

Supporting Information

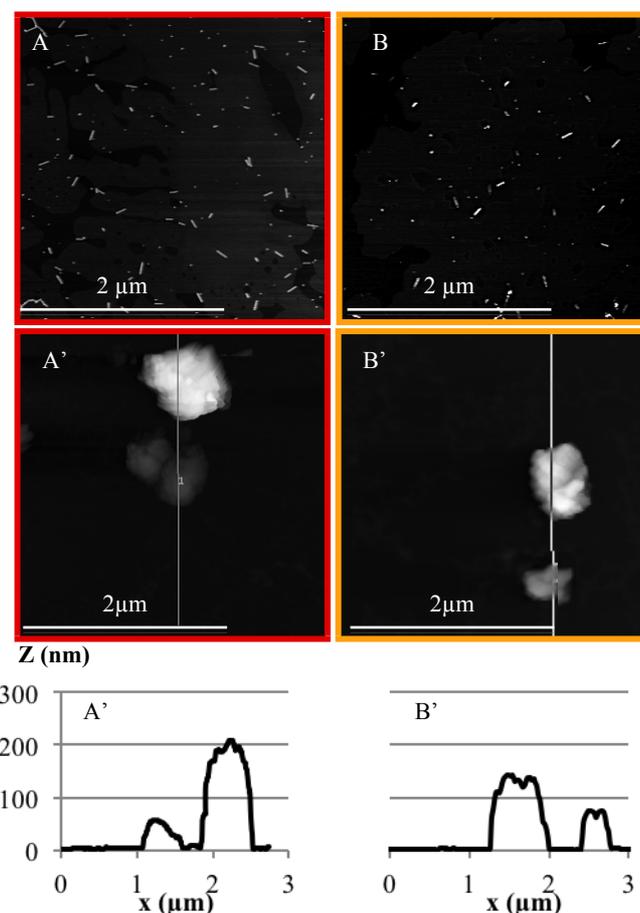


Figure 1: Typical atomic force microscopy images of 5p (A) and 10p (B) samples, large particles observed and their respective cross-section (A' and B')

These large particles about 50 to 200 nm height and 500nm length are suspected to be precipitated iron oxo/hydroxides identified from EXAFS linear combination fit.

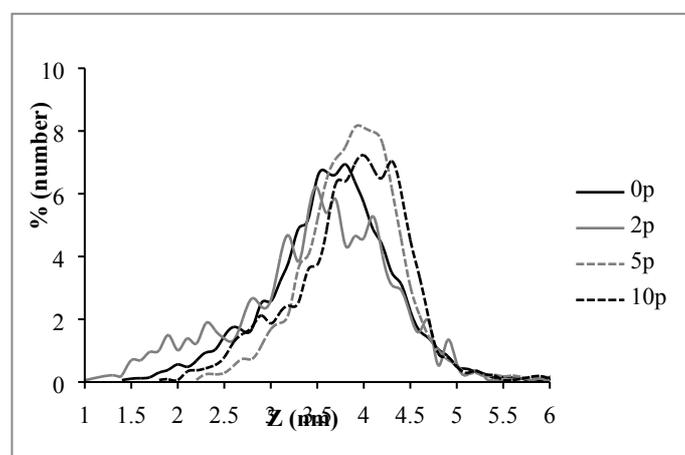


Figure 2 : Tube diameter distributions from AFM data (> 100 tubes, excluding aggregates).

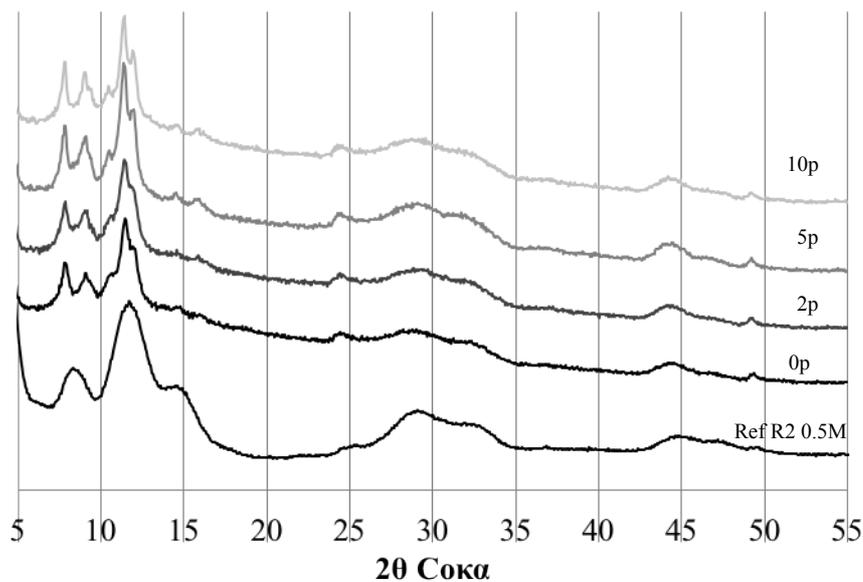


Figure 3: X-ray diffraction patterns of 0p ; 2p ; 5p and 10p Fe-Ge samples compared to DW- Ge imogolite model compounds (R2 0.5M) published in Levard *et al.*, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2011.

XRD results were compared to the diffractogram of a DW Ge-imogolite sample previously characterized by XAS in Levard *et al.*, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.*, 2011 used as model compound. The highly defined peaks observed for this sample could be due to a bundle organisation of the nanotubes. We do not see any differences between imogolite without iron (0p) and samples with (2p, 5p, 10p). Fe oxy/hydroxide were not detected on our XRD pattern, presumably because of their insufficient amount and/or amorphous structure.