

The Crystal Structure of Triacetylsphingosine

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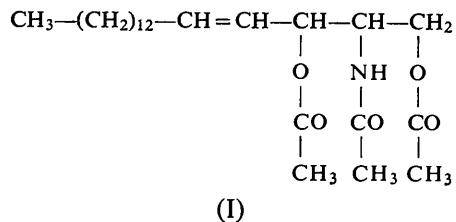
The crystal structure of triacetylsphingosine (*D*-erythro-1,3-diacetoxy-2-acetamido-4-*trans*-octadecene, C₂₄H₄₃O₅N) has been determined by direct methods. The crystals are orthorhombic, P2₁2₁2₁, with *a* = 5.002, *b* = 8.709 and *c* = 60.62 Å. Positional and isotropic thermal parameters of the non-hydrogen atoms were refined to give a final *R* index of 0.109. The molecules are arranged head-to-tail in layers within which the carbon chains pack according to the common orthorhombic subcell, *O* ⊥. The chain axis forms an angle of 58° with the end group planes. Adjacent layers show opposite tilt of the chains. In spite of the bulky acetyl branches the molecules adopt a very effective packing (*D*_m = 1.07 g.cm⁻³). The molecules are connected by a continuous system of N-H---O hydrogen bonds parallel to **a**, and there is also evidence for two weaker C-H---O type interactions.

Introduction

For our investigations on the structure and function of lipids occurring in biological membranes, model compounds of sphingolipids (sphingosines, ceramides, cerebrosides, sulphatides) are prepared in our laboratory for use in biochemical and physicochemical studies. The base molecules in all sphingolipids are sphingosines. These long chain amino alcohols differ in chain length, degree of saturation or number of hydroxyl groups. A brief review of naturally occurring sphingosine species has been given by Karlsson & Holm (1965) and Karlsson, Samuelsson & Steen (1968). The most common of these molecules is the parent base, sphingosine (*D*-erythro-1,3-dihydroxy-2-amino-4-*trans*-octadecene) which was first isolated by Thudichum (1882) from brain lipids.

Though free sphingosines and their simple acetyl derivatives are not present in the membranes their properties, especially with regard to their molecular packing and ability to form hydrogen bonds, are of interest for a comparison with the more complex lipids. Among the acetates of sphingosines the fully acetylated derivatives exhibit good crystallizing properties, sharp melting points and high optical rotation. On account of these properties they are used for purification and characterization of sphingosines (Thomas & Thierfelder, 1912;

Klenk & Diebold, 1931; Carter, Norris, Glick, Phillips & Harris, 1947).



Triacetylsphingosine (I) crystallizes readily from acetone or ether in well-shaped brittle needles. The melting point (104.5°) of this lipid appears to be unexpectedly high when compared with the free sphingosine base (m.p. 83°) or the corresponding *N*-acetyl derivative (m.p. 87.5°). Because of the presence of free amino- and hydroxy groups, both of these latter compounds should be able to form more effective hydrogen bond systems than the fully acylated derivative. As acetylation considerably decreases the polarity of sphingosine and moreover introduces bulky acetyl branches into the molecule these physical properties must then be a molecular packing effect.

The structure analysis of triacetylsphingosine is the first of a series of comparative single-crystal investigations on sphingolipids being made in this laboratory.

Table 1. Phase assignments for specifying the origin and enantiomorph and from the Σ_1 relation

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	φ	$ E $	
2	0	27	$-\pi/2$	2.95	Origin and enantiomorph
0	3	43	$-\pi/2$	2.64	
0	3	44	$-\pi/2$	2.26	
3	6	0	$\pi/2$	1.51	
0	2	8	0	3.35	
0	4	40	π	2.49	
0	2	48	π	2.14	Σ_1

THE CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF TRIACETYLSPHINGOSINE

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors ($\times 10$)

The phase angles are given as fractions of one revolution. Unobserved reflexions (defined as those having a net intensity < 2 e.s.d. are indicated by negative signs on the $|F_o|$'s. They were assigned the smallest observed intensity.

H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI			
0	0	2	643	341	0.500	0	0	2	75	131	0.500	0	0	14	167	139	0.500	1	0	9	675	54	0.750			
0	0	3	348	159	1.000	0	0	3	46	209	203	0.500	0	0	15	159	149	0.750	1	0	11	347	338	0.500		
0	0	4	104	1171	0.500	0	0	4	46	125	112	0.500	0	0	17	98	88	0.250	1	0	12	88	136	0.500		
0	0	5	12	216	215	0.500	0	0	5	49	127	127	0.500	0	0	18	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	13	14	273	0.250
0	0	6	12	1295	397	0.500	0	0	6	50	127	127	0.500	0	0	19	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	14	14	273	0.250
0	0	7	16	135	345	0.500	0	0	7	51	127	127	0.500	0	0	20	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	16	14	273	0.250
0	0	8	18	136	65	1.000	0	0	8	52	127	127	0.500	0	0	21	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	17	14	273	0.250
0	0	9	18	136	46	1.000	0	0	9	53	127	127	0.500	0	0	22	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	18	14	273	0.250
0	0	10	20	136	346	0.500	0	0	10	54	127	127	0.500	0	0	23	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	19	14	273	0.250
0	0	11	20	136	107	0.500	0	0	11	55	127	127	0.500	0	0	24	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	20	14	273	0.250
0	0	12	20	136	969	1.000	0	0	12	56	127	127	0.500	0	0	25	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	21	14	273	0.250
0	0	13	20	136	307	2.000	0	0	13	57	127	127	0.500	0	0	26	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	22	14	273	0.250
0	0	14	20	136	197	1.000	0	0	14	58	127	127	0.500	0	0	27	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	23	14	273	0.250
0	0	15	20	136	97	1.000	0	0	15	59	127	127	0.500	0	0	28	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	24	14	273	0.250
0	0	16	20	136	197	1.000	0	0	16	60	127	127	0.500	0	0	29	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	25	14	273	0.250
0	0	17	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	17	61	127	127	0.500	0	0	30	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	26	14	273	0.250
0	0	18	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	18	62	127	127	0.500	0	0	31	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	27	14	273	0.250
0	0	19	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	19	63	127	127	0.500	0	0	32	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	28	14	273	0.250
0	0	20	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	20	64	127	127	0.500	0	0	33	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	29	14	273	0.250
0	0	21	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	21	65	127	127	0.500	0	0	34	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	30	14	273	0.250
0	0	22	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	22	66	127	127	0.500	0	0	35	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	31	14	273	0.250
0	0	23	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	23	67	127	127	0.500	0	0	36	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	32	14	273	0.250
0	0	24	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	24	68	127	127	0.500	0	0	37	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	33	14	273	0.250
0	0	25	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	25	69	127	127	0.500	0	0	38	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	34	14	273	0.250
0	0	26	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	26	70	127	127	0.500	0	0	39	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	35	14	273	0.250
0	0	27	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	27	71	127	127	0.500	0	0	40	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	36	14	273	0.250
0	0	28	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	28	72	127	127	0.500	0	0	41	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	37	14	273	0.250
0	0	29	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	29	73	127	127	0.500	0	0	42	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	38	14	273	0.250
0	0	30	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	30	74	127	127	0.500	0	0	43	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	39	14	273	0.250
0	0	31	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	31	75	127	127	0.500	0	0	44	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	40	14	273	0.250
0	0	32	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	32	76	127	127	0.500	0	0	45	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	41	14	273	0.250
0	0	33	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	33	77	127	127	0.500	0	0	46	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	42	14	273	0.250
0	0	34	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	34	78	127	127	0.500	0	0	47	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	43	14	273	0.250
0	0	35	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	35	79	127	127	0.500	0	0	48	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	44	14	273	0.250
0	0	36	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	36	80	127	127	0.500	0	0	49	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	45	14	273	0.250
0	0	37	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	37	81	127	127	0.500	0	0	50	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	46	14	273	0.250
0	0	38	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	38	82	127	127	0.500	0	0	51	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	47	14	273	0.250
0	0	39	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	39	83	127	127	0.500	0	0	52	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	48	14	273	0.250
0	0	40	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	40	84	127	127	0.500	0	0	53	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	49	14	273	0.250
0	0	41	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	41	85	127	127	0.500	0	0	54	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	50	14	273	0.250
0	0	42	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	42	86	127	127	0.500	0	0	55	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	51	14	273	0.250
0	0	43	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	43	87	127	127	0.500	0	0	56	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	52	14	273	0.250
0	0	44	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	44	88	127	127	0.500	0	0	57	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	53	14	273	0.250
0	0	45	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	45	89	127	127	0.500	0	0	58	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	54	14	273	0.250
0	0	46	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	46	90	127	127	0.500	0	0	59	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	55	14	273	0.250
0	0	47	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	47	91	127	127	0.500	0	0	60	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	56	14	273	0.250
0	0	48	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	48	92	127	127	0.500	0	0	61	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	57	14	273	0.250
0	0	49	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	49	93	127	127	0.500	0	0	62	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	58	14	273	0.250
0	0	50	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	50	94	127	127	0.500	0	0	63	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	59	14	273	0.250
0	0	51	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	51	95	127	127	0.500	0	0	64	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	60	14	273	0.250
0	0	52	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	52	96	127	127	0.500	0	0	65	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	61	14	273	0.250
0	0	53	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	53	97	127	127	0.500	0	0	66	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	62	14	273	0.250
0	0	54	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	54	98	127	127	0.500	0	0	67	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	63	14	273	0.250
0	0	55	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	55	99	127	127	0.500	0	0	68	14	267	227	0.250	1	0	64	14	273	0.250
0	0	56	20	136	178	1.000	0	0	56	100	127	127	0.500	0	0	69	14	267	227	0.						

Table 2 (cont.)

H	K	L	Fobs	Pcalc	PI	H	K	L	Fobs	Pcalc	PI	H	K	L	Fobs	Pcalc	PI	
9	25	1	116	0.45		1	5	6	255	220	0.395	23	-33	50	0.750	119	128	0.618
	26	47	141	0.48			6	10	10	10	10	0.395		6	10	10	0.618	
	27	177	142	0.45			7	11	10	10	73	0.420		7	13	122	0.596	
	28	176	143	0.45			8	12	10	10	10	0.395		8	13	122	0.596	
	29	121	126	0.59			9	13	10	10	10	0.395		9	13	122	0.596	
	30	191	127	0.51			10	14	10	10	10	0.395		10	14	122	0.596	
	31	177	173	0.737			11	15	10	10	10	0.395		11	15	122	0.596	
	32	177	189	0.737			12	16	10	10	10	0.395		12	16	122	0.596	
	33	177	189	0.737			13	17	10	10	10	0.395		13	17	122	0.596	
	34	177	189	0.737			14	18	10	10	10	0.395		14	18	122	0.596	
	35	177	189	0.737			15	19	10	10	10	0.395		15	19	122	0.596	
	36	177	189	0.737			16	20	10	10	10	0.395		16	20	122	0.596	
	37	177	189	0.737			17	21	10	10	10	0.395		17	21	122	0.596	
	38	177	189	0.737			18	22	10	10	10	0.395		18	22	122	0.596	
	39	177	189	0.737			19	23	10	10	10	0.395		19	23	122	0.596	
	40	177	189	0.737			20	24	10	10	10	0.395		20	24	122	0.596	
	41	177	189	0.737			21	25	10	10	10	0.395		21	25	122	0.596	
	42	177	189	0.737			22	26	10	10	10	0.395		22	26	122	0.596	
	43	177	189	0.737			23	27	10	10	10	0.395		23	27	122	0.596	
	44	177	189	0.737			24	28	10	10	10	0.395		24	28	122	0.596	
	45	177	189	0.737			25	29	10	10	10	0.395		25	29	122	0.596	
	46	177	189	0.737			26	30	10	10	10	0.395		26	30	122	0.596	
	47	177	189	0.737			27	31	10	10	10	0.395		27	31	122	0.596	
	48	177	189	0.737			28	32	10	10	10	0.395		28	32	122	0.596	
	49	177	189	0.737			29	33	10	10	10	0.395		29	33	122	0.596	
	50	177	189	0.737			30	34	10	10	10	0.395		30	34	122	0.596	
	51	177	189	0.737			31	35	10	10	10	0.395		31	35	122	0.596	
	52	177	189	0.737			32	36	10	10	10	0.395		32	36	122	0.596	
	53	177	189	0.737			33	37	10	10	10	0.395		33	37	122	0.596	
	54	177	189	0.737			34	38	10	10	10	0.395		34	38	122	0.596	
	55	177	189	0.737			35	39	10	10	10	0.395		35	39	122	0.596	
	56	177	189	0.737			36	40	10	10	10	0.395		36	40	122	0.596	
	57	177	189	0.737			37	41	10	10	10	0.395		37	41	122	0.596	
	58	177	189	0.737			38	42	10	10	10	0.395		38	42	122	0.596	
	59	177	189	0.737			39	43	10	10	10	0.395		39	43	122	0.596	
	60	177	189	0.737			40	44	10	10	10	0.395		40	44	122	0.596	
	61	177	189	0.737			42	45	10	10	10	0.395		42	45	122	0.596	
	62	177	189	0.737			43	46	10	10	10	0.395		43	46	122	0.596	
	63	177	189	0.737			44	47	10	10	10	0.395		44	47	122	0.596	
	64	177	189	0.737			45	48	10	10	10	0.395		45	48	122	0.596	
	65	177	189	0.737			46	49	10	10	10	0.395		46	49	122	0.596	
	66	177	189	0.737			47	50	10	10	10	0.395		47	50	122	0.596	
	67	177	189	0.737			48	51	10	10	10	0.395		48	51	122	0.596	
	68	177	189	0.737			49	52	10	10	10	0.395		49	52	122	0.596	
	69	177	189	0.737			50	53	10	10	10	0.395		50	53	122	0.596	
	70	177	189	0.737			51	54	10	10	10	0.395		51	54	122	0.596	
	71	177	189	0.737			52	55	10	10	10	0.395		52	55	122	0.596	
	72	177	189	0.737			53	56	10	10	10	0.395		53	56	122	0.596	
	73	177	189	0.737			54	57	10	10	10	0.395		54	57	122	0.596	
	74	177	189	0.737			55	58	10	10	10	0.395		55	58	122	0.596	
	75	177	189	0.737			56	59	10	10	10	0.395		56	59	122	0.596	
	76	177	189	0.737			57	60	10	10	10	0.395		57	60	122	0.596	
	77	177	189	0.737			58	61	10	10	10	0.395		58	61	122	0.596	
	78	177	189	0.737			59	62	10	10	10	0.395		59	62	122	0.596	
	79	177	189	0.737			60	63	10	10	10	0.395		60	63	122	0.596	
	80	177	189	0.737			61	64	10	10	10	0.395		61	64	122	0.596	
	81	177	189	0.737			62	65	10	10	10	0.395		62	65	122	0.596	
	82	177	189	0.737			63	66	10	10	10	0.395		63	66	122	0.596	
	83	177	189	0.737			64	67	10	10	10	0.395		64	67	122	0.596	
	84	177	189	0.737			65	68	10	10	10	0.395		65	68	122	0.596	
	85	177	189	0.737			66	69	10	10	10	0.395		66	69	122	0.596	
	86	177	189	0.737			67	70	10	10	10	0.395		67	70	122	0.596	
	87	177	189	0.737			68	71	10	10	10	0.395		68	71	122	0.596	
	88	177	189	0.737			69	72	10	10	10	0.395		69	72	122	0.596	
	89	177	189	0.737			70	73	10	10	10	0.395		70	73	122	0.596	
	90	177	189	0.737			71	74	10	10	10	0.395		71	74	122	0.596	
	91	177	189	0.737			72	75	10	10	10	0.395		72	75	122	0.596	
	92	177	189	0.737			73	76	10	10	10	0.395		73	76	122	0.596	
	93	177	189	0.737			74	77	10	10	10	0.395		74	77	122	0.596	
	94	177	189	0.737			75	78	10	10	10	0.395		75	78	122	0.596	
	95	177	189	0.737			76	79	10	10	10	0.395		76	79	122	0.596	
	96	177	189	0.737			77	80	10	10	10	0.395		77	80	122	0.596	
	97	177	189	0.737			78	81	10	10	10	0.395		78	81	122	0.596	
	98	177	189	0.737			79	82	10	10	10	0.395		79	82	122	0.596	
	99	177	189	0.737			80	83	10	10	10	0.395		80	83	122	0.596	
	100	177	189	0.737			81	84	10	10	10	0.395		81	84	122	0.596	
	101	177	189	0.737			82	85	10	10	10	0.395		82	85	122	0.596	
	102	177	189	0.737			83	86	10	10	10	0.395		83	86	122	0.596	
	103	177	189	0.737			84	87	10	10	10	0.395		84	87	122	0.596	
	104	177	189	0.737			85	88	10	10	10	0.395		85	88	122	0.596	
	105	177	189	0.737			86	89	10	10	10	0.395		86	89	122	0.596	
	106	177	189	0.737			87	90	10	10	10	0.395		87	90	122	0.596	
	107	177	189	0.737			88	91	10	10	10	0.395		88	91	122	0.596	
	108	177	189	0.737			89	92	10	10	10	0.395		89	92	122	0.596	
	109	177	189	0.737			90	93	10	10	10	0.395		90	93	122	0.596	
	110	177	189	0.737			91	94	10	10	10	0.395		91	94	122	0.596	
	111	177	189	0.737			92	95	10	10	10	0.						

Table 2 (cont.)

H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	H	K	L	Pobs	Fcalc	PI	
2	6	3	178	147	0.192	3	0	46	149	216	9	0.750	3	3	27	143	65	0.682
6	10	15	158	115	0.985	5	59	59	117	106	26	0.750	5	5	29	191	59	0.088
6	12	13	159	59	0.689	7	70	33	177	135	26	0.342	7	3	30	191	59	0.191
6	14	15	159	149	0.149	9	33	33	177	194	26	0.342	9	3	30	191	59	0.070
6	16	17	159	30	0.251	11	30	861	177	194	26	0.342	11	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	18	19	159	50	0.794	13	50	50	177	194	26	0.342	13	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	20	21	159	18	0.901	15	65	65	177	194	26	0.342	15	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	22	23	159	461	0.461	17	129	129	119	119	78	0.342	17	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	24	25	159	147	0.187	19	147	96	129	129	78	0.342	19	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	26	27	159	976	0.976	21	147	96	129	129	78	0.342	21	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	28	29	159	573	0.573	23	31	31	101	101	99	0.342	23	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	30	31	159	465	0.465	25	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	25	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	32	33	159	110	0.986	27	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	27	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	34	35	159	99	0.986	29	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	29	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	36	37	159	96	0.962	31	108	108	119	119	120	0.342	31	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	38	39	159	312	0.312	33	108	108	119	119	120	0.342	33	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	40	41	159	312	0.312	35	31	31	119	119	120	0.342	35	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	42	43	159	338	0.338	37	107	107	118	118	120	0.342	37	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	44	45	159	736	0.736	39	107	107	118	118	120	0.342	39	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	46	47	159	422	0.422	41	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	41	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	48	49	159	422	0.422	43	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	43	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	50	51	159	422	0.422	45	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	45	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	52	53	159	422	0.422	47	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	47	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	54	55	159	422	0.422	49	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	49	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	56	57	159	422	0.422	51	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	51	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	58	59	159	422	0.422	53	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	53	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	60	61	159	422	0.422	55	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	55	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	62	63	159	422	0.422	57	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	57	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	64	65	159	422	0.422	59	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	59	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	66	67	159	422	0.422	61	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	61	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	68	69	159	422	0.422	63	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	63	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	70	71	159	422	0.422	65	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	65	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	72	73	159	422	0.422	67	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	67	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	74	75	159	422	0.422	69	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	69	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	76	77	159	422	0.422	71	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	71	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	78	79	159	422	0.422	73	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	73	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	80	81	159	422	0.422	75	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	75	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	82	83	159	422	0.422	77	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	77	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	84	85	159	422	0.422	79	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	79	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	86	87	159	422	0.422	81	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	81	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	88	89	159	422	0.422	83	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	83	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	90	91	159	422	0.422	85	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	85	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	92	93	159	422	0.422	87	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	87	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	94	95	159	422	0.422	89	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	89	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	96	97	159	422	0.422	91	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	91	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	98	99	159	422	0.422	93	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	93	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	100	101	159	422	0.422	95	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	95	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	102	103	159	422	0.422	97	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	97	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	104	105	159	422	0.422	99	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	99	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	106	107	159	422	0.422	101	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	101	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	108	109	159	422	0.422	103	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	103	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	110	111	159	422	0.422	105	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	105	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	112	113	159	422	0.422	107	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	107	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	114	115	159	422	0.422	109	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	109	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	116	117	159	422	0.422	111	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	111	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	118	119	159	422	0.422	113	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	113	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	120	121	159	422	0.422	115	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	115	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	122	123	159	422	0.422	117	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	117	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	124	125	159	422	0.422	119	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	119	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	126	127	159	422	0.422	121	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	121	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	128	129	159	422	0.422	123	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	123	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	130	131	159	422	0.422	125	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	125	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	132	133	159	422	0.422	127	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	127	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	134	135	159	422	0.422	129	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	129	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	136	137	159	422	0.422	131	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	131	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	138	139	159	422	0.422	133	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	133	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	140	141	159	422	0.422	135	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	135	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	142	143	159	422	0.422	137	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	137	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	144	145	159	422	0.422	139	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	139	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	146	147	159	422	0.422	141	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	141	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	148	149	159	422	0.422	143	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	143	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	150	151	159	422	0.422	145	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	145	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	152	153	159	422	0.422	147	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	147	3	30	191	59	0.155
6	154	155	159	422	0.422	149	147	147	145	145	128	0.342	149	3	30</			

Molecular weight:	425.3,
Melting point:	104.0–104.5°C (corr.);
Optical rotation:	$[\alpha]_D^{20} = -14.0 \pm 0.1^\circ$ ($c=1$ in chloroform);
Orthorhombic:	$a=5.002 \pm 5$, $b=8.709 \pm 8$, $c=60.62 \pm 6$ Å ($\lambda=1.5418$),
Space group:	$P2_12_12_1$;
Absent spectra:	$h00$, h odd; $0k0$, k odd; $00l$, l odd;
Density	$D_m = 1.07$ g.cm $^{-3}$ (by flotation)
	$D_x = 1.07$ g.cm $^{-3}$,
	$Z=4$.
	$\mu=6.38$ cm $^{-1}$ for $\lambda=1.5418$ Å.

The data collection was carried out on a Hilger and Watts four circle automatic diffractometer with a crystal having dimensions $0.30 \times 0.20 \times 0.15$ mm. Intensity measurements were made by step scanning on $\omega/2\theta$ using Ni-filtered Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. A total of 1412 reflexions having $2\theta < 95^\circ$ were measured. Of these 930 had net intensities exceeding twice the estimated standard deviation and were coded 'observed'. The other reflexions were not included in the subsequent refinement and R index calculations.

Solution and refinement

The phase determination was carried out by application of the Σ_1 , Σ_2 and tangent formulae [see Karle & Karle (1966) for a recent review of these techniques]. Normal-

ized structure factors $|E_h|$, were evaluated with use of the formula

$$|E_h|^2 = |F_h|^2 / \varepsilon \sum_{j=1}^N f_j^2(\mathbf{h}) \quad (1)$$

where the $|F_h|$ are the structure factor magnitudes on an absolute scale and are corrected for vibrational motion, f_j is the atomic scattering factor for the j th atom in a unit cell containing N atoms and ε is a constant which corrects for the space-group extinctions.

In order to initiate the phase determination procedure the signs of four reflexions were assigned to fix the origin and enantiomorph. Three more phases were evaluated with the Σ_1 relation:

$$s\Sigma(0,2k,2l) = s\Sigma(-1)^{h+k}(|E_{hkl}|^2 - 1) \quad (2)$$

where s means 'sign of' and similar expressions apply for the $2h,0,2l$ and $2h,2k,0$ data (Karle & Hauptman, 1956). Phases calculated in this way were accepted if their associated $|E|$ values exceeded 2.0 and if their sign probability,

$$P+(2h) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \tanh (\sigma_3 |E_{2h}| \Sigma_1 / 2\sigma_2^{3/2}),$$

was greater than 0.80. In this formula $\sigma_n = \sum_{j=1}^N Z_j N$,

where Z_j is the atomic number of the j th atom.

The list of 7 known phases (Table 1) was extended and refined by use of the Σ_2 and tangent relations

Table 3. *Atomic parameters and (in parentheses) their standard deviations*

The e.s.d.'s in the positions have been multiplied by 10^4 and in the B values by 10.

	X/a	Y/b	Z/c	B
C(1)	0.1661 (36) Å	1.2422 (19) Å	0.2077 (3) Å	4.5 (4)
C(2)	0.3043 (36)	1.2164 (18)	0.1865 (3)	4.1 (4)
C(3)	0.1868 (32)	1.0811 (18)	0.1742 (2)	3.8 (4)
C(4)	0.3321 (38)	1.0452 (19)	0.1539 (3)	5.1 (4)
C(5)	0.2362 (50)	1.0470 (23)	0.1342 (3)	7.6 (5)
C(6)	0.3765 (43)	1.0175 (23)	0.1121 (3)	6.7 (5)
C(7)	0.2470 (46)	0.8861 (22)	0.0992 (3)	6.6 (5)
C(8)	0.3845 (45)	0.8647 (23)	0.0765 (3)	6.9 (5)
C(9)	0.2682 (39)	0.7351 (19)	0.0632 (3)	4.8 (4)
C(10)	0.3926 (39)	0.7145 (20)	0.0411 (3)	5.2 (4)
C(11)	0.2685 (42)	0.5859 (20)	0.0276 (3)	5.6 (4)
C(12)	0.3935 (39)	0.5615 (19)	0.0050 (3)	5.0 (4)
C(13)	0.2683 (40)	0.4327 (19)	-0.0079 (3)	5.1 (4)
C(14)	0.3890 (39)	0.4092 (20)	-0.0308 (3)	5.3 (4)
C(15)	0.2721 (41)	0.2767 (19)	-0.0437 (3)	5.3 (4)
C(16)	0.3862 (43)	0.2526 (21)	-0.0662 (3)	6.0 (5)
C(17)	0.2747 (50)	0.1152 (24)	-0.0787 (3)	7.8 (5)
C(18)	0.3925 (45)	0.0876 (25)	-0.1012 (3)	7.5 (6)
C(19)	0.2379 (42)	1.3965 (22)	0.2405 (3)	5.3 (4)
C(20)	0.4158 (39)	1.5053 (23)	0.2519 (3)	5.8 (5)
C(21)	0.4902 (43)	1.4258 (21)	0.1636 (3)	5.2 (4)
C(22)	0.4374 (38)	1.5654 (20)	0.1501 (3)	5.3 (4)
C(23)	0.0232 (47)	0.8420 (25)	0.1878 (3)	6.7 (5)
C(24)	0.0793 (48)	0.7023 (25)	0.2025 (3)	7.8 (6)
O(1)	0.3245 (23)	1.3512 (12)	0.2203 (2)	4.8 (3)
O(2)	0.2076 (26)	0.9499 (13)	0.1891 (2)	5.4 (3)
O(3)	0.0364 (38)	1.3392 (18)	0.2475 (2)	8.4 (4)
O(4)	-0.1461 (38)	0.8394 (19)	0.1730 (3)	10.9 (5)
O(5)	0.7266 (29)	1.3811 (14)	0.1674 (2)	6.4 (3)
N(1)	0.2810 (27)	1.3546 (14)	0.1728 (2)	3.8 (3)

$$\varphi_h = \langle \varphi_k + \varphi_{h-k} \rangle, \quad (3)$$

$$\tan \varphi_h = \frac{\sum_k |E_k \cdot E_{h-k}| \sin(\varphi_k + \varphi_{h-k})}{\sum_k |E_k \cdot E_{h-k}| \cos(\varphi_k + \varphi_{h-k})} \quad (4)$$

Initially only terms with $|E_h| > 2.0$ were used in (3). Phases were rejected if their variance (Karle & Karle, 1966) exceeded 0.5 radian. The accepted phases were then refined with (4). If, after several tangent cycles, the shift in the phases calculated by (4) were large or tended to oscillate these terms were rejected. Terms were also rejected if their calculated $|E|$ value, $|E_h|_{\text{calc}}$, determined from the numerator and denominator of (4), was less than a minimum specified value, initially set at 0.8. The tangent iteration was terminated when all shifts were less than 5°. The minimum $|E|$ value was then decreased by 0.2 and the procedure was repeated using the refined phases as input for (3).

After a number of these cycles 294 phases with $|E| > 1.0$ were evaluated. During the later stages the minimum $|E|_{\text{calc}}$ value was reduced to 0.4 and the iteration convergence criterion relaxed to 10° to limit the computer time required. An E map based on these phases revealed the positions of 10 atoms in alternative positions along the straight part of the chain. Several other peaks which were possible atomic sites were of about the same height as a number of spurious peaks in the map and were not included at this stage. The R index based on these 10 atoms was 0.59.

The remainder of the structure was obtained by the method of Karle (1968) when a 'partial structure' is known. The phases of 99 reflexions having $|F_c| \geq 0.35$, $|F_o|$ and $|E| \geq 1.5$ were used as starting phases in (3) and (4). This set was refined and extended to 158 phases with $|E| \geq 1.3$. An E map based on these values gave the positions of 8 more atoms and reduced R to 0.49. After another cycle, in which 189 phases with $|E| \geq 1.3$ were determined, a further 7 atoms were located, giving $R=0.31$. The remaining 5 atoms were placed from a difference map, resulting in an R index of 0.21.

Refinement by full-matrix least-squares with isotropic thermal coefficient reduced R to 0.14. The 30 sterically positioned hydrogen atoms were placed at their expected sites assuming a C-H bond length of 1.0 Å. The inclusion of these atoms with thermal coefficients equal to those of the parent carbon atoms, reduced R to 0.127. Further refinement during which the hydrogen atom parameters were included in the structure factor calculations, but were not refined in the least squares, gave a final R value of 0.109.

A difference Fourier was evaluated at this stage; however none of the 13 hydrogen atoms belonging to the amide and methyl groups could be positively identified. Although the hydrocarbon chain and most of the atoms in the polar groups are probably vibrating anisotropically the introduction of additional parameters into the least squares was not considered justified in

view of the limited number of observed reflexions available.

Scattering factors for carbon, nitrogen and oxygen were taken from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962), while for hydrogen the values given by Stewart, Davidson & Simpson (1965) were used. Reflexion weights were initially calculated from the counting statistics according to Evans (1961), however in the final stages of refinement somewhat better results were obtained by use of the function

$$w = 1 \text{ for } |F_o| < 27, \\ w = 27/|F_o| \text{ for } |F_o| > 27.$$

The observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 2 and the final positional and isotropic thermal parameters in Table 3. The calculated hydrogen atom positions are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Calculated hydrogen atom coordinates

	X/a	Y/b	Z/c
H(11)	-0.0227 Å	1.2811 Å	0.2054 Å
H(12)	0.1469	1.469	0.2164
H(21)	0.4973	1.1935	0.1895
H(31)	-0.0051	1.1058	0.1704
H(41)	0.5290	1.0111	0.1547
H(51)	0.0315	1.0708	0.1329
H(61)	0.5705	0.9950	0.1145
H(62)	0.3697	1.1152	0.1022
H(71)	0.0524	0.9088	0.0968
H(72)	0.2643	0.7898	0.1081
H(81)	0.5782	0.8442	0.0800
H(82)	0.3695	0.9655	0.0688
H(91)	0.0708	0.7596	0.0611
H(92)	0.2838	0.6390	0.0719
H(101)	0.5841	0.6916	0.0434
H(102)	0.3698	0.8114	0.0326
H(111)	0.0685	0.6014	0.0261
H(112)	0.2905	0.4830	0.0361
H(121)	0.5844	0.5459	0.0064
H(122)	0.3563	0.6598	-0.0038
H(131)	0.0707	0.4475	-0.0091
H(132)	0.2993	0.3338	0.0010
H(141)	0.5867	0.3958	-0.0291
H(142)	0.3555	0.5075	-0.0393
H(151)	0.0720	0.2900	-0.0450
H(152)	0.3005	0.1778	-0.0345
H(161)	0.5931	0.2412	-0.0643
H(162)	0.3617	0.3511	-0.0749
H(171)	0.0739	0.1286	-0.0802
H(172)	0.3002	0.0178	-0.0691

Discussion

The molecular geometry and atom numbering are illustrated in Fig. 1. The structure of the molecule is in agreement with the formula D-*erythro*-1,3-diacetoxy-2-acetamido-4-*trans*-octadecene and confirms the configuration established by Carter & Fujino (1956.) The hydrocarbon chain is bent at the *trans* double bond and the acetoxy group attached at C(1) forms a continuation of the zigzag backbone. Atoms C(5) to C(18) and C(4) to C(20) form two approximately parallel planar groups, the perpendicular distance between

which is 0.6 Å. The equations of the best planes through these two sets of atoms are

$$-0.1304X + 0.2198Y - 0.9668Z - 0.0671 = 0,$$

and

$$0.0798X + 0.2221Y - 0.9718Z - 0.0588 = 0.$$

The only large out of plane deviation is for C(2) which is displaced 0.17 Å towards the amide group. The remaining acetoxy group and the acetamido group form two planar sets with the carbon atoms to which they are attached. The equations of the best planes through

C(2)-N(1)-C(21)-C(22)-O(5) and C(3)-O(2)-C(23)-C(24)-O(4) are

$$0.0058X + 0.1020Y + 0.9948Z - 0.3114 = 0$$

and

$$0.0730X - 0.0958Y - 0.9927Z + 0.2634 = 0.$$

The bond lengths and angles are shown in Fig. 2. The mean C-C distance in the regular part of the chain C(5)-C(18) is 1.516 Å while the mean C-C-C angle in this region is 113.9°. These values are in agreement with those previously reported for hydrocarbon chains

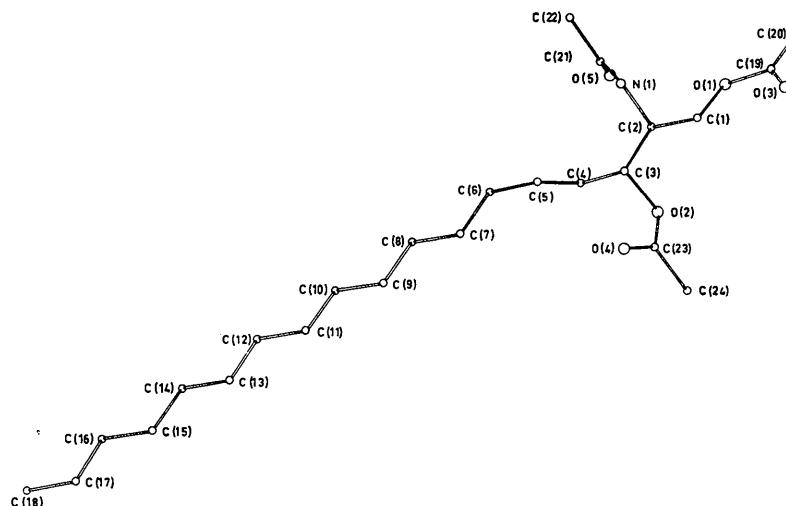


Fig. 1. The molecular geometry (viewed down a) and atomic numbering of the triacetyl sphingosine molecule.

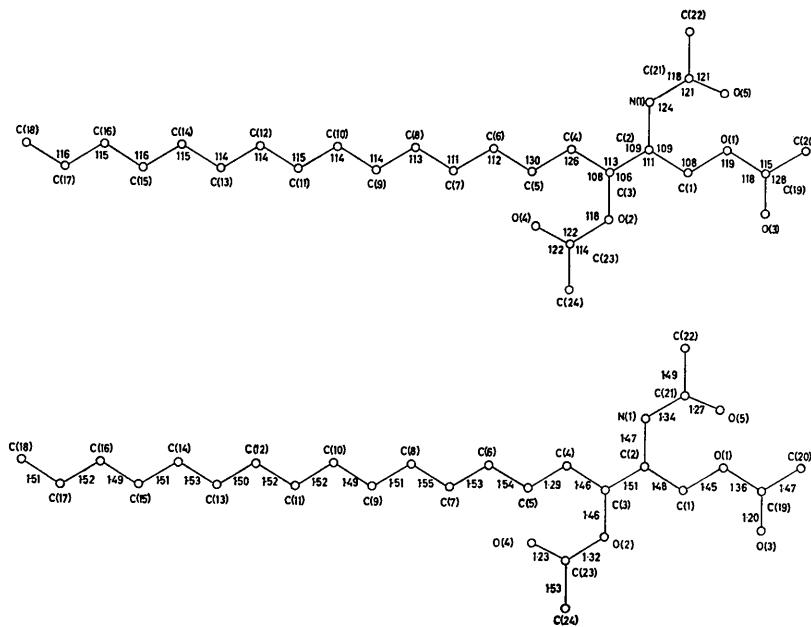


Fig. 2 Valency angles (degrees) and bond lengths (Å).

(*e.g.* Jensen & Mabis, 1966; O'Connell, 1968). The deviations from the expected sp^3-sp^3 bond length and the tetrahedral angle are probably a result of thermal anisotropy and rotary oscillations of the chains about their long axes. The bond lengths and angles in the amide configuration C(2), N(1), C(21), C(22), O(5) are in agreement with those reported in similar groups, *e.g.* in *N*-acetylglycine (Carpenter & Donohue, 1950; Donohue & Marsh, 1962) and acetanilide (Brown & Corbridge, 1954). There are no significant differences in the equivalent bond lengths in the remaining two acetyl groups. The C(19)-C(20) distance (1.47 Å) is short; however, because of the rather large standard deviations and the uncertainty in the thermal corrections it is not possible to say if this is a real effect.

Fig. 3 shows the molecular packing projected on to the (100) plane. The molecules are arranged in a zigzag pattern with their chain axes at an angle of 58° to the (001) plane. Regions of chain packing alternate with regions of acetyl branched polar groups of comparable thickness. The straight portions of the hydrocarbon chains are arranged with the orthorhombic subcell packing $O \perp$ (Abrahamsson, 1959). Fig. 4 illustrates the idealized subcell, which has dimensions $a_s = 5.00$, $b_s = 7.41$, $c_s = 2.54$ Å. Alternate molecules in the y axis direction are arranged head to tail and the C(18) methyl group packs into the space between the chains of the four adjacent molecules. Thus layers of only methyl end group contacts with weak van der Waals forces, as common in other lipid crystals, do not exist in this molecular packing. The alternating tilt of the chains and the crosslike arrangement of the branches allow the two acetoxy groups to project into the apices formed by two acetyl branches of neighbouring molecules. The acetamido group is accommodated in the space between an acetoxy group and a methyl chain end. This represents a very effective molecular packing as shown

by the fairly high density ($D = 1.07$ g.cm⁻³) of the crystals. The good crystallinity and the high melting point of triacetyl sphingosine are no doubt a result of this exceptionally good packing and the favourable intermolecular forces which are associated with the bulky acetyl branches.

There are eight intermolecular contacts < 3.50 Å (Table 5), all associated with the polar region of the structure. The molecules are connected by a continuous system of N-H...O hydrogen bonds parallel to a between N(1) [x, y, z] and O(5) [$x - 1, y, z$]. The N...O distance is 2.80 Å. The existence of this intermolecular bond is confirmed by the solid state infrared spectra. The N-H and C=O stretching frequencies, which in solution (chloroform) are 3460 and 1680 cm⁻¹ respectively, are shifted to the lower values of 3300 and 1650 cm⁻¹. A corresponding reverse shift of the C-N stretching absorption from 1500 to 1540 cm⁻¹ also occurs.

Table 5. Intermolecular contacts ≤ 3.5 Å

C(1)—O(5)	[$-1, 0, 0$] I	3.50 Å
C(2)—O(5)	[$-1, 0, 0$] I	3.43
C(3)—O(5)	[$-1, 0, 0$] I	3.50
C(4)—O(4)	[$1, 0, 0$] I	3.37
C(22)—O(4)	[$1, 1, 0$] I	3.46
C(24)—O(1)	[$0, -1, 0$] I	3.47
C(24)—O(3)	[$0, -1, 0$] II	3.31
O(5)—N(1)	[$1, 0, 0$] I	2.80

I and II refer to the equivalent positions x, y, z and $\bar{x}, \frac{1}{2} + y, \frac{1}{2} - z$. The numbers in square brackets indicate the translations, in multiples of a, b and c in the directions a, b and c .

The shortest C...O contact (3.31 Å), between C(24) and O(3), may be a C-H...O hydrogen bond of the type described by Sutor (1963). The angles C(23—C(24)...O(3) and C(19)—O(3)...C(24), 102 and 128° respectively, are favourable for such a contact; however, since

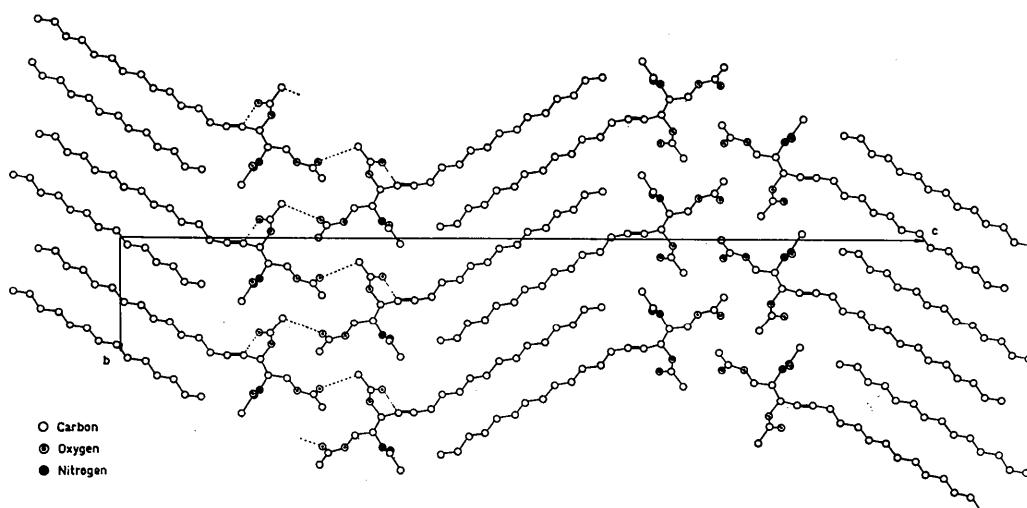


Fig. 3. The molecular packing projected on plane (100). The broken dotted lines indicate hydrogen bonds between atoms in molecules one a axis apart.

the methyl hydrogen atoms were not located the evidence is not conclusive.

There is another short intermolecular contact of this type from the carbonyl oxygen atom O(4) to the carbon atom C(4) of the *trans* double bond. The infrared spectrum shows an interesting separation of the =C—H bending absorption at 970 and 980 cm⁻¹ indicating that one hydrogen atom of the allylic double bond is engaged in fairly strong lattice forces in the crystalline state (only one absorption at 960 cm⁻¹ in solution). The relevant distances and angles are C(4)...O(4)=3.37 Å, H(41)...O(4)=2.47 Å, \angle C(23)—O(4)...H(41)=140° and \angle C(4)—H(41)...O(4)=145°, where the position of H(41) has been calculated assuming a C—H distance of 1.00 Å and an ideal trigonal arrangement around C(4).

At present single-crystal investigations on sphingosine hydrochloride and *N*-acetylsphingosine are in progress. In addition to these studies a comparative discussion of the infrared spectra of these sphingosine derivatives will be published.

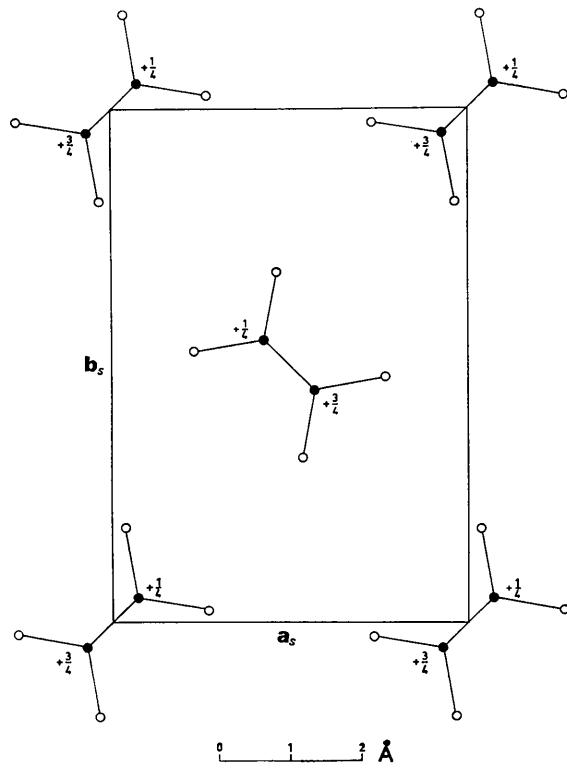


Fig. 4. The idealized subcell, viewed down c_s .

The normalized structure factors were calculated with a program devised by Dr S.R.Hall at the National Research Council, Canada. The tangent formula calculations were made with a routine based largely on a program written by Dr Yow Lam Oh at the University of Western Australia. These sources are gratefully acknowledged. The remaining calculations were made with programs written by Abrahamsson, Aleby, Larsson, Nilsson, Selin & Westerdahl (1965) and additional routines written by one of us (A.O'C.). We would like to thank Hilger and Watts Ltd for generously allowing us to make the intensity measurements at their London laboratory. Financial support was obtained from the Swedish Medical Research Council, the Swedish National Science Research Council, the U.S. Public Health Service (GM-11653) and from the Tri-Centennial Fund of the Bank of Sweden.

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