

Samples of GdBO₃ doped with Ce³⁺ embedded in amorphous silica matrix were obtained by sol gel process and heat-treat at 1000°C for 2h in argon atmosphere. After elaboration, the samples were irradiated with γ -rays using cobalt (⁶⁰Co) source in the dose range from 1 to 5kGy. The irradiation effect of γ -rays on structural and optical properties of the synthesized samples were investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), Fourier transforms infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and photoluminescence spectroscopy. XRD and TEM-EDS results reveal that γ -ray irradiation reduces the crystallite size from 55nm to 30nm. It is found from FTIR study that the absorption bands intensity assigned to structural groups containing BO₄ and BO₃ units as well as the banding of Si-O-Si bond increases with γ -ray dose up to 4kGy. While photoluminescence measurements show that the emission bands attributed to the 5d→4f transition of Ce⁺³ ion intensity decreases, it is still significant even after irradiation to a dose of 5kGy. From this results it is concluded that the γ -ray irradiation up to a dose of 5kGy improve the structural and morphological quality of the synthesized GdBO₃/silica: Ce³⁺ without altering significantly its luminescence properties.