# New insights into the intercalation chemistry of Al(OH)<sub>3</sub>: supporting information

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Μ	M′	Volume M nitrate	Volume M' nitrate	M : M' ratio in
		solution / mL	solution / mL	LDH
Zn	Ni	5.0	5.0	1.00 : 39.4
Zn	Ni	8.5	1.5	1.00 : 6.26
Zn	Ni	9.0	1.0	1.00 : 1.98
Zn	Ni	9.2	0.8	1.00 : 2.38
Zn	Ni	9.5	0.5	1.00 : 0.80
Zn	Ni	9.7	0.3	1.00 : 0.70
Zn	Со	2.0	8.0	1.00 : 3.79
Zn	Co	4.0	6.0	1.00 : 1.46
Zn	Co	5.0	5.0	1.00 : 0.97
Zn	Co	6.0	4.0	1.00 : 0.70
Zn	Co	8.0	2.0	1.00 : 0.24
Со	Ni	5.0	5.0	1.00 : 35.6
Со	Ni	9.0	1.0	1.00 : 5.34

**Table S1:** Synthesis conditions for the three-metal LDHs.

Atom	Site	X	у	Z	Occupancy	U <sub>iso</sub>
Al1	4e	0.66048	0.00742	0.66981	0.8863	0
Zn2	4e	0.66049	0.00742	0.66981	0.1137	0
A13	4e	0.34658	0.0038	0.82421	0.8863	0
Zn4	4e	0.34657	0.0038	0.8242	0.1137	0
A15	2a	0	0	1	0.45481	0
Zn6	2a	0	0	1	0.54519	0
O7	4e	0.68114	0.06556	0.84139	1.0	0.06673
08	4e	0.66879	-0.0574	0.8271	1.0	0.06556
09	4e	0.35107	0.04988	0.99689	1.0	0.06556
O10	4e	0.51492	-0.06869	0.5103	1.0	0.06556
011	4e	-0.00838	-0.05829	0.69094	1.0	0.06556
012	4e	0.31865	0.06462	0.65543	1.0	0.06556
013	4e	0.36515	0.33018	0.50704	1.0	0.16292
N14	4e	-0.00824	0.20425	0.49395	1.0	0.1446
015	4e	-0.19721	0.24691	0.38374	1.0	0.1446
016	4e	0.10874	0.23651	0.62413	1.0	0.1446

Table S2: Atomic coordinates and occupancies for ZnAl<sub>4</sub>-NO<sub>3</sub>.

## **Table S3:** Indexing of $[ZnAl_4(OH)_{24}](SO_4) \cdot yH_2O$

Monoclinic cell, a = 10.23 (1) Å, b = 8.875(3) Å, c = 17.03(2) Å,  $\beta$  = 95.79(14) °

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8.4351	8.4725	0.0374
	0	1	1	7.8203	7.8615	0.0412
	1	1	0	6.6663	6.6906	0.0244
	-1	1	1	6.3462	6.3690	0.0228
	1	1	1	6.0740	6.0868	0.0128
	-1	1	2	5.4166	5.4288	0.0122
	1	1	2	5.0849	5.0893	0.0044
	0	1	3	4.7632	4.7651	0.0019
	-2	0	2	4.5680	4.5730	0.0050
	0	0	4	4.2399	4.2362	-0.0036
	2	0	2	4.1834	4.1821	-0.0013
	-1	2	1	4.0064	3.9922	-0.0142
	-1	1	4	3.7006	3.6915	-0.0091
	2	2	0	3.3446	3.3453	0.0007
	-2	2	2	3.1784	3.1845	0.0061
	-3	0	3	3.0489	3.0486	-0.0002
	-1	3	2	2.7176	2.7165	-0.0011
	-3	2	3	2.5145	2.5127	-0.0017
	4	1	2	2.2920	2.2926	0.0006
	-3	1	6	2.2160	2.2151	-0.0009
	5	0	1	1.9996	1.9985	-0.0011
	-4	1	7	1.8110	1.8111	0.0001
	-1	3	8	1.7214	1.7214	0.0001
	-3	5	2	1.5597	1.5596	-0.0001
	-4	3	8	1.4838	1.4841	0.0003
	-5	2	8	1.4618	1.4618	0.0000
	-2	5	7	1.3998	1.3999	0.0000

## Table S4: Indexing of [CuZnAl<sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>24</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·8H<sub>2</sub>O

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8.4576	8.4958	0.0382
	0	1	1	7.8192	7.8465	0.0274
	0	1	3	4.7715	4.7699	-0.0015
	1	1	0	4.5416	4.5531	0.0116
	0	0	4	4.2460	4.2479	0.0019
	0	1	5	3.1756	3.1723	-0.0033
	0	2	4	3.0558	3.0638	0.0080
	1	3	0	2.5834	2.5780	-0.0054
	2	1	1	2.5155	2.5152	-0.0003
	0	2	6	2.3875	2.3850	-0.0026
	0	1	7	2.3408	2.3408	0.0000
	2	1	3	2.3194	2.3200	0.0006
	2	2	0	2.2776	2.2766	-0.0011
	2	2	3	2.1106	2.1123	0.0017
	1	4	1	2.0270	2.0270	0.0000
	2	2	4	2.0080	2.0066	-0.0015
	1	4	2	1.9839	1.9851	0.0012

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.311(4) Å, b = 8.847(6) Å, c = 16.99(1) Å

#### **Table S5:** Indexing of [Ni<sub>0.9</sub>Zn<sub>1.1</sub>Al<sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>24</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.320(8) Å, b = 8.823(11) Å, c = 17.28(3) Å

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0		0 (10)	0 ( 11 0	0.0054
	0	0	2	8.6136	8.6410	0.0274
	0	1	1	7.8731	7.8580	-0.0151
	0	1	1	7.8597	7.8580	-0.0017
	0	1	3	4.8363	4.8235	-0.0128
	0	0	4	4.2994	4.3205	0.0211
	1	2	2	3.1748	3.1605	-0.0143
	2	1	1	2.5120	2.5196	0.0076
	1	3	4	2.2115	2.2112	-0.0003
	1	2	7	2.0029	1.9969	-0.0060
	3	1	1	1.7306	1.7299	-0.0008
	1	4	8	1.4794	1.4822	0.0028
	2	3	8	1.4574	1.4567	-0.0007
	1	6	2	1.3986	1.3986	0.0000

### Table S6: Indexing of [CoZnAl<sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>24</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·5.5H<sub>2</sub>O

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8.5403	8.5611	0.0208
	0	1	1	7.8977	7.8455	-0.0522
	1	1	0	4.5817	4.5620	-0.0197
	0	0	4	4.2776	4.2805	0.0029
	0	1	5	3.1916	3.1926	0.0009
	0	2	4	3.0684	3.0727	0.0043
	2	1	1	2.5237	2.5230	-0.0007
	1	0	7	2.2228	2.2230	0.0003
	2	2	4	2.0102	2.0130	0.0028
	3	1	1	1.7323	1.7325	0.0001
	0	5	5	1.5696	1.5691	-0.0005
	3	1	6	1.4866	1.4865	-0.0001
	2	5	1	1.4657	1.4662	0.0005
	2	2	9	1.4619	1.4610	-0.0008

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.329(3) Å, b = 8.827(5) Å, c = 17.12(1) Å

Table S7: Indexing of the Cu/Ni/Al three-metal LDH system.

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.380(13) Å, b = 8.892(13) Å, c = 17.10(4) Å

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8 5363	8 5514	0.0151
	0	0	- 4	4.2801	4.2757	-0.0044
	1	2	0	3.4351	3.4271	-0.0080
	1	2	2	3.1736	3.1811	0.0075
	1	4	0	2.0545	2.0545	0.0000
	2	2	4	2.0265	2.0265	0.0000

Table S8: Indexing of [CoCuAl<sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>24</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.317(16) Å, b = 8.867(21) Å, c = 16.76(6) Å

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8.3020	8.3800	0.0780
	0	0	4	4.2056	4.1900	-0.0155
	1	2	2	3.1515	3.1545	0.0030
	1	4	1	2.0304	2.0309	0.0005
	2	2	4	2.0007	2.0027	0.0020
	2	3	0	1.9791	1.9765	-0.0025

## Table S9: Indexing of $[Co_{0.3}Ni_{1.7}Al_8(OH)_{24}](NO_3)_4 \cdot 2H_2O$

h	k	l		d[obs]/Å	d[calc]/Å	Residual
	0	0	2	8.6446	8.6248	-0.0198
	0	1	1	7.9509	7.8838	-0.0671
	0	0	4	4.3154	4.3124	-0.0030
	2	1	2	2.5182	2.5135	-0.0047
	1	4	2	1.9991	1.9995	0.0004
	2	4	6	1.4794	1.4797	0.0002
	3	2	6	1.4591	1.4600	0.0008

Orthorhombic cell, a = 5.503(1) Å, b = 8.864(12) Å, c = 17.25(4) Å