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### Three-Dimensional X-ray Analysis of the Complex $\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{N}_4$

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Crystals of the complex  $\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{N}_4$  are triclinic, space group  $P\bar{1}$ , with  $a = 9.89 \pm 0.02$ ,  $b = 9.75 \pm 0.02$ ,  $c = 9.58 \pm 0.02$ ,  $\alpha = 94^\circ 29' \pm 12'$ ,  $\beta = 100^\circ 39' \pm 12'$ ,  $\gamma = 119^\circ 20' \pm 12'$ ,  $Z = 1$ . The crystal structure has been determined by the heavy-atom method and then refined by three-dimensional Fourier synthesis and several cycles of differential synthesis. The structure is characterized by layers parallel to (001), in which each hexamethylenetetramine molecule links three different  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$  octahedra and each  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$  octahedron links six different hexamethylenetetramine molecules. The structure is fully hydrogen bonded.

#### Introduction

The problem of solvation of biological macromolecules in aqueous solutions has become extremely interesting within the past few years and an increasing number of studies on simple models have been carried out.

It appeared of some interest to us to clarify some structural aspects of complexes between organic bases and inorganic salts in which high forms of hydration are often stabilized. Hexamethylenetetramine (HMT) forms a large series of complexes with different inorganic salts, linking also a high number of water molecules (Table 1). These complexes were first crystallized by Barbieri & Calzolari (1910). Bertinotti & Liquori (1953) investigated the structure of the complex  $\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$  and of the corresponding magnesium chloride complex by two-dimensional X-ray analysis. However, the many superpositions of atoms made it impossible to unravel the structures

completely. It was therefore decided to carry out a three-dimensional analysis of the complex  $\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$  and to examine the relationship between this structure and that of a cubic modification studied by Addamiano & Giacomello (1951). Some preliminary results have already been reported (De Santis, Kovacs, Liquori & Mazzarella, 1965).

Table 1. *Some complexes between hexamethylenetetramine and inorganic salts*

General formula	A
A . $10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$	$\text{CaBr}_2$ , $\text{MgCl}_2$ , $\text{MnCl}_2$ , $\text{CoCl}_2$ , $\text{NiCl}_2$ , $\text{MnBr}_2$ , $\text{MgBr}_2$ , $\text{CoBr}_2$ , $\text{NiBr}_2$ , $\text{NiI}_2$ , $\text{CoI}_2$ , $\text{MnI}_2$ , $\text{MgI}_2$ , $\text{Mg}(\text{SCN})_2$ , $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , $\text{Mn}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , $\text{Y}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ .
A . $8\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$	$\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ , $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ , $\text{Ni}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ .
A . $7\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$	$\text{MnCr}_2\text{O}_7$ , $\text{MgCr}_2\text{O}_7$ .





Table 2 (cont.)

Table with 10 columns (H, K, L, FO, FC) and 100 rows of numerical data, representing the results of a three-dimensional X-ray analysis.



Table 3. *Final fractional atomic coordinates and their standard deviations (Å)*

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$\sigma_x$	$\sigma_y$	$\sigma_z$
C(1)	0.2138	0.5721	0.1204	0.009	0.008	0.008
C(2)	0.3200	0.7807	0.3318	0.008	0.008	0.007
C(3)	0.3990	0.5867	0.3301	0.008	0.007	0.007
C(4)	0.3990	0.8410	0.1107	0.009	0.007	0.008
C(5)	0.4852	0.6515	0.1118	0.008	0.008	0.006
C(6)	0.5857	0.8585	0.3234	0.008	0.009	0.008
N(1)	0.2631	0.7406	0.1708	0.005	0.006	0.005
N(2)	0.3501	0.5448	0.1706	0.006	0.006	0.006
N(3)	0.4552	0.7574	0.3859	0.007	0.007	0.006
N(4)	0.5386	0.8215	0.1602	0.006	0.006	0.005
O(1)	0.0220	0.8214	0.1346	0.006	0.007	0.007
O(2)	0.2461	0.2170	0.1344	0.006	0.006	0.007
O(3)	0.1567	0.9499	0.8720	0.006	0.006	0.006
O(4)	0.0650	0.6993	0.6582	0.015	0.012	0.011
O(5)	0.4954	0.2081	0.3058	0.007	0.007	0.006
Ca	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Br	0.1878	0.4389	0.6794	0.001	0.001	0.001

Table 4. *Final temperature factor coefficients*The coefficients are the values of  $b_{ij}$  in the expression  $\exp [-(b_{11}h^2 + b_{12}hk^2 + b_{13}hl + b_{22}k^2 + b_{23}kl + b_{33}l^2)]$ 

	$b_{11}$	$b_{12}$	$b_{13}$	$b_{22}$	$b_{23}$	$b_{33}$
C(1)	0.0104	0.0108	0.0030	0.0129	0.0048	0.0131
C(2)	0.0151	0.0142	0.0132	0.0134	0.0062	0.0113
C(3)	0.0173	0.0164	0.0041	0.0110	0.0063	0.0110
C(4)	0.0137	0.0164	0.0142	0.0130	0.0115	0.0147
C(5)	0.0134	0.0159	0.0092	0.0156	0.0004	0.0120
C(6)	0.0138	0.0126	0.0057	0.0156	0.0028	0.0116
N(1)	0.0095	0.0137	0.0086	0.0142	0.0073	0.0122
N(2)	0.0117	0.0133	0.0061	0.0107	0.0065	0.0123
N(3)	0.0142	0.0130	0.0053	0.0126	0.0040	0.0092
N(4)	0.0114	0.0114	0.0076	0.0133	0.0030	0.0091
O(1)	0.0138	0.0212	0.0181	0.0185	0.0235	0.0214
O(2)	0.0133	0.0132	-0.0015	0.0127	0.0019	0.0179
O(3)	0.0132	0.0113	0.0155	0.0142	0.0008	0.0163
O(4)	0.0430	0.0500	0.0000	0.0290	-0.0065	0.0240
O(5)	0.0150	0.0145	0.0008	0.0173	0.0030	0.0107
Ca	0.0081	0.0099	0.0061	0.0093	0.0053	0.0103
Br	0.0164	0.0164	0.0102	0.0207	0.0182	0.0166

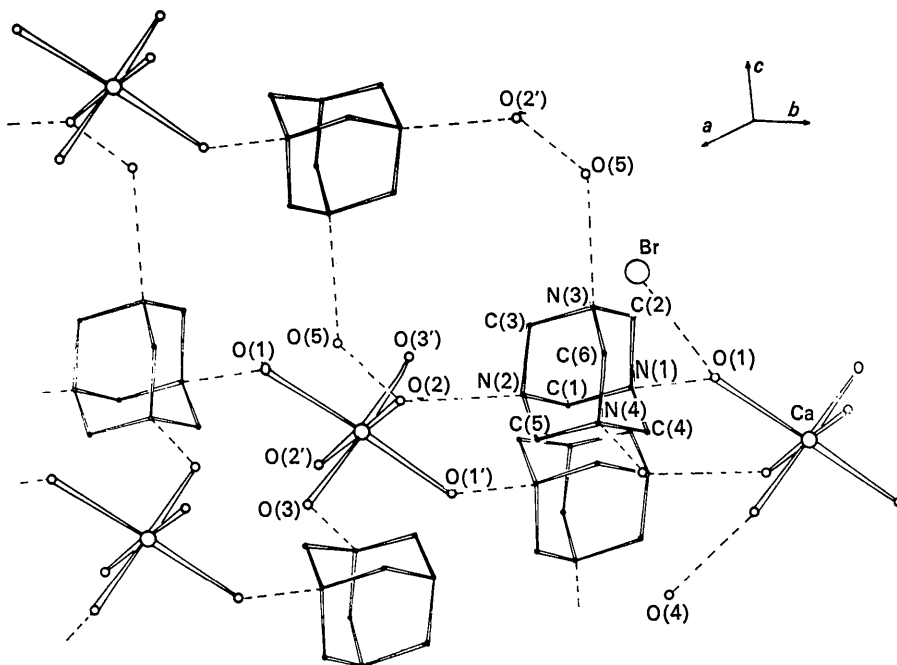


Fig. 1. Perspective view of the structure.

### Experimental

Crystals of the complex  $\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$  were grown from an aqueous solution in which HMT and  $\text{CaBr}_2$  were in a stoichiometric ratio. If the crystallization temperature is kept above  $20^\circ\text{C}$ , the cubic form studied by Addamiano & Giacomello (1951) with two-dimensional X-ray data is obtained. Lowering the crystallization temperature yields a triclinic form which is common to most of the compounds in the series. The crystals grow as platelets with pseudo-hexagonal symmetry. Large well developed specimens were cut to plates of approximately  $0.2 \times 0.2 \times 0.1$  mm perpendicular to the crystal directions [100], [010] and [001]. At room temperature the triclinic crystals are affected by the presence even of traces of water, and the lattice becomes disordered; they were therefore dried before the temperature was raised, and mounted in a sealed Lindemann capillary.

The multi-film equi-inclination photographic method with Ni-filtered  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation was used for collecting intensity data. Seventeen layers perpendicular to [100] and [010] axes were recorded, including 2824 independent reflexions with intensities above the background of the 3560 in the limiting sphere of  $\text{Cu } K\alpha$  radiation. The intensities were estimated by comparison with a calibrated film strip and were corrected for the Lorentz-polarization factor by a computer program which includes the Phillips (1954) spot-shape correction in non-zero layer photographs. No absorption correction was applied. The best scale constant was found for every layer by using the least-squares method described by Rollett & Sparks (1960).

### Crystal data

$\text{CaBr}_2 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2(\text{HMT})$  is triclinic with

$$a = 9.89 \pm 0.02 \text{ \AA} \quad \alpha = 94^\circ 29' \pm 12'$$

$$b = 9.75 \pm 0.02 \quad \beta = 100^\circ 39' \pm 12'$$

$$c = 9.58 \pm 0.02 \quad \gamma = 119^\circ 20' \pm 12'$$

$$D_x = 1.41 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$$

Space group  $P\bar{1}$

$$Z = 1$$

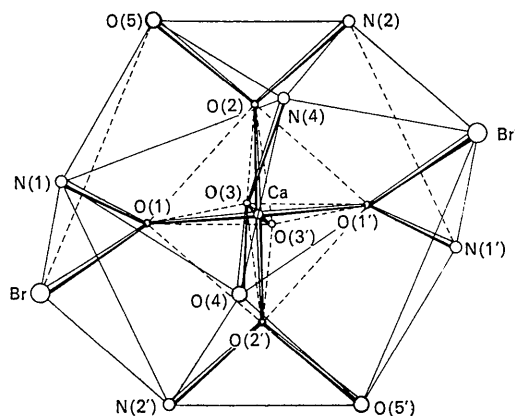


Fig. 2. Environment of the calcium ion.

The measured density of  $1.44 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$  is slightly larger than the calculated density. This effect is probably due to the tendency of the crystals to transform into a monometric form which has an experimental density of  $1.46 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ . The space group can be taken as  $P\bar{1}$ , since the chemical unit is consistent with a centrosymmetric distribution of atoms. The calcium atom is therefore at the centre of symmetry.

### Determination and refinement of the structure

In order to determine the bromine position a three-dimensional Patterson function was calculated, which clearly shows a Br-Br and a Ca-Br vector. The collinearity of these two vectors confirms the centrosymmetry of the  $\text{CaBr}_2$  group. This enabled us to fix the coordinates of the bromine atoms. A three-dimensional heavy atom Fourier synthesis, in which the signs were derived from the positions of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Br}^-$ , shows, well above the background, fifteen peaks corresponding to the other atoms of the independent unit. Two other peaks of medium height were considered spurious.

The coordinates were derived by the method of Shoemaker (1950). A structure factor calculation using a  $B=3.5$ , derived from Wilson statistics for all the atoms, gave a value of  $R=0.31$  for the reliability index.

Two further cycles of structure factor calculation and three-dimensional Fourier synthesis lowered the value of  $R$  to 0.19. In this stage an isotropic temperature factor for each atom derived from the maximum value of each electron density peak of the Fourier synthesis was introduced (Damiani, Giglio & Ripamonti, 1963). The spurious peaks disappeared from the last three-dimensional Fourier synthesis that showed most of the details of the structure, the validity of which was studied by calculating all possible intra- and inter-molecular distances. Furthermore one oxygen atom had an electron density as low as 60% of the average of the other oxygen atoms. The possibility that this was due to a wrong position of this atom was considered and a Fourier synthesis was calculated with a set of structure factors computed without the contribution of this atom. This result confirms its position, and an attempt to weight down the contribution of this atom as due to a statistical vacancy increased the value of  $R$ . At this point it became clear that this effect was due to a large vibration of the particular oxygen atom in question.

The structure was refined by differential synthesis cycles and anisotropic temperature factors were introduced for each atom by comparison of the observed and calculated electron density curvatures. After several cycles the  $R$  index went down to 0.12, and at this point the positions of HMT hydrogen atoms were calculated and introduced into the structure factor calculations, with an isotropic temperature factor  $B=6.0 \text{ \AA}^2$ . The refinement was concluded when the coordinate shifts were of the order of one fourth of the estimated standard deviations, and the differences between the

observed and calculated second derivatives of the electron density were less than 3%. The final value of the disagreement index is  $R=0.108$ , including all the observed reflexions.

In Table 2 are listed the observed and calculated values of the structure factors based upon the final differential synthesis. In Table 3 are listed the atomic fractional coordinates and their standard deviations ( $\text{\AA}$ ) estimated according to Cruickshank (1949). The standard deviations of electron density and the first derivatives are  $\sigma(\rho)=0.19 \text{ e.\AA}^{-3}$ ,  $\sigma(A_h)=0.51 \text{ e.\AA}^{-4}$ ,  $\sigma(A_k)=0.49 \text{ e.\AA}^{-4}$ ,  $\sigma(A_l)=0.48 \text{ e.\AA}^{-4}$ . In Table 4 are listed the thermal parameters  $b_{11}$ ,  $b_{12}$  etc. defined by the expression  $\exp[-(b_{11}h^2 + b_{12}hk + b_{13}hl + b_{22}k^2 + b_{23}kl + b_{33}l^2)]$ . The electron densities and their curvatures at the atomic positions are listed in Table 5.

## Discussion

A diagrammatic representation of the structure can be seen in Fig. 1, where the hydrogen bonding system between the  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$  octahedron, the HMT molecules, and the O(4) and O(5) water oxygen atoms which are not coordinated to the calcium ion is shown. The three crystallographically independent oxygen atoms of the water surrounding the calcium ion are hydrogen bonded to three nitrogen atoms of three different HMT molecules and to O(4), O(5) and Br respectively. Each group of atoms  $\text{CaO}(1)\text{N}(1)\text{Br}$ ,  $\text{CaO}(2)\text{N}(3)\text{O}(5)$ ,  $\text{CaO}(3)\text{O}(4)\text{N}(4)$  is very nearly planar, and each plane is in a staggered position with respect to the other planes and makes an angle of about  $20^\circ$  with respect to an octahedral plane defined

Table 5. Peak heights ( $\text{e.\AA}^{-3}$ ) and curvatures ( $\text{e.\AA}^{-5}$ )

Values in parentheses are from  $F_c$  differential synthesis

	Peak height	$-A_{hh}$	$A_{hk}$	$A_{hl}$	$-A_{kk}$	$A_{kl}$	$-A_{ll}$
C(1)	7.68 (7.66)	57.4 (57.0)	28.6 (28.6)	7.8 (7.6)	65.0 (64.6)	9.6 (9.6)	59.2 (58.4)
C(2)	7.81 (8.06)	63.0 (64.0)	31.0 (30.8)	23.2 (22.8)	65.6 (66.0)	1.8 (1.4)	69.8 (70.4)
C(3)	8.19 (8.04)	62.8 (63.0)	35.8 (35.4)	9.2 (9.4)	71.4 (71.8)	9.8 (9.8)	68.0 (67.6)
C(4)	7.67 (7.79)	59.2 (60.6)	38.4 (37.6)	11.4 (11.4)	69.0 (68.6)	6.4 (6.0)	60.4 (60.4)
C(5)	8.19 (8.11)	66.4 (66.6)	35.4 (34.8)	17.8 (18.0)	61.8 (62.2)	-2.4 (-2.2)	75.0 (74.4)
C(6)	7.67 (7.61)	62.0 (61.4)	26.4 (26.6)	14.0 (14.2)	57.0 (56.4)	3.8 (3.8)	60.8 (60.4)
N(1)	9.93 (10.25)	93.2 (93.4)	41.0 (40.2)	19.2 (78.6)	78.8 (78.6)	11.4 (11.0)	86.8 (86.8)
N(2)	10.38 (10.14)	84.8 (85.0)	44.2 (44.0)	13.4 (13.4)	85.6 (85.4)	8.4 (8.2)	77.4 (77.4)
N(3)	9.61 (9.57)	71.2 (70.8)	37.2 (36.4)	11.0 (10.8)	74.4 (74.2)	6.2 (6.2)	80.6 (80.0)
N(4)	10.12 (10.23)	82.0 (81.8)	36.8 (37.0)	18.8 (19.0)	82.0 (81.8)	8.2 (8.2)	87.6 (87.6)
O(1)	10.02 (10.13)	87.0 (87.0)	41.2 (38.6)	18.8 (18.0)	73.8 (74.4)	13.4 (13.0)	65.4 (66.2)
O(2)	10.60 (10.54)	80.6 (79.8)	42.4 (43.0)	3.6 (3.6)	88.8 (88.4)	10.2 (11.2)	68.8 (68.6)
O(3)	10.65 (10.68)	91.2 (91.2)	34.8 (35.4)	19.0 (19.2)	78.6 (78.2)	0.4 (0.2)	75.6 (75.4)
O(4)	6.75 (6.35)	33.0 (35.0)	21.4 (20.8)	7.4 (9.6)	40.2 (42.0)	-7.0 (-1.6)	41.6 (41.6)
O(5)	10.56 (10.36)	76.8 (77.0)	35.4 (36.2)	4.2 (4.8)	74.2 (74.4)	0.6 (0.6)	82.8 (81.4)
Ca	43.52 (43.62)	431.8 (431.4)	21.4 (21.4)	74.4 (74.6)	420.4 (418.0)	41.0 (41.4)	400.6 (400.4)
Br	57.31 (57.38)	467.2 (463.6)	200.8 (201.2)	59.2 (58.8)	453.2 (452.8)	123.2 (121.8)	499.6 (496.6)



by the calcium ion and four oxygen atoms. In this way a second shell of atoms is formed around the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  that may resemble a distorted icosahedron (Fig. 2). The interatomic distances and bond lengths are given together with their estimated standard deviations in Table 6.

The deviations of the  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$  octahedral angles from cubic symmetry are significant, whereas the Ca–O bond lengths are practically constant, an effect that is usually observed in such hydrate structures. The mean Ca–O distance of 2.34 Å is in agreement with the sum of the corresponding ionic radii.

The HMT parameters are all independent and their mean values are in good agreement with those found

by Becka & Cruickshank (1963) in the crystal structure analysis of HMT. Although the variation of the parameters is very small, it is larger than the estimated standard deviations, and can be ascribed to crystal packing.

The bromine ion has three rather short contacts to O(1) (3.29 Å), O(4) (3.31 Å) and O(5) (3.30 Å), almost in a plane parallel to (001). Since the water oxygen atoms linked to the calcium ion have to be considered as proton donors to the nitrogen and oxygen atoms and to bromine ions of the second shell, it follows that O(5) and O(4) are proton donors to N(3) and  $\text{Br}^-$ , and to  $\text{Br}^-$  respectively. This hydrogen bond scheme is in agreement with bond angles [Table 6(c)].

Table 6. *Interatomic distances and bond angles*

The standard deviations are given in brackets.

(a) Coordination octahedron around Ca

Distances		Angles	
Ca–O(1)	2.316 (0.007) Å	O(1)–Ca–O(2)	93.3° (0.21°)
Ca–O(2)	2.330 (0.006)	O(1)–Ca–O(3)	84.3 (0.23)
Ca–O(3)	2.345 (0.006)	O(2)–Ca–O(3)	84.0 (0.22)
Mean value	2.330	O(1)–Ca–O(2')	86.7 (0.21)
O(1)–O(2)	3.379 (0.009) Å	O(1)–Ca–O(3')	95.7 (0.23)
O(1)–O(2')	3.188 (0.009)	O(2)–Ca–O(3')	96.0 (0.22)
O(1)–O(3)	3.126 (0.009)		
O(1)–O(3')	3.456 (0.009)		
O(2)–O(3)	3.129 (0.009)		
O(2)–O(3')	3.473 (0.009)		

(b) Hexamethylenetetramine molecule

Distances		Angles	
C(1)–N(1)	1.474 (0.010) Å	C(1)–N(1)–C(2)	109.0° (0.57°)
C(2)–N(1)	1.488 (0.009)	C(1)–N(1)–C(4)	107.1 (0.56)
C(4)–N(1)	1.477 (0.010)	C(2)–N(1)–C(4)	108.7 (0.56)
C(1)–N(2)	1.500 (0.010)	C(1)–N(2)–C(3)	107.5 (0.56)
C(3)–N(2)	1.473 (0.009)	C(1)–N(2)–C(5)	108.5 (0.57)
C(5)–N(2)	1.480 (0.009)	C(5)–N(2)–C(3)	109.7 (0.56)
C(2)–N(3)	1.473 (0.010)	C(2)–N(3)–C(6)	107.9 (0.59)
C(3)–N(3)	1.487 (0.010)	C(2)–N(3)–C(3)	106.7 (0.61)
C(6)–N(3)	1.459 (0.010)	C(3)–N(3)–C(6)	108.5 (0.60)
C(4)–N(4)	1.482 (0.010)	C(4)–N(4)–C(5)	107.5 (0.57)
C(5)–N(4)	1.474 (0.010)	C(4)–N(4)–C(6)	107.9 (0.57)
C(6)–N(4)	1.506 (0.010)	C(5)–N(4)–C(6)	108.1 (0.55)
		N(1)–C(1)–N(2)	110.7 (0.63)
		N(1)–C(2)–N(3)	112.7 (0.57)
		N(2)–C(3)–N(3)	112.5 (0.55)
		N(1)–C(4)–N(4)	112.6 (0.58)
		N(2)–C(5)–N(4)	111.2 (0.56)
		N(3)–C(6)–N(4)	113.0 (0.63)
	Becka & Cruickshank (1963)		
(C–N) <sub>av</sub>	1.481 Å		
(C–N–C) <sub>av</sub>	108.1°		
(N–C–N) <sub>av</sub>	112.1°		

(c) Hydrogen bonds

Distances		Angles	
O(1)–N(1)	2.829 (0.009) Å	Br—O(1)–N(1)	93.9° (0.22°)
O(1)–Br	3.291 (0.007)	O(5)–O(2)–N(2)	104.0 (0.28)
O(2)–N(2)	2.805 (0.008)	O(4)–O(3)–N(4)	101.8 (0.39)
O(2)–O(5)	2.743 (0.009)	Ca—O(1)–N(1)	127.7 (0.29)
O(3)–N(4)	2.831 (0.009)	Ca—O(1)–Br	138.3 (0.24)
O(3)–O(4)	2.711 (0.014)	Ca—O(2)–N(2)	128.4 (0.27)
O(5)–N(3)	2.868 (0.008)	Ca—O(2)–O(5)	127.5 (0.27)
O(5)–Br	3.298 (0.007)	Ca—O(3)–O(4)	129.1 (0.41)
O(4)–Br	3.312 (0.013)	Ca—O(3)–N(4)	126.6 (0.28)
		N(3)–O(5)–O(2)	121.6 (0.30)
		Br—O(5)–O(2)	103.9 (0.23)
		N(3)–O(5)–Br	94.6 (0.22)

(d) Ca–Br

5.250 (0.001) Å

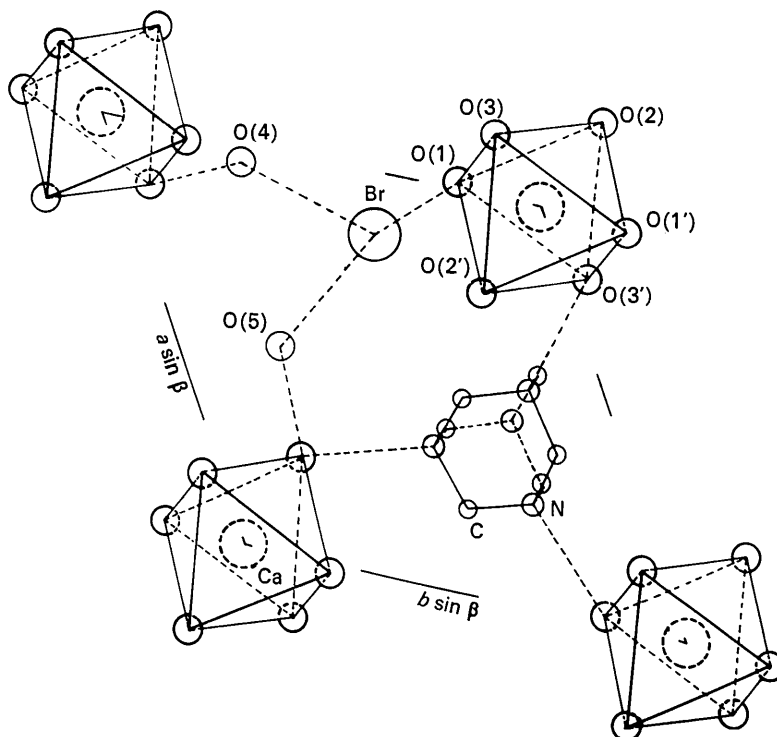


Fig. 3. View of the structure along the  $c$  axis.

The structure viewed along the  $c$  axis (Fig. 3) shows an approximately threefold symmetry. The HMT molecule projects at the centre of a triangle of  $\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6^{2+}$  octahedra and connects them by hydrogen bonds. The bromine ion itself is almost at the centre of a triangle formed by three oxygen atoms, which lie in a plane approximately parallel to (001).

The structure can be considered as a layer structure parallel to the (001) plane. Within the layers electrostatic, van der Waals and hydrogen-bond forces stabilize the structure. The layers are held together by the longest hydrogen bonds present in the structure [O(5)–N(3)] and by weak van der Waals forces. These characteristics thus explain the perfect cleavage of the crystals along (001).

The triclinic crystals transform easily above room temperature in the presence of a small amount of water into the cubic modification (which has a much lower solubility). If there is sufficient water a macroscopic dissolution process is visible and a subsequent crystallization gives cubic crystals. If the crystals are just wet, then they keep the triclinic shape but lose the birefringence and show a disordered X-ray diffraction pattern. Probably a microdissolution process takes place, and the fact that the process can occur at all has to be related to a close similarity between the two forms. Indeed if a (001) layer of the triclinic structure is shifted along the [110] direction so to bring a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ion to the centre of a triangle between calcium ions of an upper level, the structure obtained is very close to that

of the cubic form. Thus epitaxial growth of the cubic form on the triclinic form can be explained in these terms. The orientation of the cubic reciprocal lattice with respect to the triclinic reciprocal axis can be calculated and compared with that found experimentally on an X-ray diffraction photograph of a crystal containing both forms. The orientation of the reciprocal lattices agrees perfectly with what we expected.

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