

(CuBr.2MAN)<sub>2</sub>, ensemble répété en chaîne infinie par la translation *c*.

A ces caractéristiques originales s'ajoutent cependant des aspects classiques: coordinence quatre pour les atomes de cuivre, trois pour les atomes de brome, et la molécule de méthylacrylonitrile présente peu de déformation.

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## Structural Studies of Metalloporphyrins. V.\* Characterization and Structure of Methoxy- $\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta$ - tetraphenylporphinato(pyridine)cobalt(III) Methanol Solvate

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The title compound, C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>5</sub>Co.3CH<sub>3</sub>OH, was prepared accidentally and has been characterized by a three-dimensional X-ray structure determination. The complex crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *P2<sub>1</sub>/n*, with *a* = 18.593 (17), *b* = 16.537 (33), *c* = 14.748 (11) Å,  $\beta$  = 94.25 (5)° and *Z* = 4. The structure has been refined by least-squares methods using rigid groups for the four phenyl units. The final *R* value was 0.092 with 1448 observed intensities. The Co–N(pyridine) and Co–O bond lengths are 1.99 and 1.92 Å. The Co–O–CH<sub>3</sub> bond angle is 121°. The porphyrin plane is significantly ruffled and has  $\bar{4}$  overall symmetry. The Co atom is in the mean plane of the porphyrin.

### Introduction

Oxygen insertion in the Co–C bond of alkyl cobalt complexes has been achieved with alkyl cobaloximes (Fontaine, Duong, Merienne, Gaudemer & Giannotti, 1972) and more recently with the alkyl cobalt

porphyrins *R*-CoTPP, where TPP =  $\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta$ -tetraphenylporphinato (Perrée-Fauvet, Gaudemer, Boucly & Devynck, 1976). In the former case, the structure of the insertion product was unambiguously proven by an X-ray diffraction study (Chiaroni & Pascard, 1973). In order to establish the structure of the alkyl peroxy complexes in the porphyrin series, photochemical O insertion was carried out on CH<sub>3</sub>–CH<sub>2</sub>–CoTPP; the

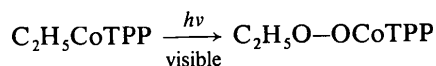
\* Part IV: Gouédard, Riche & Gaudemer (1977).

corresponding alkyl peroxy cobalt porphyrin,  $\text{CH}_3\text{—CH}_2\text{—O—O—CoTPP}$ , was recrystallized from methanol. NMR spectroscopy of the crystals revealed that during recrystallization the expected peroxy complex had decomposed into a new complex having a methoxy group and a pyridine molecule as axial ligands. We now report the X-ray structure of this complex.

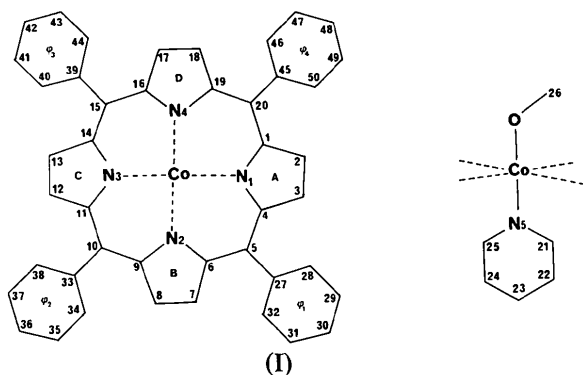
### Experimental

#### Preparation

Ethyl(tetraphenylporphinato)cobalt(III) has been prepared by the alkylation of tetraphenylporphinato-cobalt(I). Photolysis of a chloroform-pyridine solution of this compound, in the presence of molecular oxygen, yields a new complex for which the structure  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O—OCo}^{\text{III}}\text{TPP}$  has been assumed (Perrée-Fauvet *et al.*, 1976).



Recrystallization of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O—OTPP}$  from methanol causes decomposition to give (I), methoxytetraphenylporphinato(pyridine)cobalt(III).



#### Crystal data

Methoxy- $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ -tetraphenylporphinato(pyridine)-cobalt(III) methanol solvate,  $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_5\text{OCo} \cdot 3\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ,  $M_r = 786$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/n$ ,  $a = 18.593$  (17),  $b = 16.537$  (33),  $c = 14.748$  (11) Å,  $\beta = 94.25$  (5)°,  $Z = 4$ . Unit-cell parameters and their estimated standard deviations were determined by least-squares calculations minimizing the differences between observed and calculated  $\theta$  values for 52 reflections ( $\lambda = 0.7107$  Å).

#### Intensity data

Violet prismatic crystals, grown from methanol, decayed in air to a powder within a few minutes, probably owing to a loss of solvent of crystallization.

Crystals sealed in a thin-walled capillary with a drop of mother liquor stayed in good condition during the data collection. Data were collected with a crystal of approximate dimensions  $0.4 \times 0.2 \times 0.6$  mm on a Philips PW 1100 diffractometer, using Mo  $K\alpha$  graphite-monochromated radiation, a scanning speed of  $0.05^\circ \text{ s}^{-1}$  and a scanning range of  $3^\circ$ . The background was counted for a time which allowed optimization of counting statistics.

The intensities of the three standard reflections displayed no observable trend; random variations were in the range  $\pm 3\%$ . Of the 6440 reflections scanned only those 1448 unique reflections with  $I > 2.5\sigma(I)$  were used in the subsequent structure determination and refinement.

Since the data set was of poor quality additional crystals were selected but were obviously of lower quality because of excessive crystal decomposition.

### Structure determination and refinement

The Co atom was located from a three-dimensional Patterson map. A series of Fourier and difference-Fourier maps revealed the positions of all non-hydrogen atoms in the porphyrin as well as those of the pyridine and methoxy groups linked to the Co atom. In addition, two molecules of methanol were found in the asymmetric unit. One of the four phenyl groups ( $\phi_4$ ) appeared to have high thermal motion or to be slightly disordered. The structure was refined by the least-squares method using the computer program *ORION* (André, Fourme & Renaud, 1971). The four phenyl rings were treated as rigid groups in which the methine C of the porphyrin was included ( $\text{C—C} = 1.40$  Å and  $\text{C}_m\text{—C} = 1.51$  Å). Thermal parameters were anisotropic for the Co atom and isotropic for the light atoms. Three cycles of refinement of all group and non-group atoms led to a value of the conventional residual  $R$  of 0.12. A difference map calculated at this stage revealed the presence of a third methanol solvent molecule, hydrogen bonded to the second. The two atoms of this molecule were introduced in the refinement with fixed  $B$  values. In addition, the  $B$  values for the atoms belonging to a rigid group were fixed at their approximate mean values. The final  $R$  factors were  $R = 0.10$  and  $R_w = 0.092$ . The scattering factors were those of Doyle & Turner (1968).

Fractional coordinates and thermal parameters are listed in Table 1. Bond lengths and bond angles are given in Tables 2 and 3.\*

\* A list of observed and calculated structure factors has been deposited with the British Library Lending Division as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 33381 (11 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England.

Table 1. Fractional coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and thermal parameters

|       | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> | <i>B</i> (Å <sup>2</sup> ) |       | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> | <i>B</i> (Å <sup>2</sup> ) |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| Co    | 4007     | 8399     | 1950     | *                          | C(27) | 3387     | 6239     | -256     | 5.0                        |
| N(1)  | 3097     | 7960     | 1374     | 2.5                        | C(28) | 3353     | 6496     | -1161    | 5.0                        |
| N(2)  | 4511     | 7466     | 1495     | 3.1                        | C(29) | 3181     | 5944     | -1864    | 5.0                        |
| N(3)  | 4924     | 8814     | 2502     | 2.9                        | C(30) | 3045     | 5135     | -1661    | 5.0                        |
| N(4)  | 3516     | 9349     | 2403     | 2.9                        | C(31) | 3080     | 4878     | -756     | 5.0                        |
| N(5)  | 4164     | 8988     | 804      | 3.7                        | C(32) | 3251     | 5431     | -53      | 5.0                        |
| C(1)  | 2412     | 8236     | 1458     | 3.4                        | C(33) | 6455     | 7300     | 2492     | 5.0                        |
| C(2)  | 1824     | 7747     | 1015     | 3.2                        | C(34) | 6982     | 7383     | 1870     | 5.0                        |
| C(3)  | 2221     | 7208     | 504      | 3.1                        | C(35) | 7669     | 7050     | 2063     | 5.0                        |
| C(4)  | 3003     | 7293     | 743      | 1.9                        | C(36) | 7828     | 6634     | 2878     | 5.0                        |
| C(5)  | 3572     | 6835     | 502      | 2.6                        | C(37) | 7301     | 6552     | 3501     | 5.0                        |
| C(6)  | 4280     | 6891     | 858      | 2.6                        | C(38) | 6615     | 6885     | 3307     | 5.0                        |
| C(7)  | 4809     | 6331     | 654      | 5.0                        | C(39) | 4748     | 10977    | 3473     | 5.0                        |
| C(8)  | 5448     | 6489     | 1268     | 4.6                        | C(40) | 5036     | 11611    | 2987     | 5.0                        |
| C(9)  | 5211     | 7217     | 1750     | 2.8                        | C(41) | 5238     | 12334    | 3430     | 5.0                        |
| C(10) | 5715     | 7659     | 2283     | 2.0                        | C(42) | 5151     | 12424    | 4358     | 5.0                        |
| C(11) | 5572     | 8400     | 2660     | 3.2                        | C(43) | 4863     | 11790    | 4844     | 5.0                        |
| C(12) | 6098     | 8925     | 3166     | 3.0                        | C(44) | 4661     | 11067    | 4401     | 5.0                        |
| C(13) | 5813     | 9655     | 3283     | 2.7                        | C(45) | 1472     | 9147     | 2118     | 7.0                        |
| C(14) | 5062     | 9565     | 2943     | 3.0                        | C(46) | 1065     | 9508     | 1392     | 7.0                        |
| C(15) | 4530     | 10198    | 2996     | 2.7                        | C(47) | 352      | 9744     | 1493     | 7.0                        |
| C(16) | 3813     | 10076    | 2756     | 3.0                        | C(48) | 46       | 9619     | 2320     | 7.0                        |
| C(17) | 3253     | 10632    | 2931     | 4.0                        | C(49) | 454      | 9258     | 3045     | 7.0                        |
| C(18) | 2589     | 10290    | 2738     | 4.3                        | C(50) | 1166     | 9022     | 2944     | 7.0                        |
| C(19) | 2744     | 9469     | 2355     | 4.5                        | O(1)  | 3000     | 8345     | 4223     | 9.1                        |
| C(20) | 2241     | 8893     | 2009     | 4.7                        | Me(1) | 3324     | 8962     | 4751     | 8.9                        |
| C(21) | 4702     | 8800     | 360      | 5.1                        | O(2)  | 2244     | 7093     | 4672     | 14.3                       |
| C(22) | 4784     | 9101     | -529     | 10.2                       | Me(2) | 1584     | 7038     | 4044     | 16.1                       |
| C(23) | 4229     | 9729     | -882     | 8.5                        | O(3)  | 2921     | 5778     | 5177     | 18.0                       |
| C(24) | 3519     | 9921     | -437     | 8.7                        | Me(3) | 3669     | 5603     | 5376     | 18.0                       |
| C(25) | 3643     | 9479     | 411      | 6.1                        |       |          |          |          |                            |
| O     | 3857     | 7851     | 3066     | 3.7                        |       |          |          |          |                            |
| C(26) | 3884     | 6998     | 3116     | 4.7                        |       |          |          |          |                            |

Mean e.s.d.'s

|      | <i>x</i> | <i>y</i> | <i>z</i> |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Co   | 0.0005   | 0.0005   | 0.0005   |
| N, O | 0.0020   | 0.0025   | 0.0030   |
| C    | 0.0030   | 0.0035   | 0.0040   |

$$* T = \exp(-0.0020h^2 - 0.0022k^2 - 0.0037l^2 + 0.0006hk - 0.0004hl + 0.0003kl).$$

## Results and discussion

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the molecule with phenyl groups omitted for clarity and shows the hydrogen-bonding scheme of the three methanol molecules.

In contrast to the Co<sup>III</sup> porphyrin complexes with two identical axial ligands, [bis(piperidine)tetraphenylporphinatocobalt(III)]<sup>+</sup> {(pip)<sub>2</sub>CoTPP}<sup>+</sup>, Scheidt, Cunningham & Hoard, 1973}, [bis(imidazole)tetraphenylporphinatocobalt(III)]<sup>+</sup> {(imid)<sub>2</sub>CoTPP}<sup>+</sup>, Lauher & Ibers, 1974}, and [bis(1-phenylethylamine)-tetraphenylporphinatocobalt(III)]<sup>+</sup> {(PEA)<sub>2</sub>CoTPP}<sup>+</sup>, Riche, Chiaroni, Gouédard & Gaudemer, 1977}, the porphyrinato core in the present structure [as in chlorotetraphenylporphinato(pyridine)(III) (Cl-CoTPP.Pyr, Sakurai, Yamamoto, Seino & Katsuta, 1975)]

is considerably ruffled. The four pyrrole rings are planar. The least-squares planes are listed in Table 4 with the dihedral angles between them. Adjacent pyrrole rings are tilted by 17° (mean value) with respect to each other and by 12° (mean) with respect to the porphyrin mean plane. The ruffling, with overall symmetry  $\bar{4}$  (Fig. 2), is a necessary consequence of steric interactions between the pyridine H atoms and the porphyrin atoms. Collins, Countryman & Hoard (1972), in their analysis of the structure of [(imid)<sub>2</sub>-FeTPP]<sup>+</sup>, have defined an angle  $\phi$  as the dihedral angle between the imidazole plane and a plane passing through an idealized Co-N axial bond and one of the porphyrin N atoms (see Fig. 2). Steric interactions between the H atoms of the imidazole and atoms of the porphyrin ring are at a maximum for  $\phi = 0$  or  $\phi = 90^\circ$

Table 2. *Bond distances* (Å)

Mean e.s.d. = 0.07 Å. The average values of equivalent distances assuming  $D_{4h}$  symmetry are given, together with the calculated e.s.d.'s in parentheses.

|             |          |             |          |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| N(1)—C(1)   | 1.37     | C(2)—C(3)   | 1.41     |
| N(1)—C(4)   | 1.45     | C(7)—C(8)   | 1.46     |
| N(2)—C(6)   | 1.38     | C(12)—C(13) | 1.33     |
| N(2)—C(9)   | 1.39     | C(17)—C(18) | 1.37     |
| N(3)—C(11)  | 1.39     | Average     | 1.39 (5) |
| N(3)—C(14)  | 1.42     |             |          |
| N(4)—C(16)  | 1.41     | Co—N(1)     | 1.97     |
| N(4)—C(19)  | 1.44     | Co—N(2)     | 1.95     |
| Average     | 1.41 (3) | Co—N(3)     | 1.96     |
|             |          | Co—N(4)     | 1.96     |
|             |          | Average     | 1.96 (1) |
| C(1)—C(2)   | 1.47     | Co—N(5)     | 1.99     |
| C(3)—C(4)   | 1.48     | Co—O        | 1.92     |
| C(6)—C(7)   | 1.40     | O—C(26)     | 1.41     |
| C(8)—C(9)   | 1.48     | N(5)—C(21)  | 1.27     |
| C(11)—C(12) | 1.47     | N(5)—C(25)  | 1.36     |
| C(13)—C(14) | 1.45     | C(21)—C(22) | 1.42     |
| C(16)—C(17) | 1.43     | C(22)—C(23) | 1.53     |
| C(18)—C(19) | 1.51     | C(23)—C(24) | 1.54     |
| Average     | 1.46 (3) | C(24)—C(25) | 1.45     |
|             |          | O(1)—Me(1)  | 1.39     |
| C(4)—C(5)   | 1.37     | O(2)—Me(2)  | 1.49     |
| C(5)—C(6)   | 1.38     | O(3)—Me(3)  | 1.43     |
| C(9)—C(10)  | 1.39     |             |          |
| C(10)—C(11) | 1.38     |             |          |
| C(14)—C(15) | 1.45     |             |          |
| C(15)—C(16) | 1.37     |             |          |
| C(19)—C(20) | 1.40     |             |          |
| C(20)—C(1)  | 1.41     |             |          |
| Average     | 1.39 (2) |             |          |

and a minimum for  $\varphi = 45^\circ$ . Moreover, it has been shown (Lauher & Ibers, 1974) that shorter axial bond lengths are observed in the ions  $[(\text{imid})_2\text{FeTPP}]^+$  and  $[(\text{imid})_2\text{CoTPP}]^+$  if  $\varphi$  is near  $45^\circ$ . Steric interactions should be more severe in pyridine than in imidazole\*

\* The H atoms would be 0.4 Å nearer the porphinato core if the Co—N(pyridine) bond length were equal to Co—N(imidazole).

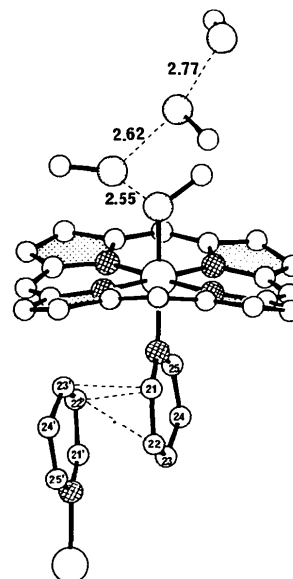


Fig. 1. Perspective view of the molecule with phenyl groups omitted for clarity.

Table 3. *Bond angles* ( $^\circ$ )

Mean e.s.d. =  $4^\circ$ . The average values of the equivalent angles assuming  $D_{4h}$  symmetry are given. Calculated e.s.d.'s are in parentheses.

|                   |         |                   |         |                   |     |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-----|
| C(1)—N(1)—C(4)    | 104     | C(4)—C(5)—C(6)    | 127     | N(1)—Co—N(2)      | 89  |
| C(6)—N(2)—C(9)    | 103     | C(9)—C(10)—C(11)  | 124     | N(2)—Co—N(3)      | 90  |
| C(11)—N(3)—C(14)  | 103     | C(14)—C(15)—C(16) | 122     | N(3)—Co—N(4)      | 89  |
| C(16)—N(4)—C(19)  | 105     | C(19)—C(20)—C(1)  | 124     | N(4)—Co—N(1)      | 92  |
| Average           | 104 (1) | Average           | 124 (2) | N(1)—Co—N(5)      | 89  |
|                   |         |                   |         | N(2)—Co—N(5)      | 89  |
| N(1)—C(1)—C(2)    | 116     | N(1)—C(4)—C(5)    | 122     | N(3)—Co—N(5)      | 90  |
| N(1)—C(4)—C(3)    | 107     | C(5)—C(6)—N(2)    | 123     | N(4)—Co—N(5)      | 90  |
| N(2)—C(6)—C(7)    | 114     | N(2)—C(9)—C(10)   | 125     | N(1)—Co—O         | 91  |
| N(2)—C(9)—C(8)    | 115     | C(10)—C(11)—N(3)  | 124     | N(2)—Co—O         | 91  |
| N(3)—C(11)—C(12)  | 109     | N(3)—C(14)—C(15)  | 124     | N(3)—Co—O         | 89  |
| N(3)—C(14)—C(13)  | 113     | C(15)—C(16)—N(4)  | 125     | N(4)—Co—O         | 89  |
| N(4)—C(16)—C(17)  | 110     | N(4)—C(19)—C(20)  | 124     | Co—N(5)—C(21)     | 119 |
| N(4)—C(19)—C(18)  | 109     | C(20)—C(1)—N(1)   | 124     | Co—N(5)—C(25)     | 121 |
| Average           | 112 (3) | Average           | 124 (1) | N(5)—C(21)—C(22)  | 122 |
|                   |         |                   |         | C(21)—C(22)—C(23) | 116 |
| C(1)—C(2)—C(3)    | 101     | C(3)—C(4)—C(5)    | 131     | C(22)—C(23)—C(24) | 125 |
| C(4)—C(3)—C(2)    | 111     | C(5)—C(6)—C(7)    | 123     | C(23)—C(24)—C(25) | 100 |
| C(6)—C(7)—C(8)    | 107     | C(8)—C(9)—C(10)   | 119     | C(25)—N(5)—C(21)  | 119 |
| C(9)—C(8)—C(7)    | 101     | C(10)—C(11)—C(12) | 126     | Co—O—C(26)        | 121 |
| C(11)—C(12)—C(13) | 110     | C(13)—C(14)—C(15) | 123     |                   |     |
| C(14)—C(13)—C(12) | 104     | C(15)—C(16)—C(17) | 125     |                   |     |
| C(16)—C(17)—C(18) | 111     | C(18)—C(19)—C(20) | 127     |                   |     |
| C(19)—C(18)—C(17) | 105     | C(20)—C(1)—C(2)   | 119     |                   |     |
| Average           | 106 (4) | Average           | 124 (4) |                   |     |

Table 4. *Least-squares planes through atomic positions*

## Definition of the planes

*P*: porphyrin plane including 20 C atoms and four N atoms. Corresponding deviations are listed in Fig. 2.

*A, B, C, D*: individual pyrrole mean planes which comprise the five atoms composing the pyrrole.

*Pyr*: pyridine mean plane including six atoms.

## Plane equations

|                  |                                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Plane <i>P</i>   | $0.2243x + 0.4930y - 0.8406z - 6.0693 = 0$  |
| Plane <i>A</i>   | $0.0925x + 0.5920y - 0.7054z - 8.9483 = 0$  |
| Plane <i>B</i>   | $0.3897x + 0.5920y - 0.7054z - 8.9483 = 0$  |
| Plane <i>C</i>   | $0.3484x + 0.3418y - 0.8728z - 4.8387 = 0$  |
| Plane <i>D</i>   | $0.0768x + 0.3713y - 0.9253z - 2.9616 = 0$  |
| Plane <i>Pyr</i> | $0.4644x + 0.7768y - 0.4252z + 15.5719 = 0$ |

## Deviations (Å)

|                  |                                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plane <i>A</i>   | C(1) 0.05; C(2) -0.05; C(3) 0.04; C(4) -0.01;<br>N(1) -0.02                |
| Plane <i>B</i>   | C(6) -0.03; C(7) 0.03; C(8) -0.02; C(9) 0.00;<br>N(2) 0.01                 |
| Plane <i>C</i>   | C(11) 0.00; C(12) -0.03; C(13) 0.04; C(14) -0.04;<br>N(3) 0.02             |
| Plane <i>D</i>   | C(16) -0.01; C(17) 0.02; C(18) -0.02; C(19) 0.02;<br>N(4) -0.01            |
| Plane <i>Pyr</i> | N(5) -0.03; C(21) 0.00; C(22) 0.05; C(23) -0.07;<br>C(24) 0.03; C(25) 0.01 |

## Dihedral angles (°)

|            |    |            |    |            |    |
|------------|----|------------|----|------------|----|
| <i>A/P</i> | 11 | <i>A/B</i> | 18 | <i>A/C</i> | 23 |
| <i>B/P</i> | 13 | <i>B/C</i> | 17 | <i>B/D</i> | 25 |
| <i>C/P</i> | 11 | <i>C/D</i> | 16 |            |    |
| <i>D/P</i> | 12 | <i>D/A</i> | 17 |            |    |

but they are relieved by a lengthening of the axial Co—N bond with respect to the imidazole [Co—N(pyridine) = 1.99; Co—N(imidazole) = 1.93 Å] and by the ruffling of the porphyrin ring. As shown in Fig. 2, this ruffling is easily correlated with the pyridine position. In the present structure, CH<sub>3</sub>O—CoTPP.Pyr,  $\phi$  is 32° and we calculate a  $\phi$  value of 42° for the structurally related Cl—CoTPP.Pyr (Sakurai *et al.*, 1975).

The axial covalent Co—O bond length is 1.92 (4) Å. This bond length may be compared with the Co—O distance of 1.909 (3) Å found for the axial ligand in the complex (cumyl peroxide)(pyridine)cobaloxime (Giannotti, Fontaine, Chiaroni & Riche, 1976). The short interactions between the C of the methoxy group and the porphyrin atoms [C(26)···N(2) 2.84, C(26)···C(6) 3.47, C(26)···N(1) 3.27, C(26)···C(4) 3.78 Å] result in a distortion of the Co—O—CH<sub>3</sub> bond angle (121°) from tetrahedral. Such a distortion has been previously observed in the structures of bis(dimethylamine)etio(I)porphyratorhodium(III) chloride dihydrate (117°, Hanson, Gouterman & Hanson, 1973), and [bis(1-phenylethylamine)TPPCO<sup>III</sup>]<sup>+</sup> (123°, Riche, Chiaroni, Gouédard & Gaudemer, 1977).

The dihedral angles between the mean planes of the porphyrato core and the four phenyl groups are  $\phi_1 =$

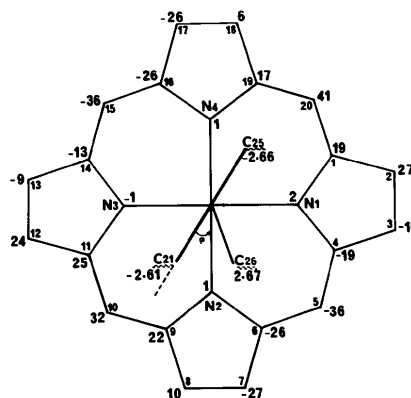


Fig. 2. Diagram illustrating the ruffling of the porphyrato core. Perpendicular distances of the atoms from the mean plane are in units of 0.01 Å.

81,  $\phi_2 = 84$ ,  $\phi_3 = 81$  and  $\phi_4 = 76^\circ$ . The pyridine group is slightly tilted by 6° with respect to the Co—N(5) bond, the Co atom being 0.20 Å out of the mean plane of the pyridine. This can be ascribed to intermolecular packing forces. As shown in Fig. 1, the stacking of the pyridine groups with respect to a centre of symmetry gives rise to short distances: C(21)···C'(23) 3.20, C(21)···C'(22) 3.60, C(22)···C'(23) 3.30, and C(22)···C'(23) 3.42 Å.

The three methanol molecules of crystallization form a hydrogen-bonded chain attached to the O atom of the methoxy group (Fig. 1). The tailed methanol molecule, only linked at one point, is highly agitated. The crystal decomposition is probably due to a loss of this molecule.

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