

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REVISION 2

Crystal chemistry of the ulvöspinel-qandilite series

FERDINANDO BOSI¹, ULF HÄLENIUS² AND HENRIK SKOGBY²

¹Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Sapienza Università di Roma, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, I-00185
Roma, Italy

²Department of Geosciences, Swedish Museum of Natural History, SE-10405 Stockholm, Sweden

ABSTRACT

Five spinel single-crystal samples within the ulvöspinel-qandilite series [(Fe_{2-x}Mg_x)TiO₄, 0.15 < x < 0.94] were synthesized and structurally and chemically characterized by X-ray diffraction and electron microprobe techniques. Site populations, derived from structural and chemical analysis, show that the tetrahedrally-coordinated site (T) is exclusively populated by Mg²⁺ and Fe²⁺, while the octahedrally-coordinated site (M) is populated by Ti⁴⁺, Mg²⁺, Fe²⁺ and minor amounts of Fe³⁺. The inverse cation distribution is characterized by parallel substitution of Mg²⁺ for Fe²⁺ at both the T and M sites along the series.

The variation in the unit-cell parameter from 8.527 Å to 8.495 Å is mainly related to the occurrence of Mg²⁺ at the M site rather than the T site. In fact, the substitution of Mg²⁺ for Fe²⁺ yields significant variations in M-O (from 2.045 Å to 2.034 Å) and only limited variation in T-O (from 2.007 Å to 2.002 Å). In conjunction with data from the literature, the present study provide a basis for quantitative analyses

26 of the variation in $^T\text{Mg-O}$ bond distance from 1.966 Å for Mg-poor ulvöspinel to 1.990
27 Å for the qandilite end-member.

28

29

30

INTRODUCTION

31 Several substances such as multiple oxides, sulfides (e.g., ZnAl_2S_4), selenides
32 (e.g., CuCr_2Se_4), halides (e.g., Li_2NiF_4), and pseudohalides [e.g., $\text{ZnK}(\text{CN})_4$] crystallize
33 in the spinel-type structure. Spinel oxides are defined by the general formula AB_2O_4 ,
34 where A and B are usually cations of either 2+ and 3+ valence ($\text{A}^{2+}\text{B}^{3+}_2\text{O}_4$, so-called 2-3
35 spinels), or of 4+ and 2+ valence ($\text{A}^{4+}\text{B}^{2+}_2\text{O}_4$, so-called 4-2 spinels). The spinel
36 structure, typically symmetry $Fd\bar{3}m$, can be described as a slightly distorted cubic
37 close packed array of oxygen anions, in which the A and B cations are distributed in
38 one-eighth of all tetrahedrally-coordinated sites (T) and half of all octahedrally-
39 coordinated sites (M) (e.g., Bragg 1915; Nishikawa 1915). The unit-cell parameters (a)
40 and oxygen fractional coordinates (u, u, u) define the resulting tetrahedral (T-O) and
41 octahedral (M-O) bond lengths (e.g., Lavina et al. 2002). The distribution of A and B
42 cations over T and M sites leads to two different types of cation ordering: (1) normal
43 spinel, where the A cation occupies T and the two B cations occupy M and (2) inverse
44 spinel, where one of the B cations occupies T and the remaining A and B cations
45 occupy M. Disordered cation distributions are often encountered among the 2-3 spinels,
46 and can be described by the general formula $^T(\text{A}^{2+}_{1-i}\text{B}^{3+}_i)^M(\text{A}^{2+}_i\text{B}^{3+}_{2-i})\text{O}_4$ where i is
47 defined as the inversion parameter. The value of the inversion parameter depends on the
48 spinel composition and cation site preferences: for example, Cr^{3+} only occupies the M
49 site, Al and Cu^{2+} exhibit preference for M, whereas Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Zn and Co^{2+}

50 exhibit preference for the T site (Andreozzi et al. 2001; Andreozzi and Lucchesi 2002;
51 Lenaz et al. 2004; Bosi et al. 2010; Hålenius et al. 2011; Fregola et al. 2012; D'Ippolito
52 et al. 2012; Bosi et al. 2012). In addition, the degree of inversion is strongly sensitive to
53 temperature, and at high temperatures (around 1500 °C), the *i*-parameter may increase
54 up to 0.35 for normal spinel and down to 0.70 for inverse spinel (Nell et al. 1989;
55 O'Neill et al. 1992; Redfern et al. 1999; Andreozzi et al. 2000). The temperature
56 dependence of cation ordering/disordering has petrological implications for cooling
57 processes because it is strictly related to the closure temperature of spinel, i.e., the point
58 where the ordering process is effectively quenched. Several studies have addressed this
59 phenomenon (e.g., Princivalle et al. 1989; Della Giusta et al. 1996; Lucchesi and Della
60 Giusta 1997; Lucchesi et al. 1998; Princivalle et al. 1999; Uchida et al. 2005; Lenaz et
61 al. 2010; Lucchesi et al. 2010; Lenaz and Princivalle 2011; Princivalle et al. 2012).
62 Extensive solid-solution occurs between various spinel end-members, particularly
63 among pairs with the same ordering type. For example, spinel (*sensu stricto*)-galaxite
64 MgAl₂O₄-MnAl₂O₄ is a binary system consisting of two normal spinels (Hålenius et al.
65 2011), whereas ulvöspinel-qandilite Fe₂TiO₄-Mg₂TiO₄ is a binary system consisting of
66 two inverse spinels (studied hereafter).

67 The ulvöspinel-qandilite series forms part of the Fe₂TiO₄-Mg₂TiO₄-FeFe₂O₄-
68 MgFe₂O₄ spinel quadrilateral, and spinels within this compositional field has frequently
69 been utilized as petrogenic indicators of temperature and pressure for geological
70 processes. Thermodynamic data and computational results related to order-disorder
71 phenomena in qandilite and titanomagnetite have been reported in the literature (e.g.,
72 O'Neill and Scott 2005; Palin et al. 2008; Lilova et al. 2013; Harrison et al. 2013) as
73 well as several crystal chemical studies (e.g., Wechsler et al. 1984; Wechsler and Von

74 Dreele 1986; O'Neill et al. 2003; Bosi et al. 2009). However, no systematic
75 investigation of the structural variations all along the entire $(\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{Mg}_x)\text{TiO}_4$ series has so
76 far been published. In this study, we have investigated the crystal structures of synthetic
77 single crystal spinels belonging to the Fe_2TiO_4 - Mg_2TiO_4 series. As most of the physical
78 properties of Ti-rich spinels are very closely related to their cation distribution, the aim
79 of the study was to quantitatively detail the site-occupancy to explore the interplay
80 between chemistry and structure.

81

82

83 **EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**

84 **Crystal synthesis**

85 Single-crystal spinel samples of five compositions distributed over the $(\text{Fe}_{2-}$
86 $x\text{Mg}_x)\text{TiO}_4$ join with $0.15 < x < 0.94$ were synthesized by a flux growth method. The
87 samples were grown from saturated melts under slow cooling ($4^\circ\text{C}/\text{h}$) from 1200 to 900
88 $^\circ\text{C}$. In order to maintain a low oxygen fugacity during crystal growth, a continuous flow
89 of CO_2 and H_2 (ratio 1:2) was passed through the furnace tube. Details of the synthesis
90 procedure, using a mixture of BaO and B_2O_3 as flux compound, are described in Bosi et
91 al. (2008). The synthetic products consisted of spinel crystals dispersed in a borate
92 glass. In addition, borate crystals and sometimes ilmenite, rutile, haggertyite
93 ($\text{BaTi}_5\text{Fe}_6\text{MgO}_{19}$), metallic iron and BaTiO_3 were also present.

94 In the present flux-growth experiments, the crystals nucleate and grow
95 somewhere along the main cooling path from 1200 to 900 $^\circ\text{C}$. After 900 $^\circ\text{C}$, the furnace
96 heating power was switched off and the cooling rate was set considerably faster,
97 initially a few hundred degrees per hour, to prevent any substantial crystal growth

98 during this stage. Consequently, the temperature at which the present samples were last
99 in equilibrium was estimated to be in the range 1000-900 °C and this corresponds to the
100 equilibrium temperature calculated for ulvöspinel single crystal synthesized under the
101 same condition (Bosi et al. 2008).

102 Several attempts to synthesize single crystal with Mg_2TiO_4 components larger
103 than 50% (i.e., $x > 1$) were unsuccessful. Literature data for the qandilite end-member
104 was therefore also taken into consideration (see section on “Results and discussion”).

105

106 **Single-crystal structural refinement**

107 X-ray diffraction measurements were performed at Earth Sciences Department,
108 Sapienza University of Rome, with a Bruker KAPPA APEX-II single-crystal
109 diffractometer, equipped with a CCD area detector ($6.2 \times 6.2 \text{ cm}^2$ active detection area,
110 512×512 pixels) and a graphite crystal monochromator, using $MoK\alpha$ radiation from a
111 fine-focus sealed X-ray tube. The sample-to-detector distance was 4 cm. A total of 5088
112 exposures per sample (step = 0.2° , time/step = 10 s) covering the full reciprocal sphere
113 were collected. The orientation of the crystal lattice was determined from 500 to 1000
114 strong reflections ($I > 100 \sigma_I$) evenly distributed in the reciprocal space, and used for
115 subsequent integration of all recorded intensities. Final unit-cell parameters were
116 refined by using the Bruker AXS SAINT program from about 2000 recorded reflections
117 with $I > 10 \sigma_I$ in the range $8^\circ < 2\theta < 90^\circ$. The intensity data were processed and
118 corrected for Lorentz, polarization and background effects with the APEX2 software
119 program of Bruker AXS. The data were corrected for absorption using multi-scan
120 method (SADABS). The absorption correction led to a significant improvement in R_{int} .

121 No violation of $Fd\bar{3}m$ symmetry was noted. Sporadic appearance of forbidden space-
122 group reflections was recognized as double reflections.

123 Structural refinements were carried out with the SHELXL program (Sheldrick
124 2008). Setting the origin at $\bar{3}m$, initial atomic positions for oxygen atoms were taken
125 from the structure of spinel (Bosi et al. 2009). Variable parameters were overall scale
126 factor, extinction coefficient, atomic coordinates, site scattering values expressed as
127 mean atomic number (m.a.n.), and atomic displacement factors. In accord with the
128 recommendations of Della Giusta et al. (1986) and Hawthorne et al. (1995), to obtain
129 the most accurate results the oxygen site was modeled with partially oxidized scattering
130 factor, ranging from 50% to 60%, derived from neutral *versus* fully ionized oxygen
131 scattering curves. Neutral curves were used for the cation sites: in detail, the T site was
132 modeled considering the presence of Fe and Mg scattering factors, whereas the M site
133 was modeled by Ti, Fe and Mg scattering factors. The final refinements were carried out
134 fixing the occupancy of Ti to the value obtained from the chemical analysis. This
135 approach led to the best values for all conventional statistical indexes, such as $R1$ and
136 $wR2$. Three full-matrix refinement cycles with isotropic displacement parameters for all
137 atoms were followed by anisotropic cycles until convergence was attained, that is, when
138 the shifts for all refined parameters were less than their estimated standard deviation.
139 Table 1 summarizes structural parameters and refinement details, and the corresponding
140 CIFs have been deposited.

141

142 **Electron microprobe analysis**

143 Electron microprobe analyses, with WDS method, of the same crystals used for
144 XRD refinements were obtained with a Cameca SX50 instrument at the University of

145 Uppsala operating at an accelerating potential of 20 kV and a sample current of 15 nA.
146 Standard samples were synthetic MnTiO₃ (for Ti), Fe₂O₃ (for Fe) and MgO (for Mg).
147 Al₂O₃ was checked, using corundum standard, as a possible contaminant from the
148 furnace tube. Na and Ba contamination from the flux was not detected. For raw data
149 reduction, the PAP matrix correction procedure was applied (Pouchou and Pichoir
150 1991). The atomic proportions and Fe³⁺/ΣFe ratios were calculated assuming charge
151 balance and stoichiometry. The assumption of stoichiometric sample compositions is
152 supported by results from previously studied Ti-rich compositions synthesized under
153 similar conditions (Bosi et al. 2008). The results, which are summarized in Table 2,
154 represent mean values of a minimum of six spot analyses per analyzed crystal and their
155 standard errors (below 1%) demonstrate the crystal homogeneity.

156

157 **Cation distribution**

158 The intracrystalline cation distribution over the T and M sites was obtained by
159 using a least-squares optimization method applying a minimization function in which
160 both structural and chemical data (such as atomic proportions, bond lengths and site-
161 scattering in terms of equivalent electrons, i.e., m.a.n.) were taken into account. The
162 minimization procedure was presented and discussed previously (e.g., Bosi et al. 2009).
163 In particular, octahedral and tetrahedral bond lengths were calculated as the linear
164 contribution of each cation multiplied by its specific bond length. The latter were taken
165 from Lavina et al. (2002): ^MTi⁴⁺-O = 1.962(1) Å, ^MFe³⁺-O = 2.015(1) Å, ^TFe³⁺-O =
166 1.875(2) Å, ^MFe²⁺-O = 2.150(2) Å, ^TFe²⁺-O = 2.006(2) Å, ^MMg-O = 2.082(2) Å, ^TMg-O
167 = 1.966(1) Å, except for ^TFe²⁺-O distance which was measured by Bosi et al. (2009) for
168 Fe₂TiO₄. In addition, as explained in more detail below, the value of ^TMg-O distance

169 varies from 1.966 Å (for Mg-poor ulvöspinel) to 1.990 Å (for qandilite): the former was
170 used for samples T1, T2 and T3, the latter one for samples T4 and T5. The robustness of
171 this approach was confirmed by another optimization procedure (Wright et al. 2000),
172 which led to very similar cation distributions. Results of the final cation distributions
173 are reported in Table 3.

174

175

176

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

177 In order to investigate the crystal chemistry of the whole $\text{Fe}_2\text{TiO}_4\text{-Mg}_2\text{TiO}_4$
178 series, earlier reported data for Mg-free ulvöspinel (FeTib1b, Bosi et al. 2009) and data
179 for Fe-free qandilite (see below) with cubic symmetry were compared with our samples.
180 For sample FeTib1b, the structural formula is $^{\text{T}}(\text{Fe}^{2+})^{\text{M}}(\text{Fe}^{2+}_{0.945}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.11}\text{Ti}^{4+}_{0.945})\text{O}_4$ and
181 the bond distances are T-O = 2.006(2) Å and M-O = 2.046(1) Å. The structural
182 parameters for qandilite (Mg_2TiO_4) from several studies indicate that the u value is in
183 the 0.2616-0.2605 range (Wechsler and von Dreele 1989; Sawada 1996; Millard et al.
184 1995; O'Neill et al. 2003), whereas the a value is in a more limited 8.442-8.444 Å range
185 (O'Neill et al. 2003; Sawada 1996). Therefore, averaged values of $u = 0.2611$ and $a =$
186 8.443 Å were used herein, which yield M-O = 2.021 Å and T-O = 1.990 Å
187 representative of the end-member $^{\text{T}}(\text{Mg}^{2+})^{\text{M}}(\text{Mg}^{2+}\text{Ti}^{4+})\text{O}_4$.

188 The investigated synthetic spinels can be represented by the chemical formula
189 $[\text{Fe}^{2+}_{(2-x-y/2)}\text{Mg}^{2+}_{(x)}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{(y)}\text{Ti}^{4+}_{(1-y/2)}]_{\Sigma 3.00}\text{O}_4$ that highlights two types of substitutions:
190 the main $\text{Mg}^{2+} \leftrightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ exchange with x ranging from 0.15 to 0.94, and the minor $\text{Fe}^{2+} +$
191 $\text{Ti}^{4+} \leftrightarrow 2\text{Fe}^{3+}$ exchange with y ranging from 0.13 to 0.04 (sample T1 and T5,
192 respectively). The latter substitution decreases with increasing x -value. The cation

193 distribution shows that Ti^{4+} and Fe^{3+} are ordered at the M site, whereas Mg^{2+} and Fe^{2+}
194 are disordered over the T and M sites: in detail, the amounts of Mg^{2+} are slightly smaller
195 for T than for M, whereas the amounts of Fe^{2+} are larger for M than for T (Table 3).
196 Structural refinement results showed that m.a.n. for both the T and M sites decreases
197 with increasing Mg_2TiO_4 component, reflecting the disordered Mg site allocation: T-
198 and M-m.a.n. decrease (from 26 to 21 and from 23 to 20, respectively) with increasing
199 of substitution $\text{Mg}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ as a consequence of the lower atomic number of Mg ($Z =$
200 12) in relation to Fe ($Z = 26$). The unit-cell parameter a decreases from 8.527 Å to
201 8.495 Å with increasing Mg_2TiO_4 component (Fig. 1). This is related to significant
202 variations in M-O which decreases from 2.045 Å to 2.034 Å, for the studied samples,
203 compared to strongly limited variation in T-O, 2.007-2.002 Å (Fig. 2). The resulting
204 atomic displacement parameters are relatively high for the studied samples (about 0.01
205 Å²), suggesting the likely presence of a static positional disorder due to the mixing of
206 $\text{Mg}^{2+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$ and Ti^{4+} over the M-sites. This conclusion is in line with previous studies on
207 ulvöspinel and qandilite (e.g., Wechsler et al. 1984; Millard et al. 1995; Sawada 1996;
208 Bosi et al. 2009). The variations of M-O and T-O as a function of the $^{\text{M}}\text{Mg}^{2+}$ and $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}^{2+}$
209 (respectively) show a strong negative correlation (Fig. 3).

210 As discussed above, the whole ulvöspinel-qandilite series is characterized by the
211 decrease of a , M-O and T-O with increasing Mg, accompanied by increasing $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}$ -O
212 distance from 1.966 Å (ulvöspinel) to 1.990 Å (qandilite). Similar variation was also
213 detected for normal spinel along the MgCr_2O_4 - MgV_2O_4 series (Lavina et al. 2003),
214 where $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}$ -O ranges from 1.966 Å to 1.974 Å. As argued in Lavina et al. (2003), the
215 increase of $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}$ -O may be caused by dragging effects of cations at the M site (V^{3+} and
216 Cr^{3+} in Lavina et al. 2003; Mg, Fe and Ti in our case), responsible for variation in $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}$ -

217 O, which maintains the structural distortion and provides the shielding between M-
218 cations. In this regard, Bosi et al. (2010) showed that the structural distortion of spinel is
219 strictly related to the mean quadratic elongation $\langle\lambda\rangle$ (Robinson et al. 1971) of the MO_6
220 polyhedron. Calculated values of $\langle\lambda\rangle$ for our samples and those of Lavina et al. (2003)
221 show extremely limited variation (1.008-1.009) which supports the analogy between
222 normal and inverse spinel in which increased $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg-O}$ values are required by the
223 structure to reduce the cation-cation repulsion between the M sites. A significant
224 shortening of the $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg-O}$ distance from 1.983 Å (for Mg_2TiO_4) to 1.967 Å (for
225 MgCr_2O_4) was also noted by Sawada (1996), who related this variation to the different
226 degree of ionicity of the $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg-O}$ bond in Mg_2TiO_4 and MgCr_2O_4 .

227

228

229

IMPLICATIONS

230 The ulvöspinel-qandilite series is closely related to the magnetite-
231 magnesioferrite series, as well as to titanomagnetite (e.g., Harrison et al. 2013), which
232 are the dominant carriers of magnetic remanence in nature and plays a key role to rock
233 magnetic studies. Our finding that Mg^{2+} behaves analogously to Fe^{2+} in these important
234 magnetic minerals, provides new understanding of the nature of cation ordering in the
235 system $\text{Fe}_2\text{TiO}_4\text{-Mg}_2\text{TiO}_4\text{-FeFe}_2\text{O}_4\text{-MgFe}_2\text{O}_4$ and serves as a guide for future
236 petrological and computational studies.

237 From a crystallographic viewpoint, the present study gives additional insights
238 into the long-range variations in T-O bond distance of divalent cations in the oxide
239 spinel structure: e.g., $^{\text{T}}\text{Zn}^{2+}\text{-O}$ about 1.95-1.98 Å (Bosi et al. 2011); $^{\text{T}}\text{Co}^{2+}\text{-O}$ about
240 1.92-1.99 Å (O'Neill 2003; Bosi et al. 2012); $^{\text{T}}\text{Mg}^{2+}\text{-O}$ about 1.97-1.99 Å (this study).

241

242

243

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

244 Financial support from the project PRIN 2010-11 “GEO-TECH”, Università
245 Sapienza 2012 “Studio cristallografico di spinelli appartenenti alle serie $(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{TiO}_4$,
246 $(\text{Mg,Cu})\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ e $(\text{Mg,Fe})(\text{Al,Cr})_2\text{O}_4$...”, and the Swedish Research Council through the
247 ESF-program EuroMinSci are gratefully acknowledged. We thank the Associate Editor
248 Kristina Lilova, the Technical Editor and two anonymous reviewers for their careful
249 work and their very constructive comments.

250

251

252

REFERENCES CITED

- 253 Andreozzi, G.B., Princivalle, F., Skogby, H., and Della Giusta, A. (2000) Cation
254 ordering and structural variations with temperature in MgAl_2O_4 spinel: an X- ray
255 single crystal study. American Mineralogist, 85, 1164–1171. Erratum, 86, 204.
- 256 Andreozzi, G.B., Lucchesi, S., Skogby, H., and Della Giusta, A. (2001) Composition
257 dependence of cation distribution in some synthetic $(\text{Mg,Zn})(\text{Al,Fe}^{3+})_2\text{O}_4$
258 spinels. European Journal of Mineralogy, 13, 391-402.
- 259 Andreozzi, G.B., and Lucchesi, S. (2002) Intersite distribution of Fe^{2+} and Mg in the
260 spinel (sensu stricto)-hercynite series by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.
261 American Mineralogist, 87, 1113-1120.
- 262 Andreozzi, G.B., and Princivalle, F. (2002) Kinetics of cation ordering in synthetic
263 MgAl_2O_4 spinel. American Mineralogist, 87, 838–844.

- 264 Bosi, F., Hålenius, U., and Skogby, H. (2008) Stoichiometry of synthetic ulvöspinel
265 single crystals. *American Mineralogist*, 93, 1312–1316.
- 266 Bosi, F., Hålenius, U., and Skogby, H. (2009) Crystal chemistry of the magnetite-
267 ulvöspinel series. *American Mineralogist*, 94, 181–189.
- 268 Bosi, F., Hålenius, U., and Skogby, H. (2010) Crystal chemistry of the MgAl_2O_4 -
269 MgMn_2O_4 - MnMn_2O_4 system: Analysis of structural distortion in spinel- and
270 hausmannite-type structures. *American Mineralogist*, 95, 602-607.
- 271 Bosi, F., Andreozzi, G.B., Hålenius, U., and Skogby, H. (2011) Zn-O tetrahedral bond
272 length variations in normal spinel oxides. *American Mineralogist*, 96, 594–598.
- 273 Bosi, F., Hålenius, U., D’Ippolito, V., and Andreozzi, G.B. (2012) Blue spinel crystals
274 in the MgAl_2O_4 - CoAl_2O_4 series: Part II. Cation ordering over short-range and
275 long-range scales. *American Mineralogist*, 97, 1834–1840.
- 276 Bragg, W.H. (1915) The Structure of the Spinel Group of Crystals. *Philosophical*
277 *Magazine*, 30, 305-315.
- 278 Nishikawa, S. (1915) Structure of Some Crystals of the Spinel Group. *Proceedings of*
279 *the Physico-Mathematical Society of Tokyo*, 8, 199-209.
- 280 D’Ippolito, V., Andreozzi, G.B., Bosi, F., and Hålenius, U. (2012) Blue spinel crystals
281 in the MgAl_2O_4 - CoAl_2O_4 series: I. Flux growth and chemical characterisation.
282 *American Mineralogist*, 97, 1828-1833.
- 283 Della Giusta, A., Princivalle, F., and Carbonin, S. (1986) Crystal chemistry of a suite of
284 natural Cr-bearing spinels with $0.15 \leq \text{Cr} \leq 1.07$. *Neues Jahrbuch für*
285 *Mineralogie Abhandlungen*, 155, 319.330.

- 286 Della Giusta, A., Carbonin, S., and Ottonello, G. (1996) Temperature-dependent
287 disorder in a natural Mg-Al-Fe²⁺-Fe³⁺-spinel. *Mineralogical Magazine*, 60, 603–
288 616.
- 289 Fregola, R.A., Bosi, F., Skogby, S., and Hålenius, U. (2012) Cation ordering over short-
290 range and long-range scales in the MgAl₂O₄-CuAl₂O₄ series. *American*
291 *Mineralogist*, 97, 1821-1827.
- 292 Harrison, R.J., Palin, E.J., and Perks, N. (2013) A computational model of cation
293 ordering in the magnesioferrite-qandilite (MgFe₂O₄-Mg₂TiO₄) solid solution and
294 its potential application to titanomagnetite (Fe₃O₄-Fe₂TiO₄). *American*
295 *Mineralogist*, 98, 698-708.
- 296 Hawthorne, F.C., Ungaretti, L., and Oberti, R. (1995) Site populations in minerals:
297 terminology and presentation of results. *Canadian Mineralogist*, 33, 907-911.
- 298 Hålenius, U., Bosi, F., and Skogby, H. (2011) A first record of strong structural
299 relaxation of TO₄ tetrahedra in a spinel solid solution. *American Mineralogist*
300 96, 617-622.
- 301 Lavina, B., Salviulo, G., and Della Giusta, A. (2002) Cation distribution and structure
302 modeling of spinel solid solutions. *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, 29, 10-
303 18.
- 304 Lavina, B., Reznitskii, L.Z., and Bosi, F. (2003) Crystal chemistry of some Mg, Cr, V
305 normal spinels from Sludyanka (Lake Baikal, Russia): the influence of V³⁺ on
306 structural stability. *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, 30, 599-605.
- 307 Lenaz, D., Skogby, H., Princivalle, F., and Hålenius, U. (2004) Structural changes and
308 valence states in the MgCr₂O₄-FeCr₂O₄ solid solution series. *Physics and*
309 *Chemistry of Minerals*, 31, 633-642.

- 310 Lenaz, D., De Min, A., Garuti, G., Zaccarini, F., and Princivalle, F. (2010) Crystal
311 chemistry of Cr-spinels from the lherzolite mantle peridotite of Ronda (Spain).
312 American Mineralogist, 95, 1323–1328.
- 313 Lenaz, D., and Princivalle, F. (2011) First occurrence of titanomagnetites from the
314 websterite dykes within Balmuccia peridotite (Ivrea-Verbanò zone): crystal
315 chemistry and structural refinement. Periodico di Mineralogia, 80, 19-26.
- 316 Lilova, K.I., Pearce, C., Gorski, C., Rosso, K.M., and Navrotsky, A. (2012)
317 Thermodynamics of the magnetite-ulvöspinel ($\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-Fe}_2\text{TiO}_4$) solid solution.
318 American Mineralogist, 97, 1330–1338.
- 319 Lucchesi, S., and Della Giusta, A. (1997) Crystal chemistry of a highly disordered Mg-
320 Al natural spinel. Mineralogy and Petrology, 59, 91-99.
- 321 Lucchesi, S., Bosi, F., and Pozzuoli, A. (2010) Geothermometric study of Mg-rich
322 spinels from the Somma-Vesuvius volcanic complex (Naples, Italy). American
323 Mineralogist, 95, 617-621.
- 324 Lucchesi, S., Amoriello, M., and Della Giusta, A. (1998) Crystal chemistry of spinels
325 from xenoliths of the Alban Hills volcanic region. European Journal of
326 Mineralogy, 10, 473–482.
- 327 Millard, R.L., Peterson, R.C., and Hunter, B.K. (1995) Study of the cubic to tetragonal
328 transition in Mg_2TiO_4 and Zn_2TiO_4 spinels by ^{17}O MAS NMR and Rietveld
329 refinement of X-ray diffraction data. American Mineralogist, 80, 885–896.
- 330 Nell, J., Wood, B.J., and Mason, T.O. (1989) High temperature cation distributions in
331 $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4\text{-MgAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{-MgFe}_2\text{O}_4\text{-FeAl}_2\text{O}_4$ spinels from thermopower measurements.
332 American Mineralogist, 74, 339-351.

- 333 O'Neill H.St.C., Annersten, H., and Virgo D. (1992) The temperature dependence of the
334 cation distribution in magnesioferrite ($MgFe_2O_4$) from powder XRD structural
335 refinements and Mössbauer spectroscopy. *American Mineralogist*, 77,725-740.
- 336 O'Neill, H.St.C. (2003) The influence of next nearest neighbours on cation radii in
337 spinels: the example of the Co_3O_4 - $CoCr_2O_4$ solid solution. *Mineralogical*
338 *Magazine*, 67, 547–554.
- 339 O'Neill, H.St.C., and Scott, D.R. (2005) The free energy of formation of Mg_2TiO_4
340 (synthetic qandilite), an inverse spinel with configurational entropy. *European*
341 *Journal of Mineralogy*, 7, 315-323.
- 342 O'Neill, H.St.C., Redfern, S.A.T., Kesson, S., and Short, S. (2003) An in situ neutron
343 diffraction study of cation disordering in synthetic qandilite Mg_2TiO_4 at high
344 temperatures. *American Mineralogist*, 88, 860–865.
- 345 Palin, E.J., Walker, A.M., and Harrison, R.J. (2008) A computational study of order-
346 disorder phenomena in Mg_2TiO_4 spinel (qandilite). *American Mineralogist*, 93,
347 1363–1372.
- 348 Pouchou, J.L., and Pichoir, F. (1984) A new model for quantitative X-ray micro-
349 analysis. I. Application to the analysis of homogeneous samples. *La Recherche*
350 *Aérospatiale*, 3, 13-36.
- 351 Princivalle, F., Della Giusta, A., and Carbonin, S. (1989) Comparative crystal chemistry
352 of spinels from some suites of ultramafic rocks. *Mineralogy and Petrology*, 40,
353 117-126.
- 354 Princivalle, F., Della Giusta, A., De Min, A., and Piccirillo, E.M. (1999) Crystal
355 chemistry and significance of cation ordering in Mg-Al rich spinels from high

- 356 grade hornfels (Predazzo-Monzoni, NE Italy). *Mineralogical Magazine*, 63,
357 257–262.
- 358 Princivalle, F., Martignago F., Nestola, F., and Dal Negro A. (2012) Kinetics of cation
359 ordering in synthetic $\text{Mg}(\text{Al}, \text{Fe}^{3+})_2\text{O}_4$ spinels. *European Journal of Mineralogy*,
360 24, 633-643.
- 361 Redfern, S.A.T., Harrison, R.J., O'Neill, H.St.C., and Wood, D.R.R. (1999)
362 Thermodynamics and kinetics of cation ordering in MgAl_2O_4 spinel up to
363 1600°C from in situ neutron diffraction. *American Mineralogist*, 84, 299-310.
- 364 Robinson, K., Gibbs, G.V., and Ribbe, P.H. (1971) Quadratic elongation: A quantitative
365 measure of distortion in coordination polyhedra. *Science*, 172, 567–570.
- 366 Sawada, H. (1996) Electron density study of spinels: magnesium titanium oxide
367 (Mg_2TiO_4). *Materials Research Bulletin*, 31, 355–360.
- 368 Sheldrick, G.M. (2008) A short history of SHELX. *Acta Crystallographica*, A64, 112-
369 122.
- 370 Uchida, H., Lavina, B., Downs, R.T., and Chesley, J. (2005) Single-crystal X-ray
371 diffraction of spinels from the San Carlos Volcanic Field, Arizona: Spinel as a
372 geothermometer. *American Mineralogist*, 90, 1900-1980.
- 373 Wechsler, B.A., and Von Dreele, R.B. (1989) Structure refinement of Mg_2TiO_4 , MgTiO_3
374 and MgTi_2O_5 by time-of-flight neutron powder diffraction. *Acta*
375 *Crystallographica*, B45, 542–549.
- 376 Wechsler, B.A., Lindsley, D.H., and Prewitt, C.T. (1984) Crystal structure and cation
377 distribution in titanomagnetites ($\text{Fe}_{3-x}\text{Ti}_x\text{O}_4$). *American Mineralogist*, 69, 754-
378 770.

379 Wright, S.E., Foley, J.A., and Hughes, J.M. (2000) Optimization of site occupancies in
380 minerals using quadratic programming. *American Mineralogist*, 85, 524–531.
381

382

LIST OF TABLES

383 **TABLE 1.** Selected X-ray diffraction data for the synthetic spinels $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{TiO}_4$

384 **TABLE 2.** Chemical composition of the synthetic spinels $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{TiO}_4$

385 **TABLE 3.** Structural formulae for the synthetic spinels $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{TiO}_4$

386

387

388

LIST OF FIGURES AND FIGURE CAPTIONS

389 **FIGURE 1.** Unit-cell parameter against mole fraction Mg_2TiO_4 in the ulvöspinel-
390 qandilite series. Symbol dimensions are proportional to 2σ . “ULV” refers to
391 the ulvöspinel end-member (Bosi et al., 2009). “QAND” refers to average data
392 for the qandilite end-member (see text).

393 **FIGURE 2.** Variations in T-O (black circles) and M-O (black squares) bond lengths
394 *versus* the unit-cell parameter in the $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{TiO}_4$ series. Symbol dimensions
395 and error bars, where shown, are proportional to 2σ . “ULV” and “QAND” as
396 in Figure 1.

397 **FIGURE 3.** (a) M-O distance *versus* Mg content at the M site, (b) T-O distance *versus*
398 Mg content at the T site in the $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{TiO}_4$ series. Error bars are proportional
399 to 2σ . “ULV” and “QAND” as in Figure 1.

TABLE 1. Selected X-ray diffraction data for the synthetic spinels (Mg,Fe)₂TiO₄

Sample	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Crystal size (mm)	0.12 × 0.10 × 0.08	0.20 × 0.18 × 0.10	0.10 × 0.09 × 0.08	0.10 × 0.10 × 0.09	0.15 × 0.14 × 0.10
<i>a</i> (Å)	8.5271(3)	8.5184(3)	8.5104(3)	8.5021(3)	8.4946(3)
<i>u</i>	0.26064(6)	0.26099(7)	0.26086(5)	0.26097(7)	0.26108(9)
<i>T</i> -O (Å)	2.0034(9)	2.0065(11)	2.0027(8)	2.0023(10)	2.0022(13)
<i>M</i> -O (Å)	2.0451(5)	2.0403(6)	2.0393(4)	2.0365(5)	2.0339(7)
<i>T</i> -m.a.n.	25.5(2)	25.0(3)	23.7(2)	22.1(2)	21.1(2)
<i>M</i> -m.a.n.	23.4(2)	22.6(3)	21.5(1)	20.5(1)	20.1(2)
<i>T</i> - <i>U</i> ¹¹ (Å ²)	0.01089(10)	0.01118(13)	0.01090(10)	0.01091(12)	0.01081(18)
<i>M</i> - <i>U</i> ¹¹ (Å ²)	0.00848(7)	0.00859(9)	0.00851(7)	0.00835(9)	0.00853(12)
<i>M</i> - <i>U</i> ¹² (Å ²)	-0.00060(3)	-0.00077(4)	-0.00072(4)	-0.00079(4)	-0.00086(5)
<i>O</i> - <i>U</i> ¹¹ (Å ²)	0.0146(2)	0.0143(3)	0.01399(18)	0.0136(2)	0.0132(3)
<i>O</i> - <i>U</i> ¹² (Å ²)	-0.00316(14)	-0.00313(16)	-0.00285(13)	-0.00284(15)	-0.00269(18)
Reciprocal space range <i>hkl</i>	-13 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 16 -13 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 16 -16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 12	-14 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 16 -13 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 16 -12 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 16	-12 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 16 -13 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 16 -16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 12	-13 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 16 -14 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 16 -12 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 16	-16 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 11 -14 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 15 -16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 14
EXTI	0.0074(4)	0.0170(9)	0.0206(7)	0.0057(5)	0.0089(9)
Read reflections	2838	2845	2845	2919	2850
Unique reflections	151	151	151	148	148
<i>R</i> int. (%)	1.68	2.02	2.09	1.64	3.74
<i>R</i> 1 all (%)	1.18	1.33	1.10	1.36	1.62
<i>wR</i> 2 (%)	2.66	3.23	2.33	3.14	4.36
Goof	1.178	1.228	1.219	1.348	1.400
Diff. Peaks (e/Å ³)	-0.38; 0.68	-0.44; 1.16	-0.25; 0.23	-0.34; 0.64	-0.25; 1.15

Notes: *a* = unit-cell parameter; *u* = oxygen fractional coordinate; *T*-O and *M*-O = tetrahedral and octahedral bond lengths, respectively; *T*- and *M*-m.a.n. = *T*- and *M*-mean atomic number; *U*¹¹ = atomic displacement parameter; *U*¹¹ = *U*²² = *U*³³ and *U*¹² = *U*¹³ = *U*²³ (= 0 for *T*-site due to symmetry reasons); EXTI = extinction parameter; *R*_{int} = merging residual value; *R*1 = discrepancy index, calculated from *F*-data; *wR*2 = weighted discrepancy index, calculated from *F*²-data; Goof = goodness of fit; Diff. Peaks = maximum and minimum residual electron density. Radiation, Mo-Kα = 0.71073 Å. Data collection temperature = 293 K. Range for data collection 8° < 2θ < 90°. Total number of frames = 5088. Origin fixed at $\bar{3}m$. Space group *Fd* $\bar{3}m$. *Z* = 8 formula units. Spinel structure has cations at Wyckoff positions 8a ≡ *T* (1/8, 1/8, 1/8) and 16d ≡ *M* (1/2, 1/2, 1/2), and oxygen anions at 32e (*u*, *u*, *u*).

TABLE 2. Chemical composition of the synthetic spinels (Fe,Mg)₂TiO₄

Sample	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
TiO ₂ (wt%)	33.98(10)	35.37(10)	36.97(11)	39.54(29)	40.18(11)
MgO	2.78(14)	6.37(5)	10.13(8)	16.31(15)	19.49(28)
FeO _{total}	62.46(42)	58.17(24)	52.74(18)	43.98(31)	40.06(24)
Total	99.22	99.91	99.84	99.84	99.73
FeO*	58.27	54.24	49.88	42.69	38.38
Fe ₂ O ₃ *	4.66	4.37	3.184	1.43	1.87
Ti ⁴⁺ (apfu)	0.936(5)	0.942(3)	0.959(3)	0.982(6)	0.977(5)
Mg ²⁺	0.152(8)	0.336(2)	0.521(4)	0.803(6)	0.939(9)
Fe ²⁺	1.784(7)	1.606(4)	1.438(4)	1.179(7)	1.038(6)
Fe ³⁺	0.128(10)	0.116(5)	0.083(5)	0.036(10)	0.045(10)
Total	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000

Notes : Cations on the basis of 4 oxygen atoms per formula unit (apfu). Digits in brackets are standard uncertainties (1 σ): for reported oxide concentrations, they represent standard deviations of several analyses on individual crystals, while, for cations, they were calculated according to error propagation theory.

* Determined from stoichiometry.

TABLE 3. Structural formulae for the synthetic spinels (Fe,Mg)₂TiO₄

Sample	Formula
T1	^T (Mg _{0.03} Fe ²⁺ _{0.97}) ^M (Mg _{0.13} Fe ²⁺ _{0.80} Fe ³⁺ _{0.13} Ti ⁴⁺ _{0.94})O ₄
T2	^T (Mg _{0.07} Fe ²⁺ _{0.93}) ^M (Mg _{0.26} Fe ²⁺ _{0.68} Fe ³⁺ _{0.12} Ti ⁴⁺ _{0.94})O ₄
T3	^T (Mg _{0.16} Fe ²⁺ _{0.84}) ^M (Mg _{0.36} Fe ²⁺ _{0.59} Fe ³⁺ _{0.09} Ti ⁴⁺ _{0.96})O ₄
T4	^T (Mg _{0.28} Fe ²⁺ _{0.72}) ^M (Mg _{0.52} Fe ²⁺ _{0.46} Fe ³⁺ _{0.04} Ti ⁴⁺ _{0.98})O ₄
T5	^T (Mg _{0.35} Fe ²⁺ _{0.65}) ^M (Mg _{0.59} Fe ²⁺ _{0.39} Fe ³⁺ _{0.04} Ti ⁴⁺ _{0.98})O ₄

Notes: T = tetrahedrally coordinated site; M = octahedrally coordinated site

FIGURE 1

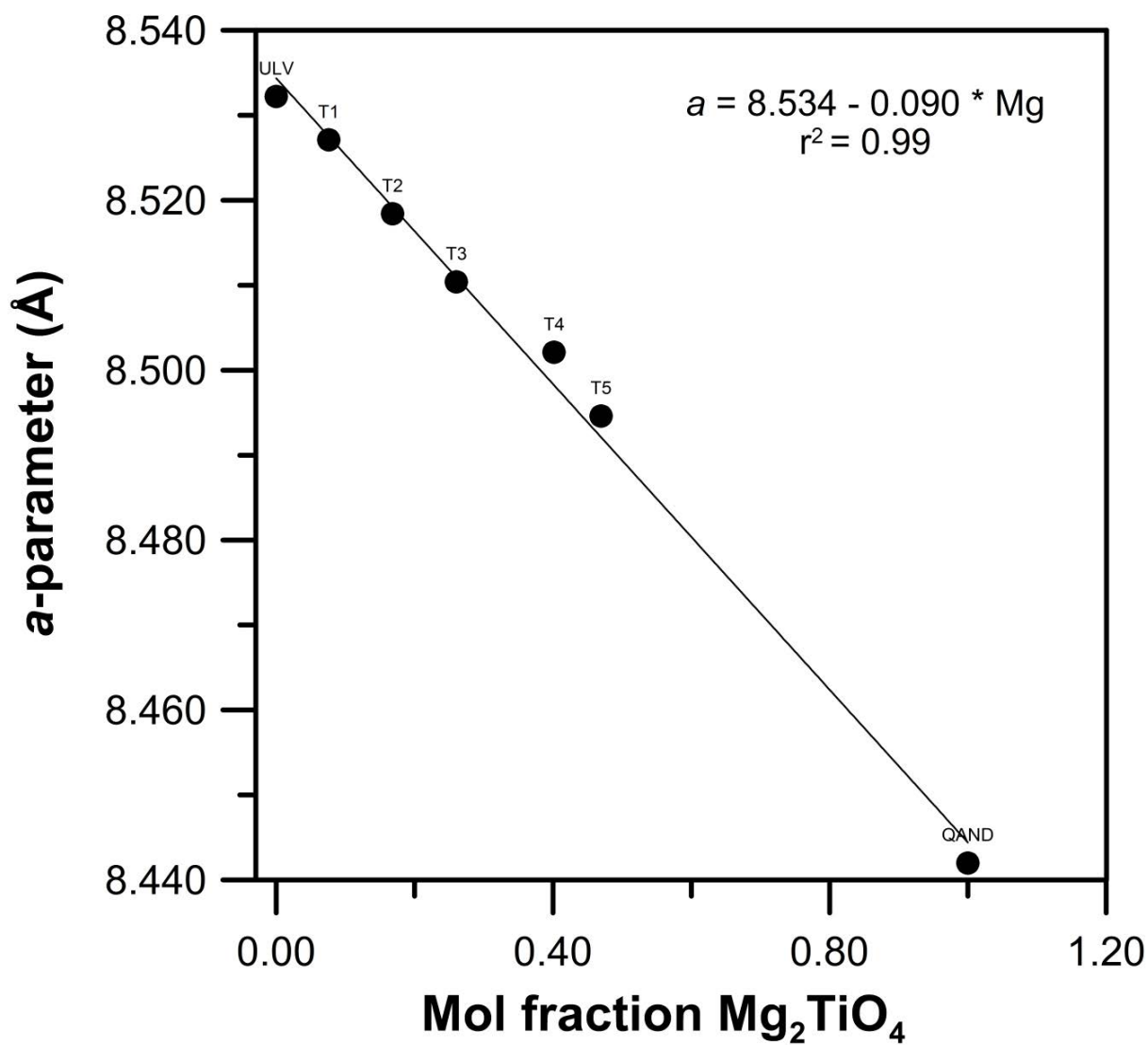


FIGURE 2

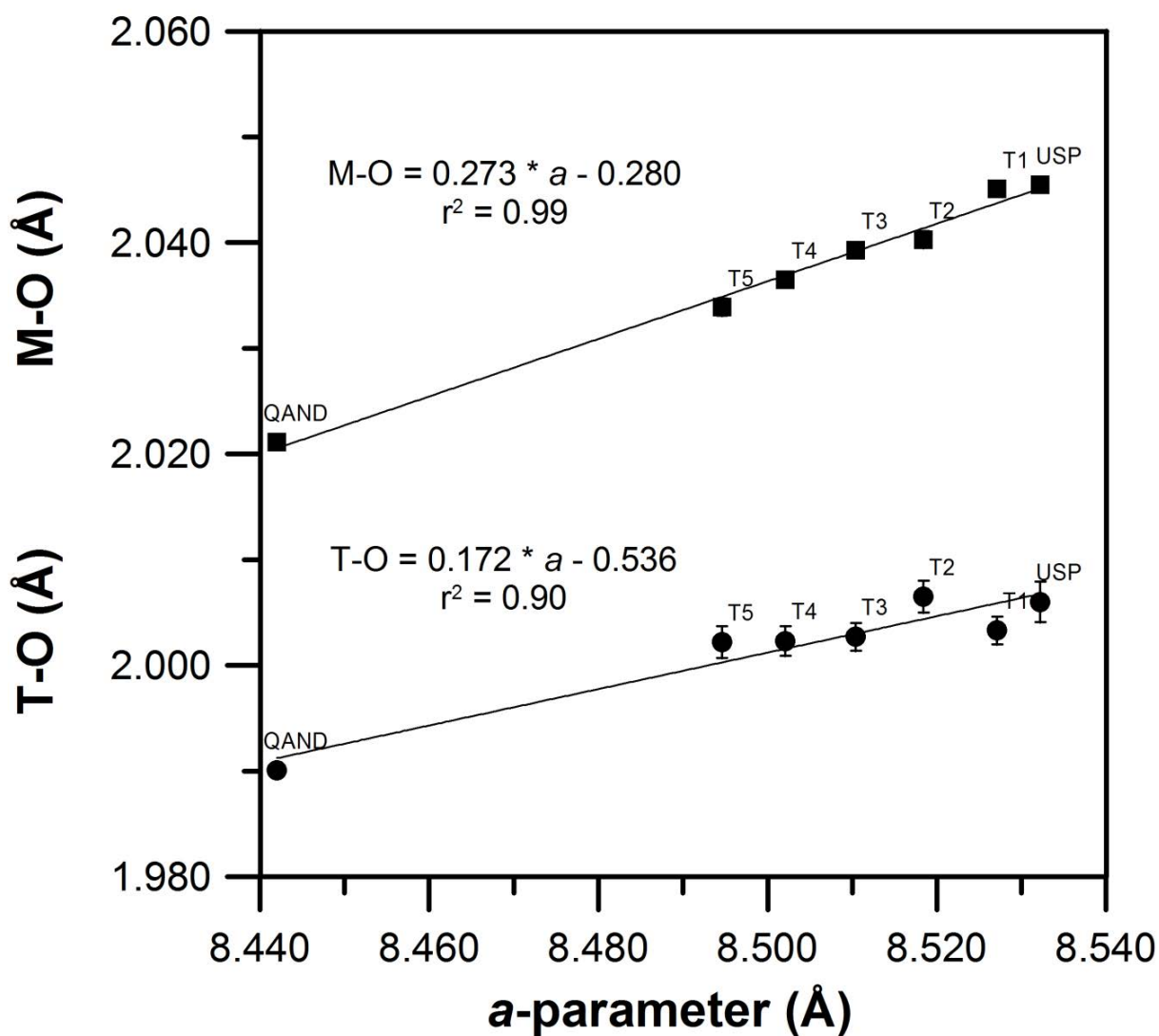


FIGURE 3a

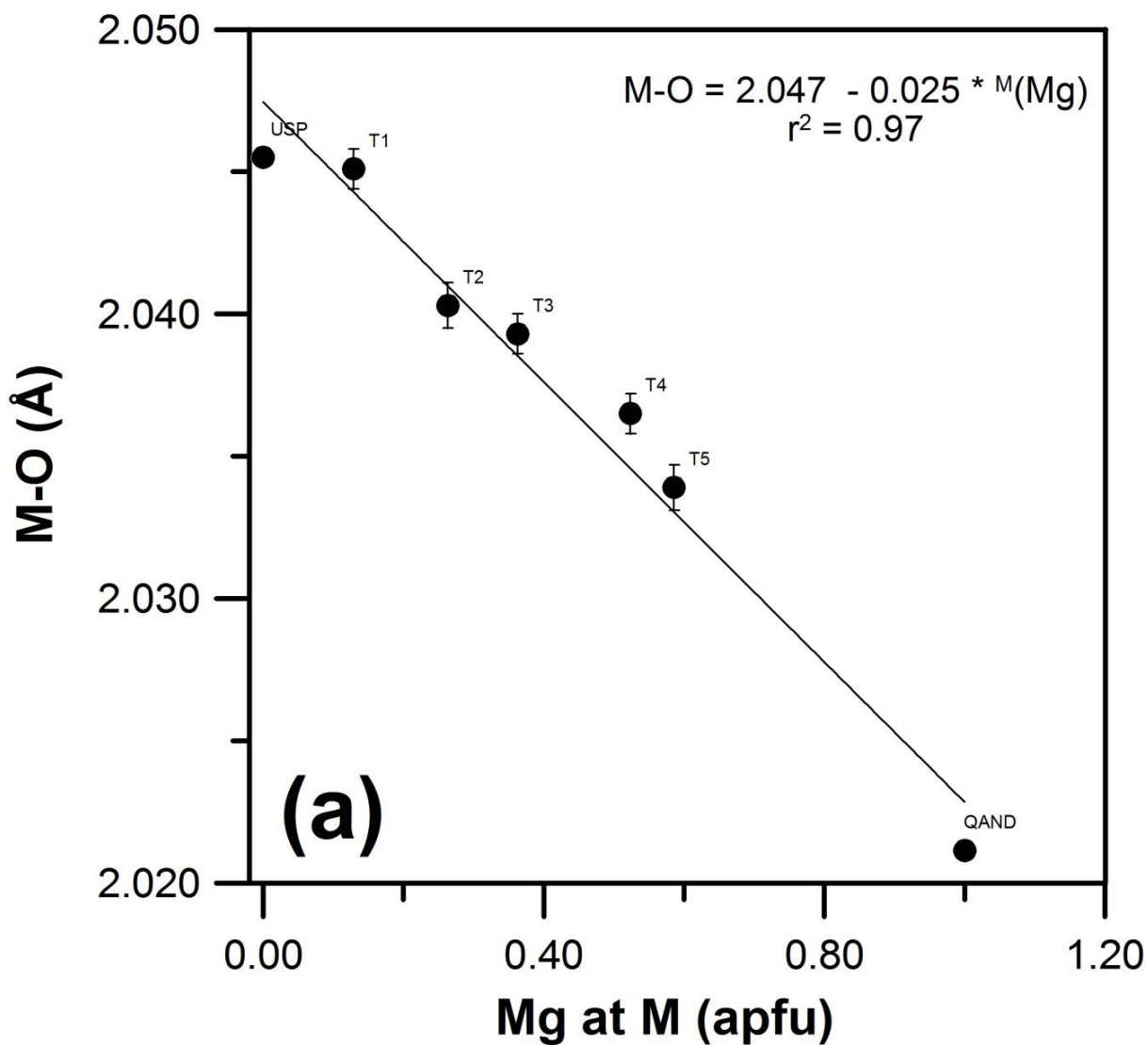


FIGURE 3b

