

## Revision 2

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# 1 Epidote as a conveyor of water into the Earth's deep 2 mantle in subduction zones: Insights from coupled 3 high pressure - temperature experiments

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## 12 Abstract

13 Epidote is a major hydrous mineral in subducted mafic oceanic crust. Understanding  
14 its stability in the subduction zone environment is important for evaluating its role as a  
15 conveyor of water into the deep earth. Here we report experimental results on epidote by  
16 simulating the high pressure-temperature (*P-T*) conditions of the plate subduction  
17 environment. We used a diamond anvil cell with an external resistance heating system,  
18 combined with in-situ X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Raman spectroscopy techniques.  
19 Experiments at ambient pressure and high temperatures indicate that epidote starts to  
20 decompose at 1223 K and breakdowns completely at 1373K. In-situ XRD analyses show  
21 no phase transition at temperatures up to 1272 K and pressure up to 14.0 GPa. Raman  
22 spectra indicate that epidote is stable at 1272 K and 14.0 GPa but the energies of two  
23 Si-O bonds ( $\nu_2, \nu_5$ ) and one M-O bond ( $\nu_3$ ) increase with increasing temperature. The

24 cation  $H^+$  moves for a distance when the  $P$ - $T$  is increased to 13.0 GPa and 1123K. Based  
25 on the thermal structure of subducted slabs in typical hot and cold subduction zones, we  
26 infer that epidote can convey water downward into the mantle transition zone through  
27 subducted mafic oceanic crust.

28 **Key words:** Epidote; High pressure and temperature experiment; Phase stability;  
29 Structural variation; Mantle transition zone.

## 30 Introduction

31 Deep earth water plays an important role in the exchange of energy and materials,  
32 melting of minerals and rocks as well as concentration of ore fluids and nutrients during  
33 crust – mantle interaction. Many physical properties of minerals and rocks in the deep  
34 earth, such as the melting temperature, phase transformation, rheological behavior,  
35 electric conductivity and atomic diffusion, are closely linked with the presence of water  
36 (Karato, S. et al. 1986; Inoue 1994; Litasov, K.D. et al. 2003; Bercovici, D. and Karato, S.I  
37 2003; Yoshino, T. et al. 2006; Nishi, M. et al. 2014). As the main component of deep earth  
38 fluids, water is also pivotal in the activation and transportation of various endogenous ore  
39 materials from their source region to the ore-forming locations (Li, S.R. et al. 2013; Guo,  
40 P. et al. 2013; Li, L. et al. 2015; Shen, J.F. et al. 2019; Li, S.R. and Santosh, M. 2014,  
41 2017). Research on earthquake mechanism also shows that earthquake swarm,  
42 regardless of the location at the interior or margin of a plate, is related to water-  
43 dominated fluids (Kurz, J.H. et al. 2004). Water, therefore, is a key factor in the deep  
44 earth processes that controls various tectonic-magmatic-metallogenic-earthquake events.

45 It is now commonly recognized that water in the deep earth reservoirs can be  
46 continuously replenished through the subduction of oceanic lithosphere to the  
47 subcontinental mantle in convergent plate margins (e.g., Thompson, A.B. 1992; Poli, S.  
48 and Schmidt, M.W. 2002; Litasov, K.D. et al. 2003; Nishi, M. et al. 2014; Pamato, M.G. et  
49 al. 2015; Walter, M. et al. 2015; Liu, X. et al. 2019). Most of the information and models

50 so far relied mainly on seismic tomography data which suggest that oceanic lithosphere  
51 can subduct deep into the lower mantle and even accumulate at the core-mantle  
52 boundary (Maruyama, S. et al. 2007; Fukao, Y. et al. 2009; Li, L. et al. 2014 and  
53 references therein). During the subduction of ocean plate, hydrated magnesium-rich  
54 silicate minerals play a key role in carrying water to the deep earth. Earlier studies  
55 indicate that the highest-pressure hydrous magnesium-rich silicates (phase D,  
56  $\text{MgSi}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_6$ ) decompose into nominally anhydrous minerals and water at about 44 GPa  
57 and at least at 1223.15K. (Shieh, S.R. et al.1998; Frost, D.J. and Fei,Y. 1998), indicating  
58 that no water can infiltrate into the lower mantle at depth greater than 1250 km. Recent  
59 experimental studies show that another hydrous silicate  $\text{MgSiH}_2\text{O}_4$ , named as phase H,  
60 formed from phase D, is stable at pressure of about 48 GPa (Nishi, M. et al. 2014). Since  
61 structural stability plays a decisive role as water-carrier for hydrous minerals, studies of  
62 these minerals in the oceanic plate with regard to their structural states, as well as the  
63 temperature and pressure of dehydration process, are important in gaining insights into  
64 the deep earth water reservoirs, water replenishing mechanism, the origins of mantle  
65 plume, diamondiferous kimberlite and lamproite, and various metallic deposits, as well as  
66 the mechanism of earthquakes.

67 Epidote is a common hydrous mineral in altered oceanic basaltic rocks and is a  
68 potentially important carrier of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in subducted oceanic crust (Qin, F. et al. 2016).  
69 Previous experimental investigations on the structural stability of epidote were carried out  
70 mostly in hydrothermal systems (e.g., Fyfe, W.S. 1960; Liou, J.G. 1973; Pawley, A.R. and  
71 Holloway, J.R. 1993; Franz, G. and Liebscher, A. 2004), or under high temperature or  
72 pressure (Qin, S. et al. 2003; Liu, J. 2003; Gatta, G.D. et al. 2010, 2011; Qin, F. et al.  
73 2016). Experiments on epidote under coupled high temperature and high pressure  
74 conditions are important to simulate the subduction zone setting. Recently, a  
75 simultaneous high pressure-temperature study of epidote found no phase transition to  
76  $\sim 17.7$  GPa and 700 K (Li, B. et al. 2021). This P-T range does not match the thermal  
77 structure of oceanic plate subduction. In this study, we report new results from a series of  
78 high-pressure and high temperature experiments on epidote. Our experiments reveal for

79 the first time that epidote is stable at 14.0 GPa and 1272 K, implying that epidote in  
80 subduction zone can carry water to the transition zone (between the upper mantle and  
81 the lower mantle).

## 82 **Sample and experimental setup**

83 The epidote-bearing rock specimen for this study was collected from the strongly  
84 epidotized basalt in the Qinling Triassic Orogenic Zone, Shaanxi province, China. The  
85 specimen was crushed into small pieces, and dark green epidote crystals were  
86 handpicked. After checking the purity of the grains under stereoscopic and polarizing  
87 microscopes, the chemical composition of the epidote crystals was analyzed by electron  
88 probe microanalysis. The chemical formula of the crystal sample was determined to be:



90 The crystal structure of the epidote samples under ambient conditions was analyzed  
91 by an X-ray single crystal diffractometer, Rigaku Xtalab PRO diffractometer system with  
92 HyPix-6000HE detector at the State Key Laboratory of Geological Processes and Mineral  
93 Resources, China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China. The diffraction intensity data  
94 collections were performed by a 1.2 Kw water cooled microfocus source with Mo rotor  
95 target and multilayer mirrors. Data processing was accomplished with the CrysAlisPro  
96 processing program and the crystal structures were solved by the direct methods using  
97 package SHELXS and refined in the anisotropic approach for non-hydrogen atoms using  
98 the SHELXL program (Sheldrick, G.M. 2008). The structural cell parameters of the  
99 epidote crystal (with space group  $P2_1/m$ ) were refined at  $R1=0.014$  as follows:

$$100 \quad a=8.8831(4) \text{ \AA}, b=5.6252(2) \text{ \AA}, c=10.1456(5) \text{ \AA}, \beta=115.409(5)^\circ$$

101 High temperature powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed using a Bruker D8  
102 Advance diffractometer with Ni filtered  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 1.5059 \text{ \AA}$ ) in Shanghai Institute of  
103 Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The XRD patterns were obtained 30 mins after  
104 a targeted temperature point was reached. High temperature XRD data were obtained

105 from one well-ground single crystal of epidote in the steps of 50 K. Because of the small  
106 amount of sample powder, the diffraction peaks from Pt heating stage shows up around  
107 38° and 46°. The XRD patterns were analyzed using PDindexer software (Seto et al.  
108 2010) and AMCSD (American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database) (Downs, R.T. and  
109 Hall-Wallace, M. 2003). High temperature quartz ( $\beta$ -quartz) (Kihara, K. 1990), anorthite  
110 (Foit, F.F. et al. 1973), and magnetite (Fleet, M.E. 1984) were identified in higher-  
111 temperature patterns.

112 The ambient Raman spectrum was obtained on a HORIBA LabRAM HR Evolution  
113 spectrometer, equipped with 1800 lines per mm. A 532 nm wavelength laser was focused  
114 on the sample; the focal spot was 2 microns wide. The CCD detector has a spectral  
115 resolution less than  $1\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The acquired spectrum was analyzed by Horiba Labspec6  
116 software with the minerals database, and further analyzed by OriginPro 8.5 with a  
117 Gaussian peak fitting function.

118 High pressures and high temperatures were generated by a resistance external  
119 heating system set up in a Diamond anvil cell (BX90 REV Model, USA). The culet of the  
120 anvils in the diamond anvil cell (DAC) had a diameter of  $450\mu\text{m}$ . To avoid -OH band  
121 contamination from ethanol-methanol-water mixture, we utilized silicon oil (AP 150  
122 wacker, Sigma-Aldrich) as the pressure medium. Oriented single crystal epidote and fine  
123 powdered sample from a single crystal were loaded in the  $200\mu\text{m}$  sample chamber which  
124 was drilled in a rhenium gasket for Raman spectrum analyses and synchrotron XRD  
125 analyses. The K-type thermocouple was placed on the surface of the diamond anvil  
126 which was surrounded by a platinum resistance heater. The temperature was measured  
127 by a ST504-R11 K-type thermocouple thermometer manufactured by Shangtong  
128 Instrument CO., LTD. We obtained in situ X-ray patterns and Raman spectra thirty  
129 minutes after the temperature on the display of thermometer stabilized.

130 High temperature Raman scattering measurements were performed using a confocal  
131 Raman system equipped with a solid state laser, while high pressure and high  
132 temperature experiments were conducted with a laser wavelength of 532nm and a triple

133 grating monochromator (Andor Shamrock SR-303i-B, EU), combined with a CCD Model  
134 DU970P-UVB, by ANDOR Newton, EU. Before every single run, we calibrated the  
135 spectrometer by measuring a Raman spectrum of a silicon wafer ([Temple, P.A. and](#)  
136 [Hathaway, C.E. 1973](#)) with an uncertainty around  $0.5\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Raman measurements at  
137 ambient conditions were performed by summing 10 acquisitions of 10s with an output  
138 power of 40mW. Raman spectra at high temperatures were measured by summing 20  
139 acquisitions of 10s and 40mW.

140       Based on the study of Nagashima, M. (2021), and our previous work, we set the  
141 incident laser beam perpendicular to the 010 orientation of epidote in the high pressure  
142 and high temperature *in-situ* Raman spectrum measurements. By adopting this  
143 procedure, the signals from both the crystal lattice and OH- vibration in epidote can be  
144 detected appropriately. Otherwise, when incident laser beam is parallel to the 010  
145 orientation of epidote, the OH-stretching and lattice vibrations in the high frequency part  
146 of Raman spectrum can only show very weak signal noise ratio at the very beginning of  
147 high pressure and high temperature experiments in the diamond anvil cell, and even  
148 such signals will quickly disappear with increasing pressure and temperature (lattice  
149 stress and heat radiation).

150       *In situ* high-pressure high-temperature angle-dispersive XRD experiments were  
151 performed at 4W2 beamline in BSRF (Beijing Synchrotron Radiation Facility) with a  
152 monochromatic X-ray wavelength of  $0.6199\text{\AA}$ , as determined by the calibrant  $\text{CeO}_2$ , and  
153 the distance between sample and detector was 287.8mm. Pressure was measured by  
154 the ruby fluorescence spectrum ([Mao, H.K. et al. 1986](#)). The diffraction images collected  
155 by image plate detector were integrated from Debye rings and converted into one  
156 dimensional diffraction patterns using Fit2D program ([Hammersley, A.P. 2016](#)), and the  
157 X-ray diffraction patterns were fitted by PDindexer software ([Seto et al. 2010](#)).

## 158 **Results**

### 159 **Experiments at high temperatures**

160 Initial XRD experiments were conducted on epidote at temperatures ranging from  
161 523 K to 1473 K in a vacuum vessel (Fig.1). These results indicated that epidote  
162 remained structurally stable until it started to decompose at 1223 K under low-vacuum  
163 environment. The complete breakdown of epidote occurred at 1373 K. The  
164 decomposition products were anorthite, quartz, and trace amount of magnetite.

### 165 **Experiments at high pressures and temperatures**

166 High pressures/temperatures experiments on epidote were carried out at pressures  
167 ranging from 0.8 GPa to 14.0 GPa and simultaneous high temperatures ranging from 297  
168 K to 1272 K. In-situ high pressures / high temperature XRD measurements of the  
169 experiment products showed that the peaks observed in this P-T range all belong to  
170 epidote and no new peaks appeared or vanished, indicating that there were no phase  
171 transition (Fig.2).

172 All the Raman vibration bands of the experimental products were carefully compared  
173 with the Raman spectrum of epidote (Huang, E. 1999; Qin, F. et al. 2016) at ambient  
174 conditions in wavenumber ranges from 70 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fig.3A) and from 2500 cm<sup>-1</sup>  
175 to 3800 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Fig.3B). Except for some silicon oil vibrations (Figs. 3A and 3B) (Wang,  
176 X.X. et al. 2014), the rest of the Raman peaks were all generated from epidote.

177 At simultaneous high pressure and high temperature conditions (from 0.8 GPa to  
178 14.0 GPa and 287K to 1272K), many weak Raman peaks of the experimental products  
179 vanish or cannot be distinguished in the Raman spectra (Fig.3C). Therefore, 7  
180 distinguishable Raman vibration bands are selected here for further discussion. Among  
181 these, bands 1, 6 and 7 ( $\nu_1, \nu_6, \nu_7$ ) were distinguished at pressures lower than 7 GPa (6.6  
182 GPa) and temperatures lower than 580 K, whereas bands 2, 3, 4 and 5 ( $\nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_5$ ) were

183 distinguishable at high pressure and high temperature up to 14.0 GPa and 1263 K,  
184 respectively.

185 By comparing with Raman spectroscopy simulation and previous Raman data at  
186 ambient conditions, the modes of seven Raman vibration bands of the experimental  
187 products are assigned ([table 1](#)). The frequencies of Raman bands 2, 3 and 5 increase  
188 with increasing pressure and temperature ([Fig.3D](#)). Raman spectra of the experimental  
189 products on epidote show two OH<sup>-</sup> vibration peaks at around wavenumber 3400cm<sup>-1</sup> with  
190 the main peak OH(a)<sup>-</sup> at about 3370 cm<sup>-1</sup> and secondary peak OH(b)<sup>-</sup> at about 3420 cm<sup>-1</sup>.  
191 As pressure and temperature increase, the intensity of the main peak OH(a)<sup>-</sup> is gradually  
192 weakened and broadened at the P-T condition below 10.2 GPa and 728K ([Fig.4A](#)).  
193 Because of the effect of compressive stress and thermal radiation, the change of the  
194 peak width could not be quantified. When pressure and temperature exceeded 10.2 GPa  
195 and 728K, the main peak OH(a)<sup>-</sup> became undetectable, while the secondary peak OH(b)<sup>-</sup>  
196 remained discernible until the P-T condition reached above 13.0 GPa and 1123 K.

## 197 Discussion

198 Low-grade metamorphism and hydrothermal activity are generally recognized as the  
199 main processes responsible for natural epidote (*sensu stricto*) formation. Epidote  
200 commonly occurs in metamorphosed basalts, gabbros and schists as well as marbles  
201 where it replaces olivine, pyroxene, plagioclase and calcite. It is also frequently found  
202 infilling vugs or veins in these rocks. The T-P conditions of these occurrences range from  
203 523 to 673K, and from 0.1 to 0.2 GPa ([Gatta, G.D. et al. 2010](#)). Epidote of magmatic  
204 origin has also been reported in granitic rocks ([Schmidt, M.W. and Poli, S. 2004](#); [Li, L. et al. 2015](#)).  
205 Although the stability of epidote depends on several factors, including oxygen  
206 fugacity, fluid composition, fluid pH and Al/Fe<sup>3+</sup> ratio ([Liou, J.G. 1973](#); [Bird, D.K. and Helgeson, H.C. 1980](#);  
207 [Bird, D.K. et al. 1988](#); [Klemd, R. 2004](#)), the pressure and  
208 temperature are the two main factors. Previous studies indicate that epidote is stable  
209 over a wide range of pressures and temperatures in continental and oceanic crust ([Poli,](#)



210 [S. and Schmidt, M.W. 2004](#)).

211 Previous high-pressure experiments revealed that the structure of epidote remained  
212 stable when pressure was increased up to 20 GPa at ambient temperature ([Qin, S. et al.](#)  
213 [2003](#)), or at 1473 K and 9 GPa ([Poli, S. and Schmidt, M.W. 2004](#)). Further experimental  
214 studies at ambient temperature on epidote provided no clues for phase transition by  
215 synchrotron X-ray single-crystal diffraction up to 30 GPa (10 GPa, [Gatta, G.D. et al. 2011](#);  
216 30 GPa, [Qin, F. et al. 2016](#)) and Raman spectroscopy up to 40 GPa ([Qin, F. et al. 2016](#)).  
217 Studies of epidote conducted at high-temperature or high pressure by in-situ single-  
218 crystal and powder X-ray diffraction at 293 K, 1070 K, 1200 K (0.0001 GPa), and 10 GPa  
219 (298 K) did not show decomposition and dehydration reaction ([Gatta, G.D. et al. 2010](#);  
220 [2011](#)).

221 Our experiments at about 0.0001GPa and high temperatures indicate that epidote  
222 begins decomposition at 1223 K and fully breaks down at 1373 K ([Fig.1](#)). Our in-situ X-  
223 ray diffraction measurements of the experimental products at high-pressures / high-  
224 temperatures show that epidote remains stable up to 1272 K at 14.0 GPa ([Fig.2](#)).

225 Based on Raman spectra of the experimental products at high-pressures and  
226 temperatures, most of the diagnostic peaks ( $\nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_5$ ) in the wavenumber range from 100  
227 to 1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  remained unchanged ([Fig.3](#)), suggesting that the epidote was stable at  
228 1272 K and 14.0 GPa. The Raman vibration modes 2, 3 and 5 ( $\nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_5$ ) shifted towards  
229 higher frequencies with increasing pressure and temperature ([Fig.3D](#)), implying that the  
230 energy of the two Si-O bonds ( $\nu_2, \nu_5$ ) and one M-O bond ( $\nu_3$ ) increased when the  
231 temperature and pressure were simultaneously increased. Raman spectra of the  
232 experimental products of epidote in the wavenumber range from 3000 to 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  show  
233 two OH<sup>-</sup> vibration peaks with the main peak OH(a)<sup>-</sup> located at about 3370  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  
234 secondary peak OH(b)<sup>-</sup> located at about 3420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Both the secondary and main peaks  
235 weakened gradually with increasing pressure and temperature. The secondary peak  
236 OH(b)<sup>-</sup> eventually vanished when the *P-T* conditions exceeded 10.2 GPa and 723K  
237 ([Fig.4A,B](#)), and the main peak OH(a)<sup>-</sup> vanished when the *P-T* exceeded 13.0 GPa and

238 1123K (Fig.4C,D). This result indicates that  $H^+$  might have moved in a certain direction  
239 and for a certain distance during  $P$ - $T$  increase to 13.0 GPa and 1123K. This directed  
240 movement has also been reported in a high temperature experiment (Gatta, G.D. et al.  
241 2012). On account of the aperiodic replacement of Al / Fe substitution and the X-ray  
242 diffraction undetectable defect, the secondary Raman peak of  $OH^-$  stretching vibrations is  
243 not predictable by theoretical analysis via space group of natural epidote. Based on the  
244 common knowledge that isomorphic substitution may cause Raman shifting, such  
245 secondary Raman peak can be inferred from existing phenomenon. If the secondary  
246 Raman peak is on the left side (lower frequency direction) of the main  $OH^-$  stretching  
247 peak, substitution should be relevant to light elements substituted by heavy elements,  
248 and vice versa (Nagashima, M. et al. 2021; Lei, L. et al. 2012; Langer, K. and Raith, M.  
249 1974; Heuss-Aßbichler, S. and Fehr, K.T. 1997). From our results of experiments on  
250 epidote at ambient temperature in the cell chamber, the secondary Raman peak  $OH(b)^-$   
251 is located at about  $3420\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and the main Raman peak  $OH(a)^-$  is at around  $3370\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
252 (Fig.3b). It is difficult to precisely detail the factors which lead to the  $OH(b)^-$  vibrations in  
253 epidote, since the  $OH(b)^-$  vibrations can not only be caused by isomorphic substitution in  
254 the lattice but also may be derived by activating of  $OH^-$  into Grotthuss state (Li, Q. et al.  
255 2019). This is also described in the ice phase proton diffusion (Aoki, K. et al. 2010). In  
256 such a diffusion state,  $OH^-$  (or  $H^+$ ) can easily migrate in the lattice of epidote and shows a  
257 sharp peak in the Raman spectra. From another perspective, while  $OH^-$  (or  $H^+$ ) is  
258 activated, the conductivity increasement of the crystal can be easily detected (Hu, H. et  
259 al. 2016). In view of the above information, we infer that when pressure and temperature  
260 are boosted, the  $H^+$  ion in epidote will first move along  $\gamma_1$  to the anion  $O^{2-}$ , opposite to the  
261  $O^{2-}$  in the original  $OH^-$  with a distance  $0.206(5)\text{ nm}$ , and then may move along two paths:  
262 one is along  $\gamma_2$  to the  $O^{2-}$  bonded to  $Al^{3+}$  in M site with a distance  $0.338(6)\text{ nm}$ , and the  
263 other is along  $\gamma_3$  to the  $O^{2-}$  bonded to another ion in M site with a distance  $0.383(4)\text{ nm}$   
264 (Fig.5). Considering that the axis  $b$  is a little stiffer than the axes  $a$  and  $c$  in epidote under  
265 ambient temperature and high pressure (Qin, F. et al. 2016), and there is no other  $OH^-$   
266 band is observed besides  $OH(a)^-$  and  $OH(b)^-$ , the second path is more likely.

## 267 **Implications**

268       The oceanic crust was once considered insignificant in conveying water into the  
269 deep Earth because no hydrous minerals were observed to be stable over 10 GPa (e.g.,  
270 [Okamoto, K. and Maruyama, S. 2004](#); [Litasov, K.D. and Ohtani, E. 2005](#)). More recently,  
271 Fe-Ti oxyhydroxide was indicated to be stable in basalt at pressures above 10 GPa  
272 ([Nishihara, Y. and Matsukage, K.N. 2016](#)) and a continuous sequence of hydrous phases ,  
273 such as lawsonite (0–8 GPa), Fe-Ti oxyhydroxide (8–17 GPa), Al-rich phase D (18–23  
274 GPa), and Al-rich phase H (>23 GPa), were reported in subducting cold oceanic crust at  
275 temperature  $\leq 1273$  K ([Liu, X. et al. 2019](#); [Fig.6b](#)). These results revealed the importance  
276 of oceanic crust as potential water carrier in the deep mantle.

277       As described above, most previous experiments on epidote were conducted at high  
278 temperature or high pressure conditions and showed no phase transition and dehydration  
279 reaction at 10, 20, 30, 40 GPa or 1200, 1473 K ([Gatta, G.D. et al. 2010,2011](#); [Qin, S. et](#)  
280 [al. 2003](#); [Poli, S. and Schmidt, M.W. 2004](#); [Qin, F. et al. 2016a, b](#)). Measurements of the  
281 electronic conductivities of epidote at 0.5 – 1.5 GPa and 573 – 1273 K yielded maximum  
282 conductivity up to  $\sim 1$  S/m at 1273 K, which was interpreted as the influence of  
283 dehydration of epidote at this temperature. The thermal structure of subduction slab in  
284 the typical hot (Central Cascadia) subduction zones and cold (central New Zealand)  
285 subduction zones ([Syracuse, E.M. et al. 2010](#); [Hu, H. et al. 2016](#); [Liu, X. et al. 2019](#))  
286 ([Fig.6a](#)), show that both pressure and temperature will increase rapidly to about 5.5 GPa  
287 and 1073 K when the depth increases to about 160 km in cold subduction zones.  
288 Subsequently, the temperature increases slowly to about 1273 K and the pressure  
289 increases to about 14 GPa at depth of about 410 km. Therefore, experiments at constant  
290 high pressure or high temperature cannot properly simulate the environment neither in  
291 the hot, nor in the cold subduction systems.

292       Our coupled high  $P$ - $T$  experiments suggest that epidote is stable without phase  
293 transition and prominent dehydration reaction at 1272 K and 14.0 GPa. Based on

294 seismological observations, a schematic diagram of subduction in the North Mariana  
295 trench was constructed (Fig.6) (Fukao, Y. and Obayashi, M. 2013; Kaneshima, S. 2003).  
296 In the P-T range of cold subducting oceanic crust (Fig.6a) and based on our new results,  
297 it is revealed that water can be carried into the mantle transition zone through epidote in  
298 the subducting mafic oceanic crust (Fig.6b).

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## 490 Captions for figures and table

491 **Fig.1** In-situ X-ray diffraction patterns ( $\lambda=1.54 \text{ \AA}$ ) of epidote with increasing temperature  
492 at atmospheric pressure. Note that the typical epidote peaks at  $2\theta$  of  $67^\circ$  and  $56^\circ$   
493 weakened when the temperature was increased to 1223K and these peaks fully vanished  
494 at 1373K at atmosphere pressure whereas the peaks typical for quartz, anorthite and  
495 magnetite were still present. Abbreviations: Qtz=quartz, An=anorthite, Mag=magnetite.

496 **Fig.2** In-situ X-ray diffraction patterns ( $\lambda=0.6198 \text{ \AA}$ ) of epidote at simultaneously high-  
497 temperatures and high-pressures.

498 **Fig.3** Raman spectra of the experimental product of epidote at ambient conditions (in cell  
499 0.6GPa and 297K) in wavenumber ranges from  $70 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1120 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (A) and from  $2500$   
500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to  $3840 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (B) (Huang, E. 1999; Qin, F. et al. 2016). In situ Raman spectra under  
501 high-pressures and high-temperatures (C) and peak shifts (D) fitting from Raman  
502 spectra. The blue diamond symbols represent the signal from silicon oil.

503 **Fig.4** Raman spectra of experimental products of epidote. Two OH-vibration peaks  
504 (OH(a)- and OH(b)-) at P-T condition below 10.2 GPa and 723 K (A) and one (OH)-  
505 vibration peak (OH(a)-) at higher P-T condition (B) ; One (OH)-vibration peak (OH(a)-) at  
506 P-T condition below 13.0 GPa and (1123 K) (C) and no (OH)-vibration peak at higher P-  
507 T condition (D).

508 **Fig.5** Interpretation of the possible movement paths for H<sup>+</sup> in epidote when the P-T  
509 conditions are increased from 10.2 GPa and 723 K to 13.0 GPa and 1123K drawn by  
510 VESTA (Momma and Izumi 2011).

511 **Fig.6** (a) Compiled P-T range (gray area) of the cold subducting oceanic crust showing  
512 change with increasing depth. The original data are from [Syracuse, E.M. et al. 2010](#); [Hu,](#)  
513 [H. et al. 2016](#); [Liu, X. et al. 2019](#). (b) Schematic diagram of subduction zone in the North  
514 Mariana trench ([Fukao, Y. and Obayashi, M. 2013](#); [Kaneshima, S. 2003](#)) showing the  
515 stable ranges for epidote (epi), lawsonite (law), Fe-Ti oxyhydroxide (Fe-Ti), Al-rich phases  
516 D and H at the top of cool subduction zone. The blue solid circles represent the pressure  
517 and temperature conditions in this study.

518

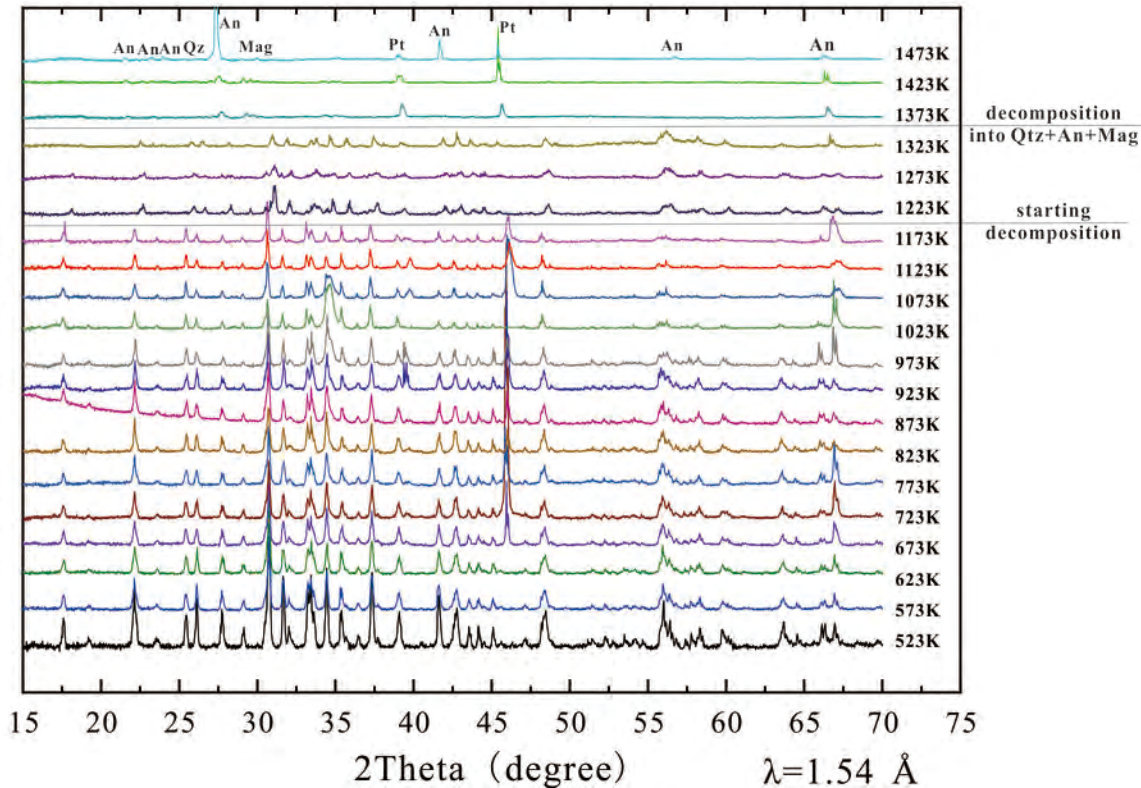
519 **Table 1** The modes of 7 lattice vibration bands and the main OH- vibration band of the  
520 experimental products of epidote at varying pressures and temperatures.

Table 1 The modes of 7 lattice vibration bands and the main OH- vibration band of the experimental products at varying pressures coupled with varying temperatures

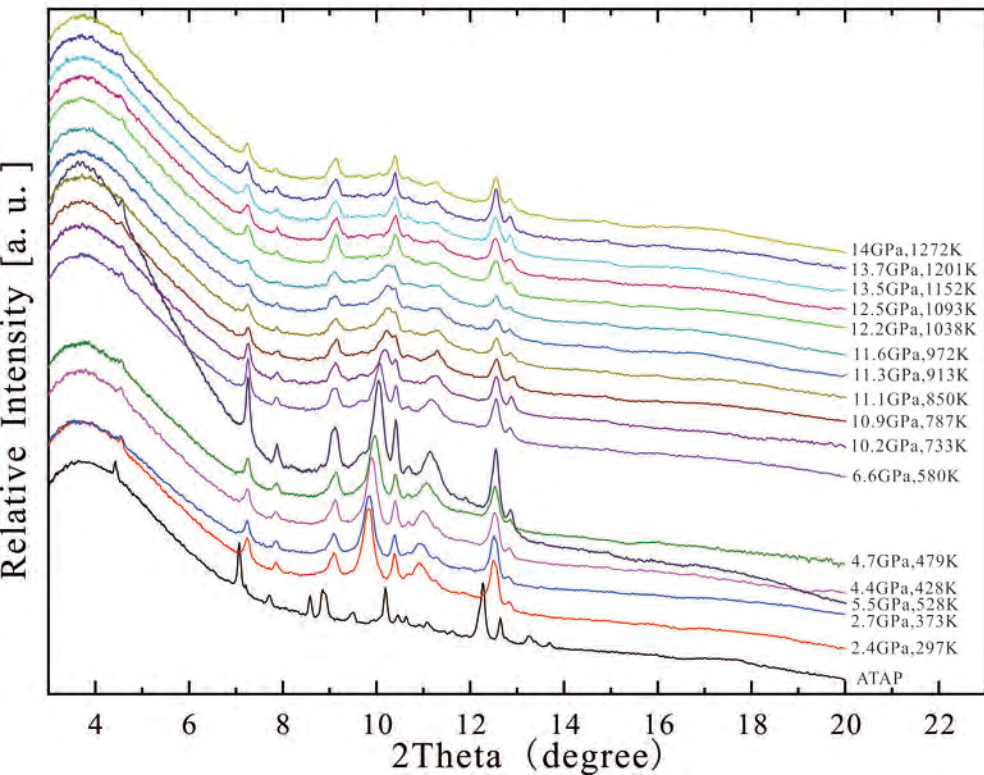
Modes	$\omega_0(\text{cm}^{-1})$	Assignment	Reference
$\nu_1$	224	Ca-O	Makreski et al. 2007
$\nu_2$	422	Si-O	
$\nu_3$	449	M-O	Qin et al. 2016
$\nu_4$	562	Si-O	
$\nu_5$	597	Si-O	
$\nu_6$	885	Si-O	Makreski et al. 2007
$\nu_7$	913	Si-O	
$\nu_8$	3370	-OH	Lafuente et al. 2015

# Figure 1

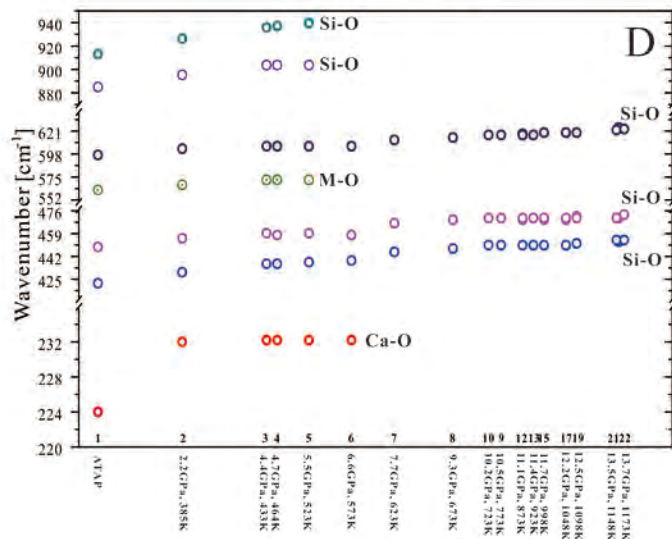
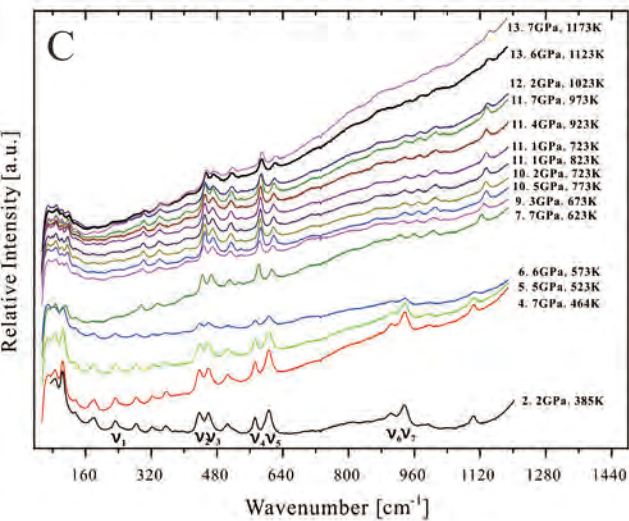
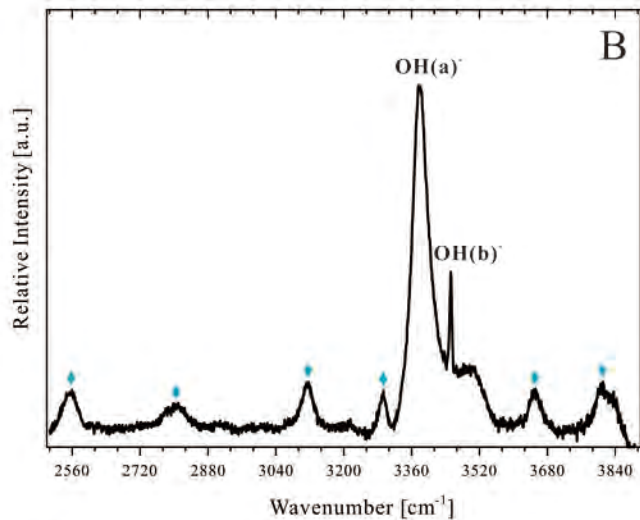
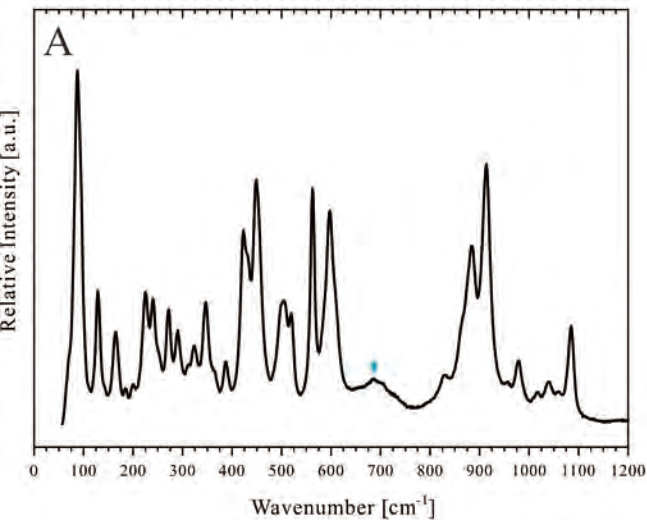
Relative Intensity [a. u.]



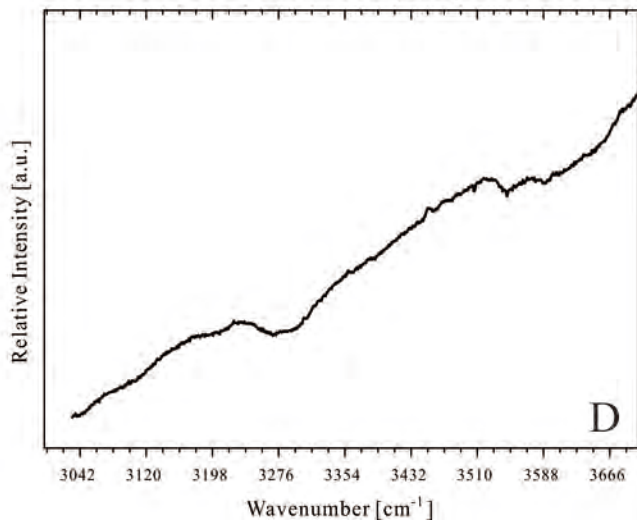
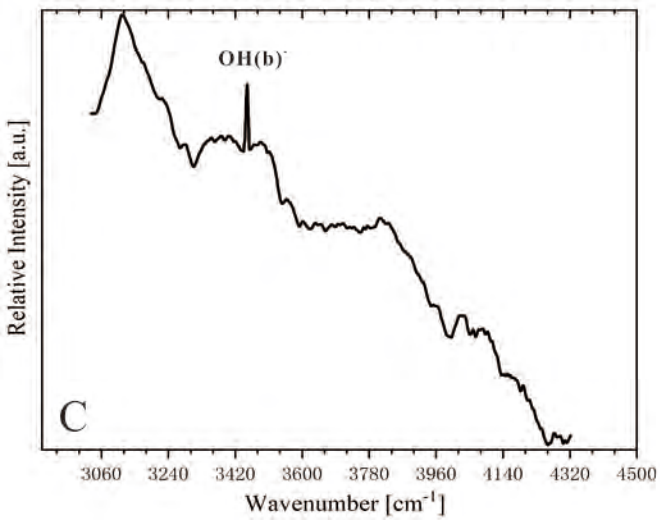
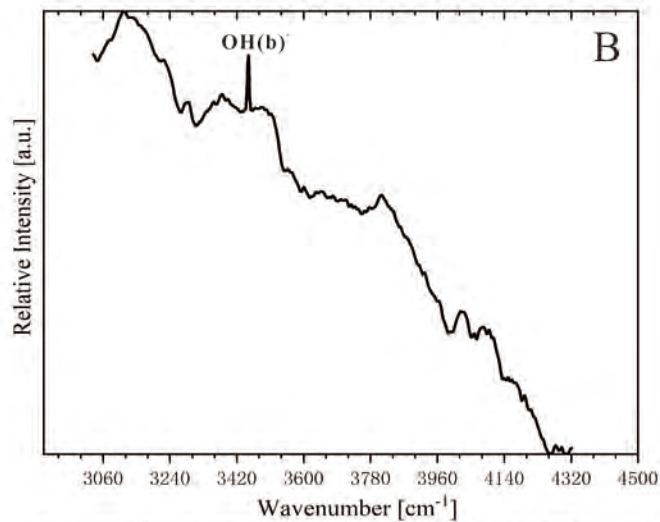
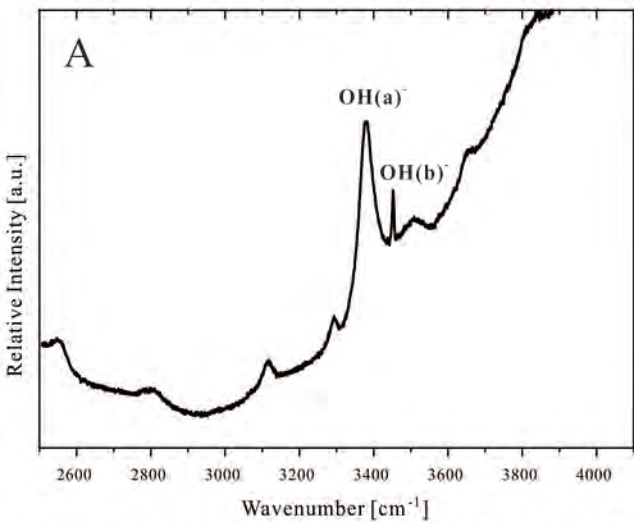
# Figure 2



# Figure 3

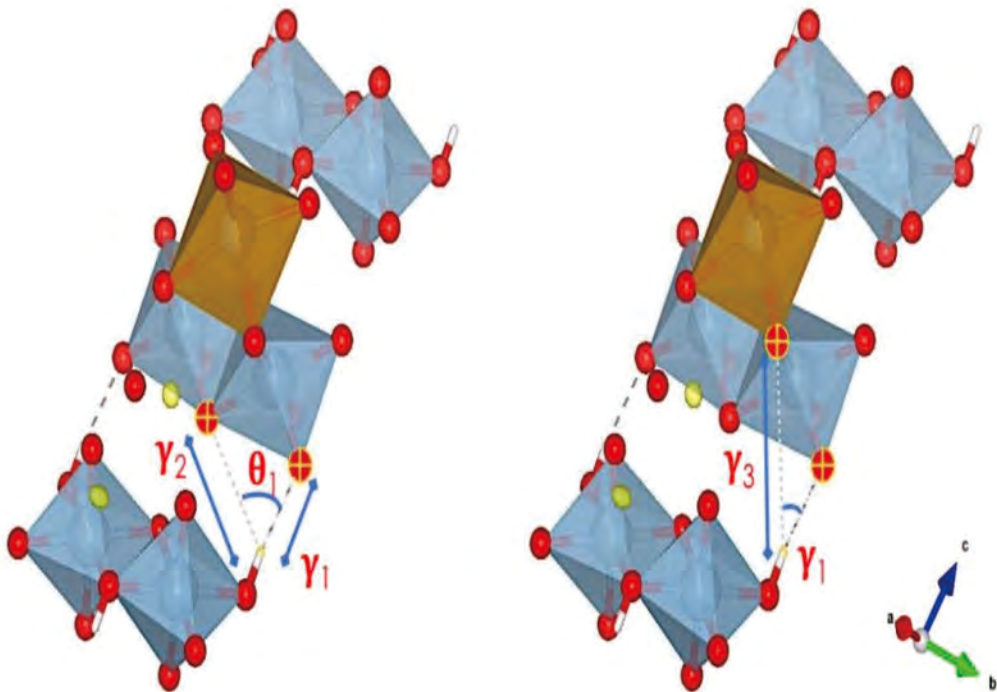


# Figure 4





# Figure 5



	Distance (nm)
$\gamma_1$	0.206(5)
$\gamma_2$	0.338(6)
$\gamma_3$	0.383(4)
	degree( $^\circ$ )
$\theta_1$	56.4(4)
$\theta_2$	44.4(3)

# Figure 6

