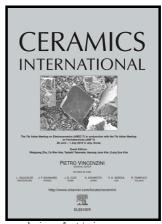
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Solid-phase combustion synthesis of calcium aluminate with CaAl₂O₄

nanofiber structures

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Abstract: Calcium aluminate with CaAl₂O₄(CA) nanofiber structures was fabricated through a facile

solid-phase combustion synthesis method with raw materials of CaO2, CaCO3, Al, and Al2O3 in Ar

atomosphere at a pressure of 0.1MPa. The results indicated that the relative content of CA decreased,

but that of Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ (C₁₂A₇) increased with the increase of r-value from 0 to 0.5 (r is molar

substitution coefficient of CaCO₃ for CaO₂). Interestingly, CA nanofibers with tens of micrometers in

length and about 200 nm in diameter were observed in the combustion products with r=0.2, 0.3, 0.4,

respectively. The more nanofibers can be found in the products, as the content of CaCO₃ in raw

material ratios increased. And the yield of nanofibers in the combustion product with r = 0.4 is the

highest. The typical round droplet on head of nanofiber indicated that the growth process of nanofibers

was governed by vapor-liquid-solid (VLS) mechanism with base growth mode. It is proposed that both

higher reaction temperature and reducing atmosphere are requirements for the growth of CA nanofiber

during the process of combustion synthesis. The nanofiber cannot be generated in the samples r0, and

r5, because the gaseous Ca is absent due to oxidizing atmosphere and lower reaction temperature,

respectively.

Keywords: calcium aluminate; nanofiber; solid-phase combustion synthesis

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