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## The Crystal Structures of Derivatives of Tetrodotoxin. I. Tetrodonic Acid Hydrobromide

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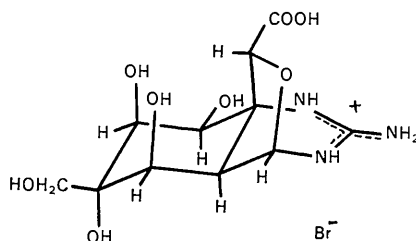
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The structure of tetrodonic acid, one of the derivatives of the toxic substance tetrodotoxin, has been determined by X-ray analysis of the hydrobromide. The crystals are orthorhombic with four molecules in a unit cell of dimensions  $a=20.231$ ,  $b=10.590$ ,  $c=6.813$  Å, with space group  $P2_12_12_1$ . The position of the bromine atom was determined by three-dimensional Patterson methods.

After four cycles of three-dimensional Fourier refinement, the structure of the molecule was found to be



Atomic coordinates and anisotropic temperature factors were further refined by the block-diagonal matrix least-squares method. The final  $R$  value decreased to 0.129. Intra- and intermolecular bond lengths are within the range of normal values.

### Introduction

Tetrodotoxin, one of the most toxic substances of low molecular weight, was found in the ovaries and livers of pufferfish (Tahara, 1909). Tsuda & Kawamura (1952) obtained it in crystalline form after chromatographic purification. This poisonous compound has attracted the attention of chemists and biologists, and many investigations on it have been carried out by several authors (Yokoo, 1950; Tsuda & Kawamura, 1953; Kakisawa, Okumura & Hirata, 1959).

Tsuda, Ikuma, Kawamura, Tachikawa, Miyadera & Baba (1962) proved by total chemical synthesis that an alkaline degradation compound from tetrodotoxin is 2-amino-6-hydroxymethyl-8-hydroxyquinazoline. It was impossible, however, to deduce uniquely the structure of tetrodotoxin from this result because some migration might occur in the course of the vigorous reaction. X-ray crystallographic analysis, therefore, was attempted for the determination of the molecular structure. The crystals of tetrodotoxin itself were not obtained in a suitable form for X-ray work. Several

derivatives from it were examined and it was found that tetrodonic acid hydrobromide formed crystals of adequate size. Tetrodonic acid was derived easily from tetrodotoxin on refluxing with water, and this fact suggested that the chemical relationship between them would be close. The present paper describes an X-ray determination of the crystal structure of tetrodonic acid hydrobromide. On the basis of the structure of this compound, some chemical work was carried out to determine a possible structure of tetrodotoxin (Tsuda, Tamura, Tachikawa, Sakai, Amakasu, Kawamura & Ikuma, 1963). A full chemical report has been already published by Tsuda, Ikuma, Kawamura, Tachikawa, Sakai, Tamura & Amakasu (1964), with a brief account of the present X-ray study.

### Experimental

Crystals of tetrodonic acid hydrobromide were obtained in the form of colourless thin needles by adding ether to an alcoholic solution containing hydrobromic acid. The space group is determined to be  $P2_12_12_1$ , and the unit-cell dimensions calibrated with standard sodium chloride powder diffraction on the same film are:

$$a = 20.231, \quad b = 10.590, \quad c = 6.813 \text{ \AA}.$$

The volume of the unit cell is  $1460 \text{ \AA}^3$ . The density of the crystal was measured by the flotation method in a mixture of carbon tetrachloride and tetrabromoethane. The observed density is  $1.821 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ . Because no reliable chemical formula was known at that stage, the molecular weight was calculated from the density by assuming that the unit cell contains four molecules. The calculated value, 400.3, suggests that the chemical formula is  $C_{11}H_{17}O_8N_3HBr$  (M.W. 400.2).

Equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs were taken for the zero to 6th layers about the  $c$  axis with  $Cu K\alpha$  radiation. The crystal used in the experiment had the dimensions  $0.4 \times 0.3 \times 1.5 \text{ mm}$ . To obtain scaling factors among the various  $l$  layers, the photographs were also taken around the  $b$  axis. Intensities were measured by visual comparison with a standard intensity scale. Strong and weak reflexions were correlated by the multiple-film technique. The maximum value of  $\sin \theta$  observed was 0.995, and the intensity data for 1504 reflexions were collected out of 1689 accessible  $hkl$ 's. Corrections for Lorentz and polarization factors were made in the usual way but those for absorption were neglected.

### Structure determination

Because an attempt to derive the structure from the projection was not successful, three-dimensional analysis was proceeded with. The approximate coordinates of the bromine atom were determined from the Patterson function modified by the factors proposed by Donohue & Trueblood (1952),

$$M(\sin \theta) = (\sin \theta / \lambda)^n \exp \{ -\alpha^2 (\sin \theta / \lambda)^2 \},$$

where  $n = 4$  and  $\alpha = 2.16$ .

The first three-dimensional Fourier synthesis, shown in Fig. 1, was computed with the phases based on the bromine atom only. Some ten resolved peaks in the electron density distribution were chosen as atomic sites without any regard to chemical considerations. The discrepancy factor was 0.42 for these ten light atoms and bromine. Successive Fourier refinements were then carried out. Table I shows the number of atoms taken into the structure factor calculation and the  $R$  value for each cycle.

Table 1. Number of light atoms included and  $R$  value for each cycle

Refinement cycle	1	2	3	4
Number of light atoms included	10	16	19	22
$R$ (%)	42	30	25	18

The clues for selecting the peaks in the course of these refinements were: (i) peak heights and (ii) reasonable spatial arrangement of two or more neighbouring

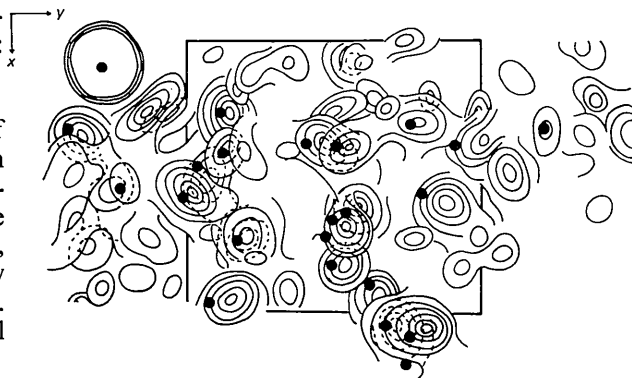


Fig. 1. The composite Fourier map projected along the  $c$  axis. Phases are based on the bromine atom only. Contour interval is arbitrary. Black circlets indicate the final atomic positions.

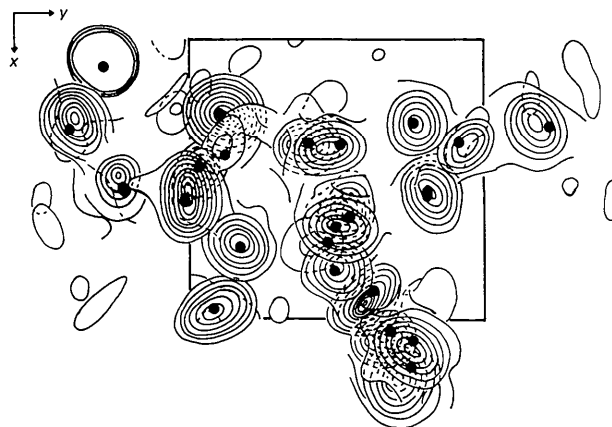


Fig. 2. The composite Fourier map projected along the  $c$  axis. Phases are based on the bromine and nineteen light atoms. Contour interval is arbitrary. Black circlets indicate the final atomic positions.





The structure was refined by the block-diagonal matrix least-squares method. In order to avoid disturbance from structure factors of low accuracy, about 900 reflexions in the range of  $\sin \theta$  between 0.011 and 0.485 were included. The temperature factors were taken as isotropic for the light atoms and anisotropic for the bromine. After two cycles of least-squares refinement, the  $(F_o - F_c)$  synthesis was made with these reflexions. On the resulting difference map, ten hydrogen atoms were found as resolved maxima. Although contributions from the hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factors, their coordinates and temperature factors were held constant throughout the remaining calculations. The  $R$  value dropped to 0.129 after three more cycles of refinement including all reflexions, with anisotropic temperature factors for all atoms. The final observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 2. The final atomic coordinates and temperature factors are given in Table 3. Computations were done on an IBM 7090 computer with programs written by the authors.

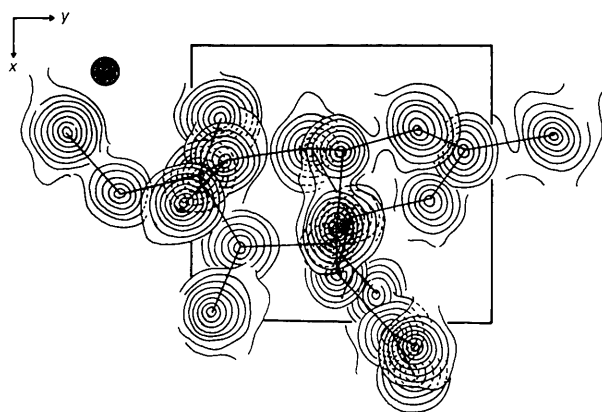


Fig. 3. The final composite Fourier map projected along the  $c$  axis. Contours are drawn at intervals of  $1 \text{ e.}\text{\AA}^{-3}$ . Contours for the bromine atom are omitted and its position is shown by a black circle.

## Discussion

Fig. 3 shows the superimposed sections of the final electron density distribution cut through the atomic centres in tetrodonic acid hydrobromide. It is considered that the general structure of the molecule is now established except its absolute configuration. In the figures in the present paper, except Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the molecules have been shown with the correct absolute configuration, since Tomiie, Furusaki, Kasami, Yasuoka, Miyake, Haisa & Nitta (1964) have determined the absolute configuration of bromoanhydrotetrodoic lactone hydrobromide, another derivative of tetrodotoxin.

The cyclohexane ring in the perhydroquinazoline skeleton is of a chair form. As to the conformation of substituent atoms on the cyclohexane ring, O(12), O(13) and O(16) are in axial position and O(17) and C(14) in equatorial. The guanidine group is almost planar. A perhydrofuran ring is formed through the bridge made by C(4)–O(18)–C(19)–C(9) and has a steric effect on the perhydroquinazoline ring, leading to some deformation of the latter. Consequently, C(4)–H makes

Table 4.  $\text{Bond angles}$

C(2)–N(1)–C(9)	118.1°	C(7)–C(8)–C(9)	111.9°
N(1)–C(2)–N(3)	118.5	C(7)–C(8)–O(17)	113.4
N(1)–C(2)–N(11)	117.5	C(9)–C(8)–O(17)	111.5
N(3)–C(2)–N(11)	123.9	N(1)–C(9)–C(8)	106.9
C(2)–N(3)–C(4)	121.7	N(1)–C(9)–C(10)	107.6
N(3)–C(4)–C(10)	105.4	N(1)–C(9)–C(19)	107.2
N(3)–C(4)–O(18)	110.5	C(8)–C(9)–C(10)	116.2
C(10)–C(4)–O(18)	105.3	C(8)–C(9)–C(19)	117.6
C(6)–C(5)–C(10)	113.9	C(10)–C(9)–C(19)	100.8
C(6)–C(5)–O(12)	109.4	C(4)–C(10)–C(5)	116.8
C(10)–C(5)–O(12)	114.8	C(4)–C(10)–C(9)	97.8
C(5)–C(6)–C(7)	116.0	C(5)–C(10)–C(9)	112.7
C(5)–C(6)–O(13)	105.4	C(6)–C(14)–O(15)	112.4
C(5)–C(6)–C(14)	116.4	C(4)–O(18)–C(19)	109.3
C(7)–C(6)–O(13)	103.5	C(9)–C(19)–O(18)	104.5
C(7)–C(6)–C(14)	105.5	C(9)–C(19)–C(20)	120.4
O(13)–C(6)–C(14)	109.3	O(18)–C(19)–C(20)	106.2
C(6)–C(7)–C(8)	111.0	C(19)–C(20)–O(21)	116.7
C(6)–C(7)–O(16)	106.7	C(19)–C(20)–O(22)	124.0
C(8)–C(7)–O(16)	108.6	O(21)–C(20)–O(22)	119.3

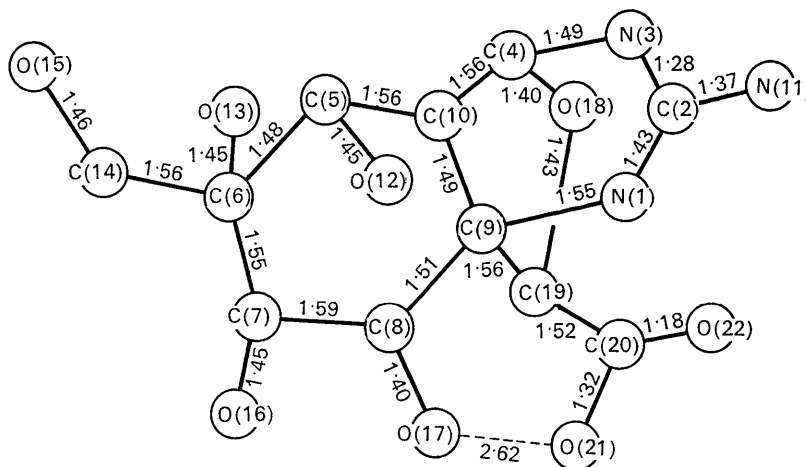


Fig. 4. Bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ).

an angle of about  $90^\circ$  with C(10)–H around C(4)–C(10). Such a conformation can well explain the nuclear magnetic resonance spectra of this compound.

The intramolecular bond lengths are shown in Fig. 4 and the angles in Table 4. The estimated standard deviations in the atomic coordinates are approximately  $0.005 \text{ \AA}$  for the bromine atom and  $0.04 \text{ \AA}$  for the light atoms. Hence, the standard deviation of the bond length between the light atoms is about  $0.06 \text{ \AA}$  and that of the bond angle is about  $4^\circ$ . None of the bond lengths and angles do deviate significantly from their normal values. The averages of the C–C and C–O bond lengths are  $1.538$  and  $1.434 \text{ \AA}$  respectively. The dimensions of the carbonyl group are  $1.18 \text{ \AA}$  for C(20)–O(22) and  $1.32 \text{ \AA}$  for C(20)–O(21). The bond C(2)–N(3),  $1.28 \text{ \AA}$ , in the nearly planar guanidine group, might possess considerable double bond character. The bond of C(9)–N(1),  $1.55 \text{ \AA}$ , seems to be somewhat longer than the normal C–N bond length of  $1.48 \text{ \AA}$ . An intramolecular hydrogen bond of length  $2.62 \text{ \AA}$  is found between O(21) and O(17).

It is interesting that the configuration at C(19) is the antipode of that in bromoanhydrotetrodoic lactone hydrobromide (Tomie, Furusaki, Kasami, Yasuoka,

Miyake, Haisa & Nitta, 1963). A reasonable explanation for the apparent inconsistency has been given by considering the mechanism of chemical reaction in which these derivatives are produced from tetrodotoxin (Tsuda, Tamura, Tachikawa, Sakai, Amakasu, Kawamura & Ikuma, 1964; Tsuda, Ikuma, Kawamura, Tachikawa, Sakai, Tamura & Amakasu, 1964; Goto, Kishi, Takahashi & Hirata, 1964; Mosher, Fuhrman, Buchwald & Fisher, 1964; Woodward, 1964).

The crystal structure viewed along the  $c$  axis is illustrated in Fig. 5, where anticipated hydrogen bonds, except intramolecular ones, are shown by the broken lines. Hydrogen bond lengths and short intermolecular contacts are listed in Table 5. The donors of the hydrogen bonds in Table 5 are the atoms at  $x, y, z$ . There are two independent intermolecular  $\text{NH}\cdots\text{O}$  and two  $\text{OH}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds, and these hydrogen bonds connect the molecules to form an infinite double-layered sheet parallel to the (100) plane. The bromine atoms are interposed between such double-layered sheets. Short contacts are found for  $\text{Br}\cdots\text{N}(3)$ ,  $\text{Br}\cdots\text{O}(13)$ ,  $\text{Br}\cdots\text{O}(12)$ ,  $\text{Br}\cdots\text{O}(15)$  and  $\text{Br}\cdots\text{N}(11)$ . Hydrogen atoms bonded with these oxygen and nitrogen atoms might be placed toward the bromine atom. Thus all

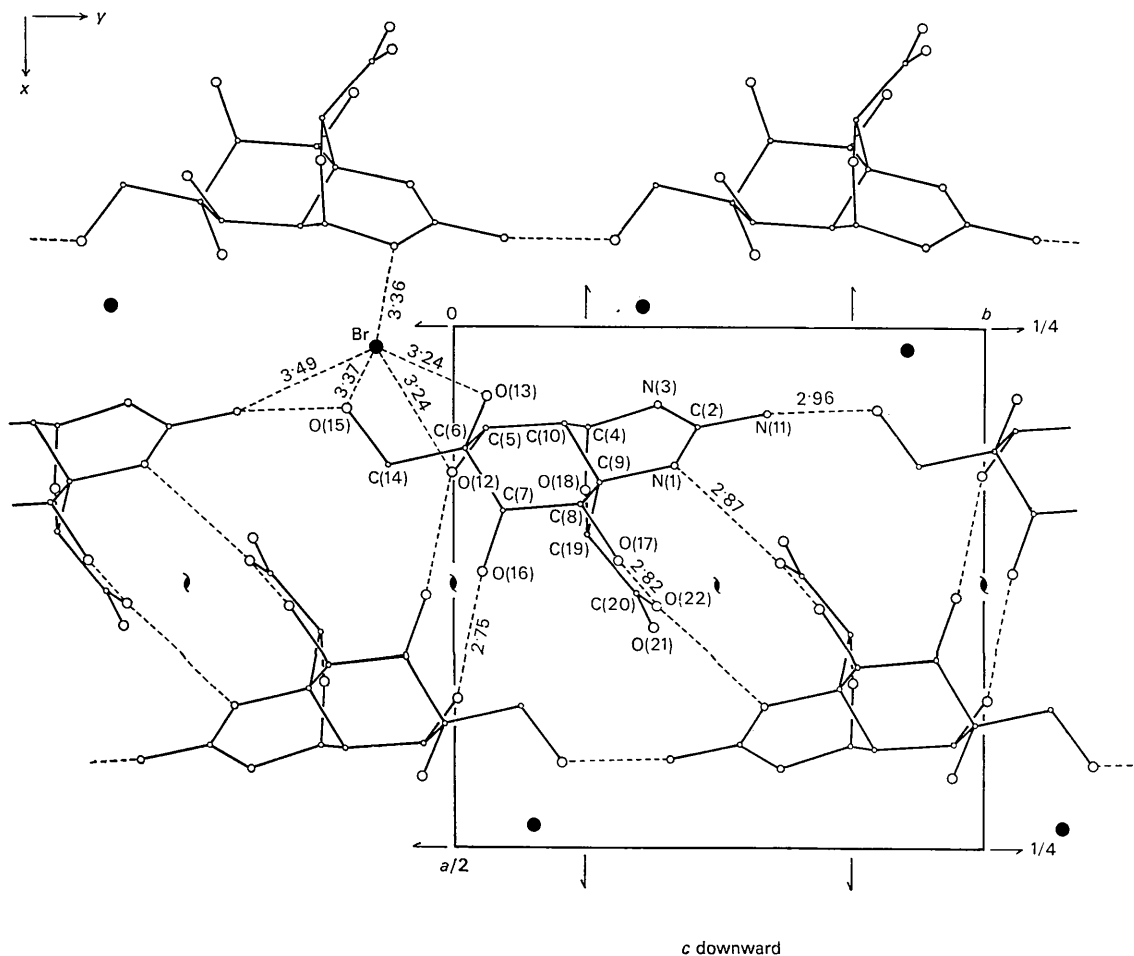


Fig. 5. Crystal structure viewed along the  $c$  axis. Intramolecular hydrogen bond O(21)---O(17) is not indicated here.

Table 5. *Hydrogen bonds and short intermolecular distances*

From atom at $x, y, z$	To atom	At position	Distance				
(a) Hydrogen bonds							
O(17)	O(22)	3	2.82 Å				
N(11)	O(15)	4	2.96				
O(16)	O(12)	6	2.75				
N(1)	O(22)	7	2.87				
(b) Short intermolecular contacts							
Br	C(5)	1	3.70				
Br	O(12)	1	3.24				
Br	O(13)	2	3.24				
Br	C(14)	2	3.67				
Br	O(15)	2	3.37				
Br	N(11)	5	3.49				
Br	C(10)	8	3.88				
Br	O(13)	8	3.56				
Br	N(3)	9	3.36				
Br	C(4)	9	3.72				
C(4)	C(8)	2	3.76				
O(18)	C(7)	2	3.33				
O(18)	C(8)	2	3.07				
O(18)	O(17)	2	3.06				
C(7)	O(16)	6	3.42				
C(14)	C(19)	6	3.61				
C(14)	C(20)	6	3.23				
C(14)	O(21)	6	3.56				
C(14)	O(22)	6	3.36				
O(15)	O(22)	6	3.56				
O(16)	O(16)	6	3.59				
O(21)	O(22)	7	3.12				
N(11)	O(22)	7	3.50				
O(17)	O(21)	7	3.56				
O(17)	O(22)	7	3.32				
O(13)	N(3)	8	3.51				
O(13)	N(11)	8	3.43				
O(15)	N(3)	8	3.32				
Position 1	$x$	$y$	$z$	6	$\frac{1}{2}-x$	$-y$	$-\frac{1}{2}+z$
2	$x$	$y$	$1+z$	7	$\frac{1}{2}-x$	$1-y$	$-\frac{1}{2}+z$
3	$x$	$y$	$-1+z$	8	$-x$	$-\frac{1}{2}+y$	$\frac{1}{2}-z$
4	$x$	$1+y$	$z$	9	$-x$	$-\frac{1}{2}+y$	$\frac{3}{2}-z$
5	$x$	$-1+y$	$z$				

All distances less than 3.9 Å between the reference molecule at  $x, y, z$  and the neighbouring molecules were calculated. Only those less than 3.9 Å for C...C and C...Br pairs and those less than 3.6 Å for the other pairs are listed.

the functional hydrogen atoms take part in the hydrogen bonding or interact with the bromine atom.

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