Chemical state of cesium concentrated in truscottite

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Since the accident at Fukushima nuclear power plant, Japan, the problem of radiocesium has been become serious. To solve the problem rapidly is required socially. As a series of studies on elucidation of the specific sorption site of cesium (Cs) in soil and development of the removal method of Cs from the polluted water, in this paper, we investigated the chemical state of Cs concentrated in truscottite $(Ca_{14}(Si_{24}O_{58})(OH)_8\cdot 2H_2O)$ by ¹³³Cs MAS NMR and XAFS.

We found by chance a truscottite, in which Cs is highly concentrated, in the Hishikari epithermal gold deposit, Japan. This truscottite was precipitated from geothermal water due to geothermal activity before about 0.5 million years. The chemical composition of the truscottite is shown in Table 1. The Cs content is high to be 0.20 %. In the ¹³³Cs MAS NMR spectrum, only a peak appeared at the similar chemical shift position as Cs adsorbed onto mordenite. The Cs L₃-edge and K-edge XANES spectra for Cs in the truscottite were different from that of Cs adsorbed onto mordenite.

SiO ₂ 59.37	CaO 32.46	MgO 0.01	Al ₂ O ₃ 1.12	Na ₂ O 1.04	
K ₂ O	Rb ₂ O	Cs ₂ O	MnO	H ₂ O	Total
0.69	0.0081	0.2	0.18	5.84	100.09

Table 1 Chemical composition of truscottite (weight %)