

The Structure of Dodecahydro-1,4,7,9b-Tetraazaphenalene Trihydrochloride Hemihydrate, C₉H₁₈N₄ · 3HCl · $\frac{1}{2}$ H₂O

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The molecular structure of an organic compound of composition C₉H₁₈N₄ was established by a crystal structure determination of an orthorhombic HCl derivative, C₉H₁₈N₄ · 3HCl · $\frac{1}{2}$ H₂O. The space group is *Pna*2₁ with $a = 19.21$, $b = 11.20$, $c = 6.917$ Å (Cu $K\alpha$ $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å). There are four molecules per unit cell. Determination of the unit cells and space groups of the C₉H₁₈N₄ compound and of a hexagonal HCl derivative eliminated most of the structures initially proposed.

The approximate structure of the orthorhombic HCl derivative was obtained by analysis of a three-dimensional sharpened Patterson function. Refinement of the positional parameters of the 17 heavier atoms was carried out by the method of least squares with individual isotropic temperature factors. The final *R* index for the 1144 observed reflections of non-zero weight is 0.093, and the estimated limits of error are 0.014–0.019 Å in bond distances involving C, N, and Cl, and 0.9–1.1° in bond angles.

The C₉H₁₈N₄ molecule can be described as a symmetrical puckered ring structure consisting of three fused piperimidine rings with one of the N atoms in the central pyramidal position. The molecule possesses non-crystallographic threefold symmetry.

Introduction

During an investigation of the reaction of acrolein with ammonia, a white crystalline solid of unknown structure and of composition C₉H₁₈N₄ was prepared in these laboratories (Van Winkle, McClure & Williams, 1964), and a number of possible structures for the ammonia-acrolein reaction product were proposed. Attempts to establish the structure of this material by infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance studies had been unsuccessful. An X-ray investigation of the structure of this material was therefore undertaken.

Preliminary results

When the X-ray work was first initiated very little was known about the chemistry of the C₉H₁₈N₄ compound and no derivatives containing heavy atoms were available. Single crystals of C₉H₁₈N₄ were therefore grown and X-ray precession patterns taken. Because of their hygroscopic nature, it was necessary to grow the single crystals in thin walled glass capillaries by sublimation under high vacuum. Most of these crystals were trigonal plates.

The precession data showed that the C₉H₁₈N₄ compound is cubic with $a_0 = 10.16$ Å (Cu $K\alpha$ $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å). Since the crystals were very hygroscopic, accurate density measurements were difficult; approximate measurements showed that the density was between 1.1 and 1.3 g.cm⁻³. Measurements of the liquid (Van Winkle, McClure & Williams) gave $d = 1.05$ g.cm⁻³ at ~120 °C. The X-ray data gave $d = 0.288(n)$ where n is the number of molecules per unit cell. The only value of n that will give a density in the observed range is 4. There were no systematic extinctions; the unit cell is

therefore primitive and the probable space group *P*23 (*T*¹) or *P* $\bar{4}3m$ (*T*_d²). In either space group, the molecules must lie along the threefold axis, limiting the proposed structures to the cage structure [Fig. 1(a)] and the puckered arrangements [Fig. 1(b) & (c)]. The latter were subsequently proposed by organic chemists to meet the requirements of a threefold axis.

The marked decline in intensity with scattering angle indicated that the molecules in the crystal possessed large temperature factors or that disorder was present. The ease of sublimation of the crystal also suggested large thermal motion. Because of the absence of heavy atoms, the uncertainty of the configuration, and the large thermal motion or disorder, no further work was carried out on this material.

Hydrogen chloride was found to form a crystalline derivative with C₉H₁₈N₄. Crystals were grown slowly from a solution of C₉H₁₈N₄ and dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid in methyl alcohol. The initial crystalline modification obtained was a disordered hexagonal form. Although the unit cell can be described in terms of a pseudo-cell with $a = 11.23$, $c = 6.976$ Å (Cu $K\alpha$ $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å) with two molecules of C₉H₁₈N₄ · 3HCl plus an unknown number of H₂O molecules per unit cell, faint reflections indicate that the true unit cell is quadrupled with $a = 22.45$, $c = 6.976$ Å. Approximate density measurements showed the density to be between 1.2 and 1.4 g.cm⁻³ in agreement with that calculated for two molecules per pseudo-unit cell (1.29 g.cm⁻³). This material was not suitable for complete structure determination because of the disorder; however, packing considerations, based on the shortness of the *c* axis and the systematic absence of reflections of the type *hh2hl* with $l = 2n + 1$, enabled the cage form to be eliminated as a possible configuration.

It is unlikely that the disordered hexagonal form resulted from twinning of the orthorhombic form which was subsequently prepared and used for the structure determination, since the $a_{\text{orth}}/b_{\text{orth}}$ ratio differed from the value $\sqrt{3}$ by $\sim 1\%$. In addition the hexagonal form was far more hygroscopic than the orthorhombic form.

The elimination of the cage structure made it possible to proceed with chemical methods for the establishment of the structure (Van Winkle, McClure & Williams). The puckered ring configuration [Fig. 1(b)] was confirmed by J. D. McClure and J. L. Van Winkle during the period when the more detailed structure determination was being carried out.

It was called to the author's attention by the referee that the work of Delépine (1943) on the reaction product of crotonaldehyde and ammonia ($C_{12}H_{24}N_4$) would also indicate that the puckered configuration of Fig. 1(b) was the most probable structure for $C_9H_{18}N_4$.

Experimental

An orthorhombic modification of $C_9H_{18}N_4 \cdot 3HCl$ which was free of disorder was prepared. The crystals

were grown slowly from a solution of $C_9H_{18}N_4$ and concentrated hydrochloric acid in methyl alcohol. Three-dimensional intensity data for $Cu K\alpha$ and $Mo K\alpha$ radiation were collected using the multiple-film equiinclination Weissenberg technique. The crystals were sealed in thin-walled glass capillaries. Ni filtered copper $K\alpha$ radiation was used for layers 0 to 5 about the c axis and zirconium-filtered $Mo K\alpha$ for the layers 6 to 9. Precession data for the $[hk0]$, $[h0l]$, and $[0kl]$ zones were also taken with $Mo K\alpha$ radiation; they were used to place all the reflections on a single scale. The intensities were estimated visually with calibrated intensity strips taken with the same crystals. The crystals used in this work were rectangular needles elongated along the c axis and 0.27 and 0.31 mm in cross-section. Since the linear absorption coefficient for copper radiation for this salt is $\sim 53 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, approximate absorption corrections were applied to the data taken with copper radiation. The absorption corrections were calculated on the assumption that the crystal was a cylindrical rod. The absorption factor as a function of $\sin\theta$ was represented by an empirical equation involving two empirical constants which were evaluated for each zone. The absorption corrections were computed

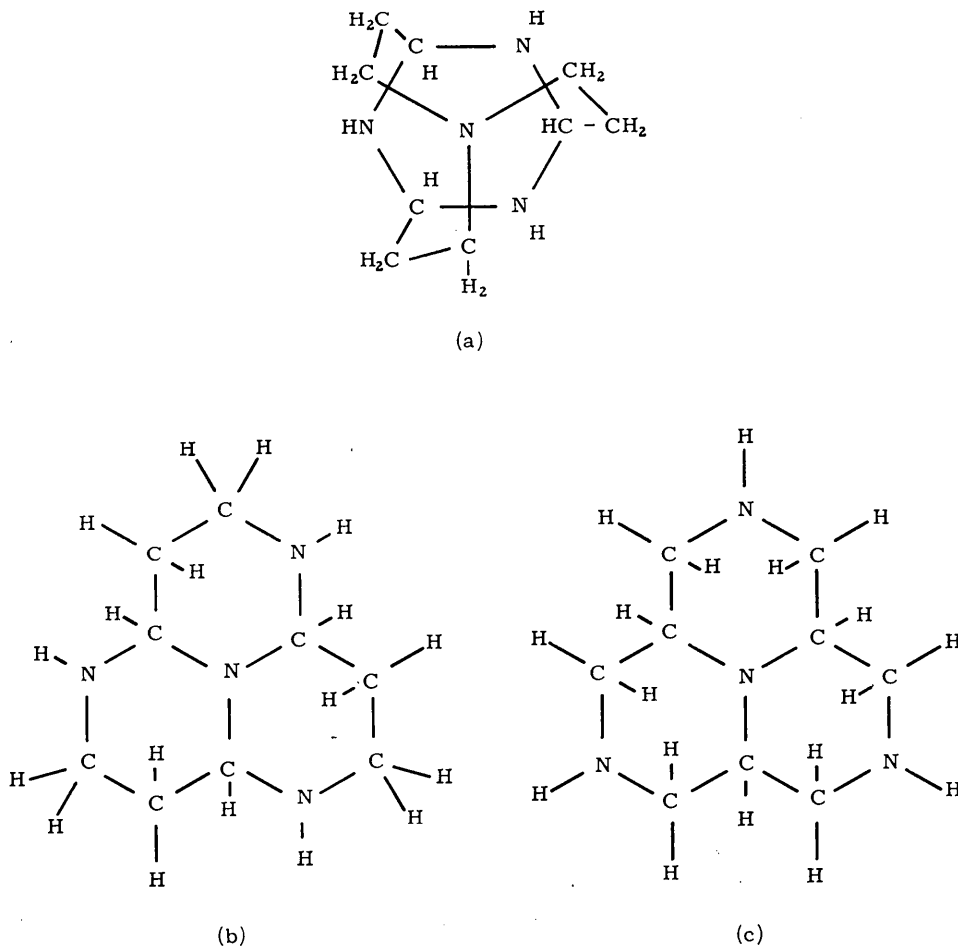


Fig. 1. Proposed structures for $C_9H_{18}N_4$ compound.

and at the same time the Lorentz and polarization corrections were applied with a Bendix G 15 computer.

The unit-cell dimensions for the orthorhombic modification of $C_9H_{18}N_4 \cdot 3HCl$ were $a=19.2_1$, $b=11.2_0$, $c=6.91_7$ Å ($Cu K\alpha \lambda=1.5418$ Å). The systematic absence of reflections $0kl$ with $k+l=2n+1$ and $h0l$ with $h=2n+1$ establishes the space group as $Pna2_1$ or $Pnam$. Comparison of the calculated density $0.325(n)$ $g.cm^{-3}$ with rough density measurements ($\rho_M=1.2-1.4$ $g.cm^{-3}$) show there are four molecules per unit cell, requiring them to be in special positions $4(c)$, and hence planar, in space group $Pnam$. This seemed very unlikely and the space group was therefore assumed to be $Pna2_1$.

Determination of the structure

The observed intensities were placed on an approximate absolute scale by Wilson's (1942) method and a three-dimensional sharpened Patterson map was computed from the entire data (1226 terms). A sharpening function of the type

$$M(s) = \frac{(Zi)^2}{f_i^2} \exp \left\{ - \left[\frac{\pi^2}{p} \left(\frac{2 \sin \theta}{\lambda} \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

(Lipson & Cochran, 1953), with $p \approx 7.25$, was used. The arrangement of the chlorine atoms in the unit cell was determined from the interpretation of the Patterson sections $P(uv0)$ and $P(uv\frac{1}{2})$. The symmetrical array of peaks near the origin of $P(uv0)$ (Fig. 2) were interpreted as C-N intramolecular vector interactions (Bevers & Ehrlich, 1959) and led to two possible orientations of the $C_9H_{18}N_4$ molecule which, in conjunction with the arrangement of Cl^- ions determined from the Patterson map, resulted in two trial structures. Structure factors and $(hk0)$ electron-density projections for both trial structures were computed. Although there was considerable overlap in the projection, the main features of the $C_9H_{18}N_4$ molecule were apparent for one of the trial structures. A second two-dimensional $(hk0)$ electron-density projection was computed with adjusted parameters for the C, N, and Cl atoms. The R index for the subsequent structure factors dropped from 0.45 to 0.30 where $R = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma|F_o|$. Structure factors, and a three dimensional Fourier synthesis were then calculated with the x and y parameters from the $(hk0)$ electron-density projection and estimated z parameters calculated from one of several possible puckered configurations. The R index for the complete data dropped from 0.28 to 0.22.

The refinement

Since the structure was now essentially determined, refinement was carried out by a series of least-squares calculations on an IBM 7090 computer using the Busing-Levy (1959a) program with a compatibility package. Atomic form factors of McWeeny (1951) for C, N, O, and H, and Dawson's (1960) values for Cl^-

were used. In the initial least-squares computations, neither the oxygen, the presence of which was unsuspected, nor the hydrogen atoms were included. Individual isotropic temperature factors, which were adjusted during the least-squares refinement, were used. The scale factors for the various n -level data were also adjusted during the least-squares refinement. The function $\Sigma w(|F_o| - S|F_c|)^2$ was minimized, where S is a scale factor. A weighting scheme similar to that suggested by Hughes (1941) was used. The higher levels were given lower weights since these data were believed to be somewhat less accurate.

After seven cycles of least squares the R index dropped to 0.135 but was not appreciably reduced upon the addition of hydrogen atoms or upon further cycles. An $(hk0)$ electron-density projection was therefore computed to see if any additional atoms were present in the crystals. The projection clearly showed the presence of an atom at $x=0.52$, $y=0.29$ and equivalent positions, which was assumed to be the oxygen of a water molecule. A three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was then calculated to get the z parameter of the oxygen; it indicated that the oxygen positions were not always occupied. Structure factor calculations also suggested that the H_2O molecule was only present in approximately one half of the positions. Additional evidence that the H_2O positions were only statistically occupied followed from least-squares calculations. The temperature factor for the oxygen atom increased from an assumed value of $B=4.0$ to $B \approx 15.0$ Å² if one H_2O molecule were present, while B only increased to the more reasonable value of 5.8 Å² for $\frac{1}{2}H_2O$. One half of an oxygen atom was therefore added in all subsequent calculations. The oxygen positional parameters and isotropic temperature factors were adjusted during the least-squares calculations but no further attempt was made to adjust the fractional weight of the oxygen atom. Other similar hydrate structures containing fractional or variable water content have been reported (Hughes & Yakel, 1961; Gerdil & Marsh, 1960; Marsh & Glusker, 1961; Gerdil, 1961).

Definite maxima at, or close to, the positions assumed for 18 of the hydrogen atoms appeared in the

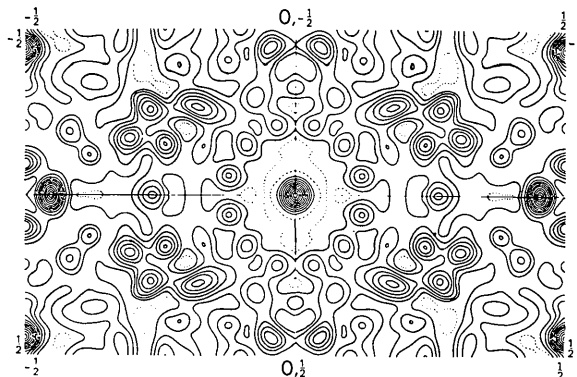


Fig. 2. Sharpened Patterson section $P(x, y, 0)$.

Table 1. Observed and calculated structure factors

The six columns within each group contain the values of h, k, 10 F_0, 10|F_c|, 10 A_c and 10 B_c. Unobserved structure factors are listed as 10 F_0=0 and have threshold values of 10 F_0 ranging from ~30-45 for hk0-hk2 and from ~35-50 for hk3-hk9. Reflections marked with a prime (') were given zero weight in the least-squares calculations.

Table with multiple columns of numerical data, organized into groups. Each group contains six columns: h, k, 10 F_0, 10|F_c|, 10 A_c, and 10 B_c. The data is presented in a grid-like format with various numerical values and some prime symbols indicating unobserved factors.

Table 3. Bond distances and angles

Bond	Bond distance	σ	Angle	σ	
C(1)–C(2)	1.547 Å	0.019 Å	C(1)–C(2)–C(3)	108.2°	1.1°
C(1')–C(2')	1.518	0.018	C(1')–C(2')–C(3')	108.6	1.1
C(1'')–C(2'')	1.491	0.018	C(1'')–C(2'')–C(3'')	109.7	1.1
C(2)–C(3)	1.529	0.017	C(2)–C(3)–N(2)	110.4	1.0
C(2')–C(3)'	1.541	0.018	C(2')–C(3')–N(2)	113.4	1.1
C(2'')–C(3'')	1.555	0.017	C(2'')–C(3'')–N(2)	106.7	0.9
C(1)–N(1)	1.531	0.016	C(2)–C(3)–N(1')	105.6	1.0
C(1')–N(1)'	1.509	0.016	C(2')–C(3')–N(1'')	108.9	1.1
C(1'')–N(1)''	1.477	0.016	C(2'')–C(3'')–N(1)	105.7	1.0
C(3'')–N(1)	1.500	0.016	N(1)–C(1)–C(2)	104.9	1.1
C(3)–N(1')	1.485	0.016	N(1')–C(1')–C(2')	110.2	1.1
C(3')–N(1'')	1.454	0.016	N(1'')–C(1'')–C(2'')	105.0	1.1
C(3)–N(2)	1.469	0.014	C(3)–N(2)–C(3'')	108.8	0.9
C(3')–N(2)	1.452	0.014	C(3')–N(2)–C(3)	111.1	0.9
C(3'')–N(2)	1.484	0.014	C(3'')–N(2)–C(3')	111.0	0.9
N(1)···Cl(3)	3.122	0.014	C(3'')–N(1)–C(1)	109.4	1.0
N(1')···Cl(2)	3.077	0.014	C(3')–N(1')–C(1'')	116.0	1.1
N(1'')···Cl(1)	3.089	0.014	C(3)–N(1')–C(1')	113.7	1.0
N(1)···Cl(1')	3.045	0.014	N(2)–C(3'')–N(1)	106.8	0.9
N(1')···Cl(2')	3.092	0.014	N(2)–C(3)–N(1')	107.2	0.9
N(1'')···Cl(3')	3.081	0.014	N(2)–C(3')–N(1'')	109.6	1.1
Cl(1)···O	3.547	0.025	Cl(3)···O···Cl(2)	122.5	1.5
Cl(2)···O	3.361	0.025			
Cl(3)···O	3.315	0.025			

Table 4. Hydrogen positional parameters

Atom	Bonded to	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
H(1)	C(1)	0.446	0.423	0.181
H(2)	C(1)	0.485	0.488	–0.050
H(3)	C(1')	0.385	–0.025	0.139
H(4)	C(1')	0.395	–0.095	–0.070
H(5)	C(1'')	0.201	0.296	0.159
H(6)	C(1'')	0.150	0.376	–0.072
H(7)	C(3)	0.412	0.208	0.180
H(8)	C(3')	0.282	0.111	0.154
H(9)	C(3'')	0.323	0.357	0.180
H(10)	C(2)	0.466	0.297	–0.217
H(11)	C(2)	0.516	0.281	0.000
H(12)	C(2')	0.312	0.045	–0.240
H(13)	C(2')	0.274	–0.045	–0.030
H(14)	C(2'')	0.250	0.390	–0.220
H(15)	C(2'')	0.224	0.473	–0.003
H(16)	N(1)	0.357	0.536	0.000
H(17)	N(1')	0.471	0.029	0.007
H(18)	N(1'')	0.188	0.116	0.022
H(19)	N(1)	0.372	0.444	–0.211
H(20)	N(1')	0.435	0.101	–0.220
H(21)	N(1'')	0.220	0.182	–0.217

Table 5. Hydrogen-bond angles

N(1)–H(16)···Cl(3)	157°
N(1')–H(17)···Cl(2)	146
N(1'')–H(18)···Cl(1)	145
N(1)–H(19)···Cl(1')	164
N(1')–H(20)···Cl(2')	155
N(1'')–H(21)···Cl(3')	169

The final positional and temperature-factor parameters for the seventeen heavy atoms, together with their standard deviations, are given in Table 2. The calculated and observed structure factors are listed in Table 1. The weights were reduced in the least-squares calculations for several intense low-angle reflections whose observed *F*'s were appreciably smaller, presumably because of extinction, than their calculated *F*'s;

a few additional reflections which were difficult to measure because of spot shape or background overlap were given zero weight.

A three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was computed from the complete data with signs and phases calculated from the final parameters. A composite drawing of this map is shown in Fig. 3.

Accuracy of the results

Although the refinement could have been carried further by the use of anisotropic temperature factors and by the adjustment of the hydrogen parameters by least-squares, it was stopped at this point because of the uncertainty of the exact water content and the large number of parameters involved. In addition, the primary object of this work was to establish the molecular configuration of the C₉H₁₈N₄ molecule. The *R* index including only those reflections of non-zero weight (1144) terms is 0.096. Of the 1530 reflections 304 were unobserved, 68 of these had *F*(cal.) values greater than the minimum threshold value. If these are included with *F*(obs.) taken equal to the threshold value, the *R* index is 0.110 (1212 terms).

The standard deviations in the positional parameters calculated by the Busing–Levy (1959*a*) least-squares program are listed in Table 2. With the exception of the oxygen atom whose standard deviations are slightly larger, they range from 0.0029 to 0.0123 Å for $\sigma(x)$, from 0.0030 to 0.0123 Å for $\sigma(y)$ and from 0.0083 Å to 0.0223 Å for $\sigma(z)$. The corresponding standard deviations in the parameters of the oxygen atom are 0.022 Å, 0.025 Å, and 0.034 Å respectively. The standard deviations of the principal bond distances and angles calculated with the Busing–Levy (1959*b*) crystallographic function and error program are listed in

Table 3; they range from 0.0165 to 0.018₆ Å for the C-C bonds, from 0.013₈ to 0.014₂ Å for the central pyramidal bonds and from 0.015₃ to 0.016₃ Å for the other C-N bonds.

The calculated standard deviations in the temperature factors (Table 2) range from 0.18 to 0.25 Å² for the carbon atoms, from 0.16 to 0.19 Å² for the N atoms, and from 0.065 to 0.19 Å² for the N atoms, and from 0.065 to 0.07₂ Å² for the Cl⁻ ions. The standard deviations of the temperature factor for the oxygen atom of the H₂O molecule is somewhat higher (0.54 Å²).

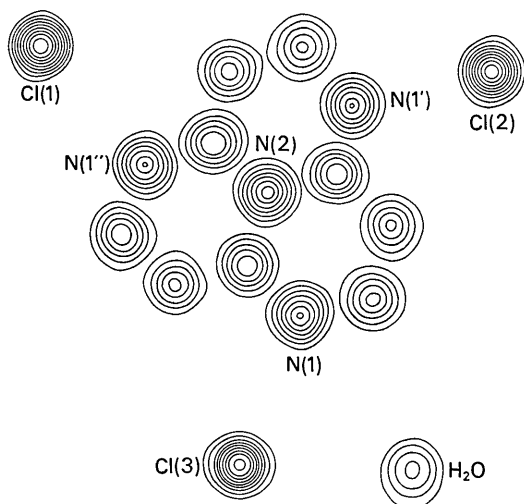


Fig. 3. Composite drawing of electron density map, viewed along the *c* axis.

Discussion of the structure

The principal bond distances and angles and their standard deviations are given in Table 3; the distances and angles are also shown in Fig. 4.

Since the refinement did not include anisotropic temperature factors, it is probably not worthwhile to discuss the individual bond distances and angles in detail. With the exception of one short C-C bond (1.49₂ Å) and one long C-N bond (1.53₁ Å), the C-C and C-N distances are all normal. The other five C-C bonds

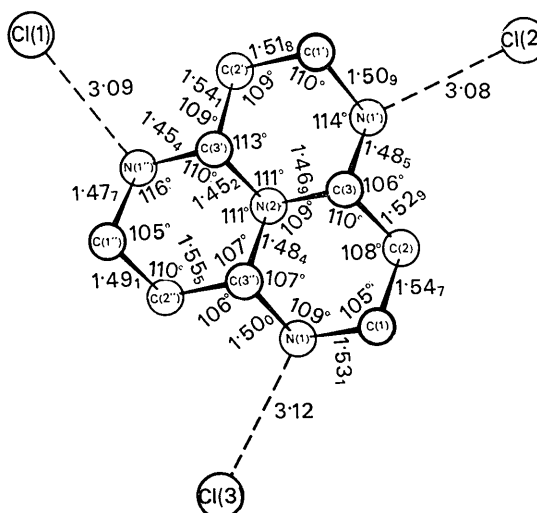


Fig. 4. Bond distances and angles.

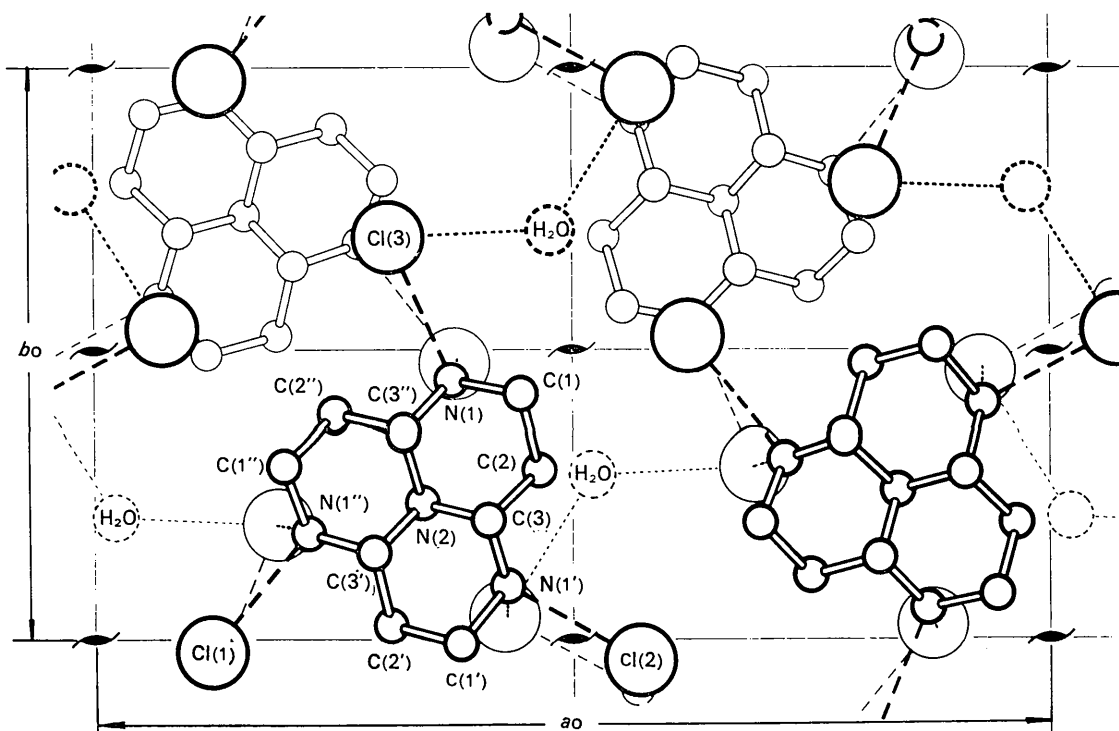


Fig. 5. Drawing of the structure, viewed along the *c* axis.

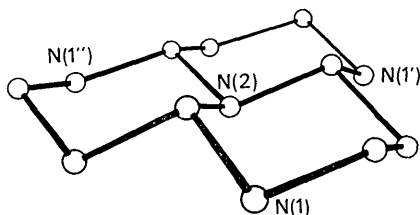


Fig. 6. General view of the $C_9H_{18}N_4$ molecule showing pucker ring structure.

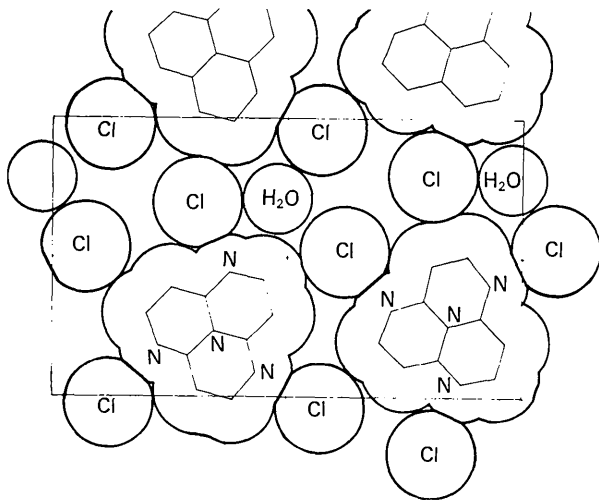


Fig. 7. Packing drawing of molecules in one layer, viewed along the c axis.

range from 1.51_8 to 1.55_5 Å with a mean value 1.539 ± 0.015 Å. The pyramidal C–N bonds to the central nitrogen ranged from 1.45_2 to 1.48_4 Å with a mean value $1.46_8 \pm 0.014$ Å; the other five C–N bonds ranged from 1.45_4 to 1.50_9 Å with a mean value of $1.48_6 \pm 0.016$ Å.

The symmetrical pucker ring structure of the $C_9H_{18}N_4$ molecule is shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6. The packing arrangement of the molecules and hydrogen bonding within one layer viewed along $[001]$ are shown in Fig. 7. The average plane of the $C_9H_{18}N_4$ molecule is almost parallel to the ab plane. The Cl^- ions are not quite symmetrically arranged, *i.e.* they deviate from an equilateral triangular arrangement. This was first observed in the Patterson function. The H_2O molecule is closer to two of the Cl^- ions ($Cl(2) - O = 3.36_1$ Å

and $Cl(3) - O = 3.31_5$ Å) than it is to the third Cl^- ion ($Cl(1) - O = 3.54_7$ Å). Presumably the two closer Cl^- ions form hydrogen bonds with the H_2O molecule with the resulting distortion of the Cl^- arrangement.

The nitrogen atoms in the ring (with the exception of the central nitrogen) are each hydrogen bonded to two nearest neighbor Cl^- ions, one approximately in the plane of the molecule at ~ 3.1 Å and the other at about the same distance below the molecule. The molecules are packed essentially in layers parallel to the ab plane and are joined into two separate strings of molecules along the b axis through the hydrogen bonds between the H_2O and two Cl^- ions. The interaction between layers is largely hydrogen bonding between the nitrogen atoms $N(1)$, $N(1')$ and $N(1'')$ and the Cl^- ions below.

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