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Acta Cryst. (1993). C49, 1476-1479

# Structure of a Mixed-Valence Copper Complex with 1,10-Phenanthroline and Pseudohalogenide Ligands

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(Received 7 August 1992; accepted 19 January 1993)

## Abstract

The reaction of Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>OH, 1,10-phenanthroline (phen), KSCN and KSeCN in the molar ratio 1:10:2:2:2 in a water-ethanol solution gives a new mixed-valence compound,  $\mu$ -cyano-1 $\kappa$ N:2 $\kappa$ C- (seleno,thio)cyanato- $2\kappa N$ -tris(1,10-phenanthroline)-1 $\kappa^4 N, N'; 2\kappa^2 N, N'$ -dicopper(I,II) (seleno,thio)cyanate semiethanolate, for which the X-ray structure analysis reveals the composition [Cu<sup>II</sup>-Cu<sup>I</sup>(phen)<sub>3</sub>(CN)(SeCN)<sub>0.65</sub>(SCN)<sub>0.35</sub>]<sup>+</sup>(SeCN)<sub>0.45</sub><sup>-</sup> (SCN)<sub>0.55</sub>.0.5C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH. The [Cu<sup>II</sup>(phen)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> and [Cu<sup>I</sup>(phen){(Se,S)CN}] moieties are bridged by CN<sup>-</sup>, giving rise to a binuclear cation with deformed trigonal-bipyramidal and deformed tetrahedral coordination for the bivalent and monovalent Cu atoms, respectively.

### Comment

This work is part of a project aimed at exploring the structural and chemical properties of mixed-valence copper complexes with organic and inorganic ligands. In this report we describe the crystal structure of a compound which was obtained by mixing  $Cu(NO_3)_2$ ,  $NH_4OH$ , phen, KSCN and KSeCN in the molar ratio 1:10:2:2:2 in a water-ethanol solution. The SeCN<sup>-</sup> anion serves both as a ligand and as a reducing agent in the reaction. Thus, although the cyanide anion was not added to the reaction mixture, it appears in the system as a consequence of the following redox and protolytic reactions:

$$2Cu^{II}(solv.) + 2SeCN^{-} \rightleftharpoons (CN)_{2} + 2Cu^{I} + Se_{2}$$
$$(CN)_{2} + H_{2}O \rightleftharpoons HCN + HCNO$$

Several other bi- and polynuclear-ligand(s) bridged copper(I) and copper(II) compounds are known to be prepared by similar reactions (Dunaj-Jurčo, Ondrejovič, Melník & Garaj, 1988, and references therein).

The crystal structure was found to consist of discrete  $[Cu^{II}Cu^{I}(phen)_{3}(CN){(Se,S)CN}]^{+}$  cations, [(Se,S)CN]<sup>-</sup> anions and solvated ethanol molecules. One of the two crystallographically independent complex cations, which are nearly centrosymmetrically related, is shown in Fig. 1. The CNanion linearly bridges the Cu<sup>II</sup> and Cu<sup>I</sup> ions and the coordination environments around Cu<sup>II</sup> and Cu<sup>I</sup> are distorted trigonal bipyramidal and tetrahedral, respectively. The bridging cyanide ion is coordinated to Cu<sup>II</sup> through its N atom and occupies an equatorial position. The axial Cu-N(11) and Cu-N(102) bonds are slightly but significantly longer than the corresponding in-plane bonds and almost linear, with an N(11)—Cu—N(102) angle of 177.3 (5)°. Similar stereochemical features for Cu<sup>II</sup> have been observed previously in the compounds [Cu<sup>II</sup>(phen)<sub>3</sub>CN]NO<sub>3</sub> (Anderson, 1975) and [Cu<sup>II</sup>(bipy)<sub>2</sub>CN]NO<sub>3</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O (Harrison & Hathaway, 1980). As suggested by Harrison & Hathaway (1980), the type and extent of distortion of the trigonalbipyramidal geometry around Cu<sup>II</sup> can best be

described in terms of the mechanistic pathway of the Berry twist (Berry, 1960), based on the in-plane angles,  $\alpha_1 = N(101)$ —Cu—N(2) = 136.5 (4),  $\alpha_2 =$ N(12)—Cu—N(2) = 123.9 (4) and  $\alpha_3 = N(101)$ —  $Cu-N(12) = 99.6 (4)^{\circ}$ . The present complex belongs to the most frequently observed group among the five-coordinate Cu<sup>II</sup> complexes and is characterized by trigonal-bipyramidal stereochemistry with near  $C_{2\nu}$  symmetry. Thus, the observed distortion from the regular trigonal-bipyramidal geometry is not electronic in nature and results entirely from the small 'bite' of the rigid phen ligands. The latter effect seems also to be responsible for the distortion of the tetrahedral geometry around Cu<sup>1</sup>.



Fig. 1. Perspective drawing of one of the two independent complex cations of the title compound. Atoms of different kind are represented by spheres of different radius. X denotes a substitutionally disordered Se/S site.

To our knowledge, the overall structure observed for the present compound is unique among the complexes containing the cyanide ion(s) and either Cu<sup>I</sup> or mixed-valence Cu<sup>II</sup>,Cu<sup>I</sup> metal ions. In these systems, Cu<sup>I</sup> (usually in a trigonal-planar environment) invariably prefers the formation of one-dimensional polymers or two-dimensional networks, and Cu<sup>II</sup>, if present, forms isolated units situated between the chains or sheets (Vaira & Mani, 1985; Dyason, Healy, Engelhardt, Pakawatchai, Patrick & White, 1985; Morpurgo, Dessy & Fares, 1984). This clearly demonstrates the sensitivity of the resulting structure of the above systems to the particular reaction conditions applied.

The SeCN<sup>-</sup> and SCN<sup>-</sup> anions show substitutional disorder at both coordinated and uncoordinated sites. Based on the refined occupancy factors, the percentages of SeCN<sup>-</sup> are 65 and 45% in the coordinated and uncoordinated sites, respectively, thus yielding the above composition. The N atoms of both crystallographically independent uncoordinated (Se,S)CN<sup>-</sup> ions are positionally disordered between two positions with occupancy factors of 0.55/0.45and 0.75/0.25 (based on heights of maxima in the difference Fourier map and not refined). The disorder originates from two different orientations of either (Se,S)CN<sup>-</sup> in the structure. In three of these four independent orientations the (Se,S)CN<sup>-</sup> anions exist in the bent (Ia) form (central C atom predominantly  $sp^2$ -hybridized) and in one orientation in the linear (Ib) form (C atom sp-hybridized) according to whether the negative charge of the anion is localized. due to the polarizing effects of the environmental positive charges, essentially on the N or on the (Se.S) atom.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

### Experimental

Crystal data

-
$D_m = 1.66 (1) \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
λ = 0.71069 Å
Cell parameters from 15
reflections
$\theta = 6 - 15^{\circ}$
$\mu = 2.556 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
T = 293  K
Prism
$0.5 \times 0.25 \times 0.2$ mm
Dark green
Crystal source: crystalliza-
tion from aqueous ethanol

Data collection Syntex P21 diffractometer  $R_{\rm int} = 0.028$  $\theta_{\rm max} = 21^{\circ}$  $\theta/2\theta$  scans  $h = 0 \rightarrow 17$ Absorption correction:  $k = 0 \rightarrow 16$ none  $l = -24 \rightarrow 24$ 4138 measured reflections 3954 independent reflections 2 standard reflections frequency: 100 min 1948 observed reflections intensity variation: 5%  $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ 

### Refinement

Refinement on F	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.24$
Final $R = 0.065$	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 1.33 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
wR = 0.056	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -1.19 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
5 = 2.16	Atomic scattering factors
1948 reflections	from International Tables
169 parameters	for X-ray Crystallography
$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o) + (0.03F_o^2)^2]$	(1974, Vol. IV)

Refinement was carried out by block-diagonal approximation. All calculations were performed with the NRC Crystallographic Programs for the IBM360 System (1973).

## Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters $(Å^2)$

# $(2) \sum \sum Q$

Tabla	1 Fractional	atomic coor	dinates and	equivalent	C35	0.8342 (6)	0.0466 (6	i) 0.5889 (4)	4.55 (3)
Table .	1. <i>Fraciionai</i>		unales una	equivalent	C45	0.7978 (6)	-0.1120 (7	0.6125 (5)	5.67 (3)
	isotropic	thermal para	meters (A <sup>2</sup> )		C55	0.7074 (5)	-0.2214 (6	5) 0.5907 (4)	3.64 (3)
					C65	0.6596 (5)	-0.2542 (6	5) 0.5561 (4)	2.96 (2)
	Be	$_{q} = (4/3)\Sigma_{i}\Sigma_{j}\beta_{i}$	ja <sub>i</sub> .a <sub>j</sub> .		C75	0.5914 (5)	-0.2590 (6	5) 0.4572 (4)	2.83 (2)
	r	ν	7	Bea	C85	0.5742 (7)	-0.2275 (7	() 0.4049 (5)	7.02 (3)
Cul	0.2704(1)	0.0245(1)	0.5795(1)	3.93 (14)	C95	0.6115 (5)	-0.1515 (0	0.3937(4)	3.74 (3) 4.08 (2)
Cu2	0.2166(1)	0.1355 (1)	0.7588 (1)	4.46 (5)	C115	0.0011(4) 0.7422(6)	-0.1223 (.	(5) 0.4342(3)	4.08 (2) 5 05 (3)
N11	0.2106 (5)	-0.0786 (6)	0.5919 (3)	4.93 (2)	C125	0.7422(0) 0.6397(5)	-0.2280(	(4) $(5)$ $(-1)$ $(-$	3.61 (2)
C21	0.1382 (5)	-0.0788 (6)	0.6045 (4)	3.91 (3)	C135	0.6739 (5)	-0.1550 (5	5) 0.4843 (4)	4.10 (2)
C31	0.1050 (6)	-0.1542 (7)	0.6118 (4)	5.63 (3)	C145	0.7261 (6)	0.1187 (6	o) 0.5211 (4)	4.40 (3)
C41	0.1405 (6)	-0.2272 (6)	0.5975 (4)	4.47 (3)	N16	0.8909 (5)	-0.1478 (5	5) 0.2058 (4)	5.45 (2)
C51	0.2632 (5)	-0.2929 (6)	0.5741 (4)	3.35 (2)	C26	0.9349 (7)	-0.0835 (8	3) 0.1969 (5)	8.11 (4)
C61	0.3324 (6)	-0.2891 (6)	0.5000 (4)	4.58 (5)	C36	1.0034 (7)	0.0972 (8	B) 0.1759 (5)	8.33 (4)
C/1 C91	0.4441(0) 0.4732(6)	-0.1943 (0)	0.5396 (4)	4.55 (5)	C46	1.0238 (6)	-0.1795 (	(1) 0.1721(5) 0.1777(5)	6.30 (3) 8 72 (4)
C01	0.4732 (0)	-0.0494(7)	0.5508 (5)	6.11 (3)	C56	0.9870(8)	-0.3293 (0	0.1777(3)	6.72 (4) 4 50 (3)
N101	0.3527 (4)	-0.0651 (5)	0.5635 (3)	3.29 (2)	C00	0.9303 (0)	-0.3893 (0	0.1090(4)	6 55 (3)
C111	0.2136 (6)	-0.2254 (6)	0.5832 (4)	4.27 (3)	C86	0.7565(7)	-0.4041 (	0.2391(5)	6.47 (3)
C121	0.3679 (5)	-0.2088 (6)	0.5556 (4)	3.85 (3)	C96	0.7340 (6)	-0.3235 (	7) 0.2439 (5)	6.28 (3)
C131	0.3246 (5)	-0.1372 (6)	0.5647 (4)	3.27 (2)	N106	0.7835 (4)	-0.2619 (	5) 0.2283 (3)	3.91 (2)
C141	0.2505 (6)	-0.1502 (6)	0.5798 (4)	4.27 (3)	C116	0.9850 (7)	-0.2534 (7	7) 0.1802 (5)	6.26 (3)
N12	0.2304 (4)	0.0519 (4)	0.4982 (3)	2.58 (2)	C126	0.8720 (7)	-0.3728 (8	B) 0.2087 (5)	8.20 (4)
C22	0.1849 (6)	0.0167 (7)	0.4599 (4)	4.94 (3)	C136	0.8540 (6)	-0.2907 (	7) 0.2123 (4)	4.90 (3)
C32	0.1052 (0)	0.0409 (7)	0.4003 (3)	5.39 (3)	C146	0.9118 (6)	-0.2262 (	7) 0.1990 (5)	6.19 (3)
C42	0.2001 (0)	0.1114(7) 0.2211(7)	0.3881(5) 0.4085(5)	6.60 (3)	Se3	0.6036(1)	-0.0259 (	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0.1027(1) \\ 0.1408(4) \end{array}$	8.20 (8)
C52 C62	0.2580 (7)	0.2528(7)	0.4479 (5)	5.62 (3)	C4 N4	0.0001(3) 0.7116(4)	-0.0634 (0	(4) = 0.1498(4)	3.29 (2)
C72	0.4125 (6)	0.2561 (7)	0.5479 (4)	4.88 (3)	C5	0.7793(5)	-0.0990 (	0.3112(4)	3.10(2)
C82	0.4247 (6)	0.2266 (6)	0.5953 (5)	5.56 (3)	N5	0.7712 (4)	-0.0784 (	0.3571(3)	4.51 (2)
C92	0.3844 (7)	0.1578 (8)	0.6098 (5)	7.32 (4)	Se4	0.0465 (1)	0.1207 (	1) 0.2911 (1)	8.37 (9)
N102	0.3329 (4)	0.1219 (4)	0.5669 (3)	2.35 (2)	C6	0.0010 (7)	0.1240 (	5) 0.2302 (4)	5.29 (3)
C112	0.2555 (6)	0.1468 (6)	0.4255 (4)	4.19 (3)	N61	-0.0532 (8)	0.1497 (9	9) 0.2067 (6)	8.80 (4)
C122	0.3694 (6)	0.2233 (7)	0.5016 (5)	5.23 (3)	N62	-0.0168 (12)	0.0986 (	13) 0.1920 (9)	2.25 (5)
C132	0.3219 (6)	0.1508 (6)	0.5179(4)	4.55 (5)	01	0.4660 (7)	0.1438 (	7) 0.7631 (6)	17.16 (5)
U142 N13	0.2079 (3)	0.1177(0) 0.1471(5)	0.7930 (3)	3.71 (2)	C/	0.51//(1/)	0.1310(	13) 0.7200(11) 0.7680(6)	23.37 (11)
C73	0.0632(7)	0.0885(7)	0.8064 (5)	6.61 (3)	6	0.3607 (9)	0.1195 (5	·) 0.7080 (0)	11.47 (3)
C33	0.0034 (7)	0.1180 (7)	0.8298 (5)	6.57 (3)	Tab	le 2 Select	ed hond ler	oths (Å) and an	eles (°)
C43	-0.0263 (7)	0.1883 (8)	0.8359 (5)	7.54 (4)		10 21 501001			
C53	0.0069 (7)	0.3318 (7)	0.8258 (5)	7.06 (4)	Cul-NII	.1	2.040 (9)	Cu3—N14	2.000 (8)
C63	0.0557 (7)	0.3908 (7)	0.8150 (5)	7.69 (4)	Cu1-N10	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2.137 (8)	Cu3-N15	2.037 (8)
C/3	0.1750(7)	0.4249 (7)	0.7777(5)	0./3(3) 5 31 (3)	Cu1-N10	12	1.989 (7)	Cu3-N105	2.048 (8)
C83	0.2434 (0)	0.4041(7) 0.3181(7)	0.7557 (5)	6 53 (3)	Cu1-N2		1.952 (8)	Cu3-N5	1.975 (9)
N103	0.2382(7)	0.2669(5)	0.7694 (3)	4.08 (2)	Cu2-N13	5	2.025 (8)	Cu4—N16	2.179 (9)
C113	0.0269 (7)	0.2430 (7)	0.8237 (5)	6.67 (3)	Cu2-N10	13	2.187 (9)	Cu4—N106	2.102 (8)
C123	0.1256 (6)	0.3703 (7)	0.7929 (5)	5.80 (3)	Cu2N1		2.017 (9)	Cu4—N4	1.924 (8)
C133	0.1485 (5)	0.2859 (6)	0.7893 (4)	3.69 (3)	$Cu_2 - C_2$		1.801 (10)	Cu4-C5	1.823 (10)
C143	0.0976 (5)	0.2265 (6)	0.8001 (4)	2.92 (2)	C1-N1		1.045 (14)	C4—N4	1.219 (12)
Sel	0.3960 (1)	0.0242(1)	0.8979(1)	8.27(7)	C2-N2		1.110(12)	C5—N5	1.184 (13)
NI NI	0.3201(0) 0.2907(5)	0.0012(7)	0.8478(3)	5.49 (2)	Se2—C3		1.787 (10)	Se4—C6	1.636 (11)
$\mathbf{c}$	0.2276(5)	0.1008 (6)	0.6868 (4)	3.54 (3)	C3—N31		1.135 (17)	C6-N61	1.165 (18)
N2	0.2338 (4)	0.0767 (4)	0.6447 (3)	2.49 (2)	C3—N32		1.025 (15)	C6-N62	1.048 (24)
Se2	0.0050(1)	0.0612 (1)	0.5326 (1)	5.55 (6)	N102-Cu	1N2	89.5 (4)	N105-Cu3-N5	92.0 (4)
C3	0.0033 (6)	-0.0314 (5)	0.4943 (4)	3.24 (3)	N12-Cu1	-N2	123.9 (4)	N15-Cu3-N5	122.0 (5)
N31	-0.0022 (8)	-0.0539 (8)	0.4500 (6)	2.23 (3)	N12-Cu1	-N102	80.7 (4)	N15-Cu3-N105	80.2 (4)
N32	0.0032 (6)	-0.0868 (/)	0.4750 (5)	1.41 (3)	N101—Cu	11—N2	136.5 (4)	N104—Cu3—N5	140.6 (5)
Cu3	0.7280(1) 0.7818(1)	-0.0240(1) -0.1357(1)	0.4203(1) 0.2405(1)	4 70 (5)	N101-Cu	1 - N102	97.6 (4)	N104-Cu3-N105	93.9 (4)
N14	0.7846(4)	0.0785 (5)	0.4102 (3)	4.29 (2)	N11-Cu1	N2	92.4 (4)	N14-Cu3-N5	93.5 (4)
C24	0.8594 (7)	0.0798 (8)	0.3966 (5)	6.74 (3)	N11-Cu1	-N102	177.3 (5)	N14-Cu3-N105	173.7 (5)
C34	0.8941 (6)	0.1575 (7)	0.3950 (5)	6.17 (3)	N11-Cu1	-N12	99.9 (4)	N14-Cu3-N15	99.4 (4)
C44	0.8540 (5)	0.2299 (6)	0.4005 (4)	3.69 (3)	N11—Cu1	-N101	79.7 (4)	N14-Cu3-N104	79.9 (4)
C54	0.7370 (6)	0.2969 (7)	0.4242 (5)	5.28 (3)	N1Cu2-	-C2	114.7 (5)	N4-Cu4-C5	118.8 (5)
C64	0.6667 (6)	0.2838 (6)	0.4404 (4)	4.15 (3)	N103-Cu	2-C2	115.2 (5)	N106-Cu4-C5	117.6 (5)
C/4	0.5394 (5)	0.1909 (6)	0.4009 (4)	5.80 (3) 4 41 (2)	N12-Cu	2	111.0 (3)	N16-Cu4-N4	100.8 (4) 118 / (6)
C94	0.5525 (0)	0.0508 (5)	0.4524 (4)	2.80 (2)	N13-Cu2		107.8 (5)	N16-Cu4-N4	108.3 (5)
N104	0.6473 (4)	0.0578 (4)	0.4371 (3)	2.97 (2)	N13-Cu2	-N103	78.2 (4)	N16-Cu4-N106	80.4 (4)
C114	0.7805 (5)	0.2237 (5)	0.4129 (4)	2.91 (2)	Se1-C1-	-N1	172.8 (13)	Se3—C4—N4	179.4 (10)
C124	0.6344 (5)	0.2053 (5)	0.4482 (4)	2.38 (2)	Cu2—N1-	-C1	175.9 (12)	Cu4—N4—C4	178.7 (10)
C134	0.6724 (5)	0.1424 (6)	0.4345 (4)	3.67 (2)	Cu2-C2-	-N2	176.9 (9)	Cu4C5N5	173.8 (11)
C144	0.7526 (5)	0.1463 (6)	0.4212 (4)	3.28 (2)	Cu1—N2-	-C2 N22	104.8 (10)	CUS-INS-CS	160.2 (10)
N15	0,7640 (4)	-0.0500 (5)	0.4990 (3)	3.93 (2) 2 90 (2)	Se2C3	-1N32 -N31	1/3.8 (12)	Se4-C6-N61	132.3 (13)
C23	0.0213 (3)	-0.0138 (0)	0.3373 (4)	2.70 (2)	JUL - UJ -	1121	1 10.0 (10)	007 00 1101	x + 2.0 (12)

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Lists of structure factors, anisotropic thermal parameters and complete bond distances have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 71075 (20 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: KA1017]

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Acta Cryst. (1993). C49, 1479-1482

# Mixed-Valence Cu<sup>I</sup>-Cu<sup>II</sup> Complexes. Structure of Cyanobis(1,10-phenanthroline)copper(II) Bis(cyano)(1,10-phenanthroline)cuprate(I) Pentahydrate

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(Received 26 August 1992; accepted 15 February 1993)

### Abstract

Reaction of  $Cu(NO_3)_2$ ,  $NH_4OH$ , phen (1,10-phenanthroline) and KCN in the molar ratio 1:40:2:2 in water-ethanol solution gives a new mixed-valence complex of composition  $Cu_2(phen)_3(CN)_3.5H_2O$ . X-ray structure analysis reveals the composition  $[Cu^{11}(phen)_2(CN)]^+[Cu^1(phen)(CN)_2]^-.5H_2O$  with trigonal-bipyramidal and tetrahedral coordination for the divalent and univalent Cu atoms, respectively. The structure is built up of hydrated clusters comprising two formula units; the principal interactions within the cluster are hydrogen bonds between the water molecules and complex cations and anions.

### Comment

This work is part of a project exploring the structural and chemical properties of mixed-valence copper complexes with organic and inorganic ligands. We have shown (Dunaj-Jurčo, Ondrejovič, Melník & Garaj, 1988) that all known Cu<sup>I</sup>-Cu<sup>II</sup> complexes can be subdivided into four groups according to the environment of the Cu<sup>I</sup> and Cu<sup>II</sup> atoms and their crystallostructural function. The title compound belongs to the first group containing Cu<sup>1</sup> anion and Cu<sup>II</sup> cation species; there are several routes for the preparation of this type of compound. In this work we have chosen that which utilizes CN<sup>-</sup> ions both as a reducing agent (to reduce  $Cu^{II}$  to  $Cu^{I}$ ) and as a ligand coordinated to  $Cu^{II}$  and  $Cu^{I}$ . Previously, Wicholas & Wolford (1974) reported that Cu<sup>II</sup> compounds in which the CN<sup>-</sup> ligand is directly bonded to Cu<sup>II</sup> are relatively rare; these authors have also described the preparation of  $Cu_2(phen)_3(CN)_3.6H_2O$ . The title compound,  $Cu_2(phen)_3(CN)_3.5H_2O$ , was prepared in a similar way: 1 M aqueous solution of  $Cu(NO_3)_2$  (10 ml), 26%  $NH_3$  (30 ml), 1,10phenanthroline monohydrate (3.6 g, 20 mmol) and ethanol (140 ml) were mixed; on dropwise addition of 1 M aqueous solution of KCN (20 ml) a violet non-crystalline precipitate formed; the mixture was allowed to stand for 7 d at room temperature, which yielded well shaped dark-green crystals. Since the crystals were unstable and cracked in air, they were sealed in epoxide for data collection.

The crystal structure was found to consist of discrete  $[Cu^{II}(phen)_2CN]^+$  cations and  $[Cu^{I}(phen)-(CN)_2]^-$  anions held together by hydrogen-bonded water molecules. An *ORTEP* (Johnson, 1965) view of the cation and anion is shown in Fig. 1.

The complex cation exhibits approximately trigonal-bipyramidal coordination geometry about the Cu<sup>II</sup> ion, with the cyanide ion occupying an equatorial position. The bond angles in the equatorial plane are considerably distorted from the ideal trigonal angle of 120°, with two large angles of 132.8 (6) ( $\alpha_1 = C1$ —Cu—N13) and 123.3 (5)° ( $\alpha_2 = C1$ —Cu—N12), and one small angle of 103.9 (5)° ( $\alpha_3 = N12$ —Cu—N13). The distance of the Cu<sup>II</sup> atom from the plane (C1, N12, N13) is 0.016 (8) Å,