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Key indicators

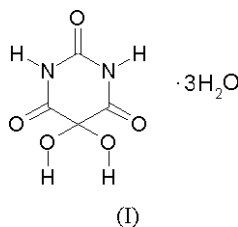
Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 150$ K
Mean $\sigma(C-C) = 0.001$ Å
Disorder in main residue
 R factor = 0.028
 wR factor = 0.078
Data-to-parameter ratio = 10.4For details of how these key indicators were
automatically derived from the article, see
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.Redetermination of 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric
acid trihydrate (alloxan tetrahydrate)

The low temperature redetermination of 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate, $C_4H_4N_2O_5 \cdot 3H_2O$, (historically misnamed alloxan tetrahydrate) is reported here. The organic molecule has crystallographic mirror symmetry, as does one of the water molecules.

Received 25 August 2004
Accepted 6 September 2004
Online 18 September 2004

Comment

The crystal structure of 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate, (I) (originally misnamed alloxan tetrahydrate) was determined by Mootz & Jeffrey (1965). In that original room-temperature study, only three of the six H atoms in the asymmetric unit could be located by means of difference Fourier syntheses, and the structure refined to a final R value of 0.097. We have redetermined this crystal structure at 150 K, with a final R value of 0.028, to gain more accurate data for our theoretical modelling studies. The low-temperature redetermination located all the H atoms, which were refined isotropically. The precision of the unit-cell dimensions was improved by an order of magnitude. The unit-cell volume decreased by *ca.* 27 \AA^3 , consistent with the determination at low temperature. In general, the molecular geometric parameters are not significantly different, the exception being the C6–O6 bond length, which is shorter in the low-temperature structure, while C2–O2 is actually longer in the low-temperature structure, both by *ca.* 0.1 \AA .



Compound (I) crystallizes in the monoclinic space group $C2/m$, with the organic molecule on a mirror plane plus one water molecule in a general position and a second on a mirror plane (Fig. 1). The crystallographic plane is normal to the pyrimidine ring, passing through atoms O2, C2, C5, O7 and O8. The hydroxyl H atoms attached to the ring are disordered across the mirror plane. The water molecule O2W, in a general position, is disordered with one of the H atoms refined over two positions. The third water of solvation lies on the mirror plane at $(0, y, 1)$, with the mirror bisecting the H–O–H angle.

The C–N bond lengths in the ring range from 1.3666 (11) to 1.3752 (9) Å, and the C5–C6 bond length is 1.5272 (10) Å. The packing (Fig. 2) consists of centrosymmetric dimers

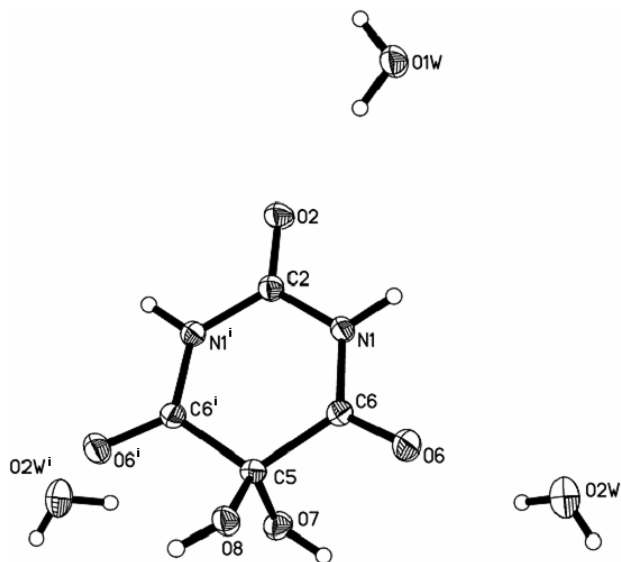


Figure 1

View of the 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid molecule and three water molecules (twice the asymmetric unit), showing the atom labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. [Symmetry code: (i) $x, -y, z$.]

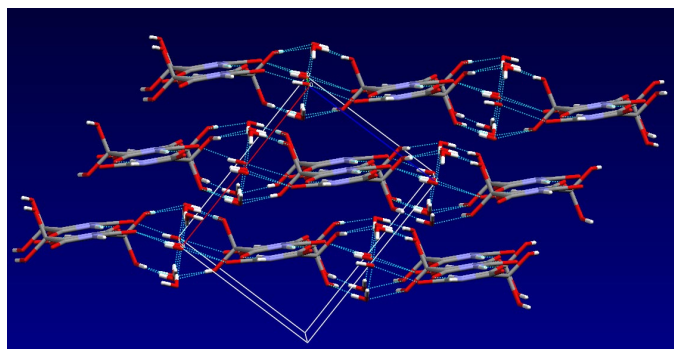


Figure 2

The crystal packing of 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate, showing the $N-H\cdots O$ and $O-H\cdots O$ hydrogen-bonding interactions as dashed lines.

hydrogen-bonded to form a chain, with the water molecules lying between these chains, forming a buckled sheet structure. The water molecules in general positions form $O-H\cdots O$ bonds to the organic hydroxyl groups, whilst the water molecules on the mirror plane bond to the unique hydrogen-bond carbonyl acceptor on the organic molecules (Fig. 3). The water molecules on the mirror planes and in general positions also hydrogen-bond to each other in the sheet. The $D\cdots A$ distance within the bonded chains of molecules is 2.8580 (6) Å, whilst the $O-H\cdots O$ hydrogen bonds range from 2.7217 (11) to 2.9343 (9) Å. All potential donors and acceptors are used in the hydrogen bonding.

Experimental

To complement the results from an experimental polymorph search on alloxan, 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate was obtained from Aldrich as colourless plate-like crystals of alloxan tetrahydrate

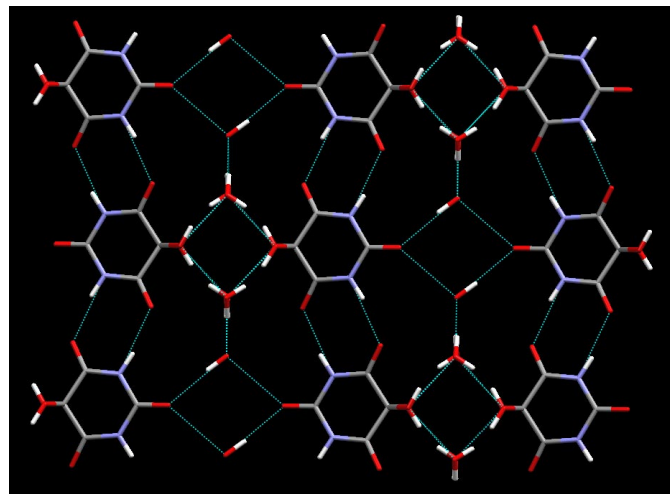


Figure 3

The hydrogen-bonded sheet structure in 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate, showing the $N-H\cdots O$ and $O-H\cdots O$ hydrogen-bonding interactions as dashed lines.

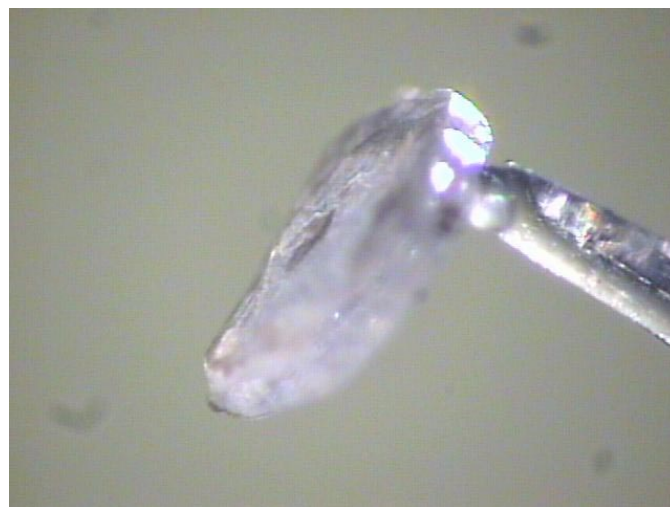


Figure 4

The crystal morphology of 5,5-dihydroxybarbituric acid trihydrate.

(Fig. 4). These crystals were very sensitive and decompose rapidly in air.

Crystal data

$C_4H_4N_2O_5 \cdot 3H_2O$
 $M_r = 214.14$
 Monoclinic, $C2/m$
 $a = 9.4614$ (8) Å
 $b = 12.2095$ (10) Å
 $c = 7.2973$ (6) Å
 $\beta = 91.4650$ (10)°
 $V = 842.70$ (12) Å³
 $Z = 4$

$D_x = 1.688$ Mg m⁻³
 Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
 Cell parameters from 3125 reflections
 $\theta = 2.7$ – 28.2°
 $\mu = 0.17$ mm⁻¹
 $T = 150$ (2) K
 Plate, colourless
 $0.72 \times 0.62 \times 0.11$ mm

Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer
 ω scans
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)
 $T_{min} = 0.889$, $T_{max} = 0.982$
 3701 measured reflections

1036 independent reflections
 1019 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
 $R_{int} = 0.015$
 $\theta_{max} = 28.2^\circ$
 $h = -12 \rightarrow 12$
 $k = -15 \rightarrow 15$
 $l = -9 \rightarrow 9$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.028$
 $wR(F^2) = 0.078$
 $S = 1.12$
 1036 reflections
 100 parameters
 All H-atom parameters refined

$$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0445P)^2 + 0.3397P]$$

where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\max} < 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{\max} = 0.41 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{\min} = -0.24 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$

Table 1
 Hydrogen-bonding geometry (\AA , $^\circ$).

$D-H\cdots A$	$D-H$	$H\cdots A$	$D\cdots A$	$D-H\cdots A$
$N1-H1\cdots O6^i$	0.901 (14)	1.970 (14)	2.8580 (10)	168.1 (13)
$O7-H7\cdots O2W^{ii}$	0.83 (3)	1.92 (3)	2.7217 (11)	163 (3)
$O8-H8\cdots O2W^{iii}$	0.78 (3)	1.98 (3)	2.7250 (10)	160 (3)
$O1W-H9\cdots O2$	0.868 (18)	2.075 (19)	2.9343 (9)	170.6 (16)
$O2W-H10\cdots O1W^{iv}$	0.85 (2)	1.96 (2)	2.8009 (11)	171.3 (15)
$O2W-H11A\cdots O7^{ii}$	0.77 (4)	1.99 (4)	2.7217 (11)	160 (3)
$O2W-H11B\cdots O8^v$	0.82 (3)	1.96 (3)	2.7250 (10)	154 (3)

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

The non-H atoms were refined freely with anisotropic displacement parameters, with the H atoms refined independently with an isotropic model.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: *SAINTE* (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: *SAINTE*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1990); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *MERCURY* (Bruno *et al.*, 2002) and *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 2000); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

This research was supported by the EPSRC in funding a studentship for TCL. The authors acknowledge the Research Councils UK Basic Technology Programme for supporting ‘Control and Prediction of the Organic Solid State’. For more information on this work, please visit <http://www.chem.ucl.ac.uk/basictechorg/>.

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