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## Crystal Structure

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# Dipotassium maleate with boric acid 

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In the title compound, poly[( $\mu_{3}$-boric acid)- $\mu_{4}$-maleatodipotassium $]$, $\left[\mathrm{K}_{2}\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)\left\{\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}\right\}\right]_{n}$, there are two independent $\mathrm{K}^{+}$cations, one bonded to seven O atoms (three from boric acid and four from maleate), and the other eightcoordinate via three boric acid and four maleate O atoms and a weak $\eta^{1}$-type coordination to the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ bond of the maleate central C atoms. Hydrogen bonding links the boric acid ligands and maleate dianions, completing the packing structure.

## Comment

It has been well established that orthoboric acid, $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$, is the archetype and primary source of oxo-boron compounds (Freyhard \& Wiebcke, 1994; Li et al., 1999). In most cases, it does not behave as a Brønsted acid with the formation of the conjugate-base anion $\left[\mathrm{BO}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right]^{-}$, but rather as a Lewis acid with the formation of the tetrahedral anion $\left[\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}\right]^{-}$ (Farmer, 1982; Coddington \& Taylor, 1989). In dilute aqueous solution, this monobasic acid exists almost solely as an equilibrium mixture of undissociated molecular $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ and the tetrahydroxyborate anion $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}{ }^{-}$. At higher concentrations, secondary equilibria involving condensation reactions of the two dominant monomeric species take place, giving oligomers such as the triborate monoanion $\left[\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{3}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}\right]^{-}$, the triborate dianion $\left[\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{3}(\mathrm{OH})_{5}\right]^{2-}$, the tetraborate $\left[\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{5}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}\right]^{2-}$ and the pentaborate $\left[\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{O}_{6}(\mathrm{OH})_{4}\right]^{-}$. Hence, several interesting supramolecular hydrogen-bonded architectures involving tetrahydroxypentaborate and boric acid incorporating a tertiary or quarternary ammonium ion have been isolated and characterized in recent years (Turdybecov et al., 1992; Loboda et al., 1994; Freyhard et al., 1994; Li \& Mak, 1997). However, hydrogen-bonded structures containing only monomeric borate species are rare. In $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{4} \mathrm{~N}^{+} \cdot \mathrm{BO}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{-} \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2^{-}}$ $\mathrm{CO} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and $\left(\mathrm{Et}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right)_{2}\left[\mathrm{BO}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right] \cdot \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3} \cdot 5 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, the BO$(\mathrm{OH})_{2}{ }^{-}$unit is present in the host lattice (Li et al., 1999;

Freyhard et al., 1994). The three structures $\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{4} \mathrm{~N}^{+}\right]_{2}$.$\mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-} \cdot\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO} \cdot 2 \mathrm{~B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, \quad\left[\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~N}^{+} \cdot \mathrm{Cl}^{-}\right] \cdot \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ and the 1:2 adduct of melamine with boric acid (Li et al., 1999; Andrews et al., 1983; Roy et al., 2002) would appear to be the only structures known to date containing the undissociated $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ unit. We report here the synthesis and crystal structure of the title compound, (I), a crystalline solid in which, remarkably, both the $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ molecule and the dipotassium maleate salt co-exist in an unusual coordination mode.


The basic fragment of (I), with the asymmetric unit formula $\left[\mathrm{K}_{2}\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right) \cdot \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}\right]$, is illustrated in Fig. 1, and geometric parameters are given in Table 1. The structure may be conveniently described as two crystallographically independent K atoms located between the two types of ligands, viz. boric acid molecules and maleate anions, which form bonds to the K atoms via their O atoms. There are weak hydrogen bonds linking the boric acid and maleate dianions; each $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ unit interacts with three maleate ligands through $\mathrm{O}-$ $\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ bonds. All hydrogen bonds linking adjacent boric acid and maleate dianions are donated exclusively by $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$ molecules [ $\mathrm{O} \cdots \mathrm{O}=2.618$ (1) -2.689 (3) $\AA$ and $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}=$ 163.4 (1)-165.9 (1) ${ }^{\circ}$ ] (Table 2). The $K$ atoms reside between the layers, linked by bonds to the O atoms of the layers. This connectivity of hydrogen bonds and $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds give rise to the three-dimensional structure (Fig. 2).

Three O atoms ( $\mathrm{O} 1, \mathrm{O} 2$ and O 3 ) are bonded to the B atom to form a $\mathrm{BO}_{3}$ triangle. The average value of the three $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{B}-$ O angles around boron is $119.99(19)^{\circ}$, which compares with the usual average trigonal value of $120.0^{\circ}$. The mean $\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{O}$ distance of 1.363 (3) $\AA$ is in good agreement with the reported trigonal $\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{O}$ distances in $\left[\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{5}\right)_{4} \mathrm{~N}^{+}\right]_{2} \cdot \mathrm{CO}_{3}{ }^{2-} .\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}$-$2 \mathrm{~B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(1.362 \AA),\left[\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{~N}^{+} \cdot \mathrm{Cl}^{-}\right] \cdot \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}(1.36 \AA)$


Figure 1
The coordination environment of the K atoms in (I). Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the $50 \%$ probability level. [Symmetry codes: (i) $-x+1, y-\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2}$; (ii) $-x+\frac{3}{2},-y+1, z+\frac{1}{2}$; (iii) $-x+1, y+\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2}$; (iv) $\left.-x+2, y+\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2} ;(\mathrm{v})-x+2, y-\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2} ;(\mathrm{vi})-x+\frac{3}{2},-y, z+\frac{1}{2}.\right]$
and the 1:2 adduct of melamine with boric acid (1.362 $\AA$ ) (Li et al., 1999; Andrews et al., 1983; Roy et al., 2002).

The potassium centres in (I) display very different coordination geometries. Most of the $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{O}$ distances are slightly longer than the sum of the covalent radii ( $2.69 \AA$ A Allen et al., 1987) but may be considered weak ionic bonds owing to their directionality; other $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{O}$ distances are considerably longer (Table 1). Atom K2 is seven-coordinate; the coordination polyhedron is a distorted monocapped trigonal prism with $O 5^{i}$ as the capping atom (Fig. 1; symmetry code as in Fig. 1). The K2-O coordination distances are between 2.695 (2) and 2.962 (2) $\AA$ (mean $2.84 \AA$ ), in agreement with the average $\mathrm{K}-$ O distance for $\mathrm{KO}_{7}$ moieties [Cambridge Structural Database, Version 5.25; 2.80 (11) A for 446 observations; Allen, 2002]. Atom K 1 is eight-coordinate, through atoms $\mathrm{O} 1, \mathrm{O} 2^{\mathrm{v}}$ and $\mathrm{O}^{\text {vi }}$ from three different boric acid molecules, $\mathrm{O} 4^{\mathrm{v}}, \mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{v}}, \mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{vi}}$ and $\mathrm{O} 7^{\mathrm{i}}$ from four different maleate ligands, and an $\eta^{1}$-type coordination to C 3 of the $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ bond (Fig. 1; symmetry codes as in Fig. 1). The $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O}$ coordination distances range from 2.754 (2) to 3.206 (2) $\AA$ (mean $2.95 \AA$ ). Organometallic complexes of potassium metal or $\mathrm{K}^{+}$that exhibit both $\eta^{1}$ - and $\eta^{2}$-coordination are well known (Kuhl et al., 1999; Chitsaz \& Neumuller, 2001; Ganesan et al., 2002); the K-C distances are typically in the range $2.9-3.5 \AA$. Although potassium readily forms organometallic complexes with coordination numbers as high as $\eta^{8}$ to a single ligand in the case of bicyclic aromatic species (Cloke et al., 2000) or the cyclooctatetraenyl anion (Xia et al., 1991), there are only two reported structures in the literature containing $\mathrm{K}^{+}-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \quad \eta^{1}$-type compounds (McPherson et al., 1978; Noordik et al., 1974). The closest distance between K atoms is $\mathrm{K} 1^{\mathrm{v}} \cdots \mathrm{K} 2$ of 3.877 (8) $\AA$ (symmetry code as in Fig. 1).

The title compound has a unique structure, with no directly comparable compounds containing K atoms coordinated by


Figure 2
A packing diagram for complex (I). Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds. One set of labels for atoms involved in the hydrogen bonds are shown (see Table 2 for details and symmetry codes).
both dicarboxylic acid and boric acid moieties. Previously reported related examples are found in the structures of potassium dimalatoborate monohydrate (Zviedre \& Kolesnikova, 1983), potassium dicitratoborate dihydrate (Zviedre et al., 1984), potassium bis(salicylato)borate salicylic acid (Zviedre et al., 1992) and poly[[ $\mu_{6}$-bis(oxalato)borate]potassium] (Zavalij et al., 2003). In these examples, however, the dicarboxylate moieties are bonded directly to tetrahedrally coordinated B atoms. The successful synthesis of the title compound under atmospheric pressure may help in the search for new ways of synthesizing borate crystals with interesting structural features.

## Experimental

The title compound was prepared by dissolving KOH ( 0.05 mol , $2.8 \mathrm{~g})$ and $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}(1 \mathrm{~mol}, 0.62 \mathrm{~g})$ in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{ml})$. To this solution, a solution of maleic acid ( $0.02 \mathrm{~mol}, 2.32 \mathrm{~g}$ ) in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{ml})$ was added dropwise at room temperature, producing a colourless solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at 323 K for 9 h , yielding a white solid. Single crystals of (I) suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of a saturated aqueous solution at 298 K (yield $2.1 \mathrm{~g}, 83 \%$ based on boric acid). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$, TMS): $\delta 6.02(2 \mathrm{H}, s, \mathrm{HC}=\mathrm{CH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\left(\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{TMS}\right): \delta$ $130.80(\mathrm{COOH}), 175.51(\mathrm{HC}=\mathrm{CH})$. IR spectra were recorded from a KBr disc, using a Jasco 680 Plus FT-IR spectrometer. IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right): \nu(b r$, $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}) 3366, v(w, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}) 1633, v\left(s, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}_{\text {asym }}\right) 1561, \nu\left(s, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}_{\text {sym }}\right)$ 1399-1306.

## Crystal data

$\left[\mathrm{K}_{2}\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)\left(\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{BO}_{3}\right)\right]$
$M_{r}=254.09$
Orthorhombic, $P 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1}$
$a=6.4968$ (5) A
$b=10.2591$ (11) $\AA$
$c=13.3852(10) \AA$

## Data collection

Stoe IPDSII diffractometer Absorption correction: integration (X-RED32; Stoe \& Cie, 2002)
$T_{\text {min }}=0.520, T_{\text {max }}=0.652$

## Refinement

$R\left[F^{2}>2 \sigma\left(F^{2}\right)\right]=0.027$
$w R\left(F^{2}\right)=0.071$
$S=1.05$
1748 reflections
148 parameters
H atoms treated by a mixture of
independent and constrained
refinement

$$
\begin{aligned}
& V=892.14(14) \AA^{3} \\
& Z=4 \\
& \text { Mo } K \alpha \text { radiation } \\
& \mu=1.07 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1} \\
& T=296(2) \mathrm{K} \\
& 0.53 \times 0.52 \times 0.40 \mathrm{~mm}
\end{aligned}
$$

5260 measured reflections 1748 independent reflections 1717 reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ $R_{\text {int }}=0.065$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {max }}=0.25 \mathrm{e}_{\AA^{-3}}$
$\Delta \rho_{\text {min }}=-0.36 \mathrm{e}^{\AA^{-3}}$
Absolute structure: Flack (1983), with 711 Friedel pairs
Flack parameter: 0.01 (4)

The maleate H atoms were constrained to an ideal geometry, with $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ distances of $0.93 \AA$ and $U_{\text {iso }}(\mathrm{H})=1.2 U_{\text {eq }}(\mathrm{C})$. Atoms H 4 and H 5 of the boric acid were also constrained to an ideal geometry, with O H distances of $0.98 \AA$ and with $U_{\text {iso }}(\mathrm{H})=1.5 U_{\text {eq }}(\mathrm{C})$. Atom H3 was located in a difference Fourier synthesis and refined isotropically.

Data collection: X-AREA (Stoe \& Cie, 2002); cell refinement: $X-A R E A$; data reduction: $X$-RED32 (Stoe \& Cie, 2002); program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: Mercury (Version 1.4.1; Macrae et al., 2006); software used to prepare material for publication: enCIFer (Version 1.2; Allen et al., 2004).

Table 1
Selected geometric parameters ( $\left(\AA,{ }^{\circ}\right)$.

| $\mathrm{K} 2-\mathrm{O} 5^{\text {i }}$ | 2.6952 (19) | C1-C2 | 1.485 (3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| K2-O4 | 2.7778 (18) | C3-C2 | 1.321 (3) |
| $\mathrm{K} 2-\mathrm{Ob}^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.8380 (19) | C3-C4 | 1.492 (3) |
| $\mathrm{K} 2-\mathrm{O} 3{ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 2.8340 (18) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O}^{\text {v }}$ | 2.785 (2) |
| $\mathrm{K} 2-\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iv }}$ | 2.8879 (16) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O} 6^{\text {vi }}$ | 2.880 (2) |
| $\mathrm{K} 2-\mathrm{O} 2$ | 2.8905 (16) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {v }}$ | 2.8907 (18) |
| K2-O7 | 2.962 (2) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O}^{\text {i }}$ | 3.004 (2) |
| O3-B1 | 1.364 (3) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {vi }}$ | 3.1462 (18) |
| O4-C1 | 1.252 (3) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {v }}$ | 3.2062 (19) |
| O6-C4 | 1.253 (3) | $\mathrm{K} 1-\mathrm{C} 3{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 3.301 (2) |
| O7-C4 | 1.245 (3) | K1-O1 | 2.7547 (16) |
| O5-C1 | 1.253 (3) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{B} 1-\mathrm{O} 1$ | 119.54 (18) | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{B} 1-\mathrm{O} 3$ | 119.83 (19) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{B} 1-\mathrm{O} 3$ | 120.60 (19) |  |  |

Symmetry codes: (i) $-x+1, y-\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2}$; (ii) $-x+\frac{3}{2},-y+1, z+\frac{1}{2}$; (iii) $-x+1, y+\frac{1}{2}$, $-z+\frac{3}{2}$; (iv) $-x+2, y+\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2} ;($ v $)-x+2, y-\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2} ;$ (vi) $-x+\frac{3}{2},-y, z+\frac{1}{2}$.

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

| $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots A$ | $D-\mathrm{H}$ | H $\cdots A$ | $D \cdots A$ | $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots A$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{H} 5 \cdots \mathrm{O} 4^{\mathrm{v}}$ | 0.98 (1) | 1.73 (1) | 2.689 (3) | 166 (1) |
| O3-H3 . . 7 | 0.79 (4) | 1.88 (4) | 2.645 (2) | 165 (4) |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{H} 4 \cdots \mathrm{O}{ }^{\text {vii }}$ | 0.98 (1) | 1.66 (1) | 2.618 (1) | 163 (1) |

Symmetry codes: (v) $-x+2, y-\frac{1}{2},-z+\frac{3}{2}$; (vii) $x, y-1, z$.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: GA3059). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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