Fe	4.15	2.81	2.17	2.07	5.71	5.83	5.67	
Ga	3.18	3.18	1.99	1.94	5.2	4.39	5.2	
Mn	3.77		2.36		3.96			3.93
Sn	4.63		1.91		3.9			4.5

	AI	Fe	Ga	Mn	Sn
Ca1-O	2.38-2.78	2.31-2.92	2.41-2.69	2.22-2.73	2.40-2.66
	2.54	2.52	2.49	2.46	2.51
Ca2-O	2.33-2.62	2.32-2.79	2.36-2.75		
	2.47	2.51	2.52		
M1-O	1.82-2.05	1.73-2.2	1.95-1.98	1.91-1.94	1.89-2.16
	1.94	1.97	1.97	1.93	2.03
M2-0	1.74-2.00	2.01-2.07	1.96-1.97		
	1.87	2.04	1.97		
S1-0	1.44-1.50	1.47-1.50	1.49-1.54	1.47-1.70	1.45-1.72
	1.49	1.49	1.53	1.64	1.65
S2-O	1.46-1.49	1.48-1.50	1.42-1.67		
	1.48	1.5	1.61		
S3-O	1.44-1.50	1.28-1.50	1.51-1.58		
	1.49	1.5	1.53		
C1-O				1.29	1.24
				1.29	1.24

site	Х	У	Z	occupancy	beq
Al1	0	0	0	1	1.4(4)
Al2	0	0	0.25	1	0.9(4)
Ca1	0.002(1)	0.812(1)	0.8697(8)	1	1.6(2)
Ca2	0.997(1)	0.191(1)	0.1195(8)	1	1.5(2)
01	1.004(3)	0.153(2)	0.938(1)	1	1.67(8)
02	0.001(4)	0.862(3)	0.050(1)	1	1.67(8)
O3	1.001(2)	0.133(2)	0.793(1)	1	1.67(8)
O4	-0.001(3)	0.876(2)	0.186(2)	1	1.67(8)
O5	1.008(3)	0.345(3)	0.044(2)	1	1.67(8)
06	0.006(2)	0.645(2)	0.950(1)	1	1.67(8)
07	0.012(2)	0.360(2)	0.197(1)	1	1.67(8)
08	0.988(2)	0.644(2)	0.778(1)	1	1.67(8)
O9	0.236(2)	0.394(2)	0.621(1)	1	1.67(8)
O10	0.726(2)	0.620(2)	0.369(1)	1	1.67(8)
O11	0.248(2)	0.400(2)	0.134(1)	1	1.67(8)
012	0.751(2)	0.589(2)	0.852(1)	1	1.67(8)
O13	0.33333	0.66667	0.425*	1	8.5(2)
O14	0.33333	0.66667	0.819*	1	8.5(2)
O15	0.33333	0.66667	0.076	1	8.5(2)
O16	0.195	0.628	0.519	1	8.5(2)
017	0.195*	0.620*	0.724*	1	8.5(2)
O18	0.192*	0.585*	0.982*	1	8.5(2)
O19	0.227*	0.685*	0.243*	0.667	1.6(1)
S1	0.33333	0.66667	0.492*	1	2.5(1)
S2	0.33333	0.66667	0.751*	1	2.5(1)
S3	0.33333	0.66667	0.009*	1	2.5(1)

site	Х	У	Z	occupancy	beq
Fe1	0	0	0.007(2)	1	1.7(4)
Fe2	0	0	0.249(1)	1	1.0(4)
Ca1	0.017(1)	0.818(1)	0.877(1)	1	1.1(4)
Ca2	0.990(2)	0.190(2)	0.122(1)	1	1.2(4)
O1	0.999(4)	0.156(3)	0.946(2)	1	1.1(2)
O2	0.012(5)	0.888(4)	0.057(2)	1	1.1(2)
O3	0.983(4)	0.132(4)	0.805(2)	1	1.1(2)
O4	0.001(4)	0.854(4)	0.191(2)	1	1.1(2)
O5	0.994(5)	0.335(5)	0.038(3)	1	2.5(2)
O6	0.004(4)	0.666(4)	0.953(2)	1	2.5(2)
07	-0.004(5)	0.353(4)	0.197(2)	1	2.5(2)
O8	0.995(4)	0.650(4)	0.789(2)	1	2.5(2)
O9	0.284(3)	0.414(3)	0.620(2)	1	2.5(2)
O10	0.767(3)	0.605(3)	0.370(2)	1	2.5(2)
O11	0.239(3)	0.411(5)	0.135(2)	1	2.5(2)
O12	0.739(4)	0.583(5)	0.860(2)	1	2.5(2)
013	0.33333	0.66667	0.425*	1	7.9(5)
O14	0.33333	0.66667	0.819*	1	7.9(5)
O15	0.33333	0.66667	0.076	1	7.9(5)
O16	0.195	0.628	0.519	1	7.9(5)
O17	0.195*	0.620*	0.724*	1	7.9(5)
O18	0.192*	0.585*	0.982*	1	7.9(5)
O19	0.209(3)	0.661(4)	0.240(2)	0.667	1.0*
S1	0.33333	0.66667	0.492*	1	2.0(2)
S2	0.33333	0.66667	0.751*	1	2.0(2)
S3	0.33333	0.66667	0.009*	1	2.0(2)

site	Х	У	Z	occupancy	beq
Ga1	0	0	0	1	1.4(2)
Ga2	0	0	0.25	1	1.0(2)
Ca1	0.006(2)	0.811(2)	0.876(1)	1	2.6(3)
Ca2	0.989(1)	0.189(1)	0.1228(8)	1	1.0(2)
O1	1.001(4)	0.142(5)	0.946(2)	1	1.9(9)
O2	0.000(5)	0.864(4)	0.056(2)	1	0.9(9)
O3	0.999(4)	0.138(5)	0.806(2)	1	1.4(9)
O4	0.004(5)	0.864(4)	0.195(2)	1	1.9(9)
O5	0.992(5)	0.332(5)	0.048(2)	1	2.6(9)
O6	0.003(5)	0.670(3)	0.961(2)	1	2.0(8)
07	0.013(4)	0.353(4)	0.214(2)	1	3.3(9)
08	0.991(4)	0.634(3)	0.801(2)	1	2.4(7)
O9	0.279(2)	0.412(2)	0.628(2)	1	3.0(7)
O10	0.763(3)	0.599(3)	0.376(2)	1	1.6(8)
O11	0.253(3)	0.397(3)	0.135(2)	1	3.6(1.0)
O12	0.756(4)	0.585(3)	0.861(2)	1	2.3(1.0)
O13	0.33333	0.66667	0.423(5)	1	6.5(3.2)
O14	0.33333	0.66667	0.814(2)	1	5.2(1.8)
O15	0.33333	0.66667	0.077(4)	1	4.6(2.4)
O16	0.195(4)	0.637(5)	0.520(2)	1	5.1(1.2)
017	0.177(2)	0.634(4)	0.725(2)	1	6.9(1.2)
O18	0.185(3)	0.588(4)	0.983(2)	1	4.8(1.0)
O19	0.230(3)	0.647(5)	0.247(3)	0.667	5.7(1.2)
S1	0.33333	0.66667	0.491(1)	1	1.8(1.0)
S2	0.33333	0.66667	0.749(2)	1	1.5(5)
S3	0.33333	0.66667	0.005(2)	1	2.4(9)

site	х	У	Z	occupancy	beq
Ca1	0.197(1)	0.996(2)	0.267(2)	1	3.2(2)
Mn1	0	0	0.004(2)	1	4.6(3)
C1	0.33333	0.66667	0.4623*	1	1*
S1	0.33333	0.66667	0.98382*	1	0.2(4)
O1	0.398(3)	0.234(4)	0.227(3)	1	1.4(2)
O2	0.248(3)	0.406(3)	0.252(4)	1	1.4(2)
O3	-0.014(3)	0.299(2)	0.079(2)	1	1.4(2)
O4	0.022(3)	0.361(2)	0.439(3)	1	1.4(2)
O5	0.20088	0.623	0.45809	1	1.4(2)
O6	0.174(2)	0.624(2)	0.041(2)	1	1.4(2)
07	0.152(3)	0.152(3)	0.096(3)	1	1.4(2)
O8	0.120(3)	0.118(3)	0.374(2)	1	1.4(2)
O9	0.33333	0.66667	0.845(3)	1	1.4(2)

site	Х	У	Z	occupancy	beq
Ca1	0.2104(7)	1.006(1)	0.209(2)	1	1.83(9)
Sn1	0	0	-0.044(2)	1	1.61(5)
C1	0.33333	0.66667	0.485(2)	1	1*
S1	0.33333	0.66667	0.945(2)	1	1*
O1	0.420(2)	0.240(2)	0.184(2)	1	1.4(2)
O2	0.246(2)	0.407(2)	0.208(3)	1	1.4(2)
O3	-0.024(2)	0.336(2)	0.044(2)	1	1.4(2)
O4	0.009(2)	0.345(2)	0.389(2)	1	1.4(2)
O5	0.2394(8)	0.641(2)	0.413(1)	1	1*
O6	0.172(1)	0.625(2)	0.0003(8)	1	5.6(5)
07	0.159(2)	0.158(2)	0.068(2)	1	0.7(2)
08	0.113(2)	0.120(2)	0.333(2)	1	0.7(2)
O9	0.33333	0.66667	0.816(3)	1	5.6(5)









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Ionic radius (A)



Fig 6.tif Click here to download high resolution image







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Figure Click here to download high resolution image



(elative Intensity (%)















# Highlights

- A new ettringite-type phase,  $Ca_6[Ga(OH)_6.12H_2O]_2(SO_4)_3.2H_2O$  is reported.
- Two new thaumasite phases, Ca<sub>6</sub>[M(OH)<sub>6</sub>.12H<sub>2</sub>O]<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, M = Mn, Sn are reported.
- We highlight the preference of tetravalent cations to form thaumasite-type phases.