

Article

# Infrared and Raman Spectroscopy of Ammoniovoltaite, $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$

Anastasia V. Sergeeva <sup>1</sup>, Elena S. Zhitova <sup>1,\*</sup>, Anton A. Nuzhdaev <sup>1</sup>, Andrey A. Zolotarev <sup>2</sup>, Vladimir N. Bocharov <sup>3</sup> and Rezeda M. Ismagilova <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of volcanology and seismology FEB RAS, 9 Piip Boulevard, 683006 Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia; anastavalers@gmail.com (A.V.S.); envi@kscnet.ru (A.A.N.); rezeda.m.ismagilova@gmail.com (R.M.I.)

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Earth Sciences, St. Petersburg State University, 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia; aazolotarev@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Geo Environmental Centre “Geomodel”, St. Petersburg State University, 198504 St. Petersburg, Russia; regbvn@gmail.com

\* Correspondence: zhitova\_es@mail.ru

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**Abstract:** Ammoniovoltaite,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$ , is a complex hydrated sulphate of the voltaite group that has been recently discovered on the surface of the Severo-Kambalny geothermal field (Kamchatka, Russia). Vibrational spectroscopy has been applied for characterization of the mineral. Both infrared and Raman spectra of ammoniovoltaite are characterized by an abundance of bands, which corresponds to the diversity of structural fragments and variations of their local symmetry. The infrared spectrum of ammoniovoltaite is similar to that of other voltaite-related compounds. The specific feature related to the dominance of the  $\text{NH}_4$  group is its  $\nu_4$  mode observed at  $1432\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder at  $1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  appearing due to  $\text{NH}_4$  disorder. The Raman spectrum of ammoniovoltaite is basically different from that of voltaite by the appearance of an intensive band centered at  $3194\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and attributed to the  $\nu_3$  mode of  $\text{NH}_4$ . The latter can serve as a distinctive feature of ammonium in voltaite-group minerals in resemblance to recently reported results for another  $\text{NH}_4$ -mineral—tschermigite, where  $\nu_3$  of  $\text{NH}_4$  occurs at  $3163\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The values calculated from wavenumbers of infrared bands at  $3585\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3467\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for hydrogen bond distances:  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$  and  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$  correspond to bonding involving H1 and H2 atoms of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{X}_6$  ( $X = \text{O}, \text{OH}$ ) octahedra. The infrared bands observed at  $3242\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2483\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to stronger hydrogen bonding, that may refer to non-localized H atoms of  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$  or  $\text{NH}_4$ .

**Keywords:** ammoniovoltaite; voltaite; sulphate; iron; ammonium; water; hydrated; hydroxyl group; spectroscopy

## 1. Introduction

Ammoniovoltaite,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$ , is the voltaite-group mineral that was recently discovered at the surface of Severo-Kambalny geothermal field (southern Kamchatka, Russia) [1]. To date the mineral has only been confirmed in this one locality. However, the synthetic analogue of ammoniovoltaite was known prior to its discovery in nature [2,3]. Voltaite-group minerals form in volcanic fumaroles: ammoniovoltaite [1], voltaite [4,5] or as oxidation (alteration) product of pyrite, marcasite or both, especially in arid conditions or as a post-mining product: ammoniomagnesiovoltaite [6], magnesiovoltaite [7], zincovoltaite [8], pertlikite [9] and voltaite. The source of ammonium in voltaite-group minerals may be from the  $\text{NH}_4$ -rich fluid in specific geothermal systems (as in case of ammoniovoltaite) or from organic matter, namely, coal (as for

ammoniomagnesiovoltaite); the source of Fe and S is typically from decomposition of sulfides under oxidizing conditions.

The mineralogy of fumaroles is in close relation to technogenic/natural phase formation at burning coal dumps under so-called “pseudofumarolic” conditions, for example, at the Chelyabinsk coal basin (Chelyabinsk, Russia) [10,11]. It is worth noting that numerous technogenic mineral-like phases representing Fe-Al sulphates have been identified at burning coal dumps [12]. Thus, the current study is not only providing new knowledge about natural ammonium Fe-Al sulfate systems, and their spectroscopic features, but also makes it possible to draw parallels with similar phases formed in technogenic conditions, including phases from burned coal dumps.

Recently, vibrational spectroscopy of hydrated sulphates attracted considerable attention since some of them have been identified on other bodies of the Solar System. Many sulphate findings are described for Mars including such minerals as jarosite,  $\text{KFe}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6$ ; alunite,  $\text{KAl}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6$ ; phase  $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{SO}_4(\text{OH})$ ; kieserite,  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; gypsum,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and other polyhydrated sulfates [13–15]. In addition to this, hydrated sulphate salts have been proposed as a component covering the surface of Europa (Jupiter moon) by reflectance spectroscopy [16]. Originally authors suggested hydrated magnesium sulfates and sodium carbonates and their mixtures as major components of the surface minerals [16]. Later, the similar mineral composition was proposed for Ganymede’s surface (Jupiter moon) [17]. Laboratory study has shown that heavily hydrated  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and perhaps  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  are strongly suggested as candidates for Europa surface products [18]. Later study have shown that the circle of heavily hydrated sulphates of Mg and Na can be widened to include hexahydrate,  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; epsomite,  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; bloedite,  $\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; mirabilite,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; sodium sulfide nonahydrate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{S} \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; supersaturated  $\text{MgSO}_4$ ,  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , and  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  brines; and magnesium sulfate dodecahydrate,  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [19]. Apart from that, ammonium salts are considered as a reservoir of nitrogen in a cometary nucleus and possibly on some asteroids [20].

It is noteworthy that acid mine drainage (AMD) sites covered by efflorescent minerals (usually sulphates) formed as the result of element leaching and oxidation of primary minerals are considered as proxy for the Martian environment [21,22]. These efflorescent minerals and their mixtures are widely investigated by means of vibrational spectroscopy. At the same time, some natural geothermal fields (including the Severo-Kambalny geothermal field in southern Kamchatka, Russia) are also characterized by the circulation of acidic hydrothermal fluid resulting in a similar environment to AMD sites’ sets of efflorescent minerals among which ammoniovoltaite has been detected. However, the geochemistry of geothermal field may be more complex in comparison to AMD sites due to fluid/gas enrichment or depletion in certain chemical elements and elevated temperatures.

Vibrational spectroscopy is an important tool for the study of minerals using non-destructive methods [23–26]. Taking into account the process of miniaturization of Raman spectrometers, the Raman spectroscopy can be considered as very promising for in situ mineral identifications in different Earth environments and for planetary sciences [27,28]. ExoMars rover’s analytical laboratory drawer planned to equip the Raman spectrometer for rapid mineral identification [22,29]. The introduction of this method requires the accumulation of data on the detailed characteristics of the vibrational spectra of minerals, especially of those having complex chemical composition. The present study is devoted to the characterization of the complex hydrated sulphate mineral—ammoniovoltaite—by the infrared and Raman spectroscopy. The infrared spectra of ammoniovoltaite or its synthetic analogue has been reported previously [1,3], however, the Raman spectra has not yet been published.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The Raman and infrared spectra have been recorded from part of the holotype specimen of ammoniovoltaite originating from the Severo-Kambalny geothermal field (Southern Kamchatka, Russia) and deposited in the Elena S. Zhitova collection. The sample has been characterized in detail including its crystal structure and chemistry [1]. The empirical chemical formula is  $(\text{NH}_4)_{1.88}\text{K}_{0.08}\text{Ca}_{0.04}(\text{Fe}^{2+}_{3.74}\text{Mg}_{1.17}\text{Fe}^{3+}_{0.05}\text{Zn}_{0.01})(\text{Fe}^{3+}_{2.89}\text{Al}_{0.09})\text{Al}_{1.00}(\text{SO}_4)_{12.00}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18.00}$ ,

the simplified chemical formula is  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$ . The mineral is cubic,  $Fd\bar{3}c$ ,  $a = 27.322(1) \text{ \AA}$  and  $V = 20,396(3) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 16$  [1].

Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using the KBr pellet method and a Bruker Vertex 70 FTIR spectrometer at room temperature in the  $4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  range of wavenumbers and  $4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution.

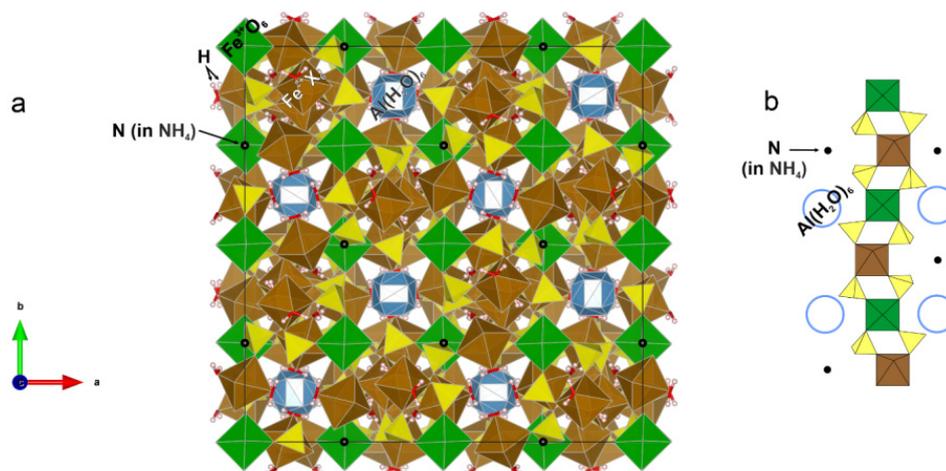
The Raman spectra were obtained with a spectrometer Horiba Jobin-Yvon LabRam HR 800 in the range of  $4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $70 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution. The excitation source was an Ar<sup>+</sup> laser with a wavelength of 514 nm and a maximum power of 50 mW, the power at the sample  $\sim 8 \text{ mW}$ . The spectra were recorded at a room temperature.

Band component analysis was undertaken using the OriginPro 7.0 software package that enabled the type of fitting function to be selected and allows specific parameters to be fixed or varied accordingly. Band fitting was done using Gaussian function. The positions of the bands and their variance were refined by the steepest descent method, by minimizing the sum of the squares of the deviations of the experimental curve and the theoretical one (the sum of Gaussians), using the algorithms implemented in the OriginPro 7.0 program.

### 3. Theoretical Background

#### 3.1. Crystal Structure

All voltaite-group minerals are cubic and crystallize in  $Fd\bar{3}c$  space group [3] with the exception of pertlikite [9] that is tetragonal, space group  $I4_1/acd$ . The crystal structures of voltaite-type minerals (Figure 1a) consists of 3D polymerized kröhnkite-type chains composed of corner-shared iron-centered octahedra with sulphate tetrahedra (Figure 1b) where  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{X}_6$  ( $X = \text{O}, \text{OH}$ ) and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{O}_6$  octahedra are alternating in the chain. The  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$  complexes and ammonium ions are located in cavities (Figure 1b).



**Figure 1.** (a) Crystal structure of ammoniovoltaite and (b) kröhnkite-type chains as its building blocks.

#### 3.2. Local Symmetry; Infrared and Raman Band Activation

The sites, their occupancy and symmetry in the crystal structure of ammoniovoltaite are given in Table 1. The crystal structure of ammoniovoltaite can be considered as consisting of the following fragments for interpretation of vibrational spectra:  $\text{NH}_4$ ,  $\text{FeX}_6$ ,  $\text{FeO}_6$ ,  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$  and  $\text{SO}_4$  (Table 1). Table 1 also shows the symmetry transformations of the infrared and Raman vibrations of structural fragments in accordance with the local symmetry and lattice symmetry.

It is worth noting that ammonium cation represents tetrahedra with symmetry  $T_d$ , whereas site symmetry of the N atom (in  $\text{NH}_4$  group) in the ammoniovoltaite crystal structure is lower,  $D_3$ . This mismatch of the symmetry of the cation and its environment results in the disorder of the  $\text{NH}_4$

group in ammoniovoltaite. To the best of our knowledge, no information on the character of this disorder (dynamic or statistic) is available. The same situation may be characteristic for other ions having their own symmetry, for example, hydroxonium,  $\text{H}_3\text{O}$ , as observed for hydroniumjarosite and hydronium-bearing jarosites [30,31].

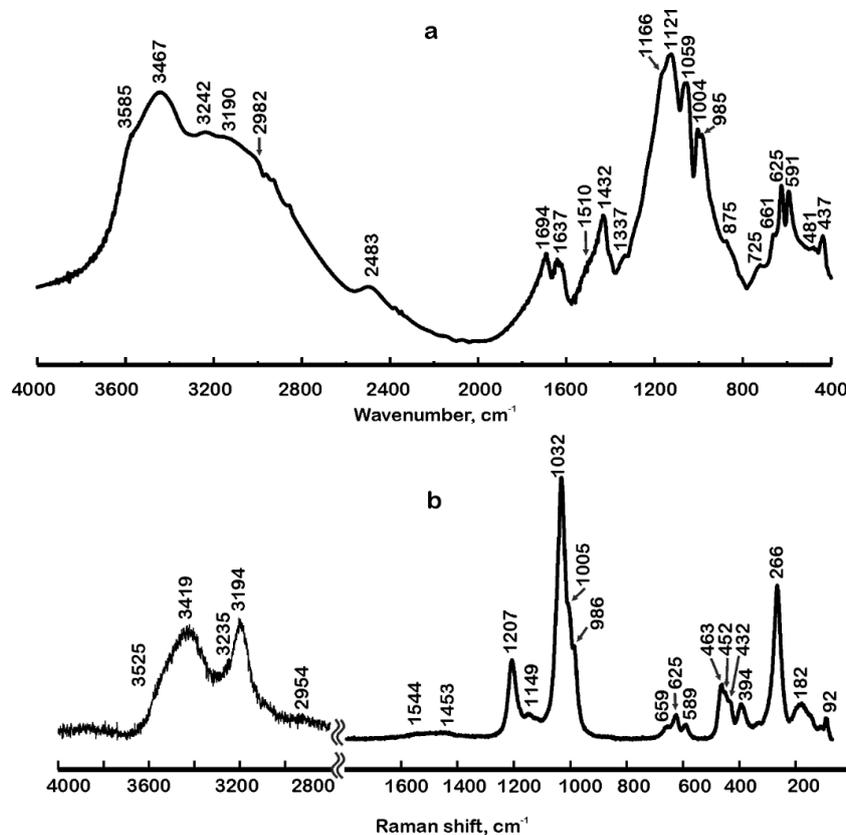
**Table 1.** Some symmetric characteristics of ammoniovoltaite crystal structure and data on activation of infrared and Raman bands.

Site	Dominantly Occupied by	Wyckoff Position	Site Symmetry	Structure Fragment	Infrared Active <sup>1</sup>	Raman Active <sup>2</sup>
A	N	32b	$D_3$	$\text{NH}_4$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4$
M1	$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	32c	$S_6 = C_{3i}$	$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{X}_6$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_5, \nu_6$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_5, \nu_6$
M2	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	96g	$C_2$	$\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{O}_6$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_5$	$\nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_6$
Al	$\text{Al}^{3+}$	16a	$T$	$\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_5, \nu_6$	$\nu_3, \nu_4, \nu_5, \nu_6$
S	S	192h	$C_1$	$\text{SO}_4$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4$	$\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4$
O1-O7	O	192h	$C_1$	-	-	-
H1, H2	H	192h	$C_1$	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> active component:  $T_{1u}$ ; <sup>2</sup> active components:  $A_{1g}, E_g, T_{2g}$ .

#### 4. Results

The IR and Raman spectra of ammoniovoltaite are given in Figure 2; the details of the spectra regions  $4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $400/70\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ —infrared,  $70\text{ cm}^{-1}$ —Raman) are given in Figures 3–5. In general, both infrared and Raman spectra of ammoniovoltaite are characterized by an abundance of bands (Figure 2), which corresponds to the diversity of structural fragments and variations of their local symmetry. Table 2 lists the infrared and Raman bands with their assignment.



**Figure 2.** Infrared (a) and Raman (b) spectra of ammoniovoltaite.

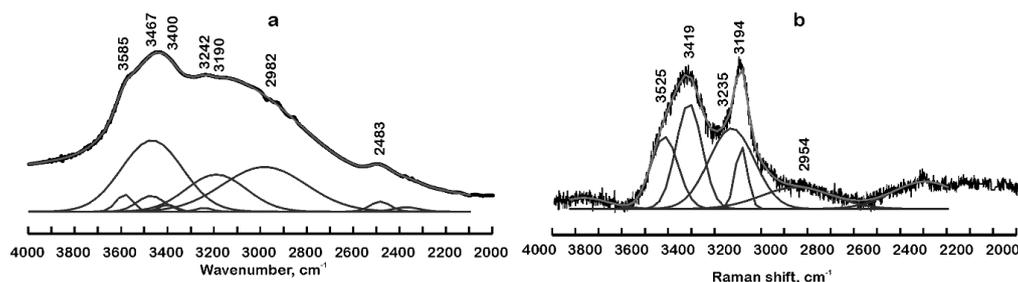


Figure 3. Infrared (a) and Raman (b) spectra of ammoniovoltaite in the 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range.

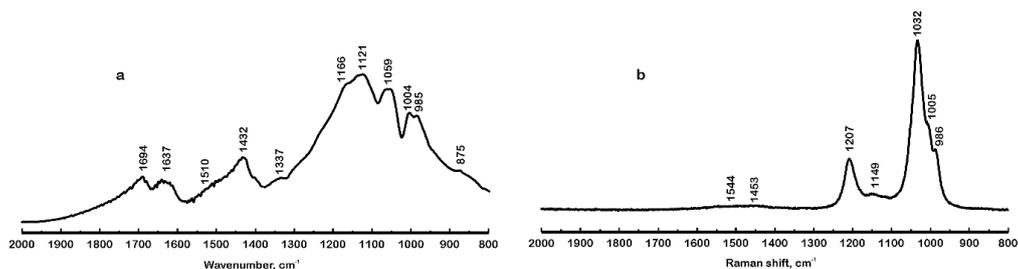


Figure 4. Infrared (a) and Raman (b) spectra of ammoniovoltaite in the 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range.

Table 2. Infrared and Raman bands of ammoniovoltaite.

Infrared Spectra, $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Raman Spectra, $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Band Assignment
3585	3525	(Al–OH), (Fe–OH), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) <sub>l</sub> <sup>1</sup>
3467	-	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) <sub>l</sub>
3400sh	3419	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) <sub>s</sub> <sup>1</sup>
3242	3235	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ ), $2\nu_2$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) <sub>s</sub> ,
3190	3194	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
2982	2954	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
2483	-	$\nu_3$ (Al– $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), $\nu$ ( $\text{HSO}_4$ )
1694	-	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) and/or $\nu_2$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
1637	-	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
1510sh, 1432	1544, 1453	$\nu_4$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
1337sh	-	$2\nu_4$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), $2\nu_3$ ( $\text{AlO}_6$ )
1166sh, 1121	1207, 1149	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )
1059, 1004, 985sh	1032, 1005, 986	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )
875sh, 740sh, 725	-	(Me– $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
661, 625, 591	659, 625, 589	$\nu_4$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{FeO}_6$ )
481, 450	463, 452	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{FeO}_6$ )
437	432	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{FeO}_6$ )
-	394, 335, 266, 182, 92	Lattice modes: (MeO <sub>6</sub> ), ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), ( $\text{NH}_4$ )

<sup>1</sup> Two types of water molecules can be distinguished. The first type of ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) molecule is spectrally similar to liquid water and its frequencies are indicated by the index *l*. The second type of ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) molecule is similar to water in  $I_{1h}$  ice crystals, denoted by *s*.

#### 4.1. Infrared and Raman Spectra in the Region 4000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ to 2000 $\text{cm}^{-1}$

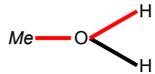
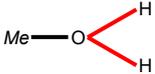
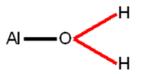
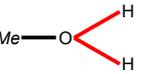
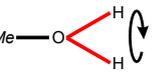
##### 4.1.1. Band Assignment

The Raman and infrared spectra of the 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 2000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region is shown in Figure 3. This region includes the vibrational spectrum of the stretching vibrations of hydroxyl, water and ammonium units. It is also worth noting that two types of water are present in ammoniovoltaite: hydroxyl group coordinated to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and water molecules coordinated to  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ . The IR spectrum contains the following bands 3585  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3467  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder  $\sim 3400$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3242  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3190  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 2982  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 2483  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The Raman spectrum contains the following bands 3525  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3419  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3235  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 3194  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 2954  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The shoulder observed at 3585  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (IR spectrum) and 3525  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Raman spectrum) is assigned to the symmetric stretching mode of the hydroxyl units (Al–OH), (Fe–OH) and  $\nu_3$  vibration of ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

fragments. The stretching vibrations of water molecules occur at lower wavenumbers than that of the hydroxyl unit. The  $\nu_1$  vibration of ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) is found at  $3467\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a shoulder  $\sim 3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  at the IR spectrum and at  $3419\text{ cm}^{-1}$  at the Raman spectrum. The overlapping modes of  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{NH}_4$ ),  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and  $2\nu_2$  ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) occur at  $3242\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3235\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR and Raman spectrum, respectively. The details of OH and HOH modes are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** The details of OH and HOH modes.

Type of Vibrations	Stretching		Bending	Deformation	
Wavenumber, $\text{cm}^{-1}$	3585	3585, 3467, 3400, 3242	2483	1637	875, 740, 725
Band assignment	Al-OH, Fe-OH	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Al- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{Me}^1\text{-H}_2\text{O}$
Structure fragment <sup>1</sup>					

<sup>1</sup> Me—metal.

The modes of ammonium ion are registered at (a)  $3190\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (IR spectrum) and  $3194\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Raman spectrum) assigned to  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) vibration and at (b)  $2982\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (IR spectrum) and  $2954\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Raman spectrum) that refers to completely symmetric vibration  $\nu_1$  ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) (Figure 3). The band at  $2483\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the vibrations of  $\nu_3$  (Al- $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) (see Table 3) and  $\nu$  ( $\text{HSO}_4$ ); the hydrosulfate in the structure appears as a result of the equilibrium  $\text{Me-H}_2\text{O} + \text{SO}_4 = \text{Me-OH} + \text{HSO}_4$  (where Me—metal).

#### 4.1.2. Hydrogen Bonding

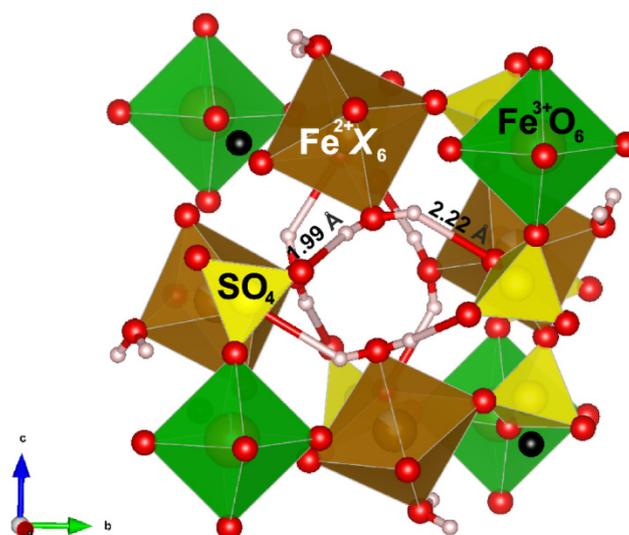
Previous studies of natural [1] and synthetic [3] ammoniovoltaite included structure determination and refinement based on single-crystal X-ray diffraction data with localization of H1 and H2 hydrogen atoms that belong to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{X}_6$  ( $\text{X} = \text{O}, \text{OH}$ ) octahedra. The hydrogen atoms that belong to  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$  octahedra or  $\text{NH}_4$  group have not been localized previously due to significant disorder of both units. The study of Libowitzky [32] has shown that correlation between OH stretching frequencies and both the  $\text{O}\cdots\text{O}$  and the  $\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  bond distances exists.

The  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$  distances calculated from the position of bands at  $3585\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3467\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  range from  $1.99\text{ \AA}$  to  $2.25\text{ \AA}$ , while  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$  distances are within  $2.83\text{ \AA}$  to  $3.24\text{ \AA}$  range. The calculated values from infrared spectra  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$  and  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$  distances agree well with those derived from structure refinement [1] for H1 and H2 atoms:  $d(\text{O2-H1})$  is  $2.22\text{ \AA}$ ;  $d(\text{O2-O5w})$  is  $2.95\text{ \AA}$  and  $d(\text{O3-H2})$  is  $1.99\text{ \AA}$ ;  $d(\text{O3-O5w})$  is  $2.94\text{ \AA}$  (Figure 5). The infrared bands observed at  $3242\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2483\text{ cm}^{-1}$  correspond to stronger bonding, the calculated values are  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H}) = 1.87\text{ \AA}$ ;  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O}) = 2.72\text{ \AA}$  and  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$   $1.59\text{ \AA}$ ,  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O}) = 2.53\text{ \AA}$  (Table 4). This stronger bonding may refer to H atoms of  $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$  octahedra or  $\text{NH}_4$  tetrahedra that have not been localized in the previous studies.

**Table 4.** Hydrogen bond distances according to infrared spectroscopy and previously published single-crystal structure refinement [1].

Infrared Spectroscopy			Crystal Structure Data [1]			
Wavenumber, $\text{cm}^{-1}$	$d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$ ( $\text{\AA}$ ) <sup>1</sup>	$d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$ ( $\text{\AA}$ ) <sup>1</sup>	$D^2\text{-H}$	$d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$ ( $\text{\AA}$ ) <sup>1</sup>	$D\text{-D}$	$d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$ ( $\text{\AA}$ ) <sup>1</sup>
3585	2.25	3.24				
3467	2.06	2.90	O2-H1 <sup>3</sup>	2.22	O2-O5w	2.95
3400sh	1.99	2.83	O3-H2 <sup>3</sup>	1.99	O3-O5w	2.94
3242	1.87	2.72				
2483	1.59	2.53	Probably corresponds to H atoms of $\text{Al}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6$ or $\text{NH}_4$			

<sup>1</sup> Calculated according to Libowitzky equations [32],  $v = 3592 - 304 \times 10^9 \times \exp\left(-\frac{d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})}{0.1321}\right)$ ;  $v = 3632 - 1.79 \times 10^6 \times \exp\left(-\frac{d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})}{0.2146}\right)$ ; <sup>2</sup> D, donor; <sup>3</sup> H1 and H2 atoms belong to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{X}_6$  ( $\text{X} = \text{O}, \text{OH}$ ) octahedra.



**Figure 5.** Hydrogen bond distances in the crystal structure of ammoniovoltaite [1]. Visualized using Vesta program [33].

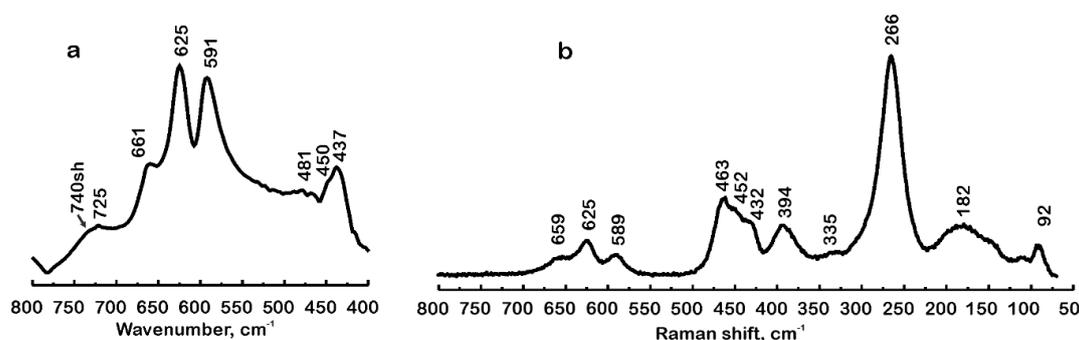
#### 4.2. Infrared and Raman Spectra in the Region $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ to $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$

The  $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region of Raman and infrared spectra is shown in Figure 4. The water bending mode is registered at the IR spectrum at  $1637\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The ammonium modes are evident at the IR spectrum:  $\nu_2(\text{NH}_4)$  at  $1694\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\nu_4(\text{NH}_4)$  at  $1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1432\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; the ammonium bands at  $1544\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1453\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are hardly visible at the Raman spectrum. The weak shoulder at the IR spectrum at about  $1337\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is likely due to overtones of  $2\nu_4(\text{SO}_4)$  and  $2\nu_3(\text{AlO}_6)$ .

The most intense bands in the region  $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  at both IR and Raman spectra correspond to sulphate modes. The Raman  $1207\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1149\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and infrared  $1166\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1121\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bands correspond to  $\nu_3(\text{SO}_4)$  vibrations. The bands assigned to  $\nu_1(\text{SO}_4)$  vibration are found at  $1032\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1005\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $986\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectrum and at  $1059\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1004\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $985\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum. The weak shoulder in the IR spectrum at  $875\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the  $\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{-OH}$  fragment.

#### 4.3. Infrared and Raman Spectra in the Region $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ to $400(70)\text{ cm}^{-1}$

The  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $70\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  regions of Raman and infrared spectra, respectively, are shown in Figure 6. The infrared bands at  $740\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $725\text{ cm}^{-1}$  correspond to librational vibrations of water coordinated to Al. Hydroxyl groups in the crystal structure of ammoniovoltaite appear as a result of dynamic equilibrium:  $\text{Me-H}_2\text{O} + \text{SO}_4 = \text{Me-OH} + \text{HSO}_4$ , which is the sum of two processes, acid dissociation of aquacomplexes and protonation of the sulfate ion.



**Figure 6.** Infrared (a) and Raman (b) spectra of ammoniovoltaite in the  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $70\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ranges, respectively.

The infrared bands observed at  $661\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $625\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $591\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and Raman bands at  $659\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $625\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $589\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to the overlap of  $\nu_4$  ( $\text{SO}_4$ ),  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ) and  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{FeO}_6$ ). Theoretically, the  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ) vibration has one active component in both IR and Raman spectra (Figure 6). Most likely, this vibration overlaps with  $\nu_4$  ( $\text{SO}_4$ ) vibration and is found at  $591\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (IR spectrum) and  $589\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Raman spectrum). The bands  $481\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $437\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the IR spectrum and  $463\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $452\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $432\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectrum correspond to overlaps  $\nu_2$  ( $\text{SO}_4$ ),  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ) and  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{FeO}_6$ ).

The frequencies of lattice modes: librational (incomplete turns) and translational vibrations of sulfate, ammonium and metal-oxygen octahedra are located below  $400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the Raman spectrum. In addition, valence and deformation vibrations are located here for metal-oxygen octahedra. The  $394\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band corresponds to  $\nu_2$  ( $\text{SO}_4$ ),  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{AlO}_6$ ),  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{FeO}_6$ ) vibrations. The lattice modes assigned to vibrations of ( $\text{MeO}_6$ ), ( $\text{SO}_4$ ), ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) units are reflected by the following Raman bands:  $335\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $266\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $182\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $92\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Infrared Spectroscopy of Voltaites

The infrared spectrum of ammoniovoltaite obtained in this work is compared to that of ammoniomagnesiovoltaite,  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Mg}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$ , [6] and synthetic voltaite members [3]: ammoniovoltaite, voltaite,  $\text{K}_2\text{Fe}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$ ; ammoniomagnesiovoltaite and Mn-voltaite,  $\text{K}_2\text{Mn}^{2+}_5\text{Fe}^{3+}_3\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_{12}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$  (Table 5). The position of bands in the  $3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region differs for voltaites. This is probably due to difference in the cation composition (compared samples differ in the composition of divalent cation) affecting the hydrogen bonding system. The presence of ammonium likely also affects the spectra shape in the region  $3300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $2900\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , but this change is almost imperceptible since there is a stronger change related to modes of water and hydroxyl. In general, the bands at  $3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $3000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to various O–H and N–H stretching vibrations.

The band assigned to Al–H<sub>2</sub>O, hydrosulphate or both as a result of dynamic equilibrium:  $\text{Me–H}_2\text{O} + \text{SO}_4 = \text{Me–OH} + \text{HSO}_4$  mode is weak, but distinctive at all spectra at  $2501\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $2483\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The H–O–H bending in the H<sub>2</sub>O molecules is evident by two bands at  $1641\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1694\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1686\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . As noted previously [3] the distinctive infrared band of ammonium occurs at  $1432\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1431\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to the asymmetric bending vibrations of NH<sub>4</sub>. In samples studied by us, this band has a shoulder  $\sim 1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  that we attribute to ammonium disorder.

In the region  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  sulphate vibrations occur:  $\nu_3$  at  $1130\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1121\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1182\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while  $\nu_1$  at  $1065\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1053\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1014\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1004\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $985\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The  $\text{M}^{2+}$ –OH mode is present at  $879\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $854\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The position of the band depends on the cation: for samples with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (ammoniovoltaite, voltaite) it is observed at  $879\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $875\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; for Mg- and Mn-dominated samples the band occurs at lower wavenumbers:  $866\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $854\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. The band centered at  $735\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $725\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in voltaites is assigned to Al–H<sub>2</sub>O mode. In the region below  $700\text{ cm}^{-1}$  the most intensive bands are found at  $634\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $625\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $596\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $591\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $445\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $437\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (with lower intensity shoulders listed in Table 5) and are assigned to complex vibration of the sulphate group and metal-oxygen octahedra.

**Table 5.** Infrared bands of selected natural and synthetic voltaite-group members.

Ammonio-Voltaite	Ammonio-Magnesio-Voltaite <sup>1</sup>	Synthetic Ammonio-Voltaite	Synthetic Mn-Ammonio-Voltaite	Synthetic Voltaite	Synthetic Magnesio-Voltaite	Band Assignment
3585	-	3562	3560	3558	3579	Me-OH, $\nu_3$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
3467 3400	3423	3417	3379	3417	-	$\nu_1$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
3242	3263	3248	3261	-	-	$\nu_3$ (NH <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (H <sub>2</sub> O), 2 $\nu_2$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
3190	-	3091	3114	3074	3083	$\nu_3$ (NH <sub>4</sub> )
2982	-					$\nu_1$ (NH <sub>4</sub> )
2483	-	2501	2501	2499	2497	$\nu_3$ (Al-H <sub>2</sub> O), $\nu$ (HSO <sub>4</sub> )
1694	-	1689	1686	1687	1691	$\nu_2$ (NH <sub>4</sub> ) and $\nu_2$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
1637	1641	1639	1641	1630	1635	$\nu_2$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
1510sh	-	-	-	-	-	$\nu_4$ (NH <sub>4</sub> )
1432	1431	1431	1431	-	-	$\nu_4$ (NH <sub>4</sub> )
1337sh	-	-	-	-	-	2 $\nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), 2 $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), 2 $\nu$ (Al-H <sub>2</sub> O)
1166	-	1153	1143	1157	1182	$\nu_3$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
1121	1122	1130	-	-	-	
1059	1065	1055	1053	1055	1065	
1004	1014	1007	1005	1007	1014	$\nu_1$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
985sh	-	-	-	-	-	
875sh	-	879	854	876	866	Me <sup>2+</sup> -OH
740sh	-	731	729	735	733	Al-H <sub>2</sub> O
725						
661sh	-	-	-	-	-	
625	-	627	627	627	634	$\nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (MeO <sub>6</sub> )
591	594	592	596	592	596	
481, 450, 437	-	442	444	442	445	$\nu_2$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (MeO <sub>6</sub> )
This work	[6]		[3]			Reference

<sup>1</sup> The absence of some bands is due to lower quality of the spectrum and lower resolution of the bands.

## 5.2. Raman Spectroscopy of Voltaites

The Raman spectrum of ammoniovoltaite obtained in this work is compared to very recently published spectra of voltaite [34] and tschermigite,  $(\text{NH}_4)\text{Al}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , the latter is an ammonium alum [35], but it is chemically related to voltaites since it is hydrated ammonium sulphate (Table 6). The Raman spectrum of voltaite from Iron Mountain Mine Superfund Site (Redding, CA, USA) has also been reported previously [22]; however, in the cited work, the inverse problem of identifying minerals by spectra without their detailed chemical characteristics is solved. Therefore, these data are not used for comparison.

The main difference between Raman spectra of ammoniovoltaite and voltaite [34] is in the shape of the  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $2800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region. The spectra of ammoniovoltaite has a very intensive and distinctive band centered at  $3194\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , although the spectrum of voltaite has a band with similar Raman shift,  $3209\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , the shape of the spectra in this region is evidently different. It should be noted that Raman spectrum of tschermigite [35] contains the bands at  $3163\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3124\text{ cm}^{-1}$  that were absent in the spectrum of its K-analogue and thus assigned to  $\nu_3$  ( $\text{NH}_4$ ). On that basis, we assign the bands in the Raman spectrum of ammoniovoltaite as the following (Table 6):  $3525\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3419\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to O–H stretching,  $3235\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to overlap of O–H and N–H stretching and  $3194\text{ cm}^{-1}$  exclusively to N–H stretching. The very weak bands at  $1544\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1453\text{ cm}^{-1}$  refer to  $\nu_4$  of  $\text{NH}_4$ , the band splitting is due to  $\text{NH}_4$  disorder similar to that observed for the infrared spectrum. Sulphate vibrations are manifested in the  $1210\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region:  $\nu_3$  mode at  $1207\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while  $\nu_1$  mode at  $1032\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1005\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $986\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In the region below  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and above  $300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  the complex overlapping vibrations of different modes of  $\text{SO}_4$  tetrahedra and metal-oxygen octahedra are detected. The bands below  $300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are assigned to lattice modes involving  $\text{MeO}_6$  octahedra,  $\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4$  tetrahedra.

**Table 6.** Raman bands observed for ammoniovoltaite in comparison to voltaite and tschermigite (ammonium alum).

Ammoniovoltaite	Voltaite	Tschermigite	Band Assignment
3525	3583	3573	$\nu$ (Al–OH), (Fe–OH), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
3419	3441	3379	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
3235	3209	-	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ ), $\nu_3$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), $2\nu_2$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
3194	-	-	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	-	3163	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	-	3124	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), $\nu_1$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
2954	-	-	$\nu_1$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	-	2883	$2\nu_4$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	-	2562	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ –Al) or possibly $\nu$ ( $\text{HSO}_4$ )
-	-	2461	
-	-	1680	$\nu_2$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	1642	1600	$\delta$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
1544	-	-	$\nu_4$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
1453	1428	1445	$\nu_4$ ( $\text{NH}_4$ )
-	1280	-	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )
1207	1215	-	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )
1149	-	1133	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )
-	-	1100	$\nu_3$ ( $\text{SO}_4$ )

Table 6. Cont.

Ammoniovoltaite	Voltaite	Tschermigite	Band Assignment
-	1055	-	$\nu_1$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
1032	1036	-	$\nu_1$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
1005	1011	-	$\nu_1$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
986	991	990	$\nu_1$ (SO <sub>4</sub> )
659	660	-	$\nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
625	629	615	$\nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
589	594	-	$\nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
-	-	535	$\nu_2, \nu_4$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ); $\nu_1, \nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> )
463	469	460	$\nu_2$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
452	-	-	$\nu_2$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
432	439	440	$\nu_2$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
394	398	-	$\nu_2$ (SO <sub>4</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (AlO <sub>6</sub> ), $\nu_3$ (FeO <sub>6</sub> )
335	338	326	
-	310	-	
266	268	-	Lattice modes: (MeO <sub>6</sub> ), (SO <sub>4</sub> ), (NH <sub>4</sub> )
182	192	192	
92	-	80	
This work	[34]	[35]	Reference

## 6. Conclusions

1. The infrared spectrum in the region 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 2500 cm<sup>-1</sup> contains bands centered at 3585 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3467 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3242 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3190 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2982 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Among them, the bands at 3585 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3467 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup> are assigned solely to O–H vibrations. The band at 3242 cm<sup>-1</sup> is an overlap of O–H and N–H vibrations. The N–H vibrations are reflected by bands at 3190 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2982 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

2. The Raman spectrum of the same area is similar to that of infrared spectrum and contains bands at 3525 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3419 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to O–H vibrations; the band at 3235 cm<sup>-1</sup> that is due to an overlap of O–H and N–H vibrations and two bands at 3194 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2954 cm<sup>-1</sup> are attributed to N–H vibrations.

3. The calculated values from the wavenumbers of infrared bands at 3585 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 3467 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup> hydrogen bond distances:  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{H})$  and  $d(\text{O}\cdots\text{O})$  correspond to bonding involving H1 and H2 atoms of Fe<sup>2+</sup>X<sub>6</sub> (X = O, OH) octahedra. The infrared bands observed at 3242 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2483 cm<sup>-1</sup> are due to stronger hydrogen bonding, that may refer to non-localized H atoms of Al(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub> or NH<sub>4</sub>.

4. The middle region of the infrared spectrum contains bands at 2483 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1694 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1637 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1510sh cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1432 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1337sh cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1166 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1121 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1059 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1004 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 985sh cm<sup>-1</sup> and 875sh cm<sup>-1</sup>. The band at 2483 cm<sup>-1</sup> is due to O–H stretching in Al(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub> octahedra or HSO<sub>4</sub> complex, the latter appearing as a result of the equilibrium  $\text{Me}-\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{SO}_4 = \text{Me}-\text{OH} + \text{HSO}_4$ . The band at 1694 cm<sup>-1</sup> represents an overlap of N–H and O–H bending vibrations. The band at 1637 cm<sup>-1</sup> is due to O–H bending vibrations, whereas solely N–H bending vibrations occur at 1432 cm<sup>-1</sup> (as a distinctive spectral feature) with a shoulder at 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup> appearing due to ammonium disorder. The band at 1337sh cm<sup>-1</sup> is a complex overlap of sulphate, AlO<sub>6</sub> and water vibrations. The bands at 1166 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1121 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1059 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1004 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 985sh cm<sup>-1</sup> are assigned to vibrations of the sulphate group. The bands at 875sh cm<sup>-1</sup>, 740sh cm<sup>-1</sup> and 725 cm<sup>-1</sup> are assigned to the water librational modes.

5. The N–H bending vibrations are evident as very weak Raman bands centered at 1544  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1453  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The sulphate vibrations in the Raman spectrum are detected at 1207  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1149  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1032  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1005  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 986  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

6. The low wavenumber region of the infrared spectrum of ammoniovoltaite is represented by the overlap of sulphate and  $\text{MeO}_6$  vibrations found at 661sh  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 591  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 481  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 437  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

7. The Raman bands observed at 659  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 589  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 463  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 452  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 432  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 394  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are due to complex overlaps of vibrations originated from  $\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{AlO}_6$  and  $\text{FeO}_6$  structural fragments. The low wavenumber Raman bands occur at 335  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 266  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 182  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 92  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and correspond to lattice modes:  $\text{MeO}_6$ ,  $\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4$ .

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