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The Crystal and Molecular Structure of *p*-Methylaminophenol Sulphate (Metol)

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A three-dimensional X-ray study of *p*-methylaminophenol sulphate (metol) has been accomplished by Patterson and Fourier methods. The crystals are monoclinic (space group $C2/c$ or Cc) with four molecules in the unit cell of dimensions: $a = 23.16$ (6), $b = 5.87$ (1), $c = 14.71$ (4) Å. Without considering the hydrogen atoms, two models of the structure, based on the two possible space groups, can be postulated: both give $R = 11.5\%$. The location of the hydrogen atoms is possible only with the model based on the $C2/c$ space group, in which there is a disordered arrangement of the SO_4^{2-} group; the introduction of the hydrogen atoms improves the R value to 10.5% . Packing and hydrogen bonding are discussed.

Introduction

p-Methylaminophenol sulphate (metol) is a compound largely used in photographic work as a reducing agent. Although it is very common in X-ray laboratories, the available information on its crystal structure concerns only the morphological and optical properties and preliminary X-ray powder diffraction data (McCrone, Cook, Whitney, Corvin & Tull, 1948). The X-ray structural analysis of this compound was started in our laboratory as long ago as 1955, in order to study the hydrogen bonding system formed by the protonated methylamino and the hydroxyl phenolic groups with the oxygen atoms of the anion. This work was interrupted owing to the difficulties found in the solution of the two-dimensional structure. The three-dimensional analysis taken up recently showed that the trouble was due to the existence of two models, which are equivalent apart from the SO_4^{2-} situation, both giving nearly equal R values.

Experimental

Single crystals suitable for X-ray work were grown by slow cooling from aqueous solutions of the commercial

product. In this way monoclinic prisms elongated along the b axis were obtained. Cell constants, determined from Weissenberg and rotation photographs, are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (C_7H_9ON)_2 \cdot H_2SO_4; M = 344.4 \\ & a = 23.16 \pm 0.06, b = 5.87 \pm 0.01, c = 14.71 \pm 0.04 \text{ \AA} \\ & \beta = 126^\circ 42' \pm 7' \\ & V = 1603 \text{ \AA}^3, Z = 4, D_x = 1.422, D_m = 1.416 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, \\ & \mu = 22.3 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (Cu } K\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

Space group $C2/c$ or Cc (from systematic absences). These data agree well with those previously given in the literature if the crystal axes are changed according to the transformation matrix: $\bar{1}0\bar{1}/010/001$.

A set of intensity data was obtained up to the 5th layer around [010] and up to the 13th layer around [001] on an integrating Weissenberg camera by means of the multiple-film technique and Ni-filtered Cu $K\alpha$ radiation. 1764 independent reflexions were collected out of the 1976 possible ones contained in the limiting sphere; 333 were too weak to be measured. For the photographs taken around [010] the crystal used was a prism with nearly rectangular cross-section (0.014×0.021 cm), while for the data taken around [001] a

Table 1. Final atomic fractional coordinates ($\times 10^4$) with e.s.d.'s, thermal parameters ($\times 10 \text{ \AA}^2$) and ratios (e.s.d.)/(coordinate shift)

	x/a	y/b	z/c	B_{11}	B_{22}	B_{33}	B_{23}	B_{13}	B_{12}	$r(x)$	$r(y)$	$r(z)$
S	0	2367 \pm 2	2500	18	19	31	0	12	0	—	6	—
O(1)	-407 \pm 23	1356 \pm 49	1334 \pm 28	79	86	34	-35	18	-37	58	4	2
O(2)	699 \pm 11	1401 \pm 13	3199 \pm 18	16	36	67	7	12	12	11	5	14
O(3)	-425 \pm 12	1778 \pm 13	2968 \pm 24	60	32	97	9	69	9	6	7	59
O(4)	0	4853 \pm 8	2500	29	27	58	-7	28	1	—	7	—
O(5)	1169 \pm 4	8287 \pm 10	4985 \pm 8	19	66	48	5	14	-3	9	14	7
N	4154 \pm 4	7491 \pm 6	7801 \pm 7	21	29	34	-2	16	-1	11	6	18
C(1)	3097 \pm 5	6849 \pm 8	4341 \pm 7	20	40	27	-4	13	-1	∞	7	12
C(2)	2684 \pm 6	5104 \pm 9	4316 \pm 9	28	32	31	1	17	-2	11	5	43
C(3)	1933 \pm 5	5341 \pm 7	3603 \pm 7	24	27	32	1	15	-2	6	4	6
C(4)	1627 \pm 4	7268 \pm 6	2954 \pm 6	22	23	29	-5	16	-2	42	21	7
C(5)	2037 \pm 5	9008 \pm 9	2971 \pm 8	27	30	31	2	17	-4	13	29	∞
C(6)	2787 \pm 6	8786 \pm 11	3680 \pm 9	27	42	39	1	20	-7	15	12	4
C(7)	531 \pm 7	7112 \pm 18	979 \pm 11	27	92	38	-14	9	3	24	∞	28

* The B_{ij} 's refer to the thermal factor in the form:

$$\exp \left[-\frac{1}{4}(B_{11}h^2a^*2 + B_{22}k^2b^*2 + B_{33}l^2c^*2 + 2B_{12}hka^*b^* + 2B_{13}hla^*c^* + 2B_{23}klb^*c^*) \right].$$

Table 2. Atomic fractional coordinates ($\times 10^4$) and isotropic thermal parameters of the hydrogen atoms

	x/a	y/b	z/c	B
H(1)	1083	9333	4667	3.1 \AA^2
H(2)	2917	3500	4751	2.9
H(3)	1583	4067	3417	3.6
H(4)	4250	6500	7333	5.0
H(5)	1834	167	2500	5.0
H(6)	3083	10000	3667	2.7
H(7)	4333	8667	7667	2.8
H(8)	667	5333	1000	2.8
H(9)	84	7000	500	4.0
H(10)	750	8333	667	5.0

rectangular fragment (cross-section: 0.018 \times 0.051 cm) was selected. Discontinuous absorption effects were corrected graphically using Albrecht's (1939) method and the shape of the spots of non-equatorial layers was taken into account following Phillips (1956). The structure amplitudes, derived by the usual formulae, were put on the same relative scale by the least-squares cross-correlation method of Rollett & Sparks (1960). The absolute scale factor was determined first by Wilson's method, then by correlating the observed with the calculated values.

Table 3. Atomic peak heights ($e.\text{\AA}^{-3}$) and curvatures ($e.\text{\AA}^{-5}$)

		ρ	$-A_{hh}$	$-A_{kk}$	$-A_{ll}$	A_{kl}	A_{hl}	A_{hk}
S	Obs	38.0	387	387	328	-3	208	0
	Calc	38.0	387	387	328	-4	208	0
O(1)	Obs	3.6	17	20	19	2	9	-7
	Calc	3.7	18	20	19	3	9	-7
O(2)	Obs	5.8	41	48	36	-1	24	-1
	Calc	5.8	41	48	36	-1	24	0
O(3)	Obs	5.3	33	54	24	-1	16	4
	Calc	5.4	33	53	24	-1	15	4
O(4)	Obs	11.6	103	86	73	-2	53	1
	Calc	11.4	103	85	73	-1	53	1
O(5)	Obs	10.5	92	68	67	1	43	-3
	Calc	10.3	91	68	67	0	43	-2
N	Obs	11.4	106	104	95	-4	63	2
	Calc	11.3	106	104	95	-4	73	2
C(1)	Obs	9.4	87	77	87	-5	52	1
	Calc	9.4	88	75	86	-5	52	2
C(2)	Obs	8.9	74	79	76	-1	45	3
	Calc	8.9	75	79	75	0	45	2
C(3)	Obs	9.7	89	86	84	-1	52	-7
	Calc	9.6	89	86	84	-1	52	-8
C(4)	Obs	10.6	100	98	101	-6	62	3
	Calc	10.6	100	98	102	-6	62	3
C(5)	Obs	9.3	86	83	82	4	53	4
	Calc	9.3	86	84	83	4	53	5
C(6)	Obs	8.6	80	68	73	4	48	-10
	Calc	8.6	80	67	73	4	47	-10
C(7)	Obs	6.4	55	32	49	-6	29	5
	Calc	6.3	55	32	48	-4	28	3
	E.s.d.	0.2	2	2	2	1	1	1

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors

A minus sign after an F_0 means 'less than'.

<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_0$	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_c$	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_0$	$10F_c$	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_0$	$10F_c$	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_0$	$10F_c$	<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	$10F_0$	$10F_c$								
0	2	0	1658	-1012	1	1	8	167	-143	0	0	12	264	-236	1	1	12	94	-104	5	3	0	193	-109	6	4	2	272	-262	7	2	4	259	-264	
0	4	0	499	-441	1	1	8	100	-87	0	0	10	138	-116	2	1	12	211	-211	-46	5	7	0	119	-105	6	6	2	54	-76	7	2	4	26	-75
0	6	0	82	-73	1	3	6	147	-174	2	2	10	158	-152	3	3	12	41	-41	76	5	1	9	-117	-6	6	2	141	139	7	7	2	35	-64	
0	2	1	410	-395	1	3	8	72	-78	2	2	10	67	76	3	3	12	60	76	5	1	9	-117	-6	6	2	141	139	7	7	2	35	-64		
0	4	1	438	-414	1	3	8	85	-81	2	2	10	56	-51	3	3	12	81	-81	125	6	1	12	128	-128	6	6	2	81	-76	7	5	5	54	-514
0	6	1	262	-299	1	5	8	31	-31	4	4	10	62	-62	5	5	10	40	-42	5	1	3	377	393	6	2	3	264	308	7	1	2	92	-161	
0	2	1	655	-630	1	3	9	242	-236	2	2	11	125	-125	3	3	13	65	-51	5	3	1	745	-757	6	4	3	204	-208	7	3	5	284	-276	
0	4	2	495	-531	1	5	9	137	-137	2	2	11	146	-152	3	3	13	143	-136	5	5	1	252	-212	6	4	3	26	-26	7	5	9	158	-158	
0	6	2	414	-387	1	5	9	145	-109	2	2	11	153	-123	3	3	13	42	-42	5	5	1	215	195	6	4	3	26	-26	7	5	9	158	-158	
0	2	2	298	-291	1	3	9	253	-263	2	2	11	15	69	3	3	13	63	67	5	7	1	117	104	6	6	3	100	-99	7	5	9	49	-94	
0	4	3	182	-172	1	5	9	82	-97	2	2	12	168	-168	3	3	13	106	-135	5	7	1	186	-106	6	6	4	274	-233	7	5	9	94	-28	
0	6	3	191	-191	1	5	9	149	-159	2	2	12	170	-153	3	3	13	135	-145	5	7	1	186	-106	6	6	4	149	1517	7	1	6	181	134	
0	2	3	41	-41	1	1	10	144	-151	2	2	12	137	-149	4	4	0	866	970	5	1	2	346	-340	6	2	4	249	-239	7	1	6	261	220	
0	4	4	663	-663	1	1	10	66	-72	2	2	12	32	-32	-7	2	0	467	416	5	2	2	58	-112	6	2	4	55	-117	7	3	6	308	301	
0	6	4	718	-762	1	1	10	24	-24	2	2	12	94	-94	3	3	12	64	-64	5	5	2	243	-243	6	6	2	162	-162	7	5	6	61	-112	
0	4	4	371	-368	1	3	10	113	-125	2	2	13	111	-21	4	4	0	60	-32	5	5	2	72	36	6	4	232	209	7	5	6	45	-35		
0	6	4	177	-168	1	5	10	20	-17	2	2	13	53	-51	3	3	1	103	80	5	5	2	151	146	6	6	4	27	-80	7	5	6	179	-163	
0	2	5	89	-87	1	5	10	69	-65	2	2	13	104	-12	4	4	2	47	-55	5	7	2	76	68	6	6	4	82	-87	7	5	6	63	-62	
0	4	5	196	-193	1	1	11	268	-284	2	2	14	217	-177	4	4	1	59	65	5	7	2	126	128	6	2	5	66	-50	7	1	7	590	586	
0	6	5	22	-31	1	1	11	269	-287	2	2	14	214	-177	4	4	1	230	-193	5	1	3	83	95	6	2	5	18	16	7	1	299	201		
0	2	6	468	-433	1	3	11	30	-26	2	2	14	25	-26	4	2	1	150	-117	5	1	4	200	-45	6	4	3	60	-60	7	3	7	298	-252	
0	4	6	252	-262	1	3	11	224	-233	2	2	15	22	-22	4	4	1	58	52	5	3	3	255	-310	6	4	5	46	-47	7	1	7	192	192	
0	6	6	434	-449	1	5	11	110	-117	3	1	0	213	-179	4	0	2	997	-1015	5	3	3	590	555	6	6	5	16	-4	7	5	66	-74		
0	2	7	68	-79	1	1	12	137	-126	3	3	1	135	-78	4	2	1	140	-117	5	1	4	200	-45	6	6	4	20	7	3	7	298	-252		
0	4	7	34	-26	1	1	12	26	-1	3	7	0	113	-109	4	2	2	291	264	5	5	3	475	-454	6	6	5	26	-275	7	1	8	149	140	
0	6	7	55	-46	1	3	12	85	-87	3	7	0	113	-109	4	2	2	151	162	5	7	3	110	111	6	6	6	269	-225	7	1	8	666	576	
0	0	8	311	-310	1	1	13	76	-86	3	1	1	1249	1993	4	4	2	253	223	5	1	4	638	563	6	2	6	203	7	3	8	144	-151		
0	2	8	140	-115	1	1	13	113	-100	3	1	1	360	319	4	6	2	150	145	5	3	4	2	-63	6	4	6	174	-177	7	5	8	27	41	
0	4	8	126	-93	1	3	1	168	-154	4	6	2	63	-40	5	3	4	136	154	5	4	4	136	154	6	4	6	118	109	7	5	8	42	-45	
0	6	8	70	-71	1	3	1	103	-111	4	6	2	146	-106	5	4	4	106	146	5	4	4	106	146	6	4	6	118	109	7	5	8	42	-45	
0	2	9	37	-14	1	1	14	29	-16	4	7	1	411	382	4	2	3	95	-10	5	5	2	31	-33	6	6	6	156	172	7	1	9	335	327	
0	4	9	82	-106	1	1	14	37	-40	4	7	1	100	100	4	4	3	115	-152	5	7	4	61	-52	6	2	7	387	394	7	3	9	139	130	
0	6	9	16	-18	1	3	1	30	-39	5	2	2	426	-395	4	2	2	146	-106	5	7	4	61	-52	6	2	7	387	394	7	3	9	139	130	
0	0	10	34	-43	1	1	15	203	-254	4	1	2	257	224	4	4	3	132	125	5	1	5	963	964	6	4	2	30	-36	7	5	9	1	79	
0	2	10	112	-126	2	0	0	370	-270	3	1	2	637	-612	4	5	3	150	136	5	3	3	335	234	6	4	7	57	-49	7	1	10	75	-70	
0	4	10	94	-123	2	0	0	898	-1170	3	1	2	588	-568	4	0	4	448	353	5	3	3	375	-423	6	4	8	46	62	7	1	11	221	236	
0	6	10	34	-43	2	4	0	300	-270	3	1	2	492	-477	4	0	2	1258	-1248	5	5	1	66	-166	6	6	6	256	240	7	1	10	47	-54	
0	4	11	32	-34	2	6	0	125	-117	3	5	2	69	-72	4	2	4	144	-120	5	5	3	403	331	6	0	8	60	62	7	1	10	228	236	
0	6	11	32	-34	2	6	0	125	-117	3	5	2	69	-72	4	2	4	144	-120	5	5	3	403	331	6	0	8	60	62	7	1	10	228	236	
0	2	12	49	-50	2	2	2	433	-294	3	7	2	158	-132	4	4	4	376	419	5	6	3	369	-347	6	2	2	26	-27	7	5	10	21	-33	
0	4	12	71	-106	2	4	1	403	-347	3	7	2	82	-73	4	4	4	160	126	5	1	2	24	-8	5	4	3	220	227	7	1	11	32	129	
0	6	12	145	-148	2	6	1	88	-75	3	7	1	1722	-2679	4	4	4	126	-113	5	3	3	179	-135	6	4	4	158	160	7	1	11	138	129	
0	2	14	66	-67	2	6	1	115	-103	3	3	3	533	-532	4	2	5	21	-1	5	5	5	10	-123	6	2	9	37	-9	7	1	12	76	-64	
1	0	0	222	-287	2	0	2	1017	-1129	3	2	3	553	-552	4	2	5	201	253	5	5	6	167	-152	6	2	9	181	182	7	1	12	58	-69	
1	0	2	688	-760	2	0	2	1016	-1165	3	2	3	534	-534	4	2	5	206	256	5	5	6	167	-152	6	2	9	181	182	7	1	12	58	-69	
1	0	4	64	-17	2	2	2	569	-621	3	5	3	179	-172	4	4	5	111	116	5	1	2	250	212	6	4	8	36	-19	7	1	13	236	205	
1	0	6	60	-45	2	2	2	39	31	4	6	3	67	-35	4	6	5	111	-113	5	1	7	779	-724	6	6	9	26	-25	7	1	13	117	-115	
1	0	8	920	-925	2	2	2	410	-430	3	5	3	162	-159	4	6	5	116	-116	5	1	7	779	-724	6	6	9	26	-25	7	1	13	117	-115	
1	1	0	429	-575	2	4	2	430	-374	3	1	4	318	-319	4	0	6	835	-800	5	3	7	355	356	6	0	10	55	-452	7	1	12	47	-19	
1	1	1	211	-190	2	6	2	252	-253	3	4	1	1200	-131																					

Bond distances and angles for the SO_4^{2-} tetrahedron in the centrosymmetrical model are quoted in Table 5; the e.s.d.'s are such that the differences in bond distances are not significant. Fig. 4 (a) and (b) shows two

clinographic projections of the centrosymmetrical structure, drawn from two different points of view, showing the packing of the molecules and hydrogen bonding. The angles formed in these bonds are as follows:

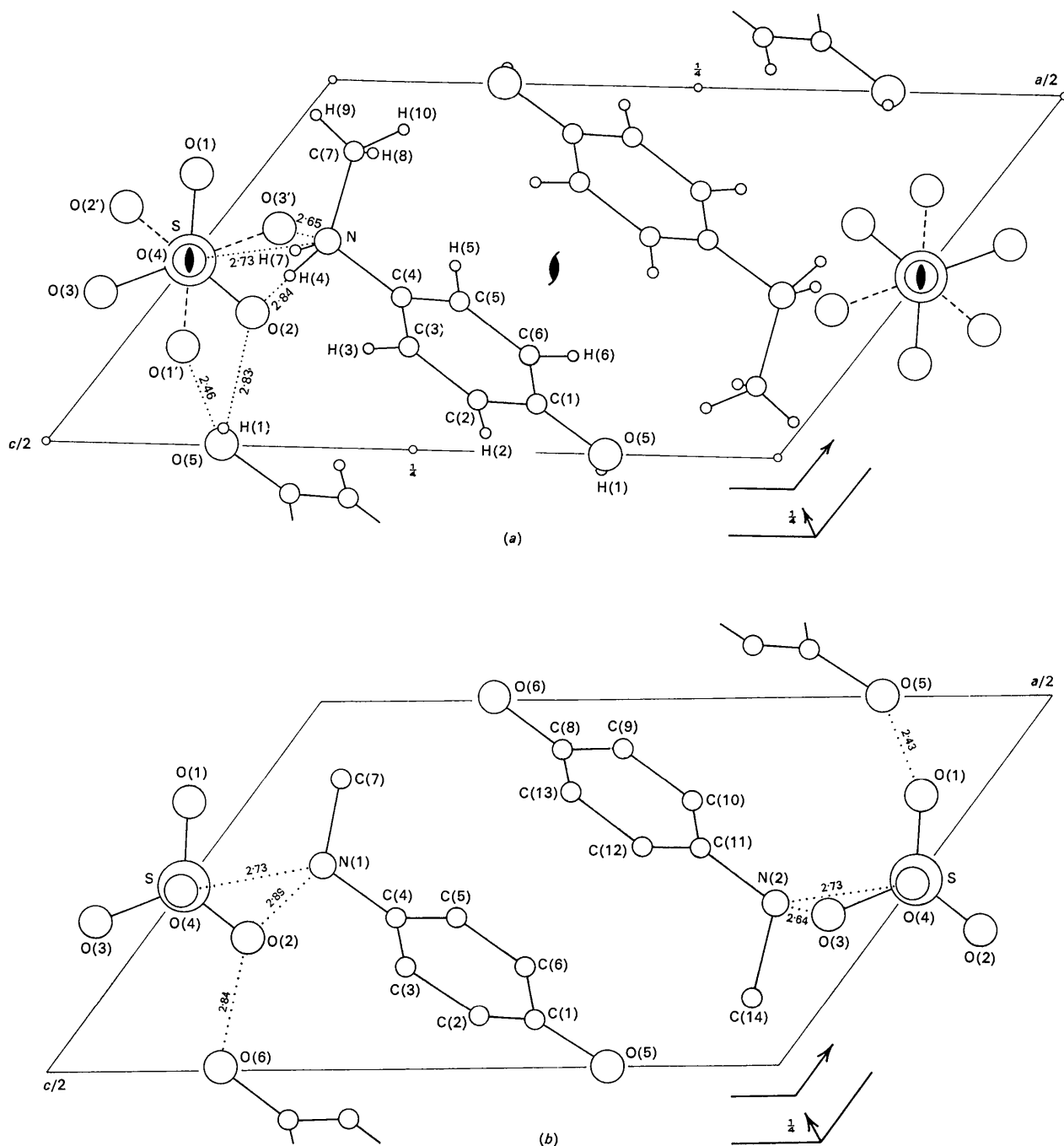


Fig. 1. (a) Projection of the centrosymmetrical model on (010). (b) Projection of the non-centrosymmetrical model on (010).

$O(4)-H(4)-N = 142.1^\circ$
 $O(2'')-H(7)-N = 155.8$ $O(5)-H(1)-O(2'') = 146.1^\circ$
 $O(3')-H(7)-N = 144.7$ $O(5)-H(1)-O(1') = 143.6$
 $\bar{x}, y+1, \frac{1}{2}-z$
 $''x, y+1, z$

It appears that the H(1) and H(7) hydrogen atoms lie between two oxygen atoms of two disordered tetrahedra. All other packing distances are longer than 3.5 Å.

All the calculations were performed on the Olivetti Elea 6001/S computer of the Centro di Calcolo Elettronico della Università di Parma with the programs of Nardelli, Musatti, Domiano & Andreotti (1964, 1965).

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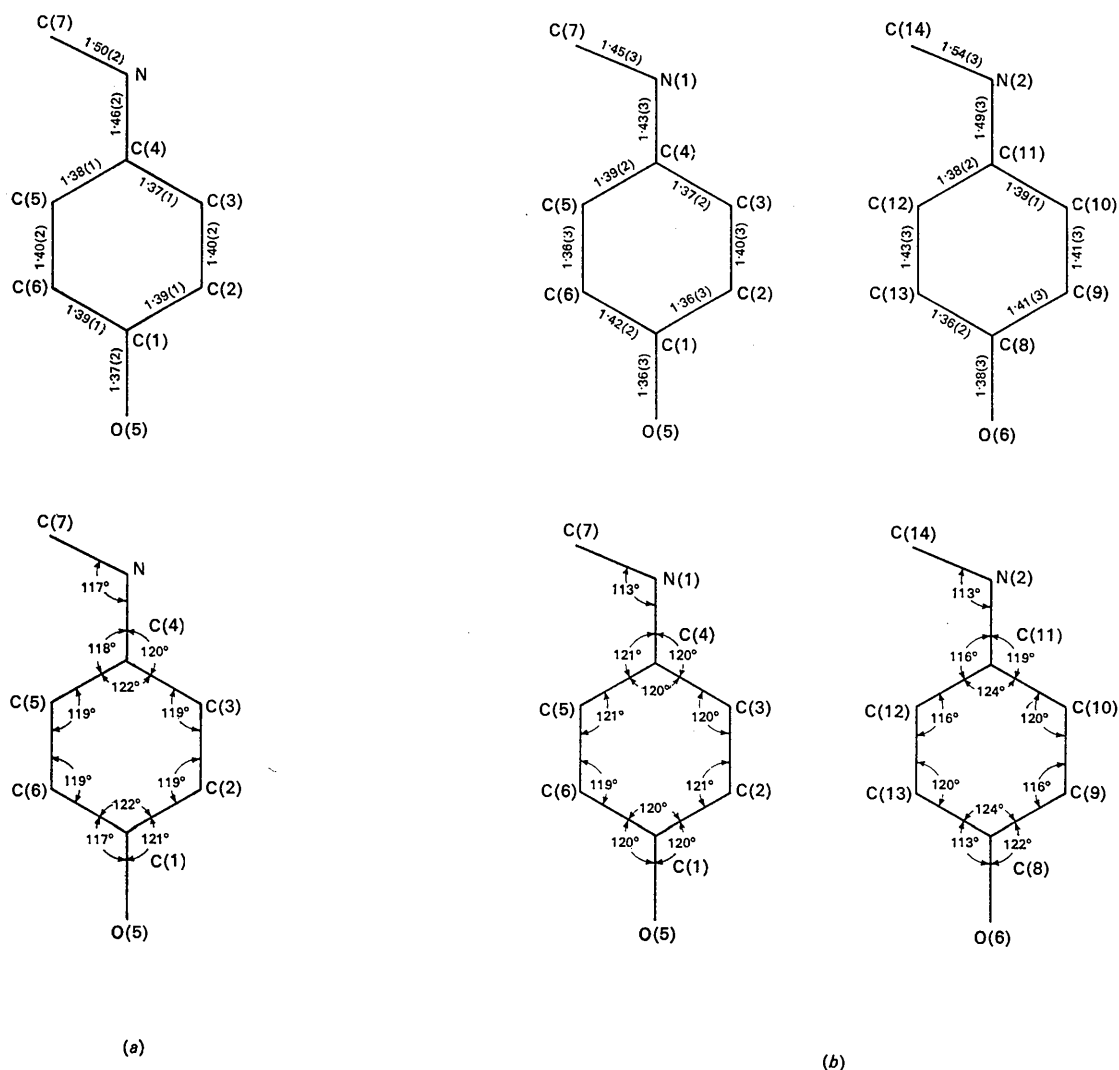


Fig. 2. Distances and angles in the organic cations for the two models of the structure: (a) centrosymmetrical, (b) non-centrosymmetrical.

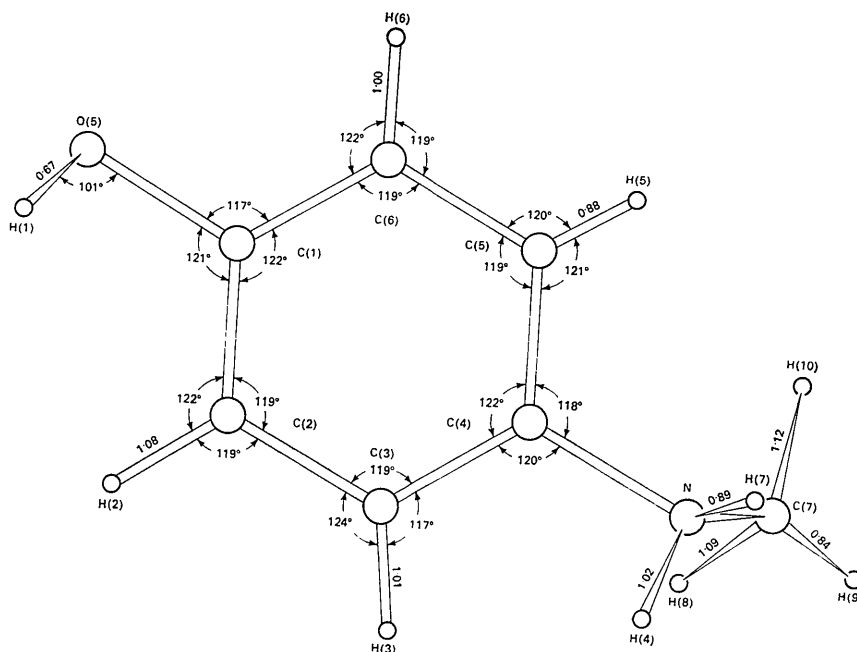


Fig. 3. The bond distances involving the hydrogen atoms of the organic cation for the centrosymmetrical model.

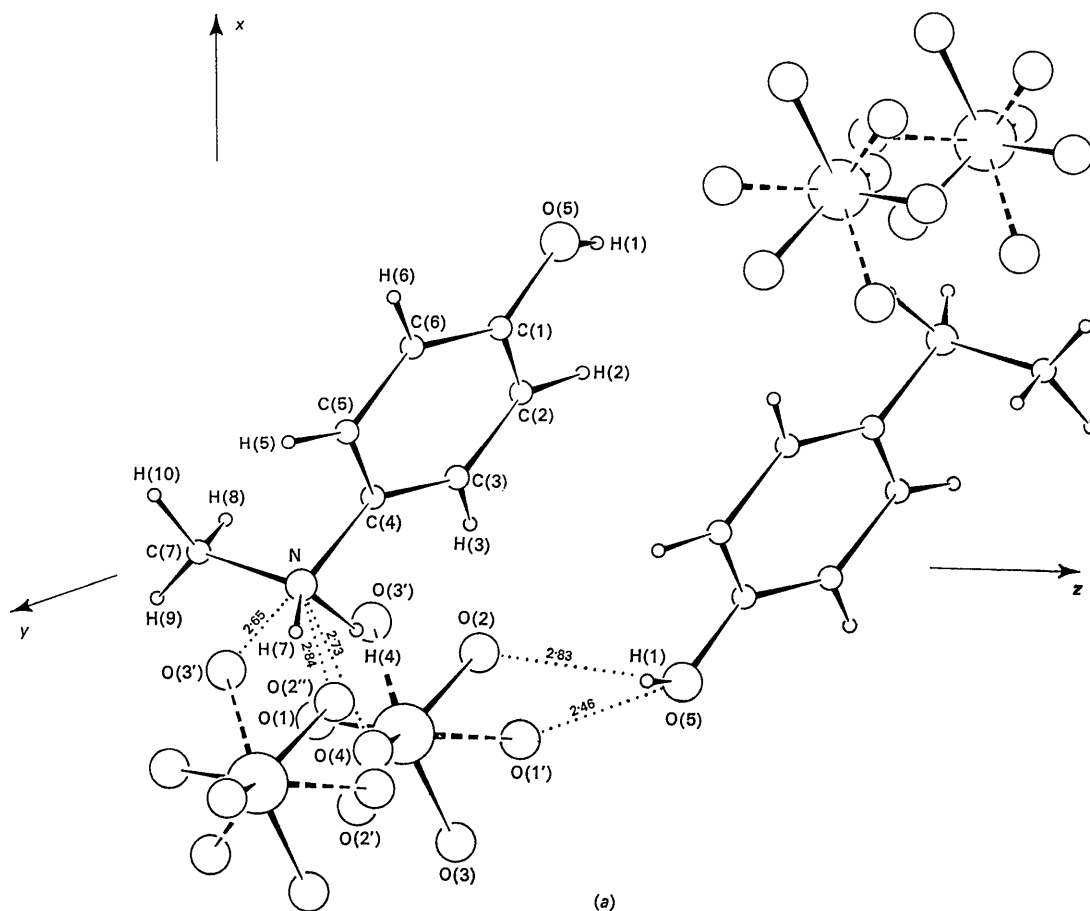


Fig. 4. Clinographic projections of the centrosymmetrical structure drawn from two different points of view.

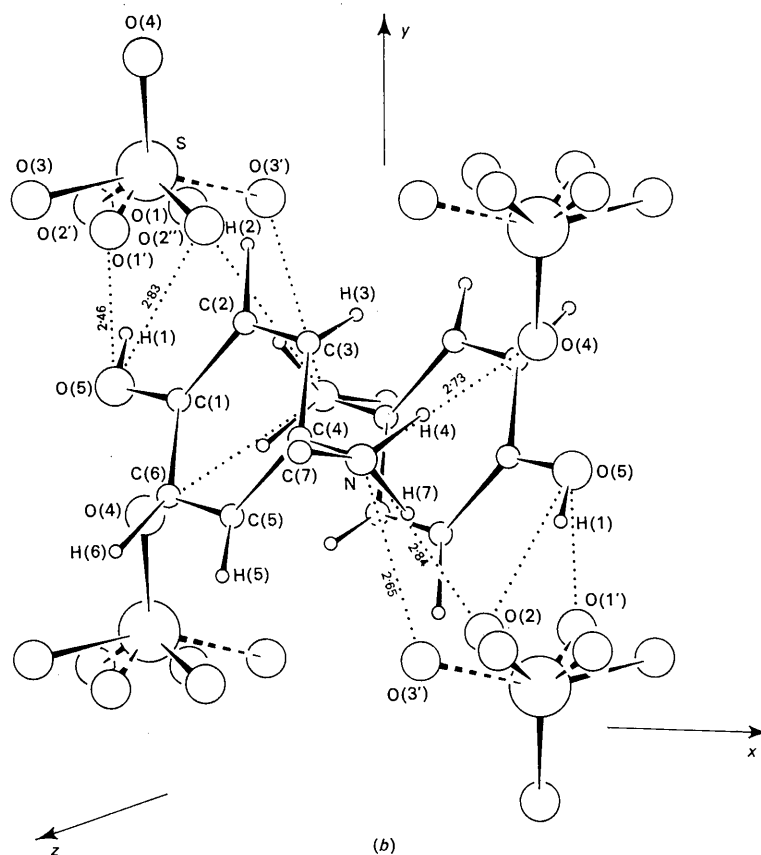


Fig. 4 (cont.)

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