Data collection

Stoe four-circle diffractom-	$R_{\rm int}=0.040$
eter	$\theta_{\rm max} = 27.5^{\circ}$
ω scans	$h = -9 \rightarrow 13$
Absorption correction: none	$k = -16 \rightarrow 9$
8624 measured reflections	$l = -18 \rightarrow 18$
7611 independent reflections	3 standard reflections
6331 reflections with	every 100 reflections
$I > 2\sigma(I)$	intensity decay: 1.52

Refinement

Refinement on F^2 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.047$ $wR(F^2) = 0.134$ S = 1.0447602 reflections 413 parameters H atoms constrained $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0776P)^2]$ + 1.955P] where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$

%

$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$ $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 1.253 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$ $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -1.670 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$ Extinction correction: none Scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (Vol. C)

Table 1. Selected geometric parameters (Å, °)

	0	•	,
Ag102	2.386 (3)	Cl2—C1	1.769 (6)
Ag1—P1	2.4120(12)	P1-C26	1.815(3)
Ag1—P2	2.4401 (12)	P1-C16	1.825 (3)
Ag1—O1	2.481 (3)	P1-C36	1.826 (4)
NIOI	1.253 (4)	P2-C46	1.821 (4)
N1—O2	1.259 (4)	P2C56	1.826(3)
C11—C1	1.777 (6)	P2—C66	1.826 (4)
O2—Ag1—P1	118.35 (8)	N1—O2—Ag1	99.6(2)
O2—Ag1—P2	109.99 (8)	Cl2—C1—CI1	111.3 (3)
P1—Ag1—P2	128.67 (4)	C26—P1—Ag1	117.64 (12)
02—Ag1—O1	51.25 (10)	C16—P1—Ag1	110.01 (12)
Pl—Agl—Ol	120.81 (8)	C36-P1-Ag1	111.74 (12)
P2—Ag1—O1	102.06 (8)	C46—P2—Ag1	115.14 (12)
01—N1—02	114.1 (3)	C56—P2—Ag1	116.73 (12)
N1—O1—Ag1	95.1 (2)	C66—P2—Ag1	108.82 (12)
01—N1—O2—Ag1	-1.3 (4)	P1—Ag1—P2—C46	- 179.82 (12)
P2-Ag1-P1-C26	-169.02(12)		

The C atoms of the phenyl rings were refined without any constraints. The H atoms were constrained to parent sites and common isotropic displacement parameters were refined for the H atoms of the same phenyl group $[U_{iso} = 0.036(5) -$ 0.046 (6) Å²] and for the H atoms of the solvent mol-ecule $[U_{iso} = 0.091 (16) Å^2]$. The strongest peaks (0.63 to 1.253 e Å⁻³) and the holes deeper than $-0.61 e Å^{-3}$ in the final difference Fourier map were situated 0.75-1.29 Å from the Ag⁺ ion.

Data collection: local program. Cell refinement: local program. Data reduction: local program. Program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1985). Program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL93 (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics: ORTEP (Johnson, 1965). Software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL93.

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 $[Ag(NO_2)(C_{18}H_{15}P)_2].CH_2Cl_2$

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8-Methylaminoquinolinium Salts of Tetrachlorodimethylstannate(IV) and Tetrachlorodiphenylstannate(IV)

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Abstract

The title compounds, $(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(CH_3)_2]$ and $(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(C_6H_5)_2]$, have been prepared from the reaction of 8-methylaminoquinoline with diorganotin dichlorides. In the methyl compound, the Sn atom is coordinated to two methyl groups, which are trans with respect to each other [Sn—C 2.102(5) and 2.103(4)Å], and to four Cl atoms [Sn-Cl 2.442(1), 2.461(1), 2.894(1) and 3.098(1)Å]. The two long Sn—Cl bonds are trans to the short ones and their Cl atoms are hydrogen bonded to the N-H groups of the 8-methylaminoquinolinium cations. The Sn-CH₃ bonds are bent away from the short Sn-Cl bonds so that the CH₃-Sn—CH₃ angle is $155.7(2)^{\circ}$. A correlation between the C-Sn-C angle and the Sn-Cl bond lengths was observed. The anion of the phenyl compound is close to being octahedral and has exact twofold symmetry; the phenyl groups are trans with respect to each other [Sn—C 2.143(2)Å] and Sn—Cl distances are in the range 2.497 (1)-2.672 (1) Å. Two Cl atoms are hydrogen bonded to N-H groups of the cations.

Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: SK1123). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.



Fig. 1. The structure and hydrogen bonding for compound (1), with 50% probability ellipsoids for non-H atoms.

Comment

As a continuation of our attempts to coax potentially N, N'-bidentate ligands to form adducts with diorganotin dihalides (Hazell *et al.*, 1997), we now report that the reaction of 8-methylaminoquinoline with R_2 SnCl₂ ($R = CH_3$ and C₆H₅) yielded, instead of adducts, the 8-methylaminoquinolinium salts of tetrachlorodimethyl-stannate(IV) and tetrachlorodiphenylstannate(IV).



In $(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(CH_3)_2]$, (1), the Sn atom is coordinated to two methyl groups, which are *trans* with respect to each other, and four Cl atoms (Fig. 1). There are two short Sn—Cl bonds and two very long Sn— Cl bonds, each of which is *trans* to a short Sn— Cl bond; the Sn—CH₃ bonds are bent away from the short Sn—Cl bonds. The geometry is intermediate between that expected for a regular $(CH_3)_2SnCl_4^2$ anion and that of $(CH_3)_2SnCl_2.2Cl^-$, but is closer to that of $(CH_3)_2SnCl_4^2$. Comparison with related dimethyltin tetrachlorides shows (Fig. 2) that as the Cl⁻ ions are removed, the remaining Sn—Cl bonds get shorter and the CH₃—Sn—CH₃ angle gets narrower, *i.e.* the diagram shows the reaction path for $(CH_3)_2SnCl_4^2 \to (CH_3)_2SnCl_2 + 2Cl^-$.

The two N atoms of the 8-methylaminoquinolinium cation are involved in $N-H\cdots$ Cl hydrogen bonds to the Cl atoms of the long Sn-Cl bonds.

In $(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(C_6H_5)_2]$, (2), the anion is close to being octahedral and has exact twofold symmetry with the phenyl groups *trans* with respect to each other. The Cl1 and Cl2 atoms are both involved in



Fig. 2. Sn—Cl distances (Å) versus the CH₃—Sn—CH₃ angle (°) for (CH₃)SnCl²₄⁻. Short bonds are represented by open squares, long ones by open circles, and the values for (1) by filled squares and circles [REFCODES (Allen *et al.*, 1991): (*a*) CEZFES, (*b*) DERTUP10, (*c*) DMSNCL01, (*d*) FUPTEP. (*e*) GEKDEF, (*f*) KUVGOX, (*g*) PYMCSN, (*h*) ZEXJOB. (*i*) ZIKHUW].

two N—H···Cl hydrogen bonds (Fig. 3). The shortest Sn—Cl bond being that to Cl3, which is not involved in hydrogen bonding, while the longest is to Cl1, which is *trans* with respect to the shortest bond. The phenyl rings are twisted so that the angle between the rings is 77.1 (2)°. These bond distances and angles are similar to those found in the only other Ph₂SnCl₄²⁻ structure reported, with *N*-(4-hydroxybenzalidene)-4-methoxyanilinium cations (Teoh *et al.*, 1992), in which the anion differs in having a centre of symmetry, so that the phenyl groups are coplanar.

In both 8-methylaminoquinolinium compounds, the C— N_{sp^3} bonds of the cations show considerable doublebond character [C—N 1.366 (5) and 1.344 (6) Å in the methyl compound, and 1.369 (2) Å in the phenyl compound] and the C—N—CH₃ angles [122.0 (4), 123.2 (5) and 120.3 (2)°] are all larger than the ideal tetrahedral angle. The C—N distances are similar to that



Fig. 3. The structure and hydrogen bonding for compound (2), with 50% probability ellipsoids for non-H atoms. For symmetry operator (i), see Table 5.

in 8-aminoquinolinium chloride [1.358(6)Å], but considerably shorter than that observed when 8-aminoquinoline is coordinated to tin (Bengtson et al., 1996).

Experimental

8-Methylaminoquinoline was prepared according to the method of Deady & Yusoff (1976). An equimolar mixture of 8-methylaminoquinoline (0.4 g, 2.5 mmol) and dimethyltin dichloride in 6 ml of chloroform was heated to boiling for 5 min on a hotplate. On cooling, 5 ml of petroleum ether (313-333 K) was added to the mixture which was then allowed to stand in a freezer for 1 h. A red solid (0.36 g, 47% yield, m.p. 363-381 K) was isolated from the mixture. Recrystallization of this solid from CH₃OH/CHCl₃ (1:5) yielded needle-shaped red crystals of compound (1) (m.p. 423-427 K) with satisfactory chemical analyses. Adopting the above procedure and using diphenyltin dichloride, compound (2) was obtained in 46% yield (m.p. 431-435 K, satisfactory chemical analyses).

Compound (1)

Crystal data

$(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(CH_3)_2]$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$M_r = 608.99$	$\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$
Monoclinic	Cell parameters from 6627
$P2_1/n$	reflections
a = 7.1020 (4) Å	$\theta = 1.4 - 29.4^{\circ}$
b = 12.7094(6) Å	$\mu = 1.441 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
c = 28.213(2) Å	T = 296 K
$\beta = 92.076 (1)^{\circ}$	Plate
V = 2544.9 (2) Å ³	0.50 \times 0.30 \times 0.16 mm
Z = 4	Red
$D_x = 1.589 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$	
D_m not measured	

Data collection	
Siemens SMART CCD diffractometer ω rotation scans with narrow frames Absorption correction: numerical (<i>XPREP</i> ; Siemens, 1995) $T_{min} = 0.501, T_{max} = 0.779$ 12 315 measured reflections	6333 independent reflections 4583 reflections with $I > 3\sigma(I)$ $R_{int} = 0.038$ $\theta_{max} = 29.4^{\circ}$ $h = -9 \rightarrow 9$ $k = 0 \rightarrow 17$ $l = 0 \rightarrow 38$
Refinement	
Refinement on F R = 0.034 wR = 0.048 S = 1.324 4583 reflections 393 parameters All H atoms refined w = $1/\{[\sigma_{cs}(F^2) + 1.03F^2]^{1/2} - F \}^2$ $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.005$	$\begin{aligned} \Delta \rho_{\text{max}} &= 0.45 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ \Delta \rho_{\text{min}} &= -0.58 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3} \\ \text{Extinction correction:} \\ \text{B-C type 1. Lorentzian} \\ \text{isotropic (Becker &} \\ \text{Coppens, 1974)} \\ \text{Extinction coefficient:} \\ 63 (12) \\ \text{Scattering factors from International Tables for X-ray} \\ Crystallography (Vol. IV) \end{aligned}$

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

$U_{eq} = (1/3) \sum_{i} \sum_{i} U^{ij} a^{i} a^{j} \mathbf{a}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{i}.$

	х	y	c	U_{eq}
Sn	0.11200 (4)	0.23333 (2)	0.35246(1)	0.0431 (2)
Cll	0.27758 (18)	0.10995 (8)	0.30231 (4)	0.0673 (7)
C12	0.12579 (17)	0.37799 (8)	0.29468 (3)	0.0602 (6)
C13	0.09557 (16)	0.06545 (8)	0.42151 (3)	0.0565 (6)
Cl4	-0.10353 (16)	0.38357 (8)	0.41784 (3)	0.0598 (6)
NI	0.1929 (4)	-0.1469 (2)	0.3722(1)	0.040(2)
N2	0.3245 (5)	-0.1357 (3)	0.4678(1)	0.054(2)
C1	0.1333 (5)	-0.1471 (3)	0.3272(1)	0.046(2)
C2	0.1238 (6)	-0.2404(3)	0.3021(1)	0.049(2)

n (

C3	0.1771 (5)	-0.3313(3)	0.3239(1)	0.050 (2
C4	0.2414 (5)	-0.3327(3)	0.3716(1)	0.042 (2
C5	0.2974 (6)	-0.4250(3)	0.3955 (2)	0.055 (2
C6	0.3574 (6)	-0.4200(3)	0.4415(2)	0.058 (2
C7	0.3664 (5)	-0.3250(3)	0.4663(1)	0.052 (2
C8	0.3130 (5)	-0.2302(3)	0.4448(1)	0.042 (2
C9	0.2503 (4)	-0.2356(3)	0.3963(1)	0.038 (2
C10	0.3742 (9)	-0.1280(5)	0.5178(2)	0.070 (3
N3	-0.1705(4)	0.6214 (3)	0.4222(1)	0.042 (2
N4	-0.2837(6)	0.5481 (3)	0.3312(1)	0.063 (2
C11	-0.1170(5)	0.6516(3)	0.4654 (1)	0.048 (2
C12	-0.1256(6)	0.7551 (3)	().4784 (2)	0.055 (2
C13	-0.1915(5)	0.8276 (4)	0.4462 (2)	0.056 (2
C14	-0.2518(5)	0.7975 (3)	0.4002(1)	0.048 (2
C15	-0.3215(6)	0.8703 (4)	0.3658 (2)	0.061 (3
C16	-0.3779 (6)	0.8340(4)	0.3225(2)	0.069 (3
C17	-0.3657(6)	0.7272 (4)	0.3100(1)	0.061 (3
C18	-0.2957(5)	0.6509 (3)	0.3419(1)	0.049 (2
C19	-0.2391(4)	0.6894 (3)	0.3880(1)	0.041 (2
C20	-0.3385(11)	0.5055 (7)	0.2850(2)	0.095 (5
C21	0.3425 (7)	0.2827 (4)	0.3958 (2)	0.057 (3
C22	-0.1679 (7)	0.1867 (5)	0.3375 (2)	0.063 (3)

Table 2. Selected geometric parameters (Å, $^{\circ}$) for (1)

	0	•	
Sn—C21	2.103 (4)	Sn—Cl2	2.461 (1)
Sn—C22	2.102 (5)	Sn—Cl3	2.894 (1)
Sn—Cll	2.442(1)	SnCl4	3.098 (1)
C21—Sn—C22	155.7 (2)	CI4SnC21	82.0 (2)
C11—Sn—C22	100.0 (2)	CI1—Sn—CI2	93.70 (4)
Cl2-Sn-C22	97.9 (2)	CII—Sn—Cl3	87.05 (3)
Cl3—Sn—C22	82.3 (2)	CII—Sn—Cl4	178.10 (5)
Cl4-Sn-C22	79.0 (2)	Cl2—Sn—Cl3	179.16 (9)
Cl1—Sn—C21	98.5 (2)	Cl2—Sn—Cl4	88.07 (3)
Cl2—Sn—C21	96.5(1)	Cl3—Sn—Cl4	91.19 (3)
C13—Sn—C21	83.0(1)		

Table 3. Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °) for (1)

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	<i>D</i> —Н	H···A	$D \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D = \mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot \mathbf{A}$
N1—HN1···Cl3	0.83 (4)	2.31 (4)	3.126 (3)	168 (4)
N2—HN2···Cl3	0.78 (4)	2.50(5)	3.275 (4)	172 (4)
N3—HN3···Cl4	1.00 (4)	2.09 (4)	3.063 (3)	165 (3)
N4HN4···Cl4	0.79 (5)	2.66 (5)	3.429 (4)	167 (5)

Compound (2)

Crystal data

$(C_{10}H_{11}N_2)_2[SnCl_4(C_6H_5)_2]$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
$M_r = 733.13$	$\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$
Monoclinic	Cell parameters from 8192
C2/c	reflections
a = 13.7689 (6) Å	$\theta = 2.1 - 29.4^{\circ}$
b = 12.0870(5) Å	$\mu = 1.189 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
c = 18.7926 (8) Å	T = 296 K
$\beta = 92.641 (1)^{\circ}$	Plate
V = 3124.2 (2) Å ³	0.34 \times 0.34 \times 0.15 mm
Z = 4	Red
$D_x = 1.559 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$	
D_m not measured	

Data collection

Siemens SMART CCD	4104 independent reflections
diffractometer	3600 reflections with
ω rotation scans with narrow	$I > 2\sigma(I)$
frames	$R_{\rm int} = 0.021$
Absorption correction:	$\theta_{\rm max} = 29^{\circ}$
numerical (XPREP;	$h = -18 \rightarrow 18$
Siemens, 1995)	$k = 0 \rightarrow 15$
$T_{\rm min} = 0.680, \ T_{\rm max} = 0.851$	$l = 0 \rightarrow 26$
21 740 measured reflections	

Kejinemeni	
Refinement on F	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.31 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
R = 0.020	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.40 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
wR = 0.033	Extinction correction:
S = 1.198	B-C type 1, Lorentzian
3600 reflections	isotropic (Becker &
252 parameters	Coppens, 1974)
All H atoms refined	Extinction coefficient:
$w = 1/\{[\sigma_{cs}(F^2) + 1.03F^2]$	$[3]^{1/2}$ 3.5 (4) × 10 ²
$- F \}^{2}$	Scattering factors from Inter-
$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$	national Tables for X-ray
	Crystallography (Vol. IV)

Table 4. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters $(Å^2)$ for (2)

 $U_{\rm eq} = (1/3) \sum_i \sum_j U^{ij} a^i a^j \mathbf{a}_i \cdot \mathbf{a}_j.$

	х	у	2	U_{eq}
Sn	1/2	-0.00667(1)	3/4	0.0325(1)
CH	1/2	-0.22776 (4)	3/4	0.0413 (3)
Cl2	0.53184 (3)	-0.01181(3)	0.88774 (2)	0.0430(2)
Cl3	1/2	0.19988 (5)	3/4	0.0538(3)
NI	0.3542(1)	-0.2644(1)	0.6067(1)	0.048(1)
N2	0.5329(1)	-0.2489(1)	0.5417(1)	0.057(1)
CI	0.2695(1)	-0.2631(2)	0.6380(1)	0.055(1)
C2	0.1921(1)	-0.3250(2)	0.6108(1)	0.055(1)
C3	0.2045(1)	-0.3888(2)	0.5529(1)	0.054(1)
C4	0.2938(1)	-0.3914(1)	0.5186(1)	0.046(1)
C5	0.3094 (2)	-0.4551 (2)	0.4575(1)	0.064(1)
C6	0.3970(2)	-0.4504(2)	(0.4277(1))	0.074(1)
C7	0.4718(1)	-0.3822(2)	0.4543(1)	0.062(1)
C8	0.4613(1)	-0.3166(1)	0.5134(1)	0.045(1)
C9	0.3706(1)	-0.3246(1)	0.5468(1)	0.039(1)
C10	0.6221 (2)	-0.2325 (2)	0.5045(2)	().074(1)
C11	0.6535(1)	-0.0174(1)	0.7368(1)	0.037(1)
C12	0.6928(1)	-0.0957(2)	0.6928(1)	0.048(1)
C13	0.7924 (1)	-0.0992(2)	0.6835(1)	0.067(1)
C14	0.8528 (2)	-0.0230(2)	0.7173(1)	0.075 (2)
C15	0.8152(1)	0.0553 (2)	0.7609(1)	0.068(1)
C16	0.7154(1)	0.0580(2)	0.7717(1)	0.050(1)

Table 5. Selected geometric parameters (Å, $^{\circ}$) for (2)

Sn—C11 Sn—C12	2.672 (1) 2.606 (1)	Sn—C13 Sn—C11	2.497 (1) 2.143 (2)			
Cl1—Sn—Cl2 Cl1—Sn—Cl3 Cl1—Sn—Cl1 Cl2—Sn—Cl2' Cl2—Sn—Cl1	88.63 (1) 180 86.53 (4) 177.27 (3) 89.52 (4)	C12'—Sn—C11 C12—Sn—C13 C13—Sn—C11 C11—Sn—C11'	90.31 (4) 91.37 (1) 93.47 (4) 173.05 (8)			
Symmetry code: (i) $1 - x, y, \frac{3}{2} - z$.						

Table 6. Hydrogen-bonding geometry $(Å, \circ)$ for (2)

D—H···A	D - H	H···A	$D \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$		
N1—HN1···CI1	0.81(2)	2.62 (2)	3.313(1)	145 (2)		
NI—HNI···CI2'	0.81(2)	2.87 (2)	3.432 (2)	128 (2)		
N2—HN2· · ·Cl2′	0.83(2)	2.47 (2)	3.298 (2)	176 (2)		
Symmetry code: (i) $1 - x, y, \frac{3}{2} - z$.						

The data collection nominally covered a hemisphere of reciprocal space by combining three sets of exposures with $\varphi = 0$, 88 and 180°. The methyl compound decayed in the beam; however, 93% of the reflections were collected before decay set in, as indicated by scaling of batches of exposures from common reflections, and only these were retained for the refinement.

For both compounds, data collection: SMART (Siemens, 1995); cell refinement: SAINT (Siemens, 1995); data reduction: SAINT and XPREP (Siemens, 1995); program(s) used to solve structures: SIR92 (Altomare et al., 1994) in KRYSTAL (Hazell, 1995); program(s) used to refine structures: modified ORFLS (Busing et al., 1962) in KRYSTAL; molecular graphics: ORTEPIII (Burnett & Johnson, 1996) in KRYSTAL; software used to prepare material for publication: KRYSTAL.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: CF1224). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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Bis(di-2-pyridylmethanediol-*N*,*O*,*N*')copper(II) Diperchlorate

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Abstract

Di-2-pyridyl ketone reacts with diaquatetrakis(betaine)dicopper tetraperchlorate in water to form centrosymmetric bis(di-2-pyridylmethanediol)copper(II) diper-

chlorate, $[Cu(C_{11}H_{10}N_2O_2)_2](ClO_4)_2$, whose metal atom is N, O, N'-chelated by the two di-2-pyridylmethanediol ligands in an elongated octahedral CuN₄O₂ geometry. The hydroxyl groups are hydrogen bonded to the perchlorate anion.

Comment

Di-2-pyridyl ketone (hereafter DPK) functions either as a bidentate N, N'-donor or as a tridentate N, O, N'-donor towards metal ions, depending on the reaction medium used in the synthesis of the complexes (Deveson *et al.*, 1996), and several mononuclear and polynuclear transition metal–DPK complexes have been reported (Wang *et al.*, 1986; Sommerer *et al.*, 1993). The ligand undergoes alcoholysis to the acetal, $[(NC_5H_4)_2C(OR)(OH)]$ (R =alkyl), whose existence has been documented through its metal complexes (Bayers *et al.*, 1985; Baggio *et al.*, 1993; Papadopoulos *et al.*, 1996; Tangoulis *et al.*, 1996). The $[(NC_5H_4)_2C(OH)_2]$ homologue is trapped in the title complex, (I), which was obtained in the attempt to prepare a copper–DPK–betaine complex.



The title complex consists of bis(di-2-pyridylmethanediol)copper(II) cations and perchlorate anions. The Cu^{II} atom, which is located at an inversion centre, is chelated by the N, O and N' atoms of the ligand, being surrounded by four N and two O atoms in an elongated octahedral CuN₄O₂ environment. The distortion arises from the deviation of the N1—Cu1—N2 [88.2 (1)°] and O1—Cu1—N1 [74.7 (1)°] angles from the idealized 90° value. The Cu—N bond lengths [2.009 (2) and 2.010 (2) Å] are similar to those [1.994 (5)–2.098 (5) Å] found in the di-2-pyridyl ketal complexes of nickel(II) and copper(II) (Wang *et al.*, 1986).

The title complex is structurally different from bis-(di-2-pyridyl-1-hydroxymethoxy)cobalt(III) perchlorate trihydrate, where the Co^{III} atom is coordinated by a pair of the tridentate ligands, with the two Co—O bonds in a *cis* arrangement (Tong *et al.*, 1998). In contrast, in the present case, the two Cu—O bonds [2.454 (2) Å], being in a *trans* arrangement, significantly exceed the Cu—N bond distances, a feature which can be attributed to the Jahn–Teller effect, which usually manifests itself in d^9 metal systems. The hydroxyl groups are both involved as donors in hydrogen bonds with the perchlorate anion (Table 2).