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# Synthesis and Characterization of Aluminophosphate. Application to photodegradation of Methyl Violet Dye

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Aluminophosphates (AlPO) constitute an important family of microporous materials. They are composed of Al and P atoms arranged in a neutral structure. These materials are known for their applications in various fields.

Among, these materials  $\text{KAiPO}_4\text{F}$ , the as-prepared product obtained by hydrothermal route at  $180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The white solid was characterized by different methods such as powder X-ray diffraction, thermal analysis, SEM image and UV-Vis diffuse reflectance spectroscopy.

The as-prepared compound crystallizes in an orthorhombic system (Space Group:  $\text{Pnna}$ ) with the refined lattice constants:  $a=12.612(5)\text{ \AA}$ ,  $b=10.172(3)\text{ \AA}$ ,  $c=6.205(0)\text{ \AA}$ . The structure is made up of  $\text{AlF}_2\text{O}_4$  octahedra and  $\text{PO}_4$  tetrahedra where the  $\text{K}^+$  ions are disordered.

Thermal analysis shows that our phosphate is thermally stable up to  $300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . SEM images shows crystals with hexagonal sections. The direct optical transition of  $4.93\text{ eV}$ , determined from the diffuse reflectance, is assigned to the charge transfer  $\text{F}^-: 2p \rightarrow \text{K}^+: 4s$ .

The photocatalytic performance was successfully tested through the degradation under solar light of methyl violet (MV), a hazardous and persistent dye. A total discoloration was obtained after 5 h illumination and a reaction mechanism is proposed.

Keywords: aluminophosphate, photocatalysis, environment, wastewater, light, chemistry

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