Supporting Information

Rapid, Efficient Phase Pure Synthesis of Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$ Layered Double Hydroxide

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Table of contents

1. General details S2

2. Characterising data for CaAl-NO$_3$ layered double hydroxide as prepared S4
   2.1 X-ray diffraction S4
   2.2 Infra-red spectroscopy S4
   2.3 High-resolution TEM S5
   2.4 Thermogravimetric analysis S6
   2.5 Adsorption measurement S6
   2.6 Solid-state NMR spectroscopy S7

3. Characterising data for CaAl-NO$_3$ layered double hydroxide stored over time and temperature S8
1. General details

**Powder X-ray Diffraction (XRD).** Powder X-ray diffraction patterns were recorded on a PANalytical X’Pert Pro instrument using a Cu anode and K-alpha 1 $\lambda=1.540598$ and K-alpha 2 $\lambda=1.544426$ with a K-alpha 2/K-alpha 1 ratio of 0.5. The generator voltage was set to 40 kV and the tube current to 40 mA at 0.01 ° s$^{-1}$ from 3 to 70° with a slit size of 1°. Samples were ground in powder form and loaded onto stainless steel sample holders.

**Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA).** Thermogravimetric analysis was carried out using a Mettler Toledo TGA/DSC 1 System. Around 20 mg of the sample was heated in a crucible from 25 to 700 °C at a rate of 5 °C per minute, and then left to cool.

**Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS).** A Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS in the Begbroke Science Park was used to carry out the dynamic light scattering analysis. A small amount of the sample in paste form was fully dispersed in about 10 mL of dionised water using a sonicator for 5 minutes, this dispersion was then pipetted into a plastic cuvette to the suggested level and inserted into the instrument.

**Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM).** Transmission electron microscopy images were obtained at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus using a JEOL 2100 microscope with an accelerating voltage of 200 kV to view the samples. A small amount of the LDH sample in paste form was dispersed in ethanol in a sonicator for about 3 minutes, and then cast onto copper grids coated with Formvar film.

**Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy.** FTIR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet iS5 Spectrometer equipped with the iD3 ATR (attenuated total reflection) accessory, measuring in the range of 400-4000 cm$^{-1}$ with 50 scans at 4 cm$^{-1}$ resolution.

**Solid State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy.** $^{27}$Al DPMAS and $^{13}$C CPMAS Solid state NMR spectra were obtained by Dr. Nicholas Rees (University of Oxford) at 104.2 and 100.5 MHz respectively (9.4 T) on a Bruker Avance IIIHD spectrometer. For $^{27}$Al NMR spectroscopy, in order to obtain quantitative MAS spectra, a single pulse excitation was applied using a short pulse length (0.15 μs). 7000 scans were acquired with a 0.1 s delay and a MAS rate of 40 kHz using 1.9 mm O.D zirconia rotors. The $^{27}$Al NMR spectroscopy chemical shift is referenced to an aqueous solution of Al(NO$_3$)$_3$. $^{13}$C CPMAS NMR spectra were measured using 4mm O.D zirconia rotors and a MAS rate of 10 kHz using a cross-polarization sequence with a variable X-amplitude spin-lock pulse and spinal64 proton decoupling. 1500 transients were acquired using a contact time of 1.0 ms, an acquisition time of 12.5 ms (1024 data points zero filled to 16 K) and a recycle delay of 5
s. All $^{13}$C NMR spectra were referenced to adamantane (the upfield methine resonance was taken to be at $\delta = 29.5$ ppm on a scale where $\delta$(TMS) = 0) as a secondary reference.

**Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).** SEM images were obtained at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus using a JEOL JSM 6610 scanning microscope.

**Brunauer-Emmett-Teller Surface Area Analysis (BET).** BET Surface area analysis was carried out by Dr. Chunping Chen and Dr. Alexander Kilpatrick (University of Oxford). The gas adsorption isotherm for nitrogen adsorption onto the LDH surface was measured using a Tristar II plus 3030. The samples were degassed at 110 °C overnight using a VacPrep degas machine. The Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method was then used to calculate the surface area.

**Synthesis of Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH.** 7.56 g of Ca(NO$_3$)$_2$ and 6.00 g of Al(NO$_3$)$_3$ (to give a 2:1 Ca:Al ratio of cations) were dissolved in 50 mL of deionised and degassed water (purged with N$_2$ for two hours to remove any carbonate ions), to give a 0.64 M solution of calcium ions and a 0.32 M solution of aluminium ions. 4.40 g of NaOH pellets were dissolved in another 50 mL of deionised and degassed water to give a 2.2 M solution of NaOH. The colloid mill was first washed with water, and then dionised water three times. The two solutions mentioned above were then poured into the mill for a mixing time of 90 s, the rotor speed was set to 2000 rpm. After mixing the product was collected, washed using deionised and degassed water 4 times using a centrifuge at 9000 rpm for 5 minutes. The sample was then collected, ~0.5 g was dried in a vacuum oven for characterisation, the rest was stored in a fridge at 8 °C.

**Effect of storage time.** The Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH paste sample was left in the lab fridge at 8 °C. Small amounts of the sample were extracted and tested after 1 week, and then after 4 weeks.

**Effect of storage temperature.** Three different Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH paste samples were left for 1 week at different temperatures. One was left at room temperature, 23 °C, one in the fridge, 8 °C, and one at -20 °C in the lab freezer. The samples were tested after this week.
2. Characterising data CaAl-NO$_3$ layered double hydroxide as prepared

2.1 X-ray diffraction

![X-ray diffraction pattern](image)

**Fig. S1**: Diffraction pattern for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised using the rapid mixing method in a colloid mill with a rotor speed of 2000 rpm and for a mixing time of 90 s (2k-90s).

2.2 Infra-red spectroscopy

![Infra-red spectroscopy](image)

**Fig. S2**: FTIR transmission spectrum for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s.
2.3 High-resolution TEM

**Fig. S3:** TEM images for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s.

**Fig. S4:** SEM image for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s.
2.4 Thermogravimetric analysis

Fig. S5: (a) TGA curve for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s and (b) TGA derivatives

2.5 Adsorption measurement

Fig. S6: BET isotherm for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s.
2.6 Solid-state NMR spectroscopy

Fig. S7: $^{27}$Al NMR spectrum for the Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH synthesised with the parameters 2k-90s.
3. Characterising data for CaAl-NO$_3$ layered double hydroxide stored over time and temperature

![Graph showing average particle size for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH particles after storage at 8 °C.](image)

**Fig. S8:** Average particle size for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH particles after storage at 8 °C.

![Graph showing XRD spectra for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDHs after storage for 1 week at different temperatures.](image)

**Fig. S9:** XRD spectra for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDHs after storage for 1 week at different temperatures.
**Fig. S10** Average particle sizes of Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH samples stored at different temperatures for 1 week, measured from TEM images.

**Fig. S11** Average particle size of the Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDH particles after storage at different temperatures, measured using DLS.
Table S1: Crystalline Domain Lengths (CDLs)* for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDHs after different storage time at 8 °C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Time</th>
<th>Intensity of 002 reflections (a.u.)</th>
<th>CDL along c-axis using 002 reflection FWHM (Å)</th>
<th>CDL along a- and b-axes, using 300 reflection FWHM (Å)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>931.0</td>
<td>146.6</td>
<td>106.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>4245.3</td>
<td>448.0</td>
<td>177.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>11871.0</td>
<td>733.2</td>
<td>251.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculated using the Scherrer equation.

Table S2: TGA data after different storage times at 8 °C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Time</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>T1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>105.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>100.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table S3: Crystalline Domain Lengths (CDLs)* of Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDHs after 1 week storage at different temperatures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Intensity of 002 reflections (a.u.)</th>
<th>CDL along c-axis using 002 reflection FWHM (Å)</th>
<th>CDL along a- and b-axes, using 300 reflection FWHM (Å)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before storage</td>
<td>931.0</td>
<td>146.6</td>
<td>106.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>− 20</td>
<td>221.2</td>
<td>187.6</td>
<td>177.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 8</td>
<td>4245.3</td>
<td>448.0</td>
<td>177.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 23</td>
<td>1725.5</td>
<td>310.2</td>
<td>177.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculated using the Scherrer equation.
Table S4: TGA data for Ca$_2$AlNO$_3$-LDHs after storage at different temperatures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before storage</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>258.0</td>
<td>539.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20</td>
<td>111.8</td>
<td>271.7</td>
<td>551.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 8</td>
<td>102.2</td>
<td>272.7</td>
<td>568.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ 23</td>
<td>115.4, 149.3</td>
<td>275.2</td>
<td>565.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>