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## Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6ft5f14s

**Journal** Inorganic Chemistry, 55(20)

**ISSN** 0020-1669

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## **Publication Date**

2016-10-17

## DOI

10.1021/acs.inorgchem.6b01858

Peer reviewed

## Exploring the Chemical Reactivity between Carbon Dioxide and Three Transition Metals (Au, Pt, and Re) at High-Pressure, High-Temperature Conditions

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**ABSTRACT:** The role of carbon dioxide,  $CO_2$ , as oxidizing agent at high pressures and temperatures is evaluated by studying its chemical reactivity with three transition metals: Au, Pt, and Re. We report systematic X-ray diffraction measurements up to 48 GPa and 2400 K using synchrotron radiation and laser-heating diamond-anvil cells. No evidence of reaction was found in Au and Pt samples in this pressure—temperature range. In the Re +  $CO_2$  system, however, a strongly—driven redox reaction occurs at P > 8 GPa and T > 1500 K, and orthorhombic  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> is formed. This rhenium oxide phase is stable at least up to 48 GPa and 2400 K and was recovered at ambient conditions. Raman spectroscopy data confirm graphite as a reaction product. Ab-initio total-energy structural and compressibility data of the  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> phase shows an excellent agreement with experiments, altogether accurately confirming  $CO_2$  reduction P-T conditions in the presence of rhenium metal and the  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> equation of state.



#### INTRODUCTION

Activation and reduction of CO2 has been a subject of considerable investigation for many years because of (i) its abundance on Earth and (ii) the rapid increase of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere, intimately related with climate change.<sup>1</sup> In this context, the long-term CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration strategies are relevant. Heterogeneous reactions on clean transition metal surfaces have been considered in a number of studies,<sup>2-10</sup> and references therein, which helped better understanding of the energetics and reaction trajectories of metal/CO<sub>2</sub> interfaces. Thus, experiments and densityfunctional theory calculations suggested chemical mechanisms for CO<sub>2</sub> absorption, reactivity, and surface sensitivity on many metallic samples (Fe, Co, Ni, Pt, Cu, etc.).<sup>3-9</sup> It is proposed that CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption and subsequent dissociation on transition metals proceed through electron transfer from the metal to a  $CO_2$  molecule to form an anion radical species,  $CO_2^{-.6}$  The change in polarization of the CO<sub>2</sub> species renders the carbon atom acidic, promoting absorption, in the form of carbonates, as well as dissociation.<sup>10</sup> It is also reported that the activation of  $CO_2$  molecules is sensitive to the metal surface structure.<sup>6-9</sup> Segner et al., for instance, suggested from the results of scattering experiments on  $Pt(111)^9$  that  $CO_2$  dissociation is promoted preferentially at defect sites.

Oxidized carbon chemistry is of paramount importance in Earth sciences.  $CO_2$  is often considered to exist in the deep Earth interior, its presence affecting the stability and physical properties of mantle phases. Different thermal and environmental conditions convert carbon dioxide into a variety of oxidized (carbonates) or reduced (diamond, graphite) carbonbearing species.<sup>11</sup> The nature of these transformations is directly related to the bonding character and electron configuration in the C atom at high pressures and temperatures. The presence of potential reducing agents such as transition metals could provide constraints on the P-T thermodynamic parameters for  $CO_2$  carbon reduction and shed some light into the reaction mechanisms under different reduction—oxidation (redox) conditions.

High-density transition metals present a wide range of affinities for oxygen and could recreate a variety of redox environments. Thus, while gold oxides are thermodynamically unstable with respect to the elements, rhenium oxides are readily formed from oxidation of metallic Re at ambient pressure and relatively low temperatures. Note, for instance, that the Re-ReO<sub>2</sub> buffer is used in experimental petrology for controlling the oxygen fugacity.<sup>12,13</sup>

Received:August 26, 2016Published:October 6, 2016

Here, we report angle-dispersive synchrotron X-ray diffraction (XRD) data of the carbon dioxide + gold, platinum, or rhenium systems at pressures up to 48 GPa and temperatures up to 2400 K, using double-sided laser-heating in diamond-anvil cells (LHDACs). No evidence of reaction was found in Au and Pt samples in this pressure—temperature range. However, when Re metal was used as a laser absorber, XRD and Raman spectroscopy measurements confirm a CO<sub>2</sub> + Re  $\rightarrow$  ReO<sub>2</sub> + C reaction associated with a pressure drop in the sample chamber. *Ab initio* total-energy calculations complement and describe in detail the elastic properties of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> rhenium oxide.

#### METHODS

To perform high-pressure high-temperature X-ray diffraction measurements, we used symmetric diamond-anvil cells (DACs). Au, Pt, and Re disks of 30  $\mu$ m diameter and 4–12  $\mu$ m thickness (coarse grains or pellets of precompressed powder) were placed at the center of a 80-110  $\mu$ m diameter hole of tungsten gasket, preindented to a thickness of 40-50  $\mu$ m. These metallic samples are good absorbers of the infrared radiation of the heating laser. Pure SiO<sub>2</sub> was used to thermally isolate the diamond anvils. High-purity CO2 was loaded in the DAC at room temperature using the COMPRES gas loading apparatus. Ruby chips for pressure measurement were evenly distributed in the chamber. Pressures were measured before and after heating by the ruby fluorescence method.<sup>14</sup> The equations of state (EOS) of the metals were used as secondary pressure gauges.<sup>15,16</sup> A high-power diode-pumped fiber laser with wavelength of 1.07  $\mu$ m was used to heat the metallic sample, with the flat-top laser intensity profile creating a 30  $\mu$ m stable hotspot.<sup>17</sup> For temperature measurements, incandescent light was collected by aberration-free-reflecting objectives and detected with a high-resolution spectrometer. The temperature measurement system was calibrated with a tungsten filament light source with known intensity versus wavelength distribution. Planck's radiation function was then fitted to the collected spectrum assuming a constant emissivity value. Axial views down a typical DAC sample chamber configuration during laser heating and after thermal quench are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Images of the axial view down a typical diamond cell sample chamber configuration during laser heating (left) and after thermal quench (right). The 30  $\mu$ m stable hotspot is shown. Two small ruby spheres are visible in the upper part of the transparent sample chamber.

Angle-dispersive X-ray diffraction measurements up to 48 GPa were carried out at two different synchrotron-based beamlines: GSECARS at the Advanced Photon Source and 12.2.2 at the Advanced Light Source. At GSECARS, incident X-rays had a wavelength of 0.3344 Å, the beam was focused to  $\sim 3 \times 3 \ \mu m^2$  spot, and diffraction patterns measured from 5 to 40 s were collected on a charge-coupled device (CCD) camera. At 12.2.2 at the ALS, incident X-rays with wavelengths of 0.4592 and 0.4959 Å were focused to  $10 \times 10 \ \mu m^2$  and collected for 5–10 min on a MAR imaging plate. A precise calibration of the detector parameters was developed with a reference CeO<sub>2</sub> powder, and

integration to conventional  $2\theta$ -intensity data was carried out with the Dioptas software.<sup>18</sup> The indexing and refinement of the powder patterns were performed using the FULLPROF<sup>19</sup> and POWDER-CELL<sup>20</sup> program packages.

Raman spectra were collected in the backscattering geometry using a 632.8 nm HeNe laser and a Jobin–Yvon TRH1000 spectrometer in combination with a Semrock 632.8 nm edge filter and a thermoelectric-cooled multichannel CCD detector. The spectra were calibrated using the plasma lines of the HeNe laser. The resolution and precision of the system are around 1 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The laser power arriving to the DAC is less than 10 mW.

Ab initio total-energy calculations were performed within the framework of density-functional theory (DFT).<sup>21</sup> The Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (VASP)<sup>22</sup> was used to carry out calculations with the pseudopotential method and the projector augmented wave (PAW) scheme, which replace the core electrons, make smoothed pseudovalence wave functions, and take into account the full nodal character of the all-electron charge density in the core region.<sup>23</sup> Exchange and correlation terms were introduced by means of the PBE functional within the solids prescription.<sup>24</sup> Alternatively, we have also used the GGA+U method to take into account the strong correlation between electrons in Re, on the basis of the Dudarev's method.<sup>25</sup> The Dudarev's approach dealt together with the onsite Coulomb interaction, U, and the exchange interaction  $J^{\rm H}$ , defining an effective  $U_{\rm eff} = U - J^{\rm H}$ . In our study we choose U = 1 eV, a similar value to that used in other electronic-structure studies involving Re compounds.<sup>26</sup> The plane waves cutoff was set to \$20 eV, and the convergence achieved in the total energy was less than 1 meV/atom.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our results show that no chemical reaction occurs in the sample chamber at high pressures and temperatures when gold and  $CO_2$  were used. In this run, the sample was compressed to 24 GPa at room temperature, heated to 1700 K, guenched, further compressed to 46 GPa, heated to 2200 K, and finally quenched first in temperature and then in pressure, down to ambient conditions. After every heating run, we characterized the sample at high pressures and ambient temperatures, performing a two-dimensional XRD map of the pressure chamber traversing the laser-created hotspot. CO<sub>2</sub>-I, -II, -III, -IV, and -V phases were observed at different P-T conditions, with the latter one being metastable during most of the downstroke pressure process. At 24 GPa and 1300 K, silica used as insulating material has fully transformed into stishovite, the thermodynamically stable phase of SiO<sub>2</sub> at these conditions. The X-ray diffraction pattern of the sample at 46 GPa after heating is shown in Figure 2. It illustrates the absence of chemical reaction and the quality of the XRD patterns at 46 GPa and ambient temperature. The high-pressure hightemperature (HP-HT) inertness of gold is in agreement with the ambient-pressure experimental evidence that gold is the least reactive metal toward atoms or molecules at the interface with a gas or a liquid.<sup>27</sup> Hammer and Norskov studied the dissociation of H<sub>2</sub> on several metal surfaces and, in the case of gold, reported both the highest energy barrier for dissociation and the least stable chemisorptions state. These two facts operate together to minimize the absorbate binding and subsequent reactivity of gold.<sup>27</sup> Liquid  $CO_2$  + Au (e.g., at 24 GPa and 1700 K) is expected to behave similarly, with no reaction being observed in the studied P-T range.

In the case of the platinum +  $CO_2$  system, several heating runs were carried out at pressures 8, 16, 24, 32, and 48 GPa up to 2000 K and no chemical reaction was observed. Partial decomposition of  $CO_2$  forming diamond and probably  $\varepsilon$ - $O_2$ (Figure 3) was observed at relatively low temperatures (1700 K



**Figure 2.** Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern at 46 GPa and ambient temperature, after heating to 2100 K ( $\lambda = 0.3344$  Å). Experimental data are depicted as scattered squares, and calculated XRD profiles of Au, SiO<sub>2</sub> stishovite, and CO<sub>2</sub>–V are represented as orange, red, and blue lines, respectively. The full difference profile is represented as a green line.



**Figure 3.** Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern at 24 GPa and ambient temperature, after heating to 1700 K ( $\lambda = 0.4592$  Å). Experimental data are depicted as scattered squares. Calculated XRD profiles of Pt, SiO<sub>2</sub> stishovite, CO<sub>2</sub>-IV, and diamond are represented as wine, red, blue, and magenta lines, respectively. The full difference profile is represented as a dark green line. The peak at low angles marked with an asterisk could correspond to the reflection (0 0 1) of the  $\varepsilon$ -O<sub>2</sub> phase.

at 24 GPa). All the XRD patterns could be explained by the different CO<sub>2</sub> phases, from I to V, various SiO<sub>2</sub> polymorphs, high-quartz or -stishovite (depending on the pressure), Pt, diamond, and two low-intensity Bragg peaks, likely arising from  $\varepsilon$ -O<sub>2</sub>. The observation of diamond diffraction features from partial CO<sub>2</sub> break down at pressures and temperatures well below those previously reported for this transformation<sup>28</sup> could have to do with the presence of platinum, a well-known catalyst, in the pressure chamber.

Three independent LHDAC runs were carried out in the Re +  $CO_2$  system, covering the 8–48 GPa pressure and 295–2200 K temperature range. Two of these runs had silica as insulating material and followed *P*–*T* paths with several compressing and heating steps (see Figure 4, for instance). In the third one, only carbon dioxide and metallic rhenium were loaded in the DAC, which was then compressed up to 16 GPa and heated up.



Article



0 GPa

**Figure 4.** XRD data at several selected pressures and temperatures when Re was used as heater ( $\lambda = 0.3344$  Å). The sample was first heated at 24 GPa, then compressed to 47 at room temperature, again heated at 47 GPa, and finally decompressed down to room pressure. Bragg peaks of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> are marked with asterisks only in the XRD patterns at 24 GPa and the quenched sample, but they can be clearly identified in the other XRD patterns. The rest of the peaks can be indexed as a combination of stishovite, CO<sub>2</sub>-IV, and CO<sub>2</sub>-V phases and rhenium metal.

Above 8 GPa and temperatures of 1500-1600 K, we observe a new phase that coexists with stishovite and is present up to 48 GPa (the sample was further compressed after temperature quenching) and also during the entire decompression process down to ambient conditions (see Figure 4).<sup>29</sup> A possible chemical reaction with silica was ruled out from our third experimental run, where the same new phase was observed.

A careful indexing of 16 diffraction peaks of the recovered sample suggests an orthorhombic structure with lattice parameters: a = 4.809(2), b = 5.640(7), and c = 4.599(2) Å, and a unit-cell volume of 124.75(12) Å<sup>3</sup>. These unit-cell parameters are consistent with the Pbcn structure reported by Magneli<sup>30</sup> for  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub>. Rietveld refinement of X-ray diffraction patterns in the 0-48 GPa pressure range shows that the Bragg peak intensities, systematic absences, and unit cell dimensions all show excellent agreement with those predicted for the Pbcn  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> structure. Figure 5 illustrates the quality of the refinements. The inset of the figure shows the CCD raw diffraction image, which evidences that diffraction intensities mostly correspond to randomly oriented powder. Experimental and theoretical lattice parameters and atomic coordinates of this compound at room conditions are collected in Table I. No significant differences were found between the calculation with or without the U Hubbard term. Chemical reactivity and inertness of Re and Pt, respectively, at 8 < P < 48 GPa and 300 < T < 2200 K was additionally confirmed in a run where two independent samples of these metals were loaded in the same sample chamber.

Figure 4 shows a series of X-ray diffraction patterns from one of the Re-CO<sub>2</sub>(-SiO<sub>2</sub>) experiments at several selected pressures and temperatures. In this run,  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> was formed at 24 GPa



**Figure 5.** Rietveld refinement of the XRD pattern at ambient conditions, after heating to 2000 K and compressing to 48 GPa ( $\lambda = 0.3344$  Å). Experimental data are depicted as scattered squares, and calculated and difference XRD profiles are represented as red and green lines, respectively. Bragg reflection positions of Re, SiO<sub>2</sub> stishovite, and  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> phases are denoted as purple, blue, and red vertical ticks. The X-ray diffraction image is shown to illustrate the quality of the data.

Table I. Experimental and Calculated PBEsol Lattice Parameters, Volumes, and Fractional Coordinates of Orthorhombic *Pbcn* ReO<sub>2</sub> Recovered at Ambient Conditions

	XRD (This study)	Theoretical PBEsol (This study)	Theoretical PBEsol + U (This study)	XRD (ref 30)
а	4.8051(3)	4.8479	4.8386	4.8094(5)
b	5.6381(4)	5.6400	5.6655	5.6433(5)
с	4.6031(3)	4.5717	4.5782	4.6007(5)
V	124.71(7)	125.0	125.5	124.87
$y_{Re}$	0.113(1)	0.1072	0.1068	0.11
$x_0$	0.237(3)	0.2409	0.2413	0.25
y <sub>o</sub>	0.362(2)	0.3599	0.3601	0.36
$z_0$	0.397(2)	0.4087	0.4093	0.375

and 1600 K. Under compression, typical peak broadening is observed in the X-ray patterns. From XRD data, we obtained the pressure dependence of the volume and lattice parameters of the orthorhombic rhenium oxide. The experimental and theoretical pressure–volume curves were analyzed using a third-order Birch–Murnaghan equation of state, obtaining the zero-pressure volume  $(V_0)$ , the bulk modulus  $(B_0)$ , and its pressure derivative  $(B'_0)$  collected in Table II. The fit of the EOS to our pressure–unit-cell volume data is shown in Figure

Table II. Experimental and Theoretical Zero-Pressure Volumes  $(V_0)$ , Bulk Moduli  $(B_0)$ , and Their Pressure Derivatives  $(B'_0)$  for  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> Using a Birch–Murnaghan EOS

	$V_0$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	B <sub>0</sub> (GPa)	$B'_0$
Experimental	124.7(3)	277(24)	7.3(14)
Experimental 2	124.79 (fixed)	320(4)	4 (fixed)
Theoretical PBEsol	125.014(4)	306.2(3)	3.96(2)
Theor. PBEsol + U	125.49(1)	294.5(13)	3.88(10)
Theor. ref 39	120.915	321.8	4.24

6 (top). The evolution for the unit-cell parameters of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> is shown in Figure 6 (bottom). Relative contractions for *a*, *b*, and



**Figure 6.** (Top) Pressure dependence of the unit-cell volume for orthorhombic *Pbcn-β*-ReO<sub>2</sub> under compression. Experimental and theoretical data are represented by black and red symbols, respectively. (Bottom) Evolution of the lattice parameters of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> with pressure according to our experimental (black symbols) and *ab initio* data (red symbols). Continuous lines represent guides to the eye.

*c* axes between room pressure and 45.3 GPa are 4.4, 2.8, and 3.8%, respectively, indicating that the compressibility of this oxide is slightly anisotropic. Experimental and theoretical compression data are in excellent agreement and support the identification of the observed phase. It is worth stressing the large incompressibility of this oxide ( $B_0 \sim 300(20)$  GPa), which is higher than Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> corundum ( $B_0 \sim 252$  GPa) and comparable to SiO<sub>2</sub> stishovite ( $B_0 \sim 291$  GPa).<sup>31</sup>

Raman spectroscopic measurements on high-pressure hightemperature-quenched samples confirm the formation of the  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> phase by a concurrent rhenium oxidation and carbon reduction process. Experimental Raman modes are in relative good agreement with the calculated ones (Figure 7 (top)). It is worthy to note that the metallic conductivity of this oxide, which will be discussed below, is the cause of a weak Raman activity. Raman spectra also show the existence of a broad band that corresponds to the vibrations within the graphene planes in graphite, often called the "G band". This band is centered at 1671 cm<sup>-1</sup> for a pressure of 21 GPa (Figure 7 (bottom)).<sup>32</sup> Moreover, the strong diamond peak from the diamond anvil has a high-frequency shoulder that could correspond to the D



**Figure 7.** (Top) Ambient-conditions Raman scattering spectrum of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> recovered after compression and heating. Blue vertical marks correspond to theoretically predicted Raman modes. (Bottom) G Raman band characteristic of the vibrations within graphene planes in graphite from the spectrum at 21 GPa after heating. The most intense peak corresponds to crystalline diamond from the anvil, asymmetrically widened by stress conditions.

peak of disordered graphite. Therefore, Raman measurements support the hypothesis of a redox reaction where the carbon in CO<sub>2</sub> reduces to graphite and Re oxidizes to form  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub>. No observation of graphite in our XRD experiments could be explained by either (i) the possible amorphous nature of this graphite product or (ii) the covering up of a high-Z scatterer like ReO<sub>2</sub>.

The crystal structure of  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub>, depicted in Figure 8, accounts for its large incompressibility. This oxide has a columbite-type ( $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub>) structure and consists of [ReO<sub>6</sub>] octahedra sharing edges along the c axis and corners in the other two crystallographic directions. Every O atom in  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> has three Re near neighbors that form a planar triangular [Re<sub>3</sub>O] unit. This structure has been found as postrutile (and poststishovite) phases for  $TiO_2$  (and  $SiO_2$ ) oxides at high pressures.<sup>33,34</sup> In this regard, it is important to mention that two other ReO<sub>2</sub> polymorphs are reported in the literature: (i) A  $P2_1/c$  monoclinic phase with a MoO<sub>2</sub>-type structure<sup>35</sup> and (ii) a  $P4_2/mnm$  tetragonal phase with a rutile-type structure.<sup>36</sup> These two phases share with orthorhombic  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> the presence of edge-sharing [ReO<sub>6</sub>] octahedra. In  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub>, however, kinking of the chains allows further volume decrease of the unit-cell, i.e. a denser structure. Studies on some  $\alpha$ -PbO<sub>2</sub> isomorphic oxides under compression suggest a possible phase transformation in  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> to the monoclinic baddeleyite ZrO<sub>2</sub>-type phase at



**Figure 8.** Structure of the  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> phase. Light gray and red circles represent Re and O atoms, respectively. Recentered oxygen octahedra are shown. (Left) Projection on to the *bc* plane to illustrate the kinking of [ReO<sub>6</sub>] chains. (Right) Projection on to the *ab* plane.

higher pressures,<sup>33,37</sup> but this transition was not experimentally observed below 48 GPa. According to our theoretical calculations,  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> is metallic with antiferromagnetic ordering. The metallic behavior is related to the short Re-Re separation within the chains (2.62 Å at ambient conditions), which indicates a metal-metal bonding. Note that the Re-Re distance at ambient conditions in elemental rhenium is 2.73 Å. It has been suggested elsewhere<sup>38</sup> that the orthorhombic symmetry permits Re atoms bonding with two near Re neighbors to utilize all three  $t_{2g}$  orbitals in metallic bonding. A bond-order of about 1.5 was tentatively estimated.<sup>38</sup> No significant change in atomic coordinates occurs during compression, and the octahedral [ReO<sub>6</sub>] arrangement is stable in the studied pressure range. According to experiments (calculations), the Re - O distances at room pressure in these octahedral units are  $2 \times 1.94$  Å +  $2 \times 2.01$  Å +  $2 \times 2.06$  Å  $(2 \times 1.98 \text{ Å} + 2 \times 2.00 \text{ Å}).$ 

#### CONCLUSIONS

In summary, carbon dioxide at high pressures and temperatures interacts differently with the transition metals considered in this study: Au, Pt, and Re. Gold is chemically inert, and no effect on liquid or solid CO<sub>2</sub> was observed. Platinum is also chemically inert in the studied P-T range, but it seems to induce the CO<sub>2</sub> decomposition into its elements, diamond and  $\varepsilon$ -O<sub>2</sub>, at gentler conditions than previously reported. Finally, rhenium oxidizes to form ReO<sub>2</sub> at pressures above 8 GPa and temperatures above 1500–1600 K and carbon of CO<sub>2</sub> reduces to graphite. This strong redox reaction gives rise to the orthorhombic  $\beta$ -ReO<sub>2</sub> polymorph, a metal oxide with unusually high bulk modulus ( $B_0 \sim 300$  GPa). Its structural and vibrational properties under compression have been studied by XRD and Raman spectroscopy measurements together with concurrent *ab initio* total-energy calculations.

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#### **Author Contributions**

D.S.P., C.McG., A.M., A.K., A.D., and M.K carried out in situ synchrotron-based X-ray diffraction experiments under high-pressure and high-temperature conditions. A.D. and M.K. also made in working order the BL 12.2.2 at ALS; D.S.P., D.M.G., and J.P.P. performed the Raman experiments; D.S.P. and R.C.J. analyzed the crystal structures and diffraction patterns; A.M. and P.R-H. conducted the DFT calculations; D.S.P. wrote the

manuscript, but all authors discussed the experimental and theoretical results.

#### Funding

This work was supported by the Marie Curie Action PIOF-GA-2013-622439. Financial support from the Spanish Consolider Ingenio 2010 Program (Project No. CSD2007-00045), the Spanish government MEC under Grant No. MAT2013-46649-C4-1/3-P, and the Deep Carbon Observatory is also acknowledged. Supercomputer time has been provided by the Red Española de Supercomputación (RES) and the MALTA cluster. Portions of this work were performed at GeoSoilEnviroCARS (Sector 13), Advanced Photon Source (APS), and Argonne National Laboratory. GeoSoilEnviroCARS is supported by the National Science Foundation - Earth Sciences (EAR-1128799) and Department of Energy - GeoSciences (DE-FG02-94ER14466). This research used resources of the Advanced Photon Source, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science User Facility operated for the DOE Office of Science by Argonne National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357. Use of the COMPRES-GSECARS gas loading system was supported by COMPRES under NSF Cooperative Agreement EAR 11-57758. The Advanced Light Source is supported by the Director, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231. Use of the beamline 12.2.2 at the ALS is supported by COMPRES, the Consortium for Materials Properties Research in Earth Sciences under NSF Cooperative Agreement EAR 10-43050.

#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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