

## The Crystal Structure of the Copper(II) Complex with *o*-Hydroxyacetophenone-isobutylimine

BY CARLO A. GHILARDI\* AND E. C. LINGAFELTER

*Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98105, U.S.A.*

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The crystal structure of the copper(II) complex with *o*-hydroxyacetophenone-isobutylimine,  $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO})_2$ , has been determined from 2583 independent reflections, measured with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation by diffractometer, and refined by least squares to  $R=0.035$ . Crystal data are:  $a_0=11.286$  (3),  $b_0=15.241$  (4),  $c_0=6.804$  (2) Å,  $\beta=103.75$  (2)°,  $Z=2$ , space group  $P2_1/a$ . Coordination of the copper ion is planar, with  $\text{Cu}-\text{N}=2.003$  (2) Å and  $\text{Cu}-\text{O}=1.891$  (2) Å. The molecule has a 'step-structure' with 2.24 Å perpendicular distance between the phenyl planes. The C-C bond adjacent to the phenyl ring is significantly lengthened, to 1.465 (4) Å, by a twisting which reduces the  $\pi$ -orbital overlap.

### Introduction

*N*-Substituted *o*-hydroxyacetophenone-imines form bis-chelates with copper(II),



which are green or brown in the solid depending on the substituent, R. This 'color isomerism' of Cu(II) complexes has been extensively investigated by Professors D. Hall and T. N. Waters (*cf.* Hall, Sheat & Waters, 1968). As a part of an investigation of the structures of these compounds we have now completed the study of the isobutyl compound.

### Experimental

The red-brown crystals were prepared by Professor F. D. Thomas II of the University of Montana. A series of oscillation and Weissenberg photographs showed the crystals to be monoclinic needles bounded by {100} and {010} and the systematic absence of reflections  $h0l$  with  $h \neq 2n$  and  $0k0$  with  $k \neq 2n$  identified the space group as  $P2_1/a$ . For collection of diffractometer data, a section of length 0.52 mm was cut from a needle having cross-section dimensions of 0.096 mm along **b** and 0.20 mm along **a\***. All measurements were made with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation, filtered through 0.001 inch of niobium foil, on a Picker automated diffractometer equipped with a scintillation counter and pulse-height discriminator. The take-off angle was set at 3.5°. The cell constants and their estimated standard deviations were obtained by least-squares fit of 25  $2\theta$  values (averages of + $2\theta$  and - $2\theta$ ). The final values are:  $a_0=11.286$  (3),  $b_0=15.241$  (4),  $c_0=6.804$  (2) Å,  $\beta=103.75$  (2)°. The density measured by flotation, 1.298 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>, agrees with the calculated density of 1.295 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> for two molecules per cell.

The intensity data were collected by the  $\omega-2\theta$  scan method using the formula of Alexander & Smith (1964): scan range = 1.3 + 1.0 tan  $\theta$ . Stationary background measurements were made at the start and finish of each scan. Between each set of about 100 reflections, the intensities of four standard reflections were remeasured and these values were used to calculate a scale factor for each set. The scale factors showed no systematic variation with time and the maximum variation was  $\pm 1.4\%$ . Intensities were measured for the 2583 unique reflections in the range  $0 < 2\theta < 55^\circ$ . Measurements were recorded in truncated dekacounts and the intensities and their estimated standard deviations were calculated from:

$$I=S-\frac{t_s}{2t_B}(B_1+B_2)-0.45\left(2\frac{t_s}{2t_B}-1\right)$$

$$\sigma_I^2=\frac{1}{10}\left[S+\left(\frac{t_s}{2t_B}\right)^2(B_1+B_2)\right]$$

$$+k^2\left[S+\frac{t_s}{2t_B}(B_1+B_2)\right]^2+0.25$$

$S$  = dekacounts recorded during scan time  $t_s$

$B_i$  = dekacounts recorded during background time  $t_B$

$k$  = empirical stability constant, set at 0.01

The terms 0.45 and 0.25 are corrections for the truncation of the counts to dekacounts. 586 reflections having intensity less than twice their estimated standard deviation were coded as 'unobserved' and assigned intensity values of  $I+2\sigma_I$  for special treatment in the least-squares refinement. Lorentz and polarization factors were applied, but no corrections were made for absorption ( $\mu=10.2$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; range of transmission factors, 0.8 to 0.92) nor for anomalous dispersion.

### Structure determination

All calculations were carried out on an IBM 7094-7040 direct-coupled system using the set of programs written

\* Present address: Istituto di Chimica Generale, Università di Firenze, via J. Nardi 39, Firenze, Italy.

Table 1.

(a) Positional parameters ( $\times 10^4$ ) and thermal parameters ( $\times 10^2$ )

	$x/a$	$y/b$	$z/c$	$B_{11}$	$B_{22}$	$B_{33}$	$B_{12}$	$B_{13}$	$B_{23}$
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	0	0	0	423 (2)	345 (1)	303 (1)	10 (2)	82 (1)	-17 (1)
O	1398 (1)	710 (1)	199 (2)	527 (8)	535 (9)	362 (7)	-83 (6)	124 (6)	-65 (6)
N	-406 (2)	716 (1)	2220 (3)	473 (8)	353 (8)	383 (8)	20 (7)	127 (7)	-4 (7)
C(1)	1713 (2)	960 (1)	3774 (3)	566 (12)	304 (9)	379 (10)	16 (9)	27 (9)	-12 (8)
C(2)	2133 (2)	826 (1)	1990 (4)	502 (12)	303 (9)	482 (11)	-2 (9)	66 (10)	-15 (8)
C(3)	3407 (2)	845 (2)	2158 (4)	494 (12)	496 (13)	614 (14)	-41 (10)	107 (11)	-14 (11)
C(4)	4216 (2)	943 (2)	4006 (5)	492 (13)	560 (14)	857 (20)	-52 (11)	7 (14)	46 (15)
C(5)	3810 (3)	1042 (2)	5747 (5)	646 (16)	640 (15)	581 (15)	-55 (13)	-92 (13)	27 (13)
C(6)	2583 (3)	1064 (2)	5629 (4)	719 (15)	470 (12)	431 (12)	-11 (11)	15 (11)	7 (10)
C(7)	409 (2)	1056 (1)	3685 (3)	615 (13)	338 (9)	328 (10)	52 (9)	117 (9)	14 (8)
C(8)	85 (3)	1587 (2)	5365 (4)	901 (17)	674 (14)	409 (14)	189 (14)	159 (13)	-121 (11)
C(9)	-1715 (2)	888 (2)	2085 (4)	545 (12)	405 (11)	499 (12)	-14 (9)	226 (10)	-20 (9)
C(10)	-2169 (2)	1730 (2)	978 (5)	490 (12)	413 (12)	776 (16)	47 (9)	185 (12)	11 (11)
C(11)	-3503 (2)	1878 (2)	973 (5)	548 (14)	693 (16)	1073 (24)	104 (12)	245 (16)	-78 (16)
C(12)	-2006 (3)	1713 (2)	-1153 (5)	949 (20)	968 (23)	796 (20)	331 (18)	390 (17)	422 (17)

(b) Positional parameters ( $\times 10^3$ ) and thermal parameters ( $\times 10$ )

H(3)	371 (2)	79 (2)	83 (4)	64 (7)
H(4)	505 (2)	95 (2)	402 (4)	66 (7)
H(5)	443 (3)	114 (2)	709 (5)	97 (9)
H(6)	232 (2)	113 (2)	679 (4)	57 (7)
H(81)	50 (4)	220 (4)	544 (7)	162 (18)
H(82)	26 (3)	131 (2)	651 (6)	92 (11)
H(83)	-66 (3)	188 (3)	504 (6)	107 (12)
H(91)	-218 (2)	38 (2)	141 (3)	47 (5)
H(92)	-180 (2)	89 (2)	356 (4)	68 (7)
H(10)	-163 (2)	226 (2)	172 (4)	66 (7)
H(111)	-394 (2)	131 (2)	26 (4)	73 (8)
H(112)	-357 (3)	189 (2)	243 (5)	85 (10)
H(113)	-386 (3)	249 (2)	20 (5)	90 (9)
H(121)	-250 (4)	127 (3)	-183 (6)	111 (17)
H(122)	-104 (4)	167 (3)	-119 (8)	169 (17)
H(123)	-225 (3)	227 (3)	-178 (6)	114 (12)

The temperature factors are calculated as:

$$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\{B_{11}a^2h^2 + B_{22}b^2k^2 + B_{33}c^2l^2 + 2B_{12}a^*b^*hk + 2B_{13}a^*c^*hl + 2B_{23}b^*c^*kl\}\right)$$

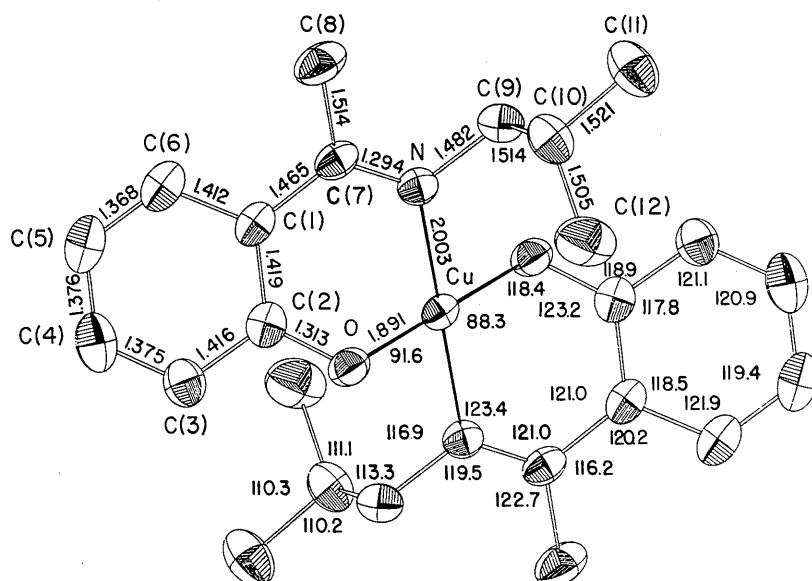


Fig. 1. Interatomic distances and angles and 30% probability thermal ellipsoids. Estimated standard deviations are 0.002 Å for Cu-O and Cu-N, 0.003 Å for O-C and N-C, 0.004 Å for C-C, and 0.2° for bond angles.

Table 2. Observed and calculated structure factors

Columns are  $h$ ,  $10F_o$  and  $10F_c$ . Unobserved reflections are marked with \*.

Table 2 (cont.)

H-13a	0.37	35	3	35	-29	-9	25	25	2	21	21	H-14a	-7	107	101	2	46	17	H-15a	-3	78	82	-1	26*	3
-6.25	21	-2	20	18	-4	237	236	-8	27	12	-1	25	-21	0	127	125	-6	30	15	-1	15	106			
-9.35	53	-2	20	18	-3	38	45	-8	28	19	-4	29	-28	-2	203	193	-10	34	17	-1	13	123			
-7.39	46	-2	20	18	-3	38	45	-8	28	19	-4	29	-28	-2	203	193	-10	34	17	-1	13	123			
-1.10	59	-3	163	162	-6	59	58	-10	26	7	-5	61	91	-4	156	137	-2	211	121	-1	25	11			
-10.31	20	-4	16	12	-9	52	51	-11	25	11	-9	51	51	-4	156	137	-2	211	121	-1	25	11			
H-14a	5	221	-27	-7	71	-77	H-15a	0	227	227	-6	36	32	-8	35	35	-10	125	121	-1	25	11	-1	25	11
-1.25	13	-2	13	14	-3	13	14	-1	13	14	-3	13	14	-1	13	14	-2	22	22	-1	25	11			
0.202	200	-6	32	43	-9	121	189	-5	25	29	-10	125	121	-2	211	121	-1	25	11	-1	25	11			
2.25	205	-6	32	43	-9	121	189	-5	25	29	-10	125	121	-2	211	121	-1	25	11	-1	25	11			
2.70	71	-7	153	147	-10	108	103	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-2.12	122	-8	158	158	-12	27	16	-2	125	131	H-14a	0	158	158	-6	4	26	-1	156	151	-1	25	11		
-2.24	13	-5	158	158	-12	27	16	-2	125	131	H-14a	0	158	158	-6	4	26	-1	156	151	-1	25	11		
-1.33	49	-5	47	-11	25	11	-1	156	151	-5	160	162	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	25	11				
-4.69	93	-10	30	30	-4	121	121	-1	156	151	-5	160	162	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-5.34	2	-11	38	42	-5	191	191	-2	65	59	-2	25	37	-11	22	26	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-5.29	25	-11	38	42	-5	191	191	-2	65	59	-2	25	37	-11	22	26	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-6.47	72	-13	24	26	0	43	88	-5	25	12	-5	25	12	-4	210	211	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-6.25	60	-1	166	169	-6	57	57	-5	25	12	-4	210	211	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-6.56	56	-1	166	169	-6	57	57	-5	25	12	-4	210	211	-1	156	151	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-3.46	6	0	425	427	-3	176	179	-7	32	33	-5	120	113	-1	173	175	-1	156	151	-1	25	11			
-1.15	11	-1	202	210	-1	218	18	-8	101	101	H-14a	0	173	175	-1	21	21	-1	156	151	-1	25	11		
0.37	37	56	-2	163	166	-4	25	22	-9	27	19	-7	27	22	-2	21	21	-1	156	151	-1	25	11		
-1.22	121	5	45	-5	137	134	-12	31	30	-2	27	17	-8	29	7	-1	205	204	-1	25	11				
-1.23	117	-3	49	56	-6	239	182	-12	31	30	-2	27	17	-8	29	7	-1	205	204	-1	25	11			
-2.33	33	-1	146	180	-7	36	79	H-14a	0	113	135	-21	55	52	-1	91	47	-1	21	21	-1	25	11		
-3.32	37	-3	56	56	-7	193	194	-8	25	21	-9	121	125	-1	113	117	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-3.21	11	-1	150	159	-8	27	18	-1	172	173	-1	122	122	-1	122	122	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-3.75	75	-7	26	27	-1	129	129	-1	129	129	-1	129	129	-1	129	129	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-3.107	100	-7	29	29	-10	102	35	-2	35	39	-1	107	102	-1	107	102	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-7.27	5	-8	105	97	-11	212	127	-12	112	127	-1	113	112	-1	113	112	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-8.76	26	-14	29	29	-15	172	6	-4	23	20	-10	120	126	-10	120	126	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
H-13a	-10	163	-21	-11	21	H-14a	0	118	111	-5	120	126	-3	120	126	-1	117	117	-1	21	21	-1	25	11	
-1.05	98	-15	30	-21	0	126	126	-5	120	126	-3	120	126	-1	118	118	H-14a	0	118	118	-1	21	21		
-1.27	23	22	-1	13	-48	7	5	43	43	H-14a	0	125	133	-6	41	70	-1	156	151	-1	21	21			
-2.42	42	-2	232	237	-5	145	145	-5	120	126	-1	125	126	-1	125	126	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-3.24	24	0	36	29	-3	22	22	-9	65	65	0	106	103	-7	36	24	-1	156	151	-1	21	21			
-4.46	46	-1	311	326	-4	125	126	-11	76	72	-1	21	21	-5	104	102	-1	36	24	-1	156	151			
-5.30	55	-2	212	217	-4	210	213	-4	212	217	-4	212	217	-4	212	217	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-5.55	57	-2	212	217	-4	210	213	-4	212	217	-4	212	217	-4	212	217	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
-3.12	161	-5	62	-5	127	126	-5	127	126	-5	127	126	-5	127	126	-5	127	126	-5	127	126				
-3.24	208	-6	126	127	-1	217	216	-1	217	216	-1	217	216	-1	217	216	-1	217	216	-1	217	216			
-0.34	37	-2	16	16	-7	27	-1	31	-29	-5	22	29	H-14a	0	210	-210	-1	107	107	-1	156	151	-1	21	21
-2.31	21	-2	121	121	-3	121	121	-2	121	121	-2	121	121	-2	121	121	-2	121	121	-2	121	121			
-3.27	27	-1	121	127	-20	-6	182	180	-3	25	23	-1	124	124	-1	124	124	-1	21	21	-1	25	11		
-3.27	14	-7	15	77	-10	12	65	-1	127	126	-1	127	126	-1	127	126	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			
H-13a	-9	-11	128	-11	27	6	-1	127	128	-3	111	-13	H-14a	0	124	124	-6	121	121	-1	21	21	-1	25	11
-0.45	45	9	53	-11	54	H-14a	0	125	125	-5	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	21	21	-1	25	11	
-0.45	121	9	53	-11	54	H-14a	0	125	125	-5	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	21	21	-1	25	11	
-2.210	210	-10	55	75	-7	75	-7	21	21	-5	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	125	125	-1	21	21	-1	25	11	
-4.126	126	-12	103	103	-7	103	103	-7	103	103	-7	103	103	-7	103	103	-7	103	103	-7	103	103			
-4.195	195	-13	47	44	-2	103	106	-7	103	106	-7	103	106	-7	103	106	-7	103	106	-7	103	106			
-4.21	52	9	55	53	-1	126	126	-5	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	21	21			
-4.22	52	9	55	53	-1	126	126	-5	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	126	126	-1	21	21			
-1.20	31	-1	23	-17	-5	54	51	0	33	38	-1	29	34	-1	27	34	-1	29	34	-1	27	34			
-1.20	26	-1	23	-17	-5	54	51	0	33	38	-1	29	34	-1	27	34	-1	29	34	-1	27	34			
H-13a	-2	267	271	0	29	21	-1	26	28	H-14a	0	124	124	-6	121	121	-1	21	21	-1	25	11			

At this stage a three-dimensional difference Fourier synthesis showed the positions of the 16 hydrogen atoms.

Three cycles of refinement of the hydrogen atom positional and isotropic thermal parameters reduced  $R$  to 0.043.

Weights were now introduced, equal to the reciprocal of the variance of each  $F_o$ . Since the total number of parameters to be refined exceeded the limit set by the capacity of the computer, the final series of refinement cycles consisted of two types. In one type, all parameters of all non-hydrogen atoms were refined, and in the other type the parameters of the hydrogen atoms and those of the attached carbon atoms were refined. The two types were alternated until convergence had been attained. In the final cycles the mean and maximum shifts of the hydrogen atoms were 0.05 and 0.53 standard deviations, respectively, while those for the other atoms were 0.02 and 0.11. The final value of  $R$  was 0.035, that of  $R_w$   $\left[ = \left( \frac{\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2}{\sum wF_o^2} \right)^{1/2} \right]$  was 0.033,

Table 3. Carbon-hydrogen interatomic distances

C(3)-H(3)	1.04 (3) Å
C(4)-H(4)	0.94 (3)
C(5)-H(5)	1.02 (3)
C(6)-H(6)	0.91 (3)
C(8)-H(81)	1.04 (5)
C(8)-H(82)	0.87 (4)
C(8)-H(83)	0.94 (3)
C(9)-H(91)	0.99 (2)
C(9)-H(92)	1.04 (3) Å
C(10)-H(10)	1.06 (3)
C(11)-H(111)	1.06 (3)
C(11)-H(112)	1.02 (4)
C(11)-H(113)	1.10 (3)
C(12)-H(121)	0.93 (4)
C(12)-H(122)	1.09 (5)
C(12)-H(123)	0.97 (4)

and that of the standard deviation of an observation of unit weight ( $=[\sum w(F_o - F_c)^2/(n-p)]^{1/2}$ ) was 1.85. There was no evidence of secondary extinction effects.

The final atom parameters are listed in Table 1 and structure factors in Table 2.

### Discussion

The structure consists of discrete molecules with a conformation as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Distances and an-

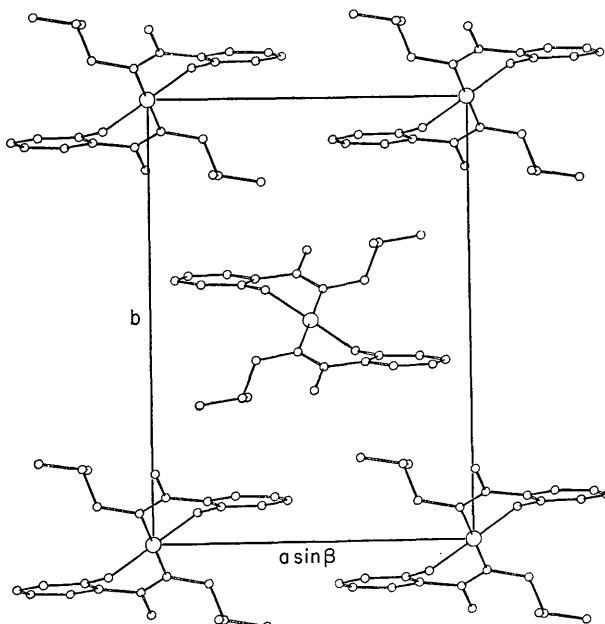


Fig. 2. Projection down  $c$  axis.

gles are given in Fig. 1 and Table 3. The molecule is centrosymmetric and the coordination of the copper(II) ion is therefore exactly planar. The Cu–N bond length of 2.003 (2) Å and Cu–O of 1.891 (2) Å are similar to the lengths reported for other compounds with planar coordination, e.g. 1.993(4) and 1.878 (3) Å in bis-(*N*-phenylsalicylaldiminato)copper(II) (Wei, Stogsdill & Lingafelter, 1964), 1.989 (12) and 1.901 (12) Å in bis-(*N*-methylsalicylaldiminato)copper(II) (Lingafelter, Simmons, Morosin, Scheringer & Freiburg, 1961). The coordination of the copper(II) ion must be considered to be fourfold, since the nearest other atoms are H(122) at 2.85 (5), H(121) at 3.41 (4), and C(12) at 3.423 (4) Å. Presumably, the presence of this methyl group of the isobutyl substituent prevents the approach of any other possible coordinating atom. The brown color and the planar fourfold coordination agree with the suggestion of Waters & Hall (1959).

Bond distances within the ligand appear to be normal, except for C(1)–C(7). In particular, all comparable distances, except for C(1)–C(7), agree well with the average values for salicylaldimine chelates reported by Lingafelter & Braun (1966). The C(1)–C(7) bond [1.465 (4) Å] is 0.035 Å longer than the average reported by Lingafelter & Braun. The lengthening does not seem to be due to a steric effect of the methyl group, since: (a) C(8)–C(6) (2.89 Å) is slightly greater than C(8)–C(9) (2.84 Å); (b) H(82)–H(6) (2.30 Å) is considerably greater than H(83)–H(92) (2.08 Å); and (c) C(1)–C(7)–C(8) (116.2°) is considerably smaller than N–C(7)–C(8) (122.7°). However, an analysis of the angles in the system C(2)–C(6)–C(1)–C(7)–C(8)–N shows that the  $p_z$  orbitals on C(1) and C(7) are rotated out of alignment about the C(1)–C(7) axis by 24°, and we

Table 4. Coefficients of least-squares planes equations and distances from these planes

$$AX + BY + CZ = D$$

$X, Y, Z$  are orthogonal Ångström space coordinates referred to crystallographic  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c^*$  axes

	Plane	$A$	$B$	$C$	$D$
I	Benzene plane	0.147	0.991	-0.137	0.112
II	<i>o</i> -Hydroxyacetophenone imine plane	-0.625	0.987	-0.158	0.102
III	Cu–N–C(9)–C(8)–C(7)–C(1)	0.142	0.831	-0.538	0.207
IV	Coordination plane	-0.382	0.627	-0.679	-0.119

#### Distances from least-squares planes

The planes are determined by the atoms marked by \*

	I	II	III	IV
Cu	1.119	1.024	0.021*	0.0*
O	0.042	-0.024*	-1.026	0.0*
N	0.251	0.179*	0.020*	0.0*
C(1)	-0.010*	-0.028*	-0.041*	1.280
C(2)	0.020*	-0.012*	-0.613	0.898
C(3)	-0.014*	-0.023*	-0.777	1.494
C(4)	-0.004*	0.022*	-0.331	2.464
C(5)	0.015*	0.056*	0.268	2.869
C(6)	-0.008*	0.011*	0.392	2.274
C(7)	-0.141	-0.181*	0.013*	0.593
C(8)	-0.781	-0.804	0.028*	0.596
C(9)	0.000	-0.095	-0.041*	-0.781
C(10)	-1.366	-1.477	-1.453	-2.210
C(11)	-1.569	-1.702	-1.430	-2.928
C(12)	-1.542	-1.675	-2.265	-2.949

therefore suggest that the lengthening of the C(1)-C(7) bond is caused by this rotation, which has decreased the overlap between the two  $p_z$  orbitals and therefore decreased the double-bond character of the bond.

The molecule is distorted from planarity by an unusual amount. Omitting the 'outside' atoms of the isobutyl group, C(10), C(11), C(12), the distortion of one half of the molecule from complete planarity may be approximately described by a rotation of the (nearly) planar group C(1), C(7), C(8), N, C(9), Cu through an angle of  $25^\circ$  about the line C(1)-C(9). Equations for various least-squares planes and the distances of the several atoms from these planes are given in Table 4. Comparison of these distances with those found in other compounds shows a number of differences. The metal atom is farther (1.12 Å) out of the plane defined by the benzene ring, the farthest heretofore reported being 0.75 Å in bis-(*N*-t-butylsalicylaldiminato)palladium(II) (Day, Glick & Hoard, 1968). The nitrogen atom is also farther (0.25 Å) out of the plane and is out in the same direction as the metal, whereas in other compounds it is out in the opposite direction from the metal atom (*cf.* Table 6, Jain & Lingafelter, 1967). The dihedral angle between the coordination plane CuN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the mean plane of the *o*-hydroxyacetophenone imine residue is  $136.6^\circ$ , which may be compared with the corresponding angle of  $144.4^\circ$  in bis-(*N*-t-butylsalicylaldiminato)palladium.

The packing of the molecules may be seen in Fig. 2. None of the intermolecular contact distances is unusual.

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## The Crystal Structure of Compounds with (N-P)<sub>n</sub> Rings. VII.\* Refinement of the Crystal Structure of Hexabromocyclotriphosphazene, N<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>

BY H. ZOER AND A. J. WAGNER

Laboratory of Structural Chemistry, The University, Bloemsingel 10, Groningen, The Netherlands

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The crystal structure of N<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>, as determined by Giglio & Puliti (1967), has been refined from three-dimensional intensity data, collected with Mo radiation on an automatic three-circle diffractometer. Two crystals were used. Data processing and refinement were carried out independently with the data obtained from each crystal. The intensities were corrected for absorption and during the refinement a correction for extinction was applied according to Zachariasen (1967, 1968). Atomic coordinates obtained from the two crystals agree within the standard deviations. The molecules N<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>6</sub> lie on crystallographic mirror planes of the space group *Pnma*, with unit-cell dimensions  $a=14.463$  (0.002),  $b=13.410$  (0.003) and  $c=6.601$  (0.001) Å. There are four short intermolecular Br...Br distances (3.65–3.85 Å) and a short N...Br distance (3.24 Å). The two independent angles P–N–P of a molecule are significantly different: 119.3 (0.6) and 122.4 (0.5)°. Other chemically equivalent bond lengths and angles are equal within experimental error. Mean values (and individual standard deviations) are P–N 1.576 (0.008), P–Br 2.162 (0.004) Å, N–P–N 118.5 (0.5) and Br–P–Br 102.1 (0.1)°. The (N–P)<sub>3</sub> ring is non-planar and slightly chair-shaped. The dihedral angles of the ring bonds are –6.7, 6.3 and –5.5° and the largest distance from a ring atom to the least-squares plane through the ring is 0.047 Å.

### Introduction

The crystal structures of several chloro- and fluorocyclophosphazenes are known with some precision,

viz. N<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub> (Wilson & Carroll, 1960), N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>8</sub> [two crystal modifications, *K* form (Hazekamp, Migchelsen & Vos, 1962) and *T* form (Wagner & Vos, 1968)], N<sub>5</sub>P<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub> (Schlueter & Jacobson, 1968), N<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>F<sub>6</sub> (Dougill, 1963) and N<sub>4</sub>P<sub>4</sub>F<sub>8</sub> (McGeachin & Tromans, 1961).

\* Part VI: Olthof (1969).