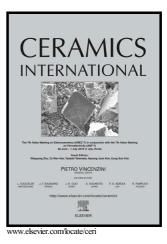
## Author's Accepted Manuscript

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 PII:
 S0272-8842(18)31217-3

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2018.05.072

 Reference:
 CERI18247

To appear in: Ceramics International

Received date: 30 April 2018 Revised date: 9 May 2018 Accepted date: 9 May 2018

Cite this article as: Haiwen Zhang, Degui Zhu, Salvatore Grasso and Chunfeng Hu, Tunable morphology of aluminum oxide whiskers grown by hydrothermal method, *Ceramics International*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ceramint.2018.05.072

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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

## Tunable morphology of aluminum oxide whiskers grown by hydrothermal

method

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Abstract: Hydrothermal method was used to grow  $\alpha$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> whiskers by using hydrated aluminum sulfate, urea and poly(ethylene glycol) as precursors. X-ray diffraction (XRD), selected area electron diffraction (SAED), and high resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM) were used to characterize morphology of the whiskers. By increasing the pH of the solution (by adding extra NaOH), the calcination time and atmosphere it was possible to tune the whiskers morphology and their aspect ratio. Aspect ratio as high as 25 was obtained after hydrothermal treatment of a solution having pH 3 followed by calcination in Ar or N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 1200°C for 6 hours.

*Keywords*: *Hydrothermal method*; α-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Whiskers; Morphology; Atmosphere

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