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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 KAlPO4F, the as -prepared product obtained by hydrothermal route at 180 °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: Pnna) with the refined lattice constants:  $a=12.612(5)$  Å,  $b=10.172(3)$  Å,  $c=6.205(0)$  Å. 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 °C. SEM images shows crystals with hexagonal sections. The direct optical transition of 4.93 eV, determined from the diffuse reflectance, is assigned to the charge transfer  $\text{F}^-: 2\text{p} \rightarrow \text{K}^+: 4\text{s}$ .

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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