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Structures of Photochromic Spiroindolinobenzoxazines and a Spiroindolinobenzopyran

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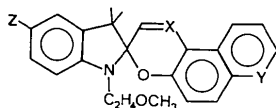
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Abstract. The crystal structures of two photochromic spirooxazines and a related spiropyran have been determined by X-ray crystallographic techniques. Crystal data are: 1-(2-methoxyethyl)-3,3,5-trimethylspiro[indoline-2,2'-[2H]-naphtho[2,1-b][1,4]oxazine] (1), $C_{25}H_{26}N_2O_2$, $M_r = 386.5$, orthorhombic, $P2_12_12_1$, $a = 10.913$ (3), $b = 18.603$ (4), $c = 10.231$ (3) Å, $V = 2077$ Å³, $Z = 4$, D_m (floatation) = 1.25, $D_x = 1.236$ g cm⁻³, $Cu K\alpha$, $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å, $\mu = 5.85$ cm⁻¹, $F(000) = 824$, $T = 296$ K, $R = 0.064$ for 2040 reflections with $|F| \geq \sigma(|F|)$; 1-(2-methoxyethyl)-3,3-dimethylspiro[indoline-2,2'-[2H]-pyrido[3,2-f][1,4]-benzoxazine] (2), $C_{23}H_{23}N_3O_2$, $M_r = 373.5$, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, $a = 22.029$ (2), $b = 10.885$ (1), $c = 17.549$ (1) Å, $\beta = 96.27$ (1)°, $V = 4182.8$ Å³, $Z = 8$, D_m (floatation) = 1.26, $D_x = 1.186$ g cm⁻³, $Cu K\alpha$, $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å, $\mu = 5.80$ cm⁻¹, $F(000) = 1584$, $T = 296$ K, $R = 0.065$ for 7001 reflections with $|F| \geq \sigma(|F|)$; 1-(2-methoxyethyl)-3,3,5-trimethylspiro[indoline-2,2'-[2H]-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran] (3), $C_{26}H_{27}NO_2$, $M_r = 385.5$, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, $a = 19.271$ (1), $b = 6.764$ (1), $c = 16.302$ (3) Å, $\beta = 96.27$ (1)°, $V = 2112.2$ Å³, $Z = 4$, D_m (floatation) = 1.18, $D_x = 1.213$ g cm⁻³, $Cu K\alpha$, $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å, $\mu = 5.60$ cm⁻¹, $F(000) = 824$, $T = 296$ K, $R = 0.072$ for 4035 reflections with $|F| \geq \sigma(|F|)$. The distances of the $C_{\text{spiro}}-O$ bond which cleaves on photoreaction

are similar in the three compounds but the $C_{\text{spiro}}-N$ bond distance in the spiropyran is longer than those in the spirooxazines. The spiropyran also has the strongest intramolecular short contacts compared with spirooxazines. These structural differences suggest that an unstable photoproduct is the reason why the spiropyran shows photochromism only at low temperatures.

Introduction. While photochromic spiroindolinobenzopyrans have been extensively studied (Tyler & Becker, 1970*a,b*; Aldoshin, Atovmyan, D'yachenko & Gal'bershtam, 1981; Aldoshin & Atovmyan, 1984, 1987; Aldoshin, Atovmyan & Kozina, 1986, 1987*a,b*) only a few spectral and structural studies (Chu, 1983; Clegg, Norman, Lasch & Kwak, 1987; Clegg, Norman, Flood, Sallans, Kwak, Kwiatkowski & Lasch, 1991) have been reported for spiroindolinobenzoxazines. Spirooxazines are useful compounds because they show greater durability than spiropyrans on repeated photochromic reactions. Structural information seems to be important for understanding the photochromic properties and mechanisms of the photocoloration. The present paper describes the crystal structures of spiroindolinobenzoxazines, (1) and (2), and a related spiroindolinobenzopyran (3). (1) and (3) have similar

chemical structures except that (3) has a =CH— group in place of =N— in (1), which makes (3) a spiropyran compound (see below). However, they show considerably different behaviour for photochromism. (1) and (2) show photocoloration at room temperature in solution upon UV irradiation. (3), on the other hand, shows photocoloration only when it is cooled down to 253 K. The structural features, such as the C_{spiro}—O bond distance, intramolecular short contacts and ring planarity, which are related to the difference in photochromic behaviour, will be discussed.



- (1) X = N, Y = CH, Z = CH₃
 (2) X = N, Y = N, Z = H
 (3) X = CH, Y = CH, Z = CH₃

Table 1. *Experimental details*

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Crystal dimensions (mm)	0.3 × 0.3 × 0.1	0.7 × 0.5 × 0.2	0.4 × 0.3 × 0.2
No. and range of reflections for lattice-parameter refinement	12 36 < 2θ < 46°	21 40 < 2θ < 52°	12 40 < 2θ < 60°
Diffractometer		Enraf-Nonius CAD-4	
Scan mode	ω-0.3θ	ω-1.3θ	ω-0.3θ
(sin θ/λ) _{max} (Å ⁻¹)	0.625	0.625	0.625
No. of standard reflections		3 after every 1.5 h	
Empirical absorption correction (max. and min. correction factor)	Not applied	Applied (0.9998, 0.809)	Not applied
h	0→13	-27→27	0→24
k	0→23	0→13	0→8
l	0→12	0→21	-20→20
No. of unique reflections measured	2470	8371	4192
No. of reflections used (F _o ≥ σ(F _o))	2040	7001	4035
Structure determination	SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1986)	MULTAN78 (Main <i>et al.</i> , 1978) SHELX76 (Sheldrick, 1976)	
Refinement			
Residual density (e Å ⁻³)	0.2	0.2	0.3
(Δ/σ) _{max}	0.08	0.14	0.06
Function minimized		w(F _o - F _c) ²	
Weight	0.731/[σ ² (F) - 0.002F ²]	[σ ² (F) - 0.013F ²] ⁻¹	[σ ² (F) - 0.013F ²] ⁻¹
R, wR	0.064, 0.072	0.065, 0.088	0.072, 0.103
S	1.170	0.836	0.587

* Residual factors R and wR for 3668 reflections with |F_o| ≥ 3σ(|F_o|) were 0.066 and 0.086, respectively.

Experimental. The synthesis of (1), (2) and (3) will be described elsewhere (S. Maeda, private communication). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by recrystallization from a methanol solution. Experimental details are summarized in Table 1. The structure of (2) contains two crystallographically independent molecules, which will be named (2A) and (2B) hereafter. Scattering factors were those embedded in SHELX76.

Discussion. The final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms are given in Tables 2, 3 and 4.* Selected bond distances and angles are summarized in Table 5.

The distances of the C_{spiro}—O bond, which cleaves upon photoexcitation, show no significant differences in these three compounds [(1) 1.463 (5), (2A) 1.458 (3), (2B) 1.462 (3), (3) 1.464 (2) Å] and are longer than the values found in oxygen-containing heterocycles (1.41–1.43 Å) (*Molecular Structures and Dimensions*, 1972) but are shorter than those in the 6'-nitroindolinospirobenzopyrans (1.471–1.500 Å) (Aldoshin, Atovmyan, D'yachenko & Gal'bershtam, 1981; Aldoshin & Atovmyan, 1984, 1987; Aldoshin, Atovmyan & Kozina, 1986, 1987a,b). The C_{spiro}—N bond distances, however, show notable differences. The spirooxazine molecules, (1), (2A) and (2B), have similar distances [(1) 1.425 (6), (2A) 1.434 (3), (2B) 1.427 (2) Å] while in (3) the bond distance is 1.459 (2) Å. The longer

Table 2. *Final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms of (1) (Å² × 10⁴)*

$$B_{eq} = (4/3) \sum_i \sum_j \beta_{ij} \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j$$

	x	y	z	B _{eq}
C1	10084 (5)	500 (3)	-1020 (5)	5.8
C2	9151 (5)	169 (3)	-1685 (5)	6.0
C3	7935 (5)	268 (3)	-1303 (5)	6.0
C4	7639 (4)	695 (2)	-251 (4)	5.4
C5	8576 (4)	1036 (2)	465 (4)	4.6
C6	9814 (4)	956 (2)	57 (4)	4.8
C7	10743 (4)	1324 (3)	754 (4)	5.3
C8	10478 (4)	1755 (3)	1796 (5)	5.2
C9	9253 (4)	1827 (3)	2211 (4)	4.9
C10	8317 (4)	1479 (2)	1576 (4)	4.8
N11	7080 (3)	1595 (2)	1943 (4)	5.6
C12	6896 (4)	1954 (3)	2965 (4)	5.7
C13	7841 (4)	2260 (3)	3886 (4)	5.2
O14	9037 (3)	2274 (2)	3242 (3)	5.2
N15	7562 (3)	2983 (2)	4239 (3)	5.1
C16	8000 (4)	3113 (2)	5511 (4)	4.9
C17	8257 (4)	2480 (2)	6123 (4)	4.7
C18	7970 (4)	1865 (2)	5221 (4)	4.9
C19	8128 (4)	3768 (2)	6149 (4)	5.3
C20	8521 (4)	3753 (3)	7440 (5)	5.5
C21	8769 (4)	3110 (3)	8076 (4)	5.0
C22	8648 (4)	2470 (3)	7410 (4)	5.0
C23	7426 (4)	3549 (3)	3275 (4)	5.5
C24	8608 (4)	3905 (3)	2871 (5)	6.0
O25	8299 (3)	4491 (2)	2049 (4)	7.4
C26	9355 (6)	4885 (3)	1676 (7)	8.0
C27	6726 (5)	1539 (3)	5644 (6)	6.4
C28	8935 (5)	1269 (3)	5208 (5)	6.0
C29	9207 (5)	3115 (3)	9513 (4)	6.7

C_{spiro}—N bond distance seems to be unfavourable for photocoloration, because in the stable photo-product the C—N bond must have double-bond character due to the resonance of the quinoid form and, consequently, the bond length becomes shorter.

The molecules (1), (2A), (2B) and (3) are very crowded around the spiro-carbon atoms. The intramolecular short contacts are given in Table 6. There are a number of short contacts around the oxygen

* Lists of structure factors, anisotropic thermal parameters and H-atom parameters have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 54101 (60 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

Table 3. Final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms of (2) ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^4$)
$$B_{\text{eq}} = (4/3) \sum_i \sum_j \beta_{ij} \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j$$

	x	y	z	B_{eq}
N1A	7190 (1)	-925 (2)	5342 (1)	5.2
C2A	7402 (1)	5 (3)	5027 (2)	5.5
C3A	7283 (1)	1241 (3)	5138 (2)	5.1
C4A	6910 (1)	1539 (2)	5592 (1)	4.3
C5A	6668 (1)	579 (2)	5940 (1)	3.7
C6A	6828 (1)	-647 (2)	5809 (1)	4.1
C7A	6602 (1)	-1621 (2)	6168 (2)	4.7
C8A	6241 (1)	-1403 (2)	6645 (1)	4.3
C9A	6074 (1)	-192 (2)	6763 (1)	3.5
C10A	6274 (1)	785 (2)	6417 (1)	3.5
N11A	6128 (1)	2003 (2)	6563 (1)	4.3
C12A	5746 (1)	2146 (2)	6949 (1)	4.5
C13A	5410 (1)	1148 (2)	7255 (1)	3.9
O14A	5725 (1)	-32 (1)	7259 (1)	4.0
N15A	5459 (1)	1407 (2)	8076 (1)	4.2
C16A	4909 (1)	966 (2)	8202 (1)	4.1
C17A	4424 (1)	713 (2)	7462 (1)	4.1
C18A	4661 (1)	1017 (2)	6777 (1)	4.1
C19A	4799 (1)	820 (3)	8928 (2)	5.5
C20A	4191 (2)	432 (3)	8893 (2)	6.2
C21A	3711 (1)	193 (3)	8163 (2)	6.1
C22A	3815 (1)	326 (2)	7433 (2)	5.2
C23A	6078 (1)	1553 (2)	8732 (2)	4.8
C24A	6432 (1)	373 (2)	9082 (2)	5.1
O25A	6912 (1)	660 (2)	9829 (1)	7.0
C26A	7338 (2)	-313 (4)	10177 (2)	7.9
C27A	4364 (1)	2253 (3)	6398 (2)	5.6
C28A	4507 (1)	33 (3)	6114 (2)	5.8
N1B	7960 (1)	1237 (2)	3387 (1)	5.2
C2B	7605 (1)	2136 (3)	2951 (2)	5.6
C3B	7691 (1)	3375 (3)	3162 (2)	5.4
C4B	8169 (1)	3719 (2)	3871 (1)	4.4
C5B	8561 (1)	2794 (2)	4366 (1)	3.7
C6B	8446 (1)	1556 (2)	4100 (1)	4.0
C7B	8841 (1)	625 (2)	4574 (1)	4.2
C8B	9324 (1)	880 (2)	5303 (1)	4.1
C9B	9419 (1)	2097 (2)	5579 (1)	3.7
C10B	9067 (1)	3045 (2)	5117 (1)	3.8
N11B	9228 (1)	4278 (2)	5337 (1)	4.6
C12B	9621 (1)	4460 (2)	6062 (1)	4.8
C13B	9882 (1)	3496 (2)	6704 (1)	4.0
O14B	9902 (1)	2315 (1)	6317 (1)	4.1
N15B	10529 (1)	3761 (2)	7231 (1)	4.3
C16B	10635 (1)	3329 (2)	8015 (1)	4.2
C17B	10045 (1)	3066 (2)	8096 (1)	4.1
C18B	9499 (1)	3382 (2)	7314 (1)	4.2
C19B	11214 (1)	3179 (3)	8657 (1)	5.1
C20B	11184 (2)	2741 (3)	9389 (1)	5.8
C21B	10604 (2)	2485 (3)	9478 (2)	5.8
C22B	10018 (1)	2658 (2)	8819 (2)	5.0
C23B	11050 (1)	3969 (2)	6924 (2)	4.9
C24B	11416 (1)	2828 (3)	6854 (2)	5.4
O25B	11939 (1)	3192 (2)	6629 (2)	7.6
C26B	12385 (1)	2272 (3)	6673 (2)	6.8
C27B	9217 (1)	4649 (3)	7418 (2)	5.8
C28B	8959 (1)	2417 (3)	7053 (2)	5.9

Table 4. Final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms of (3) ($\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^4$)
$$B_{\text{eq}} = (4/3) \sum_i \sum_j \beta_{ij} \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j$$

	x	y	z	B_{eq}
C1	5428 (1)	1330 (4)	9167 (1)	5.4
C2	5024 (1)	2968 (4)	9219 (2)	6.1
C3	5048 (1)	4492 (4)	8649 (2)	5.9
C4	5474 (1)	4371 (3)	8023 (1)	5.0
C5	5901 (1)	2693 (3)	7948 (1)	4.0
C6	5871 (1)	1133 (3)	8528 (1)	4.3
C7	6293 (1)	-560 (3)	8474 (1)	4.7
C8	6739 (1)	-717 (3)	7889 (1)	4.5
C9	6771 (1)	839 (2)	7313 (1)	3.9
C10	6353 (1)	2495 (3)	7315 (1)	4.0
C11	6389 (1)	3901 (3)	6642 (1)	4.8
C12	6871 (1)	3718 (3)	6121 (1)	4.8
C13	7430 (1)	2186 (3)	6226 (1)	4.0
O14	7222 (1)	553 (2)	6735 (1)	4.4
N15	8090 (1)	3015 (2)	6595 (1)	4.0
C16	8629 (1)	1785 (3)	6388 (1)	3.8
C17	8382 (1)	554 (3)	5734 (1)	4.1
C18	7645 (1)	1164 (3)	5427 (1)	4.5
C19	9314 (1)	1686 (3)	6738 (1)	4.6
C20	9744 (1)	238 (3)	6442 (1)	5.0
C21	9496 (1)	-1077 (3)	5825 (1)	5.1
C22	8812 (1)	-868 (3)	5462 (1)	4.9
C23	8131 (1)	3953 (3)	7402 (1)	4.2
C24	8381 (1)	6055 (2)	7391 (1)	4.0
O25	8399 (1)	6760 (2)	8207 (1)	4.7
C26	8655 (1)	8711 (3)	8299 (1)	5.7
C27	7688 (1)	2682 (4)	4733 (1)	6.1
C28	7162 (1)	-523 (4)	5123 (2)	6.8
C29	9969 (2)	-2695 (4)	5567 (2)	7.3

Table 5. Selected bond distances (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$)

	(1)	(2A)	(2B)	(3)
C9—C10	1.373 (6)	1.373 (3)	1.371 (3)	1.379 (2)
C9—O14	1.364 (5)	1.361 (3)	1.373 (2)	1.363 (2)
C10—X11	1.418 (5)	1.409 (3)	1.406 (3)	1.459 (2)
X11—C12	1.257 (6)	1.263 (4)	1.274 (3)	1.332 (3)
C12—C13	1.509 (6)	1.516 (3)	1.498 (3)	1.490 (3)
C13—O14	1.463 (5)	1.458 (3)	1.462 (3)	1.464 (2)
C13—N15	1.425 (6)	1.434 (3)	1.427 (2)	1.459 (2)
C13—C18	1.557 (6)	1.568 (3)	1.584 (4)	1.569 (2)
N15—C16	1.407 (5)	1.394 (3)	1.393 (3)	1.401 (2)
N15—C23	1.451 (5)	1.448 (2)	1.448 (4)	1.455 (2)
C16—C17	1.363 (6)	1.385 (3)	1.386 (4)	1.395 (2)
C17—C18	1.503 (6)	1.507 (4)	1.509 (3)	1.511 (2)
C18—C27	1.550 (6)	1.540 (3)	1.549 (4)	1.537 (3)
C18—C28	1.529 (6)	1.530 (4)	1.530 (4)	1.521 (3)
C10—C9—O14	121.6 (4)	121.7 (2)	120.9 (2)	122.2 (1)
C9—C10—X11	120.8 (4)	121.3 (2)	121.4 (2)	116.9 (2)
C10—X11—C12	117.0 (4)	116.8 (2)	116.0 (2)	120.8 (2)
X11—C12—C13	127.7 (4)	127.1 (2)	125.8 (2)	122.5 (2)
C12—C13—O14	109.6 (3)	109.9 (2)	109.4 (2)	110.5 (1)
C12—C13—N15	111.6 (4)	110.0 (2)	111.9 (2)	111.5 (2)
C12—C13—C18	115.6 (4)	115.2 (2)	114.2 (2)	117.7 (1)
O14—C13—N15	106.7 (3)	107.6 (2)	106.9 (2)	109.6 (1)
O14—C13—C18	108.8 (3)	109.3 (2)	110.9 (2)	104.6 (1)
N15—C13—C18	104.1 (3)	104.2 (2)	103.2 (2)	102.3 (1)
C13—O14—C9	119.5 (3)	119.1 (2)	116.8 (1)	121.3 (1)
C13—N15—C16	108.9 (4)	109.4 (2)	110.4 (2)	108.0 (1)
C13—N15—C23	122.3 (4)	122.4 (2)	122.2 (2)	120.0 (1)
C16—N15—C23	122.6 (4)	122.5 (2)	122.9 (2)	120.5 (1)
N15—C16—C17	110.3 (4)	110.1 (2)	109.7 (2)	109.8 (2)
C16—C17—C18	109.4 (4)	109.5 (2)	109.5 (2)	108.7 (2)
C13—C18—C17	101.4 (3)	101.0 (2)	100.8 (2)	99.8 (1)
C13—C18—C27	110.5 (4)	110.9 (2)	110.0 (2)	110.9 (2)
C13—C18—C28	113.4 (4)	112.2 (2)	113.3 (2)	113.2 (2)
C17—C18—C27	108.0 (4)	108.8 (2)	108.6 (2)	107.5 (2)
C17—C18—C28	114.4 (4)	114.0 (2)	113.6 (2)	115.0 (2)

atoms in the cleaving bonds, and the shortest distances around the oxygen atom are observed in (3).

The ORTEP drawings are shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. The spirooxazines (1), (2A) and (2B) and the spiropyran (3) assume apparently different conformations. The difference mainly arises from the conformational change in the oxazine and pyran rings. The oxazine rings of (1) and (2) are bent towards the gem-methyl group, while the pyran ring of (3) is bent in the opposite direction. The oxazine rings in (1), (2A) and (2B) have similar torsion angles (Table 7). The pyran ring in (3), on the other hand, has different torsion angles (by 30–50°) with opposite signs compared with the corresponding torsion angles in the spirooxazines.

The indoline moieties show minor differences. The five-membered heterocycle, *i.e.* the indoline part, assumes a regular envelope form in the spirooxazines (1), (2A) and (2B). The dihedral angles between the

Table 6. *Intramolecular short contacts (Å) (those longer than 3.2 Å are not included)*

	(1)	(2A)	(2B)	(3)
C9...C12	2.697	2.696	2.695	2.772
C10...C13	2.823	2.815	2.770	2.882
X11...O14	2.815	2.820	2.812	2.771
C12...C23	3.041	3.020	3.017	3.030
C12...C27	2.854	2.851	2.829	2.977
O14...C16	3.018	3.044	3.048	2.951
O14...C17	3.092	3.118	3.133	2.909
O14...C23	2.953	2.973	2.977	3.021
O14...C24	3.093	3.053	3.176	—
O14...C28	2.748	2.722	2.811	2.718

Table 7. *Selected torsion angles (°)*

	(1)	(2A)	(2B)	(3)
Oxazine or pyran ring				
C9—O14—C13—N15	-143.1 (4)	-142.5 (2)	-155.2 (2)	-95.7 (2)
C9—O14—C13—C12	-22.1 (5)	-22.8 (2)	-33.8 (2)	27.7 (2)
C9—O14—C13—C18	105.1 (4)	104.9 (2)	92.9 (2)	155.2 (2)
X11—C12—C13—O14	17.1 (6)	16.5 (3)	28.3 (3)	-21.8 (2)
X11—C12—C13—N15	135.1 (6)	134.9 (3)	146.6 (3)	100.4 (2)
X11—C12—C13—C18	-106.3 (6)	-107.6 (3)	-96.6 (3)	-141.8 (2)
C13—O14—C9—C8	-167.5 (5)	-165.8 (2)	-163.3 (2)	165.9 (2)
C13—O14—C9—C10	14.5 (5)	16.4 (2)	19.5 (2)	-16.7 (2)
Indoline ring				
C17—C18—C13—C12	-145.4 (5)	-143.1 (2)	-145.2 (2)	-154.9 (2)
C17—C18—C13—O14	90.8 (4)	92.4 (2)	90.6 (2)	82.1 (2)
C17—C18—C13—N15	-22.7 (4)	-22.4 (2)	-23.5 (2)	-32.2 (2)
C16—N15—C13—C12	149.2 (5)	148.0 (2)	147.7 (2)	157.5 (2)
C16—N15—C13—O14	-91.1 (4)	-92.3 (2)	-92.5 (2)	-79.8 (2)
C16—N15—C13—C18	23.9 (4)	23.8 (2)	24.5 (2)	30.8 (2)
C13—C18—C17—C16	14.4 (4)	14.3 (2)	15.8 (2)	24.1 (2)
C18—C17—C16—N15	-0.5 (6)	-0.6 (2)	-1.9 (2)	-6.4 (2)
C17—C16—N15—C13	-15.6 (4)	-15.4 (2)	-15.2 (2)	-16.3 (2)

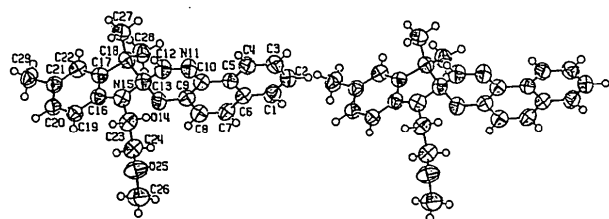


Fig. 1. Molecular structure of (1).

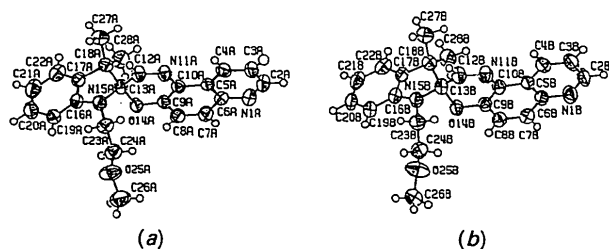


Fig. 2. Molecular structure of (a) (2A) and (b) (2B).

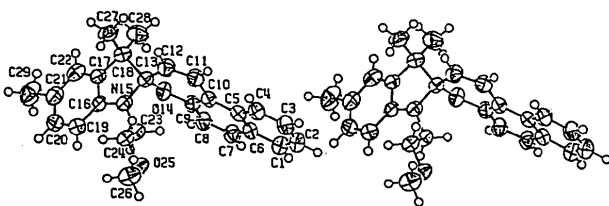
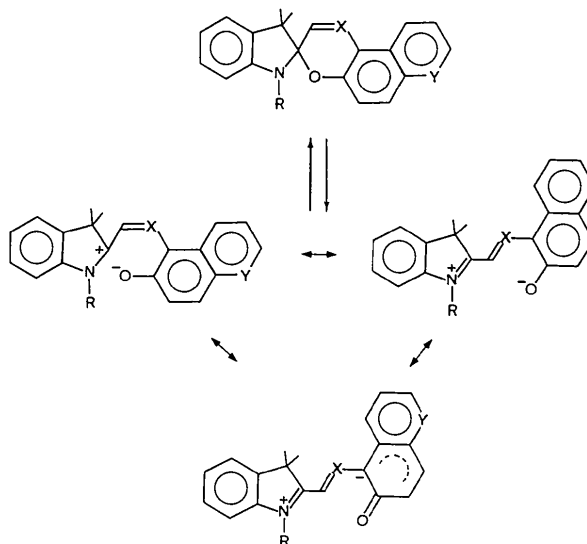


Fig. 3. Molecular structure of (3).

two planes (N15—C16=C17—C18 and N15—C13—C18) are 23.9 (1), 12.7 (2A) and 24.5° (2B). The heterocycle in the spiropyran (3) has a slightly distorted envelope form with poorer planarity (± 0.03 Å) for the N15—C16=C17—C18 plane than the planes in the spiropyrans (± 0.01 Å) and with a larger dihedral angle (32.7°).

Photocolouration in the present study is considered to be a two-step reaction (see below). In the first step, a $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—O}$ bond cleaves upon photoexcitation, and in the second step, the photoproduct changes its conformation to become a stable species, which can be converted to the starting compound by heating. Thus, important factors for this reaction are (a) how easily a $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—O}$ bond can be cleaved (photoreactivity) and (b) the stability of the photoproducts. The $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—O}$ bond distance and the intramolecular short contacts are direct measurements of photoreactivity, since a longer bond distance means weaker bond character and steric repulsion could lead to bond breakage. The $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—N}$ bond distance and the planarity of oxazine or pyran, might be related to the stability of photoproducts. The $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—N}$ bond is likely to be short and also the planarity is likely to be good in a stable form due to the contribution of a resonant quinoid form.



The structural features of the spiropyrans and the spiropyran revealed in the present study are (a) the $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—O}$ bond distances are longer than the normal value but similar in three compounds, (b) short contacts around the O14 atom are the strongest in the spiropyran (3), (c) the $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—N}$ bond distance is considerably longer in (3), and (d) the degree of planarity in the oxazine or pyran part is poor and roughly equivalent in the three compounds. These observations suggest that the $C_{\text{spiro}}\text{—O}$ bond

in the spiropyran (3) would be the one to break most easily but the product of this compound would also be the most unstable due to the long $C_{\text{spiro}}-N$ distances. This interpretation explains the fact that the spiropyran (3) shows photochromism only when cooled down to 253 K, while the spirooxazines (1) and (2) show photocoloration at room temperature. The different photoreaction behaviour of (3) seems to be a result of a ring-closing reaction which is too rapid for the photoproduct to remain in a stable form.

The molecular structures of these compounds could explain the different photochromic behaviour between the spirooxazines and the spiropyran. The accurate molecular and crystal structure given here could be used for theoretical studies which will give further information on the mechanism of photochromism.

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Structure of Dipyrindinium Decaiodide – an Infinite Chain Structure

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Abstract. $2C_5H_6N^+ \cdot I_3^-$, $M_r = 1429.26$, orthorhombic, $Pmc2_1$, $a = 17.331$ (4), $b = 4.5336$ (7), $c = 17.615$ (3) Å, $V = 1384.0$ (4) Å³, $Z = 2$, $D_x = 3.42$ g cm⁻³, $\lambda(\text{Mo } K\alpha) = 0.71069$ Å, $\mu = 110.8$ cm⁻¹, $F(000) = 1232$, $T = 273$ K, final $R = 0.048$ for 555 unique reflections with $|F_o| \geq 3\sigma(|F_o|)$. The I atoms form two distinct moieties, an I_7^- and an I_3^- . The I_7^- ions form interconnected sheets which are parallel to the ab plane. The I_3^- ions form an infinite chain which propagates along the c direction.

Introduction. This study was carried out as part of a series of investigations aimed at structurally characterizing materials which exhibit extended solid-state interactions. Of special interest are those species which are present in mixed oxidation states.

Experimental. Crystals of this compound are formed as a side product of the reaction that produced crystals of $(\text{NHC}_5\text{H}_5)\text{SbI}_4$ (Hendrixson, ter Horst & Jacobson, 1990). A black needle-shaped crystal of approximate dimensions $0.35 \times 0.15 \times 0.15$ mm was used for data collection on a Syntex $P2_1$ four-circle diffractometer operated in a fixed-width ω -scan mode. The scan width was 1° and each background was measured for one half of the total scan time. Cell parameters were obtained from a least-squares refinement of 13 reflections in the range $6 \leq 2\theta \leq 13^\circ$. One standard reflection was measured every 75 reflections and showed no significant change during data collection. A total of 1827 reflections in the range $2 \leq 2\theta \leq 50^\circ$ (hkl , $0 \leq h \leq 20$, $0 \leq k \leq 5$, $0 \leq l \leq 20$) were collected, of which 555 were considered observed [$|F_o| \geq 3\sigma(|F_o|)$]. The data were corrected for absorption using an empirical ψ -scan method ($T_{\text{min}}/T_{\text{max}} = 0.180/0.219$) as well as for Lorentz-

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