

C(93b)	0.7778 (33)	0.8403 (19)	0.7817 (46)	0.146 (22)
N(1)	0.9722 (19)	0.1192 (10)	0.2453 (25)	0.203 (12)
C(2s)	0.9691 (20)	0.1040 (10)	0.3385 (27)	0.146 (11)
C(1s)	0.9681 (27)	0.0814 (12)	0.4504 (29)	0.261 (21)

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (Å, °)

Au(1)—P(4)	2.275 (4)	P(1)—S(1)	2.051 (6)
Au(1)—S(3)	2.894 (4)	P(1)—C(16)	1.835 (13)
P(1)—C(1)	1.753 (14)	P(2)—S(2)	1.982 (5)
P(1)—C(26)	1.818 (13)	P(2)—C(36)	1.823 (13)
P(2)—C(1)	1.765 (13)	P(3)—S(3)	1.993 (5)
P(2)—C(46)	1.809 (12)	P(3)—C(56)	1.829 (14)
P(3)—C(1)	1.787 (13)	P(4)—C(76)	1.818 (15)
P(3)—C(66)	1.830 (16)	P(4)—C(90)	1.818 (17)
P(4)—C(86)	1.840 (16)	C(2s)—C(1s)	1.494 (47)
Au(1)—S(1)	2.326 (4)	N(1)—C(2s)	1.206 (44)
P(4)—Au(1)—S(1)	161.4 (1)	C(1)—P(3)—C(56)	109.2 (6)
S(1)—Au(1)—S(3)	104.6 (1)	C(1)—P(3)—C(66)	108.0 (7)
S(1)—P(1)—C(16)	104.6 (4)	Au(1)—P(4)—C(76)	115.4 (5)
S(1)—P(1)—C(26)	106.3 (5)	C(76)—P(4)—C(86)	104.7 (7)
C(16)—P(1)—C(26)	102.9 (6)	C(76)—P(4)—C(90)	102.9 (7)
S(2)—P(2)—C(36)	111.7 (5)	Au(1)—S(1)—P(1)	112.3 (2)
S(2)—P(2)—C(46)	108.9 (5)	P(1)—C(1)—P(2)	119.9 (7)
C(36)—P(2)—C(46)	100.5 (6)	P(2)—C(1)—P(3)	122.4 (8)
S(3)—P(3)—C(56)	109.9 (5)	P(1)—C(16)—C(11)	119.8 (10)
S(3)—P(3)—C(66)	110.6 (5)	P(1)—C(26)—C(25)	120.7 (10)
C(56)—P(3)—C(66)	102.6 (7)	P(2)—C(36)—C(35)	121.9 (10)
Au(1)—P(4)—C(86)	108.0 (5)	P(2)—C(46)—C(45)	120.9 (10)
Au(1)—P(4)—C(90)	116.8 (6)	P(3)—C(56)—C(55)	118.6 (10)
C(76)—P(4)—C(90)	108.1 (7)	P(3)—C(66)—C(65)	122.4 (12)
Au(1)—S(3)—P(3)	97.2 (2)	P(4)—C(76)—C(75)	121.1 (11)
P(1)—C(1)—P(3)	117.2 (7)	P(4)—C(86)—C(85)	121.8 (12)
P(1)—C(16)—C(15)	119.7 (10)	P(4)—C(90)—C(91)	119.0 (12)
P(4)—Au(1)—S(3)	90.9 (1)	P(1)—C(26)—C(21)	120.0 (11)
S(1)—P(1)—C(1)	117.2 (4)	P(2)—C(36)—C(31)	121.5 (10)
C(1)—P(1)—C(16)	113.0 (6)	P(2)—C(46)—C(41)	121.6 (10)
C(1)—P(1)—C(26)	111.6 (6)	P(3)—C(56)—C(51)	122.9 (11)
S(2)—P(2)—C(1)	115.4 (5)	P(3)—C(66)—C(61)	117.0 (12)
C(1)—P(2)—C(36)	107.9 (6)	P(4)—C(76)—C(71)	120.7 (12)
C(1)—P(2)—C(46)	111.4 (7)	P(4)—C(86)—C(81)	118.2 (12)
S(3)—P(3)—C(1)	115.8 (4)	N(1)—C(2s)—C(1s)	175.4 (31)

A single crystal was mounted in a random orientation on a glass fiber with epoxy. The initial unit cell and orientation matrix were obtained from a rotation photograph. Orthorhombic symmetry was suggested on the basis of interaxial angles and confirmed by a Delaunay reduction and axial photographs. Backgrounds were estimated from a 96-step peak profile. All data processing, crystal solution and refinement were performed on a Data General Eclipse S140 mini computer using *SHELXTL* crystallographic software (Sheldrick, 1985). The space group was uniquely determined by the systematic absences. The position of the Au atom was determined by direct methods. All remaining non-H atoms were obtained by subsequent difference Fourier synthesis maps. The positions of H atoms on the phenyl rings were calculated with fixed C—H distances of 0.96 Å and refined with fixed temperature factors of 0.08 Å²; their contributions were included in the structure-factor calculations. Au, P and S atoms, and one C atom were refined anisotropically, while the remaining atoms were refined isotropically. The butyl group was found to be disordered in the last two C atoms. These atoms were refined at 50% occupancy. A molecule of CH₃CN was found in the lattice.

These studies were supported by the National Science Foundation, Grant CHE-8708625 and the Welch Foundation.

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters and H-atom coordinates have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: ST1090). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

References

- Dávila, R. M., Elduque, A. E., Grant, T., Staples, R. J. & Fackler, J. P. Jr (1993). *Inorg. Chem.* **43**, 1749–1755.
- Grim, S. O., Sangokoya, S. A., Rheingold, A. L., McFarlane, W., Colquhoun, I. J. & Gilardi, R. D. (1991). *Inorg. Chem.* **30**, 2519–2522.
- Grim, S. O., Smith, P. H., Nittolo, S., Ammon, H. L., Satek, L. C., Sangokoya, S. A., Khanna, R. K., Colquhoun, I. J., McFarlane, W. & Holden, J. R. (1985). *Inorg. Chem.* **24**, 2889–2895.
- Huffman, J. C., Roth, R. S. & Siedle, A. R. (1976). *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **98**, 4340–4341.
- Jones, P. G., Sheldrick, G. M., Fungnes, A., Gotzfried, F. & Beck, W. (1981). *Chem. Ber.* **114**, 1413–1417.
- Khan, M. N. I., Staples, R. J., King, C., Fackler, J. P. Jr & Wippeny, R. E. P. (1993). *Inorg. Chem.* **32**, 5800–5807.
- Sheldrick, G. M. (1985). *SHELXTL User's Manual*. Revision 5.1. Nicolet XRD Corporation, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
- Wijnhoven, J. G., Bosman, J. H. & Beurskens, P. T. (1972). *J. Cryst. Mol. Struct.* **2**, 7–9.

Acta Cryst. (1994). **C50**, 1244–1247

Co-Crystallized Bis(μ -*tert*-butylphosphido)-bis(di-*tert*-butylgallium) and Tetra-*tert*-butylcyclotetraphosphane

KRISTIN KIRSCHBAUM AND DEAN M. GIOLANDO*

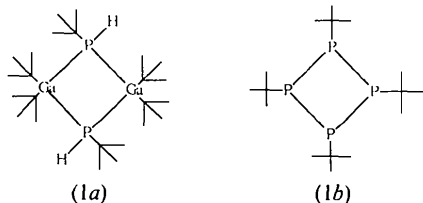
Department of Chemistry, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606, USA

(Received 18 March 1993; accepted 29 October 1993)

Abstract

Crystals of the title compound [Ga₂(C₄H₉)₄-(C₄H₁₀P)₂](C₁₆H₃₆P₄) (1) consist of the two independent neutral molecules [Ga{ μ -PH('Bu)'}Bu]₂ (1a) and [(P('Bu))₄] (1b). Both molecules are situated on a crystallographically imposed mirror plane and their idealized molecular point group symmetries are 2/m (1a) and $\bar{4}2m$ (1b). (1a) is the *anti* isomer of a phosphido-bridged Ga dimer. It contains an almost planar Ga₂P₂ ring [P(1)—Ga—P(2)—Ga] 0.90 (7)° with Ga—P bond lengths of 2.466 (1) and 2.472 (1) Å. The coordination about both the Ga and P atoms is distorted tetrahedral, with much stronger distortion about P than Ga. (1b) possesses a non-planar P₄ ring [P(4')—P(3)—P(4)—P(5)]

–22.34 (8)°] with equal P—P bond lengths of 2.213 (2) Å. The *t*Bu groups bonded to each of the P atoms are situated on alternative sides of the P₄ ring.



Comment

Interest in Group 13–15 compounds has grown dramatically in recent years because of their potential use as semiconductor precursors (see reviews: Cowley & Jones, 1989; Zanella, Rossetto, Brianese, Ossola, Porchia & Williams, 1991). Structures of dimeric compounds containing a four-membered Ga₂P₂ ring have been reported: [Ga(μ-P^{*t*}Bu₂)Me₂]₂, [Ga(μ-P^{*t*}Bu₂)^{*t*}Bu₂]₂ (Arif, Benac, Cowley, Geerts, Jones, Kidd, Power & Schwab, 1986), [Ga{μ-P(SiPh₃)}₂{2,6-(Me₂NCH₂)₂C₆H₃}]₂ (Cowley, Jones, Mardones, Ruiz, Atwood & Bott, 1990), [Ga(μ-PPh₂)(CH₂^{*t*}Bu)₂]₂ (Banks, Beachley, Buttrey, Churchill & Fettingier, 1991) and [Ga(μ-PEt₂)(^{*t*}Bu)(C≡CSiMe₃)]₂ (Lee, Higa, Nissan & Butcher, 1992). Nevertheless, only one X-ray structure of a dinuclear Ga complex with primary phosphido groups has been published [Ga{μ-PH-(C₅H₉)}^{*t*}Bu₂]₂ (Heaton, Jones, Kidd, Cowley & Nunn, 1988).†

Among the numerous polyphosphorus compounds (Baundler & Glinka, 1993, and references therein) the following cyclic organophosphanes with the empirical formula (PR)₄ have been structurally characterized: [P{2-(MeO)C₆H₄}]₄ (Heuer, Sell, Schmutzler & Schomburg, 1987), [P{CH₂P(S)F₂}]₄ (Fild, Bunke & Schomburg, 1988), [P(C₆H₁₁)]₄ (Bart, 1969), [P(CF₃)]₄ (Palenik & Donohue, 1962), [P(C₆F₅)]₄ (Sanz & Daly, 1971) and [P^{*t*}Bu]₄ (Weigand, Cordes & Swepston, 1981), bond distances and angles of which are in good agreement with those of (1b).

Note added in proof. Our most recent literature search revealed the following compounds: [Ga{μ-PH(^{*t*}Bu)}^{*t*}Bu₂]₂ [Atwood, D. A., Cowley, A. H., Harris, P. R., Jones, R. A., Koschmieder, S. U. & Nunn, C. M. (1993). *J. Organomet. Chem.* **449**, 61–67]; [Ga(μ-PPh₂)(CH₂CMe₃)(PPh₂)]₂ [Beachley, D. T. Jr, Maloney, J. D. & Rogers, R. D. (1993). *Organometallics*, **12**, 229–232]; [Ga(μ-P^{*t*}Pr₂)^{*t*}Pr₂]₂ [Hoffmann, G. G., Fischer, R., Schubert, U. & Hirle,

B. (1992). *J. Organomet. Chem.* **441**, 7–14]; [Ga{μ-P(SiMe₃)₂}Cl₂]₂ [Wells, R. L., Self, M. F., McPhail, A. T., Aubuchon, S. R., Woudenberg, R. C. & Jasinski, J. P. (1993). *Organometallics*, **12**, 2832–2834]; [Ga(^{*t*}Bu)(Cl)(μ-P^{*t*}Pr₂)₂Ga(P^{*t*}Pr₂)(^{*t*}Bu)] [Atwood, D. A., Atwood, V. O., Cowley, A. H., Gobran, H. R., Jones, R. A., Smeal, T. M. & Carrano, C. J. (1993). *Organometallics*, **12**, 3517–3521].

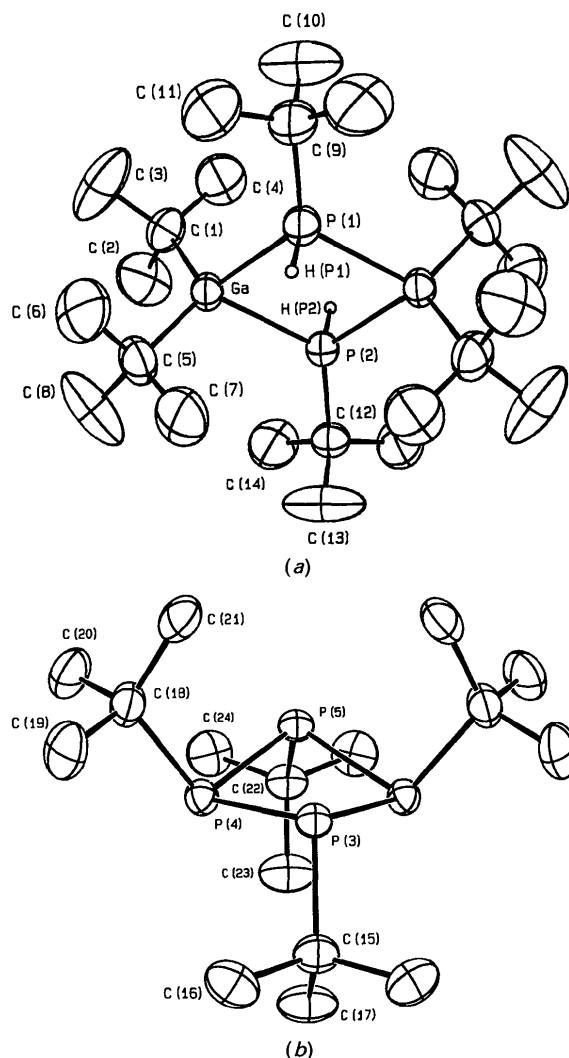


Fig. 1. ORTEP drawing and numbering scheme for (a) bis(μ-*tert*-butylphosphido)bis(di-*tert*-butylgallium) (1a) and (b) tetra-*tert*-butylcyclotetraphosphane (1b) showing 30% probability ellipsoids.

Experimental

The title compound was obtained by reaction of a solution of ^{*t*}BuPH₂ and three molar equivalents of ^{*t*}BuMgCl with GaCl₃ in ether. Crystals were obtained by recrystallization from toluene.

† See Note added in proof.

Crystal data

[Ga₂(C₄H₉)₄(C₄H₁₀P)₂].
(C₁₆H₃₆P₄) $M_r = 898.46$

Monoclinic

 $P2_1/m$ $a = 9.179 (2) \text{ \AA}$ $b = 16.978 (4) \text{ \AA}$ $c = 17.263 (3) \text{ \AA}$ $\beta = 102.84 (3)^\circ$ $V = 2623 (2) \text{ \AA}^3$ $Z = 2$ $D_x = 1.14 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ Mo K α radiation $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ Cell parameters from 25
reflections $\theta = 9\text{--}12^\circ$ $\mu = 1.23 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ $T = 294 (1) \text{ K}$

Parallelepiped

 $0.25 \times 0.20 \times 0.20 \text{ mm}$

Pale yellow

Data collection

Enraf-Nonius CAD-4
diffractometer ω - 2θ scansAbsorption correction:
empirical $T_{\text{min}} = 0.934$, $T_{\text{max}} =$
0.995

5679 measured reflections

5341 independent reflections

2687 observed reflections

 $[F_o^2 > 3\sigma(F_o^2)]$ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.024$ $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.0^\circ$ $h = 0 \rightarrow 11$ $k = 0 \rightarrow 20$ $l = -21 \rightarrow 20$

3 standard reflections

frequency: 50 min

intensity variation: -8.5%

Refinement

Refinement on F^2 $R = 0.041$ $wR = 0.051$ $S = 1.59$

2687 reflections

241 parameters

 $w = 1/\sigma^2(F_o)$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.02$ $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.41 (7) e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.26 (7) e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ Atomic scattering factors
from *International Tables*
for *X-ray Crystallography*
(1974, Vol. IV)Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and isotropic or
equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

	x	y	z	$B_{\text{iso}}/B_{\text{eq}}$
Ga	0.58581 (6)	0.13823 (3)	0.33581 (3)	3.28 (1)
P(1)	0.6393 (2)	1/4	0.2552 (1)	3.65 (4)
P(2)	0.5361 (2)	1/4	0.4180 (1)	3.12 (4)
P(3)	0.0507 (2)	1/4	0.8183 (1)	3.32 (4)
P(4)	0.2285 (2)	0.34047 (8)	0.84259 (8)	3.57 (3)
P(5)	0.3763 (2)	1/4	0.9115 (1)	3.50 (4)
C(1)	0.7664 (6)	0.0786 (3)	0.3962 (3)	4.6 (1)
C(2)	0.7265 (7)	0.0390 (4)	0.4688 (4)	8.1 (2)
C(3)	0.8165 (8)	0.0185 (4)	0.3424 (5)	10.4 (2)
C(4)	0.8989 (6)	0.1331 (4)	0.4274 (4)	7.1 (2)
C(5)	0.4029 (6)	0.0802 (3)	0.2749 (3)	4.9 (1)
C(6)	0.4414 (8)	0.0385 (4)	0.2048 (4)	9.2 (2)
C(7)	0.2738 (7)	0.1339 (4)	0.2441 (4)	7.9 (2)
C(8)	0.3512 (9)	0.0213 (4)	0.3296 (5)	10.6 (2)
C(9)	0.7665 (8)	1/4	0.1840 (4)	5.0 (2)
C(10)	0.930 (1)	1/4	0.2341 (6)	10.2 (4)
C(11)	0.7415 (8)	0.1763 (4)	0.1328 (4)	9.4 (2)
C(12)	0.4085 (7)	1/4	0.4890 (4)	4.0 (2)
C(13)	0.2483 (9)	1/4	0.4409 (5)	9.7 (4)
C(14)	0.4401 (7)	0.1770 (4)	0.5410 (3)	7.6 (2)
C(15)	-0.0158 (8)	1/4	0.7068 (4)	4.5 (2)
C(16)	-0.1104 (6)	0.3247 (4)	0.6856 (3)	6.1 (2)
C(17)	0.1106 (8)	1/4	0.6617 (4)	6.3 (2)
C(18)	0.1748 (6)	0.4057 (3)	0.9201 (3)	5.0 (1)
C(19)	0.0448 (7)	0.4569 (3)	0.8751 (4)	7.0 (2)
C(20)	0.3138 (8)	0.4571 (4)	0.9540 (4)	7.2 (2)

C(21)	0.1284 (7)	0.3609 (3)	0.9883 (3)	6.2 (1)
C(22)	0.5437 (8)	1/4	0.8650 (4)	4.9 (2)
C(23)	0.5069 (8)	1/4	0.7748 (5)	7.1 (3)
C(24)	0.6330 (6)	0.3229 (4)	0.8963 (4)	7.0 (2)
H(P1)	0.501 (8)	1/4	0.196 (4)	8 (2)
H(P2)	0.657 (7)	1/4	0.489 (4)	5 (2)

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$)

Ga—P(1)	2.466 (1)	Ga—Ga ⁱ	3.7953 (7)
Ga—P(2)	2.472 (1)	P(3)—P(4)	2.213 (2)
Ga—C(1)	2.023 (5)	P(3)—C(15)	1.886 (7)
Ga—C(5)	2.027 (5)	P(4)—P(5)	2.213 (2)
P(1)—C(9)	1.875 (8)	P(4)—C(18)	1.885 (6)
P(2)—C(12)	1.874 (8)	P(5)—C(22)	1.884 (8)
P(1)—H(P1)	1.44 (6)	P(3)—P(5)	3.064 (2)
P(2)—H(P2)	1.46 (5)	P(4)—P(4 ⁱ)	3.072 (2)
P(1)—P(2)	3.158 (3)		
P(1)—Ga—P(2)	79.52 (5)	Ga—P(2)—Ga ⁱ	100.30 (7)
P(1)—Ga—C(1)	115.7 (2)	C(9)—P(1)—H(P1)	96 (3)
P(1)—Ga—C(5)	109.1 (2)	C(12)—P(2)—H(P2)	86 (3)
P(2)—Ga—C(1)	108.8 (2)	P(3)—P(4)—P(5)	87.62 (6)
P(2)—Ga—C(5)	115.7 (2)	P(3)—P(4)—C(18)	104.1 (2)
C(1)—Ga—C(5)	120.9 (2)	P(5)—P(4)—C(18)	104.6 (2)
Ga—P(1)—C(9)	126.96 (7)	P(4)—P(3)—C(15)	104.5 (2)
Ga—P(2)—C(12)	126.68 (7)	P(4)—P(5)—C(22)	103.4 (2)
Ga—P(1)—H(P1)	99 (2)	P(4)—P(5)—P(4 ⁱ)	87.90 (7)
Ga—P(2)—H(P2)	106 (2)	P(4)—P(3)—P(4 ⁱ)	87.92 (8)
Ga—P(1)—Ga ⁱ	100.64 (8)		
P(1)—Ga—P(2)—Ga ⁱ	0.90 (7)	P(4 ⁱ)—P(3)—P(4)—P(5)	-22.34 (8)

Symmetry code: (i) $x, \frac{1}{2} - y, z$.

The H atoms bonded to P(1) and P(2) were located and refined isotropically. The other H atoms were calculated in idealized positions and included in the refinement with fixed $U_{\text{iso}} = 1.3 \times U$ of the bonding atom. Anisotropic displacement parameters were used for non-H atoms. Calculations were carried out on a VAX11/750 computer using *SDP* (Frenz, 1978). The figure was produced with *ORTEP* (Johnson, 1974).

We thank the Donors of the Petroleum Research Fund, administered by the American Chemical Society, for financial support of this work, and the College of Art and Sciences for support of the X-ray crystallographic facilities.

Lists of structure factors, anisotropic displacement parameters, H-atom coordinates, complete geometry and least-squares-planes data have been deposited with the British Library Document Supply Centre as Supplementary Publication No. SUP 71799 (41 pp.). Copies may be obtained through The Technical Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [CIF reference: CR1073]

References

- Arif, A. M., Benac, B. L., Cowley, A. H., Geerts, R., Jones, R. A., Kidd, K. B., Power, J. M. & Schwab, S. T. (1986). *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun.* pp. 1543–1545.
- Banks, M. A., Beachley, O. T. Jr, Buttrey, L. A., Churchill, M. R. & Fetting, J. C. (1991). *Organometallics*, **10**, 1901–1906.
- Bart, J. C. J. (1969). *Acta Cryst.* **B25**, 762–770.
- Baudler, M. & Glinka, K. (1993). *Chem. Rev.* **93**, 1613–1667.
- Cowley, A. H. & Jones, R. A. (1989). *Angew. Chem.* **101**, 1235–1242; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **28**, 1208–1215.
- Cowley, A. H., Jones, R. A., Mardones, M. A., Ruiz, J., Atwood, J. L. & Bott, S. G. (1990). *Angew. Chem.* **102**, 1169–1170; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **29**, 1150–1151.
- Fild, M., Bunke, D. & Schomburg, D. (1988). *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **566**, 90–102.

- Frenz, B. A. (1978). *The Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 SDP - a Real-Time System for Concurrent X-ray Data Collection and Crystal Structure Solution. Computing in Crystallography*, edited by H. Schenk, R. Olthof-Hazekamp, H. van Koningsveld & G. C. Bassi, pp. 64–71. Delft Univ. Press.
- Heaton, D. E., Jones, R. A., Kidd, K. B., Cowley, A. H. & Nunn, C. M. (1988). *Polyhedron*, **7**, 1901–1908.
- Heuer, L., Sell, M., Schmutzler, R. & Schomburg, D. (1987). *Polyhedron*, **6**, 1295–1307.
- Johnson, C. K. (1974). *ORTEP*. Report ORNL-3794, revised. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee, USA.
- Lee, K. E., Higa, K. T., Nissan, R. A. & Butcher, R. J. (1992). *Organometallics*, **11**, 2816–2821.
- Palenik, G. J. & Donohue, J. (1962). *Acta Cryst.* **15**, 564–569.
- Sanz, F. & Daly, J. J. (1971). *J. Chem. Soc. A*, pp. 1083–1086.
- Weigand, W., Cordes, A. W. & Swepston, P. N. (1981). *Acta Cryst.* **B37**, 1631–1634.
- Zanella, P., Rossetto, G., Brianese, N., Ossola, F., Porchia, M. & Williams, J. O. (1991). *Chem. Mater.* **3**, 225–242.

Acta Cryst. (1994). **C50**, 1247–1249

The 18-Crown-6 Potassium Salt of a Meissenheimer Anion, [K(C₇H₃Cl₃N₃O₆)(C₁₂H₂₄O₆)]

JOHN C. BARNES, JENIFER MAIN AND JOHN D. PATON

Chemistry Department, University of Dundee,
Dundee DD1 4HN, Scotland

(Received 23 December 1993; accepted 22 February 1994)

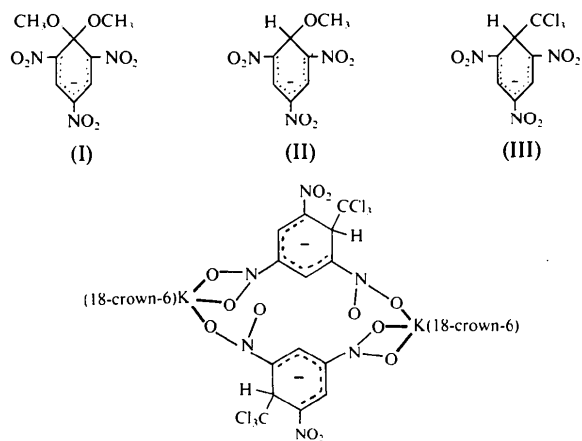
Abstract

The title compound crystallizes as a centrosymmetric dimer, bis(μ -4-trichloromethyl-1,3,5-trinitro-2,5-cyclohexadien-1-ido)-1 κ^2 O¹,O^{1'}:2 κ O³;1 κ O³:2 κ^2 O¹,O^{1'}-bis-[(1,4,7,10,13,16-hexaoxacyclooctadecane- κ^6 O)potassium], [{K(C₁₂H₂₄O₆)₂(μ -C₇H₃Cl₃N₃O₆)₂], in which the coordination of the (18-crown-6)potassium ions is completed by a bidentate *para* nitro group from one anion and a monodentate *ortho* nitro group from the other. The CCl₃ group is axial and points away from the centre of inversion. The K⁺ ion is 0.782 (2) Å out of the mean plane of the six crown O atoms.

Comment

Meissenheimer (1902) presented the first chemical evidence for the molecular structures of the brightly coloured solutions formed by the interaction of aromatic nitro compounds with bases. There are recent reviews of the behaviour of these compounds in solution (Bunsel, Norris & Russell, 1968; Terrier, 1981) but very little has been published on their properties in the solid state and few structures have been determined. One reason is that the potassium salts of Meissenheimer anions

such as (I) and (II) tend to give crystals of poor quality with only weak diffraction patterns. It was thought that better crystals might be obtained by the complexation of the K⁺ ion with a crown ether. Reaction of the potassium salt of (I) with 18-crown-6 in ethyl acetate yielded 18-crown-6 potassium picrate (Barnes & Collard, 1988) as pale yellow crystals. The potassium salt of (II) (0.1 g, 0.30 mmol) reacted with 18-crown-6 (0.09 g, 0.3 mmol) in chloroform (4 ml) to give bright red crystals after slow evaporation at room temperature. These have been found to be the 18-crown-6 potassium complex of (III), a Meissenheimer anion in which the methoxy group has been replaced by CCl₃. (I) probably reacts similarly with chloroform but the poor quality orange crystals obtained gave an unsatisfactory weak data set from which no model could be obtained.



The structure of the title compound is dimeric about the centre of inversion at $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ with the ring planes of the Meissenheimer anion approximately perpendicular to the *a* axis. The separation of these ring planes is 3.50 Å and the rings are arranged in a typical semi-overlapping arrangement associated with intermolecular π interactions (Prout & Kamenar, 1973) such that C(24ⁱ)—C(25ⁱ) lies perpendicularly below the ring diagonal C(23) to C(26) [symmetry code: (i) 1 - *x*, 1 - *y*, 1 - *z*]. The nominally single bonds to C(21) in the ring of the anion average 1.504 (4) Å, 10 σ shorter than the exocyclic C(21)—C(27) bond. C(22)—C(23) and C(25)—C(26) average 1.354 (3) Å, 11 σ shorter than C(23)—C(24) and C(24)—C(25). The tetrahedral C atom C(21) [C(26)—C(21)—C(22) 107.8 (2) $^\circ$] is 0.389 (5) Å out of the mean plane through C(22), C(23), C(24), C(25) and C(26) with the H atom equatorial so that the CCl₃ group points axially towards the outside of the dimer. The normal to the mean plane of the three Cl atoms makes an angle of 14.8 (1) $^\circ$ to the normal to the mean plane through C(22), C(23), C(24), C(25) and C(26). The nitro groups are twisted out of the latter plane by 19.1 (2), 13.6 (2) and 18.4 (4) $^\circ$, so that neither the loss of aromaticity nor the coordination to K⁺ introduces deviation