



Ardennite-bearing mineral association related to sulfide-free ores with chalcophile metals at Nežilovo, Pelagonian Massif, North Macedonia

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Abstract. Among numerous minerals determined at Nežilovo, Pelagonian Massif, North Macedonia, ardennite-(As) has been discovered in two different associations and studied by means of optical microscopy, electron microprobe analysis (EMPA), and single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction methods. The refractive indices of ardennite-(As) from Nežilovo are $\alpha = 1.537(2)$, $\beta = 1.579(1)$ and $\gamma = 1.741(1)$, where γ corresponds to the c direction. The optical axial angle is $2V_x = 49(1)^\circ$. EMPA of the investigated samples yields the following empirical formulae: $[\text{Mn}_{3.27}^{2+}\text{Ca}_{0.73}]_{\Sigma 4.00}[\text{Al}_{4.18}\text{Mg}_{1.24}\text{Fe}_{0.29}\text{Mn}_{0.19}^{3+}\text{Zn}_{0.10}]_{\Sigma 6.00}(\text{Si}_{4.73}\text{Al}_{0.27})_{\Sigma 5.00}(\text{As}_{0.96}\text{Si}_{0.03}\text{V}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 1.00}\text{O}_{22}$ $[\text{OH}_{5.36}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{0.64}]_{\Sigma 6.00}$ for ardennite-(As) and $(\text{K}_{0.95}\text{Na}_{0.04}\text{Ba}_{0.02})_{\Sigma 1.01}(\text{Al}_{1.44}\text{Fe}_{0.30}^{3+}\text{Mg}_{0.20}\text{Mn}_{0.03}\text{Ti}_{0.02}\text{Zn}_{0.01})_{\Sigma 2.00}(\text{Si}_{3.21}\text{Al}_{0.79}\text{O}_{10})$ $(\text{OH}_{1.97}\text{O}_{0.03})_{\Sigma 2.00}$ for the associated red mica. The unit cell parameters of ardennite-(As) determined by X-ray powder diffraction are $a = 8.757(2)$ Å, $b = 5.836(2)$ Å, $c = 18.578(2)$ Å and $V = 941.97$ Å³. The unit cell parameters of ardennite-(As) were also determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction and are $a = 8.760(1)$ Å, $b = 5.838(1)$ Å, $c = 18.582(2)$ Å and $V = 950.30$ Å³.

Regularities of isomorphism in ardennite-related minerals are discussed. The presence of ardennite-(As) in association with $2M_1$ and $3T$ phengite polytypes provides evidence for three separate stages of formation. Conditions at which ardennite-(As) crystallized have been estimated based on compositional features of associated micas.

1 Introduction

Ore occurrences at the village of Nežilovo, Pelagonian Massif, North Macedonia, attract the attention of geologists and mineralogists because of the unusual associations of numerous rare and new oxygen-bearing minerals of chalcophile elements (Pb, Zn, Sb, Cu, As). The uniqueness of the forma-

tion hosting these occurrences (called “mixed series”) is a result of complex multistage metamorphism and metasomatic transformations of different sediments with very diverse and peculiar chemical composition (see Stojanov, 1960, 1967–1968; Majer and Mason, 1983; Arsovski and Dumurdzhanov, 1984). An extensive description of the metamorphic conditions in the Pelagonides has been given by Most (2003).

He was able to distinguish five different tectonometamorphic events related to Alpine orogeny based on the results of K–Ar, Ar–Ar and Rb–Sr geochronology.

A large number of scientific papers have been published on the curious mineralogy of Nežilovo, including descriptions of five new mineral species, piemontite-(Pb) $(\text{CaPb})(\text{Al}_2\text{Mn}^{3+})(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)(\text{SiO}_4)\text{O}(\text{OH})$ (Bermanec et al., 1994; Chukanov et al., 2012), nežilovite $\text{PbZn}_2\text{Mn}_2^{4+}\text{Fe}_8^{3+}\text{O}_{19}$ (Bermanec et al., 1996), zincohögbomite-2N6S $(\text{Zn},\text{Al})_7(\text{Al},\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Ti},\text{Mg})_{16}\text{O}_{31}(\text{OH})$ (Armbruster et al., 1998), ferricoronadite $\text{Pb}(\text{Mn}_6^{4+}\text{Fe}_2^{3+})\text{O}_{16}$ (Chukanov et al., 2016) and zincovelesite-6N6S $\text{Zn}_3(\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Mn}^{3+},\text{Al},\text{Ti})_8\text{O}_{15}(\text{OH})$ (Chukanov et al., 2018b), as well as data on isomorphism, parageneses and possible mechanisms of formation of numerous rare minerals, including several tens of potentially new mineral species belonging to the epidote, högbomite and pyrochlore supergroups and magnetoplumbite, crichtonite and ilmenite groups (Barić, 1960; Barić and Ivanov, 1960; Jančev, 1975, 1998; Ivanov and Jančev, 1976; Holtstam and Langhof, 1999; Jančev and Chukanov, 2008; Chukanov et al., 2015, 2018a, b, 2019, 2020a, b; Jančev et al., 2016; Ermolaeva et al., 2016, 2017, 2019a, b; Varlamov et al., 2018).

Ardenite-(As) $\text{Mn}_4^{2+}\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$ has been identified in this region, among the numerous unusual minerals, but since its initial discovery, ardenite has presented an intriguing and complex problem with the calculation of its crystal-chemical formula based on electron microprobe analyses (EMPAs) and with the taxonomy and nomenclature of ardenite-related minerals (see Pasero and Reinecke, 1991; Pasero et al., 1994; Nagashima and Armbruster, 2010; Orlandi et al., 2013). Recent discoveries of new occurrences of ardenite-(As) and related new mineral species have made it possible to obtain additional information on the regularities of isomorphism in this group of minerals.

This paper describes a new locality of ardenite-(As) in the Pelagonian Massif, North Macedonia, and discusses solid solution series between ardenite-(As) and structurally related minerals. The occurrences of ardenite-(As) in two different associations coupled with the analysis of associated mica allow the discussion of the metamorphic conditions for the formation and evolution of the Pelagonian Massif metamorphic complex. Furthermore, the problematic nomenclature of the ardenite group of minerals is discussed.

2 Ardenite and related minerals – historical background

Ardenite was first discovered in the Ardennes in Belgium and was named after them (von Lasaulx, 1872). It is interesting to note that when first discovered, ardenite was considered a vanadate silicoaluminate which, in accordance with the current nomenclature, could correspond to ardenite-

(V), $\text{Mn}_4^{2+}\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{VO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$. Thereafter, Pisani (1873) described a related new mineral containing arsenic. The author of this publication was convinced that it was a new mineral, different from ardenite, and claimed the priority rights of describing a new mineral species, named “dewalquite”. The dispute resulted in the conclusion that arsenic and vanadium play the same role in the structure; it was decided that the name ardenite should be applied to both investigated samples because it has priority, and the name “dewalquite” was abandoned. Based on morphological and chemical similarity between ardenite and epidote, it was supposed that there is a structural similarity between these minerals (Strunz, 1935). Later on, Moore (1965) determined the space group of ardenite to be *Pnmm* on the basis of the powder X-ray diffraction pattern and noticed similarities between ardenite and orientite $\text{Ca}_8\text{Mn}_{10}^{3+}(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})_3(\text{OH})_{10}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$. In his dissertation, Nayak (1967) described ardenite from Kajlidongri, India, including detailed optical characteristics, chemical data, differential thermal analysis and powder X-ray diffraction data of this mineral.

The crystal structure of ardenite was first determined by Donnay and Allmann (1968), who revealed some structural elements which are similar in ardenite and pumpellyite. However, the position of hydrogen was determined in their next paper (Allmann and Donnay, 1971).

A detailed description of the occurrence of ardenite from the island of Andros in Greece is given by Reinecke and Hatzipanagiotou (1987). In addition to the field description of the locality, paragenesis, rarely described in such detail, can be found in this paper, as well as the optical properties and X-ray diffraction data and discussion about the distribution of different cations over crystallochemical positions.

HRTEM and SAED analysis of ardenite samples from the island of Evvia in Greece were interpreted as a regular alternation of ardenite and another hypothetical module which gave a doubled periodicity of 37 Å along the *c* axis. These samples were extremely rich in Si and had a Si/As ratio at the T4 site of almost 9 : 1 (Pasero and Reinecke, 1991). A high Si content was also found in an ardenite-related phase from Punta Gensane, Viù Valley, Piedmont, Italy (Chimenti, 2004). This phase was later described as a new mineral, lavoisierite $\text{Mn}_8^{2+}[\text{Al}_{10}(\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{Mg})][\text{Si}_{11}\text{P}]\text{O}_{44}(\text{OH})_{12}$ (Orlandi et al., 2013). These papers opened a discussion about the existence of other potential end-members of the ardenite group such as “ardenite-(Si)” and “ardenite-(P)”. However, until now these end-members have not been found in nature. Von Walter et al. (2018) use the name “ardenite-(Si)”, not approved by the IMA CNMNC, to describe a mineral from Austria; however no proper chemical analysis was provided to prove the existence of this phase.

In the 2000s, the vanadate analogue of ardenite-(As) was finally discovered in nature and described by Barresi et al. (2007). In addition, in accordance with the IMA re-definition, ardenite was divided into two mineral species:

more common ardennite-(As) and less common ardennite-(V) (Barresi et al., 2007). However, this was not the first analytical confirmation of the existence of the vanadate analogue of ardennite which had been described 20 years earlier by Matsubara and Kato (1987).

The crystal structure refinement and the site occupancies of ardennite have been discussed by Nagashima and Armbruster (2010). They proposed a new procedure to construct the chemical formulae of ardennite, tiragalloite $\text{Mn}_4^{2+}[\text{Si}_3\text{As}^{5+}\text{O}_{12}(\text{OH})]$ and medaite $\text{Mn}_6^{2+}[\text{Si}_5\text{V}^{5+}\text{O}_{18}(\text{OH})]$. The authors also positioned the hydrogen atom differently than Pasero et al. (1994).

Alpeite $\text{Ca}_4\text{Mn}_2^{3+}\text{Al}_2(\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{Mg})(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{V}^{5+}\text{O}_4)(\text{OH})_6$ was also described as a member of the ardennite group (Kampf et al., 2017). While the other members of the group have aluminum as the dominant cation at both *M1* and *M3* sites, Mn^{3+} is the dominant cation at these sites in alpeite. Kannanite was described as the Ca analogue of ardennite-(V) with the *A* site occupied by Ca instead of Mn^{2+} . Kannanite and alpeite have calcium as the dominant cation at this site, while the other members of the group are $^A\text{Mn}^{2+}$ -dominant. The description of alpeite and kannanite provided further understanding of the crystal-chemical diversity of the ardennite group. All these data, together with the work of Nagashima and Armbruster (2010) provided sufficient data on the possible site occupancies in ardennite-related minerals to open a new discussion about the taxonomy and nomenclature of the ardennite group.

3 Occurrence

The materials studied in this paper have been collected in an area of the central Pelagonian Massif, near the village of Nežilovo. The samples were taken from the riverbeds of the Babuna and Bela rivers, at the base of the Solunska Glava peak, belonging to the Jakupica range (Fig. 1). The samples were broken off the blocks of high metamorphic rocks and transported a short distance from their initial occurrence.

The central part of the Pelagonian Massif is built of high-grade metamorphic and magmatic rocks. The Precambrian high-grade metamorphic series can be divided into the lower and upper parts. The lowest segment of the lower part of the series consists of gneiss on top of which there is a series of mica schists with green mica (Stojanov, 1960). The upper part of the metamorphic series can be divided into the mixed series (“Mešana serija”) and the marble series. The mixed series is found on top of the micaceous schists and is composed of gneiss, marble (cipoline), calcite–mica schists, mica schists and chlorite schists, which have their isotopic age estimated as Caledonic (Stojanov, 1960). Above the mixed series, the marble series follows, which is present all the way to the peak of Solunska Glava (2540 m above sea level) (Stojanov, 1960).

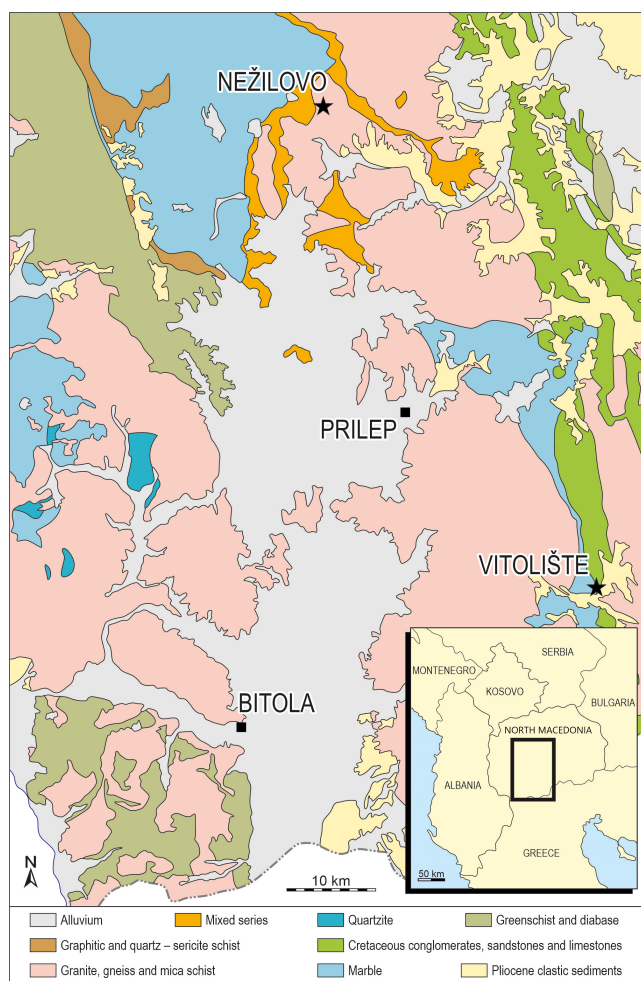


Figure 1. Geological map of the Republic of North Macedonia. The samples were found at 41.66118°N , 21.45426°E , and the locality has been marked by a black star named Nežilovo. The locality of ardennites found by Altherr et al. (2017) in Vitolište has also been marked. The map was created by the authors.

Ardennite occurs in the upper reaches of the Babuna in two different associations. It is found in a silicate rock (mica schist) and in the pink marble lenses within the mixed series. The mica schists are distinctly red in color from the red mica rich in manganese. In addition to mica, the main mineral is quartz, and the rock typically shows lepidoblastic texture. Ardennite appears between the sheets of mica as brownish-yellow imperfect elongate crystals up to 1 cm long. Smaller ardennite crystals are shown in the matrix in Fig. 2. The crystals are flattened parallel to the schistosity and show good cleavage almost perpendicular to it and rarely developed terminal faces. Piemontite and red garnet occur in this rock as accessories and are not bigger than 1 mm.

The manganoan dolomite marbles are stained dark red to pink, and it is noticeable that ardennite is unevenly distributed in them. The rock has a granular structure with some randomly oriented grains of mica. In addition to carbonate

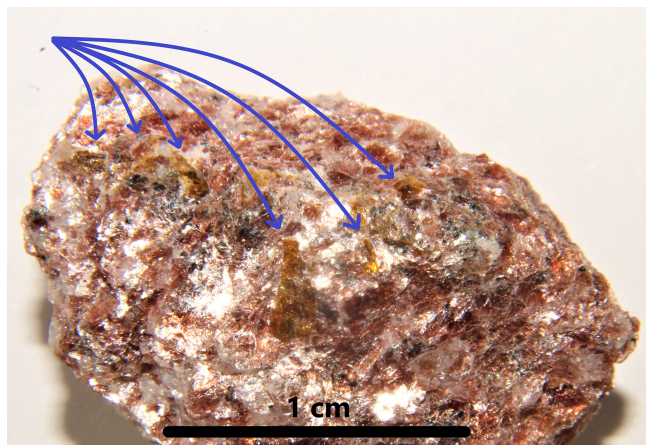


Figure 2. Ardennite in a red mica schist matrix from Nežilovo, North Macedonia.

and ardennite, a number of accessory minerals also occur in the rock: nežilovite (which can occur in significant quantities), colorless to white Zn-rich amphibole, chlorite, piemontite, hematite and dioctahedral mica (colorless, pink, red and honey-brown). Zn-rich amphiboles, including the white amphibole from a similar association, is described as the most Zn-rich amphibole described so far (Chukanov et al., 2020a). Ardennite is closely related to red and honey-brown mica with which it sometimes forms oriented growth, and it can be very difficult to spot and separate them. When separated, this ardennite does not differ from ardennite from mica schists in its physical characteristics, except in the habit, which is more flat to leafy for ardennite from the marbles.

4 Methods

A polarizing microscope equipped with a spindle stage was used to determine the optical properties. The directions of optical axes X , Y and Z were measured by the spindle-stage method (Bloss, 1981) on crystals from which the orientation was previously determined by the Buerger precession technique. The optical axial angle was determined on a crystal oriented with the direction of optical axis Y parallel to the spindle axis. Refractive indices were measured with immersion liquids for which the refractive indices were previously determined using the refractometer. The birefringence was obtained from retardation measurements with a Berek compensator, and the thickness was measured with an eyepiece with a moving hairline. Pleochroism was observed on flattened crystal grains about 50 to 100 μm thick.

The chemical composition of ardennite was analyzed using an ARL-SEM-Q electron microprobe (Museum of Natural History (Naturhistorisches Museum), Vienna) with an operating voltage of 15 kV and a 15 nA current. The electron beam diameter was 10 μm . The correction was performed based on the method of Bence and Albee (1968).

The WDS-mode electron microprobe analyses of mica were carried out at the Royal Ontario Museum, Canada, using a JEOL 733 Superprobe at an operating voltage of 15 kV, an electron beam current of 0.02 nA and a beam diameter of 20 μm . The Tracor Northern automatization which uses a ZAF correction routine was used for the data processing. Phlogopite was used as a standard for Si, K and Al; chlorite was used for Fe and Mg; tephroite was used for Mn; rutile was used for Ti; albite was used for Na; gehlenite was used for Ca; zincite was used for Zn; cuprite was used for Cu, and sanbornite was used for Ba.

The powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were obtained on a Philips vertical X-ray goniometer, using Cu $K\alpha$ radiation, with a graphite monochromator and NaCl as an internal standard. The unit cell dimensions were calculated with the aid of the program POWDER (Lindquist and Wengelin, 1967).

X-ray diffraction data of a single crystal were collected on a CAD4 single-crystal diffractometer with graphite monochromatized Mo $K\alpha$ radiation up to $\theta = 25^\circ$ in Ω scan mode (Laboratorium für chemische und mineralogische Kristallographie, Bern, Switzerland).

5 Results

5.1 Optical measurements

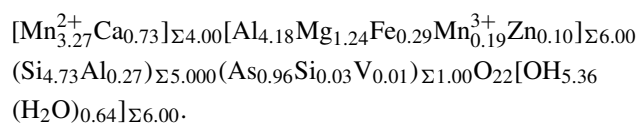
Ardennite from Nežilovo shows weak pleochroism in thin sections (brownish-yellow parallel to the elongation and pale yellow perpendicular to the elongation). This feature indicates that minor fractions of manganese and vanadium in the studied sample may occur as Mn^{3+} and V^{3+} (Coombs et al., 1993). The grains are usually cracked with noticeable cleavage probably on (010).

The refractive indices are $\alpha = 1.537(2)$, $\beta = 1.579(1)$ $\gamma = 1.741(1)$, where γ corresponds to the c direction. The optical axial angle is $2V_x = 49(1)^\circ$. Directly measured birefringence is $N_z - N_y = 0.0181(2)$. The dispersion of optical axes is strong: $r < v$.

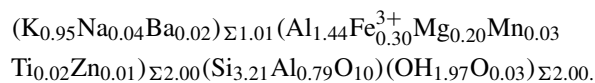
5.2 Chemical composition

Representative data on the chemical composition of ardennite-(As) and related minerals are given in Table 1, and representative chemical data for the dioctahedral mica associated with ardennite-(As) from Nežilovo are presented in Table 2. Contents of other elements with atomic numbers > 8 are below the detection limits.

The proposed empirical formula of ardennite slightly deviates from the one calculated according to the procedure proposed by Nagashima and Armbruster (2010) and is



The average data give an empirical formula of the red mica associated with ardennite-(As) calculated on the basis of 7 cations per formula unit:



5.3 X-ray diffraction

Ardennite was extracted from both types of rock to perform powder X-ray diffraction. However, due to the intimate intergrowth of ardennite with the mica in the marbles, the PXRD pattern contains reflections of admixed mica, which partly overlaps with the ardennite reflections. Therefore, only the data of the silicate rock sample were used to calculate the unit cell.

The unit cell parameters calculated from the single-crystal data were refined in space group *Pnmm*; however the complete crystal structure determination is a subject of further study. The calculated unit cell dimensions from this study are compared with a selection of other published data for ardennite-group minerals in Table 3.

6 Discussion

According to reviewed published papers about ardennite and related minerals, it is obvious that there are several well-defined end-members. The ardennite group is not approved officially; however it exists de facto. Currently, four mineral species isotypical with ardennite-(As) are found in nature. However, a large number of possible substitutions at the *A*, *M* and *T4* sites make it possible to suppose the existence of other end-members. The general formula of these minerals could be $A_4M_1M_2M_3(T_1O_4)(T_2O_4)(T_3O_{10})(T_4O_4)(X)_6$, where *A* is Mn^{2+} , Ca, Cu^{2+} and Mg; *M*_{1,2} is Al, Mn^{3+} , Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Zn, Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+} , V^{3+} and Ti; *M*₃ is Al, Mn^{3+} and Mg; *T*₁ is Si, Al and B; *T*₂ and *T*₃ are Si; *T*₄ is As, V, Si and P; and *X* is OH, F and O.

Frost et al. (2014) used Raman and IR spectroscopy to prove the presence of H_2O in the structure of ardennite-(As), thus questioning if H_2O should also be added at the *X* site. Similar ideas were suggested by Chukanov (2014).

In most cases, the dominant components at the *A* and *T4* sites can be determined with a high reliability based on chemical analyses, which is consistent with the results by X-ray structural analysis (Nagashima and Armbruster, 2010).

Therefore, it would be reasonable to assume the occupancies of the *A* and *T4* sites as the basis of the ardennite-group nomenclature, whereas it is difficult to determine the site occupancy at the *M* site with only one analytical method. However, the *M* sites, as well as possibly the *X* site, may be considered species-defining provided that their occupancies have been determined reliably, as in the cases of alpeite and kannanite. Nagashima and Armbruster (2010) performed one approach by complementary application of the results by EMPA and X-ray structural analyses, although multi-methodical studies may not always be possible. Some other mineral species that are closely related to the ardennite-group minerals but are not completely isostructural with them should not be considered part of the group. For example, lavoisierite is structurally related to ardennite, but it has a doubled *c* parameter when compared to ardennite. Another example is orientite, which is a crystallochemically related hydrous mineral.

Based on the chemical variations of ardennite-group minerals from different localities, one could expect a lot of potential end-members. However, the number of possible ardennite-group minerals is restricted by both geochemical and crystal-chemical reasons. From the data in Fig. 3, one can conclude that there are V–Si and restricted As–Si solid solutions, whereas the As–V solid solution has not yet been observed. It is interesting to see that the most common elements entering the *T4* site are As^{5+} , V^{5+} , Si^{4+} and P^{5+} . The ionic radii of these ions in a tetrahedral coordination are 0.475, 0.495, 0.400 and 0.350 Å, respectively (Shannon and Prewitt, 1969). With the ionic radii of As^{5+} and V^{5+} being the closest to each other, one can suppose a geochemical cause for the absence of the As–V solid solution. The As–Si solid solution might also be restricted as the data for most intermediate members refer to the material from Vitolište which may have a lavoisierite-type structure with the doubled *c* parameter (Altherr et al., 2017). Nevertheless, restricted As–Si and V–Si substitutions have been observed with the highest Si occupancy of 0.315 atoms at the *T4* site in an ardennite-(V)-type material (Barresi et al., 2007). This also raises the question of finding possible “ardennite-(Si)” with over 0.5 Si atoms at the *T4* site. The Si^{4+} ion is 16 % smaller than As^{5+} and 20 % smaller than the V^{5+} ion, which are both values above the conventional 15 % ionic radii difference tolerance for the substitutions. This might be an obstacle for the formation of a continuous and complete solid solution series due to more significant difference between the atomic radii of Si compared to As and V. The presence of Si at the *T4* site in ardennite-group minerals was first discussed by Pasero and Reinecke (1991), who gave two possible models of the structure of the Si end-member, both with a doubled *c* parameter caused by the deformation of the *T4* site polyhedral. Orlandi et al. (2013) determined the ardennite and sursassite groups and described lavoisierite structure as a polysome with alternating ardennite-like and sursassite-like slabs. Altherr et al. (2017) determined the presence of a

Table 1. Representative electron microprobe analysis data of ardennite-group minerals from this study and previous papers.

Component	Nežilovo (this work)*	Salm Chateau (Nagashima and Armbruster, 2010)	Vernetto, Italy (Nagashima and Armbruster, 2010)	OU62028 (Coombs et al., 1993)	Ardennite-(V) (Barresi et al., 2007)	Kannanite (Nishio-Hamane et al., 2018)	Alpeite (Kampf et al., 2017)
SiO ₂	27.40	28.39	30.51	28.93	31.21	29.37	29.92
TiO ₂	–	0.00	0.09	0.06	0.21	–	–
Al ₂ O ₃	21.70	24.45	21.78	23.41	22.60	14.40	11.52
Cr ₂ O ₃	–	0.05	0.04	–	0.34	–	–
FeO	1.97	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fe ₂ O ₃	–	–	0.90	1.26	1.64	5.18	–
MnO	23.50	23.88	23.27	23.64	22.33	3.89	1.08
Mn ₂ O ₃	–	–	–	0.75	1.06	9.74	19.70
MgO	4.80	3.44	4.20	3.53	4.44	2.70	2.49
CaO	3.90	1.39	4.03	2.74	4.24	19.02	20.45
As ₂ O ₅	10.60	10.27	7.46	9.04	0.37	1.52	–
V ₂ O ₅	0.10	0.51	0.33	0.19	4.60	6.04	7.36
P ₂ O ₅	–	–	0.23	0.03	0.38	–	–
ZnO	0.80	–	–	0.05	–	–	–
NiO	–	0.00	0.04	0.06	–	0.40	–
CuO	–	0.54	0.14	0.25	–	0.34	–
Na ₂ O	–	0.01	0.01	–	0.02	–	–
K ₂ O	–	0.01	0.01	–	–	–	–
BaO	–	–	–	0.02	–	–	–
B ₂ O ₃	–	–	–	0.23	–	–	–
CoO	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.43
F	–	–	–	–	0.17	–	–
–O=F	–	–	–	–	–0.07	–	–
H ₂ O	5.23	4.96	5.80	5.3	5.70	5.22	5.13
Total:	100 %	97.90 %	98.84 %	99.46 %	99.24 %	97.83 %	99.08 %
Formula coefficients							
Si	4.76	5.04	5.32	5.039	5.315	4.16	4.25
Ti	–	–	0.01	0.08	0.027	–	–
Al	4.45	5.11	4.48	4.860	4.536	3.00	4.45
Cr	–	0.01	0.01	–	0.046	–	–
Fe	0.29	–	0.12	0.165	0.210	0.69	–
Mn	3.46	3.59	3.44	3.587	3.358	1.90	2.79
Mg	1.24	0.91	1.09	0.916	1.127	0.71	0.65
Ca	0.73	0.26	0.75	0.509	0.774	3.60	3.84
As	0.96	0.95	0.68	0.823	0.033	0.14	–
V	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.022	0.518	0.70	0.85
P	–	–	0.03	0.005	0.055	–	–
Zn	0.10	–	–	0.006	–	–	–
Ni	–	–	0.01	0.009	–	0.06	–
Cu	–	0.07	0.02	0.033	–	0.05	–
Na	–	–	–	–	0.006	–	–
Ba	–	–	–	0.002	–	–	–
B	–	–	–	0.069	–	–	–
Co	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.20
F	–	–	–	–	0.092	–	–
H	5.80	5.872	6.75	6.17	6.47	6.16	6
Cations	Σ = 55.16						

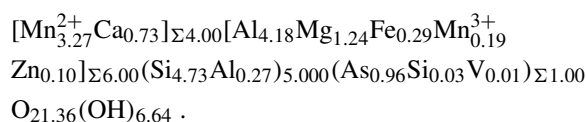
* A single analysis.

Table 2. Representative microprobe analysis of red mica associated with ardennite-(As) in mica schist from Nežilovo.

Wt %	Spot analysis number		
	1	2	3
SiO ₂	46.75	46.94	46.82
TiO ₂	0.33	0.40	0.42
Al ₂ O ₃	27.36	27.65	27.79
Fe ₂ O ₃	5.85	5.80	5.72
MnO	0.57	0.54	0.50
MgO	1.99	2.05	2.00
Na ₂ O	0.36	0.30	0.25
K ₂ O	10.79	10.78	10.97
BaO	0.73	0.72	0.66
ZnO	0.12	0.16	0.13
H ₂ O	4.30	4.33	4.33
Total	99.15	99.67	99.59
Si	3.21	3.20	3.21
Ti	0.02	0.02	0.02
Al	2.21	2.23	2.24
Fe	0.30	0.30	0.30
Mn	0.03	0.03	0.03
Mg	0.20	0.21	0.20
Na	0.05	0.04	0.03
K	0.95	0.94	0.95
Ba	0.02	0.02	0.02
Zn	0.01	0.01	0.01
H	1.97	1.97	1.97
Cations except H	7.00	7.00	7.00

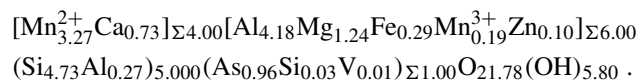
complete Si–V solid solution series but did not confirm the same type of crystal structure by X-ray diffraction. The list of dominant species-defining elements at each site for every mineral of the ardennite group can be found in Table 4, and the end-member formulae can be found in Table 5, including some hypothetical end-members as well.

The formula of ardennite-(As) given in this paper slightly deviates from the formula that would be obtained by following the latest proposition of calculating the formulae of ardennite-group minerals (Nagashima and Armbruster, 2010). The earlier papers used the procedure proposed in Reinecke and Hatzipanagotou (1987), which normalized the number of O atoms to 28. The formula obtained for the Nežilovo ardennite-(As) using this approach would be

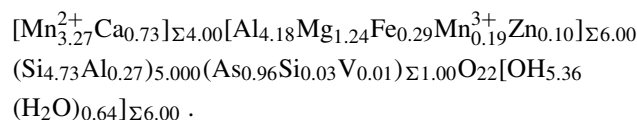


A new approach was first suggested in Coombs et al. (1993) and was put into practice by Nagashima and Armbruster (2010) because they showed that the OH content of ardennite should not exceed 6 atoms per formula unit (apfu), which was the case in earlier papers. This procedure first normalizes

the number of cations, except H, to 16. Then the *T* positions are solved by collecting Si, As, V and P cations. If there is more than 6 apfu in the *T* position, the excess V is assigned to octahedrally coordinated sites as V³⁺, and if there are insufficient cations, the lack is compensated for with Al. Then, the amount of OH is determined by the requirement of electroneutrality. At the end, if (Ca+Mn) content exceeds 4 apfu, then the excess Mn is assigned to octahedrally coordinated sites as Mn³⁺. The formula of the studied ardennite-(As) following this approach is



However, this approach implies vacancies in the anionic sites where there are no implications for their presence. Furthermore, in the IR spectrum of ardennite-(As) from its type locality, a weak band of H₂O at 1620 cm⁻¹ is present (Chukanov, 2014), which does not correspond to weakly bonded, adsorbed water in the KBr pellet that absorbs at 1640 cm⁻¹. If we suppose minor substitution of OH by H₂O in ardennite, the formula could be written as follows:



This approach would be a good compromise between achieving electroneutrality and satisfying the occupancy of the anionic sites.

Due to significant differences, primarily in the line intensities between PXRD data of ardennite from Nežilovo and those from the type locality in Belgium (Moore, 1965), single-crystal X-ray diffraction data were also collected. However, the structural factors for the Salm Chateau sample of Donnay and Allmann (1968) and for that of Nežilovo do not differ significantly. It is evident that the unit cell parameters increase with the substitution of Mn²⁺ with Ca²⁺ at the *A* site (Table 4). In particular, alpeite and kannanite have larger unit cell parameters than ardennite-(As) and ardennite-(V). The mixed series of the Pelagonian Massif represents the second occurrence of an ardennite-group mineral in North Macedonia, the first one being the Vardar zone near Vitolište, where ardennite-(V) was described by Altherr et al. (2017). These two localities are situated about 50 km away from each other and belong to two different complexes, the Pelagonian and Vardar zones (Fig. 1). Accordingly, the two mineral members show different chemical composition despite both of them being formed in similar low-grade metamorphic conditions.

The micas from Nežilovo and their polytypism have been extensively explored (Kudrnovski, 1997). The data obtained indicate high *P/T* ratio conditions of crystallization as well as a high oxygen fugacity and oxidative forming conditions of the rock. These conditions match

Table 3. Unit cell dimensions of ardeninite-(As) and related minerals.

Mineral	Locality	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>b</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	<i>V</i> (Å ³)	Source
Ardennite-(As)	Nežilovo, North Macedonia ^a	8.757(2)	5.836(2)	18.578(2)	941.97	This work
Ardennite-(As)	Nežilovo, North Macedonia ^b	8.760(1)	5.838(1)	18.582(2)	950.30	This work
Ardennite-(As)	Salm Chateau, Belgium	8.713(1)	5.811(1)	18.521(1)	937.74	Donnay and Allmann (1968)
Ardennite-(As)	Salm Chateau, Belgium	8.744(16)	5.794(9)	18.423(26)	933.36	Moore (1965)
Ardennite-(As)	Salm Chateau, Belgium	8.7163(2)	5.8131(1)	18.5199(3)	938.38(3)	Nagashima and Armbruster (2010)
Ardennite-(As)	Vernetto, Italy	8.7452(6)	5.8314(4)	18.5891(12)	947.98(11)	Nagashima and Armbruster (2010)
Ardennite-(As)	Kajlidongri, India	8.707(5)	5.807(4)	18.570(1)	938.928	Nayak (1967)
Ardennite-(As)	Haast Schist Group, West Otago, New Zealand	8.721(1)	5.816(1)	18.545(3)	940.7(2)	Coombs et al. (1993)
Ardennite-(V) (type material)	Sparone, Italy	8.760(3)	5.838(2)	18.56(2)	949.34(2)	Barresi et al. (2007)
Alpeite (type material)	Monte Alpe Mine, Italy	8.9421(11)	6.0534(6)	18.9781(18)	1027.29(19)	Kampf et al. (2017)
Kannanite (type material)	Kannan Mt., Japan	8.8802(14)	5.9919(13)	18.882(3)	1004.7(3)	Nishio-Hamane et al. (2018)

^a From powder data. ^b From single-crystal data.

Table 4. Dominant components at the structural sites of the ardennite-group minerals.

	A	M1	M2	M3	T1	T2	T3	T4	X
Ardennite-(As)	Mn ²⁺	Al	Al	Al, Mg	Si	Si	Si	As	OH
Ardennite-(V)	Mn ²⁺	Al	Al	Al, Mg	Si	Si	Si	V	OH
Alpeite	Ca	Mn ³⁺	Al	Mn ³⁺ , Mg	Si	Si	Si	V	OH
Kannanite	Ca	Al	Al	Al, Mg	Si	Si	Si	V	OH

the forming conditions of ardennite-type minerals suggested by Semet and Moreau (1965). Phengites, ideally $\text{KAl}_{1.5}(\text{Mg,Fe})_{0.5}(\text{Al}_{0.5}\text{Si}_{3.5}\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$, which are the dominant micas in these rocks, crystallized as the $2M_1$ polytype. However, the largest part of phengite- $2M_1$ in Nežilovo formed as a result of recrystallization of phengite- $3T$ (Kudrnovski, 1997). The presence of the $3T$ polytype suggests a higher P/T ratio of metamorphism. This recrystallization could occur with the decrease in pressure or increase in temperature (see e.g., Yoder and Eugster, 1955; Sassi et al., 1994). The high P/T ratio in the evolution of the mixed series at Nežilovo is further confirmed by the presence of Ti in the crystal structure of phengites (Table 2) that is assumed to be an effect of the saturated phase (rutile, ilmenite) during the crystallization process (Bailey, 1984). It has been determined that the celadonite component decreases with the increase in temperature of crystallization (Bailey, 1984), also implying lower temperatures in Nežilovo.

In order to approximate the P – T conditions, an empirical phengite geobarometer was used (Kamzolkin et al., 2016). These authors proposed two different empirical formulae for the phengite geobarometer for temperatures below 750 °C: one for phengites with less than 3.25 Si apfu and the second one with more than 3.25 Si apfu. The studied ardennite sample has slightly below 3.25 Si apfu; however the second equa-

tion was chosen since the Si/Al ratio of 1.43 is significantly greater than 1.3.

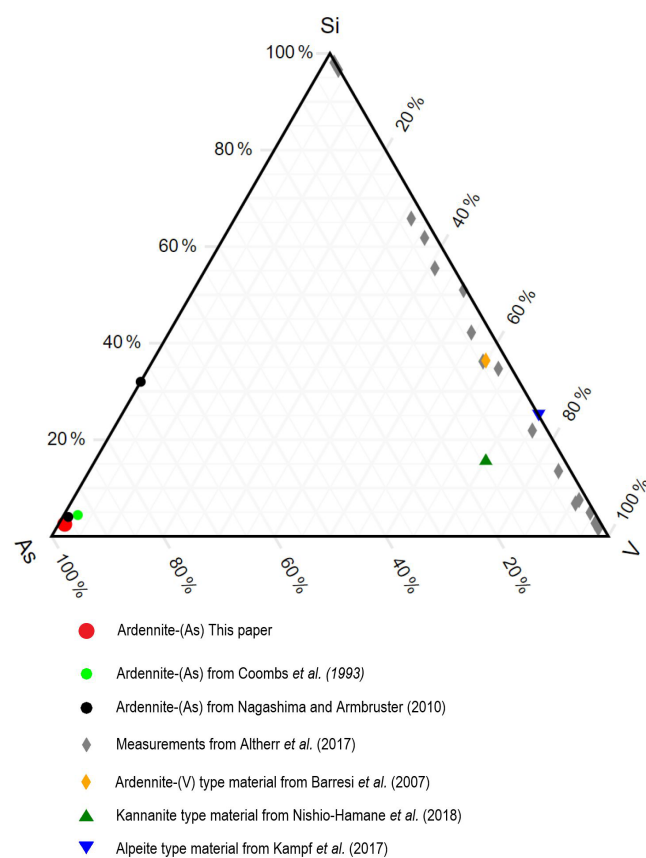
Majer and Mason (1983) worked on the same part of the Pelagonian Massif and determined the regional metamorphism conditions to be in the range of 450–500 °C. For this temperature range, the empirical phengite geobarometer gives the pressure between 13 and 15 kbar, which is in accordance with the proposed pressure range of Majer and Mason (1983) as well. Such associations suggest that the mixed series is a result of multiple metamorphic processes that occurred in this complex including a high-pressure event or events. Similar results are derived for Vitolište (Altherr et al., 2017), where ardennite-(V) has been found in Upper Cretaceous meta-conglomerates of the Vardar zone. The authors described a paragenesis which suggests high-pressure metamorphic conditions of about 6.5–8.0 kbar and 340–370 °C. In Vitolište, ardennite-(V) shows an essential substitution of V by Si (Altherr et al., 2017). The occurrences of ardennite-group minerals on the edges of two zones (the Vardar zone and the Pelagonian Massif) provide evidence for the similar conditions of metamorphism.

Kudrnovski (1997) found that micas of the Pelagonian zone had formed in various metamorphic conditions. This supports the hypothesis of there being more than one metamorphic stage. These multiple metamorphic events make the determination of the rock age as well as the times of differ-

Table 5. End-member formulae of the ardennite-group minerals.

Mineral	Formula
$A = \text{Mn}^{2+}$	
Ardennite-(As)	$\text{Mn}_4^{2+}\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$
Ardennite-(V)	$\text{Mn}_4^{2+}\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{VO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$
“Ardennite-(Si)”*	$\text{Mn}_4^{2+}\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$ (?)
$A = \text{Ca}$	
Alpeite	$\text{Ca}_4\text{Mn}_2^{3+}\text{Al}_2(\text{Mn}^{3+}\text{Mg})(\text{VO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$
Kannanite	$\text{Ca}_4\text{Al}_4(\text{AlMg})(\text{VO}_4)(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_6$

* Not approved by the IMA CNMNC.

**Figure 3.** Ternary diagram showing the T4 site occupancy in ardennite and related minerals from this paper and selected literature sources. The data for the samples from Altherr et al. (2017) may partly correspond to lavoisierite.

ent metamorphic stages hard; however the sequence can be divided into three major stages.

6.1 Stage 1 – sedimentation

The first Precambrian stage is characterized by sedimentation of chemically very diverse sediments. These sediments had a very peculiar chemistry and a unique combination of elements which later on produced the uniqueness of the Nežilovo area. These elements, especially the chalcophile ones, had a significant role in the evolution of the locality and the formation of unusual minerals.

6.2 Stage 2 – high-grade (and high-pressure) metamorphism

The sediments accumulated in the Nežilovo area during the first stage experienced a high-grade metamorphic event that is most evident in an area between the Pelagonian Massif and the Vardar zone where proof of a blueschist facies has been found and conditions of temperature between 450 and 500 °C and pressures around 14 kbar or lower have been suggested (Majer and Mason, 1983). The same authors describe some characteristics of an eclogite facies such as an omphacite association in some samples and interpret garnets as relicts of the previous meta-sediment rocks. These high-grade regional metamorphic rocks are the main setting of the central part of the Pelagonian Massif (Stojanov, 1968), and this event probably occurred before the upper Carboniferous granitic intrusions described by Mountrakis (1984).

6.3 Stage 3 – retrograde metamorphism

As the meta-sediments were pushed upwards into an area of lower pressure via geotectonic movements, the temperature was also decreased. The formation of phengite-2M₁ could occur at a lowered pressure or at an enhanced temperature compared to those present in Stage 2. Until we have clear evidence for the source of heat at a higher depth, the lowering of pressure is an acceptable conclusion for this stage

of the deposit evolution. This led to the recrystallization of phengite-3*T* into phengite-2*M*₁, which is a stable polytype at low pressures.

Ardennite-(As) formed in the third stage, under the low-grade metamorphic conditions. The presence of ardennite-(As), as well as of other low-grade metamorphic minerals (chlorite, colorless amphibole, cymrite; Jančev, 1978; Bermanec, 1992), suggests that this part of the Pelagonian complex has recently gone through a stage of retrograde metamorphism matching the greenschist facies. The process of metamorphism finished before the rock was exposed to exogenous processes. It is also important to note the occurrence of ardennite-(As) in a carbonate environment which has not yet been reported in other literature. The formation of this deposit is a result of metamorphism of originally chemically complex carbonate sediments.

The occurrence of chalcophile elements (Zn, Pb, Sb, Cu and As) coupled with the lack of sulfides and sulfosalts is a specific feature of the Nežilovo ore occurrences (Chukanov et al., 2015). The highest concentrations of chalcophile elements are confined to the exocontact zone of a metarhyolite body with marbles as well as cymrite, baryte and mica schists. Postmagmatic fluid is considered an additional source of rare and chalcophile elements (Ermolaeva et al., 2016). The chalcophile metals do not form sulfides and sulfosalts but occur as components of diverse oxygen-bearing minerals (mainly oxides), including very rare and potentially new mineral species. Out of the five newly described minerals in Nežilovo, four are oxides and only piemontite-(Pb) is a silicate.

The absence of sulfides and sulfosalts is due to two factors: a highly oxidative environment (Bermanec, 1992) and a high activity of barium at all stages of the evolution of the mixed series, which resulted in the immobilization of sulfur in accordance with the scheme $S^{2-} + 2O_2 \leftrightarrow SO_4^{2-}$; $SO_4^{2-} + Ba^{2+} \rightarrow BaSO_4 \downarrow$ (Chukanov et al., 2020b). During the formation of ardennite-(As), as well as during all other stages of the mixed series formation, the Ba : S atomic ratio was greater than 1 (Ermolaeva et al., 2017). The enrichment in Zn is a specific feature of ardennite-(As) from the Nežilovo area. The sample studied in this work contains 0.103 Zn apfu (Table 1), which is the greatest zinc content among all analyzed ardennite-group minerals.

7 Conclusions

Ardennite-group minerals have a general formula $A_4M_1M_2M_3(T_1O_4)(T_2O_4)(T_3O_{10})(T_4O_4)(X)_6$. The presence of three different *M* sites in the structure of these minerals, as well as four tetrahedral positions, often makes the determination of dominant components at each structural site hard to do. Because of the highest reliability of chemical analyses and consistency with the results by X-ray structural analysis, the occupancies of *A* and *T*₄ sites

are suggested as the basis of the ardennite-group nomenclature. The *M* sites, and possibly the *X* site, could also be considered species-defining; however, it should be noted that this could only be possible with a reliable structural determination of each site, as in the cases of alpeite and kannanite.

The metamorphic conditions of formation and the chemical variations of ardennite-group minerals could produce a number of potential end-members, but the number of possible ardennite-group minerals is restricted for both geochemical and crystal-chemical reasons. With the ionic radii of As⁵⁺ and V⁵⁺ being the most similar of the cations occupying the *T*₄ site, one can suppose a geochemical cause for the absence of the As–V solid solution.

A slight deviation from the proposed formula calculation procedure has been applied to the analysis of ardennite-(As) from Nežilovo. The approach used in earlier papers would exceed the possible OH content of ardennite structure, and the procedure proposed by Nagashima and Armbruster (2010) would imply vacancies in the anionic sites which were not detected. Therefore, a compromise between achieving electroneutrality and satisfying the occupancy of the anionic sites was made by introducing minor substitution of OH for H₂O in ardennite.

Based on the evidence from micas and peculiar mineralogy of the Nežilovo occurrence, three stages of deposit evolution are proposed. Stage 1 occurred in the Precambrian and includes sedimentation of chemically very diverse sediments which had a significant role in the formation of unusual mineral associations. These sediments experienced a high-grade, high-pressure metamorphic event in Stage 2 that is most evident in an area between the Pelagonian Massif and the Vardar zone. The decrease in temperature due to upwards geotectonic movement, Stage 3, took place marked by retrograde metamorphism. Ardennite-(As) formed in the third stage, under the low-grade metamorphic conditions matching greenschist facies.

Further research is needed to explain the connection between this and other mineral associations of the Nežilovo locality in North Macedonia. This unique locality contains very complex mineral parageneses of rare silicates and non-silicates.

Data availability. All data derived from this research are available upon request from the corresponding author.

Author contributions. VB and VZ recognized and provided the study materials. VZ was in charge of sample separation for further analyses. MB and VB were in charge of the conceptualization. BŠ performed optical studies of the materials, and his notes were of crucial value to the manuscript. VB conducted the X-ray experiments of the materials. IB prepared and created the geological map of North Macedonia and provided financial support for the project.

NVC contributed to the Introduction and Discussion sections. MB was in charge of original draft preparation and the review and editing process.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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