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#### **Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 223 KMean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.018 wR factor = 0.046 Data-to-parameter ratio = 23.0

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

The title compound, (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>[SnCl<sub>6</sub>], contains discrete  $[SnCl_6]^{2-}$  anions and two imidazolium  $(C_3H_5N_2^+)$  cations. The Sn<sup>IV</sup> atom is located on a center of inversion and is octahedrally coordinated by six Cl<sup>-</sup> ions. N-H···Cl hydrogen bonds form a three-dimensional hydrogen-bonded structure.

**Bis(imidazolium) hexachlorostannate(IV)** 

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# Comment

González et al. (1994) reported the tin and imidazolium (imH) complex  $(imH)_2[Sn_2(NO_3)_4(\mu-OH)_2Me_4]$ . This complex consists of imidazolium cations and  $[Sn_2(NO_3)_4(\mu-OH)_2 Me_4$ <sup>2-</sup> anions, with the imidazolium rings hydrogen bonded to the nitrate groups of neighbouring units and to the hydroxyl bridging groups of the anion.

The tin and imidazole (im) complexes, Sn(im)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (Vasnin & Geanangel, 1989) and Sn(im)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub> (Garnovskii et al., 1966), have also been investigated.



The present structure, (I), is built up from an octahedral  $[SnCl_6]^{2-}$ anion and imidazolium cations. The ions are held together via N-H···Cl hydrogen-bonding interactions. The Sn-Cl distances range from 2.4128 (7) to 2.4470 (7) Å and the N-H···Cl from 3.318 (2) to 3.3935 (2) Å.

# **Experimental**

SnCl<sub>4</sub> (1 mmol) and imidazole (2 mmol) were dissolved in a solution of 2 N HCl (10 ml) and the resultant solution was slowly evaporated at room temperature. The compound was obtained as prismatic colorless crystals after several days.



#### Figure 1

The unique cation and centrosymmetric anion of the title compound. © 2005 International Union of Crystallography Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. [Symmetry code: (a) 1 - x, 2 - y, 2 - z.]

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# metal-organic papers

# Crystal data

 $\begin{array}{l} (C_{3}H_{5}N_{2})_{2}[SnCl_{6}]\\ M_{r} = 469.57\\ Monoclinic, P2_{1}/c\\ a = 7.4650 (15) Å\\ b = 8.0670 (16) Å\\ c = 12.411 (3) Å\\ \beta = 98.16 (3)^{\circ}\\ V = 739.8 (3) Å^{3}\\ Z = 2 \end{array}$ 

# Data collection

Bruker SMART APEX CCD
diffractometer
$\omega$ scans
Absorption correction: multi-scan
(SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)
$T_{\min} = 0.43, T_{\max} = 0.66$
9551 measured reflections

#### Refinement

Refinement on $F^2$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0201P)^2]$
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.018$	+ 0.3722P]
$wR(F^2) = 0.046$	where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
S = 1.07	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$
1820 reflections	$\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.52 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
79 parameters	$\Delta \rho_{\rm min} = -0.39 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
H-atom parameters constrained	

 $D_x = 2.108 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$ 

Cell parameters from 1820

Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation

reflections

 $\theta = 2.8-28.3^{\circ}$  $\mu = 2.79 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ 

T = 223 (2) K

 $\begin{aligned} R_{\text{int}} &= 0.026\\ \theta_{\text{max}} &= 28.3^{\circ}\\ h &= -9 \rightarrow 9\\ k &= -10 \rightarrow 10\\ l &= -16 \rightarrow 16 \end{aligned}$ 

Prism, colourless

0.40  $\times$  0.25  $\times$  0.15 mm

1820 independent reflections 1672 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

#### Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Sn1-Cl2 Sn1-Cl3	2.4128 (7) 2.4137 (8)	Sn1-Cl1	2.4470 (7)
Cl2-Sn1-Cl2 <sup>i</sup> Cl2-Sn1-Cl3	180 89.522 (16)	Cl2 <sup>i</sup> -Sn1-Cl1 Cl3-Sn1-Cl1	89.507 (17) 90.87 (3)
$Cl2^{i}$ -Sn1-Cl3	90.478 (16)	$Cl3^{i}$ -Sn1-Cl1	89.13 (3)
Cl2-Sn1-Cl3	90.493 (17)	CII-3III-CII	180

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

# Table 2

Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °).

$D - H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D-{\rm H}$	$H \cdot \cdot \cdot A$	$D \cdots A$	$D - \mathbf{H} \cdots \mathbf{A}$
N2-H2···Cl1 <sup>ii</sup>	0.87	2.62	3.327 (2)	139
$N1 - H1 \cdot \cdot \cdot Cl2^{iii}$	0.87	2.65	3.318 (2)	135
$N1-H1\cdots Cl3^{iii}$	0.87	2.71	3.3935 (19)	137

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

The H atoms were constrained to an ideal geometry, with C–H distances of 0.94 Å and N–H distances of 0.87 Å. All H atoms were refined as riding, with  $U_{\rm iso}({\rm H}) = 1.2U_{\rm eq}$ (parent atom).



## Figure 2

The crystal structure of the title compound. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1998); cell refinement: *SAINT* (Bruker, 1998); data reduction: *SAINT*; program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXTL* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXTL*; molecular graphics: *PLATON* (Spek, 2003); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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