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## 5-Chloro-2-hydroxycarbonylmethoxy-1,3-xylyl-18-crown-5 and 5-Chloro-2-ethoxycarbonylmethoxy-1,3-xylyl-18-crown-5

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#### Abstract

In the acid (1) \{19-chloro-3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxabicyclo-[15.3.1]henicosa-1(21),17,19-trien-21-yloxyacetic acid\} there exists an intramolecular $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond [ $\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{O} 2.658(3) \AA$ ] , which is achieved with considerable distortion of the macrocycle ring. The macroring of the ethyl ester (2) has an essentially undistorted crown ether conformation, in which the side chain overhangs the macrocycle cavity with the carbonyl O atom directed exo.


## Comment

As part of a programme of study of synergism in ion binding between strategically placed functional groups and macrocyclic receptors, we have studied crown ethers with pendant phenolic groups and have demonstrated cooperation in binding of ammonia and primary amines leading, via proton transfer, to the formation of ammonium phenoxide complexes (Browne, Ferguson, McKervey, Mulholland, O'Connor \& Parvez, 1985; Ferguson, Kaitner, Browne \& McKervey, 1988). The calixarene family of macrocycles, in which several phenolic functions are organized in metacyclophane arrays, also provides important examples of synergism in ion binding.

That carboxylic acid and ester functions can participate effectively in ion binding, particularly when attached to oxygenated macrocycles, is well known. We have extended our study of functionalized macrocycles to include carboxylic acids and esters attached to crown ethers and we describe here two such compounds, the chloro-acid (1) and its ethyl ester (2) in a metacyclophane environment. A search of the 1992 release of the Cambridge Structural Database (Allen, Kennard \& Taylor, 1983) shows that there is only one other report of a 1,3-xylyl-18-crown-5 moiety and that is for an aqua-nitrato samarium(III) complex of 2-methoxy-1,3-xylyl-18-crown-5 (Tomat, Valle, Cassol \& di Bernardo, 1983).

(1) $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{O})-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{Cl}$
(2) $\begin{aligned} \mathrm{R} & =\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{O})-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}, \\ X & =\mathrm{Cl}\end{aligned}$
(3) $R=O-\mathrm{H}, X=\mathrm{H}$
(4) $R=\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}, X=\mathrm{NO}_{2}$

(a)

(b)

Fig. 1. Views of molecule (1): (a) plan view and (b) side-on view showing the general conformation and the intramolecular hydrogen bonding with the crystallographic numbering scheme. The non-H atoms are shown with thermal ellipsoids drawn at the $50 \%$ probability level. For clarity the H atoms are drawn as small spheres of an arbitrary size.

Views of acid (1) are shown in Fig. 1, and corresponding views of ester (2) are presented in Fig. 2. Molecular dimensions for both (1) and (2) are normal; principal bond lengths are summarized in Table 3. Both crystal structures contain discrete molecules separated by normal van der Waals distances. Significant differences exist between the conformations of the two molecules vis- $\dot{a}$-vis the presence of the intraannular substituents. In ester (2), the conformation of the macroring is that of an essentially undistorted crown ether with all ring $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ torsion angles close to $180^{\circ}$ and all $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ torsion angles close to gauche. The angle which the aromatic ring plane makes with the plane of the macrocycle O atoms is $44.0(1)^{\circ}$, which compares with $28^{\circ}$ for crown ether phenol (3) and $47^{\circ}$ for the $p$-nitro crown ether phenol (4). The ester side chain in (2) overhangs the cavity and the $-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{C}-$ $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ moiety is maximally extended, with its carbonyl O atom pointing away from the central cavity of the macrocycle; in achieving this conformation the phenoxy O atom $\mathrm{O}(22)$ is displaced $0.19(1) \AA$ from the aromatic ring plane away from the macrocycle ring centre. Distances between the side chain and the macrocycle ring correspond to normal van der Waals interactions.


Fig. 2. Views of molecule (2): (a) plan view and (b) side-on view showing the general conformation with the crystallographic numbering scheme. The non-H atoms are shown with thermal ellipsoids drawn at the $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ probability level. For clarity the H atoms are drawn as small spheres of an arbitrary size.

The presence of the free hydroxyl group has a significant influence in determining the macrocycle conformation in the free acid (1). In particular, there is a well defined intramolecular transannular $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ hydrogen bond between the hydroxyl O atom $\mathrm{O}(26)$ (Fig. $1 a$ ) and the distal O atom $\mathrm{O}(14)[\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{O} 2.658(3), \mathrm{O}(26)-$ $\mathrm{H} 0.85(3), \mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}(14) 1.83(3) \AA, \mathrm{O}(26)-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}(14)$ $\left.164(3)^{\circ}\right]$. This is achieved by major distortion of the macrocycle conformation away from that exhibited by ester (2). In particular, the $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{O}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ and $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{O}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ torsion angles [which were $-169(1)$ and $180(1)^{\circ}$ in ester (2)] are now 67.2(2) and $-78.7(2)^{\circ}$ respectively; other ring torsion angles lie close to the gauche $(\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O})$ or fully staggered ( $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ ) values found in (2). As in the ester, the phenoxy $O$ atom $O(22)$ of $(1)$ is displaced $0.111(3) \AA$ from the aromatic ring plane away from the macrocycle ring centre.

## Experimental Compound (1) <br> Crystal data

$\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{ClO}_{8}$
$M_{r}=404.84$
Orthorhombic
Pbca
$a=13.8560(20) \AA$
$b=18.783$ (4) $\hat{A}$
$c=15.2090(20) \AA$
$V=3958.3$ (11) $\AA^{3}$
$Z=8$
$D_{x}=1.359 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$
Mo $K \alpha$ radiation
Data collection
Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer
$\theta / 2 \theta$ scans [ $\theta$-scan width $(0.6+0.35 \tan \theta)^{\circ}, \theta$-scan rate $3.3^{\circ} \mathrm{min}^{-1}$, background counts for 15 s on each side of every scan]
Absorption correction:
none
4301 measured reflections

## Refinement

Refinement on $F$
Final $R=0.036$
$w R=0.048$
$S=1.24$
1930 reflections 249 parameters
$w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}(F)+0.0008 F^{2}\right]$
$(\Delta / \sigma)_{\text {max }}=0.001$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.20 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {min }}=-0.21 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}$
$\lambda=0.70930 \AA$
Cell parameters from 25 reflections
$\theta=10.00-15.00^{\circ}$
$\mu=0.23 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
$T=293 \mathrm{~K}$
Needle
$0.15 \times 0.15 \times 0.35 \mathrm{~mm}$
Colourless
Crystal source: synthesized by the authors

4301 independent reflections 1930 observed reflections
[ $\left.I_{\text {net }}>3.0 \sigma\left(I_{\text {net }}\right)\right]$
$\theta_{\text {max }}=26.92^{\circ}$
$h=0 \rightarrow 17$
$k=0 \rightarrow 23$
$l=0 \rightarrow 19$
3 standard reflections frequency: 120 min intensity variation: < 1.0\%

Extinction correction: Larson (1970)
Extinction coefficient: 4730 (20)
Atomic scattering factors from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (1974, Vol. IV, Table 2.2B)
Compound (2)
Crystal data
$\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{ClO}_{8}$
$M_{r}=432.89$
Orthorhombic
$P c a 2_{1}$
$a=17.884(3) \AA$
$b=8.792(3) \AA$
$c=13.918(3) \AA$
$V=2188.4(10) \AA^{3}$
$Z=4$
$D_{x}=1.314 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}$
Mo $K \alpha$ radiation

Data collection
Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer
$\theta / 2 \theta$ scans [ $\theta$-scan width $(0.6+0.35 \tan \theta)^{\circ}, \theta$-scan rate $3.3^{\circ} \mathrm{min}^{-1}$, background counts for 15 s on each side of every scan]
Absorption correction: none
2482 measured reflections

## Refinement

Refinement on $F$
Final $R=0.033$
$w R=0.040$
$S=1.07$
816 reflections
262 parameters
$w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}(F)+0.0008 F^{2}\right]$
$(\Delta / \sigma)_{\text {max }}=0.000$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.15 \mathrm{e}_{\AA^{-3}}$
$\Delta \rho_{\min }=-0.13 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$
$\lambda=0.70930 \AA$
Cell parameters from 25 reflections
$\theta=10.00-18.00^{\circ}$
$\mu=0.21 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
$T=293 \mathrm{~K}$
Plate
$0.43 \times 0.20 \times 0.08 \mathrm{~mm}$
Colourless
Crystal source: synthesized by authors

2482 independent reflections 816 observed reflections
$\left[I_{\text {net }}>3.0 \sigma\left(I_{\text {net }}\right)\right]$
$\theta_{\text {max }}=26.90^{\circ}$
$h=0 \rightarrow 22$
$k=0 \rightarrow 11$
$l=0 \rightarrow 17$
3 standard reflections
$\quad$ frequency: 120 min
intensity variation: $<1.0 \%$

For both compounds: Data collection: Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 software. Cell refinement: Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 software. Data reduction: NRCVAX DATRD2 (Gabe, Le Page, Charland, Lee \& White, 1989) . Program(s) used to solve structure: NRCVAX SOLVER (Gabe et al., 1989). Program(s) used to refine structure: NRCVAX LSTSQ (Gabe et al., 1989). Molecular graphics: NRCVAX (Gabe et al., 1989). Software used to prepare material for publication: NRCVAX TABLES (Gabe et al., 1989).

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters $\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ for (1)

| $U_{\text {eq }}=\frac{1}{3} \Sigma_{i} \Sigma_{j} U_{i j} a_{i}^{*} a_{j}^{*} \mathbf{a}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{j}$. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U_{\text {eq }}$ |
| Cl | 0.50333 (7) | 0.89173 (4) | 0.60044 (6) | 0.0797 (5) |
| C(1) | 0.35520 (19) | 1.06334 (14) | 0.75566 (17) | 0.0449 (14) |
| C(2) | 0.33193 (19) | 0.99214 (14) | 0.77150 (17) | 0.0440 (14) |
| C(3) | 0.37679 (21) | 0.94001 (14) | 0.72211 (17) | 0.0496 (16) |
| C(4) | 0.44394 (22) | 0.95809 (15) | 0.65933 (17) | 0.0507 (16) |
| C(5) | 0.46675 (21) | 1.02842 (15) | 0.64367 (18) | 0.0521 (16) |
| C(6) | 0.42213 (20) | 1.08182 (14) | 0.69149 (18) | 0.0465 (15) |
| C(7) | 0.44606 (22) | 1.15886 (16) | 0.67325 (19) | 0.0582 (17) |
| $\mathrm{O}(8)$ | 0.49328 (14) | 1.19327 (9) | 0.74421 (14) | 0.0517 (11) |
| C(9) | 0.58755 (21) | 1.16658 (15) | 0.76058 (19) | 0.0539 (17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)$ | 0.62738 (22) | 1.20324 (15) | 0.83945 (20) | 0.0574 (18) |
| $\mathrm{O}(11)$ | 0.57928 (13) | 1.17780 (9) | 0.91546 (12) | 0.0526 (11) |


| C(12) | $0.60844(22)$ | $1.21292(16)$ | $0.99360(20)$ | $0.0588(17)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)$ | $0.56436(22)$ | $1.17673(15)$ | $1.07095(19)$ | $0.0593(18)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(14)$ | $0.46227(14)$ | $1.18589(9)$ | $1.06965(12)$ | $0.0534(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $0.41449(24)$ | $1.15934(17)$ | $1.14635(19)$ | $0.0653(19)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)$ | $0.4016(3)$ | $1.08075(17)$ | $1.14657(20)$ | $0.0696(20)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(17)$ | $0.33303(15)$ | $1.06211(10)$ | $1.08145(12)$ | $0.0619(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $0.31863(24)$ | $0.98798(15)$ | $1.07711(20)$ | $0.0623(19)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(19)$ | $0.25789(24)$ | $0.97177(16)$ | $1.00013(19)$ | $0.0618(18)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(20)$ | $0.31356(13)$ | $0.98347(9)$ | $0.92366(12)$ | $0.0516(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $0.26298(21)$ | $0.97313(15)$ | $0.84338(19)$ | $0.0545(17)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(22)$ | $0.30339(13)$ | $1.11582(9)$ | $0.79835(13)$ | $0.0552(11)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(23)$ | $0.34527(19)$ | $1.14527(14)$ | $0.87641(18)$ | $0.0476(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(24)$ | $0.32590(20)$ | $1.22368(15)$ | $0.87846(21)$ | $0.0488(16)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(25)$ | $0.28043(15)$ | $1.25648(10)$ | $0.82499(15)$ | $0.0694(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{O}(26)$ | $0.36141(15)$ | $1.25680(11)$ | $0.94949(16)$ | $0.0598(13)$ |

Table 2. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters $\left(\AA^{2}\right)$ for (2)

| $U_{\text {eq }}=\frac{1}{3} \sum_{i} \Sigma_{j} U_{i j} a_{i}^{*} a_{j}^{*} \mathbf{a}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{j}$. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U_{\text {eq }}$ |
| Cl | 0.32614 (16) | 0.0732 (3) | 0.0 | 0.0970 (20) |
| C(1) | 0.4416 (5) | -0.1099 (9) | 0.2619 (8) | 0.050 (6) |
| C(2) | 0.3638 (5) | -0.0940 (9) | 0.2628 (8) | 0.052 (6) |
| C(3) | 0.3291 (4) | -0.0387 (9) | 0.1817 (9) | 0.064 (6) |
| C(4) | 0.3705 (6) | 0.0004 (9) | 0.1011 (8) | 0.062 (6) |
| C(5) | 0.4469 (6) | -0.0186 (9) | 0.1002 (8) | 0.063 (7) |
| C(6) | 0.4838 (4) | -0.0714 (9) | 0.1821 (8) | 0.056 (6) |
| C(7) | 0.5665 (5) | -0.0938 (10) | 0.1809 (8) | 0.071 (6) |
| $\mathrm{O}(8)$ | 0.5804 (3) | -0.2510 (6) | 0.1660 (5) | 0.058 (4) |
| C(9) | 0.6557 (5) | -0.2950 (11) | 0.1815 (7) | 0.068 (7) |
| C(10) | 0.6602 (4) | -0.4654 (12) | 0.1788 (8) | 0.068 (7) |
| O(11) | 0.6209 (3) | -0.5234 (6) | 0.2592 (5) | 0.059 (4) |
| C(12) | 0.6149 (4) | -0.6844 (11) | 0.2611 (8) | 0.062 (6) |
| C(13) | 0.5715 (5) | -0.7340 (10) | 0.3462 (7) | 0.065 (6) |
| O(14) | 0.4939 (3) | -0.7035 (6) | 0.3343 (5) | 0.062 (4) |
| C(15) | 0.4519 (6) | -0.7625 (10) | 0.4113 (7) | 0.069 (6) |
| C(16) | 0.3704 (6) | -0.7273 (11) | 0.3969 (7) | 0.072 (7) |
| O(17) | 0.3591 (3) | -0.5727 (7) | 0.4196 (5) | 0.064 (4) |
| C(18) | 0.2835 (5) | -0.5325 (10) | 0.4165 (8) | 0.070 (6) |
| C(19) | 0.2776 (4) | -0.3644 (10) | 0.4261 (7) | 0.063 (6) |
| O(20) | 0.3066 (3) | -0.2953 (7) | 0.3418 (5) | 0.063 (4) |
| C(21) | 0.3193 (5) | -0.1362 (10) | 0.3492 (8) | 0.068 (6) |
| $\mathrm{O}(22)$ | 0.4779 (3) | -0.1481 (6) | 0.3461 (5) | 0.059 (4) |
| C(23) | 0.4895 (4) | -0.3067 (9) | 0.3662 (7) | 0.054 (6) |
| C(24) | 0.4893 (5) | -0.3212 (10) | 0.4752 (7) | 0.048 (5) |
| O(25) | 0.4486 (3) | -0.2531 (7) | 0.5267 (5) | 0.064 (4) |
| O (26) | 0.5403 (3) | -0.4222 (6) | 0.5019 (4) | 0.057 (4) |
| C(27) | 0.5472 (5) | -0.4479 (11) | 0.6047 (8) | 0.073 (7) |
| C(28) | 0.6181 (6) | -0.5116 (16) | 0.6270 (8) | 0.116 (9) |

Table 3. Summary of principal bond lengths ( $(\mathrm{A})$ for (1) and (2)

|  | $(1)$ | $(2)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Cl}$ | $1.742(3)$ | $1.737(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{ar})-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{ar})$ | $1.385(4)$ | $1.387(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{ar})-\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)$ | $1.503(4)$ | $1.490(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)$ | $1.485(5)$ | $1.494(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)-\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{ether})$ | $1.419(3)$ | $1.414(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(a r)-\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{phenoxide})$ | $1.381(3)$ | $1.381(13)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)-\mathrm{O}($ phenoxide $)$ | $1.433(3)$ | $1.437(10)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{3}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{2}\right)$ | $1.497(4)$ | $1.522(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{2}\right)=\mathrm{O}$ | $1.199(4)$ | $1.184(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}\left(s p^{2}\right)-\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{H}$ or Et$)$ | $1.340(4)$ | $1.327(11)$ |

For (1), the systematic absences ( $0 k l$ absent if $k=2 n+1, h 0 l \mathrm{ab}-$ sent if $l=2 n+1, h k 0$ absent if $h=2 n+1$ ) uniquely determined the centrosymmetric space group Pbca. All H atoms were visible in difference maps. All C-bonded H atoms were considered as riding atoms $(\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}=0.95 \AA$ ); the carboxyl H atom $[\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{O} 26)]$ was refined isotropically. For (2), the systematic absences ( 0 kl absent if $l=2 n+1, h 0 l$ absent if $h=2 n+1$ ) allow the space group to be either Pca2 (No. 29) or Pcam (No. 57). The latter
choice would have demanded mirror, twofold or inversion symmetry for the molecule. The polar space group Pca2 ${ }_{1}$ was assumed and confirmed by the analysis. Refinement of the model and its enantiomorph yielded no significant differences in $R, w R$, goodness of fit or molecular dimensions. All H atoms were visible in difference maps and were included as riding atoms ( $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ $0.95 \AA$ ) during the refinement.

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Lists of structure factors, anisotropic thermal parameters, H -atom coordinates and complete geometry have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 55594 (28 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: BR1013]

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# Structure of 1,1,2,2,3,3-Hexamethyl-4-(2-ethynylphenyl)-1,2,3-trigermacyclopent-4ene 

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## Abstract

This is the first crystal structure determination of a member of the new germacyclic system of $1,2,3-$ trigermacyclopent-4-enes. The five-membered heterocycle is nearly planar with a maximum deviation of $0.139(10) \AA$ from the least-squares plane through these
atoms. The $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{Ge}, \mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ distances in the ring are 2.411(3), 2.406(2), 1.979(9), 1.954(8) and 1.30 (1) $\AA$ and the bond angles in the ring are $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{Ge}-$ Ge 92.8(1), $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{C} 99.4(3), 99.3(3)$ and $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ 125.3(7), 122.4(7) ${ }^{\circ}$. The remaining exocyclic bond angles at the three Ge atoms are in the range 108.2(5)$116.0(4)^{\circ}$. The tetrahedral coordination around the Ge atoms is mainly distorted because of the conditions imposed by the ring geometry. The exocyclic $\mathrm{Ge}-\mathrm{C}$ bond distances are in the range $1.92(1)-1.95(1) \AA$ [mean value 1.94(1) $\AA$ ]. The dihedral angle between the heterocycle and the phenyl ring is $99.5(3)^{\circ}$.


Fig. 1. General view (SHELXTL-Plus graphic) of the molecule, showing the atom-numbering scheme. Anisotropic ellipsoids represent $50 \%$ probability boundaries. H atoms are represented as spheres of arbitrary radii.

## Comment

The title compound is the first crystalline member of the fascinating germacyclic system of 1,2,3-trigermacyclo-pent-4-enes. The reaction and the recrystallization was carried out under dry argon because the crystals are air sensitive. The exact mechanism is unknown. A cyclotrigermane $\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{Ge}\right)_{3}$ is proposed as a reaction intermediate (Neumann, 1991). Ab initio quantum-mechanical determinations of the strain enthalpy of a hexamethylcyclotrigermane show a strong instability (Horner, Grev \& Schäfer, 1992). This reactive intermediate reacts with 1,2-diethynylbenzene to give a trigermacyclopentene. The second ethynyl group does not react with another dimethylgermylene or cyclotrigermane. Presumably additional steric hindrance prevents access to the triple bond and prevents the reaction. Surprisingly the remarkable five-membered germaheterocycle is nearly planar. Evidence of this has also been provided by NMR spectroscopy ( ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: only three GeMe resonance signals).

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