

# Unique but diverse: some observations on the formation, structure and morphology of halloysite

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**ABSTRACT:** New insights from the recent literature are summarized and new data presented concerning the formation, structure and morphology of halloysite. Halloysite formation by weathering always requires the presence of water. Where substantial drying occurs, kaolinite is formed instead. Halloysite formation is favoured by a low pH. The octahedral sheet is positively charged at  $\text{pH} < \sim 8$ , whereas the tetrahedral sheet is negatively charged at  $\text{pH} > \sim 2$ . The opposing sheet charge would facilitate interlayer uptake of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules. When halloysite intercalates certain polar organic molecules, additional (*hkl*) reflections appear in the X-ray diffraction pattern, suggesting layer re-arrangement which, however, is dissimilar to that in kaolinite. Associated oxides and oxyhydroxides of Fe and Mn may limit the growth of halloysite particles as does incorporation of Fe into the structure. Particles of different shape and Fe content may occur within a given sample of halloysite.

**KEYWORDS:** water, pH, iron, particle size, morphology, organic complexes, 2-layer structure.

Since halloysite was first described by Berthier (1826), the clay mineral has attracted a great deal of attention and interest. Halloysite has the same chemical composition as kaolinite but, unlike kaolinite, can intercalate up to two molecules of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  per  $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$  unit cell (Hofmann *et al.*, 1934; Mehmel, 1935; MacEwan, 1947; Churchman & Carr, 1975). Advanced instrumental techniques have revealed interesting and surprising features about the particle morphology and composition of halloysite.

A surprising feature, observed by electron microscopy, is that halloysite particles are commonly fibrous (Alexander *et al.*, 1943) whereas kaolinite is platy with a hexagonal outline. Furthermore, halloysite samples from different localities can adopt a variety of particle

shapes, including spheroidal, platy and prismatic, in addition to being fibrous or tubular (Joussein *et al.*, 2005; Churchman, 2015; Moon *et al.*, 2015).

Halloysites are also distinguishable from kaolinites by their infrared (IR) and Raman spectra, thermal analysis patterns, and reactivity towards ionic and polar organic compounds. In combination with X-ray diffraction (XRD), these measurements have led to the suggestion that halloysite is a highly disordered form of kaolin (Churchman & Carr, 1975; Joussein *et al.*, 2005; Churchman, 2015).

Aspects of the identity of halloysite remain controversial, even after many reviews and critical articles (MacEwan, 1947; Churchman & Carr, 1975; Bailey, 1990; Joussein *et al.*, 2005; Churchman, 2015; Guggenheim, 2015; Joussein, 2016). There are still fundamental questions about the structure of halloysite, with implications for its nomenclature and identification.

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Since its discovery, halloysite has usually been described and defined in terms of its differences from kaolinite, the essential difference being the presence of interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O in halloysite. This feature led Churchman & Carr (1975) to define halloysites as “those minerals with a kaolin layer structure which either contain interlayer water in their natural state, or for which there is unequivocal evidence of their formation by dehydration from kaolin minerals containing interlayer water”. Strictly speaking, the interlayer water in halloysite should be denoted as “H<sub>2</sub>O” or “H<sub>2</sub>O molecules” (Clay Minerals Society, 2015).

This definition is consistent with the formamide test for dehydrated halloysite, giving an XRD pattern that is difficult to distinguish from that of a highly disordered kaolinite (Churchman *et al.*, 1984). Thus, when formamide is added to a sample containing halloysite that has lost interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O, the compound rapidly enters the interlayer space, expanding it to a similar extent as H<sub>2</sub>O. Although kaolinite can also intercalate formamide, the process requires several hours. Furthermore, halloysites expand more readily than kaolinites on intercalation of polar molecules other than formamide (Theng *et al.*, 1984; Churchman, 1990, 2015), reflecting the “priming” effect of H<sub>2</sub>O in expanding the interlayer space. Although the formamide test is used widely and generally accepted (Christidis, 2013; Lagaly *et al.*, 2013; Środoń, 2013), it fails with samples that have been pre-heated (Churchman *et al.*, 1984). The test may also fail with halloysites that form during periods of high temperature and dehydration (Churchman & Gilkes, 1989; Janik & Keeling, 1993). The formamide test is also ineffective with K<sup>+</sup>-selective halloysite samples (Takahashi *et al.*, 1993, 2001), apparently because of interstratification of 2:1 aluminosilicate layers (Joussein *et al.*, 2005, 2007). Nonetheless, a positive formamide test would show the presence of halloysite.

Probably the most controversial contribution to the literature on halloysite in the past few decades has been that of Bailey (1990) who proposed that H<sub>2</sub>O is attracted to, and retained in, the interlayer of halloysite because its layer charge is greater (more negative) than that of kaolinite. Hydrated cations then enter the interlayer space to balance the negative layer charge. Bailey (1990) has further postulated that the excess negative charge in halloysite (over that in kaolinite) arises from a small, but significant, substitution of Al<sup>3+</sup> for Si<sup>4+</sup> in the tetrahedral sheet. This postulate, however, is inconsistent with <sup>27</sup>Al nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analyses by Newman *et al.* (1994)

which indicated that halloysites have similar Al(IV) contents to standard kaolinite.

Here we summarize the most recent information on the formation, structure and morphology of halloysites to augment or amend that given in the reviews by Joussein *et al.* (2005) and Guggenheim (2015). In addition, some new data are presented.

## FORMATION

Like kaolinite, halloysite is formed as an alteration product of weathering or hydrothermal activity. In general, kaolinization is favoured by warm, wet and mildly acidic conditions when K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> ions can flow through the solution, and some loss of SiO<sub>2</sub> can occur through leaching (Galán, 2006; Keeling, 2015). At the “type” locality of halloysite (Berthier, 1826), the mineral formed from sulfide oxidation leading to acidified groundwater passing through sandy sediments overlying limestone. Halloysite formed where Al, released by the acidified groundwater, combined with Si, and was precipitated on meeting a pH gradient (Dupuis & Ertus, 1995; Keeling, 2015). The extensive deposits of halloysite at Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico (Polyak & Güven, 1996), Djebel Debbagh, Algeria (Renac & Assassi, 2009) and Camel playa lake, South Australia (Keeling *et al.*, 2010), formed through a similar process. In the South Australian case, halloysite formation was promoted by acidified groundwater discharged from underlying lignite sands beneath a limestone cover.

The fluids responsible for mineral alteration may be hydrothermal, as in occurrences of halloysite in Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Thailand and China as well as of the commercial Dragon halloysite mine in Utah (Keeling, 2015). The world’s dominant source of halloysite, at Matauri Bay in northern New Zealand, was thought to have been formed by hydrothermal activity, in combination with weathering of (rhyolitic/basaltic) volcanic deposits. Brathwaite *et al.* (2012, 2014), however, showed that weathering was the primary agent of alteration, as was the case for halloysites in Poland, Brazil and Argentina (Keeling, 2015). The following discussion concerns recent investigations of the formation of halloysite by weathering.

Halloysite occurs in surface horizons of soils worldwide, often through weathering of volcanic parent materials (*e.g.* Fieldes & Swindale, 1954; Fieldes, 1968; Tazaki, 1979; Parfitt *et al.*, 1983; Stevens & Vucetich, 1985; Lowe, 1986; Mizota & van Reeuwijk, 1989; Lowe & Percival, 1993; Torn *et al.*, 1997; Churchman, 2000; Rasmussen *et al.*, 2007;

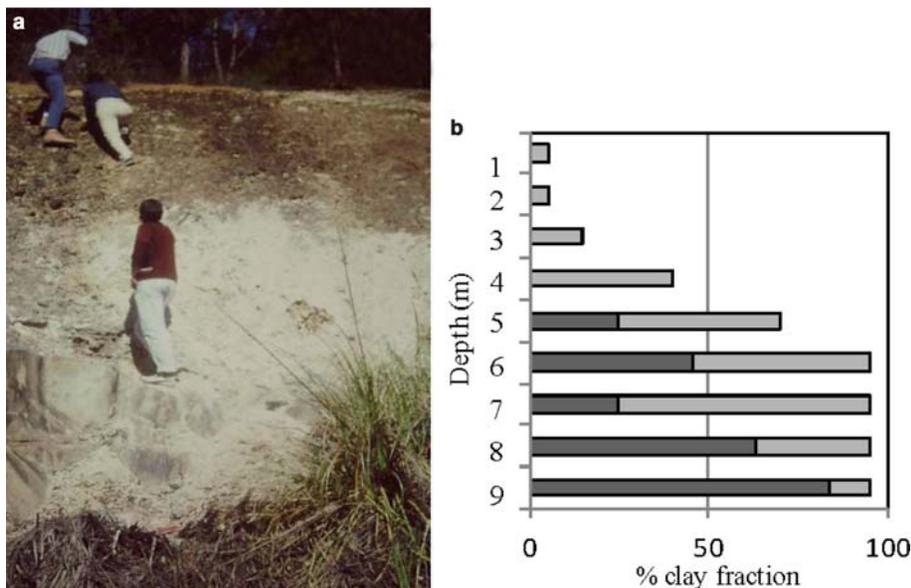


FIG. 1. (a) Lateritic profile on dolerite at Jarrahdale, Western Australia; and (b) halloysite (dark shade) and kaolinite (light shade) measured as fractions of the clay content by expansion with formamide in the profile shown in (a) (data from Churchman & Gilkes, 1989). The profile in (a) spans 8–9 m from the surface to the saprolite above the consolidated rock on which the lower person is standing.

Churchman & Lowe, 2012). Halloysite also occurs within weathering profiles formed on many other rock types (Churchman, 2000; Joussein *et al.*, 2005). These profiles have formed in a variety of climates, including tropical (*e.g.* Eswaran & Heng, 1976; Eswaran & Wong, 1978), temperate (*e.g.* Calvert *et al.*, 1980; Churchman, 1990), and Mediterranean or xeric (*e.g.* Churchman & Gilkes, 1989; Takahashi *et al.*, 2001; Singer *et al.*, 2004; Churchman & Lowe, 2012). In many profiles, there is substantial halloysite at depth but little or none at the surface of the corresponding soils. Commonly, halloysite is replaced by kaolinite as the dominant clay mineral towards the top of weathering profiles. Not many studies have quantified the mineralogical changes with depth, but an example is shown in Fig. 1.

In the profile on dolerite, described by Churchman & Gilkes (1989) (Fig. 1a,b), only halloysite among kaolin minerals appears at the lowest depth sampled (in saprolite). A substantial proportion of halloysite is also found in the sample to 4.5 m depth, within the middle to upper part of the “mottled zone”. Kaolinite, by contrast, occurs in samples from 7.5 m depth, within the pallid zone, up into the highly laterized surface of the profile. The concentration of kaolinite diminishes gradually from 3.5 m, at the top of the mottled zone, to the surface. Of the other secondary minerals in these two profiles, gibbsite occurs throughout the profile but,

together with kaolinite and halloysite, is displaced as the dominant secondary mineral by boehmite at the surface (Churchman & Gilkes, 1989). In a deeply weathered profile under a tropical climate (Eswaran & Wong, 1978), halloysite decreases gradually from ~50% (presumably of the whole sample) at about midway in the “weathering rock” layer at >15 m, to ~5% at the surface, in the A horizon of the “pedological profile”. By contrast, kaolinite does not appear until the top of the “pallid zone” at ~10 m, from where it shows a steady increase to ~20% at or near the surface of the pedological (soil) profile. In the profile studied by Eswaran & Wong (1978), considerable gibbsite persists throughout the profile down into the pallid zone.

More relevant to the formation of either halloysite or kaolinite is the appearance of goethite in both profiles, from the surface down into the mottled zone in each case. This finding indicates that oxidation has occurred as far down as the mottled zone, implying seasonal drying with depth into this zone. Halloysite apparently forms first in each case, with kaolinite forming in addition to, or else following dissolution of, the halloysite. Little, if any, halloysite, however, is found alongside goethite, whereas the formation of kaolinite is usually favoured over that of halloysite in zones of the profiles where intense seasonal drying has occurred. Nonetheless, halloysite may form and

persist where drying is weak. Thus 7 Å halloysite, rather than kaolinite, is formed in volcanic deposits or soils where some dehydration occurs (*e.g.* Lowe, 1986; Singer *et al.*, 2004). Lowe (1986) found that 7 Å halloysite predominated in the surface horizons of a soil developed on weathered tephra in northern New Zealand that had been subjected to common, but mild, seasonal drying whereas 10 Å halloysite occurred in deeper horizons that were less affected by such dehydration. An intermediate zone of halloysite with XRD peaks between 10 and 7 Å occurred between upper and lower subsoil horizons (Lowe & Nelson, 1994; Churchman & Lowe, 2012).

In comparing one zone of weathering across different sites in Hong Kong, Churchman *et al.* (2010) found different occurrences of saprolites, formed under the same climatic conditions. Each of these produced veins consisting of layers of infill largely containing neo-formed kaolin minerals, either halloysite or kaolinite, or both species of minerals together. Occurrences of kaolinite were accompanied by evidence of oxidation, and hence substantial drying. Neo-formed halloysite occurred in the absence of oxidized products, indicating the need for water to exist on a more or less continuous basis for halloysite to form and persist.

Figure 2 shows white veins of infill rich in kaolin minerals, occurring in granite (Fig. 2a) and volcanic tuff (Fig. 2b). In the former instance, the veins do not contain clear visual evidence for either iron or manganese oxide. By contrast, the veins in tuff are both flanked and streaked throughout by black Mn oxide mottles, indicative of oxidation and drying. The infill in granite contains long halloysite tubes, often parallel to one another and occurring in bunches (Fig. 2c), whereas that in tuff (Fig. 2d) contains well formed kaolinite plates. Halloysite formed and persisted where the saprolite remained moist, as indicated by a lack of oxides, whereas kaolinite formed under otherwise similar climatic conditions but where drying occurred, leading to the formation of oxides.

Similarly, thick sequences of 10 Å halloysite-dominated soil materials formed from weathered rhyolitic (siliceous) tephra and volcanoclastic deposits. Dating from ~0.93 Ma in the Bay of Plenty region, northern New Zealand, the deposits have large natural water contents – near permanent saturation – and low permeability. The pore water in this locally wet environment is rich in Si, derived largely from dissolution of volcanic glass shards and plagioclase. These conditions are ideal for the formation of halloysite rather than allophane (Moon *et al.*, 2015). The soil materials may contain ≤5% of dispersed

MnO<sub>2</sub> redox concentrations, generally small masses or concretions, indicative of intermittent drying (Moon *et al.*, 2015). Drying, however, is only short-term because prolonged dehydration would lead to kaolinite (which is not present) being formed (Papoulis *et al.*, 2004; Churchman *et al.*, 2010).

Our investigation of depth profiles, saprolites, and weathered volcanic deposits, under different moisture regimes, indicates that halloysite formation is favoured by the continuous presence of water.

As already noted, halloysite differs from other members of the kaolin sub group (kaolinite, dickite, nacrite), in having interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O at the time of formation. Why and how halloysite intercalates water molecules, however, is as yet unclear. Bailey's (1990) proposal, described above, has been discredited as a general explanation for all halloysites. Quasi-elastic scattering analysis by Bordallo *et al.* (2008), for example, indicates that no exchangeable cations are associated with interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O in halloysite. The conditions under which halloysites form in nature may provide a clue to the presence of interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O as do situations where halloysites are not formed when most conditions suitable for their formation appear to be present.

Several studies in North Island, New Zealand (Parfitt *et al.*, 1983, 1984; Parfitt & Wilson, 1985; Churchman & Lowe, 2012), have shown that the weathering of rhyolitic or andesitic volcanic ash produces either allophane or halloysite, depending mainly on the moisture regime. Halloysite is formed where rainfall is relatively low (<~1200 mm/year), whereas allophane is found under wetter conditions (>~1600 mm/year) (Parfitt *et al.*, 1983; Lowe, 1986). In Hawaii on basaltic ash, on the other hand, the rainfall transition for the formation of allophane and halloysite is considerably lower, ~600 mm/year (Parfitt, 1990), because basalts compositionally contain less silica (≤~50% SiO<sub>2</sub>) than andesites (~50%–70% SiO<sub>2</sub>) or rhyolites (≥~70% SiO<sub>2</sub>), and also more alumina (*e.g.* Churchman & Lowe, 2012). More important than rainfall, therefore, is the concentration of Si in the soil solution which, in turn, is controlled by the rate of leaching of the parent volcanic ash, its composition, and its drainage (*e.g.* Ugolini & Dahlgren, 2002; Churchman & Lowe, 2012). A threshold of ~250 mm leaching marks the transition from conditions favouring halloysite formation to those favouring allophane. In other words, >~250 mm throughput of leachate results in allophane, whereas ≤~200 mm gives rise to halloysite (Parfitt *et al.*, 1984; Lowe, 1995).

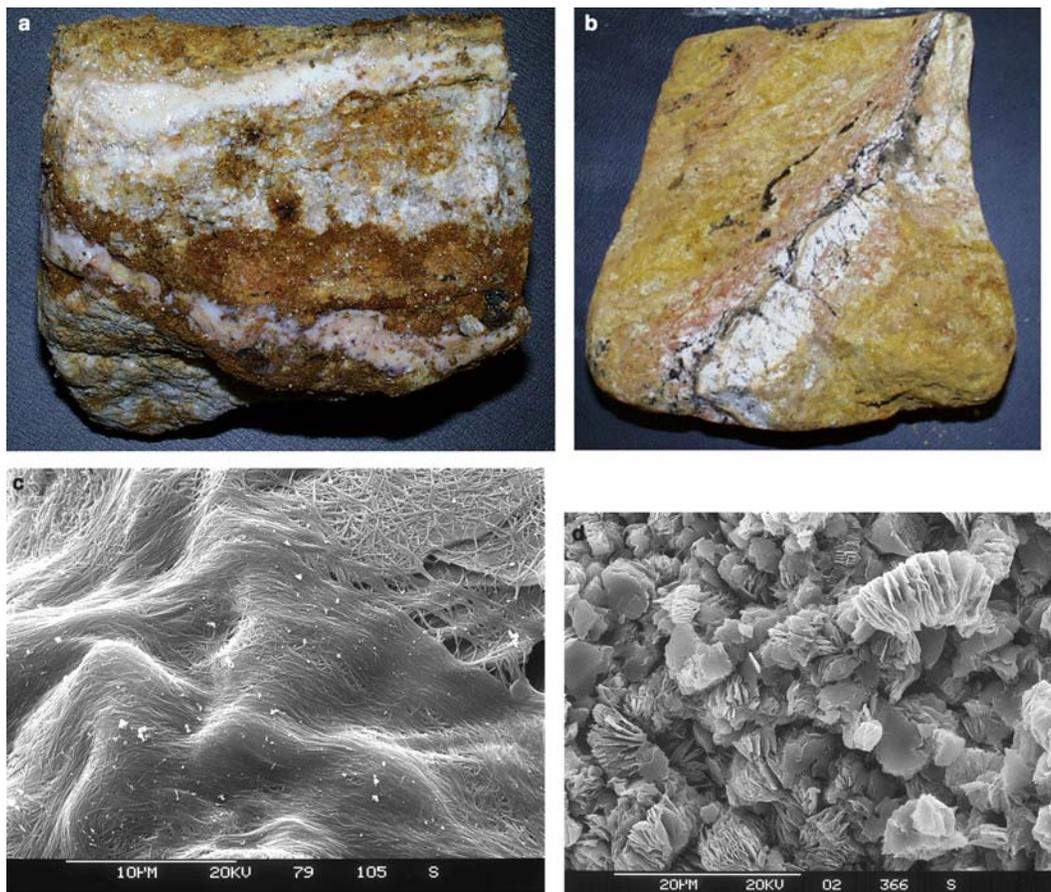


FIG. 2. (a) White veins or infill in saprolite on granite; (b) white veins in volcanic tuff surrounded and intercepted by manganese oxide; (c) SEM image of white veins in part a showing halloysite with long tubes often parallel to one another and occurring in bunches; and (d) SEM image of white veins in (part b) showing large, platy kaolinite particles, stacked in “books”; all from Hong Kong (from Churchman *et al.*, 2010). Permission for re-use of all photographs given by the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Hong Kong, and for re-use of Fig. 2d by The Clay Minerals Society publisher of *Clays and Clay Minerals*.

As in North Island, New Zealand, volcanic activity occurred in southeastern South Australia during the Pleistocene and Holocene (Sheard, 1990; Lowe & Palmer, 2005; van Otterloo *et al.*, 2013). The youngest of the volcanoes in this province comprise two isolated basaltic eruption centres at Mounts Gambier and Schank. These near-contemporaneous centres are ~10 km apart and are between ~5500 and 4300 y old (Barbetti & Sheard, 1981; Smith & Prescott, 1987; Robertson *et al.*, 1996; Gouramanis *et al.*, 2010; Murray-Wallace, 2011). Soils formed from the basaltic scoria (cinders), lapilli, and ash spread ~10–12 km from each source were studied at ten sites: six near Mount Gambier, three near Mount Schank, and one at

an intermediate site (Lowe & Palmer, 2005; Takesako *et al.*, 2010). The mean annual precipitation (MAP) of ~700 mm is slightly less than that (~800–1200 mm) which gives rise to soils in parts of North Island, New Zealand, where halloysite is the dominant clay mineral (Parfitt *et al.*, 1984), and about the same as the MAP for halloysite-bearing soils in Hawaii (Parfitt *et al.*, 1988; Parfitt, 1990). In the case of the North Island soils, rain falls almost evenly throughout the year under a udic moisture regime in many areas (and water moves entirely through the soil profile in most years), but less rain falls during persistent dry summers in eastern areas under an ustic moisture regime (in which the profile remains moist in some parts for at least six months in



FIG. 3. Profiles of soils on volcanic ash or unconsolidated volcanogenic materials: (a) a Humic Vitrixerand mainly on basaltic ash at Brownes Lake near Mount Gambier, South Australia (marks on auger at 10-cm intervals); (b) a Thaptic Haploxerand on basaltic ash over a buried soil on aeolian sand at Laslett Road near Mount Schank, South Australia (knife ~25 cm long); (c) a Typic Hapludand (Horotiu soil) on mainly rhyolitic ash over coarse volcanogenic alluvium at Hamilton, New Zealand (hammer ~30 cm long) (from Lowe, 2010); and (d) a Typic Humaquept (Te Kowhai soil) on fine volcanogenic (rhyolitic glass-rich) alluvium at Hamilton, New Zealand (from Lowe, 2010; photo by P.L. Singleton).

TABLE 1. Comparison of soils formed from volcanic ash under similar soil moisture and temperature regimes in South Australia and northern California.

Region	Mean annual precipitation (mm)	Moisture and temperature regimes <sup>1</sup>	pH	Clay mineralogy
Mts Gambier/ Schank	700	Xeric, Mesic	6.5–8.7	Allophane (Al:Si 2:1–1:1), kaolinite, kaolinite-smectite, illite, illite-smectite, (some) smectite
Northern California <sup>2</sup>	1000	Xeric, Mesic	5.3–6.9	Halloysite, allophane (Al:Si 2:1), (often) gibbsite, kaolinite?

<sup>1</sup>Soil Survey Staff (2014).

<sup>2</sup>Takahashi *et al.* (1993).

most years) (Parfitt, 1990; Soil Survey Staff, 2014). By contrast, the soil-moisture regime for the South Australian soils is xeric, where winters are moist and cool and summers are very dry and warm (and the profile remains moist for only a few months in most years) (Lowe & Palmer, 2005; Soil Survey Staff, 2014).

Hence in the South Australian soils the flow of water through the upper horizons is ~280 mm/year, typically for ~3–10 weeks during winter or early spring (Lowe & Palmer, 2005), similar to the upper threshold for halloysite formation in New Zealand. There is considerably less flow through the lower horizons in the South Australian soils, ~100 mm/year (Allison & Hughes, 1978), which should favour halloysite formation. Peaks near 7 Å for clays from many of the soil samples were observed but the basal spacing did not expand beyond ~7 Å when formamide was applied (Lowe & Palmer, 2005), indicating the absence of halloysite (Churchman *et al.*, 1984).

Because basaltic parent materials are relatively low in SiO<sub>2</sub> (noted above) and enriched in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Si concentrations in the Mount Gambier/Schank soils might be expected to be relatively low even if kinetic factors favour halloysite formation (*cf.* Ziegler *et al.*, 2003). However, fragmental basaltic glass dissolves readily to release Si. Some SiO<sub>2</sub> may also derive from siliceous marine sponge spicules that occur within the antecedent limestones incorporated as xenoliths within the basaltic eruptives. Common crystals of olivine (which weathers rapidly), titanite and labradorite can also serve as potential sources of Si (Sheard *et al.*, 1993; Lowe *et al.*, 1996; Lowe & Palmer, 2005). In addition, these soils contain kaolinite and illite, accompanied sometimes by a smectitic phase, including interstratified kaolinite-smectite and/or illite-smectite, as well as allophane (Lowe *et al.*, 1996; Lowe & Palmer, 2005; Takesako *et al.*, 2010). For these reasons, it seems unlikely that Si concentrations are sufficiently low to

limit halloysite formation. Rather, the presence of 2:1-type layer silicates, especially smectites, indicates that silica accumulation (resilication) has occurred in lower horizons of some of the soils because thermodynamically these clays require high Si activity for their formation (Dahlgren *et al.*, 2004).

The profiles of two Mount Gambier/Schank soils are shown in Fig. 3a,b (see Lowe, 1992). The clay fraction of the soil from Brownes Lake (a Humic Vitrixerand) (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) near Mount Gambier (Fig. 3a) is dominated by kaolinite, illite, kaolinite-smectite and/or illite-smectite in the upper horizons, and by allophane in the mid-lower horizons below 80 cm together with ferrihydrite (Lowe & Palmer, 2005). The allophane, comprising 11% of the whole soil (fine earth fraction) in the Bsm horizon at 80–82 cm, has an Al:Si ratio of 1.3, and hence is Si-rich. The clay fraction of the soil at Laslett Road (a Thaptic Haploxerand) near Mount Schank (Fig. 3b) contains few, if any, crystalline minerals. The clay-size material is dominated by allophane, making up 9%, 13% and 9% of the whole soil (fine earth fraction) in its uppermost three horizons to a depth of 70 cm, and contains substantial amounts of ferrihydrite (Lowe & Palmer, 2005). The Al:Si ratios of the allophane range from 1.7 in the uppermost Ap horizon, through 1.6 in the AB horizon, to 1.3 in the Bw horizon at 40–70 cm, indicating an abundance of Si-rich allophane, especially at depth. Hamblin & Greenland (1972) and Henmi & Wada (1976) have shown that allophane and small amounts of imogolite but not halloysite are present in the clay fractions of the Mount Schank soil. In Fig. 3c,d, the soils at Brownes Lake and Laslett Road, each ~5000 years old, are compared with profiles of two soils (Horotiu and Te Kowhai soils), each ~18,000 years old, in North Island, New Zealand. Formed on incrementally accumulated volcanic ash overlying volcanogenic alluvium, the Horotiu soil (a

Typic Hapludand) occurs in slightly elevated levees or channel bar landforms, manifest as low ridges or mounds. The Te Kowhai soil (a Typic Humaquept) is formed on fine volcanogenic alluvium in adjacent depressions or swales (Lowe, 2010). Being free-draining, and releasing Si on leaching (desilication), the Horotiu soil is rich in allophane, whereas the poorly drained Te Kowhai soil accumulates Si in the soil solution, favouring halloysite formation (resilication) (Singleton *et al.*, 1989; Lowe & Percival, 1993).

It is notable therefore that halloysite is not present in the South Australian ash-derived soils that apparently developed under geological and climatic conditions similar to those conducive to halloysite formation in North Island, New Zealand, on rhyolitic to andesitic tephra, or in drier parts of Hawaii, on basaltic tephra. The result may indicate that under the xeric moisture regime at Mounts Gambier and Schank, winter rain is an especially effective leaching agent because potential evapotranspiration is at a minimum (Soil Survey Staff, 2014). These conditions are apparently conducive to the formation of Al-rich allophane in upper horizons, but the limited leaching over the non-winter months seems to favour formation of Si-rich allophane (and phyllosilicate clays) instead of halloysite.

Nevertheless, halloysite can form on ash and volcanogenic materials under xeric moisture regimes as Southard & Southard (1989) and Takahashi *et al.* (1993) have found in northern California (Churchman, 2015). Likewise, Jahn *et al.* (1987) have reported the occurrence of minor halloysite in a basaltic scoriaceous soil on Lanzarote (Canary Islands) under xeric conditions (although electron microscopy evidence was not presented). Hamblin & Greenland (1972) also found small amounts of 7 Å- and 10 Å halloysite in soils formed under xeric moisture regimes from scoria at basaltic complexes at Tower Hill, Red Rock and Mount Pomdon

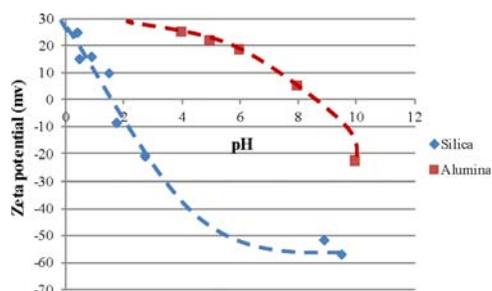


FIG. 4. Schematic diagram of variation of the surface (zeta) potentials of the alumina and silica sheets of halloysite with solution pH (adapted from Abdullayev & Lvov, 2013, 2015).

in southwest Victoria, Australia, ~150–250 km to the east of Mounts Gambier and Schank. However, the parent materials of these three Victoria soils lack the highly calcareous component evident in the soils at Mounts Gambier and Schank. It would therefore appear that some factor(s) are inhibiting or preventing halloysite from forming at Mounts Gambier and Schank.

Table 1 compares the mineralogy of soils, formed from volcanic materials under a xeric moisture regime in South Australia (Mounts Gambier and Schank), with that of soils from similar materials under a similar moisture regime in northern California. Like the volcanic ash soils in North Island, New Zealand, the northern California soils contain halloysite and allophane with an Al:Si ratio of ~2:1. By contrast, the South Australian soils contain kaolinite, kaolinite-smectite, illitic phases, smectite and the allophane here has Al:Si ratios that are closer to 1:1 than 2:1 on average (these ratios generally diminish with increasing depth). Note, however, that the South Australian soils, with no halloysite, have high pH values (up to 8.7) whereas those from northern California have pH values of 5.3–6.9 (Table 1).

The high pH of the South Australian soils is related to calcareous materials underlying both volcanic complexes. The pyroclastic deposits and soils may contain as much as 60% of exotic, non-volcanic materials, including xenolithic limestone fragments as noted above (Lowe *et al.*, 1996; Lowe & Palmer, 2005; Churchman & Lowe, 2014).

We thus propose that pH plays a key role in the formation of halloysite, especially in the interlayer uptake of H<sub>2</sub>O. The proposal is based on the difference in charge characteristics between the silica tetrahedral sheet and the alumina octahedral sheet. Zeta-potential projections for halloysite (Abdullayev & Lvov, 2013, 2015) (Fig. 4) show that the two structural sheets have a different pattern of pH-dependent charge. The octahedral sheet is positively charged at all pH values below ~8, whereas the tetrahedral sheet is negatively charged at all pH values above ~2. Zeta-potential measurements on tubular halloysite (Vergaro *et al.*, 2010) show that the mineral follows the pattern for the silica tetrahedral sheet which makes up the outer surfaces of tubes. In other words, the zeta potential plots for halloysite correspond closely with those for the silica sheet. In line with this observation, Pasbakhsh *et al.* (2013) reported that the zeta potentials of six tubular (non-spherical) halloysites from world-wide sources were always negative above pH 1.5. Atomic force microscopy measurements of adjacent crystal faces of a kaolinite similarly show that the silica tetrahedral face is negatively charged at pH > 4, whereas the alumina

TABLE 2. Some occurrences of halloysite in relation to pH.

Occurrence	Genesis	pH (method)		Halloysite identification	Reference (number by date order)
		(water)	M KCl (or?)		
Soil on granite (Malaysia)	Weathering	4.2–4.9	3.75–4.10	XRD, TEM, SEM, DTA	4, 5
Two soils (New Zealand)	Weathering of ash	4.7–5.9	4.2–5.0	XRD, TEM	2
Strongly weathered soil (Canada)	W'd biotite, feldspar		4.2 (CaCl <sub>2</sub> )	XRD/f'de*, TEM, SEM, DTA	7
Soil on gneiss (Malaysia)	Weathered biotite	5.2–5.8		XRD, TEM, SEM, DTA	3
Soil on tephra (Japan)	Weathering of tephra	5.3–6.7		XRD, NaOH dissolution	6
Five soils (California)	Weathering of ash	5.7–6.9		XRD/f'de, TEM	8
Three soils on tephra (Pacific Islands)	Weathering of tephra	5.8–7.3	5.0–6.8	XRD/f'de	11
Microbially synthetic halloysite	Microbial synthesis	6–7.4		XRD, IR, TEM	10
Fox clay deposit (Utah)	Calcareous hot springs	6–7.5		XRD, TEM	1
Three weathered tuffs (Israel)	Weathering of tuffs	7.9–9.3	6.6–7.8	IR, DTA	9

\*w'd, weathered; f'de, formamide test.

(1) Ames & Sand (1957); (2) NZ Soil Bureau (1968); (3) Eswaran & Heng (1976); (4, 5) Eswaran & Wong, Parts I and 2 (1978); (6) Saigusa *et al.* (1978); (7) Ross *et al.* (1983); (8) Takahashi *et al.* (1993); (9) Silber *et al.* (1994); (10) Tazaki (2005); (11) Pochet *et al.* (2007).

TEM – transmission electron microscopy; DTA – differential thermal analysis.

octahedral face is positively charged at pH < 6, and negatively charged at pH > 8 (Gupta & Miller, 2010).

Following Abdullayev & Lvov (2013, 2015) and Vergaro *et al.* (2010), we propose that the two sheets making up a layer of halloysite have opposite charges between pH ~2 and ~8. Consequently, the alumina sheet would attract the oxygen “end”, and the silica sheet the hydrogen “end”, of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules. This process provides a driving force for the uptake and retention of interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O by halloysite. Although kaolinite has the same sheet structure as halloysite to provide the same driving force (Gupta & Miller, 2010), H<sub>2</sub>O molecules are not retained in the interlayer space of kaolinite owing to the lack, or erratic supply, of water during its formation.

This hypothesis is consistent with observations that halloysites tend to occur in acidic environments. As noted above, halloysite often forms highly concentrated deposits when acidified groundwater comes into contact with sediments, including calcareous sediments (Keeling, 2015). Reports on halloysite occurrences rarely provide pH data of the groundwater,

or the alteration products. Table 2 lists the pH of several soils and weathering profiles in which halloysite occurs. In their review of volcanic soils, Dahlgren *et al.* (2004, p. 142) associated a pH range of 5–6 with the occurrence of halloysite, and a pH range of 6–7 with that of Si-rich allophane, in general accord with clay mineralogy and soil-reaction data (Table 1) for the volcanic ash-derived soils at Mounts Gambier and Schank in South Australia.

Nearly all of the soil samples (generally different horizons) containing halloysite have an acidic pH (Table 2). Interestingly, the Fox clay halloysite deposit (Utah) was derived from a calcareous substrate, but had been altered by thermal waters with a slightly acidic pH (Ames & Sand, 1957). In apparent contradiction, Silber *et al.* (1994) reported that small amounts of halloysite formed from weathered tuffs in Israel had an exceptionally high pH. The evidence, however, is equivocal because neither the particle morphology nor chemical reactivity of the sample was assessed.

Churchman & Lowe (2014) and Churchman (2015) have proposed an alternative mechanism to explain

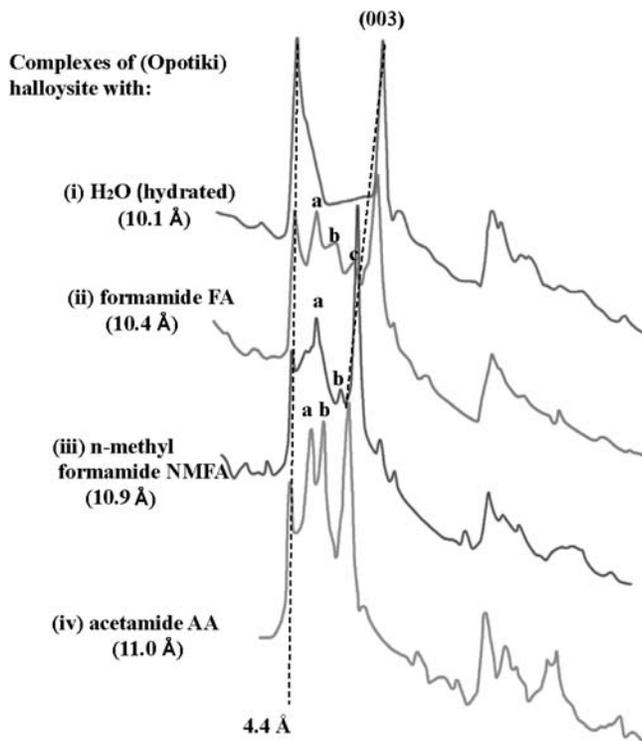


FIG. 5. XRD (Co- $K\alpha$  radiation) of a selected area of spacings of complexes of Opotiki spheroidal halloysite with different amides on ceramic tiles prepared as in Churchman & Theng (1984); letters indicate “extra” peaks. Values for the (003) peaks are: (i)  $3.30 \pm 0.05$  Å; (ii)  $3.40 \pm 0.05$  Å; (iii)  $3.60 \pm 0.05$  Å; (iv)  $3.65 \pm 0.05$  Å.

why halloysite formation hardly occurs under alkaline conditions. They argued that after its formation but prior to drying, halloysite contains ferrous ions in its layer. The replacement of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  by  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  in the octahedral sheet of halloysite raises the layer charge and cation exchange capacity (CEC). Ferrous ions are favoured over ferric ions under wet conditions but become unstable in relation to solid phases such as siderite ( $\text{FeCO}_3$ ) in a  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich system (Sposito, 1994), and ferrihydrite ( $\text{Fe}_5\text{HO}_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) in a  $\text{CO}_2$ -poor system, as pH rises (Sposito, 2008). Ferrous ions, therefore, are rarely found in solutions of  $\text{pH} \geq 6$ . The absence of halloysite in the ash-derived soils near Mount Gambier and Mount Schank may be linked to the requirement for ferrous ions during the formation of halloysite.

The suggested involvement of ferrous ions in halloysite formation is consistent with the detection of ferrous ions ( $\leq 10\%$  of total Fe) in the Mössbauer spectra of three halloysites from New Zealand that have apparently not been dried (J.D. Cashion, unpublished). This suggestion, however, is inconsistent with the absence of exchangeable cations in

halloysite as indicated by quasi-elastic neutron scattering (Bordallo *et al.*, 2008). Mössbauer spectroscopy has shown that kaolinites may also contain considerable proportions (up to 62%) of iron in the ferrous form (Murad & Cashion, 2004). Furthermore, halloysites containing minimal iron, such as the “Patch” halloysite with only 0.11% total Fe (as  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) (Norrish, 1995), would probably not make the layer charge sufficiently negative (Norrish, 1995, measured a CEC of  $12 \text{ cmol kg}^{-1}$ ) to attract cation-coordinated  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to the interlayer space, even if all the incorporated iron occurred in the ferrous state. Conversely, a difference in polarity between opposing sheets, as proposed above, would not raise either layer charge or CEC, and hence would not require exchangeable cations to balance an excess of negative charge.

Being variable in chemistry, morphology and charge characteristics, different halloysites may employ a range of mechanisms for adsorbing and retaining interlayer  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , including the opposing polarities of adjacent sheets, substitution of  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  for  $\text{Si}^{4+}$  in tetrahedral positions,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in the octahedral

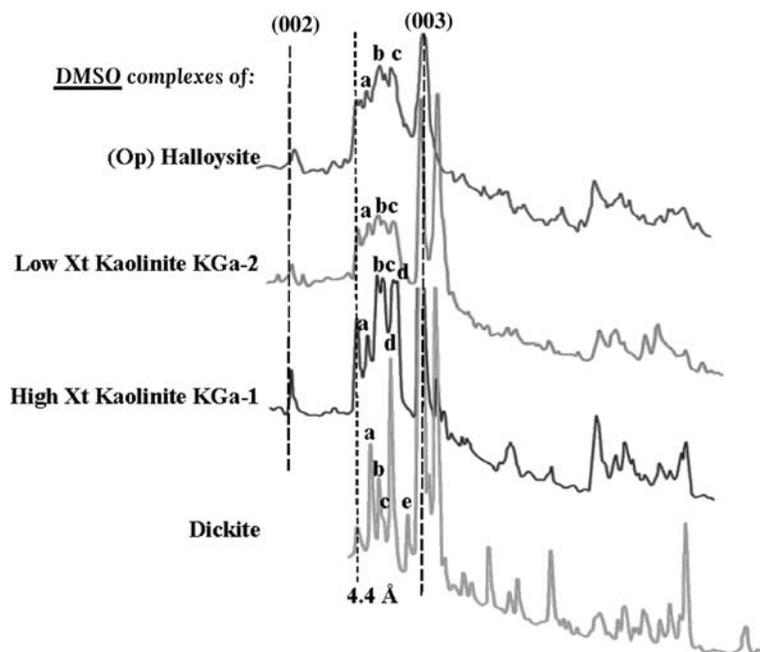


FIG. 6. XRD (Co- $K\alpha$  radiation) of a selected area of spacings of complexes with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) of Opotiki (Op) spheroidal halloysite, a kaolinite with low crystallinity (KGa-2), a kaolinite with high crystallinity (KGa-1), and dickite (API, H-14); letters indicate “extra” peaks. The complexes were formed by soaking the clays in laboratory-grade DMSO for  $\sim 1$  day for halloysite, and 27 days for the kaolinites and dickite. The complexes with KGa-2, KGa-1 and dickite were incompletely formed; that with the halloysite was completely formed. Values for the (002) peaks shown are  $5.6 \pm 0.1$  Å and those for the (003) peaks are  $3.75 \pm 0.05$  Å.

sheet, and the non-stoichiometric substitution of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  (e.g. Soma *et al.*, 1992).

### CRYSTAL STRUCTURE

The XRD patterns of many halloysites lack ( $hkl$ ) peaks, indicating that the structure lacks 3-dimensional order. Unless samples contain sufficient interlayer  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to give a basal spacing near 10 Å, the XRD patterns may be similar to those for disordered kaolinite. Halloysites are often analysed after sufficient drying to remove the 10 Å reflection. Initially, Brindley & Robinson (1946) proposed that halloysites are the end-members of a series of minerals, ranging from highly crystalline kaolinite, at one end, to highly disordered halloysite, at the other (Churchman & Carr, 1975). The information about tubular halloysite that accumulated by the early 1950s strongly suggested that the apparent lack of 3-dimensional order was related to layer curvature similar to that observed in chrysotile (Whittaker, 1954; Waser, 1955).

However, particles of halloysite are not necessarily curved. Although platy halloysites would not be expected to show the distorting effects from curvature, their XRD patterns generally do not show that they are more ordered than those given by the tubular and other curved forms (*cf.* Fig. 5 in Joussein *et al.*, 2005). The 3-dimensional order indicated by electron diffraction analysis (Honjo *et al.*, 1954; Kulbicki, 1954; Chukhrov & Zvyagin, 1966), may be related to halloysite having a 2-layer structure (Honjo *et al.*, 1954; Chukhrov & Zvyagin, 1966; Kohyama *et al.*, 1978; Guggenheim, 2015). Prismatic forms of halloysite are possibly more ordered than other morphological forms of the mineral. On the basis of electron diffraction analysis, Chukhrov & Zvyagin (1966) have suggested that the prismatic form of (dehydrated) halloysite has the most ordered structure in that it has 2-layer regularity with ordered layer displacements producing a structural type distinct from that of kaolinite.

Using high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (TEM), Kogure *et al.* (2011, 2013) found that a prismatic dehydrated halloysite showed 2-layer

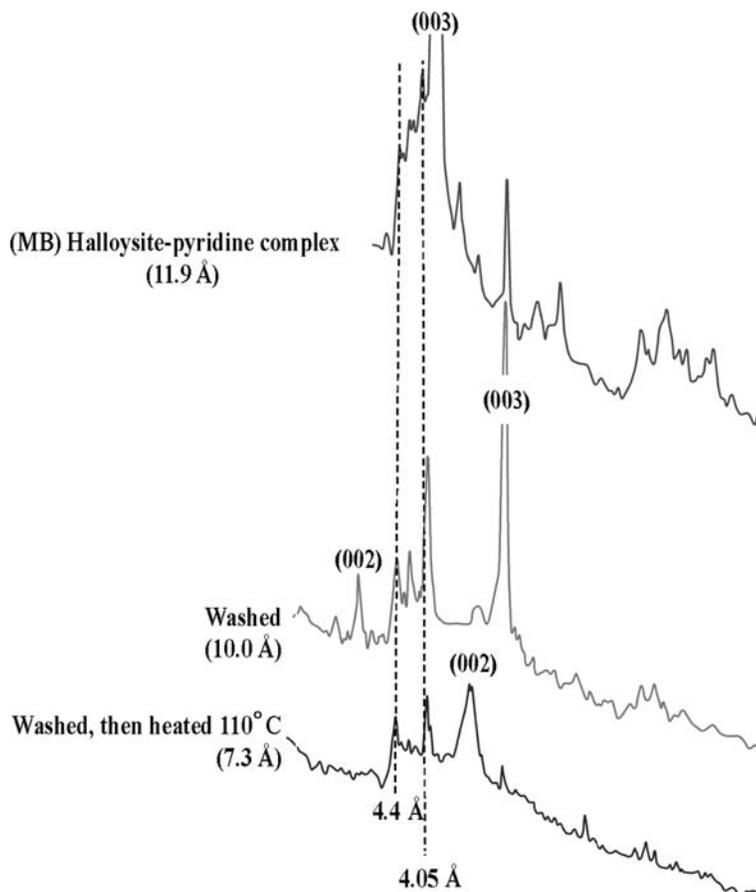


FIG. 7. XRD (Co- $K\alpha$  radiation) traces of a selected area of spacings of complexes of Matauri Bay (MB) tubular halloysite with pyridine (halloysite reacted with laboratory grade pyridine in stoppered glass tubes for 11 months), after washing the complex ten times with water, and after heating the washed complex at 110°C for 24 h. The (003) peak for the pyridine complex has a value of  $4.0 \pm 0.1$  Å, and for the washed complex, a value of  $3.40 \pm 0.05$  Å; the (002) peak for the washed complex has a value of  $5.0 \pm 0.1$  Å, and for the heated washed complex, a value of  $3.65 \pm 0.05$  Å.

regularity over a small range of layers, but this feature is not necessarily related to layer stacking. Layer stacking shows single layers with random displacements. As predicted by Chukhrov & Zvyagin (1966), the displacement (by  $-a/3-b/3$ ) is parallel to [110] but occurs in different directions within a crystal (Guggenheim, 2015). Kogure *et al.* (2013) also found reflections indicating some 3-dimensional character that are not normally observed in the XRD patterns of halloysite. In particular, there are two sharp peaks with  $d$  values of 4.28 and 4.03 Å, superimposed on the (02,11) band for halloysite. These two peaks are not observed for kaolinite. Following Chukhrov & Zvyagin (1966), the peaks are indexed as (021) and ( $\bar{1}$ 12) for a 2-layer cell, but cannot be ascribed to

dickite which gives much stronger reflections nearby for different spacings (Kogure *et al.*, 2013).

Working on complexes of halloysites with a range of amides, Churchman & Theng (1984) observed a number of peaks in the XRD patterns of some complexes in addition to those normally seen for halloysites. These previously unpublished observations are presented below, and the phenomenon is further explored by intercalating other organic compounds (pyridine, dimethyl sulfoxide) and removing the intercalants by washing and heating the complexes.

A number of peaks appear that are not present in the XRD patterns of hydrated (10 Å) halloysite. Figure 5 shows the XRD patterns of complexes of Opotiki halloysite with a range of amides. Peaks with values

between 4.4 and 3.33 Å are visible, occurring between the peak values for the (02,11) and the (003) bands for hydrated halloysite. Similar patterns were also obtained for complexes of this halloysite with dimethylformamide (DMFA), N-methylacetamide (NMAA), dimethylacetamide (DMAA) and propionamide (PA), but these are not shown.

There are three peaks, denoted a, b and c, that are absent from the pattern of hydrated halloysite: peak a has a value of 4.10–4.16 Å as the basal spacing of the complex varies from 10.4 Å for formamide (FA) to 11.0 Å for acetamide (AA); peak b with a value ranging from 3.92 to 3.97 Å, as the basal spacing varies from 10.4 Å (FA) to 11.0 Å (AA), and peak c at 3.83 Å that only appears in the formamide (FA) complex (basal spacing = 10.4 Å), being obscured by (003) peaks for complexes with larger basal spacings. Peak a has a value of 4.23 Å for the DMAA complex (pattern not shown), peak b has a value of 4.07 Å for the PA complex (pattern not shown), but this peak is obscured in complexes that have basal spacings >11.2 Å (for the PA complex).

There is also a peak with values varying from 5.2 Å (FA) to 6.2 Å (DMAA – pattern not shown). Because the basal spacings vary from 10.4 Å (FA) to 12.4 Å (the DMAA complex), this peak is attributable to (002) reflections that are absent from the pattern of hydrated halloysite. In addition, new peaks occur at 2.69 Å for the N-methylformamide (NMFA) complex (10.4 Å basal spacing), which increases to 2.93 Å for the dimethyl formamide (DMFA) complex (12.2 Å basal spacing) – pattern not shown, and also at 2.26 Å for the acetamide (AA) complex (11.0 Å basal spacing), increasing to 2.34 Å for the dimethylformamide (DMFA) complex (12.4 Å spacing) – pattern not shown. In comparing the new peaks that appear in the XRD pattern of various organic complexes with those shown by hydrated halloysite (Fig. 5i), the corresponding spacings vary with the basal spacing of the complexes. Thus, their indices include an “l” component, reflecting the different *d* spacings (or lengths of the repeat distances along the “c” axis).

Figure 6 shows the relevant parts of the XRD patterns for dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) complexes of Opotiki halloysite, a low-crystalline kaolinite (KGa-2), a high-crystalline kaolinite (KGa-1), and a dickite (API, H-14). The complexes formed had identical basal spacings of  $11.2 \pm 0.1$  Å, allowing the presence or absence of peaks to be compared at the same spacings. Only halloysite yielded complete complexes with DMSO, whereas the other kaolin minerals give mixtures of the DMSO complex and the original (uncomplexed) materials.

Peaks, corresponding to (002) and (003) reflections, appear at identical positions of  $5.6 \pm 0.1$  and  $3.73 \pm 0.4$  Å, respectively, for all DMSO complexes (Fig. 6, but not shown for dickite). In each case, there is also a peak at 4.4 Å for the (020) reflection, or (02,11) band in halloysite (Fig. 6). Of particular interest in Fig. 6 are the four peaks between the 4.4 Å peak and the (003) reflection at 3.7 Å that are common to all four kaolin minerals. Labelled a, b, c and d, these peaks are at  $4.32 \pm 0.3$ ,  $4.20 \pm 0.2$ ,  $4.13 \pm 0.1$ , and  $4.10 \pm 0.3$  Å, respectively. One peak at  $3.85 \pm 0.3$  Å only appears in the dickite pattern. The halloysite pattern in Fig. 6 may show a shoulder on the adjacent “d” peak, with a raised minimum between this and the (003) peak at  $\sim 3.89$  Å. The patterns of DMSO complexes with other halloysites (patterns not shown) may show small peaks at or near this spacing ( $3.90 \pm 0.2$  Å). Such peaks occur for Te Puke, Hamilton soil and Te Akatea halloysites, but not for Matauri Bay, Dunedin and Kauri halloysites.

Some of the peaks for (*hkl*) reflections from halloysite complexes with DMSO and also with pyridine are retained after washing, and even after washing and heating. The results for the pyridine complexes with Matauri Bay halloysite are shown in Fig. 7, and summarized in Table 3, where the peak values obtained are compared with those given in the literature for (untreated) kaolinite and dickite. The washed complex has a strong peak at 4.05 Å that is not present in the pattern for hydrated halloysites (*cf.* Fig. 5). This peak remains even after the washed complex (basal spacing = 10.0 Å) has been heated at 110°C to drive out interlayer H<sub>2</sub>O, reducing the basal spacing to 7.3 Å.

The appearance of new peaks in several organic complexes of halloysites and their behaviours (Figs 5–7 and Table 3), imply that one or more of the following changes have occurred during complex formation: (1) X-ray scattering from organic molecules, held within the complexes, is greater than that from water; and (2) there is re-alignment of halloysite layers relative to one another as a result of the attractive interactions between the intercalated organic molecules and aluminosilicate layers.

The appearance of new peaks in the XRD pattern of halloysite-organic complexes has also been reported by Sanchez Comazano & Gonzalez Garcia (1966), Jacobs & Sterckx (1970), Anton & Rouxhet (1977) and Costanzo & Giese (1986). Their conclusions are cited in the following analyses of our results.

Relatively intense (002) X-ray peaks for halloysite complexes with organic molecules, such as DMSO (Fig. 6) contrast with the absence of (002) peaks from the pattern of hydrated halloysite (Brindley, 1961).

TABLE 3. Peak spacings  $>3.7$  Å from Fig. 7 for the complex of Matauri Bay halloysite (MBH) with pyridine, after it has been washed with water and after this product has been heated at 110°C.

Sample	Peak spacing (Å) (Index)				
MBH-pyridine	<b>11.9</b>	4.30	<b>4.17</b>	? Obscured by (003)	3.75
MBH-pyr. H <sub>2</sub> O wash	<b>10.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.26</b>	<b>4.04</b>	
MBH-pyr. H <sub>2</sub> O/110°	<b>7.3</b>	4.27		<b>4.05</b>	
Kaolinite	<b>7.2</b> (001)		<b>4.18</b> (11 $\bar{1}$ )	4.13 (1 $\bar{1}\bar{1}$ )	3.86 (02 $\bar{1}$ )
Dickite	<b>7.2</b> (002)	4.26 (021)		<b>4.12</b> (11 $\bar{2}$ )	3.98 (111) <b>3.79</b> (022)

They are compared with the spacings of peaks for (untreated) kaolinite and dickite. Peak spacings in bold indicate the strongest peaks.

Calculations by Churchman (1970) indicate that an exceptionally weak reflection at the (002) position (5 Å) arises from scattering of water molecules positioned halfway between the layers of halloysite. Intercalated organic molecules, such as amides and DMSO, presumably occupy the same position (Adams, 1978; Thompson & Cuff, 1985).

The intercalation of organic molecules, especially DMSO, by kaolin minerals could also bring about considerable horizontal displacement of individual aluminosilicate layers relative to one another, to produce layer stacking disorder (Sanchez Comazano & Gonzalez Garcia, 1966; Anton & Rouxhet, 1977; Thompson & Cuff, 1985). Indeed, rolling of some hexagonal kaolinite flakes into a tubular shape, following intercalation of DMSO, was observed by Sanchez Comazano & Gonzalez Garcia (1966). In the case of halloysite, by contrast, organic complex formation appears to enhance layer stacking order. For instance, the appearance of a well defined (002) peak with a value of 5.0 Å in the XRD pattern of the washed pyridine complex (Fig. 7), is indicative of layer re-ordering following complex formation that is retained on rehydration to 10 Å halloysite.

Interestingly, Anton & Rouxhet (1977) have observed the apparent unrolling of halloysite tubes with DMSO in electron micrographs. On the basis of visual similarities in the XRD patterns and IR spectra between DMSO complexes of kaolinite and those of halloysite, these authors have suggested that DMSO intercalation into halloysite and subsequent washing of the complex transform halloysite (particularly a non-tubular form) into kaolinite. Costanzo & Giese (1986) have observed similarly, indicating “a fundamental equivalence in the structure of the silicate layer in both minerals”. The comparisons of patterns within Fig. 6 tend to confirm this conclusion if based on complexes with DMSO only.

The persistence of the 4.05 Å peak in the pattern of re-ordered halloysite, after removing the organic intercalate by washing and then heating (Fig. 7), is noteworthy. Kogure *et al.* (2013) have observed a peak with this value for a dehydrated prismatic halloysite, and indexed it as (112) on a 2-layer cell. The possibility that this peak is related to dickite, however, is rejected because dickite produces a number of strong peaks that are absent from the pattern of re-ordered halloysite. These peaks have values of 4.12 and 3.79 Å, and there is a weaker peak at 3.98 Å, whereas kaolinite has weak peaks with values of 4.13 and 3.86 Å (Table 3). There is a possibility that the 4.12 Å peak for dickite is present but because its position is nearly coincident with a peak from the re-ordered halloysite, it would augment the corresponding peak for the halloysite complex. Any dickite component, however, would not remain expanded after washing, and hence the spacing would not change after washing or heating.

The origin of the peak with a value of 4.05 Å in the washed and heated halloysite-pyridine complex remains to be clarified, but this peak cannot be identified with any peaks in kaolinite. Peaks with a value of  $4.05 \pm 0.08$  Å appeared in the XRD patterns of halloysite complexes with all organic compounds tested, including DMSO. Thus, the realignment of halloysite layers as a result of organic complex formation does not appear to lead to a kaolinite layer stacking.

## MORPHOLOGY

Most halloysites contain substantial Fe, up to 12.8% by weight of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Joussein *et al.*, 2005). The review by Joussein *et al.* (2005) shows a plot relating Fe content to particle shape (platy, long tubular, short tubular,

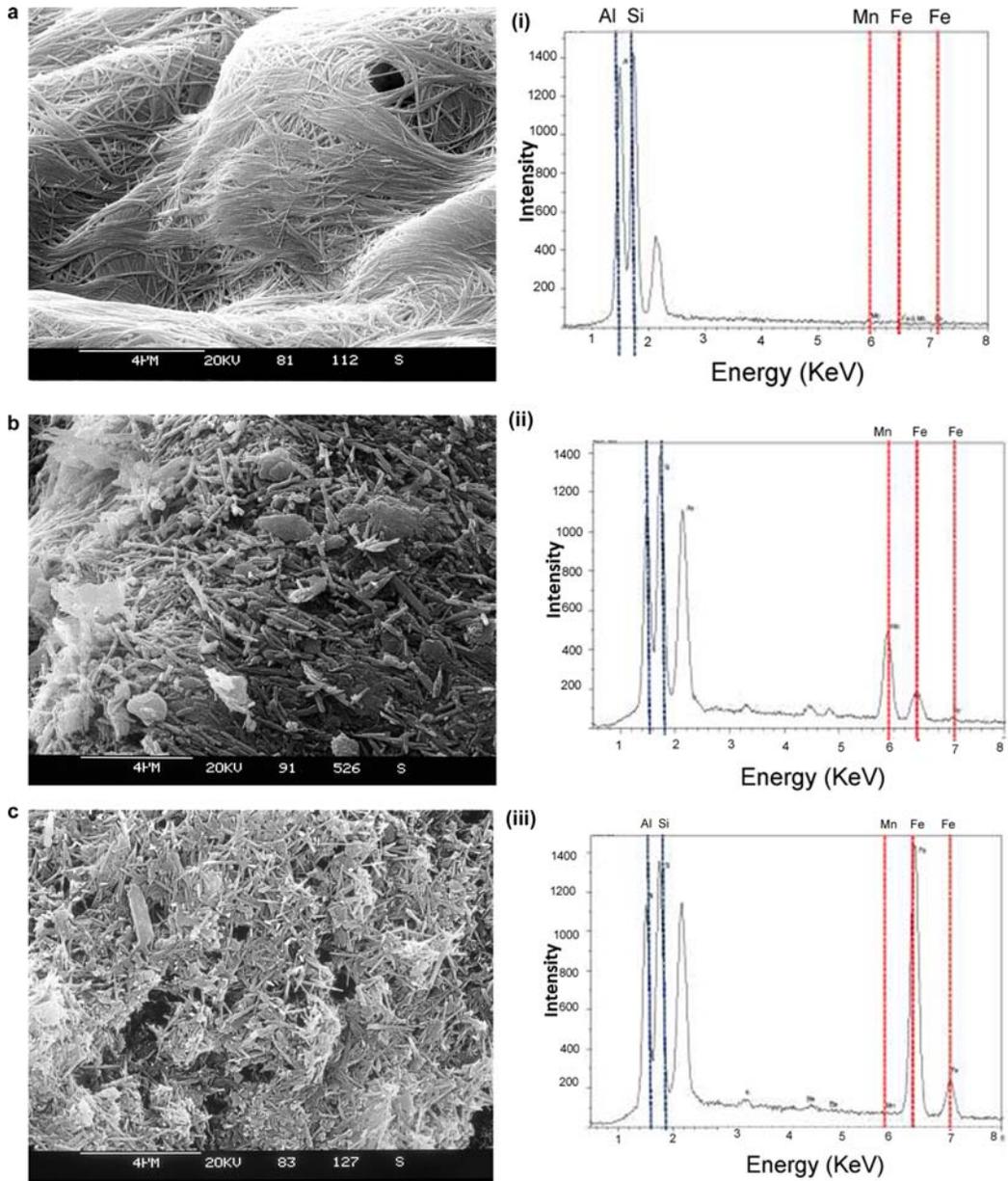


FIG. 8. Effect of Fe and/or Mn in the environment of formation on the length of the halloysite tubes formed in infill in saprolites on granite in Hong Kong: SEM images are shown to the left; EDX analyses from the same areas of infill (from Churchman, 2010; Churchman *et al.*, 2010), to the right. Permission for re-use kindly given by the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Hong Kong, and by Elsevier, publisher of *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*.

spheroidal). There is a wide range of Fe contents within each of these four morphological classes but the platy forms of halloysite tend to have a high Fe content (*e.g.* Tazaki, 1982), whereas long-tubular forms tend to

contain very little iron (*e.g.* Norrish, 1995). Iron in halloysites occurs in two main forms, namely, as  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (or  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) substituting for  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in the octahedral sheet, or incorporated in oxides, oxyhydroxides and

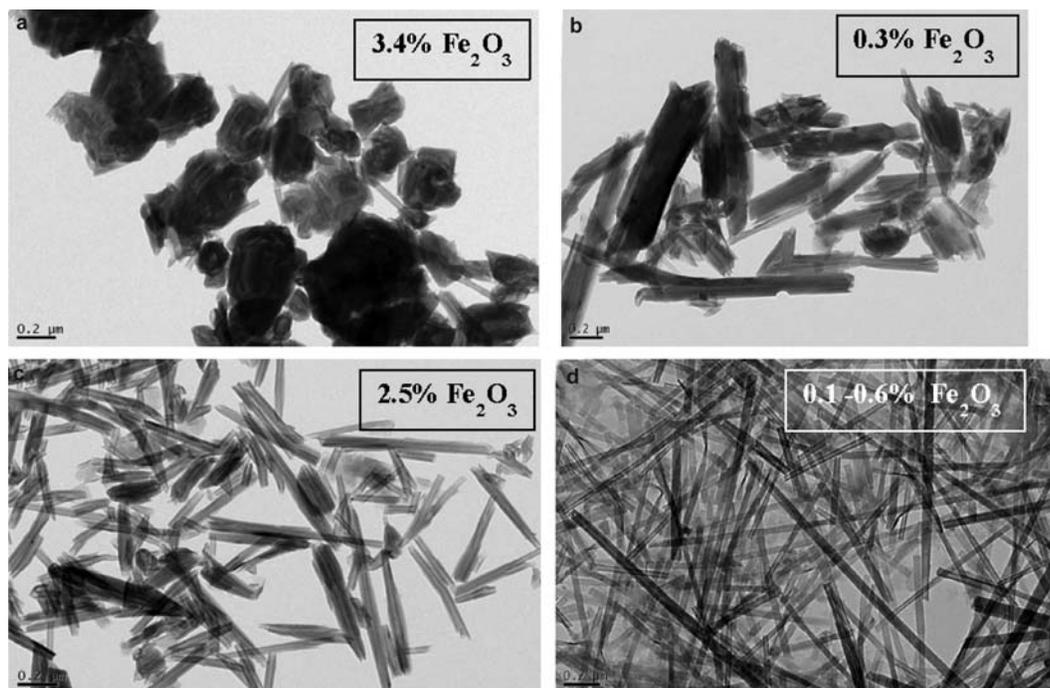


FIG. 9. TEM images showing the shapes and sizes of some halloysite particles in relation to their Fe contents: (a) Te Puke (New Zealand), mostly platy, 0.2%  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  as external oxides; (b) Matauri Bay (New Zealand), thick tubes, no external Fe oxide; (c) Jarrahdale (Australia), short tubes, external oxides not determined; and (d) Patch (Australia), very long tubes, small but variable external Fe oxide content. All scale bars represent 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

hydroxides of Fe, known collectively as “Fe(hydr) oxides”. Because these compounds are commonly and intimately associated with halloysite particles, the apparent relationship between Fe content and particle morphology may not be attributed reliably to structural Fe (Bailey, 1990). Nonetheless, the average length and width of eight mainly tubular halloysites from New Zealand (after treatment with dithionite to remove Fe (hydr) oxides) tend to decrease as the Fe content of samples increases (Churchman & Theng, 1984). Even so, there is a need to separate the effect of structural Fe from that of associated iron hydr(oxides) on the shape and size of halloysite particles.

The likely effect of associated Fe (and Mn) (hydr) oxides on the size of halloysite particles is illustrated in Fig. 8 with respect to halloysite formed in saprolites in Hong Kong. Little, if any, Fe or Mn is present in the material shown in Fig. 8a. In this sample, the infill veins comprise mostly Al and Si, and crystal growth is not restrained, giving rise to exceptionally long halloysite tubes. Where the contents of either Mn or Fe as hydr(oxides), are large (Fig. 8b,c, respectively), the tubes are much shorter (Fig. 8c). Figure 8b,c shows that platy

kaolinite has also formed, probably as a result of drying, inducing oxidation and formation of the metal hydr(oxides). The occurrence of many different sites of nucleation (Fe and/or Mn hydr(oxides), kaolinite, halloysite), may have restrained crystal growth for each of these minerals, including halloysite tubes.

Discussions on the size of tubular particles in relation to iron content (Tazaki, 1982; Bailey, 1990; Joussein *et al.*, 2005) have often emphasized the relative length of tubes. Figure 9 shows TEM images of some halloysite samples, illustrating the possible relationship between Fe content and particle size/shape. The Fe contents refer to total values, including contributions from Fe (hydr)oxides and structural Fe. The dithionite-extractable Fe, from associated Fe(hydr) oxides, is small ( $\sim 0.2\%$ ) for the Te Puke material (Fig. 9a), and negligible for Matauri Bay halloysite (Fig. 9b). The majority of particles in Te Puke halloysite with the greatest total Fe content (Fig. 9a) are non-tubular although there are some short, thin tubes present. The Jarrahdale sample also has a high Fe content (Fig. 9c) but most of the tubular particles are thin and short. Of the two halloysites with small Fe

TABLE 4. Fe contents in relation to Al and of Al in relation to Si in individual particles of different shapes in <2  $\mu\text{m}$  fractions of halloysite clays that were re-dispersed in water using an ultrasonic probe and dried onto electron microscope grids.

Halloysite:	Occurrence		Spheroidal			Tubular			Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	
	Spheroidal %	Tubular %	Fe/Al (mean value)	Si/Al	<i>N</i>	Fe/Al (mean value)	Si/Al	<i>N</i>	Spheroidal %	Tubular %
Kauri	3	62	0.10	1.09	22	0.06	1.11	35	3.3	2.0
Te Akatea	3.5	86	0.15	1.10	17	0.09	1.07	16	5.1	2.7
Opotiki	87	–	0.19	1.09	22	–	–	–	6.1	–

Microprobe analyses were carried out following Fordham & Norrish (1974).

Spheroidal and tubular forms, data from Churchman & Theng (1984).

*N* – number of particles analysed.

contents, the Matauri Bay material consists of thick tubes with variable lengths, and the “Patch” halloysite (Fig. 9d) has tubular particles of similar width to that of the Jarrahdale material, but they are much longer than any seen in Fig. 6a–c. It would therefore appear that the relationship between Fe content and particle size in tubular halloysites is not straightforward and remains unresolved. In the Matauri Bay sample (Fig. 9b), a small Fe content enables the tubular particles to grow in both length and width whereas in the Patch halloysite (Fig. 9d) tubular particles are allowed to grow in length with little restraint but not in width. If the structural Fe content in tubular halloysites exceeds a certain limit, non-tubular shapes are favoured, as exemplified by the Te Puke sample (Fig. 9a).

Microprobe analyses (A.W. Fordham, K. Norrish and G.J. Churchman, unpublished) confirm that the Fe content of individual particles within a sample of halloysite can vary with morphology (Table 4). In this case, particles with a spheroidal morphology (relatively rare for the Te Akatea and Kauri samples), have mean Fe/Al ratios that are significantly greater statistically (according to the Student *t* test) than values for tubular particles from the same sample. The mean Fe/Al ratios are compared with Opotiki halloysite which is largely composed of spheroidal particles. The spheroidal particles in the Kauri and Te Akatea halloysites have mean Fe/Al values that are significantly smaller than those for Opotiki halloysite. By contrast, the Si/Al values ( $1.09 \pm 0.02$ ) are constant over the entire range of particle shapes.

Analyses of Fe contents in particles of spheroidal or tubular halloysite (Table 4) cannot distinguish Fe within the structures of halloysite from Fe in associated (hydr)oxides. These data suggest that spheroidal

particles in Opotiki halloysite either contain or are associated with, more Fe than the tubular particles in the Kauri and Te Akatea samples. Note also that other particles such as blocky halloysite particles and non-halloysite particles can occur in substantial amounts in these samples (Churchman & Theng, 1984).

There is no consensus about the influence of Fe content on spheroidal shapes for halloysite (Bailey, 1990; Joussein *et al.*, 2005; Churchman, 2015; Cravero & Churchman, 2016, this issue), even if some of the particles in the Te Puke, Kauri and Te Akatea halloysites are spheroidal, and have large Fe content (Table 4). Even so, some spheroidal halloysites with a large surface area, exemplified by Opotiki halloysite (Churchman *et al.*, 1995), may adsorb appreciably greater amounts of Fe hydr(oxides) than their tubular counterparts. The origin of spheroidal halloysite awaits clarification (see also Cravero & Churchman, 2016, this issue).

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) further indicates that separate layers within a single halloysite particle may have different Fe contents (Soma *et al.*, 1992). Describing the layers as “onion skins”, these workers have proposed that the chemical composition of successive “skins” is inhomogeneous. In a particular environment, the outer layer reflects the solution composition of that environment which would be different from that for the layers below.

## CONCLUSIONS

(1) The formation of halloysite requires the constant presence of water. Where the supply of water is intermittent, or seasonal drying occurs, kaolinite tends to form, sometimes in alternation with

halloysite. Thus halloysite tends to occur in the lower, wetter parts of weathering profiles.

(2) Halloysite tends to form under acid pH conditions because the layer charge is pH-dependent. The octahedral sheet of the halloysite layer is positively charged at all values of pH below  $\sim 8$ , whereas the tetrahedral sheet is negatively charged at all pH values above  $\sim 2$ . As a result, the two sheets comprising a layer attract different polar ends of H<sub>2</sub>O molecules, providing a driving force for the uptake and retention of H<sub>2</sub>O in the interlayer space.

(3) Layer re-alignment occurs, giving rise to new peaks for  $[hkl]$  reflections in the XRD pattern, when halloysite forms interlayer complexes with polar organic molecules. This process, however, does not lead to a kaolinite layer stacking, suggesting that halloysites are structurally different from kaolinites.

(4) Organic complexes of halloysites show a tendency towards a 2-layer stacking order.

(5) (Hydr)oxides of Fe and Mn are often closely associated with halloysites. These compounds are not part of the structure, but can affect the size of halloysite particles by restraining crystal growth.

(6) Halloysites with approximately platy particles often contain high structural Fe, whereas a low Fe content appears to be associated with exceptionally long tubular particles. Differently shaped particles within a given sample of halloysite may have different Fe contents.

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