

10-1-1997

Werdingite from the Urungwe District, Zimbabwe

Edward S. Grew

University of Maine - Main, esgrew@maine.edu

Martin G. Yates

Charles K. Shearer

Michael Wiedenbeck

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ers_facpub



Part of the [Earth Sciences Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Grew, Edward S.; Yates, Martin G.; Shearer, Charles K.; and Wiedenbeck, Michael, "Werdingite from the Urungwe District, Zimbabwe" (1997). *Earth Science Faculty Scholarship*. 119.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ers_facpub/119

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Earth Science Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 1997, VOL. 61, PP 713–718

Werdingite from the Urungwe District, Zimbabwe

Edward S. Grew
Martin G. Yates

*Department of Geological Sciences,
University of Maine,
Orono, Maine 04469, USA*

Charles K. Shearer

*Institute of Meteoritics,
University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque,
New Mexico 87131, USA*

Michael Wiedenbeck

*Advanced Materials Laboratory,
University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque,
New Mexico 87106, USA*

Introduction

WERDINGITE, $(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{Al}_{12}(\text{Al,Fe})_2\text{Si}_4\text{B}_2(\text{B,Al})_2\text{O}_{37}$, was originally described from a silica-undersaturated, prismatic-rich granulite-facies rock in the Namaqualand complex, Bok se Puts, South Africa, where it is inferred to have formed at 800–850°C, 4.5–6 kbar (Moore *et al.*, 1990; Waters and Moore, in prep.). Grew (1996) subsequently found werdingite in two granitic pegmatites cutting granulite-facies rocks (see also Grew *et al.*, in press) and in a specimen of silica-undersaturated grandierite-rich rock from a boron-rich zone in the Proterozoic Magondi belt in the Urungwe District, 60 km west-north-west of Karoi, northern Zimbabwe. The geologic situation and mineralogy of this zone has many features in common with those at the type locality. Grandierite, kornrupine and tourmaline were originally described from this zone by Anderson (1975) and are currently under study by Treloar (1995 and in prep.). Conditions of its crystallization were estimated to be 700–750°C, 5–6 kbar (Treloar and Kramers, 1989; Munyanyiwa *et al.*, 1993; Treloar, 1995 and in prep.). In the

present paper we report the details on the werdingite occurrence in the Urungwe District.

Geologic situation and mineralogy of the werdingite-bearing rocks

The rocks containing grandierite (55–75%) and subordinate kornrupine and tourmaline constitute a 'boron zone' in a sequence of enderbite and cordierite-garnet-biotite-sillimanite-bearing paragneisses; a spinel-rich contact zone lies between the paragneiss and the boron zone (Anderson, 1975; Treloar, 1995). The 'boron zone' is intruded concordantly by a pegmatite, but no boron minerals were reported from the pegmatite.

Specimen #144869, which the US National Museum of Natural History received from S. Anderson of the Geological Survey of Rhodesia in 1979, undoubtedly originated from Anderson's (1975) boron zone, although the locality is only given as 'Kariba area'. It is a dark-coloured rock consisting largely of randomly oriented grandierite prisms, and subordinate tourmaline, prismatic, hercynite, and ilmenite. Monazite, zircon, corundum,

sillimanite, biotite, and werdingite are present in traces. Magnetite, apatite and anorthite, which were reported by Anderson (1975) and Treloar (1995), were not found in #144869. Grandierite grains are subequant to elongate, mostly 0.3–0.7 mm across and up to 4 mm long, and are randomly oriented. Individual prismatic grains are up to 2 mm across and extinguish simultaneously; these appear to be lobes of a single prism roughly 1 cm long and 2 mm across. Tourmaline is dark brown in thin section, and typically occurs interstitial to grandierite grains or between grandierite and prismatic. It is commonly riddled with vermicules of hercynite, constituting a hercynite-tourmaline symplectite. A few tourmaline patches contain clusters of fine corundum platelets, which are texturally distinct from medium-grained corundum associated with medium-grained hercynite and ilmenite. Sillimanite is found interstitial to or enclosed in grandierite grains, near the center of some tourmaline patches, and enclosed in prismatic. Sillimanite habit ranges from tight clusters of fine prisms (0.01–0.02 mm across) in grandierite to individual grains 0.1–0.6 mm across. Hercynite in highly irregular grains commonly 1 to 2 mm across is more abundant than ilmenite. Biotite occurs with tourmaline or interstitially to grandierite.

Three grains of werdingite were found; all are enclosed in grandierite, and they measure 0.15–0.3 mm across (Fig. 1). They are characteristically surrounded by 'necklaces' of fine-grained hercynite in the host grandierite. Sillimanite occurs adjacent to one, possibly two, of these grains. Werdingite is recognized by its pale yellow pleochroism, twinning and birefringence exceeding that of sillimanite. Isolated clusters of hercynite in grandierite elsewhere in the thin section surround what could be werdingite not exposed on the surface of the thin section (Fig. 1B); clusters without any evident werdingite could mark the position of former werdingite grains.

Chemical composition of the minerals

Constituents with $Z \geq 9$ were analysed with an ARL SEMQ electron microprobe (EMP) at the University of Maine (15 kV accelerating voltage and 10 nA beam current). Li, Be and B were analysed using a Cameca IMS 4f ion microprobe (secondary ion mass spectrometry or SIMS) operated on the University of New Mexico (UNM) campus by a UNM-Sandia National Laboratories consortium. Details of the electron and ion microprobe analytical methods are given in Grew *et al.* (in press). In the case of Li, standards were matched as closely as possible with the unknowns in order to minimize matrix effects, that is, lithian schorl was used as a standard for tourmaline, and prismatic (sample BM1940,39) as a

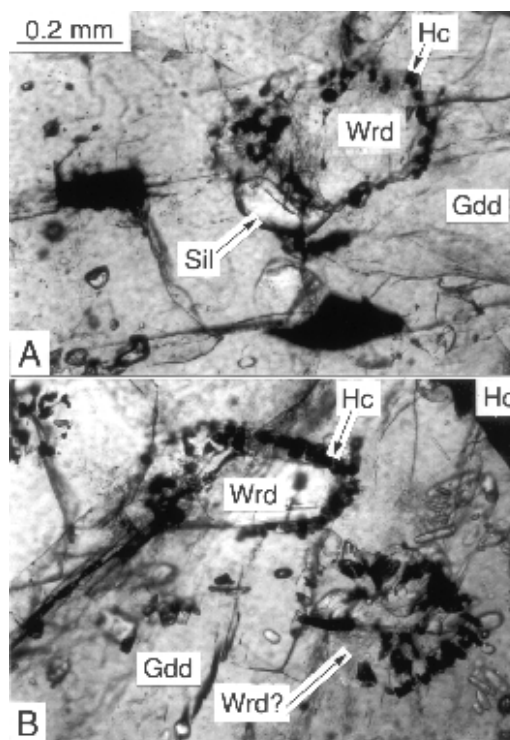


FIG. 1. Photomicrographs of werdingite grains (Wrd) surrounded by a 'necklace' of hercynite (Hc) in grandierite (Gdd) matrix. (A) Werdingite grain analysed by SIMS. Sil - sillimanite. (B) A second werdingite grain near a large hercynite. Wrd? is an aggregate of fine hercynite surrounding a grain that might be relict werdingite. Scale applies to both photos. Sample #144869, plane light.

standard for prismatic. For the other minerals, an average of the two standards was used.

The brown tourmaline, which was analysed at one spot only, is calcic ($Ca/(Ca+Na) = 0.71$) and deficient in large cations ($Ca+Na+K = 0.56$). The kornrupine-group mineral, also analysed at one spot only, is prismatic ($B > 0.5$ p.f.u., Grew *et al.*, 1996). In recalculating werdingite compositions to 37 O and assuming that the two grains not analysed by SIMS have the same B, Be and Li contents as the one grain analysed by SIMS (Table 1), cation totals ranged from 23.975 to 23.996, suggesting that all the Fe in werdingite is ferrous (Niven *et al.*, 1991). Hercynite in the 'necklaces' (3 analyses) around werdingite differ only slightly in composition from medium-grained hercynite (one analysis); it contains less Cr_2O_3 (0.05–0.09 wt.%) and Fe_2O_3 (2.9–3.1 wt.%, e.g. Table 2) and is more ferroan ($Fe^{2+}/(Fe^{2+} + Mg) =$

TABLE 1. Analyses of silicate minerals in #144869

	Weringite 1	Grandierite 1	Prismaticine	Tourmaline	Sillimanite ¹ Ave. of 2 SIMS
EMPA, wt.%					
SiO ₂	20.16	19.84	28.27	33.82	35.54
TiO ₂	b.d.	b.d.	0.11	1.17	b.d.
Al ₂ O ₃	60.87	50.48	42.07	34.68	62.45
Fe ₂ O ₃	—	—	—	—	0.92 ²
FeO	5.19 ³	9.03 ³	13.38 ³	7.11 ³	—
MnO	b.d.	0.10	0.27	b.d.	b.d.
MgO	3.83	8.98	9.99	6.35	0.20
CaO	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	2.09	b.d.
Na ₂ O	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	0.47	b.d.
K ₂ O	b.d.	b.d.	b.d.	0.19	b.d.
F	—	—	0.39	0.66	—
Cl	—	—	b.d.	0.01	—
SIMS, wt%					
Li ₂ O	0.008	<0.0001	0.14	0.0028	≤0.001
BeO	0.011	<0.0001	0.013	<0.0001	0.003
B ₂ O ₃	10.18	11.71	3.75	10.59	0.45
Calculated, wt%					
H ₂ O	—	—	0.98	3.33	—
O=F,Cl	—	—	-0.16	-0.28	—
Total	100.25	100.14	99.20	100.19	99.56
Formulae					
O	37	9	21.5	29	4.977
Si	4.046	0.991	3.631	5.561	0.961
Be	0.005	0	0.004	0	0
B	3.526	1.009	0.831	3.006	0.021
Ti	0	0	0.011	0.145	0
Al	14.396	2.970	6.368	6.721	1.991
Fe ³⁺	—	—	—	—	0.019
Fe ²⁺	0.871	0.377	1.437	0.978	—
Mn	0	0.004	0.029	0	0
Mg	1.146	0.668	1.913	1.557	0.008
Li	0.006	0	0.072	0.002	0
Ca	0	0	0	0.368	0
Na	0	0	0	0.150	0
K	0	0	0	0.040	0
Total	23.996	6.019	14.296	18.528	3.0 ⁴
F	—	—	0.158	0.343	—
Cl	—	—	0	0.003	—
OH _{calc}	—	—	0.842	3.654	—
X _{Fe²⁺}	0.43	0.36	0.43	0.39	—

EMPA = electron microprobe analysis, SIMS = secondary ion mass spectroscopy (ion probe), Calc = calculated
 b.d. = below detection, dash = not sought. In Tur, Prs: BaO are b.d.

¹Surrounded by tourmaline aggregate.

²All Fe presumed to be ferric.

³All Fe presumed to be ferrous.

⁴Sillimanite formula was normalized to 3 cations.

Table 2. Electron microprobe analyses of oxide minerals in #144869

	Hercynite coarse	Hercynite 'necklace'	Ilmenite
wt. %			
TiO ₂	b.d.	b.d.	50.75
Al ₂ O ₃	55.94	56.78	b.d.
V ₂ O ₃	0.08	0.08	0.08
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.24	0.09	b.d.
FeO _{meas.}	37.68	36.75	46.67
Fe ₂ O ₃	5.67*	3.13*	3.06*
FeO	32.58*	33.93*	43.92*
MnO	0.20	0.20	0.51
MgO	5.19	4.06	0.68
ZnO	0.09	0.16	b.d.
Total	99.99	98.43	99.00
Formulae			
O	4	4	3
Ti	0	0	0.970
Al	1.872	1.928	0
V	0.002	0.002	0.002
Cr	0.005	0.002	0
Fe ³⁺	0.121*	0.068*	0.059*
Fe ²⁺	0.774*	0.818*	0.933*
Mn	0.005	0.005	0.011
Mg	0.220	0.174	0.026
Zn	0.002	0.003	0
Total	3.001	3.000	2.001
X _{Fe²⁺}	0.78	0.82	0.97

b.d. = below detection.

*Ferric/ferrous ratio was calculated assuming O = 4,

Sum cations = 3 (hercynite) and O = 3,

Sum cations = 2 (ilmenite).

NiO b.d.

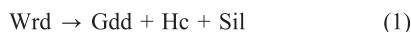
X_{Fe²⁺} = 0.79–0.82 vs. 0.78). Ilmenite (2 analyses) is calculated to contain 3.0–4.2 mole% hematite (e.g. Table 2).

Given the presence of significant Fe³⁺ in sillimanite (0.64–0.92 wt.% Fe₂O₃, e.g. Table 1) and oxides, it is possible that some Fe³⁺ is present in the other ferromagnesian borosilicates. However, there is no satisfactory method to estimate ferric/ferrous ratio in either prismatic or grandierite (Grew, 1996), or, for that matter, tourmaline, and thus Fe is assumed to be ferrous in these minerals. X_{Fe²⁺} increases (abbreviations in Fig. 2) Gdd (0.35–0.36) < Tur (0.39) < Wrđ (0.40–0.43) < Prs (0.43) ≪ Hc (0.78–0.82) < ilmenite (0.97–0.98), that is, slightly richer in iron (except Hc) than the similar sequence reported by Treloar (1995 and in prep.).

Among the silicates analysed by SIMS (Table 1), F increases Prs < Tur (one F maximum p.f.u. in Tur), Li increases Gdd, Sil < Tur < Wrđ < Prs and Be increases Gdd, Tur < Sil < Wrđ < Prs, trends also reported by Grew *et al.* (1990) for kornrupine *sensu lato*, grandierite and tourmaline. That is, these light elements are preferentially incorporated in prismatic, and secondarily, in werdingite.

Interpretation of the assemblage

Treloar (1995 and in prep.) suggested that prismatic and grandierite formed early during metamorphism of the Urungwe District boron-rich zone, and subsequently reacted to form tourmaline + hercynite (cf. Anderson, 1975). The assemblage formed at peak pressure-temperature conditions in sample #144869 is Gdd+Prs+Hc+Crn; Treloar (1995 and in prep.) reported this assemblage in other rocks from the boron-rich zone. Sillimanite is present throughout sample #144869, but mostly as inclusions. It appears to have formed early in the metamorphic evolution, and again later, but it does not appear to be part of the peak assemblage. Textural relations suggest that werdingite crystallized prior to grandierite and subsequently broke down to grandierite + hercynite. This reaction considered in isolation requires substantial metasomatism. Waters and Moore (in prep.) calculated from the proportion of grandierite and hercynite in symplectites at the type locality that the breakdown of werdingite to Gdd + Hc symplectite resulted from influx of Mg and Fe with little change in SiO₂, Al₂O₃ and B₂O₃. Figure 2 suggests that the local assemblage Wrđ+Sil+Hc+Gdd (Fig. 1A) in #144869 could have formed by one of two scenarios. In both, the textures are assumed to result from decreasing pressure during decompression in the early stages of retrogression (cordierite formation in associated metapelites, Treloar, 1995 and in prep.). In one, Wrđ broke down according to a continuous reaction in the FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ (FMAS) system open to B₂O₃:



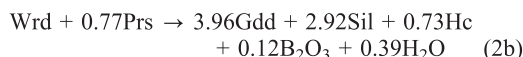
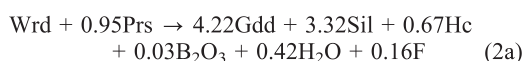
that is, the Gdd+Hc+Sil association became increasingly magnesian and replaced werdingite. Alternatively, werdingite could have been a major constituent that coexisted with prismatic in a precursor assemblage such as Prs+Wrđ+Gdd+Hc±Crn±Sil (the presence of Sil is suggested by the Sil inclusion in Prs; additional phases are possible if Fe₂O₃, F and/or B₂O₃ behaved as inert components). Subsequently, werdingite reacted with prismatic (Grew, 1996):



which proceeded almost to completion, leaving mere relics of werdingite. This reaction is discontinuous in

FMAS if the system had been open to F, Fe₂O₃, B₂O₃ and H₂O. The bulk composition was such that the amounts of grandidierite and hercynite greatly exceeded that of sillimanite, which ended up as inclusions in grandidierite.

The Urungwe assemblage bears close similarity to that at the type locality for werdingite at Bok se Puts, South Africa (Fig. 2). However, primary grandidierite is absent at Bok se Puts and there is no evidence for a stable Gdd + Sil join (Moore *et al.*, 1990; Waters and Moore, in preparation). Grew (1996) suggested that the Bok se Puts and Urungwe assemblages could be related by reaction 2. Calculating reaction 2 from formulae of the ferromagnesian minerals simplified from Moore *et al.* (1990), Waters and Moore (in prep. and Tables 1-2: ferric and ferrous iron are combined; Al₂SiO₅ used for sillimanite), we get, respectively, for Urungwe (2a) and Bok se Puts (2b):



Waters and Moore (in prep.) calculated that in the model MgO-Al₂O₃-B₂O₃-SiO₂ system open to H₂O, reactions of Wrd + Prs + Spl or Crn breakdown to Gdd + Sil would have positive slopes with Wrd + Prs on the high-pressure side. However, Waters and Moore (in prep.) noted that the sequence of reactions at Bok se Puts is consistent with the anticlockwise *P-T* trajectory inferred for this area only if the Wrd + Prs breakdown reactions had negative slopes with Wrd + Prs on the high-pressure side. The difference in the metamorphic temperatures at roughly equal pressures inferred for Bok se Puts (800–850°C) and Urungwe District (700–750°C) is also consistent with a negative slope, as is the absence of prismatic and presence of Gdd + Sil + Qtz in two pegmatites containing werdingite, which crystallized at 600–700°C, 3–4 kbar (Grew *et al.*, in press). If reaction 2 does have a negative slope, then Prs + Wrd dehydrates with decreasing temperature, an

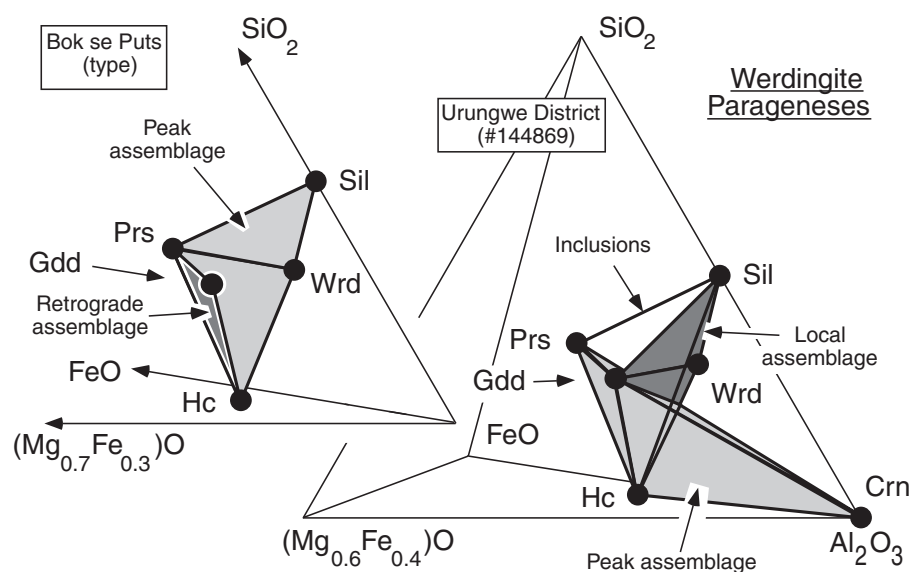
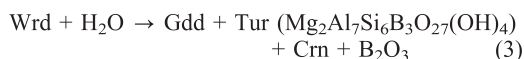


Fig. 2. Compatibilities among sillimanite (Sil), prismatic (Prs), werdingite (Wrd), corundum (Crn), hercynite (Hc) and grandidierite (Gdd) in the FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ system at Bok se Puts, South Africa (Moore *et al.*, 1990; Waters and Moore, in prep.) and in sample #144869, Urungwe District, Zimbabwe. The front faces of the tetrahedra are sections at the approximate Fe/Mg ratio of the ferromagnesian borosilicates. The B₂O₃ contents of the borosilicates are ignored in plotting, resulting in relationships for a system open to B₂O₃.

anomalous situation that has also been reported in experiments with a kornepupine-group mineral: B-free $\text{Krn} \rightarrow \text{enstatite} + \text{Crn} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Wegge and Schreyer, 1994; Werding and Schreyer, 1996).

Werdning and Schreyer (1992, 1996) reported the breakdown of werdingite in the $\text{MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ system at $P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 3\text{--}4.5$ kbar, $T = 650\text{--}750^\circ\text{C}$ as follows:



Despite the significant F, FeO and CaO contents of tourmaline and FeO contents of werdingite and grandidierite in #144869, as well as $P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \ll P_{\text{tot}}$ during metamorphism (Treloar and Kramers, 1989; Munyanyiwa *et al.*, 1993; Treloar, 1995 and in prep.), it is remarkable that the final assemblage in this rock, $\text{Tur} + \text{Crn} + \text{Sil} + \text{Gdd} + \text{Hc}$, turns out to be so close to Werding and Schreyer's breakdown assemblage. Moreover, the $P\text{--}T$ conditions estimated for Wrd breakdown in the Urungwe District granulite, $P \leq 6$ kbar, $T \approx 700\text{--}750^\circ\text{C}$, are comparable to the $P\text{--}T$ conditions Werding and Schreyer reported in their experiments.

Acknowledgements

We thank the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, for specimen number 144869 and Pete Dunn for background information on it. We also thank Peter Treloar and David Waters for generously providing information in advance of publication and for thoughtful comments on an earlier draft. The research was supported by US National Science Foundation grants EAR-91-18408 and EAR-95-26403 to the University of Maine. The ion microprobe data presented here were measured at the University of New Mexico/Sandia National Laboratories SIMS facility, a national user facility supported in part by NSF grant number EAR 95-06611.

References

- Anderson, S.M. (1975) Grandidierite and kornepupine: two boron-bearing minerals new to Rhodesia. *Ann. Rhodesian Geol. Surv.*, **1**, 49–59.
- Grew, E.S. (1996) Borosilicates (exclusive of tourmaline) and boron in rock-forming minerals in metamorphic environments. In *Boron: Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry* (E.S. Grew and L.M. Anovitz, eds.), *Mineral. Soc. Amer. Rev. Mineral.*, **33**, 387–502.
- Grew, E.S., Chernosky, J.V., Werding, G., Abraham, K., Marquez, N. and Hinthorne, J.R. (1990) Chemistry of kornepupine and associated minerals, a wet chemical, ion microprobe, and X-ray study emphasizing Li, Be, B and F contents. *J. Petrol.*, **31**, 1025–70.
- Grew, E.S., Cooper, M.A. and Hawthorne, F.C. (1996) Prismatic: revalidation for boron-rich compositions in the kornepupine group. *Mineral Mag.*, **60**, 483–91.
- Grew, E.S., Yates, M. G., Huijsmans, J.P.P., McGee, J.J., Shearer, C.K., Wiedenbeck, M. and Rouse, R.C. (in press) Werdingite, a borosilicate new to pegmatites. *Canad. Mineral.*
- Moore, J.M., Waters, D.J. and Niven, M.L. (1990) Werdingite, a new borosilicate mineral from the granulite facies of the western Namaqualand metamorphic complex, South Africa. *Amer. Mineral.*, **75**, 415–20.
- Munyanyiwa, H., Touret, J.L.R. and Jelsma, H.A. (1993) Thermobarometry and fluid evolution of enderbites within the Magondi Mobile Belt, northern Zimbabwe. *Lithos*, **29**, 163–76.
- Niven, M.L., Waters, D.J. and Moore, J.M. (1991) The crystal structure of werdingite, $(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{Al}_{12}(\text{Al,Fe})_2\text{Si}_4(\text{B,Al})_4\text{O}_{37}$, and its relationship to sillimanite, mullite, and grandidierite. *Amer. Mineral.*, **76**, 246–56.
- Treloar, P.J. (1995) The regional setting and significance of a grandidierite-kornepupine-tourmaline assemblage from granulite facies rocks of northern Zimbabwe. Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland and Geological Society of London, *Research in Progress and Annual General Meeting, Programme and Abstracts*.
- Treloar, P.J. and Kramers, J.D. (1989) Metamorphism and geochronology of granulites and migmatitic granulites from the Magondi Mobile Belt, Zimbabwe. *Precamb. Res.*, **45**, 277–89.
- Wegge, S. and Schreyer, W. (1994) Boron-free kornepupine: its upper pressure stability limit in the system $\text{MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ (MASH). *Eur. J. Mineral.*, **6**, 67–75.
- Werdning, G. and Schreyer, W. (1992) Synthesis and stability of werdingite, a new phase in the system $\text{MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2$ (MABS), and another new phase in the ABS-system. *Eur. J. Mineral.*, **4**, 193–207.
- Werdning, G. and Schreyer, W. (1996) Experimental studies on borosilicates and selected borates. In *Boron: Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry* (E.S. Grew and L.M. Anovitz, eds.), *Mineral. Soc. Amer. Rev. Mineral.*, **33**, 117–63.

[Manuscript received 19 November 1996:
revised 27 February 1997]

© Copyright the Mineralogical Society

KEYWORDS: werdingite, grandidierite, prismatic, Zimbabwe.