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**Key indicators**

Single-crystal X-ray study

T = 293 K

Mean  $\sigma(\text{O}-\text{C}) = 0.010 \text{ \AA}$ 

R factor = 0.027

wR factor = 0.061

Data-to-parameter ratio = 8.0

For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**Samarium(III) formate**

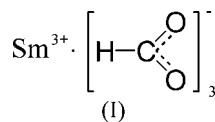
The title compound, poly[samarium(III)-tri- $\mu$ -formato],  $[\text{Sm}(\text{HCO}_2)_3]_n$ , is isostructural with numerous lanthanide formates and comprises a three-dimensional framework assembled from  $\text{SmO}_9$  polyhedra and  $\text{HCO}_2^-$  anions. The Sm atom lies on a site of  $3m$  symmetry and is coordinated by nine O atoms in a typical coordination geometry. The formate anions lie on mirror planes.

Received 22 June 2006

Accepted 3 July 2006

**Comment**

The title compound, (I), is isostructural with numerous lanthanide formates, including those of La, Ce, Tb, Tm (Bolotovskiy *et al.*, 1990) and Gd (Kistaiah *et al.*, 1981), as well as that of the actinide U (Chadha *et al.*, 1980). Unit-cell data have been reported previously for  $\text{Sm}(\text{HCO}_2)_3$  (Mayer *et al.*, 1962), although the compound was described in that case as a fractional hydrate and atomic coordinates were not determined.



As shown in Fig. 1, the Sm atom lies on a site of  $3m$  symmetry and is coordinated by nine O atoms from the  $\text{HCO}_2^-$  anions, which lie on mirror planes. The Sm environment has typical geometrical parameters (Table 1). The C—O distances within the anions are 1.235 (16) and 1.259 (16) Å and the O—C—O angle is 125.8 (13)°. Each C atom makes three C—O—Sm linkages through one  $\mu_1$ -bound O atom (O1) and one  $\mu_2$  bridging O atom (O2). Three Sm atoms and three  $\text{HCO}_2^-$  anions are connected, forming six-membered rings, which are connected by further  $\text{HCO}_2^-$  anions, generating a three-dimensional framework (Fig. 2). The distance between adjacent Sm atoms is 4.006 (3) Å.

**Experimental**

Colourless needle-like crystals of the title compound were synthesized hydrothermally from a mixture of  $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{HCO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAOH) and dimethylformamide. In a typical synthesis,  $\text{Sm}_2\text{O}_3$  (0.15 g) was dissolved in a mixed solvent of dimethyl formamide (1.08 g) and water (10.0 g), followed by addition of  $\text{HCO}_2\text{H}$  (0.57 g) and 10% TMAOH (1.08 g) with constant stirring. The mixture was kept in a 25 ml Teflon-lined steel autoclave at 453 K for 10 d. The autoclave was slowly cooled to room temperature, and the product was then filtered, washed with distilled water, and dried at room temperature. Although the final product did not contain TMAOH, this was needed for preparation of the title compound.

Crystal data

[Sm(HCO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 285.40  
 Trigonal, *R*3*m*  
*a* = 10.503 (3) Å  
*c* = 4.006 (3) Å  
*V* = 382.7 (3) Å<sup>3</sup>  
*Z* = 3

*D<sub>x</sub>* = 3.715 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo *K*α radiation  
 $\mu$  = 11.47 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 293 (2) K  
 Block, colourless  
 0.06 × 0.04 × 0.04 mm

Data collection

Bruker APEXII CCD  
 diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan  
 (SADABS; Sheldrick, 2003)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.546, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.657

825 measured reflections  
 201 independent reflections  
 201 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.052  
 $\theta_{\text{max}}$  = 29.0°

Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R* [*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.027  
*wR* (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.061  
*S* = 1.10  
 201 reflections  
 25 parameters  
 All H-atom parameters refined

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0348P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 ( $\Delta/\sigma$ )<sub>max</sub> = 0.007  
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$  = 1.95 e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$  = -1.25 e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 Absolute structure: Flack (1983), 69  
 Friedel pairs  
 Flack parameter: 0.01 (9)

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Sm1—O1	2.409 (10)	Sm1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	2.529 (9)
Sm1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	2.543 (9)		
O1—Sm1—O1 <sup>iii</sup>	119.93 (2)	O2 <sup>vi</sup> —Sm1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	64.4 (3)
O1—Sm1—O2 <sup>i</sup>	126.2 (3)	O2 <sup>iv</sup> —Sm1—O2 <sup>v</sup>	144.27 (13)
O1—Sm1—O2 <sup>iv</sup>	129.4 (3)	O2 <sup>ii</sup> —Sm1—O2 <sup>v</sup>	104.3 (3)
O1—Sm1—O2 <sup>v</sup>	71.0 (2)	O2 <sup>v</sup> —Sm1—O2 <sup>vii</sup>	64.0 (3)
O1—Sm1—O2 <sup>ii</sup>	73.3 (2)		

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x - \frac{1}{3}, y + \frac{1}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ ; (ii)  $-y + \frac{2}{3}, x - y - \frac{2}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ ; (iii)  $-y + 1, x - y, z$ ; (iv)  $x - \frac{1}{3}, y + \frac{1}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ ; (v)  $-y + \frac{2}{3}, x - y - \frac{2}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ ; (vi)  $-x + y + \frac{2}{3}, -x + \frac{4}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ ; (vii)  $-x + y + \frac{2}{3}, -x + \frac{4}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ .

The maximum and minimum peaks in the difference density are located at 0.95 and 0.87 Å, respectively, from Sm1. The H atom was located in a difference Fourier map, and refined with an isotropic displacement parameter, with the C1—H1 and O1/O2···H1 distances restrained to be 0.96 (2) and 1.88 (2) Å, respectively.

Data collection: APEX2 (Bruker, 2005); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2003); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXTL (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXTL; molecular graphics: SHELXTL; software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

This work was supported by the Education Office Foundation of Liaoning Province (05L220).

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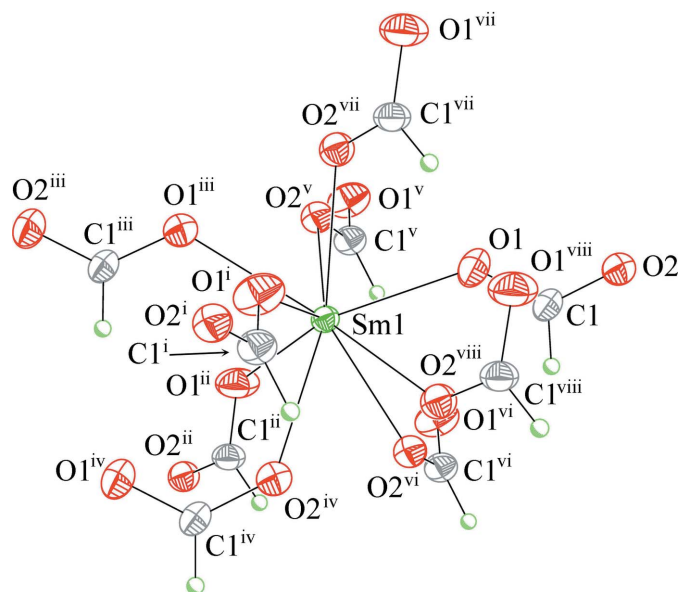


Figure 1

The coordination geometry of Sm1, showing displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 70% probability level. H atoms are shown as spheres of arbitrary radius. [Symmetry codes: (i)  $-y + 1, x - y, z$ ; (ii)  $-x + y + 1, -x + 1, z$ ; (iii)  $x - \frac{1}{3}, y + \frac{1}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ ; (iv)  $x - \frac{1}{3}, y + \frac{1}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ ; (v)  $-y + \frac{2}{3}, x - y - \frac{2}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ ; (vi)  $-y + \frac{2}{3}, x - y - \frac{2}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ ; (vii)  $-x + y + \frac{2}{3}, -x + \frac{4}{3}, z - \frac{2}{3}$ ; (viii)  $-x + y + \frac{2}{3}, -x + \frac{4}{3}, z + \frac{1}{3}$ .]

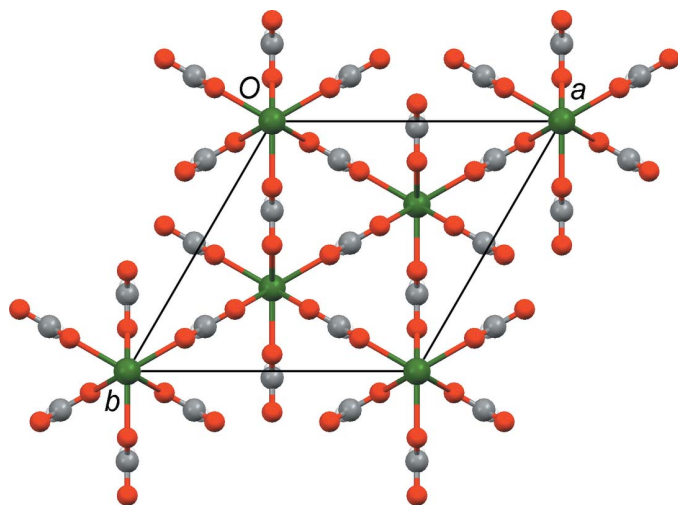


Figure 2

View along the *c* axis, showing the three-dimensional framework with six-membered rings.

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