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# Raman and infrared spectroscopic study of turquoise minerals

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## ABSTRACT

Raman and infrared spectra of three well-defined turquoise samples,  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , from Lavender Pit, Bisbee, Cochise county, Arizona; Kouroudaiko mine, Faleme river, Senegal and Lynch Station, Virginia were studied, interpreted and compared. Observed Raman and infrared bands were assigned to the stretching and bending vibrations of phosphate tetrahedra, water molecules and hydroxyl ions. Approximate O-H...O hydrogen bond lengths were inferred from the Raman and infrared spectra. No Raman and infrared bands attributable to the stretching and bending vibrations of  $(\text{PO}_3\text{OH})^{2-}$  units were observed.

**KEYWORDS:** turquoise, phosphate, hydroxyl ions, Raman spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy

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## 32 INTRODUCTION

33

34 The mineral turquoise is one of the oldest gem materials known. Its use in jewellery  
35 and for personal decoration can be traced back 70 centuries, to ancient Egypt [1,2]. Today,  
36 turquoise is popular in fine jewellery as well as in various cultures, most notably among  
37 Native Americans in the south-western United States [1,2]. The first orientation of turquoise  
38 studies allows archaeologists to investigate pre-Colombian turquoise trade structures in North  
39 America and identify or authenticate the natural sources of turquoise worldwide [3-7].  
40 Various physico-chemical characteristics of turquoise were studied together with questions of  
41 turquoise provenance especially with regard to its wealth of colours (blue, green in various  
42 shades) and further properties important for its use in jewellery [8-15]. The sources of high-  
43 quality gem turquoise are limited and because this material (due to porosity characteristic for  
44 massive aggregates) easily accepts many treatments, the majority of gem turquoise are  
45 adulterated [2, 16,17]. Detection of the extent and character of these treatments, inclusive  
46 impregnation with polymers, is a very important job especially for use of non-destructive  
47 methods [18-21].

48

49 Turquoise was one of the first gem materials to be simulated by synthetics like glass,  
50 plastic, pressed turquoise powder bonded by resin, coloured gelmagnesite or howlite [22]. At  
51 the present time, synthetic turquoise is produced by the method of Gilson [23]. A set of  
52 analytical methods, such as PXRD and EDS analysis or ATR-IR, UV-VIS-NIR and Raman  
53 spectra are used for distinguishing these artificial replacements from natural turquoise [24].  
54 Last, but not least, turquoise affected by extended exposure to sunlight and water weathered  
55 to chalky white minerals; this alteration processes are as yet, poorly understood [3-4].

56

57 Most of as yet published papers on turquoise (as mentioned above) are, however,  
58 usually, based only on one or several research methods; especially in the case of papers  
59 focused to infrared or Raman spectroscopy the data on chemical composition or values of  
60 unit-cell parameters of studied mineral phases are mostly missing. The main aim of this paper  
61 is to report the Raman and infrared spectra of three well-defined natural untreated turquoise  
62 samples from three different occurrences, and to relate the spectra to its molecular and crystal  
63 structure. Further aim of the paper is also to certify the possibility to use Raman data for the  
64 provenance of turquoise samples; this is the reason why three samples from various localities  
65 differing in morphology, colour and details in chemical composition were studied. The paper

66 follows the systematic research of the large group of oxyanions containing minerals [25-29],  
67 and especially their molecular structure using IR and Raman spectroscopy [30-36].

68

## 69 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

70

71 Triclinic mineral turquoise belongs to a turquoise group; general formula for minerals  
72 of this group may be written as  $A_{0-1}B_6(PO_4)_4(OH)_8 \cdot 4H_2O$ . Most common substituents at the A  
73 position are  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$  or vacancy; at the B position then  $Al^{3+}$  or  $Fe^{3+}$  [4,37-39].

74

75 Turquoise usually occurs as apple-green, bluish green, sky-blue or greenish gray fine  
76 granular, dense massive to cryptocrystalline aggregates, nodules, crusts or veinlets; small  
77 short columnar crystals are rare [1,40]. It has dozens of occurrences but only few produce  
78 commercial gem material or contain well-formed crystals [1,40]. Turquoise is uncommon  
79 supergene mineral formed in the oxidized zone (mainly in arid climates) of phosphorus-rich  
80 aluminous rocks (volcanic, phosphate-rich sediments, hydrothermal porphyry deposits etc.) in  
81 the presence of Cu minerals [1,40].

82

83 The unit-cell parameters of turquoise were determined by Graham [41], the first  
84 solution of its crystal structure was published by Cid-Dresdner [42]. Recently, the crystal  
85 structure of turquoise refined by Kolitsch and Giester [43]. Turquoise contains in its crystal  
86 structure  $Cu\Phi_6$  octahedra, with  $\Phi = 2 H_2O$  and  $4 OH^-$ , two  $Al\Phi_6$  octahedra with  $3 OH^-$ ,  $1 H_2O$   
87 and  $2 O^{2-}$  and one  $Al\Phi_6$  octahedron with  $4 O^{2-}$  and  $2 OH^-$ , and two symmetrically distinct  
88  $(PO_4)^{3-}$  tetrahedra [42,43]. No  $(PO_3OH)^{2-}$  units were observed in its crystal structure [4,  
89 42,43]. Only in the case of planerite,  $Al_6(PO_4)_2(PO_3OH)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ , the charge balance should be  
90 maintained by the protonation, connected with Cu-site occupancy decrease [37]. However,  
91 according to Kolitsch and Giester [43], the charge balance might be also achieved by  
92 introducing additional  $Cu^{2+}$  or other cations in the partially occupied site at  $(1/2, 0, 1/2)$ .

93

## 94 **EXPERIMENTAL**

95

### 96 **Minerals**

97

98 The studied samples of the mineral turquoise originated from three different  
99 occurrences: Lavender Pit, Bisbee, Cochise county, Arizona (labelled as A) - little greenish  
100 cryptocrystalline aggregates up to some cm in size (Fig. 1); Kouroudaiko mine, Faleme river,  
101 Senegal (labelled as S) - light greenish blue globular aggregates up to 3 mm in size in  
102 association with tiny transparent senegalite crystals (Fig. 2); Lynch Station, Virginia (labelled  
103 as V) - rich groups of transparent dark sky-blue well-formed crystals up to 2 mm in size on  
104 quartz gangue (Fig. 3).

105

106 Carefully hand-picked samples were used for X-ray powder diffraction experiments.  
107 To minimize the complicated shape of background, the samples studied were placed on a flat  
108 low-background silicon wafer. Powder XRD measurements were carried out with  $\text{CuK}\alpha$   
109 radiation at a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer (40 kV, 40 mA) in the range  $4\text{--}70^\circ 2\theta$  in the  
110 step-scan mode  $0.01^\circ/8$  s. The position and intensities of reflections were calculated using the  
111 Pearson VII profile shape function in the ZDS program package [44]. The measured patterns  
112 were indexed using unit-cell parameters and space group proposed by Kolitsch and Giester  
113 [43]. The unit-cell parameters refined from measured powder XRD using the program of  
114 Burnham [45] are compared with published data in the Table 1.

115

116 All turquoise samples were quantitatively analysed by Cameca SX 100 electron  
117 microprobe system in wavelength dispersion mode for chemical composition (Table 2).  
118 Studied sample was mounted into the epoxide resin and polished. The polished surface was  
119 coated with carbon layer  $250 \text{ \AA}$ . An acceleration voltage of 15 kV, a specimen current of 10  
120 nA, and a beam diameter of  $5 \mu\text{m}$  were used. Well-defined natural and synthetic compounds  
121 were used as standards. The raw intensities were converted to the concentrations using  
122 automatic *PAP* matrix correction software package. On the basis of  $\text{P}+\text{Si} = 4 \text{ apfu}$ , empirical  
123 formula of turquoise from Arizona may be expressed as  $(\text{Cu}_{0.90}\text{Fe}_{0.10}\text{Zn}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 1.01}\text{Al}_{6.08}$   
124  $[(\text{PO}_4)_{3.99}(\text{SiO}_4)_{0.01}]_{\Sigma 4.00}(\text{OH})_{8.24}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; from Senegal as  $(\text{Cu}_{0.63}\square_{0.29}\text{Fe}_{0.05}\text{Zn}_{0.02}\text{Ba}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 1.00}$   
125  $(\text{Al}_{5.99}\text{Fe}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 6.00}[(\text{PO}_4)_{3.71}(\text{PO}_3\text{OH})_{0.29}]_{\Sigma 4.00}(\text{OH})_{7.71}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and from Virginia as  
126  $(\text{Cu}_{1.03}\text{Fe}_{0.11}\text{Ba}_{0.02}\text{Zn}_{0.01}\text{Ca}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 1.18}(\text{Al}_{5.84}\text{Fe}_{0.16})_{\Sigma 6.00}(\text{PO}_4)_{4.00}(\text{OH})_{8.36}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

127

128

129 **Raman and infrared spectroscopy**

130

131 Fragments of aggregates and crystals of turquoise were placed on a polished metal  
132 surface on the stage of an Olympus BHSM microscope, which is equipped with 10x, 20x, and  
133 50x objectives. The microscope is part of a Renishaw 1000 Raman microscope system, which  
134 also includes a monochromator, a filter system and a CCD detector (1024 pixels). The Raman  
135 spectra were excited by a Spectra-Physics model 127 He-Ne laser producing highly polarised  
136 light at 633 nm and collected at a nominal resolution of  $2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a precision of  $\pm 1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in  
137 the range between 200 and  $4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Repeated acquisition on the crystals using the highest  
138 magnification (50x) were accumulated to improve the signal to noise ratio in the spectra.  
139 Spectra were calibrated using the  $520.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  line of a silicon wafer. Previous studies by the  
140 authors provide more details of the experimental technique. Alignment of all samples in a  
141 similar orientation has been attempted and achieved. However, differences in intensity may  
142 be observed due to minor differences in the crystal orientation.

143

144 Infrared spectra was recorded by micro diffuse reflectance method (DRIFTS) on a  
145 Nicolet Magna 760 FTIR spectrometer (range  $4000\text{-}600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , resolution  $4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , 128 scans, 2  
146 level zero-filtering, Happ-Genzel apodization), equipped with Spectra Tech InspectIR micro  
147 FTIR accessory. Sample of amount less than 0.050 mg was mixed without using pressure  
148 with KBr. Samples were immediately recorded together with the same KBr as a reference.

149

150 Spectral manipulation such as baseline correction/adjustment and smoothing were  
151 performed using the Spectracalc software package GRAMS (Galactic Industries Corporation,  
152 NH, USA). Band component analysis was undertaken using the Jandel 'Peakfit' software  
153 package that enabled the type of fitting function to be selected and allows specific parameters  
154 to be fixed or varied accordingly. Band fitting was done using a Lorentzian-Gaussian cross-  
155 product function with the minimum number of component bands used for the fitting process.  
156 The Lorentzian- Gaussian ratio was maintained at values greater than 0.7 and fitting was  
157 undertaken until reproducible results were obtained with squared correlations of  $r^2$  greater  
158 than 0.995.

159

## 160 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

161

### 162 **Crystal symmetry and vibrational spectra of turquoise**

163

164 Turquoise,  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , is triclinic, space group  $P-1 - C_i^1$ ,  $Z = 1$ . The  
165 structure consists of distorted  $\text{CuO}_6$  polyhedra,  $\text{AlO}_6$  octahedra and  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra. By edge-  
166 and corner-sharing of these polyhedra a fairly dense three-dimensional framework is formed  
167 which is further strengthened by a system of hydrogen bonds [43].

168  
169 In the crystal structure of turquoise there are one symmetrically distinct  $\text{CuO}_6$   
170 octahedron, three structurally distinct  $\text{AlO}_6$  octahedra, two symmetrically distinct  $\text{PO}_4$   
171 tetrahedra, two structurally unequivalent water molecules and four structurally unequivalent  
172 OH units [42,43]. Tentative interpretation of infrared and Raman spectra of turquoise studied  
173 is based on factor group analysis of phosphates and water in turquoise published by Frost et  
174 al.[13] and publications by Nakamoto [46], Čejka et al. [36], Keller [47-50], Pechkovskii et  
175 al. [51], Goldsmith and Ross [52], Devamani and Alagar [53], Aguirre et al. [54], Frost et al.  
176 [13, 55] and Reddy et al. [14].

177  
178 According to Nakamoto [46], octahedral units  $\text{XY}_6$  exhibit six normal vibrations,  
179 from which  $\nu_1 (A_{1g})$  and  $\nu_2 (E_g)$  stretching and  $\nu_5 (F_{2g})$  bending vibrations are Raman active,  
180 while only  $\nu_3 (F_{1u})$  stretching and  $\nu_4 (F_{1u})$  bending vibrations are infrared active. Symmetry  
181 lowering in the case of  $\text{XY}_4\text{Z}_2$  may cause Raman and infrared activation of corresponding  
182 vibrations and also splitting of degenerate vibrations. Free  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  anion exhibits tetrahedral  
183  $T_d$  symmetry. In the case of a free ion of  $T_d$  symmetry, there are 9 normal vibrations  
184 characterized by four distinguishable modes of vibrations:  $\nu_1 (A_1)$  symmetric stretching  
185 vibration, Raman active,  $\nu_2 (\delta) (E)$  doubly degenerate bending vibration, Raman active,  $\nu_3$   
186  $(F_2)$  triply degenerate antisymmetric stretching vibration, Raman and infrared active,  $\nu_4 (\delta)$   
187  $(F_2)$  triply degenerate bending vibration, Raman and infrared active.  $T_d$  symmetry lowering  
188 may cause infrared activation of the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  vibrations and splitting of the doubly  
189 degenerate  $\nu_2$  and triply degenerate  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$  vibrations [36].

## 190 191 **Raman and infrared spectroscopy**

192  
193 Full range Raman and infrared spectra of the studied minerals from Arizona (A),  
194 Senegal (S) and Virginia (V) are given in Figs. 4a-f and their tentative assignments in Table  
195 3. These spectra show the position of the bands and their relative intensities. It is obvious that  
196 there are large parts of the spectra where little or no intensity is observed. Therefore, the

197 spectra are subdivided into sections according to the type of vibration is being investigated.  
198 In this way the precise position of the bands can be detailed. Observed wavenumbers of the  
199 Raman bands of the studied turquoise samples are close to the approximate wavenumbers  
200 inferred from the Raman spectra of RRUFF's three turquoise samples R50225, R50418 and  
201 R50554.

202  
203 Raman and infrared spectral regions of  $\nu$  OH stretching vibrations are presented in  
204 Figs. 5a-f. Raman bands at 3544, 3502, 3473 and 3450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 3527, 3506, 3471 and 3453  
205  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 3499, 3473 and 3451  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and infrared bands at 3509, 3465 and 3451  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   
206 (A), 3607, 3506, 3464, 3450 and 3447  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 3505, 3465 and 3451  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are  
207 assigned to the  $\nu$  OH stretching vibrations and assigned to the hydrogen bonded,  
208 symmetrically distinct hydroxyls  $\text{OH}^-$ . Raman bands at 3397, 3279 and 3077  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 3419,  
209 3290 and 3092  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 3410, 3273 and 3085  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V), and infrared spectra at 3431, 3269,  
210 3075 and 3067  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 3276, 3072 and 3051  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 3417, 3288 and 3058  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are  
211 attributed to the  $\nu$  OH stretching vibrations of symmetrically distinct hydrogen bonded water  
212 molecules. Very weak Raman and infrared bands at 2932, 2920 and 2934  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are probably  
213 connected with organic impurities.

214  
215 Libowitzky's empirical relation [56] enables to infer from the wavenumbers of  
216 Raman and infrared bands of minerals assigned to the  $\nu$  OH stretching vibrations  
217 approximate O-H...O hydrogen bond lengths. In the case of studied turquoise samples  
218 inferred hydrogen bond lengths vary from 2.98 to 2.67 Å. This agrees very well with X-ray  
219 single crystal structure data 2.970-2.670 Å [42] and 3.020-2.685 Å [43].

220  
221 Broad Raman bands at 1609  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1614  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 1632  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and infrared  
222 bands at 1646 and 1595  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1654 and 1587  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 1622  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are attributed to  
223 the  $\nu_2$  ( $\delta$ )  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  bending vibrations of the symmetrically distinct differently hydrogen bonded  
224 water molecules (Figs. 6a-f). Observed infrared bands at 1474  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1467  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and  
225 1513  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are assigned to overtones or combination bands.

226  
227 The Raman spectra in the 800 to 1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  spectral range and infrared spectra in the  
228 500 to 1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  spectral range are reported in Figs. 7a-f. Raman bands at 1173, 1160 and  
229 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1184, 1161 and 1104  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), and 1185, 1162 and 1105  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and infrared



230 bands and shoulders at 1195, 1158, 1103 and 1084  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1194, 1143, 1104 and 1082  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   
231 (S), and 1192, 1142, 1110 and 1092  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are connected with split triply degenerate  $\nu_3$   
232  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  antisymmetric stretching vibrations.

233 Very intense Raman bands at 1042  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1041  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 1042  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and  
234 infrared bands at 1055  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1056  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 1042  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are assigned to the  $\nu_1$   $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$   
235 symmetric stretching vibrations. Raman bands at 1065  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1064  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S) and 1065  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   
236 (V) are also related to the  $\nu_1$   $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  vibrations. Some of the Raman bands and shoulders at  
237 1004, 985 and 931  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1031, 991, 935  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 1020, 985, 942, 889  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and  
238 infrared bands and shoulders 1034, 1011, 990, 964, 899  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 1035, 1002, 948, 897  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   
239 (S), 1008, 991, 956, 897  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) may also be related to these vibrations, however more  
240 probably may be attributed to the  $\delta$  Al-OH and  $\delta$  Cu-OH bending vibrations together with the  
241 Raman bands at 815  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 836 and 815  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 811  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) and infrared bands at 835  
242  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 835  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 835  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V), while the infrared bands at 785 and 727  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 786  
243 and 722  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 784, 723  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are assigned to the librational modes of water molecules.

244 Because the character of the Raman spectra of all three studied turquoise samples in  
245 the region from 1200 to 900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is practically identical, it is very improbable that in the  
246 structure of the turquoise sample from Senegal could be present the  $(\text{PO}_3\text{OH})^{2-}$  units, as  
247 expected from the mechanism of planerite substitution proposed by Foord and Taggart [37].  
248 More distinctive is therefore the explanation of vacancy given by Kolitsch and Giester [43].

249  
250 The Raman spectra of turquoise in the 300 to 800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  spectral range are displayed in  
251 Figs. 8a-c. Raman bands and shoulders at 643, 593, 571 and 550  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 642, 592, 571 and  
252 548  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 663, 644, 629, 611, 593, 571 and 551  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are assigned to the split out-of-  
253 plane triply degenerate  $\nu_4$  ( $\delta$ )  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  bending vibrations. Some of observed bands, however,  
254 may be also connected with the Al(O,OH) bending vibrations and Cu-O stretching vibrations.  
255 Coincidence (an overlap) of the mentioned vibrations is supposed. Raman bands and  
256 shoulders at 506, 485, 471, 457, 438, 426, 417 and 387  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 511, 483, 469, 460, 437,  
257 423, 417 and 385  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 511, 498, 486, 469, 449, 437, 425, 417, 409 and 385  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V) are  
258 related to the split doubly degenerate  $\nu_2$  ( $\delta$ )  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$  bending vibrations. These bands may  
259 partly overlap with bands of Cu-O stretching vibrations and bending vibrations.

260  
261 Raman bands at 337, 321 and 303  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (A), 335, 320 and 301  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (S), 367, 339, 319  
262 and 303  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (V).- these bands may probably be related to the stretching and bending

263 vibrations of Cu-(O,OH,H<sub>2</sub>O) and Al-(O,OH,H<sub>2</sub>O). Raman bands observed in the region from  
264 300 to 100 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Figs. 9a-c) may be assigned to OCuO bending vibrations, OAIO bending  
265 vibrations and lattice vibrations.

266

## 267 **CONCLUSIONS**

268

269 1. Raman and infrared spectra of three well defined turquoise samples were recorded.

270

271 2. Observed Raman and infrared bands are tentatively interpreted and assigned to the  
272 stretching and bending vibrations of (PO<sub>4</sub>)<sup>3-</sup> tetrahedra and of vibrations of hydrogen bonded  
273 water molecules and hydroxyl ions. **No Raman and infrared bands which could be**  
274 **unambiguously attributed to the stretching and bending vibrations (PO<sub>3</sub>OH)<sup>2-</sup> were observed.**

275

276 3. Approximate O-H...O hydrogen bond lengths are inferred from observed Raman and  
277 infrared bands connected with the  $\nu$  OH stretching vibrations of water molecules and  
278 hydroxyl ions.

279

280 4. Observed Raman and infrared spectra of studied turquoise samples are very similar and  
281 comparable. **From the results may be inferred that Raman spectroscopy may be very well**  
282 **used to distinguish natural turquoise samples from possible imitations including**  
283 **impregnations of natural material. Vibrational spectra of natural turquoise samples from**  
284 **various localities possessing different morphology, colours etc. are very close. Vibrational**  
285 **spectroscopy cannot be therefore offer reliable data for the provenance determination of**  
286 **natural turquoise.**

287

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289

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297  
298

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436



437 **TABLES**

438

439 Table 1 Unit-cell parameters of turquoise samples (for triclinic space group *P*-1)

440

	Virginia	Senegal	Arizona	[43]	[39]
a [Å]	7.411 (3)	7.411 (5)	7.410 (5)	7.410(1)	7.426(8)
b [Å]	7.632 (3)	7.635 (6)	7.635 (6)	7.633(1)	7.634(8)
c [Å]	9.905 (4)	9.904 (7)	9.901 (7)	9.904(1)	9.91(1)
$\alpha$ [°]	68.43 (3)	68.46 (5)	68.43 (5)	68.42(1)	68.67(8)
$\beta$ [°]	69.65 (2)	69.64 (5)	69.63 (5)	69.65(1)	69.70(8)
$\gamma$ [°]	65.05 (3)	65.03 (5)	65.05 (5)	65.01(1)	65.01(8)
V [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	459.9 (3)	460.0 (7)	459.7 (6)	460.3(1)	461.5(9)

441

442

443 Table 2 Chemical composition of studied turquoise samples (wt. %)

444

	Virginia	Senegal	Arizona	Ideal
CaO	0.04	0.00	0.00	
FeO*	0.92	0.42	0.83	
BaO	0.37	0.21	0.00	
CuO	9.76	6.17	8.61	9.78
ZnO	0.12	0.24	0.13	
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	35.37	37.92	37.33	37.60
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> *	1.56	0.12	0.00	
SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.00	0.00	0.09	
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	33.75	35.27	34.09	34.90
H <sub>2</sub> O**	17.52	17.90	17.62	17.72
total	99.41	98.25	98.69	100.00
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.006	0.000	0.000	
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	0.108	0.047	0.095	
Ba <sup>2+</sup>	0.020	0.011	0.000	
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	1.032	0.625	0.898	
Zn <sup>2+</sup>	0.013	0.023	0.013	
$\Sigma$ Me <sup>2+</sup>	1.178	0.706	1.006	
□	0.000	0.294	0.000	
Al <sup>3+</sup>	5.835	5.987	6.078	
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	0.165	0.013	0.000	

$\Sigma \text{Me}^{3+}$	6.000	6.000	6.078
(SiO <sub>4</sub> )	0.000	0.000	0.012
(PO <sub>4</sub> )	4.000	3.706	3.988
(PO <sub>3</sub> OH)	0.000	0.294	0.000
$\Sigma \text{T}$	4.000	4.000	4.000
OH	8.356	7.706	8.236
H <sub>2</sub> O	4.00	4.00	4.00

445

446 FeO\* and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>\* contents were calculated on the basis of Me<sup>2+</sup>/Me<sup>3+</sup> cations; H<sub>2</sub>O\*\* content

447 was calculated on the basis of charge balance and ideal content of 4 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules.

448

449 Table 3 Tentative assignment of turquoise spectra

Raman			Infrared			Tentative assignment
A	S	V	A	S	V	
3544	3527			3607		} $\nu$ OH stretch of $(\text{OH})^-$
3502	3506	3499	3509	3506	3505	
3473	3471	3473	3465	3464	3465	
3450	3453	3451	3451	3450	3451	
				3447		
3397	3419	3410	3431		3417	} $\nu$ OH stretch of water molecules
3279	3290	3273	3269	3276	3288	
3077	3092	3085	3075	3072	3058	
			3067	3051		
1609	1614	1632	1646	1654	1622	} $\delta$ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ bend
			1595	1587		
			1474	1467	1513	overtones of combination bands
1173	1184	1185	1195	1194	1192	} $\nu_3$ $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$ antisymmetric stretch
1160	1161	1162	1158	1143	1142	
1105	1104	1105	1103	1104	1110	
			1084	1082	1092	
1065	1064	1065	1055	1056		} $\nu_1$ $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$ symmetric stretch
1042	1041	1042			1042	
	1031	1020	1034	1035		} $\delta$ Al-OH and/or $\delta$ Cu-OH
1004			1011	1002	1008	
985	991	985	990		991	
931	935	942	964	948	956	
	836	889	899	897	897	
815	815	811	835	835	835	
			785	786	784	} libration modes of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
			727	722	723	
		663				} $\nu_4$ $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$ bend and/or Al-(O,OH) bend and/or Cu-O stretch
643	642	644				
		629				
		611				
593	592	593				
571	571	571				
550	548	551				
506	511	511				} $\nu_2$ $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$ bend and/or Cu-O stretch and bend
		498				
485	483	486				

471 469 469  
457 460 449  
438 437 437  
426 423 425  
417 417 417  
408  
387 385 385

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367  
337 335 339  
321 320 319  
303 301 303

} Cu-(O,OH,H<sub>2</sub>O) and Al-(O,OH,H<sub>2</sub>O) stretch and bend vibrations (?)

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276 277

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260 259 259  
252

245 244 246  
233 231 233  
219 218 218  
211 210 212

} lattice vibrations and/or  
O-Cu-O bend and/or  
O-Al-O bend

200 196 202  
176 175 177  
155 152 156

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