

The Crystal Structure of a Potassium Tellurate(VI)

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The crystal structure of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ with $x = 7.3$ has been determined. The crystals belong to the monoclinic space group $C2/c$ and there are four formula units in the unit cell, which has the dimensions $a = 15.370 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 6.920 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 18.241 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta = 116.00^\circ$.

The positions of the tellurium atoms were deduced from Patterson projections, those of the potassium atoms from Fourier projections, and those of the oxygen atoms from three-dimensional Fourier syntheses. The structure was refined by complete three-dimensional least squares calculations based on two independent series of reflexions. The final R value obtained was 0.080.

The tellurate anion, $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$, is dimeric as indicated by the formula. Each tellurium atom is surrounded by a slightly distorted octahedron of oxygen atoms, two such octahedra having one edge in common. The Te—O distances in the anion range from 1.861—1.894 Å (Te—O) to 1.985—2.029 Å (Te—OH, Te—Obridge). The structure is held together by electrostatic interaction between the potassium and the tellurate ions. The presence of hydrogen bonding is, moreover, indicated by a number of short O—O distances.

A detailed comparison is made with the isoelectronic periodate ion $I_2O_8(OH)_2^{4-}$.

An investigation of the crystal structures of some tellurium(IV) compounds was commenced in connection with a series of investigations of tetravalent metal ions.¹ The study of the crystal structures of some hexavalent tellurium compounds was, moreover, of interest for the purposes of comparison of the co-ordination polyhedra associated with tellurium(IV) and with tellurium(VI).

Before the commencement of this investigation previous work on the crystal structures of the tellurates comprised preliminary studies of $Te(OH)_6$,²⁻⁵ K_2TeO_4 ,⁶ and Hg_3TeO_6 ,⁷ only. During the course of the investigation, however, three papers on the crystal structures of the potassium tellurates $KTeO(OH)_5 \cdot H_2O$,⁸ $KTeO_2(OH)_3$,⁹ and $KTeO_3(OH)$ ¹⁰ were published. Their structures all contain six-co-ordinated tellurium atoms, as isolated octahedral $TeO(OH)_5^-$ ions,⁸ as infinite linear complexes $(TeO_2(OH)_3^-)_n$ built up from TeO_6 octahedra sharing corners,⁹ or as infinite linear complexes $(TeO_3(OH)^-)_n$ built up from TeO_6 octahedra sharing edges.¹⁰

Crystals of potassium tellurates were prepared by dissolving telluric acid in water and adding a solution of potassium hydroxide. Owing to the conditions under which the solutions were mixed, different potassium tellurates were obtained either as the pure substances or as mixtures. A tellurate with a K:Te ratio of 2:1 was chosen for this structural investigation.

PREPARATION OF THE CRYSTALS

10 ml of a saturated solution of telluric acid (BDH) was diluted with 30 ml of water and heated to approximately 80°C under continuous stirring and dropwise addition of 15 ml of 3.6 M potassium hydroxide solution. The resulting solution was then evaporated slowly, colourless, rod-shaped crystals of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ ($x \approx 7$) being formed.

The addition of potassium hydroxide solutions of concentrations greater than 3.6 M led to contamination of the product with another crystalline potassium tellurate. It was also essential that the telluric acid solution was heated and stirred, otherwise an opaque, white precipitate, amorphous to X-rays was obtained. If telluric acid was added to the potassium hydroxide solution, instead of *vice versa*, an oily concentrated solution was formed, which gradually solidified to give a glassy product together with a small number of crystals.

Analysis

Since the crystals of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ ($x \approx 7$) are very soluble in water, it was difficult to remove potassium hydroxide by washing with aqueous solvents. In order to decrease the adsorption of mother liquor during drying of the crystals, a rather coarse crystalline sample was prepared for the analysis.

The amount of *tellurium* was determined gravimetrically according to a method devised by Salaria.¹¹

The *potassium* content was determined with an atomic absorption spectrometer, using standard solutions of known potassium concentration.

The *water* content was determined by Hartwig-Bendig's modification of Penfield's method as described by Kolthoff and Sandell.¹²

A measure of the *density* of the crystals was obtained by flotation experiments using mixtures of $CHBr_3$ and CCl_4 .

The analysis gave the following results:

	Found		Calculated for	
			$K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_7$	$K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$
% TeO_3	51.9 *		50.05	49.67
% K_2O	26.71	26.66	26.85	26.65
% H_2O	24.0 ₁	24.0 ₂	23.09	23.68
Density (g/cm ³)	2.75	2.76	2.67	2.69

INTENSITY DATA

Intensity data corresponding to the layers $h0l-h4l$ and $hk0-hk1l$ of the reciprocal lattice was obtained using $CuK\alpha$ radiation and multiple film Weissenberg techniques, six films being registered for each layer line. The intensities were estimated visually by comparison with an intensity scale, prepared by making timed exposures of chosen reflexions from the actual crystals. Each reflexion estimated appeared, as a rule, on at least two of the six films with an intensity falling within the most reliable part of the scale.

* mean from eight determinations ($\sigma = \pm 1.0$)

UNIT CELL AND SPACE GROUP

The crystals of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ ($x \simeq 7$) are monoclinic, approximate cell dimensions, as determined from rotation and Weissenberg photographs, being $a = 15.3 \text{ \AA}$, $b = 6.90 \text{ \AA}$, $c = 18.2 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta = 116^\circ$. In order to determine more accurate cell dimensions, Guinier powder photographs were taken, using KCl as an internal standard ($CuK\alpha_1$ radiation, $\lambda = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$, $a_{KCl} = 6.2919_4 \text{ \AA}$ at $20^\circ C$ ¹³). The reflexions were indexed using the Algol programme Xalg Powder,¹⁴ and the cell constants were refined with the same programme.

The cell dimensions and their standard deviations were found to be:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 15.3705 \pm 0.0015 \text{ \AA} \\ b &= 6.9200 \pm 0.0006 \text{ \AA} \\ c &= 18.2407 \pm 0.0009 \text{ \AA} \\ \beta &= 116.009^\circ \pm 0.006^\circ \end{aligned}$$

The observed and calculated values of $\sin^2\theta$ are listed in Table 1.

The volume of the unit cell as calculated from these cell dimensions is 1744 \AA^3 , and hence, with an experimental density of 2.75 g/cm^3 there are $4.11 \simeq 4$ formula units of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ ($x \simeq 7$) in the unit cell.

The systematically absent reflexions are:

$$\begin{aligned} hkl \text{ with } h + k &= 2n + 1 \\ h0l \text{ with } l &= 2n + 1, \end{aligned}$$

which is in accordance with the monoclinic space groups No. 9 — *Cc* and No. 15 — *C2/c*.¹⁵

DETERMINATION OF F_o FROM THE OBSERVED INTENSITY MATERIAL

Needle-shaped crystals of suitable size with well-defined edges were used to obtain the intensity data, the needle-axis corresponding to the crystallographic *b* axis. The crystal used to register the Weissenberg photographs $hk0-hk11$ had, however, to be cut so that it was of almost the same diameter in all directions.

In order to obtain as accurate F_o data as possible, the intensities were corrected for absorption, polarization, and Lorentz' effects. Both crystals were measured accurately and their faces indexed, the relevant absorption correction then being performed on a SAAB D21 computer using a programme written by Abrahamsson.¹⁶ Such an absorption correction is necessary, since tellurium absorbs $CuK\alpha$ radiation strongly, the linear absorption coefficient for $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_x$ ($x \simeq 7$) being 364 cm^{-1} . The correction factors for the actual crystals used varied within the range 3–30.

Correction for Lorentz' and polarization effects was performed by the programme "General data reduction" (Abrahamsson and Larsson).¹⁶

The F_o values were brought on to an absolute scale by comparison with F_c only after an approximate structure had been devised.

Table 1. Powder photographs of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$ $CuK\alpha_1$ radiation.
 $\lambda(CuK\alpha_1) = 1.54050 \text{ \AA}$.

h k l	$10^5 \sin^2\theta$ calc	$10^5 \sin^2\theta$ obs	F calc	I obs
0 0 2	883	878	267	m
2 0 -2	1208	1203	295	s
2 0 0	1244	1238	270	m
1 1 0	1550	1544	288	s
1 1 -2	1973	1969	307	vs
1 1 1	2000	1998	85	vw
1 1 -3	2847	2844	190	m
1 1 2	2893	2892	103	vw
2 0 -4	2938	2934	125	w
2 0 2	3046	3040	187	vw
0 0 4	3532	3531	270	
3 1 -2	3542	3531	294	vs
4 0 -2	4020	4008	142	vw
3 1 0	4037	4040	142	vw
1 1 -4	4163	4159	120	vw
1 1 3	4226	4209	193	w
4 0 -4	4831	4817	341	
3 1 -4	4812	4817	356	s
0 2 0	4956	4957	129	vw
0 2 1	5177	5182	264	m
2 2 -2	6163	6157	220	vw
3 1 2	6299	6296	211	vw
2 0 4	6614	6613	281	w
2 2 1	6880	6883	217	vw
4 0 -6	7408	7402	291	m
5 1 -3	7552	7550	140	vw
4 0 2	7696	7703	310	m
5 1 -4	7949	7955	220	w
5 1 -1	8084	8084	238	w
1 1 -6	8119	8112	245	vw
1 1 5	8218	8201	204	w
5 1 -5	8787	8783	196	vw
5 1 0	9012	9008	437	s
4 2 -1	9232	9228	308	w
4 2 -4	9786	9797	181	vw
3 1 -7	10029	10033	209	vw
1 1 6	10876	10875	346	s
4 2 1	11070	11071	281	w
2 2 4	11570	11571	112	vw
5 1 2	12193	12190	166	
4 0 4	12183	12190	207	w
3 1 -8	12652	12657	183	
4 2 2	12652	12657	163	vw
3 3 -1	13480	13480	361	m
1 1 7	13976	13971	168	
3 3 0	13949	13971	273	w
1 1 -8	13841	13841	242	vw
1 3 3	14138	14140	241	
7 1 -2	14140	14140	261	w
4 2 -7	14314	14307	320	vw
4 2 3	14675	14686	156	vw

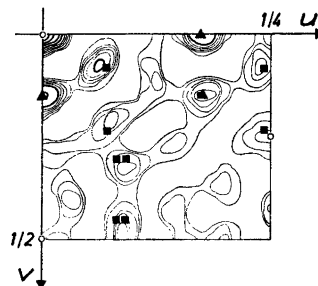
Table 1. Continued.

h k l	$10^6 \sin^2 \theta$ calc	$10^6 \sin^2 \theta$ obs	F calc	I obs
3 3 1	14859	14850	208	vw
1 3 -5	15832	15838	221	vw
8 0 -4	16078	16062	295	vwv
7 1 0	16474	16474	172	vw
2 2 -8	16652	16665	164	vwv
8 0 -2	17105	17105	416	m
5 3 -3	17464	17460	311	w
7 1 -8	17735	17746	185	vwv
4 0 -10	17860	17852	397	vwv
2 0 -10	18725	18708	430	m
6 2 -8	19249	19248	134	vw
3 1 -10	19221	19248	257	
4 2 -9	19541	19535	242	vwv
0 4 0	19823	19814	219	vwv
4 2 5	20045	20039	367	s
0 4 -1	20044	20039	181	
2 4 0	21067	21061	138	vwv
8 2 -5	21182	21173	346	vw
6 2 3	22272	22262	159	vwv
7 1 -10	22466	22476	218	vwv
0 2 9	22839	22827	194	
8 2 -7	22804	22827	235	vw
9 1 -2	23170	23159	215	vwv
2 4 -5	24288	24299	250	vw
10 0 -4	25433	25429	212	vw
4 4 1	25938	25927	92	
1 1 10	25924	25927	175	vw
5 3 -9	26466	26444	214	
7 1 4	26440	26444	184	
2 4 4	26437	26444	125	w
4 0 8	26456	26444	270	
8 2 1	26913	26909	228	vw
6 2 5	28561	28557	225	vwv
3 3 7	29592	29580	243	w
6 2 -12	31395	31395	169	
1 3 9	31412	31395	287	w
1 5 -2	31708	31710	181	w
5 1 8	32332	32352	268	vw
3 1 10	33007	33004	203	
5 3 -11	32998	33004	119	w
7 3 -11	35405	35379	293	vw

THE POSITIONS OF THE TELLURIUM ATOMS

In order to obtain the positions of the tellurium atoms, the Patterson projections $P(uvp)$ and $P(upw)$ and the generalized Patterson function $P_1(uvw)$ were calculated, using the Fourier programme written by Larsson¹⁶ for the computer SAAB D21. The highest peaks in $P(uvp)$ (cf. Fig. 1), discounting that at the origin, are situated at $u = 0$, $v = 0.15$, at $u = 0.18$, $v = 0$ and at $u = 0.18$, $v = 0.15$, and are probably due to Te—Te vectors. Their positions

Fig. 1. Patterson projection $P(uvp)$ of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$. The distance between two thin contours or between one thin and one thick contour within the maxima corresponds to 1/10 of that between two thick contours. The final vectors Te—Te (\blacktriangle) and Te—K (\blacksquare) are indicated.



suggest an eight-fold tellurium position $C2/c: 8(f)$ with $x_{Te} \simeq 0.090$ and $y_{Te} \simeq 0.075$ (x_{Te} , y_{Te} , and z_{Te} can arbitrarily be chosen within the limits $0 \leq x_{Te} \leq \frac{1}{4}$, $0 \leq y_{Te} \leq \frac{1}{4}$ and $0 \leq z_{Te} \leq \frac{1}{2}$). The z parameter of the tellurium atom was obtained from $P(upw)$ (cf. Fig. 2), which shows a large maximum on the line $(0.18, w)$ at $w = 0.15$ and $w = 0.65$. Since the maximum $2x_{Te}, 2z_{Te}$ should fall on this line in $P(upw)$, z_{Te} is either $\simeq 0.075$ or $\simeq 0.325$.

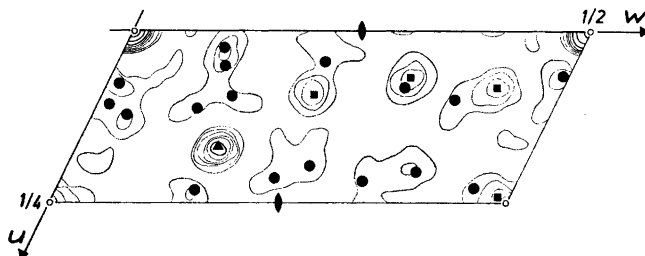


Fig. 2. Patterson projection $P(upw)$ of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$. The distance between two thin contours or between one thin and one thick contour within the maxima corresponds to 1/10 of that between two thick contours. The final vectors Te—Te (\blacktriangle), Te—K (\blacksquare), and Te—O (\bullet) are indicated.

In order to decide, which of these two z_{Te} values is the correct one, the generalized Patterson function $P_1(uw)$ was calculated. Since the two types of interatomic vectors between atoms in $C2/c: 8(f)$ containing $2x$ and $2z$ are $(2x, 2y, 2z)$ and $(2x, 0, \frac{1}{2} + 2z)$, $P_1(uw)$ was examined at the points $u = 0.18$, $w = 0.15$ and $u = 0.18$, $w = 0.65$. There are maxima at both points, but the former has a height of 213 arbitrary units, and the latter a height of 353 arbitrary units. This is possible only if $z \simeq 0.075$, which would give a ratio between the heights at the points $(0.18, 0.15)$ and $(0.18, 0.65)$ of $\cos(2\pi 2y_{Te})$, i.e. 0.588, which is in good agreement with the observed value of $213/353 = 0.603$.

We thus conclude:

$$8 \text{ Te in } C2/c: 8(f) \text{ with } x_{Te} \simeq 0.090 \quad y_{Te} \simeq 0.075 \quad z_{Te} \simeq 0.075$$

POSITIONS OF THE POTASSIUM AND OXYGEN ATOMS

The positions of the potassium atoms were deduced from Fourier projections $\rho(xpz)$ (cf. Fig. 3) and $\rho(xyp)$, the signs of the structure factors being

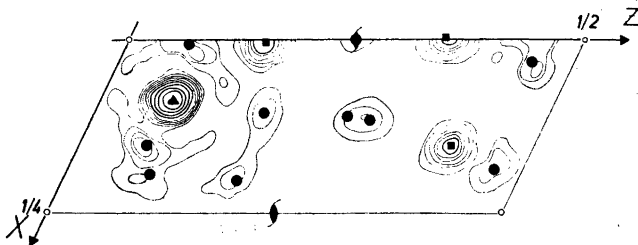


Fig. 3. Electron density projection $\rho(xpz)$ of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$. The distance between two thin contours or between one thin and one thick contour within the maxima corresponds to 1/10 of that between two thick contours. The final positions of Te (▲), K (■), and O (●) are indicated.

obtained from the positions of the tellurium atoms. All the potassium atoms could be located as being situated in two eight-fold positions:

8 K_1 in $C2/c$: 8(*f*) with $x \approx 0.155$ $y \approx 0.158$ $z \approx 0.408$

8 K_2 in $C2/c$: 8(*f*) with $x \approx 0.498$ $y \approx 0.131$ $z \approx 0.348$

The positions of the oxygen atoms were obtained from "three-dimensional" electron density calculations, based on the $h0l-h4l$ reflexions, using the signs obtained by considering the contributions to the structure factors from tellurium and potassium. Eight oxygen positions 8(*f*), O_1-O_8 , could be identified. There was, in addition, some indication as to a four-fold oxygen position, O_9 . The preliminary parameters of these nine positions were thus as follows:

8 O_1 in $C2/c$: 8(*f*) with $x \approx 0.125$ $y \approx 0.029$ $z \approx 0.194$

8 O_2 —»— $x \approx 0.179$ $y \approx 0.244$ $z \approx 0.080$

8 O_3 —»— $x \approx 0.476$ $y \approx 0.420$ $z \approx 0.045$

8 O_4 —»— $x \approx 0.007$ $y \approx 0.294$ $z \approx 0.048$

8 O_5 —»— $x \approx 0.430$ $y \approx 0.306$ $z \approx 0.415$

8 O_6 —»— $x \approx 0.291$ $y \approx 0.047$ $z \approx 0.308$

8 O_7 —»— $x \approx 0.383$ $y \approx 0.322$ $z \approx 0.196$

8 O_8 —»— $x \approx 0.309$ $y \approx 0.037$ $z \approx 0.031$

4 O_9 in $C2/c$: 4(*c*) with $x = 0$ $y \approx 0.267$ $z = \frac{1}{4}$

REFINEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE

In order to refine the structural parameters, several different least squares calculations were performed. At first the reflexions from the [010] series were refined with Åsbrink and Brändén's programme¹⁷ for the computer FACIT EDB. The co-ordinates and the corresponding isotropic temperature factors obtained from these calculations have been published in a preliminary note.¹⁸

The refinement was then continued on the computer SAAB D21 at Göteborgs Datacentral. The F_o of the layer lines were scaled separately for each photograph in the two series [010] and [001], using the least squares programme Xalg-LS written in Algol by Wengelin.¹⁹ The R value of the b axis series then dropped to 0.127, and that of the c axis series to 0.094 ($R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$, the observed F_o only being taken into account).

Since there are about 1100 independent reflexions in each series it ought to be possible to extend the refinement to include anisotropic temperature factors. This was also performed using the programme SFLS written by Aleby¹⁶ and Abrahamsson.¹⁶ Hereby, the separate refinement of the two series of reflexions finally gave $R = 0.106$ (b axis series) and 0.083 (c axis series).

To check the refinement results, three-dimensional $F_o - F_c$ Fourier syntheses were calculated for both axes. They showed no peaks denser than about 1 electron/Å³, except for one well-defined peak at $x \simeq 0.144$, $y \simeq 0.356$ and $z \simeq 0.277$, which had a maximum density of 2.3 electrons/Å³ in both syntheses. This would correspond to a position O_{10} in $C2/c: 8(f)$ filled to 25–30 % with oxygen atoms. The $O_9 - O_{10}$ distance would, however, be very short, about 1.6 Å, so that simultaneous existence of O_9 and O_{10} was not deemed possible. On the other hand the presence of a small minimum corresponding to the O_9 position in the difference syntheses might indicate that O_9 may not be completely filled either. The appearance of the difference syntheses might also suggest that the correct space group should be Cc and not $C2/c$ as assumed earlier. The calculations were thus continued with the eight-fold positions for Te, $K_1 - K_2$, and $O_1 - O_8$ each occupying two positions $Cc: 4(a)$. A least squares refinement of this structure proposition, including O_9 as a position $Cc: 4(a)$, gave, however, no significant deviation from the arrangement proposed when $C2/c$ was assumed to be the correct space group.

The void in the structure at the points $(000, \frac{1}{2}, 0) \pm (0, 0.27, \frac{1}{4})$ may thus be filled by an oxygen atom distributed statistically over the positions $C2/c: 4(c)$ (O_9) and $C2/c: 8(f)$ (O_{10}). Additional support of this hypothesis is afforded by the analysis, which indicates a water content of more than 4.5 but less than 5.0 molecules of water per tellurium atom.

In the final stages of refinement, the data from both series were combined, a mean value being taken for those structure factors occurring in both series. The calculations were then performed on the computer CD 3600 using the programme LALS, written by Zalkin and modified in Uppsala.²⁰ In order to confirm the difference syntheses results, four calculations, differing only in the occupation numbers (N) for O_9 and O_{10} , were first performed, namely with $(N_9; N_{10}) = (1; 0)$, $(0.7; 0.3)$, $(0.5; 0.5)$, and $(0; 1)$. The R value (*cf.* Fig. 4) as well as the temperature factors of O_9 and O_{10} suggest that the occupation numbers of O_9 and O_{10} are 0.70 and 0.30, respectively. The complete formula of this tellurate thus ought to be $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$.

The whole structure, including O_9 and O_{10} with occupation numbers 0.70 and 0.30, was then refined, using atomic form factors calculated from Slater-Dirac functions by Cromer and Waber²¹ and the weighting function recommended by Cruickshank ($w = (a + F_o + cF_o^2 + dF_o^3)^{-1}$ with $a = 25$, $c = 0.0055$, and $d = 0$). After five cycles of refinement all parameter shifts were less

Table 2. Calculated and observed structure factors for $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$. (The columns are l , F_c and $|F_o|$, respectively).

0	0	0	8	-107	115	-11	-74	76	-1	-238	240	11 1 L	17 1 L	19	70	56	-11	187	174		
0	1248	-	10	-200	217	-10	26	23	0	-437	420	-22	11 < 20	-18	57	66	-10	121	121		
2	267	246	12	-36	39	-9	-143	125	1	-82	85	-21	-39	68	-17	-17	< 17	-9	97	96	
4	-270	286	14	61	68	-8	-242	224	2	-166	171	-20	-94	98	-16	30	44	-21	93	92	
6	-370	355				-6	-245	236	4	25	48	-19	17	< 23	-15	-58	74	-20	16	22	
8	-354	361	10	0	0	-5	191	196	5	122	134	-18	-89	96	-14	-67	76	-19	72	75	
10	55	59	-22	34	43	-4	120	131	6	131	137	-16	-19	< 27	-12	-90	102	-17	21	< 25	
12	251	221	-20	-26	22	-3	190	219	7	119	127	-15	45	46	-11	5	< 12	-16	49	47	
14	144	145	-18	-129	132	-2	307	274	8	268	247	-14	103	94	-10	-6	< 21	-15	-63	64	
16	-39	37	-16	-84	83	-1	6	16	9	-20	< 26	-13	24	33	-9	47	46	-14	8	< 25	
18	-151	155	-14	62	57	0	288	252	10	71	77	-12	176	164	-8	54	53	-13	-190	153	
20	-66	64	-12	161	155	1	-85	102	11	-126	125	-11	101	95	-7	49	42	-12	-94	87	
			-10	105	90	2	103	111	12	-121	131	-10	122	115	-7	114	122	-11	-62	64	
			-8	87	76	3	-193	220	13	-53	52	-9	-144	134	-5	21	36	-10	-80	79	
			-6	77	86	4	-226	260	14	-145	139	-8	-107	106	-4	54	97	-9	242	228	
			-4	71	86	5	-204	233	15	61	55	-7	7	< 27	-3	-71	73	-8	-33	33	
			-2	63	67	6	-164	363	16	-52	50	-6	-211	193	-2	-53	60	-6	-117	115	
			0	55	59	7	7	87	8	-167	177	-4	-83	75	0	-123	117	-5	-5	< 15	
			2	43	44	8	192	212	9	192	212	-3	103	98				-4	181	182	
			4	31	31	10	175	179	10	175	179	-2	30	36	19 1 L			-3	-263	264	
			6	19	26	11	53	56	11	53	56	-1	-2	< 26				-2	92	89	
			8	12	12	12	172	156	12	172	156	-2	94	87	-14	-85	82	-2	-308	279	
			10	8	8	13	-61	59	13	-61	59	-1	-70	67	-13	46	49	-2	-12	16	
			12	3	3	14	31	45	14	31	45	-2	106	108	-12	-12	16	0	-71	70	
			14	2	2	15	-71	77	15	-71	77	-3	-77	82	-11	43	43	2	-163	164	
			16	1	1	16	-45	47	16	-45	47	-4	-7	< 22	-10	76	76	2	156	160	
			18	0	0	17	-52	55	17	-52	55	-5	-78	86	-9	-9	< 12	4	-135	123	
			20	0	0	18	-12	123	18	-12	123	-6	-120	119	-8	-73	< 23	5	367	362	
						19	14	< 12	19	14	< 12	-7	41	51	-7	-23	21	6	-1	70	
						20	-67	52	20	-67	52	-8	-89	93	-6	-28	28	7	168	169	
												-9	62	70	8	109	109	8	-100	103	
												-10	218	203	9	-100	103	10	-17	14	
												-11	22	23	10	25	< 17	11	-264	232	
												-12	85	87	11	20	14	12	83	93	
												-13	108	98	12	83	93	13	-2	83	
												-14	76	78	13	76	78	14	-77	80	
												-15	-27	37	14	13	22	15	9	24	
												-16	-16	20	15	9	24	16	-75	67	
												-17	-144	146	16	12	27	17	94	91	
												-18	-24	24	17	8	-106	102			
												-19	45	48	18	49	50				
												-20	67	68	19	194	181				
												-21	-18	20	20	-18	20				
												-22	-19	< 27	21	147	138				
												-23	41	41	22	41	41				
												-24	68	60	23	68	60				
												-25	36	35	24	36	35				
												-26	-165	162	25	-165	162				
												-27	5	< 26	26	5	< 26				
												-28	-79	76	27	-79	76				
												-29	-42	50	28	-42	50				
												-30	44	46	29	44	46				
												-31	-116	114	30	-116	114				
												-32	128	113	31	128	113				
												-33	-49	48	32	-49	48				
												-34	49	48	33	49	48				
												-35	-169	158	34	-169	158				
												-36	-21	29	35	-21	29				
												-37	86	86	36	86	86				
												-38	83	83	37	83	83				
												-39	-21	29	38	-21	29				
												-40	74	77	39	74	77				
												-41	-103	110	40	-103	110				
												-42	30	24	41	30	24				
												-43	-30	39	42	-30	39				
												-44	-138	146	43	-138	146				
												-45	68	74	44	68	74				
												-46	-1	< 15	45	-1	< 15				
												-47	-183	177	46	-183	177				
												-48	-106	104	47	-106	104				
												-49	66	65	48	66	65				
												-50	-164	151	49	-164	151				
												-51	144	138	50	144	138				
												-52	-62	68	51	-62	68				
												-53	65	49	52	65	49				
												-54	-87	108	53	-87	108				
												-55	-12	22	54	-12	22				
												-56	98	115	55	98	115				
												-57	-65	75	56	-65	75				
												-58	22	25	57	22	25				
												-59	-53	66	58	-53	66				
												-60	-87	93	59	-87	93				
												-61	6	26	60	6	26				
												-62	-90	99	61	-90	99				
												-63	32	41	62	32	41				
												-64	-46	51	63	-46	51				
												-65	43	48	64	43	48				
												-66	47	48	65	47	48				
												-67	-5	58	66	-5	58				
												-68	135	127	67	135	127				
												-69	-42	47	68	-42	47				
												-70	54	55	69	54	55				
												-71	47	52	70	47	52				
												-72	-83	92	71	-83	92				
												-73	1	0	72	1	0				
												-74	-87	89	73	-87	89				
												-75	9	14	74	9	14				
												-76	-65	65	75	-65	65				
												-77	12	10	76	12	10</				

-12	-114	-	0 6 f	-11	53	62	8 6 L	-10	15 < 35	-8	82 93	-2	124 128	-7	-82 79	
-11	-21 < 35	0	-133 142	-10	102 116	-16	107 -	-9	-30 < 35	-7	-15 < 30	-1	20 30	-6	52 43	
-10	-64 71	1	28 33	-9	-15 < 30	-8	25 -	-6	77 79	-6	-21 < 30	0	101 105	-5	-108 102	
-9	-45 70	2	-73 79	-8	25 -	-7	21 < 25	-5	7 26	-5	-47 66	1	-61 68	-4	-63 71	
-8	76 94	3	-5 < 15	-7	-90 90	-6	-13 10 -	-4	67 70	-4	-75 82	2	25 < 25	-3	-40 < 30	
-7	-84 96	4	41 49	-5	6 < 25	-4	-12 -20	-3	21 21	-3	49 47	3	-76 82	-2	-34 105	
-6	135 151	5	-52 -	-4	-112 114	-3	-29 < 35	-2	32 < 25	-2	-119 128	4	-90 99	-1	83 88	
-5	-20 34	6	103 95	-3	-36 42	-2	-94 104	-1	0 < 25	-1	84 86	5	6 < 30	0	-19 < 25	
-4	70 76	7	-3 < 20	-2	-31 25	-1	-34 < 35	-1	-57 57	0	-42 37	6	-139 129	1	123 125	
-3	94 105	8	96 97	-1	-46 51	-1	-114 121	0	-3 < 20	2	104 108		9 7 L	3	59 56	
-2	-30 38	9	32 37	0	38 48	-7	-18 24	1	29 30	3	3 < 25	-12	-80 -	5	-65 61	
0	-100 99	10	5 < 30	1	33 39	-5	26 < 30	2	-25 23	4	129 133	-11	-40 45	6	68 63	
1	-18 19	11	-24 < 35	2	121 116	-4	91 101		14 6 L	5	16 < 30	-10	-90 87	7	-92 83	
2	-100 91	12	-93 -	3	7 < 20	-3	-46 47	-10	75 62	6	-78 77	-8	-51 50		4 8 L	
3	-83 84	13	-9 -	4	71 78	-2	146 148	-9	-24 < 35	8	-78 79	-7	57 55	-10	44 32	
4	-17 < 20	14	-84 -	5	-39 < 25	-1	-35 42	-8	78 65	9	-33 < 35	-6	52 54	-9	-57 53	
5	-63 67	15	17 -	6	-38 40	0	72 76	-7	8 < 30	10	-98 105	-5	12 35	-8	23 15	
6	101 93		2 6 L	7	21 25	1	52 51	-6	5 < 30	11	37 24	-4	129 127	-7	-53 52	
				8	-104 109	2	9 32 < 30	-5	26 24			-3	14 14	-2	67 64	
				9	-25 108	3	11 < 25	-4	-84 61		5 7 L	-2	67 64	-5	-4 < 30	
				10	-25 < 35	4	-125 132	-3	-28 20	-13	-13 -	-1	-16 23	-4	-90 103	
				11	-	5	-3 < 25			-12	124 -	0	-46 46	-3	43 39	
				12	-	6	-105 102	1 7 L		-10	-65 63	1	-45 44	-2	-39 45	
						7	11 < 30			-9	-37 40	3	5 < 25	-1	50 58	
						8	6 < 30	-12	-62 -	-8	-71 83	4	-58 49	0	60 67	
								-11	41 -	-7	-21 < 30			1	25 29	
								-10	71 85	-6	-130 138	11 7 L		2	45 45	
								-9	42 51	-5	18 < 30			3	-27 27	
								-8	126 129	-4	36 38			4	27 < 30	
								-7	-28 < 30	-3	62 52			5	-70 64	
								-6	73 71	-2	34 37				6 8 L	
								-5	-104 110	-1	40 47				-9	-74 60
								-4	-36 43	0	134 132				-8	-31 24
								-3	-27 26	1	-39 41				-7	-29 < 30
								-2	-129 134	2	73 73				-6	-37 35
								-1	44 47	3	-47 51				-5	81 80
								0	-124 128	4	2 < 25				-4	-23 21
								1	33 36	5	1 < 30				-3	95 93
								2	23 16	6	-95 102				-2	35 40
								3	26 25	7	-6 < 30				-1	13 41
								4	121 129	8	-91 90				0	82 81
								5	-4 < 30						1	-48 47
								6	57 62		7 7 L				2	9 < 30
								7	-57 67						3	-84 72
								8	10 < 35						4 8 L	
								9	-48 52	-13	-27 -				5	8 2 L
								10	-49 59	-12	62 -				6	
								11	23 -	-10	-34 48				7	
										-9	-17 < 35				8	
										-8	-18 < 35				9	
										-7	-94 103				10	
										-6	1 < 30					
										-5	-99 98					
										-4	36 < 30					
										-3	26 < 34					
											-10 115 128					
											-9 9 < 35					
											-3 45 40					

Table 3. Atomic co-ordinates, expressed as fractions of the cell edges, and anisotropic thermal parameters for $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$. (The temperature factor is $\exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + hk\beta_{12} + hl\beta_{13} + kl\beta_{23})]$. All atoms occupy the general position 8f in $C2/c$ except O_9 which is situated in 4c).

Atom	x	y	z	β_{11}	β_{22}	β_{33}	β_{12}	β_{13}	β_{23}
Te	0.08640	0.0805	0.07773	0.00170	0.0081	0.00146	-0.0003	0.00053	-0.0005
K ₁	0.1542	0.1542	0.4078	0.0038	0.0137	0.0027	0.0010	0.0014	0.0006
K ₂	0.4962	0.1218	0.3488	0.0032	0.0126	0.0026	-0.0006	0.0013	0.0016
O ₁	0.1083	0.051	0.1858	0.0039	0.020	0.0017	-0.004	0.0011	-0.001
O ₂	0.1945	0.234	0.0912	0.0029	0.011	0.0032	-0.004	0.0017	-0.002
O ₃	0.4634	0.423	0.0427	0.0026	0.013	0.0015	-0.004	0.0003	-0.004
O ₄	0.0066	0.314	0.0673	0.0030	0.008	0.0034	0.004	0.0015	0.000
O ₅	0.3474	0.334	0.4261	0.0042	0.008	0.0026	-0.004	0.0023	0.001
O ₆	0.297	0.061	0.3108	0.0061	0.018	0.0028	-0.008	0.001	-0.002
O ₇	0.3825	0.316	0.1963	0.0027	0.020	0.0032	0.002	0.0014	-0.003
O ₈	0.3128	0.033	0.0314	0.0036	0.011	0.0029	0.000	0.0021	0.001
O ₉	0	0.284	1/4	0.004	0.003	0.0026	0	0.003	0
O ₁₀	0.105	0.343	0.270	0.008	0.02	0.004	0.015	0.004	-0.007

Table 4. Standard deviations of the atomic parameters.

Atom	$\sigma(x)$	$\sigma(y)$	$\sigma(z)$	$\sigma(\beta_{11})$	$\sigma(\beta_{22})$	$\sigma(\beta_{33})$	$\sigma(\beta_{12})$	$\sigma(\beta_{13})$	$\sigma(\beta_{23})$
Te	0.00005	0.0001	0.00005	0.00005	0.0002	0.00004	0.0001	0.00006	0.0001
K ₁	0.0002	0.0005	0.0002	0.0002	0.0007	0.0001	0.0006	0.0002	0.0005
K ₂	0.0002	0.0005	0.0002	0.0002	0.0007	0.0001	0.0005	0.0002	0.0005
O ₁	0.0008	0.002	0.0006	0.0006	0.003	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₂	0.0007	0.002	0.0007	0.0005	0.002	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₃	0.0007	0.001	0.0006	0.0005	0.002	0.0003	0.002	0.0007	0.001
O ₄	0.0007	0.001	0.0007	0.0005	0.002	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₅	0.0008	0.001	0.0006	0.0006	0.002	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₆	0.001	0.002	0.0007	0.0008	0.003	0.0005	0.002	0.001	0.002
O ₇	0.0007	0.002	0.0007	0.0005	0.003	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₈	0.0008	0.002	0.0004	0.0005	0.002	0.0004	0.002	0.0008	0.002
O ₉		0.004		0.001	0.006	0.0008		0.002	
O ₁₀	0.004	0.006	0.003	0.003	0.01	0.002	0.009	0.004	0.008

than 2 % of the standard deviations and the final *R* value was 0.080. The resulting set of parameters is given in Table 3 and the corresponding standard deviations in Table 4. The calculated and observed structure factors are listed in Table 2. The structure factors which could not be obtained from the films were computed using the programme SFGEN written by Ingvarsson,²² this calculation being based on the co-ordinates of Table 3, but with isotropic temperature factors taken from the earlier, preliminary structure proposition.¹⁸

A final difference Fourier was then calculated, which showed good agreement with the least squares refinement results.

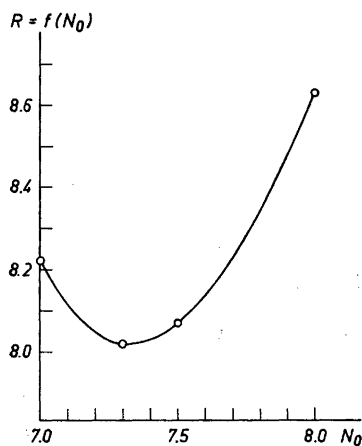


Fig. 4. The reliability index *R* as a function of the number (*N*₀) of water molecules in the stoichiometric formula $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{N_0}$.

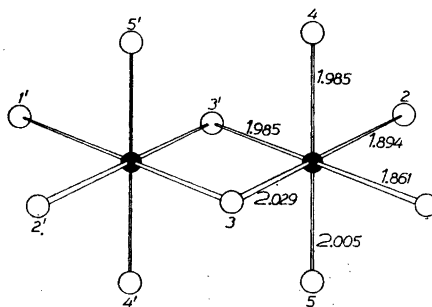


Fig. 5. A schematic drawing of the dimeric tellurate ion $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$.

THE POSITIONS OF THE HYDROGEN ATOMS

The hydrogen atoms are presumably situated so that they form hydrogen bonds, connecting oxygen atoms belonging to different Te—O polyhedra, or connecting Te—O polyhedra with oxygen atoms situated outside the tellurate ions. The hydrogen bonds may perhaps also be located within a K—O polyhedron but not within a Te—O polyhedron. The distance between two oxygen atoms forming a hydrogen bond is expected to be 2.5–2.9 Å.

Since there are 74.4 hydrogen atoms in the unit cell (assuming the formula to be $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$), there should be at least 10 eightfold hydrogen atom positions, some of which being only partially filled, thus corresponding to at least 10 independent O—O distances of 2.5–2.9 Å. With the aid of the programme DISTAN,²⁰ written for the computer CD 3600, the interatomic distances in the structure were calculated. It was then found that there were only 12 independent O—O distances less than 3.14 Å (*cf.* Table 5) fulfilling the condition stated at the beginning of this paragraph. Since the O_9 and O_{10} positions are, however, not occupied simultaneously, these O—O distances correspond to 74.4 hydrogen atoms. By considering the values listed in Table 5 and the fact that $O_1—O_5$ are in close contact with Te (*cf.* Table 6), the most plausible arrangement of the hydrogen atoms is when $O_6—O_{10}$ all correspond to water molecules and $O_4—O_5$ to hydroxide groups.

Table 5. Possible hydrogen bonds in the structure of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$.

$O_6—O_5$	2.67 ± 0.02 Å	$O_1—O_6—O_2$	$103.6 \pm 0.5^\circ$
$O_6—O_1$	2.80 ± 0.02 Å	$O_1—O_6—O_5$	$119.8 \pm 0.6^\circ$
$O_6—O_2$	2.86 ± 0.02 Å	$O_2—O_6—O_5$	$98.7 \pm 0.5^\circ$
$O_7—O_1$	2.65 ± 0.02 Å	$O_1—O_7—O_2$	$111.1 \pm 0.5^\circ$
$O_7—O_2$	2.74 ± 0.02 Å	$O_2—O_8—O_2$	$102.8 \pm 0.4^\circ$
$O_8—O_3$	2.72 ± 0.02 Å	$O_1—O_9—O_1$	$113 \pm 1^\circ$
$O_8—O_2$	2.86 ± 0.02 Å		
$O_9—O_1$	$2 \times (2.90 \pm 0.02)$ Å		
$O_{10}—O_1$	2.55 ± 0.05 Å		
$O_{10}—O_6$	2.94 ± 0.05 Å		
$O_4—O_5'$	2.85 ± 0.02 Å		

Table 6. Distances in the dimeric tellurate ion $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$. (*cf.* Table 7).

Te—Te'	3.119 ± 0.002 Å		
Te— O_1	1.861 ± 0.010 Å		
Te— O_2	1.894 ± 0.010 Å		
Te— O_3'	1.985 ± 0.009 Å		
Te— O_3	2.029 ± 0.010 Å		
Te— O_4	1.985 ± 0.010 Å		
Te— O_5	2.005 ± 0.010 Å		
$O_3—O_3'$	2.527 ± 0.019 Å	$O_2—O_4$	2.781 ± 0.014 Å
$O_3—O_1$	2.733 ± 0.014 Å	$O_3—O_4$	2.776 ± 0.014 Å
$O_1—O_2$	2.887 ± 0.015 Å	$O_3'—O_5$	2.689 ± 0.014 Å
$O_2—O_3'$	2.798 ± 0.014 Å	$O_1—O_5$	2.850 ± 0.015 Å
$O_3—O_4$	2.779 ± 0.014 Å	$O_2—O_5$	2.830 ± 0.014 Å
$O_1—O_4$	2.729 ± 0.015 Å	$O_3—O_5$	2.776 ± 0.014 Å
$O_4—O_5' = O_4'—O_5$	2.851 ± 0.015 Å		

Table 7. Comparison of the anions $\text{I}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2^{4-}$ and $\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4^{4-}$. Indices given as in Fig. 5 of this paper.

Bond	$\text{I}_2\text{O}_8(\text{OH})_2^{4-}$	$\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4^{4-}$
M—O	1.793 ± 0.016 Å	1.861 ± 0.010 Å
	1.810 ± 0.015 Å	1.894 ± 0.010 Å
	1.818 ± 0.010 Å	
M—O _{bridge}	1.992 ± 0.012 Å	1.985 ± 0.009 Å
	2.017 ± 0.007 Å	2.029 ± 0.010 Å
M—OH	1.980 ± 0.016 Å	1.985 ± 0.010 Å
		2.005 ± 0.010 Å
Angle		
O ₃ —M—O ₃ ' (bridge)	77.6 ± 0.4°	78.0 ± 0.3°
O ₃ —M—O ₁	89.6 ± 0.5°	89.2 ± 0.4°
O ₁ —M—O ₂	100.0 ± 0.7°	100.5 ± 0.5°
O ₂ —M—O ₃ '	92.0 ± 0.6°	92.3 ± 0.4°
O ₃ —M—O ₄	88.0 ± 0.5°	87.5 ± 0.4°
O ₁ —M—O ₄	97.1 ± 0.7°	90.4 ± 0.5°
O ₂ —M—O ₄	97.6 ± 0.6°	91.6 ± 0.4°
O ₃ '—M—O ₄	88.2 ± 0.6°	88.9 ± 0.4°
O ₃ —M—O ₅	86.2 ± 0.6°	86.9 ± 0.4°
O ₁ —M—O ₅	89.6 ± 0.7°	94.9 ± 0.5°
O ₂ —M—O ₅	87.0 ± 0.7°	93.0 ± 0.4°
O ₃ '—M—O ₅	83.9 ± 0.6°	84.7 ± 0.4°

DISCUSSION

The structure of $\text{K}_4[\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4](\text{H}_2\text{O})_{7.3}$ is built up from dimeric $\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4^{4-}$ ions, K^+ ions and water molecules, which are held together by electrostatic interaction and by hydrogen bonds. A schematic drawing of the $\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4^{4-}$ ion is given in Fig. 5 and of the structure in Fig. 6.

The bond distances and bond angles within the $\text{Te}_2\text{O}_6(\text{OH})_4^{4-}$ ion are given in Tables 6 and 7 (*cf.* also Fig. 5). As is seen, the ion consists of two Te—O octahedra having one edge in common. The Te—O distances within these octahedra can be divided into two groups, one comprising Te—O distances of 1.985–2.029 Å (Te—O₃, Te—O₃', Te—O₄, Te—O₅) and the other comprising Te—O distances of 1.861–1.894 Å (Te—O₁, Te—O₂). It is interesting to note that the oxygen atoms belonging to the first group are co-ordinated to two other atoms (O₃ and O₃' to two Te atoms, O₄ and O₅ to one Te and one H atom), whereas those belonging to the second group are closely bond to one Te atom only but participate, in addition, in weak hydrogen bonding to water molecules. This is in accordance with the fact that the Te—O₁ and Te—O₂ distances are significantly shorter than the Te—O₃, Te—O₃', Te—O₄, and Te—O₅ distances. A similar but less pronounced tendency was found in the structure of $\text{KTeO}(\text{OH})_5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, in which Raman⁸ determined the Te—O bond length to be 1.83 Å and the Te—OH bonds to be 1.90–1.95 Å (standard deviation 0.02–0.03 Å) in the monomeric $\text{TeO}(\text{OH})_5^-$ ion. These distances may be compared with our values Te—O = 1.861–1.894 Å (standard deviation

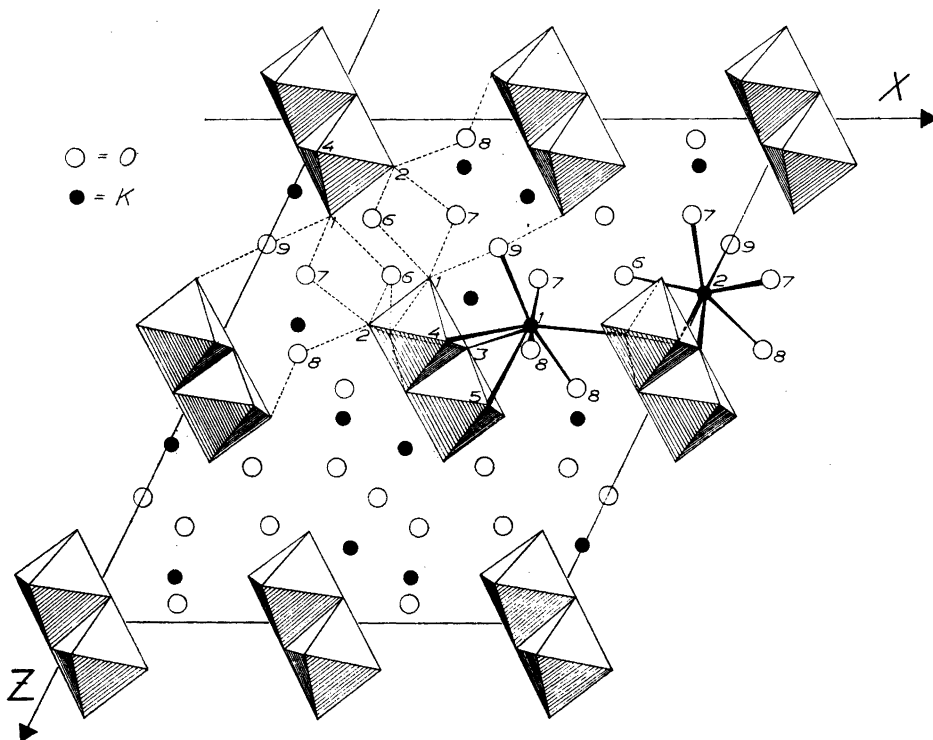


Fig. 6. A schematic picture of the structure of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$, projected on to the xz plane. The O_{10} position has been omitted.

0.010 Å), $Te-OH = 1.985-2.005$ Å (standard deviation 0.010 Å), and $Te-O_{bridge} = 1.985-2.029$ Å (standard deviation 0.009-0.010 Å).

In the structures of $KTeO_2(OH)_3$ ⁹ and $KTeO_3(OH)$,¹⁰ the $Te-O$ distances are reported to be 1.84 Å ($KTeO_3(OH)$) and 1.89 Å ($KTeO_2(OH)_3$), the $Te-OH$ distances 1.84 Å ($KTeO_3(OH)$) and 1.89 Å ($KTeO_2(OH)_3$) and the $Te-O_{bridge}$ distances 1.96-2.01 Å ($KTeO_3(OH)$) and 1.84 Å ($KTeO_2(OH)_3$). The accuracy of the distances in $KTeO_2(OH)_3$ is, however, low, the standard deviations of the oxygen positions being 0.2 Å or more, since only an idealized structure is given. A detailed comparison with the distances in $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$ cannot therefore be made. The $Te-O_{bridge}$ distances in the $KTeO_3(OH)$ structure are in good agreement with our value for $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$. The value reported for $Te-OH$ in $KTeO_3(OH)$, is, however, lower than the $Te-O_{bridge}$ value, lower than the $Te-OH$ distances found in other structures, and even, in fact, almost the same as that which has been found for $Te-O$ in $KTeO(OH)_5 \cdot H_2O$. The accuracy in the positional parameters of $KTeO_3(OH)$ is not, however, stated, so that it is not possible to say if this difference is significant or not.

A structure determination of $K_4[I_2O_8(OH)_2](H_2O)_8$ has recently been published.²³ This compound has been shown to contain the dimeric anion $I_2O_8(OH)_2^{4-}$ which is isoelectronic with the dimeric tellurate ion described in this paper. Both ions are built up in the same way and their bond distances and bond angles are very similar. As is seen in Table 7 the M—OH and M—O_{bridge} distances fall within the standard deviations. The M—O distances are, however, significantly different, the I—O distance being 0.07 Å shorter than that of Te—O. This is also to be expected in this case, since I^{VI} and Te^{VI} are isoelectronic. Likewise, most of the O—M—O angles fall within the standard deviations, but the four angles O_1-M-O_4 , O_1-M-O_5 , O_2-M-O_4 , and O_2-M-O_5 are significantly different in the two anions (*cf.* Table 7). This deviation may be explained by the bending of the M—O₁ and M—O₂ bonds away from the M—O₄ bond, O₄ being a hydroxide group in the tellurate ion but an oxygen atom in the periodate ion. The M—O₄ bond is also, therefore, shorter in $I_2O_8(OH)_2^{4-}$ (1.810 Å) than in $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$ (1.985 Å).

Anions of the same general appearance as $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$ and $I_2O_8(OH)_2^{4-}$ have been found in the crystal structures of $[Al_2(OH)_2(H_2O)_8](SO_4)_2(H_2O)_2$ and the corresponding selenate.²⁴ A detailed comparison between the bond distances of the tellurate and periodate ions with those of the $Al_2(OH)_2(H_2O)_8^{4+}$ ions is not, however, profitable, since the electronic configurations of Te^{VI} and I^{VII} are different from that of Al^{III} .

In order to study the condensation products of the tellurates, it is suitable to start from the corresponding acid. Orthotelluric acid, H_6TeO_6 , is built up from discrete molecules $Te(OH)_6$.²⁻⁵ The first anion formed from this acid is $TeO(OH)_5^-$, which is present in $KTeO(OH)_5H_2O$,⁸ as the monomeric anion $TeO(OH)_5^-$. It can condense to $[TeO_2(OH)_3]_n^{n-}$ and $[TeO_3(OH)]_n^{n-}$, which have been found in the structures of $KTeO_2(OH)_3$ ⁹ and $KTeO_3(OH)$.¹⁰ These ions are built up from TeO_6 -octahedra sharing corners ($KTeO_2(OH)_3$) or edges ($KTeO_3(OH)$) to form linear polymeric anions. The O—O distances in the double oxygen bridges of $[TeO_3(OH)]_n^{n-}$ are 2.52 Å (no standard deviation given).

The second dissociation step of orthotelluric acid should give rise to an anion of the type $TeO_2(OH)_4^{2-}$. This anion is, however, not yet known but the ion described in this paper, $[TeO_3(OH)_2]_2^{4-}$, is a dimeric, condensed form of $TeO_2(OH)_4^{2-}$. The O—O distance in the double oxygen bridge of $Te_2O_6(OH)_4^{4-}$, 2.527 ± 0.019 Å, is in good agreement with the value 2.512 ± 0.015 Å found in the anion $I_2O_8(OH)_2^{4-}$ and with the corresponding distance 2.52 Å in $[TeO_3(OH)]_n^{n-}$.

The completely condensed form corresponding to the $TeO_2(OH)_4^{2-}$ ion and based on a six-fold co-ordination, should have the formula $[TeO_4]_n^{2n-}$. Such ions have not yet been described, but may be present in some slightly soluble "metatellurates" (*cf.* the slightly soluble uranates, some of which are built up from UO_2O_4 octahedra sharing corners to form sheets of composition $[UO_2O_2]_n^{2n-}$).²⁵⁻²⁷

Only a very preliminary structure determination showing a monomeric, tetrahedral TeO_4^{2-} has been published.⁶ Nor have the polymeric forms $Te_nO_{3n+1}^{2-}$ yet been shown to exist in tellurates.

The co-ordination of potassium in the structure of $K_4[Te_2O_6(OH)_4](H_2O)_{7.3}$ is eight-fold for K_1 and seven-fold for K_2 (*cf.* Table 8). The contact distances are within the range 2.629–3.099 Å with a mean value of 2.910 Å for K_1 and 2.800 Å for K_2 , which is in agreement with the values reported in the *International Tables*.²⁸

Table 8. Distances in the potassium – oxygen polyhedra (Å).

K_1-O_3	2.843 ± 0.010 Å	K_2-O_3	2.748 ± 0.010 Å
K_1-O_4	2.918 ± 0.011 Å	K_2-O_4	2.636 ± 0.011 Å
K_1-O_5	3.043 ± 0.011 Å	K_2-O_6	2.854 ± 0.014 Å
K_1-O_6	3.099 ± 0.011 Å	K_2-O_7	2.702 ± 0.012 Å
K_1-O_7	2.908 ± 0.013 Å	K_2-O_7	2.888 ± 0.012 Å
K_1-O_8	2.804 ± 0.011 Å	K_2-O_8	2.854 ± 0.011 Å
K_1-O_9	2.807 ± 0.011 Å	K_2-O_9	2.969 ± 0.021 Å
K_1-O_9	2.954 ± 0.009 Å	or K_2-O_{10}	2.810 ± 0.045 Å
or K_1-O_{10}	2.629 ± 0.044 Å		

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