Transition Metal-Indium Substitution in Y₃Rh₂-type Compounds

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New rare earth metal-rich indium compounds $RE_3T_{2-x}In_x$ (RE = Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm; T =Rh, Pd, Ir) were synthesized from the elements via high-frequency melting and subsequent annealing in sealed silica ampoules. These intermetallics crystallize with substitution variants of the tetragonal Y_3Rh_2 -type structure, space group I4/mcm, Z = 28. All samples were studied by powder and single crystal X-ray diffraction: a = 1164.2(2), c = 2486.5(5) pm, for Tb₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1139.4(2), c = 2480.8(5) pm for Er₃Rh_{1.48}In_{0.52}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 2465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 12465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 12465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 12465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 12465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 12465.4(5) pm for Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, a = 1153.7(2), c = 1153.7(2), 1146.4(2), c = 2498.4(5) pm for Tb₃Ir_{1.62}In_{0.33}, a = 1154.9(2), c = 2500.1(5) pm for Tb₃Ir_{1.52}In_{0.44}, a = 1187.8(2), c = 2559.2(5) pm for Gd₃Pd_{1.27}In_{0.71}, and a = 1169.1(2), c = 2530.3(5) pm for Ho₃Pd_{1,27}In_{0,71}. The indium atoms show different site occupancies on the transition metal positions, and for most crystals small defects occur for one transition metal site. $Gd_3Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}$ (a = 1166.3(2), c = 2512.0(5) pm) and Dy₃Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64} reveal complete rhodium–indium ordering. These two indides crystallize with the translationengleiche subgroup 14/m. The rare earth atoms in these $RE_3T_{2-1}In_x$ indides have coordination numbers between 13 and 15. A striking structural motif is the tetrahedral indium coordination in the first coordination sphere of the RE5 position (305 pm Gd-In in Gd₃Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}). The transition metal atoms show trigonal prismatic or square anti-prismatic rare earth coordination. In all compounds investigated, the indium atoms substitute these metals only at the square prismatic sites and at one site of coordination number 10. The crystal chemical consequences of the different ordered and statistical transition metal-indium substitutions are discussed.

Key words: Indium, Intermetallics, Crystal Chemistry

Introduction

During our recent phase analytical investigations of the rare earth metal-rich parts of the rare earth metal (*RE*)-rhodium-indium systems we characterized the series of *RE*₄RhIn (Gd₄RhIn-type, space group $F\bar{4}3m$) [1] and *RE*₁₄Rh₃In₃ (Lu₁₄Co₃In₃-type, space group *P*4₂/*nmc*) [2] indides. In both structure types, the rhodium atoms have trigonal prismatic rare earth coordination. These Rh*RE*₆ prisms are condensed *via* common edges and corners, leading to three-, respectively two-dimensional networks. Such trigonal prismatic units also occur in the *RE*₂Rh₂In indides (Mo₂Fe₂B-type, space group *P*4/*mbm*) [3,4]. The trigonal prisms in these indides are condensed *via* a common rectangular face, leading to an AlB₂ related slab with Rh–Rh bonds.

In the rhodium-based systems, the RE_4 RhIn, RE_{14} Rh₃In₃, and RE_2 Rh₂In indides are pure ternary compounds. There are no binary rare earth–rhodium

compounds with related structures which would allow a substitution by indium. This is different for the palladium series. The RE_2Pd_2In indides [5] are derived from the binary compounds RE_3Pd_2 [6] by an ordered substitution at the 2a rare earth position by indium. Herein we report on a different substitution pattern. The binary compounds RE_3Rh_2 [7] and RE_3Ir_2 [8] (all Y₃Rh₂-type, space group I4/mcm) have six crystallographically independent transition metal sites with trigonal prismatic, square prismatic, and square antiprismatic rare earth coordination. The square prismatic and one of the square antiprismatic sites show significant rhodium (iridium)/indium substitution, leading to ternary indides $RE_3Ir_{2-x}In_x$. Although the RE_3Pd_2 compounds crystallize with another structure type, the Y₃Rh₂-type has also been observed for some indides $RE_3Pd_{2-x}In_x$. The preparation and structure refinements of Gd₃Rh_{1 30}In_{0 64}, Tb₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}, Dy₃Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64}, Er₃Rh_{1.48}In_{0.52}, $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$, $Tb_3Ir_{1.62}In_{0.33}$, $Tb_3Ir_{1.52}In_{0.44}$,

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 $Gd_3Pd_{1.27}In_{0.71}$, and $Ho_3Pd_{1.27}In_{0.71}$ are reported herein.

Experimental Section

Synthesis

Starting materials for the preparation of the $RE_3Rh_{2-x}In_x$, $RE_3Pd_{2-x}In_x$ and $RE_3Ir_{2-x}In_x$ samples were ingots of the rare earth metals (smart elements, Johnson Matthey), rhodium, palladium, and iridium powder or granules (Heraeus or Degussa-Hüls), and indium tear drops (Chempur), all with stated purities better than 99.9 %. Pieces of the respective rare earth and transition metal and pieces of the indium tear drops were mixed in the atomic ratios listed in Table 1 and arc-melted [9] three times under argon pressure of ca. 600 mbar. The argon was purified over molecular sieves, silica gel and titanium sponge (900 K). Alternatively the elements can be inductively melted in small glassy carbon crucibles (Sigradur[®] G) in a high-frequency furnace (Hüttinger Elektronik, Freiburg, Typ TIG 1.5/300) [10]. Light-gray polycrystalline samples were obtained which are stable in air over months.

Single crystals of the compounds $RE_3Rh_{2-x}In_x$ (RE = Gd-Dy, Tm), Gd₃Pd_{1,27}In_{0,71}, and Ho₃Pd_{1,27}In_{0,71} were grown via a special heat treatment. First, the inductionmelted samples were powdered and cold-pressed into pellets of 6 mm diameter. Next, the samples were placed in small tantalum containers that were sealed in evacuated silica tubes as an oxidation protection. The ampoules were first heated within 6 h to a maximum value of 1295-1355 K and kept at that temperature for another 6 h. Subsequently, the temperature was lowered at a rate of 5 K h^{-1} to 970 K in all cases, then at a rate of 15 K h^{-1} to 670 K, and finally the samples were cooled to r. t. by switching off the furnace. After cooling, the samples could easily be separated from the tantalum containers. No reaction of the samples with tantalum was detected. Single crystals of irregular shape were selected. The single crystals of $Er_3Rh_{1.48}In_{0.52}$, $Tb_3Ir_{1.62}In_{0.33}$, and Tb₃Ir_{1.52}In_{0.44} were selected directly from the samples obtained by high-frequency melting.

The single crystals investigated on the diffractometer and the bulk samples were analyzed semiquantitatively by EDX in a LEICA 420 I scanning electron microscope using the lanthanoid trifluorides, rhodium, palladium, iridium, and InAs as standards. The EDX analyses revealed no impurity elements, and the results were in agreement with the compositions refined from the single crystal data.

X-Ray powder and single crystal data

The $RE_3Rh_{2-x}In_x$, $RE_3Pd_{2-x}In_x$ and $RE_3Ir_{2-x}In_x$ samples were studied by X-ray powder diffraction (Guinier technique) using Cu $K_{\alpha 1}$ radiation and α -quartz (a = 491.30, c = 540.46 pm) as an internal standard. The Guinier camera was

Table 1. Lattice parameters for $RE_3T_{2-x}In_x$ compounds with tetragonal Y₃Rh₂-type and related structures.

	1			
Compound	<i>a</i> (pm)	<i>c</i> (pm)	$V (nm^3)$	Reference
Rhodium compounds:				
$Gd_3Rh_{1.30(1)}In_{0.64(1)}{}^a$	1166.3(2)	2512.0(5)	3.4170	this work
6Gd: 2Rh: 1In ^b	1171(5)	2514(9)	3.4473	this work
Gd ₃ Rh ₂	1127(1)	2532(2)	3.2160	[7]
Tb ₃ Rh _{1.25(1)} In _{0.71} ^a	1164.2(2)	2486.5(5)	3.3701	this work
4Tb:1Rh:1In ^b	1170.5(8)	2491(2)	3.4128	this work
Tb ₃ Rh ₂	1125(1)	2520(2)	3.1893	[7]
$Dy_3Rh_{1.31(1)}In_{0.64(1)}^{a}$	1156.6(2)	2485.3(5)	3.3246	this work
6Dy:2Rh:1In ^b	1155(2)	2491(3)	3.3230	this work
Dy ₃ Rh ₂	1116(1)	2507(2)	3.1224	[7]
$Er_3Rh_{1.48(2)}In_{0.52(2)}{}^a$	1139.4(2)	2480.8(5)	3.2207	this work
21Er: 9Rh: 5In ^b	1145.6(2)	2478.0(2)	3.2521	this work
Er ₃ Rh ₂	1109(1)	2488(2)	3.0599	[7]
Tm ₃ Rh _{1.25(1)} In _{0.71} ^a	1153.7(2)	2465.4(5)	3.2815	this work
4Tm:1Rh:1In ^b	1151.6(5)	2458(2)	3.2597	this work
Iridium compounds:				
$Tb_3Ir_{1.62(1)}In_{0.33(1)}^{a}$	1146.4(2)	2498.4(5)	3.2835	this work
6Tb: 3Ir: 1In ^b	1153.7(8)	2508(2)	3.3382	this work
$Tb_3Ir_{1.52(1)}In_{0.44(1)}^{a}$	1154.9(2)	2500.1(5)	3.3346	this work
21Tb:9Ir:5In ^b	1164.5(5)	2503(1)	3.3942	this work
Tb ₃ Ir ₂	1120.6(3)	2504(1)	3.1444	[8]
Palladium compounds:				
Gd ₃ Pd _{1.27(1)} In _{0.71} ^a	1187.8(2)	2559.2(5)	3.6107	this work
5Gd: 2Pd: 1In ^b	1189(1)	2552(3)	3.6078	this work
Ho ₃ Pd _{1.27(1)} In _{0.71} ^a	1169.1(2)	2530.3(5)	3.4584	this work
5Ho:2Pd:1In ^b	1169.5(5)	2530.4(9)	3.4609	this work
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^a Single crystal data; ^b starting composition for the samples investigated by Guinier powder data.

equipped with an imaging plate system (Fujifilm BAS-1800). The tetragonal lattice parameters (Table 1) were obtained from least-squares refinements of the Guinier data. To ensure correct indexing, the experimental patterns were compared to calculated ones [11] using the atomic positions obtained from the structure refinements.

Irregularly shaped single crystals were selected from the samples after the crystal growth procedure or directly from the melted ones (see above) and first examined by Laue photographs on a Buerger precession camera (equipped with an imaging plate system Fujifilm BAS-1800) in order to establish the crystal quality. Single crystal intensity data were collected at r. t. on a Stoe IPDS-II diffractometer with graphite monochromatized Mo K_{α} radiation (71.073 pm) in oscillation mode. Numerical absorption corrections were applied to the data sets. All relevant crystallographic data and details for the data collections and evaluations are listed in Tables 2 and 3.

The nine data sets revealed the systematic extinctions expected for a body-centered tetragonal lattice and were in agreement with the centrosymmetric space group *I4/mcm*. The starting atomic parameters were deduced from automatic interpretations of Direct Methods with SHELXS-97 [12], and the structures were refined using SHELXL-97 (full-matrix

Empirical formula	$Gd_3Rh_{1.30(1)}In_{0.64}$	Tb ₃ Rh _{1.25(1)} In _{0.71}	Dy ₃ Rh _{1.31(1)} In _{0.64}	$Er_3Rh_{1.48(2)}In_{0.52(2)}$	Tm ₃ Rh _{1.25(1)} In _{0.71}
Molar mass, g mol ⁻¹	679.86	687.38	695.65	713.83	717.23
Crystal size, μm^3	$30 \times 40 \times 70$	$40\times100\times250$	20 imes 70 imes 70	$20 \times 20 \times 100$	$20 \times 50 \times 70$
Space group	I4/m	I4/mcm	I4/m	I4/mcm	I4/mcm
Unit cell dimensions			see Table 1		
Calculated density, g cm ⁻³	9.25	9.48	9.73	10.31	10.16
<i>F</i> (000), e	7902	8015	8071	8291	8350
Detector distance, mm	60	60	55	80	80
Exposure time, min	12	5	12	4	8
ω range; increment, deg	0-180; 1.0	0 - 180; 1.0	0-180; 1.0	0-180; 1.0	0-180; 1.0
Integr. param. A; B; EMS	14.5; 4.5; 0.014	14; 4; 0.018	14.0; 4.0; 0.012	13; 3.5; 0.014	14; 3.5; 0.012
Abs. coefficient, mm ⁻¹	47.3	50.9	53.9	61.7	63.7
Transm. ratio (max/min)	2.58	6.32	6.63	4.14	10.70
θ range, deg	3-35	3 - 30	3-32	2 - 30	2 - 32
Range in hkl	$\pm 18, \pm 18, \pm 40$	$\pm 15, \pm 15, \pm 34$	$\pm 17, \pm 17, \pm 36$	$\pm 16, \pm 16, \pm 34$	$\pm 17, \pm 17, \pm 36$
Total no. reflections	24843	16840	19264	16064	19107
Indep. refl.; R _{int}	3674; 0.053	1341; 0.043	2804; 0.044	1287; 0.094	1529; 0.061
Refl. with $I \ge 2\sigma(I)$; R_{σ}	2930; 0.028	1113; 0.024	2509; 0.024	771; 0.075	1144; 0.038
Data/parameters	3674/90	1341/54	2804/90	1287/55	1529/54
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.976	0.974	1.013	0.694	0.867
Final <i>R</i> 1; $wR2[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	0.028; 0.053	0.023; 0.045	0.024; 0.043	0.024; 0.043	0.024; 0.045
Final R1; wR2 (all data)	0.043; 0.057	0.033; 0.047	0.029; 0.044	0.058; 0.046	0.043; 0.047
Extinction coefficient	0.000135(5)	0.000231(7)	0.000110(4)	0.000044(3)	0.000131(4)
$\Delta \rho_{\rm fin}$ (max/min), e Å ⁻³	2.23/-2.00	2.10/-2.78	1.46/-1.61	1.89/-1.85	2.13/-2.53

Table 2. Crystal data and structure refinement for $Gd_3Rh_{1.30(1)}In_{0.64}$, $Tb_3Rh_{1.25(1)}In_{0.71}$, $Dy_3Rh_{1.31(1)}In_{0.64}$, $Er_3Rh_{1.48(2)}In_{0.52(2)}$, and $Tm_3Rh_{1.25(1)}In_{0.71}$, Z = 28.

Table 3. Crystal data and structure refinement for $Tb_3Ir_{1.62(1)}In_{0.33(1)}$, $Tb_3Ir_{1.52(1)}In_{0.44(1)}$, $Gd_3Pd_{1.27(1)}In_{0.71}$, and $Ho_3Pd_{1.27(1)}In_{0.71}$, space group *I4/mcm*, *Z* = 28.

Empirical formula	$Tb_3Ir_{1.62(1)}In_{0.33(1)}$	$Tb_3Ir_{1.52(1)}In_{0.44(1)}$	Gd ₃ Pd _{1.27(1)} In _{0.71}	Ho ₃ Pd _{1.27(1)} In _{0.71}
Molar mass, g mol ⁻¹	825.69	819.40	689.12	711.97
Crystal size, μm^3	$10 \times 40 \times 70$	$40 \times 40 \times 280$	$10 \times 50 \times 160$	$20 \times 40 \times 100$
Unit cell dimensions		see Tai	ble 1	
Calculated density, g cm ⁻³	11.69	11.43	8.87	9.57
<i>F</i> (000), e	9402	9341	7995	8244
Detector distance, mm	60	100	60	60
Exposure time, min	5	5	4	4
ω range; increment, deg	0 - 180; 1.0	0-180; 1.0	0 - 180; 1.0	0-180; 1.0
Integr. param. A; B; EMS	13.5; 3.5; 0.012	12.5; 3.5; 0.014	13.5; 3.5; 0.012	13.5; 3.5; 0.012
Absorption coefficient, mm ⁻¹	91.8	88.1	45.3	55.1
Transm. ratio (max/min)	8.72	18.50	6.32	5.74
θ range, deg	3-30	1-30	2-30	2 - 30
Range in <i>hkl</i>	$\pm 16, \pm 16, \pm 34$	$\pm 15, \pm 15, \pm 34$	$\pm 16, \pm 16, \pm 36$	$\pm 16, \pm 16, \pm 35$
Total no. reflections	16433	15524	18087	17381
Indep. reflections; R_{int}	1304; 0.149	1243; 0.079	1433; 0.076	1382; 0.092
Refl. with $I \ge 2\sigma(I)$; R_{σ}	768; 0.099	976; 0.039	1023; 0.048	897; 0.069
Data/parameters	1304/56	1243/56	1433/54	1382/54
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.708	0.908	0.789	0.718
Final <i>R</i> 1; <i>wR</i> 2 $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	0.030; 0.044	0.026; 0.053	0.024; 0.041	0.023; 0.037
Final R1; wR2 (all data)	0.074; 0.049	0.041; 0.056	0.045; 0.044	0.052; 0.039
Extinction coefficient	0.000055(3)	0.000081(5)	0.000102(4)	0.000143(3)
$\Delta ho_{ m fin}$ (max/min), e Å ⁻³	2.67/-2.46	2.06/-2.57	1.68/-1.84	1.73/-2.29

least-squares on F_o^2) [13] with anisotropic atomic displacement parameters for all sites. Comparison of the structures with the TYPIX database [14] readily revealed isotypism with Y₃Rh₂ [7]. All atomic parameters were then transformed to the setting originally used for the yttrium compound.

The final task of the refinements was the correct site assignment for the transition metal and indium atoms. Considering the large size of indium, occupancy of the trigonal prismatic site is unlikely. Indeed, except for $\text{Er}_3\text{Rh}_{1.48}\text{In}_{0.52}$, all *T*1 sites show only small defects. Since indium has a stronger

Atom	Wyck.	Occupancy %	x	у	2	$U_{\rm eq}$	Atom	Wyck.	Occupancy %	x	у	2	$U_{\rm eq}$
Gd_3Rh	Gd3Rh _{1.30(1)} In _{0.64} in 14/m	₆₄ in 14/m:					Dy4	88	100	0	1/2	0.10391(1)	166(1)
Gd1	16i	100	0.20512(10)	0.07769(12)	0.07169(5)	146(2)	Dy5	4d	100	0	1/2	1/4	278(1)
Gdla	16i	100	0.79518(10)	0.07710(11)	0.42798(5)	148(2)	Rh1	16i	90.9(3)	0.31711(14)	0.81499(13)	0.10725(2)	197(2)
Gd2	16i	100	0.07919(11)	0.20324(10)	0.19281(5)	178(2)	Rh2	8h	100	0.09587(14)	0.59649(15)	0	138(1)
Gd2a	16i	100	0.92155(12)	0.20775(10)	0.30859(5)	187(2)	Rh3	4e	100	0	0	0.13166(9)	170(4)
Gd3	8h	100	0.34817(15)	0.84853(15)	0	142(1)	Rh3a	4e	100	0	0	0.36937(7)	101(4)
Gd4	8g	100	0	1/2	0.10437(2)	171(1)	Rh4	4e	100	0	0	0.25295(11)	125(2)
Gd5	4d	100	0	1/2	1/4	311(2)	Rh5	2b	100	0	0	1/2	67(5)
Rh1	16 <i>i</i>	90.8(4)	0.3170(2)	0.8149(2)	0.10727(2)	198(2)	In2	2a	100	0	0	0	201(6)
Rh2	8h	100	0.0970(2)	0.5953(2)	0	143(1)	Inl	16 <i>i</i>	100	0.15618(10)	0.65716(9)	0.18504(2)	162(1)
Rh3	4e	100	0	0	0.13219(18)	139(6)	$Er_3Rh_{1.48}$	$(2)In_0 s_2($	$Er_3Rh_{1/48(2)}In_{0/52(2)}$ in $I4/mcm$:				
Rh3a	4e	100	0	0	0.36876(18)	144(6)	Er1	32m	100	0.20440(5)	0.07637(5)	0.07142(2)	90(1)
Rh4	4e	100	0	0	0.2509(2)	150(2)	Er2	32m	100	0.07827(5)	0.20601(5)	0.19234(2)	138(1)
Rh5	2b	100	0	0	1/2	101(7)	Er3	8h	100	0.34817(7)	x + 1/2	0	83(2)
In2	2a	100	0	0	0	174(8)	Er4	82	100	0	1/2	0.10486(4)	116(2)
In1	16 <i>i</i>	100	0.15606(15)	0.65687(12)	0.18495(2)	175(1)	Er5	$\frac{1}{4b}$	100	0	1/2	1/4	220(4)
Tb_3Rh_1	1.25(1) In0.7	Tb3Rh1.25(1) In0.71 in 14/mcm:					Rh1	161	100	0.31666(9)	x + 1/2	0.10712(5)	150(3)
Tb1	32m	100	0.20597(3)	0.07708(3)	0.07196(1)	85(1)	Rh2	8h	100	0.09617(12)	x + 1/2	0	70(4)
Tb2	32m	100	0.07832(3)	0.20469(3)	0.19203(1)	98(1)	Rh3	8f	100	0	0	0.13139(7)	81(4)
Tb3	8h	100	0.34731(4)	x + 1/2	0	81(1)	Rh4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	87(5)
Tb4	8g	100	0	1/2	0.10320(2)	97(1)	In1/Rh5	161	79(6)/21(6)	0.15616(7)	x + 1/2	0.18516(5)	117(4)
Tb5	4b	100	0	1/2	1/4	179(2)	In2/Rh6	4c	46(11)/54(11)	0	0	0	75(8)
Rh1	16/	93.8(5)	0.31489(6)	x + 1/2	0.10752(3)	129(3)	$Tm_3Rh_{1,25(1)}In_{0.71}$	5(1)In0.71	in 14/mcm:				
Rh2	8h	100	0.09561(7)	x + 1/2	0	77(2)	Tm1	32m	100	0.20675(3)	0.07740(3)	0.07209(1)	94(1)
Rh3	8f	100	0	0	0.13128(3)	73(2)	Tm2	32m	100	0.07695(3)	0.20394(3)	0.19194(1)	84(1)
Rh4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	73(3)	Tm3	8h	100	0.34838(5)	x + 1/2	0	95(1)
In1	16/	100	0.15689(4)	x + 1/2	0.18495(2)	92(1)	Tm4	88	100	0	1/2	0.10290(3)	97(1)
In2	4c	100	0	0	0	88(3)	Tm5	$\frac{1}{4b}$	100	0	1/2	1/4	120(2)
Dy_3Rh	1.31(1)In0.6	Dy3Rh _{1,31(1)} In0.64 in 14/m:					Rh1	161	93.5(6)	0.31490(6)	x + 1/2	0.10750(4)	131(4)
Dy1	16i	100	0.20423(7)	0.07658(6)	0.07132(3)	145(2)	Rh2	h8h	100	0.09555(8)	x + 1/2	0	78(2)
Dyla	16i	100	0.79445(7)	0.07754(7)	0.42813(3)	150(1)	Rh3	8f	100	0	0	0.13045(5)	78(2)
Dy2	16i	100	0.07667(7)	0.20613(7)	0.19210(3)	179(2)	Rh4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	75(3)
Dy2a	16i	100	0.91989(7)	0.20433(7)	0.30803(3)	171(2)	Inl	161	100	0.15756(5)	x + 1/2	0.18553(3)	77(1)
Dy3	8h	100	0.34813(9)	0.84772(9)	0	142(1)	In2	4c	100	0	0	0	92(3)

1400

Atom	Wyck.	Occupancy %	x	y	Z	Ueq
	$\frac{1}{2(1)}In_{0.33(1)}$			5	~	⊖ cq
Tb1	32m	100	0.20503(6)	0.07542(7)	0.07196(3)	115(2)
Tb1 Tb2	32m 32m	100	0.20303(0) 0.07903(8)	0.07342(7) 0.20781(7)	0.07190(3) 0.19287(4)	199(2)
Tb2 Tb3	32m 8h	100	0.07903(8)	x + 1/2	0.19287(4)	117(3)
Tb3 Tb4		100	0.34807(10)	$\frac{x+1/2}{1/2}$	0.10658(7)	. ,
Tb4 Tb5	8g 4b	100	0	1/2	0.10038(7) 1/4	167(4)
105 Ir1	40 16l		0.31778(7)	$\frac{1}{2}$ x+1/2	0.10689(5)	219(6)
Ir1 Ir2	10 <i>i</i> 8 <i>h</i>	90.8(5)	0.31778(7) 0.09484(7)	x + 1/2 x + 1/2	0.10089(3)	160(4)
Ir2 Ir3	8n 8f	100 100	0.09484(7)	x + 1/2	0.13299(5)	84(3)
Ir5 Ir4	4a	100	0	0	0.15299(5) 1/4	82(3) 06(4)
In 1/Ir5	4 <i>a</i> 16 <i>l</i>	51(1)/49(1)	0.15541(6)	$\frac{0}{x+1/2}$	0.18544(6)	96(4) 140(5)
In1/Ir5 In2/Ir6	4c		0.15541(0)	x + 1/2	0.18544(0)	93(8)
		25(3)/75(3)	0	0	0	95(6)
$Tb_{3}Ir_{1.52}$		$_{I)}$ in I4//mcm:				
Tb1	32 <i>m</i>	100	0.20539(5)	0.07583(5)	0.07206(2)	127(1)
Tb2	32 <i>m</i>	100	0.07897(5)	0.20592(5)	0.19260(2)	180(2)
Tb3	8h	100	0.34793(7)	x + 1/2	0	121(2)
Tb4	8g	100	0	1/2	0.10458(4)	165(2)
Tb5	4b	100	0	1/2	1/4	272(4)
Ir1	16 <i>l</i>	93.1(4)	0.31675(5)	x + 1/2	0.10710(2)	160(2)
Ir2	8h	100	0.09509(5)	x + 1/2	0	94(2)
Ir3	8f	100	0	0	0.13273(3)	95(2)
Ir4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	111(2)
In1/Ir5	16 <i>l</i>	66.4(9)/33.6(9)	0.15559(6)	x + 1/2	0.18504(3)	146(3)
In2/Ir6	4c	44(2)/56(2)	0	0	0	104(5)
$Gd_3Pd_{1.}$	27(1)In _{0.7}	1 in I4/mcm:				
Gd1	32 <i>m</i>	100	0.20694(4)	0.07776(4)	0.07313(2)	84(1)
Gd2	32 <i>m</i>	100	0.07778(4)	0.20840(4)	0.19350(2)	108(1)
Gd3	8h	100	0.34967(5)	x+1/2	0	78(2)
Gd4	8g	100	0	1/2	0.10732(3)	100(2)
Gd5	$4\ddot{b}$	100	0	1/2	1/4	177(3)
Pd1	16 <i>l</i>	97.6(6)	0.31583(6)	x + 1/2	0.10728(4)	107(3)
Pd2	8h	100	0.09362(8)	x + 1/2	0	83(3)
Pd3	8f	100	0	0	0.13360(5)	99(3)
Pd4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	88(3)
In1	16 <i>l</i>	100	0.15850(5)	x + 1/2	0.18507(4)	102(2)
In2	4c	100	0	0	0	119(3)
Ho_3Pd_1	$_{27(1)}In_{0.7}$	1 in I4/mcm:				
Ho1	32m	100	0.20768(4)	0.07743(4)	0.07314(2)	69(1)
Ho2	32m	100	0.07747(4)	0.20760(4)	0.19363(2)	92(1)
Ho3	8h	100	0.34946(6)	x + 1/2	0	63(2)
Ho4	8g	100	0	1/2	0.10674(4)	80(2)
Ho5	4b	100	ů 0	1/2	1/4	148(3)
Pd1	161	97.3(6)	0.31580(7)	x + 1/2	0.10741(5)	100(4)
Pd2	8h	100	0.09362(10)	x + 1/2	0	64(3)
Pd3	8 <i>f</i>	100	0	0	0.13289(6)	72(3)
Pd4	4a	100	0	0	1/4	66(4)
In1	16 <i>l</i>	100	0.15781(6)	x + 1/2	0.18550(4)	87(2)
In1 In2	4c	100	0	$\frac{x+1}{2}$	0.10550(4)	90(4)
	ie	100	~		~	20(1)

Table 5. Atomic coordinates and displacement parame-

isotropic ters (pm^2) of $Tb_3Ir_{1.62(1)}In_{0.33(1)}$, $Tb_3Ir_{1.52(1)}In_{0.44(1)}, Gd_3Pd_{1.27(1)}In_{0.71},$ and $Ho_3Pd_{1.27(1)}In_{0.71}$. (Ueq is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized U_{ij} tensor).

scattering power than palladium and rhodium, these defects are unambiguous for the rhodium- and palladium-based compounds. For the iridium compounds, a mixed Ir/In occupancy was also possible, however, in view of the short distances to the rare earth atoms, and of the analogy to the rhodium and palladium compounds, the refinements with Ir1 defects are the correct ones.

From the other five crystallographically independent transition metal sites with higher coordination number, indium occupancy has only been observed on the 16l and 4c sites (Rh2 and Rh5) of the Y₃Rh₂-type. For the different crystals investigated we have observed mixed T/In occupancy and also full indium occupancy. A special situation occurred for the crystals of $Gd_3Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}$ and $Dy_3Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64}$.

Gd1: 1	Rh1	293.9	Gd2:	1	Rh1	201.1	C 42.	2	Rh1	274.7	Rh2:	2	Cdla	294.3	т	bla 6	Interat	omia di	istances
Gd1: 1	Rh2	295.9 295.1	Guz:	1 1	Rh4	281.1 293.2	Gd3:	1	Rh2	295.2	KIIZ:	2 2	Gd1a Gd1	294.3			alculate		
1		297.6			Rh3	295.2		1	Rh2	295.2		1	Gd3	295.2					ters of
1	In2	312.8			In1	313.3		2	Gd4	362.4		1	Gd3	293.2					space
1		339.4			In1	319.8		2	Gd1	362.9		2	Gd4	306.4					
1	Rh1	344.9			Gd2a			2		363.5	Rh3.	4	Gd2	296.5	51	oup 14			
1	Gd2	355.0		1	Gd1	355.0		2	Gd1	368.6	Kii5.	4	Gd1	297.6	aı				or less
1		359.0		1		355.8		2		369.8		1	Rh4	298.1					istances
1	Gd1	360.2		1	Gd2a		Gd4:		Rh1	303.7		1	In2	332.1	vv				lination
2		361.8			In1	359.8	Gu + .	2	Rh2		Rh3a:	4		295.4	. o L	heres a	re listec	1).	
1	Gd3	362.9			Gd2	359.8		2	In1	328.0	Kii5a.	1	Rh4	296.2					
1		365.0			Gd1	368.2		2	Gd3	362.4		4		299.9					
1		368.2			Gd5	385.9		2	Gd1a			1	Rh5	329.7					
1	Gd2 Gd3		Gd2a:	1	Rh1	274.1		2	Gd1		Rh4:	4	Gd2	293.2					
Gd1a: 1	Rh1	292.2	Ou2a.		Rh4	296.8		1	Gd5	365.8	KII 4 .	1		295.2					
001a. 1	Rh2	292.2			Rh3a		Gd5:	4	In1	305.4		4		296.8					
1	Rh3a				In1	315.7	0u5.	2	Gd4	365.8		4	Rh3	290.0					
1	Rh5	312.9			In1	317.5		4	Gd4 Gd2a		Dh5.	8		312.9					
1	In1	339.8		-	Gd2	344.1		4	Gd2a Gd2	386.0	KIIJ.	2							
1	Rh1	341.1		1	Gd2 Gd1a	350.5	Dh1.	4		274.1	In1:	2	Gd5	305.4					
		350.5					KIII:		Gd2a Gd3	274.1	III1:		Gd3 Gd2	313.3					
1	Gd2a Gd1	359.0		1 1	Gd2 Gd2	355.8		1	Gd3 Gd2	274.7		1		315.3					
1		361.0			Gd2 In1	358.1 360.0		1				1		315.7					
		361.0		1 2	Gd2a				Gd1a Gd1	292.2 293.9		-	Gd2a Gd2						
1	Gd1a Gd3							1	Gd1 Gd4			1		319.8					
1	Gd3 Gd4	363.5 365.0		1	Gd1a	367.3 382.4		1		303.7 327.5		1	Rh1	327.5 328.0					
	Gd4 Gd2a			1	Gd5	362.4		1	In1	341.1		1	Gd4 Gd1	339.4					
1	Gd2a Gd3	369.8						1	Gd1a Gd1	344.9		1		339.8					
1	Gus	309.8						1	Gui	544.9		1	Gd1a Gd2	359.8					
												1		360.0					
											In2:	8	Gd2a Gd1	312.8					
											III2.	2	Rh3	332.1					
												Z	KIIS	332.1	•				
Y ₃ Rh ₂		Y1	-	_	Y2		Y3	-	Y4	Y5	Rh1		Rh3	Rh4		Rh5	1	Rh6	Rh2
1 3 KH2		Y I			¥2		43		¥4	15	KNI		Kn3	Kn4		Kn5		Kno	Rh2
I4/mcm		Gd1: 32m	1	G	d2: 32m		Gd3: 8h		Gd4: 8g	Gd5: 4b	Rh1: 16/			Rh3: 8f		Rh5/In2: 4c		Rh4: 4a	In1: 161
Gd ₃ Rh _{1.30} In	¹ 0.64	0.2050	-		1		m.2m 0.3484	+	2.mm 0	42m	m 0.3159		1.2m 0962	4		4/m 0		422 0	m 0.1565
1		0.0774		0	0.2055		x+1/2		1/2	1/2	x+1/2		+1/2	0		0		0	x+1/2
t2 <i>a,b,c</i>		0.0719		0	0.1921		0		0.1044	1/4	0.1073		0	0.1317		0]	1/4	0.1850
u,o,e					$\left \right\rangle$														
Ļ		ł			ł		ł		¥	¥	¥		¥	ł		¥		¥	¥
I4/m		Gd1: 16i	Gd1a: 16i	G	id2: 16i	Gd2a: 16i	Gd3: 8h		Gd4: 8g	Gd5: 4d 4	Rh1: 16i			Rh3: 4e	Rh3a: 4e	In2: 2b	Rh5: 2a	Rh4: 4e	In1: 16 <i>i</i>
calculated	I.	0.2050	0.7950	0	0.0789	0.9211	m 0.3484	+	2	4	0.3159		m 0962	4 0	<u>4</u> 0	4/m 0	4/m 0	4 0	0.1565
		0.0774 0.0719	0.0774		0.2055	0.2055	0.8484		1/2	1/2 1/4	0.8159	0.	5962 0	0	0	0	0 1/2	0 0.2500	0.6565
		0.0719	0.4281	1 0	0.1921	0.3079	U	_	0.1044	1/4	0.1073	I	0	0.1317	0.3683	0	1/2	0.2500	0.1850
<i>I</i> 4/ <i>m</i>		Gd1: 16i	Gd1a: 16i	G	id2: 16 <i>i</i>	Gd2a: 16 <i>i</i>	Gd3: 8h m		Gd4: 8g 2	Gd5: 4d 4	Rh1: 16 <i>i</i> 1		h2: 8h m	Rh3: 4e 4	Rh3a: 4e 4	In2: 2b 4/m	Rh5: 2a 4/m	Rh4: 4e 4	In1: 16 <i>i</i>
refined		0.2051	0.7952		0.0792	0.9216	0.3482	+	0	0	0.3170	0.	0970	0	0	0	0	0	0.1561
		0.0777 0.0717	0.0771 0.4280		0.2032	0.2078 0.3086	0.8485 0		1/2 0.1044	1/2 1/4	0.8149 0.1073	0.	5953 0	0 0.1322	0 0.3688	0	0 1/2	0 0.2509	0.6569 0.1850
		0.0717	0.4200	1 0	1.1740	0.0000	v		0.1044	1/4	0.1075		v	v.1344	0.0000	1 V	1/2	0.2009	0.1000

Fig. 1. Group-subgroup scheme in the Bärnighausen formalism [16-18] for the structures of Y₃Rh₂ [7] and Gd₃Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}. The index for the *translationengleiche* symmetry reduction (t) and the evolution of the atomic parameters are also shown.

Refinement of the occupancy parameters revealed a 50 % Rh/50 % In occupancy for the 4*c* site. This allows an ordering in a lower symmetry space group. Consequently we have refined both structures in the *translationengleiche* subgroup of index 2 (t2) I4/m [15]. While switching from

high to low Laue symmetry, we observed twinning *via* the matrix $(0\ 1\ 0,\ 1\ 0\ 0,\ 0\ 0\ -1)$ and batch scale factors of *ca*. 0.5. The corresponding group-subgroup scheme in the Bärnighausen formalism [16-18] and the evolution of the atomic parameters are presented in Fig. 1.

All other sites were fully occupied within two standard uncertainties. Final difference Fourier syntheses revealed no significant residual peaks (see Tables 2 and 3). The positional parameters and interatomic distances (exemplary for $Gd_3Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}$) are listed in Tables 4, 5, and 6.

Further details of the crystal structure investigations may be obtained from Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany (fax: +49-7247-808-666; e-mail: crysdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de, http://www.fizinformationsdienste.de/en/DB/icsd/depot_anforderung.html) on quoting the deposition numbers CSD-418098 (Gd₃-Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}), CSD-418099 (Tb₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}), CSD-418100 (Dy₃Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64}), CSD-418101 (Er₃Rh_{1.48}In_{0.52}), CSD-418097 (Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}), CSD-418104 (Tb₃Ir_{1.62}In_{0.33}), CSD-418105 (Tb₃Ir_{1.52}In_{0.44}), CSD-418102 (Gd₃Pd_{1.27}-In_{0.71}), and CSD-418103 (Ho₃Pd_{1.27}In_{0.71}).

Discussion

Nine new ternary indides $RE_3T_{2-x}In_x$ with T = Rh, Pd, Ir with differently substituted variants of the tetragonal Y₃Rh₂-type structure [7], space group *I4/mcm*, have been synthesized and structurally characterized on the basis of single crystal diffractometer data. This structural arrangement has so far only been observed for a series of gallides $RE_3(Ga_xNi_{1-x})_2$ with RE = Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Lu [19]. The structures of the gallides have been studied on the basis of powder X-ray diffraction, and nickel-gallium mixing has been reported at five sites for the $Er_3(Ga_xNi_{1-x})_2$ structure with x = 0.35 -0.50.

The coordination polyhedra for this series of compounds are exemplarily shown for $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$ in Fig. 2. The structure contains five crystallographically independent thulium sites with coordination numbers ranging from 13 to 15. Only the Tm3 atoms have exclusively thulium and rhodium atoms in their coordination shell. All other thulium atoms have also indium neighbors. A peculiar situation occurs for the Tm5 coordination. Four In1 atoms in tetrahedral coordination at Tm5–In1 of 302 pm are the nearest neighbors. These Tm–In distances are even slightly shorter than the sum of the covalent radii of 306 pm [20]. We can thus consider a first and a second coordination sphere for the Tm5 atoms.

The Tm–Tm distances cover the large range from 337 to 416 pm. In contrast to *hcp* thulium (Tm–Tm distances: 6×354 and 6×366 pm) [21], we observe even shorter Tm–Tm distances in this ternary compound, indicating strong Tm–Tm bonding. Similar short Tm–Tm contacts also occur in

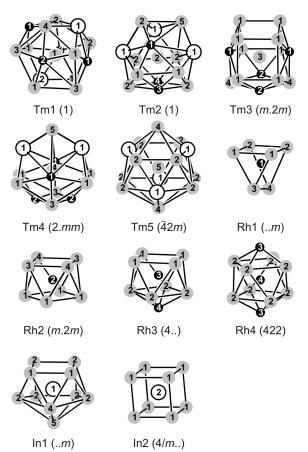


Fig. 2. Coordination polyhedra in the structure of $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$. The thulium, rhodium, and indium atoms are drawn as grey, filled, and open circles, respectively. Atom designations and site symmetries are indicated.

the thulium-rich compounds $Tm_{14}Rh_3In_3$ (340 pm) [2] and Tm_4RhIn (341 pm) [1]. The Tm–Rh distances in $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$ cover a broad range (271 to 302 pm). The shorter ones are even shorter than the sum of the covalent radii of 281 pm [20], indicating strong covalent Tm–Rh bonding, similar to $Tm_{14}Rh_3In_3$ (270–281 pm Tm–Rh) [2] and Tm_4RhIn (278 pm Tm–Rh) [1]. In the indium-rich compound $Tm_{10}Rh_9In_{20}$ [22], the Tm–Rh distances are slightly longer (290–305 pm).

The smallest coordination number is observed for the Rh1 atoms. These atoms have a distorted trigonal prismatic thulium coordination with Rh1–Tm distances ranging from 271 to 302 pm. In general, prismatic sites are larger than antiprismatic ones. It is thus likely that the indium atoms will preferably substitute the rhodium atoms in the square prisms. This is the

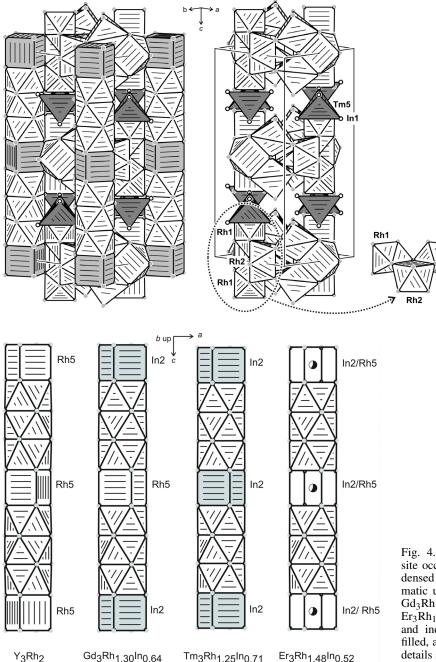


Fig. 3. The crystal structure of $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$. The thulium, rhodium (hidden in the prismatic units), and indium atoms are drawn as grey, filled, and open circles, respectively. The linkage of the different polyhedra is emphasized. For details see text.

Rh1

Fig. 4. Rhodium–indium ordering and site occupancies in the columns of condensed square-prismatic and antiprismatic units in the structures of Y_3Rh_2 , $Gd_3Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}$, $Tm_3Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}$, and $Er_3Rh_{1.48}In_{0.52}$. Rare earth, rhodium, and indium atoms are drawn as grey, filled, and open circles, respectively. For details see text.

case for the In2 atoms. The In1 atoms have 10 nearest thulium neighbors, *i. e.* a higher coordination number. The rectangular face of this polyhedron built up by the Tm1 and Tm2 atoms corresponds to one of the rectangular faces of the Rh1 polyhedron (Fig. 2). The In1 and Rh1 polyhedra are condensed *via* this common face.

No *T*/In substitution has been observed for the square antiprisms.

The linkage of the rhodium-based polyhedra is presented in Fig. 3. At the left-hand side of this figure we have emphasized the stacking of the square prisms and antiprisms along the c axis. The space in between is filled by the Tm5In1₄ tetrahedra and the two-dimensional networks of condensed trigonal prisms and square antiprisms around Rh1 and Rh2, respectively. This network is emphasized at the righthand part of Fig. 3. The condensation of the trigonal prisms and square antiprisms proceeds *via* common edges.

The nine crystals investigated differ in the occupancy of the T1 site and the T/In occupancy in the square prismatic sites at the origin of the unit cells and at 0 0 1/2. In view of the short T1-RE distances, the defects on the T1 sites are not unusual. Many structures of ternary rare earth-transition metal-indides feature defects for transition metal atoms on trigonal prismatic sites and this has been discussed in more detail in [22] and [23].

The different occupancy variants within the columns of condensed square prisms and antiprisms are shown in Fig. 4. While all prisms are filled with rhodium in binary Y_3Rh_2 [7], the square prisms are filled with indium in Tm₃Rh_{1.25}In_{0.71}. This is also the case for the two palladium-based indides. In the structure of Er₃Rh_{1.48}In_{0.25} we observe a statistical occupancy by rhodium and indium on these sites. For Gd₃Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64} and Dy₃Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64}, refinement in space group *I4/mcm* revealed occupancy of the 4*c* site by 50 % Rh and 50 % In. These statistics could be resolved by an ordering of rhodium and indium in the

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lower symmetry space group I4/m as discussed above, leading to a new ordered version of the Y₃Rh₂-type. In this ordered version we observe discrete stuffed cubes for the Rh5 and In2 sites which are close to a CsCl related arrangement. These coordinations also occur for the binary equiatomic compounds GdRh [24, 25] and GdIn [26-28]. The Gd-Rh (298 pm) and Gd-In (329 pm) distances in the binary compounds, however, are somewhat smaller and longer (both 313 pm in Gd₃Rh_{1.30}In_{0.64}) than in the ternary compound (Table 6). In the ordered structures of Gd₃Rh_{1,30}In_{0.64} and Dy₃Rh_{1.31}In_{0.64} we observe a small shift of the Rh3 atoms leading to Rh3-Rh4 distances of 298 pm between two stuffed antiprisms, only slightly longer than in fcc rhodium (269 pm) [21]. For comparison, the rhodium atoms in CsCl-type GdRh [24,25] are well separated (344 pm). We can thus assume some weak Rh3-Rh4 bonding in the ternary compound.

Summing up, we were able to show that at two of the six crystallographically different rhodium sites in the Y_3Rh_2 -type *T*/In substitution may occur, giving rise to homogeneity ranges for all of these ternary compounds. With a 50/50 occupancy of the square prisms a new ordering variant with lower symmetry is observed.

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