$S=1.10$
3569 reflections 286 parameters
H atoms: see below
$w=1 /\left[\sigma F^{2}+(0.02 F)^{2}\right.$
$+0.10]$

Extinction correction: none Scattering factors from International Tables for X-ray Crystallography (Vol. IV)

Ülkü, D., Ercan, F., Atakol, O. \& Dinçer, F. N. (1997). Acta Cryst. C53, 1056-1057.
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Table 2. Selected geometric parameters $\left(\AA^{\circ},^{\circ}\right)$

| $\mathrm{Ni} \cdots \mathrm{Mn}$ | $3.133(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Cl}$ | $1.309(2)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | ---: |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 1$ | $2.035(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Cl} 7$ | $1.320(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 2$ | $2.017(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 3-\mathrm{Cl} 8$ | $1.251(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 4$ | $2.046(2)$ | $\mathrm{O} 4-\mathrm{Cl} 18$ | $1.247(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O5}$ | $2.184(2)$ | $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{C} 20$ | $1.226(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 1$ | $2.016(2)$ | $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{Cl0}$ | $1.465(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $2.036(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 9-\mathrm{Cl} 10$ | $1.514(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 1$ | $2.163(1)$ | $\mathrm{C} 11-\mathrm{Cl} 2$ | $1.452(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 2$ | $2.166(2)$ | $\mathrm{C} 18-\mathrm{Cl} 9$ | $1.510(5)$ |
| $\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 3$ | $2.194(2)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 2$ | $82.98(7)$ | $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $84.79(8)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 4$ | $93.66(8)$ | $\mathrm{N} 1-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $97.49(9)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 5$ | $88.22(8)$ | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 2$ | $76.66(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 1$ | $172.58(8)$ | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 3$ | $85.95(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 4$ | $95.10(7)$ | $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 3$ | $87.74(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 5$ | $91.55(7)$ | $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{Mn}$ | $96.49(6)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $171.23(8)$ | $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{Cl}$ | $123.4(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 4-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 1$ | $90.23(8)$ | $\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{Ol}-\mathrm{Cl}$ | $135.9(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 4-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $88.77(8)$ | $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Mn}$ | $96.95(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{O} 5-\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{N} 1$ | $88.64(8)$ | $\mathrm{Mn}-\mathrm{O} 3-\mathrm{Cl} 8$ | $130.5(2)$ |

Acta Cryst. (1998). C54, 1270-1272
Triaqua(pyridine-2,6-dipicolinato- $O, N, O^{\prime}$ )iron(III) Bis(pyridine-2,6-dipicolinato$\boldsymbol{O}, \boldsymbol{N}, \boldsymbol{O}^{\prime}$ )iron(III) Hexahydrate: an Unusual Ion-Pair Compound

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All non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. The H -atom positions were taken from difference maps. A riding model was used for all H atoms, with $U_{\text {iso }}(\mathrm{H})=$ $1.3 U_{\mathrm{eq}}(\mathrm{C})$ of the parent atom.
Data collection: CAD-4 EXPRESS (Enraf-Nonius, 1993). Data reduction: MolEN (Fair, 1990). Program(s) used to solve structure: SIMPEL in MolEN. Program(s) used to refine structure: LSFM in MolEN. Molecular graphics: ORTEPII (Johnson, 1976) in MolEN. Software used to prepare material for publication: MolEN.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: FR1111). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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## Abstract

The reaction of dipicolinic acid (2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid) with $\mathrm{FeCl}_{3}$ results in the unusual title ion-pair compound, $\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{4}\right)\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{3}-\right.\right.$ $\left.\left.\mathrm{NO}_{4}\right)_{2}\right] .6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. Each Fe atom has an octahedral geometry. The dipicolinate ligands are nearly planar, with the two in the anion being perpendicular to each other and displaying a dihedral angle of $93.74(6)^{\circ}$. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{O}$ (carboxylate) bond distances are comparable and range from 2.008 (2) to 2.028 (2) $\AA$, while the $\mathrm{Fe}-$ N distances are $2.059(2), 2.054$ (2) and 2.054 (2) $\AA$. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{O}$ (water) distances are 1.971 (2), 1.987 (2) and 2.004 (2) $\AA$. The cation, anion and water molecules are involved in an extensive three-dimensional hydrogenbonding network, with $\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ distances ranging from 2.36 (2) to 2.953 (3) $\AA$ and angles ranging from 129 to $177^{\circ}$.

## Comment

The reaction of iron with dipicolinic acid (2,6-pyridinedicarboxylic acid, dipicH $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ ) is more complicated than expected, particularly in the solid state. Several crystal structures of iron(III) and iron(II) complexes with dipic $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ and its derivatives have been reported in which mononuclear, binuclear and polynuclear structures are formed. The ligand-to-iron ratio can be one and two, and six- and seven-coordinate iron complexes have been reported (Laine et al., 1995, 1995a,b,c; Hseu et al., 1991; Marsh, 1993; Cousson et al., 1992; Thich et al., 1976). Interest in this area stems from the biological
activity of dipicolinic acid for enhancing the production of spore photoproducts in bacterial spores upon UV irradiation (Bailey et al., 1965; Setlow \& Setlow, 1993; Waterbury et al., 1989), the usefulness of dipicolinic acid in analytical chemistry for the determination of iron (Morimoto \& Tanaka, 1963; Kanay, 1990), and the catalytic activity of iron-dipicolinate complexes for the activation of dioxygen and hydrogen peroxide (Sheu \& Sawyer, 1990; Sheu et al., 1990; Tung et al., 1992; Balavoine et al., 1992). We report here the synthesis and crystal structure determination of the title complex, (1).

(1)

The asymmetric unit consists of an $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}\right.$ (dipic)$\left.\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{3}\right]^{+}$cation, an $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}(\text { dipic })_{2}\right]^{-}$anion and six water molecules of crystallization. Each of the Fe atoms has an octahedral coordination geometry which is distorted due to the structural requirements of the tridentate dipicolinate ligands. The two ligands in the complex anion are trans meridional with respect to each other and have a dihedral angle of 93.74 (6) ${ }^{\circ}$. All three ligands are nearly individually planar, with the largest deviations observed in the positions of the carboxylic O atoms. These deviations can be described by a slight rotation of each carboxylate group from its respective ligand, with angles ranging from $1.1(3)^{\circ}$ for the C 1 group to $3.9(4)^{\circ}$ for the C 7 group. The $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds are comparable in both ions [distances range from 2.008 (2) to 2.028 (2) $\AA$ ] and are equivalent to $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {IIII }}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds in other $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}$ (dipic) complexes (Hseu et al., 1991; Cousson et al., 1992; Marsh, 1993; Laine et al., 1995c). However, they are shorter than their counterparts in $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}$ (dipic) complexes. Observed $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {II }}$-O distances are in the range 2.137 (6) to 2.213 (6) $\AA$ (Laine et al., 1995a,b). On the other hand, the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{N}$ bonds are equal in both ions [2.059 (2) $\AA$ in the cation and 2.054 (2) $\AA$ for each bond in the anion], and they are equivalent to $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}-\mathrm{N}$ and $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}-\mathrm{N}$ bond lengths in similar complexes. The shortening of the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{O}$ distance with the $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{N}$ distance remaining unchanged cannot be explained by the smaller ionic radius of $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}$ compared with $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {II }}$, for this would lead to shortening of both $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}-\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}-\mathrm{N}$ bonds. A search of the April 1997 release of the Cambridge Structural Database (Allen \& Kennard, 1993) revealed that $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {II }}$ and $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}$ have bonds to pyridinium N atoms in the wide range 1.90 to $2.75 \AA$.

All available protons are involved in an extensive three-dimensional network of hydrogen bonding (Table 2). Although the H atoms of the disordered O 23
and O23' partial water molecules were not found, these molecules are also involved in hydrogen bonding.


Fig. 1. Displacement ellipsoid drawing ( $50 \%$ probability) of the $\left[\mathrm{Fc}^{\mathrm{II}}(\text { dipic })\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{3}\right]^{+}$cation, showing the atom-numbering scheme.


Fig. 2. Displacement ellipsoid drawing ( $50 \%$ probability) of the $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}(\text { dipic })_{2}\right]^{-}$anion, showing the atom-numbering scheme.

## Experimental

The title compound was prepared as follows: 30 ml of an aqueous solution ( pH 1.5 ) containing $\mathrm{FeCl}_{3} .6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(10^{-3} \mathrm{~mol}\right)$ and dipicH $2\left(2 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{~mol}\right)$ was stirred at room temperature for 1 h . After allowing the solution to stand for 4 d , green crystals formed. Analysis calculated for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{~N}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{21} \mathrm{Fe}_{2}$ : C 32.79, H $3.54, \mathrm{~N} 5.46 \%$; found: C 35.27 , H $2.84, \mathrm{~N} 5.82 \%$. The difference between the calculated and found values is due to the loss of water molecules from the crystal lattice. MassFAB ( $m / e$ ): 367, 331, 314, 275, 239.

Crystal data
$\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{4}\right)\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)_{3}\right]-$
$\left[\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{NO}_{4}\right)_{2}\right] .6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$
$M_{r}=769.16$
Triclinic
$P \overline{1}$
$a=8.582(2) \AA$
$b=11.313$ (2) $\AA$
$c=16.251$ (3) $\AA$
$\alpha=74.75(3)^{\circ}$
$\beta=87.29(3)^{\circ}$
$\gamma=83.16(3)^{\circ}$
$V=1511.2(5) \AA^{3}$
$Z=2$
$D_{x}=1.690 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$
$D_{m}$ not measured

Mo $K \alpha$ radiation
$\lambda=0.71073 \AA$
Cell parameters from 40 reflections
$\theta=10-11^{\circ}$
$\mu=1.056 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
$T=293$ (2) K
Prism
$0.57 \times 0.43 \times 0.27 \mathrm{~mm}$
Green

## Data collection

Siemens P3/PC diffractometer
$\omega$ scans
Absorption correction:
by integration based on measured crystal faces (Sheldrick, 1995)
$T_{\text {min }}=0.638, T_{\text {max }}=0.783$
5714 measured reflections
5323 independent reflections

4326 reflections with

$$
I>2 \sigma(I)
$$

$R_{\text {int }}=0.015$
$\theta_{\text {max }}=25^{\circ}$
$h=0 \rightarrow 10$
$k=-13 \rightarrow 13$
$l=-19 \rightarrow 19$
4 standard reflections every 100 reflections intensity decay: $<1 \%$

## Refinement

Refinement on $F^{2}$
$R\left[F^{2}>2 \sigma\left(F^{2}\right)\right]=0.035$
$w R\left(F^{2}\right)=0.097$
$S=1.037$
5323 reflections
448 parameters
H atoms: see below
$w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}^{2}\right)+(0.0547 P)^{2}\right.$ $+0.5498 P]$
where $P=\left(F_{o}^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right) / 3$
$(\Delta / \sigma)_{\text {max }}=0.001$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.568 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {min }}=-0.566 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$
Extinction correction: SHELXL97
Extinction coefficient: 0.0058 (8)

Scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (Vol. C)

Table 1. Selected bond lengths $(\AA)$

| $\mathrm{Fel-O} 15$ | $1.971(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{O} 8 A$ | $2.025(2)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Fe} 1-\mathrm{O} 16$ | $2.004(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{O} 8^{\prime} A$ | $2.028(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fel-O17}$ | $1.987(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{O} 14 A$ | $2.023(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe} 1-\mathrm{O} 1 A$ | $2.019(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{O} 14 \mathrm{C}$ | $2.023(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{O} 7 \mathrm{~A}$ | $2.008(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{N} 2$ | $2.054(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Fe} 1-\mathrm{N} 1$ | $2.059(2)$ | $\mathrm{Fe} 2-\mathrm{N} 2^{\prime}$ | $2.054(2)$ |

Table 2. Hydrogen-bonding geometry $\left(A^{\circ},{ }^{\circ}\right)$

| $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{A}$ | $D-\mathrm{H}$ | H.. $A$ | D. . A | D-_H. . . A |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O15-H15A . O 19 | 0.95 (5) | 1.64 (5) | 2.587 (4) | 175 (4) |
| O15-H15B.. $\mathrm{O} 23^{\text {i }}$ | 0.68 (4) | 1.87 (4) | 2.55 (2) | 171 (5) |
| O15-H15B.. ${ }^{\text {O23 }}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ | 0.68 (4) | 2.23 (5) | 2.85 (2) | 153 (5) |
| O16-H16B $\cdots \mathrm{O}^{\prime} B^{i i}$ | 0.75 (4) | 1.91 (4) | 2.625 (3) | 160 (4) |
| O16-H16A…O14B | 0.77 (4) | 1.91 (4) | 2.675 (3) | 175 (4) |
| O17-H17B..O18 | 0.90 (4) | 1.70 (4) | 2.592 (3) | 176 (4) |
| O17-H17A $\cdots$ O14 $D^{\text {in }}$ | 0.73 (3) | 1.89 (3) | 2.610 (3) | 171 (3) |
| O18-H18A…O7B ${ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 0.87 | 1.89 | 2.739 (3) | 163 |
| O18-H18B $\cdots \mathrm{O}^{\text {O }}{ }^{1}$ | 0.83 | 2.06 | 2.881 (3) | 169 |
| O19-H19A . . 222 | 0.86 | 2.12 | 2.762 (5) | 131 |
| O19-H19B..O14B | 0.84 | 2.14 | 2.822 (4) | 138 |
| O20-H20A $\cdots$ O14A | 0.77 | 2.28 | 2.953 (3) | 147 |
| O20-H20B $\cdots{ }^{\text {O }}$ Ol $B^{15}$ | 0.72 | 2.08 | 2.793 (3) | 168 |
| $\mathrm{O} 21-\mathrm{H} 21 A \cdots \mathrm{O}^{\prime} B^{v}$ | 1.04 | 1.83 | 2.857 (4) | 170 |
| O21-H21B . $\mathrm{O}^{2}{ }^{\text {vi }}$ | 1.21 | 1.57 | 2.762 (5) | 166 |
| O22-H22A...O14C ${ }^{\text {vii }}$ | 1.12 | 1.72 | 2.843 (4) | 177 |
| O22-H22B.. ${\mathrm{O} 233^{\prime v i i}}^{\text {vin }}$ | 0.85 | 1.72 | 2.36 (2) | 129 |
| $\mathrm{O} 22-\mathrm{H} 228 \cdots \mathrm{O} 23^{\text {vii }}$ | 0.85 | 2.08 | 2.84 (2) | 147 |

Symmetry codes: (i) $x-1, y-1, z$; (ii) $x-1, y, z$; (iii) $x, y-1, z$; (iv) $1+x, y, z$; (v) $1-x, 1-y,-1-z ;$ (vi) $-x, 1-y,-1-z ;$ (vii) $-x, 1-y,-2-z$; (viii) $1-x, 1-y,-2-z$.
The aromatic H atoms were placed in idealized positions and refined riding on their parent C atoms ( $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} 0.93 \AA$ ). The H atoms of the coordinated water molecules were refined without constraints, while the H atoms of the uncoordinated water molecules were located from a difference Fourier map and fixed. The displacement parameters were $1.2 U_{\text {eq }}$ of the parent C atom for the aromatic H atoms and $1.5 U_{\mathrm{eq}}$ for the water H atoms. One of the water molecules was found to be disordered over two positions, O 23 and $\mathrm{O} 23^{\prime}$, and these sites were refined with isotropic displacement parameters. Their site-occupation factors were independently refined until the
last cycle of refinement, when they were fixed at 0.80 (3) and 0.20 (3) for O 23 and $\mathrm{O} 23^{\prime}$, respectively. The H atoms of the disordered partial water molecules were not found in a difference Fourier map and were not included in the final refinement. A hemisphere of data was collected using $\omega$ scans over $1.2^{\circ}$ and a variable speed of $3-6^{\circ} \mathrm{min}^{-1}$, depending on intensity.
Data collection: P3/PC (Siemens, 1993). Cell refinement: P3/PC. Data reduction: SHELXTL-Plus (Sheldrick, 1990). Program(s) used to solve structure: SHELX97 (Sheldrick, 1997). Program(s) used to refine structure: SHELX97. Molecular graphics: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 1995). Software used to prepare material for publication: SHELX97.

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Acta Cryst. (1998). C54, 1273-1275

# A Triangular $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\right]^{4+}$ Complex: Tris-(diethyldithiocarbamato-S, $S^{\prime}$ )tris ( $\mu_{2}-\eta^{2}$ disulfido)( $\mu_{3}$-sulfido)trimolybdenum(IV)( 3 Mo-Mo) Diethyldithiocarbamate 

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## Abstract

In the cluster cation of the title compound, $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}-\right.$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{NCS}_{2}\right)_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{NCS}_{2}\right)$, three Mo atoms form an approximately equilateral triangle, with Mo-Mo distances ranging from 2.7140 (5) to 2.7277 (5) $\AA$, and Mo-Mo-Mo angles of $\mathrm{ca} 60^{\circ}$. The triangle is capped by the $\mu_{3}-\mathrm{S}$ atom, and each Mo-Mo bond is bridged by a disulfido group in $\mu_{2}-\eta^{2}$ mode. Diethyldithiocarbamate ligands ( $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}$ ) are chelated to the Mo atoms with an average S—Mo-S bite angle of $69.98(1)^{\circ}$. There is a weak $\mathrm{S} \cdots \mathrm{S}$ interaction between the cluster cation and the anion ( $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}^{-}$).

## Comment

Compounds containing the $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\right]^{4+}$ core have been studied extensively (Müller et al., 1979; Keck et al., 1981). Fedin, Sokolov, Virovets et al. (1991) have synthesized the title compound, (I), using ( $\mathrm{Et}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7} \mathrm{Br}$ as the starting material, but the crystal structure of the compound has not yet been reported.

(I)

The structure of complex (I) consists of an $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}-\right.$ $\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}_{3}\right]_{3}{ }^{+}$cation and an $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}^{-}$anion (Fig. 1). The cluster cation contains an $\mathrm{Mo}_{3}$ triangle capped by a $\mu_{3}-\mathrm{S}$ atom, with Mo-Mo distances and Mo-MoMo bond angles ranging from 2.7140 (5) to 2.7277 (5) $\AA$
and from 59.68 (1) to $60.18(1)^{\circ}$, respectively. There are three parallel planes in the $\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}$ core: the $\mathrm{Mo}_{3}$ plane, $\mathrm{S} 1 / \mathrm{S} 3 / \mathrm{S} 5$ and $\mathrm{S} 2 / \mathrm{S} 4 / \mathrm{S} 6$, with a maximum dihedral angle of $1.34(3)^{\circ}$. In the three $\mathrm{S}_{2}$ groups, the equatorial S 2 , S4 and S6 atoms, and the axial S1, S3 and S5 atoms, deviate from the $\mathrm{Mo}_{3}$ plane by not more than $0.17 \AA$ for the former, and by not less than $1.63 \AA$ for the latter. The $\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}$ core of the cation has idealized $C_{3 v}$ symmetry, with a $C_{3}$ axis passing through the $\mu_{3}-S$ atom, and this symmetry also includes the $\mathrm{NCS}_{2}$ groups of three $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}^{-}$ligands. All these structural features of the $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\right]^{4+}$ core are very similar to those of other complexes reported with an $\left[M_{3} X_{7}\right]^{n+}$ core, for instance, $M=$ Mo or $\mathrm{W}, X=\mathrm{S}$ or $\mathrm{Se}, n=4$ (Shang et al., 1984; Lu et al., 1994; Fedin, Sokolov, Geras'ko et al., 1991; Fedin, Sokolov, Virovets et al., 1991; Hegetchweiler et al., 1991; Zimmermann et al., 1991) or $M=\mathrm{V}, X=\mathrm{S}$, $n=2$ (Yang et al., 1993; Dean et al., 1993).


Fig. 1. ORTEPII (Johnson, 1976) plot of the molecular structure of $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}\right)_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}\right)$, showing $50 \%$ probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

All the $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\right]^{4+}$ cores of these complexes, including (I), exhibit almost the same structural parameters: (i) Mo-Mo distances in the range $2.700-2.782 \AA$ and Mo-Mo-Mo bond angles of ca $60^{\circ}$; (ii) Mo- $\mu_{3}-\mathrm{S}$ bond distances in the range $2.336-2.386 \AA$; (iii) Mo$\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{cq}}$ distances in the range $2.406-2.416 \AA$ and $\mathrm{Mo}-\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{ax}}$ distances of 2.487-2.511 $\AA$; (iv) $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{cq}}-\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{ax}}$ distances in the range $2.021-2.069 \AA$.

Compared with the selenium analogue, $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{Se}_{7}-\right.$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}\right)_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}\right)$, (II) (Fedin, Sokolov, Geras'ko et al., 1991), complex (I) has an obviously smaller $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{~S}_{7}\right]$ core than the $\left[\mathrm{Mo}_{3} \mathrm{Se}_{7}\right]$ core of (II). Specifically, all the bond distances in the cluster core of (I) are shorter than those of (II). Examples are: the average MoMo distance [(I) 2.723 ; (II) $2.778 \AA$ A], Mo- $\mu_{3}-X$ [(I) $X=\mathrm{S}, 2.386 \AA$; (II) $X=\mathrm{Se}, 2.498 \AA \mathrm{~A}]$, Mo- $X_{\mathrm{ax}}$ [(I) 2.490; (II) $2.617 \AA$ A and Mo- $X_{\text {eq }}$ [(I) 2.406; (II)


[^0]:    Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: FG1421). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

