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Microscopic Laser Raman and Infrared Spectroscopic Study of Tengchongite

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Abstract: Tengchongite is a uranyl molybdate uranium mineral and it was found and named by Chen 1985. No more scholars studied on tengchongite after Chen's work, The identification of this mineral has only been confirmed by single crystal X-ray diffraction. In the paper, micro laser Raman spectroscopy and infrared spectroscopy are used to identify the spectroscopy properties of tengchongite. The studies fill in the gaps of more than 30 years in terms of the molecular spectroscopy research of tengchongite. The mineral has an ideal model of $\text{Ca}(\text{UO}_2)_6(\text{MoO}_4)_2\text{O}_5 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ its bands attributed to the vibrating units are clearly identified in the Raman spectrum. Symmetric stretching modes at 812 cm^{-1} and 839 cm^{-1} are assigned to $\nu_1(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$, The ν_3 antisymmetric stretching modes of $(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ are observed at 896 cm^{-1} , Symmetric stretching modes at 419 and 440 cm^{-1} are assigned to $\nu_2(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$. Symmetric stretching modes at 919 cm^{-1} are assigned to $\nu_1(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$, The ν_3 antisymmetric stretching modes of $(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ are observed at 752 cm^{-1} , the in-plane $\nu_2(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ and the out-of-plane $\nu_4(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ bending modes are at 169 cm^{-1} and 254 cm^{-1} . IR spectrum of tengchongite shows the major uranyl band at 858 cm^{-1} and 693 cm^{-1} , Mo-O bonds are observed at about 985 cm^{-1} and 780 cm^{-1} , and H_2O groups are present with a wide range peaks from 3100 cm^{-1} to 3500 cm^{-1} and 1647 cm^{-1} , and the band at 1432.4 cm^{-1} is probably due to the stretching vibration hydroxyl (OH^{-1}), therefore, tengchongite contains may include hydroxyl and its chemical formula needs to be modified.

Keywords: Tengchongite; microscopic laser Raman spectroscopy; infrared spectroscopy; Yunnan Province

1. Introduction

Tengchongite is a uranyl molybdate uranium mineral discovered and named for the first time by Chen in 1985 [1]. It is hosted in the uranium oxidation zone between an eyeball-shaped migmatite and a schist-type migmatite in Tengchong County, Yunnan Province [2]. Naturally, tengchongite is yellow, transparent to translucent, and with glassy luster. It crystallizes in schists, thin plates, or plate along $\{001\}$ surface (Figure 1). The ideal chemical formula of tengchongite is $\text{Ca}(\text{UO}_2)_6(\text{MoO}_4)_2\text{O}_5 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Chen *et al.* (1985) confirmed tengchongite as a new mineral through chemical composition, electron probe analysis, refractive index, X-ray powder diffraction, differential thermal analysis and infrared spectral (KBr disk method) composition of the tablet, however, no more study on

tengchongite has been done since then. Zhang *et al.*(1995) and Peter C *et al.* (1999) cited the research results of tengchongite in their monographs[3,4]. However, the X-ray diffraction of single tengchongite crystal, and the microscopic laser Raman and infrared spectroscopy of the mineral have not been carried out yet, which leads to a lack of spectroscopy data of the tengchongite. Laser Raman and infrared spectroscopy are effective techniques for identification of minerals. In this paper, the spectroscopy of the tengchongite was supplemented.

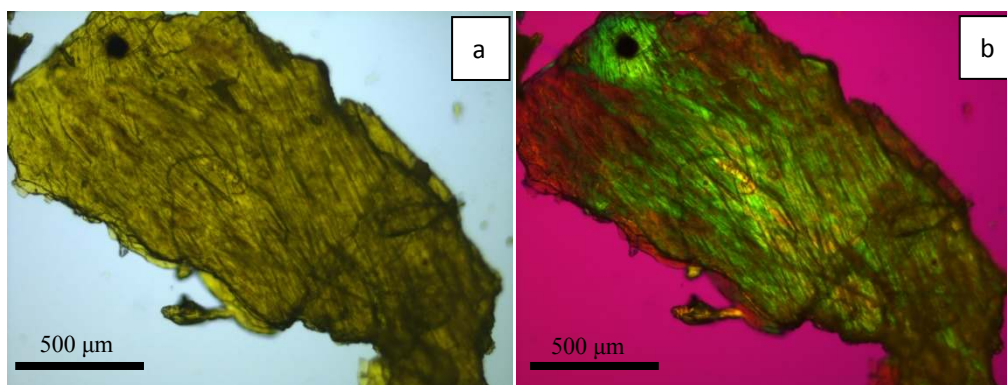


Figure 1. Micrograph of tengchongite.(a)Transmission light photo of tengchongite.(b)Orthogonal polarized photo of tengchongite

2. Samples and Analytical Methods

2.1. Samples

The tengchongite sample was from the exhibition specimen in the China Nuclear Geology Museum. Before the analysis of microscopic laser-Raman and IR spectroscopy, the sample was firstly analyzed for more accurate chemical composition by EDX method.

2.2. SEM and EDX Analysis

Secondary electronic images and back-scattered electronic images were obtained from TESCAN VEGA3 scanning electronic microscope. The sample size is <5 mm. The equipment parameters are set as that: high voltage is 20 KV, beam intensity is 15 μA, and working distance is 15 mm. Chemical composition was analyzed by EDAX TEAM energy dispersive spectrometer with the following parameters: single point acquisition time of 200 μs, input CPS more than 20000, and dead time less than 30s.

2.3. Raman microprobe spectroscopy

The crystals of tengchongite were placed on the stage of an Olympus BX-41 microscope that is equipped with 10× to 100× objectives and a part of HORIBA evolution laser Raman microscope system, as well as an electronic cooled CCD detector, an illuminant system and a filter system. The Raman spectra were excited by 532 nm and 785 nm YAG laser at a resolution of 1 cm⁻¹ with the following parameters: 100× objectives, scanning range between 100 and 4000 cm⁻¹, grating of 1800 gr/mm, gaining a single point in 8 seconds, accumulating for 4 times.

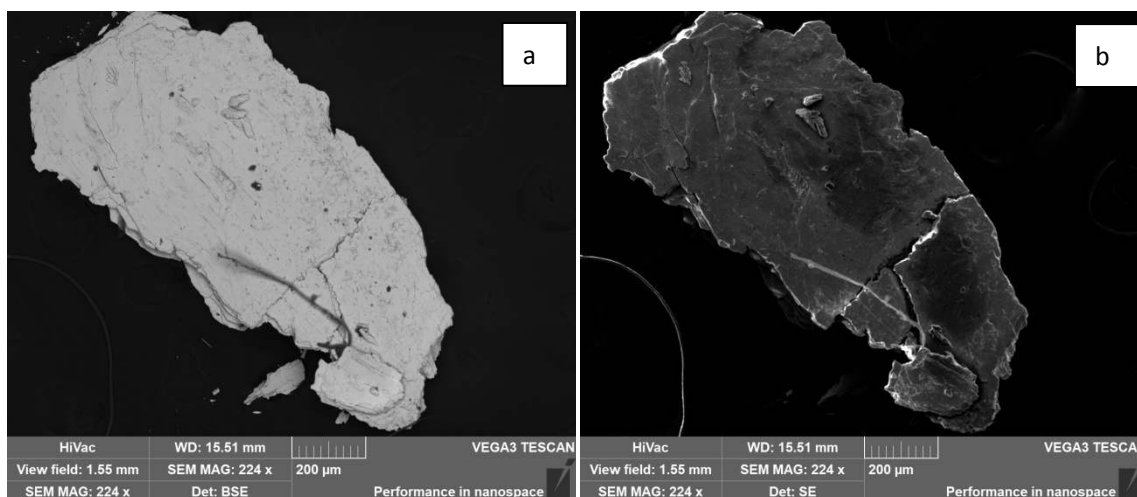
Spectra were calibrated using the 520.7 cm^{-1} line of a silicon wafer. Data process and spectral manipulation such as smoothing, peak analyzing and baseline correcting were performed using the software Labspec 6 by Horiba Scientific.

2.4 .Mid-IR spectroscopy

Mid-infrared spectra were obtained using BRUKER LUMOS Micro-FTIR with in reflection model. We obtained the spectra of tengchongite after 64 scans with a scanning range between 4000 and 640 cm^{-1} and a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} . Data process and spectral manipulation such as smoothing, baseline adjustment, normalization and band component analysis were performed using the special software OPTU 7.5 as an accessory of the instrument.

3 Results and discussion

Before analysis of microscopic laser Raman and infrared spectroscopy, the chemical composition of the sample was analyzed by Tescan Vega3 scanning electronic microscope and EDAX spectrometer. The electronic microscopic image, U-Mo-Ca elements EDX mapping image and spectrum analysis diagram are shown in Figure 2. The analysis results suggest that the sample is dominantly composed of U, Mo, Ca, and O, and the ratio of U to Mo atoms is about 3, which is in good match with the chemical composition of the Tengchongite. The EDX mapping image indicates that the elements U, Mo and Ca are uniform distributed in the sample. All evidences prove that the sample is exactly tengchongite.



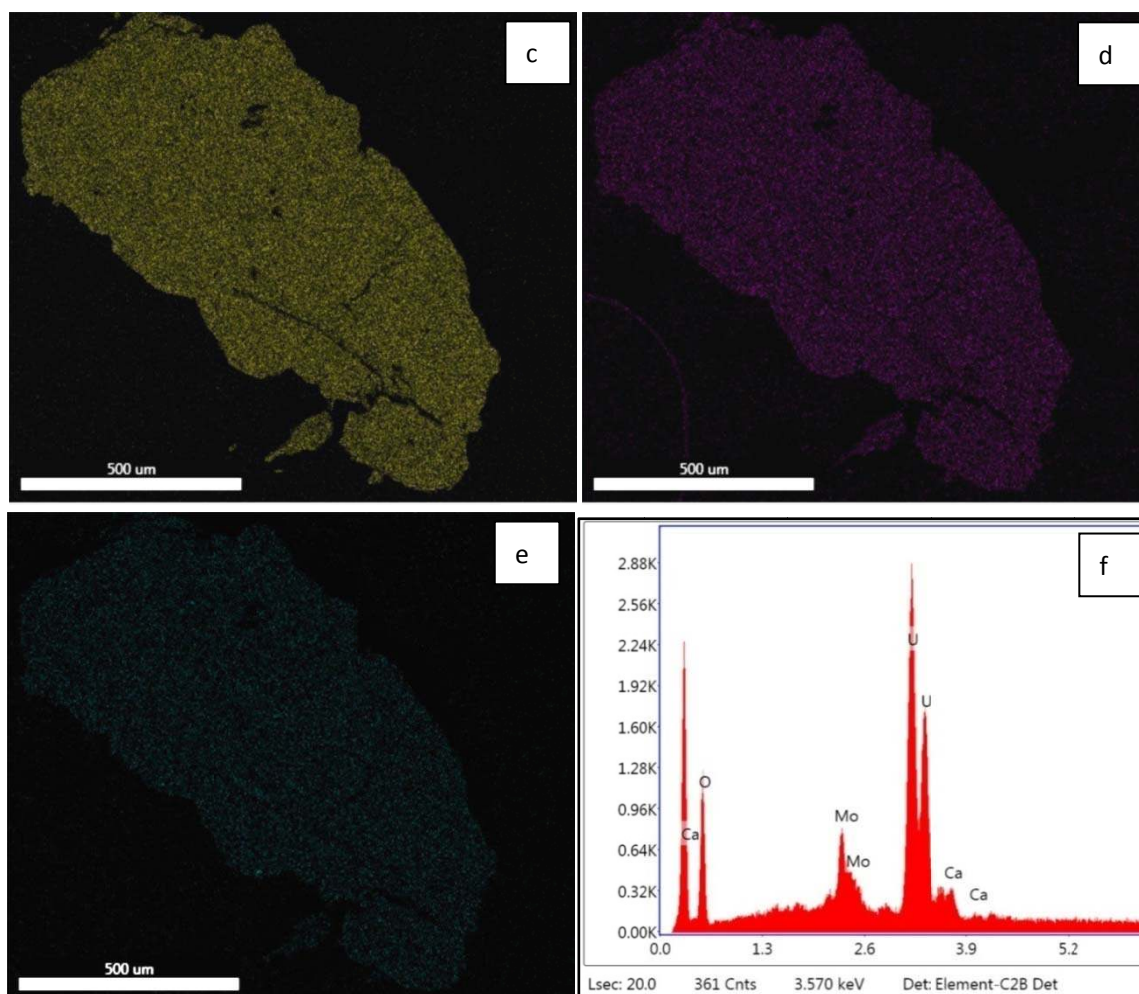


Figure 2. Electronic scanning microscopic image and dispersive spectrum of tengchongite (a) Electronic scanning backscattered image; (b) Secondary electronic image; (c) EDX mapping of U; (d) EDX mapping of Mo; (e) EDX mapping of Ca; (f) dispersive spectrum of tengchongite.

3.1 Laser Raman spectroscopy of tengchongite

Laser Raman spectroscopy has been proven effective in the study of minerals and fluid inclusions [5-14]. There is no obvious peaks of Raman spectrum above 1000 cm^{-1} for tengchongite. The Raman spectrum of tengchongite within 100 cm^{-1} to 1400 cm^{-1} in the 532nm and 785nm models is respectively shown in Figure 3. There are four strong absorption peaks and no obvious difference between the 532nm and 785nm models.

Raman bands at 812 cm^{-1} and 840 cm^{-1} are attributed to the $\nu_1(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ symmetric stretching vibration. Raman band at 896 cm^{-1} is attributed to the $\nu_3(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$. Raman bands at 419 cm^{-1} and 440 cm^{-1} are attributed to the $\nu_2(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ in-plane bending modes. Raman band at 919 cm^{-1} is attributed to $\nu_1(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ symmetric stretching vibration. The ν_3 antisymmetric stretching modes of $(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ is observed at 752 cm^{-1} . The bands at 419 cm^{-1} and 440 cm^{-1} are attributed to $\nu_2(\text{MO}_4)^{2-}$ in-plane bending modes. The ν_4 out-of-plane bending mode of $(\text{MO}_4)^{2-}$ is observed at 169 cm^{-1} and 254 cm^{-1} .

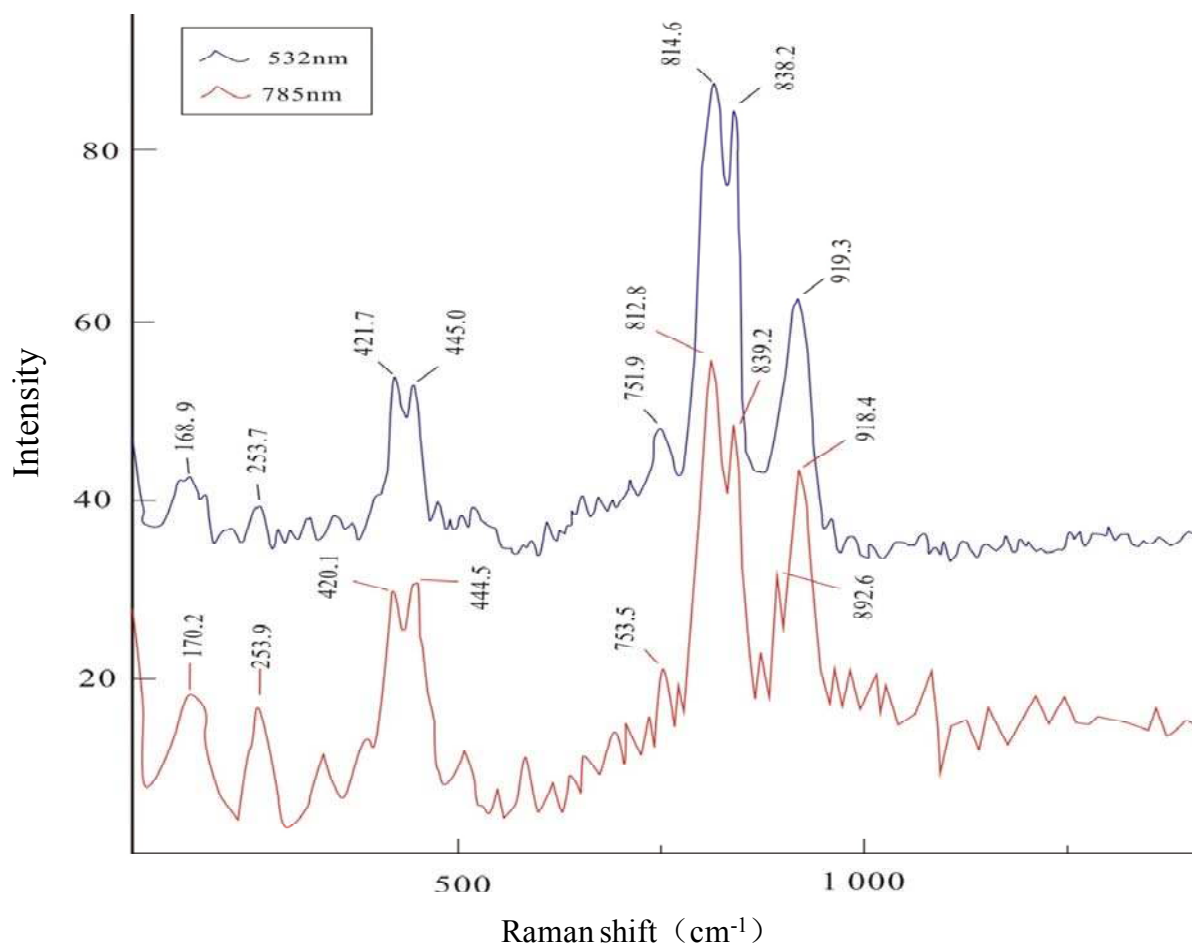


Fig 3 Raman spectrum of tengchongite from 100 to 1400 cm^{-1} region by 532nm and 785 laser

3.2 Infrared spectroscopy of tengchongite

Infrared spectroscopy (IR) is an essential method for mineral identification [15-20], especially as a complement to X-ray structural analysis in understanding the crystal chemistry of uranyl minerals. A lot of researches have reported uranyl minerals identification results by IR spectra [21-23]. The Infrared spectrum of tengchongite with in 640cm^{-1} to 4000cm^{-1} is shown in Figure 4 in reflection model. The IR analysis result of tengchongite is a bit different from the study of Chen *et al.* (1985) [4], i.e., there are mainly 3 absorption peaks and no hydroxyl (OH^{-1}) absorption band in Chen's work which are 3430cm^{-1} , 1640cm^{-1} and 920cm^{-1} , however, we determined more absorption bands such as 3100cm^{-1} to 3600cm^{-1} , 1647.5cm^{-1} , 1432.4cm^{-1} , 985.3cm^{-1} , 905.6cm^{-1} , 780.6cm^{-1} and 644.1cm^{-1} . The broad band 3100cm^{-1} to 3500cm^{-1} which is centered at 3300cm^{-1} is due to the stretching vibration of H_2O . The band at 1647.5cm^{-1} is a consequence of the bend vibration of H_2O . H_2O groups give bands in $1600\text{-}1650\text{cm}^{-1}$ and $3100\text{-}3500\text{cm}^{-1}$ (νOH), and the band at

1432.4 cm^{-1} is probably due to the stretching vibration hydroxyl (OH^{-1}), which indicates that there may be hydroxyl in tengchongite, and the original chemical formula of tengchongite needs to be modified. The band at 985 cm^{-1} was attributed to $\nu_1(\text{MoO}_2)^{2+}$ stretching vibration and that at 780.6 cm^{-1} to $\nu_3(\text{MoO}_2)^{2+}$. The band at 905.6 cm^{-1} was attributed to $\nu_3(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ and that at 644.1 cm^{-1} to $\nu_1(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$.

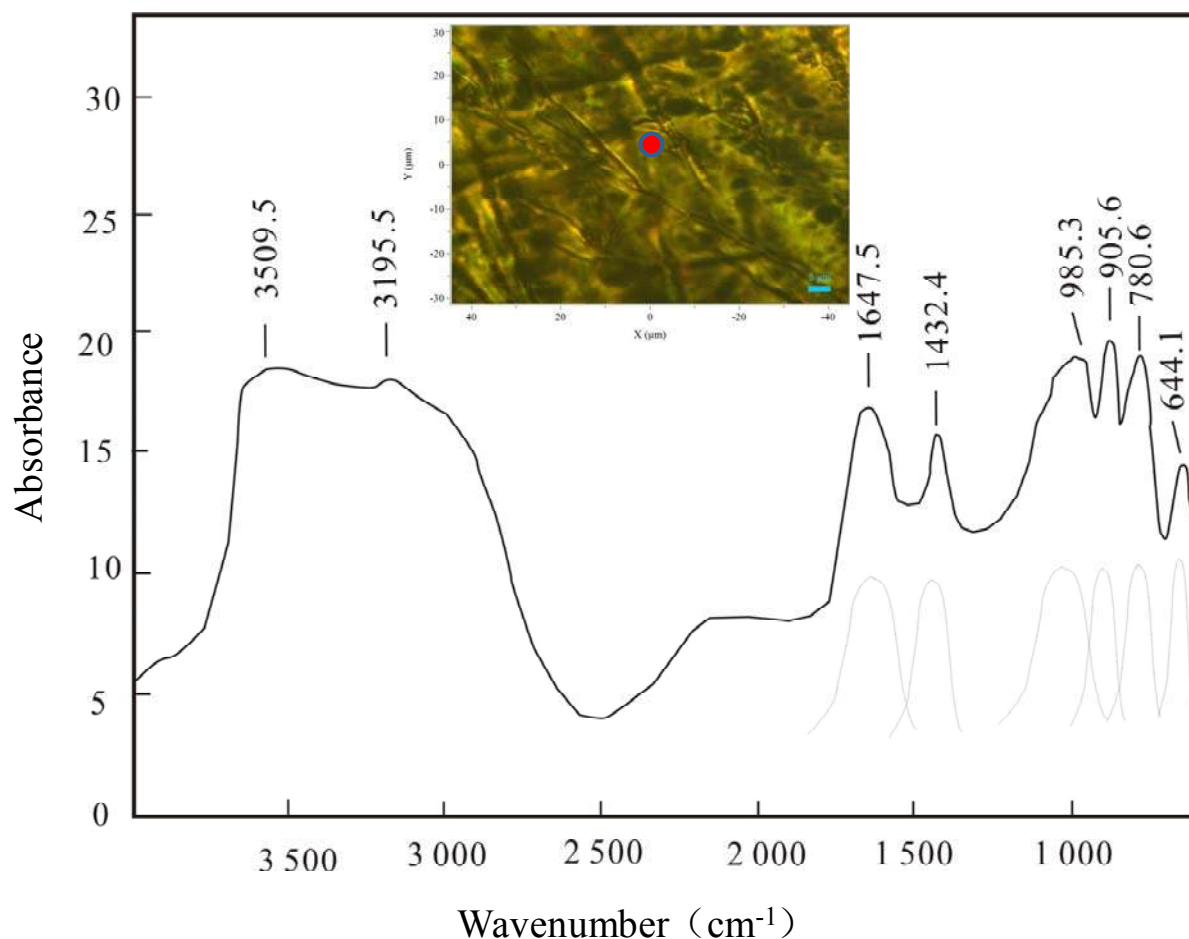


Figure 5 Infrared spectrum of tengchongite from 600 cm^{-1} to 4000 cm^{-1} region

4 Conclusions

(a) The Raman spectrum of tengchongite shows intense bands at 812 cm^{-1} and 839 cm^{-1} assigned to the ν_1 symmetric stretching mode of $(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ units. Raman band at 896 cm^{-1} is attributed to the $\nu_3(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$, Raman bands at 419 and 440 cm^{-1} are attributed to the $\nu_2(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ in-plane bending modes. In infrared spectrum, intense bands at 644.1 cm^{-1} and 905.6 cm^{-1} are attributed to the symmetric stretching mode of the $(\text{UO}_2)^{2+}$ units.

(b) Raman band at 919 cm^{-1} is assigned to $\nu_1(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ symmetric stretching vibration, The ν_3 antisymmetric stretching mode of $(\text{MoO}_4)^{2-}$ is observed at 752 cm^{-1} . The bands at 419 cm^{-1} , 440 cm^{-1} , 254 cm^{-1} and 169 cm^{-1} are assigned to ν_2 in-plane bending modes and ν_4 out-of-plane bending modes of $(\text{MO}_4)^{2-}$. The infrared band at 985 cm^{-1} is assigned to ν_1

(MoO₂)²⁺ stretching vibration and that at 780.6 cm⁻¹ to ν₃ (MoO₂)²⁺.

(c) The very broad infrared bands at 3100~3500 cm⁻¹ are assigned to the stretching vibrations of water. H₂O groups give bands in the regions 1600-1650 cm⁻¹(δH₂O) and 3100~3500 cm⁻¹(ν OH), and the band at 1432.4 cm⁻¹ is probably due to the stretching vibration hydroxyl (OH⁻¹), which indicates that there may be hydroxyl in tengchongite. The original chemical formula of tengchongite may be inaccurate, and further research should be studied.

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