# Structure of $\alpha, \gamma$-Bidentate Tetraammine(dihydrogentriphosphato)cobalt(III) Monohydrate 

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Abstract. $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, monoclinic, $P 2_{1} / n, a=7.234(1), b=14 \cdot 106(1), c=$ 12.113 (1) $\AA, \beta=92.909(5)^{\circ}, V=1234.5$ (4) $\AA^{3}$, $Z=4, D_{c}=2.152 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3} ; R=0.046$ for 2369 independent reflections with $F_{o}>3 \sigma\left(F_{o}\right)$. This coordination isomer contains an eight-membered chelate ring in a boat conformation stabilized by two interligand hydrogen bonds from the axial ammines above and below the chelate ring to the $\beta$ and $\gamma$ phosphates. The $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ dentation angle of 94.6 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$ and $\mathrm{O}(1) \cdots \mathrm{O}(10)$ bite of $2.831(4) \AA$ are essentially the same as in the previously reported $\beta, \gamma$-bidentate isomer of the compound which contains a six-membered chelate ring.

Introduction. The coordination geometries of polyphosphate chains complexed with substitution-inert metal ions serve as models for the metal-phosphate moieties of biologically important complexes. We have previously reported the chirality, conformation, and biological relevance of the $\beta, \gamma$-bidentate coordination isomer of $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (Merritt, Sundaralingam, Cornelius \& Cleland, 1978; Merritt \& Sundaralingam, 1980), which is a fragment of the enzymatically active substrate $\beta$, $\gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4} \mathrm{ATP}\right]$. We have also reported the structure of an $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$-tridentate complex $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right.$ ] (Merritt \& Sundaralingam, 1977). The $\beta, \gamma$-bidentate complex contains a six-membered chelate ring. The present isomeric $a, \gamma$-bidentate complex contains an eight-membered chelate ring instead, and is formed in small amounts in the same reaction solution used to prepare the $\beta, \gamma$-bidentate complex (Cornelius, Hart \& Cleland, 1977). A communication on the initial characterization of the $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate complex by ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR and X-ray crystallography has been presented elsewhere (Merritt, Sundaralingam \& Cornelius, 1980). Although no enzymes are currently known to use metal-nucleotide substrates with $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate coordination, it is interesting to compare the structural details of such alternate coordination modes.

The crystal data are given in the Abstract. The equivalent $P 2_{1} / c$ setting has $c=13 \cdot 790$ (1) $\AA$ and $\beta=$ $118.686(5)^{\circ}$. Intensity data for a crystal measuring $0.05 \times 0.10 \times 0.20 \mathrm{~mm}$ were collected using Ni -filtered Cu radiation on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer. 2608 unique reflections were measured using a $\theta-2 \theta$ scan in bisecting geometry. A correction for crystal decay based on three standard reflections measured after every two hours of X-ray exposure, an empirical absorption correction based on the Eulerian angle $\varphi$, and a Lorentz-polarization correction were all applied during data reduction.

The direct-methods program MULTAN (Main, Woolfson, Lessinger, Germain \& Declercq, 1974) produced a unique phase assignment for the 437 reflections with largest $E$ values based on a set of three origin-defining reflections ( $375,3,8,12,221$ ) and a phase of $360^{\circ}$ for the $0,16,0$ reflection from $\sum_{1}$ relationships. The 19 non-hydrogen atoms of the structure appeared among the top 21 peaks of the $E$ map. These 19 atoms were refined by block-diagonal least squares with anisotropic thermal parameters to an agreement index $R=0.060$. At this point the 16 H atoms were found from a difference Fourier synthesis. Full-matrix least-squares refinement including positional and isotropic thermal parameters for the H atoms yielded a final value of $R=0.046$. Maximum shift/error for a non-hydrogen parameter during the final cycle of refinement was $0 \cdot 27$. The 2369 reflections for which $F_{o}>3 \sigma\left(F_{o}\right)$ were given weight $w=\left[\sigma\left(F_{o}\right)^{2}+\right.$ $\left.\left(0.03 F_{o}\right)^{2}\right]^{-1}$. The $R$ values given above include only these reflections. The final $R$ value including the 239 zero-weighted reflections with $F_{o}<3 \sigma\left(F_{o}\right)$ was 0.052 . Atomic scattering factors were taken from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1974).*

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Discussion. Fractional atomic coordinates for the $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ complex (Fig. 1) are given in Table 1. Bond distances, bond angles and torsion angles are given in Fig. 2 and Table 2. Hydrogen-bonding parameters are given in Table 3.
The principal feature of interest in this compound is the eight-membered chelate ring formed by the $a, \gamma$ coordination of the triphosphate chain to the Co atom. The ring is in a boat conformation (Figs. 1 and 3), with atoms $P(1)-O(4)-P(2)-O(7)$ essentially coplanar. The Cremer \& Pople (1975) parameters describing the $\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}$ (10) ring conformation are $Q_{2}=1.423$ (2) $\AA, \varphi_{2}=38.9$ (1) ${ }^{\circ}$, $Q_{3}=0.122$ (3) $\AA, \varphi_{3}=246(1)^{\circ}$, and $Q_{4}=0.124$ (4) $\AA$. The observed conformation is additionally stabilized by the two interligand hydrogen bonds from the axial ammines to $\beta$ and $\gamma$ phosphate oxygens: $\mathrm{N}(2) \cdots \mathrm{O}(6)$ $=3.008(4)$ and $\mathrm{N}(4) \cdots \mathrm{O}(8)=3.289(4) \AA$. The $\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}$ distances for these two ammine groups are

Table 1. Positional and isotropic thermal parameters for $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$

For non-hydrogen atoms $B_{\text {eq }}=\frac{4}{3} \sum_{i} \sum_{j} \beta_{i j}\left(\mathbf{a}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{j}\right)$.

|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $\begin{aligned} & B_{\mathrm{eq}} / B \\ & \left(\AA^{2}\right) \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Co | 0.25637 (8) | 0.60117 (3) | 0.78525 (4) | 1.40 |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 0.3821 (1) | 0.6734 (1) | 1.0382 (1) | 1.66 |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)$ | $0 \cdot 1561$ (1) | 0.8397 (1) | 0.9748 (1) | 1.77 |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)$ | -0.1036 (1) | 0.7052 (1) | 0.8716 (1) | 1.56 |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $0 \cdot 3197$ (4) | 0.6146 (2) | 0.9414 (2) | $2 \cdot 60$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 0.2619 (4) | 0.6458 (2) | 1.1346 (2) | 2.57 |
| $\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 0.5848 (4) | 0.6690 (2) | 1.0695 (2) | 2.66 |
| $\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $0 \cdot 3416$ (4) | 0.7823 (2) | 1.0123 (2) | 2.59 |
| $\mathrm{O}(5)$ | $0 \cdot 1133$ (5) | 0.9048 (2) | 1.0661 (3) | 3.31 |
| O (6) | $0 \cdot 1784$ (4) | 0.8764 (2) | 0.8618 (2) | $2 \cdot 80$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(7)$ | 0.0011 (4) | 0.7579 (2) | 0.9740 (2) | $2 \cdot 13$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(8)$ | -0.1933 (4) | 0.6197 (2) | 0.9287 (2) | 2.42 |
| $\mathrm{O}(9)$ | -0.2456 (4) | 0.7727 (2) | 0.8223 (2) | 2.34 |
| $\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 0.0293 (3) | 0.6713 (2) | 0.7902 (2) | 2.08 |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 0.1926 (5) | 0.5827 (2) | 0.6309 (3) | 2.27 |
| N (2) | 0.3765 (4) | 0.7201 (2) | 0.7471 (3) | $2 \cdot 15$ |
| N(3) | 0.4819 (4) | 0.5309 (2) | 0.7712 (3) | $2 \cdot 30$ |
| N(4) | 0.1264 (5) | 0.4858 (2) | 0.8242 (3) | 2.56 |
| $\mathrm{O}(W)$ | $0 \cdot 1291$ (5) | 0.5457 (2) | 0.3753 (3) | 3.88 |
| $\mathrm{H}(1 / \mathrm{A})$ | $0 \cdot 117$ (6) | 0.630 (3) | 0.608 (4) | $2 \cdot 6$ (10) |
| $\mathrm{H}(18)$ | $0 \cdot 104$ (8) | 0.525 (4) | 0.617 (5) | $5 \cdot 3$ (15) |
| $\mathrm{H}(1 \mathrm{C})$ | 0.277 (12) | 0.574 (6) | 0.607 (7) | 11.6 (24) |
| $\mathrm{H}(2 A)$ | $0 \cdot 382$ (7) | 0.739 (4) | 0.678 (5) | $5 \cdot 0$ (14) |
| H(2B) | 0.482 (6) | 0.740 (3) | 0.776 (3) | $2 \cdot 2$ (9) |
| $\mathrm{H}(2 C)$ | 0.297 (8) | 0.769 (4) | 0.760 (5) | $5 \cdot 8$ (15) |
| $\mathrm{H}(3 A)$ | $0 \cdot 540$ (7) | 0.532 (4) | 0.826 (5) | $5 \cdot 2$ (14) |
| $\mathrm{H}(3 \mathrm{~B})$ | 0.558 (7) | 0.552 (4) | 0.726 (5) | 4.5 (13) |
| H(3C) | 0.439 (7) | 0.475 (4) | 0.745 (5) | $4 \cdot 2$ (12) |
| $\mathrm{H}(4 A)$ | $0 \cdot 210$ (9) | 0.436 (5) | 0.829 (6) | 7.6 (18) |
| $\mathrm{H}(4 \mathrm{~B})$ | 0.069 (13) | 0.469 (6) | 0.796 (9) | 14.2 (30) |
| $\mathrm{H}(4 \mathrm{C})$ | 0.075 (8) | 0.500 (4) | 0.885 (5) | $6 \cdot 0$ (16) |
| $\mathrm{H}(W 1)$ | 0.209 (6) | 0.512 (3) | 0.388 (4) | $2 \cdot 6$ (10) |
| $\mathrm{H}(W 2)$ | $0 \cdot 191$ (9) | 0.597 (4) | 0.345 (5) | $6 \cdot 6$ (16) |
| $\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{O} 2)$ | 0.288 (9) | 0.685 (5) | 1.205 (5) | $6 \cdot 0$ (16) |
| H(O8) | -0.250 (7) | 0.646 (3) | 0.974 (4) | $3 \cdot 2$ (12) |

Table 2. Some bond and torsion angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ in $\alpha, \gamma-$ bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$

The mean estimated standard deviations in bond and torsion angles are 0.2 and $0.3^{\circ}$ respectively.

| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 88.5 | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(2)$ | 107.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | $90 \cdot 4$ | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 115.5 |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | 91.6 | $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | 109.7 |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 177.8 | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(3)$ | 112.4 |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 86.4 | $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | 106.7 |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 91.8 | $\mathrm{O}(3)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | $105 \cdot 0$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | 177.4 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 93.5 | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(5)$ | 107.7 |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 87.5 | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(6)$ | 107.9 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | 90.7 | $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ | 102.2 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 88.7 | $\mathrm{O}(5)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(6)$ | 120.7 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 176.7 | $\mathrm{O}(5)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ | $106 \cdot 1$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | 86.5 | $\mathrm{O}(6)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ | 110.7 |
| $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 89.9 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 94.6 | $\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(8)$ | 102.0 |
|  |  | $\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(9)$ | 107.5 |
| $\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ | 22.0 | $\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 111.4 |
| $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 55.8 | $\mathrm{O}(8)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(9)$ | 112.2 |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ | 2.9 | $\mathrm{O}(8)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | $110 \cdot 2$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(4)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | $-105.7$ | $\mathrm{O}(9)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | $113 \cdot 1$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)$ | 48.7 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O}(7)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)-\mathrm{Co}$ | 49.4 |  |  |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(10)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)$ | $-17.1$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O}(10)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $-71.3$ |  |  |

Table 3. Hydrogen bonding in $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$

| Donor-H $\cdots$ Acceptor | Symmetry code* | D $\cdots$ A | $\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{A}<\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{H} \cdots$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{H}(1 B) \cdots \mathrm{O}(W)$ | 13,00111 | 2.947 A | 1.97 A | 15 |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{H}(1 \mathrm{C}) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ | $12,001-1 \mid$ | 3.186 | 2.53 | 158 |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{H}(2 B) \cdots \mathrm{O}(9)$ | $\begin{array}{lllll}1, & 1 & 0 & 0]\end{array}$ | 2.933 | 2.07 | 169 |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{H}(2 \mathrm{C}) \cdots \mathrm{O}(6)$ | [1, 00000 | 3.008 | $2 \cdot 16$ | 154 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{H}(3 A) \cdots \mathrm{O}(8)$ | $\begin{array}{lllll}1, & 1 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | 3.205 | 2.56 | 143 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{H}(3 B) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ | 12, 0 1-1] | 2.853 | 2.09 | 149 |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{H}(3 \mathrm{C}) \cdots \mathrm{O}(6)$ | 14. $0-111$ | 2.916 | 2.05 | 160 |
| $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{H}(4 A) \cdots \mathrm{O}(3)$ | 13,11812 | 3.243 | 2.39 | 153 |
| $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{H}(4 B) \cdots \mathrm{O}(W)$ | $13,00111]$ | 3.000 | 2.47 | 155 |
| $\mathrm{N}(4)-\mathrm{H}(4 \mathrm{C}) \cdots \mathrm{O}(8)$ | [1, 00000$]$ | 3.289 | 2.65 | 132 |
| $\mathrm{O}(W)-\mathrm{H}(W A) \cdots \mathrm{O}(5)$ | [4, $0-111]$ | 2.791 | 2.04 | 169 |
| $\mathrm{O}(W)-\mathrm{H}(W B) \ldots \mathrm{O}(9)$ | [2. $0001-1]$ | 2.803 | 1.92 | 157 |
| $\mathrm{O}(2)-\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{O} 2) \cdots \mathrm{O}(9)$ | $[2,00100$ | 2.551 | 1.57 | 158 |
| $\mathrm{O}(8)-\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{O} 8) \cdots \mathrm{O}(3)$ | $[1,-1000$ | 2.499 | 1.74 | 161 |
| Mean e.s.d. |  | 0.004 | 0.06 | 6 |

* The acceptor-atom symmetry code is given as the $x, y$ and $z$ translation preceded by the symmetry operation, as follows: (1) $x, y, z$; (2) $0.5+x,-y, 0.5+z ;(3)-x,-y,-z$; (4) $0.5-x, y .0 .5-z$.
significantly longer than those for $\mathrm{N}(1)$ and $\mathrm{N}(3)$, which lie in the same plane as the ligated oxygens.

The four non-ring O atoms from the $a$ and $\gamma$ phosphates are involved in strong hydrogen-bonding interactions with neighboring molecules: $\mathrm{O}(2) \cdots \mathrm{O}(9)$ $=2.551$ (4) and $\mathrm{O}(8) \cdots \mathrm{O}(3)=2.499$ (4) $\AA$. These are the only two direct interactions between phosphate groups; all others are mediated by ammine or water molecules. Similar short phosphate-phosphate interac-


Fig. 1. An ORTEP (Johnson, 1965) plot of the $a, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right]$ complex with thermal ellipsoids drawn at the $50 \%$ probability level. The eight-membered chelate-ring conformation is stabilized by two interligand hydrogen bonds, one above and the other below the ring.


Fig. 2. Bond distances $(\AA)$ and bond angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ for $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right]$. Additional bond angles about the Co and $P$ atoms are given in Table 2, as are the chelate-ring torsion angles.


Fig. 3. Packing diagram of $\alpha, \gamma$-bidentate $\left[\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{4}-\right.$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{P}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{10}\right)\right] . \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, with hydrogen bonds shown as dotted lines.
tions are also seen in the previously reported polyphosphato-cobaltammine complexes (Merritt \& Sundaralingam, 1980). The two ammine hydrogens $\mathrm{H}(1 A)$ and $\mathrm{H}(2 A)$ do not appear to be involved in hydrogen bonding.

The conformation of this eight-membered ring complex may be compared with that of the $\beta, \gamma-$ bidentate isomer containing a six-membered ring. The dentation angle in the two isomers is essentially the
same [94.6(2) vs $\left.93.7(2)^{\circ}\right]$, as is the bite $[\mathrm{O}(1) \cdots \mathrm{O}(10)=2.831(4)$ vs $\mathrm{O}(5) \cdots \mathrm{O}(10)=$ 2.818 (8) $\AA$ in the $\beta, \gamma$ isomer]. The conformation of the fragment $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ in the eightmembered ring is very close to that of the fragment $\mathrm{O}(5)-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}(10)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{O}(7)$ in the six-membered ring; the torsion angles about the bonds bridging the central atom $\mathrm{O}(10)$ in the two complexes are -17.1 (3) and $49.4(3)^{\circ}$ vs $-18.2(6)$ and $45.4(6)^{\circ}$ respectively. In both rings this allows a potential hydrogen bond from the axial ammine to $\mathrm{O}(8)$, albeit a rather long one in the $\alpha, \gamma$ isomer [ 3.289 (4) vs 3.003 (10) $\AA$ ]. The similarity in the dentation values is possible because of the flexibility of the phosphate chain. In the $\alpha, \gamma$ complex the phosphate chain doubles back on itself, yielding a $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{P}$ angle of $86.0(1)^{\circ}$ as opposed to $116.1(1)^{\circ}$ in the $\beta, \gamma$ complex. The bridging $\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{P}$ angles in the $\alpha, \gamma$ complex have widened to $140 \cdot 1$ (2) and 150.9 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$ from the $\beta, \gamma$-complex values of 128.9 (4) and 129.8 (3) ${ }^{\circ}$. In both complexes the $\beta$-phosphate diester $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{O}$ angle is near $102^{\circ}$, which is typical of phosphodiester bond angles.

The disparity in $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{O}$ bond lengths in the $\alpha, \gamma$ complex about the bridging oxygen atom $\mathrm{O}(4)$, $0.021 \AA=7 \sigma$, is typical of polyphosphate chains (Merritt \& Sundaralingam, 1980); the $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{O}$ bond lengths about the other bridging oxygen $\mathrm{O}(7)$ are atypically symmetric. The $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{O}$ bond lengths involving the chelated oxygens $O(1)$ and $O(10)$ are in the same range as those of the exocyclic anionic $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds.
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[^0]:    * Lists of structure factors and anisotropic thermal parameters have been deposited with the British Library Lending Division as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 35730 ( 10 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

