# 1 Revision 1

- 2 Title: Chemistry-dependent Raman spectral features of glauconite and nontronite:
- 3 Implications for mineral identification and provenance analysis
- 4 Short title: Raman spectral features of glauconite and nontronite
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## 16 KEYWORDS

17 Phyllosilicates; Glauconite; Nontronite; Peak shift

## 18 ABSTRACT

- 19 This study provides a comprehensive Raman spectral characterization of nontronite and
- 20 glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer phases from seafloor hydrothermal fields. These 2:1
- 21 phyllosilicates, which show isomorphous cation exchange between  $Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}+Al^{3+}$
- 22 in the dioctahedral sheets, exhibit three diagnostic Raman peaks in the low-wavenumber

23	region (v1 ~241-257 cm <sup>-1</sup> ; v2 ~600-606 cm <sup>-1</sup> ; v3 ~690 cm <sup>-1</sup> ), and one peak at ~3548-3570
24	cm <sup>-1</sup> (v4). With increasing $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ , the presumed stretching band of octahedral OH-O
25	bonds (v1) is displaced to higher wavenumber, whereas the stretching band of tetrahedral Si-
26	O-Si bonds (v2) is shifted to lower wavenumber. Peak v4, which relates to O-H bonds of
27	hydroxyls linked to octahedral cations, shows a downshift with increasing $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ .
28	The deconvolution of v4 indicates three maxima, two of which strongly correlate with the
29	cation occupancy in the octahedral sheets; i.e., vibrations of hydroxyls linked to trivalent
30	cations (Fe <sup>3+</sup> and Al <sup>3+</sup> ) are mainly represented by a band at $\sim$ 3560-3573 cm <sup>-1</sup> , whereas
31	divalent cations (Mg <sup>2+</sup> and Fe <sup>2+</sup> ) mainly contribute to a band at $\sim$ 3538-3540 cm <sup>-1</sup> . This result
32	is consistent with theoretical considerations for dioctahedral phyllosilicates, which predict for
33	the incorporation of $Mg^{2+}$ and $Fe^{2+}$ a weakening/lengthening of O-H bonds in the OH groups,
34	accounting for a downshift of the O-H vibrations. Hence, this is one of the first studies that
35	traces how even subtle chemical modifications in phyllosilicates influence Raman spectral
36	features. The reported findings have implications for mineral identification and provenance
37	analysis, such as during surface exploration on Mars, where compositionally diverse
38	phyllosilicates occur.

## **39 INTRODUCTION**

40 Raman spectroscopy found widespread application in the rapid and non-destructive characterization of silicate minerals (Griffiths, 1969; Blaha and Rosasco, 1978; Michaelian, 41 1986; McMillan, 1989; Tlili, 1989; Kuebler et al., 2006; Bersani et al., 2009; Wang et al., 42 2001, 2015; Kloprogge, 2017). However, a detailed understanding of the Raman spectral 43 features of many phyllosilicates is still lacking (cf., Wang et al., 2015; Kloprogge, 2017). 44 45 This holds true for glauconite and nontronite, 2:1 phyllosilicates that belong to the mica and smectite groups, respectively. These minerals show the commonality of having layers of 46 octahedral sheets [trivalent metals ( $Fe^{3+}$  and  $Al^{3+}$ ) and divalent metals ( $Mg^{2+} > Fe^{2+}$ ) bound to 47

48	O and OH; $MO_4(OH)_2$ ] sandwiched by two tetrahedral sheets [Si, Fe <sup>3+</sup> , and Al <sup>3+</sup> , which are
49	coordinated with oxygen; $(Si,Al^{3+},Fe^{3+})O_4$ ]. In glauconite, the substition of $Al^{3+}$ for
50	tetrahedral Si <sup>4+</sup> accounts for a high layer charge that is balanced by interlayer K <sup>+</sup> , whereas the
51	lower layer charge in nontronite attracts higher charged metal cations that are fully hydrated
52	(i.e., $Na^+$ , $Mg^{2+}$ and $Ca^{2+}$ ).

53 Both nontronite and glauconite are dioctahedral phyllosilicates. In other words, most octahedral cations are trivalent, and hence approximately two out of the three sites in their 54 55 structural formula [based on a  $O_{10}(OH)_2$  anion framework] are occupied (Fig. 1). By 56 comparison, phyllosilicates dominated by divalent cations are termed trioctahedral, because essentially all the three octahedral sites are occupied. This change in cation occupancy 57 accounts for a contrasting configuration of the surrounding OH groups: i) in dioctahedral 58 59 sheets, the OH vector is tilted at a relatively low angle relative to the plane of octahedral 60 sheets, and directed towards the unoccupied site (Fig. 1); ii) in trioctahedral sheets, the OH vector is oriented perpendicular to the plane of the octahedral sheets. Such differences can 61 62 influence O-H stretching (v) and bending ( $\delta$ ) vibrations in the octahedral domains, and even vibrations in the interlinked tetrahedral sheets. The corresponding bands in Raman 63 64 spectroscopy and infrared (IR) spectroscopy have been extensively studied (Daynyak et al., 1992; Madejová et al., 1994; Frost and Rintoul, 1996a,b; Besson and Drits 1997a,b; Drits et 65 al. 1997; Frost and Kloprogge, 2000a,b; Bishop et al., 2002a, 2002b, 2008; Madejová, 2003; 66 67 Petit et al., 2004; Zviagina et al., 2004; Cuadros et al., 2013, 2016, 2019; Michalski et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2015; Kloprogge et al., 2017). However, the spectral features are not only 68 sensitive to such major structural changes, they are also influenced by even subtle 69 70 compositional variations (cation exchange) in both the tetrahedral and octahedral sheets. In 71 Raman spectroscopy, the relating band shifts were studied for a variety of silicate minerals, such as garnet, olivine, or pyroxene (Wang et al., 2001; Kuebler et al., 2006; Bersani et al., 72

73 2009), whereas similar effects in phyllosilicates are largely unexplored (cf., Wang et al.,

74 2015).

75 Previous Raman spectroscopy studies of nontronite and glauconite established a 76 baseline for discriminating their main spectral features in relation to fundamental structural and chemical properties (Frost and Kloprogge, 2000a,b; Ospitali et al., 2008; Wang et al., 77 78 2015; Kloprogge, 2017). However, in contrast to the detailed understanding of their IR characteristics, determining the relations between Raman spectral features and variations in 79 80 octahedral cation occupancy remained elusive. In fact, this endeavour must rely on the 81 extensive characterization of glauconite and nontronite with a wide range of structural and chemical properties, but such materials are difficult to access. To fill these knowledge gaps, 82 83 this study reports a comprehensive Raman spectral characterization of nontronite and 84 glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer phases (i.e., vertical mixing/interstratification of 85 glauconite and nontronite layers) from seafloor hydrothermal fields. We show that the analyzed samples exhibit distinctive and systematic differences in Raman spectral features 86 relating to the exchange of divalent and trivalent metal cations (Mg<sup>2+</sup>+Fe<sup>2+</sup> for Fe<sup>3+</sup>+Al<sup>3+</sup>) in 87 the octahedral sheets. The importance of these findings for a variety of technical applications 88 on Earth, and in the surface exploration of other telluric planets in the solar system, especially 89 90 Mars, is discussed.

### 91 MATERIAL AND METHODS

The nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer phases examined in this study are from
seafloor hydrothermal fields of the Atlantis II Deep (Red Sea) and East Pacific Rise (Pacific
Ocean); see Table 1. Their geologic context, mineralogy, and chemistry (including Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Fe<sup>3+</sup>
ratios), were reported in detail in Cuadros et al. (2013), in which they were characterized
using X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD), inductively coupled plasma atomic emission
spectroscopy analysis (ICP-AES), thermal gravimetry-evolved gas analysis (TG-EGA),

98	Mössbauer Spectroscopy, scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and transmission MIR
99	spectroscopy; see additional IR spectroscopy data of these phyllosilicate materials in
100	Michalski et al. (2015) and Cuadros et al. (2016). Besides the differences in mineralogy and the
101	contrasting proportions of glauconite and nontronite, these materials also show variable
102	substitution of $Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+}$ for $Fe^{3+}+Al^{3+}$ in the octahedral sheets (Table 1); they are thus
103	termed as high $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ and low $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples for the sake of
104	comparison and discussion of the acquired spectroscopic data.

Here, these phyllosilicate samples are analyzed using scanning electron microscopy 105 106 (SEM), as well as Raman spectroscopy and NIR reflectance spectroscopy. For this purpose, the previously prepared, grounded, and purified samples (cf., Cuadros et al., 2013), were 107 attached to silica glass slides using double-sided adhesive tape, by letting the powdered 108 109 materials fall onto the tape and carefully fixing them with hand pressure. Nontronite and 110 glauconite-nontronite grains that were deemed suitable for SEM analysis and spectroscopic measurements were then selected using a Zeiss Axio Imager.A2 microscope. 111 Backscattered electron (BSE) and secondary electron (SE) imagery, as well as 112 element analysis by Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS), was performed using a 113 FEI XHR–Verios 4601 field–emission SEM installed at the Centre for Microscopy, 114 Characterisation and Analysis (CMCA), University of Western Australia (UWA), and a 115 116 Tescan Mira3 FEG-SE installed at CSIRO Mineral Resources, Kensington, Western Australia. For this purpose, the phyllosilicate samples mounted to glass slides using adhesive 117 118 tape were carbon coated (~30 nm thick layer). Both BSE and SE images were then acquired using 10–15 keV acceleration voltage and 0.1–0.2 nA beam current, whereas EDS spot 119

analysis, which was carried out in Oxford Instruments' Aztec software, involved 15 keV 120

accelation voltage, 0.2 nA beam current, and 60-120 s measurement time. 121

122	Infrared reflectance spectroscopy measurements of the mineral grains attached to
123	glass slides were performed using a Vertex 70 Fourier transform IR spectrometer (Bruker)
124	and a Hyperion 3000 microscope. The analyses were performed using a $15 \times$ objective and a
125	mercury-cadmium-telluride (MCT) detector. The microscope is equipped with a video
126	camera for image display, and a computer-controlled stage for automated mapping. Spectra
127	were recorded from an area of $\sim 30 \times 30$ µm. A smaller aperture size was not used because it
128	would result in poor quality spectra with unacceptable signal-to-noise ratios. All spectra were
129	collected using 1200 scans and 2 cm <sup>-1</sup> spectral resolution in the 600-7500 cm <sup>-1</sup> range.
130	Background spectra were obtained on a gold plate using the same analytical conditions. All
131	measurements were performed at room temperature (20 $\pm$ 2 °C). The IR absorption features
132	were determined in MagicPlot (MagicPlot Systems LLC, Saint Petersburg, Russia).
133	Raman spectroscopy analysis was carried out at CSIRO Mineral Resources, using a
134	Horiba LabRam HR Evolution instrument, which is equipped with a multichannel air cooled
135	(-70 $^{\circ}$ C) Synapse Visible detector, and a 100 mW continuous wave single frequency (532
136	nm) diode laser from Laser Quantum. Spot analyses on selected phyllosilicate grains were
137	acquired at room temperature ( $20 \pm 2$ °C), using a 100× objective, which allows focusing of
138	the unpolarized laser beam to a width of approximately 0.72 $\mu$ m. Filtering (5-10%) decreased
139	the laser power to $\sim 1$ mW on the sample surface. This low laser power was used to avoid
140	Raman signal alteration by sample heating and thermal damage. The spectra were collected
141	with 600 grooves/mm, using 2s exposure time and 100-300 accumulations in the low-
142	wavenumber region (<1800 cm <sup>-1</sup> ), and using 2s exposure time and 500-2000 accumulations
143	in the hydroxyl stretching region (3000-4200 cm <sup>-1</sup> ). These relatively long acquisition times
144	were necessary because phyllosilicates are moderate to weak Raman scatterers, particularly in
145	the case of small particle/crystal sizes, as in the analyzed samples. The Raman bands were
146	calibrated against characteristic peaks of a Si wafer and a neon lamp. Baseline correction was

147	done in Horiba's LabSpec software using third- or fourth-degree polynomial functions fitted
148	to spectral intervals that contain background but no discernible peaks.

149	The positions of Raman peaks in the low-wavenumber region (<1000cm <sup>-1</sup> ; v1, v2, and
150	v3; Table 2), and the parameters (positions, areas, heights, and full widths at half maximum)
151	of bands that make up a broad hydroxyl peak at $\sim$ 3500-3700 cm <sup>-1</sup> (v4; Table 2), were
152	determined in MagicPlot. The latter peak was decomposed by curve-fitting using Gaussian
153	peak functions. Although Raman bands of minerals are unlikely to have pure Gaussian
154	profiles, this curve type is advantageous in that its flanks decrease sharply to produce well-
155	constrained fitting results. The number of bands used for fitting of v4 was three (hereafter vA,
156	vB and vC), as determined on basis of distinctive peak asymmetries and shoulders/tails.
157	The fitting calculations involved the following steps. First, the positions of vA, vB,
158	and vC, were approximated by consideration of the overall position and shape of v4 (step 1):
159	i) for low $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples, $vA = 3542 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , $vB = 3572 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and $vC = 3610 \text{ cm}^{-1}$
160	<sup>1</sup> ; ii) for high $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples, $vA = 3539 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , $vB = 3560 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and $vC = 3600$ -
161	3605 cm <sup>-1</sup> . Second, multiple calculation steps were carried out by keeping selected
162	parameters locked, although occasional hand adjustment was necessary to correct for
163	implausible/unacceptable calculation results. Initially, the area, height, and half width at half
164	maximum (HWHM) of each band was calculated in a single iteration step after locking the
165	estimated positions of all bands (step 2). Because vC is the least well resolved band in most
166	spectra, its parameters were then calculated by keeping all parameters of vA and vB fixed
167	(step 3). Next, calculation was redone by keeping only the areas of the peaks locked (step 4).
168	However, this step did not provide meaningful results for some of the samples with high
169	$(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ . In these instances, the step 4 was split into two steps. First, the band
170	parameters were calculated by keeping both the area and HWHM of vA and vB fixed.
171	Second, the HWHM of both vA and vB was released, but the newly calculated positions

- locked. The utilized spectral deconvolution strategy consistently provided  $r^2$  values of >0.999
- 173 between the original and calculated spectra.

### 174 **RESULTS**

175 *Mineralogy and chemistry* 

The mineralogical and chemical characteristics of the analyzed samples are documented in detail in Cuadros et al. (2013). In this study, both SEM imagery and qualitative EDS spot analysis (Fig. 2 and 3) was used to ensure that Raman spectra were acquired on (near-) pure phyllosilicate areas, and to examine micro-mineralogical and chemical variations within the samples.

181 The SEM images reveal that all analyzed samples comprise irregularly shaped nontronite or glauconite-nontronite grains up to several hundreds of micro-meters in diameter 182 (Fig. 2a). These grains essentially consist of stacked or tortuous, lower micron- to nanoscale, 183 platy to fibrous particles that are commonly assembled in partially crackled, sheath- to rope-184 like order. Besides variations in particle size, all samples exhibit very similar morphological 185 habits; i.e., no distinctive differences were observed between high and low 186  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  samples (Fig. 2). Owing to careful sample preparation/purification, 187 contaminating mineral particles are scarce or entirely absent; see the accessory Fe-hydroxide 188 189 and/or Cu-rich phases in Fig. 2b-d. Qualitative EDS point analysis of glauconite-nontronite grains in each sample – see the exemplary data for Va22-146KS-612-614 and 1183-15 in Fig. 190 3 – broadly match the corresponding bulk compositional data reported in Cuadros et al. 191 192 (2013) and summarized in Table 1. Moreover, a series of EDS analyses on multiple grains within each sample illustrate their (near-) uniform/homogeneous chemical composition (Fig. 193 194 3).

195 Infrared reflectance spectroscopy

196	Near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy measurements of mineral grains in each sample show
197	typical absorption bands of glauconite and nontronite: i) the combination of OH bending plus
198	stretching of adsorbed and interlayered H <sub>2</sub> O at $\sim$ 5246 cm <sup>-1</sup> , and ii) the combination of OH
199	bending and stretching of octahedral hydroxyls at ~4338-4352 cm <sup>-1</sup> (vI; see Fig. 4). The
200	position of vI, which is comparable to the range of values reported previously from the same
201	materials (Michalski et al., 2015; Cuadros et al., 2013, 2016, 2019), systematically varies
202	with the cation composition of the octahedral sheets; i.e., $\sim$ 4348-4352 cm <sup>-1</sup> for low
203	$(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples, and ~4338-4345 cm <sup>-1</sup> for high $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples
204	(Table 2; Fig. 4 and 5).
205	Raman spectroscopy
206	Raman spectroscopy in the low-wavenumber region reveals two distinctive bands for
207	all samples: v1 ~241-257 cm <sup>-1</sup> and v2 ~600-606 $\Delta$ cm <sup>-1</sup> (Table 2; Fig. 6a). Band v1 is part of
208	a series of bands in the $\sim$ 250-350 cm <sup>-1</sup> range, whereas v2 shows a distinctive shoulder/tail at
209	the low-wavenumber side. The positions of v1 and v2 correlate with the composition of the
210	octahedral sheets: i.e., v1 ~241-247 cm <sup>-1</sup> and v2 ~605-606 cm <sup>-1</sup> for $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ -poorer
211	samples; v1 ~254-257 cm <sup>-1</sup> and v2 ~600-605 cm <sup>-1</sup> for $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ -richer samples (Table
212	2; Fig. 7a and b). Besides v1 and v2, additional bands occur at $\sim$ 350-550 cm <sup>-1</sup> and $\sim$ 690
213	$cm^{-1}$ (v3); see Fig. 6a. Measurements in the hydroxyl-stretching region show a broad,
214	asymmetric peak (v4). Its position correlates with the chemistry of the octahedral sheets: i.e.,
215	v4 ~3568-3570 cm <sup>-1</sup> and ~3548-3557 cm <sup>-1</sup> for low and high $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ samples,
216	respectively (Table 2; Fig. 6b and 7c). Analyses of multiple mineral grains in each sample
217	produced similar peak shapes and central positions (Fig. 8), as is consistent with the (near-)
218	uniform/homogeneous chemical compositions of the samples (Fig. 3).
219	In all samples, the asymmetry of v4, including a shoulder/tail at the high-wavenumber
220	side, allows for its mathematical modelling using three discrete bands: vA, vB and vC (Table

221 2; Fig. 9). The weak intensity of vC, and its proximity to the other, more intense bands,

- resulted in more uncertain parameters for this band. Nonetheless, the calculated band centres
- systematically vary with octahedral composition; i.e., the positions of all three bands are
- distinctly shifted to lower wavenumber in samples with high  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  (Table 2;
- Fig. 10a-c). Moreover, covariations exist between the octahedral composition and the other
- 226 parameters of the assumed bands, including their calculated intensities  $(A_A/A_B \text{ and } A_A/A_{tot},$
- 227 where  $A_{tot}$  is the sum of areas of vA, vB and vC) and half-widths at half maximum
- 228 (HWHM<sub>A</sub>/HWHM<sub>B</sub>); see Table 2 and Fig 10d-f. For example, vA is the dominant band in the

spectra of high  $(Mg^{2+}-Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  samples (high  $A_A/A_B$  and high  $A_A/A_{tot}$ ), whereas vB is

- 230 dominant in low  $(Mg^{2+}-Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  samples (low  $A_A/A_B$ ). The half-widths at half maximum
- 231 (HWHM) decrease with the prominence of vA and vB; i.e., high HWHM<sub>A</sub>/HWHM<sub>B</sub> for

232  $(Mg^{2+}-Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ -poorer samples, and comparatively lower HWHM<sub>A</sub>/HWHM<sub>B</sub> for  $(Mg^{2+}-Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ -poorer samples and comparatively lower hWHM<sub>A</sub>/HWHM<sub>B</sub> for

233 Fe<sup>2+</sup>)<sub>oct</sub>-richer samples.

## 234 DISCUSSION

### 235 *Comparison with previous work*

The analyzed nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer phases show a series of 236 Raman peaks in the low-wavenumber region (v1, v2, and v3) and hydroxyl stretching domain 237 (v4). These peaks, which are at slightly different positions in each sample (Table 2; Fig 6), 238 239 were observed in previous studies; see Wang et al. (2015, their figures 10 and 13), and Ospitali et al. (2008, their figure 3). Their assignment is discussed in below. Several 240 additional peaks occur below  $\sim$ 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>; see Fig. 6a in comparison with data in Ospitali et al. 241 (2008) and Wang et al. (2015). However, their detailed discussion is omitted, because these 242 peaks are insufficiently developed or absent in some of the spectra, due to which eventual 243 origins/influences by trace contaminants not readily observed in SEM images (see Fig. 2b-d) 244 cannot be ruled out. 245

In this study, v1 (~241-257 cm <sup>-1</sup> ) may relate to the stretching of OH-O bonds in the
octahedral sheets [v(OH-O) <sub>oct</sub> ]; see Frost and Rintoul (1996a,b). The intensity of this band
increases with increasing wavelength of the excitation source; compare Fig. 6a with the
glauconite analyses using 514.5 nm, 632.8 nm, and 785 nm lasers in Ospitali et al. (2008,
their figure 3). Both v2 and v3, located at ~600-606 $cm^{-1}$ and ~690 $cm^{-1}$ , respectively, likely
correspond to Si-O-Si vibrations in the tetrahedral sheets (Wang et al., 2015). The latter band
is commonly assigned to the symmetric stretching vibration of Si-O <sub>b</sub> -Si [ $\nu$ (Si-O <sub>b</sub> -Si) <sub>tet</sub> ],
where O <sub>b</sub> are oxygen atoms bridging the tetrahedral components (Wang et al., 2015;
Kloprogge, 2017). The intensities of both these bands appear to depend on the wavelength of
the excitation source. Band v2 is the most intense band in this study, as is consistent with its
prominence in the glauconite data acquired using a 514.5 nm laser in Ospitali et al. (2008).
The latter study shows that this band is essentially absent in analyses with 632.8 nm and 785
nm lasers, and the same holds true for the analyses of the Hohen-Hagen nontronite standard
(NG-1) using a 1064 nm in Frost and Kloprogge (2000a, their figure 2). This difference,
which is also observed for v1, could indicate that the transition energy of the relating
vibrational mode is not matched by each laser wavelength/frequency. However, this
explanation cannot hold true for the weak expression of v3 in this study (Fig. 6a), which
contrasts with its strong intensity in the glauconite analyses with a 514.5 nm laser in Ospitali
et al. (2008). Although uncertain, this difference could relate to a contrasting polarization
configuration of the laser used in Ospitali et al. (2008), and/or an influence by differences in
particle size or orientation (compare with Ishibashi et al., 2008, and Foucher et al., 2013).
Finally, there is agreement in the position and intensity of the hydroxyl O-H
stretching bands (~3500-3700 cm <sup>-1</sup> range) for the spectra in this study and those of glauconite
and nontronite in the literature; compare Figs 6, 8 and 9 with Wang et al. (2015, their figures
10 and 13). The glauconite spectrum in Wang et al. (2015) shows a broad O-H stretching

271	band with three maxima; i.e., one peak at ~3600 cm <sup>-1</sup> , another, more intense peak below 3600
272	cm <sup>-1</sup> , and a third peak that accounts for a shoulder on the low wavenumber side of the most
273	intense peak. This composite band is consistent with v4 of the low $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$
274	samples (Figs 6b, 8 and 9a). On the other hand, the nontronite spectrum in Wang et al. (2015)
275	shows an intense peak with a gentle tail on the high-wavenumber side, as is consistent with
276	v4 of the high $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ specimens (Figs 6b, 8 and 9b-c).
277	Chemistry/structure-dependent Raman spectral features of glauconite and nontronite
278	For the analyzed nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer samples, the covariations
279	between Raman spectral properties and octahedral chemistry (Table 2; Fig. 7 and 10) merits
280	discussion about which chemical and structural properties cause these differences.
281	Previously, Wang et al. (2015) proposed that a series of spectral features in both the low-
282	wavenumber region and the hydroxyl stretching domain can aid in the discrimination
283	between different phyllosilicate members: i) all phyllosilicates should have their strongest
284	peaks in the 600-800 cm <sup>-1</sup> range; ii) $v(Si-O_b-Si)_{tet}$ is below 700 cm <sup>-1</sup> for trioctahedral species
285	and above 700 cm <sup>-1</sup> for dioctahedral species, except for Fe-rich dioctahedral phyllosilicates,
286	such as glauconite and nontronite, where it is downshifted to <700 cm <sup>-1</sup> ; iii) Al-rich
287	phyllosilicates have a diagnostic band at ~430 cm <sup>-1</sup> , Mg-rich phyllosilicates a band at ~350
288	cm <sup>-1</sup> , and Fe-rich phyllosilicates a band at ~550-600 cm <sup>-1</sup> ; iv) hydroxyl stretching bands (here
289	v4) of all phyllosilicates appear at >3600 cm <sup>-1</sup> , except for Fe-rich species (<3600 cm <sup>-1</sup> ). Our
290	data confirm all these propositions; see Table 2 and Figs 6-9.
291	The data in this study also indicate that the positions of v1, v2, and v4 correlate with
292	the composition of the samples, especially the proportions of divalent and trivalent cations in
293	the octahedral sheets (Fig. 7). The cause for this dependency seems clear for v4: octahedral
294	cations are bound to the OH groups, and thus can influence the frequencies of O-H stretching

vibrations; see a more detailed discussion further below. Because OH-stretching vibrations

are also active in IR (Fig. 4 and 5), the relating shifts in IR were exploited for the 296 identification of phyllosilicates, such as in surface exploration of Mars (Poulet et al., 2005; 297 298 Carter et al., 2013; Michalski et al., 2015), and in determination of their octahedral composition and cation order (Bishop et al., 2002a,b; Bishop et al., 2008; Cuadros et al., 299 2013, 2016, 2019). In Raman spectroscopy, the influence of octahedral composition on v1 300 and v2 cannot be assessed with certainty because the origins of these bands are in part 301 uncertain. To reiterate, v1 may relate to v(OH-O)<sub>oct</sub> (Frost and Rintoul, 1996a,b), and v2 to 302 303  $v(Si-O_b-Si)_{tet}$  (Wang et al., 2015). Provided that this band assignment is correct, the displacement of v1 with chemistry is explainable by the linkage of the octahedral cations to 304 the OH implicated in  $v(OH-O)_{oct}$ . Although v2 is ascribed to vibration in the tetrahedral 305 306 sheets, an influence by octahedral chemistry is expectable because octahedral and tetrahedral sheets share O atoms. Consistent with such an indirect influence is the relatively small shift 307 of v2 (~6 cm<sup>-1</sup>) when compared with that of v1 (~15 cm<sup>-1</sup>), as well as the lower correlation 308 309 between octahedral cation occupancy and the position of v2, particularly if compared with that for v1 and v4 (Fig. 7). 310

- Relationship between octahedral cation site occupancy and Raman bands in the hydroxyl
  stretching region
- 313 Where vibrations are active in both Raman and IR reflectance spectroscopy, information
- 314 gathered via the latter technique can aid in detailed interpretation of the Raman bands.
- 315 Concerning v4 in Raman spectroscopy, the NIR data show a comparable, octahedral cation-
- sensitive peak corresponding to OH bending and stretching; i.e., vI between ~4338 and
- $\sim 4352 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , where  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}$ -richer samples plot at lower wavenumbers (Table 2; Figs
- 4, 5 and 11). The study of Cuadros et al. (2016) assigned this band shift to overlapping
- vibration bands of paired metal cation species linked to OH (M-OH-M or M-OH-M'):
- 320 AlFe<sup>3+</sup>OH, Fe<sup>3+</sup><sub>2</sub>OH, Fe<sup>3+</sup>MgOH Fe<sup>3+</sup>Fe<sup>2+</sup>OH, and perhaps Fe<sup>2+</sup>MgOH (Madejová et al.,

1994; Drits et al., 1997; Bishop et al., 2002a,b; Petit et al., 2004). Spectral deconvolution of 321 v4 allows assessing whether its shift is the result of a comparable array of Raman vibrations 322 323 in such M-OH-M' groups. Whereas peak fitting using three bands (Fig. 9) is not considered 324 to represent each of the potential vibration components of v4 (see further discussion below), 325 it allows exploring whether and how the octahedral cation occupancy influences these assumed bands. Indeed, mathematical modelling indicates that increasing  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ 326 accounts for i) a displacement of the three assumed bands (vA, vB and vC) to lower 327 328 wavenumbers (Table 2; Fig. 10a-c); ii) an increase in the intensity of vA (Table 2; Fig. 10de); iii) a decrease of the width of vA relative to that of vB (Table 2; Fig. 10f). 329 The causes for the variations among vA, vB and vC can be assessed based on theoretical 330 331 considerations for hydroxyl stretching modes in phyllosilicates. Theory predicts that the O-H stretching energy of an octahedral OH group, and hence the frequency of the corresponding IR 332 and Raman bands, relates to the strength/length of the O-H bond, which is mainly determined 333 334 by the cation arrangement and occupancy, and the location/orientation of the OH group (Farmer and Russell, 1964; Farmer, 1968; Rouxhet, 1970; Slonimskaya et al., 1986; Daynyak 335 336 et al., 1992; Madejová et al., 1994; Besson and Drits, 1997a,b; Drits et al., 1997; Madejová, 2003; Petit et al., 2004; Zviagina et al., 2004; Hofmeister and Bowey, 2006; Wang et al., 2015; 337 338 Kloprogge, 2017). In trioctahedral phyllosilicates, the vectors of OH groups are oriented 339 perpendicular to the plane of the octahedral sheet, and no H-bondings exist between O and OH. Hence, the weakening of a M-OH bond, such as through the substitution of a large and weakly 340 electronegative cation for a smaller and more electronegative cation (e.g., Mg<sup>2+</sup> for Fe<sup>3+</sup>, with 341 radii of ~0.72 Å and 0.65 Å, respectively; Shannon, 1974), is compensated by a 342 343 strengthening/shortening of the O-H bond, and thus a shift of the O-H stretching vibration to 344 higher wavenumber. However, for dioctahedral glauconite and nontronite, in which the OH vectors are only slightly tilted relative to the octahedral sheets and point towards the cation-345

vacancies (Fig. 1), the same substitution process accounts for an opposite effect: with 346 increasing (Mg<sup>2+</sup>+Fe<sup>2+</sup>)/M<sub>oct</sub>, the O-H vibrations are shifted to lower wavenumber. This 347 difference could relate to the presence of cross-vacancy H-bondings between the OH groups 348 and octahedral O atoms in dioctahedral phyllosilicate species (Fig. 1). The substitution of  $M^{2+}$ 349 for M<sup>3+</sup> causes a weakening/lengthening of the M-OH bonds, and thus a 350 strengthening/shortening of the cross-vacancy OH-O bonds, due to which the O-H bonds 351 become weaker and longer, resulting in a downshift of the O-H stretching modes (Besson and 352 Drits 1997b; Drits et al., 1997). 353

Hence, for the analyzed nontronite and glauconite-nontronite phases, the displacement 354 of all the three assumed hydroxyl stretching bands to lower wavenumber with higher 355  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  can be interpreted in two ways. First, the assumed bands do not 356 correspond to vibrations of a single M-OH-M' group, they encompass vibrations of more 357 358 than one cation pair. As a result, the bands are displaced as the proportions of cation pairs 359 change. Second, the displacement of the bands relates to an overall change of the M-OH bonding distance in the octahedral sheet; i.e., as the proportion of divalent atoms (mainly 360 361  $Mg^{2+}$ ) increases, the average M-OH distance in the octahedral sheet increases. The second interpretation implies that it is the relative proportion of Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> that controls the 362 average M-OH distance in the entire octahedral sheet (note that Fe<sup>3+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> are the most 363 abundant cations, Table 1), with a greater M-OH distance as Mg<sup>2+</sup> increases, as a result of 364 which all bands are displaced to lower wavenumber. Regardless, the increasing relative area 365 of vA with increasing  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  requires that  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{2+}$  are necessary 366 contributors to this specific band, and that it is a proxy for (M-OH-M')<sub>oct</sub> groups dominated 367 by Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>2+</sup> (Fe<sup>2+</sup>Mg, Fe<sup>3+</sup>Mg, Fe<sup>3+</sup>Fe<sup>2+</sup>, and perhaps also AlMg and AlFe<sup>3+</sup>). The 368 corollary of this interpretation is that vB relates to vibrations involving trivalent cation pairs 369 ( $Fe^{3+}_{2}$  and  $Fe^{3+}Al$ ), whereas the presence of vC suggests that the contribution of cation pairs 370

371 to Raman intensity is complex, with divalent cations mainly contributing to vA and vB (in increasing extent from vB to vA), and trivalent cations contributing to all three bands, in 372 373 increasing extent from vA to vC. This assignment of assumed hydroxyl bands agrees with the experimental and simulated IR data of 2:1 phyllosilicates in previous studies; see 374 Slonimskaya et al. (1986, their table 2) and Drits et al. (1997, their table 5). These studies 375 show that the positions of the deconvoluted OH-stretching bands are correlated with the 376 377 cumulative valency of the implicated cation pairs; i.e., OH attached to divalent-divalent cation pairs (e.g., Mg<sup>2+</sup>Fe<sup>2+</sup>) generally account for O-H stretching vibrations at lower 378 wavenumber if compared with OH attached to divalent-trivalent and trivalent-trivalent cation 379 pairs (e.g.,  $Mg^{2+}Fe^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}_{2}$ , respectively). 380

Although the deconvolution of v4 into three separate bands allows for meaningful 381 382 interpretations, specific results, such as the decreasing width of vA relative to that of vB in parallel to increasing  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  (Fig. 10f), are difficult to interpret. Whereas this 383 384 variation in band width could indicate that the contribution of OH linked to divalent atoms within the vB envelope is greater than for vA, an artifact from fitting with only three assumed 385 386 bands cannot be ruled out. To reiterate, this peak likely corresponds to an exceeding number of vibrations of cation pairs linked to OH. Indeed, previous IR studies suggested the likely 387 existence of multiple O-H stretching bands corresponding to the same cation pair (e.g., more 388 than one  $Fe_2^{3+}OH$  band in glauconite and nontronite), and the same could hold true for 389 Raman spectroscopy. Although the detailed causes for such multiplicities are not entirely 390 understood, factors may be a specific cation occupancy in tetrahedral sheets above and below 391 392 the octahedral sheet, or modifications in the local octahedral cation environment around a vibrating M-OH-M' group. Even interlayer cations may influence OH stretching modes, as 393 was shown for IR spectra of mica and illite, where K<sup>+</sup> located within the hexagonal cavity of 394 tetrahedral sheets affects the octahedral O-H stretching vibration (Rouxhet, 1970; 395

Slonimskaya et al., 1986; Besson et al., 1987; Daynyak et al., 1992; Madejová et al., 1994;

- Besson and Drits, 1997a,b; Drits et al., 1997; Zviagina et al., 2004).
- Besides all these uncertainties, the used approximation (3 bands: vA, vB, and vC)
- 399 sufficiently portrays the theoretically predicted influence of octahedral cation substitution on
- 400 Raman-active O-H stretching modes, and thus supports the use of the correlation between
- 401  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  and the position of v4 as a proxy for octahedral metal occupancy:

402  $M^{2+}_{oct}/M_{oct} \sim (v4-3599)/-340$ , in which v4 is the wavenumber at the band maximum;  $R^2 =$ 

- 403 0.87 (Fig. 7c). However, this calibration is likely only accurate for  $Mg^{2+}$ -rich glauconite and
- 404 nontronite, because in the analyzed samples, the influence of other cation species (e.g.,  $Fe^{2+}$
- and  $Al^{3+}$ ) on the octahedral domains is limited (Table 1), and thus not assessable.

#### 406 IMPLICATIONS

415

407 The findings in this study have implications for mineral identification and mineral

408 provenance analysis. For example, Raman spectroscopy is an established technique in the

409 characterization of "green earths" used in historic artworks. The study of Ospitali et al.

410 (2008) which compared glauconite from several localities in Italy with that in historic

411 artworks, found differences in Raman spectral features that could be useful for identifying its

412 origin. Indeed, an evaluation of the Raman spectral data in Ospitali et al. (2008, their figure

413 8) reveals that the glauconite used in some of the examined historic artworks belongs to the

414 low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  group. Because low  $Mg^{2+}$  in glauconite and nontronite is indicative

for mineral precipitation at shallow water to continental shelf depositional sites, compared to

416 predominately higher  $Mg^{2+}$  incorporation in deep-sea hydrothermal precipitates (Hesse and

Schacht 2011), this information can aid in unveiling the historic mining locality for suchgreen earths.

The results in this study will also contribute to the surface exploration of planetarybodies in the solar system, especially Mars. Orbital remote sensing measurements have

421	provided evidence for the widespread occurrence of (Fe-bearing) phyllosilicates, including
422	glauconite and nontronite, in Mars' Noachian and Hesperian terrains (Poulet et al., 2005;
423	Carter et al., 2013). Future robotic landing missions on Mars will be equipped with Raman
424	spectrometers; i.e., ExoMars of ESA (ESA, 2020), and Perseverance of NASA (NASA,
425	2020). Hence, the results and interpretations in this study will support the characterization
426	and definitive identification of such phyllosilicates, and hence determination of their
427	provenance and origin on basis of detected crystal structural and chemical properties, as is
428	required for reconstructing the global- to regional-scale paleoenvironmental conditions in
429	Mars' ancient past.

Finally, the structural and chemical characterization of clay minerals through Raman 430 spectroscopy can aid in exploring for economic mineral resources. For example, nontronite, 431 432 together with saponite, is the principal ore mineral in Ni laterite deposits (Butt & Cluzel, 433 2013), where these Ni-containing clay species predominately occur in the mid to upper saprolite and pedolith domains developed on ultramafic rocks. Determining the cation 434 435 composition of these clays down to the lower micron-scale, as feasible by confocal Raman spectroscopy, is important for i) determining the mineralogical hosts of the precious metals, 436 ii) understanding the value of the respective mineral deposit, and iii) driving decisions with 437 regards to ore processing. Furthermore, because nontronite can be diagnostic for alteration of 438 ferromagnesian rocks, the adoption of cost-effective Raman spectroscopy for its chemical and 439 440 structural characterization can support the exploration for other greenstone-hosted ore deposits, such as the gold deposits in the Yilgarn Craton of Western Australia; e.g. 441 Bronzewing deposit (Cudahy et al., 1995). 442

#### 443 CONCLUSIONS

In this study, Raman spectroscopy analysis of nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixedlayer phases from deep sea hydrothermal fields reveals that these phyllosilicates have

446 diagnostic Raman spectral features that include a series of strong peaks in the low-wavenumber 447 region ( $<700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and the hydroxyl domain (3500-3700 cm<sup>-1</sup>).

Specifically, we have identified three diagnostic peaks in the low wavenumber region: 448 i) v1 ~241-257 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ii) v2 ~600-606 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ii) v3 ~690 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Peak v1, which presumably 449 corresponds to OH-O formed from O of tetrahedral sheets and OH octahedral sheets, is shifted 450 to a higher wavenumber with increasing M<sup>2+</sup><sub>oct</sub>/M<sub>oct</sub>, whereas v2, which relates to Si-O<sub>b</sub>-Si 451 vibrations in the tetrahedral sheets, shows an inverse (negative) relationship between 452  $M^{2+}_{oct}/M_{oct}$  and wavenumber. Moreover, a strong correlation between  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  and 453 the position of the hydroxyl stretching band (v4  $\sim$ 3548-3570 cm<sup>-1</sup>) allows to propose for both 454 the high and low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$  samples a simplified calibration model for the octahedral 455 cation occupancy:  $M^{2+}_{oct}/M_{oct} \sim (v4-3603)/-333$  (Fig. 7c), in which v4 is the wavenumber at 456 457 the band maximum (see Fig. 8).

Taken together, our study shows that Raman spectroscopy can be used for the rapid and reliable characterization of glauconite, nontronite, and glauconite-nontronite mixed layer phases, which is particularly important for mineral characterization and mineral provenance analysis by Raman spectroscopic analysis on Earth and during robotic surface exploration of planets elsewhere in the solar system, especially Mars, where phyllosilicates with a wide range of Al-Mg-Fe<sup>2+</sup>-Fe<sup>3+</sup> composition occur.

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## TABLES

Table 1 Sampling locations and chemistry of analyzed glauconite-nontronite samples. Data are from Cuadros et al. (2013).

Sample	Locality	G:N	Si	Altet	Fetet	Aloct	Mgoct	Fe <sup>3+</sup>	Fe <sup>2+</sup>	Mn	Ti	Mg	Ca	Na	K	Moct	Charge
Low (Fe <sup>2+</sup> +Mg <sup>2+</sup> ) <sub>oct</sub> /M <sub>oct</sub>																	
Va22-146KS-639-640	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	33:77	3.62	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.23	1.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.28	2.08	-0.0006
Va22-146KS-612-614	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	59:41	3.68	0.09	0.23	0.02	0.20	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.27	2.02	-0.0003
Va22-146 KS-603-604	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	50:50	3.74	0.04	0.22	0.03	0.18	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.33	2.00	-0.0003
Va22-146KS-588-591	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	56:44	3.73	0.00	0.27	0.05	0.17	1.73	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.35	1.99	-0.0002
High (Fe <sup>2+</sup> +Mg <sup>2+</sup> ) <sub>oct</sub> /M <sub>oct</sub>																	
Va22-146KS-1030-1034	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	23:77	3.80	0.02	0.18	0.06	0.17	1.58	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.49	1.98	-0.0004
Су 82-14-5	East Pacific Rise	100:0	3.60	0.04	0.36	0.00	0.28	1.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.48	0.03	2.04	0.0000
1183-15	East Pacific Rise	100:0	3.62	0.01	0.37	0.00	0.31	1.67	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.31	1.99	0.0000
Va22-146 KS-1145-1146	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	47:53	3.95	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.25	1.65	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.11	0.24	1.99	-0.0007
Va22-146KS-1144-1145	Atlantis II Deep, Red Sea	68:32	3.93	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.25	1.69	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.25	2.00	-0.0005

G:N = proportion of glauconite and nontronite layers; Moct = sum of metal cations in the octahedral sheets.

	Miner	alogy/chemistry	Near-infrared spectroscopy				Raman	spectroscopy				
Sample	G:N	$(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/$	vI	v1	v2	v4	vA	vB	vC	HWHM <sub>A</sub> / HWHM <sub>B</sub>	$A_A/A_B$	A <sub>A</sub> /A <sub>tot</sub>
		Moct	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>	cm <sup>-1</sup>			
Low (Fe <sup>2+</sup> +Mg <sup>2+</sup> ) <sub>oct</sub> /M <sub>oct</sub>												
Va22-146KS-639-640	33:77	0.11	4352.4	241.4	605.7	3569.2	3541.8	3572.5	3610.2	1.34	1.24	0.42
Va22-146KS-612-614	59:41	0.10	4350.2	242.2	605.5	3570.2	3541.7	3571.9	3608.9	1.42	1.21	0.41
Va22-146 KS-603-604	50:50	0.09	4349.1	241.9	604.6	3568.4	3540.6	3571.2	3608.3	1.36	1.36	0.45
Va22-146KS-588-591	56:44	0.11	4347.7	246.5	606.2	3569.8	3541.8	3572.3	3608.8	1.39	1.35	0.41
High (Fe2++Mg2+)oct/Moct												
Va22-146KS-1030-1034	23:77	0.14	4339.4	253.6	604.5	3555.7	3538.2	3567.6	3606.3	1.16	1.50	0.47
Су 82-14-5	100:0	0.14	4345.1	254.8	601.3	3557.1	3540.4	3566.4	3607.3	1.20	1.61	0.44
1183-15	100:0	0.16	4343.9	256.8	601.8	3555.4	3539.0	3566.5	3605.3	1.07	1.56	0.50
Va22-146 KS-1145-1146	47:53	0.15	4338.4	254.9	599.9	3548.2	3539.5	3562.6	3604.9	0.97	1.72	0.49
Va22-146KS-1144-1145	68:32	0.15	4338.3	255.4	602.8	3549.6	3538.3	3560.3	3604.3	1.05	1.67	0.48

## **Table 2** Summary of near-infrared (NIR) and Raman spectroscopic features of analyzed glauconite-nontronite samples.

See main text for assignment of NIR and Raman bands. Atot = Total area of vA, vB, and vC; HWHM = half width at half maximum; G:N = proportion of glauconite and nontronite layers.

### FIGURES

**Fig. 1** (1/2 page width in final manuscript) Fragment of a dioctahedral sheet of 2:1 phyllosilicates. The sketch exemplarily shows a trans-vacant dioctahedral sheet, perhaps the predominate cation configuration of Fe<sup>3+</sup>-rich 2:1 phyllosilicates (see discussion in Drits and Besson, 1997b), in which the OH groups belong to mirrored cis-octahedrons (C1, C2). Red in the schematic diagram denotes the potential configuration of hydrogen bonds across a cation-vacant trans-octahedron (T). Indicated in inset is the low inclination of the O-H vectors relative to the plane of the octahedral sheet (compare with Daynyak and Drits, 1987).

**Fig. 2** (*2/3 page width in final manuscript*) Scanning Electron Microscopy images of purified nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer samples from hydrothermal fields of the Atlantis II Deep and the East Pacific Ridge; compare with Table 1. (a) Secondary electron (SE) and backscattered electron (BSE; inset) images of a nontronite grain in sample 1183-15. (b-d) BSE images showing the micromineralogy in samples 1183-15 and Va22-146KS-588-591. Note the partially crackled, sheath- to rope-like habit of particles (compare with inset in a). Red arrows indicate relict Cu-rich oxide and/or Fe-hydroxide grains (determined by EDS analysis; not shown herein) that can be readily distinguished in BSE imagery owing to their high brightness. (e-h) BSE images (e, g and h) and SE image (f) of stacked or detached and tortuous, platy to fibrous nontronite and glauconite-nontronite particles.

**Fig. 3** (2/3 page width in final manuscript) Backscattered electron images (a and c) and corresponding EDS analyses (b and d) of grains from samples Va22-146KS-612-614 and 1183-15. The rectangles in the BSE images (a and c) indicate the sites of EDS elemental analyses. Elements are identified on basis of K $\alpha$  and K $\beta$  X-ray emission lines. Sodium is mostly contamination from NaHCO<sub>3</sub> treatment during sample preparation (see Cuadros et al., 2013). The unusually high Si and O peaks likely relate to signal counts from the glass slides to which the glauconite-nontronite grains were attached through adhesive tape (see Methods). Note in each sample the relatively invariant chemical composition of mineral grains. White arrows in c indicate Fe-hydroxide and/or Cu-rich grains.

**Fig. 4** (1/2 page width in final manuscript) Extended near-infrared (NIR) reflectance spectra of the nontronite and glauconite-nontronite mixed-layer samples (see Table 1). The spectral feature of interest is the peak at ~4338-4352 cm<sup>-1</sup> (vI), which is assigned to the combination of OH bending and stretching vibrations of hydroxyl groups in the octahedral sheets. The grey area marks the range of its position. The other band at ~5246 cm<sup>-1</sup> is the combination of OH bending and stretching vibrations of  $H_2O$  adsorbed onto the surface and interlayer spaces of the phyllosilicates.

**Fig. 5** (*1/2 page width in final manuscript*) Diagram for the ratio between divalent and total cations in octahedral sheets  $[(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})/M_{oct}, where M_{oct} = sum of octahedral cations (Fe^{3+}+Al^{3+}+Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})]$  versus the position of the band combination of O-H stretching and bending (vI; compare with Fig. 4 and see Table 2). Samples are discriminated into high and low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ .

**Fig. 6** (*2/3 page width in final manuscript*) Raman spectra of samples in the low-wavenumber region (a) and the hydroxyl stretching region (b). Three peaks in the low-wavenumber region (v1, v2 and v3), and one in the hydroxyl stretching region (v4) are marked. The grey areas mark the range of band positions of v1, v2 and v4. Additional weak Raman bands of uncertain origin are indicated in (a).

Fig. 7 (2/3 page width in final manuscript) Diagram for the ratio between divalent and total cations in octahedral sheets  $[(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})/M_{oct}, where M_{oct} is sum of octahedral cations (Fe^{3+}+Al^{3+}+Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})]$  versus the Raman band positions in the low-wavenumber region (v1 and v2 in a and b, respectively) and the hydroxyl-stretching region (v4 in c). Samples are discriminated into high and low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ .

**Fig. 8** (*1/2 page width in final manuscript*) Raman spectra of the hydroxyl region of grains in glauconite-nontronite Va22-146KS-603-694 (Atlantis II Deep) and nontronite 1183-15 (East Pacific Rise). For  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})$ -richer sample 1183-15, v4 is shifted to lower frequencies than  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})$ -poorer sample Va22-146KS-603-604. Note the limited variability of spectral features in each sample. **Fig. 9** (*1/2 page width in final manuscript*) Raman spectra of the hydroxyl-stretching region from samples Va22-146KS-603-604, Va22-146KS-1030-1040 and 1183-15. Fitting of spectra using

Gaussian peak functions indicates the presence of three bands (vA, vB and vC), whose positions and intensities are controlled by the octahedral composition of the glauconite-nontronite specimens.

Fig. 10 (1/2 page width in final manuscript) Diagrams for the ratio between divalent and total cations in octahedral sheets [( $Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+}$ )/ $M_{oct}$ , where  $M_{oct}$  is sum of octahedral cations

 $(Fe^{3+}+Al^{3+}+Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})]$  versus the calculated parameters of the assumed components in v4: i) positions of vA, vB and vC (a-c); ii) ratio between the areas of vA and vB (d); iii) ratio between the areas of vA and v4 (e); iv) ratio of half width at half maximum of components vA and vB (f). Samples are discriminated into high and low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ .

Fig. 11 (1/2 page width in final manuscript) Plot of the combination of hydroxyl stretching and bending vibration modes in NIR versus stretching vibration modes in Raman spectroscopy. Samples are discriminated into high and low  $(Mg^{2+}+Fe^{2+})_{oct}/M_{oct}$ .



Fig. 2



5 µm

#### Fig. 3





Wavenumber/cm<sup>-1</sup>





#### Fig. 6







Fig. 8



Intensity



### Fig. 10





