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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 213$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{N}-\text{C}) = 0.006$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.032  
 $wR$  factor = 0.079  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 16.6For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.Bis( $\mu$ - $N,N$ -dimethylhydrazido- $\kappa^2 N':N'$ )bis[di-  
methylgallium(III)]

The title centrosymmetric coordination compound,  $[\text{Ga}_2(\text{CH}_3)_4(\text{C}_2\text{H}_7\text{N}_2)_2]$ , contains tetrahedral Ga atoms bonded to two N atoms of the hydrazide ligands and two C atoms of the methyl groups. The Ga atoms are bridged by hydrazide moieties, creating a planar four-membered  $\text{Ga}_2\text{N}_2$  ring, which may be considered as the main structural feature. The Ga–N bond distances are equal [2.018 (2) and 2.019 (2) Å] within experimental error.

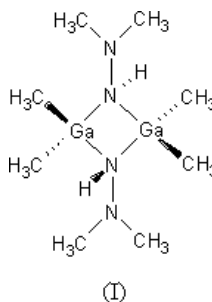
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## Comment

Amide and hydrazide derivatives of gallium have attracted considerable interest due to their application as precursors for the formation of gallium nitride, which is widely used as a semiconducting material. The structures of several complexes of aluminium and gallium with amide ligands have been reported (Carmalt, 2001; Carmalt *et al.*, 2001). Compounds of this type usually form dimeric molecules comprising a central four-membered  $\text{Ga}_2\text{N}_2$  ring as the main structural feature.



The Ga atoms in the title compound, (I), adopt a tetrahedral geometry formed by two N atoms of the bridging hydrazide ligand [Ga–N = 2.018 (2) and 2.019 (2) Å] and two C atoms of methyl groups [Ga–C = 1.966 (4) and 1.970 (3) Å]. As a result of the bridging by the hydrazide ligands, centrosymmetric dimeric molecules are formed.

## Experimental

The title compound, (I), was prepared according to the procedure of Uhl *et al.* (2001) by reaction of equimolar amounts (20 mmol) of trimethylgallium with  $N,N$ -dimethylhydrazine in toluene (50 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 6 h and the solvent removed *in vacuo* to give a colourless precipitate. The resulting solid was collected and dried *in vacuo*. Suitable crystals were obtained by cooling a saturated solution of (I) in *n*-pentane. Analysis calculated for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{26}\text{Ga}_2\text{N}_4$ : C 29.81, H 8.07, Ga 43.47%; found: C 30.01, H 8.23, Ga 43.68%.

Crystal data

[Ga<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 317.77  
 Triclinic, *P* $\bar{1}$   
*a* = 6.7439 (1) Å  
*b* = 8.2016 (1) Å  
*c* = 8.2846 (2) Å  
 $\alpha$  = 114.052 (1)°  
 $\beta$  = 95.798 (1)°  
 $\gamma$  = 107.406 (1)°  
*V* = 385.991 (12) Å<sup>3</sup>

*Z* = 1  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.367 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo *K*α radiation  
 Cell parameters from 1543 reflections  
 $\theta$  = 2–27°  
 $\mu$  = 3.47 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 213 (2) K  
 Block, colourless  
 0.30 × 0.30 × 0.20 mm

Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.388, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.500  
 3427 measured reflections

1543 independent reflections  
 1383 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.024  
 $\theta_{max}$  = 27.1°  
*h* = –8 → 8  
*k* = –10 → 9  
*l* = –10 → 10

Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R*[*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.032  
*wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.080  
*S* = 1.07  
 1543 reflections  
 93 parameters

H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0491P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.84 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.45 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Ga1–C2	1.966 (4)	Ga1–N1	2.019 (2)
Ga1–C1	1.970 (3)	Ga1⋯Ga1 <sup>i</sup>	2.9397 (6)
Ga1–N1 <sup>i</sup>	2.018 (2)	N1–N2	1.452 (3)
C2–Ga1–N1	112.50 (15)	N2–N1–Ga1	118.71 (19)
C1–Ga1–N1	105.73 (15)	Ga1 <sup>i</sup> –N1–Ga1	93.46 (9)
N2–N1–Ga1 <sup>i</sup>	117.22 (18)		

Symmetry code: (i) –*x*, 1 – *y*, 2 – *z*.

H atoms on C2 and C3 were placed in geometrically idealized positions and constrained to ride on their parent atoms, with C–H distances of 0.97 Å and a common *U*<sub>iso</sub> value. All other H atoms were located in a difference Fourier map and freely refined.

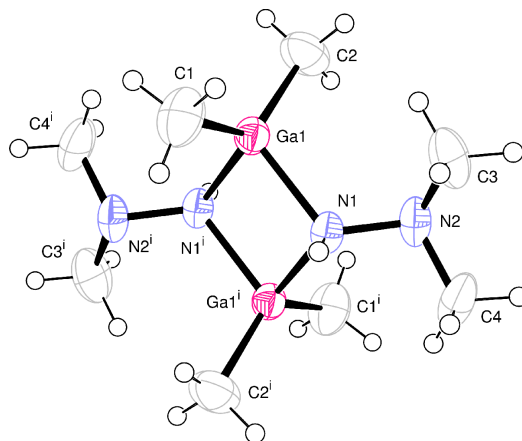


Figure 1

View of the dimeric molecule of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. [Symmetry code: (i) –*x*, 1 – *y*, 2 – *z*.]

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2000; data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1990); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: ORTEP-3 (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL97 and PLATON (Spek, 2003).

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