

C10	0.0030 (3)	0.2073 (2)	0.5676 (3)	0.041 (1)
C11	-0.0387 (3)	0.2615 (3)	0.6453 (4)	0.059 (2)
C12	0.0353 (4)	0.2832 (2)	0.7263 (4)	0.062 (2)
C13	0.1586 (3)	-0.0812 (2)	0.2005 (4)	0.056 (2)
C14	0.0792 (4)	-0.1035 (3)	0.1221 (4)	0.066 (2)
C15	-0.0291 (4)	-0.0758 (2)	0.1280 (4)	0.055 (2)
C16	-0.0511 (3)	-0.0266 (2)	0.2160 (4)	0.055 (1)
C17	0.0312 (3)	-0.0073 (2)	0.2937 (3)	0.050 (1)
C18	-0.1192 (4)	-0.0980 (3)	0.0416 (4)	0.086 (2)

Table 7. Selected geometric parameters (\AA , $^\circ$) for (III)

Cu1—O3	1.979 (3)	O3—C7	1.266 (5)
Cu1—O4	2.368 (3)	O4—C8	1.224 (5)
Cu1—N6	2.024 (3)	O5—C7	1.225 (6)
O3—Cu1—O4	75.6 (1)	N6—Cu1—N6'	94.4 (2)
O3—Cu1—N6	166.6 (2)	Cu1—O3—C7	119.3 (3)
O4—Cu1—N6	91.2 (2)	Cu1—O4—C8	106.4 (3)

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

The space group of (III) is *Pnca*, the *cab* setting of *Pbcn*. Disorder was observed in the thiophene rings in (I) and (II). Assuming that it has two possible orientations, and the S and C atoms share the same positions, their site-occupation factors being estimated as reported by Pelletier & Brisse (1994). For example, the S3 and C16 positions in (II) are occupied by both $_{16}S$ and $_{6}C$ atoms with 50% probabilities; the site-occupation factors are estimated as $(16 \times 0.5 + 6 \times 0.5)/16 = 0.688$ for S3 and $(16 \times 0.5 + 6 \times 0.5)/6 = 1.833$ for C16 position. The long C15—C16 distance of 1.604 (5) \AA is an artifact of the disorder. In (II), the O atom of the water of crystallization lies on a twofold axis, and the H atom was located from difference synthesis. The positions of all the other H atoms were calculated geometrically. A riding refinement was made, with C—H and O—H distances of 0.96 \AA , and $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 0.1 \text{\AA}^2$ for (I), and 0.2 \AA^2 for (II) and (III).

For all compounds, data collection: *AFC/MSD Diffractometer Control System* (Rigaku Corporation, 1993); cell refinement: *AFC/MSD Diffractometer Control System*; data reduction: local programs; program(s) used to solve structures: *CRYSTAN-GM* (Edwards *et al.*, 1996); program(s) used to refine structures: *CRYSTAN-GM*; molecular graphics: *CRYSTAN-GM*; software used to prepare material for publication: *CRYSTAN-GM*.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: OA1077). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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μ -Oxo-bis{bis[2,2'-bi(1H-imidazole-*N*³)]-oxorhenium(V)} tetrachloride hexahydrate

SUZANNE BÉLANGER AND ANDRÉ L. BEAUCHAMP

Département de Chimie, Université de Montréal, CP 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3J7.
E-mail: beauchamp@chimie.umontreal.ca

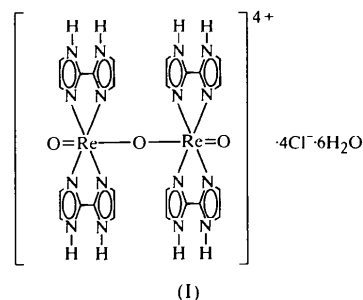
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Abstract

The basic structural unit of the title compound, $[\{\text{ReO}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{N}_4)_2\}_2\text{O}]\text{Cl}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, consists of a linear $[\text{Re}_2\text{O}_3(\text{biimidazole})_4]^{4+}$ cation whose $\text{O}=\text{Re}-\text{O}-\text{Re}=\text{O}$ backbone lies on a twofold rotation axis. Octahedral coordination about each Re centre is completed by two chelating biimidazole ligands perpendicular to the backbone. Three Cl^- anions are hydrogen bonded to the coordinated biimidazole ligands *via* $\text{N}-\text{H} \cdots \text{Cl}$ bonds. The fourth anion is disordered over two positions and is connected to the rest of the structure *via* a chain of crystallization water molecules.

Comment

The structure resolution of the title compound, (I), raised considerable difficulties. The orthorhombic Laue symmetry and reflection conditions (hkl , $h+k=2n$; $0kl$, $l=2n$; $h0l$, $l=2n$) were compatible with space groups *Ccc2* (No. 37) and *Cccm* (No. 66). In both cases, an $[\text{Re}_2\text{O}_3(\text{BiimH}_2)_4]^{4+}$ cation with a linear $\text{O}=\text{Re}-\text{O}-\text{Re}=\text{O}$ backbone was initially identified on a crystallographic twofold axis. However, for *Cccm*, the biimidazole ligands (BiimH_2) were all disordered and no sensible model could be unravelled for the $\text{Cl}^-/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ region. On the other hand, in *Ccc2*, the structure could be satisfactorily solved with only mild disorder.



The cation occupies special position 4c and the biimidazole ligands are ordered. In the ΔF map phased on this model, electron density high enough to correspond

to full Cl⁻ ions was detected on a special position 4b (Cl1) and on a general position (Cl2), for a total of three Cl⁻ ions per cation. One anion (*i.e.* one half-anion per asymmetric unit) was still missing to balance the charge of [Re₂O₃(BiimH₂)₄]⁴⁺. Among the remaining residual peaks, mainly due to lattice water molecules, one had to be attributed to a disordered Cl⁻ ion. To make the assignments, peak height and hydrogen-bonding environment were considered. The Cl3/O30 site was found to be occupied randomly by a Cl⁻ anion and a solvent molecule. Water molecules O10 and O40 were ordered, but O20 was disordered on two neighbouring sites (O20a and O20b).

The [Re₂O₃(BiimH₂)₄]⁴⁺ cation is shown in Fig. 1, with important bond lengths and angles in Table 2. The O=Re—O—Re=O backbone is, by symmetry, perfectly linear. The terminal Re1=O1 and Re2=O2 bonds have respective lengths of 1.65 (2) and 1.74 (2) Å, reflecting a higher bond order than for the bridging bonds [Re1—O3 1.92 (3) and Re2—O3 1.89 (3) Å]. The Re—N3_n distances [range 2.108 (8)–2.134 (7) Å] are normal.

The N31, N32, N31' and N32' atoms are coplanar, but Re1 is displaced from this plane by 0.148 (6) Å on the O1 side. The plane defined by N33, N34, N33' and N34' shows a barely significant tetrahedral deformation, the atoms being alternatively displaced by 0.022 (7) Å on each side of their mean plane, while Re2 is found 0.129 (7) Å from this plane, towards O2. This reflects the high bond order for the terminal oxo ligands, which also leads to values of *ca* 94° for the O1=Re1—N3_n and O2=Re2—N3_n angles, a deviation from the ideal angle of 90° commonly observed for monomeric [ReO(OR)L₄]ⁿ⁺ complexes with monodentate imidazoles (Bélanger & Beauchamp, 1996, 1997).

Three types of oxo-bridged dirhenium(V) compounds have been characterized by X-ray diffraction: Re₂O₃Cl₄L₄ (where L = pyridine, 3,5-dimethylpyrazole or 1-methylimidazole) (Lock & Turner, 1978; Fortin & Beauchamp, 1998; Backes-Dahmann & Enemark, 1987; Pearson & Beauchamp, 1994), [Re₂O₃(CN)₈]⁴⁻ (Shandles *et al.*, 1971) and Re₂O₃(L⁴)₂ (where L⁴ is a dianionic tetradentate amino-phenol ligand) (Fletcher & Skapski, 1972). The bridging Re—O bond lengths in these compounds are similar to those observed here. The average value for our terminal Re=O bond lengths (1.69 Å) is typical of such systems, but there is no obvious explanation for their apparently significant difference of 0.09 (3) Å.

The N31—Re1—N32 and N33—Re2—N34 angles [77.2 (3) and 77.8 (3)°, respectively] are in agreement with those reported for octahedral complexes with neutral chelating biimidazole and bibenzimidazole (Rasmussen *et al.*, 1986; Boinnard *et al.*, 1990; García *et al.*, 1990; Esteruelas *et al.*, 1994). As expected, coordination does not take place along the lone pair; the Re—N3_n—C2_n angles inside the five-membered chelate ring vary

from 112.6 (6) to 114.8 (6)°, while the external Re—N3_n—C4_n angles are between 138.2 (6) and 139.6 (7)°. The angles within the imidazole rings are normal. Tension resulting from bidentate coordination is reflected, however, in the difference between the external N1_n—C2_n—C2_n' angles [132.4 (10)–133.9 (9)°] and the internal N3_n—C2_n—C2_n' angles [116.6 (8)–119.2 (8)°] of the chelate ring. The two crystallographically independent biimidazole ligands are roughly planar, with a dihedral angle of 0.9 (1)° between the imidazole units. However, the planes of the aromatic rings deviate from their respective ReN₄ coordination plane by *ca* 3.5°.

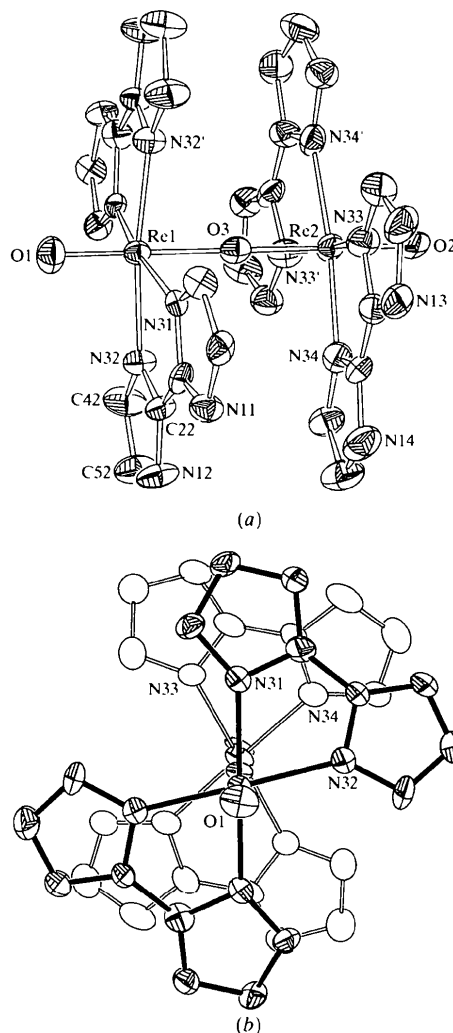


Fig. 1. ORTEP (Johnson, 1976) drawing of the [Re₂O₃(BiimH₂)₄]⁴⁺ cation. A twofold rotation axis runs through the O=Re—O—Re=O backbone. Ellipsoids correspond to 50% probability and H atoms have been omitted. (a) Atoms in the five-membered rings of the biimidazole ligands are labelled sequentially N1_j—C2_j—N3_j—C4_j—C5_j, as shown for ring *j* = 2 in the lower left side; the primed ligands are related to the unprimed ones by the twofold axis. (b) The same molecule viewed down the O=Re—O—Re=O direction.

The cations participate in an extended network of hydrogen bonds (Fig. 2 and Table 3). A chloride anion (Cl1), lying on a twofold rotation axis, bonds two cations *via* the biimidazole N11—H11 and N12—H12 groups. Each of these N—H groups simultaneously participates in a hydrogen bond with a water molecule (O10), located roughly in the same plane as the aromatic rings. This water molecule interacts with Cl2, a non-disordered chloride, which serves as a proton acceptor from the N13—H13 and N14—H14 groups of the second biimidazole ligand. The O10 and Cl2 atoms are hydrogen bonded to a chain of crystallization water molecules running parallel to the O=Re—O—Re=O axis in the cell. This chain contains a disordered chloride anion (Cl3), which shares the same site as a water molecule (O30), generating further disorder in the position of a nearby water molecule, which can adopt two positions (O20*a* or O20*b*) depending on the nature (Cl or O) of the neighbouring site. This chain is centred on a twofold rotation axis, with water molecule O40 in the middle of an approximate tetrahedron formed by O30, Cl3, O20*a* and O20*b*. Between each pair of O40 solvent molecules, there is one O20*b*···Cl3 and one O20*a*···O30 segment, but these are interchanged randomly in the crystal to generate the disorder.

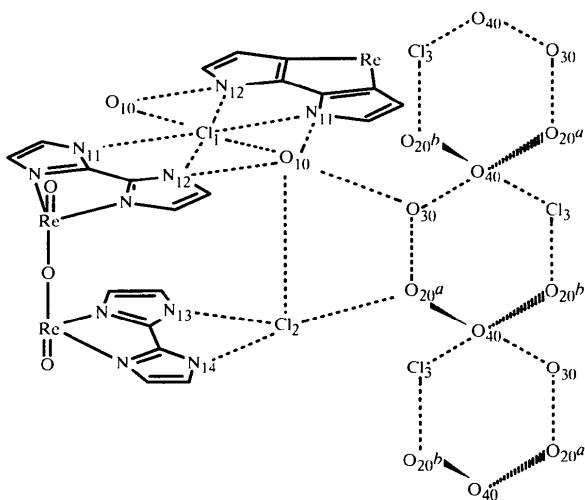


Fig. 2. Schematic representation of the hydrogen-bond network involving the dinuclear cations, chloride anions and crystallization water molecules.

Experimental

ReOCl₃(PPh₃)₂ was prepared according to the literature (Chatt & Rowe, 1962) using HReO₄ (prepared from KReO₄ by ion-exchange chromatography on a DOWEX 50X2-200 resin) rather than KReO₄ as starting material. All chemicals were purchased from Aldrich. The IR spectrum was recorded on

a Perkin-Elmer 1705 FT spectrophotometer. Microanalyses were performed at the Laboratoire d'Analyse Élémentaire de l'Université de Montréal. The solid-state ¹³C CP-MAS spectrum was recorded on a Bruker AMX-300 spectrometer and externally referenced to the aromatic hexamethylbenzene C atoms (δ 132.1 p.p.m.). The variable-temperature ¹H NMR spectra were recorded in DMSO-*d*₆ (δ 2.49 p.p.m.) on a Bruker ARX-400 spectrometer. The ligand BiimH₂·0.5HCl was prepared by bubbling NH₃ gas through a 40% aqueous glyoxal solution, as described by Fieselmann *et al.* (1978). It was recrystallized using a modification of the method of Kirchner & Krebs (1987) for BiimH₂. The bulk sample was dissolved in 1 M HCl and the solution was stirred with activated charcoal for 30 min. The mixture was then filtered and the resulting colourless solution neutralized with 1.5 M NH₄OH. The beige solid was filtered, washed with water, ethanol and ether. ¹H NMR (298 K, DMSO-*d*₆, p.p.m.): 12.66 (*s*, N—H), 7.11 (*s*, broad, C—H), 6.99 (*s*, broad, C—H); ¹H NMR (343 K, DMSO-*d*₆, p.p.m.): 7.06 (*s*, sharp, C—H); ¹³C NMR (CP-MAS): 139.2 (C2, C2'), 129.1 and 126.8 (C4, C4'), 120.6 and 118.7 (C5, C5'); analysis calculated for C₆H_{6.5}Cl_{0.5}N₄: C 47.97, H 4.33, N 37.32%; experimental: C 47.83, H 4.24, N 37.01%. [Re₂O₃(BiimH₂)₄]Cl₄·6H₂O was prepared as follows: to a suspension of BiimH₂·0.5HCl (0.063 g, 0.377 mmol) in acetone (10 ml), 0.4 ml (0.48 mmol) of an aqueous 1.2 M HCl solution was added, followed by ReOCl₃(PPh₃)₂ (0.106 g, 0.13 mmol) and 5 ml of deionized water. The yellow suspension was stirred for 22 h, after which time the dark-green mixture was filtered in order to remove a fraction (0.038 g) of unreacted ReOCl₃(PPh₃)₂. The green filtrate was evaporated to dryness, and the sample redissolved in a small amount of acetone. The poorly soluble PPh₃ was filtered off and the dark-green filtrate was left to crystallize in the refrigerator, where the orange crystalline plates used for the crystal structure determination formed after a few days. IR (cm⁻¹): 785 (*s*) and/or 772 (*s*), ν (Re=O).

Crystal data

[Re₂O₃(C₆H₆N₄)₄]Cl₄·6H₂O
M_r = 1206.88
 Orthorhombic
*Ccc*2
a = 13.855 (4) Å
b = 21.573 (6) Å
c = 13.163 (4) Å
V = 3934 (2) Å³
Z = 4
D_x = 2.037 Mg m⁻³
D_m not measured

Cu *K*α radiation
 λ = 1.54056 Å
 Cell parameters from 25 reflections
 θ = 20–25°
 μ = 14.6 mm⁻¹
T = 295 (2) K
 Plate
 0.23 × 0.14 × 0.05 mm
 Orange

Data collection

Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer
 $\theta/2\theta$ scans
 Absorption correction: by integration (Gabe *et al.*, 1989)
 T_{\min} = 0.16, T_{\max} = 0.51
 13 752 measured reflections
 3751 independent reflections

2332 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 R_{int} = 0.058
 θ_{max} = 69.9°
 h = 0 → 16
 k = 0 → 26
 l = -16 → 16
 5 standard reflections
 frequency: 60 min
 intensity decay: 1.3%

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.030$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.086$
 $S = 0.60$
 3751 reflections
 256 parameters
 H atoms: see below
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.080P)^2]$
 where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} = -0.04$
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.75 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.96 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

Extinction correction:
SHELXL93 (Sheldrick,
 1993)
 Extinction coefficient:
 $1.06(8) \times 10^{-4}$
 Scattering factors from
International Tables for
Crystallography (Vol. C)
 Absolute structure:
 Flack (1983)
 Flack parameter = 0.30 (2)

Table 3. Hydrogen-bonding geometry (\AA , $^\circ$)

$D-H \cdots A$	$D-H$	$H \cdots A$	$D \cdots A$	$D-H \cdots A$
N11—H11 \cdots Cl1	0.86	2.37	3.139 (7)	149
N12—H12 \cdots Cl1	0.86	2.34	3.112 (8)	150
N13—H13 \cdots Cl2	0.86	2.32	3.109 (9)	153
N14—H14 \cdots Cl2	0.86	2.37	3.152 (10)	151
N11—H11 \cdots O10	0.86	2.45	3.010 (13)	123
N12—H12 \cdots O10'	0.86	2.62	3.186 (13)	125
O20a \cdots Cl2			3.20 (7)	
O20b \cdots Cl2			3.30 (7)	
O20a \cdots O30			2.94 (7)	
O20b \cdots Cl3			3.27 (6)	
Cl3 \cdots O40 ⁱⁱ			3.021 (11)	
O30 \cdots O40 ⁱⁱ			3.021 (11)	
O10 \cdots Cl3			3.029 (12)	
O10 \cdots O30			3.029 (12)	
O10 \cdots Cl1			3.321 (12)	
O10 \cdots Cl2			3.176 (10)	
O20a \cdots Cl2			3.20 (7)	
O20b \cdots Cl2			3.30 (7)	
O20a \cdots O40 ⁱⁱⁱ			2.95 (5)	
O20b \cdots O40 ⁱⁱⁱ			2.65 (6)	

Symmetry codes: (i) $2-x, 1-y, z$; (ii) $1+x, y, z$; (iii) $1+x, 1-y, z-\frac{1}{2}$.

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters (\AA^2)

$$U_{\text{eq}} = (1/3)\sum_i \sum_j U^{ij} a_i^* a_j^*$$

	x	y	z	U_{eq}
Re1	3/4	3/4	1.14497 (2)	0.0231 (2)
Re2	3/4	3/4	0.85511 (3)	0.0306 (2)
O1	3/4	3/4	1.2704 (13)	0.040 (4)
O2	3/4	3/4	0.7229 (13)	0.033 (4)
O3	3/4	3/4	0.999 (2)	0.0284 (12)
N11	0.9986 (6)	0.6434 (3)	1.1239 (6)	0.032 (2)
C21	0.9050 (7)	0.6575 (5)	1.1285 (9)	0.031 (2)
N31	0.8944 (6)	0.7199 (3)	1.1334 (6)	0.024 (2)
C41	0.9865 (6)	0.7452 (4)	1.1315 (7)	0.031 (2)
C51	1.0508 (7)	0.6983 (5)	1.1245 (8)	0.031 (2)
N12	0.8008 (6)	0.5616 (3)	1.1250 (8)	0.041 (2)
C22	0.8187 (7)	0.6217 (4)	1.1288 (7)	0.027 (2)
N32	0.7358 (5)	0.6524 (3)	1.1340 (7)	0.031 (2)
C42	0.6639 (8)	0.6094 (4)	1.1327 (9)	0.046 (3)
C52	0.7019 (8)	0.5537 (5)	1.1268 (10)	0.048 (3)
N13	1.0473 (7)	0.7313 (4)	0.8764 (7)	0.039 (2)
C23	0.9546 (8)	0.7159 (4)	0.8712 (8)	0.035 (2)
N33	0.9003 (6)	0.7677 (4)	0.8666 (9)	0.036 (2)
C43	0.9622 (8)	0.8164 (5)	0.8712 (8)	0.043 (2)
C53	1.0542 (8)	0.7943 (5)	0.8767 (10)	0.047 (3)
N14	0.9351 (6)	0.5995 (4)	0.8743 (7)	0.050 (2)
C24	0.9047 (7)	0.6586 (4)	0.8693 (10)	0.034 (2)
N34	0.8087 (6)	0.6587 (3)	0.8633 (6)	0.034 (2)
C44	0.7765 (7)	0.5984 (5)	0.8639 (8)	0.039 (2)
C54	0.8548 (9)	0.5618 (4)	0.8684 (10)	0.055 (3)
Cl1	1	1/2	1.0834 (4)	0.073 (2)
Cl2	1.1622 (2)	0.60751 (12)	0.8796 (3)	0.0531 (7)
Cl3†	1.4132 (3)	0.5983 (2)	1.1381 (4)	0.0726 (14)
O30†	1.4132 (3)	0.5983 (2)	1.1381 (4)	0.0726 (14)
O10	1.1964 (8)	0.5860 (5)	1.1156 (8)	0.084 (3)
O20a†	1.378 (5)	0.564 (2)	0.925 (5)	0.080 (7)
O20b†	1.376 (5)	0.543 (2)	0.910 (5)	0.080 (7)
O40	1/2	1/2	1.2737 (13)	0.108 (6)

† Site occupancy = 0.50.

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

Re1—O1	1.65 (2)	Re2—O2	1.74 (2)
Re1—O3	1.92 (3)	Re2—O3	1.89 (3)
Re1—N31	2.108 (8)	Re2—N33	2.122 (9)
Re1—N32	2.119 (7)	Re2—N34	2.134 (7)
O1—Re1—O3	180	O2—Re2—O3	180
O1—Re1—N31	94.1 (2)	O2—Re2—N33	94.1 (3)
O3—Re1—N31	85.9 (2)	O3—Re2—N33	85.9 (3)
O1—Re1—N32	93.9 (2)	O2—Re2—N34	92.9 (2)
O3—Re1—N32	86.1 (2)	O3—Re2—N34	87.1 (2)
N31 ⁱ —Re1—N31	171.7 (5)	N33—Re2—N33 ⁱ	171.8 (6)
N31 ⁱ —Re1—N32	102.3 (3)	N33—Re2—N34 ⁱ	101.8 (3)
N31—Re1—N32	77.2 (3)	N33 ⁱ —Re2—N34 ⁱ	77.8 (3)
N32—Re1—N32 ⁱ	172.2 (5)	N34 ⁱ —Re2—N34	174.2 (5)
Re1—O3—Re2	180		

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

For the absorption correction, the crystal faces were indexed and the distances to a reference point within the crystal were measured carefully. The transmission factor was calculated on the basis of this geometry by Gaussian integration (grid $20 \times 20 \times 20$) using the *ABSN* program of the *NRCVAX* package (Gabe *et al.*, 1989). All non-H atoms were refined anisotropically. The H atoms of biimidazole were introduced at idealized positions and allowed to ride on their respective non-H atom [C—H = 0.93 \AA , N—H = 0.86 \AA and $U(\text{H}) = 1.3U(\text{C/N})$]. Those of the water molecules were neglected. The Cl3 and O30 atoms were refined with common atomic coordinates and displacement parameters. Residual electron-density peaks of 0.96–0.40 $\text{e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ remained near the Re atoms. The general background was below $\pm 0.30 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$.

Data collection: *CAD-4 Software* (Enraf–Nonius, 1989). Cell refinement: *CAD-4 Software*. Data reduction: *NRC Crystallographic Computer Programs* (Ahmed *et al.*, 1973). Program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS86* (Sheldrick, 1985). Program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL93* (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics: *ORTEPII* (Johnson, 1976) in the *NRCVAX* package. Software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL93*.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: BK1428). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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$\text{K}_2[\text{MoO}_3(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$

YONG-HENG XING,^a ZUO WANG,^a JI-QING XU,^{a*}
DONG-MEI LI,^a REN-ZHANG WANG,^a WEI-MING BU,^b
LING YE,^b XING YAN,^c YONG-HUA LIN^c AND
HENG-QING JIA^c

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin 130023, People's Republic of China, ^bKey Laboratory for Supramolecular Structure and Spectroscopy, Jilin University, Changchun, Jilin 130023, People's Republic of China, and ^cChangchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Changchun, Jilin 130022, People's Republic of China. E-mail: xjq@mail.jlu.edu.cn

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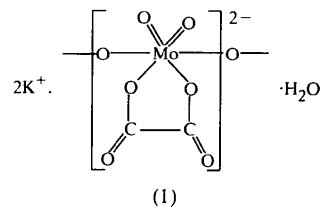
Abstract

In the title compound, *catena*-poly[dipotassium [(oxalato-*O, O'*)dioxomolybdate]- μ -oxo] monohydrate], oxalate acts as a bidentate ligand coordinating to each

Mo atom through the two deprotonated carboxylate groups. The coordination polyhedron of molybdenum is distorted octahedral and there are infinite chains in the structure. Principal dimensions are: Mo—O(terminal) 1.560 (3) and 1.739 (3) Å, Mo—O(bridging) 2.046 (4) and 2.410 (4) Å, and Mo—O(carboxylate) 1.949 (3) and 2.113 (3) Å.

Comment

Oxalate is an important organic ligand, which is coordinated to many metals in complexes exhibiting different structural characteristics, such as $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-ox})_2(\mu\text{-pyz})(\text{pyz})_2]_n$ (pyz is pyrazine; Kitagawa *et al.*, 1995), $[\text{Cu}(\text{en})_2][\text{Cu}(\text{ox})_2]$ (Oshio & Nagashima, 1992), $(\text{Ph}_4\text{P})_2[(\text{VO})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $(\text{Ph}_4\text{P})[\text{VOCl}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)]$ (Salta *et al.*, 1996), *etc.* In order to further understand the structure of the complexes containing the oxalate ligand, we have decided to turn our attention to molybdenum(VI) oxalate complexes. This is because molybdenum in the V and VI oxidation states forms a considerable number of oxo complexes (Cruywagen *et al.*, 1986). Few of these have been unequivocally characterized structurally, but it is important to do so in many cases. The point of particular interest in such compounds is the different structural arrangements which have an effect on intramolecular bond distances and angles. We report here an infinite-chain molybdenum–oxalate compound, (1).



It was found that $\text{K}_2[\text{Mo}_2\text{O}_5(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$, (2), which was structurally characterized by X-ray diffraction (Cotton *et al.*, 1964), and (1) were considered to have a similar coordination mode for molybdenum. Structure analysis shows that in the anion of (1), the various Mo—O bond lengths and O—Mo—O bond angles vary considerably. The six oxygen ligands of each Mo atom are of three types, namely, terminal, bridging and oxalate, with respective Mo—O bond lengths of 1.560 (3)–1.739 (3), 2.046 (4)–2.410 (4) and 1.949 (3)–2.113 (3) Å, and angles ranging from 164.01 (14) to 76.85 (14)°. A comparison of (1) with (2) showed that one Mo—O(terminal) bond distance [1.560 (3) Å] in (1) is shorter than that in (2) (average 1.69 Å), however, another Mo—O(terminal) bond distance [1.739 (3) Å] is longer than that in (2). Therefore, the Mo—O(bridging) bond distances of (1) are longer than in (2) (1.876 Å), and their corresponding angles are considerably differ-