

1 **Revision 1.**

2 **Ryabchikovite, CuMg(Si₂O₆), a new pyroxene group mineral, and some genetic features of**
3 **natural anhydrous copper silicates**

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24
25 **Abstract.** Ryabchikovite, ideally CuMg(Si₂O₆), a new pyroxene-group mineral (IMA No. 2021-
26 011) was discovered in exhalations of the active Arsenatnaya fumarole, Tolbachik volcano,
27 Kamchatka, Russia. The associated minerals are diopside, hematite, cuprospinel, fluorophlogopite,
28 anhydrite, johillerite, tilasite and apthitalite-group sulfates. Ryabchikovite forms thin (up to 25
29 μm) light brown to reddish-brown epitactic crusts on short-prismatic brownish-grey crystals of
30 diopside (up to 0.5 mm). The new mineral is optically biaxial (+), $\alpha = 1.685(5)$, $\beta = 1.690(5)$, $\gamma =$
31 $1.703(4)$, and $2V(\text{meas.}) = 60(15)^\circ$. The average chemical composition (wt.%, electron microprobe
32 data) is: MgO 18.05, CaO 0.77, CuO 26.46, ZnO 2.23, Al₂O₃ 0.93, Fe₂O₃ 1.89, SiO₂ 50.10, total
33 100.43. The empirical formula calculated based on 6 O atoms per formulae unit is
34 (Mg_{1.05}Cu_{0.78}Zn_{0.06}Fe³⁺_{0.06}Ca_{0.03})(Si_{1.96}Al_{0.04}O₆). Electron backscattered diffraction and powder X-

35 ray diffraction data show that ryabchikovite is a Cu,Mg-ordered analogue of clinoenstatite.
36 Ryabchikovite adopts the space group $P2_1/c$ and has the following unit-cell parameters: $a =$
37 $9.731(9)$, $b = 8.929(8)$, $c = 5.221(4)$ Å, $\beta = 110.00(6)^\circ$, $V = 426.3(7)$ Å³, and $Z = 4$. Ryabchikovite
38 is named in honor of the outstanding Russian geochemist and petrologist Igor Dmitrievich
39 Ryabchikov (1937–2017). Our studies reveal that copper analogues of rock-forming minerals
40 could be found in fumarolic system. Their crystallization does not require high temperatures or /
41 and pressures (below 500 °C / Pa).

42 **Keywords:** ryabchikovite, new mineral, pyroxene, fumarole sublimate, copper silicate, gas
43 transport reaction, Tolbachik volcano

44

45 Introduction

46 The pyroxene group minerals are among the most widespread and well-studied. The main
47 results of long-time period research of different characteristics of pyroxenes (chemical variability,
48 crystal chemistry, spectroscopy, thermodynamics and applications) were summarized by Prewitt
49 (1980). The general formula of pyroxenes is $M2M1(T_2O_6)$ (Morimoto et al. 1988). The species-
50 defining components in earlier known natural pyroxenes are as follows: $M1 = Mn^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Mg^{2+},$
51 $Zn^{2+}, Sc^{3+}, Ti^{3+}, V^{3+}, Cr^{3+}, Mn^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, Al$, $M2 = Mg^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, Li, Ca, Na$, and $T = Si, Al$
52 (International Mineralogical Association List of Minerals, www.ima-mineralogy.org). The
53 detailed description of structural variations in pyroxenes is given by Cameron and Papike (1981).
54 Pyroxenes are polygenic minerals formed in different magmatic, metamorphic and metasomatic
55 rocks, which can be used as markers of p - T conditions. Besides the usual for pyroxene-group
56 minerals formation conditions, some pyroxenes (enstatite, clinoenstatite and diopside) were found
57 in exhalations of active and extinct volcanic fumaroles (Getahun et al. 1996; Symonds et al., 1987;
58 Tesselina et al. 2008; Naboko and Glavatskikh 1992).

59 The possible solid solutions in natural pyroxenes were discussed in detail by Peter
60 Robinson in the corresponding chapter of the handbook (Prewitt 1980) and crystal chemical
61 features were summarized by Morimoto (1989). Noteworthy, pyroxenes with the distinct Cu
62 content (> 1 wt.% CuO) had not been found in nature until our work on silicate mineralization
63 from fumaroles of the Tolbachik volcano. Some samples of pyroxenes (diopside and enstatite) of
64 fumarolic genesis, originating from the active Arsenatnaya fumarole (Tolbachik volcano,
65 Kamchatka, Russia) contain up to 1.2 wt.% CuO (Shchipalkina et al. 2020). The origin of these
66 pyroxenes is related to two processes: metasomatic alteration of host rocks by hot gas and primary
67 crystallization from the gas. Pyroxenes of the diopside-aegirine-esseneite solid-solution system
68 are of the main minerals in deep, hottest zones of the mentioned fumarole (Pekov et al. 2018a,

69 2020; Shchipalkina et al. 2020). Another location in which Cu impurity was detected in pyroxenes
70 in minor amount (up to 120 ppm), is igneous rocks of Bingham – Park City Belt (Core et al. 2005).
71 The issues of Cu incorporation into pyroxene crystal structure and its diffusion in natural
72 pyroxenes were studied experimentally by Audetat et al. (2018). The maximum content of Cu on
73 the surface of synthetic pyroxene samples obtained from these experiments is 427 ppm.
74 Noteworthy the experiments were provided in a gas mixing furnace.

75 In this paper we describe the first natural pyroxene with species-defining copper, a new
76 mineral species ryabchikovite, ideally $\text{CuMg}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6)$, from the exhalations of the Arsenatnaya
77 fumarole and discuss processes of formation of this novel pyroxene. The mineral name is given in
78 honor of the outstanding Russian geochemist and petrologist Professor Igor Dmitrievich
79 Ryabchikov (1937–2017), Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences who worked in the
80 Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry of the Russian
81 Academy of Sciences (IGEM RAS), Moscow. Professor Ryabchikov made a great contribution to
82 the thermodynamics of fluid phase in magmatic systems, to the knowledge on the distribution of
83 rare elements in magmatic rocks, to the geochemistry and systematics of basaltoid and alkaline
84 rocks and the geochemistry of mantle rocks.

85 Both the new mineral and its name have been approved by the IMA Commission on New
86 Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (IMA No. 2021-011). The type specimen is deposited
87 in the systematic collection of the Fersman Mineralogical Museum of the Russian Academy of
88 Sciences, Moscow under the catalogue number 97512.

89

90 **Occurrence and general appearance of ryabchikovite**

91 Ryabchikovite occurs at the Arsenatnaya fumarole located at the summit of the Second
92 scoria cone of the Northern Breakthrough of the Great Tolbachik Fissure Eruption, Tolbachik
93 volcano, Kamchatka peninsula, Far-Eastern Region, Russia, $55^{\circ}41'N$, $160^{\circ}14'E$, 1200 meters
94 above sea level. This active oxidizing-type fumarole is characterized by outstanding mineral
95 diversity. The mineralogy and zonation of the Arsenatnaya fumarole were described by us in detail
96 (Pekov et al. 2018a; Shchipalkina et al. 2020).

97 Ryabchikovite was found in a single specimen collected in July 2015. Associated minerals
98 are diopside, hematite, cuprospinel, fluorophlogopite, anhydrite, johillerite, tilasite and
99 apthitalite-group K-Na sulfates; secondary, supergene minerals closely associated with
100 ryabchikovite are syngenite and hydroglauberite.

101 Ryabchikovite forms thin (up to 25 μm , typically no more than 10 μm) epitactic crusts on
102 well-shaped short-prismatic to equant brownish-grey crystals of diopside (Figures 1 and 2) up to

103 0.5 mm in size. The surface of ryabchikovite crusts is rough (Figures 1 and 2). Diopside crystals
104 with ryabchikovite crusts and hematite overgrow basalt scoria partially altered by fumarolic gas.

105 The temperatures 370–400°C were measured by us using chromel-alumel thermocouple in
106 this area during the collecting. Ryabchikovite is a fumarolic mineral formed at temperatures not
107 lower than 400–450°C. We believe it was formed as a result of the interaction between Cu-bearing
108 fumarolic gas and earlier formed diopside (for details see below).

109

110 **Methods and results**

111 **Optical properties**

112 Observation in plane polarized light shows ryabchikovite forms rims up to 10 micron epitactically
113 overgrowing diopside crystals. Both are colorless, nonpleochroic. The refractive indexes were
114 measured using Cargille immersion oils which were checked by refractometer before and after the
115 measurements. Orientation of the grains was controlled by conoscopical interference figures. The
116 estimation of the $2V$ angle for vatrix diopside was obtained from the curviness of the conoscopical
117 figure on the section perpendicular to an optical axes. Ryabchikovite is optically biaxial (+), with
118 $\alpha = 1.685(5)$, $\beta = 1.690(5)$, $\gamma = 1.703(4)$ (589 nm), $2V$ (meas.) = 60(15)°, and $2V$ (calc.) = 64°.
119 Dispersion of optical axes was none observed. Orientation: $Z \wedge c = 47^\circ$ (the c direction is considered
120 to be parallel to the c direction of diopside crystal on which ryabchikovite forms parallel
121 overgrowths). Optical properties of ryabchikovite are typical for monoclinic pyroxenes.

122 The observation under the microscope in plane polarized transmitted light, as well as the
123 scanning electron images (Fig. 3), clearly shows that ryabchikovite forms parallel overgrowths on
124 diopside. These minerals are similar but not identical in optical characteristics. They distinctly
125 differ from one another in refractive indices. Diopside underlying ryabchikovite is optically biaxial
126 (+), with $\alpha = 1.668(2)$, $\beta = 1.675(3)$, $\gamma = 1.691(2)$, and $2V$ (meas.) = 60(10)°. Their optical
127 orientation is also different: $Z \wedge c = 42^\circ$ for diopside and $Z \wedge c = 47^\circ$ for the ryabchikovite crust.

128 **Chemical composition**

129 The chemical composition of ryabchikovite was studied using electron microprobe. The
130 analyses were carried out with a JEOL JXA-8230 (WDS mode) at the Laboratory of Analytical
131 Techniques of High Spatial Resolution, Dept. of Petrology, Moscow State University. The
132 operating conditions included an accelerating voltage of 20 kV and beam current of 20 nA, beam
133 was rastered on an area $4 \mu\text{m} \times 4 \mu\text{m}$. The data reduction was carried out by means of an INCA
134 Energy 300 software package. The following standards were used for quantitative analysis:
135 diopside (Mg), metal Cu (Cu), ZnS (Zn), anorthite (Ca, Al and Si), and metal Fe (Fe). Contents of
136 other elements with atomic numbers higher than carbon are below detection limits. EDS maps

137 were obtained on a Hitachi S-3400N scanning electron microscope equipped with AzTec Energy
138 X-Max 20 EDS under 20 kV accelerating voltage, 1.5 nA beam current, 60 sec dwell time. All the
139 calculations and corrections were conducted automatically with Oxford AzTec software.

140 The analyses in Table 1 are arranged in the order of increasing CuO content. The empirical
141 formula of ryabchikovite with maximum content of Cu (27.79 wt.%) based on 6 O atoms per
142 formula unit (*apfu*) is $(\text{Mg}_{1.03}\text{Cu}_{0.85}\text{Zn}_{0.05}\text{Ca}_{0.04}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.03})_{\Sigma 2.00}\text{Si}_{1.99}\text{O}_6$. The average chemical
143 composition (wt.%, electron microprobe data, ranges are in parentheses) is: MgO 18.05 (16.28 –
144 20.76), CaO 0.77 (0.00 – 1.21), CuO 26.46 (25.72 – 27.79), ZnO 2.23 (1.01 – 3.23), Al_2O_3 0.93
145 (0.88 – 0.99), Fe_2O_3 1.89 (0.99 – 3.07), SiO_2 50.10 49.00 – 52.62, total 100.43. The empirical
146 formula is $(\text{Mg}_{1.05}\text{Cu}_{0.78}\text{Zn}_{0.06}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.06}\text{Ca}_{0.03})(\text{Si}_{1.96}\text{Al}_{0.04}\text{O}_6)$

147

148 Raman spectroscopy

149 The Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite (Fig. 3a) was obtained at LabRam HR800 (Horiba
150 Jobin-Yvon) confocal Raman spectrometer using He-Ne laser (wavelength 632.8 nm) at Center
151 for Optical and Laser Materials Research, St. Petersburg State University. The laser power under
152 the 50x objective [N.A. (Numerical aperture) = 0.75] was 1 mW. The spectrum was recorded in
153 the range of 50–4000 cm^{-1} with a resolution of 2 cm^{-1} and acquisition time 90 s with 5 repetitions.
154 The spectrometer was calibrated using silicon standard peak at 520.7 cm^{-1} . The diameter of the
155 laser spot on the sample was about 6 μm . The Raman spectra of well-studied enstatite,
156 clinoenstatite and green and yellow diopside, all from the Arsenatnaya fumarole, are used for
157 comparison. These spectra were recorded at an EnSpectr R532 spectrometer with a solid green
158 laser (532 nm) at Dept. of Mineralogy, Moscow State University. The laser output power was
159 about 7 mW. The spectrum was processed using the EnSpectr expert mode program in the range
160 of 100–4000 cm^{-1} with the use of a holographic diffraction grating with 1800 lines/mm and a
161 resolution equals to about 6 cm^{-1} . The diameter of the laser spot on the sample was about 10 μm .
162 All spectra were obtained at room temperature and demonstrated at Fig. 3.

163 The Raman spectra of different orthorhombic and monoclinic pyroxenes are studied quite
164 well (White 1975; Ohashi and Sekita 1982, 1983; Sekita et al. 1988; Ghose et al. 1994; Huang et
165 al. 2000; Wang et al. 2001; Prencipe et al., 2012; Tribaudino et al. 2012, 2019 and references
166 therein). Wang et al. (2001) distinguished five Raman frequency regions for pyroxenes: 1100–800
167 (I), 800–600 (II), 600–450 (III), 450–300 (IV), and below 300 cm^{-1} (V). The most characteristic
168 region for identification of the monoclinic pyroxenes with the $P2_1/c$ and $C2/c$ space groups is 800–
169 600 cm^{-1} . In pyroxenes with the $C2/c$ symmetry (e.g., diopside), there are symmetrically equivalent
170 chains of tetrahedra, thus there is one strong band near 670 cm^{-1} , corresponding to the A_g
171 symmetric stretching vibrations of Si-O_b-Si bonds in tetrahedral chains. In monoclinic pyroxenes

172 with $P2_1/c$ symmetry (e.g., clinoenstatite) and orthorhombic pyroxenes with $Pbca$ symmetry (e.g.,
173 enstatite), this band is split due to the presence of two symmetrically independent chains (SiA and
174 SiB) with different deformation angles. This «rule» is revealed clearly at the Raman spectra of
175 clinoenstatite, enstatite and different crystals of diopside (Figs. 3b-e). In the region 1100-800 cm^{-1} ,
176 both enstatite and clinoenstatite may show a doublet (~ 1010 and $\sim 1030 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) (Wang et al. 2001).

177 The set of bands and their frequencies in the Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite correspond
178 to the spectra of clinopyroxenes (Figs. 3, 4). The spectrum of ryabchikovite contains broad and
179 asymmetric bands in the regions 600–800 and 800–1100 cm^{-1} . This can be interpreted as pairs of
180 poor resolved bands with maxima at 678 and at 998 cm^{-1} and a shoulder bands at 692 and 1014
181 cm^{-1} , respectively. Both doublets are inherent to the monoclinic pyroxenes with $P2_1/c$ symmetry,
182 e.g. clinoenstatite (Fig. 3b). The Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite distinctly differs from the
183 spectra of Cu-free pyroxenes – enstatite, clinoenstatite and diopside in the presence of intense band
184 at 457 cm^{-1} . This band is assigned to stretching vibrations of the $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-O}$ bond with length between
185 1.9 and 2.0 Å according to the results on synthetic analogue of this mineral (Ding et al. 2016). The
186 bands corresponding to $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-O}$ stretching vibrations in the range 440–460 cm^{-1} are present in
187 Raman and infrared (IR) spectra of some natural and synthetic copper compounds with Cu^{2+} -
188 centered polyhedra characterized by the strong Jahn-Teller distortion which demonstrate short
189 $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-O}$ distances, 1.85–2.0 Å. It was reported, e.g., for the Raman spectra of ericlavite and
190 kozyrevskite, two polymorphs of $\text{Cu}_4\text{O}(\text{AsO}_4)_2$ (Pekov et al. 2014), and discussed for the IR
191 spectra of synthetic analogue of yaroshevskite $\text{Cu}_9\text{O}_2(\text{VO}_4)_4\text{Cl}_2$ and related compounds (Siidra et
192 al. 2020). The presence of strong band at 456 cm^{-1} is an evidence of the polyhedron with the strong
193 Jahn-Teller distortion in ryabchikovite as a result of the significant Cu-Mg ordering in its structure.
194 The absence of functional groups with O-H, C-H, N-H, B-O confirmed by absence of Raman-
195 active stretching vibration peaks in the region higher than 1100 cm^{-1} .

196

197 **Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD)**

198 The samples were polished with progressively smaller polycrystalline diamond
199 suspensions with the ending step of Ar ion etching for 10 min at the final stage (Oxford IonFab
200 300) to remove the amorphized layer for electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) analysis. EBSD
201 measurements of ryabchikovite were carried out by means of a Hitachi S-3400N scanning electron
202 microscope equipped with an Oxford Instruments Nordlys-HKL EBSD detector, operated at 20
203 kV and 1.5 nA in a focused beam mode, using a 70° tilted stage. EBSD mapping was performed
204 with 2×2 binning and no averaging, final exposition was 40 msec per point. Both acquisition and
205 analysis of Kikuchi patterns were performed using Oxford AZtecHKL software. EBSD orientation
206 maps are presented as color-coded images using standard techniques of color-coded visualization

207 of Euler angles (Fig. 5). Phase maps are presented as color-coded images. The structures of the
208 phases were determined by matching the respective EBSD patterns with the reference structural
209 models obtained from Inorganic Crystal Structure Database (ICSD).

210 Structural identification was carried out by matching the obtained EBSD patterns with the
211 reference structure of monoclinic $M2Cu_{0.8}M1Mg_{1.2}(Si_2O_6)$ (space group $P2_1/c$ and unit-cell
212 parameters: $a = 9.7352 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 8.9020$, $c = 5.2268 \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 110.72^\circ$, $V = 423.66 \text{ \AA}^3$, and $Z = 4$) (Ding
213 et al. 2016). The best attained mean angular deviation (MAD) is 0.36° for 12 Kikuchi bands (Fig.
214 6). Fitting of the EBSD patterns for an orthorhombic $M2(Cu_{0.56}Mg_{0.44})M1Mg(Si_2O_6)$ model (sp. gr.
215 $Pbca$) (Tachi et al. 1997) resulted in the parameter MAD = 0.64° for only 8 Kikuchi bands.
216 Moreover, the obtained solution does not describe a number of existing intensive bands. Thus, the
217 orthorhombic model is not suitable for ryabchikovite.

218

219 Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data

220 PXRD data for ryabchikovite (intergrowth with diopside) were collected using a Rigaku R-AXIS
221 Rapid II diffractometer (image plate), $CoK\alpha$, 40 kV, 15 mA, rotating anode with the microfocus
222 optics, Debye-Scherrer geometry, $d = 127.4 \text{ mm}$, exposure 15 min. The data were processed using
223 the *osc2xrd* program (Britvin et al. 2017) and Stoe WinXPOW software (Stoe and Cie 2006). Data
224 (in \AA for $CoK\alpha$ radiation) are listed in Table 2. Unit-cell parameters of monoclinic unit cell (sp.gr.
225 $P2_1/c$) of ryabchikovite refined from the powder data are as follows: (sp.gr. $P2_1/c$) $a = 9.731(9)$, b
226 $= 8.929(8) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 5.221(4) \text{ \AA}$, $\beta = 110.00(6)^\circ$, $V = 426.3(7) \text{ \AA}^3$, $Z = 4$.

227

228 Discussion

229 Crystal chemistry of Cu-bearing pyroxenes

230 The interest to the pyroxenes with so-called "Jahn-Teller cations", such as Co^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and
231 Cr^{2+} , does not fade. These cations tend to have the square planar coordination by oxygen atoms.
232 Data on the pyroxenes with different divalent cations were summarized by Cameron and Papike
233 (1981) and Morimoto (1989). However, the pyroxenes with "Jahn-Teller cations" were known to
234 date only as synthetic compounds.

235 The study of synthetic Cu-bearing pyroxene analogues with (Si_2O_6) and (Ge_2O_6) was
236 started from 1960s (Borchert and Krämer, 1969). The data on synthetic Cu-rich silicate pyroxene
237 analogues are summarized in Table 3. The first successful synthesis of $CuMg(Si_2O_6)$ with low-
238 clinopyroxene crystal structure ($P2_1/c$) was done by Breuer et al. (1986). The crystal structure of
239 this compound, including distribution of Cu and Mg among the $M2$ and $M1$ sites, were obtained

240 from the PXRD data. The Cu^{2+} and Mg cations were considered being ordered at $M2$ and $M1$ sites,
241 respectively. The preference of Cu^{2+} to the $M2$ site in pyroxene-type structure was also shown by
242 Ghose and Wan (1976) and Tachi et al. (1997) for Cu-bearing orthopyroxenes with the space group
243 $Pbca$. The arrangement of O atoms around the Cu^{2+} site in this compound is close to the distorted
244 square pyramidal with five-fold coordination, but non to the square planar shape expected from
245 the Jahn-Teller effect (Tachi et al. 1997). The recent research of Cu-bearing clinopyroxene was
246 undertaken by Ding et al. (2016) who synthesized $\text{Cu}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{1.2}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$ from Cu^{2+} acetate and Mg
247 acetate with calcination at $t = 1000^\circ\text{C}$ during 10 hours. According to the Rietveld refinement, this
248 compound belongs to the low-clinopyroxene structure type ($P2_1/c$). The Cu^{2+} and Mg cations are
249 ordered despite their close ionic radii (0.73 and 0.72 Å, respectively, Shannon, 1976): Mg occupies
250 the $M1$ site whereas Cu^{2+} and residual Mg are localized at the $M2$ site. The $M2$ polyhedron is the
251 octahedron strongly distorted due to the Jahn-Teller effect: Cu–O distances vary from 1.81 to 2.76
252 Å (Ding et al. 2016); it could be reduced to the five-fold polyhedron with Cu–O distances from
253 1.81 to 2.38 Å. Noteworthy, that $\text{CaCuSi}_2\text{O}_6$ with pyroxene structure has not been synthesized yet
254 despite many attempts.

255 Ryabchikovite, the first copper-rich natural pyroxene, is considered as a natural analogue
256 of synthetic monoclinic ($P2_1/c$) pyroxene with the ideal formula $\text{CuMg}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6)$ reported by Breuer
257 et al. (1986) and Ding et al. (2016). The monoclinic crystal system and the space group $P2_1/c$ of
258 ryabchikovite is typical for so-called low clinopyroxenes and undoubtedly confirmed by the
259 combination of EBSD, PXRD, Raman spectroscopic and optical data. The predominance of Cu at
260 the $M2$ and Mg at $M1$ in this pyroxene is considered based on the crystal chemical data on synthetic
261 pyroxenes with Cu^{2+} and other "Jahn-Teller cations" (see references above). The presence of band
262 at 456 cm^{-1} in the Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite (which is absent in the spectra of Cu-free
263 pyroxenes) is another evidence of the significant Cu-Mg ordering: this demonstrates the presence
264 of the polyhedron strongly distorted from the Jahn-Teller effect that is possible only as a result of
265 its occupancy mainly with Cu^{2+} . The comparative data for studied pyroxenes from the exhalations
266 of the Arsenatnaya fumarole are given in Table 4.

267

268 **Formation conditions of Cu-rich anhydrous silicates**

269 Copper is among rare elements in upper continental crust of the Earth, its content (28 $\mu\text{g/g}$)
270 is the same as that of Nd (27 $\mu\text{g/g}$) or Ce (31 $\mu\text{g/g}$) (Rudnick and Gao 2003). However, more than
271 700 minerals with species-defining Cu are known (40 of which are copper silicates), whereas only
272 44 minerals with species-defining Nd were found up to date (and only 9 are neodymium silicates).
273 Among minerals, the silicates with species-defining copper are not common and generally occur

274 in the oxidation zone of ore deposits. Most of copper silicates are hydrous. Eight H-free natural
275 Cu silicates were described until recently, namely scottyite $\text{BaCu}_2(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)$ (Hentschel et al. 1993;
276 Yang et al. 2013), effenbergerite $\text{BaCu}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})$ (Giester and Rieck 1994), cuprorivaite
277 $\text{CaCu}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})$ (Minguzzi 1938; Mazzi and Pabst 1962), wesselsite $\text{SrCu}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})$ (Giester and Rieck
278 1996), colinowensite $\text{BaCu}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6)$ (Rieck et al. 2015), litidionite $\text{CuNaK}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})$ (Pozas et al.
279 1975), liebauite $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cu}_5(\text{Si}_9\text{O}_{26})$ (Zöller et al. 1992), and stavelotite-(La)
280 $(\text{La,Nd,Ca})_3\text{Mn}^{2+}_3\text{Cu}(\text{Mn}^{3+},\text{Fe}^{3+},\text{Mn}^{4+})_{26}(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)_6\text{O}_{30}$ (Bernhardt et al. 2005). Among these
281 minerals, four species are known in high-temperature post-volcanic mineral associations formed
282 with a participation of fumarolic gas: cuprorivaite, liebauite, litidionite, and scottyite-(La).

283 The Cu-bearing synthetic analogues are known for such rock-forming silicates as olivines,
284 garnets, pyroxenes (Hrichova 1970; Breuer et al. 1986; Zabdyr and Fabrichnaya 2004; Tachi et al.
285 1997; Ding et al. 2016; Elthohamy et al. 2021). All mentioned silicates were synthesized in
286 systems with high oxygen fugacity and atmospheric pressure by sintering of oxide mixtures, with
287 or without flux. Finds of Cu-bearing micas and amphiboles in nature are known (Wang et al. 2019;
288 Chukanov et al. 2020; Varlamov et al. 2021). Thus, the content of CuO in biotite from the
289 Mulyashy copper mine (Zambia) is up to 6.0 wt.% and up to 1.4 wt.% in magnesio-riebeckite from
290 metasomatic rocks of the Pelagonian Massif (Republic of North Macedonia), one of the rare
291 example of sulfide-free endogenic ores with diverse oxygen-bearing minerals of Sb^{5+} , Zn, Pb and
292 Cu. In the Pelagonian Massif, the total sulfur is precipitated in baryte, because of the great excess
293 of Ba in the mineral-forming system (Chukanov et al. 2020). The Cu-bearing varieties of
294 tourmalines (up to 3.6 wt.% CuO) (Vereshchagin et al. 2013) and vesuvianite-group mineral
295 cyprine $\text{Ca}_{19}\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{Al,Mg,Mn})_{12}\text{Si}_{18}\text{O}_{69}(\text{OH})_9$ (up to 2.5 wt.% CuO) (Panikorovskii et al. 2017) are
296 also described and their origin is related to the hydrothermal/metasomatic processes. If we
297 compare the p - T - x conditions of the geological settings with H_2O -free copper silicates, the
298 following common features can be observed: high oxygen fugacity during the formation of
299 silicates, the concentration of S in sulfates (no sulfides or only their relicts), low pressure (typically
300 close to atmospheric one), the temperature of formation 500-1000°C The published data on
301 partition coefficients of Cu (D_{Cu}) between silicate melts and crystalline silicates show that D_{Cu}
302 (mineral/silicate melt) are as follows: for amphiboles – 0.06, olivines – 0.03-0.14, orthopyroxenes
303 – 0.02-0.09, clinopyroxenes – 0.02-0.23, garnets – 0.03-0.05 (Liu 2014; Roux et al. 2015; Hsu et
304 al. 2017; Portnyagin et al. 2017 and references therein) and this value increases with increasing of
305 $f\text{O}_2$. This seems to be important for the above-discussed geological settings.

306 It is known, that despite the strong enrichment of copper in usual volcanic settings no Cu-
307 rich silicates were detected from the associations with Cu sulfides because of strong affinity of Cu
308 to covalent bonding with sulfur in sulfidic form (chalcophile behavior). The distinctive feature of

309 the described fumarolic systems related to the Tolbachik volcano is strongly oxidizing conditions
310 of mineral formation. This is a result of the mixing of hot volcanic gas with atmospheric air. Some
311 oxidizing-type fumaroles related to Tolbachik are strongly enriched with copper and thus a
312 uniquely abundant and diverse Cu^{2+} mineralization forms there at temperatures 300-600°C (Pekov
313 et al. 2018b). The review on fumarolic copper mineralization presented by Pekov et al. (2018b)
314 shows that Cu-rich minerals in the Tolbachik fumaroles (including Arsenatnaya) are mainly
315 represented by various sulfates and arsenates, which demonstrate the zonal distribution in vertical
316 section of fumaroles. In near-surface zones of the Arsenatnaya fumarole, the main sublimate
317 copper minerals are sulfates – euchlorine $\text{KNaCu}_3\text{O}(\text{SO}_4)_3$, wulfkite $\text{K}_3\text{NaCu}_4\text{O}_2(\text{SO}_4)_4$,
318 chalcocyanite CuSO_4 , dolerophanite $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}(\text{SO}_4)$, and fedotovite $\text{K}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}(\text{SO}_4)_3$. The Cu-rich
319 mineralization is traced up to the 1.5 meter depth. The deepest Cu-rich zone is enriched by
320 arsenates among which the Cu^{2+} arsenates dominate, mainly johillerite $\text{NaCuMg}_3(\text{AsO}_4)$,
321 bradaczekite $\text{NaCu}_4(\text{AsO}_4)_3$, and lammerite $\text{Cu}_3[(\text{As},\text{P})\text{O}_4]_2$. Litidionite and ryabchikovite were
322 found especially in this zone, as well as yangzhumingite $\text{KMg}_{2.5}(\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10})\text{F}_2$ with 1.4 wt.% of CuO
323 and potassic-magnesian-fluoro-arfvedsonite $\text{KNa}_2(\text{Mg}_4\text{Fe}^{3+})(\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22})\text{F}_2$ with 1.7 wt.% of CuO
324 (Shchipalkina et al. 2020). Below this zone, the Cu-bearing minerals disappear. As our data show,
325 silicates of deep zones contain no more than 0.5 wt.% CuO (e.g., forsterite). However, such Cu
326 content is quite high for olivine of any other genesis and was not detected earlier in natural
327 samples. For comparison, in fumaroles of the famous Vesuvius volcano (Campania, Italy) only
328 two exhalation silicates are known, litidionite and cuprorivaite (Balassone et al. 2019). The
329 mentioned copper silicates are rare in fumarolic assemblages at both volcanoes. Unfortunately, the
330 poorly resolved issue for both described fumarolic localities is the staging of changes in gas
331 composition conjugating with deposition of different mineral paragenesis, influence of dominating
332 components in gas on gradual alteration of hosting rocks and redeposition of earlier formed
333 minerals.

334 As aforementioned, ryabchikovite occurs as thin epitaxial crusts on diopside crystals. The
335 optical and EBSD data verified the orientations of diopside substrate and ryabchikovite crusts to
336 be identical (Fig. 5). The character of some borders between diopside and ryabchikovite can be
337 interpreted as a sign of the replacement of diopside by ryabchikovite (Figures 1 and 2). There is
338 no intermediate transition zone in Ca, Mg and Cu contents between diopside and ryabchikovite in
339 these intergrowths (Fig. 7). This is displayed on X-ray maps of Cu, Ca and Mg (Fig. 7). This can
340 be an evidence of formation of ryabchikovite during the process of alteration of diopside by hot
341 and chemically "aggressive" fumarolic gas probably strongly enriched with Cu under oxidizing
342 conditions. Such process is indirectly confirmed by the presence of cuprospinel $\text{CuFe}^{3+}_2\text{O}_4$ crusts
343 on hematite in the same sample with ryabchikovite crusts on diopside. The experiments on

344 synthesis of Cu-bearing pyroxenes described above show the formation of Cu-rich pyroxenes is
345 possible from the melt enriched in Cu, solid state diffusion or vaporization of components with
346 formation of precursor for crystallization copper silicates (Breuer et al. 1986; Ding et al. 2016). In
347 our case, the most plausible way is the crystallization of ryabchikovite due to the precursor – the
348 initial diopside, which was partly altered by gas containing, presumably, copper halide. The signs
349 of local strongly enrichment in Cu, not bonded with any form of S, are the presence of Cu-bearing
350 varieties of yangzhumingite and potassic-magnesian-fluoro-arfvedsonite in the same zone as
351 ryabchikovite. These silicates are associated with members of the NaCl–KCl solid-solution series
352 (so-called 'sylvinites'), which can indirectly indicate the transport of Cu in halide form during their
353 crystallization. The possibility of formation of rims on diopside single crystal during the reaction
354 with MCl_2 (where $M = Ni, Mg$), but in aqueous solutions at $t = 300-600^\circ C$ and $p = 100 MPa$ was
355 shown by Majumdar (2014). In these experiments the outer rim with the thickness 10 and 15 μm
356 consists of willemseite $Ni_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$.

357 Summarizing the discussion above, several factors can lead to the formation of H-free Cu-
358 enriched silicates: high oxygen fugacity coupled with relatively low pressure (close to atmospheric
359 one), presumably, halides as transport agents for Cu on the stage of silicate crystallization in post-
360 volcanic systems, the sulfur fixed mainly in sulfate form, and local supersaturation in Cu during
361 the deposition of silicates.

362
363 **Implications** Our studies reveal, that copper analogues of rock-forming minerals could be found
364 in fumarolic system. Their crystallization does not require high temperatures or / and pressures
365 (below 500 $^\circ C / Pa$), which was confirmed by studies of ryabchikovite $CuMg(Si_2O_6)$. We assume,
366 that copper rich analogues of mica, tourmaline could be found in this systems. Besides, silicates
367 with Jahn-Teller cations, in particular pyroxenes, are in the field of materials science interest as
368 they possess multiferroic properties and quasi-one-dimensional magnetic behavior . Described
369 origin of ryabchikovite, the first natural pyroxene with species-defining copper, shows that such
370 pyroxenes can growth during the gas-transport reactions at relatively low temperatures at
371 atmospheric pressure with diopside as a precursor. This can be useful for a development of
372 chemical technologies based on gas-transport reaction for material science applications

373
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382

383 **Declarations**

384 **Conflict of interest** The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the
385 content of this article.

386 **Ethical approval** Hereby, the authors consciously assure that following statements are fulfilled:

387 1. this manuscript is the authors' original work, which has not been previously published
388 elsewhere. 2. This manuscript is not currently being reviewed for publications elsewhere. 3. This
389 manuscript reflects the authors' own research and analysis in a truthful and complete manner. 4.
390 This manuscript properly credits valuable contributions from co-authors. 5. All references are
391 properly cited.

392 **Consent to participate** Hereby, the authors consciously assure that following statements are
393 fulfilled: 1. All the authors have contributions to the current manuscript. 2. All the authors take
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560 **Figure captions**
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562 Figure 1. Crystals of diopside covered by light brown to reddish-brown ryabchikovite (Ryb) crust,
563 with hematite (Hem) and white acicular supergene hydroglauberite (a). Aggregates of diopside
564 (Di) crystals with ryabchikovite crust (b and c, SEM photos, SE mode)
565
566 Figure 2. Diopside (Di) crystals with crust of ryabchikovite (Ryb) overgrowing hematite (Hem).
567 Polished sections, SEM images, BSE mode
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569 Figure 3. The Raman spectra of ryabchikovite (a), clinoenstatite (sp. gr. $P2_1/c$) (b), enstatite
570 ($Pbca$) (c) and diopside ($C2/c$) (d and e), all from the Arsenatnaya fumarole
571
572 Figure 4. Fragments of the Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite with bands in the regions 500–800
573 and 930–1080 cm^{-1} .
574
575 Figure 5. EBSD maps of polished sample with ryabchikovite (Ryb), diopside (Di) and hematite
576 (HEM) from the Arsenatnaya fumarole: (a) mineral distribution map, (b) orientation map, (c)
577 diopside crystals orientation, (d) ryabchikovite crystals orientation.
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579 Figure 6. Example of Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD) pattern (a) indexation using
580 theoretical Kikuchi pattern generated from (b) synthetic monoclinic pyroxene $\text{Cu}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{1.2}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$
581 (Ding *et al.*, 2016) and (c) synthetic orthorhombic pyroxene $(\text{Cu}_{0.56}\text{Mg}_{0.44})\text{MgSi}_2\text{O}_6$ (Tachi *et al.*,
582 1997).
583
584 Figure 7. Elemental maps of diopside (Di) – ryabchikovite (Ryb) intergrowth : (a) Ca-Cu-Mg,
585 (b) $\text{CuK}\alpha$, (c) $\text{Ca K}\alpha$ and (d) $\text{Mg K}\alpha$.
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612 Table 1. Chemical composition of ryabchikovite

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	wt%							
MgO	23.90	23.55	18.05	18.61	16.28	20.76	17.62	16.96
CaO	0.20	0.11	0.83	0.48	0.48	0.00	1.21	0.90
CuO	19.52	20.45	24.43	25.72	26.09	26.29	26.41	27.79
ZnO	1.17	1.38	2.64	2.49	3.23	1.01	2.76	1.65
Al ₂ O ₃	2.34	1.51	1.23	0.84	0.99	0.00	0.96	0.00
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.13	1.49	3.84	1.90	3.07	0.99	2.47	1.02
SiO ₂	49.89	51.55	48.44	49.65	49.05	52.62	50.18	49.00
Total	100.15	100.04	99.46	99.69	99.19	101.67	101.61	99.27
	formula coefficients calculated based on 6 O <i>apfu</i>							
Mg	1.35	1.32	1.07	1.09	0.97	1.18	1.02	1.03
Ca	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.02	-	0.05	0.04
Cu	0.56	0.58	0.73	0.76	0.79	0.75	0.78	0.85
Zn	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.05
Al	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.05	-	0.04	-
Fe ³⁺	0.09	0.04	0.11	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.07	0.03
Si	1.88	1.94	1.92	1.95	1.96	2.00	1.95	1.99
Total*	4.02	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.97	3.99	3.99	3.99

613 *Sum of all metals and Si.

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632 Table 2. Powder X-ray diffraction data (d in Å) for ryabchikovite in comparison with the calculated
 633 data for its synthetic analogue (Ding et al. 2016)

Ryabchikovite		Synthetic $\text{Cu}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{1.2}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$ (Ding et al., 2016)				
I_{obs}	d_{obs}	I_{calc}	d_{calc}	h	k	l
12	9.03	12	9.106	1	0	0
11	4.549	20	4.553	2	0	0
38	4.403	66	4.444	0	1	1
27	4.307	6	4.285	1	1	-1
18	3.986	3	3.999	1	2	0
32	3.746	8	3.755	1	1	1
7	3.497	7	3.483	2	1	-1
27	3.291	32	3.291	1	2	-1
100	3.177	100	3.183	2	2	0
*81	2.953	71	2.945	2	1	1
75	2.876	51	2.873	3	1	0
*55	2.565	61	2.569	0	3	1
26	2.456	55	2.444	2	0	-2
7	2.424	1	2.412	1	3	1
*6	2.393	14	2.409	3	2	-1
*6	2.343	3	2.354	1	0	2
		8	2.335	2	3	-1
		4	2.226	0	4	0
26	2.215	9	2.222	0	2	2
		13	2.179	4	1	-1
*36	2.157	52	2.150	2	3	1
*53	2.134	6	2.143	2	2	-2
		4	2.124	3	2	1
21	1.990	13	1.999	2	4	0
*21	1.969	7	1.960	1	4	1
		1	1.918	2	4	-1
*4	1.909	10	1.893	4	0	-2
*4	1.861	2	1.878	2	2	2
*8	1.835	1	1.844	1	3	2
*4	1.814	1	1.812	2	4	1
6	1.740	12	1.742	4	2	-2
		5	1.682	0	5	1
10	1.682	7	1.682	2	1	-3
		9	1.681	0	4	2
*71	1.625	28	1.628	4	3	1
		17	1.622	1	2	-3
		2	1.617	1	4	2
*29	1.616	6	1.614	5	1	-2
		3	1.611	2	5	-1
*5	1.565	6	1.560	4	0	2
		2	1.556	3	4	-2
9	1.551	8	1.546	2	5	1
*17	1.489	17	1.484	0	6	0
		12	1.483	2	3	-3
*18	1.478	5	1.481	0	3	3
		5	1.472	4	2	2
		1	1.428	3	3	-3
*16	1.425	1	1.425	1	3	3
		3	1.422	5	3	1
		2	1.420	1	5	2
*6	1.391	3	1.395	4	5	-1
5	1.372	6	1.372	1	4	-3

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 635 The seven strongest reflections are marked in boldtype.
 636 * Overlapped reflections of ryabchikovite and diopside. In the low-angle region ($d > 2.4$ Å), the
 637 majority of reflections of ryabchikovite and diopside, the minerals different in unit-cell dimensions
 638 (Table 4), are well-resolved, whereas in the region with $d < 2.4$ Å many reflections of these
 639 clinopyroxenes are overlapped. This prevents the Rietveld refinement of the crystal structure of
 640 ryabchikovite.
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642 Table 3. Comparative data on synthetic Cu-rich pyroxenes

Formula	CuMg(Si₂O₆)	Cu_{0.8}Mg_{1.2}(Si₂O₆)	(Cu_{0.56}Mg_{0.44})Mg(Si₂O₆)
Method of synthesis	heating of the mixtures of CuO and MgO at 1000°C in air during 2-4 weeks	calcination of Cu acetate and Mg acetate at $t = 1000^\circ\text{C}$ during 10 h	heating of oxide-flux mixture to 850°C, and then stepped cooling to room temperature
Method of crystal structure study	powder X-ray diffraction	powder X-ray diffraction	single-crystal X-ray diffraction
Crystal system Space group	Monoclinic <i>P2₁/c</i>	Monoclinic <i>P2₁/c</i>	Orthorhombic <i>Pbca</i>
<i>a</i> , Å	9.731	9.7352	18.221
<i>b</i> , Å	8.918	8.9019	8.890
<i>c</i> , Å	5.224	5.2267	5.2260
β , °	110.52	110.721	90
<i>V</i> , Å ³	424.6	423.67	846.53
Occupancy of cation sites			
<i>M2</i>	Cu _{1.00}	Cu _{0.72} Mg _{0.28}	Cu _{0.5} Mg _{0.5}
<i>M1</i>	Mg _{1.00}	Mg _{0.93} Cu _{0.07}	Mg
Reference	Breuer et al. 1986	Ding et al. 2016	Tachi et al. 1997

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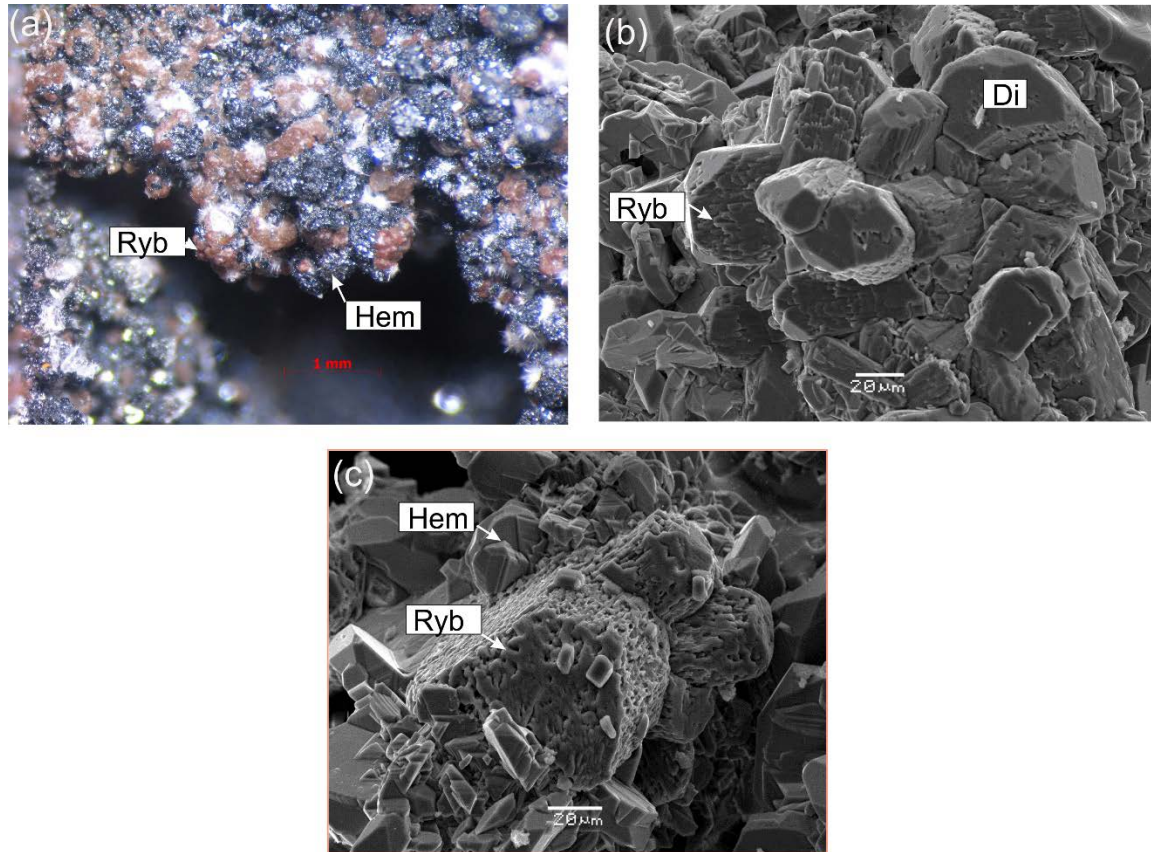
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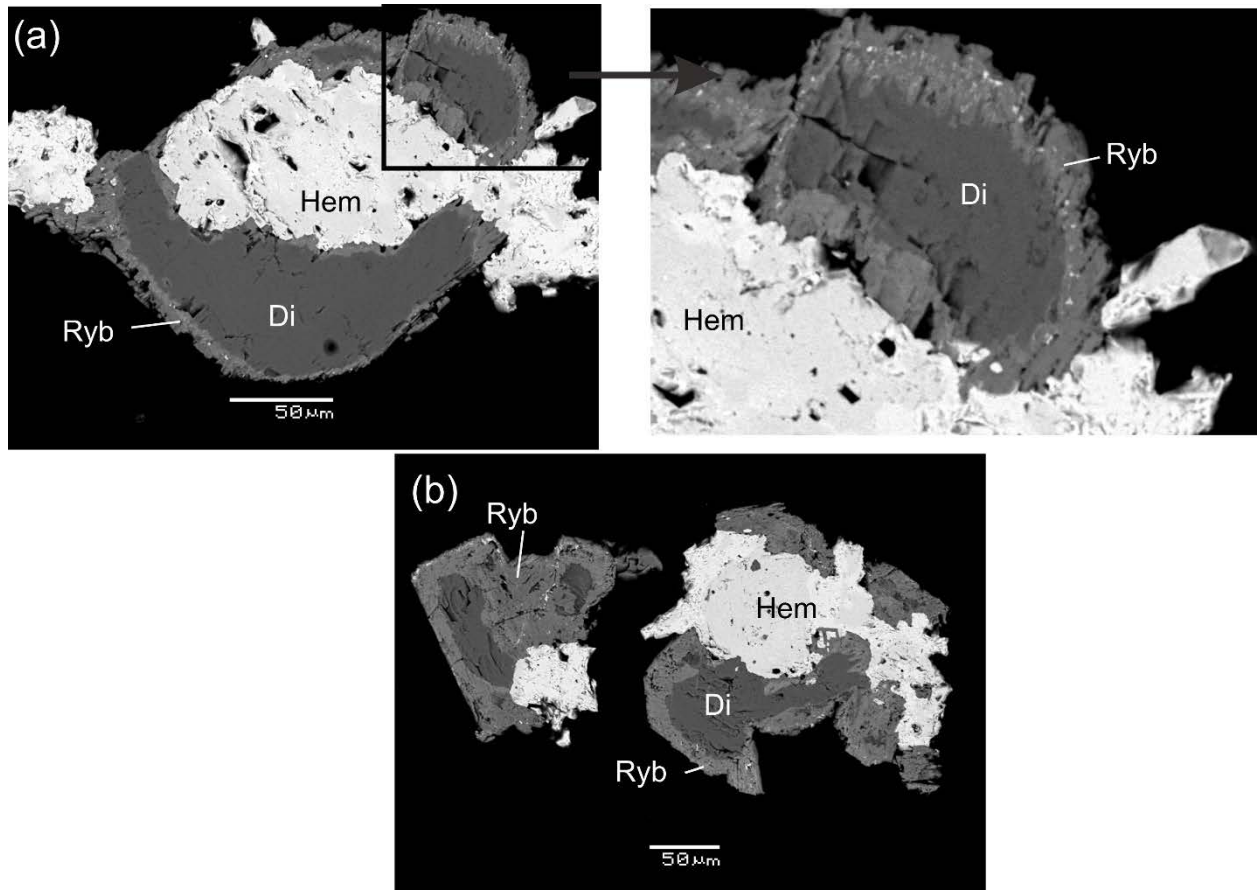
647 Table 4. Comparative data on ryabchikovite, clinoenstatite and diopside from the Arsenatnaya
 648 fumarole, Tolbachik volcano

Mineral	Ryabchikovite	Clinoenstatite	Diopside
Ideal formula	CuMg(Si ₂ O ₆)	MgMg(Si ₂ O ₆)	CaMg(Si ₂ O ₆)
Crystal system Space group	Monoclinic <i>P2₁/c</i>	Monoclinic <i>P2₁/c</i>	Monoclinic <i>C2/c</i>
<i>a</i> , Å	9.731(9)	9.66(6)	9.746(2)
<i>b</i> , Å	8.929(8)	8.89(4)	8.879(1)
<i>c</i> , Å	5.221(4)	5.22(3)	5.281(1)
β , °	110.00(6)	108.6(8)	105.91(1)
<i>V</i> , Å ³	426.3(7)	426(1)	439.6(1)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	4
<i>D</i> _{calc} , g cm ⁻³	3.68	3.18	3.34
Raman bands, cm ⁻¹	74, 94, 107, 153, 179, 226, 324, 378, 457, 519, 541, 562, 678, 692, 838, 873, 916, 998, 1014, 1090	238, 300, 342, 381, 401, 419, 445, 521, 544, 581, 663, 684, 753, 853, 928, 1011, 1030	324, 349, 384, 501, 531, 661, 705, 765, 813, 1002, 1040, 1102
Source	This work	Shchipalkina et al. 2020; this work (in part of Raman spectra)	

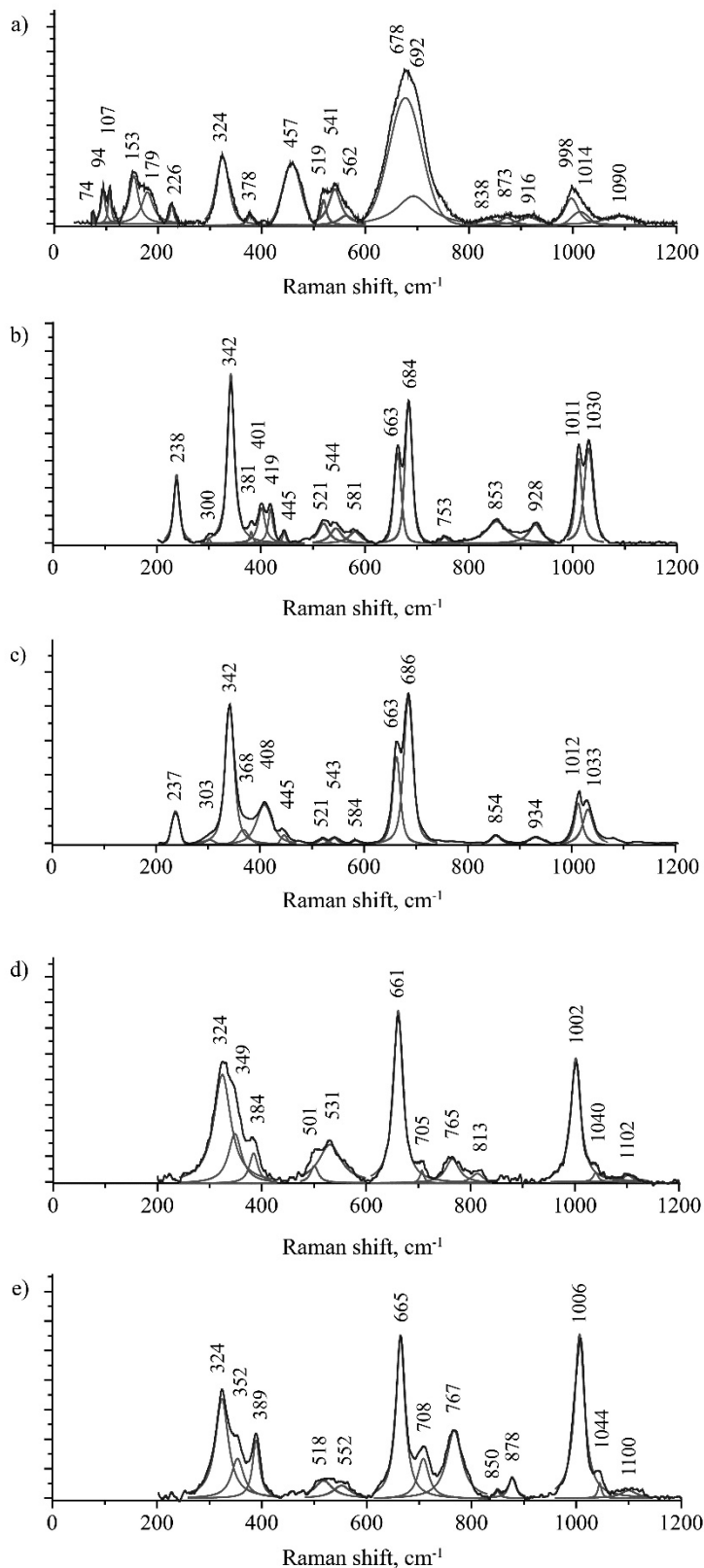
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651 Figure 1. Crystals of diopside covered by light brown to reddish-brown ryabchikovite (Ryb) crust,
652 with hematite (Hem) and white acicular supergene hydroglauberite (a). Aggregates of diopside
653 (Di) crystals with ryabchikovite crust (b and c, SEM photos, SE mode)
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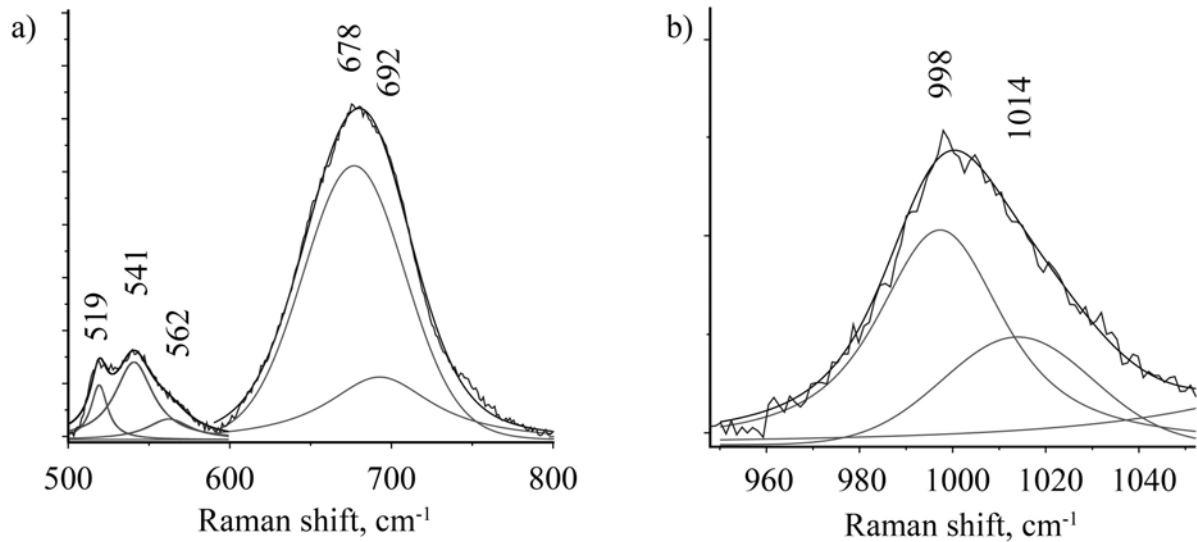


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658 Figure 2. Diopside (Di) crystals with crust of ryabchikovite (Ryb) overgrowing hematite (Hem).
659 Polished sections, SEM images, BSE mode
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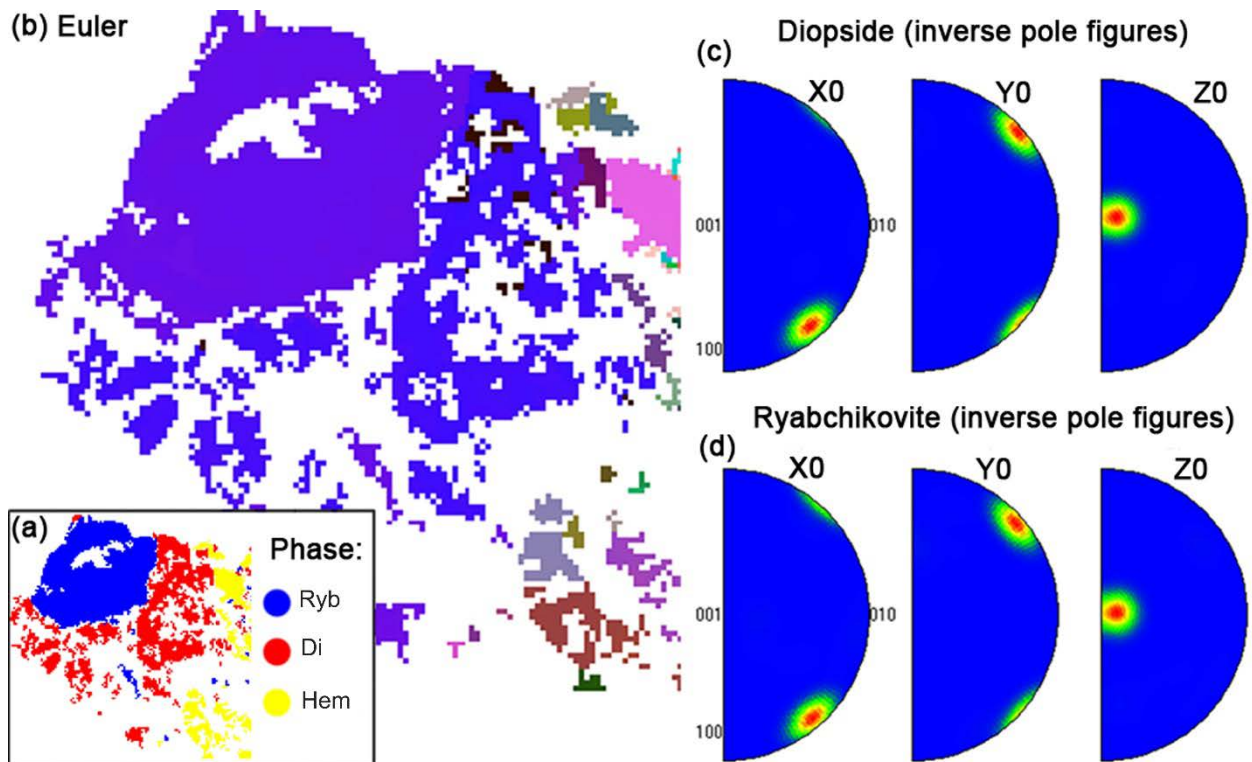


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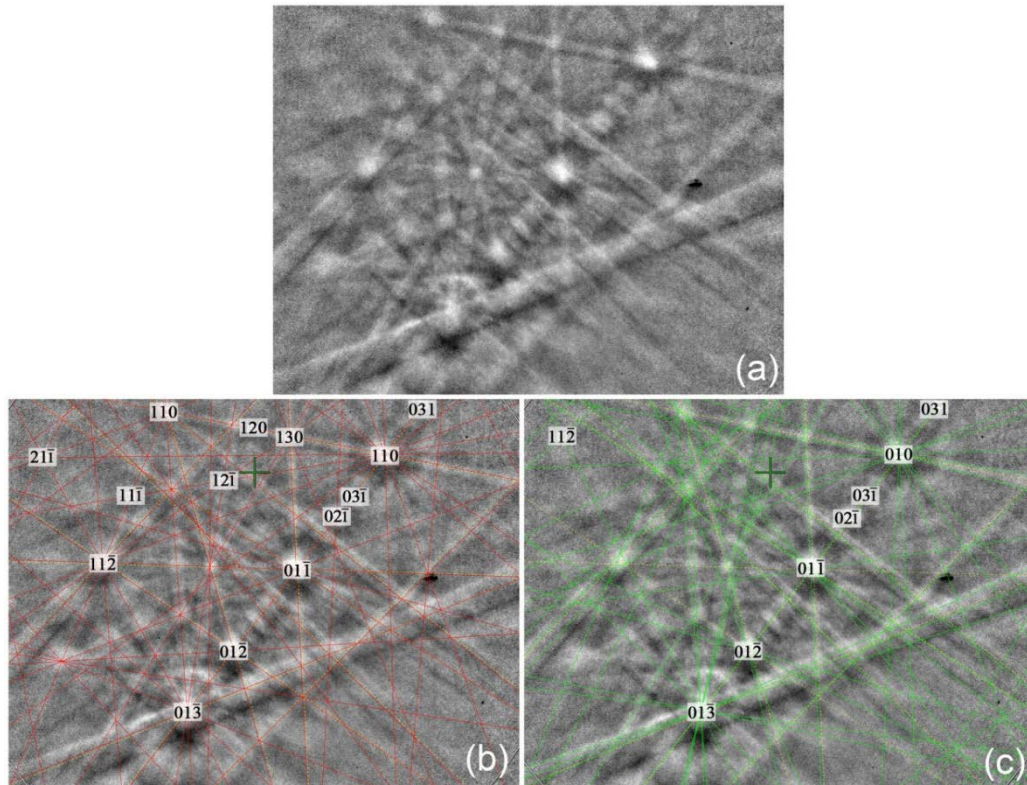
Figure 3 The Raman spectra of ryabchikovite (a), clinoenstatite (sp. gr. $P2_1/c$) (b), enstatite ($Pbca$) (c) and diopside ($C2/c$) (d and e), all from the Arsenatnaya fumarole.



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667 Figure 4. Fragments of the Raman spectrum of ryabchikovite with bands in the regions 500–800
668 and 930–1080 cm^{-1} .
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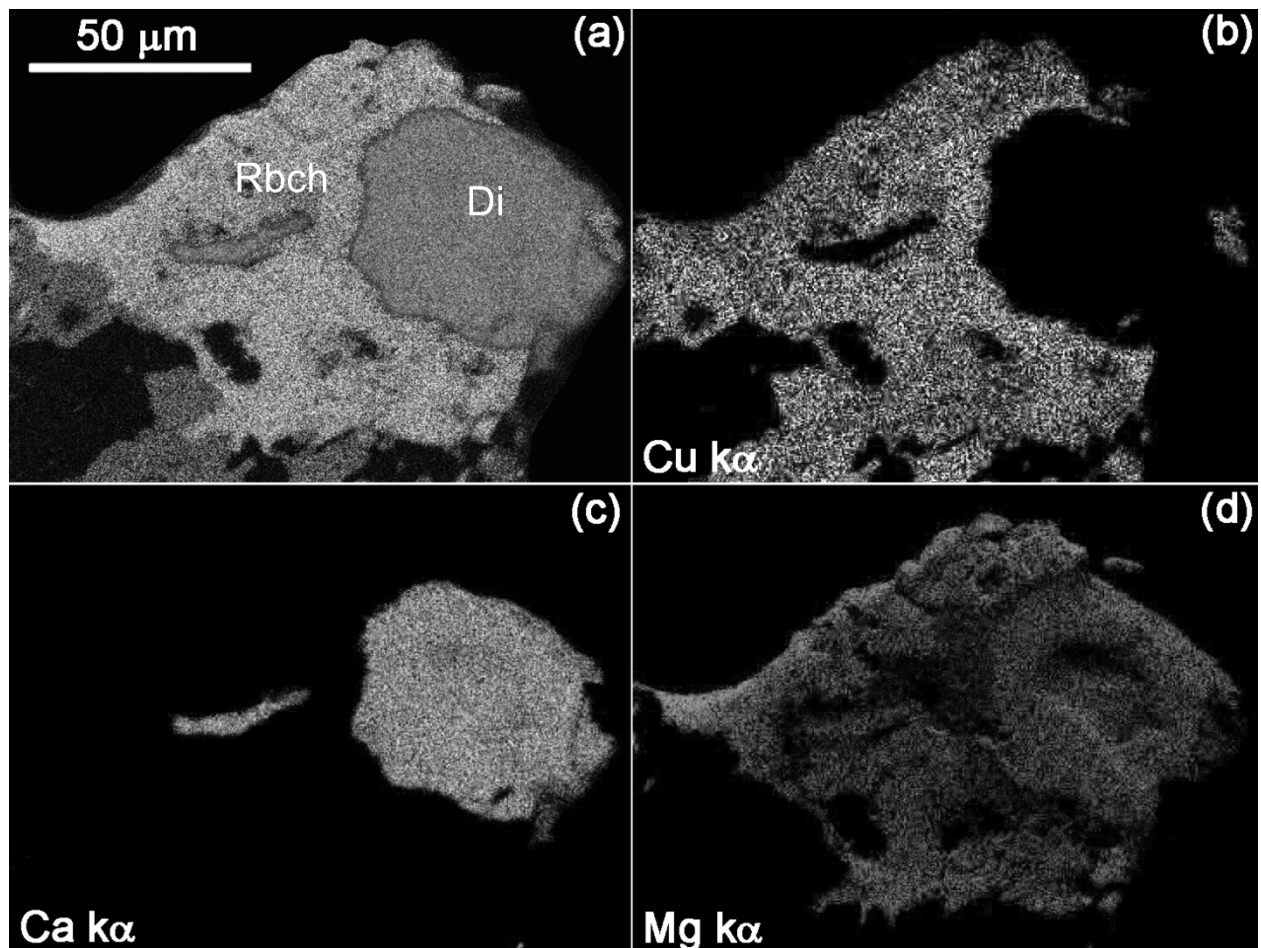
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673 Figure 5. EBSD maps of polished sample with ryabchikovite (Ryb), diopside (Di) and hematite
674 (HEM) from the Arsenatnaya fumarole: (a) mineral distribution map, (b) orientation map, (c)
675 diopside crystals orientation, (d) ryabchikovite crystals orientation.



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677 Figure 6. Example of Electron Backscatter Diffraction (EBSD) pattern (a) indexation using
678 theoretical Kikuchi pattern generated from (b) synthetic monoclinic pyroxene $\text{Cu}_{0.8}\text{Mg}_{1.2}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$
679 (Ding *et al.*, 2016) and (c) synthetic orthorhombic pyroxene $(\text{Cu}_{0.56}\text{Mg}_{0.44})\text{MgSi}_2\text{O}_6$ (Tachi *et al.*,
680 1997).

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Figure 7. Elemental maps of diopside (Di) – ryabchikovite (Ryb) intergrowth : (a) Ca-Cu-Mg, (b) CuK α , (c) Ca K α and (d) Mg K α .