

# 1 Revision-1

## 2 **Synthesis, structure refinement and single-crystal elasticity of Al- 3 bearing superhydrous phase B**

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### **Abstract**

25 Dense hydrous magnesium silicates (DHMSs) with large water content and wide  
26 stability fields are a potential H<sub>2</sub>O reservoir in the deep Earth. Al-bearing  
27 superhydrous phase B (shy-B) with a wider stability field than the Al-free counterpart  
28 can play an important role in understanding H<sub>2</sub>O transport in the Earth's transition  
29 zone and topmost lower mantle. In this study, a nominally Al-free and two different  
30 Al-bearing shy-B with 0.47(2) and 1.35(4) Al atoms per formula unit (pfu), were  
31 synthesized using a rotating multi-anvil press. The single-crystal structures were  
32 investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) complemented by Raman spectroscopy, and  
33 Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR). Single-crystal XRD shows that the  
34 cell parameters decrease with increasing Al-content. By combining X-ray diffraction  
35 and spectroscopy results, we conclude that the Al-poor shy-B crystallizes in the *Pnn2*  
36 space group with hydrogen in two different general positions. Based on the results of  
37 the single crystal X-ray diffraction refinements combined with FTIR spectroscopy,  
38 three substitutions mechanisms are proposed:  $2 \text{Al}^{3+} = \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Si}^{4+}$ ;  $\square^{\text{Mg}^{2+}} = 2\text{H}^+$ ;  $\text{Si}^{4+} =$   
39  $\text{Al}^{3+} + \text{H}^+$ . Thus, in addition to the two general H positions, hydrogen is incorporated  
40 into the hydrous mineral via point defects. The elastic stiffness coefficients were  
41 measured for the Al-shy-B with 1.35 pfu Al by Brillouin scattering (BS). Al-bearing  
42 shy-B shows lower  $C_{11}$ , higher  $C_{22}$  and similar  $C_{33}$  when compared to Al-free shy-B.  
43 The elastic anisotropy of Al-bearing shy-B is also higher than that of the Al-free  
44 composition. Such different elastic properties are due to the effect of lattice  
45 contraction as a whole and the specific chemical substitution mechanism that affect  
46 bonds strength. Al-bearing shy-B with lower velocity, higher anisotropy and wider  
47 thermodynamic stability can help to understand the low velocity zone and high  
48 anisotropy region in the subducted slab located in Tonga.

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50 **Keywords:** Al-bearing superhydrous phase B, crystal structure, elasticity, Brillouin

51 scattering, X-ray diffraction

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### 53 1. Introduction

54 Several studies show the presence of hydrous minerals such as hydrous ringwoodite,  
55 brucite and ice-VII, as inclusion in diamonds from the deep earth interior (Pearson et  
56 al. 2014; Palot et al. 2016; Tschauner et al. 2018). This proves that the Earth's mantle  
57 is, at least locally, hydrated. H<sub>2</sub>O can be introduced into the deep Earth by subducted  
58 slabs via hydrous minerals (Schmidt and Ulmer 2004; Ohtani 2005) or originally  
59 stored in the deep Earth from the protosolar nebula material (Hallis et al. 2015; Peslier  
60 2020). H<sub>2</sub>O could be incorporated in some nominally anhydrous minerals such as  
61 olivine, wadsleyite and ringwoodite. However, the H<sub>2</sub>O-storage capacity of these  
62 minerals is limited and lower than ~3 wt.% (e.g. Mao and Li 2016). Dense hydrous  
63 magnesium silicates (DHMSs), such as Phase A, Phase E, superhydrous phase B (shy-  
64 B), phase D and phase H with large H<sub>2</sub>O content and wide phase stability are thus  
65 potential H<sub>2</sub>O carriers in cold or warm subducted slabs (Ohtani 2005; Nishi et al.  
66 2014).

67 Mg-endmember shy-B ( $Mg_{10}Si_3H_4O_{18}$ ) with 5.8 wt.% water, has been proposed to  
68 form in the hydrated pyrolite system at the Earth's transition zone and topmost lower  
69 mantle at pressure and temperature (P - T) conditions of subducted slabs (Pacalo and  
70 Parise 1992; Frost 1999). The Mg-endmember of shy-B coexists with ringwoodite at  
71 transition zone in the hydrous peridotite layer in subducted slab (e.g., Schmidt and  
72 Ulmer 2004; Ohtani 2005). At the depth of topmost lower mantle, shy-B will coexist  
73 with bridgmanite, phase D, CaSiO<sub>3</sub>-perovskite to 30 GPa and then decompose to MgO  
74 and bridgmanite (e.g., Schmidt and Ulmer 2004; Ohtani 2005). Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, as an important

75component in the peridotite and basalt layer of subducted slab, could be incorporated  
76into the structure of DHMSs and bridgmanite (Pamato et al. 2015; Liu et al. 2016,  
772017; Kakizawa et al. 2018). Phase D and shy-B could incorporate 50 wt.% and 31.9  
78wt.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in their structures (Boffa Ballaran et al. 2010; Pamato et al. 2015;  
79Kakizawa et al. 2018). The solubility of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in bridgmanite is up to 21.8 mol% at  
8027 GPa and 2500 K (Liu et al. 2017). The partition coefficient of Al between shy-B  
81and bridgmanite is considered to be 1.5-2.8 and increases with pressures and  
82temperatures (Litasov and Ohtani 2003; Kakizawa et al. 2018). However, the  
83partitioning of Al among coexisting shy-B, phase D and bridgmanite is still  
84experimentally unconstrained.

85The Mg-Si end-member of shy-B can be synthesized at high P-T in the range of 16-22  
86GPa and 1000-1550 °C (e.g. Pacalo and Parise 1992; Hazen et al. 1997; Koch-Müller  
87et al. 2005). The structure of shy-B was first determined to be orthorhombic (space  
88group *Pnnm*) by Pacalo and Parise (1992). The crystal structure consists of Si-O  
89tetrahedra and octahedra with 2:1 ratio as well as Mg-O octahedra (Pacalo and Parise  
901992). Koch-Müller et al. (2005) proposed that shy-B displays two different  
91polymorphic modifications, a high-temperature form with space group *Pnnm* and a  
92low-temperature form with space group *Pnn2*. Kakizawa et al. (2021) confirmed these  
93findings. Different experimental techniques, including FTIR spectroscopy, nuclear  
94magnetic resonance (NMR), single-crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD) and neutron  
95diffraction all reveal the presence of 2 distinct hydrogen positions in the structure of  
96shy-B which makes the structure to be compatible with *Pnn2* space group (Koch-  
97Müller et al. 2005; Xue et al. 2008; Trots et al. 2013; Koch-Müller et al. 2014).

98The incorporation of  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  in the structure of shy-B affects the  
99physical properties of this phase. The incorporation of  $\text{F}^-$  could increase the

100incompressibility, density and bulk velocity of shy-B (Li et al. 2020). Matrosova et al.  
101(2019) have shown that Ti-bearing shy-B with a *Pnnm* space group has a wider  
102stability field than the Mg-Si end-member. Fe-bearing shy-B has much higher bulk  
103modulus than the Fe-free end-member (Shieh et al. 2000; Li et al. 2016). The  
104thermodynamic stability of Al-bearing shy-B expands to higher temperature with  
105increasing Al content, such that shy-B with 31.9 wt% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is stable up to 24 GPa and  
1062000 °C (Kakizawa et al. 2018). Based on the Al content and different substitution  
107mechanisms in shy-B, two different types of shy-B were proposed by Kakizawa et al  
108(2018). In a recent study, Kakizawa et al (2021) investigated an Al-bearing shy B  
109sample with 1.9 Al pfu by FTIR spectroscopy, difference Fourier maps and bond-  
110distance considerations. The sample contained more than the ideal hydrogen amount  
111and they propose as additional H incorporation mechanism the complex substitution  
112 $Mg^{2+} + Si^{4+} = 2 Al^{3+} + 2 H^+ + \square^{Mg^{2+}}$  ( $\square^{Mg^{2+}}$  means vacancy in Mg site). This needs  
113further proof.

114Knowing the elastic properties of shy-B is also very important for interpreting seismic  
115anomalies in the deep transition zone and the shallow lower mantle, such as the low  
116velocity zone, the 720 km discontinuity and high anisotropy zones (Rosa et al. 2015;  
117Li et al. 2016; Yang et al. 2017). Thus, some experimental and *ab initio*  
118computational studies investigated the elasticity on the Mg end-member of shy-B with  
119different water contents at high P-T, and the results were used to explain seismic  
120anomalies in the topmost lower mantle (Pacalo and Weidner 1996; Mookherjee and  
121Tsuchiya 2015; Rosa et al. 2015; Li et al. 2016; Yang et al. 2017). However, Al-  
122bearing shy-B showing a much wider P-T stability should be considered as an even  
123more important candidate for H<sub>2</sub>O transport and storage in the transition zone and  
124topmost part of the lower mantle. One way to assess the hypothesis of Al-bearing shy-

125B phase being present in deeply subducted slabs is comparing mineralogical models  
126with geophysical observations such as those from seismology. Here we provide  
127information on the elasticity of shy-B as a function of the Al content.

128In this study we used rotating multi-anvil apparatus to synthesize a nominally Al-free  
129shy-B with 0.04(1) Al atoms pfu (based on 18 O atoms pfu) and two Al-bearing shy-B  
130with 0.47(2) and 1.35(4) Al atoms pfu. The syntheses products were analyzed with an  
131electron microprobe (EMP), FTIR- and Raman-spectroscopy. The crystal structures of  
132the three compositions were determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD).  
133Finally, the elasticity of Al-rich shy-B (with 1.35 Al atoms pfu) was investigated by  
134Brillouin scattering (BS) at ambient conditions.

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## 136**2. Experimental and analytical methods**

137Syntheses: Multi-Anvil apparatus

138Shy-B with three different compositions were synthesized in a rotating multi-anvil  
139press at the GFZ, Potsdam (Deon et al. 2011). This device, featuring a Walker type  
140high pressure module (Walker et al. 1990), is designed to allow continuous 360°  
141rotation of the entire press at a maximum speed of 5° per second for the duration of  
142the synthesis. Continuous rotation enhances a homogeneous distribution of fluid and  
143solid within the sample capsule (see Schmidt and Ulmer 2004; Deon et al. 2011). We  
144used a 10/5 assembly (lengths of the octahedral edges and the truncations of the WC  
145cubes, respectively) with a MgO-based octahedron serving as pressure transmitting  
146medium, a stepped graphite heater to avoid or minimize temperature gradients, and  
147pyrophyllite gaskets. We monitored the sample temperature by using type C  
148thermocouples (W5%Re-W26%Re). Details of the experimental setup are given in  
149Mrosko et al. (2015). The starting materials were loaded in Pt capsules (length 2.25

150mm, outer diameter 1.4 mm), which were cold sealed. Experimental conditions, run  
151number and the starting materials are summarized in Table 1.

152

153Electron microprobe analysis (EMPA)

154Several single crystals of the synthesized shy-B were handpicked, embedded in  
155epoxy, polished and carbon coated in order to perform chemical EMPA. The analyses  
156were performed using a JEOL Superprobe JXA-8230 (GFZ, Potsdam) in wavelength-  
157dispersive X-ray diffraction (WDS) mode with the following crystal-analyzers: TAP  
158for Si and Al, LIFL for Fe and TAPH for Mg. Although the samples do not contain  
159Fe, Fe was required in the calibration and quality control process as the high-pressure  
160ringwoodite standard contained iron. The microprobe was operated at 15 kV, 10 nA.  
161The size of the measuring spot was 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to prevent mineral destruction. Counting  
162times on the peaks for Si, Al and Mg were 10 s and 20 s for Fe. Background counting  
163times were 5 s for Si, Al and Mg and 10 s for Fe. The standard for Mg and Si was well  
164characterized synthetic ringwoodite (MA-313, Mrosko et al. 2013), corundum for Al  
165and hematite for Fe.

166

167FTIR spectroscopy

168FTIR spectra were measured using a VERTEX 80v FTIR spectrometer (Bruker  
169optics) with an attached Hyperion II microscope at the IR-spectroscopy laboratory of  
170the GFZ in Potsdam. A tungsten light source, InSb detector and a  $\text{CaF}_2$  beamsplitter  
171were used to measure the OH stretching range (2500 - 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Due to the high  
172water content (the stoichiometric Mg-endmember has 5.8 wt.%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) a very thin film  
173of the sample material was required which was prepared from very small amounts of  
174the fine grained portion of the syntheses product by pressing the material in a

175diamond anvil cell (DAC) equipped with type II diamonds and without a gasket (thin-  
176film preparation). The spectra were collected with the thin-films attached to one of the  
177diamonds anvils and with  $2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  resolution and averaged over 256 scans. The  
178reference spectra were taken through the diamonds. The thickness of the first sample  
179(MA-575) flattened in a DAC was determined by reflecting a broadband optical probe  
180in the collected signal scaled by the refractive index of the sample. The refractive  
181index was estimated to be  $n = 1.686$  which is the average value along the three  
182crystallographic axes (Pacalo and Weidner 1996). The thickness of MA-575 is 1.0 (1)  
183 $\mu\text{m}$ . By optical observation we estimated the thickness of the thin films of MA-399  
184and MA-576 to be 1.0 and 1.3  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. In the absence of a mineral-specific  
185absorption coefficient,  $\varepsilon$ , we used the wavenumber-dependent method proposed by  
186Libowitzky and Rossman (1997) to calculate molar absorption coefficients  $\varepsilon$ 's for the  
187bands of each sample. The spectra were deconvoluted with the software PeakFit by  
188Jandel Scientific. We applied a Gaussian plus Lorenzian peak shape to all component  
189bands. The integral absorbance ( $A_{\text{int}}$ ) of each peak was summed up and multiplied by  
1903 to get the total integral absorbance  $A_{\text{int,tot}}$ . Density was derived from our single  
191crystal X-ray refinements, which are 3.227(3), 3.179(3) and 3.166(4)  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  for MA-  
192399, 575 and 576, respectively. We used the Beer-Lambert law to calculate the water  
193content which can be found in Libowitzky and Rossman (1997).

194Temperature-dependent thin-film spectra of samples MA-575 and MA-576 were also  
195measured in the OH stretching region using the spectrometer and components  
196described above in a Linkam FTIR600 cooling/heating stage adjusted to the  
197microscope. Spectra were collected with a spectral resolution of  $2\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and averaged  
198over 1024 scans. Shy- B thin-films were investigated from ambient conditions down  
199to -180 °C. To reach the low temperature the stage was cooled with liquid nitrogen.

200The low-T spectra of sample MA-575 exhibited an additional peak at around 3180  
201cm<sup>-1</sup> at -180 °C, which we attributed to the formation of ice crystals, visible to our  
202eyes. In experiment MA-576 we avoided the formation of ice by annealing the sample  
203in the Linkam sample chamber for 1 h at 100 °C while purging with nitrogen gas  
204before the cooling experiment started.

205To verify the presence of weak bands hidden in the background of the thin-film  
206spectra also spectra of large crystals (about 100 x 50 μm<sup>2</sup>) with thicknesses varying  
207between 30 to 60 μm were measured in the OH stretching region using the  
208spectrometer and components described above. The crystals were placed on KBr  
209sample holders and spectra were averaged over 128 scans.

210FTIR spectra in the lattice vibrational range (400-2000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) were measured using the  
211spectrometer described above but with a Globar light source, MCT detector and a KBr  
212beamsplitter. The samples were prepared as thin films (see above) and placed on KBr  
213sample holders. The spectra were collected with 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution and averaged over  
2141024 scans.

215

216Raman-spectroscopy

217Raman spectra were measured with a HORIBA Jobin Yvon LabRAM HR800 VIS  
218spectrometer (GFZ, Potsdam) equipped with a green 514 nm wavelength diode-  
219pumped solid-state laser. The spectra were collected from the microprobe mounts  
220after removal of the carbon coating.

221Spectra in the range of 100–1000 cm<sup>-1</sup> were measured for phase identification and the  
222data acquisition time was 30 s for MA-399 and MA-575 and 50 s for MA-576. We  
223measured several different single crystals for MA-576 - all gave much weaker signals  
224than the crystals of the other two samples. The spectra were deconvoluted with the

225software PeakFit by Jandel Scientific.

226Spectra in the OH stretching region were measured in the range of 3200 – 3600 cm<sup>-1</sup>  
227with the same configuration. These measurements were extremely difficult as the  
228samples were very sensitive to the laser light decomposition and showed high  
229fluorescence. The Al-bearing samples were measured with 50 % laser power. Spectra  
230of MA-575 were collected for 10 sec with 3 accumulations while spectra of MA-576  
231were measured for 20 sec with 3 accumulations.

232

233Single-crystal X-ray diffraction

234Single-crystal XRD data were collected at the Extreme Conditions Beamline (ECB,  
235P02.2) at PETRA III, DESY (Hamburg, Germany). In order to improve data quality  
236and for the purpose of absorption correction, we pre-selected samples of a shape  
237similar to a sphere. Samples were glued on the top of a tungsten needle (2  $\mu$ m tip),  
238which acted as holder for the XRD measurements, enabling data collection during  
239rotation (-90° - +45°) around the vertical axis. The energy of the beam was tuned to  
24042.7 keV, while the beam was focused to 3 x 8  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup> (H x V, full width at half  
241maximum). Sample to detector distance (SDD) and tilt of the detector were initially  
242determined from the powder X-ray diffraction image of a CeO<sub>2</sub> standard from NIST  
243(674b) using DIOPTAS (Prescher and Prakapenka 2015) and further refined in  
244CrysAlisPro© from Rigaku. The single-crystal data are calibrated by an enstatite  
245crystal. Crystal structures were solved using OLEX2 with a SHELX backend  
246(Dolomanov et al. 2009; Sheldrick 2015). Additional data analysis was conducted  
247with JANA2006 (Petříček et al. 2014). The structural models displayed below were  
248drawn using the software VESTA (Momma and Izumi 2011).

249

## 250Brillouin Scattering

251We collected single-crystal Brillouin scattering spectra from grains selected from  
 252sample MA-576, our Al-bearing shy-B sample that contained the highest amount of  
 253Al (1.35 atoms pfu). Four crystal platelets were double side polished to 20-25  $\mu\text{m}$   
 254final thickness, and their orientations were determined by single crystal XRD at the  
 255ECB (see above). The orientations of the four platelets were (-0.5 , 0 , 0.87),  
 256(0.83 , -0.56 , -0.08), (-0.78 , -0.38 , 0.49) and (-0.81 , -0.59 , 0.09). Brillouin  
 257scattering experiments at ambient condition were performed at the laser lab of the  
 258Extreme Conditions Science Infrastructure (ECSI) of PETRA III, DESY, Hamburg,  
 259established by the GFZ Potsdam. The signal was excited by a Nd:YVO<sub>4</sub> laser with a  
 260wavelength of 532 nm and an output power of 100 mW. The Brillouin spectra were  
 261recorded by a six-pass Sandercock tandem Fabry-Perot interferometer. The external  
 262scattering angle (i.e. the angle between incident and scattered light directions outside  
 263the sample) was 50°, and the mirror spacing was 6 mm during the measurements. The  
 264acoustic velocities of the sample were calculated from the measured Brillouin  
 265frequency shift,  $\Delta v_B$ , as:

$$266 \quad v = \frac{\Delta v_B \lambda_0}{2 \sin(\textcolor{red}{\theta}/2)} \quad (1)$$

267where  $v$  is the acoustic velocity,  $\lambda_0$  is the laser wavelength of 532 nm, and  $\theta$  is the  
 268external scattering angle. The dataset of individual acoustic velocities, and  
 269corresponding wave vector orientations and polarizations was used to determine the 9  
 270independent nonzero elastic coefficients of the Al-shy-B sample. The elastic constants  
 271were determined by inverting a set of Christoffel's equations:

$$272 \quad |C_{ijkl} n_j n_l - \rho v^2 \delta_{ik}| = 0 \quad (2)$$

273where  $C_{ijkl}$  is the elastic constants,  $n_j$  and  $n_l$  are the direction cosines of the acoustic

274wave propagation direction.  $\rho$  is the density,  $v$  is the acoustic velocity derived from  
275Brillouin frequency shift, and  $\delta_{ik}$  is the Kronecker delta. Based on the volume derived  
276from X-ray diffraction data and the composition  $Mg_{8.04}Si_{2.17}Al_{1.35}O_{18}H_{7.18}$ , the density  
277of MA-576 was calculated to be  $3.166(4)$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, the number in parentheses is  $1\sigma$   
278standard deviation on the last digit.

279

### 2803. Results

281Table 2 shows the EMPA results and chemical composition for the three different  
282syntheses. Sample MA-399 contains  $0.35(3)$  wt.%  $Al_2O_3$ , which corresponds to  $0.04$   
283atoms per formula unit in shy-B. This amount has negligible structural effects, and we  
284will consider this sample as Al-free in our discussion. The two samples MA-575, MA-  
285576 contain  $4.05(18)$  and  $11.72(21)$  wt.%  $Al_2O_3$ , respectively (Table 2). The  $H_2O$   
286contents of the 3 samples were determined by FTIR absorption, and are equal to  $8(1)$ ,  
287 $10(1)$ ,  $11(1)$  wt.%, respectively. To calculate the chemical formula, we preferred to  
288take the IR-determined water contents, rather than the difference of the EMP sum to  
289100 %. The complete chemical formulas for each synthesis are reported in Table 2.  
290Our results show that water content increases with Al content, which is consistent  
291with the result for shy-B with moderate Al content ( $0.85 < Al < 1.91$  pfu) in Kakizawa et  
292al (2018). There are minor amounts of ringwoodite coexisting with shy-B in MA-399  
293and pyrope coexisting with Al-bearing shy-B in MA-575 and MA-576, which means  
294that pyrope will coexist with Al-bearing shy-B in Al-rich systems.

295In our syntheses, we did not observe complex phase assemblages as reported by  
296Kakizawa et al (2018). In particular, we did not observe a coexistence of two shy-B  
297phases with different Al content in the same synthesis run. We contribute this due to  
298the rotating multi-anvil press setup, used in our experiments. The rotation of our

299multi-anvil press during the duration of the experiments ensures homogeneous  
300distribution of the liquid phase in the capsule. Consequently, all the chemical  
301compositions of different grains of our sample are nearly identical within the  
302uncertainty of our measurements. We did not observe other coexisting high  
303temperature phases such as  $\delta$ -AlOOH (Kakizawa et al. 2018) as the temperature of our  
304syntheses is 200-400 °C lower than those of Kakizawa et al. (2018).

305Figure 1 shows the FTIR spectra in the OH stretching region of the samples prepared  
306as thin-films. In the spectrum of the nominally Al-free shy-B sample (MA-399) we  
307can distinguish two main OH bands ( $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$ ), which we assign to the vibrations of  
308two different hydroxyl groups according to space group symmetry  $Pnn2$  that are  
309consistent with Koch-Müller et al. (2005, 2014) and Trots et al. (2015). With  
310increasing Al-content the frequencies of the OH bands do not change. However, the  
311bands visibly broaden, while at least a third OH band  $\nu_3$  is visible at lower  
312wavenumbers. The intensity of  $\nu_3$  increases with increasing Al-content (Figs.1, S1). In  
313the FTIR spectrum of the sample with the highest Al-content (MA-576) only two very  
314broad OH bands can be distinguished (merging  $\nu_1 + \nu_2$  and additional  $\nu_3$ ). In all spectra  
315(Fig. S1) a fourth very weak OH band can be identified at higher wavenumbers, e.g. at  
3163554 cm<sup>-1</sup> (MA-576). The peak positions, the integral absorbances normalized to 1 cm  
317and the band widths (FWHM) determined for the thin-film spectra are listed in Table  
318S1. The calculated water contents are listed in Table 2. All samples contain more OH  
319than the ideal value pointing to two hydrogen positions. As also indicated by the FTIR  
320spectra there must be additional hydrogens incorporated in the crystal structure. Low  
321temperature spectra of sample MA-575 and MA-576 were collected in the hope to  
322reduce the FWHM of the OH bands for a better band assignment. But as shown in  
323Fig. S2 there is nearly no change in the spectra with decreasing temperature.

324 To finally verify the presence of  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$  in all three samples we collected spectra of  
325 individual crystals in the OH stretching region. The spectra are shown in Fig. S1. The  
326 spectra are oversaturated in the range of 3450 to 3300 cm<sup>-1</sup> but the presence of the  $\nu_3$   
327 band at lower wavenumbers can clearly be seen also in MA-399. In all three spectra  
328 the very weak band  $\nu_4$  at higher wavenumber is clearly present.

329 FTIR spectra in the range of the lattice vibrations are shown in Fig. 2 and their  
330 frequencies are reported in Table S2. Based on the results of Hofmeister (1999), we  
331 assign specific vibrations to the peaks; some peaks remain unassigned (Table S3). The  
332 spectra of the three samples are very similar - they are dominated by vibrations of  
333 tetrahedrally and octahedrally coordinated Si. The main difference between the Al-  
334 free sample MA-399 and the Al-bearing sample MA-576 is in the region around 600 –  
335 700 cm<sup>-1</sup> and we tentatively assigned the two most prominent bands in the spectrum of  
336 the sample MA-576 to vibrations of octahedrally coordinated Al.

337 Raman spectra in the range of the lattice vibrations are shown in Fig. 3. Nine Raman  
338 peaks for each Shy-B were fitted, and their frequencies are reported in Table S2.  
339 Based on the results of Hofmeister et al. (1999), we assign specific vibrations to the  
340 peaks; some peaks remain unassigned (Table S2). The Raman spectra show that the  
341 intensity of the peaks becomes weaker with increasing Al-content (Fig. 3). Similar  
342 behavior has been reported that Al-rich phase D shows broader and weaker Raman  
343 peaks when compared with Al-free one (Pamato et al. 2015; Xu and Inoue 2019). The  
344 values of FWHM show that most peaks broaden with increasing Al content (Table 2),  
345 potentially indicating presence of cationic disorder. Most of the peak positions move  
346 to larger wavenumbers as a function of increasing Al content. This observation  
347 indicates that the incorporation of the Al increases the vibrational frequencies, and is  
348 compatible with the observed decrease of the unit cell volume (see below). Raman

349spectra in the OH stretching region also show increasing peak broadening with  
350increasing Al incorporation (Fig. S3).

351In order to examine the structure of shy-B crystals with different Al content, we  
352performed single-crystal X-ray diffraction refinements at ambient condition. The  
353details can be found in the cif files in supplementary materials. The unit cell  
354parameters are also listed in Table S3. Although our FTIR results clearly indicate two  
355different hydrogen sites suggesting the space group *Pnn2* for nominally Al-free shy-B  
356(MA-399), we use both *Pnnm* and *Pnn2* during the refinement to examine all the  
357possibilities for the other two compositions (MA-575 and MA-576). The main  
358difference between *Pnnm* and *Pnn2* structural models for shy-B is the description of H  
359atom positions. *Pnnm* has just one general H position (multiplicity 8) while *Pnn2* has  
360two general H positions (multiplicity 4). Considering similarity of both space groups  
361and lattice parameters, we can compare them for shy-B with different Al contents  
362(Fig.4). Our single-crystal refinement shows that the *Pnnm* and *Pnn2* offer the same  
363cell parameters. Figure 4 shows that the incorporation of 1 Al pfu will reduce *a*, *b*, *c*  
364unit cell parameters and the volume (*V*) of Al-bearing shy-B by 0.69%, 0.24%, 0.16%  
365and 0.29%, respectively.

366Apart from the lattice parameters, the incorporation of Al affects various structural  
367features, including the volumes of MgO<sub>6</sub>, SiO<sub>4</sub> and SiO<sub>6</sub> polyhedra. Based on the  
368results of our analysis, we can also compare the volume of the different MgO<sub>6</sub>  
369octahedra as a function of Al content (Fig. 5; Fig. S4). In order to simplify the  
370discussion, it seems justified to continue using *Pnnm* as a reference. Indeed, the  
371octahedral sites of Mg5, Mg6, Mg7 in *Pnn2* are structurally related to those of Mg3,  
372Mg4, Mg1 in *Pnnm*. In fact, the solutions for the both space groups are very close in  
373terms of atomic positions and interatomic distances. This is not surprising, given that

374the difference between the space groups arises from the symmetry break due to  
 375position of H, the atom with the lowest Z, which weakly contribute to X-ray  
 376diffraction.

377As the Al content in shy-B increases, the volume of the Mg1 and Mg2 octahedra are  
 378reduced, in contrast to a slightly increased volume of Mg4 octahedron. The changes of  
 379Mg3 octahedron volume are insignificant (Fig.5). The sites containing Si behave  
 380differently as Al content changes, i.e. the volume is increased with increasing Al  
 381content for  $\text{SiO}_6$  octahedra but remains unchanged for  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedra (Fig.5)  
 382indicating low probability of Al substitution at the latter site.

383In order to put strong constraints on elasticity, we collected Brillouin scattering  
 384spectra and determined acoustic velocities from four crystal platelets, even though  
 385two platelets have similar orientations (Fig.6). Due to the extensive dataset, the  
 386inversion to determine the full elastic tensor yielded unambiguous results. The fitting  
 387results are shown in Figure 6 and the elastic stiffness coefficients are listed in Table 3.  
 388Al-bearing shy-B shows lower  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{44}$ ,  $C_{55}$ ,  $C_{13}$ ,  $C_{66}$  but higher  $C_{22}$ ,  $C_{12}$  than Al-free  
 389end member and similar  $C_{33}$ ,  $C_{23}$ . The adiabatic bulk modulus ( $K_S$ ) and the shear  
 390modulus ( $G$ ) were estimated to be 140.7(7) GPa and 88.2(4) GPa, respectively, which  
 391are also lower than the Al-free composition. The azimuthal  $V_p$  anisotropy and  
 392maximum  $V_s^{\text{PO}}$  splitting are calculated using the following equations

393

$$394 A_p = \frac{V_{p_{\text{max}}} - V_{p_{\text{min}}}}{V_{p_{\text{avg}}}} \times 100 \text{ } \%$$

$$395 A_s^{\text{PO}} = \frac{\text{Max}(V_{s2} - V_{s1})}{V_{s_{\text{avg}}}} \times 100 \text{ } \%$$

396where  $V_{p_{\text{max}}}$ ,  $V_{p_{\text{min}}}$ ,  $V_{p_{\text{avg}}}$ , are maximum, minimum and average  $V_p$  in the crystal  
 397structure. Max ( $V_{s2} - V_{s1}$ ), describes the maximum difference between  $V_{s2}$  and  $V_{s1}$  in

398the same propagation direction;  $V_{\text{Savg}}$  computes the average of all the  $V_{\text{S}}$ . The values of  
399 $A_P$  and  $A_S^{PO}$  are 20.1% and 15.9%, respectively.

400

#### 4014. Discussion

##### 4024.1 Incorporation of H and Al in the structure of shy-B

403Based on our single-crystal X-ray refinements of shy-B with different Al contents, we  
404can infer the mechanisms of Al incorporation in the shy-B structure based on the  
405volume of  $\text{MgO}_6$  and  $\text{SiO}_6$  octahedra. In the structure of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (corundum structure),  
406 $\text{MgO}$  (periclase structure) and  $\text{SiO}_2$  (rutile structure), used as simple reference, the  
407volume of  $\text{AlO}_6$  octahedra is larger than that of the  $\text{SiO}_6$  octahedra, but smaller than  
408the  $\text{MgO}_6$  octahedra (Fig. S5). Based on this simple comparison we expect as a first  
409order approximation that the incorporation of Al by substitution of Si in octahedral  
410sites will increase the volume of the octahedra, while it will lower the volume of the  
411octahedra when it substitutes Mg. We observe that with increasing Al content in shy-  
412B, the volume of the  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedral site remains unchanged and that of the  $\text{SiO}_6$   
413octahedron becomes larger (Fig. 5) indicating that  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  substitutes for the octahedral  
414 $\text{Si}^{4+}$  which is consistent with the Al substitution in stishovite (Bromiley et al. 2006;  
415Litasov et al. 2007a). The volumes of Mg1 and Mg2 octahedral sites are decreasing  
416with increasing Al content, indicating a preferred Al substitution for Mg in Mg1 and  
417Mg2 (if we refer to the  $Pnnm$  space group). The volume of the Mg3 octahedron  
418remains unaffected by the change in Al content suggesting that the substitution of Al  
419in Mg3 octahedra site is negligible. In contrast, the volume of the Mg4 octahedral site  
420slightly increases with increasing Al content, indicating a presence of Al in Mg4  
421octahedral site to should be limited. The increase of Mg4 octahedron might be caused  
422by vacancies in this site.

423The hydrogen positions and OH dipole directions of the stoichiometrically  
424incorporated hydrogens are well known from neutron diffractions data and polarized  
425FTIR spectra on oriented crystals (Trots et al. 2013, Koch-Müller et al. 2014); the two  
426main OH bands in MA-399 are assigned to these two OH dipoles, and their vibrations  
427are labelled as  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$ . In the thin-film spectra there may be hints for two additional  
428OH bands  $\nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$ . To have a better insight into the defect H we collected low  
429temperature spectra and spectra on relatively thick crystals (Figs. S1, S2). There is  
430nearly no change in the OH bands with decreasing temperatures. The bands remain  
431broad, indicating that the FWHM is caused by cationic disorder rather than disorder of  
432by thermal broadening. According to Trots et al. (2013) both non-defect hydrogens  
433are coordinated by Mg1, Mg2 and Mg3 sites. We suggest that Al-substituting Mg in  
434Mg1 and Mg2, as shown in this study, leads to variable environments of the hydrogen  
435and thus to the observed higher band widths. Fig. 1 and S1 clearly shows that defect  
436hydrogen is present in all three samples. The intensity of the band  $\nu_3$  at  $3261\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
437(MA-399) increases with increasing vacancies of the Mg sites for the samples MA-  
438575 and MA-576 and thus we assigned the band to this defect. The band  $\nu_4$  is also  
439present in all three sample, however, only with a constant and minor intensity. We  
440will discuss its possible origin later on.

441Due to the very limited Al content in MA-399 whose composition is  $(\text{Mg}_{9.39}\square_{0.61})$   
442 $(\text{Si}_{2.93}\text{Al}_{0.04}\square_{0.03})\text{H}_{5.37}\text{O}_{18}$ , we considered it as Al-free shy-B in this discussion. The  
443extra 1.37 H pfu goes to the tetrahedral silicon site as hydrogarnet substitution (0.12 H  
444pfu), vacancies in the Mg site (1.22 H pfu) and neglectable 0.04 H pfu goes to Si  
445octahedral site by the mechanism of  $\text{Si}^{4+}=\text{Al}^{3+} + \text{H}^+$ .

446Based on our single-crystal structural models and electron microprobe analyses of the  
447Al-bearing samples MA-575 and MA-576, we propose the following coupled

448substitutions for Al-bearing shy-B: (1)  $\text{Si}^{4+} = \text{Al}^{3+} + \text{H}^+$ ; (2)  $2 \text{ Al}^{3+} = \text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Si}^{4+}$ ; (3)  
449 $\square^{\text{Mg}^{2+}} = 2\text{H}^+$ . As the ionic size of  ${}^{\text{VI}}\text{Al}^{3+}$  and  ${}^{\text{VI}}\text{Si}^{4+}$  are quite similar (Shannon, 1976),  
450we propose that  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  first occupies all the Si octahedral sites and then the other sites.  
451We rule out the possibility of large contributions from the hydrogarnet substitution as  
452the X-ray refinement indicate fully occupied (Si + Al) tetrahedral and octahedral Si  
453sites. However, a limited amount as observed in MA-399 may be possible.

454Sample MA-575 contains 0.47 Al pfu in total ( $\text{Mg}_{8.75}\text{Al}_{0.47}\text{Si}_{2.62}\text{H}_{6.60}\text{O}_{18}$ ). 0.38 Al pfu is  
455needed to occupy all the Si octahedral sites, and the remaining 0.09 Al pfu goes to the  
456Mg site. We thus assign 0.29 Al to the octahedral Si-site via mechanism (1); 0.09 Al  
457pfu (in total) goes to Mg1 and Mg2 sites and 0.09 pfu  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  to the octahedral Si site by  
458mechanism (2). Therefore, the residual charge in the Si site should be balanced via  
459mechanism (1) by 0.29 H pfu. Vacancies in the Mg sites are charge balanced by  
460mechanism (3) resulting in 2.32 H pfu. The crystal-chemical formula for MA-575 can  
461thus be stated as  $(\text{Mg}_{8.75}\text{Al}_{0.09}\square_{1.16})(\text{Si}_{2.62}\text{Al}_{0.38})\text{H}_{6.60}\text{O}_{18}$ .

462Following the substitution mechanisms as described for MA-575, the crystal-chemical  
463formula of MA-576 will be  $(\text{Mg}_{8.04}\text{Al}_{0.52}\square_{1.44})(\text{Si}_{2.17}\text{Al}_{0.83})\text{H}_{7.18}\text{O}_{18}$ : 0.31 Al pfu are  
464assigned to the octahedral Si site via mechanism (1) results in 0.31  $\text{H}^+$  pfu; 0.52 Al  
465pfu (in total) is in the Mg1 and Mg2 sites and 0.52 Al pfu in the octahedral Si site via  
466mechanism (2); vacancies in the Mg sites are charge balanced by mechanism (3)  
467resulting in 2.88 additional H pfu.

468In summary, with increasing Al-incorporation in shy B the Mg vacancy content and  
469Al incorporation into the octahedral Si site increase, and both lead to an increasing H  
470content.

471The assignment is consistent with the FTIR spectra: the increasing absorbance of the  
472band  $\nu_3$  with increasing Al- content is due to increasing Mg vacancies content (0.6,

4731.16 and 1.44 pfu, in MA-399, MA-575 and MA-576 respectively), and charge  
474balance via mechanism (2) resulting in 1.4, 2.32 and 2.88 H<sup>+</sup> pfu. In the nominally Al-  
475free sample MA-399 the absorption band  $\nu_3$  is weak but still clearly visible (Fig. S1;  
476see also Table S1). There should be additional weak OH bands due to mechanism (1)  
477in the FTIR spectra of MA-575 (0.29 H) and MA-576 (0.31 H) but nearly none (0.04  
478H pfu) in the spectra of MA-399. These additional OH bands should have frequencies  
479close to 3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> based on available data for H-bearing Al-stishovite (Bromiley et al.  
4802006; Litasov et al. 2007a) and they may be hidden in the background. However, we  
481do observe a weak OH band,  $\nu_4$ , in all three samples and we tentatively assign it to the  
482hydrogarnet substitution. At least for sample MA-399 the chemical composition  
483analyses indicate 0.03 pfu vacancies in the Si site which would result in 0.12 H pfu.  
484Due to the complex Al incorporation into the structure and variable vacancies we  
485cannot rule out that the same holds for MA-575 and MA-576. The hydrogarnet  
486substitution would result in four OH bands with a strong band in the frequency range  
487of  $\nu_4$  – the others may be hidden by the high intrinsic OH described above.  
488Our interpretation of the data is partly consistent with the results of Kakizawa et al.  
489(2021). They investigated one Al-shy B sample with nearly the same composition as  
490MA-576. The FTIR spectra are quite similar to the spectra of MA-576 shown in Fig. 1  
491and S1. In agreement with our conclusions the broad band at 3400 cm<sup>-1</sup> (our merged  
492 $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_2$ ) is assigned to the stoichiometrically incorporated hydrogen for *Pnn2*. The band  
493at 3260 cm<sup>-1</sup> (our band  $\nu_3$ ) and at 3540 cm<sup>-1</sup> (our band  $\nu_4$ ) are according to Kakizawa et  
494al. (2021) assigned to the substitution mechanism (1) (Si<sup>4+</sup> = Al<sup>3+</sup> + H<sup>+</sup>) and to a new  
495and complex substitution mechanism (4): 2 Mg<sup>2+</sup> = Al<sup>3+</sup> + H<sup>+</sup> + □<sup>Mg2+</sup>, respectively.  
496This assignment is not supported by our data. We studied three samples with different  
497Al-contents, the band in question ( $\nu_3$ ) is present in all three spectra (Fig. S1) but only

498two of the samples show the substitution of  $\text{Si}^{4+}$  by  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  (Table 2). In addition, in our  
499study the band at  $3450 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_4$ ) shows a constant and weak absorption in the spectra  
500of all three samples (Fig. S1), which is not consistent with the substitution mechanism  
501in which Mg vacancies are involved as the amount of vacancies increases with Al  
502content.

503Al incorporation into the Mg-site (mechanism 2) causes a broadening of the OH  
504absorption bands, which leads to the merging of OH bands  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$ . As observed in  
505other solid solutions systems such as Al-bearing phase D, the partial substitution of  
506Mg by Al at the Mg site results in variable Mg-Al environments for the H sites and  
507causes band broadening (Xu et al.,2019). We can rule out that the band broadening is  
508due to dynamic disordering of H atom around the normal H position as we see no  
509sharpening of the bands with decreasing temperature (fig s2). In conclusion, Al-free  
510shy-B with 2 distinct H atomic position crystallizes in  $Pnn2$  space group and the  
511incorporation of Al into the hydrogen coordinating Mg sites M1 and M2 leads to  
512cationic disorder and seems to result in overlapping unresolved OH bands leaving the  
513question of the ultimate structure type ( $Pnn2$  or  $Pnnm$ ) for Al-rich shy-B unsolved. To  
514gain further structural information, Al-rich shy-B needs to be examined by NMR or  
515neutron diffraction in future.

516

#### 5174.2 Elasticity of Al-bearing shy-B

518The elasticity of Al-free shy-B with different hydrogen contents has been investigated  
519at ambient or high P-T conditions using Brillouin scattering in 3 studies (Pacalo and  
520Weidner 1996; Rosa et al. 2015; Li et al. 2016). We list the sets of 9 independent  
521elastic constants (at ambient conditions) for the different chemical compositions in  
522Table 3 and we plot them in Fig.7 where the valency of the cations is considered (i.e.

523for MA-576 (Al+H)/(H+Al+Mg+Si) and equates to  $(3*1.35 + 7.18)/36$ . We also  
524recalculated the results of Rosa et al (2015) using the correct composition (and  
525density) of that sample material following the suggestion by Li et al (2016). The  
526elastic stiffness coefficients of Al-free shy-B show a general decrease with increasing  
527H content, and only  $C_{44}$  and  $C_{12}$  are insensitive to the H content within uncertainty; the  
528effect of Al incorporation modifies these trends, especially in the case of  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{22}$  and  
529 $C_{23}$  (Fig.7). The incorporation of H in shy-B will significantly reduce the mass per  
530formula unit leading to a sensible decrease of density of shy-B. To better identify and  
531discuss the effects of H and Al incorporation on the elasticity and acoustic velocity of  
532shy-B, we try to exclude the effect of density (mostly due to H incorporation) by  
533normalizing the individual coefficients and expressing them as the ratio  $C_{ij}/\text{density}$ .  
534Using the value of  $C_{ij}/\text{density}$  from Pacalo and Weidner (1996) as a reference ideal  
535Mg- end member of shy-B, we calculated the differences of the individual  $C_{ij}$  for each  
536composition of shy-B (Fig.8). When the effect of density (i.e. of hydrogen  
537incorporation) is removed, the value of most  $C_{ij}/\text{density}$  for Al-free shy-B with  
538different water contents remains equal within uncertainties (Fig. 8). The differences of  
539 $C_{12}$ ,  $C_{13}$  and  $C_{23}$  are larger, as the off-diagonal elastic coefficients are more difficult to  
540constrain (they cannot be determined independently by individual Brillouin scattering  
541or sound velocity measurements). When we consider the Al-free system in previous  
542studies, the values of  $C_{ij}/\text{density}$  for all the other coefficients are effectively  
543insensitive to the H content indicating that the incorporation of H in excess compared  
544to the ideal Mg- end member composition will not affect the sound velocity of shy-B,  
545because it equally reduces both the elastic coefficients and the density. When we  
546consider Al-bearing shy-B (MA-576), the elastic coefficients  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{44}$ ,  $C_{55}$ ,  $C_{66}$  and  $C_{13}$   
547are lower,  $C_{22}$ ,  $C_{12}$ ,  $C_{23}$  are higher and  $C_{33}$  and  $C_{66}$  are equal to Al-free shy-B. The

548large difference observed for several density-normalized  $C_{ij}$  of Al-bearing shy-B  
549indicates that the substitution of Al in the structure has a much larger impact on sound  
550velocity of this phase.

551In order to understand the relationship between Al incorporation and elasticity, we  
552need to consider the crystal structure of Al-free shy-B. The structure of shy-B is  
553characterized by an alternation of layers containing octahedra (Mg) and tetrahedra (Si)  
554and layers containing octahedra (Mg) and octahedra (Si) stacked along the *b*-  
555crystallographic axis (Fig.9). All the available experimental studies of the elastic  
556properties of Al-free shy-B (with variable H content) and also density functional  
557theory (DFT) studies consistently show that *b* is the stiffest axial direction with  $C_{22}$   
558~10% larger than  $C_{11}$  and ~7% larger than  $C_{33}$  (Pacalo and Weidner 1996;  
559Mookherjee and Tsuchiya 2015; Rosa et al. 2015; Li et al. 2016; Yang et al. 2017).  
560The stiffness along the *b*- direction is enhanced by the presence of two different  
561alignments or columns of polyhedral units running along this direction, and it is  
562controlled by the stiffest unit in these alignments. Based on the available data the  
563stiffness of Si-O tetrahedra is much higher than that of Mg-O and Si-O octahedra  
564(Hazen and Finger 1982). In both columns aligned along *b*, one of the stiff Si-O  
565tetrahedral bonds is systematically aligned parallel to the *b*-axis (Fig. 9). In each  
566column, both Si-tetrahedra and softer Si-octahedra are present with a ratio of 1:1.  
567However, due to a shift along *b*-axis between the two columns, the resulting sequence  
568of layers stacked along *b* have a ratio of tetrahedra-bearing vs. fully octahedral layers  
569of 2:1. The distance between Si atoms aligned along the *b*-columns is a sequence of  
570~3.5 Å and ~5.2 Å.

571Looking for structural features parallel to the *a*- and *c*-axes, we find that 2 types of  
572column-like units have either only Si-octahedra or Si-tetrahedra alternating with Mg-

573octahedra. The distance between Si atoms along the columns running parallel to  $a$  is  
574equal to the unit-cell parameter  $a$  ( $\sim 5$  Å). No stiff bond is aligned along the  $a$ -  
575direction, and the arrangement of the stiff tetrahedra gives the option for rigid  
576rotations to accommodate compression. Column-like structures along the  $c$ -axis offer  
577a more direct alignment of cations, involving either only Si-octahedra or Si-tetrahedra,  
578at distances equal to the  $c$ - unit-cell parameter ( $\sim 8.5$  Å). However, the packing of  
579polyhedra is denser than along the  $a$ -axis, with average distances between Si and Mg  
580or Mg and Mg averaging at  $\sim 2.7$  Å.

581The mechanisms through which Al incorporation affects the elastic tensor of shy-B is  
582complicated by the coexisting effects of vacancies and hydrogen incorporation.  
583Below, we interpret the effects on the compressional coefficients  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{22}$ , and  $C_{33}$   
584based on our complete set of structural and spectroscopic observations.

585We identify major mechanisms: (1) Al incorporation causes a decrease of the unit cell  
586parameters  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$  and potentially stiffening all the  $C_{ii}$  ( $i=1,2,3$ ); (2) Al substitution at  
587the octahedral Si site softens Si-O octahedra; (3) Al substitution at Mg sites stiffens  
588Mg-O octahedra; (4) vacancies on Mg octahedra make them softer. In the case of  $C_{11}$   
589(the uniaxial stiffness along the  $a$ - direction) the mechanisms (1), (2) and (3) are all  
590active. However, as the distance between Si polyhedra is very large ( $\sim 5$  Å), the  
591shrinking of  $a$ - axis has a limited effect on  $C_{11}$ . In addition, in MA-576 a large amount  
592of Si is substituted by Al and mechanism (2) is dominant over (1) and (3).  
593Consequently,  $C_{11}$  softens with respect to Al-free shy-B. In the case of  $C_{22}$ , as the  
594stiffest Si-O tetrahedral aligned with  $b$ -axis, mechanisms (1) will dominate and make  
595 $C_{22}$  stiffer. In the case of  $C_{33}$  the four different mechanisms balance each other, and the  
596value of the constant is only marginally affected by Al incorporation.

597

## 598 5. Implications

599 Shy-B is potentially a major hydrous phase in cold slabs subducted to the depth of the  
600 transition zone and the topmost part of the lower mantle (Schmidt and Ulmer 2004;  
601 Ohtani 2005). The presence and decomposition of Al-free shy-B might be related to  
602 the low velocity zone or 720-800 km discontinuity in the shallow lower mantle (Li et  
603 al. 2016; Yang et al. 2017). The study by Kakizawa et al. (2018) showed that Al-  
604 bearing shy-B has a much wider stability field compared to the Al-free counterpart.  
605 Pyrope-rich garnet can be the main Al carrier in the subducted slabs in the deep  
606 transition zone and the top of the lower mantle. Our syntheses results show that Al-  
607 free shy-B coexists with ringwoodite, while Al-bearing shy-B coexists with pyrope at  
608 the conditions of our synthesis runs (Table 2). In the peridotite layer of subducted  
609 slabs, Al-free shy-B could be favored compared to Al-bearing shy-B because the  
610 amount of available Al is low. On the other hand, in the basaltic layer, where pyrope  
611 is the most abundant phase, Al-bearing shy-B would be present coexisting with  
612 pyrope-rich garnet if the subducted slab is H<sub>2</sub>O rich. The Al-free shy-B decomposes  
613 around 30 GPa and 900 K indicating that it cannot represent a water carrier even at  
614 the conditions of a very cold subduction slab (Ohtani et al. 2003). Having a wider  
615 stability, Al-bearing shy-B with 31.9 wt.% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> could be stable at 25 GPa and 2300  
616 K and could be a potential water carrier in the topmost lower mantle (Kakizawa et  
617 al. 2018). The elastic properties of Al-bearing shy-B are important for our  
618 understanding of the low seismic velocity anomalies and anisotropy anomalies  
619 observed in the transition zone and topmost part of the lower mantle. Our study  
620 demonstrates that while the incorporation of additional H<sub>2</sub>O in shy-B mainly affects  
621 the density and has only a slight effect on sound velocity (Fig. 8 and Table 3), on the  
622 opposite the incorporation of Al has a more complex effect on density and elasticity

623 resulting in a relevant effect on sound velocity and anisotropy. Comparing  $V_p$  and  $V_s$   
624 with that of standard Al-free shy-B, Al-bearing shy-B has 1.8% and 2.6 % lower  $V_p$   
625 and  $V_s$ , respectively (Fig. 10). A previous study of sound velocity of H<sub>2</sub>O-rich Al-free  
626 shy-B at high P-T has shown that the presence of shy-B could help to explain the low  
627 velocity zone at the topmost lower mantle but cannot help to understanding high  
628 anisotropy regions (Li et al., 2016). Our Al-bearing shy-B displays densities that are  
629 comparable to those of the H<sub>2</sub>O-rich Al-free shy-B investigated by Li et al (2016),  
630 which has similar H<sub>2</sub>O content (Table 3.). At ambient conditions, Al-bearing shy-B  
631 has the lowest acoustic velocities among all the previously investigated shy-B  
632 compositions (Fig.10). More importantly, the  $V_p$  anisotropy and  $V_s^{PO}$  splitting of Al-  
633 bearing shy-B are 13.2% and 6.1% higher than those of Al-free one (Fig.10). The  
634 volume fraction of shy-B in the hydrated pyrolite system can reach 25% at pressures  
635 of the topmost lower mantle (Ohtani et al.2005). Assuming a similar pressure and  
636 temperature dependence of the elastic tensor as Al-free shy-B (Li et al., 2016), the  
637 presence of 25 vol.% of Al-bearing shy-B in deep subducted slabs may produce  
638 observable lower seismic velocity at topmost lower mantle. More interestingly, Al-  
639 bearing has higher elastic anisotropy than Al-free shy-B, we thus conclude that if 25  
640 vol.% of Al-bearing shy-B with strong lattice preferred orientation (LPO) might cause  
641~2% anisotropy for  $V_s$  and help to understand the anomalous seismic features  
642 observed inside and in proximity of Tonga deep subducted slab (Chen and Brudzinski  
643 2003). However, our studies only focus on the elasticity at ambient condition, and a  
644 high P-T study investigating the elasticity of Al-bearing shy-B is necessary in the  
645 future.

646

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806

## 807 **Figure Captions**

808 **Figure 1.** Infrared absorption spectra of shy-B with different Al content in the  
809 frequency range of the OH stretching vibration.

810

811**Figure 2.** Infrared absorption spectra of shy-B with different Al content in the  
812frequency range of the lattice vibrations.

813

814**Figure 3.** Raman spectra of shy-B with different Al content at the frequency range of  
815 100-1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

816

817**Figure 4.** Unit cell parameters and unit cell volume of shy-B with different Al  
818contents. Error bars are smaller than the symbols.

819

820**Figure 5.** Polyhedral volumes of various Mg and Si sites for shy-B with different Al  
821contents in *Pnnm* space group. (a) Dependence of the volumes of MgO<sub>6</sub> octahedra on  
822the Al content. Squares, circles, triangles and diamonds represent the octahedral  
823volume for the site of Mg1, Mg2, Mg3 and Mg4, respectively. (b) Dependence of the  
824volumes of SiO<sub>6</sub> octahedron and SiO<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron on the Al content; triangles and  
825circles represent the octahedron and tetrahedron of SiO<sub>6</sub> and SiO<sub>4</sub>, respectively. Error  
826bars are smaller than the symbols in both the panels.

827

828**Figure 6.** Acoustic velocities of Shy-B with 1.35 Al pfu (sample MA-576) measured on  
829four platelets with different orientations. Circles: quasi-longitudinal acoustic velocity;  
830squares: fast quasi-shear acoustic velocity; triangles: slow quasi-shear acoustic  
831velocity; curves: fitting results; black, red, green and blue colors represent the  
832orientations of (-0.5, 0, 0.87), (0.83, -0.56, -0.08), (-0.78, -0.38, 0.49) and (-  
8330.81, -0.59, 0.09), respectively.

834

835 **Figure 7.** Relationship between elastic stiffness coefficients and the amount of H, Al  
836 and Fe incorporated in shy-B. The valency of the cations is considered (i.e. for MA-  
837 576 the  $(Al+H)/(H+Al+Mg+Si)$  is equal to  $(3*1.35 + 7.18)/36$ ). The solid circles  
838 represent this study for Al-bearing shy-B. The open circles represent the Al-free shy-  
839 B with different water contents from previous studies (Pacalo and Weidner, 1996;  
840 Rosa et al. 2015; Li et al. 2016); the open red diamonds in panel (d) represent the  
841 isothermal bulk modulus ( $K_{T0}$ ) fitted to X-ray diffraction for Al-free shy-B with  
842 different water contents (Litasov et al. 2007b; Inoue et al. 2013); the open red star  
843 represents the  $K_{T0}$  of Fe-bearing shy-B (Crichton et al. 1999). Error bars smaller than  
844 the symbols are not shown in the figures.

845

846 **Figure 8.** Effect of H and Al incorporation on the individual elastic stiffness  
847 coefficients of shy-B. The change is expressed as  $100*[(C_{ij}/\text{density})_a - (C_{ij}/\text{density})_{\text{ref}}]$ ,  
848 where the subscript a indicates Al-bearing or H-enriched shy-B and the subscript ref  
849 indicates ideal Mg- end member shy-B (Pacalo and Weidner, 1996). Solid circles  
850 MA-576; open blue circles from Li et al. (2016); open green circles from Rosa et al.  
851 (2016)

852

853 **Figure 9.** Crystal structure of Al-bearing shy-B(MA-576):  $b-c$  plane (panel (a)) and  $a-$   
854  $c$  plane (panel (b)).

855

856 **Figure 10.** Average aggregate sound velocity and acoustic anisotropy of Al-bearing  
857 and Al-free shy-B at ambient condition. Solid circles: this study; open circles: Pacalo  
858 and Weidner (1996); Rosa et al. (2015); Li et al. (2016). (a) sound velocity of Al-  
859 bearing and Al-free shy-B. (b)  $V_p$  anisotropy and  $V_s^{\text{PO}}$  splitting of Al-bearing and Al-

860free shy-B.