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Annealing effects on the luminescence properties of Ce doped ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> produced by combustion synthesis

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**Abstract** 

ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> doped with varying concentrations of cerium phosphors were synthesized by

combustion synthesis route. Two types of powder samples were examined: as-prepared and

annealed at 800°C in air atmosphere. We investigated the structural, morphological and

photoluminescence properties of cerium doped ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> phosphors. Results of scanning

electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, photoluminescence investigations were presented.

**Keywords:** Phosphor, Ce<sup>3+</sup>, ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Combustion, Annealing

1. Introduction

Zinc aluminate spinel (ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) is a naturally available mineral commonly called gahnite.

ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> is a mixed oxide of aluminum and zinc and its crystal structure belongs to spinel

group. A general formula of spinels is AB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, where A and B denote di and tri valent

cations, respectively [1, 2]. ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> has been widely used as catalyst [3], ceramic [4] and

electronic [5] material. Moreover, several studies have found the incorporation of rare earth

and transition metal into the ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> lattice [6-10]. For application in display technologies,

ZnAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> was studied as host lattice for trivalent rare-earth ions such as Tb<sup>3+</sup>, [11] Eu<sup>3+</sup> [12]

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