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# The Crystal and Molecular Structure of 2-Methylpseudourea Hydrochloride, $\left[\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathbf{C O C H}_{3}\right]^{+} \mathrm{Cl}^{-}$ 

By J. C. B. White* and S. A. Mason<br>Chemistry Department, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia

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#### Abstract

The crystal structure of 2-methylpseudourea hydrochloride, $\left[\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right]^{+} \mathrm{Cl}^{-}$, has been determined by the heavy-atom method and refined by the least-squares procedure to a final $R$ value of $0 \cdot 107$. The space group is $P 22_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$ and the cell dimensions are $a=9 \cdot 43, b=11 \cdot 16, c=5 \cdot 00 \AA$. A total of 681 unique intensities were obtained from visually estimated photographic data collected about two axes. Corrected bond lengths of $1.32 \AA$ for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ and $1.32,1.35 \AA$ (all $\pm 0.01 \AA$ ) for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ were deduced. The cations are approximately planar and are linked via the chloride ions to form a three-dimensional hydrogenbonded network, with $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{Cl}$ distances of $3 \cdot 17,3 \cdot 22,3 \cdot 24$ and $3 \cdot 40 \AA$.


## Introduction

The structure of 2-methylpseudourea hydrochloride (I)

(I)
has been determined as part of an investigation of amide and amide-like cations. The position of the mobile hydrogen atom in these cations was vigorously disputed in the chemical literature for over a decade; almost all the physico-chemical techniques that could be applied to the problem were used, and conflicting conclusions were drawn from much of the resulting information (see the review by Jones \& Katritzky, 1961). Finally low-temperature nuclear magnetic resonance studies provided conclusive evidence for protonation at the oxygen atom rather than at the nitrogen atom (Gillespie \& Birchall, 1963), and thus established the struc-

[^0]tures in principle but not in detail. To provide more precise information on the structures of these cations, a series of structures of amide and related cations is being determined. The crystal structures of urea nitrate and 2-hydroxypyridinium chloride have also been solved.

## Experimental

The method of Brown \& Hoerger (1954) was used to obtain methylisourea picrate which was then suspended in benzene, and the mixture shaken with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The aqueous phase was then evaporated, and the resulting solid 2 -methylpseudourea hydrochloride was recrystallized from an ethanol/acetone mixture. Analysis showed $\mathrm{C}=21 \cdot 53, \mathrm{H}=6 \cdot 33$, $\mathrm{N}=25.01, \quad \mathrm{Cl}=32.9 \%$. Calculated values for $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{OCl}$ are $\mathrm{C}=21 \cdot 72, \mathrm{H}=6 \cdot 38, \mathrm{~N}=25 \cdot 35, \mathrm{Cl}=$ $32 \cdot 12 \%$.

The crystals obtained were needles belonging to the orthorhombic system, and elongated along the $c$ axis. Systematic absences on Weissenberg photographs were $h 00$ for $h$ odd, $0 k 0$ for $k$ odd, and $00 l$ for $l$ odd, indicating uniquely the space-group $P 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$. The axial lengths, determined from Pt-calibrated Weissenberg photographs, are $a=9.43(0.02), b=11.16(0.02), c=$ $5.00(0.03) \AA$. The error estimates given are probably
high. The density determined by flotation in an acetone $-\mathrm{CCl}_{4}$ mixture is $1.37 \mathrm{~g} . \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$; the calculated value for $Z=4$ is 1.394 g.cm ${ }^{-3}$.

## Intensity determination

Two needle-shaped crystals of cross-section about $0 \cdot 2$ $\times 0.2 \mathrm{~mm}$ were used, so that absorption errors should be small though not insignificant ( $\mu=47 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ). The crystals were mounted on glass fibers and coated with several layers of cellulose acetate, since they decompose slowly on exposure to moisture. Equi-inclination integrated Weissenberg photographs using $\mathrm{Cu} K \alpha$ radiation (Ni filtered) were taken for layers $h k 0$ to $h k 3$ and 0 kl to 6 kl using up to 7 films per layer. Visual estimation by comparison with a calibration slip yielded about 1000 intensities which were corrected for the Lorentz and polarization factors and brought to a single arbitrary scale using common reflexions.

A Wilson plot (Wilson, 1942) for the $h k 0$ data gave an approximate scale factor. The 681 resulting reflexions, of which 58 were unobservably weak, represent about $88 \%$ of those available in the $\mathrm{Cu} K \alpha$ reflexion sphere.

## Structure solution and refinement

Consistent coordinates for the chlorine atom were deduced from the Harker sections of the Patterson synthesis. A set of structure factors based on these coordinates gave an $R$ value of 0.408

$$
\left(R=\sum D / \sum\left|F_{o}\right|, \quad \text { where } \quad D=\left|\left|F_{o}\right|-\left|F_{c}\right|\right|\right),
$$

and the corresponding difference Fourier synthesis with Fourier coefficients $\left(F_{o}-F_{c}\right)$ revealed the positions of the other five non-hydrogen atoms. After including the six atoms in the structure-factor calculations $R$ was $0 \cdot 265$. After three cycles of full-matrix least-squares refinement with individual isotropic tem-

Table 1. Observed and calculated structure amplitudes
Scale $10 \times$ absolute. E and ${ }^{*}$ signify extinction-affected and unobserved reflexions respectively.



















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perature factors the value of $R$ was $0 \cdot 182$. (The quantity minimized was $\sum w D^{2}$.) At this stage individual anisotropic temperature factors were introduced, and seven reflexions apparently affected by extinction were given zero weight. In two further least-squares iterations $R$ dropped to $0 \cdot 126$. Throughout the calculations the scattering curves used were from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1962).

As difference Fourier syntheses had failed to locate clearly any hydrogen atoms, the four amino hydrogen atoms were included in the calculations at their expected positions in the molecular plane. Diffuse positive regions interpreted as the methyl hydrogen atoms were found in a difference Fourier synthesis from which all unobserved reflexions and about 20 of the strongest reflexions as well as those with $\sin \theta$ greater than 0.6 were omitted. Coordinates for the three methyl hydrogen atoms were assigned, consistent with these Fourier peaks and with normal bonding requirements. Attempts to refine positional coordinates for all hydrogen atoms were only partly successful, one of the three methyl hydrogen atoms and two of the four amino H atoms moving to unlikely positions. Thus the H positions listed in Table 2 are tentative only. The isotropic temperature factors of 3.0 were assumed.

Several methods of weighting the observations were examined during the course of the refinement. That finally judged most appropriate was:
for 45 terms with $F_{o}$ between 18 and 24, w=0.200
for 420 terms with $F_{o}$ between 4.5 and $18, w=0.752$
for 188 terms with $F_{o}$ less than $4.5, \quad w=3 \cdot 386 / F_{o}$
The reflexions with $F_{o}$ larger than 24 were omitted as


Fig.1. Bond lengths and angles in $\left[\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right]^{+}$, with standard deviations in brackets. The lower bond lengths have been corrected for thermal motion.

Table 2. Final atomic fractional coordinates and anisotropic temperature factors
The temperature factor is in the form $\exp \left(-b_{11} h^{2}-b_{22} k^{2}-b_{33} l^{2}-2 b_{12} h k-2 b_{13} h l-2 b_{23} k l\right)$. The figures in brackets are standard deviations.


Table 3. Significant intermolecular distances in $\left[\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right]^{+} \mathrm{Cl}^{-}$
An asterisk indicates a hydrogen bond.

| In plane |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Cl}(6) \cdots \mathrm{N}(3)^{*}$ | $3.40 \AA$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl}(6) \cdots \mathrm{N}(4)^{*}$ | 3.17 |
| $\mathrm{~N}(3) \cdots \mathrm{Cl}(6)$ (i)* | $3 \cdot 22$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(5) \cdots \mathrm{Cl}(6)$ (i) | $3 \cdot 72$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl}(6) \cdots \mathrm{C}(1)$ (ii) | 3.73 |
| $\mathrm{~N}(3) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ (iii) | 3.45 |
| $\mathrm{~N}(3) \cdots \mathrm{C}(1)$ (iii) | 3.80 |


| Out of plane |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(1) \cdots \mathrm{C}(1)$ (iv) | $3.63 \AA$ |  |
| $\mathrm{~N}(4) \cdots \mathrm{N}(4)(\mathrm{v})$ | 3.71 |  |
| $\mathrm{~N}(3) \cdots \mathrm{N}(4)$ (v) | 3.83 |  |
| $\mathrm{Cl}(6) \cdots \mathrm{C}(1)$ (v) | 3.63 |  |
| $\mathrm{Cl}(6) \cdots \mathrm{N}(4)(\mathrm{v})^{*}$ | 3.24 |  |
| $\mathrm{~N}(4) \cdots \mathrm{N}(3)(\mathrm{vi})$ | 3.53 |  |
| $\mathrm{O}(5) \cdots \mathrm{Cl}(6)$ (vii) | 3.47 |  |
| $\mathrm{C}(2) \cdots \mathrm{Cl}(6)$ (vii) | 3.53 |  |


| Key: |  |  |  | (iv) | $\frac{3}{2}-x$, | $-y$, | $\frac{1}{2}+z$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| (i) | $\frac{1}{2}+x$, | $\frac{1}{2}-y$, | $1-z$ | (v) | $\frac{1}{2}-x$, | $-y$, | $\frac{1}{2}+z$ |
| (ii) | $x-1$, | $y$, | $z$ | (vi) | $x$, | $y$, | $z-1$ |
| (iii) | $x-\frac{1}{2}$, | $\frac{1}{2}-y$, | $1-z$ | (vii) | $\frac{1}{2}+x$, | $\frac{1}{2}-y$, | $-z$ |

they were clearly subject to some systematic error, possibly extinction ( 28 out of 29 reflexions had $F_{o}$ less than $F_{c}$ ). Refinement was deemed complete when all suggested parameter changes were less than one-tenth of the corresponding estimated standard deviations. The final list of observed and calculated structure amplitudes is presented in Table 1, with $F_{o}$ values on an absolute scale.

The final positional and thermal parameters are presented in Table 2.

The final agreement indices are $R=0 \cdot 107\left(R^{\prime}=0 \cdot 127\right)$ for the set of 653 terms used in the refinement, $R=$ $0.103\left(R^{\prime}=0 \cdot 121\right)$ when the unobserved terms are omitted from this set, and $R=0.113\left(R^{\prime}=0 \cdot 140\right)$ when the


Fig. 2. In-plane intermolecular contacts.
seven hydrogen atoms are omitted from the structure factor calculations. Here $R^{\prime}=\left(\sum w D^{2} / \sum w\left|F_{o}\right|^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$.

A difference Fourier synthesis showed no significant spurious peaks - the largest background peaks were associated with the chlorine atom.

## Discussion

The interatomic distances and angles shown in Table 3 and in Figs. 1 and 2 were derived from the atomic parameters given in Table 2. Thermal corrections for covalent bond lengths were obtained assuming the riding mode for the outer atoms, and should thus represent the lower limits to the real corrections. The fact that the methyl group has the greatest thermal motion, and that the directions of greatest vibration for all atoms except the chloride ion are inclined at a large angle to the molecular plane (average $76^{\circ}$ ), suggests that the thermal parameters have some reliability.

In Table 4 bond lengths and bond angles for 2-methylpseudourea hydrochloride are compared with those for related compounds. The difference in $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ bond lengths, while only possibly significant in this structure, is observed in urea nitrate also (White \& Mason, 1969), where it has greater statistical significance.

The $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bond, in the cation structures in which it occurs, is intermediate in length between the accepted single and double bond values, and is longer than the corresponding bond in urea. Another notable common feature is the significant difference between the two $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}$ angles, where X represents O or NH , in all but the neutral urea group.

## Planarity of the pseudourea residue

The mean plane through atoms $\mathrm{C}(1), \mathrm{N}(3), \mathrm{N}(4)$, and $\mathrm{O}(5)$ (i.e. the 'urea' part of the molecule) was calculated by the method of Blow (1960). In the normal form it is,

$$
0.0748 X+0.7767 Y-0.6254 Z=0.6846
$$

where $X, Y, Z$ are coordinates in $\AA$ referred to the crys-

Table 4. Bond lengths $(\AA)$ and angles (degrees), with standard deviations, for 2-methylpseudourea hydrochloride and related compounds
Distances corrected for thermal motion are also given where available.

|  | $\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}{ }^{+} \mathrm{Cl}^{-}$ | Urea nitrate ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Methyl } \\ \text { guanidinium ion }{ }^{b} \end{gathered}$ | Urea ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ | 1.312 (10), , 1.337 (10) | $1 \cdot 297$ (3), 1.310 (3) | 1.326 (7), 1-323 (7) | 1.326 (6) |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ (corr) | $1 \cdot 318$ (10), 1.352 (10) | $1 \cdot 311$ (3), 1.325 (3) | - - | $1 \cdot 356$ (6) |
| C-O | 1.310 (9) | $1 \cdot 306$ (3) | - - | 1.268 (7) |
| C-O (corr) | 1.322 (9) | 1.320 (3) | - - | 1.276 (8) |
| $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}$ | 122.0 (7) | 122.4 (2) | $120 \cdot 5$ (5) | 117.9 (6) |
| $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{X}^{\text {d }}$ | 123.0 (8), $115 \cdot 0$ (8) | $121 \cdot 7$ (2), 115.9 (2) | $122 \cdot 0$ (5), $117 \cdot 5$ (5) | $121 \cdot 0$ (3) |
| C-X-C | $117 \cdot 0$ (7) | - | 123.2 (5) | - |
| $a$ White \& Mason 1969. |  |  |  |  |
| $b$ Curtis \& Pasternak (1955), Mendel \& Hodgkin (1954). |  |  |  |  |
| c Caron \& Donohue (1964). |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{\text {d }} \mathrm{X}$ stands | O or NH. |  |  |  |

tallographic axes. This portion of the cation is planar to the limits of accuracy of the determination (mean deviation of the four atoms from the plane is $0.006 \AA$ ), but the deviation of the methyl carbon atom from this plane, $0.07 \AA$, is significant and corresponds to a $3^{\circ}$ out-of-plane twist of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ bond. This twist may indicate an attempt to reduce the intramolecular' steric interaction between the two out-of-plane hydrogen atoms and a hydrogen atom attached to the adjacent nitrogen atom. For these atoms $\mathbf{H} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ distances are approximately $2 \cdot 1 \AA$ ( $c f$. van der Waals sum of $2 \cdot 4 \AA$ ). A similar twist out of plane of $0.06 \AA$ was noted in the structure of creatine (Mendel \& Hodgkin, '1954) which contains the methylguanidinium grouping, though not in the methylguanidinium cation itself (see Curtis \& Pasternak, 1955).

## Molecular packing

A view of the structure along the [ $00 \overline{1}]$ direction is shown in Fig. 3; the postulated hydrogen bonding scheme is also indicated. Each chloride ion participates in three approximately coplanar hydrogen bonds of lengths $3 \cdot 17,3 \cdot 22$ and $3 \cdot 40 \AA$, the last of these being very weak, and in a further strong hydrogen bond of $3 \cdot 24 \AA$ inclined at about $80^{\circ}$ to the plane of the other three. These are the shortest interionic distances and are also oriented most closely to the expected hydro-gen-bond directions. Thus, all amino hydrogen atoms are involved in $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{Cl}$ hydrogen bonds, linking the 2-methylpseudourea cations and chloride anions into a three-dimensional network.
If viewed along the [ $\overline{\mathrm{T}} 00$ ] direction, the structure may be considered as 'herring-boned'. The mean plane discussed above is inclined at angles of 4,51 and $39^{\circ}$ to the $a, b$ and $c$ axes respectively; the $a$-axis projection (not given) shows that two symmetry-related cations, those in the left half of the unit cell of Fig. 3, are almost coplanar, and make an angle of about $78^{\circ}$ with the corresponding symmetry-related units in the righthand half of Fig. 3.

Most of the important interionic contacts are thus between two coplanar units; these in-plane contacts are shown in Fig. 2. The significant contacts between non-coplanar units are the short $\mathrm{C}(1) \cdots \mathrm{C}(1)$ (iv) me-thyl-methyl carbon distance of $3.63 \AA$, which however involves no $\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ contact shorter than $2.7 \AA$, and several interactions involving the $\mathrm{Cl}^{-}$ion. A number of hydrogen-bonded and non-bonded contacts are shown in Table 3.


Fig.3. Projection of the structure down the $c$ axis.

The programs $O R F L S$ for least-squares, and $O R F F E$ for crystallographic function and error calculations, by W. R. Busing, K. O. Martin \& H. A. Levy, were used throughout. The program MUFR3 by J. C. B. White was used for Fourier syntheses. One of us (S.A.M.) wishes to acknowledge receipt of a University of Melbourne Research Grant. Thanks are due to Dr B. F. Hoskins for his assistance and encouragement.

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[^0]:    * Present address: Computer Centre, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia.

