

The Structure of Sporidesmin G Etherate*

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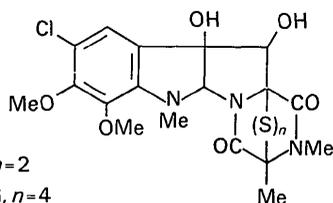
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Sporidesmin G etherate, $C_{18}H_{20}O_6N_3S_4Cl \cdot (C_2H_5)_2O$, a tetrathio compound, was obtained by treating sporidesmin (a disulphide) with dihydrogen disulphide. The crystals belong to the space group $P2_12_12_1$ with unit-cell dimensions: $a = 15.160$ (4), $b = 21.369$ (4) and $c = 8.978$ (4) Å; $Z = 4$. The data were collected with a Picker automatic diffractometer. The structure was solved by the application of the tangent formula and refined by block-diagonal least-squares cycles to a final R value of 0.057. The tetrathio-piperazinedione moiety in sporidesmin G was found to be closely similar to the structure of an enantiomer described recently by Davis & Bernal [*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* (1973), **70**, 279–283].

Introduction

The production of the toxin, sporidesmin G, by *Phthomyces chartarum* was reported by Francis, Rahman, Safe & Taylor (1972). Its structure was found to be closely related to that of sporidesmin, which was X-ray analysed by Fridrichsons & Mathieson (1965). Sporidesmin has an epidithio-piperazinedione ring, whereas sporidesmin G is a tetrasulphide as shown below. The c.d. and n.m.r. spectra of the metabolite were identical with those of a cyclic tetrasulphide, obtained from sporidesmin by the reaction with dihydrogen disulphide. This work was carried on such a semi-synthetic compound prepared by A. Taylor and S. Safe.



Sporidesmin, $n = 2$

Sporidesmin G, $n = 4$

The spectroscopic analysis indicated the presence of a single conformation of the epitetrathio group. Its stereochemistry, however, could not be assigned and since a number of conformers seemed possible, an X-ray analysis was suggested by Dr A. Taylor.

The results of this investigation have been published in a preliminary communication (Przybylska, Gopalakrishna, Taylor & Safe, 1973).

Experimental

Sporidesmin G etherate, $C_{18}H_{20}O_6N_3S_4Cl \cdot (C_2H_5)_2O$, F.W. 612.23. Orthorhombic, $a = 15.160$ (4), $b = 21.369$ (4), $c = 8.978$ (4) Å. $V = 2908.5$ Å³, $Z = 4$. Space group $P2_12_12_1$. $D_m = 1.403$ g cm⁻³, by flotation in a solution

of KI; $D_c = 1.398$ g cm⁻³. $F(000) = 1280$, $\mu(\text{Cu } K\alpha) = 40.1$ cm⁻¹.

The space group was established from systematic absences from precession photographs taken with the X-ray beam parallel to the a and b axes. The acicular [001] colourless prisms, crystallized from ether, were obtained from Dr A. Taylor. The unit-cell dimensions were derived from the measurements of the high-order axial reflexions with Cu radiation ($K\alpha_1$ and $K\alpha_2$). The data were collected at room temperature with a Picker four-circle automatic diffractometer. Out of 2819 independent reflexions measured within $2\theta \leq 130^\circ$, 2152 reflexions had significant counts. The threshold was taken as a net count of 50 or 10% of the total background count, whichever was higher. The $\theta/2\theta$ scanning method was used with Ni-filtered Cu radiation at a take-off angle of 5.3° . Background measurements for 20 s were taken at each end of the scans. High intensities were remeasured with lower current settings. The standard reflexions were determined after every 50 reflexions. The crystal developed a yellowish tinge on exposure to the X-rays, but this did not affect the intensities. Fifty reflexions estimated at the start of the data collection were remeasured at the end and no significant changes were observed. In addition, a freshly prepared batch of crystals was obtained several months later and over a hundred reflexions were checked with satisfactory results. The crystal was $0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.2$ mm and it was mounted with the axis of elongation parallel to the ϕ axis. Absorption corrections were not applied.

Solution of the structure and its refinement

The attempts to solve the structure from a sharpened Patterson synthesis had failed, but success was achieved with the direct phasing method (Karle & Hauptman, 1956). The scale factor and the overall isotropic temperature factor were evaluated by Wilson's method (1942). The scale factor increased by 50% during the refinement.

Since the first trials using only four reflexions with assigned phases also failed, it was decided to increase their number to the seven with E values listed below:

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<i>h</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>E</i>	α
4	23	0	3.18	0
0	18	7	3.05	0
1	6	0	2.69	$\pi/2$
12	7	1	2.77	$\pi/2$
15	11	0	2.73	$\pm \pi/2$
4	3	5	2.50	$\pm \pi/4, \pm 3\pi/4$
8	4	0	2.49	0, π

The first three were origin-defining and had their phases fixed, but the reflexion 12,7,1 was to have different phases assigned to it for the subsequent combinations; however, this was not necessary. Of the first sixteen trials, carried out with 97 *E*'s ≥ 1.8 , with one cycle each, two were more promising. Initially they differed only in the phase assignment ($3\pi/4$ and $-3\pi/4$) for the reflexion 435. It was, therefore, possible to combine the results by assuming this phase to be π and by eliminating all the *E* values for which the phases differed appreciably.

74 *E*'s were used for the next step in the tangent formula refinement, which consisted of ten cycles with five iterations each. The number of *E*'s was increased gradually to 265 ($E \geq 1.51$). All but two of these had their phases assigned and the *R*(Karle) of 0.28 was reached. A program written by S. R. Hall, C. P. Huber and F. R. Brisse, modified by G. I. Birnbaum was used. The resultant *E* map was satisfactory; it revealed the positions of the five heavy atoms. The structure was then easily solved from ϱ_0 and $\Delta\varrho$ syntheses.

The *R* value had decreased from 0.19 to 0.084 after four cycles of the anisotropic least-squares refinement. The hydrogen atoms were located from two sets of difference maps calculated with reflexions of $\sin^2 \theta \leq 0.8$ and separated by two cycles of least squares. Five hydrogen atoms of the ether molecule did not refine well due to the large thermal motion or disorder and their parameters were, therefore, kept fixed.

Six additional cycles completed the refinement. The final average shift for the non-hydrogen atoms was one fifth of the corresponding e.s.d. values and the maximum shifts were obtained for the C(22) atom of the ether (up to 0.9 of the e.s.d.).

The atomic scattering factors were from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962), except for the hydrogen atoms, for which the values of Stewart, Davidson & Simpson (1965) were used. The refinement was carried out by the block-diagonal approximation of the least-squares method, minimizing the expression $\sum \omega(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$. Total shifts were used throughout, but for the last few cycles factors of 0.7 and 0.5 were applied.

Uniform values of mean $\omega(\Delta F)^2$ over various ranges of observed structure factors and $\sin^2 \theta$ were obtained with the weighting scheme:

$$1/\omega = 1/\{1 + [(|F_o| - P_2)/P_1]^4\}^{1/2}$$

where

$$P_1 = 35 \quad \text{and} \quad P_2 = 40.$$

In Table 1 the fractional coordinates of all the non-hydrogen atoms are presented and in Table 2 their vibrational parameters are listed. The coordinates and temperature factors of the hydrogen atoms are given in Table 3. The observed and calculated structure factors are shown in Table 4. The structure factors for the unobserved reflexions were calculated, but they were excluded from the refinement procedure. The agreement summary is given in Table 5.

Table 1. *Final fractional coordinates* ($\times 10^4$) *and their estimated standard deviations*

	<i>x/a</i>	<i>y/b</i>	<i>z/c</i>
Cl	9486 (1)	7074 (1)	3194 (3)
S(1)	3125 (2)	5019 (1)	1516 (4)
S(2)	3658 (2)	4342 (1)	217 (4)
S(3)	4461 (2)	4831 (1)	-1261 (3)
S(4)	5692 (2)	4640 (1)	-564 (2)
N(1)	4657 (4)	4828 (3)	3084 (7)
N(2)	5373 (3)	5697 (2)	1166 (6)
N(3)	5891 (4)	6766 (2)	884 (6)
O(1)	4130 (3)	6268 (2)	1161 (8)
O(2)	5865 (4)	4212 (2)	2774 (7)
O(3)	6967 (3)	5352 (2)	2924 (5)
O(4)	7299 (3)	5713 (2)	-809 (5)
O(5)	6402 (4)	7948 (2)	2364 (6)
O(6)	8106 (4)	8043 (2)	3379 (6)
O(7)	2135 (4)	8338 (2)	2869 (7)
C(1)	4092 (5)	5318 (4)	2570 (10)
C(2)	4533 (4)	5796 (3)	1505 (8)
C(3)	5917 (4)	6133 (3)	294 (7)
C(4)	5793 (4)	5095 (3)	1234 (7)
C(5)	5430 (5)	4672 (3)	2439 (8)
C(6)	6772 (4)	5256 (3)	1426 (7)
C(7)	6872 (4)	5868 (3)	528 (7)
C(8)	7307 (4)	6407 (3)	1340 (7)
C(9)	6712 (4)	6888 (3)	1460 (8)
C(10)	6977 (5)	7451 (3)	2194 (8)
C(11)	7832 (5)	7503 (3)	2675 (8)
C(12)	8412 (5)	6996 (3)	2531 (8)
C(13)	8149 (5)	6446 (3)	1870 (9)
C(14)	4327 (6)	4379 (5)	4222 (11)
C(15)	3692 (6)	5695 (5)	3863 (13)
C(16)	5467 (6)	7234 (3)	-79 (10)
C(17)	5716 (6)	7833 (4)	3448 (12)
C(18)	8308 (6)	8543 (3)	2376 (10)
C(19)	1064 (8)	8941 (7)	4115 (11)
C(20)	1863 (7)	8599 (4)	4282 (11)
C(21)	2836 (8)	7928 (5)	3106 (15)
C(22)	3059 (12)	7608 (8)	1894 (18)

Description and discussion of the structure

A projection of the structure of sporidesmin G is presented in Fig. 1. It was obtained with Johnson's (1965) *ORTEP* program and shows thermal ellipsoids, enclosing the 50% probability level.

The bond lengths and the valency angles are shown in Fig. 2. The e.s.d.'s cited in the legend and used throughout this report were derived from the least-squares calculations and they are probably underestimated.

The C=O bond lengths give the average of 1.220 Å and they are in good agreement with Sutton's (1965) value of 1.215 ± 0.005 Å. For the benzene-ring bonds

an average of 1.386 Å was obtained and for its angles 120.0°.

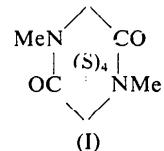
The C-H bonds range from 0.83 to 1.26 Å with e.s.d.'s from 0.05 to 0.13 Å. Their average is 1.01 Å. The average value for CCH and HCH angles is 109.9° and they range from 80.3 to 126.2°.

Fridrichsons & Mathieson (1965) reported the X-ray analysis of sporidesmin. Their results are less accurate as photographic methods were used for collecting the data; also the refinement was limited to a few cycles of least squares ($R=0.144$). Disregarding the structural differences between the thiopiperazinedione moieties, the bond lengths agreed reasonably well, apart from the C(6)-C(7) and C(7)-C(8) bonds. In sporidesmin they were 1.45 and 1.41 Å and in sporidesmin G, 1.544 and 1.515 Å respectively. The corresponding bond length in the pyrrolidine ring of gliotoxin (Fridrichsons & Mathieson, 1967) was found to be 1.52 Å.

The angles for the two compounds agree within 5° with the exception of C(8)-C(9)-C(10), which had decreased from 127.4° in sporidesmin to a more acceptable value of 118.9° in sporidesmin G. The three angles at C(7) which in sporidesmin were > 124° had also decreased considerably.

The absolute configuration of sporidesmin was determined by Beecham, Fridrichsons & Mathieson (1956) and that of sporidesmin G was, therefore, assumed to be identical.

Recently Davis & Bernal (1973) determined the structure of *N,N'*-dimethyl-3,6-epitetrathio-2,5-piperazinedione (I).



An exhaustive table of bond lengths and angles found in related compounds was presented by these authors and a similar compilation here would not be justified.

The bond lengths in epitetrathiopiperazinedione of sporidesmin G agree within the experimental error with those found by Davis & Bernal with the exception of the S(4)-C(4) bond, which is longer in sporidesmin G (1.866 and 1.891 Å). This lengthening is possibly significant, and may be due to the fusion at C(4) to the ring C.

The angles in the tetrathio-piperazinedione moiety in sporidesmin G are in agreement within 2.0° with the

Table 2. *Vibration tensor components and their e.s.d.'s* ($\text{Å}^2 \times 10^3$)

$$\text{T.F.} = \exp \{-2\pi^2(U_{11}a^{*2}h^2 + U_{22}b^{*2}k^2 + U_{33}c^{*2}l^2 + 2U_{23}b^*c^*kl + 2U_{13}a^*c^*hl + 2U_{12}a^*b^*hk)\}.$$

	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	$2U_{23}$	$2U_{13}$	$2U_{12}$
Cl	58 (1)	91 (2)	88 (2)	67 (3)	-48 (3)	-65 (2)
S(1)	54 (1)	88 (2)	137 (2)	0 (4)	-38 (3)	-31 (3)
S(2)	80 (2)	68 (1)	129 (2)	-4 (3)	-82 (3)	-40 (3)
S(3)	102 (2)	71 (1)	69 (1)	-20 (3)	-83 (3)	1 (3)
S(4)	76 (1)	49 (1)	60 (1)	-43 (2)	-15 (2)	10 (2)
N(1)	58 (4)	66 (4)	63 (4)	26 (7)	2 (7)	-35 (6)
N(2)	36 (3)	37 (3)	49 (3)	-12 (5)	-2 (5)	12 (5)
N(3)	48 (3)	32 (3)	52 (3)	6 (5)	-10 (6)	16 (5)
O(1)	44 (3)	64 (3)	125 (5)	7 (7)	-6 (7)	35 (5)
O(2)	73 (3)	54 (3)	96 (4)	56 (6)	-44 (7)	-34 (6)
O(3)	59 (3)	45 (3)	44 (3)	19 (5)	-31 (5)	-11 (5)
O(4)	70 (3)	43 (3)	48 (3)	-4 (5)	38 (5)	13 (5)
O(5)	83 (4)	38 (3)	77 (4)	-19 (6)	42 (7)	-3 (5)
O(6)	106 (4)	63 (3)	56 (3)	-10 (6)	-11 (7)	-58 (7)
O(7)	85 (4)	67 (3)	80 (4)	31 (7)	-26 (7)	33 (6)
C(1)	48 (4)	80 (5)	81 (6)	12 (10)	2 (9)	-18 (9)
C(2)	43 (4)	47 (4)	67 (5)	-23 (8)	-18 (8)	2 (7)
C(3)	53 (4)	39 (3)	26 (3)	1 (6)	-11 (6)	-3 (6)
C(4)	47 (4)	40 (3)	31 (3)	1 (6)	-10 (6)	12 (6)
C(5)	54 (4)	49 (4)	55 (5)	12 (7)	-38 (8)	-24 (7)
C(6)	39 (3)	35 (3)	45 (4)	7 (6)	15 (6)	7 (6)
C(7)	42 (4)	43 (3)	36 (4)	-14 (6)	6 (7)	12 (6)
C(8)	42 (3)	37 (3)	36 (4)	20 (6)	11 (6)	-10 (6)
C(9)	47 (4)	32 (3)	47 (4)	18 (6)	0 (7)	-3 (6)
C(10)	53 (4)	50 (4)	38 (4)	-7 (7)	21 (7)	-14 (7)
C(11)	83 (5)	52 (4)	37 (4)	1 (7)	-2 (8)	-40 (8)
C(12)	56 (4)	65 (5)	47 (4)	40 (8)	-9 (7)	-63 (8)
C(13)	50 (4)	46 (4)	58 (5)	36 (7)	20 (8)	5 (7)
C(14)	93 (7)	106 (7)	83 (6)	68 (12)	21 (13)	-68 (12)
C(15)	70 (6)	128 (8)	121 (9)	-41 (16)	118 (13)	-28 (13)
C(16)	18 (6)	51 (4)	81 (6)	2 (9)	-30 (11)	7 (9)
C(17)	83 (6)	74 (6)	108 (8)	-20 (11)	80 (13)	2 (10)
C(18)	91 (6)	47 (4)	80 (6)	2 (9)	15 (11)	-38 (9)
C(19)	118 (6)	217 (13)	56 (6)	-94 (17)	2 (13)	12 (18)
C(20)	134 (9)	90 (6)	65 (6)	33 (12)	8 (14)	-1 (13)
C(21)	141 (10)	104 (8)	142 (11)	65 (17)	-21 (19)	26 (16)
C(22)	327 (23)	271 (18)	140 (13)	-136 (28)	-111 (30)	466 (36)

Table 3. Fractional coordinates ($\times 10^3$) with e.s.d.'s and temperature factors for the hydrogen atoms

The number of the parent atom is obtained by omitting the last digit. Those marked by an asterisk are attached to the oxygen atoms. The last five atoms of the ether group were not refined.

	x/a	y/b	z/c	B (\AA^2)
H(31)*	705 (5)	511 (4)	328 (11)	10.3
H(41)*	730 (4)	598 (3)	-134 (8)	5.1
H(31)	580 (4)	618 (3)	-71 (7)	4.3
H(61)	716 (3)	498 (2)	105 (6)	1.7
H(131)	856 (4)	616 (2)	163 (6)	2.7
H(141)	446 (6)	456 (4)	536 (11)	12.7
H(142)	466 (6)	401 (4)	420 (11)	10.8
H(143)	376 (6)	441 (5)	439 (12)	12.6
H(151)	332 (6)	544 (4)	464 (10)	9.6
H(152)	306 (6)	596 (5)	321 (12)	13.6
H(153)	414 (7)	600 (4)	428 (12)	12.9
H(161)	567 (5)	719 (3)	-94 (10)	8.6
H(162)	492 (5)	711 (4)	-12 (9)	8.4
H(163)	557 (5)	757 (4)	34 (9)	7.6
H(171)	604 (5)	784 (3)	468 (9)	8.1
H(172)	546 (5)	731 (4)	323 (10)	9.8
H(173)	525 (5)	809 (3)	320 (9)	7.3
H(181)	844 (6)	886 (4)	296 (10)	9.3
H(182)	871 (8)	841 (5)	137 (16)	17.3
H(183)	781 (6)	855 (4)	156 (12)	11.3
H(191)	122 (5)	925 (4)	343 (10)	9.3
H(192)	76 (6)	879 (4)	333 (11)	10.8
H(193)	69 (6)	910 (4)	506 (10)	9.9
H(201)	169 (5)	818 (4)	498 (9)	8.5
H(202)	241 (6)	882 (4)	492 (10)	10.8
H(211)	266	758	388	9.0
H(212)	336	815	358	9.0
H(221)	244	752	163	10.0
H(222)	350	726	188	10.0
H(223)	334	793	103	10.0

corresponding values in (I) with a few exceptions. The angles S(1)-C(1)-C(2) and S(4)-C(4)-C(5) are both smaller (104.6 and 105.9°) in sporidesmin G than in (I) (108.6°). On the other hand the angles C(1)-N(1)-C(5) and C(2)-N(2)-C(4) are $\sim 11^\circ$ larger in sporidesmin G. One more angle was found to differ appreciably, C(5)-N(1)-C(14). It is 115.3° in sporidesmin G and 119.0° in (I).

In Table 6 the torsional angles of the ring C, D and the sulphur bridge are listed. The convention of IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biological Nomenclature (1970) was used. The e.s.d.'s (Huber, 1961) are 0.6° for the ring C bonds, 0.9° for the ring D and 0.3° for the bonds with one or two sulphur atoms. The dihedral angles for *N,N'*-dimethyl-3,6-epitetrathio-2,5-piperazinedione (Davis & Bernal, 1973) are also presented in Table 6. These values are of the opposite sign, as they were calculated for the enantiomeric configuration. They agree within 16° with the corresponding values for sporidesmin G.

In dithio compounds such as sporidesmin and gliotoxin (Fridrichsons & Mathieson, 1967) small dihedral angles $< 20^\circ$ for the S-S bonds were obtained. However, in tetrathio derivatives, sporidesmin G and (I), the strain was expected to be relieved by a large increase in the torsional angles (Hordvik, 1966; Boyd, 1972). Values of 67 to 107° were observed.

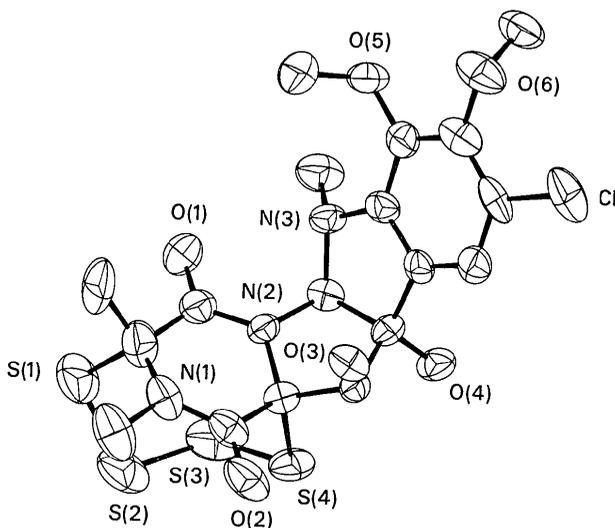


Fig. 1. Projection of the molecule of sporidesmin G showing thermal ellipsoids.

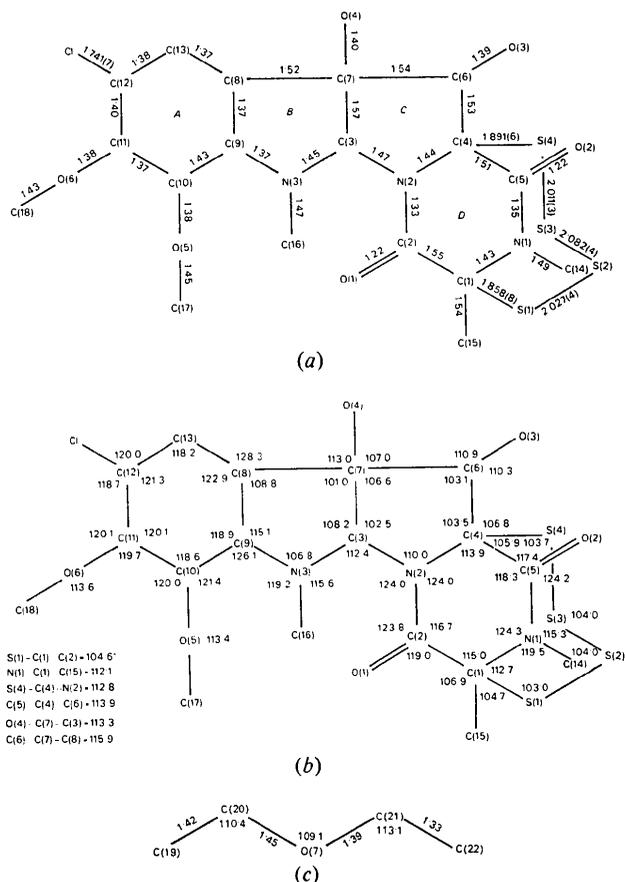


Fig. 2. (a) Bond lengths of sporidesmin G. The e.s.d.'s vary from 0.008 to 0.011 Å with the exception of those given in brackets. The e.s.d. for the C(1)-C(15) bond is 0.014 . (b) Valency angles. Their e.s.d.'s vary between 0.4 and 0.7° giving the average value of 0.6° . (c) The molecule of diethyl ether; e.s.d.'s for the central bonds are 0.01 and for the outer 0.02 Å. E.s.d.'s for the angles are 1.0° .

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors ($\times 10$)

Unobserved reflexions are marked with an asterisk.

Table with columns for h, k, l and F_o, F_c values. The table contains multiple rows of data for different reflections, with some values marked with an asterisk to indicate unobserved reflexions.

Table 5. *Agreement summary*2152 observed reflexions, $|F_o \text{ max}| = 182.4$.

Limits	Number
$ \Delta F / F_o \leq 2R$, or $ \Delta F \leq 1 F_{th} $	2146
$2R < \Delta F / F_o \leq 3R$, or $1 F_{th} < \Delta F \leq 2 F_{th} $	5
$3R < \Delta F / F_o \leq 4R$, or $2 F_{th} < \Delta F \leq 3 F_{th} $	1

667 unobserved reflexions, $|F_c \text{ max}| = 11.1$.

Limits	Number
$ F_c \leq 1.0 F_{th} $	596
$1.0 F_{th} < F_c \leq 1.5 F_{th} $	70
$1.5 F_{th} < F_c \leq 2.0 F_{th} $	1

 $|F_{th}| = \text{threshold amplitude} = 3.6 \text{ to } 7.7$.Final $R = 0.057$, omitting the unobserved reflexions.Table 6. *Torsional angles*

Ring C of sporidesmin G.

N(2)–C(3)–C(7)–C(6)	4.9°
C(3)–C(7)–C(6)–C(4)	17.1
C(7)–C(6)–C(4)–N(2)	–33.4
C(6)–C(4)–N(2)–C(3)	39.5
C(4)–N(2)–C(3)–C(7)	–27.6

Ring D and the sulphur bridge

	Sporidesmin G	<i>N,N'</i> -Dimethyl-3,6-epitetrathio-2,5-piperazinedione
C(1)–C(2)–N(2)–C(4)	24.0°	–8.7°
C(4)–C(5)–N(1)–C(1)	9.2	–8.7
C(2)–N(2)–C(4)–C(5)	–31.9	25.6
C(5)–N(1)–C(1)–C(2)	–17.4	25.6
N(2)–C(4)–C(5)–N(1)	14.2	–16.8
N(1)–C(1)–C(2)–N(2)	1.1	–16.8
C(2)–C(1)–S(1)–S(2)	83.1	–87.3
S(3)–S(4)–C(4)–C(5)	86.4	–87.3
C(1)–S(1)–S(2)–S(3)	–67.4	68.6
S(2)–S(3)–S(4)–C(4)	–71.7	68.6
S(1)–S(2)–S(3)–S(4)	107.1	–105.3
N(1)–C(1)–S(1)–S(2)	–42.5	42.8
S(3)–S(4)–C(4)–N(2)	–38.8	42.8

The results of the examination of the planarity of the different portions of sporidesmin G are presented in Table 7. The benzene ring *A* shows some distortion from planarity, the atoms C(10) and C(11) being at ~ 0.02 Å and on the opposite sides of the plane calculated for the six atoms. It was found, however, to be much more planar than the ring *A* in sporidesmin and the deviations of Cl, O(5) and O(6) are also considerably smaller.

Both five-membered rings are envelope-shaped, but only the four atoms of the ring *B* can be considered as planar. The distance of C(3) from the plane of the remaining atoms in the ring *B* is 0.03 Å, but the deviation of C(4) from the plane of the ring *C* is 0.54 Å. The ring *B*, is, therefore, considerably flattened. In sporidesmin the distances of the C(3) atom in the ring *B* and of the C(6) atom in the ring *C* were 0.3 Å from the planes calculated for the other four atoms.

The C(17) and C(18) atoms in sporidesmin G are in *trans* conformation, but in sporidesmin they are *cis* with respect to each other.

There is an appreciable difference in the conformations of the two carbonyl groups (see Table 7). One is planar (plane 4) and the other (plane 5) shows significant deviations from planarity. The two peptide portions of the ring *D* are not planar and this is reflected in the values of the torsional angles for the C(5)–N(1) and C(2)–N(2) bonds, which are 9.2 and 24.0° respectively (Table 6).

The diketopiperazine ring approaches the twist boat conformation with the largest torsional angle being 32°. A plane for five atoms was calculated (plane 6 in Table 7) and it was found that the atom C(4) is situated at a distance of 0.21 Å from that plane and on the same side as the sulphur chain, whereas the nitrogen atoms are at ~ 0.15 Å below that plane. The X-ray analyses of a number of related compounds revealed that the strain due to the substitution influences the conformation of the diketopiperazine ring. Cyclo-D-Ala-L-Ala was found to be nearly planar (Sletten, 1970), cyclo-L-Pro-L-Leu (Karle, 1972), gliotoxin and sporidesmin have boat conformations, whereas twist boat conformations were observed in LL-S88 α (Cosulich, Nelson & Van den Hende, 1968) and in cyclo-L-Ala-L-Ala (Sletten, 1970).

The tetrathio-piperazinedione moiety of sporidesmin G projected perpendicularly to the N(1)–C(5) and N(2)–C(2) bonds is shown in Fig. 3. The S(4)–C(4) bond is more tilted upwards than the corresponding C(1)–S(1) bond. It seems that the proximity of the hydroxyl group, O(4), causes this displacement of the S(4) atom, as the distance S(4)···O(4) is 3.35 Å.

The reaction of sporidesmin to form sporidesmin G and the biosynthesis of sporidesmin G by *P. chartarum* proceed stereospecifically with respect to sulphur. The sulphur atoms in tetrathio compounds are oriented towards the nitrogen atoms of the piperazinedione ring and the S···N intramolecular distances, listed in Table 8, are appreciably shorter than the sum of van der Waals radii (3.35 Å). The bond lengths in 2,5-piperazinedione (Degeilh & Marsh, 1959) and in that ring in sporidesmin G are normal for the amide group (Corey & Pauling, 1953). The considerable shortening of the C–N bonds (1.33 and 1.35 Å) in amide groups in sporidesmin G indicates partial double-bond character and hence the nitrogen atoms must have an increment of positive charge. The sulphur atoms are therefore more attracted by the nitrogen atoms than by the carbon atoms of the carbonyl groups. Hence we suggest that the unique stereochemistry between sulphur and nitrogen atoms found in the tetrathio compounds is a consequence of this electrostatic attraction.

In support of this explanation is the fact that the bond between the central donor S atoms of the thio bridge is appreciably lengthened (2.082 Å). In this connexion it is also interesting that LaLonde, Wong & Das (1973) observed a strong band at 290–300 nm in β -thiohemiaminals. The authors attributed it to the intramolecular interaction between the sulphur and the immonium ion. An absorption band was also observed

in that region of the ultra violet in sporidesmin G (Francis *et al.*, 1972).

The distance O(2)···O(3) in sporidesmin was 2.82 Å indicating an intramolecular hydrogen bond. In sporidesmin G this distance increased to 2.958 (8) Å.

Two hydrogen bonds hold the molecules together, one between the molecules of sporidesmin G and the other between those of sporidesmin G and diethyl ether. The first one O(3)–H···O(4) is shown in Fig. 4. Reproduced through the operation of the twofold screw axis, it gives rise to a hydrogen bond with a third

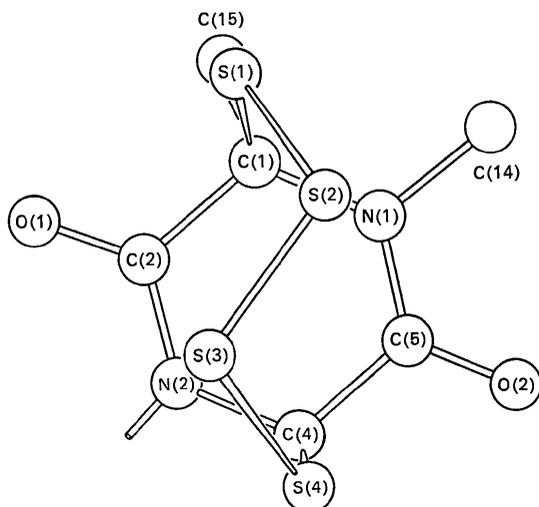


Fig. 3. The tetrathiopiperazinedione moiety.

Table 8. Short intramolecular distances between the sulphur atoms and atoms of the piperazinedione ring

S(1)···O(1)	3.089 (6) Å
S(4)···O(2)	3.145 (6)
S(2)···N(1)	3.162 (7)
S(3)···N(2)	3.175 (6)
S(2)···C(1)	3.041 (9)
S(3)···C(4)	3.068 (7)
S(2)···C(5)	3.420 (8)
S(3)···C(2)	3.229 (8)

molecule above and thus to a hydrogen-bonded spiral of sporidesmin G molecules, parallel to the *c* axis. The other hydrogen bond, O(4)–H···O(7), is drawn in Fig. 5.

The pertinent data are:

	O···O	H···O
O(3)–H(31)···O(4)	2.78 Å	2.18 Å
O(4)–H(41)···O(7)	2.76	2.02
O–H	< C–O–H	< O–H···O
0.62 Å	115.1°	164.1°
0.74	112.3	171.9

Fig. 5 also shows that excluding the sulphur bridge atoms, the skeleton of sporidesmin G is roughly V shaped. The planes of the two halves of the molecule meet at the C(3)–C(7) bond with the dihedral angle of 60°.

All the intermolecular contacts are normal. Only three approaches were found to be slightly shorter than

Table 7. Least-squares planes

Plane 1 (ring A)	Plane 2 (ring B)	Plane 3 (ring C)	Plane 4 (carbonyl group)	Plane 5 (carbonyl group)	Plane 6 (ring D)
Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
C(8) 0.003 Å	N(3) –0.004	N(2) –0.013	O(2) –0.001	N(2) –0.008	O(1) –0.006
C(9) 0.011	C(7) 0.004	C(3) 0.030	N(1) –0.001	O(1) –0.011	O(2) –0.003
C(10) –0.022	C(8) –0.009	C(6) 0.019	C(4) –0.001	C(1) –0.016	C(1) 0.000
C(11) 0.018	C(9) 0.010	C(7) –0.029	C(5) 0.004	C(2) 0.043	C(2) 0.010
C(12) 0.001	C(3)* –0.031	C(4)* 0.540			C(5) 0.004
C(13) –0.012					N(1)* –0.177
Cl* 0.015					N(2)* –0.122
N(3)* 0.008					C(3)* –0.264
O(5)* –0.032					C(4)* 0.214
O(6)* –0.004					C(14)* –0.332
C(7)* 0.039					
r.m.s.d. = 0.014	r.m.s.d. = 0.008	r.m.s.d. = 0.025	r.m.s.d. = 0.002	r.m.s.d. = 0.024	r.m.s.d. = 0.006
$\chi^2 = 22.9$	$\chi^2 = 5.6$	$\chi^2 = 65.0$	$\chi^2 = 0.5$	$\chi^2 = 44.9$	$\chi^2 = 3.8$

Equations of the planes are:

	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>m</i>
1	0.2948	0.3594	–0.8854	7.1178
2	0.2983	0.3728	–0.8787	7.3607
3	–0.1308	–0.5362	–0.8339	–8.4517
4	–0.4887	–0.5337	–0.6902	–10.8661
5	–0.3160	–0.4935	–0.8103	–9.4217
6	–0.3740	–0.4851	–0.7905	–9.6562

where $aX + bY + cZ = m$; *X*, *Y* and *Z* are coordinates in Å.

* Atoms excluded from the calculation of the plane.

the sum of the corresponding van der Waals radii, but these deviations are not significant, as their e.s.d.'s are ~ 0.12 Å. These close contacts are: S...H, 2.93 Å; O...H, 2.46 Å and H...H, 2.36 Å.

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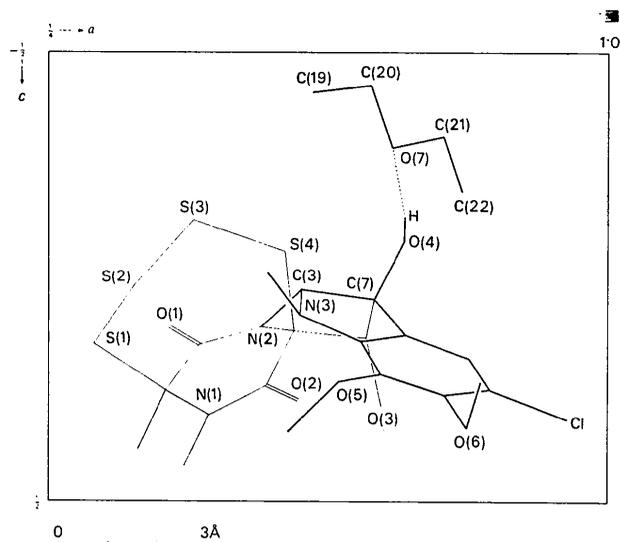


Fig. 5. View of the hydrogen bond between the molecule of sporidesmin G and diethyl ether along the b axis.

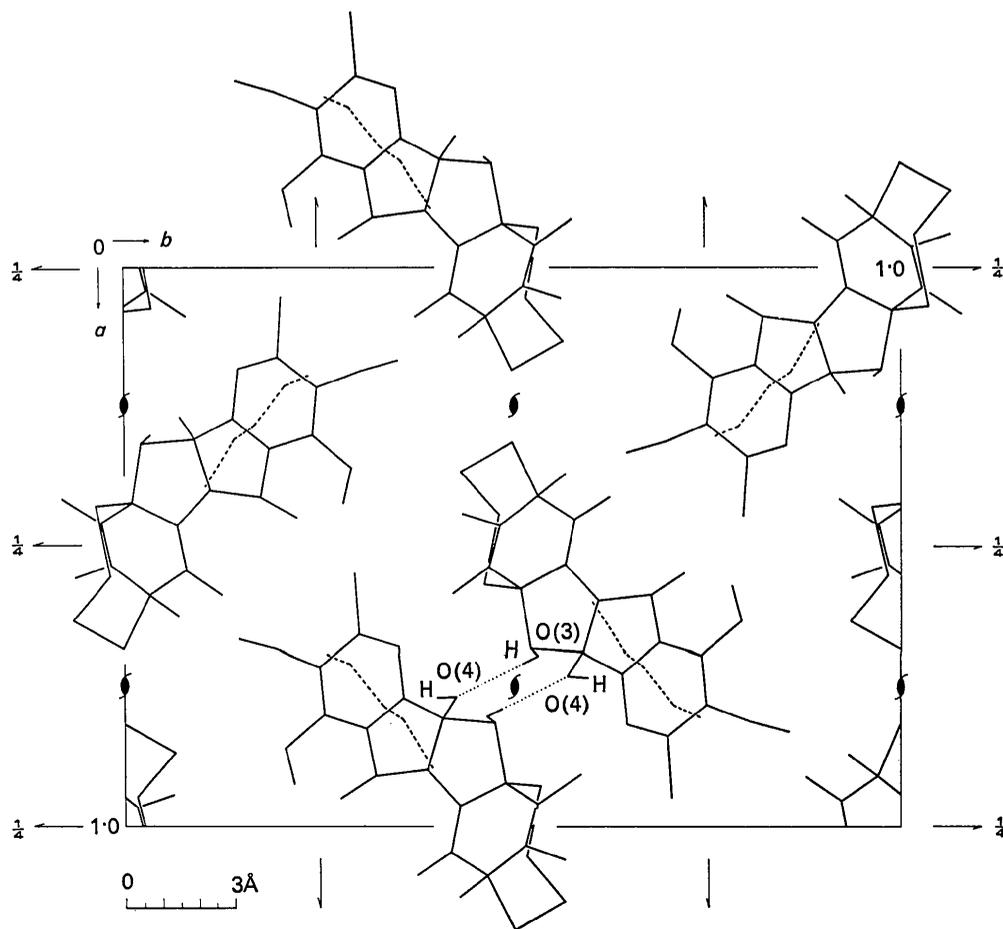


Fig. 4. Packing of the molecules projected down the c axis. The ether molecule is drawn with broken lines and hydrogen bonds with dotted lines.

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Identification d'un Nouvel Hydrate du Nitrate de Calcium $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \beta$

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$\beta\text{-Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, monoclinic, $C2/c$, $a=7.79$ (1), $b=6.88$ (1), $c=12.22$ (1) Å, $\beta=90.0$ (3)°, $Z=4$, $D_x=2.03$ g cm⁻³. The material was crystallized from a supersaturated aqueous solution. The structure consists of layers parallel to the ab plane, held together by hydrogen bonds. The Ca coordination is 10.

Introduction

De nombreuses études du diagramme de solubilité du nitrate de calcium dans l'eau mettent en évidence un dihydrate du nitrate de calcium (Lescoeur, 1890; Basset & Taylor, 1912; Ewing, Krey, Law & Lang, 1927; Sieverts & Petzold, 1933). Dans le cadre d'une étude de diverses propriétés des hydrates du nitrate de calcium (Leclaire & Monier, 1970) nous avons isolé, en plus du dihydrate décrit dans la littérature, une nouvelle forme à $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ du nitrate de calcium que nous appelons la forme β .

Ce composé a été obtenu en laissant cristalliser une solution sursaturée de nitrate de calcium dans l'eau à une température comprise entre 47° et 49°. Au bout d'un mois environ, apparaissent des cristaux transparents qui ressemblent à des plaquettes hexagonales. Ces cristaux sont délimités par: le pinacoïde $\{001\}$ dont les grandes dimensions conduisent au faciès en plaquettes, et les prismes $\{101\}$, $\{110\}$, $\{111\}$ et $\{11\bar{1}\}$.

Habituellement, seules les trois premières formes se manifestent et ce n'est que sur les très gros cristaux que les deux dernières apparaissent.

Sa formule chimique a été déterminée par le dosage volumétrique du calcium à l'EDTA. Les cristaux sont instables et blanchissent rapidement hors de leur solution de telle sorte que les clichés de diffraction des rayons X par un monocristal scellé dans un tube en verre de Lindemann ne présentent plus que des anneaux de Debye-Scherrer après 24 h d'enregistrement. Le produit issu de la transformation a la même formule pondérale que le dihydrate; nous pouvons en conclure que la variété β se transforme de façon irréversible en un dihydrate plus stable.

Le spectre de diffraction des rayons X présente les extinctions systématiques, $h+k=2n+1$ dans hkl , $h=2n+1$ et $l=2n+1$ dans $h0l$, compatibles avec les groupes spatiaux Cc et $C2/c$.

Détermination de la structure

En raison des difficultés d'obtention des cristaux et de la rapidité avec laquelle ils se décomposent, nous avons

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