

## ***Supporting Information***

### **Ba<sub>2</sub>B<sub>5</sub>O<sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)·3H<sub>2</sub>O: the synthesis of an alkaline earth borate-nitrate optimized from a hydroxylic borate**

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**Table S1.** The final atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters for  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $U_{\text{eq}}$  is defined as one-third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor, and the Bond Valence Sum for each atom in the asymmetric unit.

| <b>Atom</b> | <b>x</b>   | <b>y</b>   | <b>z</b>   | <b>U(eq)</b> | <b>BVS</b> |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Ba1         | 0.95251(8) | 0.28847(2) | 0.93260(6) | 0.01464(16)  | 2.22       |
| Ba2         | 0.54796(9) | 0.45620(2) | 0.74455(6) | 0.01891(17)  | 2.07       |
| B1          | 0.0652(14) | 0.3674(4)  | 0.5984(11) | 0.0138(18)   | 3.02       |
| B2          | 0.7834(16) | 0.4332(5)  | 0.4549(11) | 0.0160(19)   | 3.12       |
| B3          | 0.4005(14) | 0.3075(4)  | 0.6975(11) | 0.0123(18)   | 3.01       |
| B4          | 0.7003(14) | 0.3309(4)  | 0.5705(10) | 0.0112(17)   | 2.98       |
| B5          | 0.4423(15) | 0.2476(4)  | 0.9592(11) | 0.0133(18)   | 3.03       |
| N1          | 1.1519(15) | 0.4465(4)  | 1.0110(12) | 0.034(2)     | 4.99       |
| O1          | -0.0002(9) | 0.4199(3)  | 0.5238(8)  | 0.0204(14)   | 1.79       |
| O2          | 0.9793(12) | 0.1829(3)  | 0.7564(8)  | 0.0265(15)   | 1.94       |
| O3          | -0.0707(9) | 0.3228(2)  | 0.6177(7)  | 0.0121(11)   | 2.08       |
| O4          | 0.6459(9)  | 0.3897(3)  | 0.5006(7)  | 0.0150(12)   | 1.88       |
| O5          | 0.2741(8)  | 0.3620(3)  | 0.6499(7)  | 0.0143(12)   | 2.00       |
| O6          | 0.6168(9)  | 0.3237(3)  | 0.7118(6)  | 0.0129(12)   | 1.99       |
| O7          | 0.3395(9)  | 0.2402(3)  | 1.0778(7)  | 0.0137(12)   | 1.96       |
| O8          | 0.3529(8)  | 0.2870(3)  | 0.8460(6)  | 0.0122(12)   | 1.96       |
| O9          | 0.7277(10) | 0.4921(3)  | 0.5094(8)  | 0.0209(14)   | 2.06       |
| O10         | 0.6245(9)  | 0.2189(3)  | 0.9581(7)  | 0.0140(12)   | 2.03       |
| O11         | 0.6379(11) | 0.3759(3)  | 1.0085(8)  | 0.0279(16)   | 1.93       |
| O12         | 1.3045(13) | 0.4703(4)  | 0.9758(9)  | 0.0389(19)   | 2.07       |
| O13         | 0.7552(12) | 0.4339(4)  | 0.2836(8)  | 0.0292(16)   | 1.53       |
| O14         | 0.6489(15) | 0.6446(4)  | 0.7659(11) | 0.047(2)     | 2.45       |
| O15         | 1.1043(14) | 0.4627(4)  | 1.1384(9)  | 0.043(2)     | 1.70       |
| O16         | 1.0463(16) | 0.4103(4)  | 0.9245(10) | 0.050(2)     | 2.03       |

**Table S2.** Bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 

|             |           |               |           |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Ba1-O3#1    | 2.842(6)  | Ba2-O4        | 2.788(6)  |
| Ba1-O3#2    | 2.974(6)  | Ba2-O5        | 2.780(6)  |
| Ba1-O6      | 2.747(6)  | Ba2-O6        | 2.994(6)  |
| Ba1-O7#1    | 2.831(6)  | Ba2-O9#4      | 2.818(6)  |
| Ba1-O8#1    | 2.913(5)  | Ba2-O9        | 2.712(7)  |
| Ba1-O2      | 2.832(7)  | Ba2-O11       | 2.886(7)  |
| Ba1-O2#3    | 2.884(7)  | Ba2-O12#5     | 2.941(8)  |
| Ba1-O10     | 2.716(6)  | Ba2-O12#6     | 2.864(7)  |
| Ba1-O11     | 3.023(7)  | Ba2-O13#4     | 3.136(8)  |
| Ba1-O16     | 2.774(8)  | Ba2-O15#5     | 2.939(9)  |
| B1-O3       | 1.374(10) | B3-O5         | 1.481(11) |
| B1-O5       | 1.372(11) | B3-O6         | 1.460(11) |
| B1-O1       | 1.360(11) | B3-O8         | 1.476(10) |
| B2-O4       | 1.441(11) | B3#3-O7       | 1.487(11) |
| B2-O9       | 1.465(12) | B4-O4         | 1.452(10) |
| B2-O13      | 1.478(12) | B4-O6         | 1.470(10) |
| B2#6-O1     | 1.469(12) | B4-O3#1       | 1.502(10) |
| B5-O7       | 1.368(11) | B4-O10#8      | 1.497(11) |
| B5-O8       | 1.364(11) | B4#6-O3       | 1.502(11) |
| B5-O10      | 1.368(11) | B4#3-O10      | 1.497(11) |
| N1-O12      | 1.237(12) | N1-O15        | 1.276(12) |
| N1-O16      | 1.222(12) | O5-B1-O3      | 122.8(8)  |
| O1-B1-O3    | 121.5(8)  | O1-B1-O5      | 115.7(7)  |
| O4-B2-O9    | 106.8(7)  | O4-B2-O1#1    | 111.9(7)  |
| O4-B2-O13   | 109.7(8)  | O9-B2-O1#1    | 109.6(8)  |
| O9-B2-O13   | 109.6(7)  | O1#1-B2-O13   | 109.1(7)  |
| O5-B3-O7#8  | 108.9(7)  | O6-B3-O5      | 108.2(7)  |
| O6-B3-O7#8  | 110.8(7)  | O6-B3-O8      | 112.8(7)  |
| O8-B3-O5    | 106.7(7)  | O8-B3-O7#8    | 109.3(7)  |
| O4-B4-O3#1  | 111.9(7)  | O4-B4-O6      | 110.5(7)  |
| O4-B4-O10#8 | 111.2(7)  | O6-B4-O3#1    | 106.9(6)  |
| O6-B4-O10#8 | 110.0(7)  | O10#8-B4-O3#1 | 106.0(6)  |
| O8-B5-O7    | 114.9(8)  | O8-B5-O10     | 123.0(8)  |
| O10-B5-O7   | 122.1(8)  | O12-N1-O15    | 117.7(9)  |
| O16-N1-O12  | 121.3(10) | O16-N1-O15    | 121.0(10) |

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1 1+x,+y,+z; #2 1+x,1/2-y,1/2+z; #3 +x,1/2-y,1/2+z; #4 1-x,1-y,1-z; #5 2-x,1-y,2-z; #6 -1+x,+y,+z; #7 -1+x,1/2-y,-1/2+z; #8 +x,1/2-y,-1/2+z

**Table S3.** crystal data and structure refinement for  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2\text{OH}$

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Empirical formula   | $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$               | $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2\text{OH}^{[b]}$                                   |
| Formula weight  | 606.80   | 507.7480  |
| Temperature   | 301.0  | Room temperature  |
| Crystal system, space group   | Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$   | Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$  |
| Unit cell dimensions  | $a = 6.6406(6)$ ,<br>$b = 22.157(2) \text{ \AA}$ , $\beta = 101.980(4)^\circ$<br>$c = 8.7863(6)$ , | $a = 6.713(2)$ ,<br>$b = 16.480(5) \text{ \AA}$ , $\beta = 106.80(3)^\circ$<br>$c = 8.387(3)$ , |
| Volume  | $1264.60(19) \text{ \AA}^3$  | $888.3(5) \text{ \AA}^3$  |
| Z, Calculated density   | 4, $3.187 \text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$  | $4,3.80 \text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$   |
| Absorption coefficient  | $6.287 \text{ mm}^{-1}$  | /   |
| $F(000)$  | 1120.0   | /   |
| Theta range for data collection   | 1.84 to $27.51^\circ$  | /   |
| Limiting indices  | $-8 \leq h \leq 8$ , $-25 \leq k \leq 28$ , $-11 \leq l \leq 11$                                   | /   |
| Reflections collected / unique  | 12257 / 2904 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0818$ ]  | /   |
| Completeness  | 99.6%  | /   |
| Data / restraints / parameters  | 2904/11/232  | /   |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$  | 1.079  | /   |
| Final R indices [Fo <sup>2</sup> > 2σ(Fo <sup>2</sup> )] <sup>[a]</sup> | $R_1 = 0.0398$ , $wR_2 = 0.0899$   | /   |
| R indices (all data) <sup>[a]</sup>                                     | $R_1 = 0.0502$ , $wR_2 = 0.1012$   | /   |
| Largest diff. peak and hole   | 1.46 and -1.33e· $\text{\AA}^{-3}$   | /   |

[a] $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_o|$  and  $wR_2 = [\Sigma w (F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \Sigma w F_o^4]^{1/2}$  for  $F_o^2 > 2\sigma(F_o^2)$

[b]O. Ferro, S. Merlini, S. A. Vinogradova, D. Y. Pushcharovsky and O. V. Dimitrova, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2000, **305**, 63-71.

**Table S4.** All of the borate-nitrates up till now

| Type of the element      | The formula of the compound  | B-O anion framework   | ICSD No. or reference |
|--------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| Alkali metal             | K <sub>3</sub> Na[B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> (OH) <sub>3</sub> ]NO <sub>3</sub>   | Isolated [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> (OH) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | 427967                |
|                          | Na <sub>3</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> )[B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ]  | <sup>3</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>   | 97687                 |
|                          | Na <sub>3-x</sub> K <sub>x</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ]NO <sub>3</sub> (x = 0.5, 0.6, 0.7)  | <sup>3</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>   | 432294-432296         |
|                          | M <sub>3</sub> B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> )(M=K,Rb)   | <sup>3</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>10</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>   | [a]                   |
|                          | Cs <sub>3</sub> B <sub>8</sub> O <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>   | <sup>3</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>8</sub> O <sub>13</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>   | [b]                   |
| Lanthanide series metals | Ce[B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]NO <sub>3</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O  | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>2-</sup>                    | 262731                |
|                          | La[B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)]NO <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O   | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)] <sup>2-</sup>                                      | 426014                |
|                          | La[B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)H <sub>2</sub> O]NO <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O   | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O)] <sup>2-</sup>                    | [c]                   |
|                          | Lu <sub>2</sub> B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O   | Isolated [B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>4-</sup>   | 430158                |
|                          | Pr[B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>0.87</sub> ]NO <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O                                  | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>0.87</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>   | 433274                |
|                          | RE[B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>x</sub> ]NO <sub>3</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O<br>[RE = Nd (x = 0.85), Sm (x = 0)] | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>x</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>      | 431164                |
| Np                       | K <sub>2</sub> [(NpO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> B <sub>10</sub> O <sub>16</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ]         | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> (OH)] <sup>2-</sup>                                      | 168519                |
| Pb                       | [Pb <sub>6</sub> (μ <sub>4</sub> -O) <sub>4</sub> (BO <sub>3</sub> )](NO <sub>3</sub> )  | Isolated [BO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | [d]                   |
|                          | H[Pb <sub>6</sub> (μ <sub>3</sub> -O) <sub>2</sub> (BO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>                          | Isolated [BO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | [d]                   |
|                          | H[Pb <sub>8</sub> (μ <sub>4</sub> -O) <sub>3</sub> (μ <sub>3</sub> -O)(BO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>       | Isolated [BO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | [d]                   |
|                          | Pb <sub>2</sub> (BO <sub>3</sub> )(NO <sub>3</sub> )   | Isolated [BO <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup>   | 428943                |
|                          | [Pb <sub>3</sub> (B <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> )](NO <sub>3</sub> )   | Isolated [B <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup>   | 250750                |
| Co,Ni,Cu,Zn,Cd           | M <sub>3</sub> B <sub>7</sub> O <sub>13</sub> (NO <sub>3</sub> )   | <sup>3</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>7</sub> O <sub>13</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup>   | [e]                   |
|                          | K <sub>7</sub> Ni[B <sub>18</sub> O <sub>24</sub> (OH) <sub>9</sub> ](NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ·(H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> )      | Isolated [B <sub>18</sub> O <sub>24</sub> (OH) <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>3-</sup><br>And H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> | 766                   |
|                          | Cd <sub>3</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> ·2NO <sub>3</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O                         | <sup>2</sup> <sub>∞</sub> [B <sub>6</sub> O <sub>9</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup>                        | 18367                 |

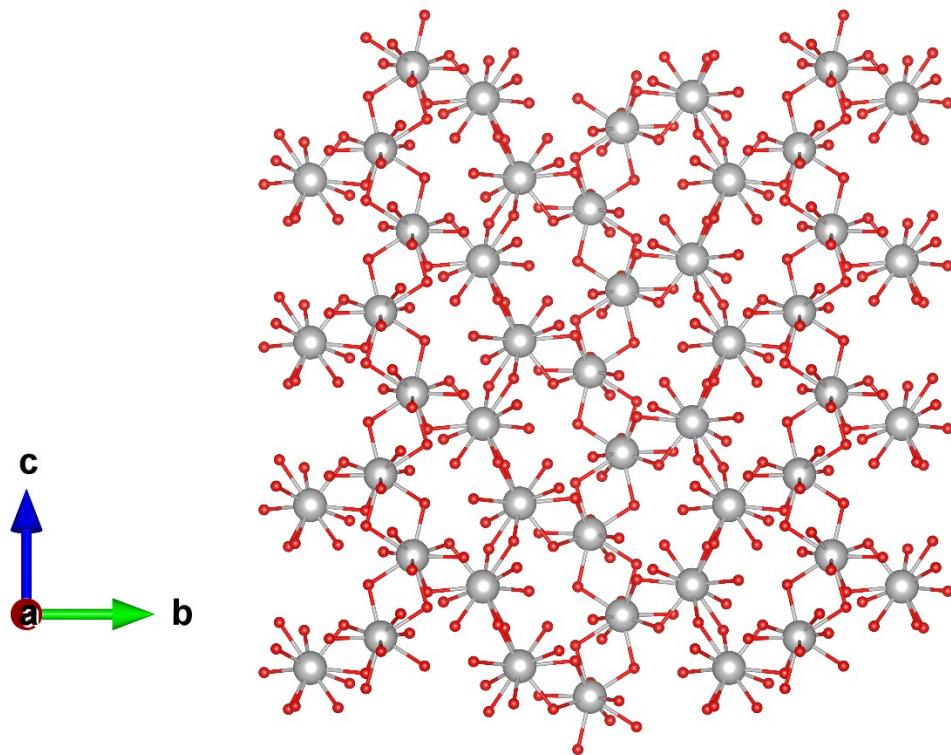
[a] Q. Q. Zhang, F. F. Zhang, F. M. Li, S. J. Han, Z. H. Yang and S. L. Pan, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*, **2021**, 1297-1304

[b] Z. L. Chen, C. F. Wu, H. Zeng and F. Yu, *Dalton Trans.*, **2021**, **50**, 8676-8679.

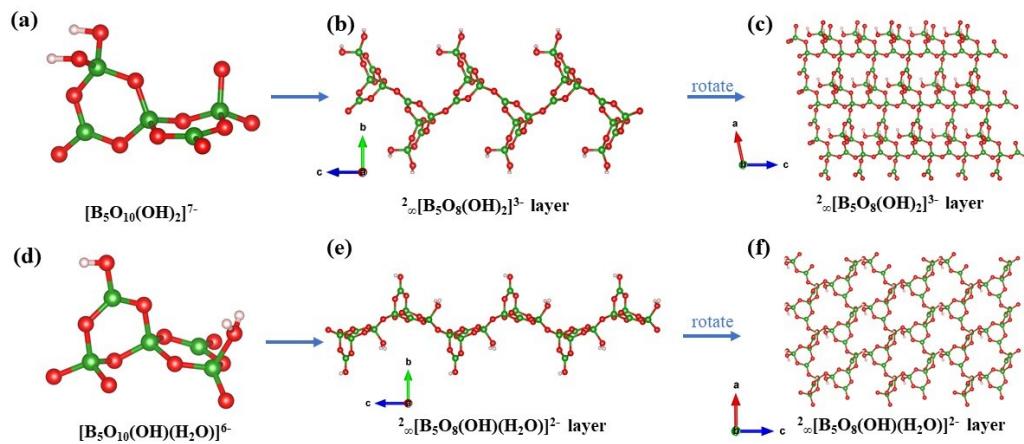
[c] L. Y. Li, G. B. Li, F. H. Liao and J. H. Lin, *Acta Phys. -Chim. Sin.*, **2005**, **21**, 769-773.

[d] J. L. Song, X. Xu, C. L. Hu, F. Kong and J. G. Mao, *CrystEngComm*, **2015**, **17**, 3953-3960.

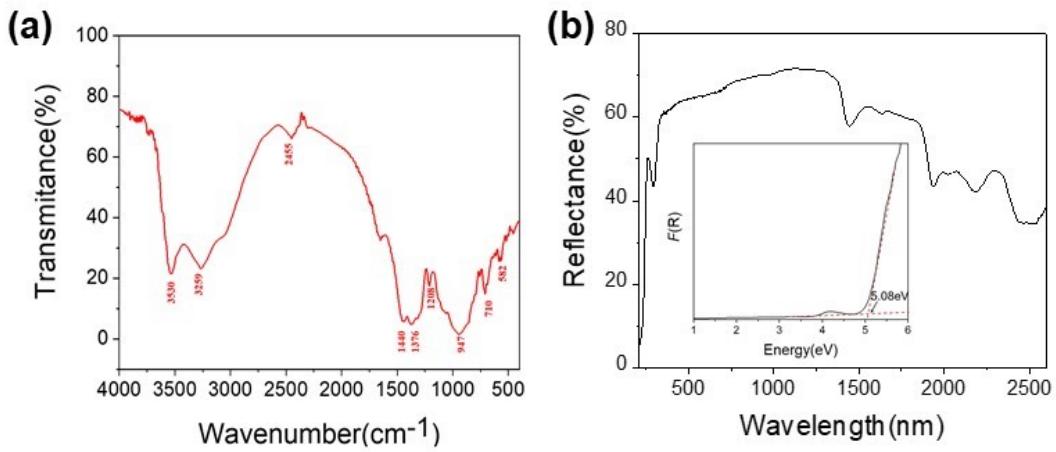
[e] T. A. Bither and H. S. Young, *J. Solid State Chem.*, **1974**, **10**, 302-311.



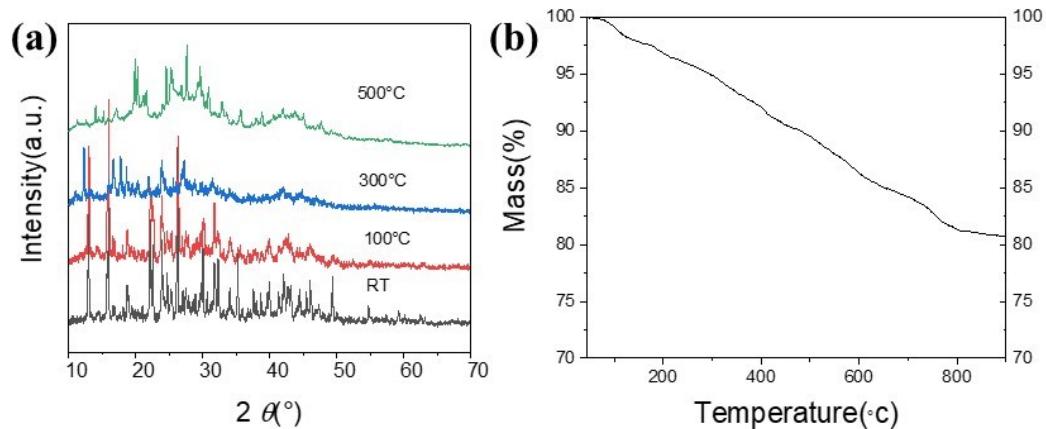
**Figure S1.** The Ba-O layer of  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$



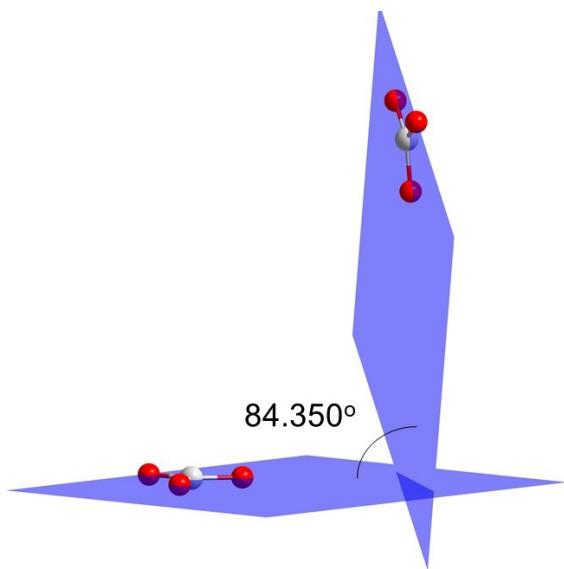
**Figure S2.** The B-O anions of  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Ce}[\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]\text{NO}_3\cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ . (a)(d) the fundamental basic units, (b)(c) the  $2_{\infty}[\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2]^{3-}$  layer and (e)(f) the  $2_{\infty}[\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^{2-}$  layer of  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Ce}[\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]\text{NO}_3\cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , respectively.



**Figure S3.** (a) infrared spectra and (b) UV-Vis-NIR diffuse reflectance of  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$



**Figure S4.** (a) PXRD and (b) TG curves of  $\text{Ba}_2\text{B}_5\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at different temperatures.



**Figure S5.** The dihedral angles of the nonparallel arrangement  $[\text{NO}_3^-]$  anions