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**The Crystal and Molecular Structures of Hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) Nitrate,  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$ , and Hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) Hydroxide Nitrate Tetrahydrate,  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$**

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The crystal and molecular structures of hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) nitrate,  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$ , and hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) hydroxide nitrate tetrahydrate,  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , have been determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques.  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$  crystallizes in the trigonal system, space group  $R\bar{3}$ . The lattice parameters (hexagonal axes) are  $a = 12.633$  (2),  $c = 15.049$  (2) Å,  $Z = 3$ ,  $\rho_o = 1.54$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\rho_c = 1.54$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup>. The final three-dimensional full-matrix least-squares refinement resulted in an  $R$  value of 3.6% based on 1343 observed reflections.  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  crystallizes in the hexagonal system, space group  $P6_3/m$ . The lattice parameters are  $a = 9.0376$  (8),  $c = 21.729$  (3) Å,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho_c = 1.45$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $\rho_o = 1.44$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup>. The final three-dimensional full-matrix least-squares refinement resulted in an  $R$  value of 5.4% based on 996 observed reflections. Both structures consist of discrete  $\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6^{2+}$  cations and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  anions but as a result of the presence of water molecules and  $\text{OH}^-$  ions in the hydroxide complex, the packing of the cations in the two structures is considerably different. The ligand imidazole molecules are coordinated through the pyridine type nitrogen atoms ( $\text{>N}$ ) to the  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  ions with an average bond distance  $\text{Cd}\cdots\text{N}$  of 2.363 Å and they are hydrogen bonded through the pyrrole type ( $-\text{N}-\text{H}$ ) nitrogen atoms to the nitrate groups. However, to accommodate hydrogen bonding, there is considerable difference in the orientation of the imidazole rings in the two complexes. Specifically, each ring in one of the two complex cations is rotated, about the  $\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)$  direction, approximately 130° with respect to its counterpart in the other cation. The bond distances and angles between the atoms of the imidazole molecules are practically identical in the two structures.

### Introduction

The imidazole group occurs in a number of biologically important molecules such as histidine and hypoxan-

thine, and it plays an important rôle in the chemistry of several biological systems by providing possible binding sites in metal-protein interactions and in other interactions involving hydrogen bonds (Hofmann,

1953; Barnard & Stein, 1958). The adaptability of the imidazole group for a number of biological roles is due to the fact that bonding of this group to its environment is possible through a secondary 'pyrrole' ( $\triangleright\text{NH}$ ) and a tertiary 'pyridine' ( $\triangleright\text{N}$ ) nitrogen atom. Crystal structure analyses of complexes containing imidazole as ligand are important in clarifying the biological functions of the imidazole group as they provide direct evidence on the stereochemistry of the imidazole molecule which is simultaneously involved in a coordinate bond and in hydrogen bonding.

As a part of a program in the structural and spectroscopic investigation of imidazole coordination complexes, crystals of hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) nitrate  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$  [hereafter called  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ], were grown from an aqueous solution of  $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and imidazole. Almost invariably, crystals of a second compound, hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) hydroxide nitrate tetrahydrate,  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [hereafter called  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ], were obtained from the same solution. Space group and lattice parameter measurements indicated that the structures of these two complexes are different. The presence of water molecules and hydroxide and nitrate ions indicates that hydrogen bonding and packing in the hydroxide complex must be substantially different from that in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ . The complete structure determination of the two cadmium complexes was carried out to permit a comparison of the cation  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}^{2+}$  in two different environments. In addition, the present work is intended to provide the structural information needed for the analysis of the infrared spectra of the two complexes and to determine the relationships between their structures and those of related nickel and cobalt compounds now under investigation.

## Experimental

### Preparation

Crystals of  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were prepared by slow evaporation of an aqueous solution of  $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and imidazole in molecular ratio of approximately 1:6. As the crystals of the nitrate complex have rhombohedral habit, they can be easily separated from those of the hydroxide nitrate complex which grow as hexagonal prisms from the same solution. The crystals of both species are colorless.

### Crystal data

A summary of the crystal data for the complexes is given in Table 1. In this Table, as well as in all the others, numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant digits. Approximate unit-cell parameters, Laue symmetry, and systematic extinctions were obtained in both cases from zero and upper level precession and Weissenberg photographs. To determine precise unit-cell parameters, the  $2\theta$  angles of a number of reflections were determined with a single-crystal diffractometer. The unit-cell parameters were refined

by least-squares to obtain the best fit between observed and calculated  $2\theta$  values. In the above measurements Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.71069 \text{ \AA}$ ) was used. The density of the two complexes was measured by the flotation method in a mixture of chloroform and tetrabromoethane.

### Intensity measurements

Intensity data for both complexes were obtained using Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda=0.71069 \text{ \AA}$ ) and a three-circle diffractometer with scintillation counter and pulse-height analyzer set to admit 90% of the Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. The intensities of reflections with  $2\theta \leq 60^\circ$  were measured with a stationary-crystal stationary-counter method. This method was used because the crystals suffer appreciable radiation damage after exposure to X-rays for more than a few days. The background settings were those given by the expression  $2\theta \pm (\frac{1}{2})\Delta 2\theta$  where  $\Delta 2\theta = 1.8 + \tan \theta$  (Alexander & Smith, 1962). The counting time was 10 seconds at each peak and background setting. Niobium foils were used as attenuators when the diffracted intensity exceeded 20000 counts/sec.

The crystal of  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  was an almost perfect rhombohedron with an edge of 0.3 mm. This crystal was mounted on the diffractometer with the reciprocal vector  $[0\bar{1}\cdot 1]^*$  coincident with the axis of the  $\varphi$ -circle. The 2340 reflections measured were reduced by averaging equivalent reflections to a unique set of 1359 reflections of which 1343 were above background. The agreement of the equivalent reflections, expressed by the factor  $(\sum |I - \bar{I}|)/(\sum \bar{I})$  ( $\bar{I}$  is the average intensity of a group of equivalent reflections and  $I$  the intensity of each member of the group), was  $\sim 3\%$ .

The crystal of  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3)\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was a hexagonal prism. The form  $\{00\cdot 1\}$  was a hexagon with a side of 0.16 mm and the height of the prism was 0.2 mm. The crystal was mounted with the reciprocal vector  $[10\cdot 0]^*$  coincident with the axis of the  $\varphi$ -circle. The 2045 reflections were reduced by averaging equivalent reflections to a unique set of 1539 of which 996 were above background. The agreement of the equivalent reflections was  $\sim 5\%$ . A reflection was considered 'unobserved' and assigned a value equal to twice the standard deviation if the net number of counts did not exceed zero by at least twice the standard deviation.

For both compounds, six standard reflections were measured at regular intervals to monitor source intensity, crystal stability and crystal orientation. Neither these reflections nor equivalent reflections showed significant variation of intensity ( $< 2\%$ ) over the period of time in which the intensities were measured. Peak intensities ( $I_0$ ) were converted to integrated intensities ( $I_i$ ) by means of a curve  $I_i/I_0$  versus  $2\theta$ . This curve was determined by measuring both integrated and peak intensities of a number of reflections uniformly distributed over the entire  $2\theta$  range. The maximum magnitude of this correction was  $\sim 1.2$  for both compounds. The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polari-

zation factors but no absorption corrections were applied as the linear absorption coefficients and the sizes of the crystals are small.

### Determination and refinement of the structures\*

#### (A) $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$

On the basis of the space groups and lattice parameters, it was assumed that  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (Santoro, Mighell, Zocchi & Reimann, 1969) are isostructural. A model of the cadmium complex consisting of the coordinates of the atoms of

\* In the least-squares refinements in this paper (a) the quantity minimized is  $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$ , (b) the  $F_o$ 's of 'unobserved reflections' are weighted zero or one depending on whether the corresponding  $F_c$ 's are less or greater than the assigned values of the  $F_o$ 's, (c) scattering factors for neutral cadmium, nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon atoms and for the singly negative oxygen atom are taken from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962), (d) the conventional  $R$  and weighted  $R_w$  values are defined by the expressions

$$R = \frac{\sum ||F_o| - |F_c||}{\sum |F_o|} \quad \text{and} \quad R_w = \left[ \frac{\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2}{\sum w F_o^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

Table 1. *Crystal data for hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) nitrate and hexakis(imidazole)cadmium(II) hydroxide nitrate tetrahydrate*

The cell parameters of the nitrate and hydroxide nitrate complex were refined using 12 and 14 observed  $2\theta$  values, respectively.

	$[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$	$[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
$a$	12.633 (2) Å	9.0376 (8) Å
$c$	15.049 (2) Å	21.729 (3) Å
Volume	2080.0 Å <sup>3</sup>	1537.0 Å <sup>3</sup>
$Z$	3	2
$\rho_c$	1.54 g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.45 g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
$\rho_o$	1.54 g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.44 g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
Systematic extinctions	$-h + k + l \neq 3n$	$00 \cdot l, l \neq 2n$
Space group	$R\bar{3}$	$P6_3/m$
Linear absorption coefficient for Mo $K\alpha$	8.5 cm <sup>-1</sup>	7.6 cm <sup>-1</sup>

Table 2. *Atomic coordinates\* and thermal parameters† for  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$*

The anisotropic temperature factor has the form  $\exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})]$ .

	$x$	$y$	$z$	$\beta_{11}$	$\beta_{22}$	$\beta_{33}$	$\beta_{12}$	$\beta_{13}$	$\beta_{23}$
Cd	0	0	0	63.0 (4)	63.0 (4)	48.0 (2)	31.5 (2)	0	0
C(1)	1090 (3)	2858 (3)	567 (2)	94 (3)	73 (2)	71 (2)	37 (2)	-1 (2)	-4 (2)
C(2)	605 (5)	3011 (4)	1923 (4)	207 (6)	108 (4)	109 (3)	46 (4)	51 (4)	-39 (3)
C(3)	151 (4)	1827 (3)	1725 (3)	150 (4)	93 (3)	76 (2)	42 (3)	30 (2)	-9 (2)
N(1)	459 (2)	1732 (2)	870 (2)	87 (2)	66 (2)	54 (1)	37 (2)	-1 (1)	-8 (1)
N(2)	1170 (3)	3650 (2)	1178 (3)	119 (3)	65 (2)	107 (2)	29 (2)	20 (2)	-20 (2)
N(3)	0	0	3923 (3)	83 (3)	83 (3)	43 (2)	42 (2)	0	0
O(1)	700 (2)	1113 (2)	3922 (2)	112 (3)	89 (2)	113 (2)	37 (2)	-7 (2)	3 (2)
H(1)‡	147	309	0						
H(2)	45	336	245						
H(3)	-37	112	209						
H(4)	154	445	115						

\* The atomic coordinates are multiplied by  $10^4$  for the non-hydrogen atoms and by  $10^3$  for the hydrogen atoms.

† The  $\beta_{ij}$ 's have been multiplied by  $10^4$ .

‡ The hydrogen atoms H(1), H(2) and H(3) are labeled with the same numbers as the carbon atoms to which they are attached. The hydrogen atom H(4) is bonded to the nitrogen atom N(2).

pected positions of the hydrogen atoms of the imidazole ring. The positions 6(h)m can only be occupied by the oxygen atoms of water molecules because of charge

balance. The oxygen atoms of the remaining two water molecules and of the two OH<sup>-</sup> ions must be located in positions 2(a)̄ and 2(c)̄. In either case the two water

Table 3. The columns are h, k, 10F<sub>o</sub>, 10F<sub>c</sub>, respectively  
Unobserved reflections are marked with an L.

1 0	10 13	363	421	2	1203	1187	0	8 260	236	1 14	166	130	-1	988	959	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100
3 0	1206	1216	0	14	185	111	0	10	207	205	0	5	100	100	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
5 0	1648	1658	0	16	229	147	0	12	251	249	0	7	144	144	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
7 0	2100	2110	0	18	273	193	0	14	295	293	0	9	188	188	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
9 0	2552	2562	0	20	317	239	0	16	339	337	0	11	232	232	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
11 0	3004	3014	0	22	361	285	0	18	383	381	0	13	276	276	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
13 0	3456	3466	0	24	405	331	0	20	427	425	0	15	320	320	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
15 0	3908	3918	0	26	449	377	0	22	471	469	0	17	364	364	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
17 0	4360	4370	0	28	493	423	0	24	515	513	0	19	408	408	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
19 0	4812	4822	0	30	537	469	0	26	559	557	0	21	452	452	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
21 0	5264	5274	0	32	581	515	0	28	603	601	0	23	496	496	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
23 0	5716	5726	0	34	625	561	0	30	647	645	0	25	540	540	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
25 0	6168	6178	0	36	669	607	0	32	691	689	0	27	584	584	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
27 0	6620	6630	0	38	713	653	0	34	735	733	0	29	628	628	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
29 0	7072	7082	0	40	757	699	0	36	779	777	0	31	672	672	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
31 0	7524	7534	0	42	801	745	0	38	823	821	0	33	716	716	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
33 0	7976	7986	0	44	845	791	0	40	867	865	0	35	760	760	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
35 0	8428	8438	0	46	889	837	0	42	911	909	0	37	804	804	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
37 0	8880	8890	0	48	933	883	0	44	955	953	0	39	848	848	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
39 0	9332	9342	0	50	977	929	0	46	999	997	0	41	892	892	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
41 0	9784	9794	0	52	1021	975	0	48	1043	1041	0	43	936	936	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
43 0	10236	10246	0	54	1065	1021	0	50	1087	1085	0	45	980	980	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
45 0	10688	10698	0	56	1109	1067	0	52	1131	1129	0	47	1024	1024	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
47 0	11140	11150	0	58	1153	1113	0	54	1175	1173	0	49	1068	1068	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
49 0	11592	11602	0	60	1197	1159	0	56	1219	1217	0	51	1112	1112	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
51 0	12044	12054	0	62	1241	1205	0	58	1263	1261	0	53	1156	1156	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
53 0	12496	12506	0	64	1285	1251	0	60	1307	1305	0	55	1200	1200	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
55 0	12948	12958	0	66	1329	1297	0	62	1351	1349	0	57	1244	1244	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
57 0	13400	13410	0	68	1373	1343	0	64	1395	1393	0	59	1288	1288	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
59 0	13852	13862	0	70	1417	1389	0	66	1439	1437	0	61	1332	1332	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
61 0	14304	14314	0	72	1461	1435	0	68	1483	1481	0	63	1376	1376	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
63 0	14756	14766	0	74	1505	1481	0	70	1527	1525	0	65	1420	1420	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
65 0	15208	15218	0	76	1549	1527	0	72	1571	1569	0	67	1464	1464	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
67 0	15660	15670	0	78	1593	1573	0	74	1615	1613	0	69	1508	1508	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
69 0	16112	16122	0	80	1637	1619	0	76	1659	1657	0	71	1552	1552	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
71 0	16564	16574	0	82	1681	1665	0	78	1703	1701	0	73	1596	1596	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
73 0	17016	17026	0	84	1725	1711	0	80	1747	1745	0	75	1640	1640	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
75 0	17468	17478	0	86	1769	1757	0	82	1791	1789	0	77	1684	1684	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
77 0	17920	17930	0	88	1813	1803	0	84	1835	1833	0	79	1728	1728	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410	3	1	104	97	-5	6	116	100	
79 0	18372	18382	0	90	1857	1849	0	86	1879	1877	0	81	1772	1772	-10	12	276	261	-3	5	216	220	1	1	499	410									



able to interpret the large thermal parameters in terms of disorder rather than in terms of thermal vibrations. The final atomic coordinates, the thermal parameters and the structure factor for  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are reported in Tables 4 and 5.

A Fourier difference map showed peaks near the oxygen atoms of the water molecules and of the  $\text{OH}^-$  ion. The peaks were interpreted as being due to the remaining hydrogen atoms. The highest residual density was found at about  $0.8 \text{ \AA}$  above and below the cadmium atom. Everywhere else the electron density was less than 10% of the average value of the carbon atom.

### Description of the structure

#### (A) $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$

As mentioned earlier,  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  is isostructural with  $\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ . The structure consists of discrete  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}^{2+}$  cations and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  anions whose packing in

the hexagonal unit cell is practically identical with that of the nickel compound.

The cadmium ions are located in the special positions  $3(a)\bar{3}$  of space group  $R\bar{3}$  and therefore the symmetry of the complex cation imposed by the space group is  $\bar{3}$ . The structure of the cation  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}^{2+}$  is shown in Fig. 1 and the unique bond distances and angles are given in Table 6. The coordination polyhedron is a distorted octahedron. The type of distortion may be described as a compression along one of the threefold axes of a regular octahedron. As a result of this compression, the angle between the threefold axis and the  $\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)$  bond is  $56.3^\circ$  (in a regular octahedron the angle between these two directions is  $54.75^\circ$ ).

The unique bond distances and angles of the imidazole ring are compared in Table 6 with the corresponding bond distances and angles found in other compounds. The imidazole ring is planar within experimental error (Table 7).

Table 6. Unique bond distances and angles in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and comparison with related compounds

	Imidazole* -150°C	$\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2^\dagger$	$\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	$\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
$\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)$			2.361 (3) Å <sup>‡</sup>	2.364 (3) Å
$\text{Ni}-\text{N}(1)$		2.129 Å		
$\text{N}(1)-\text{C}(1)$	1.326 Å	1.316	1.316 (4)	1.313 (7)
$\text{C}(1)-\text{N}(2)$	1.349	1.329	1.325 (5)	1.333 (6)
$\text{N}(2)-\text{C}(2)$	1.369	1.352	1.357 (6)	1.361 (8)
$\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)$	1.358	1.366	1.340 (6)	1.331 (8)
$\text{C}(3)-\text{N}(1)$	1.378	1.372	1.366 (5)	1.370 (6)
$\text{C}(3)-\text{N}(1)-\text{C}(1)$	$105.4^\circ$	$105.4^\circ$	$106.1 (3)^\circ$	$105.7 (4)^\circ$
$\text{N}(1)-\text{C}(1)-\text{N}(2)$	111.3	111.6	110.6 (3)	111.1 (4)
$\text{C}(1)-\text{N}(2)-\text{C}(2)$	107.2	107.9	107.7 (3)	106.9 (4)
$\text{N}(2)-\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)$	106.3	106.1	106.6 (4)	107.0 (5)
$\text{C}(2)-\text{C}(3)-\text{N}(1)$	109.8	109.1	108.9 (4)	109.3 (5)
$\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)-\text{C}(3)$			130.9 (2)	127.6 (3)
$\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)-\text{C}(1)$			123.0 (2)	126.8 (3)
$\text{N}(1)-\text{Cd}-\text{N}(1')$			87.71 (7)	90.4 (1)
$\text{N}(1)-\text{Ni}-\text{N}(1')$		88.1		
$[\text{O}0.1] \wedge \text{Cd}-\text{N}(1)$		56.1	56.3	54.5
$\text{N}(3)-\text{O}(1)$		1.239	1.231 (2)	1.286 (6)

\* Martinez-Carrera, 1966.

† Santoro *et al.*, 1969.

‡ The standard deviations on bond distances and angles were estimated from the errors in coordinates and in lattice parameters.

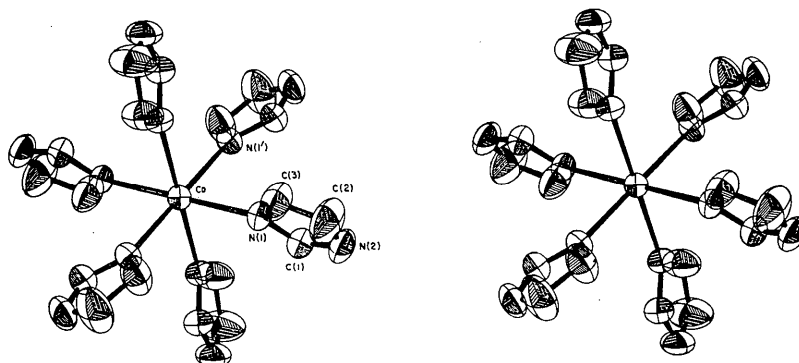


Fig. 1. Stereo view of the cation in  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{NO}_3)_2$ .

Table 7. Distances from the ring atoms to the least-squares plane of the coordinated imidazole ring

The equation of the plane in direct space is

$$PX + QY + RZ = S$$

For  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ :  $P = 11.929$ ,  $Q = -5.2552$ ,  $R = 4.8590$ ,  $S = 0.6310$ . For  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :  $P = -8.0191$ ,  $Q = 5.0101$ ,  $R = 9.6283$ ,  $S = -0.06840$ .

	$\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	$\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$
N(1)	-0.003 Å	0.001 Å
N(2)	-0.013	0.001
C(1)	0.011	-0.001
C(2)	0.011	-0.001
C(3)	-0.005	0.000

The nitrogen atoms of the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups are located in special positions  $6(c)3$ . The unique N–O distance in these groups is 1.231(2) Å. The  $\text{NO}_3^-$  ion is planar as the nitrogen atom is well within one standard deviation from the plane defined by the oxygen atoms. The shortest cation–anion distances (3.00 Å) are between the pyrrole type nitrogen atom of the imidazole rings and the oxygen atoms of the nitrate groups. These distances and the orientation of the imidazole rings are consistent with a hydrogen bonding scheme very similar to that already described for  $\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (Santoro *et al.*, 1969).

(B)  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$

The structure of this complex consists of discrete  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}^{2+}$  cations, hydroxide and nitrate anions and water molecules. The packing of the structure in the hexagonal unit cell is shown in Fig. 2. For clarity, the atoms repeated by the  $6_3$  symmetry operation have been omitted from the Figure.

As in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ ,  $\bar{3}$  symmetry is imposed on the complex cation by the space group. The structure of the cation is shown in Fig. 3, and the unique bond distances and angles are given in Table 6. The coordination polyhedron is an almost perfect octahedron very slightly elongated along the threefold axis. The angle N(1)–Cd–N(1') is  $90.4^\circ$  (1) and the angle between the threefold axis and the Cd–N(1) bond is  $54.5^\circ$ .

The imidazole ring was found by least-squares analysis to be planar. The distances of the ring atoms from the least-squares plane are given in Table 7. The bond distances and angles in the ring are given in Table 6.

The planarity of the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  ion is required by the symmetry of the space group, as this ion lies on the symmetry plane. The unique N–O distance is 1.286 (6). Although it is not possible from crystallographic considerations to determine if the oxygen atom of the  $\text{OH}^-$  ion is O(2) or O(3), it seems chemically more

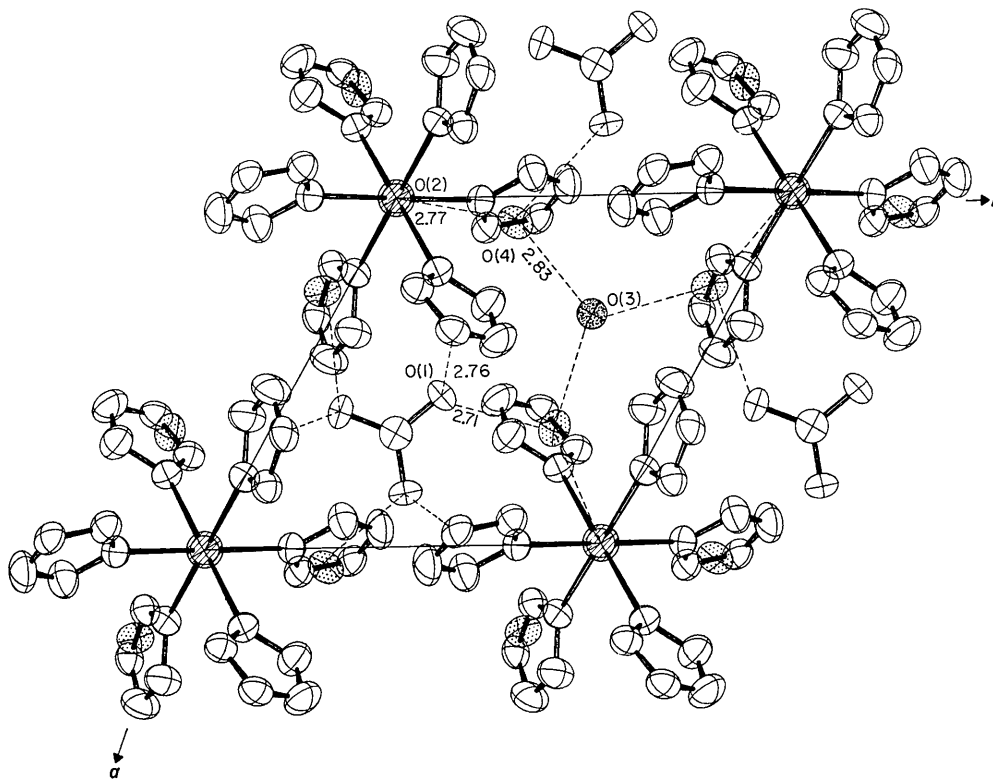


Fig. 2. The packing in the structure  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  viewed along the  $c$  axis. For clarity, atoms repeated by the  $6_3$  symmetry operation have been omitted. Oxygen atoms which are probably hydrogen bonded are indicated by the dashed lines and the unique distances between these oxygen atoms are given.

reasonable to assume that the hydroxide is O(2), as it is located between two complex cations.

The imidazole rings are oriented so that each nitrate oxygen atom O(1) forms hydrogen bonds with two pyrrole type ( $>\text{NH}$ ) nitrogen atoms belonging to a pair of imidazole rings related by the mirror operation of the space group (Fig. 2). The interatomic distances involving the oxygen atoms O(1), O(2), O(3) and O(4) are consistent with hydrogen bonding (see Fig. 2). However, in view of the uncertainties in the location of the hydrogen atoms of the water molecules and of the  $\text{OH}^-$  ions, the existence and the details of such bonding can only be assumed. A possible scheme of hydrogen bonding is as follows. As mentioned above the  $\text{OH}^-$  ion is probably located in position  $2(a)\bar{6}$  rather than in position  $2(c)\bar{6}$ . In either case it may act as donor in forming hydrogen bonds with any of three equivalent oxygen atoms O(4) (see Fig. 2). Once the hydrogen atom of this ion is assigned to any particular bond, the assignment of the hydrogen atoms involved in the bonds between O(3) and O(4) is uniquely defined. For each of the three initial possibilities there is a distinct network of hydrogen bonds in the structure. The three networks are equivalent as they are related to each other by the symmetry operations of the threefold axis and it seems reasonable to assume that all three are present in the structure so that the symmetry of the space group is preserved on the average.

### Discussion

A comparison of the structures of  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  shows that the coordination of cadmium is in both cases octahedral. However, as a result of the presence of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules and  $\text{OH}^-$  ions in the hydroxide complex, the packing of the two structures is considerably different.

In both complexes the orientation of the imidazole rings is such that the  $>\text{N}-\text{H}$  groups can form hydrogen bonds with the oxygen atoms of the nitrate groups. However, because of a different utilization of the threefold axes of the space groups  $R\bar{3}$  and  $P6_3/m$ , the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  groups and the imidazole rings are located differently

with respect to each other in the two structures. As a consequence, there is considerable difference in the orientation of the imidazole rings. Specifically, each ring in one of the two complex cations is rotated, about the Cd-N(1) direction, approximately  $130^\circ$  with respect to its counterpart in the other cation. The difference in the relative positions of the rings in the two structures can be clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 3. The two pictures have been drawn in the same orientation with respect to the threefold axis.

The corresponding bond distances and angles of the imidazole rings in the two cadmium complexes agree with each other to within two standard deviations. In Table 6 these distances and angles are compared with those found in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and in molecular imidazole at  $-150^\circ\text{C}$  (Martinez-Carrera, 1966). From the Table it is evident that the bond distances in coordinated imidazole as found in the two cadmium complexes are very similar but are systematically smaller than those found in molecular imidazole at  $-150^\circ\text{C}$ . Almost certainly this discrepancy is due to thermal motion. No accurate correction for thermal motion was attempted, however, in view of the fact that the intensities were not corrected for absorption and were measured with the peak-height method. The above results show that, although the interaction of the imidazole rings with their environments is different in the cadmium and nickel complexes and in imidazole, bond distances and angles within the ring are remarkably constant. The values of the bond distances given in Table 6 are also in rather close agreement with those found in di-imidazolezinc(II) dichloride (Lundberg, 1966).

The unique N-O distances of the nitrate groups are also given in Table 6. The value for this distance found in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (1.231 Å) agrees closely with the value found in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  (1.239 Å) but it is significantly smaller than the value (1.286 Å) found in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The change in the N-O distance reflects the fact that in  $\text{Im}_6\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  each oxygen atom of the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  group is involved in a weak hydrogen bond ( $\text{N}-\text{H} \cdots \text{O}$ , 3.00 Å), while in the hydroxide nitrate complex each oxygen atom is involved in three moder-

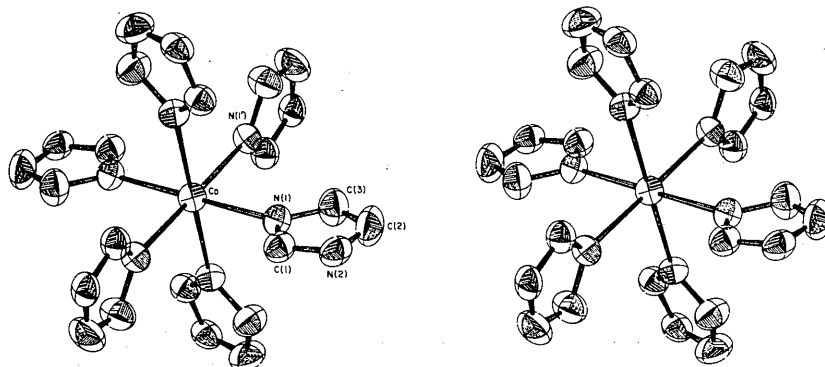


Fig. 3. Stereo view of the cation in  $[\text{Cd}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_6](\text{OH})(\text{NO}_3) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .



ately strong hydrogen bonds, two with the pyrrole nitrogen atoms of the imidazole rings and one with an oxygen atom O(4) (see Fig. 2 for distances). Variations in the N–O distances as a function of the strength of the hydrogen bonding in which the oxygen atom is involved have been observed in the study of other complexes. For example, in the structure of  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2\text{Pz}$  (Pz = pyrazine,  $\text{C}_4\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ) (Santoro, Mighell & Reimann, 1970), the three independent N–O distances range from 1.21 to 1.29 Å and in the structure of nitratobis(dipyridine)cobalt(III) hydroxide nitrate tetrahydrate (Reimann, Zocchi, Mighell & Santoro, 1971), the four independent distances range from 1.19 to 1.31 Å.

The computer calculations were made with local programs, with the *Program System for X-ray Crystallography* (1967) developed at the University of Maryland in collaboration with the National Bureau of Standards and the Geological Survey, and with C.K. Johnson's *ORTEP* plotting program.

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## The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Portulal *p*-Bromophenylsulphonylhydrazone

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The crystal structure of portulal *p*-bromophenylsulphonylhydrazone has been determined by a three-dimensional X-ray analysis. The stereochemistry and absolute configuration of portulal, a naturally occurring diterpene isolated from *Portulaca grandiflora* as a plant growth regulator, has thus been established. The crystals are orthorhombic, space group  $P2_12_12_1$ , with four molecules of  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_5\text{N}_2\text{SBr}$  in a unit cell of dimensions,  $a = 10.68$ ,  $b = 36.98$  and  $c = 6.67$  Å. The structure has been refined by least-squares methods to a final  $R$  value of 0.123 for 2089 observed reflexions collected by the photographic method. Portulal belongs to a new type of bicyclic diterpene containing a perhydroazulene nucleus.

#### Introduction

Portulal,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_4$ , was first isolated by Mitsuhashi & Shibaoka (1965) from leaves of *Portulaca grandiflora* Hook. as a plant growth regulator. At the initial stage, it was thought to be an inhibitor of plant growth induced by indoleacetic acid. Subsequent studies, however, revealed that it specifically accelerates adventitious root formation of plant cuttings such as *Raphanus*, *Phaseolus* and *Azuki*.

In an attempt to establish the molecular structure and to extend the physiological studies of portulal, X-ray analysis of its *p*-bromophenylsulphonylhydrazone was carried out.

#### Experimental

Treatment of portulal (168 mg) with an equivalent amount of *p*-bromophenylsulphonylhydrazine (128 mg) in dry methanol at room temperature overnight gave the corresponding hydrazone. Recrystallization from methanol yielded well-formed transparent plates. Elementary analysis gave: C, 54.57; H, 6.51; N, 4.92%.  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_5\text{N}_2\text{SBr}$  requires C, 54.83; H, 6.55; N, 4.92%.

Oscillation and Weissenberg photographs were taken with crystals mounted along the  $c$  and  $a$  axes respectively with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.542$  Å). The unit-cell dimensions were determined from the two zero-layer Weissenberg photographs, on which the powder pat-