

Fig. 7. Calcium-oxygen coordination shells viewed along *a*. Compare with view along *c* in Fig. 1.

can be pictured as a distorted pentagonal bipyramid, as a distorted NbF₇⁻ configuration (Hoard, 1939) or, perhaps more descriptively, as an octahedron distorted by the approach of O(10) a little farther out than the others. The same description could apply to Ca(1) where O(4) is the distorting atom. Likewise the shell around Ca(4) can be described as an octahedron with two oxygen atoms jammed into edges, O(1') and O(11). The coordination polyhedron around Ca(2) is a dis-

torted one; it can be pictured as a pentagonal bipyramid with an apical atom replaced by three atoms.

We are indebted to Dr James Stewart for providing us with and instructing us in the use of X-ray 63, the system of crystallographic programs for the IBM 7094 computer developed at the Universities of Washington and Maryland; with the exception of the absorption corrections, this system was used throughout this work. The assistance given by Dr J. S. Cantrell in using X-ray 63 and the many discussions with Dr A. J. Mabis are greatly appreciated. The air-brush art work of Mr H. Thomas Brown is gratefully acknowledged.

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Molecular Structure of Xylerythrin, a Fungus Pigment

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The molecular structure of the red fungus pigment xylerythrin has been determined by X-ray single-crystal analysis of the bisbromoacetate derivative. The *R* value is 10.6% for the 1745 independent observed reflexions.

Introduction

Xylerythrin (C₂₆H₁₅O₅) is the main component of the red pigments present in wood infected by the fungus *Peniophora sanguinea* Bres. It has been isolated and studied chemically by Gripenberg (1965). He showed that the compound contained two hydroxyl groups, a lactone group, a conjugated carbonyl group and at

least one monosubstituted benzene ring. A single-crystal X-ray analysis was undertaken to provide detailed information about the structure.

Experimental

The bisbromoacetate of xylerythrin (C₃₀H₁₈O₇Br₂) was prepared by Prof. Gripenberg who provided us with

excellent single crystals. They are triclinic with the following cell dimensions (precession photographs, Cu $K\alpha$ radiation).

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 11.16 \pm 0.05 \text{ \AA} & \alpha &= 77.86^\circ \pm 0.10^\circ \\ b &= 9.36 \pm 0.05 & \beta &= 90.00 \pm 0.10 \\ c &= 13.29 \pm 0.06 & \gamma &= 82.65 \pm 0.10 \end{aligned}$$

The calculated density is 1.198 g.cm^{-3} , which indicates that there are two molecules per unit cell. The space group was assumed to be $P\bar{1}$. Weissenberg photographs were taken for layers 0–5 about the b axis and for layers 0–2 about the a axis. One crystal ($0.27 \times 0.36 \times 0.09 \text{ mm}^3$) was used to collect all the data. The intensities were estimated visually and corrected for the Lorentz and polarization factors but not for absorption.

Structure determination

The coordinates of the two bromine atoms were derived from a three-dimensional 'point atoms at rest' Patterson synthesis. The light atoms were successively found from three-dimensional electron density series by computer scanning for peaks. All light atoms were at first

treated as carbon atoms. When all the atoms of the molecule had been located and included in the structure factor calculation, the oxygen atoms were identified from the peak heights in the electron density series. With the molecular skeleton known, the chemical information also fixes the oxygen atoms to these positions.

The structure was refined by block-diagonal least-squares treatment. The weight assigned to each observation was

$$w = \left(1/1 + \left\{ \frac{|F_o| - a}{b} \right\}^2 \right), \text{ (Mills \& Rollett, 1960)}$$

in which the final values of a and b were $10|F_{\min}|$ and $6|F_{\min}|$ respectively.

The hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factor calculations at their expected coordinates and with isotropic temperature factors corresponding to the hydrogen-carrying carbon atoms. The final R value for the 1745 independent observed reflexions was 0.106.

The calculations were performed on a Datasab D21 computer with the integrated program system developed at this Institute (Abrahamsson, Aleby, Larsson,

Table 1. Fractional atomic coordinates with standard deviations $\times 10^5$ (in brackets) for the heavier atoms of the structure

	x	$\sigma(x)$	y	$\sigma(y)$	z	$\sigma(z)$
Br(1)	0.19393	(12)	0.25932	(24)	0.35574	(13)
Br(2)	0.14280	(19)	0.88215	(31)	0.63455	(17)
O(1)	0.45487	(58)	0.47003	(100)	0.20518	(65)
O(2)	0.46781	(71)	0.26104	(116)	0.32373	(70)
O(3)	0.49467	(74)	0.27206	(127)	0.08844	(87)
O(4)	0.09229	(58)	0.68013	(104)	0.92866	(54)
O(5)	0.07940	(57)	0.40622	(102)	0.09859	(59)
O(6)	0.10980	(71)	0.83669	(111)	0.40509	(70)
O(7)	0.25491	(86)	0.65108	(137)	0.45368	(95)
C(1)	0.27606	(94)	0.41490	(178)	0.28103	(102)
C(2)	0.41132	(91)	0.36262	(162)	0.27361	(93)
C(3)	0.40734	(116)	0.13669	(190)	0.64159	(125)
C(4)	0.42572	(113)	0.27816	(194)	0.59496	(102)
C(5)	0.40398	(101)	0.39462	(181)	0.64536	(95)
C(6)	0.35927	(83)	0.37109	(137)	0.74758	(88)
C(7)	0.34165	(94)	0.22823	(143)	0.79159	(95)
C(8)	0.35964	(116)	0.10995	(168)	0.74374	(115)
C(9)	0.34015	(92)	0.49418	(144)	0.80465	(86)
C(10)	0.42902	(87)	0.56327	(149)	0.82764	(93)
C(11)	0.41664	(93)	0.67438	(153)	0.89001	(99)
C(12)	0.29920	(86)	0.72405	(158)	0.93033	(87)
C(13)	0.20993	(86)	0.65093	(146)	0.89988	(84)
C(14)	0.21997	(79)	0.53943	(142)	0.84034	(76)
C(15)	0.10914	(83)	0.50232	(133)	0.82890	(75)
C(16)	0.02578	(96)	0.58802	(147)	0.88793	(82)
C(17)	0.27799	(88)	0.83793	(160)	0.98929	(92)
C(18)	0.36315	(99)	0.84624	(165)	0.06535	(100)
C(19)	0.34601	(116)	0.95727	(189)	0.11688	(110)
C(20)	0.24860	(100)	0.06885	(177)	0.09867	(108)
C(21)	0.16472	(101)	0.06496	(157)	0.02081	(105)
C(22)	0.18079	(94)	0.95449	(156)	0.96613	(91)
C(23)	0.05474	(99)	0.74740	(171)	0.34728	(101)
C(24)	0.02977	(100)	0.33456	(167)	0.60575	(87)
C(25)	0.08773	(89)	0.41746	(149)	0.66338	(83)
C(26)	0.05742	(82)	0.40805	(151)	0.76841	(84)
C(27)	0.02444	(92)	0.68056	(152)	0.18594	(85)
C(28)	0.08233	(91)	0.76512	(165)	0.24416	(98)
C(29)	0.21072	(119)	0.77293	(193)	0.46018	(115)
C(30)	0.25137	(121)	0.86193	(201)	0.52843	(123)

Table 2. Mean-square-amplitude tensors

Allowance was made for anisotropic vibration with
 $\exp[-2\pi^2(h^2a^*U_{11} + k^2b^*U_{22} + l^2c^*U_{33} + 2klb^*c^*U_{23} + 2lhc^*a^*U_{31} + 2hka^*b^*U_{12})]$
 The U_{ij} 's (\AA^2) are given together with standard deviations ($\times 10^4$) within brackets.

	U_{11}	U_{22}	U_{33}	U_{23}	U_{13}	U_{12}
Br(1)	0.0825 (9)	0.1680 (20)	0.0987 (12)	0.0059 (12)	0.0195 (7)	-0.0221 (9)
Br(2)	0.1440 (15)	0.1947 (27)	0.1272 (17)	-0.0611 (18)	-0.0247 (12)	-0.0216 (14)
O(1)	0.0528 (40)	0.0850 (77)	0.0875 (61)	-0.0078 (52)	0.0006 (35)	-0.0050 (38)
O(2)	0.0792 (53)	0.1145 (91)	0.0780 (66)	0.0164 (62)	-0.0035 (43)	0.0071 (49)
O(3)	0.0820 (57)	0.1212 (105)	0.1491 (94)	-0.0757 (83)	0.0106 (55)	-0.0308 (55)
O(4)	0.0621 (42)	0.1117 (83)	0.0521 (48)	-0.0203 (51)	0.0032 (32)	-0.0247 (42)
O(5)	0.0508 (38)	0.1073 (83)	0.0658 (52)	-0.0148 (51)	0.0029 (31)	-0.0183 (39)
O(6)	0.0869 (55)	0.0981 (87)	0.0904 (66)	-0.0177 (59)	-0.0423 (46)	-0.0089 (48)
O(7)	0.0946 (63)	0.1336 (110)	0.1680 (108)	-0.0561 (86)	-0.0556 (65)	-0.0065 (61)
C(1)	0.0534 (61)	0.1194 (139)	0.0866 (94)	-0.0250 (91)	-0.0024 (53)	-0.0143 (65)
C(2)	0.0571 (61)	0.1043 (135)	0.0736 (87)	-0.0073 (84)	-0.0075 (52)	-0.0253 (64)
C(3)	0.0849 (84)	0.0963 (147)	0.1246 (128)	-0.0344 (107)	-0.0070 (75)	-0.0301 (78)
C(4)	0.0942 (89)	0.1322 (165)	0.0780 (95)	-0.0555 (104)	-0.0049 (66)	-0.0232 (83)
C(5)	0.0716 (72)	0.1313 (148)	0.0582 (84)	0.0112 (88)	0.0024 (55)	-0.0255 (73)
C(6)	0.0520 (56)	0.0627 (104)	0.0758 (82)	-0.0116 (70)	-0.0163 (48)	-0.0126 (51)
C(7)	0.0733 (67)	0.0434 (108)	0.0832 (88)	-0.0055 (73)	-0.0137 (55)	-0.0272 (57)
C(8)	0.0972 (87)	0.0615 (125)	0.1094 (112)	-0.0311 (92)	-0.0153 (72)	-0.0080 (70)
C(9)	0.0743 (67)	0.0532 (112)	0.0617 (77)	-0.0110 (72)	0.0023 (50)	-0.0100 (58)
C(10)	0.0571 (60)	0.0739 (117)	0.0799 (84)	-0.0223 (77)	-0.0125 (51)	-0.0061 (57)
C(11)	0.0647 (65)	0.0737 (118)	0.0791 (89)	0.0099 (76)	-0.0067 (54)	-0.0279 (60)
C(12)	0.0530 (58)	0.1075 (130)	0.0629 (78)	-0.0097 (80)	-0.0143 (49)	-0.0100 (61)
C(13)	0.0589 (59)	0.0736 (114)	0.0586 (76)	-0.0076 (72)	-0.0006 (47)	0.0018 (55)
C(14)	0.0519 (54)	0.0806 (109)	0.0435 (64)	-0.0061 (65)	-0.0090 (41)	-0.0112 (52)
C(15)	0.0647 (59)	0.0519 (101)	0.0424 (64)	-0.0063 (62)	-0.0030 (42)	-0.0155 (51)
C(16)	0.0855 (74)	0.0648 (116)	0.0392 (68)	0.0126 (67)	-0.0069 (49)	-0.0128 (61)
C(17)	0.0536 (59)	0.1033 (128)	0.0739 (84)	-0.0198 (81)	-0.0097 (50)	-0.0148 (60)
C(18)	0.0736 (73)	0.0953 (131)	0.0891 (97)	-0.0358 (91)	-0.0243 (62)	-0.0117 (68)
C(19)	0.0894 (87)	0.1191 (156)	0.0800 (98)	-0.0041 (98)	-0.0133 (67)	-0.0167 (82)
C(20)	0.0655 (69)	0.1159 (149)	0.0938 (101)	-0.0258 (97)	-0.0005 (60)	-0.0287 (72)
C(21)	0.0802 (76)	0.0708 (122)	0.0865 (97)	-0.0073 (84)	-0.0058 (62)	-0.0129 (66)
C(22)	0.0686 (67)	0.0780 (120)	0.0648 (83)	-0.0017 (76)	-0.0102 (52)	-0.0018 (61)
C(23)	0.0693 (69)	0.0900 (126)	0.0869 (93)	-0.0245 (85)	-0.0198 (59)	-0.0063 (66)
C(24)	0.0793 (74)	0.1032 (132)	0.0478 (73)	-0.0115 (78)	-0.0136 (52)	-0.0116 (67)
C(25)	0.0654 (63)	0.0820 (118)	0.0505 (72)	-0.0033 (71)	0.0016 (47)	-0.0115 (58)
C(26)	0.0496 (55)	0.0910 (120)	0.0560 (72)	-0.0016 (73)	-0.0047 (44)	-0.0074 (56)
C(27)	0.0663 (64)	0.0861 (122)	0.0539 (72)	-0.0053 (72)	-0.0115 (48)	-0.0209 (59)
C(28)	0.0543 (61)	0.1036 (131)	0.0798 (89)	-0.0092 (83)	-0.0075 (52)	-0.0181 (63)
C(29)	0.0941 (90)	0.1135 (154)	0.0927 (105)	-0.0263 (100)	-0.0183 (71)	-0.0241 (82)
C(30)	0.0857 (86)	0.1320 (168)	0.1159 (126)	-0.0278 (115)	-0.0356 (77)	-0.0314 (86)

Table 3. Fractional coordinates and isotropic temperature factors for the hydrogen atoms

The first appended number refers to the parent atom

	x	y	z	B
H(11)	0.7384	0.4943	0.6790	4.26 \AA^2
H(12)	0.7617	0.5507	0.7955	4.26
H(31)	0.4310	0.0481	0.6027	5.80
H(41)	0.4545	0.3072	0.5131	5.57
H(51)	0.4204	0.5100	0.6086	4.80
H(71)	0.3098	0.2052	0.8741	4.46
H(81)	0.3444	0.0036	0.7800	5.90
H(181)	0.4433	0.7676	1.0787	4.64
H(191)	0.4078	0.9543	1.1806	6.05
H(201)	0.2384	1.1654	1.1369	4.90
H(211)	0.0814	1.1450	1.0054	5.06
H(221)	0.1190	0.9506	0.9056	4.34
H(241)	0.0535	0.3311	0.5244	4.33
H(251)	0.1499	0.4918	0.6291	3.54
H(271)	-0.0507	0.3213	0.8921	3.52
H(281)	-0.1411	0.1543	0.7919	4.64
H(301)	-0.3424	0.1795	0.4437	6.32
H(302)	-0.2545	0.0257	0.5233	6.32

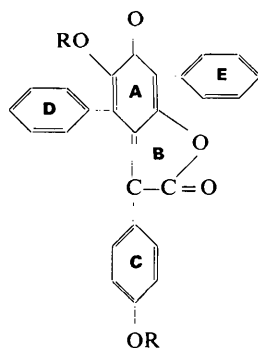
Nilsson, Selin & Westerdahl, 1965). The form factors used are those given in *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962).

Results and discussion

The final parameters are given in Tables 1-3. Observed and calculated structure factors are listed in Table 4.

A spatial drawing of xylerythrin bisbromoacetate is shown in Fig. 1. Distances and angles are given in Fig. 2 and in Tables 5 and 6 with standard deviations calculated according to Ahmed & Cruickshank (1953) and Darlow (1960). The structure analysis determines the molecular formula of the bromo derivative as (I) and hence of the pigment itself as (II) (see page 953).

The pigment is thus a quinone methide, as has earlier been found in fungi, e.g. citrinin (Brown, Robertson, Whalley & Cartwright, 1949) and purpur-ogenone (Robert & Warren, 1955).



- (I) $R = \text{COCH}_2\text{Br}$
 (II) $R = \text{H}$

in Table 7. The attached oxygen atoms O(1), O(3) and O(5) and the bond to the benzene ring *E* are also in this plane. However the bonds to the other rings (*C* and *D*) are directed considerably out of the plane. C(6) is 0.127 Å above and C(26) 0.169 Å below the *A-B* ring plane as given in Fig. 2. Table 7 also contains information for the other planar groups of the structure.

The three benzene rings and the carboxyl group cannot be coplanar with the *A-B* ring system to which they are attached, because of steric hindrance. Ring *E* forms an angle of 43° with the *A-B* ring plane. The distances C(18)–O(3) and C(22)–O(4) are then 2.90 and 3.00 Å respectively. Similar intramolecular contact distances to oxygen atoms also result for the other benzene rings (Fig. 3) with a twist of 47° for ring *C* and 63°

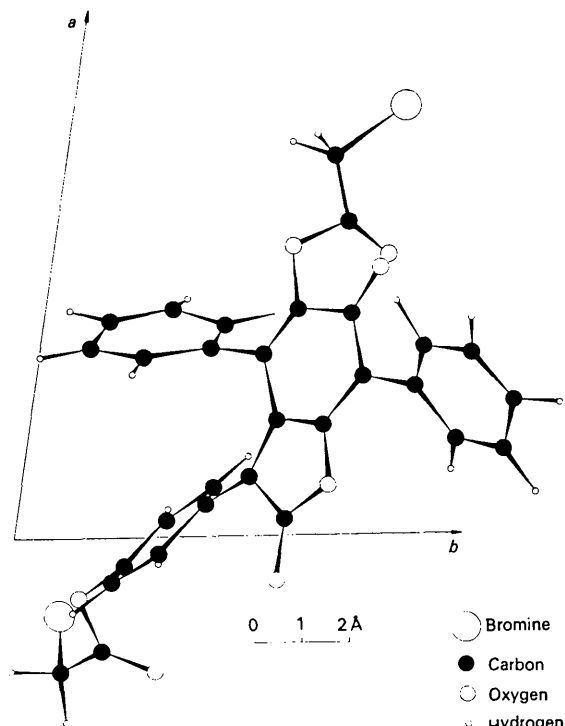


Fig. 1. Stereochemistry of xylerythrin bisbromoacetate.

Table 5. Bond distances with standard deviations

	Length	σ
Br(1)–C(1)	1.918 Å	0.014 Å
Br(2)–C(30)	1.883	0.016
O(1)–C(2)	1.347	0.015
–C(10)	1.386	0.012
O(2)–C(2)	1.151	0.015
O(3)–C(11)	1.225	0.016
O(4)–C(13)	1.377	0.012
–C(16)	1.395	0.017
O(5)–C(16)	1.184	0.013
O(6)–C(23)	1.438	0.019
–C(29)	1.344	0.015
O(7)–C(29)	1.204	0.021
C(1)–C(2)	1.536	0.015
C(3)–C(4)	1.380	0.024
–C(8)	1.442	0.022
C(4)–C(5)	1.391	0.025
C(5)–C(6)	1.430	0.017
C(6)–C(7)	1.381	0.018
–C(9)	1.501	0.019
C(7)–C(8)	1.382	0.022
C(9)–C(10)	1.320	0.018
–C(14)	1.464	0.014
C(10)–C(11)	1.454	0.021
C(11)–C(12)	1.473	0.015
C(12)–C(13)	1.384	0.018
–C(17)	1.447	0.021
C(13)–C(14)	1.430	0.019
C(14)–C(15)	1.344	0.014
C(15)–C(16)	1.483	0.016
–C(26)	1.479	0.019
C(17)–C(18)	1.408	0.018
–C(22)	1.420	0.016
C(18)–C(19)	1.354	0.024
C(19)–C(20)	1.391	0.019
C(20)–C(21)	1.405	0.019
C(21)–C(22)	1.378	0.022
C(23)–C(24)	1.361	0.018
–C(28)	1.385	0.018
C(24)–C(25)	1.409	0.020
C(25)–C(26)	1.424	0.016
C(26)–C(27)	1.369	0.017
C(27)–C(28)	1.425	0.021
C(29)–C(30)	1.462	0.026

Table 6. Bond angles with standard deviations

Angle		σ
C(2)–O(1)–C(10)	116.3°	0.9°
C(13)–O(4)–C(16)	106.6	0.9
C(23)–O(6)–C(29)	116.5	1.2
Br(1)–C(1)–C(2)	111.2	0.9
O(1)–C(2)–O(2)	126.0	1.0
–C(1)	105.9	1.0
O(2)–C(2)–C(1)	127.6	1.1
C(4)–C(3)–C(8)	119.1	1.6
C(3)–C(4)–C(5)	121.8	1.3
C(4)–C(5)–C(6)	120.5	1.3
C(5)–C(6)–C(7)	116.1	1.3
–C(9)	121.1	1.2
C(7)–C(6)–C(9)	122.7	1.1
C(6)–C(7)–C(8)	125.4	1.2
C(3)–C(8)–C(7)	117.1	1.4
C(6)–C(9)–C(10)	122.7	1.0
–C(14)	120.3	1.1
C(10)–C(9)–C(14)	117.0	1.2
O(1)–C(10)–C(9)	120.9	1.3
–C(11)	114.5	1.0

Table 5 (cont.)

Angle		σ
C(9)—C(10)—C(11)	124.6	1.0
O(3)—C(11)—C(10)	120.2	1.1
—C(12)	118.2	1.4
C(10)—C(11)—C(12)	121.7	1.1
C(11)—C(12)—C(13)	110.4	1.2
—C(17)	125.2	1.1
C(13)—C(12)—C(17)	124.3	0.9
O(4)—C(13)—C(12)	120.5	1.2
—C(14)	110.4	1.0
C(12)—C(13)—C(14)	129.1	1.0
C(9)—C(14)—C(13)	117.2	1.0
—C(15)	134.7	1.2
C(13)—C(14)—C(15)	108.1	0.9
C(14)—C(15)—C(16)	107.1	1.1
—C(26)	134.6	1.0
C(16)—C(15)—C(26)	118.2	0.9
O(4)—C(16)—O(5)	119.5	1.2
—C(15)	107.8	0.9
O(5)—C(16)—C(15)	132.6	1.3
C(12)—C(17)—C(18)	120.0	1.0
—C(22)	122.6	1.1
C(18)—C(17)—C(22)	117.0	1.3
C(17)—C(18)—C(19)	119.8	1.2
C(18)—C(19)—C(20)	124.1	1.4
C(19)—C(20)—C(21)	116.9	1.5
C(20)—C(21)—C(22)	120.3	1.1
C(17)—C(22)—C(21)	121.8	1.1
O(6)—C(23)—C(24)	118.0	1.2
—C(28)	116.7	1.2
C(24)—C(23)—C(28)	125.0	1.4
C(23)—C(24)—C(25)	118.2	1.1
C(24)—C(25)—C(26)	118.4	1.1
C(15)—C(26)—C(25)	120.0	1.0
—C(27)	118.4	1.0
C(25)—C(26)—C(27)	121.6	1.2
C(26)—C(27)—C(28)	119.9	1.1
C(23)—C(28)—C(27)	116.7	1.2
O(6)—C(29)—O(7)	119.9	1.6
—C(30)	113.3	1.4
O(7)—C(29)—C(30)	126.7	1.3
Br(2)—C(30)—C(29)	112.5	1.0

for ring *D* to the central ring system. Rings *C* and *D* come very close together, introducing considerable strain in the molecule. The C(7)—C(25) distance is only 3.39 Å and it is clear from the large angles at C(14), C(15) and C(16) (Fig. 2) that ring *C* has been forced away from ring *D*, thereby also requiring O(5) to move. A corresponding displacement of ring *D* in the opposite direction would be more difficult as it would affect not

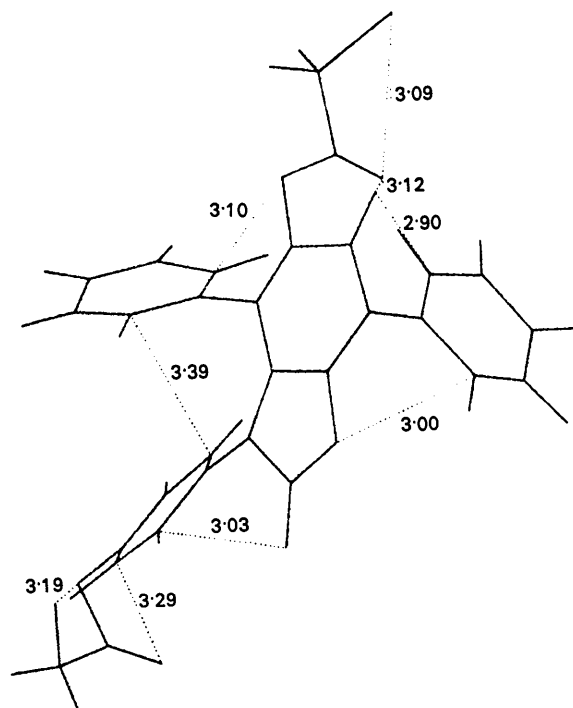


Fig. 3. Some short intramolecular contacts.

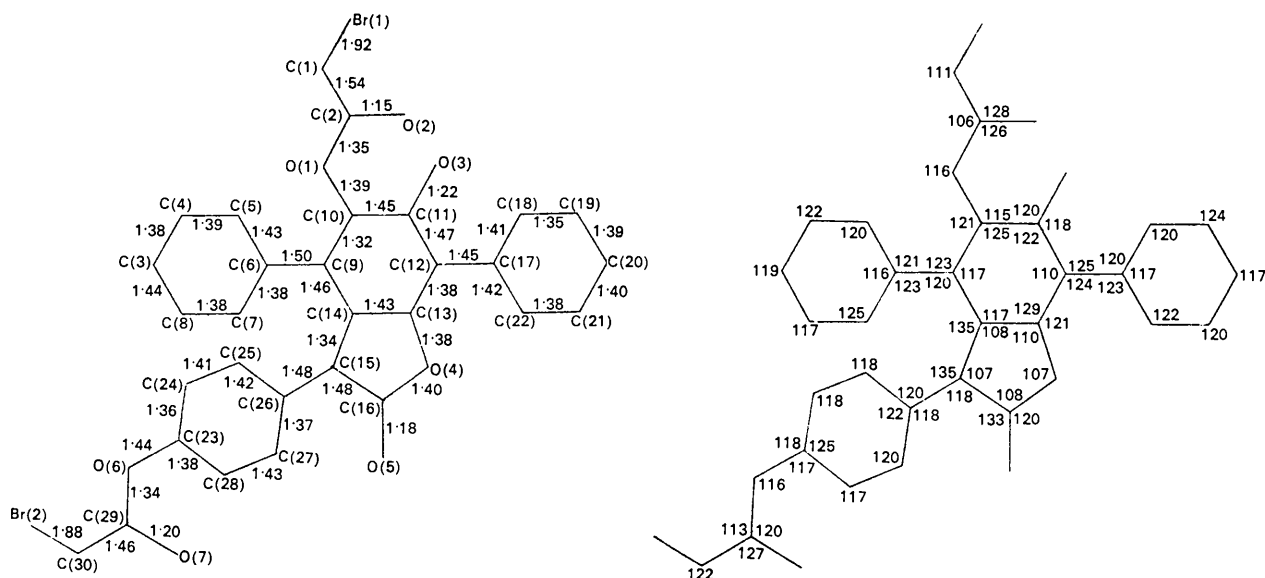


Fig. 2. Bond distances and angles of xylerthrin bisbromoacetate. The atomic numbering used is indicated.

Table 7. *Least-squares planes*

Plane	Atoms involved	Equation of plane (referred to crystal axes)	Out-of-plane deviations (Å) for atoms defining plane	Out-of-plane deviations (Å) for other atoms
A, B	C(9)–C(16), O(4)	0.09570X – 0.47053Y + 0.87718Z – 0.50355 = 0	C(9) 0.024, C(10) – 0.016, C(11) – 0.003 C(12) 0.005, C(13) – 0.004, C(14) 0.009 C(15) – 0.025, C(16) 0.012, O(4) – 0.001	C(6) 0.127, C(17) – 0.036 C(26) – 0.169, O(1) – 0.037 O(3) 0.020, O(5) 0.002
C	C(15), C(23)–C(28), O(6)	0.76618X – 0.62153Y + 0.16330Z + 0.08729 = 0	C(15) – 0.056, C(23) – 0.047 C(24) 0.010, C(25) 0.032, C(26) 0.030 C(27) 0.028, C(28) 0.016, O(6) – 0.011	C(14) 0.543, C(16) – 1.067 C(29) – 1.196
D	C(3)–C(9)	0.91973X – 0.00709Y + 0.39249Z – 0.62317 = 0	C(3) 0.026, C(4) – 0.001, C(5) – 0.013 C(6) – 0.022, C(7) 0.001, C(8) – 0.014 C(9) 0.022	C(10) 1.032, C(14) – 1.061
E	C(12), C(17)–C(22)	– 0.60914X – 0.41436Y + 0.67620Z – 0.14864 = 0	C(12) – 0.020, C(17) 0.042, C(18) – 0.001 C(19) – 0.009, C(20) 0.000, C(21) 0.000, C(22) – 0.010	C(11) – 0.894, C(13) 0.695
Carboxyl group 1	C(1), C(2), O(1), O(2)	0.20803X + 0.49094Y + 0.84599Z – 1.04690 = 0	C(1) – 0.011, C(2) 0.039, O(1) – 0.012 O(2) – 0.017	Br(1) 0.386, C(10) 0.250
Carboxyl group 2	C(29), C(30), O(6), O(7)	– 0.60291X – 0.27611Y + 0.74850Z – 0.46687 = 0	C(29) 0.018, C(30) – 0.005 O(6) – 0.005, O(7) – 0.007	Br(2) – 1.630, C(23) – 0.176

only O(1) but also O(3) and ring *E* (Fig. 3). The only indication of distortion at ring *D* is, as discussed earlier, the direction of the bond C(6)–C(9).

Except for the large angles mentioned above, the remaining bond distances and angles in the structure are normal. The average benzene bond distance is 1.397 Å and the average angle 119.9°.

The planes of the two carboxyl groups are roughly at right angles to the planar groups to which they are attached. The conformations of the two bromoacetate residues are different as indicated in Fig. 4. The bromine atom and the carbonyl oxygen are in a *trans* conformation about the C(29)–C(30) bond whereas the more usual *gauche* arrangement is valid in the other acetate group.

The molecular packing is illustrated in Fig. 5 with some of the shorter intermolecular H–H distances indicated. Ring *E* lies roughly at right angles to, and is in packing contact with, rings *C* and *D*. Close packing with parallel ring planes also exists around centres of symmetry. All benzene rings are in contact with the bromoacetate hydrogen atoms.

The strong colour of certain quinone compounds, e.g. choranyl (Chu, Jeffrey & Sakurai, 1962) and tetrahydroxy-*p*-benzoquinone (Klug, 1965), has been attributed to charge transfer self-complexing, made possible by short intermolecular carbon–oxygen distances (< 3.0 Å). Such a short distance (2.97 Å) also exists in xylyrythrin bisbromoacetate between O(5) and C(16) over a centre of symmetry. The conditions are favourable for strong charge transfer interaction as – in the two parallel *A*–*B* ring planes – each carbonyl oxygen atom approaches an *sp*²-hybridized carbon atom almost exactly along the axis of the π -orbital. No other short intermolecular C–O distances are found.

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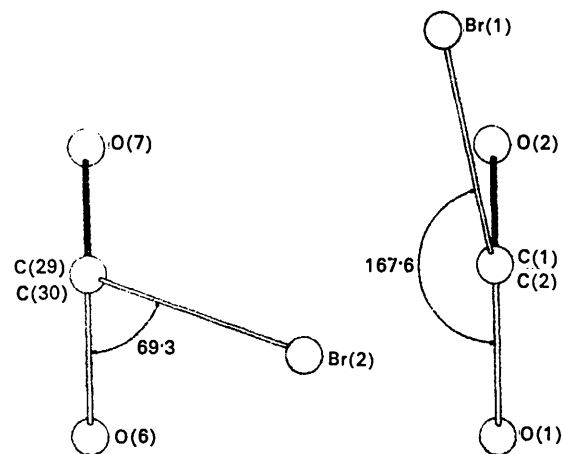


Fig. 4. Conformation of the two bromoacetate groups as seen along the C(1)–C(2) and C(30)–C(29) bonds.

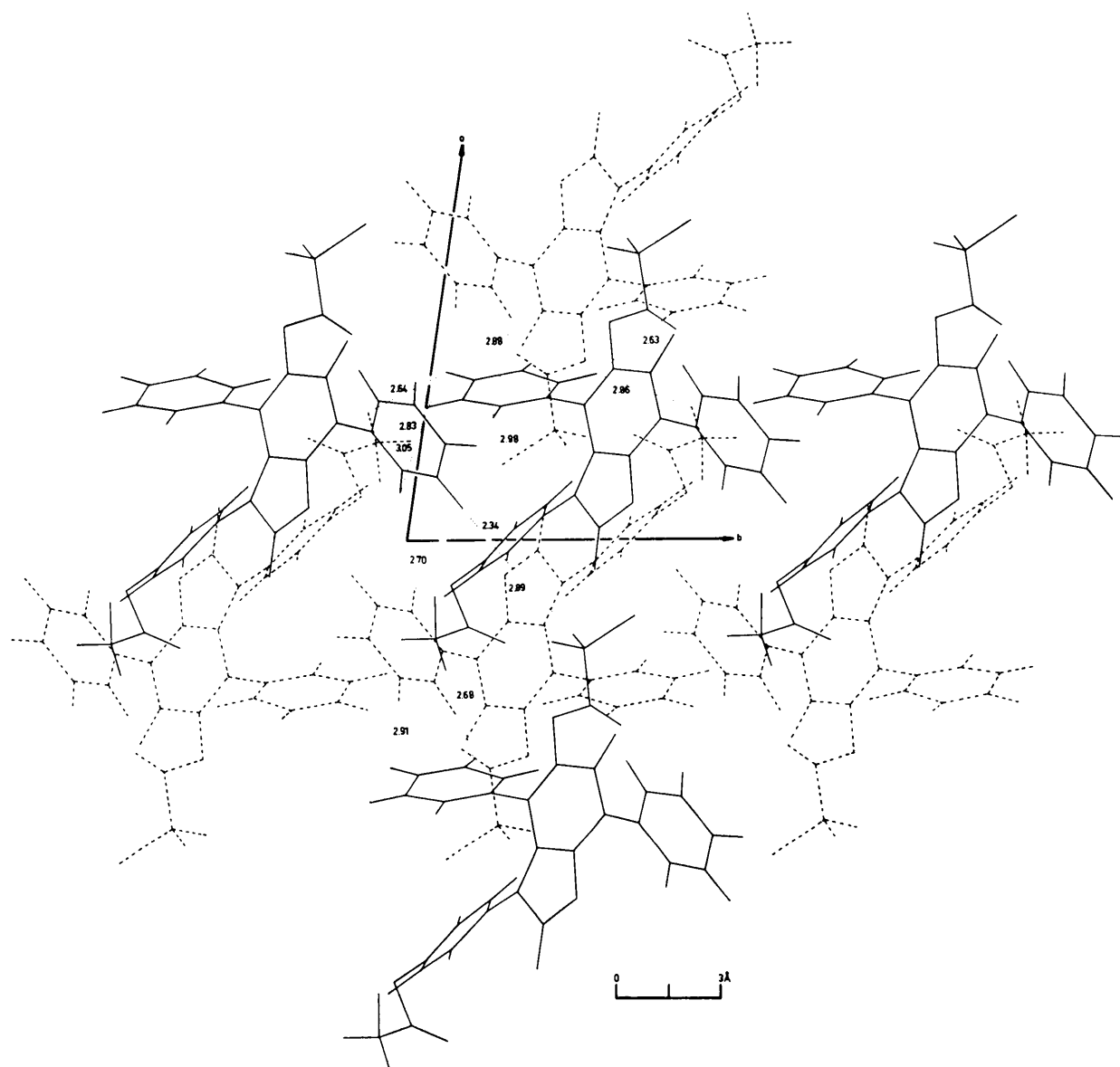


Fig. 5. Molecular packing of xylerythrin bisbromoacetate as seen along the c axis. Dashed lines belong to symmetry-related molecules. Some short intermolecular H-H distances are indicated by dotted lines.

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