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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 298 KMean  $\sigma(C-C) = 0.007 \text{ Å}$  R factor = 0.058 wR factor = 0.180 Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.6

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e. The title compound,  $C_6H_8N_4S_2^{-2+}\cdot 2Cl^-$ , includes a *trans*, planar bithiazole moiety occupying a special position on a crystallographic inversion centre. Both symmetry-independent N atoms participate in hydrogen-bonded links with the chloride anion [N···Cl 3.094 (5), 3.222 (5) and 3.362 (5) Å]. A short contact of 3.3201 (18) Å is also observed between the S atom of the thiazolium cation and the chloride anion.

2,2'-Diamino-4,4'-bi-1,3-thiazolium dichloride

## Comment

Transition-metal complexes with 2,2'-diamino-4,4'-bithiazole (DABT) or its derivatives have shown interesting properties and promise potential applications in a number of fields (Waring, 1981; Fisher *et al.*, 1985; Sun *et al.*, 1997). A series of metal complexes, with DABT chelating to the metal atom, have recently been prepared in this laboratory and crystal structure determinations have been reported for several of them (Liu *et al.*, 2001). We present here the structure of DABT chloride, (I), thereby allowing comparison of the DABT structures in metal complexes and in the free state.



The molecular structure of (I) and a fragment of the crystal packing are shown in Fig. 1. The centrosymmetric molecule displays a *trans* structure, which differs from the *cis* configuration found in metal complexes. The two thiazole rings are coplanar, the maximum atomic deviation being 0.016 (3) Å (N3). The structure is also different from the twisted structure found in the metal complexes (Liu *et al.*, 2001).

The N-H groups of the heterocyclic protonated atom N3, as well as the N6 amino atom, are engaged in hydrogen bonds with the chloride anion (Table 1). The rather short  $\text{Cl}\cdots\text{S1}^{\text{ii}}$  [symmetry code: (ii) 1 + x,  $\frac{1}{2} - y$ ,  $-\frac{1}{2} + z$ ] contact of 3.3201 (18) Å is also noteworthy. This contact is significantly shorter than the sum of the van der Waals radii (3.55 Å; Rodgers, 1994); it is comparable, however, with the S···Cl contact of 3.3175 (15) Å found in bis(2-amino-4-methylthiazolium) tetrachlorocopper (Fernández *et al.*, 1996).

## **Experimental**

DABT was prepared according to the literature procedure of Erlenmeyer (1948). The title compound was obtained from an aqueous solution as a by-product in the course of the synthesis of an  $Ni^{II}$  complex with DABT, using  $NiCl_2$  as a starting reagent.

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# organic papers

## Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} C_{6}H_{8}N_{4}S_{2}^{2+}\cdot 2CI^{-}\\ M_{r}=271.18\\ \text{Monoclinic, }P_{2_{1}}/c\\ a=4.8211 \ (8) \ \text{\AA}\\ b=9.2441 \ (14) \ \text{\AA}\\ c=12.0228 \ (10) \ \text{\AA}\\ \beta=98.224 \ (12)^{\circ}\\ V=530.31 \ (13) \ \text{\AA}^{3}\\ Z=2 \end{array}$ 

## Data collection

Rigaku AFC-7*S* diffractometer  $\omega/2\theta$  scans Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (North *et al.*, 1968)  $T_{\min} = 0.616, T_{\max} = 0.840$ 1163 measured reflections 1037 independent reflections 886 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.058$   $wR(F^2) = 0.180$  S = 1.121037 reflections 76 parameters Only coordinates of H atoms refined

## Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

S1-C2	1.718 (5)	N3-C4	1.393 (6)
S1-C5	1.733 (5)	C4-C5	1.347 (7)
C2-N3	1.337 (6)	$C4-C4^{i}$	1.446 (10)
C2-N6	1.317 (7)		
C2-S1-C5	90.1 (2)	C5-C4-N3	112.3 (5)
N6-C2-N3	122.5 (5)	C5-C4-C4 <sup>i</sup>	128.7 (6)
N6-C2-S1	125.5 (4)	N3-C4-C4 <sup>i</sup>	119.1 (5)
N3-C2-S1	111.9 (4)	C4-C5-S1	111.9 (4)
C2-N3-C4	113.8 (4)		

 $D_x = 1.698 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Cell parameters from 22

 $0.50 \times 0.26 \times 0.18 \ \mathrm{mm}$ 

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 7.6 - 12.6^{\circ}$  $\mu = 0.97 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 298 (2) K

Prism, orange

 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.049$   $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.0^{\circ}$  $h = 0 \rightarrow 5$ 

 $k = 0 \rightarrow 11$ 

 $l = -14 \rightarrow 14$ 

+ 1.6P]

 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.86 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.83 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

3 standard reflections

every 150 reflections

intensity decay: 0.3%

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0944P)^2]$ 

where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ 

Symmetry code: (i) 1 - x, -y, 1 - z.

## Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	D-H	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots A$
N3-H3···Cl	1.03 (8)	2.10 (8)	3.094 (5)	159 (6)
$N6-H6A\cdots Cl^{i}$	0.94 (8)	2.40 (8)	3.222 (5)	146 (7)
N6-H6 $B$ ···Cl	0.97 (8)	2.50 (8)	3.362 (5)	148 (7)
$N6-H6A\cdots CI$ $N6-H6B\cdots CI$	0.94 (8) 0.97 (8)	2.40 (8) 2.50 (8)	3.222 (5) 3.362 (5)	

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

H atoms were located in a difference Fourier map and refined isotropically with a fixed displacement parameter of 0.08 Å<sup>2</sup>, N-H = 0.95–1.03 Å and C5-H5 = 1.10 (8) Å.

Data collection: MSC/AFC Diffractometer Control Software (Molecular Structure Corporation, 1992); cell refinement: MSC/AFC



#### Figure 1

The molecular packing of (I) in the unit cell, shown with 30% probability displacement ellipsoids for non-H atoms. The dashed lines show the hydrogen bonds while the double dashed lines show the short contact between Cl and S atoms. [Symmetry codes: (i) 1 - x, -y, 1 - z; (ii) 1 + x,  $\frac{1}{2} - y$ ,  $-\frac{1}{2} + z$ .]

*Diffractometer Control Software*; data reduction: *TEXSAN* (Molecular Structure Corporation, 1985); program(s) used to solve structure: *SIR*92 (Altomare *et al.*, 1993); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL*97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *XP* (Siemens, 1994).

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