

SmBi₂O₄Cl: The First Single-Crystal Study in the Systems LnBi₂O₄X

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A mixture of Bi₂O₃, Sm₂O₃ and SmCl₃ reacted at 800 °C in a eutectic mixture of NaCl and CsCl as flux in a fused silica ampoule resulted in yellow plates of the title compound. SmBi₂O₄Cl crystallizes in the tetragonal space group *P4/mmm* with the lattice parameters *a* = 388.91(3) pm and *c* = 895.16(7) pm with *Z* = 4 and hitherto its structure was only known from X-ray powder diffraction data^[1]. The corresponding antimonate(III) SmSb₂O₄Cl with the real composition Sm_{1.3}Sb_{1.7}O₄Cl offers a mixed occupation of the antimony position with samarium^[2,3] for the same crystal structure. In contrast to this, SmBi₂O₄Cl shows no mixed occupation, but one samarium and one bismuth position with regular occupation.

The structure features one crystallographic samarium (*1a*: 0, 0, 0), one bismuth (*2h*: 1/2, 1/2, 0.28294(9)), one oxygen (*4i*: 0, 1/2, 0.1582(9)) and one chlorine position (*1b*: 0, 0, 1/2) each. Sm³⁺ is coordinated by eight oxygen atoms (*d*(Sm–O) = 240.6(5) pm) forming a [SmO₈]¹³⁻ cube. Each cube is connected via edges with four other cubes, resulting in a layer $\infty^2\{[\text{SmO}_{8/2}]^{5-}\}$ parallel to the (001) plane (Figure 1). Bismuth is coordinated as ψ^1 -square pyramid [BiO₄]⁵⁻ by four oxygen atoms (*d*(Bi–O) = 224.2(4) pm), which are connected via four vertices to infinite layers $\infty^2\{[\text{BiO}_{4/4}]^+\}$ sandwiching the $\infty^2\{[\text{SmO}_{8/2}]^{5-}\}$ layers from both sides. The Cl⁻ anions are not efficiently connected to the Bi³⁺ cations (*d*(Cl⋯Bi) = 336.7(1)), but located in the gaps between the lone pairs at the Bi³⁺ centers.

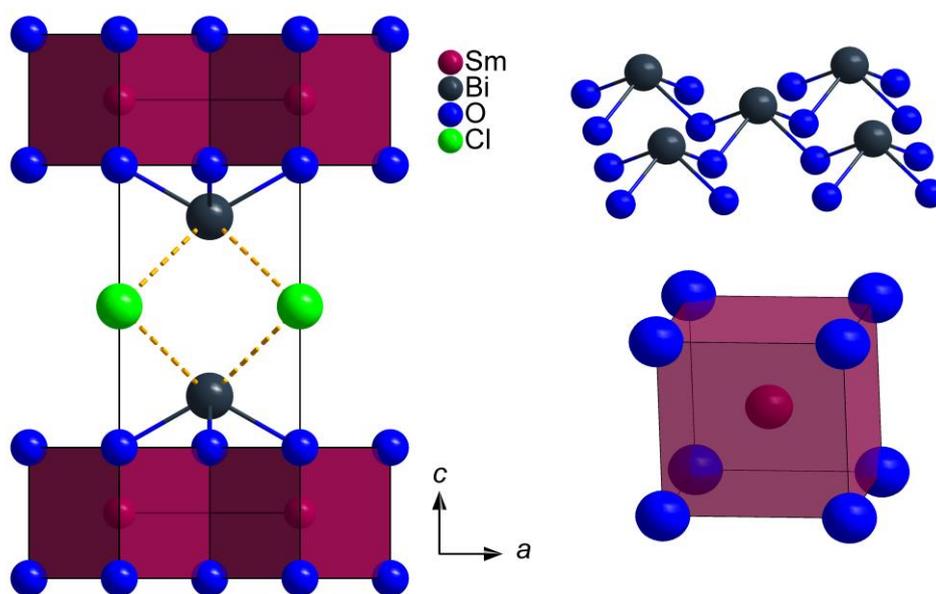


Figure 1. Extended unit cell of SmBi₂O₄Cl as viewed along [010] (*left*), the $\infty^2\{[\text{BiO}_{4/4}]^+\}$ layers (*right top*) and one [SmO₈]¹³⁻ cube (*right bottom*).

[1] M. Schmidt, H. Oppermann, C. Henning, R. W. Henn, E. Gmelin, N. Söger, *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **2000**, 626, 125.

[2] F. C. Goerigk, Th. Schleid, *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **2010**, 645, 1079.

[3] F. C. Goerigk, *Doctoral Dissertation*, Univ. Stuttgart **2021**.