Hydrothermal Synthesis, Hierarchical Structures and Properties of Blue Pigments SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$

Yan Chen$^a$, Mingyu Shang$^b$, Xiaofeng Wu$^a$ and Shouhua Feng$^{a*}$

$^a$ State Key Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Preparative Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, Changchun 130012, P.R. China

$^b$ College of Earth Sciences, Jilin University, Changchun 130012, P.R. China.

*Email: shfeng@mail.jlu.edu.cn

**General procedure for nanoplates self-assembled microspheres of SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$**

10 mL 0.5 mol/L SrCl$_2$•6H$_2$O, 40 mL 0.5 mol/L Na$_2$SiO$_3$•9H$_2$O and 0.4 g CuO powders as starting materials were mixed together. The pH value of the solution was adjusted to 8 using 1 mol/L HCl aqueous solution. The concentrated ammonia solution was added and the final pH value of the solution is 12.5. The solution was sealed in autoclave with a Teflon liner (80 mL), then heated up to 250 °C and kept it for 48 h, followed by cooling to room temperature by switching off the furnace. Dark blue powders were washing with distilled water and were added into 100 mL 0.4 mol/L HCl aqueous solution. The dark blue powders were mixtures of CuO and SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. After 12 hours, the CuO was dissolved and blue powders of pure phase SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ were obtained. The yield of the compound is 65%.

**General procedure for microplates assembled microspheres of SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$**

10 mL 0.5 mol/L SrCl$_2$•6H$_2$O, 40 mL 0.5 mol/L Na$_2$SiO$_3$•9H$_2$O and 0.4 g CuO powders as starting materials were mixed together. The pH value of the solution was adjusted to 10 using 1 mol/L HCl aqueous solution. The concentrated ammonia solution was added and the final pH value of the solution is 13. The solution was sealed in autoclave with a Teflon liner (80 mL), then heated up to 250 °C and kept it for 48 h, followed by cooling to room temperature by switching off the furnace. Dark blue powders were washing with distilled water and were added into 100 mL 0.4 mol/L HCl aqueous solution. The dark blue powders were mixtures of CuO and SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. After 12 hours, the CuO was dissolved and blue powders of pure phase SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ were obtained. The yield of the compound is 50%.

**Captions of Fig.s**

Fig. S1 Perspective view of MCu$_3$O$_{10}$ (M = Sr, Ba) with the Cu$^{2+}$ ions (green) in a square planar complex.

Fig. S2. SEM images and EDS analysis of (a) SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and (b) BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. For SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ the EDS result is O 58.34%, Si 27.33%, Sr 6.42%, Cu 7.90%; For BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ the EDS result is O 66.42%, Si 24.71%, Ba 4.74%, Cu 4.13%.

Fig. S3a. SEM images of the multi-layered SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ microparticles self-assembled by nanoplates

Fig. S3b. SEM images of the SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates

Fig. S3c. SEM images of the SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ microspheres assembled by microplates on the surface

Fig. S3d. SEM images of the BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ porous microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates, nanoplates break off from the surfaces of the microspheres, a cutted microsphere, and the pores.

Fig. S4. (a) XPS spectra of SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. The XPS analysis shown further confirms that the powders contain Ba, Cu, Si, and O. (b) Si(2p) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. (c) Cu(2p) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. (d) Sr(3d) and Ba(3d) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$, respectively.

Fig. S5. FTIR spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$.

Fig. S6. XRD patterns for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ with different hierarchical structures. Multi-layered microparticles self-assembled by nanoplates (top), microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates (middle) and microspheres assembled by microplates on the surface (bottom). [The powder XRD patterns of products were collected on a Rigaku Ultima IV diffractometer with Cu Ka radiation (λ=0.15418 nm) of 40 KV and 30 mA at room temperature by step scanning in an angle rang of 5° ≤ 20 ≤ 90° and increments of 0.02° were employed.]
Fig. S1 Schematic depiction of an isolated layer of MCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$ (M = Sr, Ba) with the Cu$^{2+}$ ions (green) in a square planar complex.

Fig. S2. SEM images and EDS analysis of (a) SrCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$ and (b) BaCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$. For SrCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$ the EDS result is O 58.34%, Si 27.33%, Sr 6.42%, Cu 7.90%; For BaCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$ the EDS result is O 66.42%, Si 24.71%, Ba 4.74%, Cu 4.13%.

Fig. S3a. SEM images of the multi-layered SrCu$_4$Si$_4$O$_{10}$ microparticles self-assembled by nanoplates.
Fig. S3b. SEM images of the SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates.

Fig. S3c. SEM images of the SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ microspheres assembled by microplates on the surface.
Fig. S3d. SEM images of the BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ porous microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates, nanoplates break off from the surfaces of the microspheres, a cutted microsphere, and the pores.

Fig. S4. (a) XPS spectra of SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. The XPS analysis shown further confirms that the powders contain Ba, Cu, Si, and O. (b) Si(2p) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. (c) Cu(2p) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$. (d) Sr(3d) and Ba(3d) XPS spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$, respectively.
Fig. S5. FTIR spectra for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ and BaCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$.

Fig. S6. XRD patterns for SrCuSi$_4$O$_{10}$ with different hierarchical structures. Multi-layered microsparticles self-assembled by nanoplates (top), microspheres self-assembled by nanoplates (middle) and microspheres assembled by microplates on the surface (bottom).