

# The Crystal and Molecular Structure of Tetrakispyrazole-nickel Chloride, $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$

BY CURT W. REIMANN, ALAN D. MIGHELL AND FLOYD A. MAUER

*Institute for Materials Research, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234, U.S.A.*

(Received 28 October 1966)

The crystal and molecular structure of tetrakispyrazole-nickel chloride,  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$ , was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques.  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  crystallizes in the monoclinic system with  $a = 13.876 \pm 0.001$ ,  $b = 9.263 \pm 0.006$ ,  $c = 14.451 \pm 0.003$  Å,  $\beta = 116.83 \pm 0.01^\circ$ , space group  $C2/c$ ,  $\rho_0 = 1.61$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup> and  $Z = 4$ . Three-dimensional data (2401 reflections) were used and the structure solved by an analysis of the Patterson map. The  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  molecule is centrosymmetric with the nickel atom at the center of an octahedron formed by two chlorine atoms and a nitrogen atom from each of the four pyrazole molecules. One pair of coordinated nitrogen atoms lies 2.097 Å and the other pair 2.087 Å from the nickel atom. The nickel-chlorine vector makes an angle of  $0.4^\circ$  with the normal to the plane of the coordinating nitrogen atoms and the chlorine atoms lie 2.507 Å from the nickel atom. The pyrazole rings were found to be planar within experimental error. Final refinement by a three-dimensional anisotropic least-squares analysis resulted in an  $R$  value of 5.4%.

## Introduction

Electronic absorption spectra of transition element complexes have provided much information on the electron energy levels in these interesting materials (McClure, 1959). The electron paramagnetic resonance technique, where applicable, has yielded detailed accounts of the interactions between paramagnetic ions and their immediate environments (Low, 1960). In order to classify electronic transitions by symmetry type and to interpret magnetic data, however, the structure of the transition element complex must be known.

Tetrakispyrazole-nickel chloride,  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$ , is a stable complex of  $\text{NiCl}_2$  and pyrazole. The complex was found to be paramagnetic with a magnetic susceptibility corresponding to two unpaired electrons per nickel ion. Preliminary electronic absorption spectra of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  suggest a tetragonal or lower symmetry component in the ligand field of the nickel ion. The present structure determination was undertaken to provide the basis for a thorough account of low temperature optical and magnetic spectra.

## Experimental

Crystals of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  were grown by slow evaporation of an aqueous solution of  $\text{NiCl}_2$  and pyrazole. Cell data were obtained from zero and upper level precession photographs taken with  $\text{Mo } K\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.7107$  Å) radiation. Systematic extinctions ( $hkl$ ,  $h+k = 2n+1$ ;  $00l$ ,  $l = 2n+1$ ) are consistent with the monoclinic space groups  $Cc$  and  $C2/c$ . The space group  $C2/c$  was assigned on the basis of the complete structure determination.

To determine precise unit-cell parameters, a single crystal was mounted on a diffractometer and eleven strong reflections in the  $2\theta$  range  $126$ – $152^\circ$  were meas-

ured with  $\text{Cu } K\alpha_1$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54051$  Å). The cell parameters were refined by least squares to obtain the best agreement between observed and calculated  $2\theta$  angles. From these refined cell parameters, and assuming  $Z = 4$ , the X-ray density was calculated to be  $1.611$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup>. This compares with the observed density of  $1.61$  g.cm<sup>-3</sup> which was measured by flotation. A summary of the crystal data is given in Table 1.

Table 1. *Crystal data for*  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$

$a = 13.876 \pm 0.001$ Å	Space group $C2/c$
$b = 9.263 \pm 0.006$	$Z = 4$
$c = 14.451 \pm 0.003$	$\rho_0 = 1.61$ g.cm <sup>-3</sup>
$\beta = 116.83 \pm 0.01^\circ$	$\rho_c = 1.611$
Systematic extinctions	
$hkl$	$h+k = 2n+1$
$00l$	$l = 2n+1$

For the structure determination the stationary-crystal stationary-counter method was employed. A nearly spherical crystal, 0.6 mm in diameter, was mounted on a diffractometer. The intensities of all 2401 unique reflections within  $\sin \theta/\lambda = 0.7035$  Å<sup>-1</sup> were measured with a counter diffractometer using molybdenum radiation and a  $\beta$ -filter of 0.025 mm thick niobium. The detector was a scintillation counter equipped with a pulse-height analyzer. Attenuation filters (niobium) were used on any reflection for which the maximum counting rate exceeded 20,000 counts per second. Thus, coincidence losses were kept below two per cent.

A wavelength of 0.710688 Å, the weighted average for  $K\alpha_1$  and  $K\alpha_2$ , was used for calculating  $2\theta$  settings for measuring peak intensities. Background readings were taken at  $2\theta - \frac{1}{2}\Delta 2\theta$  and at  $2\theta + \frac{1}{2}\Delta 2\theta$  where

$$\Delta 2\theta = 1.80 + 1.0 \tan \theta$$

is the scan range recommended by Alexander & Smith (1962). The counting time was 10 seconds for a peak and each background.

In order to convert observed intensities ( $I_o$ ) to integrated intensities ( $I_i$ ), strong reflections spanning the entire  $2\theta$  range were also measured by the  $2\theta$  scan method. A curve of  $I_i/I_o$  versus  $2\theta$  was prepared and utilized to obtain the conversion for each reflection.

The measured intensities were corrected for absorption assuming a spherical crystal with  $\mu R = 0.5$ . Lorentz and polarization factors were applied in the usual manner.

#### Determination of the structure

As noted above, the systematic extinctions are consistent with the space groups  $Cc$  and  $C2/c$  which have a fourfold and an eightfold general position respectively. The unit cell was found to contain four molecules. Accordingly, if the structure belongs to the space group  $Cc$  each molecule would lie in a general position while if it belongs to the space group  $C2/c$  a special position problem is indicated. The data strongly suggest a special position problem ( $C2/c$ ) because the observed intensities for  $l$  even exceed, on the average, those for which  $l$  is odd.

A three-dimensional Patterson map was calculated from the complete set of data. Analysis of this map led to the conclusion that the principal vectors could be accounted for on the basis of the  $C2/c$  space group with nickel at the origin. In this position the nickel atoms do not contribute to reflections with  $l$  odd, which accounts for the above mentioned intensity variation. As the origin is a center of symmetry, the asymmetric unit consists of one-half of a nickel atom, two independent pyrazole rings (hereafter designated ring I and ring II) and a chlorine atom. A set of vectors, corresponding to those between nickel and the atoms in its coordination sphere was identified about the origin.

An electron-density map, with phases calculated from a trial model consisting of nickel and the atoms in its coordination sphere, was then calculated. From this map two groups of five atoms corresponding to pyrazole rings I and II were identified. Each ring was apparently planar with every atom roughly equidistant from its two nearest neighbors. One problem remained – the identity of the peaks forming the rings. Since pyrazole contains two adjacent nitrogen atoms, one of which is coordinated to the nickel atom, this problem reduced to identifying the second nitrogen atom in each ring. It was tentatively assigned on the basis of the peak size in the electron density map.

#### Refinement

Full-matrix isotropic least-squares refinement on all atoms except hydrogen was then carried out on the trial model. Scattering factors for neutral nickel, chlorine, nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon atoms were taken from *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography* (1962). The quantity minimized in this refinement was  $\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2$  with the following weighting scheme:

$w = 1$  for  $|F_o| < 44$  and  $w = 44/|F_o|$  for  $|F_o| > 44$ . Reflections for which the net number of counts observed did not exceed zero by at least twice the standard deviation were tagged and assigned a value for the net number of counts equal to one standard deviation. These reflections were given zero weight in the refinement unless the value of  $F_c$  exceeded that of  $F_o$ . Those reflections for which this occurred were given unit weight. As a result of the refinement the agreement factor,  $R$ , where

$$R = \frac{\sum |F_o| - |F_c|}{\sum |F_o|},$$

based upon 2072 observed reflections refined to a value of 0.085.

An electron-density map, with phases calculated from the refined model, showed that the ring atoms which had been tentatively identified as nitrogen atoms gave larger peaks than those identified as carbon atoms. Bond lengths and angles computed from the refined model revealed that both rings deviated from a regular pentagonal configuration. The crystallographically independent pyrazole rings, however, showed similar deviations. In an effort to verify that the bond distances and angles were not themselves dependent upon the tentative assignment of the non-coordinated nitrogen atoms a refinement was undertaken assuming that each ring contained a coordinating nitrogen atom and four, rather than three, carbon atoms. As expected, the new set of atomic parameters was identical with the first set within the standard deviations on these parameters. Moreover, the largest peaks in an electron-density map based on this model corresponded to the atoms which had been assumed to be the non-coordinated nitrogen in each ring. All the foregoing evidence leads to the conclusion that the tentative assignment of nitrogen and carbon atoms was correct.

A difference electron density ( $F_o - F_c$ ) map was then calculated. The dominant features in this map were peaks which occurred in the periphery of the pyrazole rings. About each pyrazole ring, peaks corresponding to reasonable hydrogen positions were located near each carbon and the non-coordinated nitrogen atoms. This placement of hydrogen atoms in each ring requires that the coordinating nitrogen atom be of the aza type, *i.e.* it must have the  $-\text{N}=\text{C}$  configuration. Full-matrix isotropic least-squares refinement of the hydrogen positions gave mixed results. Specifically, in each ring the hydrogen atoms located on atoms adjacent to the coordinating nitrogen atom refined to unrealistically short distances (0.7–0.85 Å). In contrast, hydrogen atoms located on the remaining two carbon atoms refined to more typical C–H bond distances ( $\sim 1$  Å). Because the overall result of refinement of the hydrogen atom positions was inconclusive, hydrogen atoms were symmetrically placed at 1.03 Å from the ring atoms. Including them lowered the  $R$  value from 0.085 to 0.081. In all subsequent calculations contributions from these hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factors but their coordinates and temperature factors were held constant.

The structure was next refined by the full-matrix anisotropic least-squares method. After two cycles, the  $R$  value diminished from 0.081 to 0.054. Significantly, the reflections in the higher  $\sin \theta/\lambda$  region showed a much greater improvement in  $R$ . This effect was most pronounced for reflections with  $l$  odd (nickel contributes to  $l$  even only).

As a final test of the validity of the assignment of the non-coordinating nitrogen atoms a full-matrix anisotropic least-squares refinement was carried out after interchanging N(2) and C(3) in ring I and N(4) and C(6) in ring II. This interchange of assignments resulted in an increase in the  $R$  value from 0.054 to 0.063 based upon all observed reflections. This increase was observed in all regions of  $\sin \theta/\lambda$  as well as in 73 of the 76 possible categories of reflections ( $0kl, 1kl \dots hk0, hk1 \dots h0l, h1l \dots$ ) including all 58 categories with 50 or more reflections. More significantly, the  $R$  value increased from 0.054 to 0.073 based on 247 observed reflections in the  $\sin \theta/\lambda$  region from 0 to 0.32 where the difference between the scattering factor curves for carbon and nitrogen is greatest. Thus all of the crystallographic evidence supports the original assignment of the non-coordinating nitrogen atoms.

A final difference Fourier synthesis was computed and no spurious peaks were noted. In Table 2 final positional parameters are given and the anisotropic thermal parameters are listed in Table 3. Table 4 lists the observed and calculated structure factors.

Table 2. Atomic coordinates

	$X/a$	$Y/b$	$Z/c$
Ni	0	0	0
Cl	0.07602 (6)*	-0.16005 (8)	-0.09083 (6)
N(1)	0.14487 (20)	-0.01909 (25)	0.13696 (19)
N(2)	0.16264 (24)	0.04647 (33)	0.22631 (22)
C(3)	0.23328 (25)	-0.09518 (34)	0.15694 (27)
C(1)	0.26175 (31)	0.01280 (44)	0.30300 (28)
C(2)	0.30862 (28)	-0.07843 (41)	0.26037 (33)
N(3)	0.05581 (20)	0.18193 (27)	-0.04625 (20)
N(4)	0.11275 (27)	0.16892 (33)	-0.10013 (27)
C(5)	0.09087 (30)	0.39930 (34)	-0.09126 (30)
C(4)	0.13445 (38)	0.29716 (41)	-0.12827 (38)
C(6)	0.04254 (27)	0.32240 (34)	-0.04081 (27)

\* The numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figures.

Table 3. Anisotropic thermal parameters\*

The general anisotropic temperature factor has the form  $\exp[-(h^2\beta_{11} + k^2\beta_{22} + l^2\beta_{33} + 2hk\beta_{12} + 2hl\beta_{13} + 2kl\beta_{23})]$ . The numbers in parentheses are standard deviations in the last significant figures.

Atom	$10^5\beta_{11}$	$10^5\beta_{22}$	$10^5\beta_{33}$	$10^5\beta_{12}$	$10^5\beta_{13}$	$10^5\beta_{23}$
Cl	646 (5)	858 (8)	598 (5)	29 (5)	355 (4)	-33 (5)
N(1)	478 (15)	758 (27)	478 (14)	-22 (16)	190 (12)	35 (15)
N(2)	666 (20)	1097 (33)	515 (17)	-12 (21)	211 (15)	-7 (20)
C(1)	708 (25)	1375 (52)	526 (20)	-184 (29)	105 (18)	79 (26)
C(2)	527 (21)	1181 (44)	841 (27)	33 (25)	115 (20)	303 (28)
C(3)	485 (18)	879 (33)	678 (21)	9 (20)	258 (16)	42 (22)
N(3)	492 (15)	810 (27)	509 (15)	-31 (17)	247 (12)	5 (17)
N(4)	943 (24)	935 (34)	1034 (25)	-28 (23)	739 (22)	75 (24)
C(4)	1091 (35)	1082 (42)	1128 (35)	-22 (31)	798 (31)	196 (31)
C(5)	776 (26)	802 (33)	855 (26)	-10 (23)	454 (22)	163 (24)
C(6)	650 (21)	762 (32)	705 (22)	-2 (21)	359 (18)	40 (22)

\* The isotropic temperature factor for nickel is 2.42.

## Discussion of the structure

The only crystallographic restriction on the molecule of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  is that it must have a center of symmetry. The asymmetric unit, therefore, comprises one-half of a nickel atom, one chlorine atom and two independent pyrazole rings.

The crystal structure consists of discrete molecules of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  packed in a  $C$ -centered monoclinic cell. Symmetry relationships between molecules and the closest intermolecular approaches are shown in Fig. 1.

The molecular structure of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  is shown in detail in Fig. 2. Principal bond distances are indicated on Fig. 2 and principal pyrazole ring angles are given in Table 5. Fig. 3 illustrates the octahedral coordination of the nickel atom and includes only unique bond angles and distances. The pyrazole rings were found by least-squares analysis to be planar. Individual atom deviations from the least-squares planes are presented in Table 6. These deviations are all less than the average  $\sigma$  normal to the planes (0.003 Å) of the ring atoms.

In order to describe the details of the  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  molecule it is convenient to use the rigorous plane defined by the coordinating pyrazole nitrogen atoms [N(1)N(1') N(3)N(3')] as a plane of reference. This plane, with the nickel atom at its center, may be called the basal plane. Each of the pyrazole rings intersects this basal plane and the chlorine atoms lie above and below this plane of reference. The nickel-chlorine bond makes an angle of 0.4° with the normal to the basal plane. Three parameters are needed to specify the orientation of each pyrazole ring relative to the basal plane. The first parameter is defined as the angle between the plane of the pyrazole ring and the basal plane. The second parameter is defined as the angle between the nickel-nitrogen bond and the normal to the pyrazole ring. The third parameter is defined as the perpendicular distance from the ring centroid to the basal plane. The values of these parameters for each pyrazole ring are reported in Table 7.

The pyrazole rings in this structure analysis have been determined with a precision (average bond  $\sigma =$

Table 4. Observed and calculated structure factors (x 10)

Reflections for which the net number of counts observed did not exceed zero by at least twice the standard deviation are starred. The value assigned to these reflections is equal to the standard deviation.

Table with columns for h, k, l, Fo, Fc, and multiple columns for different reflections (e.g., H0-0,10, H1-1,0, etc.). The table lists observed (Fo) and calculated (Fc) structure factors for various reflections, with some values in italics indicating standard deviations.

Table 4 (cont.)

A large table with multiple columns and rows, containing numerical data organized in groups. Each group is headed by a label such as M\_0-5,1, M\_0-5,2, M\_0-5,3, M\_0-5,4, M\_0-5,5, M\_0-6,1, M\_0-6,2, M\_0-6,3, M\_0-6,4, M\_0-6,5, M\_0-6,6, M\_0-6,7, M\_0-6,8, M\_0-6,9, M\_0-6,10, M\_0-7,1, M\_0-7,2, M\_0-7,3, M\_0-7,4, M\_0-7,5, M\_0-7,6, M\_0-7,7, M\_0-7,8, M\_0-7,9, M\_0-7,10, M\_0-7,11, M\_0-7,12, M\_0-7,13, M\_0-8,1, M\_0-8,2, M\_0-8,3, M\_0-8,4, M\_0-8,5, M\_0-8,6, M\_0-8,7, M\_0-8,8, M\_0-8,9, M\_0-8,10, M\_0-8,11, M\_0-8,12, M\_0-8,13, M\_0-9,1, M\_0-9,2, M\_0-9,3, M\_0-9,4, M\_0-9,5, M\_0-9,6, M\_0-9,7, M\_0-9,8, M\_0-9,9, M\_0-9,10, M\_0-9,11, M\_0-9,12, M\_0-9,13, M\_0-10,1, M\_0-10,2, M\_0-10,3, M\_0-10,4, M\_0-10,5, M\_0-10,6, M\_0-10,7, M\_0-10,8, M\_0-10,9, M\_0-10,10, M\_0-10,11, M\_0-10,12, M\_0-10,13, M\_0-11,1, M\_0-11,2, M\_0-11,3, M\_0-11,4, M\_0-11,5, M\_0-11,6, M\_0-11,7, M\_0-11,8, M\_0-11,9, M\_0-11,10, M\_0-11,11, M\_0-11,12, M\_0-11,13. Each group contains two columns of numbers, often with a sign (+/-) next to the first number in the group.

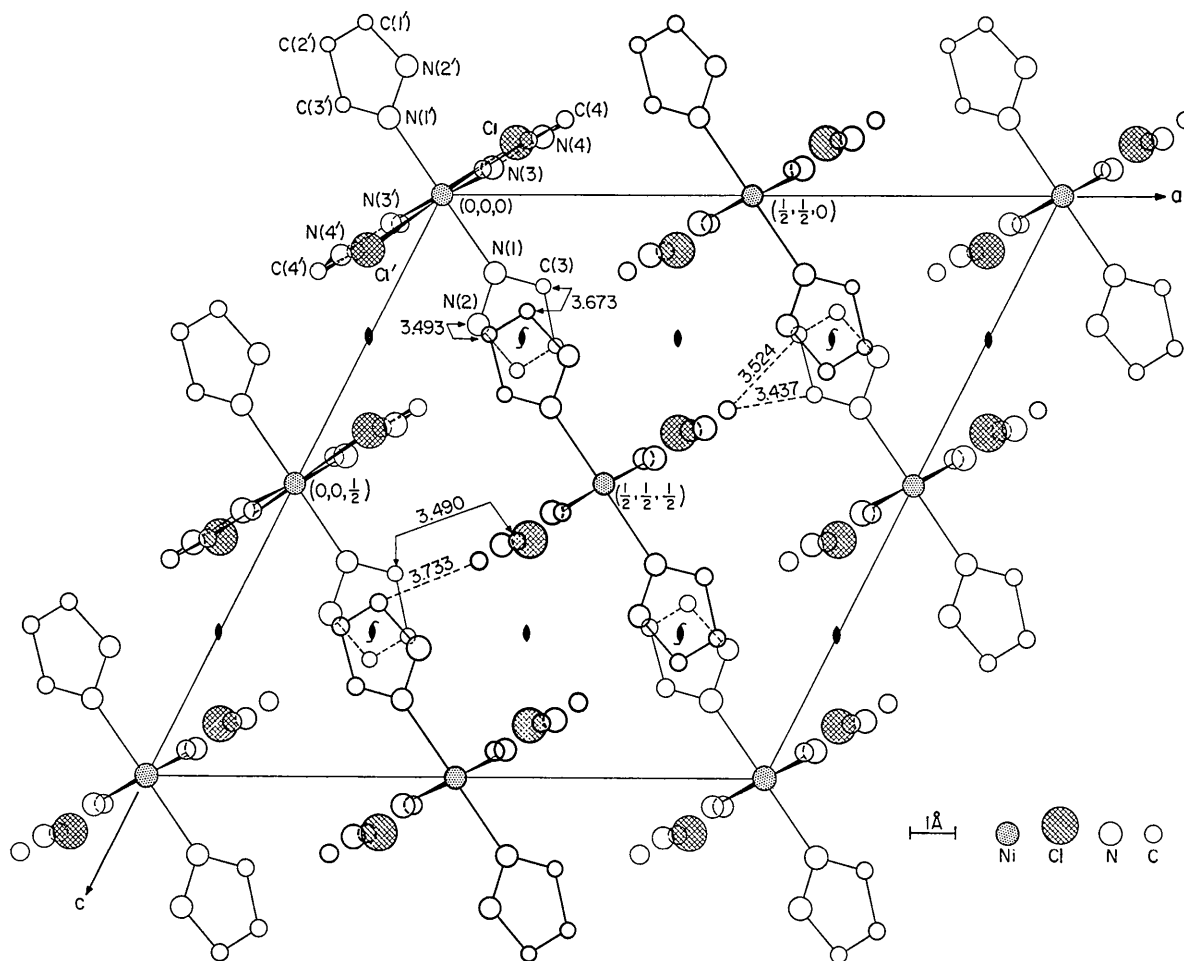


Fig. 1. Projection of the structure of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$  along the  $b$  axis. The shortest intermolecular distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) are indicated.

Table 5. Bond angles

Ring I			Ring II		
		$\sigma$			$\sigma$
C(3)-N(1)-N(2)	106.24°	0.24	N(4)-N(3)-C(6)	104.91°	0.31
N(1)-N(2)-C(1)	111.06	0.33	C(4)-N(4)-N(3)	111.73	0.37
N(2)-C(1)-C(2)	106.63	0.32	C(5)-C(4)-N(4)	107.40	0.51
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	105.81	0.30	C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	104.84	0.34
C(2)-C(3)-N(1)	110.26	0.35	N(3)-C(6)-C(5)	111.13	0.38

Table 6. Distances from the ring atoms to the least-squares planes of the pyrazole rings

The equation of the plane in direct space is given by  $PX + QY + RZ = S$ . For ring I  $P = 7.8403$ ,  $Q = 7.2832$ ,  $R = -6.9102$ ,  $S = 0.05461$  and for ring II  $P = 7.2753$ ,  $Q = 0.39860$ ,  $R = 7.5473$ ,  $S = 0.13028$ .

Ring I		Ring II	
N(1)	0.0001 $\text{\AA}$	N(3)	0.0008 $\text{\AA}$
N(2)	0.0007	N(4)	-0.0016
C(1)	-0.0012	C(4)	0.0018
C(2)	0.0012	C(5)	-0.0012
C(3)	-0.0008	C(6)	0.0003

Table 7. Parameters defining orientation of pyrazole rings relative to the basal plane

The basal plane is defined by the nitrogen atoms bonded to the nickel atom. Its equation is given by  $PX + QY + RZ = S$  where  $P = -9.1093$ ,  $Q = 5.4365$ ,  $R = 10.393$ , and  $S = 0$ .

	Ring I	Ring II
Angle between plane of ring and basal plane	91.60°	94.82°
Distance from ring centroid to basal plane	+0.08 $\text{\AA}$	-0.15 $\text{\AA}$
Angle between nickel-nitrogen bond and normal to ring	91.38°	93.58°

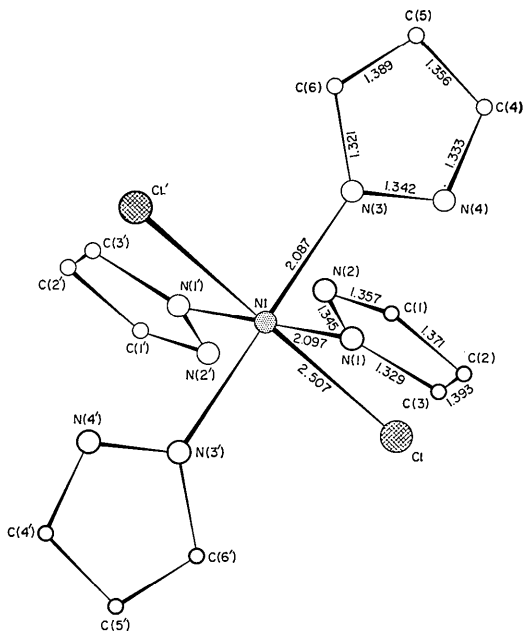


Fig. 2. Molecular structure of  $\text{Ni}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_4\text{N}_2)_4\text{Cl}_2$ . Unique bond distances (Å) are indicated. Average standard deviations are as follows: Ni-Cl,  $\pm 0.001$ ; Ni-N,  $\pm 0.003$ ; N-C,  $\pm 0.004$ ; N-N,  $\pm 0.005$ ; C-C,  $\pm 0.006$  Å.

0.005 Å) comparable to an equi-atom structure. It is interesting, therefore, to compare the average ring bond distances for this structure with those reported for pyrazole (Ehrlich, 1960). This comparison of the pyrazole structures can only be made, however, if a reassignment is made of the hydrogen atom from one nitrogen atom to the other in Ehrlich's structure. This conclusion follows from the fact that the alternative to this reassignment would require that pyrazole coordinate

to the nickel atom through the  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \text{N}-\text{H} \\ \diagdown \end{array}$  group rather

than through the  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \text{N} \\ \diagdown \end{array}$  group which contradicts the location of the hydrogen atoms in the difference map.

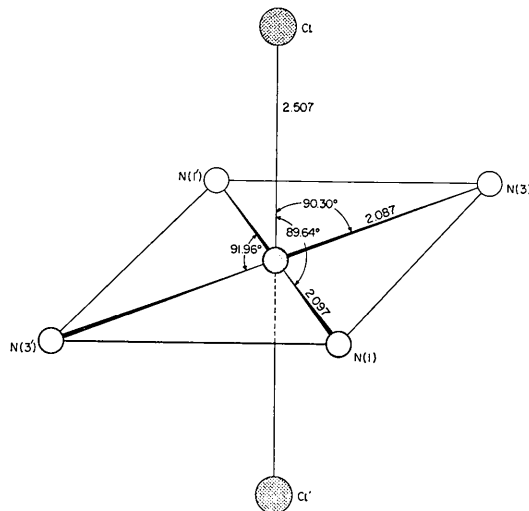


Fig. 3. Octahedral coordination about the nickel atom. Unique bond distances (Å) and angles are indicated.

Coordination through the  $\begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \text{N} \\ \diagdown \end{array}$  group is, of course, sterically more reasonable.

The required reassignment of the hydrogen atom in Ehrlich's structure is of considerable chemical and theoretical importance and will be discussed in some detail in the chemical literature.

We would like to acknowledge that all computer calculations on this structure were performed using the X-ray 63 system of programs developed at the University of Maryland and at the University of Washington. We would also like to thank Dr George Candela for carrying out the magnetic susceptibility measurements.

#### References

- ALEXANDER, L. E. & SMITH, G. S. (1962). *Acta Cryst.* **15**, 983.  
 EHRLICH, H. W. W. (1960). *Acta Cryst.* **13**, 946.  
 LOW, W. (1960). *Solid State Phys.* Suppl. **2**, 1.  
 MCCLURE, D. S. (1959). *Electronic Spectra of Molecules and Ions in Crystals*. In *Solid State Physics*, F. Seitz and D. Turnbull, editors. New York: Academic Press.